Environmental Impact Assessment Report
Volume 3, Appendix 24.1: Onshore Archaeology and Cultural Heritage Desk Study

MarramWind Offshore Wind Farm

December 2025

MarramWind

Document code:	MAR-GEN-ENV-REP-WSP-000062
Contractor document number:	852346-WEIS-IA-I6-RP-O2-678521
Version:	Final for Submission
Date:	08/12/2025
Prepared by:	WSP UK Limited
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1. Introduction

1.1 Scope

1.1.1.1 This desk study provides the onshore archaeology and cultural heritage baseline for the Project to support the assessment provided in **Volume 1, Chapter 24: Onshore Archaeology and Cultural Heritage**.

1.1.1.2 Cultural Heritage comprises a diverse range of elements that are referred to throughout the desk study as heritage assets. Heritage assets are features created or that have undergone modification from human activity. This includes a wide range of visible and buried archaeological sites and monuments, as well as other historic features or places. Designated heritage assets comprise World Heritage Sites, Scheduled Monuments, listed buildings, Gardens and Designed Landscapes, Inventory Battlefields, and Conservation Areas. Non-designated heritage assets comprise buried archaeological remains, other historic buildings, and earthworks that are listed within the local or national databases or have been discovered during the desk study and walkover survey. A comprehensive list can be found in Table 24.2 of **Volume 1, Chapter 24: Onshore Archaeology and Cultural Heritage**.

1.1.1.3 The report provides a baseline of known or potential heritage assets within the Onshore Red Line Boundary and a 500 metre (m) buffer (hereafter the 'study area'). These are identified as having a degree of significance meriting consideration in planning decisions and includes designated heritage assets and assets identified by the Planning Authority (including local listing), and non-designated assets.

1.1.1.4 An extended study area, defined as 2 kilometres (km) from the onshore substation site, has been used to determine impacts from the Project through change to setting (see **Volume 1, Chapter 24: Onshore Archaeology and Cultural Heritage** and **Appendix 24.4: Onshore Archaeology and Cultural Heritage Scoping Exercise for Settings Assessment**).

1.1.1.5 Professional expert opinion has been used to assess heritage significance, based on historic, archaeological, architectural or artistic interest, considering past ground disturbance which may have compromised survival.

1.1.1.6 The assessment forms a technical appendix in support of an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and is required in relation to the planning process in order that the Planning Authority can formulate an appropriate response in the light of the impact upon any known or possible heritage assets. The relevant legislation, policy and guidance is listed in **Volume 1, Chapter 24: Onshore Archaeology and Cultural Heritage**; and detailed in **Volume 1, Chapter 2: Legislative and Policy Context**.

1.2 Project background

1.2.1.1 The onshore components of the Project comprises:

- landfall(s) – the infrastructure associated with landfall(s) located above mean low water spring;
- underground onshore export cables running from the landfall(s) to the onshore substations;
- onshore substations co-located at one site;

- underground grid connection cables (connecting the onshore substations to the grid connection point at Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks (SSEN) Netherton Hub); and
- tie-in to grid connection point (SSEN substation at the SSEN Netherton Hub, which is a separate project and does not form part of the consenting applications which this EIA relates to).

1.2.1.2 A full project description is presented in **Volume 1, Chapter 4: Project Description**.

1.3 Aims and objectives

1.3.1.1 The aim of this report is to identify the presence of any known or potential heritage assets that may be affected by the proposals.

1.4 Key heritage constraints

1.4.1.1 The Onshore Red Line Boundary does not contain any nationally designated (protected) heritage assets, such as Scheduled Monuments, listed buildings or registered parks and gardens.

2. Sources and Methodology

2.1 Study area

2.1.1.1 A study area was defined at a distance of 500m from the Onshore Red Line Boundary, as agreed through consultation with Aberdeenshire Council and Historic Environment Scotland (HES) (see Table 24.1 in **Volume 1, Chapter 24: Onshore Archaeology and Cultural Heritage**), to identify any heritage assets that may be physically impacted by the Project. The study area also provides baseline information from the surrounding landscape, to establish the local archaeological and historical context, and historic landscape character, providing a broader understanding of the historical development of the area and the potential for as-yet unidentified archaeological remains.

2.1.1.2 An extended study area of 2km from the onshore substation site has been defined (hereafter referred to as the extended study area) (shown in **Volume 2, Figure 24.8: ZTV of onshore substations - operational (including designated heritage assets)**). Two kilometres has been identified as the maximum distance at which the Project will appear with sufficient prominence in the settings of heritage assets in this specific historic landscape context to give rise to a significant adverse effect (see **Appendix 24.4**). This will not be referred to further in this Appendix.

2.2 Data sources

2.2.1.1 The assessment has been informed by a review of a broad range of sources including archaeological records, historical documentary evidence, cartographic evidence, and photographic material. This has involved a consultation of the following key data sources:

- Geographical Information System (GIS) data on designated heritage assets: world heritage sites, Scheduled Monuments, inventory battlefields, listed buildings, conservations areas and gardens and designed landscapes, obtained from HES;
- GIS data on non-designated heritage assets obtained from the Scottish National Record of the Historic Environment (SNRHE), which is maintained by HES;
- Aberdeenshire Council Historic Environment Record (HER);
- readily accessible primary and secondary historical sources were consulted for information relating to the area's historical past, including past land use;
- the solid and drift geology maps for the Project, recorded by the British Geological Survey / Geological Survey of Great Britain;
- Groundsure historic ordnance survey mapping, geological mapping and borehole data collected for the Onshore Red Line Boundary;
- Light Detection And Ranging (LiDAR) datasets captured by the Project at a resolution of 30 centimetres (cm) covering the entire Onshore Red Line Boundary;
- walkover surveys of the Onshore Red Line Boundary undertaken in September and October 2024 (see **Section 2.4**).

2.2.1.2 Heritage assets within the Onshore Red Line Boundary and the study area are listed in the gazetteer (**Volume 3, Appendix 24.2: Onshore Archaeology and Cultural Heritage Gazetteer**). HER entries have been grouped where appropriate, under a single gazetteer

entry. The gazetteer entry for the former will comprise the HER event number and also all the associated HER monument numbers.

2.3 LiDAR survey

2.3.1.1 LiDAR data was analysed to identify the possible presence of additional earthwork features of archaeological origin additional to those already known and recorded.

2.3.1.2 Composite Digital Terrain Model data at a resolution of 30cm was captured for the Project and processed in QGIS using the Relief Visualisation Toolbox to create a multi-hillshade image comprising 16 viewpoints, and Local Relief Modelling. Features of possible archaeological origin within the Onshore Red Line Boundary have been identified and recorded using a bespoke GIS shapefile which enables the consistent recording of information.

2.3.1.3 Features identified through LiDAR analysis are included in **Section 3.6**, assessed in **Volume 1, Chapter 24: Onshore Archaeology and Cultural Heritage**; and are listed in **Appendix 24.2**.

2.4 Site visit

2.4.1.1 The assessment included a site visit carried out in September 2024 in order to:

- identify known archaeological sites within the Onshore Red Line Boundary;
- identify historic buildings and related assets including listed buildings, conservation areas and locally listed buildings within the Onshore Red Line Boundary and its surrounding study area;
- identify areas with the potential to contain any previously unidentified archaeological or historical remains; determine the topography of the site and existing land use and the nature of any existing buildings; and
- identify and assess the setting of heritage assets within the study area; and assess factors which may have affected the survival or condition of any known or potential assets.

2.4.1.2 Limitations to access included fields that were still in crop that limited access to the Formartine and Buchan Way, as well as limited landowner permission throughout the study area.

2.4.1.3 The site visit also included a walkover of the wider landscape and visits to offsite heritage assets for the purposes of scoping heritage assets and their intervisibility with the Project, as required by HES guidance, and for the settings assessment itself (Historic Environment Scotland, 2020a).

2.4.1.4 Site photographs and notes relevant to this desk study and to the onshore archaeology and cultural heritage assessment can be found in **Appendix 24.3: Site visit photographs and notes**.

2.5 Assessment of archaeological potential

2.5.1.1 Archaeological potential will be assessed with reference to factors such as the distribution of known archaeology, topography and previous land use or ground disturbance within the Onshore Red Line Boundary and study area.

