



**Scottish
Water**

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Welcome

Thank you for attending today's event.

With our delivery partner, Caledonia Water Alliance (CWA), Scottish Water has been developing plans which could allow the supply to Inverness Water Treatment Works - which draws water from Lochs Ashie and Duntelchaig - to be supplemented from Loch Ness.

The potential scheme provides an option to improve the resilience of the water supply for Inverness, Nairn and surrounding areas, while continuing to support growth in the area.

The objectives of today's event are:

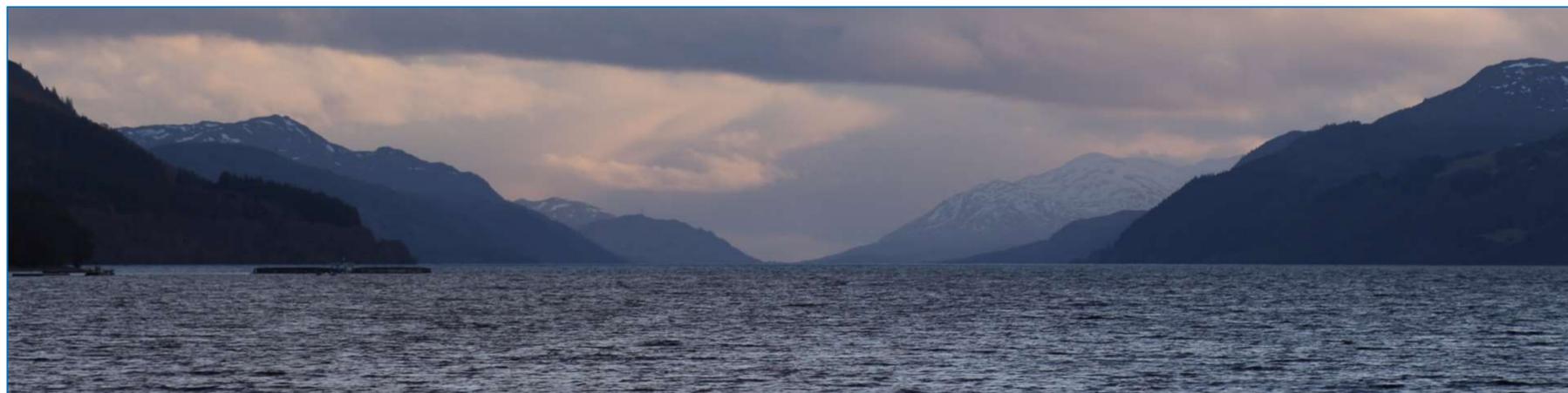
- To provide information on our plans and answer questions
- To seek feedback before applying for planning consents

We have information on:

- The main elements of the potential project
- The reasons this investment is under consideration
- Some of the key challenges and considerations
- What happens next and how you can keep in touch

We want to continue to keep in touch as our plans progress and will also post updates on our dedicated webpage:

www.scottishwater.co.uk/Dores





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Overview

The map below provides an overview of the potential project.



High level overview of Scottish Water's proposals for a new pumping station near Dores and associated infrastructure.

The main elements of the proposed project would be a submerged **water intake** within Loch Ness; a **pumping station** set back from the lochside a short distance south-west of Dores; just under **6 kilometres of underground rising main** (route shown in light blue above); and a **partially buried water tank** opposite the entrance to Inverness Water Treatment Works. In addition, work would be included to upgrade the power supply to the pumping station site and to increase the size of the distribution water main serving Dores (infrastructure route shown in dark blue above).



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Why would this be done?

Scottish Water is seeking the best way to meet the long-term needs of our customers across the area served by Inverness Water Treatment Works.

- Inverness Water Treatment Works serves a population equivalent of around 95,000. This includes both growing communities in the Highland Capital, the A96 corridor, Nairn and surrounding areas; and commercial users who also rely on water to operate and grow.
- The Water Treatment Works is served by Lochs Ashie and Duntelchaig. While the two lochs have met the area's needs to date, there is limited capacity for more water to be abstracted, especially at times of dry weather.
- As the largest body of fresh water in the UK, Loch Ness has ample capacity to provide a supplementary source of water. It has potential to provide improved resilience for the existing supply, while also supporting further population growth and economic development.
- Scottish Water has therefore been exploring the feasibility of pumping water from Loch Ness to Inverness Water Treatment Works. This option has been under consideration for some time and more detailed design work has been taking place over the past year to understand and address key issues.



