

Annex 1F – Woodland Report**Section 3 - Riverside and Old Corry****Contents**

1. Woodland Characteristics
2. Development Requirements
3. Wind Blow Risk
4. Woodland Management Impact
5. Mitigation Opportunities
 - a. Restructuring
 - b. Restocking
6. Net Effect/Summary
7. Compensatory planting

Figures

Figure 1 – Riverside and Old Corry Location Plan

Figure 2 – Riverside and Old Corry Operational Corridor Felling Requirements

1. Woodland Characteristics

Riverside and Old Corry Woodland is managed by Scottish Woodlands. The site can be accessed from the north west from the unclassified public road off the A87 approximately 1.5 miles north of Broadford, or on the south east from the B8083, south of Broadford, (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 BF1-BF7, south of Broadford Substation.

The forest is managed as per the LTFP case reference: 16FGS08514.

Towers BF1-BF7

The tree species present within this woodland site include Sitka Spruce (SS), Lodgepole pine (LP) and Larch (L) growing on a flushed peat and peaty gleys, with generally wet ground conditions, with resultant mixed growth rates ranging from severely checked to good growth where the crop is on drier knolls. Open space within the crop would assist with the creation of green edges within the OC and minimise woodland loss.

The LTFP identifies the woodland along towers BF1-BF2 due for felling within Phase 3 (2027-2032), along towers BF3-BF5 for long term retention, and along towers BF5-BF6 for Phase 4 (2032-2037).



SS Tower QB1, wind firm edge.



Existing OHL, good windfirm edge.

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.

New access tracks would be required to access the OHL between towers BF1-BF7.

Stump removal and residue mulching would be required for the installation of 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 (DAMS Score of 15).

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 Riverside and Old Corry woodland site is ongoing and will continue to be undertaken by the landowner in the future, regardless of development felling, as detailed in the LTFP. It is recognised that the proposed OHL would result in felling being brought forward from 2027. The felling of the OC for the 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

