

**Annex 1T – Woodland Report****Section 5 - Kilfinnan****Contents**

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## 1. Woodland Characteristics

Kilfinnan woodland is privately owned. The woodland is accessed from the A87, approximately 6 miles west of Invergarry (see **Figure 1**). This commercial woodland has Sitka spruce as its principal species, the native woodland area is mainly upland birch wood (W4) The proposed OHL affects the woodland between towers BF319-BF324 and BF327-BF332.

The woodland is managed under the RDC Long Term Forest Plan (LTFP) Case reference: 4885860.

### Towers BF319-BF323

The species present are Scots pine (SP), Sitka spruce (SS) and larch (L) that form part of a commercial plantation. Additional areas of felling would be required to the north to create a wind firm edge. Areas of native oak woodland (W17) run along the southern boundary of the woodland. The OC runs through the edge of the native woodland with a more scattered planting creating a natural green edge. No current management plan information. Small sections of the woodland are recorded within the Ancient Woodland Inventory (AWI) as Ancient semi-natural origin.

### Towers BF323-BF324

Scattered open habitat of native upland birch (W4) and oak woodland (W17). The OC runs through the edge of the plantation with a more scattered planting creating a natural green edge. The surrounding woodland is recorded within the AWI. No current management plan.

### Towers BF327-BF332

Sitka spruce (SS), Scots pine (SP) and larch (L) plantation. Identified within the LTFP for felling within Phase 1 (2015-2020), Phase 2 (2021-2025) and LISS. The dense plantation would require additional areas of felling out with the OC to create a 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 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.

A private farm road serves towers BF319-BF320, accessed from the A87 road. A forest road serves towers BF322-BF324 and BF327-BF332. The use of existing and construction of new tracks would be required to access these towers.

Tree felling and extraction would be able to utilise existing 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). There are several tower spans where 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 OHL in this woodland site is 1.02 hectares (ha) (see **Figure 2**).

### 5. Mitigation Opportunities

The significant reduction in the OC within the AWI and broadleaved areas would reduce the impact on the nationally important native woodland within this area. The native upland birch and oak 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 Kilfinnan woodland 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 areas being brought into felling, that would otherwise have been managed as LISS. 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 BF319-BF324 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 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

| <b>Tower Span</b>  | <b>Operational Requirements</b>  |
|--|--|
| BF319-BF323  | Gross area of OC felling required, undertaken by the Applicant. - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Native woodland – f.0.76 ha</li> <li>• Commercial woodland – 1.94 ha</li> </ul> |
| BF323-BF324  | Gross area of OC felling required, undertaken by the Applicant. - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Native woodland – 0.26 ha</li> </ul>  |
| BF327-BF332  | Gross area of OC felling required, undertaken by the Applicant. - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commercial woodland – 6.7 ha</li> </ul>   |
| 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 – SS/SP – 9.9 ha   |
| <b>Compensatory Planting Options</b>   |  |
| Potential onsite replacement planting/ regeneration within OC  | 0  |
| Net effect (Loss of Woodland)  | 9.7 ha   |
| <b>Operational Works</b>   |  |
|  | <b>Total Area (ha)</b>   |
| Clear fell harvesting  | 9.7  |
| Felling out with OC  | 9.9  |
| <b>TOTAL</b>   | <b>19.6</b>  |

