

Blarghour 132 kV Wind Farm Connection

Alignment Consultation Document

May 2026

LT000315



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ACRONYMS AND GLOSSARY

Term	Definition
Alignment	A centre line of an overhead line OHL, along with location of key angle structures.
Amenity	The natural environment, cultural heritage, landscape and visual quality. Also includes the impact of SHE Transmission's works on communities, such as the effects of noise and disturbance from construction activities.
Ancient Woodland Inventory (AWI)	A database of land that is currently wooded and has been continually wooded, at least since 1750, which are considered irreplaceable habitats.
Area of Panoramic Quality (APQ)	A locally designated landscape considered to be of high scenic value.
Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG)	An approach to development that aims to leave the natural environment in a measurably better state than it was pre-development. It focuses on the change in the biodiversity value of a site, comparing the pre and post construction biodiversity values to ensure a positive effect overall.
Conductor	A metallic wire strung from structure to structure, to carry electric current.
Consultation	The dynamic process of dialogue between individuals or groups, based on a genuine exchange of views and, normally, with the objective of influencing decisions, policies or programmes of action.
Corridor	A linear area which allows a continuous connection between the defined connection points. The corridor may vary in width along its length; in unconstrained areas it may be many kilometres wide.
Downlead	The section of overhead line connecting the terminal pole to substation equipment.
Energy Consents Unit (ECU)	The Scottish Government body responsible for determining applications for energy infrastructure consent under the Electricity Act 1989.
Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)	A formal process set down in The Electricity Works (EIA) (Scotland) Regulations 2000 (as amended in 2008) used to systematically identify, predict and assess the likely significant environmental impacts of a proposed project or development.
Gardens and Designed Landscapes (GDLs)	The Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes lists those gardens or designed landscapes which are considered by a panel of experts to be of national importance.
Groundwater Dependent Terrestrial Ecosystems (GWDTE)	Wetlands which critically depend on groundwater flows. They are safeguarded by the Water Framework Directive (WFD) and are sensitive to hydrological and ecological changes.
Habitat	Term most accurately meaning the place in which a species lives, but also used to describe plant communities or agglomerations of plant communities.
Kilovolt (kV)	A unit of electrical potential equal to one thousand volts.
Listed Building	Building included on the list of buildings of special architectural or historic interest and afforded statutory protection under the 'Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Scotland) Act 1997' and other planning legislation. Classified categories A – C(s).
Micrositing	The process of positioning individual structures to avoid localised environmental or technical constraints.
Mitigation	Term used to indicate avoidance, remediation or alleviation of adverse impacts.
National Scenic Area (NSA)	A national level designation applied to those landscapes considered to be of exceptional scenic value.
Native Woodland Survey Scotland (NWSS)	A national inventory of native woodlands in Scotland.
Operational Corridor	The cleared area required to safely operate and maintain an overhead line.
Overhead line (OHL)	An electric line installed above ground, usually supported by lattice steel towers or poles.
Private Water Supply (PWS)	A supply of water not provided by a public water authority, typically serving individual properties.
Red-Amber-Green (RAG) Rating	A qualitative rating system used to compare relative levels of constraint or impact.
Scheduled Monument	A monument which has been scheduled by the Scottish Ministers as being of national importance under the terms of the 'Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979'.
Schedule 1 Bird Species	Bird species afforded special protection under Schedule 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)	Areas of national importance. The aim of the SSSI network is to maintain an adequate representation of all natural and semi-natural habitats and native species across Britain.
Span	The section of overhead line between two structures.
Special Area of Conservation (SAC)	An area designated under the EC Habitats Directive to ensure that rare, endangered or vulnerable habitats or species of community interest are either maintained at or restored to a favourable conservation status.
Special Protection Area (SPA)	An area designated under the Wild Birds Directive (Directive 74/409/EEC) to protect important bird habitats. Implemented under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.
Stakeholders	Organisations and individuals who can affect or are affected by SHE Transmission works.
Study Area	The area within which the corridor, route and alignment study takes place.
Terminal Structure	A structure (tower or pole) required where the line terminates either at a substation or at the beginning and end of an underground cable section.
The National Grid	The electricity transmission network in the Great Britain.
Water Framework Directive (WFD)	European legislation aimed at achieving good ecological status for surface and groundwater bodies.
Wayleave	A voluntary agreement entered into between a landowner upon whose land an overhead line is to be constructed and SHE Transmission
Wild Land Area (WLA)	Those areas comprising the greatest and most extensive areas of wild characteristics within Scotland.

PREFACE

This Consultation Document has been prepared by ERM on behalf of Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks Transmission (SSEN Transmission), to seek comments from all interested parties on the Preferred Alignment identified for the proposed Blarghour Wind Farm Connection between the consented Blarghour Wind Farm Substation and Creag Dhubh Substation, which is currently under construction.

This Consultation Document is available online at:

<https://www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/projects/project-map/blarghour-wind-farm-connection-project/>.

A face to face public consultation event detailing the proposals described in this document will be held at the following time:

Thursday 11th June 2026, from 2pm - 7pm, Loch Fyne Hotel, Inveraray, PA32 8XT.

Comments on this document should be sent to:

Caitlin Marini
Scottish & Southern Electricity Networks (SSEN) Transmission
1 Waterloo St
Glasgow
G2 6AY
Email: Caitlin.Marini@sse.com
Mobile: 07901135758

All comments are requested by 13th July 2026

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks (SSEN) Transmission is proposing to construct and operate a 132 kilo-volt (kV) overhead line (OHL) to connect the consented Blarghour Wind Farm to the Creag Dhubbh Substation, which is currently under construction. The Proposed Development comprises approximately 11 kilometers (km) of single-circuit OHL supported by Trident 'H' poles and is required to connect the consented wind farm to the national electricity transmission network (Figure 1.1, Appendix B).

A Preferred Route for the connection was identified and consulted on in early 2026 following appraisal against environmental, engineering and economic considerations. This became the Proposed Route following the routeing consultation, to be taken forward into the alignment selection phase. Within the Proposed Route, two alternative alignment options (Alignment 1 and Alignment 2) have been identified. Figure 1.1, Appendix B, illustrates the two alignment options within the Proposed Route.

This Consultation Document presents the environmental, engineering and economic baseline and appraisal of Alignment 1 and Alignment 2 and describes the rationale for selecting a Preferred Alignment to take forward to the next stage of design and application for consent.

Both alignment options are similar for the majority of their length, diverging west and east of Stronmagachan. The appraisal demonstrates that, while both alignments are technically feasible and broadly comparable across several topic areas, key differences arise in relation to impacts on woodland listed on the Ancient Woodland Inventory (AWI), biodiversity, hydrology, flood risk and long-term operational considerations.

On balance, and using professional judgement, Alignment 1 is identified as the Preferred Alignment. Alignment 1 would result in substantially less loss of irreplaceable habitat (AWI), reduced interaction with floodplain areas and private water supplies, and lower biodiversity impact compared to Alignment 2. From an engineering perspective, Alignment 1 also benefits from more reliable access, fewer constraints related to ground conditions and hydrology and lower long-term operational risk. From a cost perspective, both alignment options are similar.

SSEN Transmission is seeking feedback from members of the public, statutory consultees and other stakeholders on the alignment options and the identification of a Preferred Alignment. Responses received during this consultation will inform further refinement of the alignment prior to progression to detailed design, Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and consenting under Section 37 of the Electricity Act 1989.

Face to face consultation events will be held at Loch Fyne Hotel in Inveraray on Thursday 11th June between 2pm and 7pm. Meetings will be arranged with statutory and other stakeholders. The responses received will inform further refinement of the Preferred Alignment, leading to the confirmation of a Proposed Alignment to be taken forward to the EIA and consenting stage.

Please submit your comments to Caitlin Marini, Community Liaison Manager, SSEN Transmission, 1 Waterloo St, Glasgow, G2 6AY (Caitlin.marini@sse.com). All comments are requested by 13th July 2026.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Purpose of this Document

SSEN Transmission operating under licence held by Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission plc, is proposing to construct and operate a 132 kV OHL to connect the consented Blarghour Wind Farm to the Creag Dhubh Substation, which is currently under construction ('Proposed Development') (Figure 1.1, Appendix B).

The purpose of this document is to inform the face to face consultation event for the Proposed Development, and to aid the overall project understanding for stakeholders.

This document presents the findings of an environmental, engineering and cost appraisal of the two alignment options identified by SSEN Transmission and describes the process by which a Preferred Alignment for the OHL has been selected. The Preferred Alignment is considered to provide the optimal opportunity to achieve an economically viable, technically feasible and environmentally balanced solution.

This Consultation Document invites comments from all interested parties on the two alignment options under consideration. All comments received will inform SSEN Transmission's selection of a Proposed Alignment to be taken forward for further environmental assessment and more detailed technical assessment prior to submission of an application for consent under section 37 of the Electricity Act 1989 (hereafter referred to as s37 consent).

1.2 Background and Project Need

Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks Transmission (hereafter referred to as 'SSEN Transmission'), operating under licence held by Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission plc is the electricity transmission licence holder in the north of Scotland and has a duty under Section 9 of the Electricity Act 1989 to 'develop and maintain an efficient, coordinated and economical system of electricity transmission and to facilitate competition in the generation and supply of electricity.' SSEN Transmission also has obligations to offer non-discriminatory terms for connection to the transmission system, both for new generation and for new sources of electricity demand.

The developer of Blarghour Wind Farm (Coriolis Energy) has been granted consent by the Scottish Government's Energy Consents Unit under Section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989. An application was subsequently submitted to vary the original consent to an 84 MW wind farm (ECU00004754), which has a contracted connection date of March 2029.

SSEN Transmission is proposing to construct and operate a new 132 kilovolt (kV) single circuit OHL to connect the consented Blarghour Wind Farm to the wider electricity network. The Proposed Development will extend approximately 11 km and be comprised of Trident 'H' poles. The OHL will connect from the proposed substation within Blarghour Wind Farm to the Creag Dhubh Substation, which is currently under construction.

SSEN Transmission has a statutory duty under Schedule 9 of the Electricity Act 1989 to connect the new development to the transmission network by the contracted connection date.

1.3 Document Structure

This Consultation Document comprises the following sections:

- Section 1: Introduction – Purpose of the document, background and project need, document structure and next steps;
- Section 2: Description of the Proposals – Project overview and construction activities;
- Section 3: Alignment Selection Process – Guidance, route selection history, baseline constraints and appraisal methodology;
- Section 4: Description of Alignments – Description of Alignment 1 and Alignment 2;
- Section 5: Alignment Appraisal – Environmental, engineering and economic appraisal of each alignment option;
- Section 6: Comparative Analysis and Preferred Alignment – Comparison of the alignment options and selection of the Preferred Alignment; and
- Section 7: Consultation on the Proposals – Consultation process and next steps.

1.4 Next Steps

As part of the consultation exercise, comments are sought from members of the public, statutory consultees and other stakeholders on the Preferred Alignment presented in this report.

A Report on Consultation will be published following the close of the consultation period. This will summarise the responses received and explain how these have been taken into account in the selection of a Proposed Alignment.

Upon completion of the alignment selection process, a final Proposed Alignment will be confirmed and taken forward to the EIA stage. This will be supported by detailed technical and environmental assessment and will inform an application to Scottish Ministers for consent under Section 37 of the Electricity Act 1989 for the construction and operation of the OHL.

It is anticipated that the application for consent will be submitted in Q4 2026.

2. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSALS

The consented Blarghour Wind Farm is an onshore wind project comprising of 14 turbines, located in Argyll and Bute, approximately 7 km northwest of Inveraray. The Proposed Development comprises approximately 11 km of OHL connecting the consented Blarghour Wind Farm Substation to the Creag Dhubh Substation, which is under construction.

The type of technology solution proposed and appraised for this connection is Trident 'H' poles terminating within each substation compound, via a downlead.

Trident 'H' poles are typically between 11 m - 17 m in height. The selection of the support types for the OHL will be undertaken separately from the OHL alignment process. The final support type selection is generally influenced by three main factors: altitude, weather and the local topography. At this stage, it is anticipated that wooden poles are likely to be used.

Support height and span lengths will vary depending on the factors outlined above, with supports typically being spaced closer together at higher altitudes to account for increased exposure to high winds, ice and other adverse weather conditions. As a result, the exact support configuration, height and the distance between supports will only be confirmed following completion of a detailed engineering alignment study.

The proposed Trident 'H' poles will support three conductors (wires) on three insulators positioned at the top of the pole. A typical design for a Trident 'H' pole structure can be seen in Photograph 2.1.

Photograph 2.1: Indicative Trident 'H' Pole Example



2.1 Construction Activities

Key tasks during construction of the Proposed Development will involve:

- Establishment of suitable laydown areas for material and installation of temporary track solutions as necessary;
- Establishment of temporary construction compounds and welfare units;
- Construction of new (temporary and permanent) access tracks (where required);
- Delivery of structures and materials to site; and
- Assembly and erection of Trident 'H' pole structures and stays.

Installation of the Trident 'H' poles will involve the following tasks:

- Excavation of a suitable area for the Trident 'H' poles, and backfilling after installation of the pole;
- In some pole locations, it may be necessary to add imported hardcore backfill around the pole foundations to provide additional stability in areas where the natural sub soils have poor compaction qualities;
- In some pole locations where shallow bedrock is present, it may be necessary to break or remove rock to accommodate pole foundations;
- Conductors will be installed on the poles using full tension stringing to prevent the conductor coming into contact with the ground; and
- Remedial works will be carried out to reinstate the immediate vicinity of permanent infrastructure and the footprint of any temporary infrastructure, returning any ground disturbed to pre-existing use.

2.1.1 Forestry Removal

Woodland removal which may be required prior to the construction work will be identified and described after a Proposed Alignment has been selected. Removal of sections of commercial forest would be undertaken in consultation with Scottish Forestry and affected landowners.

After felling, timber removed that is commercially viable will be sold and the remaining forest material will be dealt with in a way that delivers the best practicable environmental outcome and is compliant with waste regulations and guidance including SEPA's "Use of Trees Cleared to Facilitate Development on Afforested Land"¹ guidance.

An operational corridor will be required to enable the safe operation and maintenance of the OHL. This will vary depending on the type of woodland (based on species present) in proximity to the OHL. Within areas of commercial forestry, the operational corridor will be 72 m (36 m on either side of the OHL). In areas of native woodland, it is usually possible to provide a narrower corridor due to a reduced risk of trees falling on the OHL.

2.1.2 Access During Construction

Access to every OHL support structure is required during construction. A more detailed plan for access during construction will be prepared once a Proposed Alignment has been identified and the preferred support structure type selected. Where feasible, existing access tracks will be used. Opportunities exist for the Proposed Development to utilise accesses created by other projects consented or under construction in the local area including; Blarghour Wind Farm², Creag Dhubh to Inveraray 275 kV OHL³ and Inveraray to Taynuilt (ITE/ITW) Tie-In to Creag Dhubh Substation⁴. Where this is not possible, new access tracks will be required and where there is a justified long-term requirement for operations and maintenance they will be left in place, otherwise they will be removed after commissioning.

