Appendix 12.11

Outline Habitat Management Plan

Contents

1 Introduction 1
1.1 Background 1
1.2 Ecology Context 1
1.3 Scope 2
1.4 Steering Group 3
1.5 Deer 3
1.6 Woodland and scrub 3
1.7 Report Structure 4

2 Outline Habitat Management Plan 5
2.1 Blanket bogs 5
2.2 Dry heaths 7
2.3 Wet heaths 9
2.4 Grasslands 11
2.5 Upland flushes, fens, swamps and mires 12

Appendix A – Peat Restoration Areas 14

Tables

Table 1: Summary of affected habitats 1
Table 2: CNPA draft non-protected priority species within the Proposed Scheme 2

1 Introduction

1.1 Background

1.1.1 This Outline Habitat Management Plan (OHMP) has been prepared to document specific mitigation measures identified through the Ecological Impact Assessment (EcIA) of Project 7 – Glen Garry to Dalwhinnie, part of the A9 Dualling Programme (hereafter referred to as the Proposed Scheme).

1.1.2 This OHMP has been prepared in principle using the following SNH guidance:

- *Planning for development: What to consider and include in Habitat Management Plans [Ref. B1159444]*.
- *Peatland Action: links to guidance on practical peatland restoration [Ref. A1268389].*
- *Heather re-establishment on mechanically-disturbed areas [Ref. Information and Advisory Note 44]*.

1.1.3 Further details of the Proposed Scheme are presented in **Chapter 5** in **Volume 1**, and findings of the accompanying EcIA are presented in **Chapter 12** in **Volume 1**.

1.2 Ecology Context

1.2.1 Information on important habitats, fauna and flora, including potential impacts and essential mitigation, are presented in **Chapter 12** in **Volume 1** and summarised in **Table 1**. The extent of NVC communities are shown in **Drawings 12.11 to 12.17** in **Volume 3**.

Table 1: Summary of affected habitats

Habitat feature	Conservation status	Proposed scheme (ha)	
		Temporary affected	Permanent affected
Blanket bogs *(NVC: M1, M2, M3, M17, M19, M20, M25)*	Annex I	13.93	2.97
Dry heaths *(NVC: H10, H12, H18, H21)*	Annex I	17.78	20.04
Wet heaths *(NVC: M15, M16)*	Annex I	16.89	4.76
Transition mire and quaking bog *(NVC: M4, M5)*	Annex I	0.72	0.14
Species-rich Nardus grassland *(NVC: CG10, U4c)*	Annex I	0.36	0.02
Grasslands *(NVC: MG, OV, U)*	Local	22.62	24.80
Woodlands and scrub (NVC: *W18, W23, W24; and CP, MP, CF)*	Local	5.37	4.95
Upland flushes, fens and swamps *(NVC: M6, M11, M23a, M29, M32, S9)*	SBL	2.33	0.94

1.2.2 Candidate habitat reinstatement/ restoration areas are shown on **Drawings 6.1** to **6.7** (**Volume 3**). Candidate peat restoration areas are described in **Appendix 10.6** in **Volume 2**, and shown in

Drawings 10.38 to 10.44 (**Volume 3**), and are summarised in **Appendix A.** It is assumed that temporarily affected areas will be reinstated in-situ.

1.2.3 In addition, the Cairngorms National Park Authority (CNPA) has identified 14 habitat features that could support wider biodiversity within the National Park (see **Table 2**), but do not currently receive protection through legislation or planning policy. Habitat features relating to CNPA pre-determined Interest Groups should be incorporated into habitat restoration where practicable.

