Scottish & Southern Electricity Networks
TRANSMISSION

Beauly to Blackhillock to New Deer to Peterhead 400 kV Project

Environmental Impact Assessment Report

Volume 5 | Appendices

Appendix 8.4 – Peatland Condition Assessment

APPENDIX 8.4 – PEATLAND CONDITION ASSESSMENT

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1 Introduction and Objectives

1.1 Introduction

1.1.1 This Peatland Condition Assessment (PCA) is an Appendix to **Chapter 8: Ecology** and has been prepared by Fluid Environmental Consulting (Fluid) on behalf of the Applicant to support the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report for the Beauly to Blackhillock to New Deer to Peterhead 400 kV OHL Project (the 'Proposed Development'). This Appendix is not intended to be read as a standalone assessment, and reference should be made to the introductory chapters of this EIA Report (**Chapters 1-6**).

1.1.2 The assessment has been informed by the following data sources, discussed in detail in **Section 3.2** below:

- peat depth survey data from depth of penetration probing surveys undertaken by Fluid in between July 2024 and August 2025;
- UK Habitat Classification (UKHab) over a 350 m buffer around the OHL alignment based on the summer 2024 design, informed by a Multi-Criteria Analysis (MCA) desk-based assessment and ground truthing surveys undertaken by WSP between April and June 2024;
- National Vegetation Classification (NVC) surveys undertaken by WSP in May and June 2025 on habitats with a potential for groundwater dependency based on analysis of UKHab data and hydrogeological data;
- site photographs taken during site investigations; and
- aerial photography.

1.2 Objectives

1.2.1 The objectives of this report are to:

- present the methodology and findings of the PCA desk-based assessment and subsequent surveys undertaken by Fluid in August 2025;
- assess the condition of the peatland vegetation present within the PCA Study Area; and
- identify any areas of peatland that are likely to be actively peat-forming.

2 Site Description

2.1.1 The Proposed Development is situated between Beauly in the Highlands to Peterhead on the east coast in Aberdeenshire and covers a total length of approximately 186 km. The route begins in the lowlands, remaining at low elevation until Newtonhill, where it rises into the low hills of The Aird. It then descends toward the Caledonian Canal before continuing along the northern flanks of a hill complex centred on Càrn nan Tri-tighearnan. From there, the route crosses a mix of undulating lowlands and uplands until Orbliston, beyond which it returns to predominantly low-lying ground through to Peterhead.

2.1.2 Where peat is present, it typically occurs as blanket peat or saddle mires in the uplands, and as valley mires and fens in the lowlands. Land use along the route is varied, ranging from agriculture in lowland areas to forestry and managed moorland in the uplands where peat deposits are most extensive. Some areas of both informal and mechanised peat cutting are present near Tower CB4-16 and between Towers CB6-9 and CB6-12.

3 Methodology

3.1 Study Area

3.1.1 The PCA Study Area for this assessment includes the Limit of Deviation (LoD) for the Proposed Development, covering a total area of 829 ha.

3.2 Data Sources

3.2.1 Numerous data sources were used to inform the initial desk-based assessment, described below.

Peat depth surveys

3.2.2 A detailed understanding of the spatial and depth distribution of peat across the Proposed Development was obtained through the completion of the following tasks:

- The development of a peat depth model by the James Hutton Institute (JHI) using various input layers to determine the likelihood of peat occurrence across the site. A comparison was then completed with probing and coring data undertaken at various locations for model verification prior to commencement of probing at infrastructure locations. The model details are summarised in **Appendix 10.1: Peat Depth Survey Report** and the JHI approach is presented in **Annex A: JHI Peat Depth Mapping and Survey Area Approach**.
- Depth of penetration probing was completed, as agreed with SEPA and NatureScot, at 21,203 locations (see **Appendix 10.1: Peat Depth Survey Report**) either:
  - where the JHI model predicts peat with the initial probing density dependent on the model value assigned to the infrastructure where probing is required. A coarser grid (50 m) was used where there was less likelihood of peat and a denser grid was used where the likelihood was higher. If peat was located on the coarser grid the probing density was increased to the denser grid; or
  - where priority peatland habitats were present based on habitat mapping regardless of the JHI model score as requested by NatureScot.
- No probing was completed where the JHI model predicted no peat, and no priority peatland habitats were mapped.
- Coring was also completed at 40 locations to enable verification of the probing depths and assessment of the characteristics of the peat (see **Appendix 10.1: Peat Depth Survey Report**).

3.2.3 The above methodology was used to develop a peat depth contour model across the area of the peat survey using a natural neighbour analysis. The peat depth contour model is presented in **Figure 10.1.2** in **Appendix 10.1: Peat Depth Survey Report**.

UK Habitat (UKHab) surveys

3.2.4 An initial Multi-Criteria Analysis (MCA) desk-based approach was undertaken followed by ground truthing UK Habitat (UKHab) field surveys. The full survey methods and results are provided in **Appendix 8.1: Habitat and Protected Species**. This resulted in the production of Geographical Information System (GIS) shapefiles which show UKHab classifications for the PCA Study Area.

3.2.5 Additional data on habitat condition was recorded for area-based habitats and linear features that were visited during the UKHab ground truthing surveys using the system presented in the Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) Statutory Biodiversity Metric[1]. These data were used to inform a Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) assessment (**Volume 5, Technical Appendix 8.3: BNG Report** of the EIA). The condition assessment criteria are listed in **Table 3.1** below:

[1] Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) (2024). The Statutory Biodiversity Metric Calculation Tool V1.0.3. Available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/statutory-biodiversity-metric-tools-and-guides.

Table 3.1: Peatland Condition Assessment Criteria[2]

Criteria	Indicator
1	The water table is at or near the surface throughout the year, this could be open water or saturation of soil at the surface. There is no artificial drainage, unless specifically to maintain water levels as specified above. **NB - this criterion is essential for achieving good condition**.
2	The appearance and composition of the vegetation closely matches characteristics of the specific wetland habitat type. Indicator species for the specific wetland habitat type are very clearly and easily visible.
3	The water supplies (groundwater, surface water and / or rainwater) to the wetland are of good water quality, with clear water (low turbidity) indicating no obvious signs of pollution.
4	Cover of scrub and scattered trees less than 10%.
5	Cover of bare ground less that 5%.
6	There is an absence of invasive non-native species (as listed on Schedule 9 of WCA, 1981) and species indicative of sub-optimal condition 1 make up less than 5% of ground cover.
7b	Sphagnum and cottongrasses are at least frequent. Cover of ericaceous dwarf-shrubs is less than 75%.

3.2.6 To achieve a condition score of good, peatland habitats must pass at least five of the criteria listed in **Table 3.1**. These must include criteria 1. A total of 21 mapped peatland habitats received a condition score of good, with a total area of 4.67 ha. Approximately 6.95 ha of blanket bog was identified within The Highland Council area and 4.09 ha within the Moray Council area that was in good or moderate condition. Approximately 1.26 ha of blanket bog within Moray is within the Proposed Development's footprint, all assessed as less than moderate condition.

3.2.7 One parcel of Annex 1 blanket bog habitat was recorded during the UKHab site surveys, to the east of Assich Forest (**Appendix 8.1**). This habitat was classified due to the abundance of important peat forming species including Sphagnum moss assemblages, as well as hare's-tail cottongrass and purple moor-grass. **Appendix 8.1** notes that the rest of the mapped blanket bog habitats were considered to be in various stages of degradation.

National Vegetation Classification Surveys

3.2.8 National Vegetation Classification (NVC) surveys were undertaken by WSP UK Ltd (WSP) in May and June 2025 across all UKHab recorded habitats that were considered to have a potential for groundwater dependency, based primarily on the results of the MCA desk-based assessment and UKHab surveys detailed above. These habitats were selected following a screening exercise detailed fully in **Appendix 10.7 - Detailed Hydrological and Hydrogeological Baseline Report** and **Chapter 10 Water and Geological Environment**. A total of 189 habitat polygons were mapped, 12 of which were of blanket bog habitats. All NVC surveyed blanket bog habitats were defined as M19 *Calluna vulgaris - Eriophorum vaginatum* blanket mire.

