FEARNA STORAGE

Fearna Pumped Storage Hydro Scheme
EIA Report

Appendix 8.2B – SAR Protected Species Survey

February 2025

Quality Information

Prepared by	Checked by	Approved by
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Fearna Pumped Storage Scheme
Southern Access Route Protected Species Assessment Report

October 2024

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

EnviroCentre Limited were commissioned by Loch Fearna PSH Ltd. to undertake a site assessment for protected species suitability and field signs, as well as any Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS) along the southern access route and site compound area of the proposed Loch Fearna Pumped Storage Scheme, near Invergarry, in relation to a planning submission for a nationally significant Large-scale Long Duration Electricity storage (LDES) scheme (the Proposed Development) and associated infrastructure.

To note, bats, otter, invertebrates, birds, and fish are excluded within this report. Birds and fish have been assessed externally by third-parties, whilst bats, otter, and invertebrates have been assessed within the following stand-alone EnviroCentre reports:

- ECRPT 14594 Fearna Southern Access Route Bat Activity Survey Report. 2024
- ECRPT 14688 Fearna Southern Access Route Otter Assessment and Monitoring Report. 2024
- ECRPT 14560 Fearna Pumped Storage Odonata Survey Report. 2024
- ECRPT 14568 Fearna Pumped Storage Invertebrate Walkover Report. 2024

Suitable habitat and/or field evidence was identified for badger, water vole, red squirrel, pine marten, mountain hare, reptiles, and amphibians.

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Terms of Reference

EnviroCentre Ltd was commissioned by Fearna PSH Ltd to undertake assessment for notable and protected species/species groups habitat suitability and field signs within the survey area of the proposed Southern Access Route (SAR) of the Loch Fearna Pumped Storage Hydro (PSH), near Invergarry. The assessment was extended to include a survey for Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS)

The 'survey area' constitutes the areas of the 'SAR' plus appropriate buffers as shown as part of the Ecological Constraints Plan in Appendix A.

1.2 Scope of Report

The aim of the appraisal was to provide a baseline ecological evaluation of the survey area to inform the proposed development plans. The main objectives of the appraisal were as follows:

- Conduct a desk study to identify any existing information on statutory and non-statutory designated sites within 5km and 2km of the SAR respectively, as well as any protected or notable species relevant to the survey area;
- Identify suitable habitat for and field signs of notable or protected species; and
- Evaluate the findings against geographic levels of importance.

To note, bats, otter, invertebrates, birds, and fish are excluded within this report. Birds and fish have been assessed externally by third-parties, whilst bats, otter, and invertebrates have been assessed within the following stand-alone EnviroCentre reports:

- ECRPT 14594 Fearna Southern Access Route Bat Activity Survey Report. 2024
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- ECRPT 14560 Fearna Pumped Storage Odonata Survey Report. 2024
- ECRPT 14568 Fearna Pumped Storage Invertebrate Walkover Report. 2024

1.3 Survey Area Description

The survey area comprises a linear route extending from near Loch Quoich (where the proposed Loch Fearna PSH will be located), centred at Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference (NGR) NH 05162 03136, to the east of Loch Garry, centred at NGR NH 27753 01997, and ranges between 90m-300m of elevation.

The eastern section of the SAR follows existing forestry tracks, extending approximately (approx.) 23.5km from the Glen Garry car park to the River Kingie Crossing. The western section of the SAR is proposed to cross areas of non-native conifer plantation and open heathland and extends approx. 4.3km from the River Kingie extending to the existing unnamed road, approx. 550m east of the Cuaich Dam.

More widely, the landscape surrounding the SAR is dominated by open heathland and bog habitats, with plantation blocks and semi-natural woodlands scattered throughout, typically at lower altitudes and along riparian corridors. An extensive hydrological network is present across the region, comprising several large waterbodies, including lochs Garry, Quoich, Loyne, and Oich, as well as

major river systems within the Ness catchment area. The village of Invergarry is situated approx. 1.3km east of the SAR.

1.4 Project Description

The site is proposed as a works access route to support the proposed Fearna PSH, which aims to expand the existing hydroelectric network by transferring water to two reservoirs, the lower Loch Quoich and the proposed upper reservoir comprising the existing Loch Fearna and Coire Dubh which will be inundated as part of the scheme.

The construction of the SAR will involve the removal of vegetation, including upland heath, moorland, native woodland, and forestry plantation, in order to widen sections of the existing road, create new passing places, and construct new track sections to the west of the site.

1.5 Report Usage

The information and recommendations contained within this report have been prepared in the specific context stated above and should not be utilised in any other context without prior written permission from EnviroCentre Limited.

If this report is to be submitted for regulatory approval more than 12 months following the report date, it is recommended that it is referred to EnviroCentre Limited for review to ensure that any relevant changes in data, best practice, guidance or legislation in the intervening period are integrated into an updated version of the report.

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2 METHOD

2.1 Desk Study

In order to anticipate the potential ecological sensitivities at the site, an initial desk study was conducted in advance of the field survey, in June 2024, and updated accordingly prior to each field survey. The following sources were checked:

- Highland Biological Record Group (HBRG) and NBN Atlas[1] Biological Records for notable and protected species within 2km of the site.
- NatureScot Sitelink website[2] for statutory designated sites up to 5km from the site;
- Highland-wide Local Development Plan[3] [4] [5] for non-statutory designated sites up to 5km from the site.
- Records of ancient woodland and Scottish native woodland available through Scotland's Environment Web[6], within or adjacent to the site.
- Buglife, B-Lines[7] to locate b-lines 'insect pathways', present across landscapes;
- Buglife, Important Invertebrate Areas (IIAs)[8].
- The Scottish Biodiversity List[9] for Priority Habitats and Species.
- Highland Nature Biodiversity Action Plan[10] for Local Priority Habitats and Species.
- Aerial imagery from Google Earth[11].

2.2 Field Survey

Field work was conducted by EnviroCentre Lead-Senior Ecologist Steven Duncan ACIEEM and Consultant Ecologists Luigi Cristofaro and Billy Brook. The survey was conducted over 10 days between the 13th and 17th of May 2024 and 10th and 14th June 2024. The survey area included the linear route site boundary in place at the time and up to a 250m buffer (species dependent) (See Table 2-1).

Weather throughout the surveys was generally mild, with clear to overcast conditions, occasional scattered showers, and average temperatures between 9 to 15°C in May and 12 to 15°C in June

This section provides details of the methods adopted in the survey areas identified in Table 2-1, overleaf.

