

Balliemeanoch Pumped Storage Hydro

Environmental Impact Assessment
Report

Volume 5: Appendices
Appendix 4.4: Balliemeanoch Pumped
Storage Hydro Gatecheck Report

ILI (Borders PSH) Ltd

July 2024

Balliemeanoch Pumped Storage Hydro

Gatecheck Report

Intelligent Land Investments (Borders PSH) Ltd

Project number: 60570241 M003.002

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1. Introduction

1.1 Overview

This Gate Check Report has been prepared by AECOM on behalf of ILI (Borders PSH) Ltd (hereafter referred to as the 'Applicant' or 'ILI').

The purpose of the Report is to outline and describe how issues and responses provided in the Section 36 Scoping Opinion, pursuant to Regulation 12 of the Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017, from the Scottish Ministers, have been addressed within the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report to be submitted for the proposed Balliemeanoch Pumped Storage Hydro (PSH) scheme (hereafter referred to as the 'Development'). In addition, this Report also details how other consultation undertaken to date by the Applicant has been incorporated into the design process.

1.2 The Applicant

The Applicant are a clean energy developer who have been developing renewable energy projects for over 15 years. This has included onshore wind, solar and run river hydro schemes, with their focus now on energy storage.

ILI seek to play their part in meeting Scotland's future energy needs and contribute to world leading climate change and net zero targets, they have developed a portfolio of battery and pumped storage hydro projects.

Energy Storage projects will be of critical importance as we move towards 100% renewable energy generation as they provide the balancing and back-up services a secure and efficient energy system requires.

ILI's lead pumped storage hydro project, Red John, received Scottish Government planning consent in June 2021. In recognition of this success, ILI were finalists in the 2021 Scottish Green Energy Awards and in the Regen Green Energy Awards 2023.

1.3 Scope and Structure

This Gate Check Report outlines:

- Any amends to the scope of the EIA Report (EIAR), either as a result:
 - of the Scoping Opinion received; or
 - further to liaison with statutory and non-statutory consultees;
- Any amends to the scope of the EIA as a result of baseline data collection and onsite surveys; and
- How the Development has evolved since that proposed within the Request for Scoping Opinion.

The structure of the Report is as follows:

- Section 2: The Development – details of the surrounding environment and a summarised project description of the proposed Development including the evolution of the Development;
- Section 3: Statutory and Non-Statutory Consultation – details of the statutory and non-statutory consultation undertaken by the Applicant to date, and the Applicant's response to responses received;
- Section 4: Community Consultation – details of the public consultation undertaken by the Applicant to date and the main themes of responses received; and
- Section 5: Next Steps

2. The Development

2.1 Site Description

The Development is located at central national grid reference NN 03615 17578 approximately 4.4 km to the south of the village of Portsonachan and 9 km northwest of Inveraray in Argyll and Bute with the red line boundary shown on Figure 2.1 Location Plan, which can be found in Appendix A Figures. The Development Site is generally characterised by upland moorland plateau grazing land. The headpond location at Lochan Airigh sits at approximately 360 m above ordnance datum (AOD) and 3 km to the east of Balliemeanoch. Farm Steading. The marine facility is located south of Inveraray off the A83.

There is no woodland within the main area of the Development Site, with woodland pockets restricted to those located along proposed access tracks. These woodlands include: plantation woodland along the existing, to be upgraded, access track off the A819 at the north; along the proposed new and upgraded existing tracks proposed to the west of Inveraray; and along the upgraded access to the north of Inveraray Castle.

The Development is predominantly located within the catchment of the Allt Beochlich watercourse. The catchment consists of a number of small streams which ultimately flow into Loch Awe, these originate from smaller Lochs (Airigh, Dubh and Romach).

2.2 Environmental Designations

There are no statutory environmental designations within the main area of the Development Site, with Inveraray Castle Garden and Designed Landscape located within the red line boundary along the existing access track north of Inveraray Castle. However, the proposed marine facility would be situated within the Upper Loch Fyne and Loch Goil Marine Protected Area (MPA) which is located to the west of Inveraray.

Within the wider area, Glen Etive and Glen Fyne Special Protected Area (SPA) is located approximately 5 km to the east of the proposed headpond and is designated for breeding golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*).

Non-statutory long established (of plantation origin) woodland is located to the north and south of stretches of the proposed access route to the north of Inveraray Castle, in addition to a number of scattered Category A and B Listed Buildings. There is one Scheduled Monument within the main Development Site – Balliemeanoch chapel and burial ground which is located approximately 500 m north of the proposed tailrace tunnel.

2.3 Site Access

There are no classified roads or tracks within the Development Site at the headpond or tailpond location. However, at Inveraray there is a <1 km section of classified road (A83) at the proposed marine facility location.

Site access is proposed off the A819 which links the strategic trunk roads A85 to the north at Dalmally and A83 to the south at Inveraray. It is anticipated the general construction access will come from the north and south along the A819. Construction access from the south will bypass Inveraray via a section of unclassified existing track (to be upgraded) north of Inveraray Castle which will connect the A83 to the A819.

Larger construction traffic, such as abnormal loads, will be delivered by boat to the proposed pier, where they would be transported to site via the A819. Access to the A819 will be via an upgraded existing access track that runs to the north, then east, from the A83, around the north of Inveraray. There are proposed upgrades to the existing unclassified road “Upper Avenue” at Inveraray and a new track linking this to the A83 at the proposed pier location.

These upgrades are proposed to ease traffic and to avoid sensitive bridges within the area of Inveraray.

2.4 Project Description

A detailed project description will be available in the EIAR and will be accompanied by detailed drawings showing the above and below ground infrastructure. Figures 2.1 and 2.2 showing the above and below ground infrastructure can be found in Appendix A Figures. This project description is summarised as follows:

Arrangement	Component	Description
	Headpond	<p>The Headpond is the upper reservoir and embankments. The Headpond will be constructed through a combination of excavation and creation of two manmade embankments. The existing topography is utilised in the design to reduce the number of embankments, embankment size and length as far as practically possible.</p> <p>Component parts of the Headpond include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Headpond reservoir – referring to the waterbody containing 59,580,306m³, with a working volume of 53,396,231m³ located at NN 04594 16411; • Embankment 1 – the largest of the two embankment structures retaining the waterbody approximately 1635m long (from the embankment to embankment toe), approximately 482m wide and approximately 95m high (from existing ground – i.e the embankment to lowest embankment toe). • Embankment 2 – the smaller of the two embankment structures retaining the waterbody approximately 279m long (from the embankment to embankment toe), approximately 85m wide and approximately 13m high (from existing ground – i.e the embankment to lowest embankment toe). • Headpond inlet/outlet structure - where the waterways exit the Headpond, the structure will predominantly sit within the embankment with the related mechanical equipment housed within a timber clad frame atop the embankment. • The Headpond will include two borrow pits within the headpond interior. These borrow pits are required to excavate the required material for the construction of the Headpond embankments and reduce the reliance on delivery of additional material to site. The larger of the two borrow pits (BP01) would yield approximately 9,600,000m³ of stone. The borrow pit floor measures approximately 825m x 445m and is around 37m in depth.
Above Ground (as shown on Figure 2.2)	Tailpond	<p>The Tailpond is the lower reservoir, and in the case of this Development, will be the existing body of Loch Awe.</p> <p>The permanent and temporary components of the Development located within the Tailpond include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lower Gate House (permanent) – Two lower gate houses location approximately 90m south east of the inlet / outlet structure screens and will be 8m x 7m x 5m [Lx Bx H]. • Marine Facility (temporary) – Constructed into Loch Fyne. Will be used for delivery of abnormal indivisible loads (ALLs) of materials and equipment during construction, removed post construction and reassembled during operation for maintenance when required. It will be approximately 180m from the shoreline and 10m in width. • Cofferdam -a water-tight, temporary structure that will encircle the area required for Tailpond works, The area within the cofferdam will be pumped dry to facilitate the construction of the Tailpond inlet / outlet structure.
	Construction Compounds	<p>Temporary and permanent compounds will be required across the Development. Some will be used for construction related activities such as laydown areas, work yards and for general site maintenance. Others will be used for office space, parking areas, welfare areas, and accommodation. These may include electric charging points for electric shuttle cars/buses.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There will be nine temporary compounds and six permanent compounds at various locations across the Development Site to facilitate different construction works.
	Development Site Access	<p>Where the on-site access joins the public transport network.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Development Site access via the public road network is from the A819 near Craig nan Sassanach. The A819 runs to the east of the Development Site from north to south. • There is also the potential to access the development site further south down the A819 at Three Bridges utilising the proposed access for the Blarghour wind farm should this be constructed.

- The marine facility located on the coast south of Inveraray will also act as Development Site access for certain deliveries via water from Loch Fyne. The marine structure will be a pier structure that will project into Loch Fyne. The pier will run south east from the shore adjacent to the A83 and will be approximately 180m from the shoreline and 10m in width.

Access Tracks	<p>There will be both temporary and permanent internal access tracks required to be constructed. The alignment of existing access tracks have been utilised as far as possible. Any existing access track will be upgraded to accommodate the size and number of vehicles required to travel to, from and around the Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existing tracks to be upgraded total 12.9km • New access tracks total 13.75km (of which 7.75km excavated and 6km floated) • Temporary construction track 4.1km • Blarghour wind farm access 8.6km (this would not be built as part of the Development and only utilised should the wind farm be constructed and in operation.)
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Replacement Public Road	<p>Realignment of a section of public road network.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To allow for construction of the tailpond inlet / outlet structure a 1.5km section of the B840 requires to be diverted. Consultation with the local roads authority is ongoing as to the nature of the realignment and if it will be temporary or permanent.
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Walking Routes	<p>Sections of existing informal walking routes within the site boundary will be temporarily diverted during construction. These routes will be fully reinstated on completion of construction. In addition, sections of the access tracks required to be constructed for the Development will be signposted and included as new walking routes for use by the public post construction. A public right of way crosses the internal access track into the site at the north. This PRoW is listed as a Heritage Path, it is not listed on HER or CANMORE or visible on aerial imagery however access will be maintained at all times with additional signage provided to warn any walkers of construction traffic that may be present on the intersecting road. An Access Management Plan is being produced and will accompany the s36 application.</p>
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Sub / switching station	<p>The switching substation (NN 05087 17754) will also be an above ground component that will consist of two secure electrical compounds (one controlled by the project and one controlled by the DNO), in which electrical equipment will be housed. In addition to the external switchgear, a number of parking spaces and permanent welfare facilities will be present.</p>
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Marine Facility	<p>A jetty will be constructed within Loch Fyne at circa NGR NN085071. The jetty will be used for delivery of a maximum of 10 shipments (estimated based on a combination of the number of AILs and units that can be carried on a barge appropriate for the size of the marine facility) and only at high tide due to the tidal nature of the loch and the design of the jetty. Key jetty parameters are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approximately 180m in length • 10m wide • Deck top level: +3.3m AOD (1.6m above Mean High Tide Level (MHTL)) and approximately 600mm deep • Supported by vibro-driven piles into the seabed. • The jetty will be temporary and will be in place for the duration of construction with the jetty platform being removed during demobilisation. The piles will remain in-situ.
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Temporary Workers' Accommodation	<p>Temporary workers' accommodation will be required to house construction workers during the development phase. A Housing Strategy is being prepared which will set out options for this including onsite accommodation, offsite accommodation, and park and ride options. The aim will be to have no, or as few as possible workers housed locally in existing accommodation to ensure that this remains available for tourists and/or residents. The final locations have yet to be identified with the relevant studies currently</p>
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being undertaken with discussions ongoing with Argyll & Bute Council. Any workers accommodation requiring Planning Consent will be subject to its own studies and assessments as part of separate Town and Country Planning Applications.

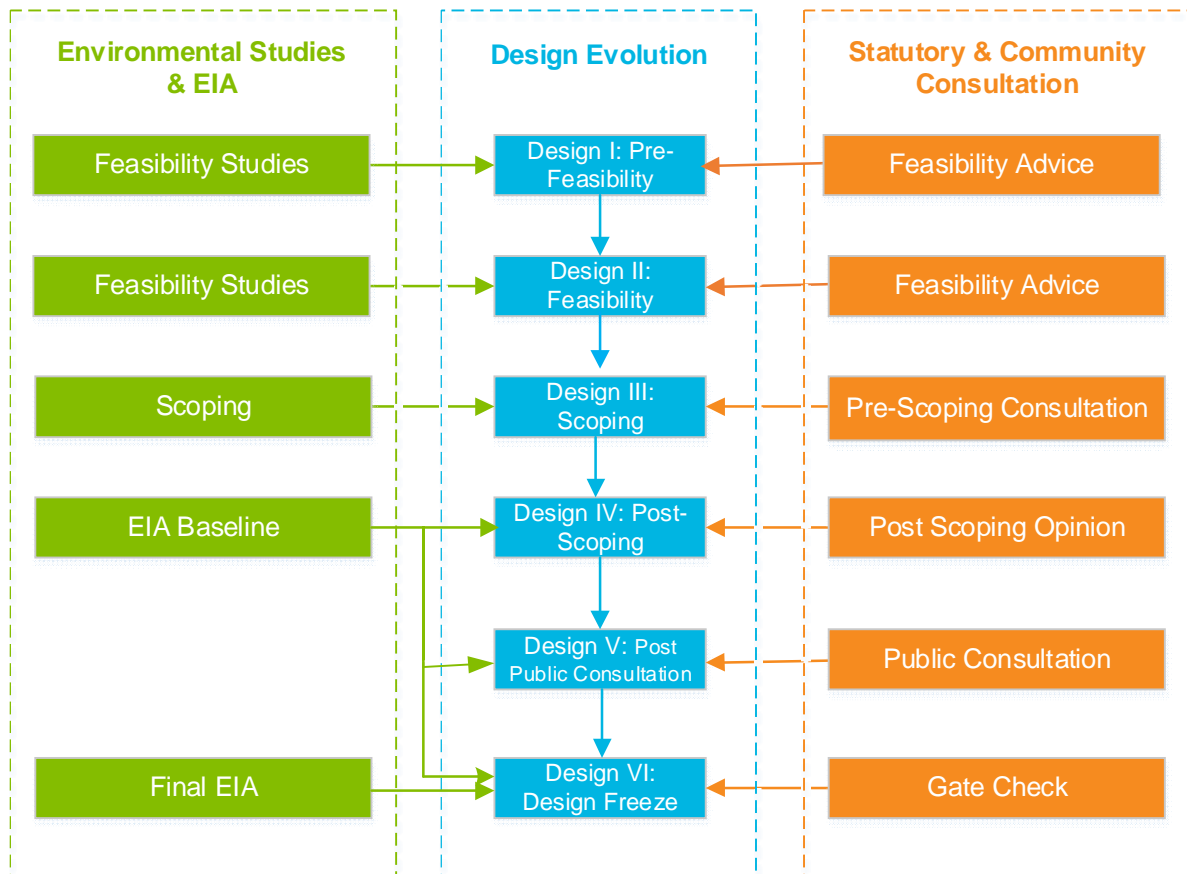
Below Ground (as shown on Figure 2.3)	Waterways	<p>Transfer water between the Headpond and Tailpond within a closed loop system. The waterways consist of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Headrace: High pressure tunnel connecting the Headpond to the pump turbines within the power cavern, approximately 670m in length. • Tailrace: Low pressure tunnel connecting the pump turbines to the outlet/ inlet in the Tailpond, approximately 2.3km in length. • The spillway – an open cut trench from the top of Embankment 1 used to drain any excess water from the Headpond. Spillway is approximately 580m and drains into an unnamed river that drains into Allt Beochlich. • The scour pipe - a pipe within the trench at the bottom of the Headpond that joins the spillway pipe within a chamber below the Headpond. Along with the spillway, the scour is used for the scouring and draining down of the Headpond in an emergency situation. • Surge shafts associated with the high and low pressure tunnels. Located along the waterways to contain pressure fluctuations within the hydraulic system. The low-pressure tunnel surge shaft will be underground. The high-pressure tunnel surge shaft will be underground and will extend to ground level (top of surge shaft to be covered by steel grate and contained within a permanent compound), but may have section cut/filled into the hillside and fenced (which will be determined at detailed design stage).
	Power Cavern Complex	<p>Split into three sections: 1) Power Cavern (contains the combined pump / turbines), 2) Transformer Cavern (contains the transformers) and 3) Main inlet valve (MIV) Cavern (contains the MIV), connected by galleries. The power cavern will be the largest section, measuring approximately 200m long, 25m wide and 50m high. The power cavern complex is located approximately 460m below ground level. There is a ventilation tunnel from the power cavern, the ventilation shaft does not have a tunnel portal and comes to ground level. At ground level the shafts will be housed in a permanent compound and cordoned off by adequate safety measures.</p>
	Access Tunnels	<p>Tunnels for access, construction and power which will also be used in operation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction tunnel, approximately 2.2km in length. Also used in operation to provide access to the power cavern. (NN 01222 15828) • Emergency Egress and Access Tunnel, approximately 2.4km in length (NGR NN 01528 15624) • Power cable tunnel, approximately 3.2km in length (NGR NN 050931 8511)
Grid Connection		<p>The grid connection will not form part of the s36 application and will be subject to its own separate consents. The scheme will connect into the grid at Creag Dhubh substation via the switching station on the Development.</p>

2.5 Design Evolution

The Development has evolved through an iterative design process where the design has been progressed in parallel with the EIA process through consideration of engineering feasibility, environmental constraints and consultation responses. This has resulted in the Development as presented in section 2.2 Project Description, above. Where possible, mitigation has been integrated into the design to reduce any potential significant effects from the Development on identified receptors.

The evolution of the design of the Development is set out in the following sections and is shown in Insert 2.1, below.

Insert 2.1: Design Evolution Process for the Development



Design I: Feasibility

The Applicant reviewed potential PSH scheme locations throughout Scotland and this location was identified as having the potential to develop a PSH scheme utilising Loch Awe as a natural Tailpond with creation of a headpond utilising the natural landform.

