

PEATLAND CODE

**Minor revisions and clarification guidance for
Version 2.1 of the Peatland Code
June 2026**

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Version 2 published June 2016

Enquiries relating to the Peatland Code should be sent to: peatlandcode@iucn.org.uk

Contents

Introduction:	4
Definitions	4
Normative References	4
Clarifications to Version 2.1	5
Peatland Code	5
Peatland Code Guidance document	10
Field Protocol	11
Minor revisions to version 2.1	15
Peatland Code.....	15
Peatland Code Guidance document	16
Field Protocol	19
Updates to Version 2.1	25
Updated Process/Procedure	25

Introduction

This document provides clarity in areas of the Peatland Code, Guidance document and Field Protocol that have subjectivity or are unclear and aims to offer project developers and validation/verification bodies clear direction on how these areas shall be interpreted. This document shall be read alongside the Peatland Code version 2.1, Peatland Code Guidance document version 2.1 and Field Protocol version 2.1.

This document also provides information on minor revisions to version 2.1 which will eventually be incorporated into a future version. The IUCN UK Peatland Programme is committed to continuous improvement of the Peatland Code.

Note: Following a Peatland Code rule revision or version update projects have a three-month period from the published date in which document submission for Project Plan Validation and/or Verification can still be done against the old rule. Clarifications to existing rules shall be implemented from the date the clarification document is published.

Definitions

The document employs following definitions:

Shall: represents a mandatory requirement

Should: represents recommendations or best practices that project developers should aim to implement on their projects

May: represents a course of action permissible by the Peatland Code

Normative References

This Clarification document shall be read in conjunction with the following documents:

- Peatland Code v2.1
- Peatland Code Guidance Document v2.1
- Peatland Code Field Protocol v2.1

Clarifications to Version 2.1:

The clarifications and updated text below are of existing rules, not changes to the rules. Therefore, these shall be implemented from the date the clarification document is published.

Peatland Code:

Section	Current text	IUCN UK PP Clarification/Updated text	Date Approved	Approved by	Published date
1.1 Eligible Activities	<p>Areas with a minimum peat depth of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 45 cm in fens with baseline condition category grassland and modified fen Cropland – drained condition category and Grassland that used to be cropland in the past 20 years can have a lower minimum peat depth than 45 cm if the project evidences that the Soil Organic Carbon stock is more than 30 times the Emission Factor for CO₂-C emissions for the relevant baseline category 30 cm in bogs. With the additional requirement in bogs that areas with peat depth between 30 and 50 	<p>Areas with a minimum peat depth of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 45 cm in fens with baseline condition category grassland and modified fen Cropland – drained condition category and Grassland that used to be cropland in the past 20 years can have a lower minimum peat depth than 45 cm if the project evidences that the Soil Organic Carbon stock is more than 30 times the Emission Factor for CO₂-C emissions for the relevant baseline category 30 cm in bogs with the additional requirement that area with peat depths between 30 cm and less than 50 cm shall be part of a restoration project that is predominantly composed of deeper peat areas (50 cm or more). Areas of continuously shallower peat (below 50cm) are excluded (see minor revisions below). 	30th October 2025	Internally	6 th November 2025

	cm shall be part of a restoration project dominated by areas of deeper peat. Areas of continuously shallow peat are excluded (see below).				
3.3 Net GHG Emissions Reduction	<p>The project shall calculate the net change in GHG emissions (tCO₂e) using the Peatland Code Emissions Calculator. Gross emissions reduction is the change in emissions over the project duration, relative to the baseline, as a direct result of the project. Net emissions reduction of the project is calculated by subtracting the total carbon cost of restoration from the gross emissions reduction (if this cannot be calculated, a 5% carbon cost buffer is used), applying a 5% conservative buffer, and adjusting for any leakage (see diagram below). To determine the claimable net emissions reduction, the contribution to the Peatland Code Risk Buffer, which is managed by the IUCN UK Peatland Programme, is also removed. Net GHG emissions reduction shall be divided in the Peatland Code Emissions</p>	<p>The project shall calculate the net change in GHG emissions (tCO₂e) using the Peatland Code Emissions Calculator.</p> <p>Net emissions reduction of the project is calculated by subtracting the total carbon cost of restoration* from the gross emissions reduction, applying a 5% conservative buffer, and adjusting for any leakage (see diagram below).</p> $\text{Gross emission} - \begin{matrix} \text{Carbon Cost of restoration} \\ \text{or} \\ \text{Carbon Cost Buffer 5\%} \end{matrix} - \begin{matrix} \text{5\% Conservative} \\ \text{Buffer} \end{matrix} - \text{Potential leakage} = \text{Net emission reductions}$ <p>*Projects on bogs that began restoration prior to the launch of the Emissions & Carbon cost calculator v2.1.1 (18th February 2025) and projects on fens shall use a 5% carbon cost buffer. Projects on bogs undergoing project plan validation from the 1st of June 2025 and which started restoration after 18th of February 2025 shall calculate their carbon cost of restoration using the latest version of the Emissions & Carbon cost calculator. To determine the claimable net emissions reduction, the contribution to the Peatland Code Risk Buffer, which is managed by the</p>	30th October 2025	Internally	6 th November 2025

