

**Annex 1C - Woodland Report****Section 1 - Mugeary****Contents**

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Figure 1 – Mugeary Location Plan

Figure 2 – Mugeary Operational Corridor Felling Requirements

## 1. Woodland Characteristics

Mugeary Woodland is managed by Highfield Forestry. The south western section of the woodland is accessed from the A863, (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 BE60-BE66.

The forest is managed as per the Long Term Forest Plan (LTFP) Case Reference: 4120893.

### Towers BE60-BE66

The tree species present include Sitka Spruce (SS) and Lodgepole pine (LP) growing on flushed peats and peaty gleys with 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 wind throw damage throughout the crop. Creation of a green edge at the OC between towers BE60-BE66 would require additional felling out-with the OC. Wind firm edges have been identified to ensure stability of the remaining crop.

The LTFP identifies this compartment for felling within Phase 2, 2016-2022.



SS, windfirm edge.



Existing Wind throw damage



Forest Road Network

## 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.

The forest is served by well-constructed Class A forest roads from the A863 to tower BE63.

These roads can serve as the main arterial construction route. 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 steel lattice tower working areas would be formed and which would include a temporary crane pad.

### **3. Wind Blow Risk**

There is a low-medium wind blow risk across much of the woodland (wind throw hazard class assessed at 1-2). 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.

### **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 is Nil.

### **5. Mitigation Opportunities**

#### **a. Restructuring**

Clear felling and restocking of Mugeary is ongoing and will continue to be undertaken by the landowner in the future, regardless of development felling, as detailed in the LTFP Management Plan. The felling will meet the timetable as stated within the agreed LTFP Phase 2 period. 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 will be discussed with the landowner following felling, to link in with adjacent planned felling coupes where appropriate.

## 6. Net Effect/Summary

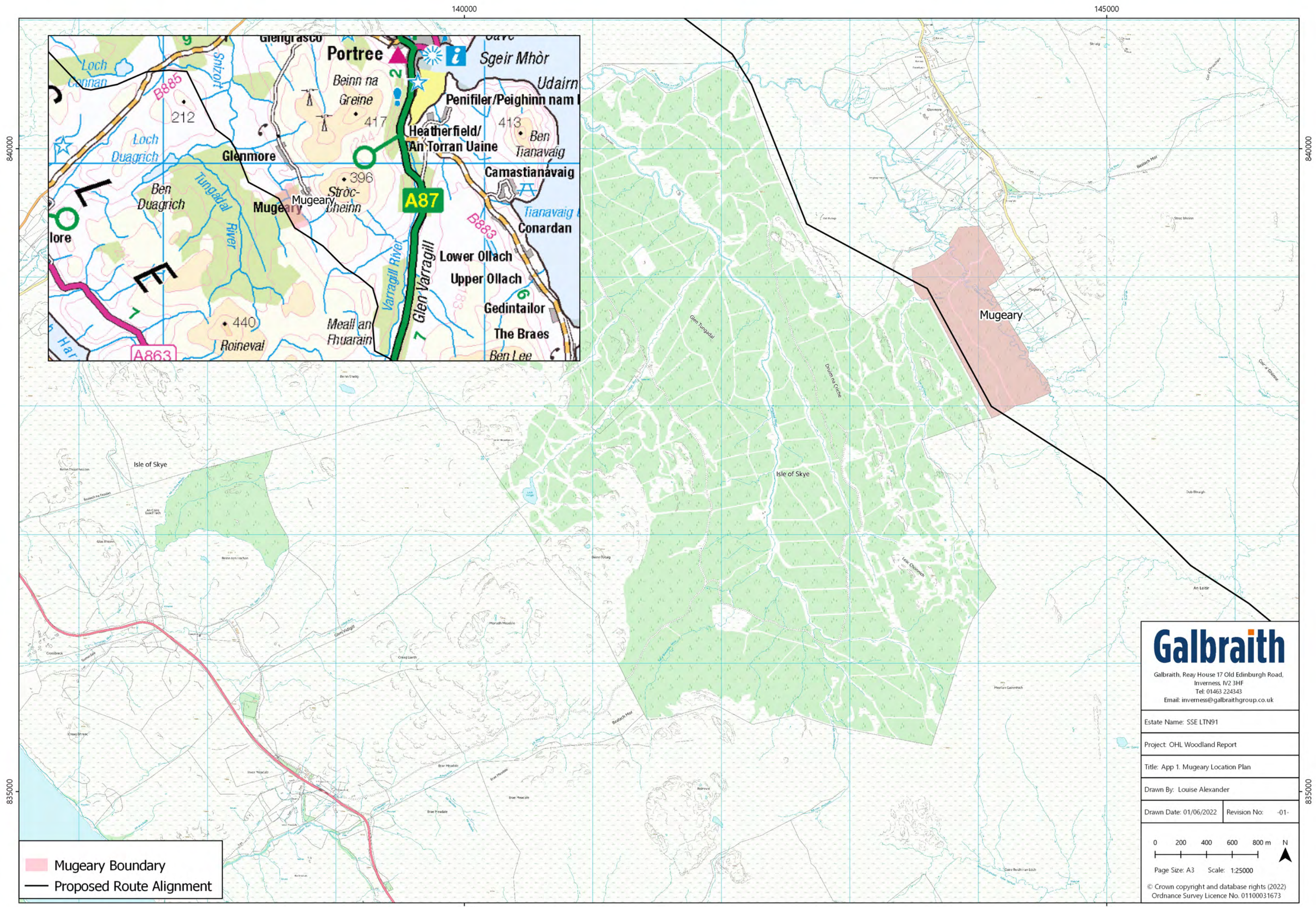
| <b>Tower Span</b>  | <b>Operational Requirements</b>  |
|--|--|
| BE60-BE66  | Gross area of OC felling required, undertaken by the Applicant. -<br>Clear fell all standing commercial trees within OC – SS/LP– 10.2 ha |
| Additional area of recommended felling outside OC for wind throw or forest design purposes (Landowner to fell under forest plan revision or felling licence) | Clear fell to windfirm edge – SS/LP– 12.7 ha   |
| Felling for new access tracks  | Clear 20 m buffer along new access tracks – 4.1 ha   |
| <b>Compensatory Planting Options</b>   |  |
| Potential onsite replacement planting/ regeneration within OC  | 0  |
| Net effect (Loss of Woodland)  | 14.3 ha  |
| <b>Operational Works</b>   |  |
|  | <b>Total Area (ha)</b>   |
| Clear fell harvesting within OC  | 10.2   |
| Clear fell harvesting out with OC  | 12.7   |
| Felling on new access tracks   | 4.1  |
| <b>TOTAL</b>   | <b>27</b>  |

