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## **Volume 7E Proposed Development (Onshore) Appendices**

Appendix 5-4 Setting Assessment of the Proposed Development (Offshore)

Caledonia Offshore Wind Farm Ltd

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# Volume 7E Appendix 5-4 Setting Assessment of the Proposed Development (Offshore)

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## Acronyms and Abbreviations

<b>CIfA</b>	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
<b>EIA</b>	Environmental Impact Assessment
<b>EIAR</b>	Environmental Impact Assessment Report
<b>HES</b>	Historic Environment Scotland
<b>MD-LOT</b>	Marine Directorate Licensing Operations Team
<b>MS-LOT</b>	Marine Scotland Licensing Operations Team
<b>MHWS</b>	Mean High Water Springs
<b>NETS</b>	National Electricity Transmission System
<b>OECC</b>	Offshore Export Cable Corridor
<b>OSP</b>	Offshore Substation Platforms
<b>OWF</b>	Offshore Wind Farm
<b>WTG</b>	Wind Turbine Generators
<b>ZTV</b>	Zone of Theoretical Visibility

# 1 Introduction

- 1.1.1.1 This technical appendix supports Volume 5, Chapter 5: Terrestrial Archaeology and Cultural Heritage of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR).
- 1.1.1.2 The purpose of this appendix is to present an assessment of the potential setting impacts of the Caledonia Offshore Wind Farm (OWF) on designated heritage assets along the Caithness coast, at the specific request of The Highland Council.
- 1.1.1.3 The Caledonia OWF comprises, Caledonia North and Caledonia South, collectively referred to as the Proposed Development (Offshore) and the Onshore Transmission Infrastructure (OnTI) required to transfer the power from the Proposed Development (Offshore) to a connection to the National Electricity Transmission System (NETS), referred to as the Proposed Development (Onshore).
- 1.1.1.4 This appendix considers the potential impact of the Proposed Development (Offshore), specifically the Caledonia OWF Array Area.

## 1.2 Guidance

- 1.2.1.1 Key legislation, policy and guidance that specifically relate to the Terrestrial Archaeology and Cultural Heritage setting assessment within this appendix are briefly described in Table 1-1. Further detail is provided within: Section 2 of Volume 7E, Appendix 5-1: Historic Environment Desk-based Assessment; Volume 7E, Appendix 5-1, Annex 2: Legislative and Planning Framework; and Volume 7E, Appendix 5-2: Cultural Heritage Policy Tests.

Table 1-1: Guidance

Relevant Legislation, Policy and Guidance	Description
Managing Change in the Historic Environment: Setting (Historic Environment Scotland (HES), 2016 <sup>1</sup> )	The guidance sets out the principles that apply to developments affecting the setting of historic assets or places, including Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings, sites on the Inventory of Historic Gardens and Designed Landscapes, World Heritage Sites, Conservation Areas, Historic Battlefields, Historic Marine Protected Areas and undesignated sites.



Relevant Legislation, Policy and Guidance	Description
Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' (CIfA) Standard and guidance for historic environment desk-based assessment (CIfA 2014, rev. 2020 <sup>2</sup> ).	This guidance defines good practice for the execution and reporting of desk-based assessment in line with CIfA regulations.
Historic Environment Policy for Scotland (HEPS) 2019 (Historic Environment Scotland, 2019 <sup>3</sup> )	HEPS is a policy statement directing decision making that affects the historic environment. It discusses cultural significance and defines it as meaning <i>"aesthetic, historic, scientific or social value for past, present or future generations."</i>

## 1.3 Stakeholder Engagement

### 1.3.1 Overview

1.3.1.1 The Offshore Scoping Report was submitted to Marine Scotland Licensing Operations Team (MS-LOT)<sup>i</sup> in September 2022, who then circulated the report to relevant consultees. A Scoping Opinion was received from MS-LOT on 13 January 2023. The Onshore Scoping Report was submitted to Aberdeenshire Council in December 2022, who then circulated the report to relevant consultees. A Scoping Opinion was received from Aberdeenshire Council on 1 February 2023. Relevant comments from the Scoping Opinion specific to this appendix are provided in Table 1-2.

<sup>i</sup> In 2023, Marine Scotland was renamed Marine Directorate, and thus the marine licensing and consents team is now referred to as Marine Directorate Licensing Operations Team (MD-LOT).

Table 1-2: Scoping Opinion Response

Consultee	Comment	Response
HES	<p>We disagree with the exclusion of onshore heritage assets at paragraph 14.5.1.4. Given the scale of the proposed development and the potential for cumulative impacts with this and adjacent wind farms, assessment of the impacts of the proposed development on these assets, including A-listed buildings, Inventory Gardens &amp; Designed landscapes, and scheduled monuments, should be included in the Environmental Impact Assessment. If they are excluded after assessment, a written explanation of the process and results of the assessment, and reasons for their exclusion, should be provided.</p>	<p>An assessment of impacts to the setting of heritage assets or to their cultural significance has been prepared and accompanies the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), it is reported within this appendix (Volume 7E, Appendix 5-4).</p>
The Highland Council	<p>We would expect any assessment to contain a full appreciation of the setting of these historic environment assets and the likely impact on their settings. It would be helpful if, where the assessment finds that significant impacts are likely, appropriate visualisations such as photomontage and wireframe views of the development in relation to the sites and their settings could be provided. Visualisations illustrating views both from the asset towards the proposed development and views towards the asset with the development in the background would be helpful.</p>	<p>As above, the settings assessment is reported within this appendix (Volume 7E, Appendix 5-4) and is supported by a Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) and associated visual material provided within Volume 7B, Appendix 12-3 Seascape, Landscape &amp; Visual Impact Assessment Visualisations and Volume 7B, Appendix 12-4 Seascape, Landscape &amp; Visual Impact Assessment Visualisations (The Highland Council).</p>
The Highland Council	<p>The Councils Historic Environment Team have suggested that listed buildings and conservation areas on the coastal edge, from at least Noss Point to Dunbeath Castle (as the closest</p>	<p>This is noted. A 40km radius for the ZTV was chosen in order to cover the suggested area.</p>

Consultee	Comment	Response
	<p>section geographically) be considered and tested for impacts arising upon their seaward setting. As the scheme progresses the Councils Historic Environment Team should be consulted further on the impact on heritage assets outwith the remit of HES.</p>	

## 1.4 Proposed Development (Offshore)

- 1.4.1.1 The Proposed Development (Offshore) Array Area<sup>ii</sup> is located within the NE4 Option Agreement Area, approximately 429km<sup>2</sup> in size, identified in the Scottish Government's Sectoral Marine Plan for Offshore Wind Energy (Scottish Government, 2020<sup>4</sup>) and awarded to the Applicant through the ScotWind Leasing process.
- 1.4.1.2 The Proposed Development (Offshore) is located in the Moray Firth in the North Sea. The northern limit of the site is approximately 22km off the coast of Wick, Highland and the southern limit of the site is approximately 38km off the coast of Banff, Aberdeenshire.
- 1.4.1.3 The Proposed Development (Offshore) will incorporate various offshore infrastructure within the Array Area and Offshore Export Cable Corridor (OECC) between the Array Area and preferred Landfall Site.
- 1.4.1.4 To support with deliverability, the Proposed Development (Offshore) will likely be phased, with separate consent applications sought for each phase. The application areas are referred to as:
- Caledonia North; and
  - Caledonia South.
- 1.4.1.5 The Caledonia North application is to construct and operate all infrastructure which will be sited within the Caledonia North Array Area (fixed foundation Wind Turbine Generators (WTGs), Inter-Array/Interconnector Cables, Offshore Substation Platforms (OSPs) as well as the Offshore Export Cables which will be installed within the OECC and extend to the Landfall Site on the Aberdeenshire coast up to Mean High Water Springs (MHWS). The Caledonia South application is to construct and operate all infrastructure which will be sited within the Caledonia South Site Array Area (potentially a mixture of fixed and floating foundation

<sup>ii</sup> The area of the Proposed Development (Offshore) within the Moray Firth in which the WTGs, inter-array/interconnector cables and OSPs would be located.

WTGs, Inter-Array/Interconnector Cables, OSPs as well the Offshore Export Cables which will be installed in the OECC and extend to the Landfall Site on the Aberdeenshire coast up to MHWS.

- 1.4.1.6 Further details of the Proposed Development (Offshore) are contained within the EIAR in Volume 1, Chapter 3: Proposed Development (Offshore) Description.

## 1.5 Aims

- 1.5.1.1 The specific aims of this assessment are to:

- Identify the designated heritage asset resource likely to be impacted by the Proposed Development (Offshore) due to a change in their setting; and
- Assess the potential for harm to cultural significance of the identified heritage assets based on a change in their setting.

## 2 Baseline Characterisation

### 2.1.1 ZTV and Study Area

2.1.1.1 A ZTV based on a 40km radius from the Caledonia OWF Array Area has determined the study area to be used for this assessment, that is, the area of land at Caithness that falls within the 40km radius (refer to Figure 2-1). The ZTV along the Caithness coast highlighted the amount of designated heritage assets that could feasibly experience harm to their significance based on a change in their setting.

2.1.1.2 The assessment focuses on assets along the Caithness coast only at the request of the Highland Council. It was agreed at the EIA scoping stage with Aberdeenshire Council that the Proposed Development (Offshore) would not result in significant effects to the designated heritage asset resource within Aberdeenshire. This was determined on account of the details of the Proposed Development (Offshore) as well as the distance of the OWF Array to the Aberdeenshire coast.

## 2.2 Baseline Description

2.2.1.1 There are no World Heritage Sites, Inventory Gardens or Designed Landscapes or Historic Battlefield within the study area. There are 104 Scheduled Monuments, 273 Listed Buildings and two Conservation Areas within the study area.