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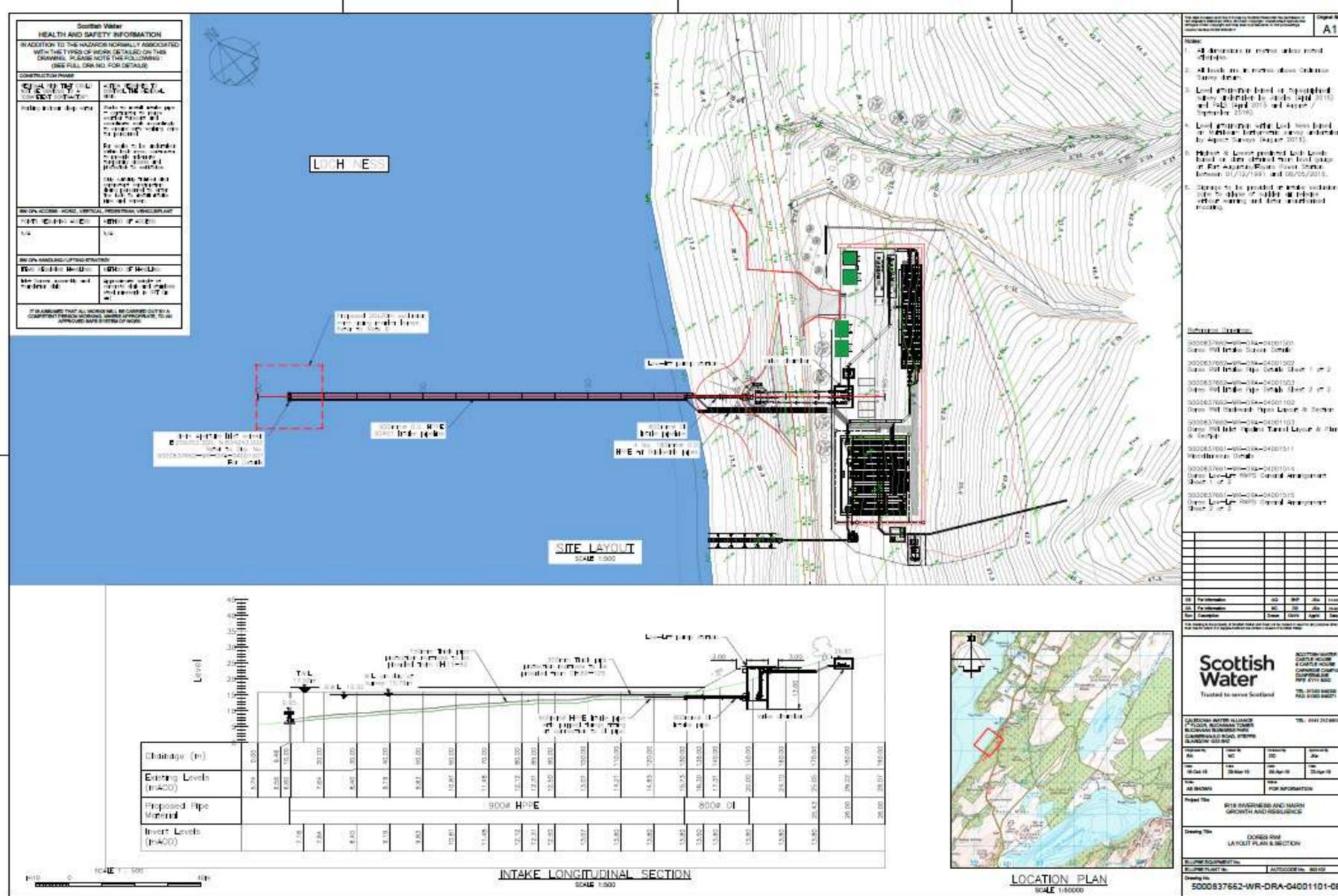
Water Intake on Loch Ness

The proposed investment would allow water to be drawn from Loch Ness.

A site for a new water intake has been identified a short distance south-west of Dores on the B852.

