

TECHNICAL APPENDIX 12.3 Settings Assessment

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Settings Assessment

Introduction

All designated assets located within the 5km and 10km Study Areas, as set out in Chapter 12, and within the Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) have been subject to setting assessment. Additionally, all designated assets under consideration in the assessment were reviewed against the information known about their contextual characteristic (see Technical Appendix 12.1) and against mapping information to identify any assets where views of the Proposed Development may significantly impact the settings of the assets due to an impact on views towards the asset from other points in the landscape.

Potential effects upon the setting of Dail Langwell, broch (Asset 45) are considered to be potentially significant and the detailed setting assessment for this asset is contained in Section 12.7 of the EIA Report.

A summary of the findings of the settings assessment, for all other assets considered, is presented in Table 12.3.1. A summary discussion for each of the assets subject to detailed assessment is provided within this Technical Appendix and has been informed by ZTV modelling.

Table 12.3.1: Summary of settings assessment

Asset Number	Asset Name	Number of theoretically visible turbines	Distance to nearest turbine	Other factors Affecting Visibility	Relative Sensitivity	Magnitude of Setting Impact	Level of Effect
1	Shin Railway Viaduct	0-5	15.55km	The asset has open views along the valley	Low	Negligible	Negligible
3	Rosehall House and walled garden	10-15	5.23km	Mature trees surround the buildings from the north-north-west round to the south-east	Medium	Negligible	Negligible
4	North Lodge and adjoining walls, Rosehall	5-10	5.03km	A mature forest plantation is located to the north	Low	Negligible	Negligible
5	Cassley Bridge	5-10	4.56km	There are low rising hills to the north	Low	Negligible	Negligible
6	United Free Church, Rosehall	0-5	5.44km	A mature forest plantation is located to the north	Medium	Negligible	Negligible
15	Loch Tigh Na Creige, house 200m N of E end of	10-15	14.99km	There is a forest plantation to the west	Low	Negligible	Negligible
16	Meall Meadhonach, hut circles, field system & shielings 750m SW of	15-20	14.10km	There is forest plantation to the south-west and west	Low	Negligible	Negligible
20	Invershin Farm, settlement and burnt mound 1200m E of	0-5	15.15km	There is forest plantation to the north-west and west	Low	Negligible	Negligible
21	Invershin Farm, settlement & burnt mound 500m E of	0-5	15.14km	There are mature trees to the north-west	Low	Negligible	Negligible
22	Invershin Primary School, settlement 600m E of	0-5	14.50km	Only the southern portion of the Scheduled Area lies within the ZTV, there would be no visibility of turbines from within the northern area. There is	Low	Negligible	Negligible

<u>Asset Number</u>	<u>Asset Name</u>	<u>Number of theoretically visible turbines</u>	<u>Distance to nearest turbine</u>	<u>Other factors Affecting Visibility</u>	<u>Relative Sensitivity</u>	<u>Magnitude of Setting Impact</u>	<u>Level of Effect</u>
				forest plantation along the north-western edge of the scheduled area			
24	Dalchork Bridge Altbreck, homestead 1800m ESE of	5-15	12.26km	The asset has open views	Low	Negligible	Negligible
25	Loch Tigh na Creige, settlement 650m W of W end of loch	10-20	13.14km	Visibility of turbines would increase towards the northern portion of the Scheduled area. There is a thin stand of mature trees around the asset	Low	Negligible	Negligible
26	Loch Tigh na Creige, sheepfold 300m NW of NE corner	5-10	14.64km	There are trees to the west	Low	Negligible	Negligible
27	Lairg Station Achany Glen, settlement 900m to 1850m S of	0-15	11.22km	Visibility with the Proposed Development decreases from the south to the north of the asset. There is some commercial forest plantation to the north-west	Low	Negligible	Negligible
28	Lairg Muir North, chambered cairn 500m NW of Culbuie	5-10	11.93km	The asset has open views	Medium	Low	Minor
30	Invershin Station, chambered cairn 400m N of	0-5	15.17km	The asset is surrounded by mature trees	Medium	Negligible	Negligible
32	Balcharn, chambered cairn 120m W of	5-10	12.22km	The asset has open views	Medium	Low	Minor
39	Dalchork Bridge Altbreck, broch 1650m ESE of	0-15	12.16km	No visibility from the north-eastern portion of the Scheduled area. Otherwise, the asset has open views	High	Negligible	Minor

