

Claystiles Wind Energy Project

Cultural Heritage and Archaeology

Claystiles Wind Energy Project

Cultural Heritage and Archaeology

June 2015

Project Developer:

Fraserburgh Development Trust

58a High Street
Fraserburgh
Aberdeenshire AB43 9HP

Principal Designer:

**Richard Gauld IEng MInstMC
BSc(Hons) Dip. GeoSci Dip. DesInn**

Orkney Sustainable Energy Ltd
6 North End Road
Stromness
Orkney KW16 3AG

Telephone 01856 850054
Email richard@orkneywind.co.uk
Website www.orkneywind.co.uk

Richard Gauld is a professional engineer, a Member of the Institute of Measurement and Control and is registered with the Engineering Council of Great Britain.



This Chapter details the information provided for the adjacent House O’Hill project; Claystiles is located fully within the footprint of House O’Hill and will not create any further additional cultural heritage impacts.

Acknowledgment and kind thanks to Green Cat Renewables for their permission to use the original House O’Hill Windcluster Environmental Report.

Chapter 4

Cultural Heritage Archaeology

1 Methodology

In the preparation of this assessment, a range of historical and technical data was collected and analysed. It is becoming normal practice to include a review of other potential issues that fall under the umbrella term of cultural heritage, such as historic buildings and landscapes, in addition to purely archaeological factors. The following sources were consulted:

- Sites and Monuments Record (SMR)
- National Monuments Record Scotland (NMRS);
- Aerial photograph collection held by the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland (RCAHMS);
- National Library of Scotland (Map Library).

The searches included all land within the proposed application boundary, and all land within 500m of the proposed turbine location, in order to help place the site within its local context and assess the potential for previously unrecorded sites of cultural heritage interest.

Any cultural heritage features within the zone specified above have been reported on below, considering these in their local and regional context. Further, the setting of nationally designated features (Scheduled Monuments and listed buildings) outside this boundary (up to 5km) were considered, see Figure 1. On the basis of the desk based assessment carried out it is not considered necessary for an archaeologist to perform a site walkover.

Assessment Criteria

The following general criteria, drawn from the Aberdeenshire Council 'Use of Wind Energy in Aberdeenshire' Supplementary Planning Guidance, have been used in the assessment of significance of any direct or indirect impact on any site of cultural heritage importance.

Sensitivity	Definition
High	<p>Category A and B listed building</p> <p>Scheduled Ancient Monument</p> <p>Non-statutory List of sites likely to be of national importance</p> <p>Historic Designed Gardens and Landscapes</p>
Medium	<p>Category C(s) listed building</p> <p>Archaeological sites on the Sites and Monuments Record (of regional and local importance)</p> <p>Conservation Areas</p>
Low	<p>Archaeological sites of lesser importance</p> <p>Non-Inventory Gardens and Designed Landscapes</p>

Table 1 - Sensitivity: Built and cultural heritage on the site.

Magnitude	Definition
High	<p>Any number of wind turbines and/or ancillary development that would result in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the removal or partial removal of key features, areas or evidence important to the historic character and integrity of the site, which could result in the substantial loss of physical integrity; and/or • a substantial obstruction of existing view by the addition of uncharacteristic elements dominating the view, significantly altering the quality of the setting or the visual amenity of the site both to and from. <p>Where the mechanical or aerodynamic noise from any number of wind turbines (or from other neighbouring wind energy developments) that are likely to detract from site amenity of a popular built or cultural heritage site managed as a visitor attraction adjacent to a wind energy development.</p>
Medium	<p>Any number of wind turbines and/or ancillary development that would result in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the removal of one or more key features, parts of the designated site, or evidence at the secondary or peripheral level, but are not features fundamental to its historic character and integrity; and/or • a partial obstruction of existing view by the addition of uncharacteristic elements which, although not affecting the key visual and physical relationships, could be an important feature in the views, and significantly alter the quality of the setting or visual amenity of the site both to and from. <p>Where the noise intrusion (mechanical or aerodynamic) from any number of wind turbines (or from other neighbouring wind energy developments) may detract from the amenity of a built or cultural heritage site adjacent to a wind energy development.</p>

