

# Muirburn licensing: Quick guide for peat depth surveys

Read full guidance at [nature.scot/doc/guidance-peat-depth-survey-muirburn-licensing](https://nature.scot/doc/guidance-peat-depth-survey-muirburn-licensing)

There are 2 survey methods for muirburn licensing:

## Method A

Walkover survey used to check areas classed as 'non-peatland'. Take occasional measurements on any areas where the landscape features indicate peat may be present. Record any depths over 40cm.

## Method B

Take measurements in a 100m grid pattern. This method can be used to check areas classed 'uncertain' or 'peatland'. Record all depths. Areas classed as peatland only need to be surveyed if you disagree with the classification and want to license the area under a non-peatland purpose.

## Step 1

### Check if you need to do a survey

- Use our interactive map to check if you need to survey the area(s) you wish to license for muirburn: [ogc.nature.scot/geoserver/www/maps/muirburn-survey-map.html](https://ogc.nature.scot/geoserver/www/maps/muirburn-survey-map.html)
- Download your recording spreadsheet and GPX file (for navigation).



You can use a peat probe or rod marked with tape at 5cm intervals.

## Step 2

### Navigate to your survey points

- Plan a route to check any areas where the land features indicate peat may be present, for example, valley bottoms and wet flushes. **(Method A)**
- Navigate to your survey points using a mobile mapping application on a smartphone or tablet. **(Method B)**

## Step 3

### Measure and record peat depths

- Probe any areas that look like they may be peatland, and record if any depths over 40cm are found. **(Method A)**
- Probe all survey points that you wish to license at 100m intervals or less. These will be provided if you use the interactive map. Record **all** points. **(Method B)**

## Probing tips

- If you encounter an obstacle, take the measurement at the nearest practical point. Record the distance from the sampling point in the spreadsheet.
- You should only survey areas you intend to apply for burning.
- If an area of peatland is found in Method A, take additional measurements at 100m intervals to define the extent of the area.

## Recording tips

- Record your measurements in the template provided by NatureScot.
- You must record the exact depth or to the nearest 5cm.
- Where the measurement is between 40-45cm
  - round up to 45cm.
- Type your results in the spreadsheet provided. This helps us process your findings.