Technical Appendix 1.3: Scoping Report

Intended for
Nadara

Date
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Project Number
1620016706

NOVAR WIND FARM REPOWERING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT SCOPING REPORT

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NOVAR WIND FARM REPOWERING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT SCOPING REPORT

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GLOSSARY AND ABBREVIATIONS

Abbreviation/ Terminology	Expanded Term
the Applicant	Client / developer (Nadara)
the Proposed Development	The repowering of Novar Wind Farm including the wind turbines and associated site infrastructure
the Site	The area within the Application Site Boundary
the EIA regulations	The Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017, as amended
scoped in	included in the proposed scope of the EIA
scoped out	excluded in the proposed scope of the EIA
AIP	Aeronautical Information Publication
agl	Above Ground Level
ADLS	Aircraft Detection Lighting System
AIL	Abnormal Indivisible Load
AM	Amplitude Modulation
AOD	Above Ordnance Datum
AESLQ	Assessment of Effects on Special Landscape Qualities
ATC	Automatic Traffic Count
BNG	Biodiversity Net Gain
BGS	British Geological Survey
BoCC	Birds of Conservation Concern
BS	British Standard
CAA	Civil Aviation Authority
CRA	Collision Risk Assessment
CEMP	Construction Environmental Management Plan
CIEEM	Chartered Institute of Ecological and Environmental Management
CIfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
CRM	Collision Risk Modelling
CTMP	Construction Traffic Management Plan
dB	decibel
DMRB	Design Manual for Roads and Bridges
ESDAL	Electronic Service Delivery for Abnormal Loads
EHO	Environmental Health Officer
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EIAR	Environmental Impact Assessment Report
EUNIS	European Nature Information System
FL	Flight Level
FLS	Forest and Land Scotland
GDL	Garden and Designed Landscape
Gigawatt	GW
GIS	Geographic Information Systems
GPG	Good Practice Guidance
GPP	Guidance for Pollution Prevention

Novar Wind Farm Repowering
Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Report

Abbreviation/ Terminology	Expanded Term
GSP	Grid Supply Point
GLVIA	Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment
GWDTE	Groundwater Dependant Terrestrial Ecosystem
HCA	Habitat Condition Assessment
Ha	Hectare
HIAL	Highlands & Islands Airports Ltd
HET	Historic Environment Team
HGV	Heavy Goods Vehicle
HBRG	Highland Biological Recording Group
HRSG	Highland Raptor Study Group
HER	Historic Environment Record
HES	Historic Environment Scotland
HLAMap	Historic Land-Use Assessment Data for Scotland
HMP	Habitat Management Plan
HRA	Habitat Regulations Appraisal
IEF	Important Ecological Features
IOA	Institute of Acoustics
IEMA	Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment
IFP	Instrument Flight Procedures
LUPS	Land Use Planning System
LCT	Landscape Character Type
LFA	Low Flying Area
LVIA	Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment
MoD	Ministry of Defence
MW	Megawatts
NBN	National Biodiversity Network
NCAP	National Collection of Aerial Photography
NCNR	National Cycle Network Route
NHZ	Natural Heritage Zone
NERL	NATS En Route
NNR	National Nature Reserve
NPF4	National Planning Policy Framework 4
NRHE	National Record for the Historic Environment
NSA	National Scenic Area
NSR	Noise Sensitive Receptors
NVC	National Vegetation Classification
OSWESG	Onshore Wind Energy Supplementary Guidance
PMP	Peat Management Plan
PSR	Primary Surveillance Radars
PAN	Planning Advice Note
PPG	Pollution Prevention Guidelines
PWS	Private Water Supply

Abbreviation/ Terminology	Expanded Term
RSPB	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
RVAA	Residential Visual Amenity Assessment
SSR	Secondary Surveillance Radar
SAC	Special Area of Conservation
SEPA	Scottish Environment Protection Agency
SPAD	Scottish Palaeoecological Archive Database
SBL	Scottish Biodiversity List
SLA	Special Landscape Area
SPP	Species Protection Plan
SNH	Scottish Natural Heritage (now NatureScot)
SPA	Special Protection Area
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest
TMZ	Transponder Mandatory Zone
TGN	Technical Guidance Note
THC	The Highland Council
WFD	Water Framework Directive
WLA	Wild Land Area
UKHab	UK Habitat Classification
VP	Viewpoint
VanP	Vantage Point
ZTV	Zone of Theoretical Visibility

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

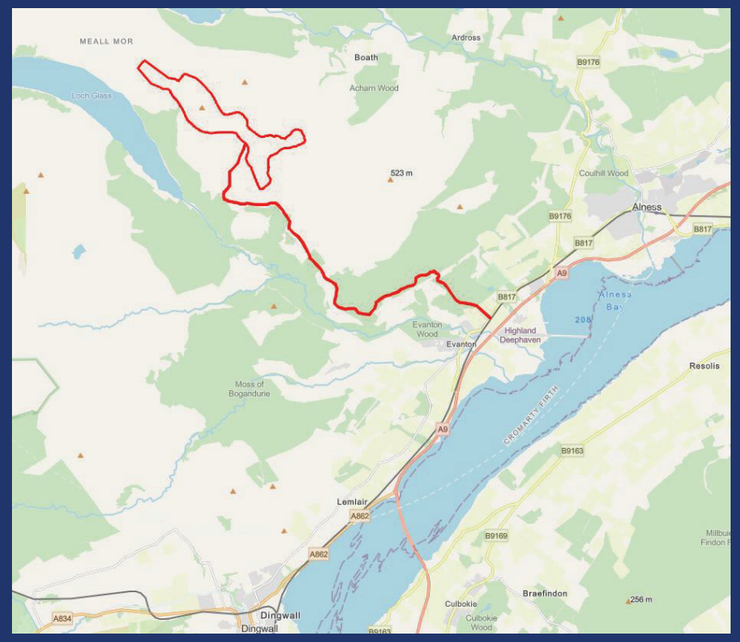
PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

This Scoping Report provides information to support a request to the Scottish Ministers for a Scoping Opinion under the terms of Regulation 12 of the Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (EIA) (Scotland) Regulations 2017, including:

- **a description of the location and a plan to identify the land;**
- **a description of the nature and purpose of the development; and**
- **a description of the likely significant effects on the environment.**

LOCATION OF THE DEVELOPMENT

The Site is occupied by the existing Novar Wind Farm, approximately 11 km north of Dingwall and 9 km northwest of Alness in the Highlands, Scotland, as shown below.



The existing wind farm has been operational since 1997 and comprises 34 wind turbines with a tip height of approximately 60 m and has an overall capacity of 17 MW.

NATURE AND PURPOSE OF THE DEVELOPMENT?

The Proposed Development would comprise the full repowering of the existing Novar Wind Farm to include the removal of the existing 34 turbines, and the construction of a maximum of 10 new wind turbines, each of a maximum blade tip height of 180 m. The design of the turbine layout and associated infrastructure will be informed by the EIA process and ongoing survey work. Existing access tracks and infrastructure will be reused where possible.

WHAT ARE THE KEY LIKELY SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS?

There is potential for significant effects to occur in relation to the following environmental topics:

- **Landscape and Visual Amenity (Chapter 4);**
- **Cultural Heritage (Chapter 5);**
- **Biodiversity (Non-Avian Species and Habitats) (Chapter 6);**
- **Biodiversity (Ornithology) (Chapter 7);**
- **Soils (Chapter 8);**
- **Noise and Vibration (Chapter 9);**
- **Traffic, Transport and Access (Chapter 10); and**
- **Aviation (Chapter 11).**

The focus of these assessments and proposed methodologies to be adopted are set out in the respective chapters of this Scoping Report.

WHAT ISSUES CAN BE SCOPED OUT FROM FURTHER ASSESSMENT?

No significant effects are considered likely in respect to the following technical disciplines and accordingly no separate impact assessment chapter is proposed as part of the EIA Report (EIAR). The rationale for scoping these topics out is provided in Chapter 12 of this Scoping Report.

- **Population and human health;**
- **Air quality;**
- **Shadow Flicker;**
- **Major accidents and/or disasters;**
- **Telecommunications;**
- **Socio-economics;**
- **Water Environment; and**
- **Climate.**

For socio-economics, the water environment and climate topics factual reports / technical appendices will be appended to the EIAR to ensure sufficient environmental information is included on these topics.

Novar Wind Farm Repowering
Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Report

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction

1.1.1 This Scoping Report is provided in support of a request to the Scottish Ministers for a Scoping Opinion under the terms of Regulation 12 of the Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017, as amended ('the EIA regulations').

1.1.2 Scoping is a statutory procedure by which an Applicant may ask a competent authority for its formal opinion on the information to be supplied within an EIA Report (EIAR). This provision allows the Applicant to be clear about what the authority considers the main effects of the proposal are likely to be, and therefore the topics on which the EIAR should focus.

1.2 Background

1.2.1 Nadara ('the Applicant') is developing proposals to repower the existing Novar Wind Farm, which they currently own and operate. The existing Novar Wind Farm is located on land (the 'Site') within the Novar Estate which is approximately 11 km north of Dingwall and 9 km northwest of Alness, in the Cromarty Firth in northern Scotland and in the jurisdiction of The Highland Council (THC) (**Figure 1.1: Site Location**).

1.2.2 The Site is adjoined by the existing Novar 2 Wind Farm, which comprises 16 turbines with a maximum blade tip height of 106 m. This Site is owned and operated by RWE.

1.2.3 The existing Novar Wind Farm was granted planning permission in 1996 by THC (planning reference RC/1995/421) and has been operational since 1997. It comprises 34 wind turbines providing an overall capacity of 17 Megawatts (MW). Each turbine has a hub height of 42 m, tip height of approximately 60 m, and blade length of 19 m each (**Figure 1.2: Existing Novar Wind Farm Layout**). In December 2019, an application[1] (19/05504/S42) to extend the operational life of the wind farm for an additional 10 years to 2031 was submitted to THC. This s42 application was approved in April 2020.

1.2.4 Repowering is the process of replacing or rebuilding the existing wind turbines. The Applicant's proposal would seek to replace the existing wind turbines with a smaller number of larger and more powerful, technologically advanced wind turbines that are capable of producing more electricity at higher efficiency. The repowered Novar Wind Farm ("the Proposed Development") would have a maximum of 10 turbines with a maximum tip height of 180 m. The total installed capacity of the proposed turbines would be greater than 50 MW. Based on currently available wind turbine models, the typical rated capacity for a 10-turbine development with a tip height of 180 m would be approximately 60 MW. The turbine layout design is at an early stage and will be developed to take account of environmental and technical constraints and stakeholder consultation feedback.

1.3 Consenting Regime

1.3.1 At this stage it is anticipated that the Proposed Development would have an installed capacity of greater than 50 MW. Therefore, an application for consent would be made to the Scottish Ministers under section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989. The Applicant would also seek deemed planning permission under section 57 of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997.

1.3.2 The Proposed Development is of a type listed in Schedule 2 of the EIA regulations (item (1) "a generating station"); on the basis that "the development is likely to have significant effects on the environment by virtue of factors such as its nature, size or location" an EIA is required. In this case, the Applicant has volunteered to undertake an EIA rather than request a formal screening opinion.

1.4 The Applicant

1.4.1 Nadara is a leading European renewable energy company with the aim to generate clean and reliable electricity while supporting local communities, economies and sustainable growth. Nadara

[1] Under section 42 of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997

was recently formed following the merger of Renantis (formerly Falck Renewables) and Ventient Energy, the latter of which has owned and operated Novar Wind Farm since 2017.

1.4.2 Nadara is now one of Europe's largest independent power producers with 4.2 Gigawatt (GW) of installed assets comprised of c.200 wind, solar, biomass and energy storage assets across the UK, Europe and the United States, with 92 % of installed capacity coming from wind.

1.4.3 For further information about Nadara in the UK visit https://nadara.com/

1.5 EIA Team

1.5.1 This report has been prepared by competent EIA experts at Ramboll UK Limited, with a select team of technical specialists providing inputs covering all the relevant environmental disciplines as set out in **Table 1.1: EIA Team**.

Table 1.1: EIA Team

Discipline	Organisation
Lead EIA Consultant	Ramboll
Landscape and Visual Amenity	Ramboll
Cultural Heritage	AOC Archaeology
Biodiversity (including ornithology)	Ramboll
Land and Soils	Ramboll
Noise	Hoare Lea
Traffic and Transport	Pell Frischmann
Aviation	Aviatica
Carbon Balance	Ramboll
Water Environment	Ramboll
Socio-Economics	Ramboll

1.6 Purpose of the Scoping Report

1.6.1 The specific objectives of this report are to:

- seek agreement on the potential likely significant effects associated with the Proposed Development, and confirm that all potential likely significant effects have been correctly included in the proposed scope of the EIA ('scoped in');
- seek agreement where non-significant effects have been excluded ('scoped out'); and
- invite comment on the proposed approach to baseline data collection, prediction of environmental effects and the assessment of significance.

1.6.2 Unless consultees specifically request otherwise, all responses will be collated and presented as a Technical Appendix to the EIAR, as a record of the results of the scoping exercise.

1.7 Structure of the Scoping Report

1.7.1 The remainder of this report is structured as follows:

- Chapter 2 provides a brief description of the nature and purpose of the development, typical construction activities and decommissioning proposals.
- Chapter 3 provides a summary of the topics to be scoped in and scoped out of the EIAR, provides an outline of the consultation process and summarises the approach to the EIA.
- Chapters 4 to 11 set out, for those topics scoped into the EIA, the baseline environment conditions, the likely significant environmental effects identified and the proposed method for further data collection and evaluation of effects.
- Chapter 12 describes the effects that are considered not to be significant, and proposes that these be excluded from the EIA, providing a rationale in each case.
- Chapter 13 provides information on the process for making representations on the scoping report.

2. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

2.1 Policy Considerations

2.1.1 The Proposed Development relates to electricity generation from renewable energy sources and is a direct response to national planning and energy policy objectives.

2.1.2 The Proposed Development would make a significant contribution to the attainment of renewable energy generation and greenhouse gas reduction targets at both the Scottish and UK levels and the quantification of this contribution will be described in the EIAR.

2.1.3 A separate Planning Statement will provide a detailed appraisal of the Proposed Development against the relevant national planning and energy policy, Development Plan policies and other material considerations.

2.2 Site Description and Context

2.2.1 The Site (**Figure 1.1: Site Location**) is located between Glen Glass and Strath Rusdale and comprises of a combination of open peat moorland, typified by rough grassland and heathland species being occupied by the existing Novar Wind Farm.

2.2.2 The Site is situated along the ridgeline connecting Meall Mor, Meall an Tuirc, Bendeallt and Cnoc Gille Mo Bhrianaig with the elevation ranging within the Site from 625 m Above Ordnance Datum (AOD) to 310 m AOD, with the topography descending from the ridge in all directions to Loch Glass, Loch Moire and Strath Rusdale. The surrounding area includes the notable summits of Ben Wyvis (1,046m AOD) and Beinn Dear (1,081 m AOD), with prominent hydrological features including the Cromarty Firth, Dornoch Firth, Loch Glass, Loch Morie, the River Averon and the River Glass.

2.2.3 Most of the Site is located within an area identified in high-level mapping[2] as potentially nationally important peatland (Class 1 Peat) with areas of upland heath, acid grassland and blanket bog. A Stage 1 peat survey (refer to Chapter 8) indicates peat >1 m in north, central and south of Site. Extensive commercial forestry plantation is located to the west and south of the Site.

2.2.4 The existing 34 turbines are accessed by stone-capped access tracks, off the A9 road and then along the B817 (Heavy Goods Vehicle (HGV) access) or along the B9176 and onto Boath Road (Light Goods Vehicle (LGV) access). The power output from the existing turbines is delivered by underground cables which are buried alongside the access tracks to a substation located adjacent to the site office at the LGV access to the site.

2.2.5 The Site is located immediately adjacent to Novar 2 Wind Farm to the southwest. Coire na Cloiche, Beinn nan Oighrean and Beinn Tharsuinn Wind Farms are located between 6 and 10 km to the northeast. Other operational wind farms are located slightly further afield, such as Fairburn and Corriemoillie approximately 25 km southwest / west. There are also a number of wind farm developments within the planning system either approved (with some under construction), in planning or at scoping stage (**Figure 2.1: Cumulative Schemes**).

2.2.6 Settlement around the Site comprises small towns and villages with scattered rural dwellings. Key settlements include Dingwall, Evanton, Alness and Invergordon, with the nearest settlement to the Site being Evanton located along the B817 and 1 km to the south of the proposed Site entrance. Additionally, there are a number of individual residential properties within 3 km of the Site to the northeast around Boath and to the southwest within Glen Glass.

2.3 Proposed Development

Overview

2.3.1 The Proposed Development would comprise the full repowering of the existing Novar Wind Farm. This would include the decommissioning and removal of the existing 34 turbines along with site reinstatement where land is not required for the construction of the new turbines, and the construction of a maximum of 10 new wind turbines, each of a maximum blade tip height of 180 m.

[2] Carbon and Peatland 2016 map. Available at: https://www.nature.scot/professional-advice/planning-and-development/planning-and-development-advice/soils/carbon-and-peatland-2016-map [Accessed November 2024]

2.3.2 The main elements of the Proposed Development would be as follows:

- up to 10 new turbines with a rotor blade diameter of approximately 155 m, a hub height of approximately 102.5 m, and a maximum tip height of up to 180 m;
- permanent foundations supporting each wind turbine;
- associated crane hardstanding at each turbine location;
- existing on-site access tracks and infrastructure to be reused where possible with some limited requirement to build new tracks to access new turbine positions;
- permanent meteorological mast or hardstanding to accommodate remote sensing equipment for measuring the wind conditions;
- underground cable arrays within the Site connecting the turbines to the on-site substation;
- a control building and substation compound;
- temporary construction compound(s) and laydown area(s); and
- biodiversity enhancement measures including options such as peatland restoration and grassland management.

2.3.3 In addition, ancillary works may be required, such as:

- extraction of rock from borrow pits;
- temporary on-site concrete batching plant; and
- off-site works to facilitate the delivery of abnormal loads.

2.3.4 The preliminary layout of the turbines for the Proposed Development is shown on **Figure 2.2: Novar Wind Farm Repowering (Scoping Layout)**.

2.3.5 The layout of the Proposed Development should be considered preliminary, and subject to change, as it will be informed by the EIA process and ongoing survey work in relation to environmental and technical constraints. The evolution of the layout will also respond to stakeholder consultation feedback from the scoping process and parallel engagement with the local community.

Wind Turbines

2.3.6 A preliminary turbine layout is presented in **Figure 2.2: Novar Wind Farm Repowering (Scoping Layout)**, with turbine co-ordinates set out in **Table 2.1: Preliminary Layout Turbine Coordinates**. The final number of new turbines and turbine specifications will be determined by environmental, technical, and commercial constraints identified during the EIA and iterative design process.

Table 2.1: Preliminary Layout Turbine Coordinates

Turbine Ref	X Co-ordinate	Y Co-ordinate
1	252687	873845
2	252978	873502
3	253415	873297
4	253754	873001
5	253991	872597
6	254369	872353
7	254858	872254
8	255505	871811
9	256160	871626
10	255528	871257

2.3.7 The worst-case candidate turbine can differ across the EIA disciplines (for example noise, ornithology, transport etc.) therefore different candidate turbines may be specified in the EIAR where necessary to inform assessments of effects and ensure that a reasonable worst-case is presented.

2.3.8 The anticipated height of the wind turbines means that under current regulations there will be a statutory requirement for aviation lighting in accordance with Article 222 of the Air Navigation Order 2016[3]. Any aviation lighting scheme will be agreed with the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA), Ministry of Defence (MoD) and other relevant consultees. Consultation will aim to agree a reduced lighting scheme and review the feasibility of utilising Aircraft Detection Lighting System (ADLS) based on the technical and regulatory environment at the time of submission.

2.3.9 The wind turbines would be installed on foundations, the detailed design of which will depend on the type of turbine procured and the specific ground conditions.

2.3.10 A crane pad would also be required for each turbine and would consist of an area of hardstanding adjacent to the turbine. The exact specification and position of the crane pad will depend on the turbine supplier's specifications, the crane selected for erection, and specific ground conditions.

2.3.11 A micro-siting allowance for the turbines and other infrastructure will be applied to anticipate possible unfavourable site conditions or other construction constraints. These allowances will be clearly defined within the EIAR and assessed as appropriate.

Site Access

2.3.12 An access review is currently underway to confirm the access routes into the Site and it is expected that general construction and Abnormal Indivisible Load (AIL) traffic would access the Site via the existing HGV site entrance off the B817. From here, it is anticipated that construction traffic would utilise the existing access tracks through the Novar 2 Wind Farm to access the Site.

2.3.13 Details of any works required off-site, such as for access of AIL and other construction traffic, are yet to be confirmed.

2.3.14 Prior to submission of the application for consent, potential construction traffic routes will be fully assessed, considering both vehicle numbers and the delivery of AIL to the Site to ensure the most appropriate and environmentally favourable solution is developed.

2.3.15 Within the Site itself, the Proposed Development would be served by a network of access tracks comprised of both the existing tracks and new tracks to enable construction and maintenance once operational. The turbine layout would seek to ensure that the existing tracks on-site can be reused as much as possible and any new access tracks would seek to minimise impacts on soils and peat. The layout of the access tracks would be determined based on the final turbine layout, technical and environmental constraints on-site.

2.3.16 The number of water crossings required would be kept to a minimum. Any upgrades to existing water crossings and any new crossings would be designed to comply with relevant regulations[4].

Grid Connection and Cabling

2.3.17 The grid connection will be subject to a separate approvals process; however, it is anticipated that the grid connection for the existing Novar Wind Farm would be maintained (approximately 18 MW) (Alness 1 Grid Supply Point (GSP) substation), with an additional grid connection (approximately 42 MW) currently scheduled for October 2032 (Alness 2 GSP substation).

2.3.18 There is potential for an earlier connection date under ongoing reforms to how entry of new connections to the national grid is managed[5]. These grid reforms are based on the principle of '*first ready, first connected'* and allow projects that can demonstrate an earlier connection date is achievable to accelerate their connection date.

2.3.19 The point of connection would be at a new on-site substation for the Proposed Development, which is likely to include the extension and upgrade of the existing substation for the Novar Wind Farm. The cables from each turbine and transformer would be connected underground to this new on-site substation with electric cabling laid in trenches running alongside the access tracks, the layout of which would be determined by the final turbine layout and informed by consideration of relevant environmental receptors and effects, such as on-site ecology and ground conditions.

[3] Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2016/765/contents [Accessed November 2024]
[4] The Water Environment (Controlled Activities) (Scotland) Regulations 2011 (as amended).
[5] Further information available at: https://www.neso.energy/document/316446/download and https://www.neso.energy/industry-information/codes/cusc/modifications/cmp434-implementing-connections-reform [Accessed November 2024]

Construction

Construction Phasing

2.3.20 Due to the uncertainties on the date of connection to the grid for the required additional grid connection for the Proposed Development (refer to paragraph 2.3.18), the Applicant is considering two alternative construction programme scenarios:

- **Scenario 1 (Single Phase Construction):** decommissioning of the existing turbines and construction of the repowered turbines and associated infrastructure is undertaken in the same construction phase, with land reinstatement and biodiversity enhancement and peat restoration measures implemented as part of this process.

- **Scenario 2 (Two Phase Construction):** a phased approach to construction which would likely involve two phases consisting of the following construction activities:

  Phase 1
  - construction of three of the repowered turbines and associated infrastructure to connect into the existing Novar Wind Farm grid connection;
  - decommissioning of the existing turbines and reinstatement of land not required for repowered development; and
  - implementation of biodiversity enhancement including peatland restoration.

  Phase 2
  - construction of the remaining repowered turbines (up to a maximum of 7) and associated infrastructure to connect into the additional grid connection; and
  - implementation biodiversity enhancement including peatland restoration.

2.3.21 The EIAR will confirm the assumptions related to the construction programme necessary to inform the assessment of effects and ensure that a reasonable worst-case is presented. It is expected that further details on the approach to construction would be provided pre-construction and through the discharge of relevant planning conditions.

2.3.22 The period of construction works is not expected to be materially different between the two scenarios (anticipated at 18 to 24 months as a total period when construction works are being undertaken on-site), other than the requirement to have additional mobilisation / demobilisation time with Scenario 2. For Scenario 2, the timing of the second phase is dependent on the date of connection to the grid, and it is expected that further details on this would be confirmed as the project progresses through the design and consenting process, and as further details on the grid reform are understood.

2.3.23 Based on the above, and with the exception of the ecology and ornithology assessments, the construction assessment will consider Scenario 1 (Single Phase Construction) to represent the worst-case scenario when all works are undertaken in a single phase of construction. The phasing of construction in Scenario 2 (Two Phase Construction) is not anticipated to result in any additional effects and for most assessments the phasing is expected reduce the effects, through for example, a reduction in traffic and / or noise within each phase.

2.3.24 For the ecological and ornithological assessments, Scenario 2 (Two Phase Construction) is considered to have the potential for additional disturbance / displacement effects during construction due to the 'break' in construction and the removal of the existing wind turbines in the initial phase. As such, it is proposed that, for these construction assessments, both Scenario 1 (Single Phase Construction) and Scenario 2 (Two Phase Construction) will be considered. This allows the worst-case assessment to be presented and appropriate mitigation to be recommended for each alternative construction programme.

2.3.25 The operational assessment for all technical topics will consider the development as a whole (i.e. upon completion of either Scenario 1: Single Phase Construction or Scenario 2: Two Phase Construction) to represent the worst-case scenario when all of the repowered turbines are operational. 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.

Construction Activities

2.3.26 Typical construction activities and work methods will be set out in the EIAR. The EIAR will contain details of appropriate environmental management measures, including pollution prevention measures, waste minimisation and management, and traffic generation and construction phasing.

2.3.27 An outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) will be submitted as part of the EIAR which will contain details of appropriate environmental management measures, including pollution prevention measures (in line with Scottish Environment Protection Agency's (SEPA's) Pollution Prevention Guidelines (PPGs) and Guidance for Pollution Prevention (GPPs)), and waste minimisation and management measures.

2.3.28 A Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) and AIL management plan will also be submitted to manage traffic associated with construction and propose measures to reduce the potential impacts associated with construction traffic, with these to be secured by planning condition.

2.3.29 It is likely that the decommissioning of the existing 34 operational turbines and infrastructure would be undertaken alongside the construction of the repowered turbines. Accordingly, decommissioning of the existing wind farm will be an inherent part of the construction phase of the Proposed Development and the potential effects associated with this will be assessed as part of the construction stage assessment.

Operation and Decommissioning

2.3.30 Once constructed it is anticipated that the Proposed Development would have an operational lifetime of 50 years although the Applicant does not seek a time-limited consent.

2.3.31 The Proposed Development would be expected to be visited regularly (up to four times a month) by a small maintenance crew. There would also be a requirement for maintenance of the access tracks and substation. Periodically there would be a need for larger scale maintenance for the replacement of turbine equipment.

2.3.32 Following the period of operation, the Proposed Development would be decommissioned. Any above ground infrastructure would likely be dismantled and removed in accordance with industry best practice at the time. The use of decommissioned materials would follow the waste hierarchy such that they would be reused where possible before recycling and disposal were considered. There may be potential to extend the life of the Proposed Development or replace the turbines and other infrastructure, which would be subject to a new application.

2.3.33 Decommissioning would be managed in a similar way to construction, and for most environmental effects, would be of a similar or lower magnitude.

2.3.34 Detailed decommissioning proposals would be established and agreed with relevant authorities prior to commencement of decommissioning activities. This would take cognisance of guidance available at the time.

2.4 Project Design and Alternatives

2.4.1 The Proposed Development design process would seek to establish a layout and turbine typology which take account of visibility from the surrounding environment and the key environmental constraints on-site and in the surrounding area and deliver mitigation of adverse effects by design as far as is practicable.

2.4.2 Following completion of the main baseline environmental assessment, design objectives will be developed and used to evaluate a series of layout options. These layouts will be examined from key design viewpoints to assess and optimise the number, size and layout of the proposed wind turbines in relation to the landform of the Site and surrounds, as well as adjacent wind farm developments.

2.4.3 The design iteration process will take account of other environmental and technical factors to establish the final layout for the Proposed Development.

2.4.4 Key factors which are likely to influence the design process include:

- making use of existing infrastructure;
- key views from surrounding settlements, landmark hills and transport corridors;
- the settings of designated cultural heritage assets within the Site and the surrounding area;
- sensitive ecological habitats, including unmodified blanket bog;
- groundwater dependant ecological habitats;
- watercourses; and
- breeding birds, including raptors and waders (disturbance and collision risk).

2.4.5 The design optimisation process will be reported and illustrated in the EIAR.

3. SUMMARY SCOPE OF THE EIA

3.1 Factors to be Considered at Scoping Stage

3.1.1 The EIA regulations (Regulation 4(3)) require consideration of the potential likely direct and indirect significant effects on the following factors (including their interaction):

- population and human health;
- biodiversity, and in particular species and habitats protected under Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habits and wild flora and Directive 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on the conservation of wild birds;
- land, soil, water, air and climate; and
- material assets, cultural heritage and the landscape.

3.1.2 **Table 3.1: Factors addressed in Scoping Report** provides a summary of the how this Scoping Report addresses the factors required under the EIA regulations.

Table 3.1: Factors addressed in Scoping Report

Factor	Where/how is this addressed?
Population and human health	The potential for effects on population and human health (including amenity) are considered under a number of topic headings including: • Effects on amenity attributed to Noise (see Chapter 9); • Effects on amenity attributed to Transport (see Chapter 10); • Effects on amenity attributed to Visual impact (see Chapter 4); and • Safety related impacts to Aviation (see Chapter 11). It is noted that no likely significant direct or indirect impacts on human health have been identified and it is proposed that this factor is not given further detailed consideration as part of the EIAR. Further detail to support this is provided in Chapter 12.
Biodiversity	Non-aviation ecology (species and habitats) are considered further in Chapter 6, including having regard to impacts on the biodiversity value of peatland habitat. Avian species are considered further in Chapter 7.
Land and soil	Land use would not materially change as a result of the Proposed Development and is therefore not proposed for further consideration. Soil impacts are considered further in Chapter 8, with a specific focus on impacts to the peat resource.
Water Environment	On the basis of the adoption of standard good practice mitigation for effects on the water environment, it is considered that likely significant effects can be avoided. Further detail to support this is provided in Chapter 12.
Air and climate	No potential for likely significant effects on air have been identified and this is therefore not proposed for further consideration. No detailed climate "impact assessment" is proposed; however it is acknowledged that i) vulnerability to climate change related risk will be given due consideration in the description of the Proposed Development, and ii) the greenhouse gas footprint of the Proposed Development, including embodied carbon will be reported in the EIAR using the Scottish Government Carbon Calculator tool. Further detail to support this is provided in Chapter 12.
Material assets	Potential impacts to public road condition will be addressed through a stand-alone Transport Assessment to be provided as an appendix to the EIAR as detailed in Chapter 10. Potential impacts to telecommunication assets are proposed to be scoped out of further assessment. Further details to support this is provided in Chapter 12.
Cultural heritage	The potential for effects on the historic environment (cultural heritage) are considered further in Chapter 5.
Landscape	The potential for effects on the landscape is considered alongside visual amenity in Chapter 4.

3.2 Cumulative Effects

3.2.1 Cumulative effects are defined as those effects arising from the addition or combination of the Proposed Development to other proposed developments, or those arising from synergistic effects[6] between factors.

3.2.2 A planning application search will be conducted to identify approved (committed) developments using relevant planning portals, and the following schemes will be considered:

- those within 35 km of the Site boundary within 35 km of the Site boundary;
- onshore wind developments where turbines are greater than 50 m to tip height *and* more than one wind turbine proposed;
- schemes under construction;
- schemes which have been consented; and
- schemes which have been submitted to the relevant authorities, but not yet determined (subject to a cut-off point to allow assessments to be undertaken).

3.2.3 The assessment will include commentary on the effect of the inclusion of known scoping schemes where they have a known timescale to planning submission and where they have potential to play an important part in the cumulative effects of wind energy development. In addition, the following criteria will need to be met:

- the committed development has a construction and / or operational phase that is concurrent with the Proposed Development;
- the committed development shares common sensitive receptors / resources which are assessed and described in the supporting environmental documentation, and have the potential to be significantly affected by the combination of the approved (committed) development and the Proposed Development; and
- the committed development has sufficient environmental assessment information freely and publicly available to inform a cumulative effects assessment.

3.2.4 It should be noted that not all of the cumulative developments would necessarily have a cumulative effect in respect of every particular environmental topic and therefore each technical assessment will provide a full justification for the list of schemes considered in their respective assessments.

3.2.5 As the cumulative baseline is constantly evolving, the schedule of cumulative schemes to be included in the assessment will be finalised following consultation with the relevant consultees and at the point of a finalised design is reached (approximately four months prior to submission). A preliminary list of cumulative schemes is provided in **Appendix 3.1: Preliminary Cumulative Schedule** and illustrated in **Figure 2.1**: **Cumulative Schemes.**

3.3 Topics to be Scoped Out

3.3.1 No significant effects are considered likely in respect to the following technical disciplines and accordingly no impact assessment chapter is proposed for these topics as part of the EIAR (see Chapter 12 of this Scoping Report):

- Air quality;
- Population and human health;
- Telecommunications;
- Shadow Flicker; and
- Major accidents and / or disasters.

3.3.2 For the following topics, no significant environmental effects are considered likely, but it is deemed appropriate to provide factual reports or technical appendices to be appended to the EIAR to provide sufficient environmental information (see Chapter 12 of this Scoping Report):

- Water Environment;
- Socio-economics (Economic Benefit Statement); and
- Climate (Carbon Balance Report).

[6] A synergistic effect is the result of two or more processes interacting together to produce an effect that is greater than the cumulative effect that those processes produce when used individually.

3.4 Baseline Characterisation

3.4.1 The baseline environmental conditions against which all developments and receptors are assessed is the existing prevailing environmental conditions at the time of the assessment and application submission. In the context of the Proposed Development, the existing wind farm is an established feature within the environment, having been operational since 1997. The baseline scenario adopted for all technical assessments will therefore include the existing wind farm.

3.4.2 Using a future restored site (with no wind farm) as the baseline is not considered appropriate given that the Proposed Development is a repowering scheme (not a new wind farm) and the existing wind farm would not be decommissioned until construction of the Proposed Development.

3.4.3 Nevertheless, for the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA), an alternative future baseline scenario will also be assessed for comparative purposes, as recommended by NatureScot in their pre-app guidance for onshore wind[7].

3.5 Consultation

3.5.1 For some assessment topics, consultation has been undertaken with statutory consultees prior to the submission of this Scoping Report to discuss and agree for example, survey scope and viewpoint locations. Details of this consultation have been provided in the relevant technical assessment Chapters of this report.

3.5.2 A pre-application consultation meeting was held with THC on 14th August 2024, with the response pack from the Council received on 12th September 2024.

3.5.3 This Scoping Report has been prepared taking into account the consultation responses received to date.

3.5.4 In addition to the above and the EIA scoping consultation the Applicant intends to carry out community consultation, with two public exhibitions. The outcome of the consultation process will be compiled into a Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) Report to accompany the application for consent, detailing the consultation undertaken and any changes made to the Proposed Development as a result of this consultation.

[7] NatureScot (2024) NatureScot pre-application guidance for onshore wind farms - available at https://www.nature.scot/doc/naturescot-pre-application-guidance-onshore-wind-farms [Accessed November 2024].

4. LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL AMENITY

4.1 Overview

4.1.1 This Chapter sets out the scope and methodological approach for the LVIA in respect of the Proposed Development.

4.1.2 This Chapter is supported by the following figures:

- Figure 4.1: Landscape Character;
- Figure 4.2: Landscape Designations and Classifications;
- Figure 4.3: Visual Receptors;
- Figure 4.4: Residential Properties within 2 km;
- Figure 4.5: ZTV (Tip Height) and Viewpoints; and
- Figure 4.6: Comparative ZTV (Tip Height) and Viewpoints.

4.2 Pre-Scoping Consultation

4.2.1 Further to the pre-application consultation meeting that was held with THC on 14th August 2024 (refer to Section 3.5) the following consultation in relation to the LVIA has been undertaken prior to submission of this Scoping Report.

4.2.2 Consultation has been undertaken with the THC and NatureScot to agree the list of viewpoints in advance of baseline photography. This consultation was initiated on 27th June 2024, with a response received from THC on 16th July 2024 recommending updates to the location of viewpoint (VP) 5 and VP17 and the inclusion of 3 additional viewpoints. NatureScot responded on 15th July 2024 to state that the proposed viewpoints appeared to be comprehensive for the assessment.

4.2.3 Further comments were received on the proposed viewpoints following the pre-application consultation meeting with THC. This recommended the inclusion of additional viewpoints in Inverness, to the east of Alness and an elevated location within the Sutors of Cromarty, Rosemarkie and Fort George Special Landscape Area (SLA).

4.3 Baseline Conditions

4.3.1 Baseline conditions within the Study Area of 35 km from the outermost turbines of the Proposed Development are detailed below. This Study Area reflects feedback received from THC during the pre-application meeting on 14th August 2024.

Topography and Hydrological Features

4.3.2 The Study Area comprises of undulating topography with open hills rising both to the north and south of the Site. Elevation ranges from mean high-water level at the valley bottoms and coastal outer edges, to over 1,100 m AOD. Notable summits within the Study Area include Ben Wyvis (1,046 m AOD) and Beinn Dear (1,081 m AOD), with prominent hydrological features including the Cromarty Firth, Dornoch Firth, Loch Glass, Loch Morie, the River Averon and the River Glass.

4.3.3 The Site is located between Glen Glass and Strath Rusdale and comprises of a combination of open peat moorland, typified by rough grassland and heathland species being occupied by the existing Novar Wind Farm. It is situated along the ridgeline connecting Meall Mor, Meall an Tuirc, Bendeallt and Cnoc Gille Mo Bhrianaig. The topography descends from the ridge in all directions down towards Loch Glass, Loch Morie and Strath Rusdale. Elevation ranges within the Site from 625 m AOD to 310 m AOD. Hydrological features within the Site include multiple small streams that generally flow in a north easterly direction towards the River Averon located approximately 2 km northeast of the Site. Loch Glass, a large loch is located approximately 1 km to the west of the Site in the valley.

Landuse and Landcover

4.3.4 The predominant land uses in the wider Study Area comprise of:

- moorland habitats;
- open waters on the outer edges of the Study Area, including the Cromarty and Dornoch Firths on the east, and Loch Broom and Little Loch Broom on the west;

- a diverse coastline of open water, coastal crofts and farms, moorlands, woodlands, sandy beaches, dunes, and rocky knolls;
- a mosaic of coniferous forest blocks, rough grazing, open moorland, and pastoral farmland, the forestry blocks often concentrated along glen and straths, and on low undulating hills and slopes;
- hamlets, steadings and scattered residential properties, crofts and settlements situated within straths and glens and along the coast; and
- commercial wind farm developments, in particular the Novar 2 Wind Farm that immediately abuts the Site.

Landscape Character

4.3.5 The landscape of the Study Area, according to NatureScot's character types map and descriptions[8], is characterised by various types, consisting of:

- Landscape Character Type (LCT) 330 - rounded hills and moorland slopes;
- LCTs 135, 139 and 328 – rugged mountain massifs;
- LCT 140 – sandy beaches and dunes;
- LCT 284 – coastal farmlands;
- LCT 329 – rounded mountain massifs;
- LCT 341 – forest edge farming;
- LCT 344 – lowland farmed plain;
- LCT 345 – farmed and forested slopes;
- LCT 346 – open farmed slopes; and
- LCT 347 – open steep farmed slopes.

4.3.6 The location and extent of these LCTs is shown in **Figure 4.1: Landscape Character**.

4.3.7 The Site, and the adjoining Novar 2 array, are situated within the Rounded Mountain Massif (LCT 329) which comprises of elevated and complex topography between Glen Glass and the valley of the River Averon. The slopes facing the Cromarty Firth are forested with high levels of recreational access and the ridge is surmounted by the, well visited, local landmark of the Fyrish Monument. The more northward slopes and summits are typified by open moorland. Existing Novar and Novar 2 wind turbines represent characteristic, rather than determining elements of this landscape character. The LCT has a large scale, affording long views from the south as well as in closer views as the immediate setting and backdrop of Alness and Evanton.

Landscape Designations and Classifications

4.3.8 The Site itself is not subject to landscape designation or classification. Designations and classification that are present within the Study Area (as shown on **Figure 4.2: Landscape Designations and Classifications).** Landscape designations within the Study Area comprise**:**

- The Dornoch Firth National Scenic Area (NSA 40) which is located approximately 15 km northeast of the Proposed Development.
- The Ben Wyvis SLA which is situated approximately 1.5 km southwest / west of the Proposed Development;
- The Fannichs, Ben Dearg and Glencalvie SLA, which is located approximately 10 km to the northwest of the Proposed Development; and
- Sutors of Cromarty, Rosemarkie and Fort George SLA, which is approximately 22 km southeast of the Proposed Development.

4.3.9 The following landscape classifications are also present and would be subject to theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development:

- Ardross Castle Garden and Designed Landscape (GDL), which is approximately 3 km east / northeast of the Proposed Development;
- Brahan GDL, which is approximately 15 km to the south of the Proposed Development;
- Balnagown Castle GDL, which is approximately 20 km to the east / northeast of the Proposed Development;

[8] Available at https://www.nature.scot/professional-advice/landscape/landscape-character-assessment/scottish-landscape-character-types-map-and-descriptions [Accessed November 2024]

- Cromarty House GDL which is approximately 23 km to the east / southeast of the Proposed Development;
- Wild Land Area (WLA) 29: Rhiddoroch – Beinn Dearg – Ben Wyvis (approximately 800 m northwest of the Proposed Development);
- WLA 28: Fisherfield – Letterewe – Fannichs, approximately 23 km west / southwest of the Proposed Development; and
- WLA 24: Central Highlands, approximately 22 km southwest from the Proposed Development.

Visual Receptor Locations

4.3.10 Key visual receptors in the Study Area comprise settlements and residents of scattered dwellings, road users and recreational receptors (including hill walkers).

Settlement

4.3.11 Settlement comprises of a number of small towns and villages with scattered rural dwellings. Key settlements within the Study Area and closest to the Site comprise Dingwall, Evanton, Alness and Invergordon, with the nearest settlement to Site being Evanton located along the B817 and within 1 km of the proposed Site entrance (**Figure 4.3: Visual Receptors**). Further from the Site, settlements include Cromarty, Maryburgh, Muir of Ord, Kirkhill, Beauly, Inverness, Culloden and Ardersier. Additionally, there are a number of individual residential properties to the northeast around Boath and the southwest within Glen Glass, with Loch Glass House[9] located to the west on the edge of the loch; these are all just beyond 2 km of the Site (**Figure 4.4: Residential Properties within 2 km**).

Transport / Recreational Routes

4.3.12 There are several key transport routes within the Study Area that would provide potential views of the Proposed Development, including the A9, and a large number of recreational routes (e.g. cycle ways and Core Paths) that provide access to WLAs and SLAs. The nearest recreational receptor is National Cycle Network Route (NCNR) 1 which, in proximity to the Site, follows the B817 passed the existing Site entrance. There are also a number of hill summits which are used by hill walkers that are located within the Rhiddoroch – Beinn Dearg - Ben Wyvis WLA and of note, the Ben Wyvis summit, which is described as a 'Key View' in the Onshore Wind Energy Supplementary Guidance (OSWESG)[10] (**Figure 4.3: Visual Receptors)**.