	<p>Calculator into the contribution to the Peatland Code Risk Buffer and the remaining claimable units. The project shall state each contribution per vintage for the duration of the project. The most recent emission factors shall be used to determine the emission reductions at verification.</p>	<p>IUCN UK Peatland Programme, is also removed.</p>			
Scope	<p>The Peatland Code specifies requirements for the validation and verification of a greenhouse gas (GHG) assertion from voluntary UK based projects which actively reduce GHG emissions through peatland restoration, resulting in less cumulative carbon in the atmosphere compared to a business-as-usual scenario similar to a woodland planting scheme. The European Union Certification Framework for Carbon Removals (2022), class es this as a removal.</p> <p>Peatland Code projects and their greenhouse gas (GHG) assertions will be validated and verified by an independent third-party Validation and Verification Body (VVB) and ISO 14065:2020 with ISO 14064-3:2019 shall be used as the governing standard for Peatland Code validation and verification</p>	<p>The Peatland Code specifies requirements for the validation and verification of a greenhouse gas (GHG) assertion from voluntary UK based projects which actively reduce GHG emissions through peatland restoration, resulting in less cumulative carbon in the atmosphere compared to a business-as-usual scenario similar to a woodland planting scheme. In Article 2 of EU 2024/3012 the Peatland Code is classed as carbon farming (emission reductions and some sequestration), which is distinct from permanent removals ‘carbon removal’ is now defined in as <i>‘the anthropogenic removal of carbon from the atmosphere and its durable storage in geological, terrestrial or ocean reservoirs, or in long-lasting products.</i></p> <p>Peatland Code projects and their greenhouse gas (GHG) assertions will be validated and verified by an independent third-party Validation and Verification Body (VVB) and ISO 14065:2020 with ISO 14064-3:2019 shall be used as the governing standard for</p>	<p>26th April 2026</p>	<p>Internally</p>	<p>30th of June 2026</p>

	<p>delivery. Peatland Code carbon units (PCUs) account for both GHG reductions from, and carbon sequestered by, the peatland. It does not account for carbon already stored within the peatland or the carbon saved when substituting peat products for products with a lower carbon footprint. The Peatland Code is the quality assurance standard for peatland restoration projects in the UK and generates independently verified carbon units which shall be verified to a limited or reasonable level of assurance.</p>	<p>Peatland Code validation and verification delivery. Peatland Code carbon units (PCUs) account for both GHG reductions from, and carbon sequestered by, the peatland. It does not account for carbon already stored within the peatland or the carbon saved when substituting peat products for products with a lower carbon footprint. The Peatland Code is the quality assurance standard for peatland restoration projects in the UK and generates independently verified carbon units which shall be verified to a limited level of assurance. There may be the possibility of future verifications being to a reasonable level of assurance as technology develops, however that would need to be agreed.</p>			
<p>1.8.3 VVB Non-Conformance</p>	<p>Materiality in the context of GHG projects refers to the significance of errors, omissions, or misrepresentations in GHG data and how these can impact the overall GHG assertion and the resulting opinion statement. Materiality has both qualitative and quantitative aspects. A lack of response from the project proponent regarding a misstatement or non-conformity can also affect the opinion statement.</p> <p>The type of non-conformance that a VVB can raise are:</p>	<p>Materiality in the context of GHG projects refers to the significance of errors, omissions, or misrepresentations in GHG data and how these can impact the overall GHG assertion and the resulting opinion statement. Materiality has both qualitative and quantitative aspects. A lack of response from the project proponent regarding a misstatement or non-conformity (see non-conformance section) can also affect the opinion statement.</p> <p>Material Misstatement: A material misstatement is a non-conformance that materially affects the GHG emission-reduction claim, defined as $\geq 5\%$ of the project's claimable units.</p>	<p>26th April 2026</p>	<p>Internally</p>	<p>30th of June 2026</p>

