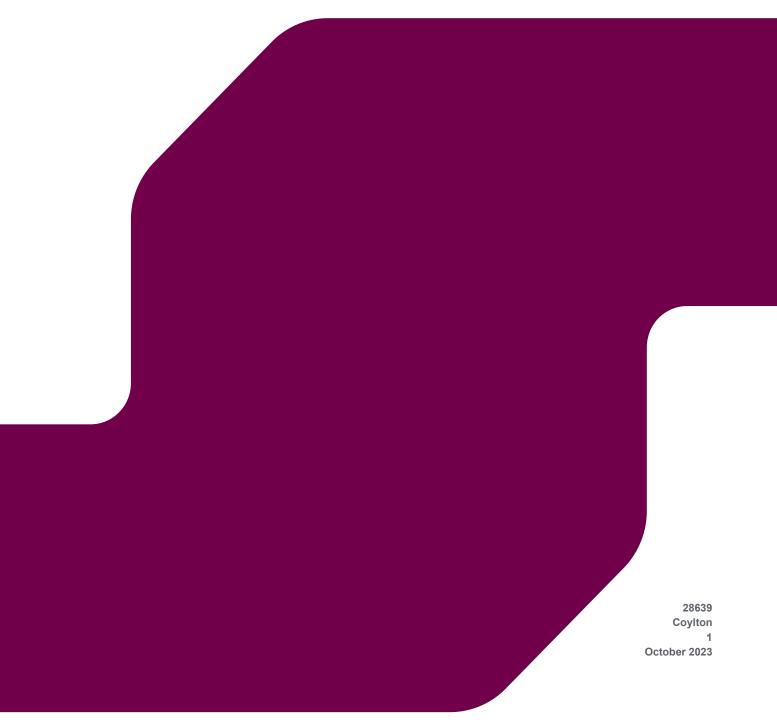


COYLTON GREENER GRID PARK

Archaeological Assessment



| Document status | | | | | |
|-----------------|---------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Version | Purpose of document | Authored by | Reviewed by | Approved by | Review date |
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This assessment draws together the available archaeological, historic, topographic and land-use information in order to clarify the heritage significance and archaeological potential of approximately 13.1ha of land proposed for a Battery Energy Storage System development near Ochiltree, East Ayrshire. Planning permission was granted in 2022 for a similar development of lesser capacity on the Site. No archaeological condition was attached to this previous consent.

The assessment has been prepared in accordance with relevant policy and guidance and provides a description of the relevant cultural heritage baseline, identifies heritage assets that may be affected by the Proposed Development, assesses archaeological potential and identifies the likely impacts of the Proposed Development upon heritage assets as a result of both its construction and operation.

There are no designated heritage assets in the Site or study area. It is considered that there is no potential for the Proposed Development to affect designated heritage assets.

There are no known heritage assets within the Site. The HER holds no entries relating to evidence of activity earlier than the Medieval period in the study area and evidence of pre-Medieval activity in this part of East Ayrshire is relatively sparse. The ground in the Site and surrounding area is poorly draining and hence unattractive for settlement. It is considered therefore that there is low potential for hitherto unrecorded archaeology to be present in the Site.

In the event that archaeology is present, it would be removed during construction. The likelihood of this occurring is considered low given the archaeological potential of the Site. Given the low likelihood of archaeological impacts occurring, no further work in respect of this is recommended.

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1 INTRODUCTION AND SCOPE OF STUDY

- 1.1 This below ground archaeological desk-based assessment has been prepared by Richard Conolly of RPS on behalf of Statkraft UK Ltd (the 'Client'). It has been prepared to support a planning application for a proposed Battery Energy Storage System (BESS, henceforth the 'Proposed Development') on land near East Tarelgin, Ochiltree, East Ayrshire.
- 1.2 The land considered in this assessment (henceforth the 'Site') takes in parts of two fields and an existing substation, totalling approximately 13.1ha centred on NGR 246500 619500 (Figure 1). The Site is located approximately 1.8km to the north-east of Drongan, to the south of the A70. On the opposite side of the road is East Tarelgin farm. Approximately 6ha of the Site is occupied by the recently expanded substation and landscaped areas. The remainder is under improved pasture. It is bounded by fields. Planning permission has been granted previously for a similar development of lesser capacity (21/0748/PP) on the Site. No archaeological condition was attached to this consent.
- 1.3 This assessment has been prepared in accordance with relevant policy and guidance and considers the potential effects of the Proposed Development upon heritage assets, both during its construction and operation. It draws upon the following data sources:
 - Historic Environment Scotland (HES) designations downloads;
 - West of Scotland Archaeology Service (WoSAS) Historic Environment Record (HER);
 - · Maps held by the National Library of Scotland;
 - · LiDAR data from Scottish Government;
 - Satellite imagery; and
 - Readily available published sources.
- 1.4 The desk-based work was augmented and verified through a walk-over survey.
- 1.5 The study provides an assessment of the archaeological potential of the Site and the significance of heritage assets within and around it, and considers the potential impacts of the Proposed Development upon these. The consideration of potential impacts upon designated heritage assets (see Figure 2) in the surrounding area has been undertaken in accordance with the guidance provided in *Managing Change in the Historic Environment: Setting* (HES 2020), which advocates the use of a three-stage process:
 - Stage 1: Identify the historic assets that may be affected by the Proposed Development.
 - Stage 2: define and analyse the setting by establishing how the surroundings contribute to the ways in which the historic asset or place is understood, appreciated and experienced.
 - Stage 3: evaluate the potential impact of the proposed changes on the setting, and the extent to which any negative impacts can be mitigated.
- 1.6 Stage 1 has been informed by a site visit.