The type of temporary track required will depend on a variety of factors including the sensitivity of the location, the type of land use and the ground conditions, with the latter confirmed through pre-construction ground information. When the use of heavy plant and machinery is not required and the volume of traffic to carry out the works is not substantial, use can be made of low ground pressure vehicles which do not require a formal track. Stone tracks will be required when

¹ Use of Trees Cleared to Facilitate Development on Afforested Land (2014) Joint SEPA, SNH and Forestry Commission Scotland Guidance: https://www.sepa.org.uk/media/143799/use_of_trees_cleared_to_facilitate_development_on_afforested_land_sepa_snh_fcs_guidance_-_april_2014.pdf

² <https://www.energyconsents.scot/ApplicationDetails.aspx?cr=ECU00004754>

³ <https://www.energyconsents.scot/ApplicationDetails.aspx?cr=ECU00003442>

⁴ <https://www.energyconsents.scot/ApplicationDetails.aspx?cr=ECU00004737>

heavy plant or a substantial volume of traffic is anticipated; these may be floated over areas of peat, or may use cut and fill approaches, subject to ground conditions and gradients. In areas identified as sensitive, temporary matting would be used for access, provided that the ground is relatively level.

2.1.3 SSEN Transmission's Biodiversity Ambition

SSEN Transmission is committed to protecting and enhancing the environment by minimising the potential impacts from their construction and operational activities. As part of this approach, SSEN Transmission has made commitments within its Sustainability Strategy (2018)⁵ and Sustainability Plan (2019)⁶ for new infrastructure projects to:

- Ensure natural environment considerations are included in decision making at each stage of a project's development;
- Utilise the mitigation hierarchy to avoid impacts by consideration of biodiversity in project design;
- Positively contribute to the UN and Scottish Government Biodiversity strategies by achieving an overall 'No Net Loss' on new infrastructure projects gaining consent in 2020 onwards and achieving Net Gain on projects gaining consent in 2025 onwards; and
- Work with the supply chain to gain the maximum benefit during asset replacement and upgrades.

The design and evolution of this project will be carried out in line with these commitments.

2.1.4 Indicative Project Construction Programme

It is anticipated that construction of the Proposed Development will take place over a 15 to 18 month period, following the granting of consents, although detailed programming of works will be the responsibility of the Principal Contractor in agreement with SSEN Transmission. The programme is currently under development, indicative milestones are as follows:

- Construction Start: January 2028; and
- Operation: April 2029

⁵ Delivering a smart, sustainable energy future: The Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission Sustainability Strategy (2018) <https://www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/media/2701/sustainability-strategy.pdf>

⁶ RIIO-T2 Sustainability Action Plan (2019) <https://www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/media/3759/sustainability-action-plan.pdf>

3. ALIGNMENT SELECTION PROCESS

3.1 Guidance Documents

The approach to alignment selection is informed by the following SSEN Transmission guidance:

- Procedures for Routeing Overhead Lines and Underground Cables of 132 kV or above, SSEN Transmission, 2020 (PR-NET-ENV-501) (Routeing Guidance); and
- Biodiversity Net Gain Flow Chart, Guidance and Project Toolkit (FC-NET-ENV-500).

The guidance develops a process which aims to balance environmental, technical and economic considerations throughout a staged process.

The principal routeing stages are:

- Stage 0: Routeing Strategy Development;
- Stage 1: Corridor Selection;
- Stage 2: Route Selection;
- Stage 3: Alignment Selection; and
- Stage 4: EIA and Consenting.

This consultation document presents the appraisal completed at Stage 3 – Alignment Selection.

The method of identifying a Preferred Alignment in this study has involved the following four key tasks:

- Identification of the baseline;
- Identification of suitable alignment options;
- Environmental, technical and cost analysis of alignment option(s); and
- Identification of a Preferred Alignment.

3.2 Key Considerations

Alignment options were identified following site appraisals, taking into account the most notable constraints identified during the baseline studies. Considerations have included a review of the steps outlined in the Holford Rules and SSEN Transmission plc's approach to routeing. In summary, the following has been taken into account as far as is practicable at this stage and will be considered in more detail during Stage 4 (EIA and Consenting):

- Avoid, if possible, major areas of highest amenity value (including those covered by national and international designations and other sensitive landscapes);
- Avoid by deviation, smaller areas of high amenity value;
- Try to avoid sharp changes of direction and reduce the number of larger angle poles required;
- Avoid sky lining the route in key views and where necessary, cross ridges obliquely where a dip in the ridge provides an opportunity;
- Target the route towards open valleys and woods where the apparent height of poles will be reduced and views broken by trees (avoid slicing through landscape types and try to keep to edges and landscape transitions);
- Consider the appearance of other lines in the landscape to avoid a dominating or confusing wirescape impact; and
- Consider technical issues related to clearances, connectivity, outages, maintenance, and faults.

3.3 Route Selection History

A previous Preferred Route (Stage 2) and Preferred Alignment (Stage 3) for the Proposed Development were investigated between 2021 and 2023. The Preferred Alignment was presented at a public consultation event held in August 2023, following detailed environmental and technical assessment. Following the August 2023 consultation, detailed pre-construction ground investigation works for the Inveraray to Creag Dhubh Substation 275 kV OHL (ECU00003442)⁷

⁷ <https://www.energyconsents.scot/ApplicationDetails.aspx?cr=ECU00003442>

resulted in micro-siting amendments to the 275 kV OHL alignment. As a result, the shared corridor for the proposed Blarghour Wind Farm Connection and the Inveraray to Creag Dhuhb 275 kV OHL was narrowed, triggering new technical constructability considerations and environmental constraints. These considerations meant that the Preferred Alignment previously identified could not be progressed, and the project returned to Stage 2 Route Selection in 2025.

The 2025 Route Selection process identified a new Route 3 as the Preferred Route on environmental, engineering and economic grounds. Route 3 was consulted on in early Spring 2026 and subsequently confirmed as the Proposed Route, within which two alignment options were identified. The Preferred Alignment (identified in Section 6.2) is the subject of this consultation.

3.4 Baseline Conditions

The following information sources have informed the desk-based baseline study to identify potential environmental constraints within and adjacent to the alignment options. The Study Area focusses on the Proposed Route with topic specific buffers applied as illustrated in Figure 3.1 (Appendix B) and are listed as follows;

- Landscape – up to 15 km;
- Ecology and Ornithology – up to 15 km;
- Cultural Heritage – up to 5 km; and
- Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Geology and Soils – up to 1 km.

Identification of environmentally designated sites and other constraints has been undertaken utilising GIS datasets available via SNHI Site Link and other sources. These include:

- Special Areas of Conservation (SAC);
- Special Protection Areas (SPA);
- Proposed Special Protection Areas (pSPA);
- Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI);
- National Scenic Area (NSA);
- Wild Land Areas (WLA);
- Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) reserves;
- Land capability for agriculture;
- Ancient Woodland Inventory (AWI);
- Geological Conservation Review Sites;
- Carbon-rich soil, deep peat and priority peatland habitats; and
- Areas at risk of flooding (SEPA flood map⁸).

Identification of archaeological designations and other recorded sites, utilising GIS datasets available via Historic Environment Scotland Data Services and Local Historic Environment Teams. These include:

- World Heritage Sites (WHS) and buffers;
- Scheduled Monuments;
- Category A, B and C listed buildings; and
- Gardens and Designed Landscapes.

Further to these, other sources of information include:

- Review of the Argyll and Bute Council Local Development Plan (2024)⁹ to identify local policies and further environmental constraints and opportunities, such as core paths or other locations important to the public;

⁸ Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) Flood Map (n.d.) Interactive flood risk mapping for Scotland: <https://scottishepa.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=3098bbef089c4dd79e5344a0e1e7c91c>

⁹ Argyll and Bute Council (2024) Local Development Plan 2: <https://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/planning-and-building/planning-policy/local-development-plan-2>

- Review of Ordnance Survey (OS) mapping (1:50,000 and 1:25,000 and online GIS data sources from OS OpenData) and aerial photography (where available) to identify other potential constraints such as settlement, properties, walking routes, cycling routes etc.;
- Extrapolation of OS Vectormap GIS data to identify further environmental constraint including locations of watercourses and waterbodies, roads classifications and degree of slope;
- Review of other local information through online and published media such as tourism sites; and
- Online ornithological data available within a 2 km buffer of the Proposed Route.

3.4.1 Environmental Surveys

Vantage Point (VP) bird surveys have been undertaken across the Proposed Route. The VP surveys commenced April 2025 and were completed in March 2026. The VP surveys were conducted according to industry standard methods¹⁰ and in consultation with NatureScot (through the Scoping process), to understand the interaction between birds and potential OHLs along the route. Other limited surveys have been undertaken across parts of the Proposed Route with a full suite of surveys proposed to inform the EIA and consenting stage.

3.5 Appraisal Method

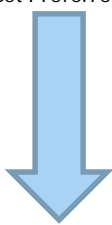
Appraisal of alignment options has involved systematic consideration against the following environmental, engineering and economic topic areas.

3.4.1 Environmental

- Natural Heritage – Designations; Protected Species; BNG; Habitats, Hydrology, Hydrogeology and Geology; and Ornithology.
- Cultural Heritage - Designations and Cultural Heritage Assets.
- People – Proximity to dwellings.
- Landscape - Designations and Visual Amenity.
- Land Use - Agriculture, Forestry and Recreation.
- Planning – Proposals.

Environmental sensitivity has been considered qualitatively, based on professional judgement and utilising the Red, Amber, Green (RAG) rating. It has been applied to each topic area indicating potential impacts. This rating is based on a four-point scale as described in Table 3.1 below. SSEN Transmission guidance “Procedures for Routeing Overhead Lines of 132 kV or above” has been followed.

Table 3.1: Environmental and Engineering RAG Rating for Comparative Analysis

 <p>Most Preferred</p> <p>Least Preferred</p>	No Impact	
	Lower Impact	High potential to accommodate the required infrastructure within the context of the consideration appraised
	Moderate Impact	Moderate potential to accommodate the required infrastructure within the context of the consideration appraised
	Higher Impact	Low potential to accommodate the required infrastructure within the context of the consideration appraised

3.4.2 Engineering

- Infrastructure crossings – Major Crossings and Road Crossings.
- Environmental design – Elevation, Atmospheric Pollution, Contaminated Land and Flooding.

¹⁰ Scottish Natural Heritage (2025). Recommended bird survey methods to inform impact assessment of onshore wind farms. Available from <https://www.nature.scot/doc/recommended-bird-survey-methods-inform-impact-assessment-onshore-windfarms> [Accessed September 2025].

- Ground conditions – Terrain and Peat.
- Construction / Maintenance – Access.
- Proximity – Clearance Distance, Communication Masts and Metallic Pipelines.

Engineering sensitivity has been considered qualitatively, based on professional judgement and utilising the RAG rating. It has been applied to each topic area indicating potential impacts. This rating is based on a four-point scale as described in Table 3.1. SSEN Transmission guidance “Procedures for Routeing Overhead Lines of 132 kV or above” has been followed.

3.5.1 Economic

Appraisal of alignment options has involved systematic consideration against capital cost including construction, diversions, public road improvements, felling and land assembly.

To allow comparative appraisal a RAG rating has been applied using the criteria described in Table 3.2.

Table 3.2: Cost RAG Rating for Comparative Analysis

Red	Amber	Green
>140% of least cost option	120-140% of least cost option	< 120% of least cost option

3.5.2 Identification of a Preferred Alignment

Following review of all the potential alignment options, these have been considered in combination to arrive at a preferred alignment option. The overall objective throughout the appraisal of alignment options has been to take full consideration of all environmental factors to minimise any potential adverse impacts on the environment whilst taking into account technical and cost considerations.

4. DESCRIPTION OF ALIGNMENTS

The two alignment options under consideration (Alignment 1 and Alignment 2) are illustrated in Figure 1.1 (Appendix B) and are described below.

Both alignment options largely follow a common route for the majority of their length. The alignments commence at the Blarghour Wind Farm Substation and initially travel broadly south-east for approximately 3.0 km, before turning east and then north-east through a forested area at Three Bridges Plantation.

Approximately 300 m north of the Kilmun property, the alignment splits into two options. Alignment 1 routes to the west of Stronmagachan, while Alignment 2 routes to the east, with the two options extending for approximately 2.0 km before re-joining at Drimfern.

From Drimfern, both alignment options continue north-east for approximately 1.2 km, running broadly parallel to the A819, before crossing the A819 at Tullich. The alignment then continues north-east for a further 1.9 km, before crossing the A819 again in a westerly direction and running broadly parallel to the road for approximately 4.0 km. The alignment crosses the A819 once more near Old Military Road and continues north-west for approximately 1.5 km, before terminating at the Creag Dhubh Substation.

5. ALIGNMENT APPRAISAL

This section presents a summary of the environmental, engineering and economic baseline and appraisal for each alignment option. A detailed environmental appraisal is presented in Appendix A.

As described in Section 4, Alignments 1 and 2 largely follow the same route and differ only where they diverge west and east of Stronmagachan. As a result, much of the baseline information is common to both alignments, with differences highlighted where relevant.

The key similarities and differences between Alignment 1 and Alignment 2 are drawn together in Section 6, which compares the two alignment options and identifies the Preferred Alignment.

5.1 Alignment 1 Baseline and Appraisal

5.1.1 Environmental

Natural Heritage

Alignment 1 passes through the Glen Etive and Glen Fyne Special Protection Area (SPA) for approximately 1.3 km, within around 100 m of its western boundary. The SPA is designated for its breeding golden eagle population. No other international, national or local ecological designations are located within or adjacent to Alignment 1.

One area of woodland listed on the Ancient Woodland Inventory (Category 2a) is located within Alignment 1, resulting in the loss of approximately 0.23 ha of this irreplaceable habitat. Three Native Woodland Survey Scotland (NWSS) woodlands are also present. Three Annex I habitats (wet woodland, wet heathland and blanket bog) occur close to the alignment, primarily in the southern, higher-elevation sections. While the alignment mainly crosses agricultural and forestry land, reducing the likelihood of groundwater dependent terrestrial ecosystems (GWDTEs), potential GWDTE habitats have been identified in proximity to Alignment 1. Impacts to potential GWDTEs would be associated with pole foundations and access tracks, with potential indirect effects linked to peat disturbance and changes in ground water supply.

Alignment 1 crosses multiple named and unnamed watercourses draining to the River Aray, a WFD watercourse of moderate status, including two crossings of the River Aray and a crossing of the Allt Blarghour (also moderate status). The alignment lies within SEPA medium likelihood (1 in 200 year plus climate change) flood extents where it follows and crosses the River Aray; however, west of Stronmagachan it moves further from the river and avoids flood extents affecting Alignment 2.

Flight activity surveys recorded limited golden eagle activity across Alignment 1, with eagles typically recorded at heights of ≥ 500 m AOD. Alignment 1 lies out with recognised disturbance distances (750 m–1 km), of known ornithological sensitive locations, and generally below key areas within Glen Aray. While construction and operation could result in disturbance, barrier or collision effects, baseline evidence indicates limited flight activity at heights relevant to Alignment 1.