	<p>Non-conformance – Any errors in meeting the Peatland Code requirements (criteria) such as, but not limited to, poorly managed documentation, discrepancies in information provided but that does not affect the GHG assertion. This shall be addressed by the project proponent before an opinion statement is issued.</p> <p>Misstatement: any issue with the potential to affect the GHG emission reduction vs that which has been stated. For example, at verification the average percentage of condition category does not match the information reported in the Project Process Report</p>	<p>Non-material non-conformances are those affecting <5% of claimable units and may be addressed through corrective actions without affecting the validation or verification outcome.</p> <p>A non-conformance is any instance where the project does not meet the requirements of the Peatland Code. This includes, but is not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inaccurate, incomplete, or missing documentation • Discrepancies in information provided (e.g., mapping, peat depth data) 			
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Peatland Code Guidance Document

Section	Current text	IUCN UK PP Clarification	Date Approved	Approved by	Published date
<p>Peatland Code Logo</p>	<p>Use of the Peatland Code and the Peatland Code Logo Use of the Peatland Code is currently restricted to projects within the UK. Emissions reductions resulting from Peatland Code projects will contribute directly to the UK’s national targets for reducing emissions of greenhouse gases. Verified Peatland Carbon Units from Peatland Code projects can be used by companies to compensate for their UK-based greenhouse gas emissions. Peatland Carbon Units cannot be used in compliance schemes (e.g. the CRC Energy Efficiency Scheme or the UK Emissions Trading Scheme). They also cannot currently be used to compensate for emissions outside of the UK. Project owners and developers are only permitted to use the Peatland Code logo once their projects have been issued a validation certificate and may only continue to use the logo if</p>	<p>The Peatland Code name and logo are protected trademarks currently held by The National Trust for Scotland as nominee for the UK National Committee of IUCN. A revocable license is granted for reproduction of the Peatland Code documentation and associated guidance, subject to conditions stated within those documents.</p> <p>Use of the Peatland Code and the Peatland Code Logo Use of the Peatland Code is currently restricted to projects within the UK. Emissions reductions resulting from Peatland Code projects will contribute directly to the UK’s national targets for reducing emissions of greenhouse gases. Verified Peatland Carbon Units from Peatland Code projects can be used by companies to compensate for their UK-based greenhouse gas emissions. Peatland Carbon Units cannot be used in compliance schemes (e.g. the CRC Energy Efficiency Scheme or the UK Emissions Trading Scheme). They also cannot currently be used to compensate for emissions outside of the UK. Project owners and developers are only permitted to use the Peatland Code logo once their projects have been issued a validation certificate and may only continue to use the logo if pursuing restoration and</p>	<p>26th April 2026</p>	<p>Internally</p>	<p>30th of June 2026</p>

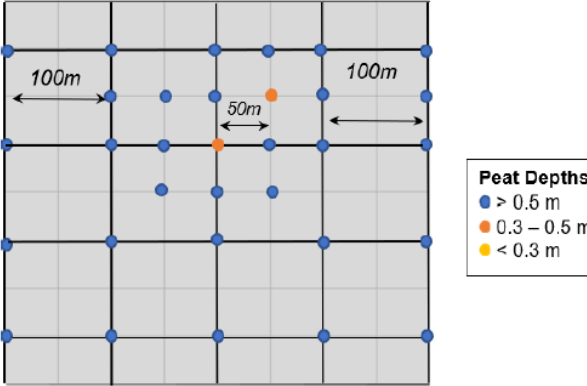
	pursuing restoration and verification as a Peatland Code project. Project owners using the Peatland Code logo shall do so in accordance with the Peatland Code brand guidelines available on request, email peatlandcode@iucn.org.uk	verification as a Peatland Code project. Project owners using the Peatland Code logo shall do so in accordance with the Peatland Code brand guidelines available on request, email peatlandcode@iucn.org.uk			
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Field Protocol

