

COIRE GLAS OVERHEAD LINE GRID CONNECTION

Technical Appendix 10.3 Drinking Water Protected Area and Private Water Supply Risk Assessment

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This Technical Appendix should be read in conjunction with Chapter 10: Geology, Soils and Water of the EIA Report which contains a detailed description of the local hydrology and hydrogeology, flow mechanisms and hydraulic properties of the soils and geology, the embedded mitigation incorporated in the development design, and an assessment of impacts on groundwater and surface water flows and quality.

1.0 Introduction

This Technical Appendix contains information relating to the Drinking Water Protected Areas (DWPAs) and Private Water Supplies (PWSs) within the study area, and the potential effects of the Proposed Development might have on these. To complete the assessment a conceptual site model is presented which uses a source-pathway-receptor linkage to assess the risk to each PWS and DWPA.

The location and extent of DWPAs was obtained from the Scottish Government¹ and verified by a site visit. Information was also provided by Scottish Water in consultation advice² provided to the Energy Consents Unit.

The Highland Council (THC)³ data for PWS sources within the study area has been reviewed and augmented by review of Ordnance Survey mapping and aerial photography. The location of potential PWS sources was also gathered from neighbouring developments and assessments completed by SLR on behalf of the Applicant which considered risks to PWS sources, including:

- Coire Glas Pumped Storage Hydro Scheme (Original Scheme⁴ and Revised⁵) EIAs;
- Bhlaraidh Wind Farm Extension OHL⁶ Environmental Appraisal;
- Skye Reinforcement Project⁷ EIA Report; and
- Quoich to Aberchalder 132 kV woodpole OHL Environmental Appraisal⁸.

Additional properties, and potential water users, were also identified following a programme of site-specific field investigation that involved visiting the properties, enquiring about their water use and source, and mapping water abstraction locations. The locations of water sources and tanks etc. were recorded using a handheld GPS. Where residents were unavailable questionnaires were left at properties requesting details of their water source or PWS.

The field investigation was completed in February and March 2023.

This Technical Appendix is structured as follows:

- Section 2 considers DWPAs.
- Section 3 presents the results of the PWS survey and assessment.

¹ Scottish Government, Drinking Water Protected Areas – Scotland River Basin District Maps, available from <https://www.gov.scot/publications/drinking-water-protected-areas-scotland-river-basin-district-maps/> [Accessed March 2023]

² Letter from Scottish Water to Energy Consents Unit, 8th March 2023. Ref.: DSCAS-0081794-BR9

³ The Highland Council, Open Map Data – Private Water Supplies, available from <https://map-highland.opendata.arcgis.com/> [Accessed March 2023]

⁴ Planning Application ECU0003164

⁵ Planning Application ECU00000577

⁶ Planning Application ECU00004639

⁷ Planning Application ECU000043395

⁸ Planning Application 19/O1455/S37

- Section 4 of this report details a potential water monitoring schedule and parameter list that could be used to monitor water quality at DWPA's and PWS sources that have a hydraulic linkage (e.g., pathway) to the Proposed Development. The monitoring frequency, parameter list and reporting programme would be subject to agreement with THC and the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) should planning permission be granted, and it is expected would be secured by an appropriately worded pre-commencement planning condition.

The location of the DWPA's and PWS sources are shown on **Figure 10.1a – 10.1d** of the EIA Report.

2.0 Assessment of Drinking Water Protected Areas

Scottish Water, in their consultation response, confirmed that the Proposed Development is located within two drinking water catchments where Scottish Water abstractions are maintained. Scottish Water abstractions are designated as DWPAs under Article 7 of the Water Framework Directive.

Specifically, Scottish Water advised that:

- the Aldernaig Burn catchment supplies Invergarry Water Treatment Works (WTW); and
- Loch Ness supplies Invermoriston Water Treatment Works (WTW).

Scottish Water confirmed that it is essential that water quality and water quantity in the area is protected.

Scottish Water also confirmed that the Proposed Development passes through both catchments and that at its closest point the OHL alignment passes approximately 500 m upstream of the Aldernaig Burn abstraction point, and 12km upstream of the Loch Ness abstraction. Scottish Water advised in view of the distances involved the risk the Proposed Development poses is likely to be low for Loch Ness, but high for Aldernaig Burn.