The intake would consist of a 130 metre pipe, submerged beneath the loch's surface to a depth of 10 metres. A screen structure would prevent debris or small fish being drawn into the pipe.

A small kiosk would also be built on the shore to control the intake and the associated underground pumping station.

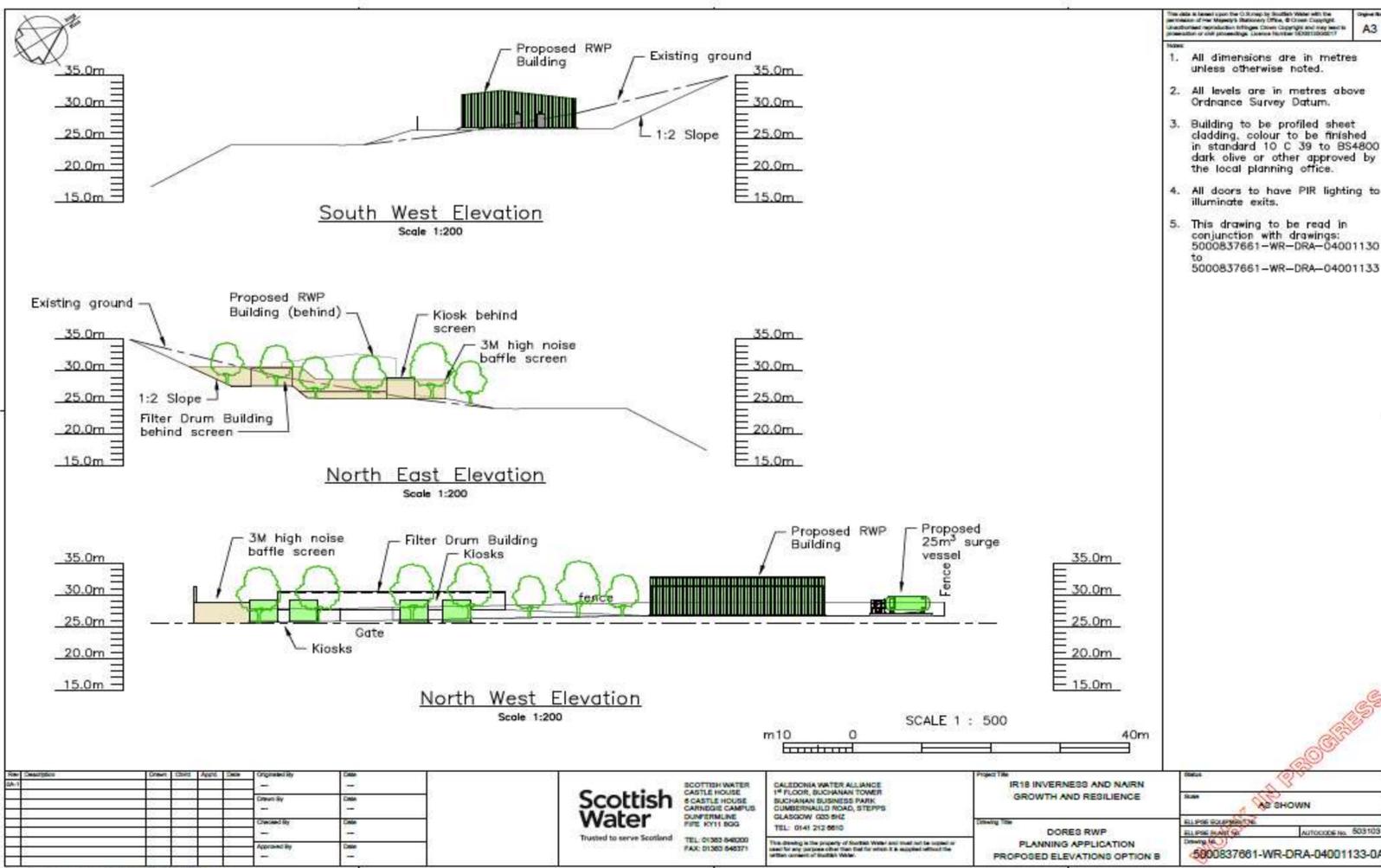
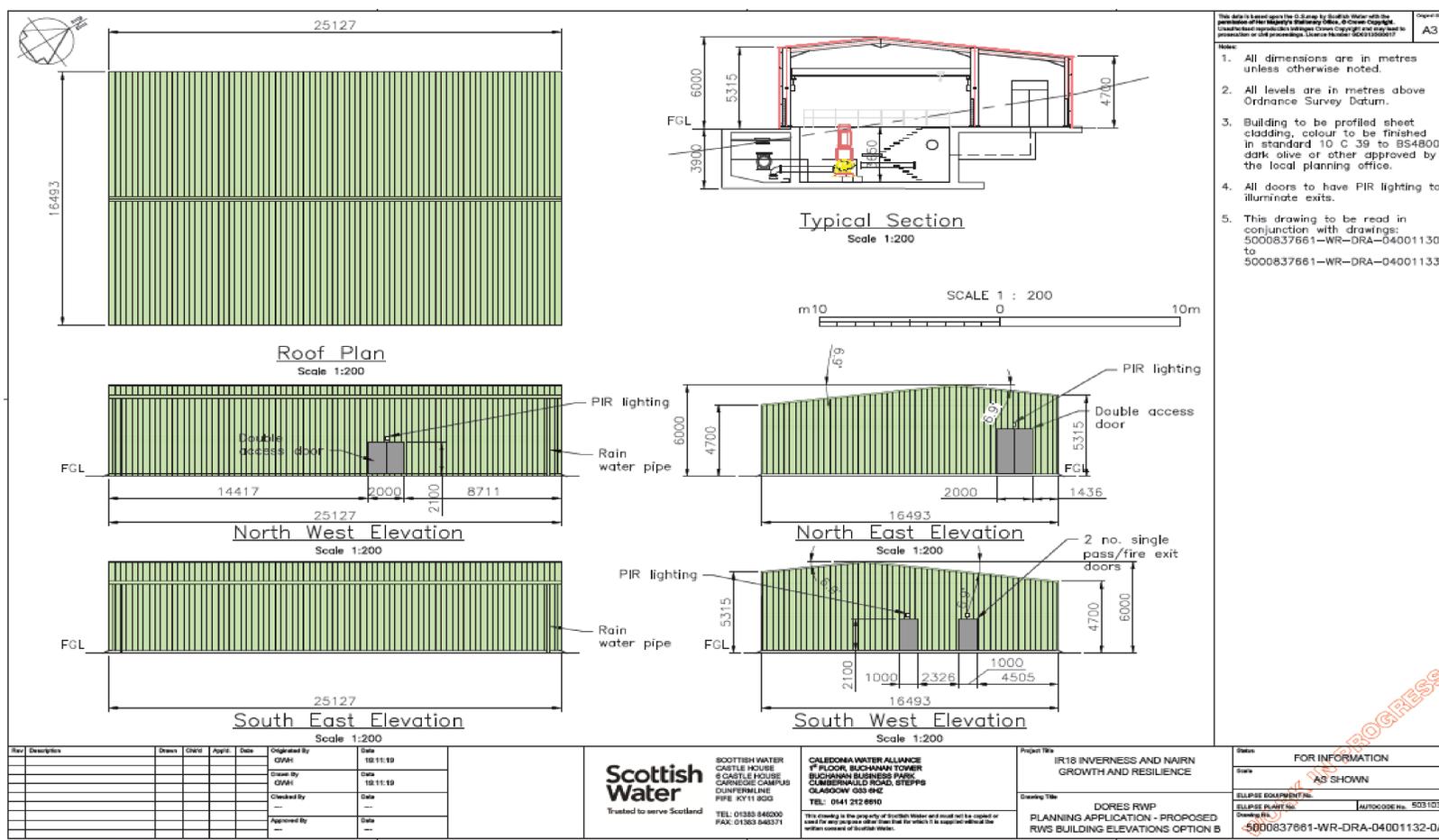




