



Technical Assessment 5: Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment

Rivestone Turbine Repowering

29/11/2023



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Neo Environmental Ltd has been appointed by Constantine Wind Energy Ltd (CWE) to undertake a Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment for a proposed turbine repowering of an existing wind development on land north of Rivestone, Kinnoir, Huntly. The assessment has been produced to evaluate the potential direct and indirect impacts that the proposal may have upon cultural heritage assets and archaeological remains.

A search of designated heritage assets including Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas, Inventory Parks and Gardens, World Heritage Sites and Inventory Battlefields have been assessed within a 3km study area of the Proposed Development. Non-designated sites within the Aberdeenshire Historic Environment Record and National Record of the Historic Environment were also identified within a 1km study area. Baseline information was also obtained through a site walkover survey and desk-based analysis of sources including historic maps, aerial photography, lidar data and consultation with relevant records and databases.

There are no designated heritage assets located within or adjacent to the Application Site that could be physically impacted by the Proposed Development. Similarly, no non-designated records lie within the boundary of the Application Site, but the former croft and enclosure at Elry Knowe (NB03) is located approximately 70m to the south of the turbine location. However, the overall extent of the former croft and enclosure is contained within an area of woodland and vegetation that is sufficiently distanced and delineated from the proposed construction works that no direct effects will occur upon this feature. As a result, **no direct effects upon designated or non-designated archaeological and heritage assets are anticipated as a result of the proposed construction activity and no mitigation measures are expected to be necessary in relation to known assets.**

The Application Site lies within an area containing a **moderate to low archaeological potential associated with the prehistoric and post-medieval periods.** As such, while additional ground disturbance associated with the proposed turbine is expected to be relatively minor in footprint, it is recommended that, if consented, **archaeological monitoring by a qualified archaeologist during the construction stage ('watching brief')** is implemented for any groundworks required for the turbine foundations, crane pad, compound areas, access track, cabling, and any other associated infrastructure. With the implementation of an appropriate archaeological programme of works, measures will be in place for the identification and preservation in-situ and/or by record of any sub-surface remains present within the Application Site.

Indirect effects upon surrounding heritage assets have been assessed as Minor Adverse and Negligible. **No specific mitigation is therefore considered to be necessary for the reduction of any visual impacts.**

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. Neo Environmental Ltd has been appointed by Constantine Wind Energy (CWE) (“the Applicant”) in support of a planning application submitted to Aberdeenshire Council (“the Council”) for the removal of the existing wind turbine and the erection of a single replacement wind turbine (up to a maximum of 77m to blade tip height) (“the Proposed Development”) and revised hardstanding arrangements on land at Rivestone, Huntly, Aberdeenshire (“the Application Site”).
- 1.2. The report is supported by the following Figures and Technical Appendices:
- Appendix 5A: Figures
 - Figure 5.1 – Designated Heritage Assets
 - Figure 5.2 – Non-designated Heritage Assets
 - Figure 5.3 – Roy Military Survey Map 1747-52
 - Figure 5.4 – OS 1874 Map
 - Figure 5.5 – OS 1902 Map
 - Figure 5.6 – Lidar Data (1m DTM)
 - Appendix 5B: Tables of Heritage Assets

Development Description

- 1.3. The Proposed Development would consist of a single turbine, with a rated output capacity of 300kW to ensure the maximum grid capacity is met. Whilst there is no change in the rated output capacity compared to the existing turbine, energy production onsite would be more efficient due to the following factors:
- Increased reliability of newer turbine technology
 - Increased wind speeds at higher elevations
 - Improved wind to energy conversion efficiency
 - Increased swept area of wind capture
- 1.4. Additionally, using calculations as set out by Renewable UK, the existing turbine has the capacity to power the equivalent of 175 homes, whereas the Proposed Development would

have the capacity to power the equivalent of 305 homes, which equates to an increase in excess of 70%.

- 1.5. The Applicant proposes to use a EWT DW54 as a candidate turbine, with the potential to replace with a similar model such as an Enercon 53 or Vestas V52, with a maximum tip height of 77m (**Volume 2, Figure 4: Turbine Elevations**).

Site Description

- 1.6. The Application Site is located in a rural setting on land approximately 1.8km south of Milltown of Rothiemay and approximately 6.3km north of Huntly. The existing wind energy development currently comprises a single Enercon E33 located at E355348, N846386. The current turbine consists of a hub height of 37m, rotor diameter of 33m and overall tip height of 53.5m.
- 1.7. The Proposed Development will be located at approximate Grid Reference E355354 N846372 in a grass field measuring approximately 7.1 hectares, although only approximately 1.8 hectares is required to accommodate the wind turbine and associated infrastructure.
- 1.8. The Application Site covers gently undulating agricultural land with an elevation range of approximately 146 – 159m AOD. The wider context of the Application Site consists of agricultural land, woodland and treelines. The River Deveron also runs around the north western extents of the wider area.
- 1.9. Access to the Proposed Development is via an existing access track, consented under application APP/2012/2844 and is formed directly off a local unnamed road, which extends from the A97 in the south and joins the B9118 at Milltown of Rothiemay in the north.

Statement of Authority

- 1.10. The aforementioned assessment and the additional information provided within this document were produced by registered archaeologists with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA), of Associate (ACIfA) level or above, and in accordance with their professional guidance.
- 1.11. Michael Briggs BSc (Hons) MSc ACIfA MIAI was the primary author; he has undertaken a large number of cultural heritage and archaeological impact assessments for developments across the UK and Ireland, with a particular focus on renewable energy projects. He has over 10 years of professional experience, including assessments for the initial stages of feasibility and heritage impacts through to a wide variety of fieldwork and mitigation measures.
- 1.12. Paul Neary BA H.Dip MA MSc MIEnvSc MIAI ACIFA CEnv was the second archaeologist and editor; he is dual-qualified as a Chartered Environmentalist and archaeologist. Paul has over 17 years of archaeology and heritage experience within the UK and Ireland, including large road projects, EIA developments and energy projects. He is licensed to direct archaeology

work in the Republic of Ireland and has also held archaeology director licenses in Northern Ireland.

2. LEGISLATION AND PLANNING POLICY CONTEXT

2.1. This Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment has been considered with regard to all relevant national, regional and local planning policy and guidance:

- National Planning Framework 4 (2023)¹
- Historic Environment Policy for Scotland (2019)²
- Historic Environment Circular 1 (2016)³
- Planning Advice Note 2/2011 (PAN 2); Planning and Archaeology⁴
- Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act (1979)⁵
- Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Scotland) Act (1997)⁶
- Town and Country Planning (General Development Procedure) (Scotland) Order (1992)⁷
- Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan (2023)⁸

2.2. The most relevant policy documents to this impact assessment are discussed in more detail below.

¹ The Scottish Government (2023) *National Planning Framework 4*. Edinburgh.

² Historic Environment Scotland (2019) *Historic Environment Policy for Scotland May 2019*. Edinburgh.

³ Historic Environment Scotland (2016) *Historic Environment Circular 1*. Edinburgh.

⁴ The Scottish Government (2011) *Planning and Archaeology — Planning Advice Note 2/2011*. Edinburgh.

⁵ HMSO (1979) *Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979*. London (Reprinted 1996).

⁶ HM Government (1997) *Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Scotland) Act 1997*.

⁷ HM Government (1992) *The Town and country Planning (General Development Procedure) (Scotland) Order 1992*.

⁸ Aberdeenshire Council (2023) *Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan*. Aberdeenshire Council.

National Planning Framework 4

- 2.3. The National Planning Framework (NPF) 4 was adopted by the Scottish Ministers on the 13th February 2023, superseding the previous planning frameworks including NPF 3 and the Scottish Planning Policy (2014). Policy 7 of the document relates to archaeology and heritage, with its intent stated as being *“to protect and enhance historic environment assets and places, and to enable positive change as a catalyst for the regeneration of places”*.

Policy 7: Historic Assets and Places

- “a) Development proposals with a potentially significant impact on historic assets or places will be accompanied by an assessment which is based on an understanding of the cultural significance of the historic asset and/or place. The assessment should identify the likely visual or physical impact of any proposals for change, including cumulative effects and provide a sound basis for managing the impacts of change.*

Proposals should also be informed by national policy and guidance on managing change in the historic environment, and information held within Historic Environment Records.

- b) Development proposals for the demolition of listed buildings will not be supported unless it has been demonstrated that there are exceptional circumstances and that all reasonable efforts have been made to retain, reuse and/or adapt the listed building. Considerations include whether the:*

i. building is no longer of special interest;

ii. building is incapable of physical repair and re-use as verified through a detailed structural condition survey report;

iii. repair of the building is not economically viable and there has been adequate marketing for existing and/or new uses at a price reflecting its location and condition for a reasonable period to attract interest from potential restoring purchasers; or

iv. demolition of the building is essential to delivering significant benefits to economic growth or the wider community.

- c) Development proposals for the reuse, alteration or extension of a listed building will only be supported where they will preserve its character, special architectural or historic interest and setting. Development proposals affecting the setting of a listed building should preserve its character, and its special architectural or historic interest.*

- d) Development proposals in or affecting conservation areas will only be supported where the character and appearance of the conservation area and its setting is preserved or enhanced. Relevant considerations include the:*

i. architectural and historic character of the area;

- ii. existing density, built form and layout; and*
 - iii. context and siting, quality of design and suitable materials.*
- e) Development proposals in conservation areas will ensure that existing natural and built features which contribute to the character of the conservation area and its setting, including structures, boundary walls, railings, trees and hedges, are retained.*
- f) Demolition of buildings in a conservation area which make a positive contribution to its character will only be supported where it has been demonstrated that:
 - i. reasonable efforts have been made to retain, repair and reuse the building;*
 - ii. the building is of little townscape value;*
 - iii. the structural condition of the building prevents its retention at a reasonable cost; or*
 - iv. the form or location of the building makes its reuse extremely difficult.**
- g) Where demolition within a conservation area is to be followed by redevelopment, consent to demolish will only be supported when an acceptable design, layout and materials are being used for the replacement development.*
- h) Development proposals affecting scheduled monuments will only be supported where:
 - i. direct impacts on the scheduled monument are avoided;*
 - ii. significant adverse impacts on the integrity of the setting of a scheduled monument are avoided; or*
 - iii. exceptional circumstances have been demonstrated to justify the impact on a scheduled monument and its setting and impacts on the monument or its setting have been minimised.**
- i) Development proposals affecting nationally important Gardens and Designed Landscapes will be supported where they protect, preserve or enhance their cultural significance, character and integrity and where proposals will not significantly impact on important views to, from and within the site, or its setting.*
- j) Development proposals affecting nationally important Historic Battlefields will only be supported where they protect and, where appropriate, enhance their cultural significance, key landscape characteristics, physical remains and special qualities.*
- k) Development proposals at the coast edge or that extend offshore will only be supported where proposals do not significantly hinder the preservation objectives of Historic Marine Protected Areas.*
- l) Development proposals affecting a World Heritage Site or its setting will only be supported where their Outstanding Universal Value is protected and preserved.*

m) *Development proposals which sensitively repair, enhance and bring historic buildings, as identified as being at risk locally or on the national Buildings at Risk Register, back into beneficial use will be supported.*

n) *Enabling development for historic environment assets or places that would otherwise be unacceptable in planning terms, will only be supported when it has been demonstrated that the enabling development proposed is:*

i. essential to secure the future of an historic environment asset or place which is at risk of serious deterioration or loss; and

ii. the minimum necessary to secure the restoration, adaptation and long-term future of the historic environment asset or place.

