Annex 1I - Woodland Report

Section 4 - Towers BF95-BF96

Contents

Figures

1. **Woodland Characteristics**

   The woodland along towers BF95-BF96 is owned by the Church of Scotland. The woodland is accessed from the unclassified Glenelg Road north of Glenelg (see **Figure 1 - Location Plan**). This native woodland has Scots pine as its principal species. The proposed OHL affects the woodland between towers BF95-BF96.

   The woodland has no active management plan.

   <u>Towers BF95-BF96</u>

   The tree species present within this woodland site include mature native Scots pine and upland birch woodland (W4/18). Scattered open habitat. The woodland is recorded within the Ancient Woodland Inventory (AWI) as Ancient of semi-natural origin.

2. **Development Requirements**

   A resilient OC of 15m 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 constructed along the OC for towers BF95-BF96.
   Towers BF95-BF96 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 15).

4. **Woodland Management Impact**

   The total loss of native broadleaved ancient woodland resulting from the proposed OHL in this woodland site is 0.33 ha.

5. **Mitigation Opportunities**

   The reduction in the OC to 30m within the AWI areas will reduce the impact on the native woodland within this area. The native upland birch and Scots pine woodland is likely to regenerate into the OC in vicinity of the tower post construction and present an opportunity to replace some of the woodland loss from tower/ line construction.

   a. **Restructuring**

      There is currently no active management plan for the woodland area. The proposed felling would have no impact on future works.

   b. **Restocking**

      It is anticipated that native broadleaved regeneration is likely to occur within the OC from towers BF95-BF96 due to the presence of mature birch and Scots pine woodlands.

Any opportunity to restock within the OC would be discussed with landowner following felling.

Refer to **Figure 3** which illustrates the on-site restocking.
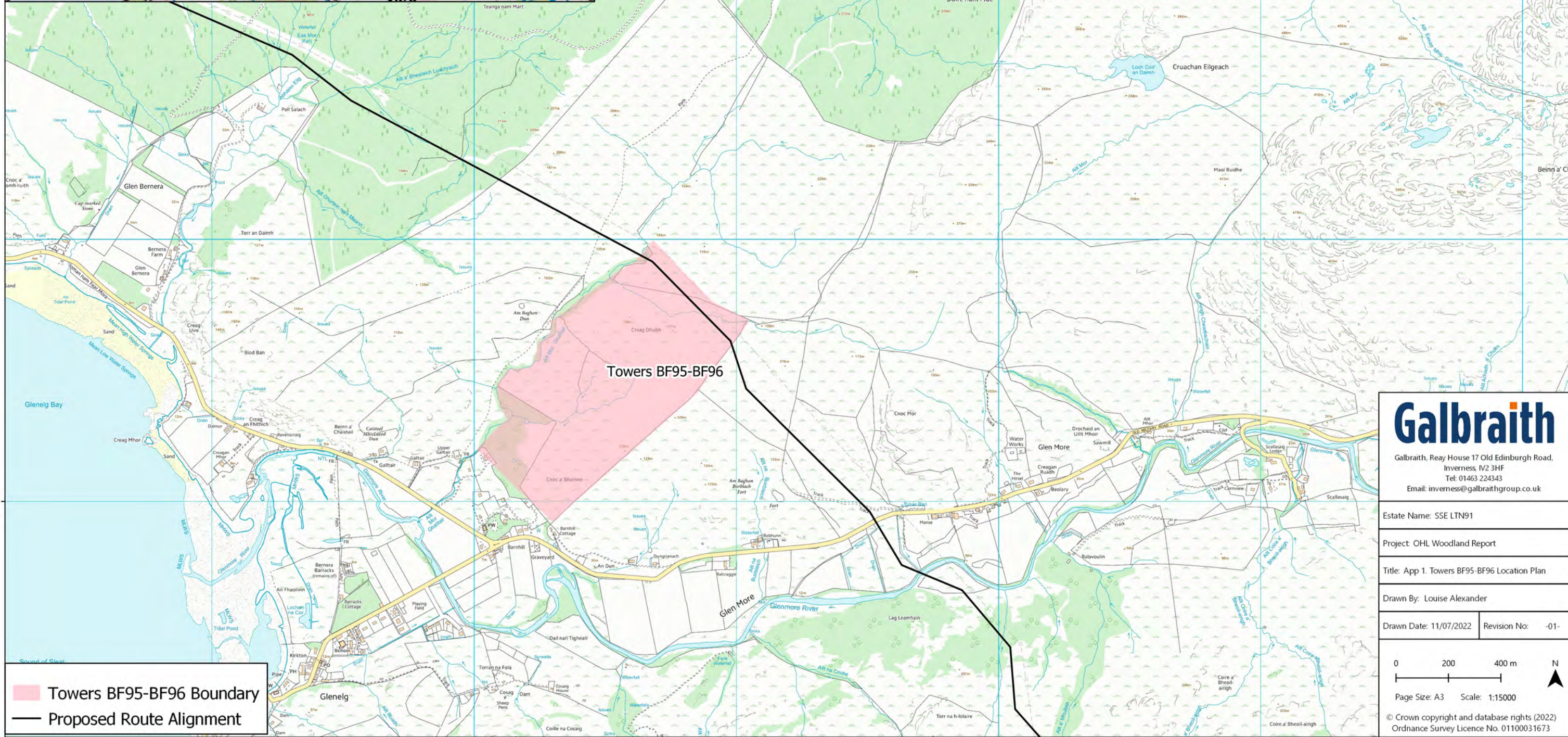
6. Net Effect/Summary

