



Historic Environment Assessment Report

Westport Battery Energy Storage System

Killoch, East Ayrshire

March 2025



Client	Arthian on behalf of Westport Energy Storage Ltd	
Site name	Westport BESS	
Report type	Historic Environment Assessment Report	
Report reference	P00279.01	
Report date	03/03/2025	
Prepared by	Helena Kelly, BSc, MCIfA	
	Heritage Archaeology Harborough Innovation Centre Airfield Business Park, Leicester Rd, Market Harborough LE16 7WB	
Revision history	V1.0	Client draft



Summary

This report has been prepared in relation to development proposals for a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) facility on at land at Killoch, Ochiltree, East Ayrshire.

There are no designated heritage assets within the proposed development site or a 1km study area. The Ochiltree Conservation Area is approximately 2km to the east of the site and includes a number of listed buildings. There are two non-designated heritage assets within the proposed development site, comprising the locations of two former farmsteads shown on historic mapping but no longer extant (Westport and West Tarbeg). Within the 1km study area there are a further four recorded assets relating to the Ochiltree Mote, a possible prehistoric barrow site from which the later Toll took its name, and the Killoch Colliery Site which operated between the 1950s and 1980s. The site is assessed to have a low potential for as yet unrecorded archaeology, although the potential for archaeology associated with the recorded former farmsteads is high.

The proposed development site is not within the settings of any designated heritage assets, given the distance of separation and intervening topography. There is a degree of intervisibility between the site and two extant farmsteads to the west (Creoch House and Tally Ho) which are shown on historic mapping and include historic buildings.

Contents

1	Introduction	4
	Site location	4
	Aims of the historic environment assessment.....	4
	Legislation, planning policy and best practice guidance	5
2	Method of assessment.....	7
	Study area.....	7
	Data sources.....	7
	Site visit	7
	Determining the level of effect.....	8
3	Archaeological and historic context	10
	Historic map regression	11
	Aerial photographs and Lidar	12
	Site visit	14
4	Known heritage assets within the study area.....	17
	Designated heritage assets.....	17
	Non-designated heritage assets.....	17
	Historic Land-use Assessment.....	18
	Previous archaeological events	18
	The archaeological potential of the development site	19
5	Assessment and conclusions	20
	Impact of the proposed development	20
	Mitigation	21
	Conclusion.....	22
	References.....	24
	Appendix A Gazetteer and locations of recorded heritage assets	25

1 Introduction

- 1.1. This historic environment assessment report has been prepared in relation to the proposed development of a Battery Energy Storage System on land at Killoch, to the west of Ochiltree, East Ayrshire.
- 1.2. This assessment considers the likely effects of the proposed development described above on known and potential archaeology and built heritage (collectively known as historic environment assets or heritage assets) and effects that could arise as a result of development within the setting of heritage assets.

Site location

- 1.3. The application site is located within a field to the north east of the former Killoch Colliery site, and to the west of Ochiltree, East Ayrshire. The closest post code is KA18 2QH. The site grid reference is NS48132087 (Easting 248134, Northing 620874).
- 1.4. The relevant Historic Environment Record (HER) is the West of Scotland Archaeology Service Historic Environment Record.

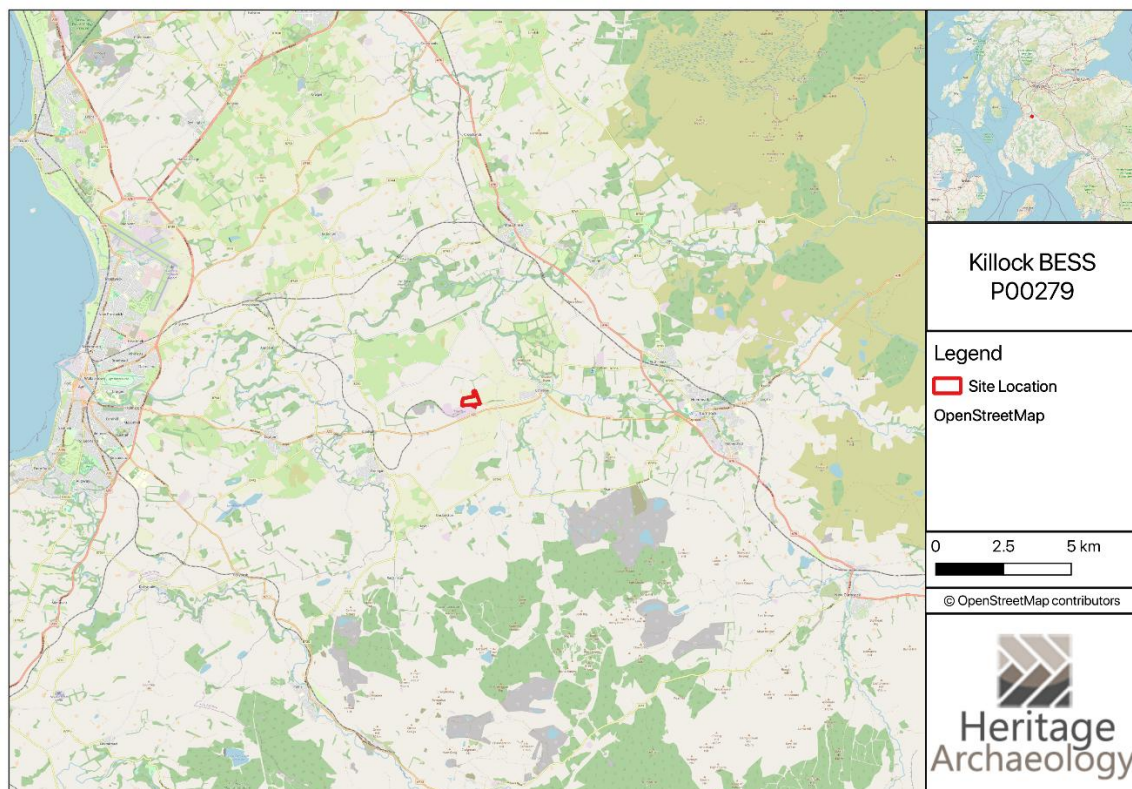


Figure 1: Site location

Aims of the historic environment assessment

- 1.5. This assessment aims to determine, as far as reasonably possible from existing records, the nature, extent and significance of any heritage assets that could be affected by development within the site.

