

## BOWS17.337 Beinn Ghlas Mast Access Track- Biodiversity Statement

### Background Information

Bowland Ecology was commissioned by Entrust Ltd. to provide a Biodiversity Statement for a site within the Beinn Ghlas wind farm. Planning permission has been granted at the site for the 'removal of an existing 7.6m tower and replace with telecommunications equipment compound with 35 metre high lattice tower and associated formation of new access track (25/01076/PP)'. An existing mast and ATV track are present at the site and as such proposals largely lie within the footprint of existing infrastructure. The existing rough track is to be upgraded to form a 3m wide 4X4 floating access track (see Figure 1).

This Biodiversity Statement has been prepared to satisfy Condition 4 of the grant notice which states:

*"Notwithstanding the provisions of Condition 1, no development shall commence until a biodiversity statement has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Planning Authority. The statement shall demonstrate how the proposal will contribute to conservation/restoration/enhancement of biodiversity, and how these benefits will be implemented and maintained for the lifetime of the development.*

*All physical biodiversity enhancement measures shall be implemented in full before the development hereby approved is first brought into use.*

*All biodiversity enhancement measures consisting of new or enhanced planting shall be undertaken either in accordance with the approved scheme of implementation or within the next available planting season following the development first being brought into use.*

*The biodiversity statement should refer to Developing with Nature guidance / NatureScot as appropriate.*

*Reason: To comply with the requirements of NPF4 Policy 3."*

To inform this statement a Phase 1 Habitat walkover survey was undertaken on the 12<sup>th</sup> August 2026 by Ecologist Becca Campbell MSc which encompassed the site and a 20m buffer (see Appendix A). This statement should be read alongside the Peatland Management Plan produced by LK Consult.

