

Annex 1H – Woodland Report**Section 4 - Bernera Farm****Contents**

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Figure 3 – Bernera Restock Plan

1. Woodland Characteristics

Bernera Farm Woodland is owned by the Scottish Ministers and managed by Forestry and Land Scotland (FLS) – North Forest District. The woodland is accessed from the unclassified Glenelg Road approximately 2.5 miles north of Glenelg (see **Figure 1**). This commercial conifer plantation has Lodgepole pine as its principal conifer species. The proposed OHL affects the woodland between towers BF80-BF92.

The forest is managed as per the LMP Glenelg, currently under revision.

Towers BF80-BF81

Mature upland birch and oak woodland (W4/17).

Towers BF81-BF83

The tree species present within this section of the woodland site include Lodgepole pine (LP) and Sitka spruce (SS) and hybrid Larch (HL) plantation YC 10-12, planted in 1974. The LMP identifies this compartment for felling within phase 5 (2034-2039). Additional felling would be required out with the OC to create a green wind firm edge. Due to limited access the timber to be felled should be felled to recycle, as harvesting and extraction would not be possible.



LP and SS plantation

Towers BF84-BF92

LP YC 4-8 planted 1974. Identified within the LMP for felling phases 3 (2025-2030) and 5 (2034-2039). Mature upland birch riparian woodland (W4) at tower BF89. Additional felling would be required out with the OC to create a green wind firm edge.



LP plantation.



LP plantation, windfirm edge.



Riparian upland birch woodland (W4)

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 commercial woodland is served by well-constructed Class A forest roads from the unclassified Glenelg public road. These would reach towers BF85-BF89. Additional new access tracks would be required to reach Towers BF90-BF92. These roads can serve as the main arterial construction route.

Tree felling and timber extraction within the section of the OC for Towers BF85-BF92 would be able to utilise existing tracks, prior to any construction activity. Towers BF80-BF84 are inaccessible for timber extraction, these sites would be felled to waste.

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 (DAMS Score of 14). 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 site is 1.39 ha.

5. Mitigation Opportunities

The native upland and oak woodland is likely to regenerate into the OC in the vicinity of the towers post construction and present an opportunity to replace some of the woodland loss from tower/ OHL construction.

a. Restructuring

Clear felling and restocking of Bernera Farm Woodland is ongoing and will continue to be undertaken by the landowner 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 2025 which would impact on the proposed LMP coupes in the north of the plan area and may require substitute changes in the wider plan area to smooth timber production. 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. It is anticipated that native broadleaved regeneration is likely to occur within the OC from towers BF80-BF82 due to the presence of mature birch and oak woodlands. 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.

Refer to **Figure 3** which indicates the areas of proposed on-site restocking.

6. Net Effect/Summary

Tower Span	Operational Requirements
BF80-BF81	Gross area of OC felling required, undertaken by the Applicant. - Native woodland – fell to windfirm edge. 0.81 ha
BF81-BF83	Gross area of OC felling required, undertaken by the Applicant. - Commercial woodland – fell to windfirm edge. 1.8 ha
BF83-BF87	Gross area of OC felling required, undertaken by the Applicant. - Commercial woodland – fell to windfirm edge. 4.9 ha
BF89-BF92	Gross area of OC felling required, undertaken by the Applicant. - Commercial woodland – fell to windfirm edge. 4.3 ha Native woodland - 0.24ha
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 – LP/SS/L – 18.2 ha
New Tracks	Accommodating 20 m buffer - 3ha to be felled. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0.34 ha Native woodland • 2.7 ha Commercial woodland
Compensatory Planting Options	
Potential onsite replacement planting/ regeneration within OC	0
Net effect (Loss of Woodland)	15 ha
Operational Works	
	Total Area (ha)
Clear fell harvesting	12
Felling out with OC	18.2
New Track removal	3
• Native	0.34
• Commercial	2.7
TOTAL	33.2

7. Compensatory Planting

The total amount of net felling requiring compensation under the Control of Woodland Removal Policy is 15 ha.

