

Strathtay Deer Management Group

Part 1: Deer Management Plan Information



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Foreword (to be completed by Chair)

Contents

Foreword (to be completed by Chair).....	2
1.1 Introduction.....	5
Figure 1: Group Location.....	5
Figure 2: Deer Management Units	6
1.2 Deer Populations, Movements and Management	8
Figure 3: Estimated Red Deer Numbers (Foot Counts)	8
Table 1: Historic Deer Counts	8
Table 2: Group Culls.	9
Figure 4: Historic Group Deer Culls.....	9
Figures 5a, 5b and 5c: Proportion of the total stag population per property	10
Figures 5a, 6b and 6c: Proportion of the total stag population per property	10
1.4 Actions to ensure deer welfare is taken fully into account at individual animal and population level.	11
1.5 Actions to develop mechanisms to manage deer	12
1.6 Actions for the delivery of designated features into Favourable Condition.	14
Figure 6: Designated Sites and associated condition	14
1.7 Actions to manage deer to retain existing native woodland cover and improve	15
Table 3: Native Woodland Survey for Scotland Herbivore Impacts.....	15
Table 4: Summary of property contribution.....	16
Figure 7: NWSS Herbivore Impacts	16
1.8 Actions to demonstrate DMG contribution to the Scottish Government woodland expansion target of 25% woodland cover.	17
Table 5: Total Area of Woodland Type (National Forest Inventory)	18
Figure 8: Woodland Expansion	18
1.9 Actions to monitor and manage deer impacts in the wider countryside.....	19
Table 6: Summary of Blanket Bog and Heather Moor Habitat by Property	20
Figure 9: Distribution of Moorland and Blanket Bog.....	21
1.10 Actions to improve Scotland's ability to store carbon by maintaining or improving ecosystem health.	21
1.11 Actions to reduce or mitigate the risk of establishment of invasive non-native species	22
1.12 Actions to protect designated historic and cultural features from being damaged by deer e.g. by trampling.	23
1.13 Actions to contribute to delivering higher standards of competence in deer management.....	24

1.14	Actions to Identify and promote opportunities contributing to public health and wellbeing.	25
1.15	Actions to maximise economic benefits associated with deer	27
1.16	Actions to minimise the economic costs of deer, and ensure deer management is cost-effective	28
1.17	Actions to ensure effective communication on deer management issues.....	30
1.18	Management Units: Clunimore.....	31
1.19	Management Units: Derculich	33
1.20	Management Units: Edradynate.....	34
1.21	Management Units: Farleyer.....	36
1.22	Management Units: Findynate	38
1.23	Management Units: National Forest Estate Foss	40
1.24	Management Units: Glengoulandie	42
1.25	Management Units: Lick	44
1.26	Management Units: Pitcastle	46

1.1 Introduction

1.1.1 Strathtay Deer Management Group

Located in the region of Perth & Kinross (Figure 1), Strathtay Deer Management Group (SDMG) in an area to the south of Loch Tay. The Group area is bounded by the B846 to the west and south and the A9 to the east.

Figure 1: Group Location



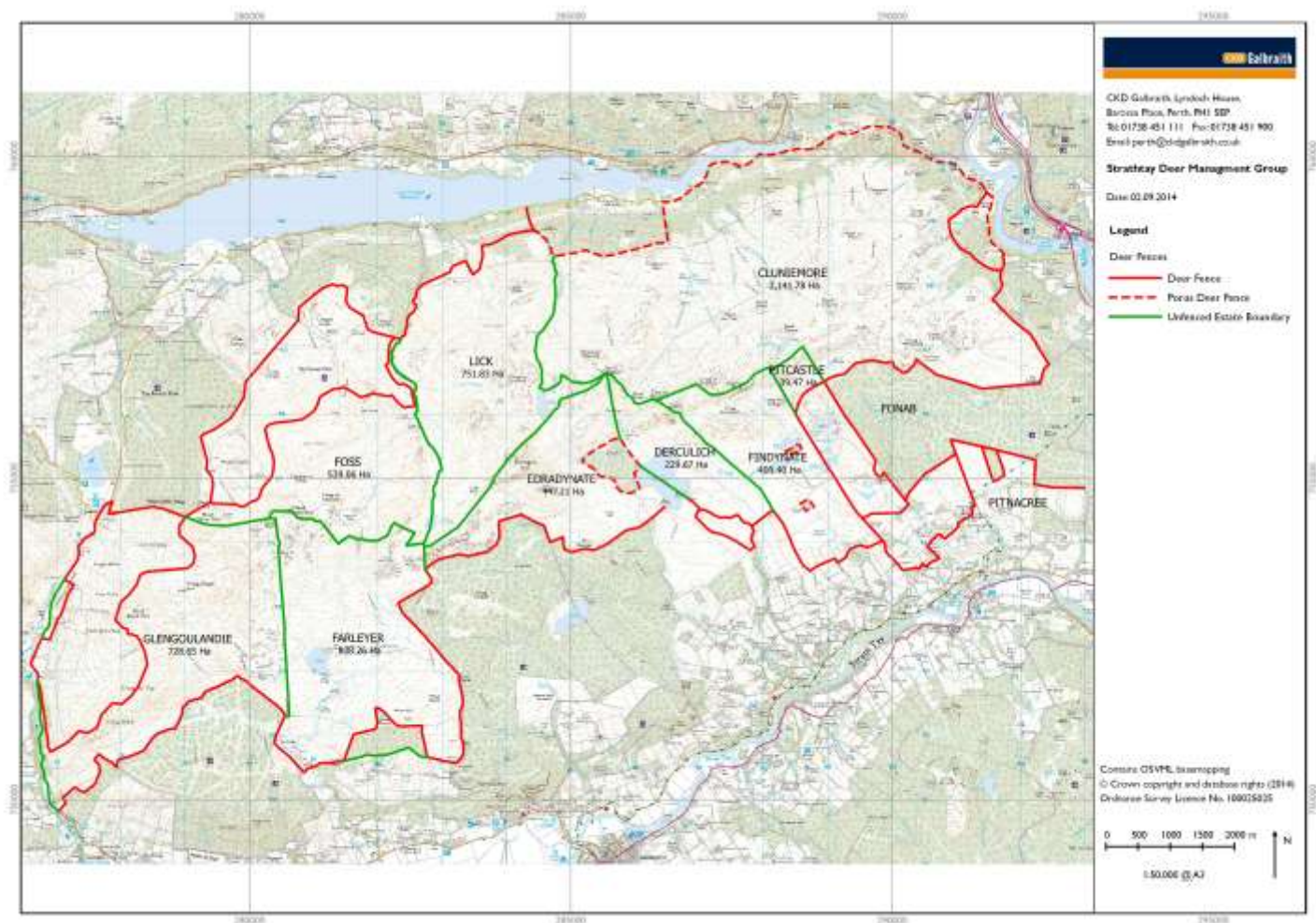
1.1.2 Management Units

The group area is approximately **6086.7 ha** and is made up of 9 main management units (Figure 2).

- Cluniemore
- Derculich
- Edradynate
- Farleyer
- Findynate
- National Forest Estate Foss
- Glengoulandie
- Lick
- Pitcastle

The available open range for Red Deer is almost entirely enclosed by a deer fence. Deer movement is largely unconstrained between properties throughout the open range of the group. The fence is mostly intact, aside from a small section of the northern boundary of Cluniemore which has become porous. Combinations of land use objectives and priorities vary from property to property throughout the Deer Management Group area but as a whole Conservation is a common focus of all. Further information on individual management units is contained in Sections 1.18 to 1.26.

Figure 2: Deer Management Units



1.1.3 Sustainable Deer Management and the Public Interest

The management of red deer at a landscape population level as set out in the [Code of Practice on Deer Management](#) (The Deer Code) requires a collaborative approach. Deer are regarded as a natural resource and as such all those who manage them have a 'responsibility' to:

- manage deer as a resource sustainably;
- minimise negative deer impacts on public interest;
- safeguard deer welfare.

The deer management objectives of members of the DMG currently contribute to delivering a wide range of public benefits as set out in The Deer Code. This plan will demonstrate how the DMG is currently contributing to sustainable deer management and will identify further opportunities for the DMG to deliver the Public Interest.

1.1.4 The purpose of the DMP

The overall purpose of this Plan is to provide:

- An agreed framework for the management of wild deer in the area covered by the Group;
- An agreed set of actions;
- An agreed pattern of arrangements to ensure that the actions are implemented and their effectiveness monitored.

1.1.5 Deer Management Plan Structure

The DMP consists of three main parts:

- **Part 1: Deer Management Plan Information.** This sets out background information and details the Public Interest and Actions to be carried out relating to Deer Management in the local area. Information on individual management units is also contained here.
- **Part 2: Group Operation.** Contains information relating to the Operation and Functioning of the DMG.
- **Part 3: The Working Plan:** The Working Plan will be reviewed at least annually, with a systematic review of the whole plan taking place at the end of the five year period.

1.1.6 Deer Management Plan Implementation

The plan will identify specific actions for the Group and targets to be delivered by 2021. These will be reviewed on an annual basis in the Working Plan.

The DMG will use information gathered from habitat monitoring, population census and cull reporting to agree and set culls on an annual basis. Each management unit is committed to implementing the necessary culls to achieve this although it is accepted that there may be specific geographical areas within the Group area where deer management requires to be focussed.

The Group are committed to working collaboratively to achieve and deliver the objectives of the plan and will meet regularly to discuss deer management and issues that arise in the local and wider area. This Plan will therefore take account of all land management interests as well as those of other Statutory Organisations and the wider public interest.

1.1.7 Deer Management Adoption and Consultation

This Deer Management Plan has been formally adopted by all the Members of the Group and will run from 2016 to 2021. It has been through a full consultation process and a copy of the current DMP has been provided to the local Community Councils.

1.2 Deer Populations, Movements and Management

1.2.1 Deer Species

- **Red deer** (*Cervus elaphus*) are the main deer species found throughout the DMG area. The available range for Red Deer throughout the area amounts to approximately 6087 ha. Red deer, sheep and some cattle provide the main grazing impact over much of the hill ground.
- **Roe deer** (*Capreolus capreolus*): Roe Deer are also widespread but at lower density and with a discrete, patchy distribution.
- **Sika deer** (*Cervus nippon*): The occasional Sika Deer has been reported over recent years and there are likely pockets of establishment in woodland in the local area.
- **Fallow Deer** (*Dama dama*) are not established within this DMG but occasional sightings have been reported.

1.2.2 Deer Populations

In order that culls can be set to achieve a target density that enables all objectives of the Group to be met, it is essential to be able to estimate the current deer population. The Group conducts an annual deer count by foot over the open red deer range (see Figure 3 and Tables 1a & b) which provides an estimate of the open-range deer population. Over the last six years the population has fluctuated but is currently estimated to be around 20.2 deer per km² (similar to that of 2010).

