

LT09 Shetland-Caithness HVDC Cable

Sound Scheduled Monument, Weisdale Voe, Shetland

Setting Appraisal

Project No: 855

ORCA

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1.0 Introduction

SSE has commissioned the Orkney Research Centre for Archaeology (ORCA) to provide an appraisal of the potential impact upon the setting of the Scheduled Monument (SM) of Sound laird's house, chapel and burial ground (SM13049) from the proposed Weisdale Voe landfall and onshore cable link to Kergord of the Shetland HVDC interconnector cable.

The SM is centred on at National Grid Reference (NGR) HU 3858 50127 (see Figure 1) on the northwest shore of Weisdale Voe, in the parish of Tingwall, Whiteness and Weisdale, Mainland Shetland. The proposed landfall and onshore cable route leading away from this point are located some 60m (landfall) and at least 15m (cable route) south of the southern edge of the boundary of the Scheduled area.

Any direct impacts on any identified archaeological features are not part of the scope of this document, but it should be noted that the wayleave corridor has been designed to exclude direct impacts on known sites (see Figure 1). It is understood that it has been recommended that a Written Scheme of Investigation be designed that will ensure avoidance of any discrete identified features and conduct an archaeological watching brief in this area.

This appraisal has been conducted under a Rochdale Envelope approach. The basis of this design envelope is to apply a “worst case” approach to the assessment of the potential setting impacts associated with the Project on the SM. This allows for flexibility of design approach if required, enabling the potential evolution of specific elements of the Project design beyond the submission of the planning application. The description of the current iteration of the project design details at landfall and at Sound is in Section 6 below.

Because this report has been written during the initial phase of movement lockdown to reduce the spread of Covid-19, it has not been possible to go out into the field and collect photographs of Sound and its setting. Instead, the reader is referred to photographs of the site and its surroundings available on the internet, where appropriate, throughout the document. These images are not reproduced in this document in order to avoid any copyright issues.

2.0 Legislative Framework and Policy Context

There are international legally binding conventions, EU directives, UK and Scottish

legislation, policy frameworks and guidance to consider in relation to the historic environment. Various EU directives have been incorporated in UK and Scottish legislation that include the requirement to address impacts on the historic environment. The following relevant guidance and legislation relating to setting in the historic environment were used in the preparation of this Appraisal.

2.1 International and European

Two international conventions, which concern cultural heritage, are of relevance to this study, along with a declaration by a global non-governmental organisation:

- The European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (revised), known as the Valletta Convention, was ratified by the UK Government in 2000. This contains provisions for the protection of archaeological heritage, preferably in situ, but with provisions for appropriate recording and recovery if disturbance is unavoidable.
- The European Landscape Convention (ratified by the UK government in 2006), promotes the protection, management and planning of landscapes in Europe, including the historical and cultural aspects of landscapes, including the requirement that the historic environment needs to be considered in environmental impact assessments and the development planning process. These requirements are also included in EU Directives, which have been incorporated into UK and Scottish legislation.
- The International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) Xi'an Declaration on the Conservation of the Setting of Heritage Structures, Sites and Areas (2005) contains the first internationally accepted definition of setting, which has importance when it is part of, or contributes to, the significance and distinctive character of a cultural heritage asset. Concepts in the Declaration have been incorporated into Historic Environment Scotland's 2016 Guidance Note, Managing Change in the Historic Environment: Setting.

2.2 UK and Scottish Legislation

- The primary piece of UK legislation concerning archaeology is The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 (and as subsequently amended) concerning sites that warrant statutory protection due to being of national importance "by reason of the historic, architectural, traditional, artistic or

archaeological interest attaching to it". Impacts of proposed development works upon the setting of a Scheduled Monument form an important consideration in the granting or refusal of planning consent. The Act is administered in Scotland by Historic Environment Scotland (HES) for the Scottish Government.

- The Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 and subsequent amendments states that the site or setting of any Scheduled Monuments (and other nationally designated sites and areas) are of material consideration during the planning process. In the case of a development proposal that is likely to affect the site or setting of a scheduled monument, schedule 5 of the Town and Country Planning (Development Management) (Scotland) Regulations 2008 requires planning authorities to consult HES.

2.3 Scottish Policy and Guidance

- Scottish Planning Policy (SPP) 2014 promotes the care and protection of the designated and non-designated historic environment (including individual assets, related settings and the wider cultural landscape). Change should be sensitively managed to avoid or minimise adverse impacts on the fabric and setting of the asset, and ensure that its special characteristics are protected, conserved or enhanced. It states that where there is potential for a proposed development to have an adverse effect on a scheduled monument or on the integrity of its setting, permission should only be granted where there are exceptional circumstances;
- The Scottish Government's Planning Advice Note (PAN 2/2011) Planning and Archaeology 2011 states that scheduled monuments are of national importance and should be preserved in situ and in an appropriate setting. When determining a planning application, the desirability of preserving a monument (whether scheduled or not) and its setting is a material consideration;
- The Historic Environment Policy Statement for Scotland (HEPS) 2019 includes policies that decisions affecting any part of the historic environment (including setting) should be informed by an inclusive understanding of its breadth and cultural significance; that detrimental impacts on the historic environment should be avoided, but where these are identified and unavoidable, these should be minimised, and steps should be taken to demonstrate that alternatives have been explored and mitigation measures put in place;

- Historic Environment Scotland Designation Policy and Selection Guidance 2019 stands alongside HEPS 2019 and outlines the principles and criteria that underpin the designation of Scheduled Monuments and other types of sites and places that are of national importance; and
- Managing Change in the Historic Environment: Setting (2016) is one of series of HES Guidance Notes that are intended to inform planning policies and the determination of applications relating to the historic environment. series. The Guidance defines setting as the way the surroundings of a historic asset or place contribute to how it is understood, appreciated and experienced.
- Historic Environment Scotland and Scottish Natural Heritage (2018) Environmental Impact Assessment Handbook provides guidance on the assessment process, principles, methodologies, potential issues and good practice.

2.4 Local Planning Policy and Guidance

- The Shetland Local Development Plan 2014 (SLDP) contains various policies covering the safeguarding and sustainable management of the historic environment, which includes buildings, monuments, landscapes, areas, the context and setting of historic features in the landscape and the patterns of past use.
- SLDP Historic Environment Policy HE4 states that scheduled monuments, and other identified nationally important archaeological resources should be preserved in situ, and within an appropriate setting. Developments that have an adverse effect on scheduled monuments or the integrity of their settings should not be permitted unless there are exceptional circumstances.