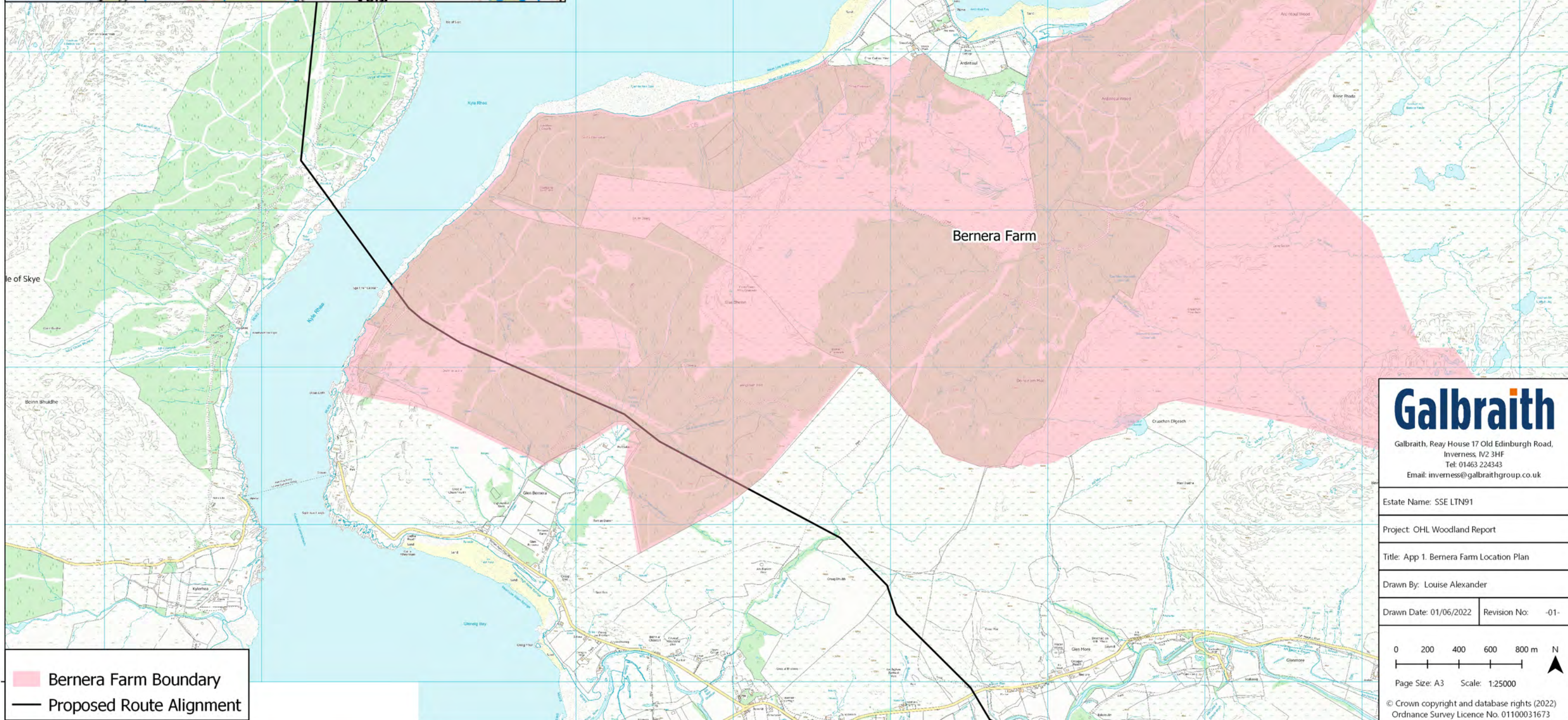
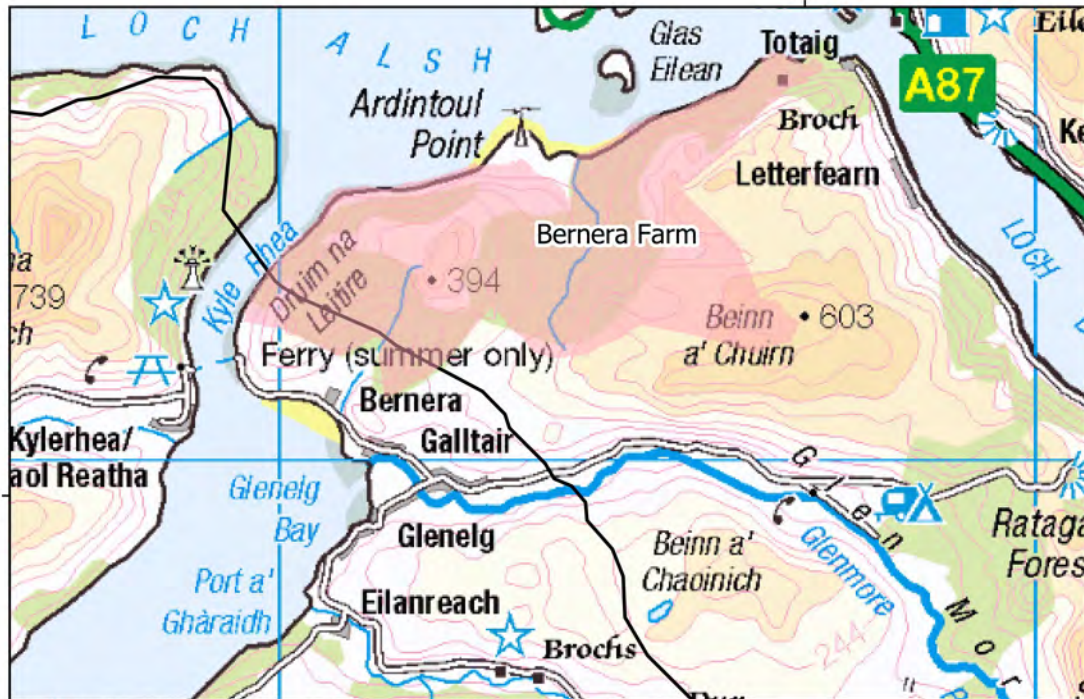
In order to provide a greater balance limiting long term impacts on forestry interests it is proposed that the majority of this woodland loss is compensated via offsite compensatory

