

# Cultural Heritage and Archaeology

## Background

Pre-application advice for the proposed Development was requested from the Highland Council (THC) and a response provided in March 2019. Key aspects relating to cultural heritage and archaeology are summarised here.

THC Historic Environment Team (HET) identified that the Site (the area within the application boundary) contains some undesignated features of historic interest. These consist of the remains of historic land-use, such as farmsteads, sheepfolds and areas of shieling settlement. Many other sites, including prehistoric settlement are recorded across the wider area and there remains the potential for further features or remains of prehistoric or later date to be present. Overall, direct impacts to cultural heritage are not considered by HET to be a significant constraint in this case.

HET do note that several important historic features in the wider area may have their setting adversely impacted by a development in the location proposed.

HET request that the Cultural Heritage chapter of the EIA Report (EIAR) be undertaken by a professional and competent historic environment consultant. The chapter will follow Highland Council Standards for Archaeological Work, specifically Section 4, which deals with Environmental Statements, and Section 3 which deals with, amongst other topics, desk-based assessment and walkover surveys.

HET stipulate that the assessment includes a walkover survey of the development area (including any land required for any and all associated infrastructure such as access tracks, cable routes, substations, construction compounds and laydown areas). The assessment will consider the potential for direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts to cultural heritage as a result of the proposed Development. Where indirect impacts are predicted, these will be illustrated using photomontage and/or wireline visualisations.

Where impacts are unavoidable, HET expect detailed discussion of the methods proposed to mitigate impacts, including both physical (i.e. re-design) and where appropriate, compensatory/off-setting mitigation.

Historic Environment Scotland (HES) also contributed to the pre-application advice. HES's remit is to comment where proposals might impact upon the fabric and/or setting of designated historic features.

HES confirm that there are no scheduled monuments, category A listed buildings, Inventory gardens & designed landscapes (GDLs) or battlefields within the proposed Development application boundary. Significant direct physical impacts on assets within their remit are therefore unlikely.

HES do note several designated historic environment assets in the surrounding area potentially subject to significant adverse impacts on their setting. These include the scheduled monuments of Earl's Cairn (SM449) and Thomsonfield broch (SM558), the Category A Listed Castle of Mey (LB1797) and its estate and grounds, the Inventory Garden and Designed landscape, Castle of Mey (Barrogill Castle) (GDL96).

HES recommend the use of visualisations to illustrate potential effects upon these assets and recommend that cumulative effects upon these (and other designated heritage assets) be assessed.

## Consultant Experience and Expertise

Since 2000, Headland Archaeology (now part of the RSK Group) has developed substantial expertise in the design, management and completion of challenging archaeological projects, including Environmental Impact Assessments.

Headland is a Registered Organisation with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) and abides by its standards and codes of conduct. Headland has been independently assessed under the Achilles UVDB Verify audit and assessment service, which focuses on risk critical issues and provides demonstrable compliance to Safety, Health, Environment and Quality requirements.

The technical lead for Cultural Heritage is Tom Janes MA(Hons) MCIfA. Tom is a consultancy project manager at Headland Archaeology with over 16 years' experience working in cultural heritage consultancy.

Tom will be supported by a team of specialists with experience in the preparation of heritage related input to EIA for Section 36 applications within Scotland and the wider UK.

---

## Baseline

The Baseline used for this scoping section has been compiled using existing data on the historic environment available online from Historic Environment Scotland (HES) via the Canmore database and the Pastmap website, and designations data available as GIS datasets from the HES website.

## Study Area

Two study areas have been used for the identification of heritage assets that may be affected by the proposed Development: The Inner Study Area and the Outer Study Area.

The Inner Study Area (ISA) corresponds to the extent of the Site.