The Applicant developed a preliminary layout that utilised the natural landform around Lochan Airigh as the Headpond and Loch Awe as the Tailpond. An initial schematic was produced as shown in Figure 2.4: Design Evolution: Design I: Feasibility.

Key features of this design iteration included:

- Headpond comprised one embankment - Embankment 1 to the west, maximum height above existing ground 110m;
- Tailpond inlet/outlet within Loch Awe;
- Access to the site off the A819 following existing forestry tracks southwards to the Headpond location
- Secondary access from the south off the A819 following Blarghour Wind Farm access. Noting that this access would only be utilised should the wind farm be constructed.
- A traffic study was undertaken to review the route to site which indicated the following would be required within the design to ease pressures on the local road network:

- Requirement for a marine facility to deliver large components such as a tunnel boring machine, if required;
- Access off the A83 to the A819 through Inveraray Castle grounds access to avoid Inveraray town centre
- Access from the marine facility along proposed upgraded Upper Avenue, Inveraray, for material delivery from the marine facility.

Design II: Scoping

The design evolved to incorporate two new embankments to increase the capacity of the scheme:

- Embankment 2 to the north east, maximum height above existing ground 13m; and
- Embankment 3 to the south east, maximum height above existing ground 10m.

As part of the design iteration, a high level environmental assessment was undertaken which included desk based review of environmental constraints and a Phase 1 habitat survey of the proposed Headpond in the Feasibility Design.

The results of the desktop analysis identified the importance of the following key receptors which influenced the evolution of the design to reduce impacts:

- Embankment 1 was reduced from 110m to 92m to reduce visual effects
- Two possible switching station locations: one at the north western edge of the Headpond, the second to the north east of the Headpond off the internal access track south of Keppochan and Upper Sonachan Forest.
- Eight construction compounds locations were identified avoiding key sensitive receptors.
- Identification of location for the intake tower within the headpond.

An initial indicative design of the marine facility was drafted to accommodate the size of vessels that may be necessary to deliver a tunnel boring machine (if required) and other abnormal indivisible loads.

The Scoping Design can be viewed on Figure 2.5: Design Evolution: Design II Scoping

Design III: Post Scoping

On receipt of the Scoping Opinion a number of changes were made to the design to reflect feedback from consultees and discipline specialists following from site surveys. In addition, a bathymetric and topographic survey of the two lochs were undertaken. Key changes to the design included:

- Increased size of red line boundary at the southern side of the Headpond to accommodate construction activities, and south of Inveraray to include the marine facility.
- Removed the south eastern embankment which slightly increased the size of headpond, however the removal of the embankment reduced landscape and visual effects. Removing an embankment also reduced vehicle movements of materials.
- Divert B840 to accommodate tailpond inlet outlet (temporary or permanent diversion tbc)
- Move tunnel portal 1 due to B840 road diversion
- Removal of the intake tower to reduce landscape and visual effects. The intake evolved to be embedded into the Headpond and therefore not visible above Top Water Level.
- Addition of access track running on top of Embankment 1 to access new compounds.
- Removal of access track to the north of the headpond shown in Scoping and addition of access track around the eastern extents of the headpond.

The updated scheme was presented for feedback at the public consultation events as set out in Section 4 Community Consultation. This design can be viewed on Figure 2.6: Design Evolution: Design III Post Scoping

Design IV: Post Public Consultation

Following public consultation, Design IV was prepared based on the comments and feedback received from the local community and the landowner.

The post public consultation design can be viewed on Figure 2.7: Design Evolution: Design IV Post Public Consultation which contains the following updates from Design IV:

- Jetty to be temporary, in order to reduce effects on nearby residential properties
- Design and layout of jetty to reduce visual effects on nearby residential properties
- Change in location, layout and use purpose of construction compound near the marine facility to reduce effects on nearby residential properties
- Inclusion within the design of how the proposed new and upgraded access tracks could be utilised by recreational users through inclusion of benches, information signage (on the PSH and walking/cycling routes available through the site), warning signage (at the headpond and inlet/outlet) and directional signage.

Design V: Design Refinement, Section 36 Submission Design

Design V: Design Refinement is the iteration of the Development design for which s36 consent is intended to be sought and upon which the assessments contained in the EIA Report have been based. Design V can therefore be viewed on Figure 2.8: Design Evolution: Design V Design Refinement, Section 36 Submission Design, which show the layouts for the Development and the above ground and below ground components respectively. Further detail of this design can be found on Figures 2.2 Above Ground Infrastructure and 2.3 Below Ground Infrastructure.

Following on from the public consultation events, two design workshops were held with the landscape and visual and ecology specialists for a holistic review of the Development components. The following sets out the updates to the Post Scoping Design IV as a result of refined engineering feasibility requirements and environmental constraints:

- Tracks realigned to reduce landscape and visual effects, in particular the tracks leading to PC16-18 to route around the eastern side of the hill as opposed to the west;
- Refinement of Inveraray jetty positioning and layout due to landscape and visual effects;
- Tunnel Portal 3 introduced as substation relocated (power tunnel previously entered the substation directly). The tunnel will be used for delivery of abnormal indivisible loads 'AILs' and repurposed as the power tunnel post construction.
- Landscape restoration proposals have been developed to aid landscape and visual integration of the tailpond. These are comprised of native woodland mixes to assimilate the Inlet-Outlet structure, gate house buildings, and Tunnel Portals 1,2, and 3.
- Building and structure heights at PC17- Upper Gate House and PC18- Surge shaft compound have been limited to integrate with the existing landform to avoid visual prominence.
- Temporary compound 22 the Jetty and access track have been relocated to an existing borrow pit within plantation forestry to avoid visual prominence from nearby visual receptors and views across Loch Fyne.
- Tracks realigned to avoid deep areas of peat as identified during peat probing, in addition to floating tracks included in the design to reduce impacts on peat;
- Change in compound number and layout taking into account topography, avoidance of heritage assets, ecological receptors, watercourses, deep peat and improved gradient;
- Introduce a borrowpit in the headpond due to material shortage; and
- A number of changes to reduce impacts on ecological receptors including:
 - Switching station relocated and resized to accommodate 400kV – 275kV switching gear and to avoid ecological wetter bog habitat.

- Permanent compound 13 relocated to avoid wetter bog habitat
- At the Tailpond, the extent of woodland loss beside Loch Awe has been reduced below that originally proposed;
- Temporary construction compound TC02 has been reduced to be confined only to the agricultural field, with no further impact on woodland beside Loch Awe;
- Temporary construction compound TC04 has been relocated to avoid impact on wet rushy habitat that constitutes a potential Groundwater Dependent Terrestrial Ecosystem (GWDTE) and supports greater floristic diversity than the heavily-grazed grassland that TC04 now occupies;
- Temporary construction compound TC07 has been re-shaped so that it no longer impinges on an existing grazing exclusion area, mainly affecting low quality wet heath and acid grassland degraded by overgrazing;
- Permanent compound PC20 and associated access track have been slightly moved to avoid deep peat area;
- The permanent track/bridge near Permanent compound PC09 has been slightly moved to avoid a species-rich rocky riparian area;
- Temporary compound TC11 and associated access track were initially moved to avoid significant deep peat that also supports the only known location in the area with *Sphagnum austinii*; subsequently, these elements were further adjusted to avoid a bog area with two substantial bog pools and a steep slope with species-rich vegetation;
- The temporary access track just north of the small northern Headpond embankment has been altered to avoid a base-rich flush containing bog orchid

A more detailed account on the design evolution in particular that for landscape and visual will be included within the EIAR.

3. Statutory and Non-Statutory Consultation

3.1 Overview

A request for an EIA Scoping Opinion was submitted to the Energy Consents Unit (ECU) on the 12th July 2022, and registered under reference [insert ECU ref]. A Scoping Opinion was issued on the 03rd March 2023.

The Applicant has undertaken several meetings with statutory and non-statutory consultees, both prior to submission of the Scoping Report, and following receipt of the Scoping Opinion.

The Scoping Report provided a description of the Development which included the various design iterations – as shown on Figures 2.4 and 2.5 in Appendix A Figures. These were presented in the Scoping Report submitted in draft for Argyll & Bute Council 'ABC' Major Pre-Application Advice service and then finalised for the submission of a formal Request for Scoping to the ECU.

The Applicant met with the ECU, Marine Scotland, NatureScot and ABC prior to the submission of the Scoping Report, and has maintained contact during key points of the pre-application process.

3.2 Statutory Consultation Bodies

3.2.1 Meetings

Table 3.1 provides a list of the meetings which have been undertaken to date with statutory consultees:

Table 3.1: Meetings Undertaken

Date	Consultees in Attendance	Discussion
27 th October 2021	Argyll & Bute Council	Introductory meeting to the Applicant and Development
28 th March 2022	Marine Scotland	Introductory meeting to the Applicant and Development and scope of the EIAR
28 th March 2022	ECU	Introductory meeting to the Applicant and Development and scope of the EIAR
12 th October 2023	Argyll & Bute Council	Meeting to discuss the proposed temporary workers accommodation
16 th March 2023	NatureScot	Meeting to discuss site access for their upcoming site visit and validity of our bird survey data
12 th October 2023	Argyll & Bute Council	Meeting to discuss the proposed temporary workers accommodation and the approach to the planning application
Meeting anticipated with date tbc by SEPA	SEPA	Meeting to discuss the potential effects and mitigation required

3.2.2 Post Scoping Consultation

In addition to the meetings, the Applicant has engaged in consultation and liaison with multiple statutory and non-statutory consultees. Table 3.2 Summary of Post-Scoping Consultation below outlines the key points and themes which have been discussed, and a technical response has been provided to demonstrate how this has been incorporated where relevant.

Table 3.2 also outlines the topic-specific consultation which has been undertaken after the Scoping Opinion was received. Where a consultee has not been contacted, this is not to say that their comments as provided within the Scoping Opinion have not been incorporated or considered in the EIA.

Where a consultee has not provided specific feedback this has not been included within the table below and will be included within the more detailed Consultation Log within the EIAR. This Consultation Log and separate PAC report will outline where the information requested or clarification has been included within a specific section or technical assessment of the EIAR.

In relation to public consultation, emails and feedback forms were received from members of the surrounding local community and representatives from the surrounding Community Councils. A technical response has been provided to this as well. These have been included within Section 4.1 Local Community Engagement, Table 4.1 Key Themes.

Table 3.2 Summary of Post-Scoping Consultation

Consultee	Scoping Response Topic or Post-Scoping Consultation	Applicant's Response or Post-Scoping Consultation Summary
Argyll & Bute Council	Fish Habitat Assessment	ABC requested that a pre-commencement walkover Scottish Fisheries Coordination Centre (SFCC) fish habitat assessment should be undertaken on the Allt Beochlich watercourse and main tributary watercourses of Loch Awe and Loch Fyne. The assessment should aim to quantify and evaluate the condition of freshwater habitats utilised for recruitment by fish, and in particular salmonids prior to the commencement of the Construction Phase – as a result AECOM will include this mitigation within the EIAR.
	Additional Consultation re survey methods	ABC advised that the applicant consult with Argyll Fisheries Trust (AFT), Argyll District Salmon Fishery Board (ADSF) and the Awe District River Improvement Association (ADRIA) in the first instance for further advice on survey methods – as a result, AECOM engaged with the above stakeholders and undertook surveys to the advised methods (Scottish Government, 2019), including fish habitat assessments and semi-quantitative electric fishing surveys. Surveys were initially completed in 2021 under sub-optimal conditions, and were repeated in 2023.
	Noise - location of noise monitoring locations	The Environmental Health officer reviewed the proposed noise monitoring locations and provided an additional location to be included by noise monitoring.
	Cumulative Sites	AECOM has been in liaison with ABC post-scoping to confirm whether there has been any further potential cumulative sites of an equivalent scale since those proposed in the Scoping Report. ABC provided details of an extract from the SSEN which indicated the current extent of the Argyll upgrade proposals for S37 and new substations approved with planning permission in the mid Argyll area.
	Recreational Routes	AECOM has reviewed the Public Rights of Way within the redline boundary and have considered the potential implications to public access within the Development site and the surrounding area. There is one Public Right of Way within the site that crosses the access to the north. This route is listed as a Heritage Path, it is not listed on HER or CANMORE or visible on aerial imagery. Notwithstanding, mitigation to ensure access to the PRoW during construction will be implemented, such as introducing a temporary pedestrian crossing at this point to ensure access is available at all times. Consultation with Argyll & Bute Council Access Manager was undertaken and advice provided on the detail to be presented within the Outline Access Management Plan to be submitted with the application. Advice was provided on: access to water, new recreational opportunities, retention of temporary tracks, Inverary, retention of the pier, route north of Inveraray Castle, and the construction phase..
B840 Diversion	Consultation with Argyll & Bute Council is ongoing to discuss the road diversion and whether it will be temporary or permanent	
HES	Impacts on features, views and character of the landscape and requirement for visualisations	Raised concerns over upgrades to tracks and temporary compounds within Inveraray Castle grounds and advised that careful design and mitigation will be necessary to avoid impacts on important features, views, and the character of the landscape. Stated that any temporary development should be kept to a minimum and reversed post construction. Also noted that all works should be undertaken in consultation with relevant stakeholders including HES.

Provided feedback on the following site photography at Scheduled Monuments: Balliemeanoch, chapel & burial ground (SM4227) – were content a photomontage will be taken from here and provided feedback on what views to consider. Stated that these views can be assessed through photographs or wireframes in addition to the proposed photomontage.

- Carn Dubh, Crannog E Of Inverinan (SM4175) - were content that a wireframe visualisation, in combination with general site photographs will be sufficient
- Keppochan, Cup Marked Stone 600m Ese Of (SM4186) – requested a photomontage is taken from this monument due to concerns about the visual appearance of the upgraded access track.

Provided feedback on the following site photography at Inveraray Gardens and Designed Landscape ('IGDL') – stated that In addition to the x2 viewpoints provided which will be included for the LVIA assessment, they requested one further photomontage visualisation from the view from the summit of the Category A-listed Aray Bridge looking towards the castle and IGDL. HES recommend that this is taken in winter in order to understand the impact when vegetation is lowest, however due to project timescales was done in Autumn. Stated that if the Development will not be visible from this location in a photomontage, then they would be content that this is demonstrated with a wireframe visualisation. Subsequent consultation after the Cultural Heritage site visit confirmed that there would be no views of the track upgrades from Aray Bridge, and as a result a wireframe will be sufficient and the requirement for a photomontage can be dropped.

Argyll District Salmon Fishery Board ('ADSFB')
Fish habitat and species audit

ADSFB advised that the developer should undertaken the following surveys:

- provide a full audit of the habitat and fish species present in the development area so that all potential effects on the habitat and fish resources can be considered and minimised
- walkover habitat surveys inform the location of monitoring sites for the predevelopment stages to ensure that key sites are monitored during and after the proposed scheme is developed.
- Monitoring of macroinvertebrates should also be undertaken to ensure water quality is maintained.
- Noted that eDNA sampling is proposed for the tailrace site at Loch Awe and suggested that the study should be conducted regularly over a period of a year.
- Stated the design of the scheme should also consider the potential to draw fish into the pump storage scheme.
- Requested that the additional risks of the Balliemeanoch scheme are not assessed in isolation within the EIA but as an addition to the existing impact on aquatic resources within the catchment

As a result, AECOM have undertaken the necessary surveys and desk study, and this will be presented in the EIAR. The design has considered the fish species present and designed accordingly. Fish habitat assessment, electric fishing surveys, macroinvertebrate surveys (both updated in 2023), and quarterly eDNA sampling for fish in Loch Awe, have been undertaken or are in progress. An assessment of the effects of the inlet/outlet structure on Loch Awe in relation to fish is being undertaken. Finally, a cumulative assessment will be included within the EIAR.

Marine Science
Scotland
Impacts on fish, surveys, fish resilience, cumulative impacts,

MSS advise that the developer should consider all potential impacts (e.g. entrainment, impingement and impediment to fish migration) which are regulated by SEPA under the Controlled Activity Regulations (CAR) – this will be included within the EIAR.

methodology, design to consider migratory fish and water quality. MSS note the fish surveys carried out to date and we agree with ADSFB that further surveys should be carried out to provide sufficient information to inform an assessment of the potential impacts of the Development on all fish species and associated fisheries in all waterbodies likely to be at risk. Fish habitat assessment, electric fishing surveys, macroinvertebrate surveys (both updated in 2023), and quarterly eDNA sampling for fish in Loch Awe, have been undertaken or are in progress. An assessment of the effects of the inlet/outlet structure on Loch Awe in relation to fish is being undertaken.

MSS further advise that the developer should consider the likely resilience of the fish populations, particularly salmon and trout, to any impacts. Similar to ADSFB, we advise that this assessment should also consider the potential cumulative impact on the fish populations, particularly in relation to the change in water quantity and quality in Loch Awe, as a result of the present proposal and other adjacent developments (operational and consented) including Cruachan, Inverawe, Nant and Beochlich hydro schemes and fish farms – See response above. In addition, a cumulative assessment will be included within the EIAR.

MSS requested that full details regarding fish surveys including methodology (e.g. electrofishing, eDNA, smolt/adult trapping, acoustic tracking), selection of monitoring sites (as outlined in the response from ADSFB) and results should be presented in the EIA report. MSS agree with ADSFB that proposed sampling/monitoring should consider the seasonal use by fish species within all waterbodies that are likely to be at risk from the Development – See responses above regarding surveys undertaken and underway; all survey methods will be included within the EIAR, and sampling/monitoring for seasonal species carried out. Recommendations will be made in the EIAR for further monitoring prior to construction as appropriate. At this stage, smolt/adult trapping or acoustic tracking have not been undertaken – this will be considered in the EIAR and recommendations for further work made as appropriate.

