

Appendix 25.1

Onshore Historic Environment Baseline Assessment

**Dounreay Tri
Offshore Wind Farm,
Reay, Caithness**

**Onshore Historic Environment
Baseline Assessment**

Project No: 647

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This documents has been prepared in accordance with ORCA standard operating procedures and ClfA standards	
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Appendix

Table A.1: Gazetteer of Sites Identified Within the Onshore Study Area

Table A.2: Walkover Survey photographic register

Executive Summary

Aquatera Ltd has commissioned the Orkney Research Centre for Archaeology (ORCA) to provide a desk-based archaeological assessment of land adjacent Sandside Bay, Reay, Caithness, in advance of a proposed offshore wind farm development.

The desk-based assessment and walkover survey combined have identified a total of 61 sites within the onshore study area. The sites within the onshore site boundary include examples from the Neolithic through to Modern periods and range from High significance/importance to Negligible significance/importance. Their presence serves to demonstrate the rich archaeological landscape in which the onshore study area is situated and suggests that there is low to high potential for unknown archaeological sites to be present within the study area.

There is a moderate to high potential for currently unknown sites from the prehistoric period to be present as the onshore study area lies within a landscape rich in archaeology from this period and one in which the potential for the discovery of new sites has recently been demonstrated (Mercer 1981). The potential for the presence of unknown sites from the early and late medieval periods is considered to be moderate to high as the study area has proven to be in an area of known significance throughout the medieval period. There also seems to be a notable coastal concentration amongst known Norse/Viking sites and as the onshore study area is within a bay there is the potential for unknown sites from this period to be present. The potential for any unknown significant sub-surface sites to be present within the site boundary from the, Post- medieval and modern periods is considered to be low. Any sites which may be present dating to these periods are likely to be agricultural in nature and of low heritage value.

Known cultural heritage sites, both those noted within the HER and during the walkover survey, should be avoided for the siting of the onshore substation (if one is erected for the infrastructure works of the proposed development), any access roads, temporary laydown areas and cable routing.

It is recommended that if geotechnical work is undertaken on the site that any geotechnical trenches or boreholes are sited in order to avoid the cultural heritage

sites within the onshore study area. It is recommended that any geotechnical work be monitored by a qualified archaeological contractor.

An archaeological evaluation may be required in order to better inform the decision as to the final location of the onshore project elements. This evaluation should in the first instance be non-intrusive and it is recommended that geophysical survey is undertaken across the proposed development site. Subsequent to the results of the non-intrusive survey the Regional Planning Archaeologist may require an intrusive (trenched) evaluation of the development site and a watching brief on any trenched cable routes may also be recommended.

The sand dune system around Sandside Bay would not be conducive for geophysical survey as the varying depths of sand within the dunes would produce variable geophysical responses and consequently not conclusive enough to say with certainty that no anomalies are present. Based on the archaeological potential of the sand dunes, it may be recommended that the dune system be avoided for cable landfall area. If this is not possible, then an intrusive evaluation may be recommended in order to determine the presence and extent of survival of any archaeological deposits or features within the sand dune system around Sandside Bay.

1.0 Introduction

Aquatera Ltd has commissioned the Orkney Research Centre for Archaeology (ORCA) to provide a historic environment baseline assessment of land adjacent to Sandside Bay, Reay, Caithness, in advance of a proposed offshore wind farm development.

The onshore component of the proposed development consists of the offshore wind farm cables that will make landfall via open cut trenching at the eastern side of Sandside Bay or by horizontal directional drilling (HDD) along the coast between Dounreay and Sandside Bay. The project will also require switchgear or a substation to connect to the grid at, or near, the Dounreay Substation. Other aspects of the onshore component of the proposed development to consider are temporary lay down areas and construction compounds, associated cable routing and the construction and access tracks.

This report will assess the potential for cultural heritage assets to be present on the site. It will assign significance to known heritage assets present that may be affected by the proposed development (see Section 3.3 below). It will also make some initial suggestions for managing any identified issues and impacts concerning the cultural heritage resource.

2.0 Context and Aims of the Report

2.1 Aims and Objectives of the Assessment

The baseline assessment report will be used to identify any potential historic environment issues or constraints. More specifically, ORCA has been commissioned to:

- Review existing databases for the area for information on the historic environment, including cultural heritage sites and landscapes in order to identify known sites in the area and the potential for unidentified sites and landscapes;
- Conduct a walkover survey of the study area to identify any previously unknown sites and assess the condition of any

identified by the initial desk-based survey;

- Assess heritage assets in terms of local, regional, national or international importance;
- Identify any known or likely sensitive sites or areas and the potential for unknown remains in the area;
- Make preliminary recommendations further work, mitigation or management strategies; and
- Present a gazetteer of known sites and monuments (see Appendix, Table A1).

3.0 Assessment Methodology

3.1 Desk-Based Assessment

The desk-based assessment (DBA) was executed in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) *Standard and Guidance for historic environment desk-based assessment* (2014) and the Highland Council *Standards for Archaeological Work* (2012).

Information on known heritage assets within the study area centred on the site (National Grid Reference (NGR) 297569 965887), was used to identify cultural heritage assets that may be both directly and indirectly affected by the proposed development. This information was used to put the site within its full archaeological and historical context, and the potential for, as yet, unknown heritage assets that may be present within the onshore study area was assessed (see Figure 2).

The Historic Environment Record (HER), managed by The Highland Council Historic Environment Team, a database of archaeological sites within the Highlands was accessed. This was in order to obtain information on the location of all designated areas of historic interest as well as any other non-designated sites within the study area that included monuments, findspots, Listed Buildings and Conservation areas if applicable. The HER also contained details of previous archaeological investigations undertaken within the area.

A wider search radius was not focused on for this report as the sites within the onshore site boundary include examples from the full range of archaeological periods. Their presence serves to demonstrate the rich archaeological landscape in which the site is situated and suggests that there is some potential for unknown archaeological sites to be present within the site boundary.

Each cultural heritage site, monument, area and building identified within the study area was assigned an individual site number (ORCA No.). All sites identified by the DBA, and the importance and significance of each individual site, are presented in the tables appended (Appendix Table A1, 'Gazetteer of Sites within the Proposed Study Area').

The DBA reviewed the following sources:

- The National Monuments Record of Scotland, using the Canmore and Pastmap database websites; www.rcahms.gov.uk/ accessed 30/09/15;
- The local Historic Environment Record (HER) search results as undertaken by the Historic Environment Team as well as using the Highland Council Historic Environment website <http://her.highland.gov.uk/> accessed 30/09/15;
- Ordnance Survey (1877) 1:2500 County Series 1st edition, sheets VII.4 and VIII.1;
- Ordnance Survey (1906) 1:2500 County Series 2nd edition, sheets VII.4 and VIII.1;
- Ordnance Survey (1877) 1:10560 1st edition, sheets VII, VIII;
- Ordnance Survey (1907) 1:10560 2nd edition, sheets VII, VIII;
- Relevant historic maps available on the National Library of Scotland website www.nls.uk, accessed 30/09/15;
- Relevant historic estate map viewed at the North Highland Archive in Wick;
- The Reay parish entries in the Old and New Statistical Accounts of Scotland, 1791-99 and 1834-45 respectively, via the Edina website; www.stat-acc-scot.edin.ac.uk;

- Statutory lists, registers and designated areas, including List of Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings, Inventories of Gardens & Designed Landscapes and Inventoried Historic Battlefields, and local authority Conservation Areas;
- Relevant aerial photographs via Google Earth and The National Collection of Aerial Photography, <http://aerial.rcahms.gov.uk/>, accessed 30/09/15;
- Various other readily available archaeological and historical reports, databases and publications were consulted for information about the study area and, where used, will be cited in the report;
- Site visits were undertaken on 05/10/15 and 06/10/15.

