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Das Hohes Venn

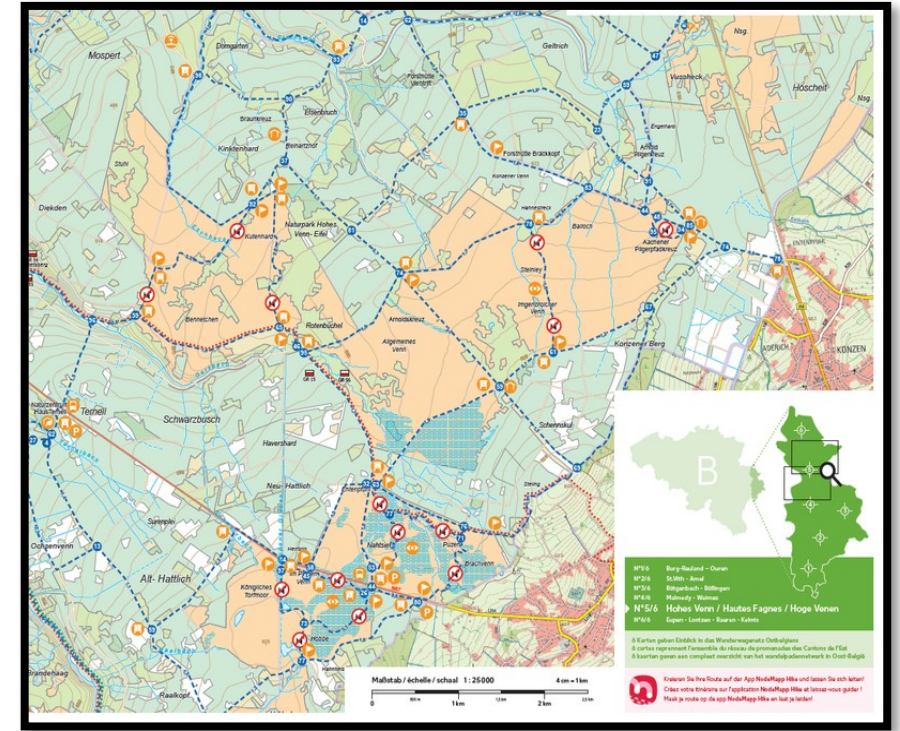
A group of random people

A brief introduction

The **largest nature reserve in Belgium** (on the border with Germany)

It covers an area of 45 000 km²

The highest point of Belgium lies there – Le Signal de Botrange (694 m)

