

Annex 1R – Woodland Report.**Section 5 - Druim Buidhe****Contents**

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Figure 1 – Druim Bhuidhe Location Plan

Figure 2 – Druim Bhuidhe Operational Corridor Felling Requirements

Figure 3 – Druim Bhuidhe Restock Plan

1. Woodland Characteristics

Druim Buidhe woodland is privately owned. The woodland is accessed from the A87, approximately 6 miles west of Invergarry (see **Figure 1**). This native woodland has upland birch (W4) and oak (W17) as its principal species. The proposed OHL affects woodland between towers BF315-BF319.

The woodland has no active management plan.

Towers BF315-BF319

Mature native upland birch and oak woodland. Part of the woodland is recorded on the Ancient Woodland Inventory (AWI) as Ancient of semi-natural origin. Scattered open habitat.





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.

New access tracks will require a 20m buffer zone to allow for site clearance.

A private farm road serves towers BF317-BF319, accessed from the A87 road. These roads can serve as the main arterial construction route.

Tree felling and extraction within the OC of Towers BF317-BF319 would be able to utilise existing tracks, prior to any construction activity. The access road to towers BF315-BF317 is unsuitable for extraction so the trees 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).

4. Woodland Management Impact

The total loss of Native Broadleaved woodland resulting from the proposed OHL is 1.46 hectares (ha).

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 Druim Buidhe is ongoing and will continue to be undertaken by the landowner in the future, regardless of development felling. 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. It is anticipated that native broadleaved regeneration is likely to occur within the OC from towers BF315-BF319 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

Refer to **Figure 3** for a plan showing on site restocking.

6. Net Effect/Summary

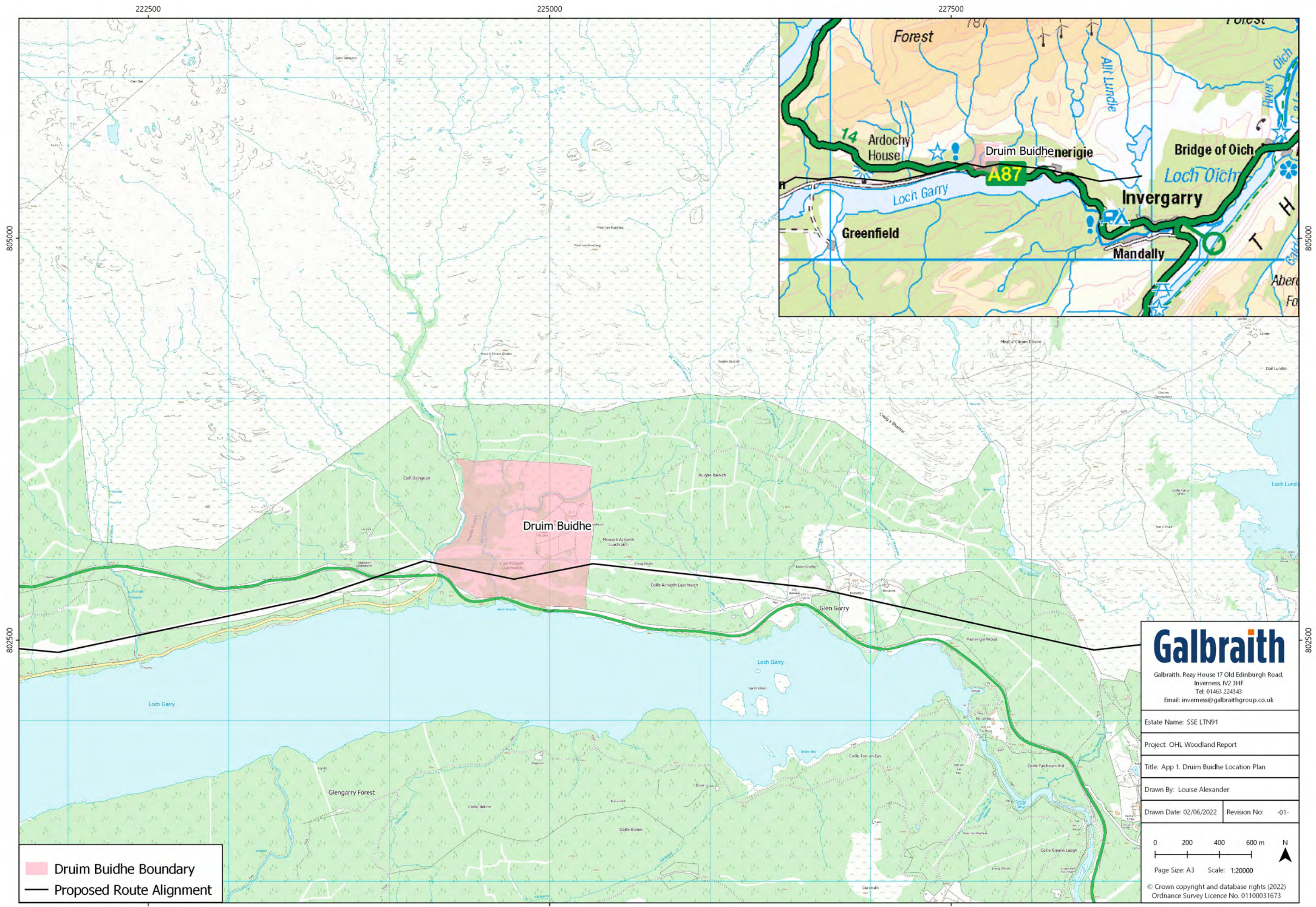
Tower Span	Operational Requirements
BF315-BF319	Gross area of OC felling required, undertaken by the Applicant. Native woodland – 1.38 ha
New access Tracks	Felling for new access tracks. Clear 20m buffer along new access tracks – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Native woodland – 0.08 ha
Compensatory Planting Options	
Potential onsite replacement planting/ regeneration within OC	0
Net effect (Loss of Woodland)	1.46 ha
Operational Works	
	Total Area (ha)
Clear fell harvesting	1.38
New access tracks	0.08
TOTAL	1.46

7. Compensatory Planting

The total amount of net felling requiring compensation under the Control of Woodland Removal Policy is 1.46 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.