A number of private water supplies are understood to be present nearby, with Alignment 1 passing within approximately 1 km of 12 residential properties. These have been identified at screening level only and will be confirmed at later stages of the project.

Natural Heritage constraints are illustrated in Figure 5.1 (Appendix B)

Cultural Heritage

There are no designated cultural heritage assets located within Alignment 1. One Inventoried Garden and Designed Landscape (Inveraray Castle) and a number of Scheduled Monuments and Listed Buildings are located within 5 km of the alignment. No direct impacts on designated assets are anticipated. There remains a low-moderate potential for indirect effects on the setting of heritage assets, particularly within the Inveraray area; however, these are not considered likely to compromise their significance. Potential impacts on non-designated archaeological assets would be addressed through avoidance and mitigation to be identified at later stages.

Cultural Heritage constraints are illustrated in Figure 5.2 (Appendix B)

People

While the landscape is generally lightly settled, Alignment 1 passes within approximately 70 m of a residential property at Drimfern and within proximity to scattered properties along the A819. The alignment passes within approximately 1 km of 12 residential properties in total.

Landscape

Alignment 1 crosses a predominantly agricultural and forestry landscape within a medium to large-scale glen. The northern section of Alignment 1 lies within the North Argyll Area of Panoramic Quality (APQ).

Alignment 1 is likely to be visible from parts of Inveraray, particularly at the edge of the settlement and from open areas where views towards the alignment are not screened by buildings, landform or vegetation. The alignment may also be visible from isolated properties and the local road network and would be viewed in combination with the existing overhead line infrastructure (LT194), which is aligned at a higher elevation along the valley sides.

Landscape and visual constraints are illustrated in Figure 5.3 (Appendix B)

Land Use

Alignment 1 predominantly crosses agricultural land used for cropping and grazing, with the most fertile land in the central section common to Alignments 1 and 2. Where Alignment 1 deviates west of Stronmagachan, the alignment crosses grazing paddocks and areas of relatively more fertile hill land.

Alignment 1 crosses three areas of commercial conifer plantation, including Three Bridges Plantation, Ladyfield Plantation, and an additional area of commercial conifer forestry on the approach to Creag Dhubh Substation. Alignment 1 also crosses forest roads; while some existing access and a forestry ride may be used, additional infrastructure and management felling may be required, particularly within mature compartments to reduce windthrow risk within the OHL corridor.

Alignment 1 avoids interaction with recreational assets.

Planning

There are seven proposals within or adjacent to Alignment 1. Two of the proposals are associated with the Proposed Development, which is intended to connect the Blarghour Wind Farm (consented) to the electricity network via Creag Dhubh Substation (in construction).

The environmental appraisal of Alignment 1 is provided in Table 5.1.

Table 5.1: Alignment 1 Environmental RAG Impact Rating

Environmental Topic			RAG Rating
Natural Heritage	Designations	International	M
		Regional	L
	Protected Species	European Species	L
		UK Species	L
	Habitats	Annex I	M
		GWDTE	M
		BNG	L
	Hydrology	Drinking Water	M
		Aquifer	M
		Surface Water	M
Ornithology	Schedule 1	M	
	BOCC	L	
Cultural Heritage	Designations	WHS SM GDL Battlefields	L
		Sites and Monuments	M
	Assets		L

Environmental Topic		RAG Rating	
People	Dwellings	M	
Landscape	Designations	M	
	Visual	M	
Land Use	Agriculture	H	
	Forestry	M	
	Recreation	Footpaths / Cycle Routes	L
		Highland Sports	L
Planning	Proposals	M	

5.1.2 Engineering

Alignment 1, like the wider route, benefits from reduced elevation, good access provision via proximity to the A819, and full suitability for continuous wood pole trident construction. While average gradients across the Preferred Route are favourable (approximately 3.7%), Alignment 1 includes localised steeper sections of up to 17.6%, which increase construction complexity and limits micro-siting flexibility in places. However, the alignment predominantly traverses open upland grazing land with predictable ground conditions, shallow and discontinuous peat, and limited hydrological or woodland constraints. This reduces environmental and consenting risk and allows engineering challenges to be addressed through standard mitigation measures. Although longer temporary access routes may be required, ground conditions are expected to be stable and less seasonally constrained, supporting reliable construction, maintenance and outage response. Overall, the terrain constraints associated with Alignment 1 are outweighed by its reduced interaction with sensitive woodland, greater micro-siting certainty and improved long-term operational resilience.

The engineering appraisal of Alignment 1 is provided in Table 5.2.

Table 5.2: Alignment 1 Engineering RAG Impact Rating

Engineering Topic		RAG Rating
Environmental Design	Altitude	M
	Coastal	L
Topography	Terrain	M
	Waterbodies	M
	Slope	M
Ground Conditions	Peat	M
	Rock	L
	Flooding	M
Access	Road Networks	M
	Access Tracks	L
Existing Infrastructure	Roads	L
	Clearance	H
Existing Network	Connectivity	M
	Outages	M
Operational	Maintenance	M
	Flexibility	L
	Faults	M

5.1.3 Economic

Alignment 1 utilises a standard 132 kV overhead line technology, with no abnormal terrain, access or construction constraints anticipated. No material cost drivers have been identified at this stage in relation to construction, access provision, diversion works, public road improvements, tree felling, land assembly or consent-related mitigation that

would increase costs beyond a normal project envelope. Operation and maintenance requirements are expected to be straightforward, supported by proximity to the A819 and generally good access.

The economic appraisal of Alignment 1 is provided in Table 5.3.

Table 5.3: Alignment 1 Economic RAG Impact Rating

Economic Topic		RAG Rating
Capital	Construction, Diversions, Public Road Improvements, Felling, Land Assembly and Consent Mitigations	L
Operational	Inspections and Maintenance	L

5.2 Alignment 2 Baseline and Appraisal

5.2.1 Environmental

Natural Heritage

Alignment 2 passes through the Glen Etive and Glen Fyne SPA for approximately 1.3 km, within around 100 m of the western boundary. The SPA is designated for its breeding golden eagle population. No other international, national or local ecological designations are located within or adjacent to Alignment 2.

Baseline ornithology surveys recorded Schedule 1 bird species within Alignment 2, including golden eagle, white-tailed eagle, merlin and black grouse (no lek sites). One adult and one juvenile golden eagle were recorded approximately 1.5 km south of Alignment 2, with the nearest identified nest site located approximately 2 km away.

Three areas of woodland listed on the Ancient Woodland Inventory (Categories 1a, 2a and 2b) are present within Alignment 2, resulting in the loss of approximately 1.33 ha of this irreplaceable habitat. Six NWSS woodlands are also present.

Three Annex I habitats (wet woodland, wet heathland and blanket bog) occur close to Alignment 2, primarily in the southern, higher-elevation sections. While the alignment largely crosses agricultural and forestry land (reducing the likelihood of GWDTEs) several potential GWDTE habitats are present, including additional wet woodland within the eastern deviation. Direct impacts would be associated with pole placement and access tracks, with potential indirect effects related to peat disturbance and changes to groundwater supply.

Flight activity surveys recorded limited golden eagle activity across Alignment 2, with birds generally recorded at heights of ≥ 500 m AOD and limited evidence of flights below approximately 400 m AOD. Alignment 2 lies out with recognised disturbance distances (750 m–1 km) and away from known ornithological sensitive locations. While disturbance, barrier and collision effects may occur during construction and operation, baseline evidence indicates limited flight activity at heights relevant to Alignment 2.

Alignment 2 crosses numerous named and unnamed watercourses draining to the River Aray, a WFD watercourse of moderate status, including two crossings of the River Aray and a crossing of the Allt Blarghour (also of moderate status).

The alignment lies within SEPA medium likelihood (1 in 200 year plus climate change) flood extents where it runs alongside and crosses the River Aray, particularly where it tracks closer to the watercourse through the eastern deviation.

A number of private water supplies are understood to be present within proximity to Alignment 2, with the alignment passing within approximately 1 km of 13 residential properties. These have been identified at screening level only and will be confirmed at later alignment selection and consenting stages.

Natural Heritage constraints are illustrated in Figure 5.1 (Appendix B)

Cultural Heritage

There are no designated cultural heritage assets within Alignment 2. One Inventoried Garden and Designed Landscape (Inveraray Castle) and a number of Scheduled Monuments and Listed Buildings are located within 5 km of the alignment. No direct impacts on designated assets are anticipated. There remains a low-to-moderate potential for indirect effects on the setting of heritage assets, particularly in relation to the Inveraray Castle Garden and Designed Landscape and associated listed buildings; however, effects are not considered likely to compromise their significance. Potential impacts on non-designated archaeological assets would be addressed through mitigation identified at later stages.

Cultural Heritage constraints are illustrated in Figure 5.2 (Appendix B)

People

The landscape is lightly settled, with Alignment 2 generally located more than 100 m from residential properties. The alignment passes within approximately 1 km of 13 residential properties.

Landscape

Alignment 2 crosses a predominantly agricultural and forestry landscape within a medium to large-scale glen. The northern section lies within the North Argyll APQ.

The alignment may be visible from parts of Inveraray, isolated properties and sections of the local road network, and would be viewed in combination with the existing overhead line infrastructure (LT194) located at higher elevations along the valley sides.

Landscape and Visual constraints are illustrated in Figure 5.3 (Appendix B)

Land Use

Alignment 2 predominantly crosses agricultural land used for cropping and grazing, with the most fertile land located in the central section, common to Alignments 1 and 2. Where Alignment 2 deviates to the east of Stronmagachan, it generally follows existing field boundaries, reducing the extent of paddock-level severance compared with Alignment 1.

Alignment 2 crosses three areas of commercial conifer plantation, including Three Bridges Plantation, Ladyfield Plantation, and an additional area of commercial conifer forestry on the approach to Creag Dhubh Substation. Due to the extent of forest cover along this alignment, construction and operation would require substantial management felling across large, continuous sections of plantation, including the clearance of mature compartments rather than smaller, localised areas. This would result in a more pronounced and widespread alteration of existing forestry structure and operations compared to Alignment 1. In addition, Alignment 2 interacts with areas of AWI woodland, where felling and infrastructure requirements would lead to notable direct and indirect impacts on irreplaceable woodland, including fragmentation and potential edge effects. While some existing forest access tracks may be utilised, additional access routes and working areas may be required, further increasing the overall land use disturbance and reinforcing the comparatively extensive nature of forestry and AWI impacts associated with this alignment.

Alignment 2 avoids interaction with recreational assets.

Planning

There are seven proposals within or adjacent to Alignment 2. Two of the proposals are associated with the Proposed Development, which is intended to connect the consented Blarghour Wind Farm to the electricity network via Creag Dhubh Substation (in construction).

The environmental appraisal of Alignment 2 is provided in Table 5.4.

Table 5.4: Alignment 2 Environmental RAG Impact Rating

Environmental Topic		RAG Rating	
Natural Heritage	Designations	International	H
		Regional	L
	Protected Species	European Species	L
		UK Species	L
	Habitats	Annex I	M
		GWDTE	M
		BNG	L
	Hydrology	Drinking Water	M
		Aquifer	M
		Surface Water	M
	Ornithology	Schedule 1	M
BOCC		L	
Cultural Heritage	Designations	WHS SM GDL Battlefields	L
		Sites and Monuments	M
	Assets	L	
People	Dwellings	L	
Landscape	Designations	M	
	Visual	M	

Environmental Topic		RAG Rating	
Land Use	Agriculture	M	
	Forestry	M	
	Recreation	Footpaths and Cycle Routes	L
		Highland Sports	L
Planning	Proposals	M	

5.2.2 Engineering

Alignment 2 tracks woodland edges as the terrain transitions downslope towards the A819 valley floor. The alignment benefits from smoother and more consistent gradients, which is favourable for constructability and contributes to positive terrain and slope appraisal outcomes. However, Alignment 2 interacts more frequently with environmentally sensitive features, including woodland margins, forestry-associated peat pockets and hydrologically active ground. These interactions constrain the available micro-siting envelope around structures and are likely to require increased mitigation at detailed design stage. While parts of the alignment lie close to existing forestry tracks, access is expected to be seasonally constrained due to ground conditions, with implications for construction programming, routine maintenance and outage response. Overall, the engineering baseline for Alignment 2 reflects a technically viable alignment with favourable terrain characteristics, but one that is influenced by environmental sensitivities and access limitations that will require careful management through the design and consenting process.

The engineering appraisal of Alignment 2 is provided in Table 5.5.

Table 5.5: Alignment 2 Engineering RAG Impact Rating

Engineering Topic		RAG Rating
Environmental Design	Altitude	M
	Coastal	L
Topography	Terrain	H
	Waterbodies	M
	Slope	H
Ground Conditions	Peat	H
	Rock	L
	Flooding	L
Access	Road Networks	H
	Access Tracks	L
Existing Infrastructure	Roads	M
	Clearance	H
Existing Network	Connectivity	M
	Outages	M
Operational	Maintenance	M
	Flexibility	L
	Faults	M

5.2.3 Economic

Alignment 2 also utilises a standard 132 kV overhead line technology and does not introduce any unique or additional cost drivers at alignment selection stage. Construction, access strategy, diversion requirements, public road improvements, tree felling, land assembly and consent-related mitigation are all anticipated to fall within a typical cost range for development of this nature. Operational and maintenance costs are expected to be low, reflecting good access provision and proximity to the A819.

The economic appraisal of Alignment 2 is provided in Table 5.6.

Table 5.6: Alignment 2 Economic RAG Impact Rating

Economic Topic		RAG Rating
Capital	Construction, Diversions, Public Road Improvements, Felling, Land Assembly and Consent Mitigations	L
Operational	Inspections and Maintenance	L

6. COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS AND PREFERRED ALIGNMENT

6.1 Comparison of Alignments 1 and 2

Table 6.1 shows the entire comparative RAG appraisal for Alignment 1 and 2 across environmental, engineering and economic assessment criteria.

A comparison of the two alignment options has identified broadly similar RAG scores across many environmental topics. In some cases, marginal differences are identified outside the RAG assessment, based on professional judgement informed by the detailed baseline and appraisal (Section 5).

Both alignments pass through the Glen Etive and Glen Fyne SPA for a similar distance and have broadly comparable potential effects on habitats, protected species and ornithology. Cultural heritage constraints are also similar, with both alignments having cultural heritage assets within the 5 km study area that may experience effects on setting; there is no clear preference in cultural heritage terms. Both alignments are located over 1 km from the Inveraray Castle GDL.

In landscape and visual terms, both alignments are likely to be visible from parts of Inveraray and may affect views and visual amenity at Drimfern and Stronmagachan. Both alignments lie within the North Argyll APQ. Overall landscape and visual effects are therefore considered broadly comparable.

Key environmental differences relate to woodland loss, flood risk and water-related constraints. Alignment 1 affects 214.08 Biodiversity Units and 19,000.16 Linear Watercourse Units, compared to 209.82 Biodiversity Units and 19,738.75 Linear Watercourse Units for Alignment 2, and would result in the loss of approximately 0.23 ha of irreplaceable AWI habitat, compared to approximately 1.33 ha for Alignment 2. Alignment 1 therefore affects a smaller area of irreplaceable habitat and therefore presents a lower overall biodiversity impact.

