

FEARNA STORAGE

Fearna Pumped Storage Hydro Scheme EIA Report

Appendix 8.3 – Otter Survey & Monitoring Report

February 2025



Quality Information

Prepared by

Envirocentre

Checked by

Chris Pasteur

Approved by

Fraser Allison

Revision History

Revision

01

Revision Date

February 2025

Details

Issue to ECU

Authorised

Fraser Allison

© 2025 Envirocentre Ltd. All Rights Reserved

Fearna Pumped Storage Scheme Southern Access Route Otter Assessment and Monitoring Report



October 2024

CONTROL SHEET

Client: Fearna PSH Ltd
Project Title: Fearna Pumped Storage Scheme
Report Title: Southern Access Route Otter Assessment and Monitoring Report
Document number: 14688
Project number: 678092

Issue Record

Issue	Status	Author	Reviewer	Approver	Issue Date
1	FINAL	FM	SD	AS	23 OCT 2024
2	R1	-	-	SD	20 JAN 2025

EnviroCentre Limited Office Locations:

Glasgow

Edinburgh

Inverness

Banchory

Registered Office: Craighall Business Park 8 Eagle Street Glasgow G4 9XA

Tel 0141 341 5040 info@envirocentre.co.uk www.envirocentre.co.uk

This report has been prepared by EnviroCentre Limited with all reasonable skill and care, within the terms of the Contract with Fearna PSH Ltd ("the Client"). EnviroCentre Limited accepts no responsibility of whatever nature to third parties to whom this report may be made known.

No part of this document may be altered without the prior written approval of EnviroCentre Limited.

EnviroCentre Limited is registered in Scotland under no. SC161777.

VAT no. GB 348 6770 57.



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

EnviroCentre Limited was commissioned by Fearna PSH Ltd to undertake an assessment of watercourses and associated habitats within the survey area for otter (*Lutra lutra*) of the proposed Southern Access Route (SAR) of the Loch Fearna Pumped Storage Hydro (PSH), near Invergarry, as part of wider protected species surveys. Following this assessment, targeted monitoring of a potential holt site was conducted to determine occupancy and inform any appropriate mitigation and licensing requirements.

Otter monitoring via camera trapping was conducted over a three-week period in August 2024, following the discovery of three otter spraints and a potential otter holt feature alongside the River Garry, approximately 20 meters from the proposed SAR. No further evidence of otter was identified, and no otters were observed on the camera traps entering or exiting the potential holt feature. Activity by American mink was observed in the area and a mink was seen entering and exiting the potential holt.

The presence of otter spraints indicates that otters are likely utilising the area; however, the lack of further evidence or otter sightings suggests it is unlikely that otters are currently occupying the identified potential holt feature. Yearly monitoring of the watercourse and the holt feature is recommended.

Contents

Executive Summaryi

1 Introduction 1

1.1 Terms of Reference 1

1.2 Scope of Report 1

1.3 Survey Area Description 1

1.4 Project Description 2

1.5 Legislation, Policy & Guidance 2

1.6 Report Usage 2

2 Methods..... 4

2.1 Field Survey..... 4

2.2 Holt Monitoring..... 5

2.3 Constraints..... 6

3 Results 7

3.1 Disclaimer 7

3.2 Habitat and Field Sign Assessment..... 7

3.3 Holt Monitoring..... 9

4 Further Survey, And Licencing 10

Appendices

- A Otter Survey Plan
- B Summary of Relevant Legislation
- C Photographic Record

Tables

Table 2-1: Status of Otter Resting Sites 5

Table 3-1: Otter Field Evidence 8

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Terms of Reference

EnviroCentre Limited was commissioned by Fearna PSH Ltd to undertake an assessment of watercourses and associated habitats within the survey area for otter (*Lutra lutra*) of the proposed Southern Access Route (SAR) of the Loch Fearna Pumped Storage Hydro (PSH), near Invergarry, as part of wider protected species surveys. Following this assessment, targeted monitoring of a potential holt site was conducted to determine occupancy and inform any appropriate mitigation and licensing requirements.

The 'survey area' constitutes the linear route and site compound area of the 'SAR' plus appropriate buffers is depicted in the Otter Survey Plan in Appendix A.

The results and recommendations in this document relate to the site boundary as provided by the client at the time of the survey.

1.2 Scope of Report

The aim of the survey was to identify evidence for the presence of otters in the vicinity of the site boundary along the river Garry. The main objectives were as follows:

- Undertake a site survey to identify field signs of otter, and assess the suitability of habitats within and adjacent to the site in order to ascertain potential impacts.
- Monitor any potential otter holts with camera traps.
- Identify any further survey and licensing requirements.

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 Quoich 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 between two reservoirs, the lower Loch Quoich and the proposed upper reservoir comprising the exiting 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. To facilitate the development of the PSH, existing bridges across the River Garry will experience increased traffic and may require upgrading or removal, accordingly.