The beneficial outcomes for the historic environment asset or place should be secured early in the phasing of the development, and will be ensured through the use of conditions and/or legal agreements.

o) *Non-designated historic environment assets, places and their setting should be protected and preserved in situ wherever feasible. Where there is potential for non-designated buried archaeological remains to exist below a site, developers will provide an evaluation of the archaeological resource at an early stage so that planning authorities can assess impacts. Historic buildings may also have archaeological significance which is not understood and may require assessment.*

Where impacts cannot be avoided they should be minimised. Where it has been demonstrated that avoidance or retention is not possible, excavation, recording, analysis, archiving, publication and activities to provide public benefit may be required through the use of conditions or legal/planning obligations.

When new archaeological discoveries are made during the course of development works, they must be reported to the planning authority to enable agreement on appropriate inspection, recording and mitigation measures."

2.4. This report includes a detailed assessment of both designated and non-designated heritage assets in order to determine their significance and sensitivity to the proposed development. Where non-designated assets are of high significance they will be considered and assessed as equivalent to scheduled monuments.

Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan 2023

2.5. There are three specific policies within the Aberdeenshire LDP that are relevant to this impact assessment. Like the NPF 4, they are structured around the categories of heritage assets and contain specific regulations designed to achieve the broader goals of protection and conservation within the SPP.

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

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

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

Listed Buildings

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

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

Scheduled Monuments and Archaeological Sites

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

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

Policy HE2: Protecting Historic, Cultural and Conservation Areas

“Conservation Areas

HE2.1 We will resist development, including change of use or demolition, which would fail to preserve or enhance the character or appearance of a conservation area. This applies both to developments within the conservation area and proposals outwith that would affect its character or appearance. We will seek retention, restoration, and sympathetic adaptation of unlisted buildings which contribute positively to the special architectural or historic interest of the area, in preference to allowing their demolition.

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

Battlefields, Inventory Gardens and Designed Landscapes

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

- the proposal would not have an adverse impact that compromises the objectives of the designation of an inventory garden or designed landscape, or the key landscape characteristics and special qualities of an inventory battlefield; or,
- any significant adverse effects are outweighed by long-term social or economic benefits of overriding public importance and there is no alternative site for the development.

These conditions may also apply to developments outwith the designated sites. In either case, measures and mitigation must be taken to conserve and enhance the essential characteristics of the site as appropriate.

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

- 2.6. This impact assessment will therefore consider all designated and non-designated heritage assets identified within the above local policies in order to ensure that direct and indirect impacts upon them as a result of the Proposed Development are properly assessed in compliance with policies in both the Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan and the NPF 4.

3. ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

Aims and Objectives

3.1. The aims of the assessment are as follows:

- To identify all known heritage assets within the study zone based on all available public resources;
- To identify the archaeological potential of the Application Site;
- To determine what if any level of recording will be required for any extant remains;
- To assess the significance of any direct or indirect effect of the Proposed Development on cultural heritage assets and their settings and potential archaeological remains within the study zone, from construction through to decommissioning;
- To identify mitigation measures where possible and aid in the design process to reduce the potential impacts of the proposed scheme;
- To provide recommendations for any further archaeological/heritage assessment work that should be undertaken as part of the Proposed Development.

Professional Guidance

3.2. The assessment has been conducted in accordance with the appropriate professional guidance, which includes:

- Code of Conduct, Chartered Institute of Field Archaeologists (CIfA) (2014)⁹
- Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Desk Based Assessment, CIfA (2014)¹⁰

Assessment Criteria

3.3. All assessments of significance and impacts have been undertaken in line with the following tables and terminology, where the magnitude of impact and importance/sensitivity of a

⁹ CIfA (2014) *Code of Conduct*. Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.

¹⁰ CIfA (2014) *Standards and Guidance for desk-based assessment*. Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.

heritage asset and its setting are qualitatively determined through professional judgement, and effects of ‘moderate adverse’ would be considered significant:

Table 3-1: Significance of Direct Effects

Magnitude of Impact	Importance/Sensitivity of the Heritage Asset			
	High	Medium	Low	Negligible
High	Major	Major	Moderate	Minor
Medium	Major	Moderate	Minor	Negligible
Low	Moderate	Minor	Negligible	Negligible
Very Low	Minor	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible

Table 3-2: Significance of Indirect Effects

Magnitude of Impact	Importance/Sensitivity of the Heritage Asset/Setting			
	High	Medium	Low	Negligible
High	Major	Major	Moderate	Minor
Medium	Major	Moderate	Minor	Negligible
Low	Moderate	Minor	Negligible	Negligible
Negligible	Minor	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible

Desk-based Assessment

Scope of Assessment

- 3.4. The desk-based assessment has been produced to evaluate the potential direct and indirect impacts that the proposal may have upon cultural heritage assets and archaeological remains. A search of designated heritage assets including Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas, Historic Parks and Gardens, World Heritage Sites and Registered Battlefields have been assessed within a 3km study area of the Proposed Development.
- 3.5. Non-designated archaeology and heritage sites within the Aberdeenshire Historic Environment Record and the National Record of the Historic Environment (NRHE / Canmore) have been assessed within a 1km study zone. These sites are usually of a lower sensitivity to visual impacts but both features and events within the record can be a good indication of the likely archaeological potential of land within the Application Site.

- 3.6. The sizes of the above study zones were selected to ensure that comprehensive and informative data was collated to characterise the direct and indirect impacts that the Proposed Development may have on historical and archaeological assets, as well as the archaeological potential of the land within the Application Site boundary. Due to the nature of the records, some degree of overlap is possible (for example a site that has been recorded within both the HER and as a Listed Building) and some assets may therefore have been repeated. Where appropriate, sites of exceptional value or sensitivity outside the relevant study zones have also been assessed.
- 3.7. While the proposal includes the replacement of an existing turbine, the assessment evaluates the potential magnitude of impact of the development as a standalone element rather than as a relative increase in scale alone. Nonetheless, the baseline views of a smaller turbine at its location have been considered as part of the appraisal of settings for heritage assets where appropriate.

Main Sources Consulted

- National Monuments Record of Scotland (NMRS);
- The National Record of the Historic Environment (NRHE) / Canmore databases;
- Aberdeenshire Historic Environment Record (HER);
- Published sources available in the NRHE/HER entries;
- Historic Environment Scotland (HES);
- GIS shapefiles hosted via UK/Scottish Government and Local Authority links;
- Defra Data Services Platform (Lidar data);
- Historic England National Mapping Programme;
- Aerial imagery via Google Earth, Bing Maps, World Imagery Wayback and ArcGIS Pro global mapping;
- National Collection of Aerial Photography;
- Cambridge University Collection of Aerial Photography;
- <http://www.britainfromabove.org.uk/>;
- Excavation reports hosted by Archaeology Data Service and OASIS; and
- Historic Maps accessible via the OS and National Library of Scotland.

Map Regression Analysis

- 3.8. Analysis of historic maps can reveal the changes in landuse and field boundaries in the area and can highlight potential areas of archaeological interest that may have been lost in the subsequent years. Relevant maps were consulted to undertake this analysis as part of the desk-based assessment and site walkover survey.

Aerial Photography

- 3.9. To identify potential archaeological features within the Application Site that are not recorded within the relevant databases, aerial photography of the land was examined in order to identify any cropmarks or markings within the Application Site that may be indicative of previously unknown features. This includes both modern and historical aerial imagery, where available.

Lidar Data

- 3.10. Lidar datasets for the region were consulted to identify what data may exist for land inside the proposed development site. Relevant data that can be useful for archaeological purposes comprise Digital Terrain Model (DTM) and Digital Surface Model (DSM) of 0.5m, 1m and 2m resolutions. These datasets are relatively recent and updated on a regular basis, so were consulted more than once during the assessment.

Assessment of Direct Effects

- 3.11. Potential direct effects during the construction phase are considered as physical disturbance of known or associated archaeological remains. These impacts can be caused through the construction processes within the footprint of the Development, including ancillary works such as access tracks. Direct impacts can affect both above ground and subsurface remains, which will both be considered within this assessment.
- 3.12. The presence and character of any existing archaeological features will be identified within the site boundary, and the archaeological potential of the site assessed through a desk-based assessment of the surrounding archaeological resource and landscape. The significance of any impacts will be determined by considering the construction methodology within the Application Site and to what extent this would disturb any sub-surface remains.

Assessment of Indirect Effects

- 3.13. The assets that were identified through the sources previously listed were assessed for their significance and sensitivity of their settings. The magnitude of the visual impacts upon these assets was determined by considering the views and intervisibility shared with the Proposed Development, as well as the nature, character, date, extent, setting and surviving remains of

the feature where relevant. Indirect effects were then assigned using this information on the following scale:

- Major
- Moderate
- Minor
- Negligible

3.14. Indirect effects of 'moderate' or above are considered significant and appropriate mitigation measures have been recommended where appropriate to lower the potential impact. While ancillary development such as access tracks, crane pads, compound areas and cabling will be required as part of the project, long-term indirect effects will be primarily restricted to visual impacts resulting from views of the proposed wind turbine throughout its operational period.

Zone of Theoretical Visibility

3.15. A Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) was produced to identify sites with a greater potential for being indirectly impacted by the Proposed Development. The ZTV has been overlaid on the heritage assets within the study zones, to identify those that will potentially be visually impacted by the Proposed Development during the operational phase.

3.16. Digital Terrain Modelling sourced from digital height data derived from Ordnance Survey Ireland, with the viewer height set at 2m high was used to calculate the ZTV. The produced ZTV was 'bare earth' and therefore did not account for any elements in the landscape such as trees, hedgerows, walls or buildings that may help screen views, nor account for the influences of the weather upon any views.

The Importance of Setting

3.17. Setting can be important to the way in which historic assets or places are understood, appreciated and experienced. The Historic Environment Policy for Scotland (2019) document is used as guidance for determining the contributions made by settings to the heritage value of their assets, and how these settings may be sensitive to indirect impacts.

3.18. Where development is proposed it is important to identify and define the setting of the heritage asset and to assess how development might impact upon this resource. Setting often extends beyond the property boundary, or 'curtilage', of an individual historic asset into a broader landscape context. Less tangible elements can also be important in understanding the setting. These may include function, sensory perceptions or the historical, artistic, literary and scenic associations of places or landscapes. In the light of this guidance, development proposals should seek to avoid or mitigate detrimental impacts on the settings of historic assets.

Assessment Limitations and Assumptions

- 3.19. The consulted sources contain records of known archaeological and historic features. The record is not an exhaustive record of all surviving historic environment features and does not preclude the possible existence of archaeological remains of significance within the study zone, which are at present unknown or have been added to the records recently. It was assumed that official data provided by public bodies was accurate and up-to-date.
- 3.20. A site visit was not undertaken at the Application Site as part of this assessment. A site visit and walkover survey can help to identify the potential for any surviving features of archaeological interest at ground level, as well as establishing the likelihood for views and intervisibility to and from identified heritage assets in the surrounding area. However, the assessment was undertaken through a desk-based approach, with a view to providing sufficient information through the above methods described.
- 3.21. The red line boundary visible on **Figures 5.1 – 5.6: Appendix 5A** includes an access route to the main road, for which it is assumed that no groundworks or other development will be required. As such, the assessment is focused on the primary area of the red line boundary which is proposed for all required development activity.

