

APPENDIX D ANCIENT WOODLAND INVENTORY NOTES

- 1.1.1 This appendix provides details on individual parcels of land within the Revised Scheme, which are listed on the Ancient Woodland Inventory (AWI). All land within the Revised scheme that is listed on the AWI is categorised as Ancient Woodland 2a, and is currently managed by Forestry and Land Scotland (FLS) as broadleaved woodland or non-native conifer plantation (i.e. Plantation on Ancient Woodland Sites (PAWS)). This Appendix provides additional detail to the current ecological value of this land, which is considered within the Environmental Assessment (EA).
- 1.1.2 The usage of ‘ancient semi-natural woodland (ASNW)’ within the EA defines woodland which is listed on the AWI as 2a, and is comprised of native semi-natural woodland, which support species indicative of ancient woodland. All habitats listed on the AWI were considered to be ancient woodland for assessment purposes, unless there was reasonable justification to assume that the land has been altered to such an extent that woodland could no longer persist (for example, former development such as construction of hard surfacing).
- 1.1.3 FLS Land Management Plan¹ (LMP) for the area was assessed to determine when woodland within the site was felled, and the future plans for restocking. Within the LMP, the area in the north of the track is referred to as ‘Zone 1a Kerrow Blocks’¹ within the Management Zone Map.
- 1.1.4 Felling at the site occurred between June 2016 and May 2020 visible from Google Earth Imagery. Historical data, taken from National Library of Scotland² show much of the land was native woodland on maps prior to 1955, and coniferous woodland thereafter (OS One Inch 7th Series, 1955-1961). This indicates that the land has been used as commercial forestry for at least 64 years. As outlined in the LMP, the objective is to “Restore PAWS [*plantations on ancient woodland sites*] and establish productive Scots pine and conifer/broadleaf mixtures”. Therefore, future land use would be expected to be returned to woodland.
- 1.1.5 An assessment of the ecological value of the land parcels within the revised scheme (numbered 1 to 9) that are listed within the AWI are shown in **Table A1** and **Figure A1**. This assessment is based on Site survey data and describes the habitats that are currently present. In general, the area has been highly disturbed by forestry operations. In particular, the micro-topography has been heavily altered in some places through the installation of drainage ditches and the creation of ridges and furrows. The exception to this is one land parcel, which was still considered to support ASNW (Number 8, **Table A1** below), with all other areas considered to be PAWS, with the exception of the existing access track (which is no longer considered to support ancient woodland). One parcel of land (**Figure A1**) was identified as open moorland (Number 1, **Table A1** below) and is not considered to be ASNW or PAWS. The table below is intended to set out the current status of the AWI areas. It is noted that some areas no longer support woodland, but taking a precautionary approach and in line with the BNG assessment, all areas (with the exception of the area under hard surface) are considered to be irreplaceable habitat and SSSEN Transmission commit to providing an appropriate

¹ Forestry and Land Scotland (2021) *North Region Glen Affric Land Management Plan* [Online]. Available at: <https://forestryandland.gov.scot/media/xw5gfzf/glen-affric-lmp-full-text-170221.pdf>

² National Library of Scotland (2025). *Georeferenced maps*. Available at: <https://maps.nls.uk/geo/explore/#zoom=14.3&lat=57.34819&lon=-4.74320&layers=11&b=ESRIWorld&o=100> [Accessed: 02 October 2025]

level of compensation for this loss of this habitat. Further details with respect to this are set out in the BNG assessment and accompanying Annex 1 on offsetting.

- 1.1.6 Note this table only includes those areas on the AWI which will be subject to impact from the permanent and temporary infrastructure and as such the total area discussed below, differs from that discussed in the BNG report. (Noting within the BNG report there is an area listed on the AWI will be subject to habitat enhancements).