Low	<p>Any number of wind turbines or ancillary developments that may result in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a partial removal/minor loss, and/or alteration to one or more peripheral and/or secondary elements/features, but not significantly affecting the historic integrity of the site or affect the key features of the site; and/or • an introduction of elements that could be intrusive in views, and could alter to a small degree the quality of the setting or visual amenity of the site both to and from. <p>Where the noise intrusion (mechanical or aerodynamic) from any number of wind turbines (or from other neighbouring wind energy developments) is unlikely to detract from the amenity of a built or cultural heritage site adjacent to a wind energy development.</p>
Negligible	<p>Any number of wind turbines or ancillary developments that may result in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a relatively small removal, and/or alteration to small, peripheral and/or unimportant elements/features, but not affect the historic integrity of the site or the quality of the surviving evidence; and/or • an introduction of elements that could be visible but not intrusive in views, and the overall quality of the setting or visual amenity of the site would not be affected both to and from. <p>Where the noise intrusion (mechanical or aerodynamic) from any number of wind turbines (or from other neighbouring wind energy developments) would not have any noticeable affect on the amenity of a built or cultural heritage site adjacent to a wind energy development.</p>

Table 2 - Magnitude of built and cultural heritage effects

2 Baseline Data

A phased approach was adopted to the assessment of cultural heritage receptors. All known cultural heritage sites within 500m of the proposed turbines were considered first as these were considered to be at the greatest risk of direct impact or ‘high’ magnitude indirect impact. Then all ‘high’ sensitivity sites were considered out to 3km from the site centre point as, it was considered that according to the assessment criteria above the impact in this zone could be ‘medium’ and hence the impact ‘significant’ on a ‘high’ sensitivity receptor. Beyond 3km and out to 10km the magnitude was unlikely to be greater than ‘low’ and as such only ‘high’ sensitivity sites that were considered to be likely to be particularly susceptible to changes in long distance views such as HGDLs and A listed buildings were considered. Beyond 10 km the magnitude would be ‘negligible’ on all receptors.

3 Features within 500m

There are no Scheduled Ancient Monuments, Listed Buildings or sites on the Scottish Sites and Monuments Register within 500m.

National Monuments Register of Scotland (within 500m of turbine location)

	Site Number	NMRS name	Class	Approximate distance
1	NJ95NE 34	Claystiles	Farmsteading	400m
2	NJ95NE 23	House O' Hill	Building	200m
3	NJ95NE 17	Upper Waughtonhill	Building	300m
4	NJ95NE 24	Upper Waughtonhill	Farmstead	300m
5	NJ95NE 25	Upper Waughtonhill	Building	400m
6	NJ95NE 26	Upper Waughtonhill	Possible Farmstead	400m

Claystiles

This is a farmsteading which is still in use.

House O'Hill

This ruined building is situated on a moderate N-facing slope in an area of agricultural ground at an altitude of about 95m OD.

Upper Waughton Hill (building)

What may be a farmstead, comprising one roofed and one unroofed building is depicted on the 1st edition of the OS 6-inch map (Aberdeenshire 1874, sheet vii), but it is not shown on the current edition of the OS 1:10000 map (1977).

No evidence is visible on site, but a 'consumption cairn' at the edge of a field ~50m from the indicated location may mark the site.

Upper Waughton Hill (steading)

This ruined farmstead is situated on a steep N-facing slope in an area of agricultural ground at an altitude of about 115m OD.

Upper Waughton Hill (building)

This ruined building is situated on a steep N-facing slope in an area of agricultural ground at an altitude of about 130m OD.

Upper Waughton Hill (farmstead)

This ruined farmstead is situated on a steep NE-facing slope in an area of agricultural ground at an altitude of about 140m OD.

All of the features within 500m listed above could be considered as being of no more than local importance.