[1] Available at: https://nbnatlas.org/
[2] Available at: https://sitelink.nature.scot/map
[3] Highland-wide Local Development Plan (2012). Available at: https://www.highland.gov.uk/info/178/development_plans/199/highland-wide_local_development_plan
[4] The Highland Council are currently formulating an updated local development plan for the region, with the proposed plan stage set for 2025.
[5] Highland Council (2019), West Highland and Islands Local development Plan Available at: https://www.highland.gov.uk/downloads/file/21199/westplan_adopted_september_2019.
[6] Available at: https://www.environment.gov.scot/maps/scotlands-environment-map/
[7] Available at: https://www.buglife.org.uk/our-work/b-lines/
[8] Available at: https://www.buglife.org.uk/our-work/important-invertebrate-areas/
[9] Available at: https://www.nature.scot/scottish-biodiversity-list
[10] Highland Council (2019), West Highland and Islands Local development Plan Available at: https://www.highland.gov.uk/downloads/file/21199/westplan_adopted_september_2019 .
[11] Available at: https://www.google.com/earth/

Table 2-1: Species/Species Groups Surveyed

Habitat/Species/Species Group	Survey Areas (where accessible)
Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS)	SAR + 50m buffer
Bats (*Chiroptera spp*.)	SAR + 50m buffer
Otter (*Lutra lutra*)	SAR + watercourses up to a 250m buffer
Water Vole (*Arvicola amphibius*)	SAR + watercourses up to a 250m buffer
Badger (*Meles meles*)	SAR + 100m buffer
Red Squirrel (*Sciurus vulgaris*)	SAR + 50m buffer
Pine Marten (*Martes martes*)	SAR + 100m buffer
Mountain Hare (*Lepus timidus*)	SAR + 50m buffer
Deer (*Cervus elaphus, Capreolus capreolus*)	SAR
Amphibians	SAR + 50m buffer
Reptiles	SAR + 50m buffer
Invertebrates	SAR

A summary of protected species legislation is provided in Appendix B.

2.2.1 Bats

Further detail regarding desk study bat records and identified features, including buildings, structures, and trees, suitable to support roosting bats, as well as the suitability of habitats within the survey for foraging and commuting bats, is provided in the Bat Activity Survey Report[12].

2.2.2 Otter

Further detail regarding desk study otter records, identified field evidence, and assessed habitat suitability across the SAR survey area is provided in the Otter Monitoring Report[13].

2.2.3 Water Vole

An assessment of the watercourses intersected by the SAR or within the survey area, including the recording of passive field signs, was conducted for water vole. The appraisal consisted of assessing the habitat suitability of the site[14] whilst undertaking a check for field evidence following standard survey guidelines[15].

Factors that influence the suitability of habitat for water voles include:

- Positive: The presence of riparian vegetation along the banks and in the water.
- Positive: A steep bank on a watercourse reducing the risk of burrow inundation.
- Positive: Slow-flowing, relatively deep (over 1m) watercourses.
- Negative: The presence of rocky or otherwise impenetrable substrates.
- Negative: Over-shading by trees.
- Negative: Fast flowing or shallow water, and flashy watercourses.
- Negative: The presence of American mink.

[12] ECRPT14594 Loch Fearna Southern Access Route: Bat Activity Survey Report. EnviroCentre Ltd (2024).
[13] ECRPT 14688 Loch Fearna Southern Access Route Otter Assessment and Monitoring Report. EnviroCentre Ltd (2024)
[14] Strachan, Rob & Moorhouse, Tom. (2006). *Water Vole Conservation Handbook, Second Edition*.
[15] Dean, M., Strachan R. Gow, D. & Andrews, R. (2016). *The Water Vole Mitigation Handbook (The Mammal Society Mitigation Guidance Series)*. Eds: Fiona Mathews and Paul Chanin. The Mammal Society, London.

The presence of water vole field evidence was noted. Field evidence includes:

- Faeces: 8-12 mm long, 4-5 mm wide; cylindrical and blunt ended pellets; colour variable with food type. Most droppings left in latrines near the nest, at range boundaries and at water entry points;
- Latrine sites: concentrations of faeces, often with fresh droppings on top of old ones;
- Runways: often 5-9 cm broad and multi-branched; usually within 2m of water's edge and often forming tunnels through vegetation; leading to water's edge or burrows;
- Burrows: 4-8 cm diameter, wider than high; eroded entrances then contract down to typical size; entrances located at water's edge; however some entrances can be up to 3m from the water; no spoil heaps;
- Nests: size and shape of a rugby ball, often in base of rushes, sedges or reeds;
- Feeding stations: located along runways, or at platforms along water's edge; usually a pile of cut/chewed vegetation in sections approximately 10cm long; vegetation ends show marks of two large incisors. Piles of chopped grass, sedge or rush stems, rush pith and leaves;
- Lawns: short, grazed vegetation around land entrances, often used during nursing periods;
- Footprints: difficult to tell from rat; adult hind foot 26-34 mm (heel to claw); stride 120mm (smaller than rat); occur at water's edge and lead into vegetation; and
- Sound: characteristic 'plop' when a vole enters the water.

Emphasis was placed on locating latrine sites, as they are the most useful sign for recording purposes. They indicate whether there is definite presence of water voles at a site.

2.2.4 Badger

An assessment of the SAR's and survey area's habitats including the recording of any field signs, where found, was undertaken for badger, with reference to the methodology described by Scottish Badgers[16] and NatueScot[1718], which aimed to identify the following field evidence:

- Setts (any structure or place, which displays signs indicating current use by badger/located within an active badger territory, as defined by NatureScot guidance[19]);
- Day beds (above ground area where badgers sleep, characterised by flattened vegetation or bundles of grass);
- Dung pits (single faeces deposit placed in a small excavation);
- Latrines (collection of faecal deposits often used by badger clans to mark home range boundaries);
- Foraging signs such as diggings or snuffle holes (badgers use their snout to turn over vegetation or soft soil to forage for bulbs and invertebrates);
- Paths (network of paths generally linking setts to foraging habitat);
- Breach points (gaps in fences or crossing points over roads);
- Scratching posts (marks on tree trunks/ fallen trees where badgers have left claw marks);
- Guard hair; and
- Footprints.

[16] Scottish Badgers: Surveying for Badgers – Good Practice Guidelines. Version 1: 2018. Available from: https://www.scottishbadgers.org.uk/userfiles/file/planning_guidelines/Surveying-for-Badgers-Good-Practice-Guidelines_V1.pdf
[17] NatureScot: Licensing Guidance. Available from: https://www.nature.scot/sites/default/files/2018-10/Guidance%20-%20Licensing%20-%20Badgers%20-%20What%20is%20a%20Badger%20sett_.pdf
[18] NatureScot: Protected Species Advice for Developers – Badger. Available from: https://www.nature.scot/species-planning-advice-badger
[19] NatureScot definition of current use: "*There is no case law to clarify what signs of current use means. For the purpose of this guidance, and in the absence of such case law, we consider that the presence of field signs such as bedding, fresh spoil heaps, signs of recent digging, hair, latrines, or footprints in or around the potential sett or evidence of badgers entering or exiting the structure or place in question would indicate current use of the structure / place by a badger.*"

Badger foraging habitat was classified on a primary and secondary basis as per best practice guidance[20]. An assessment of the distribution of primary and secondary habitat (defined below) within the survey area was undertaken:

- **Primary foraging habitat:** short grazed or mown grassland, improved or unimproved, golf course habitat and broadleaved woodland (> 80% broadleaves); and
- **Secondary foraging habitat**: arable, rough grassland (not grazed by domestic stock or mown), scrub and mixed woodland.

2.2.5 Red Squirrel

An assessment of the site's woodland habitats for their suitability to host red squirrel was undertaken in reference to good practice guidance[21] which involves recording field evidence in habitat (primarily coniferous woodland) for two distinct signs of squirrel activity. It should be noted that neither of these methods accurately distinguishes between red or grey squirrels (*Sciurus carolinensis*).

