

## Appendix 8.6 Outline Habitat Management Plan

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### Introduction

This Outline Habitat Management Plan (OHMP) has been prepared by Avian Ecology Ltd. on behalf of the Developer as part of the habitat enhancement works for the Proposed Development (with the Proposed Development layout shown on Figure A.1).

This section presents outline habitat management principles that will be finalised through consultation, following receipt of planning consent and on completion of detailed site investigation works.

The final HMP will be agreed with relevant stakeholders (including NatureScot, the Consenter - South Ayrshire Council and the Developer), prior to the commencement of construction works. Once finalised, the HMP will remain in place as agreed, subject to review, for the operational lifetime of the Proposed Development as consented and in accordance with a suitably worded planning condition.

The objective of the OHMP is to deliver native riparian tree species planting (as identified on Figure A.2) within the site boundary.

### Current Site Conditions

A full description of the habitats present on the site is provided within Technical Appendix 8.1 in Volume 2 of the EIA report and is not repeated here, but a summary is provided below.

The site is open habitat, consisting of a mosaic of neutral and acid grassland, marshy grassland and bog habitats. There are areas of wet modified bog/marshy grassland in the east and south-west of the site, with some isolated areas of bog habitat throughout the site.

The western site boundary is formed by the Genoch Burn, while the Palmullan Burn and the Water of Girvan lie along the northern boundary. A number of minor watercourses tribute through the site boundary, all of which are part of the Water of Girvan Catchment. The most substantial watercourse is the Palmullan Burn, which flows along the western boundary of the site in a predominantly north-easterly direction. The Palmullan Burn is fed by the Shiel Burn, the Knockoner Burn and several unnamed tributaries which flow through the site. The Genoch Burn is also a more substantial watercourse and is fed by an unnamed tributary near to its northern extent, prior to discharging into the Water of Girvan on the north-east corner of the site.

### Approach to the OHMP

The Proposed Development layout shown in Figure A.1 has been designed to minimise potentially significant adverse effects on sensitive ecological features (such as Annex 1 habitats), groundwater dependent terrestrial ecosystems (GWDTEs) and peat reserves, while also accounting for the location of watercourses and the topography of the site.

Habitats within the site have been previously impacted under baseline conditions by heavy livestock grazing. Opportunities for riparian tree planting have been identified to enhance the biodiversity value of the site.

It is proposed that the objectives, aims and management prescriptions outlined herein will be further refined and prescribed through detailed site investigation work and further consultation with key stakeholders.

## Aim: Riparian habitats

Sheil Burn and one of its tributaries, and three tributaries of the Palmullan Burn to the north (see Figure A.2), have been identified as potentially suitable watercourses for undertaking riparian native-tree planting. The total area is approximately 0.78Ha.

Tree planting will improve areas of shelter for wildlife using the watercourses, including invertebrates and any fish, and will improve connectivity in the north-west of the site, for species, such as foraging/commuting bats.

Tree species to be planted along the riparian zone should be those that are of local provenance and these include ash *Fraxinus excelsior*, aspen *Populus tremula*, sessile oak *Quercus petraea*, alder *Alnus glutinosa*, hazel *Corylus avellana*, holly *Ilex aquifolium*, rowan *Sorbus aucuparia*, elm *Ulmus* sp., silver birch *Betula pendula*, sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus* and beech *Fagus sylvatica* (which are present along part of the Palmullan Burn).

Given the high level of livestock grazing, it is proposed that these trees will be planted with tree guards for protection.

Areas for planting will be subject to site investigation survey and assessment by suitably qualified ecologists and a forestry specialist, to ensure the most appropriate stretches of watercourses are chosen (for example, those areas with little, or no, tree cover).

## Objectives and Prescriptions

The prescriptions required to achieve the objective of the OHMP are presented in **Table 1**.

**Table 1 – Proposed Management Prescriptions.**

Objective	Management Prescription
Riparian tree planting	Investigation works of the identified watercourses will be undertaken to identify the most appropriate locations for native tree planting.
	Trees of local provenance to be planted. Note, no fencing will be erected only tree guards to be used to limit the effects of grazing.

## Monitoring

A steering committee consisting of the key stakeholders (including representatives from NatureScot, the Consenter and the Developer) will be convened to oversee the implementation of the HMP.