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.

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Bernera Farm Boundary
 Proposed Route Alignment

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

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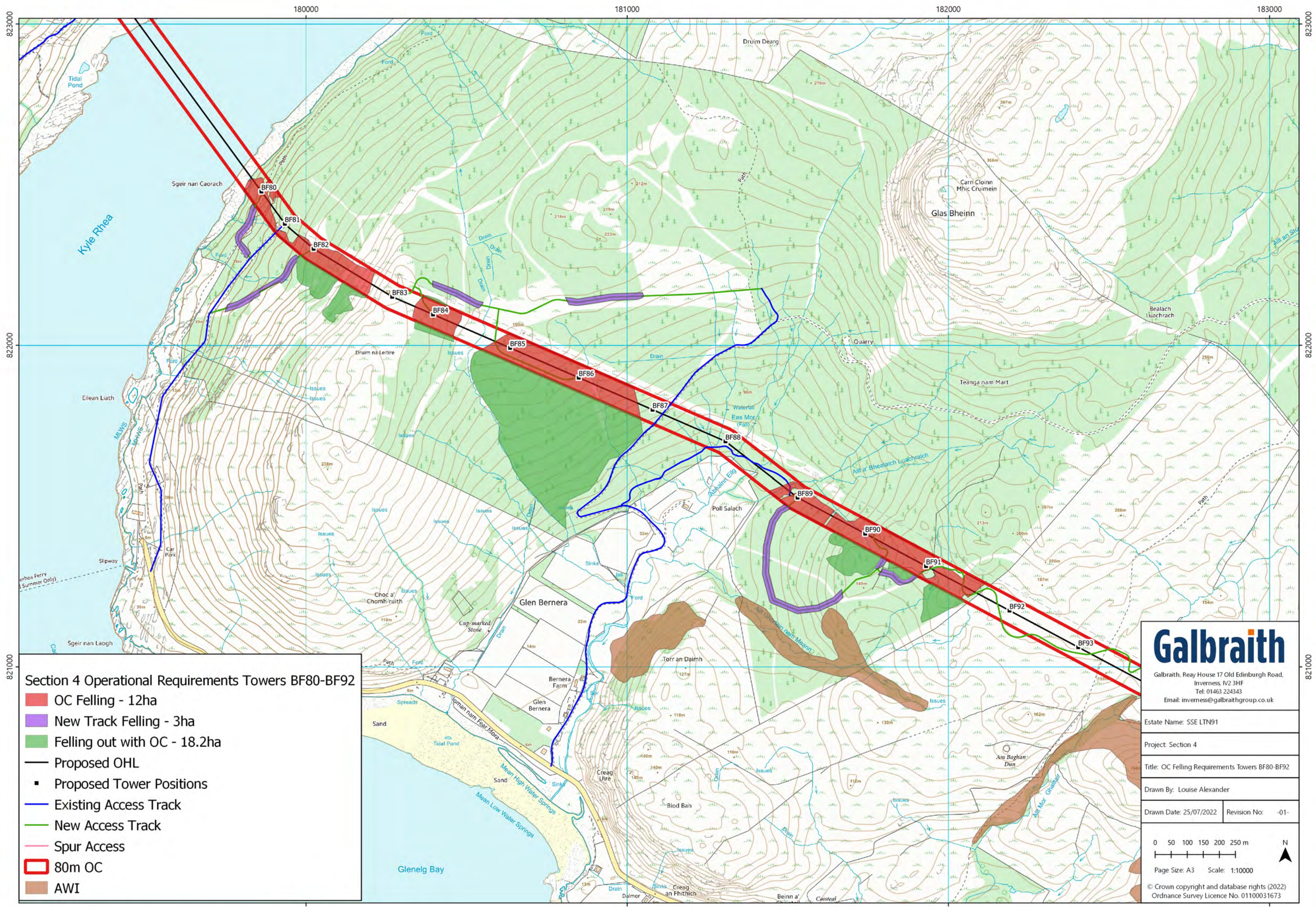
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Section 4 Operational Requirements Towers BF80-BF92

