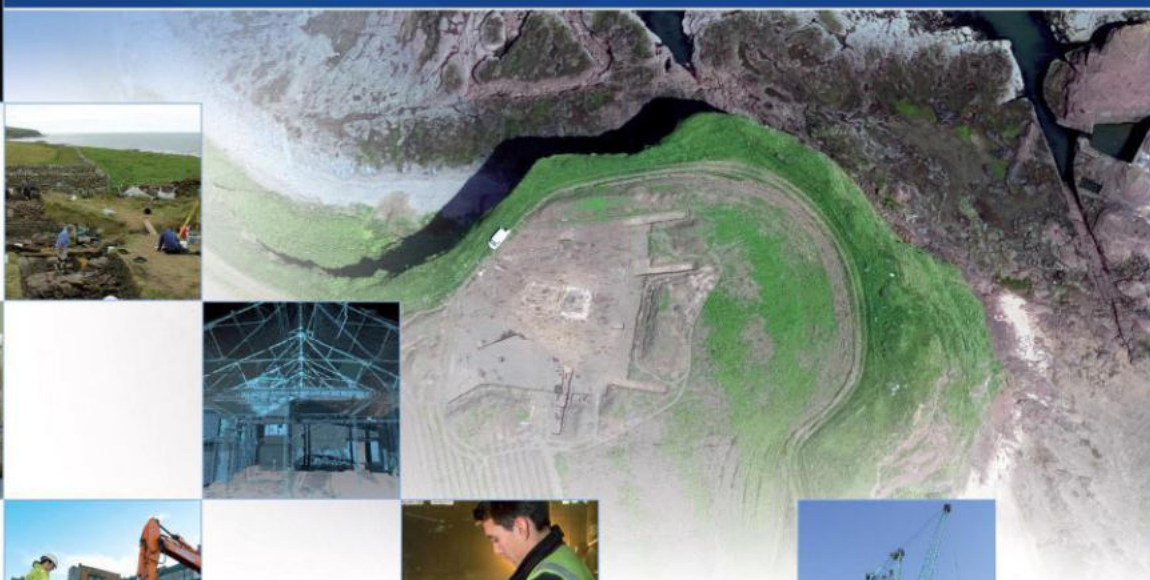


Annex 5 Heritage Impact Assessment

Mey BESS, Mey, Highland: Heritage Impact Assessment

AOC Project Number: 27073

November 2023



ARCHAEOLOGY

HERITAGE

CONSERVATION

Mey BESS, Highland: Heritage Impact Assessment

On Behalf of:	ITPEnergised 4 th Floor Centrum House 108-114 Dundas Street Edinburgh EH3 5DQ
National Grid Reference (NGR):	ND 29609 72341 (centre)
AOC Project No:	27073
Prepared by:	Sam Williamson
Illustrations by:	Sam Williamson
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This document has been prepared in accordance with AOC standard operating procedures.

Author: Sam Williamson	Date: November 2023
Approved by: Lynne Roy	Date: November 2023
Draft/Final Report Stage: Final	Date: November 2023

Enquiries to: AOC Archaeology Group
Edgefield Industrial Estate
Edgefield Road
Loanhead
EH20 9SY

Tel. 0131 440 3593
Fax. 0131 440 3422
e-mail. admin@aocarchaeology.com



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1. NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

- 1.1. AOC Archaeology Group was commissioned by ITP Energised to undertake a Heritage Impact Assessment with regard to the proposed installation of a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) on land around Philips Mains, Mey, (hereafter referred to as “the Site” where appropriate), centred at ND 29609 72341 (**Figure 1**).
- 1.2. The Site comprises an area of 10.66 hectares (ha) set across two fields, the northeast field currently in use as pasture and the southeast field seemingly fallow. The Site appears to have been in use as agricultural land through the post-medieval period and into the modern era.
- 1.3. Previous desk-based assessment and walkover surveys, and this assessment, have identified a total of nine non-designated heritage assets (**Assets 27-32, 34, 36 and 37**) within the Site, generally comprising post-medieval agricultural remains such as boundary walls, flagstone dyke, ditches and rig and furrow cultivation. These assets are considered to be of Negligible to Low importance, but a previous walkover survey identified a large mound (**Asset 30**) under turf that may be older and more significant. Further non-designated assets within the 1km Study Area comprise post-medieval and modern farmsteads with associated agricultural remains, buildings associated with the village of Mey, and a lodge associated with the Castle of Mey.
- 1.4. Designated assets within 2km of the Site include a Scheduled coastal battery (**Asset 1**), the Category A Listed Castle of Mey (**Asset 3**) and associated Garden and Designed Landscape (**Asset 2**) and Category B Listed gate lodge (**Asset 4**). No World Heritage Sites, Inventory Battlefields or Conservation Areas have been identified within 2km of the Site.
- 1.5. This assessment considers the potential for the Proposed Development to result in direct impacts upon buried archaeological remains which may survive within the Site, and the potential for impacts upon the setting of designated heritage assets in the surrounding 2km Study Area.
- 1.6. Within the Site the assessment has established that there is likely a Low potential for archaeological remains of early historic, medieval and modern date, a Low potential for remains of prehistoric date, and a High potential for archaeological remains of post-medieval date. Post-medieval remains would likely relate to agricultural practices and would likely be of Negligible to Low importance.
- 1.7. Impacts on the settings of designated assets within 2km of the Site have also been considered as part of this assessment. It is considered that the Proposed Development would have a Neutral impact on the Scheduled Mey battery (**Asset 1**), the Category A Listed Castle of Mey (**Asset 3**) and associated Garden and Designed Landscape (**Asset 2**) and Category B Listed gate lodge (**Asset 4**). This is predominantly due to the screening effect of the designed landscape’s woodland and hedges, along with a belt of woodland along the A836 that intervenes between the Site and the designed landscape, and in the case of the Scheduled battery (**Asset 1**) intervening topography also screens views. Embedded mitigation within the Development Proposal design includes the installation of a hedgerow along the Site’s western and northeastern periphery, intervening with the Site and this asset cluster. No recommendations for further mitigation regarding setting impacts is thus recommended, however the final decision for any such requirements lies with the local planning authority and Historic Environment Scotland.

- 1.8. The Proposed Development has the potential to have a high direct impact on any archaeological remains surviving at a sub-surface level. A programme of archaeological work will be required in advance of any development, as per the May 2023 pre-application advice issued by the Highland Council (Planning Reference 23/00635/PREMAJ). This could take the form of a geophysical survey or trial trench evaluation, or a combination thereof. The results of this would inform the need for any further works or mitigation. Any such requirements would be determined by the Highland Historic Environment Team (HET) as advisors to Highland Council on such matters.

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Proposed Development Site

- 1.1.1. AOC Archaeology Group was commissioned by ITP Energised to undertake a Heritage Impact Assessment with regard to the proposed installation of a Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) on land around Philips Mains, Mey, (hereafter referred to as “the Site” where appropriate), centred at ND 29609 72341 (**Figure 1**).
- 1.1.2. The Site comprises an area of land 10.66ha in size, extending in a somewhat L-shaped layout across two fields, respecting the northeast corner of a block of commercial forestry plantation immediately west of the Site. These fields are historically associated with Philips Mains farmstead (**Asset 10**), adjacent to the east of the Site. At present the north field of the Site is in use as pasture for cattle, with evidence for previous cultivation. The south field appears to have also been cultivated in the past but now lies fallow and overgrown. To the north of the Site lies an unclassified road, to the northeast and east lie further fields and the Hill of Rigifa’, to the south lie further fields, and to the west the commercial forestry plantation. An electrical switching station development to the southwest of the Site has been approved in planning (Planning reference: 21/05536/FUL).
- 1.1.3. The Site appears to have been in use as agricultural land through the post-medieval period and into the modern era with little evidence for development further than agricultural improvements.
- 1.1.4. Nine non-designated heritage assets (**Assets 27-32, 34, 36 and 37**) have been identified within the Site. A further 18 non-designated assets (**Assets 6-14, 22-26, 33, 35, 38 and 39**) have been identified within a surrounding 1km Study Area, and four designated assets including a Scheduled Monument (**Asset 1**), Category A Listed Building (**Asset 3**), Category B Listed Building (**Asset 4**) and an Inventory Garden and Designed Landscape (**Asset 2**) have been identified within the 2km Study Area.

1.2. Development Proposal

- 1.2.1. The Proposed Development would comprise the construction of a BESS situated between Phillip Mains farm (**Asset 10**) to the south and an unclassified road to the north. The main access would extend south from the unclassified road. The development, described in detail in the SEIR, would include 2.9m tall battery units, a 6m tall building housing a 132kV transformer, landscaping works and security fencing. Hedgerows would be planted along most of the boundary of the Site.

1.3. Topographical and Geological Conditions

- 1.3.1. The British Geological Survey GeoIndex (BGS 2023) records the superficial geology on the Site as diamicton till, deposited as clays, sands, gravels and boulders by glacier action during the Pleistocene, ending c. 11 700 years ago. The bedrock of the Site comprises sandstones, siltstone and mudstones of the Mey Flagstone Formation, formed during the Mid Devonian Epoch between 394.3 and 378.9 Million years ago.
- 1.3.2. No boreholes or other ground investigations are recorded within the Site or its surrounds.
- 1.3.3. The Site is situated along a very gently declining northwest-facing slope that comprises the base of the Hill of Rigifa’, which rises to the east of the Site. The height varies between 42m Above Ordnance Datum (AOD) along the western edge of the Site to 45m at the northeast extent.

1.4. Government and Local Planning Policies and Guidance

National Planning Policy

- 1.4.1. The statutory framework for heritage 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. Both of these have been modified by the Historic Environment (Amendment) (Scotland) Act 2011.
- 1.4.2. The implications of these Acts with regard to local government planning policy are described within the National Planning Framework 4 (Scottish Government 2023), Historic Environment Policy for Scotland (HEPS) (Historic Environment Scotland (HES) 2019) and Planning Advice Note 2/2011: Planning and Archaeology which provide specific planning policy and guidance in relation to heritage. The 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.

National Planning Framework

- 1.4.3. On 13th February 2023, the National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4) for Scotland was adopted (Scottish Government 2023). This policy replaces Scottish Planning Policy (2014). The stated intent of 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, 45).
- 1.4.4. The following sections of Policy 7 are relevant to this assessment:
- 1.4.5. *‘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.’* (ibid)
- 1.4.6. *‘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.’* (ibid)
- 1.4.7. *‘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.’* (ibid, 46)
- 1.4.8. *‘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' (ibid 46-47).

Historic Environment Policy for Scotland

- 1.4.9. The Historic Environment Policy for Scotland (HEPS) (HES, 2019) sets out the Scottish Government's policy for the sustainable management of the historic environment. Key principles of the policy note 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"* (HEP4).

Highland-wide Local Development Plan (HwLDP)

- 1.4.10. The HwLDP was adopted by Highland Council in 2012 (Highland Council 2012a) and sets out the policies that will be used for assessing planning applications. Review of the HwLDP was anticipated to commence in spring 2023, but as yet no formal revisions have been published by Highland Council. Policy 57 of the HwLDP relates to Natural, Built and Cultural Heritage:

- 1.4.11. *'All development proposals will be assessed taking into account the level of importance and type of heritage features, the form and scale of the development, and any impact on the feature and its setting, in the context of the policy framework detailed in Appendix 2. The following criteria will also 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 natural environment, amenity and heritage resource.*
2. *For features of national importance we will allow developments that can be shown not to compromise the natural environment, amenity and heritage resource. Where there may be any significant adverse effects, these must be clearly outweighed by social or economic benefits of national importance. It must also be shown that the development will support communities in fragile areas who are having difficulties in keeping their population and services.*
3. *For features of international importance developments likely to have a significant effect on a site, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects, and which are not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site for nature conservation 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. Where a priority habitat or species (as defined in Annex 1 of the Habitats Directive) would be affected, development in such circumstances will only be allowed if the reasons for overriding public interest relate to human health, public safety, beneficial consequences of primary importance for the environment, or other reasons subject to the opinion of the European Commission (via Scottish Ministers). Where we are unable to ascertain that a proposal will not adversely affect the integrity of a site, the proposal will not be in accordance with the development plan within the meaning of Section 25(1) of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997.'* (Highland Council 2012a, 111).

1.4.12. ***Caithness and Sutherland Local Development Plan (CaSPlan)***

1.4.13. The CaSPlan was adopted by the Highland Council in 2018. The following are relevant to this assignment:

1.4.14. *'Environment and Heritage*

Outcome: High quality places where the outstanding environment and natural, built and cultural heritage is celebrated and valued assets are safeguarded.

71 CaSPlan is home to a diverse range of renowned and celebrated built and cultural assets. The Plan balances the need to capitalise on these assets for social, economic, environmental and other needs, whilst safeguarding their unique character and qualities.

72 The natural and historic environment is rich, containing: internationally and nationally recognised sites, species and habitats; locally valued sites and landscapes; dramatic landforms, and a diverse cultural heritage. HwLDP policies provide safeguards for these features...' (Highland Council 2018, 22).

1.4.15. Highland Council has Supplementary Guidance related to cultural heritage. Highland Council adopted the Highland Historic Environment Strategy as supplementary planning guidance in January 2013. The following are of particular relevance to this assessment:

'Strategic Aim 6: That listed buildings within Highland are protected from harmful developments, including extension and alteration, which may affect their special architectural and historic interest or their setting and that there is a presumption against the demolition of listed buildings.

...

Strategic Aim 13: That scheduled monuments - and their setting - within Highland are protected from harmful developments which may affect their national importance.

...

Strategic Aim 15: That nationally important battlefields are recognised in the development planning process and to ensure that impacts upon them are a material consideration in development management.

Strategic Aim 16: To ensure that the importance of non-designated archaeological sites and landscapes and their settings are understood and wherever possible are protected from harmful developments.

Strategic Aim 17: To ensure no asset or its setting is lost or altered without adequate consideration of its significance and of the means available to preserve, record and interpret it in line with national and local policy and Highland Council's Standards for Archaeological Work.' (Highland Council 2013, 9-16)

1.5. Planning Considerations Pertaining to the Site

1.5.1. The local planning authority, Highland Council, is advised on archaeological matters by the Highland Council Historic Environment Team (HET). Any requirement for archaeological work either preceding or during development would be determined by HET.

1.5.2. There are no World Heritage Sites, Inventory Battlefields or Conservation Areas within the Site or surrounding Study Areas. Within 2km of the Site there are one Scheduled Monument (**Asset 1**), one Category A Listed building (**Asset 3**), one Category B Listed building (**Asset 4**), and one associated Garden and Designed Landscape (**Asset 2**).

1.6. Limitations of Scope

- 1.6.1. This assessment is based upon data obtained from publicly accessible archives as described in the *Data Sources* in Section 4.3. All known heritage assets within 1km of the Site were identified and all designated heritage assets within 2km of the Site were identified. Historic Environment Record (HER) data from the Highland HER was obtained on 10th July 2023. Data from the National Record for the Historic Environment (NRHE) as held by HES was obtained on 10th July 2023. Information on designated assets was downloaded from HES's GIS portal on 10th July 2023. The information presented in the asset and event gazetteer (**Appendix 2**) regarding known heritage assets and events is current to these dates.
- 1.6.2. It should be noted that this report has been prepared under the express instructions and solely for the use of ITP Energised and their partners. All the work carried out in this report is based upon AOC Archaeology Group's professional knowledge and understanding of current and relevant United Kingdom standards and codes, technology and legislation.
- 1.6.3. Changes in these areas may occur in the future and cause changes to the conclusions, advice or recommendations given. AOC Archaeology Group does not accept responsibility for advising ITP Energised or associated parties of the facts or implications of any such changes in the future.

2. OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 The main objective of this assessment is to map the nature, character, extent, quality and value of the historic environment resource within the Site and surrounding area and to assess the potential for direct impacts upon the archaeological resource from the Proposed Development as well as to assess the potential for impacts upon the setting of designated heritage assets within 2km of the Site. This will be done by examining a variety of evidence for upstanding and buried remains of heritage interest including designated and non-designated heritage assets within the defined 1km and 2km Study Areas surrounding the Site. The evidence presented and the conclusions offered will provide a comprehensive basis for further discussions regarding archaeological investigation or mitigation required at the Site.

3. METHODOLOGY

3.1. Standards

- 3.1.1. The scope of this assessment meets the requirements of current planning regulations set out in NPF4 (Scottish Government 2023), HEPS (HES 2019) and PAN 2/2011 (Scottish Government 2011), and local planning policy.
- 3.1.2. AOC Archaeology Group conforms to the standards of professional conduct outlined in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' (CIfA) Code of Conduct (CIfA 2019, updated 2022), and Regulations for Professional Conduct (2019, updated 2021), the CIfA Standard and Guidance for Historic Environment Desk Based Assessment (CIfA 2014, updated 2020), and the CIfA Standard and guidance for commissioning work on, or providing consultancy advice on, archaeology and the historic environment' (CIfA 2014, updated 2020), Highland Council's Standards for Archaeological Work (2012b), and other relevant guidance.
- 3.1.3. AOC Archaeology Group is a Registered Organisation of the CIfA. This status ensures that there is regular monitoring and approval by external peers of our internal systems, standards and skills development.
- 3.1.4. AOC is ISO 9001:2015 accredited, in recognition of the Company's Quality Management System.

3.2. Assessment Criteria

- 3.2.1. The assessment aims to identify the known and likely archaeological potential of the Site and the relative value or importance of such a resource / asset. The criteria for assessing these factors are laid out in detail in **Appendix 1**.
- 3.2.2. The criteria for assessing archaeological potential are expressed in this report as ranging between the scales of High, Medium, Low and Uncertain, criteria for which are also noted in **Appendix 1**.
- 3.2.3. Levels of importance in the report are expressed as ranging between the scales of High, Medium, Low, Negligible and Unknown. The importance of heritage assets is determined firstly by reference to existing designations – for example Scheduled Monuments are already classified as Nationally Important and therefore of High importance. For assets where no designation has previously been assigned, the likely importance of that resource has been based upon the available evidence and professional knowledge and judgement.
- 3.2.4. The likely magnitude of the impact of the Proposed Development works is determined by identifying the degree of change resulting from the Proposed Development upon the ‘baseline’ conditions of the Site and the heritage resource identified in the assessment. This impact can be either adverse (negative), beneficial (positive) or neutral and is ranked according to the scale of High, Medium, Low, Negligible and Neutral.

Assessment of Setting Impacts

- 3.2.5. The setting assessment has been undertaken in line with the requirements of NPPF and HES setting guidance.
- 3.2.6. 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.’ (2023, 156).*
- 3.2.7. The HES guidance 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’ (HES 2016, updated 2020, 8).*
- 3.2.8. 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 (ibid, 6-7). 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 (ibid, 11-12).
- 3.2.9. The assessment of the impact on setting undertaken for this assessment has followed the staged approach outlined in the HES guidance on setting (2016). 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.