- Drey count – dreys are the nests made by both species of squirrel in trees. Dreys are distinguishable from birds' nests as they are normally 50cm in diameter and 30cm deep, comprise a ball shape and are usually densely constructed. The dreys are normally located close to the main stem of the tree at a height of 3m or more; and
- Feeding evidence – where cone producing trees (conifers) are evident evidence of squirrel feeding is searched for. Although the two species of squirrel cannot be distinguished from feeding remains, the manner in which squirrels break open seeds and nuts, which are then left on the forest floor, is diagnostic.

2.2.6 Pine Marten

Based on current guidelines[22], as a species that can maintain extensive home ranges, particularly in upland areas, it was appropriate to extend the record search radius to 10km for pine marten. An assessment of the SAR's habitats including the recording of passive field signs was conducted for pine marten in reference to standard guidance. The survey included a search for the following:

- scats (e.g. on prominent features such as tree stumps, dead logs or stones, as well as along rides, paths);
- footprints; *and*
- identification of any potential den sites (elevated tree cavities and between rocks or crags).

The survey included any identification of likely prey resources, which include small mammals, birds and invertebrates, and commuting opportunities.

It should be noted that in areas where pine marten populations are sparse and territorial defence is relatively unimportant, searches for signs (incl. scats) may fail to detect presence simply because the animals are less likely to deposit scats as territory markers; in such situation most scats are deposited at den sites and in foraging areas.

[20] The Highland Council. Best Practice Guidance – Model badger Protection Plan (BPP)– Badger foraging habitats (2006). Available from: https://www.highland.gov.uk/downloads/file/2635/badger_best_practice_guidance_badger_protection_plans_september_2006
[21] Gurnell, J., Lurz, P., McDonald, R. & Pepper, H. (2009) *Practical Techniques for surveying and monitoring squirrels. Forestry Commission Practice Note 11.*
[22] Birks, J. (2012) Pine marten. In: Cresswell, W.J., Birks, J.D.S., Dean, M., Pacheco, M., Trewhella, W.J., Wells, D. and Wray, S. (2012). UK BAP Mammals: Interim Guidance for Survey Methodologies, Impact Assessment and Mitigation. The Mammal Society, Southampton

2.2.7 Mountain Hare

An assessment of habitats including vegetated boundaries, was undertaken according to guidance[23] to ascertain the suitability of the habitat to host mountain hare including:

- Direct sightings;
- Suitable habitat: upland, heather moorland, conifer plantations and grasslands.
- Forms (resting places): typically beside a tuft of grass or rushes or a shallow scrape in soil, on a gentle slope with a good view ahead; and
- Droppings: hard round or slightly flattened pellets, about 1cm across, usually straw to mid brown coloured, scattered in small quantities or singular.

2.2.8 Deer

A site search for field evidence of deer, specifically red deer (*Cervus elaphus*) and roe deer (*Capreolus capreolus*), activity was undertaken. Evidence of deer presence typically includes:

- Deer droppings (small, dark, round pellets left in piles, with no obvious smell);
- Deer tracks (hoof prints “slots” in soft ground, and well-worn paths);
- Tree damage (males mark territories and shed velvet by rubbing antlers on young trees in particular);
- Hair (when deer moult out their winter coat clumps of hair can be found);
- Signs of foraging (e.g. browsing of trees); and
- Antlers (deer typically cast their antlers in the autumn).

2.2.9 Reptiles

A search of habitats for reptiles was undertaken in accordance with the criteria set out by Amphibian and Reptile Conservation[24]. This considers habitat type, basking and foraging opportunities, and linkages to other areas of potential reptile habitat as well as direct observations. The quality of the reptile habitat was assessed using the following criteria:

- High – Suitable vegetation cover offering foraging opportunities, basking sites and a variety of refugia. Good linkages with other areas of reptile habitat. For example semi-improved grassland with areas of dense continuous scrub.
- Moderate – Some suitable vegetation cover offering foraging opportunities, basking sites and refugia. Limited linkages to other areas of suitable reptile habitat. For example dense continuous scrub surrounded by short, improved grassland.
- Low – Unsuitable vegetation cover with no linkages to other areas of suitable reptile habitat. For example dense mature conifer plantation, closely mown amenity grassland.

In addition, direct sightings of reptiles, and features that offer suitable hibernation refugia (e.g. dry stone walls, vegetated stone piles containing cavities etc.) were recorded.

[23] J. D. S. Birks *et al*. (2012). UK BAP Mammals Interim Guidance for Survey. Methodologies, Impact Assessment and Mitigation. The Mammal Society
[24] Edgar, P., Foster, J. and Baker, J. (2010). *Reptile Habitat Management Handbook*. Amphibian and Reptile Conservation, Bournemouth

2.2.10 Amphibians

Guidance[25,26] was used to identify direct field evidence of amphibians and to appraise the suitability of the habitats for amphibians as follows:

- Direct sightings of toads, frog and newts (including spawn, tadpoles and adults);
- Suitable aquatic habitat: medium (10 – 100m^2) or large (> 100m^2) pools/ponds/lochs, on or within 500m of the site; and
- Suitable terrestrial habitat: lightly grazed pasture, scrub, open woodland, gardens and moors.

2.2.11 Invertebrates

Further detail regarding desk study invertebrate records, habitat assessment, and the methods and results of further targeted invertebrate surveys are detailed in the Odonata Survey Report[27] and Invertebrate Walkover Report[28].

2.2.12 Invasive Non-Native Species

The survey included recording the presence of any invasive non-native species (INNS) found on site, including but not limited to the following:

- Japanese knotweed (*Reynoutria japonica*);
- Giant hogweed (*Heracleum mantegazzianum*); *and*
- Himalayan balsam (*Impatiens glandulifera*).

2.3 Constraints

2.3.1 Desk Study

Desk studies are limited by the reliability of third-party information and the geographical availability of biological and/or ecological records and data. This emphasises the need to collate up-to-date, site-specific data based on field surveys by experienced surveyors. The absence of a species from biological records cannot be taken to represent actual absence. Species distribution patterns should be interpreted with caution as they may reflect survey/reporting effort rather than actual distribution.

2.4 Evaluation of Ecological Features

European, national and local governments and specialist organisations have together identified a large number of sites, habitats and species that provide the key focus for biodiversity conservation in the UK and Ireland, supported by policy and legislation. These provide an objective starting point for identifying the important ecological features that need to be considered. A geographical level of importance, as described in Appendices C has been assigned to the designated sites, habitats and species identified on the site and in the survey area. Where a feature is important at more than one level in the table, its overriding importance is that of the highest level. Usually only the highest level of legal protection is listed.

[25] McInerny, C. & Minting, P. (2016) *The Amphibians and Reptiles of Scotland.*
[26] Beebee TJC, Griffiths RA (2000) *Amphibians and reptiles*. HarperCollins, vol 270. New Naturalist, London
[27] ECRPT 14560 Fearna Pumped Storage Scheme Odonata Survey Report. EnviroCentre 2024.
[28] ECRPT 14568 Fearna Pumped Storage Scheme Invertebrate Walkover Report. EnviroCentre 2024.

3 RESULTS

The Ecological Constraints Plans can be found in Appendix A.

3.1 Desk Study

3.1.1 Statutory Designated Sites

No statutory designated sites are located within the SAR.

