



BIDWELLS

**COIRE GLAS GRID  
CONNECTION  
PROJECT: 400KV OHL  
WOODLAND REPORT  
FLS DRYNACHAN  
WOODLAND**

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## 1.0 Woodland Characteristics

Drynachan Woodland is owned by the Scottish Ministers and managed by Forest and Land Scotland (FLS) – North Forest District. The woodland is accessed from the A87 at the Bridge of Oich, (Please refer to Location plan in Appendix 1). This woodland has Sitka spruce as its principal conifer species. The proposed Over Head Line (OHL) alignment impacts significantly between towers 23-29, Invergarry to Tee diversion and the Fort Augustus to Fort William diversion.

There is no current Land Management Plan.

### Towers 23-29

Mixed commercial plantation, Sitka spruce (SS) and Lodgepole pine (LP) with small pockets of larch (L). There will some additional felling required out with the operational corridor to maintain stability of the remaining crop.



Semi-mature SS plantation

### Invergarry to Tee Diversion

Mixed commercial plantation, Sitka spruce (SS) and Lodgepole pine (LP) with small pockets of larch (L). There will some additional felling required out with the operational corridor to maintain stability of the remaining crop.



Existing Invergarry to Tee OHL wayleave.

### **Fort Augustus to Fort William Diversion**

Mixed commercial plantation, Sitka spruce (SS) and Lodgepole pine (LP) with small pockets of larch (L). There will be some additional felling required out with the operational corridor to maintain stability of the remaining crop.

## **2.0 Development Requirements**

The standard tower dimensions for the project have a width of 17.1 m at the widest part of the Tower (from one conductor to the other) in addition to this the vicinity zone from each conductor is 5 m on each side. The infrastructure and minimum clearance distance is therefore 27 m (13.5m either side of the centre line) and this has been utilised to calculate the area of the corridor occupied by infrastructure. In some cases, such as angle towers the requirement will be in excess of this distance however the average minimum distance has been used in this assessment.

A resilient Operational Corridor 45m in width either side of the line is required throughout the woodland.

The forest is served by a well-constructed Class A forest road running through the woodlands, accessed from the A87.

These roads can serve as the main arterial construction route. Tree felling and timber extraction will be able to utilise existing tracks, prior to any construction activity.

Stump removal and residue mulching will be required for the installation of tracks within the operational corridor and at each pole structure construction compound for the formation of a temporary crane pad.



## 3.0 Wind Blow Risk

There is a low wind blow risk across much of the woodland (wind throw hazard class assessed at 14). As detailed in section 1, there are several tower spans where the proposed OC opens a green edge to the prevailing wind necessitating additional felling out-with the OC to reach a stable edge.

In areas where the trees are smaller due to age or exposure then the wind blow risk is reduced along with the requirement for additional felling to wind firm boundaries.

## 4.0 Woodland Management Impact

The line route will create additional challenges for the future management of the forest as it dissects existing management units and introduces an electrical hazard. The constraint associated with the electrical hazard will be reduced by regular maintenance of the Operational Corridor which will avoid the incidences of “Red Zone” trees (reference FISA 804 “Electricity at Work: Forestry”). As part of construction works, dedicated crossing points will be discussed once the overhead line has been constructed, thus ensuring safe future working within the woodland.

The total loss of Native Broadleaved woodland resulting from the proposed alignment is nil hectares.

## 5.0 Mitigation Opportunities

- a. **Restructuring**  
Clear felling and restocking of FLS Drynachan is ongoing and will continue to be undertaken by the landowner in the future, regardless of development felling, as detailed in the LTFP. It is recognised that the proposed route will result in felling being brought forward. The felling of the Operational Corridor for the development, will create a new green edge, allowing the landowner to carry out future clear fell more safely in proximity to the new power line.
- b. **Restocking**  
Restocking will be carried out by the landowner in all areas out-with the Operational Corridor with suitable species to continue the commercial viability of the forest. Any opportunity to restock within the Operational Corridor will be discussed with FLS following felling to link in with adjacent planned felling coupes where appropriate.

## 6.0 Nett Effect/Summary

| <b>Tower Span</b>  | <b>Operational Requirements</b>   |
|--|---|
| 23-29  | Gross area of Operational Corridor felling approved via the Section 37 and undertaken by SSEN - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Commercial woodland – 10ha</li> </ul>    |
| Invergarry to Tee Diversion  | Gross area of Operational Corridor felling approved via the Section 37 and undertaken by SSEN - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Commercial woodland – 2.42 ha</li> </ul> |
| Fort Augustus to Fort William Diversion  | Gross area of Operational Corridor felling approved via the Section 37 and undertaken by SSEN - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Commercial woodland – 2.17 ha</li> </ul> |
| New Track Felling  | Commercial woodland – 2.02 ha   |
| Additional area of recommended felling outside OC for wind throw or forest design purposes (Landowner to fell under forest plan revision or felling licence) | Clear fell to windfirm edge – SS/LP/SP – 42.38 ha   |
| <b>Compensatory Planting Options</b>   |   |
| Potential onsite replacement planting/ regeneration within OC  | 0 ha  |
| Nett effect (Loss of Woodland)   | 16.61 ha  |
| <b>Operational Works</b>   |   |
|  | <b>Total Area (ha)</b>  |
| Clear fell harvesting  | 16.61   |
| Felling out with OC  | 42.38   |
| <b>TOTAL</b>   | <b>58.99</b>  |

