

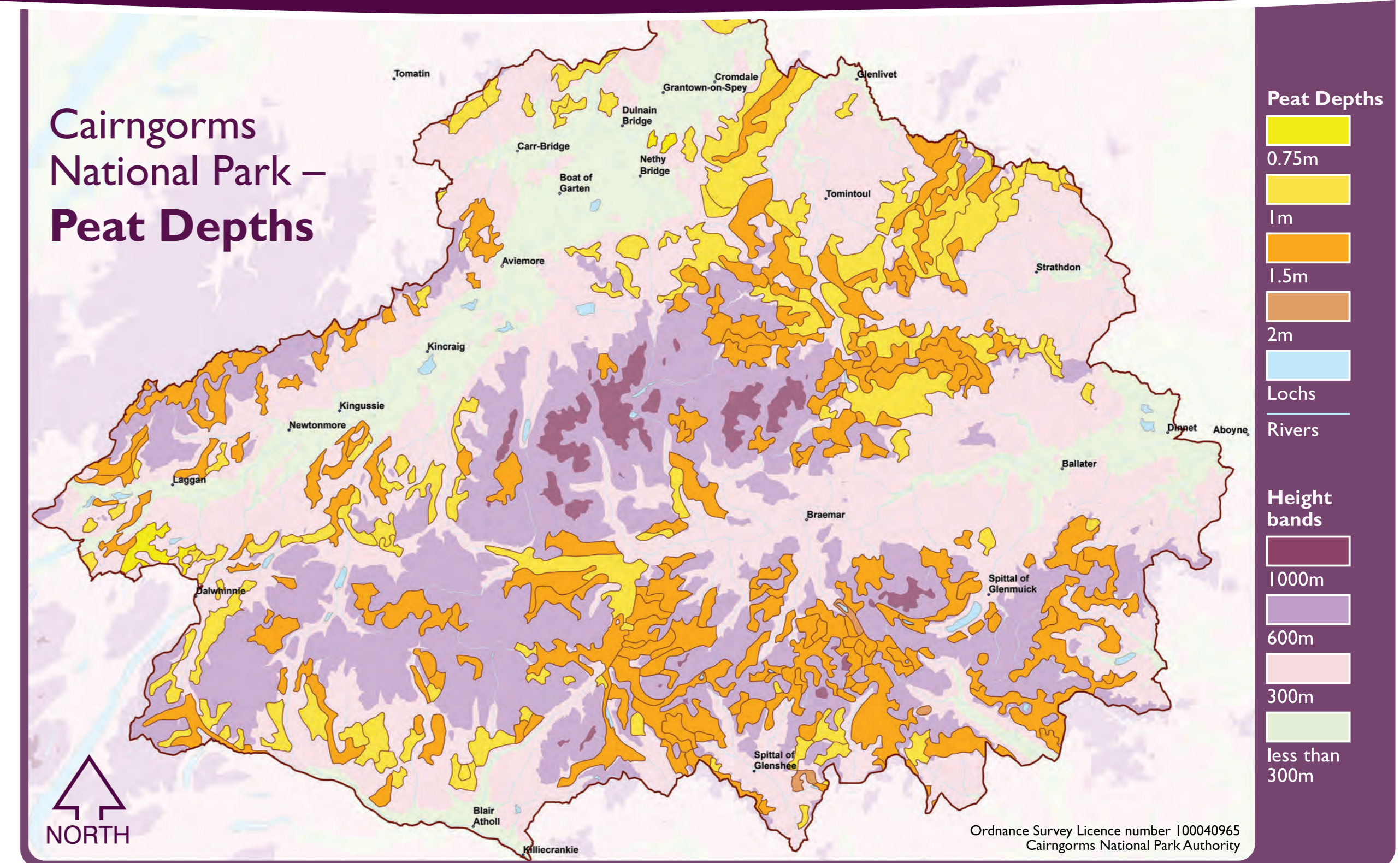
Peatlands in trouble

Scottish Natural Heritage
Dualchas Nàdair na h-Alba

Peatland ACTION Restoring Scotland's peatlands

Scotland's iconic landscape is one based on peat, with nearly a quarter of Scotland covered in peatland habitats. Peat is an organic soil that forms in cool, water-logged acidic conditions. The key peat-forming vegetation are Sphagnum mosses.

In the Cairngorms National Park, the dominant peatland habitat is blanket bog that covers around one-fifth of the Park. This forms a large, unbroken blanket of peatland across the landscape which is around 1 to 2 metres deep.



We need Peatlands for clean water and carbon storage!

80% of Scotland's peatland habitats are in a damaged state.

This is due primarily to human influences such as drainage, burning, overgrazing and trampling, plantation forestry and peat extraction. This causes loss of living surface and erosion of peat underneath.