MSS stated that in addition to the advice provided by SEPA relating to the design of the watercourse crossings MSS advise that the developer should consider the uninhibited passage of migratory fish in the design of all watercourse crossings – The design team have considered migratory fish within the design such as best practice design of watercourse crossings and culverts, as informed by the findings of fish surveys.

MSS advised that full details regarding proposed survey/monitoring of water quality (including macroinvertebrate sampling as advised by the ADSFB) and fish populations and appropriate mitigation measures should be provided in the EIA report – This is included within the EIAR – macroinvertebrate surveys have been completed as part of the Aquatic Ecology assessment, and water quality will be assessed in Chapter 11 Water Environment.

RSPB	<p>RSPB stated in their response to the EIA Scoping Request that the Development has the potential to impact on bird species of conservation concern including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Golden eagle; • White-tailed eagle; • Hen harrier <i>Circus cyaneus</i>; 	<p>RSPB advised that ornithology surveys should follow NatureScot guidance for wind farms (SNH, 2017) and recommended that surveys cover two years. They advised that monitoring of key species should continue “up to and throughout the application process”.</p> <p>RSPB recommended obtaining data from the Argyll Raptor Study Group to inform the EIA – as a result, AECOM obtained this data;</p> <p>RSPB recommended that, where possible, data collected by neighbouring developments be obtained – as a result, available data from neighbouring developments have been reviewed and considered as part of the assessment of cumulative effects described in the EIAR.</p> <p>RSPB also suggested that there may be opportunities for enhancement of habitat to benefit upland breeding waders and black grouse, and identified possible measures which could be implemented – this is currently being reviewed and considered.</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Red-throated diver <i>Gavia stellata</i>; • Black grouse; • Upland breeding wader assemblage. 	RSPB recommended that the potential cumulative impacts of the Development and other projects in the area be assessed – This is included within the EIAR.
SEPA	<p>Request to discuss:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ if any mitigation/compensation is required due to loss of a section of the Allt Beochlich and Lochan Airigh. ▪ Advice and guidance request regarding managing flows during construction ▪ Discuss options and requirements for screening at the inlet/outlet structure 	AECOM have reached out for meeting dates on several occasions, continue to send requests for meeting dates and await confirmation from SEPA on availability to discuss.
NatureScot	<p>Landscape – characteristic, setting, viewpoints, wild land and cumulative assessment scenario</p> <p>Marine Mammals and sedimentation</p> <p>Ornithological surveys and data</p>	<p>NatureScot confirmed that WLA 06 Ben Lui and WLA 09 Loch Etive Mountains can be scoped out. Also confirmed that they are content with the viewpoints proposed. In addition to the ZTVs provided for the Headpond and Tailpond, a ZTV for the embankments and a ZTV for access tracks should be provided with the application. NatureScot stated that visualisations should also show the minimum and maximum water levels of the headpond given that this will fluctuate and expose the drawdown area. As a result, AECOM have undertaken the following actions: Additional ZTVs will be provided for all permanent access tracks; and where relevant, visualisations will show the minimum and maximum water levels of the headpond.</p> <p>NatureScot highlighted concerns regarding possible disturbance to marine mammals in the Loch during construction and the need for additional mitigation and an EPS licence application. Design/construction methods have been reviewed to allow for construction of the piles by vibro-piling and not impact piling to minimise underwater sound. Piling is also being used as opposed to drill and grout to reduce impacts from dispersion of fine suspended material.</p> <p>NatureScot confirmed broad agreement with the scope of ornithological field survey carried out to inform this EIA and advised if field survey data were more than five years old by the time of submission then further fieldwork may be required. They advised that additional data sources be used to supplement information collected by the field survey, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Argyll Raptor Study Group – as a result, AECOM obtained this data; • Natural Research, for commercially-available golden eagle <i>Aquila chrysaetos</i> satellite tag data – as a result, AECOM obtained this data.

NatureScot also advised that Golden Eagle Topographical (GET) modelling be carried out to assist in the assessment of habitat loss impacts on this species. – AECOM have undertaken GET modelling and it is reported within the EIAR.

NatureScot also highlighted that consideration of impacts on golden eagles belonging to the Glen Etive and Glen Fyne SPA would be required. – A Statement to Inform Habitats Regulations Appraisal has been prepared and assesses the potential impacts of the Development on golden eagles associated with Glen Etive and Glen Fyne SPA.

NatureScot advised that with the continued expansion of the white-tailed eagle *Haliaeetus albicilla* population in the area, it would be necessary to consider the potential for new pairs to establish ranges within the zone of influence of the Development post-submission of this EIA - Impacts on white-tailed eagle have been assessed within the EIAR, including consideration of potential expansion of the population in the area of the Development.

NatureScot advised that the Development should seek to deliver positive effects for biodiversity and to demonstrate that enhancement will be provided. It was suggested that opportunities to collaborate with other developments in the area should be explored – AECOM are producing a joint landscape and ecological mitigation plan for the Development and seek to collaborate with other developments.

Scottish Forestry	Felling	Scottish Forestry acknowledged that the scale of tree felling and woodland removal may be small and an appendix rather than a chapter is acceptable. Stated that the EIA report should justify and provide evidence for the need for woodland removal and the associated mitigation measures. Advised that the removal of large areas of woodland will not be supported. Also provided information set out by Scottish Forestry to include and consider. As such, tree and woodland removal is expected to be minimal and will be considered within the EIAR where appropriate. A forestry consultant has been appointed to undertake a site survey and associated reporting to accompany the EIAR.
Woodland Trust	Ancient Woodland	<p>Woodland Trust raised concerns regarding potential impact to ancient woodland. Two areas at grid references NN0106116082 and NN0838107829 are adjacent to the proposed temporary construction compounds. WT ask that the ancient woodlands are appropriately protected from detrimental impact, in the form of HERAS fencing fitted with acoustic and dust screening measures, and suitable root protection for ancient woodland boundary trees (as calculated to BS:5837:2012). Also, WT note that there is proposed upgrades to existing access across the site. Where access tracks currently cross ancient woodland areas, they ask that no widening occurs to ensure that direct loss of ancient woodland habitat is avoided, and HERAS fencing (as mentioned above) is provided to reduce pollution impacts during works.</p> <p>For location 1 (NN0106116082), the ancient woodland runs parallel to the existing forestry track that we need to upgrade and widen. The new stretch of access track that connects the existing forestry track and the B840 has been designed to avoid the ancient woodland. Mitigation will be in place to protect trees, measures will be set out within the EIAR.</p> <p>For location 2 (NN0838107829) the design avoids the ancient woodland, with no felling proposed.</p> <p>We intend to partially mitigate through sensitive tree planting and translocation of ground flora turves to an existing strip of ancient woodland to the immediate south-west, currently heavily affected by residential caravans that would be removed.</p>

Scotways	Public Right of Way	<p>Scotways highlighted that the right of way SA128 is recorded in the National Catalogue of Rights of Way (CROW) as crossing or close to the application site. Scotways notes that at the scoping stage they have focused solely on the immediate area and a wider search is required to inform the EIA. Stated that the information relating to other forms of public access to land and recreational amenity should be considered. The Applicant should take into account both recreational amenity and landscape impacts. Highlighted that comments on the legal duties to uphold access rights deriving from the Land reform act (Section 3) and Section 14. Scotways suggests approaching the relevant authority's access team for their input when drawing up a Access Management Plan. - Impacts on walking/recreational routes routes will be considered within the EIAR. Direct impacts (such as temporary diversions) will be addressed within the Access and Recreation chapter, with impacts associated with visual effects within the landscape chapter. Access through the PRow within the redline boundary will be maintained at all times, with mitigation implemented to ensure the safety of those crossing the internal access track where the PRow intersects. This could be by means of signage and temporary gates. Consultation with Scotways and Argyll & Bute Council Access officer is ongoing.</p>
Blarghour Company	Power Hydrology	<p>Requested that Beochlich Hydro Scheme and the three others noted as operating around Loch Awe should also at the very least include Blarghour Hydro Scheme A and Blarghour Hydro Scheme B with regards to any hydrology impact studies to be undertaken due to their proximity to the Development. Also, provided information on the existing small-scale hydro scheme in operation within the Development Site known as Beochlich, in addition to Inverawe Power Station, Cruachan and Nant. - The Flood Risk and Water Resources chapter within the EIAR will include an assessment of all relevant hydro schemes within the area.</p>
Royal association (RYA)	yachting Recreational uses of lochs	<p>Raised concerns over impacts on recreational users in Loch Awe. Recreational boating will be considered within the socioeconomics, recreation and tourism chapter of the EIAR. The inlet/outlet will be designed to have no significant impact on recreational users of Loch Awe. During construction, there will be a temporary cofferdam to exclude water from the construction area, which will also by its nature as a physical barrier, separate the working area from loch users. During operation the water flow rates are not expected to have a notable effect on water flow within the loch around the inlet/outlet.</p> <p>RYA conclude that the area of Loch Awe is great enough to ensure that short-term water level changes associated with the scheme are likely to be trivial to small recreational boats.</p> <p>Royal Yachting Association ('RYA') stated a new or upgraded pier at Inveraray within Loch Fyne could benefit recreational boaters and the local community, also suggested to consult Inspire Inveraray which is a charitable company that acts on behalf of the Inveraray community and which wishes to buy the old pier. The pier was discussed with Inspire Inveraray who advised that they have indeed purchased the old pier and intend to restore it, and are not interested in another permanent pier in the area. The pier for the Development will be temporary.</p> <p>Requested that information on the Development should be shared through a variety of means to ensure recreational users are informed. Clyde Cruising Club and other local boat clubs should be informed. The socio economics, recreation and tourism chapter will include mitigation for the appointed contractor to inform Clyde Cruising Club and other local boat clubs of the intended construction start date two months prior to construction commencing. Clydeport have offered to assist with communication sharing with local clubs and users, as they also issue the local Notice's to Mariners which includes the local clubs.</p>

RYA queried if there were recreational moorings in the area of the marine facility in Loch Fyne. Leisure mooring agreements are located within Loch Fyne, and these would be considered in the EIAR. RYA noted that this could be raised at a Clyde Mooring Committee meeting to ensure any registered moorings are accounted for.

Peel Ports Group (PPG) Safety, Designated sites, PPG noted the pier was temporary and queried what will be done post construction. - The pier will be removed with the piles left in situ in case future repair works require large components delivered to site, however this is considered unlikely. PPG also queried if dredging was required – no dredging species, Marine Facility & will be required for the construction of the marine facility.
Dredging

PPG highlighted considerations for the safety of navigation and protection of the marine environment, and the construction of the new pier are Clydeport's focus. Consider an assessment on designated sites and where appropriate outlining any mitigation measures that the project may need to undertake. - The EIAR will include an assessment on Marine Ecology including designated sites and Shipping and Navigation.

Stated that any works below mean high water spring (MHWS) proposed within the Clydeport's jurisdiction may require a Works Licence. - A works licence would be obtained by the appointed contractor.

Requested clarification intentions for the marine facility on completion of the construction. - As noted above, the marine facility will be removed post construction with the supports left in situ only. This is to allow for the surface to be reinstated should it be necessary for replacement components for the hydro scheme.

Invasive Non-Native Species ('INNS') have been considered, however we would like to see a risk assessment undertaken as part of further environmental assessments. - INNS will be assessed within the EIAR chapters terrestrial ecology, aquatic ecology and marine ecology.

Crown Estate Scotland Dredging & works licences Crown Estate Scotland has interests in the marine pier at Inveraray, the foreshore is verified non-crown but the seabed remains Crown Estate Scotland land. Accordingly any works will require a seabed agreement and ask that the applicant submit a "marine works" application form. This will be undertaken as part of the application.

Crown Estate Scotland also queried if dredging will be carried out. No dredging will be required for the Development

Campbelltown Fisheries Office, Fisher: Inveraray, Local shellfish merchant & Tarbert Harbour Authority Fishing Activities Provided information on fishing activities in the area of the marine facility, which are low and therefore no concerns. .

Clyde Fishermen's Marine Facility Association (CFA), Strachur Moorings Association & South No feedback or raised any concerns.

West Coast Regional
Inshore Fisheries Group
(SWCRIFG)

Maritime and Marine Facility, Licences & Vessel Coastguard Agency movements (MCA)	<p>MCA stated that works in the marine environment to be subject to the appropriate consents under the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010 before carrying out any licensable works. A marine license will be sought.</p> <p>MCA advised that Clydeport are responsible for the safety of navigation within their waters and the applicant will need to gain the approval/agreement of the responsible local navigation authority, and they may require a navigation risk assessment to be undertaken. MCA further advised that the Development will need to work with Clydeport to ensure a robust safety management system (SMS) is in place for the project under the Port Marine Safety Code. - Clydeport have been consulted. The EIAR will include an assessment on Shipping and Navigation, including recreational vessels, and an assessment on Commercial Fisheries will also be included</p> <p>MCA advised that the tail pond inlet/ outlet structure on Loch Awe, is outside of any statutory harbour authority jurisdiction.</p> <p>The MCA expect consideration to be given to the impact of the proposed works on shipping and navigation, including any potential impact on fishing, recreational and commercial vessels. As noted above, a shipping and navigation chapter will be included within the EIAR.</p> <p>MCA queried if there was a possibility of abnormal loads being required to replace components during maintenance. It is possible that this may be required, however it is considered unlikely. The piles will be left in situ to minimise disruption to the seabed in case future repair works require abnormal load deliveries.</p> <p>MCA mentioned ferry movements in the area, noting that none were present within the study area. The Shipping and Navigation chapter of the EIAR will assess vessel movements and any mitigation that may be necessary will be considered to ensure vessel movements do not impact schedules.</p>
Northern Lighthouse Marine Facility Board (NLB)	<p>NLB queries the type of vessels that will be used for delivery of abnormal loads. A number of methods and combinations of methods have been considered, including the use of barges and a crane mounted on the jetty. The jetty will accommodate 50m x 14 m barge with 2m draft.</p>
Clydeport and Marine Facility Architecture, Engineering, Construction, Operations	<p>Clydeport made note that cruise vessels may have an interest in visiting the jetty. The jetty is designed for a 2m draft vessel at 181m from shore and therefore given the shallow nature of the seabed in this area it is not considered to be suitable for cruise ships.</p> <p>The jetty is proposed to be temporary for the purposes of construction of the PSH, with piles left in place should maintenance works require delivery of large components in the future, however this is considered unlikely. Clydeport also queried the size of the jetty. Details on this can be found in Section 2.2 above.</p> <p>Clydeport have offered to assist with communication sharing with local clubs and users, as they also issue the local Notice's to Mariners which includes the local clubs.</p>

3.3 Changes to Scope of the EIA

No comments were received within the Scoping Responses that required a material change to the scope of the EIA, and therefore the EIA has continued on that basis.

4. Community Consultation

4.1 Local Community Engagement

The Applicant has engaged with the local community and community councils from an early stage. An online community council meeting was held on the 13th September 2021 an introductory presentation was provided by the Applicant, introducing members of the Applicant team and the project team from AECOM.

The following were invited to view indicative proposals and drawings of the Development, and talk to members of the Applicant and project team:

- Inveraray Community Council (CC)
- Glenorchy & Innishail CC
- Avich & Kilchrenan CC
- Furnace CC
- Dunadd CC
- West Lochfyne CC
- Taynuilt CC
- Argyll Estates
- Balliemanoch Farm
- Cladich Farm
- Three Bridges
- Upper Sonnachan, Keppochan & Cladich
- Blarghour

Following this introductory meeting, a project website was created: <https://www.balliemanochpsh.co.uk>

Additionally the Applicant, accompanied by the lead designer from AECOM were invited to attend the South Loch Awe-side Community Company (SLACC) Annual General Meeting (AGM) on 26th October 2023 in Portsonachan Village Hall, and give a presentation on the Development akin to that at the public exhibitions (See Section 4.1.2 Public Exhibitions, below). Approximately 20 people attended this event of which was advertised by the SLAAC. The general theme of those attending was of general interest in the Development, with key topics raised including the impact of the Development on water levels within Loch Awe. As part of the general SLAAC AGM an earlier item on the agenda included Portsonachan Village Hall, and how plans to extend and renovate the hall were in jeopardy because of flood risk. As such, the community wanted to understand what effect the Development would have on water levels when the Development is pumping or generating. Additional queries related to noise impacts about the Development were also raised.

4.1.1 Questionnaires

In order to gain further information about the socio-economic and recreational uses in the area, the Applicant provided paper copies at the two public exhibitions and provided an online version on the project website, a variety of questionnaires. The purpose of these questionnaires was as follows:

- Local businesses – questions related to the nature of their business, use of local recreational facilities for business purposes, number of beds and availability throughout the year if accommodation providers, private water supplies and an opportunity to comment on the Development to the Applicant;
- Local access – questions relating to those who may use the local access tracks in the area and surrounding forestry tracks for recreational, business or commuting routes. A figure was provided showing a series of known recreational routes with a response sheet; and

- Private water supplies – In order to supplement the data search provided by ABC, the Applicant undertook its own investigations in order to determine the type, use and location of any other private water supplies.

In total, five questionnaires were partially filled in either in-person at the public exhibitions, returned later by post or filled in online via the project website. Six additional email responses with queries were received. A summary of public queries received are included within Table 4.1 Key Themes below.

4.1.2 Public Exhibitions

Two public exhibitions were undertaken on Wednesday 19th July at the Inveraray Inn and Monday 7th August 2023 in Dalmally Community Hall. Representatives from both the Applicant and the Agent were present at both events. The two scheduled public exhibitions were advertised in: The Campbeltown Courier & Argyllshire Advertiser; The Oban Times & Lochaber Times; and Dunoon Observer, for a total of five weeks each prior to the public exhibitions (as shown in Appendix B).

Following feedback from another pumped storage hydro scheme of the Applicant's that was been recently granted planning consent, in addition to the newspaper advertisements, the Applicant provided additional notification by means of a letter drop sent out to every residential and business address within the PA32 & PA33 postcode area, as shown in Appendix C. The community councils contacted during the POAN process described in Section 1.2 were directly invited to the public exhibition events.

