



Westfield Substation Extension

Archaeology and Heritage Assessment

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On behalf of:
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Executive Summary

- S1 This report has been prepared by The Environmental Dimension Partnership Ltd (EDP), on behalf of SP Transmission, and presents the results of an Archaeology and Heritage Assessment of the Westfield Substation Extension (hereafter referred to as 'the site').
- S2 The report includes an assessment of the associated diversion to the existing Kelty-Cowdenbeath No.1 and No.2 33kv circuits as enabling works for the Westfield Substation extension, to be submitted under a separate planning application. Due to the nature of the cable route diversion proposals, the potential for harm to the historic environment is limited to that of buried archaeological remains. Hence, only potential direct physical impacts to buried archaeological remains merited assessment.
- S3 This assessment has been prepared as per the requirements of the *Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997*, as amended, *National Planning Framework 4* (NPF4) and local planning policy. Policy 7 a) of NPF4 states that:
- "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."*
- S4 The site does not contain any designated historic assets such as world heritage sites, scheduled monuments, listed buildings, conservation areas, gardens and designed landscapes, historic battlefields or historic marine protected areas. Therefore, there would not be any direct physical impacts upon a designated asset through the implementation of the proposed development.
- S5 In line with Historic Environment Scotland's (HES) *Managing Change in the Historic Environment: Setting* (HES, 2020), the assessment concludes that the implementation of the proposed development would not result in any harm to the cultural significance of any designated historic assets located in the surrounding area through an adverse change to their setting. The same applies to non-designated historic assets located in the surrounding area.
- S6 With regards to buried archaeological remains, the site has a low potential for Prehistoric remains and Roman remains, but a moderate potential for Medieval and Post-Medieval remains. The site has no potential for any Modern remains of any cultural significance. Potential archaeological remains are limited to buried Medieval to Post-Medieval agricultural features (i.e. former field boundaries and/or furrows) of negligible cultural significance.
- S7 With regards to the alignment of the cable route diversion, the potential for archaeological remains is limited to features or deposits associated with agricultural practices (e.g. boundary ditches and/or furrows) as per that for the site boundary. Such Medieval To Post-Medieval agricultural remains would be of negligible cultural significance.

- S8 No archaeological remains, whether known or unknown, are anticipated to be of such cultural significance that they would merit preservation *in situ*. Instead, potential archaeological remains both within the site and along the alignment of the cable route diversion are currently considered to constitute no more than a negligible level of cultural significance.
- S9 The proposed development would result in the total loss or heavy disturbance of remains within the footprint of the built form of the substation extension (i.e. the substation platform, access and internal roads, Sustainable Drainage System (SuDS) ponds, perimeter access track, ditch diversion, temporary construction compounds and landscaping earthworks associated with the two proposed landscape bunds).
- S10 With regards to groundworks associated with the cable route diversion enabling works, it is anticipated that any known and/or previously unrecorded archaeological remains located within the footprint of the cable route's corridor, would likely be subject to total (physical) loss or heavy disturbance from the excavation of the cable route's trench and jointing pits.
- S11 Given the negligible level of cultural significance for remains anticipated to be present in the site boundary and along the alignment of the cable route diversion, the report concludes that no archaeological investigation and/or mitigation works are considered to be merited or required for the site and proposed development and/or for the alignment of the cable route diversion.

Section 1 Introduction

- 1.1 This report has been prepared by The Environmental Dimension Partnership Ltd (EDP), on behalf of SP Transmission (hereafter referred to as 'the client'), and presents the results of an Archaeology and Heritage Assessment of the Westfield Substation Extension (hereafter referred to as 'the site') to inform a Planning Permission in Principle (PPiP) application to construct and operate an extension to the existing Westfield Substation.
- 1.2 The first aim of this Assessment is to consider the available historical and archaeological resources for the site, and to establish its likely potential in accordance with the *Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997*, as amended, *National Planning Framework 4* (NPF4) and local planning policy.
- 1.3 The second aim of this Assessment is to identify and assess the potential for development within the site to cause change to historic assets, either directly or through changes within their setting, and to determine whether, and to what extent, those changes might affect their cultural significance.
- 1.4 In accordance with best practice guidance, desktop sources have been augmented through a site walkover, undertaken in July 2024. Images included in the assessment, undertaken during the site walkover, are provided in **Appendix EDP 1**.

SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

- 1.5 The site is located across agricultural land and the western half of the existing c.1971 constructed 275kv Westfield Substation, to the east of the villages of Ballingry and Lochore, Fife, Scotland. The site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 319335 697628 and is approximately 16.7 hectares (ha) in extent. The site's location is shown on **Plan EDP 1**.
- 1.6 The site predominantly comprises agricultural land, consisting of arable fields across its western part and a small parcel of rough pasture adjacent to the existing electrical transmission infrastructure of Westfield Substation across its central part. The fields are divided by field boundary hedgerows with trees. The western half of the existing Westfield Substation is present across the site's eastern part, which includes the unnamed north-south orientated road through it. The unnamed road is situated at the east end of the site.
- 1.7 The site is bound by: the B9097 and roadside vegetation to the north; the remainder of the existing electricity substation and a small copse of trees to the east; agricultural land and an existing drainage ditch to the south; and a disused railway line to the west.
- 1.8 Within the surrounding area to the site boundary, further electrical transmission and storage infrastructure is present in the form of the Westfield Biomass Plant and Westfield Energy Recovery Facility (Fife Environmental Energy Park Westfield) to the north of the B9097, as well the modern built form of the villages of Ballingry and Lochore located c.650m to the west.

TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

- 1.9 The site features an overall gradual west-east downwards slope, from c.96m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) at its western end to c.84m aOD at its eastern end.
- 1.10 According to the British Geological Survey (BGS), the site's underlying geology mostly comprises the Upper Limestone Formation (sedimentary rock cycles, Clackmannan group type), formed between 329 and 324 million years ago during the Carboniferous period (BGS, 2026).

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

- 1.11 PPiP is sought for the proposed development, which in summary is described as comprising:
- “erection of a 400kv electricity substation, decommissioning of existing 275kv equipment and associated infrastructure including plant, machinery, accesses, drainage, underground cables and landscaping.”*
- 1.12 A more detailed description of the proposed development which sets out its maximum development parameters, is set out below:
- *“Maximum building and infrastructure/component heights: GIS Building 17m, Transformers 14m, Busbars, gantry structures and other ancillary infrastructure 14m;*
 - *Maximum extent of substation platform of 60,000 square metres;*
 - *Maximum height (90.5m aOD) of the finished floor level of the substation platform;*
 - *Location of access onto B9097;*
 - *Maximum height of primary perimeter security fence will be 3m high with a secondary 1m high, post and wire fence set off the outer perimeter of the primary fence by 5m. Closed Circuit TV poles will be a maximum of 6.5m with lighting columns a maximum of 6m (4m standard height);*
 - *Maximum extent of any earthworks or construction zones within the site boundary (16.7ha);*
 - *Maximum noise emissions from plant and equipment. The maximum sound power level of the transformers is 87dB(A);*
 - *Construction compounds will be located within SPEN [Scottish Power Energy Network] land adjacent to the substation footprint. Indicative sizes are 35 m × 60 m and 30 m × 55 m. Compounds will provide hardstanding for plant and welfare facilities, designed for 100 kN/m² bearing capacity, with granular layers and geotextile separation where required. Drainage will include temporary SuDS to manage runoff;*
 - *Access tracks: The existing junction onto the B9097 will be altered to improve access to the site, including for transformer delivery vehicles. It will connect to an internal*

access road running parallel to the existing road and internal tracks around the platform. Roads will be 5 m wide, widened on bends, surfaced in asphalt externally and granular Type 1 internally. Drainage will use filter drains discharging via SuDS ponds;

- *Junction details: The junction will meet DMRB CD123 standards with 215 m visibility splays. Swept Path Analysis confirms suitability for 20-axle transformer vehicles (64.4 m long). Over-run areas and verge widening will accommodate abnormal loads. Assessments undertaken to date have been based on transformer delivery accessing and exiting the site from the east; and*
- *For the proposed 33kV undergrounding, new terminal 'H Poles' are proposed of circa xxm in height. Construction will be undertaken in a linear fashion, with plant moved along the route as the project progresses."*

- 1.13 The layout of the proposed development is shown in the application's accompanying 'Proposed (Indicative) Site Plan' (edp8754_d018) and 'Maximum Heights' plan (edp8754_d019). These plans are utilised in the assessment.

33kv Cable Route Diversion

- 1.14 A separate planning application will be submitted for the associated diversion of the existing Keltie-Cowdenbeath No.1 and No.2 33kv circuits as enabling works for the Westfield Substation extension. The diversion will entail the transition of the existing 33kv circuits from an overhead line to a new underground cable route at Westfield Substation. Groundworks will entail the excavation of the cable trench and jointing pits within the corridor.
- 1.15 The approximate alignment of the cable route diversion from west to east will follow the southern boundary of the site, before extending eastwards beyond the boundary of its south-east corner to cross a field and the north-south drive to North Pitkinny. The route will then follow the drive northwards before westwards back across the drive and through moorland and woodland to the east of the site boundary until it enters the existing Westfield Substation.
- 1.16 Due to the nature of the cable route diversion proposals, comprising the insertion of a buried cable route within and in proximity to the site boundary, the potential for harm to the historic environment is limited to that of buried archaeological remains. No physical harm to built historic assets, nor an adverse change to the settings of surrounding built historic assets, would occur. Therefore, no consideration for potential heritage impacts is merited as part of the proposals for the cable route diversion.
- 1.17 The final route and/or specific trench dimensions are unknown at this stage; however, a worst-case scenario assessment is provided at this stage for any buried archaeological remains located in a c.10m wide corridor containing the cable route diversion. The approximate route of the cable route is not shown on plans included in this report.

Section 2

Planning Background, Legislation and Planning Policy

INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 This section summarises previous planning background and communication with Fife Council in respect of the current proposals and goes on to set out relevant legislation and planning policy governing the conservation and management of the historic environment/cultural heritage (i.e. built heritage and archaeology) in Scotland.

PREVIOUS PLANNING HISTORY

- 2.2 A formal Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Scoping Opinion was sought from Fife Council in July 2024, which included consideration of heritage and archaeology matters (cultural heritage).
- 2.3 The over-arching response to this request confirmed that cultural heritage should be scoped out of the EIA. The response provided consultation responses from Fife Council's Archaeology Officer and their Built Heritage Officer, recommending that the comments raised within them should be taken into account when formulating the EIA. The response closed by advising that sufficient information should be submitted with regards to the matters that have been scoped out of the EIA to allow those matters to be fully assessed during the planning application process.

