

# West Grampian Deer Management Group

## Part 1: Deer Management Plan Information



**DMG Chairman:** Rory Stormonth Darling

Email: [rory@pjpan.co.uk](mailto:rory@pjpan.co.uk)

**DMG Secretary:** Julian Clarke

Email: [jcec@atholl-estates.co.uk](mailto:jcec@atholl-estates.co.uk)

**DMG Website:** <http://wgrampiandmg.deer-management.co.uk/>

*Amendments to V2: Property count figures updated.*

Prepared by: **Dr Linzi Seivwright** BSc Phd

**Caorann**

Tel. 07547 676509

Email: [linzi@caorann.com](mailto:linzi@caorann.com)

[www.caorann.com](http://www.caorann.com)



*Image 1: View westwards across DMG from Balvarran Estate*

## Foreword

*I believe this is the 3<sup>rd</sup> version of the WGDMG plan since the Group was formed in the early 1970s, one of the first DMG's*

*A plan is just that, what we aspire to achieve and as the name implies, it is how we will manage our deer stock in the future.*

*In this latest version, we are addressing the aspirations put forward by SNH on behalf of the Scottish Government on how we engage with the public interest, in the wider context of land management on the ground we own or manage. This will be an entirely new approach for most of us, indeed we may struggle with the principles of some of the things we are to address in this document. But we must not lose sight of the main aim of this plan, management of our collective deer stock and all the disciplines this will entail for us all.*

*I recommend this plan to you, and congratulate Linzi Seivwright in her efforts in pulling it together, and also with thanks to SNH for their support.*

*In closing, I urge you all to make this plan work for all of us, and not put it on the top shelf to gather dust. It must be actioned, updated and modified as found necessary within its lifespan.*

**Andrew Gordon**  
**Outgoing Chairman 2016**

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## 1.1 Introduction

### 1.1.1 West Grampian Deer Management Group

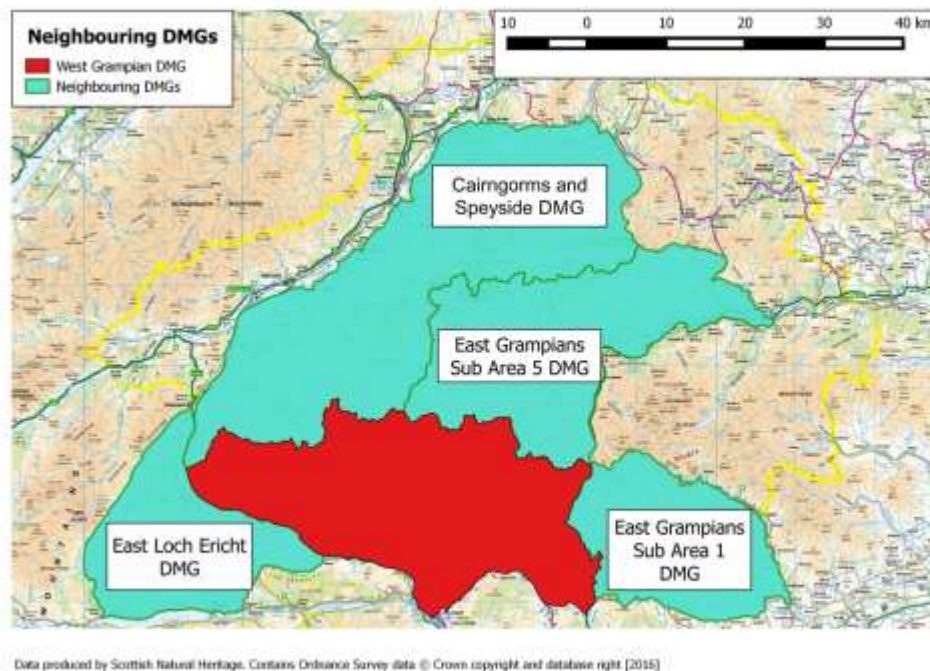
Located in the region of Perth & Kinross (Figure 1), West Grampian Deer Management Group (WGDMG) covers an area of approximately **75,849 ha** and lies largely in an area to the north of the A924 between Kirkmichael and Pitlochry and the area north of the A9 between Pitlochry and the Pass of Drummochter.

*Figure 1: Group Location*



The DMG maintains active communication and engagement with all neighbouring DMGs (Figures 2) but in particular Cairngorms & Speyside DMG (CSDMG) and East Grampian DMG Sub Area 5 (EGDMG) to the north where it is recognised that there is considerable deer movement between these three DMGs.

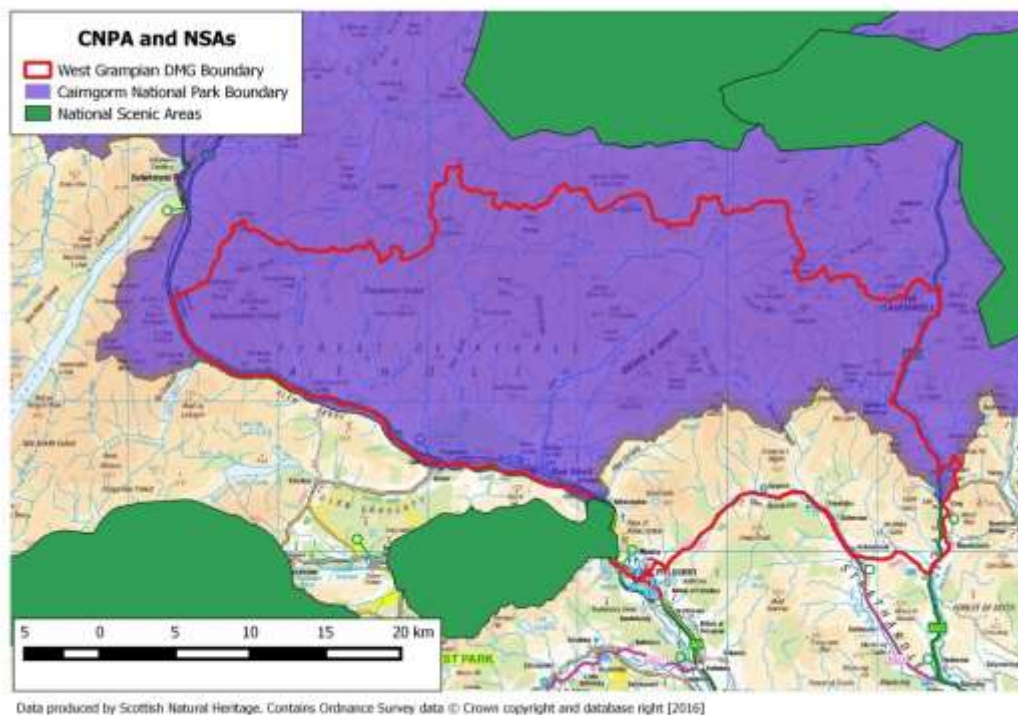
*Figure 2: West Grampian DMG and Neighbouring DMGs*





The DMG sits mostly within the wider Cairngorms National Park Boundary (Figure 3) but does not itself have any national Scenic Areas within the Group area.

*Figure 3: West Grampian DMG and Cairngorms National Park*



### 1.1.2 Management Units

The Group is made up of 23 main management units (Figure 4). Pitcarmick sit outwith the management area of the Group but are active members of the DMG.

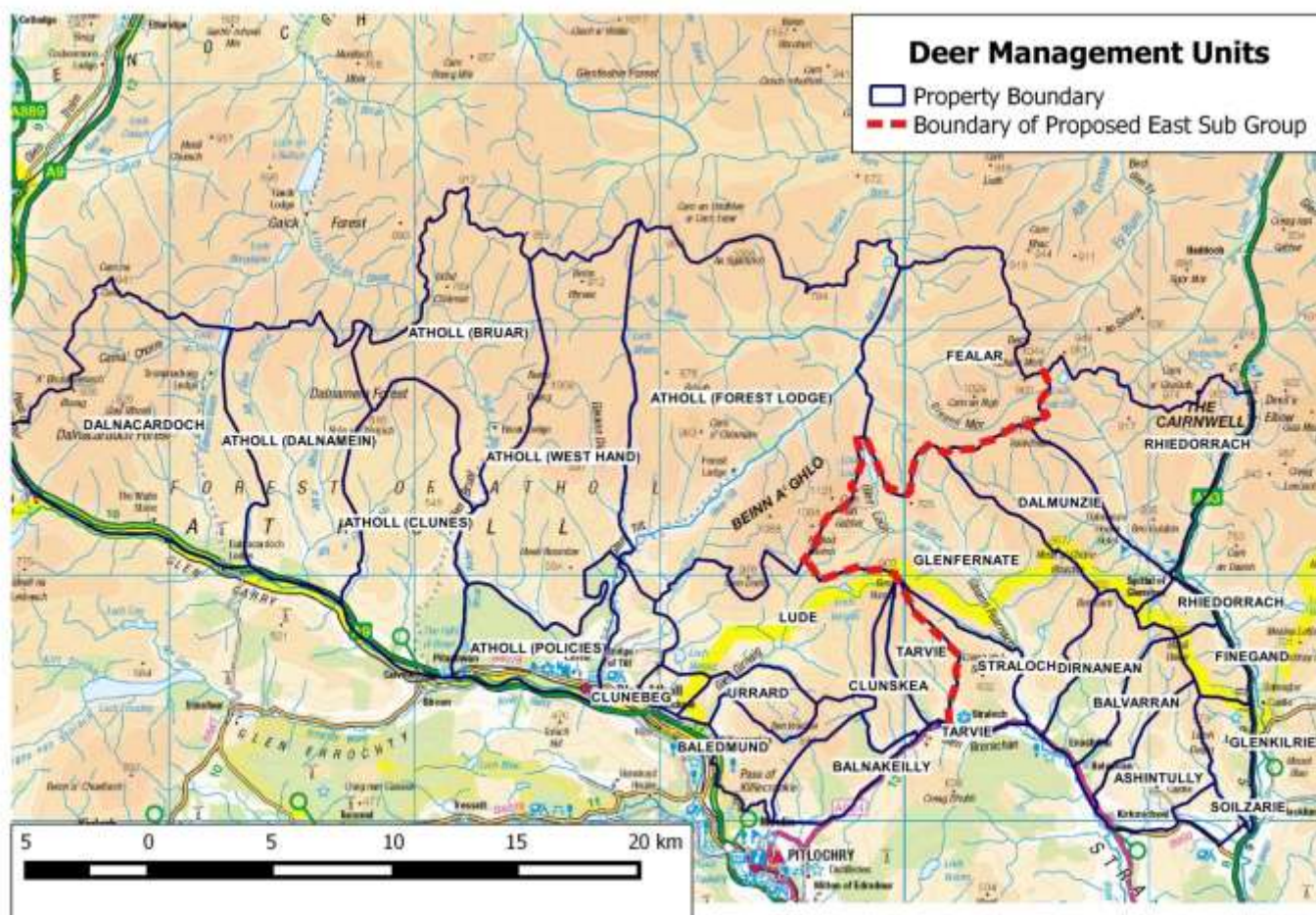
- Ashintully
- Atholl –split into 5 Beats (Dalnamein, Clunes, Glen Bruar, West Hand and Forest Lodge). In addition deer management on Clunebeg is carried out by Atholl Estates.
- Baledmund
- Balnakeilly
- Balvarran
- Clunskea
- Dalmunzie
- Dalnacardoch
- Dirnanear
- Finegand
- Fealar
- Glenferate
- Glenkilrie
- Lude
- Pitcarmick (this property lies outwith the DMG area but they are active members of DMG)
- Rhiedorrach
- Straloch
- Tarvie
- Urrard

There are some fenced areas of woodland on the lower ground but deer movement is largely unconstrained between properties throughout the open range of the group. Combinations of land use objectives and priorities vary from property to property throughout the DMG management area but as a whole Conservation is a common and strongly shared focus of all. Further information on individual management units is contained in **Sections 1.18 to 1.36**.

### 1.1.3 Provisional West Grampians East Sub Group

In order to more effectively manage deer at a practical local level, the DMG agreed in early 2016 to consider creating a smaller working Sub Group of properties to the far east of the Group (Figure 4) consisting provisionally of Rhiedorrach, Dalmunzie, Glenfernate, Straloch, Dirnanean, Balvarran, Ashintully, Glenkilrie, Finegand and Pitcarmick. The purpose of this Group was to implement localised deer management targeted at specifically reducing hinds within the area. It was felt that a population model at the scale of the whole DMG may not provide enough detail to be effective. The proposed Sub Group met on April 22<sup>nd</sup> 2016 and using local knowledge of deer movements, agreed the boundary as defined in Figure 4. The Sub-Group will remain part of the wider DMG and this “boundary” will be kept under review.

Figure 4: Properties within West Grampian DMG



Data produced by Scottish Natural Heritage. Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right [2016]

#### 1.1.4 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 and [The Deer Framework for the Cairngorms National Park](#). 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.

#### 1.1.5 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.

#### 1.1.6 Deer Management Plan Structure

- **Part 1: Deer Management Plan Information.** This sets out background information and details the Public Interest relating to Deer Management in the local area. Information on individual management units is also contained here. A systematic review of the whole plan will take place at the end of 5 years.
- **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 twice annually. The Working Plan sets out the most up to date information on culls, counts and population targets as well as a summary of the specific actions (detailed in Part 1) that the Deer Management Group will undertake throughout the life of the plan. This document will contain live population models which will be subject to continuous amendment.

#### 1.1.7 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. The Group are committed to working collaboratively to achieve 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.

#### 1.1.8 Deer Management Adoption, Consultation and Review

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 consultation process and a copy of DMP has been given to the local Community Councils. The Plan will be formally reviewed in 2021



## 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, and along with sheep provide the main grazing impact over much of the hill ground.
- Roe deer (*Capreolus capreolus*): There are pockets of populations of roe deer across the WGD MG area, both on the open hill and in woodland.
- Fallow Deer (*Dama dama*) are found in discrete pockets mainly in the south-east of the Group and their range is largely limited to woodland.
- Sika deer (*Cervus nippon*) have been regularly reported over recent years. Although not established on the open-hill they are found in woodland but are not considered to be well established.

### 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 (Figures 5 and Table 1). There are no large areas of woodland open to deer hence dung counting as part of the wider population census is not appropriate. The last full helicopter Red Deer count of the whole DMG area was carried out in 2010 and estimated a total population of 18,468 deer (24.2 deer per km<sup>2</sup>). A foot count was conducted in 2015 and estimated a population of 13,916 deer (18.2 deer per km<sup>2</sup>). Using the 2010 population data along with annual reported culls, population modelling predicted a total population of 13,862 (18.2 deer per km<sup>2</sup>). This would suggest that with accurate count and cull data, population modelling could be used effectively in this DMG. Further analysis however is required of three neighbouring DMGs (Cairngorms & Speyside, East Grampians Sub Area 5, West Grampian DMGs) to look at deer movements and to identify the most effective ways of managing deer at a landscape scale including population modelling.

Figure 5: Red Deer DMG Population Counts.

\*Predicted population modelled using 2010 helicopter count data and recorded cull information.

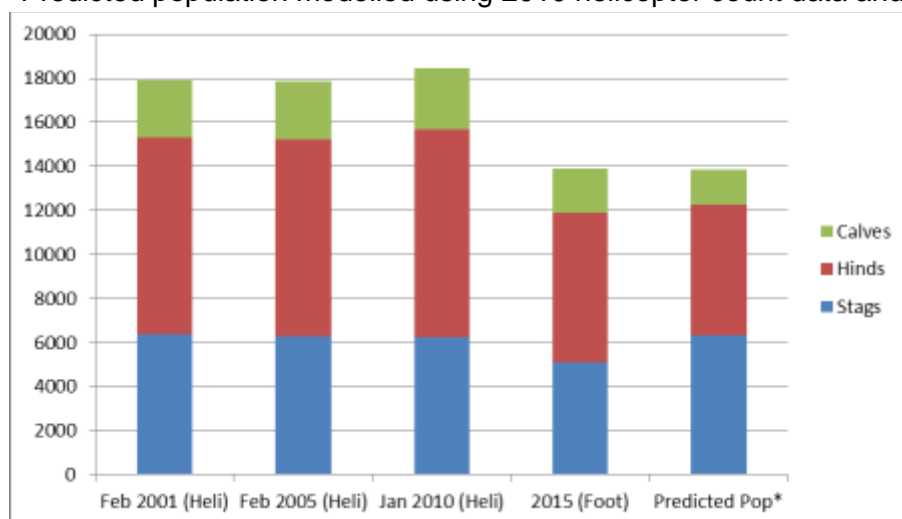


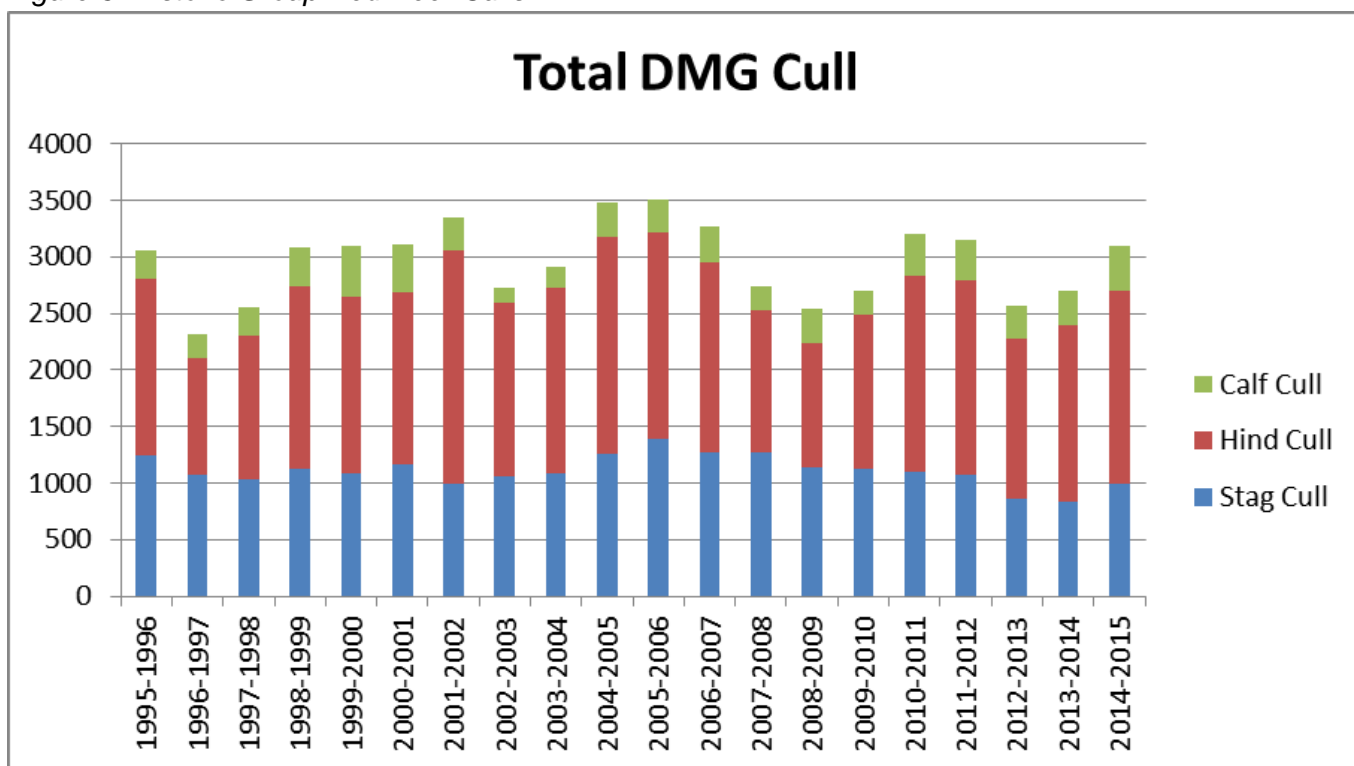
Table 1: Historic Count Figures

	WG DMG (All)				
	S	H	C	T	D
Feb 2001 (Heli)	6392	8929	2602	17923	23.5
Feb 2005 (Heli)	6292	8908	2658	17858	23.4
Jan 2010 (Heli)	6255	9405	2808	18468	24.2
2015 (Foot)	5111	6780	2025	13916	18.2

### 1.2.3 Deer Culls

Cull data on Red, Roe and Fallow have been recorded for the last 20 years (Figures 6, 7 & 8). A total of only 30 Sika have been shot since 1992.

Figure 6: Historic Group Red Deer Culls



In the West and East Sub Groups, trends in culls of stags and hinds have followed a similar pattern (Figures 7 & 8). Peaks in hind culls correspond to years following the helicopter counts in 2001, 2005 and 2010 (Figure 8).

Figure 7: Historic Culls by Sub Group

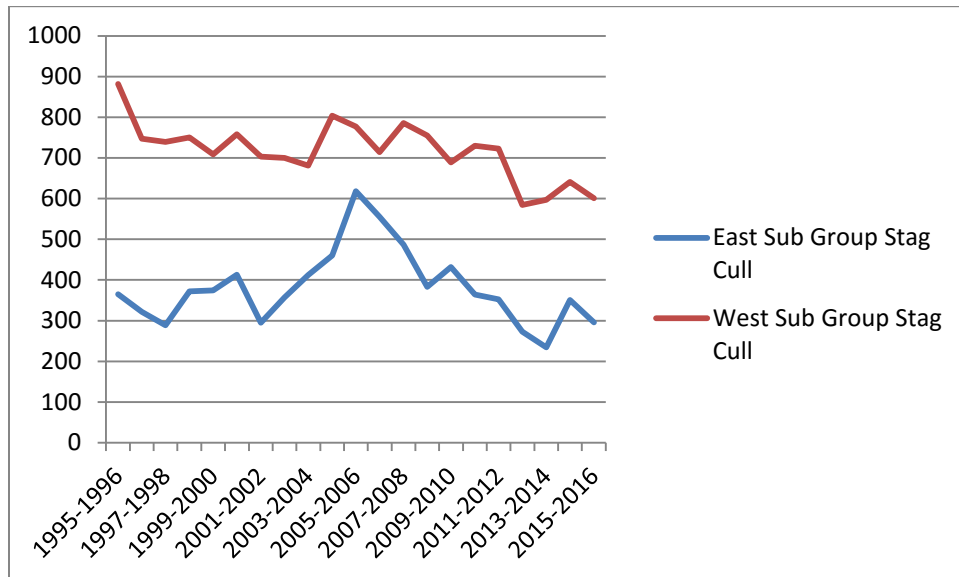
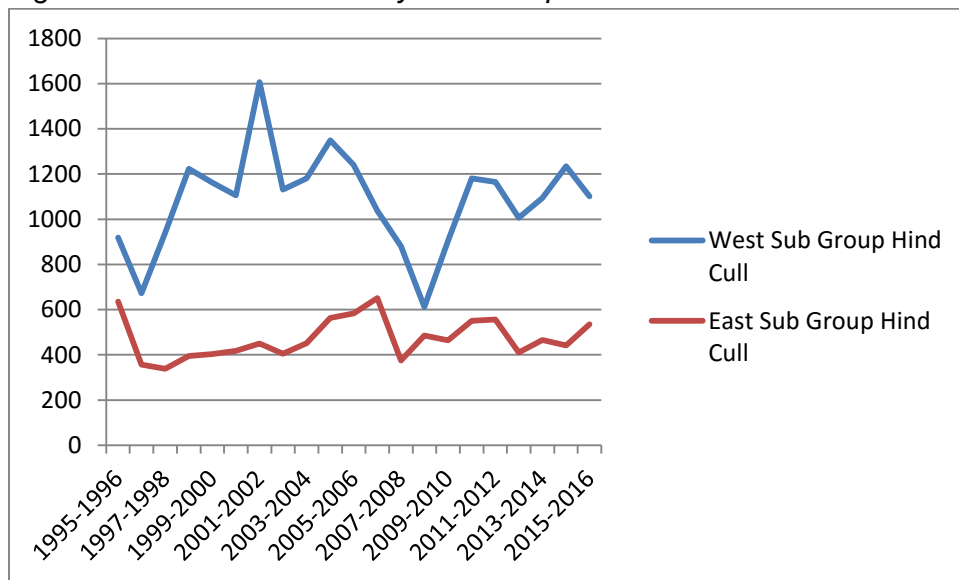
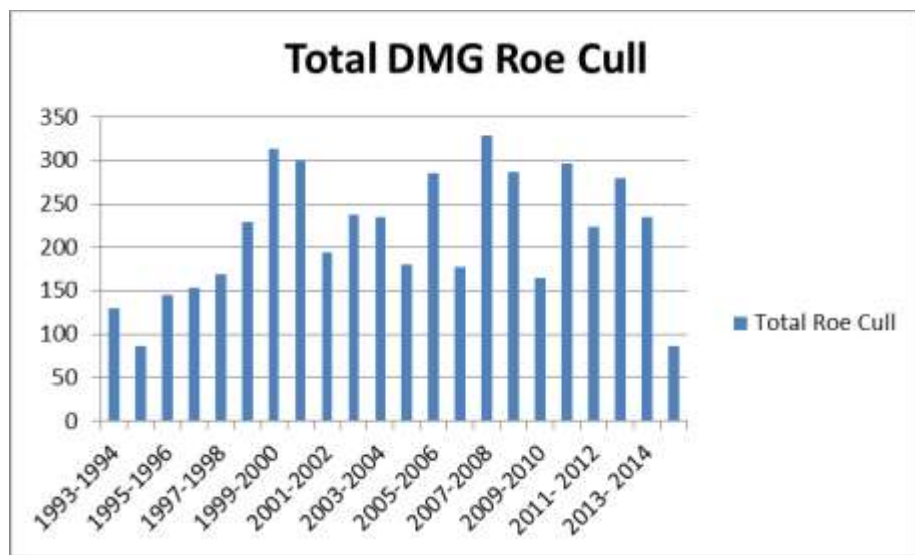


Figure 8: Historic Hind Culls by Sub Group



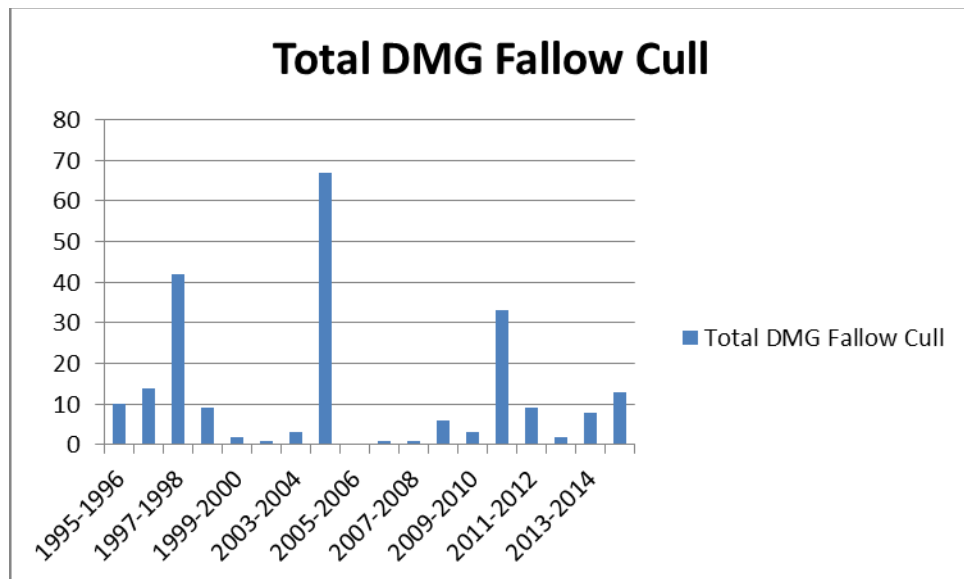
Roe Deer are largely territorial and as such Group Members manage this species at the scale of each individual property accordingly. Reported culs have tended to fluctuate however (Figure 9), this may be due to inconsistency in reporting to the DMG.

Figure 9: Historic Group Roe Deer Culls



Culls of fallow deer have also fluctuated over the last 20 years (Figure 10), with a steady increase over the last 5 years. The Group has undertaken to look more closely at fallow deer movements, distribution and culs over the next 5 years.