<u>Asset Number</u>	<u>Asset Name</u>	<u>Number of theoretically visible turbines</u>	<u>Distance to nearest turbine</u>	<u>Other factors Affecting Visibility</u>	<u>Relative Sensitivity</u>	<u>Magnitude of Setting Impact</u>	<u>Level of Effect</u>
40	Loch Dola, stone circle, hut circles & cairns 270m E of	0-20	13.78km	North area – surrounded by trees Central area – open views though it lies outwith the ZTV South area – open views	Medium	Low	Minor
41	Creag Innse Chomhraig, hut circles SSW of	0-5	14.89km	Open views along the valley	Low	Negligible	Negligible
42	Druim Baile Fuir, stone circle, cairns, hut circles & enclosure	0-5	9.51km	The Scheduled area comprises four separate circular areas. The ZTV indicates that turbines would only be theoretically visible from the eastern most area, the other areas lie outwith the ZTV. The asset is surrounded by forestry plantation	Medium	Negligible	Negligible
43	Loch Tigh Na Creighe, hut circle 350m N of NE corner	0-5	14.69km	There are trees to the west	Low	Negligible	Negligible
45	Croich Dail Langwell, broch 1675m NW of	15-20	3.44km	The asset has open views along the valley. There is rising ground between the Site and the Proposed Development.	High	Medium	Moderate
46	Battle of Carbisdale	0-5	14.93km	There is only visibility with the Proposed Development from the extremities of the north-east corner of the asset	Low	Negligible	Negligible

Negligible Effects

Shin Railway Viaduct (Asset 1)

- 1.1.1 Built in 1867, the Category A Listed Shin Railway Viaduct (Asset 1) comprises an iron-truss bridge with two tall semi-circular arched approach spans at the south and three at the north linked by a wide cast-iron lattice girder bridge. The viaduct was built to carry the Dingwall-Wick extension of the Inverness and Ross-shire Railway over the Kyle of Sutherland, opening to traffic on 13 April 1868 (Canmore 2021). It is located in a picturesque setting overlooked by Carbisdale Castle with open views along the valley. The viaduct owes its location in the landscape to functional considerations associated with making the river crossing and as such, the elements of setting that contribute to an understanding of it are its relationship with the railway line, of which it forms part, and the Kyle of Sutherland, over which it carries the railway line. On this basis, it is judged to be of low sensitivity to changes in its wider landscape setting.
- 1.1.2 The nearest turbine of the Proposed Development would be located 15.55km north-west of the viaduct. The ZTV indicates that between zero and five turbines would be visible from the viaduct. The turbines would be well beyond the Kyle of Sutherland and would not affect the ability to understand the function of the asset or its relationship to key features in the landscape as noted above. As such, the magnitude of impact is judged to be negligible and the overall level of effect **negligible**. This level of effect is considered **not significant** in EIA terms.

Rosehall House and Walled Garden (Asset 3)

- 1.1.3 The Category B Listed Rosehall House and walled garden (Asset 3) was built about 1822, but likely incorporates some fabric from a former house that burnt down in 1817 (HES 2021b). A good example of a simple classical mansion house, its position is relatively low-lying at the base of Cnoc a' Choire on the east bank of the River Cassley, with its principal elevation having an open vista to the south-west over the river and valley beyond. Mature trees surround the buildings from the north-north-west round to the south-east and historic mapping (both the 1st and 2nd Edition 1:10,560 maps) indicate that the original setting of the house and garden was within a woodland. The most important setting element for the house is its view of the river and valley beyond, and relationship with its ancillary buildings. While views to the south-west to the River Cassley, and views of the house from the river and opposite side of the valley, are considered highly sensitive to change, its relative sensitivity to changes in the wider landscape are considered to be medium.
- 1.1.4 The nearest turbine of the Proposed Development would be located 5.23km to the north of Rosehall House. The ZTV indicates that between 10 and 15 turbines would be visible from the house. Reference should also be made to Figures 7.14.1 to 7.14.4 included in Volume 3A of this EIA Report that provide a baseline photograph, wireline and visualisation from a nearby location in Rosehall. The visualisation suggests that the visibility of turbines from this area would comprise the nacelle and/or blades seen beyond the ridge line. It is likely that the tree-covered rising ground in the immediate vicinity of the house would obscure these views. Further, the turbines would not intervene in important views to the south-west over the river. As such, the magnitude of

impact is judged to be negligible and the overall level of effect **negligible**. This level of effect is considered **not significant** in EIA terms.