Legislation, planning policy and best practice guidance

National Planning Framework 4, 2024

- 1.6. The NPF includes National Planning Policy 7 in relation to the historic environment, as follows:

Policy 7

a) Development proposals with a potentially significant impact on historic assets or places will be accompanied by an assessment which is based on an understanding of the cultural significance of the historic asset and/or place. The assessment should identify the likely visual or physical impact of any proposals for change, including cumulative effects and provide a sound basis for managing the impacts of change. Proposals should also be informed by national policy and guidance on managing change in the historic environment, and information held within Historic Environment Records....

o) Non-designated historic environment assets, places and their setting should be protected and preserved in situ wherever feasible. Where there is potential for non-designated buried archaeological remains to exist below a site, developers will provide an evaluation of the archaeological resource at an early stage so that planning authorities can assess impacts. Historic buildings may also have archaeological significance which is not understood and may require assessment.

Where impacts cannot be avoided they should be minimised. Where it has been demonstrated that avoidance or retention is not possible, excavation, recording, analysis, archiving, publication and activities to provide public benefit may be required through the use of conditions or legal/planning obligations.

When new archaeological discoveries are made during the course of development works, they must be reported to the planning authority to enable agreement on appropriate inspection, recording and mitigation measures.

- 1.7. Scottish Planning Policy cross refers to the following key documents:

- **Historic Environment Policy for Scotland (HEPS), Historic Environment Scotland, 2019.** HEPS is a policy statement, and is a material consideration to decisions about the historic environment. The policy statement directs that decisions affecting the historic environment should be informed by an understanding of its breadth and cultural significance, and that change should be managed in a way that protects the historic environment. Unavoidable detrimental impacts on the historic environment should be minimised and mitigation measures put in place. HEPS defines cultural significance as *"aesthetic, historic, scientific or social value for past, present or future generations. Cultural significance can be embodied in a place itself, its fabric, setting, use, associations, meanings, records, related places and related objects"*. It sets out that impacts on the historic environment *"can be neutral, positive or negative. There can be impact on the physical elements of a place or on its setting, if its surroundings are*

changed so that our understanding, appreciation or experience is altered. Changes in the historic environment can also affect people's associations with a place or its setting, and their responses to it."

- **Planning Advice Note (PAN) 2/2011, Planning and archaeology** provides advice to planning authorities and developers on dealing with archaeological remains;
- **Managing Change in the Historic Environment** – this is Historic Scotland's guidance note series, of particular relevance is:
 - Managing change in the historic environment: Setting (Historic Environment Scotland 2016), this document set out the following steps for assessing the effects of proposals on the settings of heritage assets-
 - Step 1: identify the historic assets
 - Step 2: define and analyse the setting
 - Step 3: evaluate the potential impact of the proposed changes

Local Plan

- 1.8. The **East Ayrshire Council Local Development Plan 2, 2024** includes policies for the Historic Environment. Section 4.2, Policies HE1 – HE5 align to the national policies set out above. Policy HE3 sets out that "Other archaeological resources should be preserved in situ wherever possible. The developer may be required to supply an archaeological evaluation report prior to the determination of a planning application. Where the case for preservation does not prevail, the developer shall be required to make appropriate and satisfactory provision for archaeological excavation, recording, analysis and publication in advance of development. When archaeological discoveries are made in the course of development works, they should be reported to the Council to enable discussion on appropriate inspection, recording and mitigation measures".

2 Method of assessment

Study area

- 2.1. Data on designated heritage assets was obtained for the development site and a buffer of 1km (extended to include the closest designated heritage assets). This is the area in which it is anticipated historic environment effects could occur given the scale of the potential development and surrounding topography.
- 2.2. Data on non-designated heritage assets was obtained for the development site and a buffer of 1km. This study area was designed to include assets adjacent to the site but with the potential to extend into it, also to place known assets into a wider context, and to provide context when considering the archaeological potential of the development site. It also allowed consideration of effects on the settings of non-designated heritage assets. This study area was informed by a preliminary appraisal of baseline data.

Data sources

- 2.3. The following data sources were consulted in compiling this report:
 - Historic Environment Record (HER) for Ayrshire (West of Scotland Historic HER);
 - East Ayrshire Council for relevant heritage supplementary planning documents;
 - Historic Environment Scotland data for designated heritage assets;
 - Historic Land-Use Assessment data for Scotland (HLAmap);
 - National Record of the Historic Environment (NRHE) Scotland Database (Canmore);
 - Historic Ordnance Survey mapping (primarily held by the Map Library of the National Library for Scotland);
 - Aerial photography; and
 - Site walkover survey.

Site visit

- 2.4. The site visit was undertaken to assess:
 - The nature of the surroundings of heritage assets within the vicinity of the development area, to determine the contribution made by setting to the significance of those assets (including visual and functional relationships with other heritage assets, formal design, openness, integrity and change over time);
 - The way the assets are appreciated, experienced and understood in terms of the contribution made by setting to significance (including views, visual prominence, associated attributes, and intentional inter-visibility with other assets).
 - The extent, condition and character of known heritage assets within the site, as far as reasonably possible;

- The potential for the site to include previously unrecorded heritage assets; and
- Any other considerations relevant to archaeological potential.

