Novar 1 Wind Farm Repowering

Chapter 6 - Cultural Heritage

September 2026



6. Cultural Heritage

6.1 Executive Summary

6.1.1 This chapter assesses the potential for direct and setting effects on the cultural heritage resource within the Site and surrounding Study Areas during the decommissioning of the Novar 1 Wind Farm and the construction, operation, and decommissioning of the proposed repowered Wind Farm.

6.1.2 One designated asset, the Novar Garden and Designed Landscape (GDL) (Asset 32) is recorded within the Site. A further 24 non-designated heritage assets (Assets 43, 44, 55, 56, 77, 78, 85, 328, 354, 356, 363, 364, 368-373, 392, 470, 471, 550 and 618) have been identified within the Site, comprising predominantly post-medieval settlement and agricultural remains, as well as the modern Novar 1 Wind Farm (Asset 44), a WWII camp (Assets 470 and 471) and a commemorative monument for the Novar 2 Wind Farm (Asset 618). These assets are considered to range from Negligible to Low archaeological importance, with 22 considered as having the potential to be directly impacted upon during the construction phase of works.

6.1.3 The potential for inadvertent direct impacts upon a Scheduled Monument, Cladh Churadain (Asset 14) as a result of nearby tree-felling works has also been considered within the assessment. The Scheduled Monument is located outwith the Site and will be fenced off with a visible and robust buffer to prevent inadvertent impact.

6.1.4 Best practice, mitigation measures to avoid and minimise adverse effects, including demarcation, micro-siting of infrastructure and archaeological monitoring have been proposed in order to minimise and/or offset direct effects. Archaeological monitoring is recommended for ground-breaking works in the vicinity of known heritage assets which would be impacted upon by groundworks, and a representative proportion of other ground-breaking works should also be subject to archaeological monitoring to identify any as-yet unknown heritage assets and mitigate any direct impacts. It is considered that through mitigation, any direct effects on both the known and the unknown heritage resource within and directly adjacent to the Site would be, at worst, Minor adverse and **not significant**.

6.1.5 Potential operational effects on the settings of all designated heritage assets within 10 km of the Site, and a selection of designated heritage assets beyond the Site, has been considered. It is considered that the setting effects upon the Category a Listed Wyvis Lodge (Assets 23.1-23.4), Ardross Castle (Assets 26.1-26.4) and Ardross Garden and Designed Landscape (GDL) (Asset 31) have the potential to be Moderate adverse and significant. For all other designated heritage assets, Minor adverse or Neutral setting effects are considered likely, which are **not significant.**

6.1.6 Potential cumulative effects have also been considered and assessed, with at worst one significant Moderate adverse cumulative effect considered likely for the Scheduled Boath, three chambered cairns NE and NNE of Easter Ballone Farm (Assets 17.1-17.3) in the instance that the in-planning Ceislein wind farm development is consented. The remaining assets considered for cumulative assessment are considered to experience at-worst Minor adverse cumulative effects which are **not significant**.

6.1.7 In line with National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4), opportunities to deliver on public benefit items with regard to cultural heritage have been proposed. The exact scope of this would be contingent on the results of any archaeological fieldwork undertaken, and in agreement with Historic Environment Scotland (HES), the Highland Council Historic Environment Team (HET), and the Applicant.

6.2 Introduction

6.2.1 This chapter considers the likely significant effects on the cultural heritage resource within the Site and in the surrounding Study Areas associated with the decommissioning of the existing Novar 1 Wind Farm and the construction, operation and decommissioning of the repowered wind farm.

6.2.2 The specific objectives of the chapter are to:

- Describe the existing cultural heritage baseline context and cumulative context;
- Describe the assessment methodology and significance criteria used in completing the impact assessment;
- Describe the potential effects, including direct, indirect and cumulative effects;
- Describe the mitigation measures proposed to address likely significant effects; and
- Assess the residual effects remaining following the implementation of mitigation.

6.2.3 The assessment has been carried out by AOC Archaeology Group.

6.2.4 This chapter is supported by the following figures and technical appendices:

- Volume 3a: Figures
  - Figures 6.1a-6.1f: Non-designated Heritage Assets and Events within Site and 1 km Study Area;
  - Figure 6.2: Designated Heritage Assets within 1 km and 5 km Study Areas;
  - Figure 6.3: Designated Heritage Assets within 10 km Study Area and Selected Designated Heritage Assets beyond 10 km Study Area;
  - Figure 6.4: Extract from a Map by Blaeu, 1654;
  - Figure 6.5: Extract from a Map by Roy, 1747-1752;
  - Figure 6.6: Composite of Extracts from Ordnance Survey maps, 1881;
  - Figure 6.7: Composite of Extracts from Ordnance Survey maps, 1959-1970; and
  - Figures 6.8a-6.8b: Designated Heritage Assets within 10 km Study Area with Selected Assets beyond 10 km ZTV and Proposed Cultural Heritage Visualisation Viewpoints (CH VPs).
- Volume 3b: Nature Scot Visualisations
  - Figure 6.9: CH Viewpoint 1 Carn na Feinne, chambered cairn, SM4812 (Asset 2);
  - Figure 6.10: CH Viewpoint 2 Drumore, farmstead, field system, chambered cairn & cupmarks 600 m W of, SM4945 (Asset 13);
  - Figure 6.11: CH Viewpoint 3 Boath, three chambered cairns NE and NNE of Easter Ballone Farm, SM6644 (Assets 17.1-17.3);
  - Figure 6.12: CH Viewpoint 4 Wyvis Lodge, LB7906 (Asset 23.1) (CH VP 4);
  - Figure 6.13: CH Viewpoint 5 Ardross Castle (Entrance), LB15031 (Asset 26.1);
  - Figure 6.14: CH Viewpoint 6 Ardross Castle (Terrace), LB15031 (Asset 26.1);
  - Figure 6.15: CH Viewpoint 7 Ardross Castle, GDL00023 (Asset 31);
  - Figure 6.16: CH Viewpoint 8 Glenurquhart, long cairn 800 m NW of/ SM4671 (Asset 129);
  - Figure 6.17: CH Viewpoint 9 Easter Brae, long cairn & cairn, SM2457 (Asset 132);
  - Figure 6.18: CH Viewpoint 10 Balnacrae, chambered cairn 230m SWS of, SM2396 (Asset 20);
  - Figure 6.19: CH Viewpoint 11 Easter Baldoon, chambered cairn 190 m NNE of, SM4753 (Asset 7);
  - Figure 6.20: CH Viewpoint 12 Stittenham House, chambered cairn 135 m W of, SM4700 (Asset 1);

  - Figure 6.21: CH Viewpoint 13 Carn na Croiche, chambered cairn, SM4750 (Asset 5); and
  - Figure 6.22: CH Viewpoint 14 Eileanach Lodge, settlement & field system 550 m WSW of, SM4707 (Asset 11).
- Volume 3c: The Highland Council Visualisations
  - Figure 6.23: CH Viewpoint 1 Carn na Feinne, chambered cairn, SM4812 (Asset 2);
  - Figure 6.24: CH Viewpoint 2 Drumore, farmstead, field system, chambered cairn & cupmarks 600m W of, SM4945 (Asset 13);
  - Figure 6.25: CH Viewpoint 3 Boath, three chambered cairns NE and NNE of Easter Ballone Farm, SM6644 (Assets 17.1-17.3);
  - Figure 6.26: CH Viewpoint 4 Wyvis Lodge, LB7906 (Asset 23.1);
  - Figure 6.27: CH Viewpoint 5 Ardross Castle (Entrance), LB15031 (Asset 26.1);
  - Figure 6.28: CH Viewpoint 6 Ardross Castle (Terrace), LB15031 (Asset 26.1);
  - Figure 6.29: CH Viewpoint 7 Ardross Castle, GDL00023 (Asset 31);
  - Figure 6.30: CH Viewpoint 8 Glenurquhart, long cairn 800m NW of/ SM4671 (Asset 129);
  - Figure 6.31: CH Viewpoint 9 Easter Brae, long cairn & cairn, SM2457 (Asset 132); and
  - Figure 6.32: CH Viewpoint 14 Eileanach Lodge, settlement & field system 550m WSW of, SM4707 (Asset 11).
- Volume 4: Technical Appendices
  - Technical Appendix 6.1: Cultural Heritage Assessment Methodology and Significance Criteria;
  - Technical Appendix 6.2: Heritage Asset and Event Gazetteer;
  - Technical Appendix 6.3: Plates; and
  - Technical Appendix 6.4: Setting Assessment.

6.2.5 Figures and technical appendices are referenced in the text where relevant.

6.3 Legislation, Policy and Guidance

6.3.1 The cultural heritage assessment has been undertaken within the context of relevant legislative instruments, planning policies, and guidance documents, and these are summarised below.

Legislation

6.3.2 Relevant legislation and guidance regarding cultural heritage have been reviewed and considered as part of this assessment. Of particular relevance are:

- The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act (1979 (as amended)[1];
- The Historic Environment (Amendment) (Scotland) Act 2011[2];
- Historic Environment (Scotland) Act 2014[3];

1 UK Government, (1979), The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979. http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1979/46/pdfs/ukpga_19790046_en.pdf [Accessed November 2025]

2 Scottish Government, (2011), Historic Environment (Amendment) (Scotland) Act 2011. https://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2011/3/contents/enacted [Accessed November 2025]

3 Scottish Government, (2014), Historic Environment Scotland Act 2014. https://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2014/19/contents/enacted [Accessed November 2025]

- Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Scotland) Act 1997[4], as modified by the Historic Environment (Amendment) (Scotland) Act 2011[5]; and
- Planning etc. (Scotland) Act 2006[6]: 2006 asp 17.

Policy

6.3.3 Relevant planning policy regarding cultural heritage include:

- The National Planning Framework for Scotland (NPF4)[7];
- Historic Environment Policy for Scotland (HEPS)[8] and its supporting Designation Policy and Selection Guidance[9];
- the Highland-wide Local Development Plan (HwLDP)[10]; and
- the Inner Moray Firth Local Development Plan 2 (IMFLDP2)[11].

6.3.4 NPF4, HEPS and the Highland Council's (THC) local development plans deal specifically with planning policy and guidance in relation to heritage which collectively expresses a general presumption in favour of preserving heritage remains in situ. Their "*preservation by record*" (i.e., through excavation and recording, followed by analysis and publication, by qualified archaeologists) is a less desirable alternative.

National Planning Policy

6.3.5 NPF4 describes the policy principles for historic assets and places (Policy 7) as follows:

"Policy Intent: To protect and enhance historic environment assets and places, and to enable positive change as a catalyst for the regeneration of places.

Policy Outcomes:

- The historic environment is valued, protected, and enhanced, supporting the transition to net zero and ensuring assets are resilient to current and future impacts of climate change.
- Redundant or neglected historic buildings are brought back into sustainable and productive uses.
- Recognise the social, environmental and economic value of the historic environment, to our economy and cultural identity."

6.3.6 The following policies of NPF4 Policy 7 are relevant to this assessment: Policies 7a, 7c, 7h, 7i, and 7o. These have a regard for development proposals which have the potential to affect historic assets or places, listed buildings, Scheduled Monuments, Inventoried Gardens and Designed Landscapes, and non-designated heritage assets.

[4] UK Government, (1997), Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Scotland) Act 1997. https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1997/9/pdfs/ukpga_19970009_en.pdf [Accessed November 2025]

[5] Scottish Government, (2011), Historic Environment (Amendment) (Scotland) Act 2011. https://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2011/3/contents/enacted [Accessed November 2025]

[6] United Kingdom Government, (2006), Planning etc. (Scotland) Act 2006: 2006 asp 17: Elizabeth II. London: Her Majesty's Stationary Office.

[7] Scottish Government, (2023), National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4). https://www.gov.scot/publications/national-planning-framework-4/ [Accessed November 2025]

[8] HES, (2019), Historic Environment Policy for Scotland. https://www.historicenvironment.scot/advice-and-support/planning-and-guidance/historic-environment-policy-for-scotland-heps [Accessed November 2025]

[9] HES, (2020), Designation Policy and Selection Guidance. https://www.historicenvironment.scot/archives-and-research/publications/publication/?publicationId=8d8bbaeb-ce5a-46c1-a558-aa2500ff7d3b [Accessed November 2025]

[10] THC, 2012, Highland-wide Local Development Plan. https://www.highland.gov.uk/info/178/local_and_statutory_development_plans/199/highland_wide_local_development_plan [Accessed November 2025]

[11] THC, (2024), Inner Moray Firth Local Development Plan 2 (IMFLDP2) https://www.highland.gov.uk/info/178/development_plans/202/inner_moray_firth_local_development_plan [Accessed November 2025]

Historic Environment Policy for Scotland (HEPS)

6.3.7 HEPS sets out the Scottish Government's policy for decision making that affects the historic environment. It contains six policies for managing the historic environment, all of which are relevant to this assessment and favour protection, understanding and promotion of the historic environment as well as the preservation of the benefits of the historic environment for future generations. Historic Environment Policies (HEP) 3 and 4 both state that; "*if detrimental impact on the historic environment is unavoidable, it should be minimised. Steps should be taken to demonstrate that alternatives have been explored, and mitigation measures should be in place*".

Local Planning Policy

6.3.8 THC's approach to proposals which affect the historic environment are set out in Policy 57 of the HwLDP and while the Site does not sit within one of the defined policy areas within the IMFLDP2, it is noted that one of the general outcomes of the implementation of the IMFLDP is that "*The Inner Moray Firth's built, cultural and natural assets will be safeguarded and appropriately managed*[12]*."*

Technical Standards and Guidance

6.3.9 The following best practice guidelines and guidance have been used in preparing this assessment:

- The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) Standard and guidance for commissioning work or providing consultancy advice on the historic environment[13], standard, and guidance for historic environment desk-based assessment[14], Code of Conduct: Professional Ethics in Archaeology[15], and Regulations for Professional Conduct[16];
- THC's Standards for Archaeological Work[17];
- THC's Highland Historic Environment Strategy Supplementary Planning Guidance[18];
- Managing Change in the Historic Environment guidance note series, particularly HES's Managing Change in the Historic Environment: Setting[19];
- Our Past, Our Future: The Strategy for Scotland's Historic Environment[20];
- Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH; now NatureScot) published guidance for Assessing the Cumulative Impact of Onshore Wind Energy Developments[21]; and

[12] THC, (2024), Inner Moray Firth Local Development Plan 2 (IMFLDP2). p.14. https://www.highland.gov.uk/info/178/development_plans/202/inner_moray_firth_local_development_plan [Accessed November 2025]

[13] CIfA, (2014, updated 2020), Standard and guidance for commissioning work or providing consultancy advice on the historic environment. https://www.archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/2023-11/CIfA-SandG-Archaeological-Consultancy-2020.pdf [Accessed November 2025]

[14] CIfA, (2014, updated 2020), Standard and guidance for historic environment desk-based assessment. https://www.archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/2023-11/CIfA-SandG-DBA-2020.pdf [Accessed November 2025]

[15] CIfA, (2014, updated 2025), Code of conduct: professional ethics in archaeology. https://www.archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/2025-10/Code-of-conduct_revOct-2025.pdf [Accessed November 2025]

[16] CIfA, (2019, updated 2025), Regulations for professional conduct. https://www.archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/2025-10/Regulations-for-professional-conduct_revOct-2025.pdf [Accessed November 2025]

[17] THC, (2012), Standards for Archaeological Work.

[18] THC, (2013), Highland Historic Environment Strategy Supplementary Planning Guidance. https://www.highland.gov.uk/downloads/file/11047/highland_historic_environment_strategy [Accessed November 2025]

[19] HES, (2020), Managing Change in the Historic Environment: Setting. p. 11. https://www.historicenvironment.scot/archives-and-research/publications/publication/?publicationId=80b7c0a0-584b-4625-b1fd-a60b009c2549 [Accessed November 2025]

[20] HES, 2023, Our Past, Our Future: The Strategy for Scotland's Historic Environment. https://www.historicenvironment.scot/archives-and-research/publications/publication/?publicationId=79204155-9eb2-4d29-ab14-aff200ec2801 [Accessed November 2025]

[21] SNH, 2021, Guidance - Assessing the cumulative landscape and visual impact of onshore wind energy developments. https://www.nature.scot/doc/guidance-assessing-cumulative-landscape-and-visual-impact-onshore-wind-energy-developments [Accessed November 2025]

- NatureScot & HES's Environmental Impact Assessment Handbook v5[22].

6.4 Assessment Methodology

Overview

6.4.1 The cultural heritage assessment methodology is detailed in **Technical Appendix 6.1: Cultural Heritage Assessment Methodology and Significance Criteria (EIAR Volume 4)** and follows the principles set out in the policies, guidance and legislation referred to in section 6.3.

6.4.2 The assessment is presented with reference to specific 'areas' of the Site within the application boundary. These areas comprise the Turbine Array and associated Access Route, as described in **Chapter 3: Site Description and Proposed Development (EIAR Volume 2)**, and in the Study Areas as set out below.

6.4.3 Effects considered to be significant for the purposes of the EIA Regulations are those classified as being 'Major' or 'Moderate'.

Scope of Assessment

EIA Scoping Opinion

6.4.4 An EIA Scoping Report (presented in **Technical Appendix 1.3 Scoping Report (EIAR Volume 4)**) was submitted to ECU on 23 January 2025 with a formal request for a Scoping Opinion on the proposed scope of the EIA and assessment methodologies. The ECU subsequently issued their Scoping Opinion on the proposed scope and methodology of the topics for assessment within the EIA on 23 May 2025. A copy of ECU's Scoping Opinion is provided in **Technical Appendix 1.4 Scoping Opinion (EIAR Volume 4)**.

6.4.5 A summary of the key points raised in ECU's Scoping Opinion, relevant to cultural heritage, and other relevant consultation undertaken for this assessment are presented in Table 6.1, including a response as to where the comments have been addressed.

Table 6.1: Summary of ECU Scoping Opinion Comments

Summary of Comment	Response or location within the EIAR where comments are addressed
ECU Scoping Opinion (7 May 2025) - THC HET	
1. EIAR must identify all designated sites affected, directly or indirectly, by the Proposed Development, including a setting assessment supported by appropriate visualisations; 2. Noted potential impacts upon the Category A Listed Wyvis Lodge buildings (Assets 23.1-23.4) and Ardross Castle assets (26.1-26.4) and Ardross GDL (Asset 31) could be significant; 3. Confirmed visualisation from Wyvis Lodge (Asset 23.1) was appropriate; and	1. Detailed setting assessment provided in **Technical Appendix 6.4 (EIAR Volume 4)** and in **Section 6.7**; 2. Assessment of setting effects upon Wyvis Lodge buildings (Assets 23.1-23.4) and Ardross Castle assets (26.1-26.4) and GDL (Asset 31) undertaken in **Section 6.7**; 3. Wyvis Lodge (Asset 23.1) visualisation produced (see **Figure 6.12 (EIAR Volume 3b)**); and 4. Two visualisations produced for Ardross Castle (Asset 26.1) (see **Figures 6.13-6.14 (EIAR Volume 3b)**).