Druim Buidhe Boundary
 Proposed Route Alignment

Galbraith

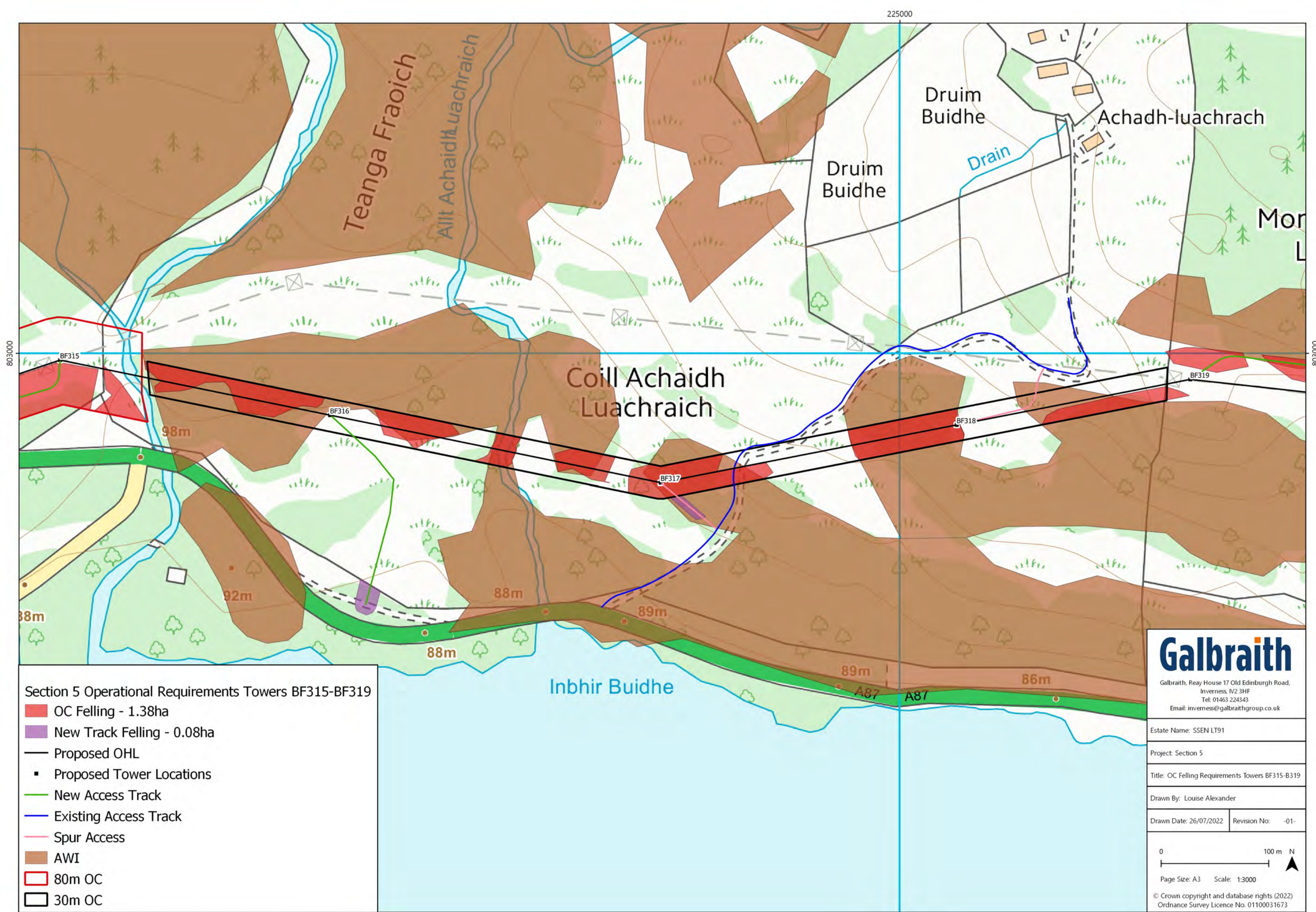
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Estate Name: SSE LTN91	
Project: OHL Woodland Report	
Title: App 1. Druim Buidhe Location Plan	
Drawn By: Louise Alexander	
Drawn Date: 02/06/2022	Revision No: -01-

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Page Size: A3 Scale: 1:20000

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Section 5 Operational Requirements Towers BF315-BF319

- OC Felling - 1.38ha
- New Track Felling - 0.08ha
- Proposed OHL
- Proposed Tower Locations
- New Access Track
- Existing Access Track
- Spur Access
- AWI
- 80m OC
- 30m OC

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Estate Name: SSEN LT91	
Project: Section 5	
Title: OC Felling Requirements Towers BF315-B319	
Drawn By: Louise Alexander	
Drawn Date: 26/07/2022	Revision No: -01-

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 Page Size: A3 Scale: 1:3000
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