

Technical Appendix 5.3: Baseline Summary Cultural Heritage Assets in the Inner Study Area

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1.1 Baseline Conditions

Current Baseline

Heritage Assets within the Inner Study Area

1.1.1 This appendix provides a summary of the baseline cultural heritage within the Proposed Development Area summarising the baseline data by historic period and summarises the heritage value and relative sensitivity of the assets. Asset locations and extents are shown on **Figure 5.1 (EIAR Volume 3a)**, and **Technical Appendix 5.2 (EIAR Volume 4)** provides detailed gazetteer information on the character and baseline condition of the assets.

PREHISTORIC

- 1.1.2 The earliest evidence of human activity within the Inner Study Area dates from the late Bronze Age to Iron Age where there is evidence of settlement, comprising nine platform settlements, a possible ring enclosure and a possible burnt mound. Platform settlements and the possible ring enclosure are generally interpreted as being farming homesteads of late Bronze Age to Iron Age date, which may have been either static homes surrounded by farmland, or areas of seasonal episodic occupation. The exact function of burnt mounds is poorly understood but it is probable that they were part of domestic cooking practices¹ of Bronze Age or later date.
- 1.1.3 Of the non-designated prehistoric settlements within the Inner Study Area there is one scheduled monument, four non-statutory register (NSR) sites of schedulable quality and four non-designated heritage assets. The scheduled monument, Waterhead, platform settlement (SM4714) is a single house platform located on the southeast facing slope above the valley of Glengonnar Water. The four NSR sites of schedulable quality comprise three unenclosed platform settlements (WoSAS 10408, WoSAS 12014 and WoSAS 12015) and one single house platform (WoSAS 13326) all with associated field clearance cairns and located along the lower south facing slopes above Elvan Water. Three sites (WoSAS 13299, WoSAS 15759 and WoSAS 95083) are less well-defined sites recorded by the Biggar Archaeology Group as part of the Clydesdale Survey Project as possible platform settlements. The Biggar Archaeology Group also recorded a possible ring enclosure (WoSAS 95079). The scheduled monument (SM 4714) and four NSR sites of schedulable quality (WoSAS 10408, WoSAS 12014, WoSAS 12015 and WoSAS 13326) are assets of heritage value at a national level and of high sensitivity. The possible settlements (WoSAS 13299, WoSAS 15759, WoSAS 95079 and WoSAS 95083) are vestigial features recorded as level platforms and their exact date and function are unknown. It is possible that upon excavation it would reveal that these are natural features and therefore of no intrinsic heritage value and of negligible sensitivity. However, presuming they are the remains of prehistoric settlement sites these are assessed to be potentially of heritage value at a regional level and of medium sensitivity.
- 1.1.4 A burnt mound (WoSAS 55560) was recorded within the larger area of Glencaple Burn farmstead, enclosures and structures (HA054) by the Biggar Archaeology Group as part of the Clydesdale Survey

Project. As a possible prehistoric activity site this is assessed to be potentially of heritage value at a regional level and of medium sensitivity.

- 1.1.5 In addition to the prehistoric assets within the Inner Study Area there are two records of prehistoric bronze axes (WoSAS 10412 and WoSAS 10413) discovered within the Inner Study Area. As unstratified and unconfirmed findspots these assets do not have any intrinsic heritage value; however, they are of note as they provide evidence of prehistoric activity in the area.

Medieval period to modern

ECCLESIASTICAL

- 1.1.6 Kirk Gill (WoSAS 10505) is the possible site of a chapel and burial ground which is located on the low slopes to the south of Glengonnar Water and to the west of Kirk Gill burn. The Ordnance Survey Name Book (1858) recorded that the ruins of a chapel, which belonged to the Cistercian monks of Newbattle, can be seen on the lands of Glengonnar. The site at Kirk Gill has been presumed to be this chapel though it has only been visible as grass covered foundations from its first description by surveyors². Today it survives as grass covered mounds and would require intrusive archaeological investigation to confirm its function as a chapel. However, presuming that it is the remains of a medieval to early post medieval chapel it is considered to be an asset of heritage value at a regional level and of medium sensitivity.

INDUSTRIAL

- 1.1.7 Lead mining was first recorded in the Leadhills area in 1239 by the monks of Newbattle Abbey³; however, it did not become established in the Lowther Hills until the mid-1600s when Thomas Foulis began commercial scale mining⁴. Lead mining then took place in the area with varying intensity until the early 20th century⁵. The two large scheduled monuments Leadhills, remains of lead mining and smelting (SM5817) and Wanlockhead, remains of lead mining and smelting (SM5597) cover large areas of the hills around Leadhills and Wanlockhead in the Outer Study Area. These scheduled monuments cover the extensive remains of mines of different types including shafts and hushings, associated structures, tracks and spoilheaps. While the scheduled areas include the areas of intensive mining, evidence of mining activity can be seen throughout the Lowther Hills neighbouring the Inner Study Area. Assets related to lead mining in the Inner Study Area include:
- Long Cleuch Buildings; Bell Pits; Adits; Enclosures (WoSAS 12009), an area of at least five buildings, four bell pits and adits located on the low south facing slopes to the north of Elvan Water as a relatively extensive collection of mining remains this asset is considered to be of heritage value at a regional level and of medium sensitivity.
 - Three possible mining hushes Lambs Know Mining Hush (WoSAS 52579), Hunt Law Mining Hush (WoSAS 52580) and Leadhills Mine Hush (WoSAS 92956) and two possible lead smelting sites (WoSAS 5558 and WoSAS 55598) are recorded in the HER and four areas of lead mining recorded on historic maps (HA15, HA18, HA20 and HA32) are possible remnants of the mining history of the area and are assessed to be of heritage value at a local level and of low sensitivity.