4. BASELINE CHARACTERISATION

Archaeological Period Classifications

- 4.1. The period classifications below provide chronological context for the archaeological assets which are discussed as part of this report.
- Mesolithic (10,000BC – 4,500BC)
 - Neolithic (4,500BC – 2,500BC)
 - Bronze Age (2,500BC – 700BC)
 - Iron Age and Roman (700BC – AD410)
 - Early Historic and Medieval (AD410 - AD1560)
 - Post Medieval & Modern (AD1560 onwards)

Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Assets

- 4.2. The full list of designated heritage assets identified within the 3km study area is presented within **Table 1: Appendix 5B**. This includes a total of five scheduled monuments, three category A listed buildings, six category B listed buildings and three category C listed buildings (**Figure 5.1: Appendix 5A**). However, no conservation areas, inventory gardens and designed landscapes, world heritage sites, or inventory battlefields were identified within the 3km study area.
- 4.3. In addition to the above, six non-designated sites within the Aberdeenshire Historic Environment Record (HER) and six additional non-designated sites from the National Record of the Historic Environment (NRHE/Canmore) were identified within the 1km study zone (**Figure 5.2: Appendix 5A**). The full list of these features is presented within **Table 2: Appendix 5B**.
- 4.4. No designated records lie within the boundary of the Application Site. The closest recorded feature to the turbine location is the scheduled monument 'Corskellie cup & ring-marked stone 90m SSE of' (NA05), which is located approximately 1.2m to the northeast. Similarly, no non-designated records lie within the boundary of the Application Site. The closest non-designated record to the turbine location is the record of a croft and enclosure at Elry Knowe (NB03). The location of this site is approximately 70m to the south of the turbine location and approximately 15m to the south of the proposed development area, although it is not known to what extent any remains here may survive.

- 4.5. Designated and non-designated assets within the surrounding area are predominately associated with the post-medieval development of the region, including agricultural, residential and vernacular features, but there is also notable evidence for prehistoric activity from the Neolithic period onwards, including several scheduled monuments and HER sites with high potential for remains from this period.
- 4.6. A limited amount of evidence from the medieval period is also present, including the former site of the early medieval St Drostan's Church and the now demolished Rothiemay Castle, which was established in the 15th century, as well as the scheduled Whitestones House symbol stones.
- 4.7. The possible line of a Roman Road (NB04) is also recorded within the region, but no trace or evidence of this is confirmed. No other features or indications for Roman activity in the area is known.

Map Regression Analysis

- 4.8. **Figures 5.3 – 5.5: Appendix 5A** contain a series of selected historic maps of the Application Site, showing the extent of known features of archaeological interest and the progression of land use in the area. While the Application Site can be accurately georeferenced onto the Ordnance Survey (OS) maps, the scale and accuracy of earlier non-OS maps, specifically the Roy Military Survey Map in this case, often mean that their georeferenced locations are approximations only.
- 4.9. **Figure 5.3: Appendix 5A** contains the Roy Military Survey Map (1747-52) of the area. The depiction of the Application Site does not possess sufficient detail to indicate any specific archaeological features, but the approximate location of the turbine on this map confirms its position within uncultivated land distanced from the surrounding labelled farmsteads. The 'Devron River' is depicted far to the west and north of the Application Site, while the majority of the depicted farmlands in the vicinity are situated along both banks of this river. The nearest recorded settlement at the time was 'Cairnhill' to the southeast of the site.
- 4.10. The OS 1874 map (**Figure 5.4: Appendix 5A**) depicts land within the Application Site as being predominately within uncultivated, rough land on the east side of the local road. However, the eastern half of the main Application Site area overlaps with a 'cleared' area, the purpose of which is not known but may have been a garden/parkland area associated with the depicted croft on its south side. This cleared area is distinct from the agricultural fields on the western side of the road, which are instead divided into regular fields by boundaries. The buildings to the south of the Application Site are part of a croft (NB03) adjoined by further enclosures, while a well is depicted to the northwest and just inside the 'cleared' area. No features of archaeological interest are depicted inside the Application Site boundary.
- 4.11. The OS 1902 map (**Figure 5.5: Appendix 5A**) depicts land within the Application Site as being similar to that within 1874, as it is still uncultivated rough ground in contrast to the fields on the west side of the road. The previously 'cleared' area is no longer depicted and the croft to

the south appears to be in a state of disrepair, with one of the two main buildings being unroofed. No features of archaeological interest are depicted inside the Application Site boundary.

- 4.12. Since its depiction on the historic maps, land at the Application Site has been cleared and appears to have been brought into agricultural usage. However, while fields to the west of the adjacent road have been in arable use, aerial imagery from 1973 (NCAP¹¹), 1988 (NCAP¹²) and 2003 onwards (Google Earth) shows land here within grazing use only, with the only significant development occurring within the field being the existing turbine infrastructure. The area of the former croft is now discernible as a rectangular section of woodland and vegetation covering its extent.

Lidar Data

- 4.13. **Figure 5.6: Appendix 5A** contains the 1m DTM Lidar data of the Application Site. This data was reviewed in order to identify the potential for hitherto-unknown archaeological features as well as identify the possible extents of known features. Due to the absence of the existing turbine hardstanding areas on the data, it appears to pre-date its construction.
- 4.14. No clear features are indicated within the Application Site itself. However, a faint linear feature is visible running approximately north to south along the line of the former 'clearing' depicted on the OS 1874 map (**Figure 5.4: Appendix 5A**). As the site has not been visited by an archaeologist it is not known whether a ditch or earthwork is present along this line, but such remains are not expected to be of archaeological significance. In addition, the existing turbine infrastructure is situated in such a way that its construction has truncated this line.
- 4.15. The partial remains of the former croft are also discernible to the south of the proposed turbine, although only the footprint of the southwest enclosure is now identifiable. Other than this footprint, only amorphous undulations are depicted within the extents of NBO3, which are likely to be the result of demolition and removal of the former croft. No other nearby features of possible archaeological interest are discernible within the lidar data.

¹¹ <https://ncap.org.uk/frame-download/8-1-10-1-49-47>, last accessed 14/11/23

¹² <https://ncap.org.uk/frame-download/8-1-3-1-28-146>, last accessed 14/11/23

5. ASSESSMENT OF DIRECT EFFECTS

Known Archaeological and Heritage Assets

- 5.1. There are no designated heritage assets located within or adjacent to the Application Site that could be physically impacted by the Proposed Development (see **Figure 5.1: Appendix 5A**). The closest recorded feature to the turbine location is the scheduled monument 'Corskellie cup & ring-marked stone 90m SSE of' (NA05), which is located approximately 1.2m to the northeast. As such, **no direct effects will occur upon designated assets**.
- 5.2. Similarly, no non-designated records lie within the boundary of the Application Site. The closest non-designated record to the turbine location is the record of a croft and enclosure at Elyr Knowe (NB03), located approximately 70m to the south of the turbine location and approximately 15m to the south of the proposed development area (see **Figure 5.2: Appendix 5A**). As no site visit was undertaken, it is not known to what extent remains here may survive, but lidar data indicates that standing remains are likely to be limited to the footprint of the southwest enclosure, while amorphous undulations are visible on the lidar data which are likely to be the result of demolition and removal of the former croft at NB03.
- 5.3. The overall extent of the former croft is contained within an area of woodland and vegetation that is sufficiently distanced and delineated from the proposed construction works to not be at risk of any physical impacts. In addition, no other non-designated features are situated in close proximity to the Application Site. As such, **no direct effects will occur upon non-designated assets**.
- 5.4. In consideration of the above, **no direct effects upon known archaeological and heritage assets** are anticipated as a result of the proposed construction activity for the Development.

Archaeological Potential

- 5.5. There are no internal indicators for specific archaeological remains within the Application Site. However, the site lies within a landscape of prehistoric activity, with scheduled stone circles to the west and north of the Application Site and non-designated prehistoric records to the northeast, southeast and south of the Application Site.
- 5.6. In addition to the above, the Application Site lies close to the former croft NB03 and the OS 1874 map shows that part of the site was likely to have overlapped with an associated clearing adjoining the north of this settlement (**Figure 5.4: Appendix 5A**). While no specific archaeological potential is expected as a result of this association, the land may have been used in connection with the croft during this time. A faint linear feature is visible running approximately north to south along the line of the former 'clearing' depicted on the historic map. There is therefore a general potential for any additional groundworks interesting this

line and within the extent of the apparent 'clearing' to encounter post-medieval sub-surface remains associated with the use of this land in connection with the former croft.

- 5.7. No other heightened archaeological potential is expected to be present within the Application Site. While some limited evidence of Roman and medieval features is present in the surrounding landscape, there are no indicators for such remains being likely within the Application Site itself.
- 5.8. It is noted that the expected footprint of the proposed groundworks is relatively limited. Due to the presence of the existing access track and hardstanding areas associated with the operational turbine, groundworks required for the proposed turbine (i.e., turbine foundations, small section of access track, compound area, crane pad and cable trenching) are not expected to constitute a significant amount of additional ground disturbance. However, other than the turbine hardstanding areas, the land itself appears to have been relatively undisturbed in recent history, as no other development has occurred and known land use appears to have been restricted to grazing rather than arable/ploughing activity. There is therefore a relatively high likelihood for survival of any hitherto-unknown sub-surface remains that happen to be present within the containing field.
- 5.9. In consideration of the above, the Application Site is expected to possess a **moderate to low potential for archaeological remains associated with the prehistoric and post-medieval periods**. Therefore, while additional ground disturbance associated with the proposed turbine is expected to be relatively minor in footprint, some degree of archaeological mitigation is recommended.

6. ASSESSMENT OF INDIRECT EFFECTS

- 6.1. The calculated ZTV was overlain onto the maps of designated and non-designated heritage assets (see **Figures 5.1 & 5.2: Appendix 5A**) in order to identify those which may be at risk of being visually impacted by the Proposed Development. The ZTV does not account for intervening hedgerows, trees or built structures, which will limit the intervisibility between the building/monument and the Proposed Development.
- 6.2. A total of five scheduled monuments, two category A listed buildings, two category B listed buildings and two category C listed buildings are located within the 3km study area and lie within the calculated ZTV (**Figure 5.1: Appendix 5A**). These assets are therefore assessed for indirect impacts below.
- 6.3. In addition, six non-designated sites within the Aberdeenshire HER and six additional non-designated sites from the NRHE/Canmore database were identified within the 1km study zone (**Figure 5.2: Appendix 5A**), all of which lie within the calculated ZTV. Where these are considered to have substantial standing remains and/or sensitive settings, these will also be assessed for indirect effects.
- 6.4. While the proposal includes the replacement of an existing turbine, the assessment evaluates the potential impacts of the development as a standalone element rather than as a relative increase in scale alone. Nonetheless, the baseline views of a smaller turbine at these locations have been considered as part of these assessments.

