

**Spittal to Loch Buidhe to Beauly 400 kV
OHL Connection
Environmental Impact Assessment
Volume 5 | Technical Appendix**

**Appendix 12.9 | Heritage
Walkover Survey Report**

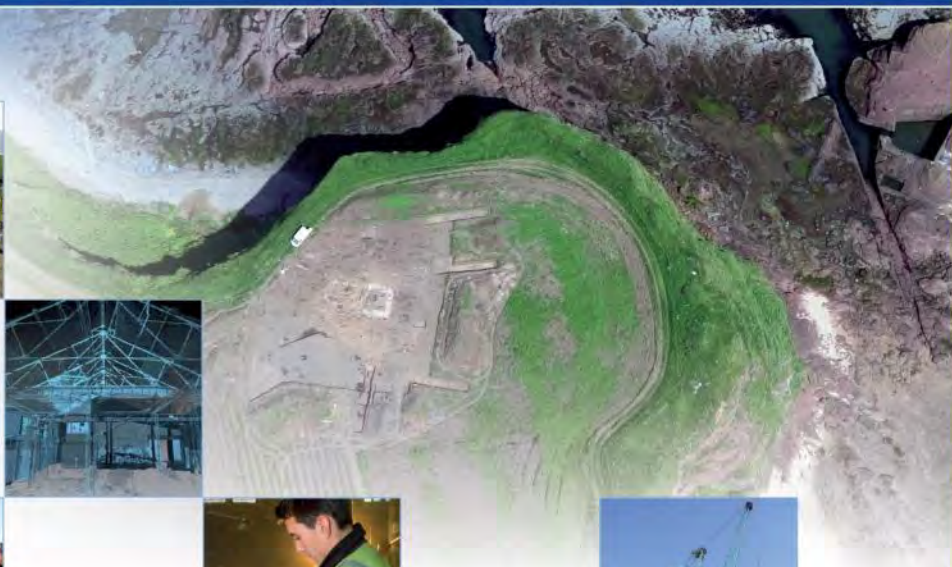
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Beauly to Loch Buidhe to Spittal 400Kv Overhead Line, Highland: Walkover Survey and Setting Sensitivity Assessment Data Structure Report

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Beauly to Loch Buidhe to Spittal 400 kV Overhead Line, Highland: Walkover Survey and Setting Sensitivity Assessment: Data Structure Report

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1. NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

- 1.1. AOC Archaeology Group was commissioned by ERM to undertake a walkover survey and setting sensitivity assessment to inform Chapter 12: Cultural Heritage of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report on the alignment and routing of a proposed 400kV Overhead Line (OHL), to extend from Beaully (NH 48075 42800) to Loch Buidhe (NH 64928 97553) as the South alignment, and from Loch Buidhe (NH 64928 97553) to Spittal (ND 16096 56874) as the North Alignment (**Figure 1**).
- 1.2. The Proposed Development alignments were refined during the programme of work, with sections added and removed as the design progressed through various consultations and revisions. Walkover and windscreen surveys were also undertaken for proposed permanent and temporary access tracks. This data structure report (DSR) presents the findings in detail as they pertain to the November 2024 route alignments and access arrangements provided to AOC.
- 1.3. The two alignments have been separated into five sub-sections (A-E), with some sub-sections further divided. In total, fourteen sub-sections form part of the formal Proposed Development proposals (A1.1-A1.5, B1.1, B1.2, C1.1, C1.2, D1.1., D1.2, E1.1-E1.3). The report has been laid out using these as a framework, though arbitrary sub-sections are used herein to present a cohesive baseline and dataset, defining the sub-sections through tower ranges. It should be noted that the final route alignment, infrastructure layout and tower numbers within the EIA Report will differ from those described here.
- 1.4. The assessment identifies the historic environment baseline of the Proposed Development inasmuch as is possible for the scale of the proposal, using defined survey corridors to identify the known upstanding heritage resource present within the potential works areas for the overall Proposed Development's alignment, where access was available, and to infer the archaeological potential for hitherto unidentified archaeological remains within those corridors based on the presence of similar remains within the local surrounds up to 1km distant from the alignments. Potential direct impacts to the known heritage resource within the Site have been considered and mitigation advice specific to those assets are laid out herein.
- 1.5. The assessment considered the archaeological potential across the alignment corridors to range from Negligible to High, with archaeological importance of assets similarly ranging from Negligible to High. There is considered to be a Low potential generally for remains of Early Historic, Medieval and Modern date. The High potential across portions of the route is predominantly for post-medieval archaeological remains, with prehistoric remains following. The archaeological importance of such assets generally ranges between Negligible and Low for the post-medieval remains, and while broadly similar for the prehistoric period archaeological remains, there are some instances of potentially Medium and High importance archaeological remains to be present. As a broad rule, this archaeological potential is highest within the more sheltered areas of the alignment, within settings such as straths, glens or broad south and southeast-facing slopes, which offer hospitable environments for settlement and agricultural activities. The archaeological potential tends to diminish in the very upland and less hospitable portions of the alignment corridors.

- 1.6. Direct physical impacts on both the known and unknown archaeological remains could result in a High adverse effect on the archaeological resource. It is advised that a detailed mitigation programme, area specific and incorporating the findings prepared herein, be prepared in advance of any ground-breaking works. Depending on the results of these investigations further archaeological works may be required. The scope of any such works would be required to be agreed via a Written Scheme of Investigation with the Highland Historic Environment Team as advisors to the Highland Council on such matters.
- 1.7. Setting descriptions and an assessment of setting sensitivity have been prepared in order to inform the baseline setting conditions for use within a formal setting assessment by ERM within the EIA Report. Early design refinement advice to inform on the iterative design process of the EIA Report was also offered.
- 1.8. In line with NPF4 Policy 7o (Scottish Government 2023, 43), opportunities for public benefit and engagement should be considered in the instance that significant archaeological remains are uncovered in the course of the works. The scope and requirement of any programme of public benefit should be agreed in consultation with the Highland HET, the client, and the contractor.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1. Proposed Development Site

- 2.1.1. AOC Archaeology Group was commissioned by ERM to undertake a walkover survey and setting sensitivity assessment to inform Chapter 12: Cultural Heritage of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report on assessment to inform on the alignment and routing of a proposed 400kV Overhead Line (OHL), to extend from Beaully (NH 48075 42800) to Loch Buidhe (NH 64928 97553) and thence to Spittal (ND 16096 56874) (**Figure 1**).
- 2.1.2. The Proposed Development alignments were refined during the programme of work, with sections added and removed as the design progressed through various consultations and revisions. This report presents the findings in detail as they pertain to the November 2024 route alignments and access arrangements provided to AOC. This will not be identical to the proposed infrastructure layout presented in the EIA Report, as refinements as part of the iterative design process continued to be made after November 2024. It should be noted therefore that there will likely be changes to tower locations and numbers in the final infrastructure layout that will make the tower numbers referenced within this report inconsistent for a like-for-like comparison to the EIA Report.
- 2.1.3. The Proposed Development comprises a North Alignment (with a total of 297 proposed OHL towers) and a South Alignment (with a total of 235 proposed OHL towers), with associated permanent and temporary access tracks. Further infrastructure elements, such as the location of compounds, turning heads, laydown areas, etc, will likely also be included within the EIA Report but were not specified for assessment within this report, but would generally be situated within the corridors which surround the alignments.
- 2.1.4. The two alignments have been separated into five sub-sections (A-E), with some sub-sections further divided. In total, fourteen sub-sections form part of the formal Proposed Development proposals (A1.1-A1.5, B1.1, B1.2, C1.1, C1.2, D1.1., D1.2, E1.1-E1.3). The report has been laid out using these as a framework, though arbitrary sub-sections are used herein to present a cohesive baseline and dataset, defining the sub-sections through tower ranges.
- 2.1.5. The assessment identifies the historic environment baseline of the Proposed Development inasmuch as is possible for the scale of the proposal, using defined survey corridors to identify the known upstanding heritage resource present within the potential works areas for the overall Proposed Development's alignment, where access was available, and to infer the archaeological potential for hitherto unidentified archaeological remains within those corridors based on the presence of similar remains within the local surrounds up to 1km distant from the alignments. Potential direct impacts to the known heritage resource within the Site have been considered and potential mitigation are laid out herein in order to inform the proposed mitigation within the EIA Report.
- 2.1.6. A description of the setting and a setting sensitivity assessment has been undertaken with regard to designated heritage assets identified by ERM. Early design refinement advice to potentially reduce setting impacts upon designated assets, based on the November 2024 infrastructure, is also presented. This has been considered within the design evolution of the project and incorporated where feasible. The EIA Report lays out the iterative design process of the project as a whole and details the consultation undertaken with the local authority and statutory bodies.

2.2. Development Proposal

- 2.2.1. The Proposed Development would comprise the construction of a 400kV OHL with associated infrastructure

required for construction and maintenance, including temporary and permanent access roads, existing road widening, and potentially further works areas requiring groundworks for elements such as site compounds, storage and laydown areas, drainage, and so on.

- 2.2.2. This report is based on the November 2024 route alignment and access arrangements, for which tower locations and access tracks have been presented as prospective fixed locations. This will not be identical to the proposed infrastructure layout presented in the EIA Report, as refinements as part of the iterative design process continued to be made after November 2024. It should be noted therefore that there will likely be changes to tower locations and numbers in the final infrastructure layout that will make the tower numbers referenced within this report inconsistent for a like-for-like comparison to the EIA Report. Other elements of the infrastructure layout required to support the development, such as laydown areas, compounds, cable trenches etc., were not included within the November 2024 infrastructure layout, but are expected to be broadly contained within the 200m-wide survey corridor utilised along the alignments.

2.3. Topographical Conditions

2.3.1. The Proposed Development extends across a significant portion of the northeast Highland area. The geographical areas are broadly categorised into five sections per Table 1.

Table 1: Physical environment summary (WSI, ERM 2024)

| Route Section | Geography | Terrain |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Section A: Spittal to Brora | This section of the Proposed Development originates at Spittal Substation, following a southerly direction west of Berriedale before continuing to the north of Brora. | The terrain in the area is a mix of moderate hills with some steep slopes, and areas with more gradual undulating terrain. |
| Section B: Brora to Loch Buidhe | This section of the Proposed Development originates north of Brora, heading generally south-west towards Loch Buidhe Substation. | The terrain in this section has a mix of high hills and steep slopes. There are a number of wind farms locally, including the constructed Kilbraur wind farm and extension. |
| Section C: West of Dornoch | This section of the Proposed Development originates at Loch Buidhe Substation heading generally south-west towards the west of Bonar Bridge. | Inland uplands with valleys and south to floodplains and agrarian land. |
| Section D: Dornoch to Dingwall | This section of the Proposed Development originates west of Bonar Bridge following a southerly direction towards Dingwall before continuing to the west of Strathpeffer. | There are a number of existing OHLs within this section and the terrain varies with large sections comprising very challenging hilly terrain. |
| Section E: Dingwall to Beaully | This section of the Proposed Development originates south of Strathpeffer following a southerly direction to the Beaully Substation. | [Detail lacking from original table; the section encompasses agrarian areas with some moorland uplands] |

2.3.2. These five sections are further divided into fourteen sub-sections extending north to south (**Figure 1**):

- **A1.1** (North Towers 1-24)
- **A1.2** (North Towers 25-59)
- **A1.3** (North Towers 60-63)
- **A1.4** (North Towers 64-146)
- **A1.5** (North Towers 147-202)
- **B1.1** (North Towers 203-250)
- **B1.2** (North Towers 215 -297)
- **C1.1** (South Towers 1-24)
- **C1.2** (South Towers 25-37)
- **D1.1** (South Towers 38-99)
- **D1.2** (South Towers 100-149)
- **E1.1** (South Towers 150-199)
- **E1.2** (South Towers 200-229)
- **E1.3** (South Towers 230-236)

- 2.3.3. The walkover survey is detailed per these sections in Section 5, which have been broken down into further sub-sections to aid in the presentation of data.

2.4. Government and Local Planning Policies and Guidance

National Planning Policy

- 2.4.1. The statutory framework for heritage in Scotland is outlined in the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997, as amended in the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Scotland) Act 1997 and the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979. Both of these have been modified by the Historic Environment (Amendment) (Scotland) Act 2011.
- 2.4.2. The implications of these Acts with regard to local government planning policy are described within the National Planning Framework 4 (Scottish Government 2023), Historic Environment Policy for Scotland (HEPS) (Historic Environment Scotland (HES) 2019) and Planning Advice Note 2/2011: Planning and Archaeology (Scottish Government 2011) which provide specific planning policy and guidance in relation to heritage. The planning policy and guidance expresses a general presumption in favour of preserving heritage remains in situ and in an appropriate setting. Their '*preservation by record*' (i.e. through excavation and recording, followed by analysis and publication, by qualified archaeologists) is a less desirable alternative.

National Planning Framework

- 2.4.3. On 13 February 2023, the National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4) for Scotland was adopted (Scottish Government 2023). This policy replaced Scottish Planning Policy (2014). The stated intent of Policy 7; Historic assets and places is '*To protect and enhance historic environment assets and places, and to enable positive change as a catalyst for the regeneration of places*' (Scottish Government 2023, 45).
- 2.4.4. The following sections of Policy 7 are relevant to this assessment:

'Policy 7a) Development proposals with a potentially significant impact on historic assets or places will be accompanied by an assessment which is based on an understanding of the cultural significance of the historic asset and/or place. The assessment should identify the likely visual or physical impact of any proposals for change, including cumulative effects and provide a sound basis for managing the impacts of change. Proposals should also be informed by national policy and guidance on managing change in the historic environment, and information held within Historic Environment Records' (ibid, 45).

'Policy 7c) Development proposals for the reuse, alteration or extension of a listed building will only be supported where they will preserve its character, special architectural or historic interest and setting. Development proposals affecting the setting of a listed building should preserve its character, and its special architectural or historic interest' (ibid, 45).

'Policy 7h) Development proposals affecting scheduled monuments will only be supported where:

- i. direct impacts on the scheduled monument are avoided;*
- ii. significant adverse impacts on the integrity of the setting of a scheduled monument are avoided; or*

- iii. *exceptional circumstances have been demonstrated to justify the impact on a scheduled monument and its setting and impacts on the monument or its setting have been minimised' (ibid, 46).*

'Policy 7i) Development proposals affecting nationally important Gardens and Designed Landscapes will be supported where they protect, preserve or enhance their cultural significance, character and integrity and where proposals will not significantly impact on important views to, from and within the site, or its setting' (ibid, 46).

'Policy 7j) Development proposals affecting nationally important Historic Battlefields will only be supported where they protect and, where appropriate, enhance their cultural significance, key landscape characteristics, physical remains and special qualities' (ibid, 46).

'Policy 7o) Non-designated historic environment assets, places and their setting should be protected and preserved in situ wherever feasible. Where there is potential for non-designated buried archaeological remains to exist below a site, developers will provide an evaluation of the archaeological resource at an early stage so that planning authorities can assess impacts. Historic buildings may also have archaeological significance which is not understood and may require assessment.

Where impacts cannot be avoided they should be minimised. Where it has been demonstrated that avoidance or retention is not possible, excavation, recording, analysis, archiving, publication and activities to provide public benefit may be required through the use of conditions or legal/planning obligations. When new archaeological discoveries are made during the course of development works, they must be reported to the planning authority to enable agreement on appropriate inspection, recording and mitigation measures' (ibid, 46-47).

Historic Environment Policy for Scotland

- 2.4.5. The Historic Environment Policy for Scotland (HEPS) (HES 2019) sets out the Scottish Government's policy for the sustainable management of the historic environment. Key principles of the policy note that *'Changes to specific assets and their context should be managed in a way that protects the historic environment [...] If detrimental impact on the historic environment is unavoidable, it should be minimised. Steps should be taken to demonstrate that alternatives have been explored, and mitigation measures should be put in place'* (HEP4).
- 2.4.6. The following HEP policies are relevant to this assessment:

HEP 2

Decisions affecting the historic environment should ensure that its understanding and enjoyment as well as its benefits are secured for present and future generations.

HEP3

Plans, programmes, policies and strategies and the allocation of resources should be approached in a way that protects and promotes the historic environment. If detrimental impact on the historic environment is unavoidable, it should be minimised. Steps should be taken to demonstrate that alternatives have been explored and mitigation measures should be put in place.

HEP4

Changes to specific assets and their context should be managed in a way that protects the historic environment. Opportunities for enhancement should be identified where appropriate. If detrimental impact on the historic

environment is unavoidable, it should be minimised. Steps should be taken to demonstrate that alternatives have been explored, and mitigation measures should be put in place.' (HES 2019).

National Guidance

Battle of Carbisdale Inventory Battlefield

- 2.4.7. The Proposed Alignment is located within the Inventory Boundary for the Battle of Carbisdale (**Asset 103; BTL19**).
- 2.4.8. Historic Environment Scotland's (HES) guidance of Historic Battlefields defines a battlefield as *'an area of land over which a battle was fought, or an area of land on which significant action related to a battle took place'* (HES 2016 updated 2020, 6). Inventory Battlefields are selected based on the following criteria:
- *'Historic associations: the battlefield should have strong associations with historical events or figures of national significance.'*
 - *Physical remains: there should be some significant physical remains of the battle, or archaeological potential for remains.'*
 - *Landscape of the battle: there should be evidence for the wider battlefield landscape around the battle site. This may include vantage points, lines of sight, earthworks, camps or burials. It must also be possible to define the battle site with confidence on a modern map'* (ibid, 7).
- 2.4.9. The following guidance is also relevant:
- 'When a battlefield is included in the Inventory, the information in the Inventory record must be taken into account when making decisions on planning applications. No additional consent is needed for undertaking works within an Inventory battlefield. [...] National planning policy states that change in the historic environment should be sensitively managed to minimise adverse impacts. Changes to battlefields should seek to protect, conserve and, where appropriate, enhance historic battlefields. If a battlefield is to accommodate modern development, its key landscape characteristics and special qualities should be retained'* (HES 2016 updated 2020, 9).
- 2.4.10. The guidance recommends three stages are undertaken during the development management process:
- *'Identify: identify the current baseline of the site by assessing the area, or undertaking a site audit.'*
 - *Assess: define how the impact of the development will be measured, and assess how the site will be affected by the proposed development.'*
 - *Mitigate: identify ways to avoid, reduce or compensate for negative impacts through location, design or enhancement measures.'* (HES 2016 updated 2020, 13)
- 2.4.11. In assessing impacts upon a battlefield, the guidance indicates direct, contextual and cumulative impacts should be identified and assessed (ibid, 15). Direct impacts relate to physical impacts upon special qualities/physical remains, whilst contextual impacts relate to changes to landscape characteristics of a battlefield. The latter requires recognition of the key characteristics of a battlefield landscape which contribute to an understanding and appreciation of a battlefield and how the battle itself played out. Key landscape characteristics can also *'provide a sense of place, contributing to remembrance and commemoration of the battle'* (ibid, 16).
- 2.4.12. The guidance notes that an assessment of impacts should consider the potential for significant impacts upon the

following factors:

- *'Integrity: the level of preservation of the landscape context, including the survival of key views and lines of sight, and relationships between different elements of the battlefield landscape*
- *Significance: the contribution of the landscape to understanding and appreciating the battlefield, including how the terrain and topography relate to the events of the battle*
- *Character: the landform, land cover and settlement pattern within the battlefield and the surrounding terrain, including the scale of the landscape in relation to the scale of any proposed changes*
- *Experience: the contribution of the landscape to our experience of the battlefield, including less tangible elements such as sense of place and resonance in local and national culture' (ibid, 17).*

2.4.13. Furthermore, the guidance states that: *'[...] If a section of the battlefield is already developed, it is likely that archaeological remains in that area will be compromised. Further development in these areas could still lead to additional loss or damage, which may be significant in some cases. The assessment should therefore consider these impacts. Not all remains within a battlefield will necessarily relate to the battle itself. As battle sites often cover large areas, there may be earlier or later remains which are of heritage value. Making this distinction requires professional judgement. These remains will be a relevant consideration in the overall assessment of impacts on the historic environment. Unrelated remains or features should be assessed separately from battlefield impacts.'* (ibid, 16).

Fairburn Garden and Designed Landscape

2.4.14. The Proposed Alignment is located within the Inventory Boundary for the Fairburn Garden and Designed Landscape (GDL) (**Asset 102; GDL0049**).

2.4.15. HES define GDLs as *'...a significant element of Scotland's historic environment. Legislation defines them as grounds that are consciously laid out for artistic effect. They usually include a combination of planting, land-forming (for example creating artificial slopes), built structures, open grounds, water management and natural landscape features. All of these may contribute to the value of the site'* (HES 2016, 4).

2.4.16. Certain criteria are used by HES to determine the importance of a GDL:

- *'value as individual works of art in their own right*
- *historical value*
- *horticultural, arboricultural or silvicultural value*
- *architectural value*
- *scenic value*
- *nature conservation value*
- *archaeological value.*

2.4.17. *The importance of a site depends on the extent to which each of these values is demonstrated. For each criterion, a site may be ranked as having 'outstanding', 'high', 'some', 'little' or 'no' value. The more values ranked as*

outstanding or high, the more likely the site is to be included in the Inventory...' (ibid 6).

2.4.18. A three-staged approach to managing change in relation to GDLs is identified as:

- Stage 1: Identify the baseline
- Stage 2: Assess the impact
- Stage 3: Mitigate and enhance.

2.4.19. In assessing impacts upon GDLs, HES state that,

'These impacts are normally defined in three broad categories:

- *Direct: physical changes within an Inventory site boundary*
- *Setting: changes to land outside the boundary that makes a contribution to the experience, appreciation and understanding of an Inventory site*
- *Cumulative: development or alterations which combine with existing impacts and make them more significant.'* (ibid, 11).

Setting

2.4.20. Following on from a sieving exercise undertaken by ERM, AOC Archaeology Group were provided with a list of designated heritage assets to undertake site visits to describe their setting and assess their sensitivity to change in order to provide a setting baseline for the setting assessment within the EIA Report (Table 2). In total, 102 designated assets were put forward for setting site visits, comprising 95 Scheduled Monuments (**Assets 1-95**), two Category A Listed Buildings (**Assets 96 and 99**), three Category B Listed buildings (**Assets 97, 98 and 100**), two Inventory Garden and Designed Landscapes (**Assets 101 and 102**) and one Inventory Battlefield (**Asset 103**).

2.4.21. The detailed setting description and sensitivity assessment is presented in **Appendix 3**, with accompanying plates included in **Appendix 4**. Early design refinement advice where potential setting impacts could be reduced have been included in **Appendix 5**.

2.4.22. Not all assets listed were directly accessible due to access constraints, or were deemed necessary to assess following revisions to the route (**Figures 2.1-2.33**). Asset numbers as defined by AOC Archaeology can be used to cross-reference with the gazetteer but note that Figures use designation numbers.

Table 2: Selected Designated Heritage Assets for Setting Assessment (received from ERM on 7 April 2024 via email)

| Asset No. | Asset Name | Designation No. | Status | Easting | Northing |
|-----------|------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------|---------|----------|
| 1 | Buolacrabher, settlement 1170m S of | SM6014 | Scheduled Monument | 315467 | 933512 |
| 2 | Minera, hut circles 330m SSE of, 370m ESE of and 270m E of | SM6015 | Scheduled Monument | 315760 | 934449 |
| 3 | Cnoc Fionn, hut circle 250m SSW of | SM3537 | Scheduled Monument | 310444 | 923542 |
| 4 | Cnoc Fionn, hut circle 250m SW of | SM3559 | Scheduled Monument | 310534 | 923514 |
| 5 | Bridge of Rhemullen, broch 180m SW of | SM5088 | Scheduled Monument | 315329 | 930969 |

| Asset No. | Asset Name | Designation No. | Status | Easting | Northing |
|-----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------|---------|----------|
| 6 | Buolacrabher, chambered cairn 1350m SSW of | SM5224 | Scheduled Monument | 315019 | 933370 |
| 7 | Invershin Primary School, settlement 760m NE of and 750m ENE of | SM5462 | Scheduled Monument | 258055 | 898148 |
| 8 | Invershin Farm, settlement and burnt mound 1200m E of | SM5470 | Scheduled Monument | 258641 | 896626 |
| 9 | Invershin Farm, settlement and burnt mound 500m E of | SM5497 | Scheduled Monument | 257881 | 896619 |
| 10 | Invershin Primary School, settlement 600m E of | SM5498 | Scheduled Monument | 258215 | 897353 |
| 11 | Dun Mor, fort | SM4979 | Scheduled Monument | 245737 | 845150 |
| 12 | Dun Fhamhair, fort | SM5212 | Scheduled Monument | 248416 | 847068 |
| 13 | Achorn Bridge, settlements 1100m NNE of | SM5150 | Scheduled Monument | 313581 | 931464 |
| 14 | Loedebest, chambered cairn 400m WNW of | SM5163 | Scheduled Monument | 313389 | 932300 |
| 15 | Loedebest, cairn 500m SSE of | SM5191 | Scheduled Monument | 313935 | 931703 |
| 16 | Loedebest, prehistoric settlement and post medieval enclosure 1400m WSW | SM5254 | Scheduled Monument | 312427 | 931784 |
| 17 | Bridge of Badnagie, settlement 400m NW of | SM5186 | Scheduled Monument | 315613 | 932131 |
| 18 | Greentulloch, broch 180m NE of | SM5089 | Scheduled Monument | 316271 | 932336 |
| 19 | Bridge of Badnagie, standing stone 600m N of | SM5304 | Scheduled Monument | 316016 | 932570 |
| 20 | Dun Garbhlaich, fort, Kilmorack | SM2422 | Scheduled Monument | 246605 | 846572 |
| 21 | Dun a Chliabhain, fort | SM2424 | Scheduled Monument | 247701 | 846069 |
| 22 | Kilphedir, hut circles & field system 750m NNE of | SM2807 | Scheduled Monument | 299051 | 919408 |
| 23 | Kilphedir, hut circle 480m NNE of | SM2808 | Scheduled Monument | 299145 | 919081 |
| 24 | Kilphedir, hut circles & field system 150m-600m E of | SM2809 | Scheduled Monument | 299268 | 918678 |
| 25 | Kilphedir, hut circle 830m NNE of | SM2810 | Scheduled Monument | 299174 | 919453 |
| 26 | Kilphedir, hut circles & field system 1260m NNE of | SM2811 | Scheduled Monument | 299227 | 919826 |
| 27 | Kilphedir, hut circle 1260m NE of | SM2812 | Scheduled Monument | 299468 | 919748 |
| 28 | Kilphedir, hut circle 740m ESE of | SM2814 | Scheduled Monument | 299594 | 918491 |

| Asset No. | Asset Name | Designation No. | Status | Easting | Northing |
|-----------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------|---------|----------|
| 29 | Allt Cille Pheadair, hut circles & clearance cairns | SM2841 | Scheduled Monument | 298838 | 920073 |
| 30 | Balcraggie Lodge, four hut circles 300m SSE of | SM3521 | Scheduled Monument | 314246 | 930258 |
| 31 | Rinsary, homestead 500m WNW of, Berriedale | SM3473 | Scheduled Monument | 311267 | 923858 |
| 32 | Tulach Bad a'Choilich, hut circles, settlement and cairns 400m ENE of | SM3475 | Scheduled Monument | 310469 | 924191 |
| 33 | Tulach Bad a Choilich, broch 670m NW of Cnoc Fionn | SM3477 | Scheduled Monument | 310055 | 924046 |
| 34 | Tulloch Turnal, broch 500m WNW of Turnal Rock, Langwell | SM3440 | Scheduled Monument | 309040 | 922854 |
| 35 | Langwell Tulloch, broch 400m SE of Turnal Rock | SM3441 | Scheduled Monument | 309739 | 922315 |
| 36 | Torboll Farm, cairn 1450m WSW of | SM1819 | Scheduled Monument | 273975 | 898444 |
| 37 | Firth View, settlement 1300m NW of | SM4728 | Scheduled Monument | 250833 | 862320 |
| 38 | Strath Sgitheach, settlement NW of Cnoc a'Mhuilinn | SM10495 | Scheduled Monument | 251412 | 862747 |
| 39 | Kilphedir, hut circles & chambered cairns 700m E of | SM290 | Scheduled Monument | 299563 | 918691 |
| 40 | Achkinloch, stone setting SW of, Loch Stemster | SM420 | Scheduled Monument | 318790 | 941779 |
| 41 | Cairn Liath, long cairn and round cairn | SM438 | Scheduled Monument | 314028 | 932077 |
| 42 | Cnoc na Maranaich, chambered cairn, burial cist and standing stone | SM443 | Scheduled Monument | 313222 | 933110 |
| 43 | Achorn, broch 200m NW of | SM511 | Scheduled Monument | 313696 | 930504 |
| 44 | Achorn Bridge, prehistoric and post medieval settlement 400m ENE of | SM512 | Scheduled Monument | 313757 | 930605 |
| 45 | Balantrath, broch 135m WNW of | SM522 | Scheduled Monument | 314394 | 930718 |
| 46 | Wag Hill, prehistoric settlement 1300m NE of | SM600 | Scheduled Monument | 311886 | 932955 |
| 47 | Wag Hill, prehistoric settlement 1050m NNW of | SM603 | Scheduled Monument | 310651 | 933057 |
| 48 | Clais-Cairn, chambered cairn 550m SW of | SM424 | Scheduled Monument | 313361 | 926807 |
| 49 | Upper Borgue, standing stone 410m SSE of | SM502 | Scheduled Monument | 312636 | 926649 |
| 50 | Upper Borgue, broch | SM596 | Scheduled Monument | 312434 | 927089 |
| 51 | Cnoc Bad Asgaraidh, chambered cairn 570m E of, Langwell | SM423 | Scheduled Monument | 309148 | 922244 |

| Asset No. | Asset Name | Designation No. | Status | Easting | Northing |
|-----------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------|---------|----------|
| 52 | Caen, long cairn 530m NW of, Helmsdale | SM432 | Scheduled Monument | 301249 | 918022 |
| 53 | Bridge of Rhemullen, broch 450m NW of | SM574 | Scheduled Monument | 315086 | 931354 |
| 54 | Bridge of Badnagie, chambered cairn 610m NNW of | SM425 | Scheduled Monument | 315680 | 932470 |
| 55 | Minera, standing stone 470m S of | SM457 | Scheduled Monument | 315537 | 934235 |
| 56 | Minera, broch 90m SSE of | SM568 | Scheduled Monument | 315581 | 934611 |
| 57 | Carn Liath, cairn & chambered cairn 1200m WNW of Torboll | SM1772 | Scheduled Monument | 273878 | 899581 |
| 58 | Brae Cottage, two hut circles 120m and 200m ESE of | SM1830 | Scheduled Monument | 270406 | 898677 |
| 59 | Brae, broch, Strath Carnaig W of Mound Junction | SM1840 | Scheduled Monument | 270502 | 899016 |
| 60 | Invershin Farm, standing stone 220m ENE of | SM1791 | Scheduled Monument | 257610 | 896741 |
| 61 | East Kinnauld, fort 1000m NE of Eiden | SM1861 | Scheduled Monument | 274216 | 901455 |
| 62 | East Kinnauld School, broch NE of | SM1862 | Scheduled Monument | 274385 | 901596 |
| 63 | Carrol, broch 600m SSW of, Loch Brora | SM1846 | Scheduled Monument | 284665 | 906460 |
| 64 | Eldrable, broch SW of | SM1863 | Scheduled Monument | 298332 | 918169 |
| 65 | Kilphedir, broch 540m ENE of, Helmsdale | SM1870 | Scheduled Monument | 299439 | 918907 |
| 66 | Kilphedir, hut circle 800m NNE of, Helmsdale | SM1871 | Scheduled Monument | 299211 | 919411 |
| 67 | Kilphedir, hut circle and souterrain 450m NNE of | SM1872 | Scheduled Monument | 299133 | 919034 |
| 68 | Salscraggie Lodge, souterrain 40m SW of | SM1884 | Scheduled Monument | 299879 | 918279 |
| 69 | Clach Mhic Mhios, standing stone, Glen Loth 4000m N of Lothbeg Bridge | SM1778 | Scheduled Monument | 294040 | 915080 |
| 70 | Caen, long cairn 460m NNW of | SM1771 | Scheduled Monument | 301473 | 918157 |
| 71 | Greysteil Castle, broch, Loch Rangag | SM555 | Scheduled Monument | 317941 | 941677 |
| 72 | Turnal Rock, hut circle complex 250m NW of Langwell Tulloch broch. | SM13631 | Scheduled Monument | 309624 | 922540 |
| 73 | Carn nan Uaigh, prehistoric settlement | SM13627 | Scheduled Monument | 293476 | 914054 |
| 74 | Bail A' Chairn, broch | SM13634 | Scheduled Monument | 322816 | 951715 |

| Asset No. | Asset Name | Designation No. | Status | Easting | Northing |
|-----------|---------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|------------------------------|---------|----------|
| 75 | Carn A' Chladha, broch | SM13632 | Scheduled Monument | 323148 | 952336 |
| 76 | Caen, hut circles and souterrain 982m, 1035m and 1083m NNW of | SM1841 | Scheduled Monument | 301092 | 918669 |
| 77 | Caen, long cairn and round cairn 470m and 490m W of | SM1770 | Scheduled Monument | 301224 | 917759 |
| 78 | Caen Burn West, 935m WNW of Caen | SM13647 | Scheduled Monument | 300766 | 917835 |
| 79 | Achkinloch, chambered cairn 755m SW of, Loch Stemster | SM419 | Scheduled Monument | 318862 | 941718 |
| 80 | Carrol, fish farm 430m SE, 410m SSE, 660m and 890m SSW of | SM13617 | Scheduled Monument | 284620 | 906344 |
| 81 | Carradh nan Clach, two standing stones | SM1775 | Scheduled Monument | 293736 | 912736 |
| 82 | Buolacrabher, chambered cairn 1550m S of | SM445 | Scheduled Monument | 315312 | 933148 |
| 83 | Carn na Buaile, fort 750m NNW of Comrie, Contin | SM11056 | Scheduled Monument | 241151 | 856690 |
| 84 | Preas Mairi, chambered cairn | SM2397 | Scheduled Monument | 246084 | 855847 |
| 85 | Balnacrae, chambered cairn 230m WSW of | SM2396 | Scheduled Monument | 253350 | 864635 |
| 86 | Blairmore, hut circles & field system 590m NE of | SM1838 | Scheduled Monument | 274658 | 904229 |
| 87 | Killin, chambered cairn 800m N of, Loch Brora | SM1794 | Scheduled Monument | 285659 | 907840 |
| 88 | Langwell Plantation, souterrain 130m W of Kennels | SM3436 | Scheduled Monument | 310166 | 922410 |
| 89 | Burg Ruaidh, or Borgue Roy, broch, Berriedale Water | SM526 | Scheduled Monument | 311611 | 928529 |
| 90 | Cor Tulloch, prehistoric settlement | SM543 | Scheduled Monument | 315141 | 935535 |
| 91 | Tiantulloch, broch, prehistoric and post-medieval settlements | SM585 | Scheduled Monument | 315251 | 935223 |
| 92 | Rangag, standing stone by Latheron to Thurso Road, 750m N of | SM473 | Scheduled Monument | 317678 | 944875 |
| 93 | Halsary, standing stones 450m WNW of and 620m NW of | SM5301 | Scheduled Monument | 317639 | 949228 |
| 94 | Gallow Hillock, cairn on Backlass Hill | SM450 | Scheduled Monument | 320493 | 954115 |
| 95 | Scouthal Burn, chapel & The Clow | SM721 | Scheduled Monument | 323302 | 952412 |
| 96 | Fairburn Tower | LB14030 | Listed Building - Category A | 246952 | 852356 |
| 97 | Fairburn House | LB14031 | Listed Building - Category B | 245507 | 853014 |

| Asset No. | Asset Name | Designation No. | Status | Easting | Northing |
|-----------|----------------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------------|---------|----------|
| 98 | Gate Lodge, Aultgowrie Lodge, Fairburn House | LB14032 | Listed Building - Category B | 247668 | 851714 |
| 99 | Coul House | LB1769 | Listed Building - Category A | 246249 | 856404 |
| 100 | Orrin Bridge, Aultgowrie | LB14020 | Listed Building - Category B | 247642 | 851570 |
| 101 | Fairburn | GDL00174 | Inventory Garden and Designed Landscape | 246349 | 852719 |
| 102 | The Spa Gardens, Strathpeffer | GDL00370 | Inventory Garden and Designed Landscape | 248366 | 858024 |
| 103 | Battle of Carbisdale | BTL19 | Inventory Battlefield | 257307 | 894431 |

2.4.23. In their Managing Change: Setting guidance, HES define setting as *‘the way the surroundings of a historic asset or place contribute to how it is understood, appreciated, and experienced’* (HES 2020). The guidance further notes that *‘planning authorities must take into account the setting of historic assets or places when drawing up development plans and guidance, when considering various types of environmental and design assessments/statements, and in determining planning applications’* (ibid). It advocates a three-stage approach to assessing potential impacts upon setting which is utilised by the setting assessment included in this assessment. The three-stage approach includes:

- *‘Stage 1: Identify the historic asset 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*
- *Stage 3: evaluate the potential impact of the proposed changes on the setting, and the extent to which any negative impacts can be mitigated’* (ibid, 8).

2.4.24. AOC have undertaken Stages 1 and 2 of the setting assessment process through the description of the asset’s setting and assessment of its sensitivity to change. This forms a baseline for the setting assessment to be undertaken within Chapter 12: Cultural Heritage of the EIA Report.

Local Planning Policy

2.4.25. **Highland-wide Local Development Plan (HwLDP)**

2.4.26. The HwLDP was adopted in 2012 and the following policies are relevant to this assessment:

‘Policy 57: Natural, Built and Cultural Heritage

All development proposals will be assessed taking into account the level of importance and type of heritage features, the form and scale of the development, and any impact on the feature and its setting, in the context of

the policy framework detailed in Appendix 2 [of the HwLDP]. The following criteria will also apply:

1. For features of local/regional importance we will allow developments if it can be satisfactorily demonstrated that they will not have an unacceptable impact on the natural environment, amenity and heritage resource.
2. For features of national importance we will allow developments that can be shown not to compromise the natural environment, amenity and heritage resource. Where there may be any significant adverse effects, these must be clearly outweighed by social or economic benefits of national importance. It must also be shown that the development will support communities in fragile areas who are having difficulties in keeping their population and services...' (Highland Council 2012a, 111).

Local Development Plans

- 2.4.27. The Proposed Development extends through areas covered by both the Caithness and Sutherland Local Development Plan (CasPlan; adopted 2018), and the Inner Moray Firth Local Development Plan 2 (IMFLDP2; adopted 2024).

Supplementary Guidance

Highland Historic Environment Strategy

- 2.4.28. THC adopted the Highland Historic Environment Strategy in 2013 as supplementary planning guidance to support Policy 57 of the HwLDP (THC 2012a, 111). The following strategic aims are relevant to this assessment:

'Strategic Aim 6: That listed buildings within Highland are protected from harmful developments, including extension and alteration, which may affect their special architectural and historic interest or their setting and that there is a presumption against the demolition of listed buildings.' (THC 2013, 9)

'Strategic Aim 13: That scheduled monuments – and their setting – within Highland are protected from harmful developments which may affect their national importance.' (ibid, 13)

'Strategic Aim 15: That nationally important battlefields are recognised in the development planning process and to ensure that impacts upon them are a material consideration in development management.' (ibid, 14).

'Strategic Aim 16: To ensure that the importance of non-designated archaeological sites and landscapes and their settings are understood and wherever possible are protected from harmful developments.'

'Strategic Aim 17: To ensure no asset or its setting is lost or altered without adequate consideration of its significance and of the means available to preserve, record and interpret it in line with national and local policy and Highland Council's Standards for Archaeological Work [THC 2012b].' (THC 2013, 16).

- 2.4.29. Standards for archaeological work for development proposals within Highland is included within THC's Standards for Archaeological Work (THC 2012b) and Reporting Standards for Archaeological Work (THC 2023).

Emerging Policy and Guidance Highland Local Development Plan (HLDP)

- 2.4.30. A new local development plan for Highland is currently in preparation and set to be adopted towards the end of 2027 (THC, in preparation). This is still in an early data gathering stage with no specific detail regarding cultural heritage as yet, however the final HLDP will entail the registering and incorporation of Local Place Plans, the formalisation and updating of the Highland Regional Spatial Strategy, and a review of the Highland Council's Supplementary Guidance with regard to development. Cultural heritage policies and guidance will likely be updated

as part of this.

THC Standards for Archaeological Work

- 2.4.31. A new Standards for Archaeological Work for THC is currently in preparation and when published will be used to *'inform planners and applications of the specific requirements of a particular condition and to make sure historic environment practitioners conduct fieldwork to an acceptable standard'* (THC undated(b)). A publication date for the full Standards document has not been published, however the Reporting Standards document (THC 2023), which will form part of this, has been published and outlines the standards for archaeological fieldwork reporting.

2.5. Limitations of Scope

- 2.5.1. This assessment is based upon data provided by ERM to AOC Archaeology Group and obtained from publicly accessible archives as described in the Data Sources in Section 4.3. A formal desk-based assessment was not undertaken by AOC in advance of the works as this was beyond the scope of the project remit AOC Archaeology Group was employed under; use of the 1st edition OS map as background mapping for use in the field with the Field Maps application was however utilised.
- 2.5.2. A list of designated heritage assets to be subject to setting site visits and sensitivity assessment was provided to AOC on 7 April 2024 (Table 2); note that this does not include all designated heritage assets in the area, but those deemed by ERM to have potential for settings impacts.
- 2.5.3. Data from the National Record for the Historic Environment (NRHE) as held by HES was obtained by AOC Archaeology on 7 April 2024 for compilation into an initial gazetteer and for use as a baseline for when the walkover survey commenced on 15 April 2024. A Historic Environment Record (HER) data extract from the Highland HER was provided to AOC Archaeology by ERM on 29 April 2024, and incorporated into the baseline. The information presented in the heritage asset and event gazetteer (**Appendix 1**) regarding known heritage assets and events is current to these dates.
- 2.5.4. The walkover survey extended across summer and into autumn, and as a result vegetation in some areas of the survey corridors was obstructive for surveying. These conditions have been incorporated into the findings.
- 2.5.5. This report has been prepared under the express instructions and solely for the use of ERM and their partners. All the work carried out in this report is based upon AOC Archaeology Group's professional knowledge and understanding of current and relevant United Kingdom standards and codes, technology and legislation.
- 2.5.6. Changes in these areas may occur in the future and cause changes to the conclusions, advice or recommendations given. AOC Archaeology Group does not accept responsibility for advising ERM or associated parties of the facts or implications of any such changes in the future.

3. OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 A draft outline Written Scheme of Investigation was submitted to AOC Archaeology Group on 7 April 2024 from ERM, broadly detailing the objectives of the works (ERM Cultural Heritage Team 2024).
- 3.1 The main objective of this assessment is to map the nature, character, extent, quality and value of the historic environment resource within the survey corridor area and to assess the potential for direct impacts upon the archaeological resource from the Proposed Development as well as to present an assessment of the setting sensitivity of designated heritage assets as specified by ERM. This has been done by examining a variety of evidence

for upstanding and buried remains of heritage interest including designated and non-designated heritage assets , as supplied to AOC Archaeology Group by ERM. The evidence presented and the conclusions offered will provide a comprehensive basis for the EIA Report, and further archaeological investigation required, and to help to inform the mitigation proposals.

4. METHODOLOGY

4.1. Standards

- 4.1.1. The scope of this assessment meets the requirements of current planning regulations set out in NPF4 (Scottish Government 2023), HEPS (HES 2019) and PAN 2/2011 (Scottish Government 2011), and local planning policy.
- 4.1.2. AOC Archaeology Group conforms to the standards of professional conduct outlined in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' (CIfA) Code of Conduct (CIfA 2019, updated 2022), and Regulations for Professional Conduct (2019, updated 2021), the CIfA Standard and Guidance for Historic Environment Desk Based Assessment (CIfA 2014, updated 2020), and the CIfA Standard and guidance for commissioning work on, or providing consultancy advice on, archaeology and the historic environment' (CIfA 2014, updated 2020), Highland Council's Standards for Archaeological Work (2012b), and other relevant guidance.
- 4.1.3. AOC Archaeology Group is a Registered Organisation of the CIfA. This status ensures that there is regular monitoring and approval by external peers of our internal systems, standards and skills development.
- 4.1.4. AOC is ISO 9001:2015 accredited, in recognition of the Company's Quality Management System.

4.2. Assessment Criteria

- 4.2.1. The assessment aims to identify the known and likely archaeological potential of the Site and the relative value or importance of such a resource / asset. The criteria for assessing these factors are laid out in detail in **Appendix 1**.
- 4.2.2. The criteria for assessing archaeological potential are expressed in this report as ranging between the scales of High, Medium, Low and Uncertain, criteria for which are also noted in **Appendix 6**.
- 4.2.3. Levels of importance in the report are expressed as ranging between the scales of High, Medium, Low, Negligible and Unknown. The importance of heritage assets is determined firstly by reference to existing designations – for example Scheduled Monuments are already classified as Nationally Important and therefore of High importance. For assets where no designation has previously been assigned, the likely importance of that resource has been based upon the available evidence and professional knowledge and judgement.
- 4.2.4. The likely magnitude of the impact of the Proposed Development works is determined by identifying the degree of change resulting from the Proposed Development upon the 'baseline' conditions of the Site and the heritage resource identified in the assessment. This impact can be either adverse (negative), beneficial (positive) or neutral and is ranked according to the scale of High, Medium, Low, Negligible and Neutral.

