

**Annex 1E – Woodland Report**

**Section 2 - Broadford West**

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Figure 1 – Broadford West Location Plan

Figure 2 – Broadford West Operational Corridor Felling Requirements

## 1. Woodland Characteristics

Broadford West Woodland is owned by the Scottish Ministers and managed by Forestry and Land Scotland (FLS) – North Forest District. The woodland is accessed from an unclassified public road off the A87 approximately 1.5 miles north of Broadford and adjacent to Broadford Substation (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 BE5-BE1.

The forest is managed as per the LMP Kinloch Hills and Broadford.

### Towers BE4-BE1

The tree species present include Sitka Spruce (SS) and Lodgepole pine (LP) growing on a mix of brown earth and bog habitats, with generally wet ground conditions, with resultant mixed growth rates ranging from severely checked to good growth where the crop is on drier knolls. The higher ground has undergone restructuring over the past 5-10 years, with replanting of SS and LP. Low ground pressure mulching is recommended. Due to the younger age of the crop no additional felling would be required to create a windfirm edge. The LMP identifies this compartment for felling beyond the current plan period.

## 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 a well-constructed Class A forest road from the unclassified public road accessed from the A87.

This road can serve as the main arterial construction route. Tree felling and timber extraction will 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 (DAMS Score of 15).

The younger age of the trees significantly reduces the need to create a wind firm 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 in this woodland is Nil.

## 5. Mitigation Opportunities

### a. Restructuring

Clear felling and restocking of Broadford West is ongoing and will continue to be undertaken by the landowner and FLS in the future, regardless of development felling, as detailed in the LMP. It is recognised that the proposed OHL would result in felling being brought forward from 2029.

### b. Restocking

Restocking will 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.