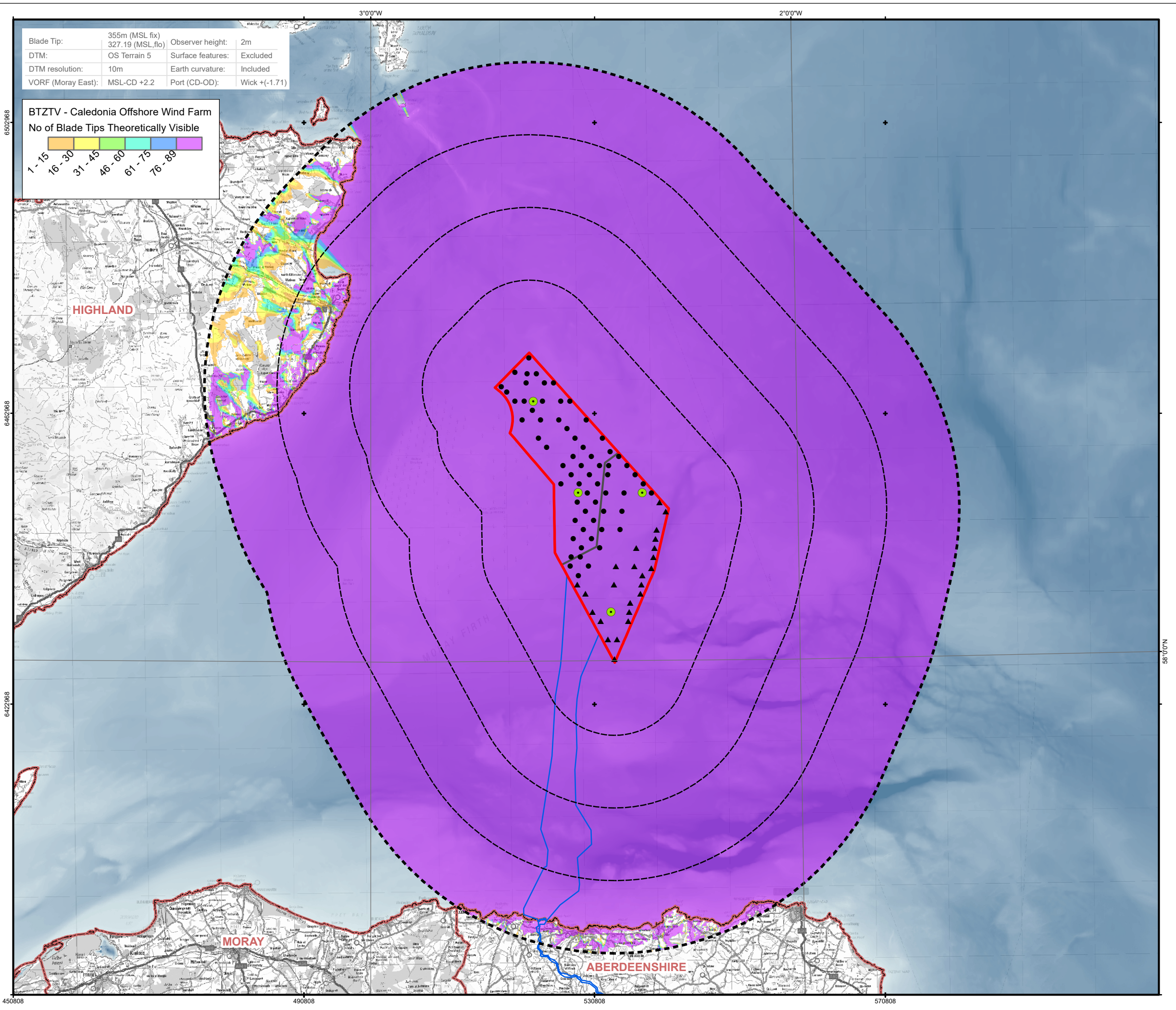
2.2.1.2 The Conservation Areas focus on the settlements of Wick and Lybster and it is here that the majority of the above Listed Buildings are located. The remaining Listed Buildings are largely scattered along or just off the A99 (which broadly follows the coastline), the A882 (which heads in a west/north-westerly direction from Wick) and smaller B roads and lanes of the road network connecting settlements further inland to the coast.

2.2.1.3 Three of the Listed Buildings fall within the remit of the Orkney Islands, and as it is not considered that assets here would experience harm to their cultural significance due to the Proposed Development (Offshore), they have therefore been scoped out of further assessment.

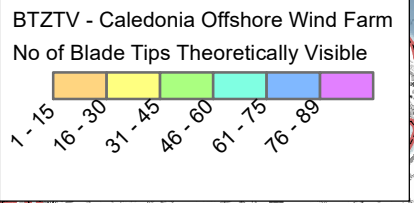
2.2.1.4 Similarly, as the Conservation Areas will primarily be focused on their respective settlement cores which in themselves are not considered to have a meaningful relationship with the Proposed Development (Offshore), these assets have therefore also been scoped out of further assessment. This does not, however, mean that individual assets within their remits are automatically scoped out, as assets are considered on an individual or group basis.

2.2.1.5 For the purposes of this assessment, the constructed Beatrice OWF and Moray East OWF in addition to the consented Moray West OWF all form part of the baseline and are discussed throughout this assessment as required.



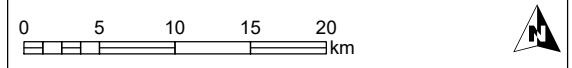


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DTM resolution:	10m	Earth curvature:	Included
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- Fixed (47 x 25MW)
- ▲ Floating (24 x 20MW)
- OSPs
- Caledonia Offshore Wind Farm
- Offshore and Onshore Export Cable Corridor
- Caledonia North-South Site Division
- 10km Radii
- 40km Study Area
- Local Authority Boundary

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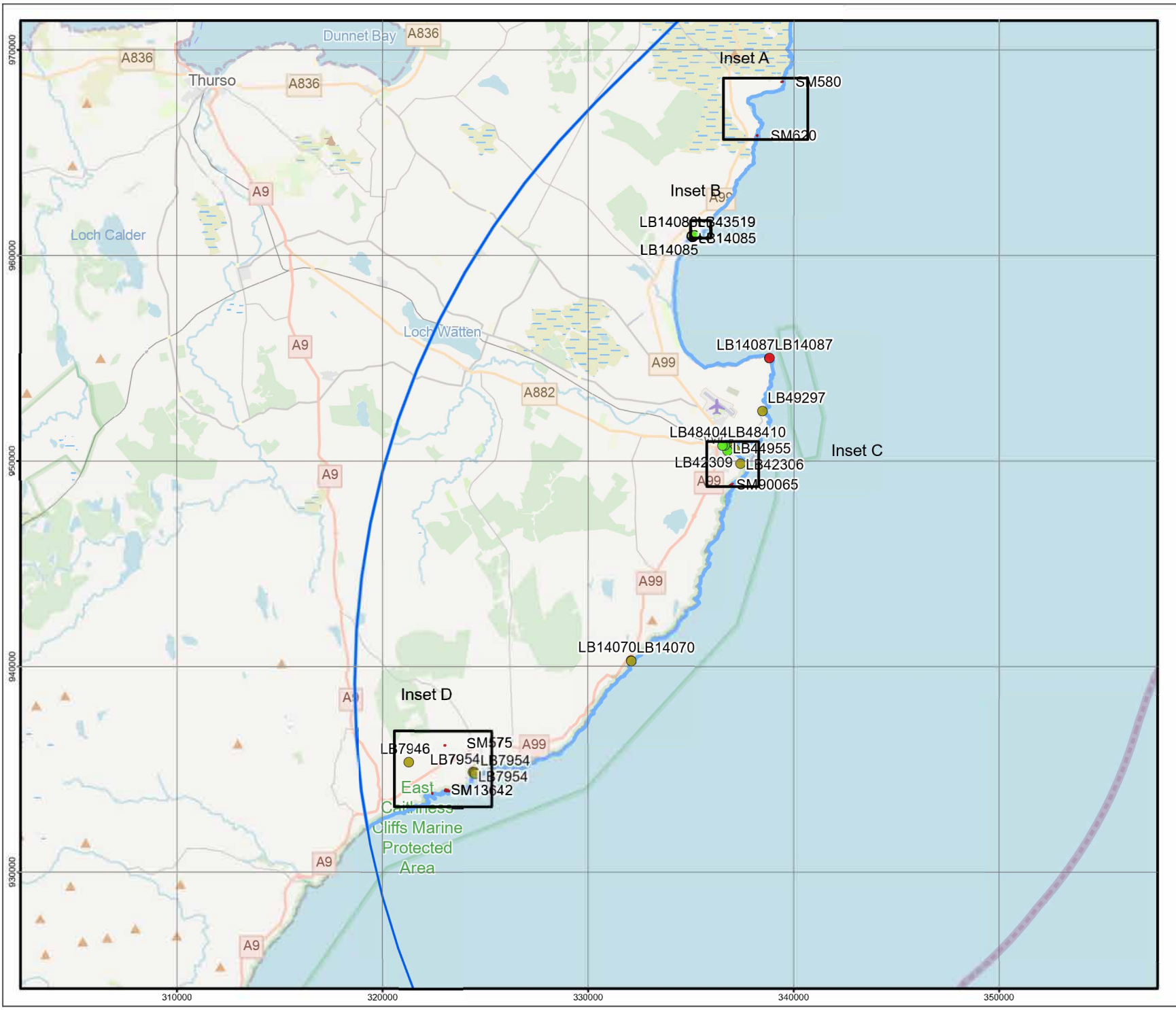
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Caledonia Offshore Wind Farm**

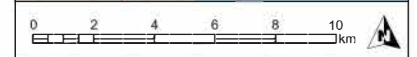
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- Study Area
- 40 km ZTV Study Area
- Designated Heritage Assets**
- Category A Listed Building
- Category B Listed Building
- Category C Listed Building
- Scheduled Monuments

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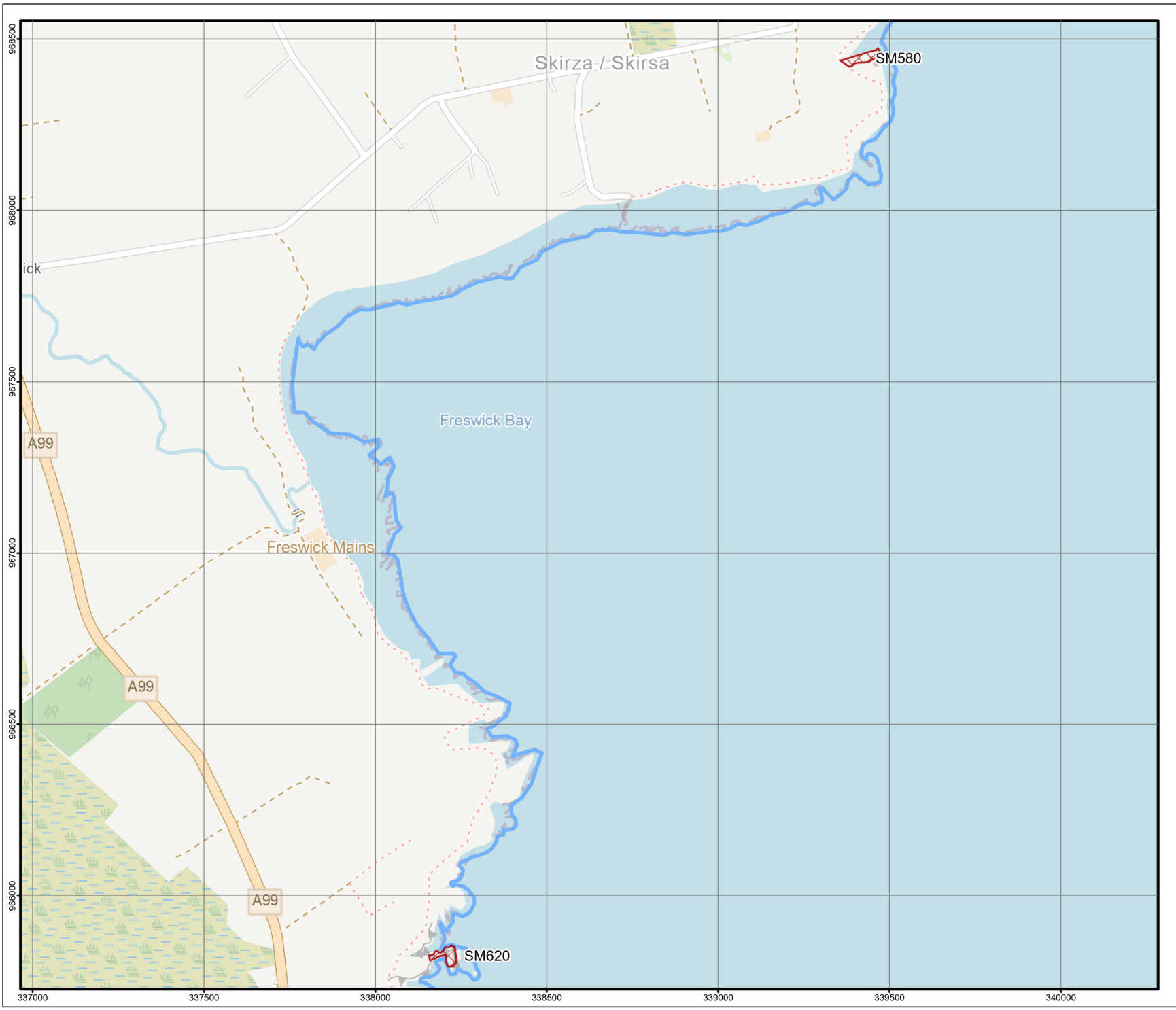


