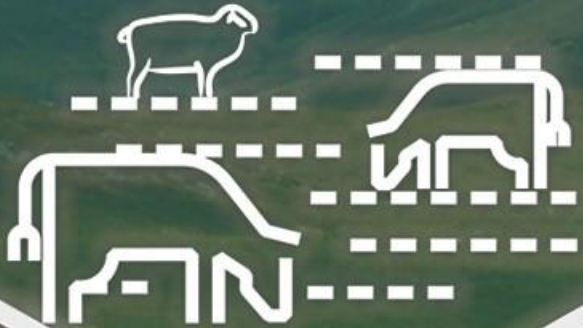


Lessons from the SUAS EIP project

Livestock



Uplands
Symposium
2023



Declan Byrne
Teagasc

What do we want in our uplands?

We can all agree on what we don't want



But different stakeholders have different priorities



Farmers



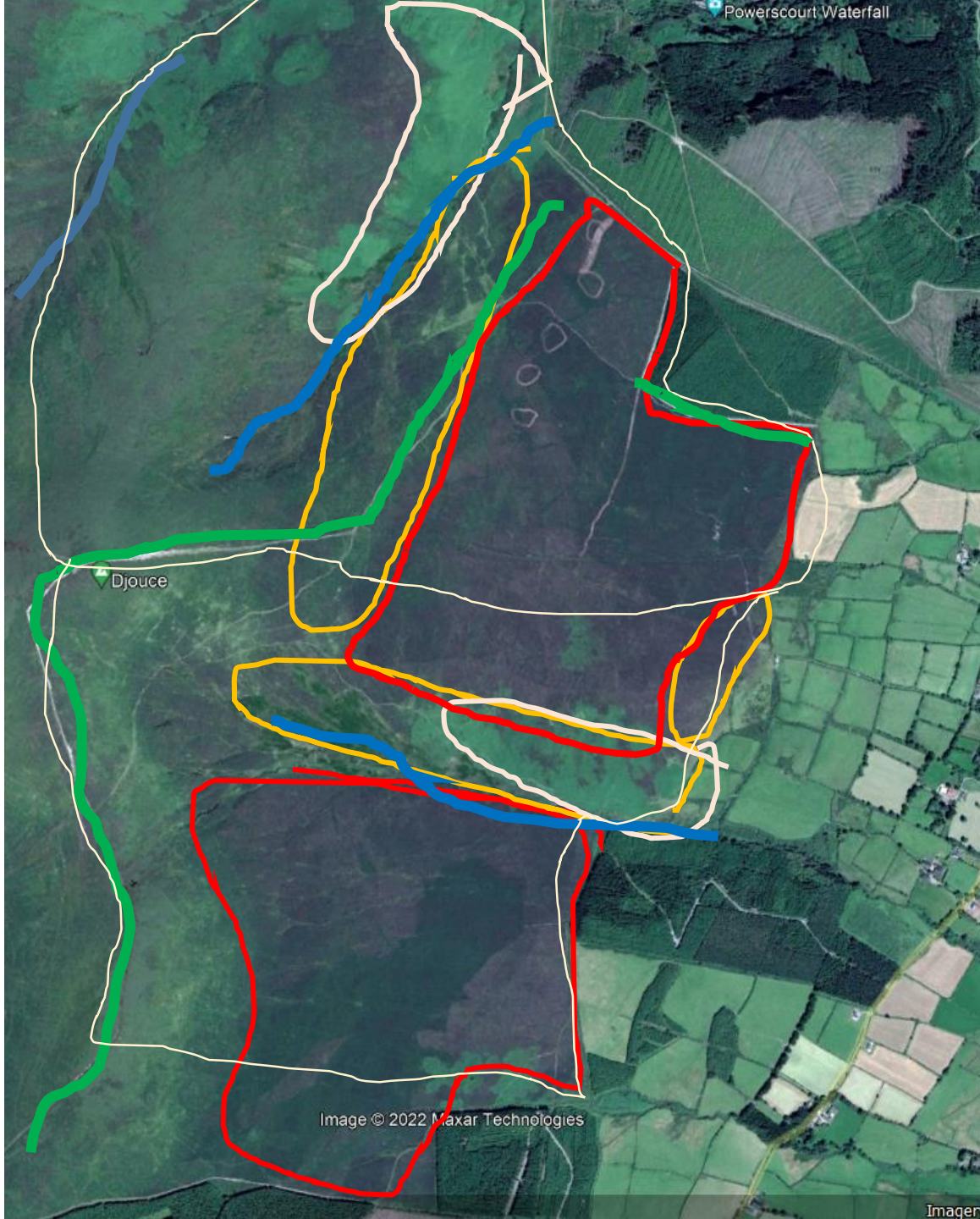
Foresters



Environmentalists



Habitat Management



Multiple Issues on Hills

- Overgrown Heather
- Overgrazed areas
- Bracken
- Erosion
- Water quality Issues

Results of bad burning/wildfires



Why do farmers burn hills?

- Protect Farm Payments
 - Improve Grazing
 - They've always done it. It's traditional management.
-
- It's a cheap & easy way to control the vegetation
 - Don't have any alternatives

Alternatives to burning Gorse & scrub



Cutting



**Allow to
develop
into
woodland**

Alternatives to burning heather



Cutting



**Allow to
mature**



Bracken Control options



Follow-up grazing essential after veg. management



But need to avoid overgrazing

Controlled Burning is Not Just
About Lighting a Fire

Controlled Burning



An Roinn
Cultúir, Oidhreacht agus Gaeltachta
Department of
Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht

For completion by NPWS staff:

ARC Form 1

ARC Administrative Reference Number: _____

Date Received: _____

Received by: _____

SAC/SPA Site name and Site Code: _____

ARC/NA Numbers: _____



Grazing is our main upland management tool

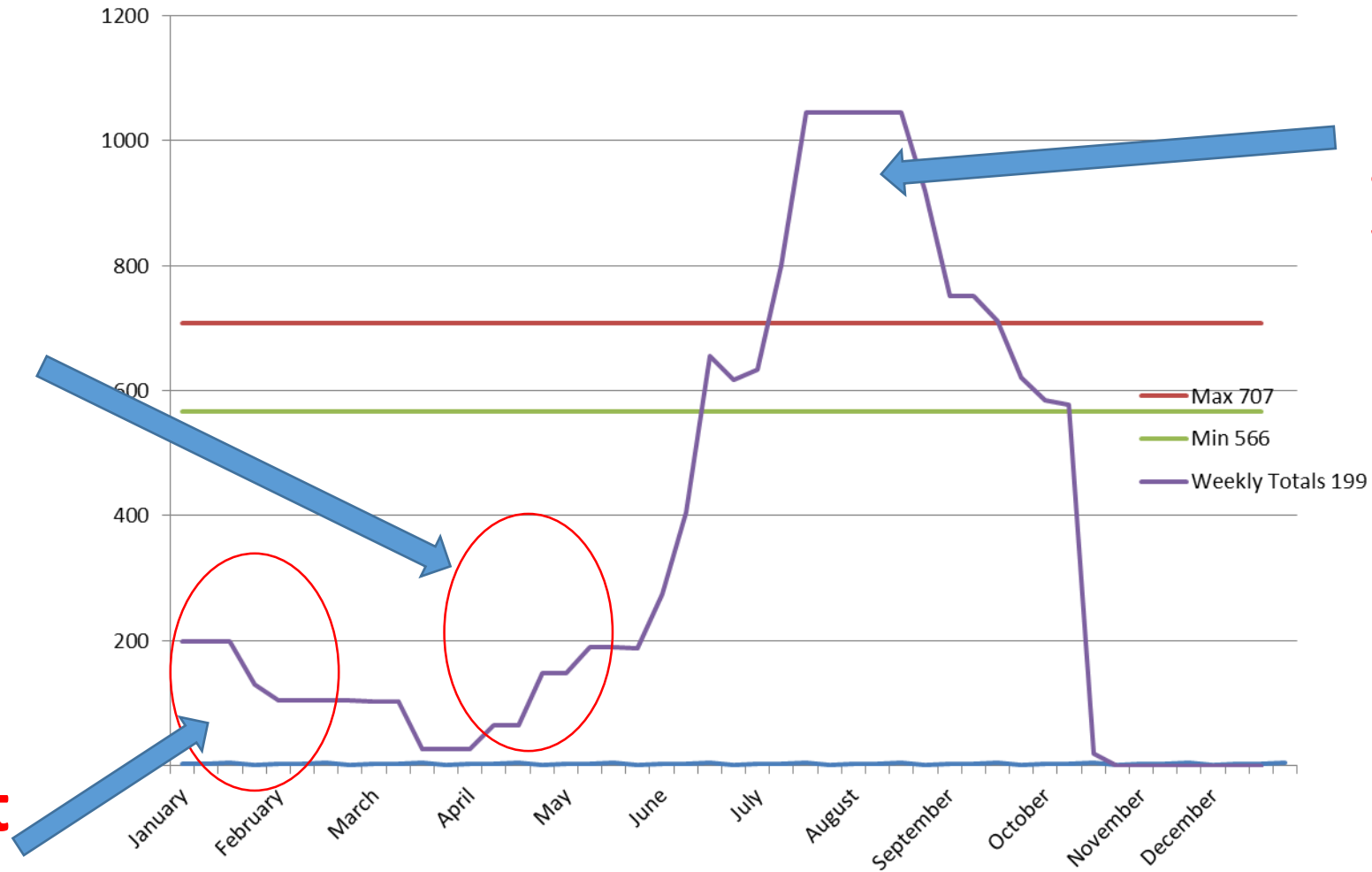


Actual Grazing Levels on the Hills

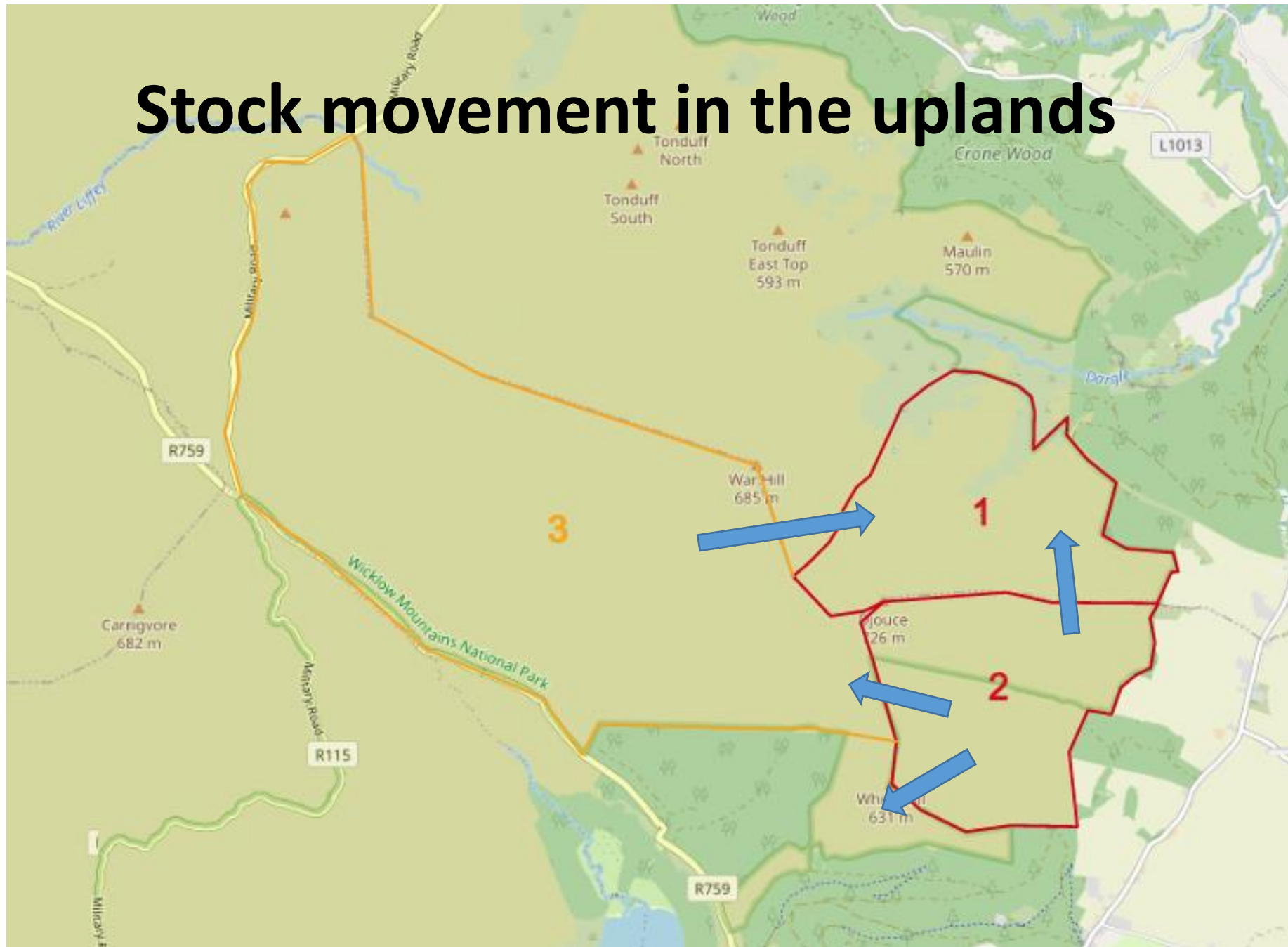
Sheep eat
heather &
molinia

Sheep eat
grassy
vegetation

Sheep eat
heather



Stock movement in the uplands





Constitution of Granamore Commonage Group, Adopted on 6th December 2018

1 Name

- 1.1 The name of the Organisation is the Granamore Commonage Group, referred to in this document as the Organisation.

2 Definitions

- 3 "The commonage" refers to the lands detailed in the First Schedule to this Constitution
- 4 "Shareholder" refers to an individual who owns Grazing Rights over the Commonage as set out in the Second Schedule to this Constitution

5 Address

- 5.1 The postal address of the Organisation shall be the postal address of the secretary for the time being

6 Membership

- 6.1 The membership of the Organisation will be made up of persons over 18 years of age:
- (a) Full Member, being shareholders who own grazing rights over the commonage.
 - (b) Associate Members, being individuals who are not shareholders but have an interest in or impact on the management of the commonage as agreed by the Members
 - (c) A full member may by letter addressed to the secretary appoint a nominee to attend and vote at meetings on his/her behalf.
- 6.2
- 6.3

Commonage Groups

The 4R's of Upland Grazing

• Right Type of Stock



Animals that will provide the right type of grazing



Stock that contribute to a viable farm enterprise

Animals that will survive and thrive on the hill



• Right Number of Stock



Enough to graze the available vegetation

Damage from Supplementary feeding



Most of our hills have too many stock in late summer and not enough for rest of year

