

**Spittal to Loch Buidhe to Beauly 400 kV  
OHL Connection  
Environmental Impact Assessment  
Volume 5 | Technical Appendix**

**Appendix 8.5 | Watercourse  
Crossing Ecological Appraisal**

**July 2025**



## VOLUME 5: APPENDIX 8.5 – WATERCOURSE CROSSING ECOLOGICAL APPRAISAL

1.	INTRODUCTION	<b>1</b>
1.1	Introduction	<b>1</b>
1.2	Site Location and Description	<b>1</b>
1.3	Legislation, Policy and Guidance	<b>2</b>
2.	METHODS	<b>3</b>
2.1	Desk Study	<b>3</b>
2.2	Consultation	<b>4</b>
3.	RESULTS	<b>5</b>
3.1	Designated Sites	<b>5</b>
3.2	Surface Water Quality	<b>5</b>
3.3	Protected Species	<b>12</b>
4.	INTERPRETATION	<b>28</b>
4.2	<b>Section A: Spittal To Brora</b>	<b>28</b>
4.3	Section B: Brora To Loch Buidhe	<b>30</b>
4.4	Section C: Loch Buidhe to Dounie	<b>33</b>
4.5	Section D: Dounie to Near Strathpeffer	<b>34</b>
4.6	Section E: Near Strathpeffer to Beaully	<b>36</b>
5.	CONCLUSIONS	<b>39</b>
6.	REFERENCES	<b>42</b>
	ANNEX A FIGURES	<b>43</b>
	ANNEX B WATERCOURSE SUITABILITY SCREENING	<b>44</b>
	ANNEX C SCIENCE EVIDENCE DATA AND DIGITAL (MD-SEDD) – EIA CHECKLIST	<b>45</b>

## 1. INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Introduction

- 1.1.1 Environmental Resources Management Ltd (ERM) were commissioned by Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks Transmission (SSEN Transmission) to undertake a desk-based appraisal of watercourse crossing locations for the Spittal – Loch Buidhe – Beaully (SLBB) Overhead Line (OHL) (hereafter referred to as the 'Proposed Development')
- 1.1.2 This Technical Appendix (TA) focusses upon aquatic habitats and fauna, and statutory designated sites (for example Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and non-statutory designated sites (e.g., Local Wildlife Sites (LWS)) which have aquatic qualifying features. This TA aims to identify any important ecological features that are likely to be present in proximity to the proposed watercourse crossing points to inform the Proposed Development's Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report. Watercourse crossings are any permanent or temporary access tracks required to facilitate the Proposed Development.
- 1.1.3 This TA details the findings of an aquatic desk-based study undertaken by ERM but does not include information for freshwater pearl mussel (*Margaritifera margaritifera*) (FWPM). Information for FWPM is detailed within **Volume 5, Appendix 8.9: Freshwater Pearl Mussel Survey Report**. This Appendix should be read in conjunction with the following chapters of this EIA Report:
- **Volume 2, Chapter 8: Ecology and Nature Conservation;** and
  - **Volume 5, Appendix 8.9: Confidential Freshwater Pearl Mussel Survey Report.**

### 1.2 Site Location and Description

- 1.2.1 The Proposed Development extends approximately 171 km south from the hamlet of Spittal in Caithness to the village of Beaully in Inverness-shire, within THC area of northern Scotland. The Proposed Development has been split into five sections as listed below:
- Section A: Spittal to Brora;
  - Section B: Brora to Loch Buidhe;
  - Section C: Loch Buidhe to Dounie;
  - Section D: Dounie to near Strathpeffer; and
  - Section E: Near Strathpeffer to Beaully.
- 1.2.2 A full description of the site location and section-specific information can be found in **Volume 2, Chapter 3: Description of the Proposed Development**. The location of the Proposed Development is shown in **Volume 3, Figure 3.1**, including all temporary and permanent infrastructure, including working corridors, as well as the proposed operational corridor (within woodland areas).
- 1.2.3 The Aquatic Ecology Study area ('the Study Area') is defined by the Zone of Influence (ZoI) of the Proposed Development. This is deemed to be 1 km. At distances greater than 1 km within riverine catchments, based on professional judgement and experience of other infrastructure projects of a similar nature, it is considered the Proposed Development is unlikely to contribute to an ecological effect, in terms of chemical or sedimentation effects due to dilution and attenuation of potentially polluting chemicals. Therefore, a 1 km buffer is considered sufficient to ascertain if an effect is likely.

### 1.3 Legislation, Policy and Guidance

- 1.3.1 A full list of legislation, policy, and guidance can be found in **Volume 5, Appendix 8.1: Legislation Policy and Guidance**.



## 2. METHODS

### 2.1 Desk Study

#### *Designated Sites*

- 2.1.1 NatureScot's SiteLink<sup>1</sup> was consulted to obtain information about local or national statutory designated sites such as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and National Network Sites such as SACs and Ramsar sites with freshwater qualifying features, within 1 km of the Proposed Development.

#### *Surface Water Quality*

- 2.1.2 The Scottish Environment Protection Agency's (SEPA) Water Classification<sup>2</sup> Hub was consulted for information on the classification of waterbodies, within 1 km of the Proposed Development as part of the Water Framework Directive (WFD).

- 2.1.3 Surface water bodies are classified using a status of one of the following classes:

- High
- Good
- Moderate
- Poor
- Bad

- 2.1.4 In general, the classification of waterbodies describes by how much their condition differs from near natural conditions (i.e., those at a near natural condition are at High status, while those whose quality has been severely damaged are at Bad status)

- 2.1.5 For the purposes of this report the overall WFD Classification and relevant parameters were searched for (physio-chemical, macroinvertebrates, macrophytes and fish).

#### *Watercourse Suitability Screening*

- 2.1.6 Each watercourse crossing (temporary and permanent access track) has been subjected to survey by competent ERM hydrologists between September 2024 and January 2025. These surveys were completed to inform assessment of hydrological characteristics of each watercourse that is proposed to be crossed. These surveys, their methods and results, are discussed in **Volume 5, Appendix 10.1: Schedule of Watercourse Crossings** and is not discussed here.
- 2.1.7 A desk-based screening was then undertaken using the collected data to screen out unsuitable watercourses for aquatic life of importance in this report. This may include watercourses such as overland flow channels, watercourses with no clear flow or those which are deemed to be too narrow and shallow to support aquatic species of interest. Watercourse crossings which were screened in at this stage were then taken forward and appraised against wider available data, which is detailed in later sections. See **Annex B** for full details of the Watercourse Suitability Screening for each watercourse crossing, and reasons for screening out.

---

<sup>1</sup> NatureScot, SiteLink [Online]. Available at: SiteLink - Home Accessed: November-December 2024.

<sup>2</sup> SEPA, Water Classification Hub [Online]. Available at: Water Classification Hub Accessed: January 2025.

### *Protected Species*

- 2.1.8 Records from the National Biodiversity Network (NBN) Atlas<sup>3</sup> were obtained for protected and / or priority aquatic species, including fish and macroinvertebrates, within 2 km of the Proposed Development. Only data that was suitable for use commercially was included in the data search; therefore, data covered by the CC-BY-NC license was excluded from the records searched.
- 2.1.9 In addition, data was obtained from the Highland Biological Recording Group (HBRG) in December 2024 for protected and priority species within 2 km of the Proposed Development, and this was screened for any instances of aquatic species.

### *Review Of Fisheries Management Plans*

- 2.1.10 The following Fisheries Management Plans were reviewed in January 2025, to obtain further details on the presence and absence of salmonids and in some instances other aquatic fauna in each of the following District Salmon Fishery Boards (DSFB), which are crossed by the Proposed Development;
- Caithness – including published electrofishing data
  - Kyle of Sutherland
  - Brora
  - Cromarty Firth

## **2.2 Consultation**

- 2.2.1 The DSFB is owned by the Association of Salmon Fishery Boards and is made up of ten DSFB. The following DSFBs, all of whom have watercourses crossed by the Proposed Development, were contacted via email on 5<sup>th</sup> November 2024 for information on watercourses supporting Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar*) and brown / sea trout (*Salmo trutta*) populations and any information held on the presence of FWPM:
- Beaulieu District Fishery Board
  - Cromarty Firth Fishery Board
  - Kyle of Sutherland Fisheries
  - Brora District Salmon Fishery Board
  - Caithness District Salmon Fishery Board
  - Helmsdale DSFB (letter issued as no email contact was available)
- 2.2.2 It should be noted that only the information pertinent to salmon and sea trout is considered within this report, with any information for FWPM detailed within **Volume 2, Appendix 8.9: Confidential Freshwater Pearl Mussel Survey Report**.
- 2.2.3 The Marine Directorate – Science Evidence Data and Digital (MD-SEDD) EIA Checklist is detailed in **Annex C**.

---

<sup>3</sup> NBN Atlas, Analyse data | NBN Atlas Accessed: November-December 2024.

### 3. RESULTS

#### 3.1 Designated Sites

3.1.1 **Table 1** details the statutory designated sites identified within 1 km of the Proposed Development. Only sites with aquatic ecology features have been included. This does not include any sites designated for FWPM, as all information for FWPM is detailed within **Volume 5, Appendix 8.9: Confidential Freshwater Pearl Mussel Survey Report**.

3.1.2 Full details, descriptions, and proximity to the Proposed Development of each statutory designated site listed below can be found in **Table 8.3 of Volume 2, Chapter 8: Ecology and Nature Conservation**.

**Table 1: Statutory Designated Sites**

Site	Features
<b>Section A</b>	
Ramsar: Caithness and Sutherland Peatlands	Criterion 1 - Oligotrophic lochs in addition to dystrophic lochs, lochans and pools Criterion 2 - <i>Oreodytes alpinus</i> (nationally rare diving water beetle).
SSSI: Coire na Beinne Mires	Clear-water lakes or lochs with aquatic vegetation and poor to moderate nutrient levels
SAC: River Thurso	Atlantic salmon ( <i>Salmo salar</i> )
SAC: Berriedale and Langwell Waters SAC	Atlantic salmon
<b>Section B</b>	
Ramsar: Dornoch Firth and Loch Fleet	Ramsar Criterion 1- Alder woodland (Mound Alderwoods) - largest estuarine alder wood in Britain (H91E0)
SSSI: Mound Alderwoods	Alder woodland on floodplains
SAC: Mound Alderwoods	Alder woodland on floodplains
<b>Section C</b>	
SSSI: Kyle of Sutherland Marshes	Floodplain fen habitat Wet woodland
SAC: River Oykel	Atlantic salmon
<b>Section D</b>	
NA	N/A
<b>Section E</b>	
SSSI: Lower River Conon	Wet woodland Open water transition fen (includes swamp) Saltmarsh
SAC: Conon Islands	Alder woodland on floodplains

#### 3.2 Surface Water Quality

3.2.1 **Table 2** details all the watercourses and their catchments which are proposed to be crossed as part of the Proposed Development through temporary, or permanent access tracks, and their WFD Status as of 2023.

Details of all the proposed watercourse crossings are shown in **Volume 5, Appendix 8.5: Watercourse Crossings Ecological Appraisal: Annex A, Figure 1 (Page 1 to 59)**.

- 3.2.2 Any SEPA main river which intersects the Proposed Development is asterisked (\*). For any river which did not meet 'Good' status, the explanation for why is given in the final column.

**Table 2: WFD Status of Screened In Proposed Watercourse Crossings Within 2 km of the Proposed Development**

Name	Catchment	Watercourse crossing ID	SEPA ID	Physio-chemical	Fish	Barriers to fish passage	Aquatic plants (Macrophytes)	Macroinvertebrates	Overall WFD Status	Reason for not achieving good status
<b>Section A</b>										
Allt Caol - trib to Wick	Wick	35								
Burn of Badachraskach	Thurso	2								
Burn of Badachraskach	Thurso	4								
Burn of Aultachlevan/Little River	Thurso	40	20647	High	High	High	High	Good	Good	-
Burn of Lochend	Thurso	41								
Unnamed tributary of the Burn of Braehungie- trib of Latheronwheel	Wick coastal	7								
Burn of Braehungie - trib of Latheronwheel	Wick coastal	42								
Burn of Braehungie - trib of Latheronwheel	Wick coastal	43								
Burn of Braehungie - trib of Latheronwheel	Wick coastal	8								
Burn of Houstry	Dunbeath water	9	20051	High	High	High	High	High	Good	-
Allt an Learanaich - flows into Houstry	Dunbeath water	47								
Unnamed tributary of Achorn Burn	Dunbeath water	48								
Unnamed	Dunbeath water	49								

Name	Catchment	Watercourse crossing ID	SEPA ID	Physio-chemical	Fish	Barriers to fish passage	Aquatic plants (Macrophytes)	Macroinvertebrates	Overall WFD Status	Reason for not achieving good status
Allt na Buaidhe	Wick coastal	50								
Allt na Buaidhe	Wick coastal	51								
Unnamed tributary of Allt Bad na Muislich	Helmsdale	64								
Eldrable Burn	Helmsdale	69								
Oulmsdale Burn	Helmsdale	70								
Unnamed tributary of Oulmsdale Burn	Helmsdale	71								
Loth Burn	Brora coastal	11	20055	High	High	High	High	High	Moderate	Moderate hydromorphology
Gable Burn	Brora coastal	74								
Gable Burn	Brora coastal	75								
Unnamed tributary of Gable Burn	Brora coastal	79								
Loth Burn	Brora coastal	12								
Loth Burn	Brora coastal	78								
Loth Burn	Brora coastal	13	20055	High	High	High	High	High	Moderate	Moderate hydromorphology
Loth Burn	Brora coastal	88	20055	High	High	High	High	High	Moderate	Moderate hydromorphology
Kintradwell Burn	Brora coastal	15								
<b>Section B</b>										
Clynemilton Burn	Brora Coastal	16								

Name	Catchment	Watercourse crossing ID	SEPA ID	Physio-chemical	Fish	Barriers to fish passage	Aquatic plants (Macrophytes)	Macroinvertebrates	Overall WFD Status	Reason for not achieving good status
Clynemilton Burn	Brora Coastal	92								
Unnamed tributary of the River Brora	River Brora	17								
Carrol Burn	River Brora	18	20061	Good	High	High	-	Good	Good	-
Unnamed tributary of Morvich Burn	River Fleet - Morvich Burn	102								
Morvich Burn	River Fleet - Morvich Burn	104	20071	Good	High	High	-	High	Good	-
Allt na-h-Innse Aonair	River Fleet - Abhainn Trib	111								
Unnamed tributary of Allt na h-Innse Aonair	River Fleet - Abhainn Trib	113								
Abhainn an t-Stratha Charnaig	River Fleet - Abhainn Trib	31	20072	High	High	High	-	High	Good	-
Unnamed tributary of Abhainn an t-Stratha Carnaig	River Fleet - Abhainn Trib	121								
Allt Loch na Feannaig	River Fleet - Abhainn Trib	122								
<b>Section C</b>										
Unnamed tributary of Allt Loch Leisgein	Evelix	126	-							
Allt na Ciste Duibhe	Shin	127	-							
Culeave Burn	River Carron	203								

Name	Catchment	Watercourse crossing ID	SEPA ID	Physio-chemical	Fish	Barriers to fish passage	Aquatic plants (Macrophytes)	Macroinverteb rates	Overall WFD Status	Reason for not achieving good status
<b>Section D</b>										
Allt Eiteachan*	Allt Eiteachan	132								
Allt Coire Bhenneit*	Allt Coire Bhenneit	135								
Unnamed tributary of Alt a' Choire Dhuibh	Alness/Averon	137								
Allt Loch Bad a' Bhathaich	Alness/Averon	139								
Allt na Ghlinne	Glas	144								
Allt a' Ghilinne	Glas	210								
Allt an Ruith-theann	Sgitheach	146								
Unnamed tributary of River Sgitheach	Sgitheach	165								
Unnamed tributary of River Sgitheach	Sgitheach	166								
Allt na Raichean	Sgitheach	170								
Unnamed tributary of Abhainn Sgitheach	Sgitheach	171								
Unnamed tributary of Abhainn Sgitheach	Sgitheach	172								
Unnamed tributary of Abhainn Sgitheach	Sgitheach	173								
Unnamed tributary of Abhainn Sgitheach	Sgitheach	174								



Name	Catchment	Watercourse crossing ID	SEPA ID	Physio-chemical	Fish	Barriers to fish passage	Aquatic plants (Macrophytes)	Macroinverteb rates	Overall WFD Status	Reason for not achieving good status
Allt Bad na h-Achlaise	Sgitheach	175								
Allt Bad na h-Achlaise	Sgitheach	176								
Tiadh Allt	Peffrey	177								
<b>Section E</b>										
Unnamed tributary of Peffery Burn	Peffrey	212								
Allt Loch nam Bonnach	Conon	188								
Unnamed tributary of Loch nan Dubh Lochan	Conon	189								
Unnamed tributary of Breakachy Burn	Beaully	191								
Unnamed tributary of Breakachy Burn	Beaully	192								
Breakachy Burn	Beaully	193	20216	High	High	High	High	High	High	High
Allt na h-Athain	Beaully	194								
Caochan Buidhe	Beaully	195								

### 3.3 Protected Species

- 3.3.1 The following section (**Table 3** to **Table 7**) summarises the information retrieved for protected and / or priority aquatic species within the desk-based study. Main river watercourse crossing points are asterisked (\*).
- 3.3.2 It should be noted that due to the similarities between brook lamprey (*Lampetra planeri*) and river lamprey (*Lampetra fluviatilis*) at their juvenile life cycle stage (ammocoete), both species are often recorded under *Lamprey sp.*, as their morphological features are not distinguishable from one another. With transformation of ammocoetes into adult form, both species become easier to distinguish from one another as new characteristics become available. In this report, unless a specific species is stated, *Lamprey sp.*, covers both species.