Archaeology

- 2.4 The consultation response from the Archaeology Officer identified Policies 1 and 14 of FIFEplan as being relevant to this report. These will be discussed below.
- 2.5 The response welcomed the applicant's intention to conduct a comprehensive review of the potential for development to impact on the archaeological and built historic environment and expected that this review would conclude that the proposed development site is of low archaeological potential. The response identified that the development site occupies a low-lying, natural sump that has historically been bog/moorland until being reclaimed in the 19th century.
- 2.6 The response went on to acknowledge that this would be *"a sizable development in terms of the mass/scale of the building, but given the absence of nearby sensitive historic environment sites, development would have no significant visual impact on the surrounding historic environment."*
- 2.7 The response included a number of recommendations:
- "The applicant should be encouraged to undertake an assessment of the impact development would on the historic environment, considering such things as:*
- The potential for buried archaeology to exist on site*

- *A strategy to test for the presence/absence of buried archaeology on site*
- *A strategy to mitigate the impact of development on physical deposits that may exist on site*
- *A consideration of the visual impact of development on the surrounding historic environment”.*

Built Heritage

- 2.8 The response from the Built Heritage Officer again identified Policies 1 and 14 within FIFEplan as being relevant to this report, together with NPF4 Policy 7: Historic Assets and Places.
- 2.9 It went on to state that, in any forthcoming EIA, a cultural heritage assessment should be provided in line with the measures set out in section 4.8 of the Scoping Report, following guidance set out in Historic Environment Scotland’s (HES) *Managing Change in the Historic Environment: Setting*. This three-phase approach to assessment is discussed below, in **Section 3**.
- 2.10 The response calls for a demonstration that the applicant has “*an adequate understanding of the cultural significance of heritage assets likely to be impacted*”, including designated and non-designated assets within a “*proportionate radius from the proposed development site*”.
- 2.11 It then concludes that:
- “Based on the information provided, it is likely that the substation would have some level of impact on views to and from farmsteads and other structures in the area surrounding the proposed development site, particularly at Capledrae, North Pitkinny, and Middleburn. These sites are likely to be non-designated heritage assets and should be assessed as part of the EIA. Views from the upper storeys of buildings may also be relevant to consider.”*

LEGISLATION

- 2.12 The statutory framework for the historic environment in Scotland is outlined in the *Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997*, as amended, in the *Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Scotland) Act 1997*, and the *Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979*. All of these have been modified by the *Historic Environment Scotland Act 2014*.
- 2.13 The implications of the above Acts with regard to local government planning policy are described within NPF4 (Scottish Government, 2023) and *Historic Environment Policy for Scotland* (HEPS) (HES, 2019), which provide specific planning policy and guidance in relation to built heritage and archaeology (i.e. the historic environment).
- 2.14 Planning policy and guidance expresses a general presumption in favour of preserving heritage remains *in situ* and in an appropriate setting. Their ‘preservation by record’

(i.e. through excavation and recording, followed by analysis and publication, by qualified archaeologists) is a less desirable alternative.

PLANNING POLICY

National Planning Policy

2.15 On 13 February 2023, the NPF4 was adopted, replacing National Planning Framework 3 (NPF3), adopted between 2014-2023 (Scottish Government, 2023). The stated intent of NPF4 'Policy 7: Historic assets and places' is *"To protect and enhance historic environment assets and places, and to enable positive change as a catalyst for the regeneration of places"* (Scottish Government, 2023).

2.16 The following sections of Policy 7 are relevant to this assessment:

"Policy 7a) 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.

...

Policy 7c) 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.

...

Policy 7i) 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.

...

Policy 7o) 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.”

Historic Environment Policy for Scotland (HEPS) 2019

- 2.17 The Scottish Government's policy for the sustainable management of the historic environment is set out in HEPS 2019 by HES (HES, 2019). HEPS is a policy statement, which sits alongside national planning policies set out in NPF4. HEPS is used to direct decision making affecting the historic environment in Scotland and is a material consideration for planning proposals that might affect the historic environment.
- 2.18 The policy statement is set out across six policies (HEP1-HEP6), each with an accompanying set of core principles. As stated in the HEPS document, principles are the basis for the policies outlined in HEPS and the policies describe how the principles should be implemented. HEP1 addresses policy on understanding and recognition of the historic environment. HEP2-4 address policies on managing change and policies HEP5-6 address policies on working together.
- 2.19 HEP4 in relation to development proposals in planning and potential change to the historic environment, states that:

“Changes to specific assets and their context should be managed in a way that protects the historic environment...If detrimental impact on the historic environment is unavoidable, it should be minimised. Steps should be taken to demonstrate that alternatives have been explored, and mitigation measures should be put in place.”

Our Past, Our Future (OPOF) 2023

- 2.20 The currently adopted, second, strategy for Scotland's historic environment comprises the HES 2023 produced *Our Past, Our Future – The Strategy for Scotland's Historic Environment* (OPOF) (HES, 2023). OPOF replaced the first Scottish Government, 2014 produced, historic environment strategy document titled *Our Place in Time – The Historic Environment Strategy for Scotland* (OPIT) (Scottish Government, 2014). OPIT covered a 10-year period, while OPOF covers a 5-year period.
- 2.21 OPOF outlines the strategy for the historic environment over the 5-year period across three priorities, which comprise the following:
- Priority 1 – Delivering the transition to net zero;
 - Priority 2 – Empowering resilient and inclusive communities and places; and
 - Priority 3 – Building a wellbeing economy.
- 2.22 Priority 1 in relation to development proposals and climate change when it comes to potential change to the historic environment makes notable reference to *“caring for the historic environment doesn't mean preventing change though. Some change will be*

essential if our historic infrastructure is to be prepared to face a changing world and a changing climate”.

Local Planning Policy

- 2.23 The site is located within the local planning authority of Fife Council. The Local Development Plan (LDP) for Fife Council comprises the ‘FIFEplan’, adopted 21 September 2017 (Fife Council, 2017). The FIFEplan covers a 12-year period from 2014-2026. The FIFEplan is supported by a range of supplementary guidance documents, none of which are of direct relevance to the historic environment, the site or the proposed development. As noted on Fife Council’s website, due to the “result of the adoption of NPF4, SESplan and TAYplan Strategic Development Plans no longer have effect” (Fife Council, 2026a).

FIFEplan

- 2.24 The FIFEplan contains two policies of relevance to the historic environment and the site. These comprise the following:

- Policy 1 – Development Principles; and
- Policy 14 – Built and Historic Environment.

- 2.25 Policy 1 – Development Principles, Part B sets out that:

“Development proposals must address their development impact by complying with the following criteria and supporting policies, where relevant: ...

2. *Avoid loss of valuable cultural, tourism and community resources;”.*

- 2.26 Policy 14 – Built and Historic Environment gives six qualities of successful places that should be addressed as part of planning for new development:

“Six qualities of successful places

The Council will apply the six qualities of successful places when considering development proposals. New development will need to demonstrate how it has taken account of and meets each of the following six qualities:

1. *distinctive;*
2. *welcoming;*
3. *adaptable;*
4. *resource efficient;*
5. *safe and pleasant; and*
6. *easy to move around and beyond.*

Guidance on how these qualities will be interpreted by the Council and addressed by those proposing development will be provided in the Making Fife's Places Supplementary Guidance.

Designated Sites and Buildings

Development which protects or enhances buildings or other built heritage of special architectural or historic interest will be supported. Proposals will not be supported where it is considered they will harm or damage:

- the Outstanding Universal Value of the World Heritage Site and its setting;*
- the character or special appearance of a conservation area, and its setting having regard to Conservation Area Appraisals and associated management plans;*
- listed buildings or their setting, including structures or features of special architectural or historic interest;*
- sites recorded in the Inventory Historic Gardens and Designed Landscapes and other non-inventory gardens and designed landscapes of cultural and historic value;*
- Scheduled Ancient Monuments, including their setting;*
- patterns of traditional orchards and medieval garden riggs;*
- inventory Historic Battlefields; or*
- the preservation objectives of Historic Marine Protected Areas*

For all historic buildings and archaeological sites, whether statutorily protected or not, support will only be given if, allowing for any possible mitigating works, there is no adverse impact on the special architectural or historic interest of the building or character or appearance of the conservation area.

Enabling development may be acceptable where it can be clearly shown to be the only means of preventing the loss of the asset and securing its long-term future.

All archaeological sites and deposits, whether statutorily protected or not, are considered to be of significance. Accordingly, development proposals which impact on archaeological sites will only be supported where:

- remains are preserved in-situ and in an appropriate setting; or*
- there is no reasonable alternative means of meeting the development need and the appropriate investigation, recording, and mitigation is proposed.*

In all the above, development proposals must be accompanied with the appropriate investigations. If unforeseen archaeological remains are discovered during development, the developer is required to notify Fife Council and to undertake the appropriate investigations."

- 2.27 Policy 14 then provides guidance on how it should be applied. Of relevance to this report is guidance on archaeological investigation:

“The archaeological investigation of all buried sites and standing historic buildings within an Archaeological Area of Regional Importance will be required in advance of development unless good reason for an exemption can be shown.”

Local Place Plans

- 2.28 A review of adopted and draft Local Place Plans on the Fife Council ‘Register of Local Place Plans’ webpage, indicates that the site does not fall within an area with an adopted Local Place Plan for consultation or consideration at the time of this assessment (Fife Council, 2026b).

Emerging Fife’s Place Plan

- 2.29 Fife Council initiated the preparation of a new LDP, termed ‘Fife’s Place Plan’ in 2023 (Fife Council, 2026c). The emerging plan will replace the adopted FIFEplan, once adopted, but is not set to be adopted until 2028-2029 with the emerging LDP currently undergoing various plan preparation stages (ibid). No draft was available for consultation at the time of this assessment.