3.0 Consultations

This Appraisal is informed by responses from HES and Dr Val Turner, Shetland Regional Archaeologist, Shetland Amenity Trust, on behalf of SIC Planning Authority.

Identical HES responses (Case ID: 300038124, 27 April 2020 and 30 April) for different parts of the project licensing stated that:

- insufficient information is provided on the impacts of the cable laying and landfall works at Weisdale Voe on the Sound, laird's house, chapel and burial ground

220m SSE of Oversound (Scheduled Monument, Index no. 13049). We ...require further information on the potential for impacts on this scheduled monument and its setting in order to reach a view on the proposals.

- we require a detailed description of any cable laying and landing works occurring within 100m of this scheduled monument [see Figure 1 for 100m zone]. We also consider that impacts on this scheduled monument and its setting should be assessed within any further information submission. Where impacts are identified, we recommend that mitigation by design is employed to avoid or reduce such impacts. We would expect any such mitigation to be fully described within a further information submission.

The Shetland Regional Archaeologist commented on Planning Application 2020/011/WL HVDC Access Weisdale Voe, 20th April 2020, that:

- In terms of the landing point, although I am aware of there having been geophysical and walkover surveys undertaken in this area, there is no reflection of this in the report and no information about any mitigation. Since the landing point is part of the redline area (which includes an extensive scheduled area) a full WSI is required before any work can go ahead in this area. Since the scheduled area includes a medieval graveyard and ruinous buildings, it will for example, be necessary to show that the landing point will be sufficiently distant not to alter the water table or cause any adverse impact due to vibration, rock breaking or other process. A WSI should include all these points and should seamlessly meet with the subsea WSI in consideration of the intertidal zone (where coring will be required).

4.0 Assessment Methodology

4.1 Assessment Criteria: Sound Scheduled Monument

The determination of the cultural significance or value of historic environment assets is based on statutory designation and/or professional judgement against the characteristics and criteria expressed in Historic Environment Scotland Designation Policy and Selection Guidance 2019 Annexes 1 to 5.

The Haa of Sound (an 18th-century laird's house), associated structures and grounds, the fishing station of Sound, including böds (fishermen's booths or huts), and a burial ground within which the remains of Our Lady's Chapel are found, has been designated as a Scheduled Monument (SM13049) and thus of national importance.

The monument is of national importance (and therefore likely to be highly sensitive to potential impacts or change) because of a variety of intrinsic, contextual and associative characteristics. It has an inherent potential to contribute to our understanding of the past, in particular the construction techniques and domestic life of an early modern laird's house and fishing station, and trade and processes associated with the fishing industry, as well as wider early modern society and the ecclesiastical history of Shetland. The monument may also shed light on the nature of land ownership in Shetland. The site's relatively good preservation enhances this potential. Its loss would diminish our ability to understand the early modern architecture of Shetland and the nature of land ownership in this period (Statement of National Importance <http://portal.historicenvironment.scot/designation/SM13049> [accessed 14th May 2020]).

4.2 Assessment Criteria: Setting

Although there is no statutory definition, 'setting' is an important consideration in assessing changes to the historic environment in the planning process (see Section 2). Definitions of setting provided by governing bodies include:

"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 of [sic] 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." (SPP 2014: p.75);

"The setting of a heritage structure, site or area is defined as the immediate and extended environment that is part of, or contributes to, its significance and distinctive character" (ICOMOS, 2005).

"the way the surroundings of a historic asset or place contribute to how it is understood, appreciated and experienced. Monuments, buildings, gardens and settlements were almost always placed and orientated deliberately, normally with reference to the surrounding topography, resources, landscape and other structures". (HES Managing Change in the Historic Environment: Setting 2016: paras 2.2 & 2.3).

This methodology uses HES' guidance note on setting, which lists a range of factors that can contribute to setting, not all of which will apply to every case:

- current landscape or townscape context;
- visual envelope, incorporating views to, from and across or beyond the historic asset;
- key vistas, such as rows of trees, buildings or natural features that give a

structure a context, whether or not intentional;

- the historic asset's prominence in views throughout the surrounding area;
- character of the surrounding landscape;
- general and specific views including foregrounds and backdrops;
- views from within an asset out over key elements in the surrounding landscape;
- relationships with both built and natural features;
- aesthetic qualities;
- other non-visual factors such as historical, artistic, literary, linguistic, or scenic associations, intellectual relationships (e.g. to a theory, plan or design), or sensory factors; and
- a 'Sense of Place': the overall experience formed by the above factors.

The HES guidance on setting recommends the three stages below should be followed in order to assess any impacts on the setting of a historic asset:

- Stage 1: identify the historic asset that might be affected by the proposed development (see Section 5.1)
- 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 (see Section 5.2)
- Stage 3: evaluate the potential impact of the proposed changes on the setting, and the extent to which any negative impacts can be mitigated (see Sections 7 and 8).

4.2.1 Assessment of Setting Sensitivity

The integrity and preservation of an appropriate setting of a cultural heritage asset are key factors in the planning process (SPP 2014: para 145; PAN 2/2011: para 14). However, the setting of a cultural heritage asset that has undergone change may still retain integrity and contribute to the understanding, appreciation, experience and value of the heritage asset and may remain sensitive to further change. Conversely, a nationally important asset does not necessarily have high sensitivity to changes in its setting.

Setting is considered particularly relevant in cases of well-preserved cultural heritage assets that are prominent features within the landscape. The setting of a cultural heritage asset that survives as part of a well-preserved historic landscape that also

includes other related heritage assets, is ascribed a greater weight as compared to a cultural heritage asset that is set within an area of more recent land use which disrupts the asset's setting therefore making it more difficult to appreciate.

The sensitivity of the setting of Sound SM was assessed by considering two factors: the relative weight that statute and policy attach to the asset, and the importance of the setting to the understanding, appreciation, experience and value of the cultural heritage asset. The importance and sensitivity of setting is defined in Table 1 below.