3.2.10. It is noted that in many cases identified effects upon setting are 'neutral', indeed HES and NatureScot's EIA Handbook 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'* (HES & SNH 2018, 181).

3.2.11. Site visits were undertaken to all designated heritage assets within the 2km Study Area. These site visits 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.

Assessment of Direct Impacts

3.2.12. The assessment of Direct Impacts will be undertaken in line with the assessment criteria noted above and in **Appendix 1**. This will be done by establishing the historic environment baseline through examination of the data sources outlined in Section 4.3 and a walkover survey. The Proposed Development will be assessed against the established historic environment baseline, and potential direct impacts on known and unknown heritage assets will be identified.

3.3. Data Sources

3.3.1. The following data sources were consulted during preparation of this heritage impact assessment:

- HES, for:
 - designated heritage asset data.
- Canmore and Pastmap, hosted by HES, for:
 - NRHE data and HER data (including designated and non-designated assets).
- HET, for
 - HER data (including designated and non-designated assets).
- National Map Library (National Library of Scotland), for:
 - online Ordnance Survey maps (1st and 2nd Edition, small and large-scale); and pre-Ordnance Survey historical maps.
- Google Earth Pro and Esri's World Imagery Wayback for:
 - current and historic satellite imagery and aerial photographs.
- National Collection of Aerial Photography (NCAP), for:
 - aerial photographs.
- Scottish Government, Scottish Remote Sensing Portal for:
 - LiDAR data covering the Site; and
- Published and unpublished sources listed in Section 7.

3.4. Report Structure

- 3.4.1. Each heritage asset (referred to as an 'Asset') and each previous archaeological investigation (referred to as an 'Event') referred to in the text is listed in the Gazetteer in **Appendix 2**. Each has been assigned an 'Asset/Event No.' unique to this assessment, and the Gazetteer includes information regarding the type, period, grid reference, NRHE number, HER number, protective designation, and other descriptive information, as derived from the consulted sources.
- 3.4.2. Each heritage asset and event referred to in the text is plotted on **Figures 2-4** at the end of the report, using the assigned Asset/Event numbers. The Site is shown outlined in red.
- 3.4.3. All heritage assets and events located within a 1km Study Area surrounding the Site have been included in the assessment and are depicted on **Figures 2 and 4** using the assigned Asset or Event No. The aim of this is to identify the potential for direct impacts upon known archaeological remains and to help predict whether any similar hitherto unknown archaeological remains may survive within the Site. Designated heritage assets within a 2km Study Area surrounding the Site have also been identified (**Figure 3**) to allow for an assessment of the potential for impacts upon their settings by the Proposed Development.
- 3.4.4. All sources consulted during the assessment, including publications, archived records, photographic and cartographic evidence, are listed amongst the *References* in Section 7.

4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BASELINE

4.1. Unknown

- 4.1.1. The Site and surrounding area were subject to an archaeological walkover survey in 2012 as part of an Environmental Statement (**Event 17**). A number of assets (**Assets 25 to 35**) were identified, particularly in the southern extent of the Site, directly northwest of Philips Mains (**Asset 10**). Those of unknown date comprise segments of ditches (**Assets 27 and 28**), a section of flagstone boundary dykes (**Assets 26, 31 and 34**), a possible mound (**Asset 30**), areas of rig and furrow (**Assets 29 and 32**), field clearance (**Asset 25**) and two possible well sites (**Assets 33 and 35**). This was postulated by ORCA, the surveyors, to be potential evidence of pre-enclosure remains, and this is considered plausible. Such assets would be considered to be of Low to Negligible importance, and their condition today is unknown due to the challenging ground conditions in these field, which contained very tall vegetation at the time of AOC's survey (August 2023).

4.2. Prehistoric (8000 BC-AD 400)

- 4.2.1. There are no previously recorded prehistoric heritage assets within the Site or surrounding 1km Study Area.
- 4.2.2. A lack of intrusive archaeological investigations within the Site and 1km Study Area limit the assessment on the potential for sub-surface prehistoric remains to survive. While the lack of recorded prehistoric remains suggests there is a Low potential for such remains within the Site, it should be noted that prehistoric remains are notably plentiful in the wider Caithness region, with Caithness itself recognised as one of the 'richest cultural landscapes in Europe' (Heald & Barber 2012, 5). There is a particular abundance of brochs, more so than anywhere else in Scotland (ibid, 72), as well as numerous funerary monuments from the Neolithic and Bronze Age periods. The majority of these known sites have survived as visible upstanding features in the landscape, or in records that mention their dismantlement in the 19th century as part of agricultural improvements.

- 4.2.3. A possible non-designated broch, Hollandmey broch (**Asset 5**; situated 1.25km to the south of the Site, outwith the 1km Study Area) is the closest prehistoric asset to the Site. It is recorded as having been ‘completely removed in 1869’ by the NRHE Canmore listing and survives today as a low turf-covered mound on the top of a small hill. Although titled a broch, the listing description suggests the broch moniker cannot be assigned with certainty. A ‘piece of silver’ and a polished bone ring are recorded as artefacts associated with this asset, and a watercolour by John Nicholson (SC 876623) illustrates the ring and a ‘stone disc’ that may be a pot lid, and a stylised plan of the broch. The item description for this watercolour states that the asset was partially excavated by Nicholson in 1904. Nicholson carried out similar work under Sir Francis Tress Barry across Caithness but in this instance this excavation seemed to be wholly Nicholson’s excavation. In spite of a lack of written detail regarding the excavation, a flaw shared by Tress Barry, Nicholson was familiar with brochs and this assessment considers it likely that the asset indeed formed a large structural building of likely prehistoric date, although whether broch or Atlantic roundhouse is uncertain.
- 4.2.4. Therefore, while there is a lack of recorded prehistoric remains within the Site and 1km Study Area, it should be noted that the landscape setting is considered favourable for such remains to be present, and the proximity to **Asset 5**, whether broch or other, would also indicate contemporary settlement and agricultural remains in the vicinity. There is, therefore, considered to be a Low potential for prehistoric remains to be present within the Site.

4.3. Early Historic and Medieval (AD 400-AD 1600)

- 4.3.1. There are no early historic or medieval assets recorded within the Site.
- 4.3.2. There are no early historic assets recorded within the surrounding Study Areas. Pictish remains are present in the wider Caithness region and Norse influence occurs from the 9th century onwards, with a small number of Norse sites recorded, and that influence declines from the mid-13th century onwards (Cowan 1979). Place-names in the parish of Canisbay are of predominantly Norse origin, opposed to Gaelic or Scots (Heald and Barber 2021, 127-8). In Mowat’s book of Canisbay place-names, he states that Philips Mains had originally been named Nissetter, from ‘*Neð-setr*’, lowest setr (setr being the Norse for homestead (Towrie 2023)), before being ‘*renamed after Louisa Philips, wife of the 14th earl of Caithness*’ (Mowat 1931, 34). Rigifa’, as in the Hill of Rigifa’ that lies east of the Site, is described as having come from the Norse ‘*Hryggjar-fjall*’, ridge hill (ibid).
- 4.3.3. Early pre-Ordnance historic mapping of the area is schematic and lacking in detail, although some general observations can be made from these. ‘*Mai*’ appears to be identified as a place on the northern Scotland coast in Paris’ mid-13th century map of Great Britain (not illustrated), and as ‘*Maÿ*’ on Ortelius’ 1580 map of Scotland (**Figure 5**).
- 4.3.4. Within the surrounding 1km Study Area, the sole recorded medieval asset is that of the Category A Listed Castle of Mey (**Asset 3**), located 1.5km to the northwest of the Site. The extant medieval elements of the castle date to 1560-1570 and were built by the Sinclair family, although it is also recorded in the NRHE listing that the castle may occupy an older fortification site. The castle, originally a Z-plan, has been much-altered since construction, particularly during the 19th century when the grand entrance was added to the south elevation and the castle itself heightened and crenellation added (Sinclair 2003, 140). This castle has historically been associated with the Sinclair family: William Sinclair was made Earl of Caithness in 1455 and in the mid-16th century the castle at Mey was constructed by his descendent, George the 4th Earl of Caithness, who would go on to found the Sinclairs of Mey line. It was briefly named Barrogill Castle and is named as such on the 1873 (**Figure 7**) and 1906 (not illustrated) OS maps.

- 4.3.5. The Site itself may have been in use agriculturally during the medieval period given its proximity to the Castle of Mey and what surely would have been an associated settlement nearby, however Roy's map of 1747-1652 (**Figure 6**), shows that the areas of cultivated land did not extend as far south as the Site, and so perhaps it formed part of the unimproved rural hinterland.
- 4.3.6. There is judged to be a Low potential for early historic and medieval remains to survive within the Site, however similar to the assessment for prehistoric remains, the lack of intrusive investigation in the area means that this evidence is based on surviving above-surface remains from the period.

4.4. Post-medieval (AD 1600-1900)

- 4.4.1. Gordon's map of 1642 (not illustrated) identifies 'May' with a pictogram of a village or town, one that is much more defined than those illustrating other settlements in the region and so perhaps indicating it was of a larger size. Roy's map of 1747-1752 (**Figure 6**) shows the region in more detail than previous maps, indicating that much of the north coast comprised agricultural land but that the land to the south was left uninhabited. Mey Castle (**Asset 3**) is identified surrounded by cultivated land with scattered hamlets to the east labelled as Mey. Flowing immediately east of the castle is the unlabelled Burn of Mey, a watercourse that originates at the Hill of Rigifa' (unlabelled) just east of the Site. The land to the west of the water source, where the Site would be, is shown as unimproved and uninhabited.
- 4.4.2. Groome's Gazetteer for Scotland describes Mey as '*a hamlet in Caisby [sic] parish, Caithness, on the coast road from Thurso to Huna and Wick, 13 miles E by N of Thurso and 23 NNW of Wick, under which it has a post and telegraph office, and a public school*' (Groome 1896, 31).
- 4.4.3. The Site is first depicted in detail on the 1873 OS map (**Figure 7**), which identifies the non-designated 'Phillips's Mains' farmstead complex (**Asset 10**) adjacent to a northeast/southwest aligned track, still in use today, surrounded by improved fields of rectangular and square shape, neatly arranged with northwest/southeast aligned field boundaries that today comprise flagstone dykes (**Assets 26, 31, 37 and 39**) and a more substantial drystone wall (**Asset 36**) that lines the track and encloses the outer extent of the fields as a substantial head dyke. A well (**Asset 22**) is identified, and the quarry (**Asset 28**) is identified as an 'Old Quarry', with the surrounds beyond the limit of the improved land shown as rough moorland. The Site itself is situated across two fields within the northwest portion of the improved fields north of the farmstead. It straddles one northwest/southeast aligned field boundary (**Asset 37**), and another (**Asset 34**) that is northeast/southwest aligned extends into the northeast portion of the Site and nearly bisects it. To the north of the Site is depicted a road that forms the earlier iteration of the current unclassified road present today. To the west of the Site is depicted unimproved and rough ground. The OS Book of Reference (1882) records the land usage for the fields within the Site as arable.
- 4.4.4. The Earl of Sinclair was noted as the sole proprietor of the parish in the 1793 Old Statistical Accounts (Morison 1793, 96), and in 1840 the 14th Earl of Caithness, Sir James Sinclair, was one of two proprietors (Jolly 1840, 24). James Sinclair (1821-1881) was also the 1st Baron Barrogill and was known as Lord Berriedale. The 1871-1873 OS Namebook includes 'Phillips's Mains' as an entry, with the following description: '*This name applies to a large farm steading with arable land attached. Property of the R. H. [Right Honourable] Earl of Caithness*' (OS 1871-1873, 99). Sinclair was well-known as an inventor and embracer of new technologies, bringing one of the first steam-powered carriages to Caithness in the 1860s – having driven it himself from Inverness to Castle of Mey (Illustrated London News, 1860). He also developed a steam plough, with which he improved the Philips Mains farmland (Motor Museum Miniature, undated).

- 4.4.5. The Sinclair family continued to occupy the Castle of Mey (**Asset 3**) throughout the post-medieval period until 1889 when the 15th Earl of Caithness died without issue and it was passed to a friend of the family, Frederick Heathcote, on the condition that he adopted the name Sinclair.
- 4.4.6. Many of the post-medieval assets recorded within the surrounding 1km Study Area relate to the village of Mey (**Asset 9**) to the northwest of the Site. These include a farmstead (**Asset 6**), school (**Asset 12**) and drill hall (**Asset 13**). To the north of the Site stands the Easy Mey lodge (**Asset 11**), and to the southwest at Hollandmey there is a sheepfold (**Assets 14**). The wider surrounds contain further post-medieval rural settlement and agricultural remains.
- 4.4.7. There is considered to be a High potential for further post-medieval remains to be present within the Site. Much of the extant remains today within it and surrounding it comprise agricultural remains related to the Philips Mains farmstead (**Asset 10**), but this is likely a relatively late post-medieval complex. Many of the features identified by the **Event 17** walkover survey within the southwest portion of the Site, which appear inconsistent with the later historical field boundaries, may suggest that these predate the later farm usage. It is considered that any further post-medieval remains will likely remain agricultural in nature and be of Negligible to Low importance.

4.5. Modern (AD 1900 – onwards)

- 4.5.1. There is no real variation to the Site in subsequent years of historical mapping, historical aerial photographs and satellite imagery during the modern period. The field boundaries remain consistent with those initially depicted on the 1873 OS maps (**Figure 7**). Within the surrounding 1km Study Area, the introduction of a new purpose-built police station (**Asset 8**) in Mey is evident. The east lodge (**Asset 11**) of Mey appears to have been used as the police station and is annotated as such in mapping from 1906 onwards until 1960. The primary school (**Asset 7**) is depicted in maps from the 1930s onwards and this was subject to a photographic survey (**Event 20**) prior to its alteration to a dwelling.
- 4.5.2. The 1968 OS map (**Figure 8**) shows little variation to the 1873 map (**Figure 7**), but it appears as though some of the northwest fields are declining back into rougher ground, perhaps suggesting that they were no longer cultivated but left as pasture.
- 4.5.3. Google Streetview photography captured in 2021 shows that the north field was cultivated for oilseed rape, and so there has been a degree of arable ploughing in the modern period.
- 4.5.4. Considering the lack of change to the Site reflected in the historical mapping and aerial photography throughout the 20th century, there is considered to be Low potential for further unknown modern remains to be present within the Site.

4.6. Previous Works

- 4.6.1. Several archaeological events have been carried out within the Site and surrounding 1km Study Area. In these reports, where heritage assets have been identified within the Site boundary but have not yet been added to the Highland HER, these have been added as new assets within the Asset/Event Gazetteer (**Appendix 2**), with the original asset numbers included therein for reference.
- 4.6.2. **Event 17** comprised a desk-based assessment and walkover survey undertaken in 2011 to inform an Environmental Statement for the MeyGen offshore renewable energy development. The event extent for this

encompasses the Site, with several features recorded that have not yet been added to the Highland HER as monuments, comprising flagstone dykes (**Assets 31 and 34**), ditches (**Assets 27 and 28**), areas of rig and furrow cultivation (**Assets 29 and 32**), a mound (**Asset 30**) and a possible well (**Assets 35**), and a stone spread. It appears that in the intervening years between 2012 and 2023, the southwest field of the Site has been left fallow and is now very overgrown as a result, preventing re-assessment of the condition of many of these assets. Additional sites recorded by this event (**Event 17**) elsewhere nearby include further field clearance (**Asset 25**), a flagstone dyke (**Asset 26**) and possible well site (**Asset**). Most of these were identified in the field northwest of Phillips Mains farm (**Asset 10**), and it appears that this field has in the intervening years become substantially overgrown.

- 4.6.3. **Event 19** comprised a desk-based assessment and walkover survey undertaken in 2015 to inform an Environmental Statement for a proposed 132kV transmission connection. The event extent extends into the western portions of the Site, and within this two heritage assets were recorded. These include: a boundary or milestone (**Asset 24**) and a post-medieval field system (**Assets 36 and 37**).
- 4.6.4. **Event 15** comprised a desk-based assessment and walkover survey undertaken in 2014 to inform an Environmental Appraisal for a proposed switching station. The southwest portion of the Site falls within the event extent, which itself overlaps with **Event 19**, but no cultural heritage remains were recorded, suggesting that the previously identified assets from **Event 19** may have already been difficult to discern by this time.
- 4.6.5. Further walkover surveys and desk-based assessments (**Events 16, 18 and 21**) have occurred outwith the Site itself and these have generally identified post-medieval remains. A photographic survey (**Event 20**) of the Mey school (**Asset 9**) was undertaken in 2015.

4.7. Aerial Photography and Satellite Imagery

- 4.7.1. A search of aerial photography held by HES' National Collection of Aerial Photography (NCAP) was undertaken on 1st August 2023. Satellite imagery was consulted using Google Earth Pro and Wayback Finder. A full list of images consulted are included in the References in Section 7.
- 4.7.2. Aerial photographs from 1941 and 1946 show the Site as forming part of the agricultural fields surrounding the Philips Mains farmstead (**Asset 10**), much as it appears today and is consistent with the field boundaries depicted on the 1873 OS map (**Figure 7**). Cultivation furrows are visible, with those in the northeast field northwest/southeast aligned, and those in the southwest field northwest/southeast aligned. This pattern is more easily discerned in photography from 1962 and 1965. By 1988, there appears to have been some northwest/southeast ploughing in this field.
- 4.7.3. Satellite imagery from 2014 onwards shows a similar scene as the historical aerial photographs, with the fields appearing in use as pasture. The northeast field can be seen to be partially ploughed in photography from 2021. Google Street View imagery from the unclassified road to the north of the Site in 2021 shows the northeast field planted with oilseed rape.
- 4.7.4. No additional heritage assets were identified through the imagery analysis.

4.8. LiDAR Data

- 4.8.1. The Scottish Remote Sensing Portal (Scottish Government 2021) was checked to see if any LiDAR data was available for the Site: there was none.