3.2 Walkover Survey

The walkover survey was executed in accordance with the relevant sections of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (2014) and The Highland Council Standards for Archaeological Work (2012).

The site was surveyed on 05/10/15 and 06/10/15, and the 30 fields around Isauld Farm as well as the dune system on Sandside Bay (within the red line boundary of the site on Figure 2) were covered. The Reay Golf Course was excluded from the walkover survey as this was a modern landscaped area; however, the dune system to the north of the golf course was assessed. The walkover survey was undertaken in a systematic manner, field by field, with transect width appropriate to the conditions (mostly pasture and rough pasture). Any features or sites identified were assigned an individual site number, briefly recorded by notes, sketches, photographs and handheld GPS and evaluated. The accuracy of the co-ordinates for the sites identified by both the DBA and the walkover survey are included in Appendix Table A1.

All sites identified by the walkover survey have been assigned an individual site number (ORCA No.) and the significance (importance or sensitivity) of each individual site, are presented in Appendix Table A1. A list of photographs taken during the walkover survey is reproduced in Appendix

Table A2. Photographs are available on request. Any sites identified by the HER search within the study area were also visited to evaluate their nature, condition and extent.

3.3 Defining Significance

The significance attributed to each identified area, site or feature will be determined using the criteria in Table 1, which incorporate general guidelines used by statutory agencies such as Historic Scotland, outlined in *Scottish Historic Environment Policy (SHEP) 2011*, *Scottish Planning Policy (2014)*, with the companion Planning Advice Note (PAN 2/2011): *Planning and Archaeology* and Historic Scotland's *Managing Change in the Historic Environment Guidance Notes*. The definition of cultural significance used within this report, and in historic environment legislation and guidance, should not be confused with the unrelated usage of significance in referring to effects in EIA.

The sensitivity of a cultural heritage asset reflects the level of cultural significance that is assigned to it by statutory designation or, as in the case of undesignated cultural heritage assets, by guidelines, procedure and professional judgement. Cultural heritage assets of National Importance, as defined by SHEP, include Scheduled Monuments, Category A Listed Buildings, Inventory Gardens and Designed Landscapes and Inventory Battlefield sites as well as non-designated cultural heritage assets that are considered to be of schedulable quality, are assigned the highest level of cultural significance and sensitivity is **High**. Assets of regional and more local importance are considered to be of **Medium** sensitivity and assets of local importance are considered of **Low** sensitivity.

Table 1: Criteria for establishing the sensitivity of cultural heritage assets

Heritage Value / Sensitivity	Heritage Asset Criteria
High	<p><i>Sites of national or international importance, including:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Heritage Sites Scheduled Monuments and sites proposed for scheduling Category A Listed Buildings Gardens and Designated Landscapes Outstanding Conservation Areas Historic Battlefields Designated Wreck Sites Undesignated archaeological sites, areas and buildings of national importance (identified in the HER/SMR)
Medium	<p><i>Sites of regional importance, including:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Category B and Category C(S) Listed Buildings Burial Grounds Protected heritage landscapes Conservation Areas Undesignated archaeological sites, areas and buildings of equivalent regional importance (identified in the HER/SMR)
Low	<p><i>Sites of Local Importance, including:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cultural heritage assets of poor preservation and/or poor survival of contextual associations Cultural heritage assets of local value or interest for education or cultural appreciation Undesignated archaeological sites, areas and buildings of equivalent importance (identified in the HER/SMR) Unlisted historic buildings and townscapes with local characteristics
Negligible	<p><i>Sites of little or no importance, including:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sites of former archaeological features Unlisted buildings of very minor historic or architectural interest Poorly preserved examples of particular types of features Single findspots

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, historic, traditional¹, aesthetic, scientific or

¹ Factors listed in the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act, 1979

social². Known and potential heritage assets within the site and the wider study area have been identified from national and local designations, HER data and expert opinion. The determination of the significance of these assets is based on statutory designation and/or professional judgement against the following characteristics³:

- *Intrinsic*: the condition in which the monument has survived. This includes the potential survival of archaeological survival above ground and buried, and goes beyond the survival of marked field characteristics. The archaeological, scientific, technological or other research potential of the monument or any part of it needs to be considered. The apparent development sequence of the monument as well as the original or subsequent functions of the monument and its parts is also considered;
- *Contextual*: relates to the monument's place in the landscape or within the body of existing knowledge. This takes into account the rarity of the monument as well as the relationship of the monument to other monuments of the same or related classes or period, or to features or monuments within the vicinity. The relationship of the monument within the wider landscape and setting are also considered;
- *Associative*: historical, cultural and social influences that have affected the form and fabric of the monument as well as the aesthetic attributes and significance in the national consciousness. This is also influenced by the way in which historical, traditional or artistic characters or events have been derived from the monument.

The assessment of sensitivity consists of an analysis of the characteristics that make up the cultural significance of the asset and their relative weighting which statute and policy attach to them⁴. The cultural significance of a heritage asset is derived by the physical fabric and the setting of the heritage asset. There is no statutory definition of setting. Historic Scotland defines setting as *the way in which the surroundings of a historic asset or place contribute to how it is experienced, understood and appreciated*

² Definition of cultural significance as defined in Scottish Historic Environment Policy: Annex 1: Criteria for and guidance on the determination of 'national importance' for scheduling (2011)

³ From Scottish Historic Environment Policy: Annex 1: Criteria for and guidance on the determination of 'national importance' for scheduling

⁴ Principally SPP 2014 and SHEP 2011

(Historic Scotland 2010, paragraph 2.1). All cultural heritage assets have a setting in a sense that they survive in a recognisable place within the wider landscape; however, the extent to which the setting contributes to the overall cultural significance of a heritage asset varies widely.

3.4 Assessment Limitations

All key data sources were reviewed for the baseline assessment (see Section 3.1 above), although there remains the possibility that there may be sites or features of archaeological or historical significance that have not been identified by the desk-based assessment.

During the walkover survey, every effort was made to thoroughly investigate all parts of the study area. However, the height of wild vegetation (including rough grass, gorse and reeds) reduced visibility in some areas. In these areas a best assessment was made of whether any sites were present.

Therefore, despite the above limitations to the study, the DBA sources and walkover survey data analysed were sufficient to be able to provide an adequate baseline assessment on which to base a robust EIA and ES.

4.0 Cultural Heritage Baseline

4.1 Site Location, Geology, Topology

The landscape of Caithness in general consists of open rolling farmland, moorland and extensive areas of blanket bog. The region is fringed with spectacular coastal scenery to the north and east.

The bedrock geology of the proposed onshore study area consists of the Sandside Bay Sandstone Member – Limestone. This is Sedimentary Bedrock that formed approximately 385 to 398 million years ago in the Devonian Period. These rocks were formed from rivers depositing sand and gravel in channels that formed river terrace deposits with fine silt and clay from overbank floods forming floodplain alluvium (British Geological Survey 2015 Geology of Britain Viewer <http://www.bgs.ac.uk>).

The Caithness and Sutherland Landscape Character Assessment (Stanton,

1998) characterises the area to the east and west of Sandside Bay as ‘Long Beaches, Dunes and Links’. The area around Reay is characterised as ‘Fringe crofting and historic features’ defined as a landscape that contains little habitation with an abundance of ruined croft houses and ancient structures that are often located on prominent areas within the landscape.

The Historic Landuse Assessment undertaken by the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland (RCAHMS) (<http://hla.rcahms.gov.uk/>, accessed 30/09/2015) describes the area around Isauld Farm as planned rectilinear fields and farms with parallel boundaries and a contemporary steading. This type of defined landscape was indicative of agricultural improvements between 1700 and 1900AD.

The onshore study area consists of an area of land between the Sandside Burn in the west to the Dounreay Nuclear Power Station in the east (see Figure 1). The area of land between consisted of Reay Golf Club and 30 adjacent fields around Isauld Farm covering 2.85sq km, centred on the NGR 297569 965887. The village of Reay abuts the onshore study area to the south.