Approximately 76 people attended the two exhibitions over the two days, which were open from 3pm to 8pm on Wednesday 19th July and Monday 7th August 2023. Note that an additional circa 20 people attended the SLACC AGM presentation on the 26th October also (see Section 4.1 Local Community Engagement, above).

A series of exhibitions boards were prepared and are shown in Appendix D. In addition to the feedback forms provided, additional copies of the questionnaires (outlined in Section 4.1.1) were made available on the project website: <https://www.balliemanochpsh.co.uk>

Table 4.1 below outlines the key themes which were received as part of feedback from the public consultation events on the 19th July and 7th August 2023. Each theme has been broken down in to specific elements and the Applicant's response is also provided.

Table 4.1 Key Themes

Theme	Description	Response
General Interest	Understanding what PSH is, how it works, why it is required, how it benefited the grid, etc.	Applicant and AECOM personnel present at the public exhibitions provided detailed responses on the general nature of the project by means of presentations, questions and answers and talking through the design drawings and display boards on display at the events. Details on PSH will be included within the EIAR
Proposed Pier	Why is a pier necessary? What will the pier be used for? What will the pier look like? What is the location of the proposed pier? Will the pier be a permanent or temporary feature? Will a pier negatively affect the communities plans to restore the town's historic pier for commercial use? There was a broad consensus that people would rather there was no permanent new pier.	The pier is required for delivery of large components to the site to avoid pressures on the local road network. There are proposed to be circa 10 deliveries. Details on the pier will be included within the EIAR, with a summary in Table 2.1 above. The pier is proposed to be temporary as a result of public feedback. Inveraray Community Council and Inspire Inveraray (Company who maintains community-owned land and assets and works on the development of Inveraray for the benefit of the community) have secured funding to repair the existing pier in Inveraray and so do not wish for this pier to remain. The proposals cannot utilise the old pier for this Development as it is not proposed to be large enough and would result in the traffic loads being delivered through Inveraray in which the road network is not suitable.
Roads and Transportation	What purpose the two access roads performed and why they are necessary.	The two access roads around Inveraray are required to ensure that traffic avoids the town of Inveraray itself. The route near the castle is to allow site workers from the east to the site and

	Requested that traffic not be directed through the town.	the route along Upper Avenue is for the delivery of the large loads from the pier to the site.
	Will the B840 diversion be permanent? Residents were keen for the road not to be improved as they do not wish increased traffic volumes along this road	Consultation is ongoing with Argyll & Bute council regarding the road diversion. Details will be included within the EIAR.
	Will the B840 be closed?	The B840 will be diverted however access will remain to all properties at all times. The road will be open either via the existing route or the diversion at all times.
	Concern over increased traffic on the A819	Mitigation to slow construction traffic at Electric Cottage will be included within the EIAR to improve safety of vehicles entering and egressing from the property.
Grid Connection and Overhead Lines	Do our proposals include plans for any above ground power lines?	No. There are no proposed overhead lines required for the development of the pumped storage hydro scheme.
Workers' Accommodation and Traffic	How many workers would be required at peak times? Where would workers be housed? How would their traffic movements be controlled? Some local contractors expressed an interest in working on the project.	A Workers' Housing Strategy will be included with the planning application. This will set out various options for workers during construction and may include some onsite workers accommodation, park and ride facilities and shuttle bus services. Workers will not be placed in local holiday lets with accommodation and/or transport provided.
Ecology	Are we aware of red squirrels within the woodland at our proposed access track? How are we considering the fish to ensure they aren't injured by water inflow and outflow Increasing water levels in Loch Awe could impact the use and productivity of fields, and disrupt the breeding cycle of the birds, such as geese and sandpipers, which nest there.	Yes, red squirrels will be covered within the EIAR and any mitigation necessary included. At the inlet/outlet structure within Loch Awe, a screen of suitable aperture will be installed to prevent impacts on fish (entrainment and impingement), to be agreed through the CAR Licence. Impacts on ecology and ornithology are being fully assessed within the EIAR, including impacts to those on the loch shore that could be impacted by changes in water levels.
Heritage	Increasing water levels in Loch Awe could affect Scheduled Monuments	Crannogs are being considered within the EIAR and will be assessed as part of the Heritage assessment.
Private Water Supplies	The council data provided is incorrect. Will my PWS be impacted?	SEPA advise a 100m buffer from roads, tracks and trenches and 250m buffer from buildings, excavations and quarries for private water supplies. Site has been designed accordingly, with no private water supplies likely to be impacted.
Landscape and Visual	What will the PSH look like in the landscape?	Visual impacts of the PSH including the pier will be included within the EIAR. The design of the scheme as a whole has been strongly influenced by the landscape specialists to minimise landscape and visual effects. A Landscape and Ecology Mitigation Plan (LEMP) will be included with the application.
Community Benefit	Will there be a community fund provided akin to what wind farms provide?	No community fund is planned. The Applicant is keen to provide some benefits to the community however and encouraged feedback from the public for input into the design anything they would like to see such as retention of the existing pier to allow for larger recreational vessels, improved walking routes, new benches along routes etc Details on recreational mitigation will be included within the EIAR.
Recreational Loch Users	What will the outfall rate be in Loch Awe and will this affect loch users?	The maximum discharge velocity (water speed) at the outlet is around 0.4 m/s. These flows are not considered to impact loch users; however additional mitigation may be included to deter

	Any significant drop during dry periods could cause moored boats to ground	and protect users at the inlet/outlet, if required. The inlet/outlet is designed to minimise the outlet velocities and it is estimated that any impacts on the loch will be localised.
Flood Risk/Low Water Levels	<p>What will be the changes in loch levels in Loch Awe?</p> <p>Will during periods of flooding the PSH increase local flooding issues? How will this be prevented?</p> <p>Will during dry periods, the increased reduction of water during periods of intake make boat launch areas dangerous?</p>	<p>The working volume of water in the Headpond is around 53,000,000 m³, which will result in a maximum water level change in Loch Awe of around approx. 1.4 m over a period of around 30 hours. Notwithstanding, the 1.4m change is based on the full volume of storage proposed at the Balliemanoch reservoir and therefore is the worst-case scenario where the entire headpond was being filled in a single pumping activity over 30 hours (approx. 46mm / hour) – this does not consider the external movement of water from natural sources into the Loch. In reality this is not an operational scenario that will occur.</p> <p>The natural inflows into Loch Awe will partially balance the pumping up to the headpond. This will result in reduced fluctuation in level. A detailed water resource assessment is being undertaken looking at the water balance and the fluctuation and recharge period based on both initial filling and operational regime.</p> <p>When constructed the scheme will operate under an agreed Controlled Activities Regulations (CAR) license with SEPA at this planning stage.</p>
Noise	What will you do to lessen the noise of construction?	Noise monitoring has been undertaken at a number of locations and good practice mitigation that may be required will be included within the EIAR noise assessment chapter.

4.2 Response to Pre-Application Consultation

A Pre-Application Consultation ('PAC') Report will be submitted with the Section 36 application. The scope of the PAC will outline the consultation undertaken to date (as outlined in Section 3 and 4.1), and any further consultation which has occurred between the submission of this Report and submission, in addition to the Applicant's responses.

A full consultation log is being prepared and will be include within the PAC which will provide further detailed responses to feedback forms and website responses made before and after the public exhibition events. The log will also signpost to specific sections, assessments or technical appendices where relevant.

The Development website has been updated to provide copies of the exhibition boards shown at the public consultation events.

5. Next Steps

5.1 Proposed Submission

The Applicant is proposing to submit the Section 36 application Q1 2024.

5.2 Publication

The Applicant has been in consultation with ABC regarding an appropriate deposit location in Dalmally Village Hall and the Inveraray Inn, locations of which will be confirmed with the below Community Councils, and ABC has advised that a full hard copy can be made available at the Oban, Lorn and the Isles Argyll & Bute Council office at Municipal Buildings, Albany Street, Oban PA34 4AW. In addition, the entire application will be made available online at the project website in addition to the Energy Consents website.

Digital USB pen copies of the EIAR will also be offered to the following community councils (CC):

- Inveraray CC
- Glenorchy & Innishail CC
- Avich & Kilchrenan CC
- Furnace CC
- Dunadd CC
- West Lochfyne CC
- Taynuilt CC

Digital USB pen copies of the EIAR will also be offered to the following councillors from Oban North and Lorn²:

- Independent (Kieron Green)
- Scottish Greens (Luna Martin)
- Scottish National Party (Julie McKenzie)
- Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party (Andrew Vennard)

The Application will be advertised as per the requirements of the Electricity Act in:

- The Campbeltown Courier & Argyllshire Advertiser
- The Oban Times & Lochaber Times
- Dunoon Observer

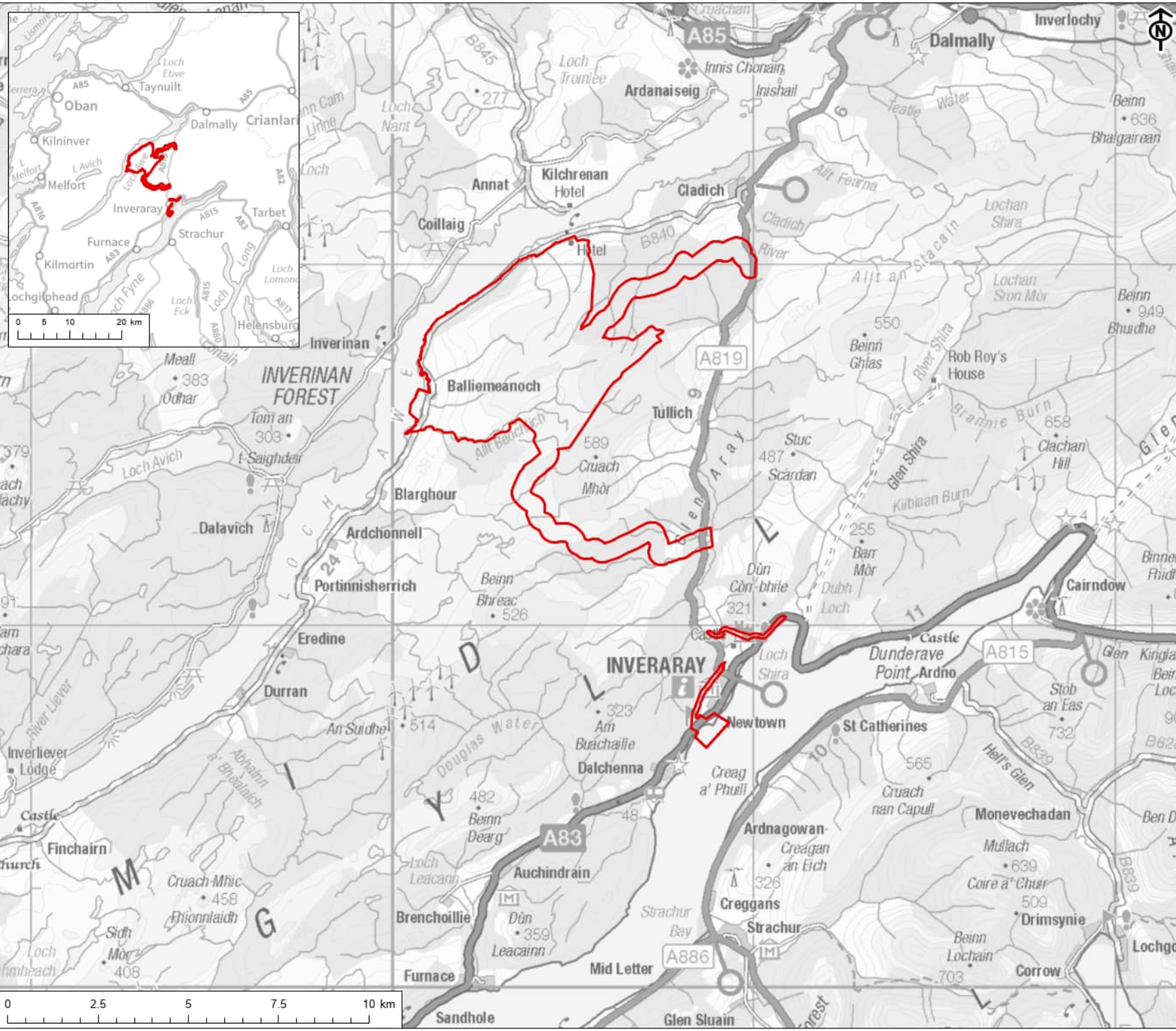
² [Councillors Directory | Argyll and Bute Council \(argyll-bute.gov.uk\)](https://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/councillors-directory)

Appendix A Figures

PROJECT
BALLIEMEANOCH PUMPED STORAGE HYDRO
CLIENT
ILI (Borders PSH) Ltd.
KEY

 Development Boundary

Project Management Initials: VD Designer: BM Checked: AM Approved: VD



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TITLE
Location Plan

REFERENCE
BM_231215_2.1

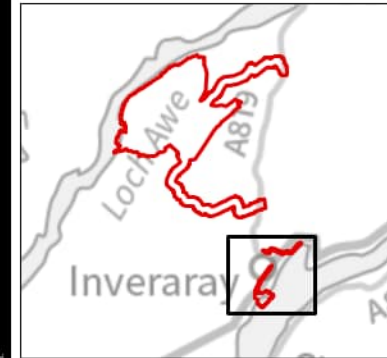
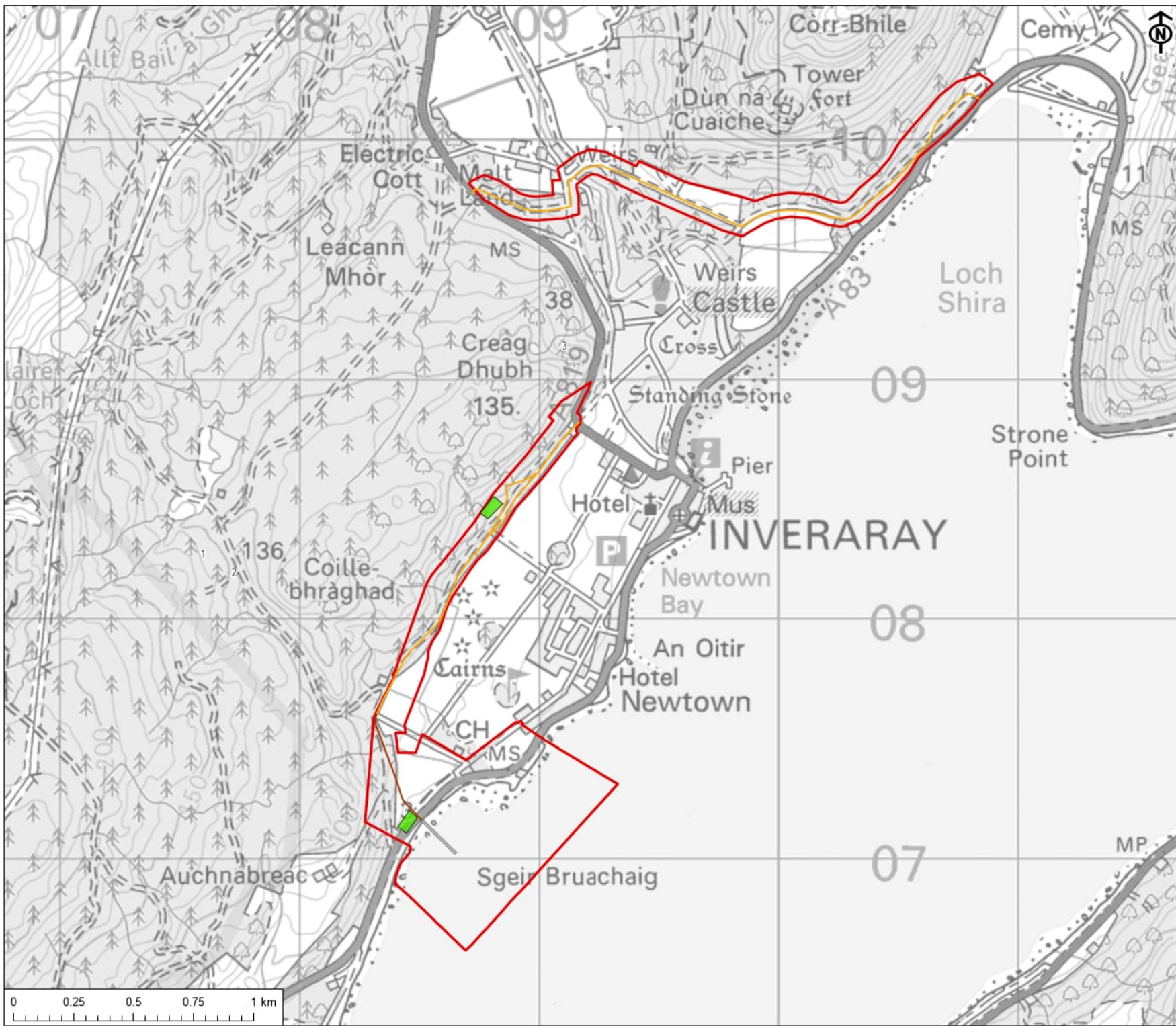
SHEET NUMBER
1 of 1

DATE
15/12/23

Scale @ A3 1:200,000

PROJECT
BALLIEMEANOCH PUMPED STORAGE HYDRO
CLIENT
ILI (Borders PSH) Ltd.