Sensitivity to change	Importance of Setting
High	<p>A setting that makes a critical contribution to the understanding and/or appreciation and/or experience of the siting and/or historical/archaeological/architectural context or value of a receptor.</p> <p>(Examples of this include: highly prominent topographic locations in surroundings that include related monuments in close association; surroundings that are believed to be little changed or with no significant changes from those when the receptor was created)</p>
Medium	<p>A setting that makes a positive contribution to the understanding and/or appreciation and/or experience of the siting and/or historical/archaeological/architectural context or value of a receptor.</p> <p>(Examples of this include: surroundings that complement the siting and appearance of a receptor, such as the presence of a feature of the rural past within a more recent farming landscape containing little urban or industrial development; asset's relationship to surroundings partly compromised)</p>
Low	<p>A setting that makes a little positive contribution to the understanding and/or appreciation and/or experience of the siting and/or historical/archaeological/architectural context or value of a receptor.</p> <p>(Examples of this include: surroundings that only partially complement the siting and appearance of a receptor, such as the presence of a feature of the rural past within a partly urbanised or industrialised landscape; asset's relationship to surroundings significantly compromised)</p>
Negligible	<p>A setting that does not contribute positively to the understanding and/or appreciation and/or experience of the siting and/or historical/archaeological/architectural context or value of a receptor.</p> <p>(Examples of this include: immediate surroundings, such as commercial coniferous woodland or an industrial development, that are not relevant to the understanding of the context of the receptor)</p>

Table 1: Criteria for contribution of setting to the understanding and appreciation of a cultural heritage receptor and sensitivity to change

The magnitude of impact on the setting of cultural heritage assets is a function of the proximity, design, visibility and scale of changes likely to result from the Proposed Development to the asset's setting, such as on the character of the landscape in how it relates to the associated cultural heritage asset, or on key vistas and sightlines.

This may include physical changes to the vistas and sightlines, to the fabric of the landscape, effects on significant individual elements of the landscape, and effects on characteristic combinations or patterns of elements, all in relation to archaeology and cultural heritage. The magnitude of impact on the setting was assessed using the criteria set out in Table 2.

Magnitude of Impact	Criteria
High	Major impacts fundamentally changing the setting of a receptor, leading to total or major alteration to the setting, removing its integrity and the understanding and/or appreciation and/or experience and/or value of a receptor
Medium	Moderate impacts discernibly and materially changing the setting of a receptor leading to a setting that is partly altered, having some effect on the understanding and/or appreciation and/or experience and/or value of a receptor
Low	Minor but still detectable impacts that do not materially alter the baseline setting of the receptor or the understanding and/or appreciation and/or experience and/or value of a receptor
Negligible	A very slight and barely distinguishable change from baseline conditions, approximating to the 'no change' situation

Table 2: Magnitude of Impact on setting

The sensitivity of the cultural heritage asset's setting are combined with the magnitude of the impact to determine the level of the significance of the effect in a matrix (Table 3), where Major is considered to threaten the integrity of the setting (SPP 2014: paragraph 145).

It should be noted that these categories are guideline criteria only, since assessments of magnitude and significance of effect are also matters of professional judgement. The tables and matrix are tools to be used as a guide and are not a mechanical system.

Sensitivity of Setting	Magnitude of Impact			
	High	Medium	Low	Negligible
High	MAJOR	MAJOR	MODERATE	MINOR
Medium	MAJOR	MODERATE	MINOR	MINOR
Low	MODERATE	MINOR	NEGLIGIBLE	NEGLIGIBLE
Negligible	MINOR	NEGLIGIBLE	NEGLIGIBLE	NEGLIGIBLE

Table 3: Significance of Effect matrix

In this methodology and following standard practice, moderate and major effects are considered significant effects that may require consideration by the competent authorities and will require control, management, and mitigation (PAN 2/2011). However, it should be noted that impacts that lead to non-significant effects may still benefit from management or mitigation.

4.3 Assessment Criteria: Cumulative Impacts

Cumulative impacts on the setting of cultural heritage assets are derived from the combination of the overall impact of a series of developments or from the combination of different environmental impacts. The following guidance that refers to the key principles underlying the assessment of cumulative impacts was used as a basis for this assessment:

- Historic Environment Scotland and Scottish Natural Heritage (2018) Environmental Impact Assessment Handbook
- Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Management & Assessment, 3rd edn, 2013).

Because there are no similar developments in the setting and the small scale of the permanent infrastructure that would be in place (post and wire fencing, drainage ditches, the mouth of buried cable ducts with warning sign and a link box with wood-effect protective fencing – see Section 6), it is considered that there will be negligible cumulative impact on the setting of the Scheduled Monument and that has been scoped out of this Appraisal.

5.0 Sound and its Setting

5.1 The Historic Asset

The monument comprises the remains of an 18th-century laird's house, known as the Haa of Sound, associated structures (well, barns/outbuildings and a cottage) and garden boundaries, the fishing station of Sound, including böds (fishermen's booths or huts), and a burial ground within which are the remains of the Chapel of Our Lady. The monument, centred on at National Grid Reference (NGR) HU 3858 50127, lies on the west shore of Weisdale Voe.

The following information is mostly taken from the scheduling document (<http://portal.historicenvironment.scot/designation/SM13049> [accessed 14th May 2020]).

The scheduled area is irregular in plan, and includes the buildings, enclosures, piers, graveyard and an area around these within which associated remains are likely to survive (see Figure 1). The modern gate allowing access to the field immediately to the south is specifically excluded from the scheduling to allow for its maintenance. All active burial lairs are specifically excluded from the scheduling. The boundary walls of the graveyard are upkeep and the grass tended occasionally. Although we are uncertain if any lairs currently active, the graveyard is still in use in that relatives may visit graves, since although most stones belong to the 19th and first half of the 20th century, some people were buried here at least up to the mid 1990s. (<https://www.findagrave.com/cemetery/2700027/> [accessed 17th May 2020]).

The graveyard is located on a promontory into the Voe, and set on a mound which is likely to contain the remains of an earlier, medieval chapel (see photo by Tom Brocher at <https://www.findagrave.com/cemetery/2700027/sound-kirkyard/photo>). No chapel ruins were visible by 1878 (OS Name Book No.16, 87), although it is possible that two adjacent grave enclosures may have adapted the lower courses of a chapel. The site retains sufficient structural integrity to add to our knowledge and understanding of medieval and later architecture and religious practices. The enclosure may contain human skeletal remains, which could provide valuable information on life in the medieval period and later, including diet, health, incidence of disease and life expectancy.