The Outer Study Area (OSA) extends to at least 20 km from the proposed turbines, which is taken as the maximum extent of potentially significant effects on the settings of heritage assets. Heritage assets beyond 20km will be included in the assessment if they are determined (in the opinion of the assessor and/or consultees) to be of particular sensitivity. Within the OSA, assets will be included in the assessment based on the level of importance assigned to the asset (defined in the EIAR Methodology), to ensure that all significant effects are recognised:

- Up to 2 km from proposed turbines: Category C Listed Buildings, and any undesignated asset of local importance that has a wider landscape setting that contributes substantially to its cultural significance.
- Up to 5 km from proposed turbines: all assets of national or regional importance, including Scheduled Monuments, Category A and B Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas, Inventory Gardens and Designed Landscapes, Inventory Historic Battlefields and undesignated assets of more than local importance.
- At least 20 km from proposed turbines: any asset that is considered exceptionally important, and where long-distance views from or towards the asset are thought to be particularly sensitive, in the opinion of the assessor or consultees. Beyond 5 km, the baseline will be screened (and agreed with consultees) to identify any assets of particular sensitivity or importance.

### The Inner Study Area

There are no designated heritage assets recorded within the ISA (Figure 4.1). A study of the Pastmap website and the Canmore database has identified at least four undesignated heritage assets recorded within the ISA. These comprise two farmsteads, a fish house and some shieling huts. None of the Canmore entries have been securely dated. The THC Historic Environment Record (HER) as depicted on Pastmap also records some entries within the ISA, but the Pastmap data does not represent the current version of the HER.

### The Outer Study Area

There are several designated heritage assets within 5 km of the application boundary (Figure 4.2). These include seven Scheduled Monuments and nine Listed Buildings. The Scheduled Monuments comprise two prehistoric cairns, an Iron Age broch, a prehistoric fort with a later chapel within it, a church, a deserted township and a modern coastal battery. The Listed Buildings comprise two Category A, six Category B and one Category C Listed Buildings.

Between 5 km and 20 km of the Site, there are 95 Scheduled Monuments; 13 Category A Listed Buildings; two Conservation Areas, and four Inventory Garden and Designed Landscapes (IGDL).

There are no Inventory Historic Battlefields or World Heritage Sites in the OSA.

The Scheduled Monuments between 5 km and 20 km from the Site comprise; 45 prehistoric brochs, forts, enclosures and/or settlements; 28 prehistoric ritual or funerary monuments; eight medieval and post-medieval ecclesiastical and ritual sites; eight medieval and post-medieval secular and industrial structures and settlements, and six sites relating to military activity. One of the Scheduled Monuments is also a Property in Care of Scottish Ministers.

The Listed Buildings comprise a mixture of country houses and estate buildings, churches, industrial and maritime buildings, and military structures. Five of the Category A Listed Buildings are within 10 km of the proposed Development.

The Conservation Areas are west and south of the Site and comprise the towns of Thurso and Wick respectively.

The IGDLs comprise the estates and grounds of the Castle of Mey and Melsetter House. Of these, only the Castle of Mey (GDL96, including one Category A and one Category B Listed Building) is within 10 km of the proposed Development, approximately 1.7 km north of the Site.

---

### Potentially Significant Effects

Effects on the historic environment can arise through direct physical impacts, impacts on setting or indirect impacts:

- Direct physical impacts describe those development activities that directly cause damage to the fabric of a heritage asset. Typically, these activities are related to construction works and would only occur within the application boundary.
- An impact on the setting of a heritage asset occurs when the presence of a development changes the surroundings of a heritage asset in such a way that it affects (positively or negatively) the cultural significance of that asset. Visual impacts are most commonly encountered but other environmental factors, such as noise, light or air quality can be relevant in some cases. Impacts may be encountered at all stages in the life cycle of a development from construction to decommissioning but they are only likely to lead to significant effects during the prolonged operational life of the development.
- Indirect impacts describe secondary processes, triggered by the development, that lead to the degradation or preservation of heritage assets. For example, changes to hydrology may affect archaeological preservation; or changes to the setting of a building may affect the viability of its current use and lead to dereliction.

### Inner Study Area

There are no designated heritage assets within the ISA, and the known undesignated assets that exist are not considered to be of greater than Low importance. Although some or all of the undesignated heritage assets could be subject to direct impacts such impacts could be mitigated through design, micro-siting or other measures, and no significant direct, indirect or cumulative effects are anticipated within the ISA.

