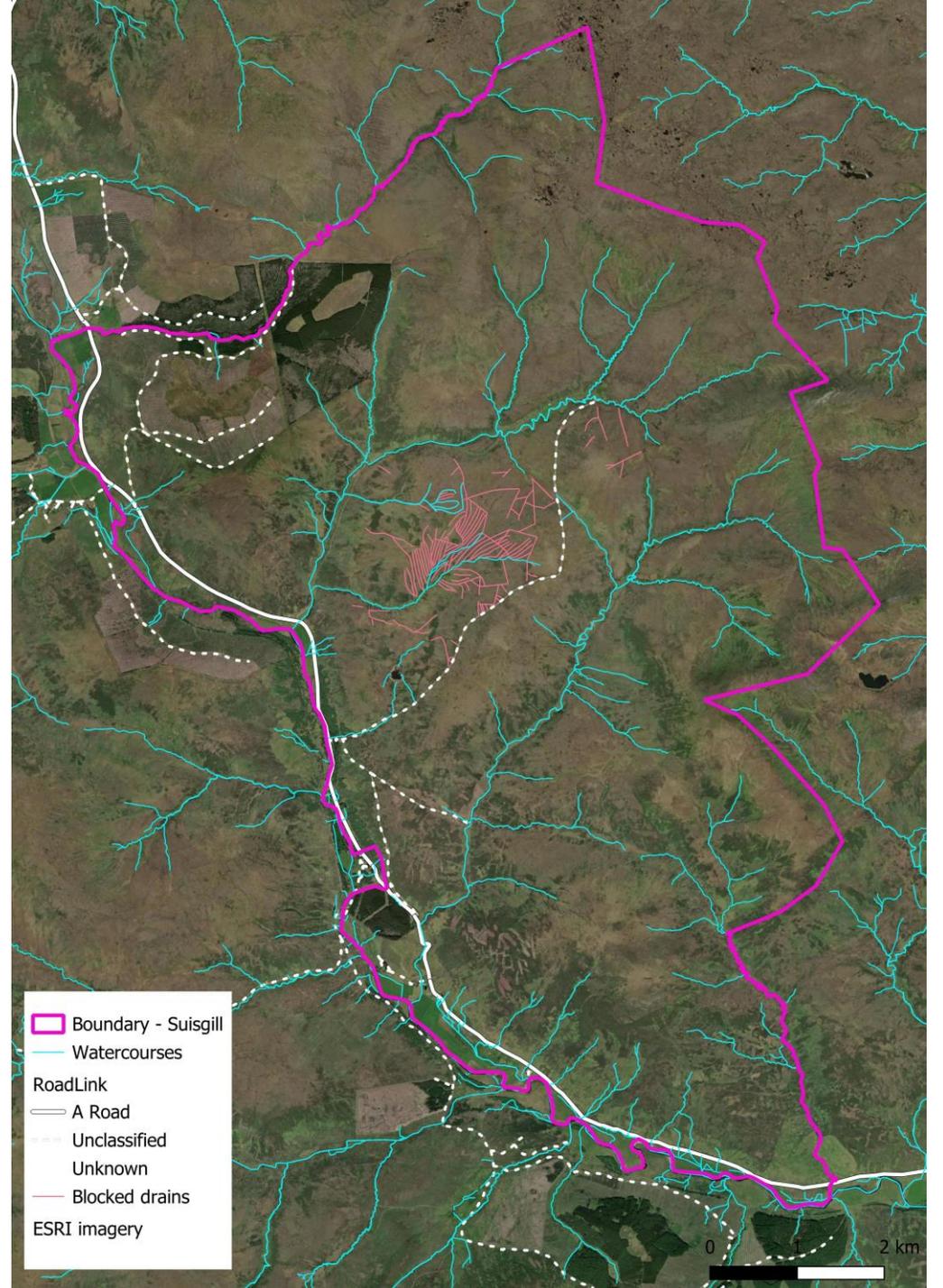
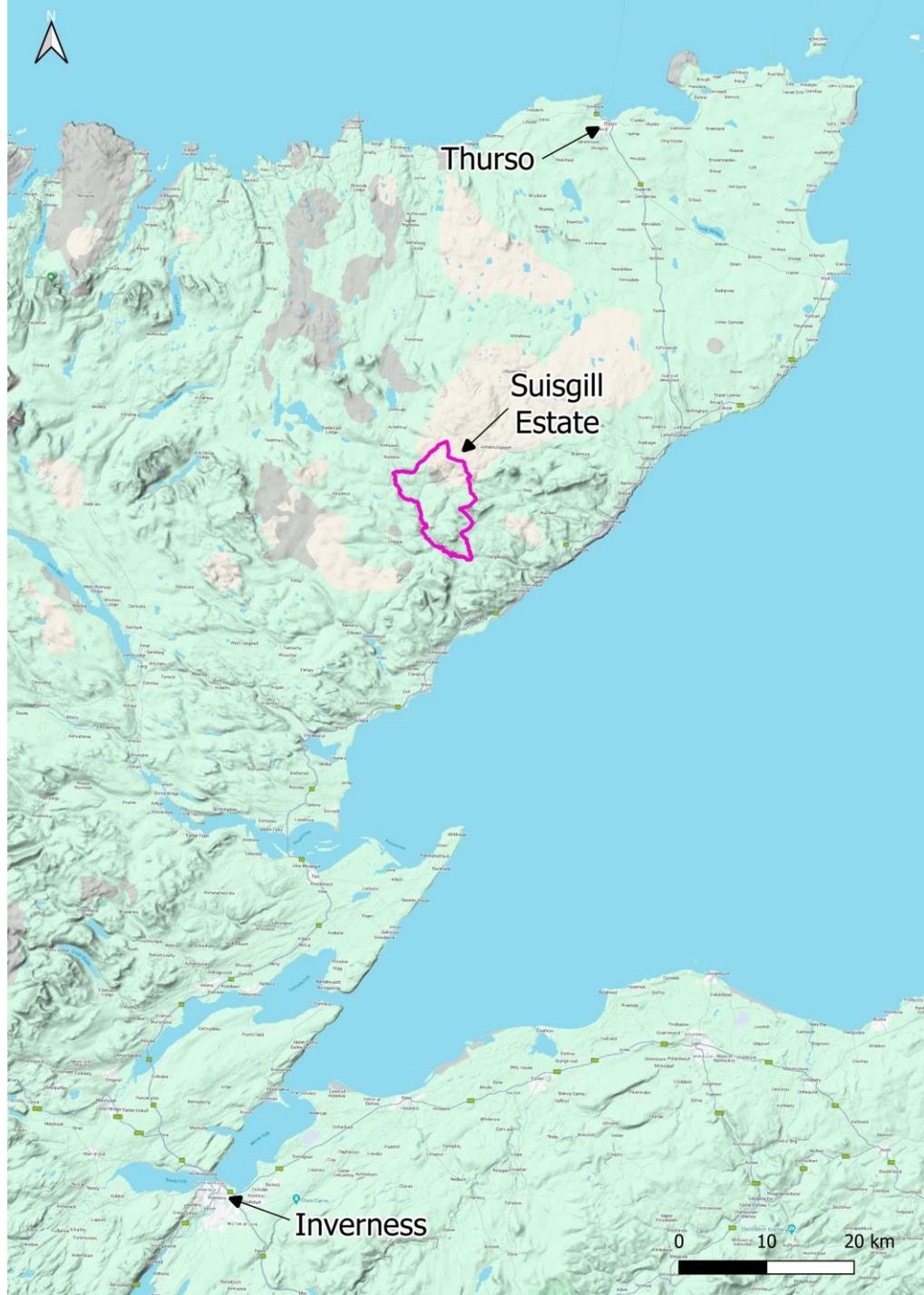


