

# European Offshore Wind Deployment Centre Environmental Statement

## Chapter 20: Cultural Heritage





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## 20 CULTURAL HERITAGE

### 20.1 Introduction

- 1 This chapter of the Environmental Statement (ES) considers the potential impact of the EOWDC upon the setting of nationally important onshore cultural heritage assets. The assessment was undertaken by Headland Archaeology. The cultural significance of cultural heritage assets is often tied to their relationship with their surroundings; consequently development may affect the significance of an asset without affecting its physical fabric by degrading the contribution of setting. This chapter assesses the potential for setting impacts to occur as a result of the EOWDC.
- 2 The following technical reports support this chapter and can be found as:
  - Cultural Heritage Baseline Technical Report (Appendix 20.1)
  - Cultural Heritage Environmental Impact Assessment Technical Report (Appendix 20.2)

#### *20.1.1 Methodology Consultation*

- 3 The following consultation was undertaken
  - **Aberdeen City Council**  
Aberdeen City Council was approached in order to establish whether they had specific concerns or requirements for data to be provided, in particular visualisations. Comments were also invited upon the proposed scope of the assessment.

Robert Forbes, The Planning Officer, indicated that he did have some concern regarding potential impacts upon the setting of Girdle Ness Lighthouse, and requested that visualisations from elevated points to the south and south-west of the lighthouse should be provided in order to help assess the potential impact upon views of the lighthouse.

The potential impact upon the setting of the lighthouse has been assessed using wireframes and a site visit. The wireframes presented with this report are photographs illustrating various views of the lighthouse. However, photomontages have not been prepared. The wireframes give an adequate demonstration of the scale of the wind turbines in relation to the lighthouse in views from the south, whilst the photomontages for the Torry Battery and Kincorth Hill viewpoints (SLVIA Viewpoints 07 & 12 respectively) provide an indication of the EOWDC's appearance from the vicinity of the lighthouse and from high ground to its southwest. The inclusion of photomontages for Nigg Bay would not afford any substantive information that is not available from that presented here.

The Archaeology Unit indicated that all consultation was to be undertaken through the Planning Officer.

- **Aberdeenshire Council Archaeology Service**  
Aberdeenshire Council Archaeology Service was approached in order to establish whether they had specific concerns or requirements for data to

be provided, in particular visualisations. Comments were also invited upon the proposed scope of the assessment.

The Archaeology Service indicated that it had no concerns regarding potential setting impacts.

- **Historic Scotland**  
Historic Scotland was approached in order to establish whether they had specific concerns or requirements for data to be provided, in particular visualisations. Comments were also invited upon the proposed scope of the assessment.

No specific concerns were noted. However, it was suggested that the assessment be accompanied by visualisations to illustrate the potential impact upon the setting of Straloch Garden and Designed Landscape (GDL), Hare Cairn and Forvie Church and deserted village, as well as those proposed for the Seascape, Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (SLVIA) for Dunnottar Castle and Torry Battery. It was suggested that assets in the vicinity of Straloch GDL, such as Tillygreig hut-circles (SM2450) be considered.

Visualisations have been included for Torry Battery (Viewpoint 07 of SLVIA) and from near Forvie Church (Viewpoint 09 of SLVIA). No visualisations have been presented for Straloch GDL or Dunnottar Castle, as there is no intervisibility, or Hare Cairn or Tillygreig hut-circles, as there is no potential for a significant impact upon its setting from the EOWDC.

- **Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH)**  
SNH was approached in order to establish whether they had specific concerns or requirements for data to be provided, in particular visualisations. Comments were also invited upon the proposed scope of the assessment (e-mail dated 1st March 2011). SNH had indicated early in the project's lifespan that impacts upon the setting of cultural heritage assets should be considered by the Environmental Statement (ES).

SNH indicated that the proposed scope of the study was acceptable (e-mail dated 25th March 2011) and did not require any further visualisations.