The safeguards and monitoring which would be used to safeguard the Loch Ness DWPA are discussed in Chapter 10 of the EIA Report. It is not considered further in this Technical Appendix.

Figure 10.1 of the EIA Report shows the DWPA catchment area for the Aldernaig Burn published by the Drinking Water Quality Regulator (DWQR) for Scotland. **Table 2-1** discusses the risk the Proposed Development poses to the quality and quantity of water within the Aldernaig Burn DWPA.

Table 2-1: Drinking Water Protected Areas

Waterbody	Details	Potential Complete Source-Pathway-Receptor Linkage	Mitigation and Monitoring
Aldernaig Burn DWPA	<p>Watercourse visited during site survey and abstraction point recorded at E 229604 / N 801992.</p> <p>Abstracted water is routed to Invergarry Water Treatment Works (WTW) located at E 229751 / N 801195.</p> <p>The abstraction location is confirmed 500 m south and downgradient of the Proposed Development.</p> <p>The Proposed Development footprint within the DWPA catchment is very small when compared to the overall catchment area of the DPWA.</p>	<p>✓</p> <p>DWPA source potentially at risk as there is pathway from the Proposed Development to the DWPA abstraction point.</p>	<p>The distance from the Proposed Development from the DWPA abstraction will afford significant protection to the DWPA source.</p> <p>Mitigation measures have been identified in the EIA Report to maintain water flows paths and existing quality and with these no effect on the DWPA is anticipated.</p> <p>Notwithstanding this, it is recommended that confirmatory water quality monitoring is undertaken prior to, during and for a period following construction of the Proposed Development to confirm there are no effects on the DWPA.</p>

Waterbody	Details	Potential Complete Source-Pathway-Receptor Linkage	Mitigation and Monitoring
			<p>Further, contact details for Scottish Water, the DWQR and SEPA should be retained in the proposed site Emergency Response Plan so that in the unlikely event of a pollution event occurring those which could be affected by the event can be readily contacted.</p> <p>The Emergency Response Plan should also include details of emergency response procedures and responsibilities and sources of potential alternative water sources should they be required.</p>

During the site survey, 16 properties were confirmed to be served by mains water, as summarised in **Table 2-2**. These properties obtain their water from Scottish Water and the DWPAs discussed above. Measures which will safeguard the DWPAs will afford protection to the properties. No additional mitigation is required.

Table 2-2: Properties Confirmed to be on Mains Supply

PWS ID (Figure 10.1)	Property Name	Data Source	Details	Confirmed by property owner?
M1 to M4	Swiss Cottage Braeburn Rowan's Edge Apple Pip Wildwood Log cabins Aultfearn Cottage	Site visit	Properties confirmed to be on mains by owners. Properties located near Fort Augustus and supplied by the Loch Ness DWPA.	Yes
M5	Glen Albyn Lodge	Site visit	Property confirmed to be on mains by owner. Property supplied by the Invergarry WTW.	Yes
M6 to M16	The Old Farmhouse Matlby Faichem Lodge Glengarry Lodge Egilsay	Site visit	Properties confirmed to be on mains by owners. Properties supplied by the Invergarry WTW. In the Faichem area, water is pumped from the WTW to the Faichem Water Pumping Station located at E 229078 / N 801084 and the Faichem Service Reservoir located at E 228669 / N 801527 before it is distributed to the houses.	Yes

PWS ID (Figure 10.1)	Property Name	Data Source	Details	Confirmed by property owner?
	Faichem Wood House Tiroran Bracknoll Ardgarry Farm and Lodges 2 properties whereby the name is unknown			

3.0 Private Water Supply Risk Assessment

This section presents information collected from the PWS survey, returned questionnaires, THC, and desk study. **Table 3-1** presents details of properties which are served by a PWS source. If a source is assessed to have a hydraulic connection (e.g. there is a pathway) to the Proposed Development, mitigation measures have been proposed.