3.2.9 A total of 20 photographs taken by WSP during NVC surveys from areas of peatland were also provided to aid in this PCA.

Other Sources

3.2.10 A total of 51 photographs were taken, which show all proposed tower locations within areas of blanket bog habitats.

3.2.11 Aerial photography was also used to aid in the identification of potential peat condition indicator features.

[2] The Biodiversity Metric 3.1: Auditing and accounting for biodiversity Condition Assessment sheets, Natural England Joint Publication JP039

3.3 Peatland Condition Assessment

3.3.1 Assessment of peatland condition was undertaken utilising Peatland Action's 2016 Guidance on Peatland Condition Assessment[3], the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) JNCC's Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) selection criteria[4] and recent NatureScot guidance[5].

3.3.2 The PCA classifies the condition of blanket bog on indicators such as bog-moss cover, extent of bare peat and evidence of grazing and burning. The PCA recognises four categories of peatland condition:

- **Near-Natural** – peat-forming bog-mosses dominant, with no recent fires, little or no grazing pressure and little or no bare peat, heather is not dominant.
- **Modified** – Bare peat is in small patches, fires may be recent, grazing impacts are evident, bog-mosses are absent or rare, extensive cover of heather or purple moor-grass.
- **Drained** – within 30 m either side of an artificial drain or a revegetated hagg or gully system.
- **Actively Eroding** – actively eroding hagg / gully system, extensive continuous bare peat surfaces.

3.3.3 Mapping artificial drainage for the entirety of the proposed OHL route was beyond the scope of this assessment and therefore that category has not been included. The presence of artificial drainage was used instead as an indicator of modified condition, essentially giving three potential categories of peatland condition: Near Natural, Modified and Actively Eroding.

3.3.4 **Table 3.2** presents a set of criteria for the assessment of peatland condition based on the categories defined in NatureScot's 2016 guidance, along with descriptors of peatland function outlined in the JNCC's SSSI selection criteria, relating them to the NatureScot categories of Near Natural, Modified and Actively Eroding.

3.3.5 Indicators used to assess the condition of peatland within the PCA Study Area are discussed in more detail below:

- **Bog Moss** - Bog-mosses such as Sphagnum species cover is a critical indicator of peatland health and is used in PCA methodology to determine the degree of peatland modification. The abundance of Sphagnum directly reflects the water table level and Sphagnum decomposition under anaerobic conditions leads directly to the formation of peat.
- **Bare Peat -** The presence of exposed bare peat is a sign of a declining water table, indicating that the peatland's functionality is compromised. Where bare peat is exposed, it is subject to a greatly increased rate of erosion through weathering processes.
- **Drainage -** Both artificial drainage channels and those related to erosional gullies that provide preferential pathways for surface water flow artificially lower the water table, restricting or preventing peat formation.
- **Grazing Pressure -** Excessive grazing pressure on peatlands can lead indirectly to the removal of Sphagnum mosses and other peat-forming vegetation. Selective grazing may alter the vegetation structure of peatland habitats by promoting the growth of tussock-forming grasses such as purple moor-grass *Molinia caerulea* through numerous mechanisms. Tussocks create microtopography that increases water flow over the peat surface, leading to localized drying and erosion, which inhibits the growth of key peat-forming species including Sphagnum mosses[6].
- **Herbivore Trampling** - may also contribute to the removal of bog-mosses, exposing bare peat to further erosion. Indicators of grazing pressure include the presence of tussock formations, physical breakage of vegetation stems, 'poaching' and the presence of deer or sheep dung in peatland habitats.

3 Peatland Action (2016). Peatland Condition Assessment Guide. Available at: https://www.nature.scot/sites/default/files/2023-02/Guidance-Peatland-Action-Peatland-Condition-Assessment-Guide-A1916874.pdf
4 Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC). (2016). SSSI Selection Criteria. Available at: https://jncc.gov.uk/our-work/guidelines-for-selection-of-sssis/
5 NatureScot (2023). Advising on peatland, carbon-rich soils and priority peatland habitats: Development management. NatureScot. Available at: https://www.nature.scot/doc/advising-peatland-carbon-rich-soils-and-priority-peatland-habitats-development-management.
6 Brown, L. E., Holden, J., Palmer, S. M., Johnston, K., Ramchunder, S. J., & Grayson, R. (2021). A Critical Review of the IUCN UK Peatland Programme's "Burning and Peatlands" Position Statement. Wetlands, 41, Article 56. Available at: https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s13157-021-01400-1.

- **Burning** - Burning of peatland habitat removes vegetation, leaving the soil surface exposed and vulnerable to erosion. Burning often promotes the growth of grass species, leading to an increase in tussock formation and contributing to a reduction in peat formation and increased erosion of existing peat deposits.

Table 3.2: Criteria for the Assessment of Peatland Condition (NatureScot, 2016; JNCC, 2011)

Indicator	Relevant Biodiversity Metric Criteria	Near Natural	Modified	Actively Eroding
Hydrology	1 (NB – this criteria is necessary for any blanket bog habitat to receive a score of good condition)	High water table, saturated year-round, potential bog pool formation in wetter peatlands.	Minor signs of drying or past drainage, but largely saturated.	Obvious drainage via dry surfaces and gullies or artificial drainage.
Vegetation	2, 4, 6, 7b	Dominated by peat-forming species (e.g. Sphagnum spp.) with high cover. Heather not dominant.	Some peat-forming species present but mixed with drier or invasive species. More likely to be graminoid or heather dominated.	Extensive areas of bare peat; vegetation that is present largely graminoid or heather dominant; Sphagnum species only present in wettest hollows of erosional features.
Microtopography / structure	5	Well-developed microtopography (hummocks / pools), no erosion.	Bare peat may be present in small patches (micro-erosion); tussock formation contributing to drying of habitats in graminoid-dominated habitats.	Extensive erosion, bare peat including peat pans, hagging, and / or erosional gullies.
Damage	n / a	No evidence of cutting, burning, trampling, or vehicle damage	Isolated signs of disturbance including trampling, burning and vehicle damage.	Frequent or widespread damage leading to exposure of extensive bare peat surfaces and ongoing peat erosion.
Peat-forming Processes	n / a	Active peat accumulation evident (Sphagnum growth, wet hollows)	Limited accumulation, sporadic active features	No evidence of peat accumulation, oxidised / dry surface, no Sphagnum species present

3.4 Desk Based Assessment

3.4.1 The peat depth contour model was used to delineate areas of underlying peat (>0.5 m depth) within the PCA Study Area for further assessment. Peat deposits were found to present over a total area of 278.3 ha within the PCA Study Area.

3.4.2 Results of the UKHab survey were then overlain onto areas of peat within the PCA Study Area. Any areas that were not overlain by blanket bog habitats were considered to be in a Modified condition due to a lack of actively peat forming vegetation. A reference was added to each peatland habitat polygon to aid in the assessment. This is labelled UKHab Parcel Ref on **Figure 8.4.1** and is referred to in **Annex A**.

3.4.3 The remaining blanket bog habitats that were underlain by peat deposits were assessed further by relating the Biodiversity Metric scores to NatureScot criteria of peatland condition. A comparison between the two metrics is provided in **Table 3.2** and shows that, to meet the criteria for near natural condition, habitats must pass at least five of the listed criteria, including Criteria 1. It follows that any UKHab habitats with a Biodiversity Metric score of Moderate or below will be in a Modified or Actively Eroding Condition.

3.4.4 All habitats were then reviewed against the available data including aerial photography, NVC data if available and site photographs. Relevant features within blanket bog habitats including bog pools, artificial drains, peat hags and erosional gullies were mapped.

3.4.5 **Table 3.3** below shows the decision-making process used in the classification of UKHab habitats as either Near Natural, Modified, Drained or Actively Eroding PCA condition. Where habitats were found to have potential to be in a Near Natural condition, a site visit was undertaken for confirmation.