1.5 Legislation, Policy & Guidance

Legislation, planning policies, conservation initiatives and general guidance relevant to this study include:

- The Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994 (as amended).
- The Water Environment (Controlled Activities) (Scotland) Regulations 2011 (as amended);
- The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) (WCA).
- The Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004.
- The Wildlife and Natural Environment (Scotland) Act 2011 (WANE).
- National Planning Framework 4.
- Scottish Biodiversity Strategy to 2045.
- The British Standard for Biodiversity.
- The Highland-Wide Local Development Plan (HWLDP)¹ (2012).
- West Highland and Islands Local Development Plan (WHILDP)²
- Highland Nature Biodiversity Action Plan (HNBAP)³ (2021-2026).
- The Scottish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA) Water Environment Hub⁴ to identify the overall condition of waterbodies.
- The Adaptive Management of Barriers in European Rivers (AMBER) atlas⁵ to identify potential barriers to fish migration.

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

1.6 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.

¹ Highland Council (2012), Highland-wide Local Development Plan. Available at: https://www.highland.gov.uk/info/178/development_plans/199/highland-wide_local_development_plan (Accessed October 2024)

² Highland Council (2019), West Highland and Islands Local development Plan Available at: https://www.highland.gov.uk/downloads/file/21199/westplan_adopted_september_2019 (Accessed October 2024)

³ Highland Environment Forum (2021), Highland Nature – Biodiversity Action Plan. Available at: <https://www.highlandenvironmentforum.info/biodiversity/action-plan/> (Accessed October 2024).

⁴ Scottish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA) Water Environment Hub. Available at [Water Environment Hub \(sepa.org.uk\)](https://www.sepa.org.uk/water-environment-hub) (Accessed October 2024)

⁵ AMBER Barrier Atlas, Available at: <https://amber.international/barrier-atlas/> (Accessed October 2024)

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.

Whilst the Client has a right to use the information as appropriate, EnviroCentre Limited retains ownership of the copyright and intellectual content of this report. Any distribution of this report should be managed to avoid compromising the validity of the information or legal responsibilities held by both the Client and EnviroCentre Limited (including those of third-party copyright). EnviroCentre Limited does not accept liability to any third party for the contents of this report unless written agreement is secured in advance, stating the intended use of the information.

EnviroCentre Limited accepts no liability for use of the report for purposes other than those for which it was originally provided, or where EnviroCentre Limited has confirmed it is appropriate for the new context.

2 METHODS

2.1 Field Survey

An assessment of the watercourses and habitats within the survey area and their suitability for supporting otter was conducted in conjunction with wider protected species assessment between 13th and 17th of May and the 10th to 14th June 2024 by EnviroCentre Lead Senior Ecologist Steven Duncan (ACIEEM) (Otter monitoring licence no.: 270288), with support from Ecologists Billy Brook and Luigi Cristofaro, who are all members of the Chartered Institute of Ecologists and Environmental Managers (CIEEM).

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

The watercourses that were targeted included the River Garry as the primary river, and its tributaries, including Gearr Garry and River Kingie, which confluence at the Kingie Pool, flowing into Loch Poulary, which narrows into the River Garry further east. Further tributaries of the Garry that were assessed include Allt Choire a' Bhalachain and Allt Garaiddh Ghualaich, both downstream of Loch Poulary.

The otter assessment followed best practice guidelines⁶, and aimed to identify suitable otter habitat and field signs, including:

- Spraints (otter faeces/droppings used as territorial signposts. Often located in prominent positions and can be placed on deliberate piles of soil or sand). Three categories are used for describing otter spraint: Dried fragmented (Df); Dried intact (Di); and Not fully dry (Nd);
- Footprints.
- Feeding remains (can often be a useful indication of otter presence).
- Paths/slides (otter can often leave a distinctive path from and into the watercourse).
- Holts (underground shelter) are generally found:
 - Within trees roots at the edge of the bank of a river.
 - Within hollowed out trees.
 - In naturally formed holes in the riverbanks that can be easily extended.
 - Or preferably in ready-made holes created by other large mammals such as badger setts, rabbit burrows or outlet pipes.
- Couches/lay-ups (couches or lay-ups are places for lying up above ground are usually located near a watercourse, between rocks or boulders, under dense vegetation).

In order to assess their importance, the status of otter resting sites was assigned from Low to High according to Table 2-1 overleaf⁷.

⁶ Chanin, P. (2003). *Monitoring the Otter Lutra Lutra. Conserving Natura 2000 Rivers, Monitoring Series (No. 10)*. Peterborough: EN, CCW, EA, SEPA, SNH & SNIFFER.

⁷ Bassett, S., & Wynn, J. (2010). *Otters in Scotland: How Vulnerable Are They to Disturbance?* CIEEM In Practice, (70), 19–22.

