Annex 1Q – Woodland Report

Section 5 - Ardochy

Contents

Figures

1. Woodland Characteristics

Ardochy woodland, is owned by the Scottish Ministers and managed by Forestry and Land Scotland (FLS) – West Forest District. The woodland is accessed from the unclassified Loch Hourn Road, approximately 6 miles west of Invergarry (see **Figure 1**). This commercial woodland has Sitka spruce as its principal species, the native woodland is mainly upland birch woodland (W4). The proposed OHL affects this woodland between towers BF304-BF315.

The woodland is managed under the Ardochy LMP.

Towers BF304-BF307

Tree species present within this section of the woodland site include Scots pine (SP), Sitka spruce (SS) and larch (L) plantation with a matrix of irregular shelterwood, old policy woodlands and commercial broadleaves. The woodland is recorded on the Ancient Woodland Inventory (AWI) as Ancient of semi-natural origin. The OC would run through the edge of the plantation with a more scattered planting creating a natural green edge. The woodland is identified for felling beyond the LMP period of 2051.

Towers BF308-BF312

Remaining crop from previously felled Sitka spruce (SS), Norway spruce (NS) plantation. OC runs through the edge of the plantation with a more scattered planting creating a natural green edge. Several areas of mature birch woodland (W4) to be removed along the OC. The LMP identifies the woodland as a Low Impact Silviculture (LISS).

NS to be felled.

Previously harvested site

Mature birch woodland to be removed.

Towers BF314-BF315

Naturally regenerating Sitka spruce and native upland birch woodland (W4). Mixed quality and scattered open habitat. The LMP identifies the woodland as a LISS.

SS regenerating

Scrub W4 woodland on roadside.

2. Development Requirements

A resilient OC of 15m in width either side of the OHL would be required throughout 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 BF304-BF315 is accessed from the Loch Hourn Road. These roads can serve as the main arterial construction route. The creation of new tracks would be required to service each of the tower location.

Tree felling and extraction within the OC of towers BF304-BF315 would be able to utilise existing tracks, prior to any construction activity.

Stump removal and residue mulching would be required for the installation of access tracks within the OC and at each steel lattice tower working area would be formed 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 will 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 is 1.32 ha (see **Figure 2**).

5. **Mitigation Opportunities**
   The reduction in the OC within the AWI 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 towers post construction and present an opportunity to replace some of the woodland loss from tower/ line construction.

   a. **Restructuring**
      Clear felling and restocking of Ardochy is ongoing and will continue to be undertaken by the landowner in the future, regardless of development felling. It is recognised that the Proposed Development would result in felling being brought forward from beyond the 2051 plan period. 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 BF304-BF307 due to the presence of mature birch and Scots pine woodlands. Any opportunity to restock within the OC will 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
BF304-BF307	Gross area of OC felling required, undertaken by the Applicant. - Commercial SP/SS woodland – fell to windfirm edge. 0.36 ha
BF308-BF312	Gross area of OC felling required, undertaken by the Applicant. - Commercial SS/NS woodland – fell to windfirm edge. 1.28 ha
BF314-BF315	Gross area of OC felling required, undertaken by the Applicant. - Commercial SS/SP – fell to windfirm edge. 0.86 ha
New access Tracks	Felling for new access tracks. Clear 20m buffer along new access tracks – • Native woodland – 1.32 ha • Commercial woodland – 1.6 ha
Compensatory Planting Options	
Potential onsite replacement planting/ regeneration within OC	0
Nett effect (Loss of Woodland)	5.4 ha
Operational Works	
	Total Area (ha)
Clear fell harvesting	2.5
New access tracks	2.9
TOTAL	**5.4**