Figure 10: Historic Group Fallow Deer Culls





### 1.2.4 Deer Movements

One of the main considerations for the Group is to determine temporal deer densities and changes in deer movements that may have occurred noticeably over the last few years as a result of fencing or changes in deer management activity. Over the last 5 years, members of the Group have been observing significant changes in deer movements and distributions. These include:

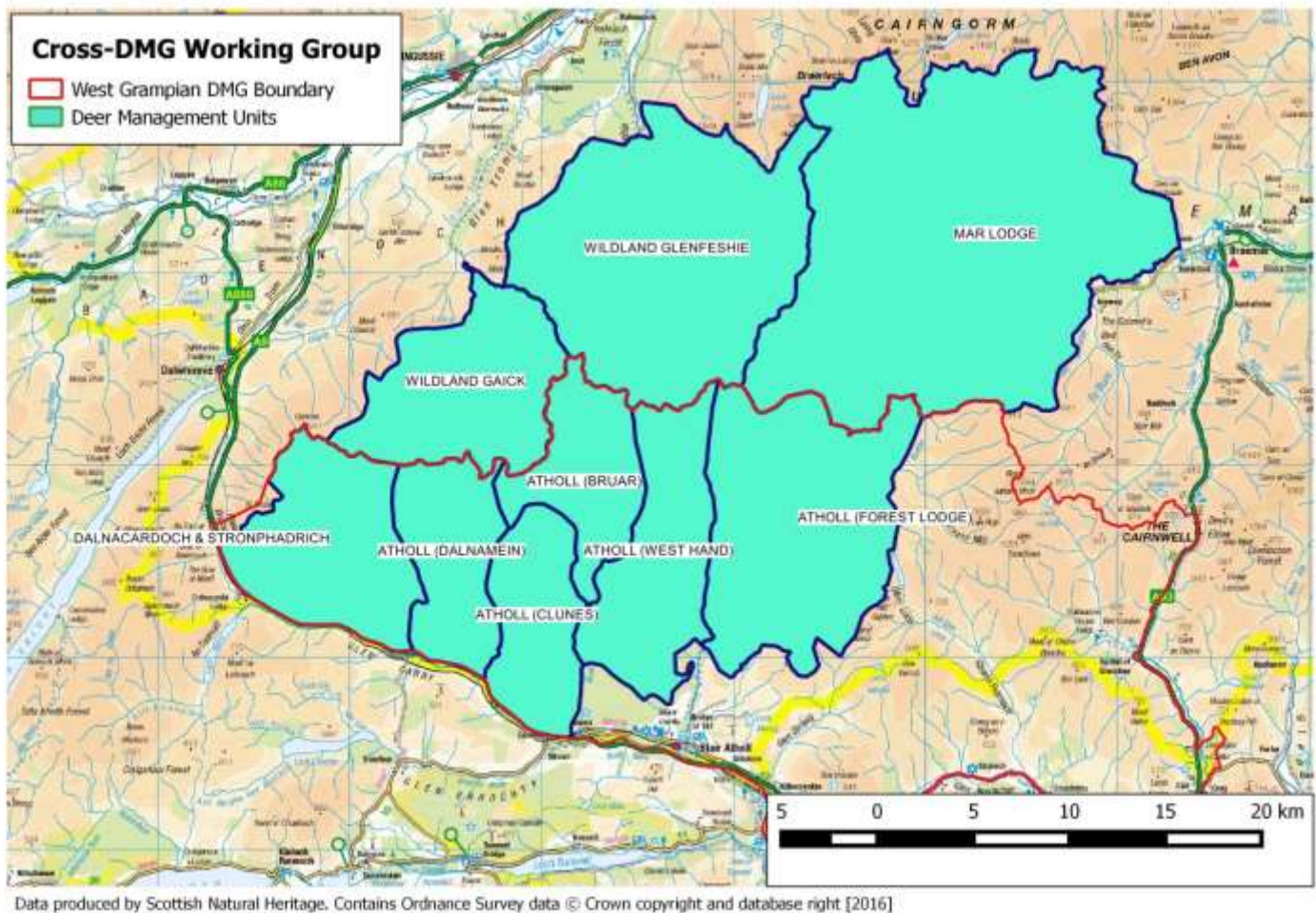
- In an area known as 'The Sanctuary' where West Hand marches with Forest Lodge to the north, close to the marches with Wildland Glenfeshie and Mar Lodge, there used be greater utilisation of stags in this area. This area will attract stags from Atholl in a north wind but is largely now occupied by few deer.
- Some new deer fencing has been added to existing fence lines between Glen Bruar and Atholl/Lude march in GlenFender preventing deer access to forestry and agricultural land on WestHand. Four blocks of mature forest have been opened for deer wintering and hind numbers between lower GlenTilt and GlenFender have been greatly reduced over the last 15 years. As a result several hundred stags are now present in this area during the winter relieving pressure further east.
- Roughly where the marches between Diranean, Glenfernate and Dalmunie meet, is an area where large numbers of stags (up to 1000) used to over-winter. With significant hind culling pressure on Glenfernate Estate in the last 5 years (implemented to bring the Beinn a' Ghlo SAC/SSSI into favourable condition) it is thought that this may have resulted in hinds moving into this area, as this is now predominately hind ground. As a result wintering stags have been pushed further east to winter on lower ground properties such as Balvarran, Finegand, Ashintully and Glenkilrie where high numbers of stags are in conflict with agricultural objectives and increased densities could be having a negative grazing impact on open ground heather moorland (part of Forest of Clunie SSSI/SPA). The effect of higher hind densities in this area is also likely to have resulted in stags staying on lower ground all year round.
- There are around 500-600 stags that summer on Glenfernate near the march with Dalmunzie. Some will move north to Dalmunzie, Fealar and Rhiedorrach from about August onward for rut and return south through Glenfernate and to Lude to overwinter.

Although it is considered that the deer population is largely geographically contained within the group area, there are a couple of areas where deer may move between neighbouring properties out with DMG (Figure 11):

- There is some movement of stags from Dalnacardoch to Wildland Gaick (Cairngorms & Speyside DMG) during the rut and movement of stags between Atholl Clunes and Wildland Gaick.
- There is movement of hinds between Wildland Gaick and three properties within WGD MG: Dalnacardoch, Atholl Dalnamein and Atholl Clunes.
- Hinds on the march with Mar Lodge (East Grampians DMG) will move south into Glen Tilt in bad weather. There is some movement of summering hinds with Mar Lodge and Glenfernate.

Given the potential for deer movement between these properties which lie in three separate DMGs, a landscape approach to deer management is required. In 2015 all properties agreed to form a Cross-DMG Working Group to facilitate future collaborative deer management.

Figure 11: Cross-DMG Working Group



### 1.2.5 Other herbivores

Agriculture is a common objective across the DMG and sheep farming in particular is an important activity within the Group area. There are at least 11,000 animals wintered over 12 different properties (a figure similar to that quoted in the previous deer plan in 2004).

Sheep are a potential cause of heather loss as well as deer. It is clear that owners whose sheep operations are in-hand have the right to determine the balance of grazing between the deer population and domestic stock. Stock management measures as well as deer management should therefore be considered by Members (including the use of Agri-Environment Climate Schemes) in areas where grazing impacts on moorland are deemed unsustainable.

## 1.3 Natural Heritage Schemes and Initiatives

### 1.3.1 Biodiversity

The flora across the Group area is very varied and reflects the underlying variety of rock types. Heather moorland on such a large scale is fairly unique to the UK and so the heather habitat within the group area can be considered to be of international importance.

There are important populations of Black Grouse within the group area as well as Golden Eagles, Hen Harriers, Merlin, Dotterel, Black-throated Divers, Short-Eared Owl, Ptarmigan, Ring Ouzel, Peregrine Falcon and Red Grouse. Management to promote Red Grouse on some properties through muirburn, predator control and tick-control may benefit other important bird species.

### 1.3.2 Operation Countrywatch Partnership Report Atholl Estate 2009 -2015

Operation Country Watch is a partnership project between RSPB and Atholl Estates. Annual monitoring has been conducted over the Estate since 2009. The study area includes part of the Forest of Clunie SPA & SSSI. Trends since 2009 for the main 'Birds of Conservation Concern' species are shown in Table 2. Since 2009, numbers of both Black Grouse lek sites and males have been steadily increasing (Figure 12). Numbers of Black Grouse have also been increasing on Balvarran. Since 2009 the numbers of breeding pairs of Hen Harrier have remained fairly stable (Figure 13) although the number of successfully fledged chicks has fluctuated. Reasons for failure are varied but include failure of eggs to hatch, and predation of eggs and chicks.

*Table 2: Trends in Birds of Conservation Concern (BOCC) Species*

Species	BOCC Listing	Comments
Black Grouse	Red	Numbers of lek sites and males have been steadily increasing since 2009 (Figure x)
Hen Harrier	Red	Numbers of breeding pairs have remained relatively stable but fledging success of chicks variable (Figure x). Failure of chicks to fledge due to a range of reasons including predation of eggs and chicks.
Golden Eagles	Amber	There has consistently been two active nest sites annually with a total of 9 chicks fledged in 7 years.
Osprey	Amber	At least two active nests recorded annually.
Black-throated Diver	Amber	Two locations where pairs are seen on an annual basis.
Short Eared Owl	Amber	Sightings rare but in 2014, 3 pairs fledged 9 chicks.
Merlin	Amber	Numbers of breeding pairs each year have ranged from 3-7 fledging 2-10 chicks annually.
Peregrine Falcon	Green	At least 2 chicks fledged annually.

Figure 12: Trends in Black Grouse on Atholl Estate.

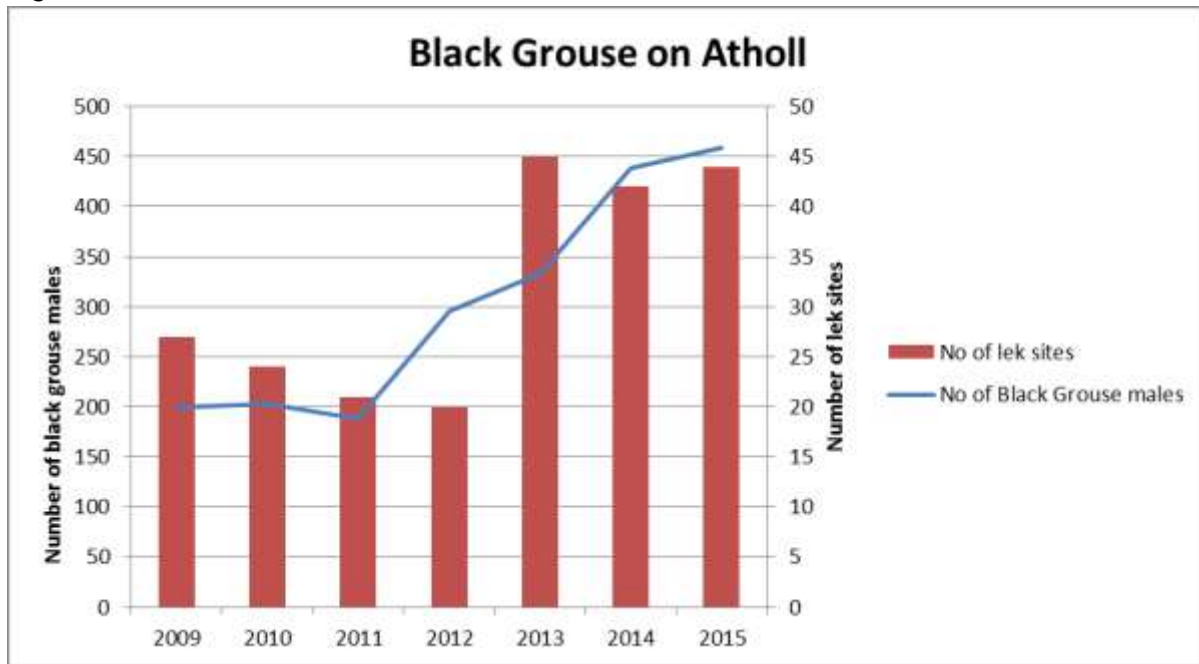
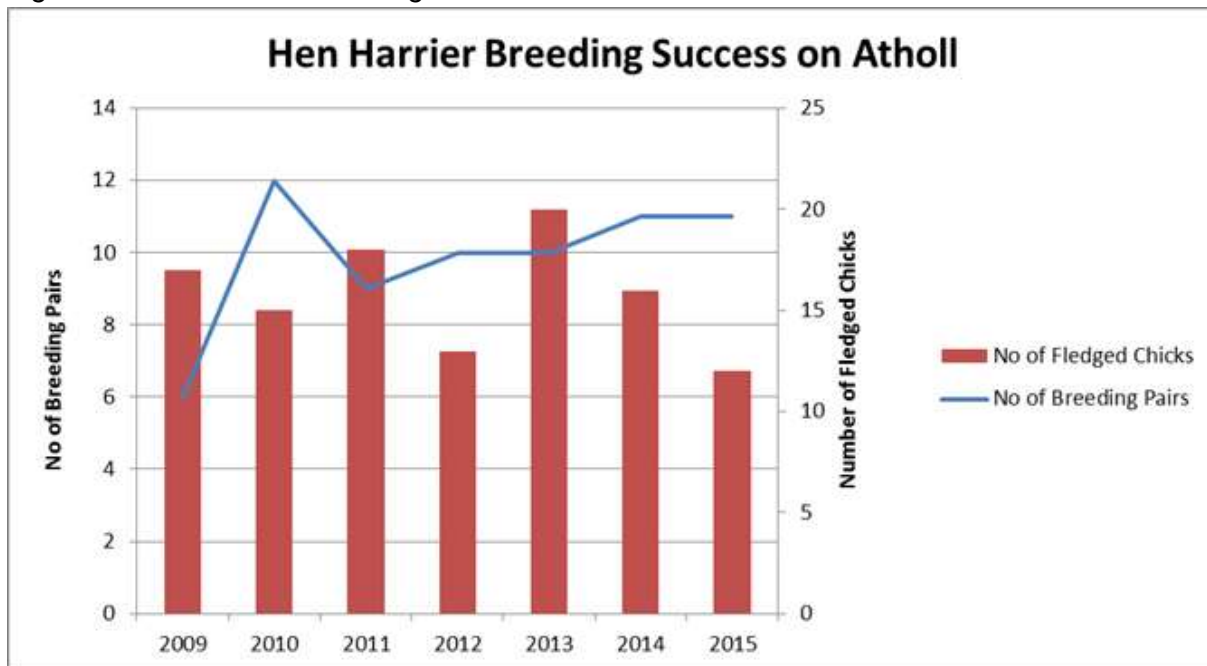


Figure 13: Hen Harrier Breeding Success





### 1.3.3 The Forest of Clunie Project and Moorland Management Scheme

High localised impacts of deer and domestic stock may lead to the deterioration of moorland habitats through grazing and trampling of heather and other dwarf shrubs. These areas are likely to become dominated by grasses or bracken. Muirburn has the potential to create conditions most favourable to the upland breeding birds and the retention of stands of mature heather on banks favoured by ground nesting birds of prey will have greatest beneficial effects. Conversely muirburn also has the potential for significant harm to ground nesting birds of prey by removing nesting sites and great care is needed to avoid harmful muirburn. Grazing by stock at the appropriate level is also essential to the cycle of regeneration of heather, prompted by muirburn.

Recognising that Scotland's moorlands are a distinctive and important part of our natural heritage, SNH implemented the Forest of Clunie Project and Moorland Management Scheme in 2001. Over 5 years, through Natural Care scheme, a total of 16 properties within the Forest of Clunie SPA/SSSI covering an area of **14,273 ha** had agreements to carry out a range of moorland management activities to help the habitats and birds of special interest.

Activities included:

- **Muirburn or cutting** undertaken in accordance with The Muirburn Code, is essential to maintain open moorland with the variety of heather heights needed by feeding and nesting birds. Burning of the right amount of the suitable heather habitats at the right time of year can benefit a wide range of moorland wildlife and help ensure that grazing by sheep and deer is evenly spread. Conditions include:
  - Up to 10% of the suitable heather area is to be burnt in any one year and / or up to 50% over five years, unless otherwise justified in a Moorland Management Plan and agreed with SNH.
  - Individual fires or cut areas are to be between 0.4 hectares (approximately 20m by 200m) and 1.0 hectare (approximately 30m by 330m) in size.
- **Bracken Control:** Where bracken is spreading, bracken control is an essential element of moorland management without which areas of heath may become over-shaded and lost.
- **Stock reduction and away-wintering:** Grazing pressure and timing requires careful management on moorlands. Sheep are responsible for heavy heather losses during the winter months, particularly when they are being fed on the hill. Excessive grazing of heather regenerating after burning can lead to the loss of heather to bracken or grass.
- **Deer management:** Deer, like sheep, can be responsible for heavy losses of heather especially in the winter months. The need for this prescription may arise from a need to integrate deer management with changes to muirburn or sheep grazing or stocking practices under the Moorland Management Scheme.

## 1.4 Actions to develop mechanisms to manage deer

### 1.4.1 Background

- To manage deer populations at a landscape scale a collaborative approach is required and the need to negotiate and compromise may be necessary. This requires a Deer Management Group to be functioning effectively, to be inclusive and to operate in the spirit of openness and transparency. The Association of Deer Management Groups (ADMG) has provided some guiding principles through the [ADMG Benchmark](#).
- West Grampian Deer Management Group is made up of the **24 main management units within the DMG area** (plus Pitcarmick Estate) who are regularly represented at meetings. All management units 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. Since 2001, there have been 3 full helicopter deer counts and one foot count conducted every 5 years over the whole DMG area which provide an estimate of the open-range deer population. The population was counted in Spring on foot in 2015 and was estimated to be **18.2 deer/Km<sup>2</sup>**. A more detailed description of trends in deer numbers and historic annual cull figures can be found in Section 2.
- Whilst recognised as a Group in its own right, the DMG maintains on-going communication with neighbouring Groups of **Cairngorms & Speyside DMG** and **East Grampian (Sub Area 5)** to the north and **East Loch Erich** to the west ensure a landscape collaborative approach to deer management.
- There is a proposal from Wildland Gaick (Cairngorms & Speyside DMG) to carry out deer management in order to achieve their objectives of large scale natural woodland regeneration. As there is seasonal movement of mainly stags but possibly also hinds between this property and Dalnacardoch, Atholl Dalnamein and Atholl Bruar, a **collaborative approach** to managing deer across DMG boundaries is essential.
- Historically there have been issues with overwintering stags accessing the lower agricultural ground in and around Clunebeg.

### 1.4.2 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.

### 1.4.3 Current Delivery.

- An agreed Deer Management Plan is in place which was adopted in 2011.
- DMG has a [West Grampian DMG 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 including **Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH)**, **The Cairngorms National Park Authority (CNPA)** and the Local Community.
- All the main deer management units in the area are Members of the DMG, and representatives from neighbouring DMGs regularly attend meetings which provides a mechanism for discussing landscape-

wide deer management issues.

- Cull targets are set and reported on annually.
- The Group meets bi-annually and Group Membership is encouraged to continue its practice of open discussion of cull levels at all meetings.
- The Group has provisionally agreed to trial the formation of a Sub Group to facilitate more effective deer management in the east of the Group to alleviate grazing pressure from overwintering stags on low lying agricultural land (see Section 1.1.3).
- In order to alleviate the issue of overwintering stags on Clunebeg, Lude Estate are proposing to erect new sections and upgrade old stock fencing (off-set with single strand electric fencing) to deter the movement of deer. This is due to be erected by the end of 2016. Consideration will be given to ensure there are no adverse effects on access and neighbours will be fully consulted.
- In December 2015, as part of the wider DMG planning process, a cross-DMG meeting between Mar Lodge (East Grampian Sub-Area), Atholl Estates (West Grampian DMG) and Wildland Ltd (Cairngorms & Speyside DMG) concluded that a collaborative approach between these parties was required to ensure the sustainable, effective management of the shared deer population. All three parties agreed in principle to participate in a Working Group/Forum where future management actions will be discussed and agreed on a regular basis. A Working Group (WG) (Figure 7) comprising Mar Lodge, Wildland Ltd, Atholl estates and Dalnacardoch met again in February 2016 and agreed to participate in practical collaborative deer management to:
  - Meet 4 times a year to discuss and agree cull targets based on a shared population model
  - Share cull and count information
  - Discuss the use of Out of Season/Night shooting with the WG in advance
  - Conduct a base-line foot count in February/March 2016 with a further helicopter count in late July 2016.
  - Wildland Ltd will also consider creating a buffer zone around the main woodland regeneration site, where a slightly higher density of deer may be tolerated (subject to woodland regeneration objectives being met).
  - West Grampian DMG has agreed initially to facilitate future meetings of this Group and Cairngorms National Park Authority has offered to provide assistance in supporting this Forum.
- **Cairngorms National Park Authority (CNPA)** has offered to provide future assistance in reviewing DMG Boundaries and future ways of collaborative working. It has been proposed that the National Park Partnership Plan (2017-22) consultation which will run from 27th June 30th September 2016 be used as a possible mechanism to develop discussion further. The Plan is the overall management plan for the Park, which is agreed by partners then submitted to Scottish Ministers for approval. Consultation will focus on 9 'big issues', one of which is about landscape scale collaboration, another specifically about deer and moorland management. The consultation will include a specific question about whether the partnership plan should set out more guidance on deer densities to deliver the public interest in the National Park, as well as questions about how best to support collaboration. This will provide a useful framework to take forward the discussion about deer management group structures/boundaries/co-ordination. It is proposed that representatives of each DMG to meet with SNH and CNPA to scope alternative options. A special CDAG (Cairngorms Deer Advisory Group) meeting would then focus on this and the partnership plan consultation.

#### 1.4.4 Targets to be delivered by 2021

<b>Actions to develop mechanisms to manage deer</b>	<b>When?</b>	<b>Who?</b>	<b>How?</b>
Final Plan and Minutes of Meetings will be made publically available and published on DMG Website.	By Spring 2016 and ongoing	DMG Secretary	<i>DMG Website.</i>
Repeat DMG Assessment.	By Spring 2016 and ongoing	DMG Chair and Secretary	<i>Use baseline DMG Assessment carried out in 2014.</i>
Working plan will be reviewed and updated annually. Management actions will be adjusted and agreed accordingly. An annual report will be produced.	Annually	DMG Secretary and DMG Members	<i>Provision of data from DMG members in advance of and during meetings. Secretary will update Working Plan and produce an Annual Report to be published on the DMG Website.</i>
Culls of all species of deer will be delivered and reported on accurately. Cull targets will 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).	Annually	DMG Secretary and DMG Members	<i>Population models will be updated annually and cull targets set, agreed and delivered accordingly.</i>
DMG will carry out a review of Fallow deer range, population densities and movements area in conjunction with neighbouring properties.	By end of 2107	DMG Secretary, DMG Members including Pitcarmick Estate and South Perthshire DMG.	<i>Map and short report will be produced showing main areas of fallow deer establishment and movement within an indication of population estimation where possible.</i>



Atholl Estates and Dalnacardoch will participate in a cross-DMG working group (facilitated by CNPA).	WG will meet 4 times a year.	Atholl Estates, Dalnacardoch, Wildland Ltd, Mar Lodge, CNPA, SNH	<i>A working group of relevant properties from Cairngorms &amp; Speyside DMG, West Grampians DMG and East Grampians Sub Area 5 will meet 4 times a year to agree cull targets (based on a population model) and will contribute to providing accurate cull and count data on a regular basis. WGDWG &amp; CNPA will continue to facilitate.</i>
A helicopter count will be conducted in late July 2016 to coordinate with neighbours (Wildland Ltd), Atholl Estates and Dalnacardoch.	Late July 2016	Mar Lodge, Atholl Estates, Dalnacardoch, Wildland Ltd, CNPA, SNH	<i>All properties to agree count by spring 2016. West Grampians DMG to coordinate count. Possible funding contribution from CNPA (TBC). Mar Lodge to liaise with Fealar &amp; Mar Estate to discuss incorporating these properties.</i>
An aerial count of the whole DMG will be conducted in 2017 and will be repeated in Year 3.	Spring 2017 & 2020	Chair & DMG Members	<i>DMG will ensure adequate resources in place for repeat helicopter count in 2020 and liaise with neighbouring DMGs to coordinate count at the same time if possible.</i>
Recruitment counts will be carried out annually.	Ideally first two weeks in April but by May.	DMG Members	<i>Stalkers will undertake sample counts of groups of deer recording locations, stags, hinds and calves. Information will be used to support population modelling.</i>
Review deer movements at a landscape level and define the most appropriate scale at which current population models should operate.	Ongoing	East Grampians, West Grampians and Cairngorms & Speyside DMGs, CNPA and Cairngorms Deer Advisory Group	<i>Representatives of each DMG to meet with SNH and CNPA to scope alternative options by summer 2016 and meet with CDAG by end of 2016. Data from the deer count scheduled for 2017 to be used to discuss deer movements and to help define the most appropriate scale for population modelling to be effective.</i>

Group will encourage representatives of at meetings of the local community as well as local agricultural/ woodland/ conservation interests.	Annually	DMG Chair. Stakeholder list to be compiled.	<i>Meeting dates and Agendas will be publically available on DMG website and circulated to community councils in advance.</i>
Members at the east end of the group will collaborate to manage deer to reduce deer impacts on natural heritage and agricultural interests whilst also securing the sustainable harvest of stags.	Biannually	Ashintully, Balvarran, Glenkilrie, Finegand, Dirnanean, Glenfearnate, Rhiedorrach, Dalmunzie, Straloch, Agricultural Tenants and other Estates as appropriate. Fealar, Tarvie, Solzarie. Pitcarmick also to be included.	<i>Group will meet in the spring (post deer count) and autumn (post stag season) to discuss deer numbers, deer movements and to agree the stag and hind cull. Group will discuss previous culls and any issues (experienced and potential) and use of Out of Season Authorisations will be discussed and agreed where required. Group will report back on habitat monitoring results to help inform management decisions.</i>
Group will carry out a review of deer movements across WGDMG area and consider the use of DMG Sub Group meetings to more effectively manage deer at a localised scale.	Autumn 2016	All DMG Members	<i>Current distribution and deer movements will be reviewed by WSDMG and boundaries of informal Sub-Groups agreed if appropriate. WGDMG would continue to meet and operate to oversee deer management at a landscape scale.</i>
Group will ensure adequate resources are available to fund the administration and aspects of delivery of the DMP	Autumn 2016	DMG Chair and Secretary	<i>DMG will ensure adequate resources for the ongoing delivery of the plan through private funding and through a possible Environmental Cooperation Action Fund (ECAF) application.</i>

<p>To implement strategic fencing on Lude and Urrard to reduce impacts of deer (mainly stags) on agricultural interests during winter/spring.</p>	<p>Consultation with neighbouring properties and DMG completed Spring 2016. Fence erected by Autumn 2016. baseline habitat monitoring on SSSI completed in Summer 2016.</p>	<p>Lude, Urrard, Atholl, Balnakeilly, Baledmund, Tarvie, Straloch and other properties/Agricultural Tenants as appropriate Monzie</p>	<p><i>Lude to develop proposals for the implementation of a stock fence with off-set electric fence to reduce impacts of wintering stags on agricultural ground. Lude will meet with all neighbouring properties to discuss by Spring 2016, with erection of fence to be completed by autumn 2016. Discussions will consider anticipated changes in deer movements. Atholl are proposing a reduction cull which will reduce impacts on areas out with fence. All access implications and actions will be discussed and agreed with CNPA. Lude will implement baseline habitat monitoring across Ben Vrackie SSSI in Summer 2016, to be repeated in 2019 to monitor changes in herbivore impacts. Discussions will also take into account any potential impacts on DVC risks (anticipated reduced risk of wintering stags crossing A9 in that area to be monitored as part of wider DVC monitoring by the Group). Impacts of fence will be reviewed annually by Lude.</i></p>
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## 1.5. Actions for the delivery of designated features into Favourable Condition.