Tower Span	Operational Requirements
BF95-BF96	Gross area of OC felling required, undertaken by the Applicant. - Native woodland. 0.12 ha
New Tracks	Accommodating 20 m buffer – 0.21 ha native woodland to be felled.
Compensatory Planting Options	
Potential onsite replacement planting/ regeneration within OC	0
Net effect (Loss of Woodland)	0.33 ha
Operational Works	
	Total Area (ha)
Clear fell harvesting	0.12
New Track removal • Native	0.21
TOTAL	**0.33**

7. Compensatory Planting
The total amount of net felling requiring compensation under the Control of Woodland Removal Policy is 0.33 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.
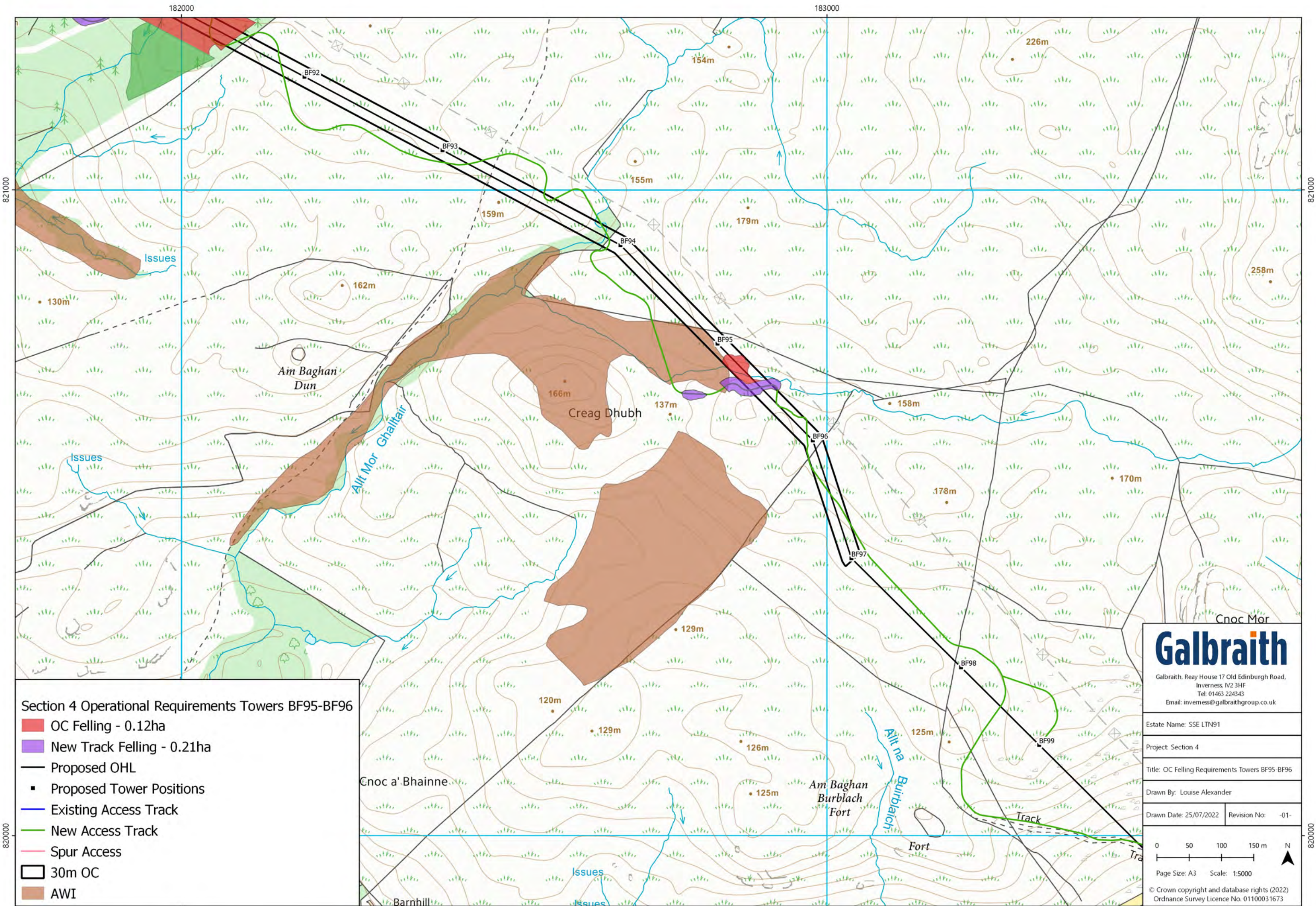
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Estate Name:	SSE LTN91
Project:	OHL Woodland Report
Title:	App 1. Towers BF95-BF96 Location Plan
Drawn By:	Louise Alexander
Drawn Date: 11/07/2022	Revision No: -01-

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**Legend**

Towers BF95-BF96 Boundary

Proposed Route Alignment

Map Reference: OHL Woodland Report_App 1. Towers QB114-115 Location Plan_A3_20220601_Rev 01

Section 4 Operational Requirements Towers BF95-BF96

- ■ OC Felling - 0.12ha
- ■ New Track Felling - 0.21ha
- —— Proposed OHL
- ■ Proposed Tower Positions
- —— Existing Access Track
- —— New Access Track
- —— Spur Access
- ☐ 30m OC
- ▨ AWI

0   50   100   150 m

N

Map Reference: Section 4 Felling Requirements_Towers QB111-QB115_A3_20220527_Rev 01

