



Burnside to Greens 400kV Connection

Environmental Appraisal Appendix E: Archaeology and Cultural Heritage

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Document Notes

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1 Introduction

This historic environment desk-based assessment has been prepared by Richard Conolly of Tetra Tech RPS on behalf of Caledonia Offshore Wind Farm Limited (the 'Client'). It has been prepared to support an application for planning permission in principle (PPP) for up to four 400 kilovolt (kV) underground cable circuits, connecting Caledonia Offshore Wind Farm Burnside Onshore Substations to the Scottish and Southern Energy Networks Transmission (SSEN-T) Greens Substation, together with associated works, Aberdeenshire, hereafter referred to as the 'Proposed Development'.

The detailed design of the Proposed Development is yet to be undertaken. The application boundary in which the finalised cable route and related works will be contained is henceforth referred to as the 'Site'.

The Site is located approximately 5.2km to the west of New Deer (Figure E1) and takes in approximately 157ha of land between the consented Burnside Substation in the south (NGR 383300 844800) and the recently consented Greens Substation in the north (NGR 381900 847000). The land within the Site is primarily occupied by arable farmland, with areas of improved pasture and small pockets of woodland also present. For ease of reference the Site has been divided into 14 land parcels (Figure E1).

The Site is surrounded by improved pasture and arable land with scattered farmsteads except to the north-west, where there are parcels of forestry.

The key parameters in the context of the current assessment are presented below.

The Proposed Development includes the following elements:

- A working cable corridor up to 100 metres wide, accommodating all temporary works areas required for installation;
- Up to four 400 kV cable circuits installed in trenches;
- Up to two temporary haul roads;
- Haul road access points;
- Up to four Joint Bays for each cable circuit;
- Up to two Satellite construction compounds; and
- Temporary crossing infrastructure for haul road(s), road, watercourse and utilities.

All cabling is underground. The parameters set out are presented to enable consideration and determination of PPP.

This assessment has been prepared in accordance with relevant policy and guidance and considers the potential effects of the Proposed Development upon heritage assets, both during its construction and operation. It draws upon the following data sources:

- Historic Environment Scotland (HES) designations downloads;
- Aberdeenshire Council Historic Environment Record (HER);
- Maps held by the National Library of Scotland;
- Satellite imagery; and

- Readily available published sources.

Scottish Government Lidar data is not available for the Site. The desk-based work was augmented and verified through a walk-over survey.

The study provides an assessment of the archaeological potential within the Site and the cultural significance of heritage assets within and around it, and considers the potential impacts of the Proposed Development upon these. Given that the Proposed Development will have no surface expression during its operational phase, the assessment's primary focus is upon the potential physical impacts of the Proposed Development during the construction phase. Any ground disturbance occurring during the operation phase would be limited to areas disturbed during construction. Any heritage assets in these areas will have been removed during the construction phase. Decommissioning of the Proposed Development will not involve ground disturbance. Therefore, there is no potential for the operation and decommissioning phases to affect any heritage assets.

2 Planning Background and development plan framework

2.1 Legislation

The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 and the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Scotland) Act 1997 provide the legislative basis for the protection of the historic environment. Both these Acts have been amended by the Historic Environment (Amendment) (Scotland) Act 2011.

2.2 National Planning Policy

Policy 7 of the current National Planning Framework (NPF4) deals with historic assets and places in the planning system. It is intended 'to protect and enhance historic environment assets and places, and to enable positive change as a catalyst for the regeneration of places.' It specifies that 'development proposals with a potentially significant impact on historic assets will be accompanied by an assessment of the impact based on their cultural significance.' In summary, development proposals will only be supported where they preserve the character, special architectural or historic interest of Listed Buildings, the character and appearance of Conservation Areas, and avoid direct impacts on scheduled monuments and significant adverse impacts upon the integrity of their setting or where exceptional circumstances have been demonstrated to justify such impacts and where these have been minimised. Development proposals affecting nationally important Gardens and Designed Landscapes and Historic Battlefields will be supported where they protect their cultural significance. Those affecting a World Heritage Site will only be supported where they protect and preserve its Outstanding Universal Value. Non-designated heritage assets should be protected and preserved in situ wherever feasible. Where impacts are unavoidable, they should be assessed and minimised.