### 1.5.1 Background

- Nationally, there are around 356 designated features (15.8% of total) within the current DMG network where herbivores impacts are contributing to the unfavourable condition of the feature. It is expected that the SFDMG will contribute to the Scottish Government target of achieving 80% of features in Favourable or Unfavourable Recovering condition by 2016 by facilitating the reduction of herbivore impacts where this is contributing to the unfavourable condition.
- The West Grampian DMG area as a whole has high conservation importance and is very heavily designated. A total of **20,920.5 ha (27.4% of DMG area)** is designated as SAC/SSSI and contains a number of high profile sites of national importance. Deer management is potentially relevant to many of these. There are **70 designated features** within the DMG area (see Table 2).
- A total of **10,519 ha** falls within Beinn a'Ghlo and Drummochter Special Areas of Conservation (SAC).
- There are 15 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) covering an area of **20920.5 ha** (See Figure 14 below).
- Part of the DMG falls within the **Cairngorms Massif SPA** (Figure 13) an area of **18,7504 ha** designated for Golden Eagles deemed to be in Favourable condition.
- The **Forest of Clunie Special Protection Area (SPA)** and (**SSSI**) is made up of five moorland areas in north-east Perthshire totalling **19,477 ha** (Figure 15). It is of outstanding interest for its variety of upland breeding birds. In particular, it is internationally important, and has been made an SPA, for hen harrier, Osprey, Short-eared Owl and Merlin. It is nationally important for Black Grouse.
- **Drumochter Hills SPA:** This SPA is located either side of the Drumochter Pass and part falls within the Group area (Figure 15). The terrain consists of gently rounded summits, generally between 900-950 m, though the full altitudinal range of the area is 360-1,010 m. The vegetation is dominated by acidic communities, the most extensive being the mid-altitude heather dominated heaths and the montane heaths and grasslands above 750 m. The site is designated for Dotterel *Charadrius morinellus* (70 pairs representing at least 8.3% of the breeding population in Great Britain counted in the mid 1990s) and Merlin *Falco columbarius* (7 pairs representing at least 0.5% of the breeding population in Great Britain counted in the mid-1990s).
- Of all designated features, 11 are related to the status of protected **upland birds species** which rely on a mosaic of moorland habitats and in particular the age structure of the heather resource. In order to sustain the current diversity of populations of upland breeding birds the long term objective for the moorland is to improve this habitat, through appropriate moorland management. The main factors affecting moorland condition are **Herbivores and Muirburn** (See 1.3.3) and **Forestry** where large-scale conversion of moorland to forestry, either through individual schemes or cumulatively, would potentially have an adverse impact on these bird species.



### 1.5.2 Plan Objectives

The Deer Management Plan (DMP) will incorporate agreed management actions to manage deer impacts to delivering favourable condition on designated sites in the area. The DMG will monitor and review progress.

### 1.5.3 Current Delivery.

Currently 49 features (70%) are in 'Favourable' or 'Recovering due to management'.

**Beinn a'Ghlo SSSI/SAC:** Currently all features (apart from base-rich fens Table 2) are in Favourable/Unfavourable Recovering Due to Management Condition. SNH correspondence from 10<sup>th</sup> November 2015 indicated that both the Breeding Bird Assemblage and Bryophyte (moss) Assemblage features were considered to be in Favourable Condition. The Steering Group of Estate met on 15<sup>th</sup> June 2016 and agreed a series of ongoing actions including continuing management of deer numbers, while noting that there are also other pressures on the habitat, such as sheep and walkers. The Group will continue to meet on an annual basis as well as undertaking the following actions;

- Habitat monitoring to be undertaken by estates every 3 years
- Ongoing review of number of herbivores on the site (include sheep and deer)
- Split off the culls from the 4 estates – so that it can clearly be seen which deer are culled from BaG
- Undertake cross boundary liaison on deer culls.

Of the remaining “Unfavourable” sites, the condition of 3 features is not related to deer impacts:

- Aldclune & Invervack Meadows is 'Unfavourable' due to lack of sheep grazing (sits out with DMG).
- Pass of Killiecrankie is 'Unfavourable' due to the amount of Beech present.
- Pitarrig Meadow is 'Unfavourable' due to sheep grazing in the winter.

There are 15 features where deer impacts may be contributing to 'Unfavourable' status:

- **Forest of Clunie SPA/SSSI:** There are 5 features are concerning bird species where their condition status could be indirectly linked to condition of the natural moorland habitat. A baseline Habitat Impact Assessment of moorland was carried out on the **Forest of Clunie SSSI/SPA** in 2006 and showed that heather over a third of the site to the north of the Pitlochry – Bridge of Cally road was suppressed and that these areas were most at risk from deterioration if current pressures continued. In the last 9 years total of **9 properties** within the DMG (Ashintully, Baledmund, Clunskea, Dirnanean, Finegand, Glenkilrie, Straloch & Tarvie) participated in moorland management schemes to improve habitat including the **Forest of Clunie Moorland Management Scheme** (which has since ceased) and SEERAD Agreements.
- **Drummochter Hills SPA:** This site is considered to be “Unfavourable” for Merlin breeding. Merlin nest at low density in open habitat (5-10 pairs per 100km<sup>2</sup>) either on the ground with nests concealed in deep heather or in old crows nests near to the edge of conifer plantations and feeding on neighbouring open ground.

- **Drummochter SAC/SSSI:** There are 13 features are within the wider Drummochter SAC/SSSI of which approx. 30% of the total area lies within the DMG (Dalnacardoch Estate). Following the collection of baseline habitat data in 2007 (Dayton, 2008), and Site Condition Monitoring undertaken by Strath Caulaidh Ltd in 2013, SNH concluded that 8 features were in Unfavourable Condition (some as a result of grazing and trampling impacts of herbivores, particularly deer). Key recommendations from the 2013 SCM report were that local grazing reductions around key parts of the montane willow scrub feature should be considered to help ascertain if this can enable the feature to recover and, ideally, to expand in future. In 2010 a Collaborative Upland Management Plan (CUHMP) was developed with Dalnacardoch, South Drummochter, Phones and Wildland Gaick in order to agree a collaborative strategy for the Drummochter Hills SAC/SSSI. Part of this plan included the erection of a deer fence along the north-west boundary of Dalnacardoch aimed at preventing deer from crossing over into Phones and Drummochter and mitigating the trampling effect of deer crossing the SAC. Summer helicopter deer counts conducted on the Drummochter Hills SAC in 2007 and 2011 showed a reduction across the whole site from 2642 deer (28.3/km<sup>2</sup>) to 2045 (22/km<sup>2</sup>). On Dalnacardoch deer have been reduced within the SAC from 1389 deer (57.1/km<sup>2</sup>) to 1056 (43/km<sup>2</sup>).

For the features on Drummochter Hills SAC, the 2013 SCM results for showed the following:

- **Montane acid grassland:** all 27 sampling points passed whereas on the previous assessment some points failed due to high levels of herbivore impact. The status of the feature is judged to be 'favourable-recovered.
- **Montane willow scrub:** 8 out of 12 sampling points plots failed. To reduce impacts on the highly palatable Montane Willow Scrub feature would likely require a complete absence of herbivore pressure.
- **Plants in crevices on acid rocks :** 1 out of 11 sampling points failed due to heavily-grazed Blaeberry.
- **Tall herb communities:** 1 out of 8 plots failed due to over-grazing.
- **Species-rich grassland:** 13 out of 25 points failed for a range of reasons the key being insufficient cover of forbs.

Aside from Willow Scrub (which, given its palatability would require negligible browsing pressure to improve), other features are considered to be improving with regards to browsing pressure and the Estate proposes to continue to focus cull on the SAC to bring the other features into Favourable condition.

The last winter count in 2015 is not considered to reflect the true numbers on the Designated Site during summer. As it is summering hinds that are likely to have the greatest impact on the Designated Site features, the Estate is proposing to carry out a deer count in Summer 2016 and will also use the results from the Helicopter Count in 2017 to set future cull targets. In the meantime, the estate will target hind culls on the most sensitive areas.

#### 1.5.4. Targets to be delivered by 2021

Actions for the delivery of designated features into Favourable Condition	When?	Who?	How?
Beinn a'Ghlo SSSI/SAC: To continue to implement deer management to maintain 'Favourable/ Unfavourable Recovering due to Management' Status.	Ongoing	Glenfernate, Atholl Forest Lodge, Lude & Fealar	<i>Estates have implemented a reduction cull to reduce deer impacts on the site. Glenfernate has reduced the population from 59 deer per km<sup>2</sup> in 2010, to just under 9 deer km<sup>2</sup> in 2015. Forest Lodge has reduced numbers from 22 deer per km<sup>2</sup> to 18 deer per km<sup>2</sup>. Estates will continue to manage culls based on monitoring results on the SAC. DMG members to adopt the actions arising from the Beinn a' Ghlo meeting of 15<sup>th</sup> June 2016. Members have agreed to continuing management of deer numbers.</i>
Forest of Clunie SSSI/SPA: Estates will continue to manage moorland habitat to encourage breeding success of avian features (Hen Harrier, Merlin and Short-eared Owl)	Ongoing	Ashintully, Glenkilrie, Finegand, Balvarran, Straloch, Tarvie, Dirnanean, Balnakeilly, Glenfernate, Clunskea & Pitcarmick	<i>Properties have formed an East Sub-Group to address local deer management with the purpose of reducing deer impacts on moorland. Estates will seek to work with in collaboration with SNH and other stakeholder organisations such as RSPB/Raptor Study Groups to gather and share information on bird populations (numbers, locations, breeding success) to help inform future habitat management. Estates will report on condition of Dwarf Shrub Heath through Habitat Impact Assessment monitoring, will follow the Muirburn Code and will seek to manage areas of heather to encourage breeding/nesting. Estates may consider use of Agri-Environment Climate Schemes if appropriate. Expect other environmental agencies to feedback information.</i>

Drumochter Hills SAC/SSSI: To continue to manage deer and their impacts so as to bring the site into Favourable/Unfavourable Recovering due to Management.	By spring 2016 and ongoing.	Dalnacardoch	<i>Based on the results of the 2013 Herbivore Impact Assessment/SCM, Estate will continue to focus deer management on SAC in order to reduce localised deer impacts. Estate will conduct a deer count in summer 2016 and set appropriate hind culls for 2016/17. Thereafter, deer management will be informed by the full DMG count in 2017 and Habitat Impact Assessments.</i>
Ben Vrackie, Blair Atholl Meadows, Cairnwell, Glas Tulaichean, Glen Fender Meadows, Glen Garry, Glen Tilt Woods, Straloch Moraines SSSIs: To manage herbivores to maintain existing "Favourable/Unfavourable Recovering Due to Management" status on SSSIs within DMG area.	Ongoing	Atholl, Baledmund, Dalmunzie, Fealar, Glenfernate, Lude, Rhiedorrach, Straloch, Urrard	<i>Estates to continue to implement the necessary herbivore management to maintain current status of features.</i>

**Table 2: Designated features with potential herbivore impacts**

Site	Des	Feature	ReportingCondition
Aldclune and Invervack Meadows	SSSI	Lowland calcareous grassland	Unfavourable
Beinn a' Ghlo	SSSI	Vascular plant assemblage	Favourable
Beinn a' Ghlo	SSSI	Bryophyte assemblage	Favourable
Beinn a' Ghlo	SSSI	Breeding bird assemblage	Favourable
Beinn a' Ghlo	SSSI	Dalradian	Favourable
Beinn a' Ghlo	SSSI	Caledonian Igneous	Favourable
Beinn a' Ghlo	SSSI	Upland assemblage	Favourable
Beinn a' Ghlo	SAC	Dry grasslands and scrublands on chalk or limestone	Favourable
Beinn a' Ghlo	SAC	Species-rich grassland with mat-grass in upland areas	Favourable
Beinn a' Ghlo	SAC	Dry heaths	Unfavourable Recovering Due to Management
Beinn a' Ghlo	SAC	Plants in crevices on base-rich rocks	Favourable
Beinn a' Ghlo	SAC	Plants in crevices on acid rocks	Favourable
Beinn a' Ghlo	SAC	Acidic scree	Favourable
Beinn a' Ghlo	SAC	Alpine and subalpine heaths	Favourable
Beinn a' Ghlo	SAC	Montane acid grasslands	Unfavourable Recovering Due to Management
Beinn a' Ghlo	SAC	Base-rich fens	Unfavourable
Beinn a' Ghlo	SAC	High-altitude plant communities associated with areas of water seepage	Favourable
Beinn a' Ghlo	SAC	Hard-water springs depositing lime	Unfavourable
Beinn a' Ghlo	SAC	Blanket bog	Favourable
Beinn a' Ghlo	SAC	Round-mouthed whorl snail ( <i>Vertigo genesii</i> )	Favourable
Beinn a' Ghlo	SAC	Geyer's whorl snail ( <i>Vertigo geyeri</i> )	Favourable
Beinn a' Ghlo	SSSI	Upland birch woodland	Favourable
Ben Vrackie	SSSI	Vascular plant assemblage	Favourable
Ben Vrackie	SSSI	Upland assemblage	Favourable
Ben Vrackie	SSSI	Breeding bird assemblage	Favourable
Blair Atholl Meadow	SSSI	Lowland calcareous grassland	Unfavourable Recovering Due to Management
Cairnwell	SSSI	Alpine calcareous grassland	Favourable
Cairnwell	SSSI	Vascular plant assemblage	Favourable
Drumochter Hills	SSSI	Vascular plant assemblage	Unfavourable
Drumochter Hills	SSSI	Breeding bird assemblage	Favourable
Drumochter Hills	SSSI	Montane assemblage	Favourable
Drumochter Hills	SAC	Species-rich grassland with mat-grass in upland areas	Unfavourable
Drumochter Hills	SAC	Dry heaths	Unfavourable
Drumochter Hills	SAC	Wet heathland with cross-leaved heath	Unfavourable
Drumochter Hills	SAC	Tall herb communities	Favourable
Drumochter Hills	SAC	Plants in crevices on acid rocks	Unfavourable
Drumochter Hills	SAC	Acidic scree	Favourable
Drumochter Hills	SAC	Alpine and subalpine heaths	Unfavourable
Drumochter Hills	SAC	Montane acid grasslands	Favourable
Drumochter Hills	SAC	Mountain willow scrub	Unfavourable
Drumochter Hills	SAC	Blanket bog	Unfavourable
Drumochter Hills	SPA	Dotterel ( <i>Charadrius morinellus</i> ), breeding	Favourable
Drumochter Hills	SPA	Merlin ( <i>Falco columbarius</i> ), breeding	Unfavourable
Drumochter Hills	SSSI	Fluvial Geomorphology of Scotland	Favourable
Forest of Clunie	SSSI	Breeding bird assemblage	Favourable
Forest of Clunie	SSSI	Black grouse ( <i>Tetrao tetrix</i> ), breeding	Favourable
Forest of Clunie	SSSI	Hen harrier ( <i>Circus cyaneus</i> ), breeding	Unfavourable
Forest of Clunie	SSSI	Osprey ( <i>Pandion haliaetus</i> ), breeding	Favourable
Forest of Clunie	SSSI	Short-eared owl ( <i>Asio flammeus</i> ), breeding	Unfavourable
Forest of Clunie	SPA	Hen harrier ( <i>Circus cyaneus</i> ), breeding	Unfavourable
Forest of Clunie	SPA	Merlin ( <i>Falco columbarius</i> ), breeding	Unfavourable
Forest of Clunie	SPA	Osprey ( <i>Pandion haliaetus</i> ), breeding	Favourable
Forest of Clunie	SPA	Short-eared owl ( <i>Asio flammeus</i> ), breeding	Unfavourable
Glas Tulaichean	SSSI	Vascular plant assemblage	Favourable
Glen Fender Meadows	SSSI	Lowland calcareous grassland	Favourable
Glen Fender Meadows	SSSI	Lowland dry heath	Unfavourable Recovering Due to Management
Glen Fender Meadows	SSSI	Springs (including flushes)	Unfavourable Recovering Due to Management
Glen Fender Meadows	SSSI	Vascular plant assemblage	Favourable
Glen Garry	SSSI	Dalradian	Favourable
Glen Tilt Woods	SSSI	Upland mixed ash woodland	Favourable
Loch Moraig	SSSI	Springs (including flushes)	Favourable
Loch Moraig	SSSI	Mesotrophic loch	Favourable
Loch Moraig	SSSI	Vascular plant assemblage	Favourable
Pass of Killiecrankie	SSSI	Upland oak woodland	Unfavourable
Pass of Killiecrankie	SSSI	Fly assemblage	Favourable
Pitarrig Meadow	SSSI	Lowland dry heath	Unfavourable
Pitarrig Meadow	SSSI	Springs (including flushes)	Favourable
Pitarrig Meadow	SSSI	Lowland wet heath	Unfavourable
Straloch Moraines	SSSI	Lowland dry heath	Unfavourable Recovering Due to Management
Straloch Moraines	SSSI	Lowland calcareous grassland	Favourable



Figure 14: Sites of Special Scientific Interest

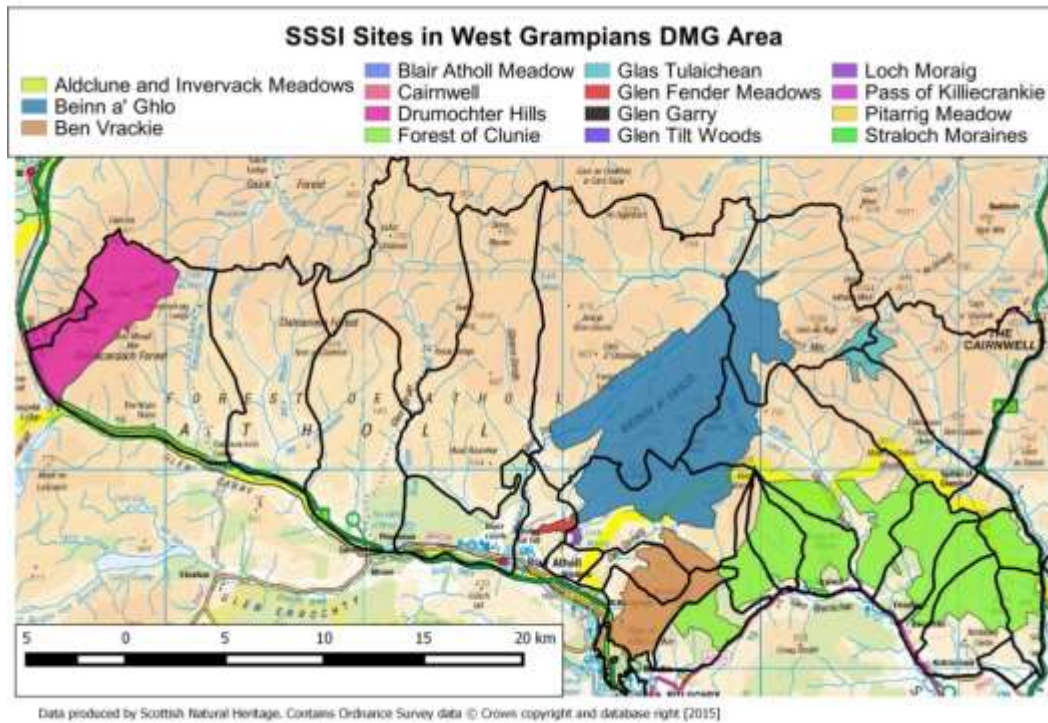
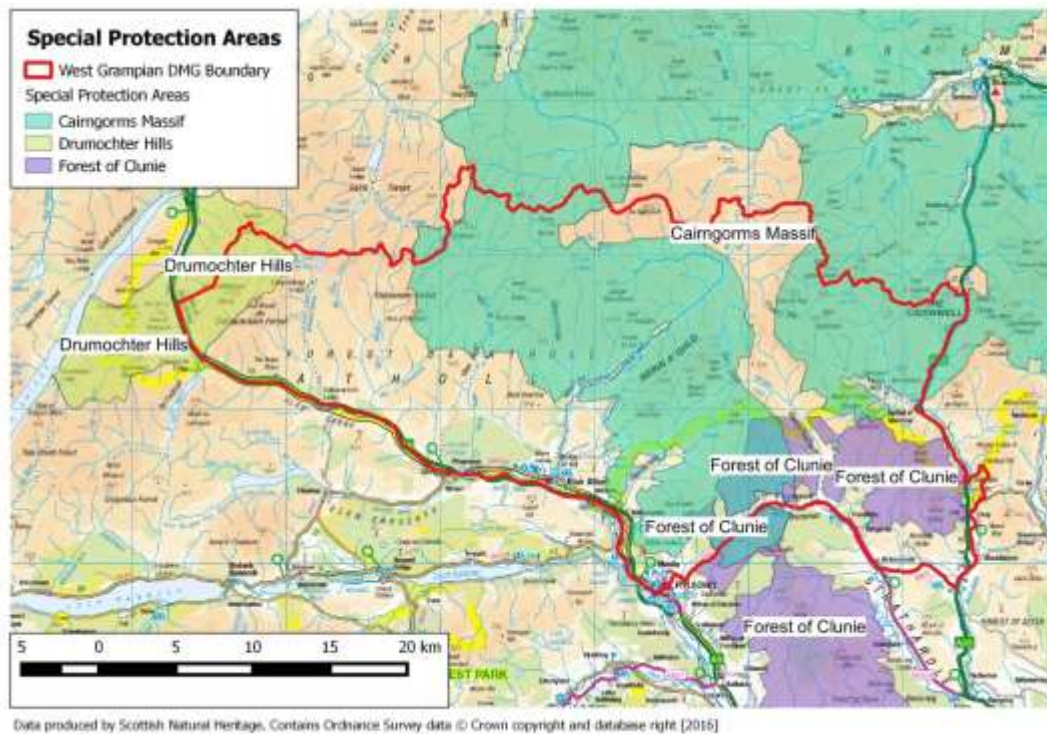


Figure 15: Special Protection Areas



## 1.6. Actions to manage deer to retain existing native woodland cover and improve

### 1.6.1 Background

The Native Woodland Survey of Scotland (NWSS) was published in 2014. This maps non-designated native woodland cover, reports condition and highlights herbivore impacts which threaten medium to long term condition of these important woodlands. [Wild Deer- A National Approach \(WDNA\)](#) has set a national target that 60% of native woodlands should be considered to be in “satisfactory condition” by 2020.

- Total area of native woodland in Scotland is **311,153 ha**
- Area in satisfactory condition (%) – **143163 ha (46%)**
- Area in unsatisfactory condition (%) – **167990 ha (54%)**
- Additional area needing improvement to reach 60% - **43529 ha**

The NWSS has identified **1263.3 ha** of native woodland within the WGDMG area. This represents **0.4%** of the total area of native woodland in Scotland. (Figure 16).

### 1.6.2 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.

### 1.6.3 Current Delivery.

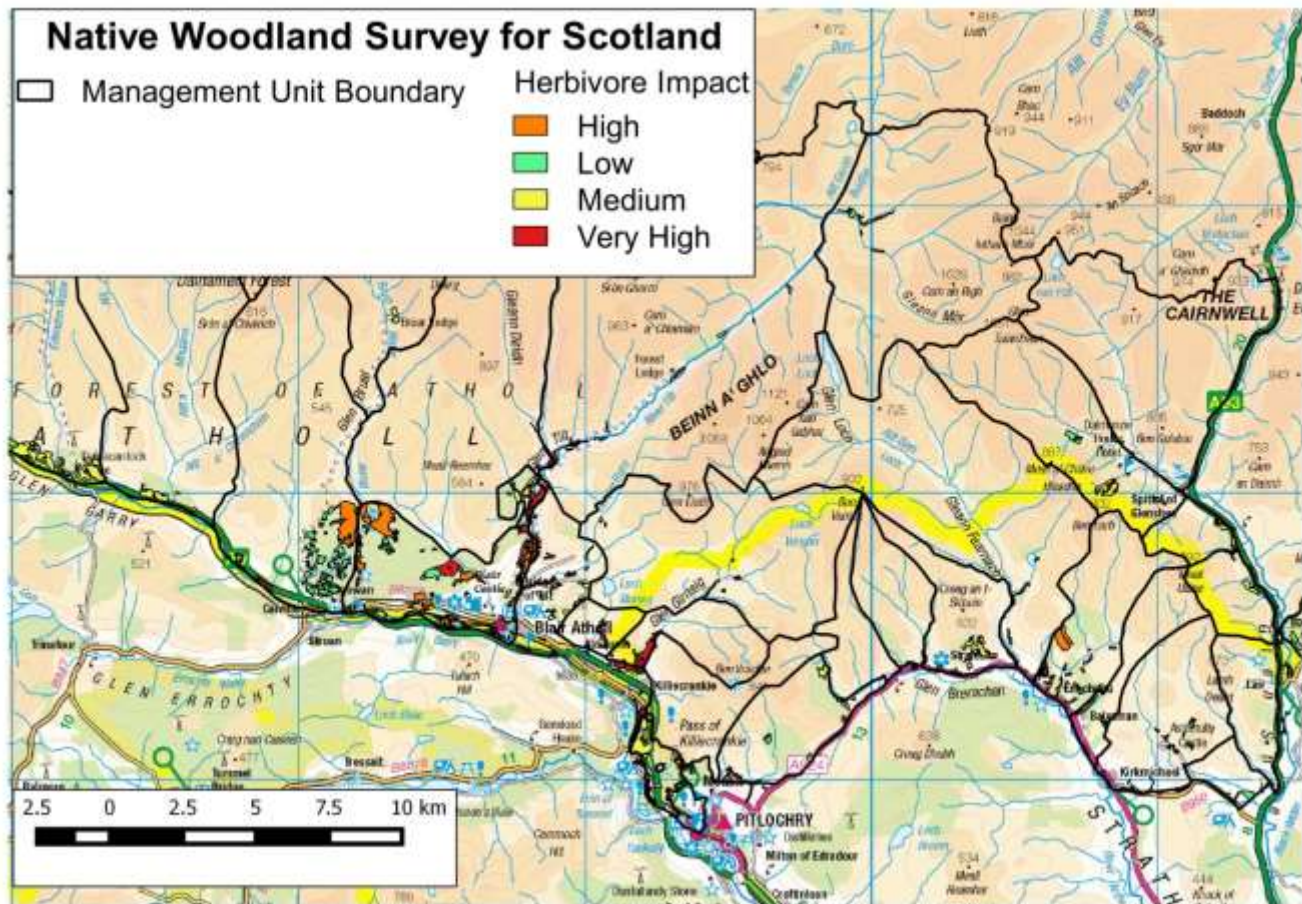
- Currently **640.3 ha (50.7%)** of woodlands are considered to have **Low/Medium Impacts** (Table 3).
- Atholl Estate fenced off the area known as Policies around 1970 and Pine Schemes fenced off in the early 1990’s to deer to encourage natural regeneration of native woodland with significant success. A total of **281.2 ha** of native woodland thought to have Very High or High impacts from the survey has been fenced off. Including these areas of reduced impacts, this brings the total of **Low/Medium Impacts to 73%**. Baluain woodland is fenced off so impacts are unlikely to be “high” as shown on the NWSS map.

Table 3: Native Woodland Survey for Scotland Herbivore Impacts

	Herbivore Impact Class (ha)			
	Very High	High	Medium	Low
ASHINTULLY	9.1	1.9	2.9	10.6
ATHOLL (BRUAR)			8.3	
ATHOLL (CLUNES)	16.9	157.5	5.1	123.9
ATHOLL (DALNAMEIN)			23.2	1.6
ATHOLL (FOREST LODGE)	24.6	4.4	7.1	
ATHOLL (POLICIES)	95.2	111.5	35.4	44.9
ATHOLL (WEST HAND)	17.5		18.3	
BALEDMUND	47.8		1.4	
BALNAKEILLY	12.5	1.9	18.5	5.7
BALVARRAN	5.3			11.7
CLUNEBEG	12.4		7.7	
CLUNSKEA		0.5		
DALMUNZIE	1.9		27.0	14.9
DALNACARDOCH		4.9	97.6	17.6
DALNAGLAR			5.2	17.7
DIRNANEAN	7.6	55.7	5.6	6.8
FEALAR			3.6	16.9
FINEGAND	0.7		9.3	
GLENFERNATE	3.3		4.1	1.3
GLENKILRIE				0.8
LUDE	3.9	0.9	8.6	
RHIEDORRACH			18.0	5.2
SOILZARIE			1.0	10.7
STRALOGH	15.3	4.1	27.5	3.4
TARVIE				0.9
URRARD	5.7		4.2	6.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>279.7</b>	<b>343.3</b>	<b>339.6</b>	<b>300.7</b>



Figure 16: Native Woodland Survey for Scotland Herbivore Impacts within the DMG (Note data used as an indication of possible areas for priority action only).