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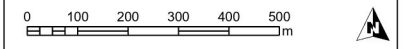
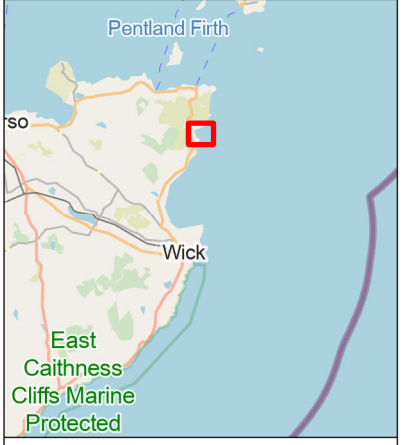


- Study Area
- Designated Heritage Assets**
- Category A Listed Building
- Category B Listed Building
- Category C Listed Building
- ✕ Scheduled Monuments

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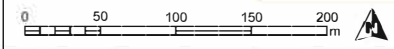
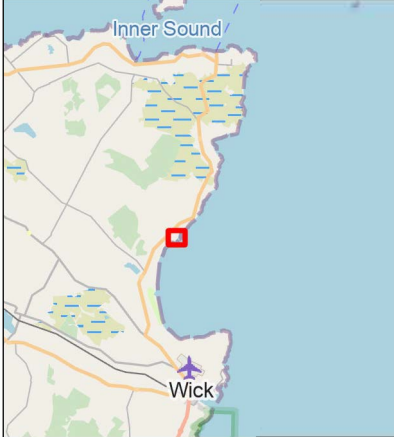


- Study Area
- Designated Heritage Assets**
- Category A Listed Building
- Category B Listed Building
- Category C Listed Building
- Scheduled Monuments

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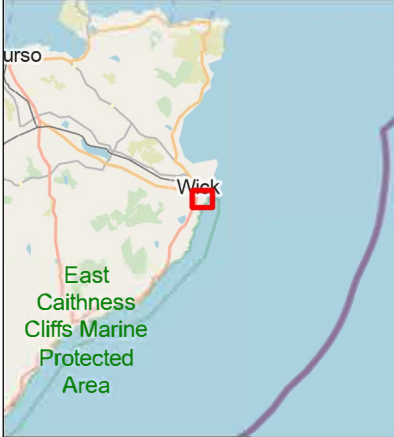
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- Study Area
- Designated Heritage Assets**
- Category A Listed Building
- Category B Listed Building
- Category C Listed Building
- Scheduled Monuments

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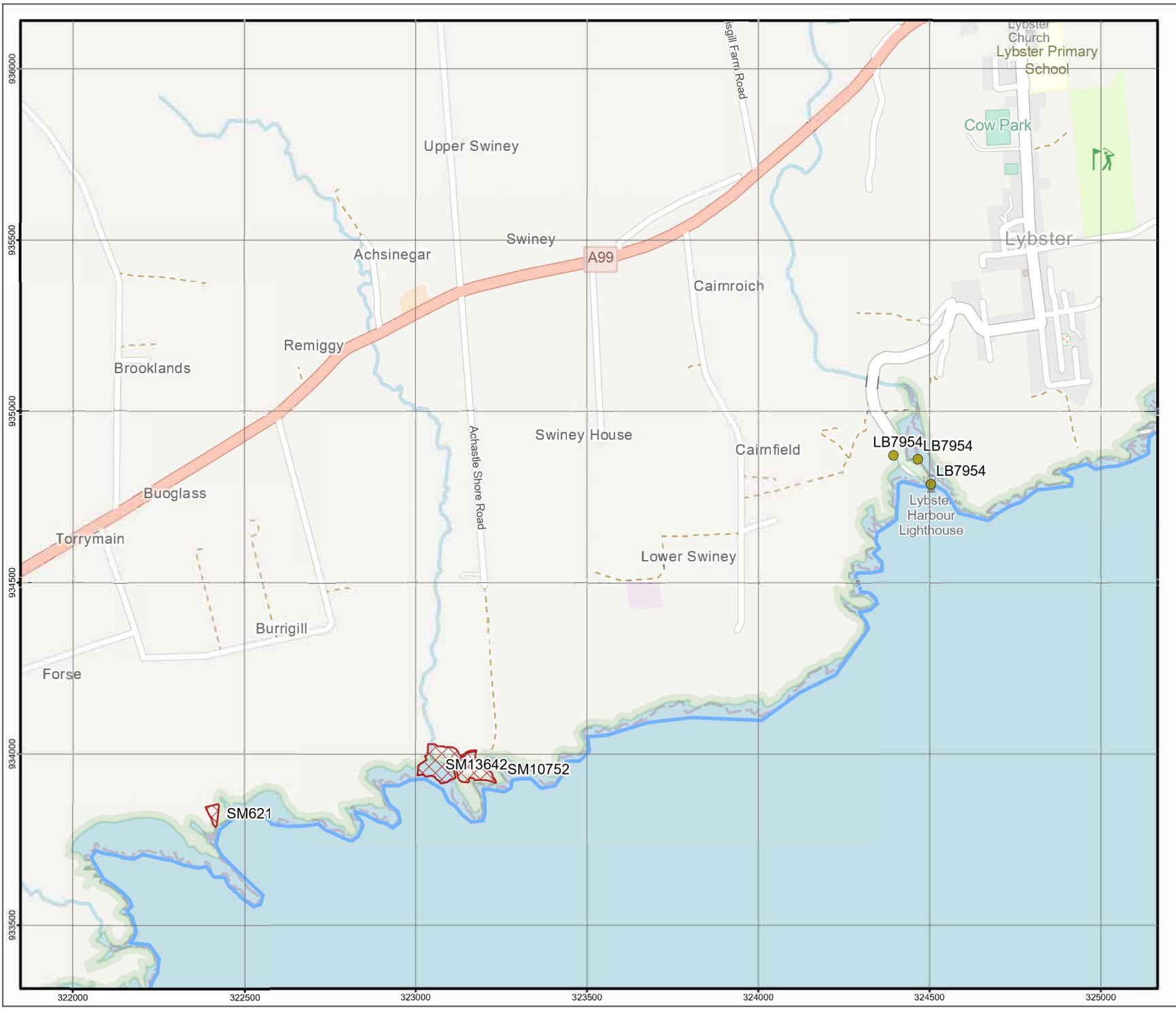


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**Study Area**

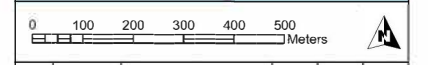
**Designated Heritage Assets**

- Category A Listed Building
- Category B Listed Building
- Category C Listed Building
- Scheduled Monuments

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**Figure 2-2:  
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in for Walkover Survey (Inset D)**

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## 3 Methodology

- 3.1.1.1 The methodology employed during this assessment has been based upon relevant professional guidance including the CIfA Standard and guidance for historic environment desk-based assessment (CIfA 2014, rev. 2020<sup>2</sup>).
- 3.1.1.2 *Managing Change in the Historic Environment: Setting* (HES 2016, revised 2020<sup>5</sup>) defines the setting of a heritage asset as:  
*“the way the surroundings of a historic asset or place contribute to how it is understood, appreciated and experienced.”*
- 3.1.1.3 The aim of the setting assessment is to explore the potential effects of the Proposed Development (Offshore) on the setting of designated and non-designated heritage assets situated within the study area.
- 3.1.1.4 The manner in which the setting assessment was undertaken was guided by the recommendations outlined in *Managing Change in the Historic Environment: Setting* (HES, 2016<sup>6</sup>). This guidance advocates a systematic and staged approach to the assessment of the implications of development in terms of their effects on the settings of heritage assets.
- 3.1.1.5 **Step 1** of the approach is to ‘*identify the historic assets*’. This initial step of the setting assessment has been carried out by undertaking a Scoping Exercise, the results of which are presented in Section 4. The exercise was informed by a ZTV (See Figure 2-1) and a review of designated heritage assets within the identified study area (See Figure 2-2).
- 3.1.1.6 The potential for the Proposed Development (Offshore) to effect change upon the settings of the heritage assets, and in turn harm their cultural significance, included in the Scoping Exercise was then assessed via the application of professional judgement, informed by observations made during the site visit.
- 3.1.1.7 Where it could be confidently determined that a heritage asset and its settings would not be affected by the development proposals, no further assessment was undertaken.
- 3.1.1.8 In cases where it could be anticipated that the development proposals may have the potential to alter the setting of a heritage asset, these assets were scoped in for further detailed assessment. These heritage assets were assessed on a case-by-case basis, in accordance with Steps 2 and 3 of the process outlined below.

3.1.1.9 **Step 2** is to “*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.*” This stage of the assessment should consider:

- the present surroundings of the asset, including its relationship with other heritage assets;
- the way the asset is appreciated; and
- key views to and from the asset.

3.1.1.10 **Step 3** is to “evaluate the potential impact of the proposed changes”.

3.1.1.11 Where the assessment indicates that there will be an adverse impact on the setting of a historic asset or place developers should consider design and siting proposals to mitigate this impact.

3.1.1.12 In accordance with the HES’s guidance on impact assessment, settings impacts are considered to be “direct” but not physical, following the following paragraph in the guidance (HES 2018, para. 44c<sup>7</sup>):

*“These are generally direct and result from the proposal causing change within the setting of a heritage asset that affects its cultural significance or the way in which it is understood, appreciated and experienced. Such impacts are generally, but not exclusively, visual, occurring directly as a result of the appearance of the proposal in the surroundings of the asset.”*

## 3.1.2 Assumptions and limitations

3.1.2.1 Data used to compile this report consists of secondary information derived from a variety of sources, some of which have been directly examined for the purposes of this study. The assumption is made that this data, as well as that derived from other secondary sources, is reasonably accurate.

3.1.2.2 The main data source informing this assessment is HES’s Portal containing data on designated heritage assets.

## 4 Scoping Exercise

### 4.1 Introduction

4.1.1.1 This section outlines the results of the scoping exercise based on the results of the ZTV. Designated heritage assets that did not fall within likely visible areas were automatically scoped out. Assets falling within areas where there is potential for visibility were scoped in for further high-level individual or group assessment to determine whether they should be scoped in for the purposes of the next stage, that is, the walkover survey.

### 4.2 Scheduled Monuments

4.2.1.1 The results of the ZTV show that there are 26 Scheduled Monuments that do not fall within any zones of theoretical visibility, and as such, these have been scoped out. This leaves a total of 78 Scheduled Monuments mainly located at and surrounding Bower, Canisbay, Latheron, Watten and Wick which are assessed further assessed below.

#### 4.2.2 Bower

4.2.2.1 There are two Scheduled Monuments at Bower comprising a fort (SM576) of possible Norse or Norman origin and a prehistoric domestic and defensive broch (SM558). The fort is located approximately 6km north-west of the coast within an agricultural area that is predominantly flat. Based on the existing topography, it does not appear to have been sited with a commanding presence or view across the landscape. Its setting is primarily informed by the remains of the earthworks which are set within an open agricultural backdrop. Views of the coast from here appear to be limited and incidental and it is not considered that these contribute to the cultural significance of the monument. As such, this asset is scoped out of further assessment.

4.2.2.2 Little is known about the broch, but it is assumed to be a prehistoric domestic and defensive site. As there are currently no details of this asset on the HES Portal, its current condition, nature and level of survival cannot be determined. Considering its likely use as a settlement site including defensive elements, it is unlikely that, at the distance at which it is from the coast, which is approximately 6km south-east, that it had any meaningful relationship with it. Instead, the focus would have been on the surrounding landscape. As such, this asset is scoped out of further assessment.