Section 3

Methodology

- 3.1 This Archaeology and Heritage Assessment has been produced in accordance with the *Standard and Guidance for Historic Environment Desk-based Assessment* issued by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA, 2020). These guidelines provide a national standard for the completion of desk-based assessments.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

- 3.2 The assessment principally involved consultation of readily available historical information from documentary and cartographic sources derived from a search area extending up to 500m (for non-designated assets), measured from the boundaries of the site, to allow for the relevant contextual information regarding its historical and archaeological interests and/or potential to be gathered. The major repositories of relevant information comprised:
- The Historic Environment Portal (HEP) curated by HES for recorded designated historic assets within the site and surrounding area;
 - Canmore national database/National Record of the Historic Environment (NRHE) curated by HES (June 2026), for known non-designated archaeological remains and other historic environment remains and buildings;
 - Historic maps held by the National Library of Scotland;
 - Historic Landscape Assessment (HLA) map data curated by HES;
 - Aerial photographs held by the National Collection of Aerial Photography (NCAP, part of HES); and
 - Scottish Remote Sensing Portal LiDAR data curated by the Scottish Government.
- 3.3 The assessment provides a synthesis of relevant archaeological information for the site derived from a search area, hereafter known as the 'study area', to allow for additional contextual information regarding its archaeological potential to be gathered. A study area of 500m in radius from the site was considered to be proportionate and appropriate in this instance.
- 3.4 It should be noted that the assessment analysed all the data provided by the NRHE and reproduced only what is deemed to be relevant to the scope of the assessment in this report.
- 3.5 The information gathered from the repositories and sources identified above was checked and augmented through the completion of a site walkover undertaken in July 2024. The walkover considered the nature and significance of known and/or potential archaeological assets within the site, identified visible historic features and assessed possible factors that may affect the survival or condition of known or potential archaeological assets.

- 3.6 The report thereafter concludes with an assessment of the site's likely archaeological potential, made with regard to current best practice guidelines.
- 3.7 Throughout the report, where referenced and relevant, designated historic assets are referenced by their designation reference number, and non-designated historic assets and previous events are referenced by their Canmore ID number (e.g. **51036**), where relevant/applicable.
- 3.8 The locations of designated historic assets are shown on **Plan EDP 1**. The locations of NRHE/Canmore records are shown on **Plan EDP 2**. The locations of previous archaeological events are shown on **Plan EDP 2**. Consulted historic maps are shown on **Plan EDP 3**.

SETTINGS ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

- 3.9 The setting assessment has been undertaken in line with the requirements of NPF4 and HES's 2020 *Managing Change in the Historic Environment: Setting guidance*.

- 3.10 The NPF4 defines setting as:

"Setting is more than the immediate surroundings of a site or building, and may be related to the function or use of a place, or how it was intended to fit into the landscape or townscape, the view from it or how it is seen from areas round about, or areas that are important to the protection of the place, site or building."

'Setting' is the way the surroundings of a historic asset or place contribute to how it is understood, appreciated and experienced."

- 3.11 Guidance within HES's *Managing Change in the Historic Environment: Setting* (HES, 2020) sets out the ways in which setting may contribute to the value of a heritage asset. It advocates a three-stage approach to assessing impacts upon setting which comprises:

"Stage 1: identify the historic assets that might be affected by the proposed development."

Stage 2: define and analyse the setting by establishing how the surroundings contribute to the ways in which the historic asset or place is understood, appreciated and experienced."

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

- 3.12 The guidance provides a list of potential factors of setting which may contribute to the ability to understand, appreciate or experience the asset in question and its significance. HES acknowledges that the list is non-exhaustive and that not all factors will apply in all cases. The guidance further sets out factors which should be considered in coming to a judgement regarding magnitude of impact upon setting.
- 3.13 The assessment of the impact on setting undertaken for this assessment has followed the staged approach outlined in the HES guidance on setting. It has had regard to the lists therein but, in the interest of being proportionate to the importance of the asset and the

potential magnitude of impact, only discusses those attributes which apply to the asset and the potential impacts.

- 3.14 It is noted that in many cases identified effects upon setting are 'neutral', indeed the HES and Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) 2018 *Environmental Impact Assessment Handbook* (HES and SNH, 2018) states that "*When considering setting impacts, visual change should not be equated directly with adverse impact. Rather the impact should be assessed with reference to the degree that the proposal affects those aspects of setting that contribute to the asset's cultural significance*".
- 3.15 A site visit was undertaken to inform the assessment of relevant historic assets within a 3km study area which was deemed a proportionate radius from the site in the context of the site's landscape setting and the nature of the proposed development. The site visit established the current setting of the assets, how setting contributes to the understanding, appreciation and experience of the assets and their significance and how the proposed development could potentially impact upon setting.
- 3.16 The utilisation of a Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) to inform the assessment, as set out on **Plan EDP 1**, illustrates the robustness of the defined 3km study area for the assessment of designated historic assets in the wider landscape. The ZTV presented on **Plan EDP 1** is a 'bare earth' model based on landform data and does not account for the presence of vegetation and the built environment across the landform which may further militate against visibility of the development proposals on the ground.

LiDAR DATA

- 3.17 Scottish Government 'Scottish Remote Sensing Portal' LiDAR data was analysed with the specific aim of clarifying the extent of any potential archaeological remains (Scottish Government, 2026). Airborne LiDAR data (light detection and ranging) was utilised as a source of primary data for the current assessment. LiDAR scanning records height data and has applications in the recording of archaeological earthworks.
- 3.18 The Scottish Government LiDAR Digital Terrain Model (DTM) tiles were obtained from the Scottish Remote Sensing Portal, under the Open Government Licence v3.0. The data was available at 0.5m resolution, surveyed between 2017-2019, for the site and study area.
- 3.19 The tiles were downloaded in TIFF (.tiff) format, with each .tiff file covering an area measuring 100x100m-square. The Environment Agency (EA) state that their specifications for LiDAR data requires absolute height error to be less than +15cm, and relative error to be less than +5cm (EA, 2016). The planar accuracy of the data is guaranteed to +- 40cm (absolute), while relative planar accuracy depends on the altitude of the survey aircraft but can generally be said to be +-20cm (*ibid*).
- 3.20 The LiDAR .tiff files contain British National Grid as the 'native' coordinate reference system.
- 3.21 Where necessary, the tiles were combined into a mosaic raster dataset using QGIS 3.44 and exported as a TIFF. 3.23. The DTM was processed using the Relief Visualisation Toolbox (RVT; version 1.3 ZRC SAZU, 2016) plugin for QGIS to create a number of visualisations

including a multi-direction hillshade and local relief model, following *Guidance in Airbourne Laser Scanning Raster Visualisation: A guide to good practice* (Kokalj and Hesse 2017) and the *Guidelines for the use of Airborne Laser Scanning (LiDAR) in Archaeology* (EAC GUIDELINES 10). The parameters were set to those appropriate for the topography of the area. The output images from the RVT software were then imported into the QGIS 3.44 where further settings manipulation was undertaken to enhance the visualisation for archaeological feature detection.

- 3.22 This software allows for a range of visualisation techniques to be applied to the data. Different techniques have varying degrees of successful application, depending on the nature of the environment where the data was collected. As such, the whole suite of visualisations was produced and then the individual images appraised as to their usefulness in the current context. This appraisal identified that of the visualisation techniques, multi-hillshade produced the best quality and most useful imagery for the archaeology assessment (**Plan EDP 4**).

Section 4

Baseline Information and Archaeological Assessment

INTRODUCTION

- 4.1 This section details and contextualises known historic assets, within the site and defined study areas for both designated and non-designated historic assets and draws on available data to understand and assess the archaeological interest and/or potential of the site. References shown in **bold** are the relevant Canmore/NRHE record numbers. Where other sources have been used, they are referenced in the text.
- 4.2 The site does not contain any designated historic assets such as scheduled monuments or listed buildings, and does not extend within any world heritage sites, gardens and designed landscapes, registered battlefields or conservation areas. The same applies for the alignment of the cable route diversion. The nearest designated historic asset is *Cumbræ House, ring-ditches 200m NNE of* (**SM7604**), which is located c.780m to the north-west of the site, as shown on **Plan EDP 1**. This plan also illustrates the location of designated historic assets within 3km of the site in combination with a ZTV of the proposed development.
- 4.3 In terms of non-designated archaeology, the site and alignment of the cable route diversion do not lie within an Archaeological Area of Regional Importance as identified by Fife Council. There are no NRHE records recording the presence of any previously identified archaeological finds, features or sites, or any form of historic asset, within the site or alignment of the cable route diversion.
- 4.4 The location of relevant Canmore/NRHE records and previous archaeological works within the 500m study area are shown on **Plan EDP 2** and discussed in the paragraphs below. In addition, extracts of historic mapping and LiDAR are included in **Plans EDP 3** and **4**.

DESIGNATED HISTORIC ASSETS

- 4.5 As noted above, the site and alignment of the cable route diversion do not contain any designated historic assets such as scheduled monuments or listed buildings, and does not extend within any world heritage sites, gardens and designed landscapes, registered battlefields or conservation areas.
- 4.6 As illustrated on **Plan EDP 1**, the nearest designated historic asset is a scheduled monument named 'Cumbræ House, ring-ditches 200m NNE of' (**SM7604**), approximately 780m north-west of the site. The monument comprises the remains of two ring-ditch houses of Prehistoric date. An assessment of potential setting effects from the proposed development on this scheduled monument is contained within **Section 5**.
- 4.7 More widely, scheduled remains comprising a suite of Prehistoric and later houses (**SM11089**) are recorded 2.5km south-west of the site. Further scheduled monuments are also located over 2km south-west of the site and comprise the ruins of the Medieval Lochore Castle (**SM858**) and 20th century remains in the form of the winding gear of the

Mary Colliery (**SM9016**). None of these designated historic assets fall within the ZTV of the proposed development as shown on **Plan EDP 1**.

- 4.8 The remaining designated historic assets within a 3km radius of the site comprise listed buildings. The Category C listed Ballingry House (**LB1886**) and the Category B listed St Serf's Parish Church (**LB3318**) are in Ballingry, between 1.4-1.8km west of the site. Over 2km to the north-east of the site, the Craigend Steading (**LB43664**) and Craigend Farmhouse (**LB43663**) are designated as Category C listed buildings. The Category B listed Harestanes Steading (**LB43659**) is located 2.5km east of the site.
- 4.9 Each of these listed buildings fall within the ZTV of the proposed development as shown on **Plan EDP 1**. A proportionate assessment of the potential setting effects of the proposed development on these listed buildings is therefore contained within **Section 5**.
- 4.10 The remaining listed buildings within 3km of the site are focused on the southern edge of Loch Levan, over 2km to the north-west of the site, and in and around the Auchterderran settlement to the south-east of the site. None of these listed buildings fall within the ZTV of the proposed development as shown on **Plan EDP 1** and therefore they are not assessed further in this report.