Section	Current text	IUCN UK PP Clarification	Date Approved	Approved by	Published date
Field Survey 1. Establish location of survey points	Place a 100 x 100m grid overlay upon the Assessment Unit map. Each intersection of the grid represents a survey point. Peat depth and condition category assessment shall be made at each survey point.	<p>Place a 100 x 100m grid overlay upon the Assessment Unit map. Each intersection of the grid represents a survey point. If there are big areas with no Assessment Units you may exclude these from your 100 x 100m grid overlay. However, make sure that all Assessment Units have at least 1 survey point on the 100 x 100m grid outside their boundary. Peat depth and condition category assessment shall be carried out at each survey point.</p> <p>Any peat depth points that are outside an Assessment unit will not be included in the peat depth template and do not count towards the project length.</p>	15 th September 2025	Internally	6 th November 2025
Field Survey 1. Establish location of survey points	Place a 100 x 100m grid overlay upon the Assessment Unit map. Each intersection of the grid represents a survey point. If there are big areas	<p>Place a 100 x 100m grid overlay upon the Assessment Unit map. Each intersection of the grid represents a survey point.</p> <p>There should be a survey point within 50m</p>	30 th of June 2026	Internally, based on project developer feedback	30 th of June 2026

	<p>with no Assessment Units you may exclude these from your 100 x 100m grid overlay. However, make sure that all Assessment Units have at least 1 survey point on the 100 x 100m grid outside their boundary. Peat depth and condition category assessment shall be carried out at each survey point.</p> <p>Any peat depth points that are outside an Assessment unit will not be included in the peat depth template and do not count towards the project length.</p>	<p>of the Assessment Unit (AU) boundary for peat depth points 50cm and over and within 25m of the Assessment Unit (AU) boundary for peat depth points below 50cm. This means that some survey points will fall outside the AU boundary. A survey point is not required if it falls in a non-peat area or water course. Peat depth and condition category assessment shall be carried out at each survey point. Shallow points lying outside the AU boundary do not trigger the v2.1 connectivity criterion or the 50m densification requirement for the adjacent AU.</p> <p>Any peat depth points that are outside an AU will not be included in the peat depth template and do not count towards the project length.</p>			
<p>Field Survey 5. Confirm Assessment Units</p>	<p>Re-map the boundary(s) of each Assessment Unit, if necessary, and calculate the area of each in hectares (for use within the Peatland Code Emissions Calculator). Overlay the peat depth points over the mapped Assessment Units</p>	<p>Re-map the boundaries of each Assessment Unit if necessary and calculate the area of each in hectares for use within the Peatland Code Emissions Calculator. Overlay the peat depth points over the mapped Assessment Units.</p> <p>The map shall include all 100x100 peat depth points on the project map, regardless of whether they fall outside an Assessment Unit. Including all peat depth points on the map helps to understand the rationale for incorporating any outlying or non-</p>	<p>15th September 2025</p>	<p>Internally</p>	<p>6th November 2025</p>

		<p>contiguous areas within the Assessment Units.</p> <p>Any peat depth points that are outside an Assessment unit will not be included in the peat depth template and do not count towards the project length.</p>			
<p>Field Survey</p> <p>2. Peat Depth Assessment</p>	<p>when a measurement is less than 50 cm deep, increase the measurement frequency to a 50 x 50m grid around this shallow point until all the measurements around the shallow point(s) on the 50 x 50m grid have a peat depth of over 50 cm. At that point, revert to the 100 x 100m grid - see Figures 1 and 2 below.</p>	<p>when a measurement is less than 50 cm deep, increase the measurement frequency to a 50 x 50m grid around this shallow point by placing intermediate survey points at all eight immediate neighbours of that point. If any of those new 50 m points also return a depth of less than 50 cm, another eight-point neighbourhood is added around each new shallow point in turn. This continues until a complete ring of 50 cm or deeper peat depth points at 50 m spacing fully surrounds the shallow zone on all sides (see Figure 1).</p>	<p>30th of June 2026</p>	<p>Internally, based on project developer feedback.</p>	<p>30th of June 2026</p>

