

Chapter 15: Cultural Heritage

| | |
|--|-------|
| Glossary of Terms..... | 15-ii |
| 15.1 Executive Summary | 15-1 |
| 15.2 Introduction..... | 15-1 |
| 15.3 Potential Impacts | 15-2 |
| 15.4 Relevant Legislation, Policy & Guidance | 15-2 |
| 15.5 Methodology..... | 15-4 |
| 15.6 Baseline Conditions | 15-7 |
| 15.7 Background Information | 15-11 |
| 15.8 Potential Impacts | 15-14 |
| 15.9 Proposed Mitigation..... | 15-17 |
| 15.10 Residual Effects | 15-17 |
| 15.11 References..... | 15-18 |

Figures

Figure 15.1: Cultural Heritage

Glossary of Terms

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| Designated Battlefield | Sites included on the Inventory of Historic Battlefields, a list of nationally important battlefields in Scotland that meet the criteria published in the Scottish Historic Environment Policy 2011. |
| Gardens and Designed Landscapes | Those sites included on the Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes identified by a panel of experts to be of national importance. |
| Highland-wide Local Development Plan (HwLDP) | Forms the basis for spatial planning within the Highland Council area as a whole. |
| HER (Historic Environment Record) | Record maintained by the Highland Council of cultural heritage sites, surveys and investigations. |
| HES (Historic Environment Scotland) | The lead public body established to investigate, care for and promote Scotland's historic environment. |
| Indirect impact | The potential impact of a development on the setting of a cultural heritage site or asset. |
| Listed Buildings | Buildings included on the list of buildings of special architectural or historic interest and afforded statutory protection under the 'Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Scotland) Act 1997' and other planning legislation. Classified categories A-C(s). |
| Planning Advice Notes (PANs) | Notes produced by Scottish Government which provide advice on good practice and other relevant information. |
| SM (Scheduled Monument) | A monument which has been scheduled by Scottish Ministers as being of national importance under the terms of the 'Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979'. |
| Scoping Opinion | The written opinion of the determining authority as to the scope and level of detail of information to be provided in an EIA report. |
| Significant Effects | Effects deemed to be significant in relation to the EIA Regulations. |
| SPP (Scottish Planning Policy) | Sets out national planning policies which reflect Scottish Ministers' priorities for operation of the planning system and for the development and use of land. |
| Study Area | A defined area within which the assessment has been undertaken. |

15 Cultural Heritage

15.1 Executive Summary

15.1.1 This Chapter addresses the potential impact of The Proposed Development on sites of Cultural Heritage interest, including Scheduled and Designated sites, recorded archaeological features and features previously unrecorded but located during walk-over surveys. Direct impacts, where the feature may be damaged or destroyed, and indirect, visual impacts from both the development and the prolonged construction phase are considered.

15.1.2 The majority of archaeological features in the study area would be unaffected by The Proposed Development, with direct impacts on one site of national importance and two minor sites of local importance. However, the impact is considered too slight for mitigation to be recommended for any of these sites.

15.1.3 Minor and mostly temporary, indirect visual impacts are considered from aspects of the development on the Scheduled Monuments and Listed buildings associated with the Caledonian Canal.

15.2 Introduction

15.2.1 This evaluation addresses the potential impacts of The Proposed Development on the cultural heritage of the immediate area, which is taken to include:

- Scheduled Monuments (SM), listed buildings, gardens, designed landscapes and designated battlefields;
- Recorded and unrecorded archaeological sites and areas of archaeological, historical or cultural significance;
- Previously unevaluated policies and designed landscapes; and
- Other elements of cultural heritage.

15.2.2 The assessment has been undertaken by Catherine Dagg.

Scoping

15.2.3 A request for a Scoping Opinion was made to the Scottish Ministers in May 2017 and a scoping response was provided in July 2017. Table 15.1 summarises the key issues raised during scoping of relevance to cultural heritage.

Table 15.1: Cultural Heritage Issues raised during Consultation

| Consultee | Consultee Response | Action |
|-------------------------------|--|--|
| Historic Environment Scotland | HES are content with the methodology and approach to update the cultural heritage assessment which will include an updated assessment on the Blar na Leine battlefield site. | An updated assessment has been undertaken and is outlined in this chapter. |

15.3 Potential Impacts

15.3.1 The evaluation considers all aspects of The Proposed Development, as set out in Chapter 3: Description of Development, namely:

- A new dam on the Allt a' Choire Glais, intake tower and area of inundation incorporating Loch a'Choire Ghlais;
- Surface surge shaft and Ventilation shaft;
- Access tunnel portals above Loch Lochy;
- Lower reservoir works including two screened inlet / outlet structures (Lower Control Works), located on the shore of Loch Lochy, a jetty and administration building;
- Upgrade of Kilfinnan Road between North Laggan and Kilfinnan;
- Upgrading of existing forestry tracks from White Bridge (Invergarry) to the dam and from Kilfinnan to the lower reservoir works;
- Creation of new permanent access track to the dam site and surge/ventilation shaft from existing forestry track;
- Creation of new temporary access track to connect the lower reservoir works to the upper dam;
- Site establishment areas; and
- Indicative borrow pit locations.