## 7. Compensatory Planting

The total amount of net felling requiring compensation under the Control of Woodland Removal Policy is 9.7 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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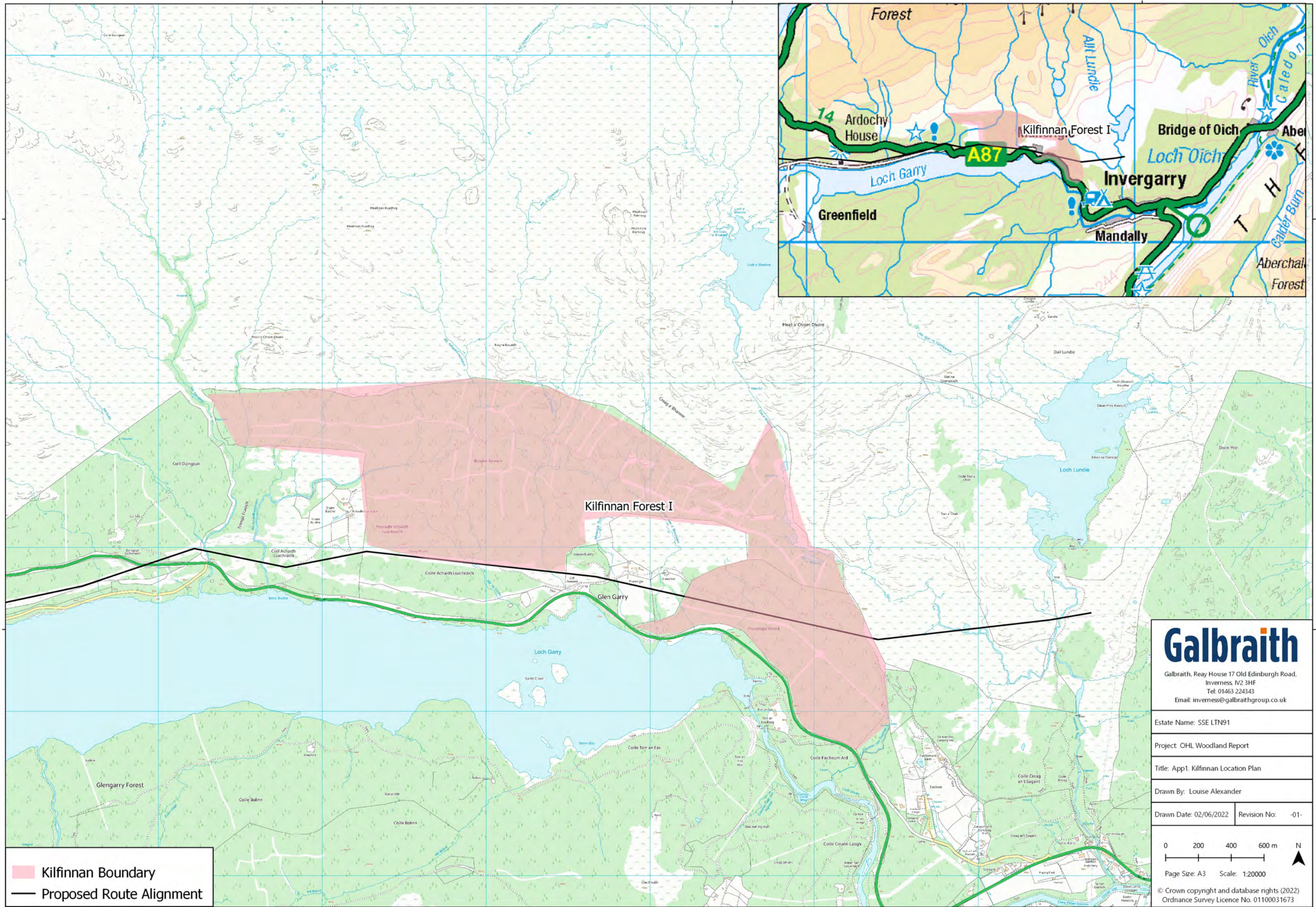
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**Kilfinnan Boundary**  
**Proposed Route Alignment**

**Galbraith**  
 Galbraith, Reay House 17 Old Edinburgh Road,  
 Inverness, IV2 3HF  
 Tel: 01463 224343  
 Email: inverness@galbraithgroup.co.uk