4.4 Assessment Scope and Methodology

Key Terms of Reference

4.4.1 The LVIA will consider potential impacts and likely significant effects on:

- landscape fabric, caused by changes to the form of the landscape and its physical constituents;
- landscape character, caused by changes in the key characteristics of the landscape as a result of the Proposed Development;
- the special qualities and integrity of designated and classified landscapes; and
- visual amenity, caused by changes in the composition and scenic qualities of views on visual amenity as a result of the Proposed Development.

4.4.2 The LVIA will assess both in-addition and in-combination effects arising from:

- the Proposed Development in conjunction with the baseline context of operational developments; and
- the Proposed Development in conjunction with the baseline context of operational and cumulative developments (under-construction, consented and in-planning)[11].

[9] Currently unoccupied and reportedly has not been occupied for some years. However, it does not appear obviously uninhabitable, therefore it is proposed to be included in the assessment.
[10] THC (2017) Onshore Wind Energy: Supplementary Guidance – Addendum Supplementary Guidance – Part 2b Highland Strategic Capacity – Landscape Sensitivity Assessment, December 2017. Available at: https://www.highland.gov.uk/downloads/file/16949/onshore_wind_energy_supplementary_guidance-_currently_adopted_suite [Accessed November 2024]
[11] Developments at 'Scoping' will only be included where they are likely to contribute to significant cumulative effects and will be commented on as part of the assessment.

4.4.3 The proposed scope of the LVIA has been informed by the potential layout of the wind turbines only and does not consider options for access track routes or other aspect of the construction or operation of the Proposed Development.

4.4.4 The LVIA will be prepared in accordance with the following guidance and professional standards:

- Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (GLVIA), Third Edition, Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (2013) and subsequent technical notes and clarifications[12];
- Landscape Character Assessment: The Countryside Agency and Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) (2002)[13];
- Guidance for Assessment of Effects on Special Landscape Qualities (AESLQ)[14]
- Technical Guidance Note (TGN) 06/19 Visual Representation of development proposals, Landscape Institute (2019)[15];
- TGN 02/19 Residential Visual Amenity Assessment, Landscape Institute (2019)[16];
- Guidance - Assessing the cumulative landscape and visual impact of onshore wind energy developments, NatureScot (2021)[17];
- Landscape Sensitivity Assessment Guidance, NatureScot (2022)[18];
- Siting and Design Wind Farms in the Landscape Guidance - version 3a, NatureScot (2017)[19];
- Assessing impacts on Wild Land Areas – technical guidance, NatureScot (2020)[20];
- Visual Representation of Windfarms Guidance, Version 2.2, NatureScot (2017)[21];
- Visualisation Standards for Wind Farm Developments, THC (2016)[22];
- THC assessment of Highland Special Landscape Areas[23]; and
- Pre-application Guidance for Onshore Wind Farms, NatureScot (2024)[24].

4.4.5 An assessment of the scheme against key criteria in Section 4 of the THC OSWESG[10] will be included in the LVIA.

Study Area

4.4.6 A 35 km radius Study Area will be adopted for the LVIA (i.e. extending from the outermost turbines of the Proposed Development). This is considered to be proportionate given the established and emergent pattern of development and anticipated extent of significant effects from the Proposed Development itself and cumulative effects.

4.4.7 A 10 km radius Study Area will be used for Core Paths and local recreational trails.

[12] GLVIA (2013). Third Edition, Landscape Institute and IEMA.
[13] The Scottish Countryside Agency and SNH (2002) Landscape Character Assessment. Available at: https://digital.nls.uk/pubs/e-monographs/2020/216649977.23.pdf [Accessed November 2024].
[14] Available at https://www.nature.scot/doc/guidance-assessment-effects-special-landscape-qualities-aeslq [Accessed November 2024]
[15] Landscape Institute (2019). Visualisation Representation of Development Proposals (Technical Guidance Note 06/19). Available at: https://www.landscapeinstitute.org/visualisation/ [Accessed November 2024].
[16] Landscape Institute (2019). Residential Visual Amenity Assessment (Technical Guidance Note 2/19). Available at https://www.landscapeinstitute.org/technical-resource/rvaa/ [Accessed November 2024].
[17] NatureScot (2021). Guidance – Assessing the Cumulative Landscape and Visual Impact of Onshore Wind Energy Developments. Available at https://www.nature.scot/doc/guidance-assessing-cumulative-landscape-and-visual-impact-onshore-wind-energy-developments [Accessed November 2024].
[18] NatureScot (2022). Landscape Sensitivity Assessment Guidance. Available at: https://www.nature.scot/doc/landscape-sensitivity-assessment-guidance-methodology [Accessed November 2024].
[19] NatureScot (2017). Siting and Designing Wind Farms in the Landscape – Version 3a. Available at: https://www.nature.scot/doc/siting-and-designing-wind-farms-landscape-version-3a [Accessed November 2024].
[20] NatureScot (2020). Assessing Impacts on Wild land Areas – Technical Guidance. Available at: https://www.nature.scot/doc/assessing-impacts-wild-land-areas-technical-guidance [Accessed November 2024].
[21] NatureScot (2017). Visual Representation of Wind Farms: Guidance. Available at: https://www.nature.scot/doc/visual-representation-wind-farms-guidance [Accessed November 2024].
[22] THC (2016). Visualisation Standards for Wind Energy Developments. Available at: https://www.highland.gov.uk/downloads/file/12880/visualisation_standards_for_wind_energy_developments [Accessed November 2024].
[23] THC (2011) Assessment of Highland Special Landscape Areas – available at: https://www.highland.gov.uk/downloads/file/2937/assessment_of_highland_special_landscape_areas [Accessed November 2024]
[24] NatureScot (2024). NatureScot Pre-Application Guidance for Onshore Wind Farms. Available at: https://www.nature.scot/doc/naturescot-pre-application-guidance-onshore-wind-farms [Accessed November 2024].

4.4.8 The guidance on Residential Visual Amenity Assessment (RVAA)[16] states that 'When assessing relatively conspicuous structures such as wind turbines, and depending on local landscape characteristics, a preliminary study area of approximately 1.5 - 2 km radius may initially be appropriate in order to begin identifying properties to include in a RVAA'. Within this quoted study area there are no residential properties (**Figure 4.4: Residential Properties within 2 km**). However, consideration will be given to properties that are just outwith 2 km, and any properties that could be affected to an extent that could be material to the determination of the application will be assessed.

4.4.9 The Study Areas are based on:

- type of development proposed (i.e. a repowering scheme);
- developed nature of the existing Site and immediately adjoining landscape and degree to which the Proposed Development would be seen in conjunction with existing wind energy developments or on its own;
- distribution of key landscape and visual receptors; and
- likely extent of significant landscape and visual effects.

4.4.10 Whilst NatureScot's current guidance is to take account of cumulative developments up to 65 km from the Proposed Development, it is proposed to confine the cumulative LVIA to developments within a 35km Study Area to achieve a proportionate cumulative assessment, and one which reflects the distribution of existing, consented and proposed wind energy developments.

Baseline Characterisation

4.4.11 The LVIA will use a range of published data and information, including:

- site survey data;
- aerial photography;
- NatureScot's Scottish LCTs – Maps and Descriptions[8];
- THC OSWESG including Addendum Supplementary Guidance Part 2b, December 2017[10];
- THC SLA Citations[25];
- NatureScot's Local Landscape Area 2017 map[26];
- NatureScot's NSAs map[27];
- meridian data for transportation and recreational routes[28].; and
- Ordnance Survey (OS) address data for residential properties within 2 km of the Proposed Development.

4.4.12 This data will be verified during detailed field reconnaissance that will investigate both daytime conditions as well as those occurring after dark, in order to provide a basis for assessment of daytime effects as well as those associated with aviation lighting on turbines, after dark.

Assessment Viewpoints

4.4.13 In order to verify likely landscape and visual effects, a series of 29 assessment viewpoints is proposed. The location of these viewpoints is shown in **Figure 4.5: ZTV and Viewpoints (Tip Height)** and described in **Table 4.1: Assessment Viewpoints**. These viewpoints are also shown on a comparative Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) (**Figure 4.6: Comparative ZTV (Tip Height) and Viewpoints**) which highlights the additional areas of visibility from the Proposed Development in comparison to the existing Novar Wind Farm.

[25] Available at https://www.highland.gov.uk/sla [Accessed November 2024].
[26] NatureScot (2017). Local Landscape Areas Map 2017. Available at: https://www.nature.scot/doc/archive/local-landscape-areas-map-2017 [Accessed November 2024].
[27] Available at: https://sitelink.nature.scot/map [Accessed November 2024].
[28] Available at: https://meridian-gis-hub-cityofmeridian.hub.arcgis.com/ [Accessed November 2024].

Table 4.1: Assessment Viewpoints (VP)

VP	Location	Co-ordinates	Receptors Present at VP*
1	Beinn Dearg	225989, 881181	L: LCT 328 – Rugged Mountain Massif, Fannichs, Beinn Dearg and Glencalvie SLA and Riddoroch-Beinn Dearg – Ben Wyvis WLA. V: Hill walkers.
2	Carn Salachaidh	251844, 887398	L: LCT 139 – Rugged Mountain Massif, Riddoroch-Beinn Dearg – Ben Wyvis WLA. V: Hill walkers.
3	Loch Glass, by Wyvis Lodge	248534, 873901	L: LCT 329 - Rounded Mountain Massif – Rounded Hills. V: Recreational receptors and residential receptors.
4	Strath Rusdale	256858, 877926	L: LCT 339- Inland Strath. V: Recreational receptors and nearby residential receptors.
5	A9 between Duncanston and Causeway	259049, 858074	L: LCT 346 – Open Farmed Slopes. V: Road users and tourists.
6	Boath	257282, 874038	L: LCT 341 - Forest Edge Farming V: Recreational receptors and nearby residential receptors.
7	River Alness, northeast of Boath	258821, 874618	L: LCT 341 - Forest Edge Farming V: Recreational receptors and nearby residential receptors.
8	Minor Road by Ardross Distillery	260963, 874556	L: LCT 341 – Forest Edge Farming. Also Ardross Castle Garden and Designed Landscape. V: Recreational receptors and nearby residential receptors and road users.
9	Loch Morie	251847, 877345	L: LCT 330 – Rounded Hills and Moorland Slopes. V: Recreational receptors and nearby residential receptors and road users.
10	Summit of Beinn Tharsuinn	260643, 879255	L: LCT 330 – Rounded Hills and Moorland Slopes. V: Hill walkers.
11	Cnoc Fyrish	260763, 869802	L: LCT 330 - Rounded Hills and Moorland Slopes. V: Hill walkers.
12	Cromarty, Black Isle	278581, 867673	L: LCT 346 – Open Farmed Slopes, as well as Cromarty Firth seascape. V: Recreational receptors and nearby residential receptors, ferry passengers and road users.
13	Easter Brae, Black Isle	266038, 862986	L: LCT 346 – Open Farmed Slopes, as well as Cromarty Firth seascape. V: Recreational receptors and nearby residential receptors and road users.
14	Dornoch Point	280457, 887641	L: LCT 140 – Sandy Beaches and Dunes, as well as Dornoch Firth seascape. Also Dornoch Firth NSA. V: Recreational receptors.
15	Dornoch Firth Bridge	274779, 886140	L: Located between LCT 140 – Sandy Beaches and Dunes and 343 – Coastal Shelf, in the Dornoch Firth seascape. Also Dornoch Firth NSA. V: Recreational receptors.

VP	Location	Co-ordinates	Receptors Present at VP*
16	An t - Socach, Ben Wyvis, off summit *Note: Views fom summit partially obscured by intervening topography.*	247073, 868179	L: LCT 328 – Rounded Mountain Massif. Also Fannichs, Beinn Dearg and Glencalvie SLA and Riddoroch-Beinn Dearg – Ben Wyvis WLA. V: Hill walkers.
17	A835 at Leanaig junction	256041, 853824	L: LCT 346 – Open Farmed Slopes. V: Recreational receptors (NCNR 1) and nearby residential receptors and road users.
18	B9039, approach to Ardersier	277851, 853860	L: LCT 248 – Coastal Farmlands. V: Recreational receptors and nearby residential receptors and road users.
19	Culbokie, Black Isle	260762, 859879	L: LCT 346 – Open Farmed Slopes. V: Recreational receptors and nearby residential receptors and road users.
20	Glen Glass	252373, 870918	L: LCT 329 – Rounded Mountain Massif. V: Hill walkers.
21	A817, Invergordon	269748, 868892	L: LCT 345 – Farmed and Forested Slopes, overlooking Cromarty Firth. V: Road users, residentual recptors and tourists.
22	Tom Ban Mor	231963, 875314	L: LCT 328 – Rugged Mountain Massif. V: Hill walkers.
23	Diebidale Ridge	243211, 883656	L: LCT 139 – Rugged Mountain Massif. Also Fannichs, Beinn Dearg and Glencalvie SLA and Riddoroch-Beinn Dearg – Ben Wyvis WLA. V: Hill walkers.
24	Knockfarrel	250635, 858595	L: LCT 346 – Open farmed Slopes V: Walkers and visitors to hill fort.
25	A862 at Lentran	257880, 845435	L: LCT 342 - Farmed River Plains V: Visitors to the vantage point
26	A96 between Nairn and the Inverness Retail Park	271461, 847566	L: LCT 284: Coastal Farmlands. V: Road user and visitors.
27	Sutors of Cromarty, Rosemarkie and Fort George SLA	280754, 869031	L: LCT 346: open Farmed SlopesSutors of Cromarty, Rosemarkie and Fort George SLA. V: Hill walkers and tourists.
28	A9 East of Alness	273106, 872342	L: LCT 345: Farmed and Forested Slopes. V: Road user and visitors.
29	Viewing tower at Inverness Castle	266662, 845126	L: Inverness Townscape V: Visitors to the vantage point

**L = Landscape Receptors, V = Visual Receptors*

4.4.14 It is anticipated that 3-night viewpoints will be selected and included in the assessment that will take account of impacts associated with aviation lighting on the proposed turbines. These viewpoints are to be agreed with NatureScot and THC once the scope of the lighting scheme is understood. To assist with this consultation a hub height ZTV and a preliminary Visible Aviation Lighting ZTV will be prepared once the design is further progressed and these figures will also be included in the EIAR.

Visualisation

4.4.15 The approach to visualisations will follow NatureScot's standard visualisation advice[21] as far as is reasonably practical, taking into account the context of the Proposed Development as a repowering scheme. Additionally, NatureScot Pre-App Guidance for Onshore Wind Farms (updated February 2024)[7] will be followed in respect of visualisation of repowering schemes, including visualisations of aviation lighting on turbines.

4.4.16 Visualisations are also to be prepared to THC Standards[22].

Potential Impacts Scoped In

4.4.17 **Table 4.2: Potential Construction Effects** and **Table 4.3: Potential Operational Effects** outline the potential significant landscape and visual effects to be scoped into the EIA and reasons for their inclusion.

Table 4.2: Potential Construction Effects

Potential Effect	Reason
Landscape Effects	
Effects on Landscape Fabric	Any potential significant effects are, however, likely to be highly localised and of short duration, and controlled by suitable construction controls as defined in a CEMP.
Effects on Landscape Character	Any potential significant effects are most likely to be confined to the host landscape (LCT 329: Rounded Mountain Massif) and the landscape located to the east of the Site (LCT 330: Rounded Hills and Moorland Slopes – Ross and Cromarty). These would, however, be short in duration and alleviated by suitable construction controls as defined in a CEMP.
Effects on the Special Qualities and Integrity of Landscape Designations and Classifications.	Any potential significant effects are likely to occur in neighbouring areas including the following landscape designations and classifications: • The Dornoch Firth NSA (NSA 40). • The Ben Wyvis SLA, The Fannichs, Ben Dearg and Glencalvie SLA and Sutors of Cromarty, Rosemarkie and Fort George SLA. • Ardross Castle GDL, Brahan GDL, Balnagown Castle GDL and Cromarty House GDL. However, such effects would be of short duration and alleviated by suitable construction controls as defined in a CEMP.
Visual Effects	
Effects on the visual amenity of road users.	Construction effects on neighbouring roads are likely to be localised and of limited duration. Road routes that are to be addressed in the LVIA include: A9 (which is a key route and gateway in identified in OSWESG[10]), A835 by Conon Bridge, A834, A832, A890, B817 coastal route, B9163, B9169, B9175, and B9176.
Effects on visual amenity of recreational receptors.	Construction effects on nearby recreational routes are likely to be localised and of limited duration. NCNR 1 and summits across the Study Area with views of the Proposed Development will be included in the detailed LVIA. However, only Core Paths within a 10 km Study Area will be addressed in the LVIA.
Effects on the amenity of residents/ visitors to settlements and residential properties	Potential effects on the amenity of settlements and scattered dwellings. Settlements include: • Alness; • Ardresier; • Beauly; • Cromarty; • Culloden; • Inverness; • Invergorden; • Kirkhill; • Maryburgh; and • Muir of Ord. The assessment of residential amenity will consider those individual properties just outside of the 2 km Study Area, as appropriate.

Table 4.3: Potential Operational Effects

Potential Effect	Reason
Landscape Effects	
Effects on Landscape Fabric	Significant effects are likely to be highly localised and confined to locations within the existing operational wind farm.
Effects on Landscape Character	Significant effects are most likely to occur within the host landscape (LCT 329: Rounded Mountain Massif) and the landscape located over to the east of the Site (LCT 330: Rounded Hills and Moorland Slopes – Ross and Cromarty). However, the assessment will also consider the effects on the following LCTs within the Study Area that would have visibility of the Proposed Development, as indicated in **Figure 4.5: ZTV (Tip Height) and Viewpoints**: • LCT 135: rounded hills; • LCTs 139 and 328 – rugged mountain massifs; • LCT 140 – sandy beaches and dunes; • LCT 284 – coastal farmlands; • LCT 329 – rounded mountain massifs; • LCT 341 – forest edge farming; • LCT 344 – lowland farmed plain; • LCT 345 – farmed and forested slopes; • LCT 346 – open farmed slopes; and • LCT 347 – open steep farmed slopes. Note: Consideration will be given to daytime effects on these character types as well as the effect of aviation lighting on turbines on the night character of these landscapes. The Aviation Lighting Impact Assessment will be undertaken in line with recently published guidance by NatureScot[29].
Effects on Landscape designations and classifications	Assessment of the effects of the operational development on the special qualities and integrity of the following landscape designations and classifications is intended: • The Dornoch Firth NSA; • The Ben Wyvis SLA, The Fannichs, Ben Dearg and Glencalvie SLA, Sutors of Cromarty, Rosemarkie and Fort George SLA; • Ardross Castle GDL, Brahan GDL, Balnagown Castle GDL and Cromarty House GDL. Consideration will be given to daytime effects of the Proposed Development as well as those arising from aviation lighting on turbines after dark[29]. As the Site is located outwith a WLA, no Wild Land Impact Assessment will be undertaken. This is consistent with Policy 4g of National Planning Framework (NPF) 4 that states that *"...effects of development outwith wild land areas will not be a significant consideration."* Notwithstanding this, potential effects on the WLA will be considered in the siting and design of the Proposed Development.
Visual Effects	
Effects on the visual amenity of road users.	Effects will be based on tourist and visitor experience rather than the commuters in the LVIA. Effects that will be assessed include the sequential effects, lighting effects and cumulative effects. Road routes that are to be addressed include: A9 (which is a key route and gateway

[29] NatureScot (2024) Guidance on Aviation Lighting Impact Assessment. Available at: https://www.nature.scot/doc/guidance-aviation-lighting-impact-assessment [Accessed November 2024]

Potential Effect	Reason
	in identified in OSWESG[10]), A835 by Conon Bridge, A834, A832, A890, B817 coastal route, B9163, B9169, B9175, and B9176. Consideration will be given to daytime effects on the amenity of these routes, as well as the effect of aviation lighting on turbines[29].
Effects on visual amenity of recreational receptors on footpaths and at hill summits	Effects, including sequential effects, lighting effects and cumulative effects on the following summits will be addressed in the LVIA: • Meall Mor; • Meall an Tuirc; • Bendeallt; • Cnoc Gille Mo Bhrianaig; • Ben Wyvis; • Beinn nan Eun; • Beinn Tharsuinn; and • Carn Chuinneag. Consideration will be given to daytime effects on the amenity of these routes, as well as the effect of aviation lighting on turbines[29].
Effects on the amenity of residents/visitors to settlements and residential properties	The LVIA will address effects, including sequential effects, lighting effects and cumulative effects, on the following settlements: • Alness; • Ardresier; • Beauly; • Cromarty • Culloden; • Inverness; • Invergorden; • Kirkhill; • Maryburgh; • Muir of Ord. LVIA will also consider scattered individual dwellings within Boath and Glen Glass, including the Loch Glass house, located just beyond 2 km of the Proposed Development. Consideration will be given to daytime effects on the amenity of these routes, as well as the effect of aviation lighting on turbines[29].

4.4.18 In relation to the potential alternative construction, and hence operational, programmes (refer to **Section 2.3**) the LVIA will consider the following to ensure a worst-case scenario is assessed and reported within the EIAR to allow appropriate mitigation to be recommended:

- Construction assessment will consider Scenario 1 (Single Phase Construction) as this would represent the worst-case scenario of all works occurring within a single phase of construction.
- Operational assessment will consider the development as a whole (i.e. upon completion of either Scenario 1: Single Phase Construction or Scenario 2: Two Phased Construction) to represent the worst-case scenario when all of the repowered turbines are operational. 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.

Issues Scoped Out

4.4.19 Decommissioning effects associated with the Proposed Development are likely to be of limited duration and geographical extents and to constitute landscape and visual effects far less than those associated with the construction phase. Accordingly, it is not intended to include decommissioning of the Proposed Development in the LVIA. In any event, the decommissioning of the Proposed Development would be subject to a separate decommissioning plan.

4.4.20 No Wild Land Impact Assessments are proposed as the Proposed Development is not located within a WLA. This is considered consistent with the provisions of Policy 4 (g) of Scotland's National Policy Framework (NPF) 4 states that *"buffer zones around wild land will not be applied, and effects of development outwith wild land areas will not be a significant consideration."* Notwithstanding this, potential effects on the WLA will be considered and reported in the LVIA and in the description of the siting and design of the Proposed Development.

Cumulative Effects

4.4.21 In assessing potential cumulative landscape and visual effects, consideration will be given to cumulative effects arising from combined and / or consecutive (concurrent) visibility (where the

observer is able to see two or more developments from one viewpoint location), and sequential effects (where a number of similar developments would be visible individually or simultaneously over a sequence of connected viewpoints, such as would be found along a road or footpath). The cumulative assessment will also address both in-addition and in-combination effects.

4.4.22 The LVIA will provide a detailed assessment of likely in-addition and in-combination effects arising from the Proposed Development, existing / under-construction, consented and proposed developments only, but will provide a commentary on the effect of the inclusion of known scoping schemes where they have a known timescale to planning submission and where they have potential to play an important part in the cumulative effects of wind energy development.

4.5 Questions to Consultees

4.5.1 The purpose of this section is to provide specific and focused questions to consultees where agreement is sought, particularly for issues to be scoped out or where we are proposing any deviations from standard methodology.

Table 4.4: Questions to Consultees

Ref	Question
Q4.1	Do consultees agree with the extent of the Study Areas proposed: 35 km for the LVIA, limited to 10km Study Area for Core Paths; residential properties in Boath and Glen Glass including the Loch Glass house for the assessment of residential amenity; and 35 km for the cumulative LVIA?
Q4.2	Do consultees agree that there are unlikely to be significant effects from decommissioning of the Proposed Development and accordingly this will be scoped out of the LVIA?
Q4.3	Do consultees agree that the location of assessment viewpoints proposed will provide a representative basis for the assessment?
Q4.4	Do consultees agree that the assessment of Scenario 1 (Single Phase Construction) will represent the worst-case scenario for assessing the landscape and visual amenity effects related to the Proposed Development during construction?
Q4.5	Do consultees agree that the assessment of the development as a whole (i.e. upon completion of Scenario 1 or Scenario 2 when all repowered turbines are operational) will represent the worst-case scenario for the assessment of the operational effects of the Proposed Development on landscape and visual amenity?

4.6 Additional Consultation

4.6.1 No additional consultation is proposed in relation to the scope of the LVIA.

5. CULTURAL HERITAGE

5.1 Overview

5.1.1 This Chapter outlines the baseline archaeological and cultural heritage conditions of the Site and outlines the methodology that will be utilised for the identification and assessment of effect on heritage assets within the EIAR. This section also considers the potential for significant effects on heritage assets arising from the Proposed Development and highlights instances where mitigation measures may be required.

5.1.2 This Chapter is supported by the following:

- Appendix 5.1: Cultural Heritage Baseline Review;
- Appendix 5.2: Heritage Asset and Event Gazetteer;
- Figure 5.1: Non-designated Heritage Assets within Site and 1 km Study Area; and
- Figure 5.2: Designated Heritage Assets, Study Areas and ZTV.

5.2 Pre-Scoping Consultation

5.2.1 Further to the pre-application consultation meeting that was held with THC on 14th August 2024 (refer to Section 3.5) the following consultation in relation to the cultural heritage assessment has been undertaken prior to submission of this Scoping Report.

5.2.2 Consultation with Historic Environment Scotland (HES) was undertaken on 27th June 2024 with regards to the proposed heritage viewpoints and visualisations for the assessment, with further information issued on 8th August 2024 at the request of HES. HES responded 28th August 2024 noting that they were generally content with the visualisations proposed and recommended the inclusion of two clusters of chambered cairns on the Black Isle. HES also noted the potential for physical and setting impacts on the Cladh Churadain, chapel and burial ground (SM5007) which is located immediately south of the existing access track for the Novar Wind Farm.

5.3 Baseline Conditions

5.3.1 The baseline for the purposes of this Scoping Report has been compiled from Geographic Information Systems (GIS) data for designated heritage assets available on the HES Historic Environment Portal and from PastMap, as held by HES and regularly updated by local Historic Environment Records (HERs), for National Record of the Historic Environment (NRHE) data. An up to date HER extract will be obtained from THC Historic Environment Team (HET) as part of the preparation of the EIAR Chapter. A preliminary review of historical mapping and satellite imagery of the Site has also been undertaken. Study Areas, as set out in Section 5.4, have been used in the formation of the baseline.

5.3.2 Heritage assets discussed herein are depicted on **Figure 5.1: Non-Designated Heritage Assets within the Site and 1 km Study Area** and **Figure 5.2: Designated Heritage Assets, Study Areas and ZTV**, listed in **Appendix 5.1: Cultural Heritage Baseline Review** and a gazetteer is provided in **Appendix 5.2: Heritage Asset and Event Gazetteer**. Each asset has been assigned a unique "Asset No." or "Event No." and the gazetteer includes information regarding the type, period, grid reference, HER number, protective designation, and other descriptive information, as derived from the consulted sources on the NRHE and HES Designations portal.

5.3.3 The baseline heritage context can be summarised as follows, with further detail provided in **Appendix 5.1: Cultural Heritage Baseline Review:**

- No designated heritage assets within the Site;
- Within the 1 km of the access track leading to the proposed wind turbine area there are three Scheduled Monuments, one Category B Listed Building, and one Inventory GDL;
- Within the 5 km Study Area (from the proposed area for the wind turbines) there are eleven designated assets, including five Scheduled Monuments, two Category A Listed Buildings, two Category B Listed Buildings, one Category C Listed Building, and one Inventory GDL.

- Within the 10 km Study Area (from the proposed area for the wind turbines) there are a further 21 designated assets. These comprise 17 Scheduled Monuments, three Category A Listed Buildings and one Inventory GDL.
- There are six non-designated assets recorded within the Site application boundary and a further 93 non-designated assets recorded with the 1 km Study Area (from the Site application boundary).

5.4 Assessment Scope and Methodology

Key Terms of Reference

5.4.1 The assessment will be undertaken in accordance with the following guidance to assist in the determination of potential effects on cultural heritage:

- The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) Commissioning Work or Providing Consultancy Advice on Archaeology and the Historic Environment[30], Standard and Guidance for Historic Environment Desk Based Assessments[31], Code of Conduct: Professional Ethics in Archaeology[32], and Regulations for Professional Conduct[33];
- Managing Change in the Historic Environment: Setting[34];
- NatureScot and HES's published guidance contained within 'Environmental Impact Assessment Handbook v5'[35];
- Our Past, Our Future: The Strategy for Scotland's Historic Environment[36];
- Planning Advice Note (PAN) 2/2011: Planning and Archaeology[37];
- Highland Historic Environment Strategy - Supplementary Planning Guidance[38]; and
- THC Reporting Standards for Archaeological Work[39].

5.4.2 The assessment will also consider relevant legislation and policy, such as that in National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4) and the Historic Environment Policy for Scotland[40], with full details provided within the EIAR.

5.4.3 There are three principal impact types that can affect cultural heritage assets: physical impact, setting change, and cumulative impact. Direct changes to assets during the construction phase will relate to the physical removal or damage (in part or whole) to a heritage asset.

5.4.4 The baseline environmental conditions against which changes to the setting of heritage assets will be assessed is the existing prevailing environmental conditions at the time of the assessment and thus will include the existing wind farm as this is an established feature within the environment, having been constructed in 1997.

[30] Chartered Institute of Archaeologists (2020). Standard and Guidance for Commissioning Work or Providing Consultancy Advice on Archaeology and the Historic Environment. Available at: https://www.archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/CIfAS%26GCommissioning_2.pdf [Accessed November 2024].
[31] Chartered Institute of Archaeologists (2020). Standard and Guidance for Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment. Available at: https://www.archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/CIfAS%26GDBA_4.pdf [Accessed November 2024].
[32] Chartered Institute of Archaeologists (2021). Code of Conduct: Professional Ethics in Archaeology. Available at: https://www.archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/Code%20of%20conduct.pdf [Accessed November 2024].
[33] Chartered Institute of Archaeologists (2021). Regulations for Professional Conduct. Available at: https://www.archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/Regulations%20for%20professional%20conduct.pdf [Accessed November 2024].
[34] HES (2020). Managing Change in the Historic Environment: Setting. Available at: https://www.historicenvironment.scot/archives-and-research/publications/publication/?publicationId=80b7c0a0-584b-4625-b1fd-a60b009c2549 [Accessed November 2024].
[35] NatureScot and HES (2018). Environmental Impact Assessment Handbook, Version 5. Available at: https://www.nature.scot/professional-advice/planning-and-development/environmental-assessment/environmental-impact-assessment [Accessed November 2024].
[36] HES (2023). Our Past, Our Future: The Strategy for Scotland's Historic Environment. Available at: https://www.historicenvironment.scot/archives-and-research/publications/publication/?publicationId=79204155-9eb2-4d29-ab14-aff200ec2801 [Accessed November 2024].
[37] Scottish Government (2011). PAN 2/2011 Planning and Archaeology. Available at: https://www.gov.scot/publications/pan-2-2011-planning-archaeology [Accessed November 2024].
[38] THC (2013). Highland Historic Environment Strategy. Available at: https://www.highland.gov.uk/downloads/file/11047/highland_historic_environment_strategy [Accessed November 2024].
[39] THC (2023). Reporting standards for archaeological work. Available at: https://www.highland.gov.uk/downloads/file/1022/standards_for_archaeological_wok [Accessed November 2024].
[40] HES (2019) Historic Environment Policy for Scotland. Available at: https://www.historicenvironment.scot/advice-and-support/planning-and-guidance/historic-environment-policy-for-scotland-heps/ [Accessed November 2024]

5.4.5 Assessment of the potential impacts upon setting will be informed by ZTVs, and, where necessary, visualisations (a combination of wireframes or photomontages). The setting assessment will be undertaken with reference to HES' Managing Change Guidance[34]. Where significant effects are considered likely, a detailed assessment of adverse impacts upon the integrity of setting will be undertaken. Significant adverse effects on integrity of setting are judged here to relate to whether a change would adversely affect the asset's key attributes or elements of setting which contribute to an asset's significance.

Study Area

5.4.6 In order to assess the potential for significant effects on cultural heritage assets resulting from the Proposed Development, the following study areas would be adopted:

- Core study area (the Site) - includes all land within the Site application boundary that would be subject to the assessment for potential direct effects;
- 1 km Study Area - identification of all known cultural heritage assets and known previous archaeological interventions within 1 km of the Site application boundary in order to help predict whether any similar hitherto unknown archaeological remains are likely to survive within the Site and thus be impacted by the Proposed Development;
- 5 km Study Area from the proposed area for the wind turbines - assessment of potential effects on the settings of all designated cultural heritage assets including Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings, GDLs, Battlefields, Conservation Areas, and assets deemed to be of national significance in the Highland HER;
- 10 km Study Area from the proposed area for the wind turbines - assessment of potential effects on the setting of all nationally important cultural heritage assets including Scheduled Monuments, Category A Listed Buildings, GDLs, Inventory Battlefields and assets deemed to be of national significance in the Highland HER.

5.4.7 Consideration will also be given to the wider ZTV (i.e. beyond 10 km) for identification of heritage assets particularly sensitive to changes in their settings which may have significant views in the direction of the Site.

Baseline Characterisation

5.4.8 The assessment will establish the historic baseline for the Site. Baseline data will be collated from the following sources:

- the NRHE, including designated and non-designated heritage assets, as held by HES;
- HER data for Highland as supplied by the Highland HER;
- National Library of Scotland for published historic and OS maps;
- National Collection of Aerial Photography (NCAP) as held by HES for vertical and oblique aerial photographs;
- Jim Bone Collection of Aerial Photography for oblique aerial photographs;
- Scottish Remote Sensing Portal for LiDAR data (note: there is currently no LiDAR data which covers the Site);
- Scottish Palaeoecological Archive Database (SPAD) for information regarding the palaeoecological and paleoenvironmental potential of the Site and surrounding landscape;
- Historic Land-Use Assessment Data for Scotland (HLAmap);
- published archival sources;
- walkover survey of the Site;
- setting assessment visits to designated assets with the potential to be impacted by the Proposed Development - a ZTV plan will identify which assets require detailed assessment and which can be scoped out because they are unlikely to be significantly affected; and
- visualisations, where relevant, to support the setting assessment.

5.5 Likely Significant Effects

Potential Impacts Scoped In

5.5.1 The construction assessment will consider the potential for direct impacts on as-yet unknown remains that may be present within the Site. Desk-based assessment and walkover survey will be undertaken to aid in a better understanding of the potential for such impacts and mitigation recommendations will be made in order to avoid or offset impacts accordingly.

5.5.2 The operational assessment will consider the identified heritage assets in the study areas surrounding the Site which could be subject to potential impacts upon setting, including the potential for cumulative impacts.

5.5.3 In relation to the potential alternative construction, and hence operational, programmes (refer to Section 2.3) the heritage assessment will consider the following to ensure a worst-case scenario is assessed and reported within the EIAR and allow appropriate mitigation to be recommended:

- Construction assessment will consider Scenario 1 (Single Phase Construction) as this would represent the worst-case assessment of the potential for direct impacts on unknown remains from all constructions works occurring within a single phase of construction.
- Operational settings assessment will consider the development as a whole (i.e. upon completion of either Scenario 1: Single Phase Construction and Scenario 2: Two Phase Construction) to represent the worst-case scenario when all of the repowered turbines are operational. 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.

5.5.4 A ZTV will be used to identify assets intervisible with the Proposed Development and / or where the Proposed Development would appear in key views to and from assets.

5.5.5 In the Study Area of the wider ZTV (i.e. beyond 10 km) two clusters of chambered cairns on the Black Isle have been identified as having clearly defined views and will be included in the settings assessment. These include:

- Glenurquhart, long cairn 800m NW of (SM4671)
- Grey Cairn, cairn and long cairn (SM4672)
- Easter Brae, long cairn & cairn (SM2457)
- Wester Brae, long cairn 650m SSE of (SM4559)
- Woodhead, chambered cairn 350m E of (SM4566)
- Woodhead, long cairn 600m ESE of Woodhead Farm (SM4568)

5.5.6 Visualisations (either wireframes or photomontages or a combination thereof) will be produced for some assets to aid in assessment of settings impacts. These assets include those considered to be most likely to be subject to significant effects, and those which would be representative of views across the Study Area and would therefore inform the assessment of other nearby assets. As agreed through consultation with HES (refer to Section 5.2) the following visualisations will be prepared for the assets detailed in **Table 5.1: Proposed Visualisations**.

Table 5.1: Proposed Visualisations

Asset	Wireframe	Photomontage
Boath, three chambered cairns NE and NNE of Easter Ballone Farm (SM6644; Assets 17.1 to 17.3)	Yes	Yes
Wyvis Lodge (LB7906; Asset 23.1)	Yes	Yes
Stittenham House, chambered cairn 135m W of, SM4700 (Asset 1)	Yes	-
Carn na Feinne, chambered cairn (SM4812, Asset 2)	Yes	Yes
Carn na Croiche, chambered cairn (SM4750, Asset 5)	Yes	-
Eileanach Lodge, settlement & field system 550m WSW of, SM4707 (Asset 11)	Yes	-
Drumore, farmstead, field system, chambered cairn & cupmarks 600m W of, SM4945 (Asset 13)	Yes	Yes
Glenurquhart, long cairn 800m NW of, SM4671 (Asset 129)	Yes	-
Easter Brae, long cairn & cairn, SM2457 (Asset 132)	Yes	-
Ardross Castle, LB15031 (Asset 26.1 to 26.4)	Yes	Yes
Ardross Castle, GDL00023 (Asset 31)	Yes	Yes

5.5.7 Wireframes from Glenurquhart, long cairn 800m NW of (SM4671) and Easter Brae, long cairn & cairn (SM2457) and are considered representative of views from the clusters of chambered cairns located on the Black Isle in these areas. The assessment of individual chambered cairns within each cluster will be supported by photographs.

5.5.8 The wireframes for other assets where no photomontage is proposed, would be representative of a worst-case scenario of visibility as these assets are located in forestry. This will allow for assessment of future setting scenarios in the event that forestry plantations and other vegetative screening were to be removed.

5.5.9 The proposed photomontage visualisations for the Boath (Asset 17.1 to 17.3) and Wyvis Lodge (Asset 23.1) assets will be helpful in understanding how the Proposed Development may appear in key views from these assets towards the Proposed Development. The remaining identified assets are considered to provide a reasonable geographic spread of locations from which the Proposed Development would be visible.

Issues Scoped Out

5.5.10 As the layout of the Proposed Development would be designed to avoid direct effects on known designated and non-designated cultural heritage assets either within or outwith the Site application boundary no further consideration of such effects is proposed and this will be scoped out of the assessment. The layout of the Proposed Development would be designed to avoid all known heritage assets to ensure that no direct impacts occur and accordingly further consideration of such effects will be scoped out of the assessment.

5.5.11 The Cladh Churadain chapel and burial ground (SM5007) is located adjacent to the access track to the existing wind farm. Any changes to the track in this area would be designed to ensure that there would be no direct impact on this Scheduled Monument and a suitable buffer would be put in place to ensure its protection during construction works.

5.5.12 A desk-based review of the settings of heritage assets located outwith the ZTV has concluded that there are no assets for which key views towards the asset would feature the Proposed Development in such a way as to have an adverse impact upon the asset's setting. Accordingly, all assets outwith the ZTV will be scoped out of detailed assessment, as these assets are unlikely to be significantly adversely impacted by the Proposed Development.

5.5.13 With the exception of the assets which have been noted in paragraph 5.5.5, impacts on the setting of nationally important designated heritage assets beyond 10 km of the Site application boundary will be scoped out of further assessment. A review of the Scoping ZTV (**Figure 5.2: Designated Heritage Assets, Study Areas and ZTV**) against designated heritage assets of national importance beyond 10 km has been undertaken as part of this Scoping review. This has indicated that Scheduled Monuments beyond 10 km which lie within the ZTV are relatively confined to the area south of the 10 km Study Area, primarily extending along the north and south sides of the Cromarty Firth. The majority of these relate to prehistoric funerary cairns, but there are also henges, settlement remains and fortified sites from the same period, as well as later medieval and post-medieval ecclesiastical sites and World War I and II military remains. For most of these assets, their setting tends to relate to the Cromarty Firth itself and the views along it or across it. The Site itself occupies high ground beyond the northern edge of the Cromarty Firth, above and beyond the periphery of the Firth's immediate environs. While there may be some distant views of the Proposed Development from such assets, it is unlikely to feature significantly in views and would not, as a result of the geography and a lack of designated assets to the west and north, intervene between related assets or between assets and landscape features important to their understanding and appreciation. As such, with the exception of the Scheduled Monuments noted in paragraph 5.5.5, no Scheduled Monuments beyond 10 km have been identified for inclusion in the assessment.

5.5.14 Other nationally important designated assets beyond 10 km which lie within the ZTV include GDLs, for example, at Cromarty House (GDL00120); Balnagown Castle (GDL00046); Brahan (GD00068); Fairburn (GDL000174); and Leys Castle (GDL000264), and in some cases their associated Category A Listed Buildings. The nearest of these, Balnagown Castle (GDL00046) is over 18 km from the Site, and the ZTV indicates that visibility would be intermittent across most. Given the distances involved and intermittent visibility no significant effects are expected and as such no GDLs or Category A Listed Buildings beyond 10 km have been identified for inclusion in the assessment.

5.5.15 Two Inventory Battlefields are situated within the ZTV, Culloden Battlefield (BTL06) and Auldearn Battlefield (BTL03). These lie 30 km and 37 km from the Site and are situated on the south side of the Moray Firth. The intervening distance is such that it is considered unlikely that the Proposed Development would have significant effects upon their settings.

5.5.16 There are no World Heritage Sites within the ZTV.

5.5.17 Detailed assessment of impacts on cultural heritage assets arising from the decommissioning phase of the Proposed Development are proposed to be scoped out of the assessment as impacts are likely to be far less than those experienced during construction and operation. It is anticipated that direct impacts during the decommissioning phase would be limited and would only occur if new ground works 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. All operational effects upon the settings of designated assets would be reversed with the removal of the turbines and infrastructure following decommissioning.

Cumulative Effects

5.5.18 The potential for cumulative effects will be considered for designated assets as identified in the 1 km, 5 km and 10 km Study Areas.

5.5.19 The assessment will take into account the relative scale (i.e. size and number of turbines) of the identified developments, their distance from the affected assets, and the potential degree of visibility of the various developments from the assets. Cumulative visualisations from those assets most likely to experience significant cumulative impacts on their settings will be provided, as appropriate.

5.5.20 The cumulative developments to be included in the assessment would be agreed through consultation and the assessment will be undertaken according to the NatureScot Guidance[17] and the HES / SNH (now NatureScot) Environmental Impact Assessment Handbook[35].

5.6 Questions to Consultees

5.6.1 The purpose of this section is to provide specific and focused questions to consultees where agreement is sought, particularly for issues to be scoped out or where we are proposing any deviations from standard methodology.

Table 5.2: Questions to Consultees

Ref	Question
Q5.1	Is the proposed assessment methodology, including proposed Study Areas, accepted?
Q5.2	Do the consultees agree with the receptors and impacts proposed to be scoped out of the assessment?
Q5.3	Are there any additional assets beyond the proposed Study Areas that consultees consider significant effects are likely to occur?
Q5.4	Initial viewpoints for visualisations have been identified through consultation with HES. Are there any additional assets for which consultees would like to see visualisations?
Q5.5	Do consultees agree that the assessment of Scenario 1 (Single Phase Construction) will represent the worst-case scenario for the construction assessment on unknown heritage assets?
Q5.6	Do consultees agree that the assessment of the development as a whole (i.e. upon completion of Scenario 1 or Scenario 2 when all repowered turbines are operational) will represent the worst-case scenario for the assessment of the operational effects of the Proposed Development on cultural heritage assets?

