Annex 10 – Woodland Report

Section 5 - Tomdoun and East Glenquoich

Contents

Figures

1. Woodland Characteristics

Tomdoun and East Glenquoich woodland along towers BF261-BF279 is owned by Mr R Tuxford. The woodland is accessed from the unclassified Loch Hourn Road, approximately 9 miles west of Invergarry see **Figure 1**). This commercial woodland has Lodgepole pine as its principal species. Several areas of ancient and semi-natural broadleaved woodland are present, mainly native Scots pine and upland birch woodland. The proposed OHL affects this woodland between towers BF261-BF279.

The woodland is managed under a felling licence, case reference: FPA-9015.

Towers BF261-BF263

Mature upland birch and Scots pine woodland (W4/18). The woodland is recorded on the Ancient Woodland Inventory (AWI) as Ancient of semi-natural origin. The extent of open ground with sporadic small trees negates the possibility of timber harvesting. Low ground pressure mulching is recommended.

Mature birch woodland (W4)

Scattered open habitat, birch woodland (W4)

Towers BF263-BF266

Lodgepole pine (LP) young plantation, planted 2003. The extent of open ground with sporadic small trees negates the possibility of timber harvesting. Low ground pressure mulching is recommended.

Young LP.

Young LP and native broadleaves.

Towers BF275-BF280

LP and Scots pine plantation. Mixed quality, with significant areas of open ground/failed planting. Small areas of additional felling would be required to the north out with the OC.

Checked areas of LP and SP

Scattered open habitat, LP and SP

Windfirm edge LP.

2. Development Requirements

A resilient OC of 40m in width either side of the OHL would be required throughout the commercial woodland. This would be reduced to 15 m in width either side of the OHL within the AWI area and increased to 30 m in width either side of the OHL within the semi-natural broadleaved area This allows for the widest part of the tower and an allowance for maintaining the necessary safety clearance distances.

The unclassified Loch Hourn Road runs along the southern boundary of the woodlands allowing access Towers BF261-BF266. A Class A forest road serving towers BF275-BF279 is accessed from the Loch Hourn road.

Tree felling and extraction within Towers BF275-BF279 would be able to utilise existing tracks, prior to any construction activity. The access road to towers BF261-BF266 is unsuitable for extraction so the trees would be felled to waste. The creation of new tracks would be required to access these towers.

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). As detailed in section 1, 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 alignment is 0.5 hectares (see **Figure 2**).

5. **Mitigation Opportunities**

The reduction in the OC within the AWI and broadleaved areas would 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 the vicinity of the tower post construction and present an opportunity to replace some of the woodland loss from tower/ line construction.

   a. **Restructuring**

   Clear felling and restocking of Tomdoun and East Glenquoich is ongoing and will continue to be undertaken by the landowner in the future, regardless of development felling, as detailed in the felling licence. It is recognised that the Proposed Development would result in felling being brought forward. 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. It is anticipated that native broadleaved regeneration is likely to occur within the Oc from towers BF261-BF266 due to the presence of mature birch and Scots pine 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** for a plan showing on-site restocking.

6. Net Effect/Summary

Tower Span	**Operational Requirements**
BF261-BF263	Gross area of OC felling required, undertaken by the Applicant. - Native woodland –. 0.5 ha
BF263-BF266	Gross area of OC felling required, undertaken by the Applicant. - Commercial LP woodland – fell to windfirm edge. 2 ha
BF275-BF280	Gross area of OC felling required, undertaken by the Applicant. - Commercial LP/SP – fell to windfirm edge. 7.8 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 – LP/SP – 0.2h a
Compensatory Planting Options	
Potential onsite replacement planting/ regeneration within OC	0
Nett effect (Loss of Woodland)	10.3 ha
Operational Works	
	Total Area (ha)
Clear fell harvesting	10.3
Clear fell out with OC	0.2
TOTAL	**10.5**

7. Compensatory Planting

The total amount of net felling requiring compensation under the Control of Woodland Removal Policy is 10.3 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.