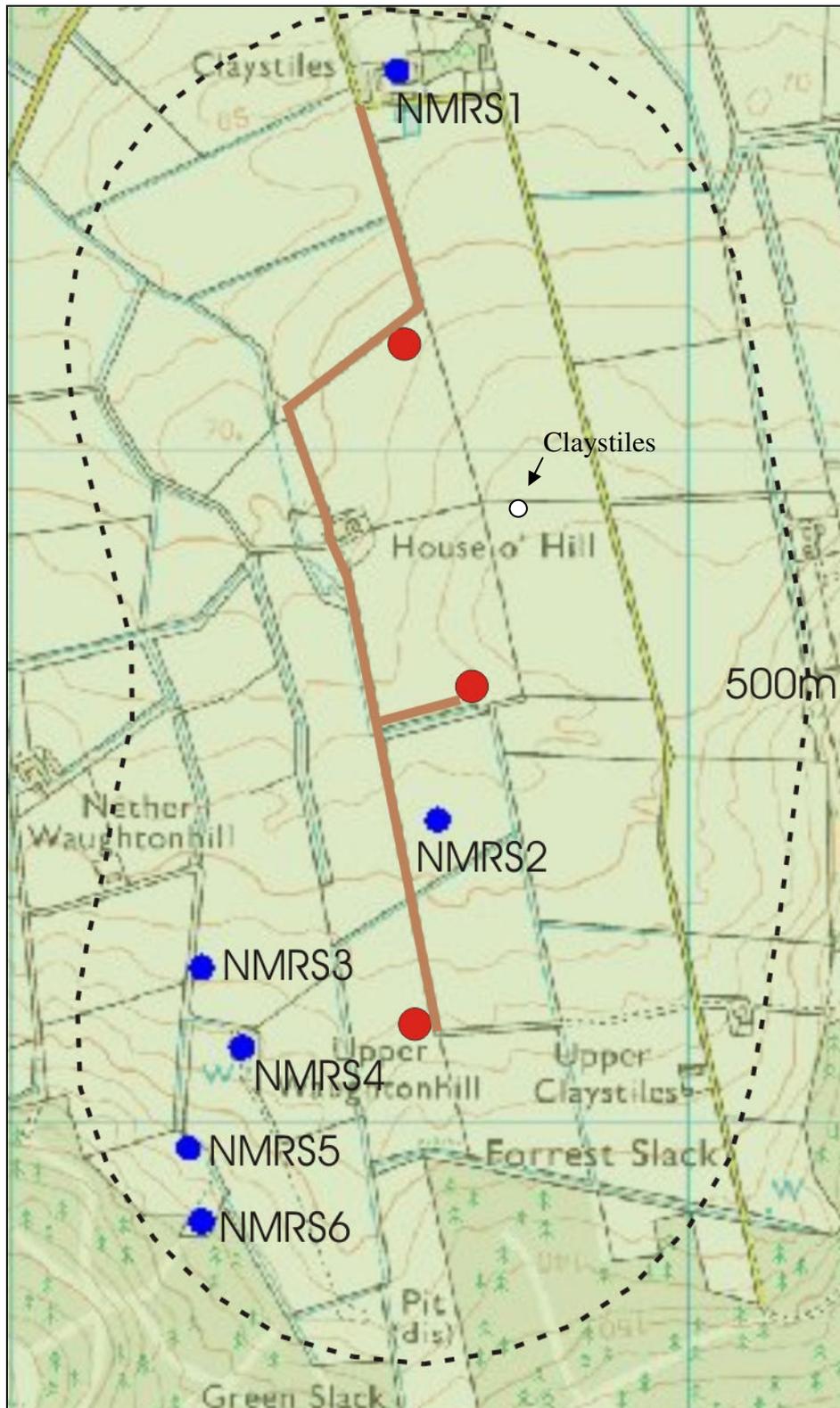


Figure 1 – Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Features within 500m

4 Scheduled Ancient Monuments (within 3 km)

There are 2 scheduled Ancient Monuments within 3km of the proposed turbine location.

Neither of the SAMs will have views of the project.

SAM 1 Mormond Hill, cairn (11024)

The following description is taken from the RCAHMS web site.

A round cairn, 17.0m in diameter and 1.5m high, prominently situated on a spur of Mormond Hill. It is mostly heather-covered, but in places erosion has revealed a content of small stones. Some large stones around the circumference, particularly in the NE arc, may be kerbstones, but most appear to have been disturbed. Although the name, and tradition that it was a resting cairn are still known locally, there is no doubt that it is a Bronze Age cairn, judging by its shape, size, content and situation.

SAM 2 West Cockmuir Enclosure (11137)

The following description is taken from the RCAHMS web site.

(Location cited as NJ 9881 5592 and nominated as Site of Regional Significance). Air photography (AAS/82/12/S14/5-9, flown 20 July 1982) has recorded the cropmark of a circular enclosure on a gentle slope at an altitude of 90m OD. It measures about 60m in diameter and has two dark dots on the SW and S arcs.

5 Historic Gardens and Designed Landscapes (HGDL) within 3km

There are no HGDLs within 3km of the proposed turbine location.

