

Reconfiguration of Beauly - Denny 400 kV Overhead Line

**Electricity Act (Environmental Impact Assessment)
(Scotland) Regulations 2017 Screening Request**

January 2026



Your ref:
Our ref: 123021-R-SCR-BDR-1.0.0

09 January 2026

Energy Consents Unit
5 Atlantic Quay
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To Whom It May Concern,

Reconfiguration of Beauly - Denny 400 kV Overhead Line

THE ELECTRICITY WORKS (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2017 (2017 NO. 101)

REQUEST FOR AN EIA SCREENING OPINION (REGULATION 8)

1.1 Overview

This screening request has been prepared by ASH design+assessment Limited ("ASH") on behalf of Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission plc ("the Applicant") who, operating and known as Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks Transmission ("SSEN Transmission"), own, operate and develop the high voltage electricity transmission system in the north of Scotland and remote islands.

The Applicant is developing proposals for works on the existing Beauly - Denny 400 kV overhead line (OHL) circuit to reconfigure an approximately 1.15 km section of the existing OHL near Laggan, in the Highlands of Scotland.

The proposed works to the existing OHL would comprise of the installation of two new permanent towers (which would replace two existing towers), the installation of two sections of approximately 0.4 km of new 400 kV conductors and the installation of downleads into a proposed new 400 kV substation (further details below). A temporary OHL of approximately 1.16 km in length between two new temporary towers running adjacent to the existing OHL would also be required whilst the proposed works are being completed to enable the continued transmission of electricity on the existing circuit. Temporary access tracks to the bases of the existing, temporary and new permanent towers during construction would be anticipated. On completion of the works, the temporary OHL and temporary towers, as well as the currently existing towers on the Beauly - Denny 400 kV OHL that are being replaced would be dismantled, and the temporary access tracks would be reinstated. The location of the works, hereafter referred to as the 'Proposed Development' is shown indicatively on **Figure 1** and described in further detail in **Section 1.4** of this report (see also **Figure 2**).

The Proposed Development is required to facilitate the connection of a new proposed 400 kV substation to the National Grid. The new proposed 400 kV substation, referred to as 'Coire Mashie substation' will be the subject of a separate planning application (and screening request) to The Highland Council by the Applicant. Coire Mashie substation is required to connect the consented Earba Pumped Storage Hydro (PSH) scheme to the electricity transmission network (ECU ECU00005062)¹.

¹ ECU (2024) *Earba 1,800MW Pumped Storage Hydro Scheme*, [online] Available at: <https://www.energyconsents.scot/ApplicationDetails.aspx?cr=ECU00005062> [Accessed: December 2025].

This letter acts as a formal request for Scottish Ministers to adopt a Screening Opinion under the Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017 (the EIA Regulations) to determine whether the Proposed Development is, or is not, EIA Development in the context of the EIA Regulations.

1.2 Priority Application

It is understood by the Applicant that the Proposed Development qualifies as a 'Priority Application' under the Scottish Government's Priority Applications for Transmission Infrastructure guidance (Section 37 of the Electricity Act 1989)². The Proposed Development meets the criteria for priority determination within 52 weeks as it constitutes strategic transmission infrastructure, increasing system capacity and security of supply. Furthermore, the works are required to facilitate the connection of the consented Earba Pumped Storage Hydro¹ scheme to the electricity transmission network, and therefore also fall within the category of generation connections for a single generation site where Section 36 consent has been granted. As such, this application is assumed to be eligible for the expedited determination process².

In their Screening Opinion, Scottish Ministers should confirm that the Proposed Development qualifies as a 'Priority Application' under the Scottish Government's Priority Applications for Transmission Infrastructure guidance (Section 37 of the Electricity Act 1989)².

1.3 Legislative and Statutory Context

Consent for the Proposed Development would be sought from Scottish Ministers under Section 37 of the Electricity Act (1989). The Electricity Act 1989 (as amended) is the primary legislation governing the electricity supply industry in Great Britain and places statutory and licence obligations upon a licence holder.

The requirement to undertake an EIA for developments requiring consent under Section 37 of the 1989 Act is set out in the Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017³. This is discussed further in **Section 1.3**.

In order to assist the request, this report includes:

- A plan identifying the location of the Proposed Development;
- A description of the nature and purpose of the Proposed Development;
- Factual information regarding the sensitivity of the location and the surrounding area; and
- A description of the potential for environmental effects based on the information reviewed and knowledge held by the Applicant at this time.

Should Section 37 consent be granted, the Applicant would also seek deemed planning permission under section 57(2) of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 for certain elements of the project, or ancillary works required to facilitate its construction and operation.

1.4 EIA Screening

The Proposed Development is not covered under the developments listed within Schedule 1 of the EIA Regulations³ given that it does not have a voltage of 220 kV or more, and a length of more than 15 km. It is, however, considered that the Proposed Development can be classified as Schedule 2 under Regulation 2(a):

“(2) an electric line installed above ground,

(a) with a voltage of 132 kilovolts or more”

As the Proposed Development is classified as Schedule 2(a), it must be determined whether or not the development will require to be supported by an EIA Report.

² Scottish Government (2023) *Priority Applications for Transmission Infrastructure: Guidance – Section 37 of the Electricity Act 1989*. Available at: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/priority-applications-transmission-infrastructure-guidance-section-37-electricity-act-1989/> [Accessed: December 2025]

³ The Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017, available at <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ssi/2017/101/contents/made>. [Accessed: November 2025]

In providing a Screening Opinion, the Applicant would ask that Scottish Ministers consider the need for EIA for the Proposed Development, taking into account Schedule 3 of the EIA Regulations. The Applicant believes that this report demonstrates that the Proposed Development **is unlikely to give rise to significant residual effects on the environment** and that, accordingly, **would not be considered EIA Development and thus would not be subject to an EIA and the preparation of an EIA Report.**

1.5 The Characteristics of the Proposed Development

The Proposed Development would be located within the Cairngorms National Park (CNP), in the local authority area of the Highland Council. The Proposed Development works would comprise the below works (see also **Figure 2**).

The majority of the Proposed Development would typically fall within the existing operational corridor (OC) / wayleave of the existing Beaully - Denny 400 kV OHL, which is approximately 90 m in width (45 m either side of the existing OHL). Some elements of the Proposed Development such as the downloads and the temporary access tracks that would be required to facilitate construction, may fall just outside of the already existing OC, but would be within close proximity to it.

The current towers on the Beaully - Denny 400 kV OHL that are proposed to be replaced are situated at approximate grid reference NN 58739 89461 (Tower 100) and at NN 59040 89327 (Tower 101). These existing towers are within a range of between 50 m and 60 m in height respectively. New 400 kV OHL conductors would be installed from two new towers, connecting to existing Tower 99 (NN 58348 89642) and Tower 102 (NN 59400 89159), which would remain in place. The new 400 kV OHL conductors between existing Tower 99 and the new Tower 100 would extend for a length of approximately 0.4 km. The new 400 kV OHL conductors between existing Tower 102 and the new Tower 100 would extend for a length of approximately 0.4 km. The new permanent towers would be expected to also be within a range of 50 m and 60 m in height.

Two new sets of downloads would connect the two new permanent towers into the proposed Coire Mashie substation.

