



Technical Appendix 2.3: Historic Desk-Based Assessment

Kirknewton Solar & BESS EIA Report

Trio Power Limited

UK House
5th Floor
164-182 Oxford Street
London
W1D1NN

Prepared by:

SLR Consulting Limited

The Tun, 4 Jackson's Entry, Edinburgh, EH8 8PJ

SLR Project No.: 405.065786.00001

11 November 2025

Revision: V2

Revision Record

Revision	Date	Prepared By	Checked By	Authorised By
V1	19 September 2025	HB/EC	BG	EC
V2	24 October 2025	EC	BG	EC

Basis of Report

This document has been prepared by SLR Consulting Limited (SLR) with reasonable skill, care and diligence, and taking account of the timescales and resources devoted to it by agreement with Trio Power Limited (the Client) as part or all of the services it has been appointed by the Client to carry out. It is subject to the terms and conditions of that appointment.

SLR shall not be liable for the use of or reliance on any information, advice, recommendations and opinions in this document for any purpose by any person other than the Client. Reliance may be granted to a third party only in the event that SLR and the third party have executed a reliance agreement or collateral warranty.

Information reported herein may be based on the interpretation of public domain data collected by SLR, and/or information supplied by the Client and/or its other advisors and associates. These data have been accepted in good faith as being accurate and valid.

The copyright and intellectual property in all drawings, reports, specifications, bills of quantities, calculations and other information set out in this report remain vested in SLR unless the terms of appointment state otherwise.

This document may contain information of a specialised and/or highly technical nature and the Client is advised to seek clarification on any elements which may be unclear to it.

Information, advice, recommendations and opinions in this document should only be relied upon in the context of the whole document and any documents referenced explicitly herein and should then only be used within the context of the appointment.



Table of Contents

1	Introduction	1
1.1	The Site	1
1.2	Site Description	1
1.3	Objectives	1
1.4	Standards	2
2	Legislation, Planning Policy & Guidance	2
2.1	National Planning Policy	2
2.2	Guidance	4
2.3	Regional and Local Policy	5
3	Consultation	5
4	Methodology	7
4.1	Study Area	7
4.2	Data Collection	7
4.3	Site Walkover	7
4.4	LiDAR Analysis	7
4.5	Assessing Significance	8
4.6	Assessing Impact	8
4.7	Setting Assessment	8
5	Archaeological Baseline	10
5.1	Designated Heritage Assets	10
5.2	Topography, Geology and Historic Land Use	10
5.3	Site Walkover	10
5.4	Chronological Background	11
5.5	Discussion of Archaeological Potential	17
5.6	Future Baseline	19
6	Statement of Significance	19
6.1	Significance	19
6.2	Potential Direct Impacts	20
6.3	Proposed Mitigation	20
7	Operation Impacts Assessment	21
7.1	Matters Scoped Out	21
7.2	Matters Scoped In	22
8	Conclusions	24
9	References	25



Plates in Text

Plate 1: Site boundary Location	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Plate 2: Joan Blaeu Map, published in 1654. Copyright from the National Library of Scotland.	15
Plate 3: East and West clipped six-inch OS Map, published in 1853. Copyright from the National Library of Scotland.	15
Plate 4: Six-inch OS Map, published in 1895. Copyright from the National Library of Scotland.	16
Plate 5: Six-inch OS Map, published in 1922. Copyright from the National Library of Scotland.	16
Plate 6: East and West clipped 1:25,000 OS Map published in 1955. Copyright from the National Library of Scotland.	17

ANNEXES

Annex A Site Gazetteer

Annex B Site Photographs



Acronyms and Abbreviations

AOD	above Ordnance Datum
DTM	Digital Terrain Model
GDL	Garden and Designed Landscape
GIS	GeoFigure Information System
HEPS	Historic Environment Policy Statement
HER	Historic Environment Record
HES	Historic Environment Scotland
HGV	Heavy Goods Vehicle
HLA	Historic Land-Use Assessment
LB	Listed Building
LDP	Local Development Plan
LPA	Local Planning Authority
NPF4	National Planning Framework 4
OS	Ordnance Survey
SM	Scheduled Monument
WoSAS	West of Scotland Archaeology Service



1 Introduction

SLR Consulting was commissioned by Trio Power Limited to prepare a Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment concerning a proposed development located approximately 1.5 km south of Kirknewton at Leyden Road, East Calder, West Lothian, EH27 8DQ (NGR: NT 10783 65217, hereafter referred to as 'the Site'). The proposal involves the construction of a combined ground-mounted solar PV array with an export capacity of 40 MW and a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) with an export capacity of 9 MW, along with associated infrastructure expected to produce electricity.

1.1 The Site

The Site boundary (shown on **Figure 1**) covers a total of 76 ha. The panels will have a maximum height of approximately 2.67 m above ground level. The Site is proposed to be accessed from Leyden Road. Leyden Road is a single-track road with occasional passing places. Access to the Site is achievable from either the south-east A70 road (Grid ref: NT 11007 63810) or from the north B7031 road (Grid ref: NT 10084 67130).

1.2 Site Description

The Site encompasses agricultural land located approximately 2.1 km south-east of East Calder, 1.5 km south of Kirknewton, and 4.5 km west of Balerno. The surrounding landscape to the south, south-east and south-west of the Site consists of agricultural land before forming the Pentland Hills c. 3 km to the south.

The Site is predominantly agricultural use and is located within a rural landscape. The Site comprises six land parcels of irregularly shaped fields that are well-defined and separated by a mixture of mature hedgerow, modern wooden fences, and Green Burn watercourse. Leyden Road separates two of the western-most development parcels running north to south. The Site is bordered to the south, east and northwest by mature and semi mature woodland.

Located between the south-eastern parcels is a drainage gully, surrounded by long established mature trees on both sides which acts as a boundary between the fields. This gully leads to/from the ruined Newlands farmstead located at the junction of four fields. The fields are currently utilised as a mix of crop and grazing land for livestock.

1.3 Objectives

This report considers the likely effects of the proposed development on the cultural heritage resource.

The specific objectives of the report are to:

- set out the cultural heritage baseline of the Site;
- assess the archaeological potential of the Site;
- assess the effects of the proposals on the cultural heritage resource, within the context of relevant legislation and planning policy; and
- determine whether, where any predicted adverse effects are identified, these effects can be mitigated.

This report is supported by the following:

- Figures
 - **Figure 1** - Non-designated Heritage Assets
 - **Figure 2** - Designated Heritage Assets



o **Figure 3** - Design Layout and Non-designated Heritage Assets

- Annexes
 - o **Annex A** – Site Gazetteer
 - o **Annex B** – Site Photography

1.4 Standards

The assessment has been undertaken in accordance with all relevant statutes, policies, and guidance, including the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Code of Conduct (ClfA, revised 2022) and Standard and Guidance for Historic Environment Desk-based Assessment (ClfA, revised 2020). The assessment has been undertaken, and the report prepared, by Harleigh Broughton, Graduate Heritage Consultant (MA Hons), and Elise Christensen (MA Hons, ACIfA FSA Scot), Senior Heritage Consultant. The assessment has been reviewed by Beth Gray (MA Hons, MCIfA, FSA Scot), Principal Heritage Consultant.

2 Legislation, Planning Policy & Guidance

The primary legislation relating to cultural heritage at the national level comprises:

- The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 (UK Government 1979); and
- The Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Scotland) Act 1997 (Scottish Government 1997).

Planning policy at the national level includes:

- National Planning Framework for Scotland 4 (NPF4) (The Scottish Government 2023);
- Historic Environment Scotland Policy Statement (HEPS) (Historic Environment Scotland 2019);
- Planning Advice Note 2/2011 (PAN 2) (2011); and
- West Lothian Council Local Development Plan (2018)

Guidance at the national level includes:

- Our Past, Our Future - The Strategy for Scotland's Historic Environment (2023)
- Managing Change in the Historic Environment: Setting (HES, 2016)
- Standard and guidance for historic environment desk-based assessment (ClfA 2014)

2.1 National Planning Policy

2.1.1 National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4) (2023)

NPF4 is government policy on how nationally important land use planning matters should be addressed across Scotland. The Framework provides the strategic spatial policy context for decisions and actions by the Government and its agencies and brings together the Scottish Government's plans and strategies in economic development, regeneration, energy, environment, climate change, transport and digital infrastructure to provide a coherent vision of how Scotland should evolve over the next 20 to 30 years. One of the main elements of the spatial strategy set out in NPF4 is the intention to respect, enhance and make responsible use of Scotland's cultural assets (Policy 7: Historic Assets and Places) and the framework recognises the contribution made by our cultural heritage to our economy, cultural identity, and quality of life. Planning authorities are required to consider the Framework when preparing



development plans, and it is a material consideration in the determination of planning applications.

Under Policy 7 of NPF4: Historic assets and places, the policy sets out the following for all cultural heritage assets in Scotland.

Scheduled Monuments in line with Policy 7 h:

Development proposals affecting Scheduled Monuments will only be supported where:

- i. *direct impacts on the Scheduled Monument are avoided;*
- ii. *significant adverse impacts on the integrity of the setting of a Scheduled Monument are avoided; or*
- iii. *exceptional circumstances have been demonstrated to justify the impact on a Scheduled Monument and its setting and impacts on the monument or its setting have been minimised.*

Listed Buildings in line with Policy 7 c:

Development proposals for the reuse, alteration or extension of a listed building will only be supported where they will preserve its character, special architectural or historic interest and setting. Development proposals affecting the setting of a listed building should preserve its character, and its special architectural or historic interest.

For the purposes of this assessment the later of Policy 7 c applies in relation to the setting of Listed Buildings.

2.1.2 The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 (UK Government 1979)

Under the 1979 Act, the Scottish Ministers are required to compile and maintain a schedule of monuments considered to be of national importance. The consent of the Scottish Ministers is required before any works are carried out which would have the effect of demolishing, destroying, damaging, removing, repairing, altering, adding to, flooding or covering up a Scheduled Monument. In addition, impacts of proposed development works upon the setting of a Scheduled Monument form an important consideration in the granting or refusal of planning consent to conduct development works.

2.1.3 The Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Scotland) Act 1997 Under Section 59(1) of the Act:

“In considering whether to grant planning permission for development which affects a listed building or its setting, a planning authority or the Secretary of State, as the case may be, shall have special regard to the desirability of preserving the building or its setting or any features of special architectural or historic interest which it possesses”.

Under Section 64(1) of the Act:

“In the exercise, with respect to any buildings or other land in a conservation area, of any powers under any of the provisions in subsection (2), special attention shall be paid to the desirability of preserving or enhancing the character or appearance of that area”.

Under subsection 64(2) those provisions are:

- a. The planning Acts, and
- b. Part I of the Historic Buildings and Ancient Monuments Act 1953”.

For the purposes of the Act, ‘conservation area’ means:

“An area for the time being designated under section 61” (Section 81: Interpretation)



2.1.4 Historic Environment Policy Statement (HEPS) (Historic Environment Scotland (2019))

This sets out the principles under which Historic Environment Scotland (HES) operates and provides a framework that informs the day-to-day work of a range of organisations that have a role and interest in managing the historic environment. The policy statement complements and is to be read alongside the Scottish Planning Policy and other relevant documents, including 'Our Place in Time: the Historic Environment Strategy for Scotland' (2014).