- KEY
- Development Boundary
 - New Access Track - Temporary for construction
 - Existing access track to be upgraded
 - Temporary Construction Compound
 - Marine Facility



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TITLE
Above Ground Infrastructure

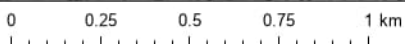
REFERENCE
BM_240105_22

SHEET NUMBER
2 of 2

DATE
05/01/24

Project Management Initials: VD Designer: BM Checked: AM Approved: VD

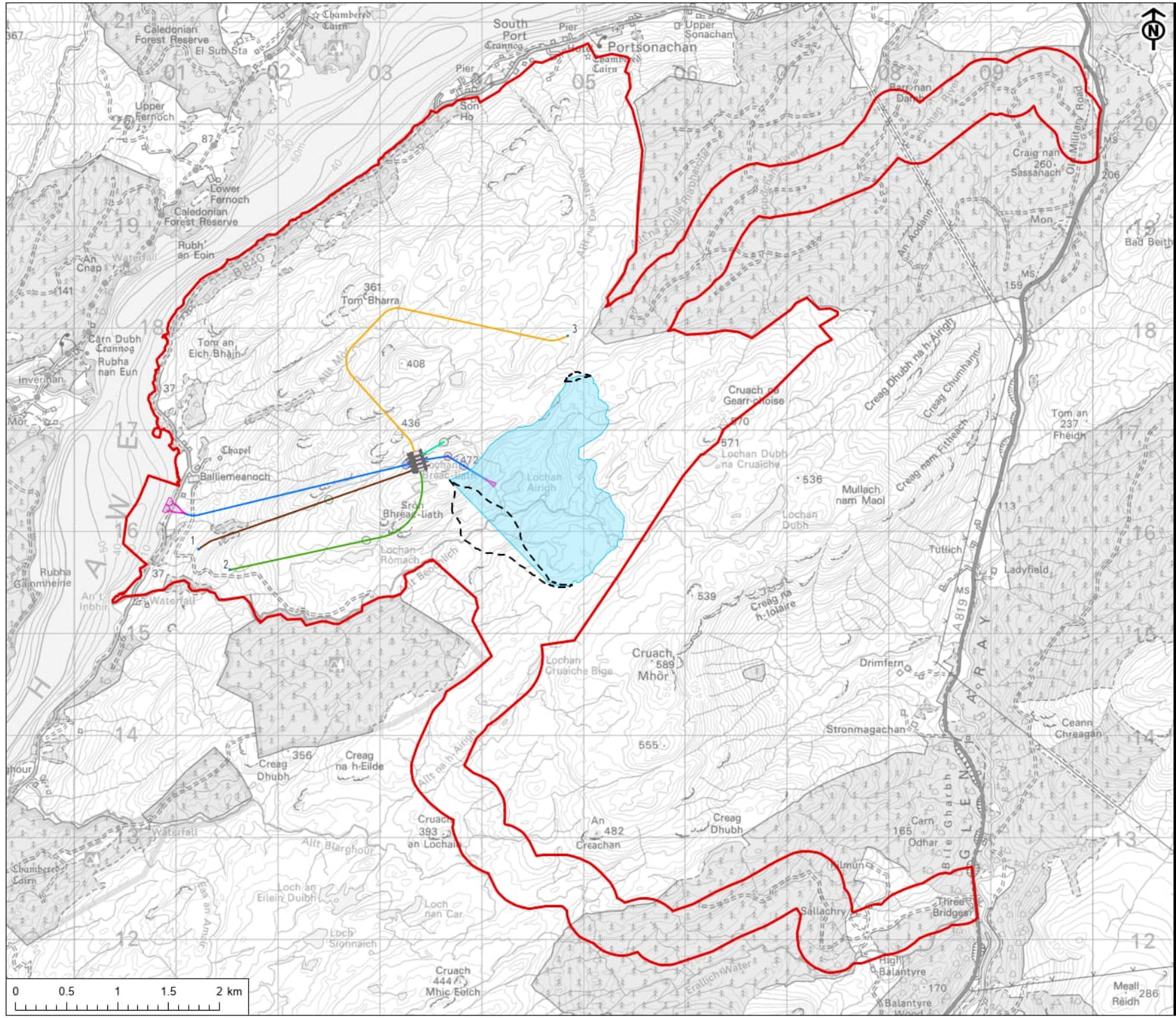
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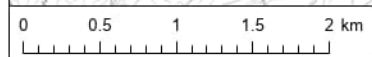
PROJECT
BALLIEMEANOCH PUMPED STORAGE HYDRO
CLIENT
ILI (Borders PSH) Ltd.

- KEY
- Development Boundary
 - Headpond
 - Headpond Embankments
 - Tunnel Portals
 - Access Tunnel
 - Construction Tunnel
 - Power Tunnel
 - Tailrace
 - Powerhouse Overlay
 - Outfall
 - Vent Tunnel
 - Powerhouse
 - Tunnel Portals
 - Outfall
 - Surge Shaft Lower
 - Surge Shaft Upper
 - Upper Gate Shaft
 - Vent Shaft



Project Management Initials: VD Designer: BM Checked: AM Approved: VD

Scale @ A3 1:35,000



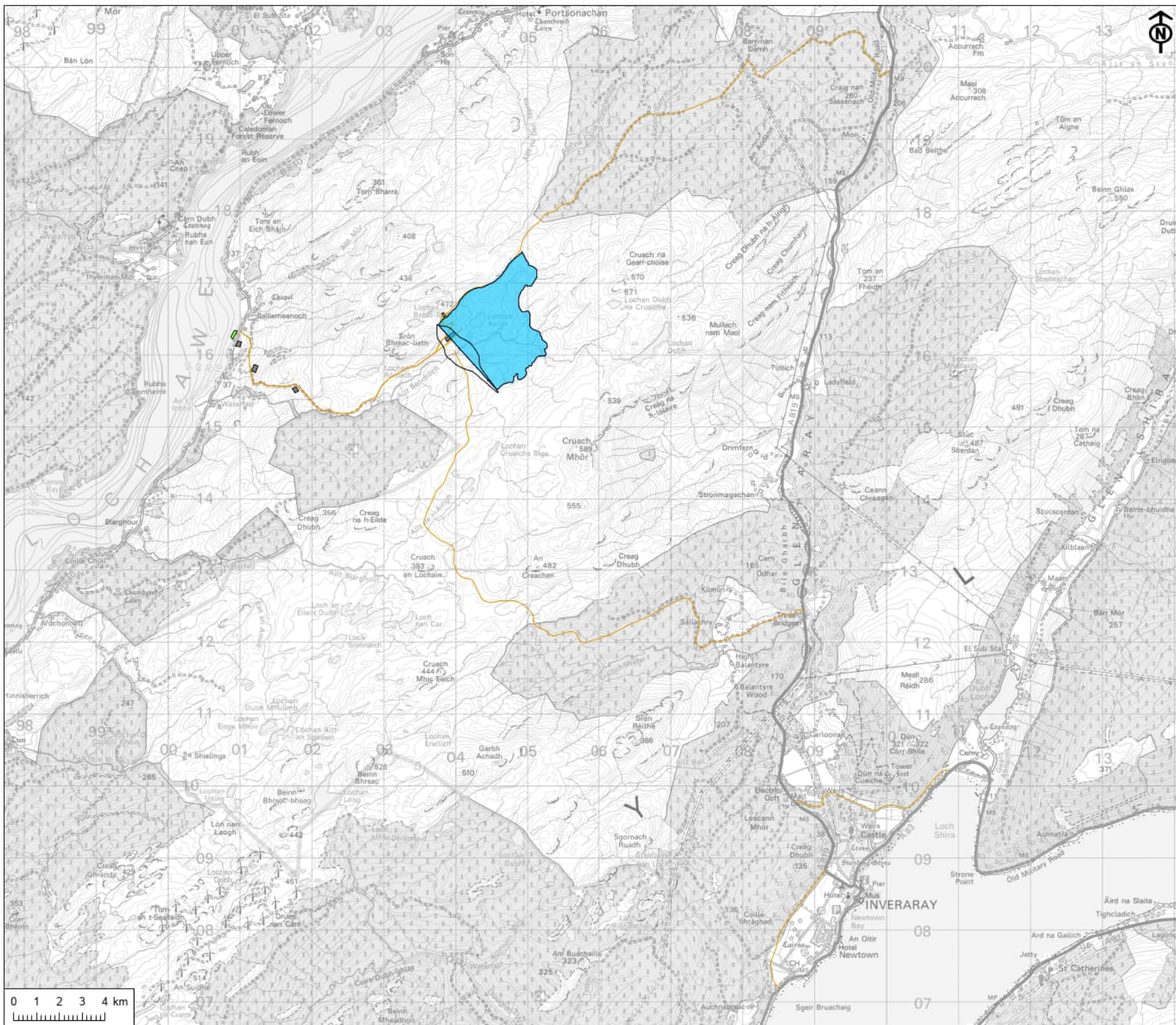
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TITLE
Below Ground Infrastructure

REFERENCE
BM_240105_2_3
SHEET NUMBER
1 of 1
DATE
05/01/24

- KEY
- Embankment
 - Access
 - Headpond
 - Outfall
 - Construction Facility



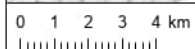
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TITLE
Design Evolution: Design I Feasibility

REFERENCE
BM_240112_2.4

SHEET NUMBER
1 of 1

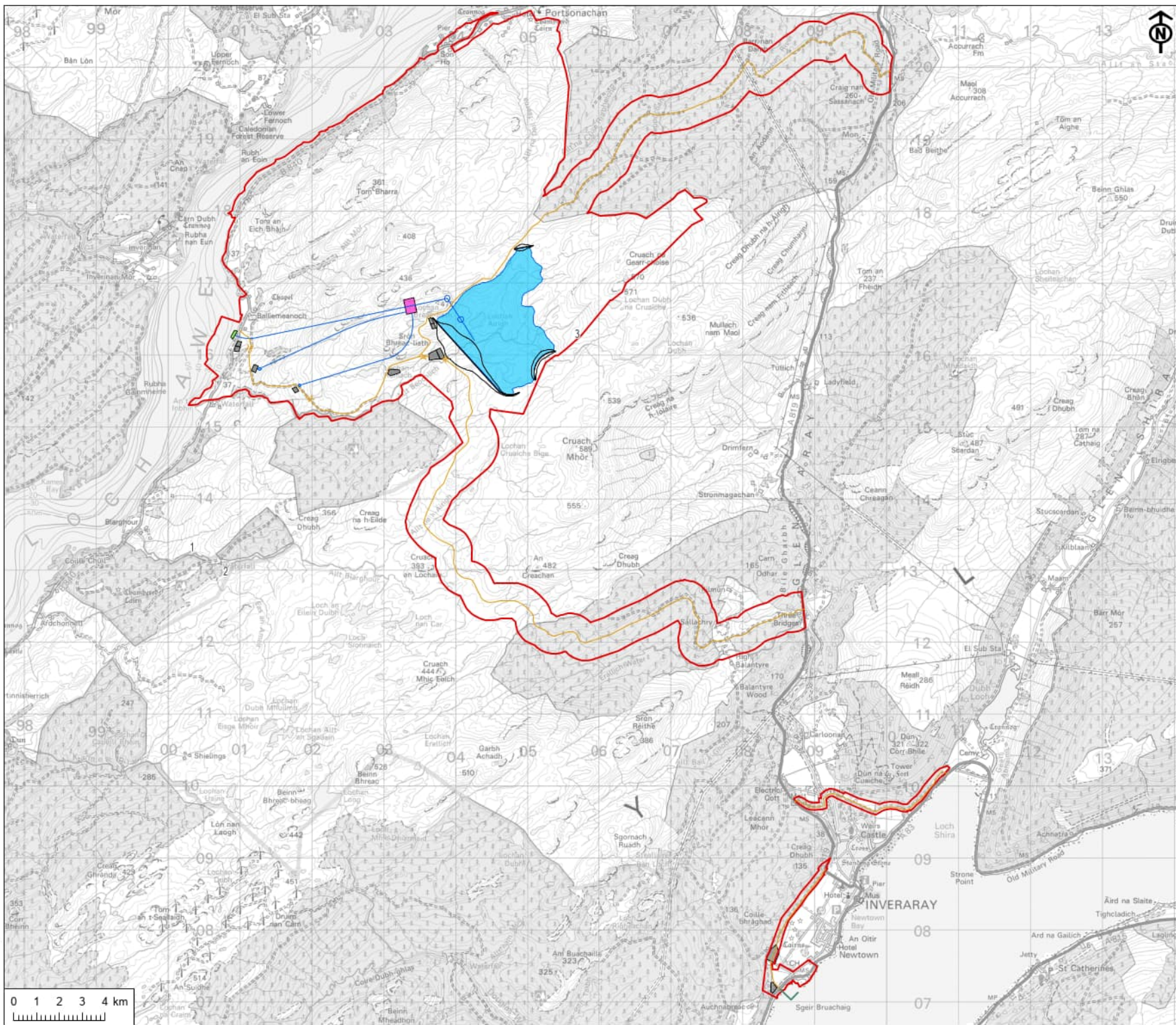
DATE
12/01/24



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PROJECT
BALLIEMANOCH PUMPED STORAGE HYDRO
CLIENT
ILI (Borders PSH) Ltd.

- KEY
- Development Boundary
 - Below Ground Infrastructure
 - Access
 - Embankment
 - Proposed Pier
 - Headpond
 - Construction Compound
 - Tailpond
 - Power House



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TITLE
Design Evolution: Design II Scoping

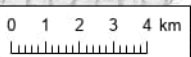
REFERENCE
BM_240112_2.5

SHEET NUMBER
1 of 1

DATE
12/01/24

Project Management Initials: VD Designer: BM Checked: AM Approved: VD

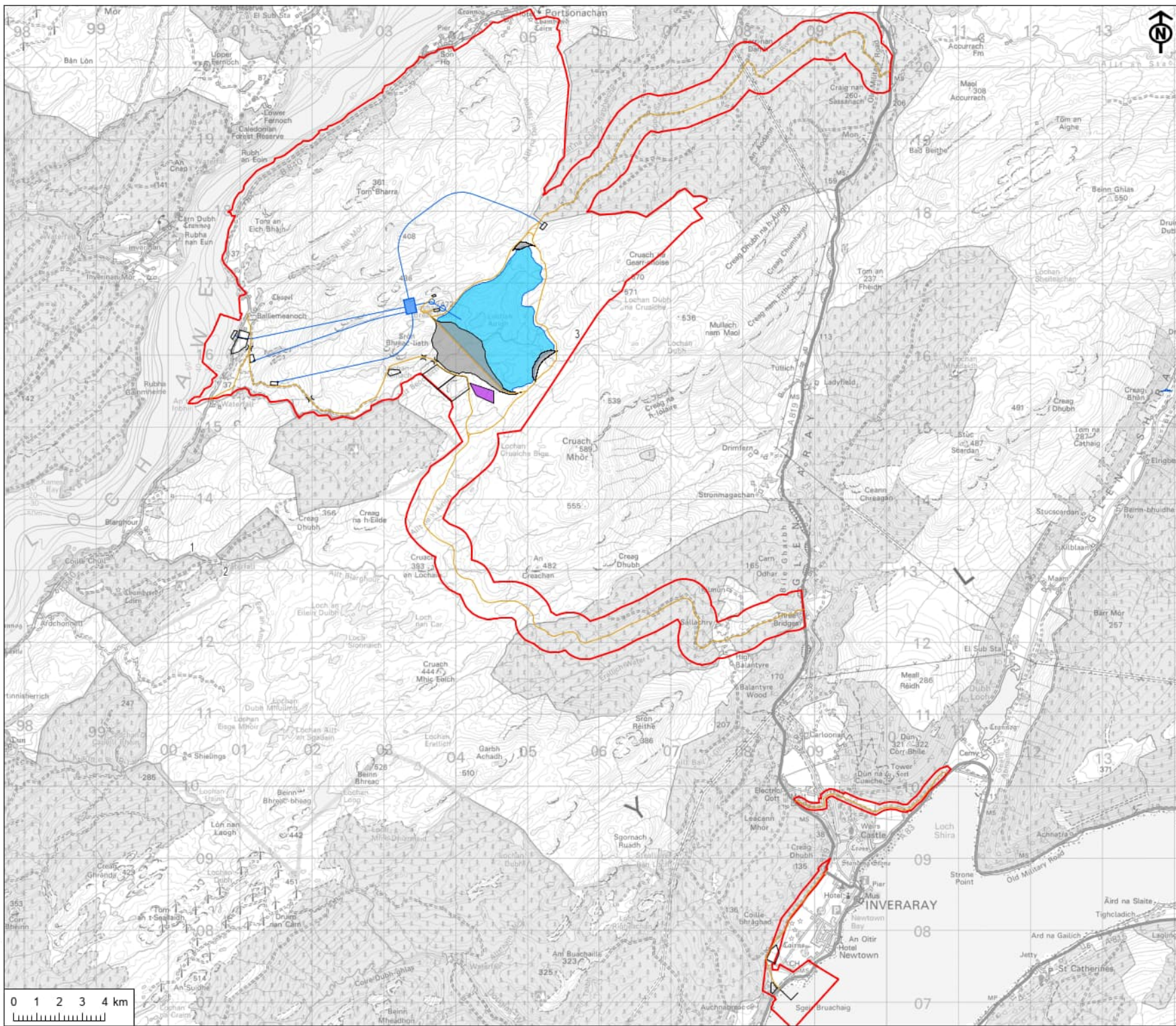
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PROJECT
BALLIEMEANOCH PUMPED STORAGE HYDRO
CLIENT
ILI (Borders PSH) Ltd.