Rosehall, North Lodge and adjoining walls (Asset 4)

- 1.1.5 The Category C Listed North Lodge for Rosehall House is a derelict early 19th century gate lodge with its principal elevation on the west. It is positioned on the south-west side of the A837 with mature trees all round. Any road to Rosehall House is no longer visible. The most important elements of setting which contribute to an understanding and appreciation of the Lodge is its relationship with the road and Rosehall House as it would have been designed, primarily to control access to and egress from the house. It is considered to be of low sensitivity to changes in its wider landscape setting.
- 1.1.6 The nearest turbine of the Proposed Development would be located 5.03km to the north of the Lodge. While the ZTV indicates that between five and ten turbines would be visible, it is likely the mature forest plantation to the north would obscure these views and it is noted that the Lodge has been set in the forest since at least the late 19th century. In addition to views being obscured by the forest, the Proposed Development would not affect the relationship between the Lodge and Rosehall House or the adjacent road. As such, the magnitude of impact is judged to be negligible and the overall level of effect **negligible**. This level of effect is considered **not significant** in EIA terms.

Cassley Bridge (Asset 5)

- 1.1.7 Cassley Bridge (Asset 5) is a Category B Listed double span rubble bridge built about 1830. It spans the River Cassley in a picturesque setting with mature trees along the south-east bank. The bridge owes its location in the landscape to functional considerations associated with making the river crossing and as such, the elements of setting that contribute to an understanding of it are its relationship to the A837, of which it forms part, and the River Cassley, over which it carries the road. On this basis, it is judged to be of low sensitivity to changes to its wider landscape setting.
- 1.1.8 The nearest turbine of the Proposed Development would be 4.56km to the north of the bridge. The ZTV indicates that between five and ten turbines would be visible from the bridge. Reference should also be made to Figures 7.14.1 to 7.14.4 included in Volume 3A of this EIA Report that provide a baseline photograph, wireline and visualisation from a nearby location in Rosehall. The visualisation suggests that the visibility of turbines from this area would comprise the nacelle and/or blades seen beyond the ridge line. Whilst there would be some visibility of turbines, they would not impact upon the key relationships of the bridge with the River Cassley or the road. As such, the magnitude of impact is judged to be negligible and the overall effect **negligible**. This is considered **not significant** in EIA terms.

United Free Church, Rosehall (Asset 6)

- 1.1.9 The Category C Listed United Free Church, Rosehall (Asset 6) was constructed about 1844. It sits on the west side of the A837 with its entrance facing south-east. There is mature forest plantation surrounding it from the west to north-east. The most important element of setting for the church is how it relates to the associated manse and surrounding village. It is considered to be sensitive to changes within these immediate environs, although the

mature trees surrounding it have helped to divorce it from those as well, but of medium sensitivity to changes in the wider landscape.

- 1.1.10 The nearest turbine of the Proposed Development would be located 5.44km north-north-west of the church. The ZTV indicates that between zero and five turbines would be visible from the church. However, the forest plantation to the north would likely obscure these views and it is noted that woodland surrounded the church historically. Further, the turbines would not be visible from, or on approach to the main elevation of the church which faces south-east, and they would not intervene in the relationship between the church and manse or between the church and the wider Rosehall settlement, which have been identified as being key characteristics of setting. As such, the magnitude of impact is judged to be negligible. This would result in a **negligible** effect which is **not significant** in EIA terms.