### 4.2.3 Canisbay

- 4.2.3.1 The Scheduled Monuments at Cansibay comprise a Viking settlement (SM2535), two brochs (SM588, SM580), a cairn (SM503) and a castle (SM620) all located within the northern extent of the study area.
- 4.2.3.2 The broch at Thomsonsfield (SM588) overlaps with the study area, and the cairn is located within heathland to the north of Freswick. Both of these features would have formed part the wider prehistoric landscape, however, it is not known whether they would have been contemporary. In general, cairns form part of a wider prehistoric ritual and funerary landscape. While views of the coast from this asset are possible due to its being located on the slopes of a hill, it is likely that these views are incidental due to its elevated position. The broch at Brabster is located within an agricultural landscape with very limited views of the coast from its location. As with the broch at Bower, it is anticipated that the relationship with its surrounding landscape would have been key here, as opposed to possible, limited incidental views of the coast. Furthermore, views of the coast are already interrupted by a wind farm located between Brabster and Freswick.
- 4.2.3.3 Based on the above, the broch and the cairn are scoped out of further assessment.
- 4.2.3.4 The castle and the Viking settlement remains are located at Freswick Bay, indicating that they would have had an intentional relationship with the bay, and likely the North Sea beyond. The ZTV suggests that these assets are located within an area which would have limited blade tip visibility, meaning that the entirety of the Proposed Development (Offshore) would not be visible from here and that it would, if at all, be located within long distance background views of the sea.
- 4.2.3.5 Little is known about the settlement, except for that it survives as a series of irregular earthworks and mounds and does not appear to have been previously investigated, but it is assumed that it would have been a landing place due to its location along the bay and that the Proposed Development (Offshore) falls outside of its setting. While the asset's relationship with Freswick Bay is clearly important, it is not considered that the presence of distance wind turbines within wider sea views would detract from its cultural significance or negatively impact it. As such, this asset is scoped out of further assessment.
- 4.2.3.6 The castle is a ruin of a 15<sup>th</sup> century castle. It is sited on a rocky promontory that projects to the sea. It is surrounded by the cliffs and much of it has been lost to the sea with only the remains of the gatehouse and some of the walls surviving. While much of the castle has eroded, it still has a prominent position along the cliff with good views across it, including towards the Proposed Development (Offshore). Based on its location and connection to the sea, this asset is scoped in for further assessment.



4.2.3.7 The broch at Skirza Head (SM580), while visible as a low mound, stands towards the neck of a headland surrounded by sea cliffs. There are extensive views towards the coast and Freswick Bay. While the setting of brochs is typically more defined by the remains of their enclosure and the land within which they are situated, this asset's positioning on the headland may indicate an intentional connection to the North Sea. As such, this asset is scoped in for further assessment to determine whether the Proposed Development (Offshore) falls within its coastal backdrop and whether, if it does, this would detract from its cultural significance.

## 4.2.4 Latheron

4.2.4.1 There are 20 Scheduled Monuments within the Latheron region consisting of a mixture of mostly prehistoric cairns (SM5799), settlement sites (SM2301, SM7242), stone rows (SM90162), brochs (SM557, SM550, SM573, SM599, SM575, SM519, SM529, SM510, SM570) and medieval to post-medieval castles (SM10752), a cross slab (SM614), churches (SM3295, SM613, SM3295, SM613), a bridge (SM624) and a fishing station (SM13642).

4.2.4.2 With the exception of the brochs at Rhianrivach (SM575), at Greenhill (SM557) and at Bruan (SM529), the other brochs appear to be located within agricultural landscapes further inland with no clear or intentional connection to the coast. The Proposed Development (Offshore) is not considered to fall within their setting and as such they are scoped out of further assessment.

4.2.4.3 The broch at Greenhill (SM557) consist of a grass covered mound adjacent to the A99 approximately 360m north-west of the coast, and the broch at Bruan (SM529) is sited on a mound elevating its position (which is approximately 80m above sea level). Both of these comprise the remains of a complex stone built roundhouse of Iron Age date. While both assets are clearly afforded good sea views which might have been an attractive feature at the time, it is assumed that their relationship with the landscape would have more crucial here and that it was mainly landscape factors that determined the placement of the settlements. While the Proposed Development (Offshore) may therefore be visible in long distance coastal views, it is not considered that it falls within the setting of these assets. As such, these brochs are scoped out of further assessment.

4.2.4.4 The broch at Occumster (SM570) is sited within a slightly different context to the above adjacent to the Clyth Burn. Ready access to the water would have likely been an attractive factor as to why a broch was established here within a generally lower area. It is considered that the Proposed Development (Offshore) does not fall within its setting, which is more focused around the burn, and as such, this asset is scoped out of further assessment.

- 4.2.4.5 The cairn (SM5799) is located within an open heathland landscape within the bounds of Whilk Wind Farm. The HES Portal entry suggests that the area surrounding the cairn was cleared of woodland (some of which survives to the west), however, the date of this woodland is not known. Its current setting comprises the heathland and the wind farm. While views of the coast and sea from this asset are possible, considering its funerary nature, views of the asset would have likely been more important as a way to mark the presence of the cairn within the wider landscape. It is considered that coastal and sea views do not make a meaningful contribution to the cultural significance of the asset which is mainly informed by its scientific (in the sense of its archaeological interest as a funerary site) and social values. As such, this asset is scoped out of further assessment.
- 4.2.4.6 Similarly, the stone row (SM90162) which is arranged as rows running down the low hill, while being located within an undulating open agricultural landscape which affords it coastal and sea views, has its primary association within the wider ritualistic and funerary landscape and it is not considered that the Proposed Development (Offshore) forms part of its setting. Therefore, this asset is scoped out of further assessment.
- 4.2.4.7 The three settlement sites (SM7242, SM2301, SM599) are located adjacent to each other approximately 950m north of the A99 (approximately 1.8km north of the coast) within an open agricultural landscape. Together they form the remains of an extensive settlement area of deserted farmsteads, cairns, burnt mounds and areas of cultivation. It is clear that the relationship with the land was key here and that it was an attractive settlement location considering that it appears to have been occupied throughout at least the middle to late Iron Age. While long distance views of the sea form part of the wider backdrop of this extensive settlement area, it is not considering that such views contribute to the cultural significance of this asset or that the Proposed Development (Offshore) forms part of its setting. As such, these sites are scoped out of further assessment.
- 4.2.4.8 The scheduled bridge is scoped out of further assessment on the grounds of it serving a specific function, as in, to provide a crossing point for Resigill Burn to the south of the A99. It also has a clearly defined setting along the road and the burn it crosses which the Proposed Development (Offshore) does not form part of.
- 4.2.4.9 Similarly, the churches at Lybster (SM613), the remains of Latheron Old Church (SM3295) and the cross slab denoting the site of a chapel (SM614) have been scoped out of further assessment as they have a clear association with the community which they serve or once served which does not extend to the Proposed Development (Offshore).

- 4.2.4.10 The fishing station and the remains of Swiney Castle which are located immediately adjacent to each other are scoped in for further assessment on account of their clear relationship with the coastline and the potential for a connection to the sea beyond which could include the Proposed Development (Offshore).

## 4.2.5 Watten

- 4.2.5.1 The monuments at Watten are all of prehistoric origin and comprise cairns (SM3986, SM465) and brochs (SM609, SM452, SM549, SM13632, SM551). All of these assets are located within the agricultural landscape surrounding Loch Watten which is approximately 10km off the coast to the north of Wick. The landscape here is gently undulating and relatively open, with wide ranging views across the agricultural landscape, but with limited visual connections to the coast. It is not known whether all of these prehistoric assets would have been contemporary, but it is clear that there was both a settlement and funerary aspect to this landscape. It is assumed that Loch Watten would have been an attractive resource which might have originally been one of the reasons why communities settled here. It is assumed that there might be key visual links between these assets but based on a preliminary review of the landscape and the assets, the Proposed Development (Offshore) is not considered to fall within the setting of any of these assets. As such, this group of assets is scoped out of further assessment.

## 4.2.6 Wick (and surrounding settlements)

- 4.2.6.1 There are 44 Scheduled Monuments at and surrounding Wick. The majority of these are of prehistoric origin and denote the sites of forts (SM4289, SM548, SM607), cairns (SM8521, SM433, SM436, SM435, SM466, SM429, SM696, SM467, SM504, SM505, SM507, SM508, SM431, SM455, SM4338, SM90048, SM435), settlement sites (SM10105, SM548), brochs (SM527, SM532, SM560, SM429, SM696, SM589, SM583, SM578, SM553, SM569, SM586, SM13623, SM13621, SM533, SM883, SM595, SM13635), stone rows and standing stones (SM506, SM501, SM505, SM451).
- 4.2.6.2 A selection of the above are located at and surrounding the Loch of Yarrows which is located between 3-4km north-west/west of the coast including the standing stones (SM506, SM505) and cairns (SM467, SM435, SM8521, SM508, SM507, SM436). They form part of the wider prehistoric ritual and funerary landscape which mostly consists of an area of undulating heathland which forms part of their setting. While some limited views of the coast are possible, these form part of the wider coastal backdrop which is not considered to form part of their setting. As such, the assets at and surrounding the Loch of Yarrows are scoped out of further assessment.

- 4.2.6.3 There is a further cluster of prehistoric monuments at Whaligoe near Loch Watenan approximately 600 metre (m) north of the coast. Much like the group at Loch of Yarrows, the monuments here comprise brochs (SM696), forts (SM607, SM4289, SM548) and cairns (SM4338, SM433, SM429, SM90048, SM504) and are set within an area of heathland from which views of the coast are possible. Again, such views are not considered to form part of the setting of these assets, and instead the focus is on the heathland meaning that these assets are scoped out of further assessment.
- 4.2.6.4 Outside of the recognisable clusters of Scheduled Monuments, there are various assets that are scattered across the wider landscape further inland from the coast and outside of the main settlement of Wick. These assets include the site of a former chapel (SM2659), prehistoric brochs (SM13635, SM595, SM883, SM586, SM553, SM578, SM583, SM589, SM560, SM527), cairns (SM533, SM455, SM431, SM466), standing stones (SM501, SM451) and settlement sites (SM10105). Considering the HES Portal entries for the prehistoric features, their immediate setting is largely defined by their location within heathland or in agricultural fields. They denote areas where prehistoric activity has occurred and attest to how far reaching such activity was. While these assets may have views across the coast to varying degrees, this is considered to form part of their wider backdrop only with no active contribution to their cultural significance. As such, these assets are scoped out of further assessment.
- 4.2.6.5 There are a few brochs which are located on the coast, such as Keiss Broch (SM13623) and Whitegate Broch (SM13621) which are located next to each other, a broch at Nybster (SM569), a broch at Keiss Link (SM540) and a broch at Staxigoe (SM532). Keiss Broch and Whitegate Broch are next to each other and are scheduled due to their contribution of our understanding of the Iron Age around Sinclair's Bay, and to enhance our understanding of the relatively high concentration of brochs surrounding Keiss.
- 4.2.6.6 While the coastal locations of these brochs mean that they have good views of the Moray Firth and the North Sea, and therefore possibly also of the Proposed Development (Offshore), this does not necessarily mean that the Proposed Development (Offshore) forms part of their setting. Even where the Proposed Development (Offshore) might form part of the immediate coastal backdrop, it may not make a contribution to their cultural significance. As previously, it is the wider Iron Age settlement landscape which is of interest, and as such, all of the above brochs are scoped out of further assessment.
- 4.2.6.7 The chapel site comprises the remains of buildings, enclosures and a mound. Little of it survives, but it is possible that the complex may date to the Earl Christian period. The site is located within an area of heathland approximately 5km west of the coast meaning that coastal views were likely incidental and that the setting of this chapel site is focused on the

religious complex and its heathland and agricultural surrounding which, presumably, was where the community that it once served was located. Based on this, the asset is scoped out of further assessment.