4.9. Site Walkover and Setting Assessments

- 4.9.1. A walkover survey of the Site was conducted by AOC Archaeology Group on 2nd August 2023. The weather was overcast however visibility remained good throughout. The Site boundary has reduced in size since the walkover survey was undertaken. Heritage assets recorded as part of the walkover survey that no longer fall within the Site boundary have been retained within the gazetteer (**Appendix 1**) for posterity but are not discussed in detail within this report. Plates accompanying this section can be viewed in **Appendix 3**.
- 4.9.2. The Site is situated over two fields (but does not encompass them in their entirety) north of the Philips Mains farm buildings (**Asset 10**), extending around a block of mature commercial forestry plantation (**Plate 1**). The northeast field is currently in use as a pastoral field for cattle (**Plate 2**), with the northeast extent defined by a flagstone dyke (**Asset 37**; **Plate 3**). A more substantial coped drystone wall (**Asset 36**) delineates the southeast and northwest field edge and extends around the outer perimeter of all the Phillips Mains' fields (**Plate 4**). The remnants of another flagstone dyke (**Asset 34**) that extend only partway across the field aligned northeast/southwest, as depicted on the 1873 OS map (**Figure 7**) was visible, along with cultivation furrows extending northwest/southeast along the field (**Plate 4**). The field has been ploughed flat (**Plate 5**).
- 4.9.3. The southwest field does not appear to have been as intensively ploughed as the northeast and is at present fallow and overgrown in comparison (**Plates 6 and 7**). Ground conditions in this field were challenging for the survey due to the presence of tall vegetation and uneven ground (**Plate 8**). Cultivation furrows could be felt underfoot while traversing the field but features were not easily discerned as a result of the vegetation. No new heritage assets were recorded within the southwest field, however this does not preclude their existence..
- 4.9.4. The Castle of Mey (**Asset 3**) was visible in views from the northern portion of the Site and along the eastern extent of the southwest portion of Site. Visibility was limited to the uppermost portion of the towers and the flag pole (**Plates 8 and 9**). The stand of commercial forestry plantation to the immediate west of the Site, and intervening belt of woodland and hedgerow on the A836 road to the north screen ground level views from the Garden and Designed Landscape (**Asset 3**). A small window of visibility that shows part of the gate lodge (**Asset 4**) is visible at the northeastern-most end of Site. This view is through consecutive field gates that breach the hedge and woodland, and c. 3-4m wide.
- 4.9.5. Additional post-medieval assets recorded during the survey outwith the Site comprise elements of the post-medieval Philips Mains farmstead (**Asset 10**) including a quarry (**Asset 22**), culvert (**Asset 38**) and flagstone dykes (**Asset 39**).
- 4.9.6. Visits to designated assets within 2km of the Site were undertaken on the 2nd August 2023 in order to assess the potential for the Proposed Development to impact upon their setting and character. Due to security measures implemented during the King's visit to Castle of Mey at the time of the site visits, the castle (**Asset 2**), gate lodge (**Asset 3**) and gardens and designed landscape (**Asset 4**) could not be directly accessed. For these assets, the assessment has drawn on a previous setting assessment undertaken in July 2022. The results of these setting assessments are discussed below in Section 6.2.

5. CONCLUSION

5.1. Direct Impacts

- 5.1.1. Potential impacts on known or unknown buried archaeological remains which may survive within the Site relate

to the possibility of disturbing, removing or destroying *in situ* remains and artefacts during ground-breaking works (including excavation, construction and other works) associated with the Proposed Development.

- 5.1.2. This assessment has established that there is considered to be a Low potential for further remains of prehistoric, early historic, medieval and modern date and a High potential for post-medieval remains.

5.2. Settings Impacts

- 5.2.1. The NPF4 (Scottish Government 2023) and HES guidance on setting (2016; updated 2020) are clear that the setting of an asset can contribute to its significance. Section 2.4 of this report outlines the planning policy with regard to the setting of designated assets.

- 5.2.2. This section considers the potential for any Proposed Development to result in impacts upon the setting of designated heritage assets within 2km of the Site. This includes consideration of whether any such change would constitute an adverse impact (diminishment) to those attributes of the designated assets which directly contribute to their cultural significance rather than simply being an alteration to, or addition of a new element to the existing settings of these assets. Where a new development may be located within the setting of an asset but does not diminish the cultural significance of the asset or the ability to appreciate that significance, it may have a neutral impact.

- 5.2.3. There are four designated assets within the 2km Study Area surrounding the Site. These comprise the Scheduled Mey coastal battery (**Asset 1**), and the Category A Listed Castle of Mey (**Asset 2**) and associated Garden and Designed Landscape (**Asset 3**) and Category B Listed gate lodge (**Asset 4**). These assets are located between c. 1.2-1.9km to the northwest of the Proposed Development Site.

Mey Battery (Asset 1)

- 5.2.4. The Mey battery is set on the coast north of Castle of Mey, overlooking a small inlet named Wester Haven and the Pentland Firth beyond to the north. The asset occupies a shelf of land c. 10m above sea level that rises gently to the south (**Plate 10**). It comprises the remains of a mid-19th century coastal artillery battery, constructed in the wake of turbulent Franco-British relations and is visible as a somewhat ruinous mortared stone wall with gun emplacements in the north side, that extends around a flat grassy area somewhat irregular in plan measuring c.33m northwest/southeast and 12m southwest/northeast, with an earthen batter to the north. In 1859 a Royal Commission advised the government that Britain's coastal defences were not adequate to defend the island in and of themselves, and with the passing of the 1860 Defence Act the following year, a large number of new fortifications were constructed (Hicks undated) and many local volunteer regiments were formed (Watson 1996). In Mey in 1866, an Artillery Company was established, seemingly at the behest of the Earl of Caithness, with the battery (**Asset 1**) constructed around this date and a drill hall (**Asset 13**) in the village of Mey built in 1875 (*ibid*). The cannons that were located at this asset now stand in the grounds of Castle Mey (**Asset 2**).

- 5.2.5. The setting for this asset relates to its coastal location and the mid-range views available to it along the coastline to the east and west, and the long-range views across the Pentland Firth to the north. Southerly inland views are fairly limited by the rising topography, and the Site itself would be screened by the topography and the intervening Castle of Mey (**Asset 2**) and the woodland element of its Inventory Garden and Designed Landscape (**Asset 4; Plate 11**). There would be no visibility of the Proposed Development from the asset itself. In any views towards the asset that might feature the Proposed Development, the intervening distance and different landscape settings (coastal versus inland agricultural) mean that it would not diminish the appreciation or

understanding of the asset and it is assessed, therefore, that there would be a Neutral level of impact.

Castle of Mey (Asset 3), Gate Lodge (Asset 4) and Inventory Garden and Designed Landscape (Asset 2)

- 5.2.6. The earliest parts of the extant Category A Listed Castle of Mey were constructed in the mid-16th century for George Sinclair, 4th Earl of Caithness. This was later expanded in subsequent centuries with extensive modifications during the early 19th century by the architect William Burn and again in the mid-20th century when Queen Elizabeth, the former Queen Mother, bought the property. These later alterations saw the Z-plan castle expanded and heightened, with the entrance moved from the north to the south elevation in a large grand porch. Today the castle stands with a prominent southeast tower, the medieval element, forming the tallest part of the castle. The south elevation features the entrance porch and two wings extend to the north from the north elevation where long-ranging views look over the Pentland Firth, and a large walled garden to the west. The castle is set within a mostly 19th century designed landscape (**Asset 2**) comprising formal and walled gardens, parkland, grassland, and woodland (**Plate 12**). From the dining room on the first floor, one of the principle rooms, the southward view is limited by the woodland element of these grounds (**Plate 13**).
- 5.2.7. The designed landscape extent is recorded as a roughly triangular shape, bound by roads on all sides. The castle sits at the top of two large stands of dense, windblown woodland, which splay outwards around an area of parkland that is enclosed by a hedge to the south that runs east/west and which limits ground-level views to the south (**Plate 14**). The Category B Listed gate lodge (**Asset 4**) is situated at the southwest corner of this designed landscape, at the head of a long hedge-lined approach from the south that, although not within the official designation extent for the designed landscape, nonetheless forms an important part of it. The approach would continue past the lodge through the west stand of woodland to arrive in front of the castle with a dramatic flourish, as views would be screened until the last moment by the hedgerows and then woodland until appearing abruptly in front of it, looking over the circular drive that stands to the immediate south of the building. The woodland and hedge to the south create a sense of enclosed privacy and the key view was likely intended to be one to enjoy the neat formal grounds and the pastoral scenes beyond. The belt of woodland along the A836, described as a shelterbelt in the designation listing, prohibits longer-ranging views (**Plate 15**).
- 5.2.8. The original setting for the castle likely related to the elevated semi-coastal location it occupied, set on a broad shoulder of land with excellent long-ranging views over the sea to the north and long-ranging land views to the east, west and south. From this, the Sinclairs could exert control over the surrounding landscape and settlements. From the north, the castle can be appreciated somewhat in this original late medieval setting where it strikes an imposing impression as a large structure, dominating the ridgeline (**Plate 11**). This setting altered later as the castle shifted from a defensive fortification to a grand residence. The current setting, the extent of which is really the extent of the designed landscape in which the castle is situated, lends itself to the latter function. With particular regard to the southern elements of the castle and grounds, the views to the south are limited by the trees, hedges and shelterbelt beyond, offering more intimate views over the formal lawns to the pastoral fields beyond as a rather idyllic rural scene for the enjoyment of those resident within the castle. The setting for the gate lodge (**Asset 4**) is similarly localised, relating to its function as the entry point into the immediate grounds of the castle, and the nature of the designed landscapes woodland and the shelterbelt along the A836 indicate that longer-ranging views to the south were not a consideration for the designed landscape.
- 5.2.9. Visibility of the Site at ground level from the gate lodge (**Asset 4**) is limited to a small window in views to the southeast, through a 3-4m gap in the hedgerows and A837 tree belt for gate accesses into the nearby fields (as

glimpsed in **Plate 9**). This allows visibility of the northeastern portion of the Site. Any visible infrastructure from the Proposed Development would be limited to this gap, and would be unlikely to break the skyline of the Hill of Rigifa' beyond, and so would appear fairly unobtrusive. This is similar for the designed landscape (**Asset 2**), the recorded extent of which extends just around the gate lodge (**Asset 4**), and so would share this same small window of visibility through the gap to the southeast.

- 5.2.10. Any visibility of the Proposed Development from the castle (**Asset 3**) itself would likely be restricted to views from the tower and the south elevation windows of the upper-most floors, however these views would be mostly screened by intervening woodland within the castle's own grounds (**Asset 2**) and commercial forestry plantations further south. At the distance the Site is located at, the Proposed Development would be situated beyond the castle's setting and within a wider landscape of post-medieval and modern rural buildings and taller infrastructure that includes the small single Mey turbine to the south and the four Lochend wind farm turbines to the southwest. The Proposed Development would not adversely affect the ability to understand and appreciate the castle (**Asset 3**), the gate lodge (**Asset 4**), or the designed landscape (**Asset 2**) that surrounds these. It is therefore judged that the Proposed Development would result in a Neutral impact upon their settings.
- 5.2.11. As the predicted setting impacts on these designated assets is considered Neutral, no mitigation for settings impacts are considered necessary, however the need for any such mitigation would be a matter for the local planning authority and with HES.

5.3. Mitigation

- 5.3.1. National planning policies and planning guidance, NPF4 (2023), HEPS (HES 2019) and PAN2/2011 (Scottish Government 2011), as well as the local planning policies for Highland Council as outlined in this report (Section 2.4), require a mitigation response that is designed to take cognisance of the possible impacts upon heritage assets, both known and potential, by a proposed development and avoid, minimise or offset any such impacts as appropriate.
- 5.3.2. This assessment has established that within the Site there is considered to be a Low potential for remains of prehistoric, early historic, medieval and modern date, and High potential for remains of post-medieval date. Direct impacts on such remains could result in a High adverse impacts on the archaeological resource and it is recognised that a lack of intrusive archaeological investigations in the Site and surrounds means that the nature of sub-surface remains is unknown.
- 5.3.3. A programme of archaeological works in advance of development will be required, per the pre-application advice issued by the Highland Council (Planning Reference 23/00635/PREMAJ). This could take the form of a geophysical survey or trial trench evaluation, or a combination thereof. This would allow for a cursory evaluation to investigate the sub-surface deposits on the Site, and the results could inform further mitigation strategies. Depending on the results of the evaluation, further archaeological works such as archaeological monitoring and post-excavation works may be required. It should be noted that in order to gain access to the Site via the Proposed Development's design for entry from the unclassified road to the northwest, the breaching of the boundary wall **Asset 36** will be required. To minimise the impact to this asset, breaching works should be restricted to the minimum of what is necessary to facilitate access and construction, and the remainder of the wall protected and preserved. The scope of any such works would be required to be agreed via a Written Scheme of Investigation with HET, as advisors to Highland Council on such matters.

5.3.4. The magnitude of impact caused by the Proposed Development upon the setting of the designated heritage assets is judged to be Neutral. While there may be some limited visibility of infrastructure related to the Proposed Development in views from the tower and upper floors of the Castle of Mey (**Asset 2**), this would not significantly affect the ability to understand and appreciate the asset. Embedded mitigation within the design for the Proposed Development includes the installation of a hedgerow around the western perimeter of the Site which would provide further screening. As such, no further mitigation for settings impacts is considered necessary. The need for any such mitigation would, however, be a matter for the local planning authority and HES.

6. REFERENCES

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Date	Sortie	Frame	Finding Aid	Grid Reference	Type of Print
01 March 1941	M/103/NLA/004	0028	-	ND 29242 73829	Vertical
30/06/1946	106G/Scot/UK/0133	3051	SCOT B_0035	ND 30091 72269	Vertical
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23/02/1962	543/RAF/1663	0321	SCOT B_0563	ND 29805 72620	Vertical
12/04/1965	OS/65/39	014	SCOT OS_07_04	ND 29843 72002	Vertical
13/05/1965	OS/65/80	055	SCOT OS_11_09	ND 28882 72239	Vertical
06/05/1988	ASS/60888	0195	-	ND 29768 71936	Vertical

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Date	Latitude	Longitude	Layer Image Copyright Link ((Google Earth Pro or World Imagery Wayback))
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12/08/2020	58° 37' 47" N	N 3° 12' 40" W	https://livingatlas.arcgis.com/wayback/#active=6049&ext=-3.24139,58.61859,-3.17401,58.63961&localChangesOnly=true
24/04/2021	58° 37' 47" N	N 3° 12' 40" W	2023 CNES/Airbus
27/04/2022	58° 37' 47" N	N 3° 12' 40" W	https://livingatlas.arcgis.com/wayback/#active=16245&ext=-3.24139,58.61859,-3.17401,58.63961&localChangesOnly=true
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Google Earth. 2023. *Google Earth Pro*. (Version 7.3). [Software] [Accessed: 08/08/2023], and Esri World Imagery Wayback Machine [Online] Available at: <https://livingatlas.arcgis.com/wayback/#active=47963&ext=-3.24126,58.61854,-3.17388,58.63956&localChangesOnly=true> [Accessed 08/08/2023].

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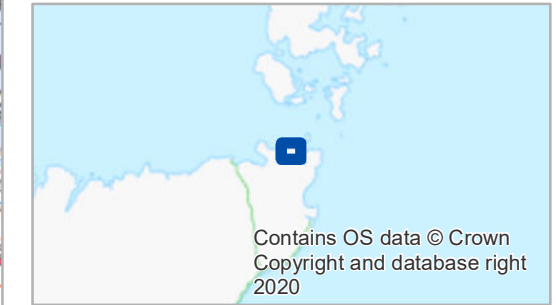
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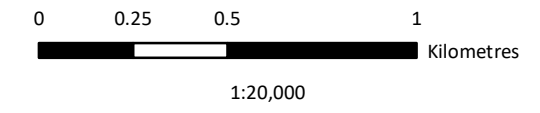
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Coordinate System: British National Grid
Projection: Transverse Mercator

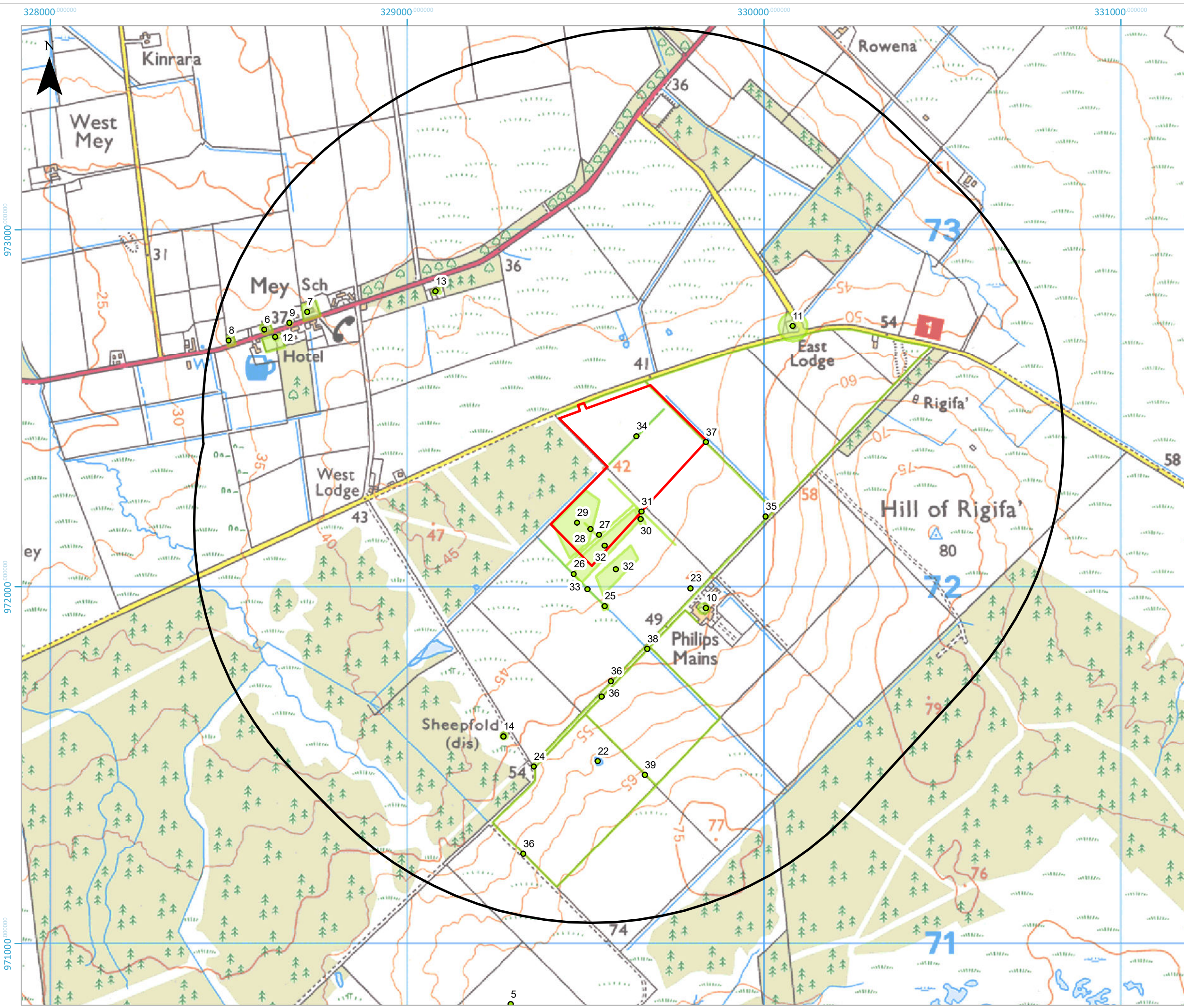
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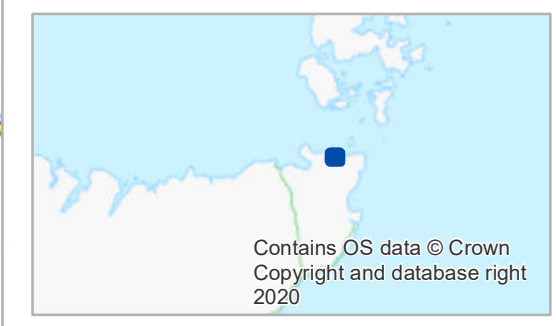
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Site Location