Loch Tighe na Creige (Asset 15)

- 1.1.11 The Scheduled Monument consists of a roofless croft house with an attached semi-circular sheepfold (Asset 15), which forms part of a wider pre-clearance landscape. It sits on a terrace on a south-facing slope above Loch Tigh na Creige in an area of recent tree-felling. The asset would have been located based on topographical constraints and its relationship to other contemporaneous settlement and local resources. Whilst the house would be sensitive to changes in its immediate setting, it is considered of low sensitivity to changes in the wider landscape.
- 1.1.12 The nearest turbine of the Proposed Development would be located 14.99km to the south-west of the asset. The ZTV indicates that between 10 and 15 turbines would be visible from the asset. However, there is forest plantation to the west which would help to obscure these views. Given the distance to the Proposed Development and intervening features, the magnitude of impact is judged to be negligible. This would result in a **negligible** effect which is **not significant** in EIA terms.

Meall Meadhonach (Asset 16)

- 1.1.13 The Scheduled Monument at Meall Meadhonach (Asset 16) comprises prehistoric hut circles and associated field systems in a large clearing surrounded by commercial forest plantation. The location of the settlement would have been influenced by topographical and agricultural considerations. Whilst sensitive to changes to its immediate setting, the asset is considered to be of low sensitivity to changes in the wider landscape.
- 1.1.14 The nearest turbine of the Proposed Development would be located 14.10km to the south-west of the asset. The ZTV indicates that between 15 and 20 turbines would be visible from the asset. However, there is forest plantation to the south-west and west that would help to obscure these views. Further, the Proposed Development would not affect the relationship between the asset and its immediate setting. As such, the magnitude of impact is judged to be negligible. This would result in a **negligible** effect which is **not significant** in EIA terms.

Invershin Farm (Asset 20)

- 1.1.15 The Scheduled prehistoric settlement and burnt mound at Invershin Farm (Asset 20) are situated in two forest clearings on a south-west facing slope. It is possible that they previously had intervisibility with the prehistoric settlement and burnt mound (Site 21)

on the lower reaches of the slope. The location of the settlement would have been influenced by topographical and agricultural considerations and the burnt mound would have been placed in relation to the settlement and a local water source. Whilst sensitive to change to the immediate setting, the asset is considered to be of low sensitivity to changes in the wider landscape.

- 1.1.16 The nearest turbine of the Proposed Development would be located 15.14km to the north-west of the asset. The ZTV indicates that between zero and five turbines would be visible from the asset. However, there is forest plantation to the north-west and west that would help to obscure these views. Given the distance to the Proposed Development and intervening features, the magnitude of impact is judged to be negligible. This would result in a **negligible** effect which is **not significant** in EIA terms.

Invershin Farm (Asset 21)

- 1.1.17 The Scheduled prehistoric settlement and burnt mound at Invershin Farm (Asset 21) are situated on a west facing slope. It is possible that they had intervisibility with the prehistoric settlement and burnt mound (Site 20) on the upper reaches of the slope. The location of the settlement would have been influenced by topographical and agricultural considerations and the burnt mound would have been placed in relation to the settlement and a local water source. Whilst sensitive to change to the immediate setting, the asset is considered to be of low sensitivity to changes in the wider landscape.

- 1.1.18 The nearest turbine of the Proposed Development would be located 15.14km to the north-west of the asset. The ZTV indicates that between zero and five turbines would be visible from the asset. However, there are mature trees to the north-west that would help to obscure these views. Given the distance to the Proposed Development and the intervening features, the magnitude of impact is judged to be negligible. This would result in a **negligible** effect which is **not significant** in EIA terms.

Invershin Primary School (Asset 22)

- 1.1.19 This Scheduled Monument (Asset 22) consists of an extensive area of prehistoric settlement on a west-facing slope to either side of a burn. The location of the settlement would have been influenced by topographical and agricultural considerations. Whilst sensitive to change to the immediate setting, the asset is considered to be of low sensitivity to changes in the wider landscape.

- 1.1.20 The nearest turbine of the Proposed Development would be located 14.50km to the north-west of the asset. The ZTV indicates that between zero and five turbines would be visible from the southern extent of the asset only. However, there is forest plantation along the north-western edge of the Scheduled area and immediately surrounding the southern portion of the asset that would help to obscure these views. Given the distance to the Proposed Development, the intervening features and the limited portion of the asset that turbines would be theoretically visible from, the magnitude of impact is judged to be negligible. This would result in a **negligible** effect which is **not significant** in EIA terms.