PREVIOUS ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORKS

- 4.11 No previous archaeological investigations are recorded on the Canmore/NRHE database in the site or alignment of the cable route diversion, and neither are there any formal programmes of archaeological work recorded in the wider 500m study area.

NON-DESIGNATED HISTORIC ASSETS

Canmore/NRHE Chronological Overview

- 4.12 There are no NRHE records contained in the site boundary or alignment of the cable route diversion, however, nine records are located in the 500m study area. These are discussed below and illustrated on **Plan EDP 2**.

Prehistoric (500,000BC – AD 71)

- 4.13 There are no NRHE records attributed to the Prehistoric period within the site or the 500m study area.
- 4.14 As noted above, more widely to the north-west and south-west there is evidence of Prehistoric settlement within the landscape, and these remains are designated as scheduled monuments.
- 4.15 Nonetheless, the NRHE does not identify any known sites of Prehistoric date within the 500m study area that would suggest the potential for Prehistoric activity of any form to be present within the site.

Roman (AD 71–410)

- 4.16 There are no NRHE records attributed to the Roman period within the site. Within the 500m study area, there are two records attributed to the Roman period and these relate to archaeological findspots of Roman artefacts.
- 4.17 A findspot of Roman jewellery (**51036**), recovered in the 1920s, is recorded near the Devil's Stane on Capledrae Farm, c.125m west of the site.
- 4.18 In 2017, metal detectorists recorded a fragment of a late Roman silver finger ring (**358176**), and the NRHE provides a general grid reference location which places the findspot approximately 240m north of the site.
- 4.19 Neither of these findspots have been recorded in association with any confirmed Roman features or sites. Therefore, while these isolated findspots attest to the presence of activity in the surrounding landscape during the Roman period, there are no notable sites of Roman date within the site's vicinity that would suggest the potential for Roman activity of any form to be present within the site.

Early Medieval (AD 410–1066), Medieval (AD 1066–1485), Post-Medieval (AD 1485–1837) and Modern (AD 1837–Present)

- 4.20 There are no NRHE records attributed to the Early Medieval or Medieval periods within the site.
- 4.21 Only a single record in the 500m study area is attributed to the Medieval period, and this comprises an archaeological findspot of a Medieval silver halfpenny of Robert I of Scotland (**367708**), found by metal detectorists in 2018. The NRHE provides a general grid reference location which places the findspot approximately 240m north of the site.
- 4.22 There are no previously recorded sites or features relating to the Post-Medieval or Modern periods within the site. The remaining records in the study area relate to late Post-Medieval and Modern features, predominantly the identified locations of 19th century coal-mining activity.
- 4.23 With regards to the Post-Medieval period, the NRHE contains a record for the location of the former Capeldrae Colliery (**79222**), approximately 210m north of the site, within what is now the Westfield Gas Research Plant. The consulted 1st Edition Ordnance Survey (OS) map (1856) (**Plan EDP 3**) shows the presence of Capeldrae Colliery, together with an 'old coal pit', an 'old engine house' and 'colliers houses'.
- 4.24 A Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland (RCAHMS) Afforestation Land Survey field visit (1992) identified that nothing remained of the colliers' houses, with only a few heaps of spoil remaining of the colliery. The results of this survey considered it unlikely that any surface features relating to the old coal pit and old engine house would exist within the Westfield Gas Research Plant complex. At this time, the site was under agricultural cultivation, and there is no suggestion that any coal mining activity extended into it.

- 4.25 Approximately 380m west of the site is the recorded location of a further former Post-Medieval colliery (**79237**), recorded by the RCAHMS Afforestation Land Survey field visit in 1992. The survey identified the survival of only a substantial spoil tip and the cutting of a railway siding to be the surviving remains of the colliery.
- 4.26 For the modern period (i.e. 20th century onwards), the NRHE contains three records located in the study area. The first comprises the location of the Westfield Opencast Coal Mine (**81626**), located approximately 490m north of the site. According to its NRHE record, the opencast coal mine dates to 1955, and it was built on the site of the former Kirkness Colliery. Producing 20,000 tons of coal a week (40% of Scottish opencast capacity at the time), it was said to be the biggest opencast site in UK and claimed to be Europe's 'biggest hole'.
- 4.27 The second record is attributed to the Westfield Development Centre (**181555**), a former gasification site converting coal into fuel gas, associated with Westfield Opencast Coal Mine (**81626**), which opened in 1960.
- 4.28 Finally, the third record in the study area relates to the location of a putative World War II prisoner of war camp (**261917**), identified from Royal Air Force (RAF) vertical aerial photographs from 1948. The site of the former camp is located approximately 160m east of the site.

Undated

- 4.29 The remaining NRHE record has not been assigned to a chronological period. The record is associated with Lochty Burn (**349454**), approximately 340m west of the site. According to the NRHE record, Lochty Burn is associated with the location of a possible enclosure or quarry of unknown date, identified as part of the 2015 RCAHMS Aerial Survey. The 2015 RCAHMS Aerial Survey does not record any features within the site.

HISTORIC LANDSCAPE ASSESSMENT

- 4.30 The latest available Historic Landscape Assessment (HLA) 2019 data, compiled by NatureScot and HES, is used to help establish the historic character of land contained within the site and its change overtime (HES, 2025; NatureScot, 2025). HLA data is a nationwide effort to document land use and environmental change overtime, dividing areas of land into over 80 land use 'types' and 12 land use 'categories' (HES, 2025).
- 4.31 The site is divided into three separate HLA types. The western part of the site is defined as 'rectilinear fields and farms'. The central part of the site (i.e. triangular parcel of land adjacent to the west side of the Westfield Substation) is defined as 'rough grazing'. The eastern part of the site is defined as 'power generation', encompassing the western half of the Westfield Substation.
- 4.32 The 'rectilinear fields and farms' HLA type is a result of agricultural improvements in the 18th and 19th centuries involving the enclosure of arable land, as well as the building of farm steadings and associated buildings. A number of modern farmsteads, likely first established as part of this 18th/19th century enclosure, are located at Capledrae to the west,

North Pitkinny to the south-east and Middleburn to the north-west. None of these farmsteads are, however, identified by the NRHE as non-designated historic assets.

- 4.33 The field boundaries established in the 18th/19th centuries were designed to be rectilinear wherever possible, because it improved the efficiency of agriculture, tending to reduce unworkable corners. The HLA notes that recent amalgamation of these fields is common.
- 4.34 The 'rough grazing' area within the site is noted as a common HLA type across Scotland's raised areas, across hills, mountains and moorlands. The area is noted today for the presence of vegetation across its centre and presence of overhead line towers running alongside the Westfield Substation.
- 4.35 The 'power generation' type for the c.1971 constructed Westfield Substation component of the site boundary relates more broadly to the mid-20th century expansion of large-scale power generation sites across Scotland.
- 4.36 To the north of the site, the Fife Environmental Energy Park Westfield is identified as an 'industrial/commercial area', while further north-east the HLA records the expansive extents of the Westfield Open Cast Coal Mine.

CARTOGRAPHIC SOURCES

- 4.37 Relevant cartographic sources are identified on **Plan EDP 3**. The earliest available mapping for the site comprises the 1st Edition OS map of 1856. This map shows the well-established rectilinear field system across the site and its surrounds by this time, as well as the presence of the Capeldrae Colliery and the old engine house and coal pit to the north.
- 4.38 At this time, the site boundary fell across parts of six field parcels as well as a small pocket of marsh and rough/heathy pasture to the south-west.
- 4.39 By 1894, the Lochore Branch of the North British Railway is recorded adjacent to the north-west of the site, aligned roughly south-west to north-east, providing a mineral line from Keltie in the south-west to Kirkness. Built in 1862, it was later extended by the Westfield to Kinglassie Line to serve Kinglassie Colliery, although the line to Kirkness Pit had been removed by 1914.
- 4.40 More widely, the 1894 map also identifies Lochore for the first time, with just three rows of back-to-back houses. Lochore expanded gradually throughout the 20th century, mainly to the south-west, with development to the north slower until the 1950s, a period which also saw the eastwards expansion of Ballingry.
- 4.41 Little change is recorded within the site and its surrounds on OS mapping until 1962, with the creation of the Westfield Opencast Mine and Westfield Development Centre, along with its associated road and rail infrastructure.
- 4.42 The earliest depiction of the Westfield Substation, labelled 'Westfield Transforming Substation', is on the consulted 1983 OS map, however, its earliest phase was constructed by c.1971. The construction of the electrical transmission infrastructure added to the

industrial landscape character of the area, as well as replaced the majority of the large eastern field parcel within the site boundary.

- 4.43 The Westfield Development Centre expanded to include a Transformer Station immediately to the west of the original works, as shown on 2006 OS mapping. This map also shows the network of overhead lines and towers associated with the Westfield Substation crossing the site, as well as the loss of some internal field boundaries within the site itself.
- 4.44 With regards to the alignment of the cable route diversion, consulted historic maps show that its alignment runs through fields present since at least the earliest consulted 1856 1st Edition OS map. Several of the rectilinear field boundaries have been removed since the mid-19th century along its route, indicating the presence of former Post-Medieval field boundaries along its alignment. With regards to the drive to North Pitkinny, consulted historic maps indicate this is a later addition to the farm in the c.1970s, providing a northern access route from B9097. It holds no historic interest.

LIDAR ANALYSIS

- 4.45 The assessment of LiDAR imagery (**Plan EDP 4**) confirms the broadly dual agricultural and industrial electricity transmission infrastructure function of the site set within its wider surrounds.
- 4.46 The locations of the extant and former field boundaries in the site, first depicted on 19th century mapping, are identifiable in the LiDAR data, but no other features of archaeological interest have been identified from consulted LiDAR data.
- 4.47 The fragmented survival of rig and furrow earthworks in the wider area (only notable in the LiDAR data in the rough grazing fields to the south-west of the site) illustrates the significant truncation of former medieval field systems over time by Post-Medieval and Modern agricultural practices. The absence of rig and furrow earthworks across the fields within the site likely reflects truncation by more recent cultivation, which also appears to have truncated the former Post-Medieval field boundaries.
- 4.48 With specific regards to the alignment of the cable route diversion, consulted LiDAR imagery also identified the presence of former Post-Medieval field boundaries along the alignment of the cable route diversion, observed from consulted historic maps. No other features of historic interest have been identified.

AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY

- 4.49 Aerial photographs held by NCAP, part of HES, were reviewed online. The aerial photographs (from 1946-1988) reflect the site's layout as described above, in terms of the site's agricultural use and the influence of modern industrial and energy production activity in its immediate surrounds. No cropmarks or other earthworks are discernible on the images that would indicate the presence of any significant archaeological features in the site.

SITE WALKOVER

- 4.50 The site was subject to a walkover survey in July 2024 to assess the current ground conditions, as well as to confirm the survival of any known archaeological remains and to identify any hitherto unknown historic assets within the site.
- 4.51 The visit was informed by the review of available aerial photography, LiDAR data, historic mapping and field assessments from publicly accessible locations (e.g. from local roads and Core Paths).
- 4.52 The site visit confirmed the agricultural nature of the western and central portions of the site which were under arable cultivation (**Image EDP A1.1**). A small triangular parcel in the centre of the site, adjacent to the Westfield Substation, featured rough pasture (**Image EDP A1.2**). The eastern part of the site featured the existing Westfield Substation.
- 4.53 The influence of the local land use was also noted during the site visit, where the expansive Westfield Substation, partially enclosed by woodland to the east and south, is located across the east part of the site.
- 4.54 No evidence for the presence of underlying archaeological remains was noted within the site during the course of the walkover survey.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL SUMMARY

- 4.55 There are no known designated or non-designated historic assets within the site or along the alignment of the cable route diversion.
- 4.56 There are no NRHE records located in the site or along the alignment of the cable route diversion. Those NRHE records within the study area predominantly related to the locations of archaeological findspots of artefacts and/or records associated with Post-Medieval to Modern coal mining activity.
- 4.57 Consulted sources highlight the historic and continued present-day agricultural nature of the western and central parts of the site, as well as the more recent industrial infrastructure land use of the site's eastern part via the existing c.1971 constructed Westfield Substation. The surrounding area in general has been subject to industrial land use practices over recent centuries, via coal mining and more recently via energy storage and transmission infrastructure.
- 4.58 Based on the site's location away from the foci of Medieval settlement, and the presence of Medieval rig and furrow present in the LiDAR data south-west of the site, it is likely that the site has comprised agricultural land since the Medieval period. The same applies to that of the alignment for the cable route diversion.
- 4.59 The historic landscape of the site and its surroundings is largely derived from agricultural improvements in the 18th and 19th centuries involving the creation of farmsteads and the enclosure of arable land to create rectilinear fields. Albeit, the character of the eastern part of the site and its immediate surrounds is now defined by the modern industrial infrastructure of the Westfield Substation and the Fife Environmental Energy Park Westfield.

- 4.60 It is noted, based on current evidence, that any below-ground remains present in the site and along the alignment of the cable route diversion are most likely to be poorly preserved due to the extensive agricultural activity of the 19th and 20th century. This is indicated by consulted aerial photographs and LiDAR data, thereby reducing the cultural significance of any historic agricultural remains present.
- 4.61 In terms of buried remains, the assessment has identified that the site has a low potential for Prehistoric and Roman remains. There is a moderate potential for Medieval and Post-Medieval deposits to survive, however, any remains, if present, are most likely to comprise features or deposits associated with agricultural practices (e.g. boundary ditches and/or furrows). Such Medieval to Post-Medieval agricultural remains would be of negligible cultural significance. There is no potential for any Modern remains of any cultural significance to be present in the site.
- 4.62 With regards to the alignment of the cable route diversion, the potential for archaeological remains is limited to features or deposits associated with agricultural practices (e.g. boundary ditches and/or furrows) as per that for the site boundary. Such Medieval to Post-Medieval agricultural remains would be of negligible cultural significance.
- 4.63 No archaeological remains, whether known or unknown, are anticipated to be of such cultural significance that they would merit preservation *in situ*. Instead, potential archaeological remains both within the site and along the alignment of the cable route diversion are currently considered to constitute no more than a negligible level of cultural significance.
- 4.64 The proposed development would result in the total loss or heavy disturbance of remains within the footprint of the built form of the substation extension (i.e. the substation platform, access and internal roads, SuDS ponds, perimeter access track, ditch diversion, temporary construction compounds and landscaping earthworks associated with the two proposed landscape bunds).
- 4.65 With regards to groundworks associated with the cable route diversion enabling works, it is anticipated that any known and/or previously unrecorded archaeological remains located within the footprint of the cable route's corridor would likely be subject to total (physical) loss or heavy disturbance from the excavation of the cable route's trench and jointing pits.
- 4.66 Given the negligible level of cultural significance for remains anticipated to be present in the site boundary and along the alignment of the cable route diversion, the report concludes that no archaeological investigation and/or mitigation works are considered to be merited or required for the site and proposed development and/or for the alignment of the cable route diversion.

Section 5

Settings Assessment

- 5.1 This section identifies and assesses potential non-physical effects upon the cultural significance of susceptible historic assets within the site's environs. Non-physical effects are those that derive from changes to the setting of historic assets as a result of new development.
- 5.2 All historic assets included within the settings assessment are shown on **Plan EDP 1**. The following section will identify those assets that are potentially susceptible to non-physical effects and provide a detailed assessment of them, in line with the methodology and guidance set out in **Section 3**.
- 5.3 The production of a ZTV (**Plan EDP 1**) has aided the identification of those historic assets that have the potential to experience change to their settings through the implementation of the proposed development.
- 5.4 All assets within the surrounds of the site have been considered, using a combination of GIS analysis, the ZTV, HES data and examination during the walkover survey, which considered, amongst other factors, the surrounding topographic and environmental conditions, built form, vegetation cover and lines of sight within the context of the assets' cultural significance.
- 5.5 As previously noted, the site does not contain any designated historic assets such as scheduled monuments or listed buildings, and does not extend within any world heritage sites, gardens and designed landscapes, registered battlefields or conservation areas.
- 5.6 As illustrated on **Plan EDP 1**, a total of six designated historic assets fall within the ZTV of the proposed development.
- 5.7 The nearest such asset comprises a scheduled monument, 'Cumbræ House, ring-ditches 200m NNE of' (**SM7604**), approximately 780m north-west of the site. The monument comprises the remains of two ring-ditch houses of Prehistoric date.
- 5.8 The remaining designated historic assets within a 3km radius of the site that fall within the ZTV of the proposed development comprise five listed buildings. The Category C listed Ballingry House (**LB1886**) and the Category B listed St Serf's Parish Church (**LB3318**), are located in Ballingry between 1.4-1.8km west of the site. Over 2km to the north-east of the site, the Craigend Steading (**LB43664**) and Craigend Farmhouse (**LB43663**) are designated as Category C listed buildings. The Category B listed Harestanes Steading (**LB43659**) is located 2.5km east of the site.
- 5.9 A proportionate assessment of the potential effects of the proposed development on these designated historic assets is therefore contained within the following paragraphs.
- 5.10 **Plan EDP 1** demonstrates that no other designated historic assets across the wider landscape fall within the ZTV of the proposed development. On this basis, it is not expected that the proposed development could have an effect on the setting of any other designated

historic assets, such that could adversely affect their cultural significance. Therefore, they are not considered further in this assessment.

- 5.11 In terms of non-designated historic assets, as the recorded assets in the surrounds of the site are largely limited to archaeological findspots of artefacts and the locations of former 19th century colliery features now within modern developed contexts, no such assets are considered to have the potential to be affected by the implementation of the proposed development. As previously noted, modern farmsteads, likely first established as part of 18th/19th century enclosure, are located at Capledrae to the west, North Pitkinny to the south-east and Middleburn to the north-west. None of these farmsteads or the buildings within them are however recorded on the NRHE or identified as non-designated historic assets.

SCHEDULED MONUMENT CUMBRAE HOUSE, RING-DITCHES 200M NNE OF (SM7604)

- 5.12 The scheduled monument identified as *Cumbræ House, ring-ditches 200m NNE of (SM7604)*, is located approximately 780m north-west of the site.
- 5.13 The monument comprises the buried remains of two ring-ditch houses of Prehistoric date visible as cropmarks on oblique aerial photographs. The eastern ring-ditch is the better defined, and measures about 8m in diameter, within a ditch about 2m wide. A gap in the ditch on the north-east side signifies the position of the entrance and a pit is visible in the interior. The second ring-ditch measures about 13m in diameter, within a narrow ditch. The ring ditches are likely to represent the substantial foundations of timber roundhouses characteristic of the first millennium BC.
- 5.14 The cultural significance of the monument derives from the national importance of the buried remains and their potential to contribute to an understanding of Prehistoric settlement, economy and land-use.
- 5.15 In terms of its setting, the scheduled remains are located within arable farmland, on the lower slopes of Navitie Hill at about 130m aOD, just outside and to the north-east of the settlement of Ballingry and a modern reservoir.
- 5.16 The monument has no above ground presence, and it is not possible to identify its location or extents through reference to any physical features on the ground when visiting its environs. The setting of the monument is defined by the modern farmed landscape and surrounding settlement; there are no contemporary features of Prehistoric date that can be experienced from these environs. Its hillside location, which evidences the favourable topographical site chosen for the Prehistoric settlement, is therefore the only element of the setting of the monument that makes any contribution to its significance.
- 5.17 The scheduled monument is within the ZTV of the proposed development, as illustrated on **Plan EDP 1**, and the site visit established that there is some limited visual relationship with the site, located over 780m to the south-east, from the monument.
- 5.18 Photoviewpoints EDP 3 and 4 of the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) (drawing number: edp8754__d010) which accompanies this planning application

illustrates the experience of views of the site from the lower slopes of Navitie Hill, in the environs of the monument. These views take in the modern farmed landscape as well as the distant Fife Energy Park, existing Westfield Substation and pylons and overhead lines in proximity to the site.

- 5.19 In this context, it is clear that the site does not make any notable contribution to the setting of the scheduled monument. There is no suggestion that the scheduled monument derives cultural significance from views of the site to the south-east where the wider landscape in this direction is influenced by the presence of the Fife Energy Park and existing energy/power infrastructure, into which the proposed development would integrate.
- 5.20 As such, it is the conclusion of this assessment that the development proposals within the site would not affect any element of the setting of the scheduled monument identified as 'Cumbrae House, ring-ditches 200m NNE of' (**SM7604**) that contributes to its significance and therefore there will be no adverse impact on the cultural significance of this monument.