There is a tradition that two wealthy sisters founded the chapel, after surviving a storm off the coast of Shetland, during which they vowed to Our Lady that they would erect a church in her honour on the spot at which they were able to land. Our Lady's Kirk was held in special regard by fisherman and mariners, by women seeking husbands, and by the sick. It remained a place of pilgrimage after the Reformation of 1560 to the early 19th century, with records of people giving thanks for safe journeys, lighting candles and leaving coins in the ruins (Brand 1703, 92; Hibbert 1822, 464).

The laird's house is Palladian in form and measures 10m by 5m (see photo at <https://www.elizabethskitchendiary.co.uk/a-walk-back-in-time-john-clunies-ross/>). The ruinous building originally had two storeys and three bays, with rear wing to the west and courtyard to the east. The house has a symmetrical façade, which survives almost to the wall-head. There is a single storey, 3-bay cottage to the west of the laird's house, with a small barn adjacent to the southwest. There is a well to the southeast of the laird's house. The adjoining fields and gardens are formally arranged, with drystone walls and with a few mature trees surviving within the

grounds. At the shore there are böds and two piers, demarcating a small harbour. To the south are the remains of a laundry, a barn and another dwelling as well as the graveyard (see photos at <https://www.elizabethskitchendiary.co.uk/a-walk-back-in-time-john-clunies-ross/>).

This type of laird's house can be dated to the 18th century on stylistic grounds, supported by the fact that the böds are next to the harbour, rather than in the house. The proximity of the house to the fishing station indicates that this was probably the house of a merchant (Finnie 2013). The fishing station has a beach suitable for the drying and curing of fish. The formal layout of the grounds indicates that this was an important house and the associated buildings add to the interest of the complex. There is a strong likelihood that archaeological deposits associated with the construction, use and abandonment of the complex survive.

The Haa House developed from the 17th century as the residence of lairds and merchants, and classicism began to appear in these structures from the early 18th century (ibid.). Lairds were landed proprietors who held land directly or indirectly from the Crown. As the homes of the lesser gentry, laird's houses are a crucial part of the settlement pattern in this period. They have the potential to inform our understanding of the nature of settlement and society in the early modern period. Haas were sited to suit the activities of their occupiers, with those of merchants located near harbours, sheltered voes or other trading locations for the benefit of import and export. The occupation of this laird's house seems to have been linked to the fishing station, which was likely a source of income for the laird. It has the potential to shed light on lairds' involvement in the fishing industry, which was so important to Shetland in this period.

Shetland's distinctive land ownership pattern changed in the mid 16th century. In the medieval period there were few resident lairds and the land was mostly settled by the tenants of absentee landlords. In the 16th century, resident lairds began to consolidate landholdings and, where they owned more than one estate, built more than one laird's house, leading to a relatively dense distribution of this architectural type. The Haa of Sound retains the potential to inform our understanding of this regional variation. Lairds and merchants in Shetland often also had town houses in Lerwick which, together with the lairds' houses, can enhance our understanding of the settlement pattern and architectural developments.

The Haa of Sound was the seat of the Ross family, which produced several eminent

figures. In the late 18th century, Robert Ross of Sound is named as a heritor resident in the parish and owned the fourth largest amount of land, with 133 merks (most had far less than 100). He is also named as the main person responsible for getting a road built between Tingwall and Lerwick (OSA 1799, 281), and recorded as driving 40 pilot whales ashore, probably on the other side of the Voe, with 70 or 80 men (Fenton 1997, 548). It was the birthplace (in 1786) of John Clunies-Ross, a sea captain who visited and, in 1827, settled on Direction Island in the Indian Ocean and appointed himself Ross I, King of the Cocos (Keeling) Islands (Finnie 1990, 37). Queen Victoria granted the family the islands in perpetuity in 1886 but John Clunies-Ross's descendants were forced to sell them to Australia in 1978. Hibbert describes John Ross as growing Swedish turnips of good size in his grounds (11lb 8oz is recorded), and that sycamores seem to thrive better in his garden than any other place in Shetland (Hibbert 1822, 464).

5.2 Definition and Analysis of the Setting

Sound Scheduled Monument is located on the western shore of Weisdale Voe, on the low-lying belt of the Weisdale Limestone Member that underlies Weisdale Voe and the comparatively rich agricultural land of the valleys of Weisdale and Kergord (Knox 1985, 82; <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> [accessed 16th May 2020]). The horizon, which has no modern structures on it, is bounded by the moorland ridgeline of the Hills of Huxter and Hellister 1.3km to the east, and by the steep rise of the slopes west of the monument up to the Hill of Sound. There are open views to and from Sound across, up and down the voe. See <https://canmore.org.uk/site/232144/sound-fishing-station-john-clunies-rosss-house> for an aerial view of Weisdale Voe.

Sound SM is set in a crofting landscape with dispersed houses that extends along the western side of Weisdale Voe (see <https://canmore.org.uk/site/748/sound-our-ladys-chapel> for an aerial view of the SM and the surrounding area). These crofters are likely to have been tenants of the Sound estate. Most of the stone-built croft houses are ruined now, but are shown roofed on the 1st and 2nd Ordnance Survey (OS) mapping, published in 1880 and 1901, therefore do not appear to have suffered the 19th-century clearances that occurred further up the valley, the true extent of which is not certain (Knox 1985, 168-171). It would seem the houses became derelict during the 20th century (one ruin with a walled garden is within the corridor on the west side of Cott road), perhaps replaced by the modern houses that now scatter the area. However, parts of Sound itself appear to have fallen into decay and are

depicted roofless by the end of the 19th century, including the main house (OS 1880; OS 1901).