Table 2.1 Assessment of potential

Potential	Rationale
High	Presence of heritage assets has been established or can confidently inferred on the basis of previous investigations or visibly surviving material.
Medium	Presence of heritage assets likely due to finds or features identified within the immediate vicinity.
Low	No finds or features to suggest potential presence of archaeology though area is relatively undisturbed; or presence of archaeology has likely been reduced due to previous disturbance (for example intensive arable farming).
Negligible	Presence of archaeology demonstrably unlikely as a result of extensive previous disturbance (for example quarrying).

2.5.1.2 It is important to note that an assessment of low potential entails that a potential for archaeological remains to be present exists, but that there is no evidence to directly suggest the presence or nature of those remains. High and medium potential reflects the existence of evidence which suggests, indicates or confirms the presence of archaeological remains.

2.6 Determining heritage value

2.6.1.1 Cultural significance lies in the value of a heritage asset to this and future generations because of its heritage interest; this may be artistic, archaeological, architectural, historical, aesthetic, scientific or social.

2.6.1.2 The determination of the cultural significance or value of heritage assets is based on statutory designation and / or professional judgement against the characteristics and criteria expressed in HES Designation Policy and Selection Guidance (Historic Environment Scotland, 2020b) and the Historic Environment Policy for Scotland (Historic Environment Scotland, 2019).

Table 2.2 Criteria for assessing the value of heritage assets

Value	Example
High	• World Heritage Sites which are normally considered of international importance; • Scheduled Monuments; • listed buildings (Category A); • Battlefields included within the inventory; • Gardens and Designed Landscapes; • Conservation Areas containing nationally important buildings; • non-designated heritage assets of scheduled quality and importance; and • heritage assets of national importance.
Medium	• listed buildings (Category B and C); • Conservation Areas containing buildings that contribute significantly to its historic character; and • heritage assets of regional importance.
Low	• heritage assets of local importance;

Value	Example
	• heritage assets compromised by poor preservation and / or poor survival of contextual associations; and • buildings of modest quality in their fabric or historical association.
Very Low	• heritage assets with very little or no surviving archaeological interest; • artefact find spots (where the artefacts are no longer in situ and where their provenance is uncertain); and • poorly preserved examples of particular types of minor historic landscape features (for example, quarries and gravel pits, dilapidated sheepfolds, etc).

3. Baseline Conditions

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1.1 The descriptions of the heritage assets that form the baseline for the desk study are provided in **Appendix 24.2**. The locations of the heritage assets are shown on **Volume 2, Figure 24.1: Designated heritage assets** and **Volume 2, Figure 24.2: HER monument records, canmore records and LiDAR interpretation**. The heritage assets have unique identifying numbers related to the SNRHE or the local HER.

3.2 Site location and topography

3.2.1.1 The Project is located in Aberdeenshire, north-west of Peterhead. It is roughly located between Scotston Head and Craigewan. The Onshore Red Line Boundary crosses the A950, the River Ugie and the A90. The Onshore Red Line Boundary is predominately comprised of open, gently rolling farmland interspersed with stands of trees around residential buildings, trees and mixed vegetation along field boundaries.

3.2.1.2 The topography of the Onshore Red Line Boundary is undulating. The elevation levels vary between 0m Above Ordnance Datum (AOD) near the coast and 60m AOD south of the A950 (Topographic Map, 2025). The River Ugie crosses approximately the centre of the Onshore Red Line Boundary, with other historic water courses being the former Saint Fergus to North Ugie Water Canal and burns.

3.3 Geology and soils

3.3.1.1 The geological context within the Onshore Red Line Boundary and study area is depicted in **Volume 2, Figure 24.5: Geology**.

3.3.1.2 The bedrock geology within the Onshore Red Line Boundary varies and is as follows:

- Peterhead Pluton – granite;
- Crinan Subgroup and Tayvallich Subgroup - Semipelite, Pelite and Psammite; and
- Forest of Deer Pluton - Melagranite, Biotite.

3.3.1.3 These bedrocks are versatile rocks that have a wide range of construction uses, this combined with the proximity to the River Ugie would make the Onshore Red Line Boundary and study area an ideal location for past humans. Granite was particularly favourable during the post-medieval period.

3.3.1.4 The superficial deposits within the Onshore Red Line Boundary varies and is as follows:

- Marine Beach Deposits - gravel, sand and silt (landfall(s));
- Blown Sand – sand (landfall(s));
- Hatton Till Formation - diamicton, clay, sand and gravel (landfall(s) and onshore export cable corridor A, onshore substation zone and onshore export cable corridor zone B);
- Lacustrine Deposits - clay, silt and sand (landfall(s));
- Alluvium - clay, silt, sand and gravel (River Ugie, onshore export cable corridor zone A);
- banchory till formation – diamicton (onshore export cable corridor zone B); and

- glaciofluvial ice contact deposits - gravel, sand and silt (onshore export cable corridor zone B).

3.3.1.5 These deposits are characteristic of the history of the Onshore Red Line Boundary as a marine and coastal environment which was also covered by glaciers over successive periods. There is limited potential for preservation of palaeoenvironmental remains within the till deposits, but early prehistoric remains may be found within or at the interface of the till deposits. The lacustrine, marine beach, and alluvium deposits have good potential to preserve palaeoenvironmental deposits and archaeological remains from all periods due to their waterlogged and sedimentary nature.

3.3.1.6 A total of seven boreholes are recorded within the Onshore Red Line Boundary. Associated information for two of these are confidential so cannot be commented upon further. The remaining five that do contain available information are summarised as follows:

- Borehole NK05SE9 is located north of Kinloch Farm. This recorded a layer of mottled clay at a depth of 0.6m below soil, which was underlain by a stiff red-brown clay at 6m in depth. This was underlain by a sandy silt at a depth of 9.4m.
- Borehole NK14NW4 is located approximately 400m east of Lunderton Farm. This recorded a layer of till (mottled red-brown clay) at a depth of 0.4m underlain by a layer of clayey silt at 3.8m, which was in turn underlain by a sandy clay at 8m on top of weathered granite.
- Borehole NK04NE9 is located approximately 200m north of Cairnhill House. This recorded mottled clay at a depth of 0.5m, underlain by a 5.5m thick plastic red-brown clay at 3.3m.
- Borehole NK04NE14 is located immediately northeast of Easterton Farm. The record for this borehole lacks detail but was recorded to a depth of 39m which included 3m of drift geology.
- Borehole NK04NE7 is located approximately 300m southwest of West Thunderton Farm. This recorded pebbly sand and gravel at a depth of 0.4m, underlain by a thin layer of stiff red clay at 5m. This was underlain by granite at 5.6m.

3.4 Overview of past archaeological investigations

3.4.1.1 According to the HER data, there have been four previous archaeological investigations in the Onshore Red Line Boundary, comprising two walkover surveys (NK14NW0120; NK14NW0874), a watching brief (NK04NE0083) and a desk-based assessment (NK14NW0387). A further archaeological investigation comprising a trial trenching exercise is located within the study area (NK04NE0084), approximately 350m east and south of the Onshore Red Line Boundary.

3.4.1.2 Only one of the investigations identified any heritage assets, that of the pipeline watching brief which partially intersects the Onshore Red Line Boundary and study area (NK04NE0083). The results of this investigation, along with other known sites and finds are discussed, by period, below in **Section 3.5** and **Section 3.6**.

3.5 Overview of heritage assets

3.5.1 Designated heritage assets

3.5.1.1 There are no designated heritage assets within the Onshore Red Line Boundary. A total of ten designated heritage assets are located within the study area. These consist of four Scheduled Monuments, three Category B listed buildings, and three Category C listed buildings. The Scheduled Monuments relate to the medieval and post-medieval period. There is a medieval church (SM5622), two medieval forts and castles (SM3259; SM2496), and a post-medieval castle (SM98). All of the listed buildings date to the post-medieval, comprising of two bridges (LB16388; LB16537), three houses (LB16394; LB18976; LB19799) and a churchyard wall (LB16536).

3.5.2 Non-designated heritage assets

3.5.2.1 A total of 52 non-designated heritage assets are recorded wholly or partly within the Onshore Red Line Boundary. There represent a range of human activity including early prehistoric artefacts, possible later prehistoric settlement, medieval rig and furrow, post medieval farmsteads and 20th century military infrastructure remains.

3.5.2.2 Among these non-designated heritage assets within the Onshore Red Line Boundary there are four extant historic structures. Two of these are post medieval farmsteads which remain occupied, and two relate to subterranean Royal Observer Posts, one of which is known to be extant while the status of the other is currently unknown.