CATEGORY C LISTED BALLINGRY HOUSE (LB1886)

- 5.21 The Category C listed Ballingry House (**LB1886**) is located approximately 1.8km to the west of the site, as illustrated on **Plan EDP 1**. The house is recorded as of 18th century date and of two storeys. The list entry records that its walls are harled and it has a slate roof, and that its interior has been gutted and offices built in either end.
- 5.22 The special interest and cultural significance of the building derives from the fabric of its built form, representing a 18th century house that retains some vernacular features.
- 5.23 In terms of its setting, the listed building has been subsumed into a modern working farm steading. It is now used for agricultural purposes and a large modern barn has been built onto its front which prohibits any outwards views towards the lower lying Ballingry settlement and wider landscape to the east.
- 5.24 Photoviewpoints EDP 11 and 12 of the LVIA (drawing number: edp8754_d010) which accompanies this planning application illustrates views taken from the hills just above and to the west of Ballingry House and its associated modern steading. They illustrate the separation of the site from the listed building by the Ballingry settlement and the influence of the Fife Energy Park and associated infrastructure to the east beyond the wider Ballingry settlement.
- 5.25 While the listed building is notionally within the ZTV of the proposed development, the site visit established that, in reality, it would not be experienced from the listed house due to the enclosing-built form of the modern steading which presently forms the building's setting. The site itself cannot be experienced in combination with Ballingry House and, as such, there is no suggestion that the site makes any contribution to the setting or cultural significance of this listed building.
- 5.26 It is therefore the conclusion of this assessment that the development proposals within the site would not affect the setting of the Category C listed Ballingry House (**LB1886**) and therefore there will be no adverse impact on the cultural significance of this listed building.

**CATEGORY B LISTED ST SERF'S PARISH CHURCH (FORMERLY BALLINGRY KIRK)
(LB3318)**

- 5.27 The Category B listed St Serf's Parish Church (**LB3318**) is located approximately 1.4km to the west of the site, as illustrated on **Plan EDP 1**. The church's construction is dated to 1831, and it was subsequently renovated in 1876. The church is of rubble construction in the Gothic Revival style. It was originally T-plan but has later additions in a similar style and includes a belfry with bell dated 1658. The church also contains fabric from an earlier Kirk on the same site.
- 5.28 The special interest and cultural significance of the building derives from the fabric of its built form, representing a 19th century place of worship that also retains fabric of an earlier building.
- 5.29 In terms of its setting, the listed church is located in the core of the Ballingry settlement, surrounded by modern residential development in all directions, as well as the catholic church on the opposite side of Hill Road to the north.
- 5.30 While the listed church is notionally within the ZTV of the proposed development, the site visit established that, in reality, it would not be experienced from the church due to the enclosing-built form within the core of the settlement which form the key elements of the listed building's setting. The site itself cannot be experienced in combination with the church and, as such, there is no suggestion that the site makes any contribution to the setting or cultural significance of this listed building.
- 5.31 It is therefore the conclusion of this assessment that the development proposals within the site would not affect the setting of the Category B listed St Serf's Parish Church (**LB3318**) and therefore there will be no adverse impact on the cultural significance of this listed building.

**CATEGORY B LISTED HARESTANES STEADING AND FARMHOUSE WITH BOUNDARY
WALLS (LB43659)**

- 5.32 The Category B listed Harestanes steading and farmhouse (**LB43659**) is located approximately 2.5km to the east of the site, as illustrated on **Plan EDP 1**. The buildings that together form the listing are of early 19th century date and comprise a two-storey and single storey farmhouse of L-plan, harled with painted stone margins. The farmhouse's main frontage faces south, and the building is adjoined by its wider U-plan steading to the west and north. The 19th century elements of the steading are of dark whinstone rubble with long and short quoins. The coped rubble boundary walls of the steading are also included in the listing.
- 5.33 It is clear that the special interest and cultural significance of the buildings that form the listed steading is primarily invested in the fabric of their built form, together representing a well-preserved vernacular steading of 19th century date.

- 5.34 In terms of their setting, the buildings are located south of the B921 road, where they stand surrounded by open pasture to the north, west and south-east, while enclosed by later agricultural buildings forming the working farmstead to the west and south-west.
- 5.35 While notionally within the ZTV of the proposed development, as illustrated on **Plan EDP 1**, the site visit established that the listed steading does not share a visual relationship with the site, located over 2.5km to the west. The enclosed nature of the steading's built form indicates that there is no design intention for an outlook from the buildings in the direction of the site to the west. In any event, intervening vegetation along the B9097 and field boundaries within the agricultural landscape screen views west towards the site.
- 5.36 As such the site does not form part of the setting of the steading and there is no potential that the proposed development would be experienced from the farmhouse or its surrounding steading. This conclusion is confirmed by the LVIA (drawing number: edp8754_d010), including the Westfield Substation Zone of Theoretical Visibility and Photoviewpoints Locations (drawing number: edp8754_d003 of the LVIA), which accompanies this planning application.
- 5.37 As such, it is the conclusion of this assessment that the development proposals within the site would not affect the setting of the Category B listed Harestanes steading and farmhouse (**LB43659**) and therefore there will be no adverse impact on the cultural significance of these listed buildings.

CATEGORY B LISTED CRAIGEND FARMHOUSE WITH BOUNDARY WALLS, GATEPIERS AND GATES (LB43663) AND CRAIGEND STEADING (LB43664)

- 5.38 The Category B listed Craigend Farmhouse (**LB43663**) and Steading (**LB43664**) are located over 2km to the north-east of the site, as illustrated on **Plan EDP 1**.
- 5.39 The buildings that form the listings are of early 19th century date. The farmhouse comprises a two-storey piend-roofed former farmhouse of squared and coursed rubble with single storey projections to the rear. The farmhouse's main frontage faces south-west while to the rear (north-east), on the opposite side of a track, is a mid-19th century range of single and two-storey buildings forming a compact U-plan courtyard. The coped rubble boundary walls, moulded ashlar gatepiers and cast-iron gates to the steading are also included in the listing.
- 5.40 It is clear that the special interest and cultural significance of the buildings that form the listed buildings of the steading is primarily invested in the fabric of their built form, together representing a virtually intact vernacular steading of 19th century date.
- 5.41 In terms of its setting, the steading is located immediately south of a minor road, on a tongue of higher ground overlooking the River Leven valley to the north and the Lochty Burn valley to the south and west, in the direction of the site. The listed buildings are surrounded by open pasture to the west, rough pasture and woodland to the north and east and arable land to the south.
- 5.42 The relationship between the listed farmhouse and its associated listed steading to the north-east is important in understanding the buildings' historic function and purpose.

Similarly, the surrounding farmland, and specifically the immediately adjacent farmland that can be appreciated from the principal frontages of the buildings to the west and south, are also key elements of their setting.

- 5.43 The listed buildings are notionally within the ZTV of the proposed development, as illustrated on **Plan EDP 1**, and the site visit established that the listed steading does share some limited visual relationship with the site, located over 2km to the south-west. In views from the west edge of the steading and farmhouse's frontage, parts of the site are glimpsed beyond the Fife Energy Park and existing Westfield Substation. Photoviewpoint EDP 6 of the LVIA (drawing number: edp8754_d010) which accompanies this planning application illustrates this experience.
- 5.44 However, while there is an outlook from the farmhouse in the direction of the site, the limited and distant views of the site are experienced in the context of the dominant form of the Fife Energy Park, as well as the Westfield Substation. The presence of further energy infrastructure (pylons and overhead lines) across the intervening agricultural land also influences the views towards the site from the listed buildings.
- 5.45 In this context, it is clear that the site does not make any notable contribution to the setting of the listed buildings, where the key elements of the listed steading's setting are focused on the interrelationships between the buildings and spaces in the steading and the immediately associated farmland surrounding it, rather than distant views of modern industrial infrastructure. In this way the land in the site, and views of it from the steading, is not considered to make any contribution to the cultural significance of the listed buildings.
- 5.46 The proposed development would not affect any element of the steading or its immediate agricultural setting. There is no suggestion that any of the listed buildings at Craigend derive cultural significance from views of the site to the south-west, where the wider landscape in this direction is influenced by the presence of the Fife Energy Park and existing energy/power infrastructure, into which the proposed development would integrate.
- 5.47 As such, it is the conclusion of this assessment that the development proposals within the site would not affect the setting of the Category B listed Craigend Farmhouse (**LB43663**) and Steading (**LB43664**) and therefore there will be no adverse impact on the cultural significance of these listed buildings.

Section 6 Conclusions

- 6.1 This Archaeology and Heritage Assessment for the client has been produced by EDP to inform a PPIP application to construct and operate an extension to the existing Westfield Substation.

DESIGNATED HISTORIC ASSETS

- 6.2 The assessment concludes that the proposed development of the site would not cause any direct effects on designated historic assets because it does not contain, nor does it include any part of, any such assets.
- 6.3 In line with HES' *Managing Change in the Historic Environment: Setting* (HES, 2020), the assessment concludes that the implementation of the proposed development would not result in any harm to the cultural significance of any designated historic assets located in the surrounding area through an adverse change to their setting.
- 6.4 The separate enabling works associated with the Kelty-Cowdenbeath No.1 and No.2 33kv cable route diversion for the Westfield Substation extension have also been assessed. Due to the nature of the cable route diversion proposals, the potential for harm to the historic environment is limited to that of buried archaeological remains. Hence, no harm would occur to any designated or non-designated built heritage assets.

NON-DESIGNATED HISTORIC ASSETS

- 6.5 No harm to the cultural significance of non-designated built historic assets was identified during the assessment, either through direct physical change and/or an adverse change to their setting as a result of the implementation of the proposed development in the site.
- 6.6 With regards to buried archaeological remains, the site has a low potential for Prehistoric remains and Roman remains, but a moderate potential for Medieval and Post-Medieval remains. The site has no potential for any modern remains of any cultural significance. Potential archaeological remains are limited to buried Medieval to Post-Medieval agricultural features (i.e. former field boundaries and/or furrows) of negligible cultural significance.
- 6.7 With regards to the alignment of the cable route diversion, the potential for archaeological remains is limited to features or deposits associated with agricultural practices (e.g. boundary ditches and/or furrows) as per that for the site boundary. Such Medieval to Post-Medieval agricultural remains would be of negligible cultural significance.
- 6.8 No archaeological remains, whether known or unknown, are anticipated to be of such cultural significance that they would merit preservation *in situ*. Instead, potential archaeological remains both within the site and along the alignment of the cable route

diversion are currently considered to constitute no more than a negligible level of cultural significance.