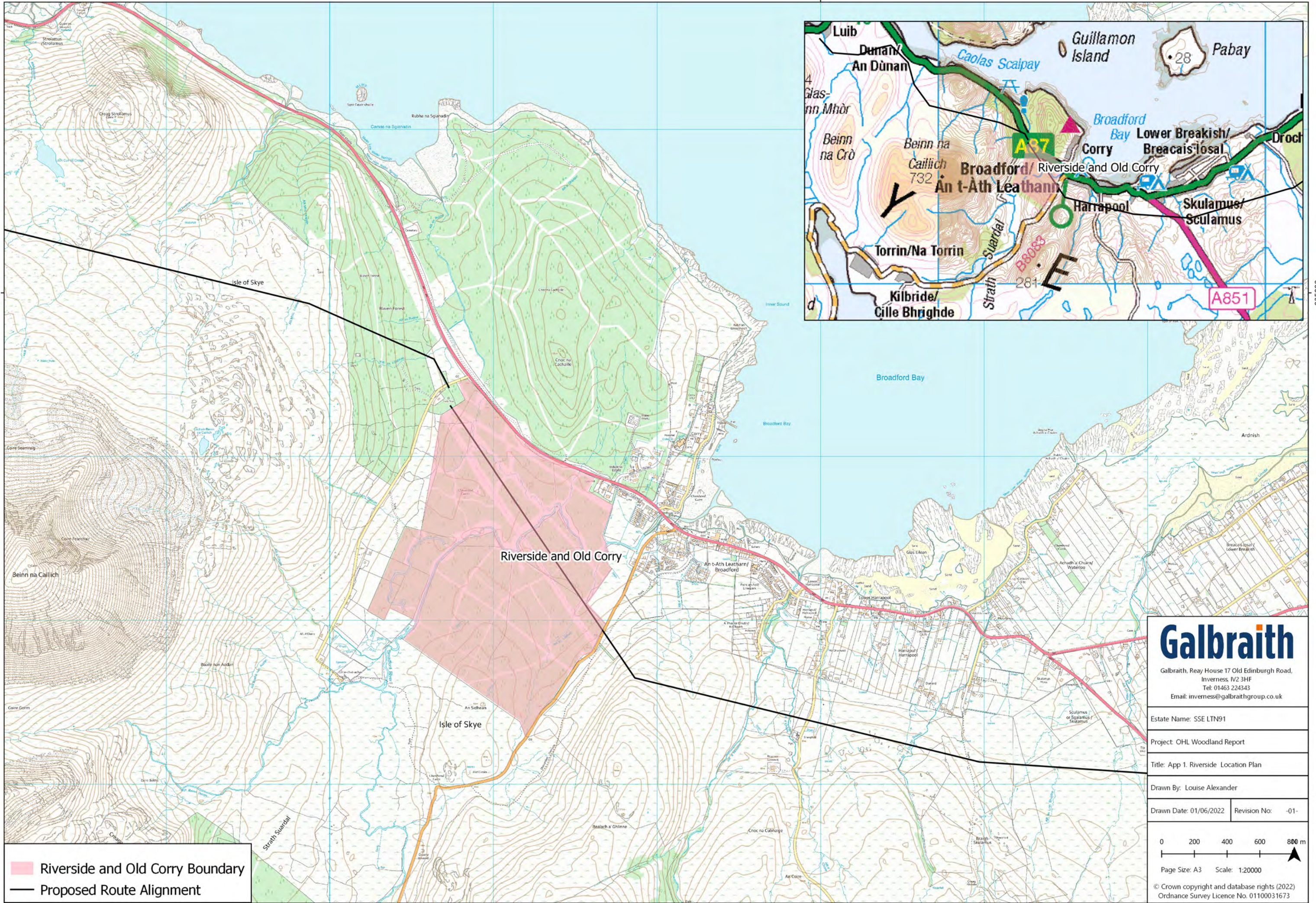
Tower Span	Operational Requirements
BF1-BF7	Gross area of OC felling required, undertaken by the Applicant. - Clear fell, all standing commercial trees within OC – SS/LP/L – 8.4 ha
Additional area of recommended felling outside OC for wind throw or forest design purposes (Landowner to fell under forest plan revision or felling licence)	Clear fell to windfirm edge – SS/LP/L – 7.8ha
Felling for new access tracks	Clear 20 m buffer along new access tracks – 0.19 ha
Compensatory Planting Options	
Potential onsite replacement planting/ regeneration within OC	0
Net effect (Loss of Woodland)	8.6 ha
Operational Works	
	Total Area (ha)
Clear fell harvesting within OC	8.4
Clear fell harvesting out with OC	7.8
Felling on new access tracks	0.19
TOTAL	16.4

7. Compensatory Planting

The total amount of net felling requiring compensation under the Control of Woodland Removal Policy is 8.6 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.

