Environmental Impact Assessment Report
Volume 3, Appendix 24.4: Onshore Archaeology and Cultural Heritage Scoping Exercise for Settings Assessment

MarramWind Offshore Wind Farm

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MarramWind

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1. Introduction

1.1 Purpose of this Appendix

1.1.1.1 This Appendix has been prepared based on design information for the onshore elements of the Project to inform the identification of those heritage assets which could potentially be subject to significant effects as a result of change to their settings. This document, together with **Appendix 24.1 Onshore Historic Environment Desk-based Assessment**, therefore, represents "*Stage 1: identify the historic assets*", as defined by Historic Environment Scotland (HES) guidance (Historic Environment Scotland, 2020).

1.1.1.2 The relevant legislation, policy and guidance for the historic environment is set out in Section 24.2 of **Volume 1, Chapter 24: Onshore Archaeology and Cultural Heritage** of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report.

1.1.2 Approach to the assessment

1.1.2.1 In line with relevant HES guidance (Historic Environment Scotland, 2020) for Stage 1, a scoping exercise has been undertaken to identify designated heritage assets which may be affected by the Project through change to setting. This exercise has been undertaken according to the following principles set out in Section 6.6: Onshore Archaeology and Cultural Heritage of the Scoping Report (MarramWind Limited, 2023):

- heritage assets within 500m of the Onshore Red Line Boundary which may be affected through change to setting caused by the construction of the Project (**Volume 2, Figure 24.1: Designated heritage assets** and **Volume 2, Figure 24.6: ZTV of landfall(s) and onshore export cable corridor – construction (including designated heritage assets)** and **Volume 2, Figure 24.7: ZTV of onshore substations – construction (including designated heritage assets)**; and
- further heritage assets within 2km of the onshore substation site which might be affected through change to setting caused by the operation of the Project (**Volume 2, Figure 24.8: ZTV of onshore substations - operational (including designated heritage assets**). Factors to be considered in the identification of heritage assets will include distance to the asset; topography; relationship to other assets; and duration of any effect. Effects are not confined to visual change but may include changes from noise, dust, vibration, and severance.

1.1.2.2 The outcomes of the exercise presented in **Section 1.2** also takes into consideration the results of the previous scoping exercise undertaken at the pre-application stage specifically in relation to the development of the onshore substation site options presented at Statutory Consultation 2. The outcome of this exercise was presented to Aberdeenshire Council (meeting, on 9 December 2024) and HES (letter, dated 17 February 2025), in order to seek agreement on those heritage assets to be taken forward for detailed assessment in the EIA Report. Both Aberdeenshire Council and HES were content with the with the outcome of the scoping exercise, with the exception of a request from HES that SM3999 Mount Pleasant, enclosure should be scoping into the detailed assessment.

1.1.2.3 The assessment was undertaken with reference to the Landscape Visual Impact Assessment Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) for the relevant Project elements. The ZTVs are shown with heritage assets overlaid in the following figures:

- **Volume 2, Figure 24.6**;
- **Volume 2, Figure 24.7**; and

- **Volume 2, Figure 24.8**.

1.1.2.4 For the vast majority of assets, there would be no perceptibility of the Project construction activities or operational onshore substations. Where there is a theoretical visibility from an asset (for instance, an asset lies within the ZTV), the intervening distance, buildings, topography and planting would mean that any perceptibility would be very limited, and this would limit the potential for an adverse effect. The Stage 1 scoping exercise was informed by site walkovers to establish an understanding of the local landscape character and setting of heritage assets.

1.2 Stage 1: identify the historic assets

1.2.1.1 **Table 1.1** presents the results of the Stage 1 scoping exercise, from which the following heritage assets are taken forward for assessment in the EIA:

- Castle hill, motte south-west of Hallmoss farm (SM3259);
- St Fergus's church, old parish church (SM5622);
- Ravenscraig Castle (SM2496);
- Kinloch farmhouse (LB18976);
- Lunderton house (LB19799); and
- Mount pleasant, enclosure (SM3999).