Altbreck (Asset 24)

- 1.1.21 The Scheduled homestead at Altbreck (Asset 24) consists of the earthworks of a probable prehistoric homestead on an area of raised ground, overlooking Allt Chaiseagail to the

south. It sits in open ground and is overlooked by Altbreck broch (Asset 39); it is not known whether they are contemporaneous. The location of the homestead would have been influenced by topographical and agricultural considerations. Whilst sensitive to change to its immediate setting, the asset is considered to be of low sensitivity to changes in the wider landscape.

- 1.1.22 The nearest turbine of the Proposed Development would be located 12.26km to the south-west of the asset. The ZTV indicates that between 10 and 15 turbines would be visible. The Proposed Development would not affect the ability to understand the relationship between this asset and others in the local area, nor would it affect the understanding or the relationship between the asset and local topographical features to which it relates. As such, and given the distance to the Proposed Development, the magnitude of impact is judged to be negligible. This would result in a **negligible** effect which is **not significant** in EIA terms.

Loch Tigh na Creige (Asset 25)

- 1.1.23 Loch Tigh na Creige (Asset 25) consists of a Scheduled settlement and field system. It sits on relatively flat ground, above Allt Chaiseagail, to its south, and with Loch Tigh na Creige to its east. There are open views in all directions from the asset, although recent tree felling has left a thin stand of trees around the Scheduled area. The location of the settlement would have been influenced by topographical and agricultural considerations. Whilst sensitive to change to the immediate setting, the asset is considered to be of low sensitivity to changes in the wider landscape.
- 1.1.24 The nearest turbine of the Proposed Development would be located 13.14km to the west-south-west of the asset. The ZTV indicates that between 10 and 20 turbines would be visible: 10 to 15 from the southern half and 15 to 20 from the northern half. The stand of remaining trees would provide some screening to obscure visibility and the Proposed Development would not intrude in the immediate setting of the asset, leaving intact those relationships noted above. Given this and the distance to the Proposed Development, the magnitude of impact is judged to be negligible. This would result in a **negligible** effect which is **not significant** in EIA terms.

Loch Tigh na Creige (Asset 26)

- 1.1.25 The Scheduled post-medieval sheepfold (Asset 26) is situated on the northern shore of Loch Tigh na Creige. Its location would have had regard to the proximity of the house (Asset 15) and the loch as a water source. There are open views to the east and south, trees to the west, and rising ground and trees to the north. Whilst sensitive to change to the immediate setting which includes the croft house (Asset 15) and the loch, the asset is considered to be of low sensitivity to changes in the wider landscape.
- 1.1.26 The nearest turbine of the Proposed Development would be located 14.64km to the south-west of the asset. The ZTV indicates that between five and ten turbines would be visible. There is a block of commercial forestry plantation that would provide some screening and obscure views of the Proposed Development. Given this, the distance to the Proposed Development and the fact that it would not adversely affect the ability to understand and appreciate the key characteristics of setting as outlined above, the magnitude of impact is judged to be negligible. This would result in a **negligible** effect which is **not significant** in EIA terms.

Achany Glen (Asset 27)

- 1.1.27 The Scheduled settlement at Achany Glen (Asset 27) comprises the remains of a large number of prehistoric and later dwelling sites, together with contemporary field systems and field clearance. The western edge of the Scheduled area is contiguous with the A836. It is likely that there would have been intervisibility between the dwellings here and other prehistoric assets in the wider landscape. The location of the settlement would have been influenced by topographical considerations and this is clear in its placement in a relatively prominent position within Achany Glen itself. The position would have provided good access to agricultural resources as well as a favourable location on a communication route through the glen. It is considered to be highly sensitive to change within Achany Glen but to be of low sensitivity to changes in the wider landscape.
- 1.1.28 The nearest turbine of the Proposed Development would be located 11.22km to the north-west of the asset. The ZTV indicates that between 0 and 15 turbines would be visible. Visibility with the Proposed Development would decrease from the south to the north of the asset. There is some commercial forest that would provide some screening to obscure visibility. The Proposed Development would be located well outwith Achany Glen and therefore would be located beyond, and would not adversely affect, any of the key setting characteristics. As such, the magnitude of impact is judged to be negligible. This would result in a **negligible** effect which is **not significant** in EIA terms.