15.4 Relevant Legislation, Policy & Guidance

Legislation

15.4.1 The assessment has taken account of the following legislation:

Historic Environment (Amendment) (Scotland) Act 2011

15.4.2 The Act received Royal Assent in February 2011 and all provisions and associated Regulations attached to the Act were commenced in December 2011. The Act is a tightly focused, technical amending piece of legislation that improves the management and protection of Scotland's historic environment. The Act amends three pieces of primary legislation, which include:

- The Historic Buildings and Ancient Monuments Act 1953;
- The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979; and
- The Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Scotland) Act 1997.

Guidance & Policy

15.4.3 The assessment has taken account of the following guidance:

Scottish Planning Policy (SPP)

- 15.4.4 The latest Scottish Planning Policy (SPP) was published in June 2014 and is the statement of the Scottish Government's policy on nationally important land use planning matters. It replaces the previous SPP (2010).
- 15.4.5 The relevant subject policy in the consolidated SPP for this assessment, includes: 'Valuing the Historic Environment' (p.135 – 151), which sets out how all types of historic environment assets are to be dealt with within this planning framework.

Our Place in Time: The Historic Environment Strategy for Scotland (March 2014)

- 15.4.6 Scotland's first ever Historic Environment Strategy is a high level framework which sets out a 10 year vision for the historic environment. The key outcome is to ensure that the cultural, social, environmental and economic value of Scotland's historic environment continues to make a strong contribution to the wellbeing of the nation and its people. It was developed collaboratively and identified the need for strategic priorities to help align and prioritise sector activity towards a common goal.
- 15.4.7 Section C of the strategy 'Protect: Care and Protect' states the following:

"It is essential for future generations, as well as our own, that the historic environment is cared for in a sustainable way, and legally protected where appropriate". "Change is an inevitable part of the dynamic of the historic environment, and how this is managed is the critical factor. It is vital to strike the right balance between development and the protection of significant historic environment assets".

Historic Environment Scotland Policy

- 15.4.8 This document replaces the previous Scottish Historic Environment Policy (SHEP) following the creation of Historic Environment Scotland (HES). It sets out how HES will manage the historic environment alongside other statutory bodies and decision makers including local planning authorities and Scottish Ministers. Its ongoing aspiration and vision is the ongoing management and protection of historic environment resources. Detailed policies are contained within SPP.

Planning Advice Note (PAN) 2/2011: Planning and Archaeology

- 15.4.9 PAN 2/2011 supersedes PAN 42 Archaeology - the Planning Process and Scheduled Monuments Procedures. It sits alongside Scottish Planning Policy (SPP), Scottish Historic Environment Policy (SHEP) and the Managing Change in the Historic Environment Guidance Notes, which together set out the Scottish Ministers' policies for planning and the historic environment. This PAN is intended to inform the day-to-day work of a range of local authority advisory services and other organisations that have a role in the handling of archaeological matters within the planning process.
- 15.4.10 In determining planning applications that may impact on archaeological features or their setting, planning authorities may on occasion have to balance the benefits of development against the importance of archaeological features. The weight that should be given to archaeological considerations will depend on a number of factors, including:
- the relative rarity of the archaeological feature concerned;

- the completeness of the feature/whether it is a particularly good example of its type;
- the historical or cultural associations of the feature;
- the value given to the feature by the local community;
- the potential value of the feature as an in situ educational or research resource; and
- the potential value of retaining the feature for tourism or place-making.

Highland-wide Local Development Plan, Policy 57: Natural, Built and Cultural Heritage

15.4.11 Policy 57 of the HwLDP sets out the test against which development proposals within the plan area must be judged against when those proposals may affect cultural heritage assets. The policy states:

15.4.12 'All development proposals will be assessed taking in to account the level of importance and type of heritage features, the form and scale of the development, and may impact on the feature and its setting, in the context of the policy framework of Appendix 2. The following criteria will apply:

- 1. For features of local/regional importance we will allow developments if it can be satisfactorily demonstrated that they will not have an unacceptable impact on the ...heritage resource.
- 2. For features of national importance we will allow developments that can be shown not to compromise the heritage resource. Where there may be any significance adverse effects these must be clearly outweighed by social or economic benefits of national importance.
- 3. For features of international importance developments likely to have a significance effect on a site, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects, and which are not directly commented with or necessary to the management of the site will be subject to an appropriate assessment. Where we are unable to ascertain that a proposal will not adversely affect the integrity of a site, we will only allow development if there is no alternative solution and there are imperative reasons of overriding public interest, including those of a social or economic nature."

15.4.13 The policy also states that the Historic Environment Strategy described above (see section 15.4.6 to 15.4.7) will be adopted as supplementary planning guidance and therefore form part of local and regional policy.

15.5 Methodology

15.5.1 This assessment has been prepared using the following methodology:

Direct Impacts

15.5.2 The significance of a direct impact depends upon the importance of a cultural heritage site, combined with the magnitude of the impact.

