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**BAILLIE GREENER GRID PARK
APPENDIX 7: HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

CULTURAL HERITAGE REPORT NUMBER: 21005

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DATA ENTRY FORM

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project title	Baillie Greener Grid Park Heritage Impact Assessment
Description	Heritage Statement accompanying the application for the Baillie Greener Grid Park
Report	Heritage Impact Assessment
Contractor name	Arcus Consultancy Services Ltd.
Client	Statkraft UK

SITE LOCATION INFORMATION

Council	The Highland Council
Area (ha)	1.99 ha
Grid References	Centred on NGR 302430, 965060

PROJECT BIBLIOGRAPHY

Type of publication	Unpublished document/manuscript
Title	Baillie Greener Grid Park Heritage Impact Assessment
Author	Heather Kwiatkowski and Amy Talbot
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NON-TECHNCIAL SUMMARY

A Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) has been undertaken by Arcus Consultancy Services Limited ('Arcus') on behalf of Statkraft UK LTD ('the Applicant') for a Greener Grid Park ('the Development') located at Land Adjacent to Baillie Wind Farm, West of Thurso, Highlands (Figure 1). The purpose of the HIA is to establish the archaeological and heritage baseline, assess the potential for direct effects to the archaeological resource from the Development, and assess nearby designated heritage assets for changes to setting that affect cultural significance as a result of the Development.

The Core Study Area (CSA) is the planning application site boundary, with the extents and location shown on Figure 1. The CSA comprises 1.99 ha and is centred on NGR 302541, 965088. The CSA is the area in which direct effects to archaeology may occur. In order to assess the potential for direct impacts to archaeology within the CSA, a 1 km Study Area, including the CSA and land within a 1 km radius, was utilised to assist in establishing the historical baseline for the CSA and its archaeological potential (Figure 1).

No heritage assets are recorded within the CSA with the 1 km Study Area characterised by surviving prehistoric funerary monuments on hilltops and waterways within a largely post-medieval agricultural landscape and modern wind farm site. While there are no designated or undesignated assets within the CSA, there is overall a medium to high potential for the recovery of further prehistoric features and post-medieval indicators of agricultural practices. This is due to the large number of visible prehistoric features within the landscape, including SM476 Hill of Shebster Chambered Cairn and SM9007 Cnoc Freiceadain Long Cairns. The post-medieval period is also still visible in the landscape with the potential re-use of medieval farmsteads, suggesting that while the recovery of further medieval remains is low, there may be isolated findspots or rig and furrow features associated with the post-medieval reuse of medieval farmsteads.

Ground disturbance associated with the Development has the potential to cause a direct impact on any previously unknown archaeological remains should they be present. The area where excavation depths are likely to exceed topsoil depths is the main compound area housing the sync condensers, transformer foundations, SHETL distribution container, electrical house, comms house and welfare facilities as shown on Planning Drawing 2. Most of the site will comprise batteries which require limited excavation depths (circa 100-200 mm based on site specific conditions). As there is some potential for unknown archaeological features to survive, a programme of archaeological work may be required. This can be secured via an appropriately worded planning condition with further consultation with Highland Council Historic Environment Team recommended.

An initial 2 km radius (Figure 2) extending out from the CSA was used to identify designated assets that could potentially undergo a change to setting as a result of the Development. There are five designated assets located within the 2 km Study Area:

- SM476 Hill of Shebster Chambered Cairn;
- SM2386 Bhreac Mhor, stone rows 200m ESE of;
- SM90078 Cnoc Freiceadain Long Cairns;
- LB14983 Reay Free Church (Category B); and
- LB17593 Shebster Barn (Category C).

Of those, two (SM476 and SM90078) were selected for assessment due to their proximity and location within the ZTV. The other heritage assets within the 2 km Study Area (SM2386, LB14983 and LB17593) do not lie in the ZTV. Key views towards these assets would also not include the Development, so these have been scoped out of consideration.

For the two assets assessed, (SM476 and SM90078), the Development would be visible from the cairns in views eastwards due to their elevated position. The views would encompass the existing Baillie Wind Farm with the Development lying at a low elevation adjacent to an electricity tower/pylon and with the substation opposite the site. The

appearance of the Development will be unobtrusive and in keeping with the existing industrial character of the wind farm buildings so that the Development would not change the existing landscape character or context at this location. As such, the Development would not noticeably change the setting or landscape context of the cairn or the understanding, appreciation or experience of the cairn with a negligible effect upon its cultural significance in lined with Policy 57 of the Local Development Plan. In addition, mitigation is embedded in the design in the form of a landscape management plan around the Development, which once mature, will provide additional screening from the wider landscape.

1 INTRODUCTION

A Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) has been undertaken by Arcus Consultancy Services Limited ('Arcus') on behalf of Statkraft UK LTD ('the Applicant') for a Greener Grid Park ('the Development') located at Land Adjacent to Baillie Wind Farm, West of Thurso, Highlands (Figure 1). The purpose of the HIA is to establish the archaeological and heritage baseline, assess the potential for direct effects to the archaeological resource from the Development, and assess nearby designated heritage assets for changes to setting that affect cultural significance as a result of the Development.

1.1 The Development

The Development will consist of the following components, as shown on the Site Layout Plan that accompanies the application (Planning Drawing 2):

- 60 no. battery units (each 12.9m x 2.44m x 2.59m)
- 2 no. Synchronous Compensator building (each 38.6m x 20.7m x 10.0m envelope)
- 2 no. water cooler pump skid (each 6.35m x 2.05m x 2.6m)
- 6 no. switchgear containers (each 12.2m x 2.44m x 3.0m)
- 6 no. inverter units (each 6.1m x 2.44m x 2.59m)
- 1 no. welfare facility (12.9m x 3.45m x 2.59m)
- 1 no. SHETL Distribution Container (12.19m x 3.45m x 2.59m)
- 1 no. Statkraft Distribution Container (12.19m x 3.45m x 2.59m)
- 2 no. Synchronous compensator HV control and protection (12.19m x 3.45m x 2.59m)
- 2 no. LV electrical house (each 12.19m x 3.45m x 2.59m)
- 1 no. Synchronous Compensator Comms House (12.19m x 2.44m x 2.59m)
- 1 no. BESS Comms House (12.19m x 2.44m x 2.59m)
- 1 no. 275kV AIS & Transformer (36.8 m x 18.6 m x 7.05 m)
- 2 no. 2500kVA 690V Transformers (each 4.0m x 4.0m x 2.9m)
- 6 no. 1000kVA 400V BoP Auxiliary Transformers (each 3.0m x 3.0m x 2.14m)
- 2 no. lube oil pump skid (each 2.15m x 1.1m x 1.1m)
- 6 no. air blast coolers (each 9.6m x 2.4m x 2.5m)
- 1 no. emergency diesel generator (6.1m x 3.6m x 2.9m)
- 5 no. security columns of 6 m in height with CCTV cameras located at various points around the site boundary;
- Internal roads;
- 4.0 m high noise attenuation fencing; and
- 3.4 m high palisade gate and electric security palisade fencing.

Most components of the development will be housed in steel container-style units adhering to the aesthetic of industrial developments, including the substation opposite the site, while the palisade fencing and electric fence will provide security. The appearance of the Development will be unobtrusive and in keeping with the existing industrial character of the area.

1.2 Study Areas

The Core Study Area (CSA) is the planning application site boundary, with the extents and location shown on Figure 1. The CSA comprises 1.99 ha and is centred on NGR 302541, 965088 as depicted on Figure 1. The CSA is the area in which direct effects to archaeology may occur.

In order to assess the potential for direct impacts to archaeology within the CSA, a 1 km Study Area, including the CSA and land within a 1 km radius, was utilised to assist in establishing the historical baseline for the CSA and its archaeological potential (Figure 1).

An initial 2 km radius extending out from the CSA was used to identify designated assets that could potentially undergo a change to setting as a result of the Development. A sieving exercise was undertaken to determine the final selection of heritage assets requiring consideration as detailed in Section 3.2.2.

2 LEGISLATION, POLICY AND GUIDANCE

The assessment has been undertaken taking into account relevant heritage legislation and guidance as outlined below.

2.1 Legislation

Statutory protection for archaeology is principally outlined in the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act (1979)¹, as amended by the National Heritage Act (1983)², and nationally important sites are listed in a Schedule of Monuments. The 1979 Act makes no reference to the settings of Scheduled Monuments.

Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas receive protection under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Scotland) Act 1997³, as amended by the Enterprise and Regulatory Reform Act (2013)⁴. The 1997 Act places a duty on the local planning authority with respect to Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas, and their settings. Section 59 of the 1997 Act states (in part):

"In considering whether to grant planning permission for development which affects a listed building or its setting, a planning authority or the Secretary of State... shall have special regard to the desirability of preserving the building or its setting or any features of special architectural or historic interest which it possesses."

Section 64 states:

"In the exercise, with respect to any buildings or other land in a conservation area, of any powers under any of the provisions in subsection (2), special attention shall be paid to the desirability of preserving or enhancing the character or appearance of that area."

The Historic Environment Scotland Act 2014 defines the role of Historic Environment Scotland (HES) and the processes for the designation of heritage assets, consents and rights of appeal.

2.2 Policy

Scottish Planning Policy⁵ (SPP) is the statement of the Scottish Government's policy on nationally important land use planning matters. Circulars, which also provide statements of the Scottish Government's policy, contain guidance on policy implementation through legislative or procedural change

In the SPP, the historic environment is defined as *"the physical evidence for human activity that connects people with place, linked with the associations we can see, feel and*

¹ UK Government (1979) *Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act*. [Online] Available at www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1979/46 [Accessed 02/09/2021]

² UK Government (1983) *National Heritage Act*. [Online] Available at <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1983/47> [Accessed 02/09/2021]

³ UK Government (1997) *Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas (Scotland) Act 1997*. [Online] Available at http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1979/46/pdfs/ukpga_19790046_en.pdf [Accessed 02/09/2021]

⁴ UK Government (2013) *Enterprise and Regulatory Reform Act 2013*. [Online] Available at <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2013/24/contents/enacted> [Accessed 02/09/2021]

⁵ Scottish Government (2014) *Scottish Planning Policy* [Online] Available at <https://beta.gov.scot/publications/scottish-planning-policy/> [Accessed 02/09/2021]

understand and includes *“individual assets, related settings and the wider cultural landscape”*⁶. As stated in paragraph 137:

“The planning system should:

Promote the care and protection of the designated and non-designated historic environment (including individual assets, related settings and the wider cultural landscape) and its contribution to sense of place, cultural identity, social well-being, economic growth, civic participation and lifelong learning; and

Enable positive change in the historic environment which is informed by a clear understanding of the importance of the heritage assets affected and ensure their future use. Change should be sensitively managed to avoid or minimise adverse impacts on the fabric and setting of the asset, and ensure that its special characteristics are protected, conserved or enhanced.”

In regards to designated heritage assets, the SPP⁷ states:

“Regarding developments affecting listed buildings, special regard must be given to the importance of preserving and enhancing the building, its setting and any features of special architectural or historic interest”;

“Proposals which will impact on its appearance, character or setting [of a conservation area], should preserve or enhance the character and appearance of the conservation area”;

“where there is potential for a proposed development to have an adverse effect on a scheduled monument or on the integrity of its setting, permission should only be granted where there are exceptional circumstances”;

“where a development proposal has the potential to affect a world heritage site, or its setting, the planning authority must protect and preserve its outstanding universal value”;

“planning authorities should protect and, where appropriate, seek to enhance gardens and designed landscapes included in the inventory of gardens and designed landscapes and designed landscapes of regional and local importance”; and

“planning authorities should seek to protect, conserve and, where appropriate, enhance the key landscape characteristics and special qualities of sites in the inventory of historic battlefields”.

The SPP also requires local planning authorities to protect archaeological sites and monuments, preserving them *in situ* or otherwise ensuring *“appropriate excavation, recording, analysis, publication and archiving before and/or during development”*⁸. *“Non-designated historic assets and areas of historical interest, including historic landscapes, other gardens and designed landscapes, woodlands and routes such as drove roads”* should also be preserved *in situ* wherever feasible⁹.