Review of **Table 3-1** indicates the following:

- two PWS sources are potentially at risk from the Proposed Development (highlighted in red);
- three distribution pipes associated with PWS sources are potentially at risk from the Proposed Development (highlighted in orange); and
- 14 PWS sources are not at risk from the Proposed Development (highlighted in green).

Table 3-1: Properties with a Private Water Supply

PWS ID (Figure 10.1)	Property Name	Data Source and PWS Source Type	Location of PWS Source (NGR) and Distance from Proposed Development	Details	Potential Complete Source – Pathway – Receptor Linkage	Mitigation and Monitoring
PWS01	Auchterawe Old Farm House	Site visit – Skye Reinforcement Project Borehole	E 235244 / N 808301 470m north of the OHL	Property demolished and PWS source no longer used.	× No receptor. PWS source and pipework not considered to be at risk.	N/A
PWS02	Forest Lodge Pinetop	Site visit – Skye Reinforcement Project	E 235206 / N 808299 E 235185 / N 808124	The properties are served by two separate boreholes which are located south west of the respective properties. The borehole depths are unknown. The properties also	× No pathway, PWS source and pipework not	N/A

PWS ID (Figure 10.1)	Property Name	Data Source and PWS Source Type	Location of PWS Source (NGR) and Distance from Proposed Development	Details	Potential Complete Source – Pathway – Receptor Linkage	Mitigation and Monitoring
		Stream and boreholes	E 235182 / N 808073 500m to 700m north west of the Proposed Development.	share an additional PWS that is sourced from a stream for garden use. The PWS source is located upgradient of the Proposed Development and therefore not considered to be at risk. The distribution pipework is also not considered to be at risk.	considered to be at risk.	
PWS03	Ach na Cloiche	Site visit – Skye Reinforcement Project Borehole	E 235251 / N 808146 400m north west of the OHL	The PWS source is a borehole which is located north west of the property. BGS records indicate that the borehole is 45m deep. The borehole is located upgradient of the Proposed Development and therefore not considered to be at risk. The distribution pipework is also not considered to be at risk.	× No pathway. PWS source and pipework not considered to be at risk.	N/A
PWS04	Ach na Cloiche 7B	Site visit – Skye Reinforcement Project Borehole	E 235334 / N 808064 300m west of the OHL	The property is served by a borehole located north west of the property. The borehole is 72m deep according to BGS records. The borehole is located upgradient of the Proposed Development and therefore not considered to be at risk. The distribution pipework is also not considered to be at risk.	× No pathway. PWS source and pipework not considered to be at risk.	N/A
PWS05	Windhill	Site visit – Skye	E 235116 / N 807982	The PWS source is a borehole located south of the property. Borehole depth is unknown.	× No pathway.	N/A

PWS ID (Figure 10.1)	Property Name	Data Source and PWS Source Type	Location of PWS Source (NGR) and Distance from Proposed Development	Details	Potential Complete Source – Pathway – Receptor Linkage	Mitigation and Monitoring
		Reinforcement Project Borehole	500m north west of existing track and 600m north west of OHL.	The borehole is located upgradient of the Proposed Development and therefore not considered to be at risk. The distribution pipework is also not considered to be at risk.	PWS source and pipework not considered to be at risk.	
PWS06	Hawksview	Site visit – Skye Reinforcement Project Borehole	E 235098 / N 807990 520m north west of existing track and 620m north west of OHL.	The property is served by a borehole which is located immediately north west of the property. BGS records confirm that the borehole is c. 45m deep. The borehole is located upgradient of the Proposed Development and therefore not considered to be at risk. The distribution pipework is also not considered to be at risk.	× No pathway. PWS source and pipework not considered to be at risk.	N/A
PWS07	Auchterawe House Briar Burn	Site visit – Skye Reinforcement Project Borehole	E 235021 / N 807920 520m north west of existing track and 620m north west of OHL.	Residents confirmed that the properties are served by a borehole located to the south of the property. The borehole is c. 30m deep according to the resident. The borehole is located upgradient of the Proposed Development and therefore not considered to be at risk. The distribution pipework is also not considered to be at risk.	× No pathway. PWS source and pipework not considered to be at risk.	N/A
PWS08	Hillside Mavisburn	Site visit – Skye Reinforcement Project	E 234994 / N 807851 500m north west of existing track and	The PWS source is a borehole located immediately west of the properties. Borehole depth is c. 54m deep according to BGS records.	× No pathway. PWS source and pipework not	N/A

