

Technical Appendix 5.2: Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment

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1.1 Introduction

- 1.1.1
- AOC Archaeology Group was commissioned by Ramboll, on behalf of Shetland Aerogenerators Ltd, to undertake an Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment (DBA) and walkover survey to inform the baseline of Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) **Chapter 5: Cultural Heritage (EIAR Volume 2)** regarding the proposed Neshion Energy Park ('the Proposed Development').
- 1.1.2
- The Proposed Development is a renewable energy development comprised of up to eight wind turbines, a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) and associated infrastructure adjacent to Sullom Voe Oil Terminal (SVT) and the Shetland Gas Plant in Shetland, Scotland. The assessment is based on the Proposed Development as described in **Chapter 2: Proposed Development (EIAR Volume 2)**.
- 1.1.3
- The Site covers an area of c.303 hectares and comprises a combination of open heather moorland and grassland on peaty soils which is used for rough grazing.
- 1.1.4
- The 1 km Study Area used for establishing the historic baseline and the walkover survey are based on an earlier version of the Site boundary which has subsequently been reduced following environmental assessments and design refinement.

1.2 Methodology

- 1.2.1
- The assessment follows the methodology detailed in **Technical Appendix 5.1: Cultural Heritage Assessment Methodology (EIAR Volume 4)** and follows the statutory framework for heritage in Scotland as outlined in the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997¹ as amended in the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Scotland) Act 1997² and the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979³, both of which are modified by the Historic Environment (Amendment) (Scotland) Act 2011⁴. The implications of these Acts with regard to planning policy and other relevant policy are described within National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4)⁵, Historic Environment Policy for Scotland (HEPS)⁶, and the SIC Local Development Plan⁷.
- 1.2.2
- AOC conforms to the standards of professional conduct outlined in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' (CIfA) Code of Conduct⁸, the CIfA Standard and Guidance for Commissioning Work or Providing Consultancy Advice on Archaeology and the Historic Environment⁹, the CIfA Standards and Guidance for Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessments¹⁰, the CIfA Regulations for Professional Conduct¹¹, as well as guidance provided by Historic Environment Scotland (HES)^{6;12}.

Aims and Objectives

- 1.2.3
- The aim of this assessment is to identify the cultural heritage value of the Site proposed for development. The evidence presented and the conclusions offered will provide a comprehensive basis for further discussion and decisions regarding heritage constraints on the future development of this Site and for the formulation of a further mitigation strategy, should this be required, which will be set out in **Chapter 5: Cultural Heritage (EIAR Volume 2)**.
- 1.2.4
- The objectives to be undertaken in pursuing this study will be focused on assessing the heritage significance of the Site by examining a variety of evidence for upstanding and buried remains of heritage interest including World Heritage Sites, Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas, Inventoried Gardens and Designed Landscapes, Inventoried Battlefields, and non-designated assets within 1 km of the Site. The assessment is based upon data obtained from publicly accessible archives as described in Data Sources below.

Data Sources

- 1.2.5
- The archaeological and historical baseline has been established with reference to the following information sources:
- HES for designated heritage asset data held in the National Record for the Historic Environment (NRHE), accessed in September 2025 and checked in February 2026;
 - The SIC Historic Environment Record (HER), formerly known as Sites and Monuments Record (SMR), for records of designated and non-designated assets and previous archaeological interventions, received in February 2025;
 - Historic Maps held by the National Library of Scotland (NLS)¹³ and the British Library (via Wikimedia Commons¹⁴);
 - Archaeology Data Service (ADS)¹⁵ for heritage data including grey literature reports, archaeological journals, and the Excavation Index for Scotland;
 - Aerial photography images from the National Collection of Aerial Photography (NCAP)¹⁶ website;
 - Google Earth Pro™ for current and historical satellite imagery of the Site;
 - British Geological Survey¹⁷ data for information about the geological character of the Site;
 - The Scottish Archaeological Research Framework (ScARF) for national research frameworks and chronological reports¹⁸;
 - Shetland Museum and Archives for any available pre-Ordnance Survey mapping, photographs, and other documentary sources; and
 - Any other relevant published works, such as previous archaeological reports and assessments.

¹ *Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act (1997) (c8)*. London: UK Government. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1997/8/contents> (Accessed 27/01/2026).

² *Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Scotland) Act (1997) (c9)*. London: UK Government. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1997/9/contents> (Accessed 27/01/2026).

³ *Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act (1979) (c46)*. London: UK Government. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1979/46> (Accessed 27/01/2026).

⁴ *Historic Environment (Amendment) (Scotland) Act (2011) (c3)*. London: UK Government. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2011/3/contents> (Accessed 27/01/2026).

⁵ Scottish Government (2023). *National Planning Framework 4*. Available at: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/national-planning-framework-4/> (Accessed 27/01/2026).

⁶ Historic Environment Scotland (HES) (2019). *Historic Environment Policy for Scotland*. Available at: <https://www.historicenvironment.scot/archives-and-research/publications/publication/?publicationId=1bcfa7b1-28fb-4d4b-b1e6-aa2500f942e7> (Accessed 27/01/2026).

⁷ Shetland Islands Council (2014). *Shetland Local Development Plan*. Available at: <https://www.shetland.gov.uk/development-plans-policy/development-plans> (Accessed 27/01/2026).

⁸ Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) (2025a). *Code of Conduct: professional ethics in archaeology*. Available at: https://www.archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/2025-10/Code-of-conduct_revOct-2025.pdf (Accessed 27/01/2026).

⁹ CIfA (2020a). *Standard and guidance for Commissioning Work or Providing Consultancy Advice on the Historic Environment*. Available at: <https://www.archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/2023-11/CIfA-SandG-Archaeological-Consultancy-2020.pdf> (Accessed 27/01/2026).

¹⁰ CIfA (2020b). *Standard and Guidance for Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment*. Available at: <https://www.archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/2023-11/CIfA-SandG-DBA-2020.pdf> (Accessed 27/01/2026).

¹¹ CIfA (2025b). *Regulations for Professional Conduct*. Available at: https://www.archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/2025-10/Regulations-for-professional-conduct_revOct-2025.pdf (Accessed 27/01/2026).

¹² HES (2023). *Our Past, Our Future: The Strategy for Scotland's Historic Environment*. Available at: <https://www.historicenvironment.scot/archives-and-research/publications/publication/?publicationId=79204155-9eb2-4d29-ab14-aff200ec2801> (Accessed 27/01/2026).

¹³ National Library of Scotland (NLS) (2026). *Map Images*. Available at: <https://maps.nls.uk/> (Accessed 27/01/2026).

¹⁴ Wikimedia Commons (2020). *Old Maps of Shetland Islands*. Available at: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Category:Old_maps_of_the_Shetland_Islands (Accessed 28/01/2026).

¹⁵ Archaeology Data Service (ADS) (2026). *Search data*. Available at: <https://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/search-data/> (Accessed 28/01/2026).