In relation to the temporary elements of the Proposed Development, which would be required whilst the proposed works are being completed to enable the continued transmission of electricity on the existing circuit, two towers to temporarily replace Tower 100 and Tower 101 on the existing Beaully - Denny OHL, with the reconfiguration of the OHL between them would be anticipated. The temporary towers be expected to be within a range of 50 m and 60 m in height.

On completion of the proposed works, the existing towers on the Beaully - Denny 400 kV OHL that are to be replaced, as well as the temporary OHL and towers, would be dismantled.

Construction Access

Initial access would be expected to be via the A86, and then there are a number of options being explored in relation to accessing the Proposed Development from there. Any required upgrade works to minor roads or tracks off the A86 would be expected to be applied for under the separate Coire Mashie substation project consent.

There may be the need to create access tracks to reach the proposed tower bases. These would be temporary and be expected to utilise the reinstated areas previously used for access tracks during the initial construction of the Beaully - Denny 400 kV OHL. These areas would be reinstated after construction.

A temporary work area would require to be established at the Proposed Development site.

Programme

It is anticipated that construction of the Proposed Development would take place in line with the 4-year construction period for the proposed Coire Mashie substation project. Construction working is likely to be during daytime periods only. Working hours are anticipated 6 days a week between approximately 07:00 to 19:00 on weekdays. Saturday working hours would be 07:00 to 13:00 with no working on Sundays. Working hours would be confirmed by the Principal Contractor and agreed with the Highland Council.

Use of Natural Resources

It is not anticipated that the Proposed Development would require any notable water consumption. It is not anticipated that borrow pits will be required for building materials.

Construction Environmental Management

It is assumed that all works would be carried out in accordance with industry best practice construction measures, guidance, and legislation, together with the procedures set out within the Applicant's General Environmental Management Plans (GEMPs) and Species Protection Plans (SPPs).

In addition, a contractual management requirement of the Principal Contractor would be the development and implementation of a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP). This document would detail how the Principal Contractor would manage the site in accordance with identified mitigation measures, statutory consents and authorisations, and industry best practise and guidance. The CEMP would also reference the GEMPs and SPPs.

Reinstatement

Following commissioning of the Proposed Development, all temporary work areas would be reinstated and this would form part of the contract obligations for the Principal Contractor.

1.6 Review of Proposed Development against Environmental Sensitivities as identified within Schedule 3 of the Regulations

Table 1 overleaf provides a summary of the baseline findings and considers the potential for the Proposed Development to give rise to significant environmental effects.

Figure 3a and **Figure 3b** shows the Proposed Development in relation to statutory and non-statutory designations. **Figure 4** shows the peat depth within the vicinity of the Proposed Development as established during Phase 1 peat probing undertaken in September 2024.

Table 1: Review of Proposed Development against Environmental Sensitivities as identified within Schedule 3 of the Regulations

Environmental Issue	Baseline Findings	Potential for Significant Environmental Effects
Landscape Character and Visual Impact	<p><u>Designations:</u></p> <p>The Proposed Development is located in the CNP and Ben Alder, Laggan and Glen Bachor Special Landscape Area (SLA). It also lies adjacent to Wild Land Area (WLA) 14. Rannoch - Nevis - Mamores - Alder (WLA 14) (see Figure 3a).</p>	<p>There are unlikely to be significant effects on designated and protected landscapes.</p> <p>The area of the CNP and SLA that the Proposed Development is within, is mostly characterised by forest plantation and is not strongly demonstrative of the Special Landscape Qualities (SLQs) of either area.</p> <p>In relation to the WLA, there could be some limited potential for localised effects on the Wild Land Qualities (WLQs) in this area, however, as the replacement towers would be of a similar height to the existing towers, the Proposed Development would not be expected to have additional effects on designated landscapes than is presently the case.</p> <p>No longer term effects are likely given the Proposed Development is a relatively confined reconfiguration (approximately 1.15 km) of the existing OHL.</p>
	<p><u>Landscape Character:</u></p> <p>The Proposed Development would be located within two Landscape Character Areas (LCAs) from the CNP Landscape Character Assessment: The Ardverikie Hills 'Upland' LCA; and the Pattack Glen / Strath Mashie 'Straths and Glens' LCA. The broad landscape sensitivity for both LCAs has been identified as Medium. Locally the landscape is characterised by a broad pattern of heavily managed plantation forest and moorland with steep craggy hills to the south.</p>	<p>There are unlikely to be significant effects on landscape character.</p> <p>There would be no noticeable change in landscape character as a result of the Proposed Development. Any potential effects during the construction period would be very localised and short term. No longer term effects are likely given the Proposed Development is a relatively confined reconfiguration (approximately 1.15 km) of the existing OHL.</p>
	<p><u>Visual:</u></p> <p>Visual receptors in the surrounding area are limited to A86 road corridor and properties situated alongside the road, the closest of which is at Feagour, approximately 1.5 km distance from the Proposed Development.</p> <p>There are some recreational routes within the forestry within the surrounding area, including some biking and walking routes at the Laggan Wolfrax mountain bike centre to the north, and a Core Path and forest trails at Feagour to the west (see Figure 3a).</p>	<p>There are unlikely to be significant effects for visual receptors.</p> <p>Construction visual effects are anticipated to be very localised, experienced by nearby properties and recreational track users. No long term significant visual effects are likely given the Proposed Development would be viewed in the context of the existing OHL.</p> <p>Long term significant effects are considered unlikely for visual receptors.</p>

Environmental Issue	Baseline Findings	Potential for Significant Environmental Effects
	<p>A long distance Scottish Hill Track route identified by the Scottish Rights of Way and Access Society (ScotWays) passes near to the site, but is unmarked on the ground.</p>	
<p>Ecology and Nature Conservation</p>	<p><u>Designations:</u></p> <p>The Proposed Development is located within CNP. The CNP is the largest such park in the UK and is designated for a unique range of environments, including the largest area of arctic mountain landscape, hosting 25% of Britain's threatened birds, animals, and plants.</p> <p>The River Spey Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and the River Spey Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) lie approximately 3.5 km north of the Proposed Development (see Figure 3a). The River Spey SSSI / SAC is a river corridor, with both sites designated for the internationally important species assemblage this river system supports, comprising Atlantic salmon (<i>Salmo salar</i>), freshwater pearl mussel (<i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i>), otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>), and sea lamprey (<i>Petromyzon marinus</i>).</p> <p>The Proposed Development would not interact with any designated Ancient Woodland, there is some designated Native Woodland in the vicinity of Tower 99 on the Beaulay-Denny 400 kV OHL though (see Figure 3b).</p>	<p>There are unlikely to be significant effects on any sites designated for natural heritage interests.</p> <p>In relation to the potential for impacts on the CNP there could be some limited potential for the loss / fragmentation or pollution of designated habitats, however as the Proposed Development is largely within, or within the vicinity of, the existing Beaulay - Denny 400 kV OHL OC, the key CNP habitats would be avoided and the potential for significant environmental effects would be minimised.</p> <p>In relation to the River Spey SSSI / SAC, the implementation of good practice construction, pollution prevention and water quality control measures would ensure any indirect effects on nearby designated sites are avoided.</p> <p>In relation to Native Woodland, as the Proposed Development would be within the existing Beaulay - Denny 400 kV OHL OC where there is Native Woodland (see Figure 3b), the potential for environmental effects would be minimal.</p>
	<p><u>Protected Species:</u></p> <p>The presence of moorland and watercourses in the vicinity of the Proposed Development may present the possibility of otter and water vole (<i>Arvicola amphibius</i>) being present. However, the abundance of rocky sediments and banks over long stretches of the watercourses, provides limited opportunities for burrows creation, thus overall limited opportunities.</p> <p>The nearby forestry plantation may provide opportunities for bats, pine marten (<i>Martes Martes</i>), wildcat (<i>Felis silvestris</i>) and red squirrel (<i>Sciurus vulgaris</i>) and mountain Hare (<i>Lepus timidus</i>).</p>	<p>With mitigation measures in place, there are unlikely to be significant effects on protected species.</p> <p>The Applicant has developed a suite of Species Protection Plans (SPPs) that would be implemented during construction to mitigate any effects on protected species. With mitigation measures in place, there are unlikely to be significant effects on protected species.</p> <p>An Environmental Clerk of Works (ECoW) would be appointed to undertake pre-construction surveys for protected species and non-native invasive species, provide advice throughout construction and monitor compliance with environmental legislation</p>