Table 3.3: Decision making process in PCA classification of UKHab habitats

UKHab Biodiversity Metric Condition	Site photos and aerial photography	Resultant PCA condition	Site visit
Good	Potential bog pools and / or hummock hollow microtopography visible, extensive sphagnum visible	Potentially near natural	Site visit necessary
	Potential peat hags, artificial drainage, burning, cutting or erosional features visible	Modified, drained or actively eroding	No site visit required
	No such features visible	Modified	No site visit required
Moderate or below	Potential peat hags, artificial drainage, burning, cutting or erosional features visible	Modified, drained or actively eroding	No site visit required
	No such features	Modified	
Not available	Potential bog pools and/or hummock hollow microtopography visible, extensive sphagnum visible	Potentially near natural	Site visit required
	Potential peat hags, artificial drainage, burning, cutting or erosional features visible	Modified, drained or actively eroding	No site visit required
	No such features	Modified, drained or actively eroding	No site visit required

3.4.6 Blanket bog habitats with a biodiversity condition metric score of good, or those that were not visited during ground truthing investigations, were assessed using the above decision-making tool. This assessment is presented in **Annex A** of this Appendix.

3.4.7 All blanket bog habitats that did not have potential to contain near-natural habitats, either based on their biodiversity condition metric score or through the assessment presented in **Annex A**, were classified as Modified condition where no bare peat features or artificial drainage was observed. Habitats with bare peat surfaces covering >50 % of their area assessed as being in an actively eroding condition.

3.5 Limitations

3.5.1 A hybrid desk-based and site survey approach was deemed to be suitable for this PCA due to the extent of the Proposed Development. The available data is considered adequate for the classification of peatland habitats as being either Modified or Actively Eroding, and for the identification of potential Near Natural features for further site investigation. However, it is possible that some smaller near natural features may have been missed due to not being visible on aerial photography or available site photographs.

4 Results

4.1 Desk Based Assessment

4.1.1 The results of the desk-based assessment are presented in **Annex A** of this Appendix. A total of seven blanket bog polygons were identified where there was a potential for near-natural peatland habitat to be present based on the decision-making criteria presented in **Table 8.4.3** above: polygons 38, 39, 65, 67, 68, 69 and 75.

4.1.2 Areas 37 and 38 are avoided by the Proposed Development and are not considered further in this assessment.

4.1.3 A site visit was required to assess the five areas that were considered potentially near natural and that have a potential to be impacted by the Proposed Development, aimed at confirming the presence of near natural features and characteristics and mapping any areas that are of near natural condition.

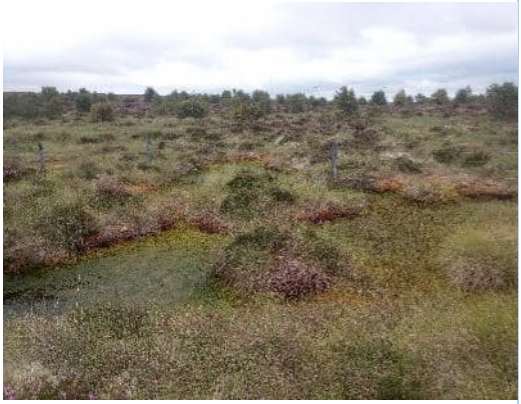
4.2 Site Visit

4.2.1 A site visit was undertaken on 15 and 16 August 2025 during very dry conditions following several days of high temperatures and no rainfall. **Figure 8.4.1** presents the results of the Peat Condition Assessment across the Study Area. The figure shows the condition of each habitat polygon assessed, the UKHab metric condition and the peat depth from peat depth survey in accordance with **Figure 10.1.2** of **Appendix 10.1: Peat Depth Survey Report**.

4.2.2 The results of the site visit are detailed in **Table 4.4** below.

Table 4.4: PCA Site Visit Assessment

UKHab Parcel Ref	Target notes	Photographs	Assessment
65	9		This habitat is in a modified condition, predominantly due to the presence of significant grazing pressure evidenced in the vegetation structure, as well as scattered conifers re-seeding from the nearby conifer plantation. The potential near-natural features observed during the desk-based assessment were found to be surface water features formed as a result of local topography and did not indicate near-natural peat habitat.

UKHab Parcel Ref	Target notes	Photographs	Assessment
67	5, 6, 7		This habitat is in a modified condition. The vegetation structure indicated significant grazing pressure and scattered conifers were present, re-seeded from the nearby conifer plantation. Some evidence of historic peat cutting was also observed. The potential near-natural features observed during the desk-based assessment were found to be surface water features formed as a result of local topography and did not indicate a wider near-natural peat habitat, however are likely to be locally actively-peat forming and should be avoided by the Proposed Development. A section of proposed floating track passes close to these features. The track should be microsited to maximise distance from these features under supervision of the Site Environmental Clerk of Works (ECoW).
68, 69	8		These habitats are in a modified condition, predominantly due to the presence of significant grazing pressure evidenced in the vegetation structure. Revegetated artificial drainage was also observed within the habitats. The potential near-natural feature visible on aerial photography was identified as a shallow depression that is retaining water as a result of local topography. It features a rich sphagnum assemblage and is likely to be locally peat forming.
75	1, 2, 3, 4		This habitat is in a modified condition, predominantly due to the presence of significant grazing pressure evidenced in the vegetation structure, as well as scattered conifers re-seeding from the nearby conifer plantation. Revegetated artificial drainage was also observed within the habitat. The potential near-natural features observed during the desk-based assessment were found to be shallow flush features with no significant peat deposits, however they do contain species rich sphagnum assemblages. These features do not indicate near-natural peat habitat however are avoided by the Proposed Development due to their ecological value.

4.2.3 Target notes from the site visit are presented below in **Table 4.5**.

Table 4.5: Target Notes

Target notes	Location (British National Grid)	Photographs	Assessment
1	NJ 21016 52969		Photo shows artificial drainage at the habitat boundary
2	NJ 20963 52843		Habitat is in a modified condition. Graminoid dominated vegetation indicates significant grazing pressure on habitat.
3	NJ 21085 52763		Revegetated drainage channel within habitat.
4	NJ 21268 52626		Potential near natural features identified during desk-based assessment were flushed areas with sphagnum moss assemblages including *Sphagnum cuspidatum / fallax, Sphagnum denticulatum* and *Sphagnum capillifolium*. These areas do not constitute near-natural peatland but should be avoided by the Proposed Development. The Proposed OHL Alignment is currently to the north and downgradient of these features and is not likely to impact them.

Target notes	Location (British National Grid)	Photographs	Assessment
5	NJ 16081 51423		Sphagnum rich pools were encountered at this location, formed due to the topography situation of these pools. The overall habitat is in a modified condition due to grazing pressure and scattered conifers that have re-seeded from nearby forestry plantation. These features are avoided by the Proposed Development.
6	NJ 16191 51527		Evidence of historic peat cutting.
7	NJ 16188 51536		Near natural feature observed on aerial photography identified as a wet depression containing sphagnum moss assemblages. The feature is within a clearly modified landscape with hummocky vegetation and evidence of significant grazing pressures. This feature does not constitute near-natural peatland. It is also avoided by the Proposed Development.
8	NJ 16936 51602		Potential near natural feature observed on aerial photography identified as a wet depression containing sphagnum moss assemblages. The feature is within a clearly modified landscape with hummocky vegetation and evidence of historic burning and grazing pressures. This feature does not constitute near-natural peatland. It is also avoided by the Proposed Development.

Target notes	Location (British National Grid)	Photographs	Assessment
9	NJ 11071 47873		This area was in a clearly modified condition with evidence of significant grazing pressures and re-seeding of trees from the nearby forestry plantation.

5 Conclusions

5.1.1 The combined results of the desk-based assessment and the site visit show that all blanket bog habitat within the PCA Study Area is in a modified condition.

