

TA2.10 Outdoor Access Management Plan

1.1 Introduction

- 1.1.1 This document provides information on how public access rights would be managed for the construction phase and operational phase of the Glenshero Wind Farm (hereafter referred to as the proposed development).
- 1.1.2 There will be no restrictions to public access rights following completion of construction works.
- 1.1.3 Construction of the wind farm is anticipated to last approximately 24 months. It is assumed during each year of construction that from the start of December to the end of March, construction activities would cease. This cessation is due to operational constraints due to the anticipated adverse weather conditions. When construction activities cease, access restrictions would be removed. During the period when construction activities are possible, access restrictions would remain in place.

1.2 Project Description

- 1.2.1 This Outdoor Access Management Plan has been prepared by RES Limited (RES) and Ramboll Environment and Health Limited (Ramboll) on behalf of SIMEC Wind One Ltd (a company registered under the Companies Acts with company number 10060100 and having its registered office at West Nash Road, Newport, Gwent, United Kingdom, NP18 2BZ) (the Applicant) in support of an application for consent to construct and operate a wind farm of over 50 MW. The proposal will comprise 39 turbines with an anticipated total capacity of 168 MW on the Glenshero Estate at a site located approximately 8 km west of the village of Laggan, in the Highlands.

1.3 Methodology

- 1.3.1 This Outdoor Access Management Plan has been drafted in line with the requirements set out in the SNH *"Guidance for the Preparation of Outdoor Access Plans"* (SNH, 2010). The SNH guidance stipulates that there should be five steps set out within an Outdoor Access Plan (see Table 1).

Table 1: The Five Steps for Outdoor Access Plans	
Step 1	Identify the Purpose, Aims & Objectives of the Outdoor Access Plan.
Step 2	Establish the Outdoor Access Baseline affected by the development proposal.
Step 3	Identify predicted development impacts and potential enhancements on the Outdoor Access Baseline.
Step 4	Mitigate the predicted development impacts, and design potential enhancements.
Step 5	Manage & Monitor the implementation of the Outdoor Access Plan.

This Plan has been structured to broadly follow the steps detailed above.

1.4 Access Baseline

- 1.4.1 The Developer has engaged with The Scottish Rights of Way and Access Society (Scotways) prior to the submission of this application. Three Rights of Way (RoW) HB30, HB31 and HB33 in general vicinity of the site. None of the RoW are located within the site and consequently there would be no impact on any of the RoW during either the construction or operational phase of the proposed development. The RoW are shown in relation to the site in Figure 2.10.1.

RoW HB30 and HB33 form part of General Wade's Military Road through the Corrieyairack Pass and are located to the south of the site. The RoW tracks are used by estate vehicles and recreational visitors.

RoW HB31, otherwise known as Glen Markie Track, is located to the east of the site and is mainly used by walkers.

There would be no proposed closures or diversions of any of the Public Rights of Way.

Wider access rights apply across the site and enable public access to several summits which are located within the site. The most popular of these are the existing hill tracks used to access Geal Charn (NN 5614 9876). These wider access tracks are used almost exclusively by walkers. The Corbett Meall na h-Aisre (NH 5152 0004) is also located on the northern boundary of the site.

1.5 Potential Access Impacts

- 1.5.1 The primary access impact associated with proposed development would be during the construction phase. No access restrictions are anticipated during the operational phase of the proposed development. The Developer is committed to keeping any access impacts to an absolute minimum and keeping all public RoW open throughout the construction period.
- 1.5.2 The primary access point for traffic throughout the construction of the proposed development would be from the B862 and would access the site using the consented Stronelairg Wind Farm access. From Stronelairg, construction traffic would proceed across a newly constructed link track leading onto the site.

1.6 Access Arrangements

- 1.6.1 The Developer is committed to enabling day to day access where this would not compromise the safety of the general public.
- 1.6.2 Where restrictions or diversions are necessary information would be provided at the vehicular entrance to Stronelairg Wind Farm, Garva Bridge parking area, on the Glenshero Wind Farm website, and communicated to the local community via Construction Community Liaison Group meetings. Where an access restriction would be required, alternative routes would be suggested, the duration would be kept to a minimum and access would be made available at evenings, weekend and public holidays during restricted periods.
- 1.6.3 Figure 2 shows the typical warning sign that would be used to warn of access restrictions and the health and safety risks associated with the construction activities. These signs include information including:
- the start date of the restriction;

- the duration of the restriction;
- details (including a map) of any diversion that is in place; and
- the telephone number of the construction manager who can provide further information.



Figure 2.10.2 – Standard generic access restriction/construction activity warning sign

1.7 Wind Farm Access Tracks

- 1.7.1 As part of the proposed development, The Developer would construct new access tracks. Upon completion of the proposed development, the public would be able to fully access these tracks.
- 1.7.2 Access to the tracks under construction would be restricted while those operations are ongoing and access provision prior to construction would be reinstated. It is anticipated that a new, permanent gate would be erected on the tracks to mark the boundary between Stronelairg and Glenshero Wind Farms; however, members of the public would be able to bypass this gate via an equestrian friendly kissing gate which would be installed, in consultation with the Highland Council (THC).

1.8 Wider Access Rights

- 1.8.1 Members of the public have wider access rights to land in Scotland under the provisions of the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003. The proposed development would not restrict any wider access rights to the site.
- 1.8.2 The only restrictions that are proposed would be to areas where construction activities are being carried out, such as excavations at turbine foundations, during track construction and

turbine erection. These restrictions would be in line with the provisions of the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003, Chapter 2, (1)(g), Sections (i).

- 1.8.3 Where temporary restrictions are required, these would be kept to the minimum required time and appropriate signage would be erected.