Sensitivity/Importance

15.5.3 Archaeological sites, the definition of which extends to include areas considered to be of archaeological potential, and sites of historical or otherwise cultural interest fall into three categories:

- **National:** this category contains all sites and monuments with statutory protection, i.e. Scheduled Monuments and Listed Buildings. Other monuments, although not scheduled, may be considered to be of national importance if they are particularly rare and well-preserved examples of a type;
- **Regional:** almost all prehistoric and mediaeval sites would be considered to be of regional importance. Post mediaeval sites would be placed in this category if they are particularly well-preserved or unusual, dependent on the distribution of similar sites in the vicinity and if they form an element within a complex archaeological or historical landscape. Post-mediaeval townships, shieling sites and the more substantial relict agricultural, sporting or military remains of the 19th and 20th centuries would fall into this category; and
- **Local:** This category applies to minor landscape features of the post-mediaeval period, particularly those which are common or poorly preserved. Boundaries and trackways, unless forming elements of a well-preserved relict, archaeological or historical landscape, or bearing historical or cultural associations, would fall into this category.

Magnitude of Direct Impact

15.5.4 Criteria for assessing the magnitude of a direct impact include:

- **High Impact:** direct impact on sites of National importance is considered to be high, as these sites tend to be those with statutory protection. As such, any potential high impact would be unacceptable and would require a review of the development design in order to avoid or reduce direct impact;
- **Medium Impact:** direct impact on sites of Regional importance is considered to be medium, although each case will require separate consideration. In some cases this impact will be considered acceptable, most likely following a further programme of recording and investigation, while in other cases, the recommendation would be to modify the development design if possible to avoid or reduce direct impact;
- **Low Impact:** sites of local importance would not generally require modification of the development design to avoid direct impact. Some recording may be advisable as mitigation; and
- **Negligible Impact:** sites which lie within the study area but will not be intentionally directly affected.

Significance of Direct Impact

15.5.5 The predicted significance of impact is determined by consideration of a Site's importance in conjunction with the magnitude of impact predicted on it. Table 15.2 summarises the criteria for assessing the significance of a direct impact.

Table 15.2: Significance of a Direct Impact

| Magnitude of Impact | Sensitivity / Importance | | |
|---------------------|--------------------------|------------|------------|
| | National | Regional | Local |
| High | Major | Major | Moderate |
| Medium | Major | Moderate | Minor |
| Low | Moderate | Minor | Negligible |
| Negligible | Negligible | Negligible | Negligible |

Indirect Impacts

15.5.6 An indirect impact is related to the potential impact of a development on the setting of a cultural heritage site or asset. The significance of an indirect impact depends upon the importance of a cultural heritage site, combined with the magnitude of the impact.

Sensitivity/Importance

15.5.7 The sensitivity or importance of a site is set out in Table 15.3.

Table 15.3: Guidelines for the evaluation of sensitivity of a cultural heritage feature to changes to its setting:

| Sensitivity | Guideline Criteria |
|-------------|--|
| High | The site has a clearly defined setting that is readily appreciable and is considered vital to its character and the appreciation of this. The site would generally be visible within the landscape. |
| Medium | The site's character and the appreciation of this relate to some extent to its setting. The site would generally be visible on the ground. |
| Low | The site's surroundings have little relevance to its character and the appreciation of this. The site is difficult to identify on the ground or its original setting features are difficult to appreciate. |
| Negligible | The site is imperceptible in the landscape and its character and appreciation do not relate to its surroundings. |

Magnitude of Indirect Impact

15.5.8 Criteria to assess the magnitude of visual impact on the setting of a cultural heritage feature is provided below:

- **High Impact:** A fundamental material impact obviously changing the surroundings of an asset, such that its baseline is substantially altered;
- **Medium Impact:** An impact discernibly changing the surroundings of an asset, such that its baseline setting is partly and materially altered;
- **Low Impact:** A slight, but detectable, impact that does not materially alter the baseline setting of the asset; and
- **Imperceptible:** a very slight and barely distinguishable change from baseline conditions.

Significance of Indirect Impact

- 15.5.9 Table 15.4 summarises the criteria for assessing the significance of an indirect impact upon the setting of each cultural heritage feature which was determined by considering its visual sensitivity in conjunction with the magnitude of visual impact predicted on it.

Table 15.4: Guidelines for the evaluation of sensitivity of a cultural heritage feature to changes to its setting:

| Magnitude of Impact | Sensitivity / Importance | | | |
|---------------------|--------------------------|------------|------------|------------|
| | High | Medium | Low | Negligible |
| High | Major | Major | Moderate | Minor |
| Medium | Major | Moderate | Minor | Negligible |
| Low | Moderate | Minor | Negligible | Negligible |
| Imperceptible | Negligible | Negligible | Negligible | Negligible |

Study Area

Direct Impacts

- 15.5.10 The study area to locate and define archaeological features with the potential for direct impacts was formed by the location of The Proposed Development infrastructure.

Indirect Impacts

- 15.5.11 All sites identified with statutory protection in the broad development area of the scheme were considered for potential indirect, visual impacts.

Desk Study

- 15.5.12 A desk based evaluation made use of available datasets and documentary sources, including all previous reported archaeological investigations in the area.

Field Survey

- 15.5.13 A site walkover was carried out in August 2010 for The Consented Development. A further walkover took place in September 2017 to identify all previously unrecorded archaeological features for areas not previously affected by development. It was also an opportunity to verify the nature and precise location and extent of features identified during previous fieldwork.