210000

215000

805000

800000

Cluanie East Quoich

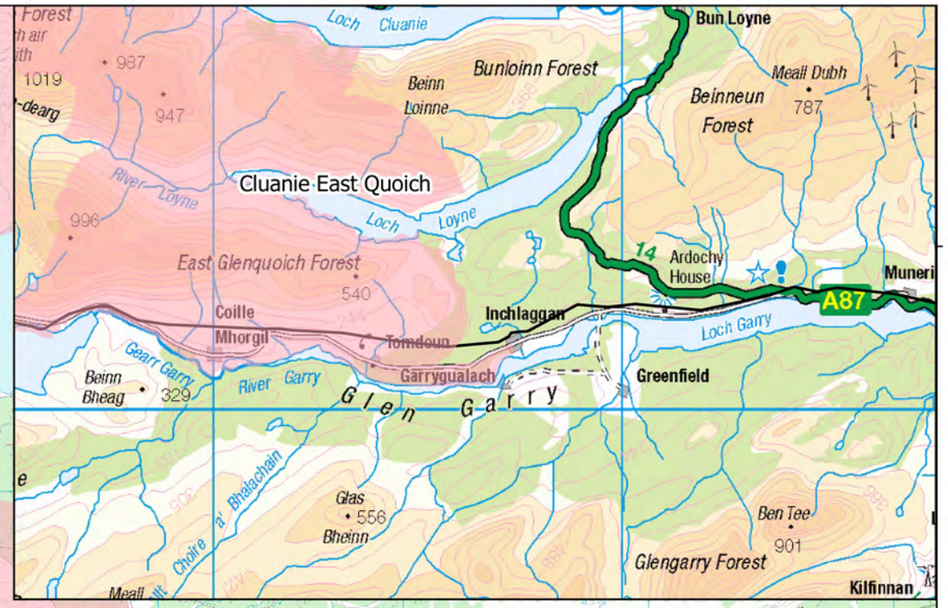
East Glenquoich Forest

Glen Loyne

Loch Loyne

Tomdoun & East Glenquoich Boundary

Proposed Route Alignment



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Estate Name: SSE LTN91

Project: OHL Woodland Report

Title: App 1.Tomdoun & Glenquoich Location

Drawn By: Louise Alexander

Drawn Date: 02/06/2022 | Revision No: -01-

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Map Reference: OHL Woodland Report_App 1.Tomdoun & Glenquoich Location _A3_20220602_Rev 01

212000

213000

802000

802000

Ford

Allt Poll-airigh

262m

BF261

BF262

BF263

BF264

BF265

BF266

BF267

BF268

133m

133m

138m

146m

139m

Quarry (disused)

118m

114m

Loch Poulary

Section 5 Operational Requirements Towers BF261-BF266

- OC Felling - 2.5ha
- Proposed OHL
- Proposed Tower Positions
- New Access Track
- Spur Access
- 30m OC
- 60m OC
- AWI

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Title: OC Felling RequirementsTowers BF261-BF266

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Map Reference: Section 5 Felling Requirements_Towers QB281-FQ05_A3_20220527_Rev 01

215000

216000

802000

801000

236m

213m

203m

206m

200m

190m

180m

188m

218m

221m

205m

205m

143m

142m

Cluas Fearna

Fords

Ford

Tomdoun

PW

Tel
Ex

Tomdoun
Hotel

BF273

BF274

BF275

BF276

BF277

BF278

BF279

BF280

Section 5 Operational Requirements Towers BF275-BF280

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

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Title: OC Felling Requirements Towers BF275-BF280

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Map Reference: Section 5 Felling Requirements _Towers FQ13-FQ26_A3_20220527_Rev 01

212500

802500

Ford
Fords
Ford
Ford
Teangan na Cas Ruith
477m
Creag Poll-airigh
Allt Poll-airigh
262m
Allt aGhobhainn
Ford
BF259
BF260
BF261
BF262
BF263
BF264
BF265
BF266
BF267
BF268
BF269
BF270
133m
226m
133m
138m
195m
195m
Quarry (disused)
139m
146m
144m
118m
114m
Loch Poulary
116m
Eilean a' Mhorair
118m
Path
r Catch
227m

Restock Plan
- Natural regeneration
- 30m OC
- 60m OC
- Proposed OHL
- Proposed Tower Positions

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Project: OHL Woodland Report

Title: Fig3. Tomdoun Restock Plan

Drawn By: Louise Alexander

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Map Reference: OHL Woodland Report_App3. Tomdoun Restock Plan_A3_20220602_Rev 01