• Right Time of Year



In late summer, sheep eat mostly grassy vegetation



In early summer, stock will eat Molinia Grass

In early summer & late winter, sheep eat heather & courser vegetation



• Right Areas of the Hill



Reduce grazing on overgrazed parts of the hills



Encourage more grazing on undergrazed areas



Avoid overgrazing on recently burned or cut areas

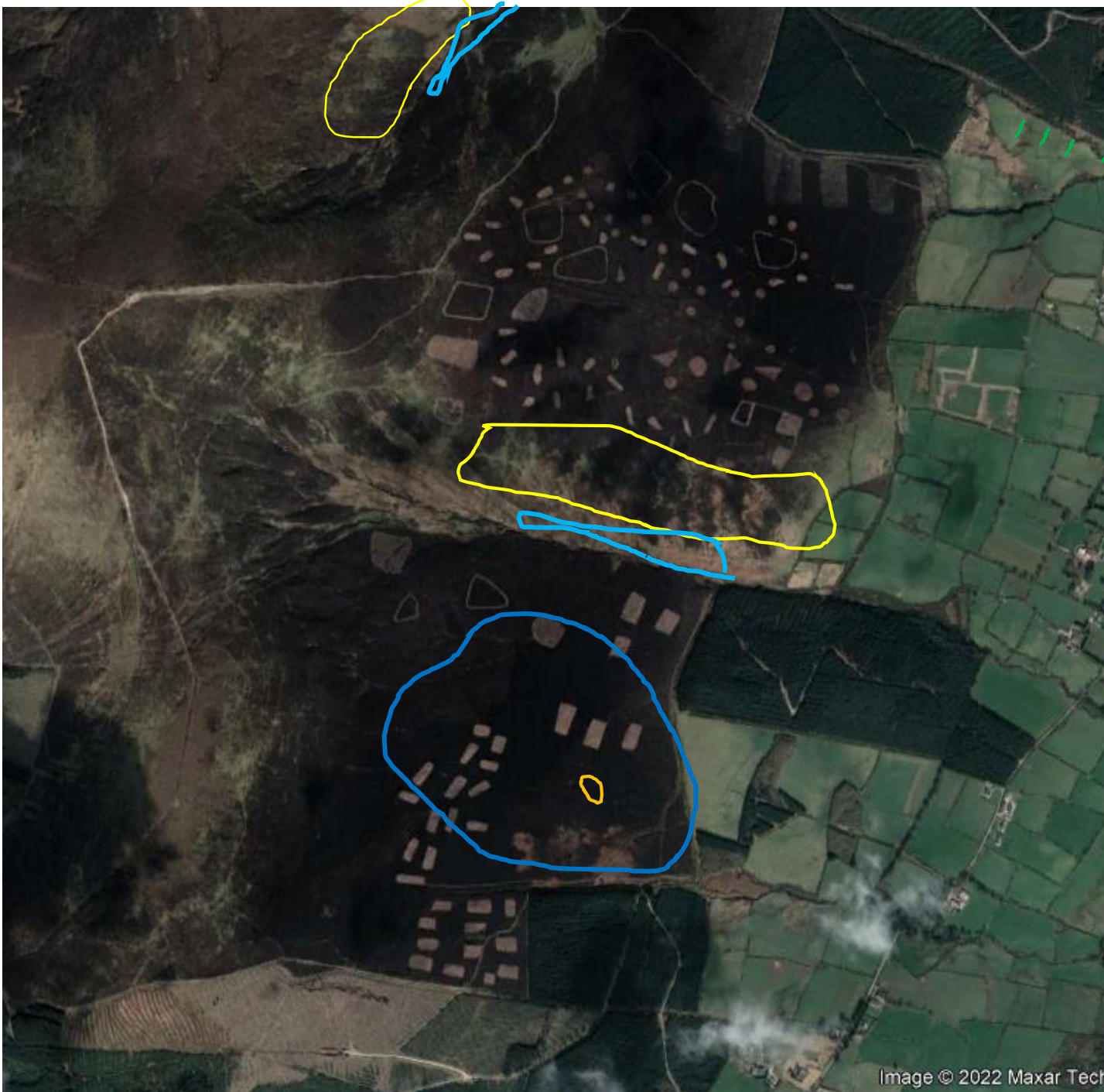
Controlling grazing



Other upland management actions in SUAS







**Combination of
actions & grazing
over multiple years**

**Need long-term
planning**

Summary

- Need to know what we want in our uplands
- Need to know how to manage our uplands to deliver better habitat condition
- Need to develop sustainable farming systems for our uplands that;
 - Provide habitat management
 - Deliver viable returns to farmers
 - Fits in with other lowland farming enterprises
- Provide an incentive to farmers to deliver habitats in good condition



View all presentations at
www.teagasc.ie/uplands