3.5.2.3 A further 108 non-designated heritage assets are located within the study area. These broadly reflect the range of archaeological remains and features which are recorded within the Onshore Red Line Boundary. Amongst these assets are a number of extant historic farmsteads and structures associated with Peterhead Airfield.

3.5.2.4 The following sections will discuss these heritage assets in more detail, and a full list can be found in **Appendix 24.2**.

3.6 Archaeological and historical background

3.6.1.1 The following presents a brief outline of the historical and archaeological background related to the Onshore Red Line Boundary. This is informed by the known heritage of Peterhead and the wider region of Aberdeenshire. Particular attention is paid to the study area of 500m radius around the Onshore Red Line Boundary, drawing on information gathered on nearby heritage assets which may provide information about the potential archaeological remains that may be encountered. The date ranges are approximate and align with those presented by the Scottish Archaeological Research Framework (2025). The following background sections will be presented by chronological period, each beginning with a narrative of general trends within the region before going on to discuss known evidence within the Onshore Red Line Boundary and study area.

Prehistoric (13,000 Before Common Era (BCE) to Common Era (CE) 400)

3.6.1.2 There are seven heritage assets within the Onshore Red Line Boundary which date to the prehistoric period. These include a possible ring ditch and round house (NK14NW0031) which has been identified as cropmarks on aerial photographs, a scatter of flints recovered from ploughsoil which has been tentatively interpreted as a flint-working site (NK04NE0026), a possible Iron Age site (NK14NW0001), four undated graves

(NK04NE0003), and three stone axes (Canmore ID 21346; Canmore ID 20994; NK15SW0003).

Palaeolithic (800,000 BCE to 10,000 BCE) and Mesolithic (10,000 BCE to 4000 BCE)

3.6.1.3 The Palaeolithic and Mesolithic period in north-east Scotland extended from the end of the last glaciation period, c. 13,000 BCE to the arrival of farming, c. 4,000 BCE (Saville and Wickham-Jones, 2012), with the start of the Mesolithic period considered to be 9,700 BCE (Saville and Wickham-Jones, 2012). In Scotland, the period is largely characterised by settlement traces in the form of cave and rock-shelters, shell middens, and lithic scatters. Palaeolithic communities would have been nomadic, hunting and gathering resources as they moved to areas free of ice. North-east Scotland would have still been physically connected to mainland Europe during the Palaeolithic and early to mid-Mesolithic via a land bridge called Doggerland, but this had disappeared by 6,500 BCE due to rising sea levels.

3.6.1.4 The recorded location of a flint scatter (NK04NE0026) which may date to the Mesolithic period, is located within the Onshore Red Line Boundary, immediately south of the River Ugie. This has been interpreted as the site of a possible flint working area; however, due to the nature of the recovery of these finds within ploughsoil and a lack of subsequent investigation, this has to be taken with a degree of caution. Two finds of worked flint dating to the Palaeolithic or Mesolithic periods have been found the study area, which both represent casual loss. These comprise flint blades, one (Canmore ID 350857, 250m south of the Onshore Red Line Boundary) which likely dates to the Late Upper Palaeolithic or Early Mesolithic, and one (NK04NE0077, 235m south-east of the Onshore Red Line Boundary) that is dated to the Early Mesolithic.

Neolithic (4000 BCE to 2500 BCE)

3.6.1.5 The Neolithic period (c. 4,000 BCE to c. 2,500 BCE) saw a transition from nomadic hunter-gatherer subsistence to agriculture and permanent settlement. Woodland clearance took place to make way for sedentary agricultural settlements utilising more specialised stone tools. Neolithic farmers would have grown wheat and barley and raised sheep and cattle (Sheridan and Brophy, 2012). The Early Neolithic period (4,000 BCE to 3,300 BCE) is defined by new burial practices with burial monuments such as long and round barrows and cairns being constructed. Settlement in the form of large rectangular halls, known as long houses, and cursus monuments, which were often associated to the long houses and used for processional and mortuary purposes also appear during this period (Sheridan and Brophy, 2012), but none are present in the study area. The Early Neolithic period also saw the first examples of pottery and higher quality stone tools such as polished stone axe-heads. During this time, the flint used to make these stone tools was likely mined from the flint deposits near the coast at Boddam, which is 5.4km to the south-east of the Onshore Red Line Boundary (Mann, 2013). The Late Neolithic (3,300 BCE to 2,500 BCE) saw more complex structures erected in the landscape such as standing stones, henges, and stone circles, with these monuments usually erected in conspicuous locations. Material culture also became more elaborate and complex with the introduction of Grooved Ware pottery, maceheads, and carved stone balls, large amounts of which have been found in Aberdeenshire (Mann, 2013).

3.6.1.6 There are no known heritage assets dating to the Neolithic period within the Onshore Red Line Boundary. Evidence within the study area for the Neolithic period comes from finds of worked flint which are representative of casual loss and possibly woodland clearance for farming. These include two stone axes (Canmore ID 21346; NK15SW0003) found within the north of the Onshore Red Line Boundary, and a third stone axe (Canmore ID 21346; NK04NE0002, 85m north of the Onshore Red Line Boundary; NK15SW0003) and a stone

celt (NK15SW0002, 220m east of the Onshore Red Line Boundary) found within the study area.

3.6.1.7 In addition, there is a possible ring ditch (NK04NE0033), 195m east of the Onshore Red Line Boundary) within the study area identified as being of uncertain prehistoric date, which could be of Neolithic or Bronze Age origin.

Bronze Age (2500 BCE to 800 BCE)

3.6.1.8 The Bronze Age (2,500 BCE to 800 BCE) period is characterised by the introduction and use of copper and copper alloys, most notably bronze, to produce tools, ornaments, and weapons. Beaker pottery began to arrive in areas of north-east Scotland from mainland Europe. Settlements were more complex during this period, with a Bronze Age settlement at Inverurie (35.5km south-west of the Onshore Red Line Boundary) containing four ritual centres or henges. Recumbent Stone Circles (RSC) became a unique and prominent feature of the Aberdeenshire landscape during the Bronze Age, with approximately 99 examples located throughout the area. Notable examples include those at Loudon Wood and Aikey Brae, both of which are approximately 14.3km to the north-east and approximately 13.8km to the east of the Onshore Red Line Boundary respectively. Many of the RSCs were used for the burial of cremated human remains, with evidence of funeral pyres noted at the stone circles at Loanhead (35.5km south-west of the Onshore Red Line Boundary) and Sunhoney (52.5km south-west of the Onshore Red Line Boundary) (Downes, 2012). Funerary activity outside of RSCs also developed during the Bronze Age with distinctive single body graves containing beaker pottery emerging. During the Late Bronze Age, climate conditions began to decline which has led to more concentrated settlements with round houses, agricultural plots, and clearance cairns. Weaponry made from bronze also begins to appear in the archaeological record during the later Bronze Age, indicating that social stratification and warfare between settlements may have started to emerge.

3.6.1.9 There are two heritage assets that date to the Bronze Age within the Onshore Red Line Boundary and a further two in the study area. Cropmarks of a ring ditch that enclose a roundhouse (NK14NW0031) are present within the Onshore Red Line Boundary, near to the A90, the morphology of which suggests may have been part of a series of roundhouses and would at the earliest, date to the Bronze Age. These features are yet to be investigated further through archaeological excavation, and as such, any interpretations remain tentative. There are three possible multi-period flint working sites (Canmore ID 86535, 110m north-east of the Onshore Red Line Boundary; Canmore ID 106983, 260m east of the Onshore Red Line Boundary; NK04NE0026, within the Onshore Red Line Boundary 65m south of the River Ugie). These are tentative interpretations of scatters of flint tools discovered in plough soil. Flint tools and techniques are used across the prehistoric and survive as debitage, cores, waste flakes, primary flakes. Some of the known discoveries may not relate specifically to Bronze Age activity. Some flint artefacts are representative of specific typologies such as barbed-and-tanged arrowheads which date specifically to the Bronze Age. The presence of possible flint working sites suggests that there could be habitation activity within the vicinity. The land may have continued to be utilised for agricultural purposes during the Late Bronze Age, after climate conditions began to decline.

