



# SUAS - A Blueprint for Upland Management

**Declan Byrne**



A landscape photograph showing rolling hills under a cloudy sky. The foreground is a grassy hillside with some rocks. The middle ground features a valley with a forested area. The background shows more hills and a distant mountain peak. The text '1. Open Landscape & Commonages' is overlaid in white.

# 1. Open Landscape & Commonages



**Constitution of Granamore Commonage Group,  
Adopted on 6<sup>th</sup> 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**

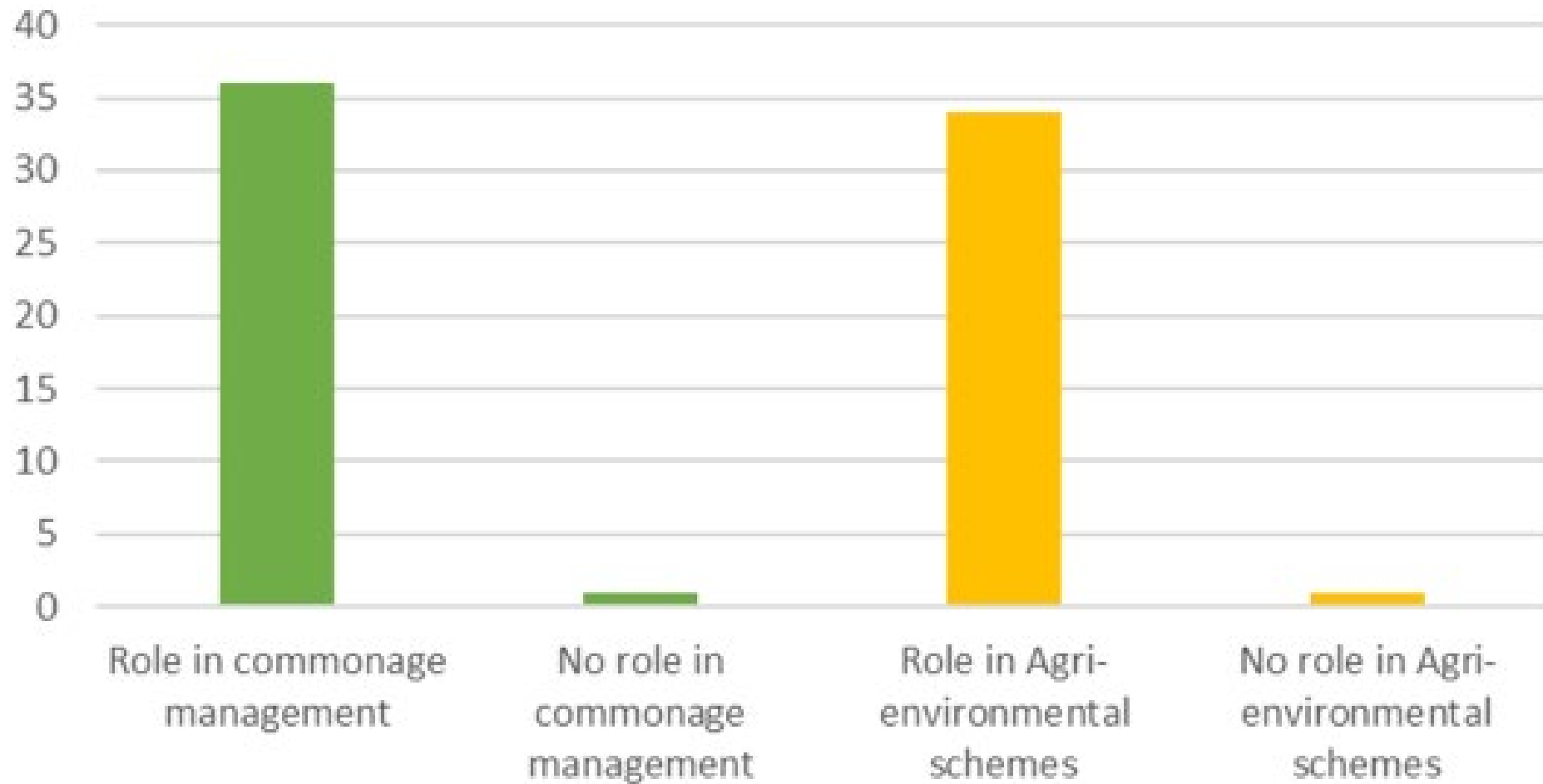
- 5.1 The postal address of the Organisation shall be the postal address of the secretary for the time being