Degraded peatlands reduce water quality, wash sediment into rivers, can contribute to flood events and are a significant source of greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide (CO₂) – they emit as much CO₂ as nearly two-thirds of the annual CO₂ emissions of all of Scotland's houses.

Bare Peat Surface
Erosion of Peat



NEGATIVE IMPACT

- 10 million tons of carbon dioxide released every year
- Brown, peaty water is expensive for water companies to treat
- Peat sediment damages salmon spawning beds
- Difficult to walk across and visually unattractive

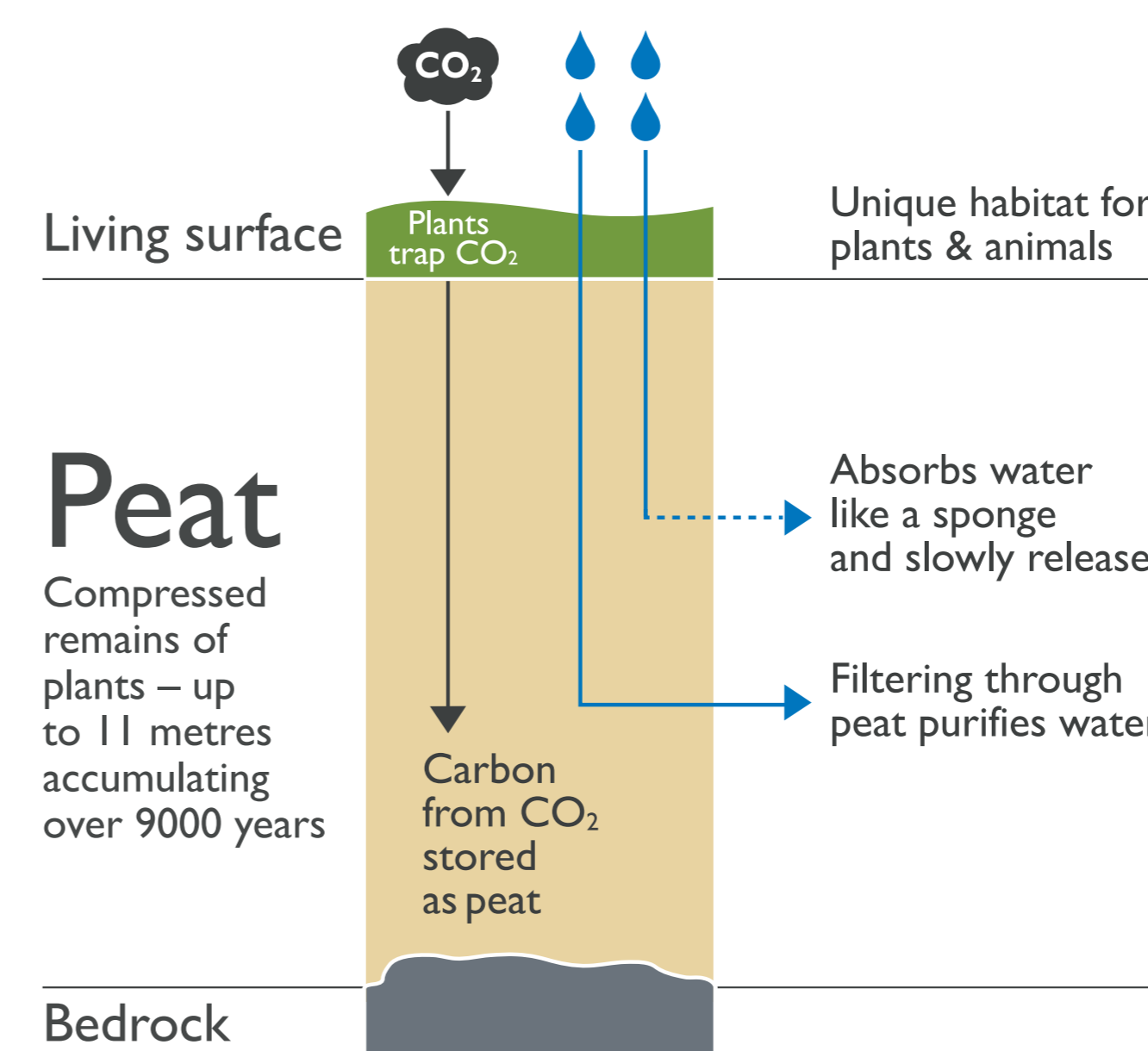
Living Surface
Rich in Sphagnum moss



POSITIVE IMPACT

- Supports a wide range of special plants and animals
- Slows down water helping with flood management
- Is a natural filter for drinking water
- Vital for storing carbon and reducing the impact of climate change

How a healthy bog works



13% of the world's blanket bog (Peatland habitat) can be found in the UK

70% of the UK's drinking water originates from peatland catchments – water companies need to spend significant amounts of money treating such water.