5.7 Additional Consultation

5.7.1 Consultation with HES and the Highland HET will be undertaken in order to inform the assessment and any proposals for mitigation by design and / or offset mitigation as appropriate.

6. BIODIVERSITY (NON-AVIAN SPECIES AND HABITATS)

6.1 Overview

6.1.1 This Chapter outlines the baseline ecological conditions of the Site and outlines the proposed approach to the assessment in accordance with best practice guidance.

6.1.2 This Chapter is supported by the following:

- Figure 6.1: Ecological Designated Sites.

6.2 Pre-Scoping Consultation

6.2.1 Further to the pre-application consultation meeting that was held with THC on 14th August 2024 (refer to Section 3.5) the following consultation in relation to the ecological assessment has been undertaken prior to submission of this Scoping Report.

6.2.2 Consultation with NatureScot was undertaken on 19th June 2024 to seek agreement on the proposed scope of the ecological surveys. NatureScot responded on 27th June 2024 to confirm that the proposed survey scope looked appropriate and there were no further comments to add.

6.3 Baseline Conditions

Habitats and Protected Species

6.3.1 Habitat surveys were undertaken in June, October and November 2024 using the UK Habitat Classification (UKHab) approach[41] for the Site and a 250 m Study Area around the Site application boundary. National Vegetation Classification (NVC)[42] surveys were also carried out across the Site to help identify potential Groundwater Dependent Terrestrial Ecosystems (GWDTEs)[43].

6.3.2 The baseline surveys identify that the Site, as part of the existing wind farm, is dominated by blanket bog and degraded bog habitat with notable areas of wet heathland with cross-leaved heath, mountain heath and willow scrub and upland flushes. Blanket bog is included within the Highland Biodiversity Action Plan[44], Scottish Biodiversity List (SBL)[45] and Habitats Directive[46].

6.3.3 High-level mapping[2] (refer to **Figure 8.1: Carbon and Peatland Map (2016) Extract**) predicts that most of the Site is located within an area of potentially nationally important peatland (Class 1 Peat); classified as '*nationally important carbon-rich soils, deep peat and priority peatland habitat, with areas likely to be of high conservation value'*. The baseline surveys broadly support this, with ecological surveys identifying the Site as being dominated by blanket bog, with areas of degraded bog habitat, and the Stage 1 peat surveys (refer to Chapter 8) identifying areas of deep peat (>1 m) in the north, central and south of Site. This suggests a mix of Class 1 and Class 2 (classified as '*nationally important carbon-rich soils, deep peat and priority peatland habitat. Areas of potentially high conservation value and restoration potential*') peatland across the Site. These are both of national importance with high conservation value, with Class 2 also having a high potential for restoration. Further assessment of the condition of the peatland on Site will be undertaken through a Peatland Condition Assessment.

6.3.4 For the access track which leads up to the area for the proposed wind turbines, baseline surveys recorded the following habitat types: Ancient woodland (mixed), coniferous woodland (semi-natural and plantation), felled coniferous plantation, broadleaved woodland, mixed woodland, wet woodland, gorse scrub, mixed scrub, upland acid grassland, modified grassland and arable farmland. Numerous veteran trees were also recorded and mapped individually along this access track route.

[41] Available at: https://ukhab.org/about-ukhab/ [Accessed November 2024]
[42] Rodwell, J.S. (2006) NVC Users' Handbook, JNCC. Available at: http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/pdf/pub06_NVCusershandbook2006.pdf [Accessed November 2024]
[43] Refer to: https://www.sepa.org.uk/media/143868/lupsgu31_planning_guidance_on_groundwater_abstractions.pdf
[44] Available at: https://www.highland.gov.uk/downloads/download/2260/highland_nature_biodiversity_action_plan_2021_to_2026 [Accessed November 2024]
[45] NatureScot (2020). Scottish Biodiversity List. Available at: https://www.nature.scot/doc/scottish-biodiversity-list [Accessed November 2024]
[46] Council Directive 92/43/EEC. Available at: https://environment.ec.europa.eu/topics/nature-and-biodiversity/habitats-directive_en [Accessed November 2024]

6.3.5 During the surveys, the surveyors looked for any field signs of protected species including:

- Water vole Arvicola amphibius[47];
- Otter Lutra lutra[48];
- Badger *Meles meles*[49]; and
- Pine martens Martes martes[50].

6.3.6 During baseline surveys for the area of the proposed wind turbines, a mountain hare *Lepus timidus* was recorded. Mountain hares are protected under Schedule 5 of the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). Common lizard *Zootoca vivipara* was also recorded within the area of the proposed wind turbines. Common lizard and other reptiles found in the UK are protected in the UK under the Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981, and classified as a Priority Species in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan.

6.3.7 During baseline surveys of the access track leading up to the area for the proposed wind turbines, multiple signs of pine marten were recorded. Pine marten scats (dung) were recorded at multiple locations along the access track, typically at the side of the track itself. Numerous trees (including veteran trees) and structures were also recorded for potential to support bat roosts or bat roost features.

6.3.8 Static bat detectors were deployed at the proposed turbine locations in accordance with NatureScot Guidance[51]. Three seasons worth of data have been recorded to determine level of bat activity across the Site. The data collected in spring, summer and autumn is currently being analysed. Once analysis is complete it will be possible to determine usage, species presence and level of activity across the Site.

Statutory Designated Sites

6.3.9 The Site is not located within or adjacent to a statutory designated site for nature conservation (**Figure 6.1: Ecological Designated Sites**). The following designated sites (ecological) are located in the surrounding area, with distances provided to represent the nearest point to the Site application boundary and turbine location:

- Ben Wyvis Site of Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) – Located to the southwest of Loch Glass and the Site and, at its nearest point, is approximately 1.5 km from the Site application boundary (nearest turbine approx. 2 km). It is designated for blanket bog, upland habitats, freshwater habitats (lochs), vascular plant assemblage and breeding dotterel *Charadrius morinellus*.
- Ben Wyvis National Nature Reserve (NNR) – Located to the southwest of the Site, and is, at its nearest point, approximately 7 km from the Site application boundary (nearest turbine approx. 7.3 km).
- Allt nan Caorach SSSI – Located to the southwest / west of the Site and, at its nearest point, is approximately 1.3 km from the Site application boundary to the west of the proposed access track (nearest turbine approx. 3 km) designated for upland birch woodland and subalpine dry heath habitats.
- Alness River Valley SSSI – Located to the east of the Site, and, at its nearest point, is approximately 7.3 km from the Site application boundary (nearest turbine approx. 8 km) designated for upland mixed ash woodland habitat.
- Cromarty Firth SSSI – Located to the east and south of the Site, and, at its nearest point, is approximately 1.4 km from the Site application boundary to the east of the proposed access track

[47] Dean, M., Strachan, R., Gow, D., Andrews, R.M., Matthews, F. & Chanin, P.R.F. (2016). The Water Vole Mitigation Handbook. The Mammal Society.
[48] Chanin (2003). Monitoring the Otter Lutra Lutra. Available at: https://cieem.net/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/otter_monitoring.pdf [Accessed November 2024].
[49] The Mammal Society (n.d.). Surveying Badgers (The Mammal Society). Available at: https://cieem.net/resource/surveying-badgers-the-mammal-society/ [Accessed November 2024].
[50]CIEEM (2013) Competencies for Species Survey: Pine Marten. Adapted from: CSS-PINE-MARTEN-April-2013.pdf (cieem.net) [Accessed November 2024]
[51] NatureScot, Natural England, Natural Resources Wales, RenewableUK, Scottish Power Renewables, Ecotricity Ltd, the University of Exeter & Bat Conservation Trust (BCT) (2021) Bats and Onshore Wind Turbines – Survey, Assessment and Mitigation. Available at: https://www.nature.scot/doc/bats-and-onshore-wind-turbines-survey-assessment-and-mitigation [Accessed November 2024]

(nearest turbines approx. 8km) designated for bar-tailed godwit *Limosa lapponica* and mudflat habitat.

6.3.10 Loch Glass and the River Glass are located approximately 800 m and 1.8 km respectively to the southwest of the Site (at their nearest point to the Site application boundary, with the River Glass being located to the southwest of the proposed access track). These have known populations of Atlantic Salmon which is listed in Annex II of the Habitats Directive.

6.3.11 The European Nature Information System (EUNIS) Land Cover map of Scotland[52] shows the Site to be located adjacent to an area of designated Semi Natural Woodland to the southwest, however this woodland is no longer present and the Site is bordered to the southwest by the Novar 2 wind farm, although some pockets of trees do still remain. Prior to construction of the existing Novar Wind Farm, the Site comprised primarily of wet modified bog habitat with smaller areas of bare peat and heath.

6.4 Assessment Scope and Methodology

Key Terms of Reference

6.4.1 The assessment on ecological features and habitats will be completed in accordance with the Chartered Institute of Ecological and Environmental Management (CIEEM) Ecological Impact Assessment Guidance[53].

6.4.2 The following key guidance will also be considered:

- NatureScot pre-application guidance for onshore wind farms (2024)[24]; and
- Good practice NatureScot guidance on planning, development and protected species (2023)[54].

6.4.3 Important Ecological Features (IEF) that will be considered within the EIAR will include:

- Relevant statutory designated sites, and their cited qualifying interests;
- Internationally or nationally important habitats (e.g. habitats listed on Annex I of the Habitats Directive, habitats of principal importance for biodiversity conservation in Scotland (i.e. those on the SBL) and,
- Populations of ecological species listed on Annex IV of the Habitats Directive or Schedule 5 of the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), or scarce, or a priority for conservation under the UK Biodiversity Action Plan and / or SBL.

6.4.4 The assessment will consider the extent of habitat loss and damage and effects on protected species, both direct and indirect, temporary and permanent, with suitable mitigation and / or restoration measures presented in an Outline Habitat Management Plan (HMP) and/ or Species Protection Plans (SPP) and an Outline Peat Management Plan (PMP).

6.4.5 The assessment will also consider the potential impact on deer. An assessment will be undertaken and presented within a draft Deer Management Statement which would consider deer welfare, habitat and other relevant factors (such as access, recreation, road safety etc) as per by NatureScot advice and guidance[55].

Study Area

6.4.6 The following Study Areas have been considered for determining the scope of the assessment of ecological features, and will be adopted in the EIAR where relevant, in accordance with the relevant NatureScot guidance. The Study Areas take into account the Site application boundary as a whole,

[52] Available at: https://map.environment.gov.scot/sewebmap/?layers=eunisLandCoverScotland&extent=-40773,610263,577705,1003972 [Accessed November 2024].
[53] CIEEM (2018). Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment. Available at: https://cieem.net/resource/guidelines-for-ecological-impact-assessment-ecia/ [Accessed November 2024]
[54] NatureScot (2023). Planning and Development: Protected Species. Available at: https://www.nature.scot/professional-advice/planning-and-development/planning-and-development-advice/planning-and-development-protected-species [Accessed November 2024].
[55] NatureScot (2016) Planning for development: What to consider and include in deer assessments and management at development sites. Available at: What to consider and include in Deer Assessment and Management at Development sites | NatureScot [Accessed November 2024]

inclusive of the area for the proposed wind turbines and the area of the proposed access track (leading up to the turbine area).

- Designated sites: the proposed turbines and infrastructure and a 5 km Study Area from the Site application boundary.
- Protected species: the proposed turbines and infrastructure and access track with any species-specific buffers as necessary.
- Bat roost features: as per protected species Study Area, including the proposed turbine locations and a 200 m plus turbine blade length buffer (as per NatureScot guidance[51]).
- Habitats and potential GWDTE: the proposed turbine and associated infrastructure and access track plus a 100 m buffer.
- Bat collisions: the proposed turbine locations with static bat data processed through Ecobat[56].
- Cumulative assessment (if required): the proposed turbines and associated infrastructure and a 5 km Study Area from the Site application boundary.

6.4.7 The Study Areas for the proposed surveys included the following:

- Habitat surveys and protected species surveys (excluding bats): Site plus a 250 m buffer.
- Bat surveys: passive bat detectors to be deployed at proposed turbine locations in accordance with NatureScot Guidance[51].

Baseline Characterisation

Desk Study

6.4.8 Baseline ecological conditions have been / will be established from the following sources of information:

- NatureScot Sitelink[57];
- Aerial imagery;
- Highland Biological Recording Group (HBRG) for records of protected and notable species, and non-statutory sites within 5 km of the Site application boundary;
- National Biodiversity Network (NBN) Atlas Scotland (2023)[58] on ecological records within 5 km of the Site application boundary within the last 15 years (since 2008); and
- EIARs or technical (including monitoring) reports from the existing Novar Wind Farm or other / proposed developments in the local area, where available.

Field Surveys

6.4.9 As noted in Section 6.3 the following surveys have been undertaken with reference to best practice guidance to inform the baseline conditions of the Site:

- Habitat Classification (UKHab approach) – Site and 250 m buffer;
- NVC Survey – Site and 250 m buffer during the survey period;
- Protected Species Surveys - field signs of protected species and record any sightings in line with species specific best practice and survey guidance; and
- Deployment of static bat detectors - in accordance with NatureScot Guidance[51], which requires that passive bat detectors are deployed in the following quantity: one for each of the first ten turbines and then one for each further three turbines.

6.4.10 The majority of habitat surveys were undertaken during optimal survey period with surveys finalised during the November visit. Although November is technically considered sub-optimal in terms of habitat surveys, this does limit the validity of the results given that accurate classification of habitats was still possible even without flowering species present, given the habitat types under assessment.

6.4.11 Consultation was undertaken with NatureScot in June 2024 to confirm the approach to these surveys. Refer to Section 6.2.

[56] Available at: www.ecobat.org.uk https://www.mammal.org.uk/2017/12/making-sense-of-clicks-and-squeaks-mammal-society-launches-ecobat/[Accessed November 2024].
[57] Available at: https://sitelink.nature.scot/home [Accessed November 2024].
[58] Available at: https://scotland-records.nbnatlas.org/explore/your-area [Accessed November 2024].

6.4.12 Although Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) is not yet mandatory in Scotland, NPF4 makes biodiversity enhancement a requirement. As such, a Habitat Condition Assessment (HCA) will be completed to determine the Site's baseline biodiversity value.

6.4.13 Alongside the UKHab and NVC assessment, a Peatland Condition Assessment will also be undertaken based on guidance and assessment framework provided by NatureScot[59] to help identify the presence of priority peatland habitat and determined appropriate mitigation.

6.5 Likely Significant Effects

Potential Impacts Scoped In

6.5.1 The assessment will consider the potential for direct and indirect significant effects from:

Direct effects:

- Habitat loss, fragmentation or change as a result of the delivery and installation of development infrastructure. This includes the potential loss of Ancient Woodland60 and veteran trees of high ecological value;
- Disturbance to protected or otherwise notable species or inadvertent damage to their breeding sites, resting places and foraging resources from construction and operational activities (this includes pine marten and bats);
- Inadvertent killing or injuring of protected or otherwise notable species from construction and operational activities;
- Interaction of bats with operational turbine blades leading to mortality due to collision or barotrauma; and
- Impact on deer populations.

Indirect effects:

- New watercourse crossings causing pollution or nutrient enrichment or hydrological disruption; and
- The spread of non-native invasive plant species, such as Himalayan balsam *Impatiens glandulifera,* rhododendron *Rhododendron sp.* and Japanese knotweed *Reynoutria japonica.*

6.5.2 In relation to the potential alternative construction, and hence operational, programmes (refer to Section 2.3) the ecological assessment will consider both Scenario 1 (Single Phase Construction) and Scenario 2 (Two Phase Construction) in the construction assessment. Scenario 1 is considered to represent the worst-case scenario in relation to all construction activities occurring in one construction phase. However, for Scenario 2 the 'break' between construction phases combined with the removal of the existing wind turbines in the initial phase of construction has potential for species to move onto the Site and lead to additional disturbance effects. An assessment of both scenarios will ensure that appropriate mitigation is recommended for both the single and phased construction programme.

6.5.3 The operational assessment will consider the development as a whole (i.e. upon completion of either Scenario 1: Single Phase Construction or Scenario 2: Two Phased Construction) to represent the worst-case scenario when all of the repowered turbines are operational. 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.

Issues Scoped Out

Habitats

6.5.4 Significant effects during construction and operation are considered unlikely on habitats not on Annex I to the Habitats Directive or protected by other legislation (e.g., The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004). Accordingly, only effects on notable habitats will be considered in the assessment.

[59] NatureScot (2023) Advising on peatland, carbon-rich soils & priority peatland habitats in development management. (Annex 1) Available at: Advising on peatland, carbon-rich soils and priority peatland habitats in development management | NatureScot [Accessed November 2024]
[60] A guide to understanding the Scottish Ancient Woodland Inventory (AWI) | NatureScot

6.5.5 Potential for significant effects on peatland as a priority habitat and its capacity to support biodiversity will be assessed in this chapter of the EIAR. However, impacts on peatland as a functional carbon store are addressed in Chapter 8 of this Scoping Report.

6.5.6 Impacts on GWDTEs are discussed in Chapter 12 of this Scoping Report.

Protected Species

6.5.7 Operational impacts on all protected species, with the exception of bats, are considered unlikely to give rise to significant effects due to the nature of activities associated with an operational wind farm. Furthermore, any protected species potentially utilising the Site are likely to be habituated to the presence of the existing wind farm, which has been operational since 1997.

6.5.8 Significant effects during construction are considered unlikely on species not on Annex II to the Habitats Directive or species not protected by other legislation (e.g., The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004 or The Protection of Badgers Act). Accordingly, only effects on notable species will be considered in the assessment.

6.5.9 Based on the findings of the field survey and desk study, an assessment of the following species is proposed to be scoped out of the assessment:

- **Amphibians and Reptiles**: the assessment would adopt a precautionary approach and assume reptiles and amphibians are present within suitable habitat, with appropriate mitigation adopted. As such, significant effects on these features are considered unlikely.
- **Invertebrates**: the assessment would adopt a precautionary approach and include appropriate mitigation, to avoid significant effects on these features. As such, significant effects on invertebrate are considered unlikely.
- **Fish and Freshwater Pearl Mussel**: there are no designated sites (watercourses etc) known for fish or freshwater pearl mussel associated within or with connectivity to the Proposed Development area. Industry-established good practice measures would be employed in the design of the Proposed Development and the methodologies used for the construction and operation would minimise, or mitigate for, impacts on the water environment and ensure that the free passage of fish, where required, within the Site is maintained. The infrastructure layout would be designed to minimise the number of watercourse crossings and 50 m buffer zones around all watercourses would be adopted. As such, significant effects on water quality, and therefore aquatic receptors such as fish or pearl mussels, are considered unlikely.

Designated Sites

6.5.10 Taking into consideration the separation distance and lack of connectivity of the Proposed Development to designated sites in the surrounding area, significant effects on designated sites in the Study Area during the construction stage are considered unlikely to occur and are proposed to be scoped out of the assessment.

6.5.11 Taking into consideration the design and layout of the Proposed Development and the nature of activities associated with an operational wind farm, significant effects on designated sites in the Study Area during the operational stage are considered unlikely to occur and are proposed to be scoped out of the assessment.

Cumulative Effects

6.5.12 Cumulative effects will be assessed following guidance from NatureScot[17] on assessing cumulative impacts from wind farm developments. Cumulative developments with an overlapping zone of influence as that of the Proposed Development would be considered in the assessment.

6.6 Questions to Consultees

6.6.1 The purpose of this section is to provide specific and focused questions to consultees where agreement is sought, particularly for issues to be scoped out or where we are proposing any deviations from standard methodology.

Table 6.1: Questions to Consultees

Ref	Question
Q6.1	Do consultees agree that the range of ecology surveys carried are sufficient and appropriate?
Q6.2	Do consultees agree that the survey areas and buffers adopted for each ecology survey are considered appropriate?
Q6.3	Do consultees agree with the approach to the ecology surveys undertaken?
Q6.4	Do consultees agree with those ecology features which have been scoped out from detailed assessment?
Q6.5	Do consultees agree that the assessment of both Scenario 1 (Single Phase Construction) and Scenario 2 (Two Phase Construction) will assess the worst-case scenario for ecological effects related to the Proposed Development during construction?
Q6.6	Do consultees agree that the assessment of the development as a whole (i.e. upon completion of Scenario 1 or Scenario 2 when all repowered turbines are operational) will represent the worst-case scenario for the assessment of the operational effects of the Proposed Development on ecological features?

6.7 Additional Consultation

6.7.1 No further consultation is anticipated outside of the EIA Scoping process.

7. BIODIVERSITY (ORNITHOLOGY)

7.1 Overview

7.1.1 This Chapter outlines the baseline ornithological conditions of the Site and outlines the proposed approach to the assessment in accordance with best practice guidance.

7.1.2 This Chapter is supported by the following:

- Figure 7.1: Ornithological Designated Sites.
- Figure 7.2: Ornithological Survey Locations.

7.2 Pre-Scoping Consultation

7.2.1 Further to the pre-application consultation meeting that was held with THC on 14th August 2024 (refer to Section 3.5) the following consultation in relation to the ornithology assessment has been undertaken prior to submission of this Scoping Report.

7.2.2 Consultation with NatureScot was undertaken in March 2024 regarding the ornithological survey scope. A response was received on 22nd March 2024 to confirm that the approach outlined was in line with NatureScot advice on the subject and is appropriate for the proposal. There was a further request from NatureScot to include capercaillie within the ornithological surveys and assessment.

7.2.3 Consultation with NatureScot was undertaken in October 2024 in relation to continued Vantage Point (VanP) surveys covering golden eagle *Aquila chrysaetos* to the west of the Site. A response was received on 20th December 2024 confirming that a further year of VanP survey work is undertaken in order to assess potential impacts to golden eagles. It was also recommended to consult with the Highland Raptor Study Group (HRSG) to establish the location of all known and potential territories in the area.

7.3 Baseline Conditions

7.3.1 The following statutory designated sites (ornithological features) are located with a 10 km of the Site, with distances provided to represent the nearest point to the Site application boundary and turbine location:

- **Novar Special Protection Area (SPA)** - The proposed access track, which is also the existing access track to the Novar Wind Farm, crosses this SPA for approximately 3 km, along its western edge. The SPA is located approximately 3.5 km from the area of the Site proposed for the location of the wind turbines, with the nearest turbine approx. 4 km. The SPA is designated for breeding Capercaillie *Tetrao urogallus*, also protected under Schedule I of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).
- **Ben Wyvis SPA** – Located to the southwest of the Site and, at its nearest point, is approximately 2.7 km from the Site application boundary (nearest turbine approx. 3km). The SPA is designated for nationally important population of breeding dotterel *Charadrius morinellus.*
- **Morangie Forest SPA** – Located to the northeast of the Site and, at its nearest point, is approximately 9 km from the Site application boundary (nearest turbine approx. 9.5 km). The SPA is designated for breeding population of capercaillie *Tetrao urogallus*.
- **Cromarty Firth SPA and Ramsar** – Located to the south and east of the Site and, at its nearest point, is approximately 1.4 km from the Site application boundary to the east of the proposed access track which leads to the area of the proposed wind turbines (nearest turbine approx. 8 km). The SPA and Ramsar is designated for wetlands which support osprey *Pandion haliaetus,* common tern *Sterna hirundo,* whooper swan *Cygnus cygnus,* redshank *Tringa totanus,* curlew *Numenius arquata,* knot *Calidris canutus,* red-breasted merganser *Mergus serrator,* scaup *Aythya marila,* pintail *Anas acuta,* wigeon *Anas Penelope,* dunlin *Calidris alpina alpina,* oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus,* greylag goose *Anser anser* and bar-tailed godwit *Limosa lapponica.*

7.3.2 These designated sites are shown on **Figure 7.1: Ornithological Designated Sites**.

7.3.3 A review of pre-construction, construction-phase and post-construction bird monitoring evidence for the existing Novar Wind Farm is summarised in the paragraph below.

7.3.4 Ornithology surveys were undertaken as part of the original planning application and Environmental Statement (1995) for Novar Wind Farm. Upon completion of the ornithological assessment, it was

considered that the risk of bird collision or other avian impacts was low due to the wind farm's location away from major bird aggregations and migration routes. Post-construction ornithological monitoring surveys were then undertaken in the first five years of operation and are subject to annual review with reporting issued each year between 1997-2001. Post-construction monitoring was stopped in 2001 upon review by relevant bodies which decided there was no need for further monitoring given the low levels of bird activity on-site. In 2019 an ornithological appraisal of the site was undertaken as part of an addendum to the Environmental Statement to determine whether the site had undergone significant changes post-construction. A review of pre and post construction evidence indicated that the site conditions hadn't changed during the 25-year operational period and that it is likely that avian species have become habituated to the presence of the Wind Farm.

7.3.5 Ornithological field surveys (breeding bird and vantage point surveys) commenced at the Site in September 2023 and were completed in August 2024 (**Figure 7.2: Ornithological Survey Locations**). The surveys have recorded the following Schedule 1 species on or close to the Site:

- Golden eagle, including flights around proposed Turbines 1 and 2;
- White-tailed eagle *Haliaeetus albicilla*;
- Red kite *Milvus milvus*; and
- Peregrine Falco peregrinus.

7.3.6 Occasional flights of golden plover Pluvialis apricaria and pink-footed goose Anser brachyrhynchus have also been recorded.

7.3.7 Baseline bird surveys covered the proposed area for the wind turbines. Desk study data will be used to inform the assessment of potential impacts caused by works on and to the access track leading to the area for the proposed wind turbines. Further detail is provided in paragraph 7.4.4.

7.4 Assessment Scope and Methodology

Key Terms of Reference

7.4.1 The assessment on ornithological features will be completed in accordance with the CIEEM Ecological Impact Assessment Guidance[53].

7.4.2 The following key guidance will also be considered:

- NatureScot pre-application guidance for onshore wind farms (2024)[24];
- NatureScot guidance on bird survey methods at onshore wind farm (2017)[61];
- NatureScot guidance on assessing significance of impacts from onshore wind farms outwith designated sites (2018)[62];
- NatureScot guidance on assessing connectivity with Special Protection Areas (SPAs) (2016)[63];
- NatureScot guidance on assessing cumulative impacts (2012 and 2018)[64].
- NatureScot guidance on collision risk modelling (CRM) (2000[65], 2018[66]).

Study Area

7.4.3 The EIAR will adopt the following Study Areas for the assessment of ornithological features, in accordance with the relevant NatureScot guidance:

- Designated sites: 20 km from the proposed turbines and infrastructure.

[61] NatureScot (2017). Recommended Bird Survey Methods to Inform Impact Assessment of Onshore Windfarms. Available at: https://www.nature.scot/doc/recommended-bird-survey-methods-inform-impact-assessment-onshore-windfarms [Accessed November 2024].
[62] NatureScot (n.d.). Guidance – Assessing the Significance of Impacts on Bird Populations from Onshore Wind Farms That Do Not Affect Protected Areas. Available at: https://www.nature.scot/doc/guidance-assessing-significance-impacts-bird-populations-onshore-wind-farms-do-not-affect-protected [Accessed November 2024].
[63] NatureScot (2016). Assessing Connectivity with Special Protection Areas (SPA). Available at: https://www.nature.scot/doc/assessing-connectivity-special-protection-areas [Accessed November 2024].
[64] NatureScot (2018) Assessing the Cumulative Impact of Onshore Wind Farms on Birds. Available at: https://www.nature.scot/doc/guidance-assessing-cumulative-impacts-onshore-wind-farms-birds [Accessed November 2024]
[65] NatureScot (2000). Guidance: Windfarms and Birds: Calculating a Theoretical Collision Risk Assuming No Avoiding Action. Available at: https://tethys.pnnl.gov/sites/default/files/publications/Band-2000.pdf [Accessed November 2024].
[66] NatureScot (2018). Avoidance Rates for the Onshore SNH Wind Farm Collision Risk Model. Available at: https://www.nature.scot/sites/default/files/2018-09/Wind%20farm%20impacts%20on%20birds%20-%20Use%20of%20Avoidance%20Rates%20in%20the%20SNH%20Wind%20Farm%20Collision%20Risk%20Model.pdf [Accessed November 2024].

- Moorland birds: 500 m from the proposed turbines and infrastructure.
- Breeding raptor: 2 km from the proposed turbines and infrastructure.
- Nesting divers: lochs within 1 km from the proposed turbines and infrastructure.

7.4.4 Upgrade works to the existing access track (leading to the area for the proposed wind turbines) are not yet defined, but are expected to be limited to localised felling and some localised track widening, for example on corners or steeper gradients. As such we do not expect significant effects to bird species, with the exception of capercaillie for which disturbance effects will be assessed. This assessment will be based on desk study data obtained from the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB).

Baseline Characterisation

Desk Based

7.4.5 Baseline ornithology conditions have been / will be established from the following desk-based sources:

- NatureScot Sitelink, to inform the location and qualifying features of designated sites[67];
- Historic pre-construction and post-construction monitoring data collected for the existing Novar Wind Farm;
- EIARs or technical (including monitoring) reports from other developments or proposed developments in the local area;
- RSPB Scotland records of protected, rare and / or notable avian species, which would include a request for information on capercaillie;
- HRSG records of raptors and owls; and
- HBRG records of non-statutory sites, and protected, rare and / or notable avian species.
- Forest and Land Scotland (FLS) for data on capercaillie.

Field Surveys

7.4.6 Breeding Bird Surveys and VanP Surveys at the Site commenced in September 2023 and were completed in August 2024. The scope of the surveys was agreed through consultation with NatureScot as follows:

- Moorland bird surveys, comprising four visits covering the Site extent plus 500 m, in accordance with the methodology set out in Brown and Shepherd (1993)[68] for censusing upland breeding waders;
- Breeding raptor surveys, comprising three visits covering the Site extent plus 2 km, in accordance with the methodology set out in Hardey et al (2013)[69];
- Black grouse surveys, comprising three visits, covering the Site plus 1.5 km, in accordance with the methodology set out in Gilbert et al (1998)[70]. Capercaillie surveys were undertaken concurrently, following a similar methodology;
- VanP surveys for a period of 12 months, from four locations covering the Site, following NatureScot guidance (2017)[61].

7.4.7 NatureScot bird survey guidance[61] generally recommends a baseline survey programme of two years in order to ensure any interannual variation is recorded to allow for a robust assessment of effects on ornithology. However, due to the quantity of existing survey data that exists for the Site which provides evidence that birds have become habituated to the presence of the existing wind farm, and the fact that Proposed Development does not constitute an extension to the existing wind farm, one year of surveys will be undertaken as agreed with NatureScot.

7.4.8 Notwithstanding this, the VanP surveys identified a potential golden eagle territory near to the Site. Further survey work (from VanP location 4) to cover this territory is being progressed in line with the consultation response received from NatureScot (refer to Section 7.2).

[67] Available at: https://sitelink.nature.scot/home [Accessed November 2024].
[68] Brown and Shepherd (1993). A Method for Censusing Upland Breeding Waders. Available at: https://cieem.net/resource/a-method-for-censusing-upland-breeding-waders/ [Accessed November 2024].
[69] Hardey, Crick, Wernham, Riley, Etheridge and Thompson (2013). Raptors: A field Guide for Surveys and Monitoring. Available at: https://www.nhbs.com/raptors-a-field-guide-for-surveys-and-monitoring-book [Accessed November 2024].
[70] Gilbert, Gibbons and Evans (1998). Bird Monitoring Methods: A Manual of Techniques for UK Key Species. Available at: https://cieem.net/resource/bird-monitoring-methods-a-manual-of-techniques-for-uk-key-species/ [Accessed November 2024].

7.5 Likely Significant Effects

Potential Impacts Scoped In

7.5.1 The assessment will consider the potential impacts associated with construction, operation and decommissioning of the Proposed Development as detailed below. Where appropriate, these construction and operational impacts will also be considered in a cumulative assessment.

Construction / Decommissioning Impacts:

- temporary and permanent habitat loss/ alteration/ fragmentation associated with the Proposed Development infrastructure, including loss of nesting, lekking, roosting or foraging habitat; and
- visual and noise disturbance associated with construction activities, including potential impacts on the Novar SPA as a result of construction works for the access track.

Operational Impacts:

- displacement from nesting, lekking, roosting or foraging habitats around operational turbines and other permanent infrastructure, including barrier effects;
- risk of collisions with operational wind turbine blades or any other permanent infrastructure resulting in direct mortality; and
- impacts relating to turbine lighting.

7.5.2 A Collision Risk Assessment (CRA) will be undertaken using a quantitative collision risk model, following the Band et al (2007)[71] model and in accordance with NatureScot Guidance. Flight activity data collected on-site will be used as the baseline of bird activity within the Site. Where flight activity data is sufficiently recorded (≥3 flights in the 'collision risk zone', or >20 birds), collision risk modelling will be undertaken to quantify the likelihood of mortality for target species. The probability of collision with the turbine blades and probability of a bird taking avoidance action will be estimated based on avoidance rates prescribed by NatureScot for species in relation to wind farms.

7.5.3 A Habitat Regulations Appraisal (HRA) will be prepared to assess potential for Likely Significant Effects (LSE) on capercaillie that could impact the Novar SPA. This will include an assessment of potential collision risk for capercaillie, which would consider dispersion sites from Novar Forest and if a dispersion flight would likely cross the Proposed Development. It will also consider the potential for any construction works on the access track (i.e. upgrade works) to cause disturbance or if the use of the access track during construction / operation could present a significant effect.

7.5.4 In relation to the potential alternative construction, and hence operational, programmes (refer to Section 2.3) the ornithological assessment will consider both Scenario 1 (Single Phase Construction) and Scenario 2 (Two Phase Construction) in the construction assessment. Scenario 1 is considered to represent the worst-case scenario in relation to all construction activities occurring in one construction phase. However, for Scenario 2 the 'break' between construction phases combined with the removal of the existing wind turbines in the initial phase of construction has potential for bird species, in particular golden eagle, to move onto the Site and lead to additional disturbance / displacement effects. An assessment of both scenarios will ensure that appropriate mitigation is recommended for both the single and phased construction programme.

7.5.5 The operational assessment will consider the development as a whole (i.e. upon completion of either Scenario 1: Single Phase Construction or Scenario 2: Two Phased Construction) to represent the worst-case scenario when all of the repowered turbines are operational. 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.

Issues Scoped Out

7.5.6 On the basis of baseline data and experience from other relevant projects (including the existing Novar Wind Farm), it is proposed that an assessment on the following ornithological features are scoped out as significant effects are considered unlikely:

[71] Band, Madders, and Whitfield. (2007). Developing Field and Analytical Methods to Assess Avian Collision Risk at Wind Farms. Available at: https://www.natural-research.org/application/files/4114/9182/2839/Band_et_al_2007.pdf [Accessed November 2024].

- Common and / or low conservation species not recognised in statute as requiring special conservation measures (i.e., not listed as Annex 1 / Schedule 1 species);
- Common and / or low conservation species not included in non-statutory lists (i.e., not listed as Amber or Red-listed Birds of Conservation Concern (BoCC) species), showing birds whose populations are at some risk either generally or in parts of their range; and
- Passerine species, not generally considered to be at risk from wind farm developments[61], unless being particularly rare or vulnerable at a national level.

7.5.7 It is not possible to definitively scope out / in specific target species from/ to the assessment prior to undertaking CRM and a review of the ornithological baseline against the final design.

7.5.8 Target species with only a modest number of at-risk flights (<3, or <20 birds if fewer than 3 flights) will not be subject to CRM for the assessment.

7.5.9 Subject to the results of the CRM, effects relating to any target species not identified to be breeding within the relevant Study Area will be scoped out of the assessment.

7.5.10 It is proposed to scope out potential impacts on Cromarty Firth SPA. Of the species for which the SPA is classified, the Proposed Development would not have potential to impact those foraging on the mudflats or the sea. Some species for which the SPA is classified, including whooper swan, greylag goose and osprey, would utilise the SPA and inland areas. Whooper swan and greylag goose, would forage in fields and commute between those fields and the SPA and osprey, would hunt on the SPA but nest in trees inland. As per NatureScot connectivity guidance[63] osprey core foraging range goes up to 10 km, but there is not suitable habitat for osprey nesting within the wind farm area and the potential for birds to overfly the Site on the way to the SPA is not considered to exist. Whooper swan foraging range is less than 5 km with greylag goose extending to up to 20 km. For both these species foraging habitat around the Proposed Development (including the access track) is limited, and very limited potential exists for birds to overfly the Proposed Development.

Cumulative Effects

7.5.11 Cumulative effects will be assessed following guidance from NatureScot on assessing cumulative impacts from wind farm developments[64].

7.5.12 With regard to the spatial extent of the cumulative assessment, NatureScot stipulates that cumulative effects should typically be assessed at the relevant regional Natural Heritage Zone (NHZ) scale, unless there is a reasonable alternative. The Proposed Development is located within the 'Northern Highlands' NHZ. It is therefore proposed that where the availability of relevant information is sufficient enough to allow for a meaningful cumulative assessment at the NHZ scale to be undertaken, this will be done. For SPA species, the SPA population will be used as the baseline for any potential impacts.

7.5.13 The guidance does however recognise that access to relevant data for other developments may be limited and therefore a meaningful assessment of cumulative effects of such developments is not always possible. It is our understanding that NatureScot are in the process of collating a list of other wind farm developments within each NHZ, along with documented impacts on key species (particularly CRM estimates) as a result of these developments. If available, and shared by NatureScot, it is proposed to use the information from the Northern Highlands NHZ to assess impacts on key species in-combination with other wind farm developments. If not available, however, an alternative approach is proposed, whereby the core foraging range for each species (taken from NatureScot Guidance[63]) requiring consideration will be used to determine the spatial extent of the cumulative assessment, adopting a precautionary approach as necessary.

7.6 Questions to Consultees

7.6.1 The purpose of this section is to provide specific and focused questions to consultees where agreement is sought, particularly for issues to be scoped out or where we are proposing any deviations from standard methodology.

Table 7.1: Questions to Consultees

Ref	Question
Q7.1	Do consultees agree that the range of ornithology surveys carried out are sufficient and appropriate?
Q7.2	Do consultees agree that the survey areas and buffers adopted for each ornithology survey are appropriate?
Q7.3	Do consultees agree that it is appropriate for the assessment to consider both construction scenarios to allow assessment of the potential effects of a phased construction, and hence operational, effect on ornithological features?
Q7.5	Do consultees agree that the assessment of both Scenario 1 (Single Phase Construction) and Scenario 2 (Two Phase Construction) will assess the worst-case scenario for ornithological effects related to the Proposed Development during construction?
Q7.6	Do consultees agree that the assessment of the development as a whole (i.e. upon completion of Scenario 1 or Scenario 2 when all repowered turbines are operational) will represent the worst-case scenario for the assessment of the operational effects of the Proposed Development on ornithological features?

7.7 Additional Consultation

7.7.1 No further consultation is anticipated outside of the EIA Scoping process.

8. SOILS

8.1 Overview

8.1.1 This Chapter outlines the preliminary geology and soils baseline, including peat resources applicable to the Site. An overview of potential impacts to be addressed within the EIAR and the proposed method for the evaluation of effects is also provided.

8.1.2 This Chapter is supported by the following:

- Figure 8.1: Carbon and Peatland Map (2016) Extract
- Figure 8.2: Peat Depths (Stage 1)

8.2 Pre-Scoping Consultation

8.2.1 Further to the pre-application consultation meeting that was held with THC on 14th August 2024 (refer to Section 3.5) no direct consultation has been undertaken with the relevant statutory consultees, about the geology and soils, including peat, assessment prior to the submission of this Scoping Report.

8.3 Baseline Conditions

8.3.1 According to the British Geological Survey's (BGS) 'Geology Viewer' website[72] (1:625,000), the superficial deposits underlying the Site predominantly comprise peat deposits. Small areas of Till (Diamicton) and Morainic deposits with gravel and sands and silts are shown, as well as small areas with no superficial deposits mapped.

8.3.2 The underlying bedrock across the Site is predominantly mapped as the Tarvie Psammite Formation, comprising metamorphic psammites. Pelite and semipelite belonging to the Ben Wyvis Pelite Formation are shown in the northern and central parts of the Site. The southeast part of the Site is shown to be underlain by sedimentary breccia and sandstones belonging to the Ousdale Arkose Formation.

8.3.3 The Carbon and Peatland Map (2016)[2], an extract of which is shown on **Figure 8.1: Carbon and Peatland Map (2016) Extract**, predicts that the Site is predominantly overlain by 'Class 1 Peat'. Class 1 peat is designated as being *'nationally important carbon rich soils, deep peat and priority peatland habitat. Areas likely to be of high conservation value'*. Smaller areas of Class 5 peat are also shown in the centre and south of the Site, which are described as 'peat soils'.

8.3.4 The ecological baseline surveys (refer to Chapter 6) broadly support this identifying that the Site is dominated by areas of blanket bog, but notes that some of these areas are degraded bog habitat. This suggests that the Site is dominated by a mix of Class 1 and Class 2 (classified as '*nationally important carbon-rich soils, deep peat and priority peatland habitat. Areas of potentially high conservation value and restoration potential*') peatland. These are both of national importance with high conservation value, with Class 2 also having a high potential for restoration. Further assessment of the condition of the peatland on Site will be undertaken through a Peatland Condition Assessment as part of the ecological assessment.

8.3.5 A Phase 1 peat depth survey was undertaken at the Site in May 2024 in line with relevant guidance[73]. This covered the area of the Site for the proposed repowered wind turbines and comprised a peat depth probe measurement taken at 100 m intervals across the Site, with a total of 314 probing locations taken. The results of the survey found that 87.8 % of the Site was found to have peat >0.5 m depth present, with the deepest peat recorded at 3.55 m in a small area in the central part of the Site. An interpolated peat depth plan is shown on **Figure 8.2: Peat Depths (Stage 1)**.

8.3.6 As noted, peatland habitat mapping and a Peatland Condition Assessment will be undertaken as part of the ecology assessment (refer to Chapter 6).

8.3.7 No Local Geodiversity Sites are located within the Site.

8.3.8 There are no nationally important environmental designations for peat or geological conservation located in close proximity to the Site.

[72] Available at: https://www.bgs.ac.uk/map-viewers/bgs-geology-viewer/ [Accessed November 2024].
[73] Scottish Government, Scottish Natural Heritage, SEPA (2017) Peatland Survey. Guidance on Developments on Peatland. Available at: https://www.gov.scot/publications/peatland-survey-guidance/ [Accessed November 2024]

8.3.9 A review of aerial imagery and OS mapping indicates that there are quarries present in the area although none are located within the Site.

8.4 Assessment Scope and Methodology

Key Terms of Reference

8.4.1 The assessment of the significance in relation to geology and soils will be undertaken by determining the sensitivity of the specific attribute and the magnitude of the impact upon the attribute.

8.4.2 In the context of peat as a carbon store, it is considered that any peat that meets the criteria of Class 1 and Class 2 is of national or international importance and will be considered as having a high sensitivity when determining the level of significance of effects.

8.4.3 The following reports will be prepared and submitted as Technical Appendices to the EIAR (as appropriate):

- Peat survey results;
- Peat landslide hazard and risk assessment;
- Outline PMP; and
- Carbon Balance Report (based on the Scottish Government Carbon Calculator)[74].