Determining the level of effect

- 2.5. The level of effect on a heritage asset has been determined by assessing the heritage value of the asset, then comparing that to the predicted magnitude of change (the impact).

Heritage value

- 2.6. Heritage value (significance) has been assessed for each asset as being either high, moderate, low or negligible.
- 2.7. Assets with **high** value include those that have a designation: Scheduled Monuments, Conservation Areas, World Heritage Sites, Listed buildings (Category A - buildings of national or international importance, Category B - buildings of more than local importance, Category C - buildings of local importance), Inventory gardens and designed landscapes, and Inventory battlefields. (All listed buildings are recorded as of high value, professional judgement is applied appropriately to the assessment, taking account of the category of listing).
- 2.8. Assets with **moderate** value are those that have regional interest, being good examples of regional archaeology or architecture, or having regionally significant historic interest.
- 2.9. Assets with **low** value are those that are of local interest only, being well represented regionally and nationally, or based on the condition of the asset.
- 2.10. Assets with **negligible** value will typically demonstrate poor survival or very limited historic, architectural, or archaeological interest.

Magnitude of change

- 2.11. The magnitude of change has also been assessed as being either high, moderate, low or negligible.
- 2.12. A change described as being of **high magnitude** would result in a significant or total loss of heritage value, either as a result of physical removal of the asset or a change within its setting that significantly impacts the understanding and appreciation of the heritage asset.
- 2.13. A change described as being of **moderate magnitude** would result in harm to heritage value either as a result of partial physical removal of the asset or a change within its setting that impacts the understanding and appreciation of the heritage asset.
- 2.14. A change described as being of **low or negligible magnitude** would result in a slight loss of heritage value through limited physical impact on the asset or a change within its setting that would be barely perceptible and the appreciation and understanding of the heritage asset would be largely unchanged.

The level of effect

- 2.15. The level of effect has been determined by comparing the heritage value of the asset with the degree of change to that value. An important consideration is whether the adverse impact seriously affects a key element of the special interest of the asset (whether archaeological, historic, aesthetic or communal); it is the degree of harm to the asset's significance rather than the scale of the development that is assessed.
- 2.16. The conclusions in this report identify the overall level of effect on heritage assets in accordance with the following scale:

Heritage Value	Magnitude of change			
	<i>High</i>	<i>Moderate</i>	<i>Low</i>	<i>Negligible</i>
<i>High</i>	Major	Major or medium	Medium or minor	Minor or negligible
<i>Moderate</i>	Major or medium	Medium or minor	Minor or none	Minor or none
<i>Low</i>	Medium or minor	Minor or none	Minor or none	None
<i>Negligible</i>	Negligible	Negligible or none	None	None

3 Archaeological and historic context

- 3.1. The proposed development site comprises an area of farm land, currently in use for pasture, to the west of Ochiltree and north east of Killoch colliery. It lies within the Ayrshire agricultural lowlands.
- 3.2. Mesolithic activity has been recorded in Ayrshire, particularly from the coastal region, where flint findspots indicate that people were living in the area. However no finds of this period are recorded within the study area. The Neolithic period saw the establishment of more settled communities in Ayrshire and settlement, ritual and burial sites are known. However, again, no finds or sites from this period are recorded in the study area. The Bronze age period saw technological developments and changes in funerary practices, and increased settlement activity that is well documented in Ayrshire. This includes the find of a cinerary urn in Ochiltree, possibly associated with a mound at Ochiltree Mote which lay within the study area. Although no finds or sites dating to the Iron Age have been recorded within the study area, there are a number of sites within the wider area dating to this period. For example Highpark enclosure in South Ayrshire.
- 3.3. The Roman military campaign in Britain reached Scotland in the AD 70s, with a military infrastructure established in the south and west of Scotland in the late 1st and 2nd centuries. A Roman fort was established at Loudoun Hill, East Ayrshire. There are, however, no finds or sites from the Roman period recorded within the study area.
- 3.4. Ochiltree is documented from the 12th century and the settlement includes features of medieval date. Ochiltree Castle stood to the north of the town, on the south side of Lugar Water, it is marked on Johnston's map of Ayrshire, 1839 as 'in ruins'. Witch Knowe to the north of Ochiltree has a form indicative of a medieval motte, and Ochiltree House was described as having once been a castle. Joan Blaeu's map the c. 1654 shows 'Ochiltree Castle'. 'E Torbeg', 'W of Torberg' and 'M. Torbeg' are also annotated, indicating that the farmsteads evident on later mapping in the study area date to the 16th century or earlier.
- 3.5. Ochiltree is shown on the Roy Military Survey of Scotland 1747-55 mapping, to the west of the town. Again, Little Torbeg and Torbeg Hill are shown, with farmland depicted within the area of the proposed BESS site.
- 3.6. The site is shown as an area of farmland throughout the historic Ordnance Survey map sequence. Two farmsteads are depicted, called Westport and West Tarbeg. The census for Ochiltree dated 1841 lists two households at West Tarbeg; James Mitchell, farm servant and James Mckinna, Joiner. West Tarbeg is still listed in the 1861 census, and again with two households in 1871. The census returns indicate that these were agricultural workers dwellings. The farmsteads appear on 19th century mapping, but by 1908 West Port is no longer shown and West Tarbeg is depicted, but unnamed and shown as possibly uninhabited at that time.

- 3.7. A woodland belt along the site's southern boundary (the Creoch Belt on the second edition Ordnance Survey) appears on mapping from the mid-19th century. The 1862 Maclure and Macdonald Hunting map of Ayrshire shows Drongan as a meeting place and Creochhill is annotated, however this may have been planted as a shelter belt rather than as cover for hunting.
- 3.8. The Killoch Colliery was developed during the 1950s on land immediately to the west and south of the site. It became the first Scottish coal mine to produce one million tons of coal in a year, reaching its peak during the 1960s. In the 1970s it was linked to Barony colliery, to the east of Ochiltree. The Killoch Colliery was closed in 1987 and the two tall winding towers demolished, although the office buildings were left in situ and the site used to treat coal from neighbouring collieries until the early 2000s. The construction of the coal mine included re-routing a road that ran north from Killoch to the east and the construction of a railway branch line and sidings.