### Outer Study Area

No direct impacts are predicted within the OSA.

Within 5km of the turbines, two scheduled monuments (SM449, Earl's Cairn and SM588, Thomsonfield Broch) and the Castle of Mey IGD (GDL96) are considered to be at risk of potentially significant operational effects.

Although there are several other designated heritage assets within 5km of the turbines, they do not, at present, appear to be particularly sensitive to any change in views towards the Site and no significant operational effects are anticipated.

### Proposed Assessment Methodology and Approach

This Cultural Heritage and Archaeology Information Sheet is intended to identify potential effects of the proposed Development upon the physical fabric and settings of heritage assets within the Site, and potential effects on the settings of assets within the wider landscape.

The 'cultural heritage' of an area comprises archaeological sites, historic buildings, gardens and designed landscapes, historic battlefields and other sites, features or places in the landscape that have the capacity to provide information about past human activity, or that have cultural relevance due to associations with folklore or historic events. Sites of cultural heritage interest may also derive some, or all, of that interest from their 'setting' within the wider landscape.

Historic landscape is not treated as a heritage asset for the purposes of this assessment except where a defined area of landscape has been designated for its heritage interest (including Conservation Areas and areas included in the Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes). It is recognised that all landscapes have an historic dimension, and this will be considered as part of the assessment of Landscape Character (covered in 05 Landscape and Visual Impact (LVIA), EIA Topic Information Sheet).

It is important to note that, although any effects on the significance of heritage assets due to change in their setting are likely to be visual in nature, the assessment of these visual effects is distinct from the assessment of visual change in the LVIA. The assessment of effects on setting may be informed by visualisations prepared as part of the LVIA but the conclusions reached regarding visual change in the setting of a heritage asset are distinct.

The Cultural Heritage and Archaeology section of the EIAR will characterise the historic environment within the Site and in the wider study area. It will use the results of consultation, desk-based research, walkover surveys and setting visits to define a study area and to assemble a baseline of heritage assets within it, and then to assess the potential effects of the proposed Development on that baseline. Where potential effects are identified, mitigation measures will be suggested.

---

The baseline of the assessment will be informed by reference to designations data maintained by HES and to the THC HER. A digital extract will be obtained from the HER to ensure that the most up-to-date version of the data is used, and a walkover survey will be undertaken to confirm the presence of known features within the ISA once the layout has progressed and likely infrastructure locations have been identified.

Cultural heritage constraint areas will, where necessary, be defined to include an appropriate buffer around known heritage assets. Constraint areas can be treated as a 'trigger' for the identification of potential direct impacts: they represent areas within which works may lead to direct impacts of more than negligible significance on known heritage assets.

Potential impacts on unknown heritage assets will be discussed in terms of the risk that a significant effect could occur. The level of risk depends on the level of archaeological potential combined with the nature and scale of disturbance associated with construction activities and may vary between high and negligible for different elements or activities associated with a development, or for the development as a whole.

Potential impacts on the settings of heritage assets will be identified from an initial desk-based appraisal of data from HES and the HER and consideration of current maps and aerial images available on the internet. Where this initial appraisal identifies the potential for a significant effect, the asset will be visited to define baseline conditions and identify key viewpoints. Visualisations will be prepared to illustrate changes to key views, where potentially significant effects are identified.

Where potentially significant effects are identified, mitigation measures will be proposed. The preferred mitigation option is always to avoid or reduce impacts through design, or through precautionary measures, such as fencing off heritage assets during construction works. Impacts that cannot be eliminated in these ways would lead to residual effects.

Adverse effects may be mitigated by an appropriate level of survey, excavation, recording, analysis and publication of the results, in accordance with a written scheme of investigation (SPP paragraph 150 and PAN2/2011, sections 25-27). Archaeological investigation can have a beneficial effect of increasing knowledge and understanding of an asset, thereby enhancing its archaeological and historical interest and offsetting adverse effects.

