

## **Technical Appendix 10.1: Assessment Methodology**

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10.1.1 The effects of the Proposed Development on heritage assets were assessed on the basis of their type (direct effects, impacts on setting and cumulative impacts) and nature (adverse or beneficial). The assessment takes into account the value/sensitivity of the heritage assets and its setting and the magnitude of the predicted impact.

- Direct impacts: occur where the physical fabric of the asset is removed or damaged, or where it is preserved or conserved, as a direct result of the proposal. Such impacts are most likely to occur during the construction phase and are most likely to be permanent.
- Indirect impacts: occur where the fabric of an asset, or buried archaeological remains, is removed or damaged, or where it is preserved or conserved, as an indirect result of the proposal even though the asset may lie some distance from the proposal. Such impacts are most likely to occur during the construction phase and are most likely to be permanent.
- Setting impacts: these are generally direct and result from the proposal causing change within the setting of a heritage asset that affects its cultural significance or the way in which it is understood, appreciated, and experienced. Such impacts are generally, but not exclusively, visual, occurring directly as a result of the appearance of the proposal in the surroundings of the asset. However, they may relate to other senses or factors, such as noise, odour or emissions, or historical relationships that do not relate entirely to intervisibility, such as historic patterns of land-use and related historic features. Such impacts may occur at any stage of a proposal’s lifespan and may be permanent, reversible, or temporary.
- Cumulative impacts: can relate to impacts on the physical fabric or on the setting of assets. They may arise as a result of impact interactions, either of different impacts of the proposal itself, or additive impacts resulting from incremental changes caused by the proposal together with other projects already in the planning system or allocated in a Local Development Plan.
- Adverse impacts are those that detract from or reduce cultural significance or special interest of heritage assets.
- Beneficial impacts are those that preserve, enhance or better reveal the cultural significance or special interest of heritage assets.

### Assigning Sensitivity to Heritage Assets

10.1.2 Cultural heritage assets are assigned value/importance through the designation process. Designation ensures that sites and places are recognised and protected by law through the planning system and other regulatory processes. The level of protection and how a site or place is managed varies depending on the type of designation and the laws and policies that apply to it (HES 2019).

10.1.3 **Table 10.1.1** summarises the relative sensitivity of key heritage assets (including their settings) relevant to the Proposed development, based on the guidance provided in the ‘Environmental Impact Assessment Handbook’ (SNH/HES 2018).

<b>Table 10.1.1: Sensitivity of Heritage Assets</b>	
<b>Sensitivity of Asset</b>	<b>Definition / Criteria</b>
High	Assets valued at an international or national level, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scheduled Monuments</li> <li>• Category A Listed Buildings</li> <li>• Gardens and Designed Landscapes (Inventory)</li> </ul>

Table 10.1.1: Sensitivity of Heritage Assets	
Sensitivity of Asset	Definition / Criteria
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Historic Battlefields (Inventory)</li> <li>Non-designated assets that meet the relevant criteria for designations (including assets recorded in the HER as being non-statutory register (NSR) sites of presumed national importance)</li> </ul>
Medium	Assets valued at a regional level, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Archaeological sites and areas of distinctive regional significance (contributing to the aims of regional research frameworks)</li> <li>Category B Listed Buildings</li> <li>Conservation Areas</li> <li>Archaeologically Sensitive Areas (ASA) (where these are identified in Local Authority records)</li> <li>Non-inventory designed landscapes (NIDL) (where these are defined in Local Authority records)</li> </ul>
Low	Assets valued at a local level, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Archaeological sites that have a local heritage value</li> <li>Category C Listed Buildings</li> <li>Unlisted historic buildings and townscapes with local (vernacular) characteristics</li> </ul>
Negligible	Assets of little or no intrinsic heritage value, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Artefact find-spots (where the artefacts are no longer in situ and where preservation is uncertain)</li> <li>Poorly preserved examples of particular types of features (e.g. quarries and gravel pits, dilapidated sheepfolds, etc)</li> </ul>

**Criteria for Assessing the Magnitude of Impact**

10.1.4 The magnitude of impacts (adverse or beneficial) have been assessed in the categories high, medium, low and negligible and described in **Table 10.1.2.**

Table 10.1.2: Magnitude of Impact		
Magnitude of Impact	Criteria	
	Adverse	Beneficial
High	Changes to the fabric or setting of a heritage asset resulting in the complete or near complete loss of the asset’s cultural significance. Changes that substantially detract from how a heritage asset is understood, appreciated, and experienced.	Preservation of a heritage asset in situ where it would otherwise be completely or almost completely lost. Changes that appreciably enhance the cultural significance of a heritage asset and how it is understood, appreciated, and experienced.
Medium	Changes to those elements of the fabric or setting of a heritage asset that contribute to its cultural significance such that this quality is appreciably altered. Changes that appreciably detract from how a heritage asset is understood, appreciated, and experienced.	Changes to important elements of a heritage asset’s fabric or setting, resulting in its cultural significance being preserved (where this would otherwise be lost) or restored. Changes that improve the way in which the heritage asset is understood, appreciated, and experienced.
Low	Changes to those elements of the fabric or setting of a heritage asset that contribute to its cultural significance such that this quality is slightly altered. Changes that slightly detract from how a heritage asset is understood, appreciated, and experienced.	Changes that result in elements of a heritage asset’s fabric or setting detracting from its cultural significance being removed. Changes that result in a slight improvement in the way a heritage asset is understood, appreciated, and experienced.
Negligible	Changes to fabric or setting of a heritage asset that leave its cultural significance unchanged and do not affect how it is understood, appreciated, and experienced.	