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#### 1.6.4 Targets to be delivered by 2021

<b>Actions to manage deer to retain existing native woodland cover and improve woodland condition</b>	<b>When?</b>	<b>Who?</b>	<b>How?</b>
Fealar will continue to manage deer impacts through the use of novel electric fencing techniques to achieve good condition in its native woodlands.	Ongoing	Fealar	<i>Fealar will continue to manage herbivore impacts on native woodland to deliver woodland regeneration objectives.</i>
Balvarran will continue to manage woodlands and moorland for Black Grouse and other conservation interests	Ongoing	Balvarran	<i>Balvarran will continue to manage existing woodland regeneration schemes (and moorland) to improve habitat for Black Grouse. Agreed to send in counts on leks for black grouse.</i>
For properties with SRDP Natural Regeneration Schemes in place, provide evidence of woodland condition in the form of an appropriate survey report if available.	Year 3	DMD Members	<i>Woodland Survey reports.</i>
To use ECAF bid to undertake a review of native woodland condition in the Group area (including Riparian woodland), consolidating existing survey reports and implementing woodland herbivore impacts assessment monitoring protocols where required.	Year 3	DMG Members & Consultant	<i>Subject to successful ECAF bid, delivery of DMG Native Woodland Review Report and recommended actions.</i>
To implement management to reduce negative impacts including use of Forestry Grant Schemes where practical and appropriate.	By 2021	SG Members	<i>Monitoring results used to inform management actions. Entry into SRDP Schemes.</i>



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

### 1.7.1 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. The DMG network area covers some 3,249,442 Ha with significant opportunity to contribute to the delivery of this target through identifying areas for further woodland creation and managing deer impacts to allow for successful establishment of new woodland. Priority should be given to expansion opportunities where this improves habitat networks. 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.

### 1.7.2 Plan Objectives

- Plan will identify all new woodland in last 5 years and beyond (Woodland Grant Schemes) 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?

### 1.7.3 Current Delivery.

- Woodland represents almost **6.4%** of the total land area of WGDMDG. This includes both native woodland, commercial and amenity woodland (see Table 4 below).
- The extent of boundaries of woodland schemes (**4935.3 ha** - Table 5 and Figure 17) represents **100%** of the total current woodland area at present.
- A Long Term Forest Plan is currently being finalised by Straloch Estate for felling/restructuring.
- Pitcarmick are proposing 25 ha of new woodland.
- Glenferriate and Dalnacardoch have identified opportunities to replace commercial woodland with native woodland (if practical). Members have indicated no further plans for woodland expansion at this time.

Table 4: National Forest Inventory Woodland Type

Woodland Type	Assumed woodland	Broadleaved	Conifer	Felled	Mixed mainly broadleaved	Mixed mainly conifer	Shrub	Young trees	Total
Area (ha)	707.2	361.5	2857.3	396.8	102.6	90.7	3.9	376.3	4896.2

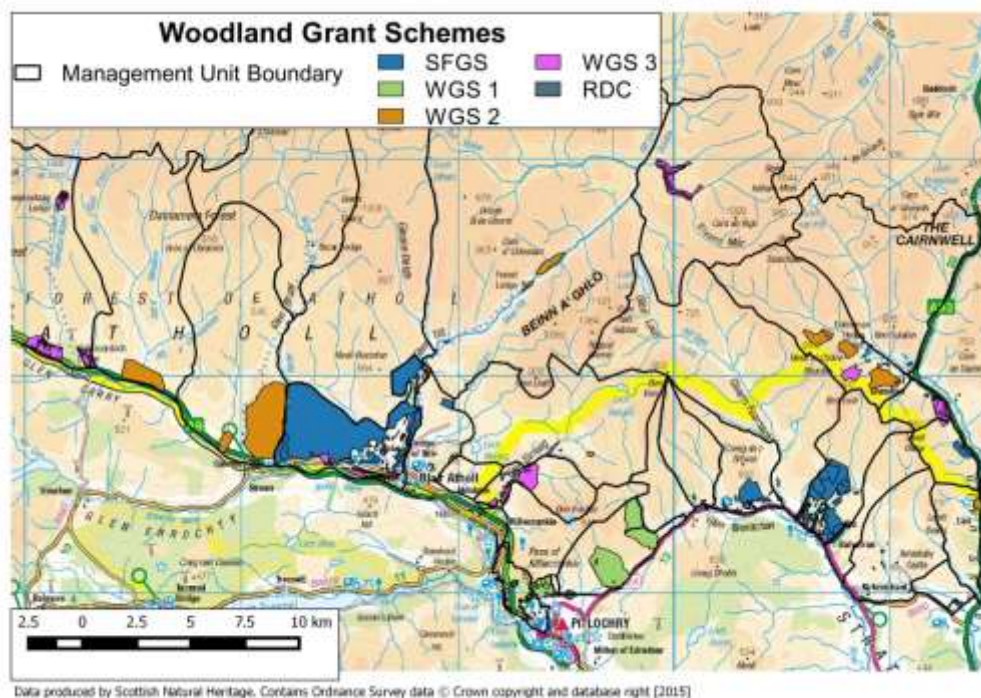
#### 1.7.4 Targets to be delivered by 2021

Actions to demonstrate DMG contribution to the Scottish Government woodland expansion target of 25% woodland cover.	When?	Who?	How?
To inform the DMG about any future woodland proposals and incorporate in the DMP - taking account of potential implications for deer management.	Ongoing	DMG Members	<i>Members will circulate/present proposals to DMG for discussion.</i>
DMG to use ECAF bid carry out a strategic review of potential opportunities for new woodland schemes using the Scottish Government's Forestry Strategy. Review will consider need from a DMG perspective ie shelter provision for deer population at landscape scale.	Year 2	DMG Members & Consultant	<i>Subject to ECAF bid, delivery of DMG Woodland Expansion Report and recommended actions.</i>

Table 5: Summary of Woodland Management Schemes

	Scheme Boundary (ha)				
	WGS1		WGS2		WGS 3
BALEDMUND	8.0	ATHOLL (CLUNES)	518.8	ASHINTULLY	0.2
BALNAKEILLY	414.9	ATHOLL (DALNAMEIN)	53.1	ATHOLL (CLUNES)	2822.4
CLUNEBEG	6.8	ATHOLL (FOREST LODGE)	1459.7	ATHOLL (FOREST LODGE)	930.1
FCS FASKALLY II	58.7	ATHOLL (POLICIES)	28.3	ATHOLL (POLICIES)	64.4
FINEGAND	2.6	ATHOLL (WEST HAND)	149.5	ATHOLL (WEST HAND)	4.4
GLENFERNATE	3.1	BALEDMUND	3.5	BALEDMUND	95.7
LUDE	1.0	BALVARRAN	386.9	BALNAKEILLY	404.2
TARVIE	3.6	CLUNEBEG	3.6	DALMUNZIE	183.9
ATHOLL (CLUNES)	518.8	DALMUNZIE	187.1	DALNACARDOCH	174.7
ATHOLL (DALNAMEIN)	53.1	DIRNANEAN	20.1	DIRNANEAN	10.9
ATHOLL (FOREST LODGE)	1459.7	FCS FASKALLY II	4.6	FEALAR	108.8
ATHOLL (POLICIES)	28.3	GLENKILRIE	18.8	FINEGAND	30.3
ATHOLL (WEST HAND)	149.5	LUDE	5.9	LUDE	6.8
BALVARRAN	386.9	SOILZARIE	1.6	RHIEDORRACH	69.3
CLUNEBEG	3.6	STRALOCH	99.2	STRALOCH	4.4
DALMUNZIE	187.1	<b>Total</b>	<b>2940.9</b>	TARVIE	0.6
DIRNANEAN	20.1			URRARD	24.2
GLENKILRIE	18.8			<b>Total</b>	<b>4935.3</b>
LUDE	5.9				
RHIEDORRACH	19.5				
SOILZARIE	1.6				
STRALOCH	99.2				
<b>Total</b>	<b>3451.1</b>				

Figure 17: Historic Woodland Grant Schemes Across the DMG



## 1.8. Actions to monitor and manage deer impacts in the wider countryside.

### 1.8.1 Background

- 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 approximately **17,723 ha**) and heather moorland (dwarf shrub heath methodology) (covering approximately **32,623 ha**) are two of the habitats that Scottish Natural Heritage have recommended upland deer managers monitor for herbivore grazing and trampling impacts. 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. See Table 7 for habitat distribution per property.

### 1.8.2 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 1998<sup>1</sup>](#)). As a guideline, on designated sites the **habitat targets** set by SNH are for 90% of survey samples (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 these targets.

### 1.8.3 Current Delivery.

- DMG has undergone some Habitat Impact Assessment training session but has yet to implement HIA across the DMG.
- Rhiedorrach set up baseline monitoring of Heather Moorland (Dry and Wet Heath) over 54 sample plots over the property in 2014. Plots will be revisited in 2016.
- Atholl Estates set up baseline monitoring of Heather Moorland (Dry and Wet Heath) using over 130 plots in 2007. Repeat assessments are carried out every 4 years.

#### 1.8.4 Targets to be delivered by 2021

<b>Actions to monitor and manage deer impacts in the wider countryside</b>	<b>When?</b>	<b>Who?</b>	<b>How?</b>
Using revised Best Practice 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 & dwarf shrub heath.	May & June 2017	DMG Members & Consultant	<i>Subject to ECAF bid, Consultant will work with DMG to set up random plots and to provide assistance with data analysis and the production of a report.</i>
Members with existing habitat monitoring will share results with DMG where appropriate.	Ongoing	DMG Members	<i>Members will circulate monitoring results to DMG.</i>
Summary of habitat assessment results reported to DMG. Targets and management actions to be agreed.	Ongoing	DMG Members	<i>DMG will agree management decisions based on Habitat Impact Assessment Reports.</i>
Repeat HIA and management actions agreed.	May & June 2020	DMG Members	<i>Members will collect repeat monitoring data. Consultant will provide assistance with data analysis and the production of a report. Members will use report to inform management.</i>



Table 7: Summary of Blanket Bog and Heather Moor Habitat by Property

	blanket bog & peatlands	heather moor	improved grassland	montane vegetation	smooth grassland	coarse grassland
ASHINTULLY		1047.7	359.5		260.6	8.0
ATHOLL (BRUAR)	1590.6	2008.0		1347.4		
ATHOLL (CLUNES)	2760.3	3634.9	144.3	301.0	195.3	37.5
ATHOLL (DALNAMEIN)	607.1	1319.6		375.5	23.9	157.1
ATHOLL (FOREST LODGE)	3678.3	4225.7		4017.5	1373.0	112.8
ATHOLL (POLICIES)		27.5	395.2		215.2	31.1
ATHOLL (WEST HAND)	860.0	2185.9		984.6	160.7	232.6
BALEDMUND	60.6	1324.4	71.7	307.1	272.1	41.6
BALNAKEILLY		1545.5	203.5	6.8	122.5	
BALVARRAN	72.4	876.1	789.2	338.4	314.8	
CLUNEBEG		102.6	104.0		103.3	
CLUNSKEA		223.6		56.3	20.1	
DALMUNZIE	453.6	439.3		48.8	281.9	
DALNACARDOCH	3209.3	3316.4		2149.3	46.6	289.6
DIRNANEAN		719.6	84.5	203.7	221.4	
FEALAR	1797.7	1586.4		681.1		282.4
FINEGAND	20.0	350.1	19.4		45.1	
GLENFERNATE	809.4	741.7		738.7	791.2	57.7
GLENKILRIE	31.7	231.7	26.6			
LUDE	496.6	3129.5	419.3	772.8	550.2	
RHIEDORRACH	957.3	2253.5	212.3	1018.4	395.8	0.5
SOILZARIE		102.0	203.6		100.2	
STRALOGH	321.9	1175.7	46.5		210.5	
TARVIE		55.2	29.3		28.5	
<b>Total</b>	<b>17726.6</b>	<b>32622.8</b>	<b>3108.9</b>	<b>13347.3</b>	<b>5733.1</b>	<b>1250.9</b>

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

### 1.9.1 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](#). Soils are the main terrestrial store of carbon in Scotland and Peatlands hold most of our carbon store (53%). The depth of peat is important: the deeper the peat soil the more carbon it stores. Undisturbed, active peatlands accumulate about 0.25 tonnes of carbon per hectare per year which is broadly equivalent to around 10% of the amount of carbon accumulated over the duration of a forest crop.

[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. It is one of the most extensive semi-natural habitats in Scotland, covering some 1.8 million hectares, 23 % of our land area. Blanket bog is found throughout the Scottish uplands but is most extensive in the North Highlands and Western and Northern Isles in areas with gentle slopes and poor drainage. Growing trees is another way to increase the natural carbon reservoir. There is an estimated 50 megatonnes of carbon locked in Scotland's vegetation, most of it being held in natural woodland and forest plantations. Woodland and forest currently covers over 1.3 million ha in Scotland (around 16% of Scotland).

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.

### 1.9.2 Plan Objectives

The plan will aim to acknowledge all contributions to carbon storage through woodland and peatlands within the DMG area 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.

### 1.9.3 Current Delivery.

- DMG manages around **4896ha of woodland** and an area of **17727 ha of blanket bog** (see Section 8) has been identified within the DMG Area.
- DMG has undergone Habitat Monitoring Training and Blanket bog is one of the habitats that the DMG will be including in the monitoring programme.
- The actions currently being undertaken by the DMG to retain existing native woodland and encourage woodland expansion have been detailed in Sections 6 & 7.
- The DMG has not been asked to contribute to River Basin Management Planning

#### 1.9.4 Targets to be delivered by 2021

<b>Actions to improve Scotland's ability to store carbon by maintaining or improving ecosystem health.</b>	<b>When?</b>	<b>Who?</b>	<b>How?</b>
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.	As per monitoring schedule in the Working plan	DMG Members	<i>As per Actions for woodland and managing impacts in the wider countryside. Members to provide existing survey reports or conduct baseline monitoring and reports.</i>
Potential areas for Peatland Restoration identified and options for Peatland restoration or management through the Peatland Action Fund promoted to DMG Members	By end 2016	DMG Members DMG Chair and Secretary	<i>Members to use Blanket Bog monitoring results as well as assistance from SNH to identify opportunities for Peatland Restoration.</i>
Contribute to River Basin Management Planning as requested.	Ongoing	DMG Chairman and Secretary	<i>DMG will respond to requests as appropriate.</i>

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

### 1.10.1 Background

- There are generally no Sika deer established within the immediate DMG area, although there have been a total of 30 Sika Deer shot over the last ten years on Finegand, Atholl, Clunskia, Dalmunzie and Dirnanear.

### 1.10.2 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 detail an agreed policy and actions required by the DMG to monitor.

### 1.10.3 Current Delivery.

The DMG reports on any sightings or Sika culled currently.

### 1.10.4 Targets to be delivered by 2021

Actions to reduce or mitigate the risk of establishment of invasive non-native species	When?	Who?	How?
Muntjac Deer managed as per the Non-native Species Policy (Part 2 of plan).	Ongoing	DMG Members	<i>Members will contact local SNH Wildlife Management Officer immediately on suspected sighting of Muntjac.</i>
Sika Deer (and Feral Pigs and Feral Goats) managed to prevent their establishment within the DMG area and managed as per the Non-Native Species Policy (Part 2 of plan).	Ongoing	DMG Members	<i>Where Sika Deer not currently established, Members will report sightings to DMG and will prevent their establishment shoot (within current legal restrictions).</i>
Record invasive plants species and encourage their control.	Annually	DMG Members	<i>Members will inform DMG of invasive plant species at annual meetings and will report on control undertaken.</i>

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

### 1.11.1 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>.

### 1.11.2 Plan Objectives

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

### 1.11.3 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 an assessment on cultural and historical features.
- There is an Archaeological Dig on Glenkilrie Estate –The Lair Project (Perth & Kinross Heritage Trust). There are currently no impacts from deer.
- There are no National Scenic Areas within the DMG but historic fences will have been assessed for landscape impacts according to Joint Agency Guidance.

### 1.11.4 Targets to be delivered by 2021

<b>Actions to protect designated historic and cultural features from being damaged by deer e.g. by trampling.</b>	<b>When?</b>	<b>Who?</b>	<b>How?</b>
Identify any features within DMG area that may be impacted on by deer.	By end of 2016	DMG Members	<i>DMG members to report at Autumn DMG meeting on features identified.</i>
If features identified, ensure the appropriate management is implemented and report to DMG.	Ongoing	DMG Members	<i>Verbal report/update to DMG.</i>
All future fencing proposals to follow Joint Agency Guidance	Ongoing	DMG Members	<i>DMG area does not fall within National Scenic Area but new fencing proposals will be reported to DMG.</i>



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

### 1.12.1 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.

### 1.12.2 Plan Objectives

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

### 1.12.3 Current Delivery

There are currently 30 individuals involved in carrying out practical deer management within the DMG. Of these **80% of individuals** involved in practical Deer Management have DSC Level 1 and **40%** Level 2.

### 1.12.4 Targets to be delivered by 2021

<b>Actions to contribute to delivering higher standards of competence in deer management.</b>	<b>When?</b>	<b>Who?</b>	<b>How?</b>
DMG will adopt the training policy statement (Part 2 of plan).	Spring 2016	DMG Members	<i>Adopted as part of DMP.</i>
Ascertain training levels among DMG Members and report on progress on an annual basis.	By Autumn 2016 & Annually	DMG Secretary and Members	<i>All members asked to provide an initial summary of staff qualifications to DMG Secretary. Verbal report at Spring meeting.</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.	Annually	DMG Chair and Secretary	<i>Annual training programme to be agreed at Spring meeting. Secretary to organise courses/events. Opportunities for CPD events to be explored by members.</i>

## 1.13 Actions to Identify and promote opportunities contributing to public health and wellbeing.

### 1.13.1 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 deer related disease such as Lyme disease. Actions relating to venison production are included in Section 14 and road traffic accident actions are covered in Section 15.
- West Grampian is a popular tourist destination, and wildlife tourism in particular is 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 several popular Munros and Corbetts listed in Table 5 on the [Heading For The Scottish Hills website](#).
- Responsible access is encouraged and welcomed by all properties within the DMG with walkers being encouraged to stick to ridges and avoid descending into corries where possible during the main stag stalking season (August to 20th October).

### 1.13.2 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 15);
- Co-ordinate action to minimise deer-related human disease risks;
- Promote responsible Access and the following of the Scottish Outdoor Access Code.

### 1.13.3 Current Delivery.

- Access is promoted across DMG and up to date information is provided in the Table 5 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. Atholl Estates has their own Ranger Service.

#### 1.13.4 Targets to be delivered by 2021

<b>Actions to Identify and promote opportunities contributing to public health and wellbeing.</b>	<b>When?</b>	<b>Who?</b>	<b>How?</b>
Provide information on access, CWD and health information about tick awareness to visitors/clients.	By end of 2016 and ongoing	DMG Secretary & Atholl through Ranger Service	<i>Secretary to circulate leaflets/literature at Spring/Autumn meetings for members to distribute. Information made available on DMG website.</i>
Complete relevant Access information for the Heading For the Scottish Hills initiative.	By end 2016	Secretary & Relevant DMG Members	<i>Secretary to liaise with DMG members to coordinate information to SNH and ensure information is kept up to date. Information on Access to be made available on DMG website.</i>
Recognise the context of the Cairngorms National Park and seek to deliver the Cairngorms Outdoor Access Strategy & National Park Plan.	Ongoing	Appropriate DMG Members	<i>Relevant DMG Members will explore opportunities to increase delivery of Cairngorms health, wellbeing and social inclusion objectives. Relevant properties to complete audit of paths to identify any works required, and ensure existing paths are effectively managed and maintained.</i>
Raise awareness of threats relating to Chronic Wasting Disease and sign up to CWD Biosecurity Policy (Part 2 of plan).	By end of 2016 and ongoing	DMG Members	<i>Members to raise awareness of CWD with Clients and Visitors from USA, Canada and Norway.</i>
Investigate opportunities for awareness raising/educational events for the local community.	Ongoing	Atholl and DMG Members	<i>DMG will explore opportunities to deliver/assist with events. Atholl will seek to raise awareness through the existing Ranger Service - guided walks/events etc.</i>
Provide opportunities for any concerns from the local community to be addressed. Ensure Community Council representation at meetings.	Ongoing	DMG Chair and Secretary	<i>Meeting dates and Agendas will be publically available on DMG website and circulated to community councils in advance. DMG Chair and Secretary contact details will be available on website. DMG to consider holding an annual public meeting.</i>

Explore opportunities for greater liaison/collaboration with access takers including Scottish Mountaineering Club and other Organisations such as Mountaineering Council for Scotland, Ramblers Association etc.	By autumn 2016	DMG Chair and access organisations	<i>DMG to explore opportunities to work together to improve information provision through social media</i>
Investigate opportunities to carry out a visitor survey to assess visitor perceptions of deer and land management and identify areas for action.	By 2018	Atholl and DMG	<i>DMG to scope questions to be included in Visitor Surveys conducted by Atholl and local tourism initiatives. Possible inclusion in extensive visitor survey carried out by CNPA.</i>

## 1.14. Actions to maximise economic benefits associated with deer

### 1.14.1 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 the Group area 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 920 stags are ideally required by the group to be harvested annually. In order to achieve a sustainable harvest of stags, a total population of 15870 (**20.7 deer per km<sup>2</sup>**) is required. This is above the current predicted population density of 18.2 deer per km<sup>2</sup>.

### 1.14.2 Plan Objectives

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

### 1.14.3 Current Delivery

- Currently 795 stags and 715 hinds are let for stalking providing an income in the region of £461,000 annually
- A total of 2940 venison carcasses are produced annually providing an additional further income of £264,000+ annually
- There are 25.5 full-time equivalent deer management employees with an additional 68 full- employees associated with estate management activities.
- Across the DMG there are 14 holiday let properties across the DMG.
- All properties use local services in Pitlochry, Blair Atholl, Kirkmichael and the local surrounding area - such as shops, fuel, hotels and B&Bs, local tradesmen, vets, livestock feed suppliers.
- All properties have access to larders with only four properties not having larder chills. Three of the estates are currently members of Scottish Quality Assured Wild Venison.



#### 1.14.4 Targets to be delivered by 2021

<b>Actions to maximise economic benefits associated with deer</b>	<b>When?</b>	<b>Who?</b>	<b>How?</b>
Investigate opportunities for membership of SQWV Quality Assurance Scheme.	By 2021	DMG Members	<i>On-going discussion at DMG meetings.</i>
Investigate opportunities for more effective collection of carcasses and negotiation of prices. DMG to investigate possible collaborative opportunities for the processing of venison/game. Members to seek opportunities to market venison locally.	Ongoing	DMG Members	<i>Discussion at Spring meeting. Chair &amp; Secretary to negotiate with Game Dealers on DMG behalf.</i>
DMG Members to continue to monitor sustainable harvest of stags for let stalking and to investigate opportunities for cross-property letting of stalking. Opportunities to collectively market stalking also explored.	Spring 2016 and Annually.	Chair & DMG Members	<i>Population model used to monitor sustainable harvest of stags. Members discuss stalking requirements at Spring meeting. Deer movement meetings following the deer count in 2016 used to monitor stag movements/distribution across the Group.</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>

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

### 1.15.1 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. Although relatively infrequent, these occur predominantly
- 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.

### 1.15.2 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 agricultural impacts. Incidents of Deer Vehicle Collisions (DVCs) will be monitored. Opportunities to work collaboratively to reduce these costs will be identified and actioned.

### 1.15.3 Current Delivery

- In November 2015 the properties in the east of the DMG met to discuss the on-going issue of the presence of large numbers of stags present year round on low ground properties (Balvarran, Finegand, Ashintully and Glenkilrie) where they are having a significant and unsustainable impact on agricultural interests. Night shooting authorisations have been applied for in the past by some of these properties the DMG, and this may impact on the open range population. The meeting recognised that significant changes in both the movements and distribution of stags and hinds may have accounted for these changes. The Group agreed in principle that a longer-term reduction in hinds could allow the opening up of wintering ground for stags, currently occupied by hinds. In addition, there is the issue of average age at which both sexes are culled. If the average age of the stag population is kept high and there is a ceiling on total stag numbers, then fewer stag calves are needed to be recruited each year and so fewer hinds in turn are required. This raises the possibility of holding more stags than hinds within the group area, something which traditionally has not been the norm but becomes possible as recruitment rate rises. In addition, issues such as holding extra stags on 'new' ground may become a subject for discussion. The properties involved have also agreed to trial a **Sub Group approach** to collaborative working (see 2.1.3)
- The DMG area is bounded by A924 and the A9 to the south and to a lesser degree the A93 to the east. It has been recognised that there may be "hotspots" for DVCs along these roads, particularly with the erection of fencing on Estates or as part of the A9 Dualling project.

#### 1.15.4 Targets to be delivered by 2021

<b>Actions to minimise the economic costs of deer, and ensure deer management is cost-effective</b>	<b>When?</b>	<b>Who?</b>	<b>How?</b>
DMG to consider the future costs of maintaining fences and financial provision for repairs.	By end of 2016	DMG Members	<i>Those responsible for fences report on current condition and likely repair timetable.</i>
Ensure local agricultural/forestry interests are consulted on DMP and invited to/represented at DMG meetings.	Spring 2016	DMG Chairman and Secretary	<i>DMG Chair will correspond with relevant parties.</i>
Set up monitoring and reporting of DVCs through website, DMG meetings and local Police contact.	Spring 2016 and ongoing	DMG Secretary	<i>Members of the public asked to report DVCs to DMG Secretary on website. Members record and report DVCs to meetings.</i>
Implement actions to mitigate against DVC hotspots including localised deer management, use of signage, fencing etc.	Ongoing	DMG Members	<i>Where hot-spots occur, DMG to discuss appropriate actions at meetings.</i>
Report on Out of Season and Night Shooting authorisations.	Annually	DMG Members	<i>Members to inform DMG Chair/Secretary in advance of intention to apply for authorisations. Members to report numbers of deer culled under authorisation at meetings.</i>

## 1.16 Actions to ensure effective communication on deer management issues.

### 1.16.1 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.

### 1.16.2 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. DMG Constitution will set out methods for conflict resolution.

### 1.16.3 Current Delivery.

- DMG has a [web site](#).
- The DMG works in partnership with SNH, FCS, Cairngorms National Park Authority, Atholl Ranger Service and the Local Community.

### 1.16.4 Targets to be delivered by 2021

Actions to ensure effective communication on deer management issues	When?	Who?	How?
Stakeholders consulted on draft plan.	Spring 2016	DMG Secretary	<i>Draft DMP made available on public website. Relevant stakeholders identified and invited to consult. Interested parties invited to attend a consultation meeting in Blair Atholl.</i>
Final Plan and Minutes of Meetings will be published on DMG Website.	Spring 2016	DMG Secretary	<i>DMG Website.</i>
DMG Constitution and ADMG Principles of Collaboration adopted (Part 2)	Spring 2016	DMG Members	<i>Adopted as part of DMP.</i>
Agree and adopt a DMG Communications Policy	Spring 2016	DMG Members	<i>Adopted as part of DMP.</i>

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

### 1.17.1 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 exclosures or use of strategic fenced 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, there are no properties using supplementary/diversionary winter feeding specifically for deer, although two properties use mineral licks/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 the DMG, but will be varied depending on the location and practical experience.

### 1.17.2 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.

### 1.17.3 Current Delivery.

- Members currently monitor and report on levels of winter mortality as well as any other significant health issues encountered.