## 7.0 Compensatory Planting

The total amount of net felling requiring compensation under the Control of Woodland Removal Policy is 16.61 hectares.

In order to provide a greater balance limiting long term impacts on forestry interests it is proposed that the majority of this woodland loss is compensated via offsite compensatory planting. It is proposed that full details of the areas subject to this offsite compensatory planting is notified to Scottish Forestry prior to energising the Overhead Line.

# APPENDIX 1

# LOCATION PLAN

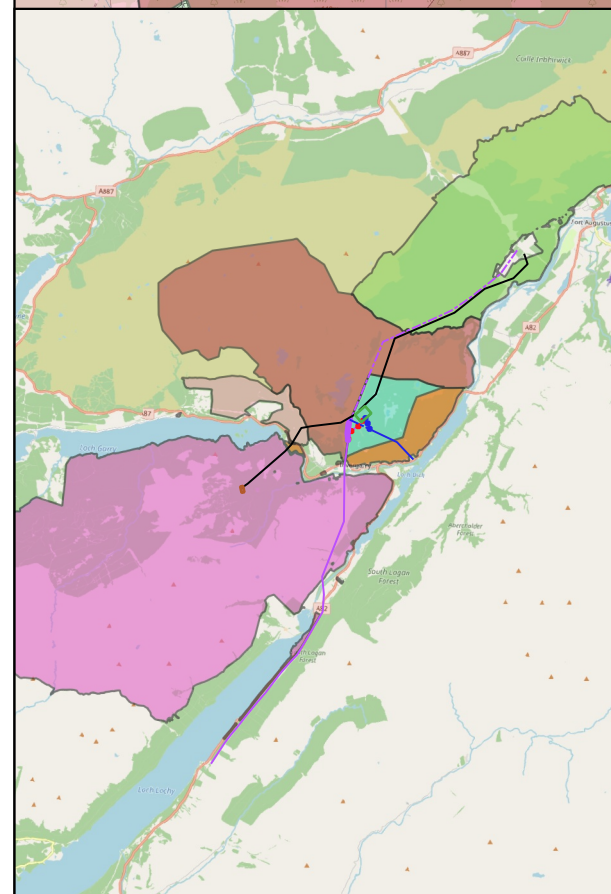
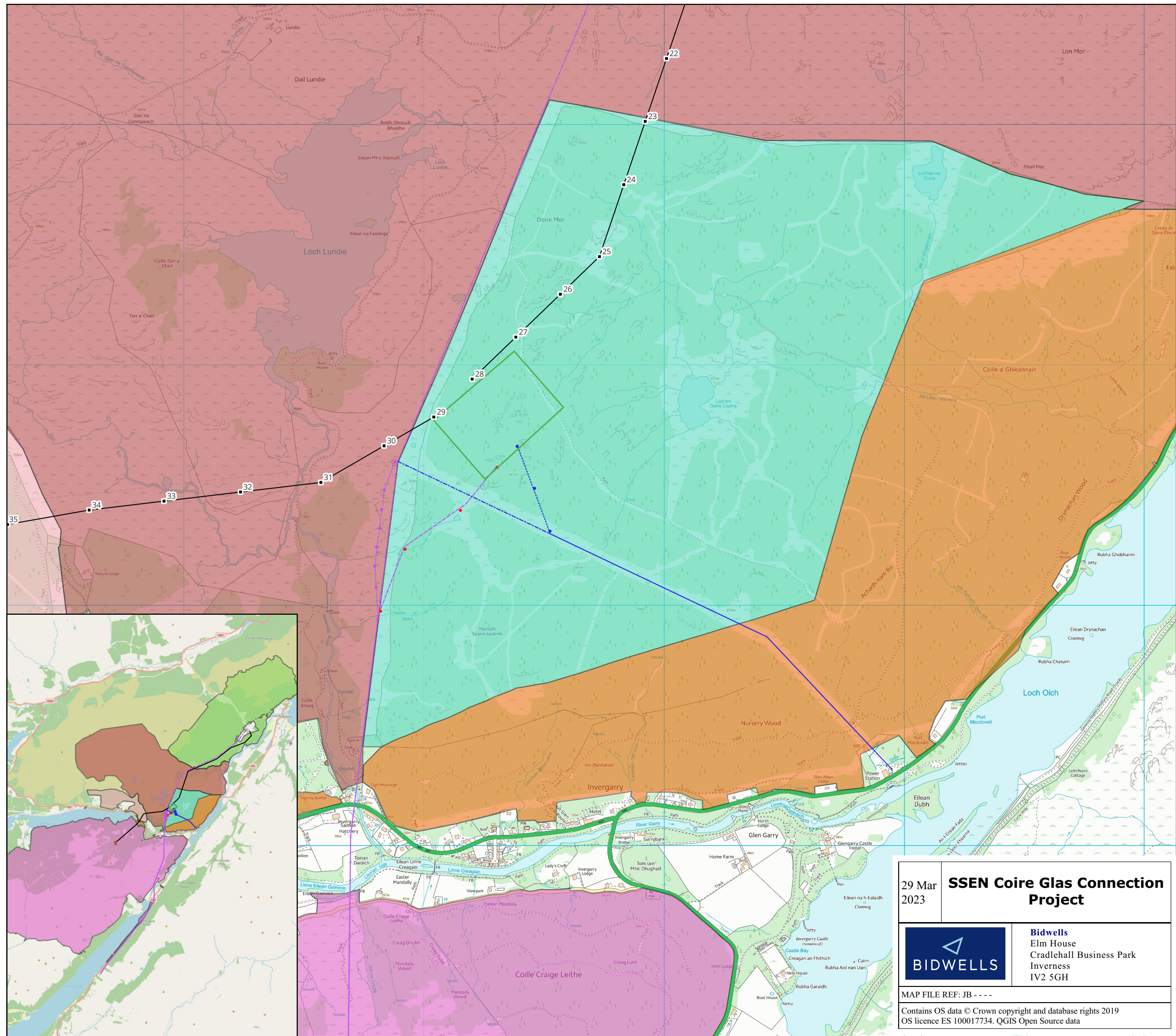
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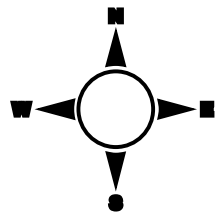
# Appendix V4 14.1 App1 Woodland location Plan