PWS ID (Figure 10.1)	Property Name	Data Source and PWS Source Type	Location of PWS Source (NGR) and Distance from Proposed Development	Details	Potential Complete Source – Pathway – Receptor Linkage	Mitigation and Monitoring
		Borehole	600m north west of OHL.	The PWS is located upgradient of the Proposed Development and therefore not considered to be at risk. The distribution pipework is also not considered to be at risk.	considered to be at risk.	
PWS09	Auld Dipper Woodside	Site visit – Skye Reinforcement Project Stream	E 235159 / N 807736 300m north west of existing track and 400m north west of OHL.	Neighbouring residents (PWS11) confirmed that the properties are served by a stream east of Auld Dipper and west of Woodside. The PWS is located upgradient of the Proposed Development and therefore not considered to be at risk. The distribution pipework is also not considered to be at risk.	× No pathway. PWS source and pipework not considered to be at risk.	N/A
PWS10	Meadowside	Site visit – Skye Reinforcement Project Borehole	E 235305 / N 807784 230m north west of existing track and 330m north west of OHL.	The PWS source is a borehole located immediately east of the property. The borehole depth is c. 35-40ft (11-12m) according to the resident. The PWS is located upgradient of the Proposed Development and therefore not considered to be at risk. The distribution pipework is also not considered to be at risk.	× No pathway. PWS source and pipework not considered to be at risk.	N/A
PWS11	Auchterawe House	Site visit – Skye Reinforcement Project Borehole	E 234798 / N 807682 80m north of an existing track and	The property PWS is a borehole which is located immediately west of the property. BGS records show that the borehole depth is c. 45m. The PWS is located upgradient of the Proposed Development and therefore not	× No pathway. PWS source and pipework not	N/A

PWS ID (Figure 10.1)	Property Name	Data Source and PWS Source Type	Location of PWS Source (NGR) and Distance from Proposed Development	Details	Potential Complete Source – Pathway – Receptor Linkage	Mitigation and Monitoring
			540m north of the OHL	considered to be at risk. The distribution pipework is also not considered to be at risk.	considered to be at risk.	
PWS12	Auchterawe Cottage 1 and 2	Site visit – Skye Reinforcement Project Stream (Allt na Cille)	E 234527 / N 807745 450m north of an existing track and 700m north of the OHL	The PWS source is a stream abstraction located north west and upgradient of the properties. The PWS source is located upgradient of the Proposed Development and therefore not considered to be at risk. The distribution pipework is also not considered to be at risk.	× No pathway. PWS source and pipework not considered to be at risk.	N/A
PWS13	Netherby	Site visit – Skye Reinforcement Project Borehole	E 234621 / N 807334 30m north of an existing track and 270m north of the OHL	The property is served by a borehole located immediately west of the property. The borehole is c. 30m deep according to the residents. The borehole is located upgradient of the Proposed Development and therefore not considered to be at risk. The distribution pipework is also not considered to be at risk.	× No pathway. PWS source and pipework not considered to be at risk.	N/A
PWS14	Vatersay Cottage Eriskay Cottage	Site visit Borehole	E 235202 / N 806757 480m south of the OHL.	Resident at Vatersay Cottage confirmed that their property and two neighbouring properties are served by a borehole. The depth of the borehole is unknown. The borehole is located within a different surface water catchment to the Proposed	× No pathway. PWS source and pipework not	N/A