Where the alignments diverge west and east of Stronmagachan respectively, Alignment 1 moves further away from the River Aray, avoiding SEPA medium likelihood plus climate change flood extents that affect Alignment 2. Alignment 1 has the potential to affect five PWS, compared to six PWS for Alignment 2. Both alignments cross the River Aray twice and the Allt Blarghour once; however, Alignment 1 crosses a greater number of minor watercourses where it diverges west of Stronmagachan.

In land-use terms, both alignments pass predominantly through agricultural land used for cropping and grazing, including areas of most fertile land within the central section common to both. Where the alignments diverge, Alignment 1 crosses a greater number of grazing paddocks and areas of relatively more fertile hill land, while Alignment 2 more closely follows existing field boundaries. Although both alignments primarily affect lower quality agricultural land, the potential for effects is considered greater for Alignment 1 than for Alignment 2. The higher impact associated with Alignment 1 is due to the fact that the agricultural holdings that will be impacted by the Proposed Development have very limited in-bye land in terms of acreage. This land is integral to the farming operations as key for both lambing and cropping and is subject to greater impact by Alignment 1, hence the enhanced negative effect.

Both alignments interact with commercial forestry, however Alignment 2 will require more extensive management felling and result in a greater loss of ancient woodland than Alignment 1. Both alignments avoid public access routes and areas used for commercial Highland sports. Both alignments have similar interactions with planning proposals in the local area.

On balance, and using professional judgement, Alignment 1 is considered to be the environmentally preferred alignment, due to the lower potential for impact on irreplaceable habitat (AWI), reduced flood risk and water-related constraints compared to Alignment 2.

Although longer in length, Alignment 1 reduces exposure to steep slopes, known or emerging areas of ground instability and isolated locations where access would be challenging during adverse weather conditions. It also allows greater use of existing farm, forestry and wind farm access tracks, with material delivery largely undertaken by helicopter where appropriate, reducing the need for new permanent access infrastructure.

Where residual constraints remain—such as river crossings, interfaces with wind farm access roads, or woodland to watercourse trade offs—these are understood and can be managed through standard design measures, micro-siting

and agreed mitigation strategies developed in consultation with landowners and environmental specialists, rather than requiring complex or high risk engineering solutions.

Therefore, on balance, and using professional judgement, Alignment 1 is considered to be the engineering-preferred alignment, as it provides the best balance between constructability, operational safety and long-term resilience compared to Alignment 2.

Both alignment options are broadly similar in costs, as they utilise the same technology and are located within a similar area. Given their comparable lengths, terrain conditions and constraints, there is no significant variation in either Capital or Operational expenditure across both options.

Therefore, from an economic perspective, no preference is identified between Alignment 1 and Alignment 2.

6.2 Overall Preferred Alignment

The Preferred Alignment for the Proposed Development is Alignment 1.

Alignment 1 is preferred from an environmental perspective, reflecting its lower impact on irreplaceable habitat, reduced interaction with flood extents and private water supplies, and lower overall biodiversity and hydrological risk compared to Alignment 2. Alignment 1 also benefits from a more robust engineering position, with greater access reliability, improved micro-siting certainty and lower long-term operational risk. From a cost perspective, neither alignment is preferred, as the costs associated with both alignment options are comparable.

Careful design and micro-siting of the overhead line along Alignment 1 will be required to manage identified higher-constraint areas, particularly in relation to AWI, watercourses, private water supplies, cultural heritage assets, localised visual receptors and ornithological sensitivities, including minimising impacts to habitats within the Glen Etive and Glen Fyne SPA. These constraints are well understood and can be effectively managed through detailed survey, mitigation and standard construction controls. Overall, the risks associated with Alignment 1 are considered manageable and do not undermine its suitability as the Preferred Alignment.

Table 6.1: Environmental, Engineering, and Economic Comparative RAG

Assessment Criteria			Alignment 1 RAG Rating	Alignment 2 RAG Rating
Environmental				
Natural Heritage	Designations	International	M	H
		Regional	L	L
	Protected Species	European Species	L	L
		UK Species	L	L
	Habitats	Annex I	M	M
		GWDTE	M	M
		BNG	L	L
	Hydrology	Drinking Water	M	M
		Aquifer	M	M
		Surface Water	M	M
	Ornithology	Schedule 1	M	M
BOCC		L	L	
Cultural Heritage	Designations	WHS SM GDL Battlefields	L	L
		Sites and Monuments	M	M
	Assets	L	L	
People	Dwellings	M	L	
Landscape	Designations	M	M	
	Visual	M	M	
Land Use	Agriculture	H	M	
	Forestry	M	M	
	Recreation	Footpaths and Cycle Routes	L	L
		Highland Sports	L	L
Planning	Proposals	M	M	
Engineering				
Environmental Design	Altitude	M	M	
	Coastal	L	L	
Topography	Terrain	M	H	
	Waterbodies	M	M	
	Slope	M	H	
Ground Conditions	Peat	M	H	
	Rock	L	L	
	Flooding	M	L	
Access	Road Networks	M	H	
	Access Tracks	L	L	
Existing Infrastructure	Roads	L	M	
	Clearance	H	H	
Existing Network	Connectivity	M	M	
	Outages	M	M	
Operational	Maintenance	M	M	
	Flexibility	L	L	
	Faults	M	M	
Economic				
Capital	Construction, Diversions, Public Road Improvements, Felling, Land Assembly and Consent Mitigations		L	L
Operational	Inspections and Maintenance		L	L

7. CONSULTATION ON THE PROPOSAL

7.1 Introduction

SSEN Transmission places great importance on, and is committed to, consultation and engagement with all parties and stakeholders likely to have an interest in proposals for new projects such as this. Stakeholder engagement is an essential part of an effective development process.

The proposals detailed in this report have been developed through environmental and technical analysis of the alignment options. The potential for environmental effects remains and further assessment and design will be important in giving detailed consideration to the development and integration of mitigation measures to address significant environmental effects identified.

When providing comment and feedback, SSEN Transmission would be grateful for your consideration of the questions below. We are keen to receive your views and comments in regards to the following:

- Do you feel sufficient information has been provided to enable you to understand what is being proposed and why?
- Which of the two alignment options would you consider the best option for SSEN Transmission to develop? Please provide an explanation of your answer.
- Which of the two alignment options would you consider the least preferable option for SSEN Transmission to develop? Please provide an explanation of your answer.
- Are there any potential risks or benefits associated with this project, that you believe have not been included in the Consultation Document?
- Do you have any other comments on the Proposed Development?

7.2 Next steps

A consultation event will be held on 11th June 2026 (see Preface) and meetings will be arranged with statutory and other stakeholders. The responses received, and those sought from statutory consultees and other key stakeholders will inform further consideration and design of the Preferred Alignment leading to the identification of a Proposed Alignment to take forward to the refinement and consenting stages.

Please submit your comments to:

Caitlin Marini, Community Liaison Manager
Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks (SSEN) Transmission
1 Waterloo St
Glasgow
G2 6AY
(catlin.marini@sse.com)

All comments are requested by 13th July 2026.


APPENDIX A: ENVIRONMENTAL RAG ASSESSMENT




Description:





Alignment 1 passes southeast out of the proposed Blarghour Substation for approximately 3 km before pivoting north towards the A819. The alignment deviates to the west of settlements at Stromnagachan and then aligns closely with the A819, crossing the road and River Aray at Tullich and continuing parallel to the A819 in a northerly direction. The alignment then crosses the A819 once more to the northwest, near the Old Military Road, before terminating at the Creag Dhubh Substation.

Review of Environmental Effects:

Natural Heritage

Topics	Potential Impacts	RAG Impact Rating
Designations	<p>International, European or National Designations (e.g. SAC, Ramsar, National Parks, SSSI, Ancient Woodland)</p> <p>Alignment 1 passes through Glen Etive and Glen Fyne SPA for approximately 1.3 km within approximately 100 m of the western boundary of the designated site. The Glen Etive and Glen Fyne SPA is designated for its breeding population of golden eagles with 19 active territories. Alignment 1 will result in a limited loss of lowland habitat at the periphery of the SPA.</p> <p>The habitat at the periphery of the SPA comprises riparian vegetation associated with the River Aray and its tributaries, areas of regenerating native woodland, and extensive even aged non-native conifer plantation. These habitats are not considered suitable for breeding or foraging golden eagles and are subject to ongoing disturbance from vehicular activity along the A819.</p> <p>Baseline flight activity surveys conducted during the 2025 breeding season (182 survey hours across five vantage points) and the 2025/2026 nonbreeding season (239 survey hours across seven vantage points) recorded no evidence of golden eagles using these peripheral habitats for breeding or foraging.</p> <p>The nearest golden eagle breeding territory within the SPA is approximately 5.4 km from the Alignment 1, and baseline survey data provide no evidence of regular movements by SPA breeding eagles across Alignment 1.</p> <p>Satellite tag data from two resident golden eagles holding territories out with the SPA, but close to Alignment 1, show no evidence of regular movements across Alignment 1 into the SPA.</p> <p>No other sites designated for ornithological or nature conservation are located within a likely zone of influence of Alignment 1.</p> <p>Within Alignment 1 there is one area of woodland (Category 2a) listed on the Ancient Woodland Inventory (AWI). Alignment 1 will lead to the loss of approximately 0.23 ha of this irreplaceable AWI habitat. Further to this, three woodlands listed on the Native Woodland Survey Scotland (NWSS) feature within Alignment 1.</p>	

		An amber rating has been applied as Alignment 1 may compromise an internationally or nationally designated area and / or the conservation status of the designated features of the site, by passing through the periphery of the Glen Etive, Glen Fyne SPA, and areas identified as NWSS and AWI.	
	Regional Designations (e.g. Local Nature Reserves, Wildlife Sites, RIGS)	A green rating is applied as no regional designations are in close proximity to Alignment 1.	
Protected Species	European Protected Species (EPS)	<p>European protected species known to occur in the area include otter and bat species. Minor watercourses within peatland (bog habitats) and agricultural habitats in the central and southern parts of Alignment 1 are likely to be inhabited by otter with the likelihood of sheltering, foraging and commuting opportunities. The River Aray is known to be occupied by otter and is likely used for foraging habitat and a likely source of shelter. Alignment 1 has low suitability for bats, however, the most likely roosting habitat is found within trees and woodland blocks in the centre of the alignment along the River Aray into Three Bridges Plantation (those areas not currently felled), where older damaged trees are likely to yield roost features. There is potential for freshwater pearl mussel and protected fish sp. to be found in the River Aray.</p> <p>There is alternative suitable habitat for species in the area, disturbance would be temporary during construction and the application of SSEN Transmission Species Protection Plans (SPPs) and General Environmental Management Plans (GEMPs) will limit the potential for impact during construction from sources of disturbance and pollution, in particular to the aquatic environment.</p> <p>A green rating is applied as Alignment 1 is unlikely to compromise the conservation status of known presence or suitable habitat for EPS.</p>	
	UK Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) Species	<p>UK BAP and nationally protected species known to occur in the area include red squirrel, pine marten, polecat, water vole, badger, brown hare, mountain hare, amphibians and reptiles. Forestry blocks found in the north of Alignment 1 and within Three Bridges Plantation to the south, are likely to be inhabited by red squirrel and pine marten, with potential for shelter and foraging opportunities. Minor watercourses within peatland (bog habitats) and tributaries of the River Aray in the central and southern parts of Alignment 1 are likely to be inhabited by water vole with the likelihood of sheltering, foraging and commuting opportunities. Badger are unlikely to be found within the wetter peatland habitats within Alignment 1 but will potentially use the drier forestry and agricultural habitats of this alignment. Amphibians and reptiles are expected to be found throughout the peatland, agricultural and woodland edge habitats, with slowworms a possibility in more natural woodland areas with a vegetated understory such as those around the River Aray and Glen Aray.</p> <p>There is alternative suitable habitat in the area, disturbance would be temporary during construction and the application of SSEN Transmission Species Protection Plans (SPPs) and General Environmental Management Plans (GEMPs) will limit the potential for impact during construction.</p>	

		A green rating is applied as Alignment 1 is unlikely to compromise the conservation status of known presence or suitable habitat for BAP or nationally protected species.	
Habitats	Annex 1 Habitats	<p>Surveys highlighted three Annex 1 Habitats (wet woodland, wet heathland and blanket bog) in close proximity to Alignment 1. These habitats are found in the south of Alignment 1 at higher elevations where the land is flatter and dominated by peatland habitats. Wet woodland is found around the confluence of the River Aray and the Allt Sheileachan. All Annex 1 habitats recorded were found within areas common to both Alignment options.</p> <p>An amber rating is applied as Alignment 1 may compromise the conservation status of Annex 1 habitats.</p>	
	Groundwater Dependent Terrestrial Ecosystems (GWDTE)	<p>Alignment 1 predominantly crosses agricultural and forestry habitats which are less likely to contain GWDTEs on account of management prescriptions. Potential GWDTE habitats recorded within Alignment 1 include M6, M15, M23, M25, M28, MG10, W1, U6, M1, M11 and M10. These habitats are all found in areas common to both alignments and no potential GWDTEs are found within the deviation unique to Alignment 1.</p> <p>An amber rating is applied as Alignment 1 may compromise the integrity of know examples of GWDTE e.g. by crossing the edge of or passing close to them.</p>	
	Biodiversity	<p>Please see associated BNG report for further detail. Alignment 1 affects 214.08 Biodiversity Units (BU) (6.40 BH / ha) with 19,000.16 Linear Watercourse Units (LU(W)) across 2,159.16 m of watercourses. Alignment 1 affects 0.23 ha of irreplaceable habitat and 3.36 ha of habitats within designated sites.</p> <p>A green rating is applied as Alignment 1 is the least biodiversity units impacted option.</p>	
	SG Drinking Water Protected Areas	<p>There are no surface water, loch or river drinking water protected areas (DWPA) which Alignment 1 passes through. There is a surface water DWPA catchment located 860 m northeast of Alignment 1¹.</p> <p>Alignment 1 is located on the Oban and Kintyre groundwater body which has a water framework directive (WFD) classification of good. It is also a groundwater DWPA, however, it is noted the whole of Scotland is a groundwater DWPA. Alignment 1 is underlain by the same groundwater DWPA².</p> <p>An amber rating is applied as Alignment 1 may compromise the quality and / or quantity in the groundwater DWPA if there are dewatering activities.</p>	

¹ SEPA (n.d) SEPA Data Publication. [Online] Available at: <https://www.sepa.org.uk/environment/environmental-data/> (Accessed 10/03/2026)

² Scottish Government (2025) Drinking Water Protected Areas – Scotland River Basin District: Map 13 of 22. [Online] Available at: <https://www.gov.scot/binaries/content/documents/govscot/publications/map/2014/03/drinking-water-protected-areas-scotland-river-basin-district-maps/documents/groundwater-maps/bba05635-502f-4ac5-a5fd-1af079d84eca/bba05635-502f-4ac5-a5fd-1af079d84eca/govscot%3Adocument/DWPA%2B-%2BScotland%2BRBD%2B-%2Bgroundwater%2B-%2Bmap%2B13%2Bof%2B22.pdf> (Accessed 10/03/2026)