Table 2: CNPA draft non-protected priority species within the Proposed Scheme

Habitat Feature	Interest Group	Red/ Amber	Location
Unimproved acid grassland	Fungi - Waxcaps	Red	West – ch.-300 – ch.250
Unimproved acid grassland	Fungi and botanical interest	Red	West – ch.800 – ch.1,000
Dry dwarf shrub heath – acid	Fungi and botanical interest	Red	West - ch.1,450 – ch.1,550
Unimproved calcareous grassland	Fungi and botanical interest	Red	West – ch.1,550 – ch.2,100
Unimproved calcareous grassland	Fungi (waxcap) and botanical interest	Red	West – ch.2,100 – ch.2,400
Dry modified bog	Exposed areas of peat for restoration	N/A	West - ch.3,050 – ch.1,050
Dry dwarf shrub heath – acid	Lepidoptera (if bearberry present)	Amber	East – ch.3,000 – ch.3,350
Raised Bog	Potential botanical and Diptera interest	Amber	West – ch.3,600 – ch.3,850
Crags and Scree	Potential bryophyte interest	Amber	East – ch.4,350 – ch.4,600
Crags and Scree	Potential bryophyte interest	Amber	East – ch.4,600 – ch.4,800
Dry dwarf shrub heath – acid	Lepidoptera (if bearberry present)	Amber	East – ch.5,100 – ch.5,950
Fen – valley mire	Potential botanical and Diptera interest	Amber	West – ch.5,200 – ch.5,650
Raised *Sphagnum* bog	Potential botanical and Diptera interest	Red	West – ch.5,600 – ch.5,800
Fen – valley mire	Potential botanical and Diptera interest	Amber	West – ch.6,350 – ch.6,800
Dry dwarf shrub heath – acid	Lepidoptera (if bearberry present)	Amber	East – ch.6,700 – ch.7,100
Fen – valley mire	Potential botanical and Diptera interest	Amber	West – ch.7,000 – ch.7,200
Coniferous woodland - plantation	Tooth fungi recorded nearby	Amber	East – ch.7,050 – ch.7,300
Coniferous woodland - plantation	Tooth fungi recorded nearby	Amber	East – ch.7,500 – ch.7,700
Coniferous woodland - plantation	Fungi potential	Amber	East – ch.7,700 – ch.8,350
Unimproved acid grassland	Fungi - Waxcaps	Red	West - ch.8,450
River shingle	Lichen potential	Amber	West – ch.8,400
River shingle	*Brachyptera putata* and *Spiriverpa lunulat*a present	Red	West – ch.8,400
Coniferous woodland - plantation	Tooth fungi recorded nearby	Amber	East – ch.8,400 – ch.9,050
Dry heath - basic	Potential fungi and botanical interest	Amber	West – ch.9,150
Raised *Sphagnum* bog	Potential botanical and Diptera interest	Red	West – ch.9,100 - ch.9,300

1.3 Scope

1.3.1 Prior to the commencement of construction, the Contractor will develop information contained in this OHMP document to produce a Habitat Management Plan that will contain, as required, updated baseline information and working methods. Prior to construction, the Habitat Management Plan will be agreed in writing with the CNPA, Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) and Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA).

1.3.2 Management objectives will be agreed to establish success criteria for habitat restoration. Based on the findings of the EIA, draft management objectives and restoration techniques have been identified in principle to identify management compartments that will be acquired through the statutory compulsory purchase order (CPO) for the Proposed Scheme.

1.3.3 Monitoring against the agreed management objectives is essential for evaluating effective habitat restoration; as well as identifying the need to undertake adaptive management. On this basis, the agreed Habitat Management Plan will function as a live document where success criteria and management prescriptions may be subject to revision based on monitoring findings.

1.3.4 With the implementation of construction-stage mitigation, and monitoring of habitat restoration, no significant adverse residual effects are predicted in the long-term.

1.4 Steering Group

1.4.1 The establishment of a Steering Group prior to the commencement of construction may help to oversee the implementation of the agreed Habitat Management Plan. The scope of a Steering Group would be to meet at the end of monitoring cycles to (i) review and evaluate the success of habitat restoration against the agreed objectives; and (ii) adapt management prescriptions.

1.4.2 An effective Steering Group should seek representation from the following stakeholders:

- Transport Scotland (the Client)
- Project Ecologist (the Client's representative)
- The Principal Contractor
- Ecological Clerk of Works
- Cairngorms National Park Authority
- Scottish Natural Heritage
- Scottish Environment Protection Agency
- Landowner's representative.

1.5 Deer

1.5.1 Based on the SNH National Deer Vehicle Collision (DVC) data, the Proposed Scheme includes the appropriate sizing of dual-use structures to provide safe crossing opportunities for deer at ch.400 (Allt Coire Mhic-sith underbridge), ch.500 (Dalnaspidal junction underpass), ch.3,000 (Allt A' Chaorainn underbridge) and ch.7,550 (Pass of Drumochter underpass). On this basis, no significant change to seasonal deer migrations is expected to occur.