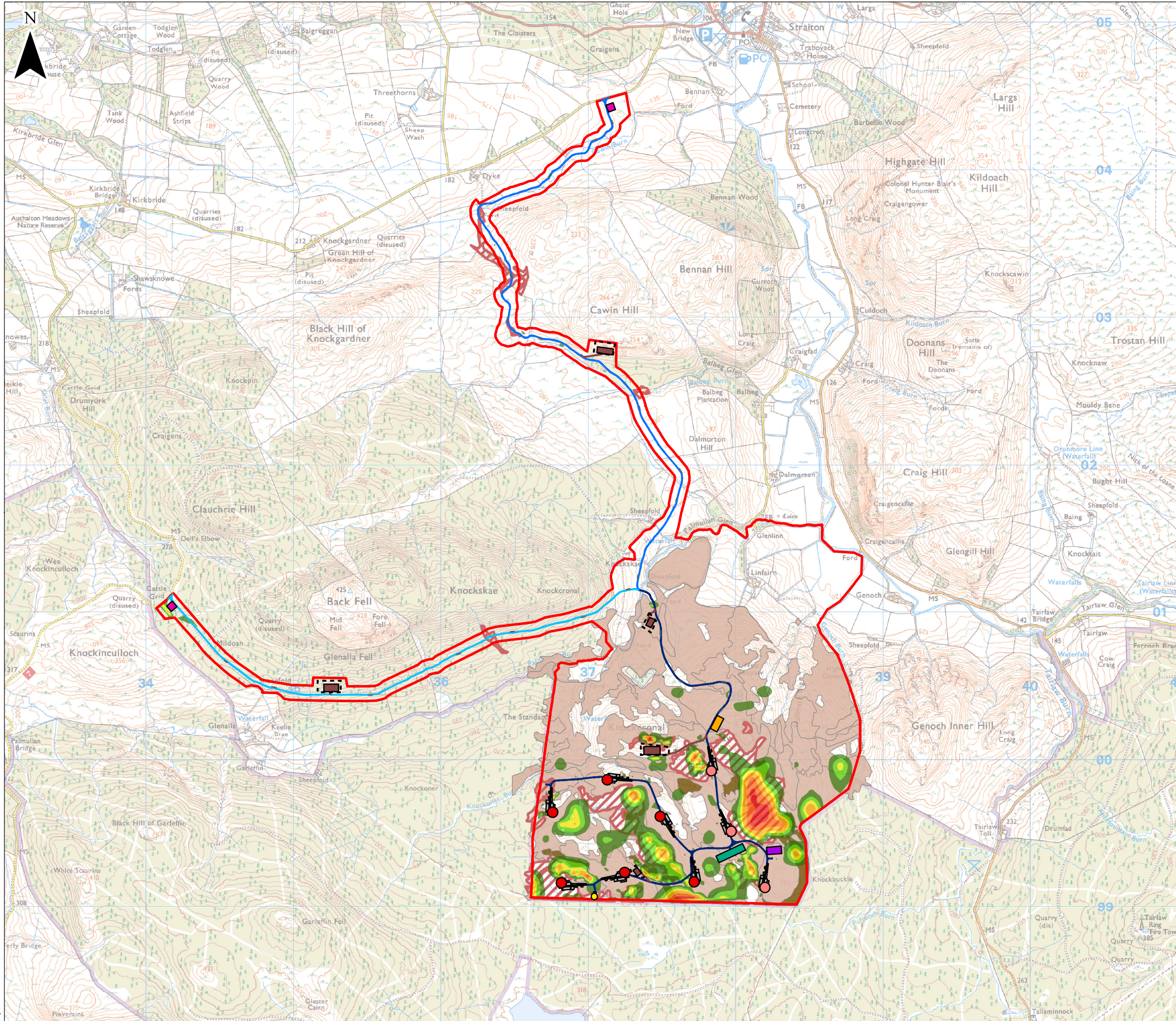
Monitoring is proposed as part of the HMP in operational years 3, 5, 10 and 15 of the Proposed Development, and will consist of checks of the establishment of the planted riparian tree zone. The Developer will provide a summary of the HMP activities and monitoring results to the Consenter each year of monitoring. The frequency of monitoring and reporting thereafter will be agreed with key stakeholders, including the Consenter.

The HMP is intended to remain a live document which will be updated and amended, as necessary, on result of site investigation works and monitoring. The Consenter will be kept informed of any proposed changes to the HMP and their agreement sought as necessary (as part of the steering committee).



**Figure A.1 Proposed Development Layout**





**KEY**

- Site Boundary
- Turbines at 200m Tip Height
- Turbines at 180m Tip Height
- Turbine Hardstandings
- Permanent Met Mast
- Northern Access Route
- Western Access Route
- Site Tracks
- Passing Places
- Temporary Borrow Pit Access
- Borrow Pits
- Borrow Pit Search Area
- Substation
- Energy Storage
- Construction Compound
- Gatehouse Compound

**Potential GWDE's**

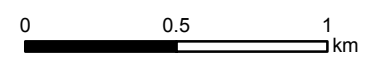
- High
- Moderate

**Annex 1 Habitats**

- Annex 1 Habitats

**Peat Depth (m)**

<span style="background-color: #408040; display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; margin-right: 5px;"></span> 0.5 - 1	<span style="background-color: #00ff00; display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; margin-right: 5px;"></span> 1 - 1.5	<span style="background-color: #ffff00; display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; margin-right: 5px;"></span> 1.5 - 2
<span style="background-color: #ffa500; display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; margin-right: 5px;"></span> 2 - 3	<span style="background-color: #ff4500; display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; margin-right: 5px;"></span> 3 - 4	<span style="background-color: #ff0000; display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; margin-right: 5px;"></span> >4