Scheduled Monuments

Arn Hill stone circle, Rothiemay Station (NA01)

- 6.5. The Arn Hill stone circle is a scheduled monument located approximately 2.3km to the west-southwest of the proposed turbine. No specific information about the monument is held within its Historic Environment Scotland database entry¹³, but it appears to be the recumbent remains of a prehistoric stone circle which are still visible at ground level.
- 6.6. The stones are situated at the top of a local ridge with good views orientated eastwards over the River Deveron approximately 300m away. Its elevated position, visual relationship with the river, and views over the landscape to the east would have been integral to the original siting of the stone circle here. As such, while there has been a limited amount of development occurring within the intervening land between the stone circle and the river, these views eastward provide a valuable contribution to the setting of the stone circle.

¹³ <http://portal.historicenvironment.scot/designation/SM4>, last accessed 13/11/23

- 6.7. The Application Site is located far enough away from the stone circle that views of the turbine would not interfere with the visual relationship between the stone circle and the river, but may be present within the background views of the wider landscape from the monument. It is therefore considered to be of medium sensitivity to potential views with the proposal.
- 6.8. Views and intervisibility between the stone circle and the proposed turbine are expected to be at least partially possible due to the elevated position of the monument and the drop in land along the intervening river valley. However, the presence of substantial woodland blocks on the east side of the river is expected to screen most views with the turbine base, resulting in views being limited to the blades visible above the treelines. The magnitude of such views at this distance is expected to be low, resulting in overall **Minor Adverse** indirect effects.

Rothiemay Castle, stone circle, 400m NNW of (NA02)

- 6.9. The Rothiemay Castle stone circle is a scheduled monument located approximately 2.35km to the north of the proposed turbine. No specific information about the monument is held within its Historic Environment Scotland database entry¹⁴, but as with the Arn Hill stones, the stone circle is still visible as recumbent stones. Their relative positions suggest that they may be the remains of two concentric stone circles at this location.
- 6.10. The stones are situated on the south side of the B9117 and within a field to the northeast of Milltown of Rothiemay. They benefit from their local setting on a slight south-facing slope looking over the River Deveron, but the presence of farm buildings in the intervening area somewhat comprises its original setting. Nonetheless, the rural environs and proximity to the river provide a beneficial contribution to the setting of the stone circle. Views of the wider landscape, including the Application Site, are relatively restricted and do not contribute the same level of significance. It is therefore considered to be of low sensitivity to potential views with the proposal.
- 6.11. Views and intervisibility between the stone circle and the proposed turbine are not expected to be possible due to the presence of a topographical ridge approximately 1.2km to the south of the monument, upon which woodland adds to the screening effects provided at this point. This ridge will prevent any views between the proposal and the monument, while intervisibility is similarly not expected to be possible. The magnitude of any residual intervisibility from third points is therefore predicted to be negligible and overall indirect effects are anticipated to be **Negligible**.

¹⁴ <http://portal.historicenvironment.scot/designation/SM344>, last accessed 13/11/23

Whitestones House, three symbol stones SW of (Tillytarmont 2, 3 & 4) (NA03)

- 6.12. The Whitestones House symbols stones are a scheduled monument located approximately 2.45km to the west-northwest of the proposed turbine. It is recorded within its Historic Environment Scotland database entry as:

“The monument comprises three symbol stones, which stand no more than 5m from one another in the policies of Whitestones House, some 85m SW of the main house:

The first (also known as Tillytarmont, no. 2) was ploughed up in 1944 in a field called Donaldstone Haugh, on North Tillytarmont Farm (NJ 533473). It is of red granite, 1.30m high, 0.61m wide and 0.15m thick, and bears the 'crescent and V-rod' and 'double disc and Z-rod' symbols.

The second (also known as Tillytarmont, no. 3) was first discovered a little before 1867 and was rediscovered by W.D.Simpson on the edge of Donaldstone Haugh in 1954. It is of red granite, 1.14m high, 0.91m wide and 0.38m thick. The markings are faint, but consist of a crescent (without V-rod) and part of what appears to be a double disc approximately

The third (also known as Tillytarmont, no. 4) was found before 1903 on the farm of North Redhill (NJ 560467). It was first built into a dyke and then moved to Rothiemay Castle before being erected on its present site. It is of whinstone, measuring 0.81m high, 0.58m wide and 0.27m thick. The finder recut the spiral and rectangular ornament on the left, leaving the ornament on the right as he found it.”¹⁵

- 6.13. The monument is significant as a small group of Pictish symbol stones within the grounds of Whitestones House. The purpose of such symbol stones is not well known and the presence of several such stones in close proximity has the potential to contribute to our understanding of these features. The stones benefit from their enclosed woodland setting within the Whitestones House grounds, but the enclosing woodland also prevents any notable visual links with the surrounding landscape and the monument is not considered to derive any significance from its wider setting. As such, it is considered to be of negligible sensitivity to potential views with the proposal.
- 6.14. Views and invisibility between the symbol stones and the proposed turbine are expected to be largely screened by the aforementioned enveloping woodland. Any residual intervisibility from third points would be very limited and low in magnitude. Indirect effects are therefore anticipated to be **Negligible**.

¹⁵ <http://portal.historicenvironment.scot/designation/SM351>, last accessed 13/11/23

Rothiemay St Drostan's Church (NA04)

- 6.15. The Rothiemay St Drostan's Church is a scheduled monument located approximately 1.85km to the north of the proposed turbine. It is recorded within its Historic Environment Scotland database entry as:

"The monument consists of the remains of the old parish church of Rothiemay which is thought to occupy the site of an early Christian foundation established by St Drostan, Abbot of Deer in Buchan in the sixth century.

Although it is likely that this site has been occupied by earlier buildings, the latest church built on the banks of the Deveron probably dates from the late Middle Ages. It survives as a series of turf-covered stone footings situated in meadowland on the W side of the Kirkton Burn and N of the River Deveron.

The church is rectangular on plan with a small transept projecting 7m from the E end of the S wall. The footings are no more than 0.2m high and measure 23m E-W by 15.1m N-S overall with walls 0.9m thick. A document of 1540 to Alexander, Lord Saltoun who received a tack of the parsonage refers to the building as the "queir of Rothiemay". The roof was thatched at this date, and possibly until 1626, when an entry in the Kirk Session's proceedings ordained three horses to bring slates to the Kirk. The church was in use until 1752 when the first Earl of Fife pulled it down because it interfered with the privacy of his house."¹⁶

- 6.16. The former church is situated within a field on the north bank of the River Deveron and to the east of Milltown of Rothiemay. The surviving footings benefit considerably from their close proximity to the river, which would have been an integral part of its original setting and location, as well as the adjacent category B listed Queen Mary's Bridge (NA14). Similarly, its visual relationship with the urban environs of Milltown of Rothiemay is of key importance to its setting due to its shared social and ecclesiastical history. The monument is therefore sensitive to any visual changes which may interfere with its relationship with the village or the river, but is of low sensitivity to visual changes within the wider landscape.
- 6.17. Views and intervisibility between the church and the proposed turbine are not expected to be possible due to the presence of a topographical ridge approximately 700m to the south of the monument, upon which woodland adds to the screening effects provided at this point. This ridge will prevent any views between the proposal and the monument, while intervisibility is similarly not expected to be possible. The magnitude of any residual intervisibility from third points is therefore predicted to be negligible and overall indirect effects are anticipated to be **Negligible**.

¹⁶ <http://portal.historicenvironment.scot/designation/SM5475>, last accessed 13/11/23

Corskellie cup & ring-marked stone 90m SSE of (NA05)

- 6.18. The Corskellie cup and ring marked stone is a scheduled monument located approximately 1.2km to the northeast of the proposed turbine. It is recorded within its Historic Environment Scotland database entry as:

“The monument consists of a cup and ring marked stone, probably of Bronze Age date. A large group of cup marks occur on a wedge-shaped stone. This stone, 1.1m thick at the top and 0.15m at the bottom, and measuring 1.9m by 2.7m across, was discovered during construction work and subsequently placed at the edge of a farm steading.

On its upper surface there are at least 56 cup-marks, ranging from 5cm to 19cm in diameter. Many have a 'tail' between the cup and ring.”¹⁷

- 6.19. The monument is of significance due to its well-preserved and striking prehistoric markings. However, as the stone was moved from its original position and now sits within the curtilage of a modern working farm, it does not gain any particular benefit from its surroundings or wider setting. As a result, its sensitivity to visual impacts occurring from the proposal is considered to be low.
- 6.20. Views and intervisibility with the proposed turbine are expected to be unlikely due to the lower lying land at the farmstead and the intervening topography, specifically the ridgeline approximately 300m to the south of the monument. Any intervisibility possible will be restricted to the turbine blade tips and from third points in the landscape. The magnitude of such impacts is expected to be low and so indirect effects upon the monument are anticipated to be **Negligible**.

Listed Buildings

Listed Buildings within Milltown of Rothiemay (NA07, NA13 & NA17)

- 6.21. A number of listed buildings are present within the core of Milltown of Rothiemay, including one category A, three category B and two category C listed buildings. These structures are located approximately 1.8 – 2.1km to the north-northwest of the proposed turbine. Of these assets, one category A, one category B and one category C listed building are located within the calculated ZTV. They are recorded within their Historic Environment Scotland database entries as:

“Circa 1740. Long 2-storey kiln barn with long elevations N and S. Mixed pinned and harl pointed rubble, tooled granite dressings. Centre door flanked by vents; opposite door in rear wall (for winnowing); 4 loft windows N and S, kiln taking up one quarter of internal space at

¹⁷ <http://portal.historicenvironment.scot/designation/SM6197>, last accessed 13/11/23

*W of building with small vents below eaves, N, S and W. Piended roof with dormered loading door at E gable; some alterations at E end for conversion of ground floor as cottage in 19th century. Ridge stack for kiln and later ridge cottage stack; piended local slate roof deteriorating at SW.*¹⁸ (Kiln Barn, Rothiemay House, NA07)

*“1807. Internal re-modelling and re-fitting, A and W Reid, Elgin, 1872. Rectangular church, pinned dark whinstone front, heavily pointed rubble flanks, contrasting tooled pale grey Avochie granite dressings. Round-headed, keystone entrance in E gable (probably similar W entrance blocked by later vestry)”*¹⁹ (Rothiemay Parish Church and Burial Ground, NA13)

*“Mid 18th century. Square dovecot. Rubble, tooled ashlar dressings. Two doorways in outer bays of S elevation with round-headed blind recess between. Similar recesses in N, E and W elevations. Gabled corrugated-iron roof (replacing former roof damaged during storm)”*²⁰ (Dovecot, Rothiemay House, NA17)

- 6.22. These structures together with the other nearby listed buildings represent the 18th and 19th century development of Milltown of Rothiemay on the north bank of the River Deveron. The assets therefore benefit from their proximity to one another and their shared setting within the village. While a large amount of more modern development has occurred amongst the listed buildings, this has largely been in keeping with the character of the village and the overall shared setting of the assets is therefore considered to be of medium sensitivity to possible visual impacts from the proposal.
- 6.23. Views and intervisibility between the shared setting of the Milltown of Rothiemay listed buildings and the proposed turbine are not expected to be possible due to the presence of a topographical ridge approximately 600m to 1.2km to the south-southeast of the village, upon which woodland adds to the screening effects provided at this point. As the ridge is expected to prevent any views and intervisibility between the proposal and the listed buildings, no notable visual impacts will occur. The magnitude of any residual intervisibility from third points is therefore predicted to be negligible and overall indirect effects are anticipated to be **Negligible**.