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

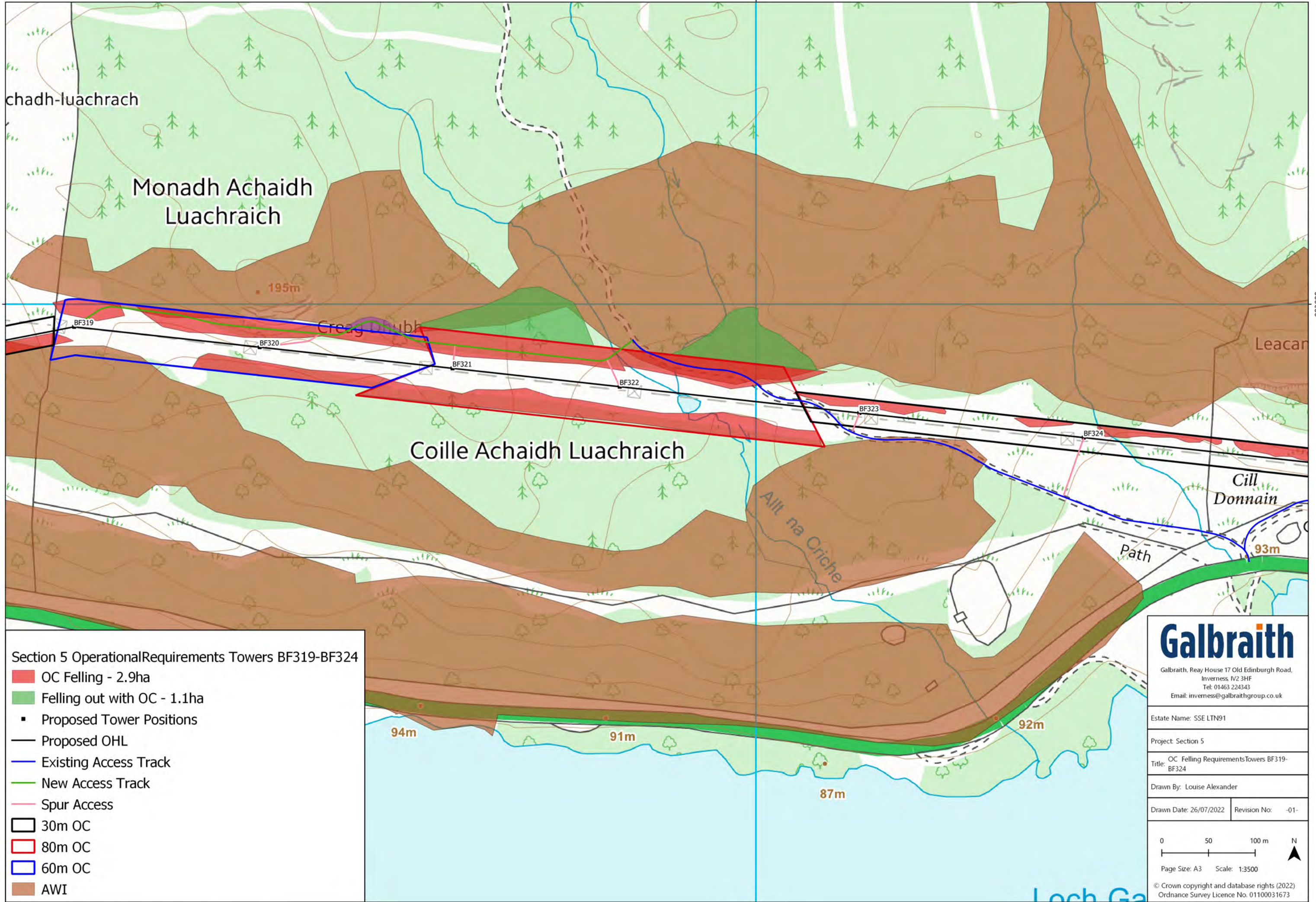
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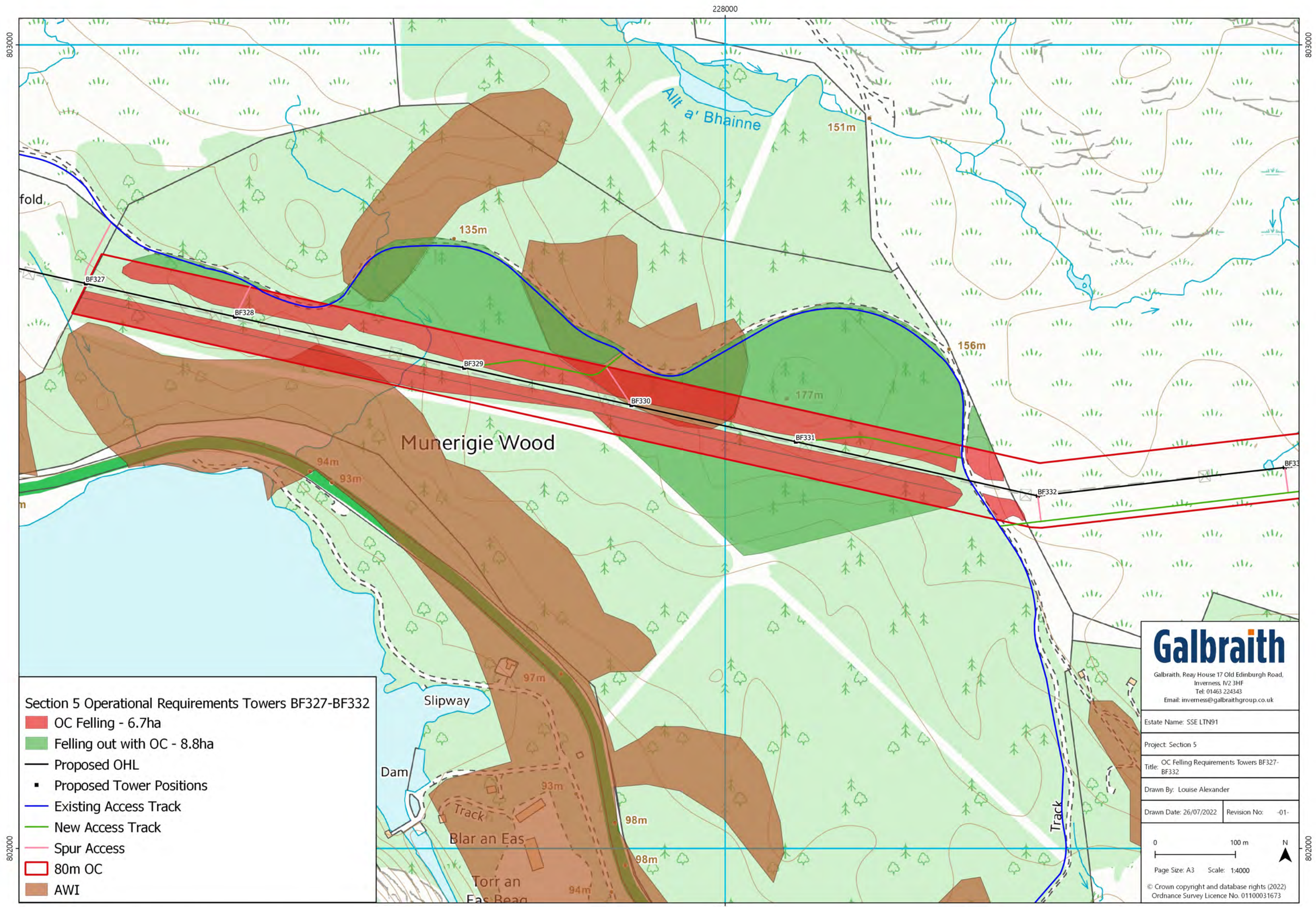
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**Section 5 Operational Requirements Towers BF327-BF332**