‘Our Place in Time: the Historic Environment Strategy for Scotland’¹⁰ presents the Scottish Government’s strategy for the protection and promotion of the historic environment. The Historic Environment Policy for Scotland¹¹ (HEPS) and the Historic Environment Scotland

⁶ Scottish Government (2014) *Scottish Planning Policy. Paragraph 137* [Online] Available at <https://beta.gov.scot/publications/scottish-planning-policy/> [Accessed 02/09/2021]

⁷ Scottish Government (2014) *Scottish Planning Policy. Paragraph 141-149* [Online] Available at <https://beta.gov.scot/publications/scottish-planning-policy/> [Accessed 02/09/2021]

⁸ Scottish Government (2014) *Scottish Planning Policy. Paragraph 150* [Online] Available at <https://beta.gov.scot/publications/scottish-planning-policy/> [Accessed 02/09/2021]

⁹ Scottish Government (2014) *Scottish Planning Policy. Paragraph 151* [Online] Available at <https://beta.gov.scot/publications/scottish-planning-policy/> [Accessed 02/09/2021]

¹⁰ Historic Environment Scotland (2015) *Our Place in Time: The Historic Environment Strategy for Scotland*

¹¹ Historic Environment Scotland (2019) *The Historic Environment Policy for Scotland*

Circular¹² complement the SPP and provide further policy direction. In particular, HEPS provides more detailed policy on historic environment designations and consents.

The relevant Local Plan for the CSA consists of the Caithness and Sutherland Local Development Plan (CaSPlan)¹³ adopted in August 2018 and the wider Highland Wide Local Development Plan (HWLDP)¹⁴, adopted April 2012. Policy 57: Natural, Built and Cultural Heritage is of particular relevance and states:

Policy 57 Natural, Built and Cultural Heritage

All development proposals will be assessed taking into account the level of importance and type of heritage features, the form and scale of the development, and any impact on the feature and its setting, in the context of the policy framework detailed in Appendix 2. The following criteria will also apply:

1. For features of local/regional importance we will allow developments if it can be satisfactorily demonstrated that they will not have an unacceptable impact on the natural environment, amenity and heritage resource.

2. For features of national importance we will allow developments that can be shown not to compromise the natural environment, amenity and heritage resource. Where there may be any significant adverse effects, these must be clearly outweighed by social or economic benefits of national importance. It must also be shown that the development will support communities in fragile areas who are having difficulties in keeping their population and services.

3. For features of international importance developments likely to have a significant effect on a site, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects, and which are not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site for nature conservation will be subject to an appropriate assessment. Where we are unable to ascertain that a proposal will not adversely affect the integrity of a site, we will only allow development if there is no alternative solution and there are imperative reasons of overriding public interest, including those of a social or economic nature. Where a priority habitat or species (as defined in Annex 1 of the Habitats Directive) would be affected, development in such circumstances will only be allowed if the reasons for overriding public interest relate to human health, public safety, beneficial consequences of primary importance for the environment, or other reasons subject to the opinion of the European Commission (via Scottish Ministers). Where we are unable to ascertain that a proposal will not adversely affect the integrity of a site, the proposal will not be in accordance with the development plan within the meaning of Section 25(1) of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997.

Note: Whilst Appendix 2 groups features under the headings international, national and local/regional importance, this does not suggest that the relevant policy framework will be any less rigorously applied. This policy should also be read in conjunction with the Proposal Map.

The Council intends to adopt the Supplementary Guidance on Wild Areas in due course. The main principles of this guidance will be:

- to provide mapping of wild areas;*
- to give advice on how best to accommodate change within wild areas whilst safeguarding their qualities;*
- to give advice on what an unacceptable impact is; and*

¹² Historic Environment Scotland (2019) *Historic Environment Scotland Circular*

¹³ https://www.highland.gov.uk/downloads/file/19712/casplan_adopted/

¹⁴ https://www.highland.gov.uk/info/178/local_and_statutory_development_plans/199/highland-wide_local_development_plan

- to give guidance on how wild areas could be adversely affected by development close to but not within the wild area itself.

In due course the Council also intends to adopt the Supplementary Guidance on the Highland Historic Environment Strategy. The main principles of this guidance will ensure that:

- Future developments take account of the historic environment and that they are of a design and quality to enhance the historic environment bringing both economic and social benefits;
- It sets a proactive, consistent approach to the protection of the historic environment.

Full consideration of the relevant local plan policies can be found within the Planning Statement that accompanies the planning application.

2.3 Guidance

Planning Advice Note 2/2011: Planning and Archaeology¹⁵ provides advice on dealing with archaeological remains. Whilst it covers a range of issues, of particular relevance is the planning balance associated with the preservation of archaeological remains and the benefits of development; the circumstances under which developers may be required to provide further information or field evaluation to inform decisions; and measures that can be taken to mitigate adverse effects.

Designation Policy and Selection Guidance (DPSG, 2019) accompanies HEPS and details the policy and selection guidance used by Historic Environment Scotland when designating heritage assets of national importance.

Guidance on how to apply the policies set out in the SPP is set out in Historic Environment Scotland's 'Managing Change in the Historic Environment Series', of which their guidance on 'Setting'¹⁶ is particularly relevant.

Standards and Guidance published by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) have been followed in preparing this HIA, in particular the 'Standard and guidance for commissioning work or providing consultancy advice on archaeology and the historic environment'¹⁷ and the 'Standard and guidance for historic environment desk-based assessment'¹⁸.

Whilst the Development is not subject to the EIA Regulations, cognisance has also been given to the Environmental Impact Assessment Handbook (2018)¹⁹ to inform the potential sensitivity of assets, magnitude of change, and potential impact.

¹⁵ The Scottish Government (2011) *Planning Advice Note 2/2011*. [Online] Available at <https://www.gov.scot/publications/pan-2-2011-planning-archaeology/> [Accessed 02/09/2021]

¹⁶ Historic Environment Scotland (2016) *Managing Change in the Historic Environment: Setting*. [Online] Available at: <https://www.historicenvironment.scot/archives-and-research/publications/publication/?publicationId=80b7c0a0-584b-4625-b1fd-a60b009c2549> [Accessed 02/09/2021]

¹⁷ Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (2014) *Standard and Guidance for Commissioning work or providing consultancy advice on archaeology and the historic environment*, Published December 2014 [Online] Available at https://www.archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/CifAS&GCommissioning_1.pdf [Accessed 02/09/2021]

¹⁸ Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (2020) *Standard and Guidance for Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment*, Published December 2014, Updated January 2017, Updated December 2020 [Online] Available at https://www.archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/CifAS%26GDBA_4.pdf [Accessed 02/09/2021]

¹⁹ Scottish Natural Heritage and Historic Environment Scotland, *Environmental Impact Assessment Handbook*, (2018). Available at <https://www.historicenvironment.scot/archives-and-research/publications/publication/?publicationId=6ed33b65-9df1-4a2f-acbb-a8e800a592c0> [Accessed 22/02/21]

3 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

3.1 Aims

The main aims of this HIA are to:

- Establish the baseline information regarding archaeology within the CSA;
- To establish the archaeological potential for unknown buried archaeology to survive within the CSA;
- Identify heritage assets that may receive a change in setting that affects their cultural significance and so require assessment;
- To assess the potential for the Development to impact known archaeological resources, either directly or through a change in setting that affects cultural significance; and
- Where appropriate, make recommendations to mitigate the impact and/or enhance heritage assets.

3.2 Methodology

3.2.1 Baseline, Archaeological Potential and Appraisal of Direct Effects Methodology

The appraisal of physical effects considers the direct effects upon the historic environment, such as the disturbance or removal of archaeological remains. Physical effects are mostly likely to occur during the construction phase of development and are usually permanent and irreversible.

The following methodology gives cognisance to the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' (CIfA) Standard and Guidance for historic environment desk-based assessment²⁰. The HIA comprises of a written report including a description of the heritage baseline and archaeological potential of the study area, a description of the area's historic character, the archaeological and historical baseline's significance, the effect of the Development upon the outlined archaeological and historical resource, and potential mitigation strategies. The following section outlines the methodology used to fulfil the aims of the assessment stated in Section 3.1 above.

Baseline Data Collation

In order to establish the historic environment baseline and aid in the assessment of the physical and ground-based archaeological potential of the CSA, a comprehensive desk-based review of data was collated from the following sources:

- Historic Environment Scotland Datasets including:
 - Canmore Archaeological Records;
 - Database of World Heritage Sites;
 - Database of Scheduled Monuments;
 - Database of Listed Buildings;
 - Database of Inventoried Garden and Designed Landscapes; and
 - Database of Inventoried Battlefields.
- Aerial Photography and LiDAR;
- Cartographic evidence from the Ordnance Survey and historic maps;
- The Highland Council Historic Environmental Record (HER) - consulted 19th July 2021;
- The Statistical Accounts for Scotland;
- Conservation Area Appraisals and maps as held by the local planning authority;

²⁰ Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (2020) *Standard and Guidance for Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment*, Published December 2014, Updated October 2020 [Online] Available at: http://www.archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/CifAS%26GDBA_3.pdf [Accessed 04.05.2021]

- Archaeological Data Service (ADS) for heritage data including grey literature reports, archaeological journals, and the Excavation Index for Scotland;
- Regional and national research framework assessments and strategies; and
- Published and grey literature archaeological journals and monographs.

Assessment of Archaeological Potential and Direct Effects

The results of baseline data collection have informed the potential for unknown subsurface archaeological remains to survive in the CSA and the likelihood of direct effects as a result of the Development. This baseline has been cross-referenced with the proposed Development layout to assess the potential for impacts to archaeological resources situated within the Development footprint. All non-designated assets and heritage assets within the CSA are considered for direct effects in Section 7.

3.2.2 Changes to Setting that Affect Cultural Significance Methodology

The setting appraisal considers changes in the setting which have the potential to affect the cultural significance of the heritage asset or the ability to appreciate that significance.

The setting consists of the surroundings of a heritage asset which contribute to the way the asset is understood, experienced, and appreciated. Setting can change over time with the relationship of the heritage assets and its surroundings evolving due to modern developments. As such, setting cannot simply be defined on a map as it is likely to relate to surviving elements of past landscapes and boundaries, often extending into the surrounding area.

Cultural significance is the aesthetic, historic, scientific or social value for past, present or future generation which can be embodied in a place itself, its fabric, setting, use, associations, meanings, records, related places and related objects.²¹ Cultural significance stems from an understanding of the place. This involves "*physical and material elements – how much of it has survived or how much of it has changed through time, as well as its wider context and setting*".²²

Therefore, the importance of setting is in how it contributes to the significance of a heritage asset. Consequently, simple intervisibility of the Development from a particular heritage asset or visibility of a heritage asset in the same view as the Development is not considered harmful in and of itself. In line with HES guidance on setting²³, changes to setting will alter the understanding, appreciation, or experience of a heritage asset so as to affect its cultural significance.

Due to the unique qualities of each heritage asset, a heritage asset's setting to change is variable and must be determined on a case-by-case basis for each receptor in lines with setting guidance^{24, 25} as per the following methodology:

- Identification of heritage assets that might be affected by the Development to include a summary of their cultural significance;

²¹ Australia ICOMOS (2013) *Burra Charter 2013*. [Online] Available at <http://australia.icomos.org/wp-content/uploads/The-Burra-Charter-2013-Adopted-31.10.2013.pdf> [Accessed 02/09/2021]

²² Historic Environment Scotland (2019) *Historic Environment Policy for Scotland (HEPS)*. [Online] Available at <https://www.historicenvironment.scot/archives-and-research/publications/publication/?publicationId=1bcfa7b1-28fb-4d4b-b1e6-aa2500f942e7> [Accessed 02/09/2021]

²³ Historic Environment Scotland (2016) *Managing change in the Historic Environment: Setting*. [Online] Available at <https://www.historicenvironment.scot/archives-and-research/publications/publication/?publicationid=80b7c0a0-584b-4625-b1fd-a60b009c2549> [Accessed 02/09/2021]

²⁴ Historic Environment Scotland (2016) *Managing Change in the Historic Environment: Setting 2016 Updated 2020* [Online] Available at <https://www.historicenvironment.scot/archives-and-research/publications/publication/?publicationid=80b7c0a0-584b-4625-b1fd-a60b009c2549> [Accessed on 02/09/2021]

²⁵ Scottish Natural Heritage and Historic Environment Scotland (2018) *EIA Handbook*. [Online] Available at <https://www.historicenvironment.scot/archives-and-research/publications/publication/?publicationId=6ed33b65-9df1-4a2f-acbb-a8e800a592c0> [Accessed 02/09/2021]

- Definition of the setting of the heritage assets and how this contributes to its cultural significance to determine its sensitivity to change; and
- Assessment of the way in which the Development may change the setting and affect the cultural significance of the heritage asset.

