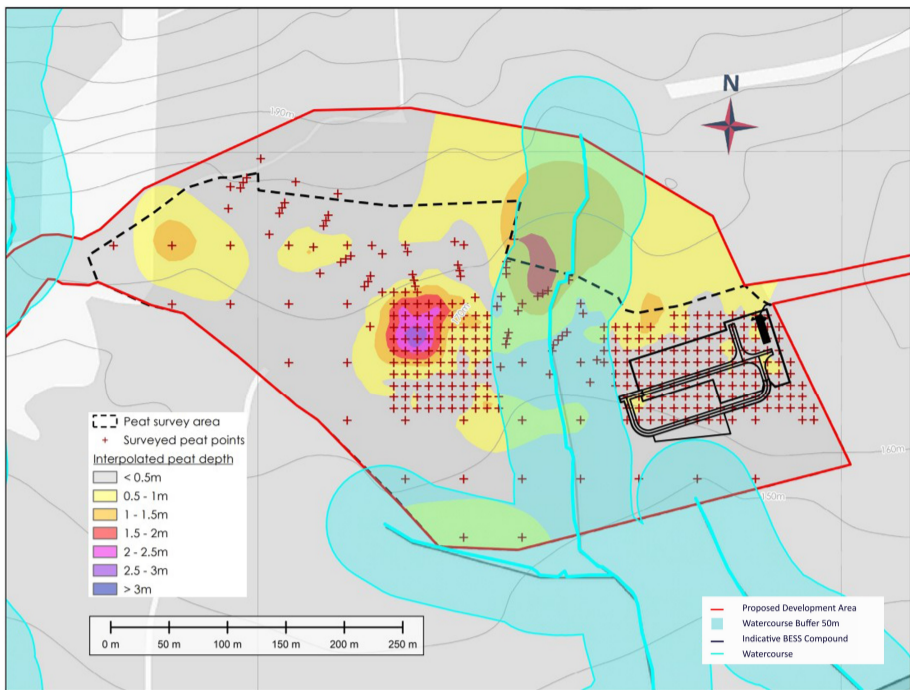


ENVIRONMENTAL SURVEYS



In preparation for the submission of the planning application, we are carrying out environmental surveys to support the design of the proposed BESS site and to minimise our impact on the environment.

Ecology

The following ecology surveys include:

NVC (National Vegetation Classification) Survey

Provides a detailed ecological assessment of plant communities, helping to determine habitat quality, restoration potential, and inform landscape management.

Protected Species Update

Confirms the presence of legally protected species (e.g., bats, red squirrel, pine marten, great crested newt, otter, water vole), ensuring compliance with wildlife legislation and informing necessary mitigation.

Peat

A Phase 1 peat survey was undertaken in January 2025 to establish the peat depth across the site. There are sections of the site where the peat is more than 2.5 m deep and areas where it is less than 0.5 m.

Following the results of this survey, the proposed BESS has been located to minimise the amount of infrastructure on areas of deep peat.

With regards to peat, the proposed development will need to clearly address a set of key points: how any areas of deep peat have been avoided; how impacts on shallower peat have been minimised; and how disturbed peat will be used in site reinstatement, or in restoration works elsewhere. To outline how any peat will be managed on the Proposed Development site an outline Peat Management Plan (oPMP) will be submitted alongside the planning application.

Noise

Noise from a BESS primarily comes from its cooling and electrical components. Key noise sources are inverters and transformers, which generate a low-frequency humming or buzzing sound.

How is noise assessed and measured?

Noise is measured in decibels, dB(A). Operational noise from developments of this nature is typically assessed in line with BS (British Standard) 4142:2014 'Methods for Rating and Assessing Industrial and Commercial Sound' (henceforth referred to simply as BS 4142).

The BS 4142 methodology is used to determine noise impacts at residential properties. Furthermore, a cumulative noise assessment with the nearby Corriemoillie BESS development will also be undertaken.

Landscape and Visual

A landscape and visual appraisal (LVA) establishes the potential effects of the Proposed Development on the surrounding landscape. As part of the application process, The Highland Council and NatureScot will be consulted to agree on the LVA approach and viewpoint locations from where we will complete assessments to appraise the likely effects of the proposed development on the landscape elements, landscape character, visual amenity and views of the site and its surroundings.

Archaeology and Cultural Heritage

The effects of the Proposed Development on the local historic environment, including cultural heritage and archaeology will also be assessed. There are no Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings, Inventory Gardens and Designed Landscapes, Inventory Battlefields, or World Heritage Sites within 2 km of the site