Hydrology/ Geology/ Hydrogeology	Aquifer providing regional/ local resources	<p>BGS 1,625,000 scale hydrogeology mapping³ shows that Alignment 1 is partially underlain by three aquifers. Alignment 1 is largely underlain by the Argyll Group, with small areas of unnamed extrusive rocks, and unnamed igneous intrusions also present along the alignment. All three are low productivity aquifers where flow is virtually all through fractures and other discontinuities; there are small amounts of groundwater in the near surface weathered zone and fractures.</p> <p>It is understood, based on a review of available desk-based information, that there may be up to five private water supplies (PWS) in proximity to Alignment 1, and that it passes within approximately 1 km of 12 residential properties. The source location and nature of any PWS (e.g. surface water or groundwater-fed supply) is unknown at this stage.</p> <p>If the supplies are groundwater-fed, SEPA guidance on assessing the impacts of developments on groundwater abstractions states that any groundwater-fed PWS within 250 m of excavations greater than 1 m deep may be potentially at risk. If they are surface water supplies, water quality or quantity could be impacted if works are within the catchment area of the supply.</p> <p>Where Alignment 1 diverts from Alignment 2 and passes west of the settlements at Stronmagachan, it passes within approximately 250 m of an area where private water supplies are understood to be present and within proximity to four residential properties. At this stage, the presence and location of any PWS has been identified at a screening level only.</p> <p>An amber rating is applied to Alignment 1 as the option may compromise the quality and or quantity of surface water and or groundwater supplying PWS.</p>	M
	Surface waters or aquifer providing water for agricultural or industrial use	<p>Alignment 1 passes over numerous named and unnamed watercourses as shown on OS 1:50,000 (1:50k) scale mapping, which discharge into the River Aray, a WFD designated watercourse with an overall classification of moderate⁴. The alignment travels along the left and right banks of the River Aray for almost its entire length. Alignment 1 crosses the River Aray twice. The alignment also passes over the Allt Blarghour which is a WFD watercourse of moderate WFD classification. When Alignment 1 diverts from Alignment 2 and passes west of the settlements at Stronmagachan it crosses four watercourses as shown on OS 1:50k scale mapping.</p> <p>Alignment 1 is within the SEPA medium likelihood (1 in 200 year) plus climate change river flood extents⁵ associated with the River Aray at areas where it crosses and when it runs alongside the watercourse. When Alignment 1 diverts from Alignment 2 and travels west of the settlements at Stronmagachan it travels further from the River Aray, resulting in it avoiding a medium likelihood plus climate change river flood risk extent which Alignment 2 is within.</p> <p>An amber rating is applied to Alignment 1 as the option may compromise the quality and or quantity of surface water through construction activities, which could impact WFD watercourses and other named watercourses.</p>	M



³ British Geological Survey (n.d.) Hydrogeology 625k digital hydrogeological map of the UK. [Online] Available at: <https://www.bgs.ac.uk/datasets/hydrogeology-625k/> (Accessed 10/03/2026)

⁴ SEPA (n.d.) Water Classification Hub. [Online] Available at: <https://informatics.sepa.org.uk/WaterClassificationHub/> (Accessed 10/03/2026)

⁵ SEPA (n.d.) Climate Change and Flood Risk. [Online] Available at: <https://map.sepa.org.uk/floodmaps/FloodRisk/ClimateChange> (Accessed 10/03/2026)





Ornithology	Schedule 1 Birds	<p>Populations of Schedule 1 birds are present within Alignment 1.</p> <p>One adult and one juvenile golden eagle were recorded together approximately 1.5 km south of Alignment 1. The closest identified nest site is approximately 1.6 km from Alignment 1. Baseline flight activity surveys have recorded limited flights of golden eagles across Alignment 1 and given the topography, birds have mostly been recorded at least 500 m above sea level, well above the alignment. Surveys have recorded limited evidence of flights of golden eagles below approximately 400 m above sea level with Cruach mhor located at approximately 589 m above sea level. Alignment 1 is out with the recognised disturbance distance (750 m – 1 km) for golden eagles⁶, away from any known sensitive locations and more generally tracks below sensitive locations by as much as 400 m in the glen overlooking the A819.</p> <p>Baseline ornithology surveys conducted by ERM in 2025 recorded up to five white-tailed eagles observed both in flight and perched near Alignment 1. While there is no documented evidence of direct breeding, records have included an adult pair as well as first year juveniles.</p> <p>Merlin have been recorded in flight.</p> <p>One black grouse was recorded on two occasions (April and May 2025) approximately 800 m to the east of Alignment 1 during the breeding season. No lek sites were identified.</p> <p>There is potential for breeding disturbance, barrier effects and collision risks for the listed species. There is alternative and widespread suitable habitat in the area, disturbance would be temporary during construction and the application of SSEN Transmission Species Protection Plans (SPPs) and General Environmental Management Plans (GEMPs) would limit the potential for impact during construction.</p> <p>An amber rating is applied as Alignment 1 may compromise the conservation status of populations of Schedule 1 bird species known to be present or the integrity of essential breeding, passage or wintering habitat.</p>	M
	Birds of Conservation Concern (BoCC)	<p>Baseline ornithology surveys conducted by ERM in 2025 have recorded a number of red listed species of high conservation concern.</p> <p>Ten species have been recorded on the BoCC red list (cuckoo, merlin, hen harrier, skylark, lesser redpoll, crossbill, spotted flycatcher, grasshopper warbler, whinchat, tree pipit), along with 11 additional species classified as amber-listed (white-tailed eagle, snipe, kestrel, willow warbler, sparrowhawk, common whitethroat, wren, dunnock, reed-bunting, song thrush, meadow pipit).</p> <p>There is potential for breeding disturbance, barrier effects and collision risks for the listed species. There is alternative and widespread suitable habitat in the area, disturbance would be temporary during construction and the application of SSEN Transmission Species Protection Plans (SPPs) and General Environmental Management Plans (GEMPs) would limit the potential for impact during construction.</p>	L


⁶Goodship, N.M. and Furness, R.W. (MacArthur Green) (2022). Disturbance Distances Review: An updated literature review of disturbance distances of selected bird species. NatureScot Research Report 1283. (accessed March 2026).

		A green rating is applied as Alignment 1 is unlikely to compromise the conservation status of a population of red or amber listed species or essential breeding, passage or wintering habitat.	
Cultural Heritage			
	Topics	Potential Impacts	RAG Impact Rating
Designations	World Heritage Sites (WHS), Scheduled Monuments (SM), Inventory Gardens and Designed Landscapes (GDL), Inventory Battlefields	<p>There are no Designations within Alignment 1.</p> <p>There are no World Heritage Sites or Inventoried Historic Battlefields within 5 km of Alignment 1.</p> <p>There is one Inventoried Garden & Designed Landscape (GDL00223 Inveraray Castle) and 14 Scheduled Monuments located within 5 km of Alignment 1. The closest Scheduled Monument is Keppochan, cup marked stone (SM4186) located approximately 2.1 km to the north. Monuments within 5 km predominantly date to the prehistoric period.</p> <p>Direct:</p> <p>Direct impact to Designations is not anticipated as a result of Alignment 1.</p> <p>Indirect & Setting:</p> <p>There remains a low-moderate potential for indirect impacts to Inventoried Garden & Designed Landscape GDL00223. A setting sieving exercise is proposed to understand the setting contribution of assets within 5 km (and beyond), using a ZTV to advance the assessment.</p> <p>A green rating is applied as the option is unlikely to compromise the designating features or their setting.</p>	
	Sites and Monuments Record Entries	<p>There are three Non-Designated Assets within Alignment 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carness, pre-improvement settlement (HER 9165); and • Two separate portions of a military road (WoSAS 21741). <p>These date to the post-medieval to modern periods.</p> <p>An additional 28 Non-Designated Assets are located within 250 m of Alignment 1, predominantly dating to post-medieval to modern periods. However, four non-designated assets within 250 m may be prehistoric in date (HER 9167, 9173, 9174 and 9168).</p> <p>There is the potential for direct impact to assets within the 250 m study area. Mitigation via avoidance should be implemented in the first instance to avoid direct impact. A desk-based assessment supported by a programme of archaeological field survey is suggested,</p>	

		<p>as required. Further survey and archaeological mitigation to be determined as the design develops, in consultation with the relevant regulators.</p> <p>An amber rating is applied as the Alignment 1 may compromise the designating features or setting of limited SMR feature.</p>	
<p>Cultural Heritage Assets</p>	<p>Listed Buildings (A.B and C), Non-Inventory GDL, Conservation Areas</p>	<p>There are no Cultural Heritage Assets within Alignment 1.</p> <p>There are no Non-Inventoried Garden & Designed Landscapes or Conservation Areas within 5 km of Alignment 1.</p> <p>There are 116 Listed Buildings located within 5 km of Alignment 1 comprising 36 Category A, 57 Category B and 23 Category C Listed Buildings. The closest Listed Building is Category B Listed, Society School, Glen Aray (LB11523) located approximately 800 m to the east of the alignment.</p> <p>The following Category A Listed Buildings are located to the south of the alignment within Inveraray Castle GDL:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inveraray Castle (LB11552); • Watch Tower, Dun Na Cuaiche (LB11543); • Maam Steading (LB11518); • Cherrypark Castle Offices and Stables (LB11528); • Carloon Doocot (LB11540); • Garden Bridge, River Aray (LB11544); and • Dubh Loch Bridge (LB11551). <p>The remainder of the Listed Buildings within 5 km are predominantly related to Inveraray town, with a localised setting within the settlement. Settings impacts for Cultural Heritage Assets within the settlement are not anticipated.</p> <p>Direct:</p> <p>Direct impact to Cultural Heritage Assets is not anticipated as a result of Alignment 1.</p> <p>Indirect & Setting:</p> <p>There remains a low-moderate potential for indirect impacts to Listed Buildings located within the confines of Inveraray Castle GDL, namely Category A Listed Inveraray Castle (LB11552) and Category A Listed Watch Tower, Dun Na Cuaiche (LB11543) which may experience adverse impact as a result of Alignment 1. A setting sieving exercise is proposed to understand the setting contribution of assets within 5 km (and beyond), using a ZTV to advance the assessment.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">L</p>

		A green rating is applied as the option is unlikely to compromise the integrity of a conservation area, non-inventoried GDL, setting of an A listed building or directly disturb a B/C listed building.	
People			
	Topics	Potential Impacts	RAG Impact Rating
Proximity to dwellings	Residential Properties and other sensitive receptors (e.g. schools, hospitals)	Assuming a potential maximum pole height of 17 m, Alignment 1 is located approximately 2 - 4 times this height (approximately 70 m) from a property at located at Drimfern. All other properties in proximity to Alignment 1 are located beyond four times this height. An amber rating is applied as dwellings are located within a distance of 2 - 4 times the nominal height of the structure.	M
Landscape & Visual Amenity			
	Topics	Potential Impacts	RAG Impact Rating
Designations	National or Regional Designations: National Parks, National Scenic Areas, Inventory Gardens and Designed Landscape (GDL) Wild Land Area	Alignment 1 does not pass through a nationally designated or protected landscape. The northern section of Alignment 1 is located within the regionally designated North Argyll Area of Panoramic Quality (APQ). There are no published details of the special landscape qualities of the North Argyll APQ. It is assumed however that the special landscape qualities may relate to its scenic qualities, its largely undeveloped open hills and secluded glens, and remoteness. Inveraray Castle Garden and Designed Landscape (GDL) is southeast of the southern part of the alignment, passing over 1 km from GDL's boundary. An amber rating is applied as Alignment 1 may compromise the special qualities of North Argyll APQ.	M
Visual	Settlements and Residential Properties, key transportation and recreational routes utilised by tourists and visitors to an area, vantage points and tourist destinations from where	Alignment 1 is likely to be visible from certain parts of Inveraray which have a view clear of buildings or trees, in addition to isolated properties located along the road corridor of the A819 may also have views of the alignment. Of particular note, Alignment 1 would pass to the west of the farmstead / properties at Stronmagachan and to the east of Drimfern in close proximity over a very short distance (but likely on land below the elevation of the property). It would be likely to be viewed in combination with LT194 to the west, and LT194 aligned at a higher elevation on the valley sides. Alignment 1 may also be visible from the local road network, with potential visibility from the A819 to the east and south-east. Areas of commercial forestry to the north-east of the alignment, may reduce visibility from the A819 towards the alignment.	M

	views and landscape appreciation is important	In comparison with Alignment 2, Alignment 1 would be likely to result in greater effects on views and visual amenity of residents at Drimfern (effects would be likely to be comparable at Stronmagachan). An amber rating is applied as Alignment 1 may compromise the view or visual amenity at a given location.	
Land Use			
	Topics	Potential Impacts	RAG Impact Rating
Agriculture	Agricultural Land Classification (ALC)	Alignment 1 passes predominantly through agricultural land used for cropping and grazing. Approximately 70% of the alignment (roughly 8.4 km) lies within LCA Type 6.3, with smaller proportions within LCA Type 5.2 (18%; 2.1 km), LCA Type 5.3 (8%; 0.9 km) and LCA Type 6.1 (4%; 0.44 km). The most fertile cropping ground is located within the central section of the alignment, which is common to both Alignment 1 and Alignment 2. Where Alignment 1 deviates to the west of the farmstead and properties at Stronmagachan, it crosses through and interrupts several grazing paddocks, and also passes through relatively more fertile areas of hill land. While the alignment predominantly affects lower quality agricultural land, the RAG rating has been increased to reflect landowner feedback and the relative scarcity of productive cropping land within the affected agricultural holdings.	
Forestry	Commercial Forestry	Alignment 1 impacts the three identified conifer plantations. While it may be possible to make sure of established access networks to construct Alignment 1, it is likely that there will still be the requirement for additional infrastructure development resulting in the felling of trees. Initial assessment of Alignment 1 suggests that marginally less felling may be required as the alignment appears to make use of an existing forestry ride. Alignment 1 will cross forest roads and several commercial conifer compartments. OHL road crossings can be affected by future forestry traffic which needs to be considered in detailed design. The commercial conifer compartments are of varying age, where Alignment 1 crosses mature compartments management felling may be required to prevent windthrow risk as a result of the OHL operational corridor.	
Recreation	Public Footpaths, National Cycle Routes etc	A green rating is applied as Alignment 1 avoids interaction with public footpaths and national cycle routes.	
	Commercial Highland Sports – fishing, stalking, shooting	A green rating is applied as Alignment 1 avoids areas known to be used for commercial sports.	
Planning			

	Topics	Potential Impacts				RAG Impact Rating
Proposals	Other Relevant projects already known to the planning system	An amber rating is applied as Alignment 1 may be inconsistent with other 3rd party proposals known to the planning system.				
		Project	Application Ref	Appraisal	RAG	
		Inveraray to Taynuilt (ITE/ITW) Tie-In to Creag Dhubh Substation	ECU00004737 – Consented Dec 2024	North of the alignment overlaps at Creag Dhubh Substation	Amber	
		Balliemanoch Pumped Storage Hydro Scheme (1,500 MW)	ECU000034444 - Pending decision	The southern section of Alignment 1 overlaps with the hydro scheme.	Amber	
		Ladyfield Renewable Energy Park Ltd (99 MW)	ECU00003291 – Consented May 2025	A very small section of Alignment 1 falls within the boundary of this application. Application for wind turbines and BESS.	Amber	
		Creag Dhubh to Inveraray 275 kV Overhead Line	ECU00003442 – Consented Sept 2024	OHL follows a large section of Alignment 1	Amber	
		Creag Dhubh to Dalmally 275kV Connection	ECU00002199 – Consented Aug 2024	OHL intersects Alignment 1 towards the north.	Amber	
		Blarghour Wind Farm	EC00005267 – Consented Oct 2021	The proposed development overlaps the wind farm boundary including infrastructure elements and an area set aside	Green (assuming the alignment is kept out with the HMP area).	

				for a Habitat Management Plan.		
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Description:




Alignment 2 passes southeast out of the proposed Blarghour Substation for approximately 3 km before pivoting north towards the A819. The alignment deviates to the east of the settlements at Stromnagachan aligning with the A819, crossing the road and River Aray at Tullich and continuing parallel to the A819 in a northerly direction. The alignment then crosses the A819 once more to the northwest, near the Old Military Road, before terminating at the Creag Dhubh Substation.