Table 2-1: Status of Otter Resting Sites

Resting Site Status	Definition
Low	Feature with limited evidence of otter activity – low number of spraints, not all age classes present. Insufficient seclusion to be a breeding site or key resting site, unlikely to have links to the key otter requirements. Most likely to provide a temporary ‘stop off’ for otters when moving through their territory. Loss/disturbance of such a feature is unlikely to be significant in terms of the individual or population.
Moderate	Feature containing sprainting with a range of age classes, but not in significant quantities. Availability may be limited by season, tides or flow. Unlikely to be suitable as a breeding/natal site but will be a key resting site and may be linked to other important features within the territory. The impact arising from a loss or disturbance of such a feature will be determined by the availability of more suitable or well used sites within the otter’s territory.
High	Feature has a high level of otter activity, including an abundance of sprainting of all age classes, large spraint mounds, well used grooming hollows, paths and slides. Affords a high degree of cover and is linked to key features such as fresh water and abundance of prey. May be suitable as a breeding area (spraints may be absent from natal holts). The site is usually available at all times of year and at high and low tide/flow. The loss/disturbance of such a feature will often be considered significant in terms of the individual or population.

2.2 Holt Monitoring

Following the site assessment, and associated identification of all suitable habitat and recorded field signs, inclusive of two potential holt sites on the River Garry and Kingie Pool (further detailed in *Section 3*), further monitoring was conducted on only the River Garry holt site based on potential constraints presented to the proposed development.

The monitoring was undertaken by EnviroCentre Limited Ecologists Steven Duncan, Luigi Cristofaro, Alexandra Darling, and Finn Macfarlane over three-weeks between 6th and 29th August 2024. The weather conditions throughout the monitoring period were varied and ranged from days of intense precipitation to dry and sunny weather, with a minimum recorded temperature of 5°C and a maximum recorded temperature of 15°C.

The otter monitoring was undertaken in accordance with current guidelines for otter monitoring and camera trapping.

Two camera traps (model: USG Hunting Trail Camera) were deployed on site at NGR coordinates NH 28331 01113 at the location of the potential otter holt identified during wider protected species assessment, as detailed in *Section 3*. Both camera traps were placed on the same tree, one facing the potential holt and the other facing the River Garry and the adjacent riverbank. The following settings were utilised in order to maximise the ability of the cameras to capture evidence of otter:

- 5-seconds delay between motion imaging capture (minimal delay available for the model).
- Triple motion capture, allowing for three images being taken for each detected motion.
- Video capture.

Camera traps data was checked after a period of two-weeks and the camera traps were collected following the third week of monitoring. The surveys were designed using the guidelines endorsed by NatureScot and CIEEM^{8,9,10}.

Otter surveys involve covering the site and watercourses within the site, along with a 50m buffer around watercourses and the site boundary as the survey area.

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.

2.3.2 Field Study

Heavy rainfall or fluctuating water levels could wash away otter spraints or obscure field signs, affecting the accuracy of spraint identification and other field evidence.

Certain sections of habitat were difficult to access which could have limited the comprehensiveness of the survey, especially along dense or steep riparian zones where otter signs could be missed. Furthermore, dense vegetation along the riparian zone could have obscured signs of otter activity or made it difficult to detect spraints or other field evidence.

Only a single tree was located at the location of the potential holt in a position suitable for camera trap placement. However, the location of the tree was sub-optimal and did not allow for a clear view of the holt. However, wildlife activity was still captured, and it is considered unlikely that the camera trap would have missed activity by otter near the holt.

The presence of surveyors, particularly during camera trap setup and collection, could have caused temporary disturbance, potentially altering otter behaviour or deterring them from using the area during the monitoring period.

While the three-week monitoring period provided a snapshot of otter activity, longer-term monitoring would provide more comprehensive data on otter presence, particularly during different seasons when otters might behave differently.

⁸CIEEM PEA Guidelines available at:

https://www.cieem.net/data/files/Publications/Guidelines_for_Preliminary_Ecological_Appraisal_Jan2018_1.pdf

⁹ CIEEM (n.d.). General advice on surveys and methods. Retrieved from <https://cieem.net/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/CSS-OVERVIEW-April-2013.pdf>

¹⁰ CIEEM (2017). Guidelines for Ecological Report Writing. Retrieved from <https://cieem.net/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/Ecological-Report-Writing-Dec2017.pdf>

3 RESULTS

The Otter Survey Plan is shown in Appendix A and the Photographic Record is shown in Appendix C.

3.1 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, June, and August 2024.

3.2 Habitat and Field Sign Assessment

3.2.1 Desk Study

One record of otter was returned via HBRG, recorded in 2016 by Wild Surveys and comprising a spraint identified along the River Garry, outwith the survey area.

The closest statutory designated site with otter as a qualifying feature is Ness Woods SAC, situated approx. 11km north-east. Comprising the River Tarff and surrounding riparian woodland, this designated site is hydrologically connected to the River Garry through the River Oich, covering a distance along this hydrological network of approx. 19km.

3.2.2 Field Evidence

Locations of otter field evidence are depicted in the Otter Survey Plan within Appendix D with exact grid references provided in Table 3-1 below.