1.9 Access Enhancements

- 1.9.1 As detailed previously, there are three RoW in the wider area surrounding the proposed development. Of these three routes, HB 30 and HB 33 are located within the wider Glenshero Estate. Although not part of the proposed wind farm site it is proposed that the Applicant could, in consultation with the local community and THC, provide up to four new information boards along HB30/HB33, within the Glenshero Estate. The information boards could reference the history and cultural heritage of the glen as well as the natural environment. An example is provided below (Figure 2.10.3).



Figure 2.10.3 – Example information board suggested for erection along RoW HB30/HB33.

1.10 Conclusion

- 1.10.1 The Applicant aims to maintain public access to all RoW during the construction of the proposed development when there would be no a significant health and safety risk.
- 1.10.2 After construction activity, the Plan would revert to pre-construction arrangements. There should be no permanent restriction of access as a result of the proposed development.

1.11 Reference

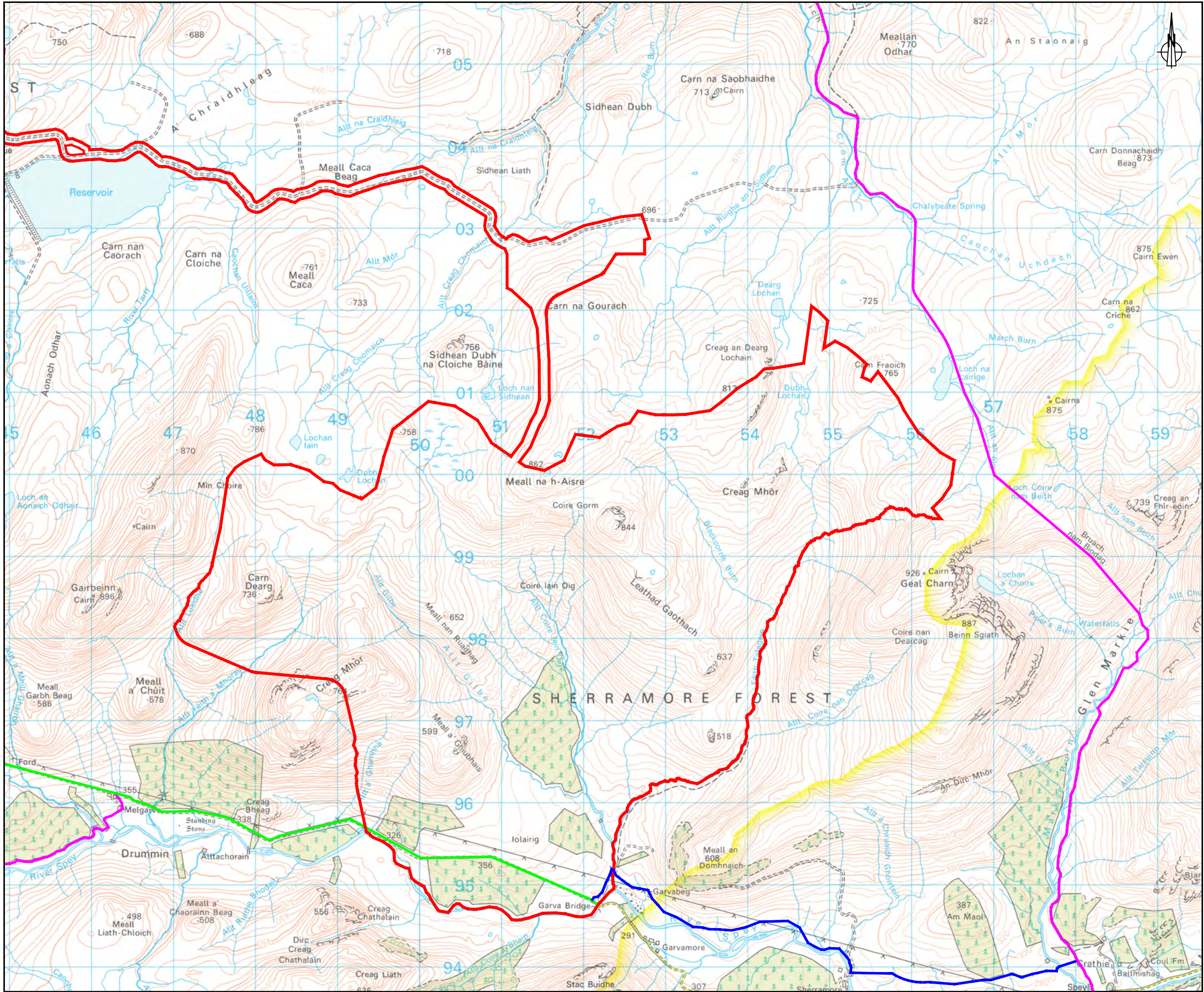
Paths for All, 2010. Signage Guidance for Outdoor Access – A Guide to Good Practice.

SNH, 2010. Guidance for the Preparation of Outdoor Access Plans.

SHN, 2010. Good Practice during Wind Farm Construction.

SHN, 2005. The Scottish Outdoor Access Code.

Figure 2.10.1: Rights of Way



GLENSHERO
WIND FARM

FIGURE 2.10.1
RIGHTS OF WAY

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KEY

SITE BOUNDARY

PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY

- HI109/ HB31
- HB33
- HB30

LAYOUT DWG N/A T-LAYOUT NO. N/A

DRAWING NUMBER
03144D2907-01

SCALE - 1:45,000 @ A3

TA2.10
OUTDOOR ACCESS MANAGEMENT PLAN FIGURE
TA:2.10.1: INDICATIVE PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY

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