Figure 3: Estimated Red Deer Numbers (Foot Counts)

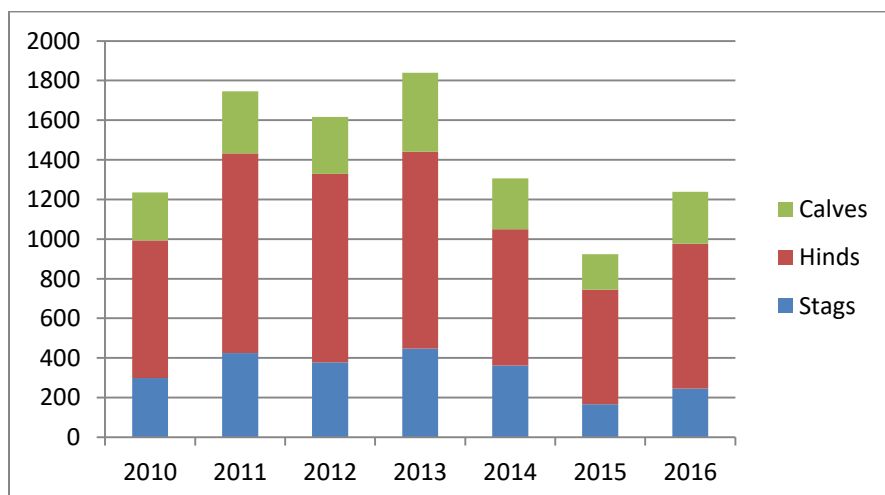


Table 1: Historic Deer Counts

Year	DMG (All)				
	Stags	Hinds	Calves	Total	Density
2010	298	695	243	1236	20.3
2011	425	1007	313	1745	28.7
2012	377	952	287	1616	26.6
2013	447	994	398	1839	30.2
2014	362	688	256	1306	21.5
2015	166	579	178	923	15.2
2016	245	732	250	1227	20.2

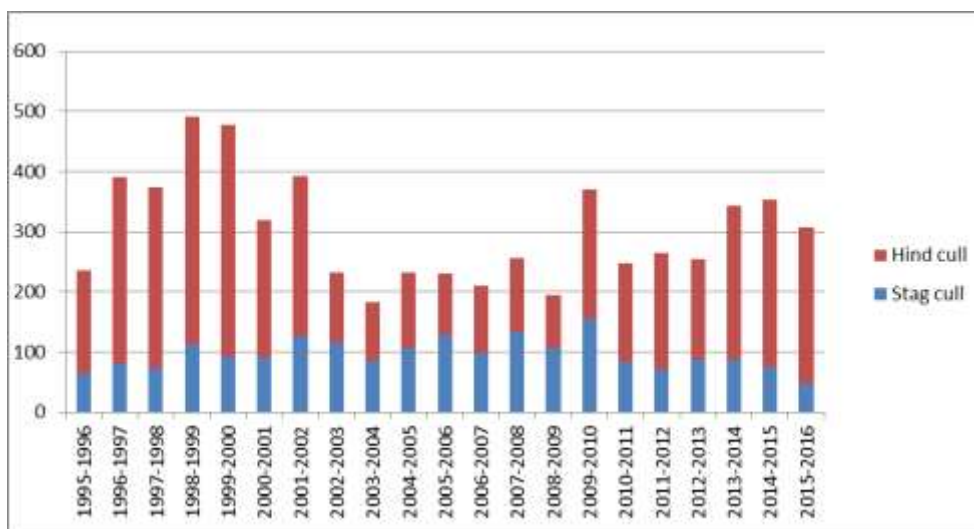
1.2.3 Deer Culls

Deer culls have been recorded consistently since 1995 and have fluctuated since then. Annual cull targets have traditionally been set within the Group using a combination of local knowledge of the stalkers, foot count data, as well as anecdotal information on habitat and deer welfare.

Table 2: Group Culls.

	Total DMG Cull					
	Stags (in)	Stags (out)	Hinds (in)	Hinds (out)	Calves	Total
1995-1996	65	1	170	0	47	283
1996-1997	61	20	261	49	94	485
1997-1998	73	1	263	36	73	446
1998-1999	93	20	328	50	81	572
1999-2000	83	9	366	20	111	589
2000-2001	80	11	218	10	64	383
2001-2002	103	24	228	37	33	425
2002-2003	86	30	97	19	20	252
2003-2004	63	23	70	27	21	204
2004-2005	81	26	114	12	14	247
2005-2006	103	26	95	6	25	255
2006-2007	82	17	101	11	27	238
2007-2008	113	21	116	6	33	289
2008-2009	97	10	78	10	21	216
2009-2010	143	13	204	10	46	416
2010-2011	79	5	159	5	39	287
2011-2012	70	3	188	4	34	299
2012-2013	82	6	163	4	27	282
2013-2014	62	25	248	8	61	404
2014-2015	68	7	278	0	95	448
2015-2016	48	0	252	0	85	385

Figure 4: Historic Group Deer Culls



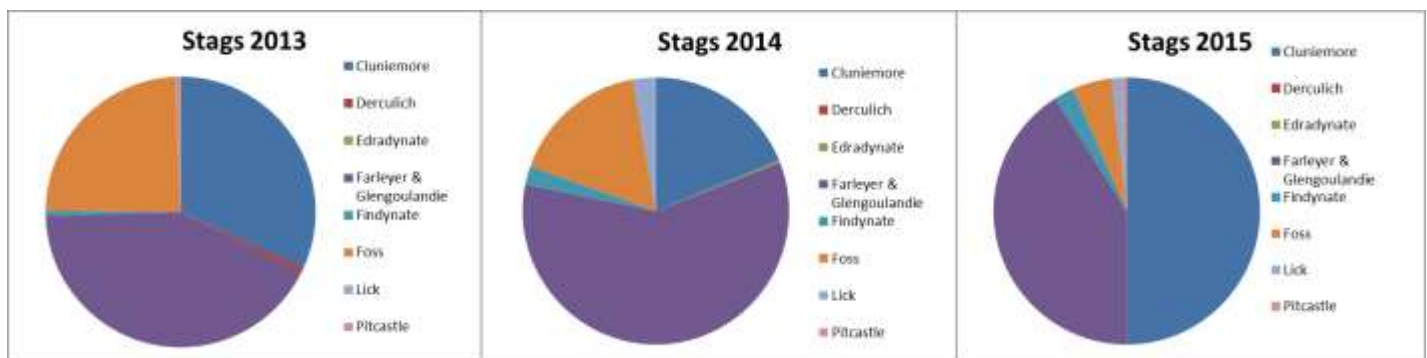
1.2.4 Deer Movements

It is considered that the deer population is largely geographically contained within the group area although deer move freely between properties. In 2013 at the time of the count, stags were distributed mainly between Cluniemore, Farleyer & Glengoulandie and Foss (Figures 5a, 5b and 5c). However, in 2015, around half the total number of stags were distributed mostly to the east of the group at Cluniemore.

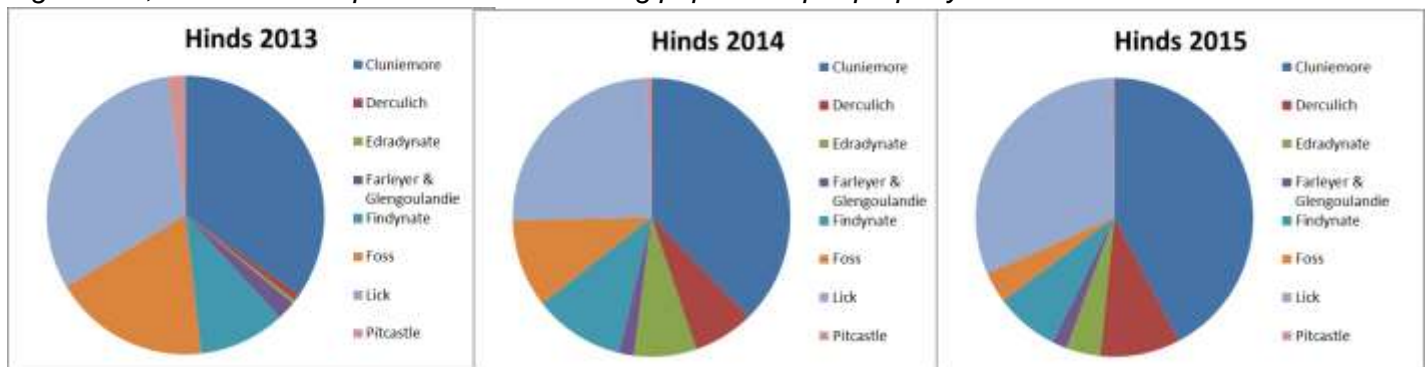
In terms of hind distribution, Findynate and Foss have traditionally been hind forests holding resident hinds (Figures 6a, 6b and 6c) however, over the last 3 years they have also become more concentrated in the properties to the east of the Group with well over half of the total population counted on Cluniemore, Findynate and Derculich in the 2015.

There is a population of deer also living in woods east of Loch Derculich and on Edradynate that head out onto open hill north and east of woods on Derculich. There is significant deer movement throughout the main forestry block on Edradynate, with deer living on both hill and in forest that use fence gaps east and west of An Guirean on the north side.

Figures 5a, 5b and 5c: Proportion of the total stag population per property



Figures 5a, 6b and 6c: Proportion of the total stag population per property



1.2.5 Other herbivores

Throughout the Management Area, there is widespread grazing of livestock (mostly sheep and some cattle) on at least 6 of the DMG properties. Muirburn is carried out on at least half of the properties but not to any great extent. Red Grouse are also found but not in any great numbers and management to promote this species is conducted on at least three estates: Derculich, Farleyer and Edradynate.

1.4 Actions to ensure deer welfare is taken fully into account at individual animal and population level.

1.4.1 Background.

The definition of welfare in relation to wild deer is 'concern for their physical and psychological well being'. This definition can be applied to both the individual animal and population level. [Wild Deer Best Practice Guidance](#) states that with increasing intervention (e.g. fencing, feeding, culling) comes increasing responsibility for their welfare.

- **Fencing** This is a management tool that is used extensively throughout the DMG. The exclusion or prevention of deer movements to areas of natural areas of shelter in winter through the erection of enclosures or use of strategic fencing may pose a threat to welfare. Similarly, areas where fencing is no longer required and can be removed, can open up areas of natural shelter which will be attractive to deer.
- **Supplementary Feeding** Within the DMG, two properties (Findynate and Cluniemore) provide some level of supplementary/diversionary winter feeding specifically for deer. This is mainly in the form of silage and mineral blocks.
- **Winter Mortality** Members already monitor and report any significant levels of winter mortality to the Group, as well as any significant health issues encountered. It is considered that mortality within the group is approx 6% for calves, and 2% hinds for hinds and stags. These figures are used in the current population models for SDMG, but will be varied depending on the location and practical experience.

1.4.2 Plan Objectives

DMP will promote and safeguard deer welfare through effective planning and the undertaking of training for deer managers and the carrying out of deer management activity to [Wild Deer Best Practice Guidance](#) industry standards.