### Issues to be Scoped in or Out

It is proposed to scope out:

Direct effects - There are no designated heritage assets within the ISA, and the known undesignated assets that exist are not considered to be of greater than Low importance.

Setting effects associated specifically with the construction phase as this will be relatively short-lived and transitory.

Indirect effects – Assets located outside of the zone of theoretical visibility (ZTV) that also have no viewpoint significant to understanding or interpretation of the asset that includes both the asset and the proposed Development.

Operational effects on Category C Listed buildings outside the Site as these are highly unlikely to be significant.

Operational effects on several other designated heritage assets within 5km of the turbines. These assets do not, at present, appear to be particularly sensitive to any change in views towards the Site and no significant operational effects are therefore anticipated.

### Consultees

The consultees below will be approached for information to inform the EIA. These consultees may also be contacted by the Scottish Government regarding the scope of the EIA:

- THC Historic Environment Team;
- Historic Environment Scotland; and
- local archaeological interest groups (as appropriate).

### Consultee Questions

- Are Consultees content with the proposed extent of the Study Areas?
  - Are there any other relevant consultees who should be contacted with respect to the Cultural Heritage and Archaeology assessment?
-

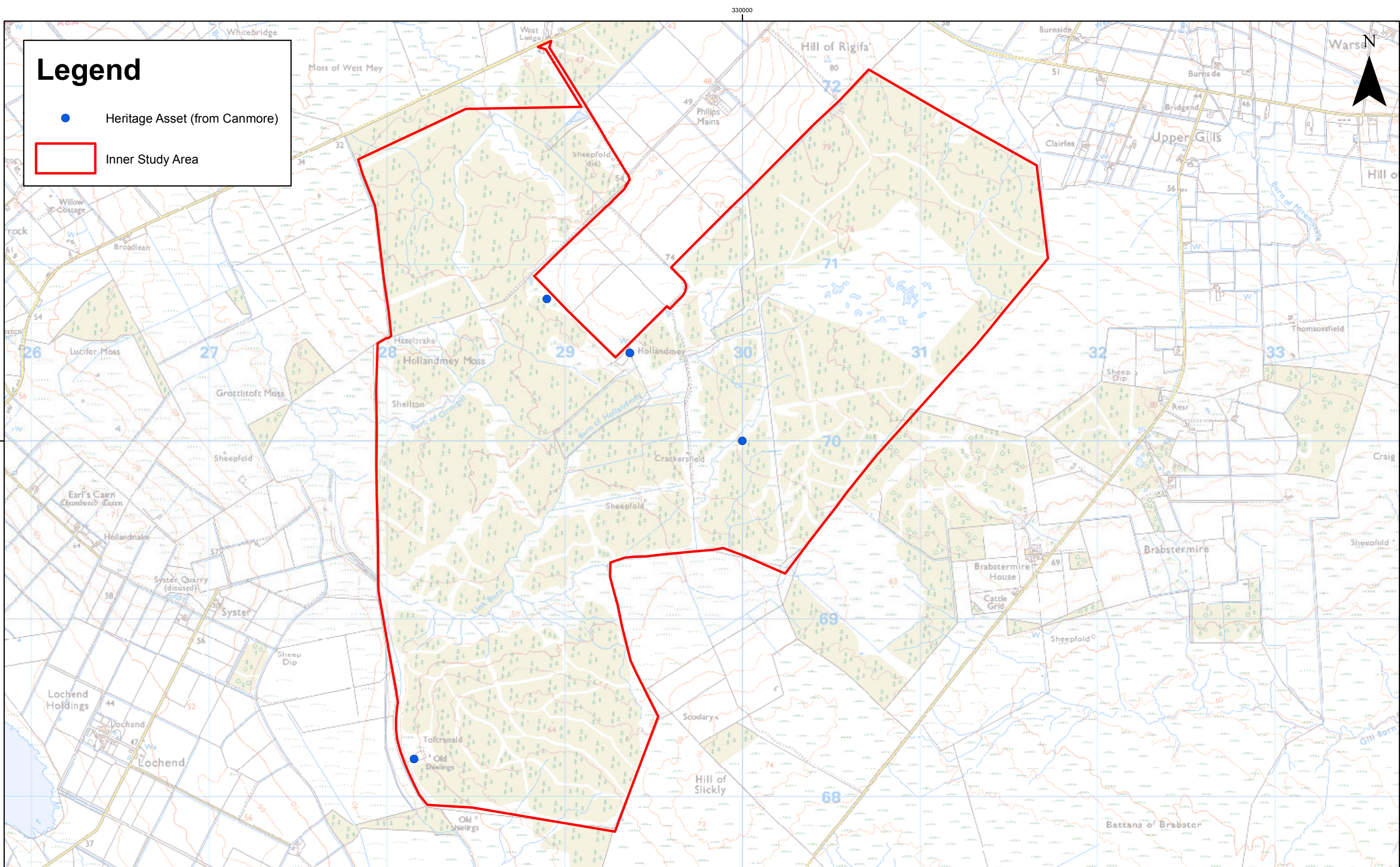
- Do consultees have any particular viewpoints or visualisations that they would like to see included in the assessment?