Suisgill Estate





Suisgill Lodge

An aerial black and white photograph of Suisgill Lodge. The lodge is a large, multi-story building with a complex roofline featuring several gables and chimneys. It is situated on a hillside. In the foreground, there is a well-maintained lawn with a tennis court. A path or driveway leads from the river towards the lodge. To the left, a wide river flows through a wooded area. The background shows rolling hills and a distant landscape under a clear sky.

A.5639.

A GLIMPSE OF THE RIVER HELMSDALE AT SUISGILL LODGE.

Suisgill Estate

- 16,000 acres
- Fishing, $\frac{1}{6}$ share of River Helmsdale
- Stalking
- Walked up grouse over setters
- North Country Cheviot ewes (low ground)
- Blackface sheep (hill)
- Holiday lets
- Venison butchery
- Gold panning
- Peatland ACTION, ACES

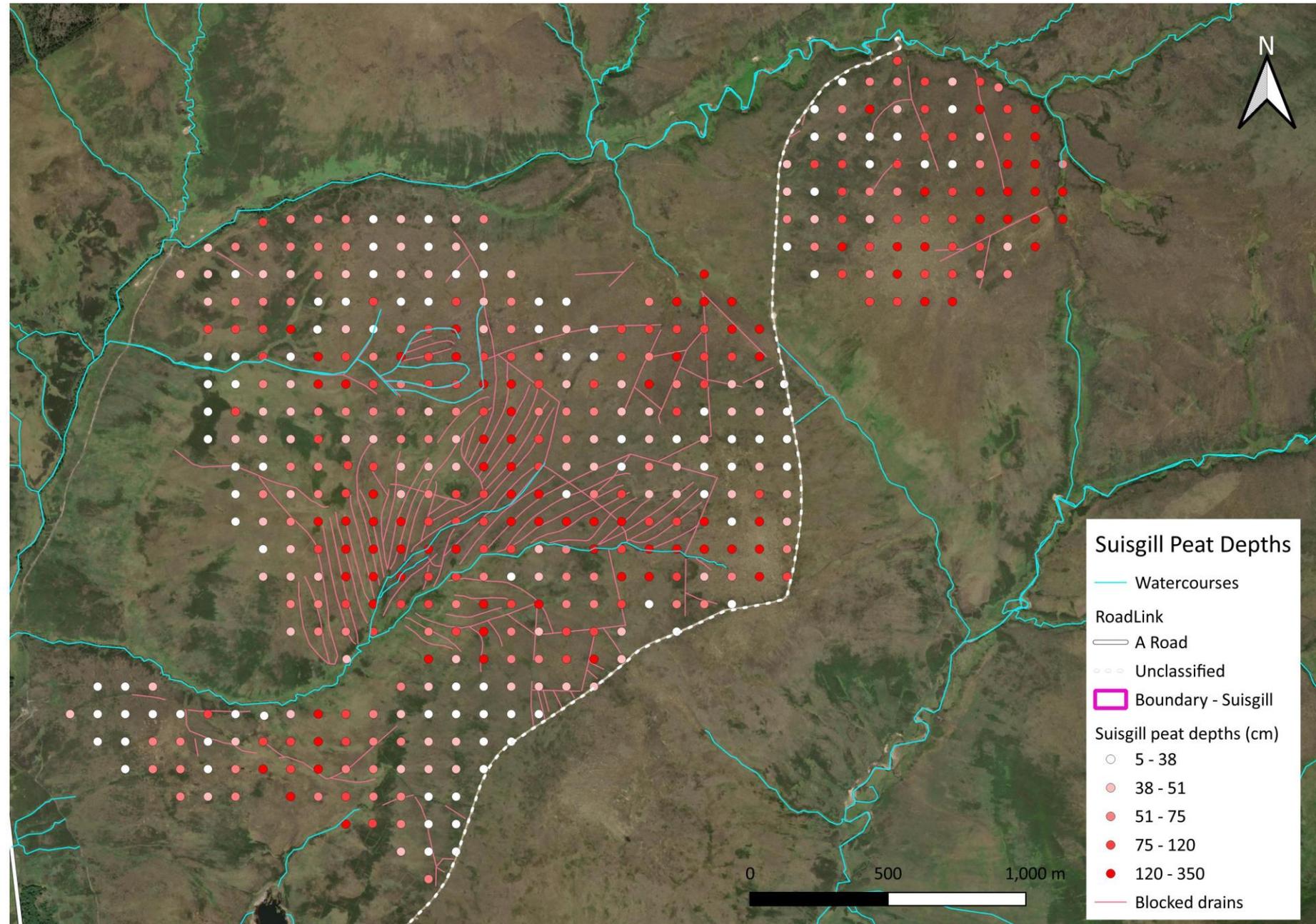


Drain blocking on Suisgill



- ACES or Peatland ACTION???
- Application & project design
 - Taylor Wildlife.
- Restoration contractor
 - John Mackay Ltd.

- Blanket bog.
- Nov - Dec 2019.
- 35km
 - peat dams
 - drain reprofiling
- 1,165 acres.
- Varying peat depth.