Assessment of Setting Sensitivity

- 4.2.5. The setting sensitivity assessment has been undertaken in line with the requirements of NPF4 and HES setting guidance, targeting designated heritage assets provided to AOC Archaeology Group by ERM in order to describe the setting of said assets and to undertake an assessment of their sensitivity to change.
- 4.2.6. The NPF4 defines setting as: *'Setting is more than the immediate surroundings of a site or building, and may be*

related to the function or use of a place, or how it was intended to fit into the landscape or townscape, the view from it or how it is seen from areas round about, or areas that are important to the protection of the place, site or building. 'Setting' is the way the surroundings of a historic asset or place contribute to how it is understood, appreciated and experienced" (2023, 156).

- 4.2.7. The HES guidance sets out the ways in which setting may contribute to the value of a heritage asset. It advocates a three-stage approach to assessing impacts upon setting which comprises:

'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

Stage 3: evaluate the potential impact of the proposed changes on the setting, and the extent to which any negative impacts can be mitigated' (HES 2016, updated 2020, 8).

- 4.2.8. The guidance provides a list of potential factors of setting which may contribute to the ability to understand, appreciate or experience the asset in question and its significance (ibid, 6-7). HES acknowledges that the list is non-exhaustive and that not all factors will apply in all cases. The guidance further sets out factors which should be considered in coming to a judgement regarding magnitude of impact upon setting (ibid, 11-12).
- 4.2.9. The descriptions of setting and the assessment of setting sensitivity to change within **Appendix 3** has followed Stages 1 and 2 outlined in the HES guidance on setting (2016).
- 4.2.10. Site visits were undertaken to designated heritage assets where accessible. These site visits established the current setting of the assets, how setting contributes to the understanding, appreciation and experience of the assets and an assessment of how sensitive these assets were to changes in their setting to form a baseline for the setting assessment within the EIA Report.
- 4.2.11. The detailed setting sensitivity assessment is presented in **Appendix 3** with accompanying plates in **Appendix 4**.

Assessment of Direct Physical Impacts

- 4.2.12. The assessment of direct physical impacts will be undertaken in line with the assessment criteria noted above and in **Appendix 6**. This will be done by establishing the historic environment baseline through examination of the data sources outlined in Section 4.3 and a walkover survey. The Proposed Development will be assessed against the established historic environment baseline, and potential direct impacts on known and unknown heritage assets will be identified.
- 4.2.13. Only those assets which fell directly within or immediately adjacent to the survey corridors were recorded. In some instances, the extents of some features such as prominent field boundaries or peat banks have been recorded or projected where their extents are observed in mapping or satellite imagery.

Assessment of Impacts upon Battlefields and Gardens and Designed Landscapes

- 4.2.14. Impacts upon the Inventory Carbisdale battlefield (**Asset 103/BTL19**) will be undertaken in line with the guidance set out above in Section 2.4 and where relevant in line with the principle outlined above for assessing direct and setting impacts. This will establish the potential for impacts upon the physical remains/special qualities and key landscape characteristics of the battlefield.
- 4.2.15. Impacts upon the Inventory Fairburn Garden and Designed Landscape (**Asset 102/GDL0049**) will be undertaken in

line with the guidance set out above in Section 2.4 and where relevant in line with the principle outlined above for assessing direct and setting impacts.

4.3. Data Sources

4.3.1. The following data sources were consulted during preparation of this report:

- HES, for:
 - designated heritage asset data, downloaded 7 April 2024 (list for setting assessment provided by ERM);
- Canmore and Pastmap, hosted by HES, for:
 - NRHE data and HER data (including designated and non-designated assets), downloaded 7 April 2024.
- HET (via ERM), for
 - HER data (including designated and non-designated assets), received 29 April 2024.
- National Map Library (National Library of Scotland), for:
 - online Ordnance Survey maps (1st and 2nd Edition, small and large-scale);
- Google Earth Pro, Esri's World Imagery Wayback Machine and Bing Maps for:
 - current and historic satellite imagery and aerial photographs.
- Published and unpublished sources listed in Section 8.

4.4. Report Structure

- 4.4.1. Each heritage asset (referred to as an "Asset") and each previous archaeological investigation (referred to as an "Event") referred to in the text is listed in the Gazetteer in **Appendix 1**. Each has been assigned an 'Asset/Event No.' unique to this assessment, and the Gazetteer includes information regarding the type, period, grid reference, NRHE number, HER number, protective designation, and other descriptive information, as derived from the consulted sources. All assets identified during the walkover survey have been included within the gazetteer, but note that only those assets that stand within the survey corridor as it pertains to the November alignment have been discussed within this report.
- 4.4.2. Each heritage asset referred to in the text is plotted on **Figures 3.1-3.105** at the end of the report, using the assigned Asset numbers and/or their designation numbers. The survey corridor is shown delineated in a dashed black line, with the walkover survey area extent depicted in yellow.
- 4.4.3. A brief historic baseline has been compiled utilising the HER data submitted to AOC Archaeology by ERM. All heritage assets and events located within a 1km Study Area surrounding the Site have been included in the assessment and are depicted on **Figures suites 2 and 3** using the assigned Asset or Event No. The aim of this is to identify the potential for direct impacts upon known archaeological remains and to help predict whether any similar hitherto unknown archaeological remains may survive within the Site. Designated heritage assets were visited by AOC Archaeology Group to undertake setting sensitivity assessments, as directed by ERM (**Figures 2.1-**

2.33), to detail a description of the asset's setting and an assessment of its sensitivity to change.

- 4.4.4. All sources consulted during the assessment, including publications, archived records, photographic and cartographic evidence, are listed amongst the *References* in Section 7.

5. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL CONTEXT

5.1. Section A1.1 (North Towers 1-24) (Figures 3.1-3.6)

200m-wide Alignment Survey Corridor, 40m-wide Access Track Corridors

- 5.1.1. No designated assets lie within the Proposed Development survey corridor.
- 5.1.2. Twelve non-designated assets (**Assets 150, 155-157, 160, 206, 683, 684, 776, 777, 1008 and 1014**) lie within the Proposed Development survey corridor, comprising post-medieval farmsteads and agricultural remains are identified and of Negligible to Low importance.
- 5.1.3. Seven events (**Events 3837, 3887, 3981, 3893, 3935, 4022, 4023**) have been undertaken within the Proposed Development survey corridor, of which six comprise walkover surveys and/or desk-based assessments, and one (**Event 4023**) comprising a watching brief during geotechnical test-pitting, which identified linear features of unknown date/function.

2km Study Area

- 5.1.4. Within 2km of the Proposed Development alignment, nine Scheduled Monuments (**Assets 94, 3673, 3674, 3680, 3681, 3682, 3688, 3689 and 3690**) are recorded, comprising prehistoric settlement and agricultural remains (**Assets 3680-3682**), two funerary cairns (**Assets 94 and 3688**), two brochs (**Assets 3689 and 3690**), and medieval (**Asset 3674**) and post-medieval (**Asset 3673**) ecclesiastic sites.
- 5.1.5. A further 107 non-designated assets are recorded (**Assets 1815, 1819, 1829, 1903, 1927, 1974-1976, 1978, 1989, 1991-1995, 2005-2018, 2031-2034, 2040, 2043-2047, 2049-2055, 160, 2057-2068, 2070-2075, 2077, 2080-2082, 157, 2090-2091, 156, 2100, 2208, 2306, 2436, 2470, 2495, 2524-2528, 2554-2557, 2603, 2607, 2609, 2611, 2613, 2617-2619, 2738-2739, 2877, 2884, 2966, 3205, 3462-3467**).
- 5.1.6. The vast majority of these assets relate to post-medieval settlement and agricultural activity, concentrated in the north half of the study area, with only three further prehistoric assets (**Assets 1927, 1994, 2040 and 2966**) comprising cists and possible mounds/brochs, and a single medieval asset comprising the site of the Norse battle of Skida Mire (**Asset 1829**), said to have occurred c1km to the southwest.
- 5.1.7. Thirteen events (**Events 3869, 3882, 3886, 3893, 3912, 3935, 3945, 3974, 3982, 4022, 4024, 3909 and 4015**) have been undertaken within the 2km study area, the majority of which comprise desk-based assessments and/or walkover surveys (**Events 3869, 3882, 3886, 3893, 3935, 3945, 3974, 3982, 4023, 4024 and 3909**) and a photographic survey (**Event 3912**). A geophysical survey (**Event 2882**), and evaluations and watching briefs (**Events 3886, 3974, 4015 and 4023**) have also been carried out beyond 1km of the Proposed Development alignment.

5.2. Section A1.2 (North Towers 25-59) (Figures 3.6-3.13)

200m-wide Alignment Survey Corridor, 40m-wide Access Track Corridors

- 5.2.1. No designated assets lie within the Proposed Development survey corridor.
- 5.2.2. One non-designated asset (**Asset 608**), a post-medieval farmstead, had previously been recorded within the

alignment survey corridor, the elements of which that lie within the corridor itself – areas of improved ground – are of Negligible importance.

- 5.2.3. Four events (**Events 4026, 3088, 3837 and 4026**) have been undertaken within the Proposed Development survey corridor, all of which comprise desk-based assessments and walkover surveys.

2km Study Area

- 5.2.4. There are seven designated heritage assets within 2km of the Proposed Development alignment, comprising six Scheduled Monuments (**Assets 40, 71, 79, 92, 93, 3713 and 3786**) and one Category C Listed Building (**Asset 3786**). The Scheduled Monuments are all prehistoric in date, comprising standing stones, a stone setting, a chambered cairn, and two brochs. The Listed Building (**Asset 3786**) comprises a post-medieval church.
- 5.2.5. There are a further 79 non-designated heritage assets within the surrounding study area (**Assets 1763-1771, 1805, 1809, 1833-1835, 1837, 1888-1895, 1902, 2041, 2111, 2116-2123, 2133, 2135-2137, 2141, 2230, 2314, 2316, 2341-2344, 2349-2351, 2430, 2459, 2471, 2498-2499, 2604-2605, 2610, 2735, 2737, 2765, 2768, 2773, 2782-2783, 2794-2795, 2798-2799, 2810, 2843, 2886, 2892-2893, 2902, 3203-3204, 3286, 3592, 3714 and 3786**).
- 5.2.6. Eight of these are prehistoric remains (**Assets 1763, 1890, 1892, 2230, 2810, 3203, 3204 and 3714**), comprising cist burials, a standing stone, a cairn field, a possible building, and a broch. There is also one potential medieval site, **Asset 1809**, which is speculated to perhaps be a medieval chapel underlying a later ecclesiastic site.
- 5.2.7. Eight of these are prehistoric remains (**Assets 1763, 1890, 1892, 2230, 2810, 3203, 3204 and 3714**), comprising cist burials, a standing stone, a cairn field, a possible building, and a broch. There is also one potential medieval site, **Asset 1809**, which is speculated to perhaps be a medieval chapel underlying a later ecclesiastic site. The vast majority of these assets are post-medieval in date and comprise agricultural and settlement remains, including townships, farmsteads, schools, shielings, graves and peat cutting areas.
- 5.2.8. Modern remains include the site of a WWII aircraft crash (**Asset 2459**), and an associated commemorative monument (**Asset 2498**).
- 5.2.9. Eleven events (**Events 3832, 3837, 3869, 3877, 3897, 3935, 3975, 3997, 3998, 4025 and 4028**) have been undertaken within the 2km study area, the majority of which comprise desk-based assessments and/or walkover surveys (**Events 3837, 3869, 3877, 3935, 3997, 3998, 4028**) and a photographic survey (**Event 3832**). Watching briefs and rescue excavations (**Events 3897, 3975 and 4025**) have also been undertaken, of which one (**Event 3897**) comprised the excavation of a Bronze Age cist burial. The others included watching briefs where no near archaeological features were uncovered.

5.3. Section A1.3 (North Towers 60-63) (Figures 3.13-3.14)

200m-wide Alignment Survey Corridor, 40m-wide Access Track Corridors

- 5.3.1. No designated assets lie within the Proposed Development corridor, and no previously identified non-designated

assets are recorded either.

- 5.3.2. No events have been undertaken within the Proposed Development corridor.

2km Study Area

- 5.3.3. There is one designated asset within the 2km study area, comprising a broch (**Asset 3687/SM550**).
- 5.3.4. There is one non-designated asset within the 2km study area comprising a post-medieval croft (**Asset 3600**).
- 5.3.5. One event (**Event 3826**), comprising a photographic survey of a croft, has been undertaken within the 2km study area.

5.4. Section A1.4 (North Towers 64-146) (Figures 3.14-3.31)

200m-wide Alignment Survey Corridor, 40m-wide Access Track Corridors

- 5.4.1. Four designated assets lie within the Proposed Development survey corridor, all of which comprise Scheduled Monuments and include a mixture of prehistoric and post-medieval settlement remains (**Asset 44/SM512**), an Iron Age broch (**Asset 35/SM3441**), a late prehistoric/early historic homestead (**Asset 31/SM3473**) and an area of post-medieval settlement (**Asset 3677/SM5230**). These are considered to be of High importance.
- 5.4.2. Thirty-seven non-designated assets have been recorded within the Proposed Development survey corridor. This includes 13 prehistoric assets comprising funerary cairns and cists (**Assets 718, 725, 836, 837 and 867**), hut circles (**Assets 108, 752, 817 and 818**; note that the walkover considers **Asset 817** to be a modern borrow pit for road building and not a hut circle), a souterrain (**Asset 763**), and clearance cairns and field systems (**Assets 819, 2417 and 2678**). These range in importance from Negligible to Low, with the funerary remains potentially of somewhat higher importance.
- 5.4.3. A further 21 non-designated assets are of post-medieval date (**Assets 721, 722, 723, 724, 726, 727, 751, 754, 755, 756, 772, 816, 837, 2590, 2668, 2669, 2670, 2671, 2672, 2712 and 2964**), comprising post-medieval settlement and agricultural remains, ranging from Negligible to Low importance. One modern asset, the previously mentioned borrow pit **Asset 817**, is identified. The remaining assets comprise a boundary bank (**Asset 2582**), a spring (**Asset 775**), possible structure (**Asset 875**) and standing stone (**Asset 876**); these assets are of unknown date.
- 5.4.4. Nine events have been undertaken within the Proposed Development corridor (**Events 3821, 3878, 3833, 3834, 3890, 3929, 3956, 3962 and 4006**), all of which comprise walkover surveys and/or desk-based assessments.

2km Study Area

- 5.4.5. There are 75 designated heritage assets within 2km of the Proposed Development alignment. These comprise 57 Scheduled Monuments (**Assets 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 30, 32, 33, 34, 41, 42, 43, 45, 48, 49, 50, 51, 53, 54, 55, 56, 72, 82, 88, 89, 90, 91, 104, 105, 106, 107, 3675, 3676, 3679, 3684, 3685, 3686, 3691, 3692, 3693, 3694, 3695, 3696, 3697, 3698, 3699, 3710, 3711 and 3712**), seven Category B Listed buildings (**Assets 1916, 1917, 3766, 3770-3773, and 3790**), eleven Category C Listed buildings (**Assets 1913, 1915, 1918-1920, 3767-3769 and 3775-3778**).
- 5.4.6. The Scheduled Monuments are predominantly prehistoric in date, comprising a range of funerary cairns, standing stones, settlement remains and brochs. There is one early historic asset (**Asset 3679**), a possible monastic site with later medieval or post-medieval chapel remains, two medieval assets, Langwell castle and Berriedale castle (**Assets 3684 and 3685** respectively), and several post-medieval assets (**Assets 104-107, 3675 (part thereof) and 3676**), all

of which are settlement remains. The Listed Buildings generally comprise post-medieval settlement, agricultural and ecclesiastical remains, with one modern war memorial (**Asset 1916**) commemorating WWI and WWII.

- 5.4.7. There are 413 non-designated assets recorded within the 2km study area. A total of 138 of these assets are of prehistoric date (**Assets 185-187, 190, 191, 215, 1529, 1536, 1543-1556, 1559, 1611, 1637, 1644, 1647, 1680, 1683, 1690, 1693, 1700, 1702, 1704, 1706, 1709, 1710, 1725, 1738, 1739, 1745-1749, 1752, 1755, 1822, 1824, 1828, 1842-1845, 1855, 1857, 1859, 1860, 1866, 1870, 1872, 1873, 1875, 1876, 1878, 1881, 1882, 1931, 1932, 1942, 2209, 2228, 2263, 2269-2271, 2302, 2303, 2311, 2409, 2410, 2411, 2412, 2416, 2419, 2420, 2578, 2583, 2626, 2628-2630, 2644, 2663, 2673-2675, 2677, 2680-2687, 2691, 2701-2707, 2710, 2711, 2713-2716, 2718, 2720, 2722-2727, 2762, 2787, 2802, 2831, 2942, 2943, 2945, 2965, 2967, 3023-3026, 3029-3033, 3108, 3109, 3169 and 3216**) and include funerary cairns, cists and cremations, settlement and agricultural remains, standing stones, burnt mounds and findspots, and homesteads which may also be of early historic date.
- 5.4.8. There are two potentially medieval non-designated assets, a chapel site (**Asset 1651**), and a hospital (**Asset 2264**), both of which are considered to be of Low importance.
- 5.4.9. The majority of the non-designated assets, 226 in total, comprise post-medieval remains (**Assets 124, 144, 145, 161, 162, 188, 189, 216, 1630, 1640-1643, 1648, 1650, 1652, 1654, 1656, 1658, 1659, 1665, 1670, 1672-1677, 1691, 1692, 1750, 1751, 1754, 1756, 1757, 1818, 1820, 1821, 1825, 1827, 1832, 1836, 1838-1841, 1844, 1846-1854, 1856, 1858, 1862, 1863, 1868, 1869, 1874, 1877, 1879, 1880, 1884, 1885, 1886, 1941, 1949-1951, 1953-1965, 1981-1985, 2035, 2078, 2088, 2101, 2103-2110, 2112-2115, 2127-2132, 2134, 2138-2140, 2142, 2229, 2256, 2258-2262, 2266, 2272, 2282, 2284, 2286, 2289, 2297, 2300, 2304, 2312, 2318, 2319, 2340, 2402-2404, 2406-2408, 2413-2415, 2418, 2426, 2427, 2474, 2475, 2483, 2518, 2548-2553, 2581, 2593, 2594, 2606, 2631, 2636, 2638, 2661, 2662, 2664-2667, 2676, 2688-2690, 2695-2700, 2717, 2719, 2721, 2740-2742, 2750, 2763, 2779, 2786, 2792, 2796, 2797, 2830, 2837, 2841, 2842, 2849, 2851, 2879, 2887, 2909, 2921-2923, 2938, 2941, 2944, 2948, 2968, 3202, 3598, 3599, 3605, 3606, 3629-3633 and 3635-3637**). These predominantly comprise post-medieval settlement and agricultural remains.
- 5.4.10. Eight modern assets are recorded, comprising a memorial (**Asset 1657**), a commemorative monument (**Asset 2500**), military remains that include roadblocks, observation posts and an aircraft crash site (**Assets 2449-2451, 2460 and 3608**), and a radio station (**Asset 2083**).
- 5.4.11. A further 38 assets are described as of unknown date (**Assets 125, 1613, 1694, 1823, 1826, 1831, 1864, 1865, 1867, 1871, 1883, 1887, 2218, 2401, 2405, 2424, 2425, 2591, 2592, 2685, 2692-2694, 2708, 2734, 2736, 2755, 2778, 2788, 2824-2826, 3027, 3028, 3634, 3664, 3665 and 2728**), comprising quarries, clearance cairns, agricultural remains and structures.
- 5.4.12. Thirty-one events have been undertaken within the 2km study area (**Events 3802, 3812, 3825, 3833, 3834, 3861, 3862, 3866, 3867, 3890, 3896, 3926, 3928, 3929, 3934, 3943, 3944, 3956, 3957, 3962, 3968, 3970-3973, 3999, 4006, 3843, 3872, 3876 and 3952**). The majority of these comprise walkover surveys and/or desk-based assessments and photographic surveys, with several excavations, evaluations and watching briefs also undertaken (**Events 3861, 3926, 3944, 3957 and 3970-3973**).

5.5. Section C1.2 (South Towers 25-37) (Figures 3.65-3.68)

- 5.5.1. 200m-wide Alignment Survey Corridor, 40m-wide Access Track Corridors
- 5.5.2. Two Scheduled prehistoric cairns, **Assets 70/SM1771 and 77/SM1770**, lie within the Proposed Development survey

corridor. These are considered to be of High importance

- 5.5.3. A further 35 non-designated assets are recorded within the corridor (**Assets 118-120, 123, 137, 211-214, 223, 425, 428, 430, 432-438, 440, 443-445, 453, 844, 850, 853, 857, 964 and 965.1**). These comprise prehistoric settlement remains and a post-medieval township in Strath Ullie, and prehistoric and post-medieval settlement remains in Glen Loth, ranging in importance from Negligible to Low.
- 5.5.4. Four events (**Events 3883, 3914, 4008 and 4018**) are recorded within the study area. One (**Event 4018**) comprises a community excavation of a cleared settlement in Caen, while the remainder comprise desk-based assessments and walkover surveys.
- 5.5.5. **2km Study Area**
- 5.5.6. Within the surrounding 2km study area, a further 28 designated assets are recorded, comprising 23 Scheduled Monuments (**Assets 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 39, 52, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 73, 76, 78, 81 and 3703-3705**), four Category B Listed buildings (**Assets 1947, 3736, 3737 and 3739**), and one Category C Listed building (**Asset 3738**), situated in Helmsdale and Gartymore to the southeast. The Scheduled Monuments are all prehistoric in date and include predominantly settlement remains, with some funerary cairns, brochs, standing stones and a stone row. The Listed buildings are post-medieval in date and comprise post-medieval settlement remains.
- 5.5.7. There are a further 183 non-designated assets within the 2km study area. Of these, 89 assets are prehistoric in date (**Assets 1500, 1502, 1505-1512, 1526-1538, 1540-1544, 1553, 1557, 1558, 1560, 1695, 2452, 2456, 2757, 2806, 3110-3119, 3121-3147, 3149, 3151-3154, 3156-3160, 3162, 3325 and 3471-3473**), and include prehistoric settlement remains, souterrains, cairns, brochs, burnt mounds and findspots. Four homestead sites (**Assets 1503, 1504, 3096 and 3155**) may be of late prehistoric or early historic date.
- 5.5.8. Two medieval assets, a well (**Asset 1548**) and Torrish castle (**Asset 3150**) are recorded. Seventy-one post-medieval assets (**Assets 159, 441, 443, 455, 1501, 1539, 1545, 1546, 1552, 1589, 1590, 1696, 1713, 1715, 1797-1804, 1806-1808, 1966, 1987, 2002-2004, 2021-2028, 2048, 2084-2087, 2124-2126, 2139, 2255, 2437-2439, 2455, 2457, 2458, 2468, 2481, 2482, 2639, 2647, 2801, 2829, 2890, 2935, 3120, 3148, 3161, 3447, 3642, 3643, 3644 and 3645**), comprising post-medieval settlement and agricultural remains are also recorded.
- 5.5.9. Four modern assets, including three aircraft crash sites (**Assets 2461, 2462 and 2571**) and a structure (**Asset 442**) are recorded. Twelve assets of unknown date (**Assets 1549, 1712, 1714, 2453, 2454, 2573, 2574, 2660, 3106, 3640, 3647 and 1952**), comprising general views, a golf course, structures and settlement remains, are also recorded.
- 5.5.10. Fifteen events are recorded within the 2km study area (**Events 3806, 3807, 3820, 3842, 3843, 3857, 3902, 3910, 3915, 3916, 3917, 3931, 3939, 3959 and 3960**), predominantly comprising walkover surveys and/or desk-based assessments, and one topographic survey (**Event 3917**) and one excavation (**Event 3931**).

5.6. Section B1.1 (North Towers 203-250) (Figures 3.41-3.46)

- 5.6.1. No designated assets lie within the Proposed Development survey corridor.
- 5.6.2. Twenty-three non-designated assets (**Assets 115, 121, 138, 139, 374, 376, 483, 485, 486, 493, 495-503, 600, 2501 and 2748**) had previously been recorded within the Proposed Development survey corridor. These assets comprise a prehistoric hut circle settlement (**Asset 115**), and Killin broch (**Asset 121**), and clearance cairns (**Asset 600**). Although not designated, the broch should be considered to be of Medium to High importance considering the nature of the asset and relatively well-preserved landscape in which it sits. The remainder of the assets comprise

post-medieval farmsteads, settlements and agricultural remains, considered to be of Negligible to Low importance.

- 5.6.3. Ten events (**Events 3921, 3801, 3839, 3844, 3852, 3884, 3889, 3942, 3948 and 4008**) have been undertaken within the Proposed Development corridor, all of which comprise walkover surveys and/or desk-based assessments.

2km Study Area

- 5.6.4. There are three designated heritage assets within the 2km study area all of which are Scheduled Monuments and include a prehistoric chambered cairn (**Asset 87/SM1794**) and broch (**Asset 63/SM1846**), and a 19th century fish farm (**Asset 63/SM1846**).
- 5.6.5. A further 122 non-designated assets lie within the 2km study area. Of these, 60 comprise prehistoric assets (**87, 111, 112, 114, 234, 1586, 1587, 1593-1595, 1598, 1616-1618, 1620, 1623, 1625, 1627, 1631-1633, 1635, 1645, 1669, 1698, 1707, 1813, 1814, 2428, 2429, 2445, 2448, 2544, 2800, 3088, 3092, 3097, 3098, 3107, 3122, 3184, 3186-3201, 3610 and 3611**), the majority of which are settlement remains, with agricultural remains, possible cairns, rock art and findspots. One potentially medieval chapel site (**Asset 1619**) is recorded.
- 5.6.6. Thirty-one of the non-designated assets comprise post-medieval remains (**Assets 142, 146, 193, 237, 1551, 1588, 1596, 1621, 1634, 1638, 1810, 1910-1912, 2030, 2037, 2446, 2447, 2466, 2486, 2491, 2535, 2539, 2589, 2827, 2895, 3089, 3166, 3167, 3185 and 3612**), the majority of which comprises post-medieval farmsteads, settlement and agricultural remains, with a fish farm (**Asset 3167**) also recorded. One modern asset, an aircraft crash site (**Asset 2463**) is also recorded.
- 5.6.7. The remaining 29 assets are of unknown date (**Assets 1615, 1622, 1628, 1629, 1908, 1909, 2487-2489, 2490, 2492, 2529-2534, 2536-2538, 2540-2543, 2545-2547, 2844 and 1639**), and include quarries, settlement remains, findspots and shooting butts.
- 5.6.8. Eighteen events (**Events 3801, 3804, 3836, 3839, 3844, 3852, 3873, 3880, 3884, 3889, 3895, 3921, 3942, 3948, 3951, 3961, 3843 and 3894**) have been undertaken within the 2km study area, predominantly comprising walkover surveys and/or desk-based assessments, and one evaluation (**Event 3951**) and two watching briefs (**Events 3836 and 3961**).

5.7. Section B1.2 (North Towers 251-297) (Figures 3.46-3.59)

200m-wide Alignment Survey Corridor, 40m-wide Access Track Corridors

- 5.7.1. No designated assets lie within the Proposed Development survey corridor.
- 5.7.2. Twenty-four non-designated assets have been recorded within the Proposed Development survey corridor (**Assets 109, 110, 136, 147, 183, 184, 384, 385, 387, 388, 391, 397, 398, 418, 470, 471, 472, 950, 1660, 1906, 2029, 2400, 2820 and 3178**). Of these, seven include prehistoric assets (**109, 110, 384, 385, 472, 1660 and 1906**) comprising settlement and agricultural remains. A further 18 comprise post-medieval settlement and agricultural remains (**Assets 136, 147, 183, 184, 136.1, 147.1, 183.1, 387.2, 388.11, 391.1, 397, 398, 418.1, 470, 471, 2029, 2400 and 3178**) remains. Two assets (**Asset 950 and 2820**), a building and enclosure respectively, are of unknown date. It is considered that all of these remains range from Negligible to Low importance.
- 5.7.3. Seven events (**Events 3847, 3860, 3892, 3918, 3922, 3980 and 4027**) have been undertaken within the Proposed Development corridor, the majority of which comprise walkover surveys and/or desk-based assessments, with one

watching brief (**Event 4027**) recorded.

2km Study Area

- 5.7.4. There are thirteen designated heritage assets within 2km of the Proposed Development alignment, comprising six Scheduled Monuments (**Assets 58, 36, 57, 59, 61 and 62**), four Category B Listed buildings (**Assets 1944, 3702, 3785 and 3787**) and three Category C Listed buildings (**Assets 3725, 3788 and 3792**). The Scheduled Monuments are all prehistoric in date and comprise settlement remains, funerary cairns, brochs and a fort. The Listed buildings are post-medieval in date and include settlement remains, a church, and a signal box.
- 5.7.5. A further 195 non-designated assets lie within the 2km study area. Of these, 93 are prehistoric in date (**Assets 113, 116, 181, 182, 1521, 1547, 1561, 1562, 1573, 1574, 1575, 1576, 1580, 1581, 1582, 1584, 1591, 1592, 1597, 1602-1604, 1606, 1608, 1610, 1661-1664, 1666, 1667, 1668, 1684-1687, 1720-1724, 1727-1732, 1741, 1742, 1744, 1948, 2352, 2353, 2355, 2359, 2362, 2367, 2375, 2377, 2379, 2380, 2385, 2386, 2390-2393, 2395-2397, 2568, 2585, 2586, 2758, 2761, 2766, 2897, 2898, 3099-3103, 3105, 3182, 3502, 3503 and 3616-3622**). These predominantly comprise settlement and agricultural remains, possible burial cairns, burnt mounds, duns and a broch. Two possible early historic sites (**Assets 1607 and 1718**) may be early chapel sites.
- 5.7.6. Two medieval assets, a medieval battlefield (**Asset 3095**) and a tower house (**Asset 3104**) are also recorded. The majority of the assets, 70 in total, are post-medieval in date (**Assets 117, 122, 382, 399, 418, 960, 1513, 1564-1566, 1583, 1585, 1600, 1601, 1609, 1679, 1733, 1735-1737, 1740, 1812, 1905, 1973, 2019, 2036, 2190, 2191, 2354, 2358, 2360, 2361, 2363, 2365, 2366, 2368, 2369, 2371, 2373, 2381, 2383, 2384, 2388, 2389, 2394, 2398, 2399, 2478, 2522, 2563, 2569, 2570, 2584, 2615, 2616, 2746, 2747, 2756, 2764, 2814, 2840, 3179, 3180, 3181, 3183, 3588, 3613, 3614, 3615 and 3623**) and predominantly comprise post-medieval settlement and agricultural remains, with a curling pond, firing range and fish ladder also recorded.
- 5.7.7. One modern asset, a cemetery (**Asset 2493**) is recorded, along with a further 28 assets of unknown date (**Assets 1605, 1726, 1811, 1907, 2339, 2356, 2357, 2364, 2370, 2372, 2374, 2376, 2378, 2382, 2387, 2579, 2580, 2612, 2743, 2744, 2767, 2811-2813, 2821, 2896, 1577 and 3175**), comprising cairns, structures, pits, field systems and findspots.
- 5.7.8. Eighteen events (**Events 3845, 3846, 3847, 3853, 3863, 3892, 3905, 3911, 3918, 3919, 3933, 3958, 3965, 3980, 4027, 4031, 3938 and 3994**) have been undertaken within the 2km study area, predominantly comprising photographic surveys, walkover surveys and/or desk-based assessments, and two watching briefs (**Events 4027 and 4031**).

5.8. Section C1.1 (South Towers 1-24) (Figures 3.59-3.65)

200m-wide Alignment Survey Corridor, 40m-wide Access Track Corridors

- 5.8.1. The Scheduled extents for two designated Assets (**Assets 9/SM5497 and 10/SM5498**) extend into the Proposed Development survey corridor. These comprise a probable kerb cairn and prehistoric settlement remains respectively, considered to be of High importance.
- 5.8.2. Twelve non-designated assets lie within the Proposed Development survey corridor. These comprise six prehistoric assets (**Assets 155, 578.2, 1571, 1773, 2506 and 3093**), and include settlement and agricultural remains and findspots. The remaining six non-designated assets comprise post-medieval settlement and agricultural remains

(Assets 582-585, 788 and 3563). These assets are considered to range between Negligible and Low importance.

- 5.8.3. Eleven events (Events 3847, 3853, 3879, 3892, 3903, 3918, 3980, 3995, 3996, 4000 and 4027) have been undertaken within the Proposed Development survey corridor, predominantly comprising walkover surveys and/or desk-based assessments, and one watching brief (Event 4027).

2km Study Area

- 5.8.4. Ten designated assets lie within the 2km study area, comprising five Scheduled Monuments (Assets 7, 8, 10, 60 and 3700), one Category A Listed building (Asset 3717), three Category B Listed buildings (Assets 3715, 3716 and 3732), and one Inventory Battlefield (Asset 103). The Scheduled Monuments are all prehistoric in date and comprise settlement and agricultural remains and a standing stone. Except for the modern Carbisdale Castle (Asset 3732), the Listed buildings are post-medieval in date and comprise a viaduct, bridge and fish farm. The Inventory Battlefield (Asset 103) relates to the AD 1650 Battle of Carbisdale.
- 5.8.5. A total of 105 non-designated assets are recorded within the 2km study area. Of these, 43 are prehistoric in date (Assets 578, 1515, 1516, 1522-1525, 1563, 1567-1570, 1578, 1579, 1774, 1779, 1782, 1783, 1785, 1790, 1793, 1794, 2505, 2507-2511, 3090, 3094, 3501, 3504-3512, 3543, 3544 and 3545). These predominantly comprise prehistoric settlement and agricultural remains, with some burnt mounds and a broch also recorded. Two possible medieval sites, Invershin castle (Asset 956) and a possible motte (Asset 1775) are recorded.
- 5.8.6. A further 53 assets are recorded as post-medieval in date (Assets 151, 373, 1514, 1517-1520, 1572, 1777, 1781, 1786-1789, 1791, 1900, 1967-1972, 1977, 1996-2001, 2020, 2169, 2173, 2254, 2281, 2307, 2308, 2440, 2465, 2472, 2473, 2504, 2521, 2776, 2777, 2838, 2885, 2911, 3171, 3284, 3540, 3541, 3561 and 3564). The comprise post-medieval settlement and agricultural remains, with some industrial remains represented in the form of a mill dam, railway station and leatherworks.
- 5.8.7. A modern power station (Asset 2601) is recorded, along with six assets of unknown date (Assets 772, 1780, 1784, 2494, 2602 and 3542), comprising field systems, mounds, a house, mound and findspot.
- 5.8.8. Eight events (Events 3827, 3831, 3856, 3874, 3891, 3920, 3930 and 3978) have been undertaken within the 2km study area, predominantly comprising walkover surveys and/or desk-based assessments, with one watching brief (Event 3891), one excavation (Event 3978) and one bridge inspection (Event 3920) also recorded.

5.9. Section C1.2 (South Towers 38 – 99) (Figures 3.68-3.80)

200m-wide Alignment Survey Corridor, 40m-wide Access Track Corridors

- 5.9.1. The Proposed Development survey corridor extends through the northwest edge of the Inventory Battlefield extent for the battle of Carbisdale (Asset 103/BTL19). This is of High archaeological importance, however this portion of the battlefield has been heavily impacted by commercial forestry operations and currently comprises mature forest.
- 5.9.2. One non-designated asset (Asset 767), a possible cairn or hut circle, has been identified on LiDAR imagery and lies within the survey corridor under commercial forestry, this could be potentially of Medium/High importance, but it could not be definitively identified within the forestry during the walkover survey.

2km Study Area

- 5.9.3. There are four designated assets within the 2km study area, comprising one Category A Listed building the Shin

railway viaduct (**Asset 3717**), one Category B Listed building, Carbisdale Castle (**Asset 3732**), and three Category C Listed buildings (**Assets 1945, 1946 and 3734**). **Assets 1946, 3717, 3734** are post-medieval in date and the remainder are modern in date.

- 5.9.4. Forty-three non-designated assets are recorded within the 2km study area. Of these, six are prehistoric in date (**Assets 131, 1773, 2641, 2832, 3513 and 3514**), comprising a hut circle, clearance cairn, burial cairns and findspots. Twenty-seven post-medieval assets (**Assets 2038, 2146, 2156, 2157, 2158, 2160, 2161, 2162, 2168, 2169, 2421, 2465, 2520, 2521, 2560, 2587, 2595, 2651, 2652, 2653, 2655, 2656, 2657, 2876, 3083, 3597 and 3601**) are also recorded, predominantly comprising settlement and agricultural remains, as well as a school, railway bridge and railway station.
- 5.9.5. Two modern assets, both WWII pillboxes (**Assets 2444 and 2588**) are recorded, along with a further eight assets of unknown date (**Assets 1784, 1901, 2642, 2654, 2658, 3085, 3086 and 3515**), comprising structures, earthworks, findspots, human remains and an enclosure.
- 5.9.6. Seven events (**Events 3813, 3814, 3815, 4012, 4016, 4017 and 4029**) have been undertaken within the 2km study area, predominantly comprising a geophysical survey (**Event 3813**), evaluations (**Events 3814, 3815, 4012, 4017 and 4029**) and a metal detection survey (**Event 4016**).

5.10. Section D1.1 (South Towers 38-99) (Figures 3.68-3.80)

200m-wide Alignment Survey Corridor, 40m-wide Access Track Corridors

- 5.10.1. No designated assets lie within the Proposed Development survey corridor.
- 5.10.2. Fourteen non-designated assets (**Assets 140, 165, 166, 167, 168, 167.1, 357, 358, 359, 865.1, 2148, 2154, 2165 and 3046**) lie within the Proposed Development survey corridor, and are all of post-medieval date. These comprise settlement and agricultural remains and are considered to be of Negligible to Low importance.
- 5.10.3. One event (**Event 3899**), a desk-based assessment and walkover survey, is recorded within the Proposed Development survey corridor.

2km Study Area

- 5.10.4. There are two designated assets within the 2km study area, three Scheduled prehistoric cairns (all recorded under **Asset 3706**), and one Category C Listed building (**Asset 3735**). The former is considered to be of High importance, and the latter of Medium importance.
- 5.10.5. There are 70 non-designated assets within the 2km study area. Of these, 20 are prehistoric in date (**Assets 2822, 2823, 2955-2957, 2959-2963, 3038, 3040, 3049, 3050, 3078-3080, 3087 and 3174**), and comprise prehistoric settlement and agricultural remains, funerary cairns and cists and brochs.
- 5.10.6. A further 46 assets are of post-medieval date (**Assets 141, 143, 148, 180, 346, 361, 1990, 2143, 2144, 2145, 2147, 2149-2153, 2155, 2159, 2163, 2164, 2166, 2167, 2170-2172, 2301, 2315, 2317, 2519, 2745, 2882, 2883, 2977, 2978, 3041-3045, 3047, 3048, 3070, 3082, 3593, 3603 and 3604**), consisting of settlement and agricultural remains. Five assets of unknown date (**Assets 2276, 2577, 2848, 2979 and 3039**) are also recorded and comprise a cairn, buildings, and cultivated areas.
- 5.10.7. Seven events (**Events 3797, 3818, 3823, 3824, 3859, 3967 and 4020**) have been recorded within the 2km study area, and predominantly comprise photographic surveys and walkover surveys and/or desk-based assessments,

with one watching brief (**Event 3967**) recorded.

5.11. Section D1.2 (South Towers 100-150) (Figures 3.80-3.91)

200m-wide Alignment Survey Corridor, 40m-wide Access Track Corridors

- 5.11.1. There is one designated Asset recorded within the 1km study area, a Scheduled prehistoric chambered cairn (**Asset 85**).
- 5.11.2. There are 17 non-designated assets recorded within the 2km study area. Of these, three are prehistoric in date (**Assets 179, 737 and 3496**), comprising a kerb cairn, hut circle and clearance cairn. Ten assets of post-medieval date (**Assets 154, 164, 338, 556, 736, 742, 1019, 2042, 2749 and 3057**) are recorded, comprising settlement and agricultural remains.
- 5.11.3. One modern asset (**Asset 2927**), a former WWII women's logging camp, is the sole modern asset recorded. Three assets of unknown date (**Assets 2566, 2753 and 3666**) are also recorded, comprising a stone, clearance cairn and dyke.
- 5.11.4. Ten events (**Events 3818, 3870, 3901, 3923, 3946, 3947, 3953, 4009, 4013 and 4021**) are also recorded within the 2km study area, predominantly comprising walkover surveys and/or desk-based assessments, and one watching brief (**Event 3947**).

2km Study Area

- 5.11.5. There are four designated heritage assets within the 2km study area, all of which are Scheduled Monuments (**Assets 37, 38, 3672 and 3708**). All but one (**Asset 3672**) are prehistoric in date and comprise prehistoric settlement remains and a funerary cairn, with **Asset 3672** comprising post-medieval settlement remains.
- 5.11.6. A total of 156 non-designated assets are recorded within the 2km study area. Of these, 62 are prehistoric in date (**Assets 133, 135, 227-230, 232, 235, 236, 239, 253, 256, 1899, 2305, 2467, 2608, 2659, 2729, 2878, 2888, 2906, 2930, 2980, 2981, 3035, 3051, 3052, 3053, 3056, 3066-3069, 3071, 3074-3077, 3475, 3485-3489, 3497-3500, 3571, 3572, 3574, 3576-3578, 3580-3582, 3584, 3609, 3625, 3626 and 3671**). These predominantly consist of settlement and agricultural remains and rock art sites, with some burnt mounds, possible funerary cairns and a beacon also included. A possible enclosure (**Asset 2929**) is recorded as potentially being of late prehistoric or early historic date.
- 5.11.7. Seventy-seven assets of post-medieval date (**Assets 134, 207, 333, 338, 785, 786, 1898, 1988, 2093-2099, 2174-2188, 2196, 2207, 2273, 2275, 2280, 2337, 2338, 2423, 2496, 2497, 2515, 2558, 2561, 2564, 2565, 2576, 2649, 2828, 2836, 2894, 2899, 2900, 2901, 2908, 3054, 3055, 3060, 3062, 3063, 3064, 3065, 3072, 3073, 3224, 3482, 3490, 3491, 3492, 3493, 3494, 3495, 3539, 3586, 3587, 3602, 3624 and 3662**) are also recorded. These comprise settlement and agricultural remains.
- 5.11.8. Four modern assets, including a WWII aircraft craft site (**Asset 2464**), boat house (**Asset 2567**), firing range (**Asset 2926**) and grouse butt (**Asset 2933**) are recorded, along with eleven assets of unknown date (**Assets 2513, 2514, 2516, 2517, 2730, 2731, 2732, 2733, 2932, 3058 and 3059**), which include cairns, field systems, enclosures, a mound and a possible natural feature.
- 5.11.9. Thirty events (**Events 3797, 3811, 3817, 3818, 3840, 3841, 3849, 3851, 3854, 3858, 3901, 3904, 3906, 3907, 3932, 3937, 3946, 3950, 3953, 3966, 3992, 4004, 4009, 4013, 4014, 4019, 4020, 4021 and 4032**) are recorded within the 2km study area. These comprise predominantly photographic surveys, walkover surveys and/or desk-based assessments. Five watching briefs (**Events 3854, 3858, 4004, 4014 and 4032**) and one excavation (**Event 3966**) are

also recorded.

5.12. Section E1.1 (South Towers 151-199) (Figures 3.91-3.97)

200m-wide Alignment Survey Corridor, 40m-wide Access Track Corridors

- 5.12.1. One designated asset, the Inventory Garden and Designed Landscape for Fairburn (**Asset 100**), lies within the Proposed Development survey corridor. The corridor passes through the western extent of this. This is considered to be of High importance.
- 5.12.2. There are eight non-designated assets recorded within the Proposed Development survey corridor. These comprise one prehistoric asset (**Asset 233**), a cup-marked stone, considered to be of Low importance as it is no longer in-situ. Six post-medieval assets (**Assets 170 and 281-285**) are also recorded, comprising settlement and agricultural remains of Negligible to Low importance. One asset of unknown date (**Asset 790**), an enclosure, is also recorded.
- 5.12.3. Ten events (**Events 3795, 3799, 3855, 3865, 3913, 3949, 3954, 3984, 3987 and 4007**) are recorded within Proposed Development survey corridor. These predominantly comprise walkover surveys and/or desk-based assessments, with one watching brief (**Event 3984**) also recorded.