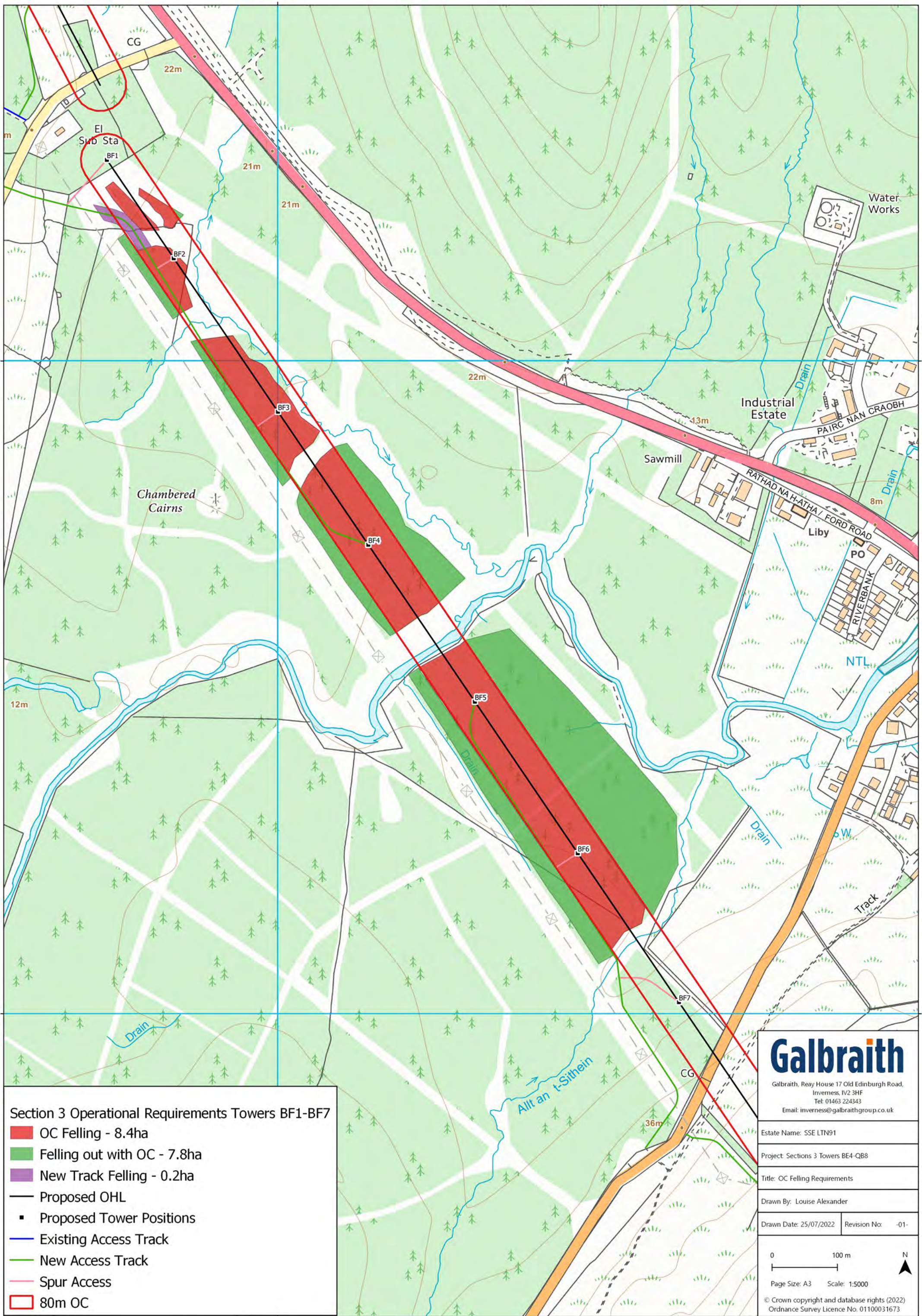


Riverside and Old Corry Boundary
 Proposed Route Alignment

Galbraith
 Galbraith, Reay House 17 Old Edinburgh Road,
 Inverness, IV2 3HF
 Tel: 01463 224343
 Email: inverness@galbraithgroup.co.uk

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

0 200 400 600 800 m
 Page Size: A3 Scale: 1:20000
 © Crown copyright and database rights (2022)
 Ordnance Survey Licence No. 01100031673



Section 3 Operational Requirements Towers BF1-BF7

- OC Felling - 8.4ha
- Felling out with OC - 7.8ha
- New Track Felling - 0.2ha
- Proposed OHL
- Proposed Tower Positions
- Existing Access Track
- New Access Track
- Spur Access
- 80m OC

Galbraith

Galbraith, Reay House 17 Old Edinburgh Road,
Inverness, IV2 3HF
Tel: 01463 224343
Email: inverness@galbraithgroup.co.uk

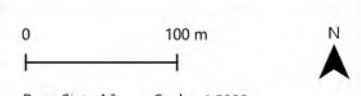
Estate Name: SSE LTN91

Project: Sections 3 Towers BE4-QB8

Title: OC Felling Requirements

Drawn By: Louise Alexander

Drawn Date: 25/07/2022 Revision No: -01-



Page Size: A3 Scale: 1:5000
© Crown copyright and database rights (2022)
Ordnance Survey Licence No. 01100031673