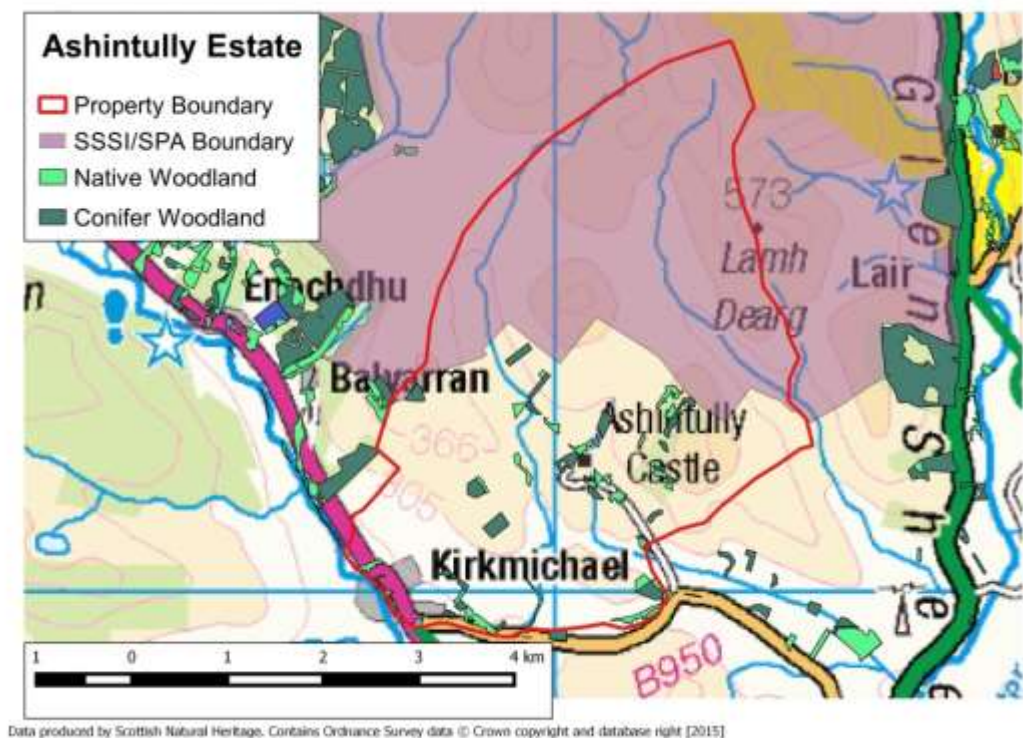


#### 1.17.4 Targets to be delivered by 2021

<b>Actions to ensure deer welfare is taken fully into account at individual animal and population level</b>	<b>When?</b>	<b>Who?</b>	<b>How?</b>
1.17.4.1 Agree and adopt welfare policy (Part 2 of plan).	Spring 2016	DMG Members	<i>Implemented through every day Best Practice in deer management.</i>
1.17.4.2 Consider opportunities for CPD/Training in relation to deer welfare.	Autumn 2017	DMG Members	<i>DMG will run at least one event to share Best Practice Management.</i>
1.17.4.3 Provide information on welfare indicators annually. Baseline information established in year 1 of DMP and welfare indicators reported on annually. Any resulting management actions agreed and implemented by members.	Ongoing	DMG Members	<i>Deer managers to provide information on hind reproduction and average larder weights.</i>
1.17.4.4 Any new fencing in DMG area will consider welfare implications in design and extent and the appropriate management undertaken.	Ongoing	DMG Members	<i>New fencing proposals will be consulted with DMG.</i>
1.17.4.5 Monitoring and reporting of significant levels of winter mortality.	Ongoing	DMG Members	<i>Deer managers will provide information (figures &amp; location) on winter mortality.</i>
1.17.4.6 Carry out a review of fencing and wintering ground and identify opportunities to open up woodland to deer.	Year 2	DMG Members & Consultant	<i>Subject to ECAF bid, carry out as part of the delivery of the DMG Woodland Expansion Report and recommended actions.</i>

## 1.18 Management Units: Ashintully

<b>Property</b>	<b>Ashintully Estate</b>
<b>Area</b>	1269 ha
<b>Owner</b>	Mr and Mrs H Holland-Bosworth
<b>Deer Management</b>	Bob Connelly



Deer Counts					
Year	Stags	Hinds	Calves	Total	Density
Feb 2001 (Heli)	623	3	3	629	49.6
Feb 2005 (Heli)	384	0	0	384	30.3
Jan 2010 (Heli)	711	0	0	711	56.0
2015 (Foot)	310	69	21	400	31.5
2016 (Foot)	24	24	7	55	4.3

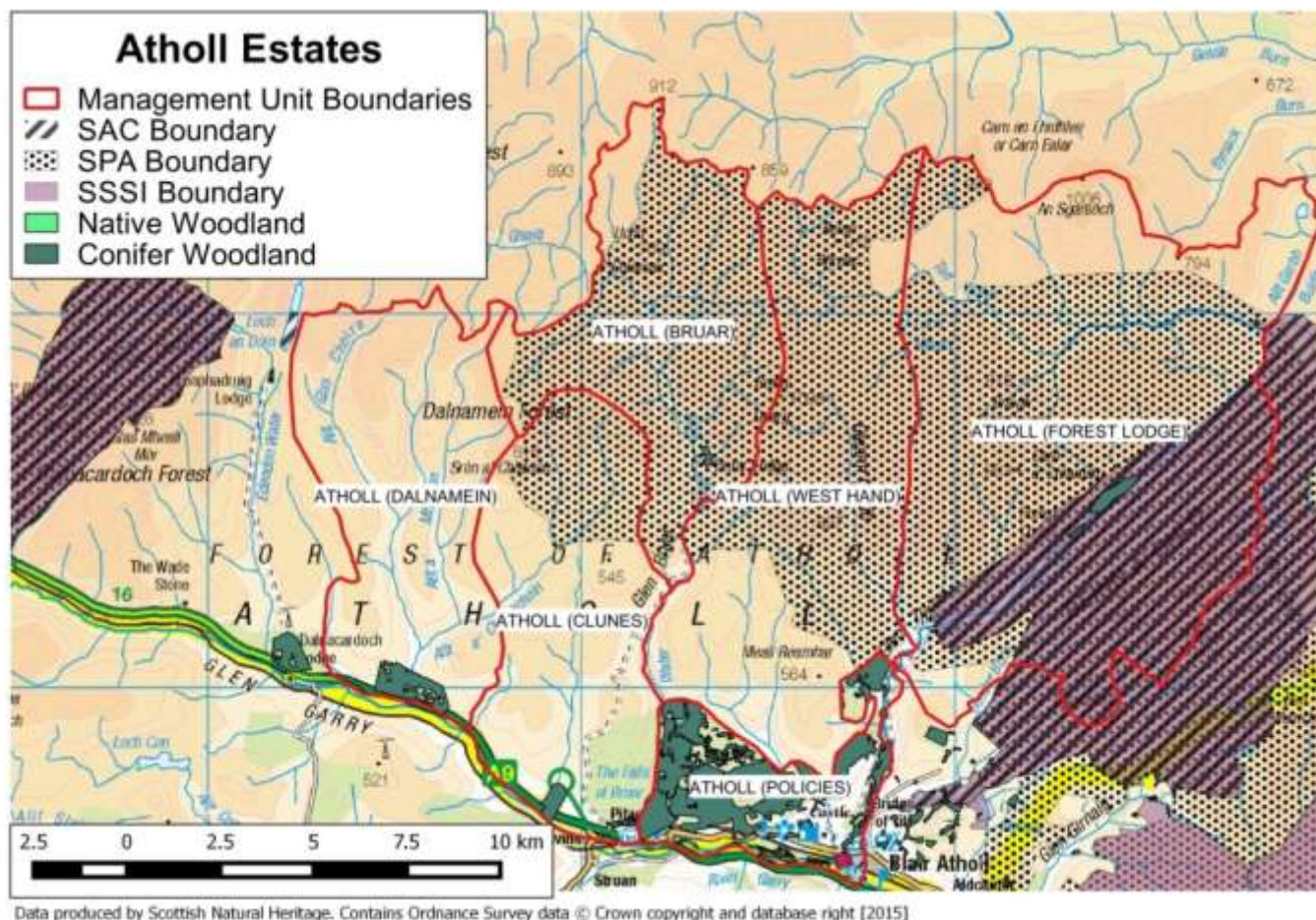
Deer Culls				
Year	Stags	Hinds	Calves	Total
1995-1996	37	25	0	62
1996-1997	9	8	0	17
1997-1998	0	0	0	0
1998-1999	0	0	0	0
1999-2000	2	0	0	2
2000-2001	0	0	0	0
2001-2002	5	0	0	5
2002-2003	6	0	0	6
2003-2004	2	0	0	2
2004-2005	78	0	0	78
2005-2006	59	0	0	59
2006-2007	90	0	0	90
2007-2008	90	0	0	90
2008-2009	34	0	0	34
2009-2010	41	0	0	41
2010-2011	39	0	0	39
2011-2012	30	2	3	35
2012-2013	13	1	0	14
2013-2014	10	2	0	12
2014-2015	28	2	0	30

<b>Background</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ashintully Estate lies to the far east of the Group area north of the village of Kirkmichael.</li> <li>• The Estate is bounded by the A924 to the west and to the north neighbours Balvarran. To the east the property marches with Finegand and Glenkilrie and to the south, Soilzarie with the B950 forming the southerly boundary.</li> <li>• The Estate combines conservation objectives with agriculture and shooting (Red Grouse, Roe deer and some Red deer).</li> <li>• Red and Roe deer species with the occasional Fallow. No Sika deer present.</li> </ul>
<b>Designated sites</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Forest of Clunie SSSI/SPA.</li> </ul>
<b>Deer Management Objectives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To balance deer management to deliver conservation and economic objectives.</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>
<b>Future Management Objectives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To seek opportunities to optimise the conservation and economic potential of the estate whilst delivering wider public interest.</li> <li>• Aspiration to improve condition of heather habitat.</li> </ul>
<b>Woodland</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Native woodland 24.5 ha</li> <li>• Conifer woodland 40.7 ha</li> </ul>
<b>Land management</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are no significant areas of Blanket bog and peatlands .</li> <li>• Some Muirburn undertaken in narrow strips.</li> <li>• Was previously in SRDP Moorland Management scheme (until 2014) to improve habitat for bird interests of the SPA/SSSI. Rank heather left around burns for Hen Harriers.</li> <li>• Hill ground currently used for grazing 1000 ewes and 150-200 hogs increasing to 1400.</li> </ul>
<b>Deer Impacts</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Estate over-winters large numbers of stags which impact of open hill ground and also on agricultural interests.</li> <li>• Numbers of stags shot Out of Season decreasing since 2007/8.</li> <li>• Ruin of Whitefield Castle fenced off – no deer impacts.</li> </ul>
<b>Supplementary Feeding</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None</li> </ul>
<b>Deer Distribution &amp; Movements</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Estate has seen increasing numbers of stags overwintering on low ground.</li> <li>• Deer move between neighbouring properties.</li> <li>• Estate would like to see a collaborative approach to managing the impacts of overwintering stags.</li> </ul>
<b>Access</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No Corbetts or Munroes.</li> <li>• Footpath runs through the estate – no access issues.</li> </ul>
<b>Socio-Economics</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 full-time stalker, 1 part-time assistant.</li> <li>• Stalker is an Accredited Witness.</li> <li>• The Estate owns 2 holiday cottages. Use of local businesses/services including B&amp;Bs and local restaurants for clients.</li> <li>• Upgrading of larder has been completed.</li> </ul>



## 1.19 Management Units: Atholl

<b>Property</b>	<b>Atholl Estates (Blair Castle and Bruar Trust Beats)</b>
<b>Area</b>	Total Count area 35225 ha. Bruar (4847 ha), Clunes (4773 ha), Dalnamein (4924 ha), Forest Lodge (13745 ha), West Hand (6936 ha).
<b>Owner</b>	Bruar Trust and Blair Charitable Trust
<b>Deer Management</b>	Sarah Troughton, Julian Clarke, Graeme Cumming, Ronnie Hepburn



### Deer Count Information by Beat/Management Unit

	Atholl (Bruar)					Atholl (Clunes)					Atholl (Dalnamein)					Atholl (Forest Lodge)					Atholl (West Hand)				
	S	H	C	T	D	S	H	C	T	D	S	H	C	T	D	S	H	C	T	D	S	H	C	T	D
Feb 2001 (Heli)	0	0	0	0	0.0	2988	5290	1517	9795	27.8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Feb 2005 (Heli)	5	31	9	45	0.9	1120	613	183	1916	40.1	214	1346	402	1962	39.8	367	1850	552	2769	20.1	1127	356	106	1589	22.9
Jan 2010 (Heli)	5	0	0	5	0.1	913	673	201	1787	37.4	290	1515	453	2258	45.9	770	1695	506	2971	21.6	706	721	215	1642	23.7
2015 (Foot)	1	1	0	2	0.0	1501	558	167	2226	46.6	255	985	294	1534	31.2	612	1415	423	2450	17.8	673	749	224	1646	23.7

## Current Aspirational Hind Population Densities for 2021 (subject to ongoing Habitat Impact Assessment information)

	S	H	C	T	D
	0	0	0	0	0
2005	581	2206	658	3445	16.7
2010	1060	2416	721	4197	20.3
2015	867	2164	647	3678	17.8
2021	867	1500	450	2817	13.6

	S	H	C	T	D
	2988	5290	1517	9795	67.3
2005	1339	1990	594	3923	27
2010	1208	2188	654	4050	27.8
2015	1757	1544	461	3762	25.9
2021	1757	1201	360	3318	22.8

## Deer Cull Information by Beat/Management Unit

Culls	Atholl (Br)			Atholl (Cl)			Atholl (Dal)			Atholl (FL)			A (WH)			Total		
	S	H	C	S	H	C	S	H	C	S	H	C	S	H	C	S	H	C
1995-1996	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	532	551	136	0	0	0	532	551	136
1996-1997	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	420	471	147	0	0	0	420	471	147
1997-1998	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	378	673	178	0	0	0	378	673	178
1998-1999	55	49	15	64	76	19	76	176	67	138	452	0	53	116	32	386	869	133
1999-2000	52	49	7	55	89	28	53	164	54	110	360	140	52	128	46	322	790	275
2000-2001	53	51	24	60	103	42	69	158	50	112	300	63	91	116	42	385	728	221
2001-2002	39	52	10	77	132	29	54	312	46	100	480	63	81	187	31	351	1163	179
2002-2003	52	21	1	70	121	15	58	258	28	94	285	16	77	66	12	351	751	72
2003-2004	0	0	0	91	126	19	70	311	57	100	233	25	83	104	10	344	774	111
2004-2005	0	0	0	104	105	15	79	325	70	114	361	27	85	140	9	382	931	121
2005-2006	0	0	0	92	80	26	89	300	50	110	259	23	107	88	12	398	727	111
2006-2007	0	0	0	90	77	13	68	213	46	100	270	38	84	66	18	342	626	115
2007-2008	0	0	0	107	76	28	93	206	60	106	224	20	80	33	9	386	539	117
2008-2009	30	6	7	84	52	15	75	131	22	90	124	34	53	9	1	332	322	79
2009-2010	36	3	2	66	62	19	69	142	48	92	280	22	47	15	3	310	502	94
2010-2011	30	12	0	68	80	23	49	155	35	109	448	76	47	60	5	303	755	139
2011-2012	32	33	2	76	78	18	46	151	34	96	335	81	64	84	14	314	681	149
2012-2013	28	35	0	80	100	32	60	150	45	120	340	69	65	80	12	353	705	158
2013-2014	29	40	5	68	111	37	46	149	28	106	310	60	53	104	19	302	714	149
2014-2015	28	30	5	68	150	45	48	175	25	106	300	70	55	115	13	305	770	158
2015-2016	23	48	6	69	140	33	47	171	46	94	275	66	73	156	20	306	790	171

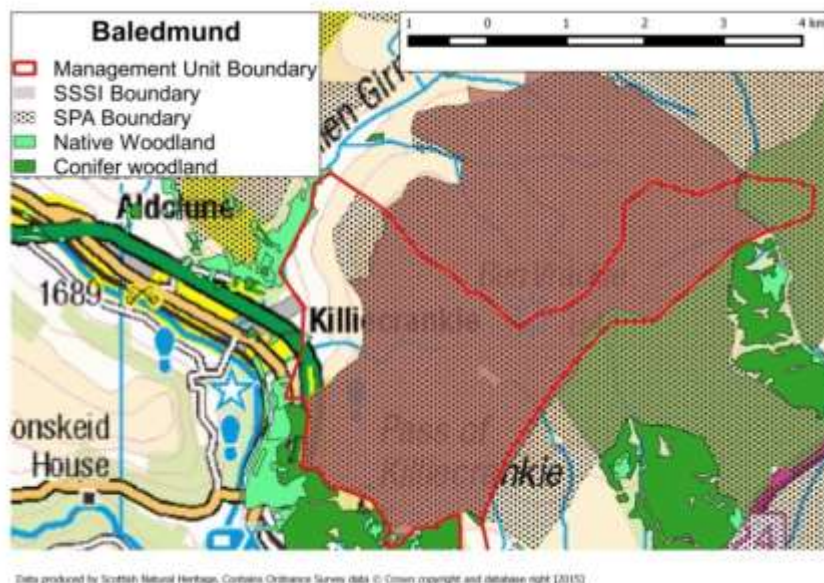


<b>Background</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Atholl Estates is split into 5 Beats and occupies a central position within the DMG Area.</li> <li>• The Dalnamein Beat marches to the west with Dalnacardoch and Wildland Gaick to the north (Cairngorms &amp; Speyside DMG).</li> <li>• The Bruar, West Hand and Forest Lodge Beats all march with Wildland Glenfeshie (Cairngorms &amp; Speyside DMG) to the north.</li> <li>• Forest Lodge Beat also marches with Mar Lodge (East Grampian Sub Area 5 DMG) to the north, and Fealar and Glenferstate and Lude to the east.</li> <li>• The A9 largely forms the southern boundary of the Estate.</li> <li>• Atholl Estates combines conservation objectives with agriculture (in-hand farming and let farms), forestry, tourism, renewable energy, property lets and shooting.</li> <li>• Red and Roe deer species with the occasional Fallow and Sika.</li> </ul>
<b>Designated sites</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Beinn a' Ghlo SAC/SSSI.</li> <li>• Glen Tilt Woodlands SSSI.</li> <li>• Cairngorms Massif SPA.</li> <li>• Property is entirely within the Cairngorms National Park.</li> </ul>
<b>Deer Management Objectives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To balance deer management to deliver conservation and economic objectives.</li> <li>• Specifically to reduce hind numbers to improve habitats. This will be achieved by taking a reduction cull in the hind population (see Tables above).</li> <li>• Neighbours to the north west have an aspiration of 2 deer per km<sup>2</sup> to deliver natural woodland regeneration objectives compared to the Estate's aspiration of 19 deer per km<sup>2</sup>.</li> <li>• To work collaboratively with neighbours to manage deer at a landscape scale within and across Deer Management Groups.</li> <li>• To encourage neighbourly cooperation and to work collaboratively within and across DMGs to resolve issues, particularly relating to wintering stags on agricultural land.</li> </ul>
<b>Future Management Objectives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To consolidate the current enterprises, whilst taking the opportunity to diversify and expand should it make economic sense.</li> </ul>
<b>Woodland</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No further woodland schemes planned.</li> <li>• Native Woodland: 696ha</li> <li>• Conifer Woodland: 1293 ha</li> </ul>
<b>Land management</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Estate has implemented a programme of Habitat Monitoring and will consider Peatland Restoration work in conjunction with CNPA.</li> <li>• Blanket bog and peatlands: 9496ha</li> <li>• Some Muirburn undertaken.</li> <li>• 1800 sheep (this has been reduced by 500).</li> </ul>
<b>Deer Impacts</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stags shot out of season on agricultural land to prevent damage to agriculture.</li> </ul>
<b>Supplementary Feeding</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None</li> </ul>

<b>Deer Distribution &amp; Movements</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Movement of hinds between Dalnamein, Dalnacardoch, Clunes and Wildland Gaick and some movement of stags between Clunes and Wildland Gaick.</li> <li>• During winter movement of wintering stags on lower ground above A9 between Clunes, Danamein and Dalnacardoch.</li> <li>• Few stags on Bruar during the rut.</li> <li>• Some new deer fencing has been added to existing fence lines between Glen Bruar and Atholl/Lude march in GlenFender preventing deer access to forestry and agricultural land on WestHand. Four blocks of mature forest have been opened for deer wintering and hind numbers between lower GlenTilt and GlenFender have been greatly reduced over the last 15 years. As a result several hundred stags are now present in this area during the winter relieving pressure further east.</li> <li>• Glen Tilt splits the Forest Lodge Beat and this area has a resident population of hinds which overwinter on the lower slopes of the glen. Hinds on the march with Mar Lodge will move south into Glen Tilt in bad weather. Some movement of summering hinds with Mar Lodge and Glenferinate.</li> <li>• In an area known as 'The Sanctuary' where West Hand marches with Forest Lodge to the north, close to the marches with Wildland Glenfeshie and Mar Lodge, there used be 1000 stags in this area. This area will attract stags from Atholl in a north wind but largely occupies few deer.</li> <li>• Estate would like to see a collaborative approach to managing the impacts of overwintering stags.</li> </ul>
<b>Access</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Numerous Munroes and Corbetts on the Estate including the summits of Beinn Dearg (1008m), Beinn Bhreac (912m), An Sgarsoch (1006m), Braigh Sron Ghorm (878m), Carn a' Chlamain (963m), Beinn a' Ghlo (1068m), Airgiod Bheinh (1064m) and carn nan Gabhar (1121m) Leathad an Taobhain.</li> <li>• The following information is provided on the Heading for the Scottish Hills website: <i>Stalking between beginning of Aug and 20 Oct. No stalking on Sundays. Recorded phone message: 01796 481740. If further information is needed, please e-mail pf@atholl-estates.co.uk or phone 01796 481355 (office hours only).</i></li> <li>• No access issues.</li> </ul>
<b>Socio-Economics</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 6 full-time stalkers and 6 trainees.</li> <li>• Each beat has own Lodge for letting with stag stalking plus letting of holiday cottages.</li> <li>• Estate employs an additional 60 people in relation to estate management &amp; tourism (Blair Castle).</li> <li>• Use of local businesses/services in Blair Atholl and Pitlochry including House of Bruar, Hotels, B&amp;Bs and local restaurants for hind stalking clients and general visitors to the Estate.</li> <li>• Estate has full time Ranger service providing information on deer management and the wider countryside and guide walks etc.</li> <li>• Ongoing discussion with A9 Dualling Team to ensure that fencing etc takes account of deer movements.</li> <li>• Wildfire Plan in place.</li> </ul>

## 1.20 Management Units: Baledmund

<b>Property</b>	<b>Baledmund Estate</b>
<b>Area</b>	1340 ha
<b>Owner</b>	Alastair Ferguson
<b>Deer Management</b>	



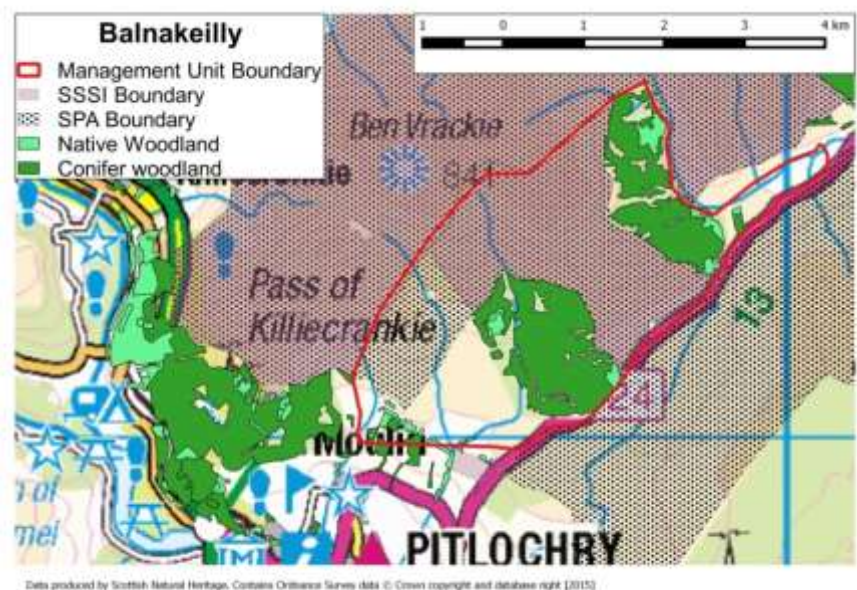
Deer Counts					
Year	Stags	Hinds	Calves	Total	Density
Feb 2001 (Heli)	0	0	0	0	0
Feb 2005 (Heli)	76	2	1	79	5.9
Jan 2010 (Heli)	119	67	19	205	15.3
2015 (Foot)	53	65	19	137	10.2

Deer Culls				
Year	Stags	Hinds	Calves	Total
1995-1996	5	1	1	7
1996-1997	3	3	0	6
1997-1998	0	1	0	1
1998-1999	3	4	0	7
1999-2000	3	2	1	6
2000-2001	0	0	0	0
2001-2002	13	0	0	13
2002-2003	3	0	0	3
2003-2004	1	0	0	1
2004-2005	6	6	0	12
2005-2006	12	8	0	20
2006-2007	8	5	1	14
2007-2008	22	2	0	24
2008-2009	54	4	0	58
2009-2010	36	2	0	38
2010-2011	34	2	0	36
2011-2012	24	0	0	24
2012-2013	11	6	0	17
2013-2014	13	7	0	20
2014-2015	19	15	34	68

<b>Background</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Baledmund occupies a central position within the Group area.</li> <li>• The property marches with Urrard and Lude to the north and Balnakeilly to the south</li> <li>•</li> </ul>
<b>Designated sites</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ben Vrackie SSSI</li> <li>• Cairngorms Massif SPA.</li> </ul>
<b>Woodland</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Native Woodland 49.1 ha</li> </ul>
<b>Land management</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Blanket bog and peatlands 60.6 ha</li> </ul>

## 1.21 Management Units: Balnakeilly

<b>Property</b>	<b>Balnakeilly Estate</b>
<b>Area</b>	1317 ha
<b>Owner</b>	Aubyn Stewart Wilson
<b>Deer Management</b>	Graham Milne



Deer Counts					
Year	Stags	Hinds	Calves	Total	Density
Feb 2001 (Heli)	31	119	23	173	13.1
Feb 2005 (Heli)	7	21	6	34	2.6
Jan 2010 (Heli)	138	251	74	463	35.2
2015 (Foot)	42	284	85	411	31.2
2016 (Foot)	44	99	12	155	11.8

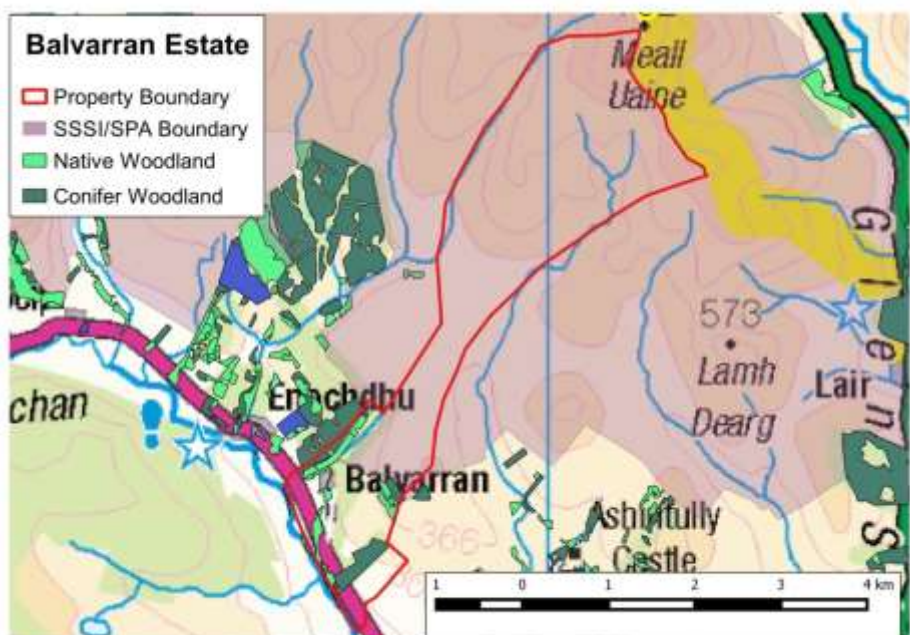
Deer Culls				
Year	Stags	Hinds	Calves	Total
1995-1996	4	28	2	34
1996-1997	5	10	1	16
1997-1998	0	0	0	0
1998-1999	12	50	1	63
1999-2000	3	11	3	17
2000-2001	7	10	3	20
2001-2002	8	11	1	20
2002-2003	13	15	1	29
2003-2004	20	12	0	32
2004-2005	16	21	4	41
2005-2006	15	15	2	32
2006-2007	17	20	4	41
2007-2008	22	20	2	44
2008-2009	20	17	2	39
2009-2010	25	27	4	56
2010-2011	19	14	3	36
2011-2012	29	29	7	65
2012-2013	24	29	1	54
2013-2014	22	34	3	59
2014-2015	31	50	12	93