PWS ID (Figure 10.1)	Property Name	Data Source and PWS Source Type	Location of PWS Source (NGR) and Distance from Proposed Development	Details	Potential Complete Source – Pathway – Receptor Linkage	Mitigation and Monitoring
	Smithy Cottage			Development and given the distance is not considered to be at risk. The distribution pipework is also not considered to be at risk from the Proposed Development.	considered to be at risk.	
PWS15	Drynachan Alderaan	Site visit Hill runoff and stream (Allt Leth-bheinne)	E 232584 / N 802123 E 232465 / N 802841 400m and 600m east and south east of an existing track and approximately 2km south east of the OHL.	Residents confirmed that their properties are served by a hill runoff supply which is collected in a holding tank located at E 232584 / N 802123. The supply is topped up as required from a stream abstraction of the Allt Leth-bheinne which is gravity fed to the holding tank, before it is gravity fed to the two properties. The PWS sources are located downstream of an existing track which is proposed to be upgraded as part of the Proposed Development.	✓ PWS source potentially at risk	The distance from the Proposed Development from the PWS source will afford protection to the PWS source. Notwithstanding this, it is recommended that confirmatory water quality monitoring is undertaken in the holding tank before and during construction of the Proposed Development.
PWS16	Port MacDonell	THC Stream	E 232031 / N 801504 60m south of existing track and 2.3km south east of the OHL	Residents unavailable at time of survey and questionnaire not returned at the time of reporting. THC data indicates that the property is served by a stream abstraction located 120m north west of the property. The PWS source is located downstream of an existing track which is proposed to be upgraded as part of the Proposed Development.	✓ PWS source potentially at risk	The PWS source should be confirmed prior to construction and mitigation measures applied as required. It is likely this will include confirmatory water quality monitoring undertaken before and during construction.

PWS ID (Figure 10.1)	Property Name	Data Source and PWS Source Type	Location of PWS Source (NGR) and Distance from Proposed Development	Details	Potential Complete Source – Pathway – Receptor Linkage	Mitigation and Monitoring
PWS17	The Farmhouse Tom na Uisge Faichem Farm, Campsite and Chalets	Site visit Stream (Eas a'Bhainne)	E 227839 / N 803519 1.2km north east of OHL	Residents at The Farmhouse (and owner of the campsite) confirmed that their property, neighbouring property (Tom na Uisge), campsite and chalets are sourced from a PWS that is stream fed. Water is gravity fed from the source to a holding tank near Tom na Uisge before it is distributed to the properties and campsite facilities. The stream abstraction is located upgradient of the Proposed Development, however, the pipework between the PWS source and property may be at risk from the Proposed Development.	✓ Distribution pipework only.	Where water distribution pipework is crossed by the Proposed Development these will be marked and structural analysis completed. Additional protection to pipework to be placed for duration of works / traffic movement as required.
PWS18	Forest Gate Forest Row Cottage	Site visit Stream	E 227984 / N 800318 185m south of existing track and 1.1km south east of the OHL	Residents at Forest Gate Cottage confirmed that their property and Forest Gate are served by a PWS that is stream fed. Water is gravity fed to a holding tank located at E 228089 / N 800451, before it is diverted to the properties. The stream is located within a catchment that is not in hydraulic connectivity to the Proposed Development and thus there is no pathway to the PWS source. The distribution pipework to Forest Row Cottage will not be at risk from the Proposed Development, however, pipework to Forest Gate will cross	✓ Distribution pipework only.	Where water distribution pipework is crossed by the Proposed Development these will be marked and structural analysis completed. Additional protection to pipework to be placed for duration of works / traffic movement as required.

PWS ID (Figure 10.1)	Property Name	Data Source and PWS Source Type	Location of PWS Source (NGR) and Distance from Proposed Development	Details	Potential Complete Source – Pathway – Receptor Linkage	Mitigation and Monitoring
				an existing track, which will be used to facilitate the Proposed Development.		
PWS19	Glenluie Croft	THC Spring	E 227100 / N 801100 60m north west of the OHL	Residents unavailable at time of survey and questionnaire not returned at the time of reporting. THC data indicates that the property is served by a spring located approximately 380m north west of the property. The spring is located upgradient of the Proposed Development, however, the pipework between the PWS source and property may be at risk from the Proposed Development.	✓ Distribution pipework only.	Where water distribution pipework is crossed by the Proposed Development these will be marked and structural analysis completed. Additional protection to pipework to be placed for duration of works / traffic movement as required.