Historic map regression



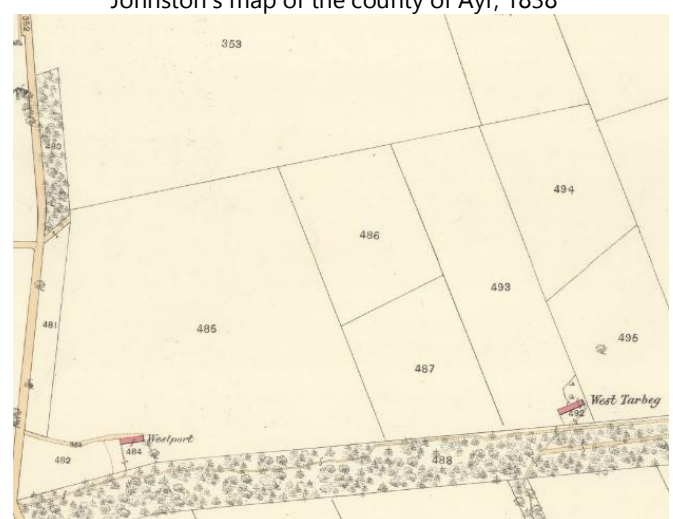
Andrew Armstrong, A new map of Ayrshire, 1775



Johnston's map of the county of Ayr, 1838



James Macderment and Sons' map of the Turnpike and Parish Roads in the Parish of Ochiltree, 1852



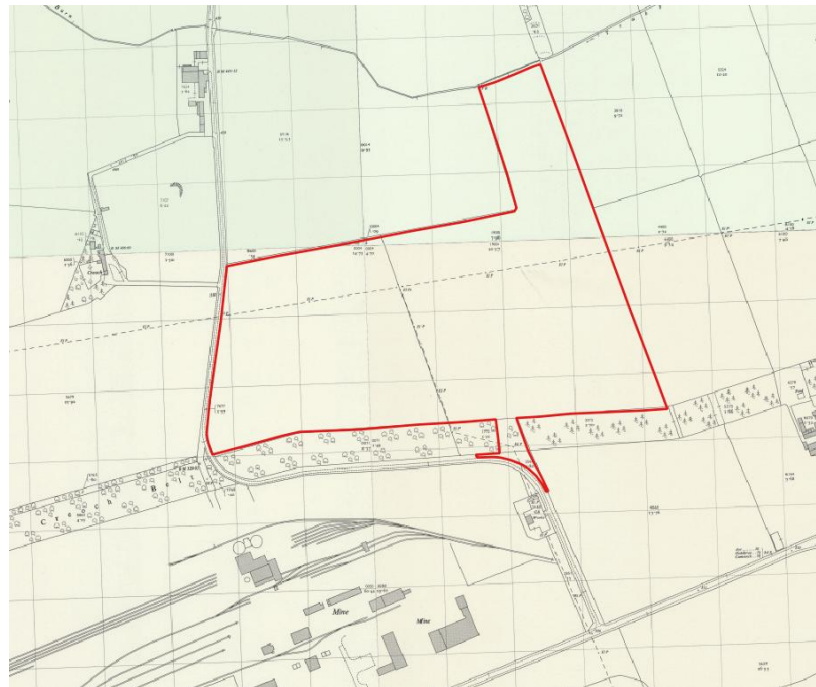
Ordnance Survey, 1858, 1:2,500 (Westport and West Tarbeg)



Ordnance Survey, 1860, 1:10,560



Ordnance Survey, 1901, 1:10,560



Ordnance Survey, 1959, 1:10,000

Figure 2: Historic Mapping
(Maps reproduced with the permission of the National Library of Scotland)

Aerial photographs and Lidar

- 3.9. Aerial and Lidar imagery show the site as farmland (pasture) with the colliery to the south. The farmsteads at Westport and West Tarbeg are not apparent in the aerial images or on Lidar, although the Lidar does show a slight impression of the road that led to Westport. Cultivation marks are also evident in the Lidar data. Former field boundaries evident on historic mapping can be seen on the aerial images for the site.