The associated crofting field pattern is one of straight boundaries of low turf, drystone dykes and post-and-wire fencing, oriented to the shoreline, often with access to it. Sites 2 and 3 on Figure 1 denote a field terrace and a well, for example. Site 41 is the remains of a smithy present on the 1st edn OS (OS 1898) but is no longer extant on the 2nd edition. It was also identified as a small stone heap during a watching brief (Barton 2013) and by a geophysical survey (Davies 2016). Current land use is mostly one of improved pasture. There is no obvious evidence of the remains of dwellings and field systems that pre-date the agricultural changes of the 18th or 19th century (e.g. rigs, curving boundaries and patterns based on a township approach to farming), although some remnants are likely to exist as low earthworks, and rig was noted in the geophysical survey (Davies 2016). The designed grounds of Sound itself is distinct from this field pattern, but presumably the tenant farming has a direct link to the design because of the barns that are within the scheduled area.

The setting of Sound in relation to the agricultural crofting landscape across Weisdale Voe has been much altered, with the Kalliness housing estate 300m away directly across the water (see Figure 2 and photo by Tom Brocher of the graveyard with Kalliness behind at <https://www.findagrave.com/cemetery/2700027/sound-kirkyard/photo>), along with the modern houses of the Hellister-Huxter area, and the A971 main road to the west of Shetland.

The shoreline at Sound and along Weisdale Voe is also part of the monument's setting. The Chapel of Our Lady and the associated graveyard would have been accessed in the past by sea as well as by land, probably more so (see view from the sea by Tom Brocher at <https://www.findagrave.com/cemetery/2700027/sound-kirkyard/photo>). The shoreline within the scheduled area comprises a low rocky headland on which the graveyard mound is sited, and to the north, piers enclosing a drying shore and landing place, and the fishing booths above them. Outwith the scheduled boundary, the shoreline comprises a mixture of scattered rock outcrops, shingle and boulder beaches, ideal as simple landing places for small wooden boats that can then be dragged up above high water, with occasional boat nousts present and still in use. A possible fish trap has also been identified at the shore (Site 1 on Figure 1), beside a stone-built field boundary and a possible pier, labelled as 'groynes' by the OS (see Figure 3).

Sound is a prominent feature of the west side of Weisdale Voe, with the graveyard headland and the trees especially drawing the eye in this otherwise treeless location, which have been a subject of interest for two centuries (Hibbert 1822, 464). The fishing station has also been a subject of scenic admiration in Weisdale Voe *“On the west is the house of John Ross, Esq. whose active embarkation in the fishery for cod, by means of decked vessels, much enlivens the scenery of the place”* (op.cit. 463).

Clearly, open views and approaches to and from Sound across and up and down the Voe and from the sea are a key part of its setting, as well as views down from the Cott road and from the A971 around the voe where these occur (see Google Earth Streetview for example).

There are also designed sightlines in the formal grounds of the Haa of Sound. There is a northwest-southeast axis with the stone-walled ‘drive’ down to the house from the Cott road (see photograph at <https://www.elizabethskitchendiary.co.uk/a-walk-back-in-time-john-clunies-ross/>), and then the view (now somewhat overgrown) southeast to the voe from the front of the main house, along a tree/shrub-lined avenue or path, which can be seen on the early OS maps, even though the main house is roofless at this time (OS 1888; OS 1901). The other axis is at 90 degrees, where there was a formal path that ran northeast-southwest through the north and south walled gardens, across the avenue.

The graveyard is visited periodically by relatives, and is a subject of interest for descendants, of families interred there (see <https://www.elizabethskitchendiary.co.uk/a-walk-back-in-time-john-clunies-ross/> for example). Therefore, the quiet setting beside the water is a key element of the sense of place associated with the graveyard. Other associative cultural elements that contribute to the atmosphere at Sound are that it is the birthplace of John Clunie-Ross, for which there is a plaque (see photo at <https://www.elizabethskitchendiary.co.uk/a-walk-back-in-time-john-clunies-ross/>), as well as the trees, some perhaps planted by the Ross family unless they are self-seeded scions, as well as the history of crofting, fishing and whaling that are an integral part of Shetland’s past.

In summary, the key elements of the setting of Sound Scheduled Monument are:

- The crofting landscape, with little change to the pattern on the west side, of Weisdale Voe, although there is a complete change to the date of the houses

within that pattern;

- The relationship of the house, the piers and the kirkyard with the shoreline;
- The open views to and from Sound, although modern houses and especially the Kalliness housing estate 300m from the site have compromised and dominate some of these views;
- The designed sightlines in the formal gardens, although the main sightline down to the voe has the Kalliness housing estate directly on that line;
- The prominence of the burial ground on a headland and the trees within the grounds, making the monument a focal point on the west side of Weisdale voe;
- The atmosphere at the graveyard in a quiet location beside the seashore, which is still visited;
- The association of Sound with John Clunies-Ross who annexed the Cocos (Keeling) Islands in the Indian Ocean and whose descendants ruled them for the Crown until 1978; and
- The sense of place created by all of the above.

While Sound is set within a land- and seascape that is recognisably linked to the monument, there are some significant modern developments (especially Kalliness) within the setting. According to the methodology outlined in Section 2, Table 1, the importance of the setting to the Scheduled Monument is Medium-High and thus has a **Medium-High sensitivity to significant change**.

6.0 Project Design Details

Project design details in the vicinity of Sound SM (within the a 100m buffer zone, at landfall, in the cable corridor going up to the main A971 road from landfall, and for 1km along the road – see Figure 1) are listed below.

- The construction works for this location would occur intermittently over 24 months, including a six month period of more or less continuous work .
- Cable transition at the proposed Weisdale Voe landfall will be made using open-cut trench method., which will require installation of large diameter ducts and cables to be pulled through from

a vessel in Weisdale Voe after. Ground cover will be reinstated afterwards. See Figures 4 and 5 for an example of landfall works.