To identify designated heritage assets with the potential for their settings to be affected by the Development, an initial 2 km search area was utilised for consideration of heritage assets for which their setting may include the CSA (Figure 2). Beyond the 2 km Study Area, visibility is limited to higher ground and the Development would be seen within the context of the existing Baillie Wind Farm so that at these distances and based upon the existing energy infrastructure surrounding the CSA, a change in setting that affects cultural significance is unlikely with assets beyond 2 km scoped out for further assessment.

A sieving exercise was undertaken for all heritage assets within the 2 km Study Area using the Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) to identify assets for which the CSA may be part of the setting and for which further assessment was required (Figure 2). The results of the sieving exercise identified two heritage assets to be included in the assessment (SM476 and SM90078). The other heritage assets within the 2 km Study Area (SM2386, LB14983 and LB17593) do not lie in the ZTV. Key views towards these assets would also not include the Development, so these have been scoped out of consideration.

The full list of designated heritage assets within 2 km is provided in the Setting Gazetteer in Section 9 with those identified for assessment of changes to setting considered in Section 7.

3.2.3 Assumptions and Limitations

This assessment comprises a desk-based review of information taken from the HES datasets and data from the HER, as well as a variety of secondary sources. Whilst this information is assumed to be accurate, it does not constitute a complete record of the historic environment and does not preclude the potential for hitherto unidentified archaeological remains or deposits to be encountered within the CSA.

Due to access restrictions for many archival services due to the COVID-19 pandemic, direct access to archival sources was limited. As such the historic environment baseline data has been primarily restricted to readily available digital sources only and on-site surveys.

4 HISTORIC BASELINE

4.1 Character, Topography and Geology

The CSA is located in the centre of the current Baillie Wind Farm in an area of undulating topography on an east to west alignment. The north of the CSA lies on 110m AOD, while the south of the CSA lies on 100m AOD. The Stemster Burn traverses the landscape from east to west, and is recorded to the adjacent south of the CSA, as a tributary from the major Forss Water located 2.5 km east of the CSA. Achiebraeskiall Burn is located 1 km to the north of the CSA. There are two small unnamed lakes located 244 m north of the CSA and a series of smaller water features 346 m south of the CSA. There are two areas of plantation forestry within the 1 km Study Area. To the north-west is the plantation of Achiebraeskiall, located 161 m north-east, and to the south and east is the plantation of Yellow Moss. The settlement of Shebster is located 1.1 km south-west of the CSA.

The bedrock geology²⁶ of the CSA is the 'Scrabster Flagstone member', comprised of siltstone and sandstone, overlain by the superficial 'Forss Till' which is a detrital, sedimentary series of deposits formed during the last ice-age.

²⁶ British Geological Survey (BGS) [Viewer]. Available at. <https://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>. Accessed 29.03.2021

The character of the 1 km Study Area is currently the Baillie Wind Farm, with key landscape features being the Hill of Shebster, located 1 km to the south-west of the CSA and the Stemster Burn. The landscape beyond the Wind Farm parameters is a combination of pastoral agriculture, with a series of irregular enclosures currently recorded across the landscape, and plantation to the north-west, east and south. The Hill of Shebster is the highest recorded point within the 1 km Study Area at 133 m AOD.

The CSA and 1 km Study Area is within the Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) Landscape Character Assessment 143 'Farmed Lowland Plain'²⁷ which is described as a '*broad and relatively low-lying plain bounded by the seas and expansive sweeping moorland and flows*'²⁸.

4.2 Designated Assets in CSA and 1 km Study Area

There are no designated assets in the CSA.

Within the 1 km Study Area there are two Scheduled Monuments:

- SM476 Neolithic 'Hill of Shebster Chambered Cairn'; and
- SM90078 Neolithic Cnoc Freiceadain Long Cairns.

There are also two Listed Buildings:

- LB14983 Category B Listed 'Reay Free Church, Enclosing Walls, Memorial, Shebster'; and
- LB17593 Category C Listed 'Shebster Barn'.

These are shown on Figure 2 with full details provided in the Heritage Gazetteer in Section 9.

4.3 Non-Designated Heritage Assets in CSA and 1 km Study Area

4.3.1 Historic Environment Record (HER) and Canmore

There are no undesignated assets recorded by the HER within the CSA.

Forty undesignated assets are recorded by the HER within the 1 km Study Area (Figure 3). These are discussed within Section 5: Historical and Archaeological Baseline with full details presented in the Section 9 Heritage Gazetteer.

4.3.2 Cartographic Study, Aerial Photography and LiDAR

A review of cartographic data, aerial photographs and LiDAR did not identify any additional features within the CSA.

4.4 Previous Archaeological Investigations

Within the CSA there are 11 previous archaeological investigations which intersect with the CSA boundary (Figure 4). These consist of:

- EHG439²⁹ Stemster Hill Caithness Archaeological Investigation (CAI) was a Walkover Survey organised by the University of Edinburgh in 1985. A total of 94 registered monuments were recorded³⁰ with none recorded in the CSA.

²⁷ Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) Landscape Character Assessment 143 'Farmed Lowland Plain'. Available at: <https://www.nature.scot/sites/default/files/LCA/LCT%20143%20-%20Farmed%20Lowland%20Plain%20-%20Final%20pdf.pdf>. Accessed 29.09.2021

²⁸ Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) Landscape Character Assessment 143 'Farmed Lowland Plain'. Page 1. Available at: <https://www.nature.scot/sites/default/files/LCA/LCT%20143%20-%20Farmed%20Lowland%20Plain%20-%20Final%20pdf.pdf>. Accessed 29.09.2021

²⁹ EHG439 - Stemster Hill, CAI. Available at: <https://her.highland.gov.uk/Event/EHG439>. Accessed 28.09.2021

³⁰ SHG2512 - Archaeological field survey in northern Scotland: Volume III: 1982-1983. Available at: <https://her.highland.gov.uk/Source/SHG2512>. Accessed 28.09.2021

- EHG605³¹: A walkover survey for a proposed water pipeline which passed to the south of Shebster outwith the CSA.
- EHG3454³²: A desk-based assessment and walkover survey, for the Baillie Hill Wind Farm (since renamed Baillie Wind Farm) Grid Connection, undertaken by AOC Archaeological Holdings Ltd in 2011. The assessment identified archaeological and architectural heritage assets ranging in date from prehistory to the Second World War and later. None of the recorded assets were associated with the CSA.
- EHG3578³³: Trial trenching evaluation at turbine locations for Baillie Wind Farm with no archaeological material or features recovered.
- EHG4017³⁴ LiDAR survey - Baillie Hill and Cnoc Freiceadain Lidar Survey undertaken by AOC Archaeological Holdings Ltd in 2011 as offsetting mitigation for Ballie Hill Wind Farm. The survey area identified archaeological sites in the upland areas, although several large broch settlements and chambered cairns were also found in lowland improved zones. The resulting datasets provided a detailed record of the landscape prior to construction of the windfarm, and form an invaluable enhancement of the archaeological record. No sites were recorded within the CSA.
- EHG4313³⁵ - DBA and walkover survey of the Baillie Wind Farm undertaken by RPS Consultants in 2003-2004. The site walkover did not detect any new archaeological remains visible within the proposed wind farm location.
- EHG4524³⁶ DBA - Hill of Lybster Turbines was an Environmental Report by 'The Energy Workshop' in 2013 as part of a planning application for two turbines. No sites were recorded within the CSA.
- EHG4611³⁷ A DBA and walkover survey were carried out as part of an environmental statement for the construction of a Dounreay-Mybster 275/132kV overhead power transmission line by Highland Archaeology Services Ltd in 2012. No sites were recorded within the CSA.
- EHG5389, EHG5391³⁸, EHG5394³⁹: Hidden Bronze Age Landscape of Caithness project by AOC geophysical survey and environmental sampling community field schools.

Full details of these are found in the Section 9 Heritage Gazetteer.

4.5 The Statistical Accounts of Scotland

The Statistical Accounts for the Core Study Area is found in the County of Caithness, Parish Reay and is bounded by the parishes of Thurso to the west and Halkirk to the south. Whilst there is no specific mention of the Core Study Area, the parish records describe the topography of the parish indicating that 'only flat and lowlands lie along the coast'⁴⁰.

³¹ EHG605 – Delta North Project Archaeological Walk over Survey of the the Reay to Shebster and Shebster to Hoy Section of Proposed Water Pipeline. Available at <https://her.highland.gov.uk/Event/EHG605>. Accessed 28.09.2021

³² EHG3454 - Desk based assessment and walkover survey, Baillie Hill Wind Farm grid connection. Available at. <https://her.highland.gov.uk/Event/EHG3454>. Accessed 28.09.2021

³³ EHG3578 Ballie Hill Wind Farm: Evaluation Basic Report by AOC (2011). Available at <https://her.highland.gov.uk/Event/EHG3578>. Accessed 28.09.2021

³⁴ EHG4017 - LiDAR survey - Baillie Hill and Cnoc Freiceadain, Caithness. Available at. <https://highland.esdm.co.uk/Event/EHG4017>. Accessed 28.09.2021

³⁵ EHG4313 - DBA and walkover survey - proposed Baillie Wind Farm, Shebster. Available at. <https://her.highland.gov.uk/Event/EHG4313>. Accessed 28.09.2021

³⁶ EHG4524 - DBA - Hill of Lybster Turbines. Available at. <https://highland.esdm.co.uk/Event/EHG4524>. Accessed 28.09.2021

³⁷ EHG4611 - DBA and Walkover Survey - Land to south of existing substation, Dounreay Nuclear Research Establishment. Available at. <https://highland.esdm.co.uk/Event/EHG4611>. Accessed 28.09.2021

³⁸ EHG5391 Geophysical Survey Hidden Bronze Age Landscape of Caithness Project. Available at <https://her.highland.gov.uk/Event/EHG5391>. Accessed 28.09.2021

³⁹ EHG5394 - Environmental survey - Hidden Bronze Age Landscape of Caithness Project. <https://her.highland.gov.uk/Event/EHG5394>. Accessed 28.09.2021.

⁴⁰ Statistical Accounts (1845) Reay, County of Caithness, NSA, Vol. XV, page13. Available at [https://stataccscot.edina.ac.uk/static/statacc/dist/viewer/nsa-vol15-Parish record for Reay in the county of Caithness in volume 15 of account 2/](https://stataccscot.edina.ac.uk/static/statacc/dist/viewer/nsa-vol15-Parish%20record%20for%20Reay%20in%20the%20county%20of%20Caithness%20in%20volume%2015%20of%20account%20/). Accessed 28/09.2021

In relation to potential archaeology within this area, there is reference to 'the ruins of another chapel of the same description; close to which is a tomb, wherein lies a coffin'⁴¹ within Shebster.

5 HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

5.1 Baseline Context

The following section presents a summary of the known historical and archaeological baseline, with designated and non-designated assets identified either their HES ID or HER preferred reference ID (HERID). A full summary of these assets, and associated HES and HER numbers, descriptions, and period are presented in Section 8.

Where possible, assets have been assigned to time periods as defined by the Scottish Archaeological Research Framework (ScARF) National Framework Panel Reports Chronology and Downloads⁴² (Table 1).

Table 1: Period Definitions

Period name	Date range	
Early Prehistory	Palaeolithic to Mesolithic	12,700 BC – 4,100 BC
	Neolithic	4,100 BC – 2,500 BC
Later Prehistory	Chalcolithic and Bronze Age	2,500 BC – 800 BC
	Iron Age	800 BC – AD 400
Roman	AD 77 – AD 211	
Medieval	AD 400 – 1500	
Post-Medieval to Modern	AD 1500 - 1900	
Modern	1900 - present AD	

The assets assessed in the following baseline are from the CSA and 1 km Study Area only. Consideration of setting is in Section 5.8 and Section 6.2.

5.1.1 Early Prehistoric Period

There is little visibility or evidence of in-situ evidence from the Middle Palaeolithic or Early Upper Palaeolithic activity in Scotland⁴³. From the Mesolithic period further sites and material culture becomes visible across Scotland in the form of antler worked tools, microliths and shell middens, as well as localised site types including caves and rockshelter use with the closest identified site at Inchnadamph⁴⁴. There is no indication of Palaeolithic or Mesolithic dated sites or artefacts within the CSA or the 1 km Study Area.