2km Study Area

- 5.12.4. There are 51 designated assets within the 2km study area. These comprise five Scheduled Monuments, four Category A Listed buildings, 25 Category B Listed buildings, 13 Category C Listed buildings, two Inventory Garden and Designed Landscapes and one Conservation Area.
- 5.12.5. The Scheduled Monuments (**Assets 84, 3683, 3701, 3709 and 3713**) include three prehistoric assets comprising two chambered cairns and a crannog (**Assets 84, 3683 and 3709**), an early historic Pictish symbol stone (**Asset 3701**), and a medieval earthwork (**Asset 3713**).
- 5.12.6. The Category A Listed buildings include a late medieval or early post-medieval tower house Fairburn Tower (**Asset 96**), an early 17th century castle, Castle Leod (**Asset 3741**), and a 19th century bridge (**Asset 3723**) and villa (**Asset 3741**). The Category B Listed buildings (**Assets 97, 98, 1943, 3720, 3721, 3724, 3742-3747, 3750, 3751, 3755-3759, 3761-3764, 3782 and 3783**) are but for two exceptions, post-medieval in date, with two modern buildings (**Assets 3761 and 3762**). The Category C Listed buildings (**Assets 1937, 1938, 3718, 3719, 3722, 3748, 3749, 3752-3754, 3760, 3784, 3791 and 3793**) are all of post-medieval date but for **Asset 3791**, which comprises a modern hydro scheme. The majority of these assets lie within Strathpeffer, forming part of the post-medieval Victoria spa town, across which the Conservation Area (**Asset 4034**) lies.
- 5.12.7. The two Inventory Garden and Designed Landscapes are for The Spa Gardens (**Asset 102**) in Strathpeffer and for Fairburn (**Asset 100**), both of which are post-medieval in date.
- 5.12.8. A total of 289 non-designated assets are recorded within the 2km study area. Of these, 28 are recorded as prehistoric in date (**Assets 130, 238, 791, 2751, 2769, 2770, 2833, 2874, 2903, 2904, 2947, 2949, 2953, 2983, 2984, 2987, 3007, 3014, 3016, 3017, 3021, 3037, 3219, 3248, 3256, 3461, 3571 and 3577**), and comprise prehistoric settlement and agricultural remains, funerary remains, rock art and findspots. Two possible early historic assets are also recorded, an incised cross (**Asset 240**) and a potentially early ecclesiastical site (**Asset 2477**).
- 5.12.9. Five medieval sites are recorded, comprising a moated site (**Asset 2422**), a motte (**Asset 2946**) and wall (**Asset**

3231) at Castle Leod, a graveyard (Asset 3018) and chapel site (Asset 3022).

- 5.12.10. A total of 196 assets are recorded as post-medieval in date (Assets **118, 130, 169, 171, 192, 194- 196, -205, 170, 218, 286, 288, 522, 523, 1017, 1897, 1988, 2069, 2076, 2079, 2192, 2193, 2197-2205, 2210, 2212-2215, 2217, 2219, 2220-2227, 2234, 2249, 2250, 2251, 2253, 2274, 2280, 2283, 2285, 2287, 2288, 2290-2292, 2294-2296, 2298, 2299, 2432, 2441, 2442, 2480, 2484, 2485, 2503, 2512, 2523, 2572, 2614, 2754, 2780, 2781, 2791, 2803, 2807-2809, 2816, 2817, 2853, 2859, 2860, 2862-2871, 2905, 2907, 2910, 2912, 2914-2918, 2937, 2950-2952, 2969, 2970, 2982, 2985, 2988-3006, 3008-3013, 3015, 3020, 3034, 3036, 3176, 3177, 3215, 3220, 3221-3223, 3229, 3230, 3232-3239, 3242-3244, 3246, 3247, 3287, 3410, 3451, 3452, 3454, 3455, 3456, 3458, 3460, 3474, 3477-3481, 3483, 3484, 3650, 3652, 3653, 3658, 3661 and 3663**). These predominantly comprise settlement and agricultural remains, with some elements relating to larger estates, as well as churches, cemeteries, quarries and a battle site.
- 5.12.11. Twenty-eight assets are recorded as of modern date (Assets **218-220, 2211, 2443, 2650, 2913, 2924, 2928, 3172, 3173, 3217, 3228, 3383, 3457, 3476, 3627, 3628, 3648, 3649, 3651, 3654, 3655, 3656, 3657, 3659, 3660 and 3669**). These assets comprise hydro schemes, war memorials, a sawmill, drill halls, orchards, commemorative monuments, quarries and a water pipe.
- 5.12.12. A further 28 assets are recorded as of unknown date (Assets **197, 241, 1705, 2216, 2502, 2559, 2596, 2597, 2771, 2845, 2846, 2850, 2852, 2854, 2855, 2856, 2857, 2858, 2861, 2875, 2880, 2881, 2936, 3019, 3245, 3254, 3594 and 3595**), comprising various buildings and structures, findspots, banks and dams.
- 5.12.13. Thirty-five events (Events **3796, 3798, 3803, 3808, 3810, 3816, 3819, 3828-3830, 3838, 3848, 3850, 3871, 3875, 3881, 3900, 3908, 3913, 3932, 3940, 3955, 3964, 3983, 3986, 3989-3991, 3993, 4001-4003, 4005, 4010, 4011 and 4030**) have been recorded within the 2km study area. Several comprise photographic surveys, walkover surveys and/or desk-based assessments (Events **2796, 3803, 3829, 3830, 3871, 3875, 3881, 3932, 3955, 3964 and 3989-3991**), metal detecting, geophysical, topographic and earthwork surveys (Events **3810, 3819, 3983 and 4003**), historic building recording and interpretation (Events **4001 and 4002**), evaluations (Events **3808, 3816, 3908, 3993 and 4030**), and watching briefs (Events **3978, 3848, 3850, 3900, 4005, 4010 and 4011**).

5.13. Section E1.2 (South Towers 200-229) (Figures 3.97-3.99)

200m-wide Alignment Survey Corridor, 40m-wide Access Track Corridors

- 5.13.1. No designated assets lie within the Proposed Development survey corridor.
- 5.13.2. Seventy-five non-designated assets lie within the Proposed Development survey corridor. Of these, 29 are prehistoric in date (Assets **126, 127, 128, 901.1, 962, 1025, 1026, 3207, 3208, 3209, 3210, 3211, 3212, 3213, 3214, 3240, 3241, 3289, 3291, 3294, 3298, 3341, 3346, 3347, 3349, 3356, 3361, 3364 and 3366**), comprising prehistoric settlement and agricultural remains, and funerary cairns. These can be considered to range from Negligible to Medium importance, though the cairns could be considered of higher importance dependent on their level of preservation.
- 5.13.3. Forty-three assets are of post-medieval date (Assets **170, 175, 177, 281, 305, 783, 792, 902, 903, 3288, 3293, 3295, 3296, 3297, 3299, 3300, 3301, 3302, 3303, 3304, 3305, 3313, 3314, 3315, 3316, 3317, 3318, 3319, 3320, 3321, 3322, 3323, 3324, 3336, 3338, 3339, 3357, 3358, 3359, 3360, 3567, 3667 and 3668**), comprising predominantly field clearance, with some settlement remains and a still bothy also recorded. These are considered to range from

Negligible to Low importance.

- 5.13.4. Three assets of unknown date (**Assets 793, 794 and 3365**) are recorded, comprising a platform and clearance cairns of unknown date.
- 5.13.5. Five events (**Events 3809, 3822, 3885, 3949 and 3979**) have been carried out within the Proposed Development survey corridor, comprising walkover surveys and/or desk-based assessments and one watching brief (**Event 3822**).

2km Study Area

- 5.13.6. There are four designated assets within the 2km study area, all of which comprise Scheduled prehistoric forts (**Assets 11, 12, 20 and 21**) and one barrow burial (**Asset 3707**).
- 5.13.7. There are 203 non-designated assets recorded within the 2km study area. Of these, 51 are prehistoric in date (**Assets 1896, 2324-2326, 2329, 2330, 2759, 2789, 2790, 2972-2976, 3225-3227, 3285, 3290, 3292, 3340, 3342-3345, 3348, 3350-3353, 3355, 3362, 3363, 3442-3445, 3448-3450, 3461, 3463, 3469, 3470, 3536, 3537, 3569, 3570, 3575, 3579 and 3583**), comprising settlement and agricultural remains, funerary cairns, rock art sites and findspots.
- 5.13.8. There are 144 assets of post-medieval date recorded (**Assets 176, 243, 282, 283, 2231-2233, 2236-2241, 2293, 2327, 2562, 2872, 2873, 2919, 2920, 3250, 3263-3269, 3306-3312, 3326-3335, 3337, 3354, 3367-3409, 3411-3441, 3446, 3459, 3460, 3468, 3516-3533, 3568 and 3596**). These predominantly comprise agricultural remains, with some settlement remains also recorded, a military campsite AD 1645 (**Asset 2327**), and still bothies.
- 5.13.9. Eight assets of unknown date (**Assets 2328, 2331, 2336, 2847, 2971, 3534, 3535 and 3562**) have also been recorded, comprising field systems, clearance cairns, structures and iron workings.
- 5.13.10. Fourteen events (**Events 3799, 3805, 3865, 3868, 3898, 3913, 3936, 3954, 3963, 3985, 3986, 3987, 3988 and 4007**) have been recorded within the 2km study area, predominantly comprising walkover surveys and/or desk-based assessments and a topographic survey, with four watching briefs (**Events 3898, 3985, 3988 and 3986**) also recorded.

5.14. Section E1.3 (South Towers 230-235) (Figures 3.99-3.105)

200m-wide Alignment Survey Corridor, 40m-wide Access Track Corridors

- 5.14.1. No designated assets lie within the Proposed Development survey corridor.
- 5.14.2. Six non-designated assets (**Asset 174, 178, 1019, 2235, 2243 and 2245**) had previously been recorded within the alignment survey corridor, the first two of which are post-medieval buildings that have been identified on 1st edition OS mapping, but the locations for which are not correct. **Asset 1019** comprises earthworks and possible structural remains likely of post-medieval date but for which no upstanding remains could be traced. The latter three assets are buildings of post-medieval date. The importance of such remains is considered to be Low.
- 5.14.3. Two events (**Events 3864 and 3936**) have been undertaken within the Proposed Development survey corridor, both comprising walkover surveys and desk-based assessments.

2km Study Area

- 5.14.4. There are 17 designated assets recorded within the surrounding 2km study area, comprising two Scheduled Monuments, eleven Listed Buildings and one Inventory Garden and Designed Landscape. The Scheduled Monuments comprise a prehistoric ring cairn and stone circle (**Assets 3678**) and a post-medieval church (**Asset**

2476). The Listed Buildings include six Category B Listed buildings (**Assets 1921, 1952, 3726, 3728** (two separate buildings), **3780** and **3781**), and five Category C Listed buildings (**Assets 3727, 3730, 3731, 3779** and **3789**). These are all post-medieval buildings, comprising commodious country houses and post-medieval rural settlement remains. One Inventory Garden and Designed Landscape (**Asset 3794**) is principally of 19th century date, relating to Beaufort Castle (**LB8068**; outwith the 2km study area).

- 5.14.5. A further 88 non-designated assets are recorded within 2km of the Proposed Development alignment, of which nine are prehistoric in date (**Assets 129, 2277, 2345, 2347, 2819, 3206, 3552, 3558** and **3585**), comprising funerary cairns, prehistoric settlement remains, and rock art sites. One possible medieval site (**Asset 2277**), the potential site of an Anglo-Norman fortification, is also recorded.
- 5.14.6. Sixty-two of the assets are post-medieval in date (**Assets 1015, 2189, 2195, 2242, 2244, 2246-2248, 2257, 2278, 2279, 2332, 2334, 2335, 2348, 2431, 2479, 2633-2635, 2637, 2793, 2815, 2891, 2934, 3249, 3251-3253, 3255, 3257-3262, 3270-3283, 3538, 3549, 3551, 3553-3557, 3559, 3565, 3607** and **3670**). Five modern assets (**Assets 2434, 2435, 2598, 2599** and **2600**) have also been recorded, comprising telephone boxes and power stations.
- 5.14.7. A further ten non-designated assets of unknown date (**Assets 2333, 2346, 2632, 3546, 3547, 3548, 3550, 3560, 3566** and **3646**) have also been recorded, comprising possible cairns, a mound, grave marker, earthworks, bank, cemetery and golf course. A natural waterfall (**Asset 2194**) is also recorded.
- 5.14.8. Twelve events (**Events 3800, 3805, 3835, 3864, 3924, 3925, 3927, 3936, 3941, 3969, 3976** and **3977**) have been undertaken within the 2km study area. Of these, five (**Events 3800, 3805, 3835, 3864, 3936** and **3941**) comprise walkover surveys and/or desk-based assessments, two comprise evaluations (**Event 3927** and **3977**), and the remainder comprise watching briefs and salvage recording (**Events 3924, 3925, 3969** and **3976**).

6. WALKOVER SURVEY

6.1. Outline

- 6.1.1. The walkover survey was undertaken from 15 April to 9 October 2024. Weather conditions overall were good, with visibility only compromised in some areas by dense vegetation. The survey corridors were revised in response to various alterations to the overall route design, and land access to some areas was restricted either through land access permissions (notably between the South Towers 39-46 and 199-206), or to a lesser degree, as result of impassable terrain, such as felled forestry, dense mature forestry, steep-sided water crossings, or accessibility issues such as locked gates for windscreen surveys. The areas that were subject to survey, both the main corridor and the access tracks related to this, are depicted in yellow on Figures 3.1-3.106. The survey corridor for the OHL alignments extended 100m either side of the centre line forming a 200m-wide corridor, while survey corridors for windscreen survey and access track walkover surveys extended 20m either side, forming a 40m wide corridor.
- 6.1.2. The aim of the walkover survey was to identify any previously unknown archaeological remains within the survey corridor, and to confirm the extent, condition and significance of previously recorded remains. All known and accessible heritage assets were assessed in the field to establish their survival, extent, significance, and relationship to other assets. All heritage assets encountered were recorded and photographed. The location of the features have been marked on plans, at a relevant scale, and keyed by means of Grid References to the OS mapping, using

a GPS-enabled device and the Esri Field Maps application.

- 6.1.3. The setting sensitivity assessment was undertaken concurrently with the walkover survey.

6.2. Section A1.1 (North Towers 1-24) (Figures 3.1-3.6)

- 6.2.1. This section extends southeast from the proposed substation area at Banniskirk to crofts at Langergill before turning south-southeast to extend around Loch Toftingall to the east, proceeding south to Black Hillocks. The area north of Loch Toftingall comprises a generally post-medieval agrarian landscape with 19th century farmsteads and their associated field systems characterising much of the settlement remains.

Towers 1- 14

- 6.2.2. A circular drystone sheepfold (**Asset 777; MHG33110**) lies within the area of the gantry (Plate 1). The post-medieval farmstead Knockanruah (**Asset 776; MHG1915**) is recorded on the HER to the northeast of the sheepfold, this could not be directly accessed due to recent seed sowing and was instead viewed from the southwest (Plate 2). A second post-medieval farmstead (**Asset 1008; MHG19155**) lies partially within the western access track areas, and comprises the stone footings of a square building (**Asset 1008.3**; Plate 3), a long house with an attached corn-drying kiln and annexes (**Asset 1008.1**; Plate 4), and a ditch and bank defined cultivation area (**Asset 1008.2**; Plate 5) adjacent to this latter building on the west side. These assets are all depicted on the 1st edition 1877 OS map which shows the area as improved agricultural land comprising large, improved fields. The un-named farmstead (**Asset 1008; MHG19155**) is shown as abandoned, while Knockanruah (**Asset 776; MHG1915**) is in use; though by the time of the 2nd edition 1907 OS map, it too has been abandoned.
- 6.2.3. Several ditch-defined field boundaries (**Assets 778, 1002, 1004 and 1007**; Plates 6 and 7) extend throughout the area and are generally consistent with those depicted on the 1877 OS map, delineating the large, improved fields that today are generally in use as rough pasture. Several drainage ditches (**Assets 1005 and 1009.1-1009.12**; Plates 8 and 9) and a culvert (**Asset 1006**; Plate 10) were also observed, often feeding into the large boundary ditches and illustrating methods of land improvement.
- 6.2.4. A modern stone-built auto-racing track (**Asset 1012**) with an access track (**Asset 1003**; Plate 11) leading to it, both overgrown but forming part of relatively recent planning applications, were also observed within the access track area.
- 6.2.5. A flagstone dyke (**Asset 779**; Plate 12) and drystone dyke (**Asset 780**) delineate the fields between Towers 2 and 4, with fields in use for rough grazing and woodland plantation, and are also consistent with the 1877 1st edition OS map.
- 6.2.6. At the edge of the survey corridor north of T5 is a drystone sheepfold (**Asset 693**; Plate 13), with a possible stone trackway (**Asset 692**; Plate 14) leading past it through the corridor and past Tower 5. A degraded turf dyke (**Asset 691**; Plate 15) spans the corridor between the towers. Drystone dykes (**Assets 686 and 689**; Plates 16 and 17), a flagstone dyke (**Asset 685**; Plate 18) and drainage ditch (**Asset 690**; Plate 19) comprise the field boundary and drainage systems between two farmsteads that lie outwith the survey corridor to the northeast and southwest of Tower 7; the continuations of these boundaries are sometimes marked solely by post-and-wire fences. Post-medieval field clearance cairns (**Assets 687 and 688**; Plates 20 and 21) are also present.
- 6.2.7. Immediately northeast of Tower 8 is a farmstead (**MHG19758**) comprising a ruinous croft house (**Asset 684.1**; Plate 22) and a structure or pen (**Asset 684.2**; also Plate 22) to the northwest. An associated well (**Asset 684.3**) is recorded

on the 1st edition OS map but was not visible during the survey. Between Towers 8 and 9 is another small ruinous building (**Asset 1014.1**) with adjacent turf and stone dyke enclosure (**Asset 1014.2**). Between Towers 9 and 10 lies Lanergill farmstead (**MHG49293**), comprising a derelict building (**Asset 683.1**; Plate 23), an ancillary building (**Asset 683.2**; also Plate 23) and remnants of a bank and ditch (**Asset 683.3**) forming an enclosure to the northeast of these. To the southwest of Tower 10 lies ruinous stone structure (**Asset 206**; **MHG49292**; Plate 24), an apparently modified farmstead building converted into use as a livestock pen.

- 6.2.8. A farmstead and two wells are shown on the 1st edition OS map southeast of Tower 10, but no upstanding remains were observed during the walkover in the vicinity. Northeast of Tower 11 lies a ruinous farmstead complex (**MHG19047**) comprising two adjoined buildings (**Assets 155.1** and **155.2**; Plates 25 and 26), a subsidiary building (**Asset 155.3**; Plate 27), drystone pen or enclosure (**Asset 155.5**; Plate 28), a turf and stone dyke enclosure (**Asset 155.6**; Plate 29), possible storage pit (**Asset 155.7**; Plate 30), and a concrete and stone block (**Asset 155.4**; Plate 31). A well is annotated on the OS map but could not be identified during the survey.
- 6.2.9. There is considered to be Medium potential for further post-medieval remains between Towers 1-14. Such remains would likely relate to post-medieval settlement and agriculture, and if of a similar importance to the above, could be considered to be of Negligible to Low importance.

Towers 14-24

- 6.2.10. Tower 14 is situated within the northern edge of a large stand of commercial forestry plantation that surrounds Loch Toftingall, with the alignment continuing through both standing and felled forestry, the southern portion of which comprises Halsary Wind Farm. An abandoned farmstead complex (**Asset 150**) comprising improved ground, pens and structures is depicted north and east of Tower 18 on the 1888 1st edition OS map, the structure locations for which appear to fall immediately outwith the survey corridor. These were not observed during the walkover survey, and the area is under a mature commercial forestry plantation.
- 6.2.11. A prominent mound (**Asset 610**; Plate 32) of unknown date was recorded within an access track area north of Tower 24, on the west side of the Halsary burn.
- 6.2.12. There is considered to be a Low potential for further archaeological remains between Towers 14 and 24, given the extensive forestry operations that have likely disturbed much of the sub-surface archaeology, and the poor ground conditions to the east of the Halsary Wind Farm.

6.3. Section A1.2 (North Towers 25-59) (Figures 3.6-3.13)

- 6.3.1. This section extends southwest from the Halsary Wind Farm area towards the A9 across a mixture of felled forestry plantation and boggy heath. Late 19th century OS mapping of the region shows that while some small farmsteads were present, much of the land was unimproved moorland, with the area west of Halsary identified as the 'the Flows' on the 1877 1st edition OS map. As the alignment continues southwest to the A9, and then south parallel along with it, it gains elevation along the raised ridgeline that forms the eastern extent of a broad topographic bowl that extends to Achorn to the west. This raised ridgeline has provided a natural thoroughfare from south to north and offers a relatively good landscape for occupation, attested to in the variety of prehistoric and later remains.

Towers 24-31

- 6.3.2. A water-filled earth-cut drain (**Asset 609**; Plate 33) for draining the peat grounds into the Halsary Burn spans the corridor between Towers 26 and 27. The corridor proceeds to extend through the peripheral edge of the improved

ground surrounding a farmstead (**Asset 608; MHG53513**) west of Tower 29. Areas of improved ground (**Assets 608.2 and 608.3**; Plate 34) had previously been recorded by the HER, but no upstanding features such as field boundaries related to these were observed. A small quarry (**Asset 607**; Plate 35) cut into a rocky knoll on the northwest side of the Halsary Burn was recorded.

- 6.3.3. There is considered to be a Low potential for further archaeological remains to be present between Towers 24 and 31 considering the forestry operations that have occurred in the vicinity, and the wet ground conditions across the boggier areas to the northeast.

Towers 31-43

- 6.3.4. The alignment proceeds to run south broadly parallel with the A9 and an extant large high voltage OHL from this point, over very gently undulating ground where peat accumulation appears likely, and then proceeds uphill along the Sithean Mor hill. Old peat cuttings (**Assets 1010.1 and 1010.2**; Plates 36 and 37) were recorded within a proposed access track area leading northeast to Tower 33, along with a large flat stone slab (**Asset 1011**; Plate 38), situated on a low terrace overlooking the Allt an Fheoir watercourse to the south. The slab, measuring 1.5m by 1.3m and c0.3m thick, appears to have been roughly dressed at its edges, and although not definitive, was recorded as a potential capstone for a cist, considering the dimensions and location. Its location would have commanded fairly extensive views to the southwest beyond the modern A9.
- 6.3.5. Tower 36 is located on the southeast corner of a stone and turf enclosure (**Asset 681**; Plate 39) that spans the Burn Of Tacher. A sub-circular bank-defined structure (**Asset 682**; Plate 40) was recorded on the north side of the burn to the northeast of Tower 36, the function of which is uncertain.
- 6.3.6. A large area of old peat cuttings (**Assets 679 and 680**; Plates 41 and 42) extends between Towers 36 and the commercial forestry plantations that surround Towers 38 and 39. A degraded stone and turf dyke (**Asset 678**; Plate 43) extends along the edge of some of the forestry planting to the northeast of Tower 40, and a small mound (**Asset 677**; Plate 44), potentially a small structure such as a pen or shieling, stands alongside a farm track to the southwest of Tower 40. A possible hut circle (**Asset 676**; Plate 45) with poorly preserved banks only 0.4m tall was recorded in the east half of the corridor between Towers 40 and 41. Peat accumulation may blanket further such remains in the area.
- 6.3.7. There is considered to be a Low to Medium potential for archaeological remains between Towers 31 and 43. Excluding the possible cist (**Asset 1011**) and hut circle (**Asset 676**), the remains present appear to be post-medieval in date and related to agricultural activity and would generally be considered of Negligible importance; the latter could be considered to be of Low to Medium importance.
- 6.3.8. **Towers 43-59**
- 6.3.9. A ditch and low bank (**Asset 674**; Plate 46), an earth-cut drainage ditch and its upcast for peat management, extends along the west side of the corridor southeast of Tower 43. A clearance cairn (**Asset 675**; Plate 47) lies within the corner of this. A degraded section of stone and turf dyke (**Asset 673**; Plate 48) was recorded north of Tower 44, and a small quarry pit (**Asset 672**; Plate 49) was recorded on the west periphery of the corridor to the southeast of Tower 44.
- 6.3.10. Northwest of Tower 45, a hut circle (**Asset 670**; Plate 50) is recorded northwest of Tower 45 and a post-medieval shieling (**Asset 671**; Plate 51) is recorded to the northeast of the same tower. These are both situated on the broadly south-facing slope of the Sithean Mor hill, overlooking Loch Stemster to the southwest. Between Tower 45 and 46,

a small hollow (**Asset 669**; Plate 52), possibly another quarry pit, was identified on a break of slope of the hill, and a turf bank (**Asset 668**; Plate 53) extends across the corridor north of Tower 46.

- 6.3.11. An area of degraded peat cutting (**Asset 611**; Plate 54) is recorded on the west periphery of the survey corridor.
- 6.3.12. Between Towers 47 and 48 and around the Burn of Aultachlevan is a substantial turf dyke and ditch enclosure (**Asset 613**; Plate 55), which extends down to the A9 to the west. A relict trackway (**Asset 612**; Plate 56) leads from the A9 northwest through the enclosure, to the north side of the burn, and continues up to the Achavanich Road. Two degraded mounds (**Assets 614** and **615**; Plates 57 and 58), which may be building footings, and the very ephemeral remains of another possible building footing (**Asset 616**; Plate 59) were identified to the north of the burn, in somewhat boggy and reedy ground. This area was likely an early post-medieval settlement that has been substantially degraded. Tower 48 lies on higher ground to the south of the enclosure's southern boundary, with earth-cut drains (**Assets 618** and **619**; Plates 60 and 61) to the south of it that span the entire corridor.
- 6.3.13. Two areas of degraded peat cuttings (**Assets 620** and **621**; Plates 62 and 63) lie to the northwest and southwest of Tower 50 respectively. Tower 51 lies within a large area of peat cutting (**Asset 622**; Plate 64) that extends across the western side of the corridor, with a smaller area of peat cutting (**Asset 624**; Plate 65) on the eastern periphery of the corridor to the east of the tower. Part of a relict track (**Asset 623**; Plate 66) was observed on the higher ground on the east side of the corridor alongside the smaller (**Asset 624**) peat banks and may have been constructed to help with the transporting of peats.
- 6.3.14. Beyond Tower 51, the corridor inclines more rapidly towards the peak of Cnoc Shorram, with no heritage assets recorded over the north-facing slope or hill crest.
- 6.3.15. A degraded ditch and bank (**Asset 667**; Plate 67) spans the corridor from southwest of Tower 55 to southeast of Tower 57. This is consistent with a boundary depicted on the 1st edition OS map extending over the southeast-facing slope of Ben a' Chielt and appears to be the remnants of the head dyke for the Benachielt crofts. Further south of this, on the south-facing slope, lies a probable shieling settlement comprising three degraded and heather covered mounds (**Assets 663**, **665** and **666**; Plates 68-70) and one more rectangular-shaped shieling with turf banks (**Asset 664**; Plate 71), located east, west and north of Tower 58.
- 6.3.16. South of Tower 58, the corridor then descends onto a more uniform terrace of ground, where there is a length of degraded stone and turf dyke (**Asset 871.1**; Plate 72) and a clearance cairn (**Asset 871.2**; Plate 73). Further along the same terrace, Tower 59 stands in the corner of a stone and turf dyke enclosure (**Asset 871.8**), part of a farmstead complex (**Asset 871**; Plate 74) that lies chiefly in the east half of the corridor between Towers 59 and 60.
- 6.3.17. The complex also comprises a ruinous croft house (**Asset 871.4**; Plate 75) that appears to have been a single building with two compartments constructed at a later date along the west gable, a kale yard (**Asset 871.7**; Plate 76), a smaller unroofed building (**Asset 871.6**; Plate 77) attached to the enclosure dyke (**Asset 871.8**; Plate 77), the footings for a rectangular pen or building (**Asset 871.3**; Plate 78), and a relict track (**Asset 871.5**; Plate 79) leading both to west towards the A9 and south towards the next farmstead (**Asset 658**). A well is marked on the 1st edition OS map immediately south of the enclosure and adjacent to the track but was not identified on the ground. A portion of stone and turf dyke (**Asset 658.6**) stands south of the complex, related to the farmstead complex (**Asset 658**; discussed below) further south and within the A1.3 Section proper.
- 6.3.18. There is considered to be a Medium potential for further archaeological remains between Towers 43-59, which would likely comprise post-medieval settlement and agricultural remains. The alignment extends somewhat uphill

from the core line of post-medieval settlement adjacent to the A9 road before it descends into the somewhat more dense post-medieval farm areas around **Asset 871**. Any such archaeological remains would likely be of Negligible to Low importance.

6.4. Section A1.3 (North Towers 60-63) (Figures 3.13-3.14)

Towers 60-61

- 6.4.1. The alignment continues through a mixture of improved ground and moorland south to Tower 61, where it then turns southwest over moorland to span the A9. The continuation beyond the A9 to Tower 63 is across improved pasture fields.
- 6.4.2. The second farmstead complex (**Asset 658**; Plate 80) includes a ruinous croft house (**Asset 658.2**; Plates 80-82) with a small outbuilding constructed on the southeast gable end, with a revetment wall (**Asset 658.5**) extending north from the outbuilding. To the south of these is a small drystone enclosure (**Asset 658.1**; Plate 83) with an attached open-ended pen (**Asset 658.4**) and small roofless building (**Asset 658.3**). Another partially upstanding enclosure (**Asset 658.1**) stands to the east of these, and further east, partially revetted into the hill slope, is another roofless building (**Asset 660**; Plate 84). A small clearance cairn (**Asset 659**; Plate 85) was also recorded.
- 6.4.3. Further south lies another farmstead complex (**Asset 661**; Plate 86), with a drystone enclosure (**Asset 656**; Plate 87) delineating improved ground to the north and east, and within which Tower 60 would be located. The main farmstead building (**Asset 661.2**; Plates 86 and 87) is a long linear building with five partitions. A smaller roofless building (**Asset 661.1**; Plate 88) lies to the northwest, with an adjoining enclosure (**Asset 661.3**; Plate 89) extending south of this. Delineating a separate area of improved ground to the east is another drystone enclosure (**Asset 657**; Plate 90).
- 6.4.4. A roofless building (**Asset 655**; Plate 91), partially revetted into the west-facing slope Ben-a-chielt hill, stands south of the two enclosures (**Assets 656** and **657**), with only the northeast gable surviving to full height. Immediately south of this extends another drystone dyke (**Asset 651**; Plate 92), curving in a broad southwest arc towards another farmstead complex (**Asset 650**) to the southwest. Between this farmstead and the **Asset 661** farmstead lies a small clearance cairn (**Asset 662**; Plate 93) and a fragment of drystone dyke (**Asset 654**; Plate 94) that may be the partial remnants of a pen.
- 6.4.5. On slightly higher ground southeast of the dyke (**Asset 651**), atop a small terrace, is a small possible hut circle (**Asset 653**; Plate 95) represented by an arc of turf bank.
- 6.4.6. The farmstead complex (**Asset 650**; Plate 96) comprises two linear buildings, the north of which (**Asset 650.2**; Plate 97 and 98) contains a single partition with fireplace, and possible cruck slot on the interior northeast side. The south croft house (**Asset 650.3**; Plates 97 and 99) has two partitions forming three rooms, the northwest of which is likely a cart shed. The croft houses are linked by a revetment dyke (**Asset 650.5**; Plate 97). A clearance cairn (**Asset 650.4**; Plate 100) lies to the north of croft house (**Asset 650.2**), and a length of revetted wall (**Asset 650.1**; Plate 101) curves to the northeast of this adjoining what appear to be natural boulders and likely the continuation of the enclosure dyke (**Asset 650.1**; Plate 102) defining the south extent of the farmstead's improved ground.
- 6.4.7. Beyond the complex, north of Tower 61, lies a small section of isolated drystone wall (**Asset 652**; Plate 103) with no apparent function. It may represent the robbed out remains of a pen or other similar structure.
- 6.4.8. Situated on a higher terraced of ground to the southeast of Tower 61 are the remains of two degraded hut circles

(**Assets 648** and **649**; Plates 104 and 105), with possible entrances in the southwest and south sides respectively.

- 6.4.9. The structural remains comprising the various farmsteads above are all generally consistent with those depicted on the 1873 1st edition OS maps.
- 6.4.10. No further heritage remains were identified between Tower 60 and the A9 to the southwest, but the area was observed to be under dense heather and scrub which limited visibility.
- 6.4.11. There is considered to be a High potential for additional archaeological remains of post-medieval date and Medium potential for remains of prehistoric date between Towers 60 and 61 considering the presence of the hut circles and the sheer density of the post-medieval remains. Should the remains be similar to those encountered during the walkover survey, it is considered that these would likely be of Low importance. The topography of the area offers a fairly sheltered and hospitable setting that clearly has been much utilised in the past.

Towers 62-63

- 6.4.12. Land west of the A9 comprised improved pasture fields which were under long grass at the time of the survey. A ruinous crofthouse (**Asset 628.1**; Plate 106), now in use as an animal pen, stands to the west of the A9. A degraded section of revetment dyke (**Asset 628.2**; Plate 107) south of this was observed. A ditch and bank (**Asset 645**; Plate 108) extends to the north of the crofthouse, delineating the field it is located in. Three clearance cairns (**Assets 644, 646** and **647**; Plates 109-111) were recorded either side of the ditch and bank (**Asset 645**).
- 6.4.13. In the south side of the corridor, south of the crofthouse (**Asset 628.2**), is a drystone dyke (**Asset 629**; Plate 112), leading west to the very degraded footings of a rectangular building (**Asset 631**; Plate 113) southwest of Tower 62. Two lengths of a drystone revetment dyke (**Asset 630**; Plate 114) extend perpendicular to the drystone dyke (**Asset 629**), between it and the building footings (**Asset 631**).
- 6.4.14. There is considered to be a Medium potential for further archaeological remains in this portion of the alignment, and it is likely that any such remains would relate to post-medieval settlement and agricultural activity, of potentially Negligible to Low importance.

6.5. Section A1.4 (North Towers 64-146) (Figures 3.14-3.31)

Towers 63 (immediately southwest of) - 74

- 6.5.1. The alignment continues southwest, spanning the Braehungie Burn southwest of Tower 63, to Tower 64, where it alters alignment slightly more south to continue across the broad expanse of low-lying ground around the burn. It crosses over a mixture of improved ground in use as pasture and areas of moorland and rough grazing and then ascends uphill to the ridgeline formed by Cnoc na Crask among others.
- 6.5.2. West of Tower 63 and on the west side of the Braehungie Burn lies a ditch and bank (**Asset 643**; Plate 115), forming a field boundary but also a drain to the burn. Several more drainage ditches with upcast banks (**Assets 632.1-632.5**; Plate 116) lie on the east side of the burn, southwest of Tower 63 and fanning out over the field. Satellite imagery suggests more ditches likely exist north of these, but tall grass obscured them during the survey. A turf bank (**Asset 633**; Plate 117) extends toward the burn among the cluster of ditches.
- 6.5.3. Also on the east side of the burn is a rectangular hollow (**Asset 634**; Plate 118), which may be the robbed out remains of a building. A clearance cairn (**Asset 636**; Plate 119) stands on the opposite bank, and further southwest on the same bank is a possible structure (**Asset 635**; Plate 120), potentially a shieling. This was visible as a marked

change in vegetation rather than through any readily visible structural elements.

- 6.5.4. Southwest of Tower 64 is another drainage ditch (**Asset 641**; Plate 121) draining down into the burn to the southeast. On the opposite bank is a small quarry (**Asset 640**; Plate 122), with two clearance cairns (**Assets 637.1** and **637.2**; Plates 123 and 124) beyond, a hollow (**Asset 638**; Plate 125) that may be a possible borrow pit or structure, and a degraded drystone dyke (**Asset 639**; Plate 126) on its south side.
- 6.5.5. On the periphery of the corridor to the west of Tower 66 is a degraded stone and turf enclosure (**Asset 642**), and again on the periphery of the corridor but to the southeast of Tower 66 is a degraded circular drystone structure (**Asset 713**; Plate 127), possibly a degraded sheepfold. Another drainage ditch (**Asset 712**; Plate 128) is recorded further southwest along the corridor, but under tall grass that obscured visibility.
- 6.5.6. No further remains are recorded as the alignment starts to gain elevation until north of Tower 69. Here stands a small farmstead (**Asset 703**), comprising a ruinous croft house (**Asset 703.2**; Plate 129) with only the west gable standing to near-full height, a possible byre or cart shed (**Asset 703.3**; Plate 130) constructed immediately beyond and in line with the west gable, and to the south a drystone enclosure (**Asset 703.1**; Plate 131) for a probable kale yard. A small stone bridge (**Asset 711**; Plate 132) extends over an un-named watercourse to the southeast to facilitate access.
- 6.5.7. Immediately south of Tower 69 is a degraded stone and turf dyke (**Asset 710**; Plate 133) with an associated ditch. This likely extends to the southeast at its western end but the area was under tall gorse that obscured visibility. To the south lies a farmstead complex including a ruinous long croft house (**Asset 707**; Plates 134 and 135) with four partitions, a smaller ruinous building (**Asset 706**; Plate 136), a drystone enclosure (**Asset 709**; Plate 137), and a large clearance cairn (**Asset 708**; Plate 138). This latter asset may conceal another structure, such as a corn-drying kiln, given its large size.
- 6.5.8. Constructed into the side of a small hill to the west of the main farm buildings is a subterranean structure (**Asset 704**; Plates 139 and 140), reminiscent of a prehistoric souterrain. An entrance is visible as a pair of revetted drystone walls bearing a lintelled roof, and there is exposed stone c1.5m beyond the entrance suggesting the structure continues at least partially into the slope. While a prehistoric origin for the structure is not discounted, it seems contemporary with the farmstead and may comprise some kind of storage structure, such as a cold room.
- 6.5.9. Further southwest, spanning the corridor, is a degraded drystone dyke (**Asset 700**; Plate 141), the alignment of which is continued along the south-most extent by a ditch (**Asset 699**; Plate 142). These appear to represent the head dyke/boundaries for the post-medieval crofting areas further downhill to the east. A relict track (**Asset 701**; Plate 143) is partially visible on the west periphery of the corridor as a depression under heather and grass near the drystone dyke boundary (**Asset 700**), consistent with a track depicted on the 1st edition OS but so overgrown as to be unidentifiable as it continues southeast.
- 6.5.10. Northwest of Tower 72 is a small hollow with a possible bank (**Asset 781**; Plate 144) that may represent a structure with peat accumulation obscuring the remains.
- 6.5.11. Along and atop the crest of the ridgeline are two relict tracks (**Assets 694** and **714**; Plates 145 and 146) under grass, with slight banks defining the widths, span the corridor between Towers 72 and 74, with **Asset 714** in very close proximity to Tower 73. Southwest of Tower 73 are two areas of peat cutting (**Assets 715** and **716**; Plates 147 and 148), and another relict track (**Asset 717**; Plate 149).
- 6.5.12. There is considered to be a Medium potential for further archaeological remains in this portion of the alignment,

and it is likely that any such remains would relate to post-medieval settlement and agricultural activity, of potentially Negligible to Low importance.

Towers 75-81

- 6.5.13. From Tower 74 atop Cnoc Breac, the alignment then descends downhill to the southwest toward the Burn of Houstry, initially crossing through moorland and then into the improved post-medieval farming landscapes below.
- 6.5.14. A prehistoric funerary cairn (**Asset 718; MHG1155**; Plate 150) in the upland moorland between Towers 75 and 76 was viewed from the adjacent land parcel due to land access prohibition.
- 6.5.15. On the periphery of the survey corridor, between Towers 76 and 77, two stone and turf banks (**Assets 719 and 720**; Plates 151 and 152) with associated ditches were recorded, possibly related to drainage and peat management.
- 6.5.16. Between Tower 77 and the Houstry Burn lies Cuag farmstead (**Assets 722, 723, 724, 726, 727 and 728; MHG13591**). This comprises a long rectangular building (**Asset 724**; Plate 153), partially roofed with corrugated iron on the southwest extent, a smaller building (**Asset 723**; Plate 154), a corn-drying kiln (**Asset 722**; Plate 155), drystone dykes that form enclosures around the farmstead (**Asset 721, 726 and 727**; Plates 156-158). The main building (**Asset 724**) has evidently seen much re-working, most recently as an animal pen. Spanning the Houstry Burn to the northwest of the farmstead is a foot bridge (**Asset 728**; Plate 159). Tall bracken and grass at the time of the survey obscured what appear to be additional elements of the drystone enclosure to the southwest of the complex. The HER also records a probable prehistoric funerary cairn (**MHG28697**) within the vicinity of the farmstead, but this appears likely to be based on an inaccurate grid-reference.
- 6.5.17. On the opposing side of the burn are recorded the locations for a possible hut circle (**Asset 868; MHG28699**) and cairn (**Asset 867; MHG28698**). Neither of these could be confidently identified during the walkover survey, the area within which they lie being in tall heather. Beyond these and further up the slope, several areas of shallow and degraded peat cutting (**Assets 866.1-866.4**; Plates 160 and 161) extend along the undulating moorland to the southwest.
- 6.5.18. Between Towers 80 and 81, principally on the north side of the corridor and in an area of improved ground, is Braehiller farmstead (**Asset 837; MHG13576**), comprising a ruinous croft house (**Asset 837.1**; Plates 162 and 163) that has been reworked with a modern superstructure of concrete breeze blocks atop it, with a surrounding stone and turf enclosure dyke (**Asset 837.2**; Plate 163).
- 6.5.19. South of Tower 80, but within land parcels not accessible at the time of the survey, are recorded the locations of a possible structure of unknown date (**Asset 875**), and a cist burial (**Asset 725**). Neither could be discerned from the accessible track that lies between them during the walkover survey.
- 6.5.20. There is considered to be a Medium potential for further archaeological remains in this portion of the alignment of both prehistoric and post-medieval date. This portion of the alignment extends into what is a fairly active prehistoric funerary landscape around Dunbeath, and cairns and other prehistoric ritual monuments appear to be quite well-represented both within the survey corridor and the wider surrounds. Such remains could be considered to be of Medium to High significance, whereas the post-medieval remains are considered likely to be of Negligible

to Low importance.

Towers 82-87

- 6.5.21. The alignment between these towers crosses predominantly open moorland and spans the Dunbeath Water.
- 6.5.22. A possible funerary cairn (**Asset 836**; MHG13573; Plate 164), only briefly recorded by the HER and allegedly alongside a D-shaped enclosure, is considered likely to lie atop a slight, but prominent, northwest/southeast ridgeline that Tower 82 is situated just southwest of. The cairn's probable location is under thick gorse, and no structural form of it could be discerned during the walkover survey; similarly the D-shaped enclosure could not be identified. Degraded peat cuttings (**Asset 835**; Plate 165) extend across the corridor between Towers 82 and 83 as the ground starts to decline towards the Dunbeath Water. The alignment spans the watercourse above the Scheduled Balcraggie Lodge post-medieval settlement (**SM5230**); the steep-sided watercourse was not descended for the walkover survey.
- 6.5.23. Towers 84 to 86 extend over a gently inclining hill of moorland towards the ridgeline to the southwest that marks the southwest side of a broad topographic bowl. No upstanding heritage assets were recorded in the vicinity, but part of the Scheduled area for the Achorn prehistoric and post-medieval settlement (**Asset 44**; **SM512**) lies south of Tower 86, on the south side of an existing track.
- 6.5.24. Similar to the previous alignment, this portion extends across the periphery of a fairly significant prehistoric mortuary and ritual landscape. While upstanding archaeological remains are poorly represented in this portion, there is judged to be a Medium potential for prehistoric archaeological remains, and a particular potential for significant mortuary remains from the Neolithic and Bronze Age, which could be Highly significant. Several Scheduled cairns (**Asset 15/SM519**, **Asset 41/SM438** and **Asset 14/M5163**) lie between c120m and 900m from the survey corridor to the northwest, with views east and southeast towards the sea that extend over the survey corridor. The probable cairn (**Asset 836**) within the survey corridor occupies a low but prominent ridgeline in these views, and intervisibility may have been a key factor in its placement, as is discussed in Appendix 4 in relation to the above-mentioned Scheduled Monuments. There is considered to be a Low potential for post-medieval remains, which would likely be of Negligible to Low importance.

Towers 87-107

- 6.5.25. This portion of the alignment crosses a large swathe of very gently undulating moorland, over the broad basin through which the Allt Tarsuinn and Allt Bad Fearna flow into the Achorn Burn. As the topography declines to the south towards the coastline, it starts to enter improved areas of post-medieval agricultural land. As the alignment continues southwest along the terraces above the coastline, the pattern of human activity along here is influenced by the geography – there tends to be both prehistoric and later settlement and agricultural activity remains present within the more sheltered glens and valleys around the main watercourses that extend from the northwest to the southeast, with the higher uplands tending to be used for peat cutting.
- 6.5.26. A length of degraded drystone dyke (**Asset 830**; Plate 166) extends parallel with the modern Achorn Road, and to the southeast a small drystone walled structure (**Asset 829**; Plate 167) was identified constructed within the interior of a small quarry (**Asset 828**; also Plate 167), possibly used as a shieling or hut. A large area of very degraded peat cutting (**Asset 833.1**; Plate 168) extends across much of the corridor between Towers 87-89, with Towers 87 and 88 situated within it.
- 6.5.27. On the periphery of the survey corridor to the west of Tower 87 and along the east bank of the Achorn Burn were

lengths of stone and turf dykes (**Asset 831**; Plate 169), potentially remnants of structures but surviving in a very ephemeral condition were observed.