4.2.6.8 The post-medieval features comprise a settlement site (SM4593) and three castles (SM90065, SM623, SM540). The settlement site is located approximately 3.5km west of the coast (between Nybster and Keiss). It is located within moorland and likely once consisted of a small settlement with a church. There are also traces of cultivation pointing towards an agricultural society. The reason for desertion is unknown, but it is thought to be of medieval or post-medieval date. It is considered that its setting is mainly formed of the extent of the former settlement and the surrounding moorland. Views towards the coast may be possible from here, however, these are considered to be incidental. As such, this asset is scoped out of further assessment.

4.2.6.9 The castle sites are of the old castle at Wick (SM90065), and Keiss Castle (SM540). On account of the potential of these having been sited along the coast for defensive purposes, and being within areas where good views across the Proposed Development (Offshore) are likely, both assets are scoped in for further assessment.

4.2.6.10 The site of a former bomb store is also noted within Wick (SM13668). The monument is part of a wider defensive complex of brick and concrete bomb storage buildings built in 1939. They were once connected by concrete roadways for vehicle and loading structures. As such, their setting is mainly defined by the road network that connects them, and to the airfield that they would have been connected to (Wick Airfield). It is the connection to the concrete roadway and the airfield which is of importance here; coast and sea views would have been incidental and it is not considered that the Proposed Development (Offshore) forms part of their setting. As such, the asset is scoped out of further assessment.

## 4.2.7 Scheduled Monument Summary

4.2.7.1 Based on the above, the following Scheduled Monuments were taken forward for further assessment as part of the walkover survey:

- Skirza Head broch 290m south-east of Craigwell (SM580) (Canisbay);
- Bucholly Castle (SM620) (Canisbay/Freswick);
- Rhiannrivach broch 185m north/north-west of Achow (SM575);
- Achcastle-shore fishing station (SM13642);
- Swiney castle (SM10752) ;
- Forse Castle (SM621);
- Wick Castle (SM90065); and
- Keiss Castle (SM623).

## 4.3 Listed Buildings

4.3.1.1 The results of the ZTV show that there are 64 Listed Buildings which do not fall within any zones of theoretical visibility. As such, these have been scoped out of further assessment. This leaves a total of 209 Listed Buildings, 16 of which are Category A, 117 Category B and 76 Category C which, based on the ZTV, could have intervisibility with the Proposed Development (Offshore) and therefore potential that it might form part of their setting or key designed views.

4.3.1.2 These Listed Buildings are located at or surrounding the settlements/areas of Bower, Canisbay, Latheron, Wick and Watten and are assessed below.

### 4.3.2 Bower

4.3.2.1 The Listed Buildings at Bower comprise Barrock House (LB549), a steading range (LB585) and the gate lodge to Barrock House (LB595). The buildings are of early to later 19<sup>th</sup> century date. They are set in the remains of a designed landscape surrounding the buildings with areas of woodland surrounding the Barrock House. While views of the coast, which lies approximately 6km to the south-east, might be incidental, it is not considered that the Proposed Development (Offshore) forms part of the setting of this group of assets, especially as their wider setting is more defined by the agricultural backdrop. As such, this group of Listed Buildings is scoped out of further assessment.

### 4.3.3 Canisbay

4.3.3.1 The Listed Buildings at Canisbay are associated with Freswick House and comprise the walls (LB1799) and the main house which includes the steading and enclosing walls (LB1801). While the buildings at least have a contextual relationship with Freswick Bay, the Proposed Development (Offshore) does not form part of this and is instead located further south-east of the bay. The farmstead does not appear to have had a specific fishing purpose, however, this cannot be precluded. The main mansion is sited on a mound seemingly oriented with views across the bay and away from the Proposed Development (Offshore) which lies south-east. Due to this, this group of buildings is scoped out of further assessment.

### 4.3.4 Latheron and Lybster

4.3.4.1 There are 40 Listed Buildings within the areas surrounding Latheron and Lybster comprising churches, residential dwellings and a bridge. Both are small villages within the parish of Caithness situated along the coast connected by the A99.

- 4.3.4.2 In general, buildings and structures such as churches, banks, bridges, dovecotes, post offices and shops (all of which are present as Listed Buildings within this area) were primarily designed for specific purposes which does not necessarily rely on a visual link or connection to the coast. While some of the Listed Buildings would undoubtedly have some views of the coast and beyond on account of the villages' locations along the coast, this does not necessarily mean that this backdrop informs their cultural significance or that it automatically forms part of their setting. Instead, for the majority of the Listed Buildings, it is their position within the village or relationship with other buildings in the village which defines their setting and contributes to our understanding of their cultural significance. This is considered to be especially true for churches, bridges, dovecotes, post offices and shops within the villages and as such they are scoped out of further assessment.
- 4.3.4.3 The remaining Listed Buildings mainly consist of private residences (including terraces) and steadings. The listed terraces at Russel Street, Main Street and Grey's Place form the residential core of Lybster and are primarily set within the village. Their principal facades/entrances are oriented towards the streets and did not appear to have been designed with views of the coast in mind. As such, these buildings are scoped out of further assessment.
- 4.3.4.4 This leaves Listed Buildings outside of the village cores such as steadings, the remains of Lybster Harbour, and buildings at Forse House (LB7946), a former mansion now turned hotel set back from the villages within agricultural fields and screened by some areas of woodland. Aside from a formal garden (also listed LB7947) surrounded by stone walls, little of a designed landscape surrounding the house appears to remain here (aside from the presence of woodland and a gap within it seemingly left for pleasure grounds and views south towards the village).
- 4.3.4.5 For those structures associated with the house and the adjacent farmstead (Nottingham Mains Steading LB8000), it is not considered that the Proposed Development (Offshore) forms part of their setting and as such they are scoped out of further assessment (not including the principal house, LB7946).
- 4.3.4.6 The buildings that remain (not including the harbour) are a croft (LB7935), a steading (LB7953), an early 19<sup>th</sup> century house (LB8004) and a bell tower (LB10950). The bell tower stands on a hill above Old Latheron Parish Church and was presumably formerly associated with it, although no associated ecclesiastical buildings survive here. It is assumed that the tower was constructed to act as a reference and focal point for the community, hence its elevated position. While this position affords views of the coast, it is not considered that views from the bell tower are particularly important to the cultural significance of the asset, but that instead it is the views of the bell tower from the surrounding area which



are key here. As such, this asset has been scoped out of further assessment.

- 4.3.4.7 The croft and steading are located off the main roads and set within the wider agricultural landscape which they would have once managed (if no longer active as farmsteads) or still manage today. Their immediate setting is formed of the farm complex itself, including any associated buildings, while their wider setting consists of the agricultural landscape. While views of the coast might be achieved from within their farm complexes, it is not considered that the ability of such a view contributes to their cultural significance. As such, these assets are scoped out of further assessment.
- 4.3.4.8 Similarly, the 19<sup>th</sup> century house known as Miss Lillies (LB8004) is sited adjacent to the A99 in Swiney, a small residential area between Lybster and Latheron. It is an earlier 19<sup>th</sup> century house of two storeys with irregular five bay elevation. Stone walls and outbuildings are present to the rear of the property (as the front borders the road), and it is assumed that it might have originally been conceived as a small steading, however, this is unclear. While its location on the road certainly affords it some coastal views, its cultural significance, which mainly appears to be derived from its architectural interest, is best appreciated from close inspection of the house. As such, this asset is also scoped out for further assessment.
- 4.3.4.9 The harbour at Lybster is Category B listed (LB7954) built in 1849 (later rebuilt in the 1880s). It comprises four basins, a small lighthouse and storehouses. According to the official listing entry for this asset, one of the stores partially served as a fisherman's bothy, while another was part of the herring fishing station. Considering that the harbour has a clear connection with the coast, and indeed the sea beyond, it is scoped in for further assessment.

## 4.3.5 Watten

- 4.3.5.1 The Listed Buildings at Watten include Thor House (LB14978) and Watten Mains (LB14979), two residences constructed in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century now set within Watten village and its surrounding agricultural landscape.
- 4.3.5.2 The two buildings are located on the eastern edge of Loch Watten approximately 2km apart within a largely agricultural landscape. While limited views of the coast are possible, these are somewhat disrupted by areas of woodland, Bilbster Wind Farm and Wathegar Wind Farm which are located on higher ground to the south/south-east of the buildings.
- 4.3.5.3 Based on the above, it is considered that the settings of the assets comprise the village and the agricultural landscape, with no intended connection to the coast. As such, the Listed Buildings at Watten are scoped out of further assessment.



## 4.3.6 Wick

- 4.3.6.1 There are 159 Listed Buildings at Wick comprising a mixture of dovecotes, residential dwellings, churches, bridges, graveyards and schools. In general, Listed Buildings in Wick such as schools, dovecots, former tenements, offices or shops, public libraries, post offices, railway stations, churches, graveyards/burial grounds, ironmongers, town halls, court buildings, banks, bridges and undertakers would have been designed for a specific use and purpose. Even where they might have intervisibility with the coast, their cultural significance is not considered to rely on this, and as such, these buildings are scoped out of further assessment.
- 4.3.6.2 There is a large group of terrace houses, public buildings and dwellings at Wick, most of which have been listed for group value to recognise their value as the core of Thomas Telford's 1809 scheme for the new town plan of Pulteneytown for the British Fisheries Society. The scheme was nationally important to establish planned fishing villages to provide work and housing. While this does mean that these buildings were usually sited close to areas of work such as bays, fisheries etc. it does not necessarily mean that they would have had an active relationship with the coast itself. Furthermore, their location would have primarily been determined on grounds of practicality, instead of designing these with views of the coast in mind. Therefore, while they may have a broader link to the coast, on account of the fishing industry, they do not rely on any views and/or intervisibility with the coast to understand or appreciate their cultural significance. As such, these specific buildings are scoped out of further assessment.
- 4.3.6.3 In addition to the above, there are other buildings and structures such as mansions and farmsteads at and surrounding Wick and a commemorative tower which are not directly associated with the 1809 scheme, but attest to the growth of Wick and the surrounding area over time.
- 4.3.6.4 Keiss Castle is a Category B Listed Building (LB18445) sited on the cliff edge approximately 10km to the north of Wick town centre. Notably, this is not the same asset as the scheduled Keiss Castle which has already been scoped in for further assessment. Instead, this is the later baronial mansion set further inland just off the A99, and it is assumed that its placement here was informed by the older castle which is just located to its south/south-east. For this asset, its setting is mainly comprised of the remains of its estate, and while the coast forms part of an attractive backdrop, it is not considered that the Proposed Development (Offshore) forms part of its setting. As such, this asset is scoped out of further assessment.

- 4.3.6.5 There are various buildings and structures at and surrounding the harbour at Wick Bay which attest to the importance of the fishing industry in the town. Listed Buildings at the bay itself, the Harbour Quay (including stores and curing yard) (LB48404), a fish selling station (LB44955) and two lighthouses at the North and South Piers respectively (both listed under LB42309).
- 4.3.6.6 Considering their location at and relationship with the bay, it is currently considered that there is a possibility that these assets may also have a wider relationship with the North Sea and should therefore be scoped in for further assessment. The lighthouses are relatively small in size and are positioned at the bay entrance which is located approximately 1km which suggests that their key relationship is with the bay as opposed to the North Sea, however, this requires further assessment.
- 4.3.6.7 Similarly, the setting of the stores and fish selling station is likely focused on the bay, however, there is potential that these assets may have a wider setting relationship with the North Sea.
- 4.3.6.8 Based on the above it is considered that the above assets at Wick Bay should be scoped in for further assessment.