### Relevant Policy and Guidance

The assessment will be carried out with reference to the following legislation, policy and guidance:

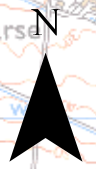
- The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979
  - The Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Scotland) Act 1997
  - The Historic Environment Scotland Act 2014
  - Statutory Instrument No 101 The Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017
  - Planning Advice Note (PAN) 2/2011: Planning and Archaeology;
  - Highland-wide Local Development Plan (THC, 2012);
  - Standards for Archaeological Work (THC, 2012);
  - Scottish Planning Policy (SPP) 2014;
  - Standard and Guidance for Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2014);
  - Standard and guidance for commissioning work or providing consultancy advice on archaeology and the historic environment (CIfA 2014);
  - Our Place in Time: The Historic Environment Strategy for Scotland (2015);
  - Managing Change in the Historic Environment: Setting (Historic Environment Scotland (HES) 2016);
  - Onshore Wind Energy Supplementary Guidance (THC, 2016) and Part 2b (THC, 2017);
  - Environmental Impact Assessment Handbook: Guidance for competent authorities, consultation bodies, and others involved in the Environmental Impact Assessment Process in Scotland (SNH and HES, 2018);
  - Caithness and Sutherland Local Development Plan (THC, 2018);
  - Historic Environment Policy Scotland (HES, 2019);
  - Historic Environment Scotland Circular (HES, 2019); and
  - Designation Policy and Selection Guidance (HES 2019)
-





### Legend

- Heritage Asset (from Canmore)
- Inner Study Area



Rev	Date	By	Comment
D	14/07/20	TJ	Revised RLB
C	10/07/20	TJ	Revised RLB & base mapping
B	29/06/20	TJ	Revised red line boundary