- 6.5.28. South of Tower 90, a large drainage ditch with associated bank of upcast material (**Asset 832**; Plate 170) has been cut for peatland management, draining what appear to be tributaries into the Allt Tarsuinn. Another large area of degraded peat cutting (**Asset 833.2**) extends south of this across the entire corridor, with Towers 91-93 within it. In an area of higher ground south of Tower 92, a probable quarry (**Asset 834**; Plates 171 and 172) is recorded along the edge of an exposed Caithness flagstone ridge.
- 6.5.29. Tower 94 sits between three areas of degraded peat cutting (**Asset 833.2** to the north; **Asset 811** (Plate 173) to the west; **Asset 808.3** to the south), and a pronounced small mound (**Asset 810**; Plate 174) may represent the degraded remains of a peat stack associated with cuttings **Asset 808.3**.
- 6.5.30. To the southwest of Tower 96, within a natural stream course that appears to have been widened and augmented as a drainage ditch, a carved stone lamp (**SF01**; Plates 175 and 176) was identified as the surveyor crossed the watercourse. This watercourse flows past the Scheduled Borgue broch (**Asset 50**; **SM596**), c290m to the west, and it suspected of having migrated along the watercourse over time. The lamp has no ready parallels but would appear likely to be of Iron Age date given the proximity to the broch (McLaren, per comm). The stream course was inspected for further artefacts but none were identified.
- 6.5.31. Further degraded peat banks (**Assets 808.1** and **808.2**; Plates 177 and 178) surround Tower 97, and a mound of apparently modern gravel (**Asset 807**; Plate 179) under grass was also recorded. In a prominent knoll to the southwest of this is a quarry (**Asset 805**; Plate 180), with a spread of field clearance and modern detritus (**Asset 806**; Plate 181) extending around its base.
- 6.5.32. Northeast of Tower 98 is a possible hut circle (**Asset 771**; Plate 182), with poorly define banks only 0.4m tall, suggesting perhaps some peat accumulation has occurred in the area.
- 6.5.33. A solitary stone (**Asset 772**; MHG13507; Plate 183) appears likely to be a field boundary identified in the HER, with the depth of heather concealing the basal spread of the boundary. The standing stone (**Asset 876**; **MHG13507**) was not viewed.
- 6.5.34. Southwest of Tower 99 are two areas of old peat cutting (**Assets 773** and **774**; Plates 184 and 185). A spring (**Asset 775**; **MHG13506**) is recorded to the south but this was not identified during the walkover.
- 6.5.35. A possible shieling (**Asset 770**; Plate 186) is recorded northeast of Tower 104, and two small areas of peat cutting (**Assets 768** and **769**; Plate 187) lie on the periphery of the corridor between Towers 104 and 105.
- 6.5.36. The alignment in this portion of the section crosses predominantly upland moorland, with large swathes of area that have been used for peat-cutting before it meets the more habitable areas along the coastline. There is considered to be a Low potential for further archaeological remains between Towers 87 and 98 considering the extensive peat-cutting and lack of upstanding remains, but the potential is judged likely to increase between Towers 98 and 107 as the topography and general environs appear to be more hospitable, evidencing prehistoric and post-medieval activity. Any such remains would likely be of Negligible to Low importance.

Towers 107-146

- 6.5.37. The alignment spans the Berriedale Water and continues southwest along the coastline, through moorland and improved agricultural areas. The glens around the watercourses such as the Berriedale and Langwell Waters offer

more sheltered locales and the bulk of the identified cultural heritage remains lie within these areas, with the exposed upland moorland hills tending to only produce areas of peat-cutting.

- 6.5.38. A clearance cairn (**Asset 767**; Plate 188) and a possible shieling (**Asset 625**; Plate 189) occupy the southwest-facing slope of the hill southwest of Tower 107, leading down to the Berriedale Water. Tower 108 stands within a large enclosure (**Asset 626**; Plate 190) constructed from a drystone dyke, which also contains the Scheduled Rinsary homestead (**Asset 31**; **SM3473**; Plate 191) to the east of Tower 108. A small clearance cairn (**Asset 627**; Plate 192) stands just along the corridor boundary to the west of the enclosure. The steep slopes leading down to the watercourse were not surveyed.
- 6.5.39. A large area of rig and furrow cultivation (**Asset 764**; **MHG29210**) extends northeast along the hill slope down to the Berriedale Water, with Tower 110 situated to the west beyond a drystone enclosure (**Asset 765**; Plate 193) containing improved ground. A clearance cairn (**Asset 766**; Plate 194) is located northwest of the tower location. The location of a souterrain (**Asset 763**; **MHG2544**; Plate 195) is recorded on the southeast corridor border though no visible remains survive today. Beyond the enclosure to the southwest is a bank (**Asset 762**; Plate 196) representing a possible earthwork, and an area of quarrying (**Asset 760**; Plate 197), to the north of Tower 111. A possible hut circle (**Asset 759**; Plate 198) stands to the west of Tower 112, and a length of boulders (**Asset 761**; Plate 199), possibly a very degraded dyke, extends for a short distance to the south of Tower 112.
- 6.5.40. The alignment continues over a broad plateau before it starts to decline from Tower 113 onwards towards the Langwell Water. Another possible quarry (**Asset 758**; Plate 200) lies northeast of Tower 114, and a small area of peat cutting (**Asset 757**; Plate 201) lies directly north of the same tower.
- 6.5.41. Prehistoric settlement and agricultural remains extend immediately southwest of Tower 114 on the low rise of the southeast landform along the Turnal Burn. These form part of a wider concentration of such remains extant along the Langwell Water. The natural thoroughfare such a routeway provide, in conjunction with the sheltered location offered, affords excellent conditions for prehistoric and later activity. Within the survey corridor and southwest of Tower 114, a hut circle (**Asset 818**; **MHG819**; Plate 202) and at least four prehistoric field clearance cairns (**Assets 819.1-819.4**; **MHG39438**; Plates 202-206) are present, along with two circular quarry pits (**Assets 816** and **816.2**; Plate 207) of unknown date. On the opposing landform, to the northwest beyond the burn, stands the Scheduled prehistoric settlement of Turnal Rock (**Asset 72**; **SM13631**), also comprising hut circles. Between these assets, and at the base of the hill that Tower 114 occupies, the HER polygon for **MHG39438** extends over what appears as a likely hut circle in satellite imagery, but on closer inspection was deemed more likely to be a borrow pit (**Asset 817**; Plate 208) related to construction of the adjacent track, first depicted on the 1908 2nd edition OS map. This is considered likely given the overly sheltered location and comparable elevation to the surrounding hut circle settlements. Northeast of the Scheduled Langwell Tulloch broch (**Asset 35**; **SM3441**; Plate 209), the ephemeral remains of a rectangular building footing (**Asset 755**; Plate 210) and segments of stone and turf dyke (**Asset 756**) have also previously been recorded; these were difficult to discern. An area of rig and furrow cultivation (**Asset 754**; **MHG28687**) lies on the lower northeast bank of the Langwell Water.
- 6.5.42. Tower 115 on the southwest side of the Water is located to the southeast of a prehistoric hut circle (**Asset 752**; **MHG2427**; Plate 211), with an adjacent stone and turf constructed pen or enclosure (**Asset 753**; also Plate 211). Dense bracken obscured these from ready visibility, and similarly the bracken coverage further northwest obscured the footings of a rectangular (**Asset 751**; **MHG28685**; Plate 212), although the dimensions could be somewhat traced underfoot. The alignment continues to ascend the hills to the southwest, with a small area of peat cutting

(**Asset 750**; Plate 213) recorded between Towers 118 and 119, and a further peat cutting (**Asset 826**; Plate 214) lies east of Tower 123.

- 6.5.43. In the south portion of the survey corridor between Towers 126 and 127, situated on a terrace on the south-facing slope of the hill Braigh na h-Eaglaise, is a small prehistoric settlement (**Asset 108**; **MHG814**) comprising three hut circles (**Assets 108.1**, **108.3** and **108.4**; Plates 215-217) and at least one clearance cairn (**Asset 108.5**; Plate 218). Two degraded stone and turf dykes (**Assets 108.2** and **108.6**; Plate 215) extend through the area, with **Asset 108.2** particularly denuded to the point of being almost solely represented by boulders and curving around hut circle **Asset 108.1**, and the somewhat more substantial and regular **Asset 108.6** appearing to form part of a larger and later enclosure. A very degraded corn-drying kiln (**Asset 825**; Plate 219), not previously recorded within the MHG814 record, has been cut into the hill slope to the southeast end of dyke (**Asset 108.6**). It has been substantially robbed of stone. No structures are depicted here on the 1877 edition OS map, with the nearby dwelling to the southwest not depicted until the 1908 OS map.
- 6.5.44. The alignment pivots more southwest from Tower 127, with Tower 128 located within an old area of peat cutting (**Asset 824**; Plate 220), and from here the alignment spans the Ousdale Burn and ascends the steep eastern side of Cnoc Coir' a' Phuill and over the large hills that stand to the northeast of Helmsdale. The region is devoid of cultural heritage remains likely owing to the elevation.
- 6.5.45. Across broad terraces on the northwest-facing slope of Creag Thoraraidh are several extensive areas of historic peat cutting. Two large areas of peat cutting (**Assets 840.2**; Plate 221) and **842.2**; Plate 222) extend across the survey corridor with Towers 142, 143 and 144 situated within them. A substantial relict road (**Asset 841**; Plate 223) is visible as a raised trackway through the larger eastern peat cutting area (**Asset 840.2**), forming the road used for peat transportation over the hills to the south down to Helmsdale. A smaller peat bank (**Asset 842.1**; Plate 224) was recorded immediately northeast of Tower 145
- 6.5.46. The alignment continues to the break of slope that marks the descent down into the Caen glen towards the Caen Burn, with Tower 146 situated at the near-ridgeline.
- 6.5.47. The alignment in this portion crosses over several large watercourses and their associated glens which present a fairly rich concentration of prehistoric and post-medieval remains, and a likely High potential for further remains in the vicinity that could be considered to be of Low to Medium importance if of similar importance to the known heritage assets in the area. There is considered to be less potential on the higher ground, and a particularly Low potential for further archaeological remains from Towers 128 to 146 over the high and north-facing hills above Helmsdale. Any such remains in these higher areas would likely be related to peat cutting, and of Negligible importance.

6.6. Section A1.5 (North Towers 147-202) (Figures 3.31-3.41)

Towers 147-161

- 6.6.1. This portion of the alignment covers the spanning of the Caen Burn and the Helmsdale River, and the ascent up the south side of Strath Ullie on the hill known as the Creag Marail, before proceeding to the northwest through the high uplands on the south side of Eldrable Hill. The upland areas are rough moorland with the broader strath below comprising improved post-medieval farmland.
- 6.6.2. A possible platform (**Asset 843**; Plate 225), visible as a terrace under heather, is situated just downslope of Tower 146. Further down, on the southwest-facing slope between Towers 146 and 147, are the remains of a hut circle

(**Assets 844.1**; Plate 226) and a likely contemporary platform (**Asset 844.2**; Plates 226 and 227), both northwest of the Scheduled Caen long cairn (**Asset 70**; **SM1771**; Plate 228). A relict hill track (**Asset 971.1** and **971.2**; Plate 229) extend between these, leading from the Caen farmstead (**Asset 2124**) to the southwest, up into the hills to the north. The area between the track and the Caen Burn, encompassing Tower 147, lay under very tall bracken and was not easily surveyable; it is likely that additional prehistoric and post-medieval remains stand within this portion of the corridor.

- 6.6.3. The Caen Burn is spanned by Towers 147 and 148, the cables between which would over span the Lower Caen post-medieval settlement (**Asset 223**), a clearance settlement, which includes the footings of long houses (**Assets 850** and **857**; Plate 230), a corn-drying kiln (**Asset 854**; Plate 231), remnants of dykes (**Assets 853** and **848**; Plates 232 and 233), storage pits (**Assets 855**; Plate 235) and clearance cairns (**Assets 851.1** and **851.2**; Plates 232 and 234). A later concrete pillar (**Asset 852**; Plate 236) stands among this, the function of which is uncertain. The settlement is shown as abandoned by the time of the 1887 1st edition OS map.
- 6.6.4. To the southwest of the main settlement area stands a well-preserved sheep fank (**Asset 849**; Plate 233), and further west, along the corridor periphery, are the remnants of another Scheduled long cairn (**Asset 77**; **SM1770**; Plate 237); the round cairn and hut circle also included under the **SM1770** listing lie outwith the survey corridor to the northwest. A small area of peat cutting (**Asset 970**) lies to the east of Tower 148.
- 6.6.5. The alignment spans the River Helmsdale between Towers 149 and Tower 148 and continues uphill in a south direction to the west of the Allt Sgealbach Burn. A track (**Asset 894**) extends across the corridor along the base of the hill, continuing east towards the end of a track depicted on the 1887 1st edition OS map that leads into the settlement of Marrel further east.
- 6.6.6. Midway between Towers 149 and 150, on a slight terrace of the north-facing slope, is situated a small prehistoric settlement comprising two hut circles (**Assets 892.1** and **892.2**; Plates 238-240), with one (**Asset 892.2**) surviving as a half of a hut circle, possibly robbed for the better-preserved **Asset 892.1**. A third possible hut circle, or large clearance cairn, (**Asset 892.3**; Plate 241), was concealed under dense bracken and could not be easily characterised. Northeast and east of these assets, beyond the survey corridor, numerous heather-covered clearance cairns could be discerned, indicating the presence of the likely contemporary and associated field system. A further isolated hut circle (**Asset 881**; Plate 242) stands to the east of Tower 151 on a terrace above the Allt Sgealbach Burn.
- 6.6.7. A relict track (**Asset 880**; Plate 243) extends across the corridor between Towers 151-153, leading across Creag Marail from the settlement of Marrel and out of the survey corridor to the northwest. Other historic tracks (**Assets 874.1** and **874.2**; Plates 244 and 245) extend through the survey corridors between Towers 151 and 161, both of which are in good condition today and used to access the hills from the settlements of Gartymore and West Helmsdale to the southeast. These are all depicted on the 1879 1st edition OS map. These tracks appear to have been the old peat roads to access the peat cutting areas between Eldrable Hill and the lower hills of Beinn Mhealaich, including the large peat cutting area **Asset 878.1** between Towers 157-161 (all of which sit within the extent of the peat cutting), and a smaller area of peat cutting (**Asset 878.2**; Plate 246) between Towers 155 and 156. Several borrow pits were recorded adjacent to the track **Asset 874.2**, two of which (**877.1** and **877.2**; Plate 247) lie along the portion of track that extends between Towers 156 and 157 and were likely used either in its construction or quarried to be easily taken along the track back to the settlements to the south.
- 6.6.8. Tower 161 occupies a broader terrace on the southwest side of Eldrable Hill, with the alignment then declining down to the Eldrable Burn to the northwest. Areas of peat cutting (**Assets 968.1** and **968.2**; Plate 248), some of

which showed fresh usage, were recorded between Towers 164 and 165, with a relict track (**Asset 969**; Plate 249) leading through these and potentially joining with the tracks to the east, and to the south down the Eldrable Burn towards the Kilphedir and Torris Estate buildings.

- 6.6.9. Situated on the east terrace above the Oulmsdale Burn, below the span of Towers 166 and 167, is a possible earthwork (**Asset 967**; Plate 250). This was poorly defined and under dense bracken, but may comprise a small, banked enclosure atop a natural or artificial mound adjacent to the burn, commanding excellent views down towards Strath Ullie to the north. Between and north of Towers 168 and 169, a possible hut circle (**Asset 966**; Plate 251) was recorded. An area of improved ground to the northwest of Tower 169 may represent very degraded post-medieval settlement remains, comprising an area of obvious improved ground (**Asset 965.3** Plate 252) amongst the heathery surrounds, with remnants of turf bank (**Asset 965.1**; Plate 253) and mound (**Asset 965.2**; Plate 254) potentially representing highly degraded structural footings. Further west lies a turf and bracken-covered mound, possibly a field clearance cairn (**Asset 964**; Plate 255).
- 6.6.10. The alignment then continues along the south side of Strath Ullie proper. Situated on a relatively steep slope to the southeast of Tower 170 is a prominent mound (**Asset 963**; Plate 256). It stands out distinctly against the silhouette of the slope, and a large boulder on the northwest side suggests it may potentially be a small kerb cairn (**Asset 963**). It commands extensive views across to Strath Ullie to the south below, but its placement is relatively unusual. The alignment continues to Tower 171 before turning southwest as it advances up the ridgeline towards Glen Loth.
- 6.6.11. There is judged to be a Medium potential for further archaeological remains of both prehistoric and post-medieval date within the area around the Caen Burn, and on the southern slope of Strath Ullie as the alignment progresses towards the top of the hills to the southwest. The confluence area of Strath Ullie and the glen that stands around the Caen Burn appears to have been a significant location as a mortuary landscape, considering the density of funerary cairns (**Assets 52/SM432, 70/SM1771, 77/SM1770 and Asset 78/SM13647**), but also as an area of settlement, with the Scheduled (**Asset 76/SM1841**) and non-designated prehistoric settlement remains present in the Caen Burn glen, and the newly identified settlement remains on the north-facing slope of the south side of Strath Ullie, around the Allt Sgeulbach. Similar remains could be considered to range from Low to High in importance. As the alignment spans the high upland area around Eldrable Hill, the archaeological potential is considered to be Low, with any remains likely to relate to peat-cutting and transportation. The potential is judged to increase to Low-Medium as the alignment extends across the mid-slope area of Strath Ullie before it crosses into Glen Loth, with potential remains likely to be up to Low importance.

Towers 172-192

- 6.6.12. The alignment enters Glen Loth, extending down along the eastern side of the glen near the Glen Loth burn, spanning it three times before it proceeds into Glen Sletdale and up and over the hills to the southwest. Much of the ground is unimproved moorland, with some post-medieval improved ground towards the lower reaches of Glen Loth, and atop the terrace where Glen Sletdale meets Glen Loth.
- 6.6.13. A degraded turf dyke (**Asset 457**; Plate 257), possibly the upcast remnants of a peat drainage ditch, spans the corridor between Towers 172 and 173 in the descent down into Glen Loth; this also broadly follows the delineation of a parish boundary depicted on the 1877 1st edition OS map. Between Towers 173 and 174, on the east periphery of the corridor, the HER records a site (**Asset 137; MHG34139**), but this is a general view of the area and not a cultural heritage asset in itself. Northwest of Tower 174 stands a small cairn under heather (**Asset 458**; Plate 258), perhaps a navigation cairn considering its distance from the known prehistoric and post-medieval settlement and

agricultural activity.

- 6.6.14. On the east side of the corridor between Towers 176 and 177, an area of prehistoric settlement (**Asset 445; MHG9981**; Plate 259) was observed from the northwest. This is surrounded by young regeneration woodland planting which could not be safely traversed, but the asset area is clearly defined.
- 6.6.15. Along the northwest side of the corridor between Towers 178 and 179 are two areas of degraded peat cutting (**Asset 439.1 and 439.2**; Plates 260 and 261) and a possible prehistoric clearance cairn (**Asset 440**; Plate 262). Peat accumulation in this area seems likely and further prehistoric remains may survive at sub-surface level.
- 6.6.16. On the crest and southwest-facing slope of the hill, between Towers 179 and 180, stand a series of stone and turf dykes (**Assets 431, 432 and 433**; Plates 263-265), with a likely prehistoric hut circle (**Asset 435**; Plate 266) and clearance cairns (**Assets 434, 436 and 437**; Plates 267-269) situated north of Tower 180.
- 6.6.17. Post-medieval settlement remains lie to the south of Tower 180, along the raised terrace above the Glen Loth burn. These include the degraded remains of a long building (**Asset 214.1**; Plate 270) and an associated stone and turf dyke (**Asset 214.2**), both part of **MHG13174**. Further remains along the ridge to the southwest include the degraded footings of a building (**Asset 428.1**; Plate 271) with adjoining stone and turf dyke (**Asset 428.2**) forming a small yard to the northwest of this, and a stone and turf dyke (**Asset 438**; Plate 272) extending along the ridge. Built into the southeast-facing slope of the terrace below are two corn-drying kilns (**Assets 428.3 and 428.4**; Plates 273 and 274), with one (**Asset 428.3**) substantially more well preserved than the other (**Asset 428.2**); stone from the latter may have been robbed to build the former (**Asset 428.3**). A large spread of field clearance stones (**Asset 428.5**; Plate 275) or possible building material for the kilns stands southeast of these, and a section of stone and turf dyke (**Asset 428.6**; Plate 276) extends along the burn itself. An L-shaped segment of stone and turf dyke (**Asset 430**; Plate 277) stands to the northwest of these assets.
- 6.6.18. These areas of settlement are all shown as abandoned on the 1879 1st edition OS map, and the OS reference book describes Glen Loth as being '*all under pasture there being only one Shepherds[sic] dwelling in the whole district*' (1871-1875, 4), and as belonging to the Duke of Sutherland; the glen likely experienced forceful clearances in the earlier part of the 19th century.
- 6.6.19. Further southwest, to the east of Tower 181 and adjacent to the burn, stands another degraded stone and turf dyke (**Asset 427**; Plate 278). A smaller section on the opposing bank (**Asset 426**; Plate 279) likely relates to the dykes around the farmstead (**Asset 211**), and all may relate to flood defences or waterway augmentations. Southwest of Tower 181, under tall bracken, stands the footings for a building and a small enclosure (**Assets 212 and 213** respectively; Plate 280). A stone and turf dyke (**Asset 961**; Plate 281) extends through the west side of the corridor to the west of this.
- 6.6.20. Contained within a broad meander on the southwest side of the burn, and between Towers 181 and 182, is a farmstead (**Asset 211; MHG54757**; Plate 282). The elements of this include a roofless but otherwise well-preserved single-storey farmhouse (**Asset 211.1**; Plates 282 and 283), surviving to full height, ruinous outbuildings (**Assets 211.3 and 211.4**; Plates 282 and 284) to the north, a drystone enclosure (**Asset 211.2**; Plate 282) to the southwest, lengths of degraded drystone dyke (**Asset 211.6**; Plate 285), turf and stone dykes (**Assets 211.7 and 425**; Plates 286 and 287) and a spread of field clearance or rubble (**Asset 211.9**; Plate 288). Within the southwest end of the length of drystone dyke **Asset 211.6** is an odd bulge of walling that features a square-shaped opening overlain by long flat lintels either side, possibly the remnants of a free-standing corn-drying kiln (**Asset 211.5**; Plate 285), incorporated

into the later wall.

- 6.6.21. Under tall bracken to the south of the enclosure (**Asset 211.2**) are the footings for a probable building or structure (**Asset 211.10**; Plates 282 and 289), but this was under tall bracken at the time of the survey and could not be recorded in detail. A relict track (**Asset 423**; Plate 290) extends from the farmstead to the southwest to join the main road through the glen. Towers 182 and 183 mark the final span point over the Loth Burn, and a small section of turf and stone dyke (**Asset 424**; Plate 291) extends across the corridor between these towers, on the southwest side of the burn.
- 6.6.22. These settlement remains are depicted, but not named, on the 1879 1st edition OS map of the area, showing both the main building (**Asset 211.1**) and the outbuildings (**Assets 211.3** and **211.4**) as roofed, with adjoining enclosures and boundaries around it. The main house is depicted as roofed as late as 1972 on the OS maps, but it appears likely the settlement had been abandoned prior to this considering the dilapidated condition of the surrounds.
- 6.6.23. Within an enclosing deer fence northeast of Tower 183 is a modern borrow pit (**Asset 456.1**; Plate 292) and the likely associated related bund of upcast material (**Asset 456.2**).
- 6.6.24. Within the corridor for the access track that leads northwest to Tower 184 from the Glen Loth Road, the remnants of a stone and turf dyke (**Asset 441**; Plate 293) were recorded alongside the road, and the footings for a possible pen or unroofed building (**Asset 442**; Plate 294) depicted on the 1st edition OS map were marginally visible as differentiated vegetation below tall vegetation.
- 6.6.25. The alignment begins to rise up over the hills to the southwest end of the glen between Towers 183 and 184. This is the confluence area where the narrower Glen Sletdale meets the broad Glen Loth, with the alignment proceeding southwest along Glen Sletdale to the hills that separate it from the adjacent glen around the Kintradwell Burn. North of Tower 184 are post-medieval settlement remains that form the south extent of **MHG13173**. There is a degraded footing for a building (**Asset 443.1**; Plate 295) with a single partition, atop a slight terrace. To the northeast lies a degraded possible corn drying kiln (**Asset 443.2**; Plate 296); and a series of stone and turf dykes (**Assets 453** and **800**; Plates 297 and 298) extend through the south half of the survey corridor. A small cairn (**Asset 444**; Plate 299), likely a modern navigation or marker cairn, stands amidst these remains. This settlement appears to be depicted on Roy's map of 1747-1752 under the name 'Glen', but is abandoned by the time of the 1877 1st edition OS map.
- 6.6.26. A stone and turf dyke (**Asset 448**; Plate 300) extends along the south side of the modern track through Glen Sletdale, comprising the probable upcast from the adjacent modern track formation, but another dyke (**Asset 447**; Plate 301) that runs slightly downhill to meet the road adjacent to this appears to be of an earlier date. Much of the hill slope to the north of the modern track has been planted with regenerative woodland. The remnants of a circular turf enclosure (**Asset 450**; Plate 302) lie to the north of the track, with what appear to be modern borrow pits (**Assets 449** and **451**; Plates 303 and 304) cut nearby along the road. Below the alignment and northeast of Tower 185 stands a large mound (**Asset 801**; Plate 305) that appears to have several small boulders set against its base, but the body of the mound appears to be natural.
- 6.6.27. A hut circle (**Asset 802**; Plate 306) is situated east of Tower 185, and to the northwest are further prehistoric settlement and agricultural remains (**Assets 119**; **MHG10048** and **Asset 120**; **MHG10027**). One hut circle (**Asset 119.2**; Plate 307) and a clearance cairn (**Asset 119.1**; Plate 308) lie immediately south of the modern track and the hut circle appears to have been impacted slightly by this on its northern side. The larger group of prehistoric settlement remains related to **MHG10048** stand on the north side of the track. Of this group, two hut circles (**Assets**

119.6 and **119.11**; Plates 309 and 310), a clearance cairn (**Asset 119.5**; Plates 311) and a length of stone and turf lynchet (**Asset 119.9**; Plate 312) lie within the survey corridor to the northwest of Tower 185. A further isolated hut circle (**Asset 118**; **MHG10049**; Plates 313) lies atop a small terrace overlooking the Sletdale Burn to the south. Tall bracken covered much of the survey corridor between Towers 185 and 186 and considering the density of prehistoric remains in the vicinity, further remains are considered likely to survive.

- 6.6.28. Southwest of Tower 188, situated on a tall terrace overlooking the Sletdale Burn but set back against the rise of the hill that continues to the north, are the stone footings for a small post-medieval building (**Asset 820**; Plate 314), with what appears to be a small pen built into the northeast corner. This building is not depicted on historic maps and seems likely to be a well-constructed shieling or perhaps a shepherd's bothy.
- 6.6.29. The alignment then diverts southwest up and out of Glen Sletdale, across somewhat steep and boggy ground through the saddle between the peaks of Creag a Chrionaich to the east and a subsidiary peak of Col-Bheinn to the west. A lack of cultural heritage remains between Towers 189-192 is not unexpected given the poor ground conditions.
- 6.6.30. There is judged to be a Medium potential for further archaeological remains of prehistoric to post-medieval date within the Glen Loth area. The sheltered glen has clearly offered a hospitable locale for settlement and agricultural activity since the prehistoric period, and the presence of the Scheduled Carn nan Uaigh (**Asset 73/SM13627**) was settlement, and possible non-designated settlement remains of similar date, could also indicate a late prehistoric or early historic presence within the glen too. Hitherto unknown remains of a similar importance would likely range between Negligible to Medium importance.

Towers 193-201

- 6.6.31. A relict track (**Asset 959**; Plate 315) extends up through the survey corridor between Towers 193 and 194, curving around the latter tower to the northeast. This comprises a hill track possibly used by the post-medieval settlement at Badenahaulish to the south. A mound (**Asset 821**; also Plate 315) representing a possible way marker stands on a low brow to the southwest of the track, and probably functioned as a navigation aid when ascending the slope. A large area of peat cutting (**Asset 822**; Plate 316) extends over the promontory of one of the subsidiary hills overlooking the Badenahaulish settlement (**MHG13158** and **MHG19127**; outwith survey corridor) to the southeast. A substantial track (**Asset 823**; Plate 317) cut into the hill side with the upcast forming a large bank on the south side spans the entire corridor to the southwest of Tower 198, this seems to be an improved track but may have formed an original access to a second Badenahaulish settlement (**MHG13157**) to the northwest of the survey corridor. All these settlements appear to have been abandoned by the time of the 1st edition OS map, likely a result of earlier Sutherland Clearances as the land is again noted as belonging to the Duke of Sutherland in the OS Name Books (OS 1871-1875, 30).
- 6.6.32. Further large peat cutting areas (**Assets 504.1-504.5**; Plate 318) extend across the corridor up and over the northeast-facing slope that comprises the southern side of the glen around the Kintradwell Burn, with the A1.5 section ending on the ridgeline and turn-point of the alignment at Tower 202, between peat cutting areas **540.2** and **540.3**.
- 6.6.33. There is judged to be a Low potential for further archaeological remains within this portion of the alignment due to the predominantly upland extent of the alignment, and the steep-sided glens which would likely not have been readily settled in comparison to the lower portions of the glens. Any such remains would likely relate to peat-cutting

and transportation and be of Negligible importance.

6.7. Section B1.1 (North Towers 203-250) (Figures 3.41-3.46)

Towers 203-236

- 6.7.1. From the south side of the Kintradwell glen's hills, the alignment continues southwest over predominantly rough upland moorland, spanning the Clynemilton burn over areas of commercial planted forestry and ascending over further moorland hills to the southwest. As the alignment descends into the Loch Brora basin, it crosses through improved farmland areas before rising again through moorland uplands on the southwest side of the glen.
- 6.7.2. The high elevation of the eastern portion of this section of the alignment means that most cultural heritage remains relate to peat cutting and transportation. An area of peat cutting (**Asset 504.2**; Plate 319) spans the corridor to the west of Tower 202. A degraded turf dyke (**Asset 506**; Plate 320) extends through this and is identified as a parish boundary on the 1879 1st edition OS map, representing the parish boundary between Loth to the northwest and Clyne to the southeast. Another area of peat cutting (**Asset 504.1**; Plate 321) stands immediately east of Tower 204, and the remains of a relict track (**Asset 505**; Plate 322) extend from this to the southwest, likely an old peat road.
- 6.7.3. The alignment spans the Clynemilton Burn between Towers 205 and 206, with the terrain on the southwest side of this remaining an upland landscape, fairly exposed, and generally containing only areas of peat cutting and tracks related to the collection of these. Between Towers 207 and 209, a large area of peat cutting (**Asset 477**; Plate 323) contains a relict track (**Asset 475**; Plate 324) leading through it that is depicted on the 1877 1st edition OS map, extending beyond the survey corridor to the southeast towards the settlements of Auchrimsdale and Easter Clynekirkton (Achrimsdale and East Clyne today). A smaller area of peat cutting (**Asset 476**) lies along the north extent of the corridor north of Tower 208.
- 6.7.4. Further areas of peat cutting (**478, 480.1-480.5, 481.1 and 481.2**; Plates 325-332) extend across the corridor between Towers 209 and 212, the bulk of which are located to the north of An Dubh-lochan. Large areas of peat cutting around the loch were visible from the survey corridor, and it appears to have been one of the main peat cutting areas for Brora and the surrounding settlements. Part of what appears to be a relict track (**Asset 482**; Plate 333) was discerned leading up from the loch but was only traceable along one portion of the survey corridor.
- 6.7.5. Southwest of An Dubh-lochan, on a broad lower terrace of the hill, the sheltered location affords a more hospitable environment and there are cultivation and settlement remains present. Killin broch (**Asset 121**; **MHG10805**; Plate 334), a non-designated but impressive structure stands in the northern half of the corridor between Towers 215 and 216. It has a significant intervisible relationship with the Scheduled Carrol broch (**Asset 63**; **SM1846**; Plate 335), situated on the hills that stand on the southwest side of Loch Brora.
- 6.7.6. On the northern edge of the corridor between Towers 215 and 216 and atop a low hill, stands a large circular banked enclosure (**Asset 479**; Plate 336), a probable drover's enclosure given the proximity to the old drove road (**Asset 485**; **MHG30283**; Plate 337) between Oldtown and West Clyne, spanning the corridor between Towers 216 and 217 to the southwest. Areas of degraded peat cuttings (**Asset 484 and 491**; Plates 338 and 339) stand to the east and southwest of Tower 216, and the remnants of a stone and turf dyke (**Asset 486**; **MHG25168**; Plate 340) spans the corridor between Tower 217 and 218.
- 6.7.7. Two hut circles (**Assets 487 and 488**; Plates 341 and 342) stand between Towers 217 and 218, with a possible third (**Asset 489**; Plate 343) to the northwest of Tower 218. A large but low-lying crescentic-shaped mound (**Asset 490.1**;

Plate 344) to the southwest of the third hut circle (**Asset 489**) is possibly a burnt mound but lacks a clearly defined associated water course. A second potential burnt mound (**Asset 490.8**; Plate 345) was recorded alongside a small an-named watercourse to the south of Tower 219, but close inspection was prohibited by gorse across the asset. A prehistoric field system comprising clearance cairns (**Assets 490.2-490.7** and **490.10**; Plates 346-352) lies across the north and south portions of the corridor between Towers 218 and 219, extending along the broad terrace. Tall bog willow, heather and bracken in the central area between Towers 218 and 219 may conceal further similar remains.

- 6.7.8. A modern cistern (**Asset 492.1**; Plate 353) and associated soil bund (**Asset 492.2**) were recorded to the southeast of Tower 219.
- 6.7.9. Tower 220 is situated to the north of a cluster of post-medieval remains associated with the Killin township (**MHG10799**), including a degraded drystone head dyke (**Asset 493**; Plate 354) that spans the corridor to the west of Tower 219, with a segment of degraded stone and turf dyke (**Asset 494**; Plate 355) further west. The remains of several turf and stone enclosures (**Assets 495-497** and **499**; Plates 356-359) stand in the south half of the corridor, with a length of stone and turf dyke (**Asset 498**; Plate 360) that extends beyond the corridor extent to the south. Situated on a low hilltop below the alignment are the footings of a building (**Asset 500**; Plate 361) and the remains of a corn-drying kiln (**Asset 502**; Plate 362) also recorded below this, built into the slope of the adjacent hill slope to the southwest. Mounds (**Assets 501.1** and **501.2**; Plate 363) likely represent further structural remains, potentially additional buildings. These assets are not depicted on the 1st or 2nd edition OS maps and so likely predate the extant settlement remains.
- 6.7.10. A large drystone enclosure (**Asset 503**; Plate 364) stands with the south of Tower 220, with two clearance cairns (**Assets 483.1** and **483.2**; also Plate 364) recorded in the northeast corner. The area west of the modern road up to the loch was not surveyed due to the presence of cattle in the field.
- 6.7.11. On the opposing loch shore at Carrol, similar post-medieval settlement remains were recorded related to the township (**Assets 374** and **376**; **MHG19558**). The pasture fields between the loch and the agricultural buildings were not surveyed due to cattle in the field, but a clearance cairn (**Asset 375**; Plate 365) was observed from the adjacent fence-line.
- 6.7.12. Surveying recommenced around Tower 222, identifying a rectangular pen (**Asset 376**; Plate 366) and a degraded drystone dyke (**Asset 374.2**; Plate 367), against which an enclosure (**Asset 374.3**; also Plate 367) had been constructed. Further lengths of drystone dykes (**Assets 374.1** and **374.4**; Plates 366 and 368) were recorded to the south.
- 6.7.13. A modern bridge (**Asset 380**; Plate 369) spanning the Carrol Burn was recorded, with a lade or drainage ditch (**Asset 377**; Plate 370) visible to the south of this. Degraded peat cutting (**Assets 378.2**; Plate 371) and a probable degraded peat stack (**Asset 378.1**; Plate 372) were recorded west and south of Tower 223 respectively. The alignment then continued uphill to the southwest through an area of forestry plantation, ascending the hills that formed the southwest side of the basing around Loch Brora, with only some degraded peat cutting (**Assets 379.1**, **379.2** and **381**; Plates 373 and 374) recorded on the periphery of the corridor. At Tower 230 the alignment turns from southwest to west-southwest, up through Coire Chomhaich towards Loch Horn, turning southwest at Tower 237. The ground between Towers 230-237 was boggy underfoot and the area is considered to have poor archaeological potential as the hills to the south limit sunlight to the area and the ground likely remains wet and boggy year-round.
- 6.7.14. Between Towers 202 and 215 there is considered to be a Low potential for further archaeological remains considering the upland nature of the area. Any such remains would likely relate to peat-cutting and transportation

and be of Negligible importance. As the alignment descends towards Loch Brora, the topography becomes more accommodating to settlement and agricultural activity of both prehistoric and post-medieval date, and the broad sloping sides of the topographical bowl that stand around Loch Brora are considered to be well-suited for such activity, though the east side appears to contain more prevalent remains than the west. There is judged to be a Medium potential for further such remains to be present within this section, and likely of Negligible to Low importance if of a similar nature to the assets identified within the corridor.

Towers 237-250

- 6.7.15. From Tower 237, the alignment again turns southwest, descending down open moorland into Dunrobin Glen, extending over the Allt nan Sgeith through areas of commercial forestry plantation, and then up and over the Cnoc na Gahmna hill.
- 6.7.16. Between Towers 241 and 243, on the southwest-facing slope of the glen, are two separate areas of prehistoric settlement and agricultural remains recorded under the same HER number, **MHG10597**. The northeast area contained several prehistoric clearance cairns (**Assets 600.1-600.4** and **600.6-600.7**; Plates 375-380) and the remains of a possible lynchet (**Asset 600.5**; Plate 381). Further similar remains may exist to the southwest, but the forestry plantation and tall vegetation obscured visibility.
- 6.7.17. Southwest of Towers 242, beyond the forestry line, three well-preserved hut circles (**Assets 115.1, 115.2** and **115.3**; the three hut circles recorded by the HER for **MHG10597**; Plates 382-384) stand above the Allt nan Sgeith watercourse. The walkover survey identified a further two hut circles (**Assets 115.4** and **115.5**; Plates 385 and 386) and several clearance cairns (**Assets 115.7-115.10**; Plates 387-390) and a probable lynchet (**Asset 115.6**; Plate 391).
- 6.7.18. The footings for a possible stone and turf structure (**Asset 601**; Plate 392), potentially of post-medieval date rather than prehistoric, stand to the southeast of the prehistoric settlement area. Along the watercourse to the southwest, remnants of stone and turf dykes (**Assets 602** and **603**; Plates 393 and 394) were also recorded, and are also potentially of later date.
- 6.7.19. Post-medieval settlement remains related to the Allt Cnoc na Gamhna township (**Assets 138** and **139**; **MGH10395** and **MGH10398** respectively) stand amidst a clearing in the forestry plantation that extends between Towers 242-245; this area was under tall bracken at the time of the survey and further upstanding remains are likely present.
- 6.7.20. On the north side of the stream of the same name are recorded the stone footings of two long buildings (**Asset 139.1** and **139.2**; **MHG10395**; Plates 395 and 396), an area of lazy beds (**Asset 139.4**; Plate 397), and the remains of turf and stone dykes (**Assets 139.3** and **604**; Plates 398 and 399). Tower 244 stands immediately northwest of the dyke **Asset 604**.
- 6.7.21. On the south side of the stream, the remains identified included several drystone enclosures (**Assets 138.1-138.4**; **MHG10398**; Plates 400-403) and a length of drystone dyke (**Asset 138.5**). This area was under dense bracken and more remains are likely present in the vicinity. These settlement remains, along with those on the north side of the Allt Cnoc na Gamhna, are not depicted on historic mapping, and likely also represent clearance settlements as the land falls within the former Duke of Sutherland's holdings per the OS Name Books.
- 6.7.22. Between Towers 246-250, the alignment extends uphill along the Coire Cnoc na Gahmna. Here, several earth-cut drains (**Assets 605.1-605.13**; Plate 404) with associated banks of upcast material for peat management were

recorded, all draining into the Allt Coire Cnoc na Gamhna stream.

- 6.7.23. There is considered to be a High potential for further archaeological remains within fairly localised areas along this portion of the route given the likely disturbance caused by the forestry operations. This potential can be considered to extend within fairly narrow confines of the areas between Towers 241 and immediately southwest of the Allt nan Sgeith to the northeast of Tower 243, and between Towers 244 and 245. Tall vegetation in these areas may have concealed additional archaeological remains to those surveyed. If similar to the assets present within the surrounds, any archaeological remains would likely be of Negligible to Low importance. This potential lessens as the alignment rises up over the Cnoc na Gamhna hill.

6.8. Section B1.2 (North Towers 251-297) (Figures 3.46-3.59)

Towers 251-268

- 6.8.1. From the top of the Cnoc na Gamhna, the alignment extends across the more gently undulating expanse of moorland towards the northeast edge of Strath Fleet, with an increasing frequency of sheltered pockets in the landscape that provided hospitable surrounds for prehistoric and post-medieval settlement. The alignment spans the River Fleet, over the improved ground and post-medieval fields within the sheltered base of the strath, before ascending the steep side of the strath into the neighbouring Strath a Charnaig to the southwest, mostly under heather and bog.
- 6.8.2. A small area of peat cutting (**Asset 392**; Plate 405) was recorded at the edge of the broad plateau of the hill Cnoc na Gamhna, northeast of Tower 251, and the alignment then extends through an upland post-medieval settlement (**MHG59242**) situated on the slope itself. This comprises a large stone and turf enclosure (**Asset 391.3**; Plate 406), enclosing an area of improved ground that Tower 252 stands within. To the southeast of the tower are the remains of a farmstead including the footings for a long building (**Asset 391.5**; Plate 407) and another possible building (**Asset 391.9**; Plate 408) to the northeast, with very ephemeral remains (**Asset 391.8**; Plate 409) potentially forming a third building. The footings for a square structure (**Asset 391.4**; Plate 410), likely a pen, stand to the southwest. A probable corn-drying kiln (**Asset 391.6**; Plate 411) was recorded among the complex, and further up the slope, overlooking these to the northwest, was a platform (**Asset 391.7**; Plate 412) of unknown function. To the southeast of the main enclosure (**Asset 391.3**), the remains of a track (**Asset 391.2**; Plate 413), partially kerbed in places but difficult to trace due to tall heather, was observed. A separate enclosure (**Asset 391.1**; Plate 414) standing to the southwest of the main enclosure (**Asset 391.3**) was also recorded. Ephemeral traces of the smaller enclosure (**Asset 391.1**) and some tracks are visible on the 1879 1st edition OS map, indicating the settlement had long been abandoned prior to the survey, and again may be the result of clearance.
- 6.8.3. Between Towers 253 and 254 two areas of peat cutting (**Assets 390.2** and **390.3**; Plates 415 and 416) were recorded, with another smaller area of cutting (**Asset 390.1**; Plate 417) along the south extent of the corridor. A small cairn (**Asset 799**; Plate 418) recorded along the south corridor boundary between Towers 253 and 254 is likely a navigational marker cairn.
- 6.8.4. Two prehistoric clearance cairns (**Assets 393.1** and **393.2**; Plates 419 and 420) stand along the northern edge of the corridor northwest of Tower 255.
- 6.8.5. Northwest of Tower 257, along the lower terrace beside a watercourse that leads into the Morvich Burn, stand degraded stone and turf dykes (**Assets 395.1** and **395.2**; Plates 421 and 422), representing the degraded remnants of a post-medieval field system. To the northeast of Tower 258 are the possible footings for a building (**Asset 396**;

Plate 423), and to the northwest are remnants of a stone and turf dyke (**Asset 397**; Plate 424) and to the west a revetment wall (**Asset 398**; Plate 425) stand, both associated with the Bad A' Chrasgaidh township (**MHG11267**).

- 6.8.6. The alignment over-spans a hut circle (**Asset 110**; **MHG10648**; Plate 426) and two prehistoric clearance cairns (**Assets 383.1** and **383.2**; Plates 427 and 428) to the east of Tower 259. Further prehistoric clearance cairns (**Assets 384** and **385.1-385.5**; part of **Asset 109**; **MHG11115**; Plates 429-434) extend across the corridor to the west of Tower 259. Situated within a slight saddle of the ridgeline that spans the corridor between Towers 259 and 260 stands the stone footings for a post-medieval rectangular building (**Asset 386**; Plate 435), overlooking the post-medieval township remains to the west.
- 6.8.7. Within the small southeast-facing glen around the watercourse the Allt Bad a' Chrasgaidh are numerous degraded post-medieval remains associated with the Allt Bad a' Chrasgaidh township (**Asset 183**; **MHG28537**). At the time of the survey much of this was under tall bracken and grass, and it is likely that further remains are present within the area. The upstanding remains identified include the turf and stone footings for the head dyke (**Asset 387.1**; Plate 436) extending along the eastern edge of the settlement, from which an enclosure (**Asset 387.5**; Plate 437) extends, and a possible entrance (**Asset 387.11**; Plate 438) marked by flat slabs set over the dyke are visible. The stone footings of a long linear building (**Asset 387.3**; Plates 439 and 440) with a single partition stands to the south of the enclosure, and a small pen (**Asset 387.4**; Plate 440) or ancillary structure protrudes from its southeast elevation.
- 6.8.8. To the northwest of these, on the north periphery of the survey corridor, more post-medieval settlement remains extend along the base of the hill slope. Those within the corridor itself include a corn-drying kiln (**Asset 418.5**; Plate 441), an enclosure (**Asset 387.17**; Plate 442), and the stone footings of a rectangular building (**Asset 387.16**; Plate 443) with a section of turf and stone dyke (**Asset 418.3**) between it and the corn-drying kiln (**Asset 418.5**).
- 6.8.9. Tower 260 is located to the southeast of these assets, situated on a small rise, immediately southeast of which stand the stone footings for another building (**Asset 387.15**; Plate 444). A length of stone and turf dyke (**Asset 387.10**; Plate 445) extends northwest/southeast to the west of the small hill the building and tower are situated on. A possible degraded stone and turf enclosure (**Asset 387.9**; Plate 446), stands adjacent to this dyke. Southeast of these, along the periphery of the corridor, another stone and turf enclosure (**Asset 387.2**; Plate 447) stands, with two clearance cairns (**Assets 387.7** and **387.8**; Plates 448 and 449) nearby. Further southwest stands a drystone wall enclosure (**Asset 387.13**; Plate 450), and north of this a prominent mound that may be a prehistoric clearance cairn (**Asset 387.12**; Plate 451), considering its form.
- 6.8.10. A relict track (**Asset 387.14**; Plate 452) extends through the settlement area, past another drystone enclosure (**Asset 183.1**; Plate 453), but as it progresses northwest the extent becomes distorted by deer trails and tall vegetation.
- 6.8.11. On the west side of the Allt Bad a' Chrasgaidh, along the northern periphery of the corridor, are the stone footings of another building (**Asset 388.6**; Plate 454), an enclosure (**Asset 421**; Plate 455), lengths of stone and turf dykes (**Assets 388.7, 388.8, 418.3, 419** and **420**; Plates 456-459) and clearance cairns (**388.3** and **422**; Plates 460-461). The stone footings of another probable building (**Asset 388.2**; Plate 462), and a length of stone and turf dyke (**Assets 388.1**; Plate 463) stand on the south side of the corridor from these.
- 6.8.12. To the northwest of Tower 261, atop a terrace on the hill, stands the footings of another stone building (**Asset 388.10**; Plate 464), T-shaped in plan. A rectangular footing for another building (**Asset 388.11**; Plate 465) lies southwest of this. Southwest of Tower 261 is another drystone enclosure (**Asset 388.9**; Plate 466), with a small pen

defined within its western side.