**Table 3: Section A Aquatic Protected Species Summary**

Species	Desk Study Results Summary	Likely Present at Watercourse Crossing Points?
Atlantic salmon	<p>Caithness DSFB publish yearly electrofishing data to their website, covering the entire district. The most recently published report<sup>4</sup> with data collected in 2023 and earlier has been used in place of direct consultation responses for this section as no response was received by January 2025.</p> <p>The main rivers crossing the Proposed Development in the Caithness district are the River Wick, Little River (Thurso catchment), Burn of Latheronwheel, Dunbeath Water, Berriedale water and Ousdale Burn.</p> <p>The River Tacher electrofishing site (ND 17011 46917), in the River Thurso catchment has been visited in 2015, and every year from 2019-2023. Population densities for fry, parr 1+ and parr 2+ are as follows; 1.57, 0.25 and 0.06 n/m<sup>2</sup>. This is within a mid-range of previously collected data from this site, suggesting that although there is still a strong population, it has previously been stronger.</p> <p>The Acharole (ND 23210 51752) and Clow (ND 23246 52307) electrofishing sites in the Wick River catchment have been surveyed in 2021, 2022 and 2023. Population densities at Archarole for fry, parr 1+ and parr 2+ are as follows; 0.98, 0.00 and 0.01 n/m<sup>2</sup>. Population densities at Clow for fry, parr 1+ and parr 2+ are as follows; 0.37, 0.01 and 0.00 n/m<sup>2</sup>. This is a good year for fry, however a lower than usual population of parr on average since surveys were first undertaken in 2013. The Clow showed a lower-than-average population across all age ranges.</p> <p>The Culvid electrofishing site (ND 12354 32404), in the Dunbeath Water catchment has been surveyed each year since 2013. Population densities for fry, parr 1+ and parr 2+ are as follows; 0.71, 0.14 and 0.016 n/m<sup>2</sup>. Populations across the Culvid site have remained strong in general, although again lower than average in comparison to the full dataset.</p> <p>There are no permanent barriers to fish in the Caithness District.</p> <p>The main rivers crossing the Proposed Development in the Helmsdale district are the River Helmsdale and Loth Burn.</p> <p>Consultation with Helmsdale DSFB in November 2024 shows that Atlantic salmon are present in all main rivers, and all large tributaries (including the Friadh, Craggie and Kinbrace). There are no significant water level changes in the catchment as the result of waterfalls, or artificial weirs, that would prevent the migration of the species. Young salmonids have been recorded in all main watercourses in recent years.</p>	<p>Yes, it seems possible the species are present within the vicinity of the following watercourse crossing points within Section A Caithness DSFB:</p> <p>River Wick catchment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>35 Allt Caol</li> </ul> <p>Little River/Thurso catchment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2 Burn of Badachraskach</li> <li>4 Burn of Badachraskach</li> <li>40 Little River</li> <li>41 Burn of Lochend</li> </ul> <p>Burn of Latheronwheel (Wick Coastal catchment)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7 Unnamed tributary of the Burn of Braehungie</li> <li>42 Burn of Braehungie</li> <li>43 Burn of Braehungie</li> <li>8 Burn of Braehungie</li> </ul> <p>Burn of Houstry/Dunbeath Water (Dunbeath water catchment)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9 Burn of Houstry</li> <li>47 Allt an Learanaich</li> <li>48 Unnamed tributary of Achorn Burn</li> <li>49 Unnamed</li> </ul> <p>Berriedale Water (Wick Coastal catchment)</p>

<sup>4</sup> Alan Youngson (2024) Page 26, Caithness District Salmon Fishery Board Electric-Fishing Survey Report 2023 [Online]. Available at: 2023-CDSFB-EF-Report-v-final.pdf Accessed January 2025.

Species	Desk Study Results Summary	Likely Present at Watercourse Crossing Points?
	<p>It was noted that in 2024 there were no known or recorded spawning locations for Atlantic salmon within the Study Area by Helmsdale DSFB.</p> <p>The NMPi suggests that Little River, Wick River, Dunbeath Water, Burn of Latheronwheel (only at lower extent, outside of study area), Berriedale Water and River Helmsdale within the study area are Scottish salmon rivers<sup>5</sup>.</p> <p>There are no known impassable fish barriers in Section A<sup>6</sup></p> <p>A total of 21 records of Atlantic salmon were returned from the NBN Atlas, the most recent of those being in 1990.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 50 Allt na Buaidhe</li> <li>• 51 Allt na Buaidhe</li> </ul> <p>Helmsdale catchment (Helmsdale DSFB)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 64 Unnamed tributary of Allt Bad na Muislich</li> <li>• 69 Eldrable Burn</li> <li>• 70 Oulmsdale Burn</li> <li>• 71 Unnamed tributary of Oulmsdale Burn</li> </ul> <p>Loth Burn/Brora coastal catchment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 11 Loth Burn</li> <li>• 74 Gable Burn</li> <li>• 75 Gable Burn</li> <li>• 79 Unnamed tributary of Gable Burn</li> <li>• 12 Loth Burn</li> <li>• 78 Loth Burn</li> <li>• 13 Loth Burn</li> <li>• 88 Loth Burn</li> <li>• 15 Kintradwell Burn</li> </ul>
Brown / sea trout	<p>Caithness DSFB publish yearly electrofishing data to their website, covering the entire district. The most recently published report with data collected in 2023 and earlier has been used to show salmonid presence in this section<sup>7</sup>.</p> <p>The River Tacher site, in the River Thurso catchment has been visited in 2015, and every year from 2019-2023. Observed population density in 2023 was 0.02 n/m2.</p>	<p>Yes, it seems possible the species are present within the vicinity of the following watercourse crossing points within Section A</p> <p>Caithness DSFB: River Wick catchment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 35 Allt Caol</li> </ul>

<sup>5</sup> Marine Scotland, Salmon and Sea Trout - Scottish Salmon Rivers GIS layer, National Marine Plan Interactive [Online]. Available at: Marine Scotland - National Marine Plan Interactive. Accessed January 2025

<sup>6</sup> Marine Scotland, Obstacles to Fish Passage GIS layer [Online]. Available at: FMP - Catchment Map. Accessed January 2025

<sup>7</sup> Alan Youngson (2024) Page 26, Caithness District Salmon Fishery Board Electric-Fishing Survey Report 2023 [Online]. Available at: 2023-CDSFB-EF-Report-v-final.pdf. Accessed January 2025.

Species	Desk Study Results Summary	Likely Present at Watercourse Crossing Points?
	<p>The Acharole and Clow sites in the Wick River catchment have been surveyed in 2021, 2022 and 2023. Observed population density at Archarole was 0.01 n/m2. Observed population density at Clow was 0.05 n/m2.</p> <p>The Culvid site, in the Dunbeath catchment has been surveyed each year since 2013. There were no observed trout individuals in 2023, although 4 parr were recorded in 2022<sup>8</sup>. Zero individuals were recorded in 2021.</p> <p>Consultation with Helmsdale DSFB in November 2024 shows that brown trout are present in all main rivers, and all large tributaries (including the Friadh, Craggie and Kinbrace). There are no significant water level changes in the catchment as the result of waterfalls, or artificial weirs, that would prevent the migration of the species. Young salmonids have been recorded in all main watercourses.</p> <p>It was noted that in 2024 there were no known or recorded spawning locations for brown trout within the Study Area.</p> <p>There are no known impassable fish barriers in Section A<sup>9</sup>.</p> <p>A total of 24 records of brown trout were returned from NBN Atlas, the most recent of those being in 1990.</p>	<p>Little River/Thurso catchment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 Burn of Badachraskach</li> <li>• 4 Burn of Badachraskach</li> <li>• 40 Little River</li> <li>• 41 Burn of Lochend</li> </ul> <p>Burn of Latheronwheel (Wick Coastal catchment)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 7 Unnamed tributary of the Burn of Braehungie</li> <li>• 42 Burn of Braehungie</li> <li>• 43 Burn of Braehungie</li> <li>• 8 Burn of Braehungie</li> </ul> <p>Burn of Houstry/Dunbeath Water (Dunbeath water catchment)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 9 Burn of Houstry – although populations were absent in 2023</li> <li>• 47 Allt an Learanaich</li> <li>• 48 Unnamed tributary of Achorn Burn – although populations were absent in 2023</li> <li>• 49 Unnamed</li> </ul> <p>Berriedale Water (Wick Coastal catchment)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 50 Allt na Buaidhe</li> <li>• 51 Allt na Buaidhe</li> </ul> <p>Helmsdale catchment (Helmsdale DSFB)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 64 Unnamed tributary of Allt Bad na Muislich</li> <li>• 69 Eldrable Burn</li> </ul>

<sup>8</sup> Alan Youngson (2021) Page 39, 2020 Survey of Juvenile Salmonids in Caithness rivers [2021]. Available at: <https://caithness.dsfb.org.uk/files/2021/04/EF-2020-report-final.pdf> Page 39. Accessed January 2025

<sup>9</sup> Marine Scotland, Obstacles to Fish Passage GIS layer [Online]. Available at: FMP - Catchment Map. Accessed January 2025

Species	Desk Study Results Summary	Likely Present at Watercourse Crossing Points?
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>70 Oulmsdale Burn</li> <li>71 Unnamed tributary of Oulmsdale Burn</li> <li>Loth Burn/Brora coastal catchment</li> <li>11 Loth Burn</li> <li>74 Gable Burn</li> <li>75 Gable Burn</li> <li>79 Unnamed tributary of Gable Burn</li> <li>12 Loth Burn</li> <li>78 Loth Burn</li> <li>13 Loth Burn</li> <li>88 Loth Burn</li> <li>15 Kintradwell Burn</li> </ul>
European eel ( <i>Anguilla anguilla</i> )	<p>No data was available through Caithness FMP or published electrofishing data, nor from Helmsdale DSFB consultation.</p> <p>A total of 24 records of European eel were recorded in NBN Atlas, the most recent of those being in 1990. Records show eel populations at the mouth of the River Helmsdale and Berriedale Water, and further inland at Latheronwheel.</p>	<p>Yes, it is possible that the species are present at watercourse crossings 8, 42 and 43 which are tributaries to the Burn of Latheronwheel, the Burn of Barehungie.</p> <p>It is not possible to assess populations elsewhere across both DSFBs due to lack of available data. Although there is no confirmed presence, it is not possible to confirm absence of the species at other watercourse crossing points within Section A. Therefore, it is assumed that European eel is present throughout Section A at all crossing points.</p>
<i>Lamprey sp.</i> ( <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i> / <i>Lampetra planeri</i> ) Sea lamprey ( <i>Petromyzon marinus</i> )	<p>No data was available through Caithness FMP or published electrofishing data, nor from Helmsdale DSFB consultation.</p> <p>One record of <i>Lamprey sp.</i>, was recorded in NBN Atlas, being recorded in 2004 along Little River.</p> <p>One record of Sea lamprey was returned from NBN Atlas, being recorded in 2004 along Little River.</p>	<p>Yes, it seems possible that <i>Lamprey sp.</i>, are present within the vicinity of watercourse crossing point 40 on Little River within Section A.</p> <p>It is not possible to assess populations elsewhere across both DSFBs due to lack of available data. Although there is no confirmed presence, it is not possible to confirm absence of the species at other watercourse crossing points within Section A. Therefore, it is assumed that <i>Lamprey sp.</i> is present throughout Section A at all crossing points.</p>

Species	Desk Study Results Summary	Likely Present at Watercourse Crossing Points?
Water beetle ( <i>Oreodytes alpinus</i> )	No records are available from NBN for this species.	Population distribution of this species is scarce and typically limited to upland lochs. The Caithness and Sutherland Ramsar intersects with the Proposed Development Study Area in Section A, however there are no lochs (the species preferred habitat) proposed to be crossed within the Study Area. Therefore, it is unlikely that the species is present at any watercourse crossing points within Section A.

**Table 4: Section B Aquatic Protected Species Summary**

Note there is no DSFB covering the stretch of Section B between Brora and the end of the section, and therefore no additional DSFB data available for the main rivers outside of the River Brora catchment. Information has instead been taken from the National Marine Planning Institute (NMPI) Salmon and Sea Trout rivers map<sup>10</sup> to supplement this section.