Invershin Station (Asset 30)

- 1.1.29 The Scheduled chambered cairn 400m north of Invershin Station (Asset 30) is located on a terrace immediately above the east side of the A836, with the railway line to its east. It is currently surrounded by mature trees. Chambered tombs are the most prominent remains of the Neolithic period and are the only surviving markers of what may have been a complex array of physical and symbolic indicators concerning territory, political allegiance, ownership, and ancestors (ibid), and can be sensitive to changes in the immediate and wider landscape. In this instance, the connection of the asset to the immediate and wider landscape has been weakened by the construction of the road and railway. Its position above and to the east of the Kyle of Sutherland is still mainly appreciable, and it was likely set here, along a likely important communication route, as a visible marker in the landscape both in terms of views to and from the cairn. The cairn itself is aligned north-south with its entrance, and principal view, to the south. On balance it is judged to be of medium sensitivity to changes beyond the Kyle.
- 1.1.30 The nearest turbine of the Proposed Development would be located 15.17km to the north-west of the asset. The ZTV indicates that between zero and five turbines would be visible. The asset is surrounded by mature trees which would obscure visibility, and the distance between the asset and the Proposed Development would preserve the asset's immediate setting along the Kyle of Sutherland, and the Proposed Development would not impinge on the relationship of the cairn with its immediate vicinity. As such, the magnitude of impact is judged to be negligible, which would result in a **negligible** effect which is **not significant** in EIA terms.

Creag Innse Chomhraig (Asset 41)

- 1.1.31 The Scheduled Monument at Creag Innse Chomhraig (Asset 41) comprises the remains of two hut circles and associated features, although only one hut circle could be located on

the terrace on the north side of the A839 at the time of the site visit. It has open views along the valley to the west-north-west and east-south-east. Seventeen turbines, likely relating to the operational Achany Wind Farm and/or Rosehall Wind Farm were visible to the west during the site visit. Its location would have been influenced by topographical and agricultural considerations, possibly along with access to communication routes, and, as such, it is considered to be of low sensitivity to changes in the wider landscape.

- 1.1.32 The nearest turbine of the Proposed Development would be 14.89km to the west-north-west of the asset. The ZTV indicates that between zero and five turbines would be visible. Given the distance to the Proposed Development and the fact that it would not adversely affect the ability to understand and appreciate the key characteristics of setting as outlined above, the magnitude of impact is judged to be negligible. This would result in a **negligible** effect which is **not significant** in EIA terms.

Druim Baile Fuir (Asset 42)

- 1.1.33 The Scheduled Monument at Druim Baile Fuir (Asset 42) comprises a group of prehistoric remains, including a stone circle, cairns and hut circles, which are separated into four distinct scheduled areas. The asset is located within a mature commercial forest plantation. The settlement elements of the asset would have been located in the landscape to take advantage of favourable topographical and agricultural factors and as such, have low sensitivity to change outwith their immediate environs. The funerary monuments, however, would likely have been located for more complex reasons, although clearly associated with the hut circles. They are considered to be more sensitive to change within their immediate and wider landscape setting and, as such, are considered to be of medium sensitivity to changes within the wider landscape.
- 1.1.34 The nearest turbine of the Proposed Development would be 9.51km to the north-west of the asset. The ZTV indicates that between zero and five turbines would be visible from the asset, and this from the north-eastern area only. The remaining three areas would have no visibility of turbines. There are mature trees that would obscure the visibility and as such, the magnitude of impact is judged to be negligible. This would result in a **negligible** effect which is **not significant** in EIA terms.

