

conservation. There are not judged to be any cumulative or in-combination effects on ecological resources which could occur with other known proposed or implemented developments in the surrounding area.

7.7 EFFECT ON CULTURAL HERITAGE

Introduction

7.7.1 This section considers the likely effects of the construction and operation of An Camas Mòr on cultural heritage assets. The key methods, baseline survey results and assessment findings are reported here.

Scope

7.7.2 Cultural heritage assets relevant to this assessment include Scheduled Monuments (SMs) and other archaeological features of interest, Listed Buildings and other buildings of historic or architectural importance, and Gardens and Designed Landscapes (GDLs). There are no Conservation Areas or World Heritage Sites with cultural heritage dimensions within the study area considered here. Effects on ancient woodland and veteran trees are considered in the Ecology and Nature Conservation section.

Possible Effects and Inter-relationships

7.7.3 The possible effects considered relate to changes to the character and/or setting of cultural heritage assets relating to the archaeological, architectural and landscape heritage. The cultural heritage assessment has Inter-relationships with assessment of effects on landscape resource, visual amenity, and ecology and nature conservation (Table 7.11).

Influence of Periods A-D on Assessment

7.7.4 For the purposes of this assessment, each period of development is considered, that is, Periods A (2011) to D (2027).

Consultations

7.7.5 Historic Scotland (HS) and THC were consulted by letter to obtain baseline information, to seek approval for the proposed scope and methodologies for baseline survey and impact assessment and to establish any specific issues that these consultees considered should be addressed in the Environmental Impact Assessment. Cairngorms National Park Authority (CNPA) was kept informed of the outcomes of those consultations.

The Study Area

- 7.7.6** Archival and documentary research, consultation with interested parties and reconnaissance field survey were undertaken to establish baseline conditions. The study adopted a two-tier 'nested' study area approach to identifying the cultural heritage baseline, to reflect the varying nature of potential effects.
- 7.7.7** Study Area 1: Desk-based assessment (using a range of archival, photographic, cartographic and documentary sources) and reconnaissance walkover field survey were conducted to establish baseline conditions within the Proposed Development area, where physical impacts on cultural heritage assets could occur, including 100m wide buffers to either side of proposed access routes and service corridors. Ground conditions, particularly the presence of plantations, woodland and mature heather, limited the effectiveness of field survey.
- 7.7.8** Study Area 2: Baseline data were collected on cultural heritage assets with statutory protection and non-statutory designations, and undesignated archaeological features of national and regional importance, as identified in THC's HER, within 5km of An Camas Mòr, to permit an assessment of the effects of the proposals upon the setting of those features. A 'with trees' Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) map was used to identify those cultural heritage receptors with theoretical visibility of one or more development component. Where the ZTV predicted that the proposed development would not be visible from a receptor, further appraisal was undertaken to establish if there were any other recognised viewpoints from which both development and receptor would be visible. Targeted field visits were undertaken to assess the character and sensitivity of the settings of accessible identified receptors and to assess the effects of the proposed development features on those settings. The baseline setting of each receptor was characterised in line with guidance issued by HS and the methods set out in the Technical Appendix.
- 7.7.9** In the following sections numbers in brackets refer to sites detailed in the Technical Appendix (Volume 2, Chapter 9, Section 5 Cultural Heritage).

Baseline Conditions

- 7.7.10** Twenty-three cultural heritage sites and features were identified.
- 7.7.11** Study Area 1: Desk-based assessment (using a range of archival, photographic, cartographic and documentary sources) and reconnaissance field surveys were conducted to establish baseline conditions within the proposed development areas, where physical impacts on cultural heritage assets could occur. Ground conditions, particularly the presence of plantations, woodland and mature heather, limited the effectiveness of field survey.
- 7.7.12** Historic maps indicate that the character and locations of farms and townships, and patterns of land use, have developed considerably over the last 250 years. Eighteenth Century maps depict an agricultural landscape predominantly of townships and rig cultivation (22) on the lower ground beside the Rivers Druie and Spey, with the higher ground of the An Camas Mòr site shown as moorland.