2 PLANNING BACKGROUND AND DEVELOPMENT PLAN FRAMEWORK

Legislation

2.1 The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 and the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Scotland) Act 1997 provide the legislative basis for the protection of the historic environment. These were amended by the Historic Environment (Amendment) (Scotland) Act 2011.

National Planning Policy

- 2.2 Policy 7 of the current National Planning Framework (NPF4) deals with historic assets and places in the planning system. It is intended 'to protect and enhance historic environment assets and places, and to enable positive change as a catalyst for the regeneration of places.' It specifies that 'development proposals with a potentially significant impact on historic assets will be accompanied by an assessment of the impact based on their cultural significance.' In summary, development proposals will only be supported where they preserve the character, special architectural or historic interest of Listed Buildings, the character and appearance of Conservation Areas, and avoid direct impacts on scheduled monuments and significant adverse impacts upon the integrity of their setting or where exceptional circumstances have been demonstrated to justify such impacts and where these have been minimised. Development proposals affecting nationally important Gardens and Designed Landscapes and Historic Battlefields will be supported where they protect their cultural significance. Those affecting a World Heritage Site will only be supported where they protect and preserve its Outstanding Universal Value. Non-designated heritage assets should be protected and preserved in situ wherever feasible. Where impacts are unavoidable, they should be assessed and minimised.
- 2.3 The glossary attached to NPF4 contains the following definitions that are relevant in the current context.

Cultural significance means aesthetic, historic, scientific or social value for past, present or future generations. Cultural significance can be embodied in a place itself, its fabric, setting, use, associations, meanings, records, related places and related objects.

Historic environment: The historic environment is 'the physical evidence for human activity that connects people with place, linked with the associations we can see, feel and understand'.

Historic environment asset: An asset (or 'historic asset' or 'heritage asset') is a physical element of the historic environment – a building, monument, site, place, area or landscape identified as having cultural significance.

Setting: Setting is more than the immediate surroundings of a site or building, and may be related to the function or use of a place, or how it was intended to fit into the landscape or townscape, the view from it or how it is seen from areas round about, or areas that are important to the protection of the place, site or building.

'Setting' is the way the surroundings of a historic asset or place contribute to how it is understood, appreciated and experienced.

2.4 In July 2011, the government published the Planning Advice Note PAN 2/2011: Planning and Archaeology. It provides advice and technical information alongside SPP, HEPS and the Managing Change in the Historic Environment Guidance Notes, which together set out the Scottish Ministers' policies and guidance for planning and the historic environment.

- 2.5 Sections 4-9 of the PAN, entitled Archaeology and Planning provides guidance for planning authorities, property owners, developers and others on the policy of the Scottish Government relating to archaeological sites and monuments. Overall, the guidance can be summarised:
 - Policy is to protect and preserve sites and monuments and their settings in situ where feasible.
 Where this is not possible planning authorities should consider applying conditions to consents to ensure that an appropriate level of excavation, recording, analysis, publication and archiving is carried out before and/or during development.
 - In consideration of applications, planning authorities should take into account the relative importance of archaeological sites. Not all sites and monuments are of equal importance. In determining planning applications that may impact on archaeological features or their setting, planning authorities may balance the benefits of development against the importance of archaeological features.
- 2.6 Section 12 of the PAN notes that when determining a planning application, the desirability of preserving a monument (whether scheduled or not) and its setting is a material consideration. It reiterates that preservation in situ should be the objective but where not possible an alternative approach is recording and/or excavation followed by analysis and publication of the results.
- 2.7 Sections 13 and 14 note that prospective developers should undertake assessment to determine whether a property or area contains, or is likely to contain, archaeological remains as part of their pre-planning application research into development potential. Where it is known, or there is good reason to believe, that significant remains exist developers should be open to modifying their plans in order to preserve remains.
- 2.8 Section 17 notes that in many cases a desk-based assessment (this document) may be sufficient to allow authorities to make a planning decision. Where the judgement of the authority's archaeological advisor indicates that significant remains may exist, it is reasonable for the planning authority to request an archaeological evaluation before the application is determined. Planning authorities should require only the information necessary for them to make an informed decision on the proposal, and this should be proportionate to the importance of the potential resource. Section 19 notes that developers should supply the results of desk-based assessments and evaluations as part of their planning applications.

Local Planning Policy

2.9 The East Ayrshire Local Development Plan (EALDP) was adopted on 3 April 2017 and contains the following policy relating to the historic environment:

Policy ENV1: Listed Buildings

Listed buildings play an important role in defining and enhancing the quality of East Ayrshire's environment and contribute to the character of local communities. The Council will support:

- The retention and preservation of all listed buildings and buildings within conservation areas.
- The adaption and re-use of listed buildings and buildings within conservation areas to meet modern requirements, where this can be achieved in a manner sensitive to the character of the building.

Proposals for the total or partial demolition of a listed building will only be supported where it can be demonstrated beyond reasonable doubt that every effort has been made to retain the building.

Demolition will only be acceptable where it can be evidenced that:

- (i) the building is not of special interest; or
- (ii) the building is incapable of repair; or
- (iii) the demolition of the building is essential to delivering significant benefits to economic growth or the wider community; or
- (iv) the repair of the building is not economically viable and that it has been marketed at a price reflecting its location and condition to potential purchasers for a reasonable period.

Policy ENV2: Scheduled Monuments and Archaeological Resources

Development that would have an adverse effect on Scheduled Monuments or on their settings shall not be supported unless there are exceptional overriding circumstances.

Other archaeological resources should be preserved in situ wherever possible. The developer may be required to supply an archaeological evaluation report prior to the determination of a planning application. Where the case for preservation does not prevail the developer shall be required to make appropriate and satisfactory provision for archaeological excavation, recording, analysis and publication in advance of development.