Scale 1:25,000 @ A3



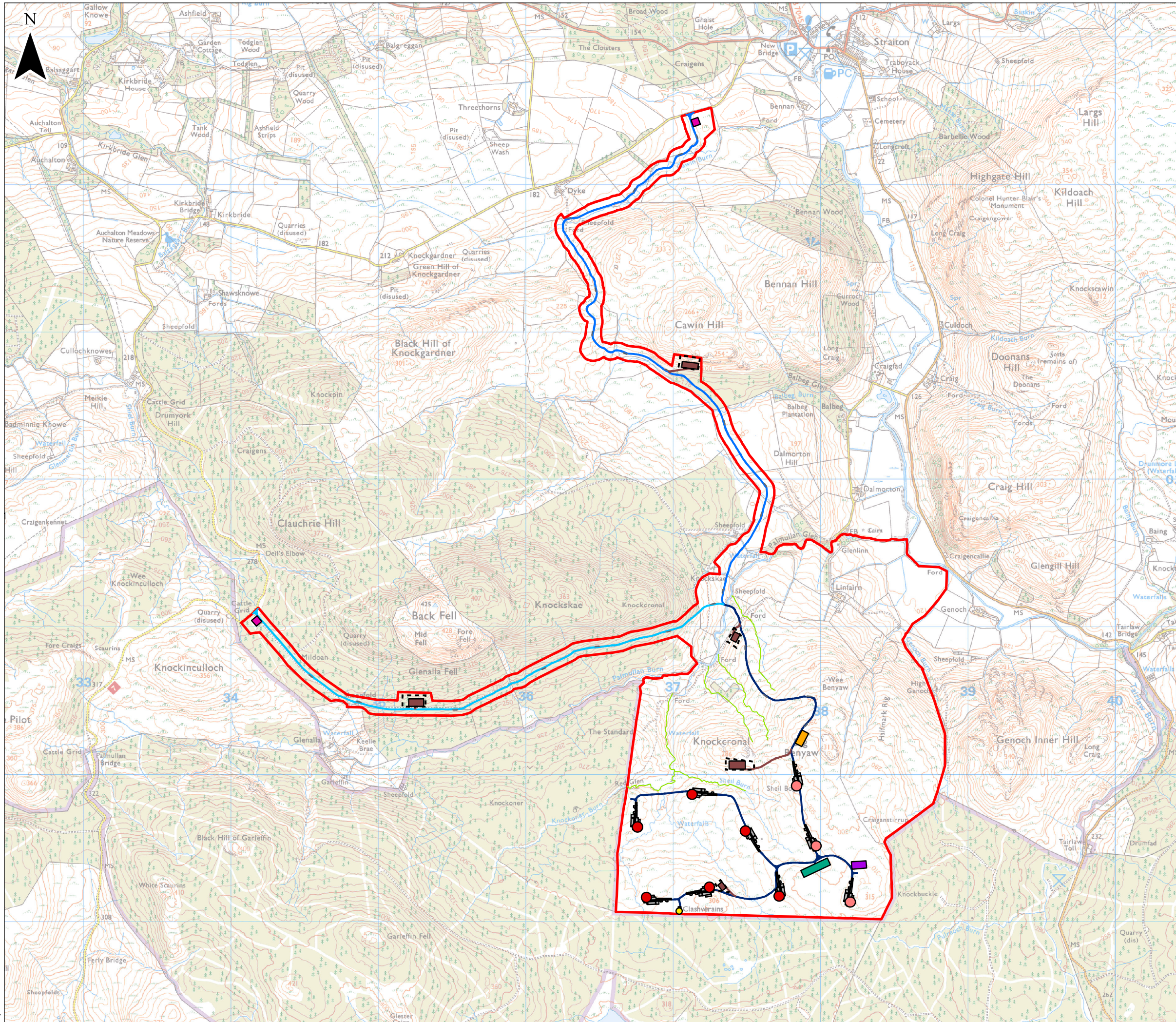
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**Figure A1**  
**Potential GWDE, Annex 1 Habitats and Peat**

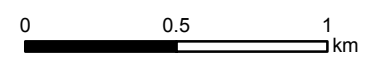


Figure A.2 Draft Habitat Management Plan





- KEY**
- Site Boundary
  - Turbines at 200m Tip Height
  - Turbines at 180m Tip Height
  - Turbine Hardstandings
  - Permanent Met Mast
  - Northern Access Route
  - Western Access Route
  - Site Tracks
  - Passing Places
  - Temporary Borrow Pit Access
  - Borrow Pits
  - Borrow Pit Search Area
  - Substation
  - Energy Storage
  - Construction Compound
  - Gatehouse Compound
- Habitat Management Areas**
- Riparian Tree Planting Areas



Scale 1:25,000 @ A3



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**Figure A2**  
**Habitat Management Plan Areas**