Study Area

8.4.4 The Study Area, in respect of potential impacts on peat and carbon rich soils, considers land within the Site on the basis that whilst there is potential for connectivity with adjacent peatlands and soils, the effects are largely localised. However, this will be reviewed and updated if necessary during the assessment.

Baseline Characterisation

8.4.5 Peat probing was undertaken in May 2024 in accordance with good practice guidance and relevant methodologies[73]. At Stage 1 this included a coarse resolution grid across the developable area of the Site, based on a 100 m grid (subject to access). The peat depth data, together with data on peatland condition collection in forthcoming surveys (as described in Chapter 6) will be used to inform and refine the turbine layout and design of the Proposed Development to minimise disturbance to high quality peat.

8.4.6 A higher resolution peat probing survey (Stage 2) will be undertaken once the design of the Proposed Development has advanced, to include other proposed infrastructure such as along proposed tracks (at 50 m intervals) and at 10 m crosshairs at turbine locations. This survey will ensure that all infrastructure locations have sufficient peat depth information to support relevant studies on peat instability, peat excavation and reuse, and carbon calculations.

8.4.7 A desk-top review of available information will be undertaken to inform the baseline including:

- topographical information at the Site, provided by OS contour mapping;
- solid and superficial geology information provided by BGS mapping[75];
- hydrogeology information given by BGS data accessed via Defra Magic Maps[76];
- designated nature and conservation sites identified using information from NatureScot SiteLink[27];
- soil information provided by the National Soil Map of Scotland[77]; and
- peat information using the Carbon and Peatland Map[2], BGS mapping[75] and review of aerial imagery.

[74] Scottish Government (2022). Carbon Calculator for Wind Farms on Scottish Peatlands: Factsheet. Available at: https://www.gov.scot/publications/carbon-calculator-for-wind-farms-on-scottish-peatlands-factsheet/ [Accessed November 2024].
[75] Available at: https://www.bgs.ac.uk/information-hub/bgs-maps-portal/ [Accessed November 2024]
[76] Available at: https://magic.defra.gov.uk/magicmap.aspx [Accessed November 2024]
[77] Available at: https://soils.environment.gov.scot/maps/soil-maps/national-soil-map-of-scotland/ [Accessed November 2024]

8.5 Likely Significant Effects

Potential Impacts Scoped In

8.5.1 Based on the baseline conditions described above, it is anticipated that the following potentially significant effects could occur as a result of the Proposed Development and will be assessed in the EIAR:

- Alterations to in-channel or overland flow regimes which could result in changes to the hydrology and hydrogeology and subsequently affect the condition of peat at the Site;
- Loss / disturbance to peat and carbon rich soils; and
- Erosion of peat and carbon rich soils following disturbance, potentially exacerbated as a consequence of localised drying of the peat and resultant oxidation.

8.5.1 In relation to the potential alternative construction, and hence operational, programmes (refer to Section 2.3) the soils assessment will consider Scenario 1 (Single Phase Construction) as this will represent the worst-case assessment with all construction works occurring within a single phase of construction.

Issues Scoped Out

8.5.2 Operation of the Proposed Development is unlikely to give rise to any significant effects on geological or peat resources and accordingly will be scoped out of the assessment.

8.5.3 An assessment of the Proposed Development's potential effects on peatland habitats and capacity to support biodiversity will be assessed as part of the biodiversity assessment (discussed in Chapter 6).

Cumulative Effects

8.5.4 There are no proposed (consented / under-construction or in-planning) cumulative schemes in the surrounding area that are hydraulically connected and therefore these developments are considered unlikely to give rise to significant effects in-combination with the Proposed Development.

8.5.5 Other cumulative development is either already operational or further from the Site such that significant cumulative effects on peat and carbon rich soils are also considered unlikely.

8.6 Questions to Consultees

8.6.1 The purpose of this section is to provide specific and focused questions to consultees where agreement is sought, particularly for issues to be scoped out or where we are proposing any deviations from standard methodology.

Table 8.1: Questions to Consultees

Ref	Question
Q8.1	Do you agree that operational and cumulative effects can be scoped out of the assessment?
Q8.2	Do consultees agree that the assessment of Scenario 1 (Single Phase Construction) will represent the worst-case scenario for the construction assessment on soils, including peat?

8.7 Additional Consultation

8.7.1 Consultation will be undertaken with SEPA to inform the scope of the assessment as required.

9. NOISE AND VIBRATION

9.1 Overview

9.1.1 Noise will be emitted as a result of the Proposed Development during the construction (including the decommissioning of the existing wind farm), operation and decommissioning phases. This Chapter provides a summary of the noise effects anticipated at each stage of the development and details of the proposed assessment scope and methodology.

9.2 Pre-Scoping Consultation

9.2.1 Further to the pre-application consultation meeting that was held with THC on 14th August 2024 (refer to Section 3.5) the following consultation in relation to the noise assessment has been undertaken prior to submission of this Scoping Report.

9.2.2 Consultation was undertaken on 8th August 2024 with the Environmental Health department at THC setting out the proposed location and approach to the baseline noise monitoring, including reference to historical baseline data that could be used to inform representative background noise levels. A response was received on 15th August 2024 confirming that there were no objections to the proposals to use a mix of historical data and new data from a proxy location, as described, to inform representative background levels. The response highlighted that the basis for any conclusions reached should be clear and based on a conservative or precautionary approach where relevant.

9.3 Baseline Conditions

9.3.1 The Site is located in a rural location, with only a limited number of properties located northeast or south / southwest of the Site, with the closest property located approximately 2 km from the nearest turbine (based on the preliminary layout presented in **Figure 2.2: Novar Wind Farm Repowering (Scoping Layout)**). The closest property is Loch Glass House which is currently unoccupied (and reportedly has not been unoccupied for a number of years), however, it is proposed to be considered in the assessment.

9.3.2 The baseline noise environment at the closest dwellings to the Proposed Development is likely to be typical of remote rural properties and dominated by natural sources such as wind in trees, animals and watercourses (in some cases), as well as additional water / wave noise for locations close to Loch Glass. In addition, at some locations and in certain weather conditions, noise from the operational turbines on the existing Novar Wind Farm and the Novar 2 Wind Farm may be audible.

9.3.3 There are a number of operational, consented / under-construction and proposed wind farm developments surrounding the Site as described in Chapters 2 and 3 of this Scoping Report. The closest operational wind farm is Novar 2 Wind Farm immediately adjacent to the southwest of the Site.

9.4 Assessment Scope and Methodology

Key Terms of Reference

9.4.1 The assessment of noise, and vibration where relevant, from construction activities will be undertaken in line with the guidance in British Standard (BS) 5228[78].

9.4.2 The noise impact of traffic along the Site access route (refer to Chapter 10) will be assessed on the basis of the methodology within BS 5228[78], and the Design Manual for Roads and Bridges (DMRB[79]) guidance, where appropriate.

9.4.3 An operational noise assessment from the proposed turbines will be undertaken in line with the relevant ETSU-R-97 guidelines[80] and recognised good practice guidance from the Institute of Acoustics (IOA GPG) [81].

[78] British Standard Institute (2014), BS 5228, Code of practice for noise and vibration control on construction and open sites, Parts 1 (noise) & 2 (vibration).
[79] Transport Scotland (2020), Design Manual for Roads and Bridges, LA 111 Noise and vibration', revision 2.
[80] The Working Group on Noise from Wind Turbines (1997), the Assessment and Rating of Noise from Wind Farms, ETSU-R-97.
[81] M. Cand, R. Davis, C. Jordan, M. Hayes, R. Perkins, Institute of Acoustics, May 2013, a Good Practice Guide to the Application of ETSU-R-97 for the Assessment and Rating of Wind Turbine Noise (IOA GPG).

9.4.4 The assessment of any noise from non-turbine sources such as the proposed substation will be undertaken, where relevant, in line with the guidance of BS 4142[82].

Study Area

9.4.5 The assessment will consider operational noise effects on noise sensitive receptors (NSRs) (i.e., residential properties) in the vicinity of the Proposed Development.

9.4.6 ETSU-R-97 guidance states that noise levels will be considered acceptable, even in the absence of measured baseline data, if predicted noise levels (including cumulative contributions from all wind farms) do not exceed 35 decibel (dB) $L_{A90.}$ As such, the Study Area for operational noise effects will encompass dwellings where predicted cumulative levels exceed or approach this 35 dB threshold, provided the specific contribution of the Proposed Development is not negligible relative to that of the other schemes considered.

9.4.7 Taking the above into account the Study Area for operational noise effects is likely to represent an area of around 2 to 3 km from the turbines of the Proposed Development. Properties located further away will not require more detailed consideration of operational noise.

9.4.8 Based on the experience of the project team, only operational, consented / under-construction and proposed cumulative sites within 5 to 10 km from the Proposed Development will require consideration, as other schemes located further away are likely to be associated with negligible cumulative effects.

9.4.9 In addition, dwellings located along the Site access track or route will also be considered in relation to noise from construction activities and associated traffic.

Baseline Characterisation

9.4.10 If predicted noise levels (including cumulative contributions from all wind farms) at NSRs do not exceed 35 dB L_{A90}, ETSU-R-97 does not require baseline noise levels to be characterised through measurements as they are considered acceptable regardless.

9.4.11 For NSRs where predictions (including all cumulative sites) exceed this threshold, ETSU-R-97 requires the baseline environment within the Study Area to be characterised by measuring background noise levels as a function of site wind speed at the nearest neighbours (or, at a representative sample of the nearest neighbours). ETSU-R-97 also requires that any such measurements are not significantly influenced by existing operational turbines, to prevent unreasonable cumulative increases.

9.4.12 Reference can also be made if required to historical background noise data measured in the area as part of previous operational noise studies to support either the assessment of the existing Novar Wind Farm or that of the Clach Liath Wind Farm (located further south). It may be possible to use this data provided to show that it can meet the requirements of ETSU-R-97 and relevant good practice (with the addition of corrections to account for wind shear effect for example).

9.4.13 Additional baseline noise measurements have been undertaken as agreed with the Environmental Health Officer (EHO) at THC (refer to Section 9.2 above). For these additional measurements, the potential implication of wind shear effects due to the potential heights of the turbines considered for the Proposed Development will be taken into account in line with best practice guidance of the IOA GPG[81]. This would consist of referencing a sufficiently high wind speed reference during these for any new measurements. Consideration was given to minimising the potential for existing wind turbine noise to influence the measurements by selecting a position sufficiently distanced from the existing operational turbines.

9.4.14 No baseline noise measurements are required for the assessment of construction noise, as the assessment would be undertaken against stringent criteria based on the rural nature of the area.

9.5 Likely Significant Effects

Potential Impacts Scoped In

9.5.1 Noise associated with the construction of the Site access and site traffic will be considered.

9.5.2 If applicable, vibration and air overpressure associated with blasting if used for stone extraction at borrow pits will be considered in line with applicable guidance.

[82] BSI (2019). BS 4142: 2014 + A1:2019: Methods for rating and assessing industrial and commercial sound.

9.5.3 Operational noise from the Proposed Development turbines will be assessed, as well as noise from the proposed substation or other non-turbine sources. However, dependant on the location of the proposed substation this may be scoped out of the assessment (refer to below). This will be confirmed within the EIAR.

9.5.4 In relation to the potential alternative construction, and hence operational, programmes (refer to Section 2.3) the noise assessment will consider the following to ensure a worst-case scenario is assessed and reported within the EIAR and that appropriate mitigation is recommended:

- Construction assessment will consider Scenario 1 (Single Phase Construction) as this would represent the worst-case scenario of all works occurring within a single phase of construction.
- Operational assessment will consider the development as a whole (i.e. upon completion of either Scenario 1: Single Phase Construction and Scenario 2: Two Phase Construction) to represent the worst-case scenario when all of the repowered turbines are operational. 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.

Issues Scoped Out

9.5.5 Most construction activities (other than those associated with construction of the Site access and site traffic) are likely to be undertaken more than 1 km from the nearest NSR, and whilst some may be audible, due to their temporary nature they are unlikely to result in significant effects and can be scoped out. Relevant working practices, traffic routes, management procedures and proposed working hours will be set out within a CEMP.

9.5.6 Similarly, the nature of works and distances involved for the likely construction activities are such that the risk of ground-borne vibration impacting on residential receptors is considered to be very low. The only exception would be any vibration and air overpressure associated with blasting if used for stone extraction at borrow pits. Accordingly, vibration impacts (excluding blasting) do not warrant detailed assessment and are therefore proposed to be scoped out.

9.5.7 Decommissioning of the Proposed Development is likely to result in less noise than during construction and similar management measures can be employed and therefore this can also be scoped out.

9.5.8 If the proposed substation is located further than 2 kms from the nearest NSR, noise emissions from the proposed substation would likely be negligible and no detailed assessment would be required. This will be determined based on the final location of the proposed substation.

9.5.9 It is recognised that vibration resulting from the operation of wind farms is imperceptible at typical separation distances. It is therefore proposed to scope out the assessment of vibration produced during the operation of the Proposed Development.

9.5.10 With regard to infrasound and low frequency noise from wind turbines, the Scottish Government's online PAN, Onshore wind turbines[83], refers to a report for the UK Government which concluded that "*there is no evidence of health effects arising from infrasound or low frequency noise generated by the wind turbines that were tested*". It is therefore not proposed to undertake specific assessments of infrasound and low frequency noise. The EIAR noise chapter will nevertheless summarise the latest supporting information on these subjects.

9.5.11 At time of writing there is no agreed methodology which can be used to predict the occurrence of Amplitude Modulation (AM) or an agreed methodology which can be used to determine whether the effects of AM, should it occur, are likely to be significant. On that basis it is considered therefore that AM should be scoped out of the EIAR.

9.5.12 Traffic during the operational phase of the Proposed Development is likely to be very low and is considered unlikely to have any noise effects.

Cumulative Effects

9.5.13 A cumulative noise assessment will also be undertaken in order to consider the consented, operational and proposed (in planning) wind farms within the vicinity of the Proposed Development. This will be

[83] Scottish Government (2014). Online Renewables Planning Advice, Onshore Wind Turbines. Available at https://www.gov.scot/publications/onshore-wind-turbines-planning-advice [Accessed November 2024]

assessed against the ETSU-R-97 criteria unless it is considered that these effects are likely to be negligible.

9.5.14 As noted in Section 9.4, a Study Area of 5 to 10 km from the Proposed Development will be considered for the cumulative assessment, as other schemes located further away are likely to be associated with negligible cumulative effects.

9.5.15 Noise from the substation is assessed under different guidance and criteria from any other plant such as the turbines, and as such, in-combination effects are unlikely and will not require consideration in the assessment.

9.5.16 If relevant, the implication of noise from cumulative construction traffic from different wind farms, should these overlap, will also be considered.

9.6 Questions to Consultees

9.6.1 The purpose of this section is to provide specific and focused questions to consultees where agreement is sought, particularly for issues to be scoped out or where we are proposing any deviations from standard methodology.

Table 9.1: Questions to Consultees

Ref	Question
Q9.1	Can the consultees confirm that they agree with the proposed assessment methodologies, specifically the use of ETSU-R-97 and the IOA GPG to assess operational wind turbine noise and BS 5228 to assess construction noise associated with the construction of the Site access and site traffic?
Q9.2	Can the consultees confirm whether they have any concerns with the use of historical baseline noise data from the assessment of the Novar Wind Farm or Clach Liath Wind Farm for this Site?
Q9.3	Do consultees agree that the assessment of Scenario 1 (Single Phase Construction) will represent the worst-case scenario for the assessing the noise effects of construction related to the Proposed Development?
Q9.4	Do consultees agree that the assessment of the development as a whole (i.e. upon completion of Scenario 1 or Scenario 2 when all repowered turbines are operational) will represent the worst-case scenario for the assessing the operational noise effects of the Proposed Development?
Q9.5	Can consultees agree that assessment of vibration, low frequency noise and AM can be scoped out of the EIA?

9.7 Additional Consultation

9.7.1 Further consultation will be undertaken with the Environmental Health Department at THC if required in order to agree the methodology for the noise assessment.

10. TRAFFIC, TRANSPORT AND ACCESS

10.1 Overview

10.1.1 This Chapter sets out the proposed approach to the assessment of potential effects of the Proposed Development on access, traffic and transport during construction (including decommissioning of the existing wind farm) and operation.

10.1.2 A Transport Assessment will be prepared to review the impact of transport related matters associated with the Proposed Development and appended to the EIAR. Environmental impacts associated with traffic will be assessed within a Traffic, Transport and Access chapter of the EIAR as appropriate.

10.2 Pre-Scoping Consultation

10.2.1 Further to the pre-application consultation meeting that was held with THC on 14th August 2024 (Section 3.5) no direct consultation has been undertaken with the relevant statutory consultees, with regard to the traffic, transport and access assessment, prior to the submission of this Scoping Report.

10.3 Baseline Conditions

10.3.1 The Proposed Development would be accessed from the B817 via the junction to the existing wind farm. This junction, located to the east of Evanton, would be used by HGV and other construction traffic such as cars and LGV.

10.3.2 The B817 is a local distributor road providing connections between Evanton and Alness and is maintained by THC. The road is connected to the trunk road network (A9) by the B9176. An active travel route NCNR 1 runs alongside the B817.

10.3.3 The A9 is a trunk road providing strategic connections between Scrabster and Dunblane and is maintained by Transport Scotland.

10.4 Assessment Scope and Methodology

Key Terms of Reference

10.4.1 The following guidance documents will be used to inform the Traffic, Transport and Access assessment:

- Transport Assessment Guidance (Transport Scotland, 2012)[84];
- Environmental Assessment of Traffic and Movement (Institute of Environmental Management & Assessment (IEMA), 2023)[85]; and
- THC Transport Assessment Guidelines[86].

10.4.2 The following rules taken from the guidance will be used as a screening process to define the scale and extent of the assessment:

- Rule 1: Include highway links where traffic flows are predicted to increase by more than 30% (or where the number of HGVs is predicted to increase by more than 30%); and
- Rule 2: Include any other specifically sensitive areas where traffic flows are predicted to increase by 10% or more.

10.4.3 For THC adopted roads, it is assumed that Rule 2 will automatically apply.

10.4.4 The estimated traffic generation, as categorised, of the Proposed Development will be compared with baseline traffic flows, obtained from new and existing traffic survey data, in order to determine the percentage increase in traffic.

10.4.5 Potentially significant environmental effects will then be assessed where the thresholds as defined above are exceeded. Suitable mitigation measures will be proposed, where appropriate.

10.4.6 Increases below these thresholds are generally considered to be insignificant given that daily variations in background traffic flow may fluctuate by this amount. Accordingly, if changes in traffic flow as a

[84] Transport Scotland (2012). Transport Assessment Guidance. Available at: https://www.transport.gov.scot/media/4589/planning_reform_-_dpmtag_-_development_management__dpmtag_ref__17_-_transport_assessment_guidance_final_-_june_2012.pdf [Accessed November 2024].
[85] IEMA (2023). Environmental Assessment of Traffic and Movement.
[86] THC (2014). Guidance on the Preparation of Transport Assessments.

result of the Proposed Development fall below this level, it will be assumed that there is in no discernible environmental impact and as such no further consideration will be given to the associated environment effects and a Traffic, Transport and Access chapter will be scoped out of the EIAR.

Study Area

10.4.7 The Study Area will be defined by the preferred abnormal load and general construction traffic routes to the Site.

10.4.8 The Proposed Development would be directly accessed from the B817 via the existing wind farm access junction. The access junction would provide the access to the Site for abnormal loads associated with the turbine equipment as well as access for construction materials and the ongoing site operation traffic. Operational traffic for the Proposed Development may also utilise the existing LGV access which is from the B9176 and onto Boath Road.

10.4.9 A detailed Site access review will be undertaken and appended to the Transport Assessment. This will detail the finalised access option and will outline the reasoning for the selected access route.

10.4.10 Access to the Site access junction would be taken from the A9 via the B9176. It is expected that aggregates for use on the Site would be primarily won from Site as was the case with the existing wind farm. Concrete aggregates are assumed to be imported, as a worst-case, from the nearby quarry located in Alness.

10.4.11 The Study Area comprises of the following road links:

- A9 between Invergordon and Ardullie;
- B817 between Evanton and Alness; and
- B9176 between the A9 and its junction with the B817.

10.4.12 In line with previous projects and comments from THC, no HGV access north of the B817 is proposed on the B9176.

Baseline Characterisation

10.4.13 New Automatic Traffic Count (ATC) surveys will be undertaken on the B9176 between the A9 and the B817 junctions. A further ATC survey will be undertaken at the Site access on the B817.

10.4.14 To cater for aggregate access from the east, an additional survey on the B817 in Alness will also be undertaken.

10.4.15 Traffic survey data for use in the assessment will be obtained from historic data sources that will include the Traffic Scotland database. Data for the following counters will be obtained:

- ATC01014 (A9, east of the B9176 junction at Skiach); and
- ATC01013 (A9, west of the B9176 junction at Skiach).

10.4.16 Future traffic flows will be factored from traffic data using Low Growth factors estimated from National Road Traffic Forecasts.

10.4.17 Further traffic data will be obtained from Crashmap UK for the A9, B9176 and B817 within the Study Area to inform the accident review for the immediate road Study Area.

10.4.18 A detailed review of active travel routes and facilities will also be undertaken which will include THC Core Path Plan and Sustrans' National Cycle Route Map.

10.5 Likely Significant Effects

Potential Impacts Scoped In

10.5.1 The main transport impacts will be associated with the movement of general construction and HGV traffic travelling to and from the Site during the construction phase of the Proposed Development.

10.5.2 In relation to the potential alternative construction programmes (refer to Section 2.3) the traffic assessment will consider Scenario 1 (Single Phase Construction) as this would represent the worst-case scenario of all works and associated traffic occurring within a single phase of construction. Within this scenario the assessment would be based on the peak construction period when traffic levels are predicted to be at their highest.

10.5.3 Sensitive receptors during this phase, in relation to potential impacts from the change in traffic flows, will include the following:

- local roads and the users of those roads; and
- land uses and environmental resources fronting these roads, including the relevant occupiers and users.

10.5.4 There is potential for significant effects to occur for users of the road and those residents along the delivery routes in relation to the following factors:

- Severance;
- Driver delay;
- Pedestrian delay;
- Pedestrian amenity;
- Fear and intimidation; and
- Accidents and safety.

10.5.5 The construction phase assessment will be based on the peak construction period. This will review the maximum impact and presents a robust assessment of the effects of construction traffic on the local and trunk road networks.

10.5.6 The effects that will be considered will be based upon percentage increases in traffic flow and reviewed against the impacts noted above.

10.5.7 Standard mitigation measures that are likely to be included in the assessment are:

- CTMP;
- the design of suitable access arrangements with full consideration given to the road safety of all road users;
- Staff Sustainable Access Plan; and
- Abnormal Load Transport Management Plan; and
- Access Management Plan (as required).

10.5.8 It is not anticipated that a formal Transport Assessment will be required as these are not generally considered necessary for temporary construction works. Instead, a reduced scope Transport Assessment will be provided. This will include a Route Survey Report for AILs.

10.5.9 Detailed swept path analysis will be undertaken for the main constraint points on the route from the port of entry (likely to be Nigg) through to the Site access junction to demonstrate that the turbine components can be delivered to Site and to identify any temporary road works which may be necessary. Each turbine is likely to require between 11 and 13 abnormal loads to deliver the components to Site. The components would be delivered on extendable trailers which would then be retracted to the size of a standard HGV for the return journey.

Issues Scoped Out

10.5.10 Once operational, it is envisaged that the level of traffic associated with the Proposed Development would be minimal. Regular monthly or weekly visits would be made to the wind farm for maintenance checks. The vehicles used for these visits are likely to be 4x4 vehicles and there may also be the occasional need for an HGV to access the Site for specific maintenance and /or repairs. It is considered that the effects of operational traffic would be negligible and therefore no detailed assessment of the operational phase of the development is proposed.

10.5.11 The traffic generation levels associated with the decommissioning phase of the Proposed Development would be less than those associated with the development phase as some elements such as access roads would be left in place on the Site. As such, the construction phase is considered the worst-case assessment and an assessment of the decommissioning phase (for the repowered turbines) will therefore not be undertaken. It is anticipated that a suitably worded planning condition would be included in the consent which ensures that the impacts of this phase would be reviewed prior to decommissioning works proceeding.

Cumulative Effects

10.5.12 A cumulative assessment will be undertaken which considers consented schemes that would have a significant impact on the study network (i.e. over 30% increase in traffic flows) and that have publicly available traffic data. These traffic flows will be included in the baseline flows used within the assessment.

10.6 Questions to Consultees

10.6.1 The purpose of this section is to provide specific and focused questions to consultees where agreement is sought, particularly for issues to be scoped out or where we are proposing any deviations from standard methodology.

Table 10.1: Questions to Consultees

Ref	Question
Q10.1	Do consultees agree with the proposed Study Area?
Q10.2	Do consultees agree that operational and decommissioning of the repowered scheme impacts can be scoped out of the EIA?
Q10.3	Do consultees agree that the assessment of Scenario 1 (Single Phase Construction) will represent the worst-case scenario for the assessing the construction traffic related to the Proposed Development?

10.7 Additional Consultation

10.7.1 Additional consultation with the following stakeholders will be undertaken:

- THC Roads and Transport officers;
- Transport Scotland; and
- Various consultees responsible for reviewing the possible effects of abnormal loads on road structures, including Network Rail and the trunk road agents. These consultations will be undertaken using National Highways Electronic Service Delivery for Abnormal Loads (ESDAL) consultation system.

11. AVIATION

11.1 Overview

11.1.1 This Chapter sets out the proposed approach to the assessment of potential effects on aviation and radar during the construction and operation of the Proposed Development.

11.1.2 Wind turbines have the potential to reduce the performance of radars used for air traffic control, air defence and meteorological forecasting, and of aeronautical radio navigation and communications equipment. They may also pose an obstacle hazard to aircraft in the vicinity of aerodromes or engaged in low altitude flight.

11.2 Pre-Scoping Consultation

11.2.1 Further to the pre-application consultation meeting that was held with THC on 14th August 2024 (refer to Section 3.5) no direct consultation has been undertaken with the relevant statutory consultees, with regard to the aviation assessment, prior to the submission of this Scoping Report.

11.3 Baseline Conditions

11.3.1 The Site is located in uncontrolled airspace from ground level to Flight Level (FL) 95 (approximately 9,500 feet above sea level). Above that level is the Class E controlled airspace (with Transponder Mandatory Zone (TMZ)) of the Moray Control Area-8 (CTA-8), within which air traffic services are provided by the NATS En Route (NERL) Prestwick Centre. Moray CTA-8 contains the air traffic service route Y906 between Inverness and Stornoway Airports. Primary surveillance radars (PSRs) used to provide air traffic services to en route traffic in the vicinity of the Site include those at Perwinnes Hill, 148 km southeast of the Site, and Tiree, 206 km southwest of the Site.

11.3.2 Inverness Airport, which is operated by Highlands & Islands Airports Ltd (HIAL), is situated 28 km southeast of the Site. It is equipped with two PSRs, one of which is designed and installed for the specific purpose of mitigating the effects of wind turbines on PSR. Inverness Airport is currently located outside controlled airspace. An application for controlled airspace around the airport has been under discussion with the CAA since 2014. Under the current proposal, which is due for implementation in 2025, Inverness Airport's controlled airspace would not extend as far north as the Site.

11.3.3 Inverness Airport has CAA-approved instrument approach procedures for both runway directions at the airport. As part of the application for controlled airspace, these procedures are being re-designed and will include arrival and departure procedures, together known as instrument flight procedures (IFPs). Current and future IFPs to and from air traffic service route Y906 route via waypoint GARVA, 4 km southwest of the Site. IFPs to and from the north pass approximately 7 km east of the Site.

11.3.4 RAF Lossiemouth is located 63 km east of the Site. It operates a PSR located on the airfield which may be used to provide air traffic services to aircraft operating outside controlled airspace in the vicinity of the Site.

11.3.5 The western parts of the Site are located in military Low Flying Area 14 (T), the Northern Scotland Tactical Training Area, where fixed wing military aircraft may be authorised to fly at less than 250 feet above ground level (agl) during daylight hours. For military night low flying the Site is located in Allocated Region 1B East, for use primarily by fixed wing aircraft. The Site is also located inside military restricted airspace known as R610, the Highlands Restricted Area. This can be activated for use by military aircraft flying at low altitude on instruments (i.e. without visual reference) by day or night. In the western parts of the Site the R610 airspace extends from ground level to 5500 feet above sea level. In the remainder of the Site the R610 airspace extends from ground level to 2000 feet above sea level. The R610 airspace has not been activated since at least August 2015.

11.4 Assessment Scope and Methodology

Key Terms of Reference

11.4.1 The aviation assessment of the Proposed Development will be conducted in accordance with the guidance set out in CAP 764, the CAA policy and guidance on wind turbines[87].

[87] Civil Aviation Authority (2016). CAA Policy and Guidelines on Wind Turbines: CAP 764. Available at: https://www.caa.co.uk/publication/download/14561 [Accessed November 2024].

Study Area

11.4.2 The Study Areas to be adopted vary according to the aviation receptor and will be as follows:

- Air defence and air traffic control PSRs: 100 km radius from the Site to ensures that all such radars that have the operational range and unobstructed line of sight to the Proposed Development are included in the assessment.
- Secondary surveillance radars (SSRs): 10 km radius from the Site as the CAA advises that effects on SSR are unlikely at ranges greater than this.
- Aeronautical radio navigation: 10 km radius from the Site as this is the safeguarding consultation radius adopted by NERL, the principal operator of such equipment in the UK.
- Aerodromes with IFPs: 60 km from the Site as this will ensure that all possible effects on IFPs are considered.
- All other licensed or certificated aerodromes: 20 km from the Site as this is to allow for potential impacts on obstacle limitation surfaces to be accounted for.
- Unlicensed aerodromes and landing sites: 10 km from the Site to reflect advice contained in CAA guidance.
- Meteorological Office radars: 25 km from the Site as this is sufficient to encompass the Met Office wind farm consultation radius of 20km.

Baseline Characterisation

11.4.3 The aviation baseline will be determined from review of the UK Aeronautical Information Publication (AIP)[88]; the UK Military AIP[89]; published civil and military aeronautical charts; and Aviatica databases.

11.5 Likely Significant Effects

Potential Impacts Scoped In

11.5.1 The following aviation receptors will be scoped into the EIA:

- Inverness Airport and RAF Lossiemouth PSRs - Proposed Development is within the operational range of and has the potential to be detected by these radars. Impacts occur only during the operational phase since stationary objects do not appear on PSRs used for air traffic control.
- Inverness Airport IFPs - the Site is within the area where the effects of tall constructions on IFPs are required to be assessed. Impacts may occur in the construction, operation and decommissioning phases.
- Military low flying - the Site is located in a specialist low flying area where flight at less than 250 feet agl is permitted.

11.5.2 In relation to the potential alternative construction, and hence operational, programmes (refer to Section 2.3) the aviation assessment will consider the development as a whole (i.e. upon completion of either Scenario 1: Single Phase Construction and Scenario 2: Two Phase Construction) to represent the worst-case scenario when all of the repowered turbines are operational. It is important to note that for both scenarios there will not be a situation where the existing and repowered turbines would be operational at the same time.

Issues Scoped Out

11.5.3 The following aviation receptors will be scoped out of the EIA:

- Air traffic control or air defence PSRs (other than Inverness Airport and RAF Lossiemouth) as there are no such radars with the operational range and / or line of sight to detect the Proposed Development.
- SSRs, aeronautical radio navigation and communications equipment and Met Office radars as there are no such facilities within the Study Area.
- Aerodromes (other than Inverness Airport) as there are no such facilities within the Study Area.

[88] Available at https://nats-uk.ead-it.com/cms-nats/opencms/en/Publications/AIP/ [Accessed November 2024]
[89] Available at: https://www.aidu.mod.uk/aip/ [Accessed November 2024]

Cumulative Effects

11.5.4 The potential cumulative impacts of the Proposed Development on the Inverness Airport and RAF Lossiemouth PSRs will be assessed by considering whether other existing and proposed wind farms within 30 km radius of the Proposed Development are within line of sight of those radars.

11.5.5 The potential cumulative impacts of the Proposed Development on Inverness Airport IFPs will be assessed by considering whether other proposed wind farms within 60 km radius of Inverness Airport will generate a requirement for upward revision of any of the current procedure minimum altitudes in the area to the north and northwest of Inverness Airport.

11.5.6 The potential cumulative impacts of the Proposed Development on military low flying will be assessed by considering the topography and other existing and proposed wind farms within 20 km radius of the Proposed Development, and by reviewing MoD responses to wind farm developments in that area over the preceding five years.

11.6 Questions to Consultees

11.6.1 The purpose of this section is to provide specific and focused questions to consultees where agreement is sought, particularly for issues to be scoped out or where we are proposing any deviations from standard methodology.

Table 11.1: Questions to Consultees

Ref	Question
Q11.1	Do consultees agree with the methods proposed to determine the aviation baseline?
Q11.2	Do consultees agree with the aviation assets / issues proposed to be scoped into the assessment?
Q11.3	Do consultees agree that the assessment of Scenario 1 (Single Phase Construction) will represent the worst-case scenario for assessing the aviation effects of the Proposed Development?
Q11.4	Do consultees agree with the aviation assets / issues proposed to be scoped out of assessment?

11.7 Additional Consultation

11.7.1 Additional consultation is anticipated with HIAL, NERL and the MoD.

12. TOPICS SCOPED OUT OF THE EIA

12.1.1 This Chapter sets out the potential impacts associated with the Proposed Development which are considered unlikely to give rise to any significant environmental effects, and are accordingly scoped out of the EIA. Stand-alone technical appendixes will be prepared for some topics for which it is considered necessary to provide further environmental information to support the EIAR. These are detailed further in the respective sections below.

12.2 Socio-Economics

12.2.1 The Proposed Development would generate temporary employment opportunities during the construction phase, with associated indirect and induced economic effects through additional spending on local services and resulting beneficial impacts on the local economy. Job creation during the operational phase would be related to the ongoing operations and maintenance of the wind farm.

12.2.2 The economic effects of the Proposed Development are expected to be beneficial. This is supported by the numerous assessments of socio-economic effects undertaken as part of the EIA process for other wind farm developments in Scotland and elsewhere in the UK. There would be no significant effect to existing economic use of the Site, which is an existing operational wind farm. Accordingly, it is proposed to scope out an assessment of socio-economic effects from the EIAR.

12.2.3 A standalone Economic Impact Report will be submitted as part of the application in order to identify the relevant economic information related to the Proposed Development. This will include information on the direct benefits of the Proposed Development, along with the indirect benefit enabled but not directly controlled by the Applicant. Consideration will also be given to wider contribution to capital stocks that will underpin future benefits.

12.2.4 In respect of tourism and recreation, a wealth of literature exists that looks at the impacts of wind farms specifically on tourism. In addition, research[90] suggests that there is no evidence that the presence of wind farm developments have an adverse effect on the tourism sector in Scotland, and no relationship has been identified between the development of onshore wind farms and tourism employment at the level of the Scottish economy, at local authority nor in the areas immediately surrounding wind farm development. Some literature is in fact suggestive of the potential for a positive relationship to exist between tourism and wind farm development. In any case, any effects that may occur are not expected to be significant in the context of the EIA regulations.

12.2.5 The potential impacts on visual amenity for tourism and recreational locations in proximity to the Site will be assessed in the EIAR as part of the LVIA (Chapter 4).

12.3 Shadow Flicker

12.3.1 Under certain combinations of geographical position, times of day and year, the sun may pass behind the turbine rotor and cast a shadow flicker over the windows of neighbouring buildings.

12.3.2 THC's OSWESG[10] requires shadow flicker to be considered for regularly occupied buildings within 11 times the blade diameter and within 130 degrees either side of north relative to the final proposed turbine locations. Based on preliminary turbine layout, there are no properties that would fall within this Study Area.

12.3.3 The potential for shadow flicker effects from the Proposed Development will be addressed through the design process. The final turbine layout will aim for a 11-rotor diameter separation from as many residential properties as possible. If shadow flicker cannot be avoided through design, technical mitigation solutions would be implemented and a Shadow Flicker Mitigation Protocol would be proposed and agreed if required. It is anticipated that a suitably worded planning condition would be part of any consent that requires potential shadow flicker effects to be appropriately mitigated and avoided.

12.3.4 On this basis, shadow flicker will not be considered further in the EIAR.

[90] BiGGAR Economics (2021). Wind Farms and Tourism Trends in Scotland: Evidence from 44 Wind Farms. Available at https://biggareconomics.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/BiGGAR-Economics-Wind-Farms-and-Tourism-2021.pdf [Accessed November 2024].

12.4 Water Environment

Hydrology

12.4.1 Allt Srath nan Gleann and Allt Torran an Tairneanaich ordinary watercourses are present within the central area of the Site application boundary for the proposed wind turbines. An ordinary watercourse identified as Allt an t-Seagaill is adjacent to the northeast, with Allt a' Ghreaich and Allt Leacach watercourses located to the east of this area of the Site. These watercourses flow in a generally northeasterly direction towards the River Averon. Further smaller tributaries of Loch Morie are located to the northeast of the Site, with small tributaries of Loch Glass located to the west and south.

12.4.2 Areas situated within the northern area of the Site for the proposed wind turbines predominantly drain in a northerly direction. Areas in the southern part of this area of the Site generally drain in a southerly direction, whilst the southeastern part of the Site drains in an easterly direction towards confluent tributaries of the River Glass and the River Averon. These catchments discharge to the Cromarty Firth approximately 8 km southeast of the Site application boundary (for the proposed wind turbines).

12.4.3 The access track to the Site is within the catchment of the River Glass, and the existing access track crosses several tributaries of the River Glass which flow in a generally south westerly or southerly direction across the track route.

12.4.4 Loch Glass, the River Averon, and River Glass are assessed by SEPA to be of 'Good' overall condition under the Water Framework Directive (WFD) classification scheme[91]. Loch Morie is assessed to be of High overall condition and the Cromarty Firth is assessed to be of Good overall condition.

12.4.5 The surface water features in relation to the Site are shown on **Figure 12.1: Surface Water Features**.

12.4.6 The Proposed Development would seek to rely on previously consented watercourse crossings and drainage infrastructure as much as feasible. Assessment of the condition and suitability of existing crossings and drainage measures would be carried out, alongside surveying of any new crossing points that may be required. A detailed assessment of potential flow rates at proposed watercourse crossing locations would be carried out by the contractor at the detailed design stage, such that all of the watercourse crossings identified for the Proposed Development would be designed in compliance with the requirements of The Water Environment (Controlled Activities) (Scotland) Regulations 2011 as amended and in line with SEPA best practice guidance[92]. The design of watercourse crossings would also take account of the future 'with climate change' baseline and (to avoid altering the flow regime) would be sized for a 1:200 year plus climate change flood event. A Watercourse Crossing Inventory for both existing and proposed crossings would be prepared and submitted as a Technical Appendix to the EIAR.

12.4.7 There are industry-established good practice measures that will be employed in the design of the Proposed Development and the methodologies used for the construction and operation to minimise, or mitigate for, impacts on the water environment, including those on Site and downstream. The infrastructure layout will be designed with the principle to minimise the number of watercourse crossings and with a 50 m buffer zones around all watercourses. An initial review of the Site suggests that the proposed turbine layout would not lead to any new watercourse crossings or engineering within a 50m buffer of watercourses within the area for the proposed wind turbines, and that construction work at watercourse crossings would be for the upgrading of existing It is expected that the route of the existing access track will be maintained with localised widening / upgrade where required. The management of surface water runoff during construction and the implementation of best practice measures for the prevention of pollution during construction would be detailed in a CEMP that would be prepared and implemented by the contractor.

12.4.8 Assuming that good practice is followed, including appropriate siting of all infrastructure and the provision, and adherence to, a detailed and approved CEMP, no significant effects on surface water during construction or operation are considered likely and an assessment will be scoped out of the EIAR.

[91] Available at: https://informatics.sepa.org.uk/WaterClassificationHub/ [Accessed November 2024]
[92] SEPA (2010) Engineering in the Water Environment: good practice guide. River Crossings. Available at: https://www.sepa.org.uk/media/151036/wat-sg-25.pdf [Accessed November 2024]

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Flood Risk

12.4.9 SEPA Flood Risk maps[93] show that the Site is not located within an area assessed to be at risk of flooding from rivers (less than 1 in 1000 (0.1 %) annual probability) and that the Site is at a very low risk of surface water flooding (less than a 1 in 1,000 (0.1 %) annual probability).

12.4.10 The existing access route for the Site is identified within areas of up to High Likelihood (10 % annual probability) of surface water flooding. Areas of High surface water risk are associated two locations at which the Allt a' Chadha Mhoir crosses the access track and isolated, small areas of surface water ponding (<1 % of the access track length) associated with shallow topographic depressions.

12.4.11 It is sought to scope out flood risk given that Proposed Development would be located outside of areas shown by SEPA Flood Risk maps to be at risk of flooding from rivers and that surface water flood risks would be accounted for during detailed drainage design. As part of the drainage design, an assessment would be undertaken to ensure that runoff rates are no greater post-development for all return periods including up to the 1:200 year event with an allowance for climate change.

12.4.12 Flood risk for the Site is shown on **Figure 12.2: Flood Risk**.

Hydrogeology

12.4.13 According to the BGS 1:625k 'Geology Viewer' website[94], the Site is underlain by superficial deposits comprising peat.

12.4.14 The underlying bedrock across the central part of the Site is mapped as the Tarvie Psammite Formation. An area located within the southwestern Site boundary is mapped as the Ousdale Arkose Formation, comprising interbedded breccia and sandstone, and the western part of the Site boundary is mapped as the Ben Wyvis Pelite Formation, comprising pelite and semipelite.

12.4.15 According to BGS 1:625k hydrogeological mapping[95], the Proposed Development is underlain by aquifers classified by the BGS as low or very low productivity aquifers, with negligible intergranular porosity and low permeability. The route of the existing access track crosses an area assessed to be of Moderate productivity, comprising a 'locally important multi-layered aquifer'.

12.4.16 There is potential for the quality or quantity of water supply associated with public and private water supplies at groundwater or surface water abstraction locations that are found to be in hydrological or hydrogeological connection to the Site to be impacted.

12.4.17 There is also potential for disruption to shallow groundwater flow to occur, in particular through the construction of tracks, drainage measures and turbine foundations.

12.4.18 A review of THC mapping shows that several private water supply (PWS) locations are within 250 m of the existing access track or are situated downslope of the existing access track. Were upgrade work required on the track in these locations, there is the potential that the quality or quantity of water supply could be affected. As PWS locations have been identified in potential hydrological or hydrogeological connectivity to the Site a PWS Assessment would also be prepared as a Technical Appendix to the EIAR. This would include a detailed risk assessment for PWS abstractions (in line with SEPA Land Use Planning System (LUPS) SEPA Guidance Notes 4[96] and 31[97]), were the potential for significant impact on water supplies identified.

12.4.19 Consultation with Scottish Water and THC will be undertaken to confirm if there are public water supplies for potable water that are located within 2 km of the Site. If these were identified and were in potential hydrological or hydrogeological connectivity to the Site, a risk assessment of these locations would be prepared and submitted as a Technical Appendix to the EIAR.