5.1.2 No significant areas of actively eroding peat were observed. Ongoing pressures observed include artificial drainage, grazing, some historic burning and peat cutting, and forestry plantation and natural re-seeding of conifers from nearby forestry. These have not led to the exposure of large areas of eroding bare peat within the site; however all contribute to ongoing drying and degradation of the peatland and associated vegetation structure that supports the formation of peat.

5.1.3 Active peat formation within the Study Area is likely limited to minor depressions and hollows where peat formation in ongoing to due favourable hydrological conditions resulting primarily from localised topography. No near-natural peat features were observed; however several areas exhibited some degree of bog pools and sphagnum rich species assemblages where some active peat formation is ongoing as a result of local hydrological conditions. These areas have all been avoided by the Proposed Development.

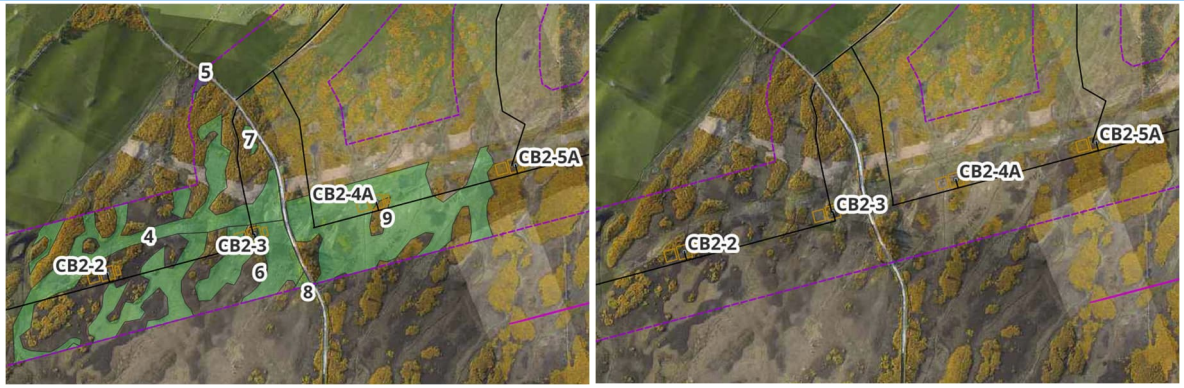
APPENDIX 8.4 – ANNEX A: PEAT DEPTH MAPPING AND SURVEY AREA APPROACH

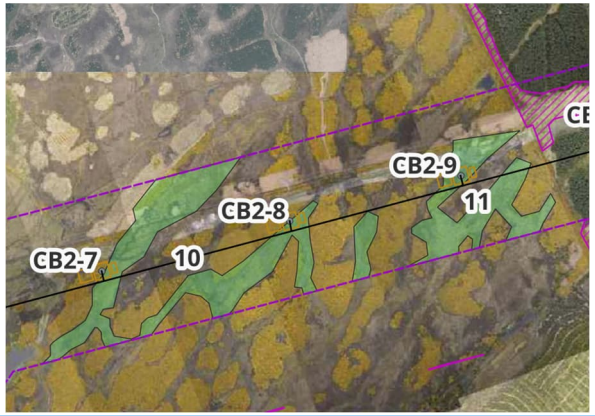
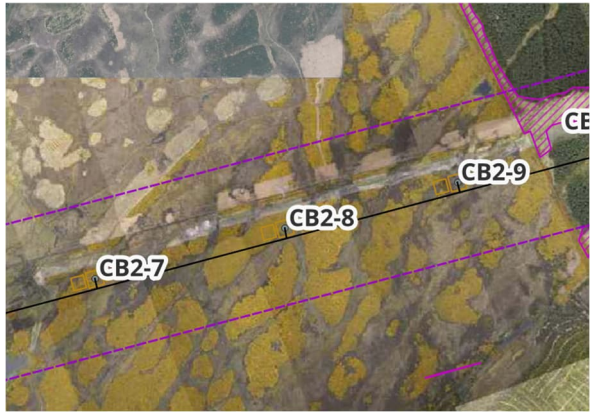
This appendix presents the mapped peatland habitats present within the Site, along with the desk-based assessment of each habitat based on the available information utilising the decision-making process presented in **Table 4.4** of **Appendix 8.4**. All habitats are presented in **Figure 8.4.1**.

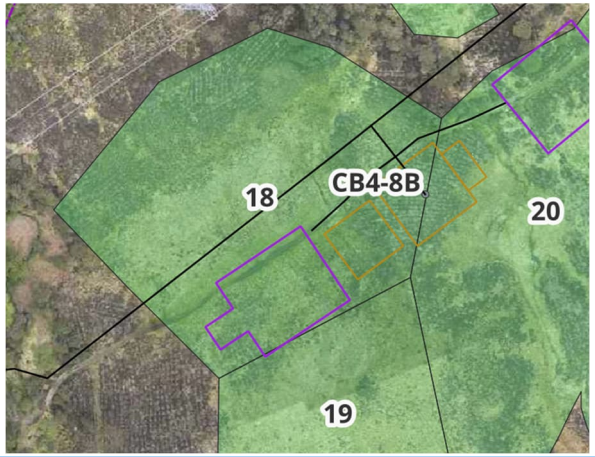
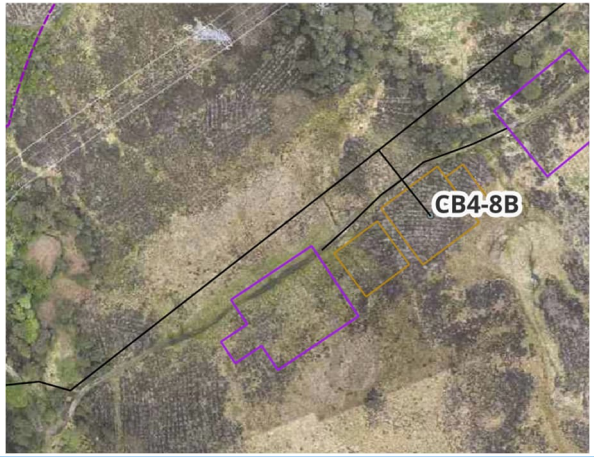
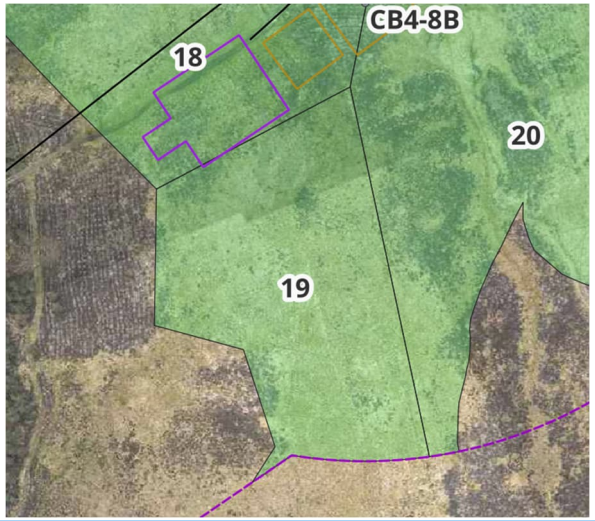
Table 1: Habitats in a Modified condition based on UKHab Biodiversity Metric Condition Score