Loch Tigh Na Creighe (Asset 43)

- 1.1.35 The scheduled hut circle at Loch Tigh Na Creighe (Asset 43) is built into a natural crest on the south-facing slope above the loch. There are open views to the east and south, trees to the west, and rising ground and trees to the north. The hut circle would have been placed to allow its occupants easy access to agricultural resources and likely, the loch. Whilst sensitive to changes to the immediate setting, the asset is considered to be of low sensitivity to changes in the wider landscape.
- 1.1.36 The nearest turbine of the Proposed Development would be 14.69km to the south-west of the asset. The ZTV indicates that between zero and five turbines would be visible from the asset. Given the relatively limited number of turbines that would be visible, the distance to these and the fact that the Proposed Development would not impinge upon the immediate setting of the asset, the magnitude of impact is judged to be negligible. This would result in a **negligible** effect which is **not significant** in EIA terms.

Battle of Carbisdale (Asset 46)

- 1.1.37 The Inventory Battlefield at Carbisdale (Asset 46) is significant as the last battle of James Graham, the 1st Marquis of Montrose, in support of the Royalist cause. The Inventory boundary encompasses a mix of ground, including woodland, the village of Culrain, agricultural land and rough pasture. Battlefields are generally of high sensitivity to changes within the boundaries where action took place, and the events of the battle may be understood and interpreted. However, they are less sensitive to changes in the wider landscape, which may not have influenced the battle at all, and HES guidance notes that most development outwith the boundaries of a battlefield will not have a significant impact upon the landscape context of the battlefield (HES 2016, updated 2020, 18). The asset is considered to be of low relative sensitivity to change.
- 1.1.38 The nearest turbine of the Proposed Development would be 14.93km to the north-west of the asset. The ZTV indicates that between zero and five turbines would be visible from the asset, and this from the north-east corner's extremities only, there would be no visibility from elsewhere within the battlefield. Given the lack of visibility and the fact that the Proposed Development would not impact upon the battlefield's landscape context, there is judged to be a negligible magnitude of setting impact from the Proposed Development. Overall, there is considered to be a **negligible** level of effect, which is considered to be **not significant** in EIA terms.

Minor EffectsLairg Muir North (Asset 28)

- 1.1.39 The Scheduled chambered cairn at Lairg Muir North (Asset 28) sits within a topographical bowl. It is intervisible with a chambered cairn at Lairg Muir South (Asset 34), and most likely the southern polygon representing the Scheduled area associated with Loch Dolan (Asset 40), comprising a complex of hut circles. Such tombs are the most prominent remains of the Neolithic period and are the only surviving markers of what may have been a complex array of physical and symbolic indicators concerning territory, political allegiance, ownership, and ancestors (Malone 2001, 106-107), and can be sensitive to changes in the immediate and wider landscape. This asset is highly sensitive to change within the topographical bowl which largely defines its setting and to changes which would affect the ability to understand and appreciate its relationship with associated assets. The cairn may be horned to the south-east (HES 2021c), suggesting that its principal outlook would have been away from the Proposed Development. It is less sensitive to changes beyond the topographical bowl in which it is set and judged to be of medium relative sensitivity to changes beyond the relevant setting as defined above.
- 1.1.40 The nearest turbine of the Proposed Development would be located 11.93km to the west of the asset. The ZTV indicates that between five and ten turbines would be visible. The asset has open views towards the Proposed Development; however, the distance between the asset and the Proposed Development would mean that the asset's immediate setting, as defined by the topographical bowl and its principal sightline, is preserved. Further, the Proposed Development would not impinge on the relationship of the cairn with the other assets in the vicinity. As such, the magnitude of impact is judged to be low, which would result in a **minor** effect which is **not significant** in EIA terms.

Balcharn (Asset 32)