Environmental Issue	Baseline Findings	Potential for Significant Environmental Effects
	<p>The wet ground conditions limited opportunities for hedgehog (<i>Erinaceus europaeus</i>), however, the presence of watercourses near patches of woodland can provide opportunities for a range of amphibians such as palmate newt (<i>Lissotriton helveticus</i>), common frog (<i>Rana temporaria</i>) common toad (<i>Bufo bufo</i>) and a number of invertebrates species, particularly odonates.</p> <p>Allt Mor is also located nearby, and is a tributary of the River Mashie, which itself is a tributary of the River Spey, where populations of freshwater pearl mussel, Atlantic salmon and sea lamprey can be found. Beavers are also being reintroduced in the River Spey.</p> <p><u>Habitat:</u> The Proposed Development would pass over upland heathland habitats comprising dry heaths and wet heathland. Wet heath is classified as Annex 1 Priority Habitats and is therefore considered to be of International importance.</p>	<p>and documentation (including General Environmental Management Plans (GEMPs), SPPs and the CEMP).</p> <p>The Applicant is in close correspondence with Royal Zoological Society of Scotland (RZSS) - Scottish Wildcat Action (SWA) to ensure impacts on wildcat populations / territories are minimised. Wildcat specific mitigation will be considered as part of the design process, in discussion with RZSS – SWA.</p> <p>There are unlikely to be significant effects on habitats.</p> <p>Temporary disturbance of habitats during the construction phase would be minimised by adherence the site-specific CEMP, which would include detailed methods of soil management and reinstatement. No significant effects are likely.</p> <p>The project would be subject to a Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) assessment, and the Applicant would commit to a 10% biodiversity net gain. The Applicant would explore opportunities for compensation that would support biodiversity enhancements as necessary.</p>
Ornithology	<p>The Proposed Development is located at the moorland/forest edge within an area of new plantation woodland. The adjacent extensive woodland habitat could provide suitable habitat for nesting Schedule 1 species.</p>	<p>With mitigation measures in place, there are unlikely to be significant effects on birds.</p> <p>During construction, any potential disturbance effects could be reduced or eliminated by adopting appropriate mitigation to minimise disturbance, which would be outlined within the Applicant’s SPPs and GEMPs. With mitigation measures in place, there are unlikely to be significant effects on birds.</p> <p>An ECoW would be appointed to undertake pre-construction surveys for ornithology, provide advice throughout construction and monitor compliance with environmental legislation and documentation GEMPs, SPPs and the CEMP.</p>

Environmental Issue	Baseline Findings	Potential for Significant Environmental Effects
Forestry	<p>The majority of the Proposed Development would be situated within the OC of the existing Beaully – Denny 400 kV OHL, therefore it would be generally situated on land that is devoid of forestry.</p> <p>Some felling of commercial conifer may be required to facilitate the temporary towers and OHL around the area of the existing Tower 99.</p>	<p>The Proposed Development would not be expected to have significant environmental effects in relation to forestry.</p> <p>As the Proposed Development would be situated within the OC of the existing Beaully – Denny 400 kV OHL, the requirement for felling would be limited.</p> <p>Towards the existing Tower 99 some felling of commercial conifer may be required to allow the temporary OHL to be constructed, though it is possible that this might be able to be avoided as the detailed design of the project progresses.</p>
Cultural Heritage	<p><u>Designations:</u></p> <p>There are no designated cultural heritage sites or assets within the vicinity of the Proposed Development. The closest Scheduled Monument is Dun da Lamh Fort, SM4361 approximately 3 km to the north (see Figure 3a). This large hillfort of late prehistoric date is strategically located to control two significant east-west land routes: along the Spey and through Strathmashie / Loch Laggan, these two routes converging just east of the fort. The monument occupies a dominant position on a spur rising steeply over 250 m above the valley floor.</p> <p><u>Assets:</u></p> <p>Within 200 m of the Proposed Development there is just one recorded cultural heritage asset of local significance and low sensitivity to damage.</p> <p>The closest asset of Regional significance is approximately 900 m to the west and is Druim an Aird Township (see Figure 3a). This site consists of eleven buildings, three enclosures, a corn drying kiln and an enclosing dyke while a larger area is enclosed by a head dyke to the south and west. The township is considered to have local historical associations, has been exposed by sensitive felling and has been provided with an interpretation panel and access paths.</p>	<p>There are unlikely to be significant effects on designated heritage sites or assets.</p> <p>Construction visual effects are anticipated to be very localised, and would not be expected from Dun da Lamh Fort, SM4361. No long term significant visual effects are likely given the Proposed Development would be viewed in the context of the existing OHL.</p> <p>No significant effects on cultural heritage assets within the vicinity of the Proposed Development are likely. The nearest cultural heritage assets are local interest only and could be avoided by the infrastructure placement of the Proposed Development. The footprint of the Proposed Development would also maintain a minimum distance of approximately 900 m from Druim an Aird Township, therefore effects would not be anticipated.</p>