Table 1.1 Construction stage for the onshore elements of the Project

Designation type	Designation reference	Name	Category	Scoped in	Rationale
Scheduled Monument	SM3259	Castle hill, motte south-west of Hallmoss Farm.	n/a	Yes	Proximity to Onshore Red Line Boundary. Likely perception of temporary construction activity from the asset.
Scheduled Monument	SM5622	St Fergus's church, old parish church.	n/a	Yes	Proximity to Onshore Red Line Boundary. Likely perception of temporary construction activity from the asset.
Scheduled Monument	SM2496	Ravenscraig castle.	n/a	Yes	Proximity to Onshore Red Line Boundary. Likely perception of temporary construction activity from the asset.
Scheduled Monument	SM98	Inverugie castle.	n/a	No	Due to the distance from Onshore Red Line Boundary (420 metres (m)) and intervening topography, including belts of mature trees surrounding the asset,

Designation type	Designation reference	Name	Category	Scoped in	Rationale
					any perception of temporary construction activities would be insufficient to give rise to any adverse effects.
Listed building	LB16388	Balmoor bridge over River Ugie.	B	No	Intervening topography between asset and Onshore Red Line Boundary. Heritage value not derived from long views of the asset.
Listed building	LB16394	Berryhill house.	B	No	Distance from Onshore Red Line Boundary (450m). Long views from asset screened by surrounding belt of mature trees.
Listed building	LB16537	Inverugie bridge over River Ugie.	C	No	Intervening topography between asset and Onshore Red Line Boundary. Heritage value not derived from long views of the asset.
Listed building	LB18976	Kinloch farmhouse.	C	Yes	Proximity to Onshore Red Line Boundary. Likely perception of temporary construction activity from the asset.
Listed building	LB19799	Lunderton house.	C	Yes	Proximity to Onshore Red Line Boundary. Likely perception of temporary construction activity from the asset.
Listed building	LB16536	Old churchyard of St. Fergus, excluding Scheduled monument no 5622 'St Fergus's church, old parish church', St. Fergus links, Peterhead.	B	No	Asset derives heritage value through association with Church of St Fergus. Long views from the asset are not key to informing heritage value.

Table 1.2 Operational stage for the onshore substations

Designation type	Designation reference	Name	Category	Scoped in	Rationale
Listed building	LB16391	Cocklaw mains farmhouse.	C	No	Asset set within garden, adjacent to farmstead, enclosed by planting. Perceptibility of the Project would be very limited due to intervening distance, planting and buildings, and would be insufficient to give rise to any adverse effect.
Listed building	LB16394	Berryhill house.	B	No[1]	Proximity to onshore substation site (approximately 1.1 kilometres (km)). Long views in the direction of the onshore substation site are screened by a belt of mature trees which surround the asset.
Scheduled Monument	SM3999	Mount pleasant, enclosure.	n/a	Yes	Although located outside the 2km extended study area, this asset falls within the ZTV for the onshore substation site and has been scoped in following consultation with HES on 4 May 2025 (Stakeholder issue ID 905), see **Volume 1, Chapter 24: Onshore Archaeology and Cultural Heritage.**

[1] This asset was originally scoped in for onshore substation option B at Statutory Consultation 2 but has since been scoped out following update in design parameters for the onshore substations.

2. References

Historic Environment Scotland (HES), (2020). *Managing Change in the Historic Environment: Setting.* [online] Available at: https://www.historicenvironment.scot/archives-and-research/publications/publication/?publicationid=80b7c0a0-584b-4625-b1fd-a60b009c2549 [Assessed: 10 September 2025].

MarramWind Limited, (2023). *MarramWind Offshore Wind Farm Environmental Impact Assessment – Scoping Report*. [online] Available at: https://marramwind.co.uk/scoping-report [Assessed: 10 September 2025].

3. Abbreviations

Acronym	Definition
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
HES	Historic Environment Scotland
ZTV	Zone of Theoretical Visibility

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