Species	Desk Study Results Summary	Likely Present at Watercourse Crossing Points?
Atlantic salmon	<p>The main rivers crossing the Proposed Development in the Brora district are the River Brora and lower reach of Golspie Burn.</p> <p>As of January 2025 no consultation response was returned from Brora DSFB, their online FMP has been used in its place.</p> <p>Brora FMP<sup>11</sup> suggests that the species is widespread throughout the Brora catchment from the Lower Brora upstream. No salmon have been recorded north of the River Brora in this DSFB.</p> <p>There is an impassable barrier immediately upstream of watercourse crossing point 18 on the Carrol Burn, however as it is upstream of the Proposed Development, it is not deemed to be a barrier in this instance<sup>12</sup>.</p> <p>Outside of Brora DSFB are the main rivers Morvich Burn, River Fleet and Abhainn t-Sratha Carnaig, although no DSFB exists for this area.</p> <p>The NMPI suggests that Loch / River Fleet and it's tributary Abhainn an t-sratha Charnaig are salmonid rivers, holding a population of Atlantic salmon<sup>13</sup>.</p>	<p>Yes, it seems possible the species will be present near the following watercourse crossing points</p> <p>Brora coastal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 16 Clynemilton burn</li> <li>• 92 Clynemilton burn</li> </ul> <p>River Brora</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 17 Unnamed tributary of the River Brora</li> <li>• 18 Carrol Burn</li> </ul> <p>Morvich Burn (River Fleet catchment)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 102 Unnamed tributary of Morvich Burn</li> <li>• 104 Morvich Burn</li> </ul> <p>Abhainn an t-Sratha Carnaig (River Fleet catchment)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 111 Allt na-h-Innse Aonair</li> </ul>

<sup>10</sup> Marine Scotland, Salmon and Sea Trout - Scottish Salmon Rivers GIS layer, National Marine Plan Interactive [Online]. Available at: Marine Scotland - National Marine Plan Interactive. Accessed January 2025

<sup>11</sup> River Brora Fisheries Review & Management Plan 2020 to 2025 Page 20. Accessed January 2025

<sup>12</sup> Marine Scotland, Obstacles to Fish Passage GIS layer [Online]. Available at: FMP - Catchment Map. Accessed January 2025

<sup>13</sup> Marine Scotland - National Marine Plan Interactive Salmon and Sea Trout - Scottish Salmon Rivers layer. Accessed January 2025

Species	Desk Study Results Summary	Likely Present at Watercourse Crossing Points?
	<p>There is an impassable barrier on Golspie Burn at NC 83476 01420, making the upstream watercourse crossing points impassable for salmonids.</p> <p>NBN Atlas returned a total of five records of Atlantic salmon, the most recent of those being in 1985.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 113 Unnamed tributary of Allt na h-Innse Aonair</li> <li>• 31 Abhainn an t-Sratha Carnaig</li> <li>• 121 Unnamed tributary of Abhainn an t-Sratha Carnaig</li> <li>• 122 Allt Loch na Feannaig</li> </ul> <p>The species will not be present at 20, 22 100 or 101, within the Golsie Burn / Brora Coastal catchment due to the impassable barrier at NC 83476 01420.</p>
Brown / sea trout	<p>The main rivers crossing the Proposed Development in the Brora district are the River Brora and lower reach of Golspie Burn.</p> <p>Brora FMP<sup>14</sup> suggests that the species is widespread throughout the Brora catchment from the Lower Brora upstream.</p> <p>There is an impassable barrier immediately upstream of watercourse crossing point 18 on the Carrol Burn, however, as it is upstream of the Proposed Development, it is not deemed to be a barrier in this instance<sup>15</sup>.</p> <p>Outside of Brora DSFB are the main rivers Morvich Burn, River Fleet and Abhainn t-Sratha Carnaig, although no DSFB exists for this area.</p> <p>There is an impassable barrier on Golspie Burn at NC 83476 01420, making the upstream watercourse crossing points impassable for salmonids<sup>16</sup>.</p> <p>The NMPi suggests that Loch Fleet and it's tributary Abhainn an t-sratha Charnaig are salmonid rivers, holding a population of brown trout<sup>17</sup>.</p> <p>A total of 24 records of brown trout were returned from NBN Atlas, the most recent of those being in 1985.</p>	<p>Yes, it seems possible the species will be present near the following watercourse crossing points</p> <p>Brora coastal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 16 Clynemilton burn</li> <li>• 92 Clynemilton burn</li> </ul> <p>River Brora</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 17 Unnamed tributary of the River Brora</li> <li>• 18 Carrol Burn</li> </ul> <p>Morvich Burn (River Fleet catchment)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 102 Unnamed tributary of Morvich Burn</li> <li>• 104 Morvich Burn</li> </ul> <p>Abhainn an t-Sratha Carnaig (River Fleet catchment)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 111 Allt na h-Innse Aonair</li> <li>• 113 Unnamed tributary of Allt na h-Innse Aonair</li> <li>• 31 Abhainn an t-Sratha Carnaig</li> <li>• 121 Unnamed tributary of Abhainn an t-Sratha Carnaig</li> </ul>

<sup>14</sup> River Brora Fisheries Review & Management Plan 2020 to 2025 Page 21. Accessed January 2025

<sup>15</sup> Marine Scotland, Obstacles to Fish Passage GIS layer [Online]. Available at: FMP - Catchment Map. Accessed January 2025

<sup>16</sup> Marine Scotland, Obstacles to Fish Passage GIS layer [Online]. Available at: FMP - Catchment Map. Accessed January 2025

<sup>17</sup> Marine Scotland, Salmon and Sea Trout - Scottish Salmon Rivers GIS layer, National Marine Plan Interactive [Online]. Available at: Marine Scotland - National Marine Plan Interactive. Accessed January 2025



Species	Desk Study Results Summary	Likely Present at Watercourse Crossing Points?
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>122 Allt Loch na Feannaig</li> </ul> <p>The species will not be present at 20, 22 100 or 101, within the Golsie Burn / Brora Coastal catchment due to the impassable barrier at NC 83476 01420.</p>
European eel	<p>European eel are widespread throughout the Brora catchment, with surveys from 2000 to 2020 showing records from the Lower Brora up to the headlands of the catchment according to Brora FMP<sup>18</sup>.</p> <p>There is an impassable barrier immediately upstream of watercourse crossing point 18 on the Carrol Burn, however, as it is upstream of the Proposed Development, it is not deemed to be a barrier in this instance<sup>19</sup>.</p> <p>There is an impassable barrier on Golspie Burn at NC 83476 01420, making the upstream watercourse crossing points impassable for eel.</p> <p>NBN Atlas returned no records of European eel.</p>	<p>Yes, it seems possible the species will be present near watercourse crossing point 18 (Carrol Burn).</p> <p>The species will not be present at 20, 22 100 or 101, within the Golsie Burn / Brora Coastal catchment due to the impassable barrier at NC 83476 01420.</p> <p>No further information is available as of April 2025, although this does not confirm absence of the species from other watercourse crossing points within Section B. Therefore, it is assumed that European eel is present throughout remaining Section B crossing points.</p>
<i>Lamprey sp.</i> Sea lamprey	<p>River and brook lamprey were recorded in the Brora catchment in 2004 as part of a national monitoring program<sup>20</sup>.</p> <p>Both species were found throughout the catchment, including at the Lower Brora reach.</p> <p>There is an impassable barrier immediately upstream of watercourse crossing point 18 on the Carrol Burn, however, as it is upstream of the Proposed Development, it is not deemed to be a barrier in this instance<sup>21</sup>.</p> <p>There is an impassable barrier on Golspie Burn at NC 83476 01420, making the upstream watercourse crossing points impassable for lamprey<sup>22</sup>.</p> <p>Sea lamprey have not been recorded in the Brora catchment, although the lower reach of the River Brora may offer suitable habitat for the species.</p>	<p>Yes, it seems possible the species will be present near watercourse crossing point 18* (Carrol Burn).</p> <p>The species will not be present at 20, 22 100 or 101, within the Golsie Burn / Brora Coastal catchment due to the impassable barrier at NC 83476 01420.</p> <p>No further information is available as of April 2025, although this does not confirm absence of the species from other watercourse crossing points within Section B. Therefore, it is assumed that <i>Lamprey sp.</i> is present throughout remaining Section B crossing points.</p>

18 Watt, J. & Isherwood, I. (2020). Page 22-23, River Brora Fisheries Review & Management Plan 2020 to 2025. Commissioned report to Brora District Salmon Fisheries Board, November 2020 [Online]. Available at: River Brora Fisheries Review & Management Plan 2020 to 2025. Accessed January 2025

19 Marine Scotland, Obstacles to Fish Passage GIS layer [Online]. Available at: FMP - Catchment Map. Accessed January 2025

20 Watt, J. & Isherwood, I. (2020). Page 23, River Brora Fisheries Review & Management Plan 2020 to 2025. Commissioned report to Brora District Salmon Fisheries Board, November 2020 [Online]. Available at: River Brora Fisheries Review & Management Plan 2020 to 2025. Accessed January 2025

21 Marine Scotland, Obstacles to Fish Passage GIS layer [Online]. Available at: FMP - Catchment Map. Accessed January 2025

22 Marine Scotland, Obstacles to Fish Passage GIS layer [Online]. Available at: FMP - Catchment Map. Accessed January 2025

Species	Desk Study Results Summary	Likely Present at Watercourse Crossing Points?
	NBN Atlas returned five records of presence for <i>Lamprey sp.</i> , the most recent recorded in 2004 along the River Fleet.	
Water beetle	NBN Atlas returned one record for this species, recorded in 2001 at Loch Brora within the Study Area.	The species has been recorded in Loch Brora, though Loch Brora is not considered a watercourse crossing point under the Proposed Development alignment. However, there is potential for the species to be present within the catchment, near to watercourse crossing 18 (Carrol Burn).

**Table 5: Section C Aquatic Protected Species Summary**

Species	Desk Study Results Summary	Likely Present at Watercourse Crossing Points?
Atlantic salmon	<p>The main rivers crossing the Proposed Development in the Kyle of Sutherland district are the River Evelix and River Shin / Kyle of Sutherland.</p> <p>As of April 2025, no consultation response was returned from Kyle of Sutherland DSFB and their published FMP<sup>23</sup> has been used in its place for this report.</p> <p>Juvenile Atlantic salmon have been recorded on the River Shin up to Loch Shin and the River Evelix at over 10 locations per river between 2018 and 2023 according to Kyle of Sutherlands FMP<sup>24</sup>. Juvenile Atlantic salmon have not been recorded as present in the River Evelix at the uppermost reach (NH 62022 98480), closest to the Proposed Development according to the Kyle of Sutherland FMP<sup>24</sup>. However, they are present throughout all downstream electrofishing points on the River Evelix.</p> <p>The NMPi suggests that the River Evelix, up to Loch Laro, is a Salmonid River, as is the River Shin.</p> <p>There are no impassable barriers to salmonids within Section C<sup>25</sup>.</p> <p>A total of five records of Atlantic salmon were returned from NBN Atlas, the most recent of those being in 1990.</p>	<p>Due to the conflicting information regarding the River Shin and River Evelix it has been decided to include the possibility for species presence within the entirety of these river catchments, following NMPi information. No data was available from online sources or ERM surveys completed in 2024 and 2025 to screen out crossing point 203 on Culeave Burn, outside of the Shin and Evelix catchments.</p> <p>Considering the above, it seems possible the species are present within the vicinity of the following watercourse crossing points within Section C:</p> <p>River Evelix catchment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>126 Unnamed tributary of Allt Loch Leisgein</li> </ul> <p>River Shin catchment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>127 Allt na Ciste Duibhe</li> </ul> <p>River Carron catchment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>203 Culeave Burn</li> </ul>

<sup>23</sup> Marine Scotland, Salmon and Sea Trout - Scottish Salmon Rivers GIS layer, National Marine Plan Interactive [Online]. Available at: Marine Scotland - National Marine Plan Interactive. Accessed January 2025

<sup>24</sup> Kyle of Sutherland Fisheries Management Plan 2023-2028 [Online]. Available at: <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/d7fe9dd37aa34facb8a56011ca5dd246#ref-n-YY3bM0>  
Accessed January 2025

<sup>25</sup> Marine Scotland, Obstacles to Fish Passage GIS layer [Online]. Available at: FMP - Catchment Map. Accessed January 2025

Species	Desk Study Results Summary	Likely Present at Watercourse Crossing Points?
Brown / sea trout	<p>The main rivers crossing the Proposed Development in the Kyle of Sutherland district are the River Evelix and River Shin / Kyle of Sutherland.</p> <p>As of April 2025, no consultation response was returned from Kyle of Sutherland DSFB and their published FMP<sup>26</sup> has been used in its place for this report.</p> <p>Brown trout have been recorded on the River Shin up to Loch Shin and River Evelix near to its source between 2018 and 2023. Brown trout are found in all management units in rivers, lochs and estuaries according to the Kyle of Sutherland FMP and are the most widely distributed fish in the district.</p> <p>There are no impassable barriers to salmonids within Section C<sup>27</sup>.</p> <p>NBN Atlas returned a total of five records of brown trout, the most recent of those being in 1990.</p>	<p>The same considerations have been applied to brown trout populations as with Atlantic salmon; therefore it seems possible the species are present within the vicinity of the following watercourse crossing points within Section C:</p> <p>River Evelix catchment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>126 Unnamed tributary of Allt Loch Leisgein</li> </ul> <p>River Shin catchment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>127 Allt na Ciste Duibhe</li> </ul> <p>River Carron catchment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>203 Culeave Burn</li> </ul>
European eel	<p>A total of four records of European eel were returned from NBN Atlas, the most recent of those being in 1990 in the River Shin mouth.</p> <p>Kyle of Sutherland FMP states that European eel is known to be present particularly in the lower reaches of rivers and in the Kyle of Sutherland itself.</p>	<p>Yes, it seems possible the species could be present within the vicinity of watercourse crossing 127 (River Shin tributary - Allt na Ciste Duibhe).</p> <p>No further information is available as of April 2025, although this does not confirm absence of the species from other watercourse crossing points within Section C. Therefore, it is assumed that European eel is present throughout Section C at all crossing points.</p>
<i>Lamprey sp.</i>	<p>One record of <i>Lamprey sp.</i>, was recorded in NBN Atlas, being recorded in 1990 near to the Culrain Burn, no watercourse crossing points are near to this watercourse.</p>	<p>More up to date information is required to determine if populations are present at watercourse crossing points in Section C. Therefore, it is assumed that <i>Lamprey sp.</i>, are present throughout Section C and at all crossing points.</p>
Water Beetle ( <i>Oreodytes alpinus</i> )	<p>No records are available from NBN for this species.</p>	<p>The species is considered absent from Section C, Section C is considered to be outside of the known distribution range<sup>28</sup></p>

<sup>26</sup> Marine Scotland, Salmon and Sea Trout - Scottish Salmon Rivers GIS layer, National Marine Plan Interactive [Online]. Available at: Marine Scotland - National Marine Plan Interactive. Accessed January 2025

<sup>27</sup> Marine Scotland, Obstacles to Fish Passage GIS layer [Online]. Available at: FMP - Catchment Map. Accessed January 2025

<sup>28</sup> Lindsay et al. (1998). Figure 77, Page 125, The Flow Country: The Peatlands of Caithness and Sutherland [Online]. Available at: The Flow Country: The peatlands of Caithness and Sutherland.

Accessed January 2025

**Table 6: Section D Aquatic Protected Species Summary**

Species	Desk Study Results Summary	Likely Present at Watercourse Crossing Points?
Atlantic Salmon	<p>At the time of writing (April 2025) no consultation response was returned from Kyle of Sutherland DSFB. Instead, their online FMP has been used in place.</p> <p>The main rivers crossed by the Proposed Development in Kyle of Sutherland district are the River Carron, Allt Eiteachan and Allt Coire Bhenneit.</p> <p>Electrofishing data taken from Kyle of Sutherland FMP shows juvenile salmon are largely absent from the River Carron near to the Proposed Development. They have been recorded once – on Allt a Ghlinne. There are further populations further upstream, showing that a population of salmon do use the River Carron and its tributaries as habitat. Atlantic salmon are absent from Allt Eiteachan and Allt Coire Bhenneit at the point of their proposed watercourse crossings.</p> <p>The NPMi shows that the River Carron is a salmonid river, however the Allt Eiteachan and Allt Coire Bhenneit have impassable barriers downstream of the Proposed Development and therefore are not suitable for salmonid populations at the Proposed Development watercourse crossings.</p> <p>At the time of writing (April 2025) no consultation response was returned from Cromarty Firth DSFB. Instead, their online FMP has been used in place<sup>29</sup>.</p> <p>The main rivers crossed by the Proposed Development in Cromarty Firth District are the River Alness, River Glass, River Sgitheach and River Peffrey.</p> <p>Cromarty Firth FMP has recorded both fry and parr at high densities from the mouth of the River Alness to Loch Morie, despite the numerous barriers throughout this reach of the river.</p> <p>The River Glass does not appear to hold a population of Atlantic salmon, likely as a result of the many natural impassable barriers that make up the Black Rock Gorge. Only the lower four kilometres are known to hold populations of migratory fish.</p> <p>The Sgitheach supports Atlantic salmon, although available electrofishing data is downstream of the Proposed Development Study Area. The most recent data from 2020 showed a high density (0.18 n/m<sup>2</sup>) compared to the benchmark (0.14 n/m<sup>2</sup>) although this site is furthest downstream from the Proposed Development Study Area.</p>	<p>Yes, it seems possible the species are present at the following watercourse crossing points in Section D:</p> <p>Alness / Averon</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>137 Unnamed tributary of Alt a' Choire Dhuibh</li> <li>139 Allt Loch Bad a' Bhathaich</li> </ul> <p>Sgitheach</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>146 Allt an Ruith-theann</li> <li>165 Unnamed tributary of River Sgitheach</li> <li>166 Unnamed tributary of River Sgitheach</li> <li>170 Allt na Raichean</li> <li>171 Unnamed tributary of Abhainn Sgitheach</li> <li>172 Unnamed tributary of Abhainn Sgitheach</li> <li>173 Unnamed tributary of Abhainn Sgitheach</li> <li>174 Unnamed tributary of Abhainn Sgitheach</li> <li>175 Allt Bad na h-Achlaise</li> <li>176 Allt Bad na h-Achlaise</li> </ul> <p>Peffrey</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>177 Tiadh Allt</li> </ul>