[22] SNH and HES, (2018), Environmental Impact Assessment Handbook. Version 5. https://www.historicenvironment.scot/archives-and-research/publications/publication/?publicationId=6ed33b65-9df1-4a2f-acbb-a8e800a592c0 [Accessed November 2025]

Table 6.1: Summary of ECU Scoping Opinion Comments	
Summary of Comment	**Response or location within the EIAR where comments are addressed**
4. Requested an additional visualisation from Ardross Castle itself (Asset 26.1).	
ECU Scoping Opinion (7 May 2025) – HES	
1. Noted that the Scoping Report did not contain the same level of detail in terms of provided information and figures as consultation carried out relating to the proposed visualisation list (submitted separately from the Scoping Report, detailed above) 2. Stated ultimately satisfied that the study areas proposed for the assessment were sufficient; 3. Noted the proposed list of visualisations put forward to supplement the setting assessment but stated that where assets were considered unlikely to experience significant effects, some justification must be made within the EIA Report, and setting assessments be undertaken; 4. Confirmed no further designated assets beyond 10 km were identified for assessment; 5. Requested additional visualisations for: a. Balnacrae, chambered cairn 230m SWS of (SM2396; Asset 20) b. Easter Baldoon, chambered cairn 190m NNE of (SM4753; Asset 7) c. Cladh Churadain, chapel and burial ground (SM5007; Asset 14) 6. Requested consideration of a visualisation option showing the existing and Proposed Developments in a single comparative image; 7. Requested further detail regarding mitigation for direct impacts upon the Cladh Churadain, chapel and burial ground (SM5007; Asset 14) 8. Noted that there may be further assets within 10 km of the Site that may require visualisations, requesting further detail; and 9. Agreed that the assessment of the development as a whole (i.e., upon completion of either Scenario 1 or Scenario 2) represents the worst-case scenario for the assessment of	1. Consultation regarding visualisations was carried out concurrently with the Scoping Report. Comments from these separate consultations have been addressed herein and recommendations and visualisation requests incorporated where relevant; 2. Noted; study areas identified in scoping have been used for assessment 3. Setting assessment undertaken (see **Technical Appendix 6.4 (EIAR Volume 4)**) and **Section 6.7** of this Chapter), with justification for assets scoped out of assessment provided; 4. Noted; 5. Visualisations for Balnacrae, chambered cairn 230 m SWS of (SM2396; Asset 20) and Easter Baldoon, chambered cairn 190 m NNE of (SM4753; Asset 7) provided (see **Figures 6.18-6.19 (EIAR Volume 3b)**); 6. Visualisations in Volumes 3a and 3c show the existing view/baseline photography with a wireline on the same page which allows for easy comparison between the existing Novar 1 Wind Farm and the Proposed Development. As both developments would not be operational in the landscape at the same time it is considered that a single image showing both developments is not necessary; 7. No visualisations produced for Cladh Churadain, chapel and burial ground (SM5007; Asset 14) with reasoning provided; Mitigation measures proposed and set out in Table 6.5; 8. Further detail regarding assets selected for visualisations and copies of visualisations were sent to HES for comment on 19 December 2025; and further consultation with HES regarding visualisations is summarised in Table 6.2; and 9. Noted. The Proposed Development would involve a single decommissioning and construction

Table 6.1: Summary of ECU Scoping Opinion Comments	
Summary of Comment	**Response or location within the EIAR where comments are addressed**
operational effects upon designated heritage assets.	phase, so the two-scenario model of assessment is no longer required.

Additional Engagement

6.4.6 A summary of engagement relevant to cultural heritage undertaken outwith the scoping process, is presented in Table 6.2, including a response as to where the comments have been addressed.

Table 6.2 Additional Engagement				
Consultee	**Date**	**Format**	**Summary of comment**	**Response or location with EIAR where comments are addressed**
HES	17 July 2024	Email correspondence in relation to heritage visualisation and viewpoint selection	Response to first consultation request seeking appropriate list of visualisations for EIAR, HES requested: 1. A more detailed Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV); 2. Reasoning behind the selection of the proposed visualisations and type (wireline or photomontage); and 3. Asked for consideration of views towards assets from elsewhere in the landscape that may feature the Proposed Development.	1. Detailed ZTV supplied and further consultation sought regarding visualisations; 2. Further details as to why visualisations provided within the setting assessment, see **Technical Appendix 6.4 (EIAR Volume 4)** and Section 6.7 of this chapter; and 3. Consideration of views with assets in the landscape undertaken as part of the visualisation selection process.
HES	28 August 2024	Email correspondence Pre-Scoping. Further visualisations consultation response	1. Requested the EIAR details the reasoning for why some assets are considered unlikely to experience significant setting effects; 2. Requested the inclusion of six Scheduled Monuments beyond 10 km on the Black Isle (Assets 129-134) to be	1. Full setting assessment included within EIAR, **see Technical Appendix 6.4 (EIAR Volume 4)** and Section 6.7 of this chapter; 2. Black Isle Scheduled

Table 6.2 Additional Engagement				
Consultee	**Date**	**Format**	**Summary of comment**	**Response or location with EIAR where comments are addressed**
			included within the setting assessment: a. Glenurquhart, long cairn 800 m NW of (SM4671; Asset 129); b. Grey Cairn, cairn and long cairn (SM4672; Asset 130); c. Easter Brae, long cairn & cairn (SM2457; Asset 131); d. Wester Brae, long cairn 650 m SSE of (SM4559; Asset 132); e. Woodhead, chambered cairn 350 m E of (SM4566; Asset 133); f. Woodhead, long cairn 600 m ESE of Woodhead Farm (SM4568; Asset 134). 3. Highlighted potential for direct and setting effects upon the Scheduled Cladh Churadain chapel and burial ground (SM5007, Asset 14); 4. Requested consideration of a visualisation option showing the existing and Proposed Development in a single comparative image; and 5. Noted that future alterations to the Proposed Development may impact upon the nature of their advice at this time.	cairns (Assets 129-134) scoped into the assessment and potential setting effects included within the setting assessment, see **Technical Appendix 6.4 (EIAR Volume 4)** and Section 6.7 of this chapter; 3. Potential direct and setting effects upon Scheduled Clach Churadain chapel and burial ground assessed, see Section 6.7 of this chapter; 4. All visualisations produced with existing view photography showing the existing Novar 1 Wind Farm turbines; and 5. Noted.
HES	22 January 2026	Email correspondence	1. Content that the points raised in scoping response are accurately reflected in the Gate Check Report;	1. Noted; 2. Noted; and 3. Pre-application consultation referred to is

Table 6.2 Additional Engagement				
Consultee	**Date**	**Format**	**Summary of comment**	**Response or location with EIAR where comments are addressed**
			2. Advice provided at scoping was based on an earlier design iteration and thus HES reserve final view on the Proposed Development until we receive all relevant information; and 3. Other rounds of pre-application consultation have been undertaken, which are not referenced in the Scoping Report. Comments were provided in June and August 2024, and HES consulted again in December 2025, regarding various historic environment concerns including visualisations to be included in the forthcoming EIA Report.	summarised in this table.
HES	12 February 2026	Email correspondence	1. Note concerns regarding tree felling in the vicinity of Cladh Churadain (SM5007) and the possibility of the trees' root plates extending into the scheduled area. Content with the principle of the felling methodology proposed and, based on the information provided, it seems unlikely that this would cause disturbance to any buried archaeology within the scheduled area; 2. It is the applicant's responsibility to design a scheme of works that will give sufficient confidence that any unauthorised works within the scheduled area would be avoided; 3. Accept the justification for the construction compound at Novar GDL and welcome the photographs of the area	1. Noted and agreed; 2. Noted. The works will be designed to ensure unauthorised works within the scheduled area are avoided; 3. Noted. A setting assessment for the Novar GDL (Asset 32) is included in this chapter. Note that Averon BESS is not likely to be visible and is included as a cumulative development only in this chapter in relation to the request from HES and only in

Table 6.2 Additional Engagement				
Consultee	**Date**	**Format**	**Summary of comment**	**Response or location with EIAR where comments are addressed**
			provided. A setting assessment for the proposed development at the Novar GDL should be scoped into the EIA Report and should include Averon Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) as a cumulative development; 4. Content with the list of proposed visualisations regarding category A-listed buildings and GDLs (CH VP 4, 5, 6, 7). The wireframes show there is potential for significant adverse impacts on the settings of the assets at Wyvis Lodge as well as Ardross Castle and its GDL; 5. Content with list of visualisations for Scheduled Monuments but require a photomontage rather than just a wireline from Eileanach Lodge, settlement & field system 550 m WSW of (SM4707) (Asset 11); 6. Note that all the visualisations proposed for Scheduled Monuments show the views from these monuments, with none proposed for views to any of the monuments. HES do not feel specific additional views towards certain assets are required; however, this may change upon receipt of the visualisations that are currently proposed. 7. Note the query regarding our preference for visualisations as cylindrical or planar projections. Both would be preferred; and	relation to Novar GDL; 4. Noted; 5. Photomontage for Eileanach Lodge, settlement & field system 550 m WSW of (SM4707) (Asset 11) prepared accordingly (see **Figure suite 6.22, EIAR Volume 3b**; **Figure suite 6.32, EIAR Volume 3c**); 6. Noted and agreed. A review of potential views towards monuments that would feature the Proposed Development was undertaken as part of the assessment and no assets particularly sensitive to such changes were identified; 7. Both planar and cylindrical views are provided in Volume 3c; and 8. Visualisations in **EIAR Volume 3b** and **EIAR Volume 3c** show the existing view/baseline photography with a wireline on the same page which allows for easy comparison

Table 6.2 Additional Engagement				
Consultee	**Date**	**Format**	**Summary of comment**	**Response or location with EIAR where comments are addressed**
			8. Comparative visualisations showing both the existing and the proposed wind farm on a single visualisation would also be welcome. Acknowledge that any turbines proposed for replacement would not exist alongside those in the proposals; however, comparative visualisations provide a useful visual aid during site visits for understanding the likely size and form of replacement turbines in comparison those already existing.	between the existing Novar 1 Wind Farm and the Proposed Development. As both developments would not be operational at the same time it is considered that a single image showing both developments is not necessary.

Potential Impacts Scoped In

6.4.7 The assessment is based on the Proposed Development as described in **Chapter 3: Site Description and Proposed Development (EIAR Volume 2)**.

6.4.8 The scope of this chapter is set out in Table 6.3. The scope of the assessment has been informed by consultation responses detailed in Tables 6.1 and 6.2.

Table 6.3: Impacts Considered within the Assessment			
Impact	**Phase***		
	C	O/M	D
Direct physical impacts upon known designated and non-designated heritage assets within and adjacent to Site	C	-	D
Direct physical impacts upon as-yet unknown heritage assets within Site	C	-	D
Setting effects upon designated heritage assets	-	O/M	-
Cumulative setting effects upon designated heritage assets	-	O/M	-

**C=construction, O=operation and maintenance and D=decommissioning.*

Potential Impacts Scoped Out

6.4.9 The assessment focusses on likely significant effects and as such impacts that are not likely to result in significant effects have been scoped out of the assessment. A summary of the impacts scoped out, together with reasoning for scoping them out is presented in Table 6.4.

Table 6.4: Impacts Scoped Out of the Assessment	
Impact	**Reasoning**
Direct effects upon heritage assets outside of the Site with the exception of the Scheduled Cladh Churadain chapel and burial ground (Asset 14) as tree-felling operations for the oversail facilitation have the potential to inadvertently impact upon the Scheduled Monument despite it being outside the Site.	Construction works would not occur outwith the Site so there is no potential for direct effects upon these assets (with the exception of the noted tree-felling operations and related assets).
Setting effects upon designated heritage assets beyond 10km from the Site other than those identified by HES.	ZTV analysis up to 35 km from the Site was undertaken during the Scoping exercise; designated assets which fell within the ZTV beyond 10 km were assessed and deemed highly unlikely to experience significant effects and were scoped out of the assessment. This approach was confirmed by HES: see Table 6.1.

Method of Baseline Characterisation

Extent of the Study Area

6.4.10 Four Study Areas were identified for this assessment:

6.4.11 A Core Study Area (the Site), which includes all land within the Site, which was subject to assessment for potential direct effects (**Figures 6.1a-6.1f, EIAR Volume 3a**). This Study Area was subject to a walkover survey focused on the infrastructure layout and was used to identify cultural heritage assets which have the potential to be directly affected by the Proposed Development.

6.4.12 A 1 km Study Area from the Site for the identification of all known heritage assets and previous archaeological interventions (events) in order to help predict whether any similar hitherto unknown archaeological remains are likely to survive within the Site and thus be directly impacted by the Proposed Development (**Figure 6.1a-6.1f, EIAR Volume 3a**);

6.4.13 A 5 km Study Area from the Turbine Array for the assessment of potential effects on the settings of all designated and non-designated heritage assets, including Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings, Inventoried Gardens and Designed Landscapes, Battlefields, Conservation Areas, and non-designated heritage assets (**Figure 6.2, EIA Report, Volume 3a**).

6.4.14 A 10 km Study Area from the Turbine Array for the assessment of potential effects on the setting of all nationally important designated heritage assets including Scheduled Monuments, Category A Listed Buildings, Inventoried Gardens and Designed Landscapes, and Battlefields (**Figure 6.3, EIA Report, Volume 3a**).

6.4.15 In addition to the above, selected designated heritage assets beyond 10 km from the Site have been scoped into the assessment following consultation with HES, per **Table 6.1** (**Figure 6.3, EIA Report, Volume 3a**).

Desk Study

6.4.16 The following sources were consulted for the collation of the cultural heritage baseline data:

- Spatial data and descriptive information for designated assets as held by HES[23], downloaded 21 March 2024 and checked November 2025;
- The National Record of the Historic Environment (NRHE) as held by HES for designated and non-designated heritage asset data, downloaded 21 March 2024 and checked November 2025;
- The Highland Historic Environment Record (HER) for non-designated heritage asset data, received 27 October 2025;
- The National Map Library (National Library of Scotland (NLS))[24] for old Ordnance Survey (OS) maps (1st and 2nd edition, small and large scale) and pre-Ordnance Survey historical maps;
- The National Collection of Aerial Photography (NCAP)[25] for historical aerial photography as detailed in Section 6.5;
- Google Earth[26] and Esri[27] for historical and current aerial satellite imagery as detailed in Section 6.6;
- The Historic Land-Use Assessment Data for Scotland (HLAMap)[28] for information on the historic land use character of the Site and the surrounding area;
- The Scottish Remote Sensing Portal[29] for any LiDAR data covering the Site;
- The Scottish Palaeoecological Archive Database (SPAD)[30] for information on sites with palaeoenvironmental and palaeoecological potential; and
- Various published bibliographic sources including historical descriptions of the area (such as Statistical Accounts), as detailed throughout.

Field Survey

6.4.17 Archaeological walkover surveys of the Site targeting the Proposed Development infrastructure layout and proposed Internal Tracks were undertaken on 15 and 16 May 2024 and 28 and 29 October 2025 with the aim of identifying any previously unknown archaeological remains within the Site. All known and accessible heritage assets were assessed in the field to establish their survival, extent, significance, and relationship to other assets. All heritage assets encountered were recorded and photographed. The location of heritage assets noted in the field was recorded on a US GPS Navstar enabled iPad using ESRI's ArcGIS Fieldmaps software. All features were recorded directly through Fieldmaps in full British National Grid coordinates. Weather and any other conditions affecting the visibility during the survey were also recorded. Plates accompanying this section are presented in **Technical Appendix 6.3 (EIAR Volume 4)**.

6.4.18 Visits were made to accessible designated heritage assets to inform the setting assessment on 16 May 2024 and 11-14 February 2025. Weather conditions were variable with some overcast and damp days, but visibility was fair to good, enabling a full understanding of the

[23] HES, (2025), Downloads. https://portal.historicenvironment.scot/apex/f?p=PORTAL:downloads:::::DATASET:ALL [Downloaded: 21 March 2024; checked November 2025.

[24] NLS, (2025), Maps. https://maps.nls.uk [Accessed November 2025]

[25] NCAP, (2025), NCAP. https://ncap.org.uk/ [Accessed November 2025]

[26] Google Earth, (2025, Google Earth Pro: Desktop Application. V 7.1.8. [Software] [Accessed November 2025]

[27] Esri, (2025), World Imagery Wayback. https://livingatlas.arcgis.com/wayback/ [Accessed November 2025]

[28] HES, (2015), Downloads. https://portal.historicenvironment.scot/apex/f?p=PORTAL:downloads:::::DATASET:ALL [Accessed November 2025]

[29] Scottish Government, (2025), Scottish Remote Sensing Portal. https://remotesensingdata.gov.scot/ [Accessed November 2025]

[30] SPAD, 2025, GIS Download Help Pages. https://www.geos.ed.ac.uk/~ajn/swad/arcdetails.html [Accessed October 2024]

settings of key heritage assets and how that contributed to their significance. The detailed setting assessment is presented in **Technical Appendix 6.3 (EIAR Volume 4)**.

Method of Assessment

Overview

6.4.19 Detailed information on the assessment methodology, including criteria for assessing sensitivity of receptors, magnitude of change and cumulative effects, as well as overall significance criteria, is provided in **Technical Appendix 6.1 (EIAR Volume 4)**.

Limitations and Assumptions

6.4.20 This assessment is based upon data obtained from publicly accessible archives. NRHE data and HES Designation data was downloaded on 21 March 2024 and checked in November 2025 and is current to this date. HER data from THC Historic Environment Team (HET) was obtained on 27 October 2025. This assessment does not include any records added or altered after these dates.

6.4.21 No further archaeological investigation beyond the walkover surveys, either non-intrusive or intrusive, has been undertaken to inform this assessment, and as such there is the potential for hitherto unknown archaeological remains to survive within the Site. Such remains would have the potential to be impacted by any ground-breaking works associated with the construction of the Proposed Development. Limitations are taken into account in section 5.10 and section 5.11, where measures to avoid or minimise any such effects on hitherto unknown remains are provided for.

6.4.22 The construction assessment herein includes the decommissioning of the existing Novar 1 Wind Farm and the construction of the repowered wind farm as this represents the worst-case assessment of the potential for direct impacts on unknown archaeological remains from all construction works occurring within a single phase of construction.

6.4.23 The operational assessment herein has considered the operation of the repowered wind farm. It is important to note that for both scenarios there would not be a situation where the existing and repowered turbines would be operational at the same time although there may be an overlap during decommissioning and construction where a combination of some of the existing and repowered turbines are temporarily present in the landscape at the same time.

6.4.24 A micrositing allowance of 100 m is proposed. While the final location of infrastructure may vary within this tolerance, any such changes would remain within the parameters assessed in the EIAR and would not give rise to materially different environmental effects. Therefore, the conclusions of this assessment would remain unchanged.