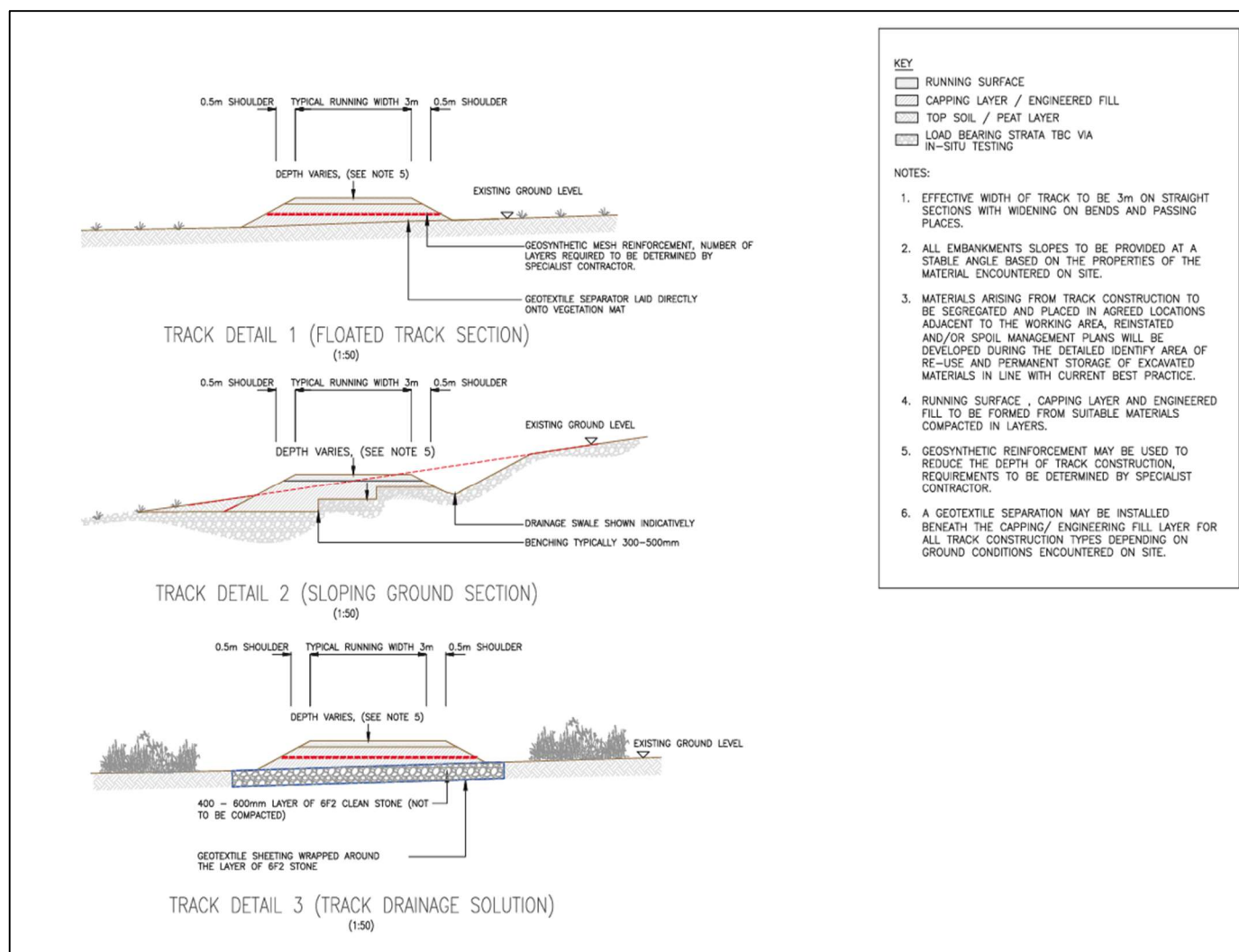


Figure 1: Cross section showing construction plan of the proposed floating track.

## Results

The results from the Phase 1 Habitat survey (displayed in Appendix B and C below), demonstrate that the habitats present along the proposed track upgrade comprise of lengths of existing stone/gravel tracks to the north and south, whilst the middle section of track is exposed mud and peat where the vegetation has been lost through disturbance by ATVs. Either side of the existing track, habitats vary between unimproved acid grassland, marshy grassland, dry acid heath and blanket bog. Cattle and sheep grazing were noted throughout the survey area, and heavily grazed heather was recorded.

### Biodiversity Enhancements

Measures will focus on the conservation, enhancement and restoration of the existing moorland and peatland habitats through actions that are appropriate to the site and its surrounding habitats.

1. The existing track alignment will be retained wherever practicable, thereby minimising additional disturbance to intact peatland. A floating track has been designed to furthermore reduce impacts to peatlands and areas of deep peat have been avoided where possible.
2. Whilst no distinct peatland erosion features (e.g. grips or hags) suitable for restoration were noted during the survey, any peat extracted during the track works is to be stored appropriately and re-used/restored (see Peatland Management Plan, LK Consult for further details). Areas of re-used peat should be monitored for natural re-colonisation, and where no/limited re-colonisation is occurring naturally, then measures such as Sphagnum plug translocation could be deployed.
3. Track drainage will be designed to maintain natural hydrological connectivity and avoid unnecessary concentration of surface water. Trackside pools could be created to provide new wetland features.
