

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: FORESTRY AND WOODLAND LOSS CLARIFICATIONS

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1. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: FORESTRY AND WOODLAND LOSS CLARIFICATIONS

1.1 Overview

- 1.1.1 In September 2022, an Environmental Impact Assessment Report ("EIA Report") was prepared to accompany an application for consent under section 37 of the Electricity Act 1989 ("the 1989 Act") by Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission plc ("the Applicant"), operating and known as Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks Transmission ("SSEN Transmission"), for the Skye Reinforcement Project (and hereafter also referred to interchangeably as "the Proposed Development").
- 1.1.2 The application seeks consent under section 37 of the 1989 Act to construct and operate approximately 110 kilometres (km) of new double circuit steel structure 132 kV overhead transmission line (OHL) between Fort Augustus Substation and Edinbane Substation, and approximately 27 km of new single circuit trident H wood pole (H pole) OHL between Edinbane Substation and Ardmore Substation. This electricity transmission project would also comprise approximately 24 km of underground cable¹, proposed by the Applicant to mitigate likely significant landscape and visual effects, or as a means of rationalising the existing OHL network. In total, the transmission connection extends over a distance of approximately 160 km.
- 1.1.3 In addition, the Applicant is seeking consent for a temporary diversion of the existing 132 kV OHL at Inchlaggan for approximately 750 m to facilitate construction of the new OHL in this location.
- 1.1.4 The Applicant is also seeking deemed planning permission under section 57(2) of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 for certain elements of the project, or ancillary works required to facilitate its construction and operation. These ancillary works will include the installation of underground cables, cable sealing end compounds, temporary and permanent access tracks, and tree and vegetation clearance.
- 1.1.5 The purpose of this Additional Information is to clarify the forestry and woodland loss calculations stated within certain chapters of the submitted EIA Report.

1.2 Volume 2, Chapter 9: Forestry

- 1.2.1 **Table V2-9.6 of Volume 2, Chapter 9: Forestry** of the EIA Report (September 2022) contained a table stating the direct and gross loss of woodland from construction of the Proposed Development for each 'Section' of the project. The values stated within this table, and Annex 2 of **Appendix V2-9.1**, have been updated to correct some minor inaccuracies (see **Appendix 1** and **Appendix 2** respectively). However, more notably, the summary values for woodland removal as a result of the Proposed Development referred to in paragraphs 9.1.3, 9.1.4, 9.6.7, 9.6.9, 9.6.11, 9.6.14, 9.6.16, 9.6.26, 9.8.2, 9.9.2 and 9.9.3, and **Table V2-9.7** were incorrect. **Table AI 1.1** clarifies the correct totals.
- 1.2.2 An update to **Table V2-9.6 of Volume 2, Chapter 9: Forestry** is included within **Appendix 1** of this report. The updated summary values do not alter the assessment conclusions contained within **Volume 2, Chapter 9 Forestry** of the EIA Report.

¹ Deemed planning consent under Section 57(2) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1997 would be sought for the installation and operation of underground cables.

Table AI 1.1: Direct Forestry and Woodland Loss

Habitat Type	Area (ha) summarised within the EIA Report (September 2022)	Correct summary totals (ha)
Commercial Plantation	100	98.36
Ancient woodland (all categories on AWI)	11	7.78
Semi-natural woodland	7	11.9
Total (rounded)	118	118

1.3 Updates to Other References

1.3.1 The summary totals for direct woodland removal are also incorrectly referenced in the following chapters and appendices of the EIA Report (September 2022):

- Volume 1, Chapter 3: Project Description. Paragraph 3.9.13
- Volume 1, Chapter 8: Summary of Effects. Paragraphs 8.8.2, 8.8.3, 8.8.11
- Volume 5, Appendix V1-3.6: Schedule of Mitigation (Reference FR2)
- Volume 5, Appendix V2-9.1 - Woodland Report Annex 2 (see **Appendix 2** for update)
- Volume 6, Chapter 9: Forestry (Alternative Alignment). Paragraphs 9.1.1, 9.1.2, 9.2.3
- Non-Technical Summary, Chapter 11. Paragraphs 11.1.1, 11.1.2, 11.2.3

1.4 Conclusion

1.4.1 The Applicant seeks to clarify that the summary totals for direct woodland removal as a result of the Proposed Development are:

- Commercial Plantation: 98.36 ha
- Ancient woodland: 7.78 ha
- Semi-natural woodland: 11.9 ha

1.4.2 These corrected totals from those stated within **Volume 2, Chapter 9 Forestry** of the EIA Report and other chapters as referenced does not alter the conclusions stated within the EIA Report.