Table A1: Individual parcels of habitat within the Revised Scheme, within AWI-listed areas

Number	Area (in hectares) within Revised Scheme site	Historical land use Information	Results of the UKHab survey and Habitat Condition Assessment value	Summary of current baseline
1	0.00057 ha	Open moorland.	Wet heath h1b6 (NVC type = M15b) Good condition	Not wooded with native woodland. No ancient woodland indicator species present. Considered to be not to be PAWS or ASNW, as it has not been continuously wooded.
2	1.35 ha	Management Zone Map as 'Zone 1a Kerrow Blocks'. Felled coniferous plantation The micro-topography is considerably altered by former forestry operations, with drainage channels, ditches and furrows.	Other coniferous (plantation) woodland – felled w2c (NVC = U2) Species present include: Wavy hair-grass <i>Avenella flexuosa</i> , sheep's fescue <i>Festuca ovina</i> , sweet vernal-grass <i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i> , heath bedstraw <i>Galium saxatile</i> , Yorkshire-fog <i>Holcus lanatus</i> , soft rush <i>Juncus effusus</i> , tormentil <i>Potentilla erecta</i> , hard-fern <i>Blechnum spicant</i> and foxglove <i>Digitalis purpurea</i> . Poor condition	No longer wooded with native woodland. Micro-topography indicates extensive of ground disturbance. No ancient woodland indicator species present. Considered to be PAWS, rather than ASNW.

Number	Area (in hectares) within Revised Scheme site	Historical land use Information	Results of the UKHab survey and Habitat Condition Assessment value	Summary of current baseline
3	0.32 ha	Management Zone Map as 'Zone 1a Kerrow Blocks'.	Dense scrub h3 (No NVC-type) Various patches of dense scrub. Dominated by downy birch <i>Betula pubescens</i> in a dense thicket, some over bracken <i>Pteridium aquilinum</i> . Poor condition	No woodland structure present (the downy birch present is dense and without a typical understory, or canopy structure associated with a woodland). No ancient woodland indicator species present. Considered to be PAWS, rather than ASNW. Self-seeded birch may have come from a seedbank or windblown seeds.
4	0.31 ha	Management Zone Map as 'Zone 1a Kerrow Blocks'.	Other broadleaved woodland w1g (These woodlands have no recognisable NVC type) Habitat present is similar to dense scrub in Area 3, but the trees are taller in height and thus assigned as broadleaved woodland. Poor condition	No ancient woodland indicator species present. The woodland not considered to be ASNW, due to the lack of indicator species in the ground flora, but is considered PAWS.
5	0.39 ha	Management Zone Map as 'Zone 1a Kerrow Blocks'. These woodlands are managed as commercial plantation and have no recognisable NVC type.	Other mixed woodland w1h In two parcels of woodland. Silver birch <i>Betula pendula</i> and downy birch and Sitka spruce, with some alder <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and a bracken- dominated ground flora. Poor condition	No ancient woodland indicator species present. Considered to be PAWS, rather than ASNW.

Number	Area (in hectares) within Revised Scheme site	Historical land use Information	Results of the UKHab survey and Habitat Condition Assessment value	Summary of current baseline
6	0.04 ha	Management Zone Map as 'Zone 1a Kerrow Blocks'. These woodlands are managed as commercial plantation and have no recognisable NVC type.	Other coniferous (plantation) woodland w2c (No NVC) Dominated by Sitka spruce, with little to no ground flora. Poor condition	No native woodland present. No ancient woodland indicator species present. Considered to be PAWS, rather than ASNW.
7	0.1 ha	Management Zone Map as 'Zone 1a Kerrow Blocks'.	Bracken g1c Dominated by dense bracken. (NVC = U20) Poor condition	No native woodland present. No ancient woodland indicators recorded. Considered to be PAWS, rather than ASNW.
8	0.26 ha	Management Zone Map as 'Zone 1a Kerrow Blocks'.	Upland birchwood w1e (NVC type = W17c) The woodland is dominated by downy birch with sweet vernal grass, common bent <i>Agrostis capillaris</i> , wavy hair-grass, purple moor-grass <i>Molinia caerulea</i> , beech fern <i>Phegopteris connectilis</i> , and the mosses <i>Hylocomium splendens</i> and <i>Dicranum scoparium</i> . The woodland is located on steep- sloping, rocky ground on relatively thin, acidic soils. Moderate condition	Native birch woodland present (considered to be ASNW). Considered to be ancient woodland proper.
9	0.61 ha	Management Zone Map as 'Zone 1a Kerrow Blocks'.	Unvegetated surface.	Not continually wooded until this day. Not ancient woodland / PAWS.