<sup>29</sup> Cromarty Firth DSFB, Cromarty Firth Fisheries Management Plan [Online]. Available at: Cromarty Fisheries Management Plan. Accessed January 2025

Species	Desk Study Results Summary	Likely Present at Watercourse Crossing Points?
	<p>The Peffery supports Atlantic salmon, although available electrofishing data is downstream of the Proposed Development Study Area. Data from 2021 shows density of the species (0.02 n/m<sup>2</sup>) is significantly lower than the benchmark (0.14 n/m<sup>2</sup>), which is consistent with previously collected data.</p> <p>The NMPi suggests that the River Alness is an Atlantic salmon river, holding a population at watercourse crossing points and upstream to Loch Morie.</p> <p>NBN Atlas returned 17 records of Atlantic salmon, the most recent of those being in 1998. Records are from the River Sgitheach and Allt na Seasgaich.</p>	
Brown trout	<p>At the time of writing (April 2025) no consultation response was returned from Kyle of Sutherland DSFB. Instead, their online FMP has been used in place<sup>30</sup>.</p> <p>The main rivers crossed by the Proposed Development in Kyle of Sutherland district are the River Carron, Allt Eiteachan and Allt Coire Bhenneit.</p> <p>Electrofishing data taken from Kyle of Sutherland FMP shows juvenile brown trout are largely absent from the River Carron near to the Proposed Development. They have been recorded on tributaries Allt a Ghlinne, and Allt Dounie. There are further populations further upstream, showing that a population of brown trout do use the River Carron and its tributaries as habitat.</p> <p>The NPMi shows that the River Carron is a salmonid river, however, the Allt Eiteachan and Allt Coire Bhenneit have impassable barriers downstream of the Proposed Development and therefore are not suitable for salmonid populations at Proposed Development watercourse crossings.</p> <p>At the time of writing (April 2025) no consultation response was returned from Cromarty Firth DSFB. Instead, their online FMP has been used in place<sup>31</sup>.</p> <p>The main rivers crossed by the Proposed Development in Cromarty Firth District are the River Alness, River Glass, River Sgitheach and River Peffery.</p> <p>All four of these main rivers support populations of brown trout. No further information on specific locations is available through their FMP. However, only the lower four kilometres are known to hold populations of migratory fish in the River Glass due to the many natural impassable barriers that make up the Black Rock Gorge.</p>	<p>Yes, it seems possible the species are present at the following watercourse crossing points in Section D:</p> <p>Alness/Averon</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>137 Unnamed tributary of Alt a' Choire Dhuibh</li> <li>139 Allt Loch Bad a' Bhathaich</li> </ul> <p>Sgitheach</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>146 Allt an Ruith-theann</li> <li>165 Unnamed tributary of River Sgitheach</li> <li>166 Unnamed tributary of River Sgitheach</li> <li>170 Allt na Raichean</li> <li>171 Unnamed tributary of Abhainn Sgitheach</li> <li>172 Unnamed tributary of Abhainn Sgitheach</li> <li>173 Unnamed tributary of Abhainn Sgitheach</li> <li>174 Unnamed tributary of Abhainn Sgitheach</li> <li>175 Allt Bad na h-Achlaise</li> <li>176 Allt Bad na h-Achlaise</li> </ul>

<sup>30</sup> Kyle of Sutherland DSFB, Kyle of Sutherland Fisheries Management Plan [Online]. Available at: Kyle of Sutherland Fisheries Management Plan. Accessed January 2025

<sup>31</sup> Cromarty Firth DSFB, Cromarty Firth Fisheries Management Plan [Online]. Available at: Cromarty Fisheries Management Plan. Accessed January 2025

Species	Desk Study Results Summary	Likely Present at Watercourse Crossing Points?
	<p>The NMPi suggest that the River Alness is a brown trout river, holding a population at watercourse crossing points and upstream to Loch Morie.</p> <p>Three records of brown trout were returned from NBN Atlas, the most recent of those being in 1972.</p>	<p>Peffery</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>177 Tiadh Allt</li> </ul>
European eel	<p>Kyle of Sutherland FMP states that eels are known to be present within the district, in lower reaches of the rivers and in the Kyle of Sutherland itself. Cromarty Firth DSFB states that main rivers Alness, Sgitheach and Peffery in this Study Area hold populations of European eel.</p> <p>A total of four records of European eel were returned from NBN Atlas, the most recent of those being in 1999.</p>	<p>Yes, it seems possible the species are present at the following watercourse crossing points in Section D:</p> <p>Alness / Averon</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>137 Unnamed tributary of Alt a' Choire Dhuibh</li> <li>139 Allt Loch Bad a' Bhathaich</li> </ul> <p>Sgitheach</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>146 Allt an Ruith-theann</li> <li>165 Unnamed tributary of River Sgitheach</li> <li>166 Unnamed tributary of River Sgitheach</li> <li>170 Allt na Raichean</li> <li>171 Unnamed tributary of Abhainn Sgitheach</li> <li>172 Unnamed tributary of Abhainn Sgitheach</li> <li>173 Unnamed tributary of Abhainn Sgitheach</li> <li>174 Unnamed tributary of Abhainn Sgitheach</li> <li>175 Allt Bad na h-Achlaise</li> <li>176 Allt Bad na h-Achlaise</li> </ul> <p>Peffery</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>177 Tiadh Allt</li> </ul>
<i>Lamprey sp.</i> ,	<p>No data was available from Kyle of Sutherland FMP. Cromarty Firth FMP indicates that <i>Lamprey sp.</i> is present within the River Peffery, although no further detail is available.</p> <p>Two records of <i>Lamprey sp.</i>, were returned from the NBN Atlas, both from 2004. Records show presence in the River Glass between 1.45 km and 2.2 km downstream of watercourse crossing point 26.</p>	<p>Yes, It is possible the species could be present within the River Peffery catchment at the following watercourse crossing points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>177 Tiadh Allt</li> <li>212 Unnamed tributary of Peffery Burn</li> </ul>

Species	Desk Study Results Summary	Likely Present at Watercourse Crossing Points?
		The River Glass is impassable for species due to the Black Rock Gorge, therefore it is unlikely the species will be found near to watercourse crossings in the River Glass.
Water beetle	There are no records of the species within NBN within Section D.	The species is considered absent from Section D, Section D is considered to be outside of its known distribution range <sup>32</sup>

**Table 7: Section E Aquatic Protected Species Summary**

Species	Desk Study Results Summary	Likely Present at Watercourse Crossing Points?
Atlantic salmon	<p>As of April 2025, no consultation response was returned from Cromarty Firth DSFB, data from their FMP has been used in place of this<sup>33</sup>. The main river crossing point for the Proposed Development within the Cromarty Firth District is Logie Burn, and as per Table 6, above the Cromarty Firth FMP confirms Atlantic salmon presence within the River Peffery catchment.</p> <p>Watercourse crossing point 188 is a tributary of Logie Burn, a salmonid river. Recent electrofishing data from 2018 – 2020 reported by Cromarty Firth shows a lower density population than expected across the entire reach. These range from 0.00 n/m<sup>2</sup> to 0.04 n/m<sup>2</sup> – significantly lower than the benchmark of 0.14 n/m<sup>2</sup>. There is a natural limit to migration at NH 49255, 49942. This is downstream of the Proposed Development<sup>34</sup> therefore, point 188 is not likely to support Atlantic salmon.</p> <p>The main rivers under Beaully DSFB crossed by the Proposed Development are the River Beaully and Breakachy Burn. All watercourse crossing points are tributaries of the Breakachy Burn.</p> <p>Beaully DSFB responded to the consultation request with the following information. Breakachy Burn and the main River Beaully above Aigas Dam (NH 47404 43657) both hold Atlantic salmon. The main River Beaully above Aigas Dam is relatively slack and deep and is important for holding adult Atlantic salmon.</p> <p>Breakachy Burn between Aigas (650 m downstream of the Proposed Development) and Kilmorack (~1900 m downstream of the Proposed Development NH 49397 44221) dams is accessible to salmon at the point of confluence with the River Beaully. Kilmorack Dam has a Borland lift fish pass on it to allow passage of fish upstream. The river is very important for spawning salmonids as it is the only spawning opportunity fish have</p>	<p>Part of the Peffery catchment sits in the northern half of Section E, and so it is possible the species is present within the following watercourse crossing points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>212 Unnamed tributary of Peffery Burn</li> </ul> <p>It is not likely that the species are present within any other crossing point within Section E. This is because all points are tributaries of the Breakachy Burn, which meet upstream of the waterfall found at NH 475 443. Although, the species are found downstream of this point and throughout the River Beaully downstream.</p>

<sup>32</sup> The Flow Country: The peatlands of Caithness and Sutherland Figure 77, Page 125

<sup>33</sup> Cromarty Firth DSFB, Cromarty Firth Fisheries Management Plan [Online]. Available at: Cromarty Fisheries Management Plan. Accessed January 2025

<sup>34</sup> FMP - Catchment Map - Cromarty Access January 2025

Species	Desk Study Results Summary	Likely Present at Watercourse Crossing Points?
	<p>between the two dams. However, the 5 m+ waterfall at NH 475 443 on the Breakachy Burn is impassable for Atlantic Salmon and no records of them are found above the Burn from this location.</p> <p>At the time of writing, no information was available pertaining to the spawning locations of the species.</p> <p>Electrofishing data has been provided by Beauly DSFB for Breakachy Burn at three survey sites (BRE1, BRE2 and BRE3) all of which are just upstream of the point of confluence with the River Beauly at NH 47646 44191.</p> <p>BRE1 was undertaken in August 2016 and returned counts of 179 0+ and 1+ Atlantic salmon. BRE2 was undertaken in July 2014 and returned counts of 280 0+ and 1+ Atlantic salmon.</p> <p>BRE3 was undertaken in September 2024 and returned counts of 87 0+ and 1+ Atlantic salmon.</p> <p>NBN Atlas returned 21 records of Atlantic salmon, the most recent of those being in 1998.</p>	
Brown / sea trout	<p>Limited information was available online regarding the brown / sea trout population within Cromarty Firth DSFB area. The main river crossing the Proposed Development within the Cromarty Firth District is Logie Burn. There is a natural limit to migration at NH 49255, 49942, which is downstream of the Proposed Development<sup>35</sup> therefore, point 188 is not likely to support brown / sea trout. In addition, as per Table 6 above, brown / sea trout is confirmed present within the River Peffrey catchment.</p> <p>The main rivers under Beauly DSFB crossed by the Proposed Development are the River Beauly and Breakachy Burn. All watercourse crossing points are tributaries of the Breakachy Burn.</p> <p>Beauly DSFB confirmed through consultation responses that Breakachy Burn and the main River Beauly above Aigas Dam both hold brown trout. The main river Beauly above Aigas dam is relatively slack and deep and is important for holding adult brown trout.</p> <p>Above the 5 m high waterfall at grid reference NH 475 443 on the Breakachy Burn is also likely to hold brown trout. It is assumed in other main rivers within Beauly DSFB and the Study Area that trout will be present.</p> <p>At the time of writing, no information was available pertaining to the spawning locations of the species.</p> <p>Electrofishing data has been provided by Beauly DSFB for Breakachy Burn at three survey sites (BRE1, BRE2 and BRE3) all of which are just upstream of the point of confluence with the River Beauly at NH 47646 44191.</p>	<p>Yes, It is likely that the species may be found at the following watercourse crossing points within the Breakachy Burn catchment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 193 Breakachy Burn</li> <li>• 194 Allt na h-Athain</li> <li>• 195 Caochan Buidhe</li> <li>• 212 Unnamed tributary of Peffery Burn</li> </ul> <p>It is also possible that the species may be found in watercourse crossing points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 191 Unnamed tributary of Breakachy Burn</li> <li>• 192 Unnamed tributary of Breakachy Burn</li> </ul>

<sup>35</sup> FMP - Catchment Map - Cromarty Access January 2025



Species	Desk Study Results Summary	Likely Present at Watercourse Crossing Points?
	<p>BRE1 was undertaken in August 2016 and returned counts of 12 0+ Brown trout.</p> <p>BRE2 was undertaken in July 2014 and returned counts of 3 0+ Brown trout.</p> <p>BRE3 was undertaken in September 2024 and returned counts of 4 0+ Brown trout.</p> <p>NBN Atlas returned three records of Brown trout, the most recent of those being in 1972.</p>	
European eel	<p>Cromarty Firth DSFB<sup>33</sup> states that the Peffery catchment holds populations of European eel.</p> <p>A total of 24 records of European eel were returned from NBN Atlas, the most recent of those being in 2000.</p> <p>Electrofishing data has been provided by Beauly DSFB for Breakachy Burn at three survey sites (BRE1, BRE2 and BRE3).</p> <p>BRE1 was undertaken in August 2016 and returned counts of 10 European eel.</p> <p>BRE2 was undertaken in July 2014 and returned counts of three European eel.</p> <p>BRE3 was undertaken in September 2024 and returned no instances of European eel.</p>	<p>Part of the Peffery catchment sits in the northern half of Section E, and so it is possible the species is present within the following watercourse crossing points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>212 Unnamed tributary of Peffery Burn</li> </ul> <p>It is not likely that the species are present within any other crossing point within Section E. This is because all points are tributaries of the Breakachy Burn, which meet upstream of the waterfall found at NH 475 443. Although, the species are found downstream of this point and throughout the River Beauly downstream.</p>
<i>Lamprey sp.</i> ,	<p>A total of 13 records of river / brook lamprey were returned from NBN Atlas, the most recent being recorded in 2003. NB Atlas records show presence in Blackwater and River Conon, (see below), however no records were found in main river Logie Burn, or the Beauly catchment. In addition, as per Table 6, above Cromarty Firth FMP indicates that <i>Lamprey sp.</i> is present within the River Peffery catchment.</p> <p>In 2003 a total count of 13 <i>Lamprey sp.</i>, were recorded in Blackwater.</p> <p>In 2003 a total count of 71 <i>Lamprey sp.</i>, were recorded in Conon.</p> <p>In 2003 a total count of 10 sea lamprey were recorded in Conon.</p>	<p>Part of the Peffery catchment sits in the northern half of Section E, and so it is possible the species is present within the following watercourse crossing points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>212 Unnamed tributary of Peffery Burn</li> </ul> <p>It is not likely that the species are present within any other crossing point within Section E. This is because all points are tributaries of the Breakachy Burn, which meet upstream of the waterfall found at NH 475 443. Although, the species are found downstream of this point and throughout the River Beauly downstream.</p>
Water beetle	No records are available from NBN for this species.	The species is considered absent from Section E, Section E is considered to be outside of the known distribution range <sup>36</sup>

<sup>36</sup> The Flow Country: The peatlands of Caithness and Sutherland Figure 77, Page 125

## 4. INTERPRETATION

- 4.1.1 The following section describes and interprets the data collected to understand if protected fish and spawning habitat are likely in proximity to the Proposed Development.

### 4.2 Section A: Spittal To Brora

- 4.2.1 A total of 30 watercourse crossing points were screened out at initial watercourse suitability screening due to slow flows, no flow, found within blanket bog, or an overland flow channel. Twenty-eight sites were then carried forward for appraisal against DSFB consultation and online available data.