6 A and B Listed Buildings (within 3 km)

No	HBNUM	Details	Address	Categories	List Date
1	19778	Parish/Burgh: Rathen Item No: 293	Mormond (Cortes) House	Category: B	16/04/71
2	16119	Parish/Burgh: Rathen Item No: 290	House of Auchiries	Category: B	16/04/71
3	16146	Parish/Burgh: Rathen No: 288	Memsie House	Category: A	16/04/71
4	16540	Parish/Burgh: Strichen, Item No: 35	Techmuiry House and Office	Category: B	16/04/71

Cortes House

Eary 19th century. 2-storey and basement rectangular block, harled with granite margins and dressings. 4 - window W. front, centre 2 advanced, couple-column R-doric porch with curved stairs flanked by niches, tripartite doorpiece within with some gothick touches. Triglyphs over columns, modillioned cornice, blocking course with centre panelled features, finely detailed. 3-window down flanks. Main cornice with blocking course, centre panels, piended roof with 2 centre chimneys and conical lantern light. Simple classic interior with centre stairwell.

Auchiries House

Complex structure of several dates in first half of 18th century comprising 3 blocks in approximately Z-plan arrangement as:- EAST BLOCK. Roofless, dated 1715. 2-storey rubble-built, harled, centre door (later enlarged) flanked by shotholes, Ogilvy monogram and window over; 2-window to W. 1-window to E. 2 back wings one partly demolished and longer than other, both later. CENTRE BLOCK Roofless, slightly later, also harled rubble with chamfered margins. 2-storey, 1-window (dummies) S. gable, approx. symmetrical W. front centre door, 5-window at 1st floor. WEST BLOCK roofed, occupied as farmhouse, ashlar granite with cherry cocking, 6 windows long, tall single-storey at E. end, low 2-storey at W. end. 2 shotholes 1st floor, back wing. Centre compartment (present kitchen) vaulted, joinery of several dates, E. part remodelled early 19th century. Outbuildings: tall piend roofed outbuilding and stretch of garden wall on S. Low barn on W.