6.5 Baseline Conditions

Current Baseline

Designations

THE SITE

6.5.1 The Site itself comprises a central area wherein the proposed Turbine Array, Internal Tracks and bulk of proposed infrastructure is to be situated (**Figures 6.1a** and **Figure 6.1b, EIAR Volume 3a**), with access to be gained via the Main Vehicular Access Route to the south and a Secondary Vehicle Access Route to the north (**Figures 6.1c-6.1f, EIAR Volume 3a**).

6.5.2 There are no designated assets within the Turbine Array, and there is one designated heritage asset within the Site, comprising a portion of the Novar Inventory Garden and Designed Landscape (GDL) (Asset 32) within the southeast-most extent of the Site in one of the proposed construction compound areas along the Access Route (**Figures 6.1e** and **6.1f; Figure 6.2, EIAR Volume 3a**).

1 KM STUDY AREA

6.5.3 There are 16 designated heritage assets within 1 km of the Site (**Figure 6.2, EIAR Volume 3a**). These comprise five Scheduled Monuments, including:

- Cladh Churadain, chapel and burial ground (Asset 14), situated within 10m of the Site;
- Drumore, farmstead, field system, chambered cairn & cupmarks 600m W of (Asset 13) to the southwest of the Site; and
- three prehistoric cairns that make up the Scheduled Boath, three chambered cairns NE and NNE of Easter Ballone Farm (Assets 17.1-17.3) to the north of the Site.

6.5.4 In addition, within the 1 km Study Area are seven Category B Listed buildings (Assets 90, 91, 98, 99, 108, 323 and 409), and two Category C Listed Buildings (Assets 322 and 325), all in the southwest portion of the Study Area.

5 KM STUDY AREA

6.5.5 There are 14 designated heritage assets between 1 and 5 km of the Turbine Array (**Figure 6.2, EIAR Volume 3a**). These comprise:

- two Scheduled Monuments, the Carn na Feinne, chambered cairn (Asset 2) and Eileanach Lodge, settlement & field system 550m WSW of (Asset 11), situated to the northeast and southwest of the Site respectively;
- the Ardross GDL (Asset 31), situated to the east of the Site;
- eight Category A Listed Buildings, comprising Wyvis Lodge (Asset 23.1) and its associated larders (Assets 23.2 and 23.3) and stables (Asset 23.4) to the west of the Site, and Ardross Castle (Asset 26.1) and its associated gate piers (Asset 26.2), gardens (Asset 26.3) and gazebo and terraces (Asset 26.4) to the east of the Site;
- two Category B Listed Buildings, Assynt House (Asset 28) to the south of the Site and the Fyrish Monument (Asset 29) to the east of the Site; and
- one Category C Listed Building, Ardross Church (Asset 30) to the east of the Site.

10 KM STUDY AREA

6.5.6 There are 21 designated heritage assets between 5 and 10 km of the Turbine Array (**Figure 6.3, EIAR Volume 3a**). These include:

- 17 Scheduled Monuments (Assets 1, 3-10, 12, 15, 16, 18 and 19-22), comprising prehistoric funerary monuments, medieval chapels and a medieval castle;
- a further three Category A Listed Buildings, comprising a medieval castle (Asset 24) and a post-medieval granary (Asset 25) and folly (Asset 27); and
- the Ardross GDL (Asset 31) is also situated to the east of the Site.

BEYOND THE 10 KM STUDY AREA

6.5.7 A further six Scheduled Monuments (Assets 129-134) have been included within the assessment following consultation with HES (Table 6.1). These assets comprise funerary monuments situated on the Black Isle to the south of the Site (**Figure 6.3, EIAR Volume 3a**).

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

UNKNOWN/UNDATED

6.5.8 Three non-designated heritage assets of unknown date have been recorded within the Site, comprising two farmsteads (Assets 85 and 392) and an earthwork (Asset 364) within the Access Route corridor.

6.5.9 Within 1 km of the Site, 34 non-designated heritage assets of unknown date have been recorded (Assets 35, 39, 48, 59, 70, 74-76, 81, 82, 84, 88, 94-96, 107, 113-116, 118, 128, 321, 326, 327, 337, 374, 391, 411, 457, 463, 551, 611 and 614). These comprise farmsteads and crofts; agricultural structures and activity areas such as dykes, gates, enclosures, buildings, wells, quarries and clearance cairns; bridges; roads; and natural features. The majority of these are likely to be from the post-medieval and modern periods.

6.5.10 No further undated assets are recorded beyond 1 km of the Site.

PREHISTORIC

6.5.11 Three non-designated prehistoric assets are recorded within the Site, comprising two hut circles (Assets 354 and 356) and a possible prehistoric or medieval dyke (Asset 550). The hut circles are located along the Secondary Vehicular Access Route, south of the existing substation. The dyke is situated along this Access Route. These assets have been partly truncated by the existing Internal Tracks.

6.5.12 Within 1 km of the Site there are numerous designated and non-designated prehistoric assets. These include the three Scheduled Boath chambered cairns (Assets 17.1-17.3), situated to the north of the Site. The remaining assets are non-designated and include findspots of an arrowhead (Asset 33) and spindle whorl (Asset 34) identified within the above cairns, further burial cairns (Assets 60, 64, 97, 557, 564), a possible cairn or dun (Asset 552), a burnt mound (Asset 413), hut circles, clearance cairns and field systems (Assets 42, 51, 65, 72, 120, 355, 376-389, 397, 398, 415, 553, 555, 556, 605, 607), a possible road (Asset 319), cup and cup-and-ring marked stones (Assets 52, 121-127, 571 and 584), and further findspots of an axehead (Asset 57), an axe hammer (Asset 554) and carved stone balls (Asset 58).

6.5.13 Between 1 km and 5 km of the Turbine Array, there are two Scheduled prehistoric assets comprising a chambered cairn (Asset 2; northeast of the Turbine Array) and a multiperiod site including a prehistoric chambered cairn, rock art and field system (Asset 13; southwest of the Turbine Array).

6.5.14 Between 5 km and 10 km of the Turbine Array, a further 14 Scheduled prehistoric assets have been recorded, including further burial cairns and mortuary monuments (Assets 1, 3-5, 7-9, 12 and 18-21) and two settlements (Assets 15 and 16).

6.5.15 Beyond 10 km, a further six Scheduled prehistoric cairns (Assets 129-143), situated along the Black Isle to the south of the Site, have been included within the assessment following consultation with HES.

6.5.16 The prehistoric assets tend to be situated along the north coast of the Cromarty Firth, along the broad flattish terrace that extends between the Firth and the hills to the northwest, as well as along the south and southeast-facing hill slopes along the glens formed by the River Averon and the River Glass. The funerary assets appear to be predominantly sited along the broad terrace and atop the Black Isle, indicating a special relationship with the Cromarty Firth and the landforms cradling this.

6.5.17 The potential for prehistoric remains within the Turbine Array area of the Site is considered to be Low considering the high altitude, but the potential along the Access Route and the Secondary Vehicular Access Route is considered to be Medium overall, considering the number of prehistoric assets recorded. This particularly applies to the area south of the existing substation along the Secondary Vehicular Access Route, where a concentration of prehistoric settlement and agricultural remains have been recorded (Assets 35, 42, 316, 354-356 and 376-389). Many of the prehistoric assets recorded within the surrounding Study Areas comprise prehistoric burials which are considered to be of Medium and High importance, and there is potential for similar remains to be encountered within the Site.

MEDIEVAL

6.5.18 No medieval assets have been recorded within the Site itself.

6.5.19 Within 1 km of the Site there are three recorded medieval assets, including the Scheduled Cladh Churadain, chapel and burial ground (Asset 14), situated within 10 m of the south access track, and two non-designated assets including a medieval castle site (Asset 558) underlying Balvonie House, and a possible early church site (Asset 361).

6.5.20 There are no medieval assets recorded between 1 km and 5 km of the Turbine Array. Between 5 km and 10 km of the Turbine Array, four designated assets comprising a medieval and later castle site (Asset 24), two Scheduled chapel sites (Assets 6 and 22) of medieval date and one potentially medieval chapel site (Asset 10) has been recorded.

6.5.21 There is considered to be Medium potential for further remains of medieval date within the immediate vicinity of the Scheduled Cladh Churadain, chapel and burial ground (Asset 14), and an otherwise Low potential for further remains of medieval date to be present within the Site elsewhere considering the lack of such remains recorded within the Study Areas.

POST-MEDIEVAL

6.5.22 Within the Site, one designated asset and 13 non-designated assets of definitive post-medieval date have been recorded, and three non-designated assets of late 19th century or early 20th century have been recorded. The designated asset comprises the extent of the Novar GDL (Asset 32), which would be crossed in the southwest extent by the proposed construction compound adjacent to the Access Route. With the exception of Easter Ballone township (Asset 328) situated along the Secondary Vehicular Access Route and the two drystone dykes (Assets 615 and 616) associated with this, the remaining non-designated assets (Assets 77, 78, 86, 363 and 368-373) are situated along the Access Route. These all comprise post-medieval settlement and agricultural remains such as farmsteads and dykes, with the majority clustered to the southeast of the Turbine Array. The extents of these assets have all been impacted upon by the existing tracks. The potentially late post-medieval assets comprise a shooting butt (Asset 43) of likely late 19th or early 20th century date, and two 19th or 20th century marker cairns (Assets 55 and 56) likely used for navigation, all three of which stand within the central area of the Site.

6.5.23 Within 1 km of the Site, a further 66 assets of post-medieval assets have been recorded. These include the Category B Listed Novar House (Asset 91) and its associated Category B Listed Entrance gates (Assets 99 and 323) and Category C Listed Water Bailie's House (Asset 322) and Stables (Asset 325), situated to the east of the south Internal Track. Another Category B Listed house (Asset 98) and a chapel (Assets 90 and 108) are also recorded. The remainder of the post-medieval assets within this Study Area are non-designated and comprise settlement and agricultural remains such as farmsteads, enclosures, dykes, townships, buildings, sheepfolds (Assets 36-38, 40, 41, 46, 47, 49, 69, 73, 79, 80, 87, 92, 93, 106, 119, 329-336, 339, 341, 359, 366, 425-427, 559, 560, 565, 566, 568, 604 and 608), kennels (Asset 338), mills, mill ponds, lades and pools (Assets 62, 342, 362, 365,

464, 569 and 600), railway stations and bridges (Assets 61, 110 and 112), a road bridge (Asset 111), follies (Assets 468), a mile stone (Asset 612), walled gardens (Asset 409), an ice house (Asset 360), a possible battle site (Asset 67), a commemorative monument (Asset 68) and a foot bridge (Asset 71). Another three non-designated assets may be of late 19th century or 20th century date and comprise another marker cairn (Asset 54) and two cottages (Assets 430 and 431).

6.5.24 Between 1 km and 5 km of the Turbine Array, there are 13 designated assets of post-medieval date recorded. These include the 19th century Category A Listed Wyvis Lodge (Asset 23.1) and its associated larders (Assets 23.2 and 23.3) and stables (Asset 23.4) to the west of the Site, and the Category A Listed post-medieval Ardross Castle (Asset 26.1) and its associated 19th century gate piers (Asset 26.2), gardens (Asset 26.3) and gazebo and terraces (Asset 26.4). There are two Category B Listed Buildings, comprising the 18th century Assynt House (Asset 28) to the south of the Site and the 18th century Fyrish Monument (Asset 29) to the east of the Site. There is one Category C Listed Building, the 19th century Ardross Church (Asset 30) to the east of the Site.

6.5.25 Between 5 km and 10 km of the Turbine Array, a further two designated post-medieval assets have been recorded, comprising the Category A Listed Foulis Granary (Asset 25) and the Caisteal Gorach folly (Asset 27), both of 18th century date.

6.5.26 A map produced in 1654 by Blaeu (**Figure 6.4, EIAR Volume 3a**), but utilising an older and since-lost map by Robert Gordon (c. 1636-1652) identifies the bodies of water of Loch Glass and Loch Moory (Morie) to the northeast and southwest of the Turbine Array. The schematic nature means that little can be confidently discerned within the Site itself, but Roy's map of 1747-1752 (**Figure 6.5, EIAR Volume 3a**) shows a little more detail of the overall area. Here, though not named, Glen Glass is indicated as a distinctive topographic feature with the River Glass flowing through it from Loch Glass to the Cromarty Firth to the southeast. The Access Route extends to the northeast of this, with the hills upon which the Turbine Array is situated illustrated as tall and bare peaks. Familiar settlement names are indicated, including 'Assint' (the Category B Listed Assynt House, Asset 28, and potentially the non-designated farm and agricultural remains to the west of this (Assets 64, 65, 69, 88, 92, 93, 95 and 365), 'Riarachy' (Ruigh Fhearchair, a township (Asset 37) and sheepfold (Assets 49 and 358) among others. To the east of a watercourse that is likely the Allt Duach is identified 'Newvarr' (Novar), with the Category B Listed Novar House (Asset 91; constructed in 1720) and some of its designed landscape (Asset 33) evident.

6.5.27 A number of unnamed small settlements and areas of cultivation are indicated within the extent of the glen that leads southwest from Loch Morie, of which some are likely the townships, settlements and farmsteads of Boath (Assets 38, 39 and 330), Glack (Asset 40), Ballouvalan (Asset 331) and others.

6.5.28 The 1881 1st edition OS maps (**Figure 6.6, EIAR Volume 3a**) of the Site show the area in accurate detail. The Turbine Array area of the Site is devoid of any structures and is indicated as high, rough and unimproved ground. The Access Route, which extend along the natural thoroughfares formed by the glens along the Rivers Glass and Averon, as well as the small pass (Srath Mòr) aligned northeast to southwest that connects these, extend through a mixture of rough unimproved ground, farmland and forestry plantation. On these maps there is only an indicative track extending through Srath Mòr, which is not quite consistent with the existing track that branches off the Access Route to the northeast today. The stands of forestry to the northwest of the Novar GDL (Asset 32) were planted by Sir Hector Munro of Novar in the 18th century, with the proposed construction compound area in the southeast extent of the access route shown to be under forestry at this time.

6.5.29 There is considered to be a Medium potential for further remains of post-medieval date to be present within the Site along the Access Route, with this potential decreasing to Low within the Turbine Array area of the Site given the nature and lack of the post-medieval remains recorded here (the shooting butt Asset 43 and walkers cairns Assets 55 and 56), with the high altitude likely prohibiting settlement and agricultural activity other than rough grazing. The majority of the post-medieval assets recorded within the Site and surrounding Study Areas are of Low to Negligible archaeological importance, and it is likely that any such hitherto unknown post-medieval remains within the Site would likely be of a similar importance.

MODERN

6.5.30 There are five non-designated assets of modern date recorded within the Site itself, comprising two WWII construction camps (Assets 470 and 471), situated along the Access Route, and the existing Novar 1 Wind Farm (Asset 44). These assets are considered to be of Low archaeological importance. The walkover survey identified two previously unrecorded non-designated assets – commemorative monuments for the Novar 1 and Novar 2 Wind Farms (Assets 617 and 618 respectively).

6.5.31 Within 1 km of the Site, the vast majority of the recorded heritage assets comprise non-designated assets of modern date, with a particularly large proportion dating to the WWII period, owing to the presence of a large military airfield installation to the south of Novar. The airfield (variously known as Novar, Evanton and Fieldfare) was constructed during the interwar period in 1922 to service the Royal Navy Fleet ('the Fleet') seasonally when it was at Invergordon and was initially known as Novar or Newton of Novar airfield[31]. The airfield was expanded in 1937 during the RAF Expansion Period, and the airfield then became known as RAF Evanton, training pilots in flying and gunnery. In 1944, RAF Evanton became a Royal Navy Air Station and existing facilities for aircraft storage were expanded. At first, the site was shared between the RAF, and the naval section known as H.M.S. Owl II. In 1944 the Navy assumed sole possession of RAF Evanton, and the airfield was renamed H.M.S. Fieldfare[32]. The dense concentration of non-designated heritage assets at the southeast extent of the Site predominantly comprises assets related to this (100-104, 109, 344-353, 358, 393, 394, 399-407, 412, 416-424, 428, 429, 432-434, 439-456, 458-462, 465, 469, 472-480, 482-549, 567, 601 and 602), including the airfield and runways, hangars, accommodation buildings, air raid shelters, bomb stores, control tower, pillboxes and other defence posts, various military buildings, fuel depots, water tanks and other WWII airfield infrastructure, as well as recreational areas including squash courts, playing fields and a cinema.

6.5.32 Several other modern non-designated assets are also recorded, though dispersed more evenly across the 1 km Study Area, and comprise shooting butts (Assets 50.1-50.9, and 53.1-53.8) to the east of the central Site area, a saw mill (Assets 436-438) to the east of the south access track, a church (Asset 613), schoolhouse (Asset 357), brides (Assets 414 and 435), a pumphouse and reservoir (Assets 466 and 467), a football pitch (Asset 481) and an electricity pylon base (Asset 83).

6.5.33 The early 20th century 2nd edition OS maps (not illustrated) show little alteration to the Site from the 1881 iterations (**Figure 6.6, EIAR Volume 3a**). Maps from 1959-1970 (**Figure 6.7, EIAR Volume 3a**) show a large swathe of the forestry to the west of Novar has been cut through to facilitate a large overhead pylon, extending through the Access Route. The

[31] Airfields of Britain Conservation Trust, (2025), Evanton (Novar). Available at: https://www.abct.org.uk/airfields/evanton-novar/ [Accessed 8 December 2025]

[32] Ibid.

farmsteads (Assets 85 and 363) and the earthwork (Asset 364) near the Scheduled Cladh Churadain (Asset 14) appear to have been removed to facilitate new forestry plantations. The Laribhuidhe township (Asset 78) further northwest along the track appears to have expanded, with some buildings no longer roofed, whereas Cnocan (Assets 392) and Balnaarge (Asset 77) have seen further buildings become unroofed. There is no change within the Turbine Array area of the Site, and similar to the townships and farmsteads to the south, those along the north extent of the Secondary Vehicular Access Route (Easter Ballone (Asset 328), Balnagrotchen (no asset number), Boath (Asset 333), Ballavoulen (Asset 331) and the like all appear to be in decline with diminished and unroofed buildings. Many of the fields which were shown as comprising good pasture on the earlier maps are shown to be returning to rough pasture.

6.5.34 It is judged that there is a Medium potential for further Modern remains to be present within the Site, though these would likely be restricted to the areas along the Access Routes and not within the central area itself. The majority of the assets of Modern date are of Low or Negligible archaeological importance, and any such hitherto unknown Modern remains within the Site would likely be of a similar importance.

EVENTS

6.5.35 Thirty-three archaeological events have been undertaken within the Site itself. These include desk-based assessments and walkover surveys (Events 135 and 137) of much of the Site in advance of the existing wind developments and subsequent watching briefs (Events 146, 150, 163, 164, 166-169, 171, 178, 181, 206, 207, 209, 236, 254, 259, 281, 283, 290 and 312-316) undertaken during the formation of the access tracks and other related groundbreaking works. Additional desk-based assessments and walkover surveys (Events 304 and 308-311) have been undertaken in advance of overhead line (OHL) works and forestry plantations in the vicinity, as well as one additional watching brief (Event 317).

