

Lewis and Harris Deer Management Group Part 1: Deer Management Plan Information & Public Interest Actions



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1.1 Introduction

1.1.1 Sustainable Deer Management and the Public Interest

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

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

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

1.1.2 The purpose of the Deer Management Plan

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.

1.1.3 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.

1.1.4 Deer Management Plan Implementation

The plan will identify specific actions for the Group and targets to be delivered by 2023. 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 openly, transparently and 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.

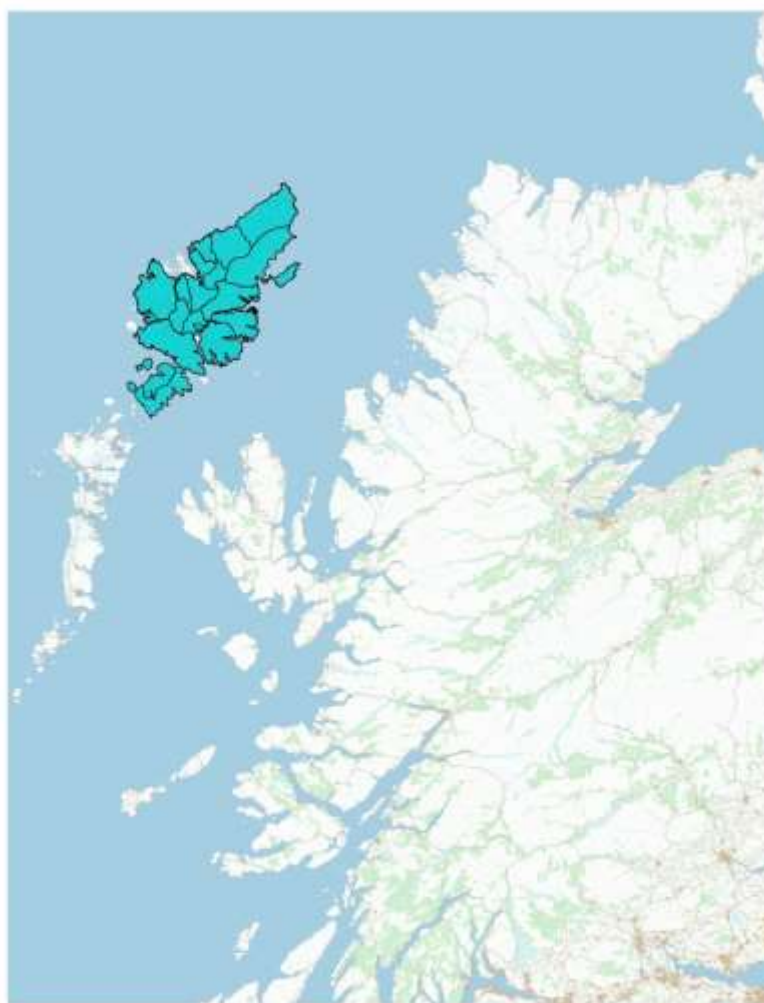
1.1.5 Deer Management Plan Adoption, Consultation and Review

This Deer Management Plan has been formally adopted by all the Members of the Group and will run from 2018 to 2023. 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.

This Plan provides an agreed framework for a coordinated and co-operative approach to deer management in the area. The actual implementation of the Plan will be decided on an ongoing basis at the Group's Spring and Autumn meetings, with scope for the Membership to adjust and adapt the main Plan to meet changing circumstances. Should any part of the plan require updating, a revised, agreed copy will be circulated to all and updated on the DMG's website. A complete review of the Plan will be conducted in 2021.

Members will complete an annual return which will enable progress towards targets to be monitored and where necessary, changes in management actions will be discussed and agreed. As a result, **The Working Plan** will be continually reviewed and actions agreed and implemented by DMG members on an annual basis.

Figure 1: Lewis and Harris DMG



1.2 Lewis and Harris Deer Management Group

1.2.1 Deer Management Group Location

The newly formed Lewis and Harris Deer Management Group, (LHDMG) covers the Isles of Lewis and Harris (including the island of Taransay) in the Outer Hebrides, an area of approximately **197,824 hectares** (Figure 1).

1.3.2 The purpose of the Deer Management Group

The purpose of Lewis and Harris Deer Management Group (LHDMG) is to manage deer on a collective basis, in accordance with Scottish Government strategy (Scotland's Wild Deer: A National Approach, 2008), the Code of Practice on Deer Management (2012), Wild Deer Best Practice Guidance and in a manner that integrates different land-use objectives, recognising that compromises over objectives may be required where conflict occurs.

1.3.3 DMG Vision Statement

The vision of Lewis and Harris DMG is to maintain a healthy deer population at a density which:

- maintains habitats in good condition;
- minimises impacts on public health and crofting interests;
- maintains jobs and supports the local economy; and
- provides a range of positive benefits both to those living locally and to those visiting the area.

1.3.4 Deer Management Units

There are 20 main deer management units within the DMG area. 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**.