Iron Age (800 BCE to 400 CE) and Pictish (297-800)

3.6.1.10 Conventionally, the Iron Age of northern Scotland spans the early first millennium BCE to the sixth century CE (Hunter and Carruthers, 2012); however, the period can extend to 800 CE, with the Late Iron Age often referred to as the ‘Pictish’ period (see discussion of this period below). The climate in Scotland became wetter during the Iron Age leading to less

available land for settlement, concentrating populations, and setting up the need for a more hierarchical society, with settlements largely focused on hillforts, some of which were constructed with high stone walls. It is during the Iron Age period that bronze was gradually phased out in favour of iron for making tools and weaponry. Towards the later Iron Age, the archaeological record suggests that settlements and agriculture became more controlled, with underground storage rooms for agricultural and dairy products becoming more prevalent.

3.6.1.11 There is one heritage asset that has been tentatively dated to the Iron Age within the Onshore Red Line Boundary. A possible Iron Age settlement site located on a hillock (NK14NW0874; NK14NW0001; NK14NW0001) is located within the Onshore Red Line Boundary, 355m west of the A90. The site was uncovered during excavations in the 1860s. It is not clear from available records whether this excavation was specifically archaeological or not. The archaeological remains comprise a small chamber and the remains of a fireplace. No traces above ground to indicate the site of this structure are presently known at the recorded site, and without further archaeological investigation the dating and function of this site remains tentative.

3.6.1.12 The Pictish period of northern Scotland overlaps with the Late Iron Age spanning from c. 297 CE to c. 800 CE and is typically represented by settlement sites and structures. Early sources from the Roman Empire suggest that the Aberdeenshire coast, including the landfall(s), was part of the territory of the Taexali, who were later grouped with neighbouring tribes under the name *Picti* (Noble and Evans, 2022). *Picti* is a Latin word was often used in the Roman borders to denote barbaric outsiders, particularly referencing their tattoos, suggesting that the name was initially used as a derogatory term by the Romans before being locally adopted as the tribes became more integrated in the later Iron Age. Pressures from the Roman military to the south may have precipitated the coalescence of the later Pictish kingdoms by giving these culturally similar groups a common enemy (Noble and Evans, 2022). Roman sources noted the Picts' skill in warfare, their speed, and their knowledge of the land, which allowed them to defend against Roman military campaigns (Garlinghouse, 2022). The closer ties between these groups would likely have manifested in established trade and cultural exchange which would have strengthened the growing ties between the disparate groups aiding that coalescence. The Picts reused earlier hillforts and built new defensive enclosures, which were vital during the 8th century when Vikings and other raider groups attacked Pictish settlements from the north, west, and south (Kruse and Noble, 2012).

3.6.1.13 There is no currently known archaeological evidence from the Pictish period within the Onshore Red Line Boundary. A large fragment of sandstone of possible Pictish date that is not local to Aberdeenshire (NK04NE0056) was identified 210m east of the Onshore Red Line Boundary, suggesting the population was trading. On the sandstone, there are engravings that include lettering, possible human figures, and animal figures. If the asset described above is indicative that the area was occupied by the Picts, the Onshore Red Line Boundary would have likely been used for agricultural purposes during this period such as for raising livestock.

General prehistoric

3.6.1.14 There are two heritage assets that date to the prehistoric periods that have not been assigned to a specific chronological period within the Onshore Red Line Boundary, and a further five in the study area. Four of these heritage assets are representative of casual loss and tool production (NK04NE0004; Canmore ID 20994; Canmore ID 159547; NK14NW0086), one of which (Canmore ID 20994) is in the Onshore Red Line Boundary near to the River Ugie. Within the study area there are cropmarks of two enclosures, one is sub-oval (NK14NW0068, 325m south-west of the Onshore Red Line Boundary) and is near

Inverugie, and one appears to be curvilinear on aerial photographs (NK04NE0074, 250m south of the Onshore Red Line Boundary) and is in the south of the study area. In the Onshore Red Line Boundary, 500m south of the River Ugie, there are four graves (NK04NE0003). Two of these are aligned north to south and two are aligned east to west. They contain a large amount of coarse charcoal, fragments of coarse unglazed pottery, flint arrowheads, and some cremated bone. It is not possible to date the bone or identify if it is animal or human.

3.6.1.15 The known heritage assets suggests that the Onshore Red Line Boundary was used intermittently throughout the prehistoric period, although, as stated above, due to the nature of discovery and lack of detailed investigation the following summary should be read with a degree of caution. Early Mesolithic flint blades (Canmore ID 350857; NK04NE0077) indicate some of the earliest human presence in the area. During the Neolithic, the Onshore Red Line Boundary likely saw woodland clearance and early farming, evidenced by stone axes (Canmore ID 21346; NK04NE0002; NK15SW0003) and a stone celt (NK15SW0002). In the Bronze Age, the presence of a possible ring ditch enclosing a roundhouse (NK14NW0031) and possible flint-working sites (Canmore ID 86535; Canmore ID 106983; NK04NE0026), suggests more established settlement and agricultural use, possibly continuing into the Late Bronze Age despite the climate declining. The Iron Age is represented by a possible settlement (NK14NW0874; NK14NW0001), indicating continued occupation. Additionally, undated prehistoric features such as graves (NK04NE0003), enclosures (NK14NW0068 and NK04NE0074), and flint tools (NK04NE0004; Canmore ID 20994; Canmore ID 159547; A177) indicate long-term occupation and a varied use of the landscape for habitation, tool production, and burial practices.

Roman (CE 80 to 165 CE)

3.6.1.16 The Roman occupation of Scotland was short-lived, with activity concentrated in southern Scotland. Initial invasions in circa 80 CE and again circa 138 CE left a lasting mark on the landscape where the Romans occupied an area. Under the direction of Antoninus Pius, the frontier barrier was advanced across the Forth-Clyde isthmus in CE 142 and the Antonine Wall, a 60km long fortification stretching from the Forth estuary to the Clyde estuary was constructed to protect the newly conquered border (MacInnes, 1985). A heavily garrisoned series of Roman fortifications was constructed between 80 CE and 83 CE to guard the crossing point of the River Carron and act as the southern fort of the Roman Gask Ridge between the Highlands and Lowlands. The Romans utilised the marine environment to facilitate troop deployment, supply, and for trade. There is little evidence of extensive Roman settlement in Scotland, and their presence appears to have been predominately militaristic in nature. There is therefore no evidence of Roman activity within the Onshore Red Line Boundary or the study area.

Medieval (CE 400 to 1560)

3.6.1.17 The development of medieval Scotland was influenced by the formation of Pictish kingdoms in eastern and northern Scotland, which existed at the same time as the Anglo-Saxon and Strathclyde presence in the south, between the 4th to 9th century CE. Initially, they were organized into tribes within loose confederations, but over time, they established two kingdoms with political and military influence that controlled a significant area of Scotland (Garlinghouse, 2022). Permanent settlements continued to develop and cluster, leading up to and through the medieval period. The conversion of Scotland to Christianity strongly influenced the structure of communities. As a result, in the histories related to medieval Scotland, there is a far greater sense of sovereign and religious control and influence within the country than earlier periods (Historic Environment Scotland, 2025). This is reflected in the archaeological record by the prominence of heritage assets such as churches,

churchyards, and castles dating from this period onward. The Protestant Reformation took place during the 16th century which saw the gradual alteration and adaptation from Catholicism to Protestantism (Britannica, 2025).

3.6.1.18 The Onshore Red Line Boundary at this time would probably have been part of a rural, agricultural landscape, with settlement located near to modern Inverugie as it is where Castle Hill (SM3259) and Ravenscraig Castle (SM2496) are located. The only medieval heritage asset within the Onshore Red Line Boundary is an area of rig and furrow (RSply_ID_016), located near to Cuttie Burn and the A90. There are a further five heritage assets from the medieval period within the study area. Seven of these are designated, none of which are situated within the Onshore Red Line Boundary. Designated assets within the study area are Scheduled Monuments comprising the remains of a medieval church (SM5622), a medieval motte (SM3259) and the ruins of a castle (SM2496). There is no known evidence for medieval rural settlement within the Onshore Red Line Boundary. The first recorded medieval settlement near to the Onshore Red Line Boundary was beyond the study area at Kirktown (1km north-west of the Onshore Red Line Boundary) (Simpson and Stevenson, 1982). Some 13th century fabric of its church survives suggesting an established community was present by then.

3.6.1.19 Evidence of the widespread sovereign and religious control, that is characteristic of the medieval period, is present in the study area. King William the first founded Arbroath Abbey in 1178 for Tironensian monks. It was the earliest of the reformed monastic orders in the British Isles and was where he was buried (Historic Environment Scotland, 2020c). St Fergus' Church (SM5622) which is located 255m north of the Onshore Red Line Boundary, was under the ownership of Arbroath Abbey, located approximately 70km south-west. This reflects the far-reaching control of the church and state in medieval Scotland.