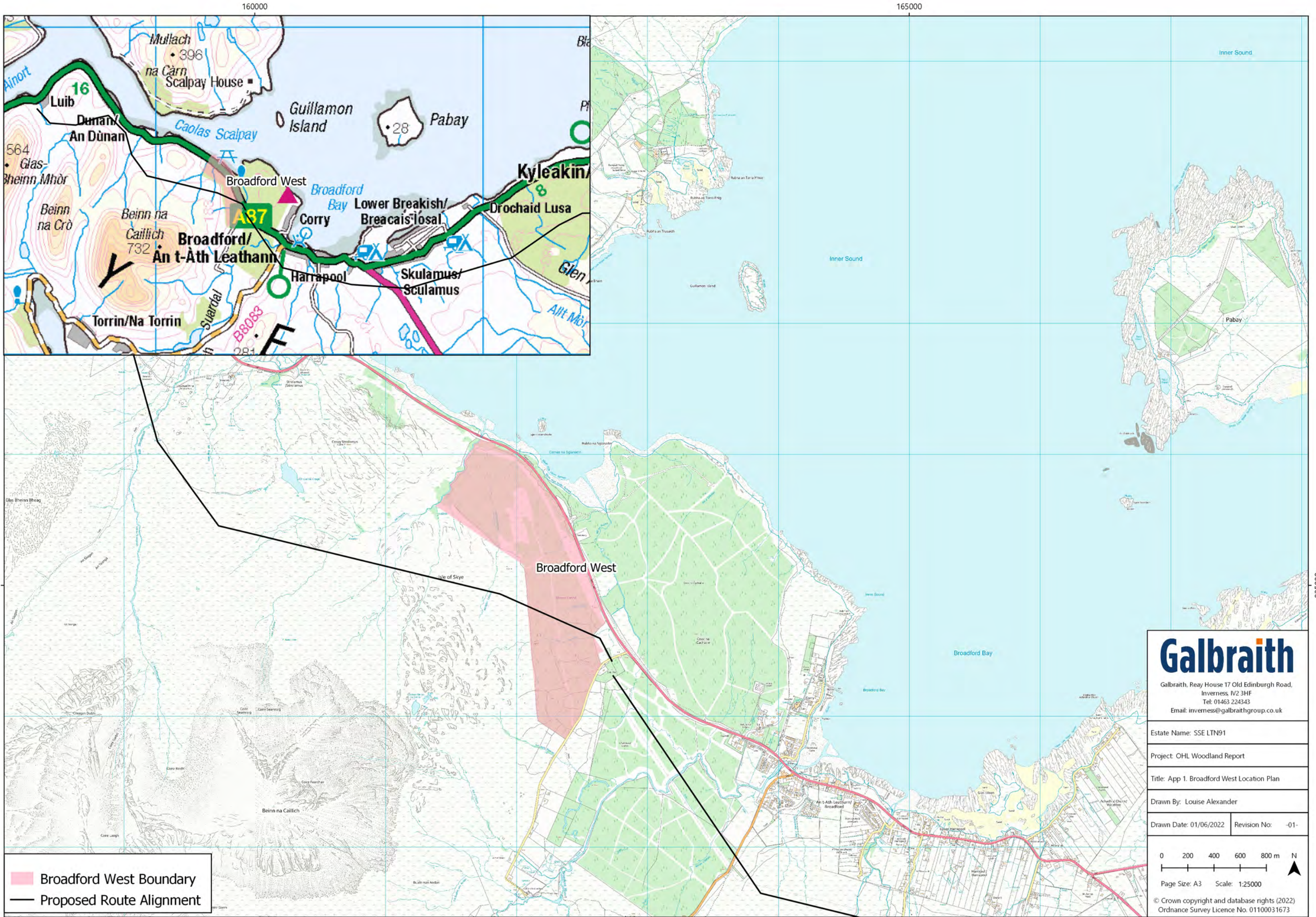
## 6. Net Effect/Summary

<b>Tower Span</b>	<b>Operational Requirements</b>
BE5-BE1	Gross area of OC felling required, undertaken by the Applicant. - Mulch standing commercial trees within OC – LP/SS/L – 4.5 ha
<b>Compensatory Planting Options</b>	
Potential onsite replacement planting/ regeneration within OC	0
Net effect (Loss of Woodland)	4.5 ha
<b>Operational Works</b>	
	<b>Total Area (ha)</b>
Clear fell harvesting within OC	4.5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4.5</b>

## 7. Compensatory Planting

The total amount of net felling requiring compensation under the Control of Woodland Removal Policy is 4.5 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.



Broadford West Boundary  
 Proposed Route Alignment

**Galbraith**

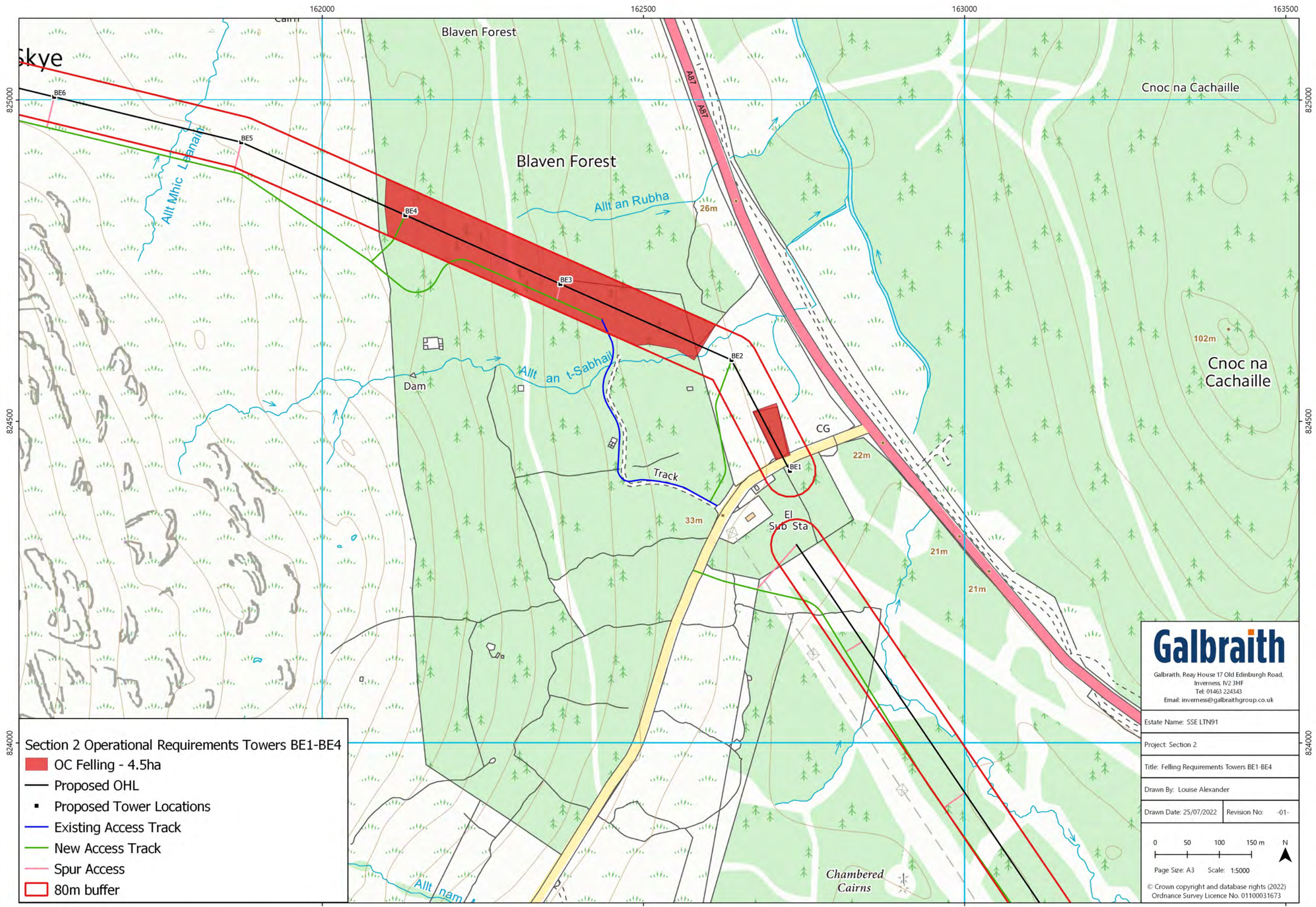
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**Section 2 Operational Requirements Towers BE1-BE4**

- OC Felling - 4.5ha
- Proposed OHL
- Proposed Tower Locations
- Existing Access Track
- New Access Track
- Spur Access
- 80m buffer

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