

**Annex 1b – Woodland Report.**

**Section 1 - Glenvicaskill**

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Figure 1 – Glenvicaskill Location Plan

Figure 2 – Glenvicaskill Operational Corridor Felling Requirements

## 1. Woodland Characteristics

Glenvicaskill Woodland is owned by Mr C McDowall. It was purchased from the Scottish Government in 2019. The south western section of the woodland is accessed from the A863 at Loch Caroy (see **Figure 1: Location Plan**). This commercial conifer plantation has Sitka Spruce as its principal conifer species. The proposed OHL affects the woodland between towers BE97-BE100.

The forest is managed under felling licence case reference: FPA-7767.

### Towers BE97-BE100

The tree species present between towers BE97 and BE100 include Sitka Spruce (SS) and Lodgepole pine (LP) growing on flushed peats and generally very wet ground conditions, with resultant mixed growth rates ranging from severely checked to good growth where the crop is on drier knolls. There are significant areas of failed planting areas creating open ground. The creation of a green edge at the OC between towers BE99-BE97 would require additional felling out-with the OC. Wind firm edges have been identified to ensure stability of the remaining crop.

The felling licence shows no felling planned here.



SS and LP, poor quality and checked.

## 2. Development Requirements

A resilient OC of 40m in width either side of the OHL would be required throughout this woodland site. This allows for the widest part of the tower and an allowance for maintaining the necessary safety clearance distances.

A forest road runs to the east of the woodland site, finishing approximately 500 m from the OC. New access tracks would need to be installed within the OC to service each of the tower structure locations. Tree felling and timber extraction would be able to utilise existing tracks, prior to any construction activity.

Stump removal and residue mulching would be required for the installation of access tracks within the OC and at each tower structure construction compound for the formation of a temporary crane pad.

## 3. Wind Blow Risk

There is a high wind blow risk across much of this woodland site (wind throw hazard class assessed at 5). There are several tower spans where the proposed OC opens a green edge to the prevailing wind necessitating additional felling out-with the OC to reach a stable edge. In areas where the trees are smaller due to age or exposure then the wind blow risk is reduced along with the requirement for additional felling to wind firm boundaries.

## 4. Woodland Management Impact

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

The total loss of native broadleaved woodland resulting from the proposed OHL in this woodland is Nil.

## 5. Mitigation Opportunities

### a. Restructuring

Clear felling and restocking of Glenvicaskill woodland site is ongoing and will continue to be undertaken by the landowner in the future, regardless of development felling, as detailed in the felling licence. It is recognised that the proposed OHL would result in felling being brought forward. The felling of the OC for the Proposed Development, would create a new green edge, allowing the landowner to carry out future clear fell more safely in proximity to the new OHL.

### b. Restocking

Restocking would be carried out by the landowner in all areas out-with the OC with suitable species to continue the commercial viability of the forest.

Any opportunity to restock within the OC would be discussed with the landowner following felling to link in with adjacent planned felling coupes where appropriate.

## 6. Net Effect/Summary

<b>Tower Span</b>	<b>Operational Requirements</b>
BE97-BE100	Gross area of OC felling required, undertaken by the Applicant. - Clear fell all standing commercial trees within the OC – LP/SS– 4.3ha
Additional area of recommended felling outside OC for wind throw or forest design purposes (Landowner to fell under forest plan revision or felling licence)	Clear fell to windfirm edge – SS/LP – 3.9ha
<b>Compensatory Planting Options</b>	
Potential onsite replacement planting/ regeneration within OC	0
Net effect (Loss of Woodland)	4.3 ha
<b>Operational Works</b>	
	<b>Total Area (ha)</b>
Clear fell harvesting within OC	4.3
Clear fell harvesting out with OC	3.9
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>8.2</b>

## 7. Compensatory Planting

The total amount of net felling requiring compensation under the Control of Woodland Removal Policy is 4.3 ha.