¹⁶ National Collection of Aerial Photography (NCAP) (2026). *Map Search*. Available at: <https://ncap.org.uk/search?view=map> (Accessed 27/01/2026).

¹⁷ British Geological Survey (BGS) (2026a). *Geology of Britain Viewer*. Available at: <https://geologyviewer.bgs.ac.uk/> (Accessed 27/01/2026).

¹⁸ Scottish Archaeological Research Framework (ScARF) (2026). *Panel Reports and Chronology*. Available at: <https://scarf.scot/national/panel-report-chronology-and-downloads/> (Accessed 28/01/2026).

1.2.6 A full list of sources used in this assessment, including historic maps and aerial photographs, is listed in **Section 1.5 References**.

Report Structure

1.2.7 Each heritage asset and previous archaeological investigation (event) referred to in the text is listed in the Gazetteer in **Technical Appendix 5.4: Heritage Gazetteer (EIAR Volume 4)**. Each has been assigned an ‘Asset/Event No.’ unique to this assessment, and the Gazetteer includes information regarding the type, period, grid reference, designation number, NRHE/HER number, statutory protective designation, and other descriptive information, as derived from the consulted sources.

1.2.8 Each heritage asset referred to in the text is plotted on the location maps in **Figure 5.2.1: Heritage Assets within Site and 1 km Study Area** and **Figure 5.2.2: Previous Archaeological Events within 1 km Study Area** using the assigned Asset/Event Nos.

Setting Assessment

1.2.9 The EIAR includes an assessment of the potential for the Proposed Development to result in impacts upon the settings of designated heritage assets within a study area of up to 10 km around the Site (**Technical Appendix 5.3: Setting Assessment (EIAR Volume 4)**). This includes consideration of whether any such change would constitute an adverse impact (diminishment) to those attributes of the designated assets which directly contribute to their significance rather than simply being an alteration to, or addition of a new element to the existing settings of these assets. Where a new development may be located within the setting of an asset but does not diminish the significance of the asset or the ability to appreciate that significance, it may have a neutral impact.

1.2.10 The assessment considers all designated heritage assets within 5 km of the Site and nationally important designated heritage assets within 10 km of the Site. The Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) was used to identify those assets with potential visibility of the Proposed Development. The **Technical Appendix 5.4: Heritage Gazetteer (EIAR Volume 4)** includes information as to whether the asset falls within the ZTV for the Proposed Development. Where possible, visits were undertaken to every identified designated heritage asset within the Study Areas within the ZTV in order to confirm the potential for setting impacts and in many cases intervening topography, built structures, and vegetation was noted to completely obscure any potential intervisibility.

1.2.11 A separate Setting Assessment report with accompanying figures is presented in **Technical Appendix 5.3: Setting Assessment (EIAR Volume 4)**.

1.3 Archaeological and Historical Baseline

1.3.1 The chronological framework below has been employed based broadly on the period divisions defined by ScARF¹⁸ (**Table 5.2.1**), although with some modifications for the purposes of this assessment and in line with the history of the Shetland Islands^{19;20;21;22} and the HER data received. All designated and non-designated heritage assets discussed are shown on **Figure 5.2.1: Heritage Assets within Site and 1 km Study Area**.

Table 5.2.1: Chronology of Time Periods used in Assessment		
Period Names		Date Range
Prehistoric	Mesolithic	5000 BC to 3400 BC
	Neolithic	3400 BC to 2000 BC

Table 5.2.1: Chronology of Time Periods used in Assessment		
Period Names		Date Range
	Bronze Age	1800 BC to 600 BC
	Iron Age	600 BC to AD 400
Early Medieval	Pictish	AD 400 to AD 800
	Norse	AD 800 to AD 1472
Late Medieval		AD 1472 to AD 1730
Post-Medieval		AD 1730 to AD 1914
Modern		AD 1914 to present day

Prehistoric (4320 BC to AD 400)

1.3.2 The earliest evidence for the first human occupation in Shetland dates to around 5000 BC during the Mesolithic period when the area was occupied by nomadic hunter-gatherers. The first settlement and farming activities began around 3400 BC in the Neolithic¹⁹ period.

1.3.3 There are three prehistoric assets recorded within the Site, which includes one of the two Crooksetter Cairn Scheduled Monuments (Asset 35) and two possible cairns that were identified during the walkover survey in March 2025, although these may be natural topographic features (these are discussed further below). There are a further 12 prehistoric assets recorded within the 1km Study Area, including the south west Scheduled Crooksetter Cairn (Asset 32), Scheduled Fugla Ness broch (Asset 6) and two Scheduled burnt mounds (Assets 19 and 20), all located c.500 m to the east of the Site.

1.3.4 The two Scheduled Crooksetter Cairns (Assets 32 and 35) are both heel-shaped chambered cairns, which indicates they are likely to be Neolithic in date. The two Scheduled burnt mounds (Assets 19 and 20) are likely to date to the Bronze Age. The other non-designated prehistoric assets within the 1 km Study Area all appear to date to these periods as well, being possible remains of cairns and burnt mounds, although none have been fully investigated to confirm their exact nature and date. The only Iron Age asset recorded within the 1 km Study Area is the Fugla Ness Scheduled broch (Asset 6).

1.3.5 It should be noted that several pockets of deep peat within the Site, in which peat deposits survive to a depth of over 1 m, may preserve palaeoenvironmental evidence which could improve our understanding of past environments. Pollen and other palaeoenvironmental proxies survive well within these conditions and accordingly the Site is considered to have a High potential for recovery of palaeoenvironmental data.

1.3.6 In view of the known and possible burial monuments recorded within the Site, and the potential for palaeoenvironmental data to survive within the areas of deep peat, there is considered to be a High potential for previously unrecorded prehistoric archaeological remains to be present within the Site.

Medieval (AD 400 to 1730)

1.3.7 By AD 400 Shetland was occupied by the Picts, who created their own brochs. The Norse arrived around the 8th century bringing their own culture, language, and religion to the islands²¹. The Norse occupation continued until 1472 when the islands were annexed to the Scottish crown to become Scottish territory, although Norse language, customs, and traditions continued into the 18th century²⁰.

1.3.8 There are four non-designated heritage assets dating to the medieval period recorded within the 1 km Study Area. These include two non-designated heritage assets which indicate the possibility of the survival of Norse remains beneath the crofting townships at Crooksetter (Asset 76) and Garth (Asset

¹⁹ Dixon, M. (2021). A Shetland Timeline. <https://www.northlinkferries.co.uk/shetland-blog/a-shetland-timeline/> (Accessed 28/01/2026).

²⁰ Britannica (2025). Shetland Islands. Available at: <https://www.britannica.com/place/Shetland-Islands-Scotland> (Accessed 28/01/2026).

²¹ Ford, R. (2025). History of the Shetland Islands. Available at: <https://www.airtask.com/shetland/history-of-the-shetland-islands> (Accessed 28/01/2026).