4.2 Chronological Summary

4.3 The Prehistoric Period

Caithness possesses a rich prehistoric landscape. Studies have demonstrated that human occupation here can be traced as far back as the Mesolithic period, with occupation by hunter-gatherer communities some 10,000 years ago (Masters 1989, 25). However, no evidence has been found so far in the general vicinity of the onshore study area and the nature of the wider Mesolithic presence in the area is unclear.

Caithness possesses a large collection of Neolithic sites and monuments. This includes numerous ‘hut circles’, made of low, circular earthen banks, and of particular note are the 72 chambered cairns, large stone structures used primarily for communal burial (Davidson & Henshall 1991), although none are close to the site.

There is evidence of Neolithic settlement, cultivation and burial practices within the study area. A Neolithic hut circle (ORCA No. 33) is located to the southwest of Isauld Farm. This possible settlement area is located in a concentration of clearance cairns (ORCA Nos. 32, 34, 36-37) and three cairns from the same period (ORCA Nos. 35 and 40). It is not known if these features are contemporary. It was noted during the walkover survey that large stone piles were still present within this field, but due to the overgrown nature of the field, nothing of these features was discernible. To the northwest of this area is another small concentration of clearance cairns (ORCA Nos. 11, 19-20) and cairns (ORCA Nos. 12 and 21).

The inhabitants of Bronze Age Caithness are a little more elusive. Although it is known that changes were happening across Scotland at this time with the introduction of metal working and new styles of pottery emerging, there is only scant evidence for this in Caithness (Barber 2006, 38-40). Numerous hut circles dated to the Bronze Age were noted within the onshore study area (ORCA Nos. 14, 18, and 48). Further hut circles are known to the south of Reay, outwith the onshore study area.

Burials in the Bronze Age tend to be found in the form of cist burials. No cist burials have been recorded within the study area. However, a cist burial (THC HER Ref. No. MHG 2508 and MHG 42145) was noted only 102m west of the onshore study area, to the south of Sandside Bay. In a mounded area once known locally as Wild Cats Hill, between Reay and the shore, several stone coffins were revealed when the sand was cleared by the wind. In each corner of the stone coffin were earthen jugs that contained ashes. Wild Cats Hill is no longer a locally known or recognised place and it is possible that these burials are still present and have just been re-covered by sand (The Highland Council HER).

There are various examples of stone rows and stone settings in Caithness that may also possibly date to this period. These are concentrated in four locations; Latheron, Yarrows, Loch Calder and Reay. The date and function of stone rows is largely unknown. This type of monument consists of rows of small standing stones, usually of Caithness flagstone, that are set out in fan arrangements radiating from a single point. The stone rows appear to be

associated with cairns, cists or mounds and are thought to possibly be related to funerary activity in the early Bronze Age (Brophy in prep).

Several examples of stone rows are within close proximity to the onshore study area. Two are located at Upper Dounreay, one of which (THC HER Mon. ID. No. MHG 1240) consisted of c. 60 stones, thought to mark the location of a 15th century battle (Ordnance Survey Name Book 1873), although none of these stones are still present. The Cnoc Freiceadain stone row c.2.5km east of the onshore study area has been Scheduled (SMR No. SM2386) and once contained 115 stones set in 13 rows; now that number has been reduced to around 20 with the remaining stones preserved under the heather and moss (Dagg 2002). Another stone row is located at Borlum c.1.8km to the south of the onshore study area (THC HER Mon. ID. No. MHG13450).

The Iron Age in Caithness is predominantly characterised by brochs, impressive stone built towers constructed in approximately the middle of the first millennium BC. Caithness possesses more examples of brochs than any other area of Scotland and there are a number within the parish of Reay and two within the onshore study area (ORCA Nos. 1 and 43). The Scheduled Monument of Cnoc Urray (ORCA No. 1) survives as a turf-covered mound with stone noted around the Monument, and a surrounding ditch noted in 1910 that is no longer visible (THC HER entry for Knock Urray). A possible broch site (ORCA No. 43) (THC HER Mon. ID. No. MHG2514) is located at the Bridge of Isauld. This was marked as a Pict's house on the First Edition Ordnance Survey mapping (1877). No remains of this possible broch are visible.

The inhabitants of Caithness from the 4th to 9th centuries are known as the Picts. They spoke a Celtic language and are known largely from place-names, artefacts, structures and burials. The later Pictish centuries can also be regarded as part of the Early Historic or Early Medieval Period. Sculpted stones decorated with a variety of symbols are a particularly vivid feature of this period (Blackie & Macaulay 1998) and there are several examples from the region, including in Reay. A Pictish symbol stone was discovered in the 1850s near the remains of an early settlement on the sand links close to the

shore of Sandside Bay (possibly the Iron Age settlement at the Scheduled Monument of Cnoc Stanger, SMR No. SM 458, just outwith the western edge of the study area (Mercer 1996)). It was moved to the Sandside Estate and is now Scheduled (SM616). The location of the settlement within the sands around the bay is unknown. Part of a Pictish freestanding cross shaft was discovered built into the fabric of Reay Parish Kirk in 1947, and removed to Edinburgh (Stevenson 1949). A cross slab (THC HER Mon. ID. No. MHG1612) thought to date to the 9th century is located in the Reay Old Kirk burial ground, 128m outwith the onshore study area to the south. This cross slab was reused as a grave marker in the 18th century and was finally incorporated into the wall of a mausoleum. The kirk, burial ground and cross slab are all Scheduled (SM615).

The sculpted stones and, although their date is uncertain, possible settlement, long cists and possible early chapel site (see ORCA No. 30 below) provide evidence that the Reay / Sandside Bay area was a site of known significance in pre-Viking times, with the significance of the location continuing into the Viking and Norse period (Batey 1993: 154; Graham-Campbell & Batey 1998: 126).

There are indications that there may be as yet undiscovered (or noticed then lost in the sands) prehistoric sites within the onshore study area. The presence of prehistoric sites in the wider locality also serves to demonstrate the richness of the prehistoric archaeological resource of the area in general. There is **a moderate to high potential** for further sites to remain below the surface within the onshore study area, especially in the dunes and sand links, and depending on the nature of the archaeology present they may be of high significance.

4.4 The Early Medieval Period (Viking and Norse)

The evidence for Viking and Norse activity in Caithness is provided by historical sources, place-names, settlements, graves and artefacts.

The significance of the Reay/Sandside Bay area continued into the Viking and Norse period (Batey 1993: 154). There is evidence for a pagan Norse

cemetery, the extent of which is unknown, around the area of Reay Drill Hall (ORCA No. 47) and extending into the sand northwards. Unfortunately, no records of the precise locations of these discoveries were kept. Described in detail by Graham-Campbell & Batey (1998: 125-7), and found over a number of years due to sand erosion, the three burials with grave goods and other isolated finds of bones and objects (including ORCA Nos 45 and 46) indicating a further unknown quantity of burials, form the largest known concentration of pagan Norse burials in Caithness (Batey 1993: 152). The sand erosion events have also revealed fragments of circular buildings, horse bones and long cist burials, which may be Norse but could equally be earlier (op. cit. 154).

There were two early medieval chapels located in Reay. In 1872 a small sandy mound was noted that covered the remains of an early chapel (ORCA No. 30). Nothing is known of this chapel with the exception of it being of primitive build and covered by sand drifts, and again it has potential to be pre-Norse. The First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1877 shows the site of a chapel (ORCA No. 28), that is most likely the same site as ORCA No. 30 slightly inland and to the south of Isauld Port.

The Reay Old Parish Church (THC HER Mon ID No. MHG31349) was dedicated to St. Colman, so may originally be a Celtic foundation. This church was in use until 1729 when the new Reay church was built. Part of the reconstructed remains of the old church are located within the burial ground (SMR No. SM615) and the aforementioned cross slab was located within this area.