The Mesolithic to Neolithic transitional process in Scotland is one of considerable debate around the emergence of agriculture and whether it appeared through hunter-gatherer

⁴¹ Statistical Accounts (1845) Reay, County of Caithness, NSA, Vol. XV, page17. Available at [https://stataccscot.edina.ac.uk/static/statacc/dist/viewer/nsa-vol15-Parish record for Reay in the county of Caithness in volume 15 of account 2/](https://stataccscot.edina.ac.uk/static/statacc/dist/viewer/nsa-vol15-Parish%20record%20for%20Reay%20in%20the%20county%20of%20Caithness%20in%20volume%2015%20of%20account%202/). Accessed 28.09.2021

⁴² The Scottish Archaeological Research Framework (No Date) *Panel Reports Chronology and Downloads*. [Online] Available at <https://scarf.scot/national/panel-report-chronology-and-downloads/> [Accessed 02/09/2021]

⁴³ Palaeolithic. Available at. <https://scarf.scot/national/palaeolithic-mesolithic-panel-report/2-history-and-current-state-of-palaeolithic-and-mesolithic-studies-in-scotland/2-1-palaeolithic/>.

⁴⁴ Mesolithic. Available at. <https://scarf.scot/national/palaeolithic-mesolithic-panel-report/2-history-and-current-state-of-palaeolithic-and-mesolithic-studies-in-scotland/2-2-mesolithic/>.

societies utilising a stationery lifestyle or via emergence of tools and material culture with emphasis on colonisation from the continent⁴⁵.

The Neolithic period in Scotland is primarily represented by its surviving funerary monuments⁴⁶ such as the nearby Shebster Hill funerary monuments (SM476 Hill of Shebster Chambered Cairn and SM90078 Cnoc Freiceadain long cairns), with little to no surviving evidence for domestic structures and social history documented from the Neolithic period. On the Scottish mainland, the structures have been hypothesised to have been constructed of turf, while on the western and highland islands, the stone structures, such as those at Skara Brae in Orkney are clearly visible and provide a wealth of information⁴⁷. Timber-framed buildings may have made up many structures during the Neolithic, such as those at Kinbeachie Farm in the Highlands⁴⁸. Beyond these assets there is a limited understanding of Neolithic Scotland, with scant material culture relating to social activities and lifestyles, with little record in the mainland, in comparison to the western and highland islands.

5.1.2 Late Prehistoric Period

The Bronze Age and Iron Age is defined by the introduction of copper and iron, respectively, though these periods are marked by more extensive visibility of known sites in the form of hillforts, stone circles and small henges as well as hut circles.⁴⁹ Bronze age houses are readily evident in the Highlands, generally circular or oval shaped⁵⁰, with traces of agriculture across the uplands represented by scatters of small cairns, stony banks and lynchets.⁵¹

In contrast to the earlier prehistoric periods, the Scottish Iron-Age is a highly visible landscape, with surviving settlement examples in the form of brochs, duns, wheelhouses, timber and stone-built roundhouse settlements, unenclosed platform settlements, crannogs, enclosed farmsteads and hillforts with sites in northern Scotland contributing to the understanding and development of society and cultural.⁵²

5.1.3 Known Prehistoric Site and Potential

There are no recorded prehistoric assets within the CSA with 14 known prehistoric assets within the 1 km Study Area. These have largely been dated to the Neolithic period and occur on the hill tops of Shebster and Stemster and down the slopes of these hills as well as along the waterways (e.g. Shebster Burn, Achiebraeskiall Burn, and Forss Water). There is clearly archaeological evidence that the area was a settled prehistoric landscape with more monolithic structures, such as funerary monuments, still visible today.

This part of Caithness saw intensive use of the post-medieval landscape for farming which could obscure surviving subsurface deposits. As such, there is high potential for archaeological remains to survive within the CSA.

⁴⁵ Neolithic: Beginnings. Available at. <https://scarf.scot/national/scarf-neolithic-panel-report/2-the-scottish-neolithic-the-overall-picture/2-2-beginnings/>.

⁴⁶ Ibid.

⁴⁷ Neolithic: Places to live and ways of living. Available at. <https://scarf.scot/national/scarf-neolithic-panel-report/4-lifeways-and-lifestyles/4-3-places-to-live-and-ways-of-living/>.

⁴⁸ Ibid.

⁴⁹ Bronze Age. Available at <https://scarf.scot/national/scarf-bronze-age-panel-report/executive-summary-5/>

⁵⁰ Scarf Bronze Age Settlement, Landuse and Resources. Available at <https://scarf.scot/national/scarf-bronze-age-panel-report/3-lifeways-and-lifestyles/3-3-settlement-landuse-and-resources/>

⁵¹ Scarf Bronze Age Agriculture. Available at <https://scarf.scot/national/scarf-bronze-age-panel-report/3-lifeways-and-lifestyles/3-4-agriculture/>

⁵² Scarf Iron Age Introduction. Available at <https://scarf.scot/national/iron-age-panel-report/1-introduction-4/>

5.2 Medieval

During the early medieval period, Christianity was introduced into the Highlands from Ireland with limited known sites associated with early Christian activity⁵³ surviving in the rural landscape, such as at St Mary's Church⁵⁴ near Forss further to the north which likely has early medieval origins.

During the eleventh century, Caithness and neighbouring Sutherland were held by the Norse Jarl of Orkney, whose mother was the daughter of King Malcom II. The name 'Caithness' derives from old Scandinavian word *Kathenessia* meaning promontory of the cats due to the early Celtic population being called *Catti* or cats⁵⁵.

The later medieval period was dominated by regional kingdoms, such as the Earldom of Orkney in Caithness and Sutherland, trying to expand and establish power. The conflict set chief against chief and led to establishment of the clan system and fortified clan castles.⁵⁶ Anglo-Norman lords, such as the St. Clairs (Sinclairs) in Caithness, were granted estates and also establish castles.

While Caithness is known to be occupied during this time, it is postulated that many of the houses were built using wood, peat and thatch with household items made of organic materials so that apart from monumental structures (e.g. castles and churches), there is a paucity of archaeological records with many such features not readily visible in the landscape.^{57,58}

There are no definitive medieval features within either the CSA or the 1 km Study Area though several farmsteads may have origins in the medieval period. These farmsteads are:

- MHG13477 (Canmore 85948) Ruined farmstead - Yellow Moss (Achimore);
- MHG61898 Medieval-post-medieval dykes - Stemster Hill, Caithness;
- MHG61758 Medieval-post-medieval farmstead - Hill of Shebster, Caithness; and
- MHG61897 Medieval-post-medieval enclosure - Achiebraeskiell, Caithness.

The poor survival of medieval farmsteads can be attributed to the traditional building materials, including wood, peat and thatch which do not often survive in the archaeological record⁵⁹. As such it is often the post-medieval reuse of the farmsteads with stone and timber building materials⁶⁰ that indicate the continuation of the medieval to post-medieval periods.

As such, the archaeological potential is low for medieval features though the evidence of medieval agricultural practices (rig and furrow or isolated findspots) may survive.

5.3 Post-Medieval Period

During this period, Cheviot sheep were introduced which resulted in the local population being cleared off the land by the landowning elite. Thousands were displaced across the Highlands, with many families seeking a new home in the lowlands or immigrating to Canada, America, New Zealand and Australia during the nineteenth century. Depopulation occurred, and some were relocated to costal crofts where they relied on fishing and the

⁵³ Highland Her – Thematic Pages – The Medieval Highlands. Available at <https://her.highland.gov.uk/Theme/THG6>

⁵⁴ HES St Mary's Chapel <https://www.historicenvironment.scot/visit-a-place/places/st-marys-chapel-crosskirk/>

⁵⁵ AD Mills (1991) A Dictionary of British Place Names

⁵⁶ Highland Her – Thematic Pages – The Medieval Highlands. Available at <https://her.highland.gov.uk/Theme/THG6>

⁵⁷ Highland Her – Thematic Pages – The Medieval Highlands. Available at <https://her.highland.gov.uk/Theme/THG6>

⁵⁸ Scarf Medieval Settlement and material cultural. Available at <https://scarf.scot/national/medieval/3-lifestyles-and-living-spaces/3-3-settlement-and-the-material-culture-of-daily-life/>

⁵⁹ Highland Her – Thematic Pages – The Medieval Highlands. Available at <https://her.highland.gov.uk/Theme/THG6>

⁶⁰ Scarf Medieval Settlement and material cultural. Available at <https://scarf.scot/national/medieval/3-lifestyles-and-living-spaces/3-3-settlement-and-the-material-culture-of-daily-life/>

kelp industry.⁶¹ In the parish of Reay, the population increased by over 500 between 1793⁶² and 1845⁶³ due to rural displacement which resulted in greater industrial employment, with weaving, tailoring and cottage industries associated with wool established within the parish. The Reverend Finlay Cook in 1845 noted '*The most of the parish has been converted into sheep-farms*⁶⁴ however alongside this he commented that there was a rise in poverty, forcing many of those who owned small holdings within the landscape to converge on the township of Reay.

There are no post-medieval features within the CSA. Within the wider 1 km study area there are 28 features, primarily associated with agriculture, such as the 'Crofts of Achimore' (MHG3112, MHG3113 and MHG3114) and enclosures, including 'Stemster Hill' (MHG17675 and MHG33117) and 'Clearance cairns-Stemster Hill, Caithness' (MHG1768) which contained a large enclosure with rig and furrow agriculture. These post-medieval features are concentrated around the Hill of Shebster, 1 km south-west of the CSA.

These features are consistent with a small crofting community with evidence of clearing indicating grazing within the CSA though distinct features are unlikely with more potential for isolated findspots.

5.3.1 1654 Map of Shebster

The earliest map of the area is the 1654 Joan Blaeu map of northern Scotland with Shebster clearly defined (Plate 1)⁶⁵.



⁶¹ John Prebble, *The Highland Clearances* (London: 1963), p.72

⁶² Statistical Accounts (1793) Reay, County of Caithness, NSA, Vol. VII, page 574. Available at https://stataccscot.edina.ac.uk/static/statacc/dist/viewer/osa-vol7-Parish_record_for_Reay_in_the_county_of_Caithness_in_volume_7_of_account_1/. Accessed 28/09.2021

⁶³ Statistical Accounts (1845) Reay, County of Caithness, NSA, Vol. XV, page 18. Available at https://stataccscot.edina.ac.uk/static/statacc/dist/viewer/nsa-vol15-Parish_record_for_Reay_in_the_county_of_Caithness_in_volume_15_of_account_2/. Accessed 28/09.2021

⁶⁴ Statistical Accounts (1845) Reay, County of Caithness, NSA, Vol. XV, page 18. Available at https://stataccscot.edina.ac.uk/static/statacc/dist/viewer/nsa-vol15-Parish_record_for_Reay_in_the_county_of_Caithness_in_volume_15_of_account_2/. Accessed 28/09.2021

⁶⁵ Extima Scotiae septentrionalis ora, ubi Provinciae sunt Rossia, Sutherlandia, Ca.... Available at <https://maps.nls.uk/view/00000461>. Accessed 29.09.2021

Plate 1: 1654 Map of Shebster

5.3.2 Roy Highlands 1747-1752

The Roy Highlands map (Plate 2) indicates that the area of the CSA may have been pasture in the 18th century, with a rise depicted to the west of the CSA where the Hill of Shebster is located. There are no further detailed features on this map⁶⁶.



Plate 2: Approximate location of CSA (red) from Roy's Highland map.

5.3.3 OS 1888-1913

The OS map, dating from 1888 to 1913 (Figure 5) indicated that the CSA was 'rough pasture' with a roofed structure and associated enclosure recorded 276 m west of the CSA likely relating to 'MHG17680 Achiebraeskiall'. There is one potential track recorded traversing the CSA from east to west, leading to 'MHG17680 'Achiebraeskiall'.

5.4 Modern Era

Within the CSA there are no modern features of note beyond the operational Baillie Wind Farm surrounding it.