Policy ENV3: Conservation Areas

Development or demolition within a conservation area or affecting its setting, shall preserve and enhance its character and be consistent with any relevant conservation area appraisal or management plan. Any development should be sympathetic to the area in terms of its layout, size, scale, design, siting, material and colour and should seek to enhance the architectural and historic qualities of the area.

Where a building contributes positively to the character of a conservation area, its proposed demolition should be assessed against the criteria contained in ENV1. Where it does not contribute to the character, demolition will be supported where a high quality redevelopment or, in exceptional circumstances, a landscaping scheme is proposed as a replacement.

Policy ENV4: Gardens and Designed Landscapes

Gardens and Designed Landscapes included in the National Inventory, and those of regional and local importance, are protected and their enhancement encouraged. Development will not be supported where it will have significant adverse impacts upon (i) its character; (ii) important views to, from and within it and; (iii) important features that contribute to its value and that justify its designation, where applicable.

Where a Proposed Development will impact on a Garden and Designed Landscape, the developer will be expected to provide a landscape management plan, to identify conservation needs and direct how change can best be accommodated.

Policy ENV5: Historic Battlefields Historic

Battlefields included in the National Inventory are protected, conserved and managed, so as to conserve their important features and enable greater understanding of their historic importance and role.

Development will not be supported where it will significantly impact upon the key landscape characteristics and important features that underpin understanding and appreciation of the Battlefield.

Where development on a Battlefield is deemed appropriate, any adverse impacts should be avoided or mitigated, through location and design details. Where possible, opportunities for positive enhancements should be identified, which will help improve interpretation and understanding of the Battlefield.

2.10 In line with relevant planning policy and guidance, this desk-based assessment seeks to clarify the site's archaeological potential and the likely significance of that potential and the need or otherwise for additional mitigation measures.

3 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

Geology

- 3.1 The Site lies at the northern limit of an area underlain by sedimentary rock of the Scottish Upper Coal Measures. To the north is basalt of the Mauchline volcanic formation. The boundary between the two formations as mapped by the British Geological Survey 1:50000 data passes through the northernmost part of the Site. Mapped superficial deposits within the Site comprise diamicton till (www.bgs.ac.uk).
- 3.2 The Soil Map of Scotland records the soil within the Site and surrounding area as non-calcareous gleys, which are described as imperfectly drained¹.

Topography

- 3.3 The Site occupies a gentle south-west-facing slope, falling from approximately 145m AOD to 131m AOD. The ground rises to the north-east of the Site to a height of 168m AOD.
- The Site is bisected by a canalised stream in a re-entrant. This flows into a tributary of the Taiglum Burn, which is located approximately 700m to the south of the Site.

-

¹ https://map.environment.gov.scot/Soil_maps/?layer=2&layer=2

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND WITH ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Timescales used in this report

Prehistoric

| Palaeolithic | 450,000 - | 10,000 BC |
|-----------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Mesolithic | 10,000 - | 4,000 BC |
| Neolithic | 4,000 - | 1,800 BC |
| Bronze Age | 1,800 - | 600 BC |
| Iron Age and Roman Iron Age | 600 - | AD 410 |

Historic

| Early Medieval | AD 410 - | 1100 |
|----------------|-----------|---------|
| Medieval | AD 1100 - | 1560 |
| Post Medieval | AD 1560 - | 1745 |
| Modern | AD 1745 - | Present |

Introduction

- 4.1 This chapter reviews the available archaeological evidence for the study site and the archaeological/historical background of the general area, and, in accordance with NPF4, considers the potential for any as yet to be discovered archaeological evidence on the study site.
- 4.2 What follows comprises a review of designated heritage assets and entries in the West of Scotland Archaeology Service (WoSAS) Historic Environment Record (HER) for a study area extending 1km radius of the study site (Figures 2 and 3), together with a historic map regression exercise charting the development of the study area from the 18th century onwards until the present day. The 1km study area was considered sufficient given the height of the Proposed Development, the surrounding topography and the adjacent sub-station. The desk-based work was verified and augmented through a systematic walkover survey of the Site.
- 4.3 Chapter 5 subsequently considers the site conditions and whether the Proposed Development will impact the theoretical archaeological potential identified below.

Designated Heritage Assets

- 4.4 There are no designated heritage assets in the Site.
- There are no designated heritage assets in the study area. The closest such assets to the Site are the Category B-listed Drongan House and associated buildings (LB14328), approximately 1.2km to the west of the Site. The nearest Scheduled Monument is Trabboch Castle (SM5281), which is 2.4km to the north of the Site. There is no intervisibility between these and Site or any other designated assets and it is considered that there is no potential for designated assets to be affected by the Proposed Development. They are not considered further.

Previous Archaeological Work

- 4.6 No archaeological work has been undertaken in or adjacent to the Site.
- 4.7 Intrusive work in the study area is limited to a watching brief undertaken approximately 500m to the south-west of the Site (E6438). No archaeological features or finds were encountered.

Results of Walkover Survey

4.8 No features of, or potentially of, archaeological interest were identified. The Site was under improved pasture and it was noted that the ground was poorly draining.

Prehistoric and Early Medieval

- 4.9 The HER holds no records relating to the Prehistoric and Early Medieval periods for the Site or study area. Evidence for these periods in general is sparse in this part of East Ayrshire.
- 4.10 The absence of evidence is likely in part to reflect the low levels of archaeological fieldwork.

 However, it is likely that the generally poorly draining ground conditions and similar factors made this area unattractive for agriculture and hence settlement during these periods.
- 4.11 It is considered that the potential for previously unrecorded archaeology to be present is low.