182500

182500

BF91
BF92
BF93
BF94
BF95
BF96
BF97
BF98
BF99

200m
187m
239m
226m
154m
155m
179m
258m
159m
Issues
162m
130m
158m
170m
Am Baghan Dun
Creag Dhubh
166m
137m
178m
Allt Mor Ghalltair
Issues
19
129m
120m
129m
126m
125m
Upper
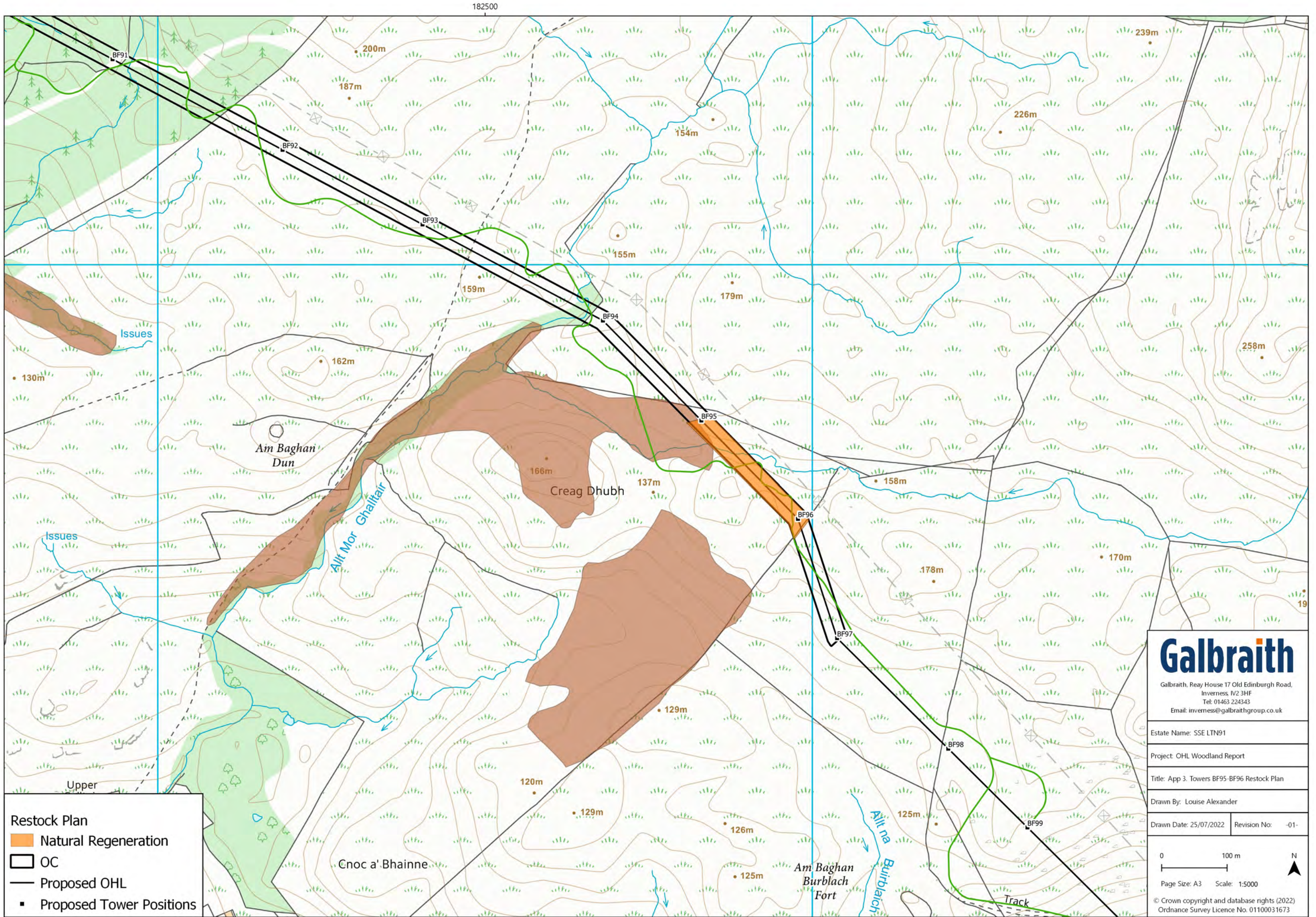Cnoc a' Bhainne
Am Baghan Burblach Fort
Allt na Burblaich
Track

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Estate Name: SSE LTN91	
Project: OHL Woodland Report	
Title: App 3. Towers BF95-BF96 Restock Plan	
Drawn By: Louise Alexander	
Drawn Date: 25/07/2022	Revision No: -01-
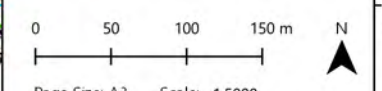
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0   100 m

N

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Restock Plan

Natural Regeneration

OC

Proposed OHL

■ Proposed Tower Positions

Map Reference: OHL Woodland Report_App 3. Towers QB114-115 Restock Plan_A3_20220602_Rev 01