There are several modern features recorded within the 1 km study Area. MHG33118 'Stemster Hill' (Canmore 346493) is a sheepfold recorded on the current OS map. This is located 610 m east of the CSA. A second sheepfold is also noted on the current OS map. This is located 405 m south-east of the CSA and is identified as 'a C19 sheep fank' (MHG61769). The 'Crofts of Achimore' (HERID MHG33112, MHG33113 and MHG33114) and the 'Hillcrest' farmstead (HERID MHG33115) are also identified on the current OS map, suggesting their survival and continuation from the post-medieval to the modern period. Finally, Baillie Windfarm is identified on the current OS map (Canmore 339758).

The CSA has remained largely unchanged from the late nineteenth century except for the Baillie windfarm surrounding the CSA. As such, there is a very low potential for unknown modern remains to exist within the CSA.

⁶⁶ Roy Highlands, 1747-1752. Available at: <https://maps.nls.uk/geo/explore/side-by-side/#zoom=14&lat=58.56442&lon=-3.68258&layers=3&right=ESRIWorld>. Accessed 29.09.2021

5.4.1 OS 1959

The final map which depicts the CSA is the OS 1959 edition⁶⁷. On this map the CSA is still recorded to be rough pasture, within an irregular enclosure, with a square shape potentially indicating the continuing survival of 'MHG17680 'Achiebraeskiall'.

5.4.2 Aerial Photography

There is one publicly available image for the CSA available through the National Collection of Aerial Photography (NCAP) dating to 1966⁶⁸. This image depicts the CSA as being pastoral with broad irregular enclosures and areas of plantation to the west of the CSA. No new or previously unrecorded features were observed on this image

5.4.3 Satellite Imagery

The earliest Satellite Imagery which depicts the CSA in detail is the 2004 imagery⁶⁹. This image shows the CSA as being pastoral with a road traversing the site from east to west. 'MHG17680 'Achiebraeskiall' is shown to the west of the CSA (Plate 3). This area remains largely unchanged until the Baillie Wind Farm construction in 2013.



Plate 3: 2004 Satellite Imagery of the CSA (red arrow) with potential 'MHG17680 'Achiebraeskiall' (blue arrow)

5.4.4 LiDAR Data

There was no available LiDAR data for the CSA.

⁶⁷ OS Plan 1959 1:10,560. Available at. <https://www.old-maps.co.uk/#/Map/302278/965035/10/101324>. Accessed 29.09.2021

⁶⁸ Crofts of Achimore; Reay; CAITHNESS; SCOTLAND. Sortie: MER/025/66, Frame 0133, Vertical. Available at. <https://ncap.org.uk/frame/8-1-10-1-40-129?pos=3>. Accessed 29.09.2021

⁶⁹ Google Earth [Viewer]

6 POTENTIAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATION

6.1 Construction Effects and Mitigation

The Development is sited within the current Baillie Wind Farm site which has already undergone several programmes of archaeological work (EHG3454 DBA in 2011 and EHG4017 LiDAR survey in 2012) as previously discussed in Section 4.4. These were non-invasive archaeological techniques to explore the potential presence or absence of archaeological features with no archaeological features noted.

Ground disturbance associated with the Development has the potential to cause a direct impact on any previously unknown archaeological remains should they be present. The area where excavation depths are likely to exceed topsoil depths is the main compound area housing the sync condensers, transformer foundations, SHETL distribution container, electrical house, comms house and welfare facilities as shown on Planning Drawing 2.

Most of the site will comprise synchronous compensators and batteries which are typically on raised plinths (usually in the corners and midway) as shown on Drawing 1 with an example in Plate 4. To install these, the ground is usually scraped to create a level surface which removes topsoils (circa 100-200 mm based on site specific conditions). Crushed stone or slab surface is then placed on top of this to a depth similar to the topsoil removed. The plinths and batteries are placed on top of the base (see plate 4 showing examples of this). From a foundation depth perspective, again depends upon ground conditions, the foundations are minimal as the containers are not that heavy (10-30 tonnes).



Plate 4: Example of batteries on gravel base

While there are no designated or undesignated assets within the CSA, there is overall a medium to high potential for the recovery of further prehistoric features and post-medieval indicators of agricultural practices. This is due to the large number of visible prehistoric features within the landscape, including SM476 Hill of Shebster Chambered Cairn and SM9007 Cnoc Freiceadain Long Cairns. The post-medieval period is also still visible in the

landscape with the potential re-use of medieval farmsteads, suggesting that while the recovery of further medieval remains is low, there may be isolated findspots or rig and furrow features associated with the post-medieval reuse of medieval farmsteads.

This potential and that of other periods is summarised by period in Table 2.

Table 2: Archaeological Potential

Period name		Potential
Early Prehistory	Palaeolithic	Low
	Mesolithic	Low
	Neolithic	Medium
Later Prehistory	Bronze Age	Medium to High
	Iron Age	Medium to High
Romano-British		Low
Medieval	Early Medieval	Low
	Later Medieval	Low to Medium
Post-Medieval		High
Modern		Low

As there is some potential for unknown archaeological features to survive, a programme of archaeological work may be required. This can be secured via an appropriately worded planning condition with further consultation with Highland Council Historic Environment Team recommended.

7 CHANGES TO SETTING AND MITIGATION

As detailed in Section 3.2.2, two assets have been selected for consideration of changes to setting that affects cultural significance:

- SM476 Hill of Shebster Chambered Cairn; and
- SM90078 Cnoc Freiceadain Long Cairns.

These are shown on Figure 2 and assessed below in the order of their designation reference.

7.1 SM476 Hill of Shebster Chambered Cairn

SM476 Hill of Shebster Chambered Cairn			
Designation	Scheduled Monument	Distance and Direction to Core study area	1.1 km SW of Planning Boundary
Figure	2	Plate	N/A (representative view from Cnoc Freiceadain in Plate 5)
Summary of Asset and Cultural significance	<p>The Hill of Shebster cairn (SM476) is located 1.1 km south-west of the Development on the southern summit of the Hill of Shebster (Figure 2). The Hill of Shebster cairn is a Neolithic round cairn that is turf-covered, 1.6m maximum height and approximately 26.0m in diameter, and has been mutilated by an excavation trench in the NE. The top has been robbed revealing seven stone slabs forming the stalls of a gallery grave and two portal stones are in the SE corner of the cairn. The monument is of national importance for its potential contribution to an understanding of prehistoric ritual and burial practices.</p>		
Setting and Contribution to Cultural Significance	<p>The setting of the cairn is defined by its elevated location on the Hill of Shebster, extending to cover the other prehistoric assets concentrated along the nearby waterways. The elevated location means that views are available in all directions so that the wider coastal and moorland landscape contribute to its cultural significance. Key views are north across the Pentland Firth, east across Baillie Wind Farm and the agricultural lands of Caithness, and west across the agricultural land with the hills of Sutherland in the background.</p>		
Change to Setting as a Result of the Development	<p>The Development would be visible from the cairn in views north-east. The views would encompass the existing Baillie Wind Farm with the Development lying at a low elevation adjacent to an electricity tower/pylon and with the substation opposite the site. The appearance of the Development will be unobtrusive and in keeping with the existing industrial character of the wind farm buildings so that the Development would not change the existing landscape character or context at this location. As such, the Development would not noticeably change the setting or landscape context of the cairn or the understanding, appreciation or experience of the cairn with a negligible effect upon its cultural significance.</p>		

7.2 SM90078 Cnoc Freiceadain Long Cairns

SM90078 Cnoc Freiceadain Long Cairns			
Designation	Scheduled Monument	Distance and Direction to Core study area	960 m WNW of Planning Boundary
Figure	2	Plates	5
Summary of Asset and Cultural significance	<p>Cnoc Freiceadain cairn (SM90078) is located on the northern summit of Hill of Shebster (Figure 2, Plate 5) and comprises the remains of two long cairn orientated at right angles. The southern-most long cairn is turf covered and orientated roughly ESE-WNW. The cairn swells at each end into two distinct mounds. A number of slabs projecting from the cairn may represent lintels and traces of chambers. The northern-most long cairn also has 2 horns at the NNE end with the SW end formed of a large round flat-topped cairn. Several stones project from the body of the cairn, possibly indicating the location of a chamber and cists. There are traces of a small oval structure to the W of the N end of the N cairn. The origin and significance of this structure is uncertain, but it could be of the same date as the long cairns.</p> <p>The monument is of national importance for its potential contribution to an understanding of prehistoric ritual and burial practices.</p>		
Setting and Contribution to Cultural Significance	<p>The setting of the cairns is defined by their elevated location on the Hill of Shebster, extending to cover the other prehistoric assets concentrated along the nearby waterways. The elevated location means that views are available in all directions so that the wider coastal and moorland landscape contribute to its cultural significance. Key views are north across the Pentland Firth, east across Baillie Wind Farm and the agricultural lands of Caithness, and west across the agricultural land with the hills of Sutherland in the background.</p>		
Change to Setting as a Result of the Development	<p>The Development would be visible from the cairn in views east. The views would encompass the existing Baillie Wind Farm with the Development lying at a low elevation adjacent to an electricity tower/pylon and with the substation opposite the site. The appearance of the Development will be unobtrusive and in keeping with the existing industrial character of the wind farm buildings so that the Development would not change the existing landscape character or context at this location. As such, the Development would not noticeably change the setting or landscape context of the cairn or the understanding, appreciation or experience of the cairn with a negligible effect upon its cultural significance.</p>		



Plate 6: View from SM900078 looking eastwards across Baillie Wind Farm and Development Site Location (Red Arrow)

7.3 Landscape Management Plan Mitigation

Mitigation is embedded in the design in the form of a landscape management plan around the Development to provide screening from the wider landscape.

8 CONCLUSION

Ground disturbance associated with the Development has the potential to cause a direct impact on any previously unknown archaeological remains should they be present. The area where excavation depths are likely to exceed topsoil depths is the main compound area housing the sync condensers, transformer foundations, SHETL distribution container, electrical house, comms house and welfare facilities as shown on Planning Drawing 2. Most of the site will comprise batteries which require limited excavation depths (circa 100-200 mm based on site specific conditions). As there is some potential for unknown archaeological features to survive, a programme of archaeological work may be required. This can be secured via an appropriately worded planning condition. Further consultation with the Highland Council Historic Environment Team is recommended.

For the two assets assessed for changes to setting that affects cultural significance (SM476 Hill of Shebster Chambered Cairn and SM90078 Cnoc Freiceadain Long Cairns), the Development would be visible from these cairns in views eastwards due their elevated position. The views would encompass the existing Baillie Wind Farm with the Development lying at a low elevation adjacent to an electricity tower/pylon and with the substation opposite the site. The appearance of the Development will be unobtrusive and in keeping with the existing industrial character of the wind farm buildings so that the Development would not change the existing landscape character or context at this location. As such, the Development would not noticeably change the setting or landscape context of the cairn or

the understanding, appreciation or experience of the cairn with a negligible effect upon its cultural significance in lined with Policy 57 of the Local Development Plan. In addition, mitigation is embedded in the design in the form of a landscape management plan around the Development, which once mature, will provide additional screening from the wider landscape.

9 GAZETTEER OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES

9.1 Heritage Assets within the 1 km Study Area

There are no designated assets within the CSA. Within the 1 km Study Area there are four designated assets and 40 undesignated assets (Table 3).

