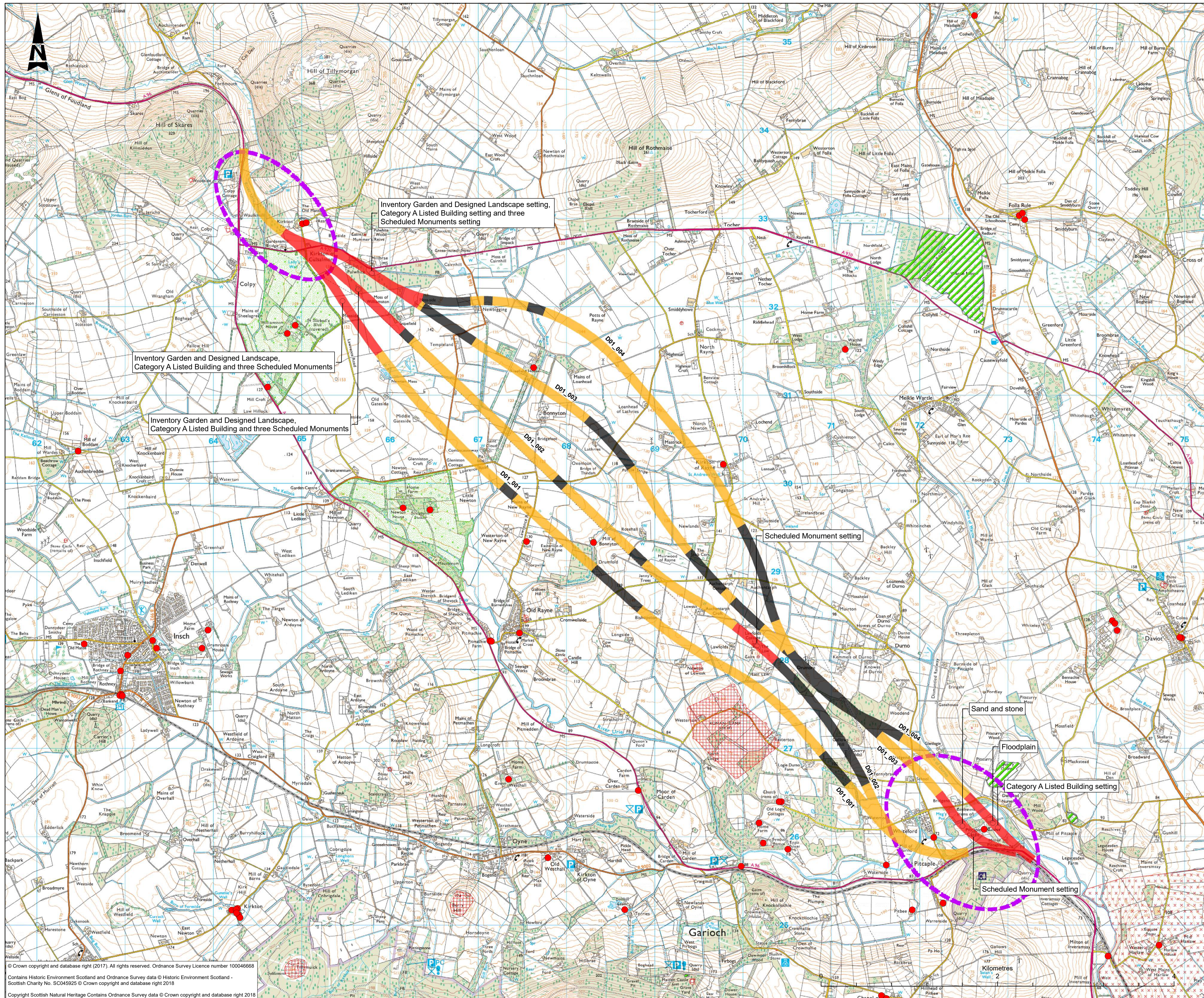


## Appendix F

### First Fix Alignments - Environmental Appraisal

Note: The first fix alignments will be subject to further development as the scheme progresses as will the location and form of junctions. Connections to local accesses and Non-Motorised User routes will be developed following the identification of the preferred route option.