20x more carbon Scottish Peatlands store than UK forests

Glenshee Restoration Project

Peatland Action is a Scotland wide programme. Its key aim is to restore peatland habitats for long-term Carbon benefits. Since 2013 Peatland Action has provided nearly £8m of funding to restore 85 square kilometres of degraded peatland across Scotland.

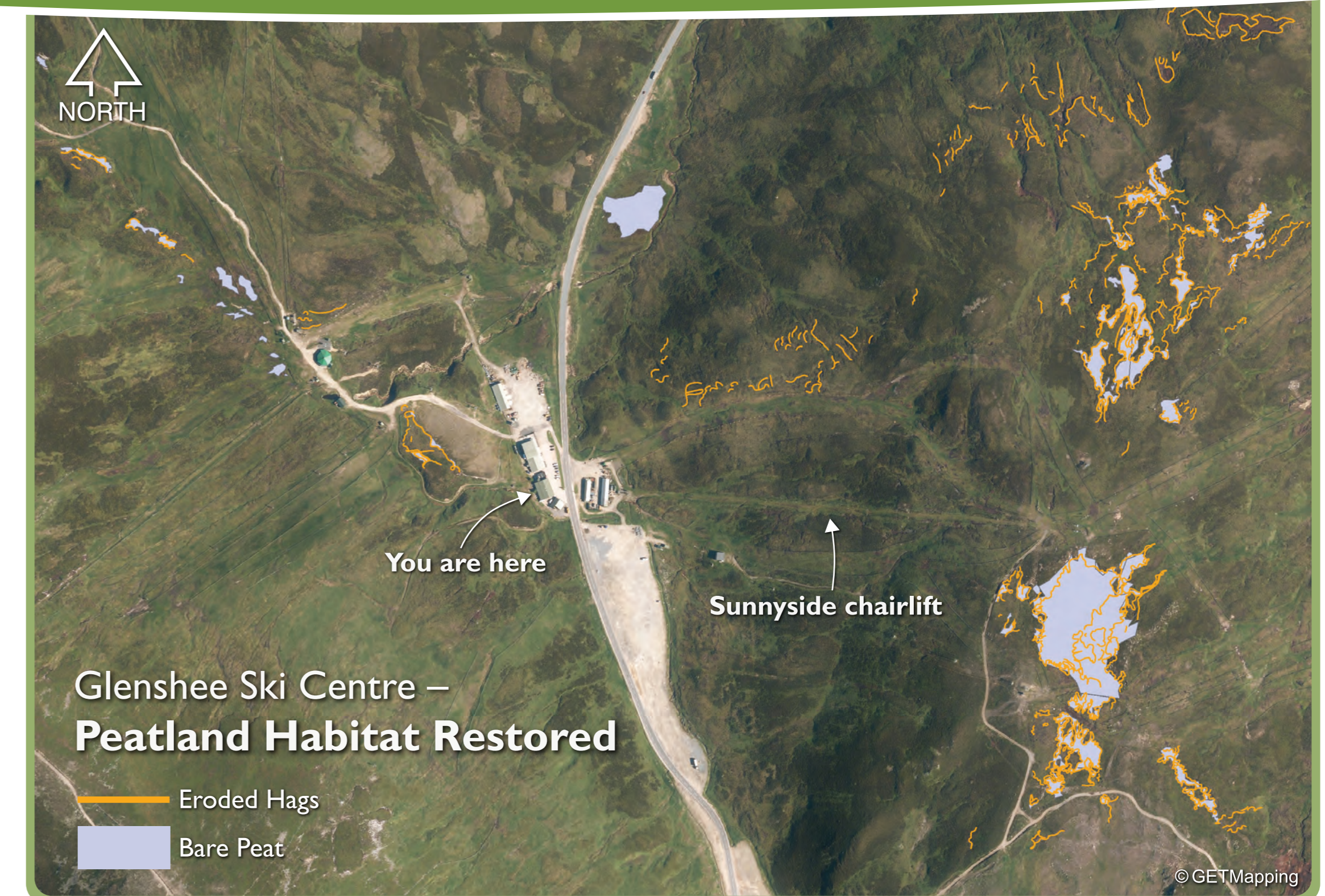
Glenshee Ski Centre

Peatland Action supported a project in 2015 to target degraded peatland in the area adjacent to the Sunnyside ski runs and at the top of the Sunnyside chairlift.

Cumbrian based contractors, Barker & Bland, used eight ton excavators to repair and re-vegetate the 11 kilometres of eroded peat hags and gullies.





Spreading sphagnum rich mulch onto bare peat (above) to create a living carpet of mosses across the surface and repairing peat hags (left).



Vegetated peat surfaces on the ski runs will hold snow longer than bare peat.




Bare Peat restoration area size = 8 Football pitches


Carbon Savings per year from restoration = Carbon Emissions from 280 houses

8
 other sites across the Cairngorms National Park have restored a total of 8 km² of degraded peatland