Table 3: 1 km Study Area

Designation Reference	Her Reference	Canmore Reference	Name	Description of Asset	Period	Source
SM476	MHG1026	7979	Hill of Shebster Chambered Cairn	HER and Canmore: Cairn (NR) OS 6"map, Caithness, 2nd ed., (1907). The heavily-robbed remains of this round, stalled cairn of Orkney-Cromarty type are 80ft in diameter. A S Henshall 1963. This turf-covered chambered cairn, 1.6m max height & approx 26m diameter, has been mutilated by an excavation trench in NE. The top has been robbed revealing seven stone slabs forming the stalls of a gallery grave and two portal stones are in SE corner of cairn. Resurveyed at 1:2500. Visited by OS (N K B) 13 11 1964. This chambered cairn is as described by the previous authorities. Visited by OS (J B) 11 September 1981.	Prehistoric - Neolithic	HER and Canmore, no designation listing
SM90078	MHG1220 MHG1219 MHG51135	7831 7832	Cnoc Freiceadain Long Cairns	HES: The monument consists of two long cairns in a hill top location. The S long cairn is turf covered and very well preserved. It is orientated roughly ESE-WNW and measures 72m E-W by 10m wide and is about 1.2m high. The cairn swells at each end into two distinct mounds; that at the ESE end is about 21m wide and 3m high, while that at the WNW is about 18m wide and 2m high. Spurs or "horns", 2 at each end, project an additional 3m to 6m beyond the ends of the cairn. A number of slabs projecting from the cairn may represent lintels and traces of chambers. The N long cairn is also well preserved and is 67m long, 10.5m wide and 1m high. It has 2 horns at the NNE end; these project a further 6m. The SW end is formed of a large round flat-topped cairn 16m wide and 2.5m high. Several stones project from the body of the cairn, possibly indicating the location of a chamber and cists. There are traces of a small oval structure about	Prehistoric - Neolithic	HES list entry and HER/Canmore

Designation Reference	Her Reference	Canmore Reference	Name	Description of Asset	Period	Source
				<p>2.5m across just to the W of the N end of the N cairn. The origin and significance of this structure is uncertain, but it could be of the same date as the long cairns. The area to be scheduled measures 230m SSW-NNE by 140m WNW-ESE, to include the two long cairns, the oval structure and an area around in which traces of activities associated with the construction and use of the long cairns may survive, as shown in red on the accompanying map.</p> <p>HER MHG1220 and Canmore 7832: a Tri Sithean (NR) Supposed Broughs (NR); OS 6"map, Caithness, 2nd ed., (1907); This long horned cairn, turf-covered and not seriously disturbed, is one of the largest and most perfect of its type. The body of the cairn is 235ft long by 32ft wide and about 4ft high. It swells at each end into distinct circular mounds (for the third mound, see ND06NW 10); that at the SE end is 70ft wide and 10ft high, while that at the NW is 60ft wide and 7ft high. The horns, two at each end, project an additional distance beyond the cairn varying from 10ft to 18ft. Two possible lintels and one other slab protrude from the cairn. A S Henshall 1963; RCAHMS 1911. <1><2></p> <p>As described above. Visited by OS (N K B) 18 November 1964.</p> <p>(ND 0125 6532) Long Cairn (NR) OS 6"map, (1969) 'Na Tri Sithean' is the name given to the three prominent mounds, which form parts of the long cairns described here and on ND06NW 10 (Name Book 1873). Visited by OS (J B) 10 September 1981.</p> <p>MHG1216 and Canmore 7831: Standing Stones (NR) OS 6"map, Caithness, 2nd ed., (1907)</p> <p>This chambered cairn is 220ft long with two horns at the NE end projecting an additional 18ft and 30ft. A possible horn at the SW end projects 16ft. The SW end resembles a round flat-topped steep-sided cairn 8ft high and 53ft wide; from thence to NE end the cairn is about 35ft wide and 3-4ft high. Stones projecting from the cairn suggest</p>		

Designation Reference	Her Reference	Canmore Reference	Name	Description of Asset	Period	Source
				<p>a peristalith, a chamber, and cists or other structures (A S Henshall 1963), and these probably account for OS publication (RCAHMS 1911).</p> <p>A S Henshall 1963, RCAHMS 1911. <1><2></p> <p>This turf-covered long cairn is generally as described above, but there is now no trace of the horn at SW end. Resurveyed at 1:2500. Visited by OS (N K B) 18 November 1964.</p> <p>(ND 0133 6542) Long Cairn (NR) OS 6"map, (1969) No change. Visited by OS (J B) 8 August 1981.</p> <p>MHG51135: A typical modern Caithness boundary wall constructed of upright slabs of Caithness Flagstone. The wall is positioned around a section of the scheduled area of Cnoc Freiceadain chambered cairns and dates to the between 1959 and 1966. Most of the slabs are cut to a regular shape with missing sections replaced by corrugated iron sheets.</p>		
LB14983	MHG44551		Reay Free Church, Enclosing Walls, Memorial, Shebster (Category B)	<p>1844. Double pile, double aisle church with symmetrical twin gabled south front. Tooled rubble south front, tooled ashlar dressings, harl pointed rubble flanks and rear. Paired round-headed centre doors, flanked by 4 round-headed windows; bandcourse at eaves level links skewputts; blind Gothic window in each gable; octagonal bellcote corbelled from square plinth rises from central valley, centre front, with octagonal faceted and finialled spire; octagonal apex stacks. 5-sided Minister's porch projects from centre of west elevation, with Tudor headed doorway and windows; tall corniced ridge stack. Caithness slate roofs; ball finials to rear gable apexes. Interior; plain interior now divided into two down centre. Short memorial obelisk stands in front of church within rubble walled enclosure; front quadrants with centre entrance with double wooden gates and pair plain Caithness slab gate piers.</p>	Post-Medieval	HES list entry
LB17593	MHG38786		Shebster Barn (Category C)	<p>Earlier-mid 19th century, 2-storey rectangular 3-bay barn. Rubble, tooled rubble dressings. Long symmetrical</p>	Post-Medieval	HES list entry

Designation Reference	Her Reference	Canmore Reference	Name	Description of Asset	Period	Source
				elevations facing north and south with doors in outer bays. (blocked rear, east) and slit vent in both long elevations, and in ground and 1st floor in west gable. Graded Caithness slate roof.		
None	MHG1027	7980	Possible Cain, Hill of Shebster	OS 6" map, Caithness, 2nd ed., (1907) The turf-covered, indefinite, circular construction at the SE end of the Hill of Shebster has a diameter of 58ft and a height of 4ft. RCAHMS 1911. This circular, grass-covered, flat-topped mound survives to a maximum height of 1.4m and is 20.0m in diameter. It appears to consist mainly of small rubble stones and is probably a cairn. Resurveyed at 1:2500. Visited by OS (N K B) 11 November 1964. The remains of a cairn, as described above. Visited by OS (J B) 11 September 1981.	Prehistoric - Neolithic	HER and Canmore
None	MHG1219	None	Chambered Cairn, Cnoc Freiceadain	Standing Stones (NR) OS 6"map, Caithness, 2nd ed., (1907). This chambered cairn is 220ft long with two horns at the NE end projecting an additional 18ft and 30ft. A possible horn at the SW end projects 16ft. The SW end resembles a round flat-topped steep-sided cairn 8ft high and 53ft wide; from thence to NE end the cairn is about 35ft wide and 3-4ft high. Stones projecting from the cairn suggest a peristalith, a chamber, and cists or other structures (A S Henshall 1963), and these probably account for OS publication (RCAHMS 1911). A S Henshall 1963, RCAHMS 1911. This turf-covered long cairn is generally as described above, but there is now no trace of the horn at SW end. Resurveyed at 1:2500. Visited by OS (N K B) 18 November 1964. (ND 0133 6542) Long Cairn (NR) OS 6"map, (1969) No change. Visited by OS (J B) 8 August 1981.	Prehistoric - Neolithic	HER

Designation Reference	Her Reference	Canmore Reference	Name	Description of Asset	Period	Source
None	MHG1221	7833	Kerb Cairn, Achiebraeskiall	<p>Cairn (NR) OS 6"map, Caithness, 2nd ed., (1907). This grassy hillock, which appears to be a cairn, is 81ft in diameter and from 6ft to 8ft in height. There is no sign of any excavation. RCAHMS 1911.</p> <p>This grass-covered mound, 2m maximum height, has been mutilated in the N and W by excavation, and in the SE by the extension of a garden, where small rubble stones have been unearthed. Its regular shape suggests a burial cairn. Resurveyed at 1:2500. Visited by OS (N K B) 13 November 1964.</p> <p>(ND 0159 6516) Cairn (NR) OS 6"map, (1969). This cairn is as described by the previous authorities. According to Mr Shields (T Shields, Forest Cottage, Shebster), the occupier of the adjacent house, a short section of a wall face or kerb was exposed while digging a drain in the SE edge of the cairn. It was subsequently filled in and no details are remembered.</p> <p>Visited by OS (J B) 10 September 1981.</p>	Prehistoric - Neolithic	HER and Canmore
None	MHG13465	None	Cairn, Stemster Hill	<p>Grid Reference ND 030 657 corrected to ND 02935 65766. Two cairns are depicted on the current OS map, roughly situated on the E and S bank of a small rectangular pond. J Aitken: 23/4/04</p>	Prehistoric - Neolithic	HER
None	MHG13477	85948	Ruined farmstead - Yellow Moss (Achimore)	<p>A ruined farmstead at Yellow Moss, Caithness.</p> <p>Longhouses, recorded by R Mercer in 1982 during a survey undertaken by the University of Edinburgh, one of several over a number of years in Caithness:</p> <p>FOR190a: Longhouse. Dimensions: 22m x 7m. One internal division. Orientation: N-S.</p> <p>FOR190b: Longhouse. Dimensions: 28m x 7m. Three internal divisions. 23m from 'a' and parallel with it. Orientation: N-S</p> <p>FOR190C: Longhouse. Dimensions: 23m x 6m. Orientation: E-W. set at right angles to 'a' and 'b', and attached to both. One internal division.</p> <p>To one end is a rectangular structure, with an E-W orientation, which closes off the ends of the longhouses but is not joined.</p>	Post-Medieval 8th Century - 1750 AD? to 1800 AD?	HER and Canmore

Designation Reference	Her Reference	Canmore Reference	Name	Description of Asset	Period	Source
				Elevation: 300' OD ND 027644. A large farmstead comprising four unroofed buildings, of which three are long buildings, is depicted on the 1st edition of the OS 6-inch map (Caithness 1877, sheet x). It is shown on the current edition of the OS 1:10,000 map (1987). Information from RCAHMS (AKK) 11 September 1995. The site is noted as being surround by the remains of rig and furrow cultivation in LiDAR data gathered by AOC Archaeology in 2011 as part of the mitigation for the visual impact on the archaeological landscape associated with the proposed Baillie Hill windfarm, Caithness. The area also includes a second farmstead to the north (see MHG33115). The farmstead is labelled 'Achimore (in ruins)' on the OS 1st Edition 25" map.		
None	MHG15136	None	Barn, Shebster Barn	No Description	Post Medieval - 1560 AD to 1900 AD	HER
None	MHG15334	101239	Reay Free Church, Enclosing Walls, Memorial, Shebster	No Description	Post Medieval - 1560 AD to 1900 AD)	HER and Canmore
None	MHG17675	None	Stemster Hill	Grid Reference ND 025 657 corrected to ND 02541 65776. See also ND06NW0099 - Enclosure. ND06NW 128 025 657. What may be a farmstead comprising an unroofed building with an adjoining enclosure, and a second enclosure some 50m to the S are depicted on the 1st edition of the OS 6-inch map (Caithness 1877, sheet x). They are not shown on the current edition of the OS 1:10,560 map (1969). Information from RCAHMS (AKK) 11 September 1995.	Post Medieval - 1560 AD to 1900 AD	HER
None	MHG17677	86940	Stemster Hill	ND06NW 127 0270 6596. A single unroofed long building is depicted on the 1st edition of the OS 6-inch map (Caithness 1877, sheet x), but it is not shown on the	Post-Medieval (presumed)	HER and Canmore

Designation Reference	Her Reference	Canmore Reference	Name	Description of Asset	Period	Source
				current edition of the OS 1:10,560 map (1969). Information from RCAHMS (AKK) 11 September 1995.		
None	MHG17678		Hill of Shebster	ND06SW 125 0199 6511. A farmstead comprising two unroofed buildings, one of which is a long building of two compartments, is depicted on the 1st edition of the OS 6-inch map (Caithness 1877, sheet x), and it is shown on the current edition of the OS 1:10,000 map (1987). Information from RCAHMS (AKK) 11 September 1995.	Post-Medieval (presumed)	HER
None	MHG17680	86937	Achiebraeskiall	A farmstead comprising one roofed, one unroofed building and an enclosure is depicted on the 1st edition of the OS 6-inch map (Caithness 1877, sheet x). What may be the partial remains of a building is shown on the current edition of the OS 1:10,560 map (1969). Information from RCAHMS (AKK) 11 September 1995.	Post Medieval - 1560 AD to 1900 AD	HER and Canmore
None	MHG17704	86942	Stemster Burn	ND06NW 129 0318 6548. A single unroofed long building is depicted on the 1st edition of the OS 6-inch map (Caithness 1877, sheet x), but it is not shown on the current edition of the OS 1:10,560 map (1969). Information from RCAHMS (AKK) 11 September 1995.	Post-Medieval (presumed)	HER and Canmore
None	MHG17839	85944	Cnoc Freiceadain	ND06NW 97 0151 6538. A farmstead comprising two unroofed buildings, one of which is a long building, and an enclosure is depicted on the 1st edition of the OS 6-inch map (Caithness 1877, sheet x). The enclosure is shown on the current edition of the OS 1:10,560 map (1969). Information from RCAHMS (AKK) 11 September 1995.	Post-Medieval (presumed)	HER and Canmore
None	MHG33112	None	Crofts of Achimore	A roofed building is depicted on the 1st Edition OS Map. This croft is part of a group of three crofts called the Crofts of Achimore. J Aitken: 23/4/04	Post Medieval - 1560 AD to 1900 AD	HER
None	MHG33113	None	Crofts of Achimore	A roofed building is depicted on the 1st Edition OS Map. This croft is part of a group of three crofts called the Crofts of Achimore. J Aitken: 23/4/04	Post Medieval - 1560 AD to 1900 AD	HER