Figure 5: Aerial image, Google Earth, 2003

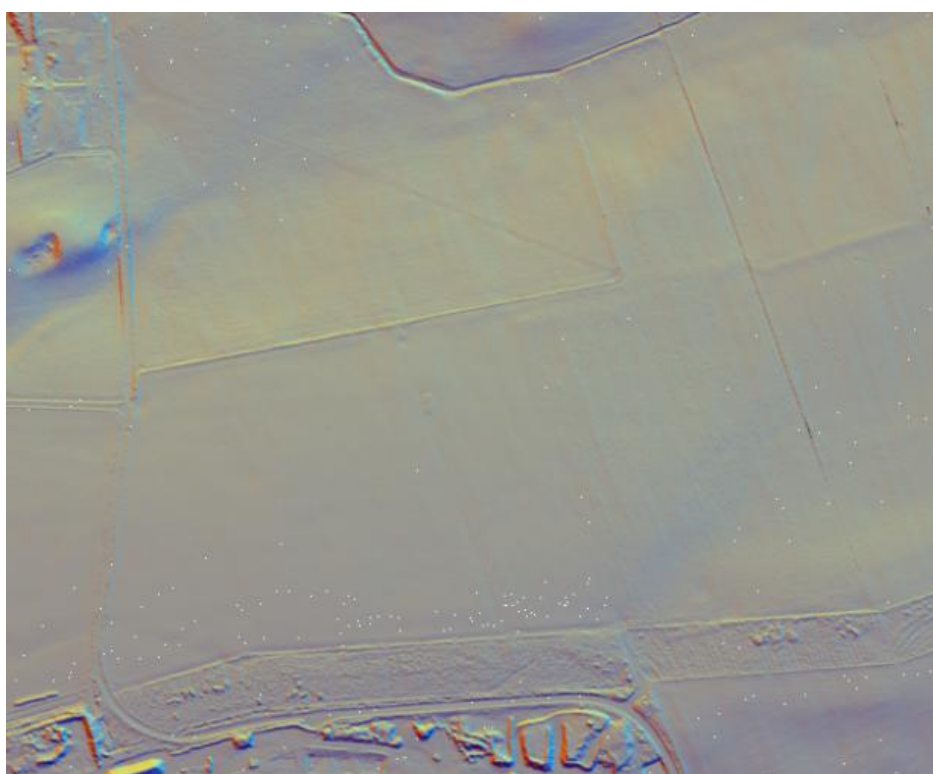


Figure 4: Lidar (EA Open Data, DTM 50cm – Scotland Ph 4)

Site visit

- 3.10. The site has a gradual slope from south to north (being approximately 160m above Ordnance Datum at the northern boundary and 165m at the southern boundary). It was in use as pasture at the time of the site visit. An overhead line on wooden poles crosses the site.
- 3.11. The locations of Westport and West Tarbeg (two former farmsteads evident on historic mapping) were walked, some stone was noted in the vicinity of the two locations but no earthworks or building materials were present.
- 3.12. The surroundings include the now disused former Killoch Colliery site and modern farm buildings at Tarbeg (High Tarbeg Farm is on the site of Tarbeg on historic mapping, but the historic buildings have been replaced). The shelter belt to the south of the site is still extant. Creoch House and Tally Ho to the west of the site include buildings evident on historic mapping. Both have views to the east and some, limited, intervisibility with the site.



Photograph 1: View across the proposed development site, looking north east



Photograph 2: View across the proposed development site, looking north west



Photograph 3: Looking north west across the site



Photograph 4: Stone wall, northern part of the site



Photograph 5: looking south towards plantation belt (the view is of the eastern end of the plantation, the access point is to the west of this)



Photograph 6: Stone close to site of West Tarbeg



Photograph 7: Stone close to site of Westport

4 Known heritage assets within the study area

Designated heritage assets

- 4.1. There are no designated heritage assets within the site or 1km study area.
- 4.2. Beyond the 1km study area is the Conservation Area at Ochiltree (1.9km to the east of the site), this includes a number of listed buildings. The conservation area and listed buildings are separated from the site by modern development. The distance of separation and intervening topography and mature vegetation do not allow for intervisibility between the site and these assets, the site is not within the settings of these assets.

Non-designated heritage assets

- 4.3. There are two non-designated heritage assets within the site:
- HER reference 99665: West Tarbeg – A farmstead annotated West Tarbeg and comprising a single roofed building located within an irregularly-shaped rectangular enclosure was shown on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1860. The building and enclosure continued to be shown on the 2nd edition map of 1897, though by that point the building was depicted as being unroofed. Census data indicates that this was an agricultural workers cottage.
 - HER reference 99666: Westport - A farmstead annotated as Westport and comprising a single roofed building sitting at the north-west corner of a rectangular enclosure was shown on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1860. The building and enclosure were absent from the 2nd edition map of 1896 and probably no longer extant by this date. The census data does not record this property but there were two households recorded at West Tarbeg, which could indicate that this was also agricultural workers accommodation. Westport is labelled on James Macderment and Sons' map of the Turnpike and Parish Roads in the Parish of Ochiltree, 1852.
- 4.4. There are a further three assets within the 1km study area. These comprise:
- HER reference 7304: Ochiltree Mote –The placename is believed to have taken its name from a 'mote' or mound, a small knoll which may have been associated with a barrow. Artifacts said to have come from Ochiltree Mote include a collared cinerary urn and bronze spearheads. The exact location of the burial mound is not known and a watching brief at Ochiltree Mote in 2015 did not identify any features of archaeological significance (HER reference 95249).
 - HER reference 4697: Mote Toll - A tollhouse is recorded on historic mapping from the 19th century. The road between Ochiltree and Ayr is shown on historic maps, the Toll is annotated on Johnston's map of 1838. James Macderment and Sons' map of the Turnpike and Parish Roads in the Parish of Ochiltree, 1852 has the road shown with 'Moat Toll' annotated.

- HER reference 7301: Killoch Colliery – A colliery was established to the north of Killoch farm in 1953. In 1965, Killoch became the first Scottish pit to produce 1 million tons of coal in a year, a large part of the output being exported to fuel Northern Ireland's power stations. Killoch was one of National Coal Board (NCB) architect, Egon Riss's great schemes. It provided excellent surface facilities for its workforce, and was dominated by the two winding towers. However, the colliery closed in 1987, and the towers were subsequently demolished, although most of the office buildings were retained. The coal preparation plant was still operating in 2002, treating coal from neighbouring open-cast mines.

- 4.5. The non-designated heritage assets are recorded fully in the gazetteer, Appendix A. These assets have predominantly archaeological and historic value. They are of local heritage significance (low value).
- 4.6. Although not recorded by the WoSAS HER, Creoch House and Tally Ho to the west of the site include buildings evident on historic mapping. These farmsteads could date to the late medieval or post medieval period.