Environmental Issue	Baseline Findings	Potential for Significant Environmental Effects
Traffic and Transport	<p>Initial access would be expected to be via the A86, and then there are a number of options being explored in relation to accessing the Proposed Development from there. Any required upgrade works to minor roads or tracks off the A86 would be expected to be applied for under the separate Coire Mashie substation project consent.</p>	<p>There are unlikely to be significant effects arising from traffic and transport in the long term.</p> <p>There may be an increase in traffic on local roads during construction. An appropriate Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) would be developed though, to ensure road safety for all other road users during construction works. The CTMP would be developed in consultation with Transport Scotland and the local road's authority. No significant effects are likely.</p>
Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Geology and Soils	<p><u>Geology, Peat and Soils:</u></p> <p>The Proposed Development is underlain by Class 2 priority peatland which is considered nationally important, and Class 5 priority peatland whereby no peatland habitats are typically found but soils may be carbon rich with areas of deep peat.</p> <p>Phase 1 peat probing has been undertaken to confirm the presence and distribution of peat across the Proposed Development. The Proposed Development would pass over peat at a depth of typically 0.0 - 0.5 m, with limited small pockets up to 1.0 m deep (see Figure 4).</p> <p>The Proposed Development is situated on Strathspey Granite (granitic rocks). The bedrock is predominantly overlain by glacial till superficial deposits.</p>	<p>Subject to appropriate mitigation measures, no significant effects are likely.</p> <p>With the exception of peat, neither the superficial or bedrock geology are rare and do not pose a development constraint. The peat across the Proposed Development is not considered to be deep. A Peat Management Plan will be prepared and if required by Scottish Government peat landslide hazard risk assessment guidance a Peat Landslide Hazard Risk assessment will be carried out for the Proposed Development (construction and restoration phases).</p> <p>Excavated soil would be stored adjacent to the proposed works during construction, and this would be used to restore and reinstate disturbed areas once works are complete. No significant effects are likely and construction works would be carried out in line with the Applicant's GEMPs.</p>
	<p><u>Hydrology:</u></p> <p>The Proposed Development lies entirely within the River Spey Catchment. Two tributaries of the River Mashie would be crossed by the Proposed Development OHL.</p> <p>SEPA floodplain mapping shows a floodplain associated with River Mashie and Allt Tarsuinn, however, flood extents largely remain confined to the watercourse channels. The tributaries of the River Mashie are too small to have been mapped by SEPA and therefore the flood extents of these are not known.</p>	<p>Subject to control measures and good practice, no significant effects are likely.</p> <p>Construction works would be carried out in line with the Applicant's GEMPs and a site-specific CEMP. This document would detail how the successful Principal Contractor would manage the works in accordance with the Applicant's GEMPs, statutory consents and authorisations, and industry best practise and guidance, including pollution prevention guidance. With the implementation of these mitigation measures, no effects on hydrological receptors are anticipated.</p> <p>The presence (or otherwise) of private water supplies, licensed water abstractions and Drinking Water Protected Areas (DWPA) will be confirmed as part of the assessment, and if needed mitigation measures to safeguard these confirmed.</p>

Environmental Issue	Baseline Findings	Potential for Significant Environmental Effects
	There is no known private water supply infrastructure in the vicinity of the Proposed Development.	
Noise and Vibration	The closest properties in the vicinity of the Proposed Development are at Feagour, approximately 1.5 km northwest (see Figure 3a).	<p>Subject to appropriate mitigation measures, no significant effects are likely.</p> <p>The Proposed Development is not anticipated to lead to an increase in long term noise or vibration effects.</p> <p>Sources of construction noise and vibration related to the Proposed Development include construction traffic and construction works. Construction noise and vibration is considered to be short-term and intermittent and working hours would be restricted to 07:00 – 19:00 Monday to Friday, or other hours to be agreed with The Highland Council. With this in place, it is anticipated that noise disturbance would be minimised. No significant effects are likely.</p>
Air Quality	The Proposed Development is not located within an Air Quality Management area (AQMA).	<p>There are unlikely to be significant effects on air quality.</p> <p>On-site plant, construction traffic and construction activities have the potential to generate and disperse dust and airborne particulate matter. However, the nature of construction activities means these would be localised, short term and intermittent.</p> <p>Subject to the adherence to best practice measures, as would be set out in a CEMP, effects on air quality could be controlled. No significant effects are likely.</p>
Land Use and Recreation	<p>The Proposed Development would be located on the edge of commercial forestry plantation.</p> <p>As classified by The Macaulay System of Land Capability for Agriculture⁴, the Proposed Development is located wholly on low value agricultural land suited for rough grazing (class 6.2).</p> <p>There are some recreational routes within the forestry within the surrounding area, including some biking and walking routes at the Laggan Wolfrax mountain bike centre to the north, and a Core Path and forest trails at Feagour to the west (see Figure 3a).</p>	<p>There are unlikely to be significant effects on Land Use and Recreation.</p> <p>Towards the existing Tower 99 some felling of commercial forestry may be required to allow the temporary OHL to be constructed, though it is possible that this might be able to be avoided as the detailed design of the project progresses.</p> <p>The agricultural land within the vicinity of the Proposed Development is generally deemed to be of low sensitivity.</p> <p>For recreational interests, impacts are likely to be limited to disruption at the construction stage, which would be temporary and appropriately managed through the CEMP.</p>

⁴ The James Hutton Institute (n.d.). *Land Capability for Agriculture in Scotland*. [online] Available at: <https://www.hutton.ac.uk/learning/exploringscotland/land-capability-agriculture-scotland> [Accessed: December 2025]

Environmental Issue	Baseline Findings	Potential for Significant Environmental Effects
	A long distance Scottish Hill Track route identified by the Scottish Rights of Way and Access Society (ScotWays) passes near to the site, but is unmarked on the ground.	
Population and Human Health	The Proposed Development is located in a rural area with a small number of properties at a 1.5 km distance to the Proposed Development.	<p>Subject to the adherence to best practice measures there are unlikely to be significant effects on human health as a result of the Proposed Development.</p> <p>Potential effects relating to population and human health have potential to arise from Electric and Magnetic fields (EMF), Electromagnetic Interference (EMI), air quality, water quality, noise and / or vibration effects, light disturbance or residential amenity effects.</p> <p>Subject to the adherence to best practice measures and the implementation of a CEMP it is not considered likely that there would be any significant effects on human health arising from the construction or operation of the Proposed Development.</p>
Radio and TV Interference	There are some residential properties in the wider area with potential for radio or TV signal interference resulting from developments of the type proposed.	<p>There are unlikely to be significant effects on TV and radio interference as a result of the Proposed Development.</p> <p>Potential effects from OHLs on TV signals are due to physical obstruction of the signal. It is not anticipated that the Proposed Development would represent a significant obstruction and it is not anticipated that any adverse effects on TV reception would be experienced. No significant effects are likely.</p>
Major Accidents and Disasters	Potentially significant effects which can arise in relation to accidents and disasters from developments of this type include severe weather events and structural damage, as well as the potential for risks during the construction phase.	<p>There are unlikely to be significant effects on in relation to major accidents and disasters as a result of the Proposed Development.</p> <p>Given the nature of the Proposed Development, the potential for effects related to the vulnerability to accidents and disasters are likely to be limited to those associated with unplanned power outages, due to extreme weather or structural damage.</p> <p>Crisis management and continuity plans are in place across the SSE Group. These are tested regularly and are designed for the management of, and recovery from, significant energy infrastructure failure events. Furthermore, the Principal Designer would need to fully assess risks and mitigate as appropriate during the construction stage as part of the requirements of the Construction (Design and Management) Regulations (2015).</p>

Environmental Issue	Baseline Findings	Potential for Significant Environmental Effects
Material Assets	<p>The Proposed Development would be located on the edge of forestry plantation within the vicinity of the existing Beaulay – Denny 400 kV OHL OC. There is existing grid infrastructure in the area, which this development would form a part of.</p>	<p>There are unlikely to be significant effects on material assets as a result of the Proposed Development.</p> <p>Towards the existing Tower 99 some felling of commercial may be required to allow the temporary OHL to be constructed, though it is possible that this might be able to be avoided as the detailed design of the project progresses.</p>

1.7 Description of Measures to Avoid or Prevent Significant Adverse Effects

Regulation 8(3) allows the developer to include a description of any measures envisaged to avoid or prevent potential significant adverse effects on the environment. As discussed above, the potential for significant adverse effects from this proposal are considered unlikely.