The glossary attached to NPF4 contains the following definitions that are relevant in the current context.

Cultural significance means aesthetic, historic, scientific or social value for past, present or future generations. Cultural significance can be embodied in a place itself, its fabric, setting, use, associations, meanings, records, related places and related objects.

Historic environment: The historic environment is 'the physical evidence for human activity that connects people with place, linked with the associations we can see, feel and understand'.

Historic environment asset: An asset (or 'historic asset' or 'heritage asset') is a physical element of the historic environment – a building, monument, site, place, area or landscape identified as having cultural significance.

Setting: Setting is more than the immediate surroundings of a site or building, and may be related to the function or use of a place, or how it was intended to fit into the landscape or townscape, the view from it or how it is seen from areas round about, or areas that are important to the protection of the place, site or building.

'Setting' is the way the surroundings of a historic asset or place contribute to how it is understood, appreciated and experienced.

In 2011, the government published the Planning Advice Note PAN 2/2011: Planning and Archaeology. It provides advice and technical information alongside Historic Environment Policy Scotland (HEPS) (HES 2019) and the Managing Change in the

Historic Environment Guidance Notes (HES various), which together set out the Scottish Ministers' policies and guidance for planning and the historic environment. HEPS provides six broad policies for managing the historic environment that seek to ensure that decisions regarding the historic environment are made based on an appropriate understanding of its cultural significance and the potential consequences for people and communities, contribute to sustainable development and preserve the historic environment for future generations. Where detrimental impacts cannot be avoided they should be minimised and mitigated.

Sections 4-9 of the PAN, entitled Archaeology and Planning provides guidance for planning authorities, property owners, developers and others on the policy of the Scottish Government relating to archaeological sites and monuments. Overall, the guidance can be summarised:

- Policy is to protect and preserve sites and monuments and their settings in situ where feasible. Where this is not possible planning authorities should consider applying conditions to consents to ensure that an appropriate level of excavation, recording, analysis, publication and archiving is carried out before and/or during development.
- In consideration of applications, planning authorities should take into account the relative importance of archaeological sites. Not all sites and monuments are of equal importance. In determining planning applications that may impact on archaeological features or their setting, planning authorities may balance the benefits of development against the importance of archaeological features.

Section 12 of the PAN notes that when determining a planning application, the desirability of preserving a monument (whether scheduled or not) and its setting is a material consideration. It reiterates that preservation in situ should be the objective but where not possible an alternative approach is recording and/or excavation followed by analysis and publication of the results.

Sections 13 and 14 note that prospective developers should undertake assessment to determine whether a property or area contains, or is likely to contain, archaeological remains as part of their pre-planning application research into development potential. Where it is known, or there is good reason to believe, that significant remains exist developers should be open to modifying their plans in order to preserve remains.

Section 17 notes that in many cases a desk-based assessment (this document) may be sufficient to allow authorities to make a planning decision. Where the judgement of the authority's archaeological advisor indicates that significant remains may exist, it is reasonable for the planning authority to request an archaeological evaluation before the application is determined. Planning authorities should require only the information necessary for them to make an informed decision on the proposal, and this should be proportionate to the importance of the potential resource. Section 19 notes that developers should supply the results of desk-based assessments and evaluations as part of their planning applications.

2.3 Local Planning Policy

Local planning policy is provided in the Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan (adopted 2023). This contains the following policies relating to the historic environment:

Policy HE1 Protecting Listed Buildings, Scheduled Monuments and Archaeological Sites (including other historic buildings)

HE1.1 We will resist development that would have an adverse impact on the character, integrity or setting of listed buildings, or scheduled monuments, or other archaeological sites. If adverse impact is unavoidable, it should be minimised and justified.

HE1.2 We will protect all listed buildings contained on the statutory list of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest for Aberdeenshire, all scheduled monuments contained on the statutory schedule of Monuments for Aberdeenshire and undesignated archaeological sites in Aberdeenshire. We will encourage their protection, maintenance, enhancement, and appropriate active use and conservation.

Listed Buildings

HE1.3 Alterations to listed buildings should be of the highest quality, and respect any features of special architectural, cultural or historic interest in terms of design, materials, scale, and setting. A Design Statement is required to support any proposed development and demonstrate how the proposal addresses paragraphs HE1.1 and HE1.2. The Design Statement should outline the details of the proposal, the significance of the building and justify that the proposal protects and respects the Listed Building.