### *20.1.2 Key Guidance Documents*

4 The following guidance documents have been referred to:

- COWRIE (2007a) Historic Environment Guidance for the Offshore Renewable Energy Sector
- COWRIE (2007b) Guidance for Assessment of Cumulative Impacts on the Historic Environment from Offshore Renewable Energy
- Historic Scotland (2008) Scottish Historic Environment Policy (SHEP)
- Historic Scotland (2009) Assessment of Impact upon the setting of the Historic Environment Resource
- Historic Scotland (2010) Managing Change in the Historic Environment: Setting

### *20.1.3 Data Information and Sources*

- 5 Two concentric study areas have been used to gather and present the baseline data:
- Inner study area (Figures 20.1, 20.2, and 20.3): This extends 10 km from the outermost proposed wind turbines. Within it data have been gathered for all designated nationally important assets (scheduled monuments, Category A listed buildings and Inventory Gardens and Designed Landscapes (GDL)) and conservation areas; and
  - Outer study area: this extends 40 km from the proposed wind turbines to take in the area for which the Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) has been prepared for the Seascape, Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (SLVIA). Within it assets specifically identified by consultees as being of concern have been considered.
- 6 There is no guidance regarding appropriate study areas for cultural heritage setting impact assessments. The study area has been defined in order to take in those assets that are most likely to be affected by the proposed development. Assets further inshore are less likely to be affected as their setting is less likely to relate to the sea.
- 7 Data were gathered from the following data sources:
- Databases of designated assets held by Historic Scotland
  - National Monuments Record of Scotland (NMRS)
  - Aberdeen City Council Sites and Monuments Record (SMR); and
  - Aberdeenshire Council Historic Environment Record (HER)
- 8 The results of the desk-based study were augmented by site visits undertaken on 8th and 9th March 2011.

## **20.2 Baseline Assessment**

- 9 The baseline assessment considered all nationally important cultural heritage assets within the inner study area. Assets in the outer study area were considered where raised by consultees.
- 10 It was established that there are 18 scheduled monuments (Figure 20.1), 86 Category A-listed buildings (though there are only 62 individual listings (Figures 20.2 & 20.3) and ten conservation areas within the inner study area (Figure 20.4). In the outer study area Straloch Inventory Garden Designed Landscape (GDL) (Figure 20.4), Dunnottar Castle, Tillygrieg hut-circles, Baron's Cairn, Cat Cairn and Loirston cairn (Figure 20.1) were considered.
- 11 The baseline assessment established that there is no potential for impacts upon the setting of all but two of the listed buildings: Orrok House and Girdle Ness Lighthouse. There is no potential for impacts upon nine of the scheduled monuments in the inner study area. Also there is no potential for impacts upon the setting of the ten conservation areas, Straloch or Dunnottar Castle. Fourteen assets have been taken through to the assessment phase. Assets not taken through to assessment are listed in Appendix 20.1.

### 20.3 Impact Assessment

- 12 The impact assessment methodology is detailed in Appendix 20.2.
- 13 Potential impacts of greater than negligible significance have been identified in five cases. Potential impacts upon Hare Cairn, the Peaterseat cairns, Torry Battery and Orrok House have been assessed as being of minor significance and those upon Girdle Ness Lighthouse as being of minor to moderate significance. The assessment is detailed in Appendix 20.2. For the remaining 8 assets, it was concluded that the EOWDC would have negligible impact on their setting.
- 14 The impacts would commence during the construction phase and would persist through the lifetime of the EOWDC, ceasing upon decommissioning.
- 15 The potential for cumulative impacts has been considered resulting from the Ocean Laboratory being added to the EOWDC. No potential cumulative impacts have been identified.

<b>Potential Impact</b>	<b>Significance Level</b>	<b>Mitigation</b>	<b>Residual Significance</b>	<b>Monitoring</b>
Impact upon the setting of Torry Battery	Minor	None proposed	Minor	None proposed
Impact upon the setting of Orrok House	Minor	None proposed	Minor	None proposed
Impact upon the setting of Girdle Ness Lighthouse	Minor to Moderate	None proposed	Minor to Moderate	None proposed
Impact upon setting of Peterseat cairns	Minor	None proposed	Minor	None proposed
Impact upon setting of Hare Cairn	Minor	None proposed	Minor	None proposed

### 20.4 Summary

- 16 The cultural heritage impact assessment has identified potential impacts upon the setting of five nationally important cultural heritage assets: the scheduled Torry Battery, Peterseat cairns and Hare Cairn and the A-listed Orrok House and Girdleness Lighthouse. The impacts upon Torry Battery, the Peterseat cairns, Hare Cairn and Orrok House have been assessed as being of minor significance and those upon Girdle Ness Lighthouse as being of minor to moderate significance. No mitigation is proposed in relation to these impacts and they would persist throughout the lifetime of the EOWDC and cease upon decommissioning.