[93] Available at: https://map.sepa.org.uk/floodmap/map.htm [Accessed November 2024].
[94] Available at: https://www.bgs.ac.uk/datasets/bgs-geology-625k-digmapgb/ [Accessed November 2024]
[95] Available at: https://www.bgs.ac.uk/datasets/hydrogeology-625k/ [Accessed November 2024]
[96] SEPA (2017) Land Use Planning System SEPA Guidance Note 4 - Planning guidance on on-shore windfarm developments. Available at: https://www.sepa.org.uk/media/136117/planning-guidance-on-on-shore-windfarms-developments.pdf [Accessed November 2024]
[97] SEPA (2017) Land Use Planning System SEPA Guidance Note 31 – Guidance on Assessing the Impacts of Development Proposals on Groundwater Abstractions and Groundwater Dependent Terrestrial Ecosystems. Available at: https://www.sepa.org.uk/media/144266/lups-gu31-guidance-on-assessing-the-impacts-of-development-proposals-on-groundwater-abstractions.pdf [Accessed November 2024]

GWDTE

12.4.20 There is the potential that areas of the Site may be classified as potentially groundwater dependent. The presence of potential NVC communities has been established through ecological surveying as described in Chapter 6, and for the identified habitats, hydrological assessment would be carried out to determine the actual likelihood of groundwater dependency and the sensitivity of such habitats.

12.4.21 There is potential for impacts on GWDTE associated with interruption of groundwater flow and potential reduction in the supply of groundwater to GWDTE thereby causing an alteration / change in the quality or quantity of and / or the physical or biological characteristics of the GWDTE. Contamination of groundwater may also cause physical or chemical contamination to the GWDTE.

12.4.22 According to the BGS digital map and Hydrogeological[98] and Groundwater Vulnerability[99] Maps of Scotland (1:625k), the Proposed Development is underlain by Low productivity aquifers and the existing access track crosses an area underlain aquifers of a Moderate productivity. If it is identified that potentially groundwater dependent vegetation communities (as identified by ecological surveying and classification of NVC communities) are not supported by groundwater supplies, in consultation with SEPA, it would be sought to scope out this assessment from the EIAR.

12.4.23 If required, a GWDTE Assessment of NVC habitats would be provided as a further Technical Appendix to the EIAR.

12.5 Climate Change

Carbon Emissions

12.5.1 The Proposed Development will contribute positively to helping Scotland (and the UK) meet its targets for carbon reduction through the production of low carbon renewable energy and a corresponding net reduction in carbon emissions in comparison to more carbon intensive generation sources.

12.5.2 However, it is acknowledged that the Proposed Development will still give rise to carbon emissions associated with its construction. A transparent account of carbon emissions for the Proposed Development throughout its lifecycle will be provided in the form of a Carbon Balance Report, which will be prepared and submitted as a Technical Appendix to the EIAR.

12.5.3 This report will include a calculation of the expected carbon savings over the lifetime of the Proposed Development and will be presented using the latest version of the Scottish Government's Carbon Calculator Tool[74]. This remains the best available standardised tool for use in relation to net carbon saving calculations for wind farm developments across the UK.

12.5.4 The assessment will be undertaken in accordance with Scottish Government recommended methodology[100] and will present the carbon emissions associated with construction materials and the wind turbines themselves, including ground conditions, access preparations, foundation excavations, materials used on-site, the transportation of materials and components to Site, and any other carbon loss (e.g. through the degradation of peat / peaty soils).

Climate Resilience

12.5.5 The Proposed Development's response to climate resilience risks will be provided in the introductory chapters of the EIAR and description of the Proposed Development. Consideration will be given to proposed mitigation measures (both inherent and additional) to ensure the Proposed Development is resilient to a changing climate.

12.5.6 Key climate resilience risks for the Proposed Development and the Site as a whole are presented in **Table 12.1: Climate Risks and Project Response**, along with an account of how they will be addressed for the Proposed Development.

[98] Available at: https://www.bgs.ac.uk/datasets/hydrogeology-625k/ [Accessed November 2024]
[99] Available at: https://www.bgs.ac.uk/datasets/groundwater-vulnerability-data/ [Accessed November 2024]
[100] Nayak et. al., (2010). Calculating Carbon Savings from Wind Farms on Scottish Peat Lands: A New Approach. Available at: https://www.gov.scot/publications/calculating-carbon-savings-wind-farms-scottish-peat-lands-new-approach/pages/0/ [Accessed November 2024].

Table 12.1 Climate Risks and Project Response

Climate Risk	Response
Increased risk of extreme rainfall events and drought.	Considered within design development / CEMP.
Increased risk of moorland fires.	Considered within design development.
Increased risk of extreme temperatures.	Considered within design development.
Increased risk of storms / high wind.	Considered within design development.
Changes to hydrology / hydrogeology.	Considered within design development / CEMP.
Risks to biodiversity as a result of changing climate.	Considered within the Biodiversity Chapters.

12.5.7 With adoption of a climate resilient design and the assessment of environmental risks associated with climate change as an integral part of 'scoped in' environmental topics as outlined above, it is proposed to scope out an assessment of climate change from the EIAR.

12.6 Air Quality

12.6.1 The Proposed Development is not considered likely to give rise to significant air quality effects. The main activities that have the potential to give rise to air quality impacts would be limited to:

- Construction and decommissioning works, giving rising to dust emissions from earthworks (potentially including occasional blasting) and trackout from construction vehicles; and
- Exhaust emissions from fixed and mobile construction plant and vehicles.

12.6.2 Construction works would be localised, short term, intermittent and controllable through the application of best practice on-site. Fixed and mobile plant would be limited in size and number and would operate for short periods. Measures to manage air quality during construction, such as dust management, will be included in the outline CEMP to be appended to the EIAR.

12.6.3 The contributions of exhaust emissions (NO_2 and PM_{10}) from construction vehicles are likely to be low, and orders of magnitude below current Air Quality Objectives[101].

12.6.4 Once operational, the only source of emissions would be from occasional maintenance vehicles, and any impacts would be negligible.

12.6.5 Accordingly, it is proposed to scope out an assessment of air quality from the EIAR.

12.7 Population and Human Health

12.7.1 The EIAR will inherently consider human health in terms of the following potential impacts:

- Impacts on human health from noise, as part of the Noise assessment (Chapter 9);
- Impacts on pedestrian amenity and safety, as part of the Transport assessment (Chapter 10); and
- Impacts on amenity associated with visual impacts, as part of the LVIA (Chapter 4).

12.7.2 In addition, appropriate control measures to ensure potential impacts on air and water quality are managed appropriately during the construction phase will be set out in the outline CEMP to be included as a Technical Appendix to the EIAR.

12.7.3 Accordingly, it is proposed to scope out a separate assessment of population and human health from the EIAR.

12.8 Telecommunication

12.8.1 It is proposed to scope out telecommunications from the EIA assessment. Ofcom records show no fixed microwave links passing within 2.5 km of the Site; operators of scanning telemetry and television re-broadcast links have confirmed that they have no assets with the potential to be affected by the Proposed Development; and due to the remoteness of the Site, no effects on TV reception are predicted.

[101] Available at https://uk-air.defra.gov.uk/assets/documents/Air_Quality_Objectives_Update_20230403.pdf [Accessed November 2024]

12.9 Risk of Major Accidents and / or Disasters

12.9.1 An assessment of major accidents and disasters considers the potential impacts of a development on the environment as a result of its vulnerability to, or introduction of, risks of major accidents and / or disasters.

12.9.2 In 2020, the IEMA published a Primer to better define the assessment methodology for major accidents and disasters in EIA[102]. The Primer states that "*major accidents and / or disasters should be considered as part of an assessment where the development has the potential to cause the loss of life, permanent injury and / or temporary or permanent destruction of an environmental receptor which cannot be restored through minor clean-up and restoration*".

12.9.3 Potential major accident risks associated with the Proposed Development include:

- road accidents, including AILs;
- risk of aircraft collisions with turbines and glint / glare risks to aircraft;
- fire risk; and
- flood risk.

12.9.4 The geotechnical design of the Proposed Development's permanent infrastructure and access tracks will take into account geotechnical risks from unstable slopes and peat. A peat slide risk assessment will be completed as part of the Soils Chapter of the EIAR (refer to Chapter 8).

12.9.5 Flood risk will be limited for the majority of the Site and the Proposed Development will be designed to avoid areas at significant risk of fluvial and surface water flooding.

12.9.6 Due to the nature of the Proposed Development, the risk of a major accident or disaster is considered to be extremely low. In addition, the Site is located in a remote area, with few nearby receptors. A risk assessment process will be followed by the Principal Designer during the design stage as part of the requirements of the Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2015. This will ensure that all potential risks are identified at an early stage and appropriate mitigation is implemented.

12.9.7 During the operational stage of the Proposed Development, routine maintenance inspections would be completed in order to ensure compliant operation of the Proposed Development.

12.9.8 Accordingly, it is proposed to scope out an assessment of major accidents and / or disaster from the EIAR.

[102] Arup (2020). Major Accidents and Disasters in EIA: A Primer. Available: https://www.iema.net/resources/blog/2020/09/23/iema-major-accidents-and-disasters-in-eia-primer [Accessed November 2024]

13. NEXT STEPS

13.1.1 This report is provided to support a request under Regulation 12 of the EIA regulations for a 'Scoping Opinion' regarding the information to be provided within the EIAR which will accompany the Application.

13.1.2 Informing its opinion, the Scottish Ministers will seek the views of various organisations with an interest in the Proposed Development, inviting comments on the proposed scope of and approach to the EIA proposed herein.

APPENDIX 3.1
Preliminary Cumulative Schedule

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Table A3.1: Indicative Cumulative Developments within 35 km of the Site [Updated as of October 2024]

Wind Farm	Status	Turbine No.	Maximum Blade Tip Height (m)
Abhainn Dubh Wind Farm	In Planning	13	149.9
Achany Wind Farm	Operational	19	100
Allt An Tuir Wind Farm	Screening / Scoping	9	200
Beinn nan Oighrean Wind Farm	Operational	2	99.5
Ballach Wind Farm	Scoping / Screening	36	230
Balblair Wind Farm	Screening / Scoping	8	180/200
Beinn nan Oighrean Wind Farm	Operational	2	99.5
Beinn Tharsuinn Wind Farm	Operational	17	80
Braelangwell	Scoping / Screening	20	180
Carn Fearna Wind Farm	Scoping / Screening	9	180/200
Ceislein Wind Farm	Scoping / Screening	20	250
Coillie Beith Wind Farm	Scoping / Screening	19	200
Coire na Cloiche Wind Farm	Operational	13	100
Corriemoillie Wind Farm	Operational	17	125
Creachan Wind Farm	Scoping / Screening	21	220
Fairburn Wind Farm	Operational	20	100
Fairburn Wind Farm Extension	Scoping / Screening	14	200
Garvary Wind Farm	In Planning	25	180
Kirkan	Approved	17	175
Lairg	Operational	3	100
Lairg 2 Wind Farm	Approved	10	200
Lairg 3 Wind Farm (Acheilidh Wind Farm)	In Planning	12	230
Lochluichart Wind Farm	Operational	17	125
Lochluichart Wind Farm Extension	Operational	6	125
Lochluichart Wind Farm Extension II Redesign	Approved	5	149.9
Meall Buidhe Wind Farm	Approved	8	149.9
Novar 2 Wind Farm	Operational	16	106
Rosehall Wind Farm	Operational	19	90
Strath Oykel Wind Farm	In Planning	11	200
Strathrory Wind Farm	Approved	7	180
Tarvie Windfarm	Scoping / Screening	5	200

APPENDIX 5.1
Cultural Heritage Baseline Review

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APPENDIX 5.1: CULTURAL HERITAGE BASELINE REVIEW

1.1 Site Context

1.1.1 The Site comprises the existing Novar Wind Farm, set atop a series of hills situated between Loch Glass to the southwest and Loch Morie to the northeast, with views to the south extending across the western extent of the Cromarty Firth. The altitude ranges between c. 310m Above Ordnance Datum (AOD) and 625m AOD. The British Geological Survey (BGS) records much of the underlying bedrock of the Site as comprising Tarvie Formation psammites, formed between 1,000 and 720 million years ago (Ma) during the Neoproterozoic Era[1]. A small area of younger Ousdale Arkose Formation breccias and sandstones, formed during the Devonian Period between 419 and 394.3 Ma, comprises much of Meall an Leathaid[1]. Dystrophic blanket peat is recorded as the superficial geology[2].

1.1.2 The Site occupies a semi-remote upland location. Loch Glass and Loch Morie are depicted on Blaeu's map of 1654[3] but with no further detail, while Roy's map of 1747-52 shows the upland nature of the Site with no indication of settlement or agricultural activity across the Site itself but with some settlement indicated at the base of the hills near the lochs[4]. The first Ordnance Survey (OS) map of the area produced in 1880[5] shows a similarly sparsely inhabited landscape with no structural remains indicated on Site. This lack of settlement and agricultural remains, at least during the post-medieval period, is likely a result of the high altitude the Site occupies.

1.1.3 A large proportion of the Site was subject to an archaeological walkover survey[6] in 1994 to inform the Environmental Statement for the existing Novar Wind Farm. The sole archaeologically significant structure to be identified comprised a single grouse butt (Asset 43), and it considered there to be limited archaeological potential on the Site due to the altitude.

1.2 Baseline Study Areas

1.2.1 The following study areas have been adopted to define the baseline for the assessment:

- Core Study Area (the Site) - includes all land within the Site application boundary;
- 1 km Study Area – 1 km area from the Site application boundary;
- 5 km Study Area – 5 km area from the area proposed for the wind turbines; and
- 10 km Study Area – 10 km from the area proposed for the wind turbines.

1.3 Designated Heritage Assets

1.3.1 Designated heritage assets identified within the Proposed Development's study areas are listed in the **Table A5.1: Designated Heritage Assets within 10 km Study Area** with further detail provided in the Gazetteer in **Appendix 5.2: Heritage Asset and Event Gazetteer** (of this Scoping Report). The location of designated assets in relation to the Site is shown on **Figure 5.2: Designated Heritage Assets, Study Areas and ZTV** (of this Scoping Report).

1.3.2 There are no designated heritage assets within the Site. There are three Scheduled Monuments (Assets 12, 13 and 14), one Category B Listed Building (Asset 28) and one Inventory Garden and Designed Landscape (GDL) (Asset 32) within the 1 km of the access track leading to the wind turbine area.

[1] British Geological Survey. 2024. GeoIndex Onshore. https://mapapps2.bgs.ac.uk/geoindex/home.html [Accessed November 2024].
[2] National Soil Map of Scotland. https://map.environment.gov.scot/Soil_maps [Accessed November 2024].
[3] Blaeu, J. 1654. Moravia Scotiae provincial. https://maps.nls.uk/view/464 [Accessed November 2024]
[4] Roy, W. 1747-52. Highland. https://maps.nls.uk/geo/roy/ [Accessed November 2024]
[5] OS. 1880. *Ross-shire & Cromartyshire (Mainland), Sheet LII, Surveyed: 1875.* https://maps.nls.uk/view/74428376 [Accessed November 2024].
[6] Centre for Field Archaeology. 1995. Proposed Windfarm, Novar Estate, Ross and Cromarty District, Highland Region, Archaeological Assessment. Report No. 191. https://her.highland.gov.uk/Event/EHG159 [Accessed November 2024]

1.3.3 Within the 5 km Study Area (from the proposed area for the wind turbines) there are eleven designated assets, including five Scheduled Monuments (Assets 2, 11, 13, 14 and 17 (the latter of which is composed of three separate cairns, Assets 17.1, 17.2 and 17.3)), two Category A Listed Buildings (Assets 23 and 26), which each have several separate elements, two Category B Listed Buildings (Asset 28 and 29), one Category C Listed Building (Asset 30), and one Inventory GDL (Asset 31).

1.3.4 Within the 10 km Study Area (from the proposed area for the wind turbines) there are a further 21 designated assets. These comprise 17 Scheduled Monuments (Assets 1, 3 to 10, 12, 15, 16 and 18 to 22), three Category A Listed Buildings (Assets 24, 25 and 27) and one Inventory GDL (Asset 32).

1.3.5 In addition to the above, Historic Environment Scotland (HES) have confirmed through consultation that six Scheduled Monuments (Assets 129-134) that lie beyond 10 km of the Site, comprising Neolithic and Bronze Age funerary monuments, should be included for assessment.

1.3.6 A Scoping Layout ZTV based on a bare-earth model with a viewing height of 2 m and blade tip height of 180 m has been produced for the Scoping layout. This ZTV in relation to designated heritage assets is visible on **Figure 5.2: Designated Heritage Assets, Study Areas and ZTV** (of this Scoping Report). The potential numbers of turbines intervisible with the designated assets is set out in **Table A5.1: Designated Heritage Assets within 10 km Study Area and Selected Designated Assets beyond 10 km Study Area.**

Table A5.1: Designated Heritage Assets within 10 km Study Area and Selected Designated Assets beyond 10 km Study Area

Asset No.	Asset Name / Designation Number	Distance from Turbines (km)	No. of Turbines Theoretically Visible
Scheduled Monuments			
1	Stittenham House, chambered cairn 135m W of, SM4700	7.8	6-8
2	Carn na Feinne, chambered cairn, SM4812	4.8	2-4
3	Moultavie, cairn 450m N of, SM5192	5.9	0
4	Moultavie, two cairns 850m NW of, SM5223	5.2	0
5	Carn na Croiche, chambered cairn, SM4750	8.4	8-10
6	St Ninian's Chapel, Nonakiln, SM5572	9.1	4-6
7	Easter Baldoon, chambered cairn 190m NNE of, SM4753	6.9	8-10
8	Gun Port, burial mound 45m N of, SM5002	6.4	0
9	Uplands, enclosure 350m NE of, SM4841	9.4	0
10	Cnoc an Teampuill, chapel, SM5530	7.6	2-4
11	Eileanach Lodge, settlement & field system 550m WSW of, SM4707	2.2	8-10
12	Carn Liath, chambered cairn, SM4839	9.2	0
13	Drumore, farmstead, field system, chambered cairn & cupmarks 600m W of, SM4945	4.9	8-10
14	Cladh Churadain, chapel and burial ground, SM5007	4.3	0
15	Firth View, settlement 1300m NW of, SM4728	9.4	0
16	Strath Sgitheach, settlement NW of Cnoc a'Mhuilinn, SM10495	8.5	1-2
17.1	Boath, three chambered cairns NE and NNE of Easter Ballone Farm, SM6644	1.3	6-8
17.2	Boath, three chambered cairns NE and NNE of Easter Ballone Farm, SM6644	1.5	8-10
17.3	Boath, three chambered cairns NE and NNE of Easter Ballone Farm, SM6644	1.7	8-10
18	Millcraig,chambered cairn, SM2406	8.7	1-2
19	Heights of Brae, chambered cairn 375m NNW of Firth View, SM2312	9.8	4-6
20	Balnacrae, chambered cairn 230m WSW of, SM2396	6.2	2-4
21	Carn Liath, cairn, Obsdale, SM2970	9.9	2-4
22	Cille Bhrea, church and burial ground 60m ENE of Waterloo House, SM2968	9.2	0
129	Glenurquhart, long cairn 800m NW of,	19.6	8-10
130	Grey Cairn, cairn and long cairn,	19.5	8-10
131	Easter Brae, long cairn & cairn,	13.3	8-10
132	Wester Brae, long cairn 650m SSE of,	14	8-10
133	Woodhead, chambered cairn 350m E of,	13.9	8-10
134	Woodhead, long cairn 600m ESE of Woodhead Farm	14.2	8-10
Listed Buildings- Category A			
23.1	Wyvis Lodge, LB7906	3.7	8-10
23.2	Bird Game Larder, Wyvis Lodge, LB7906	3.6	8-10
23.3	Deer Game Larder, Wyvis Lodge, LB7906	3.6	8-10
23.4	Stables, Wyvis Lodge, LB7906	3.7	8-10
24	Foulis Castle, LB7911	7.2	8-10
25	Granary, Foulis Ferry, LB7914	8.3	0
26.1	Ardross Castle, LB15031	4.2	8-10

Asset No.	Asset Name / Designation Number	Distance from Turbines (km)	No. of Turbines Theoretically Visible
26.2	Three pairs of gatepiers and gates, Ardross Castle, LB15031	4.8	8-10
26.3	Gardens, Ardross Castle, LB15031	4.3	8-10
26.4	Gazebo And Terraces, Ardross Castle, LB15031	4.2	8-10
27	Caisteal Gorach, Tulloch Castle, LB24520	9.4	0
Listed Buildings- Category B			
28	Assynt House, LB368	5	0
29	Fyrish Monument, LB369	4.6	8-10
Listed Buildings- Category C			
30	Ardross Church, LB15033	4.7	8-10
Inventory Gardens and Designed Landscapes			
31	Ardross Castle, GDL00023	2.3	8-10
32	Novar, GDL00303	5.3	0

1.4 Non-designated Assets

1.4.1 Non-designated assets identified within the Site and the 1 km Study Area are detailed below in **Table A5.2: Non-designated Heritage Assets and Events within Site and 1 km Study Area** and listed in the Gazetteer which is provided in **Appendix 5.2: Heritage Asset and Event Gazetteer** (of this Scoping Report). The location of non-designated assets in relation to the Site is shown on **Figure 5.1: Non-Designated Heritage Assets within Site Application Boundary and 1 km Study Area** (of this Scoping Report).

1.4.2 There are six non-designated assets recorded within the Site (Assets 43, 44, 55, 56, 78 and 85), all of which are considered to be 19th century and / or modern in date. Asset 43 is a shooting stand recorded during walkover survey that was undertaken in advance of the existing Novar Wind Farm construction. The existing Novar Wind Farm (Asset 44) is also recorded as a non-designated heritage asset. A review of current (2024) OS mapping and a review of current Bing satellite imagery indicates a summit cairn (Asset 55) atop Meall a' Tuirc with a nearby cairn (Asset 56) that is likely a navigational cairn. Asset 78 was recorded from historic mapping dated to 1881 which shows the small township of Lariebhuidhe comprised of three roofed buildings, one unroofed building, two enclosures, a kiln and a head-dyke. Two of the roofed buildings are shown to be located in the footprint of the access track (leading to the area of the wind turbines) within the Site Application Boundary on the 1881 map, however these buildings cannot be seen on current satellite imagery. Asset 85 was also recorded from historic mapping dated 1881 where it can be seen to comprise a farmstead made up of two unroofed buildings. The farmstead is not shown on later maps of 1895 or on modern satellite imagery.

1.4.3 There are a further 93 non-designated assets recorded in the 1 km Study Area the majority of which have been recorded at lower elevations in the vicinity of the eastern end of the access track (leading to the wind turbine area). The assets include prehistoric cup and ring marked stones (Assets 121 to 127) clearance cairns (60 and 64) and findspots (Assets 57 to 59). Post-medieval farmsteads are recorded towards the eastern end of the 1 km Study Area at Asset 69, 74 and 79 to 86. Military

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remains of 20th century dates are recorded at Evanton (Assets 100 to 104 and 109) with further modern grouse hunting shooting butts (Assets 50.1 to 50.9), and a bloomery of unknown date (Asset 48) also recorded.

1.4.4 Two archaeological watching briefs (Events 45 and 105) have also been undertaken within the 1 km Study Area but did not record any features of archaeological interest.

Table A5.2: Non-designated Heritage Assets and Events within Site and 1 km Study Area

Asset No.	Asset Name /Asset Type	NRHE / HER Number
Non-designated Assets within Site		
43	Bendeallt, Shooting Stand	NH57SE 35.00
44	Bendeallt, Wind Farm (Novar)	NH57SE 37.00
55	Cairn, Meall an Tuirc	N/A (identified in DBA)
56	Cairn, Meall an Tuirc	N/A (identified in DBA)
78	Lariebhuidhe	N/A (identified in DBA)
85	Cnoc Thuradain	NH56NE 40.00
Non-designated Assets within 1 km Study Area		
36	Loch Glass, Enclosure, Field Boundary	NH57SW 5.00
37	Ruigh Fhearchair, Head Dyke, Township	NH57SW 6.00
45	Ruigheachan, Watching Brief	NH57SW 9.00
48	Meall An Tuirc, Bloomery (Possible), Findspot, Slag	NH57SE 44.00
49	Sheepfold, Ruighe Fhearchair	MHG32224
50.1	Grouse butt, Cnoc na Ghille Bhrònaich	MHG56494
50.2	Grouse butt, Cnoc na Ghille Bhrònaich	MHG56494
50.3	Grouse butt, Cnoc na Ghille Bhrònaich	MHG56494
50.4	Grouse butt, Cnoc na Ghille Bhrònaich	MHG56494
50.5	Grouse butt, Cnoc na Ghille Bhrònaich	MHG56494
50.6	Grouse butt, Cnoc na Ghille Bhrònaich	MHG56494
50.7	Grouse butt, Cnoc na Ghille Bhrònaich	MHG56494
50.8	Grouse butt, Cnoc na Ghille Bhrònaich	MHG56494
50.9	Grouse butt, Cnoc na Ghille Bhrònaich	MHG56494
53.1	Grouse butt, Cnoc a' Leacachan	N/A (identified in DBA)
53.2	Grouse butt, Cnoc a' Leacachan	N/A (identified in DBA)
53.3	Grouse butt, Cnoc a' Leacachan	N/A (identified in DBA)
53.4	Grouse butt, Cnoc a' Leacachan	N/A (identified in DBA)
53.5	Grouse butt, Cnoc a' Leacachan	N/A (identified in DBA)
53.6	Grouse butt, Cnoc a' Leacachan	N/A (identified in DBA)

Asset No.	Asset Name /Asset Type	NRHE / HER Number
53.7	Grouse butt, Cnoc a' Leacachan	N/A (identified in DBA)
53.8	Grouse butt, Cnoc a' Leacachan	N/A (identified in DBA)
54	Cairn, Meall an Leathaid	N/A (identified in DBA)
57	Dalgheal	NH66NW 11.00
58	Novar	NH66NW 20.00
59	Novar	NH56NE 11.00
60	Redburn	NH56NE 15.00
61	Novar, Station	NH66NW 28.00
62	Evanton, Culcairn Mills	NH66NW 33.00
63	Swordale	NH56NE 19.00
64	Mains Of Assynt	NH56NE 5.00
65	Assynt	NH56NE 7.00
66	Swordale	NH56NE 8.00
67	Cnocan	NH56NE 9.00
68	Meann Chnoc	NH56NE 20.00
69	Mains Of Assynt, Steading	NH56NE 22.02
70	Carn Liath	NH56NE 24.00
71	Evanton Wood	NH56NE 25.00
72	Glen Glass, 'Garabil'	NH56NE 26.00
73	Glen Glass, 'Sockach'	NH56NE 27.00
74	Eilean Na Cabhaig	NH56NE 29.00
75	West End	NH56NE 30.00
76	Bog Buidhe	NH56NE 31.00
77	Balnaarge	NH56NE 32.00
79	Eilean Dubh	NH56NE 34.00
80	Uig	NH56NE 35.00
81	Lynechork	NH56NE 36.00
82	Knockmartin	NH56NE 37.00
83	Bog Tuath	NH56NE 38.00
84	Bog Tuath	NH56NE 39.00
86	Allt Riabhach	NH56NE 41.00
87	Novar House	NH66NW 40.00
88	Mains Of Assynt, Gate	NH56NE 22.01
89	Evanton, Balconie Street, General	NH66NW 42.00

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Asset No.	Asset Name /Asset Type	NRHE / HER Number
90	Evanton, Chapel Street, 1 The Chapel	NH66NW 43.00
91	Novar House	NH66NW 46.00
92	Mains Of Assynt, Farmhouse	NH56NE 22.00
93	Mains Of Assynt, Implement Shed	NH56NE 22.03
94	Mains Of Assynt, Hen House	NH56NE 22.04
95	Mains Of Assynt, Tractor Shed	NH56NE 22.05
96	Redburn, Croft	NH56NE 49.00
97	Evanton	NH66NW 37.00
98	Evanton, Newton Road, Newton	NH66NW 49.00
99	Novar House, West Entrance Gates	NH66NW 46.04
100	Evanton Airfield, Technical Area	NH66NW 34.01
101	Evanton Airfield, Officers' Quarters	NH66NW 34.02
102	Evanton Airfield, Accommodation Camp	NH66NW 34.05
103	Evanton Airfield, Married Quarters	NH66NW 34.09
104	Evanton Airfield	NH66NW 34.10
105	Balnarge	NH56NE 51.00
106	Auchnagaul	NH56NE 54.00
107	Assynt, Cnoc Thuradain	NH56NE 55.00
108	Evanton, Chapel Street, 2 The Chapel	NH66NW 52.00
109	Evanton Airfield, Schwappach Belt	NH66NW 34.12
110	Evanton, South Railway Bridge	NH66NW 59.00
111	Evanton, Balconie Street, North Bridge	NH66NW 62.00
112	Evanton, North Railway Bridge	NH66NW 63.00
113	Evanton, New North Bridge	NH66NW 64.00
114	Novar Quarry	NH66NW 65.00
115	Novar, Black Rock Gorge	NH56NE 56.00
116	Evanton, Chapel Road, General	NH66NW 84.00
117	Creag Ruadh	NH56NE 61.00
118	Clach A Cholumain	NH56NE 62.00
119	West End	NH56NE 63.00
120	Evanton, Newton Road	NH66NW 95.00
121	Druim Mor Garden 1	NH56NE 87.00
122	Druim Mor Garden 2	NH56NE 88.00
123	Evanton Garden 2	NH66NW 98.00

Asset No.	Asset Name /Asset Type	NRHE / HER Number
124	Evanton Garden 4	NH66NW 99.00
125	Evanton Garden 5	NH66NW 100.00
126	Evanton Garden 1	NH66NW 102.00
127	Evanton Garden 3	NH66NW 103.00
128	Evanton Wood, Cnoc Ruadh	NH66NW 97.00

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APPENDIX 5.2
Heritage Asset and Event Gazetteer

Asset/Event Number	1
Asset/Event Name	Stittenham House,chambered cairn 135m W of
Type of Asset/Event	Prehistoric ritual and funerary: chambered cairn
Date and/or Period	Prehistoric
Listing No./NRHE Number	SM4700
HER Number	
Status	Scheduled Monument
Easting	264911
Northing	874303
Parish	Rosskeen
Council	Highland
Description	The remains of a chambered cairn consisting of a two compartment burial chamber with portal stones. The cairn measures about 12.5m in diameter. The area to be scheduled measures 40m in diameter and includes the features described above and an area around them in which traces of activities associated with their use will survive, as depicted in red on the attached map. Statement of National Importance The site is of national importance because it can give us a greater understanding of prehistoric burial practice. It is of further importance because pollen and features sealed beneath the cairn can increase our understanding of the environment and land use immediately prior to its construction.

Asset/Event Number	2
Asset/Event Name	Carn na Feinne,chambered cairn
Type of Asset/Event	Prehistoric ritual and funerary: chambered cairn
Date and/or Period	Prehistoric
Listing No./NRHE Number	SM4812
HER Number	
Status	Scheduled Monument
Easting	261550
Northing	874796
Parish	Rosskeen
Council	Highland
Description	The remains of a burial chamber consisting of six large slabs enclosing an area of 5.5m by 1.9m. The area to be scheduled measures 45m E-W by 40m in diameter and includes the structure described above and an area around it in which traces of activities associated with its use will survive, as detailed in red on the attached map. Statement of National Importance The site is of national importance because it can give us a greater understanding of prehistoric burial and ceremonial practice. It is of further importance because pollen and features which are sealed beneath the cairn can enhance our understanding of the environment and land-use immediately prior to its construction.

Appendix 5.2: Gazetteer of Heritage Assets and Events

Asset/Event Number	3
Asset/Event Name	Moultavie,cairn 450m N of
Type of Asset/Event	Prehistoric ritual and funerary: cairn (type uncertain)
Date and/or Period	Prehistoric
Listing No./NRHE Number	SM5192
HER Number	
Status	Scheduled Monument
Easting	263128
Northing	871756
Parish	Alness
Council	Highland
Description	A round cairn with contemporary concentric bank. The cairn measures 10m in diameter and up to 1m high with some kerb stones on the S. The enclosing stony bank is up to 2m wide and 0.5m high and has been destroyed on the east side. The area to be scheduled measures 40m in diameter and includes the structures described above and an area around them in which traces of activities associated with their use will survive, as detailed in red on the attached map. Statement of National Importance The monument is of national importance because it can give us a greater understanding of prehistoric burial and ceremonial practice and increase our understanding of cairn construction. It is of further importance because pollen and features sealed beneath the cairn can enhance our understanding of the environment and land-use immediately prior to its construction.

Asset/Event Number	4
Asset/Event Name	Moultavie,two cairns 850m NW of
Type of Asset/Event	Prehistoric ritual and funerary: cairn (type uncertain)
Date and/or Period	Prehistoric
Listing No./NRHE Number	SM5223
HER Number	
Status	Scheduled Monument
Easting	262360
Northing	871637
Parish	Alness
Council	Highland
Description	The most northerly cairn measures 16m in diameter and up to 1.2m high. There is an almost complete kerb of boulders around its perimeter. The second cairn measures 8.0m in diameter and up to 1.2m high. The area to be scheduled measures 60m NW-SE by 35m NE-SW and is bounded on the SE by a forest track as detailed in red on the attached map. Statement of National Importance The site is of national importance because it can give us a greater understanding of prehistoric cairn construction. Pollen and features sealed beneath the cairns can also increase our understanding of the land use immediately prior to its construction.

Asset/Event Number	5
Asset/Event Name	Carn na Croiche,chambered cairn
Type of Asset/Event	Prehistoric ritual and funerary: chambered cairn
Date and/or Period	Prehistoric
Listing No./NRHE Number	SM4750
HER Number	
Status	Scheduled Monument
Easting	265615
Northing	872212
Parish	Rosskeen
Council	Highland
Description	The remains of a chambered cairn measuring about 20m in diameter. Near the centre eight upright stones indicate the position of the burial chamber and passage. The area to be scheduled measures 45m in diameter to include the structures described above and an area around them in which traces of activities associated with their use will survive, as depicted in red on the attached map. Statement of National Importance The site is of national importance because it can give us a greater understanding of prehistoric burial and ritual practice. It is of further importance because pollen and features buried beneath the cairn's surface can enhance our understanding of the environment and land use immediately prior to the construction of the cairn.

Asset/Event Number	6
Asset/Event Name	St Ninian's Chapel, Nonakiln
Type of Asset/Event	Ecclesiastical: chapel
Date and/or Period	Medieval
Listing No./NRHE Number	SM5572
HER Number	
Status	Scheduled Monument
Easting	266228
Northing	871250
Parish	Rosskeen
Council	Highland
Description	The chapel sits in an old burial ground on rising ground which overlooks the Cromarty Firth to the south. All that survives above ground of the building, which fell in 1714, is the intact W gable. It contains a square-headed door and an arched window above with the stump of a central mullion. The gable is 8.15m long, 0.9m thick and about 6m high. The masonry is random-coursed rubble. An intake above the door indicates the position of a loft or ceiling. A modern low walled burial enclosure has been attached to the E side of the gable. Partly built over the site of the church, 10.5m to the E of the gable is a rectangular, high-walled burial enclosure of 18 century date. The area to be scheduled is rectangular, measuring a maximum of 23.7m E-W by 12.15m N-S, to include the buried remains of the chapel.

Appendix 5.2: Gazetteer of Heritage Assets and Events

Statement of National Importance
The monument is of national importance because, although fragmentary, it is a chapel of medieval date which is thought to have been dedicated to St Ninian, however the name Noinikil refers to the glebe of the church making the dedication to St Ninian questionable. By preserving the remains of the chapel for future study it may be possible to shed light on the origins and patronage of the chapel.

In addition the monument provides evidence and has the potential to provide further evidence through excavation and analysis which may contribute to our understanding of ecclesiastical architecture and history, toponomy, parish boundaries, burial practices and material culture during the period of its construction and use.

References
Bibliography
RCAHMS records the monument as NH 67 SE 20.

References
Mackinlay J M, Ancient Church Dedications in Scotland, 33-34.
PSAS 1930, 'Donation to and purchase for the Museum and library', Proc Soc Antiq Scot 65, 11.

Asset/Event Number	7
Asset/Event Name	Easter Baldoon,chambered cairn 190m NNE of
Type of Asset/Event	Prehistoric ritual and funerary: chambered cairn
Date and/or Period	Prehistoric
Listing No./NRHE Number	SM4753
HER Number	
Status	Scheduled Monument
Easting	263313
Northing	875905
Parish	Rosskeen
Council	Highland
Description	The remains of a chambered cairn with a two compartment burial chamber. Various stones which have been displaced from the chamber and the grass covered perimeter of the cairn are also visible. The chamber measures 5m NW-SE x 2.5m, and the cairn about 16m in diameter. The area to be scheduled includes the structures described above and an area around them in which traces of activities associated with their use may survive: it measures 40m in diameter and is bounded on the north by a forest track, as depicted in red on the attached map. Statement of National Importance The monument is of national importance because it is a good example of an Orkney-Cromarty Neolithic burial mound. The surviving features can enhance our understanding of prehistoric burial and ceremonial practice. It is also of importance because pollen and features sealed beneath the surface of the cairn can increase our understanding of the environment and land-use immediately prior to its construction.

Asset/Event Number	8
Asset/Event Name	Gun Port,burial mound 45m N of
Type of Asset/Event	Prehistoric ritual and funerary: mound (ritual or funerary)

Date and/or Period	Prehistoric
Listing No./NRHE Number	SM5002
HER Number	
Status	Scheduled Monument
Easting	261894
Northing	868099
Parish	Alness
Council	Highland
Description	The monument is a burial mound of the Late Neolithic or Early Bronze Age, measuring 25m in diameter and 4m high. The area to be scheduled measures 40m across, to include the mound and an area around it in which traces associated with the construction and use of the mound will survive, as marked in red on the attached map. The fence bounding the scheduled area to the S is specifically excluded from the scheduling. Statement of National Importance The monument is of national importance as a well preserved burial mound which has the potential to enhance considerably our understanding of prehistoric burial and ceremonial practice. It is of further importance because pollen and features sealed beneath the mound can increase our understanding of the environment and land use immediately prior to its construction.

Asset/Event Number	9
Asset/Event Name	Uplands,enclosure 350m NE of
Type of Asset/Event	Prehistoric ritual and funerary: enclosed cremation cemetery
Date and/or Period	Prehistoric
Listing No./NRHE Number	SM4841
HER Number	
Status	Scheduled Monument
Easting	255758
Northing	861059
Parish	Kiltearn
Council	Highland
Description	On the summit of Cnoc na Laitch are the remains of a circular enclosure measuring 26.5m in diameter over a low turf covered stony bank. In the middle of the enclosure is a turf covered stony mound 3m in diameter and 0.4m high. The area to be scheduled measures 50m in diameter and includes the structures described above and an area around them in which activities associated with their use will survive, as detailed in red on the attached map. Statement of National Importance The site is of national importance as a prehistoric enclosed cremation cemetery which can enhance our understanding of prehistoric burial and ceremonial practice. It is of further importance because pollen and features sealed beneath the bank and mound can increase our understanding of the environment and land-use immediately prior to their construction. References Bibliography RCAHMS - NH 56 SE 15

Appendix 5.2: Gazetteer of Heritage Assets and Events

Asset/Event Number	10
Asset/Event Name	Cnoc an Teampuill,chapel
Type of Asset/Event	Ecclesiastical: chapel
Date and/or Period	Medieval and/or post-medieval
Listing No./NRHE Number	SM5530
HER Number	
Status	Scheduled Monument
Easting	258775
Northing	863681
Parish	Kiltearn
Council	Highland
Description	The monument consists of the remains of a chapel of unknown date, located on E-sloping ground in an arable field. The monument, known as Cnoc an Teampuill, survives as an oval mound of stone which measures about 21m E-W by 18m N-S and is up to 1.5m high. Limited trenching some years ago revealed three short lengths of lime-mortar bonded wall which indicate the location of a rectangular building about 14m E-W by about 11m to 12m N-S within the mound. The date of the chapel is unknown. The area to be scheduled measures 45m in diameter to include the probable chapel, the overlying mound of stone and an area round in which traces of activities associated with the construction and use of the chapel may survive, as shown in red on the attached map. Statement of National Importance The monument is of national importance for its potential to contribute to an understanding of the construction and architecture of minor medieval and/or post medieval ecclesiastical buildings. References Bibliography RCAHMS records the monument as NH 56 SE 11.

Asset/Event Number	11
Asset/Event Name	Eileanach Lodge,settlement & field system 550m WSW of
Type of Asset/Event	Secular: settlement, including deserted, depopulated and townships
Date and/or Period	Post-medieval
Listing No./NRHE Number	SM4707
HER Number	
Status	Scheduled Monument
Easting	253977
Northing	868724
Parish	Kiltearn
Council	Highland
Description	The monument comprises the remains of a settlement of the period before the agricultural improvements with associated enclosures and yards; there are the remains of a long house (measuring 31.6m E-W by 4m transversely with two internal sub-divisions and a porch type

door on the south) abutted by two smaller rectangular buildings. There are also the remains of a corn-drying kiln, five further rectangular building foundations, stock enclosures and field walls.

The area to be scheduled measures 120m N-S by 95m E-W, to include the settlement and its associated enclosures and yards, and an area around them in which traces of activity associated with their use will survive, as marked in red on the attached map; the area is bounded on the NE by a forest track.

Statement of National Importance
The monument is of national importance as a well preserved and extensive settlement which has the potential to enhance considerably our understanding of pre-improvement settlement and agriculture. It is of particular interest because of the range of buildings and other structures present

References
Bibliography
RCAHMS records the monument as NH 56 NW 1.

Asset/Event Number	12
Asset/Event Name	Carn Liath,chambered cairn
Type of Asset/Event	Prehistoric ritual and funerary: chambered cairn
Date and/or Period	Prehistoric
Listing No./NRHE Number	SM4839
HER Number	
Status	Scheduled Monument
Easting	258942
Northing	866560
Parish	Kiltearn
Council	Highland
Description	The monument comprises the remains of a Neolithic chambered cairn enclosed by a circular rubble wall of relatively recent date. The burial chamber consists of several upright and fallen slabs. The cairn as it survives measures 23m N-S by 21m E-W and up to 1.8m high. The area to be scheduled measures 45m in diameter, to include the cairn and an area around it in which traces of activities associated with its use may survive, as marked in red on the attached map. Statement of National Importance The monument is of national importance as a burial site which has the potential to enhance considerably our understanding of prehistoric burial and ceremonial practices. It is of further importance because pollen and features sealed beneath the cairn can increase our understanding of the land use prior to its construction. References Bibliography RCAHMS records the monument as NH 56 NE 6.

Asset/Event Number	13
Asset/Event Name	Drumore,farmstead,field system,chambered cairn & cupmarks 600m W of
Type of Asset/Event	Prehistoric ritual and funerary: chambered cairn; Secular: farmstead

Appendix 5.2: Gazetteer of Heritage Assets and Events

Date and/or Period	Prehistoric
Listing No./NRHE Number	SM4945
HER Number	
Status	Scheduled Monument
Easting	257761
Northing	866166
Parish	Kiltearn
Council	Highland
Description	The monument comprises the remains of a farmstead and field system of the period before the agricultural improvements. There are the remains of a subdivided rectangular house and several associated enclosures and rectangular fields. To the E of the long house are the remains of a Neolithic chambered cairn; to the N and W of the cairn are 14 rock outcrops bearing cup marks. The area to be scheduled measures 330m E-W by 175m N-S, to include the farmstead and field system, the chambered cairn and the cup marked rocks, and an area around them in which traces of activities associated with their use will survive, as marked in red on he attached map. Statement of National Importance The monument is of national importance as a well preserved farmstead and field system which has the potential to enhance considerably our understanding of pre-improvement settlement and agriculture. The site is of particular interest because of the survival of much earlier remains; the cairn and the cupmarks have the potential to increase our knowledge of prehistoric burial and ceremonial practices.