- A warning sign will be erected at landfall (see Figure 6)
- Establishment of suitable laydown areas for material will be temporary and reinstated.
- Excavation and construction of 8 joint bays (with the possibility of increase to 12) along the whole route to Kergord (approximately 8 m by 4 m and to a depth of 1.5 m). Two of these (landfall and midpoint locations) will have earth connections and therefore allow future access via link boxes. The link boxes (approximate size 1m x 1m x 0.5m high) will be ground surface mounted (the other joint bays will be buried) on concrete hardstanding and barrier fencing 1.2m in height will be required to surround them (enclosing an area approximately 3m x 3.5m). See Figure 7 for an example illustration of a link box and barrier fencing).
- Construction of a hardstanding area to support approximately 6m x 2.5m shipping container for the protection of jointing works at nominal 1 km intervals along the cable route; the interval distance will be reduced if more than 8 joint bays are required. The shipping container is temporary and creates an enclosed, clean and dry environment for the jointers to avoid any contamination. It is placed over the joint and the workers can work within it. The containers will be removed and the ground reinstated.
- Welfare units/compounds will be required, with possible ground preparation for them. These will be temporary and the ground fully reinstated. The location of the units/compounds has not been finalised.
- Temporary roads will be constructed adjacent to the cable trench, for access and transfer of materials. Roads will be of either surface-laid Terraforma, or, conventional gravel/stone type - type depending on loading requirements and feasibility. All temporary roads will be removed and reinstated to their original condition at the end of the works.
- The installation of the cable ducts from the transition pit at landfall to Kergord will require the excavation of a trench, approximately 1m wide and to a depth of 1.4 m, but the dimensions will vary depending on specific ground conditions and separation requirements. The length of excavation is assumed to be in stretches of 100m at a time: digging the trench, installing the¹ duct and backfilling. The trench will be backfilled and topsoil replaced, then seeded.

- The cable route will be temporarily fenced off for the full-duration of construction works using post and wire agricultural style fencing along the route.
- Along the A971 the cable will be installed in the road; arisings from the excavations will be stored to the side of the dug trench in compliance with SSE **General Environmental Management Plan 7** and best practice.
- Surface water runoff will be managed via temporary construction drainage measures to prevent the cable trench acting as a drain and minimise impact to the environment downslope or downstream from the works. Drainage will be in form of "V" ditch or culvert/pipe. Specific detail to be informed by pre-construction drainage survey
- Treatment ponds/ silt socks/ silt busters or similar measures will be utilised as required to avoid silt pollution and to treat dirty water run off at intervals along the route. Clean water run-off will be kept separate from dirty water. All would be temporary and used for treatment of water (e.g. dewatering of cable trench, a silt sock would be used over the pipe used to pump water away from the trench, to a suitable location agreed with the landowner). The location details have not been finalised, but the ground will be reinstated.
- Remedial works will reinstate the immediate vicinity of the works and any ground disturbed, to pre-existing use.
- In order to maintain the infrastructure there will be visual inspections on foot at five year intervals, post construction and electrical test of cables' over-sheath, from designated link boxes, during planned outages, as and when required. These inspections would involve a single vehicle accessing the area and would be non-intrusive.

7.0 Potential Impact of Proposed Works

There will be no direct impacts on the SM because works are outwith the boundary of the scheduled area, in the field to the south of the monument. A watching brief was conducted during the excavation of boreholes and trial pits along the cable route from landfall and nothing of archaeological significance was noted in this field (Barton 2013). An archaeological geophysical survey has also been conducted in this field, with traces of rig and furrow and the possible site of an old smithy (corresponding to Site 41 on Figure 1) being identified, but nothing that was interpreted as connected with the remains of Our Lady's Chapel and 18th century laird's house (Davies 2016).

It should be noted that potential indirect impacts due to vibration during construction are being addressed separately by SSE, as are any potential direct impacts on unknown buried archaeology at or near landfall. These are not within the scope of this document, nor are the Written Schemes of Investigation (WSIs) that are recommended to be formulated for appropriate mitigation of ground-breaking works at landfall and the onshore cable route by SSE in consultation with the Shetland Regional Archaeologist.

7.1 Temporary Setting Impacts

It should be noted that the construction works for this location would occur intermittently for a maximum of 24 months. The magnitude of impact assigned below is assigned without the impact-reducing temporary effect, which will be taken account of in Mitigation Section 8 and Residual Effects Section 9 of this report.

Predicted temporary impacts on the setting of Sound are:

- Cable transition at the proposed Weisdale Voe landfall will be made using open-cut trench method, requiring installation of large diameter ducts and cables to be pulled through after (see Figure 5). The magnitude of impact from shoreline and ground disturbance, along with the machinery required (including cable lay from a vessel – see Figure 4), close to the SM, would materially, even fundamentally, change the setting of the receptor, classified as a **Medium-High** magnitude of impact, resulting in a **Major** significance of effect.
- Establishment of suitable laydown areas for material. The location and surfacing of these areas is yet to be decided. Assume at least one required at landfall, and another beside Cott Road. This could materially change the setting of the receptor, classified as a **Medium** magnitude of impact, resulting in a **Major** significance of effect.
- Construction of a hardstanding area to support approximately 6 m x 2.5 m shipping container for the protection of jointing works. The presence of a shipping container so close to the SM, would materially change the setting of the receptor, classified as a **Medium** magnitude of impact, resulting in a **Major** significance of effect.
- Temporary welfare units/compounds will be required, with possible ground preparation for them. The location of the units/compounds has not been finalised. Assume at least one required at landfall, and another beside Cott

Road. This could materially change the setting of the receptor, classified as a **Medium** magnitude of impact, resulting in a **Major** significance of effect.

- An access route will be installed directly adjacent to the cable trench, and the preference is to use Trackway, which is surface-laid. If this cannot be achieved, a temporary road will be constructed utilising geotextile/gravel etc. This would discernibly alter part of the immediate surroundings of the SM and the approach to it from the Cott Road, classified as a **Medium** magnitude of impact, resulting in a **Major** significance of effect.
- Along the A971 the cable will be installed in the road; arisings from the excavations will be stored to the side of the dug trench in compliance with SSE General Environmental Management Plan 7 and best practice. This would be a **Low-Negligible** magnitude of impact on occasional views from the main road down to Sound, resulting in a **Minor** significance of effect.
- Surface water run-off will be managed via temporary construction drainage measures to prevent the cable trench acting as a drain, including ditches adjacent to the cable trench. Such ditches will simply have the appearance of agricultural drainage ditches and so not materially alter the baseline setting. This would be a **Low** magnitude of impact on the southern side of Sound SM, resulting in a **Minor** significance of effect.
- Treatment ponds/ silt socks/ silt busters or similar measures will be utilised as required to avoid silt pollution and to treat dirty water run off at intervals along the route. The location details have not been finalised. Assuming a pond located in the field south of the SM, this could discernibly alter part of the immediate surroundings of the SM classified as a **Medium** magnitude of impact, resulting in a **Major** significance of effect.
- The noise (and visual intrusion) created by the works, particularly by the heavy plant that will be used to install the ducts for the cable at landfall and excavate (and backfill) the transition pit and cable trench, will fundamentally change the quiet atmosphere and sense of place at Sound, especially at the graveyard. This is classified as a **High** magnitude of impact, resulting in a **Major** significance of effect.