6.5.36 The watching brief Event 316 targeted the prehistoric settlement and agricultural remains to the south of the substation along the Secondary Vehicular Access Route, while a further watching brief (Event 312) focused on the post-medieval settlement remains in the corridor of the south access track. The archaeological results of these works have been incorporated in the HER and the assets have been discussed in the baseline above.

6.5.37 Within the surrounding 1 km Study Area, a further 153 events have been undertaken. The majority of these comprise watching brief works undertaken in relation to the existing wind developments and track infrastructure (Events 45, 138-145, 147-149, 151-162, 165, 170, 172-177, 179, 180, 182-198, 199-205, 208, 210-235, 237-253, 255-258, 260-280, 282, 284, 285 and 286-289).

6.5.38 Several site visits and measured survey exercises have been undertaken to record prehistoric rock art in the area (Events 291-295 and 298-301; all to the south of the Access Route, on the south side of the River Glass). Additional desk-based assessment and/or walkover surveys (Events 297, 302 and 318) have been undertaken for a BESS, Water Treatment Plant and Hydroscheme respectively, and watching brief works have been undertaken within the wider area (Events 303, 305 and 306). Photographic records (Events 296 and 307) have also been undertaken for steadings at Reburn (Assets 96, 296 and 598) and the Old School House (Asset 357) at Boath. The archaeological results of these works have been incorporated in the HER, and the assets have been discussed in the baseline above.

LiDAR, Aerial Photographs and Satellite Imagery

6.5.39 Phase 1 LiDAR data from 2012 is available for only the extreme southeast portion of the Access Route (length of c. 600 m as it extends northwest from the B817 road). The Access Route can be seen to extend northwest through large agricultural fields before entering an area of forestry plantation[33]. No additional heritage assets have been identified through analysis of the LiDAR data.

6.5.40 Aerial photographs from 1966[34], 1979[35], and 1989[36] show that the land-use of the overall Site has not altered much, with agricultural activities including arable and pastoral farming evident in the lower reaches of the glens. Photographs from 1997[37] shows the existing wind farm atop upland moorland hills, with muirburn evident on this and a 2000 photograph[38], indicating the management of land for game shooting. Snow in 2011[39], visible at the south end of the existing Turbine Array in the Site (in vicinity of proposed T7) shows very little in relief other than the existing Internal Track and the faint depressions in the heather formed by muir burn. The hill tops are likely too high in altitude and exposed to the elements to have supported occupation or agricultural activity other than grazing.

6.5.41 Three small stone cairns (Assets 54-56) identified on 2024 OS mapping (not illustrated) and visible in 2024 and 2025 Google Earth, Esri and Bing satellite imagery were viewed during the walkover survey (note that Asset 54 is located outwith the Site due to subsequent boundary revisions). These may have originally served as marker cairns to navigate along the hills but are now so reduced in height and partially subsumed by vegetation that they no longer serve this function.

Walkover Survey Results

6.5.42 Walkover surveys of the Site were undertaken on 15 and 16 May 2024 and 28 and 29 October 2025. Plates accompanying this section can be consulted in **Technical Appendix 6.3 (EIAR Volume 4)** and detailed asset descriptions can be viewed in **Technical Appendix 6.2 (EIAR Volume 4)**.

6.5.43 The Turbine Array area of the Site is occupied by the operational Novar 1 Wind Farm (Asset 44) and extends northwest/southeast across the hills of Meall an Tuirc, Cnoc Gille Mo Bhrianaig and Bendeallt. This is an upland moorland setting, varying in elevation from c. 540m Above Ordnance Datum (AOD) to 640m AOD at the extreme northwest side of Site, with small water courses present across the Site (see **Plate 1, Technical Appendix 6.3, EIAR Volume 4**).

6.5.44 The proposed turbine locations are situated atop this moorland (see **Plate 2, Technical Appendix 6.3, EIAR Volume 4**). Turbine locations and Internal Tracks were targeted for the walkover survey with excellent visibility in bright and fine conditions. The majority of the Turbine Array area comprises undisturbed open moorland comprising grass and heather with some bare rock outcrops visible. Some disturbance has taken place to facilitate the

[33] NLS, (2025), Map Images: Side by Side (Phase 1 LiDAR DTM 1m crown copyright Scottish Government, SEPA, Fugron and Scottish Water). https://maps.nls.uk/geo/explore/side-by-side/#zoom=16.4&lat=57.67121&lon=-4.32797&layers=OSLeisure&right=LIDAR_1m_dtm1 [Accessed December 2025]

[34] NCAP, (1966 May 16). Sortie: MER/024/66 Frame: 0049. https://airphotofinder.ncap.org/image/394840 [Accessed December 2025]

[35] NCAP, (1979 July 11). Sortie: FSL/7926/01 Frame 0413. https://airphotofinder.ncap.org/image/1464177 [Accessed December 2025]

[36] NCAP, (1989 May 19), Sortie: ASS/61789 Frame 0065. https://airphotofinder.ncap.org/image/262379 [Accessed December 2025]

[37] Jim Bone Collection (JBC), (1997), Novar Wind Farm, Evanton, looking NW. https://www.trove.scot/image/1867251 [Accessed December 2025]

[38] JBC, (2000 May 8), Novar Wind Farm, Evanton, Easter Ross, looking SW. https://www.trove.scot/image/1945111 [Accessed December 2025]

[39] JBC, (2011 16 March), Part of Novar Windfarm, near Evanton, under snow, looking SW. https://www.trove.scot/image/2105840 [Accessed December 2025]

existing wind development on Site, comprising Internal Tracks, laydown areas, and turning heads (see **Plate 3, Technical Appendix 6.3, EIAR Volume 4**).

6.5.45 The desk-based assessment and walkover survey of the Turbine Array area identified two navigation cairns (Assets 55 and 56; see **Plates 4 and 5** respectively, **Technical Appendix 6.3, EIAR Volume 4**) on the Meall an Tuirc hill. The shooting stance (Asset 43) was also observed but noted to be much degraded since its identification as part of the original wind farm works in the 1990s (see **Plate 6, Technical Appendix 6.3, EIAR Volume 4**). No additional heritage assets within the Turbine Array area were noted. The high elevation and exposure likely would have made this location unsuitable for settlement or agricultural activity throughout history.

6.5.46 The Access Route extends through agricultural land north of Evanton and then commercial forestry plantation in the southeast side before progressing into the upland moorland areas and leading into the Turbine Array l area of the Site on the southwest side (see **Plates 7 and 8, Technical Appendix 6.3, EIAR Volume 4**). The proposed construction compound area in the southeast portion of the Access Route is situated within the extent of the Novar GDL (Asset 32), but this area has specifically previously been in use as a sand and gravel quarry (see **Plate 9, Technical Appendix 6.3, EIAR Volume 4**). The Access Route also extends through the HER asset extents of several non-designated heritage assets, predominantly related to post-medieval settlement and agricultural activity such as farmsteads, boundary dykes and enclosures (Assets 77, 78, 85, 363, 368-373, 392 and 550), as well as a WWII camp (Assets 470 and 471) and a bank (Asset 364) of unknown date and function. No upstanding remains related to these assets were observed within the Site boundary itself, likely having been truncated by the existing wind farm tracks and subject to the archaeological excavations and watching brief works described previously. A commemorative monument for the Novar 2 Wind Farm (Asset 618) was recorded within the track clearance buffer area near Auchnagaul (see **Plate 10, Technical Appendix 6.3, EIAR Volume 4**).

6.5.47 The Secondary Vehicular Access Route includes a branch which extends northeast through Srath Mòr towards Easter Ballone (see **Plate 11, Technical Appendix 6.3, EIAR Volume 4**) and which passes through an area of prehistoric settlement and agricultural remains south of the substation (see **Plate 12, Technical Appendix 6.3, EIAR Volume 4**). The second spur of the Secondary Vehicular Access Route extends northeast from the Turbine Array area (see **Plate 13, Technical Appendix 6.3 EIAR, Volume 4**), conjoining with the other north track south of the substation before proceeding as a single track through Easter Ballone to join the Boath Road.

6.5.48 The Secondary Vehicular Access passes through the extents of two prehistoric hut circles (Assets 354 and 356) and the Easter Ballone township (Asset 328). The hut circles have been truncated by the existing Internal Track, with Asset 356 all but entirely removed ((see **Plates 12** and **14, Technical Appendix 6.3, EIAR Volume 4**). No upstanding remains relating to the Easter Ballone township (Asset 328) were observed within the track itself, but two drystone dykes (Assets 615 and 616) were recorded at the Boath Road junction, immediately along the Site boundary (see **Plates 15 and 16, Technical Appendix 6.3, EIAR Volume 4**). The Novar 1 Wind Farm commemorative monument (Asset 617) was recorded for posterity, alongside the access track to the southwest of the substation but outwith the Site (see **Plate 17, Technical Appendix 6.3, EIAR Volume 4**).

Future Baseline

6.5.49 If the Proposed Development does not go ahead, the future cultural heritage baseline of the Site is likely to remain relatively unchanged from the current baseline. Commercial forestry operations of planting and felling would continue in the vicinity of the south access track and perhaps expand into areas with post-medieval settlement and agricultural remains, so there may be some potential for impacts upon both the known and as-yet unknown sub-surface archaeological remains within close proximity to the access track. The decommissioning of the existing Novar 1 Wind Farm once it reaches the end of its operational life would be unlikely to impact upon as-yet-unknown heritage assets within the Site area the turbines occupy as this ground has already been disturbed and archaeological potential in this region is considered low.

Summary of Sensitive Receptors

Direct Physical Effects

6.5.50 A total of 24 heritage asset have been recorded within the Site, including the designated Novar GDL (Asset 32) and 23 non-designated heritage assets (Assets 43, 44, 55, 56, 77, 78, 85, 328, 354, 356, 363, 364, 368-373, 392, 470, 471, 550 and 618) (see **Figures 6.1a-6.1f, EIAR Volume 3a**). Of these, the assets which lie directly within the proposed infrastructure layout, Internal Track upgrade areas and clearance buffer areas have been scoped into the assessment for direct effects, summarised in Table 6.5. Also included within this assessment is the Scheduled Cladh Churadain chapel and burial ground (Asset 14), a Highly sensitive asset of national importance that stands within 10 m of the Access Route and has the potential to be affected by tree-felling works required to facilitate widening. Overall, 23 heritage assets have been brought forward for the assessment of direct physical effects.

Table 6.5: Summary of Sensitive Receptors – Direct Physical Effects

Receptor	Sensitivity	Justification
Asset 14 – Clach Churadain (Scheduled Monument)	High	Asset lies in close proximity to the embankment which will require tree-felling works for Access Route widening. There is potential for inadvertent impacts upon this asset.
Asset 32 - Novar (GDL)	Low	Specific area of the GDL has been quarried for sand and gravel so there is unlikely to be sub-surface remains surviving.
Asset 44 - Novar 1 Wind Farm, Bendeallt	Negligible	Existing modern wind farm
Asset 56 - Cairn, Meall an Tuirc	Negligible	Remains of a likely navigation marker cairn, possibly to aid in ascending Meall an Tuirc. Survives to only 0.3 m in height so no longer visible across landscape.
Asset 77 - Balnaarge township	Low	HER Asset extent is recorded within the Site; significantly truncated by the existing Access Route.
Asset 78 - Lorgbuidhe	Low	HER Asset extent is recorded within the Site; significantly truncated by the existing Access Route.

Table 6.5: Summary of Sensitive Receptors – Direct Physical Effects		
Asset 85 - Cnoc Thuradain	Low	HER Asset extent is recorded within the Site; significantly truncated by the existing Access Route.
Asset 328 - Easter Ballone township	Low	HER Asset extent is recorded within the Site; significantly truncated by the existing Access Route.
Assets 354 and 356 - Hut circle, Cnoc A' Leacachan	Low	HER Asset extent is recorded within the Site; significantly truncated by the existing access track.
Asset 363 - Farm, NE of Cladh Thuradain	Low	HER Asset extent is recorded within the Site; significantly truncated by the existing Access Route.
Asset 364 - Earthwork, NE of Cladh Thuradain	Low	HER Asset extent is recorded within the Site; significantly truncated by the existing Access Route.
Assets 368 to 373 - Stone dykes, Balnarge, Kiltearn	Low	HER Asset extent is recorded within the Site; significantly truncated by the existing Access Route.
Asset 392 – Farmstead, Cnocan	Low	HER Asset extent is recorded within the Site; significantly truncated by the existing Access Route.
Asset 470 and 471 - Newfoundland Camp 1 - Bog a'Phiobaire, Kiltearn	Low	HER Asset extent is recorded within the Site; significantly truncated by the existing Access Route.
Asset 550 - Possible enclosure wall, Balnarge, Kiltearn	Low	HER Asset extent is recorded within the Site; significantly truncated by the existing Access Route.
Asset 618 - Novar 2 Wind Farm Commemorative Monument	Low	HER Asset extent is recorded within the Site; significantly truncated by the existing Access Route.

Setting Effects

6.5.51 Within 5 km of the Turbine Array (see Figures 5.8a and 5.8b (EIAR Volume 3a)), all designated heritage assets within the ZTV of the Proposed Development have been subject to an assessment of potential impacts upon their settings. All nationally significant designated assets within 5 to 10 km of the turbine array have also been subject to a setting assessment and selected nationally significant designated assets beyond 10 km of the Site have also been considered through consultation with HES (see Table 6.2). Designated heritage assets brought forward for setting assessment are presented in Table 1 of Technical Appendix 6.4 (EIAR Volume 4).

6.5.52 Site visits to accessible designated assets were undertaken on 16 May 2024 and 11-14 February 2025 to inform the setting assessment. All assets under consideration in the assessment were reviewed against the information known about their contextual characteristics (as recorded in known records; available within **Technical Appendix 6.2, (EIAR Volume 4)** and against mapping information to identify any assets where views of the Proposed Development may significantly impact the setting of the assets due to an impact on views towards the asset from other points in the landscape. The assessment has been supported by the ZTV (**Figures 5.8 and 5.8b (EIAR Volume 3a)**) and photomontage and wireline visualisations (**Figures 5.9-5.22, (EIAR Volume 3b)**).

6.5.53 Nine designated assets (Assets 3, 4, 8, 9, 12, 15, 22, 27 and 28) have been scoped out of detailed assessment. These are presented in Table 1 of **Technical Appendix 6.4 (EIAR Volume 4)**, with justification as to why, and are considered likely to experience Neutral effects from the Proposed Development.

6.5.54 All assets (37 in total; Assets 1, 2, 5-7, 10, 11, 13, 14, 16, 17.1, 17.2, 17.3, 18-21, 23.1, 23.2, 23.3, 23.4, 24, 25, 26.1, 26.2, 26.3, 26.4, 29-32, 129-134) brought forward for detailed setting assessment are listed in Table 1 of **Technical Appendix 6.4 (EIAR Volume 4)** and depicted on Figures 5.2, 5.3, 5.8a and 5.8b (EIAR Volume 3a).

6.5.55 The detailed setting assessment for potential direct setting effects upon the Scheduled Ballone cairns (Assets 17.1-17.3), Category A Listed Wyvis Lodge (Assets 23.1-23.4), Ardross Castle (Assets 26.1-26.4), Ardross GDL (Asset 31) and the Black Isle Scheduled cairns Assets 129-134 beyond the 10 km Study Area are included within this chapter. The remainder of the setting assessment is presented in Table 3 of **Technical Appendix 6.4 (EIAR Volume 4)**.

6.6 Embedded Mitigation

6.6.1 Embedded mitigation includes design/standard best practice measures as described in **Chapter 3: Site Description and Proposed Development (EIAR Volume 2)** and the **Chapter 4: Design Evolution and Alternatives (EIAR Volume 2)**.

6.6.2 As the embedded mitigation would form an integral part of the Proposed Development, the assessment of likely significant effects assumes that these mitigation measures have been implemented.

6.6.3 Potential direct physical effects on heritage assets within the Site have been considered throughout the design evolution of the Proposed Development. Where possible, impacts to heritage assets have been avoided or minimised through the micro-siting of infrastructure.

6.6.4 A summary of the embedded mitigation that is relevant to the cultural assessment is set out in Table 6.6

Table 6.6: Summary of Embedded Mitigation

ID	Phase*	Description	Purpose of Mitigation
Embedded Mitigation			
CH01	C	Avoid direct impacts upon known heritage assets within Site through sensitive design.	To avoid direct physical effects on the known heritage resource within Site.
CH02	C	Pre-condition photographic survey of Scheduled Cladh Churadain (Asset 14), demarcation of 5 m buffer around Scheduled area prior to tree-felling for Access Route widening, archaeological monitoring of tree-felling and post-condition photographic survey following tree-felling.	Archaeological condition surveys and monitoring required during tree felling for track widening required in to prevent inadvertent direct impacts upon the Scheduled Monument.

**PC=Pre-construction, C=construction, O=operation and maintenance and D=decommissioning.*

6.7 Assessment of Likely Effects

Decommissioning of existing Novar 1 Wind Farm

Physical Effects

6.7.1 No direct physical effects to heritage assets are anticipated to arise from decommissioning the existing Novar 1 Wind Farm provided works are contained within the existing development footprint. There are no known heritage assets within the immediate vicinity (<50 m) of the existing development footprint.

6.7.2 If works are required to occur outwith the existing development footprint, archaeological monitoring during a proportion of groundworks may be required to mitigate potential impacts upon as-yet unknown subsurface archaeological remains.

Setting Effects

6.7.3 All operational effects upon the settings of heritage assets from the Novar 1 Wind Farm turbines would be reversed with the removal of the turbines following decommissioning.

6.7.4 As there would be **no significant effects** upon cultural heritage from the decommissioning of the Novar 1 Wind Farm, this has not been considered further within this chapter.

Construction of repowered wind farm

Direct Physical Effects

6.7.5 During construction, direct impacts are likely to occur from vegetation clearance, earth moving operations, track construction and track widening, turning head construction, and construction of all other associated infrastructure (turbine bases, lay down areas, compounds, drainage, etc.)

6.7.6 Setting impacts in the construction phase may occur due to the introduction of construction machinery on Site, additional construction traffic and construction of compounds. However, these effects would be short term temporary effects which do not have the potential to be significant. As such, the potential for setting effects during the construction phase is not considered further.

6.7.7 The Proposed Development has been designed to avoid or minimise direct impacts on known heritage assets where possible, however a number of these assets could potentially be directly impacted by the Proposed Development and are summarised in Table 6.7. Overall, 23 heritage assets have been brought forward for the assessment of direct physical effects. Their relative importance and predicted level of effect have been classified using the methodology outlined in Tables 1-5 of the **Technical Appendix 6.1 (EIAR Volume 4)**.