4. Patches of eared willow (*Salix aurita*) should be fenced off (micro-reserve) and protected from livestock and wild herbivore grazing to encourage their spread. This should include a minimum 5 x 5m fenced enclosure. See TN 3 and TN 7 for locations.
5. Whilst opportunities for habitat creation are limited given the exposed upland environment, some native tree and scrub planting could be undertaken to increase the variety of habitats and link with existing trees to the south-west of the site to provide a habitat corridor (see Appendix D). Species chosen should be appropriate to the upland environment such as rowan (*Sorbus aucuparia*), eared willow, downy birch (*Betula pubescens*), Scots pine (*Pinus sylvestris*), juniper (*Juniperus communis*) and hazel (*Corylus avellana*). Suggested locations are provided in Appendix D.
  - Saplings should be locally sourced and planted between October and November, with some planted close together and others spaced apart with the aim of including variance within the corridor structure. It is recommended to implement a watering regime during the first year to allow saplings to successfully establish.
  - Tree guards should be utilised until trees have been established within the habitat, up to a maximum of 5 years, and inspected in the early spring, early summer and late summer during this period to ensure trees are thriving.
  - It is also recommended to establish a shrub layer with species including hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) to further improve species diversity. New whips and/or small trees should be allowed to naturally grow where feasible, through covering the saplings with brash (and/or installing fencing) which will naturally negate livestock browsing, as opposed to plastic tubes.