Evidence of otter activity was identified during the site visits, with a total of 13 otter spraints identified. The spraints were characterised as both dried intact (Di) and dried fragmented (Df) (Photo 1-2), with six spraints identified along Allt Choire a' Bhalachain, four at one location along the River Garry, two at the confluence of Gearr Garry, and a single spraint on Allt Lochan na Curra.

Two potential holt sites were also identified during the site visit. The first of which was identified along the River Garry, at the eastern extent of the SAR, and approx. 30m away from the existing access track. The feature was characterised as several large cavities within a rock face above the watercourse with four otter spraints, characterised as both Di and Df, identified at the entrance (Photo 3). The second potential holt site was identified at the confluence of Gearr Garry and the River Kingie, at the western extent of the SAR, approx. 165m away from the proposed new section of the SAR. This feature was characterised by a large cavity space within an isolated boulder feature situated above Kingie Pool, with two Df spraints identified at the cavity entrance (Photo 4).

Table 3-1: Otter Field Evidence

Target Note (East to West)	Otter Field Evidence	Description	Grid Reference
1	Potential holt	Identified along River Garry. Noted as a cavity feature within a rock face above the watercourse. Df/Di spraints identified at cavity entrance	NH 28312 01072
2	Spraint	Di spraint identified on moss hummock, less than 10m away from potential holt site on the River Garry	NH 28302 01069
3	Spraint	Di spraint identified on boulder within watercourse - Allt Choire a' Bhalachain.	NH 12951 00064
4	Spraint	Di spraint identified on boulder within watercourse - Allt Choire a' Bhalachain.	NH 12938 00061
5	Spraint	Di spraint identified on boulder within watercourse - Allt Choire a' Bhalachain.	NH 12916 00053
6	Spraint	Di spraint identified on boulder within watercourse - Allt Choire a' Bhalachain. Adjacent to proposed site compound.	NN 12624 99879
7	Spraint	Two Di spraints identified on boulder within watercourse Allt Choire a' Bhalachain. Adjacent to proposed site compound.	NN 12522 99712
8	Spraint	Di spraint identified on boulder within watercourse – Allt Lochan na Curra	NH 10654 00154
9	Potential holt	Identified above Kingie pool. Noted as a cavity feature within a free-standing boulder feature. Df spraints identified at cavity entrance.	NH 09653 00888

3.2.3 Habitat Suitability

As evident, all assessed watercourses provide a high degree of suitability for otter, extending from Loch Quoich in the west through to Loch Oich in the east and beyond. In addition to the evidence described above, the hydrological network across the site is known to support salmonids and other fish species, therefore maintaining a key prey source for otter. Where the river is bounded by broadleaf woodland and tall sward acid grasslands/heathlands, further prey sources for otter are likely to include small mammals, amphibians, and ground-nesting birds.

The woodlands that surround the River Garry at the eastern extent of the proposed route provide potential opportunities for further holt sites within notable cavities beneath tree buttresses, and further boulder features and associated cavities

Lochan an Staic, approx. 40m south-west of the existing access track and connecting through to Allt Choire a' Bhalachain, provides further foraging and resting opportunities for otter. Whilst no potential holt sites or associated features were identified surrounding this waterbody, as otter maintain large home ranges of up to 32km for males¹¹, this waterbody could form an important foraging and temporary sheltering site for any active otter territories along the SAR.

3.2.4 Assessment

As such, based on the abundance of identified field signs of otter and the extent of available suitable habitat, this species is considered to be active throughout the hydrological network of the survey area. Further monitoring of the River Garry potential holt site was therefore recommended to identify whether this feature was being utilised as a breeding and/or sheltering site by otter.

¹¹ NatureScot. Otter information page. Available at: [https://www.nature.scot/plants-animals-and-fungi/mammals/land-mammals/otter#:~:text=Otters%20that%20live%20in%20freshwater,includin%20man%2Dmade%20ones\).](https://www.nature.scot/plants-animals-and-fungi/mammals/land-mammals/otter#:~:text=Otters%20that%20live%20in%20freshwater,includin%20man%2Dmade%20ones).)

Under current NatureScot guidance¹², where otters are known or suspected to be breeding, an exclusion zone of 200m should be applied to holt sites. However, this can be reduced to 100m dependent on the nature of the works, topography, and natural screening. For holts where otters are not breeding, the exclusion zone can be reduced to a minimum of 30m. As such, based on the close proximity of the River Garry holt site to the SAR, further monitoring was recommended. However, for the Kingie Pool holt site, this feature is approx. 160m from the SAR and based on the linear clearance of woodland required to facilitate the access track construction, and the retained woodland between the SAR and potential holt site, the potential for disturbance is considered to be absent and no further monitoring was recommended at this stage.

Otter are a European Protected Species (EPS) and considered to be of **International** importance.