2.1.5 Planning Advice Note 2/2011; Planning and Archaeology

Planning Advice Note 2/2011 (PAN 2) advises that, in determining planning applications, planning authorities should consider the relative importance of archaeological sites (para 5). It also notes that in determining planning applications that may impact archaeological features or their setting, planning authorities may on occasion have to balance the benefits of development against the importance of archaeological features (para 6). The desirability of preserving a monument (whether scheduled or not) is a material consideration and the objective should be to assure the protection and enhancement of monuments by preservation in situ, in an appropriate setting. When preservation in situ is not possible, recording and/or excavation followed by analysis and publication of the results may be an acceptable alternative (para 14).

2.2 Guidance

2.2.1 Our Past, Our Future – The Historic Environment Strategy for Scotland (2023)

The Strategy sets out the Scottish Government's 10-year vision for the historic environment and states that Scotland's historic environment is important, and that people value their historic environment and the economic and social benefits it brings. The primary principles of the Historic Environment Strategy for Scotland are:

- to put people at the heart of the strategy;
- to act on the climate and biodiversity crisis;
- to protect and promote the historic environment;
- to work collaboratively across sectors; and
- to work together and be inclusive.

The Strategy outlines how these principles are achieved through three priorities:

- Priority 1: Delivering the transition to net zero;
- Priority 2: Empowering resilient and inclusive communities and places; and
- Priority 3: Building a wellbeing economy.

The Strategy states that there should be an assumption to conserve the historic environment, that we should improve standards and base practice upon the best available understanding, and that we should conserve the wider setting and context of our historic assets.

2.2.2 Managing Change in the Historic Environment: Setting (2016)

Historic Environment Scotland's good practice guidance presented in Managing Change in the Historic Environment: Setting (2016) sets out the process for identifying the setting of a cultural heritage asset and assessing the importance of the setting to the identified significance of that cultural heritage asset. It lays out a four-step approach to assessment:



- Step 1 – Identify which assets may be affected;
- Step 2 – Define and analyse the setting of the asset;
- Step 3 – Evaluate the potential impact of the proposed changes to the setting of the asset; and
- Step 4 – Mitigate if possible.

2.3 Regional and Local Policy

2.3.1 West Lothian Local Development Plan (LDP 1) (2018)

Local planning policy is provided in West Lothian Council's Local Development Plan (LDP 1) (2018). The policies relevant to this desk-based assessment are as follows:

Policy ENV 32 – Archaeology

Development will not be permitted where it would have a significant adverse effect on an identified regionally or locally important archaeological or historic site or its setting unless it can be demonstrated that:

- a. the proposal has been sited and designed to minimise damage to items or sites of archaeological and historic interest; and*
- b. there is no alternative location for the proposal. Archaeological remains should be preserved in situ wherever possible.*

Where this is not possible, archaeological investigation and recording will be required and must be to the highest professional standards. These investigations will be carried out at the developer's expense, before and/or during the implementation of the development to include archaeological excavation, recording, analysis and publication of findings.

Policy ENV 33 – Scheduled Monuments

There is a presumption against development which could have an adverse impact on a scheduled monument, or the integrity of its setting. Where appropriate, the council will introduce special controls such as Article 4 Directions removing 'permitted development' rights to protect scheduled monuments and their settings from unsympathetic development. Where Scheduled Monument Consent has been granted for works in connection with a planning permission, conditions will be applied to ensure that development is sympathetic to the monument and its setting. Developers may be required to make appropriate and satisfactory provision for archaeological and/or standing building investigation and recording, assessment, analysis, publication and archiving in advance of development. Detailed requirements will be determined on a case by case basis and clearly specified.

3 Consultation

Pre-application advice was sought from West Lothian Council where it was stated that ENV32 – Archaeology should be referred and adhered to. This is detailed in **Section 2.3**.

An EIA screening letter was submitted prior to application. The response is detailed below:



Table 1: Consultation Responses

Consultee	Consultation Response	Applicant Action
West Lothian Council	Archaeological survey/Cultural heritage reports to be included.	Inclusion of HEDBA within the application.



4 Methodology

4.1 Study Area

The following search areas have been used to establish the Site's baseline cultural heritage conditions:

- for purposes of assessing known heritage assets and potential sub-surface archaeological remains, a 1 km buffer has been utilised (**Figure 1**); and
- for purposes of setting assessment, a 2 km buffer has been utilised; setting assessment has included designated heritage assets and any assets regarded by West of Scotland Archaeology Service (WoSAS), or City of Edinburgh Council as being of national/regional importance. Kaimes Hill, fort (SM1172) located approximately 2.3km to the east has been included in the setting assessment due to long-distance views potentially affecting the hillfort's setting (**Figure 2**).

All heritage assets identified within 1 km of the Site are listed in **Annex A**.

4.2 Data Collection

Up-to-date cultural heritage information has been obtained from the following sources:

- Historic Environment Scotland's Spatial Warehouse Database (HES 2017a), for the locations and extents of Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings, Inventory Gardens and Designed Landscapes, Conservation Areas and Inventory Battlefields, procured as GIS data;
- WoSAS for known non-designated cultural heritage assets, complete with information on their character and condition;
- Trove, the HES database, for additional information relating to cultural heritage assets;
- the National Library of Scotland, for historic Ordnance Survey maps and other historic maps, to provide information on sites of potential archaeological significance and on historic land use development;
- archival information, published and unpublished literature for additional background and historical information;
- the online Historic Land-Use Assessment Map (HLA Map) for Scotland (HES 2017c), maintained by HES, for information on the historic land use character of the Site; and
- The Scottish Palaeoecological Archive Database (SPAD) (Coles et al., 1998), for information on the distribution of known palaeo-environmental sites within the Site.

A list of all sources consulted during the assessment is provided at the end of this report.

4.3 Site Walkover

A Site walkover was undertaken on the 10th of June 2025. The walkover is detailed in **Section 5.3**.

4.4 LiDAR Analysis

The Remote Sensing Portal (Scottish Remote Sensing Portal, 2025) collates the available LiDAR data and makes this available for public use through their online portal. Digital Terrain Models (DTM) are routinely used for heritage purposes as this model shows the ground's surface with buildings and trees filtered out to create a 'bare earth' effect. The available data for the Site was gathered at 1m resolution in 2009 (Phase I). This data was processed in June 2025 using the Relief Visualisation Toolkit (RVT) plugin on QGIS.

The National Library of Scotland (NLS, 2025) has gathered and processed the available LiDAR data and makes this available for public use through their online portal. The available



data for the Site was gathered at (LiDAR DTM 1m – Scotland, Ph 1). This data was processed in July 2025.

4.5 Assessing Significance

With reference to the policy contained within the HEPS, the cultural significance of a heritage asset can be defined as:

“Cultural significance means 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. (Australia ICOMOS Burra Charter 2013).

As per the Designation Policy and Selection Guidance (HES 2019), each feature which falls under the designation criteria has its own selected guidance for the type of feature.

‘A Scheduled Monument’s Cultural Significance is derived from these qualities:

- Intrinsic characteristics – how the physical remains of a site or place contribute to our knowledge of the past;
- Contextual characteristics – how a site or place relates to its surroundings and/or to our existing knowledge of the past; and
- Associative characteristics – how a site or place relates to people, practices, events and/or historic and social movements’

4.6 Assessing Impact

HEPS (2019) define impact as:

“The effect of changes on the historic environment is often referred to as the impact. This 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.”

With the above definition and Historic Environment Policy 4:

“HEP4 Changes to specific assets and their context should be managed in a way that protects the historic environment. Opportunities for enhancement should be identified where appropriate. If detrimental impact on the historic environment is unavoidable, it should be minimised. Steps should be taken to demonstrate that alternatives have been explored, and mitigation measures should be put in place.”

Assessment of impact has been broken down into the following:

- Positive impact; in line with HEP2, that a positive impact will ensure that the understanding and enjoyment of the historic environment is preserved as well as secured for present and future generations;
- Neutral; The development would not diminish the ability to understand, appreciate or experience a heritage asset or its integrity; and
- Negative; An impact that would significantly alter the ability to understand, appreciate or experience a heritage asset and its integrity.

4.7 Setting Assessment

In respect of identifying the importance of setting to the identified significance of a heritage asset, HES’s good practice guidance presented in the Managing Change in the Historic



Environment: Setting (2016) will be utilised; specifically, the four-step approach to assessment:

- Step 1 – Identify which assets may be affected;
- Step 2 – Define and analyse the setting of the asset;
- Step 3 – Evaluate the potential impact of the proposed changes to the setting of the asset; and
- Step 4 – Mitigate if possible.



5 Archaeological Baseline

5.1 Designated Heritage Assets

There are no Scheduled Monuments, GDLs, Inventoried Battlefields, Conservations Areas, or Listed Buildings within the Site boundary.

Within 1 km of the Site boundary there are 2 Category B Listed Buildings. There are no Inventoried Battlefields, Conservation Areas, or GDLs.

Within 2 km of the Site boundary there are 10 Category B Listed Buildings and one Scheduled Monument – Corston Hill, cairn (SM6194) and 1 Conservation Area – Kirknewton (CA376). There are no Inventoried Battlefields, or GDLs within 2 km of the Site boundary.

5.2 Topography, Geology and Historic Land Use

The Site is located on sloped land, which tapers to the relatively flat land in the northern fields. The high point of c.256 m AOD is in the most south-western point of the Site and slopes down to 200 m AOD in the north-western side of the Site, with the Green Burn, a tributary of the Gogar Burn, rising within the Site, and flowing in a northeasterly direction before discharging to the Gogar Burn approximately 3.5km northeast of the site. The nearest large watercourse is the Water of Leith, located c.1 km to the south-east of the Site.

The soil composition of the Site is defined as noncalcareous gleys, derived mainly from Carboniferous sandstones, shales and limestones across the Site (British Geological Survey, 2025). Noncalcerous gleys are often associated with waterlogged, anaerobic conditions and a specific lack in calcium carbonate, occurring in low-lying areas including valleys. The prevalence of shales further suggests a wet, poor drainage environment which most likely would have been avoided for settlement or agricultural practices. The anaerobic environment would ensure good preservation of organic material aside from bone due to the acidity levels in noncalcerous soils. The geology of the Site consists mainly of pale sandstones interbedded with grey to dark grey mudstones and siltstones. To the north-western edge of the Site, the geology can be defined as basaltic lavas and tuffs and mugearite lavas. Superficial deposits of till are present throughout the Kirknewton study area (British Geological Survey, 2025). Typically, till deposits are composed of free-draining sediments, which would have been advantageous for early settlement.

An appraisal of the Historic Land Use Assessment Data, created by Historic Environment Scotland, notes that the majority of the Site consists of Rectilinear Fields and Farms formed as part of the agricultural improvements in the 18th and 19th centuries. Smaller areas are recorded as Plantation, which are modern features of the landscape introduced in the early 20th century and today create clearly defined boundaries with breaks allowing for the open spaces to be adopted by native species.