		 <p>Peat Depths ● > 0.5 m ● 0.3 – 0.5 m ● < 0.3 m</p>			
<p>Field Survey</p> <p>2. Peat Depth Assessment</p>	<p>Isolated shallow pockets falling in the ‘Drained’ and ‘Modified’ baseline condition categories within the 30 cm to 50 cm range are accepted for restoration projects if less than three peat depth points, connected in any direction on a 50 x 50m grid are surrounded by deeper peat (>50 cm).</p>	<p>Isolated shallow pockets falling in the ‘Drained’ and ‘Modified’ baseline condition categories within the 30 cm to 50 cm range are accepted for restoration projects if less than three peat depth points, connected in any direction (parallel and diagonal) on a 50 x 50m grid are surrounded by deeper peat (50 cm or more).</p> <p>Where a survey point requires exclusion, the 50 m × 50 m cell centred on that point is removed from the Assessment Unit. Adjacent shallow cells are merged into a single exclusion polygon for mapping purposes. If you now have isolated area’s left that don’t have a qualifying peat depth point these shall be removed as well (see isolated areas guidance below).</p>	<p>30th of June 2026</p>	<p>Internally, based on project developer feedback.</p>	<p>30th of June 2026</p>

Minor revisions to version 2.1:

The minor revisions outlined below supersede the requirements set out in version 2.1 of the Peatland Code. These updates will be incorporated into the next full version release. Following Peatland Code minor revision projects have a three-month period from the published date in which document submission for Project Plan Validation and/or Verification can still be done against the old rule.

Peatland Code

Section	Current text	Revision	Date approved	Approved	Published date	Effective from
1.1 Eligible Activities	<p>The Peatland Code defines continuous shallow peat areas for the drained and modified baseline condition categories as follows: three or more peat depth points on a 50 x 50 m grid, connected in any direction, consistently measuring between 30cm and 50cm; the whole area is not eligible.</p> <p>Isolated shallow pockets falling in the drained and modified baseline condition categories within the 30cm to 50cm range are accepted for restoration projects if less than three connected peat depth points on a 50</p>	<p>The Peatland Code defines continuous shallow peat areas for the ‘drained’ and ‘modified’ baseline condition categories as follows: three or more peat depth points on a 50 x 50 m grid, connected in any direction that have a peat depth of less than 50cm; the whole area is not eligible.</p> <p>Isolated shallow pockets falling within the ‘drained’ and ‘modified’ baseline condition categories, with peat depths ranging from 30 cm to less than 50 cm, are considered eligible for restoration projects if fewer than three connected peat depth points on a 50 × 50 metre grid are present, and the area is surrounded by deeper peat (50 cm or more).</p> <p>Any peat depth points measuring</p>	30 th October	TAB via email	6 th November 2025	9 th February 2026

	<p>x 50 m grid are surrounded by deeper peat (>50cm).</p> <p>Any peat depth points between 30cm and 50cm in the actively eroding baseline condition category are eligible, no matter the size of area.</p>	<p>between 30 cm and less than 50 cm in the 'actively eroding' baseline condition category or in areas where shallow peat is the result of active peat cutting, are eligible regardless of the size of the area.</p>				
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Peatland Code Guidance Document:

Section	Old Text	IUCN UK PP Updated text	Date Approved	Approved by	Published date	Effective from
<p>Site Survey and Creation of Restoration Plan</p>	<p>Note: If the Field Protocol is updated after a site was surveyed, but before Project Plan Validation was achieved, the project may be validated against the previous version of the Field Protocol up to 2 years after the update.</p> <p>Baseline peat depth measurements will be valid for 5 years when submitting Peatland Code documentation to the validation body for Project Plan Validation. However, please be aware that peat</p>	<p>Note: If the Field Protocol is updated after a site was surveyed, but before Project Plan Validation was achieved, the project may be validated against the previous version of the Field Protocol up to 2 years after the update.</p> <p>Baseline surveys are valid for 2 years and baseline peat depth measurements are valid for 5 years when submitting Peatland Code documentation to the validation body for Project Plan Validation. However, please be aware that peat depths are checked at Restoration Validation and if these are different to the</p>	<p>15th of September 2025</p>	<p>Internally, but was decided in TAB before launching v2.1 but somehow did not make it into v2.1 clear enough</p>	<p>6th November 2025</p>	<p>9th February 2026</p>