Date: 07/11/2023	Lead: SW	Review: SO	Version: 1.0
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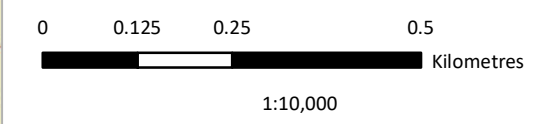
KEY

- Site Boundary
- 1km Study Area
- Non-designated Heritage Asset
- Non-designated Heritage Asset Extent



Coordinate System: British National Grid
 Projection: Transverse Mercator

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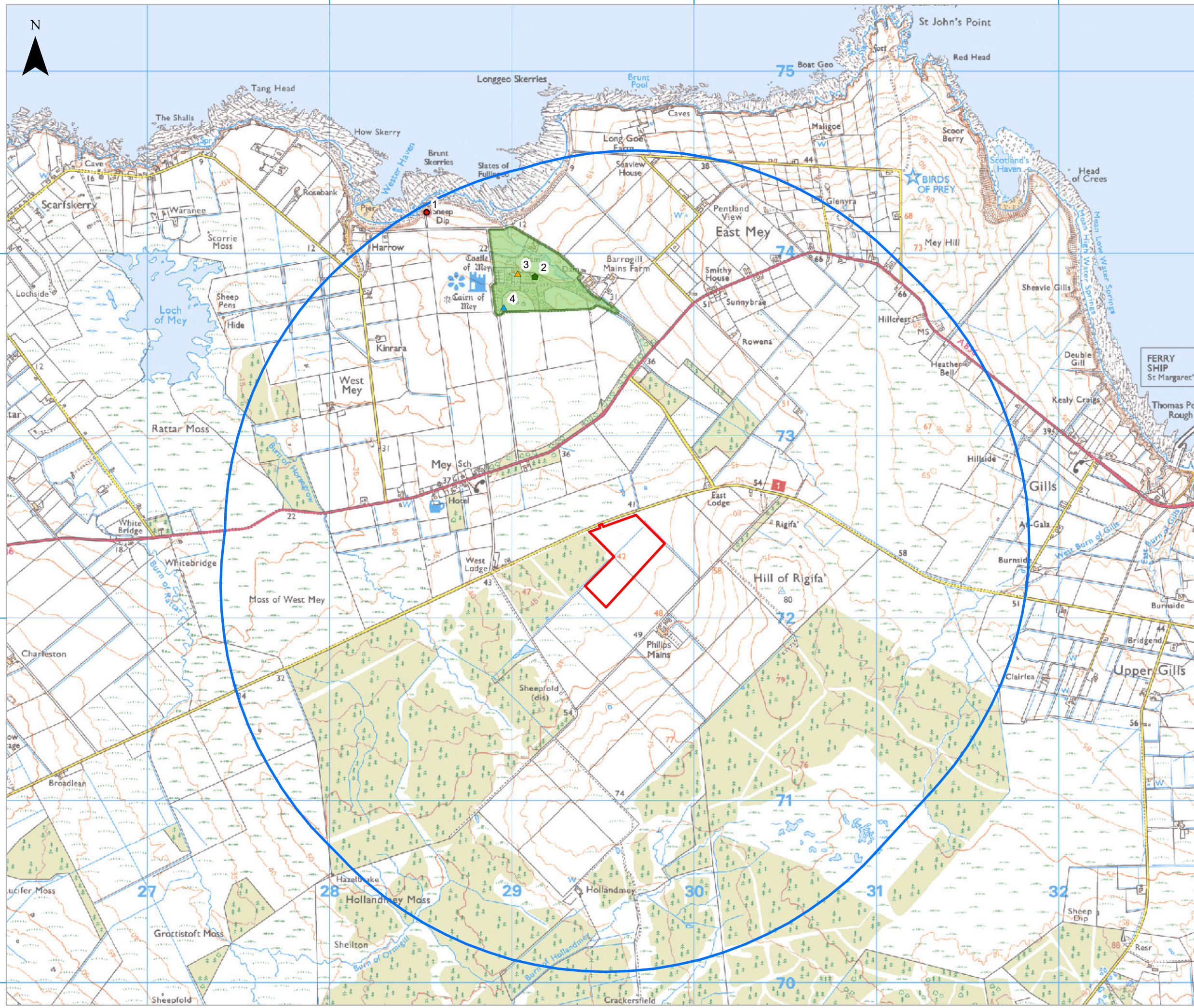


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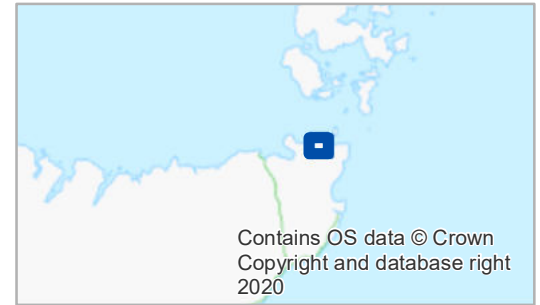
Figure 2
Non-designated Heritage Assets Within
1km Study Area

Date: 07/11/2023	Lead: SW	Review: SO	Version: 1.0
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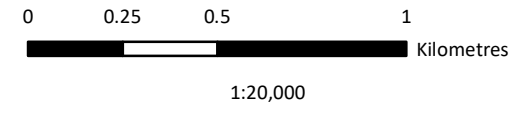
- KEY**
- Site Boundary
 - 2km Study Area
 - Scheduled Monument
 - ▲ Listed Building - Category A
 - ▲ Listed Building - Category B
 - ◆ Garden and Designed Landscape
 - Scheduled Monument Extent
 - Inventory Garden and Designed Landscape Extent



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Coordinate System: British National Grid
Projection: Transverse Mercator

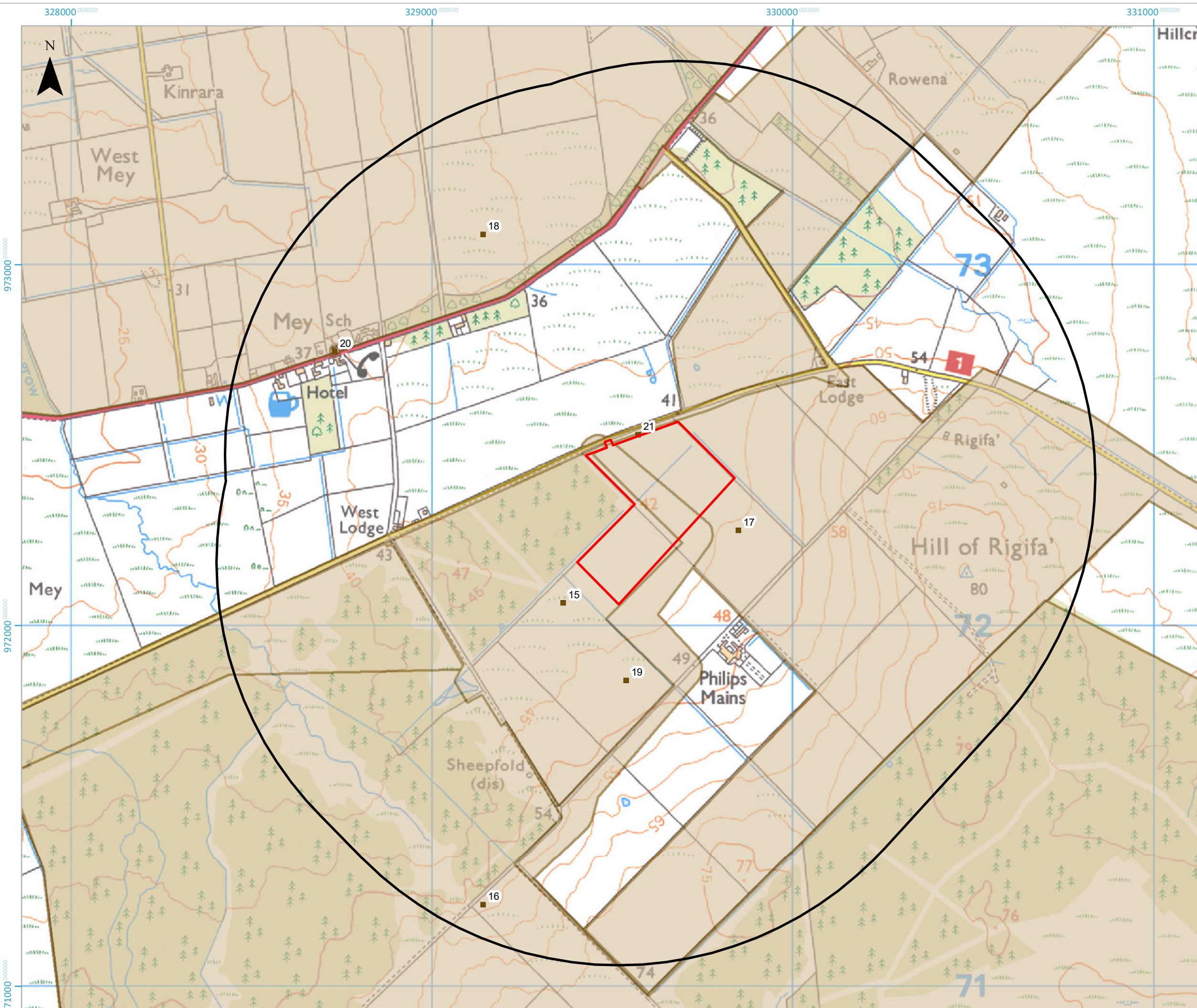
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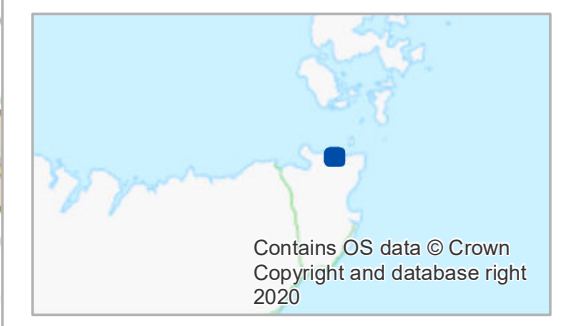
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Designated Heritage Assets Within
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Date:	Lead:	Review:	Version:
07/11/2023	SW	SO	1.0



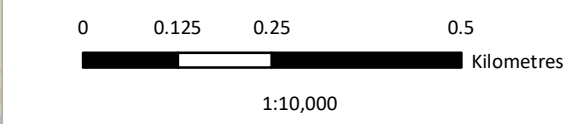
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- Site Boundary
- 1km Study Area
- Event
- Heritage Event Extent



Coordinate System: British National Grid
 Projection: Transverse Mercator

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Figure 4
Heritage Events Within Site and 1km Study Area

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KEY
 Approximate Site Location

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NOT ALIGNED NORTH
 NOT TO SCALE




Mey BSS
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Figure 5
 Extract from a Map by Ortelius, 1580

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KEY
 Approximate Site Location

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NOT TO SCALE



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Figure 6
Extract from a Map by Roy, 1747-1752

Date: 07/11/2023	Lead: SW	Review: SO	Version: 1.0
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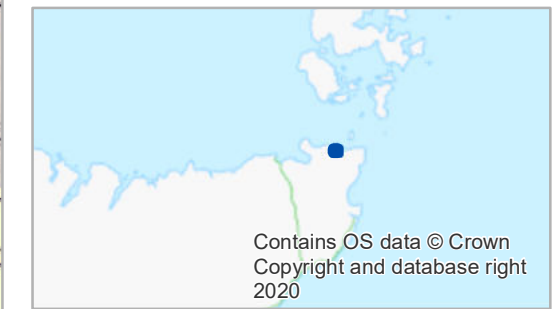
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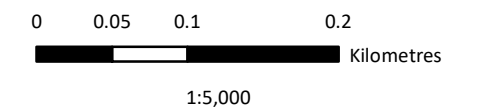


KEY
 Site Boundary



Coordinate System: British National Grid
 Projection: Transverse Mercator

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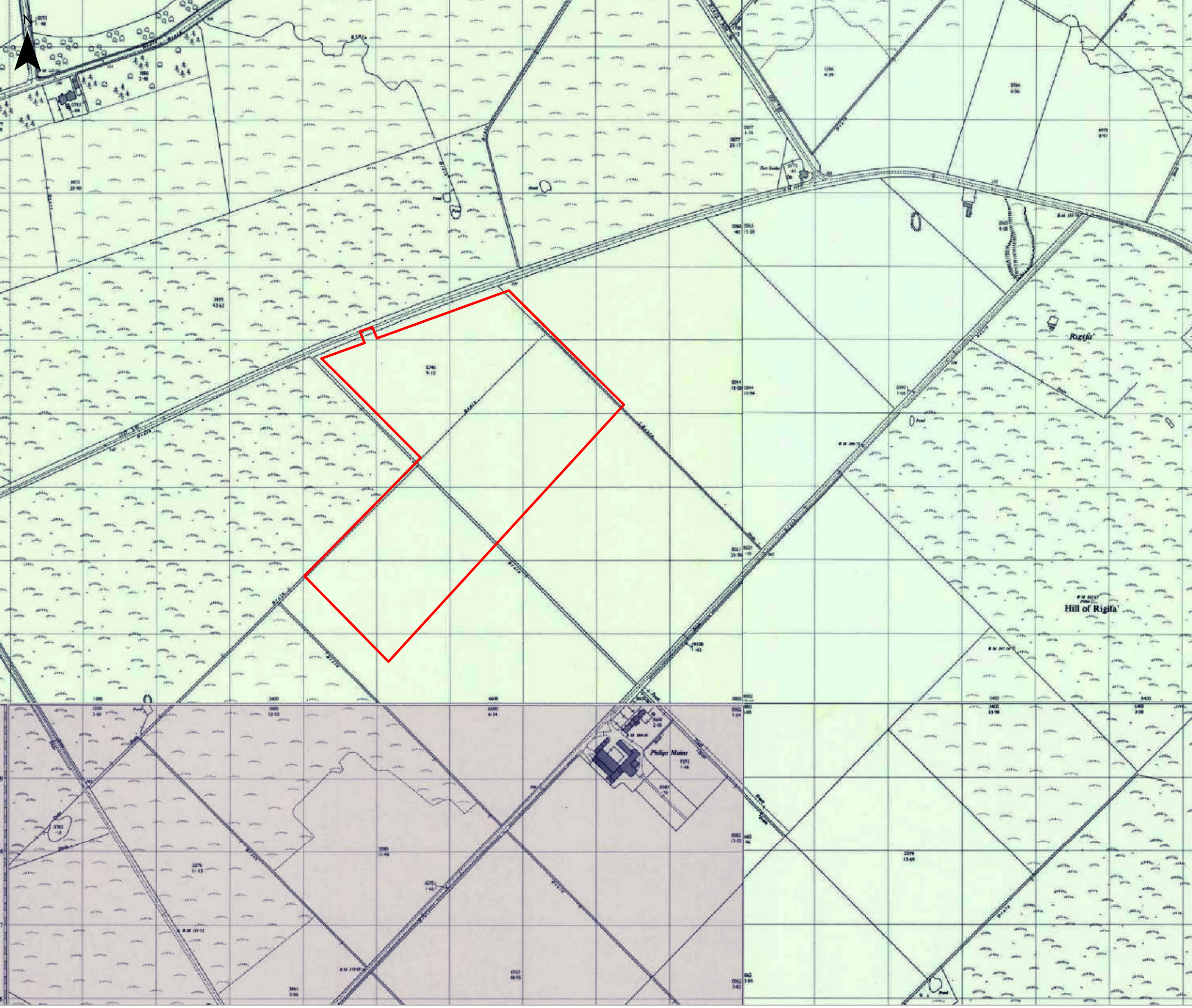
Figure 7
Composite of Extracts of Ordnance Survey maps, 1873

Date: 07/11/2023	Lead: SW	Review: SO	Version: 1.0
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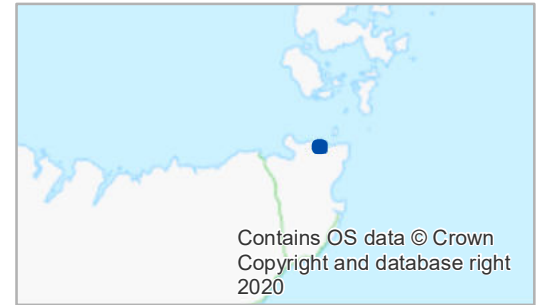
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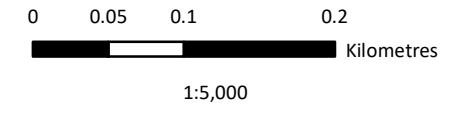


KEY
 Site Boundary



Coordinate System: British National Grid
 Projection: Transverse Mercator

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Figure 8
Composite of Extracts of Ordnance
Survey maps, 1968

Date: 07/11/2023	Lead: SW	Review: SO	Version: 1.0
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Mey BESS, Mey, Highland: Heritage Impact Assessment

Appendix 1: Assessment Scope & Criteria

Scope of the Assessment

This report details the results of a Heritage Impact Assessment and aims to identify and map the nature of the heritage resource within the site and surrounding study area. Where possible, the assessment will evaluate the likely impact from Proposed Development, upon the known and potential heritage resource.

This report will include recommendations for mitigation measures and / or further archaeological works; where the archaeological potential of the site warrants, or where additional information on the site is required.

Further works could include additional research, monitoring of geotechnical investigations, programmes of archaeological surveying and / or field evaluation. The results of any further studies can be used to inform the nature of any subsequent mitigation measures (if required) and provide advice upon the scope and design of the Proposed Development.

The assessment has used the sources listed in the main text to identify and map heritage assets and other relevant find spots or evidence within the site and defined study area. Heritage assets are defined in national planning guidance and can include designated assets (Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings etc.), standing, buried or submerged remains, historic buildings and structures, parks and gardens and areas, sites and landscapes - whether designated or not (**Table 1**).