Asset/Event Number	14
Asset/Event Name	Cladh Churadain,chapel and burial ground
Type of Asset/Event	Ecclesiastical: chapel
Date and/or Period	Medieval
Listing No./NRHE Number	SM5007
HER Number	
Status	Scheduled Monument
Easting	258521
Northing	867336
Parish	Alness
Council	Highland
Description	The monument comprises the remains of a small burial ground consisting of a rectangular enclosure bounded by a turf covered rubble wall. It measures 28m E-W by 23m N-S with a possible entrance on the west. There are turf covered foundations in the interior, possibly the remains of the chapel structure. The area to be scheduled measures 55m square and its SW side is bounded by a fence as marked in red on the attached map. Statement of National Importance The monument is of national importance because, as the site of the chapel of Fyrish dedicated to Saint Curitan, it has the potential to enhance our understanding of early medieval chapels and burial practices.

Asset/Event Number	15
Asset/Event Name	Firth View, settlement 1300m NW of
Type of Asset/Event	Prehistoric domestic and defensive: hut circle, roundhouse
Date and/or Period	Prehistoric
Listing No./NRHE Number	SM4728
HER Number	
Status	Scheduled Monument
Easting	250833
Northing	862320
Parish	Fodderty
Council	Highland
Description	The monument comprises a group of four hut circles and an area around them containing evidence of agricultural activity. Two of the hut circles are already scheduled; this re-scheduling proposal extends protection to the other two and to a larger surrounding area. The hut circles - the foundations for prehistoric timber houses - are loosely grouped together at around 250m OD on a SE-facing hillslope, overlooking upper Strath Sgitheach. The most easterly circle (which lies about 25m from the edge of a large forestry plantation) measures about 11m by 13m, with an entrance on the SSE side. Just over 100m to the NNE lies a second hut circle, of similar size but with no apparent entrance. Some 180m to the NE of the first circle lie another two hut circles, only 1m apart, one about 12m by 9m with an entrance on the SSE, and the other about 17m by 15m with an entrance on the S. Around these hut circles, especially noticeable by the first (most easterly) circle, lies a scatter of small cairns of field-cleared stone, indicating contemporary agricultural activity. The area now to be scheduled is an irregular oval, with a straight section on the WSW side, parallel to the edge of the forestry plantation. The area measures a maximum of 290m NE-SW by a maximum of 175m transversely, to include all four hut circles and an area around them scattered with small cairns, as marked in red on the accompanying map. Statement of National Importance The monument is of national importance as a well-preserved late pre-historic settlement, which has the potential to provide information about prehistoric domestic and agriculture activities. References Bibliography RCAHMS records the monument as NH 56 SW 10.

Asset/Event Number	16
Asset/Event Name	Strath Sgitheach, settlement NW of Cnoc a'Mhuilinn
Type of Asset/Event	Prehistoric domestic and defensive: hut circle, roundhouse; Prehistoric ritual and funerary: cup
Date and/or Period	Prehistoric
Listing No./NRHE Number	SM10495
HER Number	
Status	Scheduled Monument
Easting	251412
Northing	862747

Appendix 5.2: Gazetteer of Heritage Assets and Events

Parish	Fodderty
Council	Highland
Description	The monument comprises the remains of an extensive prehistoric settlement on a SE-facing slope above Strath Sgitheach. The settlement contains at least eight hut circles, the circular foundations of prehistoric timber houses, set in areas of small cairns of field-cleared stones on a heather-clad hillside, just above forestry planting. There are also at least three cup-marked boulders within the area, of unknown purpose but presumed prehistoric date, and more may well exist. The hut circles have dimensions ranging from 13m by 11m to 9m by 7m, and where entrances can be seen these are all in the SE or S arcs. The most easily visible hut circles are a loose group of three on the SW bank of the Allt nan Raichean. The area to be scheduled is a very irregular figure-of eight shape on plan, measuring a maximum of 640m NE-SW by a maximum of 260m transversely. This area includes the hut circles, the field clearance cairns and the cup-marked boulders, as well as an area of land around and among these features in which evidence relating to their construction and use is likely to survive. The area is indicated in red on the accompanying map. Statement of National Importance The monument is of national importance as a well-preserved late prehistoric settlement which has the potential to provide information about prehistoric domestic and agricultural activities and land-use changes. The close association of a settlement with a number of cup-marked boulders is unusual, although the significance of this is not known. References Bibliography RCAHMS records the monument as NH 56 SW 11. Reference RCAHMS (1979) The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland. The archaeological sites and monuments of Easter Ross, Ross and Cromarty District, Highland Region, The archaeological sites and monuments of Scotland series no. 6, Edinburgh, 18, 21, Nos. 132, 172.

Asset/Event Number	17.1
Asset/Event Name	Boath, three chambered cairns NE and NNE of Easter Ballone Farm
Type of Asset/Event	Prehistoric ritual and funerary: chambered cairn
Date and/or Period	Prehistoric
Listing No./NRHE Number	SM6644
HER Number	
Status	Scheduled Monument
Easting	258130
Northing	873577
Parish	Alness
Council	Highland
Description	The monuments to the NNE of Easter Ballone farm consist of the remains of three chambered cairns of neolithic date. The first and southernmost of these chambered cairns, known as Balnagrotchen, may have been a short horned cairn and has a polygonal burial chamber. It lies on the edge of a field on a

terrace to the NE of the farm. Repeated ploughing has largely removed the cairn material and the monument now appears to be square in plan.

The second, middle, cairn, known as Cairn Liatha, is a long horned cairn orientated NE-SW that has been extensively robbed and now measures 60m SSW-NNE by 16m NNW-SSE. It lies due N of the first cairn, across the road. The third, northernmost, cairn lies to the NE of Cairn Liatha and is a short horned cairn with a polygonal burial chamber. It measures approximately 30m E-W by 46m.

The area to be scheduled is in three parts. At the southernmost cairn a circular area 60m in diameter, excluding the above-ground elements of the pylon which stands on the cairn; at the middle cairn an irregular area measuring a maximum of 95m ENE-WSW by 70m, ending just short of the fenceline on the W side of the cairn, and at the northernmost cairn an irregular area measuring a maximum of 90m N-S by 70m E-W, bounded on the E by a fenceline and on the NW and SW by tracks. These areas are shown in red on the accompanying map extract.

Statement of National Importance
These three chambered cairns are each of national importance as a small group of Neolithic burial monuments belonging to Henshall's Orkney-Cromarty group. They gain added importance from the fact that they form a small close group of apparently varied constructional detail, offering the opportunity for comparative study which could contribute to the understanding of the range and development of prehistoric funerary architecture and ritual activity.

References
Bibliography
RCAHMS records the monument as NH 57 SE 1.

Reference
Henshall, A. (1972) The Chambered Cairns of Scotland, Vol. 1, 336 and 339-342.

Asset/Event Number	17.2
Asset/Event Name	Boath, three chambered cairns NE and NNE of Easter Ballone Farm
Type of Asset/Event	Prehistoric ritual and funerary: chambered cairn
Date and/or Period	Prehistoric
Listing No./NRHE Number	SM6644
HER Number	
Status	Scheduled Monument
Easting	258151
Northing	873843
Parish	Rosskeen
Council	Highland
Description	Same description as Asset 17.1. Asset 17.2 comprises the central of the three cairns.

Asset/Event Number	17.3
Asset/Event Name	Boath, three chambered cairns NE and NNE of Easter Ballone Farm
Type of Asset/Event	Prehistoric ritual and funerary: chambered cairn
Date and/or Period	Prehistoric

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Listing No./NRHE Number	SM6644
HER Number	
Status	Scheduled Monument
Easting	258317
Northing	873950
Parish	Fodderty
Council	Highland
Description	Same description as Asset 17.1. Asset 17.3 comprises the northeast-most of the three cairns.

Asset/Event Number	18
Asset/Event Name	Millcraig,chambered cairn
Type of Asset/Event	Prehistoric ritual and funerary: chambered cairn
Date and/or Period	Prehistoric
Listing No./NRHE Number	SM2406
HER Number	
Status	Scheduled Monument
Easting	265845
Northing	871014
Parish	Rosskeen
Council	Highland
Description	NH67SE 24 6585 7102. (NH 6585 7102) Cairn (NR) (Remains of) Human Remains found AD. 1854 (NAT) OS 6" map, Ross-shire, 2nd ed., (1907) A round cairn, Orkney-Cromarty type, was removed about 1854, but its last remains are still visible though obscured by field-gathered stones and a drainage ditch dug across the north side. The cairn has been very large; Childe (1944) suggests a diameter of 110ft which is certainly a minimum and there are indications that it was even larger, about 130ft across. A number of slabs remain among the debris to the NE of the centre. The most conspicuous is a huge stone aligned east-west which stands 6ft high and is 10ft long and has recently had its S face blasted away. There is a greater depth of cairn material to the SE. V G Childe 1963; A S Henshall 1963, visited 15 July 1956. The remains of the cairn are generally as described by Henshall. It is now virtually impossible to trace the perimeter but it is possible that it had a diameter of c.53m. In the northern half of the cairn area there is a large stony circular bank composed mainly of small stones. It is c.20.0m in diameter and varies in width from 5.0m on the north side to c 10.0m in the south side with a maximum height of 1.5m in the south side. This circular bank is broken on its north east side and its west side by modern gaps and inside the north-east gap on its south side are the slabs described above. There are five upright stones and one fallen stone, a seventh stone is just visible protuding from the ground. Resurveyed at 1/2500. Visited by OS (W D J) 10 May 1963. Field Visit (12 September 1943) RCAHMS Emergency Survey (Archaeology) This site was included within the RCAHMS Emergency Survey (1942-3), an unpublished rescue

project. Site descriptions, organised by county, vary from short notes to lengthy and full descriptions and are available to view online with contemporary sketches and photographs. The original typescripts, manuscripts, notebooks and photographs can also be consulted in the RCAHMS Search Room.
Information from RCAHMS (GFG) 10 December 2014.

Field Visit (September 1978)
RCAHMS: The Archaeological Sites and Monuments of Easter Ross
Millcraig (ROS 32) NH 658 710 NH67SE 24
This Orkney-Cromarty Cairn measures at least 34m in diameter, and on the NE there are the remains of a chamber.
RCAHMS 1979, visited September 1978.
(Henshall 1963-72, i, 352, 353)

References
Childe, V G. (1944a) 'An unrecognised group of chambered cairns', Proc Soc Antiq Scot, vol. 78, 1943-4. Page(s): 31
Henshall, A S. (1963a) The chambered tombs of Scotland, vol. 1. Edinburgh. Page(s): 352, ROS 32 plan RCAHMS Shelf Number: E.7.1.HEN
RCAHMS. (1979a) The archaeological sites and monuments of Easter Ross, Ross and Cromarty District, Highland Region, The archaeological sites and monuments of Scotland series no 6. Edinburgh. Page(s): 8, No. 18 RCAHMS Shelf Number: A.1.2.ARC(6)
RCAHMS. (1942-3) Emergency Survey of archaeological monuments in military training areas, 1981, 2v. Typescripts. Page(s): Ross, 80 RCAHMS Shelf Number: A.1.1.SUR

Asset/Event Number	19
Asset/Event Name	Heights of Brae, chambered cairn 375m NNW of Firth View
Type of Asset/Event	Prehistoric ritual and funerary: chambered cairn
Date and/or Period	Prehistoric
Listing No./NRHE Number	SM2312
HER Number	
Status	Scheduled Monument
Easting	251445
Northing	861528
Parish	Fodderty
Council	Highland
Description	The monument is the remains of a chambered cairn dating from the Neolithic period, probably built between 3800 and 2500 BC. It is visible as a group of upstanding stones surrounded by a slight bank that probably indicates the original extent of the cairn. The remains lie 245m above sea level on a prominent knoll that stands on the broad ridge separating Strathpeffer to the south and Strath Sgitheach to the north. The cairn material is largely gone but the structural stones of the chamber survive. Four large stones form one burial chamber to the south and further stones to the north indicate a second chamber built on a parallel axis, sited closer to the summit of the knoll. The entrance to the cairn probably lies to the east of the south chamber, where three pairs of low, transverse slabs, recorded in the past, suggest a short passage and outer chamber. The subtle remains of a low bank or scarp surrounding the knoll suggest the original cairn measured about 23m in diameter. The scheduled area is circular on plan, measuring 40m in diameter, to include the remains described above and an area around them within which evidence relating to the monument's construction, use and abandonment is expected to survive, as shown in red on the

accompanying map. The monument was first scheduled in 1964, but the documentation did not meet current standards: the present amendment rectifies this.

Statement of National Importance
The monument has potential to make a significant contribution to our understanding of the past, in particular the design and construction of burial monuments and the nature of burial practices and belief systems in the Neolithic. Ritual and funerary monuments are often our main source of evidence for human activity during the Neolithic in Scotland. They are particularly important for enhancing our understanding of Neolithic society, its organisation, economy, religion and demography. This monument retains its field characteristics to a marked degree. The large upright stones of the south chamber are visually impressive and the form of the monument, with evidence for multiple chambers, can contribute to our understanding of the development and architecture of chambered cairns. Chambered cairns are an important component in understanding the prehistoric landscape of land-use, settlement and ritual. They are thought often to be positioned with reference to astronomical phenomena, and the orientation and position of Heights of Brae within the landscape is likely to be significant. The loss of the monument would diminish our ability to appreciate and understand the meaning and importance of death and burial in prehistory

References
Bibliography
Historic Environment Scotland http://www.canmore.org.uk reference number CANMORE ID 12930 (accessed on 26/04/2016).
The Highland Council Historic Environment Record reference is MHG8919.
Davidson, J L and Henshall, A S 1989, The chambered cairns of Orkney: an inventory of the structures and their contents, Edinburgh.

Canmore
https://canmore.org.uk/site/12930/

HER/SMR Reference
http://her.highland.gov.uk/SingleResult.aspx?uid=MHG8919

Asset/Event Number	20
Asset/Event Name	Balnacrae, chambered cairn 230m WSW of
Type of Asset/Event	Prehistoric ritual and funerary: chambered cairn
Date and/or Period	Prehistoric
Listing No./NRHE Number	SM2396
HER Number	
Status	Scheduled Monument
Easting	253350
Northing	864635
Parish	Dingwall
Council	Highland
Description	The monument is the remains of a chambered cairn dating from the Neolithic period, probably built between 3800 and 2500 BC. It is visible as a group of large upstanding stones defining a chamber and an entrance passage, and is surrounded by a slight scarp that probably indicates the original extent of the cairn. The cairn lies 245m above sea level, part way up the northwest side of Strath Sgitheach. The River Sgitheach is about 600m to the south southeast and there are long views up the strath to the south southwest. The monument is an Orkney-Cromarty type chambered cairn with the chamber aligned northeast by southwest and is defined by several large stones, some upright or leaning, others

slumped. The chamber measures about 7m long by 4m wide. At the northeast end there are two low, transverse portal stones that give access to the chamber from a passage about 5.5m long and 1.5m wide. The remains of a low scarp surrounding the stones of the chamber and passage suggest the original cairn measured about 27m in diameter.

The scheduled area is circular on plan, measuring 40m in diameter, centred on the north corner of the chamber, to include the remains described above and an area around them within which evidence relating to the monument's construction, use and abandonment is expected to survive, as shown in red on the accompanying map. The monument was first scheduled in 1964, but the documentation did not meet current standards: the present amendment rectifies this.

Statement of National Importance
The monument has the potential to enhance understanding of the past, in particular the design and construction of burial monuments and the nature of burial practices and belief systems. Ritual and funerary monuments are often our main source of evidence for human activity during the Neolithic in Scotland. They are particularly important for enhancing our understanding of Neolithic society, its organisation, economy, religion and demography. This monument retains its field characteristics to a marked degree. The large upright stones of the chamber are visually impressive and the form of the monument can contribute to our understanding of the development and architecture of chambered cairns. Chambered cairns are an important surviving component of the wider prehistoric landscape of land-use, settlement and ritual and the position of Balnacrae within the landscape is likely to be significant. The loss of the monument would diminish our ability to appreciate and understand the meaning and importance of death and burial in prehistoric times and the placing of cairns within the landscape.

References
Bibliography
Historic Environment Scotland http://www.canmore.org.uk reference number CANMORE ID 12919 (accessed on 27/04/2016).
The Highland Council Historic Environment Record reference is MHG8930 (accessed on 27/04/2016).
Henshall, A S 1963, The chambered tombs of Scotland. Vol 1. Edinburgh. P.334-335
Davidson, J L and Henshall, A S 1989, The chambered cairns of Orkney: an inventory of the structures and their contents, Edinburgh.

Canmore
https://canmore.org.uk/site/12919/
HER/SMR Reference
http://her.highland.gov.uk/SingleResult.aspx?uid=MHG8930

Asset/Event Number	21
Asset/Event Name	Carn Liath, cairn, Obsdale
Type of Asset/Event	Prehistoric ritual and funerary: chambered cairn
Date and/or Period	Prehistoric
Listing No./NRHE Number	SM2970
HER Number	
Status	Scheduled Monument
Easting	266621
Northing	869520
Parish	Rosskeen
Council	Highland

Appendix 5.2: Gazetteer of Heritage Assets and Events

Description

The monument comprises the remains of a cairn, a burial monument likely to date to the late Neolithic or Bronze Age (late third to second millennium BC). It is visible as a low mound of stones, surrounded by a modern stone wall, now lying within an arable field at about 20m above sea level, close to the north shore of the Cromarty Firth.

The cairn is round and measures approximately 16m in diameter. The edge of the cairn has been obscured by the later stone dyke that defines its edge. The cairn survives to a maximum height of 0.8m. Near the centre of the cairn is a substantial capstone covering a stone-lined cist. The stone measures 1.6m east-west by 1m transversely and is approximately 0.5m high.

The scheduled area is circular on plan, measuring 25m in diameter, centred on the monument. The scheduling includes the remains described above and an area around them within which evidence relating to the monument's construction, use and abandonment is expected to survive, as shown in red on the accompanying map. The monument was first scheduled in 1971, but the documentation does not meet current standards: the present amendment rectifies this.

Statement of National Importance
The monument is of national importance because it is a late Neolithic or Bronze Age burial cairn with upstanding cairn material and has considerable potential to make a significant addition to our understanding of early prehistoric burial monuments and funerary practices. Ritual and funerary monuments such as this provide the main material evidence for late Neolithic or Bronze Age society in Scotland. This monument is particularly important as it contains a large central cist, and may contain further secondary burials. The cairn is expected to seal other archaeological features and deposits. Its lowland coastal location makes it particularly important when compared with other examples across this part of the Highlands. Our understanding of the distribution, nature and character of prehistoric burial monuments would be diminished if this monument was to be lost or damaged.

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Local Authority HER/SMR Reference: MHG8214.
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Canmore
https://canmore.org.uk/site/13615/
HER/SMR Reference
http://her.highland.gov.uk/SingleResult.aspx?uid=MHG8214

Asset/Event Number	22
Asset/Event Name	Cille Bhrea, church and burial ground 60m ENE of Waterloo House
Type of Asset/Event	Ecclesiastical: chapel
Date and/or Period	Medieval and later
Listing No./NRHE Number	SM2968
HER Number	
Status	Scheduled Monument
Easting	257645
Northing	861502

Parish Kiltearn

Council Highland

Description

The monument is a church and burial ground which served as the parish church of Lemlair until it was united with Kiltearn parish in 1618. The north and west walls of the church are visible as upstanding features. A low bank visible to the northeast of the chapel probably indicates part of the burial ground wall. Excavation shows that buried remains of another rubble bank lie northwest of the chapel. The church stands about 5m above sea level on the north shore of the Cromarty Firth. It is bounded to the southeast by a low, eroding cliff.

The church measures 4m wide by at least 10m long within rubble walls 0.6m to 0.8m thick that stand less than 1m high. It is orientated east northeast – west southwest. Partial excavation of the interior in 1998 revealed parts of the south wall but indicated that the east wall has been lost to coastal erosion. The bank to the northeast measures about 1.2m wide and 0.2m high and appears to be part of a curvilinear enclosure bounding the church on the landward side. The rubble bank, revealed by excavation to the northwest, overlaid an infilled ditch. Limited excavation at the east end of the church interior demonstrated the existence of gravel deposits up to 1.1m thick containing much human bone. In addition, about 50 burials were excavated within a narrow strip 4m wide along the top of the cliff and many additional graves remain unexcavated to the north. Pottery recovered by excavation indicates activity on the site between 1100 and 1500, while the burials appear to post-date the Reformation.

The scheduled area is irregular on plan and includes the remains described above and an area around them within which evidence relating to the monument's construction, use and abandonment is expected to survive, as shown in red on the accompanying map.

Statement of National Importance
Cultural Significance
The monument's cultural significance has been assessed as follows:

Intrinsic Characteristics
The monument is a church and burial ground within an enclosure. Although the site has been overgrown and subject to coastal erosion, excavations in 1966 and 1998 demonstrate that the remaining church walls and burials survive in good condition.

The two recorded excavations only investigated parts of the church interior, ground adjacent to the church walls and a strip of land running along the coastal edge. The majority of the site, including deposits below the church and most of the ground between the enclosure wall and the chapel, has not been excavated. It is clear that extensive buried archaeological deposits survive, including the church walls, thick deposits containing human bone below the church interior, a large number of graves, the enclosure wall and a ditch stratified beneath it. Scientific study of the burials has potential to enhance our understanding of the local population over an extended time period, and can tell us about social status, health during life, and cause and age of death. The survival of artefacts and ecofacts is to be expected around the church, providing information on the nature and use of this ecclesiastical site and about burial practices before and after the Reformation.

The 1998 excavation showed the lower courses of the church west wall were built using flag-like blocks of stone and probably derive from the original structure while the upper courses were less well constructed from a variety of more rounded stones, and may derive from rebuilding in the 18th century to form a burial vault for the Munros of Foulis (Rees 2004, 205). The excavation also produced medieval pottery dating from about 1100-1500, confirming pre-Reformation use of the site. Radiocarbon dating of bone from the burials along southeast edge of the burial ground suggested they dated from the 17th to 19th centuries, but these dates are unreliable because the samples were contaminated during the dating process (Sheridan and Higham 2007). Further scientific study would allow us to develop a better understanding of the chronology and development sequence, clarifying how the church relates to the enclosure wall and to the burials. A carved stone door jamb and stone font located within the chapel in 1966 provide insight for the architectural embellishment of the church.

The original function of the monument was as a place of worship and burial. Later use of the

Appendix 5.2: Gazetteer of Heritage Assets and Events

site as a family mausoleum probably occurred in the 18th century and it appears the church ruins were adapted for this purpose. Ecclesiastical use of the site could date from as early as the 8th to 11th centuries AD; a cross-inscribed slab found on the foreshore in 1979 could date from this time or from later in the medieval period. The church is first mentioned in 1227 when it is recorded that the Parson of Lemnelar was present at Kennedar in Moray at the settlement of a dispute between the bishops of Moray and Ross. It appears to have been abandoned for worship following a merger of parishes in 1618 although it continued as a place of burial.

Contextual Characteristics

Records show this monument served as the parish church for Lemlair until 1618. Many medieval parish churches have been adapted beyond recognition, demolished and rebuilt or cannot be traced in the archaeological record, so this is an important survival. Other parish churches in the vicinity that were founded in the medieval period include Kiltearn (5.5km to the northeast), Alness (10km to the northeast) and Dingwall (3.75km to the southwest). The churches as these sites were all significantly altered after the reformation. Within a 10km radius of the monument there are also six recorded chapels but none have confirmed physical, medieval remains. This further supports the importance of the remains of the early origins of this site. There is potential to compare this monument with other churches and chapels in the vicinity, looking at changes in worship and burial over time, increasing the significance of the site.

The church sits on level ground, on the slightly raised coastal plain overlooking the Cromarty Firth. The site has open views across the Firth. The monument would have been quite a prominent feature and focal point in the landscape, visible from the water and land.

Associative Characteristics

It has been suggested that the church was dedicated to a St Brig or St Brigh, possibly one of the holy maidens of the Brigit who died in 525AD. However, it is also recorded that the site was dedicated to St Mary. The church is associated with the Reverend Donald Munro author of the 'Description of the Western Isles of Scotland' the oldest known written account of the Hebrides published in 1582. Munro, a catholic priest, became a reformed Minister in 1560 and was admitted to the new ministry for the parish of Kiltearn, to which he later added the adjacent Lemlair and Alness. He is said to have lived at Castle Craig, sailing across the Cromarty Firth to preach at his parishes.

Assessment of national importance

The monument is of national importance because it has makes a significant contribution to the study of medieval churches, religious practices, and death and burial in Ross-shire. This is particularly the case as the monument may have been a site of Christian worship from the 8th to the early 17th century. The monument retains well-preserved archaeological deposits to a marked degree and offers potential to study a medieval church together with an associated enclosure and burial ground. There is particular potential to study burial practice before and after the Reformation. The monument stands above the Cromarty Firth and would have been a prominent part of the medieval and post-medieval landscape. The loss of the monument would impede our ability to understand the history and development of the parish system and also of burial practice before and after the Reformation in the Highlands.

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Canmore
https://canmore.org.uk/site/12912/
HER/SMR Reference
http://her.highland.gov.uk/SingleResult.aspx?uid=MHG8942

Asset/Event Number	23.1
Asset/Event Name	Wyvis Lodge
Type of Asset/Event	Lodge
Date and/or Period	19th century
Listing No./NRHE Number	LB7906
HER Number	
Status	Listed Building - Category A
Easting	248491
Northing	873661
Parish	Kiltearn
Council	Highland
Description	Lodge: Dated 1886. Asymmetrical medium sized gabled 2-storey shooting lodge; stylised random grey rubble with ribbon pointing at ground floor; rendered 1st floor, with mock timber framing and stippled infill; finely tooled contrasting sandstone dressings. Wide verandah supported by timber columns enclosed east and south ground floor; entrance under verandah in projecting porch in east elevation. Mullioned and transomed windows; shaped and corniced end and ridge stacks; Welsh slate roof. Interior; original panelling throughout in ground and first floor; original chimney pieces, also ground and 1st floor; balustraded staircase leading from panelled hall to 1st floor landing. Chimney pieces in recessed alcoves in ground floor drawing and dining rooms and in master bedroom, 1st floor; in drawing room with ochre marble surround initialled WS. Projecting 'Tudor' chimney piece in hall. Some 1st floor panelling painted white; some window reveals have mirrored panels; some ground floor panelling, in rear passage and gun room have inlaid deerhide sections. Ribbed plaster ceilings in drawing room dining room and master bedroom (1st floor). Stables: single storey and attic stables, similar materials as lodge. Stabling for 4 horses, with stalls, and feed shoot from loft above; saddle room; gighouse (now garage) and attic room and loft over. Many original fittings. Game larders; 2 rectangular game larders stand close to shore; the larger for deer and the smaller for birds. Random stylised rubble as house; piended slated roofs. Interior; tiled lined walls; all fittings present. Statement of Special Interest Commanding site on western end of Loch Glass. Built by and for Walter Shoolbred (of firm of Shoolbred, cabinet makers). All internal panelling made by family firm. Some Shoolbred furniture in lodge. All materials transported by steamer from eastern end of Loch Glass. References Bibliography Duff Hart-Davis MONARCHS OF THE GLEN (1978) pp. 158-161

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Asset/Event Number	23.2
Asset/Event Name	Bird Game Larder, Wyvis Lodge
Type of Asset/Event	Game larder
Date and/or Period	19th century
Listing No./NRHE Number	LB7906
HER Number	
Status	Listed Building - Category A
Easting	248520
Northing	873756
Parish	Kiltearn
Council	Highland
Description	Same description as Asset 23.1. Asset 23.2 comprises the game larder (for birds) associated with the lodge.

Asset/Event Number	23.3
Asset/Event Name	Deer Game Larder, Wyvis Lodge
Type of Asset/Event	Game larder
Date and/or Period	19th century
Listing No./NRHE Number	LB7906
HER Number	
Status	Listed Building - Category A
Easting	248519
Northing	873749
Parish	Kiltearn
Council	Highland

Description	Same description as Asset 23.1. Asset 23.3 comprises the game larder (for deer) associated with the lodge.

Asset/Event Number	23.4
Asset/Event Name	Stables, Wyvis Lodge
Type of Asset/Event	Stables
Date and/or Period	19th century
Listing No./NRHE Number	LB7906
HER Number	
Status	Listed Building - Category A
Easting	248439
Northing	873636
Parish	Kiltearn
Council	Highland
Description	Same description as Asset 23.1. Asset 23.4 comprises the stables associated with the lodge.

Asset/Event Number	24
Asset/Event Name	Foulis Castle
Type of Asset/Event	Castle; country house
Date and/or Period	Medieval and later
Listing No./NRHE Number	LB7911
HER Number	
Status	Listed Building - Category A
Easting	258931
Northing	864107
Parish	Kiltearn
Council	Highland
Description	Dated 1754, 1777 and 1792, but incorporating parts of earlier buildings in the NE and SE ranges. Now forms E-plan mansion, harled with ashlar dressings and extensive use of ashlar sandstone margins, the facade regularised to give symmetrical SE, NE & SW elevations, the NW Frontage still retains elements of previous building and is not symmetrical. NW E-plan elevation; projecting central 4-storey over basement, wide canted tower turning to elongated octagon above main roof; centre ground floor pedimented entrance with moulded lugged architraves, approached by flight steps over-sailing basement with decorative cast-iron balustrade; margined windows with bracketted cill-in all floors in 3 canted bays; dated 1754 over 3rd floor central window; piended slate roof terminating with gilded ball finials; look-out platform to SE. Tower flanked by lower bays (with some blocked fenestration) and projecting 3-bay wings of unequal width. NW elevation forms SE side of large service courtyard with low 2-storey ranges of offices, bakehouse, etc., on SW and NE, including 2 matching pavilions with vaulted ground floors with arched entrances and forestairs, that to left with 1 (possibly 2) gun loops and small barred window; round- headed archways in east and west (west dated 1792); pair blind octagonal occuli in north face of courtyard wall flanking round-headed main entrance with channelled

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ashlar surround and moulded imposts, probably of 1790 date. SW elevation; long 2-storey and dormerless attic over raised basement, 11-bay façade with slightly advanced and pedimented centre 3 bays not aligned on rear tower; full height canted bays at east and west gables with piended roofs, centre corniced entrance approached by perron with basement door below with Gibbs surround; original decorative cast-iron balustrade with pair cast-iron lamp standards (imported from Edinburgh circa 1970) and similar lamp projected on brackets above doorway. Moulded cornice to pediment with centre coat of arms and 1777 datestone; 3 decorative terminal stone urns.

Multi-pane glazing throughout, some with thick mid-18th century astragals band and cill courses; moulded skews and eaves cornice; margined end and ridge stacks; piended slate roofs; gilded ridge ball finials. Interior: elegant cantilevered staircase with turned wood balusters and broken strings (the surviving roll-moulded detail suggests that the treads were re-used from a previous stair); stone newel stair in NE wing (possible from earlier castle).

Public rooms; dining room with simple cornice, probably reappointed at end of 18th century when canted bay added roll moulded surround to fireplace and good cast-iron grate (circa 1800) with Munro motto "Dread God". Large drawing room late 18th century 1-1/2 storeys high, fluted frieze with rosettes, symmetrically placed doors and cupboards; original chimney piece removed. 1st floor rooms mainly raised and fielded panelling of mid-18th century date. The house contains many good cast-iron grates, circa 1800 and 2 free standing ornamental cast-iron stoves, 1 dated 1786, Cooper and Sons (still working). The basement contains kitchen with many fittings, possibly late 18th/early 19th century. Part of SW basement now Clan Museum, the wattle and daub partition construction displayed. Statement of Special Interest Built on site of earlier castle destroyed by fire in mid 18th century Seat of Clan Munro. Tower in middle of north elevation resembles that at Poyntzfield (Resolis, Black Isle), also a Munro house.

References
Bibliography
Sir George Steuart Mackenzie, A GENERAL VIEW OF THE AGRICULTURE OF THE COUNTIES ROSS & CROMARTY (1810) p.69.
Ian R M Mowat EASTER ROSS, 1750-1850, THE DOUBLE FRONTIER (1981), p.90. National Monument Record of Scotland

Asset/Event Number	25
Asset/Event Name	Granary, Foulis Ferry
Type of Asset/Event	Building
Date and/or Period	18th century
Listing No./NRHE Number	LB7914
HER Number	
Status	Listed Building - Category A
Easting	259964
Northing	863589
Parish	Kiltearn
Council	Highland
Description	Early mid 18th century with later centre forestair. 3-storey, 5-bay SE frontage (facing shore); harl pointed rubble with ashlar dressings. Doors in outer ground floor front bay (extra window slapped in extreme left in gabletted 2nd floor centre bay (possibly former hoist loft) and NE gable. Further door slapped in window in 1st floor, and reached by forestair which continues upwards to serve centre 3rd floor door. Some alteration to original rear symmetrical fenestration, 1 enlarged window in 2nd floor and later ground floor door. Single window in SW and NE gables; with moulded corniced stack above; ball finial at NE apex. Slate roof.

Statement of Special Interest
Formerly known as "The Old Rent House".

References
Bibliography
John G Dunbar, THE HISTORIC ARCHITECTURE OF SCOTLAND (1966) p.217.
John Hume, THE INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY OF SCOTLAND, ii, (1977) p.289.
Ian R M Mowat, EASTER ROSS, 1750-1850, THE DOUBLE FRONTIER (1981) p.71

Asset/Event Number	26.1
Asset/Event Name	Ardross Castle
Type of Asset/Event	Mansion
Date and/or Period	Post-medieval
Listing No./NRHE Number	LB15031
HER Number	
Status	Listed Building - Category A
Easting	261136
Northing	874118
Parish	Rosskeen
Council	Highland
Description	Alexander Ross, 1880-81, incorporating earlier house. Large Scottish Baronial mansion; mainly 2 storeys and attic, with 5-storey tower at east with entrance at base; gabled and turretted building, all sugged ashlar with finely tooled and polished ashlar dressings. Imposing east approach, 5-storey tower with angle bartizans and cap-house, 1st floor oriel and entrance in base masked by large crenellated porte cochere. Varied gable frontage to left with slender drum towers flanking gable with 2-storey canted bay window; further drum stair tower with square corbelled cap-house. Further gabled wing with oriel window much decorated with cable moulding. Varied and gabled south front with canted bay window rising 2 storeys with richly carved cresting; long circular and square angle bartizans; projecting gabled and finialled porch with round-headed entrance. Rear service court entered through round-headed Crenellated archway. Mullioned windows; mainly 2-pane glazing; corbelled detailing; decorative gablets to dormer windows; crow-stepped gables; corniced end and ridge stacks; slate roofs. Terraces; terraces to south and east with decorative stone balustrades; castellated gazebo at SE angle. Formal garden (Edward Whyte, 1909-10) at east, approached by further decorative stone balustrades and pair urns on end piers. Gate piers; (map ref.NH617743); 2 pairs octagonal gate piers; tooled ashlar; moulded copes; inner pair flanking carriage gates support pair heraldic beasts; outer piers with shallow pyramidal caps; matching carriage and pedestrian cast-iron spearhead gates; low flanking coped rubble quadrants with crenellated terminal piers and spearhead railings. Statement of Special Interest By 1838 Ardross Castle belonged to Duke of Sutherland; sold to Sir A Matheson, 1846. Purchased by Mr Dyson Perrins in later 19th century. Alterations and additions of nearly 30 rooms in 1880 cost nearly $7,000. Up-graded B to A October 1990. References Bibliography NEW STATISTICAL ACCOUNT, xiv, p.270. INVERNESS ADVERTISER, Nov 1880. Groome's ORDNANCE GAZETTEER OF SCOTLAND, I, (1882) p.67. Further information by courtesy The Buildings of Scotland Research Unit.

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Asset/Event Number	26.2
Asset/Event Name	Three pairs of gatepiers and gates, Ardross Castle
Type of Asset/Event	Gate piers and gates
Date and/or Period	19th century
Listing No./NRHE Number	LB15031
HER Number	
Status	Listed Building - Category A
Easting	261667
Northing	874310
Parish	Rosskeen
Council	Highland
Description	Same description as Asset 26.1. Asset 26.2 comprises the gates and gatepiers of the property.

Asset/Event Number	26.3
Asset/Event Name	Gardens, Ardross Castle
Type of Asset/Event	Gardens
Date and/or Period	19th century
Listing No./NRHE Number	LB15031
HER Number	
Status	Listed Building - Category A
Easting	261276
Northing	874050
Parish	Rosskeen
Council	Highland
Description	Same description as Asset 26.1. Asset 26.3 comprises the gardens of Ardross Castle (note: not the formal Inventory Garden and Designed Landscape, recorded as Asset 31).

Asset/Event Number	26.4
Asset/Event Name	Gazebo And Terraces, Ardross Castle
Type of Asset/Event	Gazebo, terrace(s)
Date and/or Period	19th century
Listing No./NRHE Number	LB15031
HER Number	
Status	Listed Building - Category A
Easting	261168
Northing	874069

Parish	Rosskeen
Council	Highland
Description	Same description as Asset 26.1. Asset 26.4 comprises the gazebo and terraces of Ardross Castle (note: not the formal Inventory Garden and Designed Landscape, recorded as Asset 31).

Asset/Event Number	27
Asset/Event Name	Caisteal Gorach, Tulloch Castle
Type of Asset/Event	Folly
Date and/or Period	18th century
Listing No./NRHE Number	LB24520
HER Number	
Status	Listed Building - Category A
Easting	254448
Northing	861131
Parish	Dingwall
Council	Highland
Description	Robert Adam, 1789-90. Picturesque folly; 2-storey circular "ruined" tower, void at rear, with flanking single storey quadrants linking outer square terminal blocks; all in rubble with tooled ashlar dressings. Centre round-headed entrance with round-headed narrow side windows, worn plaque, quatrefoil vent and 2 cruciform mock arrow slits above. 3 similar narrow round-headed lights in flanking wings. Irregular wallhead. Statement of Special Interest Stands on hill top above Tulloch Castle. Designed as "ruinous castle". SM plans dated 1 May 1789, 20 Aug 1789 and 28 April 1796, built for Duncan Davidson of Tulloch. Not easily accessible, pedestrian access and difficult vehicular access via Drynie Farm (private) to W only. Upgraded to Category A 27.4.92. References Bibliography NMRS Record Sheet. Nov 1990. Soane Museum plans (copies in NMRS). Ian R Mowat, EASTER ROSS 1750-1850, THE DOUBLE FRONTIER (1981) p90.

Asset/Event Number	28
Asset/Event Name	Assynt House
Type of Asset/Event	Country house
Date and/or Period	18th and 19th century
Listing No./NRHE Number	LB368
HER Number	
Status	Listed Building - Category B
Easting	259240
Northing	867133
Parish	Alness

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Council	Highland
Description	Late 18th/early 19th century 2-storey over raised basement house, 3 bays with centre door; various later embellishments. Further alterations in later 19th century when 3-storey, single bay wings added to west gable, projecting at SW and NW angles. All harled with ashlar dressings. Slightly advanced centre bay (to earlier house) approached by flight steps oversailing raised basement, with original cast-iron balustrade with palmette detailing; projecting stairwell to rear. Circa 1840 dummy bartizans flank centre projecting bay at wallhead; crenellated parapet with gable behind to front and rear from same period. Later 19th century (after 1875) wings (containing library and dining room) with oriel window in 1st floor of south gable (similar oriel inserted in east gable) and bipartites in west gable; large dummy angle bartizan; crowstepped gables and crenellated parapets. Mainly 12-pane glazing; band courses; rusticated quoins; twin ridge stacks to older house, wallhead stacks to new wings; slate roofs. Interior: plaster cornices with palmette detailing in ground floor of early house; later 19th century library and dining room pine lined with original bookcases and chimney pieces. Statement of Special Interest Additional wings do not appear on earliest OS. Said to have been dower house to Novar. References Bibliography 1st (1875) and 2nd (1906) editions of OS.

Asset/Event Number	29
Asset/Event Name	Fyrish Monument
Type of Asset/Event	Monument
Date and/or Period	19th century
Listing No./NRHE Number	LB369
HER Number	
Status	Listed Building - Category B
Easting	260766
Northing	869712
Parish	Alness
Council	Highland
Description	Late 18th century picturesque monument; line of 9 random rubble circular piers, the centre 4 being linked by pointed headed arches forming arcade with masonry rising in stumpy sections above, giving unfinished, ruinous impression. Statement of Special Interest Commanding position on Cnoc Fyrish overlooking Cromarty Firth. Said to have been constructed by General Sir Hector Munro of Novar (1726-1805) who served in India, to represent the gates of Negapatam, the scene of one of his Victories, and to have provided work for local unemployed.

Asset/Event Number	30
Asset/Event Name	Ardross Church
Type of Asset/Event	Church
Date and/or Period	19th century

Listing No./NRHE Number	LB15033
HER Number	
Status	Listed Building - Category C
Easting	261591
Northing	874368
Parish	Rosskeen
Council	Highland
Description	Ross and Macbeth, 1899. Gothic. Red sneck coursed rubble, contrasting tooled ashlar dressings. Orientated east/west, with projecting gabled porch at SW and Minster's Room at NE. 5-bay buttressed flanks with hoodmoulded square headed windows each with 3 cusped lights. Holdmoulded rose window in east gable apex with finial cross above and 2 small flanking windows below. Bellcote at W gable; slate roof. Simple interior; stained glass windows in memory of John Stewart Dyson Perrins, 1898-1913. Statement of Special Interest Building in ecclesiastical use. Jointly vested in and used by Church of Scotland and Free Church of Scotland. Plaque in east gable reads; "Deo Dante Dedi. This church was built by Charles William Dyson Perrins of Ardross as a thanks offering for the recovery from a severe illness of his wife Catherine Christine who laid this stone August 17 1899". References Bibliography INVERNESS COURIER May 12 and Aug 18, 1899. Advertisement for tenders and report of laying of foundation stone. Further information by courtesy The Buildings of Scotland Research Unit.

Asset/Event Number	31
Asset/Event Name	Ardross Castle
Type of Asset/Event	Gardens and Designed Landscape
Date and/or Period	19th and 20th century
Listing No./NRHE Number	GDL00023
HER Number	
Status	Inventory Garden and Designed Landscape
Easting	261504
Northing	873881
Parish	
Council	Highland
Description	An important planned 19th century estate landscape, central to the character of the Averon valley. At the core of the landscape are early 20th century formal gardens, including an Edwardian garden designed by Edward White, and work by garden manufacturing firms J.M. Blashfield and James Pulham and Sons and the Bromsgrove Guild of Applied Arts. *Record updated in 2017 only to note recent research about the garden terraces. The Inventory site as a whole has not been reviewed. Type of Site 19th century informal and formal pleasure grounds, estate landscape and early 20th century formal gardens. Main Phases of Landscape Development

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Mid 19th – early 20th century.

Artistic Interest
Level of interest
Outstanding
The Italianate Garden by Edward White, with its ornamental features, set within the informal parklands of Ardross Castle and the composition of the designed estate landscape along the Averon, give this site outstanding value as a work of art. The landscape, estate buildings and castle with its interiors, form an important ensemble.