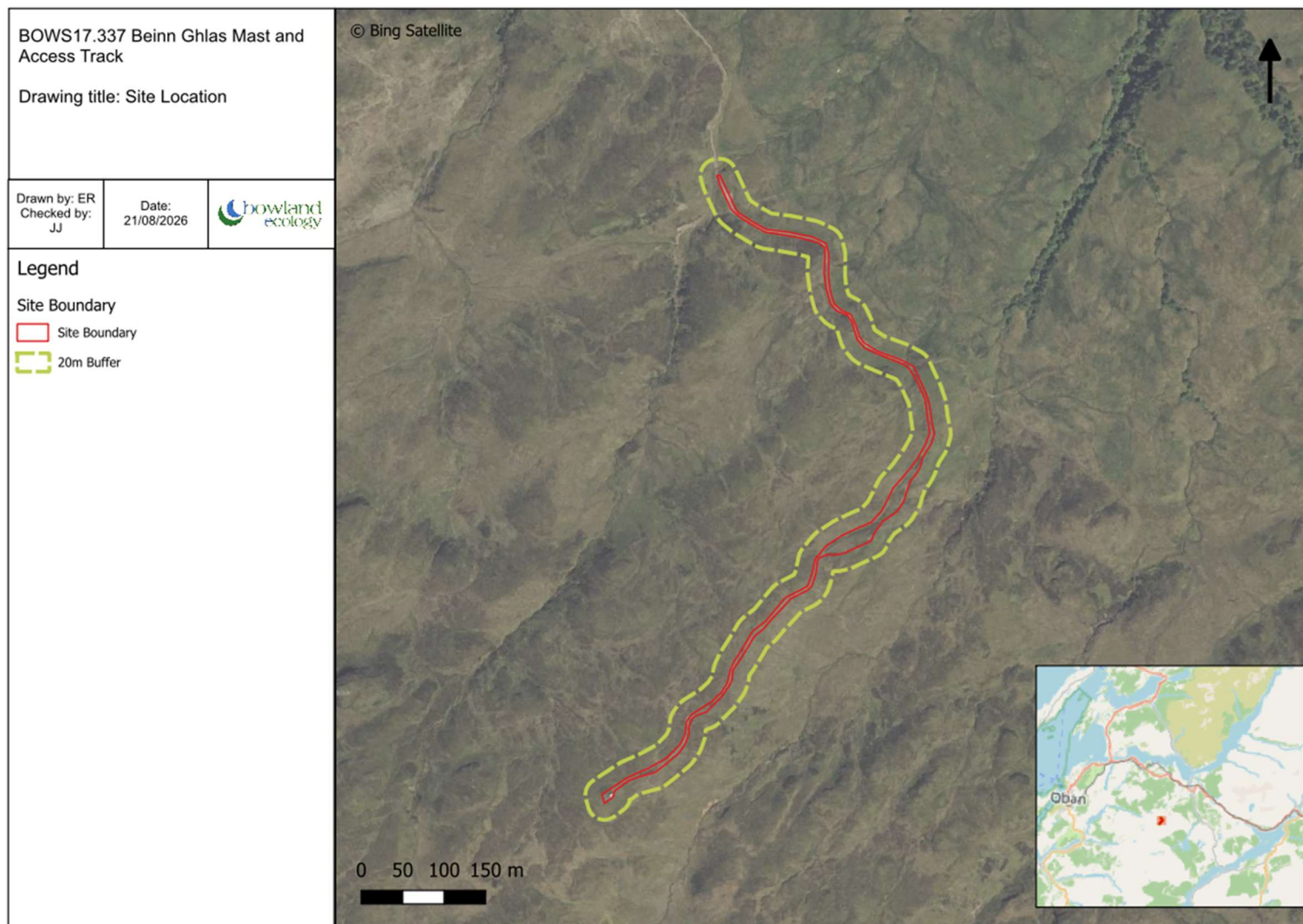
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6. Appropriate biosecurity measures will also be implemented to prevent the introduction or spread of invasive non-native species.