**RESIDUAL DESIGN HAZARDS**  
 (The following information has been collected from Preconstruction Information and the AmeyArup CDM Hazard Management Process.)

- LEGEND**
- Significant Environmental Issues
  - ▨ Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)
  - ▨ Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes
  - ▨ Scheduled Monuments
  - ▨ Inventory of Historic Battlefields
  - Category A Listed Building
- Environmental appraisal impact**
- Major Adverse Impact alignment section
  - Moderate Adverse Impact alignment section
  - Minor Adverse Impact alignment section

Inventory Garden and Designed Landscape setting, Category A Listed Building setting and three Scheduled Monuments setting

Inventory Garden and Designed Landscape, Category A Listed Building and three Scheduled Monuments

Inventory Garden and Designed Landscape, Category A Listed Building and three Scheduled Monuments

Scheduled Monument setting

Sand and stone

Floodplain

Category A Listed Building setting


Scheduled Monument setting

P02	Final	AC	JC	FM	NH	AF
		17/04/18	18/04/18	18/04/18	18/04/18	18/04/18
P01	Draft	AC	JC	FM	NH	AF
		10/04/2018	11/04/2018	11/04/2018	12/04/2018	13/04/2018
Revision	Revision details					
	Created	Checked	Reviewed	Approved	Authorised	
	dd/mm/yy	dd/mm/yy	dd/mm/yy	dd/mm/yy	dd/mm/yy	

Designer  
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 McNeill Drive  
 Motherwell  
 ML1 4UR



Client  
 58 Port Dundas Road  
 Glasgow  
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Project Name  
**A96 Dualling: East of Huntly to Aberdeen**

Drawing Title  
**First Fix Environmental Appraisal of Alignment D01**

Project Ref. No	Stage	Scale	@A1
250002-92	Stage 2	1:20,000	
		Dimensions	

Drawing Number	Project	Originator	Volume
A96PEA - AMAR - EGN - CD			
Location	Type	Role	Number