3.6.1.20 In the study area, 180m south-west of the Onshore Red Line Boundary, there is the former site of the castle of the Cheynes (SM3259), who held the barony of Inverugie in the 13th century. It survives as a grass covered motte, but its ditch has been damaged by modern ploughing. It is sited in a strategic location in the landscape as it is in elevated positions, 30m AOD, on the southern bank of the River Ugie. The castle would have been a focus for medieval activity, evidence for which may be present in the Onshore Red Line Boundary. The medieval church of St Fergus (SM5622) would have served the community of Inverugie but was abandoned by 1603 when people moved inland as the sea and dunes were encroaching (Historic Environment Scotland, 2018).

3.6.1.21 Between the mid-14th to 17th century, tower house castles were built which not only provided security but also allowed the owner to display their wealth and social status (Historic Environment Scotland, 2017). They became popular amongst Scottish nobility and lairdly class (minor lords) after a tower house was built at Edinburgh Castle during the 14th century (Historic Environment Scotland, 2017). Two are recorded in the study area, the medieval Ravenscraig Castle (SM2496, approximately 80m south and east of the Onshore Red Line Boundary) and the early post-medieval Inverugie Castle (SM98, approximately 420m south of the Onshore Red Line Boundary, see discussion in post-medieval section below), approximately 290m south of the motte (SM3259).

3.6.1.22 The land surrounding the motte (SM3259) had been passed to the Keiths in the 14th century, who built Ravenscraig Castle (SM2496), with the keep dating to the 15th century (Coventry, 1995). As a tower house, Ravenscraig castle was not intended as a defensive structure, but there are two small malleable shots (projectiles) (NK04NE0022, 80m east of the Onshore Red Line Boundary) that were discovered nearby. These do not necessarily indicate large-scale conflict. The historical interest of Ravenscraig Castle is accentuated by the visit of James VI in 1589, indicating the status associated with the asset in this period.

3.6.1.23 During the medieval period, the Onshore Red Line Boundary was therefore likely part of a rural, agricultural landscape which supported settlements at Inverugie and Kirktown. The presence of castles like the motte (SM3259) and Ravenscraig (SM2496) suggests the area was strategically important and under long-term noble control. The church of St Fergus (SM5622), although later abandoned due to coastal erosion, and the visit by James VI, reflects the sovereign and religious influence that was typical of the medieval period.

Post-medieval (CE 1560 — 1900)

3.6.1.24 The post-medieval period in Scotland was marked by numerous major events and developments, which led to significant societal changes. The Protestant Reformation of 1560 had not taken hold in all areas of Scotland, but the religious landscape was altered greatly. Agricultural improvements also took place during the 18th and 19th centuries including the absorption of crofts in Aberdeenshire into larger farms which lead to the urbanisation of rural populations (Environment and Forestry Directorate, 2014) (Macleod, no date). Urban growth with large scale industrial projects were introduced in the 19th century including hydroelectric schemes, improves communications, railway construction, and shipping.

3.6.1.25 Known evidence dating to the post medieval period within the Onshore Red Line Boundary relates to agriculture land tenure with evidence for small scale industry. Ten historic farmsteads dating to the post medieval period are located partly or wholly within the Onshore Red Line Boundary. Of these, five are extant (NK15SW0020; NK15SW0023; NK04NE0030; NK04NE0110; NK04NE0093) and five are in a ruinous condition (NK15SW0012; NK14NW0404; NK04NE0117; NK14NW0873; NK04NE0039).

3.6.1.26 There are 47 post-medieval heritage assets within the Onshore Red Line Boundary which include an industrial works (NK04NE0006), two areas of rig and furrow (RSPLY_ID_040; RSPLY_ID_041), two ships (NK15SW0088; NK15SW0073), two OS trigonometric points (NK14NW0860; NK14NW0859), three drystone-walled enclosures (NK14NW0076), three bridges (NK14NW0596; NK14NW0119; NK14NW0600; NK14NW0387; NK04NE0113; NK04NE0039), four extraction sites (NK04NE0073 RSply_ID_049 RSply_ID_050; NK04NE0067; RSPLY_ID_044; RSPLY_ID_047), ten sections of canal and associated structures (NK15SW0013; NK15SW0013; NK14NW0119; NK14NW0598; NK14NW0119; NK14NW0874; NK14NW0119; NK14NW0387; NK15SW0022; NK14NW0599; NK04NE0025; NK15SW0005; RSPLY_ID_053), ten farmsteads and buildings (NK04NE0030; NK04NE0110; NK14NW0404; NK15SW0020; NK04NE0078; NK14NW0873; NK04NE0093; NK15SW0012; NK15SW0023; RSPLY_ID_058), and 12 low linear earthwork banks interpreted as possible boundaries (RSPLY_ID_011; RSPLY_ID_014; RSPLY_ID_025; RSPLY_ID_026; RSPLY_ID_027; RSPLY_ID_028; RSPLY_ID_033; RSPLY_ID_035; RSPLY_ID_036; RSPLY_ID_037; RSPLY_ID_055; RSPLY_ID_056).

3.6.1.27 Inverugie Castle (SM98) is a 16th century tower-house that incorporates some 13th century material. In the 14th century, the estate of Inverguie was passed through marriage to the Keiths from the Cheynes, who had built the motte and bailey castle (SM3259) (Coventry, 1995). The Keith's main seat was at the coastal Dunnottar castle, south of Aberdeen but likely moved to Inverugie after the successful English invasion led by Oliver Cromwell in the mid-17th century (Douglas Archives, 2025). As the area was isolated, it was not a target during the armies that invaded Aberdeenshire throughout the Civil Wars (Simpson and Stevenson, 1982). The Keiths controlled the surrounding area, including Peterhead, until the Jacobite Uprising in 1715 (Coventry, 1995). The area was then sold to an English fishing company, before being passed to the Merchant Maiden Hospital, an Edinburgh-based company who had the money to repair the harbour which helped the town to grow (Buchan, 1819).

3.6.1.28 Granite quarrying has also taken place in the Onshore Red Line Boundary, as evidenced by cropmarks and LiDAR analysis south of the A950 near the Burn of Faichfield (NK04NE0073; RSply_ID_049; RSply_ID_050). Granite would have been the main building material locally available in the landscape for the construction of bridges (for example, LB16388) and residential buildings (for example, LB19799) (Sinclair, 1795). Other industrial activity within the Onshore Red Line Boundary includes brick and tile manufacturing (NK04NE0006) which is present on 1st edition Ordnance Survey mapping, and possible small scale clay extraction (NK04NE0067; RSPLY_ID_044; RSPLY_ID_047) which has been identified through analysis of LiDAR imagery. All of the recorded industrial activity is located in the southern half of the Onshore Red Line Boundary, possibly because it is further inland.

3.6.1.29 Changes in land management in the 18th and 19th century led to the establishment of new farms across Scotland. Evidence of this change is visible both in the Onshore Red Line Boundary and study area through historic maps, such as the Roy Highlands map from 1747 to 1752 (National Library of Scotland, 2025b) and LiDAR data analysis (for example, RSPLY_ID_011; RSPLY_ID_025; RSPLY_ID_036). A total of 33 historic farmsteads are situated within the study area which survive in various conditions. Many of these predate post-medieval mapping and are present on the first OS map suggesting that they were established by the 19th century. Historic Ordnance Survey mapping that dates to 1869 to 1872 indicates that the majority of the study area was comprised of field systems with nucleated settlements at St Fergus, Inverugie, and Peterhead. Some farms within the study area, including the Category C Listed Kinloch Farmhouse (LB18976) and the non-designated Berryhill farmstead (NK04NE0115) are still in use, but some (for example, NK04NE0030) survive in a very poor condition, and some (for example, NK15SW0023) are only depicted on historic maps. The agricultural industry in the parish of Peterhead included the production of oats, peas, and beans (Sinclair, 1795). Evidence of rig and furrow has been identified in the Onshore Red Line Boundary through LiDAR analysis (RSPLY_ID_040; RSPLY_ID_041). Some grains were processed locally, as evidenced by the sites of a grain mill (Canmore ID 134485, 355m west of the Onshore Red Line Boundary) and a corn mill (NK04NE0055, 125m south of the Onshore Red Line Boundary).