<b>Background</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Balnakeilly Estate lies to the north of Pitlochry.</li> <li>• The Estate is bounded by the A924 to the south and marches with Baledmund and Clunskea.</li> <li>• The Estate combines conservation objectives with shooting</li> <li>• Red and Roe deer species. No Sika deer present.</li> </ul>
<b>Designated sites</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Forest of Clunie SSSI/SPA.</li> <li>• Cairngorms Massif SPA.</li> <li>• Within Cairngorms National Park.</li> </ul>
<b>Deer Management Objectives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To balance deer management to deliver conservation and economic objectives.</li> </ul>
<b>Woodland</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Native Woodland 38.6 ha.</li> <li>• Conifer Woodland 333.3 ha.</li> </ul>
<b>Land management</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No significant areas of Blanket bog and peatlands.</li> <li>• Was previously in SRDP Moorland Management scheme to improve habitat for bird interests of the SPA/SSSI. Muirburn and fox control undertaken.</li> </ul>
<b>Supplementary Feeding</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None</li> </ul>
<b>Deer Distribution &amp; Movements</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No issues with wintering stags on agricultural ground as property now fenced at the Gatehouse.</li> </ul>
<b>Access</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No Corbetts or Munroes.</li> <li>• Main path to Ben Vrackie runs through the estate – no access issues.</li> </ul>
<b>Socio-Economics</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 self-employed.</li> <li>• The Estate owns 2 holiday cottages. Use of local businesses/services including B&amp;Bs and local restaurants in Strathardle, Pitlochry and Kirkmichael for clients.</li> <li>• Upgrading of larder to be completed.</li> </ul>



## 1.22 Management Units: Balvaran

<b>Property</b>	<b>Balvaran Estate</b>
<b>Area</b>	865 ha
<b>Owner</b>	Rory Stormonth Darling
<b>Deer Management</b>	Rory Stormonth Darling, Steven Wade (shooting tenant)



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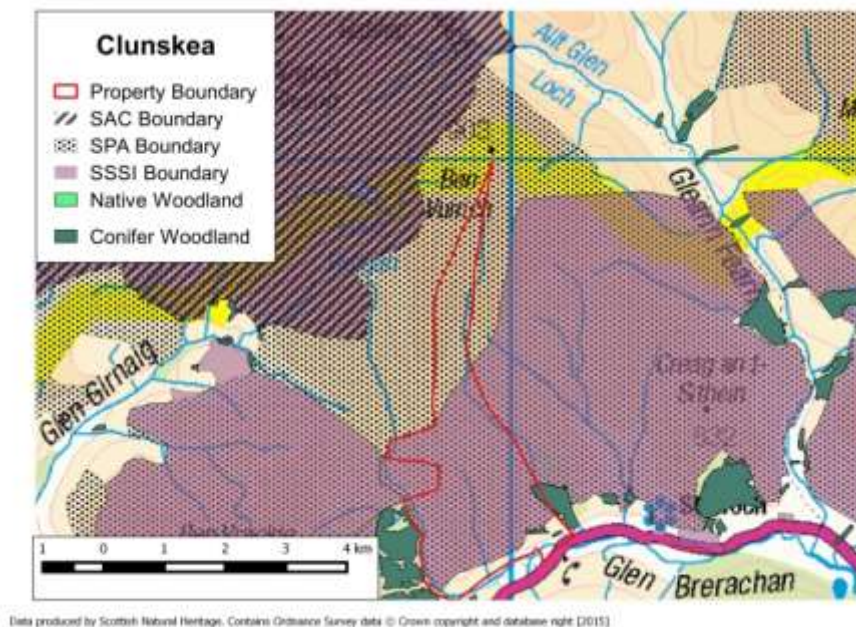
<b>Deer Counts</b>					
<b>Year</b>	<b>Stags</b>	<b>Hinds</b>	<b>Calves</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Density</b>
Feb 2001 (Heli)	380	0	0	380	43.9
Feb 2005 (Heli)	125	0	0	125	14.5
Jan 2010 (Heli)	7	0	0	7	0.8
2015 (Foot)	64	28	8	100	11.6
2016 (Foot)	281	53	28	362	41.8

<b>Deer Culls</b>				
<b>Year</b>	<b>Stags</b>	<b>Hinds</b>	<b>Calves</b>	<b>Total</b>
1995-1996	19	0	0	19
1996-1997	22	0	0	22
1997-1998	31	11	2	44
1998-1999	20	0	0	20
1999-2000	9	0	0	9
2000-2001	9	2	2	13
2001-2002	23	1	0	24
2002-2003	21	5	0	26
2003-2004	9	1	0	10
2004-2005	25	5	0	30
2005-2006	12	1	0	13
2006-2007	8	0	0	8
2007-2008	10	0	0	10
2008-2009	10	0	0	10
2009-2010	0	0	0	0
2010-2011	0	0	0	0
2011-2012	6	3	0	9
2012-2013	1	0	1	2
2013-2014	8	10	4	22
2014-2015	18	32	14	64

<b>Background</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Balvarran Estate lies to the east of the Group area.</li> <li>The Estate is bounded by the A924 to the south and marches with Dirnanean to the west and Ashintully and Finegand to the east.</li> <li>The Estate has strong conservation objectives along with agriculture and shooting.</li> <li>Red and Roe deer species with the occasional Fallow. No Sika deer present.</li> </ul>
<b>Designated sites</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Forest of Clunie SSSI/SPA.</li> <li>Currently under a management agreement for Muirburn/heather management.</li> </ul>
<b>Deer Management Objectives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To balance deer management to deliver conservation as well as wider economic objectives of the Estate.</li> <li>To improve the quality of deer as a sustainable resource to the Estate and the wider DMG but also to reduce their negative impacts.</li> </ul>
<b>Future Management Objectives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To seek opportunities for greater collaboration and communication in deer management across the DMG.</li> </ul>
<b>Woodland</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Native woodland 18.94 ha</li> <li>Conifer woodland 22.38 ha.</li> <li>Mixed Broadleaves (planted with conifers) 3.38 ha</li> <li>In 2011, property replanted 11.90ha of Conifer and 3.38ha of Mixed Broadleaves. In 2013, 4.95ha of Native Broadleaves replanted (in replacement for Conifer).</li> <li>Objectives to protect existing native woodland.</li> <li>No woodland schemes in last 10 years.</li> </ul>
<b>Land management</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Blanket bog and peatlands 72.4 ha.</li> <li>Muirburn conducted annually.</li> <li>500 sheep and 80 cattle – all with access to the hill.</li> <li>Increasing numbers of Black Grouse leks.</li> <li>Trainee from North Highland taken on to carry out predator control and muirburn.</li> <li>40 years ago there was more heather present but historic grazing by sheep and deer has caused vegetation to change to a grass/heather mosaic.</li> </ul>
<b>Deer Impacts</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Only relatively recently that Estate seeing deer numbers and densities increasing markedly as deer move eastwards.</li> <li>Deer impacts on agricultural ground overwinter/spring.</li> </ul>
<b>Supplementary Feeding</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>None</li> </ul>
<b>Deer Distribution &amp; Movements</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Deer movements in the area have changed markedly – now large numbers of stags around all year – movement with neighbours to the east. 100+ hinds locally.</li> <li>Due to the shape of the Estate stags and hinds tend to move on and off frequently. There is one main corrie where deer tend to congregate but will move easily.</li> </ul>
<b>Access</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No Corbetts or Munroes.</li> <li>No access issues.</li> </ul>
<b>Socio-Economics</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 part-time employee associated with deer management. 4 full time employees associated with other Estate work.</li> <li>The Estate owns 1 holiday cottage. Use of local businesses/services including Hotels, B&amp;Bs and local restaurants for clients</li> <li>Estate has just submitted planning permission to convert the old farm steading into offices for a mail order business, gallery space and a new holiday let property.</li> </ul>

## 1.23 Management Units: Clunskea

<b>Property</b>	<b>Clunskea</b>
<b>Area</b>	717 ha
<b>Deer Management</b>	Davie Michie



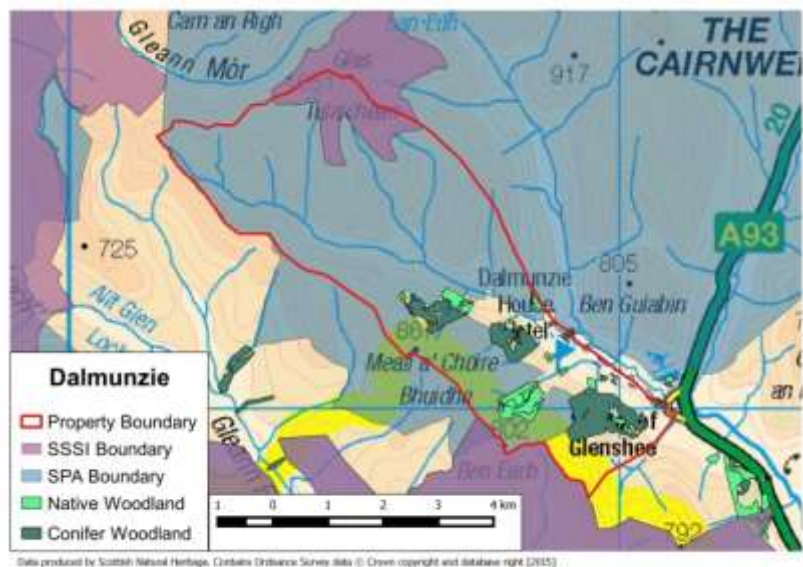
Deer Counts Clunskea					
Year	Stags	Hinds	Calves	Total	Density
Feb 2001 (Heli)	44	38	13	95	13
Feb 2005 (Heli)	0	0	0	0	0
Jan 2010 (Heli)	20	39	12	71	9.9
2015 (Foot)	0	0	0	0	0

Deer Culls				
Year	Stags	Hinds	Calves	Total
1995-1996	3	5	1	9
1996-1997	10	0	0	10
1997-1998	6	2	0	8
1998-1999	0	0	0	0
1999-2000	0	0	0	0
2000-2001	18	6	4	28
2001-2002	10	12	3	25
2002-2003	8	14	2	24
2003-2004	14	10	1	25
2004-2005	13	17	3	33
2005-2006	17	18	5	40
2006-2007	6	5	0	11
2007-2008	7	5	1	13
2008-2009	10	11	3	24
2009-2010	15	14	5	34
2010-2011	13	16	3	32
2011-2012	5	6	0	11
2012-2013	10	9	0	19
2013-2014	0	12	1	13
2014-2015	1	14	0	15

<b>Background</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clunskea Estate lies to the north-east of Pitlochry.</li> <li>• The Estate marches with Balnekeilly, Baledmund and Lude to the west and Tarvie to the east.</li> <li>• The Estate combines conservation objectives with agricultural interests.</li> <li>• Red and Roe deer species with the occasional Fallow. No Sika deer present.</li> </ul>
<b>Designated sites</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Forest of Clunie SSSI/SPA.</li> </ul>
<b>Deer Management Objectives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To manage deer where practical, to deliver conservation and economic objectives.</li> </ul>
<b>Woodland</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Native woodland 0.5 ha.</li> <li>• Conifer woodland 29.2 ha.</li> </ul>
<b>Land management</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No significant areas of blanket bog and peatlands.</li> <li>• Sheep grazing on open hill.</li> <li>• Some muirburn undertaken.</li> </ul>
<b>Supplementary Feeding</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None</li> </ul>
<b>Deer Distribution &amp; Movements</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The shape of the property makes deer management difficult as deer tend to be moving through the property.</li> </ul>
<b>Access</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ben Vurich (903m) is the main summit.</li> <li>• No access issues</li> </ul>
<b>Socio-Economics</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 part-time person employed (owner).</li> </ul>

## 1.24 Management Units: Dalmunzie

<b>Property</b>	<b>Dalmunzie Estate</b>
<b>Area</b>	2625 ha
<b>Owner</b>	Sir Henry Angest
<b>Deer Management</b>	David Woodcock Steve Halliday



Deer Counts					
Year	Stags	Hinds	Calves	Total	Density
Feb 2001 (Heli)	3	39	9	51	1.9
Feb 2005 (Heli)	35	206	61	302	12
Jan 2010 (Heli)	3	15	4	22	0.8
2015 (Foot)	11	72	22	105	4.0
2016 (Foot)	42	138	52	232	8.8

Deer Culls				
Year	Stags	Hinds	Calves	Total
1995-1996	43	32	9	84
1996-1997	38	23	2	63
1997-1998	26	28	5	59
1998-1999	34	24	2	60
1999-2000	26	25	10	61
2000-2001	27	30	6	63
2001-2002	28	49	17	94
2002-2003	25	21	8	54
2003-2004	27	28	5	60
2004-2005	34	53	11	98
2005-2006	27	43	28	98
2006-2007	31	59	23	113
2007-2008	34	21	1	56
2008-2009	33	22	11	66
2009-2010	30	34	12	76
2010-2011	34	13	5	52
2011-2012	40	25	7	72
2012-2013	37	27	5	69
2013-2014	26	32	14	72
2014-2015	31	33	14	78

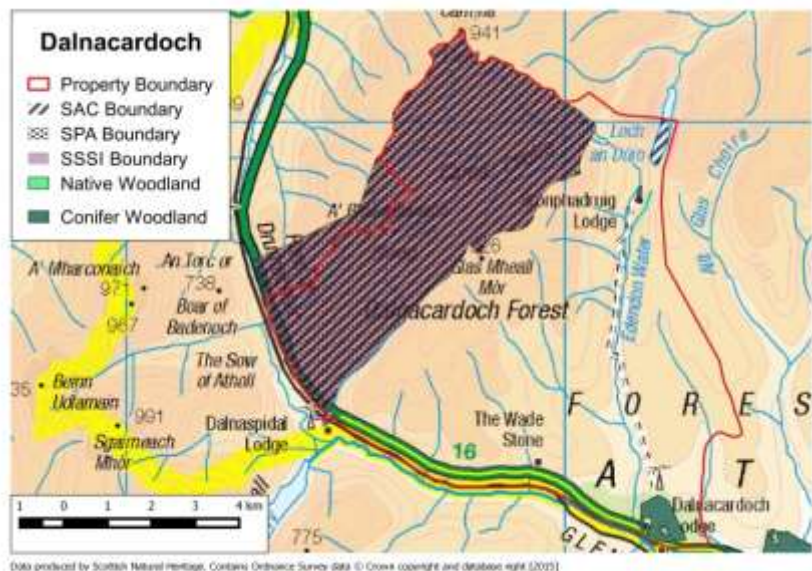


<b>Background</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dalmunzie Estate lies to the North East of the Group Area</li> <li>• The Estate marches with Glenfeamate to the west, Fealar to the north, Rhirdorrach to the East and Rhiedorrach and Dirnanean to the South.</li> <li>• The estate combines conservation objectives, with agriculture, tourism, forestry and shooting.</li> <li>• Red and Roe deer species are present. No Sitka deer present.</li> </ul>
<b>Designated Sites</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Glas Tulaichean SSSI (Favourable condition)</li> <li>• Within Cairngormes National Park</li> </ul>
<b>Deer Management Objectives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To balance the deer management to deliver the twin aims of conservation and economic objectives whilst minimising negative impacts of deer on agricultural land</li> </ul>
<b>Future Management Objectives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To seek opportunities to optimise the conservation and economic potential of the estate whilst delivering wider public interest aims.</li> <li>• To monitor the condition of the heather and blanket bog.</li> </ul>
<b>Woodland</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Native Woodland (43.8ha) – in 3 blocks planted with tree species to help improve the Blackcock population</li> <li>• Conifer Woodland (139.1ha) – mature in 3 blocks</li> <li>• Conifer shelter belts</li> </ul>
<b>Land Management</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Blanket bog and peatlands 453.6ha</li> <li>• Some muirburn undertaken</li> <li>• Farming activities now operated in-hand. A hefted hill flock is being re-established with summer access to the hill (aim to have 500-600 ewes – historically the farm has supported 1000 ewes in the past).</li> <li>• Summer/Autumn grazing of native Highland cattle</li> </ul>
<b>Deer Impacts</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Impacts on agricultural ground primarily in the winter and spring (as hinds move into the area to calve)</li> </ul>
<b>Supplementary Feeding</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None</li> </ul>
<b>Deer Distribution &amp; Movements</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dalmunzie has a transient deer population. The hinds calve on Dalmunzie in the spring. The number of hinds moving onto Dalmunzie to calve has noticeably increased in the last 7-8 years.</li> <li>• Due to the influx of hinds more Stags are present for the rut period (3-4 weeks)</li> </ul>
<b>Access</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Glas Tulaichean (1051m)</li> <li>• The following information is provided on the Heading for the Scottish Hills website: Stalking between August and 20 Oct. No Stalking on Sundays. Access via the main paths and ridges is always OK. If further information is required, please e-mail <a href="mailto:info@dalmunzieestate.com">info@dalmunzieestate.com</a> or phone 01250 885226 (office hours only).</li> <li>• Please note limited mobile phone reception in the area</li> <li>• No Access issues</li> </ul>
<b>Socio-Economics</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 Factor (part-time), 1 full-time stalker, 1 under-keeper/estate maintenance, 1 farm worker, 2 part-time holiday cottage administrators plus cleaners</li> <li>• The estate operates 8 self-catering holiday properties (ranging from 2 sleepers to 16 sleepers) and a 9 hole golf course (one of the highest in Scotland)</li> <li>• 132 bed nights provided for stalkers</li> <li>• Use of local business/services including Hotels, B&amp;B's, local shops and restaurants for visitors</li> </ul>



## 1.25 Management Units: Dalnacardoch

<b>Property</b>	<b>Dalnacardoch Estate</b>
<b>Area</b>	7572 ha
<b>Deer Management</b>	Alastair Gemmell (Savills), Kevin Simpson and Duncan Fernie.



Deer Counts					
Year	Stags	Hinds	Calves	Total	Density (Deer per Km2)
Feb 2001 (Heli)	620	109	40	769	10
Feb 2005 (Heli)	707	383	114	1204	16.2
July 2007 (Heli)					
<b>SAC Area</b>	827	962	288	1389	57.1
Jan 2010 (Heli)	366	19	6	391	5.2
June 2011 (Foot)					
<b>SAC Area</b>	0	0	0	517	21
August 2011 (Heli)					
<b>SAC Area</b>	0	0	0	1056	43
August 2011 (Heli)					
Outwith SAC	0	0	0	719	20
August 2011 All	0	0	0	1775	28
2015 (Foot) Winter	460	222	66	748	9.9

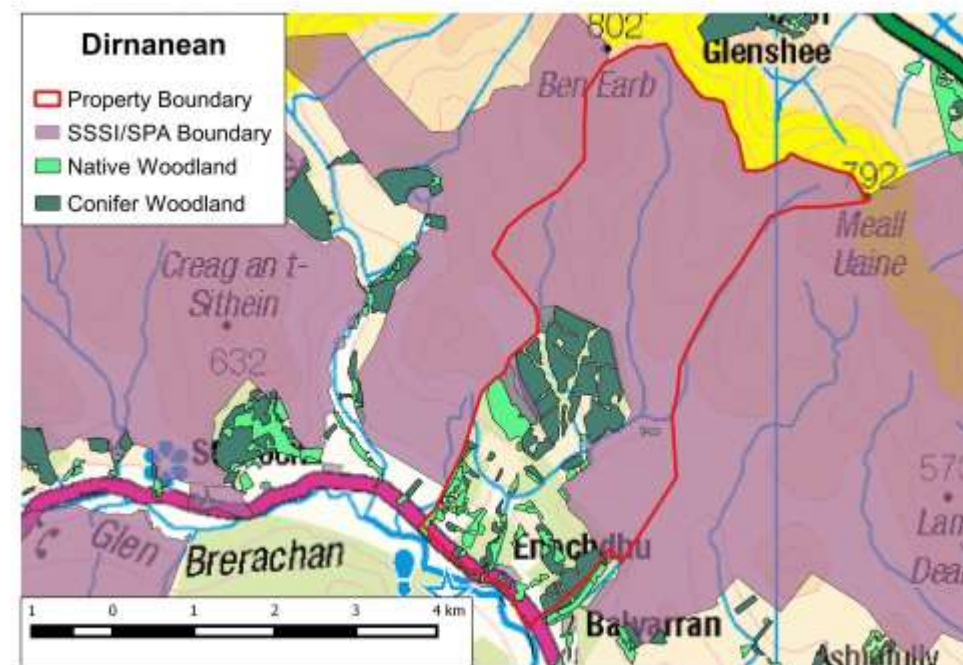
Deer Culls				
Year	Stags	Hinds	Calves	Total
1995-1996	160	57	12	229
1996-1997	149	50	21	220
1997-1998	153	69	33	255
1998-1999	181	79	24	284
1999-2000	177	58	30	265
2000-2001	155	77	28	260
2001-2002	153	93	25	271
2002-2003	129	64	10	203
2003-2004	123	64	8	195
2004-2005	161	84	121	366
2005-2006	143	90	15	248
2006-2007	150	75	28	253
2007-2008	128	81	22	231
2008-2009	141	58	24	223
2009-2010	130	55	14	199
2010-2011	155	83	22	260
2011-2012	155	101	15	271
2012-2013	123	61	14	198
2013-2014	102	71	16	189
2014-2015	115	65	15	195

<b>Background</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dalnacardoch Estate is situated 6 miles west of Calvine and lies at the far west of the Group area.</li> <li>• The Estate is bounded by the A9 to the south and marches with Atholl Dalnamein to the east and Wildland Gaick (Cairngorms &amp; Speyside DMG) to the north. To the west the Estate neighbours South Drummochter and Phones.</li> <li>• The Estate combines conservation objectives with the sustainable harvest of Red Deer and some walked-up grouse shooting.</li> <li>• Red and Roe deer species. No Sika deer present.</li> </ul>
<b>Designated sites</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Approximately 30% (2432 ha) of the estate lies within Drummochter Hills SAC/SSSI/SPA.</li> <li>• Within Cairngorms National Park.</li> </ul>
<b>Deer Management Objectives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To balance deer management to promote long-term improvement in the condition of the Designated Sites whilst supporting economic sustainability through stalking.</li> </ul>
<b>Future Management Objectives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Targeted culling to reduce summer deer density on SAC area both in season and out of season.</li> <li>• Increased culling of stags and hinds across the whole estate to continue to reduce the population density whilst providing a sustainable harvest of stags to support two full-time stalkers.</li> <li>• Increased collaboration with neighbours (Phones, South Drummochter , Wildland Gaick and Atholl) and on-going discussion to look at possible management implications of hind reduction proposals on Atholl, Danacardoch and Gaick.</li> <li>• To work closely with rest of West Grampian DMG, Cairngorms &amp; Speyside DMG and the Cairngorms National Park Authority.</li> </ul>
<b>Woodland</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Native woodland: 120 ha.</li> <li>• Conifer woodland: 81ha.</li> <li>• Commercial woodland may require thinning (possible opportunities).</li> <li>• WGS – 20 years old. Deer fenced but growth slow.</li> </ul>
<b>Land management</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Blanket bog and peatlands:3209ha.</li> <li>• Traditional upland management techniques are implemented in accordance with the Estate's Objectives.</li> <li>• At present no sheep or cattle graze the open hill.</li> <li>• Ponies and ATVs used for carcass extraction.</li> <li>• Limited muirburn conducted annually in accordance with the Muirburn Code of a small proportion (less than 10%) of the moorland area.</li> <li>• May consider future Peatland Restoration schemes</li> </ul>
<b>Deer Impacts</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The base-line survey of the Drummochter Hills SAC/SSSI was carried out in 2007 (Dayton 2008) and repeated in 2013 by Strath Caulaidh Ltd.</li> <li>• The number of deer in the SAC area is greater in the summer then in the winter. For this reason it has been suggested that summer herbivore impacts are the key concern for achieving Favourable or Unfavourable-Recovering condition.</li> <li>• The Estate has a Deer Management Plan (2011 -2015) which is aimed at reducing the summer deer population density on the SAC. Stalking in July focussed on the summering area for stags on the SAC. Hind cull has been increased.</li> <li>• The Estate intends to train staff to carry out Habitat Monitoring and will carry out Impact Assessments according to the schedule in Part 1 of the DMP.</li> <li>• RTAs have been an issue in the past with stags crossing the dual carriage way of the A9 however increases in cull on surrounding properties (Danaspiedal) as well as increased disturbance through the Beaulay-Denny power line works have reduced this movement.</li> </ul>
<b>Supplementary Feeding</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None but mineral licks provided from late winter onwards to divert deer away from the SAC.</li> </ul>

<b>Deer Distribution &amp; Movements</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The distribution of deer around the Estate varies during the year as a result of seasonal behaviour, weather and disturbance.</li> <li>• Shared hind population with Atholl (Dalnamein).</li> <li>• There is some movement of stags to Wildland Gaick during the rut and some movement of hinds across the march.</li> <li>• Stags largely overwinter on the lower ground above the A9, moving across the march with Atholl Dalnamein.</li> </ul>
<b>Access</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No Corbetts or Munroes.</li> <li>• A hill road and right of way runs due north from Dalnacardoch Lodge to a dam north of Sronphadruig Lodge which is maintained by Estate staff.</li> </ul>
<b>Socio-Economics</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 full-time stalker, 2 seasonal ghillies</li> <li>• Additional 3 part-time staff to manage lodge (let for 10 -11 weeks with stalking).</li> <li>• Rest of year, lodge let as holiday accommodation.</li> </ul>

## 1.26 Management Units: Dirnanean

<b>Property</b>	<b>Dirnanean Estate</b>
<b>Area</b>	1556 ha
<b>Owner</b>	J. Manning
<b>Deer Management</b>	W. Manning



Deer Counts					
Year	Stags	Hinds	Calves	Total	Density
Feb 2001 (Heli)	0	0	0	0	0
Feb 2005 (Heli)	342	63	19	424	27.2
Jan 2010 (Heli)	84	360	108	552	35.5
2015 (Foot)	83	576	172	831	53.4
2016 (Foot)	215	143	42	400	25.7

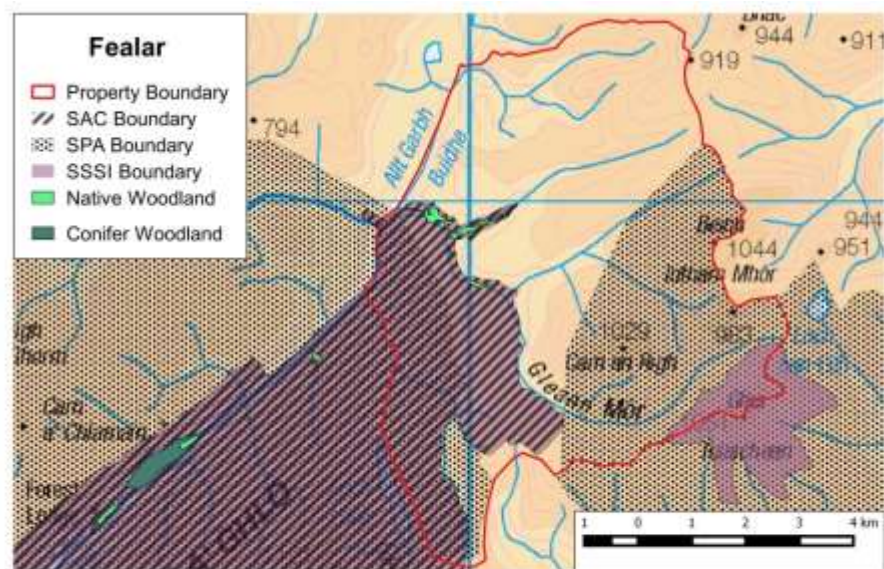
Deer Culls				
Year	Stags	Hinds	Calves	Total
1995-1996	21	5	4	30
1996-1997	32	5	3	40
1997-1998	29	10	2	41
1998-1999	44	16	18	78
1999-2000	55	8	13	76
2000-2001	43	7	3	53
2001-2002	25	0	0	25
2002-2003	28	0	0	28
2003-2004	4	0	0	4
2004-2005	21	192	1	214
2005-2006	192	0	0	192
2006-2007	76	2	0	78
2007-2008	0	0	0	0
2008-2009	0	0	0	0
2009-2010	0	0	0	0
2010-2011	13	1	0	14
2011-2012	38	0	2	40
2012-2013	0	0	0	0
2013-2014	0	0	0	0
2014-2015	0	0	0	0