Medieval and Post-Medieval

- 4.12 The HER holds no records relating to the Medieval period for the Site or study area and no entries for the Site relating to the Post-Medieval period.
- 4.13 The single HER entry for the study area is for Clydenoch (45673). This relates to the farmstead recorded on the First Edition Ordnance Survey. However, Clydenoch appears on Blaeu's 1654 map², which was based on Pont's map produced in the 16th century, and Roy's Military Survey³ (1752-55). It is annotated *Klaignoch* and *Claydonugh* respectively on these maps. This indicates that the farmstead is likely to have its origins in the Medieval period. These maps also show East Terelgin (annotated *E. Terelgin* and *Terelgin*). This similarly suggests that East Tarelgin, which is located on the opposite side of the A70 from the Site, has its origins in the Medieval period. Roy depicts the land to the south of East Tarelgin as cultivated. This would include the Site. No trace of rig and furrow cultivation is visible either on the ground or on Lidar data (Figure 6); this is presumably the result of improvement from the 19th century onwards having levelled the ground.
- 4.14 It is concluded that the Site lay in cultivated land associated with the fermtoun of East Tarelgin and has low potential to contain hitherto unrecorded features of archaeological interest dating to the Medieval or Early Medieval periods.

Modern

- 4.15 With the exception of that relating to Clydenoch (see above), the HER holds no entries relating to the Modern period for the Site or the study area.
- 4.16 As discussed above, Roy's map (1752-5) shows the area in which the Site lies as cultivated land. The road from Ayr to Ochiltree was built in the late 18th century following the passing of the Turnpike Roads Act 1766. It first appears on Thomson's map (1832). This also shows the

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² https://maps.nls.uk/view/00000419#zoom=6&lat=2849&lon=3587&layers=BT

³ https://maps.nls.uk/geo/explore/#zoom=14.3&lat=55.45013&lon=-4.43247&layers=4&b=1

- watercourse that bisects the site and a shelter belt that later maps show running along the Site's western boundary.
- 4.17 The First Edition Ordnance Survey map (1860) shows the Site almost in its current configuration (Figure 4). The only exception at the western boundary where part of a shelter belt is shown within the Site. The Second Edition (not illustrated) depicts a second much wider shelter belt, annotated *Tarelgin Plantation*, immediately to the east of the original one. Subsequent maps show little change within the Site; the 1959 edition (not illustrated) shows the substation, annotated *Works*⁴. Tarelgin Plantation had by this time been felled and the land it formerly occupied is depicted as rough. Overhead lines serving the substation are shown crossing the Site. The fence defining the former shelter belt has been removed (Figure 5). As shown on the satellite and lidar imagery (Figures 5 & 6), construction of the substation in the north-western part of the Site has seen extensive ground disturbance in the area to its south.
- 4.18 It is concluded that there is negligible potential for hitherto unrecorded archaeology of this period to be present.

Assessment of Significance (Designated Assets)

4.19 There are no designated heritage assets in the study area.

Assessment of Significance (Non-Designated Assets)

4.20 As identified by desk-based work, archaeological potential by period and the likely significance of any archaeological remains which may be present is summarised in table form below.

| Period: | Identified Archaeological Potential | Identified Archaeological Significance |
|----------------|--|--|
| Prehistoric | Low | If present most probably of local importance |
| Early Medieval | Low | If present most probably of local importance |
| Medieval | Low | If present most probably of local importance |
| Post Medieval | Low | If present most probably of local importance |
| Modern | Negligible | If present most probably of local importance |

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⁴ https://maps.nls.uk/view/130200558#zoom=5&lat=5977&lon=3983&layers=BT

5 SITE CONDITIONS, THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT & REVIEW OF POTENTIAL DEVELOPMENT IMPACTS ON ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSETS

Site Conditions

5.1 A systematic walkover survey of the Site was undertaken on 30th November 2022, excluding the substation site. Both fields were under improved pasture (Plates 1-3), visibility was good. It was noted that the ground was poorly draining. No features of, or potentially of, archaeological interest were identified; any features that might have been present, such as rig and furrow would have been removed by the process of agricultural improvement.

Proposed Development

The Proposed Development comprises a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) and associated infrastructure. The batteries will be housed in storage containers. A buried cable will connect the facility to the existing infrastructure in the north-west of the Site. The parameters plan is appended (Appendix 2).

Review of Potential Development Impacts on Designated Archaeological Assets

5.3 There are no designated heritage assets in the Site or study area. Owing to lack of intervisibility with and distance from designated heritage assets, no potential impacts upon designated heritage assets have been identified.

Review of Potential Development Impacts on Non-Designated Assets

No non-designated heritage assets have been recorded previously on the Site and the current study has not identified any. It is considered that that part of the Site under pasture has low archaeological potential in respect of the Post-Medieval and earlier periods. In the remainder of the Site the potential is negligible owing to previous disturbance. The potential in respect of the Modern period is considered to be negligible. In the event that archaeology is present within the Site, it would be removed completely during construction, given the nature of modern construction methods.

6 SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 This assessment draws together the available archaeological, historic, topographic and land-use information in order to clarify the heritage significance and archaeological potential of approximately 13.1ha of land proposed for a Battery Energy Storage System development near Ochiltree, East Ayrshire. Planning permission was granted in 2022 for a similar development of lesser capacity on the Site. No archaeological condition was attached to this previous consent.
- The assessment has been prepared in accordance with relevant policy and guidance and provides a description of the relevant cultural heritage baseline, identifies heritage assets that may be affected by the Proposed Development, assesses archaeological potential and identifies the likely impacts of the Proposed Development upon heritage assets as a result of both its construction and operation.
- There are no designated heritage assets in the Site or study area. It is considered that there is no potential for the Proposed Development to affect designated heritage assets.
- There are no known heritage assets within the Site. The HER holds no entries relating to evidence of activity earlier than the Medieval period in the study area and evidence of pre-Medieval activity in this part of East Ayrshire is relatively sparse. The ground in the Site and surrounding area is poorly draining and hence unattractive for settlement. It is considered therefore that there is low potential for hitherto unrecorded archaeology to be present in the Site.
- In the event that archaeology is present, it would be removed during construction. The likelihood of this occurring is considered low given the archaeological potential of the Site. Given the low likelihood of archaeological impacts occurring, no further work in respect of this is recommended.