West Outbuilding at Corse Croft, Kinnoir, Huntly (NA08)

- 6.24. The West Outbuilding at Corse Croft is a category A listed building located approximately 2.2km to the south-southeast of the proposed turbine. It is recorded within its Historic Environment Scotland database entry as:

¹⁸ <http://portal.historicenvironment.scot/designation/LB15618>, last accessed 13/11/23

¹⁹ <http://portal.historicenvironment.scot/designation/LB15616>, last accessed 13/11/23

²⁰ <http://portal.historicenvironment.scot/designation/LB15617>, last accessed 13/11/23

“The west outbuilding at Corse Croft is a long, rectangular-plan, single-storey building which is thought to date from before 1782. It has a pitched roof that retains some oat straw thatch beneath a corrugated covering and part of the southwest gable is built of turf blocks. It is now in use as a store and is part of a group of detached crofting buildings which together form a U-plan courtyard. The group is sited in a rural setting, approximately three miles to the northeast of Huntly in Aberdeenshire.

It makes a significant contribution to the historic setting of the former group of crofting buildings at Corse Croft and aids our understanding of how the group developed and functioned.”²¹

- 6.25. As the outbuilding has since been incorporated into the current working farm, it has retained its original character and benefits from its local agricultural setting, which is largely unchanged and has not been adversely affected by development. However, while it is therefore considered sensitive to visual impacts which may affect this setting, the wider landscape, including the Application Site, does not make any particular contribution to the value of this setting. It is therefore considered to be of low sensitivity to possible visual impacts from the proposal.
- 6.26. Views and intervisibility between the setting of the outbuilding and the proposed turbine are likely to be at least partially possible as a result of the relatively open surroundings in the local area, but due to more distant intervening topography and vegetation, such views and intervisibility are expected to be limited to the turbine blades. At this distance, partial views such as these would be of low magnitude and so overall indirect effects are anticipated to be **Negligible**.

Queen Mary’s Bridge, Rothiemay House (NA14)

- 6.27. Queen Mary’s Bridge is a category B listed building located approximately 1.8km to the north of the proposed turbine. It is recorded within its Historic Environment Scotland database entry as:

“Mid 18th century, probably on earlier site and possibly re-using older material. Single span hump-back bridge. Rubble, tooled granite dressings. Single tooled granite arch ring; rubble parapet with centre portion at crown of bridge missing; granite cope. Approximate span: 12’.

Bridge reputed to have been built for a visit of Mary Queen of Scots to Rothiemay Castle (now demolished and replaced by modern house) in 1562. However, construction and style of the

²¹ <http://portal.historicenvironment.scot/designation/LB43681>, last accessed 13/11/23

bridge indicate a mid-18th century date, probably during the ownership of Rothiemay by William Duff, Lord Braco, between 1741 and 1763 and possible on site of earlier bridge.”²²

- 6.28. The bridge is positioned approximately 50m to the south-southeast of the foundational remains of St Drostan’s Church (NA04) and on the north bank of the River Deveron. The bridge benefits considerably from its close proximity to the church footings and its siting within its group setting. As with the church remains, the monument similarly benefits from a visual relationship with the urban environs of Milltown of Rothiemay, although these shared views are of lower importance to the bridge itself. The monument is considered to be sensitive to any visual changes which may interfere with its relationship with the church footings or the adjacent river, but is of low sensitivity to visual changes within the wider landscape, including the Application Site.
- 6.29. As with the church remains, views and intervisibility between the bridge and the proposed turbine are not expected to be possible due to the presence of a topographical ridge approximately 700m to the south, upon which woodland adds to the screening effects provided at this point. This ridge will prevent any views between the proposal and the listed building, while intervisibility is similarly not expected to be possible. The magnitude of any residual intervisibility from third points is therefore predicted to be negligible and overall indirect effects are anticipated to be **Negligible**.

Burnfield (NA15)

- 6.30. Burnfield is a category C listed building located c. 1.5km to the northwest of the proposed turbine. It is recorded within its Historic Environment Scotland database entry as:

“Early 19th century. Large, 2-storey, 3-bay, L-plan, farmhouse with advanced pedimented gabled bay to centre with shouldered stack at apex. Coursed and pinned, roughly squared granite with granite ashlar dressings. Timber panelled door with rectangular fanlight above. Small attic windows to gable ends.

Burnfield Farmhouse is a good example of a large, early 19th century Aberdeenshire farmhouse which is prominently located on high ground overlooking the village of Rothiemay. Using local construction methods including pinned granite with a pedimented central bay, it remains largely unaltered externally. Aberdeenshire enjoys a particularly rich agricultural heritage and its early post-improvement farms such as Burnfield provide an important part of the architectural character of the area.

²² <http://portal.historicenvironment.scot/designation/LB15619>, last accessed 13/11/23

*Burnfield is named on General Roy's military map of 1751, with a small cluster of buildings shown. The L-plan form of the present farmhouse is depicted on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1856.*²³

- 6.31. The farmstead sits at the southern point of an open group of fields on the south side of the local road and River Deveron. These open fields are easily visible from the farmstead itself and comprise its primary setting. However, views are also possible further north over the river and Milltown of Rothiemay, which therefore also contribute to its setting. However, land and views to the southern directions of the farmstead do not contribute at all to its setting due to the envelopment of thick woodland/forestry on its west, south and east sides.
- 6.32. The contained views benefit the setting of the farmstead but also tightly localise it with the exception of the open views to the north. As the proposed turbine is located to the southeast of the Burnfield farmstead, the asset is not considered to be sensitive to potential views of the turbine. In addition, due to the dense woodland covering the west, south and east sides of its setting, no views or intervisibility with the proposed turbine are expected to be possible. Indirect effects upon Burnfield are therefore anticipated to be **Negligible**.

Non-Designated Heritage Assets

- 6.33. There is a total of 12 non-designated archaeological sites were identified within the 1km study zone, all of which lie within the calculated ZTV of the Proposed Development. These sites can be used to evaluate the potential for archaeological remains within the Application Site. However, many typically lack standing remains (for example cropmark sites, findspots, historical records or event records) or are not considered to be sensitive to possible visual impacts (for example quarries, field walls, drainage ditches or milestones). Indirect effects upon HER sites are considered in the table below.

Table 6-1: Indirect Effects upon Non-designated Heritage Assets

Asset	Description from Aberdeenshire HER	Sensitivity to Impact	Magnitude of Impact	Indirect Effect
Elry Knowe – findspot for bones, urns (NB01)	<i>Urn found 1.82m below ground surface within a natural mound while digging sand in 1830. It contained human bones.</i>	Negligible	N/A	Negligible
Red Hill – supposed flint-working site (NB02)	<i>Supposed site of flint-working site. No further information.</i>	Negligible	N/A	Negligible
Elry Knowe – Remains of a croft and enclosure (NB03)	<i>Remains of a croft that is depicted on the 1867 1st edition OS map. The map shows two rectangular buildings, one roofless one, a large L-shaped enclosure, and a D-shaped enclosure with a possible attached rectangular building. By the 1888 2nd</i>	Low	Medium	Minor Adverse

²³ <http://portal.historicenvironment.scot/designation/LB9053>, last accessed 13/11/23

	<i>edition map the roofless building has gone and one of the remaining two rectangular buildings has become roofless.</i>			
Elry Knowe – Former sheepfold (NB04)	<i>Site of a now destroyed sheepfold that is depicted on the 1867 1st edition OS map but not on the 1888 2nd edition one. The map shows a D-shaped enclosure with a possible structure on the inside wall on the east side.</i>	Negligible	N/A	Negligible
Elry Knowe – farmsteads (NB05)	<i>Farmsteads</i>	Negligible	Low	Negligible
Auchinbo – farmsteads (NB06)	<i>Farmsteads</i>	Low	Low	Negligible
Redhill – agricultural cropmark(s) (modern) (NB07)	<i>Linear crop mark visible on St Joseph air photograph DE 078. Nothing seen in cultivated fields (1964). Field under grass. Crop mark probably a plough line. Not considered an antiquity (1968).</i>	Negligible	N/A	Negligible
North Redhill – cairn (period unassigned) (NB08)	<i>A small cairn. The site is at present under crop, but the tenants state that there is nothing at the spot indicated (1964). No trace (1968).</i>	Negligible	N/A	Negligible
North Redhill – Laird’s Cairn (period unassigned) (NB09)	<i>A small cairn erected to mark the spot where William Gordon, Laird of Rothiemay, was killed by the Laird of Fren draught on 1st January, 1630 during a quarrel over the fishing rights on the River Deveron. No trace of the cairn and the tradition and name are not now known locally (1968).</i>	Negligible	N/A	Negligible
Normandyke – Fochabers Roman Road (Roman) (NB10)	<i>The alleged Roman road said to run from the River Dee to the Spey near Fochabers, is speculated to have followed a NW course. It possibly ran through Burnfield (NJ 5450 4764) and may crossed the River Deveron near Clashman Hillock Farm (NJ 5396 4793). The speculated course then may possibly pass Cairnhill (NJ 5340 4850), run through Tarryblake Wood and past Tarryblake House.</i>	Negligible	N/A	Negligible
North Redhill – stone circle (Neolithic –Bronze Age) (NB11)	<i>When J Romilly Allen paid a visit to North Redhill Farm to examine a Pictish symbol stone (NJ54NE 25), he was told by his informant, Mr Anton, 'that there had been a stone circle in the field near the road and that flint chips were found there still which were used by smokers as strike-a-lights (NJ54NE 18); and that an urn had been dug up on the farm (NJ54NE 54).' Unfortunately, James Ritchie conflated 'the Redhill circle' with the Brown Hill stone circle (NJ54NW 6), which once stood near the SE corner of the Wood of Kimmony, about 1.6km to the WNW. The precise location of the North Redhill stone circle is unknown, but it seems to have been situated in the field 'above the farmhouse', somewhere 'near the road' - in other words, in the field that once contained the cairn (NJ54NE 4) depicted on the 1st edition of the OS 6-inch map (Banffshire 1871, Sheetxxi) (2016)</i>	Negligible	N/A	Negligible

<p>North Redhill – urn (NB12)</p>	<p><i>When J Romilly Allen paid a visit to North Redhill Farm to examine a Pictish symbol stone (NJ54NE 25), he was told by his informant, Mr Anton, 'that an urn had been dug up on the farm'. The exact findspot is not recorded and the present whereabouts of the 'urn' is not known (2016)</i></p>	<p>Negligible</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>Negligible</p>
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Summary of Indirect Effects

- 6.34. There were five scheduled monuments identified within the 3km study zone, all of which lie within the calculated ZTV of the Proposed Development. Indirect effects upon the Arn Hill stone circle, Rothiemay Station (NA01) are anticipated to be **Minor Adverse**, while indirect effects upon the remaining four scheduled monuments (NA02 – 05) are anticipated to be **Negligible**.
- 6.35. There were three category A listed buildings identified within the 3km study zone, two of which lie within the calculated ZTV of the Proposed Development. Indirect effects upon these assets (NA07 & NA08) are anticipated to be **Negligible**.
- 6.36. There were six category B listed buildings identified within the 3km study zone, two of which lie within the calculated ZTV of the Proposed Development. Indirect effects upon the two assets are anticipated to be **Negligible**.
- 6.37. There were three category C listed buildings identified within the 3km study zone, two of which lie within the calculated ZTV of the Proposed Development. Indirect effects upon these assets (NA15 & NA17) are anticipated to be **Negligible**.
- 6.38. A total of 12 non-designated archaeological sites were identified within the 1km study zone, all of which lie within the calculated ZTV of the Proposed Development. Indirect effects upon the Elry Knowe croft and enclosure remains (NB03) are anticipated to be **Minor Adverse**, while indirect effects upon the remaining non-designated sites (NB01, NB02 & NB04 – 12) are anticipated to be **Negligible**.
- 6.39. There were no Conservation Areas, Historic Parks and Gardens, World Heritage Sites, or Historic Battlefields identified within the 3km study zone. As such, these resources are not considered to be at risk of indirect effects from the proposal.