1.5.2 Given that restoration areas are sympathetic to the existing landscape character and habitat baseline, restoration will not significantly affect ongoing sustainable deer management in the locality; therefore, deer are not considered any further in this document.

1.6 Woodland and scrub

1.6.1 In line with current *Scottish Government's Policy on Control of Woodland Removal* (Forestry Commission 2009), the Proposed Scheme seeks to avoid inappropriate woodland loss. Most woodland areas affected by the Proposed Scheme are characterised by conifer thicket plantations and generally of limited biodiversity interest. Therefore, planting shall seek to increase cover of appropriate native and broadleaved species of local provenance. The rationale for tree and shrub planting proposals are described in **Chapter 13** in **Volume 1** and shown in **Drawings 6.1** to **6.7** in **Volume 3**.

1.7 Report Structure

1.7.1 The structure of this report is presented as follows:

- Section 2 (The Outline Habitat Management Plan)
- Appendix A (Peat Restoration Areas)

1.7.2 It is the intention of this OHMP to complement planned mitigation identified in the Outline Peat Management Plan (OPMP) (see **Appendix 10.6** in **Volume 2**) and contribute to an existing naturalistic mosaic of habitats for integration with, and improvement of, adjoining areas.

2 Outline Habitat Management Plan

2.1 Blanket bogs

Objective 1: Minimise disturbance to blanket bogs

Objective 2: Restore areas of blanket bog disturbed/degraded during construction

Objective 3: Increase abundance of typical species associated with blanket bog

2.1.1 Indicative management techniques to restore blanket bog and areas of deep peat:

- Planning:
  - Blanket bogs are very sensitive to disturbance, particularly where the acrotelm (e.g. surface vegetation) is damaged or the local hydrology is altered, as typical species that characterise blanket bog communities may not recover
  - As required, the ECoW shall advise the Contractor and relevant specialists to minimise impacts on blanket bog and areas of deep peat (i.e. greater than 1m in depth); and shall establish fixed point quadrats, including photographs, to record pre-construction vegetation communities and habitat condition to aid habitat restoration
  - The Contractor shall plan to minimise works/ access within blanket bogs and areas of deep peat; and use appropriate ground-protection measures (e.g. low ground pressure vehicles and bog-matting) to minimise disruption to surface vegetation, hydrology and compaction of peat/ soils
  - Peat and turves shall be excavated, stored and re-used in line with the Outline Peat Management Plan.
- Operation:
  - The Contractor shall avoid non-essential works/ access within blanket bogs and areas of deep peat
  - The ECoW shall monitor adjoining habitats within the works area for signs of over-wetting and desiccation; and liaise with the Contractor to undertake appropriate remediation to ameliorate habitat disturbance
  - Construction requisite (e.g. imported stone/ material to create temporary access tracks) will be removed from site upon the completion of works to facilitate habitat reinstatement/ restoration.
- Restoration:
  - Blanket bog restoration will cover an area of approximately 2.40ha
  - Excavated peat and turves will be used to re-instate disturbed blanket bog and areas of deep peat, as described in the Outline Peat Management Plan

- As directed by the ECoW, active drains shall be infilled using excess peat arisings, heather bails and/ or plastic piling to establish the water table at or close to the surface, to encourage colonisation of *Sphagnum* species
- As directed by the ECoW, additional planting (e.g. cotton-grass *Eriophorum* plugs or application of *Sphagnum* diaspores) and deer-fencing shall be provided to help surface vegetation become established
- Tree planting, grazing and muirburn shall be prohibited from restoration areas; as will be the application of any treatments that would alter soil acidity
- Temporary fencing, mulching and re-seeding shall be carried out where suitable to aid the restoration process
- Post-construction monitoring shall be carried out from fixed-point quadrats of an appropriate scale at timescales agreed between Transport Scotland, the statutory consultees and relevant landowners. As required, Transport Scotland will be responsible for securing any additional longer-term monitoring and adaptive management of blanket bog restoration.

Target NVC communities for blanket bog restoration

- *M17 Scirpus cespitosus – Eriophorum vaginatum* blanket mire
- *M19 Calluna vulgaris – Eriophorum vaginatum* blanket mire
- *M20 Eriophorum vaginatum* blanket mire
- *M25 Molinia caerulea – Potentilla erecta* mire.