SSEN Transmission is also proposing the following measures to further minimise any potential effects as part of its standard working procedures:

- Undertaking pre-construction environmental surveys;
- SSEN Transmission has developed SPPs for construction works that may negatively impact upon protected species, including birds. The SPPs outline the procedures that must be followed where there is a potential for protected species to be present. Each SPP outlines the responsibilities of the Applicant and its Contractors, legislative protection for the protected species, best practice measures to follow and an approved methodology for carrying out certain mitigation activities. This suite of SPPs has been approved by NatureScot and would be adopted where relevant to the project;
- SSEN Transmission has developed GEMPs relating to activities and issues likely to be encountered. These plans contain both generic and specific guidance and should be incorporated into Environmental Management Plans (EMPs) where appropriate;
- A CEMP would be developed by the appointed contractor during the pre-construction phase. The principal objective of this document is to provide information on the proposed infrastructure and to aid in avoiding, minimising and controlling adverse environmental impacts associated with the Proposed Development. The CEMP would form part of the contract documents between SSEN Transmission and the appointed construction contractor;
- Advice from an ECoW on site specific issues during the construction of the Proposed Development, as required;
- The timing of construction activities would in general be undertaken during daytime periods to limit disruption to the local residents; and
- Site restoration measures specific to the proposal to ensure that disturbed ground is reinstated as quickly as possible on completion of the works.

We trust the foregoing demonstrates that all elements of the Proposed Development **are unlikely to give rise to significant environmental effects** and that, accordingly, will not be considered EIA development and thus would not be subject to an EIA and the preparation of an EIA Report.

Your response to this formal request for an EIA Screening Opinion is welcomed in line with the statutory provisions as per Regulation 9 of the EIA Regulations³. Please also confirm that the Proposed Development qualifies as a 'Priority Application' under the Scottish Government's Priority Applications for Transmission Infrastructure guidance (Section 37 of the Electricity Act 1989)² (see **Section 1.2**).

Yours sincerely,

Marta Ibáñez García (she/her) MSc MA PIEMA
Consents and Environment Manager

SSEN TRANSMISSION

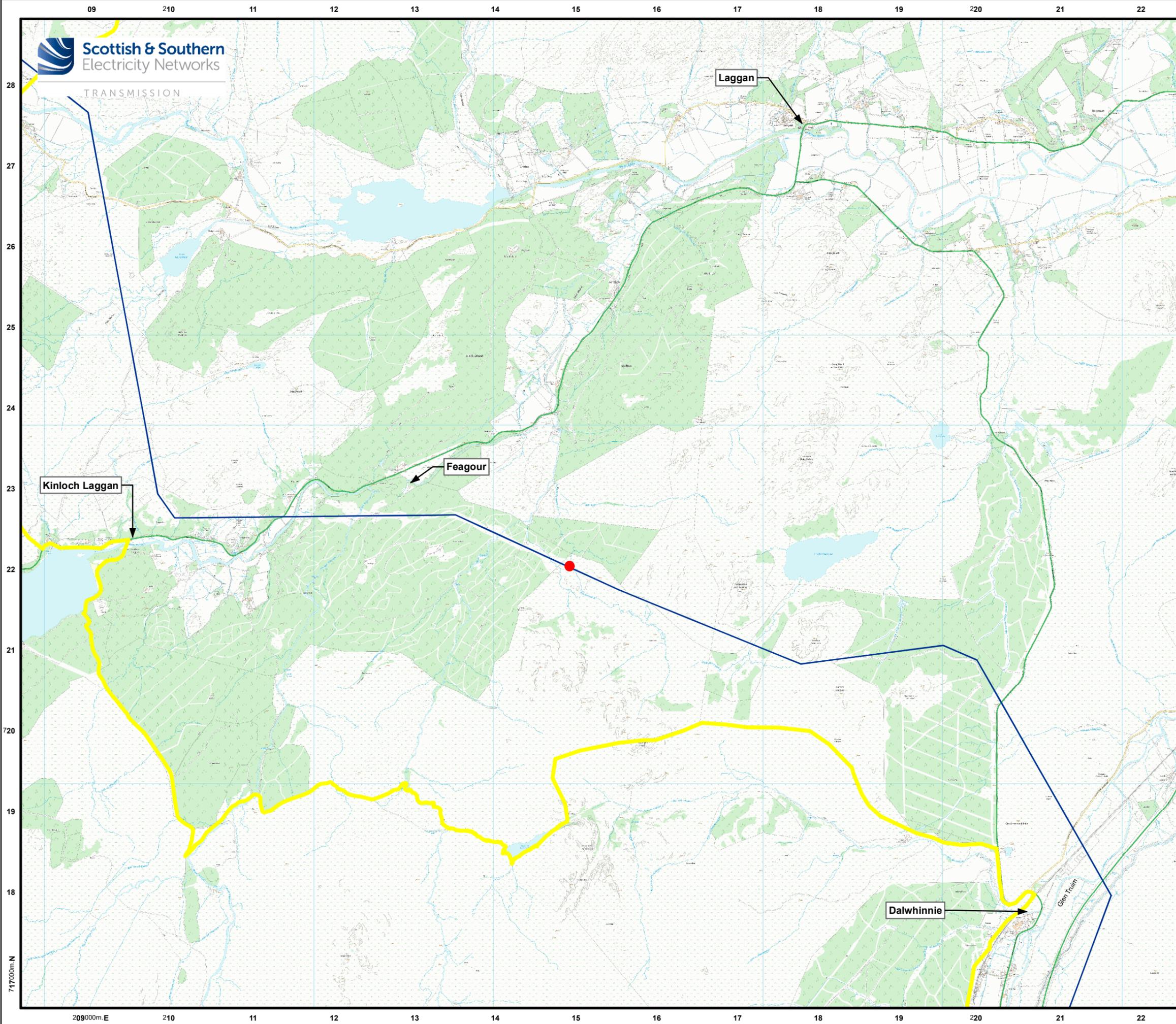
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Glasgow

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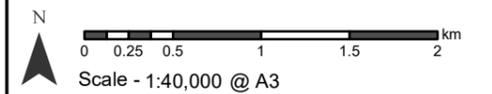
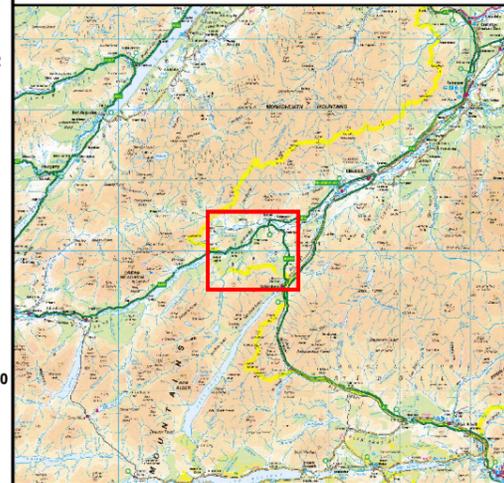
T: +44 (0) 173 827 5171