<b>Background</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dirnanean lies to the east of the Group</li> <li>• The Estate is bounded by the A924 to the south, Glenfermate to the west, Dalmunzie and Rhiedorrach to the north and Balvarran to the east.</li> <li>• The Estate combines conservation objectives with agriculture and some shooting</li> <li>• Red and Roe deer. No Sika deer present.</li> </ul>
<b>Designated sites</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Forest of Clunie SSSI/SPA.</li> </ul>
<b>Deer Management Objectives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To balance deer management to deliver conservation and economic objectives.</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>
<b>Woodland</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Native woodland: 75.8 ha.</li> <li>• Conifer woodland: 169.5 ha.</li> <li>• No long term aspirations for woodland expansion.</li> </ul>
<b>Land management</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No significant areas of Blanket bog and peatlands.</li> <li>• 800 ewes and lambs plus 300 gimmers on open-hill from mid-May to mid-November. All sheep off-wintered.</li> </ul>
<b>Deer Impacts</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Property was previously in an SRDP Moorland Management from 2005 -2010 (with agreement to reduce stag numbers).</li> </ul>
<b>Supplementary Feeding</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None</li> </ul>
<b>Deer Distribution &amp; Movements</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Over the last few years the Estate has seen considerable changes in deer movements and distributions.</li> <li>• Large groups of stags (up to 1000) in the local area to the east and around 600 staying during the rut.</li> <li>• Property now seeing more hinds overwintering (possibly due to management pressure to the west) and stags visiting during the rut.</li> </ul>
<b>Access</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No Corbetts or Munroes.</li> <li>• The Cateran Trail runs through Estate – most people stick to path so no access issues.</li> </ul>
<b>Socio-Economics</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 part-time stalker.</li> <li>• 20 stags let.</li> <li>• Local B&amp;Bs used for stalking clients.</li> </ul>



## 1.27 Management Units: Fealar

<b>Property</b>	<b>Fealar</b>
<b>Area</b>	4928 ha
<b>Owner</b>	Andrew Mellor, Hugh Mellor, Andrew Spearman, Lochie Spearman, Jonny Spearman, Harry Teacher
<b>Deer Management</b>	George Leggat (Bidwells) & Tom McKenzie



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Deer Counts					
Year	Stags	Hinds	Calves	Total	Density
Feb 2001 (Heli)	146	737	229	1112	22.56
Feb 2005 (Heli)	142	708	211	1061	21.53
Jan 2010 (Heli)	38	240	72	350	7.102
2015 (Foot)	72	464	139	675	13.7
2016 (Foot)	163	362	136	661	13.4

Deer Culls				
Year	Stags	Hinds	Calves	Total
1995-1996	100	161	25	286
1996-1997	86	60	8	154
1997-1998	101	117	22	240
1998-1999	110	127	38	275
1999-2000	127	186	25	338
2000-2001	97	201	52	350
2001-2002	100	180	18	298
2002-2003	109	201	9	319
2003-2004	104	210	23	337
2004-2005	97	143	14	254
2005-2006	90	200	28	318
2006-2007	73	156	43	272
2007-2008	85	82	11	178
2008-2009	77	61	5	143
2009-2010	55	70	12	137
2010-2011	56	93	11	160
2011-2012	63	201	36	300
2012-2013	68	126	26	220
2013-2014	59	113	20	192
2014-2015	53	154	45	252

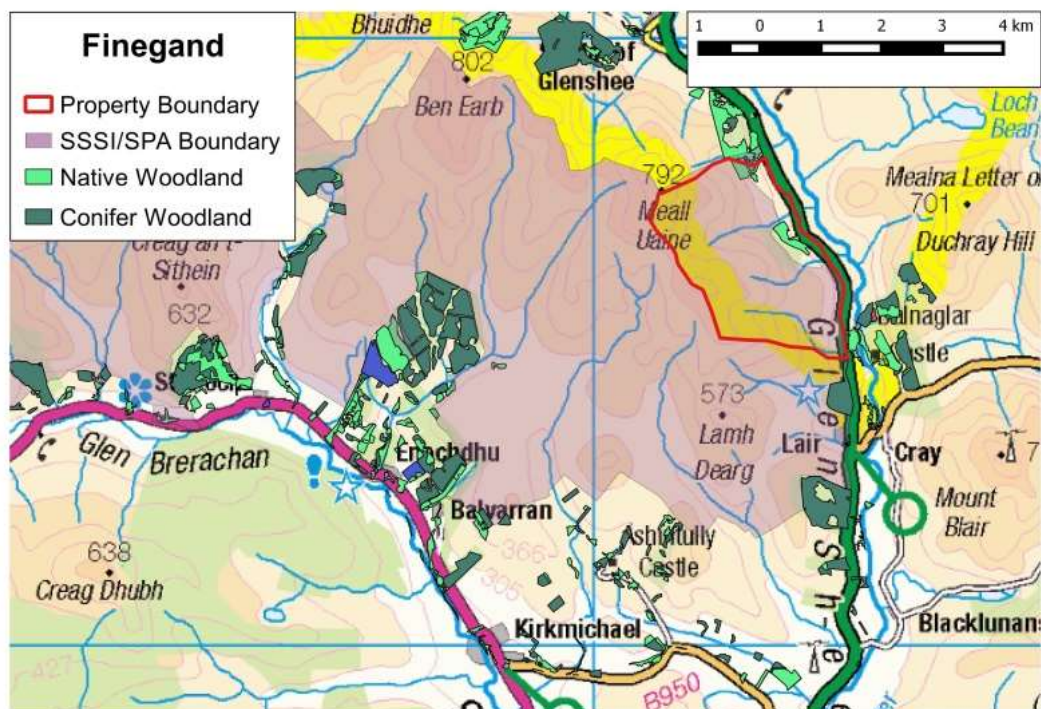


<b>Background</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fealar Estate lies to the north-east of the group area.</li> <li>• The Estate marches with Atholl (Forest Lodge) to the west, Glenfernate to the south, Dalmunzie and Rhiedorrach to the east and Mar and Mar Lodge Estates (East Grampian Sub Area 5) to the north.</li> <li>• The Estate combines conservation objectives with agriculture and shooting.</li> <li>• Red and Roe deer species. No Sika deer present.</li> </ul>
<b>Designated sites</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Beinn a'Ghlo SAC/SSSI</li> <li>• Glas Tulaichean SSSI</li> <li>• Cairngorms Massif SPA</li> <li>• The estate entered into a management agreement with SNH in 1989 in relation to Beinn a' Ghlo. The SAC is completely stock fenced and grazing livestock excluded from this area.</li> <li>• Within Cairngorms National Park.</li> </ul>
<b>Deer Management Objectives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To balance deer management to deliver conservation and economic objectives.</li> </ul>
<b>Future Management Objectives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To seek opportunities to optimise the conservation and economic potential of the estate whilst delivering wider public interest.</li> <li>• Aspiration to increase natural regeneration.</li> </ul>
<b>Woodland</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Native woodland: 20.5 ha.</li> <li>• Conifer woodland: none.</li> <li>• A Farm Woodland Premium Scheme was entered into with the Forestry Commission in 2001 in relation to land designated for natural regeneration. This expires in 2016.</li> <li>• Approximately 222 acres of land designated for natural regeneration within the Fealar Gorge is within the scheme – stock-proof post and rail fenced with an electric wire. The woodland is dominated by downy birch, with some cherry, aspen goat willow and grey willow present. 150 acres of open ground is being left for natural regeneration of woodland. Condition of the woodland is good and regeneration successful.</li> <li>• 10 acres of woodland creation.</li> <li>• No plans for further woodland creation.</li> </ul>
<b>Land management</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Blanket bog and peatlands: 1797.7 ha.</li> <li>• 300 ewes out on open hill all year (used to be 500)</li> <li>• Occasional muirburn but usually difficult due to late-lying snow.</li> <li>• Healthy populations of Red Grouse and Blue Hares.</li> </ul>
<b>Deer Impacts</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Estate has carried out its own habitat impact assessment.</li> </ul>
<b>Supplementary Feeding</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None</li> </ul>
<b>Deer Distribution &amp; Movements</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fealar Estate is a hind forest with large populations of carried all year round. Stags are also held on the ground all year round but some move in during the rut from Forest Lodge and Lude.</li> <li>• In heavy snow deer tend to move down from Fealar into Glen Tilt, Glenfernate, Mar and Dalmunzie. Summering hinds on the north of Fealar also may overwinter on Mar estate.</li> </ul>
<b>Access</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4 Munroes including the summits of Carn an Rìgh (1029m) and Beinn Iutharn Mhor (1044m).</li> <li>• The following information is provided on the Heading for the Scottish Hills website: <i>Stalking from early September to 20 Oct. No stalking on Sundays. Access via the main paths and ridges is always OK.</i></li> <li>• No access issues but request that large groups give notice in good time if planning on walking during shooting season.</li> </ul>

<b>Socio-Economics</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 full-time stalker, 1 part-time assistant.</li> <li>• Contract stalker occasionally employed.</li> <li>• Lodge provides accommodation during shooting season for up to 20 guests for 4-5 weeks.</li> <li>• Local tradesmen required for property maintenance (builders, joiners, electricians, plumbers), oil delivery, contract shepherd, contract livestock haulage, hire company retained to maintain road.</li> <li>• Ponies used for extraction (taken to trekking centre in Blair Atholl over winter), vet for sheep and ponies.</li> <li>• Use of local businesses/services including filling stations, local food shops, local hardware shops, local agricultural feed merchants, garages repair and maintain vehicles, plant hire.</li> <li>• Clients stay in local accommodation in Kirkmichael and Pitlochry.</li> </ul>
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## 1.27 Management Units: Finegand

<b>Property</b>	<b>Finegand</b>
<b>Area</b>	642 ha
<b>Owner</b>	Alex Mackenzie-Smith
<b>Deer Management</b>	Davie Stewart (agricultural tenant) Wayne Johnson (shooting tenant)



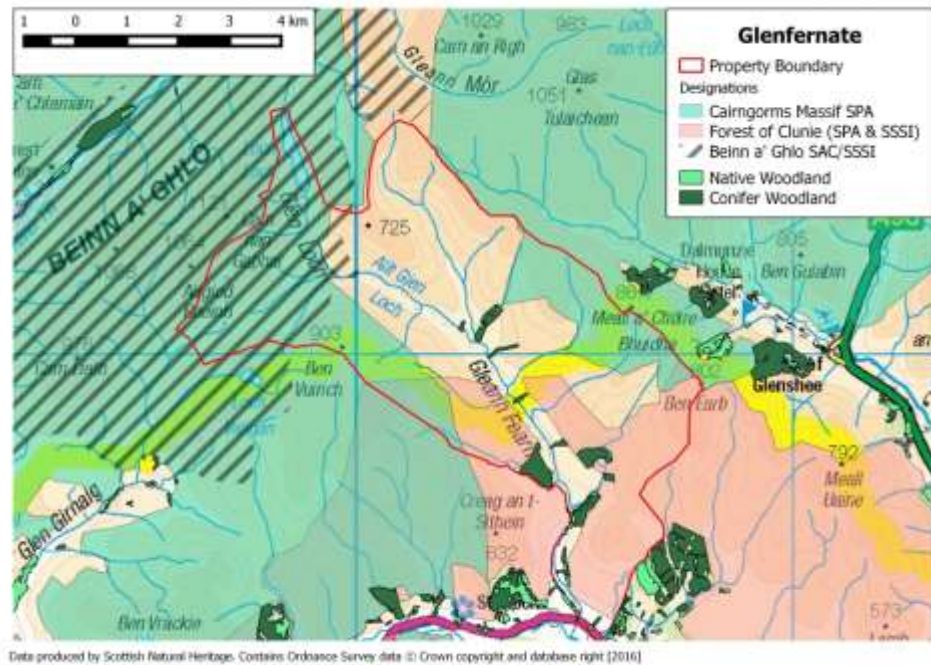
Deer Counts					
Year	Stags	Hinds	Calves	Total	Density
Feb 2001 (Heli)	2	0	0	2	0.31
Feb 2005 (Heli)	85	0	0	85	13.2
Jan 2010 (Heli)	0	2	1	3	0.47
2015 (Foot)	22	0	0	22	3.4
2016 (Foot)	61	56	17	134	20.9

Deer Culls				
Year	Stags	Hinds	Calves	Total
1995-1996	5	2	0	7
1996-1997	0	0	0	0
1997-1998	0	0	0	0
1998-1999	2	0	0	2
1999-2000	14	0	0	14
2000-2001	18	0	0	18
2001-2002	41	0	0	41
2002-2003	8	0	0	8
2003-2004	9	0	0	9
2004-2005	8	0	0	8
2005-2006	26	0	0	26
2006-2007	12	0	0	12
2007-2008	11	0	0	11
2008-2009	0	0	0	0
2009-2010	0	0	0	0
2010-2011	4	0	0	4
2011-2012	10	0	0	10
2012-2013	0	0	0	0
2013-2014	0	0	0	0
2014-2015	48	0	0	48

<b>Background</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Finegand Estate lies to the far east of the Group area.</li> <li>• The Estate is bounded by the A93 to the east and marches with Rhiedorrach to the north, Balvarran and Ashintully to the west and Glenkilrie to the south.</li> <li>• The Estate combines conservation objectives with agriculture and the sustainable harvest of Red Grouse.</li> <li>• Red and Roe deer species. No Sika deer present.</li> </ul>
<b>Designated sites</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Forest of Clunie SSSI/SPA.</li> <li>• Within Cairngorms National Park.</li> <li>• When SSSI put in place 15 years ago had nesting Hen Harriers. Despite areas of good nesting ground with rank heather and a stock of Red Grouse, birds have disappeared.</li> <li>• Osprey not present, but Short Eared Owls are.</li> <li>• Numbers of Black Grouse are currently increasing.</li> </ul>
<b>Deer Management Objectives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To balance deer management to deliver conservation and agricultural objectives.</li> <li>• Specifically to reduce the negative impacts of deer.</li> </ul>
<b>Future Management Objectives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To seek opportunities to manage grazing (sheep and deer) impacts on the hill ground sustainably to encourage biodiversity.</li> <li>• Aspiration to improve condition of heather mosaic habitat.</li> </ul>
<b>Woodland</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Native woodland: 10.0 ha.</li> <li>• Conifer woodland: 22.2 ha.</li> <li>• An area of commercial woodland (60 acres) planted in the late 60s was clear-felled 12 years ago and replanted with mixed native woodland including birch.</li> <li>• Opportunity for an additional 10 acres of woodland to be managed.</li> <li>• Majority of woodland fenced so no deer pressure.</li> </ul>
<b>Land management</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Blanket bog and peatlands 20.0 ha.</li> <li>• Various SRDP Schemes (may seek to replace in 2016) to improve habitat for bird interests of the SPA/SSSI.</li> <li>• Programme to improve heather mosaic.</li> <li>• 400 ewes. 130 Sheep off-wintered from early December to late April for the last few years.</li> </ul>
<b>Deer Impacts</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Estate over-winters large numbers of stags which impact on open hill ground and also on agricultural interests.</li> <li>• Significant economic impact incurred by the tenant of deer grazing agricultural fields.</li> </ul>
<b>Supplementary Feeding</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None</li> </ul>
<b>Deer Distribution &amp; Movements</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Only in the last 15-20 years has the Estate seen any deer at all.</li> <li>• Issue with increasing numbers of stags (400- 500) in local area. Used to be mainly over-winter but now present all year round.</li> <li>• Up to 300 stags congregating on 19 acres of grass/silage fields. Numbers have increased over time and now stags are present almost all year round. Never used to be deer in the summer or during the rut but stags present during rut now despite there being no hinds on the ground.</li> <li>• There are two main areas (corries) on the hill where deer tend to congregate and deer move between neighbouring Balvarran.</li> <li>• Estate would like to see a collaborative approach to managing overwintering stags as current impacts are unsustainable and need to be reduced.</li> </ul>
<b>Access</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No Corbetts or Munroes.</li> <li>• No access issues.</li> </ul>
<b>Socio-Economics</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tenant farmer carries out deer control.</li> <li>• Roe stalking leased.</li> </ul>

## 1.29 Management Units: Glenfernate

<b>Property</b>	<b>Glenfernate</b>
<b>Area</b>	5724 ha
<b>Owner</b>	David Heathcoat-Amory



Deer Counts					
Year	Stags	Hinds	Calves	Total	Density
Feb 2001 (Heli)	543	1244	409	2196	38.36
Feb 2005 (Heli)	424	1623	485	2532	44.23
Jan 2010 (Heli)	544	2178	651	3373	58.93
2015 (Foot)	137	277	83	497	8.683
2016 (Foot)	45	371	104	520	9.1

Deer Culls				
Year	Stags	Hinds	Calves	Total
1995-1996	121	232	0	353
1996-1997	127	182	0	309
1997-1998	128	182	0	310
1998-1999	204	237	70	511
1999-2000	234	197	33	464
2000-2001	243	226	42	511
2001-2002	125	225	4	354
2002-2003	186	208	5	399
2003-2004	250	250	10	510
2004-2005	250	270	5	525
2005-2006	193	300	8	501
2006-2007	159	250	2	411
2007-2008	183	204	0	387
2008-2009	163	191	4	358
2009-2010	165	200	4	369
2010-2011	150	389	50	589
2011-2012	152	394	34	580
2012-2013	153	308	23	484
2013-2014	138	281	22	441
2014-2015	131	278	17	426

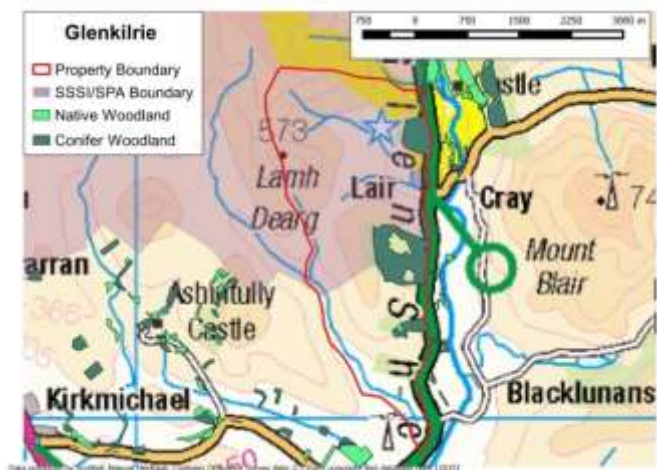


<b>Background</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Glenfergatie Estate lies to the east of Group area.</li> <li>• The Estate is bounded by the A924 to the south and marches with Stralochand Lude to the west, Dirnanear and Dalmunzie to the east and Fealar and Atholl (Forest Lodge) to the north.</li> <li>• The Estate combines conservation objectives with agriculture and renewable energy.</li> <li>• Red and Roe deer species. No Sika deer present.</li> </ul>
<b>Designated sites</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Beinn a' Ghlo SAC/SSSI</li> <li>• Forest of Clunie SSSI/SPA</li> <li>• Cairngorms Massif SPA</li> <li>• Partially in Cairngorms National Park</li> </ul>
<b>Deer Management Objectives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To balance deer management to deliver conservation and economic objectives.</li> </ul>
<b>Future Management Objectives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To maintain employment and farming, and preserve the habitat by a balance of deer and grouse numbers, and control of vermin to protect ground nesting birds.</li> </ul>
<b>Woodland</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Native woodland: 8.7 ha.</li> <li>• Conifer woodland: 112.1 ha.</li> <li>• Most plantations on the Estate are Sitka (40 years old). Would like to fell and replace with broadleaves.</li> <li>• Some areas of regeneration along the burns.</li> </ul>
<b>Land management</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Blanket bog and peatlands 809.4 ha.</li> <li>• Hill ground currently used for grazing 1800 blackface ewes and 60 cattle.</li> </ul>
<b>Deer Impacts</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Estate increased culls in response to the need to reduce impacts on Beinn a'Ghlo SAC/SSSI from 2010 onwards. This has significantly reduced the resident hind population on the Estate to around 8.6 deer /km<sup>2</sup> at the last foot count. . A deer usage figure of approximately 12 animals per km<sup>2</sup> was previously set.</li> <li>• The Estate will implement habitat monitoring as part of the DMG wide monitoring schedule set out in the Deer Management Plan.</li> </ul>
<b>Supplementary Feeding</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None</li> </ul>
<b>Deer Distribution &amp; Movements</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fewer hinds on the ground now compared to 5 years ago.</li> <li>• There are around 500-600 stags that summer on the Estate near the march with Dalmunzie. Some will move north to Dalmunzie and Fealar from about August onward.</li> </ul>
<b>Access</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Estate has 2 Munroes including Beinn Vuirich and Meall a'Choire. No access issues.</li> <li>• The following information is provided on the Heading for the Scottish Hills website: <i>Stalking takes place from August to 20 Oct. No stalking on Sundays. Access via the main paths and ridges is always OK.</i></li> </ul>
<b>Socio-Economics</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1.25 FTE employed in deer management</li> <li>• 3.75 employed elsewhere (shepherd, housekeeping/catering and holiday cottages)</li> <li>• Lodge and 2 holiday cottages.</li> <li>• Use of local businesses/services (Strathardle Inn) for clients.</li> </ul>



## 1.30 Management Units: Glenkilrie

<b>Property</b>	<b>Glenkilrie Estate</b>
<b>Area</b>	840 ha
<b>Owner</b>	David Houston
<b>Deer Management</b>	Andrew Houston



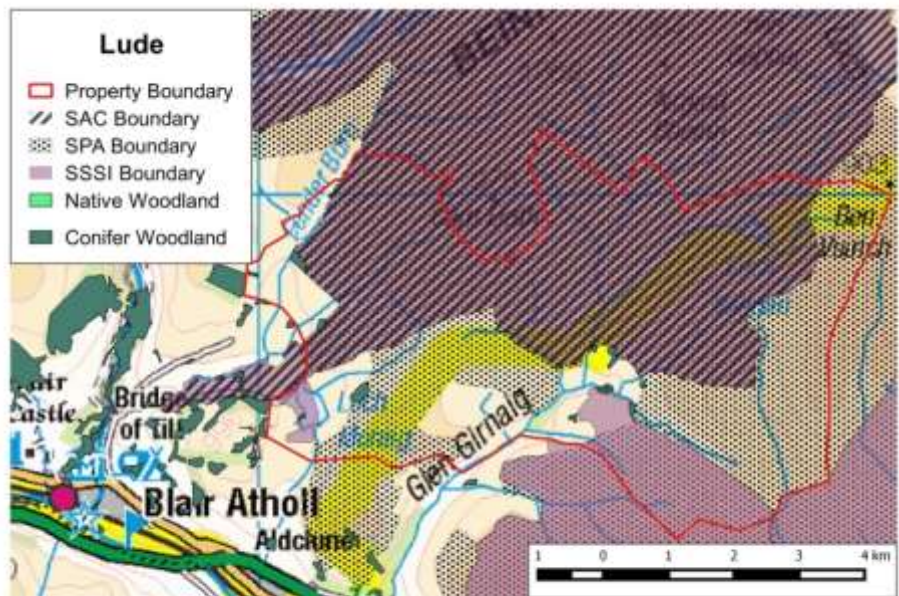
Deer Counts					
Year	Stags	Hinds	Calves	Total	Density
Feb 2001 (Heli)	0	0	0	0	0
Feb 2005 (Heli)	88	0	0	88	10.5
Jan 2010 (Heli)	355	0	0	355	42.3
2015 (Foot)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2016 (Foot)	18	0	0		2.1

Deer Culls				
Year	Stags	Hinds	Calves	Total
1995-1996	5	0	0	5
1996-1997	0	0	0	0
1997-1998	0	0	0	0
1998-1999	1	0	0	1
1999-2000	2	0	0	2
2000-2001	3	0	0	3
2001-2002	0	5	0	5
2002-2003	7	0	0	7
2003-2004	25	0	0	25
2004-2005	19	0	0	19
2005-2006	2	0	0	2
2006-2007	4	0	0	4
2007-2008	2	0	0	2
2008-2009	2	0	0	2
2009-2010	10	0	0	10
2010-2011	11	0	0	11
2011-2012	2	0	0	2
2012-2013	2	0	0	2
2013-2014	2	0	0	2
2014-2015	34	1	0	35

<b>Background</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Glenkilrie Estate lies to the far east of the Group area.</li> <li>• The Estate is bounded by the A93 to the east and marches with Finegand to the north, and Ashintully and Soilzarie to the west.</li> <li>• The Estate combines conservation objectives with mainly agriculture objectives. Red and Roe deer species with occasional Fallow. No Sika deer present.</li> </ul>
<b>Designated sites</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Forest of Clunie SSSI/SPA.</li> </ul>
<b>Deer Management Objectives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To balance deer management to deliver conservation and economic objectives.</li> <li>• Specifically to work with the DMG members to reduce the negative impacts of deer.</li> </ul>
<b>Future Management Objectives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To seek opportunities to optimise the conservation and economic potential of the estate whilst delivering wider public interest.</li> </ul>
<b>Woodland</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Native woodland: 0.8 ha.</li> <li>• Conifer woodland: 56.9 ha.</li> </ul>
<b>Land management</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Blanket bog and peatlands 31.7 ha.</li> <li>• Some Muirburn undertaken.</li> <li>• Was previously in SRDP Moorland Management scheme to improve habitat for bird interests of the SPA/SSSI.</li> <li>• Total of 1000 sheep. Hill ground currently used for summer grazing of 400 ewes and 200 hogs. 500 sheep fed on hill.</li> <li>• Numbers of Black Grouse increasing. Now around 20 -30 with leks on the ground. Pair of Hen Harriers in 2015 but breeding unsuccessful.</li> <li>• May consider future Peatland Restoration work for an area of raised bog.</li> </ul>
<b>Deer Impacts</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local area over-winters large numbers of stags which impact on open hill ground and also on agricultural interests.</li> <li>• In Spring, stags come down onto grass fields in large numbers (200-300).</li> </ul>
<b>Supplementary Feeding</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None</li> </ul>
<b>Deer Distribution &amp; Movements</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Estate has seen increasing numbers of stags overwintering on low ground. There are a few resident hinds but mostly stags.</li> <li>• Stags move between property and Ashintully mostly. Very little movement with Soilzarie and although some movement of deer across the A93 this is not considered a problem. Some movement of deer with Finegand.</li> <li>• Estate would like to see a collaborative approach to managing the impacts of overwintering stags.</li> </ul>
<b>Access</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No Corbetts or Munroes. No access issues.</li> </ul>
<b>Socio-Economics</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 part-time deer manager.</li> <li>• Archaeological Dig –The Lair Project (Perth &amp; Kinross Heritage Trust). No impacts from deer.</li> </ul>

## 1.31 Management Units: Lude (and Monzie Farm)

<b>Property</b>	<b>Lude Estate (and Monzie Farm)</b>
<b>Area</b>	3818 ha
<b>Owner</b>	Andrew Gordon
<b>Deer Management</b>	Sandy Lean



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Deer Counts					
Year	Stags	Hinds	Calves	Total	Density
Feb 2001 (Heli)	63	476	148	687	18
Feb 2005 (Heli)	204	924	276	1404	36.8
Jan 2010 (Heli)	195	673	201	1069	28
2015 (Foot)	65	330	98	493	12.9

Deer Culls				
Year	Stags	Hinds	Calves	Total
1995-1996	36	82	9	127
1996-1997	25	63	5	93
1997-1998	31	64	5	100
1998-1999	23	83	15	121
1999-2000	28	103	5	136
2000-2001	41	72	15	128
2001-2002	36	122	9	167
2002-2003	41	72	6	119
2003-2004	42	94	4	140
2004-2005	82	120	9	211
2005-2006	56	154	29	239
2006-2007	63	124	22	209
2007-2008	75	133	15	223
2008-2009	59	114	17	190
2009-2010	67	192	34	293
2010-2011	70	175	30	275
2011-2012	50	111	34	195
2012-2013	45	94	18	157
2013-2014	40	119	12	171
2014-2015	57	143	31	231