It is feasible that Viking or Norse sites, including graves, may remain undiscovered within the onshore study area. As there is a notable coastal concentration amongst known Viking or Norse sites, along with the evidence noted above from Reay and Sandside Bay, there is a **moderate to high potential** for Early Medieval sites to lie within the onshore study area, especially the area of the links.

4.5 Late Medieval Period

During the 12th and 13th centuries, the Earls of Orkney held Caithness and Sutherland from the Kings of Scotland. By the time of Alexander III of Scotland (1249-86) Caithness was an integral part of the Scottish Kingdom, and families of Anglo-Norman descent acquired land in the area.

In 1437 a clan battle occurred at Sandside known as the *Ruoig-Hansett* or the Sandside Chase (Mackay 1906). The Mackay clan from Strathnaver came to Reay by way of Thurso leaving a path of destruction in their wake. Around Thurso, the Mackays were met by the people of Caithness who pushed the Mackays back to Sandside. Here the Mackays were joined by other members of their clan and the real battle began. A member of the Mackay clan managed to corner the Caithness men on Sandside Bay, where many were defeated and driven into the sea. The survivors of the battle were chased along the shore towards Dunreay [sic]. Local tradition says that those killed in battle were buried around Cnoc Stanger, between Sandside House and the sea, where the fighting was the fiercest (*ibid*).

There is no known evidence of the *Ruoig-Hansett* within the onshore study area. The aforementioned stone row at Upper Dounreay (THC HER Mon. ID. No. MHG 1240) (see Section 4.3 above) is thought to mark the graves of the slain. If local tradition concerning burial by Cnoc Stanger is correct instead, this is also outwith the study area. Therefore it is considered that there is **low to moderate potential** for unknown Late Medieval sites to lie within the onshore study area.

4.6 Post- Medieval Period

Dounreay Castle, to the east of the onshore study area, now within the Dounreay nuclear facility, was built in the late 16th century on an L-shaped plan. The Castle was first mentioned in the historical record in 1614 when it was the property of William Sinclair of Dunbeath. The lands of Dounreay had been acquired by the Sinclair family from the Bishop of Orkney in 1562 and 1564. The castle passed through several different hands throughout its history and was inhabited until 1863. By 1910 the castle was unroofed and

in a ruinous condition (THC HER entry for MHG2515).

Sandside estate, west of the onshore study area, held land within the onshore study area. It is first mentioned within the historical record in 1507 when Alexander Innes of Innes was granted lands in Reay, Sandside and Dunbeath. Subsequently, the estate has passed through several hands (Henderson 1884; Sinclair 1888). The present house at Sandside dates to the 18th century and is considered to be the largest house in Caithness (Dagg 1998).

Isauld Farm was originally part of the Sandside Estate (ORCA Nos. 15, 22-25). However in 1703 a charter of adjudication and novodamus was obtained by Robert Gordon that created the barony of Isauld. In 1723 Alexander of Murkle, the ninth Earl of Caithness, obtained the lands of Isauld (Henderson 1884).

The Post-medieval period saw dramatic agricultural and industrial development across the whole area. Quarrying of Caithness flagstones on a commercial scale began for export and extensive use in local construction, which has given a distinct character to the landscape. In addition, in the 18th and 19th centuries, the herring fishing industry was greatly expanded, with Wick becoming the largest fishing station in Europe. These developments necessitated the construction of harbours, piers, quays and fishing stations around the coastline. One such possible port was the port of Isauld, as shown on the First and Second Edition Ordnance Survey mappings with its associated outbuildings (ORCA Nos. 26 and 27) and Sandside harbour to the northwest of the onshore site boundary that was built in 1830 by Major William Innes of Sandside Estate. The accompanying increase in population led to the creation of new settlements and new public buildings such as churches and schools; for example, Reay Primary School.

Farming also became increasingly important with much agricultural reform occurring, and by 1850 Caithness had been reorganised for both grazing and arable production (Richards 2008). Clearances in and around Reay and the Sandside Estate began as early as 1772 from land at Helshetter Strath, to the south of the onshore study area. Around 1800 Major Innes of

Sandside began experimenting with large-scale sheep farming. In 1810 Major Innes along with John Patterson, his sheep farmer and factor, evicted a large number of families from Sandside and Isauld (Sinclair 1901).

There are 18 identified sites dating to the Post-Medieval period within the study area. Most of the known cultural heritage sites are related to Isauld and include the farmhouse (ORCA Nos. 22 and 23), Isauld Lodge (ORCA No. 24) and Isauld Cottage (ORCA No. 25). A field system that consists of a longhouse, circular structures and fieldwalls (ORCA No. 15) is related to Isauld House. Several traditional Caithness flagstone dykes (ORCA No. 58) were noted around Isauld farm. Two sheepfolds (ORCA Nos. 6 and 7), now grass-covered mounds, are to the northeast of the study area and were most likely used by Isauld farm.

To the southeast of Isauld Farm was a small croft known as Gunns croft that was annotated on the First Edition Ordnance Survey map. A small croft building (ORCA NO. 61) is still extant within this area. The croft building noted during the walkover survey was present by the time of the Second Edition OS map (1906) and had a date stone of 1881 located on the north elevation of the building. To the east of this was an unroofed agricultural structure (ORCA NO. 52) that may have been contemporary with the Gunns croft building as they were both constructed of dressed free stone.

Other physical remains dated to the Post-medieval period are the Bridge of Isauld (ORCA No. 42), Reay Church's new burial ground (ORCA No. 50) and a collection of handmade pins found on the beach at Reay in 1899 (ORCA NO. 51).

The **potential** for further *significant* discoveries to be made concerning sites of this period is **low**. However many remains of low or negligible significance in the area are likely to remain unrecorded, such as sheep folds and quarry pits. As occupation and utilization of the landscape was extensive, it is still possible that some remains of local heritage value may remain within the study area.

4.7 Modern Period

The Ordnance Survey First and Second Edition maps were printed in 1877 and 1906 and are the first to record the area in any detail. These maps attest to the agricultural use of the area. The First Edition Ordnance Survey map shows the enclosed and improved fields around Isauld Farm and Gunnscroft. Much of the land within the study area is open rough pasture. Isauld Port and a boat house (ORCA No. 26) were located along the coastline to the west of Isauld Farm. The Second Edition Ordnance Survey map (1906) differed only in that Reay Golf Course was established by this time. A new croft building (ORCA No. 61) was also present at this time.

Although relatively brief, perhaps the most significant event to impact on the archaeological record was the Second World War. The airfield in Dounreay was built in 1941 on land commandeered from Lower Dounreay farm. In 1954, it was announced that the airfield and the land directly northeast and east of the onshore study area was the chosen site for Britain's experimental fast breeder reactor (ORCA No. 2) (Cashmore 1998).

The Dounreay Nuclear Power Development Establishment began in 1955 to pursue the government's objective for the development of fast breeder reactor technology. In 1998 the government announced that funding for the fast reactor programme was being withdrawn and the Dounreay sites was considered to no longer be economically viable. The nuclear facility is currently being decommissioned (The Scottish Parliament 2001).

There is **a low potential** for further unrecorded sites dated to the Modern period within the onshore study area. It is likely that sites which may be present dating to this period are most likely to be agricultural and therefore of low heritage value.

4.8 Sites within the Onshore Study Area identified during the Walkover Survey

The combined desk-based assessment and walkover survey resulted in the identification of 61 (ORCA Nos. 1-61) sites of archaeological or historical

interest within the onshore study area (see Figure 2). These are presented in detail together with an assessment of their significance in a separate gazetteer (Appendix 1, Table A1, *Gazetteer of Identified Sites within the Proposed Onshore Study Area*).