1.4.3 Current Delivery.

- Members currently monitor and report on levels of winter mortality as well as any other significant health issues encountered.
- There are currently 4 main areas of woodland open to deer: woodland on Cluniemore, 34.7 ha of woodland on Edradynate, 4.1 ha of mature conifers on Findynate and 90.5 ha of birch-land on Lick.

1.4.4 Targets to be delivered by 2021

Actions to ensure deer welfare is taken fully into account at individual animal and population level	Who?	When?	<i>Mechanism for delivery</i>
Agree and adopt welfare policy (Part 3)	DMG Members	Spring 2016	<i>Agreed Deer Management Plan in place</i>
Provide information on welfare indicators annually. Baseline information established in year 1 of DMP and welfare indicators including winter mortality reported on annually. Any resulting management actions agreed and implemented.	DMG Members	At Spring and Autumn Meetings	<i>DMG members report average hind and calf weights at Spring meeting as well as numbers of deer recorded as winter mortality. Average stag weights reported at Autumn meeting.</i>
Any new fencing in DMG area will consider welfare implications in design and extent and	DMG Members	Ongoing	<i>Through bi-annual meetings and LTFP consultation</i>

appropriate deer management undertaken.			<i>process.</i>
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1.5 Actions to develop mechanisms to manage deer

1.5.1 Background

- To manage deer populations at a landscape scale, a collaborative approach is required and the need to negotiate and compromise may be necessary. The Association of Deer Management Groups (ADMG) has provided some guiding principles through the [ADMG Benchmark](#).
- Strathtay Deer Management Group is made up of **the 9 main management units** within the red deer open range who are regularly represented at meetings. All management units except Foss (Forestry Commission Scotland) are privately owned but are managed for a wide range of objectives. On all properties conservation is a common objective but deer are also managed as a resource. Other objectives include farming and livestock production, forestry and tourism.
- Deer have the potential to impact (positively and negatively) on many of these objectives and collaborative deer management at a landscape level is essential In order for the objectives of the whole Group to be met. To achieve an overall target population density that delivers sustainable deer management, it is essential to be able to estimate the current deer population. The Group conducts a foot counts over the DMG area annually which provides an accurate estimate of the open-range deer population. A more detailed description of trends in deer numbers and historic annual cull figures can be found in Section 2.
- The current spring population for 2015 is estimated to be **15.2** deer per Km². The Group requires to sustainably harvest 76 stags annually across the Group. This would require a total population of 1311 deer (570 stags, 570 hinds, plus calves), a density of **21.5** deer per km².

1.5.2 Plan Objectives

The Deer Management Plan (DMP) will aim to identify specific actions to deliver local public interest and ownership objectives. The DMP should also ensure that representation and Membership of the Deer Management Group enables greater integration of different land-uses at a local level. The planning process should also be consultative, transparent and open.

1.5.3 Current Delivery.

- An agreed Deer Management Plan is in place which was adopted in 2011.
- DMG has a [web site](#) and a summary of DMG information can be found on the [Association of Deer Management Groups](#) web site.
- The DMG currently works in Partnership with Government Agencies (SNH & FCS) and the Local Community.
- All the main deer management units in the area are Members of the DMG. The Group meets bi-annually and Cull targets are discussed and set and by the Group. Culls are reported and collated throughout the season.

1.5.4 Targets to be delivered by 2021

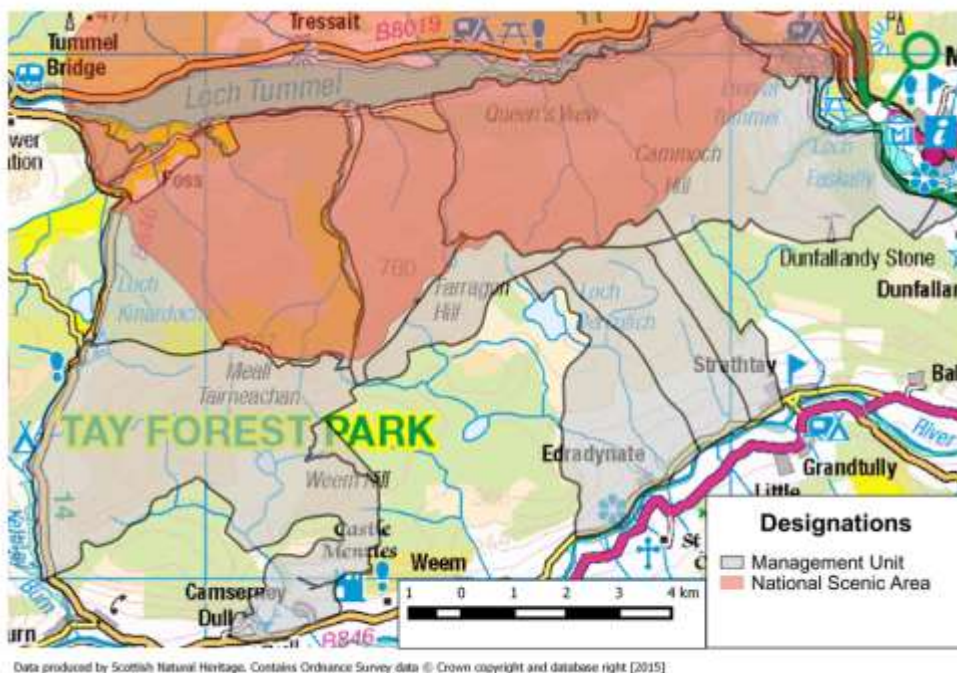
Actions to develop mechanisms to manage deer	Who?	When?	<i>Mechanism for delivery</i>
DMG will create a website	DMG Secretary	By Spring 2016	<i>Through ADMG IT consultant</i>
Parts 1 to 3 of the Plan , Agenda and Minutes of Meetings will published and made available on DMG Website	DMG Secretary	By Spring 2016	<i>Available on the Website</i>
Repeat DMG Assessment	DMG Chair and Secretary	By Spring 2016	<i>Joint process with SNH and DMG Chair and Secretary</i>
Culls will be delivered and reported on accurately. Cull targets will be set and agreed based on information relating to habitat condition, population census, deer welfare and any other relevant information (i.e. where deer are impacting negatively on the Public Interest). Management actions will be adjusted and working plan updated accordingly.	DMG Members & Secretary	Annually	<i>Information on culls and counts provided to Secretary prior to meetings. Population models used to set culls.</i>
Foot count will be conducted annually and results circulated.	DMG Members & Count Coordinator	Annually	<i>Counts will be organised and conducted on an agreed date (weather permitting) according to shared protocols on classification (stags, knobbers, hinds, calves). Group locations to be referenced on maps. Count coordinator will verify and collate results.</i>
Group will ensure communication with neighbouring West Grampians DMG	DMG Chair	On Going	<i>Attendance at meetings & circulation of Agendas/Minutes</i>
Group will encourage representation from the DMG at local community meetings.	DMG Members	Annually	<i>A representative will be identified and contact made with local Community Council.</i>

1.6 Actions for the delivery of designated features into Favourable Condition.

1.6.1 Background

- Within the Strathtay Group area, the only designation is Loch Tummel National Scenic area (NSA) (9010 ha) which covers three management units Foss, Lick and Cluniemore (Figure 6).
- Deer fencing, when properly planned for, constructed and maintained, can be an effective way of controlling deer to allow different land-uses to co-exist in close proximity, and to protect public safety. Deer fencing can however impact the landscape and public access. **Joint-Agency Guidance** has been developed to help land managers decide what is the best management option for their land <http://www.snh.gov.uk/land-and-sea/managing-wildlife/managing-deer/sites/fencing>.
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Figure 6: Designated Sites and associated condition



1.6.2 Plan Objectives

The Deer Management Plan (DMP) will incorporate agreed any future management actions for the National Scenic Area that may influence deer management.

1.6.3 Current Delivery

Cluniemore Estate has agreed a compensatory woodland scheme outwith the NSA area to replace a recently felled area within it. The Estate has further agreed to remove some existing woodland to improve the sightline from the Queen's View.

1.6.4 Targets to be delivered by 2021

Actions for the delivery of designated features into Favourable Condition	Who?	When?	Mechanism for delivery
Consider impact of future deer management activities (i.e. fencing) on National Scenic Area.	DMG Members	On-going	Through formal consultation process of Woodland Grant Schemes.

1.7 Actions to manage deer to retain existing native woodland cover and improve

1.7.1 Background

The NWSS has identified **933.8 ha** of native woodland within the SDMG area (Figure 8). This represents **0.3%** of the total area of native woodland in Scotland and **37.5% of woodland within the DMG**. According to the survey, 18.8% percent of the herbivore impacts from NWSS were considered to fall in the [Low to Medium impact](#) category within SDMG.

1.7.2 Plan Objectives

- DMG Members will implement management to reduce the proportion of native woodland area identified within the 'High' and 'Very High' categories of herbivore impact in order to contribute to targets set by Scottish Government Agencies.
- The DMP will identify all existing woodland and its condition and will consider actions for the next 5 years to ensure that the long term woodland objectives can be met.

1.7.3 Current Delivery.

- Currently **175.6 ha (18.8%)** of woodland are considered by the NWSS to have **Low/Medium Impacts** (Table 3).
- In the last 10 years, Cluniemore Estates has been involved in a Woodland Grant Scheme to encourage natural regeneration of native woodland.
- Part of the area of birch and forest along Tummel side (Duntanlich plantation) currently has high impacts but is important winter shelter for deer for the Group and is not grazed by any other livestock.
- Within FCS Foss, there are **122.3 ha** of woodland considered to be Very High/Highly impacted - however, this woodland is completely enclosed and any deer found within the enclosure are controlled.