HE1.4 The demolition of a listed building will not be permitted unless there is clear evidence to show that the building is no longer of special interest, is incapable of repair or there are overriding environmental or socio-economic reasons not to retain it. It must be satisfactorily demonstrated that every effort has been made to continue the present use or find a suitable new use, with or without an appropriate adaptation of the building. Scheduled Monuments and Archaeological Sites

HE1.5 Development on nationally or locally important monuments or archaeological sites, or having an adverse impact on the integrity of their setting, will only be allowed if there are exceptional circumstances, including those of a social or economic nature, and there is no alternative site. It is the developer's responsibility to provide information on the nature and location of the archaeological features, including details of any mitigation measures proposed, prior to determination of the planning application.

HE1.6 Where preservation of the site in its original location is not possible, the developer must arrange for the full excavation and recording of the site in advance of development to satisfy Aberdeenshire Council that the impacts from development have been fully mitigated.

Policy HE2 Protecting Historic, Cultural and Conservation Areas Conservation Areas

HE2.1 We will resist development, including change of use or demolition, which would fail to preserve or enhance the character or appearance of a conservation area. This applies both to developments within the conservation area and proposals outwith

that would affect its character or appearance. We will seek retention, restoration, and sympathetic adaptation of unlisted buildings which contribute positively to the special architectural or historic interest of the area, in preference to allowing their demolition.

HE2.2 The design, scale, layout, siting and materials used in development within a conservation area must be of the highest quality and respect the individual characteristics for which the conservation area was designated. Development should be in accordance with any agreed Conservation Area Management Plan or Appraisal. All details must be provided under the cover of a full application and any trees (including veteran trees and trees outside of woodlands) contributing to the character and appearance should be retained. Homeowners and business owners within the conservation area boundaries automatically have certain Permitted Development Rights removed. Appendix 11 provides details on the additional controls within the conservation areas in Aberdeenshire.

Battlefields, Inventory Gardens and Designed Landscapes

HE2.3 Development affecting an inventory battlefield or inventory garden and designed landscape will only be permitted if:

- the proposal would not have an adverse impact that compromises the objectives of the designation of an inventory garden or designed landscape, or the key landscape characteristics and special qualities of an inventory battlefield; or,*
- any significant adverse effects are outweighed by long-term social or economic benefits of overriding public importance and there is no alternative site for the development. These conditions may also apply to developments outwith the designated sites. In either case, measures and mitigation must be taken to conserve and enhance the essential characteristics of the site as appropriate.*

HE2.4 All development affecting the character and/or the appearance of an inventory battlefield or inventory garden and designed landscape must be justified through a Design Statement and/or Landscape Management Plan

In line with relevant planning policy and guidance, this desk-based assessment seeks to clarify the Site's archaeological potential and to identify the potential impacts of the Proposed Development upon cultural heritage assets.

3 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

The Site is underlain by sandstone of the samite, pelite and semipelite of the MacDuff Formation (British Geological Survey).

Superficial deposits comprise glacial till in the northern and southern parts of the Site (Land Parcels G05, G07, G09, G11, G13, G14, G18, G19, G20, G21 & G22) with a band of alluvial clay, silt sand and gravel in the area south of Greens. Aside from this superficial deposits are largely absent from the central part of the Site (Land Parcels G10 and G12 and the easternmost parts of G07 and G09).

In broad terms the topography of the Site and surrounding area is gently undulating. The southern and central parts of the Site occupy part of the broad ridge that forms the watershed between the Little Water to the east and the Burn of Asleid in the east and lies at around 110m AOD. The northern part of the Site (Land Parcels G05, G07 & G09) rises to approximately 145m AOD and lies on either side of an unnamed tributary of the Burn of Greens, itself a tributary of the Little Water. A second unnamed watercourse, also a tributary of the Burn of Greens runs through Land Parcel G05. All of these watercourses have been canalised to some extent.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

4.1 Introduction

This section reviews the available archaeological evidence for the land within the Site and the archaeological/historical background of the general area, and, in accordance with NPF4, considers the potential for any as yet undiscovered archaeology to be present. It comprises a review of designated heritage assets and entries in the Aberdeenshire Historic Environment Record (HER) for a study area extending 1km from the Site (Figures E2 and E3), historic mapping (Figures E4 and E5) and satellite imagery (Figure E6). Scottish Government Lidar data is not available for the Site. The 1km study area was considered sufficient given the nature of the Proposed Development. The desk-based work was verified and augmented through a site visit.