4.8.1 Sites of High Significance (importance/sensitivity)

There is one Scheduled Monument, Knock Urray (Scheduled Monument Index No. 564) (Plate 1) located within the onshore study area. There are no Listed Buildings, or other archaeological or historical sites or areas (designated or undesignated) of high importance within the onshore study area; however several Listed Buildings are located within 100m of the study area.



Plate 1: Knock Urray (ORCA No. 1), looking south

The walkover survey identified ten previously unknown sites (ORCA Nos. 52-61) within the proposed onshore study area.

4.8.2 Sites of Medium Significance (importance/sensitivity)

Several Caithness flagstone dykes (ORCA No. 58) are noted within the onshore study area within the area of Isauld Farm (ORCA Nos. 22-23) (Plate 2). Flagstone dykes are to be discussed within the updated Caithness and Sutherland Local Plan (currently in consultation) in terms of Regional Value (medium significance/importance), subject to the completeness, context and age of the dyke. Flagstone dykes are viewed as regionally distinctive and as such avoidance of these cultural heritage assets is preferred.



Plate 2: Traditional Caithness flagstone dyke (ORCA No. 58), looking east

4.8.3 Sites of Low Significance (importance/sensitivity)

Two of the cultural heritage features identified during the walkover survey are dated to the Post-medieval period and are considered to be of Low significance. These consisted of a croft building (ORCA No. 61) that was annotated on the Second Edition Ordnance Survey map (1892) at Gunns croft and is presently used as a sheep byre (Plate 3). On the north elevation of this building was a datestone of 1881 (Plate 4). The other cultural heritage asset of Low significance/importance is an agricultural

structure (ORCA No. 52), possibly contemporary with the croft building as the two features are in close proximity to each other (c. 140m) and are both constructed of dressed free stone. This agricultural structure was possibly used for hay bales or silage as there is no roof on it (Plate 5).



Plate 3: Western elevation of Gunns croft building, looking northeast



Plate 4: 1881 Datestone on north elevation of Gunns croft building



Plate 5: Agricultural structure east of Gunnscroft, looking north

4.8.4 Sites of Negligible Significance (*importance/sensitivity*)

Three sites identified during the walkover survey are of Negligible significance/ importance. One of these features is dated to the Modern period and consists of a stone spread mixed with iron (ORCA No. 54) (Plate 6). This area corresponds with an occasional pond on modern Ordnance Survey maps and may have been used to infill a waterlogged area.



Plate 6: Stone spread (ORCA No. 54) east of Isauld Farm, looking east

The remaining two sites of Negligible significance/importance could not be attributed to a definitive time period. Along the coastal edge, is a stone spread, possibly the remains of a once erect drystone wall (ORCA No. 55) (Plate 7). This cultural heritage feature is present for a length of 100m and a width of 25cm and followed along the coastal edge. Further west of the stone spread (c. 210m) and slightly away from the coastal edge, is a circular depression with a noted change in vegetation with some stone protruding (ORCA No. 56) (Plate 8).



Plate 7: Stone spread (ORCA NO. 55) noted on coastal edge, looking west



Plate 8: Circular depression (ORCA No. 56), looking east

4.8.5 Sites of Uncertain Significance (*importance/sensitivity*)

Four sites noted within the walkover survey are considered to be of Uncertain significance/importance. Three of the sites are located within areas of known prehistoric activity and it is possible that the cultural heritage features described below may be attributed to a known cultural heritage site.

A linear stone spread (ORCA NO. 57) is present in an area of known Neolithic cairns (ORCA No. 11), clearance cairns (ORCA No. 12) as well as hut circles (ORCA No. 14) and longhouses (ORCA No. 16). Due to the overgrown nature of this area it was impossible to tell what the nature and extent of this feature is (Plate 9).



Plate 9: Linear stone spread (ORCA No. 57), looking northwest

One of the recorded sites is of possible anthropogenic remains noted within the coastal section (ORCA No. 59) (Plate 10). This deposit of horizontally laid stone is present for a length of 15m and depth of 1m. This feature is located directly beneath the topsoil and is overlaying glacial till. Within c. 30m to the north of this was a hut circle (ORCA No. 18) with c. 16m diameter is noted. In 1981 it was noted that to the south of the hut circle, and extending for c. 13m, are traces of possible paving and walling that is overlaid by debris up to the ground surface. It is possible that the feature noted during the walkover survey is related to the hut circle or very likely the paving and walling noted by Mercer (Mercer 1981).



Plate 10: Possible anthropogenic deposit (ORCA No. 59) noted within coastal section, looking southeast

Further south of ORCA No. 59, along the coastal margin is a large grass and sand covered mound (ORCA No. 60) that is within the dune system. This mound measures c.3m in high and has stone protruding on the summit (Plate 11). This site is located within an area where 11 sub-circular grass-covered mounds (ORCA No. 31) that covered an area of 14m by 10m were recorded (Mercer 1981) and may possibly be related to this



Plate 11: Grass and sand covered mound (ORCA No. 60), looking east

Noted along the coastal edge is a layer of burnt ash or silt (ORCA No. 53) located 0.5m below ground level beneath horizontally laid stone. The burnt deposit is noted for a length of c.3m and had a width of c.10-15cm (Plate 12).



Plate 12: Layer of burnt ash or silt (ORCA No. 53) in coastal section, looking south

5.0 Preliminary Recommendations

The onshore aspect of the Dounreay Tri project consists of an export cable landfall that will terminate at an onshore substation. The cable landfall area and location of the substation are yet to be determined as has the location of access roads and temporary laydown areas. The final placement of these project elements will need to be considered in relation to archaeological features.

Ideally, it is best to manage the presence of cultural heritage sites by locating development footprints and routeing cables and other infrastructure to avoid them. This strategy is recommended where it is possible to avoid cultural heritage sites with no or little impact on the proposed development works.

It is recommended that the footprint of the substation, if a new one is to be erected, landfall areas, and any access roads and temporary laydown areas are located to avoid the known cultural heritage sites (ORCA sites 1-61) in the first instance. Where it is not possible to avoid known archaeological remains, it is recommended that a programme of archaeological works be devised in agreement with the Regional Planning Archaeologist.

It is advised that should any intrusive geotechnical investigations be undertaken, any geotechnical trenches or boreholes are sited so as to avoid known sites within the onshore study area. It is also advised that geotechnical works are monitored by a qualified archaeological contractor. The archaeological monitoring of geotechnical works will further inform on the deposits present, the presence of potential sites and the extent of likely survival (e.g. if the depth of topsoil is very thin over glacial till or bedrock then it is unlikely that archaeological survival of deposits and features would be high).

There is the potential for as yet unknown archaeology to be present within the proposed onshore study area, especially within the area of the sand dunes around Sandside Bay.

Non-intrusive evaluation methods such as geophysical survey will help to better inform the cable route and siting of the onshore substation, access roads and temporary laydown areas to avoid sub-surface archaeological heritage assets if present. However, geophysical survey would not be cost and/or time efficient within the sand dune system area as the depth of sand would make accurate geophysical readings difficult (i.e. not conclusive enough to say with any certainty that there are no anomalies present). If the sand dunes in and around Sandside Bay cannot be avoided for the cable landfall area, it may be recommended that an intrusive evaluation be undertaken prior to any groundbreaking works.

At the time of writing the location and siting of the cable landfall area and the onshore substation is yet to be determined. In light of information derived from geophysical survey and/ or geotechnical works, if undertaken, an intrusive archaeological evaluation may subsequently be recommended by the Regional Planning Archaeologist in the proposed area of the substation, temporary laydown areas, access roads, or over sections of the proposed cable routes.

It is yet to be determined if Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) or open cut trenching will be used to connect the export cable to the onshore substation. If open cut trenching is the preferred method of choice, it may be recommended that an archaeological watching brief be undertaken during all trenching. This will ensure that cultural heritage assets are not removed without record.

