

Annex 1P – Woodland Report**Section 5 - Lochan Torr****Contents**

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1. Woodland Characteristics

Lochan Torr woodland is managed by Kelpie Woodlands. The woodland is accessed from the unclassified Loch Hourn Road, approximately 9 miles west of Invergarry (see **Figure 1**). The commercial woodland is mainly Sitka spruce and Scots pine, the native woodland has upland birch (W4) as its principal species. The proposed OHL affects this woodland between towers BF280-BF287.

The woodland has no active management plan.

Towers BF280-BF281

Scots pine (SP), Sitka spruce (SS) and larch (L) plantation are the species on site. The OC runs through the edge of the plantation with a more scattered planting creating a natural green edge.

Towers BF282-BF284

Mature upland birch and Scots pine woodland (W4/18). Part of the woodland is recorded on the Ancient Woodland Inventory (AWI) as Ancient of semi-natural origin.

Towers BF286-BF287

Sitka spruce and Scots pine plantation. The OC runs through the edge of the plantation with a more scattered planting creating a natural green edge.



SS and SP plantation, natural green wind firm edge

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. This allows for the widest part of the tower and an allowance for maintaining the necessary safety clearance distances.

A Class A forest road serving towers BF280-BF287 is accessed from the Loch Hourn road. The creation of new tracks would be needed along the OC (line route) to service each of the tower locations.

Tree felling and extraction within the OC of towers BF280-BF287 would be able to utilise existing access tracks, prior to any construction activity.

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 14). 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 OHL in this woodland is 0.98 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 vicinity of the OHL post construction and present an opportunity to replace some of the woodland loss from tower/ line construction.

a. Restructuring

Clear felling and restocking of Lochan Torr is ongoing and will continue to be undertaken by the landowner in the future, regardless of development felling. It is recognised that the proposed OHL would result in felling being brought forward. 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 BF282-BF284 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** which presents onsite restocking.