These measures follow the principles set out in NatureScot's Developing with Nature guidance by prioritising the retention and enhancement of existing habitats, minimising disturbance, working with natural hydrological processes, strengthening habitat connectivity and delivering enhancement on-site.

## Appendix A: Site Location Plan



## Appendix B: Phase 1 Habitat Survey Results

Table B.1 Results from the Phase 1 habitat survey

| Habitat Parcel | Phase 1 Habitat                  | Notes                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Photo                                                                                |
|----------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| B1             | J3.6 Buildings                   | Existing mast.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |   |
| AG1            | B1.1 Acid grassland - unimproved | Upland acid grassland. Sheep grazing evident (droppings), but no real indicators of agricultural improvement. Mat-grass ( <i>Nardus stricta</i> ) dominant, common bent ( <i>Agrostis capillaris</i> ) frequent, wavy hair-grass ( <i>Deschampsia flexuosa</i> ) dominant to abundant, sweet vernal-grass ( <i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i> ) frequent, tormentil ( <i>Potentilla erecta</i> ) frequent, heath rush ( <i>Juncus squarrosus</i> ) frequent (negative indicator), common sedge ( <i>Carex nigra</i> ) rare, heath bedstraw ( <i>Galium saxatile</i> ) occasional to frequent, dense-flowered heath wood-rush ( <i>Luzula multiflora</i> ) rare. Continuous carpet of red-stem feather-moss ( <i>Pleurozium schreberi</i> ), with springy turf-moss ( <i>Rhytidiadelphus squarrosus</i> ) frequent. Heather ( <i>Calluna vulgaris</i> ) occasional in clumps but small and stunted due to grazing. Crowberry ( <i>Empetrum nigrum</i> ) rare. Rare marsh violet ( <i>Viola palustris</i> ). |  |

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|-----|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| AG2 | B1.1 Acid grassland - unimproved | Distinct from AG1 based on species assemblage. Mat-grass abundant, wavy hair-grass frequent, common bent occasional, sweet vernal-grass frequent, selfheal ( <i>Prunella vulgaris</i> ) occasional, devil's-bit scabious ( <i>Succisa pratensis</i> ) occasional, tormentil abundant, heather frequent, crowberry occasional. Scattered clumps of eared willow ( <i>Salix aurita</i> ). Sedges ( <i>Carex</i> spp.) noticeably more abundant, dominating in some areas. Species include flea sedge ( <i>Carex pulicaris</i> ), common yellow-sedge ( <i>Carex viridula</i> ), common sedge, and scattered, rare compact rush ( <i>Juncus conglomeratus</i> ). Great wood-rush ( <i>Luzula sylvatica</i> ) present in clumps, with heath bedstraw rare. Bell heather ( <i>Erica cinerea</i> ) rare. Surprising occurrence of Yorkshire-fog ( <i>Holcus lanatus</i> ) in clumps, but not consistent throughout. Bilberry ( <i>Vaccinium myrtillus</i> ) rare and grazed to ground level. Rare common mouse-ear ( <i>Cerastium fontanum</i> ). Hard fern ( <i>Blechnum spicant</i> ) present in places. Deergrass ( <i>Trichophorum germanicum</i> ) scattered throughout. |   |
| BB1 | E1.6.1 Blanket sphagnum bog      | Hare's tail cotton grass dominant with heather abundant, wavy hair-grass occasional, tormentil occasional and crowberry abundant. Sphagnum is not continuous but occurs patchily, including <i>Sphagnum subnitens</i> , <i>Sphagnum capillifolium</i> , <i>Sphagnum medium</i> , <i>Sphagnum papillosum</i> and <i>Sphagnum fallax</i> . Common cottongrass ( <i>Eriophorum angustifolium</i> ) rare, viviparous sheep's-fescue ( <i>Festuca vivipara</i> ) rare, star sedge ( <i>Carex echinata</i> ) rare and bog asphodel ( <i>Narthecium ossifragum</i> ) rare. Scattered strict haircap ( <i>Polytrichum strictum</i> ) and common haircap ( <i>Polytrichum commune</i> ). Deergrass frequent. Bilberry rare and grazed. Rolling / steep site, so peat undoubtedly present but unlikely to be particularly deep. No obvious features to restore or drains to block. Consider excluding sheep. <i>Sphagnum cuspidatum</i> present along track edges, with bare areas of peat undergoing revegetation. Common cottongrass readily colonising. Heath rush more prevalent along disturbed track edges. Crowberry frequent. Rare bell heather.                          |  |