#### *Atlantic Salmon and Brown Trout*

- 4.2.2 Electrofishing data published by Caithness DSFB and consultation with Helmsdale DSFB confirms Atlantic salmon and brown trout are present throughout both the Caithness and Helmsdale DSFB regions. There are no barriers to fish migration in either district. Therefore, Atlantic salmon and brown trout are likely present at all 28 watercourse crossing points taken forward after suitability screening. These are as follows:

- 35 Allt Caol
- 2 Burn of Badachraskach
- 4 Burn of Badachraskach
- 40 Little River
- 41 Burn of Lochend
- 7 Unnamed tributary of the Burn of Braehungie
- 42 Burn of Braehungie
- 43 Burn of Braehungie
- 8 Burn of Braehungie
- 9 Burn of Houstry
- 47 Allt an Learanaich
- 48 Unnamed tributary of Achorn Burn
- 49 Unnamed
- 50 Allt na Buaidhe
- 51 Allt na Buaidhe
- 64 Unnamed tributary of Allt Bad na Muislich
- 69 Eldrable Burn
- 70 Oulmsdale Burn
- 71 Unnamed tributary of Oulmsdale Burn
- 11 Loth Burn
- 74 Gable Burn
- 75 Gable Burn
- 79 Unnamed tributary of Gable Burn
- 12 Loth Burn
- 78 Loth Burn
- 13 Loth Burn
- 88 Loth Burn
- 15 Kintradwell Burn

### *European Eel*

4.2.3 Available data from both Caithness online FMP and Helmsdale FMP was limited, with no confirmed presence from either sources. NBN Atlas returned historic records from 1990 of eel populations at River Helmsdale and Berriedale Water, and further inland at Latheronwheel. As no further records are available, it cannot be concluded that European eel is absent in any watercourse; therefore European eel is assumed present within all watercourses in Section A, at all crossing points taken through suitability screening, which are detailed below:

- 35 Allt Caol
- 2 Burn of Badachraskach
- 4 Burn of Badachraskach
- 40 Little River
- 41 Burn of Lochend
- 7 Unnamed tributary of the Burn of Braehungie
- 42 Burn of Braehungie
- 43 Burn of Braehungie
- 8 Burn of Braehungie
- 9 Burn of Houstry
- 47 Allt an Learanaich
- 48 Unnamed tributary of Achorn Burn
- 49 Unnamed
- 50 Allt na Buaidhe
- 51 Allt na Buaidhe
- 64 Unnamed tributary of Allt Bad na Muislich
- 69 Eldrable Burn
- 70 Oulmsdale Burn
- 71 Unnamed tributary of Oulmsdale Burn
- 11 Loth Burn
- 74 Gable Burn
- 75 Gable Burn
- 79 Unnamed tributary of Gable Burn
- 12 Loth Burn
- 78 Loth Burn
- 13 Loth Burn
- 88 Loth Burn
- 15 Kintradwell Burn

### *River, Brook and Sea Lamprey*

4.2.4 Available data from both Caithness online FMP and Helmsdale FMP was limited, with no confirmed presence of lamprey species from either source. NBN Atlas returned one historic record along Little River in 2004. As no further records are available, it cannot be concluded that lamprey are absent in any watercourse. Therefore lamprey are assumed present within all watercourses in Section A at all crossing points taken through suitability screening, as detailed below:

- 35 Allt Caol

- 2 Burn of Badachraskach
- 4 Burn of Badachraskach
- 40 Little River
- 41 Burn of Lochend
- 7 Unnamed tributary of the Burn of Braehungie
- 42 Burn of Braehungie
- 43 Burn of Braehungie
- 8 Burn of Braehungie
- 9 Burn of Houstry
- 47 Allt an Learanaich
- 48 Unnamed tributary of Achorn Burn
- 49 Unnamed
- 50 Allt na Buaidhe
- 51 Allt na Buaidhe
- 64 Unnamed tributary of Allt Bad na Muislich
- 69 Eldrable Burn
- 70 Oulmsdale Burn
- 71 Unnamed tributary of Oulmsdale Burn
- 11 Loth Burn
- 74 Gable Burn
- 75 Gable Burn
- 79 Unnamed tributary of Gable Burn
- 12 Loth Burn
- 78 Loth Burn
- 13 Loth Burn
- 88 Loth Burn
- 15 Kintradwell Burn

#### *Water Beetle*

- 4.2.5 Whilst the designated Ramsar Caithness and Sutherland Peatlands intersects with the Proposed Development Study Area in Section A, there are no lochs (preferred habitat for *O. alpinus*) proposed to be crossed by the Proposed Development. No records were returned from NBN Atlas for this species and no further current data was found online. Therefore, it is unlikely that the species is present at any watercourse crossing point within Section A.

### **4.3 Section B: Brora To Loch Buidhe**

- 4.3.1 A total of 30 watercourse crossing points were screened out at initial watercourse suitability screening due to slow flows, no flow, no defined channels, or within a flush or bog. Fifteen sites were then carried forward for appraisal against DSFB consultation and online available data.

#### *Atlantic Salmon and Brown Trout*

- 4.3.2 Brora FMP data suggest that there are populations of both Atlantic salmon and brown trout throughout the catchment. There is an impassable barrier on Carrol Burn, however this is upstream of the Proposed

Development. In lieu of a DSFB or FMP for the remainder of Section B, data from NPMi suggests that Loch Fleet and its tributary Abhainn an t-sratha Charnaig are salmonid rivers. There is an impassable barrier on Golspie Burn at NC 83476 01420, making the upstream watercourse crossing points impassable for salmonids. Considering this information Atlantic salmon and brown trout are assumed present at the following crossing points:

- 16 Clynemilton burn
- 92 Clynemilton burn
- River Brora
- 17 Unnamed tributary of the River Brora
- 18 Carrol Burn
- Morvich Burn (River Fleet catchment)
- 102 Unnamed tributary of Morvich Burn
- 104 Morvich Burn
- Abhainn an t-Sratha Carnaig (River Fleet catchment)
- 111 Allt na-h-Innse Aonair
- 113 Unnamed tributary of Allt na h-Innse Aonair
- 31 Abhainn an t-Sratha Carnaig
- 121 Unnamed tributary of Abhainn an t-Stratha Carnaig
- 122 Allt Loch na Feannaig

#### 4.3.3 Atlantic salmon and Brown trout are assumed absent from the following crossing points

- 20 Allt Horn
- 22 Golspie Burn
- 100 Allt Cnoc na Gamhna
- 101 Allt Cnoc na Gamhna

#### *European Eel*

#### 4.3.4 Brora FMP shows European eel is widespread throughout the Brora catchment. There is a barrier to fish passage on Golspie Burn at NC 83476 01420, making the upstream watercourse crossing points impassable for migratory fish.

#### 4.3.5 As no further records are available, it cannot be concluded that European eel is absent in the remaining watercourses and are therefore assumed to be present within the following watercourses:

- 16 Clynemilton burn
- 92 Clynemilton burn
- River Brora
- 17 Unnamed tributary of the River Brora
- 18 Carrol Burn
- Morvich Burn (River Fleet catchment)
- 102 Unnamed tributary of Morvich Burn
- 104 Morvich Burn
- Abhainn an t-Sratha Carnaig (River Fleet catchment)
- 111 Allt na-h-Innse Aonair
- 113 Unnamed tributary of Allt na h-Innse Aonair

- 31 Abhainn an t-Sratha Carnaig
- 121 Unnamed tributary of Abhainn an t-Stratha Carnaig
- 122 Allt Loch na Feannaig

4.3.6 European eel is assumed absent from the following crossing points

- 20 Allt Horn
- 22 Golspie Burn
- 100 Allt Cnoc na Gamhna
- 101 Allt Cnoc na Gamhna

*River Brook and Sea Lamprey*

4.3.7 Lamprey have been recorded in the Brora catchment in 2004 as part of a national monitoring programme.

4.3.8 There is a barrier to fish passage on Golspie Burn at NC 83476 01420, therefore the upstream watercourse crossing points are not accessible to migratory fish.

4.3.9 NBN Atlas returned five records of lamprey, the most recent being in the River Fleet in 2004. No further data is available, consequently, it cannot be concluded that lamprey are absent from the remaining watercourses. Therefore lamprey are assumed to be present at the following watercourse crossing points:

- 16 Clynemilton burn
- 92 Clynemilton burn
- River Brora
- 17 Unnamed tributary of the River Brora
- 18 Carrol Burn
- Morvich Burn (River Fleet catchment)
- 102 Unnamed tributary of Morvich Burn
- 104 Morvich Burn
- Abhainn an t-Sratha Carnaig (River Fleet catchment)
- 111 Allt na-h-Innse Aonair
- 113 Unnamed tributary of Allt na h-Innse Aonair
- 31 Abhainn an t-Sratha Carnaig
- 121 Unnamed tributary of Abhainn an t-Stratha Carnaig
- 122 Allt Loch na Feannaig

4.3.10 Lamprey is assumed absent from the following crossing points

- 20 Allt Horn
- 22 Golspie Burn
- 100 Allt Cnoc na Gamhna
- 101 Allt Cnoc na Gamhna

*Water Beetle*

4.3.11 One record was returned for the species, which was in Loch Brora, south of the Brora catchment, outside of their habitat range, according to Lindsay et al. (1998). Therefore, the species is only likely to be found, near to watercourse crossing 18 (Carrol Burn).

#### 4.4 Section C: Loch Buidhe to Dounie

- 4.4.1 One watercourse crossing point was screened out at initial watercourse suitability screening due to no flow. Three sites were then carried forward for appraisal against DSFB consultation and online available data.

##### *Atlantic Salmon*

- 4.4.2 Data confirms Atlantic salmon are present in the River Shin up to Loch Shin and the River Evelix, though juveniles have not been recorded at the uppermost reaches of the River Evelix according to the Kyle of Sutherland FMP<sup>25</sup>. This is in contradiction to the NMPI, which advises that the River Evelix up to Loch Laro is a salmonid river, as is the River Shin. Due to the contradiction in data sets, it is assumed that Atlantic salmon are present throughout the River Evelix and Shin catchments, as well as the River Carron. Therefore, Atlantic salmon are likely present at the following watercourse crossing points:

- 126 Unnamed tributary of Allt Loch Leisgein
- 127 Allt na Ciste Duibhe
- 203 Culeave Burn

##### *Brown Trout*

- 4.4.3 Data confirms that brown trout are present on the River Shin up to Loch Shin and the River Evelix near its source and, according to the Kyle of Sutherland FMP<sup>24</sup>, the species is found in all management units in rivers, lakes and estuaries and is the most widely distributed species within the district. Therefore, brown trout are considered likely present at the following watercourse crossing locations:

- 126 Unnamed tributary of Allt Loch Leisgein
- 127 Allt na Ciste Duibhe
- 203 Culeave Burn

##### *European Eel*

- 4.4.4 European eel records are limited with the only records being within the River Shin, though the Kyle of Sutherland FMP<sup>25</sup> advises that eel are present in the lower reaches of rivers, including the Kyle of Sutherland itself. As no further records are available, it cannot be concluded that European eel are absent from any watercourse and are assumed present within all watercourses within Section C, at all crossing points. Therefore, eel is assumed present at the following crossing points:

- 126 Unnamed tributary of Allt Loch Leisgein
- 127 Allt na Ciste Duibhe
- 203 Culeave Burn

##### *River, Brook and Sea Lamprey*

- 4.4.5 There was only one record of lamprey returned within the data search, in Culrain Burn. A lack of records does not constitute a lack of presence; therefore, as it cannot be concluded that lamprey are absent within Section C, it is assumed that Lamprey sp., are present in all watercourses within Section C. Therefore, Lamprey sp., are assumed present at the following crossing points:

- 126 Unnamed tributary of Allt Loch Leisgein
- 127 Allt na Ciste Duibhe
- 203 Culeave Burn

#### *Water Beetle*

- 4.4.6 Section C lies outside of the known distribution range of *Oreodytes alpinus*; therefore, the species is considered absent within Section C, and not present at any watercourse crossing points within Section C.

### **4.5 Section D: Dounie to Near Strathpeffer**

- 4.5.1 Thirty-one watercourse crossing points were screened out at initial watercourse suitability screening due to no flow, narrow boggy watercourses, no clear channel and overland flow channels. Eighteen sites were then carried forward for appraisal against DSFB consultation and online available data.

#### *Atlantic Salmon*

- 4.5.2 Data confirms Atlantic salmon are present in the Kyle of Sutherland district, however they are absent from Allt Eiteachan and Allt Coire Bhenneit at the point of their proposed watercourse crossings due to impassable barriers close to the Kyle of Sutherland estuary. Cromarty Firth FMP also suggest Atlantic salmon are present throughout the district, although the River Glass near to the Proposed Development does not hold a population of salmonids due to the natural impassable barriers that make up the Black Rock Gorge. Therefore, Atlantic salmon is likely present at the following watercourse crossing locations:

- 137 Unnamed tributary of Alt a' Choire Dhuibh
- 139 Allt Loch Bad a' Bhathaich
- 146 Allt an Ruith-theann
- 165 Unnamed tributary of River Sgitheach
- 166 Unnamed tributary of River Sgitheach
- 170 Allt na Raichean
- 171 Unnamed tributary of Abhainn Sgitheach
- 172 Unnamed tributary of Abhainn Sgitheach
- 173 Unnamed tributary of Abhainn Sgitheach
- 174 Unnamed tributary of Abhainn Sgitheach
- 175 Allt Bad na h-Achlaise
- 176 Allt Bad na h-Achlaise
- 177 Tiadh Allt

- 4.5.3 Atlantic salmon are considered absent from the following watercourse crossing locations:

- 132 Allt Eiteachan
- 135 Allt Coire Bhenneit
- 144 Allt na Ghlinne
- 210 Allt na Ghlinne

#### *Brown Trout*

- 4.5.4 Data confirms brown trout are present in the Kyle of Sutherland district, including Allt Eiteachan and Allt Coire Bhenneit despite impassable barriers near to the Kyle of Sutherland estuary. Cromarty Firth FMP also suggests brown trout are present throughout the district, although the River Glass near to the Proposed Development does not hold a population of salmonids due to the natural impassable barriers that make up the Black Rock Gorge. Therefore, brown trout is likely present at the following watercourse crossing locations:

- 132 Allt Eiteachan
- 135 Allt Coire Bhenneit



- 137 Unnamed tributary of Alt a' Choire Dhuibh
- 139 Allt Loch Bad a' Bhathaich
- 146 Allt an Ruith-theann
- 165 Unnamed tributary of River Sgitheach
- 166 Unnamed tributary of River Sgitheach
- 170 Allt na Raichean
- 171 Unnamed tributary of Abhainn Sgitheach
- 172 Unnamed tributary of Abhainn Sgitheach
- 173 Unnamed tributary of Abhainn Sgitheach
- 174 Unnamed tributary of Abhainn Sgitheach
- 175 Allt Bad na h-Achlaise
- 176 Allt Bad na h-Achlaise
- 177 Tiadh Allt
- 212 Unnamed tributary of Peffery Burn

4.5.5 Brown trout are considered absent from the following watercourse crossing locations:

- 144 Allt na Ghlinne
- 210 Allt na Ghlinne

#### *European Eel*

4.5.6 The Kyle of Sutherland FMP states that European eel are known to be present within the district, in lower reaches of the rivers and in the Kyle of Sutherland itself. Cromarty Firth FMP state main rivers Alness, Sgitheach and Peffery hold populations of European eel. Black Rock Gorge is a barrier to fish passage on the River Glass, consequently the River Glass near to the Proposed Development is unlikely to hold a European eel population. No further records are available; therefore, it cannot be concluded that European eel is absent in any remaining watercourse, and European eel is assumed present at the following crossing points:

- 137 Unnamed tributary of Alt a' Choire Dhuibh
- 139 Allt Loch Bad a' Bhathaich
- 146 Allt an Ruith-theann
- 165 Unnamed tributary of River Sgitheach
- 166 Unnamed tributary of River Sgitheach
- 170 Allt na Raichean
- 171 Unnamed tributary of Abhainn Sgitheach
- 172 Unnamed tributary of Abhainn Sgitheach
- 173 Unnamed tributary of Abhainn Sgitheach
- 174 Unnamed tributary of Abhainn Sgitheach
- 175 Allt Bad na h-Achlaise
- 176 Allt Bad na h-Achlaise
- 177 Tiadh Allt

4.5.7 European eel are considered absent from the following watercourse crossing locations:

- 132 Allt Eiteachan
- 135 Allt Coire Bhenneit

- 144 Allt na Ghlinne
- 210 Allt na Ghlinne

*River, Brook and Sea Lamprey*

4.5.8 NBN Atlas returned two records of lamprey from 2004. These records were on the River Glass between 1.45 km and 2.2 km downstream of watercourse crossing point 26. However, a lack of records does not constitute a lack of presence; therefore, it cannot be concluded that lamprey are absent from Section D. Therefore, lamprey are assumed present at the following crossing points

- 137 Unnamed tributary of Alt a' Choire Dhuibh
- 139 Allt Loch Bad a' Bhathaich
- 144 Allt na Ghlinne
- 210 Allt na Ghlinne
- 146 Allt an Ruith-theann
- 165 Unnamed tributary of River Sgitheach
- 166 Unnamed tributary of River Sgitheach
- 170 Allt na Raichean
- 171 Unnamed tributary of Abhainn Sgitheach
- 172 Unnamed tributary of Abhainn Sgitheach
- 173 Unnamed tributary of Abhainn Sgitheach
- 174 Unnamed tributary of Abhainn Sgitheach
- 175 Allt Bad na h-Achlaise
- 176 Allt Bad na h-Achlaise
- 177 Tiadh Allt

4.5.9 Lamprey are considered absent from the following watercourse crossing locations due to the impassable barriers near to the Kyle of Sutherland Estuary:

- 132 Allt Eiteachan
- 135 Allt Coire Bhenneit

*Water Beetle*

4.5.10 Section D lies outside of the known distribution range of *Oreodytes alpinus*; therefore, the species is considered absent within Section D, and not present at any watercourse crossing points within Section D.