²² Shetland Family History Society (FHS) (2013). Timeline of Shetland History. Available at: <https://www.shetland-fhs.org.uk/research/timeline> (Accessed 28/01/2026).

77). Although not recorded in the HER, the small township at Tronaster (Asset 119), on the eastern boundary of the Site, may also have the potential for below-ground Norse remains.

- 1.3.9 The other medieval assets within the 1 km Study Area are a later medieval graveyard which is still in use and was believed to be the site of an ancient chapel (Asset 58), and the remains of two post-medieval dwellings believed to have earlier foundations (Asset 59).
- 1.3.10 Early pre-Ordnance Survey (OS) maps of the Site tend to be schematic and lacking in detail, although they give some idea of the nature of the surrounding area. The earliest maps of Shetland, such as those by Olaus (1539, not reproduced here), Gordon (1636, not reproduced here) and Blaeu (1654, **Figure 5.2.3: Extract from 1654 Blaeu Map**), show very little detail of the area, although the Blaeu map does record the townships of Scatsta, Daleton (Daletig), and Brough (Brugh).
- 1.3.11 Overall, the paucity of medieval evidence within the Site and 1 km Study Area indicates a Low potential for previously unrecorded medieval remains to be present within the Site, with the possible exception of the area in the immediate vicinity of the former Tronaster township (Asset 119).

Post-Medieval (AD 1730 to 1914)

- 1.3.12 There is a considerable post-medieval presence within the Site and 1 km Study Area: 59 of the heritage assets recorded in the HER in the 1 km Study Area are recorded as post-medieval in date, including the Category B Listed Pony Pund (Asset 47) located c.530 m west of the Site. The majority of the post-medieval assets are related to the agricultural use of the landscape, as although the post-medieval period in Britain in general saw rapid changes particularly relating to the shift from an agricultural economy to an industrial one in the 18th and 19th centuries, Shetland was relatively unchanged by these developments, remaining outside the mainstream of Scotland’s industrialisation²⁰.
- 1.3.13 As noted above, early pre-OS maps of the Site tend to be schematic and lacking in detail, as shown in the 18th century maps by Moll (1745, not reproduced here) and von Reilly (1789, not reproduced here), although the early 19th century map by Thompson (1827, **Figure 5.2.4: Extract from 1827 Thompson map**) does show the topography of the Site. However, the creation of the OS maps in the later 19th century mean that the Site can be seen in more detail, for example on the 1881 OS map (**Figure 5.2.5: Extract from 1881 Ordnance Survey map**). The OS maps show that the land within the Site was primarily rough pasture. This map shows the small townships/farmsteads of Tronaster (Asset 119) which crosses the eastern boundary of the Site, and Daleton (Asset 129), located c.500 m east of the Site. Both are recorded on the OS maps as unroofed structures and enclosures and can be seen on aerial photographs and satellite imagery of the late 20th and early 21st centuries (**Figure 5.2.7: Extract from Satellite Imagery, August 2023**). A sheepfold (Asset 120) is also recorded on this map on the northern shore of Sand Water c.600 m south east of the Site.
- 1.3.14 Numerous other farmsteads, crofts, and townships are recorded in the HER and on Trove within the 1 km Study Area, including Stenswall (Asset 69), Laxobigging (Assets 71, 72, 107, 111 and 112), Crooksetter (Assets 76 and 118), Garth (Assets 77, 89, 95 and 97), Orka Voe (Asset 88), Out-Town (Asset 103), Clett (Asset 105), Gardins (Asset 106), Bordigarth (Assets 108 and 109), Toft (Assets 116, 117 and 124), Brough (Assets 121 and 126), Giffords Fancy (Asset 122), Toog (Assets 123 and 127), Isleview (Asset 125), and Neshion (Asset 128). These are all now fully or partially demolished. A number of clearance cairns are also recorded (Assets 64, 87, 90, 92 and 94) but again, none are recorded within the Site.
- 1.3.15 The 1881 OS map also shows a previously unrecorded field boundary (Asset 130) running diagonally across the northern half of the Site. The boundary is marked on later OS maps (**Figure 5.2.6: Extract from 1973 Ordnance Survey map**) but is not visible on aerial photographs taken in 1978 suggesting

that it had been removed by then. The walkover survey showed that no above-ground remains of this field boundary survive beyond a few scattered fence posts, although there is potential for below-ground remains of the field boundary to survive. However, any such remains would be considered to be of negligible importance.

- 1.3.16 Whilst the maps and HER data primarily indicate the Site and surrounding area as being agricultural or undeveloped in nature, there is evidence of some early industrial activity in the number of mills recorded within the 1 km Study Area (Assets 60, 68, 74, 78, 79, 80 and 81), though there are none recorded within the Site.
- 1.3.17 Overall, the historic maps and HER data show that the Site remained predominantly rough pasture and undeveloped throughout the post-medieval period. Therefore, there is a Low potential for post-medieval archaeological remains to be present within the Site beyond the field boundary noted above (Asset 130). Any previously unrecorded post-medieval remains are likely to be related to the agricultural use of the Site as rough pasture.

Modern (1914 to present day)

- 1.3.18 The landscape around the Site remained virtually unchanged in the first half of the 20th century, until the outbreak of the Second World War in 1939 and the construction of the Sullom Voe RAF Flying Boat base and associated Graven Military Camp (Asset 65). Many of the structures of the Graven camp survive although many are neglected and in a poor condition. An anti-aircraft battery associated with the RAF base and camp survives as a Scheduled Monument (Asset 38) c.2.3 km west of the Site.
- 1.3.19 During the Second World War, a number of RAF and Luftwaffe aircraft are recorded as having crashed around the area. The Shetland Archives were visited on 28 March 2025. During the archives visit, a map was viewed on which the location of a number of crashed Second World War aircraft were recorded in the form of pencilled annotations. This map indicated that there may have been a crashed aircraft within the Site boundary, although on further investigation this was identified as the crashed Catalina flying boat recorded in the SMR (Asset 66) which lies just outside the south western boundary of the Site. Whilst this is located outside the Site boundary, the size of the aircraft and nature of the crash means there is the potential for aircraft remains to be spread over a wider area which may encroach into the Site boundary.
- 1.3.20 Following the Second World War the landscape remained unchanged until the construction of the Sullom Voe Oil and Gas terminals in the mid-1970s with expansion in the early 21st century²³. A monument located close to the south east Crooksetter Scheduled cairn commemorates the opening of the terminals in 1981 (Asset 133). The terminals and infrastructure cover an area of over 500 ha and include a number of large and prominent industrial structures which dominate the surrounding landscape. Aerial photographs taken in the 1970s and 1980s and satellite images taken between 2003 and 2023 (**Figure 5.2.7: Extract from Satellite Imagery, August 2023**) show the layout of the Oil and Gas terminals and its expansion in the early 21st century.
- 1.3.21 Overall, the paucity of modern heritage assets within the Site and 1 km Study Area and the nature of the landscape shown in maps and aerial photographs indicates a Low potential for previously unrecorded modern remains to be present within the Site, with the exception of the area to the south west of the Site where there is potential for remains associated with the crashed Second World War aircraft (Asset 66) to be present. Any previously unrecorded modern remains are likely to be related to the continued agricultural use of the Site as rough pasture.