Assessment Criteria

Archaeological Potential

Consideration of archaeological potential will be informed by the number, density and distribution of known heritage assets of a specific period and/or type within the Study Area. The proximity of such assets to the Site and/or the similarities/dissimilarities in topographical location between the Site and the location of known assets will also be a factor in determining potential. Previous land use on the Site will also be a consideration in assessing potential, as later disturbance may have removed or damaged earlier buried archaeological remains and therefore may have reduced the potential for archaeological remains to survive on Site. Consideration will also be given to evidence from landform change in the study area and the possibility that natural deposits such as colluvium or alluvium may have buried archaeological remains. The potential for surviving archaeological evidence of past activity within the Site is expressed in the report as ranging between the scales of:

- High – The available evidence suggests a high likelihood for past activity within the Site and a strong potential for archaeological evidence to survive intact or reasonably intact;
- Medium – The available evidence suggests a reasonable likelihood for past activity within the Site and consequently there is a potential that archaeological evidence could survive.
- Low – The available evidence suggests archaeological evidence of activity is unlikely to survive within the Site, although some minor land-use may have occurred.
- Uncertain - Insufficient information to assess.

Buried archaeological evidence is, by its very nature, an unknown quantity which can never be 100% identified during a desk-based assessment. The assessed potential is based on available evidence but the physical nature and extent of any archaeological resource surviving within the Site cannot be confirmed without detailed information on the below-ground deposits or results of on-site fieldwork.

Where known heritage assets are identified, the importance of such assets is determined by reference to existing designations where available. For assets where no designation has been assigned, an informed assessment has been made of the likely historic, artistic, or archaeological importance of that resource based on professional knowledge and judgement.

Adjustments to the classification (Table 2, below) are occasionally made, where appropriate; for some types of finds or assets where there is no consistent value, and the importance may vary. Levels of importance for any such areas are generally assigned on an individual basis, based on professional judgement and advice.

Table 1: Assessing the Importance of a Heritage Asset	
HIGH	Assets of high importance and rarity and those considered to be important at a national level., e.g. Scheduled Monuments (or non-designated assets of schedulable quality and importance), Category A Listed Buildings, Inventory Gardens and Designed Landscapes and Inventory Battlefields. Well preserved historic landscapes, whether inscribed or not, with exceptional coherence, time depth, or other critical factor(s)
MEDIUM	Assets of medium or high importance and rarity and those considered to be important at a regional level. Designated or non-designated assets including Category B and C Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas; well preserved structures or buildings of historical significance, historic landscapes or assets of a reasonably defined extent and significance, or reasonable evidence of occupation / settlement, ritual, industrial activity etc. Examples may include burial sites, deserted medieval villages, Roman roads and dense scatter of finds.
LOW	Assets of low importance and rarity and those considered to be important at a local level. Locally listed buildings or non-designated assets with some evidence of human activity which have the potential to contribute to local research objectives, structures or buildings of potential historical merit. Examples include assets such as historic field systems and boundaries, agricultural features such as ridge and furrow, etc.
NEGLIGIBLE	Assets of very low importance which are common. Heritage assets with very little or no surviving archaeological interest or buildings and landscapes of no historical significance. Examples include destroyed antiquities, buildings of no architectural merit, or relatively modern landscape features such as quarries, field boundaries, drains and ponds etc.
UNKNOWN	Insufficient information exists to assess the importance of a feature (e.g. unidentified features on aerial photographs).

The likely magnitude of the impact of the Proposed Development works is determined by identifying the level of change from the Proposed Development upon the ‘baseline’ conditions of the Site and the heritage resource identified in the assessment. This effect can be either adverse (negative), beneficial (positive) or neutral. The criteria for assessing the magnitude of impact are set out in **Table 2** below.

Table 2: Criteria for Determining Magnitude of Impact	
LEVEL OF MAGNITUDE	DEFINITION
ADVERSE	
HIGH	Considerable impacts fundamentally changing the baseline condition of the receptor, leading to total or considerable alteration of the asset or its setting – e.g. complete or almost complete destruction of the archaeological resource; dramatic visual intrusion into a the setting of the asset resulting in considerable adverse change; significant increase in noise or changes in sound quality; extensive changes to use. Considerable impacts to or loss of designated heritage assets of the highest significance, notably Scheduled Monuments, Protected Wreck Sites, Inventory Battlefields, Listed Buildings, Inventory Gardens and Designed Landscapes, and World Heritage Sites.
MEDIUM	Impacts changing the baseline condition of the receptor materially but not entirely, leading to partial alteration of the asset or its setting – e.g. a large proportion of the archaeological resource damaged or destroyed; visual intrusion into key aspects of the setting of the asset; and changes in noise levels or use of an asset that would result in detrimental changes to character.
LOW	Detectable impacts which alter the baseline condition of the receptor to a small degree – e.g. a small proportion of the surviving archaeological resource is damaged or destroyed; minor severance, change to the setting or structure or increase in noise; and limited encroachment into character of a historic landscape.
NEGLIGIBLE	Barely distinguishable adverse change from baseline conditions, where there would be very little appreciable impact on a known asset, possibly because of distance from the development, method of construction or landscape or ecological planting, that are thought to have no long term effect on the significance of the asset.
NEUTRAL	
NEUTRAL	A change to the asset or its setting which does not result in harm or benefit. This may occur where there is a perceptible change but that change does not diminish or enhance the significance of the asset or the ability to appreciate its significance.
BENEFICIAL	

NEGLECTIBLE	Barely distinguishable beneficial change from baseline conditions, where there would be very little appreciable impact on a known asset and little long term effect on the significance of the asset.
LOW	Minimal enhancement to an assets or its setting, such as removal of minor inappropriate features, limited improvements to setting or reduction in severance; slight changes in noise or sound quality; minor changes to use; resulting in a small improvement which would lead to enhancement of the ability to appreciate the significance of an asset.
MEDIUM	Changes to key to an asset or its setting resulting in material enhancements which allow for greater appreciation of the asset and/or its setting. For example, removal of an inappropriate later addition allowing for the assets significance to be reveal; removal of an inappropriate feature in an asset’s setting allowing the contribution of setting to the assets significance to be better understood or substantial reductions in noise or disturbance such that the significance of known asset would be enhanced.
HIGH	Substantial positive changes to an asset and key elements of its setting which would greatly enhance its significance and the ability to appreciate that significance; this might result from the removal of adverse or considerably distracting features from the setting of an asset; significant decrease in noise or changes in sound quality; changes to use or access.

In certain cases, it is not possible to confirm the magnitude of impact upon a heritage resource, especially where anticipated buried deposits exist. In such circumstances a professional judgement as to the scale of such impacts is applied.

Mey BESS, Mey, Highland: Heritage Impact Assessment

Appendix 2: Asset/Event Gazetteer

Asset/Event Number	1
Asset/Event Name	Mey Battery, battery 80m NE of Braes of Harrow
Type of Asset/Event	
Listing No./NRHE Number	SM13649; ND27SE 59
HER Number	MHG13741
Status	Scheduled Monument
Easting	328533
Northing	974225
Parish	Canisbay
Council	Highland
Description	<p>The monument is the remains of a coastal artillery battery constructed around 1866. It is visible as a mortared stone wall, incorporating two cannon embrasures and describing a rectilinear enclosure, with an earth bank on the seaward side. A sunken chamber lies at the west end of the battery and the probable remains of a rectangular building at the east end. The battery is located on the coast overlooking the Pentland Firth, around 10m above sea level.</p> <p>The monument was constructed in response to the perceived threat of a French invasion, and manned by a volunteer artillery battalion. The wall of the battery is constructed of Caithness slabs bonded with lime mortar and measures up to 1.9m high and 0.6m wide. It is protected on the seaward side by an earth bank measuring about 5.1m in width, broken by two cannon embrasures. The embrasures are wide angled and revetted with large slabs secured into the earth bank with a single iron tie rod. An entrance to a sunken room, measuring around 1.2m in width by 1.9m transversely and about 1.7m in height, lies within the west wall. The remains of a lintelled doorway on the east wall suggests the former presence of a building.</p> <p>The scheduled area is irregular in plan, to include the remains described above and an area around them within which evidence relating to the monument's construction, use and abandonment is expected to survive, as shown in red on the accompanying map. The scheduling extends up to but excludes the post and wire fence to the east, south and west.</p> <p>Statement of National Importance</p> <p>The monument is of national importance because it has an inherent potential to contribute to our understanding of the past, in particular of the construction and use of late 19th-century artillery batteries. It is a good example of a coastal artillery battery that retains its field characteristics. As a well-preserved example, the monument represents an unusual survival of a formerly common defensive structure and can significantly expand our understanding of the history of defence and volunteer forces in Scotland during the late 19th century. The loss or damage of the monument would diminish our ability to appreciate and understand the nature and character of late 19th-century coastal defences and the role of volunteer regiments within Caithness society and more widely.</p> <p>References</p> <p>The Highland Council Historic Environment Record Reference is MHG13741. Grierson, James Moncrieff, Lt Gen Gen, 1909. Records of the Scottish Volunteer Force, William Blackwood and Sons. Ordnance Survey (Name Book. Object Name Books of the Ordnance Survey (6 inch and 1/2500 scale). Caithness Volume 4, 143. Watson, G 1996. The Artillery Batteries at Mey and Castletown (Caithness Field Club Bulletin Vol. 5 Number 8), Vol 5, Number 8.</p> <p>Extract from the Historic Environment Scotland (HES) Designations portal.</p>

The remains of a coastal artillery battery constructed around 1866.
ND 2853 7422: Battery (2 guns) Magazine. <1>

An artillery battery of two guns, very neatly constructed and kept in good repair. A large 'flag stone' forms the target for volunteer practice in the neighbourhood. <2>

In 1866 under the influence of the Earl of Caithness, an Artillery Company was formed at Mey and shortly afterwards a second company was raised in Castletown. No doubt one of the company's first tasks was to build a training battery and to apply for cannon to man it. The sketch of the batteries at Mey and Castletown shows that they are surprisingly complete and a mirror image of each other. The two cannon which ornament the front of the Castle of Mey probably came from the Mey battery; they have a bore of 6½ inches and a barrel length of 94 inches. These cannon have been heavily painted and it is not easy to read their identification numbers. The west one carries a George IV cypher with a date of 1820(?) which means it was rather an elderly piece when issued to the company. <3>

The site was Scheduled by Historic Environment Scotland in 2016. <4>

References

<1> Ordnance Survey. 1876-77. Ordnance Survey 1st edition 6 inch map: Caithness (surveyed 1870-73). Digital.

<2> Name Book (County). Object Name Books of the Ordnance Survey. p.40.

<3> Watson, G. 1996. The Artillery Batteries at Mey and Castletown (Caithness Field Club Bulletin Vol. 5 Number 8). Caithness Fld Club Bulletin.

<4> Historic Environment Scotland. 2016. Addition to the Schedule of Monuments: SM13649: Mey Battery, battery 80m NE of Braes of Harrow. Historic Environment Scotland. Digital.

Extract from the Highland Historic Environment Record (HER).

Asset/Event Number	2
Asset/Event Name	Castle of Mey (Barrogill Castle)
Type of Asset/Event	Garden and Designed Landscape
Listing No./NRHE Number	GDL00096; MHG31247
HER Number	
Status	Garden and Designed Landscape
Easting	329127
Northing	973872
Parish	Canisbay
Council	Highland
Description	<p>Of outstanding historical value due to its association with the Royal Family and the Earls of Caithness, the designed landscape of Castle of Mey provides the setting for a category A listed castle and makes a major contribution to the surrounding scenery.</p> <p>Type of Site The designed landscape of parkland, woodland, formal gardens and walled gardens, probably established in the early 19th century and improved in the latter half of the 20th century, embellishes the magnificent setting of the Castle of Mey.</p> <p>Main Phases of Landscape Development Between 1750 - 1875, probably c.1820, with replanting and improvements in 1928 and post 1952.</p> <p>Artistic Interest Level of interest: Some</p>

The designed landscape has some value as a Work of Art in its present form.

Historical

Level of interest: Outstanding

The Castle of Mey has outstanding Historical value due to its associations with the Earls of Caithness for four centuries and its present association with Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother.

Horticultural

Level of interest: Some

The Castle of Mey has some Horticultural and also Arboricultural value due to the range of plants grown under the harsh climatic conditions in this area of the country.

Architectural

Level of interest: Outstanding

The designed landscape provides the setting for a category A listed building.

Archaeological

Level of interest: Not Assessed

Scenic

Level of interest: Outstanding

The designed landscape has outstanding Scenic value in the surrounding landscape.

Nature Conservation

Level of interest: Some

The woodlands provide some Nature Conservation value due to the lack of other woodland cover in the area.

Location and Setting

The Castle of Mey is situated on the north coast of Scotland approximately 5 miles (8km) west of John O'Groats, and 15 miles (24km) east of Thurso. The lands of Mey lie on the flat coastal plain of Caithness and are extremely exposed to the harsh climate and winds which blow off the Pentland Firth. The surrounding landscape is predominantly pasture land and there are few trees. Magnificent views can be gained west to Dunnet Head, the most northerly point of Scotland, and across the Pentland Firth to the Orkney islands. The Castle and its woodlands are significant from the A836 and other minor roads between it and the coast, particularly from the east. The flat nature of the surrounding landscape limits views of the policies which are enclosed within the woodlands to the south and the policy walls to the north.

The Castle of Mey commands a magnificent position some 500 yards from the shore of the Pentland Firth. The designed landscape extends south to the lodge, west to the edge of the walled garden and the woodlands flanking the west drive, and east to Barrogill Mains farm. To the north, a road links the Castle with a road running west to the pier at Harrow, approximately 1km to the west of the Castle. To the south, a road runs due south from the lodge flanked by a beech/hawthorn hedge and a stone dyke to the A836. A shelterbelt has been established along the northern edge of the A836, but this is not part of the Castle of Mey property.

The designed landscape includes some 100 acres (40.5ha) of parkland, 11.64 acres (4.7ha) of woodland, and 2.68 acres (1.08ha) of formal garden which includes 1.25 acres (.5ha) of walled gardens.

Site History

The present designed landscape was laid out between 1750 - 1875 but probably c.1820, after the Burn addition to the Castle. The layout from this period is shown on the 1st edition OS map of 1873. Comparison of this with the 2nd edition OS map of 1910 and the present design shows the landscape to have remained substantially the same since then.

Early records show that the lands of Mey originally belonged to the Bishops of Caithness. In 1567 George Sinclair the 4th Earl of Caithness, who 22 years earlier had resigned the Earldom in favour of his son, acquired the property and built the Z- plan tower calling it Barrogill Castle.

His initials and those of his wife, Lady Elizabeth Graham, daughter of the 2nd Earl of Montrose, can be seen throughout the remaining part of the Castle. The 4th Earl's grandson, George, lost the fortunes of the estate which were regained by 1628 only to be lost once more in 1672 by the 6th Earl. This time the Castle was claimed by Campbell of Glenorchy in part payment of a debt. After the Earl's death, Campbell married the Countess and assumed the title of Earl of Caithness. In 1685, James II overruled Campbell's claim on the title and it was restored to the Sinclair family. The Earls of Caithness remained lairds of Barrogill until 1889 when the Castle was bequeathed by the last Earl of that line to someone outside the family.

In 1928, it was purchased by Captain Imbert-Terry who was responsible for the replanting of the shelter woodlands and for some improvements to the gardens. During World War II, the Castle was occupied as an officers' rest home and the grounds suffered some neglect. In 1950, the estate farms and crofts were sold to tenants. The Castle and policies were for sale when the Queen Mother first saw them during her visit to Caithness in 1952. Her Majesty purchased the Castle and revived its original name of the Castle of Mey. When Her Majesty bought the Castle it was in a dilapidated condition and threatened with demolition. Her Majesty has initiated many improvements to the Castle and gardens, which are designed to be at their best for the Queen Mother's visits in August and October.

Landscape Components

Architectural Features

The Castle of Mey and flanking Garden Walls are listed category A. The Castle was built c.1576 and has experienced additions and alterations in each subsequent century. In 1819 William Burn designed the entrance porch and hall. The fenestration of the dining-room wing was altered by Queen Elizabeth, The Queen Mother, and Her Majesty's cypher above the new sash window was carved by Hew Lorimer. The stone was obtained from a local quarry which was specially reopened for the purpose. The Gate Lodge and Gatepiers, listed category B, are early 19th century, possibly by William Burn. The stable/garage block, unlisted, lies to the north-east of the Castle. Crenellated walls flank the entrance to the courtyard on the south front of the Castle, and cannons stand on the adjacent lawns, relics of the Napoleonic wars. They were originally part of the armament of the fort on the cliff to the north-west.

Parkland

The Parkland is situated to the south of the Castle, flanked by the woodlands and enclosed on the southern boundary by a road linking the lodge with Barrogill Mains Farm. This boundary also encloses the parkland to the south of the east drive.

In the park directly south of house, two round clumps of trees, mainly sycamore and ash, are enclosed by fencing. There are many trees in the park next to the east drive. Both areas are grazed by the Queen Mother's renowned breeding herd of Aberdeen Angus cattle.

Between the Castle and the stable-block to the north is an area of grassland which is important to the setting of the Castle from the Harbour approach. The mill-lade runs through this area, past the Home Farm and the stables, to flow into the sea due north of the Castle. It has been dammed in two places since 1952 and the two resulting ponds are separated by a race.

Woodland

The woodlands lie to the south of the Castle. They are indicated on the 1st edition OS map of 1875 but it is difficult to tell the age of the existing trees as windblow has greatly stunted their growth. The shelterbelt along the edge of the A836 was replanted in 1939. Sycamore and ash are the dominant species but horse chestnut, copper beech and gean are being introduced into the more sheltered areas.

The west drive approaches the Castle through the woodland. Reference to the 1st & 2nd edition OS maps indicates pathways through the woodlands. In spring, the floors of these woods are carpeted by daffodils, primroses, aconites and celandines.

The Gardens

Formal lawns lead up to the south front of the Castle. Crenellated walls, in a similar style to the Castle additions of the 1950s, flank the entrance to this area from the main drive. Cannons stand on the lawns.

Walled Gardens

There are two walled gardens adjacent to the Castle of Mey. The east walled garden is enclosed on the north and east sides. The 14th Earl of Caithness is thought to have been instrumental in its development. It contained as a central feature a reproduction of the Glasshouse of the 1851 Empire Exhibition. An article written in the early 1850s describes the glasshouse as being well stocked with purple cinerarias and red & white Camellias, with a vine growing over the inner walls. It was derelict by the 1950s and consequently removed. In its place now is a bed of Primulas. A herbaceous border runs along the south face of the wall next to the Castle and is separated from the former glasshouse site by a Fuchsia hedge.