**Assessing the Significance of Effects**

10.1.5 The predicted significance of the effect was determined through a standard method of assessment considering both the sensitivity of the asset (**Table 10.1.1**) and magnitude of predicted impact (**Table 10.1.2**) and detailed in **Table 10.1.3** below. Where two outcomes are possible through application of the matrix, professional judgment supported by reasoned justification, has been employed to determine the level of significance.

<b>Table 10.1.3: Significance Criteria</b>				
<b>Magnitude of Impact</b>	<b>Sensitivity of Asset</b>			
	<b>High</b>	<b>Medium</b>	<b>Low</b>	<b>Negligible</b>
<b>High</b>	Major	Major/Moderate	Moderate/Minor	Minor/Negligible
<b>Medium</b>	Major/Moderate	Moderate	Moderate/Minor	Minor/Negligible
<b>Low</b>	Moderate/Minor	Moderate/Minor	Minor	Negligible
<b>Negligible</b>	Minor/Negligible	Minor/Negligible	Negligible	Negligible

10.1.6 In the assessment that follows, **Major** and **Moderate** effects are considered to be ‘significant’ in the context of the Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017 (EIA Regulations). **Minor** and **Negligible** effects are considered to be ‘not significant’.

**Assessment of Effects on Setting**

10.1.7 The SNH/HES EIA Handbook (2018) Appendix 1, paragraph 42 advises that:

*“In the context of cultural heritage impact assessment, the receptors are the heritage assets and impacts will be considered in terms of the change in their cultural significance”.*

10.1.8 Historic Environment Scotland’s guidance document, 'Managing Change in the Historic Environment: Setting' (HES 2016), notes that:

*“Setting can be important to the way in which historic structures or places are understood, appreciated and experienced. It can often be integral to a historic asset’s cultural significance.”*

*“Setting often extends beyond the property boundary or ‘curtilage’ of an individual historic asset into a broader landscape context”.*

10.1.9 The guidance also advises that:

*“If proposed development is likely to affect the setting of a key historic asset, an objective written assessment should be prepared by the applicant to inform the decision-making process. The conclusions should take into account the significance of the asset and its setting and attempt to quantify the extent of any impact. The methodology and level of information should be tailored to the circumstances of each case”.*

10.1.10 The guidance recommends that there are three stages in assessing the impact of a development on the setting of a historic asset or place:

- Stage 1: identify the historic assets that might be affected by the Proposed Development;
- Stage 2: define and analyse the setting by establishing how the surroundings contribute to the ways in which the historic asset or place is understood, appreciated, and experienced; and

- Stage 3: evaluate the potential impact of the proposed changes on the setting, and the extent to which any adverse impacts can be mitigated.

10.1.11 The SNH/HES EIA Handbook (2018) Appendix 1, paragraph 43 advises that:

*“When considering setting impacts, visual change should not be equated directly with adverse impact. Rather the impact should be assessed with reference to the degree that the proposal affects those aspects of setting that contribute to the asset’s cultural significance”.*

10.1.12 Following these recommendations, the blade tip height ZTV has been used to identify those heritage assets from which there would be theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development and to assess the degree of potential visibility. Consideration has also been given to designated heritage assets where there is no predicted visibility of the Proposed Development from the asset but where views of or across the asset are important factors contributing to its cultural significance. In such cases, consideration was given to whether the Proposed Development could appear in the background of those views. None were identified where this possibility would result in any adverse impact on their settings.

10.1.13 Scheduled Monuments, Category A and B Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas and Inventory Garden and Designed Landscapes, where present within the ZTV and within 10 km of the outermost turbines, are included in the assessment. These assets are included in the tabulated assessments in **TA 10.3 (EIAR Volume 4)**, using the parameters set out in **Table 10.1.1**, and they are shown on **Figure 10.2: Cultural Heritage Assets: Outer Study Area (EIAR Volume 2)**.

10.1.14 Category C Listed Buildings within 5 km of the outermost turbines are included in the assessment.

10.1.15 Consideration has also been given to designated heritage assets beyond 10 km where long-distance views and intervisibility are considered to be an important aspect of their settings. Two Scheduled Monuments: Balmuick stone circle (SM 1501) and Edinchip chambered cairn (SM 4435), situated more than 10 km from the nearest proposed turbine, were identified through consultation with HES as requiring detailed assessment of the potential impacts to their settings. They have been included in the assessment.

#### **Cumulative Effects**

10.1.16 The assessment of cumulative effects on heritage assets is based upon consideration of the effects of the Proposed Development on the settings of assets with statutory and non-statutory designations within the Outer Study Area (which includes the Inner Study Area), in addition to the likely effects of cumulative developments. **Figure 10.2 (EIAR Volume 2)** shows the Proposed Development along with other cumulative developments addressed in **Chapter 5: LVIA (EIAR Volume 1)**. For assessment of the potential cumulative effects on heritage assets, cumulative developments with footprints situated within the 10 km Outer Study Area of the Proposed Development are considered. No designated heritage assets within the Outer Study Area have been identified as having settings sensitive to adverse effects from the Proposed Development, in combination with any cumulative developments more than 10 km from the Site.

- 10.1.17 Operational, under construction developments and existing grid infrastructure elements, are considered as part of the baseline and taken to be such for the assessment of effects on the settings of heritage assets.
- 10.1.18 Other cumulative developments which are consented, at the application stage or are reasonably foreseeable (including the in-scoping Glen Lednock Wind Farm) are considered as being potential additions to the baseline and considered in the cumulative impact assessment.
- 10.1.19 The assessment takes into account the nature and relative scales of the various developments, their distance from the affected assets, and the potential degree of visibility from the assets of the various developments. Cumulative wireline visualisations have been used to aid the assessment.