Suitability	Suitability Description	Revision
S4	Fit for Stage Approval	P02

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Alignment	Landscape and visual impact	Landscape and visual commentary	Water	Water commentary	Ecology	Ecology commentary	People and community	People and community commentary	Noise	Noise commentary	Air quality	Air quality commentary	Cultural heritage	Cultural heritage commentary	Plans and policies	Plans and policies commentary	Soil and geology	Soil and geology commentary
001-001		The appraisal has identified 36% of the alignment as having Major adverse impacts on landscape character. These occur in sections of earthworks over 5m and where new structures will be introduced. To the north, these are caused by impacts on Williamston House Garden and Designated Landscape (GDL), and to the south by loss of ancient woodland and potential impacts on settlements. Moderate adverse impacts are expected for 28% of the alignments, due to earthworks of 5-15m. The overall assessment of the alignment is Moderate adverse.		Route crosses the extensive floodplain of the River Urie (ch.11200m) and is perpendicular to flow (moderate adverse). Potential requirement for river realignment and potential active morphology at crossing of River Urie at ch.650m (moderate adverse). There may be limited scope for realignment at this location due to confined nature of the floodplain.				Prime and non-prime agricultural land is located along section and the alignment passes through large areas of class 3.1 land. There are no class 1 or 2 areas of land.		There is minor or negligible potential change to level of the existing noise climate, resulting from the introduction of new roads and/or rerouting of existing traffic. Minor changes to the noise climate around Old Rayne which is a community with a relative medium population count.		The baseline alignment between Huntly and Inverurie is sparsely populated. The new alignment moves the road to a similarly sparsely populated area. All of the alignments are distinct from inhabited areas with population seemingly <10pp/km along much of their length. This alignment is <200m from Whiteford settlement area so is classed as minor beneficial.		This alignment intersects with the north-eastern corner of Williamston House GDL (but moving the alignment during the design iteration should enable a direct impact to be avoided). As discussed below, the group of heritage assets at this northern end of the alignment form a 'pinch-point', and leave little room for microsetting to avoid minimal impacts on setting. The alignment runs in close proximity to the end of the tree-lined avenue associated with Freefield House (Listed Building - LB16001), which forms an important part of its setting. This could be acceptable assuming the line of sight along this avenue (including the view towards the 'borrowed landscape' of Bennachie) was maintained, and not obscured by the road or associated landscaping. If this view was disrupted, the effect on the setting of Freefield House may be significant. The proximity of the alignment to The Law cairn (Scheduled Monument - SM12113) is a potential issue. The cairn is intentionally situated to be a prominent landscape feature and to have good views over the surrounding landscape. The current baseline includes a woodland plantation which screens views to the south-west from the cairn. If this was removed, and the views in this direction became more open, the impact of this alignment upon the setting of The Law cairn may be higher (and potentially significant).		Route entirely outwith settlement boundaries and Local Development Plan (LDP) allocations. The route does pass through a number of sites which are subject to planning permission for small numbers of houses.		Part in 225m of alignment, large stretches of prime agricultural land, and mineral resources all present.
001-002		Major adverse effects occur at both ends of the alignment due to cuttings of more than 15m. Introduction of new structures, impacts on Williamston House GDL, close to the north end and loss of ancient woodland at the south end. Moderate adverse effects are due to earthworks of more than 5-15m and potential new structures. The overall assessment of the alignment is Moderate adverse.		Route crosses the extensive floodplain of the River Urie (ch.11200m) and is perpendicular to flow (moderate adverse). Potential requirement for river realignment and potential active morphology at crossing of River Urie at ch.650m (moderate adverse). There may be limited scope for realignment at this location due to confined nature of the floodplain.		The very northern part of the alignments all incur a moderate adverse impact due to the northern end of all four cutting through a local designated site (Foufand Local Nature Conservation Site), however the remaining parts of all alignments are generally only slightly ecologically adverse and so, overall, each has only scored slight instead of moderate. All four alignments cut through an area of ancient woodland in the east and across a few watercourses, however, this area seems to be largely agricultural so many of the watercourses are actually field drains with only a few exceptions. It is assumed that no realignment of the watercourses is needed.		Prime and non-prime agricultural land is located along section and the alignment passes through large areas of class 3.1 land. There are no class 1 or 2 areas of land.		There is minor or negligible potential change to level of the existing noise climate, resulting from the introduction of new roads and/or rerouting of existing traffic. Minor changes to the noise climate around Old Rayne which is a community with a relative medium population count.		The baseline alignment between Huntly and Inverurie is sparsely populated. The new alignment moves the road to a similarly sparsely populated area. All of the alignments are distinct from inhabited areas with population seemingly <10pp/km along much of their length. This alignment is <200m from Whiteford settlement area so is classed as minor beneficial.		This alignment cuts across the tree-lined avenue associated with Freefield House (LB16001) which forms an important part of its setting. This alignment passes in extremely close proximity to The Law cairn (SM12113), and would cause a major change in its immediate vicinity. The cairn was intentionally located to be a prominent feature in the landscape, with extensive views. This alignment intersects with the north-eastern corner of Williamston House GDL (but moving the alignment during the design iteration should enable a direct impact to be avoided).		Route entirely outwith settlement boundaries and LDP allocations. The route does pass in close proximity to local developments sites which are subject to planning permission for small numbers of houses.		Large stretches of prime agricultural land and mineral resources are present.