¹ SCARF <https://scarf.scot/national/scarf-bronze-age-panel-report/3-lifeways-and-lifestyles/3-3-settlement-landuse-and-resources/3-3-1-burnt-mounds/> [Accessed January 2026]

² Irving GV & A Murray (1864) The Upper Ward of Lanarkshire described and delineated (Available at <https://ia600302.us.archive.org/32/items/upperwardlanark02murrgoog/upperwardlanark02murrgoog.pdf> Accessed February 2026)

⁴ HES (2024) Lead mines and associated remains, Leadhills SM5817, Designation Listing. Available at <https://portal.historicenvironment.scot/apex/f?p=1505:300:::::VIEWTYPE,VIEWREF:designation,SM5817> {Accessed January 2026}

- 1.1.8 Given the extensive and prolonged period of lead mining in the Lowther Hills it is likely that there are further remains associated with mining within the Inner Study Area. A survey of all the historic mining activity has been carried out as part of this EIA the results of which are contained in **Technical Appendix 8.8 (EIAR Volume 4)**.
- 1.1.9 Gold Working also took place in the Lowther Hills from the early 16th century, the clearest surviving evidence of this is the scheduled monument Historic Gold Workings, Leadhills, South Lanarkshire (SM13677) which sits to the immediate south of the Site on the route of the B7040 road. This scheduled area includes the remains of the 16th gold workings including a series of deep channels, gold scours and possibly associated structures.
- 1.1.10 Bulmer Moss Gold Workings (WoSAS 10403) is an area of alluvial gold mining within the Inner Study Area which survives as two linear spoil mounds and a single circular mound. As evidence of historic gold mining in the Lowther Hills Bulmer Moss Gold Workings is assessed to be an asset of heritage value at the regional level and of medium sensitivity. Other areas of gold working are likely to have taken place across the Lowther Hills and it maybe that other water channels or structures across the Inner Study Area are associated with such prospecting. One findspot of gold, Glengonnar Wood (WoSAS 10517), while this record attests to the presence of and prospecting for gold in the Inner Study Area, as a findspot this is an asset of little or no intrinsic heritage interest and at most of negligible sensitivity.

SETTLEMENT AND AGRICULTURE

- 1.1.11 Glendorch Bastle (WoSAS 10035) is the ruined remains of a small Bastle house which was built circa 1600 and occupied until the early 19th century when it was replaced by a small farmstead (WoSAS 76804) which was built largely from the bastle house itself⁶. The Bastle House was partially excavated by the Biggar Archaeology Group from 1985. As a bastle this is a fortified farmhouse which were found throughout the borders regions during this period when Anglo-Scottish border raids were common. It is suggested that Glendorch Bastle House may have been associated with the mineral wealth of the Leadhills area and the large-scale farming of the Lowther Hills⁷. It is considered that, as a ruined and partially excavated Bastle House, this asset remains a relic of the 17th century landscape and is an asset of heritage value at a regional level and of medium sensitivity.
- 1.1.12 Five farmsteads are recorded within the Inner Study Area.
- North Shortcleuch Farmstead (WoSAS 18913) the ruined remains of a farmstead first depicted on the First Edition Ordnance Survey map (1899) which survives as turf and stone footings.
 - Glendorch Farmstead (WoSAS 76804) is the ruined remains of a small farmstead which was built in the 19th century from the remains of the Glendorch Bastle (WoSAS 10035). The farmstead was abandoned in 1957²³ and is now ruinous. Encompassing the site and reaching the burn in the valley floor is an improved field surrounded by a drystone dyke there is no trace of rig and furrow in this field.
 - Glencaple Burn Farmstead (HA54) the ruinous remains of a farmstead including a complex of enclosures and small buildings that survive as turf and stone footings. These structures appear to predate the First Edition Ordnance Survey map (1899) not having been recorded on Ordnance Survey Maps.
 - Glencaple Farmstead (WoSAS 86730) which was first recorded on the First Edition Ordnance Survey (1899) and remains still in use in 2026.

- Glengonnar Farmstead (HA8) is depicted on Roy's map of 1747-55 and corresponds with the area Braehead Lazybeds (WoSAS 96802) but no longer survives as upstanding remains.