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|     |                |                           |                                                                          |
|-----|----------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| BG1 | J4 Bare ground | Stone and gravel track.   | <p>Beinn Ghlas<br/>12.08.2026 14:31<br/>56.30054, -5.28527</p>           |
| BG2 | J4 Bare ground | Exposed peat/earth track. | <p>Beinn Ghlas<br/>Track<br/>12.08.2026 11:14<br/>56.30775, -5.29034</p> |

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|-----|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| BG3 | J4 Bare ground                    | Gravel/earth track.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |   |
| DS1 | D1.1 Dry dwarf shrub heath - acid | Differs from BB1 based on >25% heather and drier conditions associated with the steep slope. Mat-grass frequent, star sedge frequent, tormentil occasional and heath rush abundant. Sphagnum remains present, including <i>Sphagnum subnitens</i> , but peat formation is considered unlikely due to the slope. Heather clearly grazed. Crowberry occasional. Deergrass occasional. |  |

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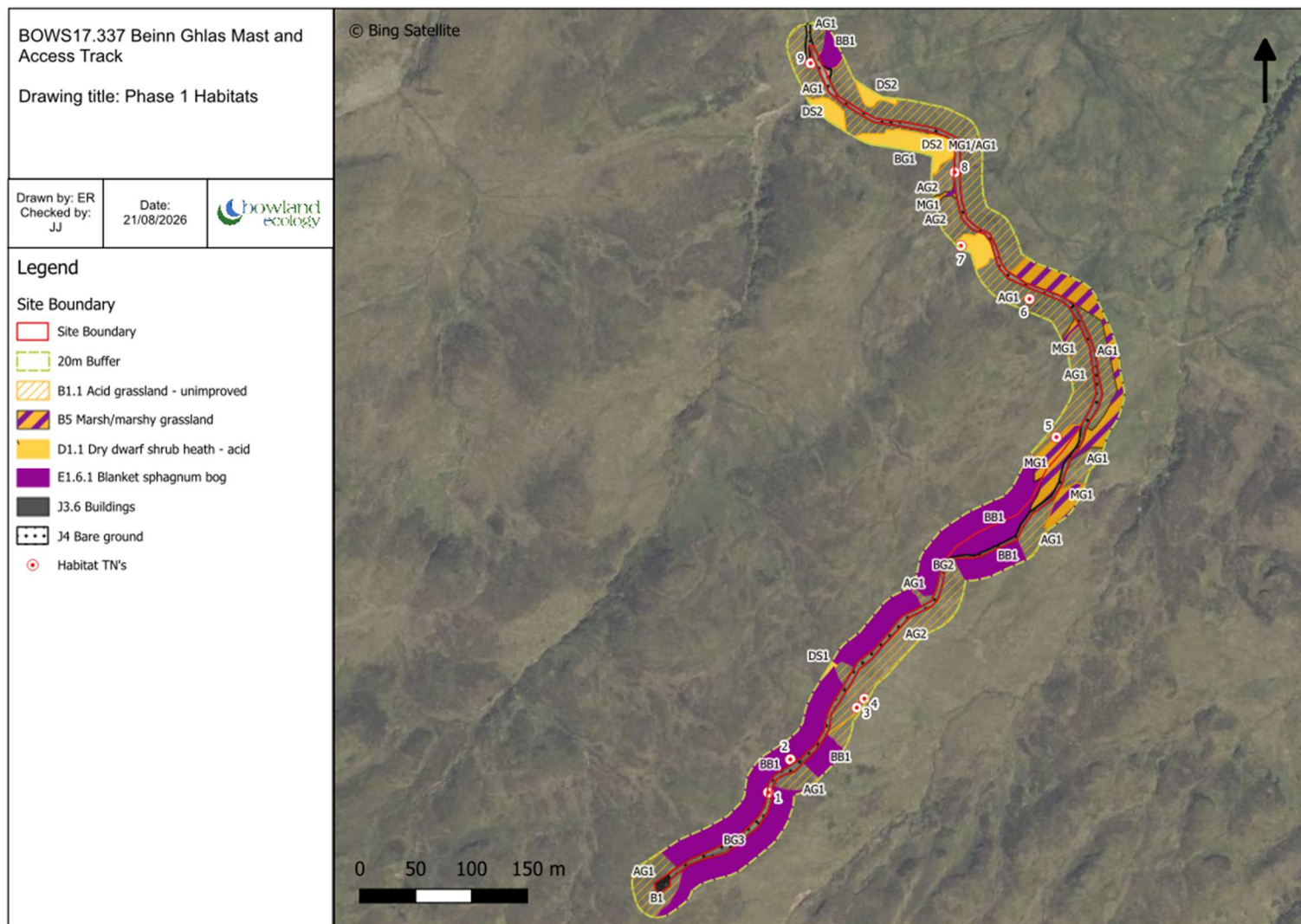
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|-----|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| DS2 | D1.1 Dry dwarf shrub heath - acid | Steep scree slopes supporting several notable species, including yellow mountain saxifrage ( <i>Saxifraga aizoides</i> ) and common butterwort ( <i>Pinguicula vulgaris</i> ). Heather dominant, deergrass abundant and wavy hair-grass occasional. Hare's tail cotton grass is rare. Common sedge frequent, mat-grass frequent, tormentil frequent, sweet vernal-grass occasional and heath rush occasional. Patches of <i>Sphagnum subnitens</i> and <i>Sphagnum papillosum</i> present but not continuous; star sedge occasional. Debate over classification as dry heath or blanket bog, but determined by slope and low frequency of common cottongrass. Red-stem feather-moss frequent, with springy turf-moss rare. <i>Cladonia</i> lichens ( <i>Cladonia</i> spp.) rare. Devil's-bit scabious occasional. |  |
| MG1 | B5 Marsh/marshy grassland         | Sharp-flowered rush ( <i>Juncus acutiflorus</i> ) dominant, with soft rush ( <i>Juncus effusus</i> ) frequent and Yorkshire-fog frequent. Tormentil abundant, with rare marsh violet and marsh willowherb ( <i>Epilobium palustre</i> ), and abundant creeping buttercup ( <i>Ranunculus repens</i> ). Sweet vernal-grass occasional. Not priority habitat and broadly species-poor. Scattered compact rush.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |  |