Table 6.7: Heritage Assets Brought Forward for Assessment of Direct Effects

Receptor and Designation Type	Description and Nature of Impact	Importance	Magnitude of Impact	Level of Effect
Asset 14 – Clach Churadain (Scheduled Monument)	Scheduled Monument within 10 m of the Site's Access Route, located at base of verge where tree felling is proposed.	High (in accordance with designation)	Negligible	**Minor** adverse

Table 6.7: Heritage Assets Brought Forward for Assessment of Direct Effects				
Receptor and Designation Type	**Description and Nature of Impact**	**Importance**	**Magnitude of Impact**	**Level of Effect**
Asset 32 - Novar (GDL)	A construction compound is proposed to be placed within an area of the GDL which has been used in recent years as a sand and gravel quarry. There is no surviving topsoil ground surface and subsequently no archaeological remains sub-surface.	Low - this area of the GDL has been used as a modern gravel quarry and has no relation to the reasons for which the wider landscape was designated	Negligible	Negligible
Asset 44 - Novar 1 Wind Farm, Bendeallt (Non-designated heritage asset)	The existing Novar 1 Wind Farm, to be removed as part of the Proposed Development	Negligible – this is a modern asset, a renewable development with limited importance	High	**Minor** adverse
Asset 56 - Cairn, Meall an Tuirc (Non-designated heritage asset)	Cairn is identified on current (2024) OS mapping and is visible on Bing satellite photography. This likely represents a navigation marker cairn, possibly to aid in ascending Meall an Tuirc. The walkover survey undertaken in October 2025 identified a low-lying rubble cairn c1.2 m in diameter and 0.3 m tall situated on the slope of the hill. The cairn is within the borrow pit search area and would be removed in its entirety.	Negligible - the cairn is in poor condition and survives to low height so could not be used as a navigational aid in the current landscape	High	**Minor** adverse
Asset 77 - Balnaarge township (Non-designated heritage asset)	HER Asset extent is recorded within the Site, but no upstanding remains are visible; significantly truncated by the existing Access Route.	Low - this asset is typical of Highland post-medieval (likely) settlement but has limited potential to contribute to understanding of the historic environment beyond the local	Low	Negligible

Table 6.7: Heritage Assets Brought Forward for Assessment of Direct Effects				
Receptor and Designation Type	**Description and Nature of Impact**	**Importance**	**Magnitude of Impact**	**Level of Effect**
		level owing to its low level of preservation.		
Asset 78 – Lorgbuidhe (Non-designated heritage asset)	HER Asset extent is recorded within the Site but no upstanding remains are visible; significantly truncated by the existing Access Route.	Low - this asset is typical of Highland post-medieval(likely) settlement but has limited potential to contribute to understanding of the historic environment beyond the local level owing to its low level of preservation.	Low	Negligible
Asset 85 - Cnoc Thuradain (Non-designated heritage asset)	HER Asset extent is recorded within the Site, but no upstanding remains are visible; significantly truncated by the existing Access Route.	Low - this asset is typical of Highland post-medieval(likely) settlement but has limited potential to contribute to understanding of the historic environment beyond the local level owing to its low level of preservation.	Low	Negligible
Asset 328 - Easter Ballone township (Non-designated heritage asset)	HER Asset extent is recorded within the Site, but no upstanding remains are visible; significantly truncated by the existing Access Route.	Low - this asset is typical of Highland post-medieval (likely)settlement but has limited potential to contribute to understanding of the historic environment beyond the local level owing to its low level of preservation.	Low	Negligible
Assets 354 and 356 - Hut circle, Cnoc A' Leacachan (Non-designated heritage asset)	HER Asset extent is recorded within the Site, but no upstanding remains are visible; significantly truncated by the existing Access Route.	Low - hut circles are typical of prehistoric Highland settlement but disturbed and with limited potential to further contribute to understanding of	Low	Negligible

Table 6.7: Heritage Assets Brought Forward for Assessment of Direct Effects				
Receptor and Designation Type	**Description and Nature of Impact**	**Importance**	**Magnitude of Impact**	**Level of Effect**
		historic environment beyond a local level.		
Asset 363 - Farm, NE of Cladh Thuradain (Non-designated heritage asset)	HER Asset extent is recorded within the Site, but no upstanding remains are visible; significantly truncated by the existing Access Route.	Low - this asset is typical of Highland post-medieval (likely) settlement but has been removed and has limited potential to contribute to understanding of the historic environment beyond the local level owing to its low level of preservation.	Low	Negligible
Asset 364 - Earthwork, NE of Cladh Thuradain (Non-designated heritage asset)	HER Asset extent is recorded within the Site but no upstanding remains are visible; significantly truncated by existing Access Route.	Low - this asset is representative of post-medieval (likely) land management but has limited potential to contribute to understanding of the historic environment beyond the local level owing to its low level of preservation.	Low	Negligible
Assets 368 to 373 - Stone dykes, Balnarge, Kiltearn (Non-designated heritage asset)	HER Asset extent is recorded within the Site, but no upstanding remains are visible; significantly truncated by existing Access Route.	Low - this asset is representative of post-medieval (likely) land management but has limited potential to contribute to understanding of the historic environment beyond the local level owing to its low level of preservation.	Low	Negligible
Asset 392 – Farmstead, Cnocan (Non-designated heritage asset)	HER Asset extent is recorded within the Site. but no upstanding remains are visible; significantly	Low - this asset is typical of Highland post-medieval (likely) settlement but has been removed and has	Low	Negligible

Table 6.7: Heritage Assets Brought Forward for Assessment of Direct Effects				
Receptor and Designation Type	**Description and Nature of Impact**	**Importance**	**Magnitude of Impact**	**Level of Effect**
	truncated by existing Access Route.	limited potential to contribute to understanding of the historic environment beyond the local level owing to its low level of preservation.		
Asset 470 and 471 - Newfoundland Camp 1 - Bog a'Phiobaire, Kiltearn (Non-designated heritage asset)	HER Asset extent is recorded within the Site. but no upstanding remains are visible; significantly truncated by existing Access Route.	Low - a forestry worker camp with some potential to contribute to understanding of WWII heritage although much denuded.	Low	Negligible
Asset 550 - Possible enclosure wall, Balnarge, Kiltearn (Non-designated heritage asset)	HER Asset extent is recorded within the Site, but no upstanding remains are visible; significantly truncated by existing Access Route.	Low - this asset is representative of post-medieval (likely) land management but has limited potential to contribute to understanding of the historic environment beyond the local level owing to its low level of preservation.	Low	Negligible
Asset 618 - Novar 2 Wind Farm Commemorative Monument (Non-designated heritage asset)	Modern commemorative monument within the clearance buffer of the Access Route.	Low - a modern monument with limited potential to contribute to understanding of historic environment and development and construction of renewable technology	High	**Minor** adverse

6.7.8 All of the assets recorded within the Turbine Array area of the Site that have the potential to be impacted by construction works are heritage assets of Low or Negligible importance. The sole assets which can be discerned as upstanding features within the Site are the existing Novar 1 Wind Farm (Asset 44), a denuded marker cairn (Asset 56) and the Novar 2 Wind Farm commemorative monument (Asset 618), with the remaining assets recorded by the HER as extending across the Internal Tracks but for which most have been significantly truncated by the tracks themselves. Any upgrade works along the Internal Tracks in the vicinity of these assets would have at worst a Low magnitude impact with a

resulting Negligible effect which is **not significant**. Additional mitigation measures in line with best practice have nonetheless been recommended.

6.7.9 There is potential for inadvertent direct impacts upon the Scheduled Monument, Cladh Churadain (Asset 14), considering it stands within 10 m of proposed tree-felling works within the Site to facilitate the Access Route widening works. Scheduled Monuments are heritage assets of national importance and any works, including the placement of materials, traversing of equipment, ground-breaking works, and so on occurring within their extent requires Scheduled Monument Consent. Tree roots from the trees proposed for felling could extend within the Scheduled Monument area and so embedded mitigation as set out in Table 6.6 is required to ensure that inadvertent direct physical effects do not occur. Any upgrade works along the Access Route outside of the Scheduled Monument would have at worst a Negligible magnitude impact with a resulting Minor adverse effect which is **not significant**.

Operation of repowered wind farm

Direct Physical Effects

6.7.10 Direct physical effects upon any known or previously unknown archaeological remains which may be present within the Site would cease with the completion of the groundworks stage of construction and consequently no direct physical effects are predicted during the operational phase of the Proposed Development.

Setting Effects

6.7.11 This assessment considers the potential for impacts upon the setting of all designated heritage assets within 5 km of the Site, all designated heritage assets within 10 km of the Site that are considered to be nationally important including any Scheduled Monuments, Category A Listed Buildings, Inventoried Gardens and Designed Landscapes, Inventoried Battlefields and World Heritage Sites, and for selected nationally significant designated heritage assets beyond 10 km from the Site as identified during consultation with HES and the THC HET (see Table 5.1 and **Figures 6.2 and 6.3 in EIAR Volume 3a**).

6.7.12 Where accessible, Site visits were undertaken for all designated heritage assets, including assets where the ZTV indicated no direct intervisibility with the Proposed Development from the asset itself, but where the Proposed Development might feature within views towards the asset in such a way that it would impact upon the setting of the asset. The assessment has been informed by ZTV modelling, site visits, wireframes, and photomontages as appropriate (see **Figures 6.8a and 6.8b**, **EIAR Volume 3a**; **Figures 6.9-6.24, EIAR Volume 3b;** and **Figures 6.23-6.32, EIAR Volume 3c**). Plates accompanying this section can be referred to in **Technical Appendix 6.3 (EIAR Volume 4**).

6.7.13 A detailed assessment is included below for assets for which the effect upon their setting has been predicted to be potentially significant, or for where inclusion of the assets has been specifically requested by HES. The assessment for all other designated assets within the defined Study Areas is detailed in **Technical Appendix 6.4** (**EIAR, Volume 4**).

Cladh Churadain, chapel and burial ground (Asset 14)

6.7.14 This asset comprises the remains of a chapel and cemetery, potentially medieval in date and tentatively associated with St Curitan. The only visible features comprise a low enclosure bank and possible foundation remains related to the chapel, all of which is under grass, moss and mature trees. The asset occupies a small terrace in the lower portion of the south-facing slope of Druim nan Damh, and its setting would have related to the wider surrounds as a place of communal worship. The site may have had extensive views southwest and northeast along the north side of the Cromarty Firth, with the north views screened by the

hill it stands upon, and a narrow arc of view south limited by a small hillock adjacent to the asset.

6.7.15 Today the area is almost fully surrounded by a mixture of deciduous woodland and coniferous forestry plantation screening all outward views but for a narrow window to the southwest. Part of the hill slope to the north has been recently felled of commercial forestry. The asset is itself situated below numerous mature deciduous trees and stands immediately south of a track which broadly follows the course of a historic track visible on the 1st edition OS map. This track extends from the vicinity of a farmstead (Asset 85) southwest of the asset, proceeding northeast past it and other post-medieval settlement remains (Assets 363) before turning southwest. The track has been modified in recent decades utilising a cut and fill method to form a stable load-bearing track, likely for the transport of wind turbine components to the existing wind farms to the north, and for ongoing forestry operations, and has created a fairly pronounced embankment when viewed along it as it extends from the natural hill slope (**Plate 18, Technical Appendix 6.3, EIAR Volume 4**).

6.7.16 No definitive contemporary settlements are evident, and the asset is generally considered to have a relative Low sensitivity to changes within its current setting, with much of its significance derived from the archaeological potential of any preserved features and deposits within the Scheduled Area.

6.7.17 While the ZTV (**Figure 6.8a, EIAR Volume 3a**) shows no turbine visibility, works for the Access Route have been proposed as part of the Proposed Development. These include the felling of trees along the embankment to the north of the Scheduled Monument to facilitate Access Route widening to facilitate the transportation of wind turbine components. This would remove some of the existing trees and open an already limited view of the immediate hillslope to the north, which is in use as plantation area. Whilst constituting a visible change, this would not impact upon the ability to understand and appreciate and experience the cultural significance of the asset and would be at worst a Low impact, constituting a Negligible adverse level of effect which is **not significant** (per **Table 4 (Technical Appendix 6.1, EIAR Volume 4)**.

6.7.18 The Proposed Development would allow for the adequate retention of the ability to understand, appreciate and experience the asset in its setting and there would not be a significant adverse impact on the integrity of the setting of the asset in terms of NPPF Policy 7h. The potential for direct impacts upon the asset and proposed mitigation regarding this are considered within Paragraph 6.7.9 and in Section 6.8.

Boath, three chambered cairns NE and NNE of Easter Ballone Farm (Assets 17.1-17.3)

6.7.19 This Scheduled Monument comprises three separate Scheduled areas containing a Neolithic Orkney-Cromarty type chambered cairn each (Assets 17.1-17.3; c.3km northeast of the nearest turbine, T9), situated at the base of a broad strath formed by the confluence of the Glen Glass and Strath Rusdale glens. Outward views are limited by the rising topography that forms this topographic bowl. The cairns themselves are located in a broadly upside down 'L', with the two distal cairns (Assets 17.1 and 17.3 no more than 180 m from the central cairn (Asset 17.2). These were likely all intervisible with one another originally but intervening vegetation particularly between the southwest cairn (Asset 17.1) and the two cairns (Assets 17.2 and 17.3) reduces this significantly.

6.7.20 The southwest cairn (Asset 17.1) stands within an improved pasture field and is enclosed by a post and wire fence. This cairn has been substantially mutilated by ploughing and a telegraph pole has been erected atop it. It is set on a slight rise and is overgrown with

vegetation, but some cairn material is visible. There is no detail regarding potential entrances, but there may be significance in the north and northeast views towards the other cairns.

6.7.21 The central cairn (Asset 17.2) comprises a long-horned cairn under bracken and grass, aligned northeast/southwest. It is set within an area of rough pasture and has been substantially robbed of stone. Original cairn material or later field clearance atop the cairn make it evident as a cairn when viewing from further afield, but only on a relatively close approach – it could not be discerned from the Turbine Array portion of the Site. A telegraph pole sits to the southeast of the cairn carrying the wires to the pole which sits atop Asset 17.1. The cairn's chamber is visibly offset to the north of the cairn's apparent centre, and the alignment of the cairn itself is such that there is a clear visual link with the cairn (Asset 17.3) to the northeast, which appears as a prominent feature in this view. When the view is reversed, and the central cairn is viewed from the northeast cairn (Asset 17.3), the existing turbines atop the Site are visible in the backdrop (**Plate 18, Technical Appendix 6.3, EIAR Volume 4**).

6.7.22 The northeast cairn (Asset 17.3) comprises a short-horned cairn with a polygonal burial chamber and is aligned east/west. The cairn has been extensively robbed and tumbled stones surround it, but it is the most prominent of the three cairns. In views from this cairn southwest over the other two, the existing Novar 1 and Novar 2 wind turbines extend along the ridge to the southwest (**Plate 19, Technical Appendix 6.3, EIAR Volume 4**).

6.7.23 The setting of these assets relates to their clustered location atop the strath floor, surrounded on all sides by rising hills. These were likely prominent features in the landscape along the natural thoroughfares formed by the glens, and the confluence location may have had some importance with regard to this specific location where it may have served as a somewhat liminal natural space for burials, as seen elsewhere in the Highlands (i.e., the Neolithic and Bronze Age burials at Drumnadrochit[40]). While there are no additional intervisible Scheduled funerary monuments in the vicinity, the hill slopes to the northeast that overlook this area at Aultnafearn contain prehistoric settlement and agricultural remains (Highland HER No. MHG8894, MHG57745, among others) that was likely intervisible with these monuments even if not entirely contemporary. In views overlooking the assets to the southeast from higher ground to the northwest, the Ballone cairns may have been visible in the viewshed with Carn na Feinne cairn (Asset 2) above them on the high ground, and so a northwest/southeast sightline may be significant. The northeast/southwest and east/west alignments of the cairns themselves may also indicate important sightlines along these assets. The cairns are most commonly appreciated in views northeast from the public road to the southwest. It is judged that these are Highly sensitive to changes in setting.

6.7.24 The ZTV (**Figures 6.8a and 6.8b, EIAR Volume 3a**) indicates 7-8 turbines would be visible from the assets themselves while all turbines would be visible in the views towards the assets from the northeast along the strath floor and along the northeast side of Strath Rusdale. The visualisation (**Figure suite 6.11, EIAR Volume 3b; Figure suite 6.25, EIAR Volume 3c**), produced from the northeast cairn Asset 17.3, shows eight turbines (all but T1), with one turbine (T2) visible as a blade tip, three turbines (T3, T7 and T9) visible from hub height and the remainder at full height. These would span across a natural bowl in the ridge line in a somewhat level band, with T9 at the south end standing the tallest. The turbines would stand as a backdrop in particular above the view southwest from the northeast cairn (Asset 17.3) towards cairn Asset 17.2, and this would be along the alignment

[40] Williamson, S. & Stirling. L. 2019. Mixed-Use Development at Land 145m North of Smiddy Bar, Lewiston, Drumnadrochit. https://her.highland.gov.uk/Event/EHG5166 [Accessed November 2025]

of Asset 17.2 itself. Existing turbines are already present within the view. The taller height of the Proposed Development has the potential to detract from the visual relationship between these assets and would be seen above a deliberate sightline which would constitute an alteration to the monument's baseline setting that affects the ability to understand, appreciate and experience the contribution that setting makes to the significance of the asset to a degree leading to some loss of cultural significance and would thus be considered a Medium impact upon this key factor of the cairns' settings. However, the increased height of turbines in this view would not markedly reduce the ability to understand, appreciate or experience each of the cairns both individually and collectively within their setting at the confluence of the two glens. The Proposed Development would be located within a key view from the cairns which already features and accommodates wind development. There would be a Moderate adverse effect which is considered **significant**

6.7.25 The turbines would not intervene in the views between the assets and would not impact on or form a backdrop on the other key sightlines such as the view northwest to southeast with Carn na Feinne cairn. The impact would allow for adequate retention of the ability to understand, appreciate and experience a monument and thus there would not be a significant adverse impact on the integrity of the setting of the monument.

Ardross Castle (Assets 26.1-26.4) and Ardross Castle GDL (Asset 31)

6.7.26 The listing for the Category A Listed Ardross Castle includes the castle itself (Asset 26.1; 6.2 km northeast of T9), its gate piers (Asset 26.2), gardens (Asset 26.3) and a gazebo and terraces (Assets 26.4), all of which are set within the extent of the GDL (Asset 31) of the same name. The castle is set along a terrace on the northwest side of Strath Rusdale/the Averon Valley and itself comprises a large late 19th century mansion that includes fabric from older buildings on the site, originally an 18th century hunting lodge for the Duke of Sutherland. The architect, Alexander Ross, designed it for Sir Alexander Matheson as a fine Scottish Baronial style residence. It comprises a large predominantly two-storey building with a five-storey tower, and the principal elevation faces southeast over the terraced formal garden, making this northwest/southeast alignment one of the key elements of the asset's setting. When viewing the southeast elevation from the garden, the terraces are such that the castle is elevated in this view. The approach to the castle is via a woodland curving road leading southwest, with the woodland adjacent to the road limiting views so that the property is revealed in full only when up close. The setting for the castle is the strath it occupies, with the original purpose of the site as a hunting lodge it was likely always intended to be set within enclosed private grounds. The designed landscape which forms the setting for the extant building today creates a relatively private setting for the property. It is not visible from the public roads to the north and east. The castle and GDL are the setting for the current television series 'The Traitors' and the programmes feature frequent views of the principal castle elevations, entrance piers and driveway, garden terrace, gazebo and woodland policies thus lending these elements a modern associative and social value.