- 6.8.13. These settlement remains are not depicted on historic mapping and again it appears likely that these are remnants of settlements cleared earlier in the 19th century.
- 6.8.14. The alignment then continues uphill to the southwest, through hardier moorland with bare rock scarps breaking through the heather. The alignment descends into Strath Fleet, across the fertile base of the strath. The surveyors were not granted access to the land on the northeast side of the River Fleet so this remained un-surveyed, but appears to comprise open fields defined by boundaries consistent with the field pattern on the 1879 1st edition OS map.
- 6.8.15. On the opposing side of the river, Tower 266 stands within a pasture field that contains the remnants of two stone and turf enclosures (**Assets 815 and 1018**; Plate 467), the former of which has been constructed onto the northeast side of a stone and turf dyke (**Asset 814**; Plate 468). The alignment then proceeds up the very steep south side of the strath over moorland. A modern track (**Asset 813**; Plate 469) spans the corridor to the northeast of Tower 268, and the alignment continues over the Creag a' Bhlàir hill and starts to descend into the neighbouring Strath a Charnaig.
- 6.8.16. The settlement and activity trends within this portion of the corridor are fairly limited to the sheltered areas offered by the surrounding topography, with remains tending to be situated alongside stream courses and on southerly-facing slopes. The eastern extent is fairly devoid of archaeological remains other than the settlement situated on the southwest-facing slope of Cnoc na Gamhna (**Asset 139**; **MHG59242**). The density increases as the elevation declines to the southwest, with extensive post-medieval settlement remains and sporadic prehistoric remains appearing beyond Tower 258. There is considered to be Medium to High potential for further archaeological remains between Towers 258 and 261, of likely Negligible to Low importance and comprising prehistoric and post-medieval settlement activity. This potential decreases somewhat as the alignment extends over the north-facing slopes of the north side of Strath Fleet, with likely Low to Medium potential for further post-medieval settlement remains within the strath itself.

Tower 269-297

- 6.8.17. The broader south-facing terraces of Strath Carnaig and the area across the base of the strath itself, like Strath Fleet above, often contain areas of good archaeological potential owing to their south-facing locale, with areas of improved ground visible through the moorland. As the alignment extends up the north-facing slopes of the opposing side of the valley however, conditions for settlement and agricultural activity grow less favourable and there is less archaeological potential.
- 6.8.18. A small peat bank (**Asset 812**; Plate 470) extends across the central alignment area to the northeast of Tower 270.
- 6.8.19. A prehistoric clearance cairn (**Asset 474**; Plate 471) stands between Towers 271 and 272, with a cluster of four more (**Assets 472.1-472.4**; **MHG11725**; Plates 472-475) standing to the southwest of Tower 272. A shooting butt (**Asset 473**; Plate 476), possibly the augmented remains of another clearance cairn, was also recorded southeast of clearance cairn **Asset 474**.
- 6.8.20. Post-medieval settlement and agricultural remains along and to the west of the Allt Na H-Innse Aonar are visible as an area of improved ground amidst the heather moorland. At the time of the survey these were under tall bracken, and further remains are likely present within the locale. The remains fall within the listing for **MHG19237** and include the remains of a large clearance cairn (**Asset 147.15**; Plate 477) and turf and stone dykes (**Assets 147.10**

and **147.11**; Plate 478) along the northwest bank of the watercourse. On the southeast side stands the main enclosure (**Asset 471**; Plate 479), comprising a degraded stone and turf dyke. Drystone turf and stone pens (**Assets 147.4** and **147.12**; Plates 480 and 481) have been constructed against the internal faces of this enclosure, with segments of additional stone and turf dykes (**Assets 147.3, 147.6, 147.8** and **147.9**; Plates 482-485) also visible. The stone rectangular footings for buildings (**Assets 147.2** and **147.14**; Plates 486 and 487) were recorded, with the remains of a corn-drying kiln (**Asset 147.1**; Plate 488) partly revetted into the southeast-facing hill slope. A small enclosure (**Asset 147.13**; Plate 489) stands to the southwest of the building (**Asset 147.14**), and there are some clearance cairns (**Asset 147.5** and **147.7**; Plates 490 and 491) also present, with Tower 273 sited immediately west of clearance cairn (**Asset 147.5**).

- 6.8.21. This settlement is depicted on the 1st edition 1879 OS map, named as Innis Aonar, and as comprising a single unroofed structure and a pen within the wider enclosure (**Asset 471**). The OS Name Book (1871-1875, Vol 9, 115) records this as having been '*a piece of pasture where there seems to have been dwellings*,' noting it falls within the Duke of Sutherland's land, and so may have also been cleared previously.
- 6.8.22. The HER records a possible building (**Asset 950**; MHG19237) in the southeast half of the corridor to the south of this complex, but nothing could be identified on the ground. The ground cover between Towers 273 and 275 comprised tall heather that was difficult to survey and further remains could be extant.
- 6.8.23. A corn-drying kiln (**Asset 470**; MHG11728; Plate 492) was recorded, revetted into the southeast facing slope of a small hill overlooking the strath, east of Tower 275.
- 6.8.24. The area immediately surrounding the Abhainn an t-Sratha Charnaig river was under tall bracken with poor visibility. The remnants of a turf and stone dyke (**Asset 469**; Plate 493) were recorded, along with a bridge (**Asset 468**; Plate 494) spanning the water course, and two timber-constructed sheds (**Assets 466.1** and **466.3**; Plates 495 and 496) and concrete pens (**Asset 466.2**; Plate 495).
- 6.8.25. A possible clearance cairn (**Asset 467**; Plate 497) and length of degraded stone and turf dyke (**Asset 465**; Plate 498) stand to the east of Tower 276, which alters the alignment from southwest to west-southwest along the north-facing slope of the strath. A large mound or clearance cairn (**Asset 464**; Plate 499) stands to the southwest of the tower, and a degraded turf dyke (**Asset 463.1** and **463.2**; Plate 500) spans most of the corridor between Towers 276 and 277.
- 6.8.26. A possible, very degraded hut circle (**Asset 462**; Plate 501) stands in the southern portion of the corridor between Towers 277 and 278. Tower 278 stands between a V-shaped length of very degraded stone and turf dyke (**Asset 461**; Plate 502). Two turf mounds (**Assets 459** and **460**; Plates 503 and 504), possibly very overgrown prehistoric field clearance, stand between Towers 278 and 279.
- 6.8.27. No further archaeological remains were identified Towers 279 and 282, with the alignment crossing very tall heather and scrub. While survey conditions were challenging, this portion of the corridor seems naturally to have poor archaeological potential, given the inhospitable nature that the north-facing slope of the hill presents. The alignment then continues from Tower 283 to 297 through a large swathe of standing and felled commercial forestry plantation to the end of the northern alignment. The sole archaeological remains comprise a farmstead (**Asset 136**; MHG10342; Plate 505) situated in a clearing northeast of Tower 290. The farmstead includes a roofed building (**Asset 136.1**), likely in use by the local estate, and the ruinous footings of another building (**Asset 136.2**) and a

stone and turf enclosure (**Asset 136.3**).

- 6.8.28. There is judged to be a Low potential for further archaeological remains across the north side of Srath Carnaig, where the broad south-facing terraces offers a hospitable environment for settlement and agricultural activity. This potential is considered to increase to Medium potential between Towers 271-276 in the vicinity of the post-medieval settlement remains of Innis Aonar (**Asset 147** and its elements, and **Asset 471; MHG19237**), and around the area of prehistoric field clearance (**Asset 472; MHG11725**). The importance of any such remains would likely be Negligible to Low. This potential declines as the route traverses along the north-facing slope of the strath, where both prehistoric and post-medieval remains appear scarce, likely owing to the less-hospitable location.

6.9. Section C1.1 (South Towers 1-24) (Figures 3.59-3.65)

Towers 1-24

- 6.9.1. The alignment extends to the west-northwest over undulating moorland before turning west-southwest through commercial forestry plantations, and then descending into the Kyle of Sutherland and the more sheltered and fertile locale therein, ending at the southwest base of the strath below the Creag a' Choineachan hill above Culrain.
- 6.9.2. Tower 2 is cradled by a curving stone and turf dyke (**Asset 582; Plate 506**), and between it and the next tower is a small area of peat cutting (**Asset 583; Plate 507**) and a possible clearance cairn (**Asset 584; Plate 508**).
- 6.9.3. Tower 3 stands amidst area of improved ground (**Assets 585.3 and 585.4; Plates 509 and 510**) associated with a farmstead (**MHG63030; Plate 511**) to the west. Along the ridgeline to the southwest of the tower are four rectangular hollows in the ridge (**Assets 585.5-585.8; Plates 512-515**), probable storage pits for potatoes or similar. The main building (**Asset 585.1; Plate 511**) comprises an unroofed building with a turf and stone enclosure (**Asset 585.11; Plate 516**) extending to the north from it. To the southwest is a further improved field (**Asset 585.9; Plate 517**), with the footings of a smaller building (**Asset 585.2; Plate 518**). One definite corn-drying kiln (**Asset 585.10; Plate 519**) and a second probable corn-drying kiln (**Asset 585.12; Plate 520**), perhaps robbed to construct the former, are situated on the northwest edge of the improved ground (**Asset 585.9**), constructed into the slight southeast-facing slope there. Field clearance cairns (**Assets 585.14-585.16; Plates 521-523**) were also recorded.
- 6.9.4. Between Towers 4 and 5 were two large areas of peat cutting (**Assets 862.1 and 862.2; Plate 524**), the former of which is still in use. Three modern shooting butts (**Assets 367.1-367.3; Plate 525**) extend to the north of Tower 6.
- 6.9.5. The HER records a polygon containing a hut circle (**MHG10327**) into the survey corridor between Towers 7 and 8, but this actually lies outwith the survey corridor somewhere to the south.
- 6.9.6. Along the east side of the Allt Loch Laro, east of Tower 9, the fragmentary remains of stone and turf dykes (**Assets 858 and 859; Plates 526 and 527**) were recorded, with the possible footings for a building (**Asset 860; Plate 528**) atop a slight rise of ground also observed. These are associated with the Clais na Faire township (**MHG10328**) to the northeast; the HER polygon for which is indicative only and does not extend to the southwest to encompass these remains. A prominent mound (**Asset 861; Plate 529**), under heather and with some exposed stone along the base, was interpreted tentatively as a possible kerb cairn.
- 6.9.7. Portions of a stone and turf enclosure (**Asset 847; MHG10053; Plate 530**) associated with a farmstead were recorded to the northwest of Tower 10. Further west another portion of possible bank (**Asset 845; Plate 531**) was recorded under tall bracken.
- 6.9.8. Access to the land parcel south of the Allt Loch Leisgeinn, southwest of Tower 10 and southeast of Tower 11, was

not granted and so not surveyed, but it appears likely the hut circle settlement and agricultural remains related to **MHG10054** extend into the corridor therein.

- 6.9.9. At Tower 13 the alignment alters to extend further southwest across very boggy ground and through commercial forestry plantations. In an access track corridor leading between Towers 17 and 18, a possible clearance cairn (**Asset 575**; Plate 532) and length stone and turf dyke (**Asset 576**; Plate 533), likely part of the adjacent forestry operations, were recorded. Similarly, another length of dyke (**Asset 366**; Plate 534) was recorded to the northwest of Tower 19 extending along an existing forestry track and thus likely related.
- 6.9.10. The southmost end of the Scheduled prehistoric settlement Invershin Primary School, settlement 600m E of (**Asset 10**; **SM5498**) stands just within the survey corridor's north extent between Towers 19 and 20, and the HER has created a polygon (**MHG9300**) to extend beyond this to include a Scheduled hut circle to the southeast of the corridor (**Asset 8**; **SM5470**), but no additional archaeological remains within the actual survey corridor were identified, possibly as a result of forestry operations.
- 6.9.11. The corridor continues through commercial forestry plantation. A clearing between Towers 21 and 22, under tall heather and bracken, contains the southern extent of the Scheduled area around **Asset 9**; **SM5497** (Plate 535). The elements of this, the hut circle and kerb cairn, do not lie within the corridor, but the Scheduled extent does. The density of prehistoric remains in the immediate vicinity along the southwest-facing slopes of the Kyle of Sutherland include significant Scheduled assets (**Assets 8/SM5470**, **9/SM5497** and **10/SM5498**) comprising settlement and agricultural remains as well as more enigmatic remains in the form of cairns and burnt mounds, and non-designated field systems and settlement (ie, **MHG12898**). This all suggests a High likelihood of further remains being present in the vicinity, either concealed below the vegetation or at a sub-surface level.
- 6.9.12. The shieling (**Asset 788**) recorded by the HER could not be identified in the dense woodland that now stands around the railway line. The alignment then descends into the strath proper, extending over agricultural land to the southwest of Invershin castle (**Asset 956**; **MHG12913**). A possible earthwork (**Asset 581.1**; Plate 536) related to this lies within an access track corridor to the southwest of Tower 22. A linear turf bank (**Asset 580**; Plate 537) extends partially through the corridor to the east of Tower 23. The alignment then spans the Kyle, with Tower 24 standing in mature forestry on the northeast slope of the lower hills of Creag a' Choineanach. A findspot (**MHG12885**) of a polished stone axe is recorded to the northeast of the tower.
- 6.9.13. There is considered to be Low to High potential for further archaeological remains across this portion of the alignment, with the potential rising in proximity to the areas of post-medieval settlement and agricultural remains around the farmstead at Salachaidh (**Asset 585** and its elements; **MHG63030**) between Towers 2 and 4, and in the vicinity of Towers 9- to 12 where peripheral settlement remains related to Claisnafaire (**MHG10328**) to the north appear to extend. Such remains would likely range in importance from Negligible to Low, while the possible kerb cairn (**Asset 861**), if it is such, would be of greater significance.
- 6.9.14. While much of the remainder of the alignment west comprises land that has been used for commercial forestry, which will limit the potential for sub-surface remains to survive intact, the extensive prehistoric remains present along this ridgeline of the Kyle of Sutherland indicate a High potential for further remains to be present within sections where forestry operations appear to have been less-invasive, such as between Towers 21 and 22. Any such remains could range from Negligible to Medium in importance considering the presence of similar remains in the

immediate vicinity.

6.10. Section C1.2 (South Towers 25-37) (Figures 3.65-3.68)

Towers 25-37

- 6.10.1. The alignment extends uphill to the southwest through mature commercial forestry plantation to Tower 27, over the southwest side of the broad Kyle of Sutherland strath, where it then diverts south-southwest through a large expanse of standing and felled commercial forestry plantation atop the upland area between the Kyle of Sutherland to the northeast and the strath of Strathcarron to the southwest. Section C1.2 ends atop the south-facing slope of Strathcarron, still within commercial forestry plantations. There is considered to be generally poor archaeological potential across this portion of the alignment as a result of the forestry works.
- 6.10.2. To the west of Tower 27, a possible hut circle or cairn (**Asset 787; MHG62766**; Plate 538) has been recorded by the HER; this area lies under mature commercial forestry and the location recorded by the survey team is tentative only. A portion of the Inventory Battlefield extent for the 1640 Battle of Carbisdale (**Asset 103; BTL19**) stands between Towers 27 and 28, but the entirety of this is under commercial forestry plantation. The area is thought to be a potential encampment for Montrose's men prior to the battle, the bulk of the fighting took place on the plains below the hills to the east at Culrain. While remains relating to the battle, or the encampment, may be present within the corridor, these have likely been much impacted upon by the forestry works.
- 6.10.3. A length of possible drainage ditch (**Asset 573**; Plate 539), augmented by some banking either side, extends east/west to the south of Tower 31, but felled forestry obscured the full extent of this. The alignment continues through further forestry, descending down the north side of Strathcarron. South of Tower 36, within an area of mature commercial forestry plantation, the remnants of a track (**Asset 1021**; Plate 540), consistent with one depicted on the 1881 1st edition OS map, were identified.
- 6.10.4. There is considered to be a Low potential for archaeological remains within this portion of the alignment given the extensive forestry operations that have occurred. Some potential may exist across the flatter area of the River Carron; any such remains would likely relate to post-medieval and settlement remains and be of Negligible to Low importance.

6.11. Section D1.1 (South Towers 38-99) (Figures 3.68-3.80)

Towers 38-99

- 6.11.1. This section of the alignment crosses down into Strathcarron, extending over the improved farmland along the base of the strath in a north/south alignment, continuing uphill to the south over broad expanses of north-facing moorland and bog. The alignment continues south, and then southeast from Tower 50, and then southwest from Tower 60, all over the high moorland and bog-rich hills that stand as the high points between the Dornoch and Cromarty firths. The alignment spans Strathrusdale, extending along the southwest side of this until the turning point southeast at Tower 84, at the northwest edge of the basin around Loch Morie, before spanning the River Averon and continuing up and over the south hills that form the strath surrounding this, continuing up to the Cnoc a' Leathan Hill at Tower 97. Much of the landscape along this section is upland moorland and bog, with some cultivated areas along the more hospitable strath regions.
- 6.11.2. South of Tower 38 stands a stretch of degraded turf dyke (**Asset 1022**; Plate 541), consistent with a boundary shown on the 1881 1st edition OS map. This area was under tall grass and bracken, and upstanding remains relating to the

small complex on historic maps to the south of this may yet be extant.

- 6.11.3. No access to Downie Estate (Towers 39-46) was granted so this section of the corridor remained un-surveyed.
- 6.11.4. Between Towers 52 and 53, under heather, are the very poorly preserved remains of a possible hut circle (**Asset 952**; Plate 542). Another hut circle (**Asset 953**; Plate 543) lies further southeast between Towers 53 and 54. These are situated along the northeast-facing slope, and there has potentially been a degree of peat accumulation atop these, and further remains may be present sub-surface.
- 6.11.5. A relict trackway (**Asset 330**; Plate 544) extends north of Tower 57 along the corridor to south of Tower 58, likely leading to the Garbhairidh building (**Asset 143**; **MHG7367**) to the southwest, and possibly also extending right over into Strathrusdale, but with the track petering out on the lower boggier ground as indicated in the survey. It passes close to a circular drystone sheepfold (**Asset 331**; Plate 545), situated between Towers 57 and 58. As the alignment progresses uphill to the southwest, the ground conditions become much boggier underfoot.
- 6.11.6. The alignment descends down into the Coire Dubh from Tower 69, a narrow moorland and rushy corrie along a water course of the same name. Here, several large earth-cut drains (**Assets 951.1-951.5**; Plate 546), extending southeast downhill towards the Allt a' Choire Dhuibh for peat management, were recorded.
- 6.11.7. The alignment enters Strathrusdale, spanning the Abhainn Glac an t-Seilich river, and continues along the western side of the strath through dense areas of commercial and felled forestry plantation through to Tower 82. The route progresses over open moorland along the hills to the northwest of Loch Morie before descending down towards the River Averon glen, initially through moorland and then through commercial forestry plantation.
- 6.11.8. In an area of improved ground along the western side of the corridor, between Towers 88 and 89, some ephemeral post-medieval settlement remains were identified associated with **MHG8393**, comprising an area of rig and furrow cultivation (**Asset 865.4**; Plate 547), delineated along the north extent by a drystone dyke (**Asset 865.3**) visible on satellite imagery but not viewed on the ground due to dense vegetation. To the southeast of the rig and furrow (**Asset 865.4**) stands the remnants of turf and stone dykes (**Assets 865.1 and 865.2**; Plates 547 and 548). To the east, a likely natural water channel (**Asset 863**; Plate 549) has been augmented into a feeder lade for the pond (**Asset 864**; Plate 549) to the south. This pond is not depicted on either the 1880 or 1907 OS and so must be of a later 20th century date.
- 6.11.9. On the south side of the river, the HER records an enclosure and field boundary (**MHG20653**); this area is in dense woodland and these remains could not be identified at the time of the survey. The alignment continues through commercial forestry plantation between Towers 90 and 93 for a time, and then extends across the improved farmland along the base of the southern side of strath around the River Averon.
- 6.11.10. Several assets were recorded along the access track corridor leading to Tower 94 from the northeast. These included drystone dykes forming enclosures or the remnants thereof (**Assets 345-347**; Plates 550-552) to the northeast of a small post-medieval settlement identified as Boathvic on the 1880 1st edition OS map, which is there shown as a settlement of five linear roofed buildings among enclosures, reduced to four roofed buildings by the time of the 2nd edition 1907 OS map. The remains surveyed comprise a building (**Asset 351.1**; Plates 553-554), with a smaller, older building (**Asset 351.2**; Plates 553-555) abutting its northwest gable. A small wooden shed (**Asset 354**; Plate 555) stands to the north of these. Lengths of stone and turf dykes (**Assets 352 and 355**; Plates 556 and 557) are evident, along with several clearance cairns (**Assets 348.1-348.4 and 353**; Plates 558-562).
- 6.11.11. To the south of these, on the other side of the track, stands the footing for a degraded rectangular building (**Asset**

350; Plate 563), and stone and turf dykes (**Assets 346, 349 and 356**; Plates 551, 564 and 565), some of which form enclosures. Another segment of stone and turf dyke (**Asset 361**; Plate 566) extends further west along the track, as the track joins the corridor north of Tower 94.

- 6.11.12. Tower 94 stands immediately west of a large stone and turf dyke (**Asset 360**; Plate 567), the head dyke for the post-medieval settlement of Glack (**Asset 167**; **MHG20472**) to the southeast. Degraded stone and turf dykes (**Asset 357**; Plate 568) delineate improved fields to the northwest of the settlement, with a further length of stone and turf dyke (**Asset 359**; Plate 569) visible. A simple bridge (**Asset 358**; Plate 570) of stone slabs set over the Allt a Mhuillin water was also identified.
- 6.11.13. Tower 95 is sited to the southwest of the Glack settlement remains (**Asset 167**; **MHG20472**), a fairly well-preserved post-medieval township that comprises several stone-built buildings, surviving to a reasonable height, including a kiln-barn (**Asset 167.4**; Plate 571), a large T-shaped building with several partitions and probable extensions (**Asset 167.6**; Plate 572), a long linear building (**Asset 167.1**; Plate 573) and square-shaped building (**Asset 167.5**; Plate 574). Drystone and stone and turf dykes form several enclosures (**Assets 167.2** (with attached pen **Asset 167.3**), **167.7** and **167.8**; Plates 575-577) stand amidst the core of the settlement, and one small enclosure (**Asset 167.9**) constructed onto the large head dyke (**Asset 360**) that runs to the south of the settlement.
- 6.11.14. The settlement of Glack is depicted on the 1880 1st edition OS map, which names it and shows four roofed buildings (**Assets 167.1, 167.4, 167.5 and 167.6**), as well as all the above noted enclosures and the pen. By the time of the 1907 OS map, only two buildings are shown as still roofed: **Asset 167.5** and part of **Asset 167.6**.
- 6.11.15. Spanning the corridor east of Tower 96 is a relict track (**Asset 362**; Plate 578), depicted on the 1880 1st edition OS map. The stone footings for a long farmstead building (**Asset 166**; **MHG20470**; Plate 579) stand within the corridor (this is depicted as unroofed on the 1880 OS map), and a modern cistern (**Asset 364**; Plate 580) stands to the northwest of this.
- 6.11.16. Further southeast, a degraded stone dyke (**Asset 363**; Plate 581) extends northeast from the head dyke (**Asset 360**). The head dyke extends all the way to Tower 97 where it appears to terminate, likely impacted upon by the track.
- 6.11.17. **Asset 65**, recorded by the NRHE as **NH57SE 24.00** and standing to the east of Tower 65, is erroneously situated; this relates to **MHG20469**, a farmstead and lime kiln outwith the survey corridor to the north.
- 6.11.18. The alignment spans the steep-sided Allt a' Ghreach, which was not descended by the survey team, continuing briefly to the southeast to Tower 99. A possible structure (**Asset 343**) is depicted on the 1st edition OS map but the area now lies under planted forestry and no remains could be confidently identified. A track (**Asset 340**; Plate 582), metalled in some area, extends into the survey corridor on the north side.
- 6.11.19. Tower 99 is sited atop a large gravel bund (**Asset 341.3**; Plate 583), with smaller bunds to the northwest (**Assets 341.1 and 341.2**; Plates 584 and 585), all likely associated with the nearby track formation. The degraded remnants of a stone dyke (**Asset 342**; Plate 586) span the corridor to the southeast of Tower 99, and another length of stone and turf dyke (**Asset 344**; Plate 587) lies just within the corridor to the northeast of Tower 99; of these only **Asset 344** appears to be depicted on historic maps. The alignment diverts at T99 from southeast to south southeast, continuing into the next section, D1.2.
- 6.11.20. Archaeological potential along this Section appears to be Low in the upland moorland areas and areas of commercial forestry. There is likely Low to Medium potential for prehistoric to post-medieval remains along the alignment in the vicinity of Tower 50-62, over the northeast-facing slopes of Meall na h-Uigeig where there appears

to be some evidence for prehistoric and post-medieval activity, of Negligible to Low importance, with that potential declining as the route ascends the higher and narrow Strathrusdale where forestry operations will have impacted on any sub-surface remains. There is an increased Medium potential for post-medieval remains along the more hospitable low-lying areas along the River Averon, particularly in the vicinity of Towers 89 and 90, and 94-99 and the access track to Tower 94, where the routes all pass through areas of extensive post-medieval settlement and agricultural remains. Any further remains would likely be of Negligible to Low importance.

6.12. Section D1.2 (South Towers 100-150) (Figures 3.80-3.91)

Towers 100-129

- 6.12.1. The alignment extends uphill to the south-southeast from Tower 99, before curving around to the southwest to traverse the lower southeast-facing slope of Strath Mor across predominantly heathy moorland with some areas of commercial forestry, through to Tower 112, situated on the periphery of improved farmland. The alignment continues through predominantly commercial forestry plantation with relatively low potential for archaeological remains to survive.
- 6.12.2. Remnants of prehistoric settlement and agricultural remains, including two hut circles (**Assets 179.1 and 179.3; MHG28205**; Plates 588 and 589) and clearance cairns (**Assets 179.2 and 179.4; MHG56490**; Plate 589), are recorded adjacent to areas of commercial forestry plantation, at the edges of the corridor between Towers 100 and 101. Further clearance cairns recorded previously by the HER to the northeast of **Asset 179.2** appear to have been planted over by this forestry.
- 6.12.3. Along the east edge of the corridor between Towers 104 and 105 are three mounds (**Assets 339.1-339.3**; Plates 590 and 591), that appear to have been created by excavator, stripping a layer of topsoil and laying the soil strip heather-side down to the side of the small pit. This appears to have been done with the intention of creating salt-licks for deer; these have been recorded for posterity to ensure they are not mistaken for prehistoric field clearance cairns once the heather is re-established.
- 6.12.4. Extending in a line across Tower 106, from the southeast to the northwest, are several earth-constructed shooting butts. Most (**Assets 338.1, 338.3-338.5**; Plates 592-594) had been previously identified as part of **MHG56494**, with this survey identifying another (**Asset 338.2**; Plate 595) that naturally falls in line with the rest.
- 6.12.5. As the alignment descends into bog to the southwest near T107, numerous earth-cut drains were identified for peatland management either side of the Allt a' Bhuideanaich watercourse. Those to the east and south of T107 (**Assets 955.1-955.15**), and the north side of the watercourse, are so uniform they must be mechanically excavated and of relatively recent date; these were recorded from satellite imagery as they were not very visible during the survey. To the north of these, two very degraded probable shooting butts (**Assets 337.1 and 337.2**; Plates 596 and 597) were recorded.
- 6.12.6. South of the Allt a' Bhuideanaich, the drainage ditches (**Assets 336.1, 336.2 and 336.7**; others outwith the corridor to the east; Plate 598) appear of older date, wavering in form as they descend down the slope to the stream.
- 6.12.7. East of Tower 109 stands a large area of degraded peat cutting (**Asset 335.1**; Plate 599), with a relict track (**Asset 333**; Plate 600) leading more or less alongside it to the southwest, alongside the Allt na Moine (stream of the peats). The track, depicted on the is likely then an old peat road for the transportation of peats down to the settlement areas to the southwest. A culvert or bridge (**Asset 334**; Plate 601) spans the stream but could not be

easily discerned due to vegetation. Further peat cuttings (**Asset 335.2**; Plate 602) stand to the east of Tower 110.

- 6.12.8. To the southwest of Tower 112 stands the post-medieval remains of a township, Garabil (**Asset 154; MHG14142/MHG19702**). This area is very overgrown and was under long grass at the time of the survey; it has possibly experienced further decay since described in the HER 30 years ago. The footings for a stone building (**Asset 154.4**; Plate 603) were recorded, along with an inaccessible structure (**Asset 154.2**; Plate 604) further southwest. A rounded mound (**Asset 154.3**; Plate 605) potentially of field clearance origin, and another (**Asset 567**; Plate 606) were also observed. To the west of these extends the fragmentary remains of turf and stone dykes (**Assets 154.1 and 565**; Plates 607 and 608).
- 6.12.9. Tower 113 stands to the northeast of further post-medieval remains comprising two drystone enclosures (**Assets 562.1 and 562.2**; Plates 609 and 610), and a spread of field clearance (**Asset 561**; Plate 611). A drystone dyke (**Asset 560**; Plate 612) extends visibly for part of the way along the modern road, and within woodland to the southeast of this is the surviving southwest portion of a rounded drystone enclosure (**Asset 164; MHG20086**; Plate 613), likely a sheepfold, the northeastern portion presumably destroyed by the surrounding forestry plantation works.
- 6.12.10. The alignment spans the Rivers Glass (Towers 114-115) and Allt nan Caorach (Towers 115-116). South of Tower 115 and corresponding with the Gaelic place name '*Torr na h-Uamhaig*' (Hill of the Cave), a previously unrecorded cave (**Asset 568**; Plate 614) was identified. Along proposed access corridors to the northwest of this, the footings for a bridge (**Asset 569**; Plate 615) spanning the Allt nan Caorach were also identified, along with a spread of clearance cairn material (**Asset 570**; Plate 616).
- 6.12.11. The alignment continues south and southwest through standing and felled commercial forestry plantations. A WWII Woman's Timber Corp camp (**MHG56249**) was located in the vicinity of Tower 120, however there are no upstanding remains of this surviving.
- 6.12.12. Along the track that bisects the corridor north of Tower 122, borrow pits (**Assets 550, 552 and 553**; Plates 617-619) have been recorded, along with a stretch of drystone dyke (**Asset 551**; Plate 620). A standing stone (Clach Liath; **MHG33708**) is recorded as being west of Tower 123 on historical maps but appears to have been lost as a result of the commercial forestry plantation works. Defining the southwest extent of the commercial forestry plantation between Towers 129 and 130 is a degraded drystone dyke (**Asset 261**; Plate 621).
- 6.12.13. There appears to be a Low potential for archaeological remains across much of this portion of the route, although this should be considered slightly higher in the vicinity of the known prehistoric remains (**Asset 179; MHG41365**) between Towers 100 and 101, and in the areas in Glen Glass between Towers 111 and 116 which have not been planted with commercial forestry plantation. Any archaeological remains would likely be of post-medieval date, relating to settlement and agricultural activity, and be of Negligible to Low importance.

Towers 130-150

- 6.12.14. The alignment continues along the north side of Strath Sgitheach once it extends past the commercial forestry plantations. The broad strath and south-facing location have made this a hospitable landscape and there is a rich prehistoric and post-medieval archaeological resource present here in the form of settlement and agricultural remains and in more enigmatic remains in the form of funerary monuments and rock art. Much of these remains lie slightly further down within the lower-lying portions of the strath.
- 6.12.15. Situated in a prominent location overlooking the strath and discussed in Appendix 4: Settings, is the Scheduled Balnacrae chambered cairn (**Asset 85; SM2396**; Plate 622). The Scheduled area extent stands c80m north of Tower

130.

- 6.12.16. South of Tower 131 stands a circular drystone sheepfold (**Asset 742; MHG8922**; Plate 623), and northeast of this a length of turf dyke (**Asset 743**; Plate 624). Further degraded dykes (**Assets 740 and 741**; Plates 625 and 626) extend around Tower 133 and to the northeast of it, forming remnants of post-medieval field systems. The southwest end of **Asset 741** stands amidst enclosures (**Assets 737 and 739; MHG40807; MHG8909**; Plates 627 and 628). A hut circle (**Asset 1020; MHG8903**) is recorded immediately southwest of Tower 134 but the area was under tall bracken at the time of the survey and the asset could not be positively identified.
- 6.12.17. Further post-medieval settlement remains including the stone footings of a linear farmstead (**Asset 736; MHG8918**; Plate 629), and numerous additional lengths of stone and stone and turf dykes (**Assets 730, 731, 733 and 735**; Plates 630-633) and enclosures (**Assets 732 and 734**; Plates 634 and 635) to the west of these comprise continuation of the post-medieval settlement along the southeast-facing side of the strath. Tower 135 is sited amongst these agricultural remains.
- 6.12.18. A possible burnt mound (**Asset 729**; Plate 636) stands to the west of a small stream course running north to south, between Towers 136 and 137.
- 6.12.19. The alignment continues southwest over the south and southeast-facing moorland slopes, extending through a large area of felled and standing commercial forestry plantation at Torrachilty to Tower 150, the last tower in the D1.2 section.
- 6.12.20. There is considered to be a Low potential for archaeological remains between Towers 141-150 where forestry operations will have impacted on underlying remains. There is Medium potential for further post-medieval remains related to settlement and agriculture to be present, particularly between Towers 130-136, with such remains likely to range from Negligible to Low importance. While poorly represented overall, there should also be considered to be a Medium for prehistoric remains to survive. The landscape between Towers 136 and 140 comprised tall heather that presented challenging survey conditions and would have hindered the identification of more subtle archaeological features, and considering the density of prehistoric archaeological remains recorded to the southeast, where a large (**Asset 38/SM10495**) and small (**Asset 37/SM4728**) prehistoric settlement are situated, along with several prehistoric rock art sites (**MHG8928; MHG63114**, etc,) it is considered that there is a Medium potential for similar such remains to be present in this portion of the corridor, likely to range from Negligible to Medium importance. The elevation is not so great as to limit this, with similar remains present even higher up to the northeast atop Cnoc an Each (**MHG8960; MHG8920**).

6.13. Section E1.1 (South Towers 151-199) (Figures 3.91-3.97)

Towers 151-199

- 6.13.1. The alignment proceeds southeast through a large commercial forestry plantation that encompasses much of the area in the hills to the north of Strathpeffer across the alignment from Towers 151-164. The alignment then crosses over improved fields along the Black Water river near Contin and the River Conon, spanning the latter of the two to the west of Loch Achanachie before proceeding along the commercial forestry plantations that stand on and beyond the western edge of the Fairburn GDL (**Asset 101; GDL00174**), spanning the River Orrin and then continuing southeast into the upland moorland. The alignment then continues southeast across a mixture of agricultural farmland and forestry and some upland moorland, with the section ending at Tower 199 just north of the Allt

Goibhre stream.

- 6.13.2. A low linear turf and stone bank (**Asset 795**; Plate 637) spans the corridor northeast of Tower 152 and is likely modern in date, related to construction of the adjacent forestry track. The alignment continues through felled and standing commercial forestry into the Kinellan Woods area; the vegetation across much of this portion of the alignment prohibited access but it is likely that forestry operations have destroyed anything that may have been upstanding and of archaeological significance. A modern sculpture (**Asset 827**; Plate 638) stands in a small clearing in the Kinellan Woods northeast of Tower 160, near popular mountain biking trails.
- 6.13.3. Tower 165 stands in an agricultural field and from here the alignment cross through similar agricultural land. Along a mature beech avenue delineating the fields between Towers 169 and 170 is an ex-situ cup-and-ring marked stone (**Asset 233**; **NH45NE 166.00**) that has been re-used as a gate post. The fields containing Towers 171-173 could not be directly accessed as they were under cereal crop at the time of the survey, however visibility across these from the roads either side was good, indicating no significant upstanding archaeological remains therein.
- 6.13.4. An enclosure (**Asset 790**; **MHG14111**) of unknown date is recorded as a crop-mark to the northwest of Tower 174; no upstanding remains of this are visible.
- 6.13.5. The alignment then spans the Black Water and the River Conon, extending across an area of farmland situated within the confluence formed by these two waterways. A substantial grass-covered flood embankment (**Asset 744**; Plate 639) extends along the south side of the Black Water across the survey corridor between Towers 175 and 176; this is depicted on the 1881 1st edition OS map.
- 6.13.6. Extending along the south side of the River Conon is another drystone dyke (**Asset 533**), north of Tower 179. A spread of stone (**Asset 535**; Plate 640), possible forming a footing for a structure, was recorded between Towers 180 and 181. Drystone dykes (**Assets 534, 536.1 and 536.2**; Plates 641-643) were recorded along the periphery of the corridor to the east and west of Tower 180, delineating the field boundaries. Part of a track (**Asset 537**; Plate 644) was also recorded northwest of Tower 181, but this was poorly preserved.
- 6.13.7. Towers 183-188 are situated within the western periphery of the Fairburn GDL (**Asset 101**; **GDL00174**). The 1st edition OS map depicts this area as under dense coniferous forest, part of a wood named 'Coille Mhor' – the big wood – forming the woodland policies of Fairburn House (**Asset 97**; **LB14031**), situated to the east. The listing for the GDL describes that the '*policy woodlands extend to the west of the house and were originally planted c.1800. The outlying mature and semi-mature commercial woodlands on the higher ground were felled in World War I and II. Sections of the policy woodlands were replanted in 1920 mainly with Scots pine but the majority of the woodlands were not planted until after World War II under a Forestry Commission Dedication Scheme, with Scots pine and Sitka spruce, although there are some small pockets of oak, ash and beech.*' The degraded remains of a stone and turf dyke (**Asset 539**; Plate 645) were recorded across the survey corridor north of Tower 184.
- 6.13.8. A post-medieval farmstead (**Asset 540** and its elements) was recorded to the northwest of Tower 194, consistent with structures depicted on the 1st edition OS map for a settlement named Cnocanarve (later named Cornhill), situated on the north side of an area of improved ground. Alterations in the alignment mean only part of a small structure (**Asset 540.8**; Plate 646) lies within the corridor itself. A post-medieval clearance cairn (**Asset 541**; Plate 647) lies to the southwest of these assets within the survey corridor, and the remnants of a degraded stone and turf dyke (**Asset 542**; Plate 648) extend along a field boundary depicted on the 1st edition OS map to the east of Tower 194, with a more substantial drystone dyke (**Asset 519**; Plate 649) extending along the south portion of the corridor between Towers 193 and 194, continuing beyond Tower 194 before curving down to the southeast, coming

close to the an enclosure (**Asset 520.1**; Plate 650).

- 6.13.9. The enclosure (**Asset 520.1**; Plate 650), also a substantial drystone dyke in some parts but diminished in others, delineates an area of improved ground between Towers 195 and 196. Along its northeast extent are the stone footings for a long building (**Asset 520.2**; Plate 651) containing a probable corn-drying kiln at one end and an L-shaped enclosure (**Asset 520.3**; Plate 650) defined by a turf and stone dyke; these remains were obscured by dense bracken and further structural remains may be present in the area.
- 6.13.10. Between Towers 196 and 197 extends a trackway (**Asset 518**; Plate 652), broadly consistent with that depicted on the 2nd edition OS map. A borrow pit or quarry (**Asset 1024**; Plate 653) is situated adjacent to it. To the north of this, the degraded drystone dyke (**Asset 517**) forms the continuation of the drystone dyke (**Asset 519**; Plate 649). Along the north periphery of the survey corridor, to the east of the dyke (**Asset 517/519**), stands another drystone dyke enclosure (**Asset 522.1**; Plate 654), associated with another farmstead (**Asset 522** and its elements; **MHG62290**) now situated outwith the survey corridor.
- 6.13.11. Spanning the corridor to the northwest of Tower 197 is another drystone dyke (**Asset 516**; Plate 655), also depicted on the 1st edition OS map. To the southwest of Tower 197, a mound with possible structural elements (**Asset 515**; Plate 656), obscured by bracken, was recorded.
- 6.13.12. In the south portion of the survey corridor between Towers 198 and 199, several assets related to post-medieval field clearance and demarcation were recorded relating to **MHG62286**, comprising clearance cairns and large spreads of clearance material (Assets **276**, **281**, **284** and **285**; Plates 657-660) and a degraded stone and turf dyke (**Asset 280**; Plate 661). These were somewhat obscured by overlying bracken, and the clearance spread (**Asset 281**) may be the very degraded remains of a possible farmstead as described in the HER.
- 6.13.13. Another degraded stone and turf dyke (**Asset 170.1**; associated with **MHG24740**; Plate 662) curves around Tower 199 and to the northeast, where stands a degraded turf and stone enclosure (**Asset 170.2**; Plate 663) and small square-shaped stone footed structure (**Asset 170.3**; Plate 664). The unroofed remains of a farmstead or pen (**Asset 170.4**) are depicted on the 1st edition OS map, but the area was under tall bracken and no remains could be identified. Tower 199, situated on the north side of the Allt Goibhre stream, marks the last tower in the E1.1 section.
- 6.13.14. Outwith the areas of planted forestry which will have impacted upon remains at a sub-surface level, there is considered to be generally Medium potential for further archaeological remains of post-medieval date within Section E1.1, with such remains likely relating to settlement and agricultural activity, as attested by the numerous farmsteads present. Such remains would likely be of Negligible to Low importance.

6.14. Section E1.2 (South Towers 200-229) (Figures 3.97-3.99)

Towers 200-229

- 6.14.1. The alignment spans the Allt Goibhre southeast of Tower 199, passing through an area of commercial forestry plantation before extending along hills predominantly comprising open moorland. The alignment turns southwest at Tower 206, extending along the ridgeline of hills that stand to the west of Beauly, predominantly comprising an upland moorland setting. The alignment spans the Breakachy Burn, and then curves around Breakachy Hill to the southwest, continuing across lower-lying moorland interspersed with commercial and natural forestry. The alignment and the section ends in an area of semi-improved land around Ardochy.
- 6.14.2. The stone footings for a possible building (**Asset 277**; Plate 665) were recorded on the east periphery of the survey

corridor southeast of Tower 199, and a small clearance cairn (**Asset 279**; Plate 666) was recorded within the woodland on the north side of the Allt Goibhre. From this side of the stream, a degraded stone and turf dyke (**Asset 287**) could be observed on the south side of the stream within the Highfield land parcel; the majority of this land parcel was not accessible during the survey, although part of the north access track was accessible.