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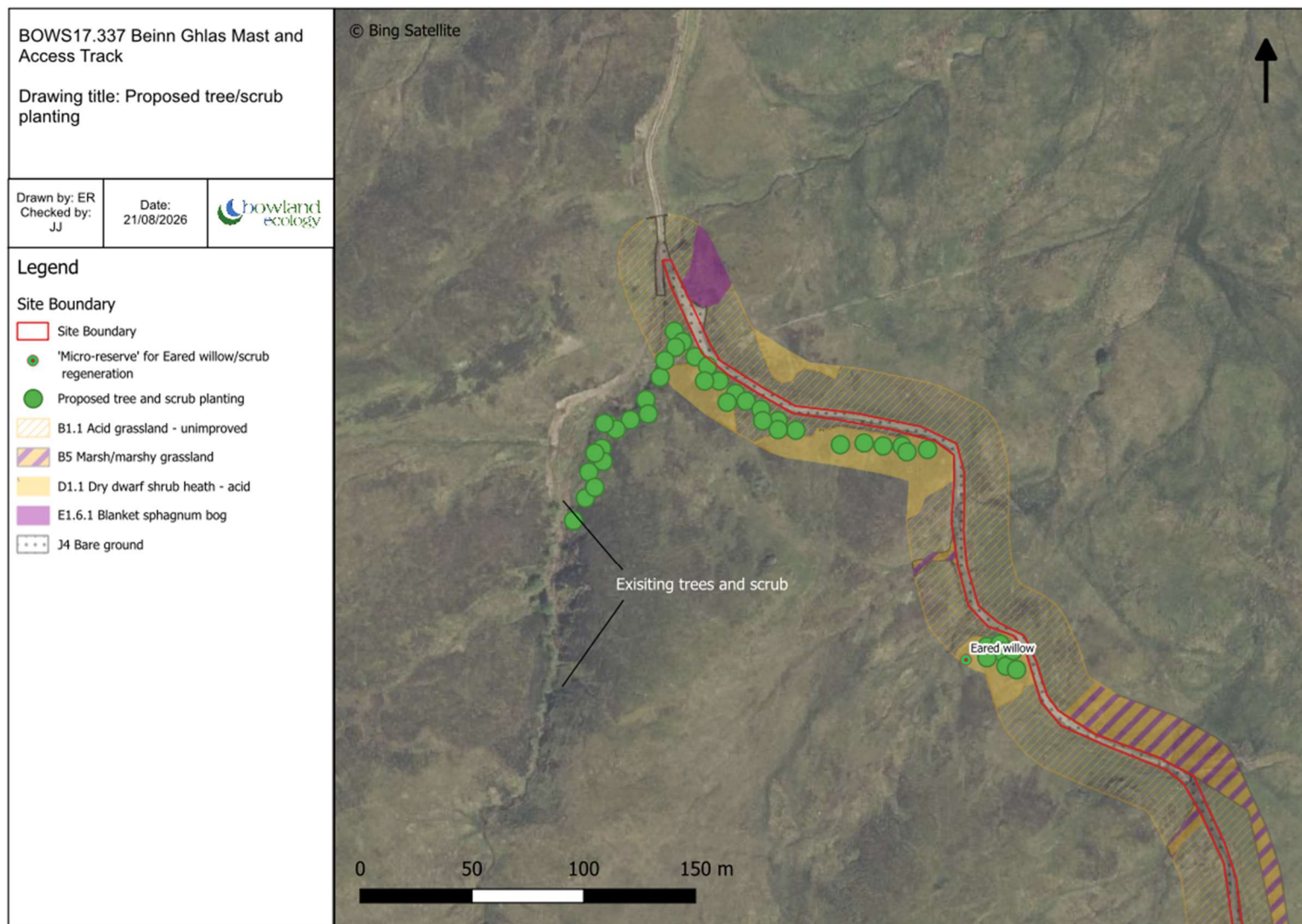
Table B.2 Target Notes

| TN | Notes                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|----|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1  | Large patch star sedge                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| 2  | BB1 Additional Notes- Round leaved sundew (rare). Hare's tail cotton grass still most frequent cottongrass but common cottongrass now abundant-frequent. Cross leaved heath occasional. Bog asphodel frequent. Butterwort rare. Deergrass now abundant to frequent. Not sufficiently distinct to make new parcel. |
| 3  | Eared willow                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| 4  | 10+ butterwort along seepage                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| 5  | Cow dung                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 6  | Steep slope bordering track                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| 7  | Large patch eared willow                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 8  | Yellow mountain saxifrage                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| 9  | Dead heather; heather beetle damage                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |

## Appendix C: Phase 1 Habitats Plan



## Appendix D: Proposed Tree and Scrub planting



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