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Raw Water Pumping Station





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Pumped Raw Water Main

From the intake on Loch Ness, water would be pumped to Inverness Water Treatment Works which is currently supplied by Lochs Ashie and Duntelchaig.

The proposed 5km of 700mm pipeline would head uphill from the Raw Water Pumping Station, across the B862 and Darris Road to Balancing Tanks at Drumashie Moor adjacent to General Wade's Military Road and then onto Inverness Water Treatment Works.



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Balancing Tank

A proposed new Balance Tank for raw water is proposed to be built opposite the entrance to Inverness Water Treatment Works at Loch Ashie.

The balancing tank will be partially buried and will allow the water flow to be controlled, entering the water treatment works by gravity after being pumped up the hill from the Loch Ness. There will be a small kiosk and some valve chambers that will be on the surface of the ground to allow access into the tanks.



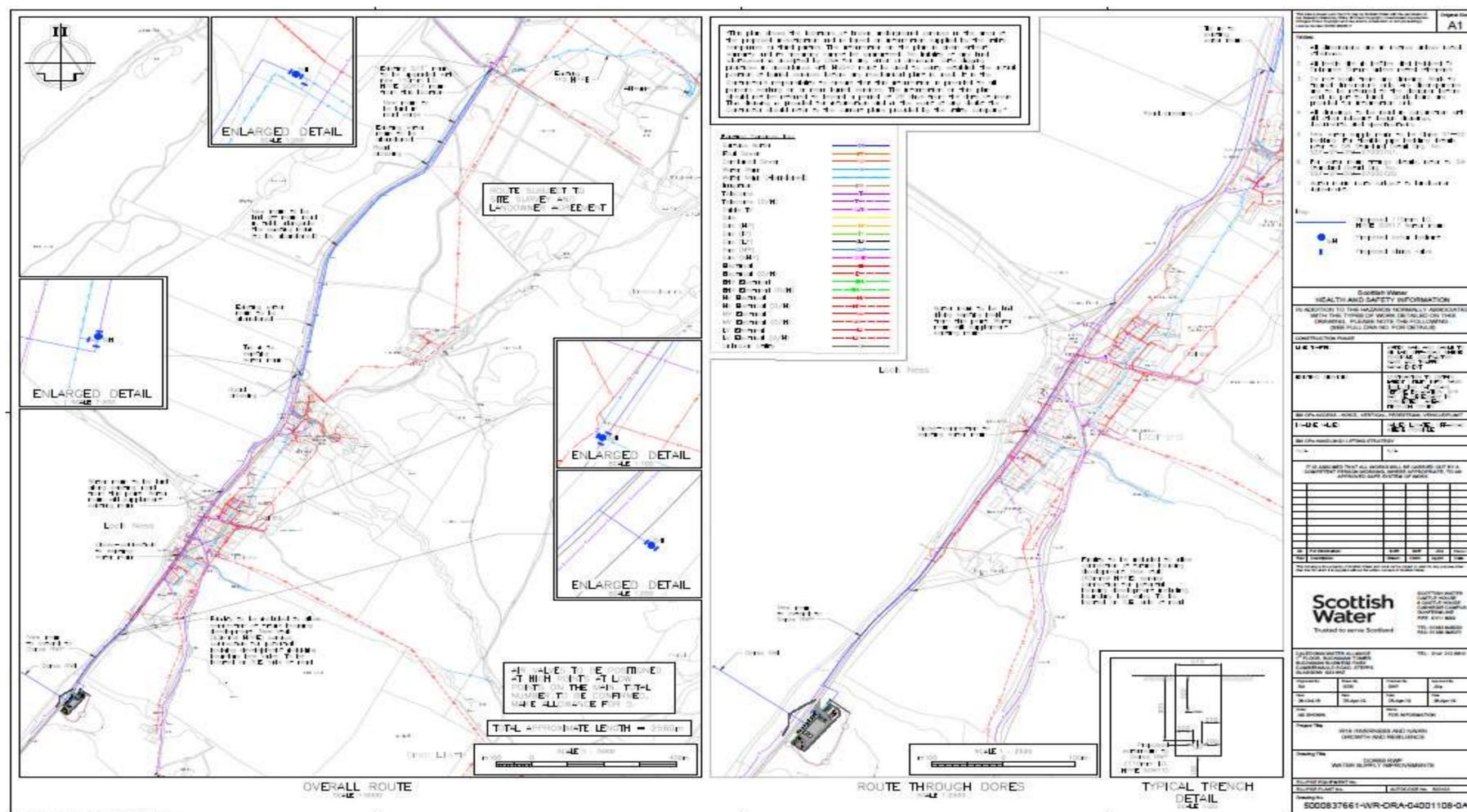
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Dores infrastructure

The power supply to the pumping station would need to be upgraded and it is proposed also to upgrade the distribution main that serves the village.