3.3 Holt Monitoring

Following three weeks of targeted holt monitoring, no otters were captured on the camera traps entering or exiting the River Garry potential holt. Furthermore, no new evidence of otter (e.g. fresh spraint) was identified on site during camera trap checking and collection.

Activity by American mink (*Neovison vison*) was observed in the area and a mink was seen entering and exiting the potential holt.

The potential holt is considered to provide a suitable resting place for otter. Its structure (approx. 40cm wide opening at the bottom of a granite boulder) and presence of spraints in the immediate vicinity suggests that otters may have been occasionally using it. However, due to the lack of recent signs of otter or sightings, it is considered unlikely that otters are currently utilising the cavity in the granite boulder associated with the potential holt. However, as otters may occasionally change holt location, it is not excluded that otters could potentially begin utilising the cavity in the granite boulder.

Further suitable sheltering/breeding opportunities are present throughout the survey area, with rock cavity features noted along the River Garry, Gearr Garry, River Kingie and Allt Choire a' Bhalachain, as well as cavities within tree buttresses and root systems where mature semi-natural riparian woodland is present along watercourse banks, notably along the eastern extent of the River Garry. However, only two potential holt sites were identified at this time.

¹² NatureScot. Protected Species Advice for Developers – Otter. Available at: <https://www.nature.scot/sites/default/files/2018-09/Species%20Planning%20Advice%20-%20Otter.pdf>

4 FURTHER SURVEY, AND LICENCING

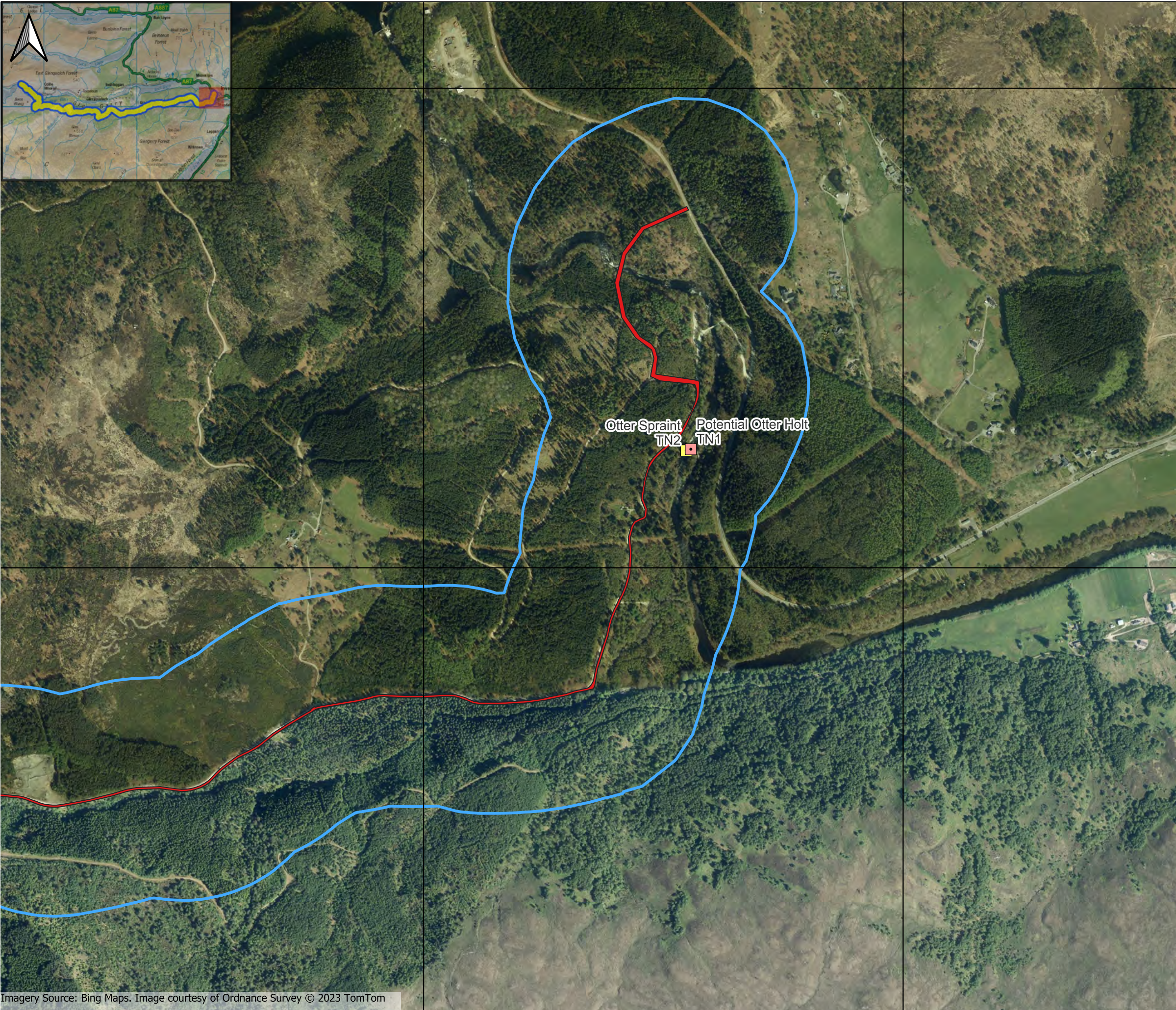
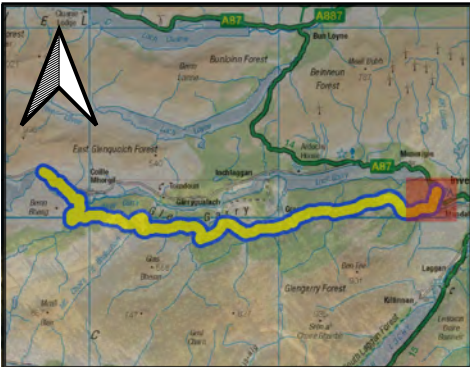
The identification of otter spraints within the cavity feature and along the adjoining river banking, characterised as both Di and Df, suggests that otter have utilised this feature previously, but not recently, for either breeding and/or sheltering. However, based on the targeted camera monitoring, this potential holt site is not considered to be actively occupied or utilised by otter.