Table 3: Native Woodland Survey for Scotland Herbivore Impacts

Property	NWSS Herbivore Impact Class (ha)			
	Very High	High	Medium	Low
CLUNIEMORE	550.3	24.5	33.0	25.3
DERCULICH	21.4	4.0	18.4	0.6
FARLEYER			39.2	2.3
FCS FOSS	113.2	9.1	32.7	12.2
FINDYNATE	11.5			
LICK	12.2			1.3
PITCASTLE ESTATE	11.8		4.1	6.4
TOTAL	720.6	37.6	127.4	48.2

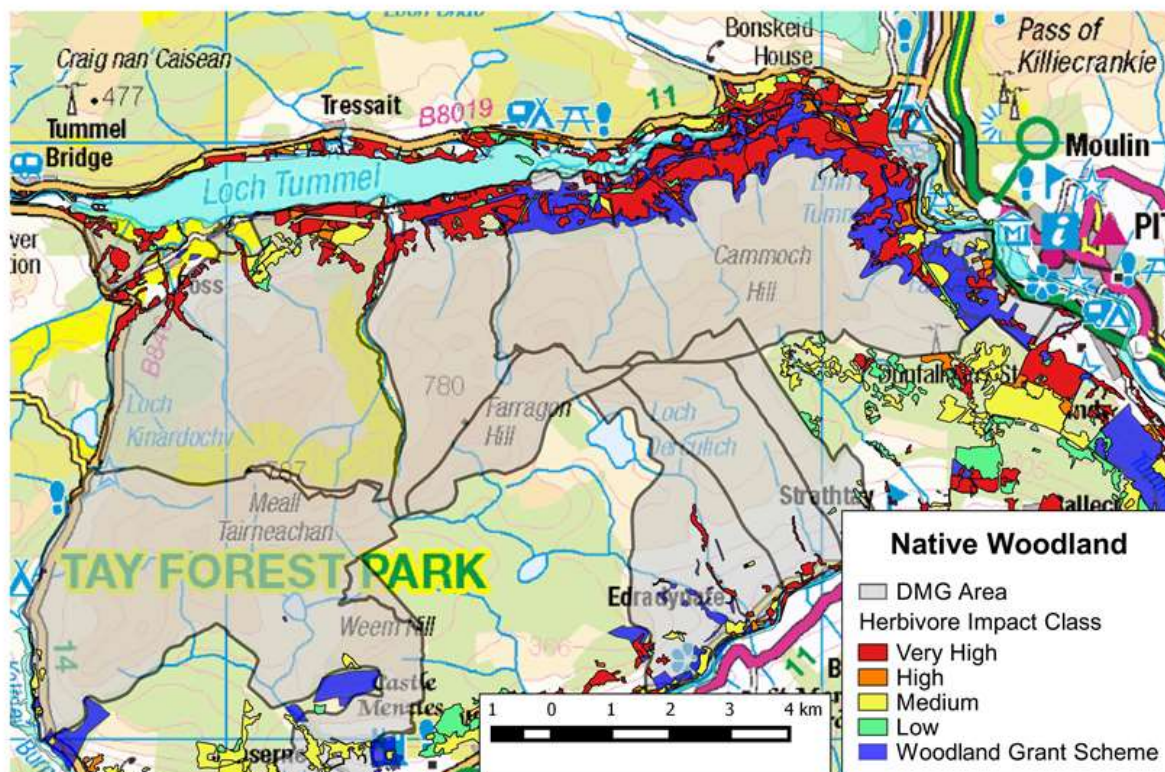
Table 4: Summary of property contribution.

Property	NWSS - Very High and High (ha) covered by management
FCS Foss	122.3

1.7.4 Targets to be delivered by 2021

Actions to manage deer to retain existing native woodland cover and improve Actions	Who?	When?	Mechanism for delivery
To identify additional schemes (through FGS) which will contribute further to the national target.	DMG Members	By 2021	Members will consider new schemes and update the DMG with any plans.
For properties with a WGS is in place, provide evidence of woodland condition.	DMG Members	Year 3	Monitoring reports.
Group will undertake a review of native woodland condition in the Group area, consolidating existing survey data and implementing woodland herbivore impacts assessment monitoring protocols where required. Progress will be monitored and management actions reviewed.	DMG Members	Year 3	Group Secretary to collate existing information provided by members and assess need and extent for future monitoring.

Figure 7: NWSS Herbivore Impacts



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1.8 Actions to demonstrate DMG contribution to the Scottish Government woodland expansion target of 25% woodland cover.

1.8.1 Background

Woodland and forest covers over 1.3 million ha in Scotland (around 16% of Scotland). The Scottish Government woodland expansion target of 25% woodland cover will require 10,000 ha of woodland per year to be created. It is expected that DMGs will be proactive in contributing to this target.

Deer Fences

The Plan assumes that the state of deer fences remains constant. Members are encouraged to report any changes in fencing policies, particularly those which will affect the free movement of deer between estates.

1.8.2 Plan Objectives

- Plan will identify all new woodland in last 5 years and beyond (WGS) and the potential for/ any new proposals likely to be adopted during the life of the plan.
- Plan will consider future impact of woodland expansion and timetable for removal/erection of fences and possible expansion/reduction of deer range, where there may be changes in deer densities or movements as a result.
- Plan will consider need for new woodland from a DMG perspective- ie are there areas short of shelter?

1.8.3 Current Delivery.

- Woodland represents almost **41%** of the total land area of SDMG. This includes both native woodland, commercial and amenity woodland (Table 5).
- The extent the woodland creation schemes on Glengoulandie is around **475.9 ha** (Figure 8) and represents **7.8%** of the Group area.
- There is currently a Long Term Forest Plan in place for Edradynate.
- Cluniemore has created 90 ha of new woodland (out with DMG Area) and has approval for a further 100ha of new woodland to be fenced in 2016 and planted in 2017.

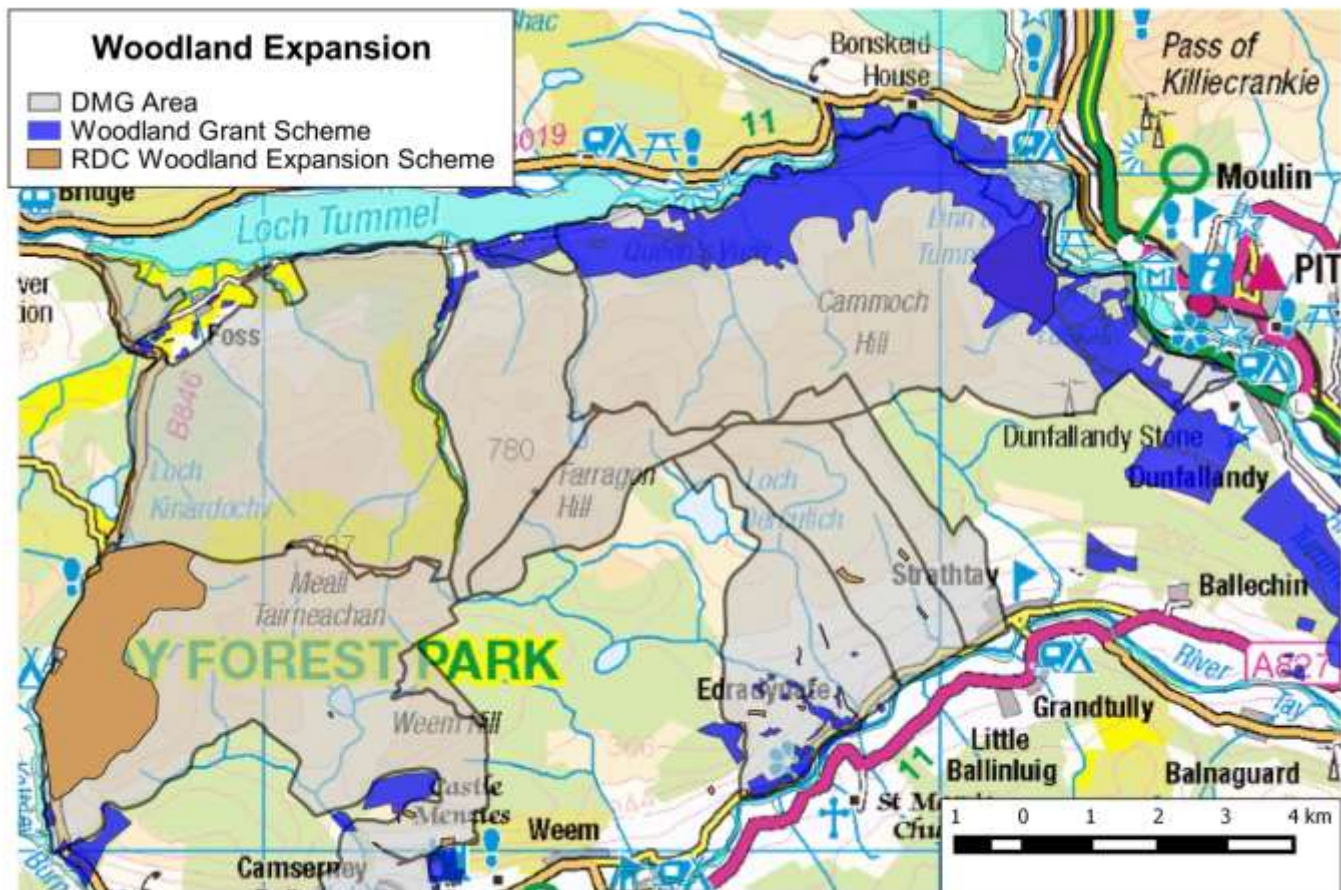
Table 5: Total Area of Woodland Type (National Forest Inventory)

	National Forest Inventory						Total
	Assumed woodland	Broadleaved	Conifer	Mixed mainly broadleaved	Mixed mainly conifer	Young trees	
CLUNIEMORE	1.2	579.2	945.0	36.0	9.4	3.0	1573.8
DERCULICH	2.6	32.6	65.9	17.4	6.4	0.7	125.5
FARLEYER	9.0	14.0	413.5			7.4	443.8
FCS FOSS	0.5	27.7	142.8	7.3	6.2	10.3	194.8
FINDYNATE	5.4	8.4	25.0		5.2		44.0
KYNACHAN	0.6	13.2	38.3		0.0	0.0	52.0
LICK		27.2					27.2
PITCASTLE ESTATE		7.9	9.0	2.9	5.3		25.2
TOTAL	19.2	710.1	1639.5	63.6	32.5	21.4	2486.3

1.8.4 Targets to be delivered by 2021

Actions to demonstrate DMG contribution to the Scottish Government woodland expansion target of 25% woodland cover.	Who?	When?	<i>Mechanism for delivery</i>
Inform the DMG about any future woodland proposals and incorporate in the DMP - taking account of potential implications for deer management.	DMG Members	Ongoing	<i>Members will consider new schemes and update the DMG with any plans.</i>
DMG to carry out a strategic review of DMG requirement for new areas of woodland / areas of shelter that could be opened up.	DMG Members	Year 2	<i>Map based exercise by members.</i>

Figure 8: Woodland Expansion



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1.9 Actions to monitor and manage deer impacts in the wider countryside

1.9.1 Background

- The DMG area has a number of Habitats with characteristics of conservation importance (Table 6).
- As a part of the DMG's ongoing commitment to carrying out environmentally responsible deer management in line with the [Code on Deer Management](#), the aim is to implement a programme of herbivore impact assessment across the DMG in order to better inform future deer management.
- Blanket bog and peatland (which covers **343.5 ha**) and heather moorland (dwarf shrub heath methodology) (covering approximately **2702.1 ha**) are two of the habitats that Scottish Natural Heritage have recommended upland deer managers monitor for herbivore grazing and trampling impacts (Figure 9). The DMGs will take responsibility for the monitoring of herbivore impacts on across the deer range and seek to manage these to contribute to wider ecosystem health.

1.9.2 Plan Objectives

Plan will seek to implement a programme of monitoring to assess herbivore impacts and manage those impacts within acceptable ranges ([MacDonald et al 1998¹](#)). As a guideline, on designated sites the targets set by SNH are for 90% of survey samples for blanket bog and dwarf shrub heath (overall impacts:

grazing/browsing and trampling) to be in the range of Low to Moderate/Low. For woodland, a minimum of 60% of herbivore impacts to be in the Low, Moderate category. DMG will adopt targets.

1.9.3 Current Delivery.

- DMG has yet to implement HIA across the DMG.