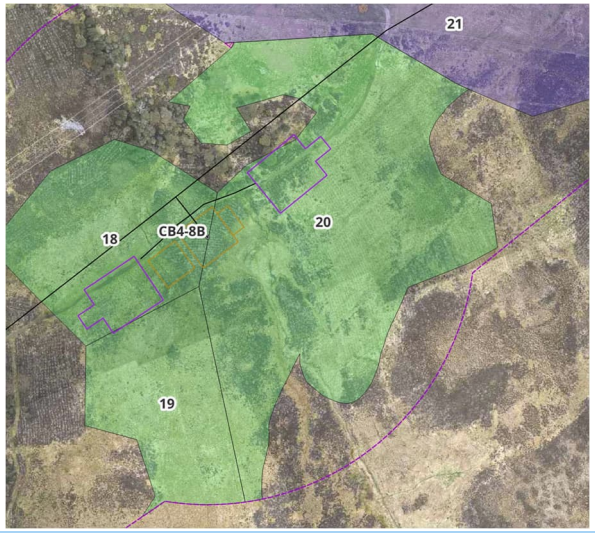
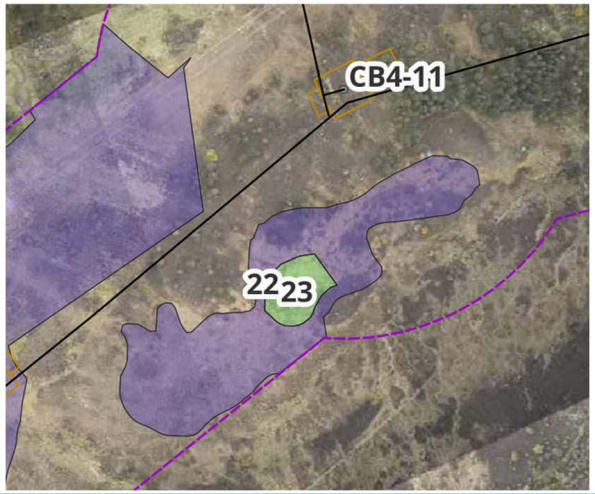
UKHab Parcel ref	Example Photographs	Assessment
1, 3, 5, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 21, 22, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 34, 35, 36, 39. 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 63, 64 and 65.	 	These habitats are all considered to be in a modified condition based on the decision-making criteria presented in **Table 3.3** of **Appendix 8.4**.

Table 2: Assessment of UKHab blanket bog habitats

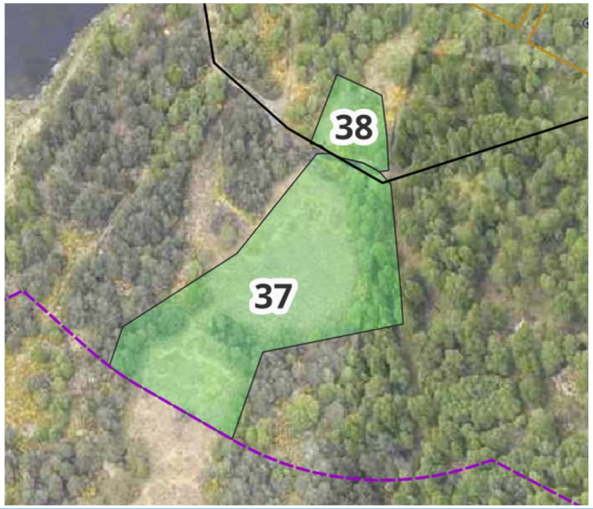
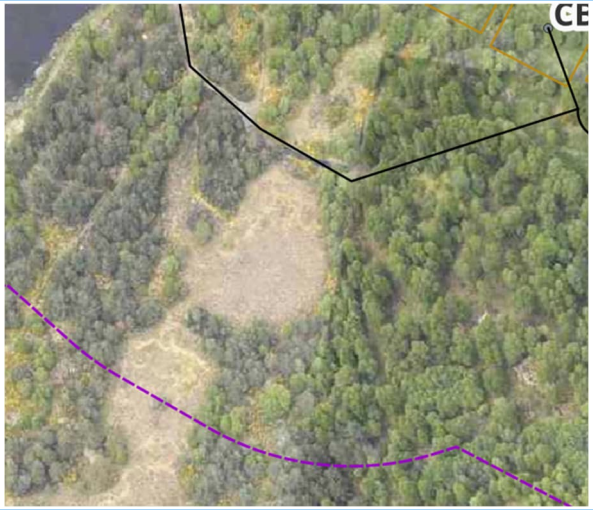
UKHab Parcel ref	Available data sources	Photographs	Assessment
2	UKHab, Biodiversity condition score, aerial photography.		This habitat was classified as being in good condition during the habitat surveys. It is assessed as being in a modified condition to presence of trees and shrubs visible on aerial photography and an artificial drain that intersects the habitat.
4, 6, 7, 8 and 9	UKHab, Biodiversity condition score, aerial photograph, site photographs.		These areas were classified as being in good condition during the habitat surveys. They are assessed as being in a modified condition due to the encroachment of gorse shrub and graminoid vegetation within the habitat.

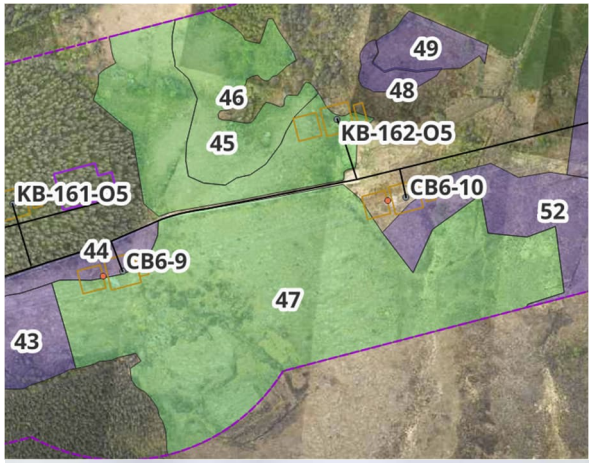
UKHab Parcel ref	Available data sources	Photographs	Assessment
		 Photo: Tower CB2-4	
10 and 11	UKHab, Biodiversity condition score, aerial photographs.	 	These habitats were classified as being in good condition during the habitat surveys. They are assessed as being in a modified condition due to the encroachment of gorse shrub and graminoid vegetation within the habitat.

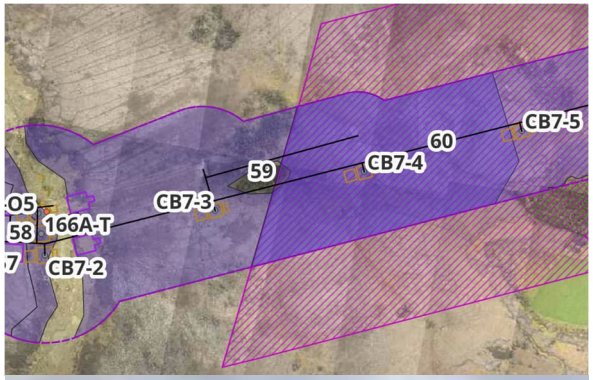
UKHab Parcel ref	Available data sources	Photographs	Assessment
18	UKHab, Biodiversity condition score, aerial photographs.	 	This habitat was classified as being in good condition during the habitat surveys. It is assessed as being in a modified condition due to planted forestry and vehicle tracking visible within the habitat.
19	UKHab, Biodiversity condition score, aerial photographs.	 	These habitats were classified as being in good condition during the habitat surveys. They are assessed as being in a modified condition due to planted forestry and vehicle tracking visible within the habitat.