²³ NS Energy (2024). *Sullom Voe Terminal, Scotland*. Available at: <https://www.nsenergybusiness.com/projects/sullom-voe-terminal-scotland/?cf-view> (Accessed 28/01/2026).

Previous Archaeological Events

- 1.3.22
- The SIC HER shows records of six previous archaeological investigations (Events 134 to 139, **Figure 5.2.2: Previous Archaeological Events within 1 km Study Area**), none of which are recorded within the Site with the exception of Event 137, which is located c.10 m within the western boundary of the Site. Five of the previous events are watching briefs carried out at the Sullom Voe Oil and Gas terminals (Events 134, 136, 137, 138 and 139) and the other was an evaluation of ten trial trenches carried out in 2011 near Firths Voe, c.980 m south east of the Site (Event 135). No finds or features of archaeological significance were recorded during any of these investigations.

Topographical and Geological Conditions

- 1.3.23
- The bedrock geology of the Site primarily comprises Graven Complex Granodiorite, an igneous bedrock formed between 419.2 and 393.3 million years ago during the Devonian period, with the north west portion of the Site comprising Yell Sound Psammite Formation Psammite and pelite, a metamorphic bedrock formed between 1000 and 541 million years ago between the Tonian and Ediacaran periods¹⁷.
- 1.3.24
- The superficial geology across the Site primarily comprises peat formed between 2.588 million years ago and the present during the Quaternary period with deposits of Glacial Diamicton formed between 2.588 million and 11.8 thousand years ago during the Quaternary period¹⁷. There are no records of borehole surveys within the Site, although there are a large number of borehole surveys that were carried out during the construction of the Sullom Voe Oil and Gas Terminals to the west of the Site. These survey results show superficial deposits of peat to a depth of c.2 m²⁴. A peat survey carried out as part of this EIAR indicated peat deposits up to 6 m across the Site (see **Chapter 8: Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Geology and Soils (EIAR Volume 2)**).
- 1.3.25
- The Site is located on an undulating plateau that ranges in elevation from mean high-water level at its northernmost extent by Ay Wick, to 110 m Above Ordnance Datum (AOD) at the Hill of Crooksetter located east of the centre of the Site. Towards the southern end of the Site the topography gently undulates between 40 m AOD and 90 m AOD. The slackness of slopes in this part of the Site is associated with a number of lochans including Sand Water, Nugla Water, and the Loch of Bordigarth located to the east and south east of the Site. The Site also contains a number of burns and catchment channels such as the Aywick Burn and the Burn of Toft.

Aerial Photography and LiDAR Imagery

- 1.3.26
- A search of the online aerial photographs held by the National Collection of Aerial Photography (NCAP) website was undertaken in September 2025 (see Section 1.5). These photographs show the Site from 1944 to 1989. Historic satellite imagery available from Google Earth Pro™ shows the Site from July 2003 to August 2023 (**Figure 5.2.7: Extract from Satellite Imagery, August 2023**). No other previously unrecorded features were seen on the aerial photographs or satellite imagery which continues to show the Site as rough grazing.

Site Walkover and Archives Visit

- 1.3.27
- A walkover survey of the Site and surrounding area was undertaken to investigate the condition and significance of known archaeology on the Site with the aim of identifying any previously unknown remains. An initial site visit was undertaken in June 2024 and the walkover survey was undertaken on the 24 and 25 March 2025 in wet and windy weather conditions which compromised some long-range visibility and made for boggy conditions under foot in many places across the Site, although the ground visibility was clear. A further survey was undertaken in September 2025 with representatives from the client and HES and during which potential setting impacts of the Proposed Development were discussed. Photographs taken during the walkover survey and referenced in the following sections are presented

in **Technical Appendix 5.5: Plates (EIAR Volume 4)**. The Site comprised a combination of open heather moorland and grassland, with many areas of peat visible across the northern half of the Site (**Plate 5.1**).

- 1.3.28
- The Site was walked over in transects with particular attention paid to the location of known assets and the proposed locations of the turbines and surrounding areas. The two Crooksetter Scheduled Monuments (Assets 32 and 35) were visited and were noted to be in a relatively unchanged condition from their designation description (**Plates 5.2 and 5.4**). The modern Sullom Voe monument (Asset 133) adjacent to the south east Crooksetter cairn was recorded (**Plate 5.3**). This comprises a metal cross on a stone base with a plate which reads "*To the people of Shetland from the Workforce at Sullom Voe, June 1981*".
- 1.3.29
- The remains of the small Tronaster township (Asset 119, **Plate 5.5**) were visited and noted to be in a ruinous condition but relatively prominent on the eastern edge of the Site. The township comprises two unroofed long buildings with associated walled enclosures. The southernmost structure appears to have comprised two rooms and is in poor condition, whereas the northernmost building is a single room but with the door and window frames intact. No upstanding remains of the former Daleton township (Asset 129), to the east of the Site, were visible. The field boundary (Asset 130) seen on the 1881 OS map only now survives as an intermittent series of fence posts, although in places the line of the boundary can clearly be seen on the ground (**Plate 5.6**), suggesting there may be some surviving below-ground remains present. The Sand Water sheepfold (Asset 120), to the east of the Site, comprises a large circular stone wall on a small promontory projecting into Sand Water.
- 1.3.30
- Additionally, two possible cairns were identified within the Site during the walkover survey (Assets 131 and 132, **Plates 5.7 and 5.8**), though these may well be natural features. Both possible cairns comprise irregular circular turf-covered features of c.4 m diameter with no apparent stonework showing at surface level.
- 1.3.31
- No remains associated with the Catalina flying boat (Asset 66) were identified within the Site during the walkover survey.

1.4 Impacts and Mitigation

Physical Impacts

- 1.4.1
- Potential impacts on known or unknown buried archaeological remains which may survive relate to the possibility of disturbing, removing, or destroying in situ remains and artefacts during ground-breaking works (including excavation, construction, and other works associated with the Proposed Development) on this Site. In the context of this development, physical impacts have the capacity to result in impacts of high magnitude as they could potentially result in the destruction or removal of any archaeological deposits which may be present.
- 1.4.2
- This assessment has identified known heritage assets within the Site, including the prehistoric monuments (Assets 32, 35, 131 and 132), the late medieval township (Asset 119), the post-medieval field boundary (Asset 130) and the potential remains of the crashed WW2 aircraft (Asset 66). Potential physical impacts upon these assets during the construction phase are assessed in detail in **Chapter 5: Cultural Heritage (EIAR Volume 2)**. There is considered to be a High potential for prehistoric remains to survive within the Site, including a High potential for recovery of palaeoenvironmental data. There is a Low potential for any previously unrecorded archaeological remains to be present within the Site beyond those associated with the known heritage assets noted above.