Four statutory designated sites are present within a 5km area[29] from the SAR, as detailed in Table 3-1 below.

Table 3-1: Statutory Designated Sites

Site Name	Designation[30]	Distance and Orientation	Designated Features	Level of Importance
Garry Falls	SSSI	0.37 km north	Upland mixed ash woodland, bryophyte assemblages	National (UK)
West Inverness-Shire Lochs	SSSI, SPA	0.66 km north	Black-Throated Diver (*Gavia arctica*), breeding and Common Scoter (*Melanitta nigra*), breeding	International
South Laggan Fens	SSSI	3km south-east	Transition open fen habitat	National (UK)

The Garry Falls SSSI and Western Inverness-shire Lochs SSSI/SPA (specifically the Loch Garry component) are all hydrologically connected to the site through the River Garry, with further terrestrial connectivity to these designated sites through the habitat mosaic of woodland and heathland habitats that comprise the survey area and wider locale. The hydrological connection between the SAR and South Laggan Fens SSSI is approx. 8.4km and therefore based on this distance, whilst connectivity is present, a pathway for potential impacts is unlikely.

3.1.2 Non-Statutory Designated Sites

No non-statutory designated sites are located within the SAR or within 5km of the SAR.

3.2 Field Survey

3.2.1 Disclaimer

Faunal species are transient and can move between favoured habitats regularly throughout and between years. This survey provides a snapshot of field signs present in the survey area in May and June 2024.

[29] Quoich Spillway SSSI was excluded based on the designated features being of geological as oppose to ecological interest.
[30] Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI); Special Protection Area (SPA)

3.2.2 Bats

Further detail regarding desk study bat records and identified features, including buildings, structures, and trees, suitable to support roosting bats, as well as the suitability of habitats within the survey for foraging and commuting bats, is provided in the Bat Activity Survey Report[12].

3.2.3 Otter

Further detail regarding desk study otter records, identified field evidence, and assessed habitat suitability across the SAR survey area is provided in the Otter Monitoring Report[13].

3.2.4 Water Vole

No record of water vole were returned from the desk study. One record of INNS American mink (*Neovison vison*) was returned via NBN Atlas, recorded by the Scottish Mink Initiative in 2014 along the River Garry, at the eastern extent of the SAR.

During the site visit and targeted monitoring, two sightings of American mink were identified via camera monitoring of the River Garry, at the eastern extent of the SAR, in August 2024. Evidence of water vole activity was recorded during the site visits, with a direct sighting of a water vole and identification of a potential burrow along the unnamed watercourse that connects Lochan an Staic to Allt Choire a' Bhalachain, adjacent to the proposed site compound area. The recordings of American mink were over 15km away from the location of identified water vole field evidence; however, both sites are connected hydrologically through the River Garry and Allt choir a' Bhalachain.

The River Garry and larger adjoining tributaries are considered to be predominantly unsuitable for water vole given the size and velocity of these watercourses, and the rocky substrate of the associated channel and banks which do not provide the soft, steep banking required for water vole burrowing. The smaller tertiary tributaries of Allt Choire a' Bhalachain do however provide optimal opportunities for water vole. This is predominantly identified where the flow through softer peaty substrates and tall grass-dominated habitats provide a greater degree of burrowing and foraging suitability, particularly where the watercourses have undercut the peat to create steep banking and deeper channels. The surrounding riparian habitats further provide foraging resources, particularly across areas of rush-dominated heathland.

As such, based on the identified field signs and available suitable burrowing habitat for water vole, this species is considered to be active within localised points of the survey area.

Water voles are partially protected under Schedule 5 of the WCA and are of National (UK) importance.

3.2.5 Badger

No recent records of badger were returned from the desk study, and no field signs of this species were identified during the site visit. Badger have a sporadic distribution in the Scottish Highlands, with populations concentrated at lower altitudes and associated with landscapes typically dominated by farming. However, evidence of badger has still been identified in the wider locale of the SAR, with sett features and signs of occupancy identified within the PSH survey area, approx. 3.4km west of the SAR as described in the previous corresponding report[31].

[31] ECRPT 13529 Loch Fearna Pumped Storage Protected, Notable and Invasive Non-Native Species Survey Report. November 2023.

The forestry plantation that dominates the woodland mosaic across the survey area is largely unsuitable for sett creation, based on the almost ubiquitous waterlogged ground conditions; however, some sett creation opportunities are present on drier, sloped ground within the upland birchwoods and native pinewoods to the south of Loch Garry.

The upland birchwoods present at plantation boundaries and along riparian corridors provide sub-optimal primary foraging resources for badger, with drier areas of native pinewoods, acid grassland and heathland provisioning further secondary foraging resources for this species.

These suitable habitats connect through to equivalent parcels in the wider locale, primarily through the forestry plantation that surrounds these habitats. These off-site plantation blocks are also considered to be sub-optimal commuting routes for badger, largely due to the presence of extensive clear-fell. However, these areas are still considered to be permeable for this species.

Badgers are protected under the Protection of Badgers Act 1992 and therefore are of National (UK) importance.

3.2.6 Red Squirrel

A total of 29 records of red squirrel were returned via NBN Atlas, identified between 2017 to 2023 by a number of local recorders contributing to the Scottish Squirrel Database. Records are largely concentrated around the village of Invergarry as a result, as well as the adjoining woodlands at the eastern extent of the SAR, including within the survey area.

Evidence of squirrel was identified within these same on-site woodlands at the eastern extent of the SAR. Evidence was characterised by foraging signs, which based on the absence of grey squirrel (*Sciurus carolinensis*) in the locale was presumed to be from red squirrel. An individual red squirrel was also recorded within the woodland along the River Garry at the eastern extent of the SAR as part of targeted camera monitoring in August 2024.

The woodland mosaic present across the proposed route survey area is largely dominated by rotational forestry plantation, comprising young to early-mature Sitka spruce, lodgepole pine, and Scot's pine, with parcels of native semi-natural woodlands at plantation boundaries and along riparian corridors. The cone-producing trees that comprise the areas of forestry plantation of a greater maturity, as well as the parcels of mature to ancient native pinewoods, provide an abundance of foraging resources for red squirrel in the locale. Opportunities for drey creation and associated breeding are also present within these habitats, extending into the broadleaf woodlands where component mature trees are present along riparian corridors.

Based on the rotational management of the forestry plantations throughout the route survey area, the woodland mosaic and associated parcels of suitable habitat are largely fragmented, restricting dispersal of red squirrel throughout the locale. The open heathland that dominates the western extent of the SAR is of negligible suitability for red squirrel due to the absence of connected tree cover.

Red squirrel are protected under Schedule 5 of the WCA and are therefore considered to be of National (UK) importance.

3.2.7 Pine Marten

A total of eight records of pine marten were returned from the desk study via NBN Atlas, with the closest record identified in 2015 within the woodlands at the western extent of the SAR, outwith the SAR survey area. Further evidence of pine marten activity was recorded during the site visits, with a

direct sighting of an individual within the woodlands to the south of Loch Garry, as well as a total of nine scats identified across all large woodland parcels, inclusive of both native woodlands and non-native forestry, intersected by the SAR.