6. Net Effect/Summary

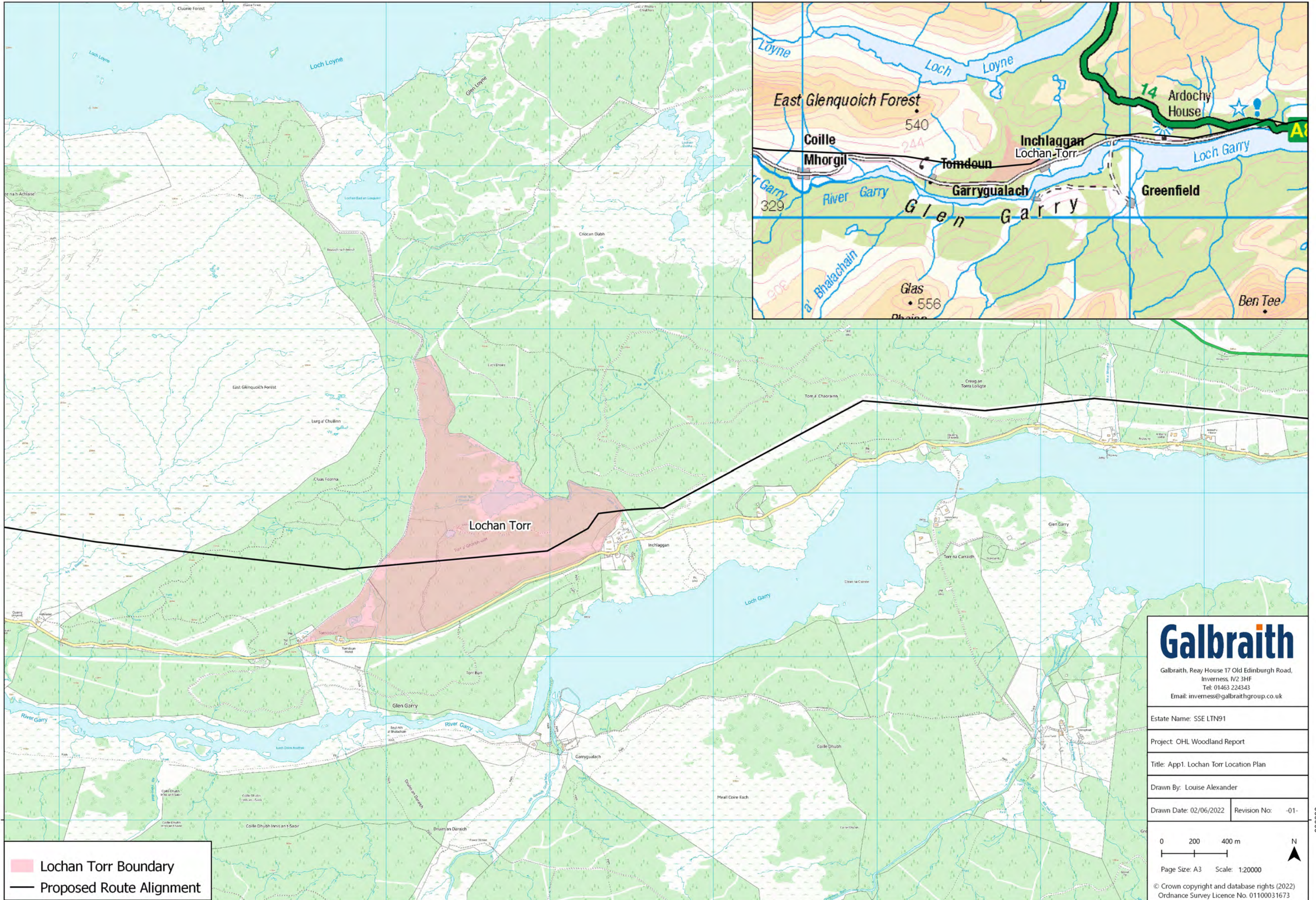
Tower Span	Operational Requirements
BF280-BF281	Gross area of OC felling approved via the section 37 and undertaken by the Applicant - Commercial SP/SS woodland – fell to windfirm edge. 0.5 ha
BF282-BF284	Gross area of OC felling approved via the section 37 and undertaken by the Applicant - Native woodland – . 0.98 ha
BF286-BF287	Gross area of OC felling approved via the section 37 and undertaken by the Applicant- Commercial SS/SP – fell to windfirm edge. 0.43 ha
Compensatory Planting Options	
Potential onsite replacement planting/ regeneration within OC	0
Net effect (Loss of Woodland)	1.9
Operational Works	
	Total Area (ha)
Clear fell harvesting	1.9
TOTAL	1.9

7. Compensatory Planting

The total amount of net felling requiring compensation under the Control of Woodland Removal Policy is 1.9 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 decommissioning of the existing 132 kV OHL would allow potential opportunities for compensatory planting where practical and in agreement with the landowner.



Lochan Torr Boundary
 Proposed Route Alignment

Galbraith

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Estate Name: SSE LTN91	
Project: OHL Woodland Report	
Title: App1. Lochan Torr Location Plan	
Drawn By: Louise Alexander	
Drawn Date: 02/06/2022	Revision No: -01-