Sources Consulted

General

National Library of Scotland

WoSAS Historic Environment Record

Internet

British Geological Survey – http://www.bgs.ac.uk/discoveringGeology/geologyOfBritain/viewer.html

Bibliographic

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists Standard & Guidance for historic environment desk-based assessment 2014, updated 2020.

HES 2016 Managing Change in the Historic Environment: Setting

HES 2018 EIA Handbook

Cartographic

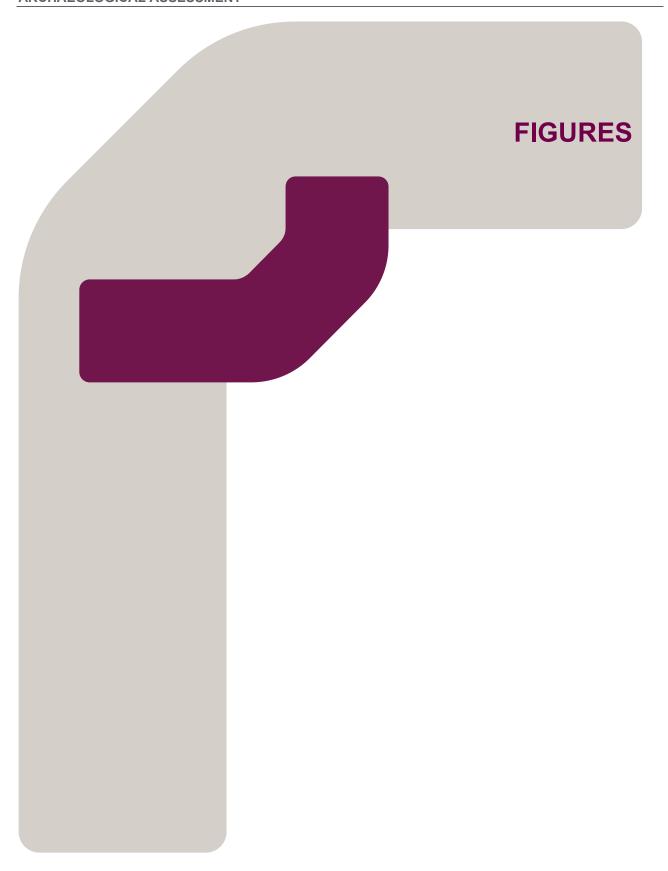
Blaeu, J 1654 Kyle

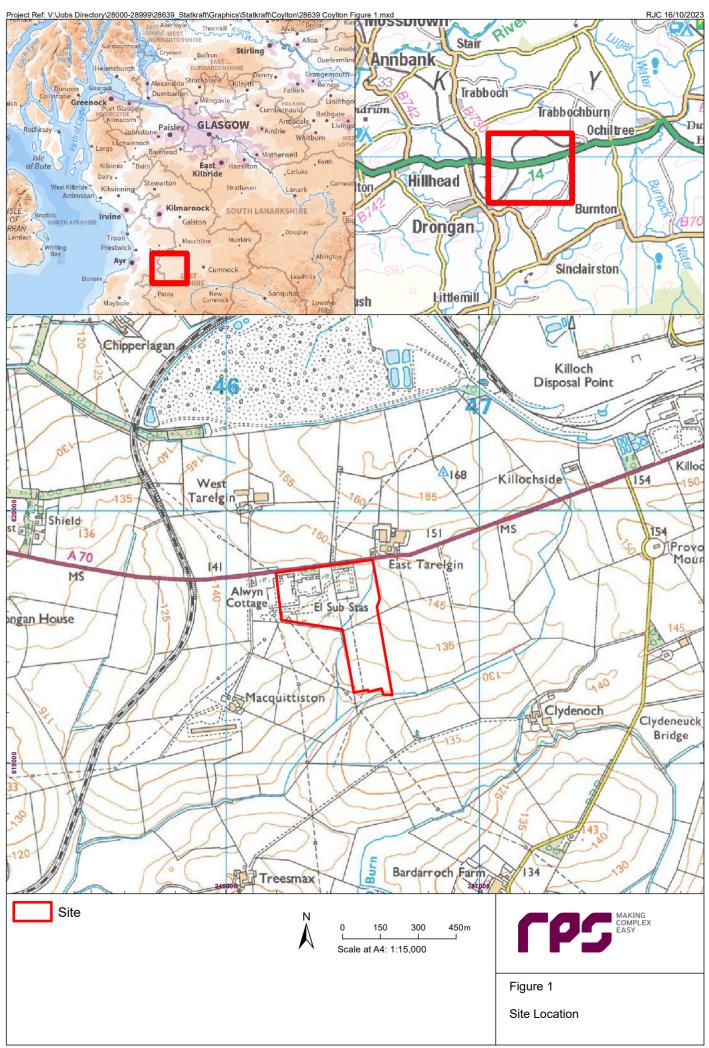
Roy, W Military Survey 1752-55

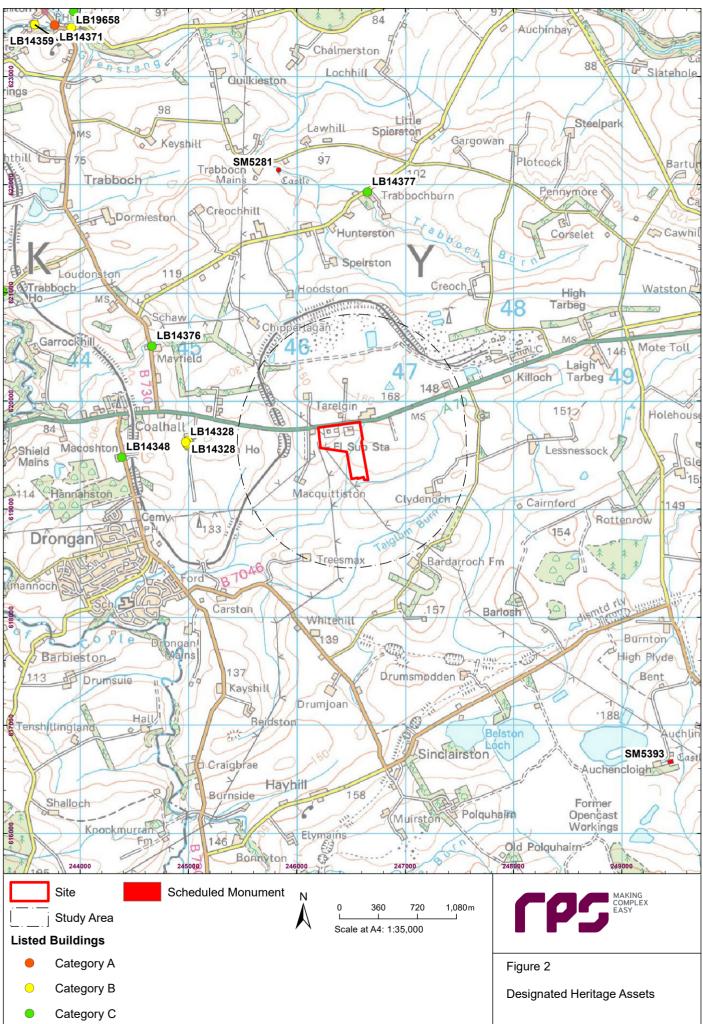
Armstrong, A 1775 A New Map of Ayrshire

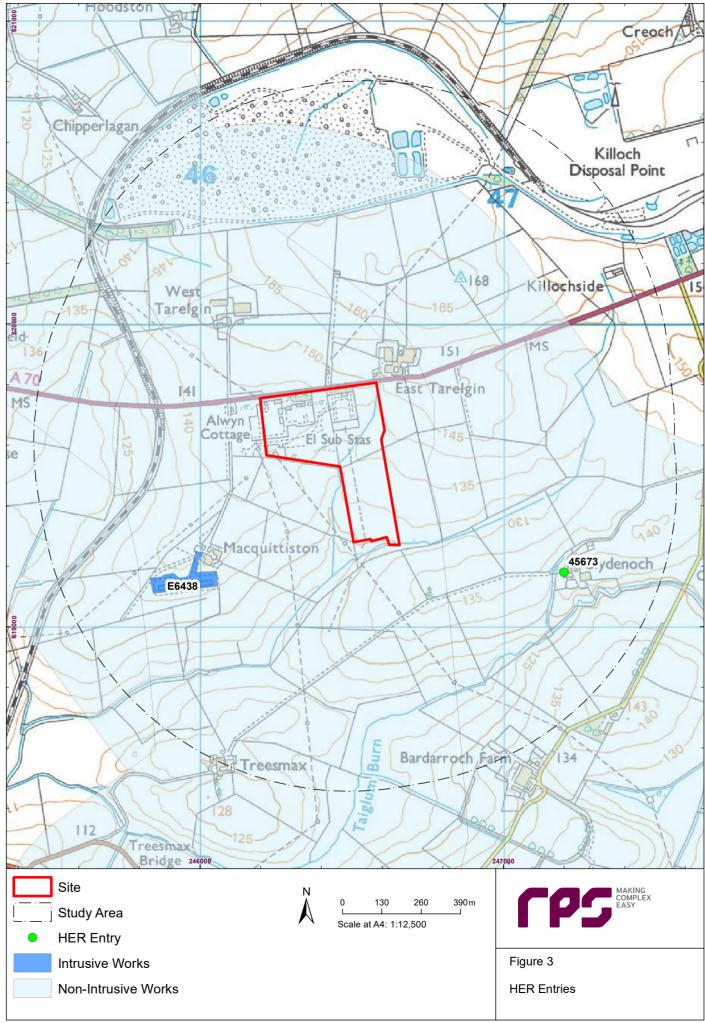
Thomson, J 1832 Northern Part of Ayrshire. Southern Part.