	<p>depths are checked at Restoration Validation and if these are different to the submitted depths corrections shall be made. Project developers/landowners are advised to recheck peat depths in actively eroding areas as well as peat depths that are close to the eligibility cut offs. The project shall evidence the dates of all site surveys.</p>	<p>submitted depths corrections shall be made. Project developers/landowners are advised to recheck peat depths in actively eroding areas as well as peat depths that are close to the eligibility cut offs. The project shall evidence the dates of all site surveys.</p>				
<p>Site Survey and Creation of Restoration Plan</p>	<p>Note: If the Field Protocol is updated after a site was surveyed, but before Project Plan Validation was achieved, the project may be validated against the previous version of the Field Protocol up to 2 years after the update.</p> <p>Baseline surveys are valid for 2 years and baseline peat depth measurements are valid for 5 years when submitting Peatland Code documentation to the validation body for Project Plan Validation.</p>	<p>Note: If the Field Protocol is updated after a site was surveyed, but before Project Plan Validation was achieved, the project may be validated against the previous version of the Field Protocol up to 2 years after the update.</p> <p><u>Baseline condition surveys and baseline peat depth measurements are valid for 5 years when submitting Peatland Code documentation to the validation body for Project Plan Validation.</u> However, please be aware that peat depths are checked at Restoration Validation and if these are different to the submitted depths corrections shall</p>	26/05/2026	Executive Board	30 th of June 2026	30 th of September 2026

	<p>However, please be aware that peat depths are checked at Restoration Validation and if these are different to the submitted depths corrections shall be made. Project developers/landowners are advised to recheck peat depths in actively eroding areas as well as peat depths that are close to the eligibility cut offs. The project shall evidence the dates of all site surveys.</p>	<p>be made. Project developers/landowners are advised to recheck peat depths in actively eroding areas as well as peat depths that are close to the eligibility cut offs. The project shall evidence the dates of all site surveys.</p>				
<p>Project Plan Validation</p>	<p>The Project Plan Validation consists of a review of the documents detailed below and a site check to determine if the Peatland Code requirements have been met. The site check may be done virtually if the evidence (for example an orthorectified map from drone images, with potentially additional photographs of specific hags/gullies, fixed point photographs, etc.) submitted allows this.</p>	<p>The Project Plan Validation consists of a review of the documents detailed below and a site check to determine if the Peatland Code requirements have been met. The site check may be done virtually if the evidence (for example an orthorectified map from drone images, with potentially additional photographs of specific hags/gullies, fixed point photographs, etc.) submitted to the Validation and Verification body allows this. However, if the validation body cannot adequately check the baseline virtually, the validator shall</p>			<p>6th November 2025</p>	<p>9th February 2026</p>

	However, if the validation body cannot adequately check the baseline virtually, the validator shall request additional evidence to be submitted and an in-person site visit shall be arranged.	request additional evidence to be submitted, and an in-person site visit shall be arranged. In some instances the restoration may start prior to completion of project plan validation IF sufficient baseline evidence is handed in to the validation body. In this instance the risk of not achieving project plan validation is for the project. In this case project plan validation should be achieved as soon as possible and before finishing the restoration.				
Implementation of Restoration Plan	The Restoration process for a single Peatland Code project can be done over a 2-year period.	The Restoration process for a single Peatland Code project can be done over a 3-year period.	26/05/2026	Executive Board	30 th of June 2026	30 th of September 2026

Field Protocol

Section	Current text	Revision	Date approved	Approved	Published date	Effective from
Field Protocol 2.1	Requirement: Projects shall add the project name, scale, a North arrow, the grid reference of the central point and the access point onto site (if this is relevant) to your map.	Projects shall ensure the following information is clearly included on all submitted maps: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project name • Survey date • Field protocol version used • Map scale • North arrow 	15 th September 2025	Internally	6 th November 2025	9 th February 2026