Historical
Level of interest
Outstanding
The history of Ardross and its owners is well-recorded. It helps us understand the social and economic life within the Averon valley, highlighting contemporary fashion and taste. This gives the site outstanding historical value.

Horticultural
Level of interest
High
The fine collection of trees, the walled garden and the sylvicultural tradition give this site high horticultural value.

Architectural
Level of interest
Outstanding
The castle, its ancillary buildings, estate buildings and formal gardens with its range of structures and ornaments, give the site outstanding architectural value.

Archaeological
Level of interest
High
There are several sites of archaeological interest which give the policies high archaeological interest.

Scenic
Level of interest
Outstanding
The estate designed landscape makes a major contribution to the scenic quality of the Averon valley.

Nature Conservation
Level of interest
High
The variety of habitats formed by the woodlands, parks, rivers and pastures, give this site high value for nature conservation. The riparian woodlands and grasslands along the River Averon are of especially high quality.

Location and Setting
Ardross Castle lies 8km (5 miles) northwest of Alness, in the Averon valley. The B9176 leads west off the A836 Alness-Kincardine road, through Easter Ardross to the castle.

The Ardross Castle policies extend along the valley, creating a parkland landscape character from Inchlumpie Wood to Dalneich Bridge. The farmed and wooded landscape contrasts markedly with the moorland on the slopes of Cnoc Céislein, Cnoc Gille Mo Bhrianaig and Bendeallt. Cnoc Duaig, Cnoc nam Flann and Cnoc Tarsin are situated to the north of the approach road leading to Ardross Castle grounds. They contain views northwards and shelter the road, which leads midway along the hillside with long-distance views to the wooded Averon valley below and across to the Lealty parklands. From the Castle terrace a panoramic view extends west over the hills of Strath Mor and southwards, over the wooded Averon, to parkland on the valley slopes of Cnoc Crask, with Ben Wyvis beyond. The Novar wind farm,

situated on Cnoc Gille Mo Bhrianaig and Bendeallt, lies within the westernmost section of this view. Views from the Lealty parklands are also important.

To the east of the castle a major vista extends from the east entrance façade of the castle and across the formal Edwardian gardens. These form the central design axes.

The estate landscape extends along the Averon valley. The outer designed landscape consists of open rough grazing, regular enclosure fields, hedgerows, small copses and tree belts highlighted at specific points with plantings of copper beech. For the purpose of the Inventory, the policies of the Ardross designed landscape have been defined as that extending over Lealty and the Pinetum, with the core garden area encompassing some 23ha (90 acres).

The designed landscape reached its greatest extent by the mid 19th century, with parkland extending on both banks of the Averon (1875, OS 6"). This comprised parkland to the north of the castle and to the south of the Averon, extending from the Iron Rock over Lealty House to Cnoc Curuidan and to Wester Lealty in the south. By 1900, areas of parkland to the east of Lealty House were in agricultural use, with the loss of some parkland trees. By 1909, the area of parkland immediately to the east of the castle was enclosed for the construction of the formal gardens.

Site History
The 1st Duke of Sutherland bought Ardross in the late 1700s and built a hunting lodge. In 1845, the 2nd Duke sold the estate to Alexander Matheson.

Sir Alexander Matheson (1805-86) born in Attadale, Ross-shire, the nephew of James Matheson (see Lews Castle) was a founder of Matheson & Co. which traded in tea and opium, and was a merchant bank with branches in India and China. Having amassed considerable capital from this successful business he returned to Scotland in 1839 and purchased Ardross, amounting to 60,000 acres, for £90,000. He embarked on developing the estate, with the intention of attracting agricultural tenants under the supervision of William MacKenzie, an engineer who acted as factor. Between 1845-54 2600 acres of land were 'reclaimed by means of trenching, draining, liming,' and '67 miles of dykes, and 11 miles of wire-fencing erected, 28 miles of roads made, and 3000 acres of ground enclosed and planted' (Gardeners Chronicle, 1875). Matheson improved estate workers' housing as well as reclaiming land, so that by 1875, the number of agricultural tenants on the estate had increased from 109 to over 500, with an arable acreage of 1200.

The architect Alexander Ross (1834-1925) was commissioned to re-design Ardross Castle in the Scots Baronial style. This incorporated the earlier mansion and added some 30 rooms, at a cost of around £7000. Ross was supervisor for roads and buildings of the Highland Railway, of which Matheson was the first Chairman. Matheson also engaged manufacturer John Marriot Blashfield to install ornamental balustrades on the east front garden terrace.

Matheson laid out pleasure grounds said to extend to 700 acres 'with the Alness River winding its way through the middle of them. The walks through the pleasure-grounds are upwards of 14 miles in length, their width varying from 5 to 6 feet. They have all been properly bottomed with stones, and finely covered over with gravel.' (Gardeners Chronicle, 1875). These walks along the Alness River and Tollie Burn, gave access on both banks for fishing and incorporated scenic views, pools and waterfalls. Flower gardens lay to the west of the castle, between the castle and the kitchen garden. These were arranged to either side of a broad walk with displays of ribbon bedding along the face of a 300 foot long embankment. Below the terraces to the east of the castle were shrubberies and broad lawns, set with an oval pond and fountain enclosed by iron railings (Gardeners Chronicle 1875). Ornamental tree planting started in the 1840s and continued through the latter part of the 19th century (Gardeners Chronicle 1875, Tree Register of the British Isles 1989). Elsewhere on the estate 2020ha (5,000 acres) of plantation were laid out. The grounds were open to the public. Following Sir Alexander's death, his son, Sir Kenneth Matheson, sold the estate in 1898.

The new owner, also a successful business man, was C. W. Dyson Perrins (1864-1958), a Captain in the Highland Light Infantry, with interests in the Worcester Royal Porcelain Company and Lea & Perrins (Worcester sauce). The family spent several months annually at

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Ardross, with house parties enjoying the grouse moors, fishing and deer forests. Dyson Perrins continued Matheson's scheme of estate improvements: introducing electricity, purchasing additional lands at Glencalvie and Diebidale and modernising the castle. The East Lodge was built by Ross and MacBeth (1898) and the pinetum extended.

A major addition was the extension of the formal garden, designed by Edward White (c 1873-1952) for the east front. A perspective of White's design drawn by C. E. Mallows in 1909 was exhibited at the Royal Academy. By 1903, White, a landscape gardener married to the daughter of Henry Ernest Milner (c 1845-1906), was in charge of the landscape practice 'Milner, Son & White'. Following the Milners' tradition, White worked with the company Pulham & Son, who supplied rockwork and artificial stone features for Ardross. It seems likely that Pulham used Blashfield's balustrade design on the top terrace as a model to manufacture identical balustrading for the lower terraces (Information from Dingwall 2016, www.pulham.org). The Bromsgrove Guild of Applied Arts designed the statuary and ironwork for the gardens.

The estate was broken up and sold in 1937, although Perrins later bought back Achandunie, the former factor's house. Mr and Mrs Austin Mardon purchased Ardross Castle, Lealty Farm and over 80 acres and lived there until 1983, when the estate was sold.

In 1983, new owners acquired the estate and began to restore the gardens. The formal garden, walled garden, shrubberies and lawns were brought back into good management. Additional specimen trees were planted and woodlands extended. A programme to restore and refurbish the estate buildings and Castle was started.

Landscape Components
Architectural Features
Ardross Castle, in Scottish Baronial style, incorporates an earlier house. It was designed by Alexander Ross for Alexander Matheson in 1880-81 and built of Tarradale Red sandstone. The gabled and turreted building has a five-storey tower at the east end, above the entrance.

The formal garden comprises terraces. The later 19th century upper terrace was built during Matheson's ownership with balustrades by J. M. Blashfield. The lower terraces were added as part of a formal garden designed by Edward White in around 1909 with matching balustrading installed by James Pulham & Sons (Dingwall 2016, www.pulham.org). They incorporate curved stone steps with intricately worked balustrades and statues pre-cast in Pulham cement. A castellated gazebo at the southeast angle of the upper terrace is made of sandstone similar to that of the castle.

The stableblock with internal courtyard, now restored, is contemporary with the castle. A full range of ancillary service buildings includes a laundry, ice house and, adjacent to the River Averon, a remote hydro-electric generator house, installed by Perrins.

The walled garden and associated buildings have been restored. The existing glasshouse (MacKenzie & Moncur Ltd.) replaced an earlier structure.

The east entrance gate consists of central carriage gates with a matching pair of pedestrian gates. The octagonal gatepiers support a pair of heraldic beasts, the pomegranate and hounds, of the Perrins family crest. Beyond Easter Ardross is the East Lodge ('The Pillars'), designed by Ross & MacBeth in 1898, with two adjoining pairs of octagonal gate piers of tooled ashlar and a screen wall. The Mains of Ardross, to the north of the castle, is a notable agricultural complex in the estate style. Lealty House, situated within the south parklands acts as an eyecatcher, as seen from the gardens.

Other architectural features within the original policies include suspension bridges over the river (only one survives) and the Matheson family graveyard, southeast of the castle, near the confluence of the Tollie Burn and River Averon.

Drives & Approaches
The public road leading from Easter Ardross to Strath Rusdale forms the main approach to Ardross Castle. 'The Pillars', on the A836, 3.5km (2 miles) to the east of the Castle, marks this

long, straight, approach road, lined with trees and giving spectacular views across the Averon valley. Crossing a bridge over the Tollie Burn, the entrance drive proper leads through the east entrance gate, to the castle. The entrance drive, initially straight, curves gently through informal parkland and woodland before reaching a forecourt on the Castle's east façade. North of this, access roads extend to the stableblock, the walled kitchen garden and to the public road at Mains of Ardross.

To the west of Mains of Ardross, the west drive leads off the public road and descends the valley, to cross the river at Lealty Bridge, before ascending through parkland to Lealty House.

Parkland
The parklands extend along both banks of the River Averon, and are separated visually from each other by the thickly wooded banks of the Averon. Although many of the 19th century roundels and scatters of individual parkland trees, which ornamented the parkland were lost following the Second World War, the parkland still retains its essential character.

To the south of the castle there is a turf maze, built at the bottom of the south facing slope above the river Averon. This is classical unicursal maze 30m in diameter constructed in 1999 to celebrate the Millennium.

Woodland
The woodlands, situated along the River Averon and the Tollie Burn, are mixed woods containing stands of conifers or ornamental broadleaves, some of which were planted experimentally. They include significant areas of semi-natural woodland, some of which pre-date the designed landscape.

Woodland Garden
Ornamental trees are concentrated in the vicinity of the Castle, the densest plantings being between the Castle and the Walled Garden. There were two main phases of planting in c 1850 and c 1900. Notable specimens include massive Douglas fir, silver fir, Wellingtonia, sitka spruce and grey poplar. The variety of species at Ardross is significant: ten species of fir (Abies), five species of spruce (Picea), seven varieties of false cypress (Chamaecyparis), monkey puzzle, Thujopsis, hemlocks, western red cedar, lime, maples and several other genera are represented (Schlich, W. and Pearson, R.S., 1907; TROBI, 1989). The wooded gardens extend to 32.5ha (80 acres), (Sales Particulars, 1993). Set within Lealty Park on the south bank of the Averon, is a pinetum (11.5ha/28 acres), interspersed with areas of sheltered rough grazing. Planted extensively in 1900 and well documented, it is a valuable conifer collection (TROBI, 1989; Sales Particulars, 1993).

The Gardens
An Italianate formal garden is located to the east of the castle. It was designed by Edward White in around 1909 using a pre-existing late 19th century top terrace. From the forecourt a series of four terraces descends to an open compartment, divided longitudinally by a central footpath, which forms the axis of the gardens. A curved double staircase leads from the forecourt to a stone-flagged terrace-landing decorated with a niche and well head, set into the retaining wall of the forecourt. The second, broad terrace, reached by a stone flight of steps ornamented with urns, is symmetrically set with two sunk, square beds decorated with marble wellheads and benches. A central stairway, flanked by a pair of sculptured stags mounted on stone encasements, leads down to the central compartment. This lower, rectangular area is set to lawn and lined by cypress trees, within a cypress hedge. Rectangular formal beds flank the central path. An earlier planting scheme was a box parterre infilled with red sandstone chippings and punctuated at the corners with Irish yew (Plan, undated, Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland). At the east end, the path leads through a low wall to a square compartment set with a circular ornamental pool. A sculptural composition forms the centrepiece, made in Pulham stone, and depicting 'The Boar Hunt'. The Bromsgrove Guild of Applied Arts designed this. Life-size marble statues were originally set around the pool (NMRS).

Three wrought ironwork gates (Bromsgrove Guild of Applied Arts) lead out from the east end of the garden to a series of informal walks and glades enclosed by shrubberies and ornamental planting. The central gate leads up a flight of steps and through a Water Garden, laid out with

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natural rocks and Pulham stone along a natural watercourse. This leads to an informal pool and rocky cascade. An elaborate masonry bridge crosses the source pond.

South of the Boar Hunt pool, a smaller ornamental gate leads out to an azalea walk. The third gate leads north to a series of walks and glades set amidst groups of specimen trees. The glades and lawns are ornamented variously with a formal quatrefoil basin and fountain, a rustic timber summerhouse, and an oval croquet lawn. The latter, enclosed by a raised stone retaining wall and kerb was originally an open-air ice rink/curling pond. This was drained and infilled in around 1910 (NMRS).

Around the castle are a series of lawns - West Lawn, The Dell and the Stable Wood Lawn. All are set with specimen trees.

Walled Gardens
The walled garden, west of the castle and square in plan, sits on the top of a south-facing plateau. The south wall acts as a retaining wall on the slope (3.25m high), separating the garden from a broad walk beneath. Inside the walled garden a walk along this south wall gives views out over to the wooded slopes of the Averon. It has been reinstated following its 19th century layout. It is an ornamental garden with areas for fruit and vegetable production and is quartered with a central path flanked by herbaceous/shrub borders. The three glasshouses are operational and contain a collection of tender wall shrubs, espaliered fig and peach plants.

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Information courtesy of Christopher Dingwall 2016

Asset/Event Number	32
Asset/Event Name	Novar
Type of Asset/Event	Gardens and Designed Landscape
Date and/or Period	18th century
Listing No./NRHE Number	GDL00303
HER Number	
Status	Inventory Garden and Designed Landscape
Easting	261616
Northing	868104
Parish	
Council	Highland
Description	Novar is a major later 18th century formal designed landscape established by military officer, politician and landowner, Sir Hector Munro. It has outstanding architectural and scenic interest for its range of buildings, and extensive planting and parklands. There is outstanding historic interest in its direct association with Munro and the expansion of the British empire in later 18th century India, which is reflected in the physical dimensions of the designed landscape with further evidence from surviving estate plans. Inventory record revised (minor amendments) 2024. Type of Site Country estate landscape centred on Novar House with ancillary buildings, woodland, parkland and formal walled gardens. Main Phases of Landscape Development 1768-1805, late 19th century, 1950s. Artistic Interest Level of interest High The planting and layout of Novar, relatively unchanged since 1800, give the site high value as a Work of Art. It reflects a contemporary and unique approach to the development of the landscape character. Historical Level of interest Outstanding Novar has outstanding Historical value due to its good documentary evidence and surviving physical fabric. The association with Munro and his activities in India is reflected in the place names and monuments of the designed landscape, the extent of planting, and historical records relating to the development of the designed landscape. Horticultural Level of interest High Novar has high Horticultural value for its tree-collection, its long history of commercial timber production and the ornamental and productive Walled Garden. Architectural Level of interest

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Outstanding
A number of significant architectural features are integral to the design layout and original in their design. Thereby Novar is of outstanding Architectural value.

Archaeological
Level of interest
Some
Novar is of some Archaeological interest as evidenced by the survival within the boundary of a prehistoric burial mound (SM5002) and other recorded sites in the National Record for the Historic Environment).

Scenic
Level of interest
Outstanding
Novar's woodlands, parks, mansion house and follies are visually important in views over from the Black Isle and the A9. Novar is of outstanding Scenic value.

Nature Conservation
Level of interest
High
The range and variety of woodland, parkland, meadow, garden and wetland habitats gives Novar high Nature Conservation value.

Location and Setting
Novar is situated on the north side of the Cromarty Firth, 3.5km southwest of Alness and 1.5km northeast of Evanton, on the Alness-Evanton road.

The estate lies on the southeast slopes of Cnoc Fyrish, Cnoc an Deilignidh and Meann Chnoc, to the northeast of Glen Glass. A series of watercourses, Big Burn, Allt Duach, Allt Duilleag, and Allt a' Chadha Mhóir, drain the slopes and lower lying areas of the Novar policies, issuing into Alness Bay.

Novar House stands about 55m above sea level, at the centre of a series of enclosed parklands which ascend Cnoc an Deilignidh to 140m above sea level. The parklands are sheltered to the north, east and west by plantations. This landscape framework directs long-distance views southeastwards over the lower parklands, across the Cromarty Firth to the Black Isle. The designed landscape has a series of follies, which highlight major views. Most notable is the Fyrish Monument, a local landmark (outside the inventory boundary) which can be seen from many miles away. Views into the Novar parklands can be gained from the Alness-Evanton road, which was previously the coaching road, the A9.

Estate maps (Aitken, 1777; 1796) and later maps (1874, OS 6"; 1904, OS 6") demonstrate that the general layout and extent of the designed landscape of c 150ha (371 acres) remains unchanged. Although the management of some areas of 'parkland' has altered, the general configuration of tree belts and drives has survived.

Site History
Novar House was built in 1720 by John Munro, on the site of an earlier house belonging to Robert Munro of Novar and his wife Helen (a reset date stone of 1634 is set within the west elevation). The house and grounds are shown on Roy's Military Survey Map of 1747–55.

The framework of the current designed landscape was created in the later 18th century by landowner, MP and army officer, Colonel, later General, Sir Hector Munro of Novar (1726–1805), who funded the works from the profits he gained in India.

In the 18th century, Britain was expanding its empire in India through the commercial and military activities of the East India Company. Having established himself at home in the royal regiments, Hector Munro was in India from 1761–65 and led the Company Army at the Battle of Buxar (Baksar or Bhaksar in northeast India) in 1764. Victory here ensured British supremacy in Bengal and for Hector Munro, a private fortune distributed by the new client ruler and landholders that secured his material position for the rest of his life (Mackillop 2005: 239).

Hector Munro spent most of his fortune on land purchases and improvements at Novar. The first phase of this work took place on his return from India in 1767 and coincided with his entry into Highland politics as MP for the Inverness Burghs. During a period of around 10 years, he undertook a scheme of building and estate improvement. He extended the house (circa 1770), and improved land, draining the mosses, and incorporating the latest agricultural methods.

In 1775, Matthew Culley noted that 'Colonel Monroe of Navarre...was improving a very barren soil in a most spirited and expeditious manner. The situation of the Colonel's house exceeds everything in all this pretty country, and he lives in the most elegant manner, everything being in the cleanest and neatest stile we have hitherto seen.'

A survey plan of 1777 outlines much of this work. It depicts a gridiron series of enclosure fields and drives, as well as proposals aimed at increasing the amenities of the mansion (Aitken, 1777 notes among other proposals, 'A Lawn intended around the House'). The execution of Aitken's survey and plan may well have been spurred on by Munro's projected return to India.

By 1777, Munro's finances had been impacted by a decade of expenditure at Novar and losses from the 1772 Ayr Bank failure. He likely viewed a second sojourn to India as a ready solution and among his early actions on arrival was to recover outstanding financial obligations from his previous term (Mackillop 2005: 239; Bryant 2004). Hector Munro returned to India as commander-in-chief of the Madras army and spent a total of five more years in India.

Although this second period began well with a victory in 1778 for the siege of Pondicherry (now Pudicherry) and a resulting knighthood, his reputation was seriously damaged for his role in the Battle of Polillur near Conjeevaram (Kanchipuram in south-eastern India) in 1780 - the worst defeat for the British in 18th century India. Some redemption came in 1781 with his actions under Sir Eyre Coote at the battle of Porto Novo (1 July 1781) and his command of the siege of Negapatam at the start of the Fourth Anglo Dutch War). In ill-health, he left India in 1782. Although his active military career had ended, he received further promotion in later life, becoming colonel of the Black Watch in 1787, a lieutenant-general in 1793, and general in 1798 (Munro, Hector – Oxford Dictionary National Biography 2004; Evanton Oral History Project: Novar Estate).

Returning to Highland society and his political career, Hector Munro recommenced investment in the Novar policies, further transforming and embellishing the local landscape in a second phase of major building, planting and improvement works during the 1780s and 1790s. By this period, he had converted upland areas to sheep runs and laid out a series of gardens in the extensive walled garden (1796, Estate Plan; Richardson and Clough, 1989). The parkland planting, initially modest in scale, was augmented with a series of clumps, roundels and platoons, which decorated The Lawn (planned in the 1770s), the largest area of parkland, extending south of the house. Further ornamentation of the Lawn included a large statue of the Novar Eagle, the heraldic crest of the Munros, perched on top of a mount in the west Lawn. Two plantations, to east and west, flanked the house. Between 1788 and 1792, around 778,000 firs and Scots pine had been planted (MacKillop 2005: 247). Many of the enclosure parks were named after Munro's campaigns or Indian places: 'Buxar Park, Bombay Park, Madrafs Park, Negapatnam Park, Mount Delly Park, Nilafaram park, Mattalloy Park, Taujore Park, Trichenopoly Park, Surat Park, Calcutta Park, Benerafs Park...' as well as the more functional 'Sheep Park, Kiln Park' or the more local names 'Firish New Park... The Inn Park' (1796, Estate Plan).

One of Munro's most conspicuous works was the hilltop Fyrish Monument, built in 1792 to provide work for his tenantry. Tradition says that it is a copy of the gates of the fortress of Negapatam on the Coromandel coast. Although not a copy, it loosely follows Indian architectural styles in the shape of its three arches. It is likely that Munro designed it himself, to commemorate his victory in 1781. Southey noted General Munro's work in his Journal in 1819: 'There are extensive plantations on the hills behind the house, and some odd edifices on the summits which he is said to have designed as imitations of the hill-forts in India. One of them appeared like a huge sort of Stonehenge; but we saw it only from a distance.' Other follies included a Chinese Temple, built on the edge of Temple Park.

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Munro is reputed to have spent a total of around £120,000 on land acquisition and estate improvement (Mackillop, Oxford Dictionary National Biography 2004). He supported the introduction of sheep into the Highlands and Novar was among the first estates to see large-scale opposition north of the Great Glen (Mackillop 2005: 252) – In summer 1792, troops were called in to restore order after protests against rent increases, the loss of arable, and the enclosure of common grazing (Munro, Hector – Oxford Dictionary of National Biography 2004).

Hector Munro was unmarried. Of his three children, two sons were killed in India. One by a tiger (a well known incident) and the other by a shark. His daughter Jean was unable to inherit Novar in her own right, so the property was left to his brother Sir Alexander Munro, who was for many years consul general at Madrid and thereafter, a commissioner of excise. His son, Hugh Alexander Munro (d.1865), followed him. He died without any legitimate heirs and the property reverted to Jean's family as she had by now been married to General Sir Ronald Ferguson of Raith, Kirkcaldy. In the late 19th century, many of the existing exotic trees and shrubs were planted in the grounds. In 1890, additions and alterations were made to the house for Ronald Munro Ferguson, including a porch (removed in 1956).

Arthur Munro Ferguson made major improvements to the gardens in the 1950s. He designed and developed a water garden around the slaughterhouse and privy, planted gardens to the west of the house and constructed a garden wall with statuary niches. He constructed a lake fed by the Allt Duilleag in the southern parkland. A series of architectural features bought from the demolition of Rosehaugh in 1972 (see Rosehaugh) were incorporated into Novar House.

Landscape Components
Architectural Features
Novar House, built originally for John Munro of Novar in 1720, was altered in 1770, 1897 and 1956. It is south facing, U-shaped in plan and harled with ashlar and rendered finishes. The house is two-storeys with dormer windows, and service wings extending to the north. These flank a courtyard, enclosed on its northern side by a high wall with a central gateway.

The landscape is ornamented with a series of follies. The most prominent is the Fyrish Monument, located to the north of the Inventory boundary, on the summit of Cnoc Fyrish. This landmark, a mock ruin, consists of nine massive circular columns built of mortared rubble, the centre four columns being linked by pointed arches, above which the wall finishes in a series of squat battlements.

Two Octagonal Towers are set on one of the junctions of the Main Drive and a Chinese Temple, north of the Walled Garden at the foot of Badger Hill, has been converted to a family memorial. To the south-west of the house, on Cat Hill, are two guntowers built for defensive purposes by General Munro during the Napoleonic Wars; a Square Tower, positioned on the summit of the hill, with a Round Tower lower down the slopes to its south-east. The construction of the water gardens in the 1950s, incorporated the ruins of the former Slaughterhouse as a folly, and a 'Privy', was converted into a pavilion and bridge. The water garden is laid out with a series of bridges, water channels and stone benches. This garden scheme included, on the east side of the house, a rubble garden wall with circular niches set with statuary.

The Mains of Novar is in a prominent situation at the top of the Main Drive, above the parklands.

Novar Walled Garden, north of the House, is subdivided into two sections, east and west, built of coped rubble walls with ornate wrought iron gates. The Gardener's Cottage lies on its eastern perimeter.

Larch Cottage (also known Water Baillie's House or the 'Old Factor's House') is an early 19th century two-storey, three-bay house, harled with ashlar margins.

Novar Stables comprises two late 18th/early 19th century, five bay, parallel blocks linked at the north and south by retaining walls with ball finialed gate piers. All are harled with ashlar margins.

The East Entrance Gates, to the south-east of Novar House are a pair of facsimile gate piers, constructed c 1950, to replace damaged originals. They are flanked by pedestrian entrances. The West Entrance Gates, date from the late 18th century, are ashlar gate piers with cast iron carriage gates linked to square end piers.

Drives & Approaches
The 18th century drives, laid out in a formal rectilinear pattern, survive unaltered. The main approach is along the East Drive, which leads off the B817 by the East Gate. This formal drive, some 1.2km long, is lined with trees, borders the east side of the Lawn and leads uphill, to terminate at the Mains of Novar. A shorter drive leads off at right angles, westwards along the contour to Novar House. From the East Drive, there are intermittent, oblique views across parkland to the house. The 18th century scheme included an ornamental approach along the West Drive. This led through the West Gate, to take a serpentine route along the edge of Cat Hill Wood, before leading up to the stables.

To the east of the East Drive, the policies are laid out on a gridiron plan. This comprises three, straight, parallel, tree-lined drives which lead off the East Drive, on a north-easterly alignment. The remains of two Octagonal Towers flank the junction of the middle drive and East Drive.

Parkland
The east parks are arable (2001), and as a result several of the dividing shelter belts have become fragmented. The west parks (The Lawn, Temple Park and Firish New Park) are permanent grassland with a strong parkland character. The parkland has seen little change, although some clumps have been removed and others have lost trees. This results in a more informal landscape character. There are many impressive parkland specimens due to their maturity and size. Species include lime, Scots pine, sycamore, beech, horse chestnut and oak.

In the 18th century scheme, parkland extended on both sides of the East Drive. That to the east was divided into a series of five rows of enclosures regularly laid out into rectangular compartments. Those directly along the slope from Novar House were planted with geometric-shaped tree clumps. West of the East Drive, the parkland extended over south-facing slopes below Novar House. It was expansive and contained numerous geometric-shaped clumps of trees; squares, circles, triangles, crescents, ovals and diamonds using, for most clumps, single species.

Woodland
Novar designed landscape is sheltered by hillside plantations to the west and north. These comprise commercial conifer plantations with stands of Scots Pine and old semi-natural woodland.

The parklands are surrounded by, or subdivided by, woodland belts containing exotic species. These belts also border the plantations on the west side of the policies. A tree survey (1980) identified many significant specimens including eight giant fir (Abies grandis) over 48m (160ft) high, five Douglas fir between 45m and 51m (150ft-170ft), three Sitka spruce over 39m (130ft), larch and Wellingtonia over 30m (100ft). In addition, a survey identified cedar, Ginkgo (Ginkgo biloba), Monkey puzzle (Araucaria araucana), katsura (Cercidiphyllum japonicum) and a tulip tree (Liriodendron tulipifera).

Water Features
To the west of the house is a Water Garden, developed from circa 1950 onwards, along the Allt Duach. A series of interlinked pools with cascades and water channels, incorporate the former 'privy' and 'slaughterhouse' as follies. Recent enhancements to this area include an extension to the perimeter wall and management of the ornamental woodland (1990s).

A lochan in the south western corner of the park was created during the 1950s. This is fed by the Allt Duilleag and is retained by an earth dam with a small weir outlet. It is visible across the parkland from the house.

Walled Gardens
The Walled Garden, directly north of the house, is subdivided into two square compartments by a central wall (lying north-south). This wall is flanked by ornamental beds and pierced by

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three, arched gateways. The eastern compartment, which contains an oval pond in its south-western quarter, was laid out in four sections by crosspaths (1796, Estate Plan; 1874, OS 6"). It is now maintained as lawn, and the alignment of the paths can still be traced. The western compartment contains a croquet lawn, vegetable plots, orchard and a belt of ornamental trees running east to west along the centre-line of the garden.

The main entrance into the Walled Garden lies in the centre of the south wall, on an axis with the north court of Novar House. A flight of steps lead up from the drive, through an arched gateway and onto the Long Walk. This raised, terrace walk is lined by a parapet wall and runs the full length of the south wall.

The inner face of the north wall is brick-lined with stone buttresses. It supports several espalier fruit trees and large vines.

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Asset/Event Number	36
Asset/Event Name	Loch Glass

Type of Asset/Event	Enclosure (Period Unassigned), Field Boundary (Period Unassigned)
Date and/or Period	Post-medieval
Listing No./NRHE Number	NH57SW 5.00
HER Number	
Status	Non-designated Heritage Asset
Easting	251720
Northing	873240
Parish	Alness
Council	Highland
Description	RCAHMS First Edition Survey Project An enclosure of two compartments is depicted on the 1st edition of the OS 6-inch map (Ross-shire and Cromartyshire 1880, sheet lii) and on the current edition of the OS 1:10000 map (1986) with a length of field wall attached. Information from RCAHMS (SAH) 23 February 1996

Asset/Event Number	37
Asset/Event Name	Ruigh Fhearchair
Type of Asset/Event	Head Dyke (Post Medieval), Township (Period Unassigned)
Date and/or Period	Post-medieval
Listing No./NRHE Number	NH57SW 6.00
HER Number	
Status	Non-designated Heritage Asset
Easting	252800
Northing	872200
Parish	Alness
Council	Highland
Description	RCAHMS First Edition Survey Project A township comprising two unroofed buildings, each of two compartments, an enclosure, a sheepfold and a head-dyke is depicted on the 1st edition of the OS 6-inch map (Ross-shire and Cromartyshire 1880, sheet lii). Two unroofed buildings, two enclosures, one of which has four compartments, and part of the head-dyke are shown on the current edition of the OS 1:10000 map (1992). Information from RCAHMS (SAH) 23 February 1996

Asset/Event Number	43
Asset/Event Name	Bendeallt
Type of Asset/Event	Shooting Stand (19th Century) - (20th Century)
Date and/or Period	Post-medieval to Modern
Listing No./NRHE Number	NH57SE 35.00
HER Number	
Status	Non-designated Heritage Asset
Easting	255500

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Northing	871300
Parish	Alness
Council	Highland
Description	NH57SE 35 555 713 The following new site was recorded as part of a desk-based assessment and field inspection conducted in December 1994 as part of an environmental assessment for a proposed c150 hectare windfarm development and access provision at Meall an Tuirc and surrounding area. The archaeological potential of the area appears generally to be low, although it is possible that further remains are buried beneath peat cover which extends across the entire site. NH 555 713 Penannular, peat grouse butt. Sponsor: Bioscan Environmental Consultancy. J E Hamilton 1995. References Hamilton, J. (1995b) 'Novar Estate, near Evanton (Alness parish), desk-based study and field inspection', Discovery Excav Scot, 1995. Page(s): 41

Asset/Event Number	44
Asset/Event Name	Bendeallt
Type of Asset/Event	Wind Farm
Date and/or Period	Modern
Listing No./NRHE Number	NH57SE 37.00
HER Number	
Status	Non-designated Heritage Asset
Easting	255540
Northing	871510
Parish	Alness
Council	Highland
Description	NH57SE 37 centred 5554 7151 Wd El Gen [NAT] OS (GIS) MasterMap, July 2010.

Asset/Event Number	45
Asset/Event Name	Ruigheachan
Type of Asset/Event	No Class (Event)
Date and/or Period	
Listing No./NRHE Number	NH57SW 9.00
HER Number	
Status	Event
Easting	254000
Northing	871500
Parish	Alness

Council	Highland
Description	Watching Brief (30 November 2009 - 2 February 2010) NH 540 715 A watching brief was undertaken 30 November 2009–2 February 2010 during geotechnical test pitting in advance of the construction of a wind farm. No features or artefacts of archaeological significance were recorded during the excavation of 151 test pits or during the walkover survey of the 16 turbine bases. Archive: RCAHMS (intended) Funder: RWE Npower Renewables Ltd Lindsay Dunbar – AOC Archaeology Group References Dunbar, L. (2010j) 'Novar II Wind Farm, Highland (Alness parish), watching brief', Discovery Excav Scot, New, vol. 11, 2010. Cathedral Communications Limited, Wiltshire, England. Page(s): 80.

Asset/Event Number	48
Asset/Event Name	Meall An Tuirc
Type of Asset/Event	Bloomery (Period Unassigned)(Possible), Findspot, Slag
Date and/or Period	Unknown
Listing No./NRHE Number	NH57SE 44.00
HER Number	
Status	Non-designated Heritage Asset
Easting	255900
Northing	870800
Parish	Alness
Council	Highland
Description	External Reference (2010)Slag found in forestry at the foot of Meall an Tuirc, Glen Glass, near Evanton, suggesting a possible bloomery. Information from the ARCH Community Timelines Course, 2010 For more information, see the Highland Historic Environment Record: http://her.highland.gov.uk/SingleResult.aspx?uid=MHG53663 References Highland Historic Environment Record. Possible Bloomery, Meall an Tuirc, Glen Glass, http://her.highland.gov.uk/SingleResult.aspx?uid=MHG53663 [Accessed 28 June 2013].

Asset/Event Number	49
Asset/Event Name	Sheepfold, Ruighe Fhearchair
Type of Asset/Event	Sheep fold
Date and/or Period	Post-medieval
Listing No./NRHE Number	
HER Number	MHG32224
Status	Non-designated Heritage Asset
Easting	252753
Northing	872058

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Parish	Alness
Council	Highland
Description	No description on the Highland HER. *SW *27/03/2024 *Historical mapping *A sheepfold is depicted on the 1881 1st Edition OS map, set to the south of the settlement of Ruighe Fhearchair (Asset 37), which is depicted as ruinous on this map. The OS Name Book describes Ruighe Fhearchair generally as 'An enclosure wherein there are ruins of what were dwelling houses, situated on the north bank of Loch Glass, It is the property of Colonel Ferguson. It [Ruighe Fhearchair] means 'Farquhar's Shealing[sic]'. References OS. 1881. Ross-shire & Cromartyshire (Mainland) LXIV, Surveyed: 1875, Published: 1881. OS Name Books. 1848-1876. Ross and Cromarty OS Name Books, Vol. 38. OS1/28/38/178.

Asset/Event Number	50.1
Asset/Event Name	Grouse butt, Cnoc na Ghille Bhronaich
Type of Asset/Event	Shooting butt (20th century)
Date and/or Period	Modern
Listing No./NRHE Number	
HER Number	MHG56494
Status	Non-designated Heritage Asset
Easting	256844
Northing	870833
Parish	Alness
Council	Highland
Description	A line of shooting butts at Cnoc Gille Mo Bhrianaig, noted during a walkover survey by RoCAS in 2013 in advance of a proposed woodland creation scheme on the Novar Estate. They are not shown on the 1st and 2nd Edition OS maps, which would indicate that they post-date 1902. <1> Sources/Archives (1) SHG25865 Text/Report/Fieldwork Report: Fraser, L.. 2013. Novar Woodland Creation: Archaeological Desk-based Assessment and Walkover Survey. Ross & Cromarty Archaeological Services. Digital. Features 5a-5i.

Asset/Event Number	50.2
Asset/Event Name	Grouse butt, Cnoc na Ghille Bhronaich
Type of Asset/Event	Shooting butt (20th century)
Date and/or Period	Modern
Listing No./NRHE Number	
HER Number	MHG56494
Status	Non-designated Heritage Asset

Easting	256811
Northing	870929
Parish	Alness
Council	Highland
Description	Same description as Asset 50.1

Asset/Event Number	50.3
Asset/Event Name	Grouse butt, Cnoc na Ghille Bhronaich
Type of Asset/Event	Shooting butt (20th century)
Date and/or Period	Modern
Listing No./NRHE Number	
HER Number	MHG56494
Status	Non-designated Heritage Asset
Easting	256792
Northing	870976
Parish	Alness
Council	Highland
Description	Same description as Asset 50.1

Asset/Event Number	50.4
Asset/Event Name	Grouse butt, Cnoc na Ghille Bhronaich
Type of Asset/Event	Shooting butt (20th century)
Date and/or Period	Modern
Listing No./NRHE Number	
HER Number	MHG56494
Status	Non-designated Heritage Asset
Easting	256772
Northing	871030
Parish	Alness
Council	Highland
Description	Same description as Asset 50.1

Asset/Event Number	50.5
Asset/Event Name	Grouse butt, Cnoc na Ghille Bhronaich
Type of Asset/Event	Shooting butt (20th century)
Date and/or Period	Modern
Listing No./NRHE Number	

Appendix 5.2: Gazetteer of Heritage Assets and Events

HER Number	MHG56494
Status	Non-designated Heritage Asset
Easting	256754
Northing	871078
Parish	Alness
Council	Highland
Description	Same description as Asset 50.1

Asset/Event Number	50.6
Asset/Event Name	Grouse butt, Cnoc na Ghille Bhronaich
Type of Asset/Event	Shooting butt (20th century)
Date and/or Period	Modern
Listing No./NRHE Number	
HER Number	MHG56494
Status	Non-designated Heritage Asset
Easting	256736
Northing	871128
Parish	Alness
Council	Highland
Description	Same description as Asset 50.1

Asset/Event Number	50.7
Asset/Event Name	Grouse butt, Cnoc na Ghille Bhronaich
Type of Asset/Event	Shooting butt (20th century)
Date and/or Period	Modern
Listing No./NRHE Number	
HER Number	MHG56494
Status	Non-designated Heritage Asset
Easting	256718
Northing	871172
Parish	Alness
Council	Highland
Description	Same description as Asset 50.1

Asset/Event Number	50.8
Asset/Event Name	Grouse butt, Cnoc na Ghille Bhronaich
Type of Asset/Event	Shooting butt (20th century)

Date and/or Period	Modern
Listing No./NRHE Number	
HER Number	MHG56494
Status	Non-designated Heritage Asset
Easting	256703
Northing	871218
Parish	Alness
Council	Highland
Description	Same description as Asset 50.1

Asset/Event Number	50.9
Asset/Event Name	Grouse butt, Cnoc na Ghille Bhronaich
Type of Asset/Event	Shooting butt (20th century)
Date and/or Period	Modern
Listing No./NRHE Number	
HER Number	MHG56494
Status	Non-designated Heritage Asset
Easting	256684
Northing	871265
Parish	Alness
Council	Highland
Description	Same description as Asset 50.1

Asset/Event Number	53.1
Asset/Event Name	Grouse butt, Cnoc a' Leacachan
Type of Asset/Event	Shooting butt (20th century)
Date and/or Period	Modern
Listing No./NRHE Number	
HER Number	
Status	Non-designated Heritage Asset
Easting	256757
Northing	872226
Parish	Alness
Council	Highland
Description	*SW *21/03/2024 *Current mapping, satellite imagery *A line of grouse butts extending NNE-SSW are depicted on current (2024) OS mapping, and are visible as mounds on Bing satellite photography.

Appendix 5.2: Gazetteer of Heritage Assets and Events

Asset/Event Number	53.2
Asset/Event Name	Grouse butt, Cnoc a' Leacachan
Type of Asset/Event	Shooting butt (20th century)
Date and/or Period	Modern
Listing No./NRHE Number	
HER Number	
Status	Non-designated Heritage Asset
Easting	256762
Northing	872265
Parish	Alness
Council	Highland
Description	Same description as Asset 53.1.

Asset/Event Number	53.3
Asset/Event Name	Grouse butt, Cnoc a' Leacachan
Type of Asset/Event	Shooting butt (20th century)
Date and/or Period	Modern
Listing No./NRHE Number	
HER Number	
Status	Non-designated Heritage Asset
Easting	256771
Northing	872308
Parish	Alness
Council	Highland
Description	Same description as Asset 53.1.

Asset/Event Number	53.4
Asset/Event Name	Grouse butt, Cnoc a' Leacachan
Type of Asset/Event	Shooting butt (20th century)
Date and/or Period	Modern
Listing No./NRHE Number	
HER Number	
Status	Non-designated Heritage Asset
Easting	256785
Northing	872367
Parish	Alness

Council	Highland
Description	Same description as Asset 53.1.

Asset/Event Number	53.5
Asset/Event Name	Grouse butt, Cnoc a' Leacachan
Type of Asset/Event	Shooting butt (20th century)
Date and/or Period	Modern
Listing No./NRHE Number	
HER Number	
Status	Non-designated Heritage Asset
Easting	256797
Northing	872424
Parish	Alness
Council	Highland
Description	Same description as Asset 53.1.

Asset/Event Number	53.6
Asset/Event Name	Grouse butt, Cnoc a' Leacachan
Type of Asset/Event	Shooting butt (20th century)
Date and/or Period	Modern
Listing No./NRHE Number	
HER Number	
Status	Non-designated Heritage Asset
Easting	256812
Northing	872494
Parish	Alness
Council	Highland
Description	Same description as Asset 53.1.

Asset/Event Number	53.7
Asset/Event Name	Grouse butt, Cnoc a' Leacachan
Type of Asset/Event	Shooting butt (20th century)
Date and/or Period	Modern
Listing No./NRHE Number	
HER Number	
Status	Non-designated Heritage Asset
Easting	256824

Appendix 5.2: Gazetteer of Heritage Assets and Events

Northing	872560
Parish	Alness
Council	Highland
Description	Same description as Asset 53.1.

Asset/Event Number	53.8
Asset/Event Name	Grouse butt, Cnoc a' Leacachan
Type of Asset/Event	Shooting butt (20th century)
Date and/or Period	Modern
Listing No./NRHE Number	
HER Number	
Status	Non-designated Heritage Asset
Easting	256831
Northing	872630
Parish	Alness
Council	Highland
Description	Same description as Asset 53.1.

Asset/Event Number	54
Asset/Event Name	Cairn, Meall an Leathaid
Type of Asset/Event	Marker cairn
Date and/or Period	Post-medieval or modern
Listing No./NRHE Number	
HER Number	
Status	Non-designated Heritage Asset
Easting	255136
Northing	873413
Parish	Alness
Council	Highland
Description	*SW *21/03/2024 *Current mapping, satellite imagery *A cairn is identified on current (2024) OS mapping, and is visible on Bing satellite photography. This likely represents a post-medieval or modern summit or navigation marker cairn.