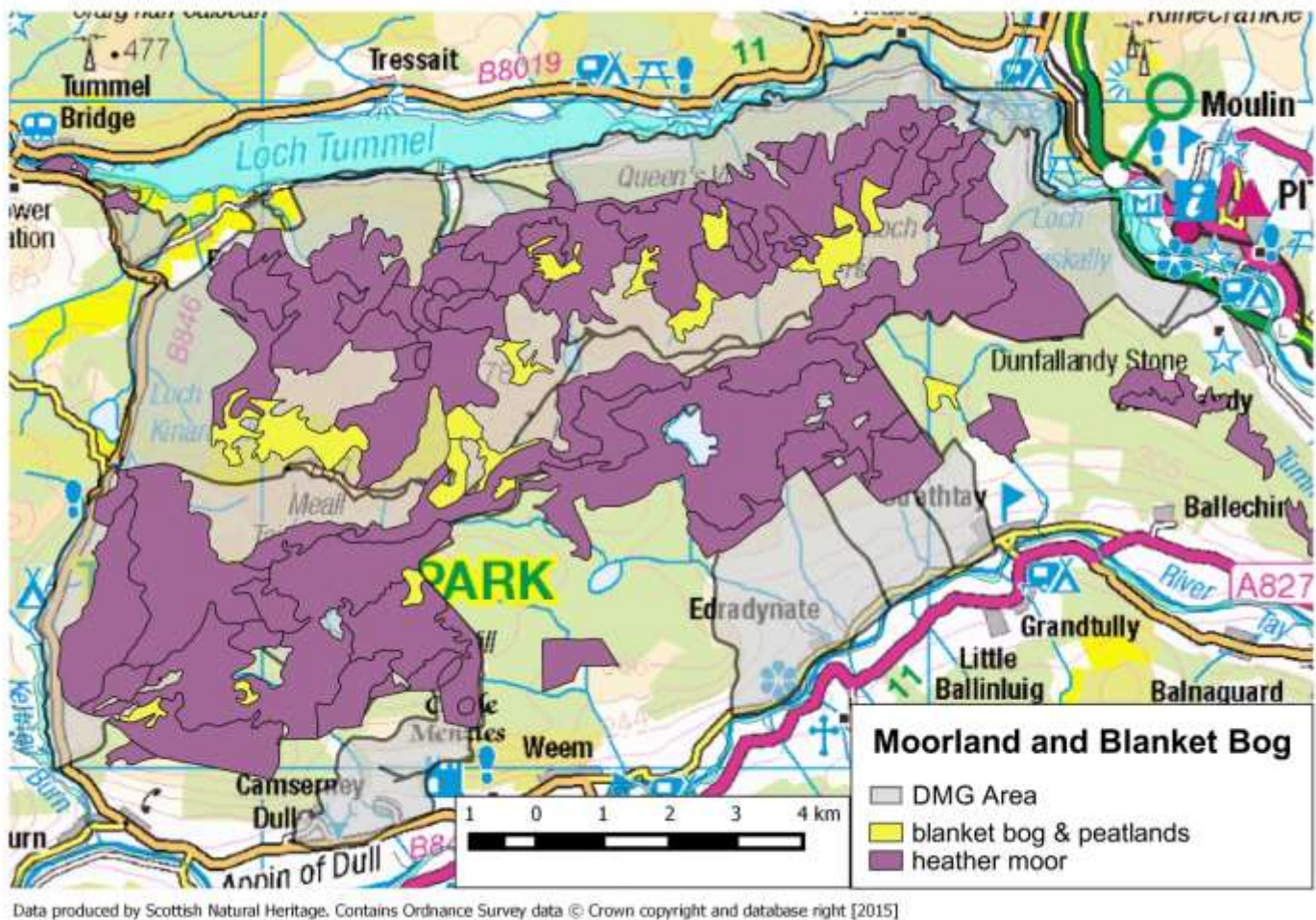
1.9.4 Targets to be delivered by 2021

Actions to monitor and manage deer impacts in the wider countryside	Who?	When?	Mechanism for delivery
Using revised BPG Guidance undergo training, set up plots and carry out a baseline habitat impact assessment (HIA) of the current grazing and trampling impacts on blanket bog and dwarf shrub heath.	DMG Members	2017	<i>Training provided through specialist consultant. Random plots available from SNH. Habitat Assessment Protocols agreed with SNH and conducted according to methodology specified in Part 3.</i>
Summary of initial assessment results reported to DMG. Targets and management actions agreed.	DMG Members	Ongoing	<i>Group Secretary to collate habitat data at DMG level.</i>
Repeat HIA and management actions agreed. Impacts to be managed within acceptable ranges according to MacDonald et al. 1998	DMG Chair and Secretary	2020	<i>Meetings used to discuss and agree actions.</i>

Table 6: Summary of Blanket Bog and Heather Moor Habitat by Property

	Vegetation Type				
	blanket bog & peatlands	heather moor	improved grassland	montane vegetation	smooth grassland
Total	343.5	2702.1	589.2	756.7	528.0

Figure 9: Distribution of Moorland and Blanket Bog



1.10 Actions to improve Scotland's ability to store carbon by maintaining or improving ecosystem health.

1.10.1 Background

Carbon rich soils and peatland areas provide multiple benefits, e.g. good water quality, biodiversity and climate change mitigation as soil carbon stores and through [carbon sequestration](#). [Blanket bog](#) is a type of peatland found in the uplands. Although Blanket bog is a rare habitat globally and is restricted to cool, wet, typically oceanic climates, Scotland holds a significant proportion of the European and world resource.

Growing trees is another way to increase the natural carbon reservoir.

In partnership with Government agencies, DMGs are expected to contribute to research and implement and deliver actions to deliver optimum habitat condition for carbon capture and storage.

1.10.2 Plan Objectives

The plan will aim to acknowledge all contributions to carbon storage through woodland and peatlands within SDMG and detail actions to address any negative herbivore impacts.

The plan will identify opportunities to secure carbon by quantifying areas of Blanket Bog which could be restored by drain blocking and through the re-profiling and revegetating of haggard peat.

1.10.3 Current Delivery.

- DMG manages around **2486.3 ha of woodland** and an area of **343.5 ha of blanket bog** (see Section 8&9) has been identified within the DMG Area.
- The actions currently being undertaken by the DMG to retain existing native woodland and encourage woodland expansion have been detailed in Sections 7 & 8.
- The DMG has not been asked to contribute to River Basin Management Planning

1.10.4 Targets to be delivered by 2021

Actions to improve Scotland's ability to store carbon by maintaining or improving ecosystem health.	Who?	When?	<i>Mechanism for delivery</i>
Using revised BPG Guidance set up plots and carry out a baseline habitat impact assessment (HIA) of the current grazing and trampling impacts on blanket bog and native woodland.	DMG Members	Ongoing	<i>Actions as for woodland and for managing wider impacts.</i>
Potential areas for Peatland Restoration identified and options for Peatland restoration or management promoted to DMG Members	DMG Members DMG Chair and Secretary	End 2016	<i>Areas identified through habitat impact assessments and aerial photography. Funding options to be explored.</i>
Contribute to River Basin Management Planning as appropriate	DMG Members	As requested.	<i>Possible liaison with local Salmon District Fishery Board</i>

1.11 Actions to reduce or mitigate the risk of establishment of invasive non-native species

1.11.1 Background

- There are no Sika deer established within the immediate DMG area, although there have been the occasional Sika shot over the last ten years on Pitcastle, Derculich, Edradynate and Lick.
- Feral pigs or feral goats have not so far been sighted within the DMG area.

1.11.2 Plan Objectives

- The plan will aim to reduce or mitigate the risk of establishment of invasive non-native species of deer (Sika and Muntjac).
- Plan to highlight other invasive species such as Feral Pigs and Feral Goats
- Plan to detail agreed policies and actions required by the DMG to monitor

1.11.3 Current Delivery.

The DMG reports on any Sika culled or sightings currently.

1.11.4 Targets to be delivered by 2021

Actions to reduce or mitigate the risk of establishment of invasive non-native species	Who?	When?	<i>Mechanism for delivery</i>
Muntjac sightings reported to SNH and Sika managed to prevent their establishment within Strathay DMG area	DMG Members	Ongoing	<i>Members report muntjac sightings to SNH. Sika controlled as per legal constraints.</i>
DMG will continue to manage non-native species as per the Invasive Species Policy (Part 3).	DMG Members	Ongoing	<i>Agreed policy in place.</i>
Feral Pigs managed according to Policy Guidelines currently being agreed by SNH.	Ongoing	DMG Members	<i>Members will report sightings of feral pigs and shoot on sight (subject to welfare considerations) within DMG area. Implement Feral Pig management policy adopted once agreed by SNH.</i>
Feral goat management policy to be agreed.	By end 2016	DMG Members	<i>Group will use meeting in Autumn to agree a policy for the management of Feral Goats should they ever become established.</i>

1.12 Actions to protect designated historic and cultural features from being damaged by deer e.g. by trampling.

1.12.1 Background

- Certain types of historic or culturally significant features may be impacted positively from deer and deer management activity through for example, grazing to keep sites exposed. Impacts may also be negative however, where deer may cause damage through trampling or by jumping over stone-work for example. DMGs should contribute to conserving and enhancing the cultural and historic landscape e.g. ensure that trampling of sites is avoided particularly in the case of protected designated historic features.

- Deer fencing, when properly planned for, constructed and maintained, can be an effective way of controlling deer to allow different land-uses to co-exist in close proximity, and to protect public safety. Deer fencing can however impact the landscape and public access. **Joint-Agency Guidance** has been developed to help land managers decide what is the best management option for their land <http://www.snh.gov.uk/land-and-sea/managing-wildlife/managing-deer/sites/fencing>.

1.12.2 Plan Objectives

Plan to consider deer management actions which contribute or impact on delivery of conserving and enhancing the local cultural and historic landscape.

1.12.3 Current Delivery.

- The DMG is currently unaware of any cultural or historic features that are being impacted on by deer.
- Any woodland creation projects are currently required by Forestry Commission Scotland to carry out this assessment

1.12.4 Targets to be delivered by 2021

Actions to protect designated historic and cultural features from being damaged by deer e.g. by trampling.	Who?	When?	<i>Mechanism for delivery</i>
Identify any features on Strathday that may be impacted on by deer.	DMG Members	By end of 2016	<i>Members to report to meeting.</i>
If features identified, ensure the appropriate management is implemented and report to DMG.	DMG Members	Ongoing	<i>Actions implemented as appropriate.</i>
All future fencing proposals to follow Joint Agency Guidance	Ongoing	DMG Members	<i>Part of the DMG area falls within a National Scenic Area. New fencing proposals will follow Joint Agency Guidance on National Scenic Areas and will be reported to DMG.</i>

1.13 Actions to contribute to delivering higher standards of competence in deer management.

1.13.1 Background

The DMG recognises the importance of delivering higher standards of competence in deer management through:

- promoting and offering opportunities for Members to take up formal training opportunities;
- facilitating continuous professional development activities;
- and ensuring Wild Deer Best Practice guidance is adopted in deer management activities throughout the DMG.