3.6.1.30 The later centuries of the post-medieval period saw the introduction of manor houses which replaced tower-house castles as the dominant housing for the societal elite. One example located within the study area is the site of Faichfield House (NK04NE0020, 480m north of the Onshore Red Line Boundary), a manor house built circa 1700 on, or near, the site of an earlier residence. The house was demolished in 1969 but was noted as having a moulded door piece with a coat-of-arms over it.

3.6.1.31 Fishing was a predominant industry in the study area due to the coastal location and the River Ugie. Seafood caught included salmon, trout, and lobster, which was supplied across Britain, including London (Moir, 1795). The main harbour within the area was located at Peterhead, 3km to the south of the eastern end of the Onshore Red Line Boundary, which gained prominence as a port facilitating the transport of agricultural produce and local fishing activity from the late 16th century, when the town was given burgh status (Knox, 2001). The former site of a small fishing village called Drumlinie (NK15SW0004) is noted within the HER, 185m north of the Onshore Red Line Boundary near to Cuttie Burn, however the village is now covered in sand dunes.

3.6.1.32 The HER data includes the remains of seven shipwrecks dating to the post-medieval period within the intertidal and coastal areas of the Onshore Red Line Boundary (NK15SW0088; NK15SW0073) and study area. Shipbuilding industry in 18th century Peterhead grew owing to the prosperity of the fishing industry, and ships were traded across the world (Simpson and Stevenson, 1982). Two shipwreck sites are situated partly within the Onshore Red Line Boundary. These are a brig, Henry (NK15SW0088) and barque, Albion (NK15SW0073).

Further wrecks are recorded within the study area, comprising 18th and 19th century schooners (NK15SW0077; NK15SW0077; NK15SW0038), brigantines (NK15SW0074; NK15SW0088; NK14NW0264), barques (NK15SW0052; NK15SW0073) as well as the Eleonora (NK15SW0079) wrecked in 1794 and the Sun (NK15SW0076) wrecked in 1728, both of which are of unspecified ship type. The earliest recorded shipwreck within the HER data is the wreck of the Sun (NK15SW0076) in 1728 which was stranded on the St Fergus sands while carrying a cargo of staves and timber. There is a report that the brigantine 'Reaper' (NK15SW0074) was run ashore near Scotston Head in 1760 whilst attempting to avoid capture by pirates. The HER records suggest that none of these wrecks have been relocated, and the accuracy of their recorded location is uncertain. These wrecks are described in more detail in **Appendix 16.1: Offshore Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment**.

3.6.1.33 The Principal Triangulation of Britain, a piecemeal trigonometric survey of the whole of Britain, was undertaken between 1791 and 1853 by the Board of Ordnance to establish precise geographical coordinates of almost 300 significant landmarks from which maps could be drawn (TrigPointing UK, 2025) (Ordnance Survey, 2016). There are two trigonometric points (NK14NW0860; NK14NW0859) located in the Onshore Red Line Boundary, although one (NK14NW0859) was replaced in the 20th century.

3.6.1.34 Major infrastructure development in the study area was the introduction of the Saint Fergus and North Ugie Water Canal (NK14NW0119), that passes through the Onshore Red Line Boundary near the River Ugie. An Act was passed in the early 1790s to construct the canal to improve access between the countryside and the seaside. Though construction work began, by 1800 this was abandoned because of problems in negotiations with neighbouring heritors (landowners). Remains of the disused canal are visible throughout the Onshore Red Line Boundary (for example, (NK15SW0013; NK15SW0013; NK14NW0119) and study area (for example, Canmore ID 81846; NK14NW0119; NK14NW0387; NK04NE0025). Bridges were built over both the canal (NK14NW0596; NK14NW0119; NK14NW0600; NK14NW0387; NK04NE0113; NK04NE0039) and River Ugie (LB16388; LB16537) to allow access between either side. LiDAR and historic map analysis suggests water management efforts in the north of the study area (RSPLY_ID_053) which may reflect attempts to drain the soil to make it more suitable for agriculture or may be another disused canal.

3.6.1.35 The Formartine and Buchan section of the Great North of Scotland Railway allowed for the transport of goods and passengers between Peterhead to Aberdeen. The railway line was originally opened by the Formartine and Buchan Railway company in 1861 and was connected to Peterhead in 1862 to transport fish (Aberdeenshire Council, 2010). An Act was passed in 1866 that brought the company and railway under the ownership of Great North of Scotland Railway (Ross, 2015). The heritage assets in the study area that relate to the line are four bridges (NK04NE0016, NK04NE0015, NK04NE0014, NK04NE0013) that were built to cross it, the closest (NK04NE0014) is 30m east of the Onshore Red Line Boundary.

3.6.1.36 The Onshore Red Line Boundary covers part of a golf course (Canmore ID 308478) that was built in the sand dunes in 1892. The course was designed by Willie Park Junior, who was a dual winner of the Open Championship (Peterhead Golf Course, 2022). This course is recorded as being replaced in 1923 by the current golf course. There was another golf course (Canmore ID 354537) in the south of the study area, 500m north of the Onshore Red Line Boundary, however it is no longer extant and there are no remaining traces of it.

3.6.1.37 During the post-medieval period, land within the Onshore Red Line Boundary experienced a degree of development and diversification in land use, reflecting broader social and economic changes, although the character of the landscape remained largely agricultural as is referenced in the Historic Land-use Assessment (**Volume 2, Figure 24.4: Historic land-use assessment**). It became a hub of agricultural activity, with numerous farmsteads

(for example, NK14NW0873; NK04NE0093; NK15SW0012), and rig and furrow systems (RSPLY_ID_040; RSPLY_ID_041) established, many of which can be traced through historic maps and LiDAR analysis. Industrial activity also emerged, including granite quarrying (NK04NE0073; RSply_ID_049; RSply_ID_050), clay extraction (NK04NE0067; RSPLY_ID_044; RSPLY_ID_047), and brick and tile manufacturing (NK04NE0006), particularly in the southern half of the Onshore Red Line Boundary. Fishing remained a key industry, supported by Peterhead's harbour and evidenced by shipwrecks (for example, NK15SW0088; NK15SW0073) and the remnants of a small fishing village (NK15SW0004). Overall, the Onshore Red Line Boundary remained a largely rural landscape with interspersed, industry, transport, and leisure as is shown on **Volume 2, Figure 24.4**.

Modern (CE 1901 to present)

3.6.1.38 The modern period in Aberdeenshire saw the development of the port town of Peterhead with the harbour deepened between 1906 and 1908, making the town an increasingly important fishing port.

3.6.1.39 There are 26 modern heritage assets within the Onshore Red Line Boundary, including a golf course (Canmore ID 308477) an extraction site (RSPLY_ID_032), an unknown service (RSPLY_ID_052), two trigonometric points (NK14NW0859; NK04NE0135), two Royal Observer Corps posts (NK15SW0006; NK15SW0094), five structures (NK04NE0114; NK04NE0132; NK04NE0126; NK04NE0127; NK04NE0128; NK04NE0042; NK04NE0125; NK04NE0130; NK04NE0027) associated with the site of Royal Air Force (RAF) Peterhead (NK04NE0027), and thirteen structures associated with World War Two (WWII) (NK15SW0008; NK14NW0120; NK14NW0084; NK14NW0120; NK14NW0082; NK14NW0084; NK14NW0081; NK14NW0120; NK14NW0084; NK14NW0084; NK14NW0080; NK14NW0084; NK14NW0079; NK14NW0084; NK14NW0080; NK14NW0084; NK14NW0120; NK04NE0045; NK04NE0054; NK04NE0130; NK04NE0027).

3.6.1.40 A further 57 modern heritage assets are located in the study area. Of these, 43 are associated with WWII defence infrastructure. The other fourteen heritage assets comprise eight boats (for example, NK14NW0185), a former mission hall (NK04NE0121), a former field boundary (NK04NE0035; NK04NE0083), a wall (NK14NW0851), evidence of possible quarrying (RSPLY_ID_032), and an unknown service (RSPLY_ID_052).

3.6.1.41 Peterhead was a target of German air-raids 28 times during WWII which made it the second-most bombed location in Britain after London. Its location on the coast made it a target for the Luftwaffe as it was the first urban area visible when the Germans flew over the North Sea (Cooper, 2016). As a response to this, the coastline between Peterhead and St Fergus is lined with WWII anti-tank blocks and pillboxes. The location of these blocks and pillboxes are well recorded despite varying levels of survival. Four of the eight pillboxes that were part of the Craigewan to Scotstown beach anti-tank stop line (NK14NW0084) were visible during the walkover. These are all located within the Onshore Red Line Boundary (NK14NW0079; NK14NW0080 x2; NK14NW0081; NK14NW0082).

