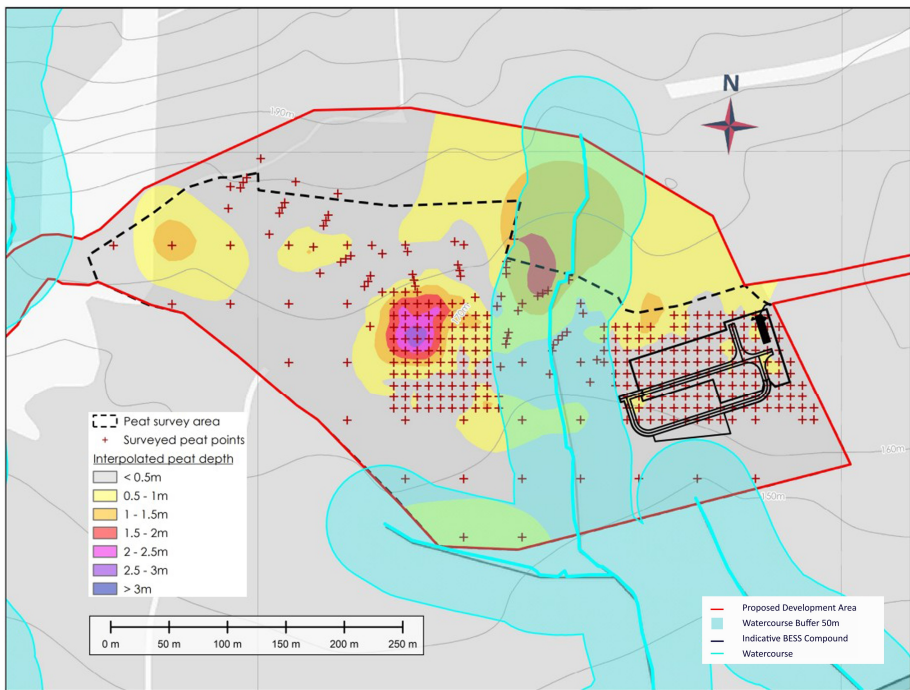


ENVIRONMENTAL SURVEYS



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.

Peat

A Phase 1 peat survey was undertaken 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.

Ecology

The areas of habitat expected to be affected by the proposed works are primarily forestry plantations. With careful planning and precautionary surveys for protected species carried out before any work begins, it has been recommended by ecologists that the project can move forward and there is no reasonable barrier to the proposed works.

UKHab Survey

The UKHab habitat survey is a standardised method of recording habitat types and characteristic vegetation, as set out in the UK Habitat Classification Version 2.0 (UKHab Ltd (2023)).

The Site comprises predominantly a mix of conifer and broadleaved woodland plantations with small areas of degraded blanket bog and wet heath in the eastern corner. The area of the proposed access track comprises mostly bare ground, other neutral grassland and modified grassland. Other habitats noted within the 50 m survey buffer include broadleaved woodlands, acid grassland, standing water and buildings.

Protected Species Survey

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.

No evidence of protected species resting places was made within the survey buffer (200 m).

Scat which is likely from pine marten, has been noted and the majority of habitat on site and within 50 m buffer are suitable for pine marten, red squirrel and wildcat. It is recommended that specific pre-commencement surveys are undertaken immediately prior to construction. The results from these surveys can subsequently be incorporated into the Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) and Species Protection Plans (SPP) for the Site.