Available historic mapping of the Site is discussed in **Section 5**.

5.3 Site Walkover

A Site walkover was carried out on the 10th of June 2025. All areas of the Site were visited except for the north-east field due to the presence of livestock. The developable area of the Site comprises six fields. All fields are used for cultivating crops except for the two northern fields in the east side of the Site, which were used for grazing.

It was observed that the highest points of the Site were in the south which overlooked the northern fields of the Site and the fields beyond. The fields have mature trees on their boundaries, particularly extending south from Newlands Farmstead. No variation in micro topography or vegetation beyond natural is present and there is no remaining evidence for the



Prisoner of War Camp (50315) adjacent to south-east boundary. The sandstone quarry (SLR1) located in the western field and the old gravel pit (SLR2) in the south-eastern-most field, as annotated on the 1st edition OS map (1853) were visited. There are no visible remains of the sandstone quarry and the old gravel pit has been filled in with no above ground remains.

No further assets of archaeological interest were observed during the Site walkover.

5.4 Chronological Background

The heritage assets referenced in **Section 4.5** are referred to by their relevant HER reference number or designation reference. A full list of Historic Environment Records and their associated Designation References, WoSAS IDs and/or City of Edinburgh Council IDs can be found in **Annex A** and shown on **Figure 1**.

5.4.1 Prehistoric Context

There are no known prehistoric heritage assets within the Site. Within 1 km of the Site, there are three known prehistoric heritage assets.

Corston Hill, cairn (**SM6194**) is c.1.6 km to the south-west of the Site on the north-west facing ridge of Corston Hill. The cairn is an example of a ceremonial and/or funerary monument thought to contain a burial of the Late Neolithic or Bronze Age.

The findspots of a prehistoric Axehead (Bronze Age) (57659) and a prehistoric Flange Axehead (Bronze Age) (61604) have been identified 0.8 km north-east of the Site. The axehead (57659) was discovered by metal detectorist, Mr A. Porteous in 2007. Both axes demonstrate a level of Bronze Age activity in the surrounding area, adding to the limited record of Bronze Age metalwork known in West Lothian. There is no further evidence of the production of axeheads nor of settlement activity in the study area, and as such there does not appear to have been a prolonged or intensive prehistoric presence within the vicinity of the Site.

A standing stone, Belstane (18224) has been identified 0.5 km south-east to the Site but the stone is no longer *in situ*. According to its HER description, the stone was approximately 1.5 metres high, however, there is no evidence for when the stone was removed, nor any clear connection established between the stone and its name.

5.4.2 Romano-British context

There are no known Romano-British heritage assets within the Site.

Within 1 km of the Site, a known Roman road (18250) defined as a linear monument, runs to the south-east of the Site. The road's known beginning point lies 26 km south-east of the Site in Corbiehall at Castledykes, a known Roman Fort (**SM1139**). In relation to the Site, the road is located 0.8 km south-east from the most southern point of the Site and 0.9 km from the north-east side of the Site and is visible as a series of stoney banks. There is no additional evidence of Roman activity along the road.

5.4.3 Medieval Context

There are no medieval heritage assets within the Site and three within 1 km of the Site.

Three areas of medieval rig and furrow (50302, 18868, 18910) have been identified to the south of the Site, 0.3 km, 0.4 km, and 0.9 km respectively. The medieval rig and furrow (50302) were visible on vertical air photographs taken in 1965, and the two additional areas of rig and furrow (18868, 18910) have been associated with the asset. The prevalence of rig and furrow implies that the surrounding landscape was used for agricultural cultivation.



5.4.4 Post-medieval Context

There are no post-medieval heritage assets within the Site.

There are four post-medieval heritage assets within 1 km of the Site.

Kirknewton House (**LB7362**) is a Category B Listed Building, situated 0.8 km to the north-east of the Site. The house, once called Meadowbank House, was constructed for James Maconochie in approximately 1690. The house underwent alterations by William Playfair in the late 19th century. Today, the house is open to the public and is used as a wedding venue.

Ainville Farmhouse (**LB7363**) is a Category B Listed Building. The farmstead is associated with Ainville country-house (50300). Both were constructed in the 18th century and are situated 0.8 km to the south-west of the Site. Today, the farmhouse and farmstead are in use as a working farm.

A post-medieval milestone (99711) is 0.9 km south-east of the Site on the side of the A70 Road. The milestone, recorded in 2025, functioned as a mileage marker for travellers enroute into Edinburgh.

The Joan Blaeu Map 'Lothian and Linlithquo', published in 1654 (**Plate 2**), illustrates the earliest visual for the Site's surrounding area. The map marks the closest town to the Site, Kirknewton (Kirknewtown). Distinguishing land use on the map is not possible, but a visible travel road is marked passing through where the A70 is currently located.

The six-inch first edition map published in 1853 (**Plate 3**), illustrates clear visual for land use in the Site boundary and surrounding areas (Edinburghshire, Sheet 10 and Sheet 11, 1853). The map shows the Site and surrounding areas in use as agricultural fields. Clear treeline boundaries separate the fields on the northeastern, south-eastern, and north-western perimeters of the Site. A quarry pit is labelled as 'Old Gravel Pit' c. 130 m to the south-east of Newlands Farmstead (50323). At this point Newlands Farmstead was labelled as 'Ruins' and it is likely these would have been contemporary in use earlier in the post-medieval period.

In the western fields, a sandstone quarry is annotated, situated adjacent to the road, still extant. The quarry was observed as no longer extant on the walkover survey.

The Green Burn watercourse is listed and shows the water flowing from Green Burn down to Newlands, the same course as observed today. The western map further identifies Corston Hill and surrounding assets, including a Cairn, two Ruins, multiple quarries and old fence boundaries.

The six-inch second edition OS map, 1895 (**Plate 4**) highlights changes made within the Site (Edinburghshire, Sheet VI.SW, 1895). This includes the addition of a field boundary in the north-western field, as well as the removal of two field boundaries to the bottom fields in the south-east area of the Site and one removal in the central northern field. Changes to the agricultural fields surrounding the Site have also taken place, with the construction of a reservoir to the north of the Site, near Belstane.

5.4.5 Modern Context

There are no modern heritage assets within the Site. There are four modern heritage assets within 1 km of the study area.

Kirknewton's Airfield Camp (50315) is located 0.2 km south-east of the Site and was used during the 20th century for military accommodation and later, as a German prisoner of war work camp. Today, the area consists of a modern housing estate.

Additionally, two 20th century buildings and an Aircraft Hangar are located approximately 0.7km east of the Site at Kirknewton Airfield. There is limited information publicly available on the two buildings, but both have been classed as postwar as they do not appear on RAF wartime or immediate postwar vertical photographs. The Bellman type aircraft hangar is still



in use for light aircraft and is visible on RAF WWII vertical air photography. Neither of the buildings, nor the aircraft hangar have an assigned WOSAS ID.

Modern 1922 OS six-inch map (**Plate 5**), reveals slight changes to the Site and surrounding areas since the 1895 Map. The only addition is a field boundary in the most southern field, and the only removal is a field boundary in the most northwestern field.

Modern 1973 OS map (**Plate 6**), illustrates no changes in the Sites land use and surrounding area.

5.4.6 Undated Heritage Assets

There are three undated heritage assets within the area of the Site – Newlands Farmstead (50323) - comprising one unroofed building, one partially roofed building, and two enclosures, one of which is incomplete. The asset's location is at the intersection of four fields within the Site boundary. Based on a site visit and aerial imagery, the farmstead is derelict and not in use, and in a reduced state of preservation. Its presence on the 1st edition OS map (1853, **Plate 3**), suggests that it is post-medieval in date and would have been historically associated with the surrounding fields.

There are 12 undated heritage assets within 1 km of the Site boundary.

Whitemoss Farmhouse and Farmstead (18214) is situated 0.8 km north-east of the Site. The assets are undated with limited information publicly available. However, a historic building survey carried out by AOC Archaeology Group in 2021 indicates that the farmhouse and steading may be post-medieval in date. The survey states that Whitemoss Steading was constructed in the mid-18th century. The farmhouse was added in the later 19th century with further developments taking place in the early to mid-20th century. Today, Whitemoss Farm is in use as an outdoors adventure site.

Belstane Farmhouse and Farmstead (18227) and Belstane Farm Steading (50272) are situated 0.4 km south-east of the Site. Associated with Belstane are two walled gardens (50309, 18858) which share the same NMRS number. The walled gardens are located approximately 0.4 km south-east of the Site and sit adjacent to the farmhouse and farm steading. No information on the history of the farmhouse, farmstead and walled gardens is publicly available and today the area appears to be a renovated housing development.

Gardeners Wood (18846) located 0.6 km north of the Site, is an undated structure, with two parts roofed and one part exposed. The enclosure containing the building is approximately 25 m by 20 m in size and was most likely an agricultural building associated with the Kirknewton House (LB7362), then Meadowbank House, suggesting that the asset is post-medieval in date.

Ainville Steading (18861) Farm buildings (50298), and two Walled Gardens (18860) (50299) are located to the southeast of the Site. Ainville Steading (18861) appears to be the same site as is recorded under Ainville Farm Buildings and Farm Steading (50298). Ainville Steading and Ainville Farm Buildings are located 0.7km southeast from the Site. The walled garden (18860) appears to duplicate asset 50299, sharing the same NMRS number but different coordinates. The two assets (18860) and (50299) are situated 0.8km and 0.7km in succession, southeast of the Site. All the assets can be associated with the post-medieval Ainville Farmhouse (**LB7363**) and Country House (50300), suggesting that they are all post-medieval in date.

Mansfield (66525) is an undated historic settlement 0.8 km south-east of the Site. No information is publicly available regarding the dating of the settlement, but the surrounding assets are part of the Ainville Farm Steading and so the settlement may represent associated or earlier settlement activity in the area.



Corston Hill (50328) is a farmstead also referred to as 'Hillend' and is situated 0.4 km south-west of the Site. The asset consists of two unroofed buildings, which are depicted on the 1st edition of the OS 6-inch map (Edinburghshire 1853-6, Sheet 10). One unroofed building is shown on the 1976 edition and today, the building appears to be ruinous and is situated within an area of rough vegetation.



