



Technical Appendix 8.2

Confidential

Ornithological Results

Carnaig 400 kV Substation

PREPARED FOR

SSEN
Transmission

DATE

9th August 2024

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0699566



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Ornithological Results

Carnaig Substation

0699566

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CONTENTS

1.	INTRODUCTION	1
2.	CONFIDENTIAL RESULTS AND ANALYSIS	1
2.1	BLACK GROUSE	1
2.2	HEN HARRIER	1
2.3	GREENSHANK	2
2.4	BARN OWL	2
2.5	MERLIN	2
2.6	PEREGRINE	2

LIST OF TABLES

TABLE 2.1	HEN HARRIER BREEDING INFORMATION	1
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LIST OF FIGURES

FIGURE 1	CONFIDENTIAL POINT LOCATIONS	3
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1. INTRODUCTION

This Confidential Appendix presents;

- confidential results of field surveys undertaken for the Proposed Development during 2023-24; and;
- data retrieved from desk studies of:
 - o nest data from the Highland Raptor Study Group; and,
 - o personal communication from field surveyor.

It should be read in conjunction with Chapter 9: Ornithology and Chapter 2: Description of The Proposed Development (EIAR Volume 2) and Technical Appendix 8.1 (Baseline Bird Survey Report).

The information relating to sensitive bird species is not suitable for release into the public domain in accordance with NatureScot (2016) guidelines.

2. CONFIDENTIAL RESULTS AND ANALYSIS

The locations of all point records (e.g., nest locations, / lek sites), referred to in the text are presented in Confidential Figure 8.1.

2.1 BLACK GROUSE

Two black grouse leks were recorded. The first lek (BK1) is situated within the 1.5 km survey buffer for the species. The lek is situated approximately 700 m south west of the Proposed Development boundary where a single male was recorded. The second lek (BK2), is situated approximately 1.4 km north west of the Proposed Development boundary, where seven males were recorded.

2.2 HEN HARRIER

No observations of breeding hen harrier (*Circus cyaneus*) were recorded during site surveys. The desk-based study did not identify any breeding hen harrier within the Proposed Development boundary. Two nest locations (HH1, HH2) were identified within 2 km of the Proposed Development, at the desk-based study stage, the data being provided by HRSG. Breeding data (where available) is presented in Table 2.1.

TABLE 2.1 HEN HARRIER BREEDING INFORMATION

Nest	OS grid reference	2021	2022
HH1	NH 683 987	Breeding successful, three juveniles fledged	No data / not occupied
HH2	NH 68 99	No data	No data

No winter roosts or breeding territories of hen harrier were recorded during baseline surveys for the Proposed Development.

2.3 GREENSHANK

One possible greenshank territory was recorded during walkover surveys, when a single bird was observed on 19/06/23, foraging at the south western end of Loch Buidhe. The location is situated within the 2 km buffer, at a distance above the maximum recommended disturbance distance for greenshank (300-500 m), Goodship and Furness (2022), from the location of the Proposed Development itself.

2.4 BARN OWL

One barn owl (*Tyto alba*) nest (BO1) was identified at the desk-based study stage, from personal communication with a field surveyor. The nest was surveyed in the 2020 breeding season and contained two large juveniles. It is situated in the ruined cottage at Alltan-Riabach, grid reference NH 67468 98040, located adjacent to the 500 m site boundary buffer.

2.5 MERLIN

One merlin (*Falco columbarius*) nest (ML1) was identified at the desk-based study stage, from personal communication with a field surveyor. The nest was surveyed in the 2020 breeding season and contained four large juveniles.