6.7.27 The GDL extends over a large area, encompassing the main approach from the B9176 and a large swathe of the Strath Rusdale, or Averon valley, extent. The GDL is described in the Inventory listing as being of outstanding historical, architectural and scenic interest, much of which derives from the rich woodland nature. The policies extend along the valley and comprise a mixture of woodland and parkland, with the moorland peaks of the hills to the southwest rising above in a sharp contrast to the greenery below, and Matheson designed numerous walks through the GDL extending right across the broad strath. The GDL extent is at its closest 3.7 km from the nearest turbine, T9.

6.7.28 Within the GDL, the castle is best appreciated in views northwest from within the formal garden, looking up at the impressive southeast elevation and in more distant views from the east from the southwest side of the Averon valley, where it presents an elegant property nestled amongst its woodland policies and backed by the green agricultural fields beyond. Both the castle and the GDL are considered Highly sensitive to change, but this sensitivity can be considered to predominantly relate to the interior of the topographic bowl of the Strath Rusdale corridor within which the GDL extends.

6.7.29 The ZTV (**Figures 6.8a and 6.8b, EIAR Volume 3a**) indicates that all nine turbines would be visible from the castle in views to the southwest. While there would also be theoretical visibility of all nine turbines from most of the GDL, actual visibility would be partially limited by mature woodland in places, and the southwest extent would have less visibility as a result of the inclining topography which would screen the turbines from view. The visualisations (**Figure suites 6.13** and **6.14, EIAR Volume 3b; Figures suites 6.28** and **6.29, EIAR Volume 3c**) for the castle indicate that the turbines would be visible atop the southwest ridgeline of Strath Rusdale, spanning across a slight bowl in the ridgeline. Turbines T1 and T7 would be visible as blade tips, Turbines T2 and T9 would be visible at hub height, and the remainder would be visible at or nearly at full height. Some would be partly behind the ridgeline and others (T4 and T5) would stand with some of the hills backing their bases. Within the GDL itself, this visibility and the array is theoretically similar (**Figure suite 6.15, EIAR Volume 3b; Figure suite 6.29, EIAR Volume 3c**), but in reality, visibility of the ridgeline that the Site occupies would only be afforded in open areas where views above the tree line of the woodland policies could be afforded, such as in windows of visibility from Boath road that extends northwest from the B9176 (**Plate 20, Technical Appendix 6.3, EIAR Volume 4**). The ridgeline is the extent of the assets' wider setting and currently features wind development. While the Proposed Development turbines would be higher than those of the Novar 1 and Novar 2 Wind Farms and thus more visible on the skyline, the Proposed Development would not impede on the ability to appreciate the designed landscape and woodland nestled below in the valley itself. The Proposed Development would not appear at all within views towards the castle from the west side of the strath where it is best appreciated in its GDL landscape setting. There would be no visibility of the Proposed Development from the gate piers (Asset 26.2).

6.7.30 As shown on the visualisations, (**Figure suites 6.13** and **6.14, EIAR Volume 3b; Figures suites 6.28** and **6.29, EIAR Volume 3c**) the proposed development is offset in views south towards the River Averon from the castle's principal ground and first floor windows, terrace and gazebo. This visibility of turbines from a component of the GDL and principal elevation of the castle would constitute an alteration to the asset's baseline setting that affects the ability to understand, appreciate and experience the contribution that setting makes to the significance of the asset to a degree and there would be some loss of cultural significance. It is judged that there would be at worst a Medium impact on the setting of the castle and the GDL. This would give an overall Moderate adverse effect upon the setting of these assets, which is considered **significant**.

6.7.31 The ability to appreciate the form of the ridgeline of Strath Rusdale would be maintained, and whilst some adverse impact would be experienced, it is concluded that it would remain possible to understand, appreciate and experience those elements of this view that contribute to its significance (including the ability to appreciate the siting of the house to overlook the strath, the location of the terrace and gazebo overlooking the strath and the layout of the policy woodlands). The identified adverse effect would not equate or extend to an adverse impact on the character, special architectural or historic interest of the Listed Building and would not impact on the character and integrity of the GDL.

Wyvis Lodge (Assets 23.1-23.4)

6.7.32 The Category A Listed Wyvis Lodge includes the lodge (Asset 23.1), bird game larder (Asset 23.2), deer game larder (Asset 23.3) and stables (Asset 23.4) within its listing, all of which are located 4.9 km west of the nearest turbine, T1. These buildings all date to the late 19th century and are situated at the northwest end of Loch Glass. The lodge itself comprises a 2-storey shooting lodge with the principal elevation facing east, overlooking the loch along which the main access route extends. The stables are situated to the west of the lodge, and the larders to the north. All are visible when approaching the lodge along the track extending along the south side of Loch Glass. It is in the west and northwest views from this track towards Wyvis Lodge that it is best appreciated, backdropped by sprawling moorland mountains beyond (**Plate 21, Technical Appendix 6.3, EIAR Volume 4**). The Lodge is itself set atop a raised platform, and the views afforded from the terrace extend along the loch, framed by the mountains surrounding it to the south and north. This is the setting of the asset, a shooting lodge adjacent to a loch surrounded by mountains, and it is considered to have a High sensitivity to change.

6.7.33 The ZTV (**Figure 6.8a, EIAR Volume 3a**) indicates that 7-8 turbines would be visible, with the visualisations (**Figure suite 6.12, EIAR Volume 3b; Figure suite 6.26, EIAR Volume 3c**) showing seven turbines visible. Two turbines (T5 and T8) would be visible as blade tips, two turbines (T4 and T7) would be visible from hub-height, and three turbines (T1-T3) would be visible from mid-tower height. These would be situated above where the loch appears to end, owing to the curve it makes to the south. The existing Novar 1 and Novar 2 turbines extend across this ridgeline in the current view. The presence of the Proposed Development in this key view as sighted along the loch would have a Medium impact upon the asset's setting as experienced in the view along the loch by adding increasingly tall infrastructure on a ridgeline that has no other tall elements other than the existing turbines. However, in views towards the assets, where their setting and cultural significance are best appreciated, the turbines from the Proposed Development would not be visible at all. On balance and owing to the increased height of turbines in a key view east along the loch, it is judged that the overall level of effect would be Moderate adverse, which is **significant**. The ability to appreciate the wide open views along Loch Glass would be maintained, and whilst some adverse impact would be experienced, it is concluded that it would remain possible to understand, appreciate and experience those elements of the assets settings that most contribute to their significance including the ability to appreciate the siting of the Lodge, larders and stable to overlook the loch and their status as a hunting lodge and rural retreat. The identified adverse effect would not equate or extend to an adverse impact on the character, special architectural or historic interest of the Listed Buildings.

The Black Isle Scheduled Cairns (Assets 129-134)

6.7.34 These Scheduled Monuments comprise two clusters of prehistoric funerary remains, set along the top and north-face slope of the ridge of the Black Isle which have been identified for further assessment owing to their location on the ridge and potential to be impacted by the Proposed Development. It should be noted that these do not include all the Scheduled funerary monuments on the Black Isle, and that there are also non-designated funerary monuments present in the immediate surrounds too.

THE EAST CAIRNS (ASSETS 129 AND 130)

6.7.35 The easterly of the two clusters comprises the Glenurquhart Neolithic long cairn (Asset 129) and a second Neolithic long cairn with a probable Bronze Age round cairn nearby (Asset

130), situated at the northern edge of a broad terrace and c.19.5 km and 19.4 km from the nearest turbine, T9, respectively. All three cairns are under dense gorse, and while the sole long cairn (Asset 129) stands within an area of relatively open rough grazing, the long cairn and round cairn (Asset 130) c. 500 m to the southwest stand at the edge of a coniferous wood. The sole long cairn (Asset 129) is afforded distant outward views in an arc from the northwest to the east, including over the water of the Cromarty Firth, with limited views elsewhere due to rising topography and stands of woodland (**Figure 6.19, EIAR Volume 3a**). The Novar 1 and 2 Wind turbines are visible on a distant ridgeline above the Cromarty Firth. The outwards views from the long cairn and round cairn (Asset 130) are extremely limited by the woodland effectively surrounding the assets (**Plate 22, Technical Appendix 6.3, EIAR Volume 4**). The long cairns are broadly aligned northeast/southwest, an axial alignment that mimics that of the Black Isle itself, suggesting potentially important sightlines along these alignments. All three cairns would have likely been intervisible with another, if not with additional funerary monuments in the wider surrounds and potentially even as far afield as the various cairns discussed in this assessment on the north side of the Cromarty Firth, but the vegetation present through stands of gorse and woodland severely limits the intervisibility in the modern landscape. These assets are considered Highly sensitive to changes in setting, but in reality the screening vegetation means that a large proportion of the contribution that setting makes to the cultural significance of these assets is currently only appreciable in the near surrounds of the assets, and potentially in the views afforded across the firth from the long cairn (Asset 129).

6.7.36 The ZTV (**Figure 6.8a, EIAR Volume 3a**) indicates all nine turbines would be visible from the assets in the views northwest, and the visualisations for the sole long cairn Asset 129 (**Figure suite 6.16, EIAR Volume 3a; Figure 6.30, EIAR Volume 4c**) suggests these would be present as a small cluster visible at hub-height with one distinct outlier to the west (T7), set behind the ridgeline formed by the hills on the north side of the firth. This would be the same for the long cairn and round cairn (Asset 130) to the southwest. These turbines would occupy only a small proportion of the overall view from the cairns and would be set above the landform that the northern funerary monuments are set along and would not impede on the views to the northeast and southwest along the cairn's axial alignments. It is judged that there would be a Negligible magnitude of impact upon the cairns' settings. This would result in a Minor adverse level of effect which is **not significant**. There would be no significant impact on the integrity of the cairns' settings.

THE WEST CAIRNS (ASSETS 131-134)

6.7.37 The westerly cluster of cairns comprised four Scheduled Monuments with three (Assets 132-134) situated within 700 m of one another, and the fourth (Asset 131; which comprises two cairns) set c1.6 km to the northeast. The cairns comprise three Neolithic long cairns (Assets 131, 132 and 134), a chambered cairn (Asset 133), and the round cairn also included within the listing for Asset 131. All of these assets are heavily overgrown, with gorse particularly obscuring the extents of Assets 131 and 133, so that their forms are not really discernible. The assets are located 13.2-14.1 km from the nearest turbine, T9.

6.7.38 These assets are all situated on the north-facing slope of the Black Isle and likely commanded extensive outward views but now have relatively restricted viewsheds as a result of surrounding commercial forestry plantations (Assets 132 and 134 are entirely surrounded and Asset 133 is surrounded on three sides to the east, south and west), or by the proximity of nearby buildings (Asset 131). These assets may too have all once been intervisible with one another, but at present no intervisibility between any of the separate Scheduled Monuments is possible (note, the long cairn and round cairn comprising Asset

131, recorded under the same designation number are intervisible, and distant only some 10 m from one another).

6.7.39 The long cairns (Assets 132, 134 and part of Asset 131) are aligned northeast/southwest or east/west, echoing the trend visible in the long cairns comprising Assets 129 and 130, and presenting a similar argument for significant sightlines along these axes, and which may have been intended to echo the topographic formation of the Black Isle or the Cromarty Firth. The chambered cairn (Asset 133) entrance is gained from the northeast, and a similar argument can then be presented for the significance of this potential key sightline. The Novar 1 and 2 Wind Farm turbines are visible only from the cairns Assets 131 and 133 as the others are entirely encircled by commercial forestry plantation (**Plates 23-24, Technical Appendix 6.3, EIAR Volume 4**).

6.7.40 The ZTV (**Figure 6.8a, EIAR Volume 3a**) indicates all nine proposed turbines would be visible from the assets in the views northwest, and the visualisations for the Easter Brae long cairn and round cairn Asset 131 (**Figure suite 6.17, EIAR Volume 3a; Figure suite 6.31, EIAR Volume 3c**) suggests that these would be present in a similar array as seen by the cairns Assets 129 and 130 further east along the Black Isle. Namely, the turbines would appear as a small distant cluster with one slight outlier to the west (T7), set behind the ridgeline formed by the hills on the north side of the firth. These would be generally visible at hub-height with two turbines (T1 and T6) visible as blade tips. This would likely be the same array visible from the cairns (Assets 132-134) to the west. The turbines would be within a view that already accommodates wind development and would be seen above the landform that the funerary monuments on the north side of the Cromarty Firth are set along and would not impede on the views to the northeast and southwest along the long cairns' axial alignments, or within the northeast viewshed from the chambered cairn (Asset 133). It is judged that there would be a Negligible magnitude of impact upon the cairns' settings. with no adverse impact on the integrity of this setting. This would result in a Minor adverse level of effect which is **not significant**.

Decommissioning of repowered wind farm

Direct Physical Effects

6.7.41 The decommissioning phase would include the removal of all major equipment and structures, with detailed decommissioning proposals to be secured by a condition of the planning permission for the Proposed Development requiring that they are submitted to and agreed upon by relevant authorities prior to commencement of decommissioning works.

6.7.42 At the time of the assessment, the future baseline conditions (environment and other developments) cannot be predicted, and the best practice decommissioning guidance methods are likely to change during the lifetime of the Proposed Development. However, based on the current baseline and proposal for decommissioning, it is anticipated that direct impacts during the decommissioning phase would be limited and would only occur if new ground works outwith the footprint of the Proposed Development are required beyond the areas disturbed during the original construction works. As such **no significant** direct effects are expected to arise from the decommissioning phase of the Proposed Development.

Setting Effects

6.7.43 All operational effects upon the settings of designated assets would be reversed with the removal of the turbines and infrastructure following decommissioning, leading to a Neutral effect.

Potential Cumulative Effects

Assets Brought Forward for Cumulative Assessment

6.7.44 The assessment of cumulative effects is based upon operational and consented developments along with developments where planning permission has been applied for (where turbines are greater than 50 m to tip height, more than one wind turbine proposed and within 35 km of the Site), and the in-planning Spittal to Loch Buidhe overhead line (OHL) development and the in scoping Averon BESS. Cumulative developments (excepting Averon BESS) are indicated on **Figure 2.2** (**EIAR, Volume 3a**). While all have been considered, only those which contribute to, or have the possibility to contribute to, cumulative effects on specific heritage assets are discussed in detail. Additionally, given the emphasis NatureScot places on significant effects, cumulative effects have only been considered in detail for those assets that have been assessed as possessing a Medium or High relative sensitivity to changes to their setting, and for which the level of effect on setting from the Proposed Development, alone, has been judged to be **Minor** adverse or greater. While **Minor** level effects are not considered significant, these assets could still experience significant cumulative effects as a result of the combination of the Proposed Development and the existing cumulative baseline.

6.7.45 The parameters for using assets with Medium/High sensitivity to change and for where **Minor adverse**/greater levels of effect from the Proposed Development alone have been predicted have been set in order to scope out assets where it is considered that the cumulative level of effect upon their setting is unlikely to reach the threshold of significance as defined in **Table 4 in Technical Appendix 6.1 (EIAR Volume 4)**. As set out in the cumulative assessment methodology therein, cumulative effects relating to cultural heritage are for the most part limited to effects upon the settings of heritage assets. While there can, in some rare cases, be cumulative direct effects, none are anticipated to result from the construction, operation, or decommissioning of the Proposed Development. As such this assessment has primarily considered the potential for cumulative effects upon the setting of heritage assets which have the potential to occur during the operational phase. The cumulative assessment has removed the existing Novar 1 Wind Farm as this is the development being repowered. It must be noted that in-scoping developments of Beinn Tharsuinn, Glasa and Braelangwell considered in a potential future cumulative baseline are likely to change both in array location and number.

6.7.46 Twenty-eight designated assets have been brought forward for an assessment of cumulative effects on setting as a result of experiencing likely operational effects of **Minor** adverse or **Moderate** adverse level as a result of the Proposed Development alone (Assets 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 11, 13, 18, 19, 20, 24, 29, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 17.1-17.3, 23.1-23.4, 26.1-26.4, and 31; Table 6.7). One designated asset, the Novar GDL (Asset 32), has been brought forward for an assessment of cumulative construction and setting effects as requested by HES (Table 6.2). Cumulative assessment for the Scheduled St Ninian's Chapel, Nonakiln (Asset 6) and Eileanach Lodge, settlement & field system 550 m WSW of (Asset 11) have subsequently been scoped out of the assessment as it is considered their sensitivity to change is Low. The cumulative assessment for the remaining 27 designated assets is presented below, with supporting visualisations included as **Figures 6.9-6.22 (EIAR Volume 3b**).