Historic Land-use Assessment

- 4.7. The HLAmapping records the site as **Rectilinear Fields and Farms**, described as follows:
- 4.7.1. Rectilinear field boundaries and associated farm steadings and other buildings are typical of agricultural improvements since the 1700s. Recent amalgamation of these fields is common.
- 4.7.2. Agricultural improvements in the 18th and 19th centuries involved the enclosure of arable land as well as the building of slate roofed farm steadings and associated buildings. Field boundaries were designed to be rectilinear wherever possible, because it improved the efficiency of agriculture, tending to reduce unworkable corners. Recent amalgamation of these fields is common.
- 4.8. Historic mapping shows that the site was previously formed of seven fields with a regular, rectilinear enclosure pattern. Over the later 19th and 20th centuries boundaries have been removed within the site and it is now one larger field.

Previous archaeological events

- 4.9. A watching brief at Ochiltree Mote (HER reference 95249) did not identify anything of archaeological significance.
- 4.10. The study area for the South West Scotland Renewables Connection Project Desk-based Assessment and Walkover Survey (HER reference 4394) has an overlap with the study area for this project, but did not include the proposed BESS site.

The archaeological potential of the development site

- 4.11. The proposed development site is in an area of land that has, since at least the post medieval period, been in use as part of an area of rectilinear fields. Two recorded farmsteads were extant within the site, both are likely to have been established in the post medieval period and to have been agricultural workers accommodation.
- 4.12. The potential for archaeology to be present within the site that predates the post medieval period appears to be low, based on the archaeological context of the site described above. However it is noted that the past land use is unlikely to have extensively disturbed the site and it therefore retains some potential for archaeological evidence pre-dating the historic mapping.
- 4.13. The potential for archaeology to be present within the site that dates to the post medieval period is high, given the documented location of two farmsteads within the site and the previous land use which includes now removed field boundaries.

5 Assessment and conclusions

Impact of the proposed development

- 5.1. The proposed development of a BESS facility would involve ground works within the footprint of the development during the construction period. The operational facility has a built form that includes structures and an acoustic fence. The BESS sits within a compound with a fence and earthwork batter. The development therefore has the potential to impact any archaeology within the development footprint and to affect the contribution made by setting to the significance of heritage assets within its vicinity.
- 5.2. A landscape plan forms part of the application and is treated below as embedded mitigation, this includes retained existing pasture, pockets of woodland planting to the south of the BESS and a belt of native tree and shrub planting to the north of the BESS.

Construction

- 5.3. There are no heritage assets recorded within the footprint of the proposed development site and the development would not physically affect any recorded heritage asset. The locations of the former farmsteads at Westport and West Tarbeg are outside of the BESS facility and within the landscape plan are within an area shown as retained farmland. The existing land management regime is therefore anticipated to continue within the locations of these assets. A temporary construction compound has been allowed for to the south of the BESS close to the site of West Tarbeg. While the plans as shown preserve the location of West Tarbeg in situ, mitigation measures are proposed (below) to safeguard against impacts during construction on this asset.
- 5.4. Westport and West Tarbeg are assets of low heritage value, the potential impact of the proposed development is none/ negligible and the significance of effect is therefore also none/ negligible.
- 5.5. While the possibility cannot be ruled out, the potential for as yet unknown archaeology within the site has otherwise been assessed as low. Mitigation measures are proposed to safeguard against impacts during construction on any as yet unrecorded archaeology that could be present within the site.

Operation

- 5.6. An assessment of the extent of the settings of the heritage assets within the 1km study area (extended to consider the Ochiltree conservation area which is within 2km) has been undertaken. This identified that none have settings that include the proposed development site. This is due to the distance of separation and topography, as well as intervening mature trees and the modern development to the west of Ochiltree, which prevent intervisibility between the site and these assets. Even without taking account of the tree cover, which could increase potential intervisibility, the site would be viewed at a distance and in the context of the Killoch Colliery site and existing overhead lines. There would be no change

to the general character of the area and no visual competition between the proposed development and the heritage assets within the study area.

- 5.7. Further screening is proposed by the tree and scrub belt included in the development proposals to the north of the BESS. This would limit the visibility of the proposed development in views of and from Creoch House and Tally Ho to the west of the site, which include buildings evident on historic mapping. The proposed landscaping and distance of separation are such that these assets would continue to be experienced within farmland
- 5.8. The proposed development is therefore assessed to result in a neutral effect on the settings and significance of the heritage assets within the study area.

Mitigation

- 5.9. Planning Advice Note (PAN) 2/2011 Planning and Archaeology recognises the need to allow for the preservation in situ of important archaeology where practicable and for a record to be made of any archaeology affected by development proposals where preservation is not possible. There are no recorded assets within the footprint of the proposed development and its archaeological potential is assessed as low. Consequently it would be proportionate to the archaeological potential of this site, that if any programme of archaeological work is required it could be secured as a condition of consent, and set out in a written scheme of investigation.
- 5.10. The landscape mitigation embedded into the design of the proposed development has been taken into consideration and it is concluded that no further mitigation is required in relation to the predicted neutral effect of the operation of the proposed development on the historic environment.

Consultation

- 5.11. The Pre-Application Written Response provided by East Ayrshire Council set out the following in relation to the historic environment:

The applicant has identified any listed buildings and/or Conservation Areas within a 2km radius of the site. Given the distances between the site and the closest receptor, the proposed development would not impact the Ochiltree Conservation Area, nor any listed buildings therein, or in the wider area.

Advice has been given to the Council, and, we understand, to the applicant, by the Council's archaeological consultants which advises there is a reasonable probability of sub surface heritage assets in this area. Given the proximity of any potential above ground heritage receptors, it is not considered there would be any impact in this regard. However, it is likely EAC would request a condition relating to this matter, be placed on any consent issued.

- 5.12. The EIA Screening Opinion issued by the Scottish Government similarly set out that:

Cultural Heritage & Archaeology

The applicant has identified any listed buildings and/or Conservation Areas within a 2km radius of the site. Given the distances between the site and the closest receptor, the proposed development would not impact the Ochiltree Conservation Area, nor any listed buildings therein, or in the wider area.