	<p>Projects shall have very distinct colours for the different assessment units and include the method that has been used to create the map (e.g., satellite imagery, drone imagery, etc.).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grid reference of the central point of the site • Grid reference of the main access point (if relevant) <p>Additionally, projects shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use distinct and clearly differentiated colours for each Assessment Unit. • Indicate the method used to create the map (e.g., satellite imagery, drone imagery, GPS survey, etc.). <p>Projects should: Use distinct and clearly differentiated colours for peat depths points based on the assessment unit they fall into</p>				
<p>Pre-Restoration Condition Category</p> <p>Actively Eroding: Hagg/Gully</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A linear feature of bare peat that is actively eroding within a hagg/gully system (e.g., steep bare peat cliffs and/or bare gully bottoms) that needs reprofiling <p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Artificial drains which have opened up to the point that they are bare and actively eroding, and require reprofiling 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A linear feature of bare peat that is actively eroding within a hagg/gully system (e.g., steep bare peat cliffs and/or bare gully bottoms) that needs reprofiling <p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Artificial drains which have opened up to the point that they are bare and actively eroding, and require reprofiling <p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peat banks from peat cutting that have active, ongoing erosion, not just bare peat. 	<p>15th September 2025</p>	<p>Internally</p>	<p>6th November 2025</p>	<p>9th February 2026</p>

<p>Assessment Unit Mapping for raised and blanket bogs</p> <p>Map 'Actively Eroding: Hagg/Gully' Peatland</p>	<p>Trace the crest of any visible hagg/gully or peat bank. Map the visible bare peat, measure the length and width and calculate the area. Only if the extent of bare peat cannot be determined from aerials, e.g., if bare peat is restricted to the steep bare cliffs, use a default width of two metres. Bare peat classifiers or other remote sensing technologies may be used for this, with a minimal mapping resolution of 25 cm.</p>	<p>Trace the crest of any visible hagg/gully or peat bank. Map the visible bare peat, measure the length and width and calculate the area. Only if the extent of bare peat cannot be determined from aerials, e.g., if bare peat is restricted to the steep bare cliffs, use a default width of two metres for hags and gullies and a default width of 50cm for peat banks from peat cutting to represent the height on a map.</p> <p>If deviating from these default heights this shall be evidenced to the validation and verification body, see <u>Field Survey section 3 below</u>. Bare peat classifiers or other remote sensing technologies may be used for this, with a minimal mapping resolution of 25 cm.</p>	<p>15th September 2025</p>	<p>Internally</p>	<p>6th November 2025</p>	<p>9th February 2026</p>
<p>Assessment Unit Mapping for raised and blanket bogs</p> <p>Map 'Actively Eroding: Hagg/Gully' Peatland</p>	<p>Trace the crest of any visible hagg/gully or peat bank. Map the visible bare peat, measure the length and width and calculate the area. Only if the extent of bare peat cannot be determined from aerials, e.g., if bare peat is restricted to the steep bare cliffs, use a default</p>	<p>Trace the crest of any visible hagg/gully or peat bank. Map the visible bare peat, measure the length and width and calculate the area. Only if the extent of bare peat cannot be determined from aerials, e.g., if bare peat is restricted to the steep bare cliffs, use a default width of two metres for hags and gullies <u>and a default width of 50cm for drains that are actively eroding</u> and peat banks</p>	<p>26/05/2026</p>	<p>Executive Board</p>	<p>30th of June 2026</p>	<p>30th of September 2026</p>

	<p>width of two metres for hags and gullies and a default width of 50cm for peat banks from peat cutting to represent the height on a map.</p> <p>If deviating from these default heights this shall be evidenced to the validation and verification body, see <u>Field Survey section 3 below</u>. Bare peat classifiers or other remote sensing technologies may be used for this, with a minimal mapping resolution of 25 cm.</p>	<p>from peat cutting to represent the height on a map.</p> <p>If deviating from these default heights this shall be evidenced to the validation and verification body, see Field Survey section 3 below. Bare peat classifiers or other remote sensing technologies may be used for this, with a minimal mapping resolution of 25 cm.</p>				
<p>Pre-Restoration Condition Category</p> <p>Drained: Hagg/Gully</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Within 30 m of an actively eroding hagg/gully drainage system <p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Within 30 m of a vegetated hagg/gully drainage system 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Within 30 m of an actively eroding hagg/gully drainage system <p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Within 30 m of a vegetated hagg/gully drainage system <p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Within 30 m of a peat bank from peat cuttings IF it can be evidenced that they are actively drawing down water (e.g. cut down a slope) 	15 th September 2025	Internally	6 th November 2025	9 th February 2026