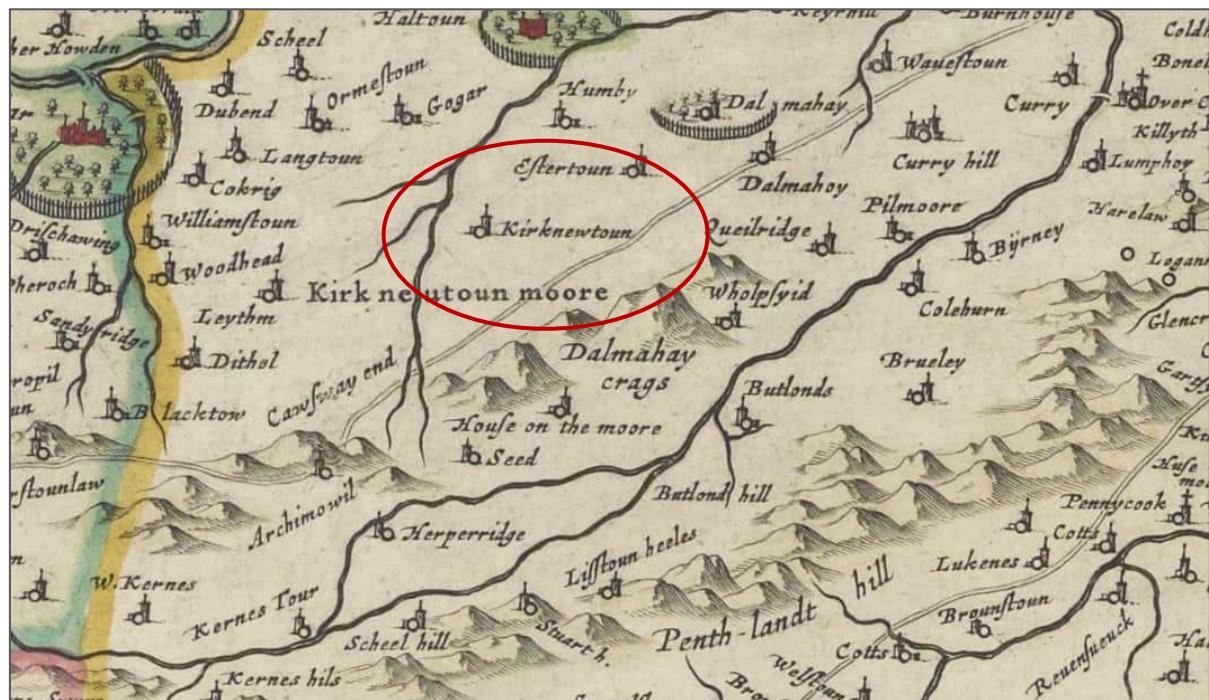


Plate 2: Joan Blaeu Map, published in 1654. Copyright from the National Library of Scotland.

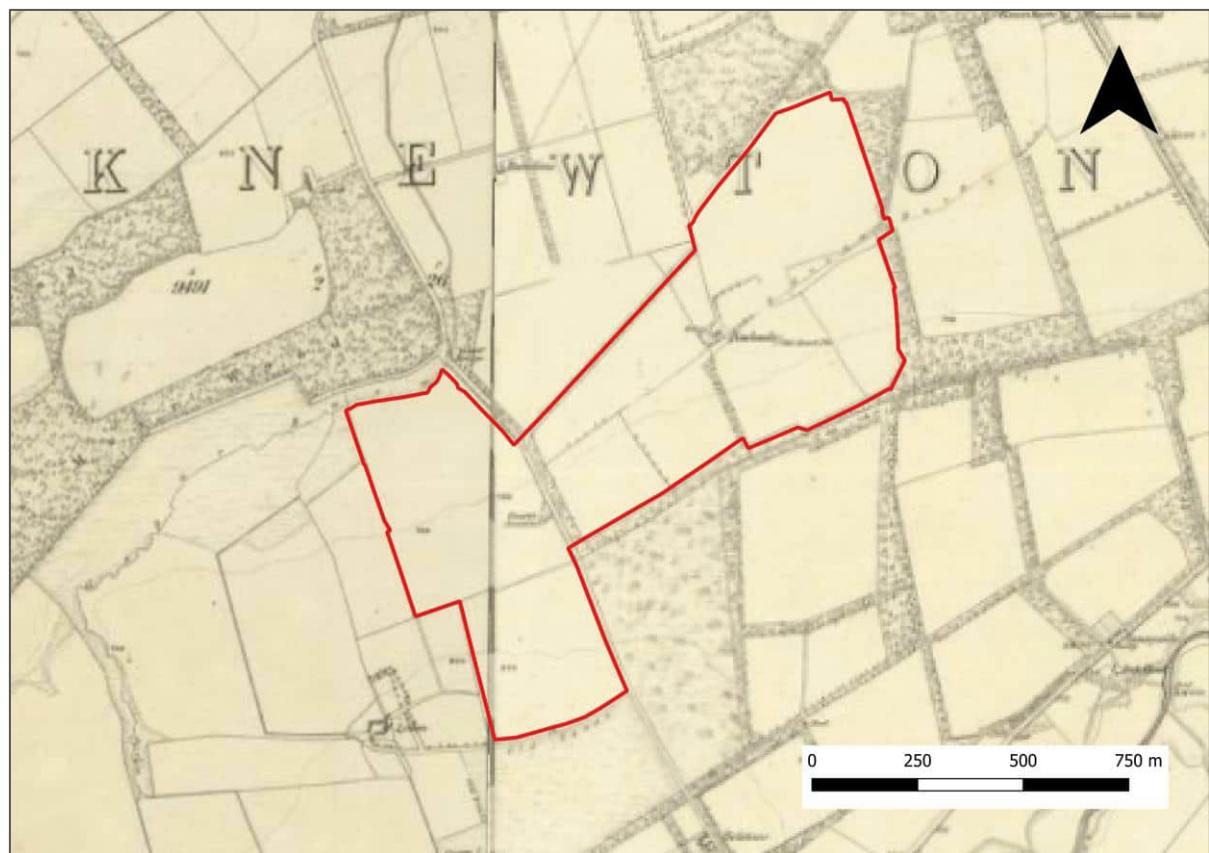


Plate 3: East and West clipped six-inch OS Map, published in 1853. Copyright from the National Library of Scotland.

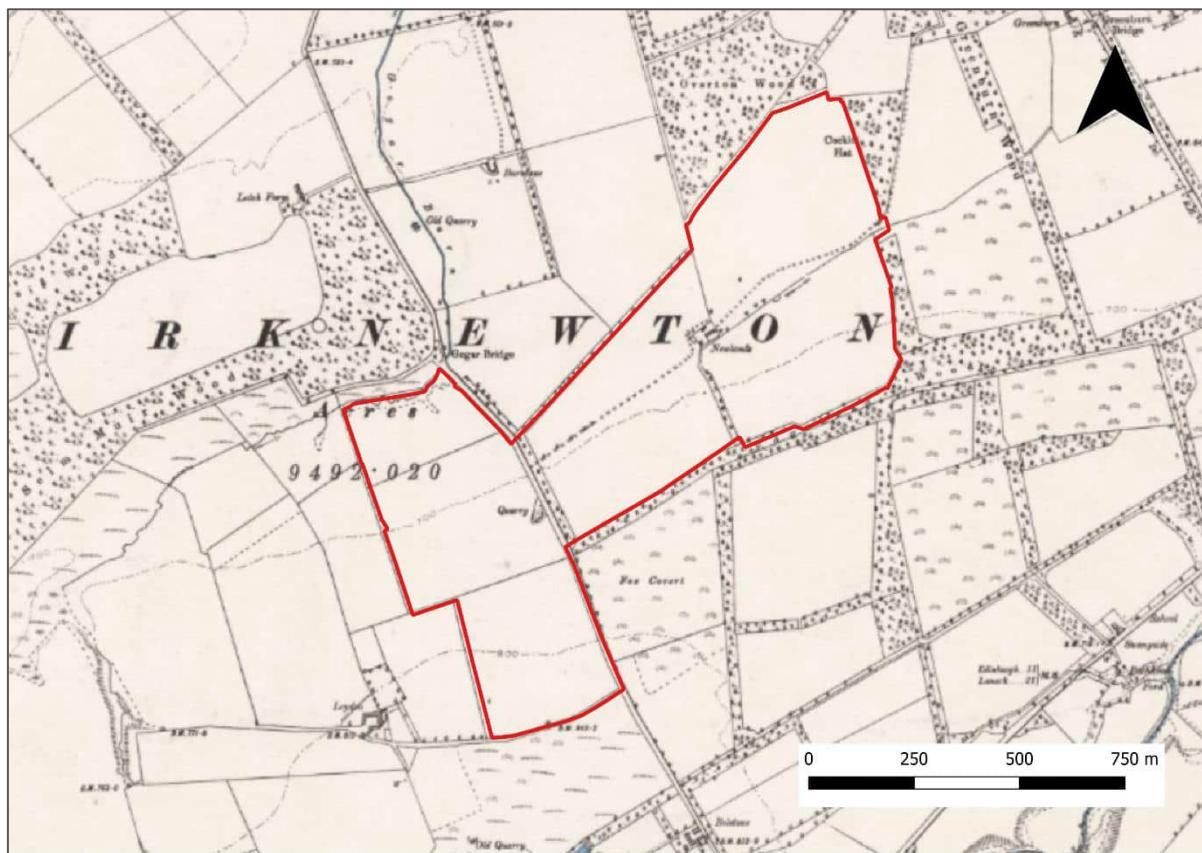


Plate 4: Six-inch OS Map, published in 1895. Copyright from the National Library of Scotland.

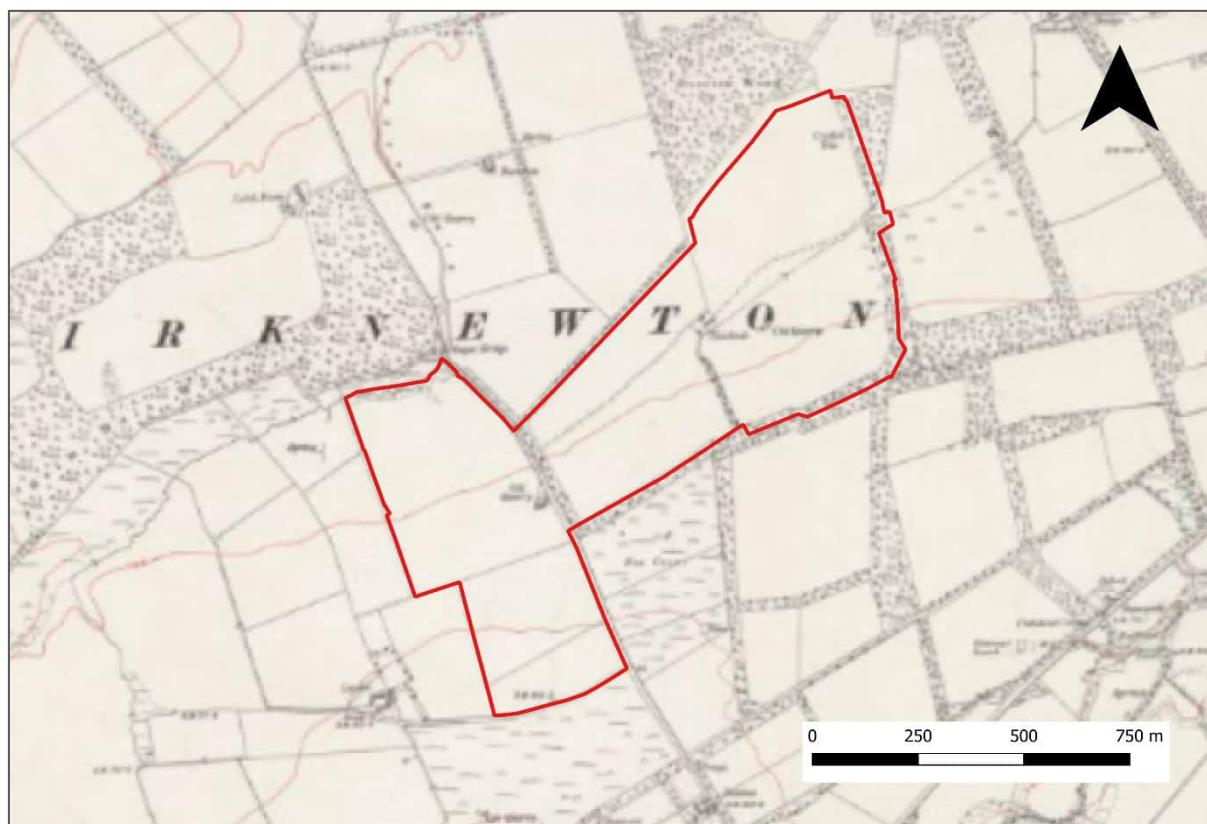


Plate 5: Six-inch OS Map, published in 1922. Copyright from the National Library of Scotland.