- KEY
- Development Boundary
 - Above Ground Infrastructure
 - Below Ground Infrastructure
 - Access
 - Headpond
 - Embankment
 - Coriolis Energy Exclusion Zone



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TITLE
Design Evolution: Design III Post Scoping

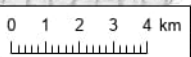
REFERENCE
BM_240112_2.6

SHEET NUMBER
1 of 1

DATE
12/01/24

Project Management Initials: VD Designer: BM Checked: AM Approved: VD

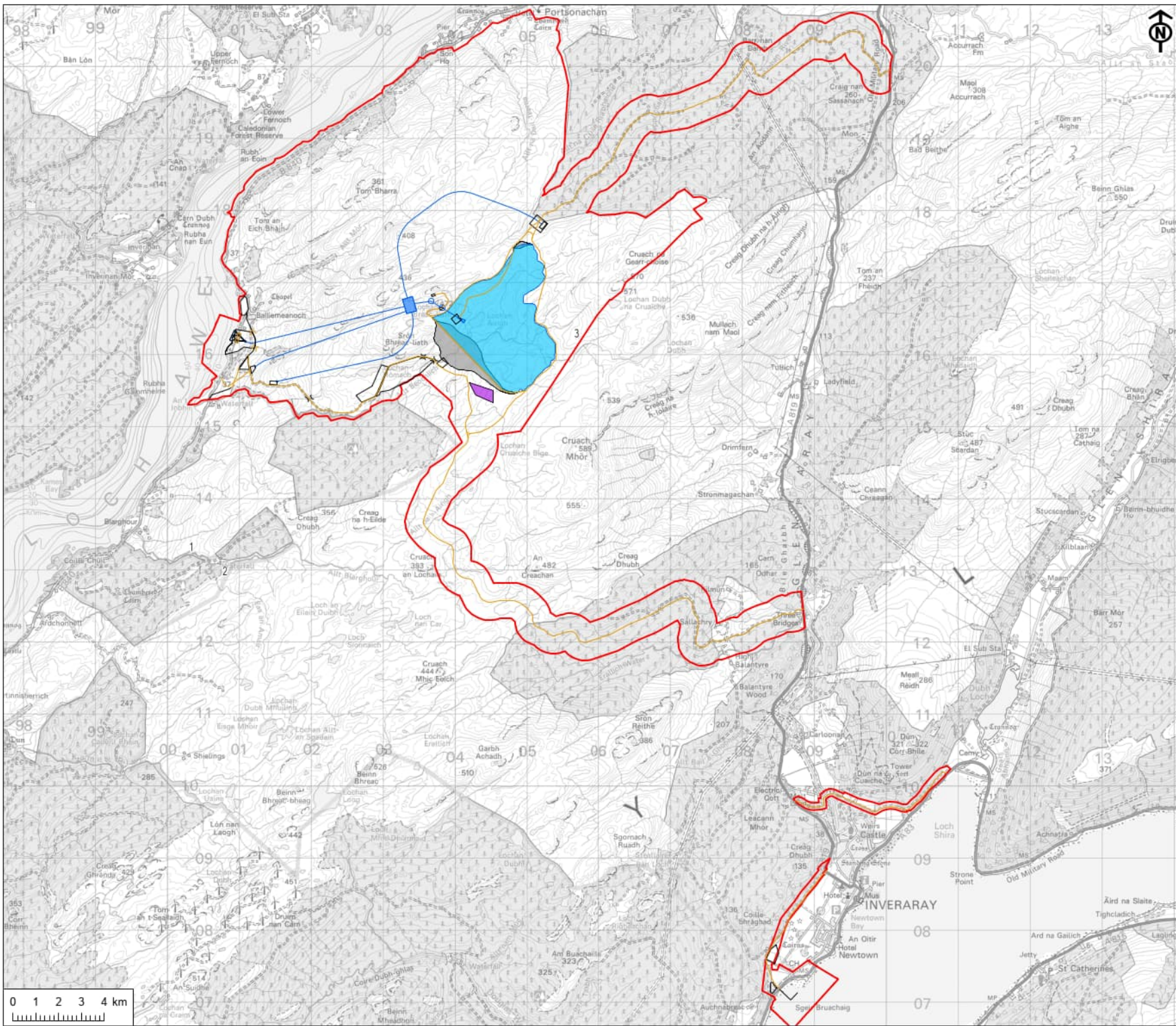
Scale @ A3 1:50,000



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PROJECT
BALLIEMANOCH PUMPED STORAGE HYDRO
CLIENT
ILI (Borders PSH) Ltd.

- KEY
- Development Boundary
 - Above Ground Infrastructure
 - Below Ground Infrastructure
 - Access
 - Embankment
 - Headpond
 - Coriolis Energy Exclusion Zone



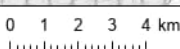
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TITLE
Design Evolution:
Design IV Post Public Consultation

REFERENCE
BM_240112_2.7
SHEET NUMBER
1 of 1
DATE
12/01/24

Project Management initials: VD Designer: BM Checked: AM Approved: VD

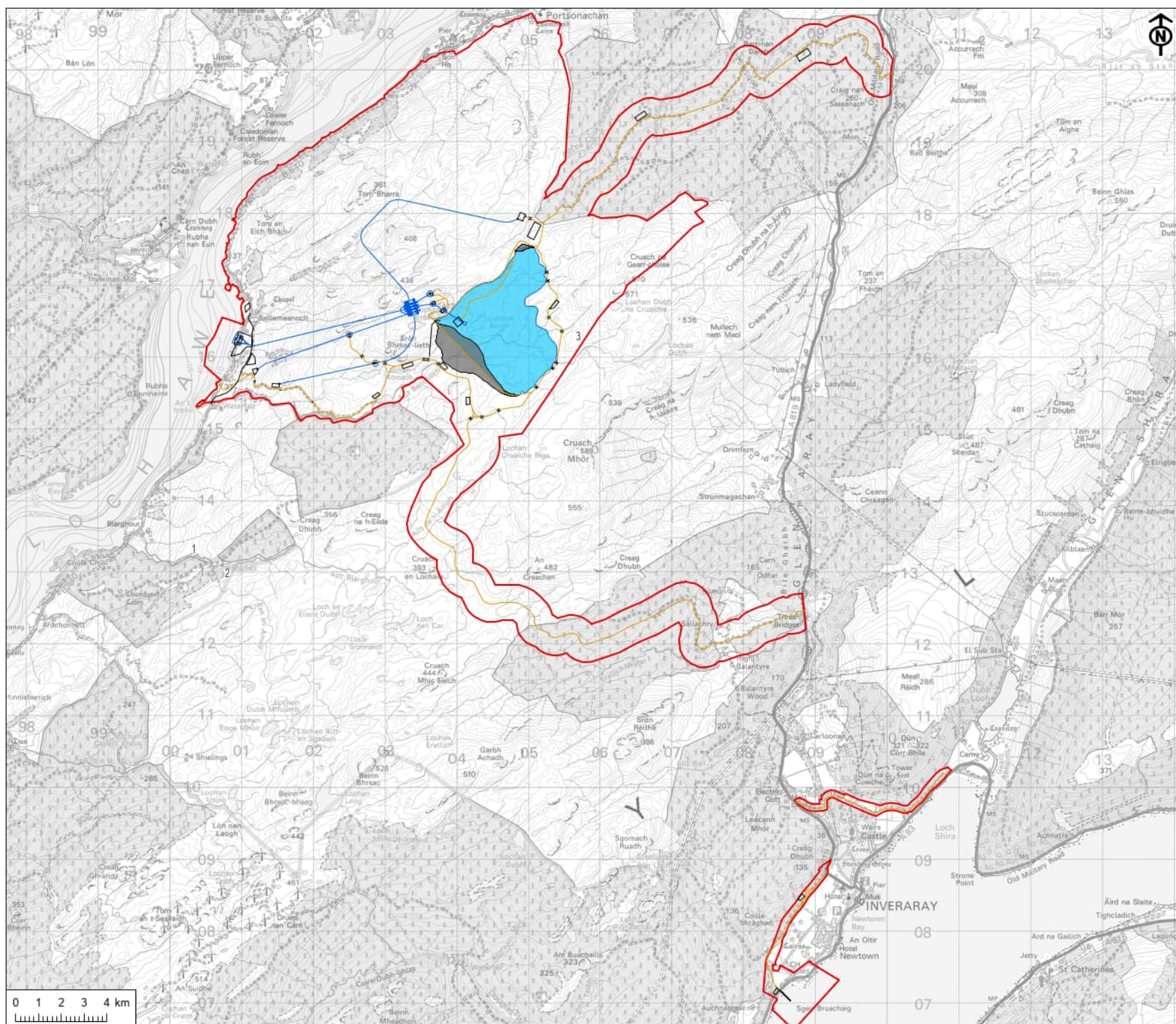
Scale @ A3 1:50,000



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PROJECT
BALLIEMEANOCH PUMPED STORAGE HYDRO
CLIENT
ILI (Borders PSH) Ltd.

- KEY
- Development Boundary
 - Above Ground Infrastructure
 - Below Ground Infrastructure
 - Access
 - Headpond
 - Embankment



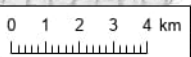
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TITLE
Design Evolution:
Design V Design Refinement,
Section 36 Submission Design

REFERENCE
BM_240112_2.8
SHEET NUMBER
1 of 1
DATE
12/01/24

Project Management Initials: VD Designer: BM Checked: AM Approved: VD

Scale @ A3 1:50,000



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Appendix B Newspaper Adverts

PUBLIC NOTICES

Patience's Foot Health Clinic

Your Feet In Safe Hands

Comfortable feet are essential at work, exercise and enjoying our social lives to the full. Over an average lifetime, our feet might carry us up to 70,000 miles, yet they are often neglected until they cause us pain or deteriorate with age. Foot care is especially important when living with diabetes where a small wound that fails to heal can lead to an ulcer.

Don't be embarrassed with your feet

- Thick nails
- Fungal nails
- Cracked heels
- Corns
- Ingrown nails
- Skin debridement
- Athletes's feet
- Verruca pedis
- Diabetic foot care
- Nail reduction and trimming

Nothing puts me off!

Foot care in the comfort of your home.

Mobile: 07847 328929

Email: patiencesfothealthclinic@gmail.com

Cowal Music Club presents

the 'Dopey Monkey' Duo, - Martin Lee Thomson (euphonium) and Danielle Price (tuba), in a thrilling programme drawn from jazz, folk, and classical music, in Dunoon's Burgh Hall, on Sunday, August 13th, at 2.30pm.

Come and enjoy some wonderful, varied and very entertaining music!

Tickets for the recital £12 via www.cowalmusicclub.co.uk, or on the door.



Saturday 12 August at 2.30pm

Half Hour Organ Recital by Frank Barclay
Varied programme
Refreshments
Donations

Rothsay Horticultural Society

AGM

Wednesday 9th August 2023
7.30pm

Trinity Church (Small Hall) Castle Street
All society members are welcome to attend

Argyll and Bute Council

PLANNING NOTICE

The applications listed below together with the plans and other documents submitted with them may be viewed electronically through Argyll and Bute Council website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk. Documents are available to inspect electronically at this time. Customers requiring assistance can contact us by e-mail: planning.hq@argyll-bute.gov.uk or tel. 01546 605518.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2013 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT
TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

Ref. No.	Proposal	Site Address
23/01340/PP	Variation of condition 2 of planning permission reference 13/02474/PP (Erection of detached annexe) for annexe to be occupied by family and guests of the main dwelling and for the provision of short-term holiday letting accommodation	Annexe, Larchfield, Leanach, Strathlachlan, Cairndow, Argyll And Bute PA27 8DB
22/02167/PPP	Site for the erection of dwellinghouse	Land West of The Holy Loch Inn, Sandbank, Dunoon, Argyll And Bute

Written comments can be submitted online <http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/planning-and-environment/find-and-comment-planning-applications> or to Argyll and Bute Council, Development Management, Kilmory Castle, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8RT within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence. Any letter of representation the Council receives is considered a public document and will be published on our website. Anonymous or marked confidential correspondence will not be considered. A weekly list of all applications can be viewed on the Councils website. Customers are requested to use electronic communication where possible during the coronavirus pandemic as our ability to process postal mail is restricted.

To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us at:

www.argyll-bute.gov.uk

Comhairle Earra - Ghàidheal agus Bhòid



BALLIEMEANOCH PUMPED STORAGE HYDRO

There will be public exhibitions presenting the proposed Balliemeanoch Pumped Storage Hydro Project on:

• **Monday the 7th August at Dalmally Community Hall between 3pm and 8pm.**

The Project is a pumped storage hydro scheme with a generating capacity of up to 1,500MW, and is situated to the east of Loch Awe, approximately 9 km north west of Inveraray and 16 km south west of Dalmally. The Project is designed to generate hydroelectricity during peak loadings on the National Grid. The Project reservoir will be replenished during times of surplus electricity by pumping water up from Loch Awe, and returning this water to Loch Awe at times of generation via an underground tunnel.

During these exhibitions, presentation boards, drawings and project information will be available including representatives from the Developer and the consultant team. These can also be accessed through a virtual consultation room. Further details on the Project, including how to access the virtual consultation room, can be found on the Project Website: <https://www.balliemeanochpsh.co.uk/>. Anyone wishing to make comments relating to the Project to the Developer can do so at the public exhibitions or by emailing the Project email address: pumpedstorage@aecom.com.

Comments made to the Developer at the public exhibition or via email are not representations to the Energy Consents Unit (ECU) or Argyll and Bute Council. When the application is submitted there will be an opportunity to make representations to the ECU and Argyll and Bute Council as part of the planning process.

Argyll and Bute Council

PLANNING

The applications listed below together with the plans and other documents submitted with them may be viewed electronically through Argyll and Bute Council website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk. Documents are available to inspect electronically at this time. Customers requiring assistance can contact us by e-mail: planning.hq@argyll-bute.gov.uk or tel. 01546 605518.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2013 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT
TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT

Ref. No.	Proposal	Site Address
23/01116/PP	Installation of 4 replacement windows from white timber single glazed sash and case to double glazed white uPVC windows	Flat 2/1 9 Chapelhill Road Rothsay Isle Of Bute Argyll And Bute PA20 0BJ

Written comments can be submitted online <http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/planning-and-environment/find-and-comment-planning-applications> or to Argyll and Bute Council, Development Management, Kilmory Castle, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8RT within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence. Any letter of representation the Council receives is considered a public document and will be published on our website. Anonymous or marked confidential correspondence will not be considered. A weekly list of all applications can be viewed on the Councils website. Customers are requested to use electronic communication where possible during the coronavirus pandemic as our ability to process postal mail is restricted.

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www.argyll-bute.gov.uk

Comhairle Earra - Ghàidheal agus Bhòid



ADVERTISING - 01369 7068082

CHURCH NOTICES

COWAL BAPTIST CHURCH

Reg. Charity SC034997

Alfred Street, Dunoon
Senior Citizens' Hall

Sunday Worship 11am

JEAN MUNRO

ALL WELCOME

Cast your cares on the Lord
and He will sustain you.
Psalm 55:22

HOLY TRINITY SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH

(Charity No. SC008066)

Sundays - 10:30
Thursdays - 17:30

Other services continue online

For details see
www.holytrinitydunoon.co.uk
or our Facebook page
or ring 01369 702444

Rev DAVID RAILTON

The Church of Scotland

The Shore Kirk

Charity Number SC003410

Sunday 6th August

Strone 10.30am

Led by Rev Janet MacKellar

All Welcome!

DUNOON BAPTIST CHURCH

Sunday 6th August

11:00am - Wilson Blair

(Or Live Stream on You Tube)

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND THE COWAL KIRK

Charity No: SC001976

SUNDAY 6 AUGUST 2023

SERVICE IN

THE HIGH KIRK

TO CELEBRATE THE

SACRAMENT OF

BAPTISM

AT 10:30AM

FLOWER FESTIVAL

SONGS OF PRAISE IN

THE HIGH KIRK

AT 6:30PM

ALL WELCOME!

FOLLOW US ON THE COWAL

KIRK FACEBOOK PAGE

ST. MUN'S R.C. CHURCH

Alexandra Parade

Charity No: SCO02876

Saturday: 6pm - Vigil Mass

Sunday: 9am and 11am Mass

Fr. RODDY McAULEY

Parish Priest

dunoon@rcdai.org.uk

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706082

E-mail: advertising@argyllmedia.co.uk

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GET YOUR CAR FOR SALE NOTICED

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01369 706082

E-mail: advertising@argyllmedia.co.uk

ADVERTISING - 01369 7068082

PUBLIC NOTICES

Argyll and Bute Council

Councillor Tommy Macpherson (Ward 1: South Kintyre)
Councillor Macpherson will be holding surgeries during the month of July as follows:

DATE	VENUE	TIME
Friday 7th July	Machrihanish Village Hall	6.00pm - 8.00pm
Saturday 8th July	Peniver Village Hall	12.00pm - 2.00pm
Saturday 8th July	The Picture House, Campbeltown	3.00pm - 5.00pm

Councillor Macpherson can also be contacted by email – Tommy.Macpherson@argyll-bute.gov.uk and by telephone 07788 520429

Argyll and Bute Council

PLANNING

The applications listed below together with the plans and other documents submitted with them may be viewed electronically through Argyll and Bute Council website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk. Documents are available to inspect electronically at this time.

Customers requiring assistance can contact us by e-mail: planning.help@argyll-bute.gov.uk or tel. 01546 605518.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2013 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

Ref. No.	Proposal	Site Address
23/00983/PP	Erection of telecommunications equipment compound with 22 metre high tower with antennas and associated works	Land South Of Ashfield, Achnamara, Lochgilphead, Argyll And Bute
23/01175/PP	Redevelopment of existing stone ruin to create dwellinghouse, installation of septic tank and formation of vehicular access	Land West Of Salachry Ardfern, Lochgilphead, Argyll And Bute
23/01092/PP	Formation of earthbank slurry lagoon and associated works	Land North East Of Clachkerril, Campbeltown, Argyll And Bute
23/00922/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse, installation of septic tank and formation of vehicular access	Land North West Of Gortchan Farm, Hillside Road, Campbeltown, Argyll And Bute
23/01204/PP	Fabric repair to the exterior of building incorporating replacement roof covering, new lead work to roof boundaries and lead flashing at base of chimney stack and installation of new vertical soil pipe terminal	10 Pibtalloch Street, Lochgilphead, Argyll And Bute, PA31 8LP

Written comments can be submitted online <http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/planning-and-environment/find-and-comment-planning-applications> or to Argyll and Bute Council, Development Management, Kilmory Castle, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8RT within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence. Any letter of representation the Council receives is considered a public document and will be published on our website. Anonymous or marked confidential correspondence will not be considered. A weekly list of all applications can be viewed on the Councils website. Customers are requested to use electronic communication where possible during the coronavirus pandemic as our ability to process postal mail is restricted.