2.2 Dry heaths

Objective 1: Minimise disturbance to dry heath

Objective 2: Restore areas of dry heath disturbed during construction

Objective 3: Increase abundance of typical species associated with dry heath

Objective 4: Increase abundance of bearberry *Arctostaphylos uva-ursi* within dry heath

2.2.1 Indicative management techniques to restore dry heath:

- Planning:
  - Dry heaths are sensitive to disturbance, particularly where the acrotelm (e.g. surface vegetation) is damaged. Typical species that characterise dry heath are more restorable than mire communities
  - As required, the ECoW shall advise the Contractor and relevant specialists to minimise impacts on dry heath; and shall establish fixed point quadrats, including photographs, to record pre-construction vegetation communities and habitat condition to aid habitat restoration
  - The Contractor shall plan to minimise works/ access within sensitive dry heath communities (e.g. use naturally occurring grassland areas within dry heath mosaics); and use appropriate ground-protection measures to minimise disruption to surface vegetation, hydrology and compaction of peaty soils
  - Peaty soils shall be excavated, stored and re-used in line with the Outline Peat Management Plan
  - As required, vegetation from affected dry heath may be harvested in advance of the main works phase and temporarily stored for re-use as a natural seed bank for dry heath restoration; as well as heather bales for sediment control/ bog restoration.
- Operation:
  - The Contractor shall avoid non-essential works/ access within dry heaths
  - The ECoW shall monitor adjoining habitats within the works area for signs of over-wetting and desiccation; and liaise with the Contractor to undertake appropriate remediation to ameliorate habitat disturbance
  - Construction requisite (e.g. imported stone/ material to create temporary access tracks) will be removed from site upon the completion of works to facilitate habitat reinstatement/ restoration.
- Restoration:
  - Dry heath restoration will cover an area of approximately 27.48ha
  - Excavated peaty soils will be used to reinstate disturbed ground; as well as dress road embankments and cuttings, typically no more than 0.5m in depth, as described in the Outline Peat Management Plan

- The Contractor will programme restoration works to minimise back-tracking over restoration areas and compaction of peaty soils
- The harvested seed bank, or suitable alternative, will be applied to restoration areas at an appropriate application rate
- As directed by the ECoW, additional planting (e.g. ericoids, including bearberry) and deer-fencing shall be provided to help surface vegetation become established
- Tree planting will be prohibited from dry heath restoration areas; as will be the application of any treatments that would alter soil acidity
- Grazing and muirburn will be prohibited from restoration areas until shrubs are suitably established. Post-construction monitoring shall be carried out from fixed-point quadrats of an appropriate scale at timescales agreed between Transport Scotland, the statutory consultees and relevant landowners. As required, Transport Scotland will be responsible for securing any additional longer-term monitoring and adaptive management of dry heath restoration.

Target NVC communities for dry heath restoration

- *H10 Calluna vulgaris – Erica cinerea* heath
- *H12 Calluna vulgaris – Vaccinium myrtillus* heath
- *H18 Vaccinium myrtillus – Deschampsia flexuosa* heath
- *H21 Calluna vulgaris – Vaccinium myrtillus – Sphagnum capillifolium* heath