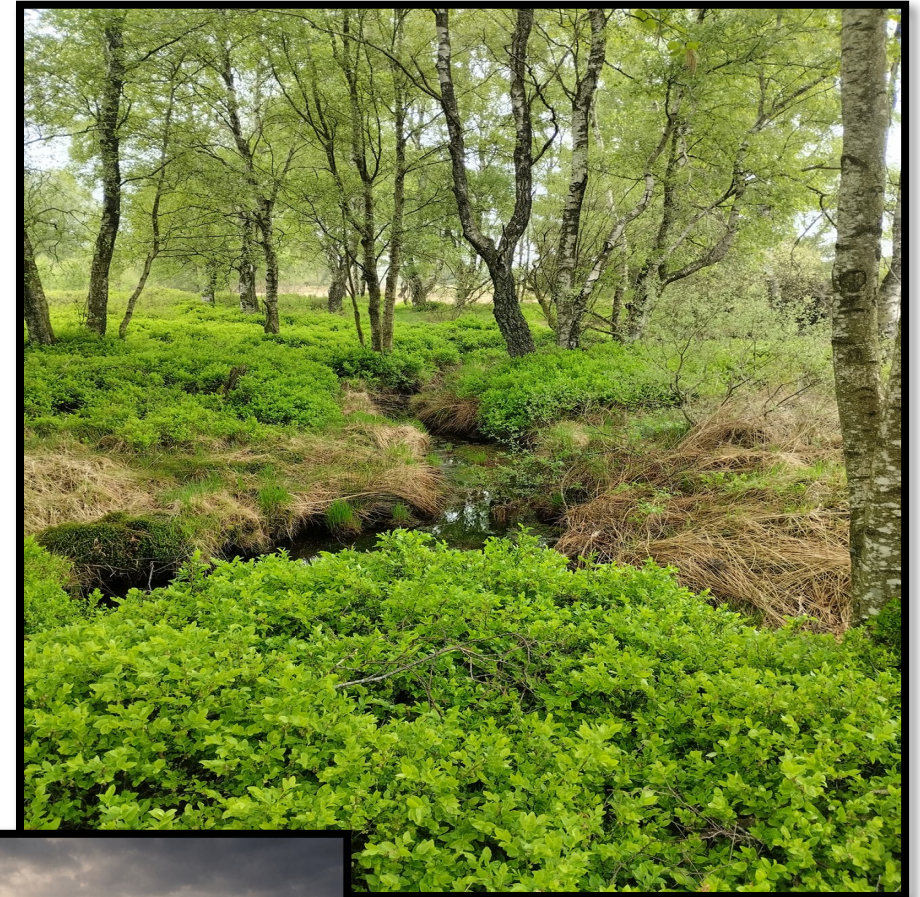


A brief introduction

The habitat mainly consists of **sphagnum raised bogs** (swamps on top of a mountain)

These are over 10,000 years old

They form extremely slowly at a rate of 1 mm a year (8 m in 8,000 years)



How it all began...

Their formation began at the end of the last **Ice Age**

The mountain glaciers started to lower and in doing so created the moorlands

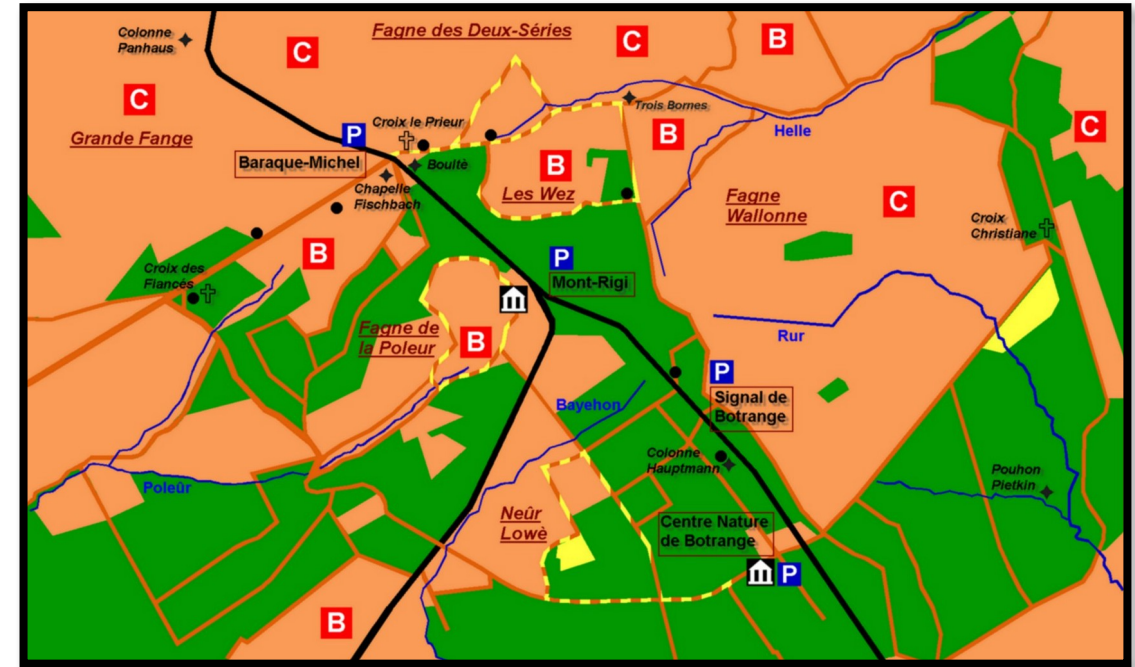


Zones of protection

B – open to the public (this is where we went)

C – closed (the endangered black grouse – *Tetrao tetrix* lives there)

D – closed (the most protected of the areas, they are being expanded)



Fire hazard

When the first layer of sphagnum is dry, even the **tiniest spark** can create a huge fire

It takes days to get the fire under control because of the wet layers underneath

In April 2011 over 1,000 hectares of land were destroyed in a fire that broke out in the Hohes Venn.





**THANK YOU FOR
LISTENING**