## Legend

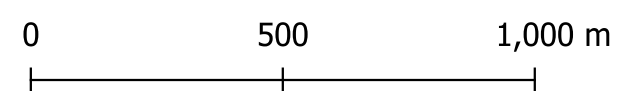
- Proposed\_Steel\_Lattice\_Tower
- Proposed OHL Alignment (Steel Lattice Towers)
- Existing 132 kV Invergarry Tee OHL (Steel Lattice Towers)**
  - New Permanent Trident Steel Pole Location
  - to be retained
  - to be Diverted
  - to be dismantled
- Existing 132 kV Fort Augustus to Fort William OHL (Steel Lattice Towers)**
  - temporary Trident wood pole locations
  - temporary OHL diversion
  - New permanent Steel Lattice Tower Locations
  - To Be Retained
  - To be diverted into the proposed Loch Lundie Substation
  - to be dismantled
- Proposed Loch Lundie Substation Platform
- Proposed Coire Glas Switching Station Platform
- FLS**
  - AUCHTERAWE FARM
  - GLENGARRY II
  - GLENGARY DEER FOREST
  - DRYNACHAN
  - Aberchalder Estate
  - Kilfinnan and Munerigie



TRANSMISSION



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|   |  |
|---|--|
| 29 Mar 2023   | <b>SSEN Coire Glas Connection Project</b>  |
|   | <b>Bidwells</b><br>Elm House<br>Cradlehall Business Park<br>Inverness<br>IV2 5GH |
| MAP FILE REF: JB - - -  |  |
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## APPENDIX 2

# PLAN SHOWING OPERATIONAL CORRIDOR AND FELLING

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Appendix V4 14.1  
 FLS Drynachan Woodland  
 App 2 OC Felling Requirements  
 Towers 23-29