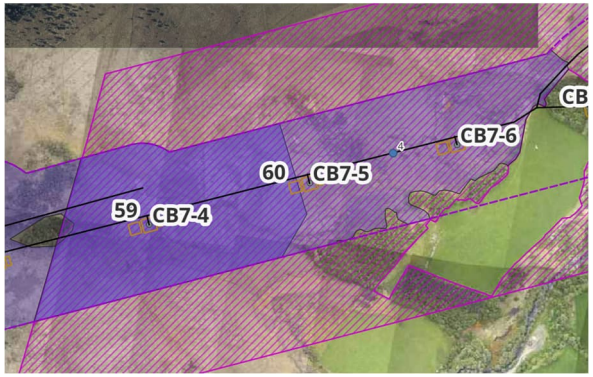
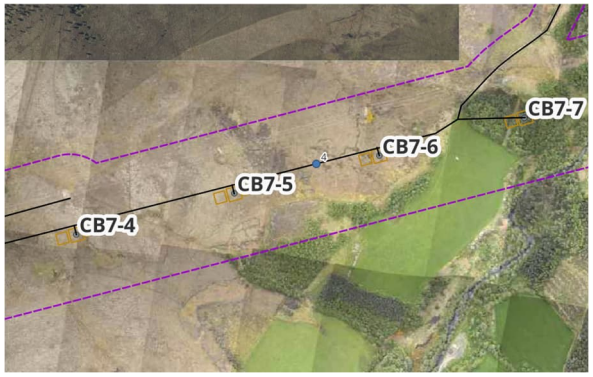
UKHab Parcel ref	Available data sources	Photographs	Assessment
20	UKHab, Biodiversity condition score, aerial photographs.	 	This habitat was classified as being in good condition during the habitat surveys. It is assessed as being in a modified condition due to planted forestry across the majority of the habitat visible on the aerial photography.
23	UKHab, Biodiversity condition score, aerial photographs.	 	This habitat was classified as being in good condition during the habitat surveys. It is assessed as being in a modified condition due to its limited extent within a wider poor condition habitat, lacking potential near natural features visible on the aerial photography.

UKHab Parcel ref	Available data sources	Photographs	Assessment
32	UKHab, Biodiversity condition score, aerial photographs.		This habitat was classified as being in good condition during the habitat surveys. It is assessed as being in a modified condition due to the presence of scattered tree and shrub vegetation within the habitat.
33	UKHab, Biodiversity condition score, aerial photographs.		This habitat was classified as being in good condition during the habitat surveys. It is assessed as being in a modified condition due to the presence of forestry, shrub and hummocky graminoid vegetation visible on the aerial photography.

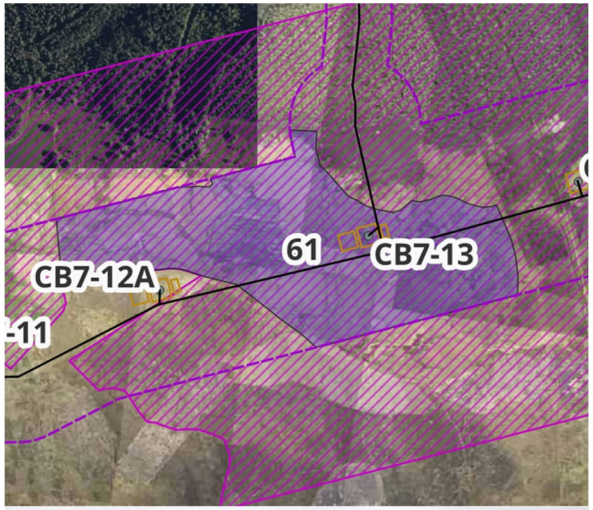
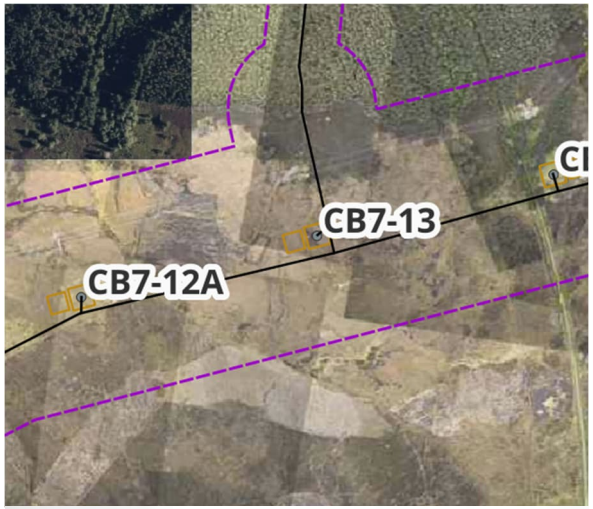
UKHab Parcel ref	Available data sources	Photographs	Assessment
37, 38	UKHab, Biodiversity condition score, aerial photographs.	 	These habitats were classified as being in good condition during the habitat surveys. They are assessed as being in a modified condition due to the presence of gorse shrub and hummocky vegetation visible on the aerial photography. There are some potential bog pool features visible on the aerial photography that may indicate some areas containing near-natural features – this is discussed further in **Section 4** of **Appendix 8.4.**

UKHab Parcel ref	Available data sources	Photographs	Assessment
45, 46 and 47	UKHab, Biodiversity condition score, aerial photograph, site photographs.	   Photo: Tower CB6-9  Photo: Tower CB6-10	These habitats are assessed as being in a modified condition, due to the presence of hummocky vegetation, historic peat cutting, artificial drainage and the presence of scattered trees visible in aerial photography.

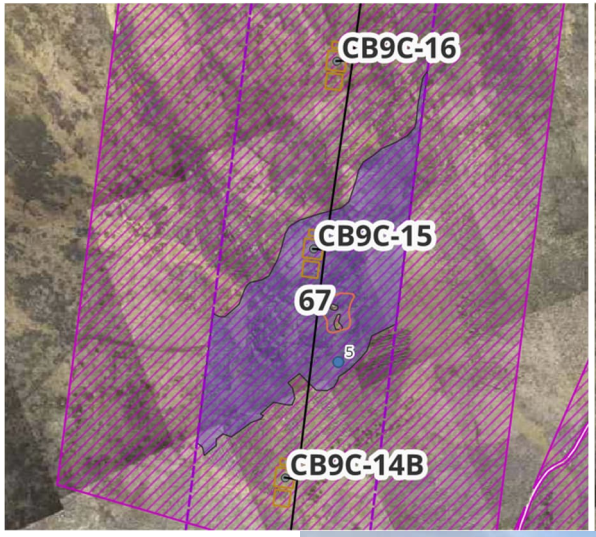
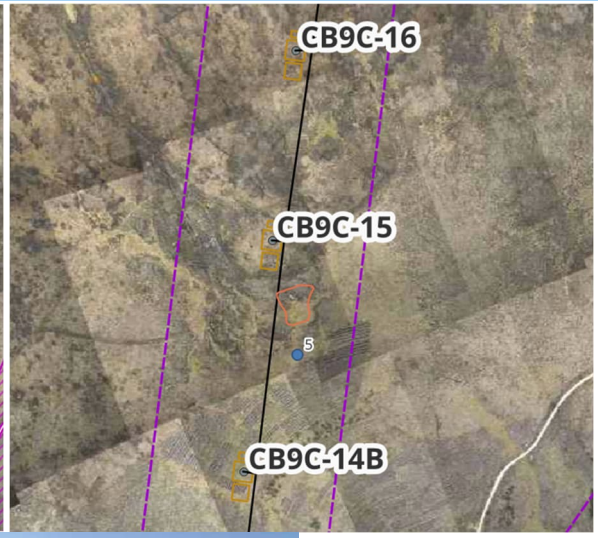
UKHab Parcel ref	Available data sources	Photographs	Assessment
59	UKHab, Biodiversity condition score, aerial photographs, site photographs.	   Photo: Tower CB7-3  Photo: Tower CB7-4	This habitat is assessed as being in a modified condition due to the presence of artificial drainage in the west of the habitat, hummocky vegetation visible throughout the habitat and scattered trees across much of the habitat.