Dec 2019



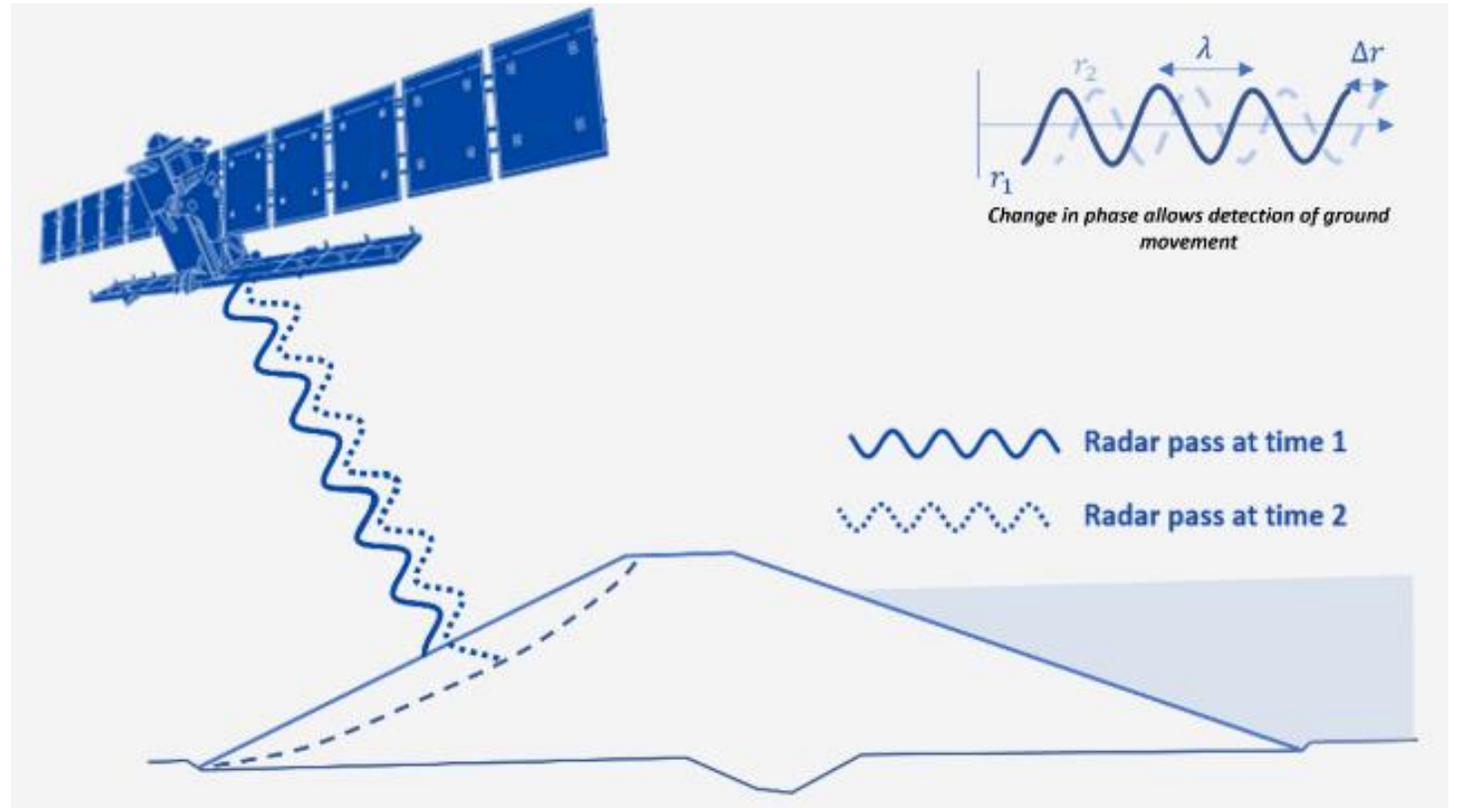
May 2024

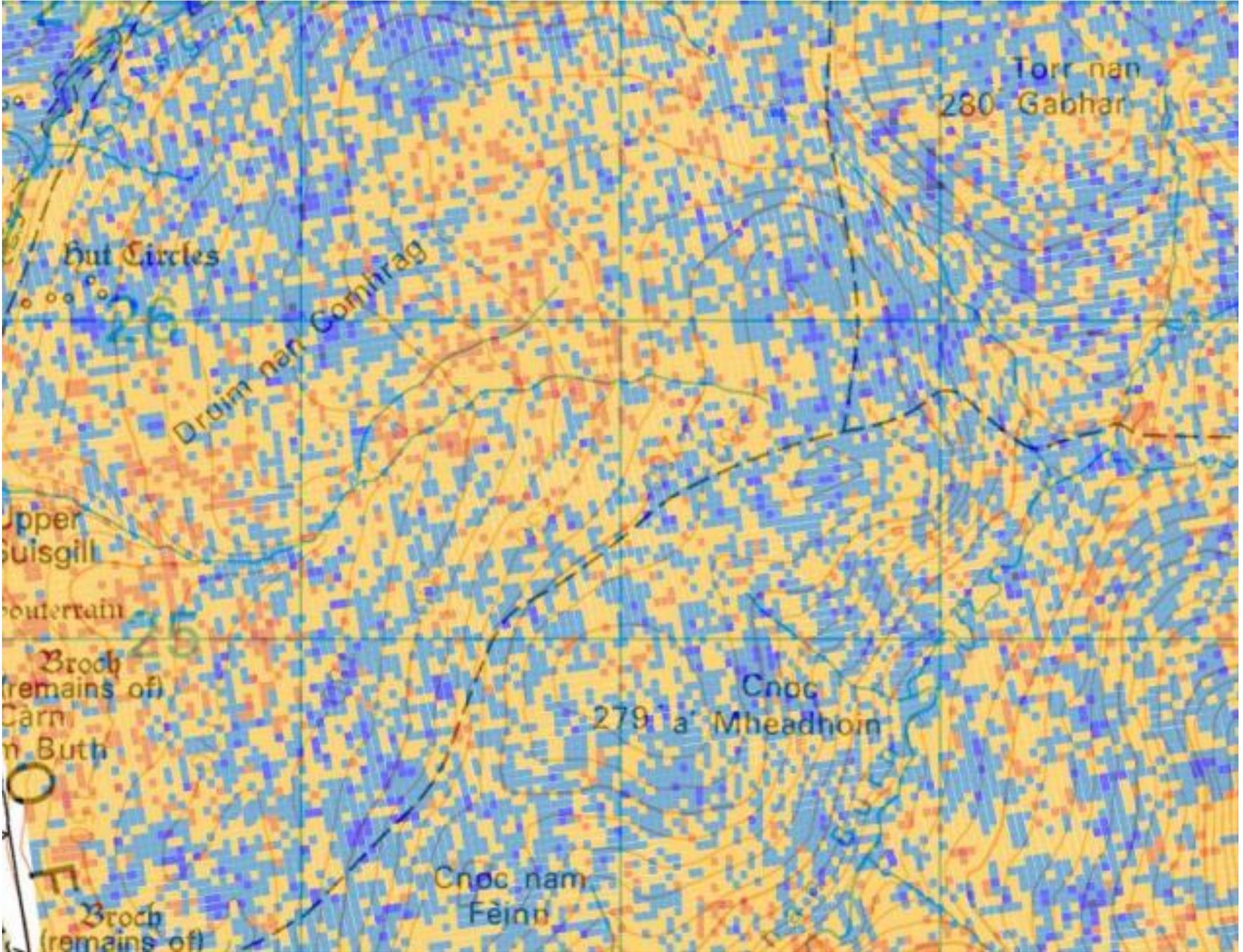


InSAR

Interferometric Synthetic Aperture Radar

- Satellite radar imagery.
- Measures ground movement.
- Compare images over time.
- mm/year precision.