Cumulative Indirect Effects

- 6.40. Cumulative visual impacts have been assessed within **Technical Appendix 1: Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment**. The assessment states:

“A search was conducted of relevant planning applications within the vicinity of the Application Site, using the Aberdeenshire Council planning portal online search. There were no permitted Proposed Developments within the study area which are of similar scale to that of the Proposed Development. Therefore, there are no landscape or visual cumulative effects within the study area of the Proposed Development.”

- 6.41. As the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment concluded that no notable cumulative landscape or visual effects will occur as a result of the Proposed Development, no cumulative visual impacts are expected to occur on any of the surrounding heritage assets previously identified.

7. MITIGATION MEASURES

Direct Effects upon Known Assets

- 7.1. There are no designated heritage assets located within or adjacent to the Application Site that could be physically impacted by the Proposed Development (see **Figure 5.1: Appendix 5A**). Similarly, no non-designated records lie within the boundary of the Application Site, but the former croft and enclosure at Elry Knowe (NB03) is located approximately 70m to the south of the turbine location (see **Figure 5.2: Appendix 5A**). However, the overall extent of the former croft and enclosure is contained within an area of woodland and vegetation that is sufficiently distanced and delineated from the proposed construction works that no direct effects will occur upon this feature.
- 7.2. In consideration of the above, no direct effects upon designated or non-designated archaeological and heritage assets are anticipated as a result of the proposed construction activity and **no mitigation measures are expected to be necessary in relation to known assets.**

Archaeological Potential

- 7.3. The Application Site lies within an area containing a moderate to low archaeological potential associated with the prehistoric and post-medieval periods. As such, while additional ground disturbance associated with the proposed turbine is expected to be relatively minor in footprint, some degree of archaeological mitigation is recommended.
- 7.4. In consideration of the above it is recommended that, if consented, **archaeological monitoring by a qualified archaeologist during the construction stage ('watching brief')** is implemented for any groundworks required for the turbine foundations, crane pad, compound areas, access track, cabling, and any other associated infrastructure. It is recommended that this monitoring should be implemented as part of an archaeological WSI, but any requests and requirements for archaeological work is at the discretion of the archaeological advisors at the Aberdeenshire Council Archaeology Service (ACAS).
- 7.5. With the implementation of an appropriate archaeological programme of works, measures will be in place for the identification and preservation *in-situ* and/or by record of any sub-surface remains present within the Application Site. Residual direct effects upon hitherto-unknown archaeology as a result of the Proposed Development are predicted to be **'Negligible' on the assumption that the above measures are implemented**, although this cannot be ascertained at this stage.

Indirect Effects

- 7.6. Indirect effects upon surrounding heritage assets have been assessed as Minor Adverse and Negligible. **No specific mitigation is therefore considered to be necessary for the reduction of**

any visual impacts. As such, residual indirect effects are considered to be unchanged at **Minor Adverse and Negligible.**

8. SUMMARY

- 8.1. Neo Environmental Ltd has been appointed by Constantine Wind Energy Ltd (CWE) to undertake a Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment for a proposed turbine repowering of an existing wind development on land north of Rivestone, Kinnoir, Huntly. The assessment has been produced to evaluate the potential direct and indirect impacts that the proposal may have upon cultural heritage assets and archaeological remains.
- 8.2. There are no designated heritage assets located within or adjacent to the Application Site that could be physically impacted by the Proposed Development. Similarly, no non-designated records lie within the boundary of the Application Site, but the former croft and enclosure at Elry Knowe (NB03) is located approximately 70m to the south of the turbine location. However, the overall extent of the former croft and enclosure is contained within an area of woodland and vegetation that is sufficiently distanced and delineated from the proposed construction works that no direct effects will occur upon this feature. As a result, **no direct effects upon designated or non-designated archaeological and heritage assets are anticipated as a result of the proposed construction activity and no mitigation measures are expected to be necessary in relation to known assets.**
- 8.3. The Application Site lies within an area containing a moderate to low archaeological potential associated with the prehistoric and post-medieval periods. As such, while additional ground disturbance associated with the proposed turbine is expected to be relatively minor in footprint, it is recommended that, if consented, **archaeological monitoring by a qualified archaeologist during the construction stage ('watching brief')** is implemented for any groundworks required for the turbine foundations, crane pad, compound areas, access track, cabling, and any other associated infrastructure. With the implementation of an appropriate archaeological programme of works, measures will be in place for the identification and preservation *in-situ* and/or by record of any sub-surface remains present within the Application Site.
- 8.4. Indirect effects upon surrounding heritage assets have been assessed as Minor Adverse and Negligible. **No specific mitigation is therefore considered to be necessary for the reduction of any visual impacts.**

9. LIST OF APPENDICES

Appendix 5A – Figures

- Figure 5.1 – Designated Heritage Assets
- Figure 5.2 – Non-designated Heritage Assets
- Figure 5.3 – Roy Military Survey Map 1747-52
- Figure 5.4 – OS 1874 Map
- Figure 5.5 – OS 1902 Map
- Figure 5.6 – Lidar Data (1m DTM)

Appendix 5B – Tables of Heritage Assets



Appendix 5A – Figures



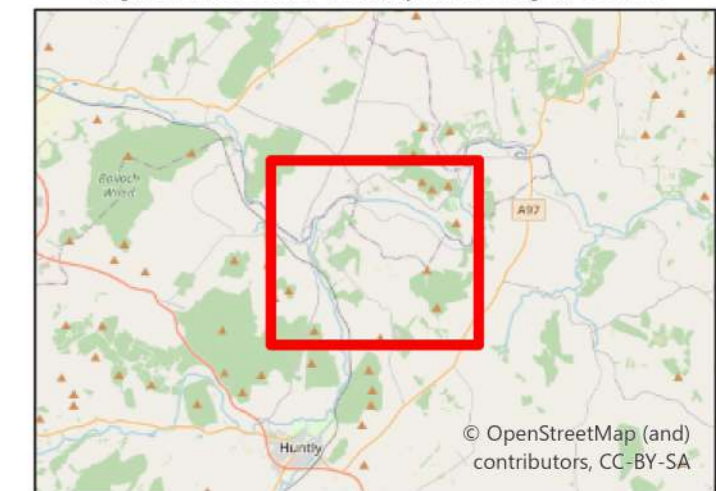
Rivestone Wind Turbine Designated Heritage Assets Figure 5.1



Key

- Turbine Location
- Development Boundary
- 3km Study Area
- Scheduled Monuments
- ▲ Category A Listed Building
- ▲ Category B Listed Building
- ▲ Category C Listed Building
- Zone of Theoretical Visibility

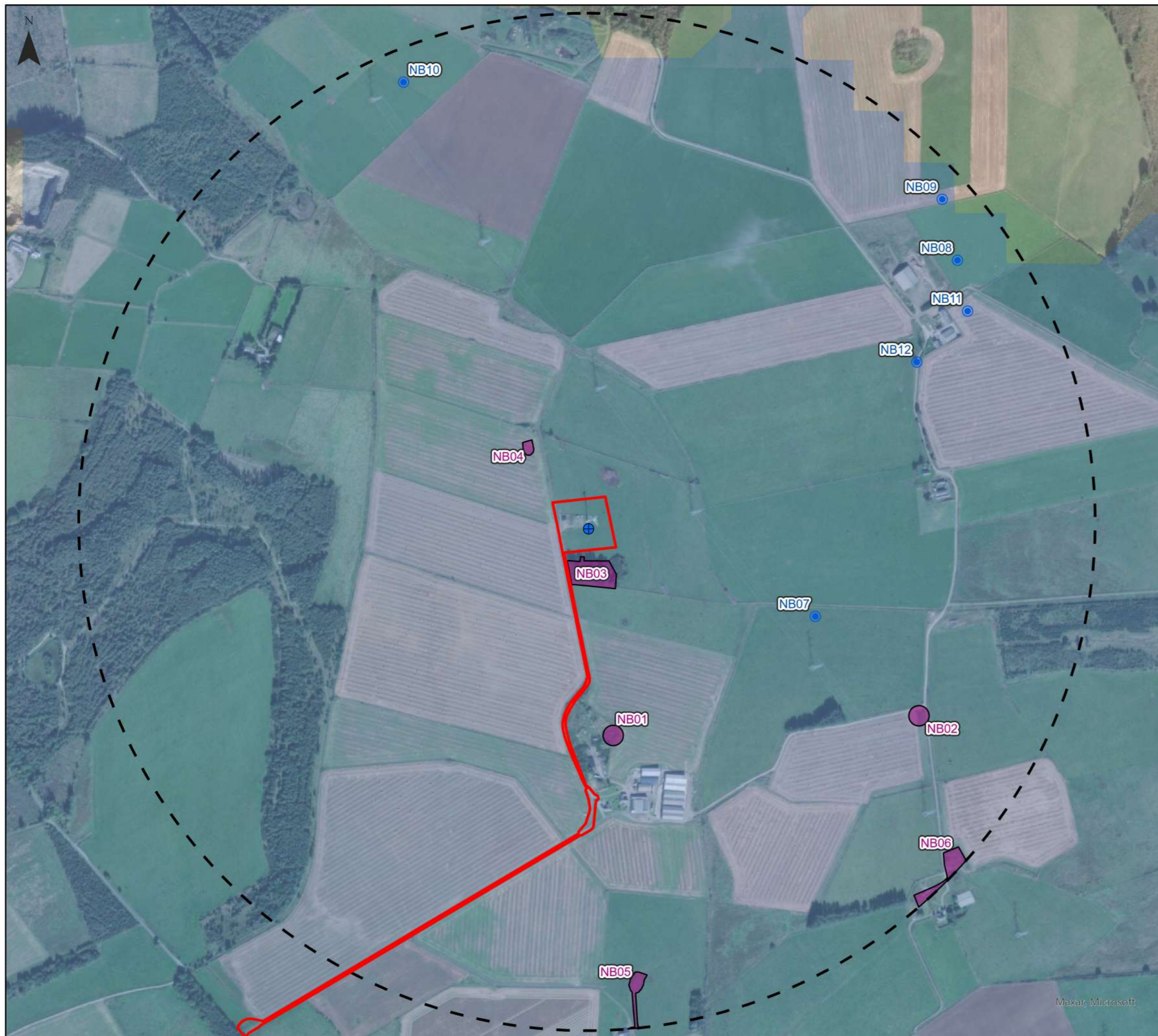
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Wright Business Centre, 1 Lonmay Road, Glasgow, G33 4EL