To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us at: www.argyll-bute.gov.uk
Comhairle Earra - Ghàidheal agus Bhòid



Argyll and Bute Council

CIVIC GOVERNMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT 1982 TAXI FARE REVIEW

Notice is hereby given that Argyll and Bute Council, having consulted with members of the public and taxi operators licensed by the authority, propose to make no changes to the maximum fares and other charges for taxis operating within the jurisdiction of Argyll and Bute Council. It is proposed these maximum fares and other charges will become effective from 22nd October 2023.

Any person wishing to lodge representations in respect of these proposals should do so by writing to the Head of Legal & Regulatory Support, Argyll and Bute Council, Kilmory, Lochgilphead, PA31 8RT or by emailing: licensing@argyll-bute.gov.uk no later than 7th August 2023.

Tariff 1 Hirlings from ranks or "flag"	
Hiring between 7am and 10pm	
Initial charge (860 yards or part thereof)	£3.45
Subsequent charge (each 176 yards or part thereof)	23 pence
Tariff 2 Hirlings from ranks or "flag"	
Hiring between 10pm and 7am	
Initial charge (860 yards or part thereof)	£4.14
Subsequent charge (each 150 yards or part thereof)	23 pence
Tariff 2 also applies to hirlings from ranks or "flag" between 6pm and 10pm December 24th, 6pm and 10pm December 31st and between 7am 2nd January and 7am 3rd January	
Tariff 3 Hiring from ranks or "flag" between 10pm 24th December and 7am 27th December and between 10pm 31st December and 7am 2nd January	
Initial Charge (860 yards or part thereof)	£4.83
Subsequent Charge (each 126 yards or part thereof)	23 pence

Sealing Charge – £100 maximum (with permission to display warning signs indicating that there may be an additional charge for any potential loss of earnings suffered as a consequence)

Waiting Time – 40 pence per minute commencement of journey, charged on a pro rata basis per second

Taxi called by means of telephone – 35 pence additional charge

Large Mini-bus type vehicle (carrying 5 or more passengers together at their own request) –

- a) Where Tariff 1 would apply – charge Tariff 2
- b) Where Tariff 2 would apply – charge Tariff 3
- c) Where Tariff 3 would apply – surcharge £1.15

Fee by negotiation – for all journeys commencing within but finishing outwith Argyll and Bute, in a place of the above charges, such fares may be charged as prior to the acceptance of the hire, were proposed to the hirer and accepted by him/her

Ferry Fares – The hirer shall be liable for the cost of a return ferry fare for any journey involving a ferry

To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us at:

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BALLIEMEANOCH PUMPED STORAGE HYDRO

There will be public exhibitions presenting the proposed Balliemeanoch Pumped Storage Hydro Project on:

- Wednesday the 19th July at Inveraray Inn between 3pm and 8pm.
- Monday the 7th August at Dalmlally Community Hall between 3pm and 8pm.

The Project is a pumped storage hydro scheme with a generating capacity of up to 1,500MW, and is situated to the east of Loch Awe, approximately 9 km northwest of Inveraray and 16 km south west of Dalmlally. The Project is designed to generate hydroelectricity during peak loadings on the National Grid. The Project reservoir will be replenished during times of surplus electricity by pumping water up from Loch Awe, and returning this water to Loch Awe at times of generation via an underground tunnel.

During these exhibitions, presentation boards, drawings and project information will be available including representatives from the Developer and the consultant team. These can also be accessed through a virtual consultation room. Further details on the Project, including how to access the virtual consultation room, can be found on the Project Website: <https://www.balliemeanochpah.co.uk/>. Anyone wishing to make comments relating to the Project to the Developer can do so at the public exhibitions or by emailing the Project email address: pumpedstorage@aecom.com.

Comments made to the Developer at the public exhibition or via email are not representations to the Energy Consents Unit (ECU) or Argyll and Bute Council. When the application is submitted there will be an opportunity to make representations to the ECU and Argyll and Bute Council as part of the planning process.

MARINE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010 Loch Fyne

Notice is hereby given that Bakkafrøst Scotland Ltd has applied to the Scottish Ministers of the Scottish Government, under Part 4 of the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010, in respect of a Moorings Marine Licence Application at:

Cost	£<2500	
Location	Loch Fyne	
Strondoir Bay	55° 57.682' N	05° 26.445' W
Fish Farm,	55° 57.709' N	05° 26.455' W
Loch Fyne	55° 57.735' N	05° 26.466' W

(WGS84)

Plans showing the position of the works may be inspected at <https://bit.ly/43t7kZq>.

Representations relating to safety of navigation or environmental issues in respect of the application should be made by email to: MS.MarineLicensing@gov.scot within 28 days of the date of this notice, quoting reference: 00010288 and Bakkafrøst Scotland Ltd (per "/>

Fair Processing Notice
The Scottish Government's Marine Scotland Licensing Operations Team (MS-LOT) determine applications for marine licences under the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010 and the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009. During the consultation process any person having an interest in the outcome of the application may make representation to MS-LOT. The representation may contain personal information, for example a name or address. This representation will only be used for the purpose of determining an application and will be stored securely in the Scottish Government's official corporate record. Representations will be shared with the applicant and/or agent acting on behalf of the applicant, any people or organisations that we consult in relation to the application and, where necessary, be published online, however personal information will be removed before sharing or publishing.

A full privacy notice can be found at: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/marine-licensing-and-consenting-privacy-notice/>. If you are unable to access this, or you have any queries or concerns about how your personal information will be handled, contact MS-LOT at: ms.marinelicensing@gov.scot.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

FIRST REGISTRATION OF A CROFT

John MacKinnon has registered their croft B Onich (Grazings Share) Kilmalie on the Crofting Register held by the Registers of Scotland. Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by 23 March 2024. Details of the registration may be found at www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home. The croft registration number is 09218.

CROFTING COMMISSION COIMISEAN NA CROITEARACHD DECROFTING APPLICATION

1. M Macdonald, 19 Badabry, 0.075 ha, Existing house site (121598)

Comments from any member of the crofting community within the locality of the croft and any expressions of demand for the croft (which may be made public), may be sent to the Crofting Commission by 02/08/23 at info@crofting.gov.scot / Crofting Commission, Great Glen House, Leachin Road, Inverness IV3 5NW.

MARINE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010 Salen Bay, Loch Sunart, Argyll

Notice is hereby given that Salen Jetty has applied to the Scottish Ministers of the Scottish Government, under Part 4 of the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010, in respect of deposit of moorings at:

Cost >£2600

Location

Salen Bay, Loch Sunart, Argyll	Moorings
	06° 42.792' N 05° 46.564' W
	06° 42.749' N 05° 46.567' W
	06° 42.756' N 05° 46.605' W
	06° 42.906' N 05° 46.620' W

(WG884)

Plans showing the position of the works may be inspected at <https://marine.gov.scot/node/24102>.

Representations relating to safety of navigation or environmental issues in respect of the application should be made by email to: MS.MarineLicensing@gov.scot within 28 days of the date of this notice, quoting reference: 00010809 and Salen Jetty.

Fair Processing Notice

The Scottish Government's Marine Scotland Licensing Operations Team (MS-LOT) determine applications for marine licences under the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010 and the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009. During the consultation process any person having an interest in the outcome of the application may make representation to MS-LOT. The representation may contain personal information, for example a name or address. This representation will only be used for the purpose of determining an application and will be stored securely in the Scottish Government's official corporate record. Representations will be shared with the applicant and/or agent acting on behalf of the applicant, any people or organisations that we consult in relation to the application and, where necessary, be published online, however personal information will be removed before sharing or publishing.

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During these exhibitions, presentation boards, drawings and project information will be available including representatives from the Developer and the consultant team. These can also be accessed through a virtual consultation room. Further details on the Project, including how to access the virtual consultation room, can be found on the Project Website: <https://www.balliemeanochphs.co.uk/>. Anyone wishing to make comments relating to the Project to the Developer can do so at the public exhibitions or by emailing the Project email address: pumpedstorage@aecom.com.

Comments made to the Developer at the public exhibition or via email are not representations to the Energy Consents Unit (ECU) or Argyll and Bute Council. When the application is submitted there will be an opportunity to make representations to the ECU and Argyll and Bute Council as part of the planning process.

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WATER ENVIRONMENT AND WATER SERVICES (SCOTLAND) ACT 2003. WATER ENVIRONMENT (CONTROLLED ACTIVITIES) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2011 APPLICATION FOR THE VARIATION OF AUTHORISATION OF FISHNISH B MARINE PEN FISH FARM

An application has been made to the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) by Scottish Sea Farms Limited to vary an existing water use licence authorising the carrying on of controlled activities at, near or in connection with Fishnish B MPFF, as follows:

Description of change to Controlled Activities	Waters affected	National Grid Reference (NGR)
Change to the discharge to the water environment of fish excreta, uneaten food and other substances resulting from the operation of an existing marine pen fish farm	Sound of Mull	NM 65202 42797

SEPA considers that the proposals contained in the application may have an impact on the water environment and/or on the interests of other users of the water environment. The application may be viewed on SEPA's website at:

<https://consultation.sepa.org.uk/permits/car-regulations-aquaculture-applications> (please note that you must use this address as written. Please do not use www at the start)

If you are unable to access the website you can email SEPA at registry@sepa.org.uk or call 08000 99 66 99 to request a copy of the application.

Please note that due to the current Covid-19 restrictions it is not possible to view the application at a SEPA office.

Any person affected or likely to be affected by, or having an interest in, the application may make representations to SEPA in writing within 28 days beginning with the date of this advertisement, either by email to registry@sepa.org.uk, online at: <https://consultation.sepa.org.uk/permits/car-regulations-aquaculture-applications>

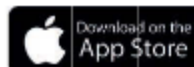
or by sending a letter to: FAC: Registry, Scottish Environment Protection Agency, Angus Smith Building, 6 Parklands Avenue, Eurocentral, Holytown, North Lanarkshire, ML11 4WQ, quoting reference number: CAR/L/1008494

Written representations received by SEPA within 28 days of this advertisement will be taken into consideration in determining the application. Any such representations will be placed in a public register unless the person making them requests that they should not be. Where such a request is made SEPA will include a statement in the register indicating that representations have been made which have been the subject of such a request.

Before determining the application, SEPA will:

- assess the risk to the water environment posed by the carrying on of the activities;
 - assess the indirect effects of that impact on any other aspects of the environment likely to be significantly affected;
 - consider any likely adverse social and economic effects of that impact and of any indirect environmental effects that have been identified;
 - consider the likely environmental, social and economic benefits of the activity;
 - assess the impact of the controlled activity or activities on the interests of other users of the water environment;
 - assess what steps may be taken to ensure 'efficient and sustainable water use'; and
 - apply and have regard to relevant legislation.
- SEPA will then either grant or refuse to grant the application.

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Appendix C Letter Drop



Balliemanoch Pumped Storage Hydro

I am writing to you to let you know about a proposal in your area.

As we move towards a fossil fuel free, net zero electricity system, there is an increasing need for energy storage to compliment renewable electricity generation. Our proposed Pumped Storage Hydro (PSH) project will store excess power on the grid network and then release back when required. This will help to balance the intermittent nature of renewable generation and provide important grid network services to the system operator, National Grid.

The proposed project location is on land at Balliemanoch Farm, some 15km south of Dalmally – please see plan on other side.

The basic principle of PSH involves having two connected bodies of water with an appropriate height difference between them. Underground infrastructure comprising of pipes and turbine generators then allows water to be pumped to the upper reservoir when there is excess power on the grid network, and for this to be released during times of high demand to meet and balance system electricity requirements. We also propose to establish a pier to the south of Inverary to have the option of delivering items by boat to ease traffic movements.

As we develop these proposals, and prior to making a planning application, we wish to consult on our plans.

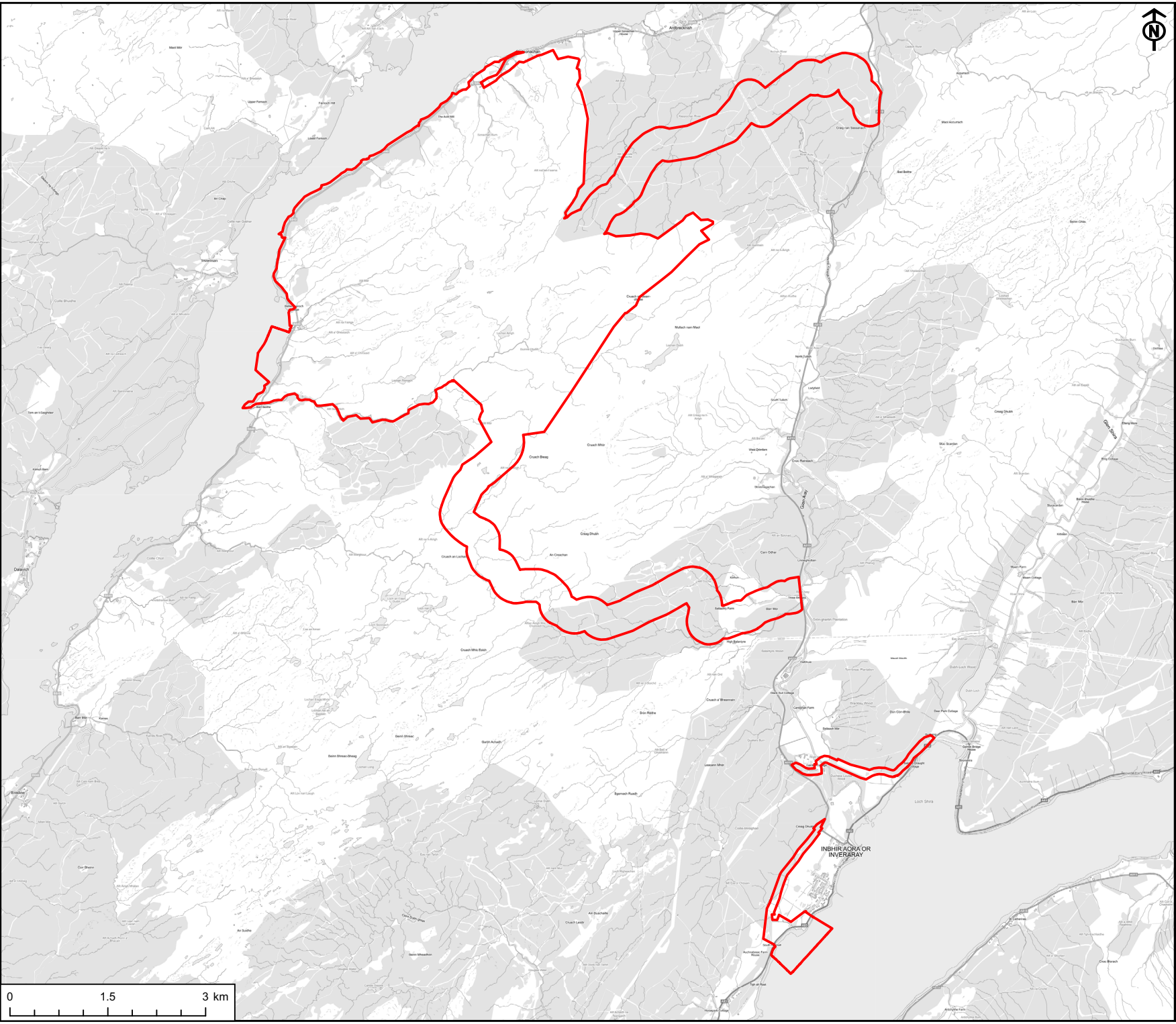
We will be hosting two in-person events: the first at The Inverary Inn, Wednesday 19th July from 3-8pm; the second at Dalmally Community Hall, Monday 7th August from 3-8pm.

The information made available at the events will also be accessible through the project website - <https://www.balliemanochpsh.co.uk> – from the 19th of July.

The events are an opportunity to see the project plans and proposals, to meet the team, and ask questions and leave feedback.

We do hope to see you there.

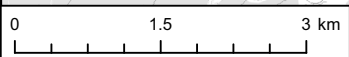
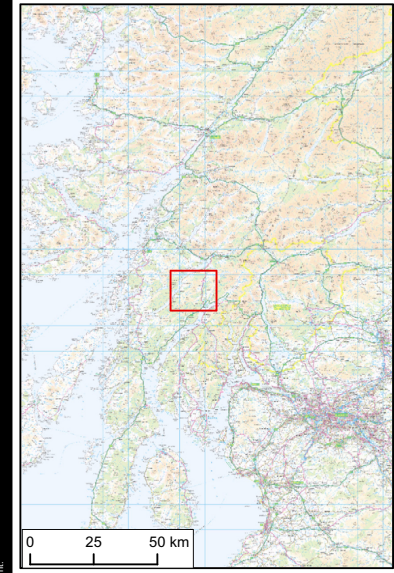
Ross McLaughlin
Technical Adviser
ILI Group
rm@ili-energy.com
01698 891352



PROJECT
 BALLIEMEANOCH PUMPED STORAGE HYDRO

CLIENT
 ILI (Borders PSH) Ltd.

KEY
 — Development Boundary



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TITLE
 Location Plan

REFERENCE
 BM_230619_SC_1_v1

SHEET NUMBER
 1 of 1

DATE
 19/06/23

Appendix D Exhibition Boards

Who Are ILI?

We are a clean energy developer who have been developing renewable energy projects for over 15 years. This has included onshore wind, solar and run river hydro schemes, with our focus now on energy storage.

As we seek to play our part in meeting Scotland's future energy needs and contribute to our world leading climate change and net zero targets, we have developed a portfolio of battery and pumped storage hydro projects.

Energy Storage projects will be of critical importance as we move towards 100% renewable energy generation as they provide the balancing and back-up services a secure and efficient energy system requires.