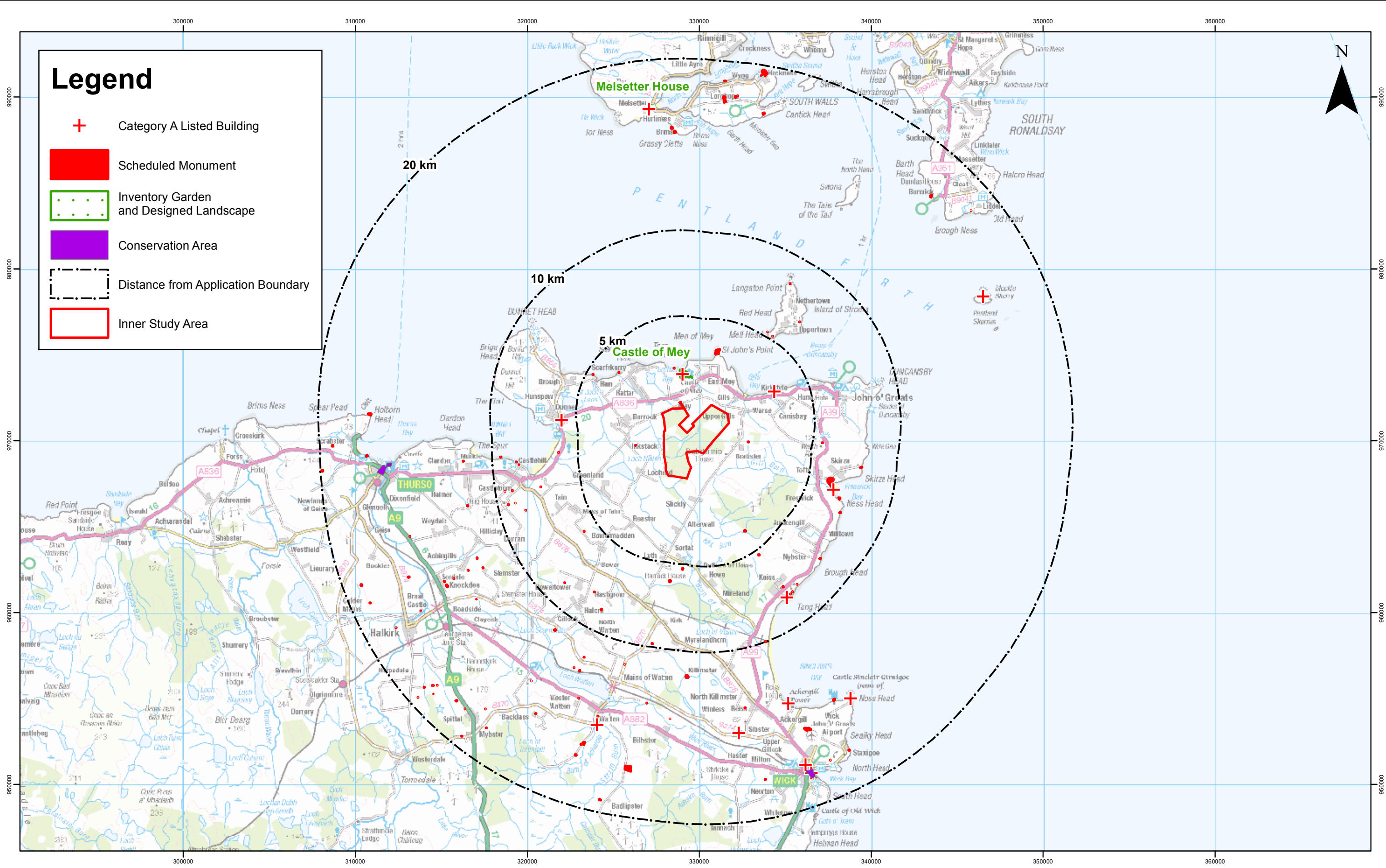
1:20,000  
Scale @ A3

© Crown Copyright 2020. All rights reserved.  
Ordnance Survey Licence 0100031673.

## Hollandmey Renewable Energy Development Heritage Assets in the Inner Study Area

Drg No	D	Datum: OSGB36
Rev	D	Projection: TM
Date	14/07/20	
Figure	4.1	





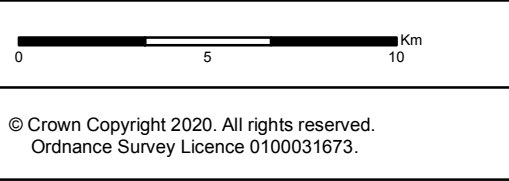
### Legend

- + Category A Listed Building
- Scheduled Monument
- Inventory Garden and Designed Landscape
- Conservation Area
- Distance from Application Boundary
- Inner Study Area



D	14/07/20	TJ	Revised RLB & base mapping
C	14/07/20	TJ	Revised RLB & base mapping
B	29/06/20	TJ	Revised red line boundary
Rev	Date	By	Comment

1:200,000  
Scale @ A3



**Hollandmey**  
**Renewable Energy Development**  
Heritage Assets in the Outer Study Area

<b>Drg No</b>		
<b>Rev</b>	D	Datum: OSGB36
<b>Date</b>	14/07/20	Projection: TM
<b>Figure</b>	4.2	