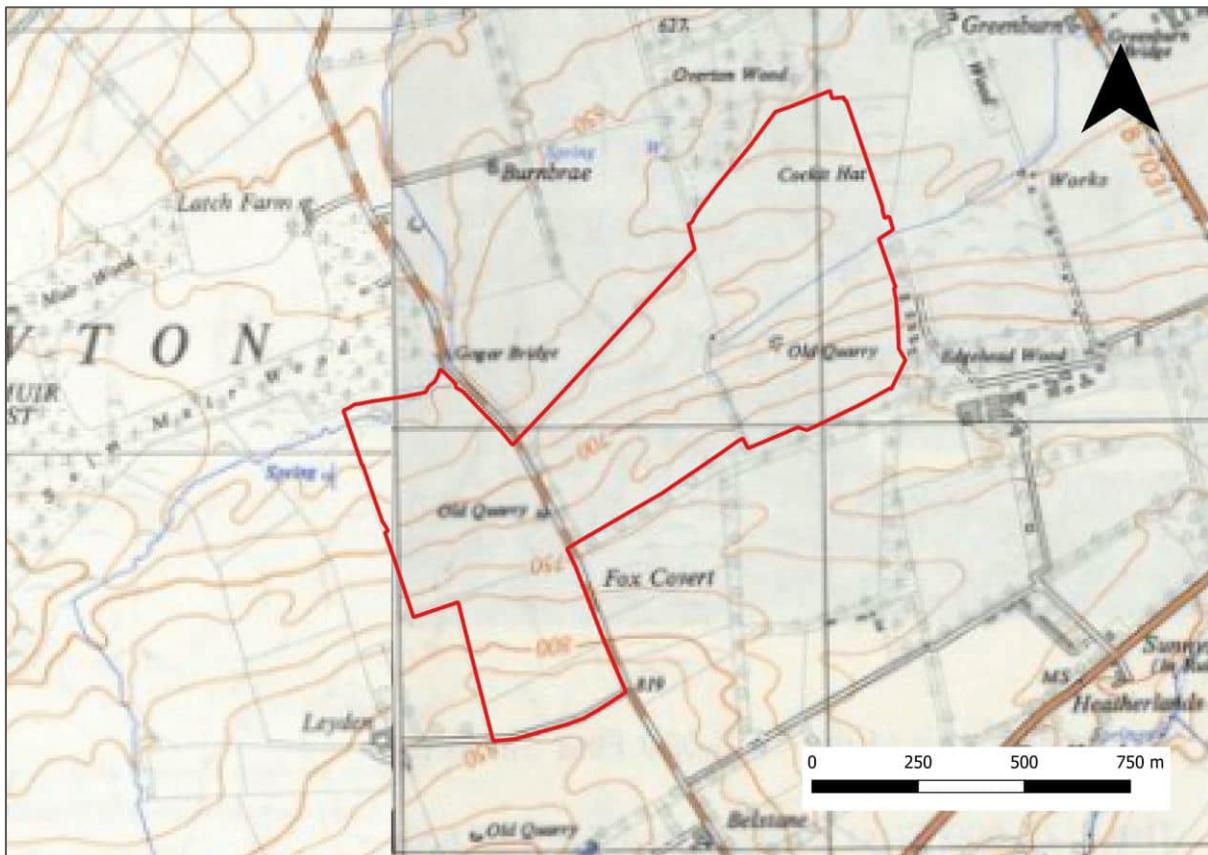


Plate 6: East and West clipped 1:25,000 OS Map published in 1955. Copyright from the National Library of Scotland.

5.4.7 LiDAR

An analysis of available LiDAR data was undertaken according to the methodology presented above and utilising data from the Scottish National Library Database. No new potential heritage assets were recorded from the LiDAR data.

5.5 Discussion of Archaeological Potential

Analysis of the historic environment suggests that the Site and the landscape surrounding the Site has been utilised from the prehistoric to modern period.

Prehistoric

The prehistoric findspots recovered to the north-east of the Site have been recorded as isolated assets. Given there is no evidence for further prehistoric activity in this area, with any evidence of further settlement most likely being destroyed due to ongoing activity indicates a low potential for further archaeological finds.

Recordings of a standing stone situated to the south of the Site also suggest no further evidence of prehistoric activity within the Site. The standing stone, now removed, stood in isolation, a typical feature for such megalithic structures. Usually placed intentionally in the landscapes, standing stones often marked specific points of importance. While this increases the potential for further prehistoric archaeological features to be present within the Site, the likelihood of there being settlement activity is still low. Any such finds will also most likely have been destroyed due to agricultural activity in the study area. This suggests that there is low archaeological potential for prehistoric remains within the Site. Any remains identified would



not be anticipated to be of significance and would not be likely to preclude the Proposed Development.

Romano-British

The remains of a Roman road have been recognized to the south-east of the Site, beginning 26 km south-east of the Site's study area and extending to 0.8 km from the Site at its nearest point. However, there is no additional evidence for Roman activity within the Site and as such, there is low potential for archaeological remains dated to the Roman period within the Site. If present the remains would likely be of a transient nature and would not be anticipated to be of that would preclude the Proposed Development.

Medieval context

Evidence for medieval rig and furrow has been identified to the south of the Site indicating a higher level of archaeological potential for archaeological finds associated with medieval cultivation practices. Upon, examining LiDAR data, no evidence for rig and furrow can be identified, perhaps due to ongoing agricultural activities in the Site boundary. Medieval structures or field boundaries will most likely have been destroyed due to activity in the area or modified in later periods, making it difficult to ascertain their date. This suggests that there is low archaeological potential for medieval remains within the Site. Any remains identified would not be anticipated to be of significance and would not be likely to preclude the Proposed Development.

Post-medieval context

Newlands farmstead (50323) has been identified within the Site boundary. The asset is comprised of a ruined farmstead which is no longer in use. While the asset remains undated, evidence of the farmstead can be seen on the six-inch OS Map published in 1853, suggesting the farmstead was in use during the post-medieval period.

The quarry (SLR1) and gravel pit (SLR2) are no longer visible or reduced considerably. While these are undated, their presence on the 1st edition OS map (1853) and their proximity and asset type suggest these were contemporary with the farmstead and are characteristic of post-medieval activity and thus contribute to the post-medieval potential of the Site.

The majority of the assets within 1 km of the Site are farm buildings, houses, steadings, and structures and are mostly undated but likely belong to the post-medieval period and are included in the determination of archaeological potential.

Belstane farmstead (50272) and Corston Hill farmstead (50328). 470 m and 400 m respectively to the south-east of the Site consist of farm buildings and structural features are visible on 6-inch OS map from 1853. Due to distances, it is unlikely that any associated remains would be present within the Site, however, they indicate that the local area was used for cultivating practices and most likely during the post-medieval period

Kirknewton House (**LB7362**), c. 800 m to the north-east, has been dated to the post-medieval period and represents a history of wealth and high-ranking nobility in the area, but the manor's land ownership does not have a history of being within the Site boundary. There is thus a low potential for further archaeological finds of post-medieval buildings or land ownership related to Kirknewton House. Similarly, the identified milestone (99711) c. 0.9 km to the south-east of the Site is a unique mileage marker for a main road, therefore highly unlikely to have been situated within the Site boundary.

Overall, this indicates a relatively high potential for further heritage assets demonstrating historical cultivating practices to be recovered within the Site boundary. However, given the land within the Site has been continuously used for cultivating practices, this implies that any shallow archaeological remains would have been destroyed or previously recorded as supported by the lack of features visible on LiDAR. As such, it is considered that there is a low potential for post-medieval remains within the Site. Any remains identified would not be



anticipated to be of significance and would not be likely to preclude the Proposed Development.

Modern

Evidence for the prior military camp located c. 0.22 km to the south-east of the Site presents limited potential for additional archaeological assets. The military camp (50315), visible on 20th century military maps, has been developed into a housing estate, suggesting that any further modern assets would have been identified during the areas development or otherwise destroyed. To the east of the Site two modern buildings and an aircraft hangar are present at Kirknewton Airfield, which is still in use today. Despite there being modern assets nearby to the Site, there is no evidence that these assets extended beyond the area they have been identified in. Therefore, there is low archaeological potential for further modern assets being identified within the Site. Any remains identified would not be anticipated to be of significance and would not be likely to preclude the Proposed Development.

5.6 Future Baseline

If the Proposed Development was not to proceed, there would be no change to the baseline condition of the Site, and it would continue to be used for agricultural purposes.

Other impacts of climate change on buried remains might result from increased rainfall and fluctuating temperatures, with the sequence and frequency of natural soil saturation and desiccation changing the preservative conditions. This might result in damage or loss of organic artefacts. For upstanding remains, such change has the potential to result in increased water penetration, which may then cause/accelerate erosion/decay of historic fabric.

Notwithstanding the above, it is considered that the description of the baseline conditions remains robust for purposes of this assessment, and that it allows for an accurate assessment of the impacts of the Proposed Development on the cultural heritage resource.

6 Statement of Significance

Based on the proposed development layout (**Figure 3**), this assessment has identified that the following remains may be affected by the proposals:

- Newlands Farmstead (50323)
- Sandstone Quarry (SLR1)
- Old Quarry Pit (SLR2)

6.1 Significance

Newlands Farmstead (50323)

The asset is a ruined farmstead, visible as one unroofed building and one partially roofed building on the 1st edition OS 6-inch map (1853, Edinburghshire, sheet 11), located centrally at the junction of four fields. Subsequent mapping in 1983 (OS 1:10,000 map) annotated the farmstead as 'ruins'. The asset is considered to be a locally important archaeological site according to Policy ENV 32 – Archaeology of the West Lothian Council's Local Development Plan 1 (2018). As such, the remains warrant preservation *in situ* under the local development plan. Where this is not possible, archaeological investigation and recording would be required.