FIGURE A1 BASELINE HABITATS IMPACTED LISTED ON THE AWI



Legend

AWI Woodland (2a)

Permanent Layout

Access Track

Access Track Earthworks

UK Habitat Classification

g1c - Bracken

h3 - Dense scrub; plantation (29)

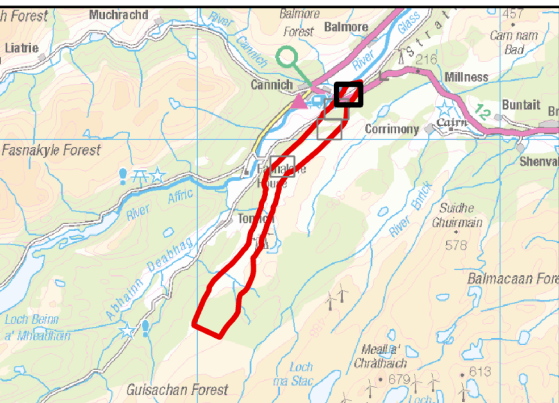
u1c - Artificial unvegetated, unsealed surface

w1e - Upland birchwoods

w1g - Other woodland; broadleaved

w1h - Other woodland; mixed

w2c - Other coniferous woodland



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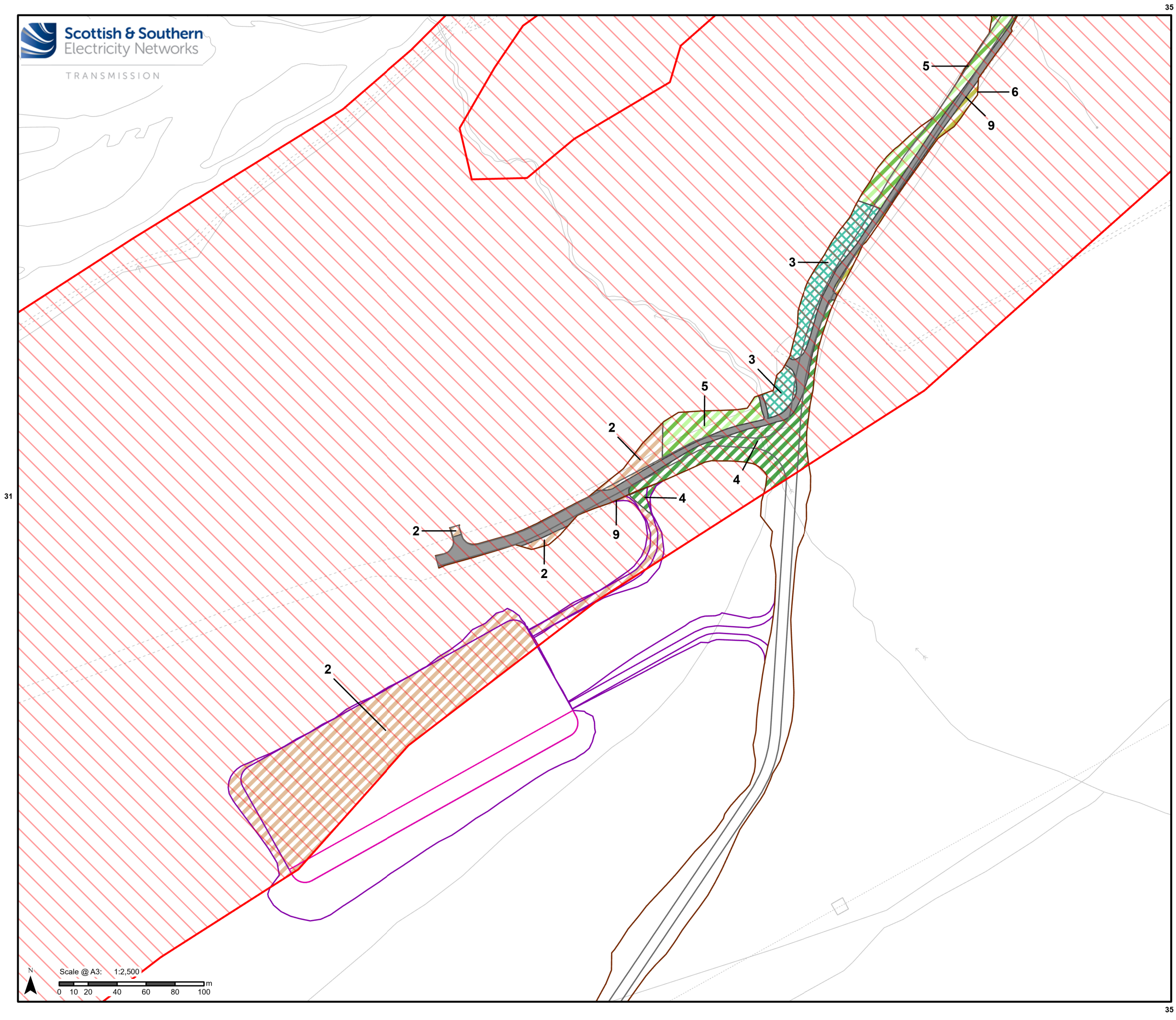
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Title:
Baseline Habitats Impacted within Ancient Woodland
Inventory Listed Areas
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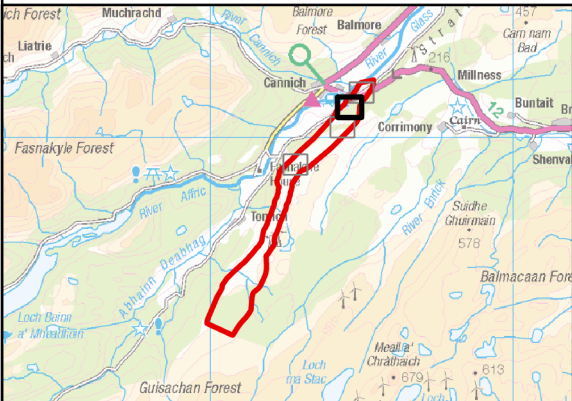
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Drawing: Figure A1