Pre-improvement sites and features occupied in the later 18th Century include a farmstead and other possible buildings at An Camas Mòr (1-2, 10), and the sites of townships around Coylumbridge (18-19). By the middle of the 19th Century, the land on the lower ground had been improved and enclosed into fields. The western side of Cambusmore was enclosed by a substantial boundary wall (5), and subsequently planted, in the 1840s. A wall bounding the estate woodland at Drumintoul (17) is of similar scale to the Cambusmore wall. Improvement period buildings include the remains of a township (20) and a building (13), both recorded on an 1842 estate plan. Other agricultural features of mediaeval or later origin consist of isolated lengths of earthen bank (3, 7), and two clearance cairns (12). Other mediaeval or later land use features include the remains of a mill lade (16), the site of a saw mill (15) and three quarries (6, 11, 21).

7.7.13 Two annular banked features of unknown origin (4) are visible on aerial photographs taken in 1966. A small rectangular pit (8), possibly spade-dug, is probably of no great antiquity. The place-name *Lag nith Cuimeinach* refers to the reputed location of a skirmish where the Shaws ambushed and killed the leading men of the Cummings (23).

7.7.14 The cultural heritage baseline, combined with a consideration of historic land use, indicates that much of the An Camas Mòr site has not been a focus for past settlement and land use and the archaeological potential of the area is considered to be low. By contrast, the low-lying farmlands at Dell Farm have been settled and farmed since prehistoric times (although not necessarily continuously) and are considered to have high potential to contain as yet unrecognised buried archaeological remains. The woodland belt beside the River Drue also has the potential to contain buried archaeological remains, although past migrations of the river channel may have erased evidence of early settlement and land use.

7.7.15 Study Area 2: There are thirty-two cultural heritage receptors within the ZTV study area. They consists of:

- Three SAMs: chambered cairns and stone circles near Wester Aviemore (889) and Loch nan Carriagean (899) and a settlement and field system at Balvattan (9338);
- Two Listed Buildings: the Category A Aviemore Station (257) and the Category C(S) Glenspey on Grampian Road (48031);
- Doune of Rothiemurchus (312) and Kinrara (313) Gardens and Designed Landscapes, small parts of which have theoretical views of An Camas Mòr;
- Three unscheduled sites of likely national importance: a rock shelter on Ord Bàn (21184) and two lengths of the 18th century General Wade's Military Road (24865, 28633); and
- Twenty-two unscheduled sites of regional or probable regional importance, mostly relating to post-mediaeval agricultural and industrial

land use - including limekilns, a house, unenclosed settlements, farmsteads, a township, a midden and a ferry point. Features of potentially greater antiquity consist of a cairn, the alleged site of a stone circle and burial ground and the alleged hut circle at An Camas Mòr (= site 9 in Study Area 1).

7.7.16 Four further receptors present close to proposed development features, but not within the ZTV, consist of the scheduled Dell Farm palisaded enclosure (9337); the Category B listed Dell Steading (252) and Episcopal Church of St John the Baptist (256); and an unscheduled township at Drumchork (24516; = site 20 in Study Area 1).

Designations

7.7.17 No cultural heritage feature with a statutory designation is present within Study Area 1. Two unscheduled sites are assessed in THC's HER as being of regional importance – a possible hut circle (9) and a township (20).

7.7.18 Within Study Area 2 four Scheduled Monuments and four Listed Buildings with statutory designations, and two Gardens and Designed Landscapes and 28 unscheduled archaeological sites with non-statutory designations, have been identified.

Key Considerations

7.7.19 The possible impacts on cultural heritage resources, which form the key considerations for assessment, are:

- Ground-disturbing and above-ground construction activities that may damage or destroy cultural heritage remains; and
- The presence of development features, which may affect the settings of cultural heritage sites in their vicinity.