Designation Reference	Her Reference	Canmore Reference	Name	Description of Asset	Period	Source
None	MHG33114	None	Crofts of Achimore	A roofed building is depicted on the 1st Edition OS Map. This croft is part of a group of three crofts called the Crofts of Achimore. J Aitken: 23/4/05	Post Medieval - 1560 AD to 1900 AD	HER
None	MHG33115	None	Hillcrest	A roofed building is depicted on the 1st Edition OS Map. J Aitken: 23/4/04	Post Medieval - 1560 AD to 1900 AD	HER
None	MHG33117	86941	Stemster Hill	An enclosure is depicted on the OS 1st Edition Map. It may be associated with the nearby building and enclosure at ND 02541 65776. J Aitken: 23/4/04. What may be a farmstead comprising an unroofed building with an adjoining enclosure, and a second enclosure some 50m to the S are depicted on the 1st edition of the OS 6-inch map (Caithness 1877, sheet x). They are not shown on the current edition of the OS 1:10,560 map (1969). Information from RCAHMS (AKK), 11 September 1995.	Post Medieval - 1560 AD to 1900 AD	HER and Canmore
None	MHG33118	346493	Stemster Hill	A 'Sheepfold' is depicted on the current OS map.	Modern - 1901 AD to 2100 AD	HER and Canmore
None	MHG54280	None	Enclosure, Achiebraeskiall	A circular enclosure appears at this location on the 1907 Ordnance Survey map (Caithness Sheet X) and on subsequent maps up until 1969 when it does not appear. This enclosure is depicted as a sheepfold on the 25" 1st edition Ordnance Survey map c.1872-3. <2>	Post Medieval - 1560 AD to 1900 AD	HER
None	MHG54284	None	Possible structure - Achiebraeskiall	A possible ruinous structure denoted by a platform c. 8m by 4m and several large stones seen during an AOC Walkover January 2011. GIS spatial data created in 2020 according to location of feature as shown on 1999-2001 vertical APs.	Post Medieval - 1560 AD to 1900 AD	HER
None	MHG54285	None	Possible structure - Achiebraeskiall	A possible ruinous structure denoted by a platform c. 6m by 6m and several large stones recorded during an AOC walkover in January 2011. GIS spatial data created in	Post Medieval - 1560 AD to 1900 AD	HER

Designation Reference	Her Reference	Canmore Reference	Name	Description of Asset	Period	Source
				2020 according to location of feature as shown on 1999-2001 vertical APs.		
None	MHG61750	None	Possible hut circle - NE of Cnoc Freiceadain, Caithness	A possible hut circle to the northeast of Cnoc Freiceadain, Caithness. A possible hut circle identified in LiDAR data gathered by AOC Archaeology in 2011 as part of the mitigation for the visual impact on the archaeological landscape associated with the proposed Baillie Hill windfarm, Caithness. Circular feature, possible hut-circle located within modern peat drainage system. The site was visited and recorded by topographic survey in 2015 as part of the 'Hidden Bronze Age Landscape of Caithness Project' undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group and members of the Castletown Heritage Society with local volunteers. The project ran as a series of four week long field schools training volunteers in techniques of field survey, systematic soil sampling and targeted excavation. Fieldwork in week one of the fieldschool (22-27/06/2015) focussed on using LiDAR data in the field, use of GPS to create simple maps of archaeological sites and ground-truthing sites through LiDAR. In week two (13-18/07/2015) participants learned how to create accurate plans using manual taped offset and plane table survey and total station and GPS surveys. Site 5: Possible hut circle set in rough grazing with mixed grasses on a gentle SE facing slope. The bank wall measures 9m diameter x 1.5m width x 0.2m height. There is a possible E facing entrance and the site has been disrupted on N, E and W sides by drainage.	Prehistoric - Neolithic to Iron Age	HER
None	MHG61751	None	Possible hut circle - NE of Cnoc Freiceadain, Caithness	A possible hut circle to the northeast of Cnoc Freiceadain, Caithness. A possible hut circle identified in LiDAR data gathered by AOC Archaeology in 2011 as part of the mitigation for the visual impact on the archaeological landscape associated with the proposed Baillie Hill windfarm, Caithness. Circular feature, possible fragmentary hut circle.	Prehistoric - Neolithic to Iron Age	HER

Designation Reference	Her Reference	Canmore Reference	Name	Description of Asset	Period	Source
None	MHG61758	None	Medieval-post-medieval farmstead - Hill of Shebster, Caithness	Medieval-post-medieval farmstead on the northeast side of field school Hill of Shebster, Caithness. Possible building, enclosures and cultivation traces identified in LiDAR data gathered by AOC Archaeology in 2011 as part of the mitigation for the visual impact on the archaeological landscape associated with the proposed Baillie Hill windfarm, Caithness. Possible building or small enclosure, measuring approx 20m square, within a much larger enclosure containing evidence of MoLRS agriculture. Possible traces of further structures are visible 35m to the N. The earthworks are visible on vertical APs dating to 1999-2001 and 2009. They may be related to the farmstead to the north (see MHG17678). The building referred to in <1> is c.16m long.	Post-Medieval Medieval to 18th Century - 1058 AD? to 1800 AD?	HER
None	MHG61760	None	Possible hut circle - NE of Cnoc Freiceadain, Caithness	A possible hut circle to the northeast of Cnoc Freiceadain, Caithness. Possible hut circle identified in LiDAR data gathered by AOC Archaeology in 2011 as part of the mitigation for the visual impact on the archaeological landscape associated with the proposed Baillie Hill windfarm, Caithness. Small circular feature, one of four possible hut-circles located within modern peat drainage. This feature looks very similar to others nearby that are clearly visible on vertical APs as former animal feeding stations. [IS-L 27/05/2020].	Prehistoric - Neolithic to Iron Age	HER
None	MHG61761	None	Possible hut circle - NE of Cnoc Freiceadain, Caithness	A possible hut circle to the northeast of Cnoc Freiceadain, Caithness. Possible hut circle identified in LiDAR data gathered by AOC Archaeology in 2011 as part of the mitigation for the visual impact on the archaeological landscape associated with the proposed Baillie Hill windfarm, Caithness. Small circular feature, one of four possible hut-circles located within modern peat drainage. This feature is too small to be a hut circle, it may be a shieling hut but it looks very similar to features nearby that are clearly visible on vertical APs as former animal feeding stations. [IS-L 27/05/2020].	Prehistoric - Neolithic to Iron Age	HER

Designation Reference	Her Reference	Canmore Reference	Name	Description of Asset	Period	Source
None	MHG61762	None	Possible cairn or mound - Cnoc Freiceadain, Caithness	A possible cairn or mound at Cnoc Freiceadain, Caithness. Possible cairn or mound identified in LiDAR data gathered by AOC Archaeology in 2011 as part of the mitigation for the visual impact on the archaeological landscape associated with the proposed Baillie Hill windfarm, Caithness. Small mound, possible cairn located on E slope of Cnoc Freiceadain.	Prehistoric - Neolithic to Iron Age	HER
None	MHG61767	None	Possible cairn - Stemster Hill, Caithness	A possible cairn on Stemster Hill, Caithness. A possible cairn identified in LiDAR data gathered by AOC Archaeology in 2011 as part of the mitigation for the visual impact on the archaeological landscape associated with the proposed Baillie Hill windfarm, Caithness. Large mound, possibly a cairn, overlain by later rig-and-furrow within a large enclosure; approximately 30m in diameter.	Prehistoric - Neolithic to Bronze Age	HER
None	MHG61768	None	Clearance cairns - Stemster Hill, Caithness	Three possible clearance cairns on Stemster Hill, Caithness. Three possible clearance cairns identified in LiDAR data gathered by AOC Archaeology in 2011 as part of the mitigation for the visual impact on the archaeological landscape associated with the proposed Baillie Hill windfarm, Caithness. Clearance cairns, within a large enclosure containing rig-and-furrow agriculture. These may be dubious as they appear to lie above the rig and furrow in the LiDAR data [IS-L 28/05/2020].	Post Medieval - 1560 AD? to 1900 AD	HER
None	MHG61769	None	C19 sheep fank - S side of Stemster Hill, Caithness	A mid-C19 sheep fank on the south side of Stemster Hill, Caithness. A sheep fank identified in LiDAR data gathered by AOC Archaeology in 2011 as part of the mitigation for the visual impact on the archaeological landscape associated with the proposed Baillie Hill windfarm, Caithness. Modern sheep fank with projecting walls located within forestry plantation. This feature is shown in this location on the OS 1st Edition 25" map [IS-L 28/05/2020].	Post-Medieval 18th Century to 19th Century - 1800 AD? to 1875 AD?	HER

Designation Reference	Her Reference	Canmore Reference	Name	Description of Asset	Period	Source
None	MHG61771	None	Possible circular features - Achiebraeskiall Burn	Possible circular features on the east side of the Achiebraeskiall Burn, Caithness. Ten possible circular features identified in LiDAR data gathered by AOC Archaeology in 2011 as part of the mitigation for the visual impact on the archaeological landscape associated with the proposed Baillie Hill windfarm, Caithness. Circular features, approx 7m in diameter, ten similar features within an area of improved agriculture. Character/authenticity uncertain. None of these features are visible on any available vertical APs and in the LiDAR data measure from between 3 and 5m in diameter - possible animal feeding stations? [IS-L 28/05/2020]	Post-Medieval (presumed)	HER
None	MHG61890	None	Possible hut circle - NE of Cnoc Freiceadain, Caithness	A possible hut circle to the northeast of Cnoc Freiceadain, Caithness. Possible hut circle identified in LiDAR data gathered by AOC Archaeology in 2011 as part of the mitigation for the visual impact on the archaeological landscape associated with the proposed Baillie Hill windfarm, Caithness. Circular depression; possible hut-circle. This feature looks very similar to others nearby that are clearly visible on vertical APs as former animal feeding stations. [IS-L 01/07/2020].	Prehistoric - Neolithic to Iron Age	HER
None	MHG61891	None	Possible hut circle - NE of Cnoc Freiceadain, Caithness	A possible hut circle to the northeast of Cnoc Freiceadain, Caithness. Possible hut circle identified in LiDAR data gathered by AOC Archaeology in 2011 as part of the mitigation for the visual impact on the archaeological landscape associated with the proposed Baillie Hill windfarm, Caithness. Circular depression; possible hut-circle. This feature looks very similar to others nearby that are clearly visible on vertical APs as former animal feeding stations. [IS-L 01/07/2020].	Prehistoric - Neolithic to Iron Age	HER
None	MHG61897	None	Medieval-post-medieval enclosure - Achiebraeskiall, Caithness	Medieval-post-medieval enclosure at Achiebraeskiall, Caithness. Enclosure identified in LiDAR data gathered by AOC Archaeology in 2011 as part of the mitigation for the visual impact on the archaeological landscape associated with the proposed Baillie Hill windfarm, Caithness. There are slight indications in the LiDAR data that it may be	Post-Medieval Medieval to 18th Century - 1500 AD? to 1800 AD?	HER