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Key

- Proposed Development Location (Indicative)
- Existing 400 kV Beauly – Denny Overhead Line (OHL)
- Cairngorms National Park (CNP)



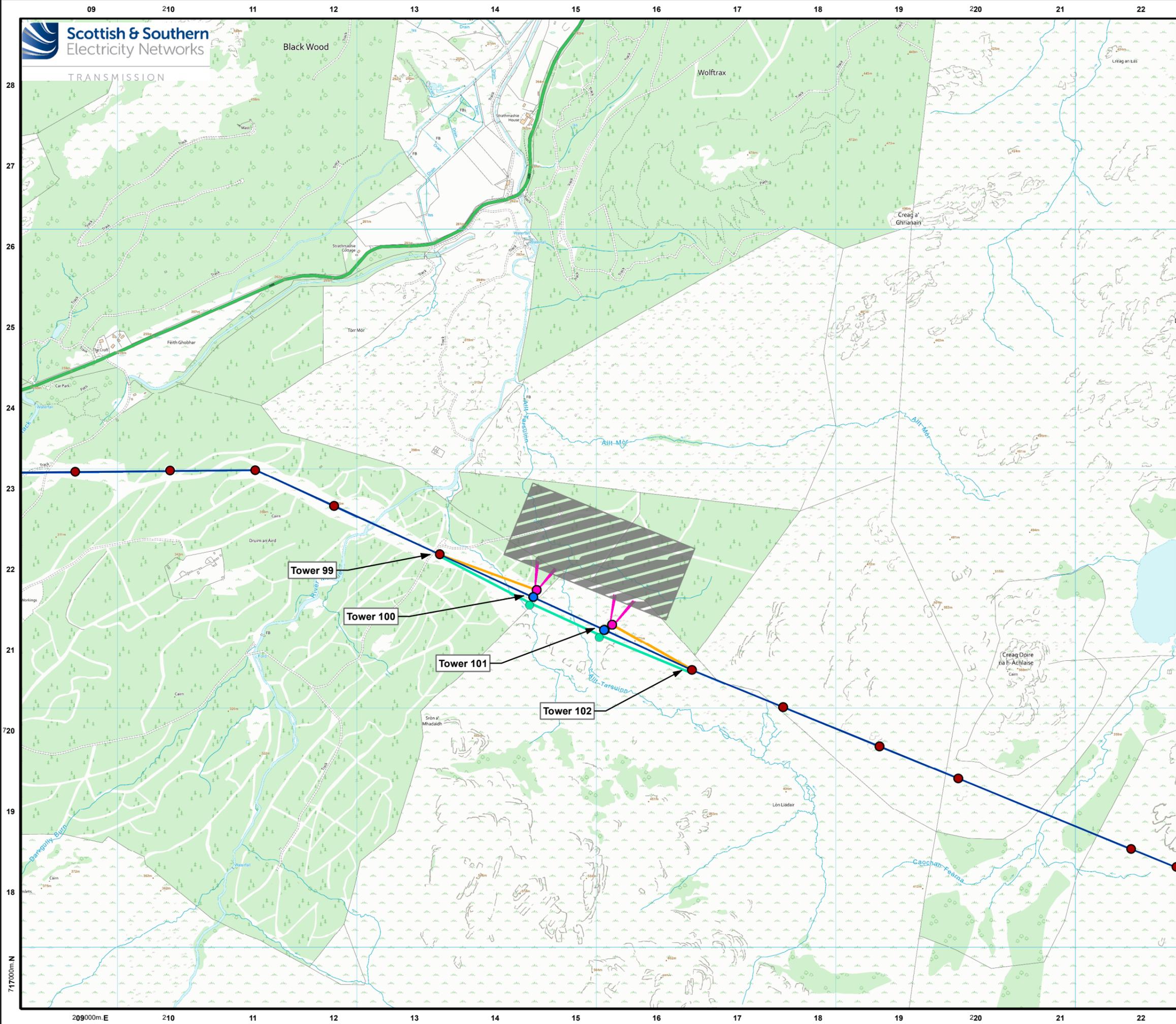
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Project: LT00505 - Reconfiguration of Beauly - Denny 400 kV Overhead Line

Title: Figure 1: Location Plan

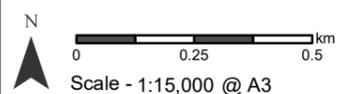
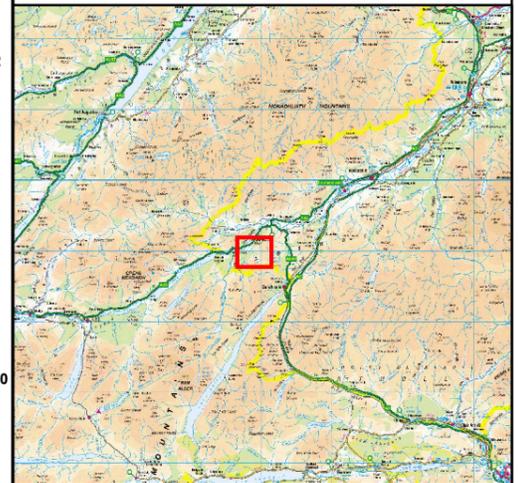
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Key

- Existing Infrastructure**
 - Existing Beaulieu - Denny Towers
 - Existing 400 kV Beaulieu – Denny Overhead Line (OHL)
 - Existing Beaulieu - Denny Towers - To Be Removed
- Proposed Permanent Infrastructure (Indicative)**
 - New Beaulieu - Denny Towers
 - New Beaulieu - Denny 400 kV OHL
 - Downloads
- Proposed Temporary Infrastructure (Indicative)**
 - Temporary Beaulieu - Denny Towers
 - Temporary Beaulieu - Denny 400 kV OHL
- Other Works Subject To Separate Consent**
 - ▨ Indicative Coire Mashie Substation Location