15.6 Baseline Conditions

Previous Archaeological Work

- 15.6.1 No official archaeological evaluation has previously been carried out in the area of The Proposed Development, but it has been the subject of local study and archaeological features located during walkover surveys have been submitted to the HER (J.Wombell and H. MacKenzie). Particularly of interest are a row of day shielings on the brae above Balmaglaister, indicative of intensive post-mediaeval land use pre-dating the crofting township.

Archaeological Background

Sites with Statutory Protection

15.6.2 The following section lists Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings, Gardens and Designed Landscapes and Designated Battlefield sites present within the vicinity of The Proposed Development (see Figure 15.1).

Scheduled Monuments

15.6.3 There are two SMs in the vicinity of The Proposed Development:

1. **Caledonian Canal, Laggan Locks**, NN 285 961 to NN 286 963 SM ref: 5295
2. **Caledonian Canal, Laggan Locks to Loch Oich**, NN 286 963 to NN 300 983 SM ref. 6494

15.6.4 Current legislation states that once a monument has been scheduled, the consent of Historic Environment Scotland is required before any works are carried out which would have the effect of demolishing, destroying, damaging, removing, repairing, altering, adding to, flooding or covering up the monument. In addition, the setting of the monument must be preserved where possible, particularly if the surrounding landscape contains archaeological or physical features which have a relationship to the monument.

Listed Buildings

15.6.5 Two groups of Listed buildings or features lie within the broad development area and may be affected either directly or by a negative visual impact on its setting:

3. **Laggan Locks: Canal cottage (MHG17288), pillbox (MHG30008), bridge (MHG37522) Lock (MHG4292).**

These features are all adjacent to, or within, the Scheduled area of Laggan Locks.

4. **Kilfinnan: burial ground and mausoleum, site of chapel** at NN 2786 9573
Listing status C(S) HER ref: MHG17275 and MHG42261
Located immediately east of Kilfinnan Farm.

15.6.6 Current legislation states that the setting of a listed building must be preserved where that setting contains historical or physical elements which have a relationship to the building or influenced the location or design of the building.

Gardens and Designed Landscapes

15.6.7 There are no gardens or designed landscapes within or adjacent to the broad development area which might be affected directly or indirectly.

Designated Battlefields

15.6.8 There is one battlefield area on Historic Environment Scotland's Register of Battlefields:

5. **Blar na Leine**, battle between clans 1544 BTL29.

The Inventory boundary defines the main area where the events of the battle are considered to have taken place. This includes Kilfinnan, as far south as the edge of South Laggan Forest and up the Kilfinnan Burn to Kilfinnan Fall. A more defined area of fighting is recorded as Site 10, below.

- 15.6.9 Although the Inventory is managed by Historic Environment Scotland, decisions on proposed development within the battlefield area are made by the local planning authority, The Highland Council.

Recorded Archaeological Sites

- 15.6.10 A number of features are recorded on the Highland Historic Environment Record (HER) within the general area of The Proposed Development, particularly between Loch Lochy and Loch Oich. These are mostly within the crofting township of Balmaglaster and information on many of these has been acquired only from the 1st edition OS map.

- 15.6.11 The following sites, recorded on the HER, are located within or adjacent to areas which would be directly affected by The Proposed Development.

6. **Glas Dhoire, house** at NN 2540 9340 (more accurately NN 25192 93308)
HER ref: MHG30925
Ruinous house, as recorded on modern mapping. The site recorded on the HER is shown as west of the Allt Glas Dhoire watercourse where the scheme tailrace and jetty are to the east of this watercourse.
7. **Cnocan na h-Osnaiche: farmstead** at NN 2799 9613
HER ref: MHG26932
One unroofed building and one enclosure as recorded on the 1st edition OS map. This is located in open ground above the public road from North Laggan to Kilfinnan, although the building is not now visible on the ground
8. **Balmaglaster crofting township**, centred on NN2857 9685
HER ref: MHG26930
15 roofed, 7 unroofed buildings and three enclosures as recorded on the 1st edition OS map. These structures, many of which are still occupied, flank the public road from North Laggan to Kilfinnan which would require to be upgraded.
9. **Allt an Oigre, farmstead** at NN 2931 9786
HER ref: MHG26933
Two roofed, one unroofed buildings and an enclosure as recorded on the 1st edition OS map. This group are occupied buildings located north of the public road from North Laggan to Kilfinnan.

- 15.6.12 The Battlefield site, Blar na Leine, is recorded on the HER as:

10. **Blar na Leine, battle site** at NN 28918 96577
HER ref: MHG4291
This location, considered to be the main focus of fighting, is defined on the HER as entirely on the south-west side of the Caledonian canal.

15.6.13 The following site is located near the indicative location of the temporary site establishment area near White Bridge on the north side of the Allt Coire Bo Chaillein watercourse:

11. **Coille an t-Salaich, farmstead** at NH 2661 0043
HER ref. MHG22917
Recorded as two small buildings, one roofed and one unroofed, with a short section of walling, on the 1st edition OS map. A trackway leads west from this to the main forestry track running alongside the watercourse. This group is not recorded on modern mapping or visible on satellite images and lies within the afforested area.