Whilst the woodland mosaic that extends across the proposed route survey area is dominated by sub-optimal forestry plantation, the extensive coverage and structure of these plantation blocks in combination with the adjoining semi-natural woodlands and surrounding heathland are likely to provide abundant foraging resources, including small mammals and birds, as well as fruit, notably blaeberry (*Vaccinium myrtillis*) and rowan (*Sorbus aucuparia*). As a species that requires suitable cavities for breeding, the availability of these features, specifically within veteran trees and rocky outcrops, is likely to be a limiting factor for pine marten, based on the lack of abundance of these features within the forestry plantations and open heathland that dominate the survey area.

As within red squirrel, the fragmentation of these woodlands, due to the rotational forestry management and associated expansive clear-fell, is likely to restrict commuting and dispersal of pine marten. However, as evidence of this species was identified throughout the survey area within each large, isolated woodland parcel, this would suggest that pine marten present in the locale are successfully able to disperse across these open environments.

Pine marten are a Schedule 5 species listed under the WCA and are therefore considered to be of National (UK) importance.

3.2.8 Mountain Hare

No records of mountain hare were returned from the desk study and no field evidence of mountain hare was identified during the survey

The upland heathland mosaic, comprising wet heath, dry heath, and bog habitats, in combination with tall-sward acid grasslands provides a high degree of suitability for this species, with abundant foraging resources, and sheltering opportunities present. These features are particularly present across the western extent of the SAR survey area. Parcels of rank heather and grasslands in particular also offer suitable dense cover for breeding and associated concealment of leverets.

Suitable habitats within the survey area are well-connected to the expansive heathlands throughout the wider landscape of this region.

Mountain hare are an SBL priority species and considered to be of National (Scotland) importance.

3.2.9 Deer

A total of 140 records of deer were returned via NBN Atlas. All records were returned from 2015 as part of NatureScot's targeted feral pig camera monitoring throughout the forestry blocks surrounding the SAR to the south of Loch Garry. The records were inclusive of 122 red deer, 14 roe deer, and two sika deer (*Cervus nippon*). Further field evidence of deer was noted throughout the SAR survey area, including direct sightings of small foraging groups of red deer as well as droppings within the open heathland at the western extent of the SAR.

The grasslands, woodlands, and heathlands all provide suitable foraging, commuting, and sheltering habitats for deer, with these habitats extending out into the wider landscape to provide extensive opportunities for these species.

Whilst all deer species in Scotland are partially protected by the Deer (Scotland) Act 1996, which stipulates seasonal regulations around stalking of associated species. Based on the extensive over-abundance of deer throughout the Highlands, over-browsing can present a significant threat to the regeneration and longevity of woodland habitats where existing grazing exclosure is not in place. As such, deer can be of Negative value to the site; however, where controls are in place, inclusive of targeted culling and appropriate grazing exclosure, these species can be of Site level importance.

3.2.10 Reptiles

One record of common lizard (*Zootoca vivipara*) was returned via NBN Atlas, identified in 2016 by a local recorder and provided by Amphibian and Reptile Conservation (ARC). An individual slow worm (*Anguis fragilis*) was sighted during the field surveys along the existing forestry track at NN 17691 99542, within an area of conifer regen at the boundaries of an old clear-fell block.

The upland heathland mosaic, comprising wet heaths, dry heaths, and bog habitats, in combination with areas of open acid grasslands and woodland edge/regen, provide extensive suitable foraging and commuting resources for reptiles, with the scattered rocky outcrop and scree habitats throughout this mosaic providing basking and sheltering opportunities, including for hibernation.

As such, with reference to the methods, these habitats were assessed as High quality: "*Suitable vegetation cover offering foraging opportunities, basking sites, and a variety of refugia. Good linkages with other areas of reptile habitat. For example, semi-improved grassland with areas of dense continuous scrub".*

All reptile species found in Scotland are listed on the SBL and are therefore of National (Scotland) importance.

3.2.11 Amphibians

Two records of common frog (*Rana temporaria*) were returned from the desk study via HBRG, with the most recent record being from 2021. During the site visits, numerous records of terrestrial-phase common frog and common toad (*Bufo bufo*) were sighted throughout the SAR survey area, particularly within areas of wet heath and blanket bog in the western extent of the SAR. Furthermore, palmate newt (*Lissotriton helveticus*) were repeatedly identified within bog pools, ponds, and wet ditches across the heathland and forestry plantations, including along existing forestry tracks, during targeted Odonata surveys[27].

As evident, a high degree of habitat suitability is present throughout the access route survey area for amphibians, particularly across the heathland and woodland where bog pools, ponds, and wet ditches are a prevalent features, with resources to support breeding and hibernating populations present in the locale at all times of the year.

Common toads are listed on the SBL and are of National (Scotland) importance, with common frog, palmate newt, and smooth newt (*Lissotriton vulgaris*) partially protected under Schedule 5 of the WCA.

3.2.12 Invertebrates

Further detail regarding desk study invertebrate records, habitat assessment, and the methods and results of further targeted invertebrate surveys are detailed in the Odonata Survey Report[27] and Invertebrate Walkover Report[28].

3.2.13 Invasive Non-Native Species

Two records of INNS Rhododendron (*Rhododendron ponticum*) were returned from the desk study via NBN Atlas. Further areas of Rhododendron were recorded within the woodlands at the eastern extent of the proposed access route, where this species was a frequent component of the woodland understorey, particularly surrounding the existing access road and car park.

Records of INNS American mink are discussed in Section 3.2.5.

INNS are of Negative value to the site.

3.2.14 Additional Observations

Three Dipper (*Cinclus Cinclus*) nests were identified beneath Bridges E and F during assessment of these structures, with one of these nests confirmed to be active at the time of site visit, based on the observation of an individual adult entering and leaving the nest site.

APPENDICES

A SUMMARY OF PROTECTED SPECIES LEGISLATION

Invasive Non-Native Species (Plants)

Under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) it is an offence to plant, or otherwise cause to grow, any plant in the wild at a location outside its native range.

'Native range' is defined in the 1981 Act as, "*the locality to which the animal or plant of that type is indigenous and does not refer to any locality to which that type of animal or plant has been imported (whether intentionally or otherwise) by any person*".

The Scottish Governments Non-natives Code of Practice[32] defines '*in the wild*'. Just about everywhere is wild except for:

- arable and horticultural land;
- improved pasture;
- settlements; and
- private and public gardens.

In exceptional circumstances it may be possible to obtain a licence from NatureScot to permit the above offence.

Badger

Badgers are protected under the Protection of Badgers Act (1992) (as amended). Offences under the Act include:

- wilfully taking, injuring or killing a badger;
- cruelty to a badger;
- intentional or reckless interference with a badger sett;
- sale or possession of a badger; and
- marking or ringing of a badger.

Interfering with a badger sett includes:

- damaging or destroying a sett or any part of it;
- obstructing access to a sett;
- disturbing a badger while it is in a sett; and
- causing or allowing a dog to enter a badger sett.

Where an offence is committed the individual (as well as the body corporate, Scottish partnership or, as the case may be, unincorporated association) is guilty of the offence and is liable to be proceeded against and punished accordingly.

Licences can only permit someone to 'interfere' with a badger sett for the purpose of development. A licence cannot permit the removal, translocation or killing of badgers for the purpose of development.

Interference primarily means anything that might:

[32] https://www.gov.scot/publications/non-native-species-code-practice/ (Accessed September 2024)

- disturb any badger in a sett; and
- damage or block the tunnels that radiate from a sett's entrances.