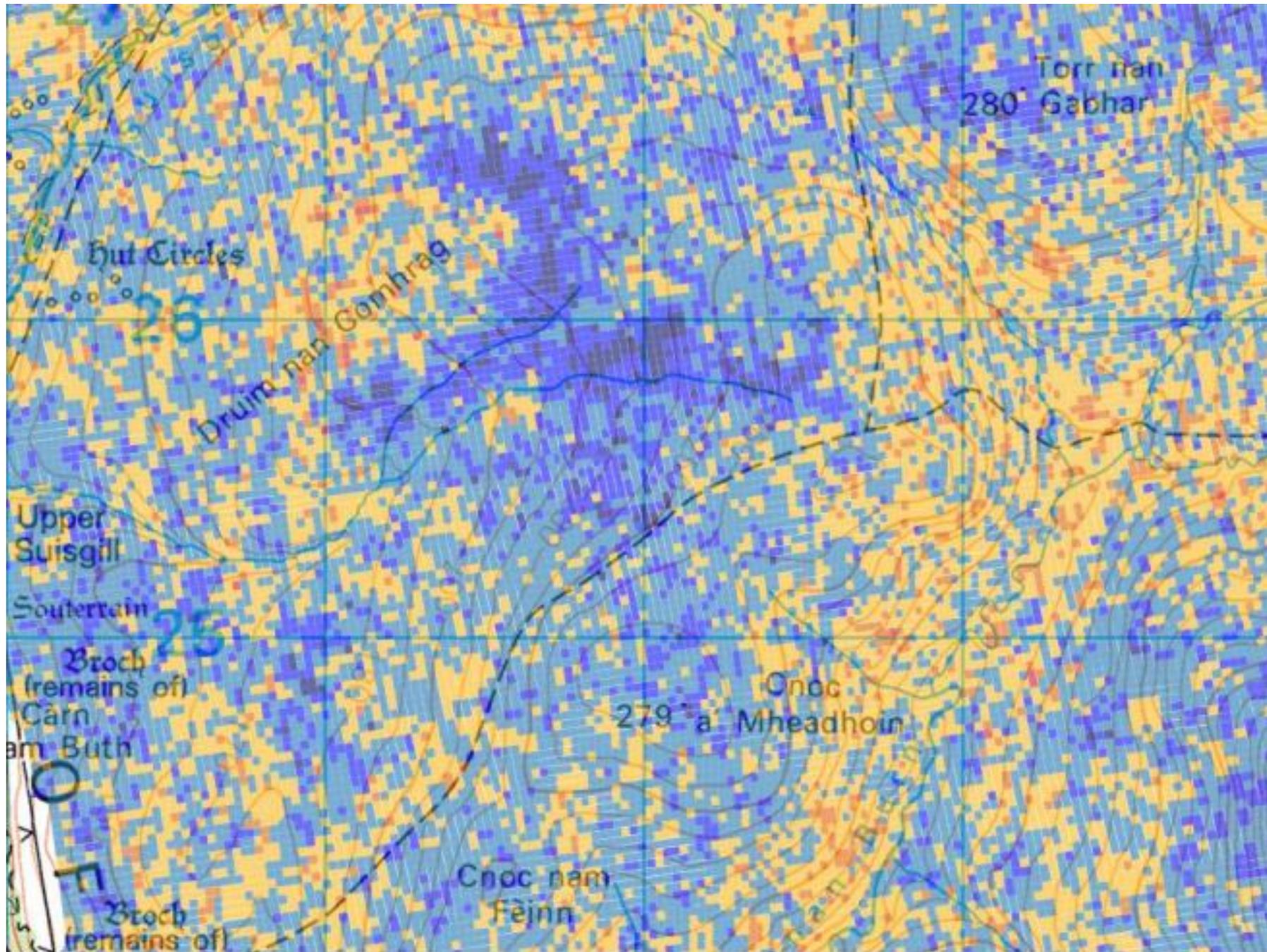
Pre drain blocking



In decline



Positive trajectory



Post drain blocking

(1 year)



In decline



Positive trajectory