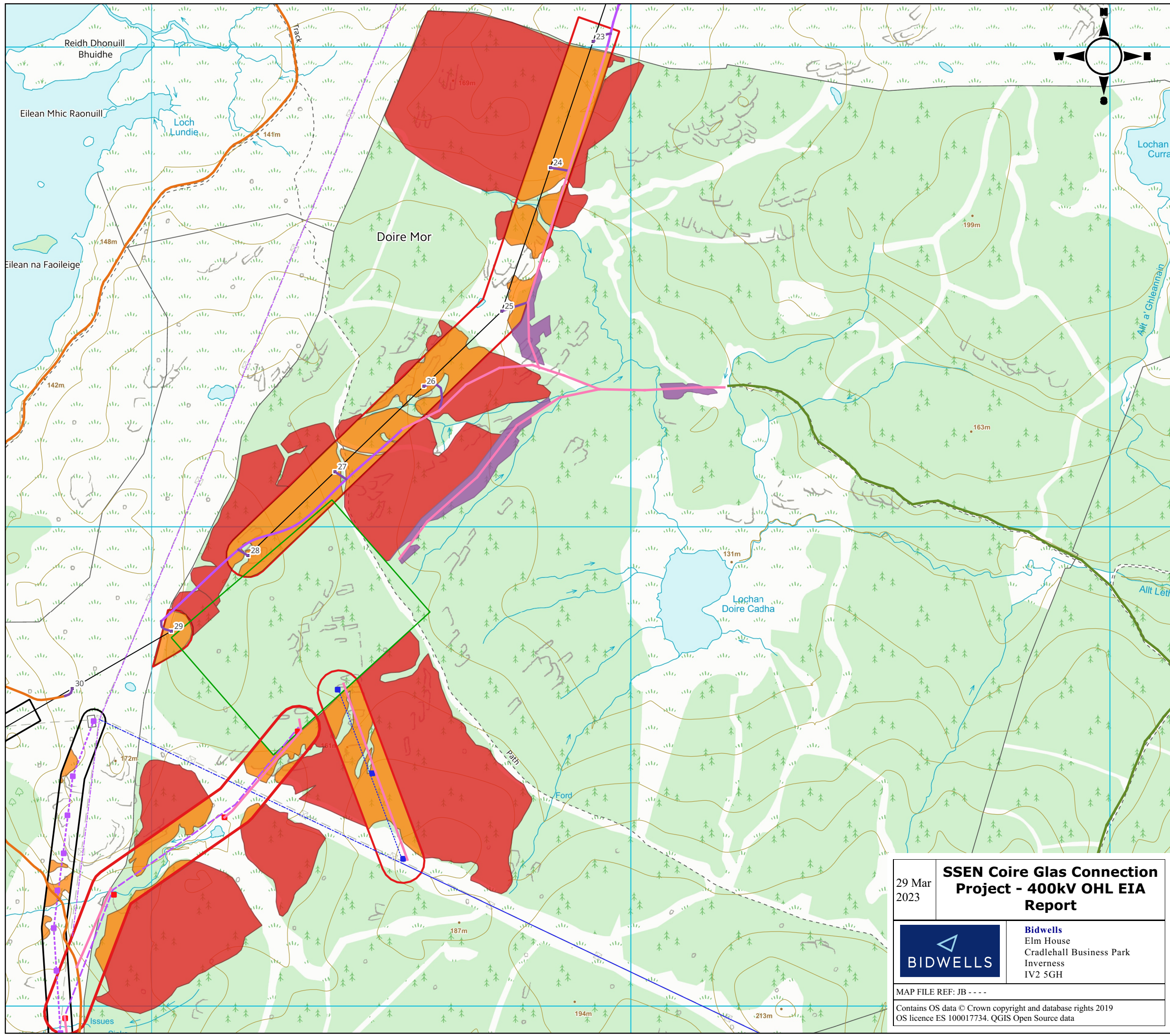
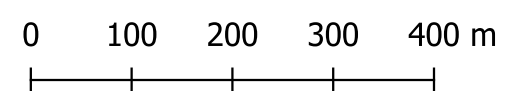
Legend

- Felling Requirements
- OC Felling 14.59ha
  - Felling out with OC 42.38ha
  - New Track Felling 2.02ha
- Proposed Steel Lattice Tower  
 Proposed OHL Alignment (Steel Lattice Towers)  
 OHL Alignment CoireGlas to LochLundie
- Existing 132 kV Fort Augustus to Fort William OHL (Steel Lattice Towers)
- temporary Trident Wood Pole Locations
  - Temporary OHL Diversion
  - New Permanent Steel Lattice Tower Locations
  - to Be Retained
  - To be diverted into the proposed Loch Lundie Substation
  - To Be Dismantled
- Existing 132 kV Invergarry Tee OHL (Steel Lattice Towers)
- New Permanent Trident Steel Pole Location
  - To be retained
  - to be diverted
  - to be dismantled
- Tracks
- New Access Track
  - Existing Track No Upgrades
  - New Track Temporary
  - Existing Track To Be Upgraded
  - Proposed Loch Lundie Substation Platform
  - 50m OC
  - 90m OC



TRANSMISSION

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|   |  |
|---|--|
| 29 Mar 2023   | <b>SSEN Coire Glas Connection Project - 400kV OHL EIA Report</b>                 |
|   | <b>Bidwells</b><br>Elm House<br>Cradlehall Business Park<br>Inverness<br>IV2 5GH |
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