2.3 Wet heaths

Objective 1: Minimise disturbance to wet heath

Objective 2: Restore areas of wet heath disturbed during construction

Objective 3: Restore wet heath communities over peat restoration areas

Objective 4: Increase abundance of typical species associated with wet heath

2.3.1 Indicative management techniques to restore wet heath:

- Planning:
  - Wet heaths are sensitive to disturbance, particularly where the acrotelm (e.g. surface vegetation) is damaged or the local hydrology is altered, as typical species that characterise wet heaths may be slow to recover
  - As required, the ECoW shall advise the Contractor and relevant specialists to minimise impacts on wet heath; and shall establish fixed point quadrats, including photographs, to record pre-construction vegetation communities and habitat condition to aid habitat restoration
  - The Contractor shall plan to minimise works/ access within sensitive wet heath communities (e.g. use drier grassland areas within wet heath mosaics); and use appropriate ground-protection measures to minimise disruption to surface vegetation, hydrology and compaction of peaty soils/ locally deep peat
  - Peaty soils, peat and turves shall be excavated, stored and re-used in line with the Outline Peat Management Plan
  - As required, vegetation from affected wet heath may be harvested in advance of the main works phase and temporarily stored for re-use as a natural seed bank for wet heath restoration; as well as heather bales for sediment control/ bog restoration.
- Operation:
  - The Contractor shall avoid non-essential works/ access within wet heaths
  - The ECoW shall monitor adjoining habitats within the works area for signs of over-wetting and desiccation; and liaise with the Contractor to undertake appropriate remediation to ameliorate habitat disturbance
  - Construction requisite (e.g. imported stone/ material to create temporary access tracks) will be removed from site upon the completion of works to facilitate habitat reinstatement/ restoration.
- Restoration:
  - Wet heath restoration will cover an area of approximately 24.25ha
  - Excavated peaty soils, peat and turves will be used to reinstate disturbed ground; as well as dress bare ground in areas of the former BDL construction track, typically

between 0.5m and 1.0m in depth, as described in the Outline Peat Management Plan

- The Contractor will programme restoration to avoid back-tracking over habitat and peat restoration areas
- The Contractor will programme restoration works to minimise back-tracking over restoration areas and compaction of peaty soils and peat
- The harvested seed bank, or suitable alternative, will be applied to restoration areas at an appropriate application rate
- As directed by the ECoW, additional planting (e.g. ericoids) and deer-fencing shall be provided to help surface vegetation become established
- Tree planting, grazing and muirburn shall be prohibited from restoration areas; as will be the application of any treatments that would alter soil acidity
- Temporary fencing, mulching and re-seeding shall be carried out where suitable to aid the restoration process
- Post-construction monitoring shall be carried out from fixed-point quadrats of an appropriate scale at timescales agreed between Transport Scotland, the statutory consultees and relevant landowners. As required, Transport Scotland will be responsible for securing any additional longer-term monitoring and adaptive management of wet heath restoration.

Target NVC communities for wet heath restoration

- *M15 Trichophorum germanicum – Erica tetralix* wet heath
- *M16 – Erica tetralix – Sphagnum compactum* wet heath

2.4 Grasslands

Objective 1: Improve species composition of affected grasslands

2.4.1 Indicative management techniques available to restore grasslands:

- Planning:
  - A wide range of grassland habitats will be affected that are currently of limited botanical interest and easily re-creatable
  - As required, the ECoW shall advise the Contractor and relevant specialists to minimise impacts on sensitive grasslands (e.g. marshy grassland) and shall establish fixed point quadrats, including photographs, to record pre-construction vegetation communities and habitat condition to aid habitat restoration
  - The Contractor shall plan to minimise works/ access within sensitive grassland habitats; and use appropriate ground-protection measures to minimise disruption to surface vegetation, hydrology and compaction of soils
  - Soils and turves shall be excavated, stored and re-used in line with *Construction Code of Practice for the Sustainable Use of Soils on Construction Sites* (DEFRA 2009).
- Operation:
  - The Contractor shall avoid non-essential works/ access within sensitive grasslands
  - The ECoW shall monitor adjoining habitats within the works area for signs of over-wetting and desiccation; and liaise with the Contractor to undertake appropriate remediation to ameliorate habitat disturbance
  - Construction requisite (e.g. imported stone/ material to create temporary access tracks) will be removed from site upon the completion of works to facilitate habitat reinstatement/ restoration.
- Restoration:
  - Excavated soils and turves will be used to reinstate disturbed ground.
  - The Contractor will programme restoration works to minimise back-tracking over restoration areas and compaction of soils
  - As directed by the ECoW, appropriate species that will increase the biodiversity of grassland habits will be included within restoration areas; and deer-fencing fencing shall be provided to help surface vegetation become established
  - Post-construction monitoring shall be carried out from fixed-point quadrats of an appropriate scale at timescales agreed between Transport Scotland, the statutory consultees and relevant landowners. As required, Transport Scotland will be responsible for securing any additional longer-term monitoring and adaptive management of grassland restoration.