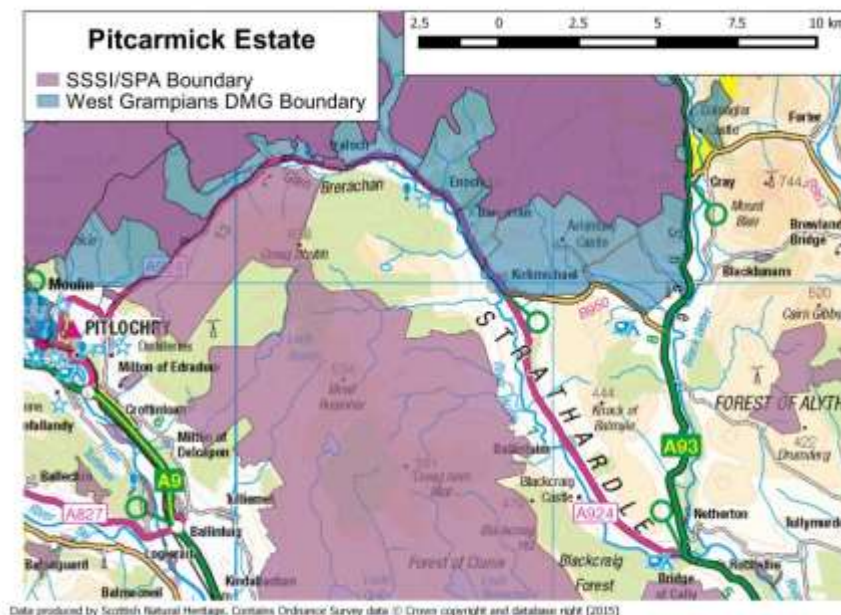
<b>Background</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lude Estate lies centrally within the Group area, north of Pitlochry.</li> <li>• The Estate marches with Atholl (Forest Lodge) and Glenfernate to the north. To the south the property marches with Clunebeg, Urrard and Baledmund and Clunskea to the east.</li> <li>• The Estate combines conservation objectives with agriculture and shooting.</li> <li>• Red and Roe deer species and the occasional Fallow. No Sika deer present.</li> </ul>
<b>Designated sites</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Beinn a' Ghlo SAC/SSSI</li> <li>• Cairngorms Massif SPA</li> <li>• Glen Fender Meadows SSSI, Loch Moraig SSSI, Ben Vrackie SSSI</li> <li>• Partially in Cairngorms National Park.</li> </ul>
<b>Deer Management Objectives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To balance deer management to deliver conservation and economic objectives.</li> </ul>
<b>Future Management Objectives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To seek opportunities to optimise the conservation and economic potential of the estate whilst delivering wider public interest.</li> <li>• To work collaboratively with neighbours to manage deer sustainably and minimise impacts.</li> </ul>
<b>Woodland</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Native woodland: 13.3 ha.</li> <li>• Conifer woodland: 45.9 ha.</li> <li>• No land suitable for extensive planting of trees.</li> </ul>
<b>Land management</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Blanket bog and peatlands: 496.6 ha.</li> <li>• Some Muirburn undertaken occasionally.</li> <li>• Hill ground currently used for grazing 800 ewes.</li> </ul>
<b>Deer Impacts</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stags now tend to congregate on agricultural ground of neighbouring property Clunebeg (above A9) during the winter/spring causing localised damage. Lude will seek to implement a stock fence/electric fence to deter deer movement (See Section 2.4)</li> <li>• Estate is in discussion with neighbours about erecting a deer fence (7-8km) to alleviate deer pressure on agricultural land.</li> </ul>
<b>Supplementary Feeding</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None</li> </ul>
<b>Deer Distribution &amp; Movements</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Estate has no resident hinds but holds some stags.</li> <li>• Hinds likely come from Glen Tilt, Monzie, Glenfernate and Tarvie.</li> <li>• Most hinds shot from January onwards – some years hinds are not on the ground at the end of October. Estate bases hind culls on numbers present.</li> <li>• Estate noticed smaller stags in 2014 but mature stags in 2015 although these are now tend to be in a large group.</li> <li>• Neighbours (Urrard/Monzie) used to over winter more than 1000 stags but now closer to 500.</li> <li>• Local deer movements have changed considerable in last 10 years likely as a result of a combination of management pressure to protect Designated Sites, changes in sheep management practices and increased recreational access in the area, particularly on Beinn a'Ghlo. Deer now tend to use lower ground and congregate in bigger groups.</li> </ul>
<b>Access</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Carn Liath (976m), Beinn Vuirich and a proportion of Beinn a' Ghlo hill.</li> <li>• Access footpath for Beinn a' Ghlo runs through the estate – no access issues.</li> <li>• The following information is provided on the Heading for the Scottish Hills website: <i>Stalking between beginning of Aug and 20 Oct. No stalking on Sundays. Recorded phone message: 01796 481740. If further information is needed, please e-mail pf@atholl-estates.co.uk (office hours or weekends) or phone 01796 481355 (office hours only).</i></li> </ul>

<b>Socio-Economics</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 part-time stalker, 1 part-time assistant.</li> <li>• The Estate owns 4 holiday cottages let all year round</li> <li>• Use of local businesses and services in Pitlochry including Hotels , B&amp;Bs, restaurants, shops, garages etc.</li> </ul>
Monzie Farm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This tenanted hill farm of 1200ha forms part of Lude Estate and divides the Lude low ground from the heather hill.</li> <li>• Monzie has been tenanted by the same family since 1938 and comprises grass grazing and parks around the farm and Loch Moraig and in-bye fenced heather hill, along with the west slopes of Carn Liath.</li> <li>• It carries a stock of 650 B.F. ewes over the whole area, and 80 cows/heifers on the in-bye fenced hill. All are outwintered.</li> <li>• The tenants regularly shoot a number of “marauding” deer in the winter months, which do not form part of the Lude cull returns.</li> <li>• Plans are being developed with Atholl Estates to extend the deer fence from the Fender Burn, along existing stock fence lines to the Girnaig, to link with the existing Urrard deer fencing. This will exclude Red Deer from the in-bye fields and woods of Urrard, Clunebeg, Lude and Glen Fender.</li> </ul>



## 1.32 Management Units: Pitcarmick

<b>Property</b>	<b>Pitcarmick Estate</b>
<b>Area</b>	2600 ha (most of the property lies outwith the DMG area)
<b>Owner</b>	Pitcarmick Estate Trust
<b>Deer Management</b>	Sir Michael Nairn and Mark Wood

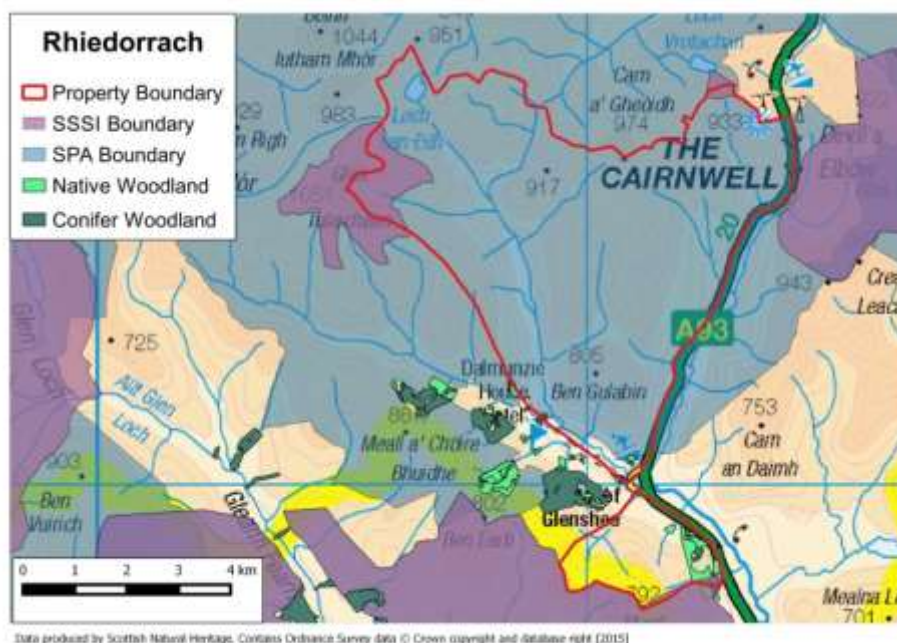


<b>Background</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pitcarmick Estate lies to the far east of the Group area. Although the Estate lies largely out with the current Red Deer range and therefore out with the DMG boundary they are an active member of the DMG.</li> <li>• The Estate is split by the A924 with most of the property lying south of the road. On</li> <li>• The Estate combines conservation objectives with agriculture, shooting, fishing and property lets.</li> <li>• Red, Roe and Fallow deer species. No Sika deer present.</li> <li>• 19<sup>th</sup> May Deer Count: 120 Red &amp; 466 Fallow.</li> <li>• 2014/15 Deer Cull: Red (7s, 3H &amp; 2C), Fallow (15B, 57D &amp; 12C), Roe (9B, 9D &amp; 7C)</li> </ul>
<b>Designated sites</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None</li> </ul>
<b>Deer Management Objectives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Control of deer numbers to balance requirements of a livestock farm with shooting interests.</li> <li>• Improve quality of Roe Deer.</li> </ul>
<b>Future Management Objectives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To maximise the potential for livestock farming in LFA area.</li> <li>• To improve moorland management and in-bye grass management.</li> <li>• Carry out Best Practice standards in silviculture management of woodlands.</li> <li>• Improvement in Red Grouse stocks.</li> <li>• To work collaboratively with neighbours and wider DMGs to achieve objectives.</li> </ul>

<b>Woodland</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Native pinewood scheme planted 1991 to be thinned in in next 5 years.</li> <li>• 25 ha (to be planted under SRDP Scheme) – will be fenced.</li> <li>• About 10 ha of woodland to be made available for deer in next 5 years.</li> </ul>
<b>Land management</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 270 cattle and 1800 sheep (800 on hill).</li> <li>• Muirburn carried out.</li> </ul>
<b>Deer Impacts</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deer are not having an impact on local historical features.</li> <li>• Deer Vehicle Collisions on A924</li> </ul>
<b>Supplementary Feeding</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Just use of blocks.</li> </ul>
<b>Deer Distribution &amp; Movements</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The estate lies largely out with the deer range of the West Grampian population of Red Deer.</li> </ul>
<b>Access</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No Corbetts or Munroes.</li> <li>• Positive cooperation with Perth &amp; Kinross Countryside Trust in the management of the Catheran Trail passing through the Estate.</li> <li>• Positive cooperation with Perth &amp; Kinross Council in creation and management of core paths.</li> </ul>
<b>Socio-Economics</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 full-time stalker, 1 part-time assistant.</li> <li>• Use of local businesses/services including local community shop in Kirkmichael, two hotels in Kirkmichael and hotels in Bridge of Cally.</li> <li>• Local Agricultural contractors used.</li> </ul>

## 1.33 Management Units: Rhiedorrach

<b>Property</b>	<b>Rhiedorrach Estate</b>
<b>Area</b>	4009 ha
<b>Owner</b>	Invercauld Estate (Rhiedorrach Sporting LLP sporting partner)
<b>Deer Management</b>	Liam Donald



Deer Counts					
Year	Stags	Hinds	Calves	Total	Density
Feb 2001 (Heli)	146	874	211	1231	30.7
Feb 2005 (Heli)	296	466	139	901	22.5
Jan 2010 (Heli)	178	644	192	1014	25.3
2015 (Foot)	226	433	130	789	19.7
2016 (Foot)	186	220	69	475	11.8

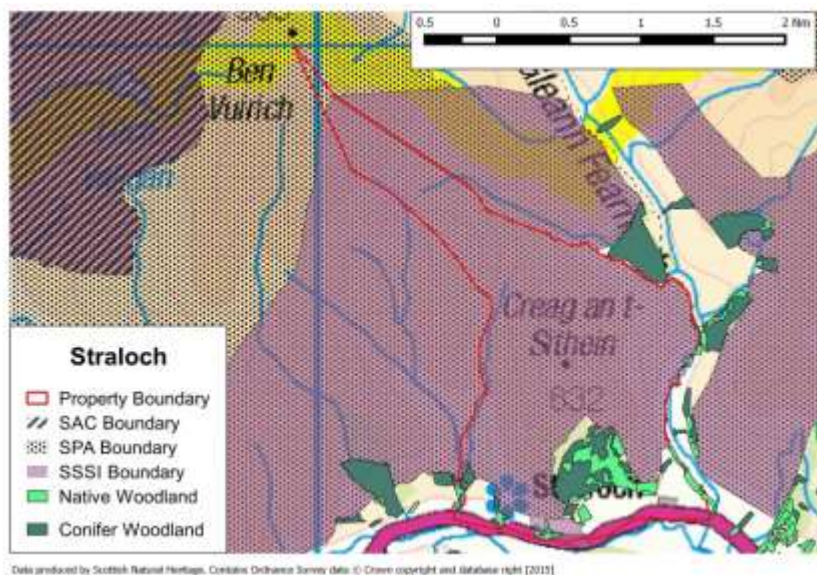
Deer Culls				
Year	Stags	Hinds	Calves	Total
1995-1996	84	271	43	398
1996-1997	58	112	28	198
1997-1998	50	100	0	150
1998-1999	50	100	32	182
1999-2000	2	140	47	189
2000-2001	31	122	30	183
2001-2002	26	142	30	198
2002-2003	46	141	14	201
2003-2004	46	150	18	214
2004-2005	0	0	0	0
2005-2006	67	200	50	317
2006-2007	150	300	64	514
2007-2008	125	134	24	283
2008-2009	109	244	140	493
2009-2010	154	169	0	323
2010-2011	88	107	84	279
2011-2012	42	93	44	179
2012-2013	45	34	19	98
2013-2014	28	100	51	179
2014-2015	44	43	18	105

Background	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Rhiedorrach lies to the far east of the group.</li><li>• The property has two parts. It is largely bounded by the A93 to the east and marches with Fealar, Dalmunzie, and Dirnanean to the west and Finegand to the south. The northern march is with Mar and Invercauld- Baddoch Beat (both of which lie in East Grampian Sub Area 5 DMG).</li><li>• The Estate combines conservation objectives with shooting.</li><li>• Red and Roe. No Sika deer present.</li></ul>												
Designated sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cairngorms Massif SPA</li><li>• Cairnwell SSSI and Glas Tulaichean SSSI (both Favourable Condition).</li><li>• Within Cairngorms National Park.</li></ul>												
Deer Management Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• To balance deer management to deliver conservation and economic objectives.</li><li>• Specifically to increase the quality and value of deer as a sustainable resource to the property and the wider DMG.</li></ul>												
Future Management Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• To seek opportunities to optimise the conservation and economic potential of the property whilst delivering wider public interest.</li></ul>												
Woodland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Native woodland: 23.2 ha.</li><li>• Conifer woodland: 6.0 ha.</li></ul>												
Land management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Blanket bog and peatlands: 957.3 ha.</li><li>• Damage to heather done years ago. Now trying to restore.</li><li>• Never used to hold stags or see stags before the rut but with removal of sheep (1400 ewes) within 2 seasons stag numbers increased.</li><li>• Sheep introduced back on hill (tenant) in last three years – numbers increasing. Around 450 summer on hill with some overwintering. Farmer will treat sheep for ticks.</li></ul>												
Deer Impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Rhiedorrach set up baseline monitoring of Heather Moorland (Dry and Wet Heath) over 54 sample plots over the property in 2014. The areas of Glas Choir Mhor and Glas Choir Bheag accounted for over 60% of the plots with HIGH impacts. Plots will be revisited in 2016.</li></ul> <table><tr><td>Impact Class</td><td>L</td><td>LM</td><td>M</td><td>MH</td><td>H</td></tr><tr><td>Percentage of Plots</td><td>0.00%</td><td>3.70%</td><td>14.81%</td><td>37.04%</td><td>44.44%</td></tr></table> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•</li></ul>	Impact Class	L	LM	M	MH	H	Percentage of Plots	0.00%	3.70%	14.81%	37.04%	44.44%
Impact Class	L	LM	M	MH	H								
Percentage of Plots	0.00%	3.70%	14.81%	37.04%	44.44%								
Supplementary Feeding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• None</li></ul>												
Deer Distribution & Movements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Little movement of deer with Fealar but some movement of hinds with Mar Estate.</li><li>• Movement of stags from Invercauld Baddoch and from Glenfernate in the rut.</li><li>• On the march with Dalmunzie, there has been an increase in hind numbers in this area.</li></ul>												
Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Main summits of Glas Tulaichean (1051m), Cairnwell (933m) and Ben Gulabin (805m).</li><li>• The following information is provided on the Heading for the Scottish Hills website: <i>Stalking between late Sept and 20 Oct. No stalking on Sundays. If further information is needed, please e-mail office@invercauld.org or phone 01339 741224.</i></li><li>• No access issues.</li></ul>												
Socio-Economics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 1.5 FTE stalkers plus ghillie</li><li>• Use of local businesses/services including hotels, B&amp;Bs and local restaurants for clients.</li></ul>												



## 1.34 Management Units: Straloch

<b>Property</b>	<b>Straloch Estate</b>
<b>Area</b>	1158 ha
<b>Owner</b>	Mrs M A Lascelles
<b>Deer Management</b>	Will Holt / Steven Wade (stalking tenant)



Deer Counts					
Year	Stags	Hinds	Calves	Total	Density
Feb 2001 (Heli)	0	0	0	0	0.0
Feb 2005 (Heli)	82	212	63	357	30.8
Jan 2010 (Heli)	150	299	89	538	46.5
2015 (Foot)	15	78	23	116	10.0
2016 (Foot)	10	143	35	188	16.2

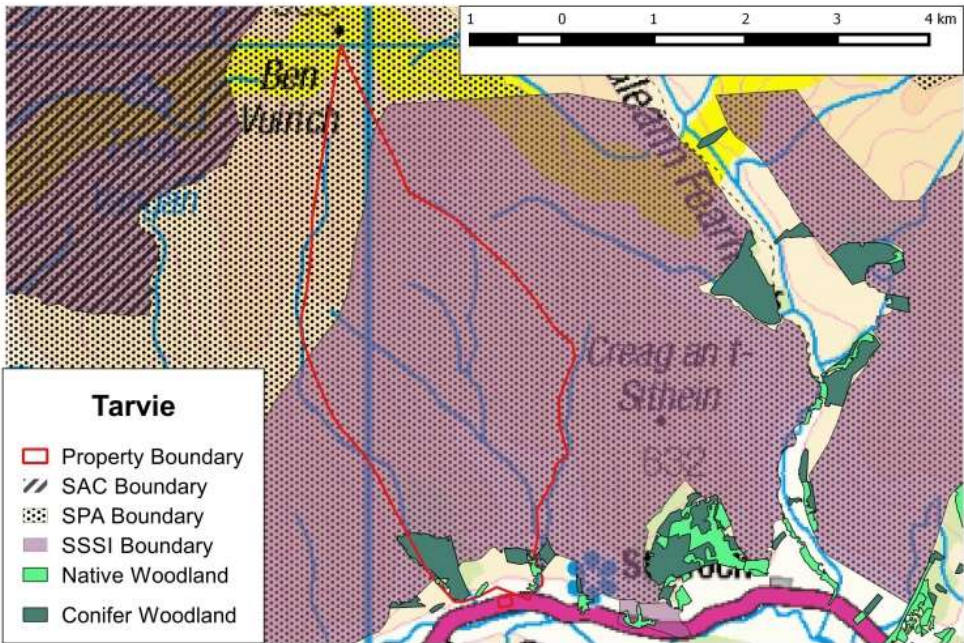
Deer Culls				
Year	Stags	Hinds	Calves	Total
1995-1996	30	69	6	105
1996-1997	36	27	3	66
1997-1998	25	7	0	32
1998-1999	17	18	2	37
1999-2000	30	33	7	70
2000-2001	39	30	2	71
2001-2002	22	28	1	51
2002-2003	30	30	2	62
2003-2004	40	23	5	68
2004-2005	25	44	2	71
2005-2006	40	39	7	86
2006-2007	25	40	2	67
2007-2008	32	16	4	52
2008-2009	32	29	7	68
2009-2010	32	62	8	102
2010-2011	25	41	9	75
2011-2012	32	40	8	80
2012-2013	22	41	17	80
2013-2014	22	41	11	74
2014-2015	17	52	26	95



<b>Background</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Straloch Estate lies to the east of the Group area.</li> <li>• The Estate is bounded by the A924 to the south and marches with Tarvie to the west and Glenfernate to the east.</li> <li>• The Estate combines conservation objectives with shooting.</li> <li>• Red and Roe deer species. No Sika deer present.</li> </ul>
<b>Designated sites</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Forest of Clunie SSSI/SPA.</li> </ul>
<b>Deer Management Objectives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To balance deer management to deliver conservation and economic objectives.</li> </ul>
<b>Future Management Objectives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To seek opportunities to optimise the conservation and economic potential of the estate whilst delivering wider public interest.</li> <li>• To continue to work collaboratively with neighbours.</li> </ul>
<b>Woodland</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Native woodland: 50.32 ha.</li> <li>• Conifer woodland: 74.0 ha.</li> <li>• Sitka Spruce woodland planted in the 60s – was previously open moor. Forest design was poor with planting right up to the edges of the burn.</li> <li>• Woodland now ready to be felled.</li> <li>• LTFP in preparation (CKD Galbraith). Proposal for 3 phase plan. Areas of new planting will be fenced within old woodland. Deer are mainly in the east part of the forest.</li> </ul>
<b>Land management</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Blanket bog and peatlands: 321.9 ha.</li> <li>• Sheep: ground let to tenant (300 in hill in winter).</li> </ul>
<b>Deer Impacts</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fewer deer on open hill – deer are resident in woodland.</li> </ul>
<b>Supplementary Feeding</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None</li> </ul>
<b>Deer Distribution &amp; Movements</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In 1969, Red Deer were hardly seen on the Estate. Over the years, particularly in last 5, there has been a steady increase in hinds likely due to increased deer management pressure elsewhere.</li> <li>• Woodland fences now porous so holding resident deer (mainly hinds) in woodlands. Hinds no longer on the marches with Glenfernate.</li> <li>• Mature stags used to come mainly from Glenfernate during the rut but now coming from north-west (Tarvie, Atholl and Glenfernate) but only in an east wind so stalking very weather dependant.</li> </ul>
<b>Access</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ben Vurich (903m) is the main summit.</li> <li>• No access issues.</li> </ul>
<b>Socio-Economics</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No stalker but deer management carried out by Stalking tenant.</li> <li>• Use of local businesses/services by the Estate.</li> </ul>

## 1.35 Management Units: Tarvie

Property	Tarvie Estate
Area	976 ha
Deer Management	Jim Tod



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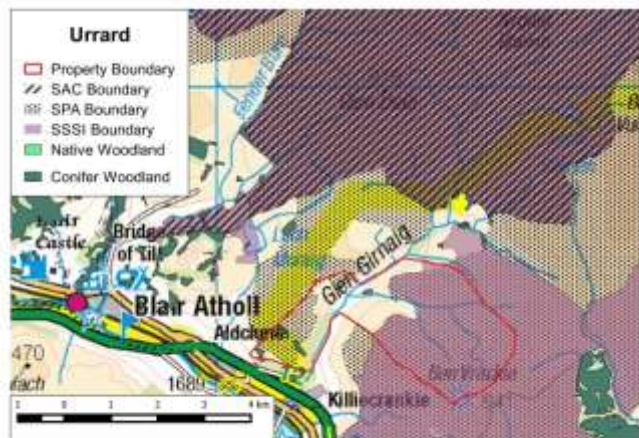
Deer Counts					
Year	Stags	Hinds	Calves	Total	Density
Feb 2001 (Heli)	361	0	0	361	37.0
Feb 2005 (Heli)	141	0	0	141	14.4
Jan 2010 (Heli)	45	4	1	50	5.1
2015 (Foot)	68	55	16	139	14.2
2016 (Foot)	57	13	6	76	7.8

Deer Culls				
Year	Stags	Hinds	Calves	Total
1995-1996	23	30	10	63
1996-1997	27	14	2	43
1997-1998	37	13	2	52
1998-1999	32	11	3	46
1999-2000	41	12	3	56
2000-2001	30	11	3	44
2001-2002	20	26	1	47
2002-2003	32	14	3	49
2003-2004	33	15	3	51
2004-2005	31	16	4	51
2005-2006	30	18	5	53
2006-2007	30	16	6	52
2007-2008	35	15	5	55
2008-2009	36	16	7	59
2009-2010	31	24	9	64
2010-2011	24	20	6	50
2011-2012	21	24	6	51
2012-2013	23	10	3	36
2013-2014	21	16	8	45
2014-2015	31	22	6	59

<b>Background</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tarvie Estate lies to the east of the Group area.</li> <li>• The Estate is bounded by the A924 to the south and marches with Straloch to the east and Clunskea to the west.</li> <li>• The Estate combines conservation objectives with shooting.</li> <li>• Red and Roe deer species. No Sika deer present.</li> </ul>
<b>Designated sites</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Forest of Clunie SSSI/SPA.</li> <li>• Cairngorms Massif SPA.</li> </ul>
<b>Deer Management Objectives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To balance deer management to deliver conservation and economic objectives.</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>
<b>Future Management Objectives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To seek opportunities to optimise the conservation and economic potential of the estate whilst delivering wider public interest.</li> </ul>
<b>Woodland</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Native woodland: 0.9 ha.</li> <li>• Conifer woodland: 4.7 ha.</li> </ul>
<b>Land management</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No significant areas of Blanket bog and peatlands.</li> <li>• Was previously in SRDP Moorland Management scheme to improve habitat for bird interests of the SPA/SSSI. Muirburn and fox control undertaken.</li> <li>• Used to graze 300-400 sheep but these were removed 15 years ago.</li> </ul>
<b>Supplementary Feeding</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None</li> </ul>
<b>Deer Distribution &amp; Movements</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There used to be around a 1000 stags in the area mostly sitting on Glenfernate but these have been pushed down onto lower ground to the east. Stags used to move from Glenfernate to Dirnanean with 200 to 300 wintering in the area. Now around 50.</li> <li>• During the rut now getting some stags from Atholl but not to same degree and fewer stags west on Balnekeilly.</li> </ul>
<b>Access</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ben Vurich (903m) is the main summit.</li> <li>• No access issues</li> </ul>
<b>Socio-Economics</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 full-time stalker.</li> <li>• Use of local businesses/services including House of Bruar, B&amp;Bs &amp; local restaurants in Pitlochry and Kirkmichael for clients.</li> </ul>

## 1.36 Management Units: Urrard

<b>Property</b>	<b>Urrard Estate</b>
<b>Area</b>	909 ha
<b>Owner</b>	Daniel Price



Deer Counts					
Year	Stags	Hinds	Calves	Total	Density
Feb 2001 (Heli)	442	0	0	442	48.6
Feb 2005 (Heli)	321	104	31	456	50.2
Jan 2010 (Heli)	508	6	2	516	56.8
2015 (Foot)	67	119	35	221	24.3

Deer Culls				
Year	Stags	Hinds	Calves	Total
1995-1996	19	4	0	23
1996-1997	22	2	0	24
1997-1998	18	1	0	19
1998-1999	3	0	0	3
1999-2000	8	0	0	8
2000-2001	25	0	0	25
2001-2002	12	0	0	12
2002-2003	14	0	0	14
2003-2004	0	0	0	0
2004-2005	15	9	3	27
2005-2006	15	10	6	31
2006-2007	15	3	2	20
2007-2008	15	3	2	20
2008-2009	15	9	4	28
2009-2010	16	15	8	39
2010-2011	16	11	6	33
2011-2012	20	8	3	31
2012-2013	30	6	4	40
2013-2014	0	0	0	0
2014-2015	0	0	0	0

<b>Background</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Urrard Estate lies centrally within the Group area, north of the A9.</li> <li>• The property marches with Clunebeg to the west, Lude to the north and Baledmund to the south.</li> </ul>
<b>Designated sites</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cairngorms Massif SPA.</li> <li>• Ben Vrackie SSSI.</li> </ul>
<b>Deer Management Objectives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To balance deer management to deliver conservation and economic objectives.</li> </ul>
<b>Future Management Objectives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To seek opportunities to optimise the conservation and economic potential of the estate whilst delivering wider public interest.</li> </ul>
<b>Woodland</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Native woodland: 400+ ha</li> <li>• Conifer woodland: 10.5 ha.</li> <li>• All woodland on Urrard is fenced off.</li> <li>• 5 new plantations (400 ha of native woodland) have been created in last 5 years.</li> </ul>
<b>Land management</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Currently no livestock on the open hill.</li> <li>• Estate has larder and a chill.</li> <li>• Some muirburn undertaken.</li> </ul>
<b>Deer Impacts</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Estate over-winters large numbers of stags which impact on agricultural interests.</li> </ul>
<b>Supplementary Feeding</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None</li> </ul>
<b>Deer Distribution &amp; Movements</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The proposed strategic stock fence on Lude will aim to join existing fencing on Urrard – this is being used to deter wintering stags from accessing low ground.</li> </ul>
<b>Access</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ben Vrackie 841m (Corbett).</li> </ul>
<b>Socio-Economics</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 full-time stalkers plus owner involved in deer management.</li> <li>• Use of local businesses/services.</li> <li>• 2 holiday cottages for let year round.</li> </ul>



## 1.37 References & Acknowledgements

Drummochter Hills SPA – Merlin Special Study (2004) Technical Annex 22.11  
WGDMG Deer management Strategic Plan (2004)

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