Planned Forest-to-Bog

Suisgill Plantation

- Watercourses
- Boundary - Suisgill

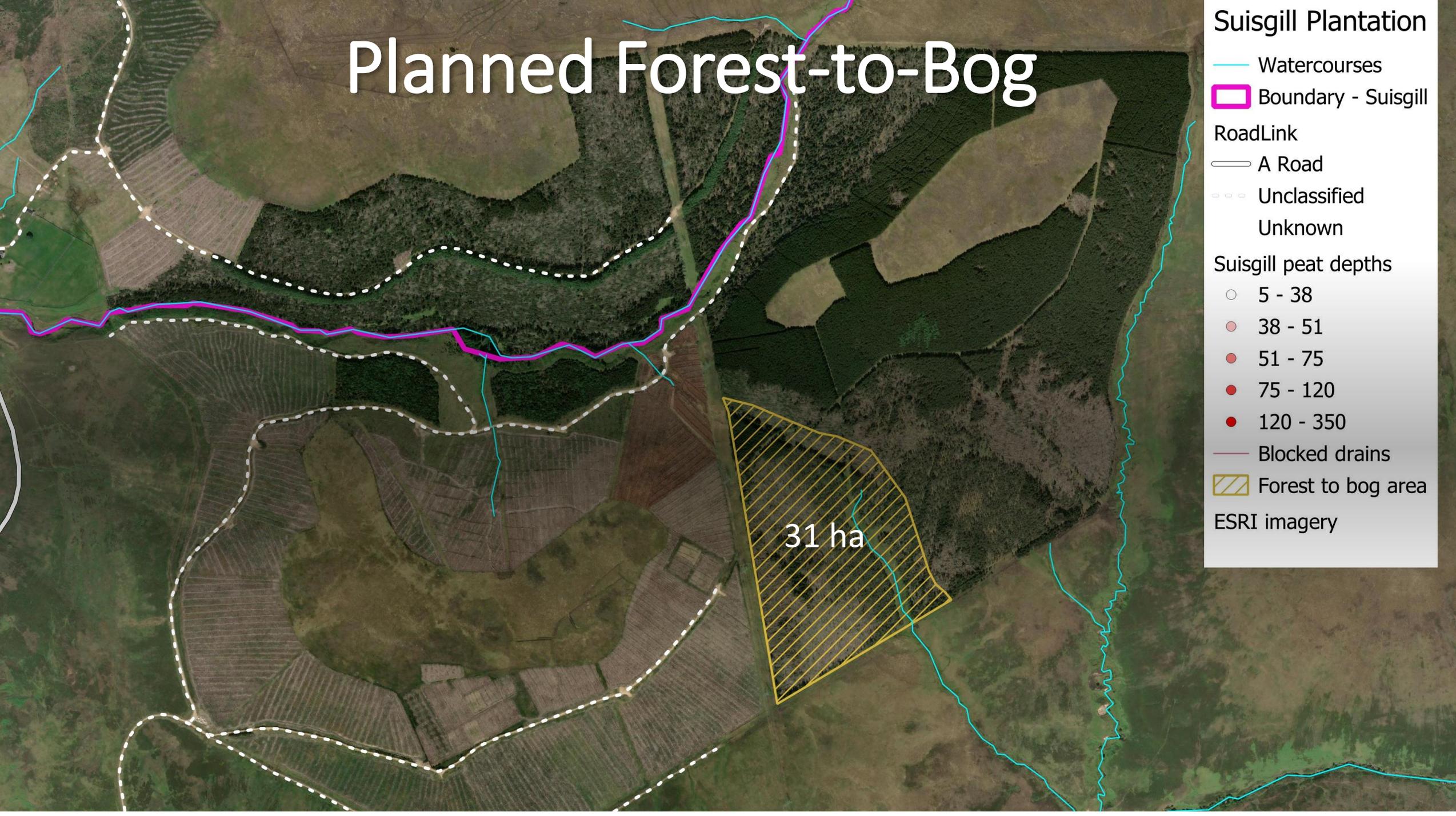
- ### RoadLink
- A Road
 - Unclassified
 - Unknown