## 4.3.7 Listed Building Summary

- 4.3.7.1 Based on the above, the following Listed Buildings have been identified for further assessment:
- Category A listed Keiss Harbour and warehouse (LB14085) (Wick/Keiss);
  - Category A listed Noss Head Lighthouse Keeper's Houses and offices (LB14087) (Wick/Keiss);
  - Category B listed Forse House (LB7946) (Latheron and Lybster);
  - Category B listed Lybster Harbour (LB7954) (Latheron and Lybster);
  - Category B listed Grain store (LB49297) (Wick);
  - Category B listed Keiss Harbour Bothy (LB43519) (Wick/Keiss);
  - Category B listed Wick Harbour South Pier and Lighthouse (LB42309) (Wick);
  - Category B listed Coastguard Station Lookout Tower (LB42306) (Wick);;
  - Category B listed Whaligoe Steps and Quay (LB14070) (Whaligoe)
  - Category B listed Keiss Village, Boatman's Cottage and Harbour Cottage (LB14084) (Wick/Keiss);
  - Category C listed Telford Street storehouse (LB48410) (Wick);
  - Category C listed Harbour quay (LB48404) (Wick);
  - Category C listed Harbour quay Old Fish Market (LB44955) (Wick); and
  - Category C listed Keiss Harbour Icehouse (LB14086) (Wick/Keiss).

## 5 Site Walkover Survey

### 5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1.1 The site walkover survey was undertaken between 2<sup>nd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> July 2024. Weather conditions were changeable throughout with intermittent high winds, cloud cover, clear visibility and rainfall. Broadly, the main villages/settlement areas that were visited included Wick, Staxigoe, Keiss, Freswick, Whaligoe, Skirza and Lybster. Annex 1 provides photography taken during the site walkover and is referenced within the sections below.
- 5.1.1.2 The locations of the designated heritage assets that have been scoped in for the walkover survey can be seen on Figure 2-2.

### 5.2 General observations

- 5.2.1.1 In general, views inland from the main arterial road (the A99) were changeable due to the undulating topography, but the landscape was generally more open between Keiss, Skirza and John O'Groats due to the relatively low population density and less vegetation and tree cover. To the south of Keiss, isolated patches of woodland and scrubland were more common and there was a higher concentration of scattered buildings and villages off the main road.
- 5.2.1.2 Outside of the bigger settlements of Wick and Lybster, the area has largely retained an agricultural character scattered with small villages and isolated residences and farmsteads. Across this landscape, many onshore wind farms have been constructed on areas of higher ground to the west of the A99. Many of these wind farms are visible from the road and form part of the backdrop to the agricultural landscape. North to south, the main wind farms include Stroupster Wind Farm (approximately 3km west/south-west from Freswick Bay), Wathegar Wind Farm (approximately 6.5km west of Wick), Bilbster Wind Farm (approximately 9m west/north-west of Wick), Camster Wind Farm (approximately 8km north-west of Whaligoe) and Whilk Wind Farm (approximately 2.5km west from Whaligoe).
- 5.2.1.3 Views towards the coast were generally open from the road and only in some cases restricted by intervening settlement areas or treelines. The existing Beatrice OWF was noticeable when travelling along the A99, more so from the areas between Lybster and Wick where, in some areas, it is only approximately 13km from the coast. The northern extent of Beatrice OWF becomes less distinguishable from the areas to the north of Noss Head onwards (e.g., at Freswick Bay and Skirza Head) and visibility from here is highly dependent on good and clear weather conditions, whereas from Noss Head, Beatrice OWF is still somewhat visible when the weather becomes more overcast.

- 5.2.1.4 On days of good visibility, the site of Moray West OWF and the existing Moray East OWF could also be distinguished on account of the different pattern/placement of its WTGs which contrasts Beatrice OWF. Towards the southern extent of the survey area (that is, more towards Lybster), it was also possible to see the southern/south-western extent of Beatrice OWF, Moray East OWF and the site of Moray West OWF which is currently under construction (only distinguishable on account of the construction equipment).

## 5.3 Asset or location specific observations

### 5.3.1 Wick - Harbour

- 5.3.1.1 The assets at Wick include the Telford Street Storehouse (LB48410) (Plate 16), Harbour Quay (LB48404) (Plate 3), Harbour Quay Old Fish Market (LB44955) (Plate 22) and Wick Harbour South Pier Lighthouse and North Pier Lighthouse (LB42309) (Plate 18, Plate 17). This group of Listed Buildings is located approximately 26 km to the north-west of the nearest point of the OWF Array Area.
- 5.3.1.2 The harbour (LB42309) is located at Wick Bay and is still active, currently being utilised by a combination of smaller private vessels, fishing boats and ships and for works to WTGs. Due to the presence of the Beatrice OWF offices at the harbour, it is assumed that the parts of a WTG present in photos from the walkover survey related to Beatrice OWF.
- 5.3.1.3 The listed lighthouses (LB42309) are located within the most eastern extent of the harbour along the North Pier and the South Pier (Plates 17-18). The South Pier lighthouse was built in circa 1905 as a squat octagonal tower with iron lantern. The North Pier lighthouse is a later addition of 19<sup>th</sup> century date with six cast iron tubular legs and a hexagonal wood lantern with pyramidal roof. The cultural significance of these lighthouses lies mainly within their architectural and historic values.
- 5.3.1.4 The lighthouses do not have a prominent or elevated location along the coast, but are instead sited on the piers, guiding vessels into the harbour (although it is understood that the North Pier lighthouse is no longer in use). As such, their main setting and relationship is tied to the harbour and Wick Bay which extends further to the east before it meets the North Sea.
- 5.3.1.5 Views across Wick Bay and the North Sea from the harbour itself mostly extend east, north-east and south-east, with some glimpses of Beatrice OWF possible from the northern extent of the harbour. Beatrice OWF therefore forms part of the wider North Sea backdrop from the harbour.

- 5.3.1.6 Considering that Beatrice OWF is visible from certain parts of the harbour, it is likely that the Proposed Development (Offshore) would also be visible in similar limited views from there. It is considered that the Proposed Development (Offshore) would largely be experienced as an extension to Beatrice OWF.
- 5.3.1.7 Based on the above, while views of the Proposed Development (Offshore) will be visible from the harbour, it is not considered that the Proposed Development (Offshore) falls within the setting of the asset which is mainly defined by the physical remits of the harbour itself and Wick Bay beyond. Long distance views across towards the Proposed Development (Offshore) are incidental and while they form part of the wider North Sea context, they are not considered to make a contribution to either the setting of the asset or to its cultural significance. As such, this asset has been scoped out of further assessment.
- 5.3.1.8 The Harbour Quay (LB48404) and the Old Fish Market (LB44955) are located at Harbour Quay and Harbour Road which border the harbour to the west and south-west.
- 5.3.1.9 The Old Fish Market (LB44955) is a shallow single storey rectangular building with a canopied platform directed towards the harbour (Plate 22). The building is primarily listed on account of its architectural-, social- and scientific value as the reputed first fish market in Scotland. Originally, fish were sold straight from the incoming boats, however, the construction of the building meant that there was a central place to sell.
- 5.3.1.10 The building has a clear visual and historic relationship with the harbour and its setting is defined by its position within the south-western corner of the harbour. On account of its location, there is no intervisibility with the asset and the Proposed Development (Offshore), and the walkover survey determined that the Proposed Development (Offshore) does not fall within the setting of the asset. As such, this asset has been scoped out of further assessment.
- 5.3.1.11 Harbour Quay (LB48404) is a circa 1815 block of semi-detached three-storey, gabled storehouses facing Harbour Quay Road (Plate 3)). The associated curing yard is enclosed by a two-storey wall which runs along the length of side roads to the rear.
- 5.3.1.12 The storehouse has been listed on account of its level of preservation which contributes to its architectural value (which is generally considered to be good) and its link to Thomas Telford's 1809 scheme for Pulteneytown, which informs both its social and historic values. The buildings would not have only been used as storehouses, but also for fish processing.

- 5.3.1.13 The setting of the asset is defined by its relationship to the harbour. Views are primarily directed towards the basins and the piers, however long-distance views across Wick Bay are also possible, although somewhat interrupted by harbour infrastructure. The Proposed Development (Offshore) does not lie in any such views and is not considered to fall within the setting of the asset. As such, this asset has been scoped out of further assessment as there is not considered to be potential for harm to its setting or cultural significance due to the Proposed Development (Offshore).
- 5.3.1.14 The Telford Street storehouse (LB48410) extends along Telford Street. Formerly a two-storey nine bay storehouse, it has now been converted into separate residences (Plates 15-16). Its cultural significance is mainly defined by its architectural, social and historic values linked to Thomas Telford's 1809 scheme.
- 5.3.1.15 The walkover survey has shown that its immediate setting is comprised of its location across the street, while its wider setting is within Lower Pulteneytown which captures the designed 1809 scheme. While it is contextually linked to the fishing industry, it has no other meaningful relationship with the North Sea and the Proposed Development (Offshore) does not fall within the setting or within any key views to and from this asset. As such, this asset has been scoped out of further assessment as there is not considered to be potential for harm to its setting or cultural significance due to the Proposed Development (Offshore).

## **5.3.2 Wick Castle (SM90065)**

- 5.3.2.1 Wick Castle comprises the remains of a plain, rectangular keep set near the landward end of a promontory flanked by high cliffs thought to be of 12<sup>th</sup> century origin. This date was assumed based on its tower not forming part of a gatehouse, as is commonly seen in older castles, which, according to MacKie (1975) and Lamb (1980) is more common in 12<sup>th</sup> century keeps in Orkney and Scandinavia (Canmore, no date)<sup>8</sup>. The castle is located approximately 25 km to the north-west of the nearest point of the OWF Array Area.
- 5.3.2.2 No information about the castle is available on the HES portal, however, it is assumed that its cultural significance is likely expressed at least by its scientific value (in regard to potential for archaeological remains), its architectural value (in regard to its design) and its historic value on account of its contribution to the wider castle network along the Caithness coast.
- 5.3.2.3 Due to the risk of danger from falling masonry, it was not possible to directly visit the castle during the walkover survey, however, observations were undertaken from the associated car park to the north/north-east where possible (Plate 20).

5.3.2.4 The castles position along the cliff means that it has clear views of the North Sea to its east which is where the existing Beatrice OWF can be seen approximately 13km off the coast. Due to this, it is considered that the Proposed Development (Offshore) would also be visible once constructed. However, the Proposed Development (Offshore) does not form part of the immediate setting of the asset, which is largely defined by its location along the cliff, or its wider setting along the coastline. While the North Sea certainly forms part of the backdrop of this asset, and it is likely that views to and from the sea would have been important during its use, it is not considered that such views make a significant contribution to its cultural significance. North Sea views would be retained by the addition of the Proposed Development (Offshore) which would be experienced as an extension of Beatrice OWF.

5.3.2.5 Based on the above, it is considered that the addition of the Proposed Development (Offshore) would be unlikely to lead to any harm to the cultural significance or the setting of the asset and would not impede our ability of wider views across the North Sea. Therefore, this asset is scoped out of further detailed assessment.

### 5.3.3 Coastguard Station Lookout Tower (LB42306)

5.3.3.1 The lookout tower is located on the south-western edge of Wick overlooking the town and the North Sea to the north-east, east and south-east located approximately 25km to the north-west of the nearest point of the OWF Array Area. It is an octagonal whitewashed rubble tower of two-storeys with 12 pane sashes to each face to allow for views to all sides (Plate 19). The cultural significance of the asset is primarily captured by its architectural and historic values, both of which were shaped by its contribution to the wider fishing industry at Wick.

5.3.3.2 The building is no longer in use and surrounded by a low rubble wall on all sides on an elevated position which forms part of its immediate setting. Its principal elevation faces Wick to the north/north-west, but its shape and window placement ensures 360 views.