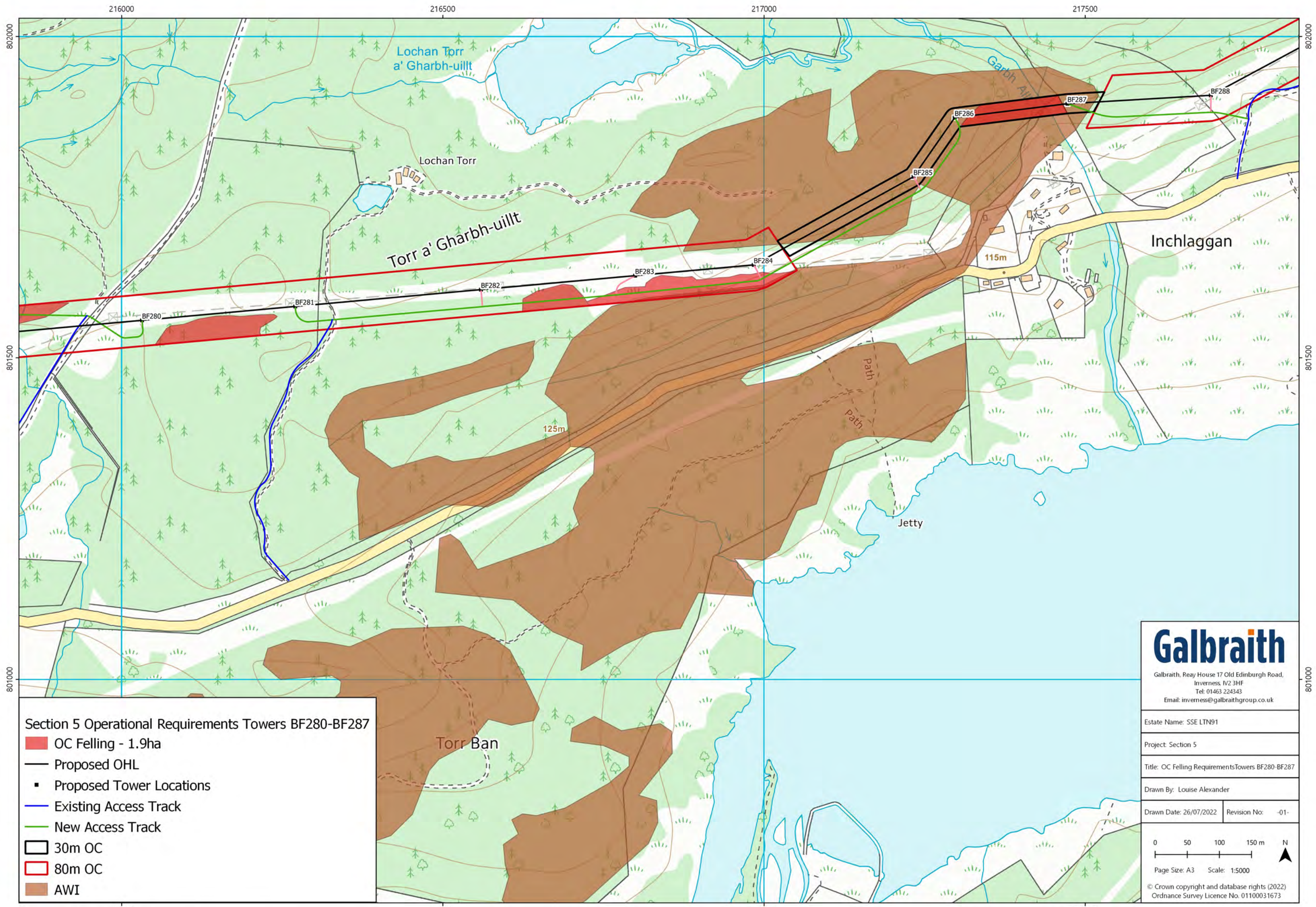
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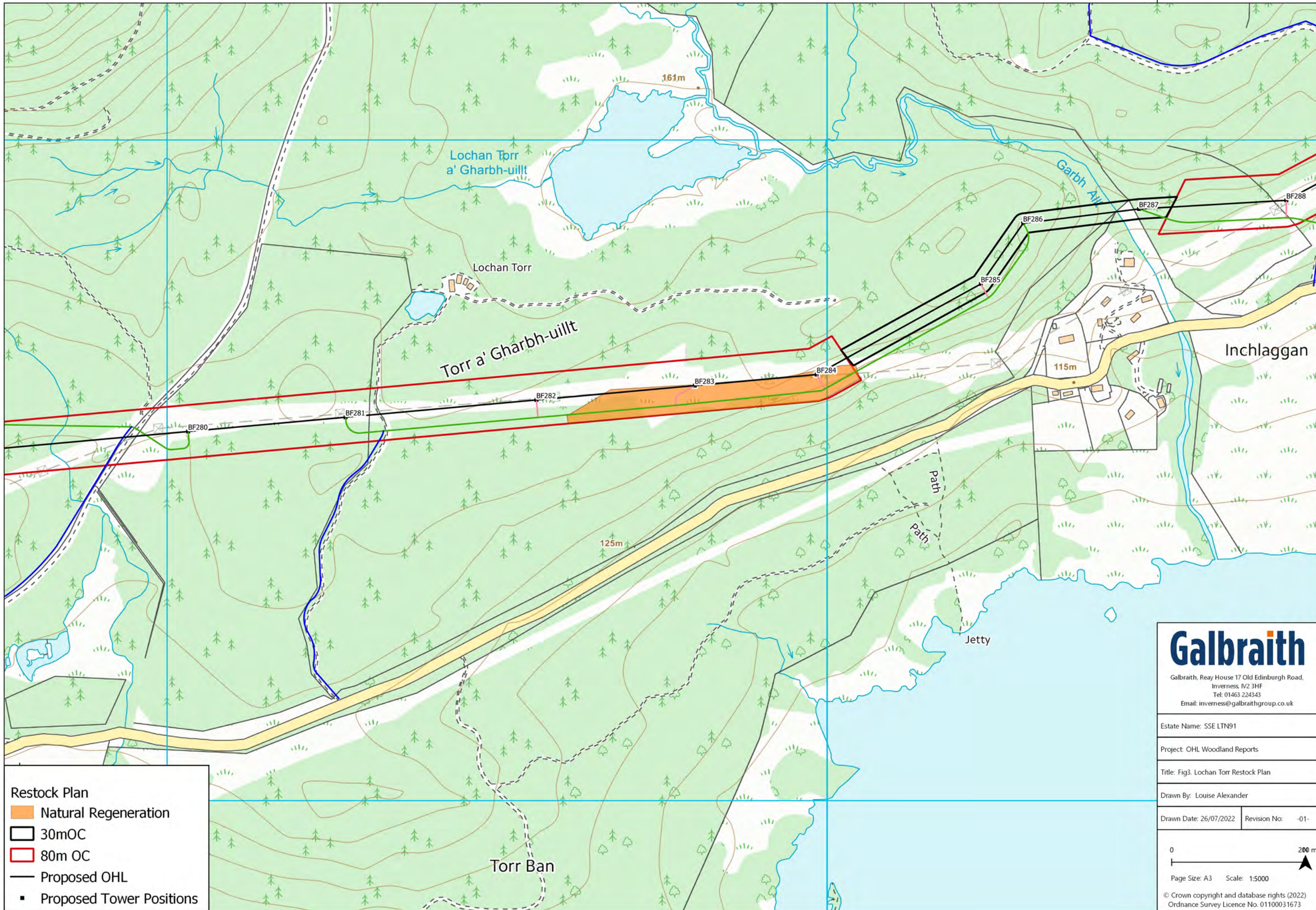
Section 5 Operational Requirements Towers BF280-BF287

- OC Felling - 1.9ha
- Proposed OHL
- Proposed Tower Locations
- Existing Access Track
- New Access Track
- 30m OC
- 80m OC
- AWI

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Estate Name: SSE LTN91	
Project: Section 5	
Title: OC Felling Requirements Towers BF280-BF287	
Drawn By: Louise Alexander	
Drawn Date: 26/07/2022	Revision No: -01-

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Restock Plan

- Natural Regeneration
- 30mOC
- 80m OC
- Proposed OHL
- Proposed Tower Positions

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Estate Name: SSE LTN91	
Project: OHL Woodland Reports	
Title: Fig3. Lochan Torr Restock Plan	
Drawn By: Louise Alexander	
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