Section 5 subsequently considers the site conditions and whether the Proposed Development will affect the heritage assets identified below.

4.2 Designated Heritage Assets

There are no designated heritage assets in the Site or the study area.

The nearest designated heritage asset to the Site is the Category B-listed Cairnbannon House (LB16160), approximately 1.3km to the south-east of the Site (Figure E2).

Given the distance of the Proposed Development from the nearest designated heritage assets and that the Proposed Development comprises buried cables, it is considered that it has no potential to affect the setting of any designated heritage assets and they are not considered further.

4.3 Non-Designated Heritage Assets

The Aberdeenshire HER holds three entries for the Site (Figure E3):

- Middletack (NJ84NW0010) Remains of a farmstead depicted on the 1874 Ordnance Survey map. Located in Land Parcel G09.
- Hillhead of Aisled (NJ84NW0019). The site of a now destroyed croft depicted on the 1874 Ordnance Survey map. Located in Land Parcel G14.
- Greenfield (NJ84NW0031). The site of a now destroyed croft depicted on the 1874 Ordnance Survey map. Located in Land Parcel G07.

HER entries for the surrounding area (Figure E3) are discussed below where appropriate. Most relate to late 18th century or later buildings and have little relevance to the current assessment.

4.4 Previous Archaeological Work

No archaeological fieldwork has been undertaken within the Site previously.

Two intrusive archaeological fieldwork projects have been undertaken in the study area:

- A watching brief maintained during the construction of the grid connection for Moray East Offshore Wind Farm (NJ66SE0330), which runs close to the Site's

south-western boundary (Figure E3). This took in a corridor approximately 33 km long and 40 m wide. Within the study area, the watching brief encountered a small number of undated pits and ditches (NJ84NW0062, NJ84NW0109, NJ84NW0110, NJ84SW0124 and NJ84SW0125) and a corn-drying kiln (NJ84NW0061), also undated.

- Trial trenching ahead of the construction of the New Deer substation (NJ84SW0085). This recorded several undated ditches, some of which were thought to be relatively recent, post-dating the Improvement period. Also recovered was an unstratified lithic assemblage.

Whilst the number of projects undertaken is small, the Moray East Offshore Wind Farm watching brief provides a useful random sample of the archaeology in the vicinity by dint of the large area stripped under archaeological supervision.

4.5 Prehistoric

The HER holds no entries relating to the Prehistoric period for the Site.

Recorded evidence of Prehistoric activity in the study area is limited to:

- Waggle Cairn (NJ84NW0002), the site of which is approximately 900m to the north-west of the Site. This was recorded in 1871 as a 'circular heap of stones [...] much dilapidated due to many stones having been removed for building purposes. Whether it was sepulchral or otherwise cannot now be ascertained'. By 1966, no surface trace remained. It remains uncertain as to whether the cairn was a funerary monument or not and its date is also unknown; the absence of any tradition of any finds having been made during the cairn's removal is perhaps indicative of its having been a marker cairn. However, adopting a precautionary approach, it has been assumed to be a prehistoric burial cairn for the purposes of this assessment.
- Burnside cairn (NJ84SW0006), the site of a cairn located approximately 730m south of the Site. The site is marked on the 1874 Ordnance Survey map and recorded as having been removed c. 1856.
- Unstratified flints recovered during trial trenching of the New Deer substation site (NJ84SW0085) approximately 260m to the south-west of the Site. One flint blade core is likely to date to the Late Mesolithic or Early Neolithic, whilst other datable pieces were of later Neolithic or Bronze Age date.
- Two possibly worked flints recovered from possibly natural features excavated in advance of the Moray East grid connection (NJ84NW0062) approximately 500m west of the Site. The grid connection watching brief recorded a number of undated pits, which may also be of Prehistoric date (NJ84NW0109 & NJ84NW0110).