Our lead pumped storage hydro project, Red John, received Scottish Government planning consent in June 2021. In recognition of this success, we were finalists in the 2021 Scottish Green Energy Awards and in the Regen Green Energy Awards 2023.



Dun Na Cuaiche, Inveraray—view south to Loch Fyne



Loch Shore (National Cycle Route 78)- view east across Loch Awe



Ben Cruachan – view south along Loch Awe



Dorlin Point- view south along Loch Awe

The Planning Process, Environmental Impact Assessment

Planning Process

Pumped storage hydro schemes with an electrical output greater than 50 Mega Watts (MW) require consent from the Scottish Ministers under Section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989. This is often referred to as a Section 36 consent.

Our application for Section 36 consent will be submitted to and managed by the Energy Consents Unit (ECU), a government department, with the final decision being taken by the Scottish Ministers. Argyll and Bute Council will be a key consultee.

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)

EIA is the process of identifying, evaluating, and mitigating the likely significant effects of a proposed development. Independent environmental experts are conducting a range of environmental studies to assess what potential effects a pumped storage hydro scheme could have.

The scope of these studies is agreed with the ECU in consultation with the appropriate regulatory bodies, such as NatureScot, Scottish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA), and the local planning authority. The results of these studies will help to inform the design of the pumped storage scheme and protect the environment by reducing potential effects on receptors such as the local community, recreation and tourism, landscape, wildlife, and water quality.

The EIA is undertaken in parallel with the engineering development of the pumped storage hydro, which ensures that means of reducing potential effects can be embedded into the scheme design.

The studies will be presented in an EIA Report which will also contain a non-technical summary. The results of the EIA will ensure that the potential environmental effects of the pumped storage hydro are known to decision-makers, including the Scottish Ministers and Argyll and Bute Council to inform their determination of consent.



Ardanaiseig Garden and Designed Landscape- view south along Loch Awe



Minor road - near A815- view north to Inverary

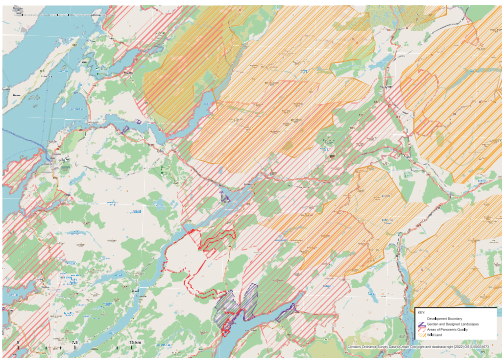
Landscape and Visual Amenity

The pumped storage hydro (PSH) scheme is located within an area of remote upland landscape. The landscape is dominated by the presence of Loch Awe and the craggy upland moorland to the west. The Headpond is situated within the upland moor and partially enclosed by rounded knolls whilst the Tailpond would occupy an area at the loch shore near Balliemanoch.

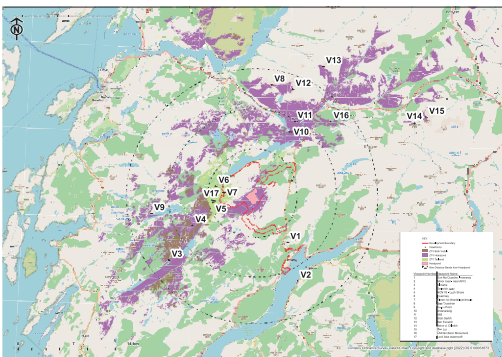
The primary aim of the landscape and visual assessment is to provide an objective way of understanding and assessing the likely change that the PSH scheme will have on the character and appearance of the surrounding landscape and on views experienced by people living there and using it. Parts of the PSH scheme will be visible from a number of locations in the surrounding area, and the assessment will consider the location of selected representative viewpoints to be used in the assessment. These viewpoint locations have been discussed and are currently being agreed with relevant stakeholders, including Argyll and Bute Council and NatureScot, and are used to help understand the likely change that could be experienced as a result of the introduction of the scheme.

As part of the assessment, visualisations of the PSH scheme within the existing landscape will be produced to help inform the Scottish Ministers decision. These will be available for viewing within the EIA Report.

The landscape and visual assessment is influencing the design of the scheme, helping to limit the effects on the landscape and on views and enabling the design of the scheme to be responsive and sympathetic to the local context. Through a process of careful consideration and siting of the above ground infrastructure, sensitive design of the embankment profiles, use of native tree planting and a collaborative approach to landscape and ecological mitigation design alongside the careful selection of construction materials, the PSH scheme will be integrated as effectively as possible into the surrounding landscape.



Landscape and Visual Designations including Wild Land



Viewpoints with Zone of Theoretical Visibility

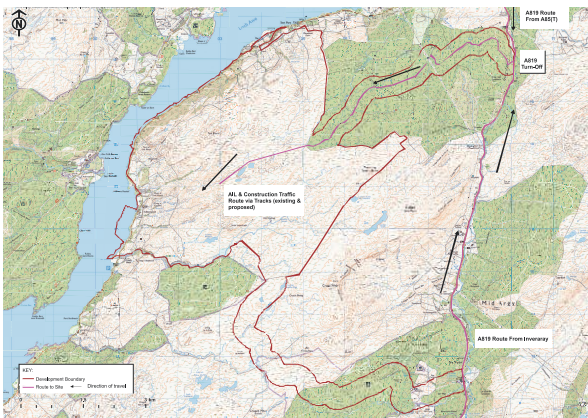
Traffic and Transportation

The Traffic and Transportation study will assess and quantify the traffic likely to be generated by the pumped storage hydro scheme during the construction phase and will determine the most appropriate route(s) to the site.

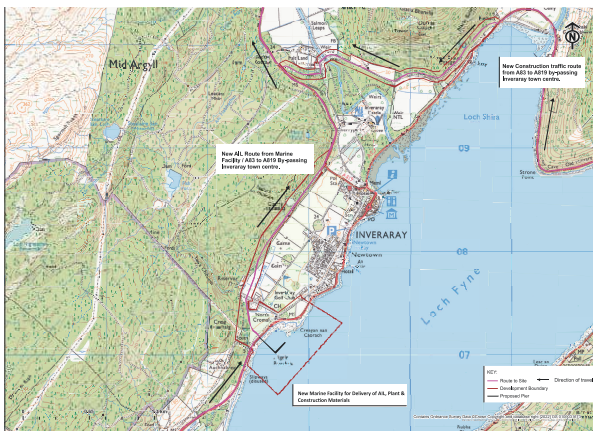
Road access to the Development for construction vehicles and staff is possible via a network of Trunk, A Class and B Class Roads (The Transport Study Network). Currently, it is anticipated that a large proportion general construction traffic would access the site via the A85 (T), likely coming from both the east and west, to reach the A819 and the site access. Additionally, The A83 (T) would likely be used by a proportion of general construction traffic coming to the site from the east or southwest. From the A83 (T), construction vehicles would by-pass Inveraray on temporary haul routes before turning onto the A819 north of Inveraray. It is not envisaged that abnormal load vehicles would travel long distances on the A83 (T).

Abnormal and Indivisible Loads (AIL) and larger construction components and machinery will not use the A85 or A83. They will arrive via a new marine facility to be constructed on Loch Fyne south of Inveraray. They will transfer from boat to road at the new marine facility. From here they will be moved across the A83 and by-pass Inveraray on a new haul road, before joining the A819 and routing to site.

Traffic and transport impacts will be minimised and managed through a Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) which will take local feedback into account and be developed in consultation with Argyll and Bute Council, Transport Scotland, and Police Scotland.



Route to site from the north



Route to site from the south

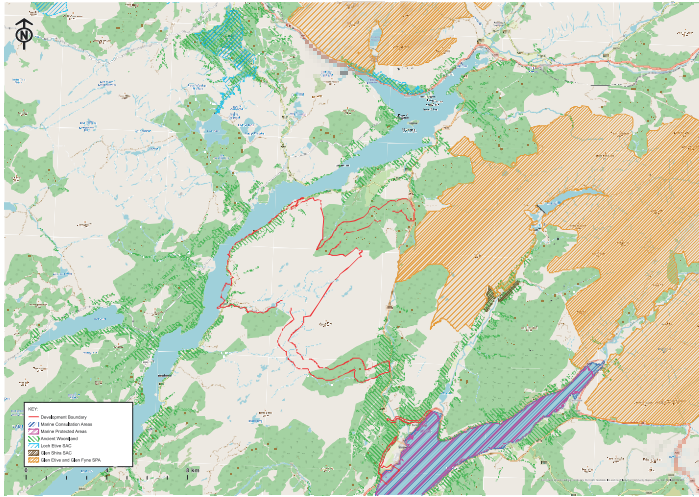
Terrestrial, Aquatic and Marine Ecology and Ornithology

Argyll and Bute provides habitat for a wide range of species including some of national and international importance. Areas such as Glen Etive and Glen Fyne, Loch Etive Woods, Glen Shira and Loch Fyne have been designated for the protection of a number of habitats and species including oak and ash woodlands, otters, golden eagle, flame shell and horse mussel beds, ocean quahog and burrowed and sublittoral mud habitats.

A suite of ecological surveys looking at the habitats, plants and wildlife around the pumped storage hydro scheme is currently underway. Relevant surveys for the area have been selected based on what the local habitat can support, and the scope has been developed in consultation with Argyll and Bute Council, NatureScot, Marine Scotland and the Scottish Environment Protection Agency. The surveys cover:

- Priority and/or other notable habitats
- Rare or otherwise notable plant species
- Invasive non-native species
- Protected mammals (including otter, pine marten, water vole, badger and bats)
- Breeding birds and non-breeding waterbirds
- Aquatic ecology (including fish)
- Marine ecology (including habitats and species)

The surveys are conducted by suitably qualified experts in line with statutory requirements and the methodologies provided in national and best practice guidelines. The results from the surveys will factor in the design of the pumped storage hydro scheme and influence the construction programme to ensure the effects on ecology are minimised. The ecological assessment, including the results of the surveys will be reported within the EIA Report.



Ecology and Ornithology Designations

Flood Risk and the Water Environment

The area contains a network of watercourses and small lochs which drain this upland area towards Loch Awe and Loch Fyne. Loch Awe is located within the River Awe catchment and is the longest and third largest freshwater loch in Scotland. Loch Fyne is a sea loch off the Firth of Clyde and forms part of the Cowal peninsula. Loch Fyne is both the longest and deepest of Scotland's sea lochs.

Water is a valuable resource and a multitude of uses from drinking, navigation and nature conservation to fishing, bathing and energy generation makes this an important aspect of the proposals. There is existing hydropower generation in place in the area, involving dams, aqueducts and electricity infrastructure. These existing hydro-schemes such as the Cruachan scheme already affect the region's water resources.

These topics of the EIA report will assess:

- Water resources – the potential changes in water levels and flows in surface water features and groundwater;
- Hydromorphology – the physical effects of the pumped storage scheme on surface waters features;
- Water quality – how the pumped storage scheme may alter the chemical composition and ecological status of receiving and surrounding water features and groundwater;
- Water supply – identifying any licenced water supplies (particularly drinking water) and any unlicenced private water supplies and assessing how the pumped storage scheme may interact with these; and
- Flood risk – by modelling peak flood flows within Loch Awe and the wider catchment, in addition to the operation of the pumped storage scheme and effects on flood risk at flood receptors.

A separate Flood Risk Assessment and a Water Framework Directive Assessment will be carried out and included in the EIA report as technical appendices.

The outcome of this assessment feeds into the design and operation of the pumped storage hydro scheme, including appropriate siting of new infrastructure to avoid water bodies where possible, the design of watercourse crossings, surface water management and pollution control to avoid issues with any sensitive water bodies or drinking water supplies.

We have consulted with Argyll and Bute Council for information on any known private water supplies in the area. If you have a private water supply you would like us to know about, then please let us know by speaking to one of our representatives at the public exhibition and filling out a brief questionnaire or by emailing us at pumpedstorage@aecom.com



Eilean na Moadail peninsula- View south along the loch shore

Protecting the Environment

A number of other environmental studies and assessments will be undertaken as part of the environmental impact assessment and will be reported within the Environmental Impact Assessment Report. These include:

- **Noise & Vibration** - Will determine the existing noise levels and allows future noise limits to be set for the construction and operational phases. A Noise Management Plan will be prepared and agreed with stakeholders as part of the EIA. The assessment will also consider vibration from construction activities and construction traffic on public roads.
- **Air Quality** - The likely air quality impacts will be from dust generated during construction and emissions from temporary generators for construction power. A Dust Management Programme will be prepared.
- **Recreation and Tourism** - Access will be maintained during construction while safeguarding public safety, which may mean temporarily closing or diverting local routes or trails at specific times during construction. All routes will be reinstated post-construction to an equivalent or greater standard for those routes affected and the wider network where possible.
- **Ground Conditions and Geology** - The design of the PSH will be informed by peat surveys and ground investigations that will help to site and route the scheme elements.
- **Heritage** - Both designated and non-designated heritage assets in the area will be assessed with effects on heritage setting also considered. The assessment will be informed by national and local heritage records and also on site surveys.
- **Climate** - Climate resilience will be factored the design of the PSH and embedded into site wide mitigation and management plans.
- **Forestry** - Plans for felling, restocking and forest management practices as a result of the construction of the Development, in addition to issues of forestry waste will be addressed as part of the EIA.
- **Marine Physical Environment and Coastal Processes** - The proposed Marine Facility is located within the Upper Loch Fyne and Loch Goil Marine Protected Area. The EIA will assess the potential impacts of the proposed Marine Facility on physical marine and coastal processes.
- **Shipping & Navigation** - The EIA will assess potential impacts relating to shipping and navigation including impacts on current shipping and sea users from the movement of plant/material by sea and from construction of the marine facility.
- **Commercial Fisheries** - The proposed Development, through the proposed scope of the EIA will seek to work with the fishing community to manage potential interactions during construction and will operate safely and un-intrusively alongside the commercial fisheries activities within the area.

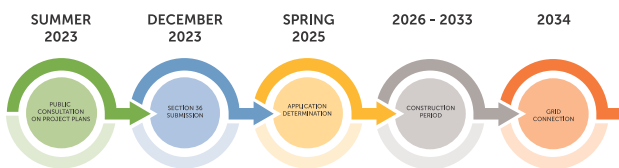
Construction Phase Mitigation and Indicative Programme

Construction Environment Management Plan (CEMP)

A Framework Construction Environment Management Plan will be produced in support of our Section 36 application and will set out a range of measures such as core construction working hours, key management and monitoring activities to be carried out by the contractor. The CEMP acts as a means for transferring the construction mitigation identified within the EIA Report into practice. The CEMP is a crucial document during the construction phase and any mitigation identified in the CEMP must be complied with by construction contractor(s). It will also detail the procedures for complaints.

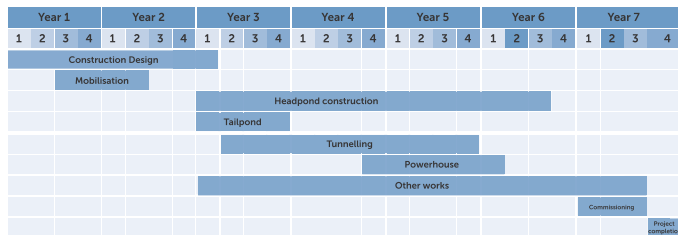
Indicative Programme

It takes several years to plan and develop this type of project. Subject to obtaining consent it would take approximately seven years to construct the scheme.



Construction

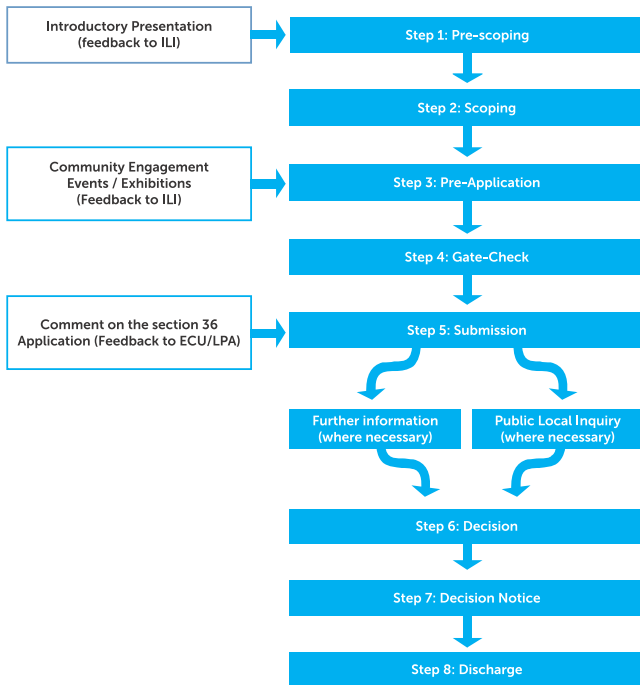
Construction of the Project could potentially start in 2026, with construction activities to be completed within seven years followed by a commissioning phase. The figure below shows an indicative programme.



Dalavich Jetty- view east across Loch Awe

Further Information and Feedback

The Consultation Process



This public exhibition is an opportunity for you to make comments to us on our proposals for the pumped storage hydro scheme before we make our application. Your comments, along with the results of ongoing environmental studies will inform the final design of the pumped storage hydro scheme.

Once the application for Section 36 consent has been submitted to the ECU and consent requested from the Scottish Ministers, you will be able to read full copies of the EIA Report online and at advertised locations within the local community. You will also be able to make comments via the ECU or local planning authority websites.

We encourage you to provide feedback on our proposals. There are several different methods you can use:

- Get in touch by speaking to one of our representatives at the public exhibitions
- Complete one of our feedback forms and questionnaires available at the public exhibition
- Visit the project website and use the online feedback form: www.balliemeanochpsh.co.uk
- Email us at: pumpedstorage@aecom.com

We cannot guarantee consideration of feedback provided via methods not listed above (such as on social media).

Please provide any comments by 18th August 2023.