- 1.1.13 As remnants of the local historic agrarian landscape, these farmsteads are assets of heritage value at a local level and of low sensitivity.
- 1.1.14 There are 12 sheepfolds (WoSAS 52582, WoSAS 95080, HA1, HA2, HA4, HA5, HA11, HA13, HA14, HA16, HA24 and HA30) and six enclosures (WoSAS 10508, WoSAS 95082, WoSAS 96803, WoSAS 96945, HA6 and HA8) within the Inner Study Area. The poorly preserved sheepfolds (HA1, HA2, HA4 and HA5) and the enclosure (HA8) are assets of limited heritage value and negligible sensitivity. The remaining assets are all evidence of stock management within the Inner Study Area and, as components of the local historical landscape, they are assessed to be of heritage value at the local level and of low sensitivity.
- 1.1.15 There are two areas of remnant lazy beds (field system for cultivating vegetables in relatively poor soil, in common use prior to the 20th century) recorded within the Inner Study Area. Glendorch enclosure lazy beds (WoSAS 95082) which lie to the north of Glendorch Farmstead (WoSAS 76804) and Bastle House (WoSAS 10035) and are presumed to be associated with these structures. Braehead Lazybeds (WoSAS 96802) on the south bank of Glengonnar Water which neighbours Glengonnar Farmstead (HA8) and can be presumed to be associated with this farmstead. As examples of relict cultivation these form part of the local historic landscape and are assessed to be of heritage value at local level and of low sensitivity.
- 1.1.16 Across the Inner Study Area there is extensive evidence of the use of the area as a shooting estate including 17 grouse butts groups (HA3, HA7, HA9, HA10, HA12, HA17, HA21, HA23, HA27, HA28, HA29, HA31, HA33, HA34, HA36, HA38 and HA52) five single grouse butts (HA35, HA37, HA46, HA49 and HA51). These grouse butts range in date across the modern period and are considered to have little to no intrinsic heritage value and are of negligible sensitivity.
- 1.1.17 Drystone dykes and boundary banks are found throughout the Inner Study Area forming the boundaries to fields, for the proportionality of this assessment, only those located in areas close to the development footprint have been assigned asset numbers (WoSAS 95081, HA41, HA42, HA43, HA45 and HA46). As historic field boundaries, a common site type throughout rural Scotland these are assessed to be of little heritage interest and of negligible sensitivity.
- 1.1.18 Within the Inner Study Area is the site of Glengonnarfoot Mill (WoSAS 17391), a mill building and lade shown on the First Edition Ordnance Survey map (1864) by the Second Edition Ordnance Survey map (1899) the mill had been replaced by a mansion house Glengonnar House (WoSAS 76805). This house was demolished in 1947. Lidar data suggests that no upstanding remains of either of these buildings survive within this area. It is considered unlikely that any substantial remains of these two structures survive and they are therefore assessed to be of little to no intrinsic heritage interest and of negligible sensitivity.

MISCELLANEOUS

- 1.1.19 The field survey recorded an Ordnance Survey triangulation station (HA41) at the summit of Ravengill Dod Hill. The station is shown on the First Edition Ordnance Survey map (1862) and comprises a concrete obelisk. As a surviving element of post-medieval to modern mapping programmes, the station is assessed to be of heritage value at the local level and of low sensitivity.
- 1.1.20 Two areas of small quarry scoops (HA48 and HA50) were recorded during the walkover survey. These are probably the remains of small borrow pits related to the construction of drystone walling or possibly mining

⁶ Ward T (2015) The partial excavation of Glendorch Bastle House, near Crawfordjohn, South Lanarkshire, Biggar Archaeology Group unpublished grey literature report Available at https://biggararchaeology.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/BAG_GLENDORCH_low.pdf [Accessed January 2026]

⁷ ibid

prospecting. As small, common site types of the post medieval to modern period these are considered to be assets of little intrinsic heritage interest and to be of negligible sensitivity.

1.1.21 Three modern cairns, two shepherd's marker cairn (HA19 and HA22) located on Bulmer Moss and located on the summit of the small hill Hawkwood respectively and a modern clearance cairn (HA44) located next to the modern gas pipeline. These are modern assets of little intrinsic heritage interest and of at most negligible sensitivity.

1.1.22 The HER records three sites as natural features (WoSAS 95078, WoSAS 95084 and WoSAS 95085) these features were recorded during surveys by the Biggar Archaeology Group between 2004 and 2012 and were noted as natural features so as not to be later misinterpreted as archaeological features. These are features of no archaeological interest or sensitivity. In the Elvan Water valley the remains of the former Leadhills and Wanlockhead Light Railway Line (HA25) pass through the south edge of the Inner Study Area. The Railway Line opened in 1901 and went out of use in 1939, though sections of the railway line were reopened again in the 1980s by the Leadhills and Wanlockhead Railway Society⁸. However, the sections of line within the Inner Study Area had the trackway removed.. The route of the railway line and any remains within it are assessed to be of heritage value at the local level and of low sensitivity.

⁸ https://www.railscot.co.uk/companies/L/Leadhills_and_Wanlockhead_Light_Railway/ Accessed January 2026