Licences aren't generally issued during the breeding season (30 November to 1 July). Activities that necessarily involve disturbance should be scheduled to take place outside of this period.

Water Vole

Water voles are partially protected under Schedule 5, Part 4 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). It is an offence to 'intentionally or recklessly':

- damage, destroy or obstruct access to any structure or place which a water vole uses for shelter or protection; or to
- disturb a water vole while it is occupying a structure or place which it uses for that purpose.

Knowingly causing or permitting any of the above acts to be carried out is also an offence.

In some cases licenses may be issued by NatureScot to enable certain otherwise illegal activities to take place for social, economic or environmental reasons (including development) as long as:

- the licensed activity will contribute to significant social, economic or environmental benefit;
- there is no satisfactory alternative; and
- there will be no significant negative impact on the conservation status of the species.

Mountain Hare

Mountain hares are partially protected under Schedule 5A of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). This makes it an offence to intentionally or recklessly kill, injure or take an individual within the closed season. The closed season for brown hare is 1st of February to 30th of September.

Red Squirrel and Pine Marten

Red Squirrel and Pine Marten are protected under Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). Subject to certain exceptions, it is an offence to intentionally or recklessly:

- kill, injure or take (capture) an individual;
- damage, destroy or obstruct access to any structure or place which they use for shelter or protection;
- disturb an individual while it is occupying a structure or place which it uses for that purpose; or to
- possess or control, sell, offer for sale or possess or transport for the purpose of sale any live or dead animal or any derivative of such an animal.

Knowingly causing or permitting any of the above acts to be carried out is also an offence.

In some cases licences may be issued by NatureScot to enable certain otherwise illegal activities to take place for social, economic or environmental reasons (including development) as long as:

- the licensed activity will contribute to significant social, economic or environmental benefit;
- there is no satisfactory alternative; and
- there will be no significant negative impact on the conservation status of the species.

Deer

All four deer species found in Scotland – red, roe, fallow, and sika – are protected under the Deer (Scotland) Act 1996, which sets out the following:

- when, where, how and by whom deer can be taken or killed
- the dates of the open and closed seasons – during which the killing of deer is either permitted or prohibited.

Offences against deer include:

- killing deer by any means other than shooting
- shooting deer during close seasons
- using any type of gun and/or ammunition to shoot deer other than those specified for this purpose.

Reptile

Common lizard (*Zootoca vivipara*)/slow worm (*Anguis fragilis*)/adder (*Vipera berus*) are partially protected under Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). Under the legislation you are not permitted to intentionally or recklessly permit or cause the killing and injury of individuals.

Licences permitting otherwise unlawful acts in relation to the above are not available for development purposes.

Amphibian

All amphibian species found naturally in Scotland are given limited protection under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).

These are the:

- common frog (*Rana temporaria*);
- common toad (*Bufo bufo*);
- palmate newt (*Lissotriton helveticus*); *and*
- smooth newt (*Lissotriton vulgaris*).

For any of these species, it is an offence to deliberately or recklessly:

- capture, injure or kill a wild animal.
- disturb an animal while using any structure or place it uses for shelter or protection – e.g. breeding pond, hibernation site.
- obstruct access to a breeding site or resting place of an animal, or otherwise deny the animal use of that site.
- disturb an animal in a manner or in circumstances likely to significantly affect the local distribution or abundance of the species.
- disturb an animal in a manner or in circumstances likely to impair its ability to survive, breed or reproduce, or rear or otherwise care for its young.

It’s also an offence to:

- damage or destroy a breeding site or resting place of any such animal (whether or not deliberately or recklessly).

- keep, transport, sell or exchange, or offer for sale or exchange any such animal (or any part or derivative of one) obtained after May 1994.

Invertebrates

Specific invertebrate species, including the marsh fritillary (*Euphydryas aurinia*), chequered skipper (*Carterocephalus palaemon*), Duke of Burgundy fritillary (*Hamearis lucina*), large heath (*Coenonympha tullia*), mountain ringlet (*Erebia epiphron*), Northern brown argus (*Aricia artaxerxes*), pearl-bordered fritillary (*Boloria Euphrosyne*), small blue (*Cupido minimus*), and New Forest burnet (*Zygaena viciae*), are protected under Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).

For these fully protected Schedule 5 species, it is an offence to intentionally or recklessly:

- Kill, injure, or take a protected invertebrate;
- damage, destroy or obstruct access to any structure or place which such an invertebrate uses for shelter or protection; and
- disturb such an invertebrate when it is occupying a structure or place for shelter or protection.

Furthermore, it is an offence to:

- Possess or control a living or dead Schedule 5 invertebrate; and
- sell, offer for sale, or possess or transport for the purpose of sale any living or dead Schedule 5 invertebrate (or any such derivatives).

Knowingly causing or permitting any of the above acts to be carried out is also an offence.

In some cases licences may be issued by NatureScot to enable certain otherwise illegal activities to take place for social, economic or environmental reasons (including development) as long as:

- the licensed activity will contribute to significant social, economic or environmental benefit;
- there is no satisfactory alternative; and
- there will be no significant negative impact on the conservation status of the species.

B GEOGRAPHICAL LEVEL OF IMPORTANCE OF ECOLOGICAL FEATURES

Level of Importance	Sites	Habitats	Species
International	Designated, candidate or proposed Special Areas of Conservation, Special Protection Areas and Ramsar sites; UNESCO (Ecological) World Heritage Sites; UNESCO Biosphere Reserves; Biogenetic Reserves.	A viable area of habitat included in Annex I of the EC Habitats Directive; a habitat area that is critical for a part of the life cycle of an internationally important species.	A European Protected Species; an IUCN Red Data Book species that is globally Vulnerable, Endangered or Critically Endangered; a Category A internationally important bryophyte assemblage[33].
National (UK)	Sites of Special Scientific Interest/Areas of Special Scientific Interest; National Nature Reserves; Nature Conservation Review Sites; Marine Conservation Zones (UK offshore).	An area of habitat fulfilling the criteria for designation as an SSSI/ASSI or MCZ; a habitat area that is critical for a part of the life cycle of a nationally important species.	An IUCN Red Data Book species that is Vulnerable, Endangered or Critically Endangered in the UK; a species that is Rare in the UK (<15 10km grid squares); a Schedule 5[34] (animal) or Schedule 8 (plant) species included in the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981; any species protected under national (UK) legislation where there is the potential for a breach of the legislation; a Category A nationally important bryophyte assemblage[35]; a species that is Vulnerable, Endangered or Critically Endangered in The Vascular Plant Red Data List for Great Britain[36].
National (England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland)	National Parks (England, Scotland, Wales); Natural Heritage Areas (Ireland); Marine Conservation Zones (England and Wales inshore); Marine Protected Areas (Scotland offshore); Marine Consultation Areas (Scotland); Marine Nature Reserves (Wales, Northern Ireland); Sensitive Marine	Habitats of principal importance for biodiversity in the relevant countries[37], including; Scottish Biodiversity List (SBL) Priority Habitats, Priority Marine Features (PMFs)[38] and ancient woodland (Scotland); Habitats of Principal Importance for Conservation (England);	Species of principal importance for biodiversity in the relevant countries[39], including;SBL Priority Species and PMFs (Scotland); Species of Principal Importance for Conservation (England); Section 7 list of Species of Principal Importance for Conservation (Wales); NI