The results of the Moray East watching brief indicate that whilst the area in which the Site lies has seen activity since early Prehistory, this was at a relatively low intensity. However, given the size of the area within the Site, it is considered that the Site has high potential to contain hitherto unrecorded archaeology of Prehistoric date. This is likely to be scattered and small scale remains associated with settlement.

4.6 Early Medieval

The HER holds no records relating to the Early Medieval period for the Site or study area.

It is considered that the potential for previously unrecorded archaeology of this period to be present is low.

4.7 Medieval

The HER holds no records relating to the Medieval period for the Site and a single entry for the study area. This relates to the site of a manor for which there is documentary evidence dating to 1211 (NJ84SW0020), which the HER places approximately 900m to the east of the Site.

Although Roy's Military Survey (1747-52) is Post-Medieval, it provides a useful indication of the likely distribution of settlement and agriculture in the late Medieval period. It is not possible to locate the Site on the map with great precision, but broadly the Site appears likely to have been occupied by uncultivated moorland fringed by areas of cultivated land associated with small settlements.

It appears likely that the Site saw very low intensity agricultural use during the Medieval period and it is concluded that there is low potential for Medieval archaeology to be present within the Site.

4.8 Post-Medieval and Modern

The HER holds three entries relating to the Site for the Post-Medieval – Modern period:

- Middletack (NJ84NW0010) An unnamed croft depicted on the 1874 Ordnance Survey map (Figure E4). It survives as low footings (Figure 4-1). Located in pasture in Land Parcel G09.
- Hillhead of Aisled (NJ84NW0019). A croft depicted on the 1874 Ordnance Survey map (Figure E4). No surface trace survives Figure 4-2. Located in arable field in Land Parcel G14.
- Greenfield (NJ84NW0031). An unnamed croft depicted on the 1874 Ordnance Survey map. The area in which it stands has been disturbed and some rubble is evident (Figure 4-3) and is located in Land Parcel G07.

In addition, the current study has identified additional crofts within the Site:

- East Swanford (RPS 1). An unnamed croft depicted on the 1874 Ordnance Survey Map. No surface trace remains (Figure 4-4). Located in pasture in Land Parcel G19.
- Maryhill (RPS 2). An unnamed building depicted on the 1874 Ordnance Survey Map. No surface trace remains (Figure 4-5). Located in field under potato crop in Land Parcel G12.
- Inchgreen (RPS 3). An unnamed croft depicted on the 1874 Ordnance Survey Map. No surface trace remains (Figure 4-6). Located in an arable field in Land Parcel G10.

It is not possible to date these accurately, but they appear to be well integrated into the regular Improvement period field system depicted on the 1874 Ordnance Survey map. They are therefore most likely to have been established in the latter part of the

18th century, when the moorland areas depicted on Roy's Military Survey were enclosed and improved.

A small quarry or sand pit is shown in Land Parcel G10.

There is little change on the 1901 Ordnance Survey map (Figure E5), although RPS 2 and RPS 3 had been demolished by this time.

The only changes shown on subsequent maps are the gradual removal of field boundaries and the demolition of RPS 1 by 1940, and RPS 2, RPS 3, NJ84NW0010 NJ84NW0031 and NJ84NW0019 by 1957.

It is concluded that through the Post-Medieval period the Site lay in uncultivated moorland and has very low potential to contain hitherto unrecorded features of archaeological interest of Post Medieval date. During the latter part of the 18th century the Site was enclosed and improved. It is considered that there is negligible potential for hitherto unrecorded features of archaeological interest of Modern date.

Figures 4-1 to 4-6 show the features referred to in the text within section 4.8.



Figure 4-1 Remains of croft near Middletack (NJ84NW0010)



Figure 4-2 Looking towards the site of Hillhead of Aisled (NJ84NW0019)



Figure 4-3 Site of croft near Greenfield (NJ84NW0031)



Figure 4-4 Site of RPS 1



Figure 4-5 Site of RPS 2



Figure 4-6 Site of RPS 3

4.9 Assessment of Cultural Significance

The current assessment has identified six potential heritage assets within the Site. These comprise the remains of Post-Medieval crofts. One (NJ84NW0010) survives as low footings and there is therefore potential for well-preserved sub-surface remains to be present. The remains of the croft, as an example of a very common site type, have the potential to yield archaeological data that could inform understanding of Post-Medieval settlement at a local level. Of the others, four (NJ84NW0019 and RPS 1-3) have no surface expression, but may survive as plough truncated buried remains. Such remains may have limited value at a local level as sources of archaeological data. The site of the remaining croft (NJ84NW0031) appears to have been substantially disturbed and it is unlikely that any remains that may survive have any archaeological interest. It is considered that it no longer represents a heritage asset.

