

**Annex 1D – Woodland Report.****Section 1 - Glenvarigill****Contents**

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Figure 1 – Glenvarigill Location Plan

Figure 2 – Glenvarigill Operational Corridor Felling Requirements

## 1. Woodland Characteristics

Glenvarigill Woodland is managed by Scottish Woodlands. The A87 dissects the site north to south (see **Figure 1**). This commercial conifer plantation has Sitka Spruce as its principal conifer species. The proposed OHL affects the woodland between towers BE38-BE47 (see **Figure 2**).

The forest is managed as per the LTFP Case Reference: 16FGS06294.

### Towers BE42-BE47

This part of the woodland has recently been replanted with Sitka spruce (SS), Lodgepole pine (LP) and Larch (L) with trees approximately 2-7 m in height. Low ground pressure mulching is recommended. Creation of a green edge at the OC between towers BE42-BE43 will require additional felling out-with the OC. Wind firm edges have been identified to ensure stability of the remaining crop.

### Towers BE38-BE40

This part of the woodland is dominated with Sitka Spruce (SS) and Lodgepole pine (LP) species, 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. Creation of a green edge at the OC 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, 2022-26.



SS Restock Area



Older SS restock area, approx. 7 m height

## 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 A87.

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 which would include a temporary crane pad.

## 3. Wind Blow Risk

There is a low-medium wind blow risk across much of the woodland site (wind throw hazard class assessed at 2-5). 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 Development within this woodland is Nil.

#### 5. Mitigation Opportunities

##### a. Restructuring

Clear felling and restocking of Glenvarragill 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 would be discussed with FES following felling to link in with adjacent planned felling coupes where appropriate.

#### 6. Net Effect/Summary

Tower Span	Operational Requirements
BE42-BE47	Gross area of OC felling required, undertaken by the Applicant. - Mulch standing commercial trees within OC – LP/SS/L – 7.6 ha
BE38-BE40	Gross area of OC felling required, undertaken by the Applicant. - Clear fell all standing commercial trees within OC – LP/SS/L – 3.1 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/L – 5.2 ha
Compensatory Planting Options	
Potential onsite replacement planting/ regeneration within OC	0
Nett effect (Loss of Woodland)	10.7 ha

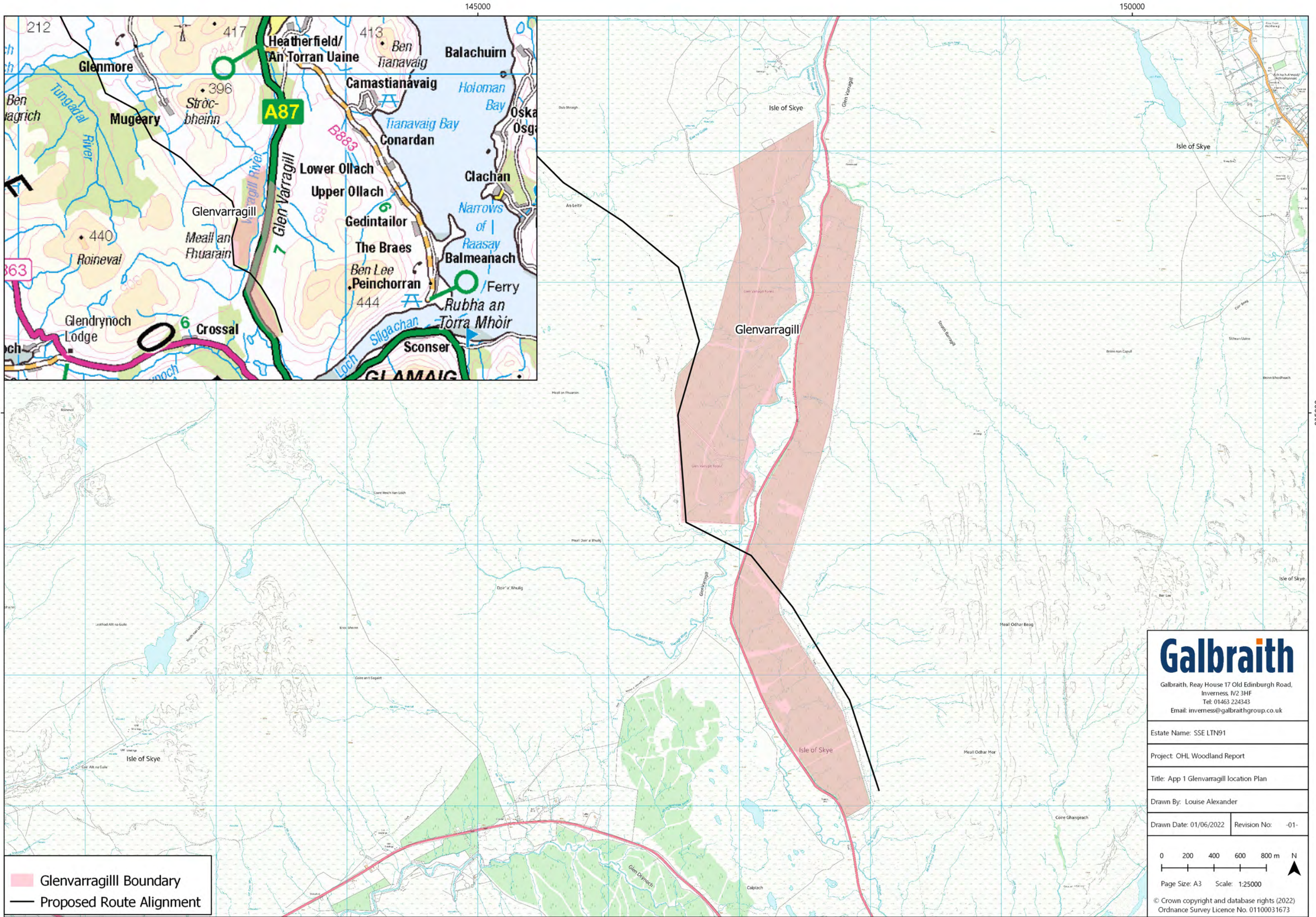
Operational Works	
	Total Area (ha)
Clear fell harvesting within OC	10.7
Clear fell harvesting outwith OC	5.2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>15.9</b>