The applicant will produce a Historic Environment Assessment (this document), which identifies any impacts in greater detail and how these would be mitigated. Advice has been given to the Council, and, we understand, to the applicant, by the Council's archaeological consultants which advises there is a reasonable probability of sub surface heritage assets in this area. Given the proximity of any potential above ground heritage receptors, it is not considered there would be any impact in this regard, which requires further assessment through an EIA. Whilst there may be sub surface impacts, this does not appear to be a potentially significant impact in terms of EIA, and mitigation by way of intrusive trenching and further fieldwork could further reduce impacts.

- 5.13. West of Scotland Archaeology Service were consulted to obtain the data used in this assessment, they advised that "*the site appears to comprise agricultural land that has not been extensively disturbed during the modern period other than through normal agricultural activities such as ploughing, so would retain some potential to produce buried material relating to activities pre-dating the advent of detailed mapping*".
- 5.14. This assessment report has been provided in accordance with the above advice and the conclusions reached by this assessment are consistent with the advice provided by East Ayrshire Council, West of Scotland Archaeologist Service and the Scottish Government in relation to the historic environment.

Conclusion

- 5.15. There are no designated heritage assets within the proposed development site or a 1km study area. The Ochiltree Conservation Area is approximately 2km to the east of the site and includes a number of listed buildings. There are two non-designated heritage assets within the proposed development site, comprising the locations of two former farmsteads shown on historic mapping but no longer extant (Westport and West Tarbeg). Within the 1km study area there are a further four recorded assets relating to the Ochiltree Mote, a possible prehistoric barrow site from which the later Toll took its name, and the Killoch Colliery Site which operated between the 1950s and 1980s. The site is assessed to have a low potential for as yet unrecorded archaeology, although the potential for archaeology associated with the recorded assets of two former farmsteads is high.
- 5.16. The proposed development site is not within the settings of any designated heritage assets and it does not contribute to the heritage value of any of the assets within the study area, given the distance of separation and intervening topography. There is a degree of intervisibility between the site and two extant farmsteads to the west (Creoch House and Tally Ho) which are shown on historic mapping and include historic buildings.

- 5.17. The construction phase of the proposed development would not impact any recorded heritage assets, as the development footprint avoids the locations of two former farmsteads. The potential for any as yet unrecorded assets to be present within the site is low but cannot be ruled out. A programme of archaeological work in advance of or during the construction phase could, if required by the planning authority, provide appropriate and proportionate mitigation that could be secured as a condition of planning consent.
- 5.18. The operation phase of the proposed development would have a neutral effect on the historic environment, being outwith the settings of any heritage assets or as a result of the proposed landscape planting which would limit the visibility of the proposed development in views of and from two historic farmsteads to the west. No historic environment mitigation, beyond the landscape proposals already embedded into the design of the proposed development is recommended in relation to the operation of the proposed development.

References

East Ayrshire Council, 2016, State of the Environment Report, Chapter 7 Cultural Heritage

<https://pastmap.org.uk/map>

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-planning-policy>

<https://portal.historicenvironment.scot/>

West of Scotland Historic Environment Record

<https://scotlandspplaces.gov.uk/>

<https://hlamap.org.uk/>

<https://canmore.org.uk/>

<https://mapapps2.bgs.ac.uk/geoindex/home>

<https://maps.nls.uk/geo/roy/>

<https://maps.nls.uk/>

SP Energy Networks, South West Scotland Renewables Connection Project, Environment Statement, Technical Annex 14: Cultural Heritage (CFA Archaeology, 2008)