As identified by desk-based work, archaeological potential by period and the likely importance of any archaeological remains if present is summarised in Table 4-1 below. If present, the cultural significance of such remains would derive entirely from their potential as sources of archaeological data.

Period	Archaeological Potential	Identified Archaeological Importance
Prehistoric	High	If present, most probably of local importance, but potentially of higher importance depending on feature type and level of preservation.
Early Medieval	Low	If present, most probably of local importance, but potentially of higher importance owing to rarity.
Medieval	Low	If present most probably of limited local importance
Post Medieval	Low	If present most probably of limited local importance
Modern	Negligible	If present most probably of limited local importance

Table 4-1 Archaeological potential by period

5 SITE CONDITIONS, THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT & REVIEW OF POTENTIAL DEVELOPMENT IMPACTS ON HERITAGE ASSETS

5.1 Site Conditions

The area within the Site was visited on 25th September 2025 (Figure 5-1 - Figure 5-6). Weather conditions were very good providing for good visibility. Most of the Site was covered by stubble, with areas of improved pasture. Land Parcel G05 was formerly under arable use, but has not been ploughed for some time. Land Parcel G11 was under a crop of potatoes.

Access to Land Parcels G07, G12, G14 and G22 was not possible. Land Parcels G07 and G012 were occupied by arable and improved pasture. There is minimal potential for hitherto unrecorded features to survive here as appreciable upstanding remains and it was possible to see the site of a croft (NJ84NW0031) from Land Parcel G09 and thereby establish its condition. G14 was occupied by arable. It was not possible to visit the site of a croft (NJ84NW0019). However, satellite imagery demonstrates there are no upstanding traces and there is no potential for hitherto unrecorded features to survive here as appreciable upstanding remains. Land Parcel Land Parcel G22 is occupied by New Deer substation. There is no potential for archaeology to survive here. It is considered that the lack of access to these areas has not affected the reliability of the results.



Figure 5-1 Representative view north across Land Parcel G05



Figure 5-2 Representative view of Land Parcel G07 looking east



Figure 5-3 Representative view west across Land Parcels G07 and G09



Figure 5-4 Representative view south-east across Land Parcel G12



Figure 5-5 Representative view north-west across Land Parcel G13 to G12



Figure 5-6 Representative view south-east across Land Parcel G19

5.2 Proposed Development

A full description of the Proposed Development is provided in Section 2 of the Planning Statement. The key parameters in the context of the current assessment are presented below:

The Proposed Development includes the following elements:

- A working cable corridor up to 100 metres wide, accommodating all temporary works areas required for installation;
- Up to four 400 kV cable circuits installed in trenches;
- Up to two temporary haul roads;
- Haul road access points;
- Up to four Joint Bays for each cable circuit;
- Up to two Satellite construction compounds; and
- Temporary crossing infrastructure for haul road(s), road, watercourse and utilities.

All cabling is underground.

Whilst the exact specifications are subject to detailed design, the principal components described form the basis of the planning application to allow environmental assessments and mitigation to be appropriately scoped.

5.3 5.8 Embedded Mitigation

The Proposed Development incorporates mitigation measures in its design that avoid and reduce the potential for impacts upon heritage assets. These comprise:

- The extents of the Site have been informed by the results of an initial constraints study. This took account of designated heritage assets. Consequently, physical impacts upon designated heritage assets have been avoided.
- The cables are to be buried and no permanent building would be expected along the cable route. The only visible permanent works would be the ground level exposed manhole covers at each of the four joint bays. Consequently, impacts upon setting and historic landscape character have been avoided.

At the detailed design stage, impacts upon known heritage assets will be avoided as far as reasonably practicable.

5.4 Review of Potential Development Impacts on Designated Heritage Assets

There are no designated heritage assets within the Site or study area (Figure E2).