Asset/Event Number	55
Asset/Event Name	Summit cairn, Meall an Tuirc

Type of Asset/Event	Marker cairn
Date and/or Period	Post-medieval or modern
Listing No./NRHE Number	
HER Number	
Status	Non-designated Heritage Asset
Easting	253998
Northing	872776
Parish	Alness
Council	Highland
Description	*SW *21/03/2024 *Current mapping, satellite imagery *A cairn is identified on current (2024) OS mapping, and is visible on Bing satellite photography. This likely represents a modern summit cairn for Meall an Tuirc.

Asset/Event Number	56
Asset/Event Name	airn, Meall an Tuirc
Type of Asset/Event	Marker cairn
Date and/or Period	Post-medieval or modern
Listing No./NRHE Number	
HER Number	
Status	Non-designated Heritage Asset
Easting	254022
Northing	872884
Parish	Alness
Council	Highland
Description	*SW *21/03/2024 *Current mapping, satellite imagery *A 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.

Asset/Event Number	57
Asset/Event Name	DALGHEAL
Type of Asset/Event	POLISHED AXEHEAD (STONE)
Date and/or Period	
Listing No./NRHE Number	NH66NW 11.00
HER Number	
Status	Non-designated Heritage Asset
Easting	261000

Appendix 5.2: Gazetteer of Heritage Assets and Events

Northing	867000
Parish	KILTEARN
Council	Highland
Description	https://canmore.org.uk/site/13653/

Asset/Event Number	58
Asset/Event Name	NOVAR
Type of Asset/Event	CARVED STONE BALL(S)
Date and/or Period	
Listing No./NRHE Number	NH66NW 20.00
HER Number	
Status	Non-designated Heritage Asset
Easting	261400
Northing	867900
Parish	ALNESS
Council	Highland
Description	https://canmore.org.uk/site/13663/

Asset/Event Number	59
Asset/Event Name	NOVAR
Type of Asset/Event	POLISHED AXEHEAD (STONE)
Date and/or Period	
Listing No./NRHE Number	NH56NE 11.00
HER Number	
Status	Non-designated Heritage Asset
Easting	258000
Northing	866000
Parish	KILTEARN
Council	Highland
Description	https://canmore.org.uk/site/12874/

Asset/Event Number	60
Asset/Event Name	REDBURN
Type of Asset/Event	BURIAL CAIRN (PREHISTORIC), CUP MARKED STONE (PREHISTORIC)
Date and/or Period	
Listing No./NRHE Number	NH56NE 15.00
HER Number	

Status	Non-designated Heritage Asset
Easting	257510
Northing	866795
Parish	ALNESS
Council	Highland
Description	https://canmore.org.uk/site/12878/

Asset/Event Number	61
Asset/Event Name	NOVAR, STATION
Type of Asset/Event	RAILWAY STATION (19TH CENTURY) - (20TH CENTURY)
Date and/or Period	
Listing No./NRHE Number	NH66NW 28.00
HER Number	
Status	Non-designated Heritage Asset
Easting	261240
Northing	866490
Parish	KILTEARN
Council	Highland
Description	https://canmore.org.uk/site/13671/

Asset/Event Number	62
Asset/Event Name	EVANTON, CULCAIRN MILLS
Type of Asset/Event	WATERMILL (PERIOD UNASSIGNED)
Date and/or Period	
Listing No./NRHE Number	NH66NW 33.00
HER Number	
Status	Non-designated Heritage Asset
Easting	260950
Northing	866340
Parish	KILTEARN
Council	Highland
Description	https://canmore.org.uk/site/13677/

Asset/Event Number	63
Asset/Event Name	SWORDALE
Type of Asset/Event	ENCLOSURE(S) (POST MEDIEVAL), FARMSTEAD (POST MEDIEVAL)
Date and/or Period	

Appendix 5.2: Gazetteer of Heritage Assets and Events

Listing No./NRHE Number	NH56NE 19.00
HER Number	
Status	Non-designated Heritage Asset
Easting	257810
Northing	866141
Parish	KILTEARN
Council	Highland
Description	https://canmore.org.uk/site/12882/

Asset/Event Number	64
Asset/Event Name	MAINS OF ASSYNT
Type of Asset/Event	CAIRN (PREHISTORIC), CIST (PREHISTORIC), NECKLACE (JET)(PREHISTORIC), URN (PREHISTORIC)
Date and/or Period	
Listing No./NRHE Number	NH56NE 5.00
HER Number	
Status	Non-designated Heritage Asset
Easting	259060
Northing	867040
Parish	ALNESS
Council	Highland
Description	https://canmore.org.uk/site/12886/

Asset/Event Number	65
Asset/Event Name	ASSYNT
Type of Asset/Event	HUT CIRCLE(S) (PREHISTORIC)(POSSIBLE), STONE CIRCLE(S) (NEOLITHIC) - (BRONZE AGE)(POSSI
Date and/or Period	
Listing No./NRHE Number	NH56NE 7.00
HER Number	
Status	Non-designated Heritage Asset
Easting	259000
Northing	867000
Parish	ALNESS
Council	Highland
Description	https://canmore.org.uk/site/12888/

Asset/Event Number	66
Asset/Event Name	SWORDALE

Type of Asset/Event	CHAMBERED CAIRN (NEOLITHIC), CUP MARKED ROCK (NEOLITHIC) - (BRONZE AGE)
Date and/or Period	
Listing No./NRHE Number	NH56NE 8.00
HER Number	
Status	Non-designated Heritage Asset
Easting	257874
Northing	866156
Parish	KILTEARN
Council	Highland
Description	https://canmore.org.uk/site/12889/

Asset/Event Number	67
Asset/Event Name	CNOCAN
Type of Asset/Event	BATTLE SITE (PERIOD UNKNOWN)(POSSIBLE)
Date and/or Period	
Listing No./NRHE Number	NH56NE 9.00
HER Number	
Status	Non-designated Heritage Asset
Easting	256620
Northing	868660
Parish	ALNESS
Council	Highland
Description	https://canmore.org.uk/site/12890/

Asset/Event Number	68
Asset/Event Name	MEANN CHNOC
Type of Asset/Event	COMMEMORATIVE MONUMENT (PERIOD UNASSIGNED), ENCLOSURE (PERIOD UNASSIGNED)
Date and/or Period	
Listing No./NRHE Number	NH56NE 20.00
HER Number	
Status	Non-designated Heritage Asset
Easting	259700
Northing	868450
Parish	ALNESS
Council	Highland
Description	https://canmore.org.uk/site/76674/

Appendix 5.2: Gazetteer of Heritage Assets and Events

Asset/Event Number	69
Asset/Event Name	MAINS OF ASSYNT, STEADING
Type of Asset/Event	FARMSTEAD (PERIOD UNASSIGNED), THRESHING MACHINE (POST MEDIEVAL)
Date and/or Period	
Listing No./NRHE Number	NH56NE 22.02
HER Number	
Status	Non-designated Heritage Asset
Easting	259030
Northing	867050
Parish	ALNESS
Council	Highland
Description	https://canmore.org.uk/site/81158/

Asset/Event Number	70
Asset/Event Name	CARN LIATH
Type of Asset/Event	FOOTBRIDGE (PERIOD UNASSIGNED)
Date and/or Period	
Listing No./NRHE Number	NH56NE 24.00
HER Number	
Status	Non-designated Heritage Asset
Easting	258820
Northing	866610
Parish	KILTEARN
Council	Highland
Description	https://canmore.org.uk/site/90232/

Asset/Event Number	71
Asset/Event Name	EVANTON WOOD
Type of Asset/Event	FOOTBRIDGE (PERIOD UNASSIGNED)
Date and/or Period	
Listing No./NRHE Number	NH56NE 25.00
HER Number	
Status	Non-designated Heritage Asset
Easting	259340
Northing	866830
Parish	KILTEARN
Council	Highland
Description	https://canmore.org.uk/site/90233/

Asset/Event Number	72
Asset/Event Name	GLEN GLASS, 'GARABIL'
Type of Asset/Event	CLEARANCE CAIRN(S) (PERIOD UNASSIGNED), HEAD DYKE (POST MEDIEVAL), TOWNSHIP (PERIO
Date and/or Period	
Listing No./NRHE Number	NH56NE 26.00
HER Number	
Status	Non-designated Heritage Asset
Easting	256100
Northing	869000
Parish	ALNESS
Council	Highland
Description	https://canmore.org.uk/site/92101/

Asset/Event Number	73
Asset/Event Name	GLEN GLASS, 'SOCKACH'
Type of Asset/Event	BUILDING (PERIOD UNASSIGNED)
Date and/or Period	
Listing No./NRHE Number	NH56NE 27.00
HER Number	
Status	Non-designated Heritage Asset
Easting	257100
Northing	868300
Parish	ALNESS
Council	Highland
Description	https://canmore.org.uk/site/92115/

Asset/Event Number	74
Asset/Event Name	EILEAN NA CABHAIG
Type of Asset/Event	FARMSTEAD (PERIOD UNASSIGNED)
Date and/or Period	
Listing No./NRHE Number	NH56NE 29.00
HER Number	
Status	Non-designated Heritage Asset
Easting	256050
Northing	869230
Parish	ALNESS

Appendix 5.2: Gazetteer of Heritage Assets and Events

Council	Highland
Description	https://canmore.org.uk/site/103683/

Asset/Event Number	75
Asset/Event Name	WEST END
Type of Asset/Event	ENCLOSURE (PERIOD UNASSIGNED)
Date and/or Period	
Listing No./NRHE Number	NH56NE 30.00
HER Number	
Status	Non-designated Heritage Asset
Easting	256050
Northing	868720
Parish	ALNESS
Council	Highland
Description	https://canmore.org.uk/site/103699/

Asset/Event Number	76
Asset/Event Name	BOG BUIDHE
Type of Asset/Event	BUILDING (PERIOD UNASSIGNED)
Date and/or Period	
Listing No./NRHE Number	NH56NE 31.00
HER Number	
Status	Non-designated Heritage Asset
Easting	256540
Northing	869090
Parish	ALNESS
Council	Highland
Description	https://canmore.org.uk/site/103700/

Asset/Event Number	77
Asset/Event Name	BALNAARGE
Type of Asset/Event	TOWNSHIP (PERIOD UNASSIGNED)(POSSIBLE)
Date and/or Period	
Listing No./NRHE Number	NH56NE 32.00
HER Number	
Status	Non-designated Heritage Asset
Easting	256500

Northing	868900
Parish	ALNESS
Council	Highland
Description	https://canmore.org.uk/site/103701/

Asset/Event Number	78
Asset/Event Name	EILEAN DUBH
Type of Asset/Event	FARMSTEAD (PERIOD UNASSIGNED)
Date and/or Period	
Listing No./NRHE Number	NH56NE 34.00
HER Number	
Status	Non-designated Heritage Asset
Easting	256040
Northing	868110
Parish	KILTEARN
Council	Highland
Description	https://canmore.org.uk/site/103703/

Asset/Event Number	78
Asset/Event Name	LARIEBHUIDHE
Type of Asset/Event	HEAD DYKE (POST MEDIEVAL), KILN (PERIOD UNASSIGNED), TOWNSHIP (PERIOD UNASSIGNED)
Date and/or Period	
Listing No./NRHE Number	NH56NE 33.00
HER Number	
Status	Non-designated Heritage Asset
Easting	256900
Northing	868370
Parish	ALNESS
Council	Highland
Description	https://canmore.org.uk/site/103702/

Asset/Event Number	79
Asset/Event Name	UIG
Type of Asset/Event	FARMSTEAD (PERIOD UNASSIGNED)
Date and/or Period	
Listing No./NRHE Number	NH56NE 35.00
HER Number	

Appendix 5.2: Gazetteer of Heritage Assets and Events

Status	Non-designated Heritage Asset
Easting	257200
Northing	867790
Parish	ALNESS
Council	Highland
Description	https://canmore.org.uk/site/103704/

Asset/Event Number	80
Asset/Event Name	LYNECHORK
Type of Asset/Event	FARMSTEAD (PERIOD UNASSIGNED)
Date and/or Period	
Listing No./NRHE Number	NH56NE 36.00
HER Number	
Status	Non-designated Heritage Asset
Easting	256720
Northing	867270
Parish	ALNESS
Council	Highland
Description	https://canmore.org.uk/site/103705/

Asset/Event Number	81
Asset/Event Name	KNOCKMARTIN
Type of Asset/Event	FARMSTEAD (PERIOD UNASSIGNED)
Date and/or Period	
Listing No./NRHE Number	NH56NE 37.00
HER Number	
Status	Non-designated Heritage Asset
Easting	256700
Northing	867060
Parish	KILTEARN
Council	Highland
Description	https://canmore.org.uk/site/103706/

Asset/Event Number	82
Asset/Event Name	BOG TUATH
Type of Asset/Event	FARMSTEAD (PERIOD UNASSIGNED)
Date and/or Period	

Listing No./NRHE Number	NH56NE 38.00
HER Number	
Status	Non-designated Heritage Asset
Easting	257240
Northing	866590
Parish	KILTEARN
Council	Highland
Description	https://canmore.org.uk/site/103707/

Asset/Event Number	84
Asset/Event Name	BOG TUATH
Type of Asset/Event	BUILDING(S) (PERIOD UNASSIGNED), ENCLOSURE(S) (PERIOD UNASSIGNED)
Date and/or Period	
Listing No./NRHE Number	NH56NE 39.00
HER Number	
Status	Non-designated Heritage Asset
Easting	257800
Northing	866430
Parish	KILTEARN
Council	Highland
Description	https://canmore.org.uk/site/103708/

Asset/Event Number	85
Asset/Event Name	CNOC THURADAIN
Type of Asset/Event	FARMSTEAD (PERIOD UNASSIGNED)
Date and/or Period	
Listing No./NRHE Number	NH56NE 40.00
HER Number	
Status	Non-designated Heritage Asset
Easting	258360
Northing	867150
Parish	ALNESS
Council	Highland
Description	https://canmore.org.uk/site/103709/

Asset/Event Number	86
Asset/Event Name	ALLT RIABHACH

Appendix 5.2: Gazetteer of Heritage Assets and Events

Type of Asset/Event	FARMSTEAD (PERIOD UNASSIGNED)
Date and/or Period	
Listing No./NRHE Number	NH56NE 41.00
HER Number	
Status	Non-designated Heritage Asset
Easting	257940
Northing	866810
Parish	ALNESS
Council	Highland
Description	https://canmore.org.uk/site/103710/

Asset/Event Number	87
Asset/Event Name	NOVAR HOUSE
Type of Asset/Event	BUILDING (PERIOD UNASSIGNED)(POSSIBLE)
Date and/or Period	
Listing No./NRHE Number	NH66NW 40.00
HER Number	
Status	Non-designated Heritage Asset
Easting	260880
Northing	867950
Parish	KILTEARN
Council	Highland
Description	https://canmore.org.uk/site/103863/

Asset/Event Number	88
Asset/Event Name	MAINS OF ASSYNT, GATE
Type of Asset/Event	GATE (PERIOD UNASSIGNED)
Date and/or Period	
Listing No./NRHE Number	NH56NE 22.01
HER Number	
Status	Non-designated Heritage Asset
Easting	259000
Northing	867000
Parish	ALNESS
Council	Highland
Description	https://canmore.org.uk/site/107264/

Asset/Event Number	89
Asset/Event Name	EVANTON, BALCONIE STREET, GENERAL
Type of Asset/Event	GENERAL VIEW
Date and/or Period	
Listing No./NRHE Number	NH66NW 42.00
HER Number	
Status	Non-designated Heritage Asset
Easting	260700
Northing	866110
Parish	KILTEARN
Council	Highland
Description	https://canmore.org.uk/site/106485/

Asset/Event Number	90
Asset/Event Name	EVANTON, CHAPEL STREET, 1 THE CHAPEL
Type of Asset/Event	FORMER FRCHAPEL (PERIOD UNASSIGNED)
Date and/or Period	
Listing No./NRHE Number	NH66NW 43.00
HER Number	
Status	Non-designated Heritage Asset
Easting	260363
Northing	866255
Parish	KILTEARN
Council	Highland
Description	https://canmore.org.uk/site/106486/

Asset/Event Number	91
Asset/Event Name	NOVAR HOUSE
Type of Asset/Event	COUNTRY HOUSE (18TH CENTURY), HOSPITAL (FIRST WORLD WAR)
Date and/or Period	
Listing No./NRHE Number	NH66NW 46.00
HER Number	
Status	Non-designated Heritage Asset
Easting	261419
Northing	867961
Parish	ALNESS
Council	Highland
Description	https://canmore.org.uk/site/107877/

Appendix 5.2: Gazetteer of Heritage Assets and Events

Asset/Event Number	92
Asset/Event Name	MAINS OF ASSYNT, FARMHOUSE
Type of Asset/Event	FARMHOUSE (19TH CENTURY)
Date and/or Period	
Listing No./NRHE Number	NH56NE 22.00
HER Number	
Status	Non-designated Heritage Asset
Easting	259070
Northing	867050
Parish	ALNESS
Council	Highland
Description	https://canmore.org.uk/site/107602/

Asset/Event Number	93
Asset/Event Name	MAINS OF ASSYNT, IMPLEMENT SHED
Type of Asset/Event	SHED (PERIOD UNASSIGNED)
Date and/or Period	
Listing No./NRHE Number	NH56NE 22.03
HER Number	
Status	Non-designated Heritage Asset
Easting	259010
Northing	867020
Parish	ALNESS
Council	Highland
Description	https://canmore.org.uk/site/107603/

Asset/Event Number	94
Asset/Event Name	MAINS OF ASSYNT, HEN HOUSE
Type of Asset/Event	HEN HOUSE (PERIOD UNASSIGNED)
Date and/or Period	
Listing No./NRHE Number	NH56NE 22.04
HER Number	
Status	Non-designated Heritage Asset
Easting	258990
Northing	867010
Parish	ALNESS

Council	Highland
Description	https://canmore.org.uk/site/107605/

Asset/Event Number	95
Asset/Event Name	MAINS OF ASSYNT, TRACTOR SHED
Type of Asset/Event	SHED (PERIOD UNASSIGNED)
Date and/or Period	
Listing No./NRHE Number	NH56NE 22.05
HER Number	
Status	Non-designated Heritage Asset
Easting	259050
Northing	867030
Parish	ALNESS
Council	Highland
Description	https://canmore.org.uk/site/107606/

Asset/Event Number	96
Asset/Event Name	REDBURN, CROFT
Type of Asset/Event	CROFT (PERIOD UNASSIGNED)
Date and/or Period	
Listing No./NRHE Number	NH56NE 49.00
HER Number	
Status	Non-designated Heritage Asset
Easting	257160
Northing	867050
Parish	ALNESS
Council	Highland
Description	https://canmore.org.uk/site/108273/

Asset/Event Number	97
Asset/Event Name	EVANTON
Type of Asset/Event	CAIRN (PERIOD UNASSIGNED)(POSSIBLE), ENCLOSURE (PERIOD UNASSIGNED)
Date and/or Period	
Listing No./NRHE Number	NH66NW 37.00
HER Number	
Status	Non-designated Heritage Asset
Easting	261160

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Northing	866290
Parish	KILTEARN
Council	Highland
Description	https://canmore.org.uk/site/111833/

Asset/Event Number	98
Asset/Event Name	EVANTON, NEWTON ROAD, NEWTON
Type of Asset/Event	HOUSE (PERIOD UNASSIGNED)
Date and/or Period	
Listing No./NRHE Number	NH66NW 49.00
HER Number	
Status	Non-designated Heritage Asset
Easting	261950
Northing	866879
Parish	KILTEARN
Council	Highland
Description	https://canmore.org.uk/site/111317/

Asset/Event Number	99
Asset/Event Name	NOVAR HOUSE, WEST ENTRANCE GATES
Type of Asset/Event	GATE(S) (PERIOD UNASSIGNED)
Date and/or Period	
Listing No./NRHE Number	NH66NW 46.04
HER Number	
Status	Non-designated Heritage Asset
Easting	262150
Northing	867553
Parish	ALNESS
Council	Highland
Description	https://canmore.org.uk/site/111318/

Asset/Event Number	100
Asset/Event Name	EVANTON AIRFIELD, TECHNICAL AREA
Type of Asset/Event	AIRCRAFT HANGAR(S) (20TH CENTURY), BUILDING(S) (20TH CENTURY)
Date and/or Period	
Listing No./NRHE Number	NH66NW 34.01
HER Number	

Status	Non-designated Heritage Asset
Easting	262150
Northing	866730
Parish	KILTEARN
Council	Highland
Description	https://canmore.org.uk/site/119762/

Asset/Event Number	101
Asset/Event Name	EVANTON AIRFIELD, OFFICERS' QUARTERS
Type of Asset/Event	BUILDING(S) (20TH CENTURY), HUT(S) (20TH CENTURY), NISSEN HUT(S) (20TH CENTURY), OFFIC
Date and/or Period	
Listing No./NRHE Number	NH66NW 34.02
HER Number	
Status	Non-designated Heritage Asset
Easting	262000
Northing	867000
Parish	KILTEARN
Council	Highland
Description	https://canmore.org.uk/site/119763/

Asset/Event Number	102
Asset/Event Name	EVANTON AIRFIELD, ACCOMMODATION CAMP
Type of Asset/Event	MILITARY CAMP (20TH CENTURY)
Date and/or Period	
Listing No./NRHE Number	NH66NW 34.05
HER Number	
Status	Non-designated Heritage Asset
Easting	261860
Northing	867600
Parish	KILTEARN
Council	Highland
Description	https://canmore.org.uk/site/119766/

Asset/Event Number	103
Asset/Event Name	EVANTON AIRFIELD, MARRIED QUARTERS
Type of Asset/Event	AIR RAID SHELTER (SECOND WORLD WAR), BUILDING(S) (20TH CENTURY), HOUSE(S) (20TH CEN
Date and/or Period	

Appendix 5.2: Gazetteer of Heritage Assets and Events

Listing No./NRHE Number	NH66NW 34.09
HER Number	
Status	Non-designated Heritage Asset
Easting	262000
Northing	866750
Parish	KILTEARN
Council	Highland
Description	https://canmore.org.uk/site/119770/

Asset/Event Number	104
Asset/Event Name	EVANTON AIRFIELD
Type of Asset/Event	BOMB STORE (20TH CENTURY)
Date and/or Period	
Listing No./NRHE Number	NH66NW 34.10
HER Number	
Status	Non-designated Heritage Asset
Easting	261700
Northing	866400
Parish	KILTEARN
Council	Highland
Description	https://canmore.org.uk/site/119796/

Asset/Event Number	105
Asset/Event Name	BALNARGE
Type of Asset/Event	NO CLASS (EVENT)
Date and/or Period	
Listing No./NRHE Number	NH56NE 51.00
HER Number	
Status	Event
Easting	256600
Northing	868900
Parish	ROSSKEEN
Council	Highland
Description	https://canmore.org.uk/site/123455/

Asset/Event Number	106
Asset/Event Name	AUCHNAGAUL

Type of Asset/Event	FARMSTEAD (PERIOD UNASSIGNED)
Date and/or Period	
Listing No./NRHE Number	NH56NE 54.00
HER Number	
Status	Non-designated Heritage Asset
Easting	256800
Northing	868700
Parish	ALNESS
Council	Highland
Description	https://canmore.org.uk/site/132603/

Asset/Event Number	107
Asset/Event Name	ASSYNT, CNOC THURADAIN
Type of Asset/Event	FIELD BOUNDARY(S) (PERIOD UNASSIGNED), PUMPING STATION (PERIOD UNASSIGNED), RESER
Date and/or Period	
Listing No./NRHE Number	NH56NE 55.00
HER Number	
Status	Non-designated Heritage Asset
Easting	258600
Northing	867300
Parish	ALNESS
Council	Highland
Description	https://canmore.org.uk/site/240935/

Asset/Event Number	108
Asset/Event Name	EVANTON, CHAPEL STREET, 2 THE CHAPEL
Type of Asset/Event	CHAPEL (PERIOD UNASSIGNED)
Date and/or Period	
Listing No./NRHE Number	NH66NW 52.00
HER Number	
Status	Non-designated Heritage Asset
Easting	260367
Northing	866263
Parish	KILTEARN
Council	Highland
Description	https://canmore.org.uk/site/253000/

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Asset/Event Number	109
Asset/Event Name	EVANTON AIRFIELD, SCHWAPPACH BELT
Type of Asset/Event	PILLBOX (20TH CENTURY)
Date and/or Period	
Listing No./NRHE Number	NH66NW 34.12
HER Number	
Status	Non-designated Heritage Asset
Easting	261918
Northing	867247
Parish	KILTEARN
Council	Highland
Description	https://canmore.org.uk/site/268004/

Asset/Event Number	110
Asset/Event Name	EVANTON, SOUTH RAILWAY BRIDGE
Type of Asset/Event	RAILWAY BRIDGE (19TH CENTURY)
Date and/or Period	
Listing No./NRHE Number	NH66NW 59.00
HER Number	
Status	Non-designated Heritage Asset
Easting	260901
Northing	865961
Parish	KILTEARN
Council	Highland
Description	https://canmore.org.uk/site/277864/

Asset/Event Number	111
Asset/Event Name	EVANTON, BALCONIE STREET, NORTH BRIDGE
Type of Asset/Event	ROAD BRIDGE (18TH CENTURY)
Date and/or Period	
Listing No./NRHE Number	NH66NW 62.00
HER Number	
Status	Non-designated Heritage Asset
Easting	260845
Northing	866348
Parish	KILTEARN
Council	Highland
Description	https://canmore.org.uk/site/277867/

Asset/Event Number	112
Asset/Event Name	EVANTON, NORTH RAILWAY BRIDGE
Type of Asset/Event	RAILWAY BRIDGE (19TH CENTURY)
Date and/or Period	
Listing No./NRHE Number	NH66NW 63.00
HER Number	
Status	Non-designated Heritage Asset
Easting	261158
Northing	866348
Parish	KILTEARN
Council	Highland
Description	https://canmore.org.uk/site/277868/

Asset/Event Number	113
Asset/Event Name	EVANTON, NEW NORTH BRIDGE
Type of Asset/Event	ROAD BRIDGE (PERIOD UNASSIGNED)
Date and/or Period	
Listing No./NRHE Number	NH66NW 64.00
HER Number	
Status	Non-designated Heritage Asset
Easting	261492
Northing	866346
Parish	KILTEARN
Council	Highland
Description	https://canmore.org.uk/site/277869/

Asset/Event Number	114
Asset/Event Name	NOVAR QUARRY
Type of Asset/Event	SAND AND GRAVEL WORKINGS (PERIOD UNASSIGNED)
Date and/or Period	
Listing No./NRHE Number	NH66NW 65.00
HER Number	
Status	Non-designated Heritage Asset
Easting	260432
Northing	867158
Parish	KILTEARN

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Council	Highland
Description	https://canmore.org.uk/site/277870/

Asset/Event Number	115
Asset/Event Name	NOVAR, BLACK ROCK GORGE
Type of Asset/Event	NATURAL FEATURE (PERIOD UNKNOWN)
Date and/or Period	
Listing No./NRHE Number	NH56NE 56.00
HER Number	
Status	Non-designated Heritage Asset
Easting	259155
Northing	866768
Parish	KILTEARN
Council	Highland
Description	https://canmore.org.uk/site/279957/

Asset/Event Number	116
Asset/Event Name	EVANTON, CHAPEL ROAD, GENERAL
Type of Asset/Event	GENERAL VIEW
Date and/or Period	
Listing No./NRHE Number	NH66NW 84.00
HER Number	
Status	Non-designated Heritage Asset
Easting	260600
Northing	866200
Parish	KILTEARN
Council	Highland
Description	https://canmore.org.uk/site/291191/

Asset/Event Number	117
Asset/Event Name	CREAG RUADH
Type of Asset/Event	COMMEMORATIVE MONUMENT (PERIOD UNASSIGNED)
Date and/or Period	
Listing No./NRHE Number	NH56NE 61.00
HER Number	
Status	Non-designated Heritage Asset
Easting	259919

Northing	869116
Parish	ALNESS
Council	Highland
Description	https://canmore.org.uk/site/331544/

Asset/Event Number	118
Asset/Event Name	CLACH A CHOLUMAIN
Type of Asset/Event	NATURAL FEATURE (PERIOD UNKNOWN), STONE (PERIOD UNASSIGNED)
Date and/or Period	
Listing No./NRHE Number	NH56NE 62.00
HER Number	
Status	Non-designated Heritage Asset
Easting	259456
Northing	866814
Parish	KILTEARN
Council	Highland
Description	https://canmore.org.uk/site/331553/

Asset/Event Number	119
Asset/Event Name	WEST END
Type of Asset/Event	FARMSTEAD (POST MEDIEVAL)
Date and/or Period	
Listing No./NRHE Number	NH56NE 63.00
HER Number	
Status	Non-designated Heritage Asset
Easting	256322
Northing	868846
Parish	ALNESS
Council	Highland
Description	https://canmore.org.uk/site/331554/

Asset/Event Number	120
Asset/Event Name	EVANTON, NEWTON ROAD
Type of Asset/Event	PIT(S) (PERIOD UNASSIGNED), ROUNDHOUSE (PREHISTORIC)
Date and/or Period	
Listing No./NRHE Number	NH66NW 95.00
HER Number	

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Status	Non-designated Heritage Asset
Easting	261730
Northing	866700
Parish	KILTEARN
Council	Highland
Description	https://canmore.org.uk/site/350233/

Asset/Event Number	121
Asset/Event Name	DRUIM MOR GARDEN 1
Type of Asset/Event	CUP AND RING MARKED STONE (NEOLITHIC) - (BRONZE AGE)
Date and/or Period	
Listing No./NRHE Number	NH56NE 87.00
HER Number	
Status	Non-designated Heritage Asset
Easting	258429
Northing	866092
Parish	KILTEARN
Council	Highland
Description	https://canmore.org.uk/site/368483/

Asset/Event Number	122
Asset/Event Name	DRUIM MOR GARDEN 2
Type of Asset/Event	CUP AND RING MARKED STONE (NEOLITHIC) - (BRONZE AGE)
Date and/or Period	
Listing No./NRHE Number	NH56NE 88.00
HER Number	
Status	Non-designated Heritage Asset
Easting	258407
Northing	866104
Parish	KILTEARN
Council	Highland
Description	https://canmore.org.uk/site/368484/

Asset/Event Number	123
Asset/Event Name	EVANTON GARDEN 2
Type of Asset/Event	CUP MARKED STONE (NEOLITHIC) - (BRONZE AGE)
Date and/or Period	

Listing No./NRHE Number	NH66NW 98.00
HER Number	
Status	Non-designated Heritage Asset
Easting	260932
Northing	866576
Parish	KILTEARN
Council	Highland
Description	https://canmore.org.uk/site/368507/

Asset/Event Number	124
Asset/Event Name	EVANTON GARDEN 4
Type of Asset/Event	CUP MARKED STONE (NEOLITHIC) - (BRONZE AGE)
Date and/or Period	
Listing No./NRHE Number	NH66NW 99.00
HER Number	
Status	Non-designated Heritage Asset
Easting	260928
Northing	866565
Parish	KILTEARN
Council	Highland
Description	https://canmore.org.uk/site/368508/

Asset/Event Number	125
Asset/Event Name	EVANTON GARDEN 5
Type of Asset/Event	CUP MARKED STONE (NEOLITHIC) - (BRONZE AGE)
Date and/or Period	
Listing No./NRHE Number	NH66NW 100.00
HER Number	
Status	Non-designated Heritage Asset
Easting	260928
Northing	866565
Parish	KILTEARN
Council	Highland
Description	https://canmore.org.uk/site/368509/

Asset/Event Number	126
Asset/Event Name	EVANTON GARDEN 1

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Type of Asset/Event	CUP MARKED STONE (NEOLITHIC) - (BRONZE AGE)
Date and/or Period	
Listing No./NRHE Number	NH66NW 102.00
HER Number	
Status	Non-designated Heritage Asset
Easting	260928
Northing	866565
Parish	KILTEARN
Council	Highland
Description	https://canmore.org.uk/site/370743/

Asset/Event Number	127
Asset/Event Name	EVANTON GARDEN 3
Type of Asset/Event	CUP AND RING MARKED STONE (NEOLITHIC) - (BRONZE AGE)
Date and/or Period	
Listing No./NRHE Number	NH66NW 103.00
HER Number	
Status	Non-designated Heritage Asset
Easting	260923
Northing	866576
Parish	KILTEARN
Council	Highland
Description	https://canmore.org.uk/site/370744/

Asset/Event Number	128
Asset/Event Name	EVANTON WOOD, CNOC RUADH
Type of Asset/Event	WELL (PERIOD UNKNOWN)
Date and/or Period	
Listing No./NRHE Number	NH66NW 97.00
HER Number	
Status	Non-designated Heritage Asset
Easting	260029
Northing	866372
Parish	KILTEARN
Council	Highland
Description	https://canmore.org.uk/site/359828/

Asset/Event Number	129
Asset/Event Name	Glenurquhart, long cairn 800m NW of
Type of Asset/Event	Prehistoric ritual and funerary: long cairn
Date and/or Period	Neolithic
Listing No./NRHE Number	SM4671
HER Number	
Status	Scheduled Monument
Easting	273738
Northing	862911
Parish	Cromarty
Council	Highland
Description	The monument consists of a long wedges haped turf covered mound of earth and stone measuring 19m NE-SW by up to 10m across and 0.5m high. The area to be scheduled measures 40m NE-SW by 30m transversely centred on the mound and including an area in which traces of activities associated with the use of the mound may survive as depicted in red on the attached map. Statement of National Importance The monument is of national importance as one of the rare surviving examples of an unchambered long burial mound with intact underlying old ground surface and because of its potential for increasing understanding of Neolithic burial practices and of the vegetation and farming practices of the period immediately prior to its construction. References RCAHMS records the monument as NH 76 SW 14.

Asset/Event Number	130
Asset/Event Name	Grey Cairn, cairn and long cairn
Type of Asset/Event	Prehistoric ritual and funerary: cairn (type uncertain); long cairn
Date and/or Period	Neolithic; Bronze Age
Listing No./NRHE Number	SM4672
HER Number	
Status	Scheduled Monument
Easting	273366
Northing	862454
Parish	Cromarty
Council	Highland
Description	The monument comprises the remains of a long cairn, built and used during the Neolithic period (4000 BC – 2500 BC) and an adjacent round cairn, probably dating to the Bronze Age (2500 BC – 800 BC). The long cairn survives as a low, trapezoidal shaped mound of stone and earth and the round cairn as a large round mound of stone. The monument is located on a prominent ridge at about 180m above sea level. The long cairn measures 20.5m from east-southeast to west-southwest. It is 12m wide and 1m high at its east end, and 9m wide and 0.7m high at its west end. The round cairn lies about 16m to the northeast. It measures about 20m by about 18m and stands to a height of about 2m, with a small modern cairn on its summit. The round cairn is surrounded by a stony, subcircular,

Appendix 5.2: Gazetteer of Heritage Assets and Events

bank which defines an area measuring about 26m from northeast to southwest by 24.5m.

The scheduled area is irregular. It includes the remains described above and an area around within which evidence relating to the monument's construction, use and abandonment is expected to survive, as shown in red on the accompanying map. The above ground elements of all post and wire fences are excluded to allow for their maintenance. Statement of National Importance The monument is of national importance as a fine and unusual example of an unchambered long cairn and large round cairn next to each other. The round cairn is of particular interest because of the enclosure wall round it which may represent an earlier structure and the complex as a whole is of national importance to understanding of Neolithic and Bronze Age funerary practices.

References

Canmore
https://canmore.org.uk/site/14533/ https://canmore.org.uk/site/14527/

HER/SMR Reference
https://her.highland.gov.uk/Monument/MHG8732
https://her.highland.gov.uk/Monument/MHG7503

Asset/Event Number	131
Asset/Event Name	Easter Brae, long cairn & cairn
Type of Asset/Event	Long cairn; cairn
Date and/or Period	Neolithic
Listing No./NRHE Number	SM2457; NH66SE 4; NH66SE 5
HER Number	
Status	Scheduled Monument
Easting	266153
Northing	266153
Parish	Resolis
Council	
Description	No description on the HES Designation portal. Long cairn - NH66SE 4 This long cairn, composed of large stones, has been severely robbed and is surrounded and mutilated by the foundations of old crofts. The cairn, oriented ENE-WSW, is about 230' long and 40' to 50' wide, although its exact extent is difficult to determine. Its rectangular Orkney-Cromarty type chamber is partly exposed at the west end of the cairn; and two large slabs and a small earthfast stone at the east end suggest that there may have been a second chamber. A S Henshall 1963, visited 9 July 1956. A whin-covered, chambered long cairn as described by Henshall. Insufficient evidence to support second chamber theory. Resurveyed at 1/2500 Visited by OS (N K B) 27 January 1966. No change to previous field report. Surveyed at 1:10 000. Visited by OS (J B) 11 January 1978.

Field Visit (25 August 1943)
RCAHMS Emergency Survey (Archaeology)
This site was included within the RCAHMS Emergency Survey (1942-3), an unpublished rescue project. Site descriptions, organised by county, vary from short notes to lengthy and full descriptions and are available to view online with contemporary sketches and photographs. The original typescripts, manuscripts, notebooks and photographs can also be consulted in the RCAHMS Search Room.
Information from RCAHMS (GFG) 10 December 2014.

Field Visit (May 1978)
RCAHMS: The Archaeological Sites and Monuments of The Black Isle
Easter Brae (ROS 31) NH 661 628 NH66SE 4

Immediately W of Easter Brae farmsteading there are the remains of a long cairn, which originally measured at least 70m by 15m. There is a chamber at the WSW end and a second possible one at the ENE end.

RCAHMS 1979, visited May 1978
Woodham 1956, 76-7, no. 30; Henshall 1963-72, I, 352

Round cairn - NH66SE 5
This unchambered round cairn, 24' in diameter, has a well-defined kerb of large stones. The cairn now stands only 2' high and has a depression in the centre which suggests either robbing, or the collapse of a central cist.
A A Woodham 1956.

A round cairn as described by Woodham.
Re-surveyed at 1/2500.
Visited by OS (N K B) 27 January 1966.
No change to previous field report.

Surveyed at 1:10 000.
Visited by OS (J B) 11 January 1978.

Field Visit (May 1979)
RCAHMS: The Archaeological Sites and Monuments of The Black Isle
Easter Brae NH 661 627 NH66SE 5
This cairn stands 10m S of the long cairn NH66SE 4; it measures 6.5m in diameter over a kerb of boulders and has been robbed at the centre.
RCAHMS 1979, visited May 1979
Woodham 1956, 75, no. 23.

References
Henshall and Ritchie, A S and J N G. (2001) The chambered cairns of the central Highlands: an inventory of their structures and their contents. Edinburgh. RCAHMS Shelf Number: E.7.11.HEN
Henshall, A S. (1963a) The chambered tombs of Scotland, vol. 1. Edinburgh. Page(s): 352, ROS 31 plan RCAHMS Shelf Number: E.7.1.HEN
RCAHMS. (1979d) The archaeological sites and monuments of the Black Isle, Ross and Cromarty District, Highland Region, The archaeological sites and monuments of Scotland series no 9. Edinburgh. Page(s): 8, No. 9 RCAHMS Shelf Number: A.1.2.ARC(9)
RCAHMS. (1942-3) Emergency Survey of archaeological monuments in military training areas, 1981, 2v. Typescripts. Page(s): Ross 14 RCAHMS Shelf Number: A.1.1.SUR
RCAHMS. (1979d) The archaeological sites and monuments of the Black Isle, Ross and Cromarty District, Highland Region, The archaeological sites and monuments of Scotland series no 9. Edinburgh. Page(s): 10, No. 28 RCAHMS Shelf Number: A.1.2.ARC(9)
Woodham, A A. (1956a) 'A survey of prehistoric monuments in the Black Isle', Proc Soc Antiq Scot, vol. 88, 1954-6. Page(s): 75

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Asset/Event Number	132
Asset/Event Name	Wester Brae, long cairn 650m SSE of
Type of Asset/Event	Long cairn
Date and/or Period	Neolithic
Listing No./NRHE Number	SM4559
HER Number	
Status	Scheduled Monument
Easting	265655
Northing	861392
Parish	Resolis
Council	Highland
Description	The monument comprises a wedge shaped long cairn. Situated in a forestry plantation,it measures 25m E-W by 13m N-S and up to 1.8m high. The area to be scheduled includes ground in which will survive traces of activities associated with its construction and use and measures 45m E-W by 33m N-S, bounded on the east by a forest track. Statement of National Importance The monument is of national importance because it is a good and largely undisturbed example of a rare type with potential to increase understanding of Neolithic burial practices and because pollen preserved in the underlying old ground surface can increase understanding of the vegetation and farming practices of the period immediately preceding its construction. References Bibliography The monument is RCAHMS number NH 66 SE 6.

Asset/Event Number	133
Asset/Event Name	Woodhead, chambered cairn 350m E of
Type of Asset/Event	Chambered cairn
Date and/or Period	Neolithic
Listing No./NRHE Number	SM4566
HER Number	
Status	Scheduled Monument
Easting	265078
Northing	861018
Parish	Resolis
Council	Highland
Description	The monument comprises the remains of a chambered cairn, a form of burial monument dating to the Neolithic (around 4000BC - 2500BC). It is visible as a vegetation covered stony mound, measuring about 36m from northeast to southwest by about 22m and standing to a maximum height of 1.8m. The monument is situated on a hillslope overlooking the Cromarty Firth, at about 70m above sea level. The remains of a rectangular chamber and entrance passage survive on the north of the cairn. Three large stone slabs define a chamber measuring at least 3.7m from northeast to southwest

by about 1.7m. A large lintel stone and vertical slab, forming part of the entrance passageway, are visible about three metres northeast of the chamber.

The scheduled area is rectangular, measuring 55m from northeast to southwest by 38m. It includes the remains described above and an area around within which evidence relating to the monument's construction, use and abandonment is expected to survive, as shown in red on the accompanying map. The scheduled area runs up to but does not include the post and wire fence on the east and excludes the above ground elements of the post and wire fence on the north, west and south to allow for its maintenance.

Statement of National Importance
The monument is of national importance as it makes a significant contribution to our understanding or appreciation of the past as a well-preserved chambered cairn. It adds to our understanding of design and construction of burial monuments, the nature of burial and ritual practices and their significance in Neolithic society. It is an impressive monument which retains its field characteristics and can be compared with other chambered cairns that survive in the vicinity.As such it can enhance our understanding of Neolithic society and economy, as well as the nature of belief systems, burial and ceremonial practices. It would have been an important component of the wider prehistoric landscape of settlement, agriculture and ritual and would have been a prominent part of the prehistoric landscape. Chambered cairns are one of our main sources of information for the Neolithic in Scotland and so are an important element in our understanding of the nature of Scotland's prehistoric society and landscape.

Asset/Event Number	134
Asset/Event Name	Woodhead, long cairn 600m ESE of Woodhead Farm
Type of Asset/Event	Long cairn
Date and/or Period	Neolithic
Listing No./NRHE Number	SM4568
HER Number	
Status	Scheduled Monument
Easting	265325
Northing	860778
Parish	Resolis
Council	Highland
Description	The monument consists of a well preserved long cairn situated in a forestry plantation; it measures 45m EW by 14m NS and 1.4m high. The area to be scheduled measures 65m EW by 35m NS. Statement of National Importance The monument is of national importance as a large and well preserved example of a fairly rare type which can increase understanding of Neolithic magico-ritual burial practices; it is of further importance for the pollen in its underlying old ground surface which can increase understanding of the vegetation and farming practices of the period immediately preceding its construction. References Bibliography The monument is RCAHMS number NH 66 SE 2.