3.6.1.42 The Onshore Red Line Boundary abuts the southern and eastern edge of the site of RAF Peterhead (NK04NE0027), which opened in July 1941 and hosted fighter squadrons. Historic map analysis shows that the land was previously agricultural. The airfield was attacked by a single Junkers Ju 88 on 30 November 1941. The last fighter squadron departed in March 1945, and the airfield closed soon after, before being auctioned off in September 1959. A RAF record site plan of 1965 provides a detailed account of the composition of the airfield at this time, with many of the components remaining from that shown on an aerial photograph captured by the German Luftwaffe in 1943. Part of the airfield now belongs to the company Bond Helicopters for training flights. The structures

associated with its use as an RAF base survive in varying conditions, for example, the battle headquarters (NK04NE0124; NK04NE0027) survives in good condition within the extent of the airfield, but outwith the Onshore Red Line Boundary, but most of the technical area, which includes the control tower (NK04NE0027; NK04NE0129) has either been demolished or survive without a roof. The hospital block (NK04NE0054) associated with the airfield is located within the Onshore Red Line Boundary but also survives without a roof. This was visited during the site visits, photographs and notes for which can be found in **Appendix 24.3**. A memorial cairn, approximately 90m north of the Onshore Red Line Boundary (NK04NE0071) was erected in 2003 to commemorate the people who served at the airfield.

3.6.1.43 The Royal Observer Corps initially formed in 1925 as the "*Eyes and Ears*" of the RAF, and were responsible for tracking and reporting aircraft that were flying over Britain, and, later, any nuclear explosions (Royal Observer Corps Association, 2024a). They were a grassroots organisation that supported Britain through the interwar period, WWII and the Cold War (Royal Observer Corps Association, 2024b). The majority of the organisation stood down in 1991 following the 1990 Option for Change defence spending review, and the remainder were stood down by the end of 1995. In response to the threat of the Cold War, Royal Observer Corps underground observation posts were opened across the United Kingdom. Two Royal Observer Corps posts are located in the Onshore Red Line Boundary, one opened during WWII (NK15SW0006), and 110m to its west (NK15SW0094) opened in 1962. Both observation posts were closed in 1991 with the majority of the organisation. The WWII post (NK15SW0006) was demolished but the one opened in 1962 (NK15SW0094) is still extant, but is damaged (Subterranea Britannica, 2001).

3.6.1.44 Following WWII more accurate mapping was required to track the rapid development after the war and over 6,500 trigonometric (trig) pillars were erected across Britain (Ordnance Survey, 2016). There are two (NK14NW0859; NK04NE0135) within the Onshore Red Line Boundary, one of which replaced an earlier 18th century trig point (NK14NW0859). Other post-war heritage assets within the study area include a building likely associated with a Radio Location Station (NK04NE0045), two wrecked ships (NK14NW0186; NK15SW0078), an unknown modern service (RSPLY_ID_052).

3.6.1.45 After WWII, the Onshore Red Line Boundary saw continued agricultural use, with mapping showing predominantly arable land and pastures, while infrastructure expanded with the addition of trigonometric points (NK14NW0859; A164) for national mapping efforts. Recreational use is also evident with the presence of a golf course (Canmore ID 308477). Overall, the Onshore Red Line Boundary reflects a retention of rural agricultural land alongside interspersed wartime activity, national defence, and modern mapping and urban development.

3.6.1.46 Analysis of 20th century Ordnance Survey maps show that there was minimal expansion of the settlements at St Fergus and Inverugie, but Peterhead continued to expand inland. The predominant industry represented throughout modern historic mapping of the study area is agriculture. Ordnance Survey mapping from 1901 shows that the land was mainly field systems. Ordnance Survey maps from 1944 and 1945 that record the land use across Britain depicts the Onshore Red Line Boundary, study area and broader landscape as being predominantly arable land with some livestock feeding (National Library of Scotland, 2025a) with a mixture of arable land and grassland pastures (National Library of Scotland, 2025d). An Ordnance Survey map from 1964 shows limited change across the study area, except for the reorganising of field boundaries to make fields smaller (National Library of Scotland, 2025c).

4. Archaeological Potential

4.1.1.1 This Section discusses the archaeological potential of the Project based on the archaeological and historical background of the area, its geology, and topography, the likelihood for evidence of past activity, and considering past disturbance which may have affected survival. This is based on the methodology set out in **Section 2.5**. This Section also includes professional opinion on the heritage value of potential archaeological features and remains, based on the methodology set out in **Section 2.6**. The Section is organised according to the assessment zones as set out in **Volume 1, Chapter 4: Onshore Archaeology and Cultural Heritage**.

4.2 Landfall zones

4.2.1.1 Within the landfall zone, there are recorded deposits of Marine beach deposits, blown sand, Lacustrine deposits and Till (clay, sand and gravel). These are likely to be of low potential for paleoenvironmental remains. A band of alluvium in the far south of this zone, associated with the River Ugie, has **high** potential for paleoenvironmental remains. The nature of potential paleoenvironmental remains is currently unknown in this zone as there is no known evidence, and the heritage value could therefore range from low to high depending on the context in which they are found. For example, palaeoenvironmental remains associated with prehistoric settlement and activity would be of **medium** value, whereas remains associated with post-medieval agricultural practices would be of **low** heritage value.

4.2.1.2 Archaeological remains of possible late prehistoric ring ditch surviving as buried deposits (NK14NW0031) are recorded close to Lunderton Farm. Although undated, the morphology of these remains is suggestive of a late prehistoric roundhouse. Further records of settlement remains of possible late prehistoric date (SM3259; NK14NW0068) are recorded in the study area. There is therefore deemed to be **medium** potential for prehistoric remains to be present within the Onshore Red Line Boundary. Archaeological remains relating to prehistoric settlement, such as enclosures, pits and roundhouses, would be of **medium** heritage value through their capacity to further the understanding of late prehistoric settlement and land use in the region.

4.2.1.3 Records of prehistoric findspots (NK15SW0003) are recorded within the Onshore Red Line Boundary and study area (NK15SW0002; NK04NE0077). These are thought to be representative of early prehistoric activity, however, as these finds were discovered in ploughsoil they cannot be seen to be indicative of activity in the area in which they were found. It is possible that further artefacts of this nature would survive within as-yet unknown features relating to prehistoric settlement and land use, entailing **medium** potential. Finds of prehistoric artefacts would therefore be of **low to high** heritage value depending on the context in which they are identified.

4.2.1.4 Based on the lack of currently known evidence within the Onshore Red Line Boundary and study area, the potential for archaeological features or remains relating to medieval activity in this zone is assessed as **low** due to the relatively undisturbed nature of the landscape in this zone.

4.2.1.5 Historic structures relating to former and existing farmsteads are recorded within the Onshore Red Line Boundary (NK15SW0020; NK15SW0023; NK15SW0012). These assets are described in detail in assessed within Section 24.9 of **Volume 1, Chapter 24: Onshore Archaeology and Cultural Heritage.** Their extents are well recorded on historic mapping and LiDAR imagery. No further structures or features of this nature are likely to be present in the Onshore Red Line Boundary, and therefore the potential is **Negligible**.

4.2.1.6 There is **low** potential at the landfall zone the remains of former field boundaries surviving as buried deposits which may fall into the same phase of land use as some of the linear earthworks identified on LiDAR imagery. These would most likely reflect boundaries present on 19th century Ordnance Survey mapping which have been removed in the 20th century and may relate to the extant and removed historic farmsteads within the Onshore Red Line Boundary and study area. As such, potential linear boundaries of this nature would carry **low** heritage value as features of local importance.

4.2.1.7 There is **low** potential for the survival of as yet-unknown archaeological remains relating to 20th century military and defence infrastructure concealed by sand dunes within all landfall(s). Any remains of this nature would most likely relate to defensive structures and features such as anti-glider ditches, anti-tank blocks and pillboxes alongside those already recorded in the HER. These would be of **medium** heritage value and of regional importance through their capacity to further understand WWII military and defence infrastructure along the north east coast of Scotland.