Date: 10/11/2023
 Drawn By: Michael Briggs
 Scale (A3): 1:22,500
 Drawing No: NEO01309/011/A



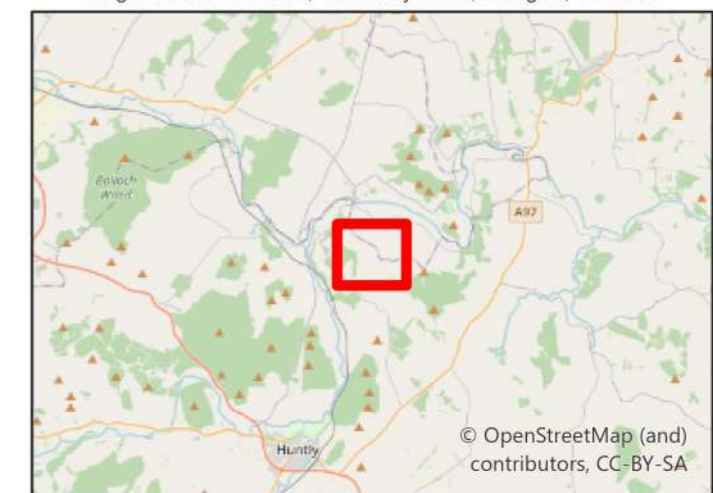
Rivestone Wind Turbine Non-designated Heritage Assets Figure 5.2



Key

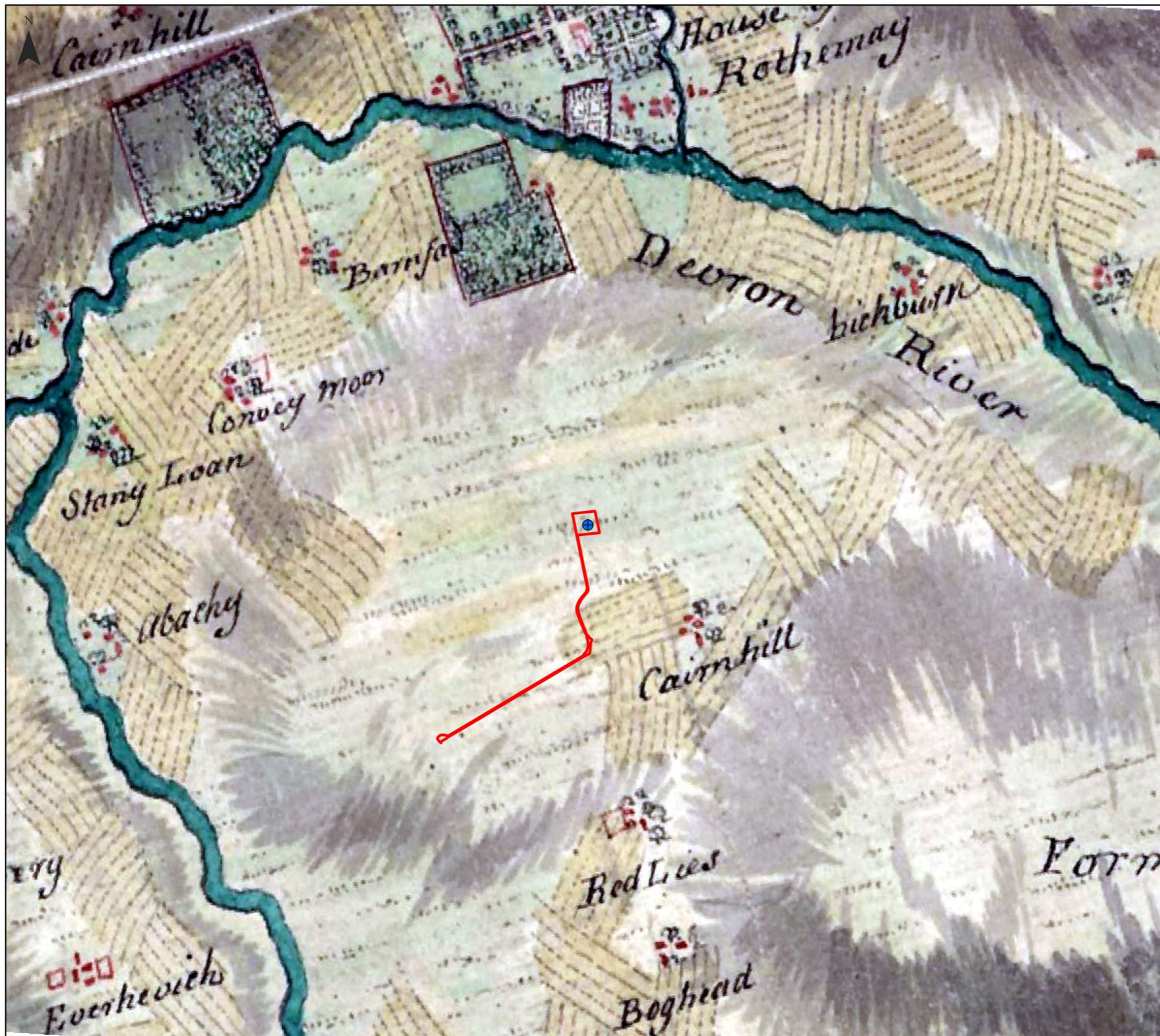
-  Turbine Location
-  Development Boundary
-  1km Study Area
-  Aberdeenshire Historic Environment Record
-  NRHE/Canmore Sites
-  Zone of Theoretical Visibility

Neo Office Address:
Wright Business Centre, 1 Lonmay Road, Glasgow, G33 4EL



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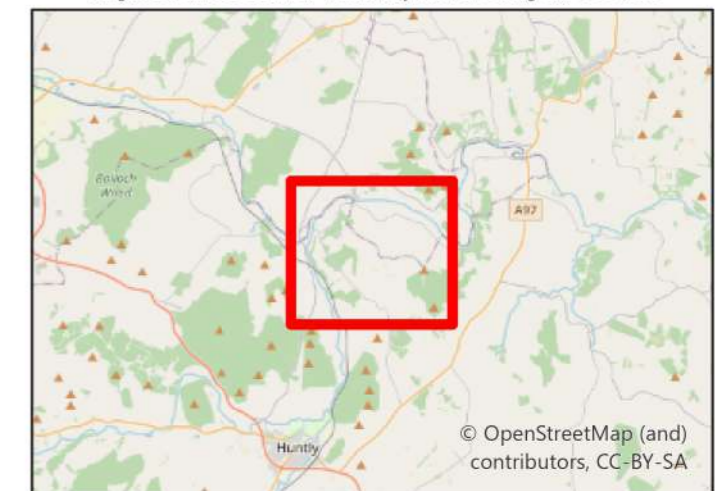


Rivestone Wind Turbine
 Roy Military Survey Map (1747-52)
 Figure 5.3

Key

- Turbine Location
- Development Boundary

Neo Office Address:
 Wright Business Centre, 1 Lonmay Road, Glasgow, G33 4EL





Date: 10/11/2023
 Drawn By: Michael Briggs
 Scale (A3): 1:17,500
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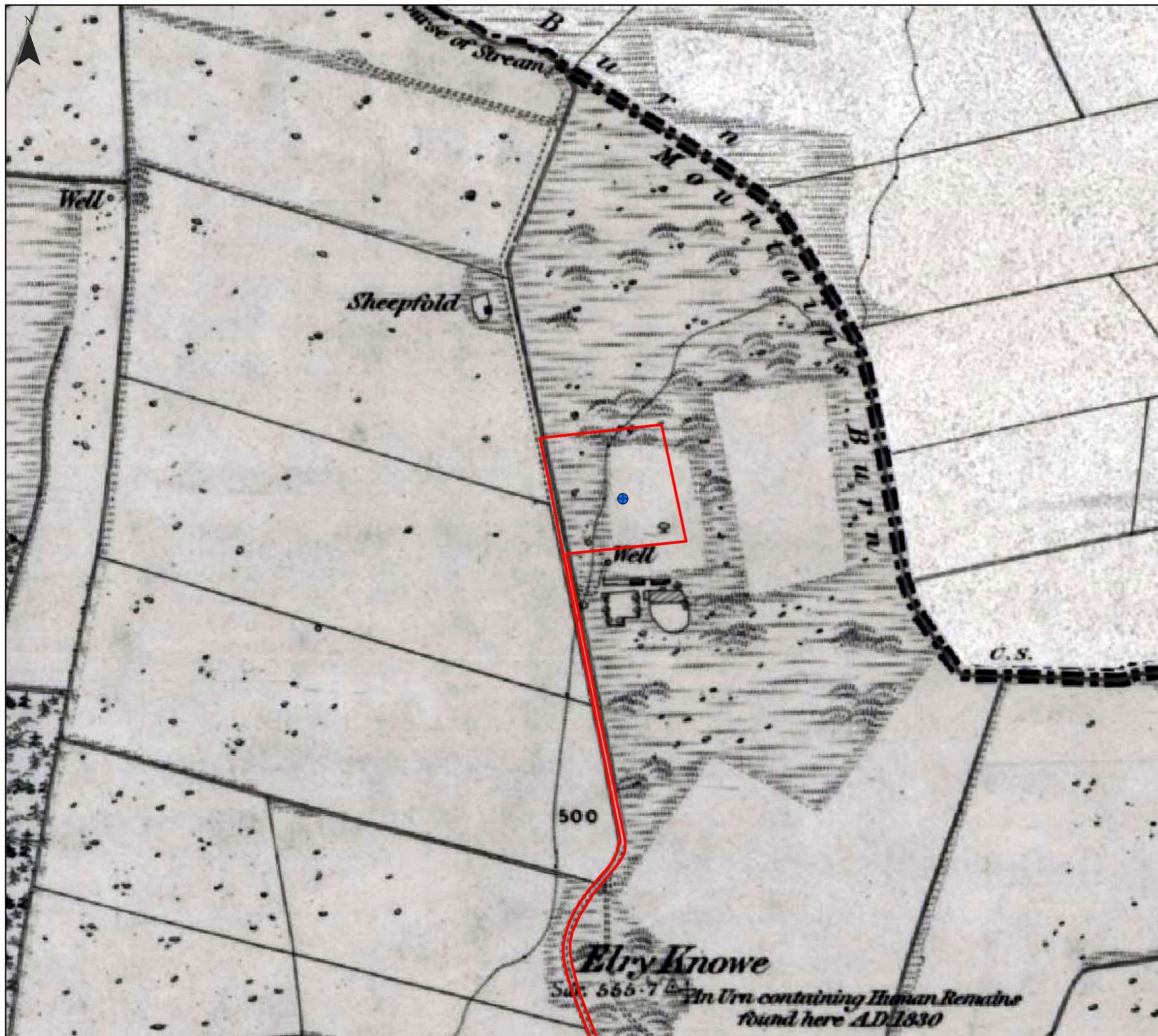