Review of Environmental Effects:




Natural Heritage


Topics	Potential Impacts	RAG Impact Rating
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Designations	<p>International, European or National Designations (e.g. SAC, Ramsar, National Parks, SSSI, Ancient Woodland)</p> <p>Alignment 2 passes through Glen Etive and Glen Fyne SPA for approximately 1.3 km within approximately 100 m of the western boundary of the site. The Glen Etive and Glen Fyne SPA is designated for its breeding population of golden eagles with 19 active territories. Alignment 2 will result in a limited loss of lowland habitat at the periphery of the SPA.</p> <p>The habitat at the periphery of the SPA comprises riparian vegetation associated with the River Aray and its tributaries, areas of regenerating native woodland, and extensive even aged non-native conifer plantation. These habitats are not considered suitable for breeding or foraging golden eagles and are subject to ongoing disturbance from vehicular activity along the A819.</p> <p>Baseline flight-activity surveys conducted during the 2025 breeding season (182 survey hours across five vantage points) and the 2025/2026 non-breeding season (239 survey hours across seven vantage points) recorded no evidence of golden eagles using these peripheral habitats for breeding or foraging.</p> <p>The nearest golden eagle breeding territory within the SPA is approximately 5.4 km from the Proposed Development, and baseline survey data provide no evidence of regular movements by SPA-breeding eagles across Alignment 2.</p>	
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		<p>Satellite-tag data from two resident golden eagles holding territories out with the SPA, but close to the Alignment 2, show no evidence of regular movements across Alignment 2 into the SPA.</p> <p>No other sites designated for ornithological or nature conservation are located within a likely zone of influence of Alignment 2.</p> <p>Within Alignment 2 there are three areas of woodland (Category 1a, 2a and 2b) listed on the AWI. Alignment 2 will lead to the loss of approximately 1.33 ha of this irreplaceable AWI habitat. Further to this, six woodlands listed on the NWSS feature within Alignment 2.</p> <p>A red rating has been applied as Alignment 2 is likely to compromise an internationally or nationally designated area and / or the conservation status of the designated features of the site. Alignment 2 follows an identical path through the Glen Etive, Glen Fyne SPA, however, by passing through areas identified as AWI and NWSS Alignment 2 will have a greater impact on International, European or National Designations (e.g. SAC, Ramsar, National Parks, SSSI, Ancient Woodland).</p>	
	Regional Designations (e.g. Local Nature Reserves, Wildlife Sites, RIGS)	A green rating is applied as no regional designations are in close proximity to Alignment 2.	
Protected Species	European Protected Species (EPS)	<p>European protected species known to occur in the area include otter and bat species. Minor watercourses within peatland (bog habitats) and agricultural habitats in the central and southern parts of Alignment 2 are likely to be inhabited by otter with the likelihood of sheltering, foraging and commuting opportunities. The River Aray is known to be occupied by otter and is likely used for foraging habitat and a likely source of shelter. Alignment 2 has low suitability for bats, however, the most likely roosting habitat is found within trees and woodland blocks in the center of the alignment along the River Aray into Three Bridges Plantation (those areas not currently felled), where older damaged trees are likely to yield roost features. Further to this, areas listed on the AWI may yield a greater number of trees with roosting potential for bats. There is potential for freshwater pearl mussel and protected fish sp. to be found in the River Aray.</p> <p>There is alternative suitable habitat for species in the area, disturbance would be temporary during construction and the application of SSEN Transmission Species Protection Plans (SPPs) and General Environmental Management Plans (GEMPs) will limit the potential for impacts during construction from sources of disturbance and pollution, in particular to the aquatic environment.</p> <p>A green rating is applied as Alignment 2 is unlikely to compromise the conservation status of known presence or suitable habitat for EPS.</p>	
	UK Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) Species	UK BAP and nationally protected species known to occur in the area include red squirrel, pine marten, polecat, water vole, badger, brown hare, mountain hare, amphibians and reptiles. Forestry blocks found in the north of Alignment 2 and within Three Bridges Plantation to the south, are likely to be inhabited by red squirrel and pine marten, with potential for shelter and foraging opportunities. Minor watercourses within peatland (bog habitats) and tributaries of the River Aray in the central and southern parts of Alignment 2 are likely to be inhabited by water vole with the likelihood of sheltering, foraging and commuting opportunities.	




		<p>Badgers are unlikely to be found within the wetter peatland habitats within Alignment 2 but will potentially use the drier forestry and agricultural habitats of this alignment. Amphibians and reptiles are expected to be found throughout the peatland, agricultural and woodland edge habitats, with slowworms a possibility in more natural woodland areas with a vegetated understory such as those around the River Aray and Glen Aray.</p> <p>There is alternative suitable habitat in the area, disturbance would be temporary during construction and the application of SSEN Transmission Species Protection Plans (SPPs) and General Environmental Management Plans (GEMPs) will limit the potential for impact during construction.</p> <p>A green rating is applied as Alignment 2 is unlikely to compromise the conservation status of known presence or suitable habitat for BAP or nationally protected species.</p>	
Habitats	Annex 1 Habitats	<p>Surveys highlighted three Annex 1 Habitats (wet woodland, wet heathland and blanket bog) in close proximity to Alignment 2. These habitats are found in the south of Alignment 2 at higher elevations where the land is flatter and dominated by peatland habitats. Wet woodland is found around the confluence of the River Aray and the Allt Sheileachan. All Annex 1 habitats recorded were found within areas common to both Alignment options.</p> <p>An amber rating is applied as Alignment 2 may compromise the conservation status of Annex 1 habitats.</p>	M
	Groundwater Dependent Terrestrial Ecosystems (GWDTE)	<p>Alignment 2 predominantly crosses agricultural and forestry habitats which are less likely to contain GWDTEs on account of management prescriptions. Potential GWDTE habitats recorded within Alignment 2 include M6, M15, M23, M25, M28, MG10, W1, U6, M1, M11 and M10. These habitats are all found in areas common to both alignments. W9 and W11 habitats are also found within the deviation unique to Alignment 2.</p> <p>An amber rating is applied as Alignment 2 may compromise the integrity of know examples of GWDTE e.g. by crossing the edge of or passing close to them.</p>	M
	Biodiversity	<p>Please see associated BNG report for further detail. Alignment 2 affects 209.82 BU (6.17 BU / ha) with 19,738.75 LU(W) across 2,243.04 m of watercourses. Alignment 2 affects 1.33 ha of irreplaceable habitat and 3.36 ha of habitats within designated sites.</p> <p>A green rating is applied as Alignment 2 is <110 % of least 'biodiversity units impacted' option.</p>	L
	SG Drinking Water Protected Areas	<p>There are no surface water, loch or river DWPA which Alignment 2 passes through¹. There is a surface water DWPA catchment located 860 m northeast of Alignment 2.</p> <p>Alignment 2 is located on the Oban and Kintyre groundwater body which has a WFD classification of good. It is also a groundwater DWPA, however, it is noted the whole of Scotland is a groundwater DWPA. Alignment 2 is underlain by the same groundwater DWPA².</p> <p>An amber rating is applied as Alignment 2 may compromise the quality and or quantity of groundwater in the DWPA if there are dewatering activities.</p>	M

Hydrology/ Geology/ Hydrogeology	Aquifer providing regional/ local resources	<p>BGS 1,625,000 scale hydrogeology mapping³ shows that Alignment 2 is partially underlain by three aquifers. Alignment 2 is largely underlain by Argyll Group aquifer, with small areas of unnamed extrusive rocks, and unnamed igneous intrusions also present along the alignment. All three are low productivity aquifers where flow is virtually all through fractures and other discontinuities; there are small amounts of groundwater in the near surface weathered zone and fractures.</p> <p>It is understood there may be six PWS in proximity to Alignment 2, and it passes within 1 km of 13 properties. The source location and nature of any PWS e.g. surface water or groundwater fed supply is unknown at this stage. If the supplies are groundwater fed then SEPA guidance on assessing the impacts of a development on groundwater abstractions Error! Bookmark not defined. states that any groundwater fed PWS within 250 m of excavations > 1 m deep are potentially at risk. If they are a surface water supply, the water quality / quantity could be impacted if works are within the catchment area of the supply. When Alignment 2 diverts from Alignment 1 and passes east of the settlements at Stronmagachan, it passes within approximately 250 m of two residential properties and at a greater distance from areas where private water supplies are understood to be present. At this stage, the presence and location of any PWS has been identified at a screening level only.</p> <p>An amber rating is applied to Alignment 2 as this option may compromise the quality and or quantity of surface water and or groundwater supplying PWS to be impacted.</p>	
	Surface waters or aquifer providing water for agricultural or industrial use	<p>Alignment 2 passes over numerous named and unnamed watercourses as shown on OS 1:50k scale mapping which discharge into the River Aray. The alignment travels along the eastern and western boundaries of the River Aray for almost its entire length, which is a WFD designated watercourse with an overall classification of moderate⁴. Alignment 2 crosses the River Aray twice. Alignment 2 also passes over the Allt Blarghour which is WFD watercourses of moderate WFD classification. When Alignment 2 diverts from Alignment 1 and passes east of the settlements at Stronmagachan it crosses three watercourses as shown on OS 1:50k scale mapping.</p> <p>Alignment 2 is within the medium likelihood (1 in 200 year) plus climate change river flood extents⁵ associated with the River Aray at areas where it crosses the river and when it runs alongside the watercourse. When Alignment 2 diverts from Alignment 1 and passes east of the settlements at Stronmagachan it passes closer to the River Aray, resulting in it being within a medium likelihood plus climate change river flood risk extent which Alignment 1 is not in.</p> <p>An amber rating is applied to Alignment 2 as this option may compromise the quality and or quality of surface water quality through construction activities which could impact WFD watercourses and other named watercourses.</p>	
	Schedule 1 Birds	<p>Populations of Schedule 1 birds are present within Alignment 2.</p> <p>One adult and one juvenile golden eagle were recorded together approximately 1.5 km south of Alignment 2. The closest identified nest site is approximately 2 km from Alignment 2. Baseline flight activity surveys have recorded limited flights of golden eagles across Alignment 2 and given the topography, birds have mostly been recorded at least 500 m above sea level, well above the alignment. Surveys have recorded limited evidence of flights of golden eagles below approximately 400 m above sea level with Cruach mhor located at approximately 589 m above sea level. Alignment 2 is out with the recognised disturbance distance (750</p>	

Ornithology		<p>m – 1 km) for golden eagle⁶, much further away from any known sensitive locations and more generally tracks below sensitive locations by as much as 400 m in the glen overlooking the A819.</p> <p>Baseline ornithology surveys conducted by ERM in 2025 recorded up to five white-tailed eagles observed both in flight and perched near Alignment 2. While there is no documented evidence of direct breeding, records have included an adult pair as well as first year juveniles.</p> <p>Merlin have been recorded in flight.</p> <p>One black grouse was recorded on two occasions (April and May 2025) approximately 800 m to the east of Alignment 2 during the breeding season. No lek sites were identified.</p> <p>There is potential for breeding disturbance, barrier effects and collision risks for the listed species. There is alternative and widespread suitable habitat in the area, disturbance would be temporary during construction and the application of SSEN Transmission Species Protection Plans (SPPs) and General Environmental Management Plans (GEMPs) would limit the potential for impact during construction.</p> <p>An amber rating is applied as Alignment 2 may compromise the conservation status of populations of Schedule 1 bird species known to be present or the integrity of essential breeding, passage or wintering habitat.</p>	
	Birds of Conservation Concern (BoCC)	<p>Baseline ornithology surveys conducted by ERM in 2025 have recorded a number of red listed species of high conservation concern.</p> <p>Ten species have been recorded on the BoCC red list (cuckoo, merlin, hen harrier, skylark, lesser redpoll, crossbill, spotted flycatcher, grasshopper warbler, whinchat, tree pipit), along with 11 additional species classified as amber-listed (white-tailed eagle, snipe, kestrel, willow warbler, sparrowhawk, common whitethroat, wren, dunnoek, reed-bunting, song thrush, meadow pipit).</p> <p>There is potential for breeding disturbance, barrier effects and collision risks for the listed species. There is alternative and widespread suitable habitat in the area, disturbance would be temporary during construction and the application of SSEN Transmission Species Protection Plans (SPPs) and General Environmental Management Plans (GEMPs) would limit the potential for impact during construction.</p> <p>A green rating is applied as Alignment 2 is unlikely to compromise the conservation status of a population of red or amber listed species or essential breeding, passage or wintering habitat.</p>	
Cultural Heritage			
	Topics	Potential Impacts	RAG Impact Rating