## 7. Compensatory Planting

The total amount of net felling requiring compensation under the Control of Woodland Removal Policy is 14.3 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 could allow potential opportunities for compensatory planting where practical and in agreement with the landowner.

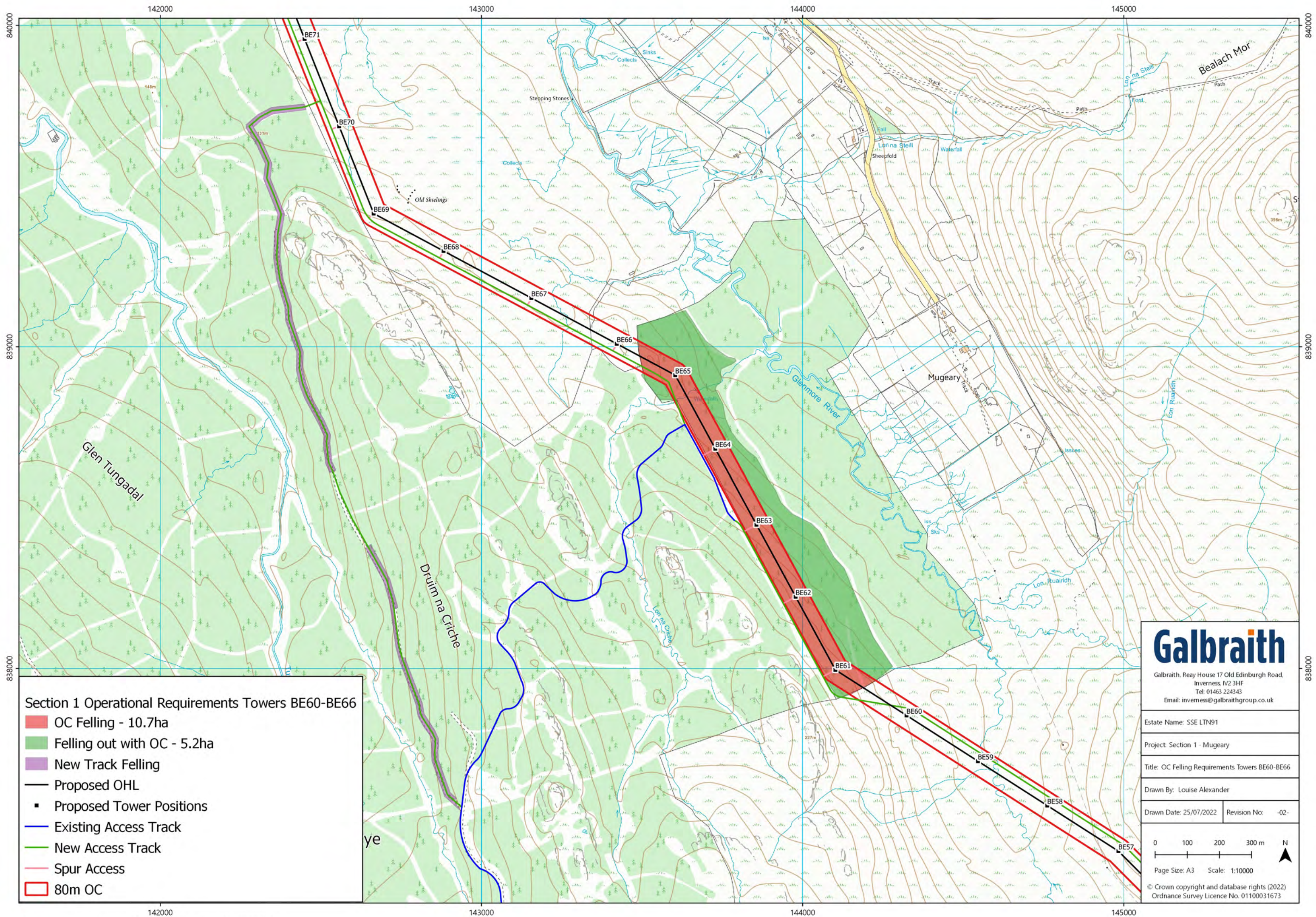


Mugeary Boundary  
 Proposed Route Alignment

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|                                     |                   |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Estate Name: SSE LTN91              |                   |
| Project: OHL Woodland Report        |                   |
| Title: App 1. Mugeary Location Plan |                   |
| Drawn By: Louise Alexander          |                   |
| Drawn Date: 01/06/2022              | Revision No: -01- |

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**Section 1 Operational Requirements Towers BE60-BE66**

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

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| Estate Name: SSE LTN91                          |                   |
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