APPENDIX 1: UPDATED TABLE V2-9.6: DIRECT FORESTRY AND WOODLAND LOSS

Table V2-9.6: Construction Phase Woodland Removal

Section	Woodland Type	Woodland Classification	Area (ha)	Felling Requirement
0	Commercial	Conifer	7.8	OC
1	Commercial	Conifer	25.2	OC
	Commercial	Conifer	4.1	New Access Track
2	Commercial	Conifer	4.5	OC
3	Commercial	Conifer	17.9	OC
	Commercial	Conifer	0.2	New Access Track
	Native	Semi-natural broadleaved	0.06	OC
	Native	Semi-natural broadleaved	0.97	New Access Track
	Native	Semi-natural broadleaved	0.13	Crown Reduction (not included within woodland removal area)
	Native	Ancient Woodland	0.24	Crown Reduction (not included within woodland removal area)
4	Commercial	Conifer	14.53	OC
	Native	Semi-natural broadleaved	7.47	OC
	Native	Ancient Woodland	2.43	OC
	Commercial	Conifer	2..69	New Access Track
	Native	Semi-natural broadleaved	0.69	New Access Track
	Native	Ancient Woodland	0.31	New Access Track
5	Commercial	Conifer	20.48	OC
	Commercial	Ancient Woodland	1.42	OC
	Native	Semi-natural broadleaved	1.56	OC

Section	Woodland Type	Woodland Classification	Area (ha)	Felling Requirement
	Native	Ancient Woodland	2.67	OC
	Commercial	Conifer	0.96	New Access Track
	Commercial	Ancient Woodland	0.64	New Access Track
	Native	Semi-natural broadleaved	1.15	New Access Track
	Native	Ancient Woodland	0.31	New Access Track
TOTAL			118.41	

APPENDIX 2: UPDATED ANNEX 2 OF APPENDIX V2-9.1: WOODLAND REPORTS - BREAKDOWN OF TIMBER VOLUMES AND AREAS

Species Key:

MC – Mixed conifer species

SP – Scots pine

JL – Japanese larch

NBL – Native broadleaf species

AWI- Ancient Woodland Inventory

Section	Woodland Name	Proposed Development OC Tree Removal Area (ha)	Species	AWI Area (ha)	Volume (m ³)	Activity
0	Balmeanach Site 1 (7.8 ha)	7.8	MC	0	1501	Fell and Extract
1	Glenvicaskill Site 2 (4.3 ha)	4.29	MC	0	519	Fell and Extract
	Mugeary Site 3 (14.3 ha)	14.3	MC	0	4352	Fell and Extract
	Glenvarigill Site 4 (10.7 ha)	3.1 7.6	MC MC	0	1574 0	Fell and Extract Mulch
2	Broadford West Site 5 (4.5 ha)	4.5	MC	0	22	Mulch
3	Riverside & Old Corry Site 6 (8.6 ha)	8.6	MC	0		Fell and extract
	Kyle Farm & Mudalach Site 7 (10.9 ha)	0.37	NBL	0.24		Crown reduction
		9.46 1.03	MC NBL		2230	Fell and extract Fell to waste
4	Bernera Farm Site 8 (15.24 ha)	3.77	MC	0	1020	Mulch
		1.05	NBL	0		Mulch
		10	MC	0	8027	Fell and extract
		0.34	NBL	0		Fell and extract

Section	Woodland Name	Proposed Development OC Tree Removal Area (ha)	Species	AWI Area (ha)	Volume (m ³)	Activity
	Towers BF95-BF96 Site 9 (0.33 ha)	0.33	NBL/SP	0.29		Fell to waste
	Scallasaig Site 10 (2.8 ha)	2.79	NBL	0.51		Fell to waste
	Eileanreach Site 11 (1.4 ha)	1.36	MC	0	1614	Fell and extract
	Arnisdale Site 12 (0.43 ha)	0.23	NBL	0.23		Fell to waste
	Kinloch Hourn Site 13 (1.3 ha)	1.63 0.06	NBL JL	0.68	33	Fell to waste Fell to waste
	Glenquoich Site 14 (6.8 ha)	2.09 3.2 1.27	MC NBL/SP NBL		780	Fell and extract Mulch Fell to waste
5	Tomdoun & East Glenquoich Site 15 (10.3 ha)	0.5 2 7.84	NBL/SP MC MC	0.5 0 0	334	Mulch Mulch Fell and extract
	Lochan Torr Site 16 (1.9 ha)	0.98 0.96	NBL MC	0.69 0.43	169	Fell and extract Fell and extract
	Ardochy Site 17 (5.4 ha)	1.32 4.1	NBL MC	0.56 1	134	Fell and extract Fell and extract
	Druim Buidhe Site 18 (1.46 ha)	1.46	NBL	1.13		Mulch
	Kilfinnan Site 19 (9.6 ha)	1.09 8.6	NBL MC		2179	Fell and extract Fell and extract
	Leacan Dubha Site 20 (0.35 ha)	0.34	NBL	0.1		Fell and Extract

Areas (ha) and Volumes (m3) by Removal Technique

Activity	Area (ha)	Volume (m ³)
Fell	86.3	23,413
Mulch / Fell to waste	31.7	1075
TOTAL	118	24,488

Species by Area (ha) to be removed.

Species	Area (ha)
NBL (including NBL/SP)	17.56
MC	100.43
TOTAL	118

Ancient and Semi-natural Woodland (ha) to be removed.

Semi-natural woodland Classification	Area (ha)
Ancient Woodland (all categories on AWI)	7.78
Semi-natural Woodland	11.9
TOTAL	19.68