## 7. Compensatory Planting

The total amount of net felling requiring compensation under the Control of Woodland Removal Policy is 10.7 hectares.

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.

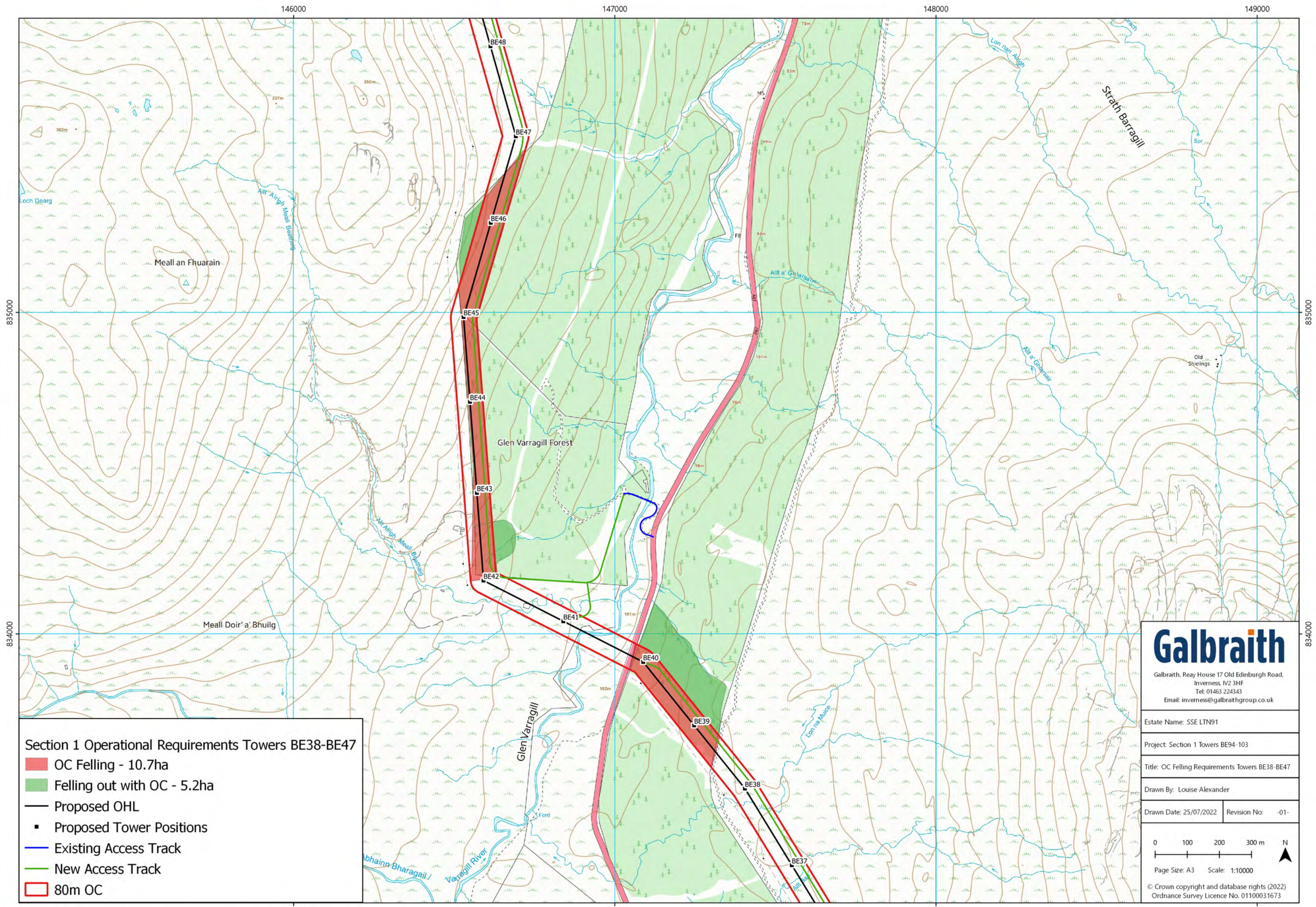


Glenvarragill Boundary  
 Proposed Route Alignment

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 Project: OHL Woodland Report  
 Title: App 1 Glenvarragill location Plan  
 Drawn By: Louise Alexander  
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**Section 1 Operational Requirements Towers BE38-BE47**

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

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Project: Section 1 Towers BE94-103	
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