[33] Averis, A.B.G, Genney, D.R, Hodgetts, N.G, Rothero, G.P. & Bainbridge, I.P. 2012. Bryological assessment for hydroelectric schemes in the west highlands – 2nd edition. Scottish Natural Heritage Commissioned Report No. 449b
[34] https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1981/69/schedule/5/enacted
[35] Averis, A.B.G, Genney, D.R, Hodgetts, N.G, Rothero, G.P. & Bainbridge, I.P. 2012. Bryological assessment for hydroelectric schemes in the west highlands – 2nd edition. Scottish Natural Heritage Commissioned Report No. 449b
[36] Cheffings, C.M. & Farrell, L. (eds), Dines, T.D., Jones, R.A., Leach, S.J., McKean, D.R., Pearman, D.A., Preston, C.D., Rumsey, F.J., Taylor, I. (2005) *The Vascular Plant Red Data List for Great Britain. Species Status No. 7*. JNCC, Peterborough. Available at: https://hub.jncc.gov.uk/assets/cc1e96f8-b105-4dd0-bd87-4a4f60449907 (Accessed, April 2024)
[37] These are all the habitats that were identified as requiring action in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan and continue to be regarded as conservation priorities in the subsequent UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework, including any additions.
[38] In July 2014, Scottish Ministers adopted a list of 81 priority marine features (PMFs) – many of which are features characteristic of the Scottish marine environment. Most are on other conservation status lists so may be valued higher than this.
[39] These are all the species that were identified as requiring action in the UKBAP and continue to be regarded as conservation priorities in the subsequent UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework, including any additions.

Level of Importance	Sites	Habitats	Species
	Areas (England); Heritage Coasts (England and Wales).	Section 7 list of Habitats of Principal Importance for Conservation (Wales); Northern Ireland (NI) Priority Habitats (NI).	Priority Species (NI) .
Regional	Regional Parks (Scotland).	Regional Local Biodiversity Action Plan habitats noted as requiring protection.	A species that is Nationally Scarce in the UK (present in 16-100 10km grid squares); a species that is included in the Regional LBAP; an assemblage of regionally scarce species.
County / Metropolitan	Local Nature Reserves; Wildlife Trust Reserves (England and Wales); Woodland Trust Sites; Royal Society for the Protection of Birds Sites; Local Wildlife Sites (Scotland).	County LBAP habitats noted as requiring protection.	A species that is included in the County LBAP; an assemblage of species that are scarce at the county level.
Local		Semi-natural habitats that are unique or important in the local area.	Species as defined by Local Authority lists (if available).
Site		Common and widespread habitats not covered above.	Common and widespread species not covered above.
Negative			An Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS) as defined by the GB Non-Native Species Secretariat (NNSS) and supported by the GB Invasive Non-native Species Strategy (2015); legally controlled species under Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended by the relevant country legislation).

C ECOLOGICAL CONSTRAINTS PLAN

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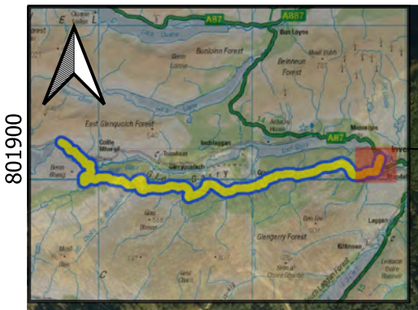

INNS Rhododendron

INNS Rhododendron

Bridge A

Otter spraint

Otter spraint

Red squirrel sighting

PRF Tree

Red squirrel foraging signs

PRF Tree

Red squirrel foraging signs

Imagery Source: Bing Maps. Image courtesy of Ordnance Survey © 2023 TomTom

Legend

Site Boundary
- 50m Buffer - SAR
- 250m Buffer - SAR

Protected Species
- Otter spraint
- PRF Tree
- Red squirrel foraging signs
- Bridge A
- INNS Rhododendron
- Red squirrel sighting

Do not scale this map

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Project
Fearna PSH - Southern Access Road

Title
Protected Species Survey Results Plan

Status
FINAL

Drawing No.	Revision	Date
678092-GIS014	-	03 Sept 2024
Drawn	**Checked**	**Approved**
LC/BB	SD	SD

Scale
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Rev	Date	Amendment	Initials
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225500

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Pine marten scats (x5)

PRF Tree

Red squirrel foraging signs

Common frog sighting

Imagery Source: Bing Maps. Image courtesy of Ordnance Survey © 2023 TomTom

Legend

Site Boundary

- 50m Buffer - SAR
- 250m Buffer - SAR

Protected Species

- PRF Tree
- Red squirrel foraging signs
- Pine marten scats (x5)
- Common frog sighting

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Reptile hibernacula

Pine marten sighting

Bridge B

Shed with PRFs

Imagery Source: Bing Maps. Image courtesy of Ordnance Survey © 2023 TomTom

222200

223300

Legend

Site Boundary

50m Buffer - SAR

250m Buffer - SAR

Protected Species

Pine marten sighting

Bridge B

Shed with PRFs

Reptile hibernacula

Do not scale this map

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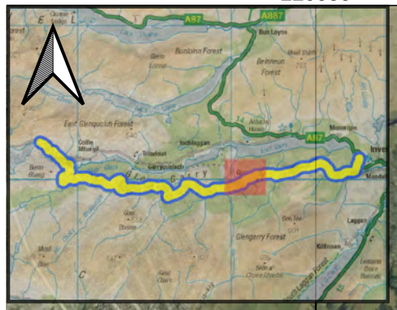