Legend

- AWI Woodland (2a)
- Permanent Layout*
- Access Track
 - Access Track Earthworks
 - Borrow Pit
- Temporary Layout*
- Northern Temporary Compound
- UK Habitat Classification*
- h3 - Dense scrub; plantation (29)
 - u1c - Artificial unvegetated, unsealed surface
 - w1g - Other woodland; broadleaved
 - w1h - Other woodland; mixed
 - w2c - Other coniferous woodland
 - w2c - Other coniferous woodland (felled)



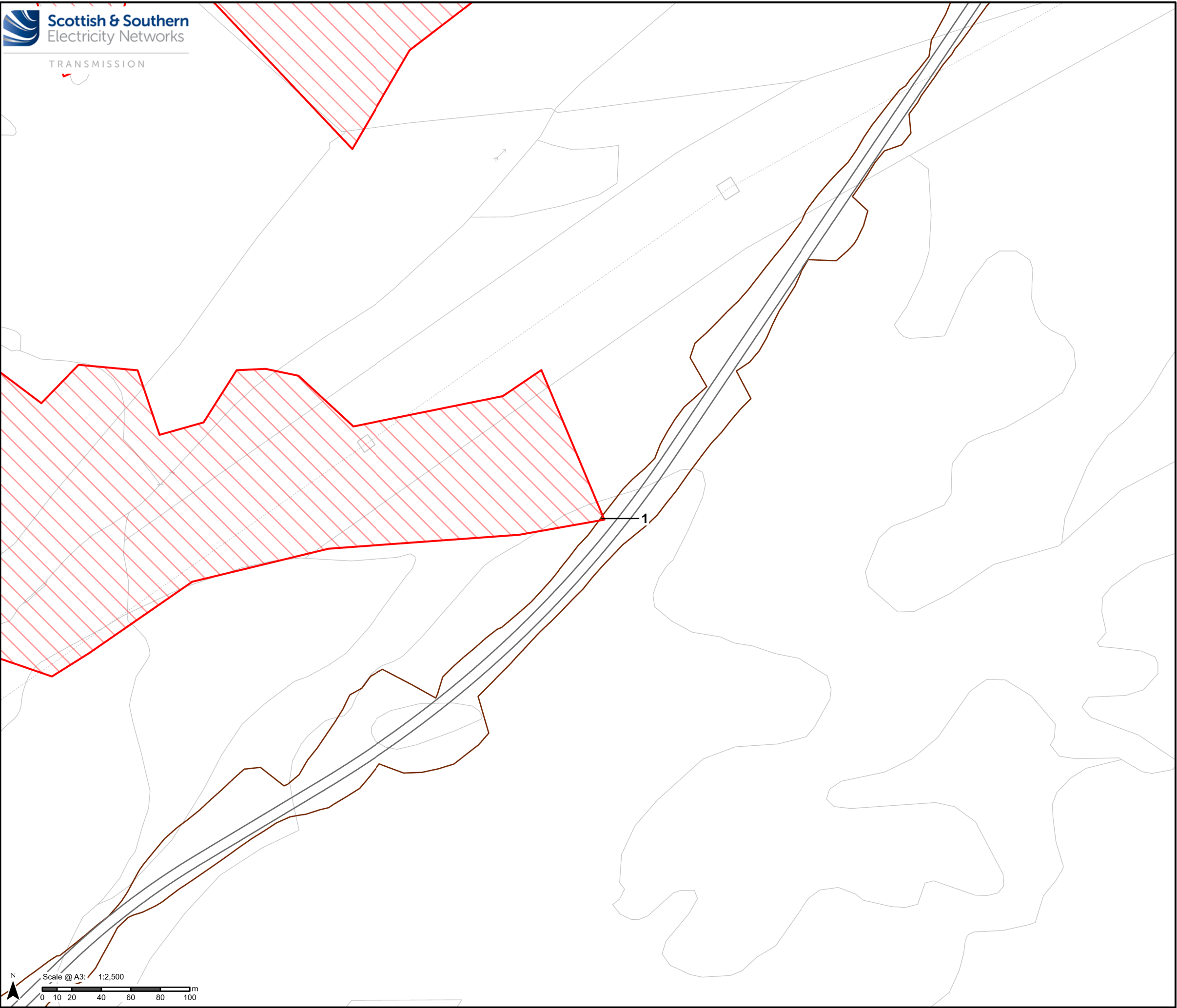
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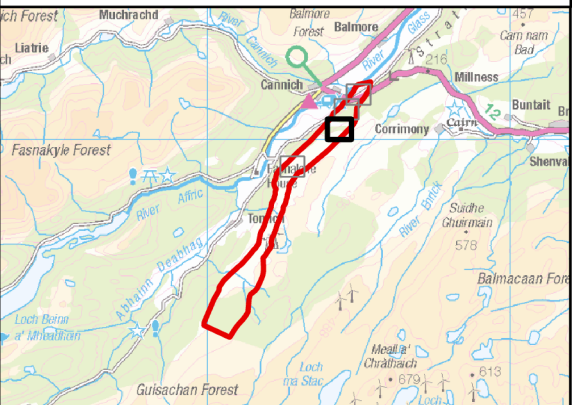
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Drawing: Figure A1



Legend

-  AWI Woodland (2a)
- Permanent Layout
-  Access Track
-  Access Track Earthworks
- UK Habitat Classification
-  h1b6 - Wet heathland with cross-leaved heath; upland (H4010)



