

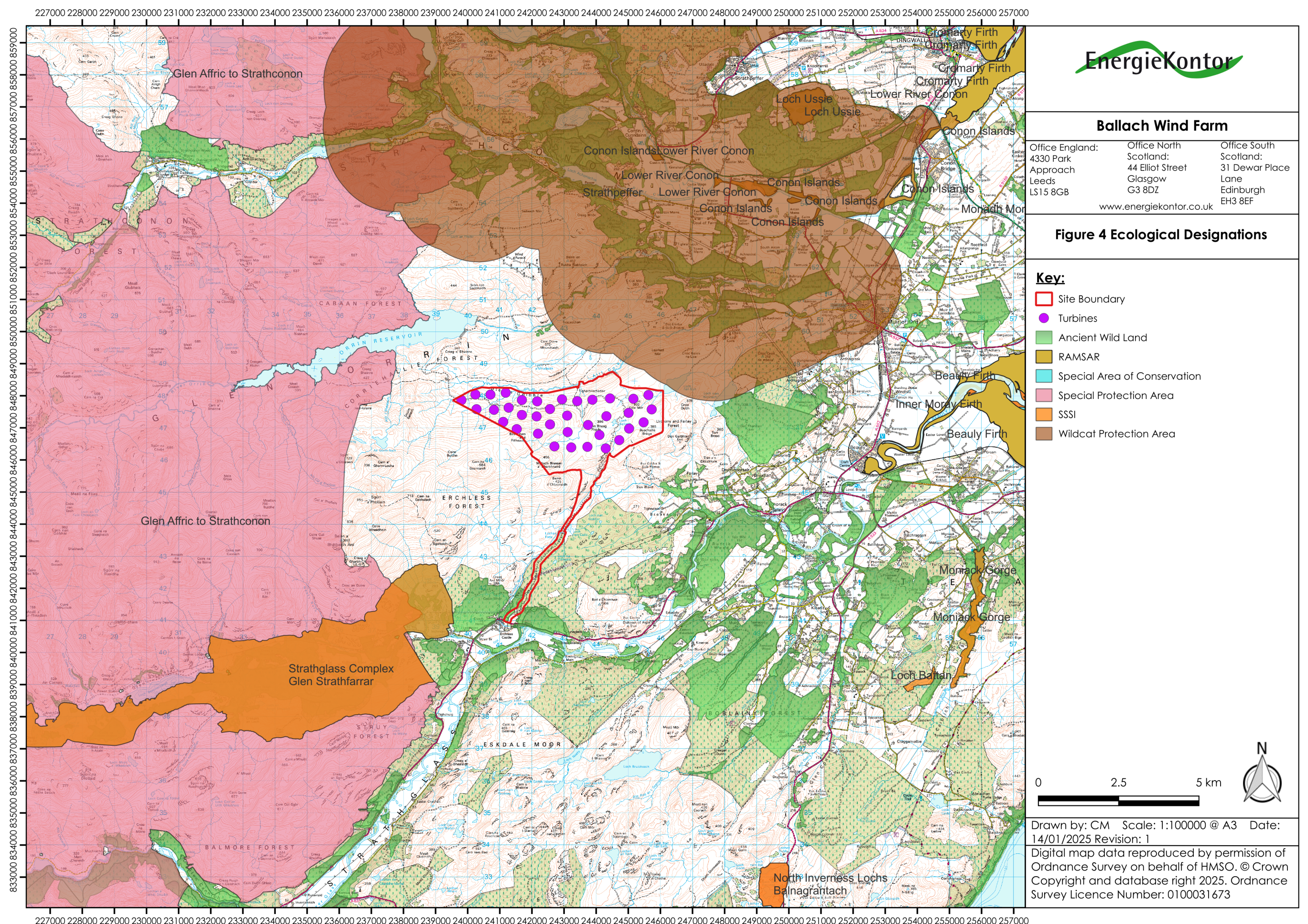


Why Ballach Wind Farm?

ECOLOGY AND ORNITHOLOGY

An initial step with site identification is to understand if there are any ecological constraints and designations which could be affected by the proposed development, for example:

- Ancient Woodland
- Ground Water Dependent Terrestrial Ecosystems (GWDTE)
- RAMSAR
- Special Area of Conservation (SAC)
- Special Protection Area (SPA)
- Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)
- National Nature Reserve (NNR)
- Nationally Important Peat



From review of the surrounding environmental designations, the closest designation is the Strathpeffer WPA to the immediate north of the site and the Glen Affric Strathconnon SSSI, SAC, and SPA 4km to the south west, as well as areas of Ancient Woodland to the south and east.

From Phase 1 Habitat Surveys and National Vegetation surveys the site largely comprises open ground, with a number of watercourses. A Protected Species Survey will also be carried out with details to be included within the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report.