Assessment Methodology

7.7.20 The effects of the Proposed Development on the cultural heritage were assessed on the basis of their type (direct, indirect, cumulative), nature (beneficial, neutral or adverse) and longevity (reversible, short-term or long-term; irreversible or permanent). The assessments of physical effects and effects on setting take into account the sensitivity of the receptor and the magnitude of impact, using the methodologies set out in Chapter 8.

Effects

7.7.21 An assessment of the effects on cultural heritage assets identified within the site were considered for both the construction and operational phases of the Proposed Development.

7.7.22 Full descriptions of the assets (sites) are presented in Volume 2, Chapter 9, Section 5, Appendix C.1. A list of these sites is provided below:

- 1 An Camas Mòr, building;
- 2 An Camas Mòr, farmstead;
- 3 An Camas Mòr, field bank;
- 4 An Camas Mòr, mounds;
- 5 An Camas Mòr, boundary wall;
- 6 An Camas Mòr, quarry pit;
- 7 An Camas Mòr, field bank;
- 8 An Camas Mòr, pit;
- 9 An Camas Mòr, possible hut circle;
- 10 An Camas Mòr, building and enclosure;
- 11 An Camas Mòr, quarry;
- 12 An Camas Mòr, clearance cairns;
- 13 Dell Farm, site of building;
- 14 Dell Farm, unenclosed settlement;
- 15 Dell Farm, site of saw mill;
- 16 Inverdrue, mill lade;
- 17 Coylumbridge, boundary wall;
- 18 and 19 Coylumbridge, site of township;
- 20 Drumchork, township;
- 21 Drumintoul Lodge, quarry pit;
- 22 Dell Farm, rig and furrow cultivation; and
- 23 Lag nith Cuimeinach, site of skirmish.

Significance of Effects at Assessment Periods

- 7.7.23** Impacts are predicted on ten sites during Period A construction works (1-3, 5-7, 11, 16-17, 22), on two sites during Period B (6, 8), on three sites during Period C (5, 16, 22) and three sites during Period D (5, 9-10). Impacts on three sites (4, 18, 23) cannot be assessed from baseline conditions.
- 7.7.24** In one case (2) the effect is predicted to be significant. The remains of 'Cambusmore' farmstead (2) are located in an area proposed for woodland planting and could be disturbed as a result of tree planting and growth. The cultural significance of this site can be understood principally in terms of its historical association with the Rothiemurchus Estate, as a pre-improvement farmstead, and the site has good scientific value through the potential for additional information to be revealed by archaeological investigation and documentary research (including Rothiemurchus Estate's Doune Papers). The remains of the farmstead are considered to be of regional importance and medium sensitivity. Period A woodland planting could materially affect the condition of this site, resulting in a medium magnitude impact. The effect is predicted to be moderate and significant.
- 7.7.25** Ground-breaking activities, associated with the construction of An Camas Mòr, have the potential to have a direct, adverse and irreversible effect on any currently unidentified archaeological remains, including suspected sites with no confirmed physical manifestation, such as former mounds (4), buildings (18) and the alleged site of a skirmish (23). At most, a moderate-slight and not significant effect is predicted to result, although confidence in this prediction is limited by the lack of knowledge of what buried remains are present.

Effects on setting

- 7.7.26** Of the thirty-two receptors present within the ZTV, in no case is the presence of An Camas Mòr predicted to have a significant effect on its setting: all effects are predicted to be slight or negligible and not significant. Of the four other receptors assessed, no significant effect is predicted.

Indirect and cumulative effects

- 7.7.27** No indirect or cumulative effects have been identified.

Mitigation

- 7.7.28** Mitigation measures would be implemented to avoid, reduce or offset the predicted physical construction effects of the proposed development on cultural heritage features, in line with planning policy requirements. A suitably phased programme of mitigation would be prepared and presented in a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for the approval of THC and CNPA, prior to the commencement of any construction works. Provision would be made within the WSI for an appropriate programme of investigation and recording, to be agreed with THC and CNPA, for any archaeological remains identified as a result of any

mitigation works undertaken in advance of, or during, construction works, and which cannot be preserved *in situ*. The mitigation works would include the subsequent production of written reports on the findings of the archaeological work conducted, with post-excavation analyses and publication of the results of the work, where appropriate.