5.3.3.3 Based on its position and design, there are clear views across the North Sea from the tower which include Beatrice OWF and Moray East OWF (although to a lesser degree). As Moray East OWF is less distinguishable, it is unclear whether Moray West OWF will form part of the wider turbine view once constructed. Accessibility of sea views would have been integral to the lookout tower, and as such it does have a strong relationship with the North Sea. The North Sea, to some extent, therefore, forms part of the asset's wider setting. Nevertheless, it is the ability to have such views that is key to understanding its cultural significance here, and the addition of the Proposed Development (Offshore) would not impede that or limit this ability in any way.



5.3.3.4 Based on the above, the former Coastguard Station Lookout Tower (LB42306) is scoped out of further assessment.

### **5.3.4 Grain Store (LB49297)**

5.3.4.1 The listed Grain Store (LB49297) is located on the corner of Elzy Road at Staxigoe, a small village located approximately 2.3km north-east of Wick, approximately 26 km to the north-west of the nearest point of the OWF Array Area. It is a large 18<sup>th</sup> century two storey grain store (now disused) located just to the south-east of Staxigoe Harbour (Plate 21).

5.3.4.2 Originally scoped in for further assessment based on the assumption that the store might have had a strong relationship with the harbour or might have once been used for curing or fish processing, it appears as though its primary purpose and original intend was always to store grain brought it from the fields surrounding Staxigoe. As such, it is not considered that there was ever a meaningful contextual or intentional visual relationship between the store and the North Sea, and the Proposed Development (Offshore) is not considered to fall within the setting of the asset. Due to this, this asset is scoped out of further assessment.

### **5.3.5 Noss Head Lighthouse Keeper's Houses and Offices (LB14087)**

5.3.5.1 Noss Head Lighthouse Keeper's Houses and offices (LB14087) is located on Noss Head, a peninsula on the north-west coast of Caithness that overlooks Sinclair's Bay located approximately 26km north-west of the nearest point of the OWF Array Area. The lighthouse dates to 1849 and is a circular tower of medium height (Plate 6). A semicircular single storey building is at part of the base.

5.3.5.2 The other associated buildings include a single storey seven bay range gighouse and the remains of an outhouse with a walled garden (Plate 7). Due to works being undertaken at the lighthouse complex at the time of the walkover survey, it was not possible to photograph all individual buildings due to privacy reasons.

5.3.5.3 The immediate setting of the lighthouse and offices comprises the lighthouse complex which is encased by stone and rubble walls with entrance gates. Its wider setting comprises the peninsula and Sinclair's Bay which lies to its north, north-west and west with the North Sea forming part the backdrop to the east and south-east.

5.3.5.4 Views southwards stretch towards Wick and beyond, and when visibility is good include the existing Beatrice OWF (see Plate 7). Based on this, it is assumed that the Proposed Development (Offshore) would also be visible in views and would likely be seen as a western extension to Beatrice OWF from this location.



- 5.3.5.5 Considering that the lighthouse has an intentional visual relationship with the North Sea, it is unsurprising that views from this location are wide ranging and form part of the wider North Sea backdrop. The lighthouse is still in active use today, meaning that the presence of OWFs has not detracted from its functionality implying that its social and historic values can still be understood, despite the addition of modern infrastructure.
- 5.3.5.6 Based on the above, it is considered that the Proposed Development (Offshore) would not lead to harm to the cultural significance of the asset, neither would it change its wider North Sea backdrop in such a way as to lead to harm to its setting. As such, this asset has been scoped out of further assessment.

## 5.3.6 Keiss

- 5.3.6.1 The assets at Keiss comprise a bothy (LB43519) (Plate 11), the Boatman's Cottage and Harbour Cottage (LB14084) (Plate 8, Plate 9), the harbour and warehouse (LB14085) (Plate 10) and the associated icehouse (LB14086) (Plate 13). The asset group is located approximately 33 km north-west to the nearest point of the OWF Array Area.
- 5.3.6.2 The assets form a group of buildings surrounding the harbour which was constructed in 1831. The warehouse is built into the slope adjacent to the harbour, while the cottages and the bothy sit on the road just above it. The icehouse is located approximately 80m to the north-west of the harbour.
- 5.3.6.3 The immediate setting of these buildings is defined by the area of the harbour. Beyond that, it is sited on the southern edge of Keiss just within the northern extent of Sinclair's Bay to the south. On account of its position, it has good views across the bay and towards Noss Head. Visibility on the day was mixed, however, it appeared as though there were limited views beyond Noss Head from here.
- 5.3.6.4 Key views from here are mainly focused between the different assets in this group and across Sinclair's Bay. This means that the Proposed Development (Offshore) does not form part of the setting of the asset and neither does it lie within any key views across the bay. Viewpoint 4 (Figure 12-3 within Volume 7B, Appendix 12-4: Seascape, Landscape & Visual Impact Assessment Visualisations (The Highland Council)) taken from the A99 approximately 500m to the north-west of the assets shows that the Proposed Development (Offshore) will likely be visible in the backdrop views towards the bay on a day where visibility is clear. Nevertheless, it is still not considered that the Proposed Development (Offshore) would detract from such a view or that their presence would impact our understanding or the cultural significance of the assets at Keiss.
- 5.3.6.5 Based on the above, the assets at Keiss have been scoped out of further assessment as it is considered that the Proposed Development (Offshore) would not lead to harm to either their cultural significance or their setting.

### 5.3.7 Keiss Castle (SM623)

- 5.3.7.1 Keiss Castle (SM623) likely dates from the latter half of the 16<sup>th</sup> century and was originally a tower house consisting of up to four storeys. It is located approximately 32km to the north-west of the nearest point of the OWF Array Area.
- 5.3.7.2 The cultural significance of the castle is mainly derived from its scientific value, which in this case relates to its archaeological interest, its architectural value expressed by its design, and by its social value due to its links to the Sinclair Earls of Caithness in the 17<sup>th</sup> century and its wider interest as part of a wider network of castles along the Caithness coast.
- 5.3.7.3 While the castle itself was not accessible, observations of it were possible from High Street at Keiss (to the south-west of the castle, see Plates 12 and 14) and from the A99 to the north of the castle (Plate 2).
- 5.3.7.4 The roofless ruin stands on a slight headland somewhat enclosed by the remains of its barmkin (its defensive enclosure) to the south of the later manorial Keiss Castle constructed in 1755. It's location along the cliff top means that it has good views south and south-east across Sinclair Bay (as shown in (Plate 2)), but the coastline protrudes in such a way to the north that views towards Nybster to the north/north-east and beyond are limited.
- 5.3.7.5 Observations from High Street at Keiss suggest that, on a day of good visibility, it may be possible to see distant glimpses of the Proposed Development (Offshore) on account of Beatrice OWF being visible in the distance when looking south/south-east towards Sinclair Bay and Noss Head. While the castle might have intentionally been sited along the headland to afford good views across the bay and Noss Head beyond, such views would not be impeded in any way by the Proposed Development (Offshore), and it is not considered that such background views form part of the setting of the castle.
- 5.3.7.6 Based on the above, it is not considered that the Proposed Development (Offshore) would lead to setting impacts or otherwise impact the cultural significance of the asset. As such, this asset has been scoped out of further assessment.

### 5.3.8 Skirza Head (SM580)

- 5.3.8.1 The Scheduled Monument comprises an Iron Age broch (between about 600 BC and AD 400). It is identifiable as a low grass covered mound within a hollow in the centre located approximately 34 km to the north-west of the OWF Array Area. The cultural significance of the broch consists of its scientific value tied to its archaeological interest, and to its historic value due to its contribution to our understanding of the Iron Age society along the Caithness coast and the general use, purpose and construction of brochs.

- 5.3.8.2 The broch was not publicly accessible at the time of the survey, however, some observations of the general area at Skirza were possible from the main arterial road leading through the settlement and from Freswick looking north-east towards Skirza (see Plate 15 and Plate 1).
- 5.3.8.3 The walkover survey suggests that, on a day of good visibility, wide ranging views of the coast, Moray Firth and the North Sea are possible. These may include long distance glances of Beatrice OWF meaning that the Proposed Development (Offshore) may also be visible from the asset. While the broch might have intentionally been sited at Skirza Head to make use of views, it is anticipated that views inland and the more immediate areas of the coastline would have been more important here as opposed to long ranging views of Moray Firth and the North Sea. Furthermore, it is not considered that background views beyond Freswick Bay form part of the setting of the broch.
- 5.3.8.4 Based on the above, it is not considered that the Proposed Development (Offshore) would lead to setting impacts or otherwise impact the cultural significance of the asset. As such, this asset has been scoped out of further assessment.

### **5.3.9 Bucholly Castle (SM620)**

- 5.3.9.1 The ruins of Bucholly Castle date to the 15<sup>th</sup> century and comprise the gatehouse structure which survives jutting out on a rocky promontory below the cliff edge, a result of coastal erosion. It is located approximately 33 km north-west of the nearest point of the OWF Offshore Array.
- 5.3.9.2 The cultural significance of the asset is mainly expressed by its architectural value, its scientific value (based on the archaeological evidence that might survive here) and its social value as part of its contribution to our understanding of the medieval society along the Caithness coast and the wider castle network that survives here.
- 5.3.9.3 During the site walkover survey, it was not possible to take any observations of the castle from any publicly accessible areas. Access to the castle itself is restricted and it was not possible to see it from the area surrounding Freswick Bay or from points along the A99 which runs to the west of it. The promontory on which it stands only elevates the ruin approximately 10m above sea level, so it is assumed that it would mostly be visible by boat, or from Skirza Head on a day of good visibility. The castle was not distinguishable in long distance views from Skirza during the walkover survey.
- 5.3.9.4 Based on its position along the promontory, it is assumed that views of coastal points such as Skirza Head and Noss Head are possible from the ruins and the castle might have been placed in its position to take advantage of such. It is assumed that on a day of good visibility, glimpses of Beatrice OWF might be possible, and therefore possibly of the Proposed

Development (Offshore). While it is assumed that the castle would have been placed here with favourable and long-distance views of Moray Firth and the North Sea in mind, the Proposed Development (Offshore) would not impede such views or our ability to understand why sea views would have been important for castles. Furthermore, it is considered that the Proposed Development (Offshore) does not fall within the setting of the castle.

5.3.9.5 Based on the above, it is not considered that the Proposed Development (Offshore) would lead to setting impacts or otherwise impact the cultural significance of the asset. As such, this asset has been scoped out of further assessment.

### **5.3.10 Whaligoe Steps and Quay (LB14070)**

5.3.10.1 Whaligoe Steps is a Category B Listed Building consisting of renovated mid-18<sup>th</sup> century Flagstone steps cut into the cliffside leading towards a former curing station and quay which survives as a raised rubble platform. It is located approximately 26km to the west of the nearest point of the OWF Array Area.

5.3.10.2 The cultural significance of these features is mainly defined by their architectural value, especially of the steps, and their social and historic values as a remnant of the former prominence of smaller fishing communities along the Caithness coast.

5.3.10.3 While it was not possible to descend all of the steps on the day of the walkover survey due to adverse windy weather conditions along the cliffside, observations from the top and middle of the steps towards the quay were possible (see Plate 4 and Plate 5).

5.3.10.4 The existing Beatrice and Moray East OWF and the site of Moray West OWF are visible from the Listed Building with Beatrice approximately 15km off the coast from here. Viewpoint 8 (Figure 12-7 of Volume 7B, Appendix 12-4: Seascape, Landscape & Visual Impact Assessment Visualisations (The Highland Council)) taken from the footpath towards Whaligoe Steps shows that the Proposed Development (Offshore) will likely be visible on a clear day together with operational and consented OWF developments which will form part of this view. However, such long distance views are not considered to make a meaningful contribution to the wider setting of the asset, nor would they take away from understanding the cultural significance of the steps and harbour remains as a former small harbour.