**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

## Future of Commonage Groups



## 2. Education Required

- What do we want in our uplands?
  - What should they look like?
- What management is required?
- How do you deliver this management?



# Public Events & Demonstrations





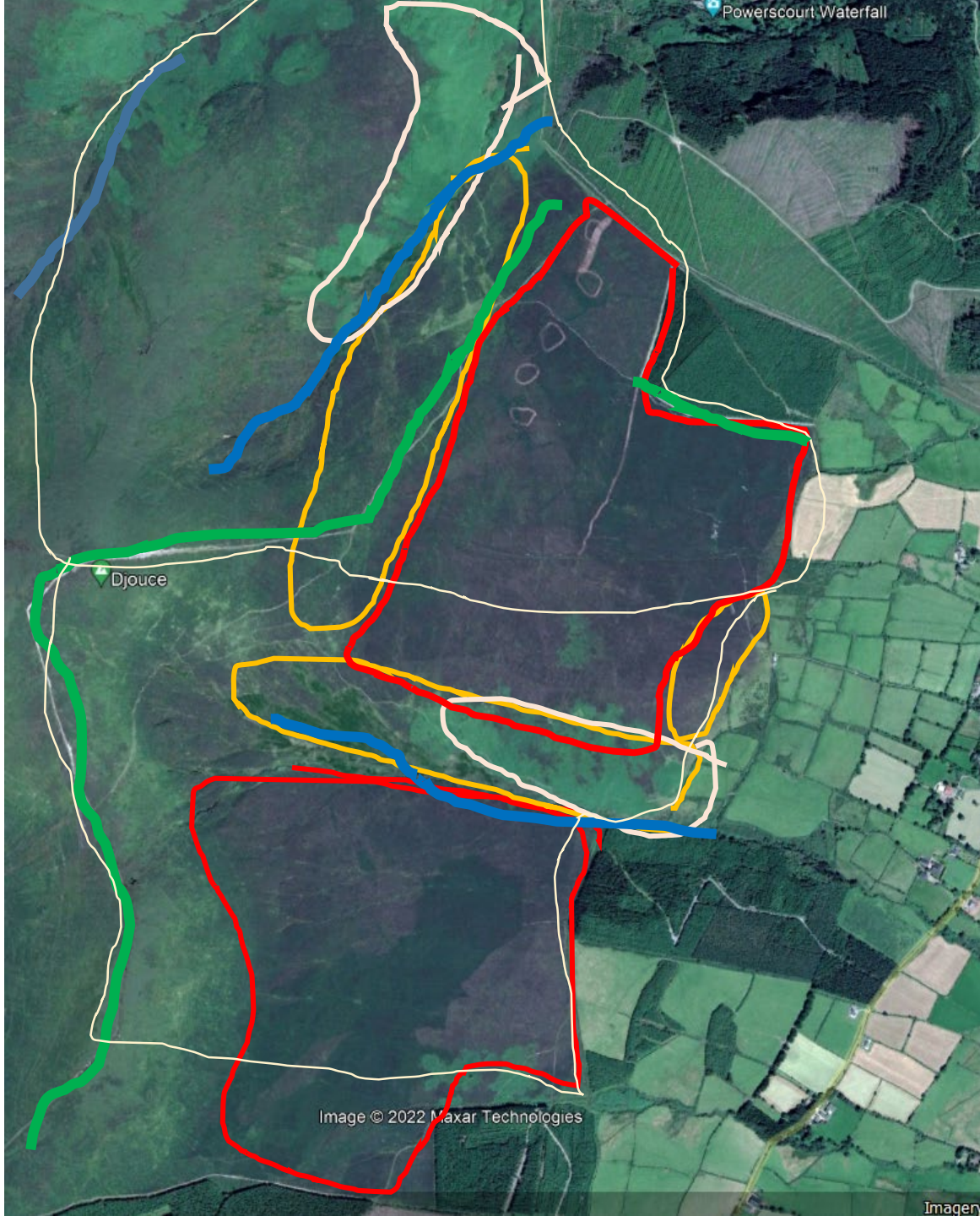
# Upland Management Course

**Attend the course  
before you join the schemes**





3. Identify the issues  
in the uplands?



# Multiple Issues on Hills

## 4. Develop Upland Management Plans




## A group of people are hiking on a grassy hillside under a clear blue sky. In the foreground, a man in a dark sweater and cap is looking down. Behind him, three other people are standing. A large white banner with the word 'Need' in red text is overlaid diagonally across the bottom right of the image.

## Year 1 (2019)

1. Clean up all the box shores and the road coming in from Corragh and bog road from Gra... the road to prevent further erosion. Consult with ... work.
2. Cut some ... of these cut trees to block up some of the gullies ... (advice on how to block these gullies to be given by project ecologist).
3. ... of heather & gorse in area 20 to encourage sheep to graze in ... to 0.5ha each and up to a total of 2ha in 2019.
4. ... top of turf banks in area 18 (advice to be given by project ecologist)..