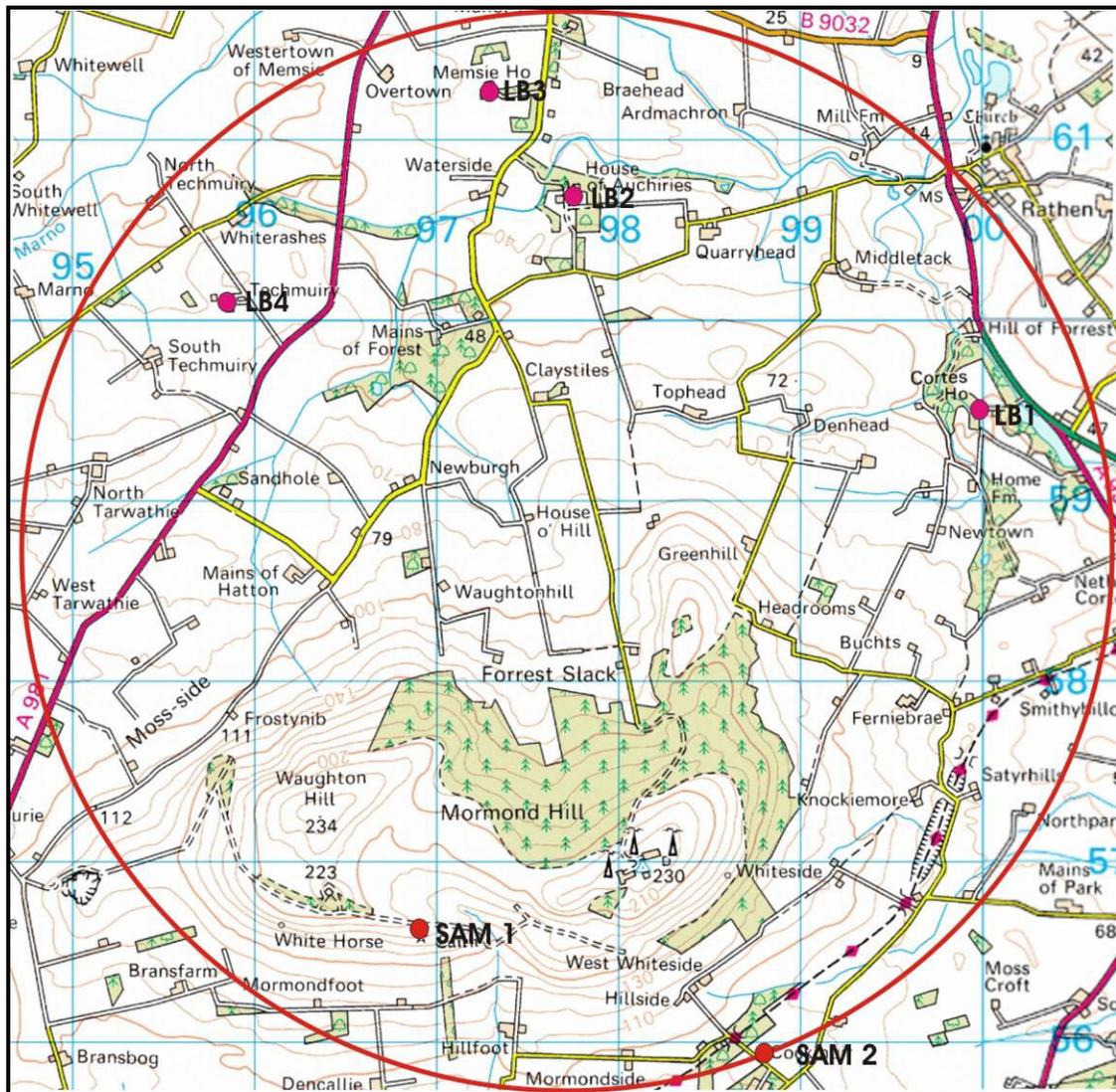
Memsie House

Circa 1760. 2-storey and attic main block 5-window S. front, centre bay advanced, 3-storey with shaped (2-window) gable and panel-moulded chimney; pinned granite rubble with margins, moulded eaves-course and skews, single-storey back wing. Interior woodwork replaced c.1900. Quadrant links to single - storey piend roofed laundry with lower outbuilding on W. and to single-storey and attic (swept dormers) stable coach-house block on E; piended at W. end only, harled; loupin' on steps in front. Forecourt enclosed by low wall and ball-capped gatepiers.

Techmuiry House

Dated INUI/VIET/UT/I: NULLA/EST VIA 1600 at triangular lintel stone on S. front. Present form late 17th century or earliest 18th century. 2-storey rubble built, harled and crowstepped, S. front - probably originally 7-window outer 2 each end replaced by granite bays late 19th century. Centre porch with gothic arched window mid 19th century. M.F. lunette stone N. elevation, single storey and attic, mid 18th century back wing with window flanked by balusters. Grotesque head N.E. skewput. Parallel single-storey and loft block of offices on N. with forestair at E. gable.

Whilst the A and B listed building above have theoretical visibility of the site, ie assuming no vegetation, buildings or other screening, all of these buildings were found to be screened to some extent by policy or other woodland.



Reproduced from Ordnance Survey digital map data © Crown copyright 2006. All rights reserved.
License number 010003167

Figure 2 – Scheduled Ancient Monuments and A and B Listed Buildings

7 A listed buildings (within 10km)

In addition to the houses within 3km there are a further 18 A listed buildings within 10km of the site, only 11 of these have theoretical views of the project. In practice several are located in built up areas where views will be screened by other buildings and several others are surrounded by policy plantations that will again provide screening. This project is not considered to have a significant impact on any of these buildings.

There are no HGDLs within 10km.

8 Documentary Sources

Historic maps held at the National Library of Scotland (Map Library) were consulted (these were consulted via the internet).

The OS 1st Edition map of 1870, shows that at that time there were a number of additional buildings on the farm and at that time the farm tracks followed a slightly different route. By the 1902 edition the current layout of farm tracks was in place and a number of the buildings had evidently fallen into disuse. None of the identified sites will be directly affected by the project. The route of one of the identified tracks will be crossed by the access track to the centre turbine, however, the route of the track has been completely ‘grubbed’ crossing what is now an arable field.

A search was undertaken at the collection held at RCAHMS. A selection of aerial photographs covering the application area and dating from 1946 to 1988 were viewed.

No features of potential cultural heritage interest, other than those already identified from other sources, were visible within the proposed development area on those aerial photographs viewed.

An attempt has been made to consult all readily available documentary sources. However, it is possible that there may be other documentary sources held by RCAHMS and the National Archives of Scotland, which have not been consulted as part of this assessment. The site has not been visited by a qualified Archaeologist as part of this assessment.