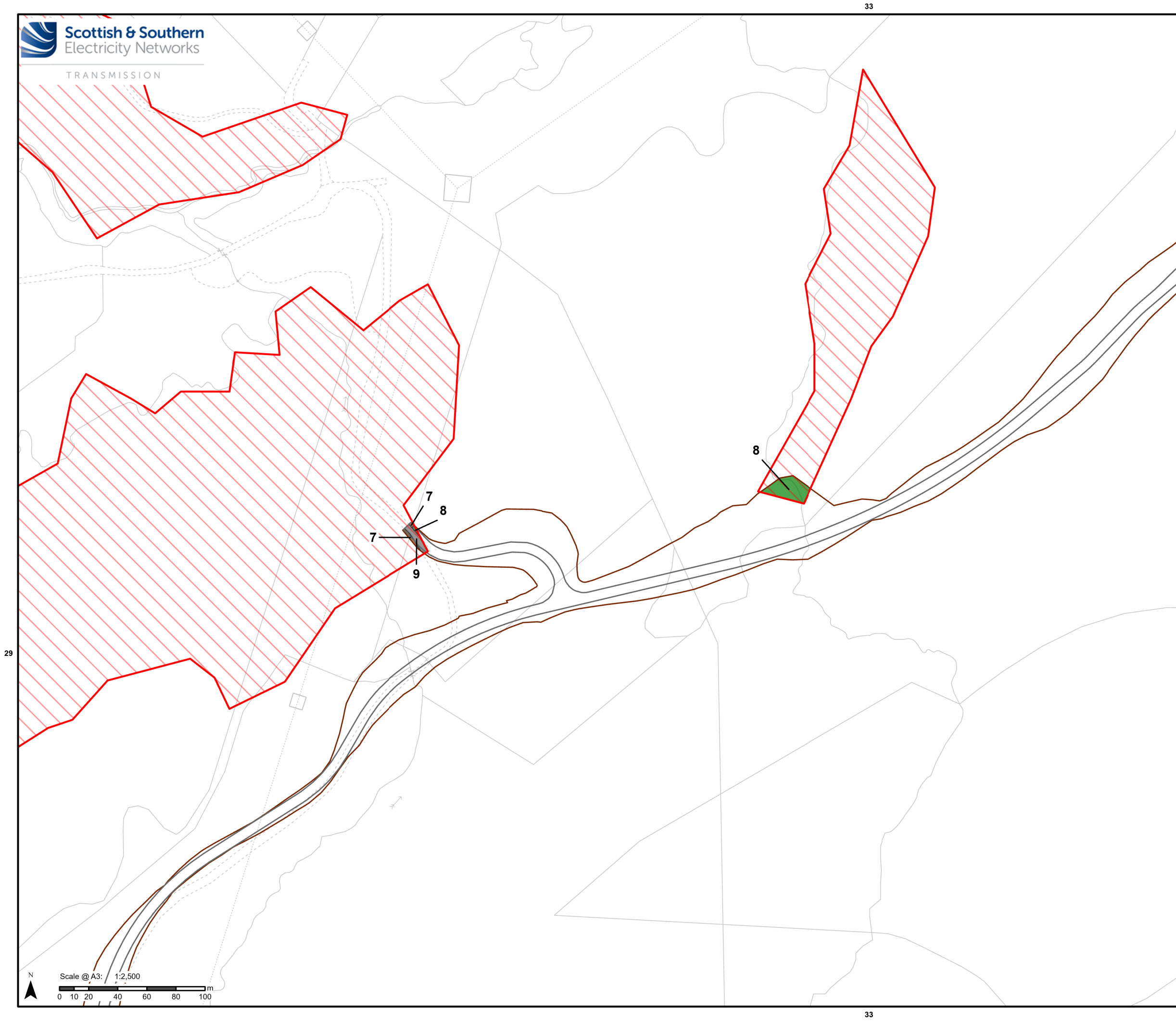
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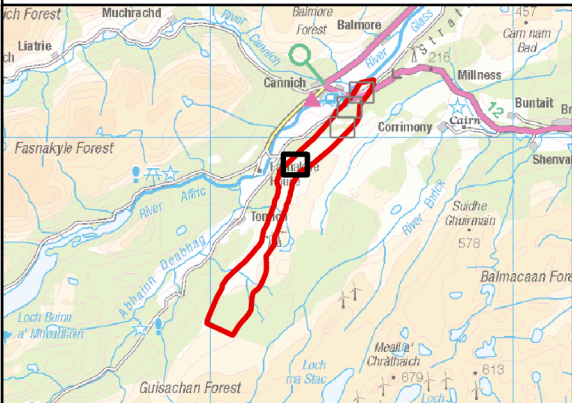
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Legend

-  AWI Woodland (2a)
- Permanent Layout*
-  Access Track
-  Access Track Earthworks
- UK Habitat Classification*
-  g1c - Bracken
-  u1c - Artificial unvegetated, unsealed surface
-  w1e - Upland birchwoods



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