Annual update camera monitoring of the potential holt site should be conducted in conjunction with updated full coverage otter surveys of all suitable watercourses within the survey area during the optimal survey season (all year round, but restricted by weather conditions and vegetation cover) to maintain the baseline of otter activity and identify any potential constraints to the proposed development that will require potential licensing.

As otter were not considered to be occupying the River Gary holt site, then no further licences from NatureScot are required. However, any further camera trap monitoring will require a protected species licence to cover associated disturbance. If further survey and monitoring identifies active otter holts, then an EPS disturbance licence will be required before works can proceed.

APPENDICES

A OTTER SURVEY PLAN



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

Legend

Site Boundary

Southern Access Road

250m Survey Buffer

Otter Field Evidence

Otter Spraint

Potential Otter Holt

Do not scale this map

Client

Fearna PSH Ltd.

Project

Fearna PSH - Southern Access Road

Title

Otter Survey Results Plan

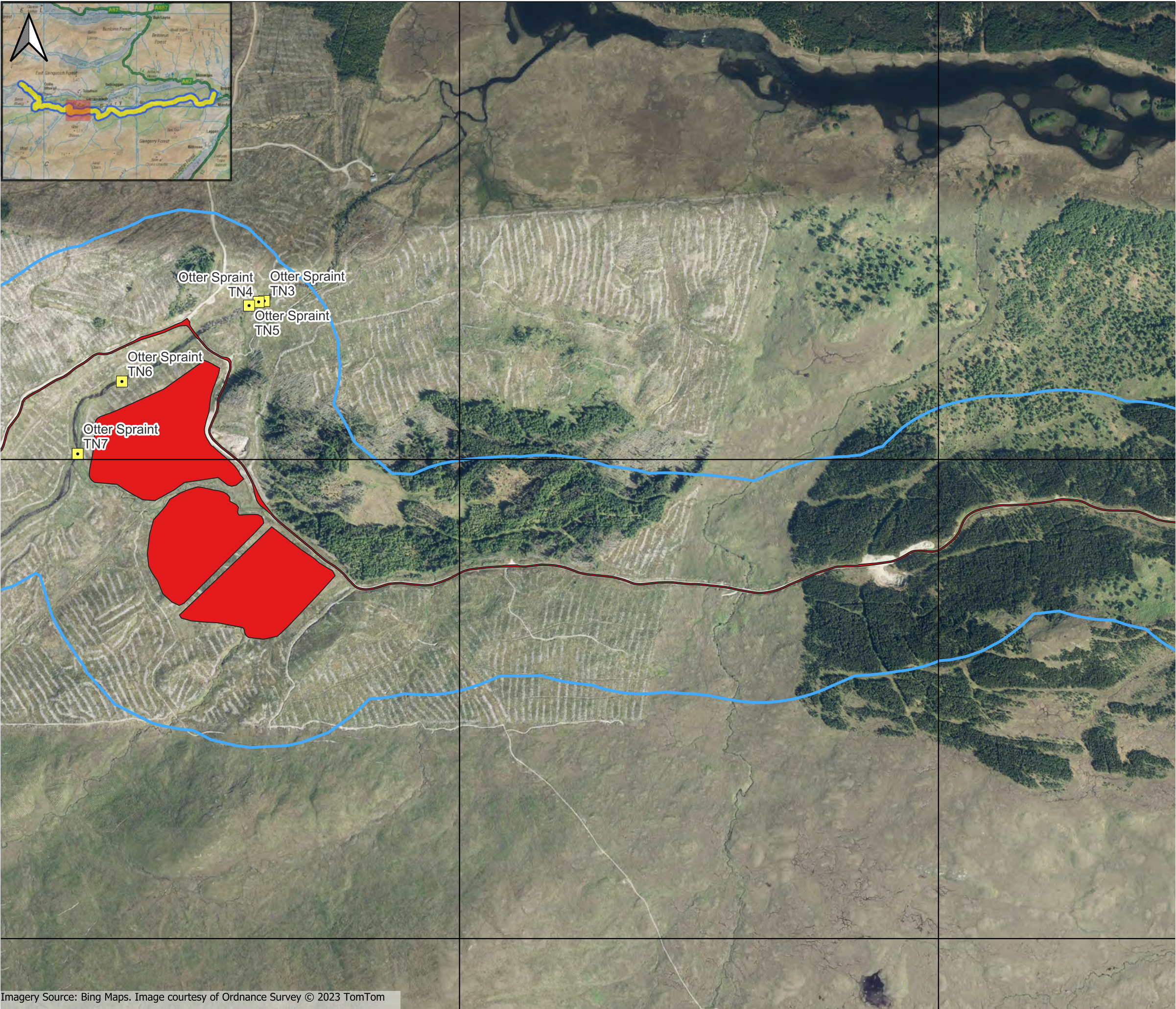
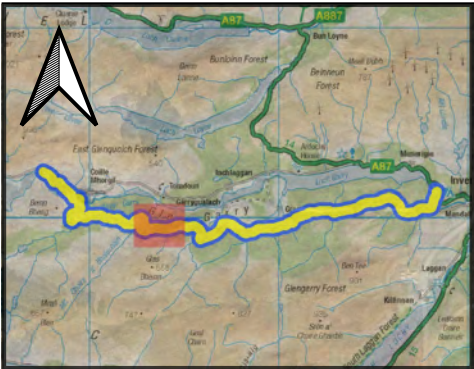
Status		
FINAL		
Drawing No.	Revision	Date
678092-GIS022	-	22 Oct 2024
Drawn	Checked	Approved
LC/BB	SD	SD