001-003		Moderate effects are due to earthworks of 5-15m and some loss of woodland and ancient woodland. Major effects are caused by the introduction of new structures, loss of ancient woodland and potential impacts on the setting of Williamston House GDL and Pitcaple Castle. The overall assessment of the alignment is Moderate adverse.		Route crosses the extensive floodplain of the River Urie (ch.11400m) and is perpendicular to flow (moderate adverse). Potential requirement for river realignment and potential active morphology at crossing of River Urie at ch.650m (moderate adverse). There may be limited scope for realignment at this location due to confined nature of the floodplain.				There are eight properties within the alignment: Residential properties: Old School House The Old School Pulwhite The Old Mill Hill Brae (borderline) Mass Side Croft The Lodge Business properties: ACM Trailer and Adam Cleaning and Maintenance at The Old Mill. Prime and non-prime agricultural land located along section and the alignment passes through large areas of class 3.1 land. There are no class 1 or 2 areas.		There is minor or negligible potential change to level of the existing noise climate, resulting from the introduction of new roads and/or rerouting of existing traffic. Minor changes to the noise climate around Old Rayne which is a community with a relative medium population count.		The baseline alignment between Huntly and Inverurie is sparsely populated. The new alignment moves the road to a similarly sparsely populated area. All of the alignments are distinct from inhabited areas with population seemingly <10pp/km along much of their length. This alignment is <200m from Whiteford and Durmo settlement areas so is classed as minor beneficial.		This alignment cuts across the tree-lined avenue associated with Freefield House (LB16001) which forms an important part of its setting. This alignment passes in extremely close proximity to The Law cairn (SM12113), and would cause a major change in its immediate vicinity. The cairn was intentionally located to be a prominent feature in the landscape, with extensive views. This alignment intersects with the north-eastern corner of Williamston House GDL (but moving the alignment during the design iteration should enable a direct impact to be avoided).		Route entirely outwith settlement boundaries and LDP allocations. The route does pass in close proximity to planning permission for small numbers of houses.		Large stretches of prime agricultural land, contaminated land (railway), and mineral resources are all present.
001-004		Major adverse effects occur at the north end of the alignment, by the introduction of a new structure across the river Urie, loss of woodland and impacts on the setting of Williamston House GDL. At the south end of the alignment there are potential impacts on the setting of Pitcaple Castle, due to earthworks and loss of ancient woodland. Moderate adverse effects are due to earthworks of 5-15m and impacts on setting of Williamston House GDL and residential receptors. The overall assessment of the alignment is Moderate adverse.		Route crosses the extensive floodplain of the River Urie (ch.12000m) and is not perpendicular to flow (major adverse). Potential requirement for river realignment and potential active morphology at crossing of River Urie at ch.650m (moderate adverse). There may be limited scope for realignment at this location due to confined nature of the floodplain.				There are 10 properties within the alignment: Residential Properties: Old School House The Old School Pulwhite Hill Brae (borderline) The Old Mill Newbigging (borderline) Loan Head Cottage Loanhead of Lathvies (0.01km south) 1, 2, 3 and 4 The stables, Pitcaple Castle Business Properties: ACM Trailer and Adam Cleaning & Maintenance at The Old Mill. Other receptors: Pitcaple Castle outbuilding. Use unknown. Prime and non-prime agricultural land located along section and the alignment passes through areas of class 3.1 land. There are no class 1 or 2 areas.		Potential noticeable decrease to level of current noise climate at Old Rayne, resulting from rerouting traffic via new roads. The increase to noise from the new roads, potentially impacts communities with a relative medium population count, which are located close to the new roads.		The baseline alignment between Huntly and Inverurie is sparsely populated. The new alignment moves the road to a similarly sparsely populated area. All of the alignments are distinct from inhabited areas with population seemingly <10pp/km along much of their length. This alignment is <200m from Durmo settlement area so is classed as minor beneficial.		This alignment passes in extremely close proximity to The Law cairn (SM12113), and would cause a major change in its immediate vicinity. The cairn was intentionally located to be a prominent feature in the landscape, with extensive views. This alignment passes in very close proximity to Category A Listed Pitcaple Castle (and through the non-inventory GDL which forms its setting).		Route entirely outwith settlement boundaries and LDP allocations. The route does pass in close proximity to local developments sites which are subject to planning permission for small numbers of houses.		Large stretch of prime agricultural land across majority of alignment, contaminated land (railway), and large areas of mineral resources, all present.