5. ... burn a section, up to 1ha in size in area 23 to control strong heather and encourage sheep to graze this area. Fire control lines, at least 2-3m wide shall be cut in this section, either by tractor mounted machine or by hand, to ensure these areas are contained. Controlled burning may be carried out either in autumn so long as it is within the legal burning season and has the ...

## Year 2 (2020)

- Plans can be implemented as follows:
1. Control burn gorse on the dry banks and extend into the surrounding gorse areas.
  2. Cut or control burn in some areas of tall heather untouched.
  3. Cut meadows of the commonage.
  4. Cut (e.g. on the rocky). This will be cut by hand using either saws or rounded by bracken and due to the rough terrain and rocky very difficult to control. Professional contractors will be hired in to if it is feasible.
- of road repairs with NPWS.



### Commonage Management Activities

Year 1 (2019)

1. Clean up all the box shores and bog road from Gra... turning in from ... the road to prevent erosion. Consult with ... work.
2. Cut some gullies of these cut trees to block up so (advice on how to block these gullies project ecologist.

... of heather & gorse in area 20 to encourage sheep to 0.5ha each and up to a total of 2ha in 2019.

... top of turf banks in area 18 (advice to be given by project ecologist)

... burn a section, up to 1ha in size in area 23 to control strong heather and sheep to graze this area. Fire control lines, at least 2-3m wide shall be cut a section, either by tractor mounted machine or by hand, to ensure these areas are contained. Controlled burning may be carried out either autumn so long as it is within the legal burning season and has the

Year 2 (2020)