7.2 Permanent Setting Impacts

It should be noted that the magnitude of impact assigned below is assigned without the impact-reducing backfilling and reinstatement, which will be taken account of in Mitigation Section 8 and Residual Effects Section 9 of this report.

Predicted permanent impacts on the setting of Sound are:

- The installation of the ducts at landfall and the cable from the transition pit at landfall to Kergord will require the excavation of trenches for the cables and ducts (Figure 5). The dimensions will vary depending on ground conditions and separation requirements. This could materially, even fundamentally, change the setting of the receptor, classified as a **Medium-High** magnitude of impact, resulting in a **Major** significance of effect.
- A warning sign will be erected at landfall (Figure 6). This would be a detectable impact of the approach to Sound by sea, but does not materially alter the baseline setting of the receptor. This is a **Low** magnitude of impact, resulting in a **Minor** significance of effect.
- Excavation and construction of a joint bay (approximately 8 m by 4 m and to a depth of 1.5 m) at landfall and placing a link box over it, with a 1.2m high barrier fence surrounding the box. This would be a detectable impact, but would not materially alter the baseline setting, nor the understanding, appreciation or experience of the SM. This would be classified as a **Low** magnitude of impact, resulting in a **Minor** significance of effect.
- During the construction phase the cable route will be fenced off using post and wire agricultural style fencing along the route. Such fencing will simply have an agricultural appearance and so not materially alter the baseline setting. This would be a **Low** magnitude of impact on Sound SM, resulting in a **Minor** significance of effect.
- In order to maintain the infrastructure, there will be infrequent inspections on foot at approximate five-year intervals. These inspections would involve a single vehicle accessing the area and would be non-intrusive. This would be a **Negligible** magnitude of impact and **No** significance of effect on the setting of Sound SM.

8.0 Mitigation

The following management or mitigation strategies are suggested or already integrated into the project design for impacts on the setting of Sound SM. A corridor walkover survey, a geophysical survey and a borehole and test pit watching brief have all been conducted in the area (Dennis 2018, Davies 2016, and Barton 2013, respectively).

It should be noted that the wayleave corridor has been designed so that landfall is not directly adjacent to the southern edge of the SM boundary but 50-60m away. The corridor has also been designed to exclude direct impacts on known sites (there will be micro-siting around Site 41) and other features such as the stone dykes / piers “groynes” beside Site 1, the boat noust south of the graveyard, and the drystone field dyke along the NE edge of the corridor up to the road (these features are visible in the background of Figure 3). This will avoid impacts on any of these minor contributors to the background agricultural landscape and shoreline setting of Sound SM.

The cable route depicted is indicative and it is possible to shift further south within the construction wayleave corridor if required. Currently, it is designed so that the closest the cable gets to the SM boundary is 35m, with the NE edge of the corridor 15m away at its closest point. However, this does not mean that heavy plant disturbance within the corridor will be so close, since this can be located to the south/west of the cable. This minimum distance can be flexible and formalised if necessary after consultation.

The construction works will last only about 24 months in the area of Sound SM, and any impacts on setting will be temporary.

Remedial works will be conducted on all disturbed areas from the works, especially ground-disturbing works at landfall and the temporary water ponds, with ground and ground cover reinstated to pre-existing use.

The cable trench and temporary drainage ditches will be backfilled, and ground cover reinstated to pre-existing use.

Any temporary surfaces and hardstanding laid for the works, such as those for laydown areas, compounds, shipping container over the joint works and the access track, will be removed and the ground and ground cover reinstated to pre-existing use.

All temporary installations such as welfare cabins and the shipping container over the joint works will be removed and any ground disturbed reinstated.

Noise (and visual intrusion) from heavy plant and the cable lay vessel during the construction period will have an unavoidable impact, but will be temporary and can be partly managed with prescribed working hours and weekend (especially Sunday) working can be discussed, especially with the local community.

There could be a Nominated Point of Contact for the local community and any other infrequent visitors to Sound, especially and most importantly to the graveyard. It may be possible for works to be organised to be quiet for anyone paying respects to relatives if they give advance notice, so that the Sense of Place is kept for those visitors. It will not be possible to re-organise the cable lay from a vessel, which will have to be on a specific day that cannot be changed once organised due to the expense and logistics of the vessel and suitable tide times.

9.0 Residual Effects

After the temporary effects of the works have been removed and remediated, there will be left a small grey junction box with wood-effect barrier fencing and a warning sign at landfall. This will not impact the key aspects of the setting of Sound SM, which are:

- The crofting landscape;
- The relationship of the house, the piers and the kirkyard with the shoreline;
- The open views to and from Sound;
- The designed sightlines in the formal gardens;
- The prominence of the burial ground on a headland and the trees within the grounds, making the monument a focal point on the west side of Weisdale voe;
- The atmosphere at the graveyard in a quiet location beside the seashore, which is still visited;
- The association of Sound with John Clunies-Ross who annexed the Cocos (Keeling) Islands in the Indian Ocean and whose descendants ruled them for the Crown until 1978; and
- The sense of place created by all of the above.

Implementation of the management and mitigation strategies outlined in Section 8 will eliminate, reduce, or manage any significant impacts on setting to a level resulting in a **Low-Negligible residual impact** on the setting and therefore **no impact on the cultural significance of Sound Scheduled Monument**.

