

Tree Survey of the proposed Lochluichart East BESS access visibility splays

Date of survey 6th May 2025.

Surveyed by Duncan Graham on behalf of McKayForestry for Boralex.

Grid Reference of the existing forest entrance: NH 33602 63484.

Note: This tree survey was undertaken assuming a maximum visibility splay of 4.5 m x 215 m in order to identify the potential maximum impact on trees along the A832.

East splay

The woodland within the proposed eastern splay is mainly birch with an understorey of rhododendron. There are a few semi-mature larch, Scots pine and Sitka spruce.

The accompanying table, locations 1 to 7 commences from the east, progressing west.

West Splay

The woodland within the western splay includes a recently planted hawthorn hedge for the full length of roadside frontage.

This woodland area includes some mature cedar and redwoods on boundary of the proposed splay.

This woodland area contains a mix of species and forms part of the garden of Lochluichart Lodge.

The accompanying table details the trees in locations 8 to 14.

Survey Results

Location Lochluichart East BESS Visibility splay						Date 06/05/2025	
Location No.	Common name	Height (m)	Diameter at 1.5m above ground level (mm)	Life stage	Remaining years	BS5837 Category *	Comment
East splay		>10.0.5m	mm	Young, Semi-mature, Mature, Over-Mature	<10, 10+,20+	U, A, B, C	
1	Birch scrub	11.3	120	Semi-mature	20+	C	
2	Birch scrub			Semi-mature	20+	C	
2	Scots pine x3	10.2	210	Semi-mature	20+	B	
3	Birch scrub			Semi-mature	20+	C	
3	Larch x3	11.3	250	Semi-mature	20+	C	
3	Sitka spruce x1	23.4	530	Semi-mature	20+	C	
4	Birch	14.1	300	Semi-mature	20+	C	
5	Birch	17.3	270	Semi-mature	20+	B	

6	Birch scrub			Semi-mature	20+	C	
6	Rhododendron			Semi-mature	20+	C	understorey
7	Larch x1	14.2	370	Semi-mature	20+	C	
7	Scots pine x4	12.8	300	Semi-mature	20+		
West splay							
Roadside	Hawthorn hedge			Young	20+	C	Recently planted
8	Birch Scrub			Semi-mature	20+	C	
8	Larch x4	17.2	300	Semi-mature	20+	C	
8	Western hemlock	18.0	540	Semi-mature	20+	B	
9	Larch	17.9	320	Semi-mature	20+	C	
10	Lodgepole pine	15.1	240	Semi-mature	20+	C	
10	Birch	12.6	190	Semi-mature	20+	C	
10	Sitka spruce x2	20.3	300	Semi-mature	20+	C	
10	Larch x3	21.2	350	Semi-mature	20+	C	
10	Cedar	21.8	750	Semi-mature	20+	A	
11	Mixed broadleaved			Semi-mature	20+	C	
11	Oak	14.4	490	Semi-mature	20+	A	Veteran
11	Spruce	20	890	Semi-mature	20+	B	
11	Birch	15	160	Semi-mature	20+	C	
12	Birch	12.6	180	Semi-mature	20+	C	
12	Sycamore	13.6	250	Semi-mature	20+	C	
13	Sycamore	13.8	250	Semi-mature	20+	C	
14	Birch scrub			Semi-mature	20+	C	Includes Open ground

*Category and definition

Category U

Those in such a condition that they cannot realistically be retained as living trees in the context of the current land use for longer than 10 years that have a serious, irremediable, structural defect, such that their early loss is expected due to collapse, including those that will become unviable after removal of other category U trees (e.g. where, for whatever reason, the loss of companion shelter cannot be mitigated by pruning). Trees that are dead or are showing signs of significant, immediate, and irreversible overall decline. Trees infected with pathogens of significance to the health and/or safety of other trees nearby, or very low quality trees suppressing adjacent trees of better quality

NOTE Category U trees can have existing or potential conservation value which it might be desirable to preserve.

Category A

Trees of high quality with an estimated remaining life expectancy of at least 40 years that are particularly good examples of their species, especially if rare or unusual; or those that are essential components of groups or formal or semi-formal arboricultural features (e.g. the dominant and/or principal trees within an avenue). Trees, groups or woodlands of particular visual importance as arboricultural and/or landscape features. Trees, groups or woodlands of significant conservation, historical, commemorative or other value (e.g. veteran trees or wood-pasture).

Category B

Trees of moderate quality with an estimated remaining life expectancy of at least 20 years. Trees that might be included in category A, but are downgraded because of impaired condition (e.g. presence of significant though remediable defects, including unsympathetic past management and storm damage), such that they are unlikely to be suitable for retention for beyond 40 years; or trees lacking the special quality necessary to merit the category A designation. Trees present in numbers, usually growing as groups or woodlands, such that they attract a higher collective rating than they might as individuals; or trees occurring as collectives but situated so as to make little visual contribution to the wider locality. Trees with material conservation or other cultural value.

Category C

Trees of low quality with an estimated remaining life expectancy of at least 10 years, or young trees with a stem diameter below 150 mm. Unremarkable trees of very limited merit or such impaired condition that they do not qualify in higher categories. Trees present in groups or woodlands, but without this conferring on them significantly greater collective landscape value; and/or trees offering low or only temporary/transient landscape benefits. Trees with no material conservation or other cultural value.