²⁴ BGS (2026b). *GeoIndex (Onshore)*. Available at: <https://www.bgs.ac.uk/map-viewers/geoindex-onshore/> (Accessed 28/01/2026).

Mitigation

- 1.4.3
- National planning policies and planning guidance contained within the NPF4 and HES guidance, as well as local plan policies, require a mitigation strategy that is designed to take cognisance of the possible impacts upon heritage assets by a Proposed Development on the Site and avoid, minimise, or offset any such impacts as appropriate.
- 1.4.4
- Based on the archaeological potential of the Site noted above, it is advised that prior to development, that SIC and HES be consulted regarding any archaeological works and that they may require an archaeological investigation by non-intrusive and/or intrusive methods to further investigate potential remains. The mitigation strategy is set out in full in **Chapter 5: Cultural Heritage (EIAR Volume 2)**.

1.5 References

Cartographic References

- 1.5.1
- The following maps were consulted in September 2025 through the National Library of Scotland (NLS) website¹³ and Wikimedia Commons¹⁴:

Ordnance Survey One-Inch Series

- 1887. Sheet 130 – Yell (Shetland). Surveyed: 1877 to 1878, Published: 1887. <https://maps.nls.uk/view/216384530>
- 1896. Sheet 130 – Yell (Shetland). Revised: 1895, Published: 1896. <https://maps.nls.uk/view/216387063>
- 1912. Sheet 130 – Yell (Shetland). Revised: 1910, Published: 1912. <https://maps.nls.uk/view/216390810>
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Other Maps

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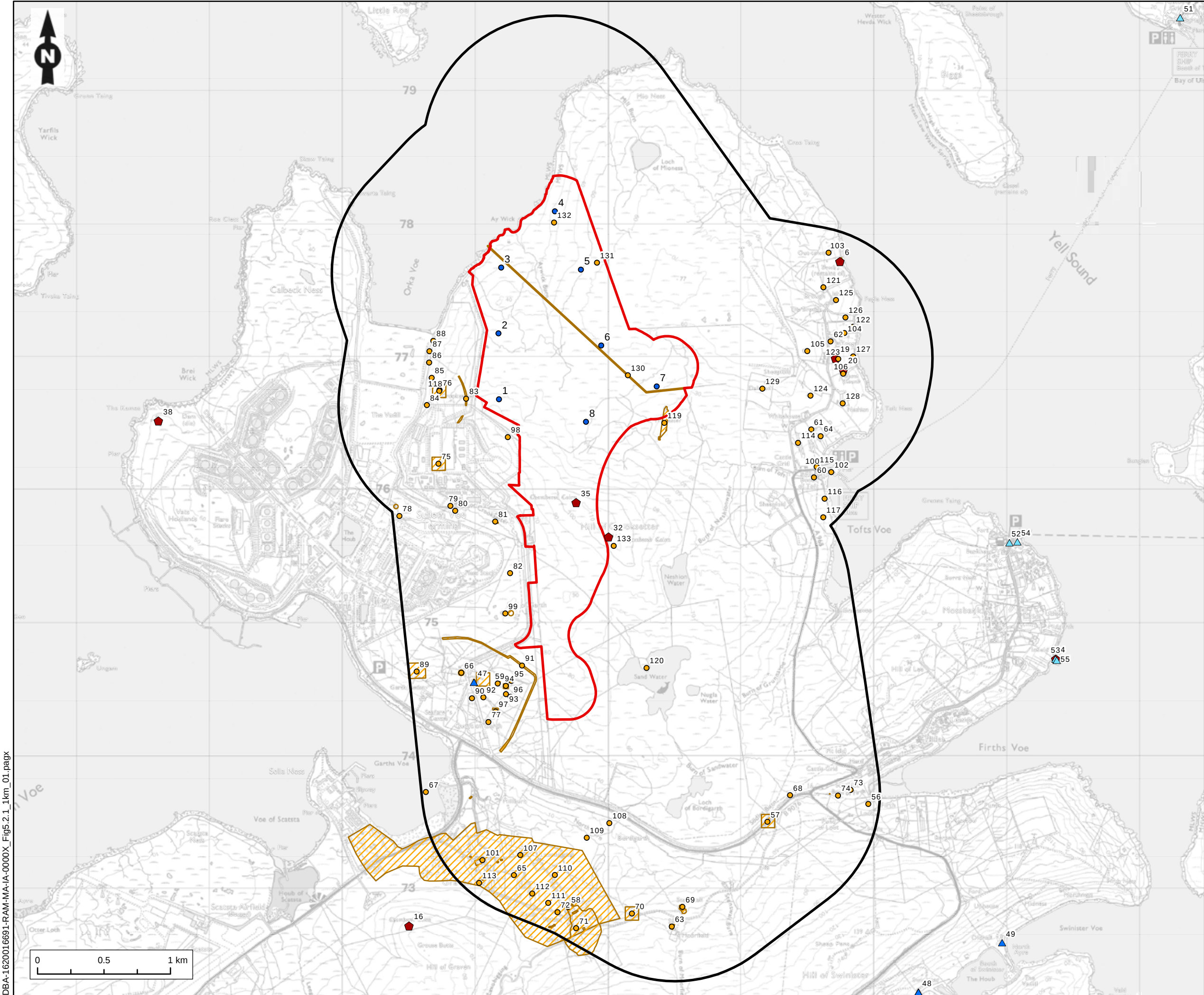
- Moll, H., 1745. The Islands of Shetland. <https://maps.nls.uk/view/304>
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- Thomson, J., 1827. Shetland Islands. <https://maps.nls.uk/view/74400176>

Aerial Photography

- 1.5.2
- The following aerial photographs were viewed on the National Collection of Aerial Photographs (NCAP)¹⁶ website or were ordered from NCAP:

Table 5.2.2: Aerial Photographs				
Date	Sortie/Flight Reference	Photo No.	Type	Link
19/09/1944	106G/DY/0023	0175	Vertical	Ordered from NCAP
18/05/1946	106G/UK/0098	0126	Vertical	Ordered from NCAP
28/08/1947	CPA/Scot/UK/0285	0187	Vertical	Ordered from NCAP
28/05/1948	541/A/0390	0239	Vertical	Ordered from NCAP
06/09/1978	HSL/UK/78/COL/0005	3396	Vertical	https://airphotofinder.ncap.org/image/639378
06/09/1978	HSL/UK/78/COL/0005	3397	Vertical	https://airphotofinder.ncap.org/image/639379
06/09/1978	HSL/UK/78/COL/0005	3403	Vertical	https://airphotofinder.ncap.org/image/1411810
06/09/1978	HSL/UK/78/COL/0005	3404	Vertical	https://airphotofinder.ncap.org/image/1411809
06/09/1978	HSL/UK/78/COL/0005	3443	Vertical	https://airphotofinder.ncap.org/image/639388
06/09/1978	HSL/UK/78/COL/0005	3444	Vertical	https://airphotofinder.ncap.org/image/639389
06/09/1978	HSL/UK/78/COL/0005	3445	Vertical	https://airphotofinder.ncap.org/image/639390
06/09/1978	HSL/UK/78/COL/0005	3446	Vertical	https://airphotofinder.ncap.org/image/639391
06/09/1978	HSL/UK/78/COL/0005	3447	Vertical	https://airphotofinder.ncap.org/image/639392
06/09/1978	HSL/UK/78/COL/0005	3448	Vertical	https://airphotofinder.ncap.org/image/639393
06/09/1978	HSL/UK/78/COL/0005	3449	Vertical	https://airphotofinder.ncap.org/image/639394
06/09/1978	HSL/UK/78/COL/0005	3450	Vertical	https://airphotofinder.ncap.org/image/639395
07/08/1984	HSL/UK/84/0065	0004	Vertical	https://airphotofinder.ncap.org/image/639763
07/08/1984	HSL/UK/84/0065	0005	Vertical	https://airphotofinder.ncap.org/image/639764
07/08/1984	HSL/UK/84/0065	0006	Vertical	https://airphotofinder.ncap.org/image/639765
07/08/1984	HSL/UK/84/0065	0007	Vertical	https://airphotofinder.ncap.org/image/639766
07/08/1984	HSL/UK/84/0065	0008	Vertical	https://airphotofinder.ncap.org/image/639767
07/08/1984	HSL/UK/84/0065	0037	Vertical	https://airphotofinder.ncap.org/image/639796
07/08/1984	HSL/UK/84/0065	0038	Vertical	https://airphotofinder.ncap.org/image/639797
07/08/1984	HSL/UK/84/0065	0039	Vertical	https://airphotofinder.ncap.org/image/639798
07/08/1984	HSL/UK/84/0065	0040	Vertical	https://airphotofinder.ncap.org/image/639799
07/08/1984	HSL/UK/84/0065	0041	Vertical	https://airphotofinder.ncap.org/image/639800
07/08/1984	HSL/UK/84/0065	0042	Vertical	https://airphotofinder.ncap.org/image/639801
07/08/1984	HSL/UK/84/0065	0043	Vertical	https://airphotofinder.ncap.org/image/639802
07/08/1984	HSL/UK/84/0065	0052	Vertical	https://airphotofinder.ncap.org/image/639811
07/08/1984	HSL/UK/84/0065	0053	Vertical	https://airphotofinder.ncap.org/image/639812
07/08/1984	HSL/UK/84/0065	0054	Vertical	https://airphotofinder.ncap.org/image/639813
07/08/1984	HSL/UK/84/0065	0055	Vertical	https://airphotofinder.ncap.org/image/639814
07/08/1984	HSL/UK/84/0065	0056	Vertical	https://airphotofinder.ncap.org/image/639815

Table 5.2.2: Aerial Photographs				
Date	Sortie / Flight Reference	Photo No.	Type	Link
07/08/1984	HSL/UK/84/0065	0057	Vertical	https://airphotofinder.ncap.org/image/639816
07/08/1984	HSL/UK/84/0065	0058	Vertical	https://airphotofinder.ncap.org/image/639817
07/08/1984	HSL/UK/84/0065	0059	Vertical	https://airphotofinder.ncap.org/image/639818
07/08/1984	HSL/UK/84/0065	0060	Vertical	https://airphotofinder.ncap.org/image/639819
07/08/1984	HSL/UK/84/0065	0061	Vertical	https://airphotofinder.ncap.org/image/639820
07/08/1984	HSL/UK/84/0065	0062	Vertical	https://airphotofinder.ncap.org/image/639821
07/08/1984	HSL/UK/84/0065	0063	Vertical	https://airphotofinder.ncap.org/image/639822
07/08/1984	HSL/UK/84/0065	0064	Vertical	https://airphotofinder.ncap.org/image/639823
07/08/1984	HSL/UK/84/0066	0007	Vertical	https://airphotofinder.ncap.org/image/639934
07/08/1984	HSL/UK/84/0066	0008	Vertical	https://airphotofinder.ncap.org/image/639935
07/08/1984	HSL/UK/84/0066	0009	Vertical	https://airphotofinder.ncap.org/image/639936
07/08/1984	HSL/UK/84/0066	0010	Vertical	https://airphotofinder.ncap.org/image/639937
07/08/1984	HSL/UK/84/0066	0011	Vertical	https://airphotofinder.ncap.org/image/639938
07/08/1984	HSL/UK/84/0066	0012	Vertical	https://airphotofinder.ncap.org/image/639939
07/08/1984	HSL/UK/84/0066	0013	Vertical	https://airphotofinder.ncap.org/image/639940
07/08/1984	HSL/UK/84/0066	0014	Vertical	https://airphotofinder.ncap.org/image/639941
07/08/1984	HSL/UK/84/0066	0015	Vertical	https://airphotofinder.ncap.org/image/639942
07/08/1984	HSL/UK/84/0066	0016	Vertical	https://airphotofinder.ncap.org/image/639943
15/06/1989	ASS/62489	0261	Vertical	https://airphotofinder.ncap.org/image/268699
15/06/1989	ASS/62489	0262	Vertical	https://airphotofinder.ncap.org/image/268700
04/07/1989	ASS/62789	0145	Vertical	https://airphotofinder.ncap.org/image/1396715
04/07/1989	ASS/62789	0146	Vertical	https://airphotofinder.ncap.org/image/1396716
04/07/1989	ASS/62789	0146	Vertical	https://airphotofinder.ncap.org/image/1396717
04/07/1989	ASS/62789	0204	Vertical	https://airphotofinder.ncap.org/image/269791
04/07/1989	ASS/62789	0205	Vertical	https://airphotofinder.ncap.org/image/1396724
04/07/1989	ASS/62789	0206	Vertical	https://airphotofinder.ncap.org/image/1396726