The west walled garden is thought to be the older of the two. It is enclosed on all four sides by walls. It is thought that this was the area which William Lithgow described in 1628 as 'greenfaced gardens'. Another account of 1762 describes 'plenty of apples, strawberries and cherries prospering within its bounds despite the harsh climate'. Thus a garden has existed there for some time although the exact date of the walls is uncertain. The present garden is laid out in a series of eight compartments, as shown on the 2nd edition OS map of c.1910. The compartments are separated by hedges of Berberis, elder, privet and hawthorn. Within the compartments, thus divided for shelter, are grown vegetables, herbs, soft fruit and flowers. At the north end is a rose garden. Two small modern greenhouses are used for propagation and pot plants.

References

Scottish Tatler, July/Aug 1979 The Castle and its Adventures, Guide Leaflet
 Scots Magazine, Nov 1955
 Old Statistical Account
 Scotlands Magazine, Vol 48, 1952
 G.A. Little, 1981
 Groome's Listings
 NMRS, Photographs

Extract from the HES Designations portal.

Asset/Event Number	3
Asset/Event Name	Castle Of Mey
Type of Asset/Event	Listed Building
Listing No./NRHE Number	LB1797; ND27SE 1
HER Number	
Status	Listed Building - Category A
Easting	329032
Northing	973889
Parish	Canisbay
Council	Highland
Description	Probably 1566-72, with various 17th, 18th, 19th and mid 20th century additions and alterations. 3-storey and attic. 3-bay centre block with 16th century projecting 5-storey square tower at SE, and 2-storey, wide single bay crenellated dining room wing at west gable with angle bartizans. (c. 1954). SE tower with angle bartizans, crenellated with modern glazing. 2 wings project at rear forming narrow wallhead and regular later single bay fenestration in south elevation. 1819 (William Burn, architect) Baronial porch, with round-arched detailing, and entrance hall fill SW with round-headed entrance with flanking round-headed windows and double leaf doors, in projecting canted porch; 5-light arcaded window above entrance. 2-storey win projects at rear, forming with main castle elevation, 2 sides of high walled rear court, with round-headed entrance under crenellated wallhead. Piended dormers rise through wallhead;

sash and case window with multi-pane glazing; gun loops in south elevation of centre block and in tower; coped end and ridge stacks; slate roofs.

Statement of Special Interest

Property of H.M. The Queen Mother. Built by George, 4th Earl of Caithness, and passed to his 2nd son, William, who founded the line of Sinclair of Mey Name subsequently changed to Barrogill Castle, but reverted to Castle of Mey when purchased by H.M. The Queen Mother, c. 1953. William Burn addition of 1819 largely removed during 1950 alterations. Crest of H.M. The Queen Mother (carved by Hew Lorimer, circa 1954) over 1st floor dining room window at west.

References

NEW STATISTICAL ACCOUNT, xv, (1840) p. 27. RCAHMS INVENTORY (1911) pp. 9-11. p1. IV, fig. 3, (plan). IMPERIAL GAZETTEER OF SCOTLAND, i, 240. Donald Omand, (ed.) THE CAITHNESS BOOK (1972) P. 160, p1. 27.

Howard Colvin, A BIOGRAPHICAL DICTIONARY OF BRITISH ARCHITECTS 1600-1840 (1978) p. 162. National Monuments Record of Scotland.

H Fenwick, Castle of Mey, SCOTTISH TATLER July/Aug. 1979.

Extract from the HES Designations portal.

ND27SE 1.00 2902 7390.

Castle of Mey, formerly known as Barrogill Castle, has reverted to its original name. It is basically a late 16th century Z-plan castle but its appearance has been much altered by 19th century crenellation and heightening.

The main block, with thick walls and gunloops, is three storeys and an attic in height and lies E-W with a square wing projecting at the SW end and a smaller, square stair-tower to the NE, each rising a storey higher than the main building. An unusual feature is the massive chimney-stack at the E end. There is a curtain-walled courtyard, entered by a round-arched gateway, to the N.

The castle was built by the Sinclairs in 1567 and remained in their virtually unbroken possession until the late 19th century. After a period of neglect it was bought and restored by H M the Queen Mother about 1960.

RCAHMS 1911; N Tranter 1962-70; F H Groome 1901; HBD No. 1

Castle of Mey is architecturally as described above except the orientation of some features is incorrect. The 'square wing' is at the SE corner and the 'smaller square stair-tower' is in the NW; the latter feature is the same height as the main block, not higher. The present, 19th century, entrance is in the S, but the original entrance was in the N. Later additions extend from the SW side and flank the E and W sides of the courtyard, which has the date '1762' above the arch leading into it.

Revised at 1:2500.

Visited by OS (J B) 4 April 1982.

As described in the RCAHMS Inventory of Caithness, this castle, also known as Barrogill, was originally laid out on a Z-plan. Likely to date from the period 1560-70, possibly on the site of an earlier building, the proviso should be made that the primary phase of construction might have continued over an extended period. The castle has also been extensively augmented at different periods. The courtyard walls about the main structure and appear to be secondary to the original phase of building. They have also been extensively rebuilt. Considerable work was carried out c.1819 to the designs of the architect William Burn. These Tudor Gothic additions included a porch, two-storey west wing and the addition of decorative features including crenellation. It has been suggested that the two-storey west wing, which incorporates a dining-room at principal-floor level, was entirely work of the early 1950s, when renovations were carried out by architects Sinclair Macdonald of Thurso for HRH the Queen Mother. The evidence that complete rebuilding of this wing took place cannot yet, however, be fully substantiated. The likelihood is that it was extended by some 1.8m during the renovation works of the 1950s, some of the original walls having been retained and new windows inserted

at both floor levels. At this time a carved panel by Hew Lorimer was built into the main front of this wing. The work executed in the 1950s also included the provision of a scullery block to the north of the west wing (an addition of c.1958) and the construction of a caretaker's house to the north-west corner of the courtyard. Maintenance and minor works were carried out by the architect Robert Beaton of Golspie in the 1980s. Refurbishment has recently been undertaken at the behest of The Queen Elizabeth Castle of Mey Trust by the architect Lachlan Stewart of Portmahomack.

Information from RCAHMS
(NMC) August 2002.

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Extract from the NRHE Canmore database.

Asset/Event Number	4
Asset/Event Name	Lodge, Castle Of Mey
Type of Asset/Event	Listed Building
Listing No./NRHE Number	LB1798; MHG14880; MHG41997
HER Number	
Status	Listed Building - Category B
Easting	328957
Northing	973703

Appendix 2: Gazetteer of Heritage Assets and Events



Parish	Canisbay
Council	Highland
Description	<p>Gate Lodge; early 19th century, single storey gate lodge with canted west gable facing drive; harled rubble with ashlar margins. 3 Pointed-headed windows in canted gable, that in centre with original intersecting astragals and multi-pane glazing. Centre entrance in 3-bay north elevation. Pair centre ridge corniced stacks; slate roof. Gate piers; pair square rubble gate piers with shallow pyramidal caps.</p> <p>Statement of Special Interest Property of H.M. The Queen Mother. Built by George, 4th Earl of Caithness, and passed to his 2nd son, William, who founded the line of Sinclair of Mey Name subsequently changed to Barrogill Castle, but reverted to Castle of Mey when purchased by H.M. The Queen Mother, c. 1953. William Burn addition of 1819 largely removed during 1950's alterations. Crest of H.M. The Queen Mother (carved by Hew Lorimer, circa 1954) over 1st floor dining room window at west.</p> <p>References National Monuments Record of Scotland</p> <p>Extract from the HES Designations portal.</p>

Asset/Event Number	5
Asset/Event Name	HOLLANDMEY
Type of Asset/Event	BROCH (IRON AGE)(POSSIBLE), MOUND (PERIOD UNASSIGNED)
Listing No./NRHE Number	ND27SE 3.00
HER Number	MHG2251
Status	Non-designated Heritage Asset
Easting	329290
Northing	970830
Parish	Canisbay
Council	Highland
Description	<p>Site of (NAT) Pict's House (NR) OS 25" map, Caithness, 2nd ed., (1872)</p> <p>This low mound, of indefinite measurements, is believed to contain the remains of a broch. Some slight excavation was done in it by John Nicolson, Nybster and a small bone ring was recovered (RCAHMS 1911).</p> <p>A 'Pictish House', entirely removed about 1869. A piece of silver - neither a coin nor an ornament, was found during its removal. (Under 'various modes of spelling', "Cairn of Hollandmay" has been deleted and "Site of Pict's House" substituted.) (ONB 1872). RCAHMS 1911; Name Book 1872.</p> <p>A highly polished ring of bone 7/8ins in diameter from an inhabited site at Hollmey was donated to the NMAS in 1908 as part of the collection of Sir Francis Tress Barry (Acc No: HD 420). <1> (Hollmey is presumably Hollandmay, alternatively Hollomey (ONB 1872).</p> <p>The remains of the broch were Scheduled in 1950 as 'Hollandmey, broch 330m NNW of'.</p> <p>There are now no intelligible remains of this feature, except for a slight mound of indeterminate dimensions located on a faint eminence in a cultivated field at ND 2929 7083. No further information could be obtained locally concerning this possible broch, the excavation, or the find mentioned above.</p>

Revised at 1:2500.
Visited by OS (R B) 23 February 1965.

(ND 2929 7083) Mound (NR) (site of)
OS 1:10,000 map, (1976)

The low, presumably part-natural eminence which is all that remains of the site is about 35.0m across and 1.2m high. Current evidence is insufficient for certain classification.
Visited by OS (J B) 4 May 1982.

The monument was De-scheduled in 1992.

The site was visited by SUAT in 2004 during a walkover survey in advance of a proposed windfarm development. There were no clearly visible remains of a broch. The site was a grassy mound, measuring 50m north-south and 45m east-west on the highest point of a field used for pasturing cattle. <2>

ND27 2 HOLLANDMAY ('Hollmey') ND/2930 7083

Site of possible broch in Canisbay, Caithness, consisting of a low mound at the edge of a field in which a small excavation was carried out by J Nicholson of Nybster, and a polished bone ring recovered [2, 3]. A different source says that this "Pictish house" was entirely removed in about 1869 and a piece of silver (unidentified) was found [1].

Sources: 1. NMRS site no. ND 27 SE 3: 2. RCAHMS 1911b, 16, no. 39: 3. Proc Soc Antiq Scot 43 (1908-09), 18 (find). <3>

References

RCAHMS. 1911. The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments and Constructions of Scotland. Third report and inventory of monuments and constructions in the county of Caithness. . 16, No. 39.

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<1>PSAS. 1909. 'Donations to and purchases for the Museum and Library, with exhibits', Proc Soc Antiq Scot Vol. 43 1908-9, p.8-23, 73-5, 145-6, 176-9, 268-71, 291-5. Proc Soc Antiq Scot. 8-23, 73-5, 145-6, 176-9,. 18.

<2> Perry, D.. 2004. Archaeological Component: Proposed Wind Farm at Schoolary, Caithness, Highland. SUAT Ltd. 13/12/2004. Paper and Digital. 11.47 Site 3.

<3> Mackie, E.. 2007. The Roundhouses, Brochs and Wheelhouses of Atlantic Scotland c.700 BC - AD 500: Architecture and material culture Part 2 (I & II) The Northern and Southern Mainland and the Western Islands. BAR British Series. 444. Paperback. ND27 2 HOLLANDMAY.

Extract from the Highland HER.

Asset/Event Number	6
Asset/Event Name	MEY
Type of Asset/Event	FARMSTEAD (Post Medieval - 1560 AD to 1900 AD)
Listing No./NRHE Number	ND27SE 33.00
HER Number	MHG18922
Status	Non-designated Heritage Asset
Easting	328600
Northing	972720
Parish	Canisbay
Council	Highland
Description	RCAHMS First Edition Survey Project

Appendix 2: Gazetteer of Heritage Assets and Events



A farmstead comprising one unroofed long building, three roofed buildings and an enclosure is depicted on the 1st edition of the OS 6-inch map (Caithness 1877, sheet ii). Three roofed buildings and what may be an enclosure of three compartments are shown on the current edition of the OS 1:10000 map (1976).

Information from RCAHMS (SAH) 9 January 1996

Extract from the NRHE Canmore database.

Asset/Event Number	7
Asset/Event Name	HOLLANDMEY
Type of Asset/Event	FARMSTEAD (PERIOD UNASSIGNED)(POSSIBLE)
Listing No./NRHE Number	ND27SE 21.00
HER Number	MHG18927
Status	Non-designated Heritage Asset
Easting	329500
Northing	970900
Parish	Canisbay
Council	Highland
Description	RCAHMS First Edition Survey Project

What may be a farmstead comprising an unroofed building and an enclosure is depicted on the 1st edition of the OS 6-inch map (Caithness 1877, sheet vii) and on the current edition of the OS 1:10000 map (1976).

Information from RCAHMS (SAH), 21 December 1995.

Extract from the NRHE Canmore database.

Asset/Event Number	8
Asset/Event Name	HOLLANDMEY
Type of Asset/Event	FARMSTEAD (PERIOD UNASSIGNED)
Listing No./NRHE Number	ND27SE 22.00
HER Number	MHG18928
Status	Non-designated Heritage Asset
Easting	328900
Northing	970800
Parish	Canisbay
Council	Highland
Description	RCAHMS First Edition Survey Project

A farmstead comprising an unroofed building attached to an enclosure, and another larger enclosure is depicted on the 1st edition of the OS 6-inch map (Caithness 1877, sheet vii), but it is not shown on the current edition of the OS 1:10000 map (1976).

Appendix 2: Gazetteer of Heritage Assets and Events



Information from RCAHMS (SAH), 21 December 1995.

Extract from the NRHE Canmore database.

Asset/Event Number	9
Asset/Event Name	MEY PRIMARY SCHOOL
Type of Asset/Event	SCHOOL (PERIOD UNASSIGNED)
Listing No./NRHE Number	ND27SE 42.00
HER Number	MHG36795
Status	Non-designated Heritage Asset
Easting	328720
Northing	972770
Parish	Canisbay
Council	Highland
Description	No description on the NRHE Canmore database or Highland HER. *SW *07/08/2023 *Historical mapping *A school is depicted here on the 1930 OS map onwards. It was subject to a photographic survey [Event 26] in advance of converting it from a school to a home. References OS. 1930. Sheet 12 - Wick. Stewart, L. 2016. Photographic Survey - Former Mey Primary School.

Asset/Event Number	10
Asset/Event Name	MEY, POLICE STATION
Type of Asset/Event	POLICE STATION (19TH CENTURY) - (20TH CENTURY)
Listing No./NRHE Number	ND27SE 40.00
HER Number	MHG36704
Status	Non-designated Heritage Asset
Easting	328500
Northing	972690
Parish	Canisbay
Council	Highland
Description	No description on the NRHE Canmore database or Highland HER. *SW *07/08/2023 *Historical mapping *The police station appears to have been constructed between 1950 and 1959 per OS mapping. References OS. 1950. 39/27 & Part of 39/17 - A, Surveyed / Revised: 1905; Published: 1950

Appendix 2: Gazetteer of Heritage Assets and Events



OS. 1960. ND27SE - A, Surveyed / Revised: Pre-1930 to 1959, Published: 1960

Asset/Event Number	11
Asset/Event Name	MEY, GENERAL
Type of Asset/Event	VILLAGE (PERIOD UNASSIGNED)
Listing No./NRHE Number	ND27SE 39.00
HER Number	MHG36668
Status	Non-designated Heritage Asset
Easting	328670
Northing	972740
Parish	Canisbay
Council	Highland
Description	No description on the NRHE Canmore database or Highland HER. *SW *07/08/2023 *Historical mapping *May as a named place is evident on Paris' 13th century map, on Oretelius' map of 1573, and on Gordon's mid-17th century maps. Roy's map shows interspersed settlement with 'Mey' attributed to settlement to the southeast of the castle. Thomson & Johnson's 1822 map shows Mey to the south of the castle in the approximate location of the village today, and the 1873 OS map is the first to depict in detail. References Paris, M. C.1200-1299. Matthew Paris's map of Britain. Ortelius, A. 1573. Scotiae tabula. Roy, W. 1747-1755. Roy Military Survey of Scotland, 1747-1755 (Roy Highlands). Thomson, J. & Johnson, W. 1822. Caithness Shire.

Asset/Event Number	12
Asset/Event Name	PHILIPS MAINS
Type of Asset/Event	COTTAGE(S) (PERIOD UNASSIGNED), FARMHOUSE (PERIOD UNASSIGNED), FARMSTEAD (PERIO
Listing No./NRHE Number	ND27SE 44.00
HER Number	MHG36824
Status	Non-designated Heritage Asset
Easting	329837
Northing	971940
Parish	Canisbay
Council	Highland
Description	No description on the NRHE Canmore database or Highland HER. *LB *14/07/2023 *This name applies to a large farm steading with arable land attached. Property of the R. H. [Right Honourable] Earl of Caithness.

References

Caithness OS Name Book 1871-1873 Caithness volume 02 OS1/7/2/99. Available at: <https://scotlandspplaces.gov.uk/digital-volumes/ordnance-survey-name-books/caithness-os-name-books-1871-1873/caithness-volume-02/99>

Asset/Event Number	13
Asset/Event Name	HOLLANDMEY
Type of Asset/Event	FARMHOUSE (PERIOD UNASSIGNED), FARMSTEAD (PERIOD UNASSIGNED)
Listing No./NRHE Number	ND27SE 47.00
HER Number	MHG37157
Status	Non-designated Heritage Asset
Easting	329367
Northing	970496
Parish	Canisbay
Council	Highland
Description	No description on the NRHE Canmore database.

FARMSTEAD (Built, 18th Century to 19th Century - 1750 AD to 1872 AD (between))

A small farmstead at Hollandmey, shown on OS 1st Edition map.

The site was visited by SUAT in 2004 during a walkover survey in advance of a proposed windfarm. It was found to be abandoned. The buildings formed three ranges around the north, east and south sides of a courtyard which contained pens and abandoned feeders. The north range comprised two single-storeyed buildings that to the east were still roofed. Both gables of this building had fireplaces, with that on the east gable being a cast-iron kitchen range. The building was entered from the south into a passage between two rooms. The east and south ranges were still roofed. <1>

References

Perry, D.. 2004. Archaeological Component: Proposed Wind Farm at Schoolary, Caithness, Highland. SUAT Ltd. 13/12/2004. Paper and Digital. 11.48 Site 6.

Extract from the Highland HER.

*LB

*14/07/2023

*Bibliographic

*This was formerly an ancient farm steading but is now a shepherd's residence. The property of the Earl of Caithness.