4.3 Onshore cable corridor zone A

4.3.1.1 Within this zone there are recorded deposits of Till (clay, sand and gravel) throughout. These are likely to be of low potential for paleoenvironmental remains. A band of alluvium in the far north of this zone, associated with the River Ugie, has **high** potential for paleoenvironmental remains. The nature of potential paleoenvironmental remains is currently unknown in this zone as there is no known evidence, and the heritage value could therefore range from **low** to **medium** depending on the context in which they are found. For example, palaeoenvironmental remains associated with prehistoric settlement and activity would be of medium value, whereas remains associated with post-medieval agricultural practices would be of **low** heritage value.

4.3.1.2 Within the onshore export cable corridor zone A, a number of HER and Canmore entries within the Onshore Red Line Boundary and study area relate to prehistoric activity. These include a burial site excavated in the early 20th century (NK04NE0003), which is tentatively dated to the later prehistoric period based on the presence of flint arrowheads and coarse pottery. Cropmarks of a possible ring ditch within the study area (NK04NE0033), approximately 150m east of the Onshore Red Line Boundary, may be the remains of a later prehistoric roundhouse which could be associated with the burial site, although this feature is yet to be examined further through archaeological excavation. From this evidence, there is **medium** potential for further remains relating to later prehistoric settlement and mortuary activity within the northern portion of this zone. Any remains of this nature would be of **medium** heritage value through their capacity to contribute to existing knowledge of settlement, society and land use in late prehistory in the region.

4.3.1.3 The number of flints recorded within the northern portion of this zone has been taken to represent a potential prehistoric flint working site (Canmore ID 86535; Canmore ID 106983). However, these artefacts were recovered from plough soil, so this interpretation should be treated with caution. Further as-yet unknown artefacts of this nature may survive within this zone entailing there is **medium** potential. The heritage value of remains would be dependent on their context and condition. Where artefacts are recovered from the ploughsoil, these are likely to be of **low** heritage value through their limited contribution to the understanding of settlement and land use. However, where in situ remains are recorded, these would carry regional importance and therefore **medium** heritage value.

4.3.1.4 Traces of former rig and furrow ploughing has been identified on LiDAR imagery as low earthworks (RSply_ID_040-41) within the Onshore Red Line Boundary. This is likely to date to the medieval and / or post medieval periods and indicates the presence of arable farming at this time. There is **medium** potential for further as yet unknown remains of this nature

surviving as buried deposits. Any remains relating to former rig and furrow would be of local importance through the capacity to better understand agricultural practices in the medieval and post medieval periods, and as such would be of **low** heritage value.

4.3.1.5 There is **low** potential for the remains of former field boundaries which may survive as buried deposits within this zone. This has been shown through the identification of previously unknown potential boundaries on LiDAR imagery surviving as low earthworks within the Onshore Red Line Boundary. Potential buried remains of former boundaries may relate to the pattern of fields present in the post medieval period, of which many have been removed throughout the 20th century; and in turn relate to the numerous extant and removed historic post medieval farmsteads within the study area in this zone. Any remains of this nature would be of **low** heritage value as features of local importance.

4.3.1.6 Numerous mineral extraction pits have been identified within the Onshore Red Line Boundary on LiDAR imagery within this zone (RSply_ID_042-044). Some of these features appear to overlie former rig and furrow traces so are likely to be post medieval or modern in date. It is likely from a review of underlying geology and soils that the pits were used to extract clay. Aside from this, these features are unlikely to yield any further evidence of previous activity and are therefore of **very low** heritage value.

4.3.1.7 Based on currently known evidence, the potential for modern archaeological remains and features within this zone is assessed as **very low**.

4.4 Onshore substation zone

4.4.1.1 Till comprising clay, sand and gravel is present throughout much of onshore substation zone. Potential for paleoenvironmental remains within these deposits is assessed as **low**.

4.4.1.2 Based on currently known evidence within this zone, the potential for archaeological remains and features dating to prehistory and the medieval period is assessed as **low** due to the relatively undisturbed nature of the landscape in this zone.

4.4.1.3 An historic farmstead is recorded approximately 250m east of this zone (Canmore ID 156546); this entails there is **low** potential for related agricultural features such as former field boundaries may be present within the zone. Any remains of this nature would be of local importance and **low** heritage value.

4.4.1.4 Within the onshore substation zone there is **medium** potential for archaeological remains related to military and defence infrastructure, in particular buried remains of structures associated with Peterhead Airfield, the recorded extent of which is located directly to the northwest of the Onshore Red Line Boundary. Canmore data includes an entry in the south of the onshore substation zone which relates to the possible location of air raid shelters; and more remains of this nature may be present within the Onshore Red Line Boundary. Remains of this nature would be of **medium** heritage value as features of regional importance through their capacity to further understand WWII military and defence infrastructure and to gain a better understanding of the layout and function of the airfield.

4.5 Onshore export cable corridor zone B

4.5.1.1 Within this zone there are recorded deposits of Banchory Till (clay, sand and gravel). These are likely to be of **low** potential for paleoenvironmental remains. A band of alluvium is located in the central portion of this zone, associated with an unnamed watercourse, which has **high** potential for palaeoenvironmental remains. A band of glaciofluvial deposit is also located in this area. Due to its close proximity to the alluvium there is **medium** potential for palaeoenvironmental remains within these deposits. The nature of potential

paleoenvironmental remains is currently unknown in this zone as there is no known contextual evidence, and the heritage value could therefore range from **low to medium** depending on the context in which they are found.

4.5.1.2 Evidence for prehistoric activity is very limited. Undated cropmarks of a possible curvilinear enclosure (NK04NE0005) and a kidney shaped enclosure (NK04NE0005) within the study area, approximately 200m south of the Onshore Red Line Boundary, could be representative of late prehistoric activity, however this remains tentative without further investigation. There is generally a **low** potential for in situ prehistoric remains to be present within this zone. Any remains which relate to features associated with later prehistoric settlement and land-use would be of **medium** heritage value through their potential to contribute to the chronology and nature of settlement and land use in late prehistory in the region.

4.5.1.3 Based on the lack of current known evidence, the potential for archaeological remains and features dating to the medieval period is assessed as **low** due to the relatively undisturbed nature of the landscape in this zone.

4.5.1.4 Within the zone there is medium potential for the survival of former mineral extraction pits and small quarries within the Onshore Red Line Boundary to reflect those already known on the HER (NK04NE0073) and identified on LiDAR imagery (RSply_ID_049-50). Further features of this nature may survive as buried archaeological deposits within this zone. Former extraction pits are unlikely to yield any meaningful archaeological evidence relating to former activity, and as such are of **very low** heritage value.

4.5.1.5 There is **low** potential for archaeological remains related to military and defence infrastructure within the Onshore Red Line Boundary, in particular buried remains of structures associated with Longside (Peterhead) Airfield. A HER entry within this zone relates to a subterranean former battle headquarters associated with the airfield (NK04NE0125); with another relating to the upstanding, if dilapidated, remains of a former hospital block (NK04NE0054). It is possible that, despite detailed mapping being available for the airfield and its surroundings in the mid-20th century, further features related to the airfield may have evaded detection on mapping and historic aerial photographs within this zone. Remains of this nature may include the footings of former buildings or further subterranean structures. These would be of **medium** heritage value as features of regional importance through their capacity to further understand WWII military and defence infrastructure and to gain a better understanding of the layout and function of the airfield.

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6. Glossary of Terms and Abbreviations

6.1 Abbreviations

Acronym	Definition
AOD	Above Ordnance Datum
CE	Common Era
BCE	Before Common Era
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
GIS	Geographical Information System
HER	Historic Environment Record
HES	Historic Environment Scotland
LiDAR	Light Detection And Ranging
RAF	Royal Air Force
RSC	Recumbent Stone Circles
SNRHE	Scottish National Record of the Historic Environment
SSEN	Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks
WWII	World War Two

6.2 Glossary of terms

Term	Definition
Cursus	A kind of Neolithic ceremonial monument comprising a rectangular enclosure defined by a bank with external ditches.
Digital Terrain Model	A digital representation of the Earth's natural land surface.
Henge	A prehistoric circular or oval earthen enclosure, dating from around 3000 BC to 2000 BC, during the Neolithic and early Bronze Age.
Long House	A long, narrow timber dwelling.
Palaeoenvironment	An environment of a past geological age.

Term	Definition
Geoarchaeology	the use of earth sciences to understand the archaeological record.
Hillfort	A defended hilltop settlement.
Rig and furrow	A system of strip cultivation that was widely used during the medieval and post medieval period.
Ring ditch	A ditch with a circular plan.
Roundhouse	A circular domestic building, usually with a conical thatched roof.

MarramWind