Given the nature of the Proposed Development, its operation has no potential to result in change in the setting of designated heritage assets.

No impacts have been identified in respect of designated heritage assets.

5.5 Review of Potential Development Impacts on Non-Designated Assets

The detailed design will, as far as reasonably practicable, avoid impacts upon non-designated heritage assets. However, for the purposes of this assessment it has been assumed that any heritage assets within the Site will fall completely within the construction footprint of the Proposed Development. In the absence of further mitigation, this would result in the complete loss of any archaeological data and thereby their cultural significance. Consequently, construction operations would result in the removal and complete loss of cultural significance of the remains of five crofts, all of which are considered to be of local importance and any hitherto unrecorded archaeology that may be present. The potential for this to occur is considered to be high in respect of Prehistoric archaeology, low in respect of Early Medieval to Post Medieval periods and negligible in respect of the Modern period. It is most likely that hitherto unrecorded archaeology is of local importance. However, it is acknowledged that there is potential for this to be greater, particularly in respect of Prehistoric and Early Medieval archaeology.

6 Secondary Mitigation

As noted above, the detailed design will avoid impacts upon heritage assets as far as reasonably practicable. Where this is not possible the physical loss of heritage assets will be offset through a programme of archaeological works. This will allow for the identification and appropriate excavation and recording of archaeological remains within the construction footprint of the Proposed Development. The scope of the programme of archaeological works will be set out in a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) agreed with Aberdeenshire Council Archaeology Service and secured through a condition attached to consent, should consent be granted. The WSI will include details of how any updates, if required, to the WSI will be provided throughout the implementation of the programme of archaeological works.

The programme of works would offset the physical loss of the archaeological remains affected and minimise the loss of archaeological data.

7 Summary and Conclusions

This assessment draws together the available archaeological, historic, topographic and land-use information in order to clarify the heritage significance and archaeological potential potentially affected by a proposed 400 kV Cable Route to connect the Burnside Substation to Greens Substation, Aberdeenshire.

The assessment has been prepared in accordance with relevant policy and guidance and provides a description of the relevant cultural heritage baseline, identifies heritage assets that may be affected by the Proposed Development, assesses archaeological potential and identifies the likely impacts of the Proposed Development upon heritage assets as a result of both its construction and operation.

There are no designated heritage assets within the Site or study area. Given that the Proposed Development will have no surface expression during its operational phase, it is considered that there is no potential for it to result in change in the setting of designated assets. It is therefore concluded that there is no potential for impacts upon designated heritage assets.

The assessment has identified five Post-Medieval crofts within the Site that may be affected by the Proposed Development. These are considered to be of local importance. In addition, it is considered that there is potential for hitherto unrecorded archaeology to be present within the Site. This potential is high in respect of the Prehistoric period, low in respect of the Early Medieval to Post Medieval periods and negligible in respect of the Modern period.

For the purposes of this assessment, it has been assumed that any heritage assets within the Site will be removed during the construction phase of the Proposed Development. However, the detailed design will, as far as reasonably practicable, avoid known heritage assets thereby preserving them in situ.

The physical loss of heritage assets within the Site will be offset through a programme of archaeological works. This will allow for the identification and appropriate excavation and recording of such assets. The scope will be set out in a Written Scheme of Investigation that will be agreed with Aberdeenshire Council's archaeological advisors. The implementation of the programme of archaeological works will be secured through a suitably worded planning condition.

8 References

8.1 General

National Library of Scotland

Aberdeenshire Historic Environment Record

Historic Environment Scotland downloads

8.2 Internet

British Geological Survey - <https://geologyviewer.bgs.ac.uk/>

8.3 Bibliographic

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists Standard & Guidance for historic environment desk-based assessment 2014, updated 2020.