- ### Suisgill peat depths
- 5 - 38
 - 38 - 51
 - 51 - 75
 - 75 - 120
 - 120 - 350

- Blocked drains
- Forest to bog area

ESRI imagery

31 ha

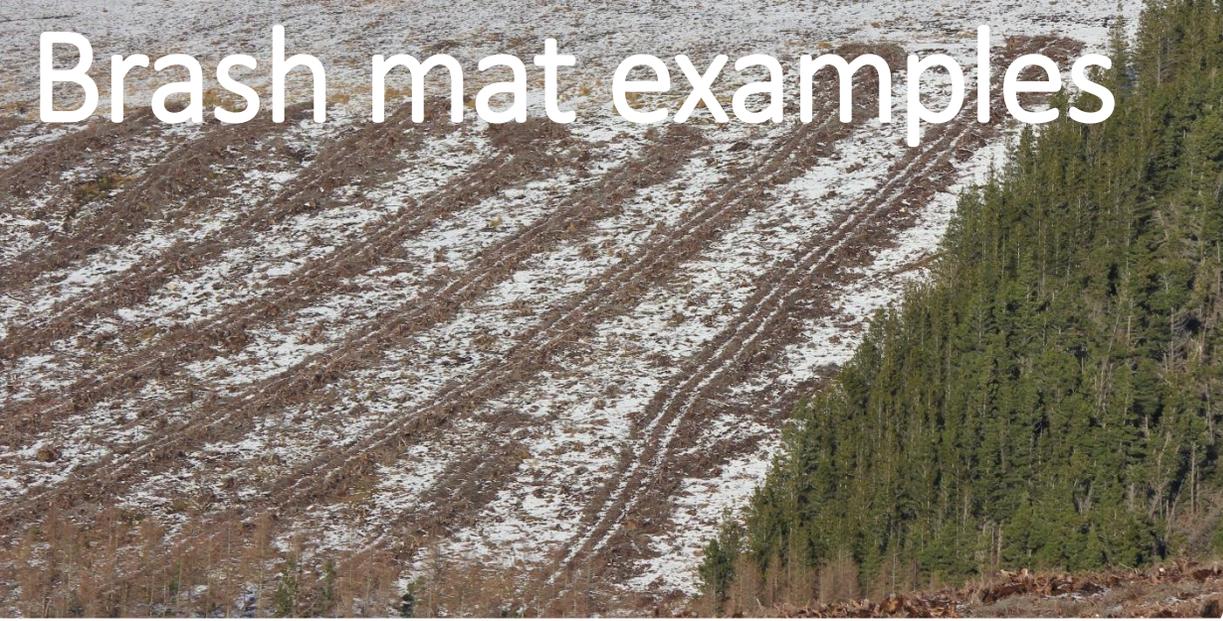


Plantation Forestry

- 394.73 ha
- Lodgepole pine.
- Protracted felling
 - Haulage restrictions.
 - Estates collaborate.



Brush mat examples



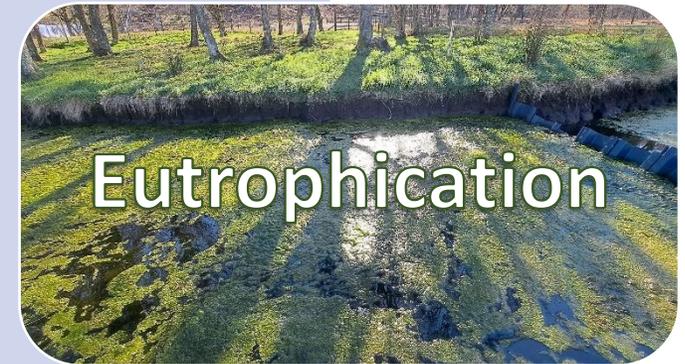
Brash Management

Brash mats left in situ



Brash bale for chip

Why manage brash?