4.0 Example Monitoring Protocol and Intervention Strategy

As identified in Section 2 and 3 of this Technical Appendix, monitoring is proposed at properties that maintain a PWS source or at a DWPA abstraction location where there is a source-pathway-receptor linkage to the Proposed Development (e.g. PWSs considered at risk).

Pre-development monitoring data can be used to establish baseline water levels and quality, and assessment or trigger values to which routine monitoring data collected during construction can be compared against.

The monitoring suite, monitoring locations, monitoring frequency and intervention strategy would be agreed with THC, Scottish Water and SEPA prior to any works being undertaken. It is anticipated that this would be secured by an appropriately worded pre-commencement planning condition agreed between the Applicant, THC, Scottish Water and SEPA. **Table 4-1** however shows an example protocol which could be used as a basis to agree a water monitoring protocol with relevant consultees.

Table 4-1: Example Monitoring Protocol

Location	Frequency	Determinand Suite
Aldernaig Burn DWPA above abstraction point at E 229604 / N 801992 PWS15 PWS16	Monthly prior to and during construction.	<p><u>Field Sampling</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • pH • Redox • Conductivity • Dissolved Oxygen <p><u>Extractive Samples</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • pH • Alkalinity (total and bicarbonate) • Suspended solids • Colour • Organic carbon (total and dissolved) • Electrical conductivity • Chloride • Orthophosphate • Sulphate • Nitrate, nitrite and ammonium • Hydrocarbons • Aluminium (total + dissolved) • Calcium (total + dissolved) • Iron (total + dissolved) • Copper (total + dissolved) • Magnesium (total + dissolved) • Manganese (total + dissolved) • Potassium (total + dissolved) • Sodium (total + dissolved) • Total Coliforms (PWS only) • E Coli (PWS only) • Enterococci (PWS only)

4.1 Monitoring and Reporting Personnel

The monitoring and reporting would be undertaken by appropriately experienced and trained staff.

4.2 Monitoring Methodology

Water samples would be collected following guidance within SEPA, July 2003, Guidance on Monitoring of Landfill Leachate, Groundwater and Surface Water, v2 (specifically Section 9 thereof).

Prevailing weather conditions, qualitative flow conditions as well as other visual indicators would be recorded in order to aid the sample reporting.

The water samples would be placed directly into appropriate sterile bottles, which would be labelled and dispatched to a UKAS accredited laboratory, under chilled conditions and accompanied by the relevant chain of custody documentation.

4.3 Example Intervention Strategy

In the unlikely event that the routine monitoring data recorded potential pollution at a private water supply an investigation and intervention strategy would be agreed with THC (and the DWQR if in the Aldernaig Burn DWPA). Again, the details of which would be agreed prior to any construction and be secured by an appropriately worded pre-commencement planning condition.

4.3.1 Alerting Potentially Affected Properties

Contact details (land and mobile numbers / email addresses) for the DWQR and private water supply users would be maintained by site management at all times.

In the event that monitoring data collected in the Aldernaig Burn DWPA or any private water supply is above the baseline monitoring record and above prescribed regulatory standards then the DWQR / property owners would be advised and repeat water sampling undertaken (if agreed with the property owners). Notification would occur within 24 hours of receipt of monitoring results. Repeat water sampling would be undertaken as soon as reasonably practicable and within 72 hours.

Details of any affected property would be reported to THC / DWQR within a timeframe agreed with THC when the monitoring programme is agreed and finalised.

4.4 Provision of Alternative Water Supplies

The Applicant commits to maintaining the yield and wholesomeness of water supplies. The following measures may be deployed in the unlikely event a water supply is impaired by the works:

- provision of bottled potable water in the event of a short or transient derogation of a water supply (bottled water would be retained on site ready for quick dispatch to any effected property); and
- provision of an alternative water source (e.g. spring, borehole, alternative surface water abstraction location) in the event of a permanent derogation of a water supply.

In the event of an alternative water source being implemented the DWQR (in the instance of an effect on a DWPA) or THC (in the instance of a PWS being effected) would be advised as soon as is practical.

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