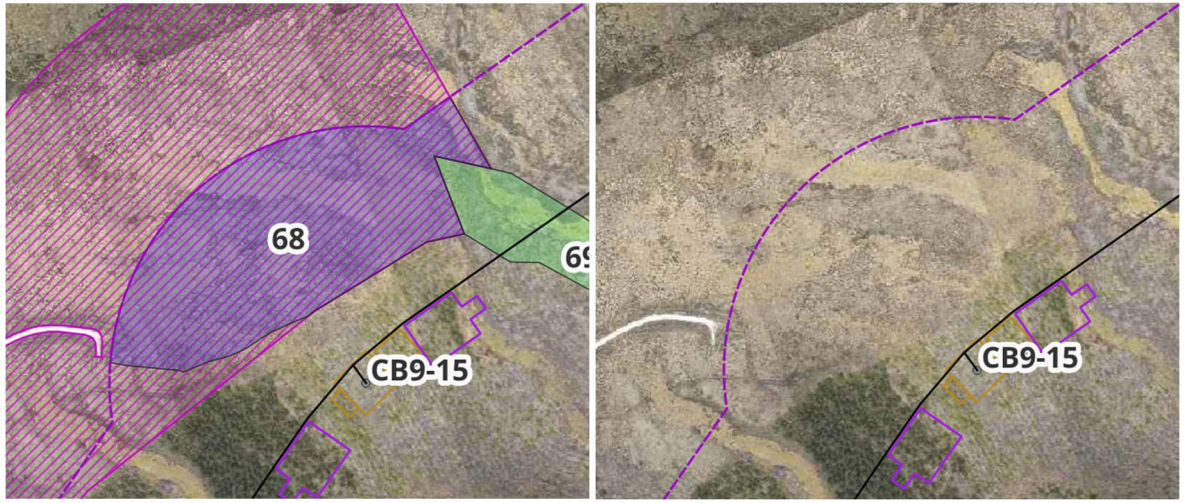
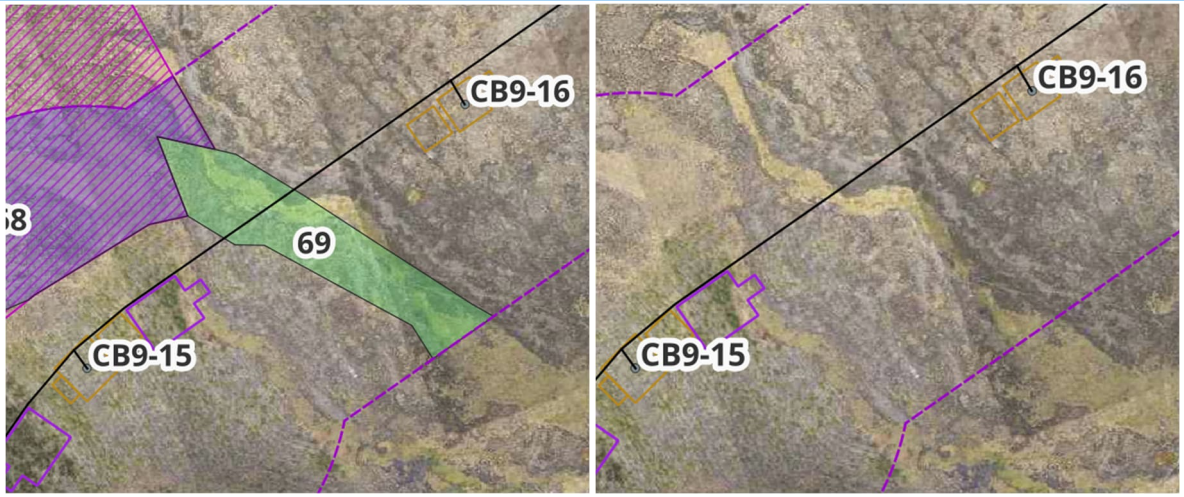
UKHab Parcel ref	Available data sources	Photographs	Assessment
60	Aerial photographs, site photographs.	   Photo: Tower CB7-5  Photo: Tower CB7-6	This habitat is assessed as being in a modified condition due to the presence of potential artificial drainage and historic peat cutting, as well as hummocky vegetation and scattered trees across much of the habitat visible on aerial photography.

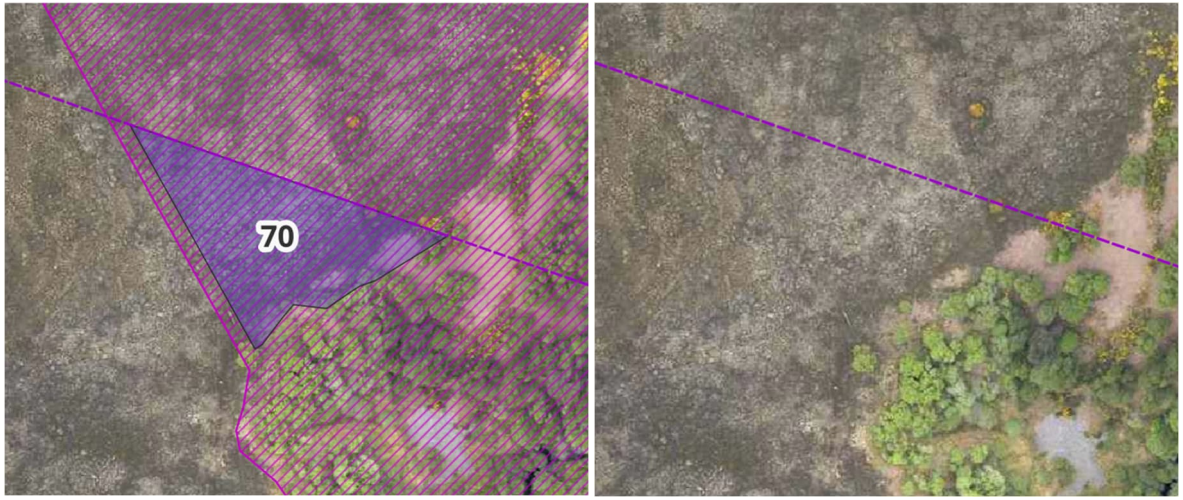
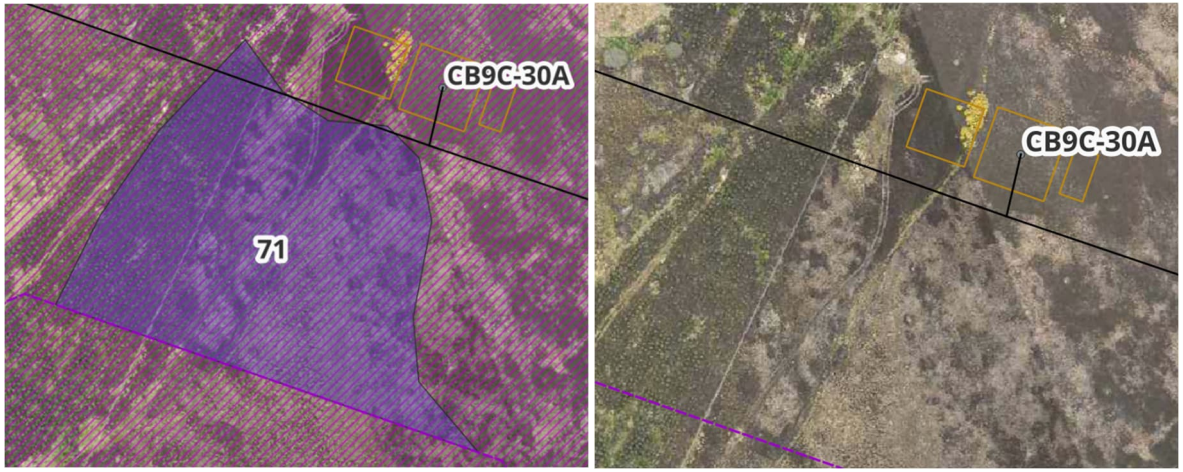
UKHab Parcel ref	Available data sources	Photographs	Assessment
		 Photo: CB7-7	

UKHab Parcel ref	Available data sources	Photographs	Assessment
61	Aerial photographs, site photographs.	   Photo: CB7-12A  Photo: CB7-13	This habitat is assessed as being in a modified condition, due to the presence of hummocky vegetation, historic peat cutting and artificial drainage visible in aerial photography.

UKHab Parcel ref	Available data sources	Photographs	Assessment
62	Aerial photographs.		This habitat is assessed as being in a modified condition, due to the presence of hummocky vegetation, gorse scurb and artificial drainage visible in aerial photography.
66	Aerial photographs.		This habitat is assessed as being in a modified condition, due to the presence of hummocky vegetation visible in aerial photography.