## **4.6 Section E: Near Strathpeffer to Beaully**

4.6.1 Five watercourse crossing point was screened out at initial watercourse suitability screening due to slow flow. Seven sites were then carried forward for appraisal against DSFB consultation and online available data.

*Atlantic Salmon*

4.6.2 In the Cromarty Firth DSFB there is a natural limit to species migration at location NH 49255 49942 which is downstream of the Proposed Development in the Logie Burn catchment. However, part of the Peffery catchment sits in the northern half of this Section and the Cromarty Firth FMP advises that Atlantic salmon are present within the Peffery catchment. Within the Beaully district, there is a natural impassable waterfall at NH 475 443, which is downstream of the Proposed Development and watercourse crossing points on Breakachy Burn. Therefore, Atlantic salmon are considered present at the following watercourse crossing point:

- 212 Unnamed tributary of Peffery Burn

4.6.3 Atlantic salmon are considered absent from all other watercourse crossing locations in Section E, these are detailed below:

- 188 Allt Loch nam Bonnach
- 191 Unnamed tributary of Breakachy Burn
- 192 Unnamed tributary of Breakachy Burn
- 193 Breakachy Burn
- 194 Allt na h-Athain
- 195 Caochan Buidhe

*Brown Trout*

4.6.4 Limited data was available regarding brown trout populations in the Cromarty Firth District. In the Cromarty Firth DSFB there is a natural limit to species migration at location NH 49255 49942 which is downstream of the Proposed Development in the Logie Burn catchment, though the Cromarty Firth FMP indicates the presence of the species within the Peffery catchment. Consultation from Beaully DSFB confirmed resident, non-migratory brown trout are found above the waterfall at NH 475 443 as well as throughout the Beaully catchment.

4.6.5 Brown trout are considered present at the following watercourse crossing locations:

- 191 Unnamed tributary of Breakachy Burn
- 192 Unnamed tributary of Breakachy Burn
- 193 Breakachy Burn
- 194 Allt na h-Athain
- 195 Caochan Buidhe
- 212 Unnamed tributary of Peffery Burn

4.6.6 Brown trout are considered absent from the following watercourse crossing locations:

- 188 Allt Loch nam Bonnach

*European Eel*

4.6.7 The Cromarty Firth FMP advises that European eel are present within the River Peffery catchment; however, there is a natural limit to species migration at location NH 49255 49942, which is downstream of the Proposed Development in the Logie Burn catchment. Beaully DSFB supplied electrofishing data from 2014 – 2024, which shows presence of European eel in Breakachy Burn downstream of the waterfall at NH 475 443. However it should be noted that the most recent survey done in 2024 returned no instances of European eel. The waterfall at NH 475 443 is a barrier to migratory fish such as European eel.

4.6.8 Considering the above information, European eel are considered present at the following watercourse crossing point:

- 212 Unnamed tributary of Peffery Burn

4.6.9 European eel is considered absent from all other watercourse crossings locations in Section E, listed below.

- 191 Unnamed tributary of Breakachy Burn
- 192 Unnamed tributary of Breakachy Burn
- 193 Breakachy Burn
- 194 Allt na h-Athain
- 195 Caochan Buidhe
- 188 Allt Loch nam Bonnach

*River, Brook and Sea Lamprey*

4.6.10 There are no records relating to the Logie Burn or Beaully catchment from NBN. There is a natural limit to species migration at location NH 49255 49942, which is downstream of the Proposed Development in the Logie Burn catchment. No data was available from Cromarty Firth, though the Cromarty Firth FMP indicates that lamprey are present within the River Peffery catchment. No data was available from the Beaully DSFB or FMP. The waterfall at NH 475 443 is a barrier to migratory fish such as lamprey;

4.6.11 Considering the above lamprey is considered present at the following watercourse crossing point:

- 212 Unnamed tributary of Peffery Burn.

4.6.12 Lamprey is considered absent from all other watercourse crossing locations in Section E, detailed below:

- 191 Unnamed tributary of Breakachy Burn
- 192 Unnamed tributary of Breakachy Burn
- 193 Breakachy Burn
- 194 Allt na h-Athain
- 195 Caochan Buidhe
- 188 Allt Loch nam Bonnach

*Water Beetle*

4.6.13 Section E lies outside of the known distribution range of *Oreodytes alpinus*; therefore, the species is considered absent within Section E and not present at any watercourse crossing points within Section E.

## 5. CONCLUSIONS

5.1.1 **Table 8** details the watercourse crossing point numbers and whether it is considered likely that protected fish or invertebrate species are present at those locations. A total of 97 watercourse crossing points were screened out in the suitability screening prior to further assessment. Please see **Annex B** for full details of watercourse crossing points which were screened out including reasonings. This should be read alongside **Volume 5, Appendix 10.1: Schedule of Watercourse Crossings**.

**Table 8: Crossing Points and Species likely present at each Crossing Point**

Watercourse Crossing Point Number	Atlantic salmon	Brown trout	European eel	Lamprey sp.,	Water beetle (Oreodytes alpinus)
<b>Section A</b>					
35	✓	✓	✓	✓	N
2	✓	✓	✓	✓	N
4	✓	✓	✓	✓	N
40	✓	✓	✓	✓	N
41	✓	✓	✓	✓	N
7	✓	✓	✓	✓	N
42	✓	✓	✓	✓	N
43	✓	✓	✓	✓	N
8	✓	✓	✓	✓	N
9	✓	✓	✓	✓	N
47	✓	✓	✓	✓	N
48	✓	✓	✓	✓	N
49	✓	✓	✓	✓	N
50	✓	✓	✓	✓	N
51	✓	✓	✓	✓	N
64	✓	✓	✓	✓	N
69	✓	✓	✓	✓	N
70	✓	✓	✓	✓	N
71	✓	✓	✓	✓	N
11	✓	✓	✓	✓	N
74	✓	✓	✓	✓	N
75	✓	✓	✓	✓	N
79	✓	✓	✓	✓	N
12	✓	✓	✓	✓	N
78	✓	✓	✓	✓	N
13	✓	✓	✓	✓	N
88	✓	✓	✓	✓	N

Watercourse Crossing Point Number	Atlantic salmon	Brown trout	European eel	Lamprey sp.,	Water beetle (Oreodytes alpinus)
15	✓	✓	✓	✓	N
<b>Section B</b>					
16	✓	✓	✓	✓	N
92	✓	✓	✓	✓	N
17	✓	✓	✓	✓	N
102	✓	✓	✓	✓	N
104	✓	✓	✓	✓	N
111	✓	✓	✓	✓	N
113	✓	✓	✓	✓	N
31	✓	✓	✓	✓	N
121	✓	✓	✓	✓	N
122	✓	✓	✓	✓	N
20	N	N	N	N	N
22	N	N	N	N	N
100	N	N	N	N	N
101	N	N	N	N	N
18	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>Section C</b>					
126	X	X	✓	✓	X
127	✓	✓	✓	✓	X
203	✓	✓	✓	✓	X
<b>Section D</b>					
132	N	✓	N	N	N
135	N	✓	N	N	N
137	✓	✓	✓	✓	N
139	✓	✓	✓	✓	N
144	N	N	N	✓	N
210	N	N	N	✓	N
146	✓	✓	✓	✓	N
165	✓	✓	✓	✓	N
166	✓	✓	✓	✓	N
170	✓	✓	✓	✓	N
171	✓	✓	✓	✓	N
172	✓	✓	✓	✓	N

Watercourse Crossing Point Number	Atlantic salmon	Brown trout	European eel	Lamprey sp.,	Water beetle (Oreodytes alpinus)
173	✓	✓	✓	✓	N
174	✓	✓	✓	✓	N
175	✓	✓	✓	✓	N
176	✓	✓	✓	✓	N
177	✓	✓	✓	✓	N
<b>Section E</b>					
212	✓	✓	✓	✓	N
188	N	N	N	N	N
191	N	✓	N	N	N
192	N	✓	N	N	N
193	N	✓	N	N	N
194	N	✓	N	N	N
195	N	✓	N	N	N

## 6. REFERENCES

- EU Habitats Directive, 2007 Directive - 92/43 - EN - Habitats Directive - EUR-Lex
- FishPal, FishPal - Scotland - Far North - River Brora Accessed January 2024
- Kyle of Sutherland FMP, Kyle of Sutherland Fisheries Management Plan Accessed January 2025
- Lindsay et al. (1988), The Flow Country The Flow Country: The peatlands of Caithness and Sutherland Accessed January 2025
- NBN Atlas, NBN Atlas - UK's largest collection of biodiversity information Accessed November-December 2024
- River Brora FMP, River Brora Fisheries Review & Management Plan 2020 to 2025 Accessed January 2025
- Scotmap, SiteLink SiteLink - Map Search Accessed November-December 2024
- Scottish Biodiversity List, 2022 Scottish Biodiversity List | NatureScot Accessed November-December 2024
- Scottish Salmon Fishing, River Brora Salmon Fishing - SALMON FISHING IN SCOTLAND Accessed January 2024
- SEPA Good Practice Guide, River Crossings River crossings - good practice guide Accessed January 2025
- SEPA Guidance for Pollution Prevention <https://www.netregs.org.uk/media/1418/gpp-5-works-and-maintenance-in-or-near-water.pdf> Accessed January 2025
- SEPA, Water Classification Hub, Water Classification Hub Accessed January 2025
- UK Biodiversity Action Plan, 2007 UK BAP List of UK Priority Species | JNCC Resource Hub Accessed January 2025

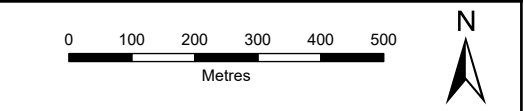


## **ANNEX A FIGURES**





- Tower Location
- Alignment Section A
- ▭ Survey Area
- River within Study Area (OS Open Rivers)
- Surface Water Line within Study Area (OS VMD)
- Temporary or Permanent
  - Temporary



SCALE: See Scale Bar	VERSION: A03
SIZE: A3	DRAWN: CI
PROJECT: 0720281	CHECKED: CG
DATE: 07/08/2025	APPROVED: KG

**Figure 1 - 1**  
**Spittal - Loch Buidhe - Beauly 400 kV OHL**  
**Connection**  
**Water Crossings**





- Tower Location
  - Alignment Section A
  - ▭ Survey Area
  - River within Study Area (OS Open Rivers)
  - Surface Water Line within Study Area (OS VMD)
- Temporary or Permanent
- Temporary
  - Permanent



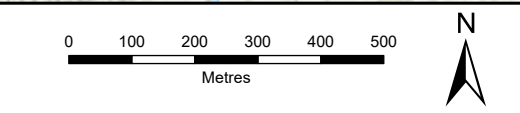
SCALE: See Scale Bar	VERSION: A03
SIZE: A3	DRAWN: CI
PROJECT: 0720281	CHECKED: CG
DATE: 07/08/2025	APPROVED: KG

**Figure 1 - 2**  
**Spittal - Loch Buidhe - Beauly 400 kV OHL**  
**Connection**  
**Water Crossings**





- Tower Location
  - Alignment Section A
  - ▭ Survey Area
  - River within Study Area (OS Open Rivers)
  - Surface Water Line within Study Area (OS VMD)
- Temporary or Permanent
- Permanent



SCALE: See Scale Bar	VERSION: A03
SIZE: A3	DRAWN: CI
PROJECT: 0720281	CHECKED: CG
DATE: 07/08/2025	APPROVED: KG

**Figure 1 - 3**  
**Spittal - Loch Buidhe - Beauly 400 kV OHL**  
**Connection**  
**Water Crossings**

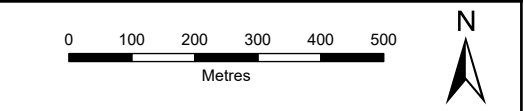








- Tower Location
  - Alignment Section A
  - Survey Area
  - River within Study Area (OS Open Rivers)
  - Surface Water Line within Study Area (OS VMD)
- Temporary or Permanent
- Temporary
  - Permanent



SCALE: See Scale Bar	VERSION: A03
SIZE: A3	DRAWN: CI
PROJECT: 0720281	CHECKED: CG
DATE: 07/08/2025	APPROVED: KG

**Figure 1 - 4**  
**Spittal - Loch Buidhe - Beauly 400 kV OHL**  
**Connection**  
**Water Crossings**

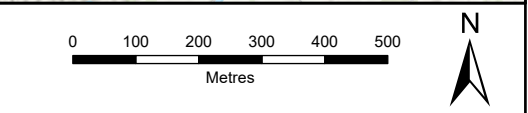


  
TRANSMISSION





- Tower Location
- Alignment Section A
- ▭ Survey Area
- River within Study Area (OS Open Rivers)
- Surface Water Line within Study Area (OS VMD)



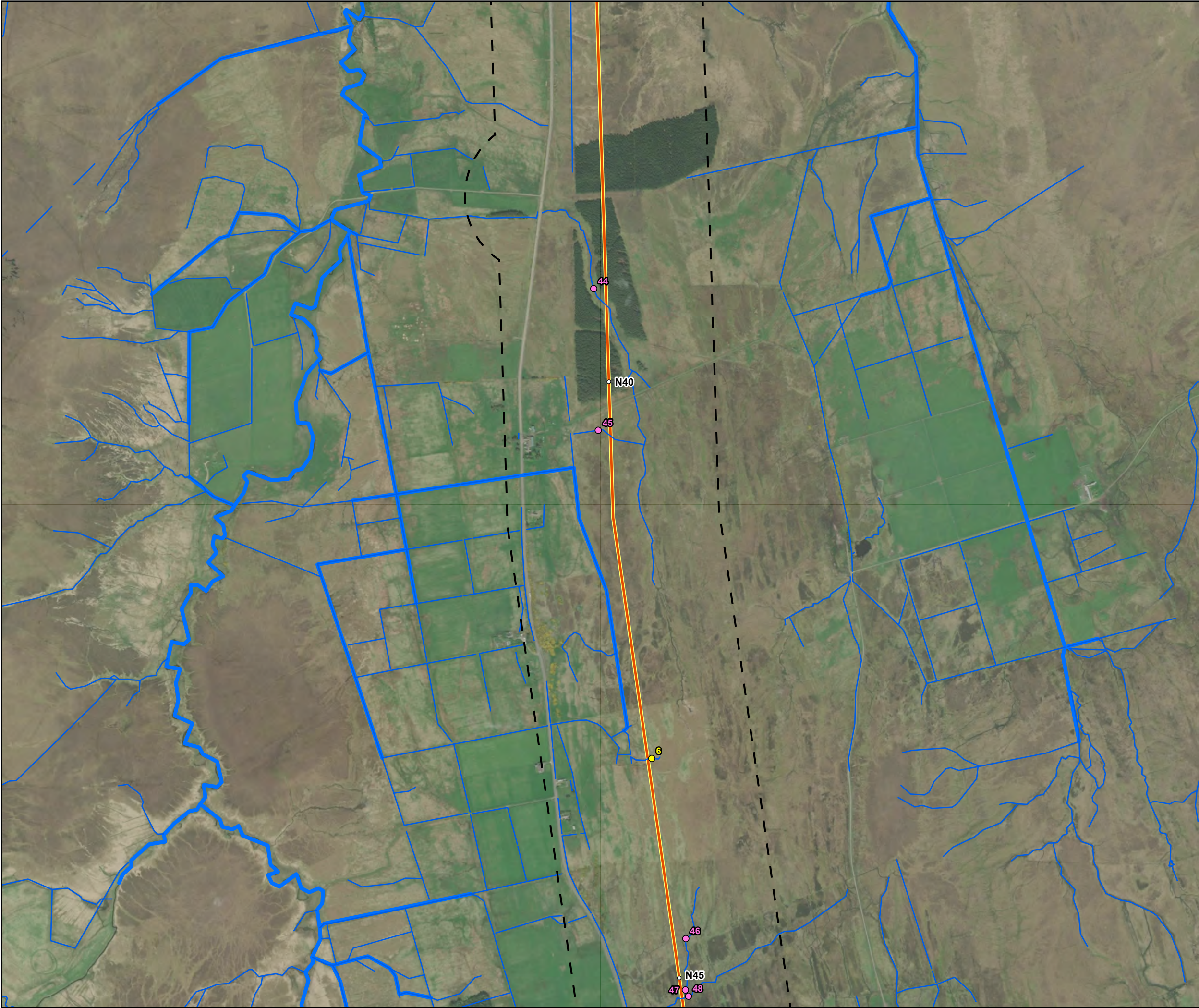
SCALE: See Scale Bar	VERSION: A03
SIZE: A3	DRAWN: CI
PROJECT: 0720281	CHECKED: CG
DATE: 07/08/2025	APPROVED: KG