This element of the project would involve work between Aldourie Primary School, along the B862 into Dores, and then on to the B852 to the new proposed Pumping Station.



In order to complete this work safely, we would need to use traffic lights and other suitable traffic management arrangements on the B862 and B852. Any work impacting on the roads will be carefully planned with the roads authorities and details will be publicised once agreed.



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Traffic management

If the project proceeds, we are committed to managing construction traffic in order to reduce disruption to the local community and keep everyone safe.

Appropriate speed: The main access to the sites would be via the B862 and the B852. Drivers would be briefed on the route to the site and asked to drive with particular care when passing through Aldourie and Dores. Appropriate speed limits for construction traffic would be agreed for these areas as part of a construction traffic management plan.

Communication: Where work is expected to cause any potentially significant delays to journeys on the B862 or B852, we will write to residents and make local media aware of the arrangements in place to minimise any inconvenience caused.

Timing of deliveries: In consultation with Highland Council, we will plan HGV deliveries in order to avoid passing Aldourie Primary School at school opening and closing times; and will work with the school to ensure any other appropriate measures are in place.

Abnormal loads: There will be some abnormal loads on the road between Inverness and Dores, associated with the delivery of pumping station components and other materials to the site. If any specific deliveries have potential to cause delays for other road users, we will provide as much information as possible in advance via direct communication with residents and local media.



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Key issues

There are a number of key environmental and technical challenges which our team has been working to address.

Invasive non-native species

A key issue is the known presence of invasive non-native species in Loch Ness, which are not present in the Loch Ashie catchment. Studies have been carried out to look at two species of particular concern, a flatworm and a type of pondweed which are both native to North America. The Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) prohibits the introduction of non-native species and Scottish Water needs to take every reasonable step to avoid their spread. This is particularly the case because Loch Ashie is a European Special Protected Area (SPA), designated to protect the slavonian grebe, one of the UK's rarest nesting birds.



Slavonian Grebe Photo credit: P Cairns

Recent development of the design proposals has enabled the inclusion of drum screens close to Loch Ness, minimising risk of small animals or plant-life being transferred via the pumping station, as well as removing any other debris.

The water from Loch Ness will be taken directly to the Water Treatment Works, rather than being pumped to Loch Ashie. This presents a distinct technical challenge to ensure the different source waters can be blended without disruption to the treatment process.



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What happens next?

CWA's project team is currently working with Scottish Water to develop planning applications for submission next year.

As part of this process, Scottish Water's specialist land, environment and planning teams will support further engagement with landowners, environmental bodies and Highland Council to finalise supporting information, which will include a Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment and landscaping plan for the main site.

Once supporting information is complete, taking account of feedback from today's event, planning applications for the pumping station and the tank at the top end of the rising main will be submitted to Highland Council. Local residents and other interested parties will then be able to make representations via the planning process.

A decision on the project and its timing will be taken, subject to the outcome of the planning process. We will keep the community informed and hold a further event to share information before construction activity begins.

When might work start on site?

The current focus of our work is to complete design proposals and other key information that is needed to accompany planning applications.

Subject to the outcome of the planning process, a decision will be taken by Scottish Water on the way forward.

This is a significant potential project and we need to make sure we select the best option available to meet the long-term needs of our customers in the Highlands.



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Keeping in touch

Scottish Water and CWA are committed to keeping you and the local community fully informed about, and engaged with, the work we are doing.

We hope today's event has given you an understanding of our plans and an opportunity to discuss any questions or concerns.

Scottish Water is a publicly owned company, accountable to the Scottish Parliament and the people of Scotland. We operate within a strict policy and regulatory framework, but this includes a commitment to listening to our customers. We are keen to receive your feedback and will keep you informed as we continue the development of our proposals.

Volunteering programme



Every Scottish Water employee can take up to 2 days a year to get involved in education, conservation or community activities.

Get in touch if there are volunteering opportunities locally that you think could benefit from our support.

We would be pleased to receive your feedback at today's event - there are forms available which you can use. You can also keep in touch at any time using these details:

Website: www.scottishwater.co.uk/Dores

Email: help@scottishwater.co.uk*

Call: 0800 0778 778*

*Quote Ref: Capital/503103/cwa