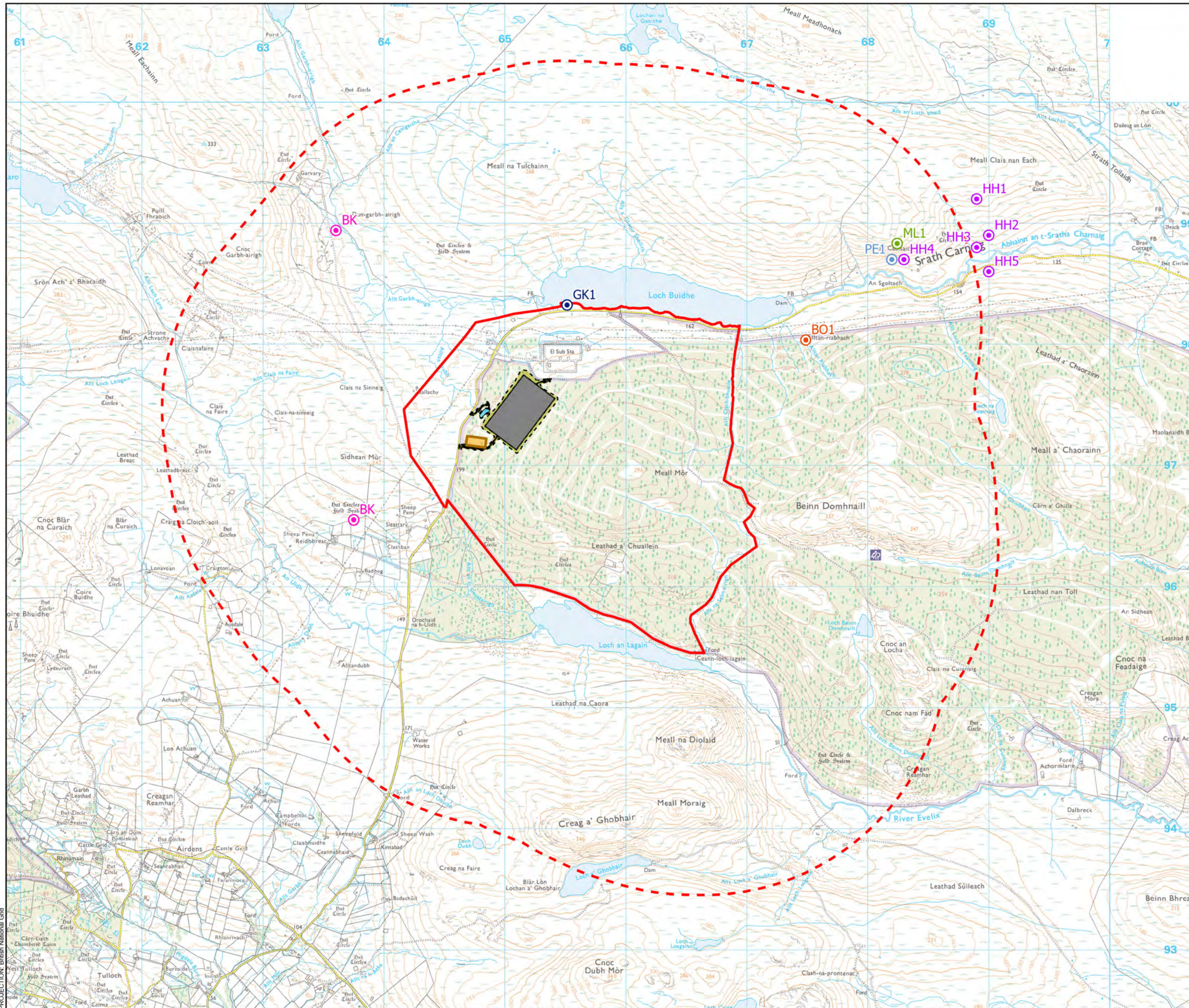
The nest is situated on the upper crags of Creag Caolsaidh at NH 68121 98758.

There were two flight observations of the species during 2023-2024 survey season, the scarcity of merlin records is believed in part to reflect the elusive nature of this species, and it is considered that its presence on site is likely to be under recorded.

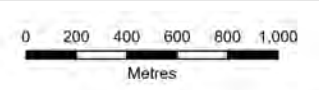
2.6 PEREGRINE

One peregrine (*Falco peregrinus*) nest (PE1) was identified at the desk-based study stage, the data being provided by HRSG, within the site boundary 2 km buffer. No data was available on nest productivity / year, and there were no recorded flights by the species during surveys in 2023 - 2024.

The nest is situated on the upper crags of Creag Caolsaidh at NH 68038 98750.



- Proposed Development Boundary
- Proposed Development Boundary 2 km Buffer
- Proposed Infrastructure**
- Substation Platform
- Access Track
- Temp Access Track
- Earthworks
- Construction Compound
- Drainage Channel
- SUDS Pond
- HRSG Data**
- Hen Harrier
- Peregrine falcon
- Merlin
- Barn Owl
- Greenshank
- Black Grouse



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**Confidential Annex Figure 8.1
Nesting Schedule 1 / Annex 1 Species and
Black Grouse Lekswithin 2km**



PROJECTION: British National Grid



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