Designation Reference	Her Reference	Canmore Reference	Name	Description of Asset	Period	Source
				earlier than the larger enclosure in the northern corner of which it is clearly located [IS-L 03/07/2020].		
None	MHG61898	None	Medieval-post-medieval dykes - Stemster Hill, Caithness	Medieval-post-medieval dykes at Stemster Hill, Caithness, forming an enclosure around rig and furrow. Dykes identified in LiDAR data gathered by AOC Archaeology in 2011 as part of the mitigation for the visual impact on the archaeological landscape associated with the proposed Baillie Hill windfarm, Caithness. There are probably several phases of dykes/enclosures here and there may be indications in the LiDAR data that there may be occupation sites in a couple of the areas without rig and furrow [IS-L 03/07/2020].	Post-Medieval ENCLOSURE (Medieval to 18th Century - 1500 AD? to 1800 AD?) DYKE (Medieval to 18th Century - 1500 AD? to 1800 AD?)	HER
None	MHG61929	None	Small building - W of Bardnaheigh, Caithness	Ruin of a small building to the west of Bardnaheigh, Caithness. Unroofed building identified in LiDAR data gathered by AOC Archaeology in 2011 as part of the mitigation for the visual impact on the archaeological landscape associated with the proposed Baillie Hill windfarm, Caithness. The site of the building was close to one of the proposed turbines. Two trenches were excavated by AOC Archaeology in 2011 (trenches 8A and 8B) but no features were recorded. It must be assumed that the building had very shallow footings and had been completely removed between the gathering of the LiDAR data and the excavation of the evaluation trenches [IS-L 20/07/2020].	Post-Medieval 18th Century to 19th Century - 1750 AD? to 1850 AD?	HER
None	MHG61940	None	Rectilinear enclosure - Hill of Shebster	A rectilinear enclosure at Hill of Shebster. An enclosure identified in LiDAR data gathered by AOC Archaeology in 2011 as part of the mitigation for the visual impact on the archaeological landscape associated with the proposed Baillie Hill windfarm, Caithness.	Post-Medieval 18th Century to 19th Century - 1800 AD? to 1850 AD?	HER

Designation Reference	Her Reference	Canmore Reference	Name	Description of Asset	Period	Source
None	MHG891	None	Farmstead, Achiebraeskiall	A farmstead comprising a single unroofed building of two compartments and an enclosure is depicted on the 1st edition of the OS 6-inch map (Caithness 1877, sheet x). The enclosure is shown on the current edition of the OS 1:10,560 map (1969). Information from RCAHMS (AKK) 11 September 1995.	Post-Medieval	HER
None	None	339758	Stemster Hill Wind Farm	No Description	Modern	Canmore

9.2 Previous Archaeological Investigations (Events) within 1 km Study Area

There are 11 previous archaeological investigations within the CSA and detailed in Table 4.

Table 4: Previous Archaeological Investigations within the CSA and 1 km Study Area

Event Reference	Name	Date	Source
EHG439	Stemster Hill CAI was a Walkover Survey organised by the University of Edinburgh in 1985	1985	EHG439 - Stemster Hill, CAI. Available at. https://her.highland.gov.uk/Event/EHG439 . Accessed 28.09.2021
EHG605	Reay to Shebster and Shebster to Hoy	None	None
EHG3454	Desk based assessment and walkover survey, Baillie Hill Wind Farm grid connection	Jan-11	EHG3454 - Desk based assessment and walkover survey, Baillie Hill Wind Farm grid connection. Available at. https://her.highland.gov.uk/Event/EHG3454 . Accessed 28.09.2021
EHG3578	Trial trenching, Baillie Hill, near Thurso	Jul-11	Baillie Hill Wind Farm: Evaluation Basic Report (SHG25431)
EHG4017	LiDAR survey - Baillie Hill and Cnoc Freiceadain, Caithness	2011	Plan (unspecified)(SHG27551). EHG4017 - LiDAR survey - Baillie Hill and Cnoc Freiceadain, Caithness. Available at. https://highland.esdm.co.uk/Event/EHG4017. Accessed 28.09.2021
EHG4313	DBA and walkover survey - proposed Baillie Wind Farm, Shebster	2003-4?	Plan (unspecified)(SHG27551). EHG4313 - DBA and walkover survey - proposed Baillie Wind Farm, Shebster. Available at. https://her.highland.gov.uk/Event/EHG4313 . Accessed 28.09.2021
EHG4524	DBA - Hill of Lybster Turbines was an Environmental Report by 'The Energy Workshop' in 2013 as part of a planning application for two turbines	2013	EHG4524 - DBA - Hill of Lybster Turbines. Available at. https://highland.esdm.co.uk/Event/EHG4524 . Accessed 28.09.2021

Event Reference	Name	Date	Source
EHG4611	A DBA and walkover survey were carried out as part of an environmental statement for the construction of a Dounreay-Mybster 275/132kV overhead power transmission line by Highland Archaeology Services Ltd in 2012	2012	EHG4611 - DBA and Walkover Survey - Land to south of existing substation, Dounreay Nuclear Research Establishment. Available at. https://highland.esdm.co.uk/Event/EHG4611 . Accessed 28.09.2021
EHG5389	Walkover and topographic surveys - Hidden Bronze Age Landscape of Caithness Project	Jun-July 2015	A Window on the Hidden Bronze Age Landscape of Caithness: Field Surveys and Excavations at Skail (SHG28580)
EHG5391	Geophysical survey - Hidden Bronze Age Landscape of Caithness Project	Aug-Sept 2015	A Window on the Hidden Bronze Age Landscape of Caithness: Field Surveys and Excavations at Skail (SHG28580)
EHG5394	Environmental survey - Hidden Bronze Age Landscape of Caithness Project	Aug-Sept 2015	A Window on the Hidden Bronze Age Landscape of Caithness: Field Surveys and Excavations at Skail (SHG28580)

9.3 Heritage Assets within the Setting Study Area (2 km Study Area)

There are four designated assets within the 2 km Study Area (Table 5).

Table 5: Heritage assets within the 2 km Study Area

Designation Reference	Name	Description of Asset	Direction and Location from Development	In ZTV?
SM476	Hill of Shebster Chambered Cairn	<p>HER and Canmore: Cairn (NR) OS 6"map, Caithness, 2nd ed., (1907) The heavily-robbed remains of this round, stalled cairn of Orkney-Cromarty type are 80ft in diameter. A S Henshall 1963. This turf-covered chambered cairn, 1.6m max height & approx 26m diameter, has been mutilated by an excavation trench in NE. The top has been robbed revealing seven stone slabs forming the stalls of a gallery grave and two portal stones are in SE corner of cairn. Resurveyed at 1:2500. Visited by OS (N K B) 13 11 1964. This chambered cairn is as described by the previous authorities. Visited by OS (J B) 11 September 1981.</p>	1.1 km SW	Yes
SM2386	Bhreac Mhor, stone rows 200m ESE of	<p>The monument is a group of standing stones, aligned in rows, thought to date from the Bronze Age (2500 to 800 BC). Within Scotland, stone rows are a site type only found in Caithness and Sutherland. The monument is located on gently sloping moorland and lies around 70m above sea level. The monument is visible as at least 18 small standing stones, typically measuring around 0.2-0.4m in height and similar in width, set out over several parallel alignments. A survey in 1911 recorded around 115 standing stones in 13 rows with 56 stones noted as visible over 6 rows in 1964. Many of these missing stones are likely to remain in situ but have been obscured by peat and heather growth. The monument is located in a slight hollow on gently sloping, open moorland. The site has extensive views to the northwest while being overlooked from all other directions by nearby hill slopes. The scheduled area is irregular on plan and includes the remains described above and an area around them within which evidence relating to the monument's construction, use and abandonment is expected to survive, as shown in red on the accompanying map. The monument was first scheduled in 1964, but the documentation did not meet current standards: the present amendment rectifies this.</p>	1.4 km NW	No

Designation Reference	Name	Description of Asset	Direction and Location from Development	In ZTV?
SM90078	Cnoc Freiceadain Long Cairns	<p>HES: The monument consists of two long cairns in a hill top location. The S long cairn is turf covered and very well preserved. It is orientated roughly ESE-WNW and measures 72m E-W by 10m wide and is about 1.2m high. The cairn swells at each end into two distinct mounds; that at the ESE end is about 21m wide and 3m high, while that at the WNW is about 18m wide and 2m high. Spurs or "horns", 2 at each end, project an additional 3m to 6m beyond the ends of the cairn. A number of slabs projecting from the cairn may represent lintels and traces of chambers. The N long cairn is also well preserved and is 67m long, 10.5m wide and 1m high. It has 2 horns at the NNE end; these project a further 6m. The SW end is formed of a large round flat-topped cairn 16m wide and 2.5m high. Several stones project from the body of the cairn, possibly indicating the location of a chamber and cists. There are traces of a small oval structure about 2.5m across just to the W of the N end of the N cairn. The origin and significance of this structure is uncertain, but it could be of the same date as the long cairns. The area to be scheduled measures 230m SSW-NNE by 140m WNW-ESE, to include the two long cairns, the oval structure and an area around in which traces of activities associated with the construction and use of the long cairns may survive, as shown in red on the accompanying map.</p> <p>HER MHG1220 and Canmore 7832: a Tri Sithean (NR) Supposed Broughs (NR); OS 6"map, Caithness, 2nd ed., (1907); This long horned cairn, turf-covered and not seriously disturbed, is one of the largest and most perfect of its type. The body of the cairn is 235ft long by 32ft wide and about 4ft high. It swells at each end into distinct circular mounds (for the third mound, see ND06NW 10); that at the SE end is 70ft wide and 10ft high, while that at the NW is 60ft wide and 7ft high. The horns, two at each end, project an additional distance beyond the cairn varying from 10ft to 18ft. Two possible lintels and one other slab protrude from the cairn. A S Henshall 1963; RCAHMS 1911. <1><2></p> <p>As described above. Visited by OS (N K B) 18 November 1964. (ND 0125 6532) Long Cairn (NR) OS 6"map, (1969)</p> <p>'Na Tri Sithean' is the name given to the three prominent mounds, which form parts of the long cairns described here and on ND06NW 10 (Name Book 1873). Visited by OS (J B) 10 September 1981.</p> <p>MHG1216 and Canmore 7831: Standing Stones (NR) OS 6"map, Caithness, 2nd ed., (1907)</p> <p>This chambered cairn is 220ft long with two horns at the NE end projecting an additional 18ft and 30ft. A possible horn at the SW end projects 16ft. The SW end</p>	950 m NW	Yes

Designation Reference	Name	Description of Asset	Direction and Location from Development	In ZTV?
		<p>resembles a round flat-topped steep-sided cairn 8ft high and 53ft wide; from thence to NE end the cairn is about 35ft wide and 3-4ft high. Stones projecting from the cairn suggest a peristalith, a chamber, and cists or other structures (A S Henshall 1963), and these probably account for OS publication (RCAHMS 1911). A S Henshall 1963, RCAHMS 1911. <1><2> This turf-covered long cairn is generally as described above, but there is now no trace of the horn at SW end. Resurveyed at 1:2500. Visited by OS (N K B) 18 November 1964. (ND 0133 6542) Long Cairn (NR) OS 6"map, (1969) No change. Visited by OS (J B) 8 August 1981.</p> <p>MHG51135: A typical modern Caithness boundary wall constructed of upright slabs of Caithness Flagstone. The wall is positioned around a section of the scheduled area of Cnoc Freiceadain chambered cairns and dates to the between 1959 and 1966. Most of the slabs are cut to a regular shape with missing sections replaced by corrugated iron sheets</p>		
LB14983	Reay Free Church, Enclosing Walls to Frontage and Memorial Sited Therein, Achimenach, by Shebster (Category B)	1844. Double pile, double aisle church with symmetrical twin gabled south front. Tooled rubble south front, tooled ashlar dressings, harl pointed rubble flanks and rear. Paired round-headed centre doors, flanked by 4 round-headed windows; bandcourse at eaves level links skewputts; blind Gothic window in each gable; octagonal bellcote corbelled from square plinth rises from central valley, centre front, with octagonal faceted and finialled spire; octagonal apex stacks. 5-sided Minister's porch projects from centre of west elevation, with Tudor headed doorway and windows; tall corniced ridge stack. Caithness slate roofs; ball finials to rear gable apexes. Interior; plain interior now divided into two down centre. Short memorial obelisk stands in front of church within rubble walled enclosure; front quadrants with centre entrance with double wooden gates and pair plain Caithness slab gate piers.	950 m S	No

Designation Reference	Name	Description of Asset	Direction and Location from Development	In ZTV?
LB17593	Shebster Barn (Category C)	Earlier-mid 19th century, 2-storey rectangular 3-bay barn. Rubble, tooled rubble dressings. Long symmetrical elevations facing north and south with doors in outer bays. (blocked rear, east) and slit vent in both long elevations, and in ground and 1st floor in west gable. Graded Caithness slate roof.	1 km SW	No