Photographic records

Eastern Splay



Plate 1. Location 1 birch with rhododendron



Plate 2. Location 4 birch



Plate 3 Location 4 birch



Plate 4. Location 7 at current access, larch and Scots pine



Plate 5. Location 8 from current access

Western splay



Plate 6. Planted hawthorn hedge



Plate 7. Location 10 birch

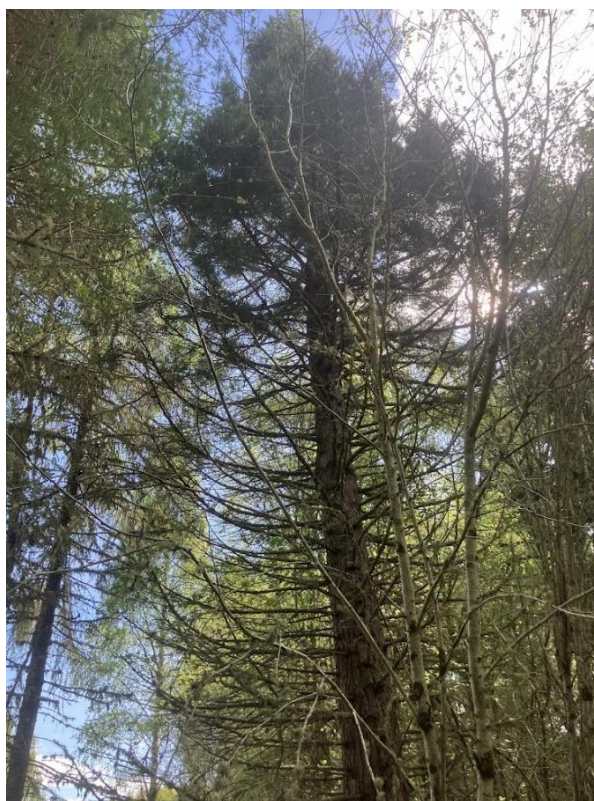


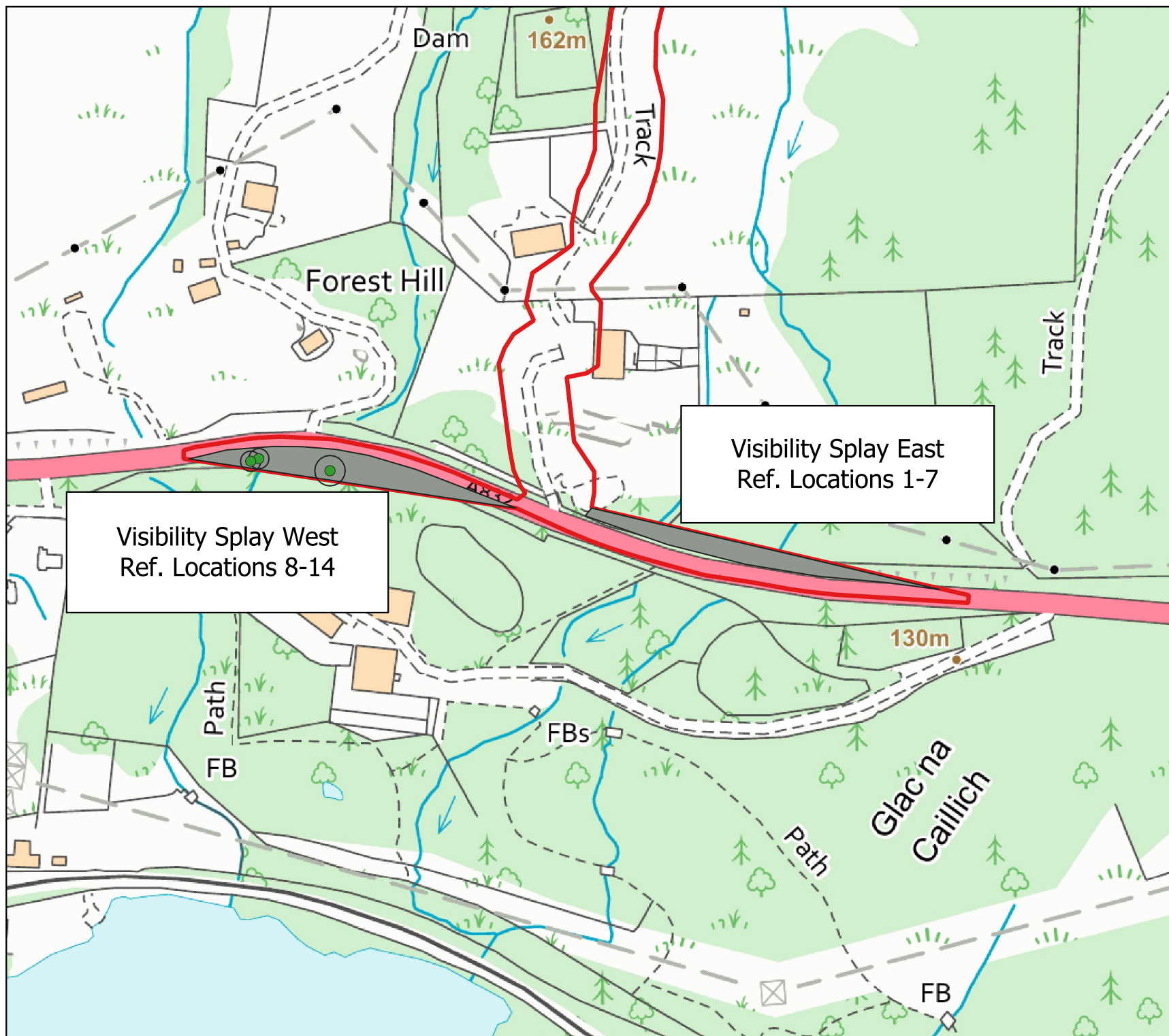
Plate 8 Location 10 Cedar



Plate 9 Location 10 Oak






Plate 10 Cedar and redwoods on boundary of western splay



Lochluichart Tree Survey

Visibility Splay Only

-  Visibility splay
-  Woodland Survey Areas
-  Notable trees

McKayForestry

Date 27/05/2025

Drawn by NM



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