Sandstone Quarry (SLR1)

The asset is the remains of a sandstone quarry, as identified on the 1st edition OS 6-inch map (1853) Edinburghshire, sheet 11), located adjacent to the Leyden Road which bisects the site. The site of the quarry was visited but found to have no upstanding remains and it is unlikely that, due to the subsequent land use, any subsurface remains survive. If present, they would



be of negligible archaeological significance and would not be considered to be a locally important archaeological site according to Policy ENV 32 of the Local Development Plan. As such, they would not preclude development.

Old Quarry Pit (SLR2)

The asset is the remains of a gravel pit, as identified on the 1st edition OS 6-inch map (1853) Edinburghshire, sheet 11), located c. 130 m to the south-east of Newlands Farmstead in the southeastern-most field of the Site. The site of the quarry was visited and had no above ground remains. Any subsurface remains are considered to be of negligible archaeological significance and would not be considered to be a locally important archaeological site according to Policy ENV 32 of the Local Development Plan. As such, they would not preclude development.

6.2 Potential Direct Impacts

The proposed development would comprise a solar array and a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) development with a maximum export capacity of 40 MW. The footprint of these would necessitate ground disturbance associated with the following components:

- PV solar array & modules (~40 MW)
- BESS (~9 MW)
- SUDS Ponds
- Fencing around BESS and Solar Modules
- Site access and internal tracks

Direct impacts on any cultural heritage assets would derive from any groundworks or other ground disturbance undertaken as part of the construction phase of the proposed development. Where significant ground disturbance takes place, these activities would remove or change any cultural heritage assets within the area of ground disturbance, if they were to be present. This damage would be irreversible and permanent. **Figure 3** presents the Proposed Development and the heritage assets.

6.3 Proposed Mitigation

Appropriate mitigation undertaken during construction would be in the form of:

- fencing off and avoidance of Newlands Farmstead (50323).

Due to embedded mitigation in the form of a 30 m buffer being placed around Newlands Farmstead (50323) and complete avoidance of the asset through design, it is not anticipated that a watching brief would be required however, the precise scope of the mitigation works would need to be negotiated and agreed with WoSAS. The agreed mitigation programme would be documented in an agreed Written Scheme of Investigation.

Any negative impact will be mitigated in line with HEP4 (HEPS, 2019), to ensure that the proposed development does not significantly affect the cultural heritage of the Site.



7 Operation Impacts Assessment

7.1 Matters Scoped Out

Table 2 presents the elements not considered to give rise to likely significant effects as a result of the Proposed Development and have therefore not been considered in this assessment.

Table 2: Matters scoped out

Element Scoped Out	Justification
Assessment of Proposed Development on GDLs, Inventoried Battlefields, Category A Listed Buildings, and Conservation Areas	There are none of the listed designations within 2 km of the Proposed Development or any of which that have long-distance views which contribute to their cultural significance. As such, these have not been assessed further in this report.
Assessment of Proposed Development on Category C Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas	Category C Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas are of local rather than regional or national importance. Given the limited significance and lower sensitivity of Category C buildings in most contexts, it is unlikely that the Proposed Development would result in a negative impact on these assets.
Assessment of Proposed Development on B Listed Buildings	<p>A high-level assessment has been conducted and it is determined that the Site does not contribute to the significance of, nor share any meaningful spatial, historical, functional, or visual associations with the listed buildings present within the study area. Justification was provided in the EIA Screening Report submitted to WLC.</p> <p>As such, the Listed Buildings listed below and present within the 2 km study area are not anticipated to experience significant adverse impacts from the proposed development and have not been assessed further in this report:</p> <p>Listed Buildings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lodges, 19 And 21 Whitemoss Road, And Gate, Kirknewton Village (LB7348) • Dr. Cullen Burial Enclosure (LB7351) • Hill House (LB7352) • Easter Newton Farm-House (LB7353) • Millrigg Farmhouse (LB7357) • Ormiston House (LB7358) • Kirknewton House (LB7362) • Ainville Farm-House (LB7363)



Element Scoped Out	Justification
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maconochies Of Meadowbank Burial Enclosure Kirknewton Burial Ground (LB7384) • Kirknewton Station, Station House (LB13466)
Corston Hill, cairn (SM6194)	<p>The asset is comprised of the remains of a burial cairn of Later Neolithic or Bronze Age date, situated at c.320 m AOD. The asset is situated on a north-west facing ridge of Corston Hill, with good views over the landscape in all directions bar east, where they are blocked by Corston Hill. The asset is likely to have been particularly prominent in the landscape when traveling along the Linhouse Water and its valley which runs to the northwest of the asset and has good views over this watercourse. Assets of this type are often positioned overlooking watercourses, frequently in a position that would be highly visible when traveling along the watercourses and their valleys and may have formed markers in the landscape. The views to and from the Linhouse Water are likely to form the primary aspect of the asset's setting from which it derives its significance. If visible to the north-east, the Proposed Development is not anticipated to introduce any negative impacts to the asset and its setting including third points of appreciation. As such, it is therefore scoped out of further assessment.</p>

7.2 Matters Scoped In

One designated asset was identified with the potential for the proposals to result in potential negative effects resulting from a change in their setting - Kaimes Hill, fort (SM1172) – shown on **Figure 2**.

This was included, despite being out with the 2 km study area, as it is an asset which possesses long distance views which contribute to its cultural significance, and as such there is potential for negative effects on the asset arising from the Proposed Development.

7.2.1 Kaimes Hill, fort (SM1172)

This asset is a prehistoric hillfort, located along the rocky summit of Kaimes Hill, measuring 310 m by 120 m east-northeast to west-southwest. A steep northern and western scarp delineates the edge of the fort, making the fort easily defensible from these directions, while the earthwork defences are seen to the east and south-east.

The fort survives as a series of five parallel ditches and ramparts, denoting it was a multivallate fort. Several breaks in these ramparts in the eastern and south-eastern arcs suggest multiple



entrances and exits. Internally, multiple roundhouses varying between 12 m and 15 m in diameter are present, and overlap, suggesting multiphase occupation.

The fort has been partially excavated. The excavations took place prior to a quarry development and have indicated that it was constructed and occupied during the latter half of the 1st millennium BC over multiple phases.

The fort is a well-preserved example of a prehistoric hillfort, particularly one which has been continuously settled over multiple phases. Further excavation could reveal additional information about the domestic and settlement practices of the Bronze Age populations who occupied the fort. As such, the fort derives a portion of its cultural significance from its archaeological potential which could further the understanding of Bronze Age settlement and defensive structures.

The fort is located on the summit of Kaimes Hill (235 m AOD) which is a narrow rocky scarp, linearly aligned north-east to south-west. Further along the ridgeline is Dalmahoy Hill (246 m AOD) which is similarly orientated and has a fort along its summit. These two summits are prominent in the surrounding landscape and have extensive long distance views, particularly over the watercourses Green Burn to the north and Water of Leith to the south. Views to the south extend beyond to the Pentland Hills, located c. 6 km away. To the west, the most prominent point is Corston Hill (348 m AOD) c. 4 km away, with the land in between low and unvaried. To the east, Dalmahoy Hill, fort (SM1213) is highly visible and blocks most views beyond. To the north, the land is low and unvaried, with visibility extending as far as Fife across the Firth of Forth.

The location of both the fort appears to have been chosen in part due to these long-distance and wide-ranging views, which would have allowed the inhabitants to monitor and control the surrounding landscape particularly to the north, south along the watercourses, and to the west towards Corston Hill (348 m AOD). As such, these key views compose aspects of the setting of the fort which contribute to its overall cultural significance.

As mentioned, the fort is also near Dalmahoy Hill, fort (SM1213) c. 0.15 km to the north-east along the same ridgeline. Forts are often found within proximity to one another where intervisibility appears to have been important to those constructing the forts and the resulting visual network in monitoring the surrounding landscape. Intervisibility with Dalmahoy Hill, fort (SM1213), particularly views from Dalmahoy Hill, fort (SM1213) to Kaimes Hill, fort (SM1172) to the south-west forms part of the setting of the Kaimes Hill, fort (SM1172). The positioning of these forts along the steep ridgeline controlled the access to the forts. In conjunction with the known entrance locations of Kaimes Hill, fort (SM1172), the approach was from the southeast and east, accessed in the shoulder of both hills.

The views along the approach from the east and south-east, views from Dalmahoy Hill, fort (SM1213), and the monitoring views from the fort to the north, south, and east are the key aspects of setting which contribute to the cultural significance of the asset.

The current setting of the hillfort includes elements of modern built environment which are visibly present in the surrounding landscape. Nearest, and most disruptive, to the fort is Ravelrig Quarry which, as mentioned, necessitated partial excavation of the fort. The large quarry pit is also highly visible in the eastern views, thus altering the natural topography in this direction. Various modern roads, including the A70 c. 0.6 km to the south, cut across the visible landscape. Modern towns and cities are visible more distantly, notably Kirknewton c. 1.2 km to the north-east, Balerno c. 2.3 km to the east, and Ratho c. 3.9 km to the north. Small post-medieval and modern farmsteads and field boundaries are scattered across the immediate views and RAF Kirknewton Airfield is located 0.75 km to the south-west. These changes, particularly the quarry, have impacted the surrounding landscape such that the original setting has already been altered. However, while the experience of the asset has been discernibly eroded, the ability to understand and appreciate other aspects of the setting are retained.



The ZTV indicates (**Figure 2**) that the Proposed Development would introduce a solar farm, located c. 2.3 km to the south-east, the majority of which would be visible from the hillfort in views to the west and south-west.

The views to the north, south, and towards Dalmahoy Hill, fort (SM1213) would not be impacted by the Proposed Development as the solar panels would not be visible in these views and, as such, these aspects of setting would be retained.

The ZTV (**Figure 2**) indicates that there would be no visibility of the Proposed Development when approaching the asset from the landscape to the southeast and east, between Kaimes Hill and Dalmahoy Hill. Similarly, this aspect of the fort's setting would be retained without impact.

The photomontage produced from Kaimes Hill (**VP4 Figure 2**), from the western portion of the fort shows the Proposed Development would be visible in the fields in views between the fort and Corston Hill, which is considered a key aspect of setting. The panels are low lying, partially screened by planted boundaries, and at the distance which they are visible, do not represent a visual change in the landscape that would detract from this aspect of setting to a material extent. The ability to appreciate, understand, and experience views across the low lying landscape to the west of the fort are still retained and not diminished.

Site photography (**Annex B, Plate 12**), the ZTV (**Figure 2**), and a site visit to Dalmahoy Hill, fort (SM1213) confirms that views from Dalmahoy Hill, fort (SM1213) towards Kaimes Hill, fort (SM1172) would be similarly unaffected as the Proposed Development would only barely be visible, if at all. Thus, the ability to appreciate, understand, and experience the visual relationship would not be diminished. Thus, it is anticipated that the Proposed Development would have an overall impact of **Neutral**.

8 Conclusions

This Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment has defined the Site's cultural heritage baseline conditions; including known/recording heritage assets within the Site, and the potential for any unrecorded heritage assets to survive buried within the Site. Three archaeological assets were identified within the Site, with two of those being identified from historic mapping.

This Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment has identified three non-designated heritage assets that may be susceptible to direct impact as a result of groundbreaking works from the proposed development. In line with HEP4 (HEPS, 2019), the potential direct impacts on Newlands Farmstead (50323) have been mitigated by applying a design buffer of 30 m where no groundbreaking works will commence, such that direct impacts are no longer anticipated. The remains of the sandstone quarry SLR1 and gravel pit SLR2 are of negligible archaeological value and impacts to any remains that survive would not be in opposition to Policy ENV32. As such, the level of impact would not be anticipated to preclude the development of the nature and on the scale proposed within the Site.

This Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment has also considered the potential for the proposals to cause any significant adverse change to the setting of any designated and/or regionally significant heritage assets, which would affect cultural heritage significance. This assessment has demonstrated that no such effects would result from the proposals, including in relation to Kaimes Hill, fort (**SM1172**).

In summary, this assessment has not identified anything that would preclude development within the Site or result in any significant effects in relation to cultural heritage. The proposals are compliant with the provisions of NPF4, HEPS (2019) and the West Lothian Council Local Development Plan 1 (2018).



9 References

Legislation

The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act, 1979. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1979/46>

The Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Scotland) Act, 1997. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1997/9/contents>

Planning Policy

West Lothian Council (2018) LDP 1. Available at: <https://www.westlothian.gov.uk/LDP>

Historic Environment Scotland (2019) Historic Environment Policy for Scotland (HEPS). Edinburgh: Historic Environment Scotland.

Historic Environment Scotland (2023) Our Past, Our Future. The Strategy for Scotland's Historic Environment. Edinburgh: Historic Environment Scotland.

Scottish Government (2011) Planning Advice Note 2/2011: Planning and Archaeology. Edinburgh: Local Government and Communities Directorate.

Scottish Government (2023) National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4). Edinburgh: Local Government and Housing Directorate.

Guidance

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (2014) Code of Conduct. Available at: <https://www.archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/CodesofConduct.pdf>

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (2017) Standard and guidance for historic environment desk-based assessment. Available at: https://www.archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/CIfAS%26GDBA_4.pdf

Historic Environment Scotland (2016) Managing Change in the Historic Environment: Setting. Available at: <https://www.historicenvironment.scot/archives-and-research/publications/publication/?publicationId=80b7c0a0-584b-4625-b1fd-a60b009c2549>

CartoFigure Sources

Blaeu, J., (1654). Lothian and Linlitquo / Joh et. Cornelius Blaeu exc.

Ordnance Survey (1843-1882) Edinburghshire, Sheet 10

Ordnance Survey (1843-1882) Edinburghshire, Sheet 11

Ordnance Survey (1922) Linlithgowshire, Sheet Nxii

Other Sources

British Geological Survey (2022) Geology of Britain Viewer. Available at: <https://www.bgs.ac.uk/map-viewers/geology-of-britain-viewer/>

Coles, G.M., Gittings, B.M., Milburn, P. and Newton, A.J. (1998) Scottish Palaeoecological Archive Database, <http://www.geo.ed.ac.uk/spad/>

Historic Environment Scotland (2017a) Spatial Warehouse Database. Available at: <https://portal.historicenvironment.scot/downloads>

Historic Environment Scotland (2017b) PASTMAP. Available at: <https://pastmap.org.uk/map>

Historic Environment Scotland (2017c) HLA Map. Available at: <https://hlamap.org.uk/>

Scottish Government (2025) Scotland's Soils. Available at: <https://soils.environment.gov.scot/>

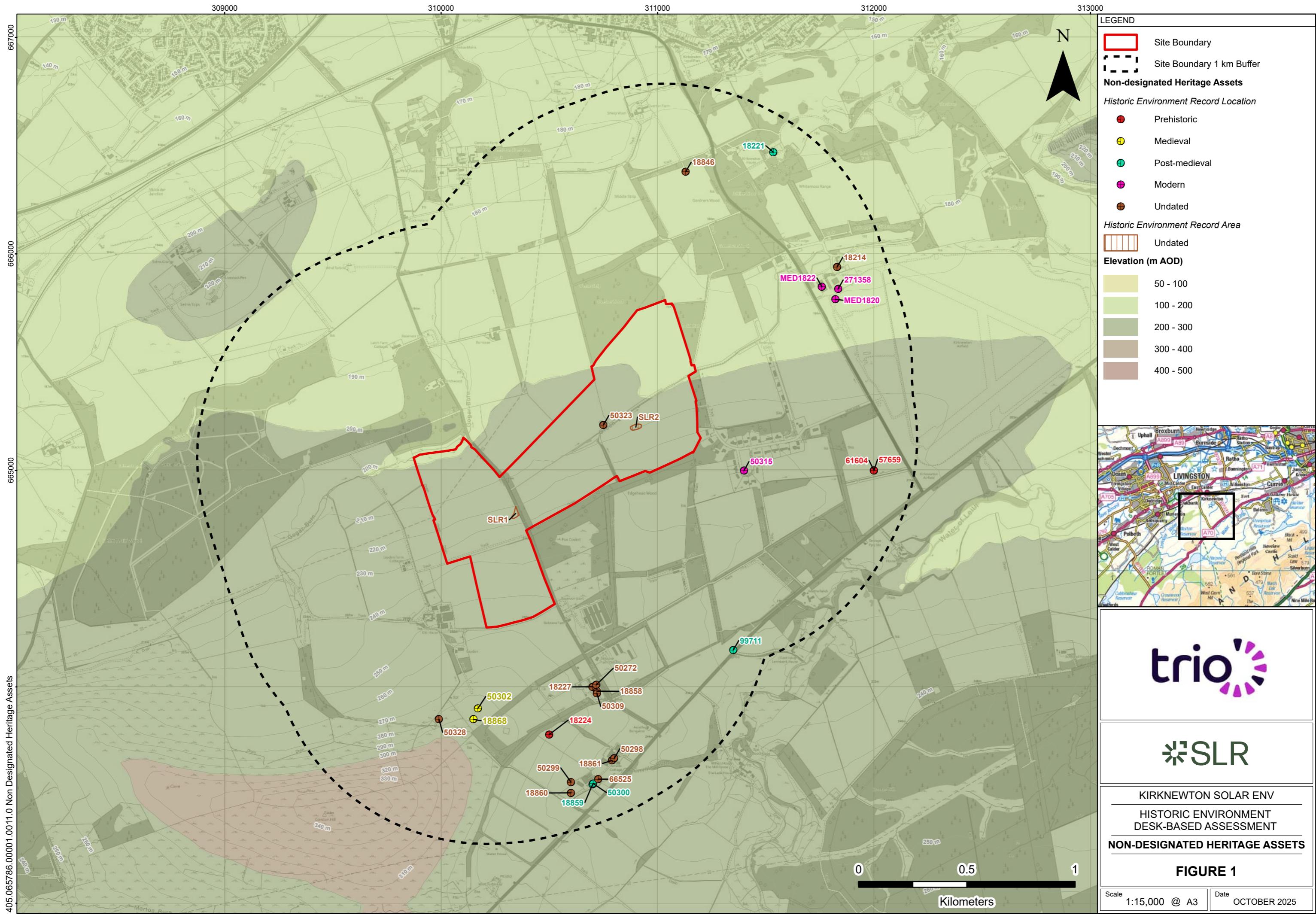
Scottish Remote Sensing Portal (2025) Datasets Scottish Government. Available at:

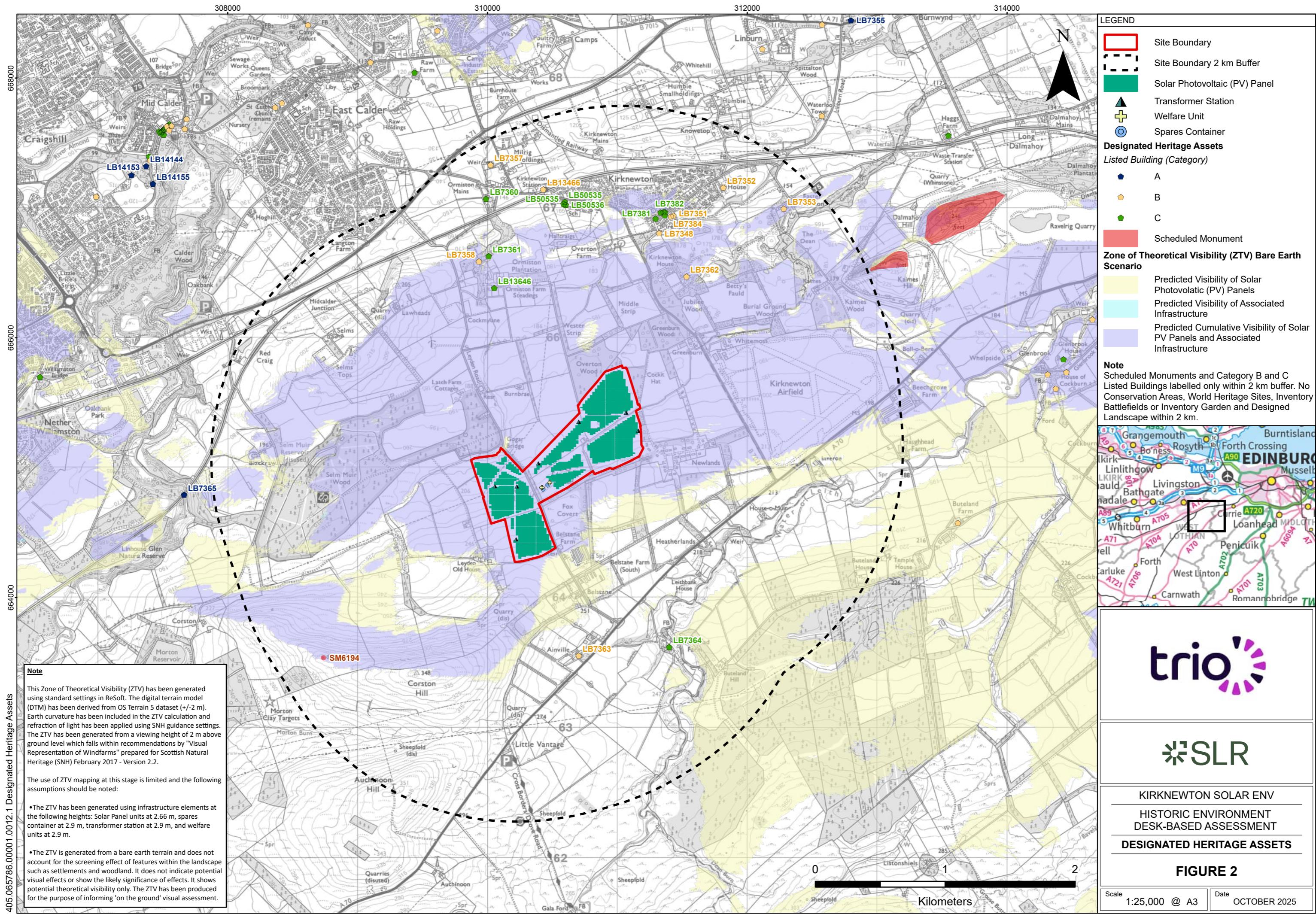


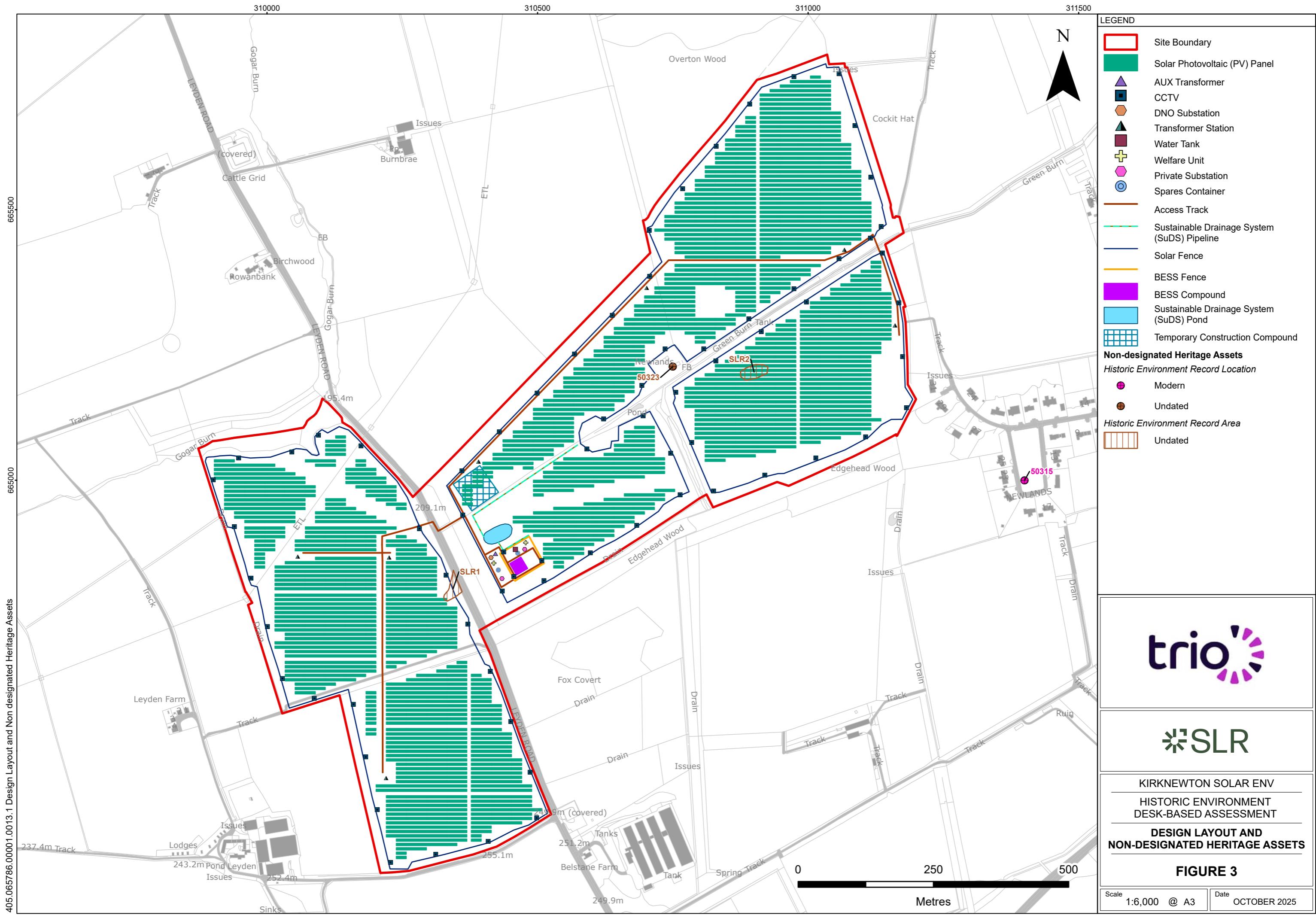
<https://remotesensingdata.gov.scot/>



Figures







Annex A Site Gazetteer

Technical Appendix 2.3: Historic Desk-Based Assessment

Kirknewton Solar and BESS

Trio Power Limited

SLR Project No.: 405.065786.00001

11 November 2025

Table A.3: Gazetteer of Heritage Assets within 1km of the Site

Designation Reference	MED ID	WOSAS ID	Canmore ID	Name	Classification	Period
Listed Buildings						
LB7363		50300	135580	Ainville Farmhouse	Farmhouse	Post-medieval
LB7362		18221	50351	Kirknewton House	Country House	Post-medieval
Non-designated Heritage Assets						
		18224	50381	Belstane	Standing Stone	Prehistoric
		57659		Kirknewton	Axe	Prehistoric
		61604	296375	Kirknewton	Flanged Axehead (Bronze) (Bronze-Age)	Prehistoric
		18250	72226	Craiglockhart – Castle Greg – Castledykes	Roman Road (Possible)	Roman
		18910	135577	Little Vantage	Rig and Furrow	Medieval
		18868	135578	Belstane	Rig and Furrow	Medieval
		50302	135578	Little Vantage Quarry	Rig and Furrow	Medieval
		18221	50351	Kirknewton House	Country House	Post-medieval
		18859	135580	Ainville	Farmstead	Post-medieval
		50300	135580	Ainville/ Ainville Farmhouse	Country House	Post-medieval
		99711		East Haugh	Milestone	Post-medieval
		50315	91661	Kirknewton Airfield	Military Camp; Prisoner-of-war camp	Modern
			271358	Kirknewton Airfield	Building	Modern
MED1820				Kirknewton Airfield	Building	Modern
MED1822				Kirknewton Airfield	Aircraft Hangar	Modern
		18214	50343	Whitemoss	Farmhouse; Farmstead	Undated
		18227	50384	Belstane	Farmhouse; Farmstead	Undated
		18846		Gardners Wood	Structure	Undated
		18858	133526	Belstane	Walled Garden	Undated



Designation Reference	MED ID	WOSAS ID	Canmore ID	Name	Classification	Period
		18860	135581	Airville		Undated
		18861	135582	Ainville		Undated
		50272	250720	Belstane Farm Steading	Steading	Undated
		50298	135582	Ainville Steading	Farm Buildings; Farm Steading	Undated
		50299	135581	Ainville Walled Garden	Walled Garden	Undated
		50309	133526	Belstane Walled Garden	Walled Garden	Undated
		50323	181350	Newlands	Farmstead	Undated
		50328	181365	Corston Hill/ Hillend	Buildings	Undated
		66525		Mansfield	Settlement	Undated



Annex B Site Photographs

Technical Appendix 2.3: Historic Desk-Based Assessment

Kirknewton Solar & BESS EIA Report

Trio Power Limited

SLR Project No.: 405.065786.00001

11 November 2025





Plate 7 View of Newlands Farmstead (50323) from the south.





Plate 8 View of westernmost fields, looking northwest.





Plate 9 View of land at proposed BESS location towards the northeast.





Plate 10 View of drainage leading towards Newlands Farmstead (50323) orientated NNW to SSE.



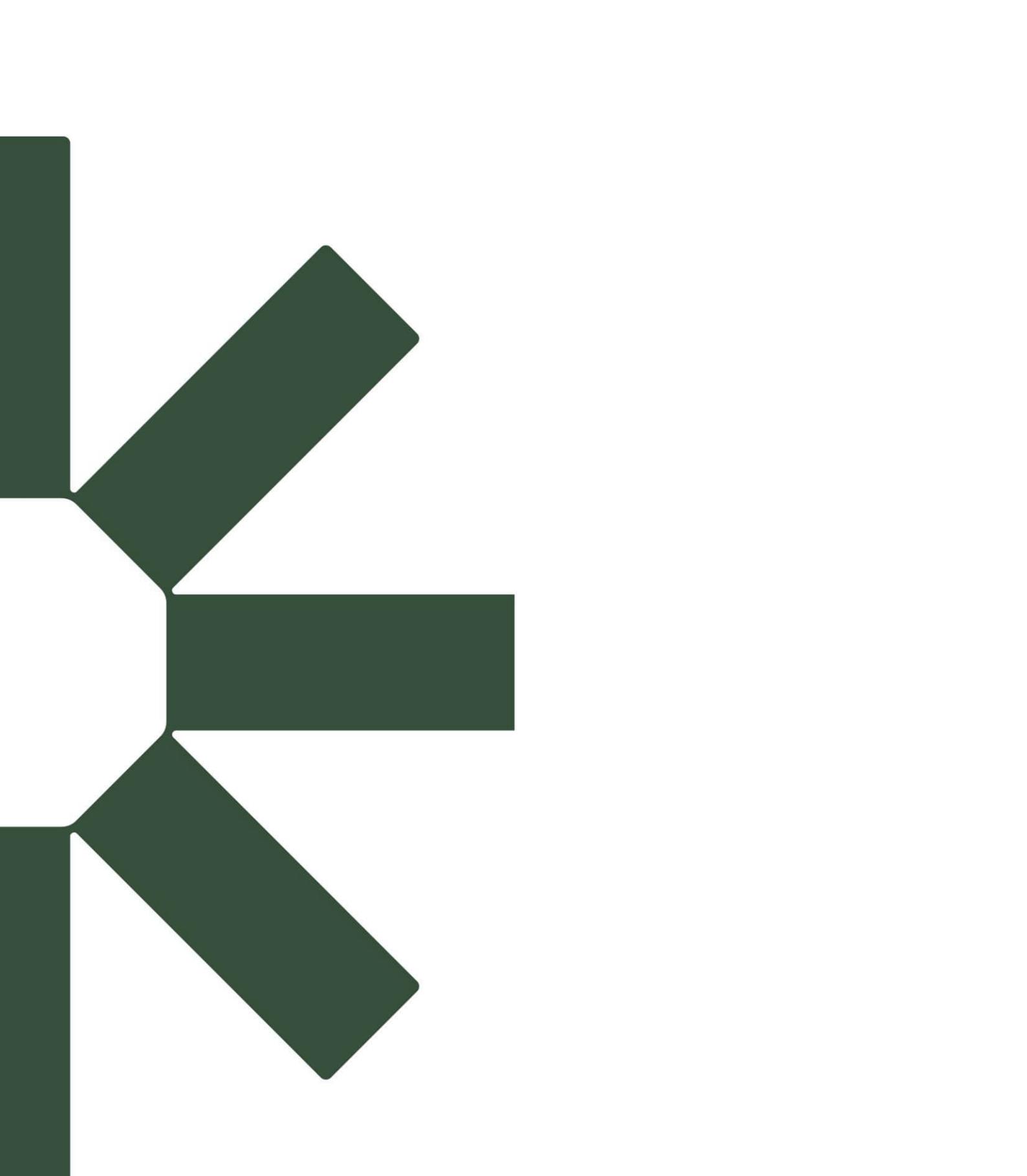
Plate 11 View of southeastern field toward the northwest.





Plate 12 View from Dalmahoy Hill west towards Kaimes Hill, fort (SM1172)





Making Sustainability Happen