Target NVC communities for restoration of grasslands

- As advised by the ECoW

2.5 Upland flushes, fens, swamps and mires

Objective 1: Minimise disturbance to upland flushes, fens, swamps and mires

Objective 2: Restore areas disturbed during construction

Objective 3: Improve species composition of affected areas

2.5.1 Indicative management techniques available to restore upland flushes, fens, swamps and mires:

- Planning:
  - Upland flushes, fens and swamps is a broad and variable habitat that occur where there is groundwater flushing or standing water within floodplains. On this basis, they are generally discrete, occurring within wider heathland mosaics. These habitats are sensitive to disturbance, particularly where the local hydrology is altered
  - As required, the ECoW shall advise the Contractor and relevant specialists to minimise impacts on these habitats and shall establish fixed point quadrats, including photographs, to record pre-construction vegetation communities and habitat condition to aid habitat restoration
  - The Contractor shall plan to avoid or minimise works/ access within areas of flushing; and use appropriate ground-protection measures to minimise disruption to surface vegetation, hydrology and compaction of soils
  - Soils and turves shall be excavated, stored and re-used in line with *Construction Code of Practice for the Sustainable Use of Soils on Construction Sites* (DEFRA 2009).
- Operation:
  - The Contractor shall avoid non-essential works/ access within flushes, fens and swamps
  - The ECoW shall monitor adjoining habitats within the works area for signs of over-wetting and desiccation; and liaise with the Contractor to undertake appropriate remediation to ameliorate habitat disturbance
  - Construction requisite (e.g. imported stone/ material to create temporary access tracks) will be removed from site upon the completion of works to facilitate habitat reinstatement/ restoration.
- Restoration:
  - Excavated material will be used to reinstate disturbed ground, including retaining boulders (or installation of plastic-piling) to maintain high water level/ flushing.
  - The Contractor will programme restoration works to minimise back-tracking over restoration areas and compaction of soils
  - As directed by the ECoW, appropriate species that will increase the biodiversity of target habitats will be included within restoration areas; and deer-fencing fencing shall be provided to help surface vegetation become established

- Post-construction monitoring shall be carried out from fixed-point quadrats of an appropriate scale at timescales agreed between Transport Scotland, the statutory consultees and relevant landowners. As required, Transport Scotland will be responsible for securing any additional longer-term monitoring and adaptive management of target restoration.

Target NVC communities for restoration of flushes, fens and swamps

- As advised by the ECoW

Appendix A – Peat Restoration Areas

Area Ref.	Area (ha)	Existing Vegetation	Objectives	Potential Re-use Activities	Comments/ Considerations for Re-use	Target Habitat Restoration
P01	0.02	Mixture of mire and degraded blanket bog	Restore and extend area of degraded blanket bog.	Placement of peat to a depth of up to 0.50m with appropriate profiling, tapering and capping with acrotelm turves and suitable vegetation, seeding as required.	On hillslope – more suitable for nutrient-poor peat. Hollow in topography between SuDS 001 access track and Highland Mainline railway, likely to receive and retain water.	Wet heath
P02	0.8	Disturbed ground, previously Beauly Denny track	Restore grubbed up Beauly-Denny track to wet heath and reconnect with adjacent mire/ wet heath above and below the track	Placement of peat to a depth of up to 0.50m with tapering at upslope and downslope interfaces, capping with acrotelm turves and suitable vegetation, seeding as required.	On hillslope – more suitable for nutrient-poor peat. Deposited peat should receive water via overland flow. Specific assessment of stability important, together with profiling considerations.	Wet heath
P03	0.6	Grassland next to blanket bog with some peat	Create wet heath to grade into and extend area of blanket bog located adjacent to permanent and temporary works	Placement of peat up to 1.00m, with reduction in depth and appropriate profiling towards railway, capping with acrotelm turves and vegetation, seeding as required.	On hillslope – more suitable for nutrient-poor peat. Should receive downslope drainage towards adjacent watercourse.	Wet heath
P04	0.1	Blanket bog with grassland over shallow peat next to areas of deeper peat	Restore and extend areas of blanket bog located adjacent to permanent and temporary works	Placement of peat up to 1.00m with appropriate profiling, tapering and capping with acrotelm turves and suitable vegetation, seeding as required.	On hillslope – more suitable for nutrient-poor peat. Should receive downslope drainage.	Blanket bog
P05	0.6	Dry heath and blanket bog over shallow peat next to areas of deeper peat	Restore and extend areas of blanket bog located adjacent to and within permanent and temporary works	Placement of peat up to 1.00m with appropriate profiling, tapering and capping with acrotelm turves and suitable vegetation, seeding as required.	On hillslope – more suitable for nutrient-poor peat. Consider cross-track drainage or off-takes from small watercourses in the north and south of the area.	Blanket bog
P06	0.9	Disturbed ground, previously Beauly Denny track	Restore grubbed up Beauly-Denny track to wet heath and reconnect with adjacent mire/ wet heath above and below the track	Placement of peat to a depth of up to 0.50m with tapering at upslope and downslope interfaces, capping with acrotelm turves and suitable vegetation, seeding as required.	On hillslope – more suitable for nutrient-poor peats. Deposited peat should receive water via overland flow. Specific assessment of stability important, together with profiling considerations.	Wet heath

