

Matting to Prevent Damage to Bogs

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Note: In September 2023, references to Scottish Natural Heritage and Natura Sites have been updated to NatureScot and European Sites respectively.

Aim

The aim of this item is to benefit lowland bogs and upland peatlands by protecting the bog surface from damage by heavy machinery when conservation management, such as tree or scrub removal or installation of peat dams, is being carried out.

Eligibility

Rough grazing or permanent grassland which includes a Site of Special Scientific Interest or European site-designated upland peatland or lowland bog is eligible.

You must combine this item with one of the following management options, unless you have prior approval otherwise from NatureScot:

- [Lowland Bog Management](#)
- [Management of Buffer Areas for Fens and Lowland Bogs](#)
- [Moorland Management](#)

Application requirements

You must identify the location of the proposed matting on a map for lowland bog, or map for upland peatland, and indicate the type of matting you will use.

Requirements

- you must create a stable surface for machinery to access the site using brash mats of timber or scrub, or bog mats
- you must remove the matting as soon as possible after tree or scrub removal has been completed, unless you have prior approval otherwise from NatureScot
- you must maintain a diary

Payment

Payment will be made on an actual cost basis, upon completion of the work.

Inspections

The inspectors will check:

- the location and extent of the work
- you have created a stable surface for machinery to access the site using brash mats of timber or scrub, or bog mats
- you have removed the matting as soon as possible after tree or scrub removal has been completed, unless approval has been granted otherwise
- you have maintained a diary