5.3.10.5 Based on the above, it is not considered that the Proposed Development (Offshore) would lead to setting impacts or otherwise impact the cultural significance of the asset. As such, this asset has been scoped out of further assessment.

### **5.3.11 Rhiannrivach broch (SM575)**

5.3.11.1 The broch forms the remains of a stone built roundhouse dating to the Iron Age which is visible as a grass covered mound. The cultural significance of the broch consists of its scientific value tied to its archaeological interest, and to its historic value due to its contribution to our understanding of the Iron Age society along the Caithness coast and the general use, purpose and construction of brochs. It is located approximately 35km to the west of the nearest point of the OWF Array Area.

5.3.11.2 It is sited along a narrow lane connecting scattered properties to the south of Rumster Forest to the A99 to the south. While it was possible to drive along the lane during the walkover survey, there was no suitable place to stop. Nevertheless, it was possible to note that, on account of the elevated position of the road leading to the forest to the north, there are good views from the broch towards the A99, Lybster and Moray Firth, including of the existing Beatrice and Moray East OWF and the site of Moray West OWF, however, these are contingent to good visibility. Based on this, it is assumed that the Proposed Development (Offshore) would also be visible from here.

5.3.11.3 Based on its elevated position further inland, the immediate setting of the broch is primarily defined by its surviving associated bank and ditch and the agricultural field within which these elements survive. Its wider setting forms part of the agricultural landscape from which, based on its elevated position, views of Moray Firth and the North Sea are possible. While it is assumed that the elevated position was likely an attractive natural feature exploited for the location of the broch, it is not considered that the views of the coast would have been a significant contributing factor and instead are more incidental. Aside from an attractive visual relationship, it is unlikely that more significance was given to the coastal views in regard to this asset.

5.3.11.4 Based on the above, it is not considered that the Proposed Development (Offshore) would lead to setting impacts or otherwise impact the cultural significance of the asset. As such, this asset has been scoped out of further assessment.

### **5.3.12 Lybster Harbour (LB7954)**

5.3.12.1 The harbour at Lybster is recognised as a Category B Listed Building approximately 450m south-west of the western edge of Lybster and approximately 36km to the west of the nearest point of the OWF Array Area. The harbour is of 1849 date later rebuilt in 1882 (see Plate 23). It included four basins, associated buildings (some of which formerly served as stores and a salmon fisherman's bothy, see Plate 24) and a lighthouse (see Plate 25). The cultural significance of the harbour is mainly comprised of its architectural and historic values as a surviving 19<sup>th</sup> century harbour.

- 5.3.12.2 The walkover survey showed that, depending on good visibility, it was possible to see the most south-western extent of Beatrice OWF, Moray East OWF and Moray West OWF (which is currently under construction at the time of writing) across the Moray Firth (see Plate 26).
- 5.3.12.3 The setting of the harbour is considered to be limited being enclosed by the surrounding cliffs with the village set behind and above it. It is set apart from the village which is reached by a road and bridge cut into the cliff. The cliffs which produce on both sides of the harbour create a fairly narrow and channelled view towards Moray Firth. It is unlikely that such a view would include the Proposed Development (Offshore) with more of a visual focus on Beatrice OWF, Moray East OWF and Moray West OWF.
- 5.3.12.4 Viewpoint 9 (Figure 12-8 of Volume 7B, Appendix 12-4: Seascape, Landscape & Visual Impact Assessment Visualisations (The Highland Council)) taken from the southern edge of Lybster shows that views from the edge of the town towards the Proposed Development (Offshore) are possible. However, it must be noted that this location sits on much higher ground approximately 420m to the north-east above the harbour as there is approximately 50m difference between the two with the viewpoint location at approximately 54m AOD and the harbour at approximately 4m aOD. This visualisation is provided for context but is not representative of the experience within the harbour.
- 5.3.12.5 Based on the above, it is not considered that the Proposed Development (Offshore) would lead to setting impacts or otherwise impact the cultural significance of the asset. As such, this asset has been scoped out of further assessment.

### **5.3.13 Achastle shore fishing station (SM13642) Swiney Castle (SM10752)**

- 5.3.13.1 At Achastle the remains of an 1810 fishing station built by Patrick MacDonald are designated as a Scheduled Monument, sat immediately adjacent to the likewise scheduled Swiney Castle (SM10752). The herring station is located at sea level at the head of a bay and survives as a complex of buildings arranged around courtyards. The remains of Swiney Castle are sited just to the east of these on a seaward facing promontory. Both of these assets are approximately 37km to the west of the nearest point of the OWF Array Area.
- 5.3.13.2 These assets have been grouped together here on account of them being located immediately adjacent to each other and the fact that it was not possible to make any observations of them during the walkover survey. No public footpaths were available, and neither was it possible to safely park at Achastle or Burrigull and walk to these assets. When driving along these locations it was not possible to view the assets either due to their low lying seaward location. However, due to this, it is assumed that the existing



Beatrice, Moray East OWF and the nearly fully constructed Moray West OWF at the time of writing are visible in views from these assets and that therefore the Proposed Development (Offshore) would also be visible once constructed.

- 5.3.13.3 Nevertheless, much like with Whaligoe Steps and Quay (LB14070), the cultural significance of the remains of the herring station does not depend on wider views of Moray Firth. While a connection with the coast is clearly important, this is not impeded by any way of the presence of the existing and proposed OWF. Similarly, it is not considered that long-distance views of Moray Firth and the North Sea from Swiney Castle significantly contribute to the cultural significance of the asset or would restrict our ability to understand why sea views would have been important for castles.
- 5.3.13.4 Based on the above, it is not considered that the Proposed Development (Offshore) would lead to setting impacts or otherwise impact the cultural significance of the assets. As such, these assets have been scoped out of further assessment.

## **5.3.14 Forse Castle (SM621)**

- 5.3.14.1 No details of this castle are currently available on its official scheduling entry, however, based on the other castles of a similar nature in the wider area, it is assumed to be of medieval origins, with likely later post-medieval changes. The cultural significance of the castle is likely expressed at least by its scientific value (in regard to potential for archaeological remains), its architectural value (in regard to its design) and its historic value on account of its contribution to the wider castle network along the Caithness coast. The castle is located approximately 38km to the west of the nearest point of the OWF Array Area.
- 5.3.14.2 While there was no direct access to the castle, it was possible to view it from roads at Burrigull and Forse, even though it was not possible to safely stop and park here and make use of the footpath that leads towards the coast. The remains of the castle stand on the headland just before the cliff edge.
- 5.3.14.3 From the nearby road it appeared as though the surviving remains might be similar to those of Wick Castle of a plain, rectangular keep. While Beatrice and Moray East OWF form part of the wider backdrop views and it is anticipated that this will be the same for Moray West OWF, views from the asset appear to be more directed towards Moray Firth and the distant Aberdeenshire coast to the south and south-east rather than towards the east and north-east. However, this cannot currently be fully understood as the castle's original orientation, extent and status remain unknown.

5.3.14.4 Nevertheless, based on the observations above, it is considered that the addition of the Proposed Development (Offshore) would be unlikely to lead to any harm to the cultural significance or the setting of the asset and would not impede our ability of wider views across Moray Firth. Therefore, this asset is scoped out of further detailed assessment.

### **5.3.15 Forse House (LB7946)**

5.3.15.1 Forse House is a Category B Listed Building comprising the remains of an early to mid-18<sup>th</sup> century three storey mansion located approximately 38km to the west of the nearest point of the OWF Array Area. The estate once belonged to the Sutherlands of Forse and is now a hotel. Remnants of the estate survive and in some cases are separately listed (such as the associated dovecote and walled garden). The cultural significance of the asset is mainly derived from its architectural and historic values.

5.3.15.2 The house is set within its former estate surrounded by ornamental planting to its north, south and west set back from the A99. This asset was originally scoped in on account of what seemed to be a deliberately cleared view from the house towards the coast, however, when driving along the A99 to the south it became clear that, on account of the generally flat topography, it is unlikely that this was originally designed specifically for the purpose of coastal views. Instead, it might have been added for more of a 'borrowed landscape' effect from the area of green to the south of the house to the fields and trees (at the A99) beyond.

5.3.15.3 Based on the above, it is not considered that the Proposed Development (Offshore) forms part of the setting of Forse House, and as such, this asset has been scoped out of further assessment.

## 6 Conclusions

- 6.1.1.1 This assessment has found that while the Proposed Development (Offshore) would be visible in wider long distance views of Moray Firth and/or the North Sea depending on the location of the identified assets, it is not considered that such an addition would lead to harm to the cultural significance of any of the assets within the study area or adversely impact their setting.

## 7 References

<sup>1</sup> Historic Environment Scotland (2016) 'Managing Change in the Historic Environment: Setting'. Available at: <https://www.historicenvironment.scot/archives-and-research/publications/publication/?publicationId=80b7c0a0-584b-4625-b1fd-a60b009c2549> (Accessed: 27/05/2024).

<sup>2</sup> Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014 (rev. 2020) 'Standards and guidance for historic environment desk-based assessment'. Available at: [https://www.archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/CifAS%26GDBA\\_4.pdf](https://www.archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/CifAS%26GDBA_4.pdf) (Accessed: 27/05/2024)

<sup>3</sup> Historic Environment Scotland (2019) 'Historic Environment Policy for Scotland (HEPS)'. Available at: <https://www.historicenvironment.scot/advice-and-support/planning-and-guidance/historic-environment-policy-for-scotland-heps/> (Accessed: 20/09/2024).

<sup>4</sup> Scottish Government (2020) 'Sectoral marine plan for offshore wind energy'. Available online at: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/sectoral-marine-plan-offshore-wind-energy/> (Accessed 01/03/2024).

<sup>5</sup> Historic Environment Scotland 2016 (rev. 2020) 'Managing Change in the Historic Environment: Setting'. Available at: <https://www.historicenvironment.scot/archives-and-research/publications/publication/?publicationId=80b7c0a0-584b-4625-b1fd-a60b009c2549> (Accessed: 27/05/2024).

<sup>6</sup> Historic Environment Scotland 2016 (rev. 2020) 'Managing Change in the Historic Environment: Setting'. Available at: <https://www.historicenvironment.scot/archives-and-research/publications/publication/?publicationId=80b7c0a0-584b-4625-b1fd-a60b009c2549> (Accessed: 27/05/2024).

<sup>7</sup> Historic Environment Scotland (2018) 'Environmental Impact Assessment Handbook'. Available at: <https://www.historicenvironment.scot/archives-and-research/publications/publication/?publicationId=6ed33b65-9df1-4a2f-acbb-a8e800a592c0> (Accessed: 27/05/2024).

<sup>8</sup> Canmore (undated) 'Castle Of Old Wick' Available at: <https://canmore.org.uk/site/8956/castle-of-old-wick> (Accessed 10/10/2024) Canmore, National Record of the Historic Environment, [Castle Of Old Wick | Canmore](https://canmore.org.uk/site/8956/castle-of-old-wick)

### Historic Environment Record

Aberdeenshire Historic Environment Record (AHER)

### Cartographic and Documentary Sources

1866 First Edition Ordnance Survey 25" Map (1:2,500)

### Online Resources

Archaeology Data Service - <http://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk>

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British History Online - <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/>

British Geological Survey, Geology of Britain Viewer - [BGS Geology Viewer - British Geological Survey](#)

Canmore - <https://canmore.org.uk/>

Historic Environment Scotland Portal - <http://portal.historicenvironment.scot/>

National Library of Scotland - [National Library of Scotland \(nls.uk\)](#)

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