The final decision regarding mitigation strategies rests with the Regional planning archaeologist.

6.0 Conclusions

The desk-based assessment and walkover survey combined have identified a total of 61 sites within onshore study area. These date from the Neolithic, through to Modern periods and range in significance/importance from High to Negligible (see Appendix 1, Table A.1).

There is a **moderate to high potential** for sites from the prehistoric and early mediaeval (Viking and Norse) periods to be present as the onshore study area lies within a landscape rich in archaeology from these periods and one in which the potential for the discovery of sites has been demonstrated by the number of burials, structures and finds exposed over the years by sand erosion (Batey 1993: 152), and during a 1981 walkover survey (Mercer 1981).

The potential for the presence of unknown sites from the late medieval periods is considered to be low. Local tradition states that the fallen of the battle of *Ruoig-Hansett* may be buried within the area of Sandside Bay, and Reay was an established settlement by the time of the later medieval period. Heritage assets dating to this period may be of regional or local importance based on the intrinsic, contextual and associative characteristic of the heritage asset if present.

The potential for the presence of unknown sites from the Post-medieval and Modern periods is low. Any sites which may be present dating to these periods are most likely to be agricultural, and possibly in a ruinous condition, and therefore of low heritage value.

The area within the sand dunes around Sandside Bay and the links are more likely to contain previously unknown archaeology and/or heritage assets that have been covered over time by sand. Much of the area around Isauld Farm and Gunnscoft appears to have been intensively ploughed in recent times so it is possible that any archaeological sites present will have suffered some damage.

An appropriate mitigation strategy would be the avoidance of known cultural heritage assets. Where it is not possible to avoid known archaeological remains, it is recommended that a programme of archaeological works be devised in agreement with the Regional Planning Archaeologist.

Due to the archaeological potential of the onshore study area, especially within the area of the sand dunes, it may be recommended to avoid the siting of the cable landfall area within the area of dunes in and around

Sandside Bay. A geophysical survey of the site, outwith the dunes system, may be recommended in order to better inform the cable route and siting of the onshore substation, if a new one is to be erected. An intrusive archaeological evaluation may be recommended within the dune system in and around Sandside Bay and/or in light of geophysical survey results. Archaeological monitoring of any geotechnical works on the site will further inform the presence and extent of survival of any archaeological deposits or features within the onshore site boundary.

It is likely that a watching brief will be recommended during the routing of cables across the site if open trenching is the preferred method of installation. Should archaeology of particular note be found, it may be necessary to re-route the cables.

The final decision regarding mitigation strategies rests with the Regional planning archaeologist.

7.0 References

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8.0 Appendix

8.1 Table A1: Gazetteer of sites identified within the proposed onshore study area

ORCA Site No.	THC HER Mon UID	Site Name	Description	NGR (Easting)	(NGR (Northing)	Period	Cultural Significance / Sensitivity	Accuracy (if applicable)
1	MHG2517	Broch, Knock Urray	Scheduled Monument (Index No. 564). The ruins of broch Knock Urray that are c. 54ft in diameter and stand of a grassy mound (1910). By 1981 the broch survived as a turf-covered mound with no wall faces exposed and no central depression. Erosion on the northeast side revealed content of earth and small pieces of sandstone.	298380	966300	Prehistoric - Iron Age	High	N/A
2	MHG749	Dounreay Nuclear Power Establishment	Nuclear research facility with prototype fast breeder reactor.	298520	967120	Modern	High	N/A
3	MHG13438	Lower Dounreay	Mill dam. Not located at the time of the walkover survey. Most likely in the wrong grid coordinates as a mill lade and dam are shown to the northeast of here on early OS mappings.	298000	966000	Post-medieval	Low	N/A
4	MHG40656	Lower Dounreay	A mill lade that stretched southeast from the Mill dam for c. 780m. Now incorporated in the Dounreay Atomic Energy Complex. Not	298000	966000	Unknown	Low	N/A

ORCA Site No.	THC HER Mon UID	Site Name	Description	NGR (Easting)	NGR (Northing)	Period	Cultural Significance / Sensitivity	Accuracy (if applicable)
			within study area grid coordinates are inaccurate.					
5	MHG765	Earthwork Bank, Isauld House	A bank measuring 146m long and 0.35m high, aligned northwest/southeast. Runs parallel to and 4.5m from a wall that is 50m long and 0.35m high.	297650	966350	Unknown	Negligible	N/A
6	MHG2483	Sheepfold, Ling Geo	Situated on level ground above the seashore is a mounded structure measuring 20.5m east/west by 19.0m. Date and purpose unknown. Remains are too limited to be a broch and too strong for a hut circle	297440	966630	Post-medieval	Low	N/A
7	MHG43538	Sheepfold, Ling Geo	On the First Edition OS mapping this grid reference is annotated as an 'old sheepfold' and marked by a large circular structure. In 1981 this was described as a sub circular structure measuring 23m x20mx1.2m high with depressions and the east and west ends. A possible entrance was on the west. Orientated east/west.	297440	966630	Post-medieval	Low	N/A
8	MHG2484	White Geo	A possible defended homestead or small dun	296790	966170	Unknown	Low	N/A

ORCA Site No.	THC HER Mon UID	Site Name	Description	NGR (Easting)	(NGR (Northing)	Period	Cultural Significance / Sensitivity	Accuracy (if applicable)
			naturally defended on three sides by cliffs.					
9	MHG757	Wall, White Geos	A grass-covered twisting stone wall, 101m long and 0.35m high.	296870	966150	Unknown	Negligible	N/A
10	MHG756	Track, White Geos	A trackway, 70m long, 3.5m wide and grass-covered with banks 0.25m high on either side.	296940	966140	Unknown	Negligible	N/A
11	MHG2481	Clearance Cairn, Sandside Bay	A sub-circular grass-covered clearance mound that measures 6m by 2m.	296870	966040	Prehistoric - Neolithic	Medium	N/A
12	MHG2492	Cairn, Sandside Bay	A sub-circular cairn that measures 16m by 9m by 0.3m high, partly covered by grass and adjacent to ridge and furrow.	296870	966010	Prehistoric - Neolithic	Medium	N/A
13	MHG2485	Mound, Sandside Bay	A U-shaped turf-covered mound located on the edge of a low cliff. Measures 10m north/south by 7m transversely and 0.8m high. Purpose of the mound is uncertain.	296760	965990	Unknown	Uncertain	N/A
14	MHG2486	Hut Circle, Sandside Bay	A possible hut circle visible as an ill-defined shallow depression in the turf about 6.5m in diameter. The wall is spread to 1.5m and 0.3m high. There is no indication (in 1981) of contemporary cultivation.	296770	965940	Prehistoric - Bronze Age	Medium	N/A

ORCA Site No.	THC HER Mon UID	Site Name	Description	NGR (Easting)	NGR (Northing)	Period	Cultural Significance / Sensitivity	Accuracy (if applicable)
15	MHG2501	Field System, Isauld House	A longhouse, circular structures and field walls noted within the area.	296800	965900	Post-medieval	Low	N/A
16	MHG2480	Longhouse, Sandside Bay	A longhouse measuring 21m northeast/southwest by 6m and 0.35m high.	296790	965880	Unknown	Uncertain	N/A
17	MHG2478	Structure, Isauld House	A circular structure measuring 11m east/west by 9m externally and 5.5 by 4m internally. Comprises of a penannular bank eroding over the cliff.	296780	965870	Unknown	Uncertain	N/A
18	MHG2506	Hut Circle, Sandside Bay	On the east side of Sandside Bay there was a hut circle that measured about 16m in diameter and its bank was 0.3m high. Traces of drystone walling were identified approximately 10m to the south of the hut circle and in the cliff face c. 1m below ground surface.	296830	965790	Prehistoric - Bronze Age	Medium	N/A
19	MHG2476	Clearance Cairn, Isauld House	Two sub-circular grass-covered clearance cairns, 0.5m and 0.35m high.	296920	965830	Prehistoric - Neolithic	Medium	N/A
20	MHG2477	Clearance Cairn, Isauld House	A sub-circular, partly grass-covered clearance cairn. Measures 1.5m in diameter and 0.5m high. Consists of quite large stones.	296970	965820	Prehistoric - Neolithic	Medium	N/A
21	MHG2488	Cairn, Isauld House	A cairn measuring 40m by 18m, comprising a sub-	297140	965770	Prehistoric - Neolithic	Medium	N/A

