

>>> Site Considerations

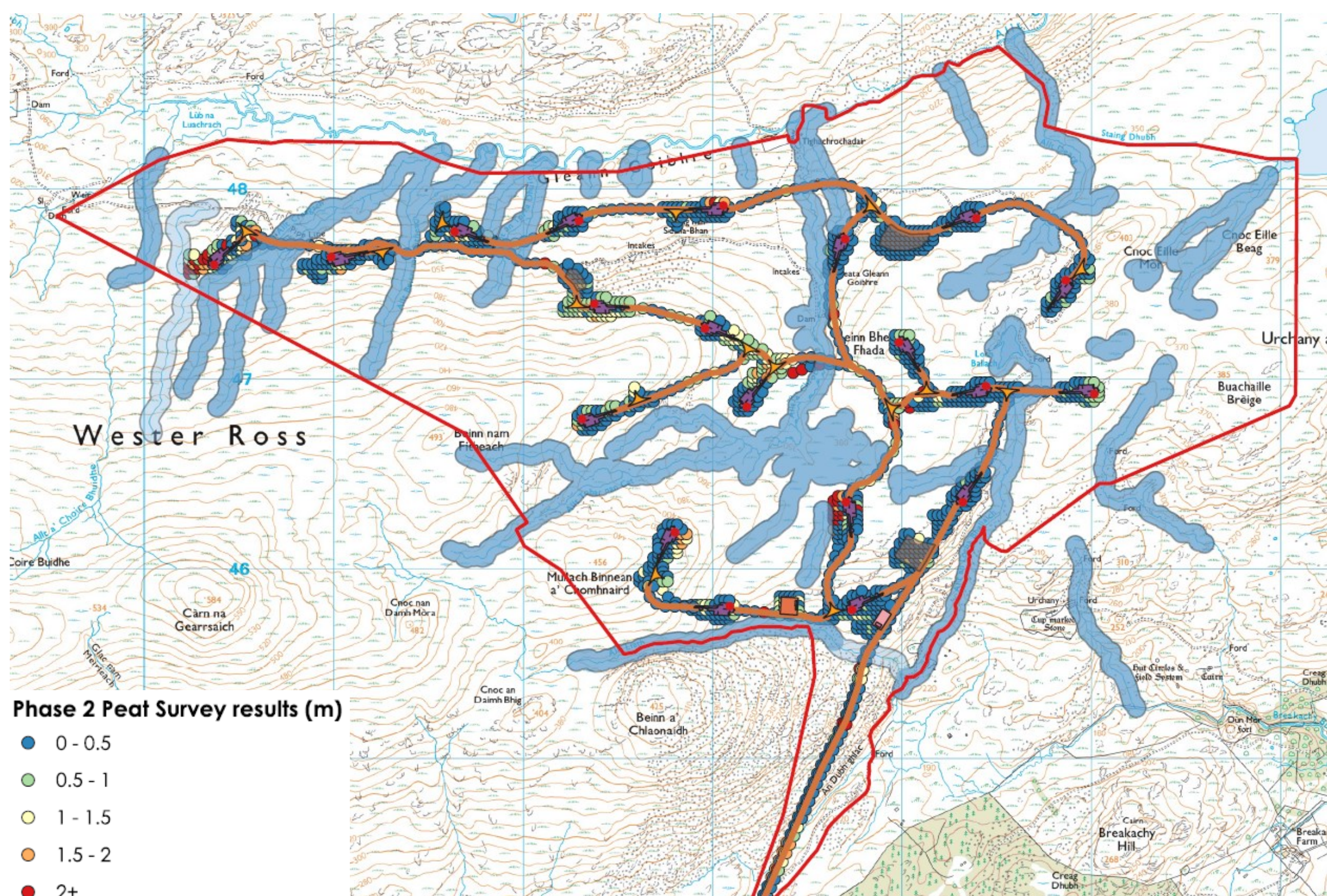
SITE CONSIDERATIONS

The design evolution of Ballach has sought to understand all environmental, historic, and topographical aspects of the area. Data was collected through initial desktop study, and subsequently through targeted surveys of the main wind farm area and along proposed site access tracks. All gathered data has been assessed and compiled into a geographical information system to inform a developable area. This enables all factors to be considered and impacts assessed continuously throughout the design evolution of the proposed wind farm.

Peat

Peat condition and depth surveys have been conducted in multiple phases as the site layout and access track design evolves. The below figure displays the results of the final phase of peat depth survey, completed once the final design was frozen. Assessments to understand the condition of the peat have also been undertaken and agreed with SEPA

- National peat classification initially classed the peat within the wind farm area to be graded class 1, however condition surveys completed throughout the design process have concluded that the site is subject to extensive drainage and modification, resulting in significant areas of dried out peatland which is not be considered class 1.
- Excellent opportunity for large areas of the site to benefit from peatland improvement and restoration, increasing carbon capture on site. Full details of enhancement and mitigation will be provided in the forthcoming outline habitat management and enhancement plan.



Cultural Heritage

There are some statutorily designated cultural heritage assets in proximity to the proposed site, namely the hill forts to the south east of the site including Urchany and Dun Mor. These assets have been considered throughout the design process to ensure that the settings of these assets are not significantly impacted.