Designations	World Heritage Sites (WHS), Scheduled Monuments (SM), Inventory Gardens and Designed Landscapes (GDL), Inventory Battlefields	<p>There are no Designations within Alignment 2.</p> <p>There are no World Heritage Sites or Inventoried Historic Battlefields within 5 km of Alignment 2.</p> <p>There is one Inventoried Garden & Designed Landscape (GDL00223 Inveraray Castle) and 14 Scheduled Monuments within 5 km of Alignment 2. The closest Scheduled Monument is Keppochan, cup marked stone (SM4186) located approximately 2.1 km to the north. Monuments within 5 km predominantly date to the prehistoric period.</p> <p>Direct:</p> <p>Direct impact to Designations is not anticipated as a result of Alignment 2.</p> <p>Indirect & Setting:</p> <p>There remains a low-moderate potential for indirect impacts to Inventoried Garden & Designed Landscape GDL00223. A setting sieving exercise is proposed to understand the setting contribution of assets within 5 km (and beyond), using a ZTV to advance the assessment.</p> <p>A green rating is applied as the option is unlikely to compromise the designating features or their setting.</p>	
	Sites and Monuments Record Entries	<p>There are three Non-Designated Assets within Alignment 2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carness, pre-improvement settlement (HER 9165); and • Two separate portions of a military road (WoSAS 21741). <p>These date to the post-medieval to modern periods.</p> <p>An additional 28 Non-Designated Assets are located within 250 m of Alignment 2, predominantly dating to post-medieval to modern periods. However, four non-designated assets within 250 m may be prehistoric in date (HER 9167, 9173, 9174 and 9168).</p> <p>There is the potential for direct impact to assets within the 250 m study area. Mitigation via avoidance should be implemented in the first instance to avoid direct impact. A desk-based assessment supported by a programme of archaeological field survey is suggested, as required. Further survey and archaeological mitigation to be determined as the design develops, in consultation with the relevant regulators.</p> <p>An amber rating is applied as the Alignment 2 may compromise the designating features or setting of limited SMR feature.</p>	
Cultural Heritage Assets	Listed Buildings (A.B and C), Non-Inventory GDL, Conservation Areas	<p>There are no Cultural Heritage Assets within Alignment 2.</p> <p>There are no Non-Inventoried Garden & Designed Landscapes or Conservation Areas within 5 km of Alignment 2.</p>	

		<p>There are 116 Listed Buildings located within 5 km of Alignment 2 comprising 36 Category A, 57 Category B and 23 Category C Listed Buildings. The closest Listed Building is Category B Listed, Society School, Glen Aray (LB11523) located approximately 250 m to the east of Alignment 2.</p> <p>The following Category A Listed Buildings are located to the southeast of the alignment within Inveraray Castle GDL:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inveraray Castle (LB11552); • Watch Tower, Dun Na Cuaiche (LB11543); • Maam Steading (LB11518); • Cherrypark Castle Offices and Stables (LB11528); • Carloon Doocot (LB11540); • Garden Bridge, River Aray (LB11544); and • Dubh Loch Bridge (LB11551). <p>The remainder of the Listed Buildings within 5 km are predominantly related to Inveraray town, with a localised setting within the settlement. Settings impacts for Cultural Heritage Assets within the settlement are not anticipated.</p> <p>Direct:</p> <p>Direct impact to Cultural Heritage Assets is not anticipated as a result of Alignment 2.</p> <p>Indirect & Setting:</p> <p>There remains a low-moderate potential for indirect impacts to Listed Buildings located within the confines of Inveraray Castle GDL, namely Category A Listed Inveraray Castle (LB11552) and Category A Listed Watch Tower, Dun Na Cuaiche (LB11543) which may experience adverse impact as a result of Alignment 2. A setting sieving exercise is proposed to understand the setting contribution of assets within 5 km (and beyond), using a ZTV to advance the assessment.</p> <p>A green rating is applied as the option is unlikely to compromise the integrity of a conservation area, non-inventoried GDL, setting of an A listed building or directly disturb a B/C listed building.</p>	
People			
	Topics	Potential Impacts	RAG Impact Rating

Proximity to dwellings	Residential Properties and other sensitive receptors (e.g. schools, hospitals)	<p>Assuming a potential maximum pole height of 17 m, Alignment 2 is located beyond four times this height from properties along its alignment.</p> <p>A green rating is applied as dwellings are located within a distance of greater than four times the nominal height of the structure.</p>	
Landscape & Visual Amenity			
	Topics	Potential Impacts	RAG Impact Rating
Designations	National or Regional Designations: National Parks, National Scenic Areas, Inventory Gardens and Designed Landscape (GDL) Wild Land Area	<p>Alignment 2 does not pass through a nationally designated or protected landscape.</p> <p>The northern section of Alignment 2 is located within the regionally designated North Argyll Area of Panoramic Quality (APQ). There are no published details of the special landscape qualities of the North Argyll APQ. It is assumed however that the special landscape qualities may relate to its scenic qualities, its largely undeveloped open hills and secluded glens, and remoteness.</p> <p>Inveraray Castle GDL is southeast of the southern part of the alignment, passing over 1 km from GDL's boundary.</p> <p>An amber rating is applied as Alignment 2 may compromise the special qualities of North Argyll APQ.</p>	
Visual	Settlements and Residential Properties, key transportation and recreational routes utilised by tourists and visitors to an area, vantage points and tourist destinations from where views and landscape appreciation is important	<p>Alignment 2 is likely to be visible from Inveraray, in addition to isolated properties located along the road corridor of the A819 may also have views of the alignment. Of particular note, Alignment 2 would pass to the east of the farmstead / properties at Stronmagachan and to the east of Drimfern. It would be likely to be viewed in combination with LT194 to the west and LT194 aligned at a higher elevation on the valley sides. LT194 would be likely to be the more dominant structure in views.</p> <p>Alignment 2 may also be visible from the local road network, with potential visibility from the A819 to the east and south-east. Areas of commercial forestry to the north-east of the alignment, may reduce visibility from the A819 towards the alignment. For a short section of the A819 views of Alignment 2 are likely to be greater than those of Alignment 1 where the alignment passes in close proximity to the road and woodland / trees are required to be felled.</p> <p>Alignment 2 would be likely to result in lesser effects on views and visual amenity of residents at Drimfern due to a greater separation distance, however effects would be likely to be greater at Stronmagachan in views to the east and south across Glen Aray.</p> <p>An amber rating is applied as Alignment 2 may compromise the view or visual amenity at a given location.</p>	
Land Use			
	Topics	Potential Impacts	RAG Impact Rating

Agriculture	Agricultural Land Classification (ALC)	<p>Alignment 2 passes predominantly through agricultural land used for cropping and grazing. Approximately 75% of the alignment (roughly 9.0 km) lies within LCA Type 6.3, with smaller proportions within LCA Type 5.2 (roughly 21%; 2.5 km) and LCA Type 6.1 (roughly 4%; 0.44 km). The most fertile cropping ground is located within the central section of the alignment, which is common to both Alignment 1 and Alignment 2. Where Alignment 2 deviates to the east of the farmstead and properties at Stronmagachan, it more closely follows existing field boundaries, rather than crossing through the middle of fields.</p> <p>While the alignment predominantly affects lower quality agricultural land, the Amber RAG rating has been increased to reflect landowner feedback and the relative scarcity of productive cropping land within the affected agricultural holdings.</p>	M	
Forestry	Commercial Forestry	<p>Alignment 2 impacts the three identified conifer plantations. While it may be possible to make sure of established access networks to construct Alignment 2, it is likely that there will still be the requirement for additional infrastructure development resulting in the felling of trees.</p> <p>Alignment 2 will cross forest roads and several commercial conifer compartments. OHL road crossings can be affected by future forestry traffic which needs to be considered in detailed design. The commercial conifer compartments are of varying age, where Alignment 2 crosses mature compartments management felling may be required to prevent windthrow risk as a result of the OHL operational corridor.</p> <p>Alignment 2 also negatively impacts a larger area of AWI listed woodland than Alignment 1 which is covered in more detail in the Natural Heritage Context sections above for both Alignment 1 and Alignment 2.</p>	M	
Recreation	Public Footpaths, National Cycle Routes etc	A green rating is applied as Alignment 2 avoids interaction with public footpaths and national cycle routes	L	
	Commercial Highland Sports – fishing, stalking, shooting	A green rating is applied as Alignment 2 avoids interaction with areas known to be used for commercial highland sports.	L	
Planning				
	Topics	Potential Impacts	RAG Impact Rating	
Proposals	Other Relevant projects already known to the planning system	An amber rating is applied as Alignment 2 may be inconsistent with other 3rd party proposals known to the planning system.		M
		Project	Application Ref	

APPENDIX B: FIGURES

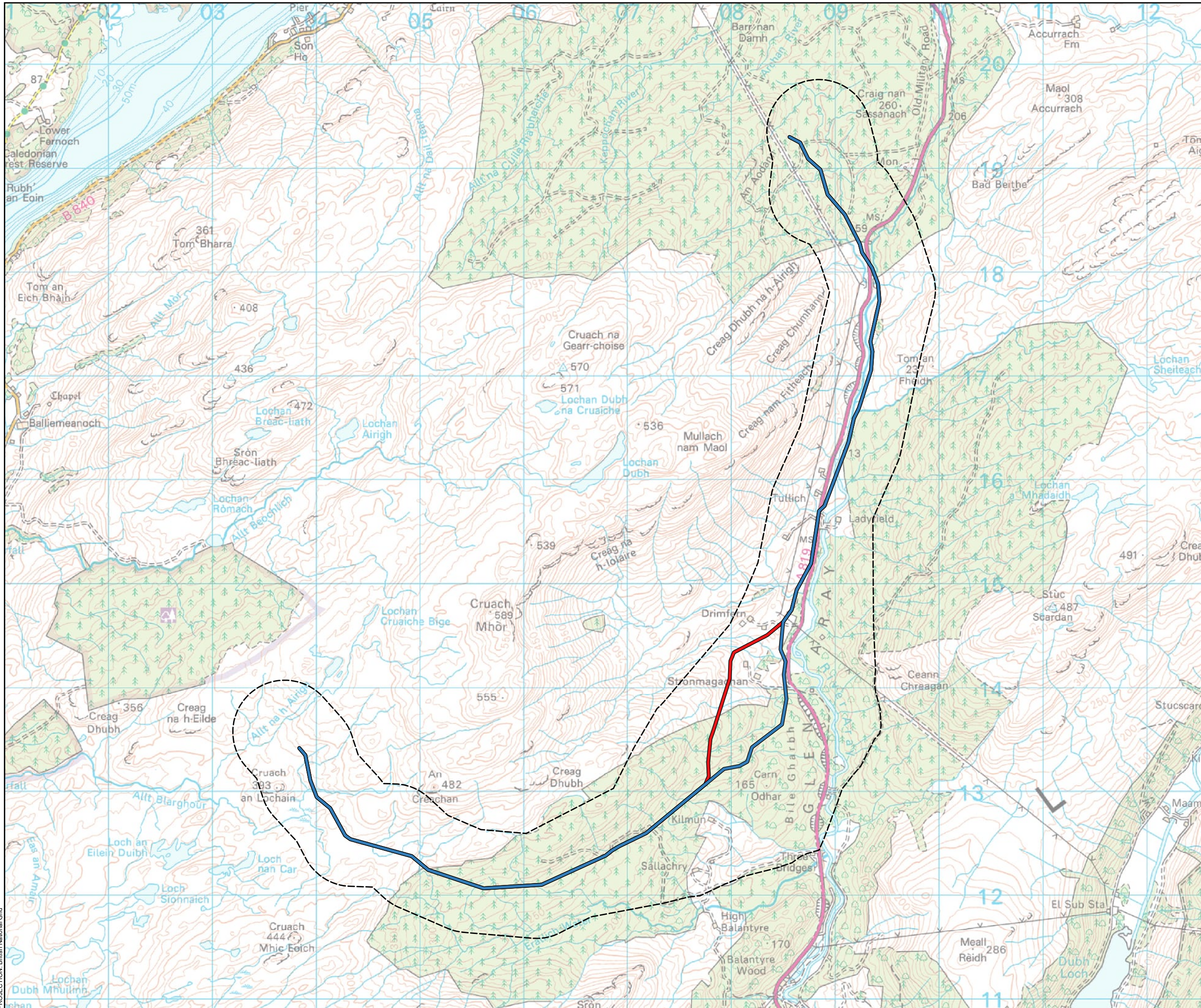
Figure 1.1 Alignment Options

Figure 3.1 Study Areas

Figure 5.1: Natural Heritage constraints

Figure 5.2: Cultural Heritage constraints

Figure 5.3: Landscape and Visual constraints



Proposed Route
 Alignment Options
— Alignment 1
— Alignment 2

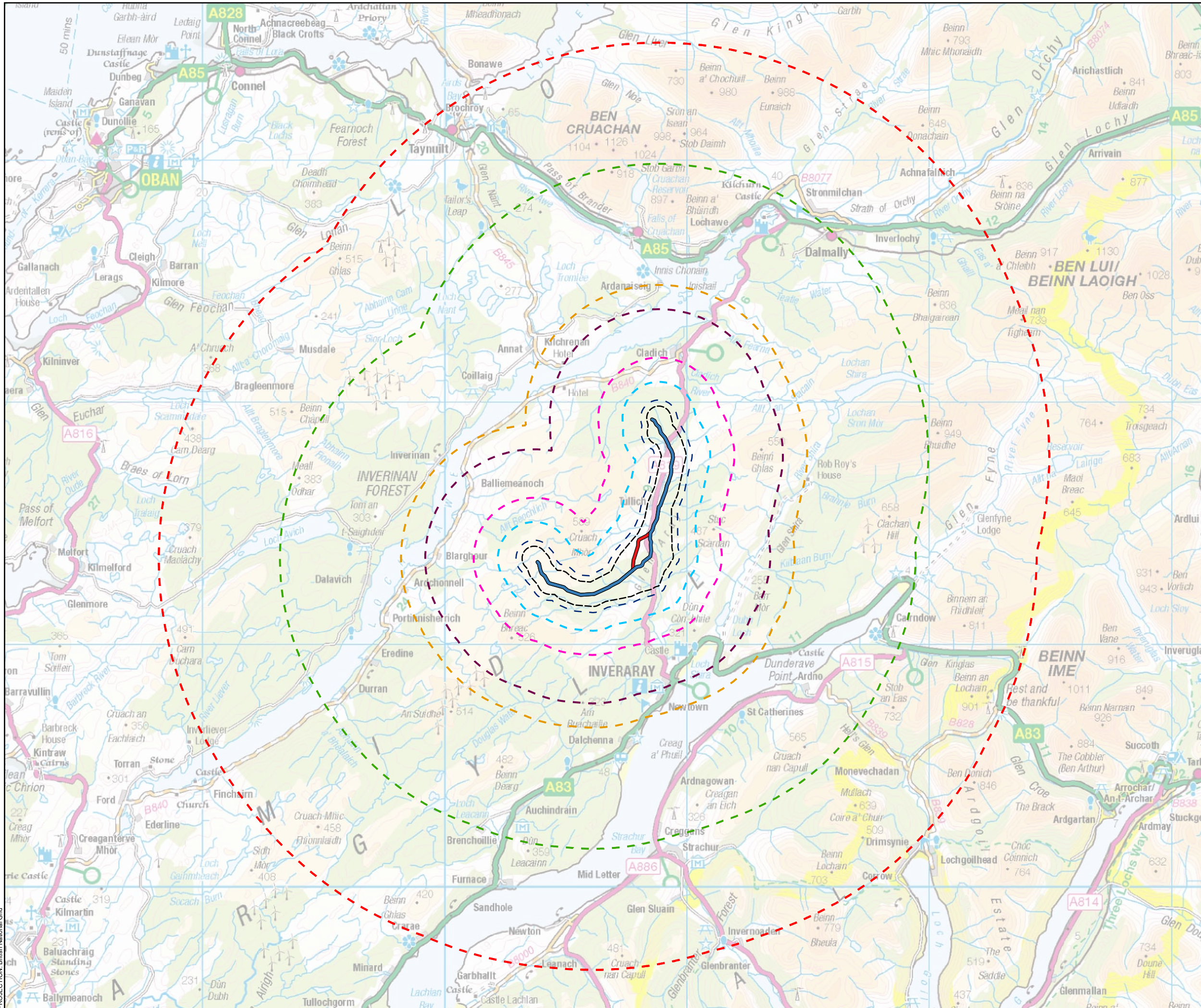


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DATE: 2026-04-24	APPROVED: SC