ORCA Site No.	THC HER Mon UID	Site Name	Description	NGR (Easting)	(NGR (Northing)	Period	Cultural Significance / Sensitivity	Accuracy (if applicable)
			rectangular pile of stones partly covered by grass.					
22	MHG36404	Isauld House	Isauld Farmhouse	297400	965760	Post-medieval	Low	N/A
23	MHG37405	Isauld House, Reay	Isauld Farmhouse	297430	965740	Post-medieval	Low	N/A
24	MHG36405	Isauld Lodge	Isauld Lodge	297570	965470	Post-medieval	Low	N/A
25	MHG36406	Isauld Cottage	Isauld Cottage	297810	965380	Post-medieval	Low	N/A
26	MHG2497	Building, Isauld Port	A boathouse or storage hut measuring 6m by 2m by 1.5m and 17 courses high. Set within a sand dune it is of drystone walling with an opening on the west side.	296860	965750	Post-medieval	Low	N/A
27	MHG19660	Isauld Port, Ice House	Isauld Port, icehouse	296800	965700	Post-medieval	Low	N/A
28	MHG25112	Reay	A small, sandy mound that covers the remains of a chapel. Parts of the chapel walls were visible before 1872. Nothing is known of it beyond that it was a chapel of primitive build and that it was covered by a sand drift.	296700	965700	Unknown (Early med/Med/Post-med)	Uncertain / Medium	N/A
29	MHG238	Structure, Isauld Port	A rectangular stone-walled structure measuring 6m by 2.5m. In an area annotated as a boat house on the First Edition OS mapping.	296850	965650	Unknown	Uncertain	N/A

ORCA Site No.	THC HER Mon UID	Site Name	Description	NGR (Easting)	NGR (Northing)	Period	Cultural Significance / Sensitivity	Accuracy (if applicable)
30	MHG2518	Chapel, Isauld	In 1872 this was described as a small sandy mound that covers the remains of a chapel, parts of walls were visible before 1872. Nothing is known of it except that it was a chapel of primitive build and was covered by a sand drift.	296930	965660	Early medieval	Medium	N/A
31	MHG239	Mound, Burn of Isauld	A possible structure that consists of 11 sub-circular grass-covered mounds about 0.5m high, covering an area 14m by 10m.	296970	965660	Unknown	Uncertain	N/A
32	MHG758	Clearance Cairn, Isauld House	A grass-covered field clearance cairn 2m in diameter and 0.5m high.	297180	965530	Prehistoric - Neolithic	Medium	N/A
33	MHG759	Possible Hut Circle, Isauld House	A sub-circular structure, 16.5m by 12.5m, grass-covered with two central depressions. Also a cairn 4m in diameter.	297180	965520	Prehistoric - Neolithic	Medium	N/A
34	MHG39415	Possible Clearance Cairn, Isauld House	A sub circular structure measuring 16.5m by 12.5m, grass-covered with two central depressions and a cairn 4m in diameter.	297180	965520	Unknown	Uncertain	N/A
35	MHG760	Two Cairns, Burn of Isauld	A sub circular, grass and moss covered enclosure, 21.5m in diameter and 0.5-2.5m high, with two cairns inside.	297210	965480	Prehistoric - Neolithic	Medium	N/A

ORCA Site No.	THC HER Mon UID	Site Name	Description	NGR (Easting)	NGR (Northing)	Period	Cultural Significance / Sensitivity	Accuracy (if applicable)
36	MHG761	Clearance Cairn, Burn of Isauld	A sub circular stone clearance cairn, 2m in diameter and 1m high.	297270	965460	Prehistoric - Neolithic	Medium	N/A
37	MHG762	Clearance Cairn, Burn of Isauld	A sub circular stone clearance cairn, 2m in diameter and 1m high.	297270	965450	Prehistoric - Neolithic	Medium	N/A
38	MHG763	Wall, Burn of Isauld	A partly covered grass wall, 44m in length that was built of upright slabs and running parallel to the present field boundary.	297300	965420	Unknown	Uncertain	N/A
39	MHG764	Mound, Burn of Isauld	A flat topped mound, 2.5m in diameter and 0.25m high, grass and moss-covered.	297290	965360	Unknown	Uncertain	N/A
40	MHG2489	Cairn, Burn of Isauld	A cairn measuring 9m by 3m. Consists of a sub-rectangular scatter of stones, partially grass-covered and a wall of flat stones; mostly collapsed.	297300	965340	Prehistoric - Neolithic	Medium	N/A
41	MHG31742	Cists E side of Isauld Burn, Reay	Two cists were recovered on the east side of the Isauld Burn between 'it and the farm dyke.'	297481	965124	Prehistoric	Medium	N/A
42	MHG2490	Bridge of Isauld	Bridge of Isauld of early 19th century date. A two-arch rubble bridge with one segmental arch larger than the other. The bridge carries the A836 public road over the Burn of Isauld to the east/northeast of Reay village.	297650	965040	Post-medieval	Low	N/A

ORCA Site No.	THC HER Mon UID	Site Name	Description	NGR (Easting)	NGR (Northing)	Period	Cultural Significance / Sensitivity	Accuracy (if applicable)
43	MHG2514	Broch, Bridge of Isauld	A 'Pict's house' was removed from this area in 1860 that revealed several querns and animal bones. A spring in the centre of the building was drained into the Isauld Burn. No trace of these remains except a slight rise in the ground (1873). No traces of any mound, or other feature were identified on this site in 1981. The site is occupied by a slightly undulating arable field.	297670	965040	Prehistoric - Iron Age	Medium	N/A
44	MHG2500	Mary's Cottage, Reay	A possible longhouse measuring 34m east/west by 5m across. Defined by grass banks and having internal divisions. This was depicted and named as Mary's Cottage on both OS1 and OS2.	297188	965338	Post-medieval	Low	N/A
45	MHG2507	Findspot, Sandside Links	A Viking bronze strap-end found on Sandside Links in 1926.	297290	965120	Norse	Negligible	N/A
46	MHG755	Findspot, Reay	Fragments of a post-Viking clay vessel were found in 1928 about 3ft down in a small heap of stones, c. 120 yards northwest of the Drill Hall.	297290	965120	Norse	Negligible	N/A

ORCA Site No.	THC HER Mon UID	Site Name	Description	NGR (Easting)	NGR (Northing)	Period	Cultural Significance / Sensitivity	Accuracy (if applicable)
47	MHG2529	Norse Cemetery, Reay Links	Viking burials have been found on the links of Reay, thought to indicate the presence of a cemetery.	297327	965076	Norse	Medium	N/A
48	MHG753	Hut Circles, Reay	Two hut circles were excavated in 1955 that were exposed by sand-blow in an area of rising ground that was stripped of its turf cover. In 1960 three hut circles were identified, by 1981 one of the huts was evident as a depression in the dune, with two huts remaining.	297200	965100	Prehistoric - Bronze Age	Medium	N/A
49	MHG720	Reay Burgh	Reay Burgh.	296800	964900	Post-medieval	Low	N/A
50	MHG31478	Reay: New Burial Ground	Reay New Cemetery located to the west of the 18th century parish church.	296632	964872	Post-medieval	Low	N/A
51	MHG3010	Pins on beach at Reay	A collection of handmade pins were found on the beach at Reay in 1899. The exact location of the findspot is unknown.	296400	965200	Post-medieval	Negligible	N/A
52		Structure	Agricultural structure, possibly used for hay storage or silage. Marked on modern OS mappings.	298273	965914	Post-medieval/ Modern	Low	+/- 3m
53		Deposit	Layer of burnt ash or silt located 0.5m below ground level beneath horizontally laid loose stone. Noted in coastal edge.	297744	966359	Unknown	Uncertain	+/- 3m