7. Compensatory Planting

The total amount of net felling requiring compensation under the Control of Woodland Removal Policy is 5.4 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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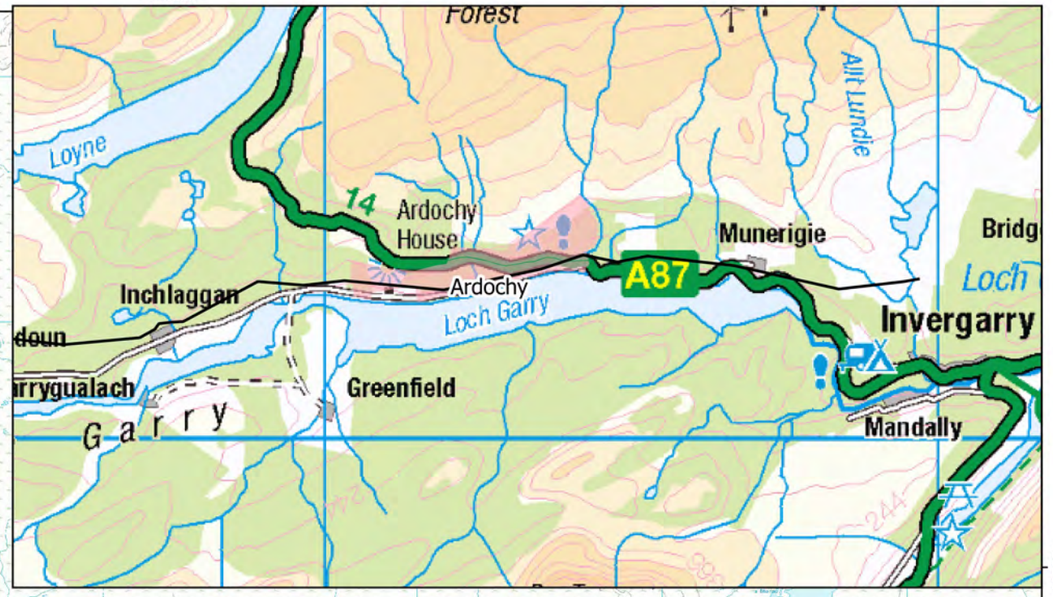

Ardochy

Ardochy Boundary

Proposed Route Alignment

Glengarry Forest

Laddie Wood

Loch Garry

Glen Garry

Galbraith

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Estate Name: SSE LTN91

Project: OHL Woodland Report

Title: App 1. Ardochy Location Plan

Drawn By: Louise Alexander

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

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Map Reference: OHL Woodland Report_App 1. Ardochy Location Plan_A3_20220602_Rev 01

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803000 802000

Waterfall
Waterfall
Allt a' Bhiora
Waterfall
Waterfall
Quarry
CG
192m
221m
Car Park
Daingean Settlement
124m
BF315
BF314
BF313
BF312
BF311
BF310
BF309
BF308
BF307
BF306
BF305
BF304
88m
93m
89m
94m
87m
92m
97m
Slipway
Loch Garry
Laddie
Glengarry Forest

Section 5 Operational Requirements Towers BF304-BF315

- OC Felling - 2.5ha
- New Track Felling - 2.9ha
- Proposed OHL
- Proposed Tower Positions
- Existing Access Tracks
- New Access Track
- Spur Access
- 30m OC
- 80m OC
- AWI

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Project: Section 5

Title: OC Felling Requirements Towers BF304-BF315

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Map Reference: Section 5 Felling Requirements _Towers FQ42-FQ50_A3_20220527_Rev 01

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Waterfall
Waterfall
Allt a' Bhiora
Car Park
Daingean Settlement
Quarry
CG
192m
221m
164m
124m
98m
Waterfall
Waterfall
BF315
BF314
BF313
BF312
BF311
BF310
BF309
BF308
BF307
BF306
BF305
88m
92m
93m
89m
94m
87m
97m
Slipway
Loch Garry
Laddie
Glengarry Forest

Restock Plan
- Natural Regeneration
- 30m OC
- 80m Buffer
- Proposed OHL
- Proposed Tower Positions

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Title: Fig3. Ardochy Restock Plan

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Map Reference: OHL Woodland Report_App3. Ardochy Restock Plan_A3_20220602_Rev 01