- 6.14.3. Although no longer within the corridor for the Proposed Development, one asset identified during the walkover survey of a former proposed access track is considered to be significant and worth noting in the body of this report. Along a proposed access track towards Tower 200, a previously unrecorded dun (**Asset 248**) was identified, an asset which has the potential to be of High importance. Situated on the south ridgeline above the Allt Goibhre stream under mature coniferous trees, the asset survives best on the northwest side where the substantial outer wall is visible as a massive spread of stone spilling over the lip of the ridgeline, perhaps as much as 2m tall and spread as much as 6m wide (though this does not account for slippage down the hill). The wall appears to define an oval shape measuring c14m by 9m internally, but the dense trees were challenging to survey around. The south extent appears to have been partially truncated by the old forestry track that runs to the south, and what appeared as the continuation of the wall may be the displaced remnants of the true southwest extent of the structure. The area is depicted as part of Auchmore Wood, under dense forestry, in the 1881 1st edition OS map, which likely accounts for why it has not been previously observed. D-shaped structural remains are visible on the Phase 1 Lidar dataset. The dun would have been situated in a location that would have commanded extensive views to the north to the confluence of the Allt Goibhre and River Orrin.
- 6.14.4. The corridor between Towers 200 and 206 was not accessible for the walkover survey, and this encompasses areas of commercial forestry plantation and moorland. The alignment continues southeast over moorland, with some small stands of commercial forestry plantation, to Tower 206, where it then turns southwest.
- 6.14.5. A relict track (**Asset 895**; Plate 667), in use by the local estate, was recorded spanning the corridor to the south of Tower 207 and consistent with that depicted on the 1875 1st edition OS map. Old peat banks (**Asset 896**; Plate 668) are partially visible under the heath to the south of Tower 209, with another peat cutting bank (**Asset 898**) visible north of Tower 214.
- 6.14.6. The Scheduled Dun Garbhlaich fort (**Asset 20**; **SM2422**; Plate) lies outwith the survey corridor to the southeast, broadly between Towers 214 and 215. Potential settings impacts for this are considered in Appendix 4 in detail.
- 6.14.7. Between Towers 216 and 217, an area of tall bracken obscured three assets previously recorded on the HER the remains of a post-medieval pen or shelter (**Asset 792**; **MHG62143**) and two possible cairns (burial or clearance) (**Asset 793**; **MHG62142**; and **Asset 794**; **MHG62141**) (Plate 669)). The remains of a relict track (**Asset 899**; Plate 670) also depicted on the 1875 1st edition OS map was visible through the bracken as a deer trail spanning the corridor between Towers 216 and 217.
- 6.14.8. In the northwest half of the survey corridor between Towers 217 and 218 lies an area of peat cutting (**Asset 900**; Plate 671), and on the northwest periphery of the corridor on the east side of a small stream stands the remains of turf and stone banked structure (**Asset 783**; **MHG62153**; Plate 672), possibly a shieling or illicit whisky still site.
- 6.14.9. In the vicinity of Towers 219 and 221, and the area on the northeast side of the Breakachy Burn, stand numerous prehistoric and post-medieval assets recorded by the HER, including prehistoric hut circle settlement remains, prehistoric field system remnants, probable prehistoric burial cairns, and post-medieval dykes and structures (**MHG2659**, **MHG2665**, **MHG23303**, **MHG44150**, **MHG44153**, **MHG61214**, **MHG61215**, **MHG61216**, **MHG61217**, **MHG61218**, **MHG61219**, **MHG61220**, **MHG61221**, **MHG61222**, **MHG62050**, **MHG62070**, **MHG62071**, **MHG62072**,

MHG62073, MHG62074, MHG62075, MHG62076, MHG62077, MHG62078, MHG62079, MHG62087, MHG62088, MHG62089, MHG62090, MHG62091, MHG62092, MHG62093, MHG62094, MHG62095, MHG62096, MHG62097, MHG62099, MHG62100, MHG62102, MHG62103, MHG62112, MHG62113, MHG62114, MHG62115, MHG62116, MHG62118, MHG62124, MHG62125, MHG62127, MHG62129, MHG62134, MHG62135, MHG62136, MHG62137, MHG62138, MHG62144, MHG62145, MHG62146). At the time of the walkover survey, this area lay below tall and dense bracken which significantly impacted the surveyors' ability to identify these assets and correlate them with the existing archaeological record, or to identify any previously unrecorded assets. Time and access constraints limited surveying, and subsequent access to the land parcel was not possible.

- 6.14.10. The alignment spans the Breakachy Burn between Towers 220 and 221 and continues southwest around Breakachy Hill. Unlike the north side of the burn, the south side appears to contain no prehistoric settlement remains within the corridor or near vicinity other than the Scheduled Dun Mor fort (**Asset 11; SM4979**), outwith the survey corridor to the east, settings impacts for which are detailed in Appendix 4. It should be considered a possibility that prehistoric settlement and activity remains may be present under peat accumulation in the area.
- 6.14.11. Spanning the survey corridor north of Tower 222 is a relict track (**Asset 246; Plate 673**), consistent with a track depicted on the 1876 1st edition OS map. Another track (**Asset 784; Plate 674**), spanning the corridor between Towers 225 and 226 is also consistent with a track on the same map. An area of peat cutting (**Asset 1001; Plate 675**) was recorded within an access track area that loops west of the survey corridor between Towers 225 and 226.
- 6.14.12. The proposed access tracks towards Towers 228 extends northeast/southwest through the farmstead of Ardochy (**Asset 795.1-795.3; Plate 676**). A degraded stone and turf dyke (**Asset 301; Plate 677**) extends along the existing modern track, with areas of field clearance (**Asset 302; Plate 678**) visible. The farmstead, still in active use, comprises a two-storey dwelling (**Asset 795.1**) and an L-shaped steading (**Asset 795.2**), both of which are depicted on the 1876 1st edition OS map and currently in use as private farm. A modern concrete shed (**Asset 795.3**) also stands alongside the track. The proposed access track extends through the farmstead to adjoin the existing one there, and so it has been assumed that there could potentially be impacts to these structures, hence their inclusion herein.
- 6.14.13. On the southwest periphery of the survey corridor, west of Tower 229, are the degraded remains of a kerb cairn (**Asset 962; MHG2741; Plate 679**). To the north of Tower 229, the remains of a farmstead (**Asset 177; MHG23314**) were recorded, visible as the stone footings of a linear building (**Asset 177.1; Plate 680**) and a turf and stone dyke enclosure (**Asset 177.2; Plates 681 and 682**), extending in a D-shape open to the southwest along the southeast side of the building. Field clearance (**Asset 305; Plate 682**) has been deposited atop the remains. This farmstead is depicted as abandoned by the time of the 1st edition OS map.
- 6.14.14. Further spreads of post-medieval field clearance are recorded to the east of Tower 229 along the centreline of the alignment, and to the south of Tower 229 along the survey corridor periphery (**Assets 856.1 and 856.2; Plates 683 and 684**), and a small clearance cairn (**Asset 306; Plate 685**) is visible below the alignment between Towers 229 and 230.
- 6.14.15. The E1.2 section ends at this point, extending through the described areas of field clearance and between Towers 229 and 230.
- 6.14.16. There is considered to be varied archaeological potential along this Section, with a likely Low potential in the alignment portion extending between Towers 200-214, where much of the remains appear to be fairly restricted to some evidence for peat extraction. There has however potentially been peat accumulation in areas such as

around Loch nam Bonnach, where little of archaeological significance has been recorded but the landscape for which seems well-suited for prehistoric settlement remains, occupying sheltered southeast-facing slopes with ready access to the loch, and numerous large fortifications in the vicinity (**Assets 12/SM5212, 20/SM2422, 21/SM2424**), but relatively sparse prehistoric settlement remains other than the dense cluster recorded in the Breakachy Burn area. Peat-cutting in these areas may also have had an effect on any such remains however.

- 6.14.17. There is a Medium to High potential for encountering further archaeological remains in the vicinity between Towers 214 and 221, with High potential clearly around the Towers 219 and 220 areas, where the sheer density of prehistoric remains are evidenced. Any such remains may range in importance from Negligible to Medium/High, depending on their nature. The archaeological potential then appears to diminish to the south of the Breakachy Burn, and is considered to be Low for the alignment between Towers 221 and 229, with any such remains likely relating to post-medieval settlement and agricultural and likely to be of Negligible to Low importance.

6.15. Section E1.3 (South Towers 230-235) (Figures 3.99-3.105)

Towers 230-235, access tracks

- 6.15.1. The south-most portion of the south alignment runs west-northwest/east-southeast, extending over rough pasture fields at Ardochy before spanning the River Beauly and proceeding through the commercial forestry plantation in Ruttle Wood, finally culminating in agricultural fields west of Fanellan. Proposed access tracks to the Towers 230 and 231 extend to the southwest beyond the main survey corridor.
- 6.15.2. A building (**Asset 178; MHG23301**) is recorded directly east of Tower 230, based on the presence of an un-roofed structure depicted on the 1876 1st edition OS map, but this appears to be a mistaken location for a structure depicted further north along the periphery of the corridor alignment, and for which no upstanding remains were visible in the long grass. Similarly, another building or pens (**Asset 174; MHG23319**) is recorded as south of Tower 231 based on the presence of a building on the 1876 OS map, but this in actuality should be located further north in the vicinity of the tower, possibly to the east under a grouping of mature pine trees. No upstanding remains were visible in the locale, however.
- 6.15.3. The proposed access tracks to Towers 230 and 231 lead southwest from the survey corridor along a previously recorded track (**Asset 222; NH44SE 94.00**; Plate 686). Some portions of this track are consistent with tracks shown on the 1873 and 1906 first and second edition OS maps. A clearance cairn (**Asset 304**; Plate 687) is situated adjacent to the track. Stone footings for a building (**Asset 1015; MHG61614**; Plate 688), possibly a byre, have been recorded to the south of the track but dense bracken prohibited identification of this.
- 6.15.4. The alignment spans the River Beauly between Towers 231 and 232, continuing to the east through Ruttle Wood. Immediately beyond the periphery of the survey corridor to the southwest of Tower 232 lies the non-designated Dun Fionn fort (**Asset 129; MHG2748**; Plate 689). No upstanding remains related to this were observed within the survey corridor itself, but it is not unlikely that contemporary remains and outlying features related to the fort may extend into the survey corridor proper.
- 6.15.5. The remains of a turf and stone dyke (**Asset 299**; Plate 690) stand along the south side of the survey corridor south of Tower 234, and a large stone and turf dyke (**Asset 300**; Plate 691), consistent with a field boundary depicted on the 1876 1st edition OS map, spans the corridor between Towers 234 and 235. Possible linear earthworks and the footings for a stone building (**Asset 1019; MHG63024**) were recorded in 1987-89 atop and north of a small rocky knoll to the northeast of Tower 235; no remains associated with these were identified during the survey within the

survey corridor.

- 6.15.6. Tower 235, situated within an open agricultural field, forms the end of the E1.3 section and the southmost extent of the Proposed Development.
- 6.15.7. There is judged to be Low archaeological potential for further remains in the E1.3 section, with any such remains likely relating to post-medieval settlement and agricultural activity and ranging in importance from Negligible to Low.

6.16. Mitigation

- 6.16.1. National planning policies and planning guidance, NPF4 (2023), HEPS (HES 2019) and PAN2/2011 (Scottish Government 2011), as well as the local planning policies for Highland Council as outlined in this report (Section 2.4), require a mitigation response that is designed to take cognisance of the possible impacts upon heritage assets, both known and potential, by a proposed development and avoid, minimise or offset any such impacts as appropriate. Detailed mitigation proposals will be prepared for the project by SSEN-Transmission's heritage consultants, using this baseline data. Embedded, secondary and tertiary mitigation recommendations are included within Chapter 12: Cultural Heritage of the EIA Report.

Direct Impacts

- 6.16.2. Overall mitigation recommendations will be proposed and implemented in advance of any works and agreed with THC HET through a Written Scheme of Investigation. Broad mitigation recommendations for known heritage assets are presented in **Appendix 5**, with demarcation and micro-siting of infrastructure proposed in the first instance, and subsequent recommendations if this is not possible.
- 6.16.3. AOC Archaeology Group provided the raw, unprocessed survey data to ERM for use by SSEN-Transmission and their contractors during the initial ground investigations on 11 September 2024, works for which commenced while the walkover survey was ongoing and the report was in preparation.
- 6.16.4. With regard to the archaeological potential for unknown remains, this assessment has identified areas across the alignment where the density or paucity of archaeological remains can be seen as an indicator of the likely potential for the presence of similar remains. However, the absence of heritage assets within portions of the survey corridor should not be considered to be indicative of there being no archaeological potential. Peat accumulation, particularly in the northern extent across the Dunbeath to Spittal regions, may obscure archaeological remains, and the dense vegetation observed across certain portions of the alignment – most notably in the Urchany region between Towers 215-221 – most certainly cover and obscure the existing known upstanding archaeology, and the as-yet unknown archaeology.
- 6.16.5. Dependent on the final layout and type of infrastructure proposed for the Proposed Development, programmes of non-intrusive works such as additional walkover survey, LiDAR analysis and geophysical survey, may be useful in supplementing the existing baseline and informing on potential mitigation strategies that may require a more intrusive element, such as targeted or sample evaluation.
- 6.16.6. Broadly, tabulated archaeological potential values and judged levels of significance of any such remains are indicated below in Table 2, separated into the alignment Sections and the arbitrary sub-sections used above to present the walkover survey results.

Table 2: Archaeological Potential for As-yet Unknown Remains Across the Proposed Alignment and the Potential Thereof

| Section | Sub-section Tower Range | Potential of Encountering Hitherto Unknown Archaeological Remains | Potential Importance |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| A1.1 (North Towers 1-24) | 1-14 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Medium potential for post-medieval remains; Low potential for remains of other periods. | Negligible/Low |
| A1.1 (North Towers 1-24) | 14-24 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low potential for remains of any period. | Negligible/Low |
| A1.2 (North Towers 25-59) | 24-31 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low potential for remains of any period. | Negligible/Low |
| A1.2 (North Towers 25-59) | 31-43 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low to Medium potential for post-medieval remains; Low potential for remains of other periods. | Negligible/Low |
| A1.2 (North Towers 25-59) | 43-59 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Medium potential for post-medieval remains; Low potential for remains of other periods. | Negligible/Low |
| A1.3 (North Towers 60-63) | 60-61 (E side of A9) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> High potential for post-medieval remains, Medium potential for prehistoric remains; Low potential for remains of other periods.. | Low |
| A1.3 (North Towers 60-63) | 62-63 (W side of A9) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Medium potential for post-medieval remains; Low potential for other remains. | Negligible/Low |
| A1.4 (North Towers 64-146) | 63-74 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Medium potential for post-medieval remains; Low potential for remains of other periods. | Negligible/Low |
| A1.4 (North Towers 64-146) | 75-81 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Medium potential for prehistoric and post-medieval remains; Low potential for remains of other periods. | Potentially up to High for prehistoric remains; up to Low for post-medieval remains |
| A1.4 (North Towers 64-146) | 82-87 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Medium potential for prehistoric remains; Low potential for remains of other periods. | Potentially up to High for prehistoric remains; up to Low for post-medieval remains |
| A1.4 (North Towers 64-146) | 87-107 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low potential for remains of any period. | Negligible/Low |
| A1.4 (North Towers 64-146) | 107-146 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Medium to High potential for prehistoric and post-medieval remains in and around the glens; Low potential for remains of any period in the upland moorland areas. | Negligible to Medium |

| Section | Sub-section Tower Range | Potential of Encountering Hitherto Unknown Archaeological Remains | Potential Importance |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
| A1.5 (North Towers 147-202) | 147-161 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medium potential for prehistoric and post-medieval remains within Strath Ullie; • Low potential for remains of other periods elsewhere. | Potentially up to High for prehistoric; up to Low for post-medieval |
| A1.5 (North Towers 147-202) | 162-192 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medium potential for prehistoric and post-medieval remains; • Low potential for remains of other periods. | Negligible to Medium |
| A1.5 (North Towers 147-202) | 193-201 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low potential for remains of any period. | Negligible. |
| B1.1 (North Towers 203-250) | 203-236 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medium potential for prehistoric and post-medieval remains within the Loch Brora basin; • Low potential for remains of any period in upland areas, | Negligible to Low. |
| B1.1 (North Towers 203-250) | 237-250 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High potential for prehistoric and post-medieval remains within the clearings in the commercial forestry plantations; • Low potential for remains of other periods elsewhere. | Negligible to Low. |
| B1.2 (North Towers 251-297) | 251-268 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medium/High potential between Towers 258 and 261 for prehistoric and post-medieval remains; • Low/Medium potential for post-medieval remains in Strath Fleet. | Negligible to Low |
| B1.2 (North Towers 251-297) | 269-297 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medium potential for prehistoric and post-medieval remains between Towers 271-276; • Low potential for remains of any period elsewhere. | Negligible to Low |
| c1.1 (South Towers 1-24) | 1-24 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High potential for prehistoric remains between Towers 21-22; • Medium potential for post-medieval remains around the post-medieval farmsteads. • Low potential for remains of other periods elsewhere. | Potentially up to High for prehistoric; up to Low for post-medieval |
| C1.2 (South Towers 25-37) | 25-35 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low potential for remains of any period. | Negligible to Low |
| D1.1 (South Towers 38-99) | 38-99 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medium potential between Towers 89-90 and 94-99 around known post-medieval settlement areas; • Low to Medium potential for prehistoric and post-medieval remains between Towers 5-62; • Low potential for remains of other periods elsewhere. | Negligible to Low |

| Section | Sub-section Tower Range | Potential of Encountering Hitherto Unknown Archaeological Remains | Potential Importance |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|
| D1.2 (South Towers 100-150) | 100-129 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low potential for remains of any period. | Negligible to Low |
| D1.2 (South Towers 100-150) | 130-150 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Medium potential for prehistoric and post-medieval remains between Towers 130-140; Low potential for remains of any period between Towers 141-150. | Negligible to Medium |
| E1.1 (South Towers 151-199) | 151-199 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Medium potential for post-medieval remains in areas outwith forestry plantations; Low potential for remains of any period elsewhere. | Negligible to Low |
| E1.2 (South Towers 200-299) | 200-229 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Medium to High potential for prehistoric remains between Towers 214 and 221, with Higher potential around the Towers 219 and 220 areas; Low potential for remains of any period elsewhere. | Negligible to High |
| E1.3 (South Towers | 230-235 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low potential for remains of any period. | Negligible to Low |

6.16.7. In addition to the asset-specific mitigation advice set out in **Appendix 5** it is considered that the following areas may require further evaluation given their archaeological potential (summarised from Tables 15 and 16 of **Appendix 5**):

- general archaeological evaluation of groundworks areas between North Towers 1 and 13 recommended given the density of assets and hospitable environment;
- general archaeological evaluation of groundworks areas between North Towers 57 to 61 recommended given the density of assets and hospitable environment;
- general archaeological evaluation of groundworks areas between North Towers 107 and 116 recommended given the density of assets and hospitable environment;
- general archaeological evaluation of groundworks areas between North Towers 125 and 128 recommended given the density of assets and hospitable environment;
- general archaeological evaluation of groundworks areas between North Tower 80 and Allt an Learanaich burn to the NE of Tower 81 recommended given the density of assets and hospitable environment;
- general archaeological evaluation of groundworks areas between North Tower 171 and Sletdale burn SW of Tower 188 recommended given the density of assets;
- general archaeological evaluation of groundworks areas between North Towers 215 and 220 recommended given the density of assets;
- general archaeological evaluation of groundworks areas between North Tower 242 and Allt nan Sgeith burn to the SW recommended given the density of assets;
- general archaeological evaluation and/or monitoring during all groundworks between North Towers 258 and 261 (c 100m SW of) given the density of assets;
- general archaeological evaluation of groundworks areas between North Towers 271 and river Strath Carnan recommended;
- metal detector survey prior to ground- breaking works in relation to Carbisdale battlefield (Asset 103; BTL19) recommended;
- general archaeological evaluation of groundworks areas between South Towers 129 and 140 recommended given the density of assets and hospitable environment; and
- general archaeological evaluation of groundworks areas between South Towers 214 and 221 recommended given the density of assets and hospitable environment.

Setting Sensitivity Assessment

- 6.16.8. A baseline description of the settings of designated heritage assets and an assessment of their sensitivity to change have been presented in detail in **Appendix 3** for all assets which were accessible for the assessment.
- 6.16.9. General design refinement advice was suggested for assets where potentially significant adverse effects were considered possible (**Appendix 5, Table 1**). This advice has been considered within the wider iterative design process of the EIA Report, which will be detailed more thoroughly therein.
- 6.16.10. Policy 7o) and ALGAO (Mann 2023) have noted the need for public or community engagement in archaeology, and Our Past, Our Future: The Strategy for Scotland's Historic Environment states that their mission is to '*sustain and enhance the benefits of Scotland's historic environment, for people and communities now and into the future*' (HES 2023, 6). The scope and requirement of any programme of public benefit should be agreed in consultation with the Highland HET, the client, and the contractor

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OS. 1877. Caithness XXVIII, Surveyed: 1871, Published: 1877

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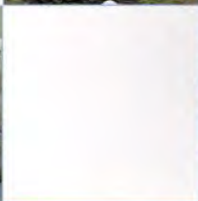
tel: 0131 555 4425 | **fax:** 0131 555 4426 | **e-mail:** edinburgh@aocarchaeology.com

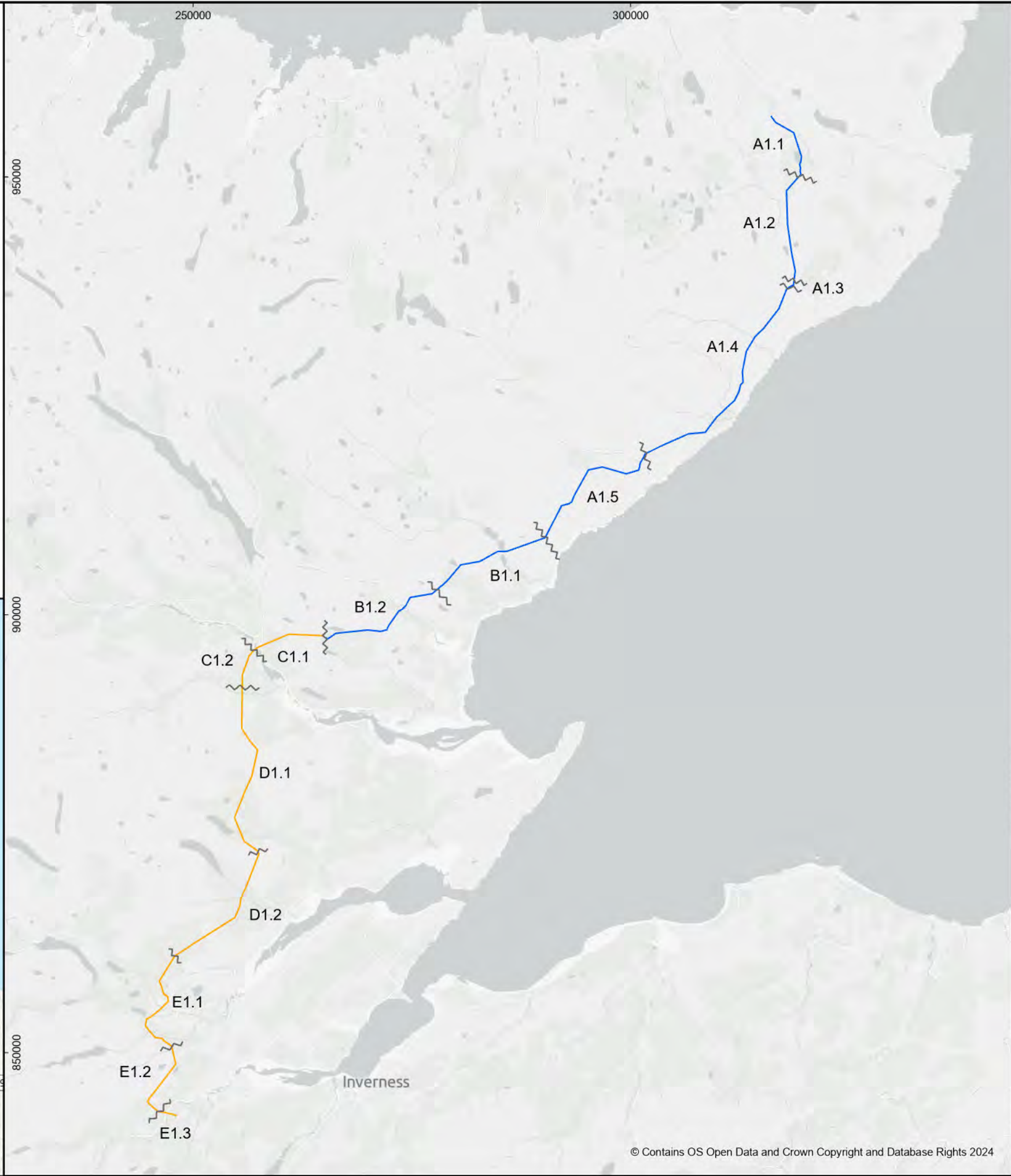
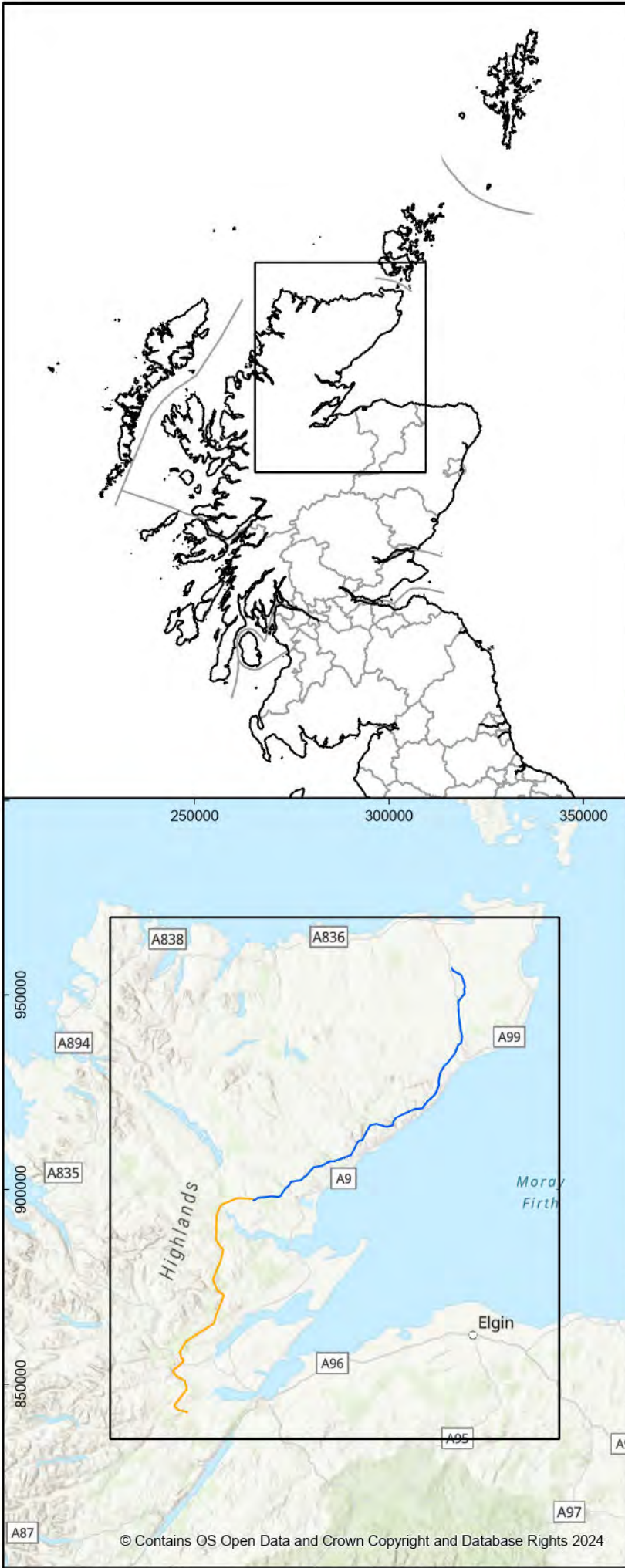
www.aocarchaeology.com



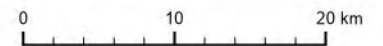
Beauly to Loch Buidhe to Spittal 400Kv Overhead Line, Highland: Walkover Survey and Setting Sensitivity Assessment: Figures

AOC Project Number: 27571

June 2025





| | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|---|
| Figure | | 1 |
| Site Location Plan and Proposed Development Alignment | | |
| Legend — North 2C Alignment: Loch Buidhe to Spittal — South 2C Alignment: Beaulie to Loch Buidhe ~ Sub-section Division | | |
| FOR ERM 6th Floor 102 West Port Edinburgh EH3 9DN | | |
| Drawn/checked: | SW/SO | |
| DWG no: | 01/27571/WO/01/01 | |
| AOC Project No.: | 27571 | |
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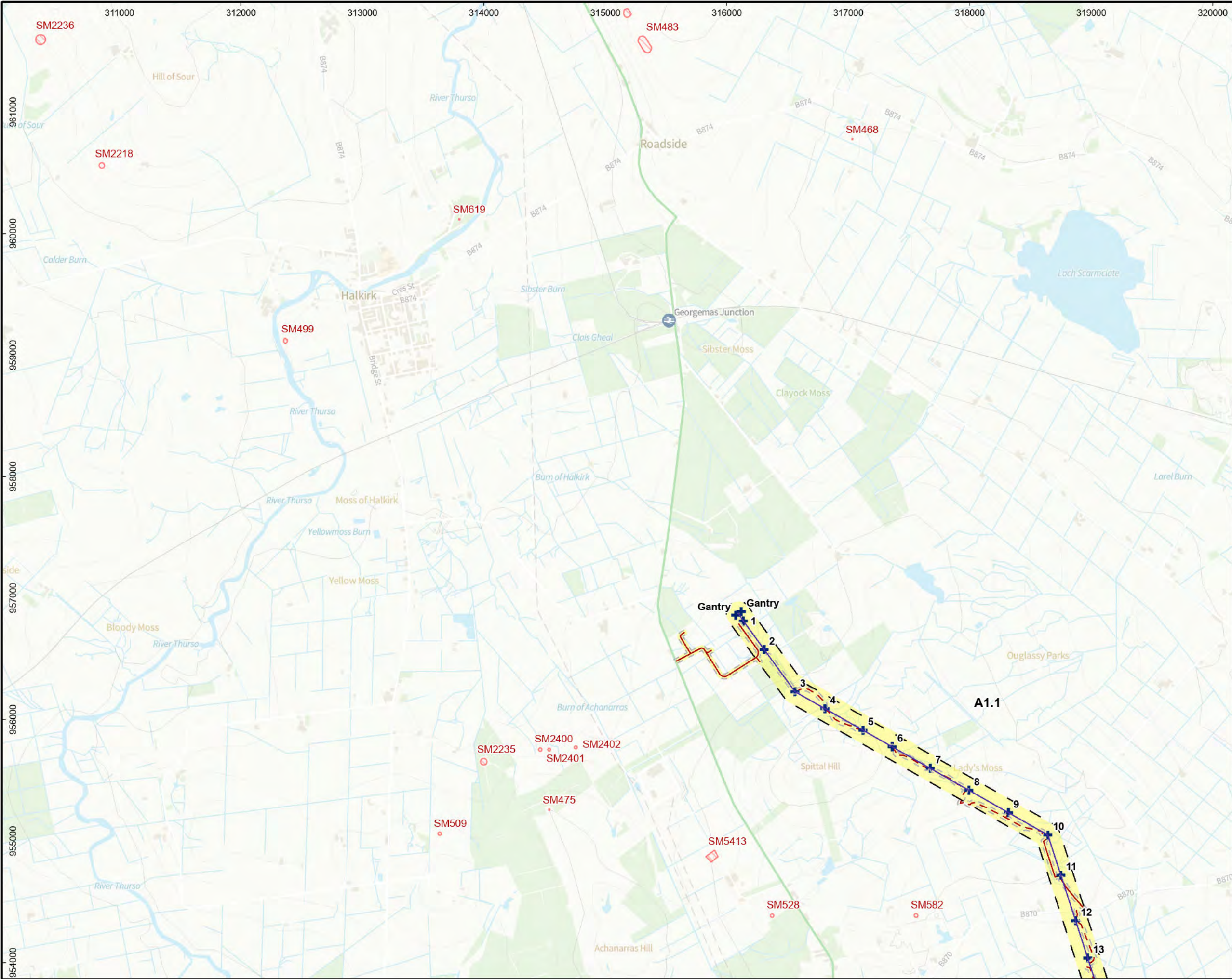


Figure2.1

Proposed Alignment and Assets for Setting Assessment

Legend

Scheduled Monument

Section Labels

- - 200m-wide Alignment Survey Corridor

... 40m-wide Access Track Survey Corridor

North Tower Location

North 2C Alignment (centre line)

Proposed Permanent Access Track - North

Proposed Temporary Access Track - North

Walkover Survey Extent

FOR

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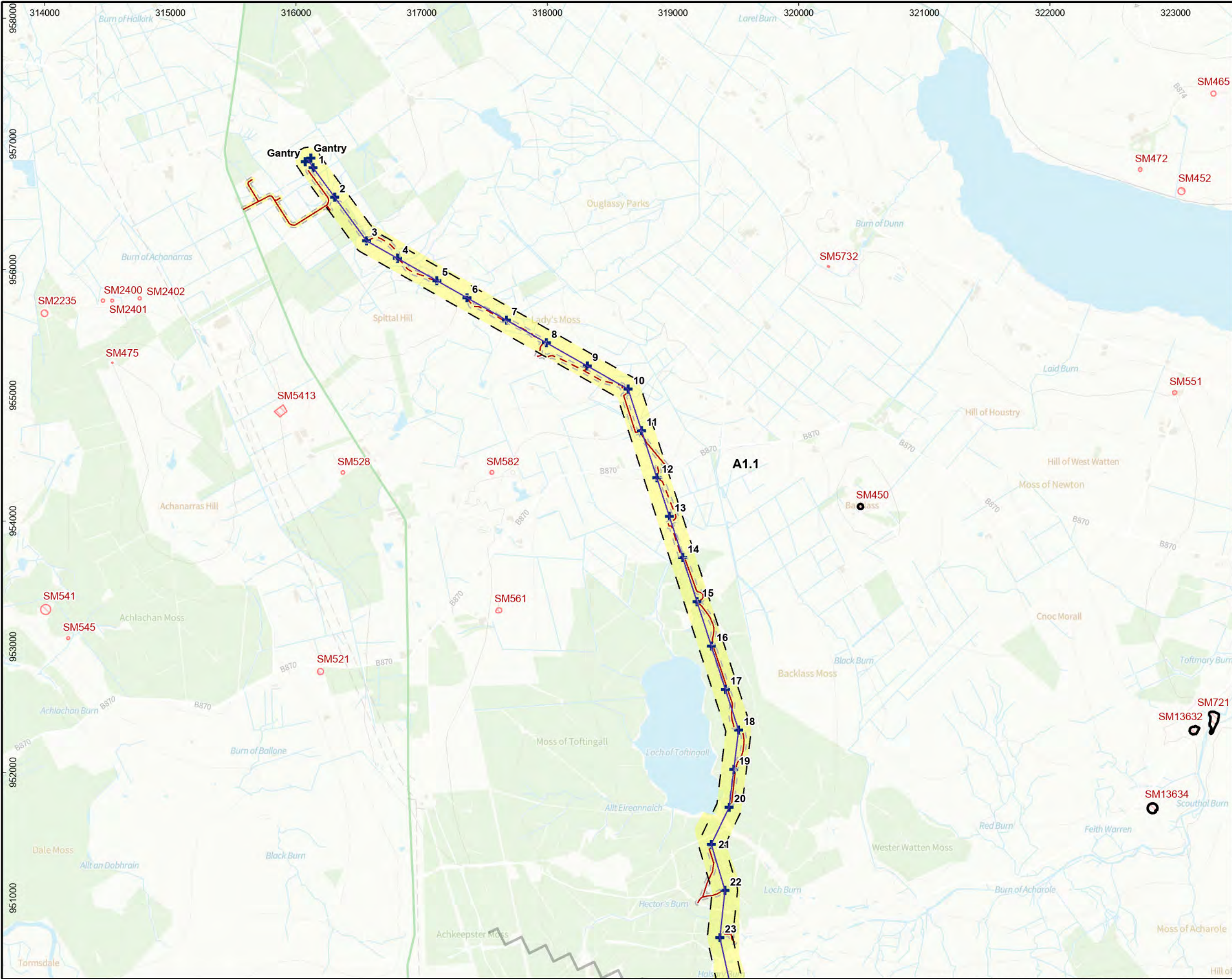


Figure2.2

Proposed Alignment and Assets for Setting Assessment

Legend

Assets Selected for Setting Assessment

Setting Assessment Not Required (after Initial Instruction)

Scheduled Monument

Section Division

Section Labels

- 200m-wide Alignment Survey Corridor

- 40m-wide Access Track Survey Corridor

North Tower Location

North 2C Alignment (centre line)

Proposed Permanent Access Track - North

Proposed Temporary Access Track - North

Walkover Survey Extent

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Projection: Transverse Mercator
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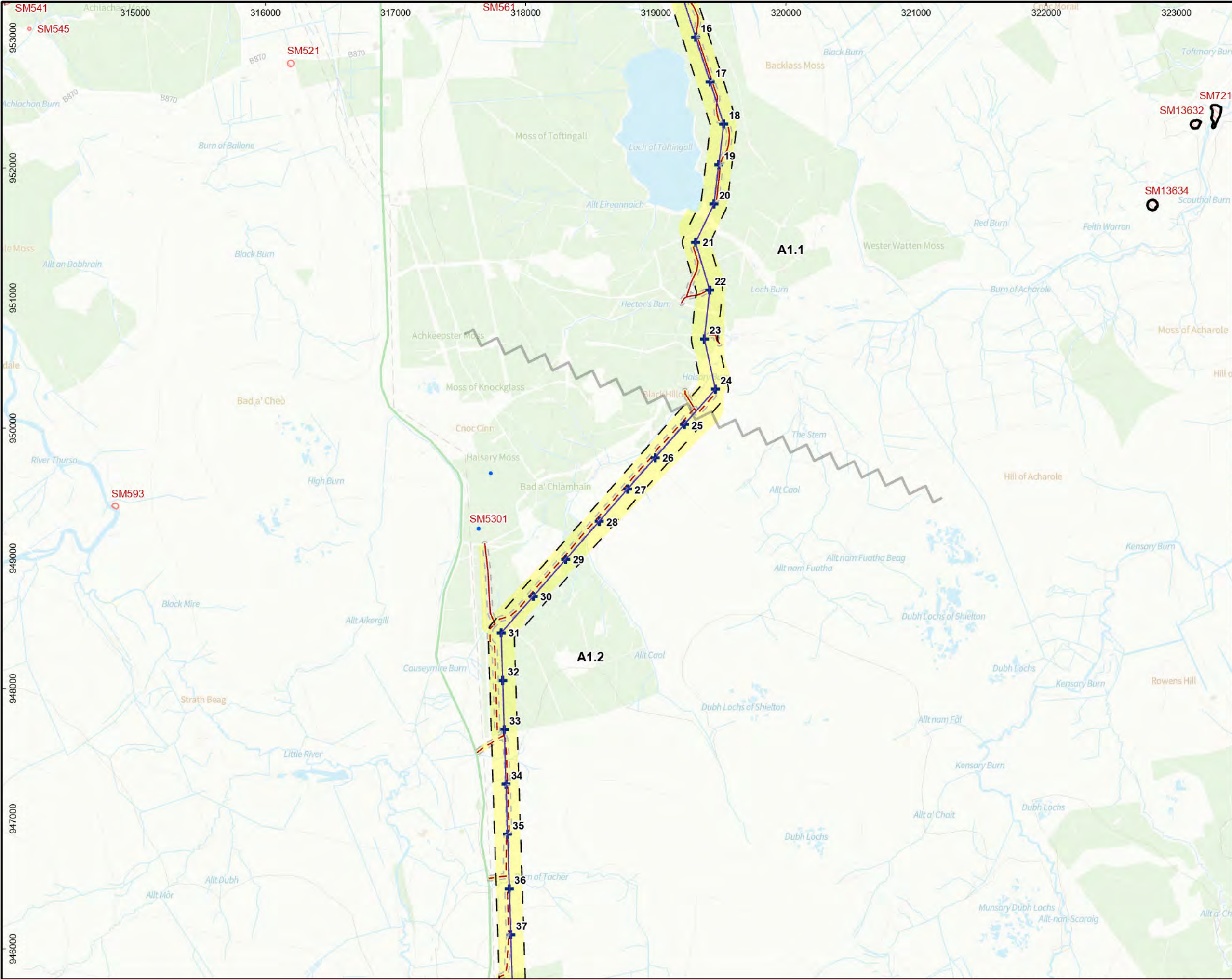


Figure2.3

Proposed Alignment and Assets for Setting Assessment

Legend

Assets Selected for Setting Assessment

Setting Assessment Undertaken

Setting Assessment Not Required (after Initial Instruction)

Scheduled Monument

Section Division

Section Labels

200m-wide Alignment Survey Corridor

40m-wide Access Track Survey Corridor

North Tower Location

North 2C Alignment (centre line)

Proposed Permanent Access Track - North

Proposed Temporary Access Track - North

Walkover Survey Extent

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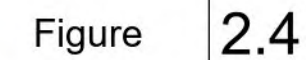
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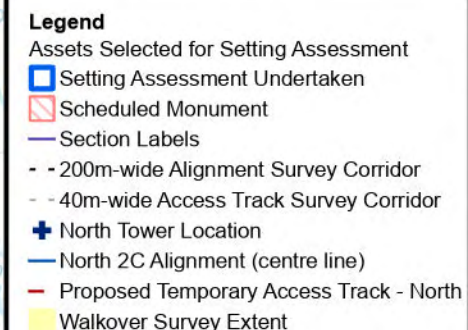
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Proposed Alignment and Assets for Setting Assessment



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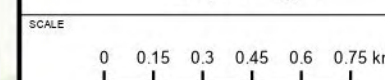
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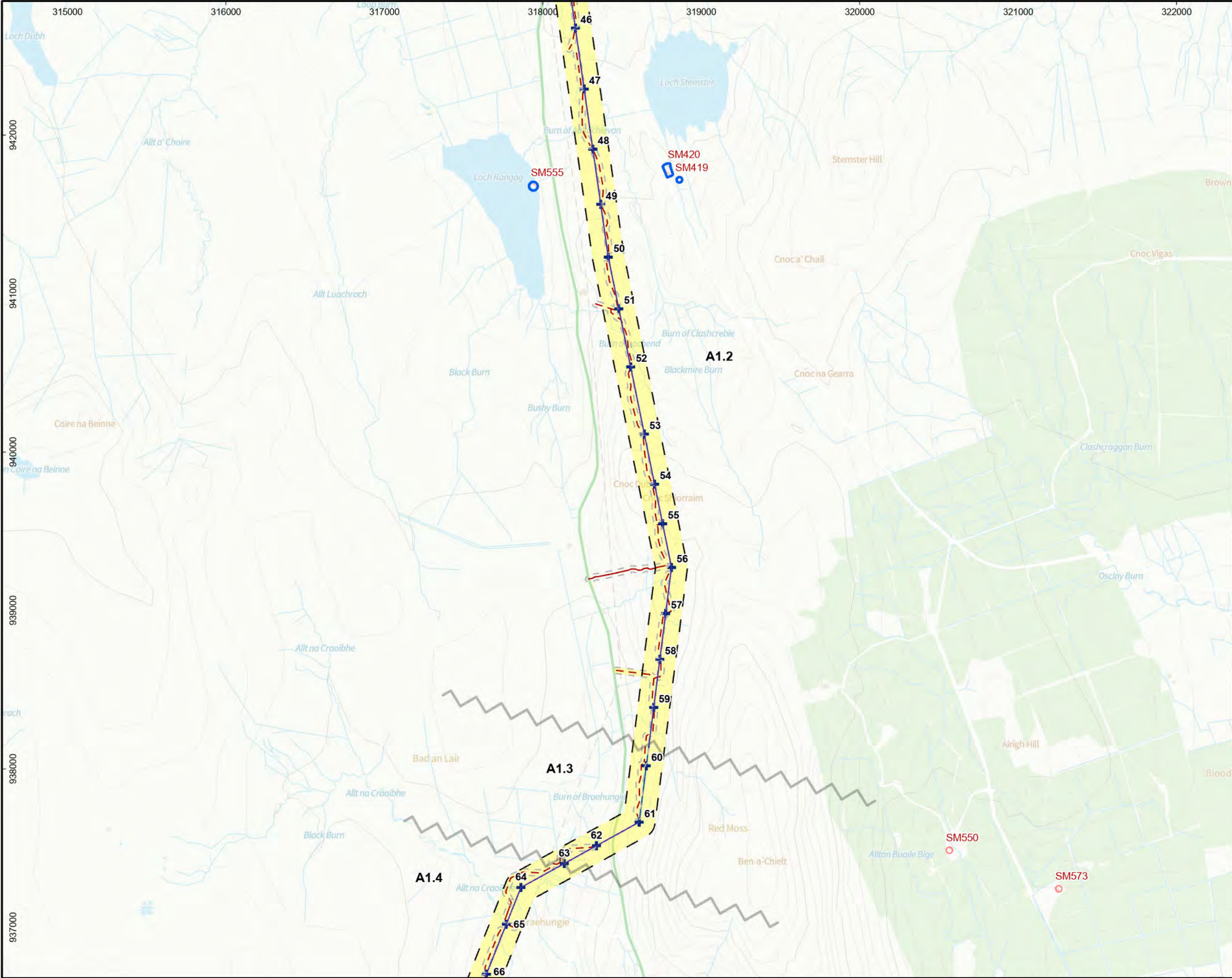


Figure2.5

Proposed Alignment and Assets for Setting Assessment

Legend

Assets Selected for Setting Assessment

Setting Assessment Undertaken

Scheduled Monument

Section Division

Section Labels

- 200m-wide Alignment Survey Corridor

- 40m-wide Access Track Survey Corridor

North Tower Location

North 2C Alignment (centre line)