Unrecorded Archaeological Sites

15.6.14 During a walk-over survey, carried out on 30.08.10 in sunny weather conditions, one possible new archaeological feature was recorded:

12. **Track or path at NN 2575 9638.** Although apparently visible on aerial images, this was unclear on the ground. A possible point of crossing the Allt a' Choire Dhuibh watercourse was indicated by a slight worn route rising on the south bank from a fordable point on the stream. This would suggest that this was not a constructed stalkers path but may be a former drove route from Loch Garry to the head of Loch Lochy.

15.6.15 During a second walkover survey carried out on 20.09.17, four new archaeological features were recorded within the area of the proposed temporary track heading between the Lower Control Works and the dam.

13. **Shieling structure at NN 26959 95811.** One small rubble rectangular structure. This was located adjacent to a small stream at a height of 250 m OD and would appear to match a group of similar structures, described as 'day shielings' above Balmaglaster. This is south of the proposed temporary access track and is taken to indicate that no such structures are likely to be located to the north.
14. **Sheep fank at NN 25240 93330.** As recorded on both 1st and 2nd edition OS mapping but not on modern maps, an approximately square enclosure with two small compartments on the north east side of the structure. It is built of rough rubble, much tumbled and covered in moss, with no obvious entrance, and is located on the low ground adjacent to the stream.
15. **Boat House at NN 25423 93392.** This feature is recorded on the 2nd edition OS map but not earlier. There is now no trace of it as it is located almost directly under a modern wooden hut.
16. **Trackway from NN 25240 93330 to NN 25423 93392.** This trackway is recorded on the 2nd edition OS map but not earlier, leading from below the sheepfank (Site 14) to the boathouse (Site 15). It has been respected by tree planting and survives as a slightly raised and ditched avenue.

15.7 Background Information

Settlement History

Pre-historic Period

- 15.7.1 There is, as yet, very little evidence for settlement and land use in the prehistoric period. There is thought to be the site of a broch, now completely removed, in a hollow on the hill slope above Balmaglaister, where a field is referred to as Brochie's field. Platforms higher up the slope may be the remains of contemporary huts. There are hut circles recorded at Letterfinlay on the south east side of Loch Lochy. The paucity of evidence for domestic settlement probably indicates the continuation of usage of the same settlements utilising sparse areas of arable ground through into the post-mediaeval period.

Medieval Period

- 15.7.2 The lands west of the Great Glen were, since Norse times, part of the Lordship of the Isles. The MacDonnells of Glengarry were one of the nine major branches of the Clan Donald and possessed the Glengarry lands from the middle of the 15th century, centred on Invergarry castle and able to control the vital east to west route through the Great Glen as well as a major route to the west through Glen Garry.
- 15.7.3 Kilfinnan is thought to be the site of an early chapel, dedicated to St Finnan, burnt down in 1460 by the notorious Allan Cameron, 'Ailein nan Creach'. In later years, tradition tells, he repented of his crimes and built a new church on the site of the original chapel. Kilfinnan is the traditional burial ground of the MacDonnells.

Battle of Blar na Leine, 1544

- 15.7.4 The battle of Blar-na-Leine (popularly the Field of the Shirts, but really the Gaelic Blar na Leana, the field of the swampy meadow) was fought in the summer of 1544 (15th July (Anderson and Anderson 1842)). John of Moidart, chief of Clan Ranald, supported by Macdonalds and Camerons, attacked and defeated Hugh, Lord Lovat, and Ranald Gallda and the Frasers who were returning home along the Great Glen after assisting the Earl of Huntly, whose army had penetrated as far as Inverlochy, in an abortive campaign against the Highlanders. It was recorded at the time that of 800 men on the field less than twenty survived. The traditional name of the battle records that due to the heat of the day the men removed their plaids and mail shirts, therefore fighting only in their white undershirts. The battle site is named on 6 inch and 25 inch OS maps dating from 1871-1971.
- 15.7.5 According to tradition, the Macdonalds gathered at Lochan Diota (NN 268 975) then swept down the brae (Balmaglaister) onto the Frasers. The fiercest fighting is supposed to have taken place on land which, since the raising of the level of Loch Lochy, is now under water. The translation of the place name as the battle of the swampy meadow and the tradition that the combatants fought close to the water's edge to cool down, would suggest that any physical remains, including possible burials of the battle will be concentrated on the low ground or under water.