0 0.5 1 2 Kilometres

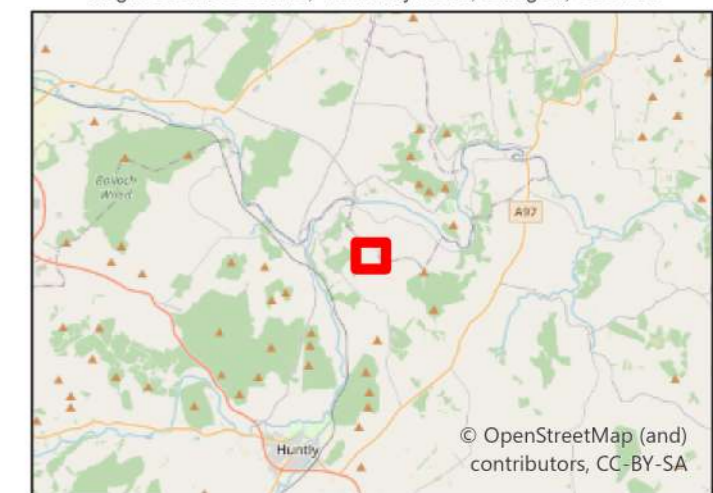
Rivestone Wind Turbine
 OS 1874 Map
 Figure 5.4

Key

-  Turbine Location
-  Development Boundary

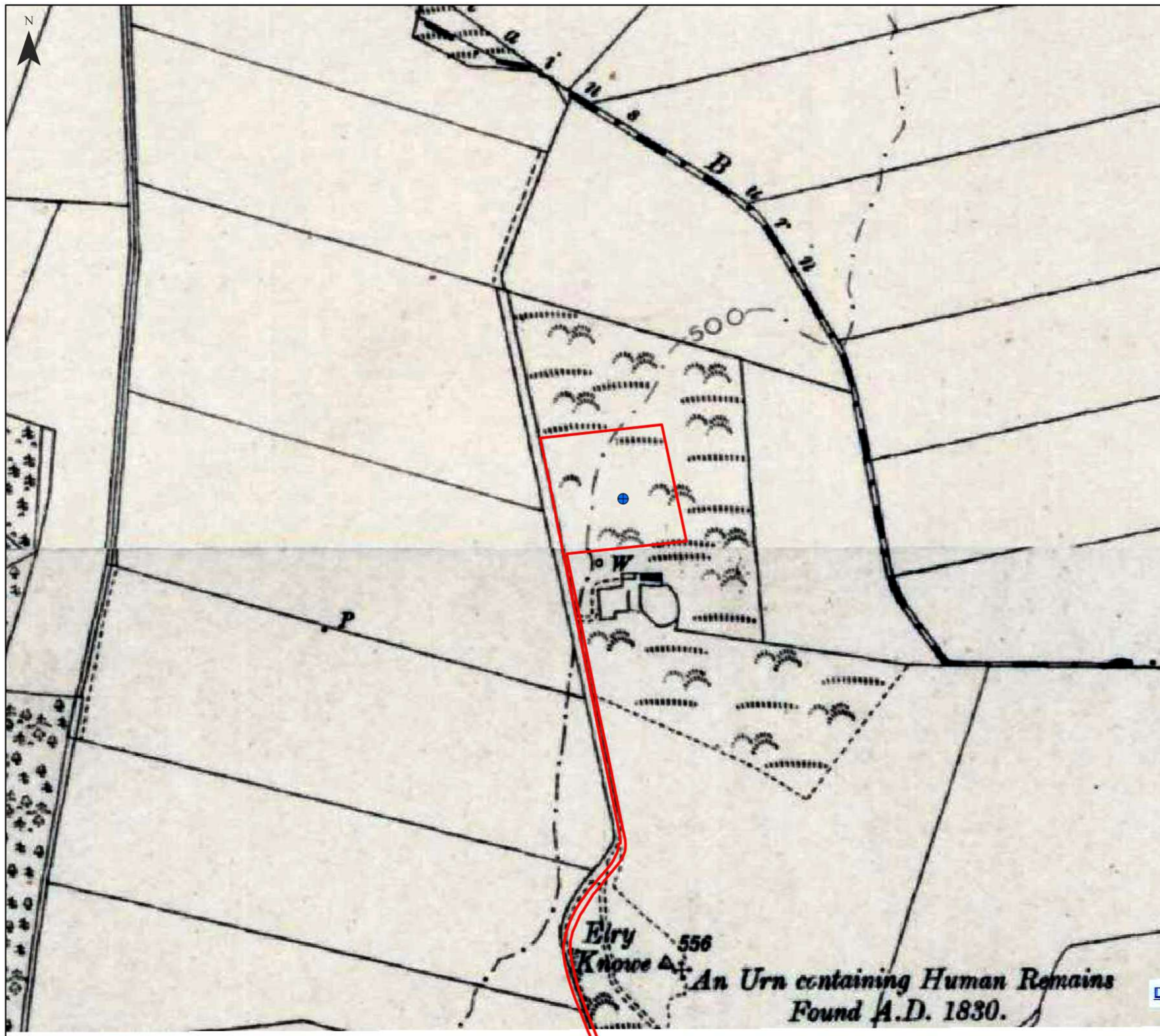


Neo Office Address:
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Date: 10/11/2023
 Drawn By: Michael Briggs
 Scale (A3): 1:3,250
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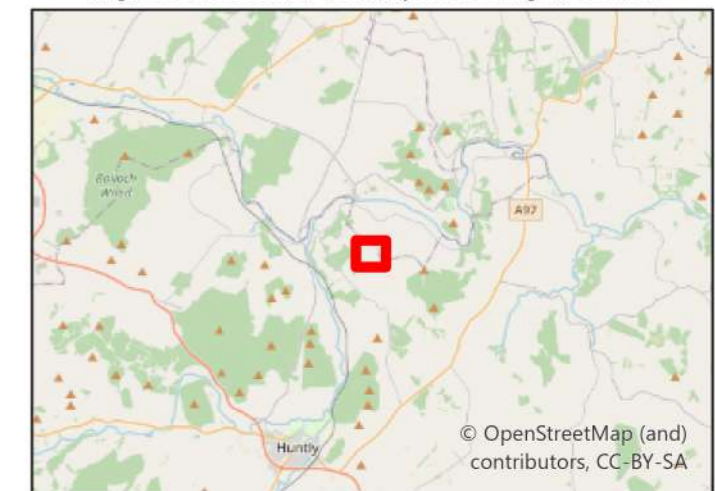


Rivestone Wind Turbine
 OS 1902 Map
 Figure 5.5

Key

- Turbine Location
- Development Boundary

Neo Office Address:
 Wright Business Centre, 1 Lonmay Road, Glasgow, G33 4EL



0 100 200 400 Metres

Date: 10/11/2023
 Drawn By: Michael Briggs
 Scale (A3): 1:3,250
 Drawing No: NEO01309/0151/A



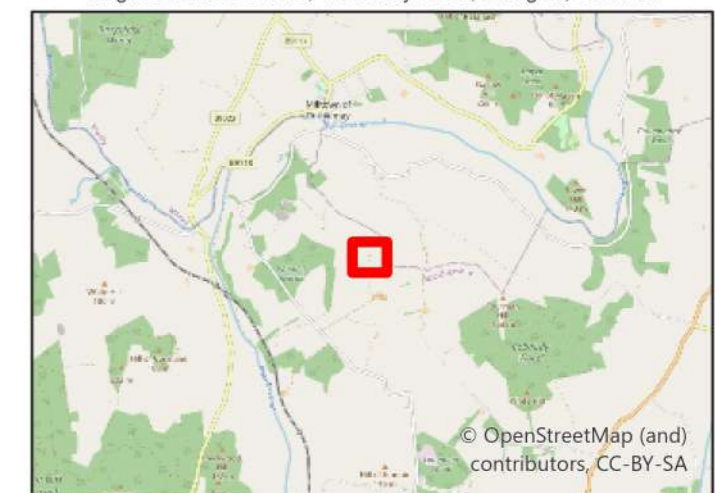


Rivestone Wind Turbine
Lidar Data (1m DTM)
Figure 5.6

Key

- Turbine Location
- Development Boundary

Neo Office Address:
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0 50 100 200 Metres

Date: 10/11/2023
Drawn By: Michael Briggs
Scale (A3): 1:1,500
Drawing No: NEO01309/0161/A





Appendix 5B – Tables of Heritage Assets



Table 1: Designated Heritage Assets within the 3km Study Area

Neo Ref.	Database No.	Name	Distance (km)	Potential Indirect Impact
Scheduled Monuments				
NA01	SM4	Arn Hill stone circle, Rothiemay Station	2.30	Minor Adverse
NA02	SM344	Rothiemay Castle, stone circle, 400m NNW of	2.35	Negligible
NA03	SM351	Whitestones House, three symbol stones SW of (Tillytarmont 2, 3 & 4)	2.45	Negligible
NA04	SM5475	Rothiemay St Drostan's Church	1.85	Negligible
NA05	SM6197	Corskellie cup & ring-marked stone 90m SSE of	1.20	Negligible
Inventory Gardens and Designed Landscapes				
<i>None</i>				
World Heritage Sites				
<i>None</i>				
Inventory Battlefields				
<i>None</i>				
Category A Listed Buildings				
NA06	LB15610	Mains Of Mayen	2.50	Not in ZTV
NA07	LB15618	Kiln Barn, Rothiemay House	2.05	Negligible
NA08	LB43681	West Outbuilding at Corse Croft, Kinnoir, Huntly	2.20	Negligible
Category B Listed Buildings				
NA09	LB3018	Deveron Railway Bridges, Rothiemay	1.95	Not in ZTV
NA10	LB9052	Avochie House	2.05	Not in ZTV
NA11	LB15613	Cast-Iron Bridge, Milltown of Rothiemay	1.80	Not in ZTV
NA12	LB15614	Forbes Arms Hotel, Milltown of Rothiemay	1.85	Not in ZTV
NA13	LB15616	Rothiemay Parish Church and Burial Ground	2.10	Negligible
NA14	LB15619	Queen Mary's Bridge, Rothiemay House	1.80	Negligible
Category C Listed Buildings				
NA15	LB9053	Burnfield	1.50	Negligible
NA16	LB15615	The Mill House, Milltown of Rothiemay	1.85	Not in ZTV
NA17	LB15617	Dovecot, Rothiemay House	1.90	Negligible
Conservation Areas				
<i>None</i>				

Table 2: Non-designated Heritage Assets within the 1km Study Area

Neo Ref.	Database No.	Name	Distance (m)	Potential Indirect Impact
Aberdeenshire Historic Environment Record				
NB01	NJ54NE0011	Elry Knowe – findspot for bones, urns	400	Negligible
NB02	NJ54NE0016	Red Hill – supposed flint-working site	740	Negligible
NB03	NJ54NE0040	Elry Knowe – Remains of a croft and enclosure	70	Minor Adverse
NB04	NJ54NE0041	Elry Knowe – Former sheepfold	170	Negligible
NB05	NJ54NE0087	Elry Knowe – farmsteads	890	Negligible
NB06	NJ54NE0088	Auchinbo – farmsteads	960	Negligible
National Record of the Historic Environment (NRHE/Canmore)				
NB07	17798	Redhill – agricultural cropmark(s) (modern)	490	Negligible
NB08	17818	North Redhill – cairn (period unassigned)	890	Negligible
NB09	17819	North Redhill – Laird’s Cairn (period unassigned)	940	Negligible
NB10	244070	Normandyke – Fochabers Roman Road (Roman) (alleged)	940	Negligible
NB11	351984	North Redhill – stone circle (Neolithic – Bronze Age)	850	Negligible
NB12	351985	North Redhill – urn	720	Negligible



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