Proposed Permanent Access Track - North

Proposed Temporary Access Track - North

Walkover Survey Extent

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SYSTEM

Coordinate System: British National Grid
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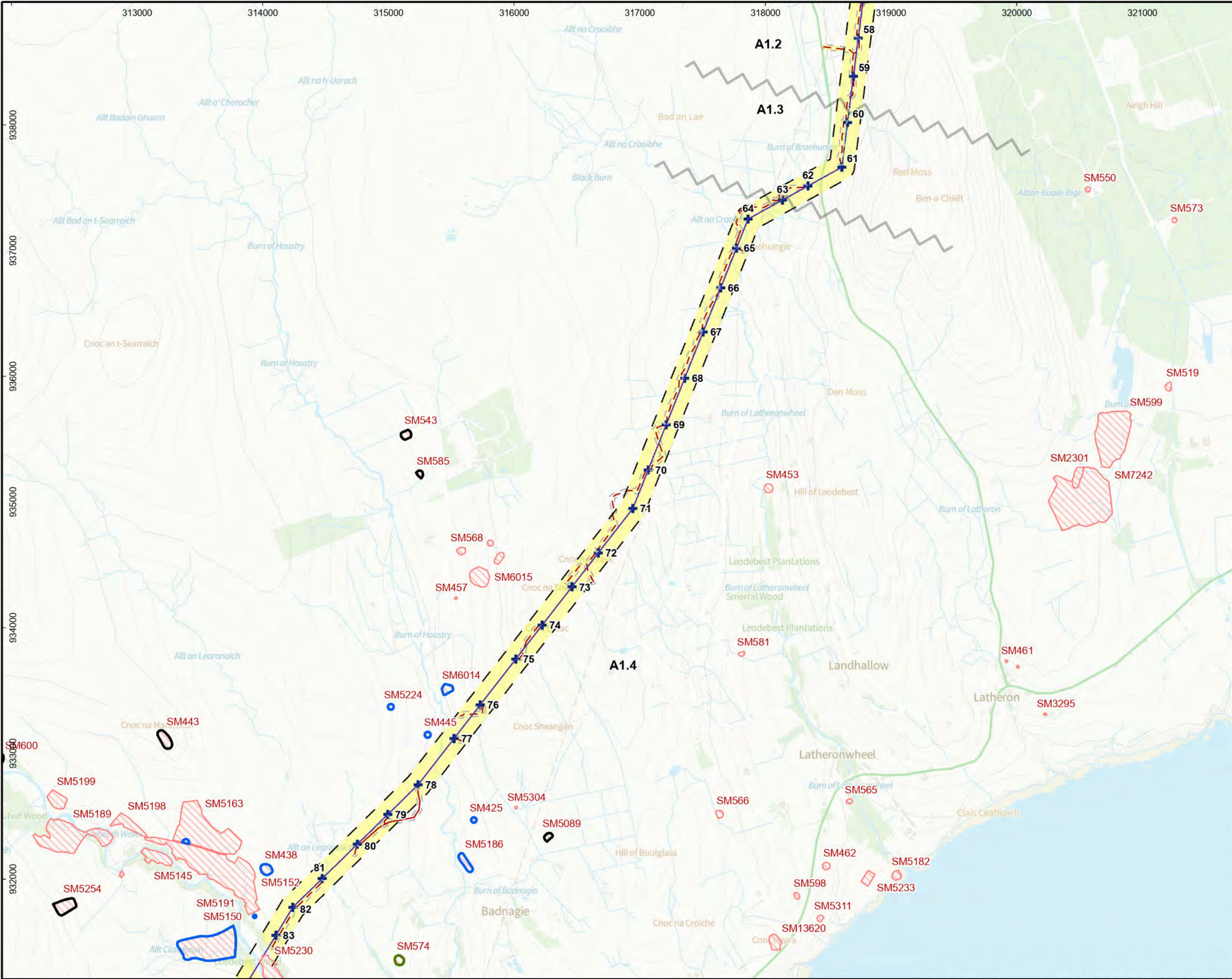


Figure2.6

Proposed Alignment and Assets for Setting Assessment

Legend

Assets Selected for Setting Assessment

Setting Assessment Undertaken

Setting Assessment Unable to be Undertaken

Setting Assessment Not Required (after Initial Instruction)

Scheduled Monument

Section Division

Section Labels

200m-wide Alignment Survey Corridor

40m-wide Access Track Survey Corridor

North Tower Location

North 2C Alignment (centre line)

Proposed Permanent Access Track - North

Proposed Temporary Access Track - North

Walkover Survey Extent

FOR

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North Arrow

SYSTEM

Coordinate System: British National Grid
Projection: Transverse Mercator
Datum: OSGB 1936

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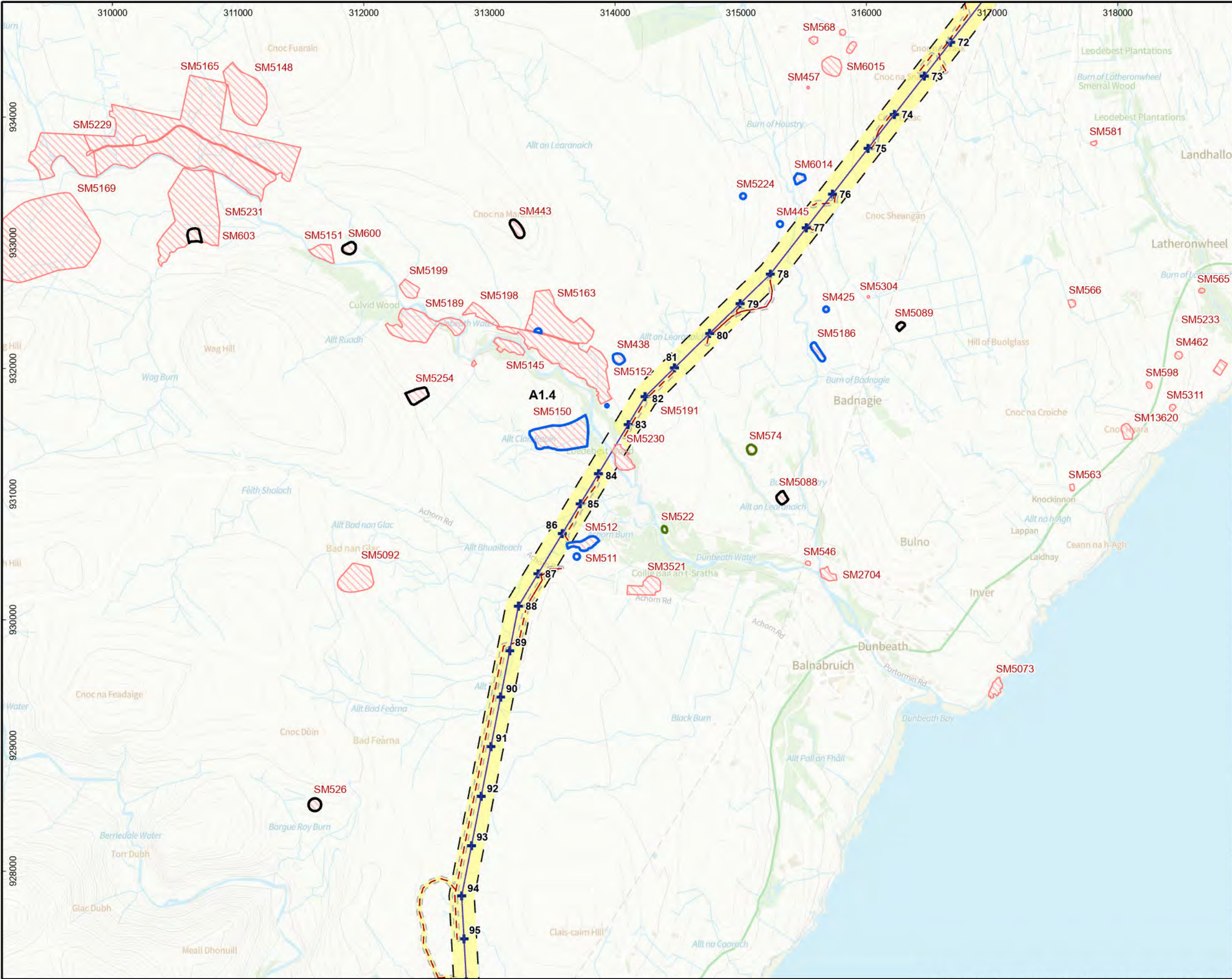


Figure2.7

Proposed Alignment and Assets for Setting Assessment

Legend

Assets Selected for Setting Assessment

Setting Assessment Undertaken

Setting Assessment Unable to be Undertaken

Setting Assessment Not Required (after Initial Instruction)

Scheduled Monument

Section Labels

- 200m-wide Alignment Survey Corridor

- 40m-wide Access Track Survey Corridor

North Tower Location

North 2C Alignment (centre line)

Proposed Permanent Access Track - North

Proposed Temporary Access Track - North

Walkover Survey Extent

FOR

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6th Floor
102 West Port
Edinburgh
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SYSTEM

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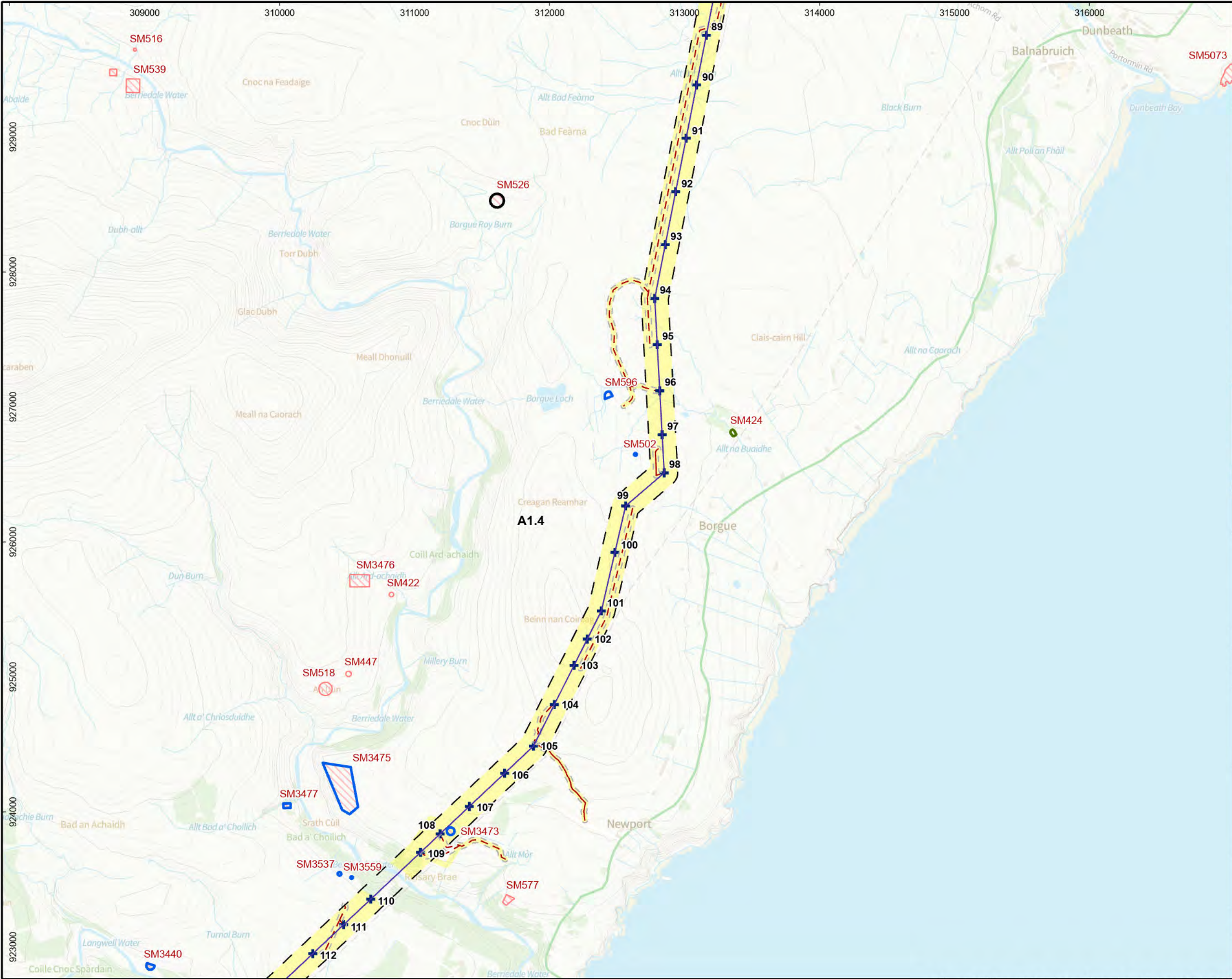


Figure2.8

Proposed Alignment and Assets for Setting Assessment

Legend

Assets Selected for Setting Assessment

Setting Assessment Undertaken

Setting Assessment Unable to be Undertaken

Setting Assessment Not Required (after Initial Instruction)

Scheduled Monument

Section Labels

- 200m-wide Alignment Survey Corridor

- 40m-wide Access Track Survey Corridor

North Tower Location

North 2C Alignment (centre line)

Proposed Permanent Access Track - North

Proposed Temporary Access Track - North

Walkover Survey Extent

FOR

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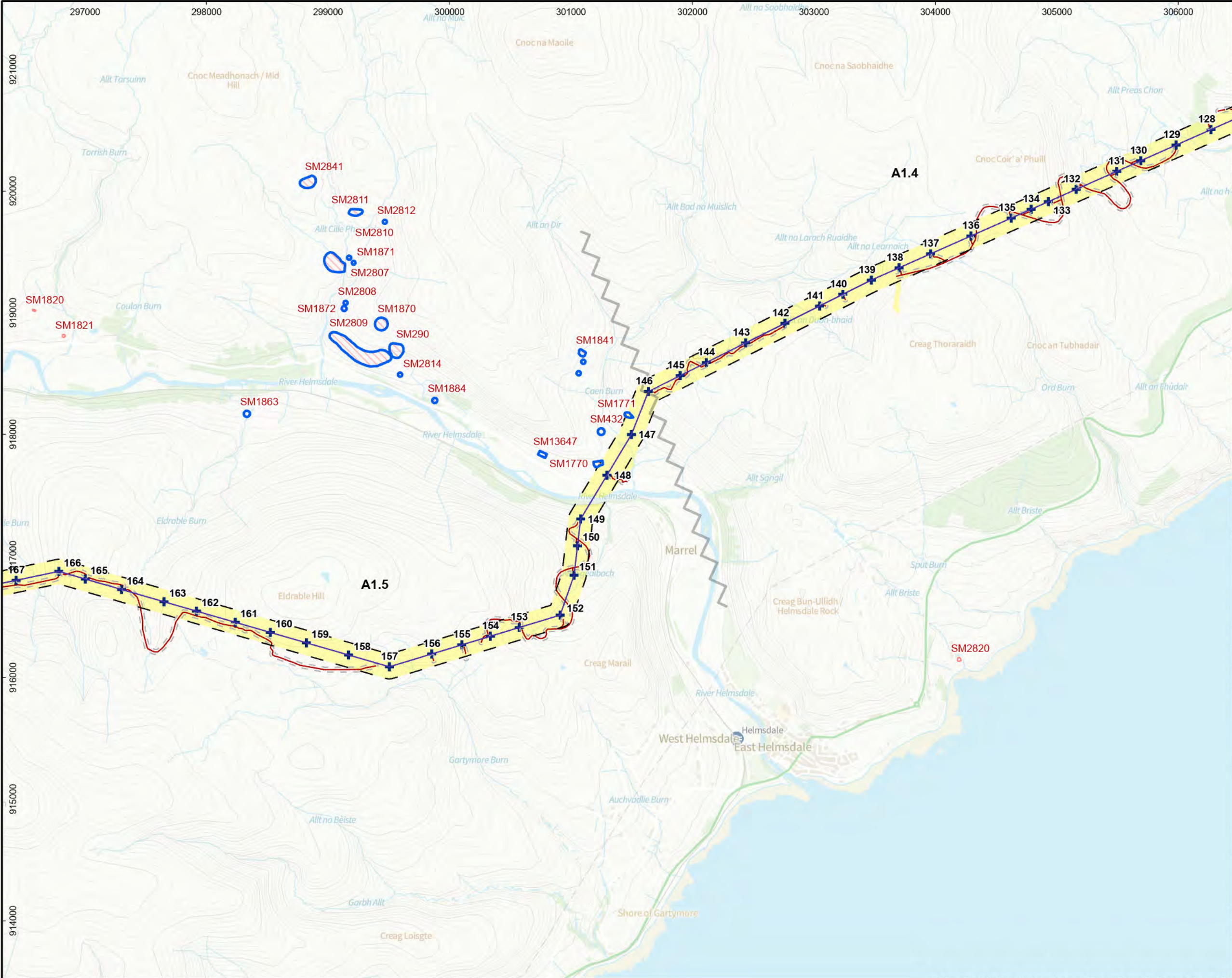


Figure2.11

Proposed Alignment and Assets for Setting Assessment

Legend

Assets Selected for Setting Assessment

Setting Assessment Undertaken

Scheduled Monument

Section Division

Section Labels

200m-wide Alignment Survey Corridor

40m-wide Access Track Survey Corridor

North Tower Location

North 2C Alignment (centre line)

Proposed Permanent Access Track - North

Proposed Temporary Access Track - North

Walkover Survey Extent

FOR

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EH3 9DN

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DWG no:

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AOC Project No.:

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Archaeology

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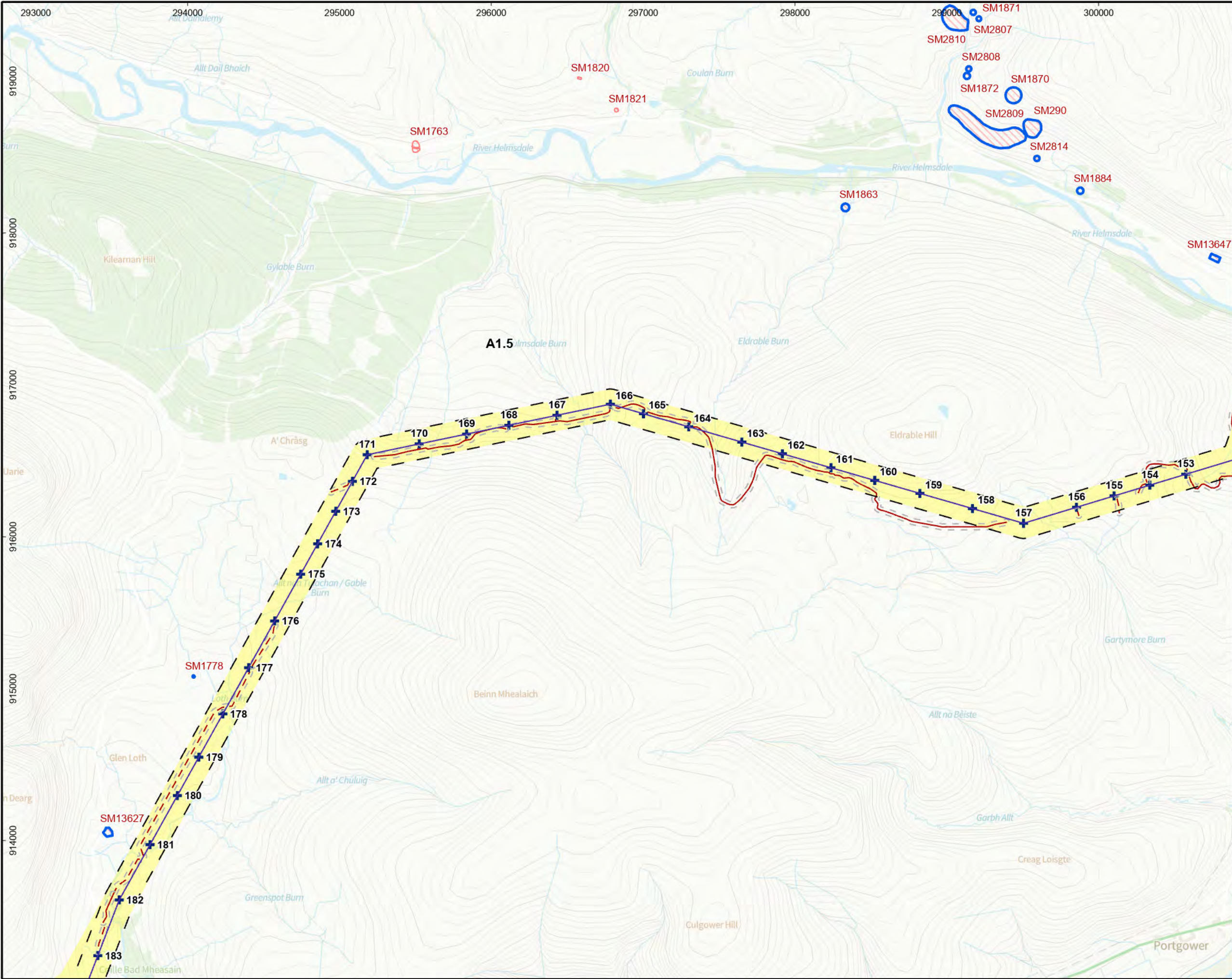


Figure2.12

Proposed Alignment and Assets for Setting Assessment

Legend

Assets Selected for Setting Assessment

Setting Assessment Undertaken

Scheduled Monument

Section Labels

- 200m-wide Alignment Survey Corridor

- 40m-wide Access Track Survey Corridor

North Tower Location

North 2C Alignment (centre line)

Proposed Permanent Access Track - North

Proposed Temporary Access Track - North

Walkover Survey Extent

FOR

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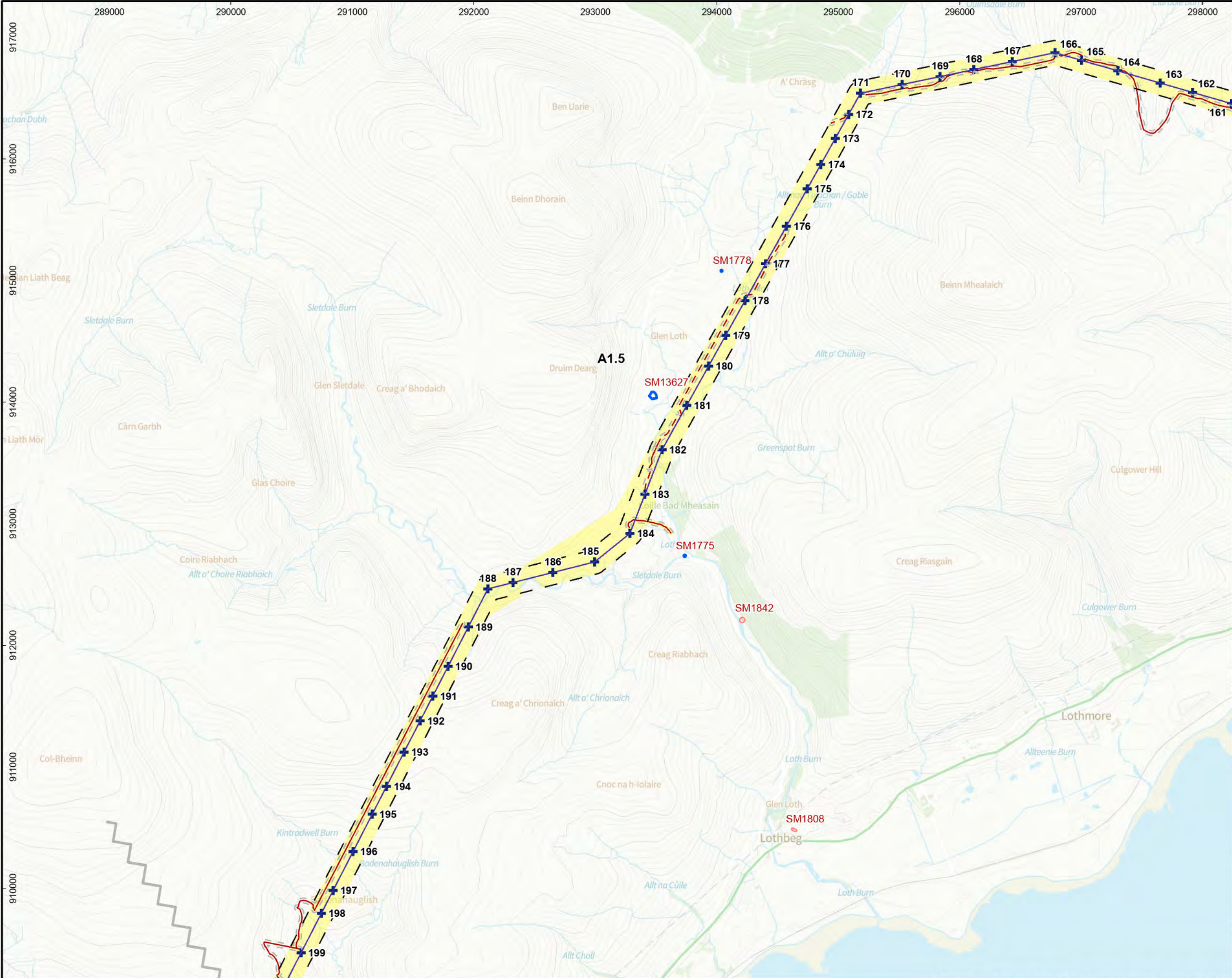


Figure2.13

Proposed Alignment and Assets for Setting Assessment

Legend

Assets Selected for Setting Assessment

Setting Assessment Undertaken

Scheduled Monument

Section Division

Section Labels

200m-wide Alignment Survey Corridor

40m-wide Access Track Survey Corridor

North Tower Location

North 2C Alignment (centre line)

Proposed Permanent Access Track - North

Proposed Temporary Access Track - North

Walkover Survey Extent

FOR

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Coordinate System: British National Grid
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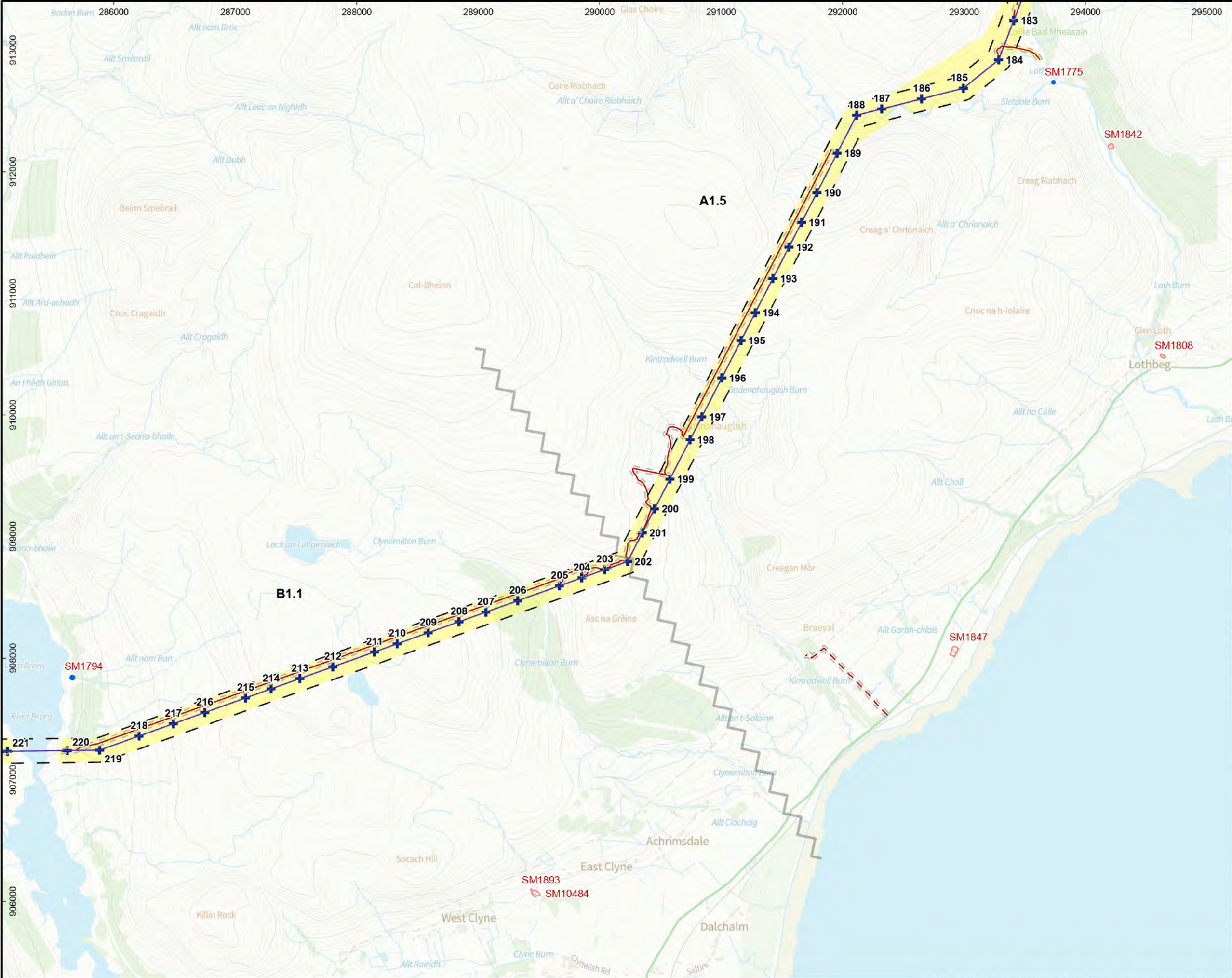


Figure2.14

Proposed Alignment and Assets for Setting Assessment

Legend

Assets Selected for Setting Assessment

Setting Assessment Undertaken

Scheduled Monument

Section Division

Section Labels

- 200m-wide Alignment Survey Corridor

- 40m-wide Access Track Survey Corridor

North Tower Location

North 2C Alignment (centre line)

Proposed Permanent Access Track - North

Proposed Temporary Access Track - North

Walkover Survey Extent

FOR

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102 West Port
Edinburgh
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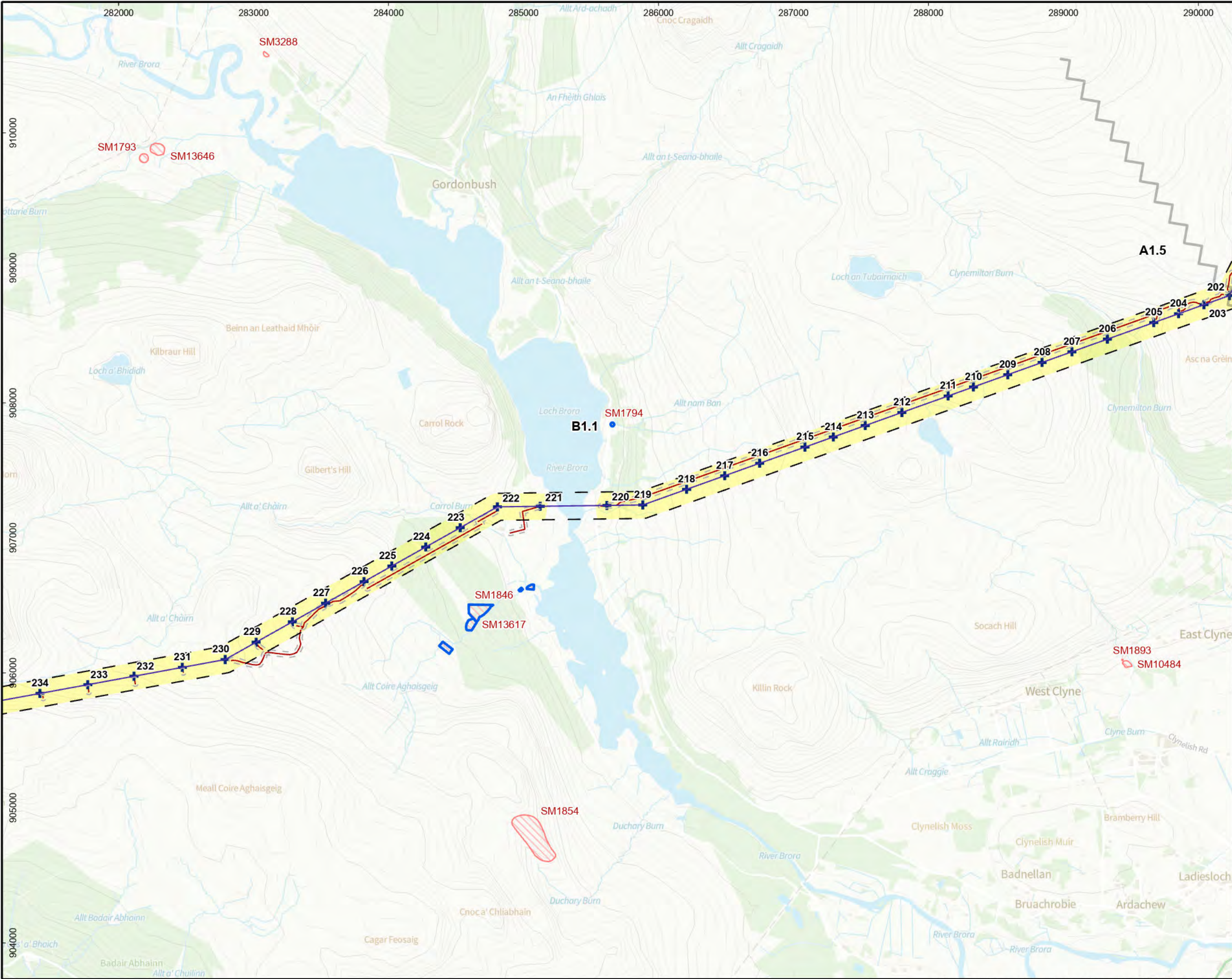


Figure2.15

Proposed Alignment and Assets for Setting Assessment

Legend

Assets Selected for Setting Assessment

Setting Assessment Undertaken

Scheduled Monument

Section Division

Section Labels

200m-wide Alignment Survey Corridor

40m-wide Access Track Survey Corridor

North Tower Location

North 2C Alignment (centre line)

Proposed Permanent Access Track - North

Proposed Temporary Access Track - North

Walkover Survey Extent

FOR

ERM
6th Floor
102 West Port
Edinburgh
EH3 9DN

Drawn/checked:

SW/SO

DWG no:

01/27571/WO/2/01

AOC Project No.:

27571

AOC

Archaeology Group

N

SYSTEM

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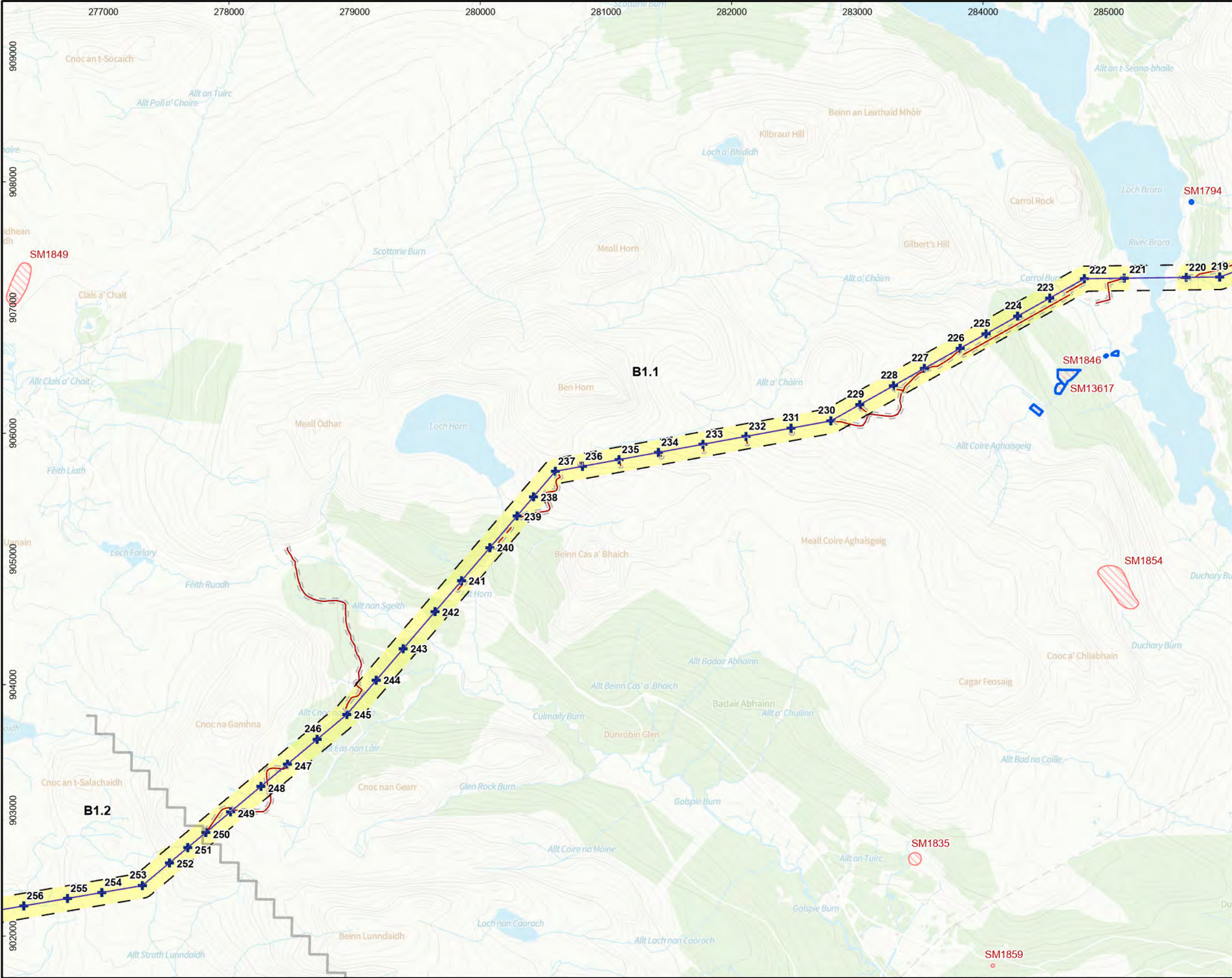


Figure2.16

Proposed Alignment and Assets for Setting Assessment

Legend

Assets Selected for Setting Assessment

Setting Assessment Undertaken

Scheduled Monument

Section Division

Section Labels

- - 200m-wide Alignment Survey Corridor

- - 40m-wide Access Track Survey Corridor

North Tower Location

North 2C Alignment (centre line)

Proposed Permanent Access Track - North

Proposed Temporary Access Track - North

Walkover Survey Extent

FOR

ERM
6th Floor
102 West Port
Edinburgh
EH3 9DN

Drawn/checked:

SW/SO

DWG no:

01/27571/WO/2/01

AOC Project No.:

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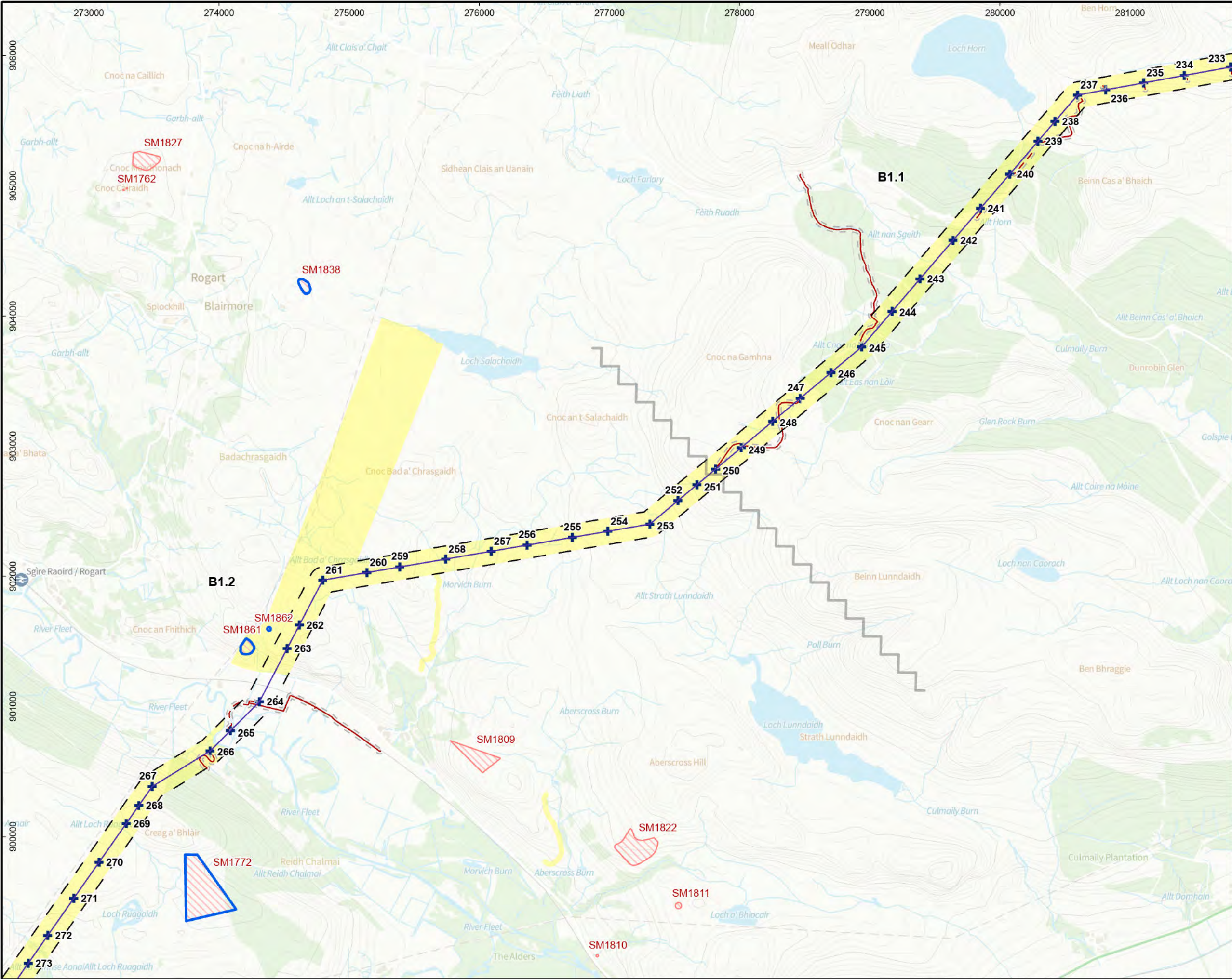
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km



Figure

2.17

Proposed Alignment and Assets for Setting Assessment

Legend

Assets Selected for Setting Assessment

Setting Assessment Undertaken

Scheduled Monument

Section Division

FOR

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102 West Port
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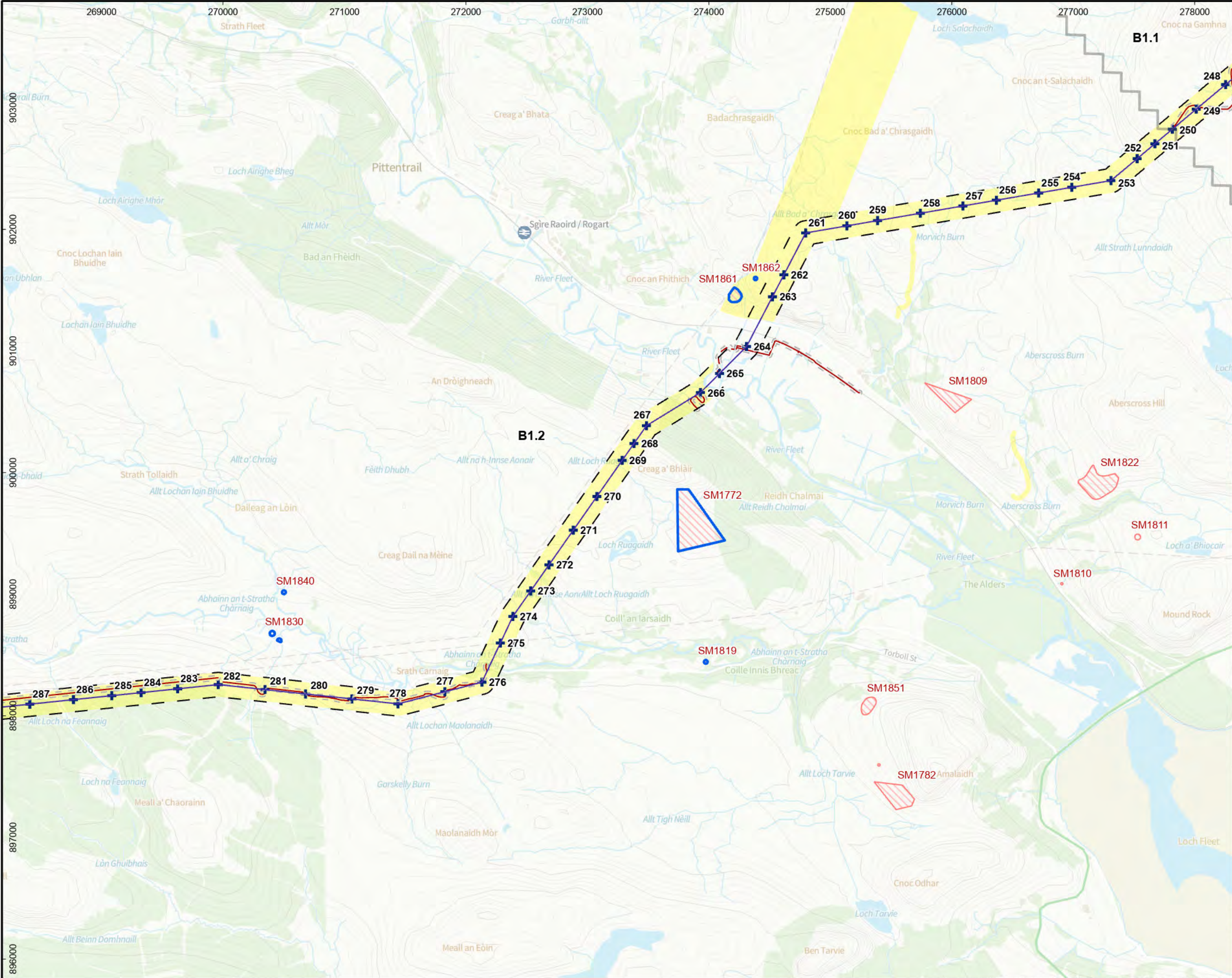
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0.8