ORCA Site No.	THC HER Mon UID	Site Name	Description	NGR (Easting)	(NGR (Northing)	Period	Cultural Significance / Sensitivity	Accuracy (if applicable)
54		Stone Pile	Stone spread mixed with iron. Possibly recently disturbed. Located within an area marked as an occasional pond on modern OS mappings. Possibly building debris and stone used to fill in wet area.	297703	965989	Modern	Negligible	+/- 3m
55		Stone spread	Stone spread noted on coastal edge. Noted for a length of 100m and width of 25cm. No coursed walls were visible. Possibly a demolished drystone wall.	2974044	966436	Unknown	Uncertain	+/- 3m
56		Depression	Circular depression in ground noted with change of vegetation. Some stone protruding. Length 3m, width 1.5m and 25cm high.	296902	966287	Unknown	Uncertain	+/- 3m
57		Stone spread	Linear stone spread. Possible building collapse. Noted in overgrown grassy area. Difficult to tell shape (possibly rectangular) and depth of stone.	296921	966049	Unknown	Uncertain	+/- 3m
58		Structure	Caithness Flagstone dyke	(centre point) 296896	965974	Post-medieval/ Modern	Medium	+/- 3m
59		Deposit	Possible archaeological remains visible in coastal section. Roughly measures 1m in depth and 15m in	296833	965758	Unknown	Uncertain	+/- 3m

ORCA Site No.	THC HER Mon UID	Site Name	Description	NGR (Easting)	NGR (Northing)	Period	Cultural Significance / Sensitivity	Accuracy (if applicable)
			length. Located beneath the topsoil, on top of glacial till. Stones in section laid horizontally.					
60		Mound	Large grass and sand covered mound on edge of shore. Located within the dune system. Measures c. 3m high and contained stones protruding through the top of the mound.	296898	965642	Unknown	Uncertain	+/- 3m
61		Structure	Farm building within Gunnscoft area of dressed freestone now used as a sheep byre. Barn entrance on south elevation, three windows and two doors on west elevation, small window and square opening with timber lintel on east elevation. A datestone of 1881 was on the north elevation. Annotated on Second Edition Ordnance Survey Map 25" to 1 mile (1892).	298113	965929	Post-medieval	Low	+/- 3m

8.2 Table A2: Walkover Survey photographic register

Image No.	Description	Direction of Shot	Date
001	General view of onshore study area	SE	05/10/2015
002	General view of onshore study area	S/SE	05/10/2015
003	View of Sandside Harbour (outside study area)	SE	05/10/2015
004	View of 1&2 Sandside Harbour (outside study area)	S	05/10/2015
005	Enclosed circular area of ground within Sandside Estate (outside study area)	S	05/10/2015
006	Sandside Bay radioactive warning sign	--	05/10/2015
007	Grass-covered ice house (outside study area)	NW	05/10/2015
008	Grass-covered ice house (outside study area)	NW	05/10/2015
009	Possible archaeological deposit in coastal section (ORCA No. 59)	E	05/10/2015
010	Possible archaeological deposit in coastal section (ORCA No. 59)	SE	05/10/2015
011	Possible archaeological deposit in coastal section (ORCA No. 59)	E	05/10/2015
012	Grass and sand covered mound (ORCA No. 60)	E	05/10/2015
013	Grass and sand covered mound (ORCA No. 60)	E	05/10/2015
014	Summit of Cnoc Stanger (outside study area)	N	05/10/2015
015	East side of Cnoc Stanger looking out towards offshore development area	N/NE	05/10/2015
016	Cnoc Stanger from Sandside Bay	W	05/10/2015
017	Reay Golf Course	E	05/10/2015
018	Reay Golf Course	NE	05/10/2015
019	General shot of field south of Cnoc Stanger (outside study area)	N	05/10/2015
020	Field dyke on west side of access road to Sandside Harbour (outside study area)	NE	05/10/2015
021	View from behind Reay Church looking towards Sandside Bay	N	05/10/2015
022	Reay Church	NE	05/10/2015

Image No.	Description	Direction of Shot	Date
023	Cross slab on western wall of mausoleum	Western elevation	05/10/2015
024	Cross slab on western wall of mausoleum	Western elevation	05/10/2015
025	1621 grave marker on southern elevation of mausoleum	Southern elevation	05/10/2015
026	Grave marker on southern elevation of mausoleum	Western elevation	05/10/2015
027	VOID	--	--
028	Reay old burial ground mausoleum	N	05/10/2015
029	Pictish Trail information board outside Reay old burial ground	--	05/10/2015
030	Fields to the east of Isauld Farm	E	05/10/2015
031	Fields to the east of Isauld Farm	E	05/10/2015
032	Stone spread (ORCA No. 54)		05/10/2015
033	Cnoc Urray	S	05/10/2015
034	View from Cnoc Urray (base of monument) towards offshore development area	N	05/10/2015
035	Cnoc Urray	N/NW	05/10/2015
036	Fields in eastern extent of onshore study area	E	05/10/2015
037	Stone spread and earthwork bank (ORCA No. 54)	W	05/10/2015
038	Sheepfolds (ORCA Nos. 6-7)	W	05/10/2015
039	Burnt layer in coastal section (ORCA No. 53)	S	05/10/2015
040	Stone spread on coastal edge (ORCA No. 55)	W	05/10/2015
041	Depression noted in ground with change of vegetation (ORCA No. 56)	E	05/10/2015
042	Large stones associated with Dun (ORCA No. 8)	W	05/10/2015
043	Homestead or Dun noted in HER (ORCA No. 8)	N	05/10/2015
044	Coastal edge of U-shaped mound noted in 1981 (ORCA No. 13)	E	05/10/2015
045	U-shaped mound (ORCA No. 13)	N	05/10/2015
046	Traditional Caithness flagstone dyke to north of Isauld Farm	E	05/10/2015
047	Linear stone spread (ORCA No. 57)	NW	05/10/2015
048	Western elevation of Gunnscroft croft building	NE	06/10/2015

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Image No.	Description	Direction of Shot	Date
049	Southern elevation of Gunnscroft croft building	N	06/10/2015
050	Southern elevation of Gunnscroft croft building	N	06/10/2015
051	Eastern elevation of Gunnscroft croft building	NW	06/10/2015
052	Northern elevation of Gunnscroft croft building	S	06/10/2015
053	Datestone on northern elevation of Gunnscroft croft building	--	06/10/2015
054	General view of field to north of 1881 Gunnscroft croft building	N	06/10/2015
055	VOID	--	--
056	Agricultural structure (ORCA No. 52)	NE	06/10/2015
057	Agricultural structure (ORCA No. 52)	N	06/10/2015
058	Area of rough ground south of Mary's Cottage (ORCA No. 44) that was not walked over	S	06/10/2015
059	Field containing Neolithic sites (ORCA Nos. 32-37) showing stone piles	N	06/10/2015
060	Field containing Neolithic sites ORCA Nos. 32-37, showing stone piles	S	06/10/2015
061	Stone pile in field containing ORCA Nos. 32-37	S	06/10/2015
062	Filed around ORCA Nos. 26-29, showing overgrown nature of ground	N/NW	06/10/2015
063	VOID	--	---
064	VOID	--	---
065	General shot taken east of Reay Primary School looking towards offshore development site	NW	06/10/2015
066	General shot taken East of Sutherland's garage looking towards offshore development site	NW	06/10/2015