10.0 Summary

Possible Impact	Duration	Sensitivity of Setting to Impact	Magnitude of Impact to Setting	Significance of Effect on Setting	Mitigation	Residual Impact on Setting
Landfall & installation of ducts	24 months	Medium-High	Medium-High	Major	Remediation and ground reinstatement within 24 months	Negligible
Laydown areas	24 months	Medium-High	Medium	Major	Complete removal and ground reinstatement within 24 months	Negligible
Hardstanding & shipping container	24 months	Medium-High	Medium	Major	Complete removal and ground reinstatement within 24 months	Negligible
Welfare units & compounds	24months	Medium-High	Medium	Major	Complete removal and ground reinstatement within 24 months	Negligible
Access route	24 months	Medium-High	Medium	Major	Complete removal and ground reinstatement within 24 months	Negligible
Arisings stored at side of A971	24 months	Medium-High	Low-Negligible	Minor	Complete removal and ground reinstatement within 24 months	Negligible
Construction drainage measures including ditches	24 months	Medium-High	Low	Minor	Backfilling and ground reinstatement within 24 months	Negligible
Treatment ponds	24 months	Medium-High	Medium	Major	Backfilling and ground reinstatement within 24 months	Negligible
Noise	24 months	Medium-High	High	Major	Point of Contact for visitors, so arrangements can be made to reduce impact on any visitors during the 24-month construction period	Major during works, None after 24 months
Landfall duct trench and cable trench	Permanent	Medium-High	Medium-High	Major	Remediation and ground reinstatement	Negligible

Possible Impact	Duration	Sensitivity of Setting to Impact	Magnitude of Impact to Setting	Significance of Effect on Setting	Mitigation	Residual Impact on Setting
Warning sign at landfall	Permanent	Medium-High	Low	Minor	Yellow sign faces sea, not the monument, so only visible in approach from sea.	Minor-Negligible
Joint bay, link box & barrier fencing near landfall	Permanent	Medium-High	Low	Minor	Small scale of the box and barrier fence. Non-intrusive grey finish of the box, and wood effect of the fence.	Minor-Negligible
Fencing of cable route	Temporary	Medium-High	Low	Minor	Given appearance of agricultural post and wire field fencing already present in the area	Negligible
Infrastructure maintenance	Permanent	Medium-High	Negligible	None	None	None

Table 4: Summary of the potential impacts on the setting of Sound Scheduled Monument

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12.0 Figures

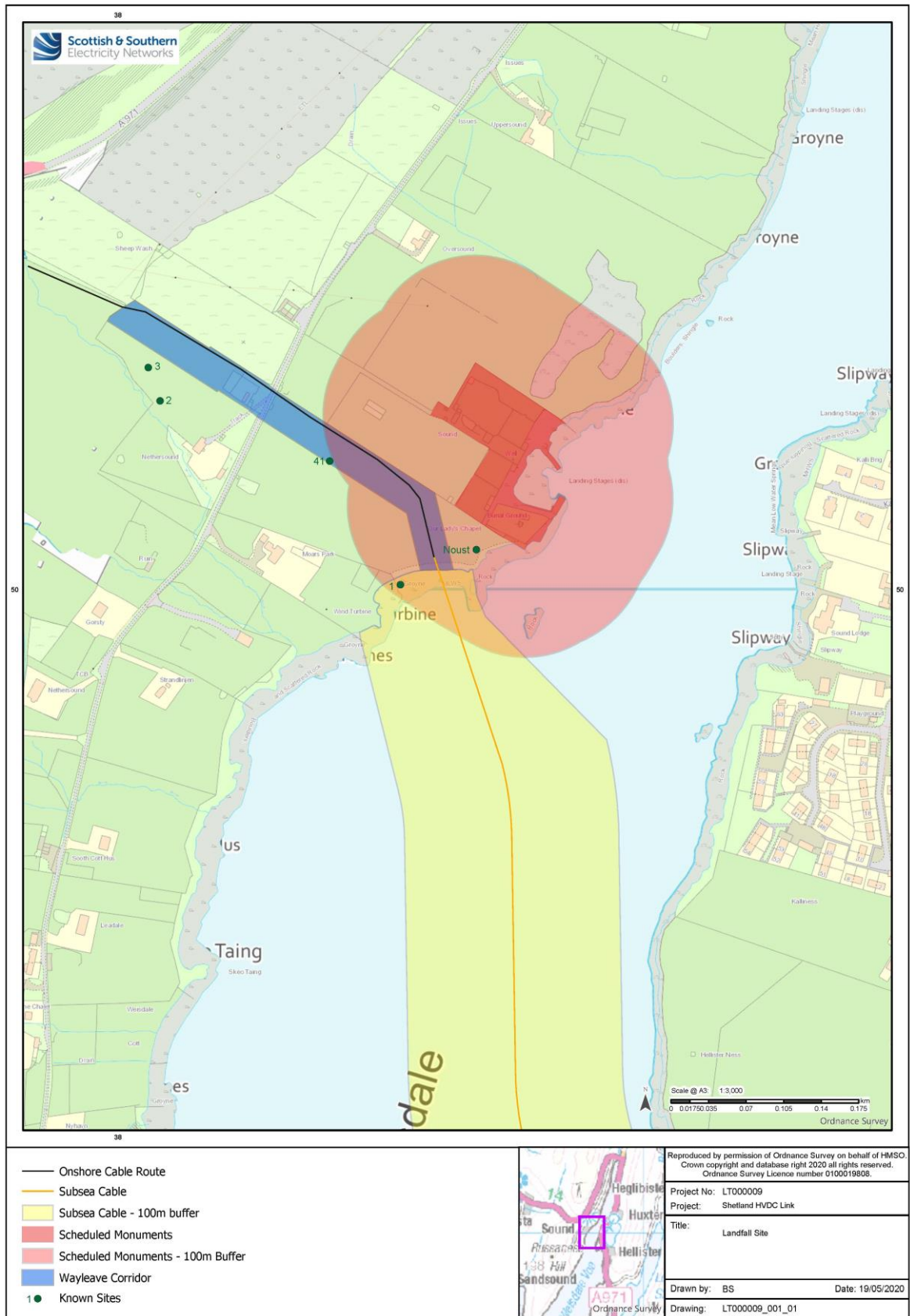


Figure 1: Site Location



Figure 2: View looking southeast down the wayleave construction corridor from the Cott Road. Photo by Samantha Dennis.



Figure 3: View looking southwest of Site 1 with boundary wall, pier and boat noust behind. Photo by Samantha Dennis.



Figure 4: Indicative equipment for cable-pull into pre-installed duct (winch to be used likely to be smaller than one shown). Photo from SSE.



**Figure 5: Indicative works at landfall and excavating equipment for duct installation.
Photo from SSE.**



Figure 6: Marker to be erected at landfall to indicate the position of the cable. Photo from SSE.