Negative impacts of decomposing brash

Process of felling multiple drifts into one

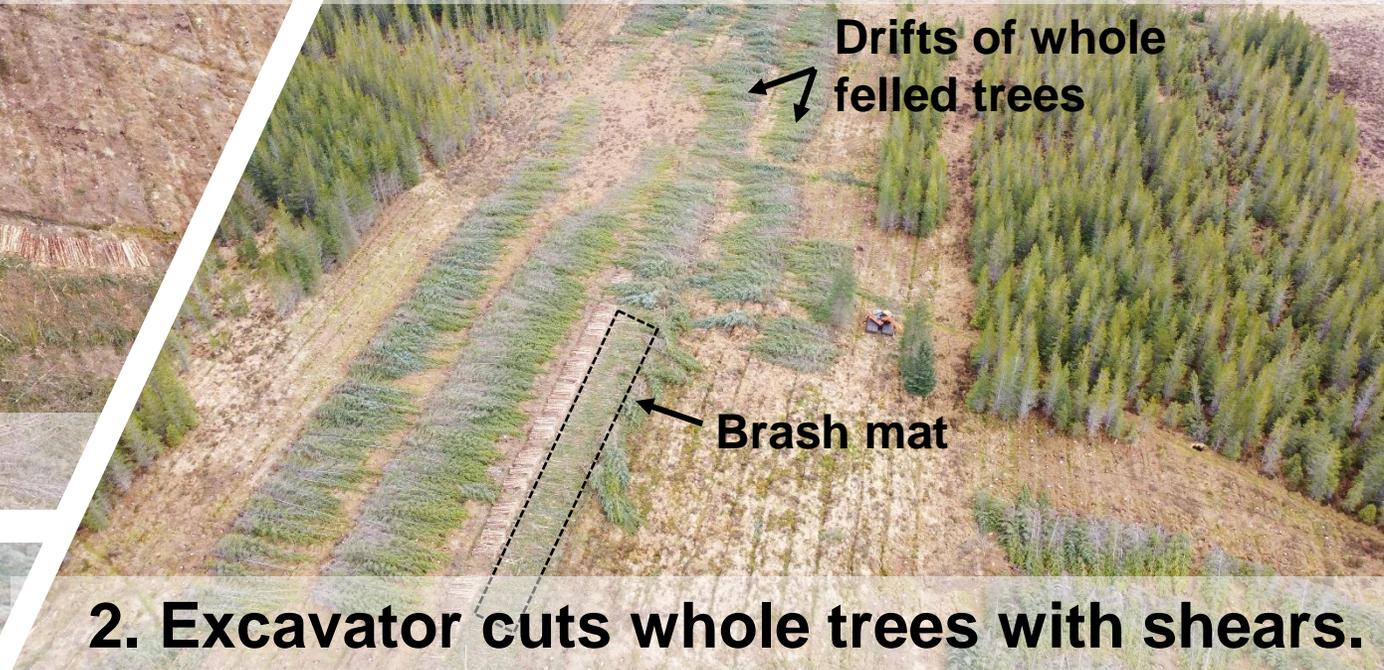


1. Access route cut conventionally.

Results in...



Low stumps, no visible damage.