- OC Felling - 12ha
- New Track Felling - 3ha
- Felling out with OC - 18.2ha
- Proposed OHL
- Proposed Tower Positions
- Existing Access Track
- New Access Track
- Spur Access
- 80m OC
- AWI

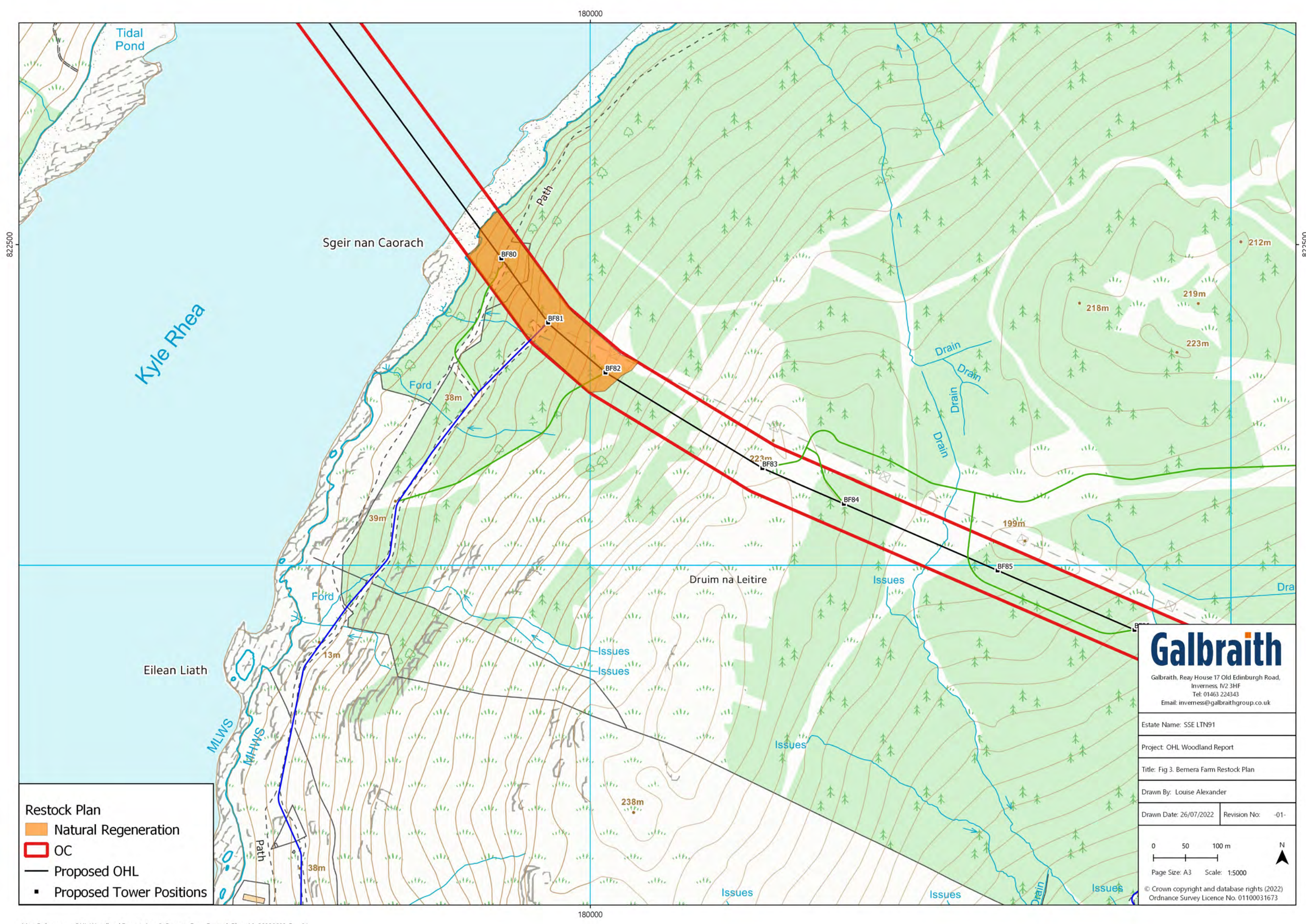
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Estate Name: SSE LTN91	
Project: Section 4	
Title: OC Felling Requirements Towers BF80-BF92	
Drawn By: Louise Alexander	
Drawn Date: 25/07/2022	Revision No: -01-

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- Restock Plan**
- Natural Regeneration
 - OC
 - Proposed OHL
 - Proposed Tower Positions

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Estate Name: SSE LTN91	
Project: OHL Woodland Report	
Title: Fig 3. Bernera Farm Restock Plan	
Drawn By: Louise Alexander	
Drawn Date: 26/07/2022	Revision No: -01-

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