References

Caithness OS Name Book 1871-1873 Caithness volume 02 OS1/7/2/99. Available at: <https://scotlandspplaces.gov.uk/digital-volumes/ordnance-survey-name-books/caithness-os-name-books-1871-1873/caithness-volume-02/99>

Asset/Event Number	14
Asset/Event Name	MEY, EAST LODGE

Appendix 2: Gazetteer of Heritage Assets and Events

Type of Asset/Event	LODGE (PERIOD UNASSIGNED)
Listing No./NRHE Number	ND37SW 32.00
HER Number	MHG37116
Status	Non-designated Heritage Asset
Easting	330080
Northing	972730
Parish	Canisbay
Council	Highland
Description	<p>No description on the NRHE Canmore database or Highland HER.</p> <p>*SW *01/08/2023 *Historical mapping *A lodge is depicted on the 1873 OS map but by the time of the 1906 map this has been converted into a police station. Between 1960 and 1968 the building appears to have gone out of use as a police station and is re-named East Lodge, likely as a result of the establishment of the new station [Asset 10] in Mey itself in this same time period.</p> <p>References OS. 1873. Caithness II.14 (Canisbay), Survey date: 1872, Publication date: 1873 OS. 1906. Caithness II.14, Revised: 1905, Published: 1906 OS. 1960. ND37SW & part of ND37NW - A, Surveyed / Revised: Pre-1930 to 1959, Published: 1960 OS. 1968. ND3072-ND3172 - AA, Revised: 1967, Published: 1968</p>

Asset/Event Number	15
Asset/Event Name	MEY, SCHOOL AND SCHOOLHOUSE
Type of Asset/Event	SCHOOL (PERIOD UNASSIGNED), SCHOOLHOUSE (PERIOD UNASSIGNED)
Listing No./NRHE Number	ND27SE 43.00
HER Number	MHG42773 ; MHG36820
Status	Non-designated Heritage Asset
Easting	328630
Northing	972700
Parish	Canisbay
Council	Highland
Description	<p>The eastern part of this building is marked as a school on OS 1:10 560 Caithness sheet 2 (1970). See also ND27SE 42, which appears as a school on the current OS 1:10 000 (1976). The Third Statistical Account of the County of Caithness states in the 1983 entry (P88) that the school at Mey had closed since the previous (1952) entry. (AC 26 April 2001).</p> <p>Extract from the NRHE Canmore database.</p> <p>*SW *01/08/2023 *Historical mapping *A school is depicted here on the 1873 OS map.</p> <p>References OS. 1873. Caithness II.14 (Canisbay), Survey date: 1872, Publication date: 1873</p>

Asset/Event Number	16
Asset/Event Name	MEY, DRILL HALL
Type of Asset/Event	DRILL HALL (19TH CENTURY) - (20TH CENTURY), VILLAGE HALL (20TH CENTURY)
Listing No./NRHE Number	ND27SE 58.00
HER Number	MHG54160
Status	Non-designated Heritage Asset
Easting	329079
Northing	972828
Parish	Canisbay
Council	Highland
Description	Note (30 April 2015)

A drill hall was constructed in 1875 for the First Caithness Artillery Volunteer Corps at Mey. It functioned as a drill hall until 1908, when according to the Mey Village Hall Trust web page it became a village hall. It was used by the home guard and regular army units in the Second World War.

The hall lay on the E side of the building and the drill instructors house was attached to the W side of the hall. The building has been heavily altered between 2008-10 with a new roof line and extension to the rear to increase the size and height of the hall.

Information from RCAHMS (AKK) 30 April 2015.

Extract from the NRHE Canmore database.

In 1866 under the influence of the Earl of Caithness, an Artillery Company was formed at Mey and shortly afterwards a second company was raised in Castletown. The Drill Hall at Mey, almost opposite the gateway to the Castle, has the appearance of an estate cottage which has been extended to accommodate the volunteers. The extension carries the date 1875 and there is a neatly carved field gun over the main porch. Inserted into the wall is a shield "Erected by No 5 Company 1st CVA and Friends in memory of Corpl Alexander T Sinclair, 2nd Brabant's Horse, Killed in Action at Dordrecht (Bird's River) S Africa, 16th February 1900. Aged 27 years". Corporal Sinclair was presumably a former member of the Mey company. <1>

A single cottage is marked on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map; the Drill Hall extension has been added by the time of the 2nd edition OS map. <2><3>

References

- <1>Watson, G. 1996. The Artillery Batteries at Mey and Castletown (Caithness Field Club Bulletin Vol. 5 Number 8). Caithness Fld Club Bulletin. Volume 5, Number 8.
- <2> Ordnance Survey. 1871-4. Ordnance Survey 1st edition 25 inch map: Inverness. Digital.
- <3> Ordnance Survey. 1906. Ordnance Survey 2nd edition 25 inch map: Caithness. Digital.

Extract from the Highland HER.

Asset/Event Number	17
Asset/Event Name	Sheepfold - near Philips Mains, Caithness
Type of Asset/Event	SHEEP FOLD (Post Medieval - 1560 AD? to 1900 AD?)

Appendix 2: Gazetteer of Heritage Assets and Events



Listing No./NRHE Number

HER Number MHG56460

Status Non-designated Heritage Asset

Easting 329270

Northing 971580

Parish Canisbay

Council Highland

Description A sheepfold shown on the 1st Edition OS map southwest of Philips Mains near Canisbay, Caithness.

A sheepfold shown on the 1st Edition OS map southwest of Philips Mains near Canisbay, Caithness (Caithness 1877, sheet vii).

This site was visited by SUAT in 2004 during a walkover survey in advance of a proposed windfarm development. The feature survived as a circular turf and moss covered dry stone wall 0.7-0.8m wide and about 0.4-0.5m high. The internal diameter was 13.55m. It was surrounded by rough grassland. <1>

References

Perry, D.. 2004. Archaeological Component: Proposed Wind Farm at Schoolary, Caithness, Highland. SUAT Ltd. 13/12/2004. Paper and Digital. 11.53 Site 13.

Extract from the Highland HER.

Asset/Event Number 18

Asset/Event Name Sheepfold - Hollandmey Moss, Caithness

Type of Asset/Event SHEEP FOLD (Post Medieval - 1560 AD? to 1900 AD?)

Listing No./NRHE Number

HER Number MHG56461

Status Non-designated Heritage Asset

Easting 328730

Northing 971200

Parish Canisbay

Council Highland

Description A sheepfold shown on the 1st Edition OS map on Hollandmey Moss near Canisbay, Caithness.

A sheepfold shown on the 1st Edition OS map on Hollandmey Moss near Canisbay, Caithness (Caithness 1877, sheet vii).

This site was visited by SUAT in 2004 during a walkover survey in advance of a proposed windfarm development. The site lay in an area of rough pasture that had been ploughed for forestry and planted with seedlings or saplings. The feature could not be located. <1>

The feature is, however, visible on vertical aerial photographs taken in 1999-2001 and later.

References

Perry, D.. 2004. Archaeological Component: Proposed Wind Farm at Schoolary, Caithness, Highland. SUAT Ltd. 13/12/2004. Paper and Digital. 11.53 Site 13.

Appendix 2: Gazetteer of Heritage Assets and Events

Extract from the Highland HER.

Asset/Event Number	19
Asset/Event Name	Sheepfold - Hollandmey, Caithness
Type of Asset/Event	SHEEP FOLD (Post Medieval - 1560 AD? to 1900 AD?)
Listing No./NRHE Number	
HER Number	MHG56465
Status	Non-designated Heritage Asset
Easting	329360
Northing	970960
Parish	Canisbay
Council	Highland
Description	<p>A sheepfold shown on the 1st Edition OS map at Hollandmey near Canisbay, Caithness.</p> <p>A sheepfold shown on the 1st Edition OS map at Hollandmey near Canisbay, Caithness (Caithness 1877, sheet vii).</p> <p>This site was visited by SUAT in 2004 during a walkover survey in advance of a proposed windfarm development. It survived as three blocked openings in a boundary wall, of which the northern and middle openings retained intact lintels. There was no trace of the former enclosure and pens attached to the boundary wall. <1></p> <p>References Perry, D. 2004. Archaeological Component: Proposed Wind Farm at Schoolary, Caithness, Highland. SUAT Ltd. 13/12/2004. Paper and Digital. 11.53 Site 13.</p>

Extract from the Highland HER.

Asset/Event Number	20
Asset/Event Name	Farmstead - Hollandmey
Type of Asset/Event	FARMSTEAD (Undated)
Listing No./NRHE Number	
HER Number	MHG56457
Status	Non-designated Heritage Asset
Easting	329350
Northing	970750
Parish	Canisbay
Council	Highland
Description	<p>A small farmstead comprising three buildings beside an old quarry, depicted on the 1st edition map at Hollandmey, Caithness.</p> <p>A small farmstead comprising three buildings beside an old quarry is depicted on the 1st edition of the OS 6-inch map (Caithness 1877, sheet vii) and labelled 'Hollandmey'. On the 2nd edition only part of the larger building is shown as roofed and the name had been transferred to the farm buildings to the south (see MHG37157).</p>

This site was visited by SUAT in 2004 in advance of a proposed windfarm development. No trace was seen of the buildings although the site of the former quarry was evident as a churned up area of peat and stones. <1>

References

Perry, D. 2004. Archaeological Component: Proposed Wind Farm at Schoolary, Caithness, Highland. SUAT Ltd. 13/12/2004. Paper and Digital. 11.53 Site 13.

Extract from the Highland HER.

Asset/Event Number	21
Asset/Event Name	DBA and walkover survey - proposed Switching Station, Gills Bay
Type of Asset/Event	DESK BASED ASSESSMENT
Listing No./NRHE Number	
HER Number	EHG5977
Status	Event
Easting	329363
Northing	972063
Parish	Canisbay
Council	Highland
Description	<p>A desk-based assessment and walkover survey were carried out by CFA Archaeology in 2014 in advance of a proposed switching station near Philips Mains, Gills Bay, Caithness. The survey work was carried out in order to: locate all visible cultural heritage sites, monuments, and landscape features, both those identified during the desk-based assessment and any previously unrecognised, and to record their character, extent, and condition; identify areas with the potential to contain unrecorded, buried archaeological remains, taking into account factors such as topography, geomorphology, and ground conditions; and inform the appraisal of the potential impacts of the Proposed Development on heritage assets. Site visits were also made to key receptors in the Outer Study Area in March 2014, to appraise whether the proposals would affect their settings. <1></p> <p>The information gathered from the 2014 assessment and site visits was considered by Ramboll in 2021 to remain valid to assess the impact of the Proposed Development in a re-submitted environmental appraisal and therefore no additional field survey was carried out. However, during the the desk-based assessment re-appraisal information sources checked during the original project work were re-visited. Taking into account the recorded archaeological remains known in the surrounding area and the presence of peat deposits on the Site, the evidence suggested that there was a low to medium potential for further archaeological discoveries in this locale, including within the farmland in the southern part of the Site. In the northern part of the Site, which is currently under commercial forestry, ploughing and drainage works as well as planting and subsequent tree root growth was likely to have disturbed or destroyed the integrity of any surviving buried archaeological deposits that might formerly have been, or may still be, present. Therefore, it was considered that the potential for hitherto undisturbed buried archaeological remains to survive in the current forested area was negligible to low. It was also predicted that there would be potential indirect impacts during operation of the Proposed Development of no more than of low magnitude on the setting of two heritage assets within 3 km of the Site. <2></p> <p>[The Event extent includes a portion of the W side of the Site, no cultural heritage remains were recorded within that portion]</p>
References	

Appendix 2: Gazetteer of Heritage Assets and Events



<1>Hastie, M.. 2015. Gills Bay GIS Substation, 132/33kV Gas Insulated Substation (GIS): Environmental Appraisal (Cultural Heritage). CFA Archaeology. Digital. [Mapped features: #12977 ; #12978 Survey area,]
<2>Ramboll. 2021. Gills Bay Switching Station, Philip Mains, Scottish Highlands: Environmental Appraisal (Cultural Heritage). Ramboll. 08/12/2021.

Extract from the Highland HER.

Asset/Event Number	22
Asset/Event Name	DBA and walkover survey - proposed Scoolary windfarm, Caithness
Type of Asset/Event	DESK BASED ASSESSMENT
Listing No./NRHE Number	
HER Number	EHG1224
Status	Event
Easting	329141
Northing	971226
Parish	Canisbay
Council	Highland
Description	<p>A desk-based assessment and walkover survey were undertaken by SUAT in June 2004 of a proposed windfarm development at Scoolary, near Gills, Caithness. In the DBA various sites were noted including two possible broch sites, shielings, sheepfolds, rig and furrow, wells, former quarries and post-medieval farmsteads. A walkover survey recorded three additional sites: a field boundary of upright Caithness slabs set on end, recorded on the 1st edition OS map; a drystone field boundary with undulating courses revealing the site of rig and furrow, no longer visible on the ground; and another former quarry, probably for a modern access track.</p> <p><1> [The extent of this Event does not fall within the Site itself]</p> <p>References Perry, D. 2004. Archaeological Component: Proposed Wind Farm at Scoolary, Caithness, Highland. SUAT Ltd. 13/12/2004. Paper and Digital.</p> <p>Extract from the Highland HER.</p>

Asset/Event Number	23
Asset/Event Name	DBA and walkover survey - Inner Sound, Canisbay
Type of Asset/Event	DESK BASED ASSESSMENT
Listing No./NRHE Number	
HER Number	EHG3158
Status	Event
Easting	329849
Northing	972264
Parish	Canisbay
Council	Highland
Description	<p>The Orkney Research Centre for Archaeology (ORCA) was commissioned by Xodus in 2011 to provide a baseline assessment of the onshore historic environment assets in an area of the</p>

Canisbay parish, Caithness, that may be affected by a proposed marine renewable development. The general area was subject to a desk-based assessment whilst the immediate development area was subject to a walkover survey. The walkover survey, conducted in July 2011, was undertaken in a systematic manner, field by field, with transect width appropriate to the conditions (mostly pasture, silage, cereal crop and rough grazing). Any features or sites identified were assigned an individual site number, in the same sequence as the sites identified in the DBA, briefly recorded by notes, sketches, photographs and handheld GPS and evaluated. Whilst there were no SAMs, Listed Buildings or other statutorily designated assets within the development areas themselves, there are such sites close by. A total of 18 sites were identified at the Ness of Huna and Ness of Quoys Options combined, of which five were of moderate significance, one uncertain and the rest of low or negligible significance. Both options have potential for significant archaeology to be present, therefore at this stage neither option is preferred in terms of potential direct effects. It is therefore concluded that further evaluation of the areas may be required, conducted using geophysical techniques and/or intrusive evaluations in order to establish whether or not significant remains do exist within the option areas and thus identify any risks. <1>

Information from the DBA and walkover survey report was subsequently used to inform an Environmental Impact Assessment submitted as part of a planning application. An expanded and more comprehensive version of the original report was submitted as supporting material for the Cultural Heritage chapter within the main EIA document. <2> <3>

References

- <1>Saunders, M.K. and Sharman, P.M.. 2011. Inner Sound, Canisbay, Caithness: Onshore DBA and walkover baseline report. Orkney Research Centre for Archaeology.
 <2> Sharman, P.M. & Saunders, M.K.. 2012. Inner Sound, Canisbay, Caithness: Onshore Cultural Heritage: Environmental Impast Assessment. Orkney Research Centre for Archaeology.
 <3> Orkney Research Centre for Archaeology (ORCA). 2012. MeyGen Tidal Energy Project - Phase 1: Environmental Statement: Cultural Heritage Chapters. Orkney Research Centre for Archaeology (ORCA).

Extract from the Highland HER.

Asset/Event Number	24
Asset/Event Name	Field survey - Caithness Coastal Survey 1980-82
Type of Asset/Event	TOPOGRAPHIC SURVEY
Listing No./NRHE Number	
HER Number	EHG405
Status	Event
Easting	329141
Northing	973084
Parish	Canisbay
Council	Highland
Description	A survey of the archaeology along the Caithness coast was commissioned by the Scottish Development Department (Ancient Monuments Branch) and took place over three seasons, commencing in May 1980. The survey started at Easter Head, Dunnet and terminated in 1982 at the Caithness/Sutherland border near Ousdale, approximately 100km further around the coast. The inland extent was dictated by the line of the A836 John O'Groats to Thurso road in the north, and by the A9 in the east. The total area covered by the survey was approximately 122 sq km. The survey method consisted of extended walking by two pairs of surveyors between April and May each year. <1> [Event extent does not fall within the Site]

References

Appendix 2: Gazetteer of Heritage Assets and Events



Batey, C E. 1984. Caithness Coastal Survey 1980-82: Dunnet Head to Ousdale. University of Durham, Department of Archaeology.

Extract from the Highland HER.

Asset/Event Number	25
Asset/Event Name	DBA and Walkover Survey - Gills Bay 132kV
Type of Asset/Event	DESK BASED ASSESSMENT
Listing No./NRHE Number	
HER Number	EHG4805
Status	Event
Easting	329538
Northing	971848
Parish	Canisbay
Council	Highland
Description	<p>A DBA and walkover survey carried out as part of an environmental statement for a planning application.</p> <p>References Environmental Statement: CFA Archaeology. 2015. Gills Bay 132kV Environmental Statement (Cultural Heritage). CFA Archaeology. Digital.</p> <p>Extract from the Highland HER.</p> <p>*SW *01/08/2023 *Report *The DBA and walkover survey undertaken by CFA included a portion of the Site. In this area, they identified a field system, Asset 65 (AOC Assets 30 and 31), and a possible boundary stone Asset 70 (AOC Asset X). These assets have been included within this gazetteer under the new AOC numbers.</p>

Asset/Event Number	26
Asset/Event Name	Photographic Survey - Former Mey Primary School
Type of Asset/Event	PHOTOGRAPHIC SURVEY
Listing No./NRHE Number	
HER Number	EHG4956
Status	Event
Easting	328730
Northing	972760
Parish	Canisbay
Council	Highland
Description	<p>A photographic survey carried out as part of a planning application (Change of use from former school to house).</p>

Appendix 2: Gazetteer of Heritage Assets and Events



References

Stewart, L. 2016. Photographic Survey - Former Mey Primary School.

Extract from the Highland HER.