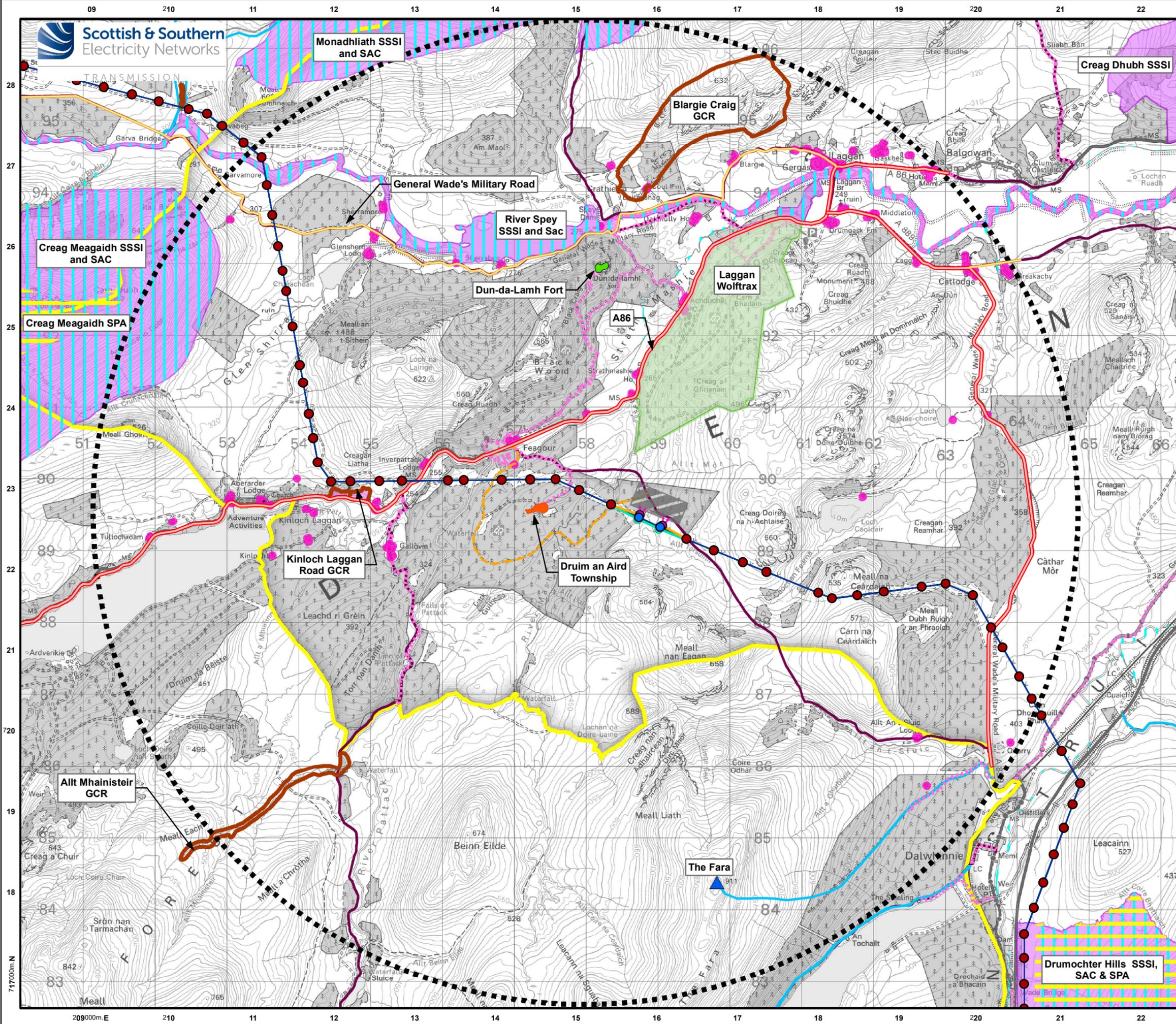
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Project: LT00505 - Reconfiguration of Beaulieu - Denny 400 kV Overhead Line

Title: Figure 2: Site Plan

Drawn by: RJ Date: 09/01/2026

Drawing: 123021-D2-SCR-BDR-1.0.0



Key

5 km Radius

Existing Infrastructure

- Existing Beaulieu - Denny Towers
- Existing 400 kV Beaulieu - Denny Overhead Line (OHL)
- Existing Beaulieu - Denny Towers - To Be Removed

Proposed Permanent Infrastructure (Indicative)

- New Beaulieu - Denny Towers
- New Beaulieu - Denny 400 kV OHL
- Downloads

Proposed Temporary Infrastructure (Indicative)

- Temporary Beaulieu - Denny Towers
- Temporary Beaulieu - Denny 400 kV OHL

Other Works Subject to Separate Consent

- Indicative Coire Mashie Substation Location

Environmental Designations

- Special Protection Area (SPA)
- Special Area of Conservation (SAC)
- Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)
- Geological Conservation Review Sites
- Cairngorms National Park (CNP)

Environmental Constraints

- A Road
- Minor Road
- Cultural Heritage: Scheduled Monuments
- Cultural Heritage: Drumm an Aird Township
- Buildings - 50m Buffer
- Laggan Wolfrax
- Core Paths
- Mountain Routes
- Scottish Hill Tracks
- Mountains

Scale - 1:50,000 @ A3

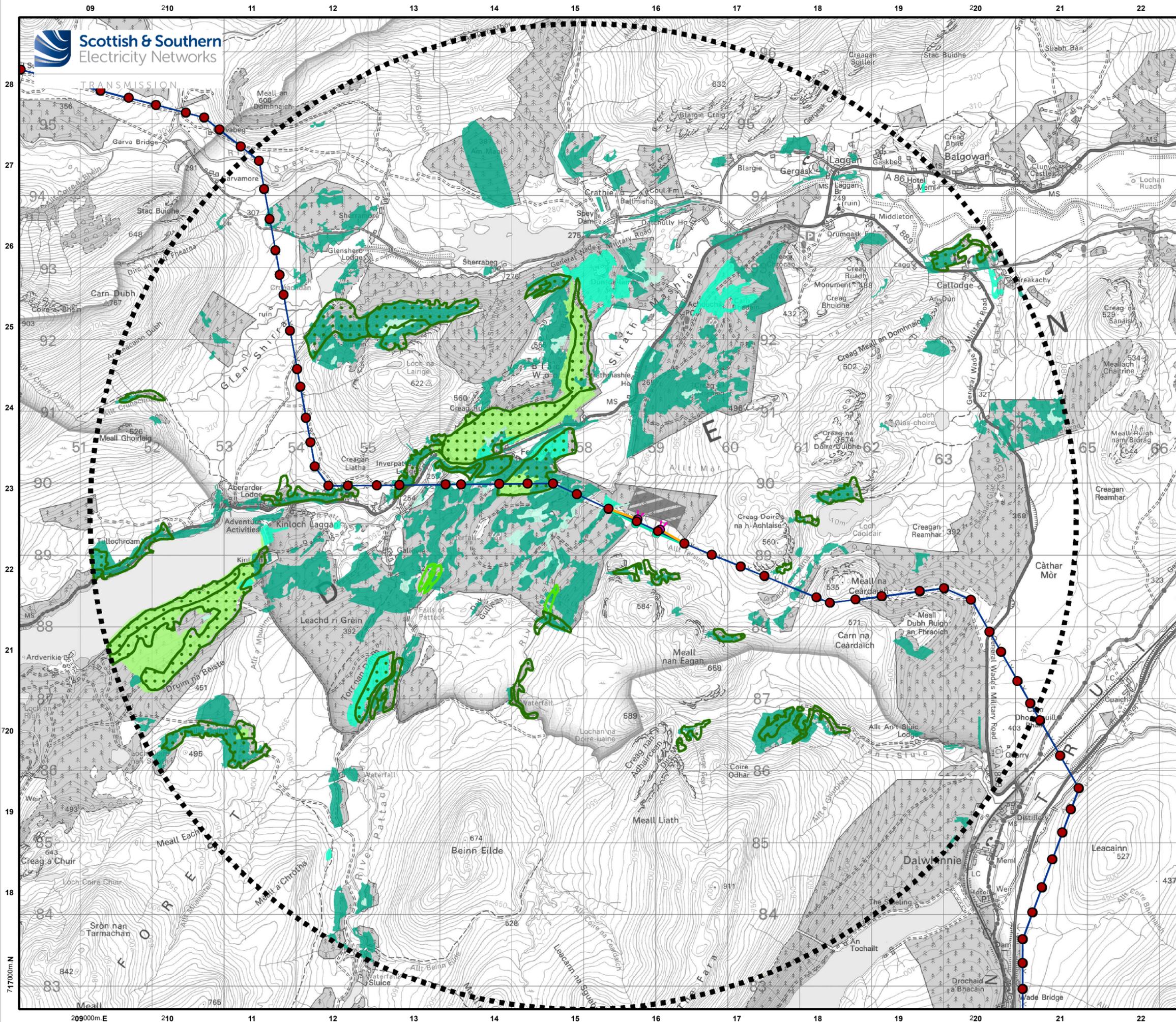
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Project: LT00505 - Reconfiguration of Beaulieu - Denny 400 kV Overhead Line

