

# PEATLAND CODE

**Minor revision and clarification guidance for  
Version 2 of the Peatland Code  
January 2024**

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**Introduction:** This document provides clarity in areas of the code that have subjectivity and aims to offer project developers and validation/verification bodies clear direction on how this should be interpreted is to be read alongside the Peatland Code version 2 and Field Protocol version 2. It will also provide information on minor revisions to version 2, which will eventually be incorporated into version 2.1. The IUCN UK Peatland Programme is committed to continuous improvement within the Peatland Code.

**Note:** Following a revision or update current projects have a three-month period from the published date in which document submission for Project Plan Validation can still be done against the old rule.

### Clarifications:

#### Main Code:

Section	Current text	IUCN UK PP Clarification	Date Approved	Approved by	Published date
<b>3.3 Net GHG Emissions Reduction</b>	Projects shall be validated/verified against the current version of the Peatland Code and the most recent Emission Factors will be used to determine the emissions reductions at verification.	<p>Project Plan Validation and Restoration Validation happen to the same version of the Peatland Code, even if there has been a version update in between. If projects wish to use the emission factors of a later version for Restoration Validation, with no other change from project plan validation and have <b>not</b> already had PIUs issued then they may do so by submitting a new version of the Emissions Calculator.</p> <p>If there was a diversion from the validated project plan, then all documents need to be updated and submitted to the validator, these documents should be the same version as used for Project Plan Validation with the exemption of the emission calculator if no PIUs are issued.</p>	14 <sup>th</sup> September 2023	Internal Peatland Code decision, with input from Project Developers	25 <sup>th</sup> January 2024

## Blanket and Raised Bogs:

Section	Current text	IUCN UK PP Clarification	Date Approved	Approved by	Published date
<b>Blanket and Raised Bogs:</b> Field Survey	A project site will always have to be surveyed in the field to ensure the peatland present is of eligible depth and to confirm the pre-restoration (baseline) peatland condition categories present. The Assessment Unit map, described in the previous section, provides the structure for the field survey.	To ensure the information you have submitted to the Peatland Code is valid. Baseline field surveys can be up to 3 years old when submitting all documentation to the validation body for Project Plan Validation.	22 <sup>nd</sup> October 2023	Internal Peatland Code decision, with input from Project Developers	23 <sup>rd</sup> October 2023

## Fens

Section	Current text	IUCN UK PP Clarification	Date Approved	Approved	Published date
<b>Field Survey</b>  3. Water Table Assessments	Use a mix of rust rods, dipwells and continuous loggers. At least one continuous water level logger per unit is required, with a minimum of 5 manual monthly dipwell readings and a minimum of 15 quarterly rust rods readings. However, some or all rust rods can be replaced with dipwells if preferred by the project. All dipwells and rust rods will move up and down together in response to rain/dry weather. Therefore, use the continuous record to gap-fill the manual records and calculate the mean water table depth across the site.	For clarity you need 5 different dipwells read monthly, and a minimum of 15 rust rods read quarterly. If you chose to use dipwells instead of rust rods the total should be 20 dipwells read monthly.	22 <sup>nd</sup> November 2023	Internally	25 <sup>th</sup> January 2024

## Minor revisions to version 2:

Section	Current text	Revision	Date approved	Approved	Published date
Field Protocol	Add a 30 m drainage buffer around water courses. Calculate area of non-peatland and drainage buffer and subtract from Gross Area to calculate Net Project Area in ha.	The 30 m drainage buffer is an exclusion zone from which <b>no</b> rewetted credits can be claimed. However, revegetated credits can be. Water courses here are any water features that won't be blocked and thus have a likely drainage effect on the surrounding peat.	4 <sup>th</sup> December 2023	Technical Advisory board and Executive board sign off December	25 <sup>th</sup> January 2024
Peatland Code Guidance	To evidence that peat of between 30 and 50 cm in depth used to be deep peat, soil coring could be used. This will show if it is subsided/compacted deep peat or a peaty podzol. If using soil coring, one core for each distinct area of shallow peat shall be taken. An alternative approach, if available, would be to use historic peat maps.	<p>The requirement to evidence that peat between 30 and 50 cm used to be deep peat is removed. In return the following definition of continuous shallow peat is used:</p> <p>The Peatland Code defines continuous shallow peat areas where three or more connected peat depth points on a 50 x 50 m grid consistently measure between 30cm and 50cm; these areas won't be eligible. However, areas predominantly characterized by peat depths exceeding 50cm, isolated shallow pockets falling within the 30cm to 50cm range are accepted for restoration projects if surrounded by deeper peat.</p>	24 <sup>th</sup> January 2024	Technical Advisory Board and Executive Board final sign off on text via email	25 <sup>th</sup> January 2024