Area Ref.	Area (ha)	Existing Vegetation	Objectives	Potential Re-use Activities	Comments/ Considerations for Re-use	Target Habitat Restoration
P07	0.4	Dry heath, mire and blanket bog over shallow peat next to areas of deeper peat	Create area of wet heath to connect with blanket bog and restore and extend area of blanket bog located adjacent to and within permanent works	Placement of peat up to 1.00m with appropriate profiling, tapering and capping with acrotelm turves and suitable vegetation, seeding as required.	Low lying ground – more suitable for nutrient-rich peat. Slight overlap with area of moderate peat landslide risk where peat >1.00m exists and may require adjustment following additional assessment. Removal of cut-off drain or off-takes from this would improve water supply. If adjacent track is floated, cross-drainage will require consideration at detailed design in relation to hydrology.	Wet heath
P08	1.0	Disturbed ground, previously Beauly Denny track	Restore grubbed up Beauly-Denny track to create area of wet heath and reconnect with adjacent wet heath	Placement of peat to a depth of up to 0.50m with tapering at upslope and downslope interfaces, capping with acrotelm turves and suitable vegetation, seeding as required.	On hillslope – more suitable for nutrient-poor peats. Deposited peat should receive water via overland flow. Specific assessment of stability important, together with profiling considerations, but former cutting for access track may provide opportunity for local greater thicknesses to be re-used.	Wet heath
P09	0.04	Disturbed ground, associated with Beauly Denny track	Restore grubbed up Beauly-Denny track to create area of wet heath and reconnect with adjacent wet heath	Placement of peat to a depth of up to 0.50m with tapering at upslope and downslope interfaces, capping with acrotelm turves and suitable vegetation, seeding as required.	On hillslope – more suitable for nutrient-poor peats. Deposited peat should receive water via overland flow. Specific assessment of stability important, together with profiling considerations.	Wet heath
P10	0.03	Disturbed ground, associated with Beauly Denny track	Restore grubbed up Beauly-Denny track to create area of wet heath and reconnect with adjacent wet heath	Placement of peat to a depth of up to 0.50m with tapering at upslope and downslope interfaces, capping with acrotelm turves and suitable vegetation, seeding as required.	On hillslope – more suitable for nutrient-poor peats. Deposited peat should receive water via overland flow and drain identified to enter area. Specific assessment of stability important, together with profiling considerations.	Wet heath
P11	0.1	Disturbed ground, previously Beauly Denny track	Restore grubbed up Beauly-Denny track to create area of wet heath and reconnect with adjacent wet heath	Placement of peat to a depth of up to 0.50m with tapering at upslope and downslope interfaces, capping with acrotelm turves and suitable vegetation, seeding as required.	On hillslope – more suitable for nutrient-poor peats. Deposited peat should receive water via overland flow and drainage identified to enter area. Specific assessment of stability important, together with profiling considerations.	Wet heath