1.13.2 Plan Objectives

DMP to ascertain training levels among Group Members and to develop a training policy and programme.

1.13.3 Current Delivery

Currently 86% of individuals involved in practical Deer Management have DSC Level 1 and 57% Level 2.

1.13.4 Targets to be delivered by 2021

Actions to contribute to delivering higher standards of competence in deer management.	Who?	When?	<i>Mechanism for delivery</i>
DMG will adopt the training policy statement (Part 3).	DMG Members	Spring 2016	<i>Agreed policy in place.</i>
Ascertain training levels among DMG Members and report on progress on an annual basis.	DMG Secretary and Members	Spring Meeting	<i>All properties to provide a list of qualifications (and renewal dates) of deer/estate managers and specify requirements for additional training.</i>
Develop and implement a training programme to assist in the provision of training for DMG Members who lack the necessary qualification or for individuals who wish to enhance their skills.	DMG Chair and Secretary	By 2021	<i>Secretary will collate and analyse information and organise training on behalf of the DMG where required.</i>

1.14 Actions to Identify and promote opportunities contributing to public health and wellbeing.

1.14.1 Background

- Deer are of great social and cultural value to Scotland. As one of Scotland's top iconic wildlife species they provide a range of benefits, for example through their contribution to tourism and people's enjoyment of the outdoors. Venison is also a healthy meat enjoyed by many. Deer can, however, also lead to health and safety risks e.g. road traffic accidents and such as Lyme disease. Actions relating to

venison production are included in Section 15 and road traffic accident actions are covered in Section 16.

- Strathtay is a popular tourist destination, and wildlife tourism and provision of accommodation in particular are important to many of the DMG properties as well as the local economy as a whole. Deer, as one of Scotland's top iconic species, are an important element of this.
- There are only are only two Corbetts within the DMG area (Meall Tairneachan and Farragon Hill) listed in Table 6 on the [Heading For The Scottish Hills website](#).
- Responsible access is encouraged and welcomed by all properties within the DMG.

1.14.2 Plan Objectives

The aim of the plan is to:

- Identify and promote opportunities contributing to public health and wellbeing benefits associated with deer and deer management;
- Identify, raise awareness and where possible minimise the local health and safety risks;
- Identify and increase the opportunities for people to enjoy and benefit from deer;
- DMG should raise awareness of road safety issues associated with deer to reduce the risks of road traffic accidents (covered in Section 16);
- Co-ordinate action to minimise deer-related human disease risks;
- Promote responsible Access and the following of the Scottish Outdoor Access Code.

1.14.3 Current Delivery.

- Access is promoted across DMG and up to date information will be provided in the Table 6 of the [Heading For The Scottish Hills website](#).
- Tick awareness already discussed with estates and staff on all estates. Tick information provided for holiday cottage visitors.
- DMG collectively signed up to principles of Best Practice which provides guidance on safeguarding public safety and food safety.
- DMG currently actively promotes positive deer management throughout the area. A local wildlife tourism company Highland Safaris regularly brings visitors to the local area.

1.14.4 Targets to be delivered by 2021

Actions to Identify and promote opportunities contributing to public health and wellbeing.	Who?	When?	<i>Mechanism for delivery</i>
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Raise awareness about the risk of ticks with staff, clients and visitors.	DMG Secretary	Spring 2017	<i>Secretary to upload information about ticks onto Website. Members to make employees/clients and visitors aware of risks.</i>
Complete relevant Access information for the Heading For the Scottish Hills initiative website	Relevant DMG Members	Spring 2016	<i>Secretary to ensure SNH has most up to date information.</i>
Raise awareness of threats relating to Chronic Wasting Disease and sign up to CWD Biosecurity Policy (Part 3)	DMG Members	Ongoing	<i>Secretary to upload information onto Website. Members to make employees/clients and visitors aware of risks.</i>
Investigate opportunities for awareness raising/educational events for the local community	DMG Members	Ongoing	<i>Use spring meeting to identify opportunities and advertise on Website.</i>
Provide opportunities for any concerns from the local community to be addressed	DMG Chair and Secretary	Ongoing	<i>Contact information for Group available on Website.</i>

1.15 Actions to maximise economic benefits associated with deer

1.15.1 Background

- Wild deer are considered a resource and can play an important role in promoting and sustaining economic activity, especially in rural areas where they can contribute to businesses, particularly tourism and food production.

- The properties within SDMG have a range of land management objectives. Common to all, is the need to balance strong conservation objectives whilst maximising the potential value of deer as a resource – through stalking, tourism and venison production.
- Collectively, some 75 stags are ideally required by the group to be harvested annually but the average stag cull in season for the last 5 years has been around 72. In order to achieve a sustainable harvest of stags, a total population of around 1311 (**21.5 deer per km²**) is required. The current population is estimated to be 15.2 deer per km².

1.15.2 Plan Objectives

DMP to identify the economic interests of DMG ownership and identify opportunities to maximise these including employment, stalking, tourism, venison.

1.15.3 Current Delivery

- Currently most of the stag cull and some hinds are let for stalking providing an income in the region of £34,000 annually.
- A total of 292 venison carcasses are produced annually providing an additional further income of around £26,000+ annually
- There are 14 individuals involved in deer management (11.5 full-time equivalent deer management employees) with an additional 47 employees associated with other estate management activities.
- Across the DMG there are at least 3+ holiday let properties.
- All properties use local services in the local surrounding area - such as shops, fuel, hotels and B&Bs, local tradesmen.
- All properties have access to larders. Three properties are currently members of Scottish Quality Assured Wild Venison.

1.15.4 Targets to be delivered by 2021

Actions to maximise economic benefits associated with deer	Who?	When?	<i>Mechanism for delivery</i>
Investigate opportunities for membership of SQWV Quality Assurance Scheme	DMG Members	By 2021	<i>Discussion at meetings</i>
Investigate opportunities for more effective collection of carcasses and possible collaborative pricing of venison/game dealer prices on behalf of the DMG	DMG Chairman and Secretary	Annually	<i>DMG Members to discuss potential at meetings.</i>
DMG Members to seek opportunities to market venison locally	DMG Members	Ongoing	<i>Possible use for DMG Website.</i>
DMG Members to continue to monitor sustainable harvest of sporting stags	DMG Members	Ongoing	<i>Use of population model to predict sustainability of proposed culls.</i>

1.16 Actions to minimise the economic costs of deer, and ensure deer management is cost-effective

1.16.1 Background

- Wild deer are considered a resource and can play an important role in promoting and sustaining economic activity. However they can also create costs to other land-use objectives and have a negative

impact on other economic activities including agriculture and forestry. Deer Vehicle Collisions may also incur an economic as well as social cost.

- Deer fencing has been used extensively throughout the DMG, both to prevent damage to woodland (both commercial and native) but also to prevent damage to agriculture.

1.16.2 Plan Objectives

- The DMP will seek to minimise the economic cost of deer through identifying issues and implementing management to reduce or mitigate deer impacts where this results in an economic cost.
- The plan will aim to identify where deer are having an economic cost particularly with regard to forestry and agricultural impacts. Incidents of Deer Vehicle Collisions (DVCs) will be monitored. Opportunities to work collaboratively to reduce these costs will be identified and actioned.

1.16.3 Current Delivery

- The main DMG area is fenced therefore red deer access to the main A9 or B846 roads from the DMG area is extremely limited and unlikely. Numbers of DVCs are reported at DMG meetings.
- Since 1995, cull records indicate that on average out of season shooting accounts for 15% of the total stag cull (ranges from 1% -29%) and 8% of the hind cull (0% to 28%). Night shooting authorisations have been applied for in the past by the DMG, but this is to control deer within enclosed woodlands and is unlikely to have had any impact on the open range population.
- Currently all agricultural interests within the Group area are either in-hand or tenants represented by Group members.

1.16.4 Targets to be delivered by 2021

Actions to ensure deer management is cost-effective	Who?	When?	<i>Mechanism for delivery</i>
DMG to consider the status of current fences and the future costs of maintaining boundary fences and financial provision for repairs	DMG Members	By end of 2016	<i>Members to provide information on the status of fence and likely costs.</i>
Ensure local agricultural/ forestry interests are consulted on DMP	DMG Chairman & Secretary	By Spring 2016	<i>Through Website and individual members' contacts/tenants.</i>
Set up monitoring and reporting of DVCs through website, DMG meetings and local Police contact.	DMG Secretary	By Spring 2016 and ongoing	<i>Information collated and discussed at meetings</i>
Implement actions to mitigate against DVC hotspots including localised deer management, use of signage, fencing etc.	DMG Members	Ongoing	<i>Liaise with Transport Scotland/Police where necessary</i>
Report on out of season and night shooting authorisations	DMG Members	Annually	<i>Spring and Autumn meetings. Where cull is not part of agreed cull, Secretary to be informed</i>
DMG to carry out an economic survey of deer management in the area, including an assessment of investment, employment, infrastructure etc.	By end 2017	Secretary & Relevant DMG Members	<i>Questionnaire will be developed and completed by members to produce a DMG report of Local Economic Implications of Deer Management.</i>

1.17 Actions to ensure effective communication on deer management issues.

17.1 Background

Effective collaborative deer management requires effective communication on deer management issues both within the DMG and throughout the wider community in order to promote better awareness and education of deer and deer management.

17.2 Plan Objectives

To ensure that the DMG is inclusive, open, transparent and that local issues have been addressed. DMP will include a Communications policy to encourage participation and collaboration and to communicate the public benefits being delivered through local deer management activity. The DMG Constitution will set out methods for resolving disagreements.

17.3 Current Delivery.

- DMG has a [web site](#).
- The DMG works in partnership with SNH,FCS, the local Ranger Service, the Local Community and visitors.
- The DMG has signed up to a Constitution.