Scale

1:8,500 @ A3

Rev	Date	Amendment	Initials
-	-	-	-

8 Eagle Street, Craighall Business Park, Glasgow, G4 9XA.
T: 0141 341 5040 E: info@envirocentre.co.uk
W: www.envirocentre.co.uk



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

Legend

- Site Boundary
- Southern Access Road
- 250m Survey Buffer
- Otter Field Evidence
- Otter Spraint

Do not scale this map

Client
Fearna PSH Ltd.

Project
Fearna PSH - Southern Access Road

Title
Otter Survey Results Plan

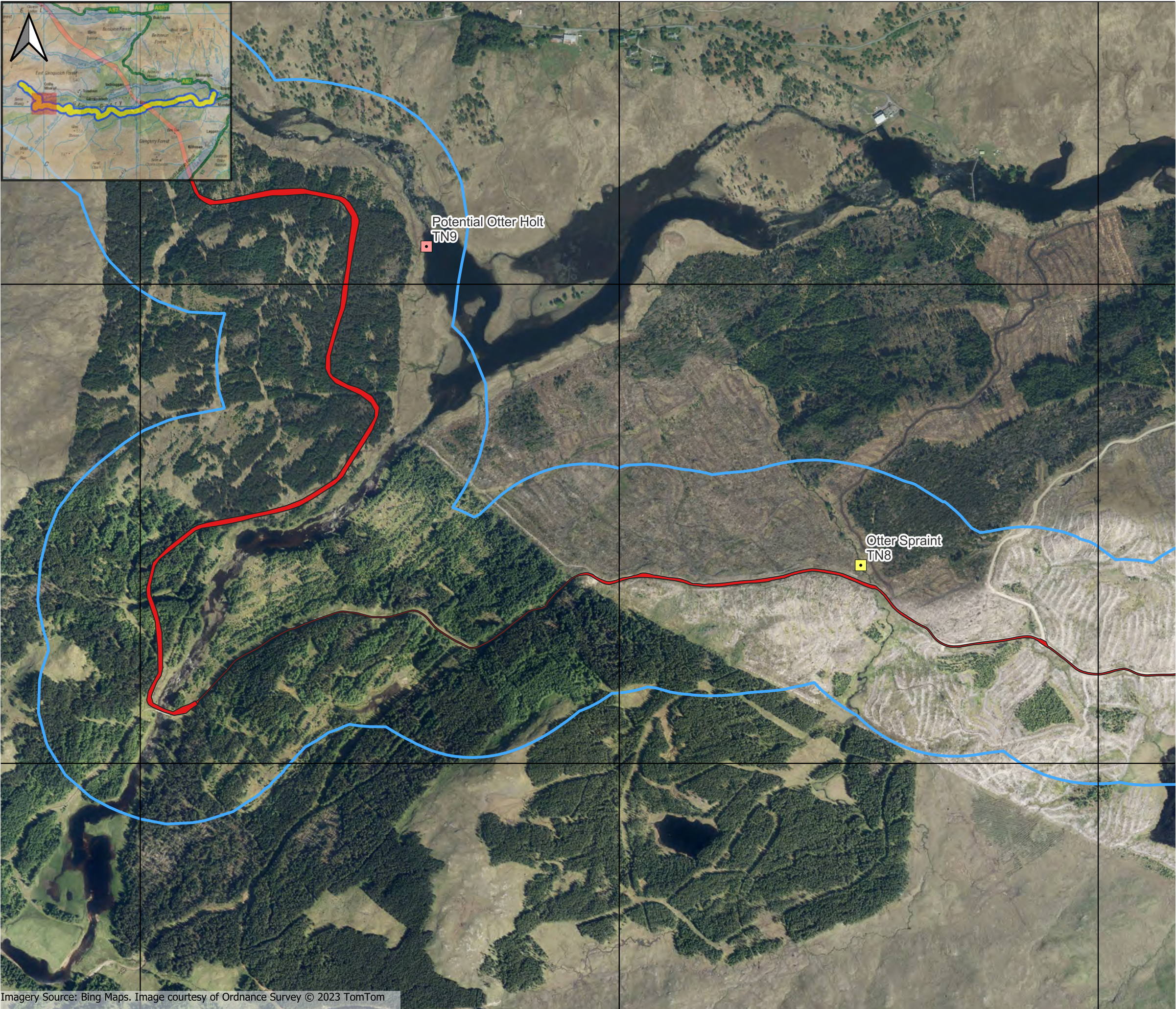
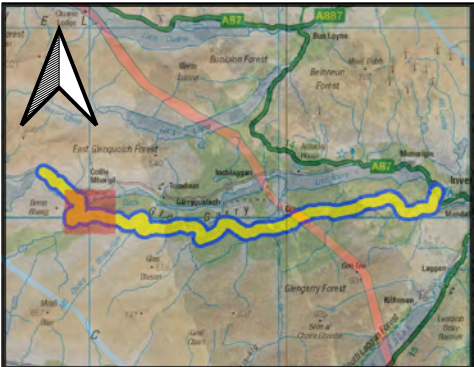
Status			FINAL		
Drawing No.		Revision		Date	
678092-GIS022		-		22 Oct 2024	
Drawn		Checked		Approved	
LC/BB		SD		SD	