he

# Need 10-15 year plans

**Plans can be amended**



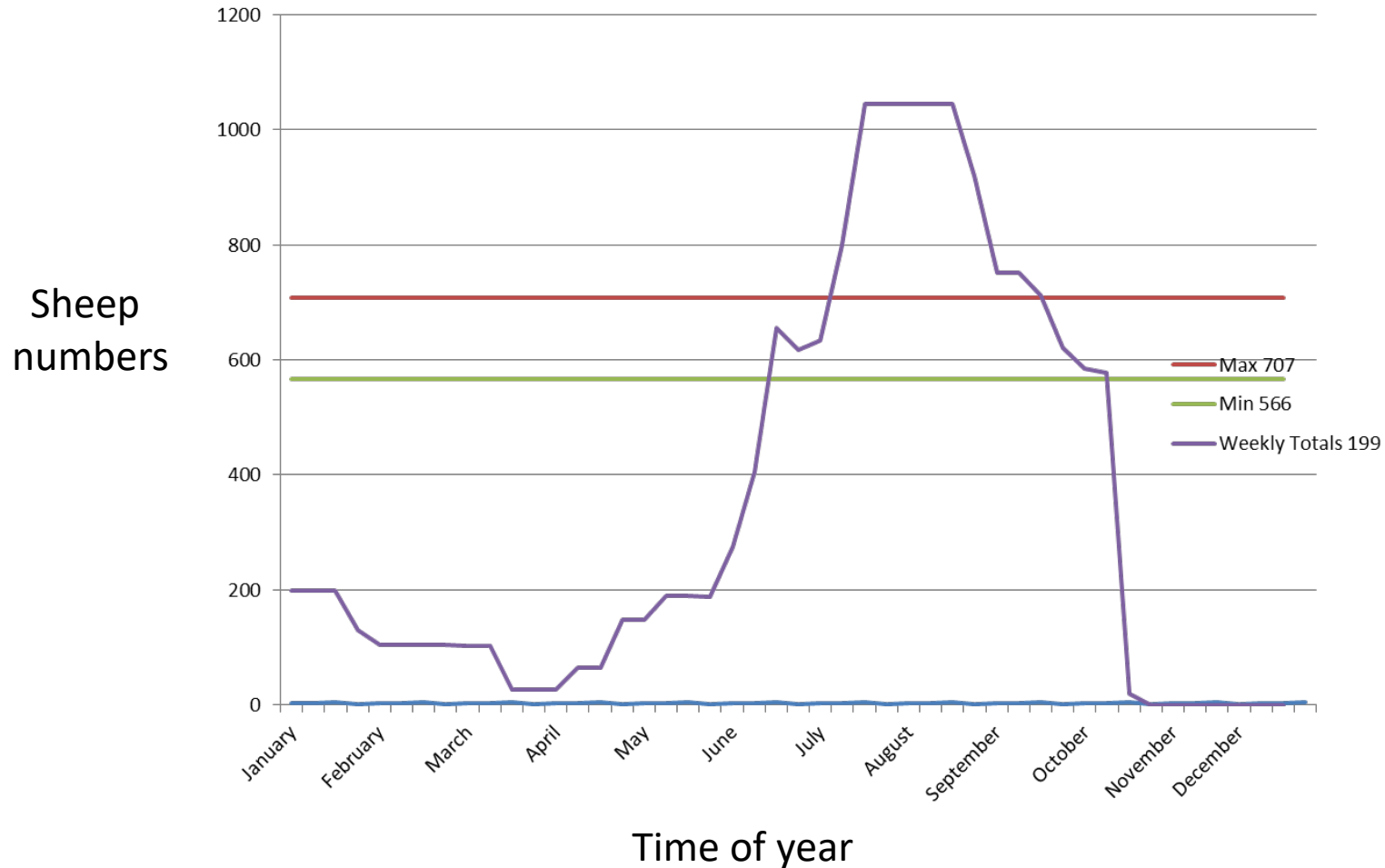


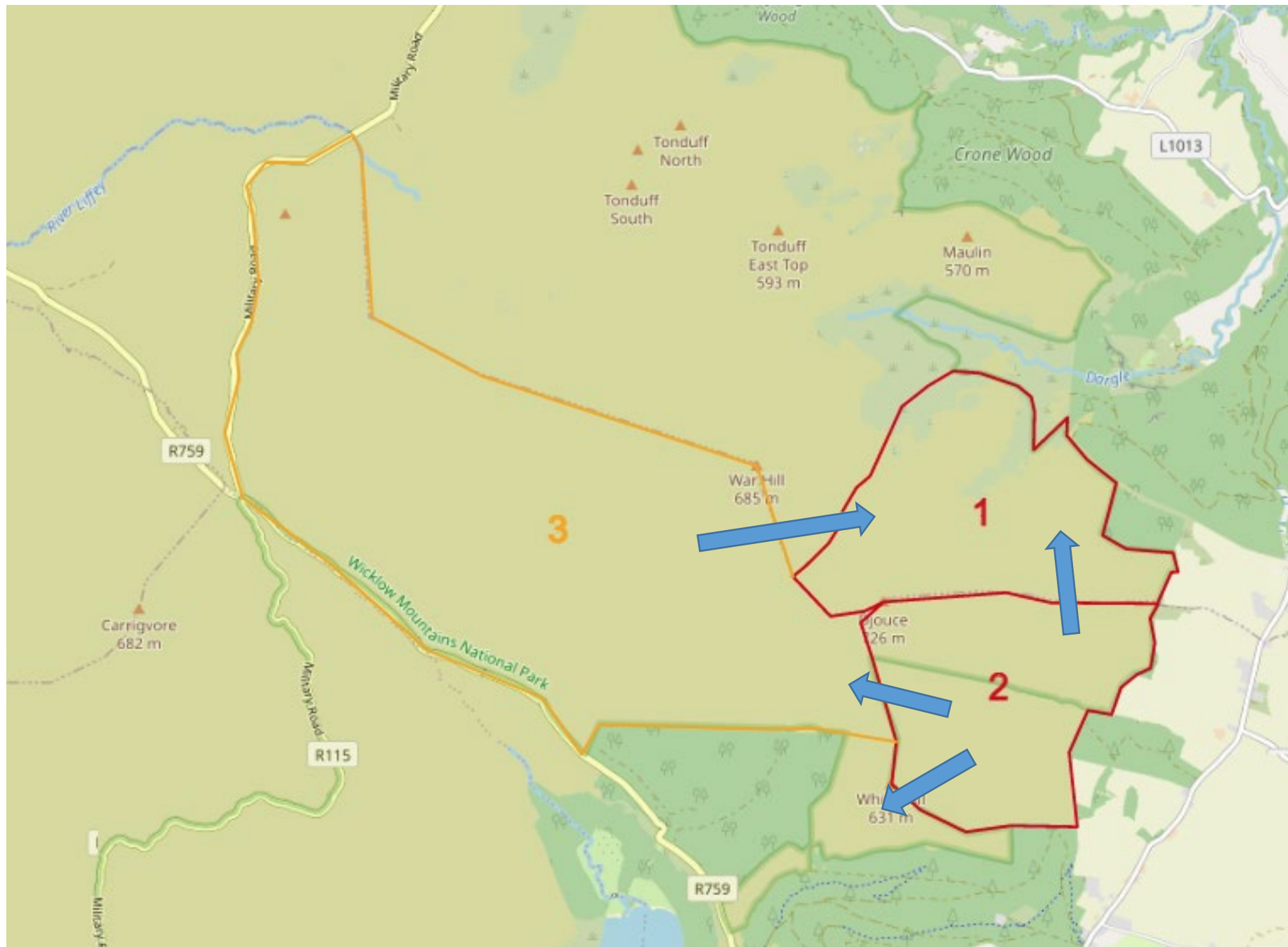
5. How do we manage the  
uplands?

# Grazing



# Grazing Patterns have changed







# The 4R's of Upland Grazing

## • Right Type of Stock



Animals that

## • Right Number of Stock



**Reward the people who  
deliver this grazing**

## 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

# Controlled Burning



















## 6. Upland management in practice













An aerial photograph of a landscape featuring a large, dark, irregularly shaped area in the center-left, possibly a forest or a large field. To the right of this area is a patchwork of green agricultural fields. Several colored lines are drawn on the map: a blue line forms a small loop in the top-left; a yellow line outlines a larger area in the top-left and a central horizontal strip; an orange line outlines a smaller area within the central horizontal strip; and a blue line outlines a large, irregular shape in the bottom-left. A small yellow circle is also visible within the bottom-left blue outline. The text "All completed in 4 years" is overlaid in red on the top-left area, and "What could be achieved in 20 years?" is overlaid in red on the bottom-left area.

All completed in 4 years

What could be achieved in 20 years?





Image © 2022 Maxar Technologies  
Image Landsat / Copernicus





Image © 2022 Maxar Technologies

743 m

# Summary

- Decide what we want in the uplands
- Commonage Groups
- Education/Training
- Identify the issues
- Develop Upland Management Plans
- Deliver the management required

**Reward the Farmers who are delivering**