HES 2020 Managing Change in the Historic Environment: Setting

HES 2018 EIA Handbook

8.4 Cartographic

Roy, W Military Survey 1747-52

Ordnance Survey 1874, 1901, 1950, 1957, 1970

9 Annex A – Gazetteer

Reference Number	Name	Type
NJ84NW0017	Netherton Of Greens	Enclosures, Farmsteads
NJ84SW0020	Cairnbanno	Manors
NJ84NW0091	Rush-Head	Farmsteads
NJ84NW0096	Little Swanford	Farmsteads
NJ84NW0103	Inchgreen	Farmsteads
NJ84SW0089	Upper Mains Of Asleid	Farmsteads
NJ84NW0032	Greenfield	Lades, Mills, Ponds
NJ84SW0005	Burnside	Cairns
NJ84NW0077	Rush Head Farm	Farmsteads
NJ84NW0050	Upper Greenfield	Rig & Furrow
NJ84NW0057	Maryhill	Horse-Mills, Pumps, Steadings
NJ84NW0113	Woodhead	Rifle-Ranges, Targets
NJ84NW0062	Little Swanford	Ditches, Flints
NJ84SW0127	Upper Mains Of Asleid	
NJ66SE0330	Inverboyndie To New Deer, Moray East Offshore Windfarm Cable Route	
NJ84NW0099	Parkhill	Lodges
NJ84SW0087	Smiddybank Farm	Farmsteads
NJ84NW0033	Waggle Hill	Buildings
NJ84NW0095	Swanford	Farmsteads
NJ84NW0019	Hillhead Of Asleid	Buildings, Crofts, Houses, Wells
NJ84SW0085	Burnside	Blades, Cores, Ditches, Flakes, Lithics
NJ84NW0009	Waggle Hill	Enclosures, Farmsteads
NJ84NW0073	Upper Cairnbanno	Farmsteads

Reference Number	Name	Type
NJ84NW0075	North Mains Of Asleid, New Deer	Enclosures, Farmhouses, Farmsteads, Lades, Mills, Outbuildings, Ponds, Ranges, Sluices, Steadings
NJ84NW0008	Inchgreen	Enclosures, Farmsteads
NJ84NW0040	Waggle Cairn	Crofts
NJ84NW0100	Ashley Cottage, Parkhill	Cottages
NJ84NW0102	Oldtown	Farmsteads
NJ84NW0002	Waggle Cairn	Cairns
NJ84SW0040	Moss Of Swanford	Crofts
NJ84NW0056	Netherton Of Greens	Buildings, Farmsteads, Ponds
NJ84NW0070	Mains Of Greens	Farmsteads
NJ84NW0007	Inchgreen Cottage	Buildings
NJ84NW0116	Greens	Bothies, Buildings
NJ84SW0125	Burnside	Drains, Pits
NJ84NW0097	Broomfield Cottage, Parkhill	Cottages
NJ84NW0058	Newton	Farmsteads, Horse-Mills, Ponds, Pumps, Steadings, Wells
NJ84NW0030	Meadowside	Lades, Mills
NJ84NW0071	Parkhill	Farmsteads
NJ84SW0077	East Swanford	Farmsteads
NJ84NW0115	North Mains Of Asleid, New Deer	
NJ84NW0098	Beech Cottage, Parkhill	Cottages
NJ84NW0114	North Mains Of Asleid, New Deer	Ditches
NJ84SW0081	Mains Of Asleid	Buildings, Farmsteads, Horse-Mills
NJ84NW0074	Mill Of Greens	Mills
NJ84NW0110	Burnside	Ditches, Pits

Reference Number	Name	Type
NJ84NW0010	Middletack	Enclosures, Farmsteads
NJ84NW0031	Greenfield	Crofts
NJ84SW0090	Silverlea	Farmsteads
NJ84NW0018	Abbotshaugh	Enclosures, Farmsteads
NJ84NW0055	Oldtown	Buildings, Farmsteads, Horse-Mills
NJ84NW0041	Northburnhill	Buildings, Farmsteads
NJ84SW0004	Blue Cairn	Cairns, Cropmarks
NJ84NW0101	Inchgreen Cottage	Houses
NJ84NW0094	Sprottyneuk	Farmsteads
NJ84NW0001	Parkhill	Beakers
NJ84NW0069	Northburn	Farmsteads
NJ84NW0061	Little Swanford	Kilns, Peat, Pits
NJ84SW0067	Faddon Hill	Crofts
NJ84NW0042	Upper Greenfield	Enclosures, Farmsteads
NJ84SW0124	East Swanford	Ditches
NJ84SW0088	Burnside	Farmsteads
NJ84NW0034	Waggle Hill	Buildings, Crofts

10 Annex B - Figures