Legend

Application Boundary

Proposed Turbine

1km Study Area

Scheduled Monument

Listed Building - Category B

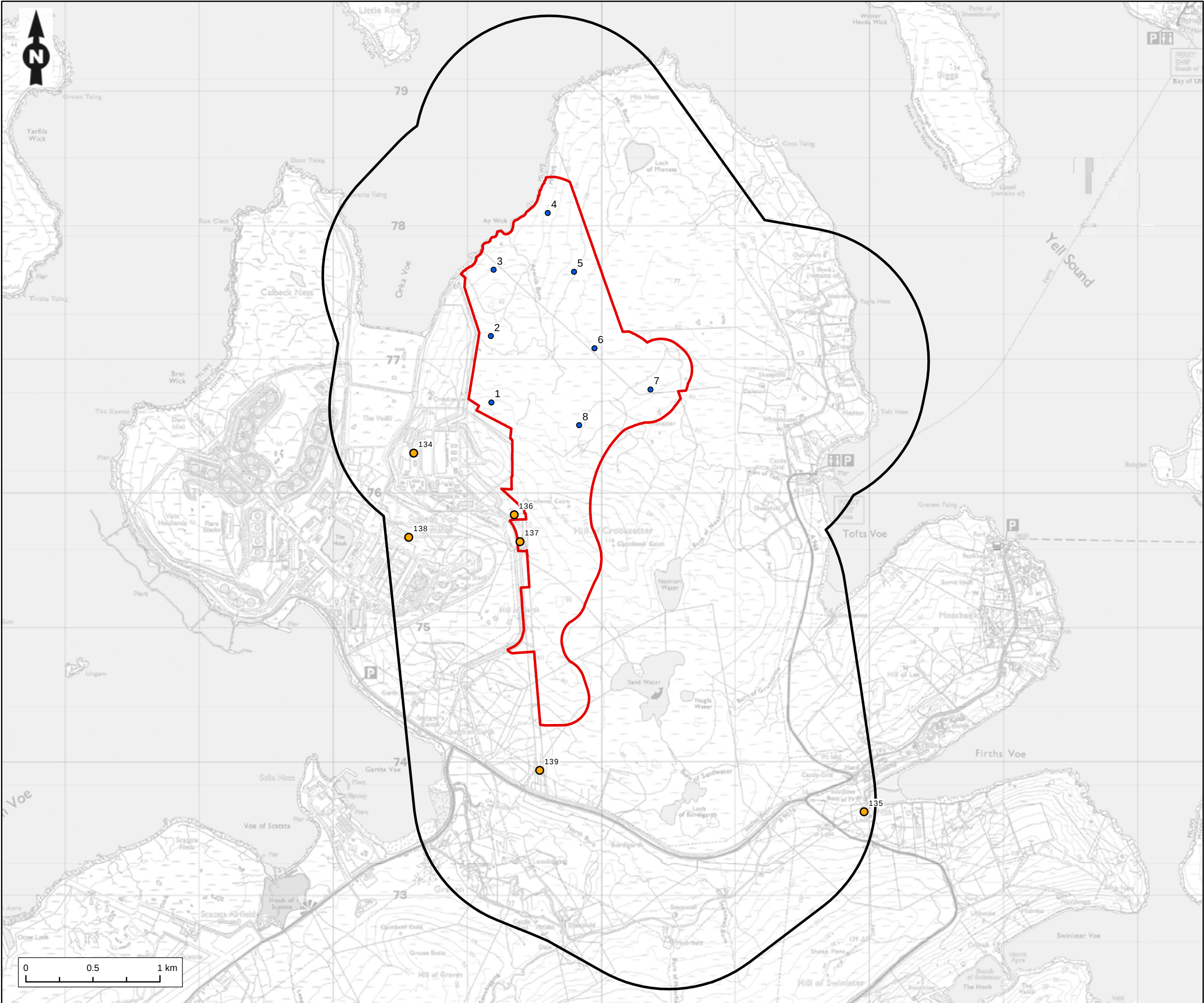
Listed Building - Category C

Non-Designated Heritage Asset

Non-Designated Heritage Asset Extents

Figure Title		
Heritage Assets within Site and 1 km Study Area		
Project Name		
Neshion Energy Park		
Project No./Filyr ID		
1620016691 / REH2024N00248		
Date	Figure No.	Revision
March 2026	5.2.1	1.0
Prepared By	Scale	
AOC (KC)	1:27,000 @A3	
Client		
Neshion Ltd		
		

DBA-1620016691-RAM-MA-IA-0000X_Fig5.2.2 Events_01.pagx



Legend

- Application Boundary
- Proposed Turbine
- 1km Study Area
- Event

Figure Title

Previous Archaeological Events within 1 km Study Area

Project Name

Neshion Energy Park

Project No./Filyr ID

1620016691 / REH2024N00248

Date	Figure No.	Revision
March 2026	5.2.2	1.0

Prepared By	Scale
AOC (KC)	1:27,000 @A3

Client

Neshion Ltd



Legend

Approximate Site Location

Figure Title

Extract from 1654 Blaeu map

Project Name

Neshion Energy Park

Project No./Filery ID

1620016691 / REH2024N00248

Date

February 2026

Figure No.

5.2.3

Revision

1.0

Prepared By

AOC (KC)

Scale

NOT TO SCALE

Client

Neshion Ltd

RAMBOLL

DBA-1620016691-RAM-MA-IA-0000X_Fig5.2.4_1827_Thompson_01.pagx



Legend

Approximate Site Location

Figure Title

Extract from 1827 Thompson map

Project Name

Neshion Energy Park

Project No./Filery ID

1620016691 / REH2024N00248

Date

February 2026

Figure No.

5.2.4

Revision

1.0

Prepared By

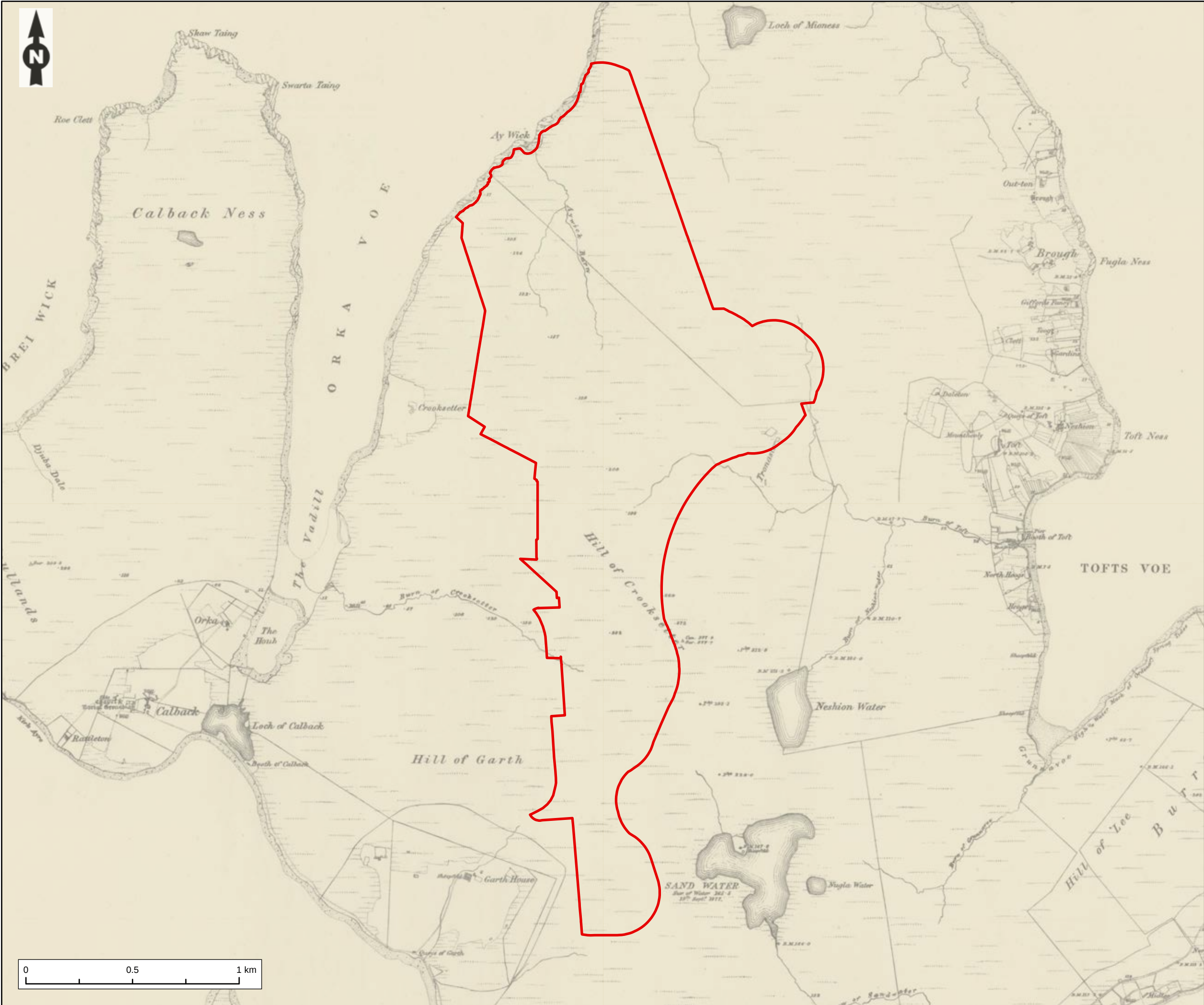
AOC (KC)

