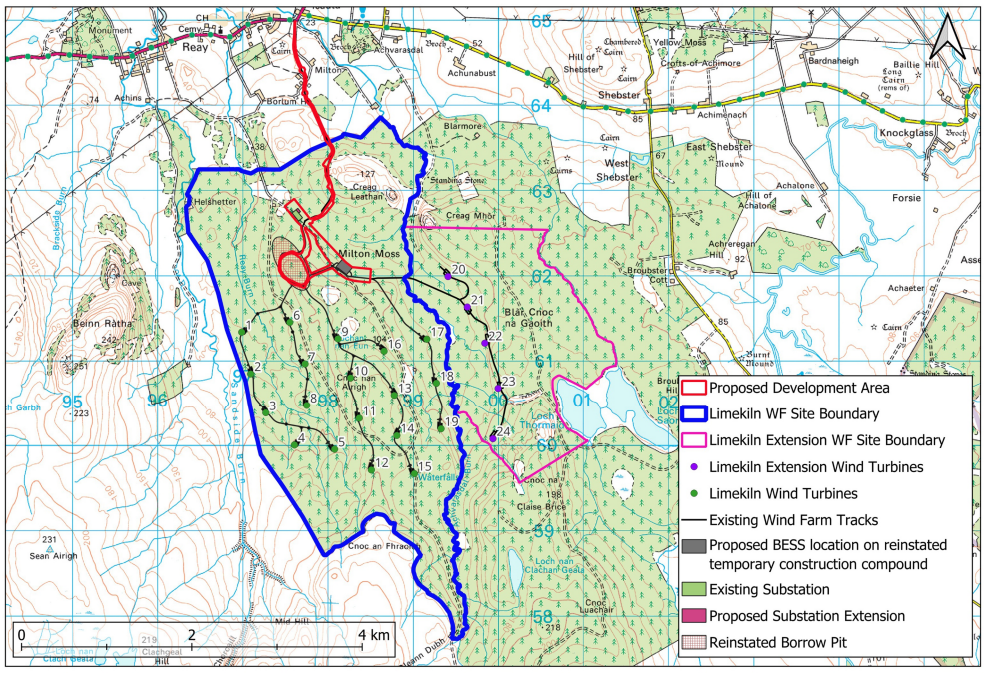
ENVIRONMENTAL SURVEYS



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

The Proposed Development Area has already been heavily assessed as part of both the Limekiln and Limekiln Extension Wind Farm applications.

Ecology

The Proposed Development Area has been thoroughly assessed as part of the Limekiln and Limekiln Extension Wind Farm applications. As part of this, the temporary construction compound (the proposed BESS location) was not identified as a priority habitat so minimal environmental impact is predicted. An Extended Phase 1 Ecology Survey will be conducted to understand the local wildlife and habitats at the project site.and assess potential ecological impacts.

Peat

A Phase 1 peat survey will be undertaken to establish the peat depth at the proposed BESS location, substation extension and underground cable route.

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.

Landscape and Visual

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

Noise

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

Operational noise from developments of this nature is typically assessed in line with BS (British Standard) 4142:2014 ‘Methods for Rating and Assessing Industrial and Commercial Sound’.

Forestry

The Proposed Development is on an area of ground within a large commercial conifer plantation. The area used for Limekiln Wind Farm’s temporary construction compound was felled during the construction phase and is due to be replanted under the Limekiln Wind Farm's Long-Term Forestry Plan. If the Proposed Development is consented, an additional area (equal to the Development Area plus buffer of approximately 2.4 ha) will be replanted as compensatory planting within the landholding.

The area identified for the Substation extension (approximately 0.5 ha) lies within an area that has already been felled as part of the Limekiln Wind Farm construction, however some additional felling required for the fire safety buffer would be minimal.

Some tree felling may be required along the proposed underground cable route, which is approximately 700 m in length between the proposed BESS and Substation location. We have identified the opportunity to utilise the core path to install the underground cables parallel to the core path, which will minimise impact to forestry. This option is being consulted with the Highland Council.

Compensatory planting will be required for each of the three areas where there is net forestry loss. It is expected that the total replanting will not exceed 4ha.

BORALEX