Early Modern Period and 19th Century settlement and land use

- 15.7.6 Between the boundary of Glengarry's lands with those of Lochiel there is very little arable ground on the north-west side of Loch Lochy. Glas-dhoire (Glaster Beg) is the only settlement south west of Kilfinnan and its success is probably due more to the fact that it lies at the end of a pass and provided a ferry service across the loch. However, before the construction of the canal and raising of the water level of Loch Oich the area of the alluvial fan and therefore arable ground would have been much larger.
- 15.7.7 The stretch of ground between Loch Lochy and Loch Oich was densely cultivated, being some of the best ground of the Glengarry estate. There were two main settlements on the north-west side: Kilfinnan and Laggan, with smaller farmsteads presumably including Glastermore and Glasterbeg as recorded by Pont in the 1580s.
- 15.7.8 Although the eastern parts of the Glengarry estates did not see the same degree of removals of small tenants as the west, there was some re-organisation to make way for sheep farming from 1802 onwards. In 1815 Kilfinnan was advertised to let as a sheep walk of 10,887 acres in the Inverness Journal. Glas-dhoire was probably included in this area, and the tenants replaced by a shepherd. However, Glengarry also proposed, in 1813, the establishment of a village with 'preference given to mechanics, tradesmen, builders and settlers of all descriptions' at 'Balalastair', possibly a corruption of 'Balma glaster'.
- 15.7.9 The Caledonian Canal and the purchase of the ground for its construction had a big impact on the local economy: 'the land required for the purposes of the Caledonian Canal having deprived Glengarry of an extensive stretch of his most valuable low grounds, arable and productive natural meadows, his horse and cattle stocks must be diminished accordingly'. The impact on the tenants of the new settlement at Balalastair was greater, as the canal 'separated the inhabitants from their grazing ground and peat moss, which lies on the other side of the canal'.
- 15.7.10 The land for the canal was compulsorily purchased from Glengarry and work began in 1814, the depth requiring excavation was such that the locks were not completed until 1821. Stone for the locks was brought from the Kilfinnan Burn on rail tracks. On completion of this section, the level of Loch Lochy was raised by 10-12 ft.
- 15.7.11 On the death of Alastair MacDonnell of Glengarry in 1828, the estate was let to sporting tenants before being sold in 1836 to the Earl of Aboyne. It is assumed that a shepherd was in residence throughout the sheep farming decades at Glas Dhoire, but by the time of the first Ordnance Survey, in 1871 it may have been unoccupied. The Name Book says only 'a small portion of moorland partly wooded situated on the north bank of Loch Lochy'. However, by 1901 a gamekeeper has been settled here, the house possibly having been completely rebuilt.
- 15.7.12 Planting of the South Laggan Forest began in 1927, not long after the establishment of the Forestry Commission in 1919.

Cartographic Evidence

- 15.7.13 The earliest detailed map of settlement and land use, Timothy Pont's survey of the 1580s, shows the late mediaeval townships of the area. He records Killynen, Bra Lochy, Glastermore and Glasterbeg. Roy's Military Survey of the 1750s, shows Kilfinnan as a substantial farm, with a tree-lined enclosure surrounded by corn lands. The area between the two lochs is named by Roy in general terms as Lagan Achadrom (Gaelic: the hollow of the field on the ridge) but only one township is shown, unnamed, in the approximate location of North Laggan.
- 15.7.14 The most detailed map of early Modern settlement is George Brown's 1796 survey of the proposed line of a new road down the north-west side of Loch Lochy. This shows the entire area between the two lochs as corn lands, and most of the settlement to the south east. There are buildings south of a stream flowing south east to Loch Oich, presumably the Allt Cruinneachaidh at Noth Laggan. Kilfinnan with its enclosures and burial ground is depicted, including three separate areas of cornland on the hillside to the south. The largest of these, a rectangular area high up the hillside, is shown as having two groups of buildings. The hillsides are wooded. Glas-Dhoire, although not named as Glaster Beg, is shown with the entire alluvial fan cultivated and two groups of houses: one on the stream and one on the shore to the north, together with an enclosure.
- 15.7.15 It is unclear whether Brown's road was ever built, but John Thomson's map of 1823 shows a road running down the north-west side of the loch. This map names the brae north-west of the canal as Balmaglaster but shows no settlement other than Kilfinnan.
- 15.7.16 The 1st edition OS map, dating to the 1870s, shows Glas-dhoire with only one small area of improved ground south of the stream, with two roofed buildings, while north of the stream is a sheepfold. These buildings most likely date to the sheep farm and include the present standing ruin. This may be the house referred to as 'the house of Glastera' in 1830.
- 15.7.17 North of Kilfinnan Farm the 1st edition OS map shows the crofting township of Balmaglaster, with almost all the buildings along the roadside. No features are shown within the improved fields apart from one roofless building below North Laggan.
- 15.7.18 The area between Loch Lochy and Loch Garry appears to have had little potential for settlement and cultivation in the 18th century. Roy's military survey records nothing in this area. Thomson's map of 1823 shows a track running west from White Bridge along the south shore of Loch Garry, with one named settlement at Glenluie. By the time of the 1st edition OS map the present trackway along the Allt Coire Bo Chailein has been built, providing access to Greenfield and other farms to the west, and the small building group at Coille an t-Salaich is indicated, the linking section of track suggesting it was in use when this road was built. This may have been a simple bothy associated with road building, early afforestation or sporting activities.
- 15.7.19 The 2nd edition OS map, dating to 1902, shows the same buildings at Glas Dhoire as on the 1st edition OS map, with the addition of a boat house on the loch shore to the north. There are larger areas of improved and enclosed ground west of the stream and the routes of the trackways have altered.

15.8 Potential Impacts

- 15.8.1 A summary of how elements of The Proposed Development are considered to impact on the archaeological features in the area are described below.

Upper Reservoir

- 15.8.2 No archaeological features are located on the high ground in the vicinity of the proposed dam, associated area of inundation, access tracks and indicative borrow pit to the north of the Allt a'Choire Ghlais.