- 1.1.41 The Scheduled chambered cairn located 120m west of Balcharn (Asset 32) sits on fairly level ground close to an unclassified road. The cairn has been disturbed and has the footings of a post-medieval house on the southern extremity, and a stone wall bisecting its south-east edge. Chambered tombs are the most prominent remains of the Neolithic period and are the only surviving markers of what may have been a complex array of physical and symbolic indicators concerning territory, political allegiance, ownership, and ancestors (ibid), and can be sensitive to changes in the immediate and wider landscape. Balcharn sits below the summit of Meall Dola which lies to its east and above Allt a' Choin-duinn to its west. A number of other cairns and tumuli are located to the north and south on relatively flat area to the east of the Little Loch Shin. The asset's immediate setting has been compromised in antiquity, but it is still possible to understand its placement with regard to local topographical features and other monuments of broadly contemporary date. While judged to be highly sensitive within its local setting, as described above, it is of medium sensitivity to changes in its wider setting.
- 1.1.42 The nearest turbine of the Proposed Development would be located 12.22km to the west of the asset. The ZTV indicates that between five and ten turbines would be visible. The asset has open views towards the Proposed Development; however, the distance between the asset and the Proposed Development means that visibility of the turbines would not intervene in the local setting and the Proposed Development would not impinge on the relationship of the cairn with key topographical and heritage features as described above. As such, the magnitude of impact is judged to be low, which would result in a **minor** effect which is **not significant** in EIA terms.

Altbreck (Asset 39)

- 1.1.43 The Scheduled broch at Altbreck (Asset 39) measures 9.5m in diameter with the outer face of the wall standing up to 1.2m high. Abutting the broch is a D-shaped enclosure built of broch material. The broch is surrounded by the remains of a probable outer enclosure. It occupies an elevated position in a large, slight topographic bowl with open views in all directions. Three turbines of the Lairg Wind Farm were visible to the south-south-east and 20 associated with the operational Achany Wind Farm and/or Rosehall Wind Farm were visible to the south-west during the site visit. The broch has been positioned to be a prominent feature in the local landscape, and to take advantage of the views of the surrounding landscape. As such, the broch was clearly built with its vertical and visual planes in mind and is considered to be of high relative sensitivity to changes to its setting.
- 1.1.44 The nearest turbine of the Proposed Development would be 12.16km to the south-west of the asset. The ZTV indicates that between 10 and 15 turbines would be visible. The distance between the asset and the Proposed Development would preserve the asset's immediate setting, and the Proposed Development would not diminish the ability to understand and appreciate the vertical location of the broch in the landscape. As such there is judged to be a low magnitude of setting impact from the Proposed Development. Overall, there is considered to be a **minor** level of effect, which is considered to be **not significant** in EIA terms.

Loch Dola (Asset 40)

- 1.1.45 The Scheduled Monument at Loch Dola (Asset 40) consists of three separate areas containing prehistoric settlement and funerary monuments. The northern area consists of a stone circle located within a forest clearing, with views towards the Proposed Development mostly obscured by trees. The central area consists of a single hut circle on a terrace above a stream. It generally has open views in all directions, and 12 turbines associated with the operational Achany Wind Farm and/or Rosehall Wind Farm were visible to the west during the site visit. The southern, and largest, area contains a complex of hut circles and large cairns, which may be funerary in nature, spread out on a raised terrace on a north-facing slope between Loch Dola and Loch Craggie. The hut circle and stone circle described above would have been visible from these features. It is also possible that the chambered cairns at Lairg Muir North (Asset 28) and Lairg Muir South (Asset 34) would have been visible. There are generally open views from this area, with about 17 turbines visible to the west.
- 1.1.46 The settlement elements of the asset would have been located in the landscape to take advantage of favourable topographical and agricultural factors and, as such, have low sensitivity to change outwith their immediate environs, defined by their position between the two lochs. The funerary monuments, however, would likely have been located for more complex reasons, one of which could have been the intervisibility with other such monuments in the area. They are considered to be highly sensitive to change within their immediate setting and to be of medium sensitivity to changes within their wider landscape setting.
- 1.1.47 The nearest turbine of the Proposed Development would be 13.78km west-south-west of the asset. The ZTV indicates that between zero and 20 turbines would be visible, but the number varies between the three separate areas of the asset. The northern and central areas would have visibility of between 15 and 20 turbines, as does the southern third of the southern area. The north-west quadrant of the southern area does not have visibility with any turbines of the Proposed Development, and the north-east ranges from between zero and 20. The distance between the asset and the Proposed Development would preserve the asset's immediate setting and would not diminish the ability to understand its relationship with other funerary monuments within the wider landscape. As such there is judged to be a low magnitude of setting impact from the Proposed Development. Overall, there is considered to be a **minor** level of effect, which is considered to be **not significant** in EIA terms.