17.4 Targets to be delivered by 2021

Actions to ensure effective communication on deer management issues	Who?	When?	<i>Mechanism for delivery</i>
Stakeholders consulted on draft plan.	DMG Secretary	By Spring 2016	<i>Website will hold a copy of draft plan for consultation period in early March 2016.</i>
Final Plan and Minutes of Meetings will be published on DMG Website. Local community invited to attend.	DMG Secretary	By Spring 2016	<i>Website will hold downloadable copies of all DMG information. Secretary will maintain web site.</i>
ADMG Principles of Collaboration (Part 3) adopted.	DMG Members	By Spring 2016	<i>Plan formally signed off by members.</i>
Agree and adopt a DMG Communications Policy (Part 3).	DMG Members	By Spring 2016	<i>Plan formally signed off by members.</i>

1.18 Management Units: Cluniemore

Property	Cluniemore
Area	2242 ha
Owner	Pitlochry Estate Trust
Deer Management	Bidwells (George Leggat), Brian Troup (Deer manager)

Deer Counts					
Year	Stags	Hinds	Calves	Total	Density
2010	155	298	76	529	24.7
2011	142	331	83	556	26.0
2012	119	257	57	433	20.2
2013	142	345	111	598	27.9
2014	68	259	86	413	19.3
2015	83	245	63	391	18.3

	Deer Culls					
	Stags (in)	Stags (out)	Hinds (in)	Hinds (out)	Calves	Total
1995-1996	19	0	34	0	8	61
1996-1997	15	3	58	0	11	87
1997-1998	18	0	70	0	12	100
1998-1999	23	2	100	0	24	149
1999-2000	24	0	120	0	48	192
2000-2001	25	0	60	0	17	102
2001-2002	26	4	50	0	0	80
2002-2003	21	0	26	0	5	52
2003-2004	27	0	45	0	6	78
2004-2005	23	0	34	0	4	61
2005-2006	21	0	15	0	5	41
2006-2007	24	0	26	0	4	54
2007-2008	29	0	26	0	4	59
2008-2009	26	0	2	0	3	31
2009-2010	40	0	48	0	10	98
2010-2011	18	0	55	0	13	86
2011-2012	19	1	50	0	5	75
2012-2013	20	1	62	0	9	92
2013-2014	0	0	68	0	13	81
2014-2015	16	7	80	0	15	115
2016-2016	16	0	82	0	21	119

Background	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Estate combines conservation objectives with agriculture (grazing) and shooting. • Red and Roe species present.
Deer Management Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To deliver conservation objectives through active moorland management and the sustainable harvest of a quality deer population in collaboration with the DMG.
Woodland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Native woodland out with DMG boundary. • 90 ha of woodland creation in last 10 years out with DMG boundary. • 100 ha of new planting planned for 2016/17.
Deer Impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Around 10 deer shot out of season. • Possible issue with Deer Vehicle Collisions on A9.
Supplementary Feeding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mineral blocks
Socio-Economics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 full-time stalker and 1 seasonal assistant. 6 full time employees associated with other estate work. • Estate is involved with tourism and a golf-course. • Estate and Stalking Clients use local services and businesses. • Approximately 30 days let through the season. Guests stay locally. • Largest provider of private rented accommodation in and around Pitlochry, 40 properties including holiday lets. Maintained by Estate staff and local tradesmen. • Golf Course, Golf Academy, and Putting Course popular local and tourist destination. • 2 Public Parks plus amenity woodland provided to the Council. • Initiated Pitlochry Path Network.

1.19 Management Units: Derculich

Property	Derculich
Area	229.7 ha
Owner	Derculich Strathtay Ltd
Deer Management	William Jackson

Deer Counts					
Year	Stags	Hinds	Calves	Total	Density
2010	155	298	76	529	24.7
2011	142	331	83	556	26.0
2012	119	257	57	433	20.2
2013	142	345	111	598	27.9
2014	68	259	86	413	19.3
2015	83	245	63	391	18.3

	Deer Culls					
	Stags (in)	Stags (out)	Hinds (in)	Hinds (out)	Calves	Total
1995-1996	0	0	3	0	3	6
1996-1997	0	0	9	0	3	12
1997-1998	0	0	8	0	3	11
1998-1999	0	0	13	0	2	15
1999-2000	1	0	15	0	6	22
2000-2001	3	0	9	0	1	13
2001-2002	2	0	8	0	2	12
2002-2003	0	0	5	0	0	5
2003-2004	2	0	3	0	0	5
2004-2005	2	0	3	0	0	5
2005-2006	2	0	0	0	0	2
2006-2007	2	0	2	0	0	4
2007-2008	2	0	3	0	0	5
2008-2009	3	0	2	0	0	5
2009-2010	1	0	2	0	0	3
2010-2011	2	0	6	0	0	8
2011-2012	2	0	6	0	0	8
2012-2013	2	0	7	0	0	9
2013-2014	2	0	14	0	3	19
2014-2015	2	0	20	0	12	34
2015-2016	2	0	19	0	5	26

Background	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Estate combines conservation objectives with agriculture, shooting, forestry, residential property and renewable energy. Red and Roe deer species present.
Deer Management Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Estate aims to continue to improve property for amenity and recreation. To balance deer management to deliver regeneration and restoration conservation benefits.
Woodland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oak woodland out with DMG area. No plans for woodland expansion.
Land management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some sporadic muirburn. Around 100 ewes on open hill – mainly summer grazing.
Supplementary Feeding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None
Socio-Economics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 full-time estate employees. Local businesses and services are supported by the Estate such as

	maintenance of dykes, fences, machinery. Local people employed.
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1.20 Management Units: Edradynate

Property	Edradynate Ltd
Area	447.2 ha
Owner/Management	Michael Campbell/ Deirdre Stewart (CKD Galbraith)
Deer Management	Roly Angus, Edward Fenton, James Hamilton, Tim Mac

Deer Counts					
Year	Stags	Hinds	Calves	Total	Density
2010	0	21	8	29	6.5
2011	5	28	10	43	9.6
2012	3	111	36	150	33.6
2013	0	4	2	6	1.3
2014	1	50	25	76	17.0
2015	0	23	8	31	6.9

	Deer Culls					
	Stags (in)	Stags (out)	Hinds (in)	Hinds (out)	Calves	Total
1995-1996	4	0	21	0	2	27
1996-1997	9	14	37	12	17	89
1997-1998	13	0	11	0	8	32
1998-1999	12	5	6	1	7	31
1999-2000	10	2	17	8	8	45
2000-2001	9	3	7	8	9	36
2001-2002	17	4	27	9	4	61
2002-2003	8	12	16	7	5	48
2003-2004	11	3	4	7	2	27
2004-2005	11	11	8	5	2	37
2005-2006	7	16	8	3	4	38
2006-2007	13	9	5	7	6	40
2007-2008	24	9	16	2	4	55
2008-2009	11	9	4	10	6	40
2009-2010	16	13	11	4	3	47
2010-2011	14	2	7	3	4	30
2011-2012	3	2	18	0	5	28
2012-2013	7	0	11	0	3	21
2013-2014	6	1	21	0	7	35
2014-2015	5	0	19	0	5	43
2015-2016	5	0	28	0	6	39

Background	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Edradynate Ltd is a traditional Estate that combines conservation objectives with agriculture (stock farming), commercial shooting and forestry (amenity and commercial). • Red and Roe Deer.
Deer Management Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To manage deer sustainably and collaboratively to deliver conservation objectives, whilst minimising the impact of deer on economic objectives. • Specifically to sustain those traditional land uses as they currently exist, and diversify where this will help the Estate in the long run.
Woodland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To develop a Long Term Forest Plan (which will include a deer management plan).
Land management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farm tenants in SRDP Schemes. • Sheep grazing.
Deer Impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deer shot to protect woodland.
Supplementary Feeding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
Deer Distribution & Movements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deer living on open hill N/NE of Derculich woods between east side of Faragon and Tom an Fhuarain regularly crossing the Edradynate and Derculich boundary fence. • Population of deer also living in woods east of Loch Derculich and on

	<p>Edradynate that head out onto open hill north and east of woods on Derculich.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is significant deer movement throughout the main forestry block on Edrdynate, with deer living on both hill and in forest that use fence gaps east and west of An Guirean on the north side. Deer also come out onto the hill and rough grazing east of the forestry. It is assessed they regularly transit across estate boundaries through the forest east/west, using the clearings and river lines notably those emanating from Loch Glassie. On regular counts between Apr-Jun numbers could exceed 80-100 mixed deer out on the hill/grazings around the forest edges. There is a high proportion of stags of all ages, particularly in the groups that feed to the east side of the forest.
Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No access issues.
Socio-Economics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4 full-time deer managers. Local businesses and services are supported by the Estate. Estate has two properties for holiday let including Edradynate House.

1.21 Management Units: Farleyer

Property	Farleyer
Area	808.3 ha
Owner	David Murray
Deer Management	Iain Wotherspoon

Deer Counts*					
Year	Stags	Hinds	Calves	Total	Density
2010	136	47	7	190	12.4
2011	257	142	37	436	28.4
2012	91	11	2	104	6.8
2013	188	22	7	217	14.1
2014	214	12	5	231	15.0
2015	68	10	5	83	5.4

Deer Culls*						
	Stags (in)	Stags (out)	Hinds (in)	Hinds (out)	Calves	Total
1995-1996	18	0	58	0	14	90
1996-1997	20	0	103	0	38	161
1997-1998	20	0	100	0	30	150
1998-1999	28	8	68	32	16	152

*Farleyer and Glengoulandie

** Farleyer cull figures only

1999-2000	23	7	59	11	11	111
2000-2001	20	0	30	0	11	61
2001-2002	22	0	42	8	6	78
2002-2003	26	0	26	0	5	57
2003-2004	0	0	0	0	0	0
2004-2005	11	0	30	0	0	41
2005-2006	27	4	30	0	7	68
2006-2007	14	0	30	0	2	46
2007-2008	26	4	40	0	15	85
2008-2009	19	0	30	0	4	53
2009-2010	22	0	40	6	0	68
2010-2011	18	0	32	0	3	53
2011-2012	20	0	52	0	5	77
2012-2013	20	0	40	0	2	62
2013-2014	23	0	56	0	10	89
2014-2015	22	0	56	0	13	91
2015-2016**	0	0	15	0	3	18

Background	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Estate combines conservation objectives with agriculture (grazing). Red Deer present.
Deer Management Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To balance sustainable management of deer to deliver conservation and economic objectives. Tenant provides stalking lets.
Woodland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No native woodland.
Land management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hill ground currently used for grazing 750 blackface ewes throughout the year. Cattle have been introduced to the open hill around the loch and these are fed during the winter months. Muirburn actively carried out –particularly old heather on the low ground.
Deer Impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wintering of deer. Shooting of deer only on agricultural ground.
Supplementary Feeding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None
Deer Distribution & Movements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deer movements affected by loss of wintering ground through forestry schemes. Changes in deer movements have resulted in fewer deer hefted to the hill than experienced in previous years. As a result, stag and hind numbers on the Estate have been affected and it is far more difficult to achieve cull targets as a result.

	In 2015 very few stags appeared until the end of the rut and hinds have hardly been seen during the season resulting in a dramatic decline in the ability to achieve the cull targets. It may be that this is due to increased disturbance on the Estate.
Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The is a public hill track through the lower part of Farleyer Estate past the Loch and into the adjacent Forestry Commission plantations – which is being used much more often by walkers, joggers and cyclists.
Socio-Economics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 part-time stalker is shared with Glengoulandie Estate. 1 employee associated with agricultural activities.

1.22 Management Units: Findynate

Property	Findynate
Area	400.4 ha (4ha deer range)
Owner	Dik Wessels
Deer Management	CKD Galbraith, David Stirling.