Title: Figure 3a: Designations and Constraints

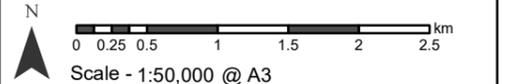
Drawn by: RJ Date: 09/01/2026

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Key

-  5km Radius
- Existing Infrastructure**
-  Existing Beauty - Denny Towers
-  Existing 400 kV Beauty – Denny Overhead Line (OHL)
-  Existing Beauty - Denny Towers - To Be Removed
- Proposed Permanent Infrastructure (Indicative)**
-  New Beauty - Denny Towers
-  New Beauty - Denny 400 kV OHL
-  Downloads
- Proposed Temporary Infrastructure (Indicative)**
-  Temporary Beauty - Denny Towers
-  Temporary Beauty - Denny 400 kV OHL
- Other Works Subject to Separate Consent**
-  Indicative Coire Mashie Substation Location
- Ancient Woodland**
-  Ancient (of semi-natural origin)
-  Other (on Roy map)
- Native Woodland**
-  Native woodland
-  Nearly-native woodland
-  Open land habitat
-  Planted Woods on Ancient Woodland Sites (PAWS)



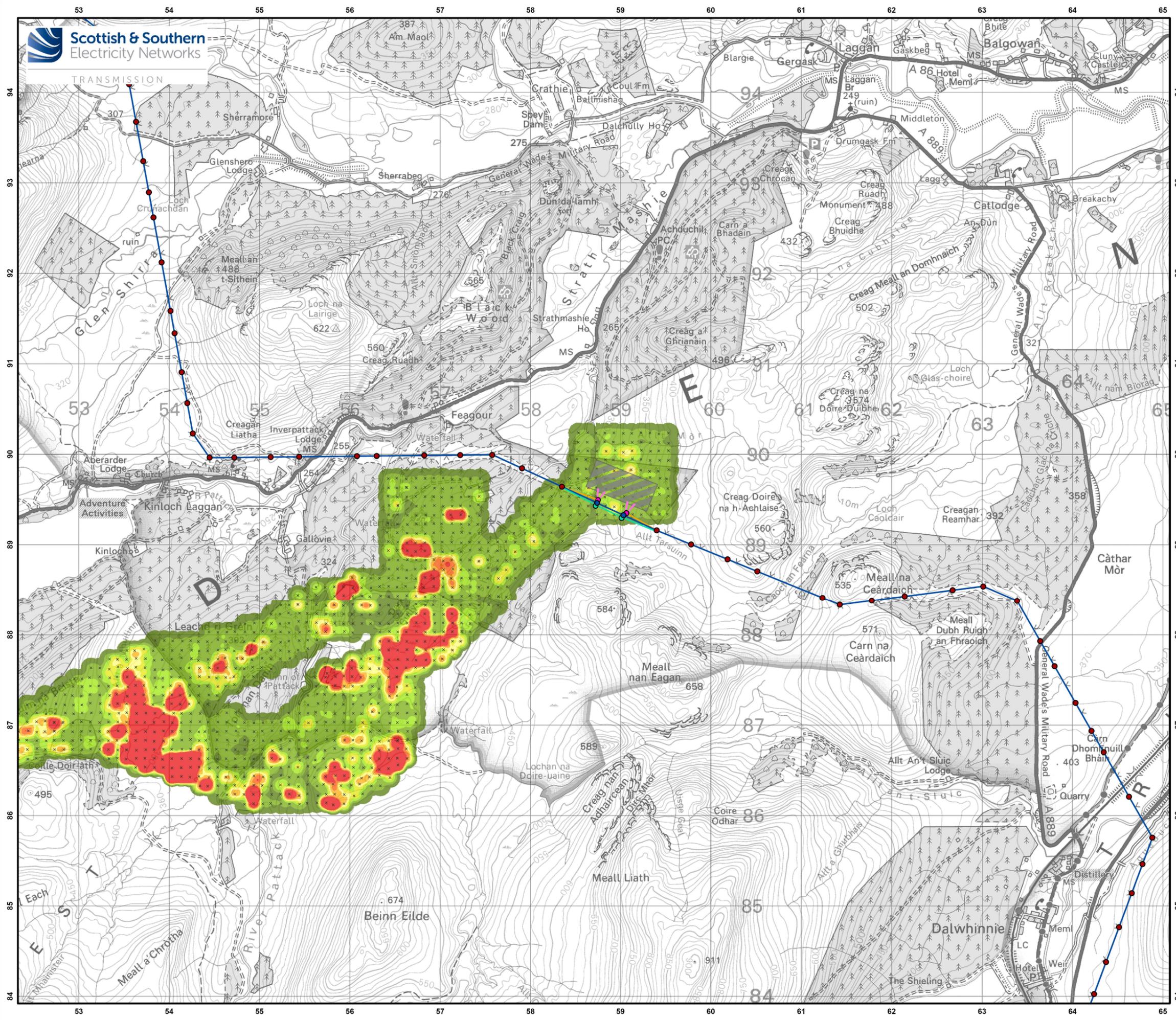
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Project: LT00505 - Coire Mashie Substation

Title: Figure 3b: AWI and Native Woodland

Drawn by: RJ Date: 09/01/2026

Drawing: 123021-D3b-SCR-BDR-1.0.0



Key

Existing Infrastructure

- Existing Beaulieu - Denny Towers
- Existing 400 kV Beaulieu – Denny Overhead Line (OHL)
- Existing Beaulieu - Denny Towers - To Be Removed

Proposed Permanent Infrastructure (Indicative)

- New Beaulieu - Denny Towers
- New Beaulieu - Denny 400 kV OHL
- Downloads

Proposed Temporary Infrastructure (Indicative)

- Temporary Beaulieu - Denny Towers
- Temporary Beaulieu - Denny 400 kV OHL

Other Works Subject To Separate Consent

- ▨ Indicative Coire Mashie Substation Location

Peat Depth (m)

- 0 - 0.5
- 0.5 - 1
- 1 - 1.5
- 1.5 - 2
- 2 - 2.5
- 2.5 - 3
- >3

Scale @ A3: 1:40,000

0 0.25 0.5 1 1.5 2 km

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Project:	LT00505 - Reconfiguration of Beaulieu - Denny 400 kV Overhead Line	
Title:	Figure 4: Peat Depth	
Drawn by:	RJ	Date: 09/01/2026
Drawing:	123021-D4-SCR-BDR-1.0.0	