- 6.9 The proposed development would result in the total loss or heavy disturbance of remains within the footprint of the built form of the substation extension (i.e. the substation platform, access and internal roads, SuDS ponds, perimeter access track, ditch diversion, temporary construction compounds and landscaping earthworks associated with the two proposed landscape bunds).
- 6.10 With regards to groundworks associated with the cable route diversion enabling works, it is anticipated that any known and/or previously unrecorded archaeological remains located within the footprint of the cable route would likely be subject to total (physical) loss or heavy disturbance from the excavation of the cable route's trench and jointing pits.
- 6.11 Given the negligible level of cultural significance for remains anticipated to be present in the site boundary and along the alignment of the cable route diversion, the report concludes that no archaeological investigation and/or mitigation works are considered to be merited or required for the site and proposed development and/or for the alignment of the cable route diversion.

Section 7

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Appendix EDP 1 Images



Image EDP A1.1: View from the B9097 looking south-east over the northern boundary of the site towards the existing Westfield Substation, illustrating the agricultural land use within the western site parcels.



Image EDP A1.2: View south across the eastern site parcel adjacent to the Westfield Substation, illustrating its rough unmanaged character at the time of the site visit.

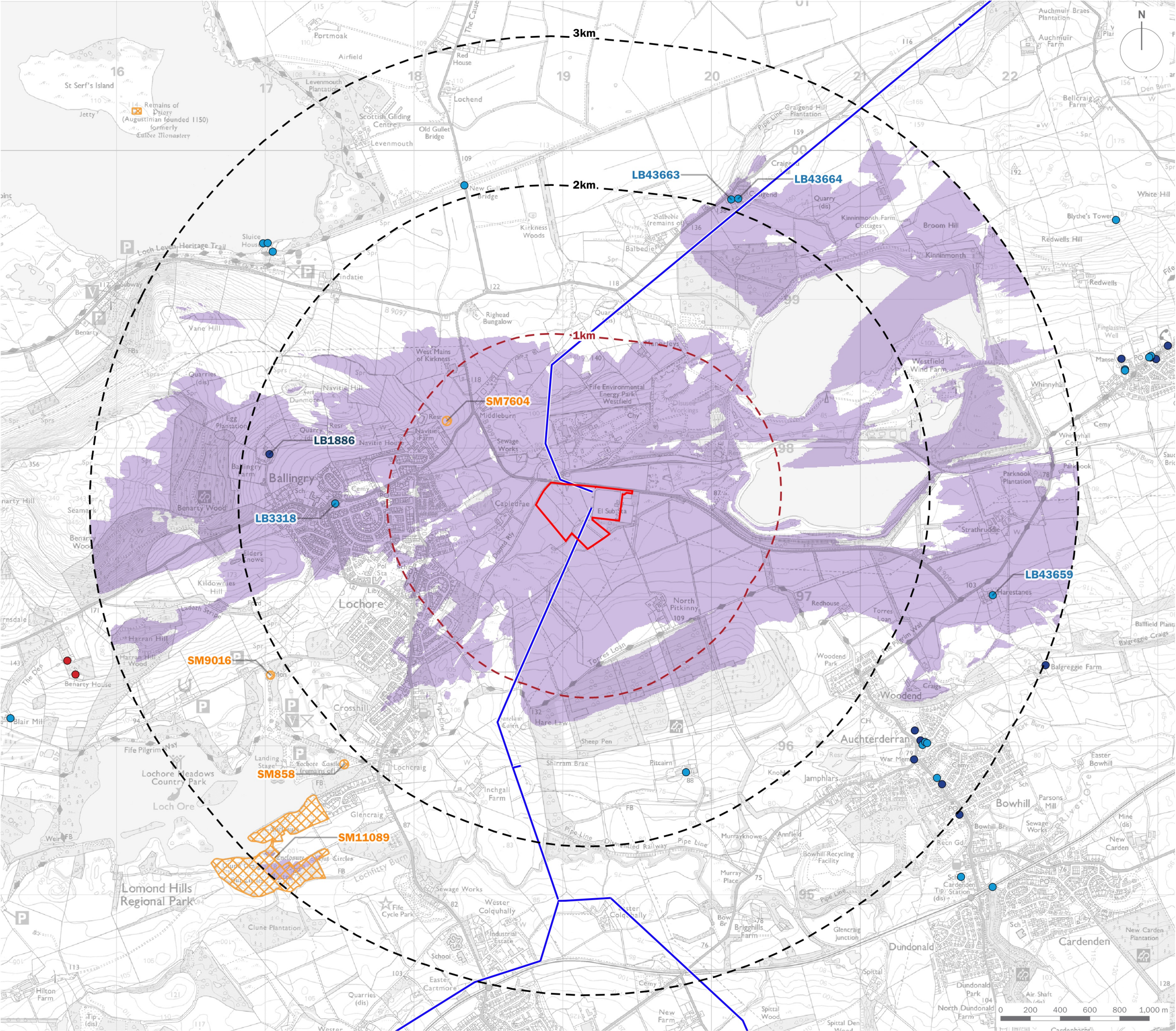
Plans

Plan EDP 1: Designated Historic Assets
(edp8754_d012c 12 August 2026 DJo/JMo)

Plan EDP 2: NRHE/Canmore Records
(edp8754_d013d 12 August 2026 DJo/JMo)

Plan EDP 3: Historic Maps
(edp8754_d015c 12 August 2026 DJo/JMo)

Plan EDP 4: LiDAR Imagery
(edp8754_d014c 12 August 2026 DJo/JMo)



Site Boundary

Range Rings (at 1km intervals)

1km Study Area

TKUP OHL

Category A Listed Building

Category B Listed Building

Category C Listed Building

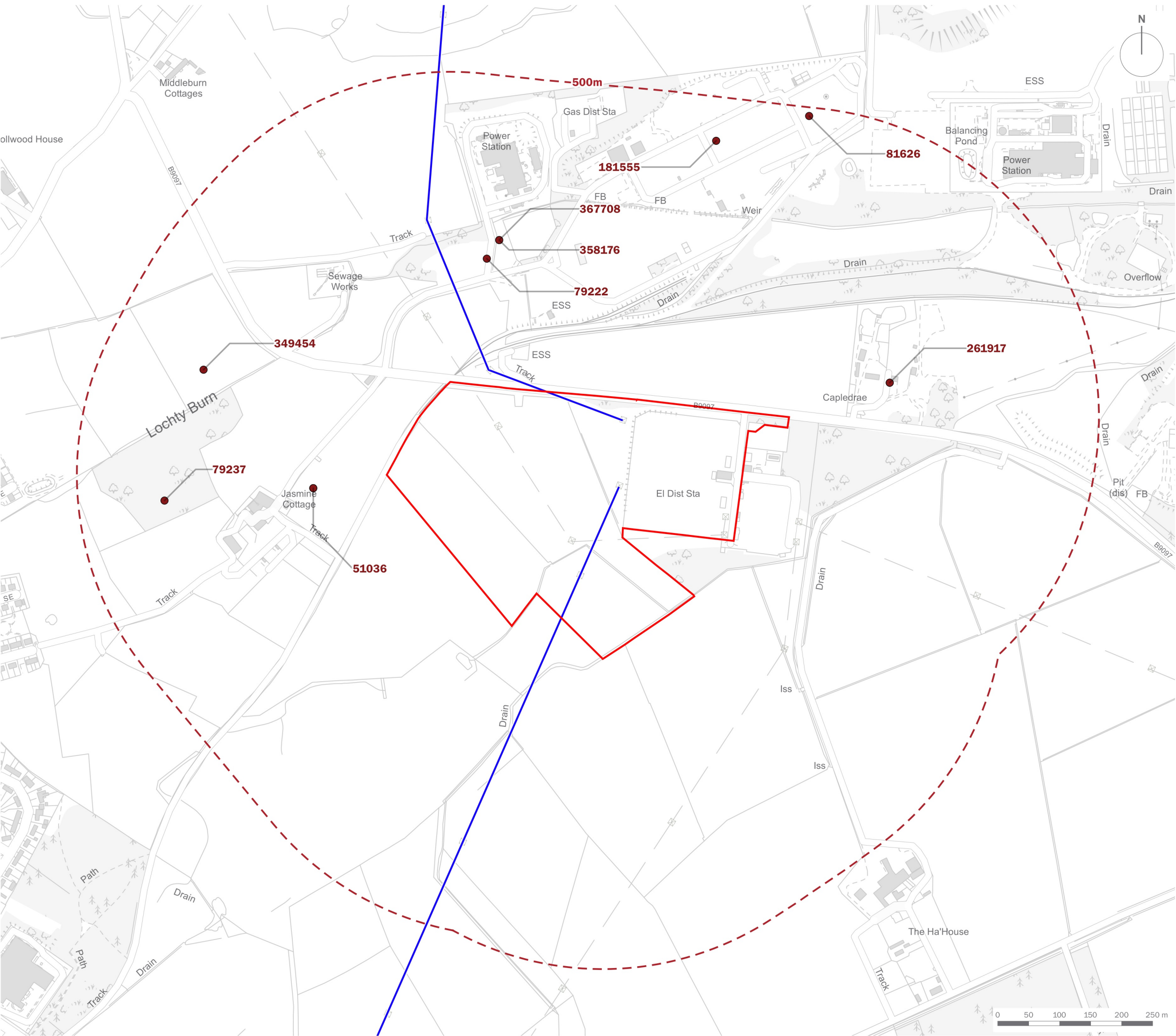
Scheduled Monument

Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV)

Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) was calculated using a spatial modelling algorithm which considers the following parameters:

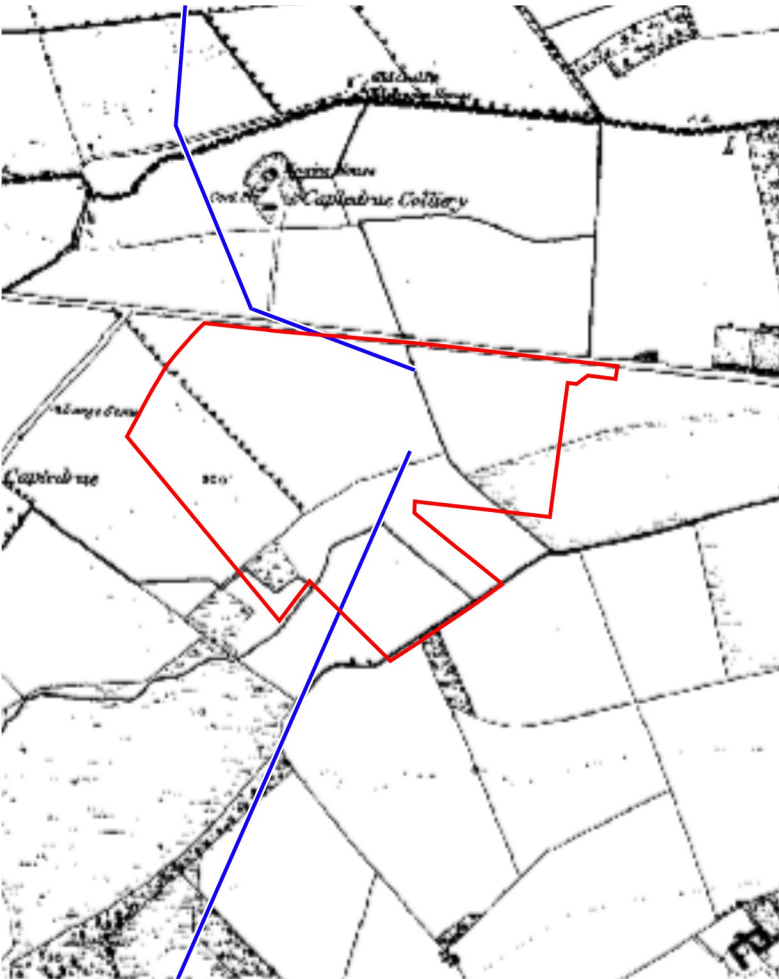
- 1.6m Receptor Elevation (Observer Height)
- Proposed Development Locations: 17m Control Building/14m Transformers
- 360 Degree Field of View
- OS Terrain 5 (DTM) (vertical accuracy of +/- 2.5m)

client	SP Transmission		
project title	Westfield Substation Extension		
drawing title	Designated Historic Assets		
date	12 AUGUST 2026	drawn by	DJo
drawing number	edp8754_d012c	checked	JMo
scale	1:25,000 @ A3	QA	RBa

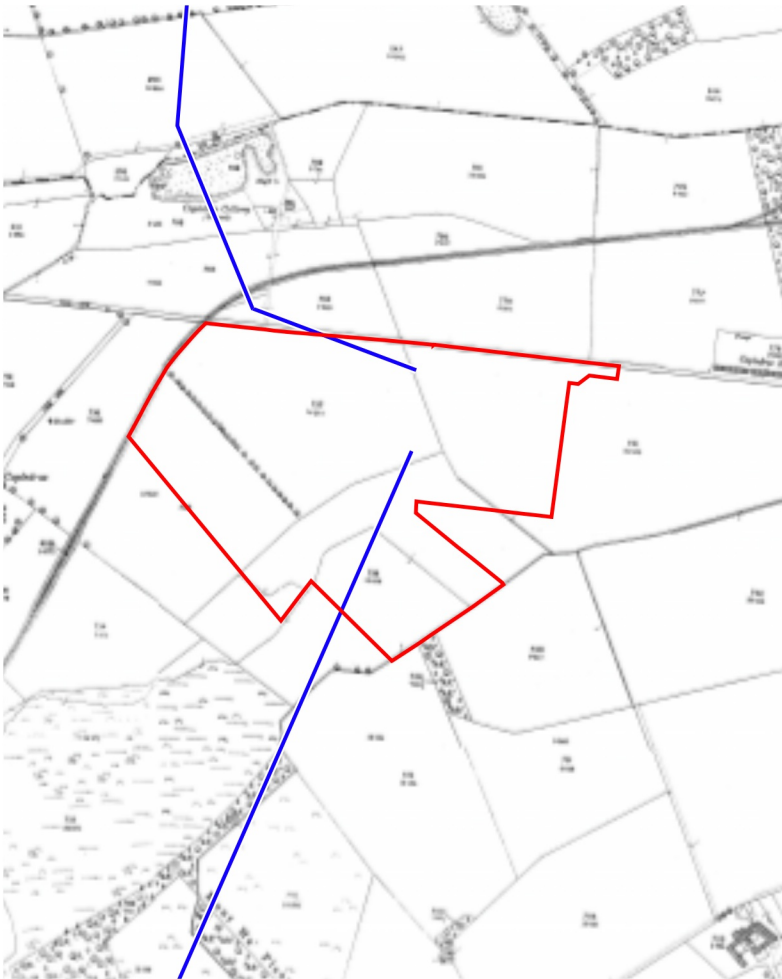


- Site Boundary
- 500m Study Area
- TKUP OHL
- HER Record

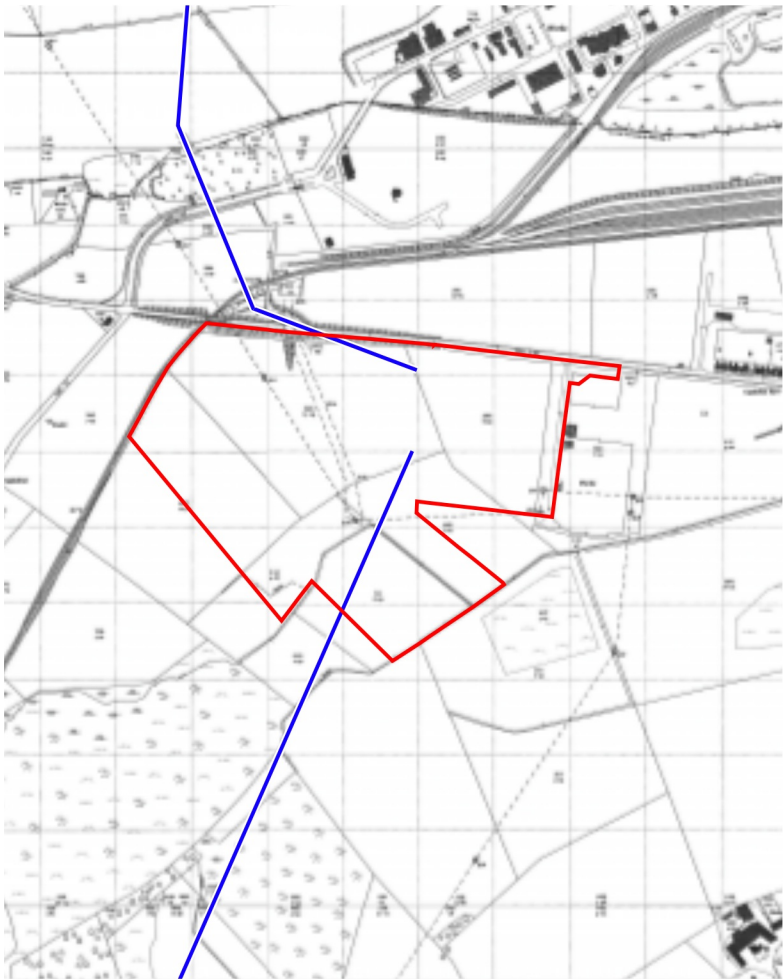
client	SP Transmission		
project title	Westfield Substation Extension		
drawing title	NRHE/Canmore Records		
date	12 AUGUST 2026	drawn by	DJo
drawing number	edp8754_d013d	checked	JMo
scale	1:6,000 @ A3	QA	RBa



Ordnance Survey 1856



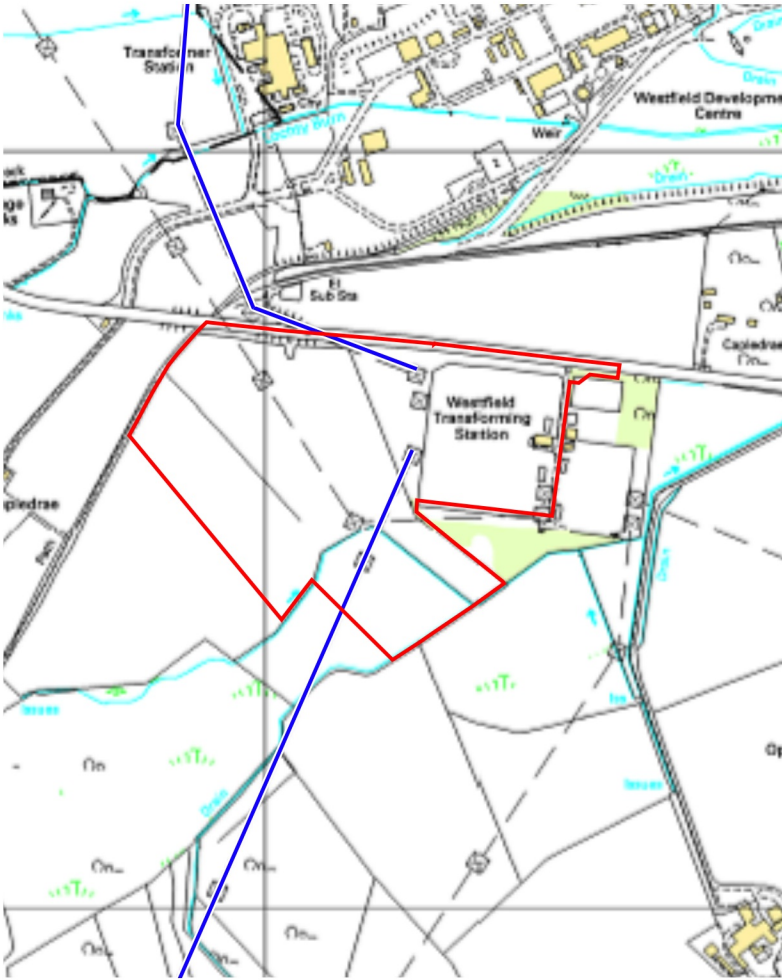
Ordnance Survey 1894



Ordnance Survey 1962



Ordnance Survey 1983



Ordnance Survey 2006

Site Boundary

TKUP OHL



client			
SP Transmission			
project title			
Westfield Substation Extension			
drawing title			
Historic Maps			
date	12 AUGUST 2026	drawn by	DJo
drawing number	edp8754_d015c	checked	JMo
scale	1:10,000 @ A3	QA	RBa



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