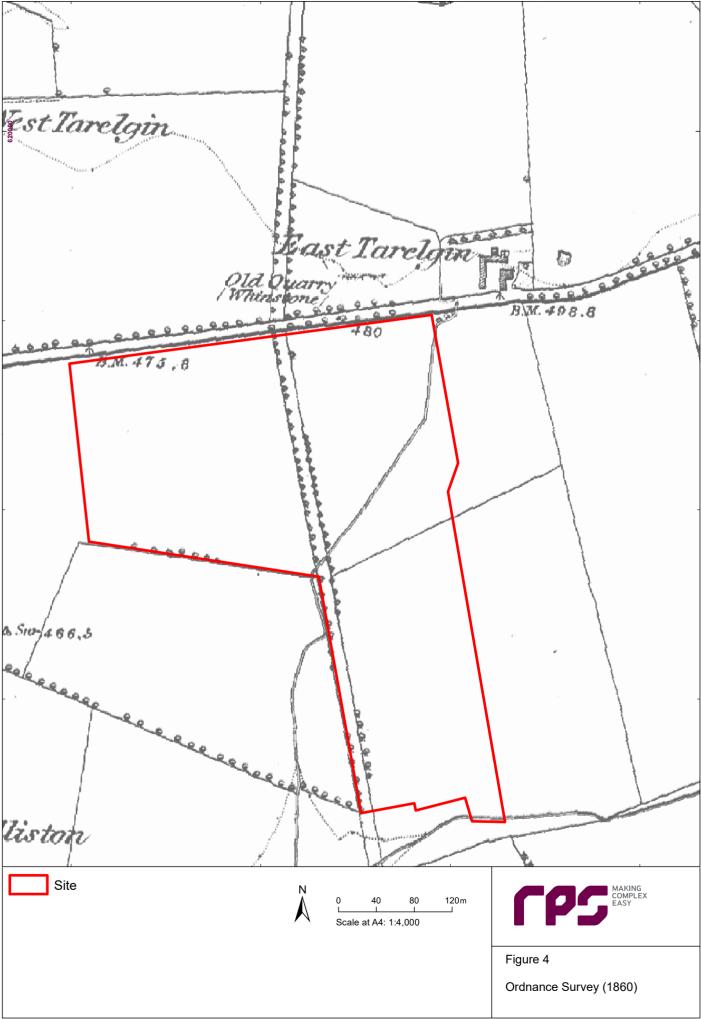
Ordnance Survey 1860, 1910, 1949, 1959



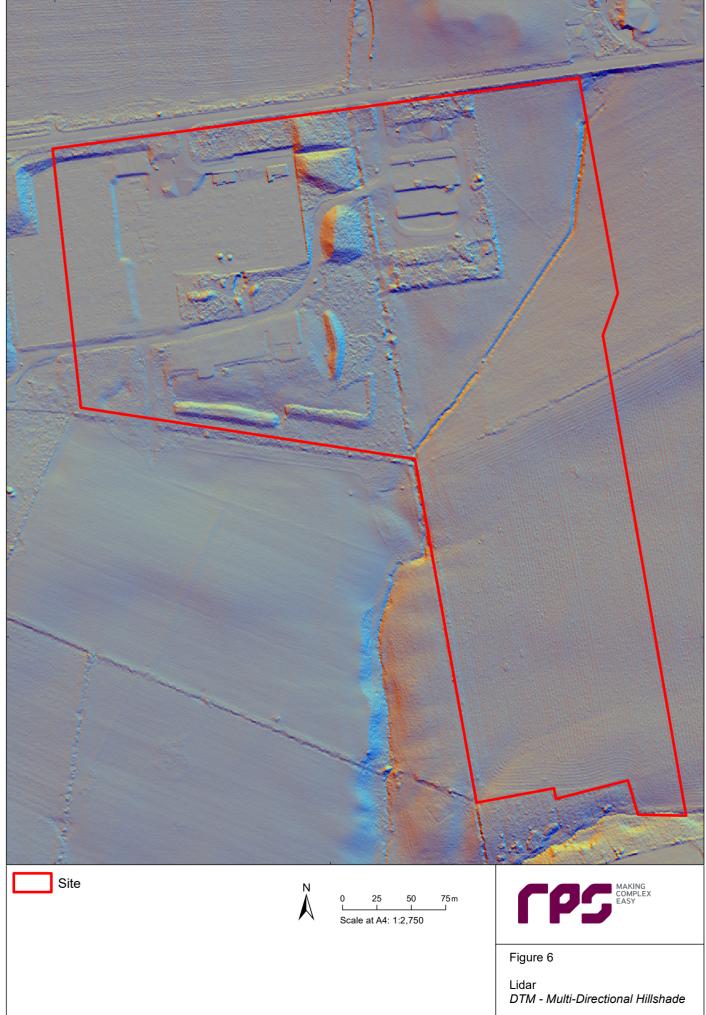












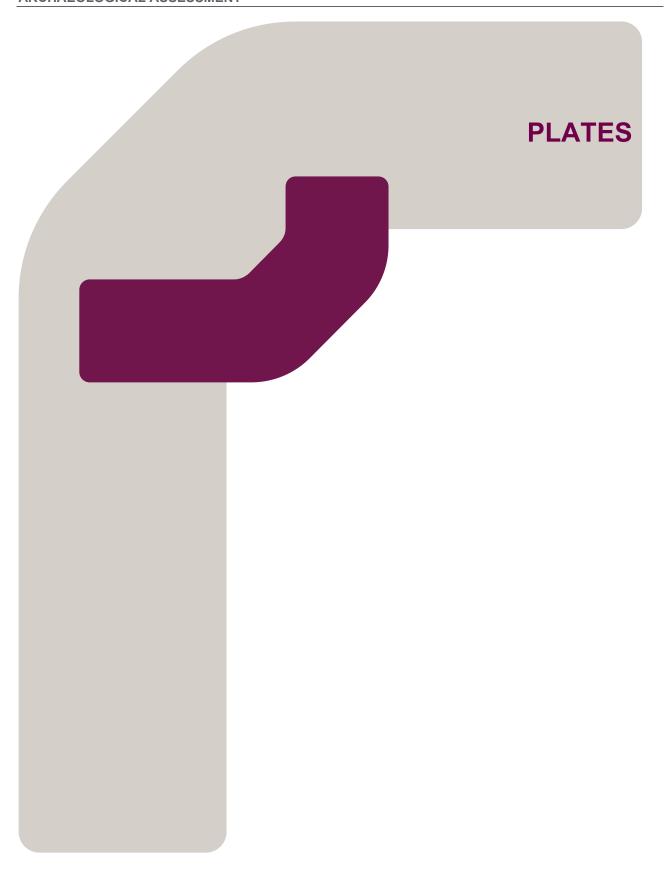




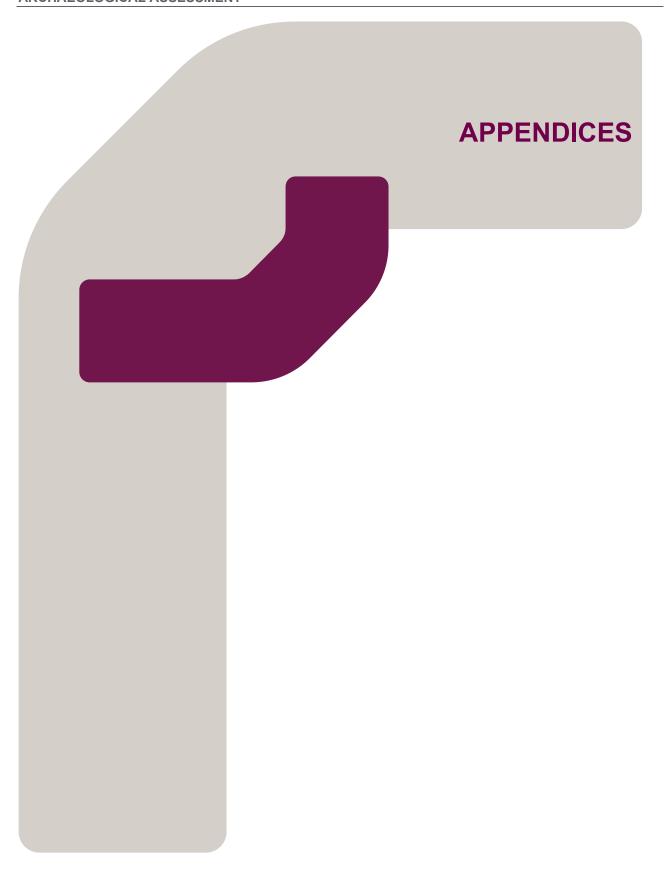
Plate 1: General view north-east across northern field



Plate 2: General view south across northern field



Plate 3: General view south across southern field



