



Sutherland Spaceport



Highlands and Islands Enterprise  
Iomairt na Gàidhealtachd 's nan Eilean

# ENVIRONMENTAL BASELINE

## PEAT AND GROUNDWATER DEPENDENT TERRESTRIAL ECOSYSTEMS

- A Phase 1 peat survey has been completed to produce a map of peat depths across the site.
- The contour map below has been predicted from the peat probe points using a computer program.
- Peat is shallowest through the centre and north-eastern part of the site. The deepest peat is located in the south-eastern corner of the site.
- Key considerations in respect of peat are to avoid peat more than 0.5m deep and minimise the amount of peat excavated by targeting development to areas of shallow peat.
- A more detailed Phase 2 peat survey will be undertaken later in combination with peat coring, to assess texture, composition and moisture content of the peat.
- An outline Peat Management Plan (PMP) will be developed to quantify how much peat will be disturbed, and to outline how peat will be reused on site in order to minimise waste peat.
- GWDTE (Groundwater Dependent Terrestrial Ecosystems) are a special type of habitat that forms where water flows through the soil/rock.
- A GWDTE survey has been carried out and the results are shown below.
- Key considerations in respect of GWDTE are to avoid these habitats where possible and to recreate them if adversely affected by the development.

### PHASE 1 PEAT AND GWDTE ASSESSMENT RESULTS