Reptile hibernacula

Pine marten sighting

Bridge C

799700 799700

220000 221100 222200

Imagery Source: Bing Maps. Image courtesy of Ordnance Survey © 2023 TomTom

Legend

Site Boundary
- 50m Buffer - SAR
- 250m Buffer - SAR

Protected Species
- Pine marten sighting
- Bridge C
- Reptile hibernacula

Do not scale this map

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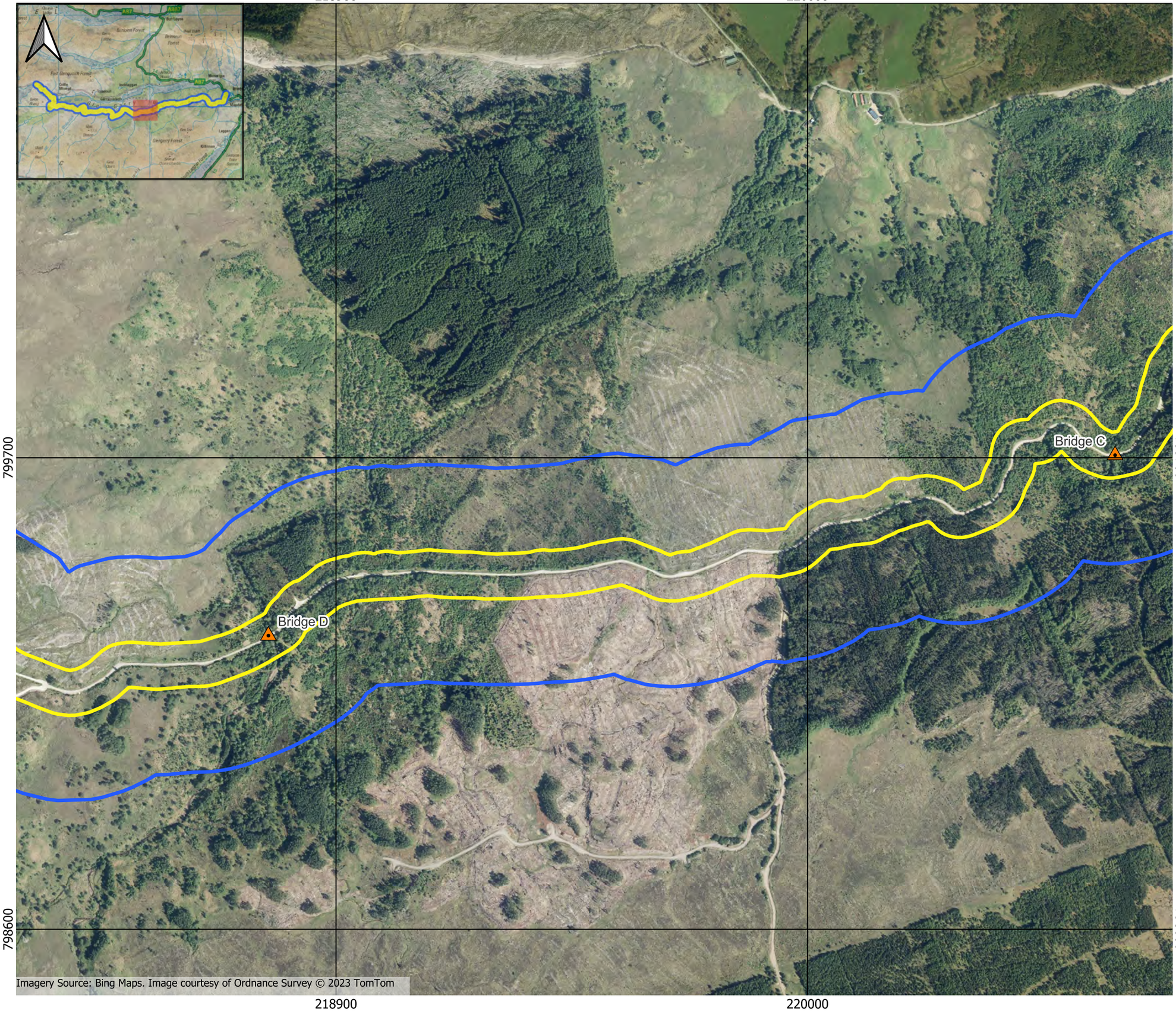

Legend

Site Boundary
- 50m Buffer - SAR
- 250m Buffer - SAR

Protected Species
- Bridge C
- Bridge D

Do not scale this map

Client
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Project
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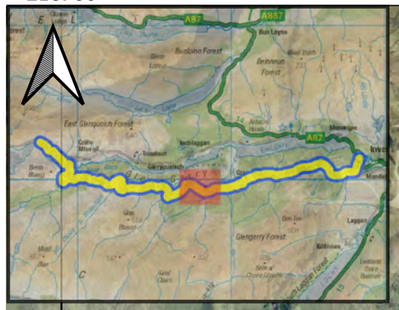

Slow worm sighting

Bridge D

Imagery Source: Bing Maps. Image courtesy of Ordnance Survey © 2023 TomTom

Legend

Site Boundary

- 50m Buffer - SAR
- 250m Buffer - SAR

Protected Species

- Slow worm sighting
- Bridge D

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215600

216700

799700

798600

PRF Tree
PRF Tree
PRF Tree
PRF Tree
PRF Tree
PRF Tree
Pine marten scats (x2)
Dipper nest
Bridge E

Imagery Source: Bing Maps. Image courtesy of Ordnance Survey © 2023 TomTom

Legend

Site Boundary
- 50m Buffer - SAR
- 250m Buffer - SAR

Protected Species
- PRF Tree
- Pine marten scat (x2)
- Bridge E
- Dipper nest

Do not scale this map

Client
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Drawing No.	Revision	Date
678092-GIS014	-	03 Sept 2024
Drawn	**Checked**	**Approved**
LC/BB	SD	SD

Scale
1:8,500 @ A3

Rev	Date	Amendment	Initials
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211200

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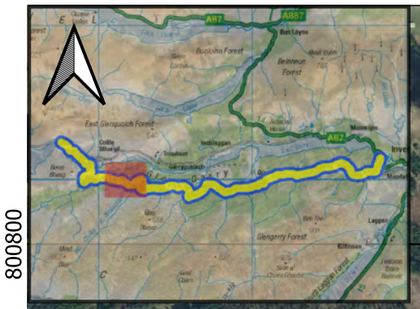

Otter spraint

Otter spraint

Otter spraint

Bridge F

Otter spraint

Dipper nest

Otter spraint

Otter spraint

Potential WV burrow

Water vole sighting

Suitable WV Habitat

Suitable WV Habitat

Imagery Source: Bing Maps. Image courtesy of Ordnance Survey © 2023 TomTom

Legend

Site Boundary

- 50m Buffer - SAR
- 250m Buffer - SAR

Protected Species

- Otter spraint
- Potential WV burrow
- Suitable WV Habitat
- Water vole sighting
- Bridge F
- Common toad sighting
- Dipper nest

Do not scale this map

Client
Fearna PSH Ltd.

Project
Fearna PSH - Southern Access Road

Title
Protected Species Survey Results Plan

Status
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ReptileHibernacula

Potential otter holt

Pine marten scat

Otter spraint

Pine marten scat

Bridge G

Imagery Source: Bing Maps. Image courtesy of Ordnance Survey © 2023 TomTom

Legend

Site Boundary
- 50m Buffer - SAR
- 250m Buffer - SAR

Protected Species
- Otter spraint
- Potential otter holt
- Pine marten scat
- Bridge G
- Reptile hibernacula

Do not scale this map

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PRF Tree

Reptile hibernacula

Potential otter holt

Pine marten scat

Pine marten scat

Bridge G

Imagery Source: Bing Maps. Image courtesy of Ordnance Survey © 2023 TomTom

Legend

Site Boundary

- 50m Buffer - SAR
- 250m Buffer - SAR

Protected Species

- Potential otter holt
- PRF Tree
- Pine marten scat
- Bridge G
- Reptile hibernacula

Do not scale this map

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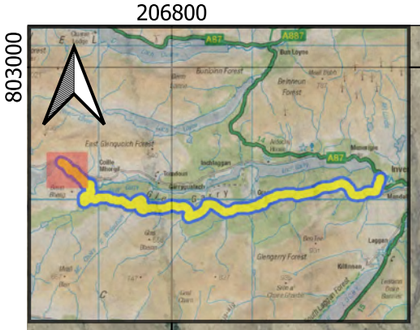

Reptile hibernacula

PRF Tree

Reptile hibernacula

Reptile hibernacula

Imagery Source: Bing Maps. Image courtesy of Ordnance Survey © 2023 TomTom

Legend

Site Boundary
- 50m Buffer - SAR
- 250m Buffer - SAR

Protected Species
- PRF Tree
- Reptile hibernacula

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