Scale

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Client

Neshion Ltd

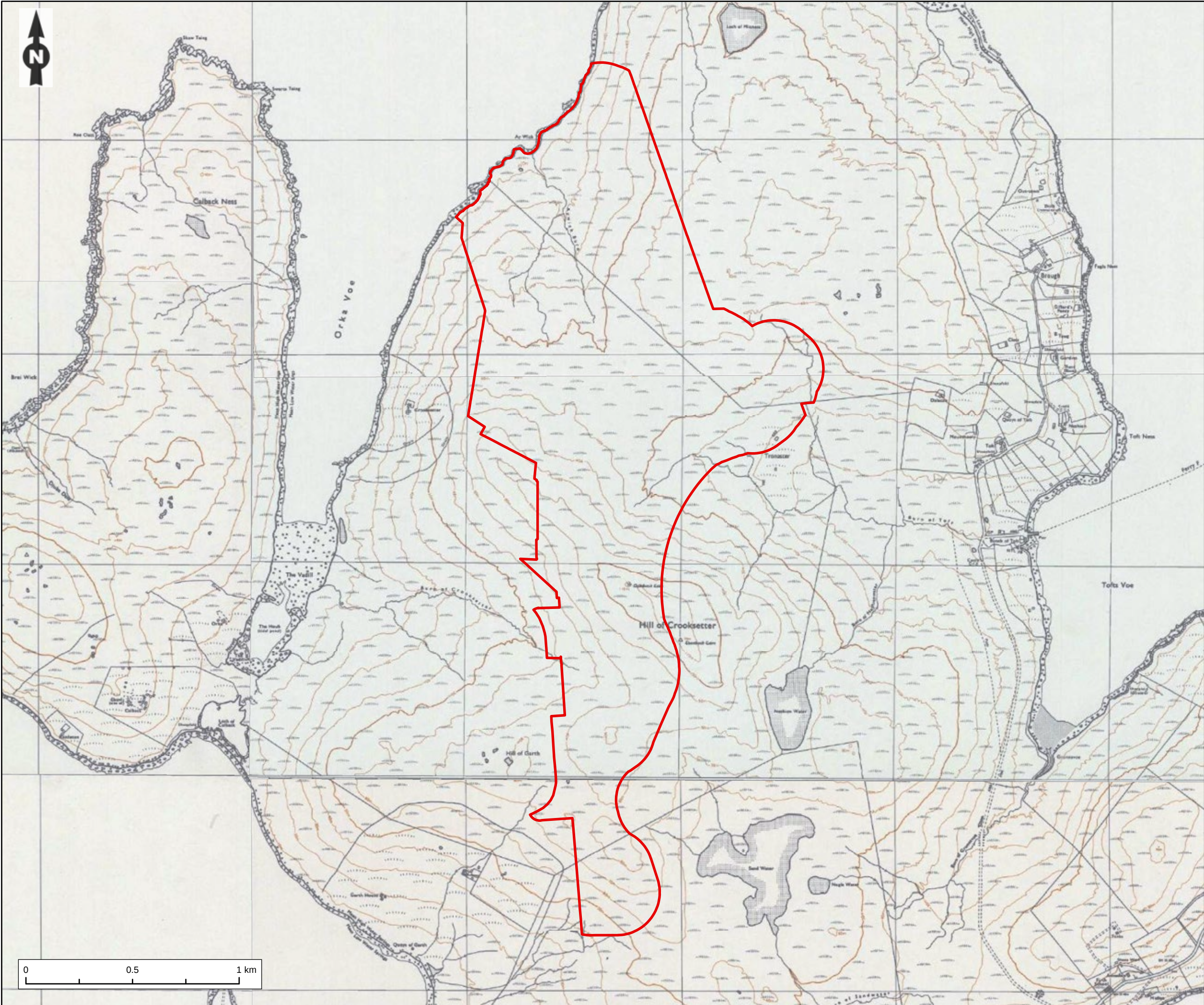


Legend

Application Boundary

Figure Title		
Extract from 1881 Ordnance Survey map		
Project Name		
Neshion Energy Park		
Project No./Filery ID		
1620016691 / REH2024N00248		
Date	Figure No.	Revision
March 2026	5.2.5	1.0
Prepared By	Scale	
AOC (KC)	1:17,000 @A3	
Client		
Neshion Ltd		
		

DBA-1620016691-RAM-MA-IA-0000X_Fig5.2.5_1881_OS_01.pagx



Legend

Application Boundary

Figure Title

Extract from 1973 Ordnance Survey map

Project Name

Neshion Energy Park

Project No./Fility ID

1620016691 / REH2024N00248

Date

March 2026

Figure No.

5.2.6

Revision

1.0

Prepared By

AOC (KC)

Scale

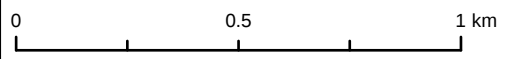
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Client

Neshion Ltd

RAMBOLL

DBA-1620016691-RAM-MA-IA-0000X_Fig5.2.6_1973_OS_01.pagx



Legend

 Application Boundary

Figure Title
Extract from Satellite Imagery,
August 2023

Project Name
Neshion Energy Park

Project No./Filery ID
1620016691 / REH2024N00248

Date	Figure No.	Revision
March 2026	5.2.7	1.0

Prepared By	Scale
AOC (KC)	1:17,000 @ A3

Client
Neshion Ltd