Area Ref.	Area (ha)	Existing Vegetation	Objectives	Potential Re-use Activities	Comments/ Considerations for Re-use	Target Habitat Restoration
P12	0.2	Disturbed ground, associated with Beauly Denny track	Restore grubbed up Beauly-Denny track to create wet heath and reconnect with adjacent wet heath	Placement of peat to a depth of up to 0.50m with tapering at upslope and downslope interfaces, capping with acrotelm turves and suitable vegetation, seeding as required.	On hillslope – more suitable for nutrient-poor peats. Deposited peat should receive water via overland flow and drainage identified to enter area. Specific assessment of stability important, together with profiling considerations.	Wet heath
P13	0.3	Grassland and mire over peat	Create area of wet heath to grade into area of blanket bog located adjacent to permanent and temporary works	Placement of peat up to 1.00m with appropriate profiling, tapering and capping with acrotelm turves and suitable vegetation, seeding as required.	On hillslope – more suitable for nutrient-poor peats. Deposited peat should receive water via overland flow. Reduction in re-use depth towards top of cutting slope would be required and avoidance of locally steeper slopes.	Wet heath
P14	1.0	Disturbed ground, associated with Beauly Denny track	Restore grubbed up Beauly-Denny track to create wet heath and reconnect with adjacent blanket bog/ wet heath	Placement of peat to a depth of up to 0.50m with tapering at upslope and downslope interfaces, capping with acrotelm turves and suitable vegetation, seeding as required.	On hillslope – more suitable for nutrient-poor peats. Deposited peat should receive water via overland flow. Specific assessment of stability particularly important, together with profiling considerations.	Wet heath
P15	0.5	Disturbed ground, previously Beauly Denny track	Restore grubbed up Beauly-Denny track to create wet heath and reconnect with adjacent mire/ wet heath	Placement of peat to a depth of up to 0.50m with tapering at upslope and downslope interfaces, capping with acrotelm turves and suitable vegetation, seeding as required.	On hillslope – more suitable for nutrient-poor peats. Deposited peat should receive water via overland flow. Specific assessment of stability particularly important, together with profiling considerations.	Wet heath
P16	0.5	Area of wet heath and blanket bog over shallow peat	Re-instate, restore and extend area of blanket bog/ wet heath located adjacent to and within temporary works boundary	Placement of peat up to 1.00m with appropriate profiling, tapering and capping with acrotelm turves and suitable vegetation, seeding as required.	On hillslope – more suitable for nutrient-poor peats. Water supply could be assisted by removal of proposed cut-off drain at embankment toe or off-take from this. Profiling of peat in the area must also consider tie-in to existing NCN7 levels.	Blanket bog
P17	1.3	Area of degraded blanket bog and wet heath over shallow peat	Restore area of degraded bog/ wet heath adjacent to proposed Drumochter Estate access track	Placement of peat to a depth of up to 0.50m with tapering at upslope and downslope interfaces, capping with acrotelm turves and suitable vegetation, seeding as required.	On hillslope – more suitable for nutrient-poor peats. Downslope of Drumochter Estate access track which incorporates cross-drainage to maintain overland/ shallow groundwater flow supply.	Blanket bog

Area Ref.	Area (ha)	Existing Vegetation	Objectives	Potential Re-use Activities	Comments/ Considerations for Re-use	Target Habitat Restoration
P18	1.2	Area of wet heath and blanket bog over shallow peat	Re-instate, restore and extend area of blanket bog/ wet heath located adjacent to and within temporary works boundary	Placement of peat up to 1.00m with appropriate profiling, tapering and capping with acrotelm turves and suitable vegetation, seeding as required.	On hillslope – more suitable for nutrient-poor peats. Removal of cut-off drain at toe of mainline embankment would assist with maintenance of suitable hydrological conditions, together with off-takes or inclusion of check-dams in watercourse diversions to the north and south. Profiling of peat in the area must also consider tie-in to existing NCN7 levels.	Blanket bog
P19	1.1	Wet heath with degraded blanket bog over shallow peat	Restore area of wet heath adjacent to proposed Drumochter Estate access track and to connect with blanket bog	Place 0.50m peat/ peat turves, or more where required	On hillslope – more suitable for nutrient-poor peats. Downslope of Drumochter Estate access track which incorporates cross-drainage to maintain overland/ shallow groundwater flow supply. Profiling, placement and re-use must be tailored to avoid significant alteration to existing alluvial fan landform, meaning re-use may be more localised.	Blanket bog
P20	1.7	Wet heath with degraded blanket bog over shallow peat	Restore area of degraded bog/ wet heath adjacent to proposed Drumochter Estate access track	Local placement of peat to a depth of up to 0.50m with tapering at upslope and downslope interfaces, capping with acrotelm turves and suitable vegetation, seeding as required.	On hillslope – more suitable for nutrient-poor peats. Numerous drainage pathways would provide water supply to the area, assisted by the cross drainage incorporated within Drumochter Estate access track.	Blanket bog