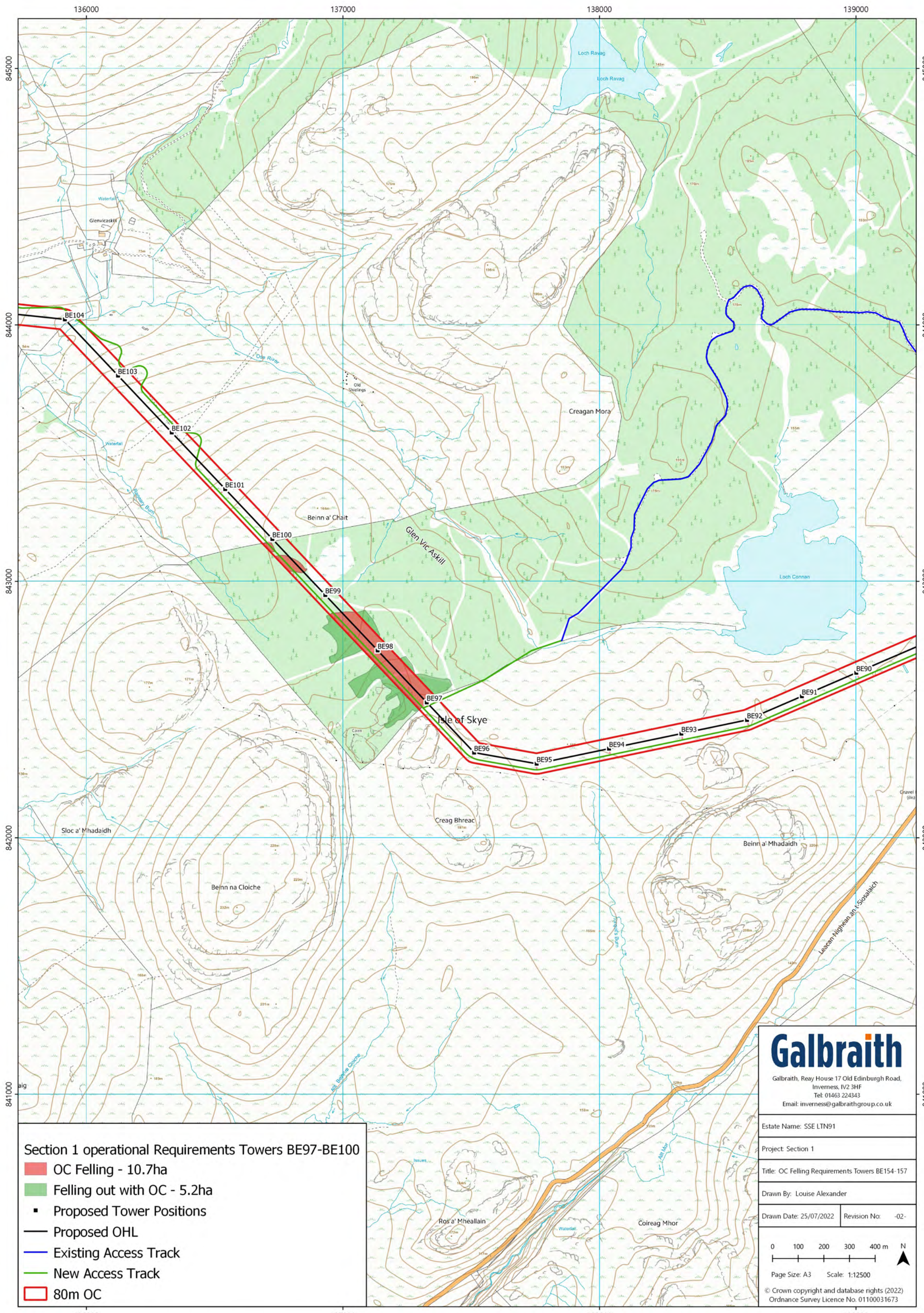
In order to provide a greater balance limiting long term impacts on forestry interests it is proposed that the majority of this woodland loss is compensated via offsite compensatory planting. It is proposed that full details of the areas subject to this offsite compensatory planting is notified to Scottish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

The dismantling of the existing 132 kV OHL would allow potential opportunities for compensatory planting where practical and in agreement with the landowner.







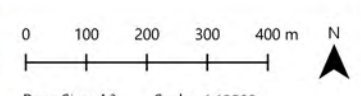


**Section 1 operational Requirements Towers BE97-BE100**

- OC Felling - 10.7ha
- Felling out with OC - 5.2ha
- Proposed Tower Positions
- Proposed OHL
- Existing Access Track
- New Access Track
- 80m OC

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