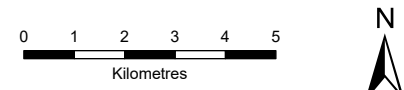
**Figure 1.1: Alignment Options
Blarghour 132 kV Wind Farm Connection
Alignment Consultation Document**



PROJECTION: British National Grid

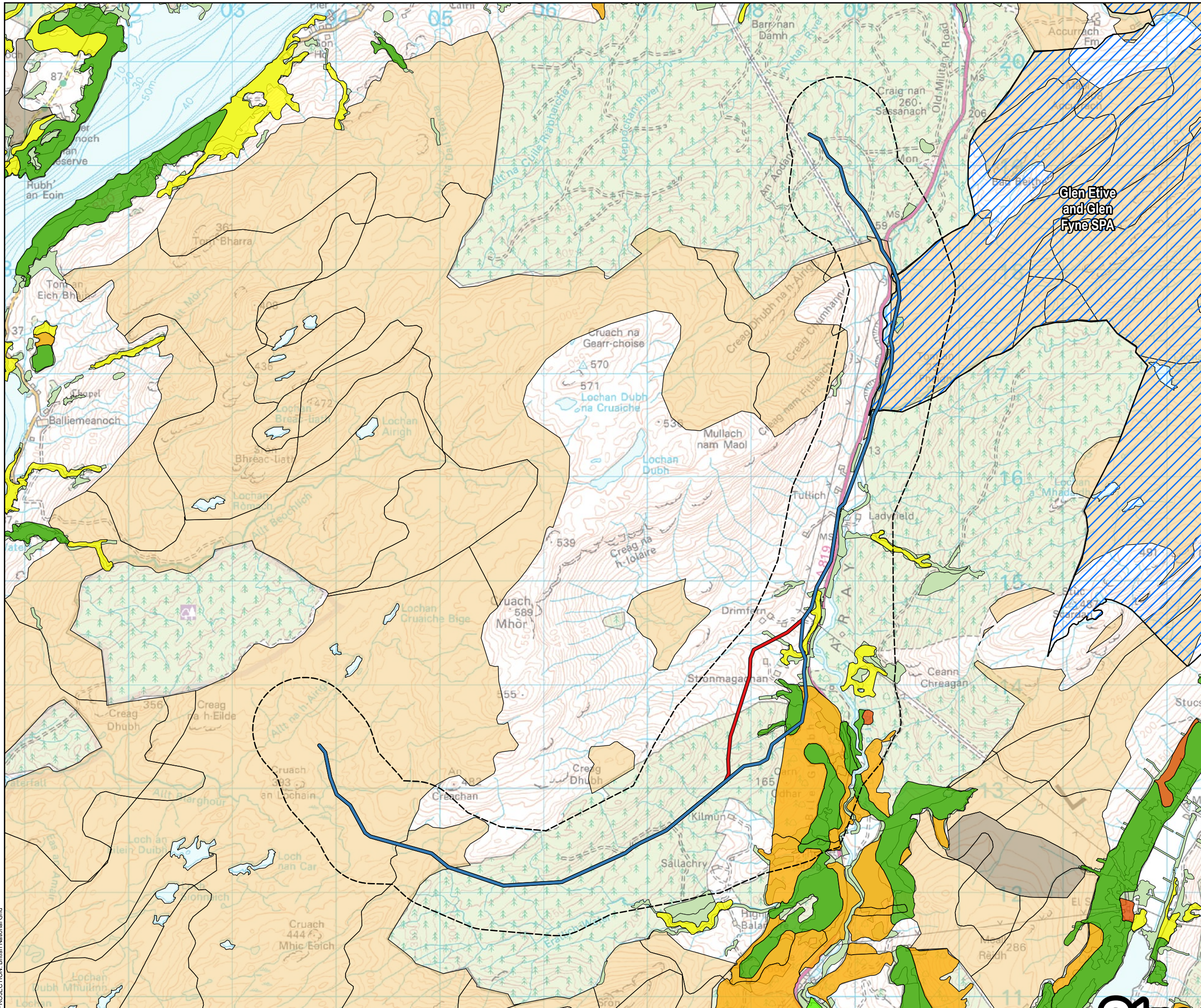


- Proposed Route
- Alignment 1
- Alignment 2
- Landscape Study Areas**
- 15 km (landscape designations)
- 4 km (visual effects)
- Natural Heritage Study Areas**
- 15 km (international designations)
- 10 km (national designations)
- 2 km (local designations)
- 1 km (hydrology receptors)
- Cultural Heritage Study Areas**
- 5 km (designated assets)
- 250 m (non-designated assets)

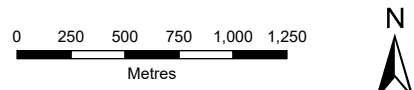


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DATE: 2026-04-24	APPROVED: SC

Figure 3.1: Study Areas
Blarghour 132 kV Wind Farm Connection
Alignment Consultation Document



- Proposed Route
- Alignment 1
- Alignment 2
- Native Woodland Survey of Scotland (NWSS)
- Ancient Woodland Inventory**
- Antiquity**
- 1a
- 1b
- 2a
- 2b
- 3
- Carbon and Peatland**
- Classification**
- 1 - Peatland
- 2 - Peatland or areas with high potential to be restored to peatland
- Designated Sites**
- Special Protection Areas (SPA)

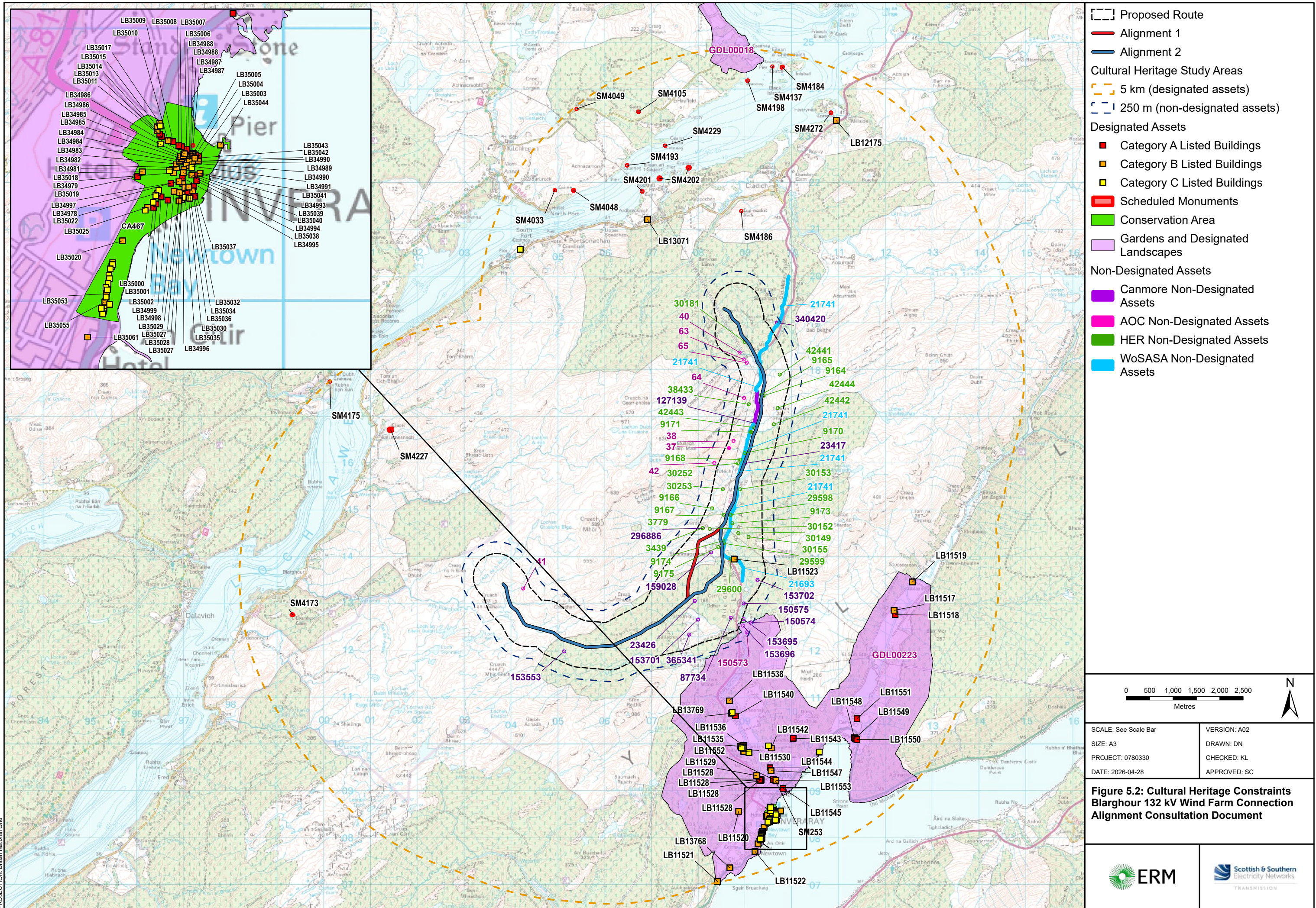


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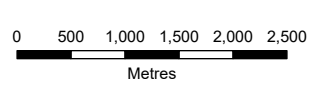
Figure 5.1: Natural Heritage Constraints Blarghour 132 kV Wind Farm Connection Alignment Consultation Document



PROJECTION: British National Grid



- Proposed Route
- Alignment 1
- Alignment 2
- Cultural Heritage Study Areas**
- 5 km (designated assets)
- 250 m (non-designated assets)
- Designated Assets**
- Category A Listed Buildings
- Category B Listed Buildings
- Category C Listed Buildings
- Scheduled Monuments
- Conservation Area
- Gardens and Designated Landscapes
- Non-Designated Assets**
- Canmore Non-Designated Assets
- AOC Non-Designated Assets
- HER Non-Designated Assets
- WoSASA Non-Designated Assets

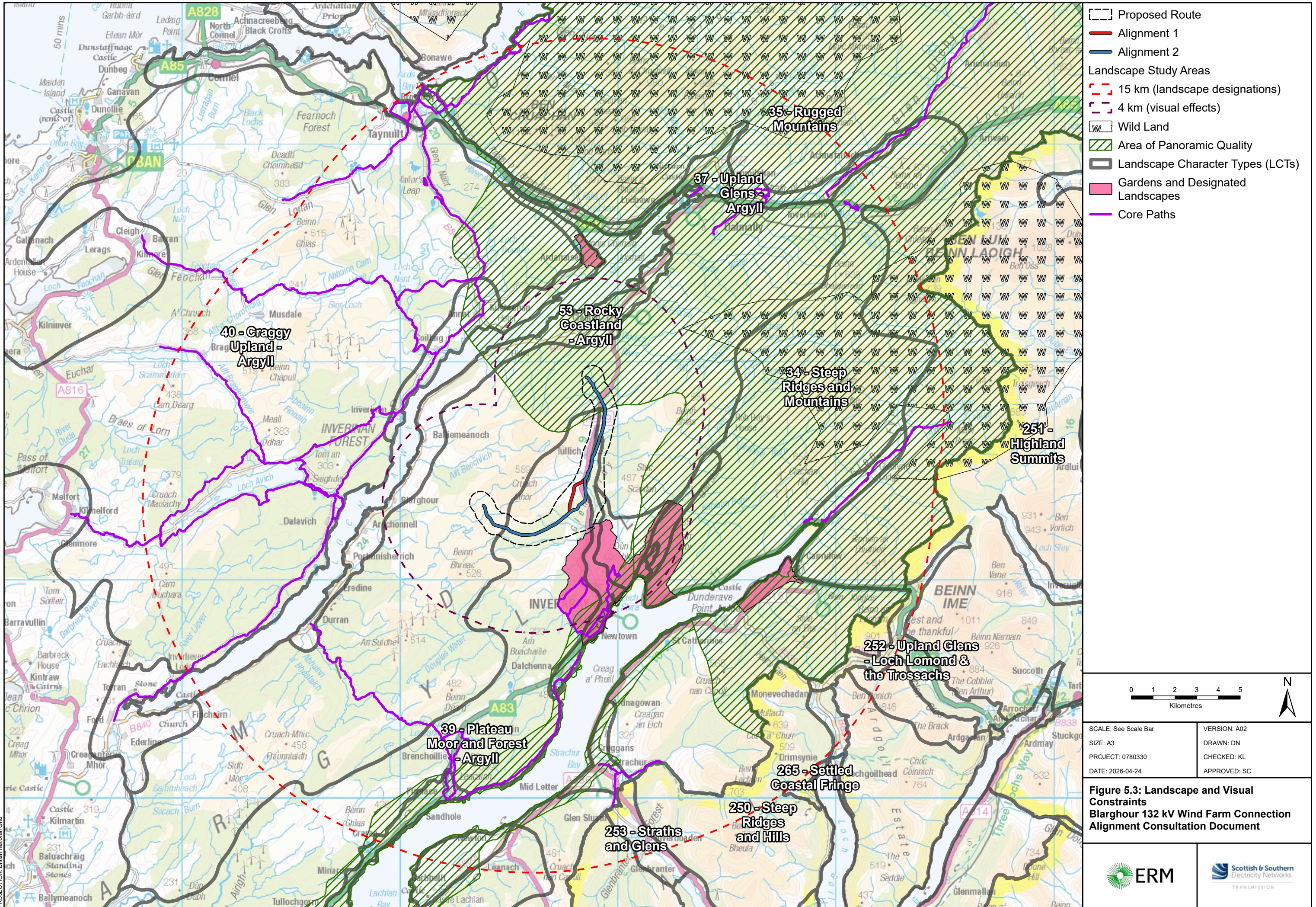


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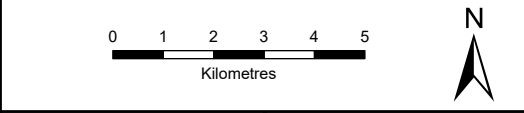
Figure 5.2: Cultural Heritage Constraints Blarghour 132 kV Wind Farm Connection Alignment Consultation Document



PROJECTION: British National Grid



- Proposed Route
- Alignment 1
- Alignment 2
- Landscape Study Areas**
- 15 km (landscape designations)
- 4 km (visual effects)
- Wild Land
- Area of Panoramic Quality
- Landscape Character Types (LCTs)
- Gardens and Designated Landscapes
- Core Paths



SCALE: See Scale Bar	VERSION: A02
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PROJECT: 0780330	CHECKED: KL
DATE: 2026-04-24	APPROVED: SC

Figure 5.3: Landscape and Visual Constraints
Blarghour 132 kV Wind Farm Connection
Alignment Consultation Document