Creation of new access track to the upper reservoir works from White Bridge

- 15.8.3 The path (site 12) noted on satellite images as crossing the high ground and following the approximate route of the proposed new access track to the upper reservoir works proved to be almost indiscernible on the ground, with no noted built features. While the worn traces of the route would be removed by construction of the new access track, no archaeological features could be argued to be being destroyed.

Creation of temporary haul road between the lower reservoir works and the upper reservoir works, and creation of a new track to the Surge / Ventilation Shaft

- 15.8.4 One minor archaeological feature, site 13, lies on the route of the proposed temporary haul road between the lower reservoir works and the upper reservoir works.

Lower Reservoir Works

- 15.8.5 These elements are in the general area of the former township of Glas-dhoire (sites 6, 14, 15, 16). The area is concealed under forestry, which has removed any trace of the areas of cultivation or buildings recorded in 1796. On the west side of the Allt Glas Dhoire watercourse, two buildings and rubble walling are still visible. The house (site 6) is a substantial standing ruin probably dating to the end of the 19th century. This would not be affected by The Proposed Development.

- 15.8.6 To the north east of the stream, the sheep fank (site 14) and a section of late 19th century trackway (site 16) are the only surviving archaeological features. The sheep fank is considered to be sufficiently west of the lower control works to not be directly affected by The Proposed Development and the trackway is of low sensitivity. These features would not be affected by The Proposed Development.

Upgrade of existing public road between North Laggan to Kilfinnan

- 15.8.7 Upgrading of the existing public road (Kilfinnan Road) would not have a direct impact on the archaeological feature of Balmaglaister (site 8), or Allt na Oigre farmstead (site 9), the recorded features being buildings still in occupation. The site of the Battle of Blar na Leine (site 5) contains no visible archaeological features and while there may be the potential for chance finds of contemporary artefacts, this potential is considered to be low to negligible.

15.8.8 The road passes close to the Scheduled Monument of the Caledonian Canal, and the Listed buildings and structures at Laggan Locks (sites 1, 2, 3). None of these would be directly affected and Scheduled Monument or Listed Building Consent would not be required. There is unlikely to be any altered visual impact from that of the present road arrangement. The road is on slightly higher ground with a degree of tree cover; if the trees on both sides of the road are preserved they would screen the road from view. There would be a temporary visual impact caused by traffic and plant using the road during construction of the project, but this is not out of keeping with the original intended industrial function of the canal.

15.8.9 There would be minimal direct or indirect visual impact on the Listed building Kilfinnan burial ground and chapel (site 4). The road is on higher ground and much of it would be screened from view by the farm buildings at Kilfinnan and by a band of mature trees forming the north boundary of the burial ground.

Site Establishment Area (South Laggan Forest)

15.8.10 There are no archaeological features in the vicinity of the indicative site establishment area that would be directly affected by the works. There may be a minor visual impact on the Scheduled Area of Laggan Locks (site 1), at a distance of 2 km, but the compound would be seen obliquely, occupying visually only a short section of the shore line, and may be screened by standing trees and the slightly elevated ground at Kilfinnan.

Site Establishment Area (White Bridge)

15.8.11 The indicative site establishment area occupies the same location as Coille an t-Salaich, farmstead (site 11). This site, known only from early mapping, may not be a farmstead but rather a bothy or shelter of mid-19th century date. It is not recorded on more modern mapping, was therefore probably not a visible feature at the time of tree planting, and has subsequently been ploughed and planted over. It is unlikely that enough of the site survives for further evaluation or recording.

Indicative Borrow Pits

15.8.12 There are no archaeological features or areas of cultural heritage interest in any of the indicative borrow pit locations.

Disposal of Rock (via Barge)

15.8.13 Barges carrying rock would make use of the Scheduled sites; Caledonian Canal Laggan Locks (site 1) and Caledonian Canal Laggan Locks to Loch Oich (site 2), as well as further sections of the canal and locks. The banks of the canal would not be used for loading or for land-based traffic. Good safety procedures would ensure there is no accidental damage to the structure of the canal and locks.

Summary of Potential Impacts

Direct Impact

15.8.14 Table 15.5 provides an assessment of the potential direct impact of The Proposed Development on the sixteen archaeological features identified during the desk-based and field surveys, based on the criteria given above in Table 15.2.

Table 15.5: Potential Direct Impacts on Archaeological Features

| Site Number | Site Name | Sensitivity Importance | Magnitude of Impact | Significance |
|-------------|--|------------------------|---------------------|--------------|
| 1 | Caledonian Canal: Laggan Lock | National | Negligible | Negligible |
| 2 | Caledonian Canal: Laggan Lock to Loch Oich | National | Negligible | Negligible |
| 3 | Laggan Locks: Canal cottage, pillbox, bridge, Lock. | National | Negligible | Negligible |
| 4 | Kilfinnan: burial ground and mausoleum, site of chapel | National | Negligible | Negligible |
| 5 | Blar na Leine, battlefield | National | Low | Moderate |
| 6 | Glas Dhoire, house | Local | Low | Negligible |
| 7 | Cnocan na h-Osnaiche: farmstead | Local | Low | Negligible |
| 8 | Balmaglaister crofting township | Local | Low | Negligible |
| 9 | Allt an Oigre, farmstead | Local | Low | Negligible |
| 10 | Blar na leine, battle site | Regional | Negligible | Negligible |
| 11 | Coille an t-Salaich, farmstead | Local | Medium | Minor |
| 12 | Track or path | Local | Low | Negligible |
| 13 | Shieling structure | Local | High | Moderate |
| 14 | Sheep fank | Local | Low | Negligible |
| 15 | Boat House | Local | Low | Negligible |
| 16 | Trackway | Local | Low | Negligible |

15.8.15 It is considered that the potential direct impact on the archaeological record and cultural heritage of the area would result in no effects of Major significance, two effects of Moderate significance, one effect of Minor significance, with the remaining being of Negligible significance.

