

What has changed since the last event?

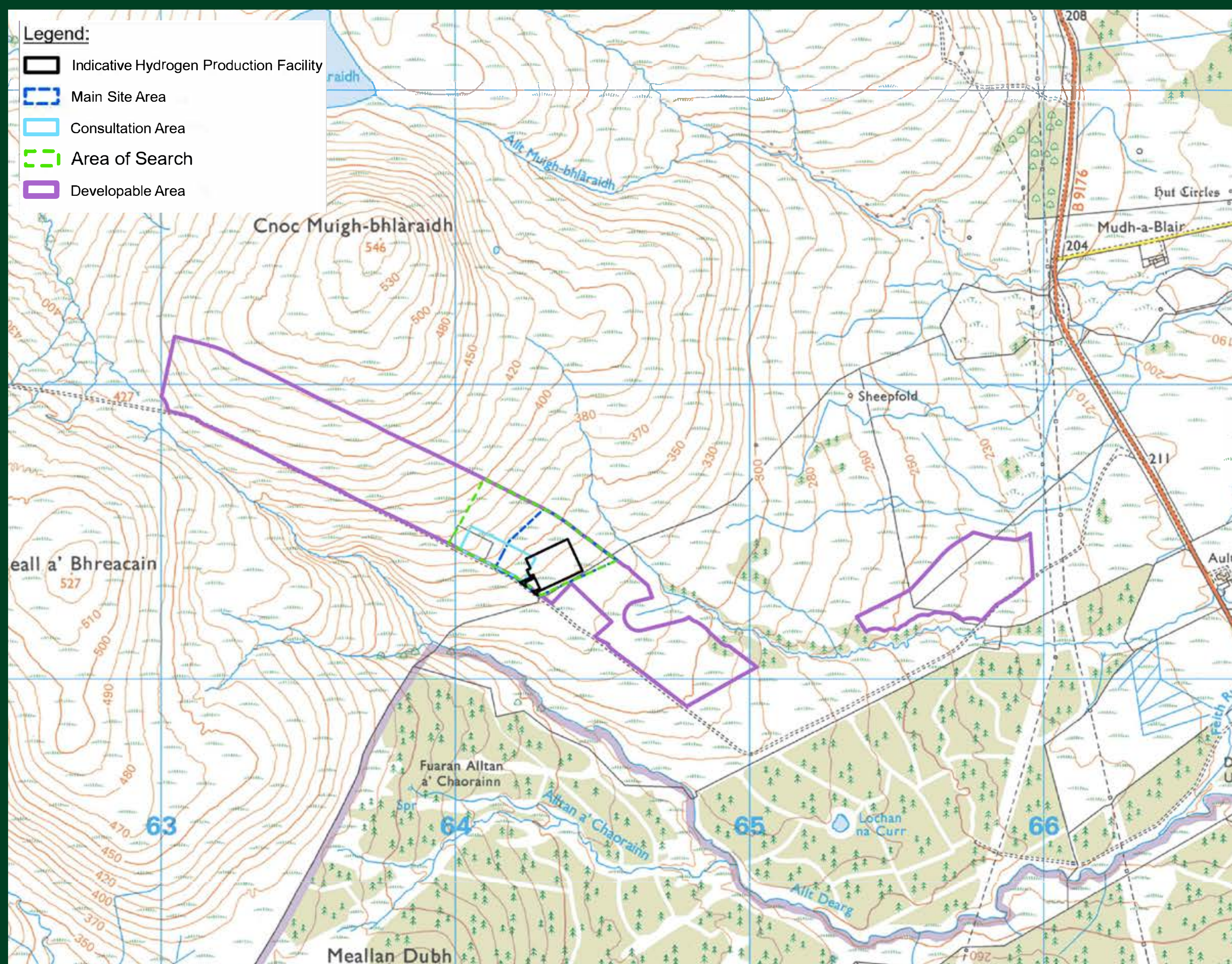
As far as possible, the main site area proposed for the hydrogen production facility has been reduced to accommodate only the infrastructure required and has been sited so as to minimise its potential impact on areas of deep peat and associated ecological constraints.

It was ultimately deemed to be the most appropriate location for the Proposed Development as it addressed a number of onsite constraints and allowed for the Proposed Development to be integrated into the existing infrastructure as a way of mitigating, to a degree, its limited visual impacts. It should be noted that the maximum height of the vent stack has increased from 20m to 25m; however, this change is considered to be negligible in terms of visibility and was discussed with the Highland Council.

The potential impact upon the local landscape character has been given careful consideration during the site selection process for the Proposed Development. While a development of this size would inevitably have some effect on landscape character, it has been located to minimise its effect as far as possible.

Furthermore, a route for a grid connection has been identified. Underground cabling would link the hydrogen production facility to the existing Beinn Tharsuinn Wind Farm substation. To minimise ground disturbance, cables would be laid in the verge or alongside the site access tracks where possible and plant and equipment used to construct the grid connection would operate from the access track.

Proposals regarding the water supply for the Proposed Development have reached a more advanced stage since the previous event was held. Feasibility studies have identified a preferred water supply with sufficient available capacity, sourced from the River Glass approximately 14km to the south west near Alness, under an existing abstraction licence. The water would be supplied to the Proposed Development by a new pipeline from the Newmore Water Treatment Works in Alness. The final route of the water pipeline is still being determined and would be subject to a separate consent application, however, initial feasibility shows a preferred 20.5km pipeline (c. 180mm diameter) route installed in the verges along existing roads and the existing site access track and so no material environmental or health and safety effects are anticipated at this stage.



Site selection and design evolution