- OC Felling - 6.7ha
- Felling out with OC - 8.8ha
- Proposed OHL
- Proposed Tower Positions
- Existing Access Track
- New Access Track
- Spur Access
- 80m OC
- AWI

**Galbraith**  
 Galbraith, Reay House 17 Old Edinburgh Road,  
 Inverness, IV2 3HF  
 Tel: 01463 224343  
 Email: inverness@galbraithgroup.co.uk

|   |                   |
|---|-------------------|
| Estate Name: SSE LTN91                            |                   |
| Project: Section 5                                |                   |
| Title: OC Felling Requirements Towers BF327-BF332 |                   |
| Drawn By: Louise Alexander                        |                   |
| Drawn Date: 26/07/2022                            | Revision No: -01- |

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**Restock Plan**

- Natural Regeneration
- 30m OC
- 60m OC
- 80m OC
- Proposed OHL
- Proposed Tower Positions

**Galbraith**  
 Galbraith, Reay House 17 Old Edinburgh Road,  
 Inverness, IV2 3HF  
 Tel: 01463 224343  
 Email: inverness@galbraithgroup.co.uk

|                                     |                   |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Estate Name: SSE LTN91              |                   |
| Project: OHL Woodland Report        |                   |
| Title: Fig3. Kilfinnan Restock Plan |                   |
| Drawn By: Louise Alexander          |                   |
| Drawn Date: 26/07/2022              | Revision No: -01- |

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