15.8.16 The upgrade of the public road between North Laggan and Kilfinnan Farm passes through Blar na Leine battlefield (site 5) with potential direct impacts considered to be Moderate.

15.8.17 One minor feature, a shieling structure of local interest (site 13), may be damaged or destroyed by the construction of a temporary haul road to connect the lower reservoir works with the upper reservoir works with potential direct impacts considered to be Moderate.

15.8.18 Two sites with no surviving visible features; Coille an t-Salaich farmstead (site 11) and Track or path (site 12), would be affected by a temporary site establishment and new permanent track respectively. Potential direct impacts are considered to be Minor (site 11), and Negligible (site 12) and this would have minimal impact on the archaeological record.

Indirect Impact

- 15.8.19 Table 15.6 shows the potential indirect visual impact on the setting of statutory designated sites as a result of The Proposed Development, according to the criteria set out in Table 15.3.

Table 15.6: Potential Indirect Visual Impact

| Site Number | Site Name | Sensitivity | Magnitude of Impact | Significance |
|-------------|--|-------------|---------------------|--------------|
| 1 | Caledonian Canal: Laggan Lock | Medium | Low | Minor |
| 2 | Caledonian Canal: Laggan Lock to Loch Oich | Medium | Low | Minor |
| 3 | Laggan Locks: Canal cottage, pillbox, bridge, Lock. | Medium | Low | Minor |
| 4 | Kilfinnan: burial ground and mausoleum, site of chapel | Medium | Low | Minor |
| 5 | Blar na Leine, battlefield site | Low | Imperceptible | Negligible |

- 15.8.20 The permanent indirect visual impact on the Caledonian Canal and locks (site 1 and site 2) will be Minor and can be minimised by retention of tree cover, good design of the road widening and the site establishment area at the lower reservoir works. The only works within the Battlefield site (site 5) would be any upgrading of the public road between North Laggan and Kilfinnan Farm.

- 15.8.21 There would be an increased visual impact during the construction phase, particularly from the jetty, site establishment area and temporary new access track on the shore of Loch Lochy, from increased traffic on the public road and on the canal. However, use of the canal is in keeping with its original purpose as a commercial waterway serving industry and trade in Scotland. Scheduled Monument and Listed Building Consent will not be required as damage or alteration to the structures and buildings is not intended. Consent is not required for alteration to the setting of, or visual impact on a Scheduled or Listed site.

15.9 Proposed Mitigation

- 15.9.1 No mitigation measures are recommended.

15.10 Residual Effects

- 15.10.1 Residual direct effects consist of probable direct damage to two visible archaeological features of local importance (sites 13 and 16) and three archaeological sites with no surviving features (sites 11, 12 and 15).

- 15.10.2 The potential for damage to unrecorded archaeological features or deposits associated with recorded sites along the route of temporary and permanent access routes (sites 7, 8, 9 and 10) is considered to be low.

- 15.10.3 The effect of The Proposed Development on the archaeological record is considered too slight for mitigation to be recommended for any of these sites.

15.10.4 Sites adjacent to elements of The Proposed Development (sites 6 and 14) are included in this chapter for consideration but should be unaffected.

15.10.4 Minor residual indirect effects are considered from aspects of The Proposed Development on the Scheduled Monuments and Listed buildings associated with the Caledonian Canal (sites 1, 2 and 3). These visual effects will only apply during the construction phase of the project. Scheduled Monument and Listed Building Consent will not be required as damage or alteration to the structures and buildings is not intended. Consent is not required for alteration to the setting of, or visual effect on a Scheduled or Listed site.

15.10.5 Other Scheduled Monuments (sites 4 and 5) should be unaffected by direct effects and will be affected by minor to imperceptible indirect, visual effects during the construction phase of The Proposed Development.

15.11 References

Data Sources and Bibliography

15.11.1 The following data sources were consulted during this evaluation:

- Highland Historic Environment Record (HER) held by the Historic Environment Team at Highland Council
- Early maps held by the Map Library within the National Library of Scotland: Timothy Pont. Roy's Military Survey. John Thomson 1823 Inverness-shire South
- George Brown 1796, plan of proposed road Loch Lochy, available on SCRAN, scran.ac.uk

15.11.2 The following publications provided background information to the evaluation

- Abbey Press, Fort Augustus: Glen Albyn, Tales and Truths of the Central Highlands
- Cameron, AD 2005 The Caledonian Canal
- Osbourne, BD 2001 The Last of the Chiefs
- Smout, TC 1997 Scottish Woodland History
- The Scottish Tourist and Itinerary 1830