Deer Counts					
Year	Stags	Hinds	Calves	Total	Density
2010	0	17	9	26	6.5
2011	2	55	16	73	18.3
2012	8	71	21	100	25.0
2013	3	100	22	125	31.3
2014	8	73	21	102	25.5
2015	4	43	11	58.0	15

Deer Culls						
	Stags (in)	Stags (out)	Hinds (in)	Hinds (out)	Calves	Total
1995-1996	3	0	12	0	5	20
1996-1997	3	0	16	0	5	24
1997-1998	4	0	20	0	4	28
1998-1999	4	0	20	0	4	28
1999-2000	5	0	16	1	4	26
2000-2001	4	0	12	0	3	19
2001-2002	5	0	14	0	0	19

2002-2003	5	0	4	0	0	9
2003-2004	5	0	0	0	0	5
2004-2005	4	0	5	0	0	9
2005-2006	5	0	5	0	0	10
2006-2007	5	0	5	0	2	12
2007-2008	5	0	5	0	0	10
2008-2009	4	0	5	0	1	10
2009-2010	5	0	8	0	3	16
2010-2011	4	0	8	0	0	12
2011-2012	4	0	11	0	2	17
2012-2013	4	0	12	0	3	19
2013-2014	4	0	20	0	4	28
2014-2015	4	0	33	0	11	48
2015-2016	5	0	32	0	9	46

Background	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The property combines conservation objectives with sustainable shooting of deer. Red Deer and some Roe Deer present.
Deer Management Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To balance deer management to deliver conservation and economic objectives. Specifically to increase the quality and value of deer as a sustainable resource to the Estate and the wider DMG and to reduce their negative impacts.
Woodland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Native woodland/creation: 7 ha planted in 2009. Growing well. No plans for further woodland creation. Conifer woodland: 4.1 ha (now 30 -40 years old and deer have access).
Land management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some muirburn. Livestock removed from the deer range in the last 10 years.
Supplementary Feeding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Silage in winter and feed blocks through the year.
Deer Distribution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resident hind population with stags during the rut.
Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No issues.
Socio-Economics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two part time estate employees involved with deer management plus four others involved with other estate management.

- Estate utilises local services and businesses.

1.23 Management Units: National Forest Estate Foss

Property	National Forest Estate Foss
Area	539.06 ha (unenclosed)
Owner/manager	Forestry Commission Scotland. Managed by Forest Enterprise Scotland (Tay Forest District)
Deer Management	To be appointed

Deer Counts					
Year	Stags	Hinds	Calves	Total	Density
2010	5	51	22	78	14.5
2011	8	130	40	178	33.0
2012	87	101	34	222	41.2
2013	108	181	90	379	70.3
2014	61	71	35	167	31.0
2015	8	21	7	36	6.7

Deer Culls						
	Stags (in)	Stags (out)	Hinds (in)	Hinds (out)	Calves	Total
1995-1996	13	0	15	0	3	31
1996-1997	4	3	5	37	8	57
1997-1998	9	0	9	36	4	58
1998-1999	13	5	35	16	15	84

1999-2000	9	0	52	0	13	74
2000-2001	9	3	32	1	10	55
2001-2002	18	16	40	18	15	107
2002-2003	11	18	9	11	3	52
2003-2004	3	20	4	20	9	56
2004-2005	17	11	18	5	4	55
2005-2006	19	6	23	1	3	52
2006-2007	13	1	16	4	7	41
2007-2008	13	8	12	4	5	42
2008-2009	20	1	18	0	2	41
2009-2010	35	0	46	0	16	97
2010-2011	10	3	27	2	10	52
2011-2012	13	0	29	4	12	58
2012-2013	20	5	4	4	4	37
2013-2014	19	24	29	8	15	95
2014-2015	10	0	18	0	13	38
2015-2016	10	0	15	0	5	30

Background	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The property's combines conservation objectives with forestry, sustainable deer management, livestock grazing and recreational access. The main objective is to expand Native Woodland whilst safeguarding deer welfare. Red and Roe Deer.
Deer Management Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To collaborate with SDMG in all aspects of sustainable deer management whilst delivering native woodland expansion.
Woodland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is native woodland on the periphery with a plan to extend this within a 410 ha deer fenced enclosure. Proposals likely to have minimal impact on deer movements. Ongoing discussions with SDMG as well as SNH Wildlife Operations. Native woodland is in recovering condition. Current fences will remain for the life of the plan to exclude open range deer populations.

Land management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some muirburn. • Sheep grazing for less than 100 sheep.
Deer Impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •
Supplementary Feeding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
Deer Distribution & Movements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foss is a hind forest with a resident population of less than 50 hinds/calves. • Hind numbers have increased over last 10 years.
Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access encouraged.
Socio-Economics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 full-time deer managers. • Ground used by Highland Safaris for tourism. • Letting of stag stalking. • Visitors and clients will use local facilities/business.

1.24 Management Units: Glengoulandie

Property	Glengoulandie
Area	728.7 ha
Owner	Mr Skinner
Deer Management	J. Lambert (Cleggs) and Iain Wotherspoon

Deer Counts*					
Year	Stags	Hinds	Calves	Total	Density
2010	136	47	7	190	12.4
2011	257	142	37	436	28.4
2012	91	11	2	104	6.8
2013	188	22	7	217	14.1
2014	214	12	5	231	15.0
2015	68	10	5	83	5.4

*Farleyer and Glengoulandie

Deer Culls*						
	Stags (in)	Stags (out)	Hinds (in)	Hinds (out)	Calves	Total
1995-1996	18	0	58	0	14	90
1996-1997	20	0	103	0	38	161
1997-1998	20	0	100	0	30	150
1998-1999	28	8	68	32	16	152
1999-2000	23	7	59	11	11	111
2000-2001	20	0	30	0	11	61

**Glengoulandie Cull only

2001-2002	22	0	42	8	6	78
2002-2003	26	0	26	0	5	57
2003-2004	0	0	0	0	0	0
2004-2005	11	0	30	0	0	41
2005-2006	27	4	30	0	7	68
2006-2007	14	0	30	0	2	46
2007-2008	26	4	40	0	15	85
2008-2009	19	0	30	0	4	53
2009-2010	22	0	40	6	0	68
2010-2011	18	0	32	0	3	53
2011-2012	20	0	52	0	5	77
2012-2013	20	0	40	0	2	62
2013-2014	23	0	56	0	10	89
2014-2015	22	0	56	0	13	91
2015-2016**	2	0	8	0	1	11

Background	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Estate combines conservation objectives with forestry and shooting. Red Deer present.
Deer Management Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To balance deer management to deliver conservation and economic objectives.
Woodland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Almost 50% of estate ground has been planted with trees (fenced) in last 10 years.
Land management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No muirburn
Deer Impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Following the new forestry plantation that was introduced by the owner following the acquisition of Glengoulandie three years ago, deer wintering has been affected and as a result there are far fewer deer hefted to the west end of the Estate. Approximately 25-30% of the hill ground has been fenced off. The fence has likely had an impact on the availability of deer wintering on the ground and very stags were shot and no hinds have been killed on Glengoulandie Estate other than on the long hill adjacent to the loch.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The deer fence in Aird's Wood has been repaired and is now completely deer proof and there is also an effective deer fence at the east end of Glengoulandie to the west. The deer fence plans should be adjusted accordingly.
Supplementary Feeding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None
Deer Distribution & Movements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loss of wintering ground through forestry plantation.
Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No access issues.
Socio-Economics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 part-time stalker, 1 part-time assistant.

1.25 Management Units: Lick

Property	Lick
Area	751.8 ha
Owner	Dr Alasdair Emslie
Deer Management	Steven Wade

Deer Counts					
Year	Stags	Hinds	Calves	Total	Density
2010	1	220	95	316	42.0
2011	6	250	107	363	48.3
2012	63	343	119	525	69.8

Deer Culls						
	Stags (in)	Stags (out)	Hinds (in)	Hinds (out)	Calves	Total
1995-1996	5	0	23	0	9	37
1996-1997	8	0	27	0	9	44

2013	0	313	156	469	62.4
2014	10	170	57	237	31.5
2015	2	181	64	247	33

1997-1998	9	1	39	0	12	61
1998-1999	11	0	78	1	11	101
1999-2000	10	0	80	0	18	108
2000-2001	10	0	64	1	13	88
2001-2002	11	0	41	2	6	60
2002-2003	10	0	11	1	2	24
2003-2004	12	0	12	0	4	28
2004-2005	12	1	13	1	4	31
2005-2006	11	0	11	2	6	30
2006-2007	9	2	14	0	5	30
2007-2008	12	0	11	0	3	26
2008-2009	11	0	14	0	1	26
2009-2010	22	0	46	0	12	80
2010-2011	9	0	21	0	5	35
2011-2012	8	0	21	0	5	34
2012-2013	8	0	26	0	5	39
2013-2014	8	0	40	0	9	57
2014-2015	8	0	50	0	26	84
2015-2016	8	0	53	0	35	96

Background	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lick is a hill-farm that combines conservation objectives with low impact beef grazing, tourism and stalking.
Deer Management Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To balance deer management to deliver conservation and economic objectives. Specifically to increase the quality and value of deer as a sustainable resource to the Estate and the wider DMG and to reduce their negative impacts.
Woodland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Semi-ancient birch woodland 90.5 ha (semi-porous deer fencing to birch woodland provides shelter for deer) No current woodland expansion plans
Land management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 42 ha of grazing land supporting Highlander cattle (low impact summer grazing of cattle in birch woodlands to assist with regeneration processes). 11 ha of Lochs/ frontage 654.5 ha open hill Land has good quality stock fencing and supported by 2 estate roads which improve stalking access. No muirburn or peat-extraction

Supplementary Feeding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
Socio-Economics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 full-time stalker, part-time staff including stock-man, factor and cleaning staff. • The property has a farmhouse and 2 holiday cottages run as furnished holiday lets. • Stalking let by the day/week. Clients stay in local hotels and lodges. • Local services are used e.g. argo servicing, game dealer.

1.26 Management Units: Pitcastle

Property	Pitcastle
Area	39.47 ha
Owner	
Deer Management	Donnie Broad

Deer Counts					
Year	Stags	Hinds	Calves	Total	Density
2010	0	2	3	5	12.8
2011	4	11	2	17	43.6
2012	5	11	4	20	51.3
2013	3	21	7	31	79.5
2014	0	4	3	7	17.9
2015	1	2	1	4	10

Deer Culls						
	Stags (in)	Stags (out)	Hinds (in)	Hinds (out)	Calves	Total
1995-1996	3	1	4	0	3	11
1996-1997	2	0	6	0	3	11
1997-1998	0	0	6	0	0	6
1998-1999	2	0	8	0	2	12
1999-2000	1	0	7	0	3	11

2000-2001	0	5	4	0	0	9
2001-2002	2	0	6	0	0	8
2002-2003	5	0	0	0	0	5
2003-2004	3	0	2	0	0	5
2004-2005	1	3	3	1	0	8
2005-2006	11	0	3	0	0	14
2006-2007	2	5	3	0	1	11
2007-2008	2	0	3	0	2	7
2008-2009	3	0	3	0	4	10
2009-2010	2	0	3	0	2	7
2010-2011	4	0	3	0	4	11
2011-2012	1	0	1	0	0	2
2012-2013	1	0	1	0	1	3
2013-2014	0	0	0	0	0	0
2014-2015	1	0	2	0	0	3
2015-2016	0	0	0	0	0	0