9 Mitigation Incorporated into the Proposed Development

Planning guidance (PAN 42) states that there is a presumption in favour of preserving *in situ* archaeological sites of national importance. There is no evidence that any of these exist within the potential development sites. Where there are known features of cultural heritage interest of less than national importance within or near the potential development sites. It is appropriate for significant effects on features of archaeological interest of less than national importance to be mitigated by a programme of archaeological field investigation and preservation by record, if their destruction is unavoidable. The project has been designed such that the features identified by this assessment lie outside the sites identified for potential development. No definite effects on any known features of cultural heritage interest have been identified according to current information.

9.1 Permanent Land-take and Operation

Current proposals indicate that the turbine location, road routes and other aspects of development avoid the locations of known features of cultural heritage interest and as such no direct impact has been identified.

Development may have an indirect effect on the setting of the Category A and B listed buildings located within ~3km, however, all of these buildings are screened by woodland. Our assessments indicate that the only building that may potentially have significant views is Memsie House and these are only likely to occur in the winter when there is limited foliage on the trees that are planted across the front of the building (see Landscape and Visual chapter). Further it should be noted that views from Memsie House will be seen with a backdrop of the communications station on top of Mormond Hill. The other listed buildings in the area are not considered to have significant views of the project. No mitigation is therefore proposed.

While this assessment has found no indication of the survival of any archaeological features or deposits that are not visible above ground level, it is nevertheless possible that such features do exist within the application area. However, given that the relatively small area proposed for new roads and the turbines are within arable fields subject to regular ploughing, this risk is considered low and no mitigation is proposed.

9.2 Restoration

No restoration measures are currently proposed.

10 Predicted Impacts and Effects

No direct impact has been identified on any feature of cultural heritage interest, according to current proposals.

The indirect effect on the setting of Memsie House and other listed buildings within 3 km of the projected has been assessed to be heavily mitigated by topographic and vegetation screening.

11 Evaluation of Effects

11.1 Direct Effects

Effect	Probability	Sensitivity	Magnitude	Significance	Comment
Direct effects on known features within 500m of the site	Unlikely	Low	Low	Negligible	Site design has avoided direct effects on any known features of Cultural Heritage Significance.
Direct effect on presently unrecorded archaeology	Low	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	The small area of intrusive works are unlikely to have a significant impact on archaeological remains. Should any features be encountered these will be avoided by micro-siting or recorded as appropriate

Table 3: Effects and Evaluation of Significance: Direct Effects

11.2 Indirect Effects

Name	Distance	Sensitivity	Magnitude	Significance	Comment
Claystiles	400m	Low	Low	Negligible	This is an existing farmstead
House O' Hill	200m	Low	Low	Negligible	This is an existing farmstead
Upper Waughtonhill	300m	Low	Low	Negligible	Site of building
Upper Waughtonhill	300m	Low	Low	Negligible	This is a ruined farmstead
Upper Waughtonhill	400m	Low	Low	Negligible	Ruin
Upper Waughtonhill	400m	Low	Low	Negligible	Cluster of buildings.

Table 4: Effects and Evaluation of Significance: Indirect Effects Features within 500m

Name	Distance	Sensitivity	Magnitude	Significance	Comment
Mormond Hill Cairn	~2km	High	Negligible	Low	There are no views of the project from this location
East Cockmuir Enclosure	3km	High	Negligible	Low	There are no views of the project from this location
Mormond (Cortes) House	~2.5km	High	Negligible	Low	This building is surrounded by policy woodland and principal views are understood to be to the east.
House of Auchiries	~2km	High	Negligible	Low	This building is surrounded by policy woodland
Memsie House	~2.5km	High	Low	Medium	This building is surrounded by policy woodland. However screening in the direction of the project is limited and views will exist particularly in winter months.
Technuiry House and Office	~2km	High	Negligible	Low	Views are largely screened by intervening woodland.

Table 5: Effects and Evaluation of Significance: Indirect Effects Features within 3km

All 'A' listed buildings, HGDLs and other cultural heritage features that may be sensitive to long range changes to their setting identified beyond 3km within 10km of the project, have been found to be screened by buildings, topography or policy plantations. As such no significant Cultural Heritage Impacts are predicted beyond 3km.

11.3 Evaluation of Significance

All of the features of cultural heritage interest identified within the proposed development sites could be considered as being of local importance. No effect has been identified on known features of cultural heritage interest according to current proposals. The potential for development to encounter previously unrecorded features is considered to be low being limited by the small extent of intrusive works associated with the proposed development and the fact that the area has been intensively farmed.