Scale
1:8,500 @ A3

Rev	Date	Amendment	Initials
-	-	-	-



8 Eagle Street, Craighall Business Park, Glasgow, G4 9XA.
T: 0141 341 5040 E: info@envirocentre.co.uk
W: www.envirocentre.co.uk



Legend

Site Boundary

Southern Access Road

250m Survey Buffer

Otter Field Evidence

Otter Spraint

Potential Otter Holt

Do not scale this map

Client

Fearna PSH Ltd.

Project

Fearna PSH - Southern Access Road

Title

Otter Survey Results Plan

Status		
FINAL		
Drawing No.	Revision	Date
678092-GIS022	-	22 Oct 2024
Drawn	Checked	Approved
LC/BB	SD	SD

Scale

1:8,500 @ A3

Rev	Date	Amendment	Initials
-	-	-	-

8 Eagle Street, Craighall Business Park, Glasgow, G4 9XA.
T: 0141 341 5040 E: info@envirocentre.co.uk
W: www.envirocentre.co.uk

B SUMMARY OF RELEVANT LEGISLATION

European Protected Species – otter

European Protected Species (EPS) are protected under the Conservation (Natural Habitats &c.) Regulations 1994 (the “Habitat Regulations”) as amended. Under this legislation it is an offence to deliberately or recklessly:

- capture, injure or kill such an animal;
- harass an animal or group of animals;
- disturb an animal while it is occupying a structure or place used for shelter or protection;
- disturb an animal while it is rearing or otherwise caring for its young;
- obstruct access to a breeding site or resting place, or otherwise deny an animal use of a breeding site or resting place;
- 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;
- disturb an animal while it is migrating or hibernating;
- possess, control, transport, sell or exchange specimens of any animal listed on Annex IV of the Habitats Directive. This applies to living or dead specimens and to their derivatives.

It is an offence of strict liability to damage or destroy a breeding site or resting place of such an animal. These sites and places are protected even when the animal isn't present. For example, great crested newt ponds are protected all of the time as long as it can be shown that the newts use the ponds some of the time.

A licence may be issued to permit the otherwise unlawful activities listed above if these three tests are satisfied:

- There must be a licensable purpose which includes 'preserving public health or public safety or other imperative reasons of overriding public interest including those of a social or economic nature and beneficial consequences of primary importance for the environment;'
- There is 'no satisfactory alternative'; and
- The derogation (i.e. any permission/licence granted) is 'not detrimental to the maintenance of the populations of the species concerned at a favourable conservation status in their natural range'.

C PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD



Photo 1: Example of dried intact otter spraint identified within survey area.



Photo 2: Example of dried fragmented otter spraint identified within survey area.



Photo 3: Potential holt site identified on River Garry.



Photo 4: Potential holt site identified above Kingie Pool.