**Figure 1 - 5**  
**Spittal - Loch Buidhe - Beauly 400 kV OHL**  
**Connection**  
**Water Crossings**









Tower Location

Alignment Section A

Survey Area

River within Study Area (OS Open Rivers)

Surface Water Line within Study Area (OS VMD)

Temporary or Permanent

Temporary

Permanent

0100200300400500

Metres

N

SCALE: See Scale Bar

VERSION: A03

SIZE: A3

DRAWN: CI

PROJECT: 0720281

CHECKED: CG

DATE: 07/08/2025

APPROVED: KG

**Figure 1 - 6**

**Spittal - Loch Buidhe - Beauly 400 kV OHL**

**Connection**

**Water Crossings**

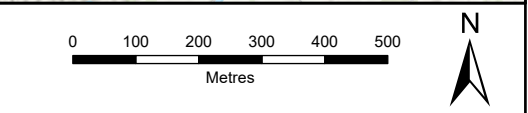
Maxar, Microsoft, Sources: Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community, Esri, USGS; © Landmark Information Group Limited and/or its Data Suppliers (All rights reserved 2010); © SEPA. Some features of this information are based on digital spatial data licensed from the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology © NERC (CEH). Contains OS data © Crown copyright [and database right].

Path: \\uksprdgisfs011\Data\London\Projects\0652629 - SSE Beauly to Loch Buidhe\Maps\0720281 - SLBB - Ecology.aprx / 0720281 - SLBB - Main River Watercourse Crossings - A03





- Tower Location
- Alignment Section A
- Survey Area
- River within Study Area (OS Open Rivers)
- Surface Water Line within Study Area (OS VMD)
- Temporary or Permanent
  - Temporary
  - Permanent



SCALE: See Scale Bar	VERSION: A03
SIZE: A3	DRAWN: CI
PROJECT: 0720281	CHECKED: CG
DATE: 07/08/2025	APPROVED: KG

**Figure 1 - 7**  
**Spittal - Loch Buidhe - Beauly 400 kV OHL**  
**Connection**  
**Water Crossings**





- Tower Location
  - Alignment Section A
  - ▭ Survey Area
  - River within Study Area (OS Open Rivers)
  - Surface Water Line within Study Area (OS VMD)
- Temporary or Permanent
- Temporary
  - Permanent



SCALE: See Scale Bar	VERSION: A03
SIZE: A3	DRAWN: CI
PROJECT: 0720281	CHECKED: CG
DATE: 07/08/2025	APPROVED: KG

**Figure 1 - 8**  
**Spittal - Loch Buidhe - Beauly 400 kV OHL**  
**Connection**  
**Water Crossings**

TRANSMISSION





- Tower Location
- Alignment Section A
- ▭ Survey Area
- River within Study Area (OS Open Rivers)
- Surface Water Line within Study Area (OS VMD)
- Temporary or Permanent
  - Temporary



SCALE: See Scale Bar	VERSION: A03
SIZE: A3	DRAWN: CI
PROJECT: 0720281	CHECKED: CG
DATE: 07/08/2025	APPROVED: KG

**Figure 1 - 9**  
**Spittal - Loch Buidhe - Beauly 400 kV OHL**  
**Connection**  
**Water Crossings**

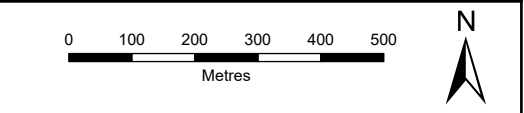


  
TRANSMISSION





- Tower Location
- Alignment Section A
- Survey Area
- River within Study Area (OS Open Rivers)
- Surface Water Line within Study Area (OS VMD)
- Temporary or Permanent
  - Temporary



SCALE: See Scale Bar	VERSION: A03
SIZE: A3	DRAWN: CI
PROJECT: 0720281	CHECKED: CG
DATE: 07/08/2025	APPROVED: KG

**Figure 1 - 10**  
**Spittal - Loch Buidhe - Beauly 400 kV OHL**  
**Connection**  
**Water Crossings**





Tower Location

Alignment Section A

Survey Area

River within Study Area (OS Open Rivers)

Surface Water Line within Study Area (OS VMD)

Temporary or Permanent

Temporary

Permanent

0 100 200 300 400 500  
Metres

N

SCALE: See Scale Bar	VERSION: A03
SIZE: A3	DRAWN: CI
PROJECT: 0720281	CHECKED: CG
DATE: 07/08/2025	APPROVED: KG

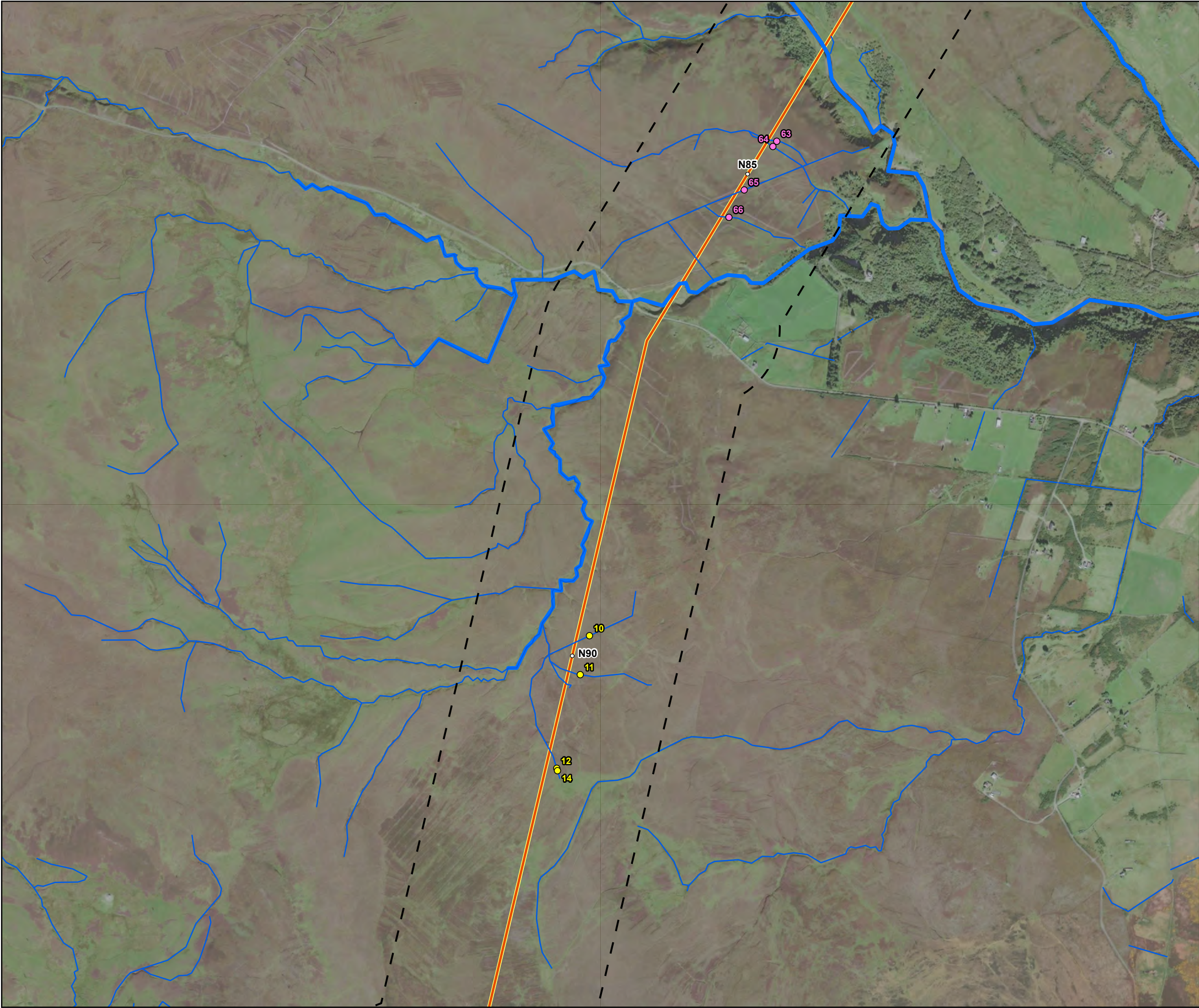
**Figure 1 - 11**  
**Spittal - Loch Buidhe - Beauly 400 kV OHL**  
**Connection**  
**Water Crossings**

PROJECTION: British National Grid

Maxar, Microsoft, Sources: Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community, Esri, USGS; © Landmark Information Group Limited and/or its Data Suppliers (All rights reserved 2010); © SEPA. Some features of this information are based on digital spatial data licensed from the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology © NERC (CEH). Contains OS data © Crown copyright [and database right].

Path: \\uksprdgisf011\Data\London\Projects\0652629 - SSE Beauly to Loch Buidhe\Maps\0720281 - SLBB - Ecology.aprx / 0720281 - SLBB - Main River Watercourse Crossings - A03





Tower Location

Alignment Section A

Survey Area

River within Study Area (OS Open Rivers)

Surface Water Line within Study Area (OS VMD)

Temporary or Permanent

Temporary

Permanent

0100200300400500

Metres

N

SCALE: See Scale Bar

VERSION: A03

SIZE: A3

DRAWN: CI

PROJECT: 0720281

CHECKED: CG

DATE: 07/08/2025

APPROVED: KG

**Figure 1 - 12**  
**Spittal - Loch Buidhe - Beauly 400 kV OHL**  
**Connection**  
**Water Crossings**

PROJECTION: British National Grid

Maxar, Microsoft, Sources: Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community, Esri, USGS; © Landmark Information Group Limited and/or its Data Suppliers (All rights reserved 2010); © SEPA. Some features of this information are based on digital spatial data licensed from the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology © NERC (CEH). Contains OS data © Crown copyright [and database right].

Path: \\uksprd\gis\011\Data\London\Projects\0652629 - SSE Beauly to Loch Buidhe\Maps\0720281 - SLBB - Ecology.aprx / 0720281 - SLBB - Main River Watercourse Crossings - A03





Tower Location

Alignment Section A

Survey Area

River within Study Area (OS Open Rivers)

Surface Water Line within Study Area (OS VMD)

Temporary or Permanent

Temporary

Permanent

0100200300400500

Metres

N

SCALE: See Scale Bar

VERSION: A03

SIZE: A3

DRAWN: CI

PROJECT: 0720281

CHECKED: CG

DATE: 07/08/2025

APPROVED: KG

Figure 1 - 13

Spittal - Loch Buidhe - Beauly 400 kV OHL Connection

Water Crossings

PROJECTION: British National Grid

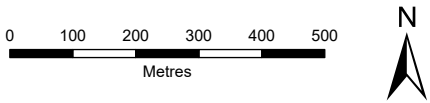
Maxar, Microsoft, Sources: Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community, Esri, USGS; © Landmark Information Group Limited and/or its Data Suppliers (All rights reserved 2010); © SEPA. Some features of this information are based on digital spatial data licensed from the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology © NERC (CEH). Contains OS data © Crown copyright [and database right].

Path: \\uksprdgisfs011Data\London\Projects\0652629 - SSE Beauly to Loch Buidhe\Maps\0720281 - SLBB - Ecology.aprx / 0720281 - SLBB - Main River Watercourse Crossings - A03





- Tower Location
- Alignment Section A
- ▭ Survey Area
- River within Study Area (OS Open Rivers)
- Surface Water Line within Study Area (OS VMD)



SCALE: See Scale Bar	VERSION: A03
SIZE: A3	DRAWN: CI
PROJECT: 0720281	CHECKED: CG
DATE: 07/08/2025	APPROVED: KG

**Figure 1 - 14**  
**Spittal - Loch Buidhe - Beauly 400 kV OHL**  
**Connection**  
**Water Crossings**







- Tower Location
  - Alignment Section A
  - ▭ Survey Area
  - River within Study Area (OS Open Rivers)
  - Surface Water Line within Study Area (OS VMD)
- Temporary or Permanent
- Temporary
  - Permanent



SCALE: See Scale Bar	VERSION: A03
SIZE: A3	DRAWN: CI
PROJECT: 0720281	CHECKED: CG
DATE: 07/08/2025	APPROVED: KG

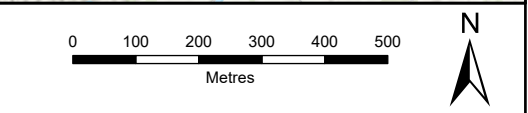
**Figure 1 - 15**  
**Spittal - Loch Buidhe - Beauly 400 kV OHL**  
**Connection**  
**Water Crossings**







- Tower Location
- Alignment Section A
- ▭ Survey Area
- River within Study Area (OS Open Rivers)
- Surface Water Line within Study Area (OS VMD)
- Temporary or Permanent
  - Temporary