<p>Pre-Restoration Condition Category</p> <p>Drained: Artificial</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Within 30 m of an active artificial drain (grip) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Within 30 m of an active artificial drain (grip) <p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Within 30 m of a peat bank from peat cuttings IF it can be evidenced that they are actively drawing down water (e.g. cut down a slope) 	<p>15th September 2025</p>	<p>Internally</p>	<p>6th November 2025</p>	<p>9th February 2026</p>
<p>Assessment Unit Mapping for raised and blanket bogs</p> <p>Map 'Drained: Artificial' Peatland</p>	<p>Trace the lines of any visible drain. Map the drained area as 30 m from the outer line of the drain (or where applicable, stop at a fence, track, boundary of restoration site, break of slope or a drainage exclusion zone of a water course; or for raised bogs, the ring-ditch if it's before this). For wandering drains across otherwise undrained land, map 30 m each side of the drain, creating a 60 m strip.</p>	<p>Trace the lines of any visible drain or peat bank from peat cuttings that are actively draining. Map the drained area as 30 m from the outer line of the drain Where applicable, this area shall stop at a fence, track, boundary of a restoration site, break of slope or a drainage exclusion zone around a watercourse. For raised bogs, the drainage area shall stop at the ring-ditch if it lies within this distance. For wandering drains across otherwise undrained land, map 30 m each side of the drain, creating a 60 m strip.</p>	<p>30th October 2025</p>	<p>Internally</p>	<p>6th November 2025</p>	<p>9th February 2026</p>
<p>Field Survey</p> <p>3. Peatland Condition</p>	<p>At each survey point determine and record the condition category present using the pre- restoration</p>	<p>At each survey point determine and record the condition category present using the pre-restoration (baseline) condition category</p>	<p>30th October 2025</p>	<p>Internally</p>	<p>6th November 2025</p>	<p>9th February 2026</p>

<p>Assessment</p>	<p>(baseline) condition category definitions. If condition assessments recorded within each Assessment Unit do not match the expected condition, as mapped during the desk- based mapping, further field survey is required to establish the cause. Assessment Unit boundaries shall be redrawn to reflect the condition in the field.</p>	<p>definitions. If condition assessments recorded within each Assessment Unit do not match the expected condition, as mapped during the desk-based mapping, further field survey is required to establish the cause. Assessment Unit boundaries shall be redrawn to reflect the condition in the field.</p> <p>For condition category “Actively eroding: Hagg/gully”: If deviating from the default heights for vertical cliffs, heights shall be measured in the field and the supporting evidence (e.g. pictures with rulers, or standard height objects for reference) shall be submitted to the validator.</p> <p>For peat banks from peat cuttings in condition categories “Drained: Hagg/gully” and “Drained: Artificial”: Evidence of active drainage shall be submitted to the validator; this could include direction of banks down a slope.</p>				
<p>2. Peat Depth Assessment</p>	<p>Not currently in Field Protocol</p>	<p>For isolated Assessment Unit areas that don’t have any peat depth survey points on the grid within them: Either create a new survey point to</p>	<p>30th of June 2026</p>	<p>Internally, based on project developers feedback</p>	<p>30th of June 2026</p>	<p>30th of September 2026</p>

		<p>be collected central to the isolated AU area.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Move a survey point external to the isolated AU area, to a point central to the isolated AU area.</p>				
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Updates to Version 2.1

The changes below are new rules and or requirements for version 2.1. These new requirements supersede the requirement set out in version 2.1 after the three-month transition period for adoption has expired. All these changes will be published in the next full version update.

None

Updated Process/Procedure

The following processes and procedures have been updated since the publishing version 2.1 and the procedures below now supersede the previous versions.

Document Ref	New revised Procedure	Website location	Date approved	Approved by	Published date
QMS_016	Peatland Code Review v3	Peatland Code Key Documentation & Support IUCN UK Peatland Programme	05/11/2025	Peatland Code Manager	10th November 2025
QMS_002	IUCN UK PP Quality Policy v2.pdf	Peatland Code Key Documentation & Support IUCN UK Peatland Programme	24/02/2026	Programme Manager	3rd March 2026