Appendix 1

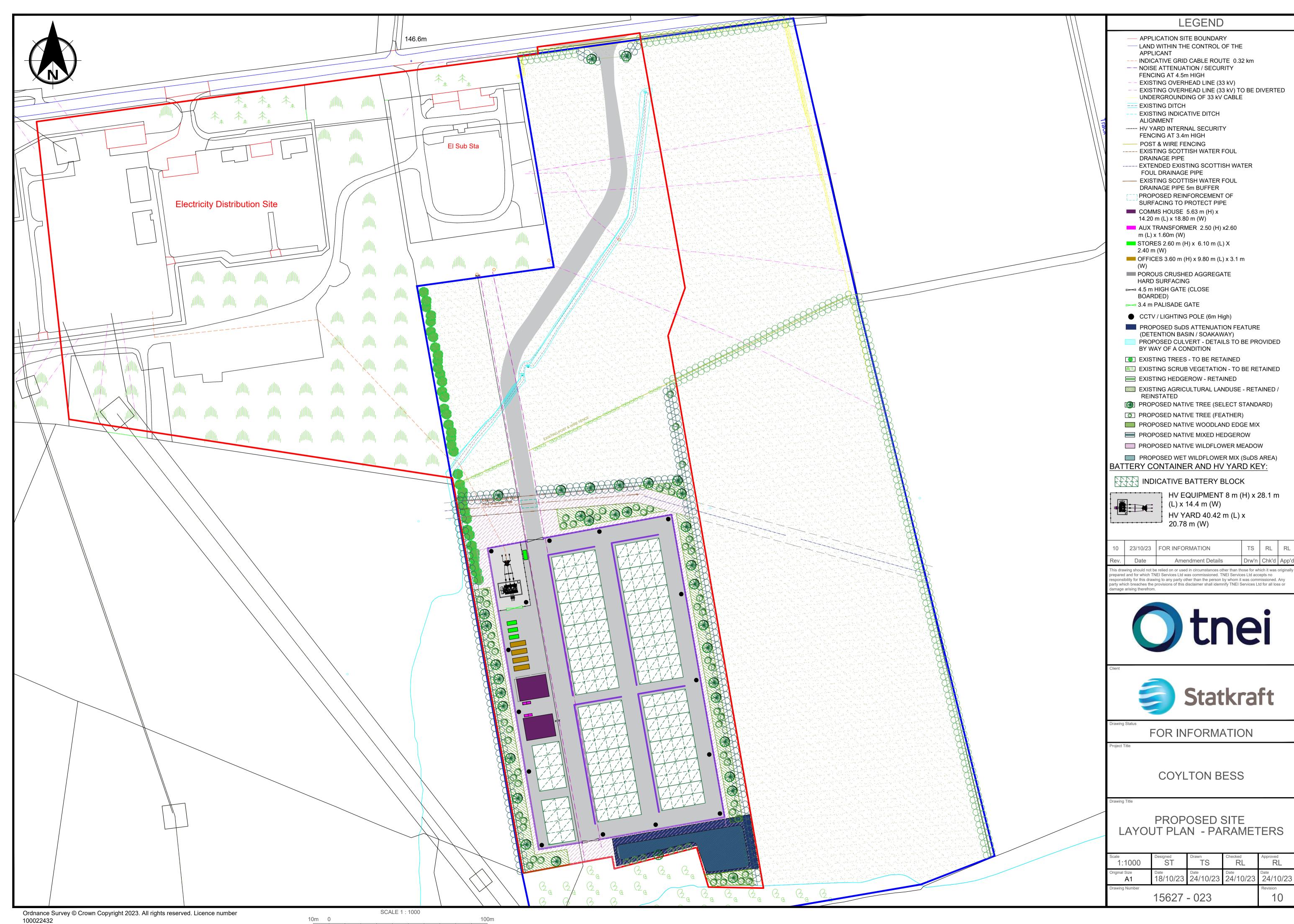
Gazetteer

ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

| WOSASPIN | NAME | TYPE |
|-----------------|---------------|---------------------------------|
| 45673 | Clydenoch | Farmstead |
| E6438 and 96589 | Macquittiston | No Class (event) Watching Brief |

Appendix 2

Parameters Plan



10m 0 100m