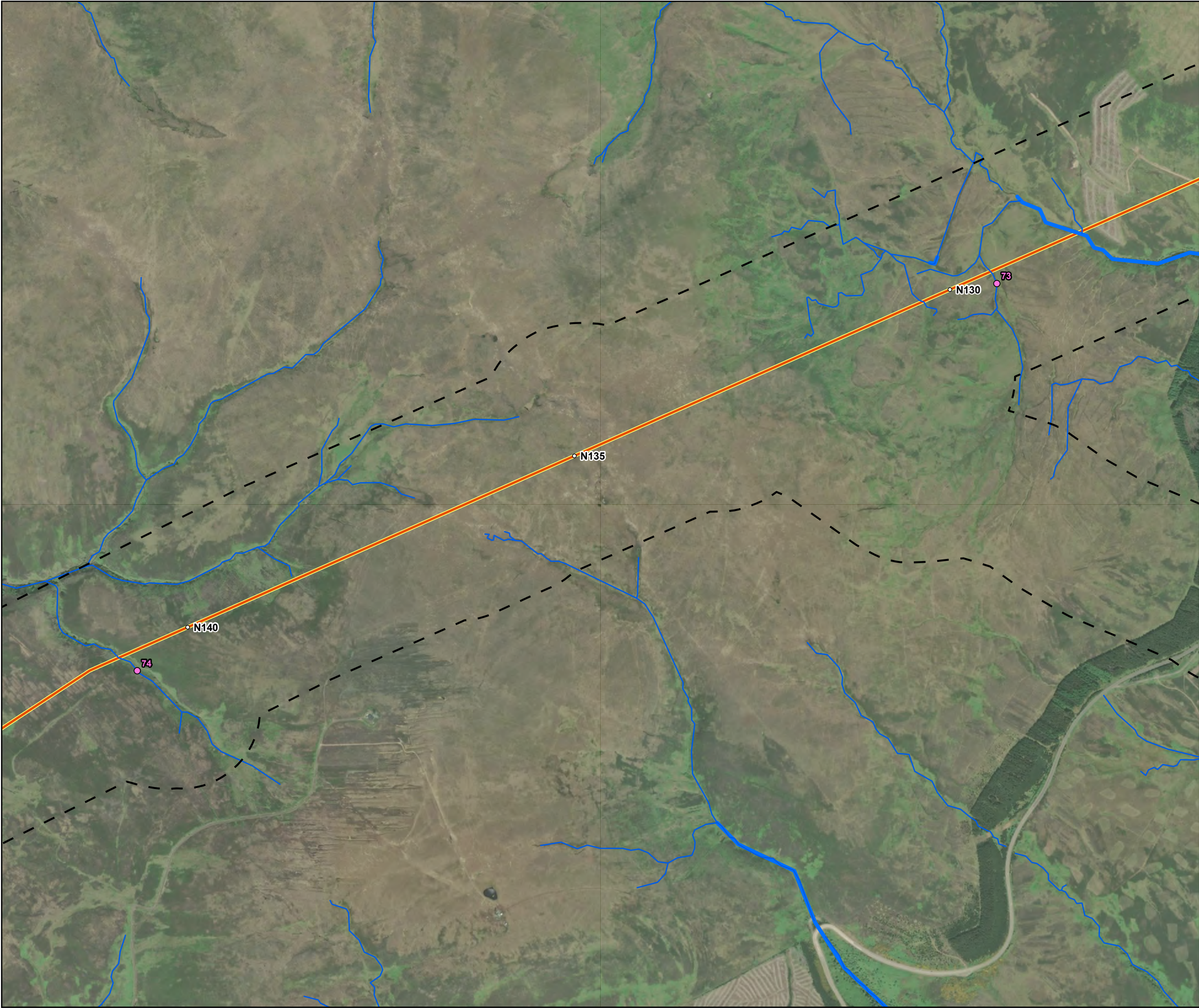


SCALE: See Scale Bar	VERSION: A03
SIZE: A3	DRAWN: CI
PROJECT: 0720281	CHECKED: CG
DATE: 07/08/2025	APPROVED: KG

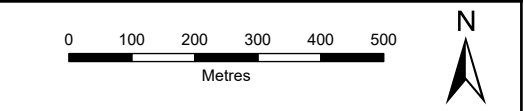
**Figure 1 - 16**  
**Spittal - Loch Buidhe - Beauly 400 kV OHL**  
**Connection**  
**Water Crossings**







- Tower Location
- Alignment Section A
- Survey Area
- River within Study Area (OS Open Rivers)
- Surface Water Line within Study Area (OS VMD)
- Temporary or Permanent
  - Temporary



SCALE: See Scale Bar	VERSION: A03
SIZE: A3	DRAWN: CI
PROJECT: 0720281	CHECKED: CG
DATE: 07/08/2025	APPROVED: KG

**Figure 1 - 17**  
**Spittal - Loch Buidhe - Beauly 400 kV OHL**  
**Connection**  
**Water Crossings**







- Tower Location
- Alignment Section A
- Survey Area
- River within Study Area (OS Open Rivers)
- Surface Water Line within Study Area (OS VMD)
- Temporary or Permanent
  - Temporary
  - Permanent



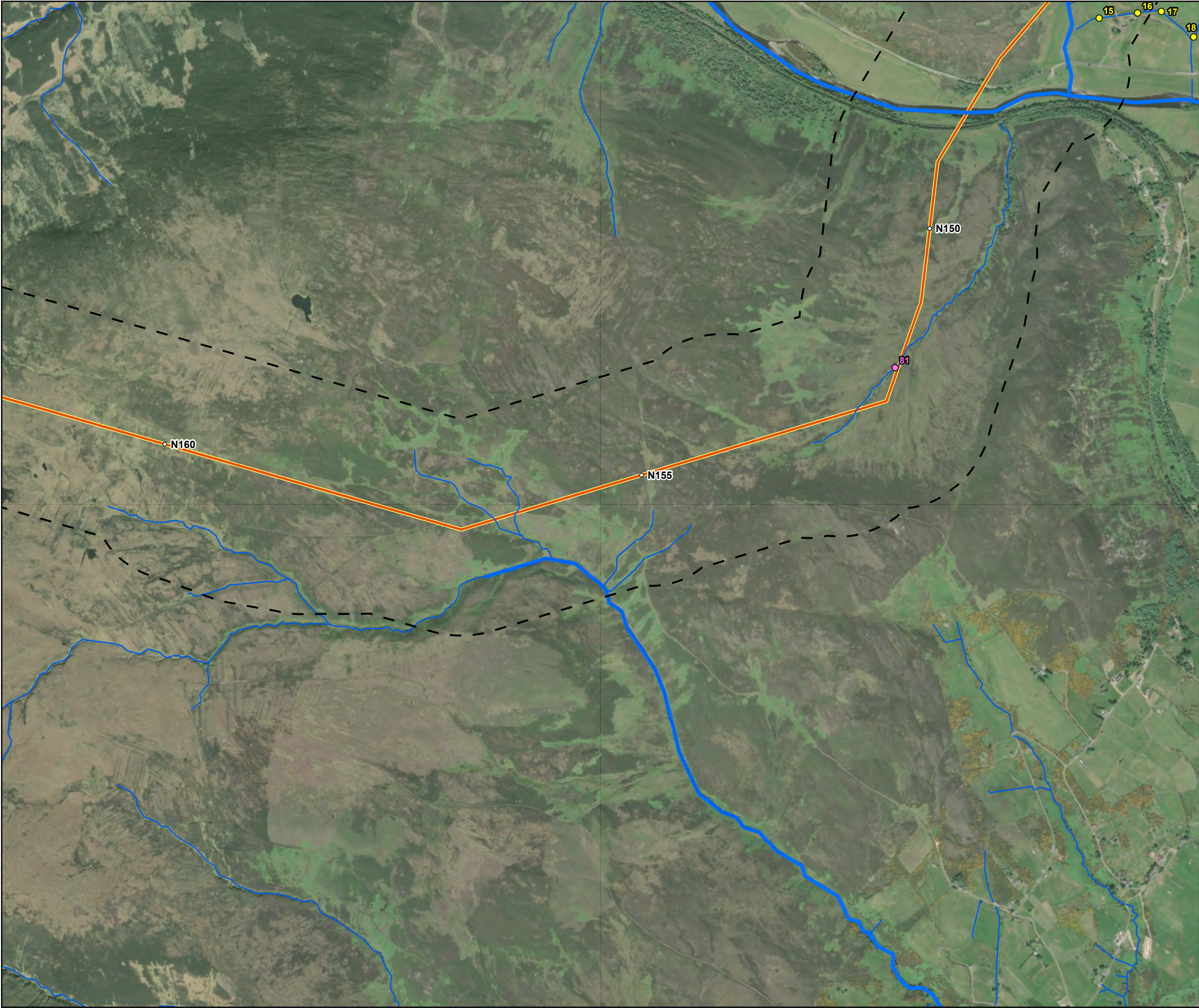
SCALE: See Scale Bar	VERSION: A03
SIZE: A3	DRAWN: CI
PROJECT: 0720281	CHECKED: CG
DATE: 07/08/2025	APPROVED: KG

**Figure 1 - 18**  
**Spittal - Loch Buidhe - Beauly 400 kV OHL**  
**Connection**  
**Water Crossings**



  
TRANSMISSION





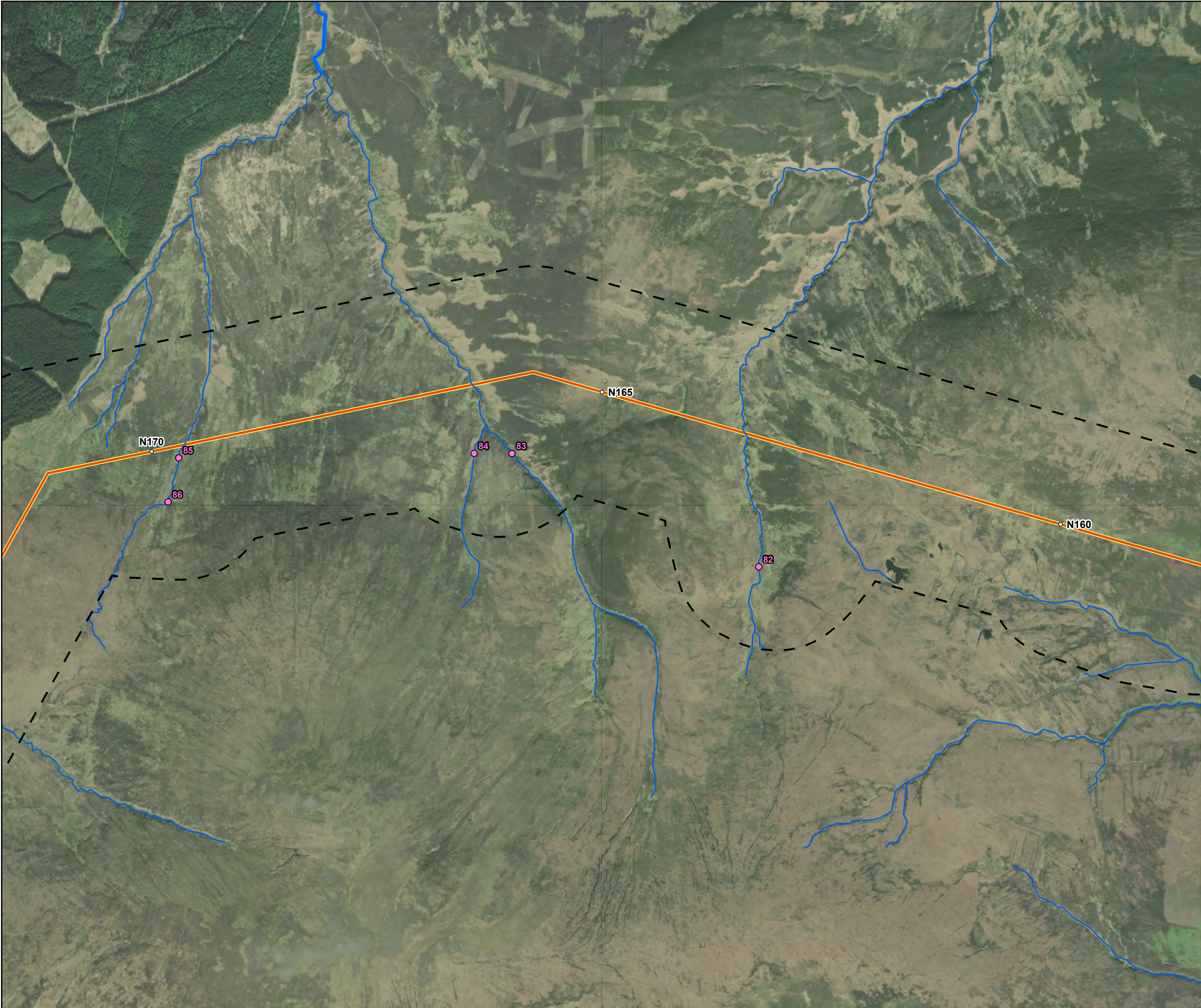
- Tower Location
  - Alignment Section A
  - Survey Area
  - River within Study Area (OS Open Rivers)
  - Surface Water Line within Study Area (OS VMD)
- Temporary or Permanent
- Temporary
  - Permanent



SCALE: See Scale Bar	VERSION: A03
SIZE: A3	DRAWN: CI
PROJECT: 0720281	CHECKED: CG
DATE: 07/08/2025	APPROVED: KG

**Figure 1 - 19**  
**Spittal - Loch Buidhe - Beauly 400 kV OHL**  
**Connection**  
**Water Crossings**





- Tower Location
- Alignment Section A
- ▭ Survey Area
- River within Study Area (OS Open Rivers)
- Surface Water Line within Study Area (OS VMD)
- Temporary or Permanent
  - Temporary



SCALE: See Scale Bar	VERSION: A03
SIZE: A3	DRAWN: CI
PROJECT: 0720281	CHECKED: CG
DATE: 07/08/2025	APPROVED: KG

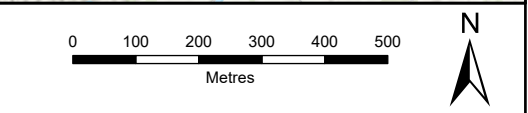
**Figure 1 - 20**  
**Spittal - Loch Buidhe - Beauly 400 kV OHL**  
**Connection**  
**Water Crossings**







- Tower Location
  - Alignment Section A
  - Survey Area
  - River within Study Area (OS Open Rivers)
  - Surface Water Line within Study Area (OS VMD)
- Temporary or Permanent
- Temporary
  - Permanent



SCALE: See Scale Bar	VERSION: A03
SIZE: A3	DRAWN: CI
PROJECT: 0720281	CHECKED: CG
DATE: 07/08/2025	APPROVED: KG

**Figure 1 - 21**  
**Spittal - Loch Buidhe - Beauly 400 kV OHL**  
**Connection**  
**Water Crossings**







Tower Location

Alignment Section A

Survey Area

River within Study Area (OS Open Rivers)

Surface Water Line within Study Area (OS VMD)

Temporary or Permanent

Temporary

Permanent

A99

A96

Elgin

Highlands

0

100

200

300

400

500

Metres

N

SCALE: See Scale Bar

VERSION: A03

SIZE: A3

DRAWN: CI

PROJECT: 0720281

CHECKED: CG

DATE: 07/08/2025

APPROVED: KG

Figure 1 - 22

Spittal - Loch Buidhe - Beauly 400 kV OHL

Connection

Water Crossings

ERM

Scottish & Southern

Electricity Networks

TRANSMISSION

PROJECTION: British National Grid

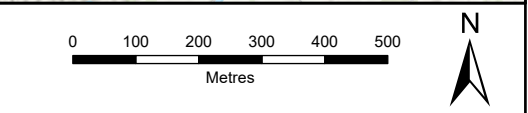
Maxar, Microsoft, Sources: Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community, Esri, USGS; © Landmark Information Group Limited and/or its Data Suppliers (All rights reserved 2010); © SEPA. Some features of this information are based on digital spatial data licensed from the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology © NERC (CEH). Contains OS data © Crown copyright [and database right].

Path: \\uksprdgisf011Data\London\Projects\0652629 - SSE Beauly to Loch Buidhe\Maps\0720281 - SLBB - Ecology.aprx / 0720281 - SLBB - Main River Watercourse Crossings - A03





- Tower Location
  - Alignment Section A
  - ┌ ┐ Survey Area
  - ⋈ Alignment Section Break
  - River within Study Area (OS Open Rivers)
  - Surface Water Line within Study Area (OS VMD)
- Temporary or Permanent
- Temporary
  - Permanent



SCALE: See Scale Bar	VERSION: A03
SIZE: A3	DRAWN: CI
PROJECT: 0720281	CHECKED: CG
DATE: 07/08/2025	APPROVED: KG

**Figure 1 - 23**  
**Spittal - Loch Buidhe - Beauly 400 kV OHL**  
**Connection**  
**Water Crossings**





- Tower Location
- Alignment Section A
- Alignment Section B
- ┌ ┐ Survey Area
- ⋈ Alignment Section Break
- River within Study Area (OS Open Rivers)
- Surface Water Line within Study Area (OS VMD)
- Temporary or Permanent
  - Permanent



SCALE: See Scale Bar	VERSION: A03
SIZE: A3	DRAWN: CI
PROJECT: 0720281	CHECKED: CG
DATE: 07/08/2025	APPROVED: KG

**Figure 1 - 24**  
**Spittal - Loch Buidhe - Beauly 400 kV OHL**  
**Connection**  
**Water Crossings**