Table 6.7: Designated Assets Brought Forward for Cumulative Assessment					
Asset No.	**Name and Designation No.**	**Status**	**Sensitivity or Importance**	**Magnitude of Impact**	**Level of Effect (Proposed Development Alone)**
1	Stittenham House, chambered cairn 135 m W of (SM4700)	Scheduled Monument	High	Low	**Minor** adverse
2	Carn na Feinne, chambered cairn (SM4812)	Scheduled Monument	High	Low	**Minor** adverse
5	Carn na Croiche, chambered cairn (SM4750)	Scheduled Monument	High	Low	**Minor** adverse
7	Easter Baldoon, chambered cairn 190 m NNE of (SM4753)	Scheduled Monument	High	Low	**Minor** adverse
13	Drumore, farmstead, field system, chambered cairn & cupmarks 600 m W of (SM4945)	Scheduled Monument	High	Low	**Minor** adverse
17.1-17.3	Boath, three chambered cairns NE and NNE of Easter Ballone Farm (SM6644)	Scheduled Monument	High	Medium	**Moderate** adverse
18	Millcraig, chambered cairn (SM2406)	Scheduled Monument	High	Negligible	**Minor** adverse
19	Heights of Brae, chambered cairn 375 m NNW of Firth View (SM2312)	Scheduled Monument	High	Low	**Minor** adverse
20	Balnacrae, chambered cairn 230 m WSW of (SM2396)	Scheduled Monument	High	Low	**Minor** adverse
23.1-23.4	Wyvis Lodge (LB7906)	Listed Building - Category A	High	Medium	**Moderate** adverse
24	Foulis Castle (LB7911)	Listed Building - Category A	High	Low	**Minor** adverse
26.1-26.4	Ardross Castle (LB15031)	Listed Building - Category A	High	Medium	**Moderate** adverse

Table 6.7: Designated Assets Brought Forward for Cumulative Assessment					
Asset No.	**Name and Designation No.**	**Status**	**Sensitivity or Importance**	**Magnitude of Impact**	**Level of Effect (Proposed Development Alone)**
29	Fyrish Monument (LB369)	Listed Building - Category B	High	Low	**Minor** adverse
31	Ardross Castle (GDL00023)	Inventory Garden and Designed Landscape	High	Medium	**Moderate** adverse
32	Novar (GDL00303)	Inventory Garden and Designed Landscape	Low	Negligible	Neutral
129	Glenurquhart, long cairn 800 m NW of (SM4671)	Scheduled Monument	High	Negligible	**Minor** adverse
130	Grey Cairn, cairn and long cairn (SM4672)	Scheduled Monument	High	Negligible	**Minor** adverse
131	Easter Brae, long cairn & cairn (SM2457)	Scheduled Monument	High	Negligible	**Minor** adverse
132	Wester Brae, long cairn 650 m SSE of (SM4559), Scheduled Monument	Scheduled Monument	High	Negligible	**Minor** adverse
133	Woodhead, chambered cairn 350 m E of (SM4566)	Scheduled Monument	High	Negligible	**Minor** adverse
134	Woodhead, long cairn 600 m ESE of Woodhead Farm (SM4568)	Scheduled Monument	High	Negligible	**Minor** adverse

Cumulative Assessment

STITTENHAM HOUSE, CHAMBERED CAIRN 135 M W OF (ASSET 1)

6.7.47 The asset comprises a Neolithic chambered cairn situated on a southeast-facing slope at the confluence of four glens. Identified key factors of its setting relate to its potentially significant geographic placement which likely afforded extensive and long-ranging views along these natural thoroughfares although outward views are currently screened by surrounding forestry. In a worst-case scenario when this forestry is felled, the asset is Highly sensitive to changes in setting, particularly where new development may be introduced into views along the aforementioned glens. The surrounding commercial forestry at present screens all outward views, so the wirelines offer a worst-case scenario.

6.7.48 The current cumulative baseline (**Figure 6.20a, EIAR Volume 3b**) comprises the operational Novar 2 Wind Farm with eight turbines theoretically visible, all of which stand below a ridgeline of hills. The addition of the Proposed Development to this baseline would introduce tall turbines that extend the arc of visible turbines laterally, as well as turbines that would stand much taller than the Novar 2 turbines and that breach the skyline, introducing a scaling discrepancy and layered effect of turbines. There would be a Low cumulative impact with the introduction of the Proposed Development with a resulting Minor level cumulative effect which is **not significant**.

6.7.49 The future cumulative baseline scenario, if cumulative developments are consented and constructed, would include the in-Planning Ceislein turbines visible to the south of Novar 2, three pylons of the Spittal to Loch Buidhe OHL, and the in-Scoping Beinn Tharsuinn turbines visible as blade tips far to the north. Ceislein would introduce tall turbines that extend the spread of visible turbines and add turbines that would breach the skyline. The Spittal to Loch Buidhe OHL would add three pylons well below the ridgeline. The addition of the Proposed Development to this scenario would extend the band of tall turbines in a wider arc, but these would appear as a congruous band and single array of almost identical size and scaling. It is judged this would remain as a Low cumulative impact with resulting Minor adverse cumulative effect which is **not significant**.

CARN NA FEINNE, CHAMBERED CAIRN (ASSET 2)

6.7.50 The asset comprises the denuded remains of an Orkney-Cromarty round cairn, situated in an open field on the south side of a broad terrace forming part of the northwest ridge of the glen around the River Averon. Identified key factors of its setting relate to its potential northeast-facing cairn entrance, which looks towards a geographic feature of a saddled gap between the hills of Cnoc Tarsin and Cnoc an t-Sidhean Beag, and potentially southeast along the broad glen surrounding the River Averon. While there are other potentially contemporary cairns in the area (Boath, three chambered cairns NE and NNE of Easter Ballone Farm (Assets 17.1-17.3)) and Easter Baldoon, chambered cairn 190 m NNE of (Asset 7), none are directly intervisible due to intervening topography.

6.7.51 The current cumulative baseline (**Figure 6.9a, EIAR Volume 3b**) comprises the operational Novar 2 Wind Farm with eight turbines visible, broadly contained within a small topographic bowl and three turbines of which break the ridgeline. The addition of the Proposed Development to this baseline would introduce tall turbines that extend the arc of visible turbines laterally, as well as turbines that would stand much taller than the Novar 2 turbines and that breach the skyline, introducing a scaling discrepancy and layered effect of turbines. The bulk of the impact would result from the Proposed Development alone, and there would be a Low cumulative impact with the introduction of the Proposed Development with a resulting Minor level cumulative effect which is **not significant**.

6.7.52 The future cumulative baseline scenario, if cumulative developments are consented and constructed, would include the in-planning Ceislein turbines visible to the south of Novar 2 and the in-Scoping Glasa turbines visible as a separate group of turbines further north and far-distanced. The in-Planning Spittal to Loch Buidhe OHL would extend from Ceislein northwards, below Novar 2, and below the ridgeline in this area, breaking the skyline in front of the Glasa turbines. Ceislein would introduce tall turbines that extend the spread of visible turbines and add turbines that would breach the skyline. The addition of the Proposed Development to this scenario would extend the band of tall turbines in a wider arc, but these would appear as a congruous band and single array of almost identical size and scaling to those of Ceislein. It is judged this would remain as a Low cumulative impact with resulting Minor adverse cumulative effect which is **not significant**.

CARN NA CROICHE, CHAMBERED CAIRN (ASSET 5)

6.7.53 The asset comprises a mutilated Neolithic chambered cairn situated at the edge of a south-facing hill and currently entirely surrounded by commercial forestry. Key factors of its setting relate to the long-ranging views it likely had over the surrounding landscape, particularly towards the Cromarty Firth to the south, and it may also have been intervisible with similar prehistoric assets in the local landscape. In a worst-case scenario when this forestry is felled, the asset is considered to be Highly sensitive to changes in setting. The surrounding commercial forestry at present screens all outward views, so the wirelines offer a worst-case scenario.

6.7.54 The current cumulative baseline (**Figure 6.21a, EIAR Volume 3b**) comprises the operational Novar 2 Wind Farm, mostly visible below the ridgeline but for one turbine that stands above it, with the operational Fairburn development visible in the far distance to the south and the consented Strath Rory development to the north which stands with turbines visible at full height. The addition of the Proposed Development to this scenario would add a second somewhat large wind development in the view distinct from Strath Rory, but it is unlikely that these developments would be visible in the same arc. The Proposed Development turbines would extend the arc of turbines visible, introducing taller turbines that also break the skyline again introducing a size and scaling discrepancy, however this is judged overall to remain a Low cumulative impact with resulting Minor adverse level of effect.

6.7.55 The future cumulative baseline scenario would include the in-Planning Ceislein development in the foreground of Novar 2 Wind Farm, with the in-Scoping Glasa development as a separate band of turbines further north. The in-Planning Spittal to Loch Buidhe OHL would be visible extending almost entirely below the ridgeline to the north, with some pylons visible above the ridgeline to the north of the Glasa turbines. Ceislein would extend in a somewhat inconsistent band with the bulk of the turbines visible in a cluster near Novar 2 Wind Farm and isolated turbine blades further south. The addition of the Proposed Development would extend the band of tall turbines and create further clustering of the presented turbine array to the north, but this would still appear as a mostly congruous extension of Ceislein. It is judged this would remain as a Low cumulative impact with resulting Minor adverse cumulative effect which is **not significant**.

EASTER BALDOON, CHAMBERED CAIRN 190 M NNE OF (ASSET 7)

6.7.56 The asset comprises a Neolithic chambered cairn situated on a terrace of a southwest-facing slope of the glen surrounding the River Averon. Its setting relates to the views afforded northwest and southeast along this glen. It is considered Highly sensitive to changes in these particular views.

6.7.57 The current cumulative baseline (**Figure 6.19a, EIAR Volume 3b**) comprises the operational Novar 2 Wind Farm, all turbines of which are seen below the ridgeline. The addition of the Proposed Development to this baseline would introduce tall turbines that extend the arc of visible turbines laterally, as well as turbines that would stand much taller than the Novar 2 turbines and that breach the skyline, introducing a scaling discrepancy and layered effect of turbines. The addition of the Proposed Development would be beyond the identified key views that contribute most to the setting of the monument and would be seen at a distance of over 8 km. There would be a Low cumulative impact with the introduction of the Proposed Development with a resulting Minor level cumulative effect which is **not significant**.

6.7.58 The future cumulative baseline scenario would include the in-Planning Ceislein development to the south of Novar 2 Wind Farm, with only slight visibility of the in-Planning Abhainn Dubh development beyond, and the in-scoping Glasa turbines as a separate minimal feature to the north. The in-Planning Spittal to Loch Buidhe OHL would be visible extending below the ridgeline north of Ceislin. The addition of the Proposed Development would extend the arc of tall turbines in this view, with the Proposed Development turbines standing at a slightly higher elevation along the ridgeline. It would appear as a somewhat disjointed band accordingly, however owing to the distances involved and location of developments beyond key views it is judged that this would remain a Low cumulative impact with resulting Minor adverse cumulative effect which is **not significant**.

DRUMORE, FARMSTEAD, FIELD SYSTEM, CHAMBERED CAIRN & CUPMARKS 600 M W OF (ASSET 13)

6.7.59 This asset comprises a multiperiod site situated on a spur extending southeast from Swordale Hill. It contains prehistoric rock art, a denuded chambered cairn, and a post-medieval farmstead. Its setting relates to the expansive views afforded across the Cromarty Firth to the south and southeast, and there was likely a significant visual relationship between the chambered cairn and other such funerary monuments in the wider surrounds. It is considered Highly sensitive to changes in these views south and southeast.

6.7.60 The current cumulative baseline (**Figure 6.10a, EIAR Volume 3b**) comprises the operational Novar 2 Wind Farm which comprises a small number of turbines visible through a saddle on the ridgeline, and behind the hills to the northwest of the asset. The addition of the Proposed Development to this baseline would introduce tall turbines that extend above the operational turbines and along the ridgeline, with a possible visible discrepancy in size compared to the Novar 2 turbines through the limited window of visibility. There would be a Low cumulative impact with the introduction of the Proposed Development at a distance of over 5 km and beyond identified key views with a resulting Minor level cumulative effect which is **not significant**.

6.7.61 The future cumulative baseline scenario would include the in-Planning Ceislein development to the east of Novar 2, which would be visible above the ridgeline and in closer proximity to the asset. The in-Planning Spittal to Loch Buidhe OHL would be visible extending entirely below the ridgeline in this view and also set closer to the asset. The addition of the Proposed Development would extend the arc of tall turbines in this view with a somewhat noticeable gap between the developments; however these would appear congruous with each other and potentially appear as an extension of the Ceislein development. It is judged this remains a Low cumulative impact overall with resulting Minor adverse cumulative effect which is **not significant**.

BOATH, THREE CHAMBERED CAIRNS NE AND NNE OF EASTER BALLONE FARM (ASSETS 17.1-17.3)

6.7.62 These assets comprise three prehistoric chambered cairns situated on the valley floor at the confluence between Glen Glass and Strath Rusdale. The cairns are intervisible with one another, and with non-designated prehistoric settlement and agricultural remains on the hillslopes to the northwest. Their setting relates to the sightlines the cairns share between one another, and potentially the visibility the cairns would have presented from elsewhere in the glens while people moved through these natural thoroughfares. They are considered Highly sensitive to changes in this regard.

6.7.63 The current cumulative baseline (**Figure 6.11a, EIAR Volume 3b**) comprises the operational Novar 2 Wind Farm with six turbines theoretically visible, three of which are visible below hub height along the ridgeline (the other three being visible as extreme blade tips). The addition of the Proposed Development to this baseline would introduce tall

turbines that extend the arc of visible turbines laterally, and turbines that would stand much taller than the Novar 2 turbines that currently breach the skyline, introducing a scaling discrepancy and layered effect of turbines. There would be a Low cumulative impact with the introduction of the Proposed Development with a resulting Minor level cumulative effect which is **not significant**.

6.7.64 The future cumulative baseline scenario would include the in-planning Ceislein turbines visible to the south of Novar 1 which would stand as a prominent separate and tall wind development in conjunction with Novar 2 Wind Farm. The in-Planning Spittal to Loch Buidhe OHL would be visible extending in a band in the foreground of the view, intervening between the hill ridgeline and the asset, breaching the ridgeline of the topographic bowl that Novar 2 occupies. The in-scoping Glasa and in–planning Creachan developments further north are distant and diminutive. The addition of the Proposed Development to this scenario would add a separate and tall wind development in the southwest view, increasing the spread of turbines and adding an incongruous band that stands above that presented by the in-planning Ceislein. The key southwest sightline from the northeast cairn Asset 17.3 overlooking the other two cairns would have tall turbines framing the view on both sides, distracting from the key intervisible relationship the cairns share. This would constitute a Medium cumulative impact with Moderate adverse effect which is **significant**.

MILLCRAIG, CHAMBERED CAIRN (ASSET 18)

6.7.65 This asset comprises a Neolithic chambered cairn situated on a slight south-facing hill overlooking the Cromarty Firth to the south. It may have been intervisible with similar funerary monuments in the local landscape. Its setting is related to these views as they extend over the firth, and potentially to the northwest where further cairns (Assets 3 and 4) are situated (these are now surrounded by forestry and not intervisible) and to the north towards Carn na Croiche (Asset 5; 1.2 km north), also surrounded by forestry. It is considered Highly sensitive to changes in setting.

6.7.66 The current cumulative baseline is considered likely to be nearly identical to that for Carn na Croiche cairn (Asset 5; see **Figure 6.21a, EIAR Volume 3b** as a proxy). Considering the close proximity of these cairns to one another and identical setting related to surrounding funerary monuments and relationship with the Cromarty Firth, it is judged that the cumulative impacts would be identical; namely a Low cumulative impact when added to the existing cumulative baseline and a Low cumulative impact when added to the future cumulative baseline, both of which would constitute Minor adverse cumulative effects which are **not significant**.

BALNACRAE, CHAMBERED CAIRN 230 M WSW OF (ASSET 20)

6.7.67 This asset comprises a Neolithic chambered cairn situated partway-up the south-facing slope of Strath Sgitheach, with likely key visual relationships to the northeast outward along its entrance and to the southwest along the strath it is situated within, intervisible with prehistoric settlement remains within the strath itself and potentially intervisible with the Easter Brae cairn (Asset 19) beyond. These visual relationships are identified as key factors of its setting, which is considered to be Highly sensitive to change.

6.7.68 The current cumulative baseline (**Figure 6.18a, EIAR Volume 3b**) contains no visible operational developments towards the Site from the asset and there would therefore be no cumulative impact.

6.7.69 The future cumulative baseline scenario would include the in-Planning Abhainn Dhubh development and in-Planning Ceislein development, both of which would stand in prominent visibility on the skyline towards the Site. The in-Planning Spittal to Loch Buidhe OHL, which

passes in close proximity to the asset's south side, would be visible extending in an arc around the back of the ridgeline the Proposed Development stands beyond. The bulk of the impact upon the asset's setting would result from these cumulative developments rather than the Proposed Development. The addition of the Proposed Development would introduce three small turbines visible behind Abhainn Dhubh, introducing a discrepancy in sizing, but these would be within the arc of the Abhainn Dhubh turbines. There would be a Low cumulative impact overall with resulting Minor adverse cumulative effect which is **not significant**.

HEIGHTS OF BRAE, CHAMBERED CAIRN 375 M NNW OF FIRTH VIEW (ASSET 19)

6.7.70 This asset comprises a Neolithic chambered cairn, visible only as the surviving chamber orthostats, atop a prominent hillock with panoramic views and long-ranging outward views. Identified key factors of setting include this prominent location and associated potential significant key sightlines to the northeast along Strath Sgitheach towards Balnacrae chambered cairn (Asset 20), to the east towards the sunrise of the autumn equinox, and to the southwest towards the prominent Knock Farril hill and potentially a henge monument (SM13745; outwith Study Area). It is considered Highly sensitive to changes in its setting.

6.7.71 The current cumulative baseline is considered likely to be nearly identical to that for Balnacrae cairn (Asset 20; see **Figure 6.18a, EIAR Volume 3b** as a proxy), just set further distant. It is judged that the cumulative impacts would not exceed those predicted for Balnacrae cairn (Asset 20); namely no cumulative impact when added to the existing cumulative baseline and a Low cumulative impact when added to the future cumulative baseline, which would constitute Minor adverse cumulative effects which are **not significant.**

WYVIS LODGE (ASSETS 23.1-23.4)

6.7.72 This asset comprises a Category A Listed shooting lodge with associated game larders and stables, situated at the head of Loch Glass and commanding impressive views down this to the southwest. Identified key factors of its setting relate to its siting at the head of the loch in a rural upland landscape and it is considered Highly sensitive to change.

6.7.73 The current cumulative baseline (**Figure 6.12a, EIAR Volume 3b**) comprises the operational Novar 2 Wind Farm with six turbines theoretically visible, all of which stand within a dip in the ridgeline presented by the glen around Loch Glass. The addition of the Proposed Development to this baseline would increase the arc of visible turbines along this ridgeline and introduce taller turbines that extend higher up from the ridgeline. The form of the ridgeline framing key views along the loch and the rural picturesque setting of the lodge would remain appreciable and there would be a Low cumulative impact overall, with a Minor adverse level of effect which is **not significant**.

6.7.74 There are no in-planning or in-scoping cumulative developments to consider in a potential future cumulative scenario.

ARDROSS CASTLE (ASSET 26.1-26.4) AND ARDROSS CASTLE GDL (ASSET 31)

6.7.75 The Category A Listed Ardross Castle, which includes the gardens, terraces and gate piers stands within a woodland and parkland GDL of the same name, situated within the Averon Valley. These are considered as a single entity in the cumulative assessment given their strong interrelatedness. The castle's principal elevation is directed southeast over the formal terraced gardens, but the southwest-facing elevation affords extensive views across the valley and river to the hills beyond. Originally the site of a shooting lodge, the property retains much of its private rural and enclosed setting through screening from the public

roads by the surrounding woodland policies. Both the castle and GDL are considered to be Highly sensitive to changes in setting.

6.7.76 The current cumulative baseline (**Figures 6.13a and 6.14a, EIAR Volume 3b**) comprises the operational Novar 2 Wind Farm with six turbines theoretically visible, all of which stand within a dip in the ridgeline presented by the glen around Loch Glass. The addition of the Proposed Development to this baseline would increase the arc of visible turbines along this ridgeline and introduce taller turbines that extend higher up from the ridgeline. It is judged that the Proposed Development in combination with the Proposed Development would not significantly worsen the impact upon the setting beyond that predicted for the Proposed Development alone, and there would be a Low cumulative impact overall, with a Minor adverse level of effect which is **not significant**.