Asset/Event Number	27
Asset/Event Name	DBA and walkover survey - proposed renewable energy development, Hollandmey
Type of Asset/Event	DESK BASED ASSESSMENT
Listing No./NRHE Number	
HER Number	EHG5727
Status	Event
Easting	329571
Northing	972529
Parish	Canisbay
Council	Highland
Description	<p>A desk-based assessment and walkover survey were carried out by Headland Archaeology in 2020 of the inner study area (ISA) of a proposed renewable energy development at Hollandmey, Caithness, in order to inform an environmental impact assessment.</p> <p>The purpose of the walkover was to assess the presence/absence, character, extent and condition of known assets and to identify any previously unrecorded assets. Heritage assets considered to be likely to be affected by operational effects in both the inner and outer study areas were visited on 26 and 28 October 2020. In addition to the known heritage assets recorded by the HER and identified by this assessment, the DBA for the assessment of the proposed Scoolary Wind Farm (i.e. review of historic maps and aerial photos - see EHG1224) identified 18 further assets within the ISA for the current assessment comprising buildings, sheepfolds, wells, an enclosure, quarries, a possible boundary stone, and areas of rig and furrow historical agricultural earthworks. In addition, the walkover survey for the previous assessment identified one additional heritage asset within the ISA, another former quarry, probably for a modern access track. The previous survey and the survey of the ISA for the current proposed development are likely to have identified and recorded any upstanding cultural heritage assets. It is therefore considered that there is 'Low' potential for further upstanding cultural heritage assets unrecorded within the ISA, however, it is acknowledged that as much of the site remains densely afforested, the walkover survey was limited to clearings and areas that were easily accessible. It is therefore possible that upstanding archaeological remains may survive within more densely planted and less accessible areas of the plantation and subsurface remains may also survive. <1> [Event extent does not fall within the Site]</p>

References

Carter, S. 2021. Hollandmey Renewable Energy Development: Environmental Impact Assessment (Cultural Heritage). Headland Archaeology. Digital.

Extract from the Highland HER.

Asset/Event Number	28
Asset/Event Name	Old Quarry, Philips Mains
Type of Asset/Event	Quarry

Appendix 2: Gazetteer of Heritage Assets and Events



Listing No./NRHE Number

HER Number

Status Non-designated Heritage Asset

Easting 329534

Northing 971511

Parish Canisbay

Council Highland

Description *LB
*14/07/2023
*Historical mapping, aerial photographs, walkover survey
*A sub-circular feature depicted at the southern end of a track. Annotated as an "Old Quarry" on the OS map published in 1873. annotated as a pond in 1968
*Visible as a pond on an aerial photograph taken in 1988

References

Ordnance Survey. 1873. Caithness VII.2 (Canisbay & Dunnet) Survey date: 1872, Publication date: 1873

Ordnance Survey. 1877. Caithness, Sheet VII Survey date: 1873, Publication date: 1877

Ordnance Survey. 1968. ND2971 – A Revised: 1966, Published: 1968

Aerial photograph. 1988. Sortie ASS/60888 Frame 0195.

Asset/Event Number 29

Asset/Event Name Well, Philips Mains

Type of Asset/Event Well (Post-medieval)

Listing No./NRHE Number

HER Number

Status Non-designated Heritage Asset

Easting 329794

Northing 971995

Parish Canisbay

Council Highland

Description *SW
*1/08/2023
*Historical mapping
*A well is depicted on the 1873 OS map and continues to be depicted until the 1968 OS map. It was not identified during the walkover survey.

References

OS. 1873.

Caithness VII.2 (Canisbay & Dunnet), Survey date: 1872, Publication date: 1873.

OS. 1968.

ND2971 - A, Revised: 1966, Published: 1968.

Asset/Event Number 30

Asset/Event Name Boundary stone, Philips Mains

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Type of Asset/Event	Boundary stone (Post-medieval)
Listing No./NRHE Number	
HER Number	
Status	Non-designated Heritage Asset
Easting	329355
Northing	971496
Parish	Canisbay
Council	Highland
Description	<p>Identified during the 2015 walkover survey for EHG4805 but not yet added to the Highland HER monument record. CFA record the asset under Asset 70 as 'An old boundary marker (or milestone) stands at the eastern side of a modern farm track to Philips Mains Farm. It measures 0.5 m high, 0.4 m wide and 0.2 m deep. There are no obvious markings on either side.' and 'It is not depicted on the Ordnance Survey 1st or 2nd Edition maps and there are no markings visible on the stone. It is not clear whether the stone stands in its original position, but it could have been placed to mark the boundary between the Hollandmey and Philips Mains Farms. It is considered to be of local heritage importance.'</p> <p>This asset was not observed during the walkover survey undertaken by AOC Archaeology.</p> <p>References CFA. 2015. Gills Bay 132 kV Environmental Statement: Volume 2: Main Report.</p>

Asset/Event Number	31
Asset/Event Name	Field clearance, Philips Mains
Type of Asset/Event	Field clearance (Post-medieval)
Listing No./NRHE Number	
HER Number	
Status	Non-designated Heritage Asset
Easting	329553
Northing	971945
Parish	Canisbay
Council	Highland
Description	<p>A spread of stone recorded in the 2012 walkover survey for Event 23/EHG3158 as Asset 364. No further detail is given and the asset has not previously been added to the Highland HER. This was not observed during the August 2023 walkover survey due to tall vegetation.</p> <p>References Sharman, P.M. & Saunders, M.K. 2012. Inner Sound, Canisbay, Caithness: Onshore Cultural Heritage: Environmental Impact Assessment. Orkney Research Centre for Archaeology.</p>

Asset/Event Number	32
Asset/Event Name	Flagstone dyke, Philips Mains
Type of Asset/Event	Boundary dyke (Post-medieval)
Listing No./NRHE Number	

Appendix 2: Gazetteer of Heritage Assets and Events



HER Number

Status	Non-designated Heritage Asset
Easting	329467
Northing	972035
Parish	Canisbay
Council	Highland
Description	<p>Remnants of a NW/SE aligned flagstone dyke recorded in the 2012 walkover survey for Event 23/EHG3158 as Asset 365. No further detail is given and the asset has not previously been added to the Highland HER.</p> <p>This is consistent with historic field boundaries shown on the 1873 OS map. This was not observed during the August 2023 walkover survey due to tall vegetation.</p> <p>References OS. 1873. Caithness VII.2 (Canisbay & Dunnet), Survey date: 1872, Publication date: 1873 Sharman, P.M. & Saunders, M.K. 2012. Inner Sound, Canisbay, Caithness: Onshore Cultural Heritage: Environmental Impact Assessment. Orkney Research Centre for Archaeology.</p>

Asset/Event Number

Asset/Event Number	33
Asset/Event Name	Ditch, Philips Mains
Type of Asset/Event	Drainage
Listing No./NRHE Number	
HER Number	
Status	Non-designated Heritage Asset
Easting	329538
Northing	972145
Parish	Canisbay
Council	Highland
Description	<p>A NE/SW aligned ditch recorded in the 2012 walkover survey for Event 23/EHG3158 as Asset 367. No further detail is given and the asset has not previously been added to the Highland HER. This was not observed during the August 2023 walkover survey due to tall vegetation but it is observed on Google Earth satellite imagery from 2016.</p> <p>References Sharman, P.M. & Saunders, M.K. 2012. Inner Sound, Canisbay, Caithness: Onshore Cultural Heritage: Environmental Impact Assessment. Orkney Research Centre for Archaeology.</p>

Asset/Event Number

Asset/Event Number	34
Asset/Event Name	Ditch, Philips Mains
Type of Asset/Event	Drainage
Listing No./NRHE Number	
HER Number	
Status	Non-designated Heritage Asset
Easting	329514

Appendix 2: Gazetteer of Heritage Assets and Events



Northing	972161
Parish	Canisbay
Council	Highland
Description	A NW/SE ditch recorded in the 2012 walkover survey for Event 23/EHG3158 as Asset 368. No further detail is given and the asset has not previously been added to the Highland HER. This was not observed during the August 2023 walkover survey due to tall vegetation.

References

Sharman, P.M. & Saunders, M.K. 2012. Inner Sound, Canisbay, Caithness: Onshore Cultural Heritage: Environmental Impact Assessment. Orkney Research Centre for Archaeology.

Asset/Event Number	35
Asset/Event Name	Rig and furrow, Philips Mains
Type of Asset/Event	Rig and furrow
Listing No./NRHE Number	
HER Number	
Status	Non-designated Heritage Asset
Easting	329476
Northing	972179
Parish	Canisbay
Council	Highland
Description	An area of rig and furrow recorded in the 2012 walkover survey for Event 23/EHG3158 as Asset 369. No further detail is given and the asset has not previously been added to the Highland HER. This was not observed during the August 2023 walkover survey due to tall vegetation.

References

Sharman, P.M. & Saunders, M.K. 2012. Inner Sound, Canisbay, Caithness: Onshore Cultural Heritage: Environmental Impact Assessment. Orkney Research Centre for Archaeology.

Asset/Event Number	36
Asset/Event Name	Mound, Philips Mains
Type of Asset/Event	Mound (Undated)
Listing No./NRHE Number	
HER Number	
Status	Non-designated Heritage Asset
Easting	329654
Northing	972189
Parish	Canisbay
Council	Highland
Description	A mound under grass aligned NW/SE recorded in the 2012 walkover survey for Event 23/EHG3158 as Asset 371. No further detail is given and the asset has not previously been added to the Highland HER. This was not observed during the August 2023 walkover survey due to tall vegetation.

References

Sharman, P.M. & Saunders, M.K. 2012. Inner Sound, Canisbay, Caithness: Onshore Cultural Heritage: Environmental Impact Assessment. Orkney Research Centre for Archaeology.

Asset/Event Number	37
Asset/Event Name	Flagstone dyke, Philips Mains
Type of Asset/Event	Boundary dyke (Post-medieval)
Listing No./NRHE Number	
HER Number	
Status	Non-designated Heritage Asset
Easting	329657
Northing	972210
Parish	Canisbay
Council	Highland
Description	A flagstone dyke aligned NW/SE recorded in the 2012 walkover survey for Event 23/EHG3158 as Asset 372. No further detail is given and the asset has not previously been added to the Highland HER. This was not observed during the August 2023 walkover survey due to tall vegetation.

References

Sharman, P.M. & Saunders, M.K. 2012. Inner Sound, Canisbay, Caithness: Onshore Cultural Heritage: Environmental Impact Assessment. Orkney Research Centre for Archaeology.

Asset/Event Number	38
Asset/Event Name	Rig and furrow, Philips Mains
Type of Asset/Event	Rig and furrow
Listing No./NRHE Number	
HER Number	
Status	Non-designated Heritage Asset
Easting	329553
Northing	972115
Parish	Canisbay
Council	Highland
Description	An area of rig and furrow recorded in the 2012 walkover survey for Event 23/EHG3158 as Asset 366 and 377. No further detail is given and the asset has not previously been added to the Highland HER. This was not observed during the August 2023 walkover survey due to tall vegetation.

References

Sharman, P.M. & Saunders, M.K. 2012. Inner Sound, Canisbay, Caithness: Onshore Cultural Heritage: Environmental Impact Assessment. Orkney Research Centre for Archaeology.

Appendix 2: Gazetteer of Heritage Assets and Events



Asset/Event Number	39
Asset/Event Name	Well , Philips Mains
Type of Asset/Event	Well
Listing No./NRHE Number	
HER Number	
Status	Non-designated Heritage Asset
Easting	329505
Northing	971993
Parish	Canisbay
Council	Highland
Description	<p>A possible well with a 0.5m in diameter recorded in the 2012 walkover survey for Event 23/EHG3158 as Asset 374. No further detail is given and the asset has not previously been added to the Highland HER. This was not observed during the August 2023 walkover survey due to tall vegetation.</p> <p>References Sharman, P.M. & Saunders, M.K. 2012. Inner Sound, Canisbay, Caithness: Onshore Cultural Heritage: Environmental Impast Assessment. Orkney Research Centre for Archaeology.</p>

Asset/Event Number	40
Asset/Event Name	Flagstone dyke, Philips Mains
Type of Asset/Event	Boundary dyke (Post-medieval)
Listing No./NRHE Number	
HER Number	
Status	Non-designated Heritage Asset
Easting	329642
Northing	972421
Parish	Canisbay
Council	Highland
Description	<p>A NE/SE aligned flagstone dyke recorded in the 2012 walkover survey for Event 23/EHG3158 as Asset 375. No further detail is given and the asset has not previously been added to the Highland HER.</p> <p>References Sharman, P.M. & Saunders, M.K. 2012. Inner Sound, Canisbay, Caithness: Onshore Cultural Heritage: Environmental Impast Assessment. Orkney Research Centre for Archaeology.</p>

Asset/Event Number	41
Asset/Event Name	Well , Philips Mains
Type of Asset/Event	Well
Listing No./NRHE Number	
HER Number	

Appendix 2: Gazetteer of Heritage Assets and Events



Status	Non-designated Heritage Asset
Easting	330005
Northing	972197
Parish	Canisbay
Council	Highland
Description	<p>A possible structure flagstone-structure built adjacent to drystone boundary wall, recorded in the 2012 walkover survey for Event 23/EHG3158 as Asset 376. Interpreted as a possible well. No further detail is given and the asset has not previously been added to the Highland HER. Access to this field was not possible due to cows and a bull in field at time of survey.</p> <p>References Sharman, P.M. & Saunders, M.K. 2012. Inner Sound, Canisbay, Caithness: Onshore Cultural Heritage: Environmental Impact Assessment. Orkney Research Centre for Archaeology.</p>

Asset/Event Number	42
Asset/Event Name	Drystone boundary wall, Philip Mains
Type of Asset/Event	Boundary wall
Listing No./NRHE Number	
HER Number	
Status	Non-designated Heritage Asset
Easting	329571
Northing	971735
Parish	Canisbay
Council	Highland
Description	<p>*SW *02/08/2023 *Walkover survey, historical mapping *Well-preserved and neat double-faced drystone walls measuring 0.8-1.7m tall (taller where it has been built cross dips in the ground to maintain a level head). The wall base measures 0.7m wide and the sides are gently battered, wall top 0.3m wide and set with coping stones. Caithness flagstone used in construction. This wall type is used along the Philip Mains' main northeast/southwest aligned access road, and also appears to have been used as the periphery wall for the associated fields. The walls are consistent with boundaries shown on the 1873 and 1906 OS maps. There are several gate entries through these walls which feature large flagstone gate posts against which the gate is hung. Flagstone walls (Asset 30) extend off these more substantial walls to delineate the fields within.</p> <p>References OS. 1873. Caithness VII.2 (Canisbay & Dunnet), Survey date: 1872, Publication date: 1873. OS. 1906. Caithness VII.2, Revised: 1905, Published: 1906.</p>

Asset/Event Number	43
Asset/Event Name	Flagstone boundary wall, Philip Mains
Type of Asset/Event	Boundary wall
Listing No./NRHE Number	

Appendix 2: Gazetteer of Heritage Assets and Events



HER Number

Status Non-designated Heritage Asset

Easting 329837

Northing 972405

Parish Canisbay

Council Highland

Description *SW
*02/08/2023
*Walkover survey, historical mapping
Fairly well-preserved Caithness flagstone boundary walls. Flagstones are rectangular in shape and have been set upright along the long edge to form boundary walls that stand 0.7-0.9m tall. These walls are aligned northwest/southeast and delineate fields within the Site. They meet the more substantial drystone walls (Asset 30) that stand along the road and the periphery of the fields. They have been made more secure by the insertion of post-and-wire fences alongside them. These walls are consistent with boundaries shown on the 1873 and 1906 OS maps.

References

OS. 1873.

Caithness VII.2 (Canisbay & Dunnet), Survey date: 1872, Publication date: 1873.

OS. 1906. Caithness VII.2, Revised: 1905, Published: 1906.

Asset/Event Number 44

Asset/Event Name Culverts, Philip Mains

Type of Asset/Event Culverts (Post-medieval)

Listing No./NRHE Number

HER Number

Status Non-designated Heritage Asset

Easting 329673

Northing 971826

Parish Canisbay

Council Highland

Description *SW
*02/08/2023
*Walkover survey
*Located at the base of one of the drystone walls (Asset 42) is a small triangular drainage hole, 0.7m tall and 0.4m wide, allowing water to pass through from the northwest/southeast aligned corridor between field boundaries to the southeast. This drains into the ditch alongside the main farm road, and partially visible through the tall grass were the mouths of stone-built culverts, possibly three in total - one running southwest along the road, one running northeast along the road, and another continuing northwest below the road. This latter culvert could be discerned from the west side of the track as a square-shaped hole (0.7m x 0.7m) at the base of the drystone wall (Asset 42), with a small watercourse leading northwest from it.

Mey BESS, Mey, Highland: Heritage Impact Assessment

Appendix 3: Plates



Plate 1: View west over the Site, stand of commercial forestry plantation visible demarcating western extent



Plate 2: North extent of Site, facing southwest from vantage point on slope of Hill of Rigifa'



Plate 3: View west over north field of Site, with flagstone dyke (**Asset 37**) in foreground and another flagstone dyke (**Asset 34**) visible in centre extending across the frame beyond the cattle



Plate 4: View southwest over drystone wall (**Asset 36**) with stone gate posts on left, and flagstone dyke (**Asset 37**) in centre – photograph not within Site but both assets extend into it



Plate 5: View northwest over the north field of Site, cultivation furrows visible



Plate 6: View over northeast field (centre) to rough ground comprising the southwest field of Site



Plate 7: View northwest over northeast field (right) and southwest field (left) of Site



Plate 8: View northwest across southwest field of Site, illustrating ground conditions, Castle of Mey (**Asset 3**) flagpole visible from this location



Plate 9: View northwest along flagstone dyke (**Asset 37**) towards Castle of Mey gate lodge (**Asset 4**) and Designed Landscape (**Asset 2**) along the Site's northwest/southeast boundary (**Asset 37**), lodge (**Asset 4**) visible through gated access through A837 tree belt



Plate 10: View northeast over the Mey battery (**Asset 1**), illustrating its coastal setting



Plate 11: View southeast towards Site from south of Castle Mey battery (**Asset 1**), overlooking Castle of Mey (**Asset 3**) and the woodland element of the Inventory Garden and Designed Landscape (**Asset 2**)



Plate 12: View southeast towards Site from within the southern extent of the Inventory Garden and Designed Landscape (**Asset 2**), note that the Site lies beyond the visible hedge on the skyline and a further belt of woodland that stands along the A836 road intervening the Asset and Site



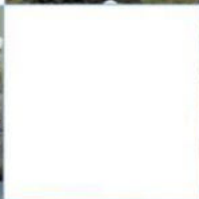
Plate 13: View southeast towards Site from the first floor Dining Room of Castle of Mey (**Asset 3**)



Plate 14: View north along the principle access to the Castle of Mey (**Asset 3**), the gate lodge (**Asset 4**) situated at the head of the road and to the right



Plate 15: View towards Site from the A836, near equidistant between the designed landscape (**Asset 2**) and Site



AOC Archaeology Group, Edgefield Industrial Estate, Edgefield Road, Loanhead EH20 9SY

tel: 0131 555 4425 | fax: 0131 555 4426 | e-mail: edinburgh@aocarchaeology.com

www.aocarchaeology.com