Appendix A Gazetteer and locations of recorded heritage assets

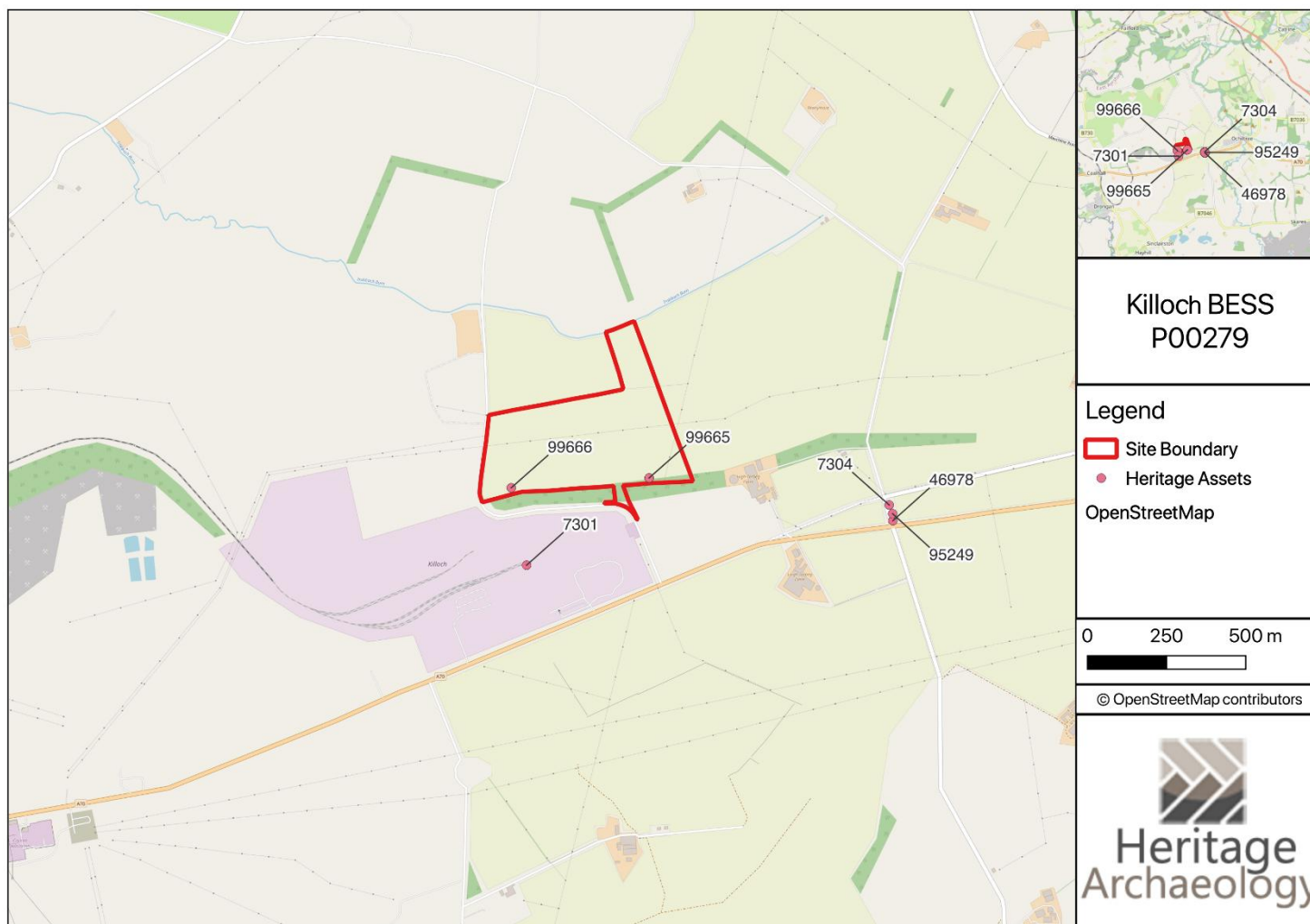


Figure 6: Known heritage assets within 1km search area

Asset ID	Source	Other ID	Name	Summary	Period	Easting	Northing
7304	WoSAS HER	Canmore 42748	Ochiltree Mote	Mote toll-house (NS 490 206) derives its name from a small knoll which stood adjacent to it. It cannot be ascertained whether this knoll was natural or artificial (Name Book 1856). Smith states that a small segment of "Ochiltree Mote" could be seen under the hedge which divides the road from the field in which the greater part of it stood. Artifacts said to have come from Ochiltree Mote are: (a) a collared cinerary urn; (b) an axe-hammer; (c) three bronze spearheads; (d) a crown piece of James I of England. Items (a) and (b) are in the Carnegie Library, Ayr, while one of the spear-heads (of Middle Bronze Age date, Coles' class D) is in the Hunterian Museum, Glasgow (Acc No: A.1928.2). The whereabouts of the other items are not known. The cinerary urn was found about 1838 when making the road which by-passed Ochiltree (J Macdonald 1878). No details can be given regarding the find of the axe-hammer; it lay on the window sill of a cottage near Moat toll, and was believed to have been found close by. (J Macdonald 1882). In 1895, one of the spearheads was in the possession of a neighbouring farmer, Mr Montgomerie; it and one other were said to have been found in the Mote; the third, in the possession of Smith, was ploughed up on the site (J Smith 1895). NSA 1845 (R Pettigrew); J M Coles 1966; A Morrison 1968; F E S Roe 1967; letter from J W Forsyth, Ayr Library, 27 May	Prehistoric	249050	620650

Asset ID	Source	Other ID	Name	Summary	Period	Easting	Northing
				1971. The Mote Tollhouse stands at NS 4906 2059 but there is no evidence of the adjacent knoll. The road has been widened and the field is regularly ploughed.			
46978	WoSAS HER	Canmore 163023	Mote Toll	Toll House on the A70	Post medieval	249060	620600
99665	WoSAS HER/ historic mapping	N/a	West Tarbeg	A farmstead annotated West Tarbeg and comprising a single roofed building located within an irregularly-shaped rectilinear enclosure was shown on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1860. The building and enclosure continued to be shown on the 2nd edition map of 1897, though by that point the building was depicted as being unroofed. Neither the building nor the enclosure appear on current OS maps of the area.	Post medieval	248296	620761
99666	WoSAS HER/ historic mapping	N/a	Westport	A farmstead annotated as Westport and comprising a single roofed building sitting at the north-west corner of a rectangular enclosure was shown on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1860. The building and enclosure were absent from the 2nd edition map of 1896, and are not shown on current OS maps of the area.	Post medieval	247860	620745
7301	WoSAS HER	Canmore 42745	Killoch Colliery	Colliery, 1953-1987. In 1965, Killoch became the first Scottish pit to produce 1 million tons of coal in a year, a large part of the output being exported to fuel Northern Ireland's power stations. In 1968, reserves were estimated at 100 million tons, but subsequent geological problems reduced productivity to half the Scottish average per man shift,	Modern	247900	620500

Asset ID	Source	Other ID	Name	Summary	Period	Easting	Northing
				prompting plans in 1972 to drive a link to neighbouring Barony. This was eventually achieved, with the bulk of the workforce being concentrated at Barony. However, closure followed in 1987, and the towers were subsequently demolished, although most of the office buildings were retained. The coal preparation plant was still operating in 2002, treating coal from neighbouring open-cast mines. Killoch was one of National Coal Board (NCB) architect, Egon Riss's great schemes. It provided excellent surface facilities for its workforce, and was dominated by the two winding towers. Although impressive, design flaws in the large glazed areas of the towers rendered them vulnerable to wind and rain, causing serious maintenance problems and hastening their demise after closure.			
95249	WoSAS HER	Canmore 355449	Ochiltree, Mote Toll	A watching brief was carried out, 5 May ? 15 July 2015, during groundwork for a new house. No finds or features of archaeological significance were recorded.	N/a	249060	620622

END OF REPORT