6.7.77 The future cumulative baseline scenario would include the in-planning Ceislein turbines visible to the south of Novar 1, and the in-scoping Beinn Tharsuinn turbines visible as blade tips far to the north (**Figures 6.13a and 6.14a, EIAR Volume 3b**). The in-planning Spittal to Loch Buidhe OHL would be visible extending below the ridgeline from below Novar 2, extending north. Ceislein would introduce tall turbines that extend the spread of visible turbines south and add turbines that would breach the skyline. The addition of the Proposed Development to this scenario would extend the band of tall turbines in a wider arc, but these would appear to be a congruous band and single array of almost identical size and scaling, giving the appearance of a single large wind development extending across and behind the ridgeline. It is judged this would remain as a Low cumulative impact with resulting Minor adverse cumulative effect which is **not significant**.

FYRISH MONUMENT (ASSET 29)

6.7.78 The Category B Listed Fyrish Monument comprises an impressive 18th century arched monument atop Cnoc Fyrish and is intimately related to the Category B Listed Novar House (Asset 91) to the south and the associated GDL (Asset 32). Its setting relates to this southward view in particular, but also in long distant views towards it from elsewhere in the Cromarty Firth area, where the monument is visible across long distances. It is considered to have a High sensitivity to changes in setting in close proximity to the monument as it is one of the tallest man-made structures visible on this ridgeline.

6.7.79 The current cumulative baseline (**Figures 6.9 and 6.22, EIAR Volume 3b**) comprises the operational but far-distant Rosehall, Achany, Coire na Cloiche and Beinn Tharsuinn developments to the north and the middle-distanced consented Strathroy development to the northeast. The addition of the Proposed Development to this baseline would introduce a new distinct cluster of turbines in the middle distance in a view that does not currently feature wind developments, but which also does not comprise a key element of the asset's setting. It is judged that the bulk of impact upon the asset's setting would derive from the Proposed Development itself, and so would be a Low cumulative impact with overall Minor adverse cumulative effect which is **not significant**.

6.7.80 The future cumulative baseline scenario includes the in-Planning Ceislein development which extends in a wide band in the middle distance, and various further-distant in-Planning developments of Creachan and Inveroykel to the north, Abhainn Dubh and Carn Fearna to the west, and the in-Planning Spittal to Loch Buidhe development extending below the ridgeline to the north. The in-scoping and distant developments of Braelangwell and Benn Tharsuinn repowering would also be located to the north. Ceislein is the most relevant for consideration in this scenario, given the distance of the other developments and the diminutiveness of the Spittal to Loch Buidhe OHL. Here, the Ceislein turbines present as a band of somewhat irregularly spaced turbines extending behind the landform of Cnoc

Cèislein, generally breaking the ridgeline this hill forms and that of the distant hills behind these. Adding the Proposed Development to this baseline would introduce a small cluster of turbines beyond one Ceislein turbine, and the outlier turbine (T7) would stand between this cluster and another Ceislein turbine to the south, presenting an incongruous massing. The Proposed Development turbines would however be of a similar scale. It is judged overall that this would not increase the level of cumulative impact beyond Low, and that the overall cumulative effect would remain Minor adverse and **not significant**.

6.7.81 The future cumulative baseline scenario includes the in-Planning Ceislein development which extends in a wide band in the middle distance, and various further-distant in-planning developments of Creachan and Inveroykel to the north, Abhainn Dubh and Carn Fearna to the west, and the in-Planning Spittal to Loch Buidhe development extending below the ridgeline to the north. The in-scoping and distant developments of Braelangwell and Benn Tharsuinn repowering would also be located to the north. Ceislein is the most relevant for consideration in this scenario, given the distance of the other developments and the diminutiveness of the Spittal to Loch Buidhe OHL. Here, the Ceislein turbines present as a band of somewhat irregularly spaced turbines extending behind the landform of Cnoc Cèislein, generally breaking the ridgeline this hill forms and that of the distant hills behind these. Adding the Proposed Development to this baseline would introduce a small cluster of turbines beyond one Ceislein turbine, and the outlier turbine (T7) would stand between this cluster and another Ceislein turbine to the south, presenting an incongruous massing. The Proposed Development turbines would however be of a similar scale. It is judged overall that this would not increase level of cumulative impact beyond Low, and that the overall cumulative effect would remain Minor adverse and **not significant**.

THE BLACK ISLE SCHEDULED CAIRNS (ASSETS 129-134)

6.7.82 The Black Isle Scheduled Cairns (Assets 129-134) as included within this Chapter comprise several Neolithic and Bronze Age cairns situated along the Black Isle in two groups – an east group (Assets 129 and 130) and a west group (Assets 121-134). Key factors of their setting relate to their geographic and topographic placement, with key views considered to extend both along the firth as well as to one another, and potentially to the similar prehistoric cairns along the north side of the Cromarty Firth. These assets are considered to be Highly sensitive to changes in setting.

6.7.83 The current cumulative baseline (**Figures 6.16a and 6.17a, EIAR Volume 3b**) comprises the operational Novar 2 Wind Farm with four blade tips theoretically visible above the ridgeline, but which are barely perceptible. The operational Yellow Wells turbine is visible in the distant west, and the consented Strath Rory development is visible in the far distance to the east. The introduction of the Proposed Development to this baseline would add a second cluster of tall turbines along the ridgeline of the north side of the Cromarty Firth. There would be a Low cumulative impact and resulting Minor adverse cumulative effect.

6.7.84 The future cumulative baseline scenario would include numerous developments along the ridgeline of the north side of the Cromarty Firth currently in scoping or planning. Most pertinent to this assessment is the in-planning Ceislein development visible in the foreground of Novar 1. The addition of the Proposed Development to this baseline would add turbines behind the Ceislein turbines but contained within the arc of turbines that they form. It would increase the clustered appearance of the turbines here, but these would be behind the ridgeline of the hills north of the Firth and likely appear to be a single development with Ceislein.

6.7.85 It is judged this would remain as a Low cumulative impact with resulting Minor adverse cumulative effect which is **not significant**.

NOVAR GDL (ASSET 32)

6.7.86 Consideration for cumulative impacts on the Novar GDL (Asset 32) relating to the proposed construction compound and the in-scoping Averon BESS has been requested by HES (Table 6.2).

Cumulative Construction Direct Physical Effects

6.7.87 The proposed construction compound would occupy an area of ground that has already been directly physically impacted upon by modern quarrying activities that has removed part of the standing coniferous forestry and any sub-surface archaeological remains relating to the GDL or for as-yet-unknown remains, no direct effects have been predicted for the Proposed Development alone. Subsequently, there is no cumulative effect predicted, as any direct physical effects upon the GDL would be from the Averon BESS alone. There would be **no significant** cumulative effects from the Proposed Development in combination with the Averon BESS proposal.

Cumulative Operational Effects

6.7.88 The in-scoping Averon BESS site would be located 1.14 km to the northeast of the proposed construction compound. The proposed BESS would occupy an arable field that forms part of the former parkland associated with the Category B Listed Novar House (Asset 92), bound – at varying distances – on all sides by mature coniferous and deciduous woodland, both ornamental and commercial, that form part of the historic woodland policies of Novar House (Asset 92). The proposed BESS site is not intervisible with the Proposed Development construction compound area due to the intervening forestry and woodland. There is unlikely to ever be direct intervisibility, given that the successive belts of ornamental avenues and mixed woodland areas that stand between the two locations are unlikely to be felled.

6.7.89 When viewed from the Category B Fyrish monument (Asset 29), which relates to the Novar GDL (Asset 32) and Novar House (Asset 92) as an important contemporary folly and part of Novar's designed landscape, though not within the Inventory extent, the Averon BESS site is visible, but the site of the construction compound area is not visible due to the tall surrounding coniferous forestry. The Averon BESS would be visible and would transform a small part of the periphery of the overall GDL into an industrialised area, but which would be separate from the construction compound, and likely never both visible unless viewed aerially. It is judged therefore that the Proposed Development's construction compound, in addition to this cumulative baseline, would have no cumulative impact and no resulting cumulative effect.

6.8 Additional Mitigation and Enhancement Measures

6.8.1 The Proposed Development has been designed to avoid or minimise direct impacts on known heritage assets. There would be at worst Minor adverse direct effects on the known heritage resource which is not considered significant.

6.8.2 For the most part, the proposed works to the Access Route leading to the Turbine Array comprise limited new ground-breaking works, vegetation clearance and some tree felling to facilitate Access Route widening (see **Chapter 3, EIAR Volume 2**). Groundworks during the formation of the existing tracks were extensively monitored under archaeological watching brief conditions during the installation of the existing wind turbines.

6.8.3 The assessment has indicated that there is a Low potential for hitherto unknown archaeological remains of all periods within the central portion of the Site around the proposed Turbine Array, owing to the high elevation and exposed location prohibiting settlement and agricultural activity. Along the Internal Tracks there is considered to be a Medium potential for prehistoric remains in the vicinity of the known prehistoric assets south of the substation and the Scheduled Balone cairns (Assets 17.1-17.3) at the north end of the northern Internal Tracks. There is a Medium potential for further remains of medieval date in close proximity to the Scheduled Cladh Churadain chapel site (Asset 14). There is a Medium potential for further post-medieval remains in the vicinity of the farmsteads along the southern and northern Internal Tracks, and Medium potential for Modern remains, particularly WWII remains, in the southern area of the Turbine Array. By their very nature, the importance of such assets cannot be quantified, but considering the known post-medieval and modern assets range in importance from Negligible to Low, these could be likely for any unrecorded such remains. Without mitigation, high magnitude impacts even upon assets considered to be of Low importance could result in **significant** direct Moderate adverse effects, as detailed in Table Tables 5.2, 5.4 and 5.5 in **Technical Appendix 6.1 (EIAR Volume 4**).

6.8.4 Where the Internal Tracks proceed through the HER asset extents of known heritage assets, any remains of the heritage asset would be fenced off and vehicles would use only the existing Internal Track extent and new ground-breaking works or use by vehicles of areas off the Internal Track should be avoided. Where avoidance is not possible, archaeological monitoring through a watching brief within 50 m of the heritage asset extent would be undertaken to preserve by record any surviving features related to these assets.

6.8.5 As there is also considered to be archaeological potential for as-yet unknown archaeological remains to survive along the Internal Tracks, a proportion of all ground-breaking works would be subject to an archaeological watching brief in addition to that undertaken in close proximity to the known heritage assets. Areas selected for watching brief would be those with highest potential for example on shallower slopes and where past settlement or land management activities may have occurred. The aim of the watching brief would be to identify any unknown sub-surface archaeological remains threatened by the Proposed Development, to assess their significance and to mitigate any impact upon them either through avoidance (micro-siting) or, if preservation in situ is not warranted, through preservation by record. If significant archaeological remains are identified during these works there is the potential that further works, such as excavation and post-excavation analyses, may be required. The requirement for this watching brief and any further mitigation would be agreed with THC in consultation with the THC HET Archaeologist, with the scope of any required works defined through a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) and secured through a condition of any consent that is granted.

6.8.6 No additional mitigation is possible for setting effects beyond the embedded design mitigation.

6.8.7 A summary of the additional mitigation is set out in Table 6.8.

Table 6.8: Summary of Additional Mitigation

Description of Impact	ID	Description of Mitigation	Purpose of Mitigation	Timing of Mitigation*	Consultation or Approval Required
Direct physical impacts on	CH03	Demarcation and avoidance of known	To preserve by record (and in the case of	C	Yes - mitigation would be

Table 6.8: Summary of Additional Mitigation

Description of Impact	ID	Description of Mitigation	Purpose of Mitigation	Timing of Mitigation*	Consultation or Approval Required
known heritage assets		heritage assets within Site where possible, if avoidance is not possible an archaeological watching brief of all ground-breaking works to be undertaken within 50 m of all heritage assets. The potential removal and re-siting or reinstatement of non-designated Novar 2 Wind Farm Commemorative Monument (Asset 618).	Asset 618, by removal and reinstatement) any further remains associated with these assets not already impacted upon by the existing Internal Tracks. Depending on the results of the watching brief, further mitigation such as post-excavation work may be required.		agreed with THC HET through a WSI.
Direct physical impacts on as-yet unknown heritage assets	CH04	Archaeological watching brief to be undertaken on a proportion of all ground-breaking works (in addition to CH02).	To identify any sub-surface archaeological remains that may be present and mitigate direct impacts where possible.	C	Yes - mitigation would be agreed with THC HET through a WSI.
Direct physical impacts on known heritage assets	CH05	Demarcation of any identified heritage assets within close proximity to the Proposed Development.	To ensure inadvertent impacts upon the heritage resource area avoided.	D	Yes - mitigation would be agreed with THC HET through a WSI.

**PC=Pre-construction, C=Construction, O=Operation and maintenance and D=Decommissioning.*

Enhancement - Public Benefit

6.8.8 Public benefit proposals in relation to the Proposed Development are presented in line with NPF4. Scotland's Delivery of Public Benefit and Social Value Guidance for Archaeology in the Planning Process[41], adopted as best practice by the Association of Local Government Archaeologists Scotland (ALGAO Scotland), which outlines possible Site-specific activities

[41] Mann, B, (2023), Delivery of Public Benefit and Social Value Guidance for Archaeology in the Planning Process. https://www.archaeologists.net/profession/publicbenefit [Accessed November 2025]

that can be undertaken. To a degree, the scope of such activities is dependent on the results of any archaeological works undertaken in advance of and during construction of the Proposed Development, but the approach would be flexible and open to adaptation based on results of the archaeological fieldwork and would be agreed by the Applicant, HES, THC HET, the landowner and the archaeological contractor.

6.9 Significant Residual Effects

Decommissioning of Novar 1 Wind Farm

6.9.1 No direct effects are anticipated to arise from decommissioning, provided works are contained within the Proposed Development construction footprint.

6.9.2 All operational and cumulative effects upon the settings of heritage assets as a result of the existing Novar 1 Wind Farm would be reversed with the removal of the turbines following decommissioning, leading to a Neutral residual effect.

Construction of Proposed Development

6.9.3 The maintenance of an archaeological watching brief as outlined in Section 6.8 would allow for the investigation of the archaeological potential for previously unknown assets in undisturbed areas of the Site and to preserve by record heritage assets which may be impacted upon by the construction works. This would further allow for the avoidance of direct effects or, in cases where this might not be possible, would allow for recording of elements of assets which would be removed. As such there would be minimal loss of information content. Following the completion of construction, no further groundworks would be undertaken. Mitigation would allow for the detailed recording of any remains encountered during the construction phase and the results would therefore enhance understanding of the area's cultural heritage. It is judged that residual effects would not exceed Minor adverse which is **not significant**.

Operation of Proposed Development

6.9.4 Operational effects include impacts upon the settings of non-designated assets, and designated assets such as World Heritage Sites, Listed Buildings, Scheduled Monuments, Conservation Areas, Inventoried Battlefields, and Inventoried Gardens and Designed Landscapes. The predicted effects of the Proposed Development during the operational phase have been set out in **Section 6.7** and **Technical Appendix 6.4** (**EIAR, Volume 4**). Predicted setting effects are by their very nature hard to mitigate (beyond design iteration to minimise such effects as far as practicable). Residual operational effects would, therefore, remain the same as operational effects defined earlier in **Section 6.7** and **Technical Appendix 6.1** (**EIAR, Volume 4**). This includes **significant** Moderate adverse effects upon the Scheduled Easter Ballone cairns (Assets 17.1-17.3), the Category A Listed Wyvis Lodge (Assets 23.1-23.4), the Category A Listed Ardross Castle (Assets 26.1-26.4) and the Ardross Castle GDL (Asset 31). The residual setting effects upon all other designated heritage assets would not exceed Minor adverse, which is **not significant**.

Decommissioning of the Proposed Development

6.9.5 No direct effects are anticipated to arise from decommissioning, provided works are contained within the Proposed Development construction footprint.

6.9.6 All operational and cumulative effects upon the settings of heritage assets would be reversed with the removal of the turbines following decommissioning, leading to a Neutral residual effect.

Cumulative Effects

6.9.7 No cumulative direct effects on known heritage assets are anticipated during construction of the Proposed Development. During the construction phase, the existing setting effects of the Novar 1 Wind Farm would be neutralised through decommissioning such that it makes no further contribution to cumulative effects on setting.

6.9.8 Predicted residual cumulative operational effects would be the same as assessed for the potential cumulative effects, therefore there would be potential for Moderate adverse cumulative effects on the Scheduled Boath, three chambered cairns NE and NNE of Easter Ballone Farm (Assets 17.1-17.3). All other residual cumulative effects would be minor adverse and **not significant**.

6.10 Summary of Monitoring

Construction Phase Monitoring

6.10.1 Archaeological monitoring through a watching brief would be undertaken on all ground-breaking works on the Access Route leading to the Turbine Array area occurring within 50 m of known heritage assets.

6.10.2 Additional archaeological monitoring should also be undertaken on a proportion of all ground-breaking works along the Internal Tracks to mitigate against direct impacts on any as-yet unknown and sub-surface heritage assets.

6.10.3 Archaeological monitoring during tree-felling works within the vicinity of the Scheduled Monument Cladh Churadain chape and burial ground (Asset 14), including demarcation and pre-condition and post-condition surveys of the asset, would be undertaken.

Operational Phase Monitoring

6.10.4 There are no cultural heritage monitoring requirements during the operational phase.

Decommissioning Phase Monitoring

6.10.5 Provided that all decommissioning works occur within the construction footprint, there are no cultural heritage monitoring requirements during the decommissioning phase.

Summary of Significant Residual Effects

6.10.6 A summary of the predicted significant residual effects for cultural heritage is provided below in Table 6.9.

Table 6.9: Summary of Potential Significant Residual Effects									
Receptor/ Affected Group	**Value or Sensitivity (Significance) of Receptor**	**Activity or Impact**	**Embedded Design Mitigation**	**Magnitude/ Spatial Extent/ Duration/ Likelihood of Occurrence**	**Significance of effect**	**Additional Mitigation**	**Residual Magnitude of Impact**	**Significance of Residual effect**	**Monitoring**
Decommissioning of Novar 1 Wind Farm									
No significant residual effects predicted.									
Construction of Repowered Wind Farm									
No significant residual effects predicted.									
Operation of Repowered Wind Farm									
Assets 17.1-17.3, 23.1-23.4, 26.1-26.4, 31	High	Setting effects	N/A	(Medium) (Local) (Long Term) (Likely) (Local) (Long Term) (Likely)	Moderate adverse	N/A	Medium	**Moderate** adverse	Not Required
Decommissioning of Proposed Development									
No significant residual effects predicted.									
Cumulative Effects									
Assets 17.1-17.3 – significant cumulative residual effect	High	Setting effects	N/A	(Medium) (Local) (Long Term) (Likely) (Long Term) (Likely)	Moderate adverse	N/A	Medium	Moderate adverse	Not Required