7.7.29 The mitigation measures would include:

- Detailed design to aim to preserve *in situ* the An Camas Mòr wall (5), wherever possible, the remains of a bank (3), and a former sand quarry (11);
- Post-felling archaeological survey in areas of felled conifer plantation, to identify and record any previously unknown or unconfirmed cultural heritage sites (e.g. 4, 18). Further mitigation measures would be proposed, as appropriate, for discoveries made;
- Avoidance of known archaeological areas by construction operations. Such sites would be suitably fenced off during the period of construction works, to prevent unintended damage occurring;
- Woodland planting and management to be designed to avoid disturbing features of archaeological interest (1-2, 5, 7, 9), in line with the *Forests & Archaeology Guidelines* (Forestry Commission, 1995), with ongoing monitoring undertaken to ensure that self-seeding trees do not subsequently encroach on to those sites.
- Phased archaeological investigation and recording of sites which would be unavoidably and directly affected, in whole or in part, by the proposed development (5, 8, 10, 16-17);
- A scheme for the detection and further treatment of presently unknown or unconfirmed archaeological remains (e.g. 22), for example by conducting a phased programme of archaeological field evaluation prior to construction works commencing in areas of good archaeological potential, or archaeological watching briefs undertaken during construction works in areas of lower archaeological potential; and
- Formal arrangements to be put in place for any unforeseen archaeological discoveries made by the construction contractor/s to be reported to a retained professional archaeological organisation, which would assess and deal with them appropriately. Procedures would be included in Construction Environmental Management Plans.

Significance of Residual Effects

7.7.30 The implementation of the proposed mitigation measures would ensure that no significant direct physical effect would arise on recorded features. Where a significant effect was predicted before mitigation (2), the effect has been reduced to being not significant with mitigation. For six sites where effects were predicted

(1-3, 7, 9, 11), mitigation has been proposed that would avoid those effects. Moderate-slight, and not significant residual effects have been predicted for three sites (5, 16-17) and slight, and, not significant residual effects for four sites (6, 8, 10, 22). The residual effect on any previously undiscovered and unconfirmed archaeological remains that may be discovered is most likely also to be moderate-slight and not significant.

7.7.31 For predicted effects on setting, no mitigation has been proposed and predicted residual effects remain as assessed previously and not significant.

Summary

7.7.32 Initially permanent and irreversible, adverse, direct construction impacts are predicted on 13 cultural heritage sites and features (1-3, 5-11, 16-17, 22): in one case (2) the effect was predicted to be significant.

7.7.33 No impact is predicted on seven sites (12-15, 19-21), which are located outside areas proposed for land use change as part of the An Camas Mòr development. Impacts on three sites (4, 18, 23) cannot be assessed, since it cannot be established whether associated remains of archaeological significance are present within the land proposed for development.

7.7.34 Taking into account mitigation, moderate-slight and not significant residual effects are predicted on three sites (5, 16-17) and slight and not significant residual effects are predicted for four sites (6, 8, 10, 22). No significant direct physical effect are predicted.

7.7.35 Of the 32 receptors present within the ZTV and four other receptors outside the proposed development area that were assessed, in no case is the presence of An Camas Mòr predicted to have a significant effect on its setting: all effects are predicted to be slight or negligible and not significant.

7.8 EFFECT ON AIR QUALITY

Introduction

7.8.1 This summary provides an air quality assessment of the proposed An Camas Mòr development. The proposed development has the potential to affect air quality by causing dust emissions during the construction phase and by changing traffic flows on the local road network during the construction and operation phases.

7.8.2 The assessment includes the following key elements:

- Identification of relevant air quality legislation and policy;
- Assessment of existing air quality issues in the local area;
- Explanation of the air quality assessment methodologies;