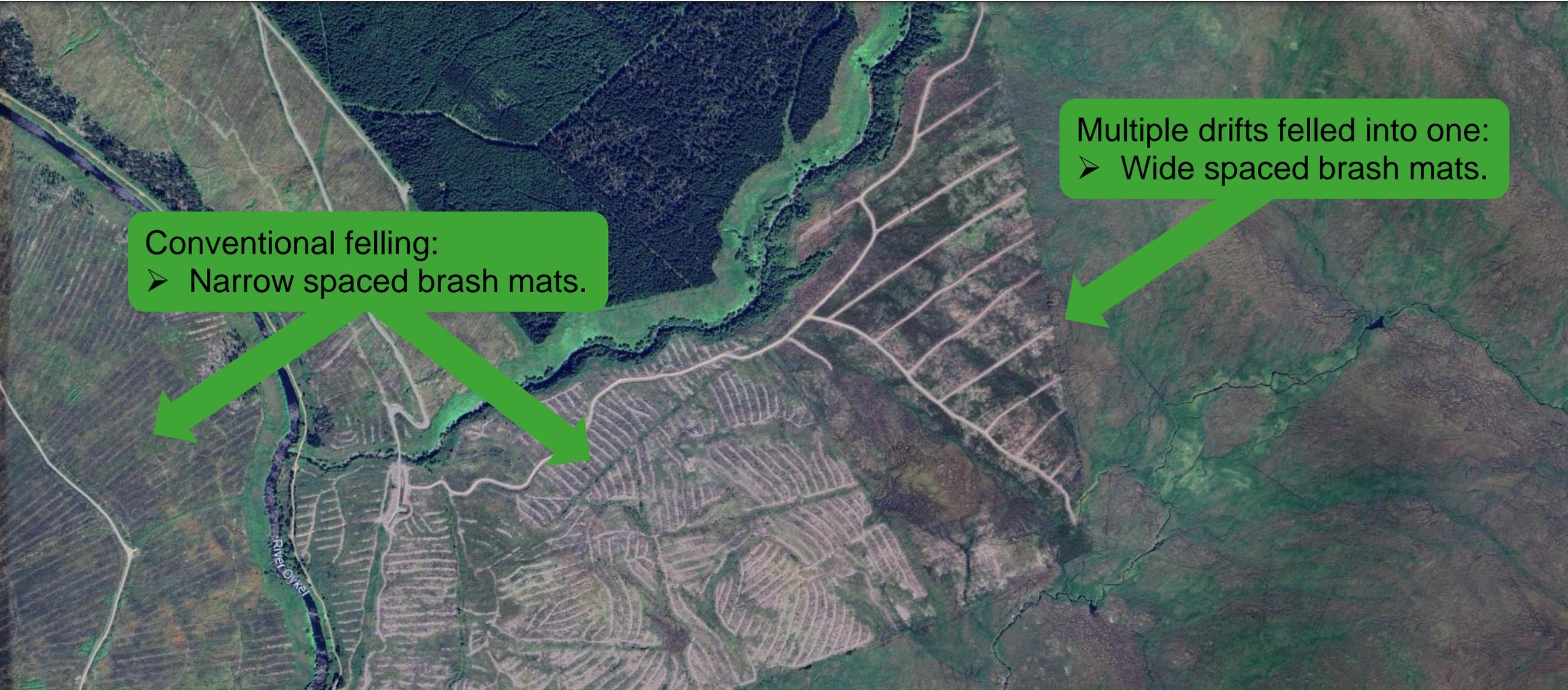


2. Excavator cuts whole trees with shears.



Widely spaced brush mats.

Multiple-into-One vs Conventional



Conventional felling:

- Narrow spaced brush mats.

Multiple drifts felled into one:

- Wide spaced brush mats.

Peatland Restoration



Mulching



Multiple drifts into one



Ground smoothing



4 years post ground smoothing

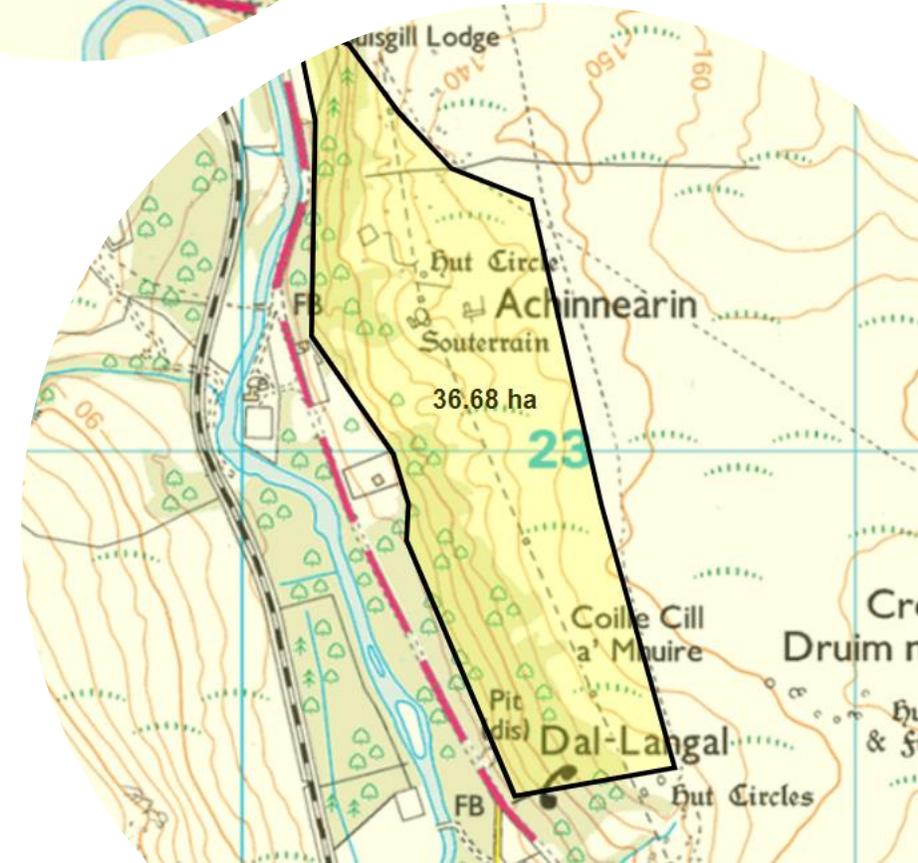




Encouraging owners to plant natives

Native woodland creation

- Multiple areas of different ages.
- New planting of native species.
- Regeneration of established natives encouraged.
- 27.69 ha
- 36.68 ha



Deer Management

- Deer management group
 - 28 Estates
 - 5 subgroups
- Count numbers
 - Foot: 469 Spring 2024
 - Helicopter: 773 Spring 2023
- Cull numbers 2023/24
 - Suisgill: 266
- Habitat impact





Sheep Management

- Tick control.
- 600 breeding ewes Black faced.
- Ewe lambs away for winter.
- Ewes stay on hill all year round - hefting.



Venison

- Price of venison
- Estate butchery
 - Certification inconsistencies
- Game dealers & assurance schemes
- Customer base



Licencing changes

- Stag season
- Trapping rules
- Grouse
- Muirburn



A black and tan dog, possibly a pointer or similar breed, stands in a field of tall, dry grass and purple flowers. The dog is looking towards the right side of the frame. The background shows a vast, open landscape with rolling hills under a cloudy sky.

Walked up grouse

About the day, not the bag.

Muirburn

- Fire breaks
 - Wildfire
 - Muirburn
- Habitat management
- Swiping
- Burning
- Equipment



Baile an Or

Great Sutherland Gold Rush of 1869

Thank you
for listening

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