1 km



Figure

2.18

Proposed Alignment and Assets for Setting Assessment

Legend

Assets Selected for Setting Assessment

Setting Assessment Undertaken

Scheduled Monument

Section DivisionFOR
ERM
6th Floor
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Coordinate System: British National Grid
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1 km

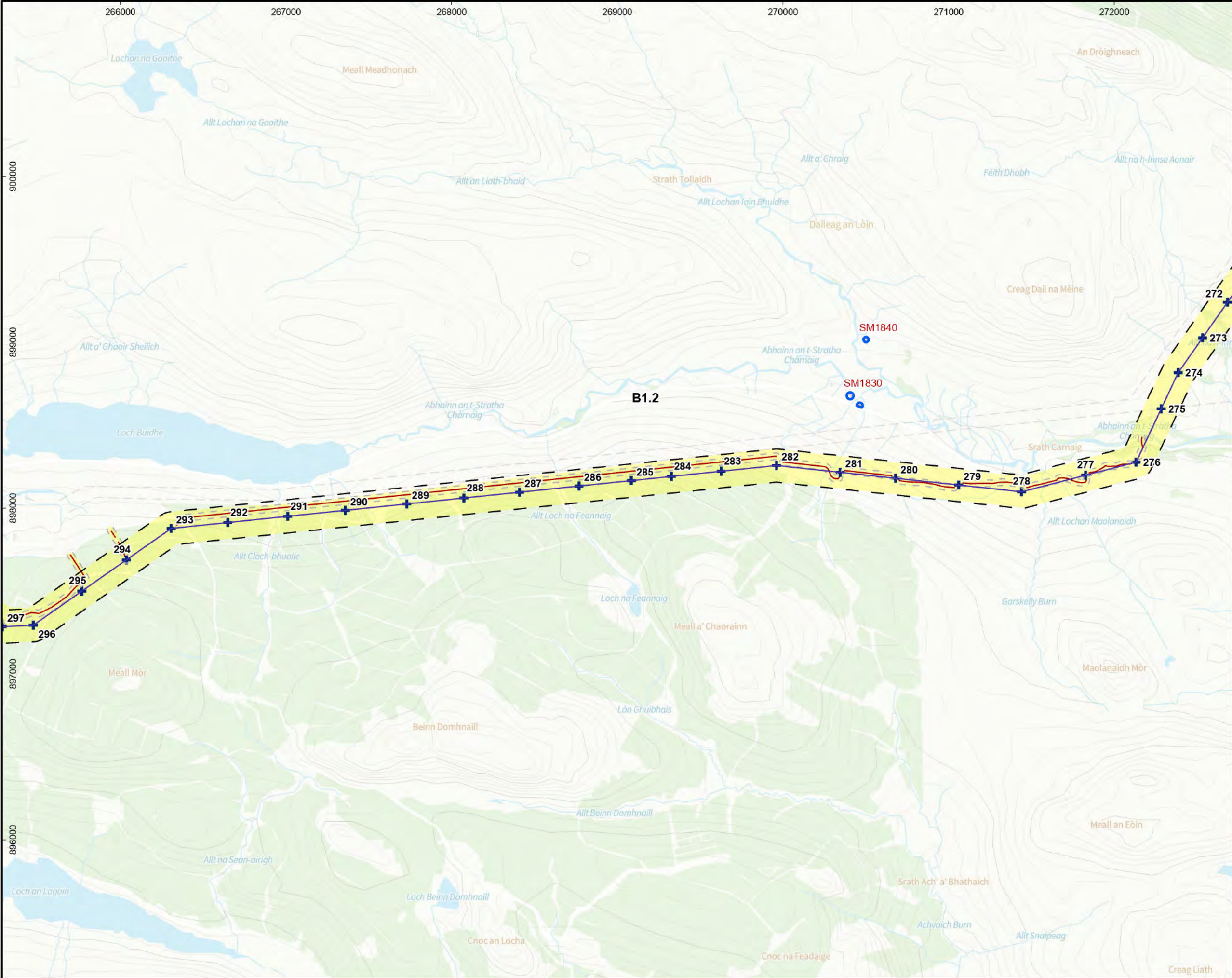


Figure2.19

Proposed Alignment and Assets for Setting Assessment

Legend

Assets Selected for Setting Assessment

Setting Assessment Undertaken

Scheduled Monument

Section Labels

- 200m-wide Alignment Survey Corridor

- 40m-wide Access Track Survey Corridor

North Tower Location

North 2C Alignment (centre line)

Proposed Permanent Access Track - North

Proposed Temporary Access Track - North

Walkover Survey Extent

FOR

ERM
6th Floor
102 West Port
Edinburgh
EH3 9DN

Drawn/checked:

SW/SO

DWG no:

01/27571/WO/2/01

AOC Project No.:

27571

AOC

Archaeology Group

SYSTEM

Coordinate System: British National Grid
Projection: Transverse Mercator
Datum: OSGB 1936

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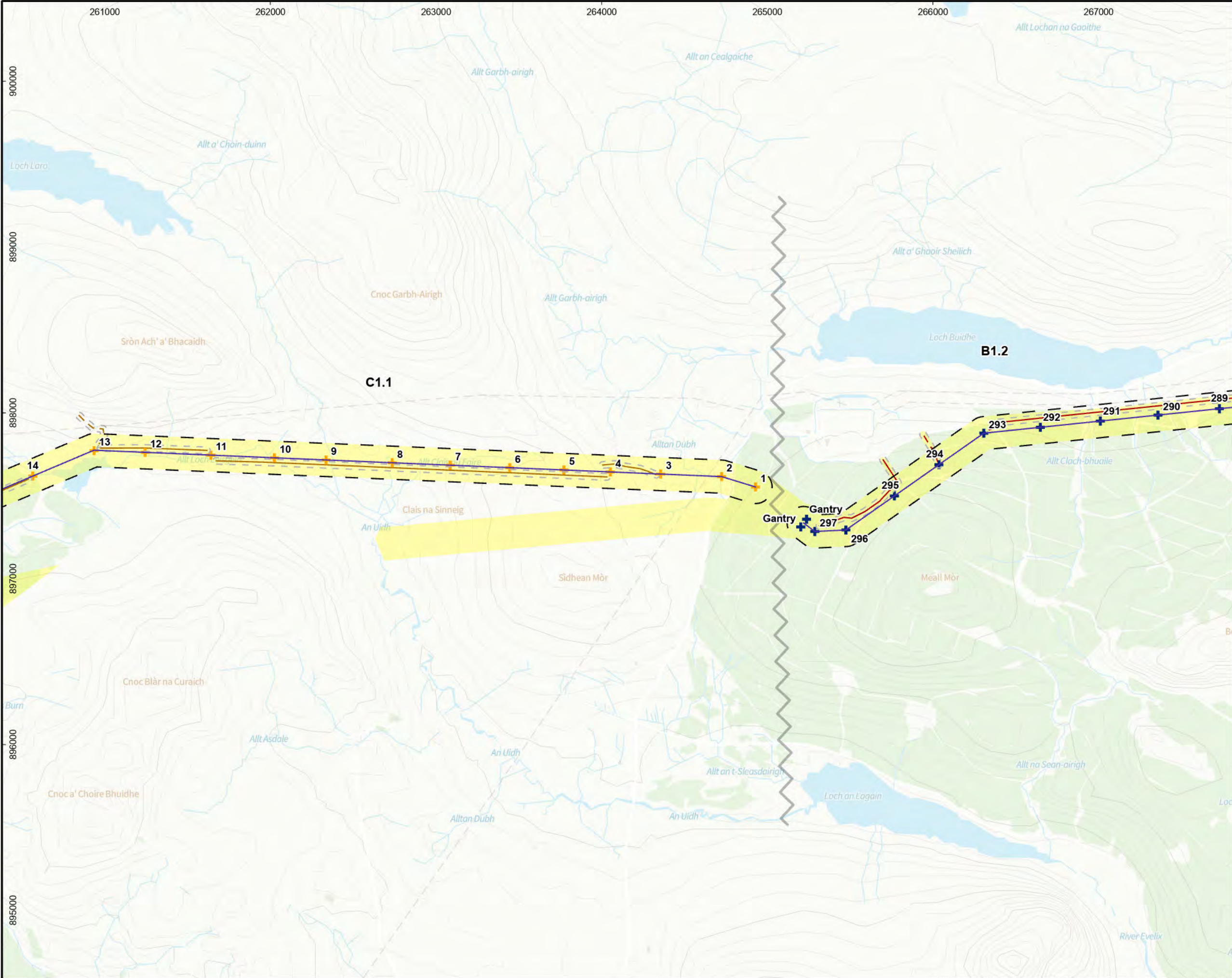


Figure2.20

Proposed Alignment and Assets for Setting Assessment

Legend

Section Division

Section Labels

- 200m-wide Alignment Survey Corridor

- 40m-wide Access Track Survey Corridor

North Tower Location

North 2C Alignment (centre line)

Proposed Permanent Access Track - North

Proposed Temporary Access Track - North

South Tower Location

Proposed Temporary Access Track - South

Proposed Permanent Access Track - South

South 2C Alignment (centre line)

Walkover Survey Extent

FOR

ERM
6th Floor
102 West Port
Edinburgh
EH3 9DN

Drawn/checked:

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AOC Project No.:

27571

AOC Archaeology Group

North Arrow

SYSTEM

Coordinate System: British National Grid
Projection: Transverse Mercator
Datum: OSGB 1936

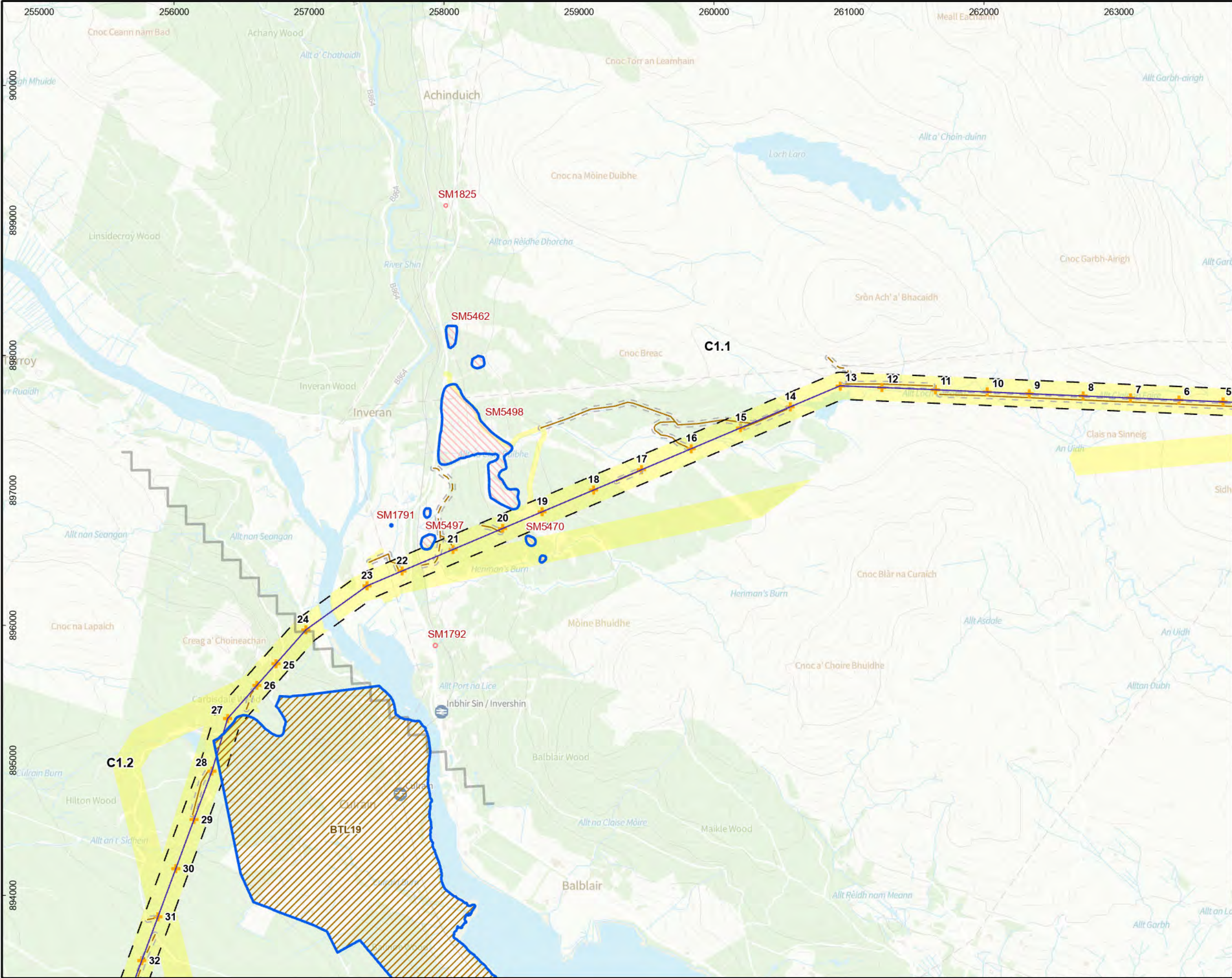
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SCALE

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Figure

2.21

Proposed Alignment and Assets for Setting Assessment

Legend

Assets Selected for Setting Assessment

Setting Assessment Undertaken

Scheduled Monument

Inventory Battlefield

Section Division

Section Labels

- 200m-wide Alignment Survey Corridor

- 40m-wide Access Track Survey Corridor

South Tower Location

Proposed Temporary Access Track - South

Proposed Permanent Access Track - South

South 2C Alignment (centre line)

Walkover Survey Extent

FOR

ERM
6th Floor
102 West Port
Edinburgh
EH3 9DN

Drawn/checked:

SW/SO

DWG no:

01/27571/WO/2/01

AOC Project No.:

27571

AOC

Archaeology Group

N

SYSTEM

Coordinate System: British National Grid
Projection: Transverse Mercator
Datum: OSGB 1936

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SCALE

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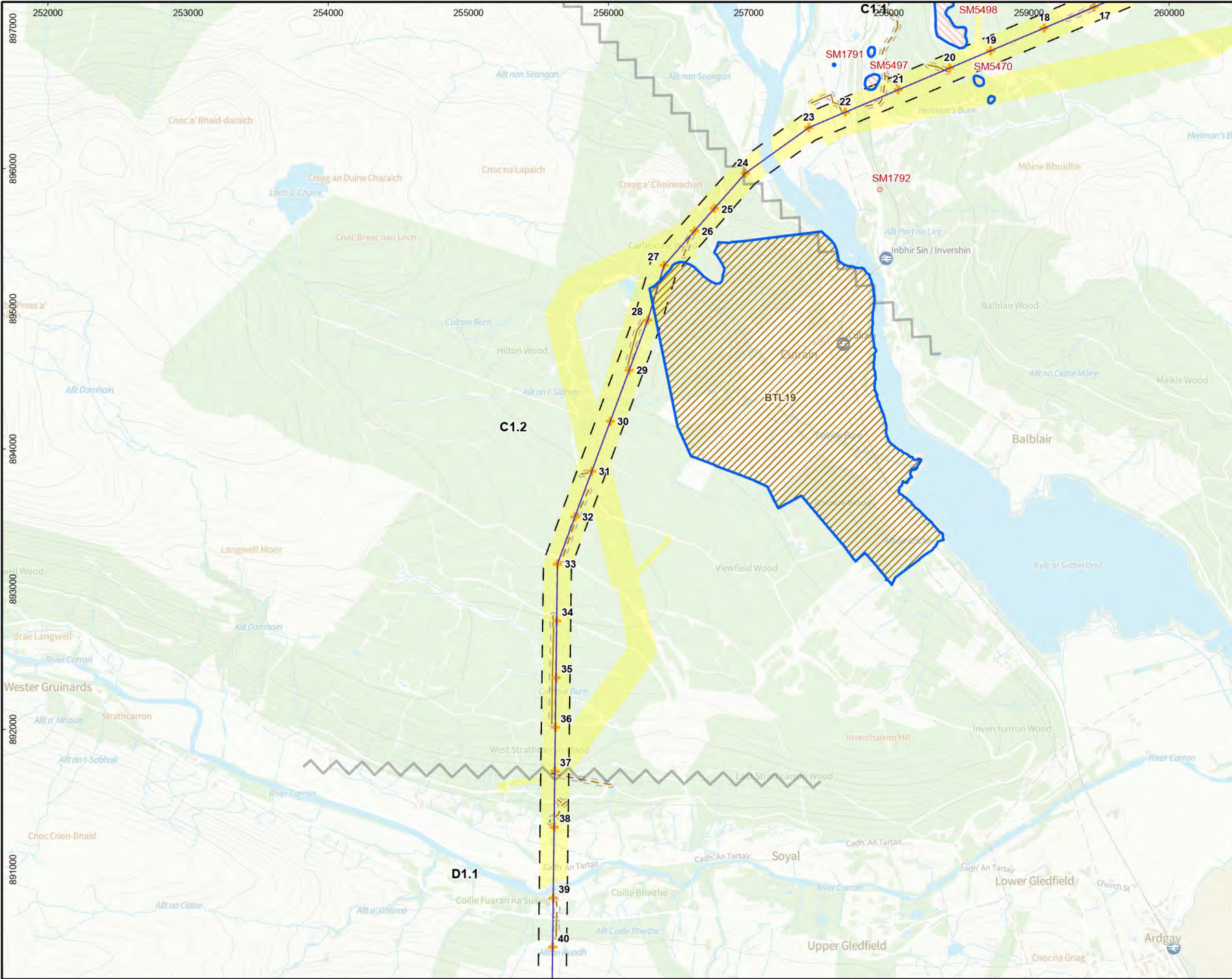


Figure2.22

Proposed Alignment and Assets for Setting Assessment

Legend

Assets Selected for Setting Assessment

Setting Assessment Undertaken

Scheduled Monument

Inventory Battlefield

Section Division

Section Labels

200m-wide Alignment Survey Corridor

40m-wide Access Track Survey Corridor

South Tower Location

Proposed Temporary Access Track - South

Proposed Permanent Access Track - South

South 2C Alignment (centre line)

Walkover Survey Extent

FOR

ERM

6th Floor

102 West Port

Edinburgh

EH3 9DN

Drawn/checked:

SW/SO

DWG no:

01/27571/WO/2/01

AOC Project No.:

27571

AOC

Archaeology Group

SYSTEM

Coordinate System: British National Grid

Projection: Transverse Mercator

Datum: OSGB 1936

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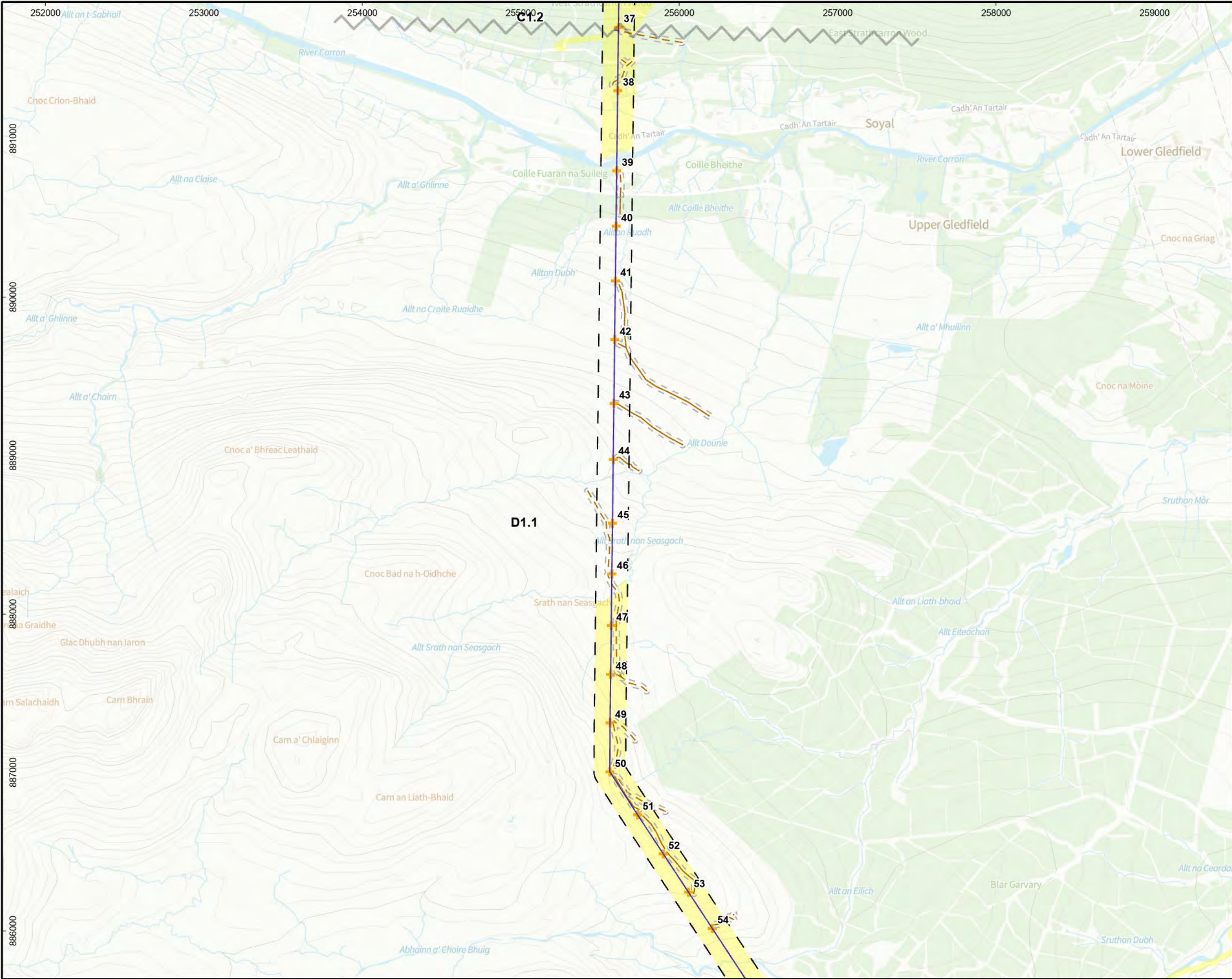


Figure2.23

Proposed Alignment and Assets for Setting Assessment

Legend

Section Division

Section Labels

200m-wide Alignment Survey Corridor

40m-wide Access Track Survey Corridor

South Tower Location

Proposed Temporary Access Track - South

Proposed Permanent Access Track - South

South 2C Alignment (centre line)

Walkover Survey Extent

FOR

ERM
6th Floor
102 West Port
Edinburgh
EH3 9DN

Drawn/checked:

SW/SO

DWG no:

01/27571/WO/2/01

AOC Project No.:

27571

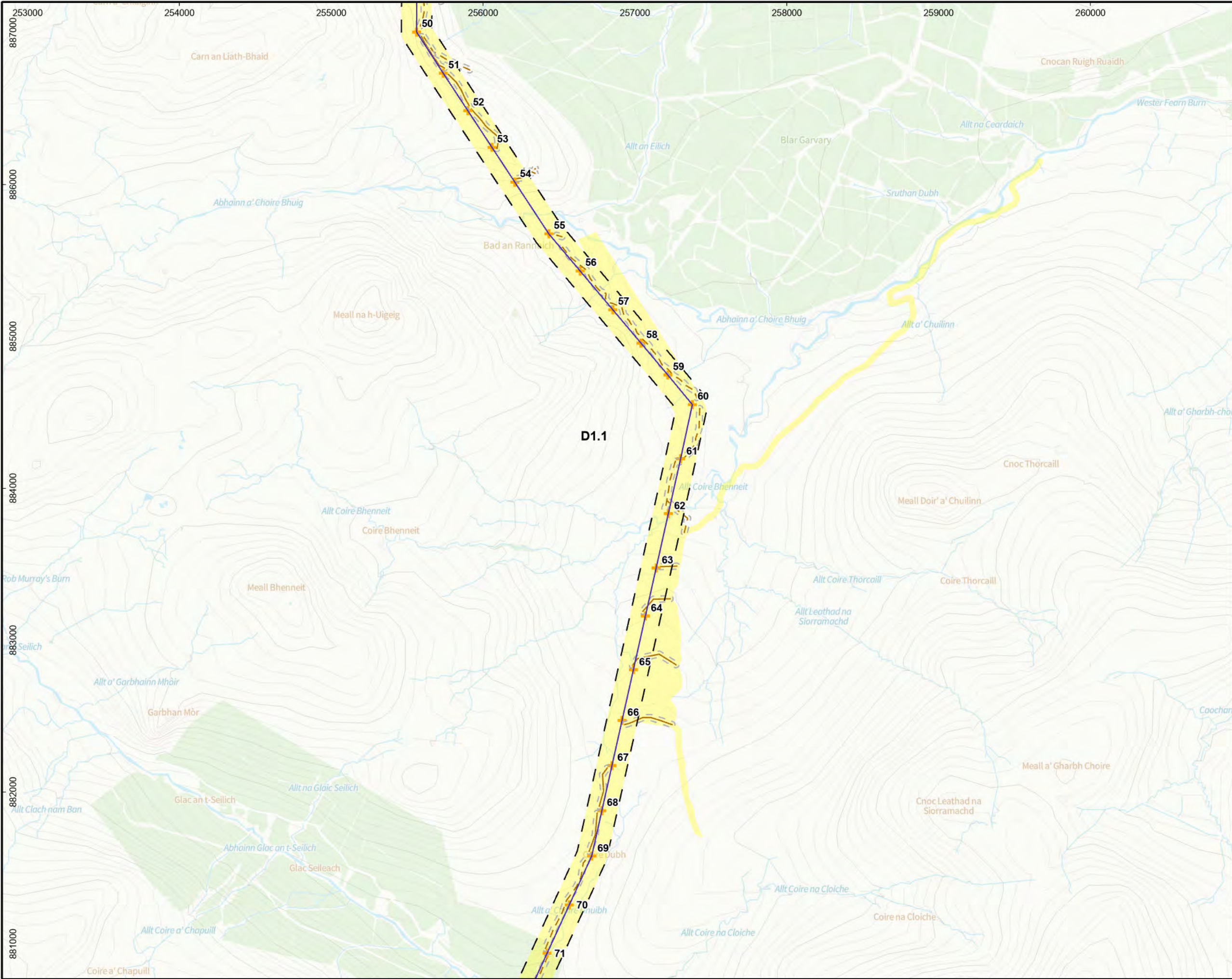
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Projection: Transverse Mercator
Datum: OSGB 1936

SCALE

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SCALE



Figure

2.24

Proposed Alignment and Assets for Setting Assessment

Legend

Section Labels

- - 200m-wide Alignment Survey Corridor

- - 40m-wide Access Track Survey Corridor

South Tower Location

Proposed Temporary Access Track - South

Proposed Permanent Access Track - South

South 2C Alignment (centre line)

Walkover Survey Extent

FOR

ERM
6th Floor
102 West Port
Edinburgh
EH3 9DN

Drawn/checked:

SW/SO

DWG no:

01/27571/WO/2/01

AOC Project No.:

27571

SYSTEM

Coordinate System: British National Grid
Projection: Transverse Mercator
Datum: OSGB 1936

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SCALE

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0.15

0.3

0.45

0.6

0.75 km

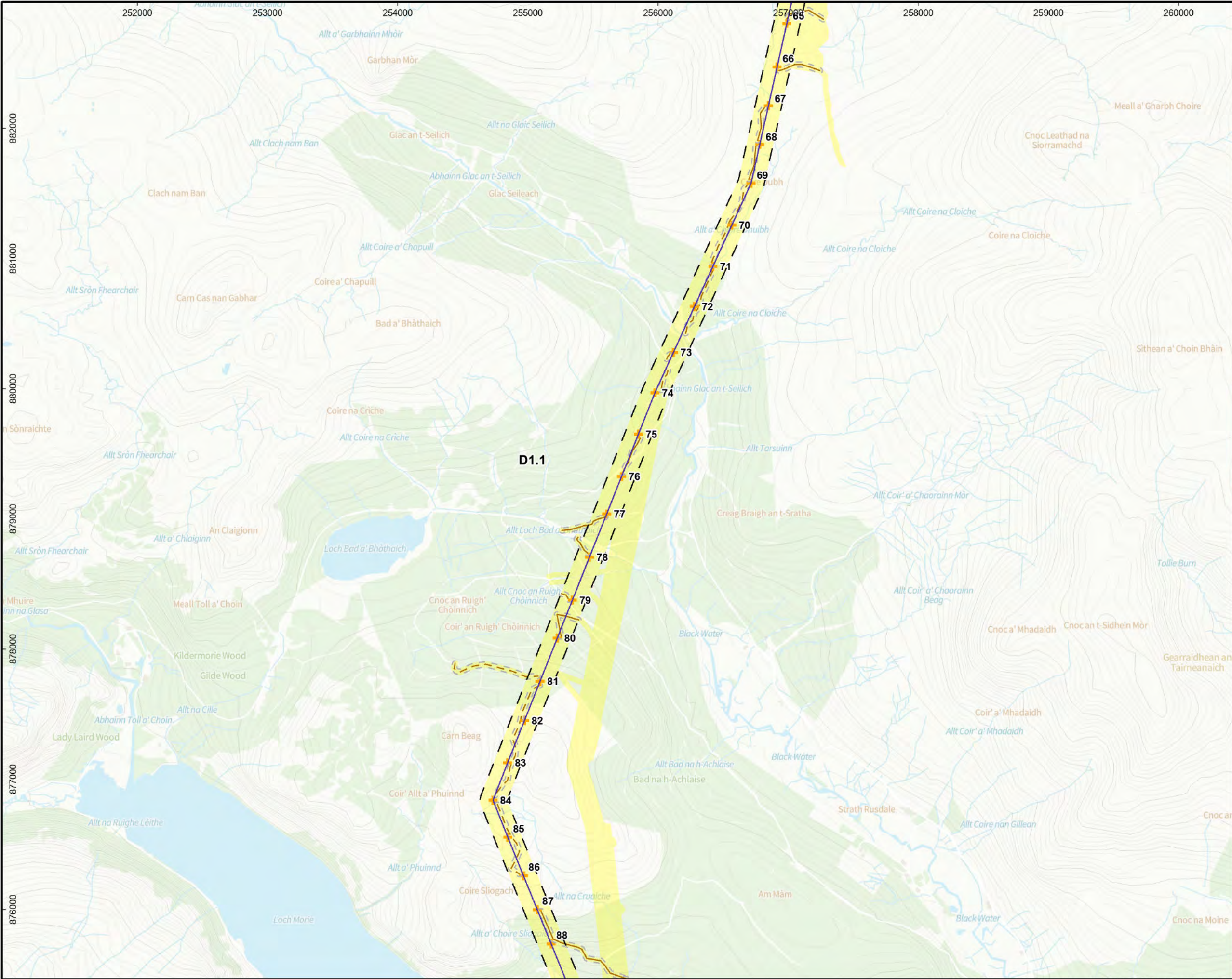


Figure2.25

Proposed Alignment and Assets for Setting Assessment

Legend

Section Labels

- - 200m-wide Alignment Survey Corridor

- 40m-wide Access Track Survey Corridor

South Tower Location

Proposed Temporary Access Track - South

Proposed Permanent Access Track - South

South 2C Alignment (centre line)

Walkover Survey Extent

FOR

ERM
6th Floor
102 West Port
Edinburgh
EH3 9DN

Drawn/checked:

SW/SO

DWG no:

01/27571/WO/2/01

AOC Project No.:

27571

SYSTEM

Coordinate System: British National Grid
Projection: Transverse Mercator
Datum: OSGB 1936

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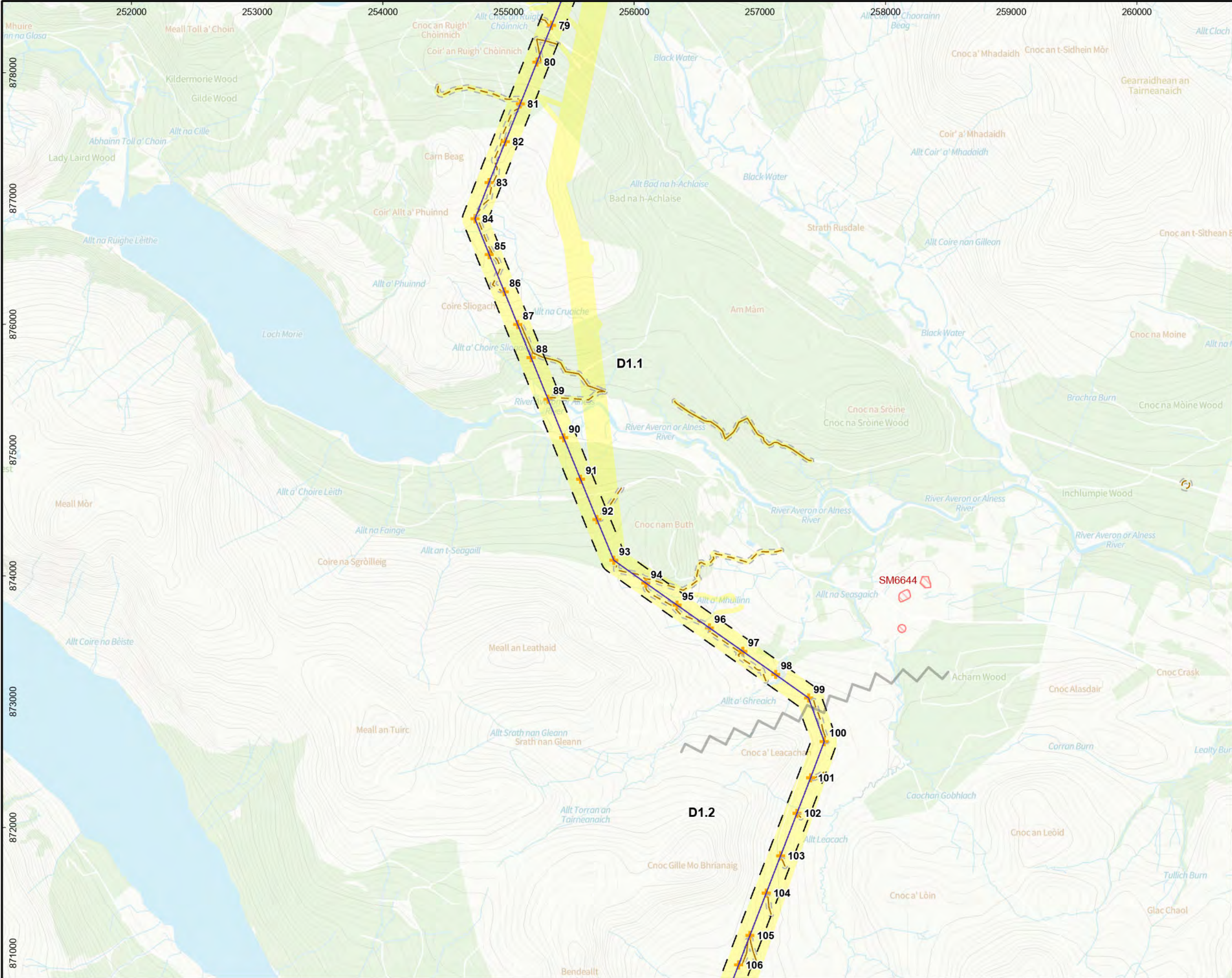


Figure2.26

Proposed Alignment and Assets for Setting Assessment

Legend

Scheduled Monument

Section Division

Section Labels

- 200m-wide Alignment Survey Corridor

- 40m-wide Access Track Survey Corridor

South Tower Location

Proposed Temporary Access Track - South

Proposed Permanent Access Track - South

South 2C Alignment (centre line)

Walkover Survey Extent

FOR

ERM
6th Floor
102 West Port
Edinburgh
EH3 9DN

Drawn/checked:

SW/SO

DWG no:

01/27571/WO/2/01

AOC Project No.:

27571

AOC
Archaeology
Group

SYSTEM

Coordinate System: British National Grid
Projection: Transverse Mercator
Datum: OSGB 1936

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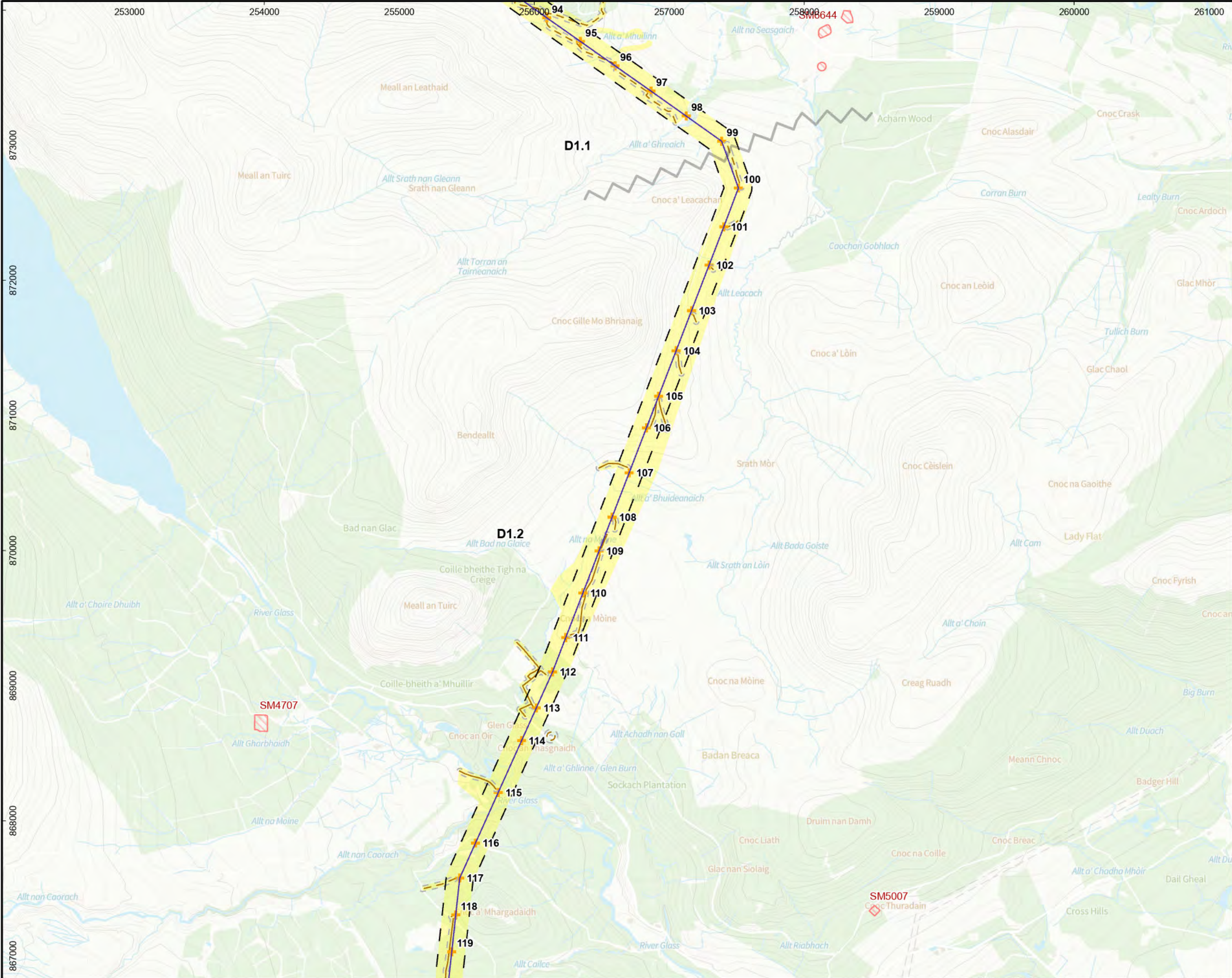


Figure2.27

Proposed Alignment and Assets for Setting Assessment

Legend

Scheduled Monument

Section Division

Section Labels

- 200m-wide Alignment Survey Corridor

- 40m-wide Access Track Survey Corridor

South Tower Location

Proposed Temporary Access Track - South

Proposed Permanent Access Track - South

South 2C Alignment (centre line)

Walkover Survey Extent

FOR

ERM
6th Floor
102 West Port
Edinburgh
EH3 9DN

Drawn/checked:

SW/SO

DWG no:

01/27571/WO/2/01

AOC Project No.:

27571

AOC Archaeology Group

SYSTEM

Coordinate System: British National Grid
Projection: Transverse Mercator
Datum: OSGB 1936

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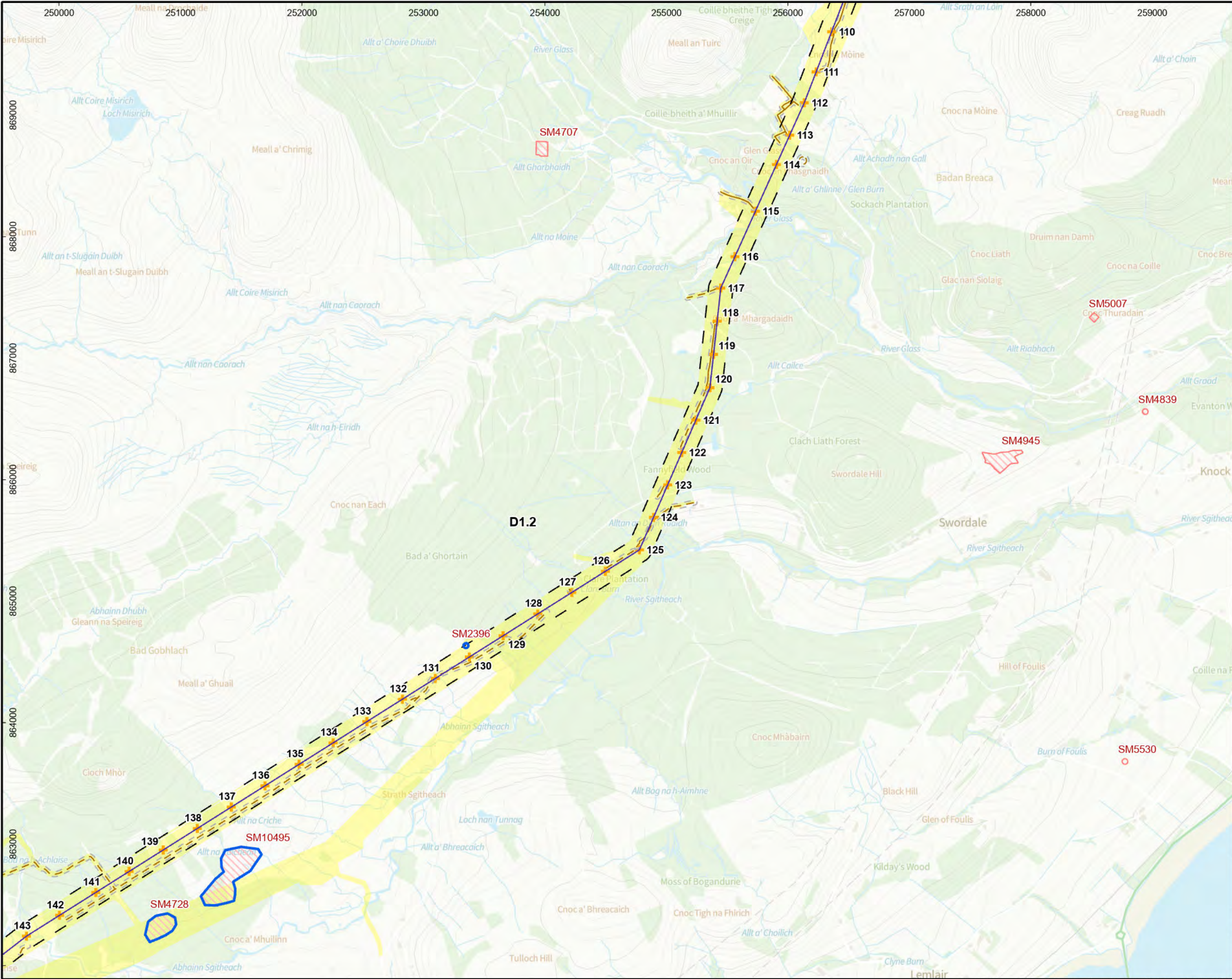


Figure2.28

Proposed Alignment and Assets for Setting Assessment

Legend

Assets Selected for Setting Assessment

Setting Assessment Undertaken

Scheduled Monument

Section Labels

- 200m-wide Alignment Survey Corridor

- 40m-wide Access Track Survey Corridor

South Tower Location

Proposed Temporary Access Track - South

Proposed Permanent Access Track - South

South 2C Alignment (centre line)

Walkover Survey Extent

FOR

ERM
6th Floor
102 West Port
Edinburgh
EH3 9DN

Drawn/checked:

SW/SO

DWG no:

01/27571/WO/2/01

AOC Project No.:

27571

AOC

Archaeology Group

SYSTEM

Coordinate System: British National Grid
Projection: Transverse Mercator
Datum: OSGB 1936

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