UKHab Parcel ref	Available data sources	Photographs	Assessment
67	Aerial photographs, site photographs, PCA walkover survey.	   Photo: CB9C-15	This habitat was deemed to have a potential for some near natural features to be present, visible on aerial photography and was visited during the PCA walkover survey. This habitat is discussed further in the main Peatland Condition Assessment report.

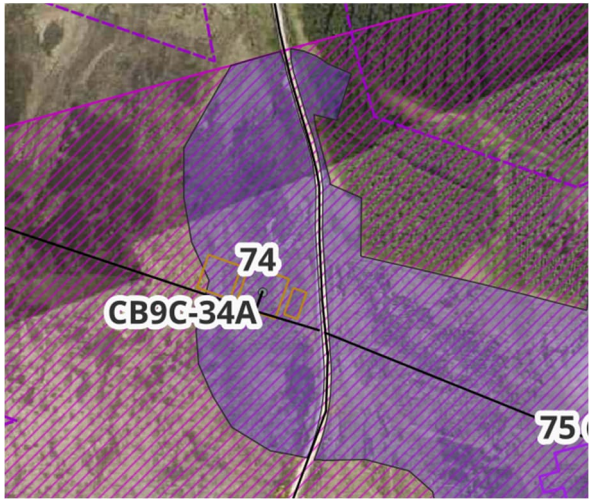
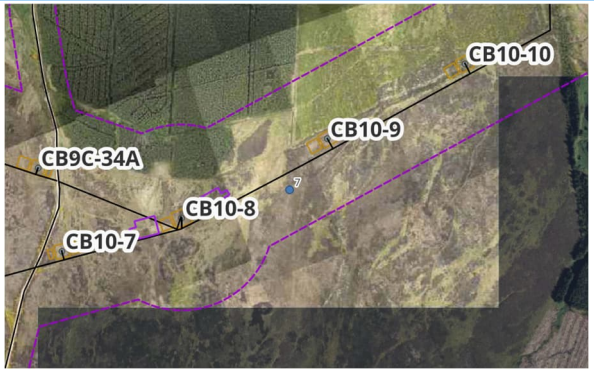
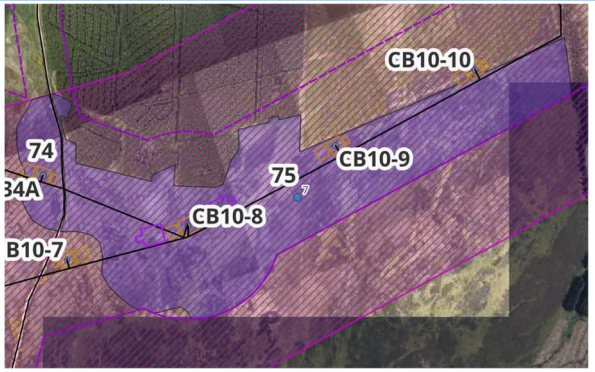
UKHab Parcel ref	Available data sources	Photographs	Assessment
68	Aerial photographs, PCA walkover survey.		This habitat contains bog pools with sphagnum assemblages visible on aerial photography. It has the potential to be in a near natural condition and was visited during the PCA walkover survey. This habitat is discussed further in the main Peatland Condition Assessment report.
69	Aerial photographs, site photographs, PCA walkover survey.		This habitat contains bog pools with sphagnum assemblages visible on aerial photography. It has a potential to be in a near natural condition and was visited during the PCA walkover survey. This habitat is discussed further in the main Peatland Condition Assessment report.

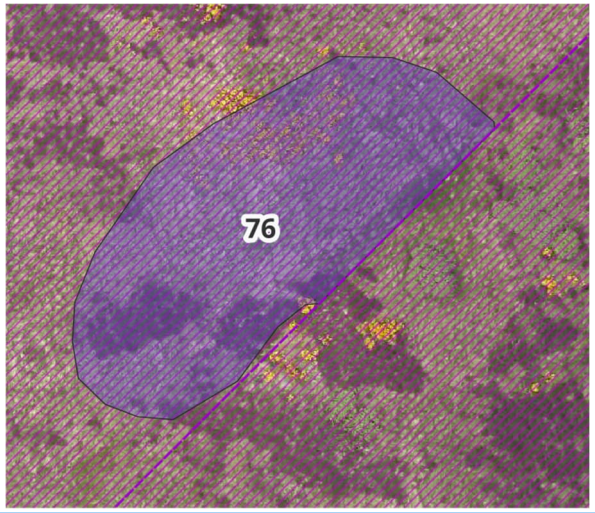
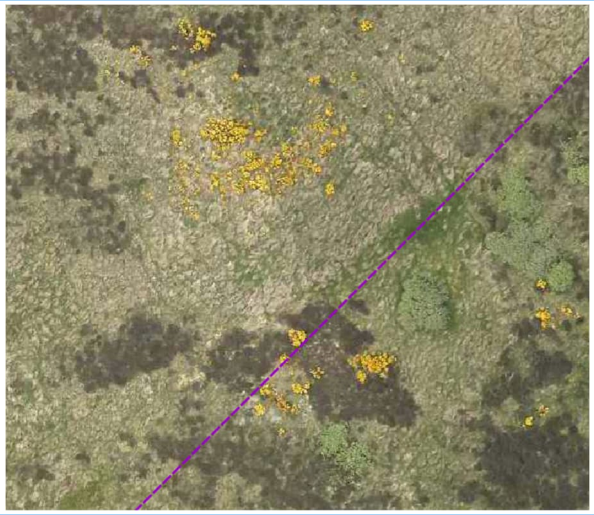
UKHab Parcel ref	Available data sources	Photographs	Assessment
70	Aerial photographs.		This habitat is assessed as being in a modified condition, due to the presence of hummocky vegetation and absence of potential near natural features visible in aerial photography.
71	Aerial photographs, site photographs.		This habitat is assessed as being in a modified condition, due to the presence of planted forestry, vehicle tracking, artificial drainage and hummocky vegetation visible in aerial photography across the full extent of the habitat, verified from the available site photography, evidencing significant grazing pressures.

UKHab Parcel ref	Available data sources	Photographs	Assessment
		 Photo: CB9C-30A	

UKHab Parcel ref	Available data sources	Photographs	Assessment
72	Aerial photographs, site photographs.	   Photo: CB10-3  Photo: CB10-4	This habitat is assessed as being in a modified condition, due to the presence of hummocky vegetation visible in aerial photography across the full extent of the habitat, as well as potential revegetated peat hags and artificial drainage lines verified from the available site photography, evidencing significant grazing pressures.

UKHab Parcel ref	Available data sources	Photographs	Assessment
		 Photo: CB10-5	
73	Aerial photographs.		This habitat is assessed as being in a modified condition, due to the presence of hummocky vegetation visible in aerial photography across within the habitat, evidencing significant grazing pressures as well as artificial drainage lines.

UKHab Parcel ref	Available data sources	Photographs	Assessment
74	UKHab, Biodiversity condition score, aerial photography.		This habitat is assessed as being in a modified condition, due to the presence of hummocky vegetation visible in aerial photography across the full extent of the habitat, evidencing significant grazing pressures.
75	UKHab, Biodiversity condition score, aerial photography, site photographs, PCA walkover survey.	 	This habitat is largely modified due to the presence of hummocky graminoid vegetation visible on aerial photography and site photos, as well as artificial drainage grips and vehicle tracking. Some potential surface water features and bog moss vegetation is however visible on the aerial photography to the south of CB10-8. This habitat contains potential bog pools with sphagnum assemblages visible on aerial photography. These areas have a potential to be in a near natural condition and were visited during the PCA walkover survey. This habitat is discussed further in the main Peatland Condition Assessment report.

UKHab Parcel ref	Available data sources	Photographs	Assessment
		 Photo: CB10-8	
76	Aerial photographs.	 	This habitat is assessed as being in a modified condition, due to the presence of hummocky vegetation visible in aerial photography across the full extent of the habitat, evidencing significant grazing pressures as well as the presence of gorse shrub vegetation within the habitat.