1.2.5 Key Stakeholders/Members

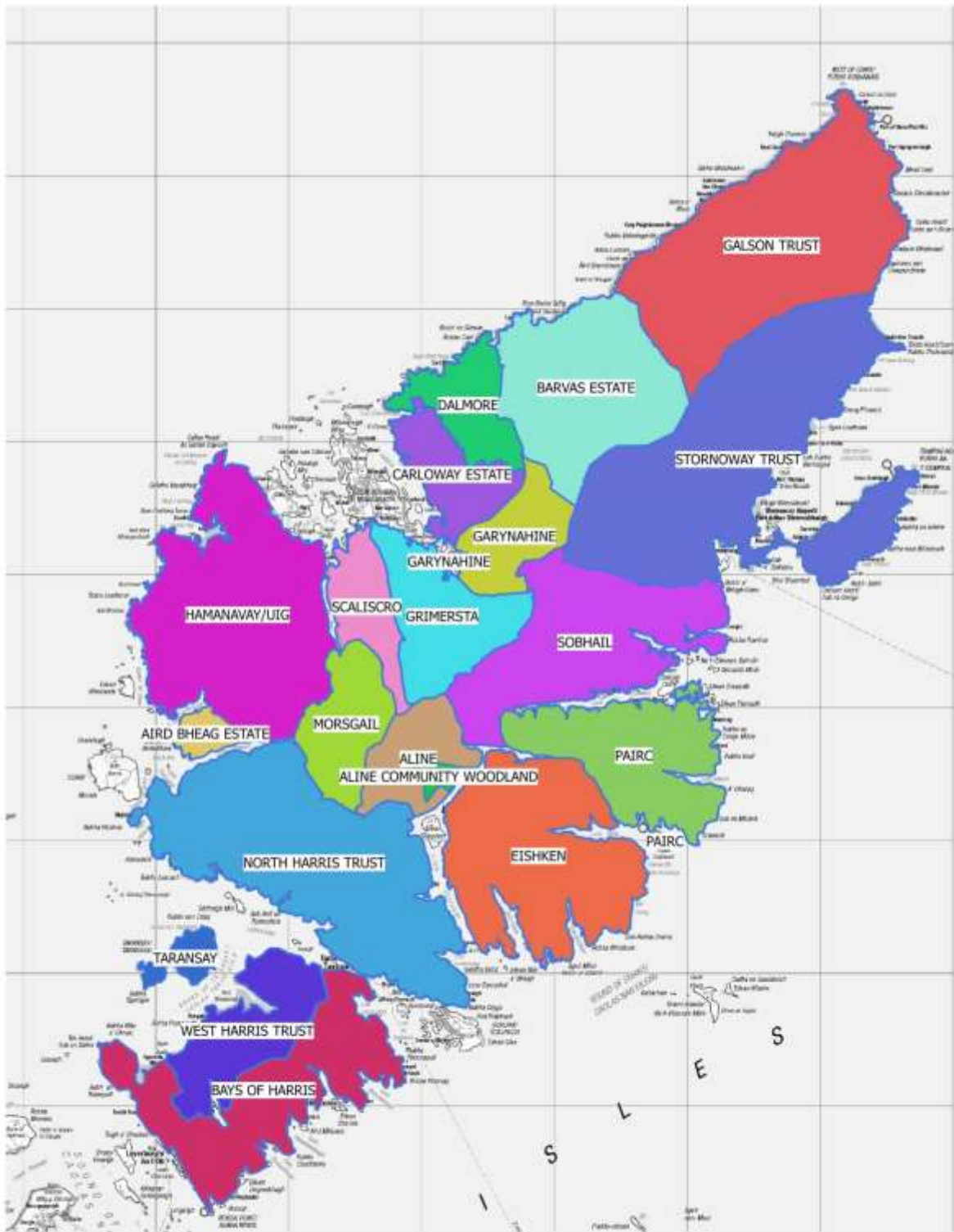
The DMG is comprised of the following representatives:

- Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH)
- Community Councils
- SNH Wildlife Management Officer
- Police Scotland
- Individual Controllers/Deer Managers.

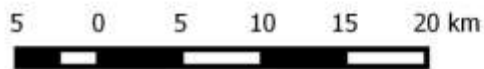
Table 1: Deer Management Units

Property	Ownership	Area (ha)
Aird Bheag	Private	1,133
Aline	Private	3,237
Aline Community Woodland	Community	663
Barvas Estate Trust	Community	14,264
Bays of Harris	Private	13,355
Borve Lodge Estate (Taransay)	Private	1,475
Carloway Estate Trust	Community	4,863
Dalmore	Private	4,836
Eishken	Private	16,872
Garynahine	Private	4,963
Grimersta	Private	7,891
Morsgail & Anhuinnsuidhe	Private	5,710
North Harris Trust	Community	23,961
Pairc Estate	Community	10,806
Scaliscro	Private	4,187
Soval	Private	10,278
Stornoway Trust	Community	17,443
Uig & Hamnavay	Private	21,230
Urras Oighreachd Ghabhsainn (Galson)	Community	23,432
West Harris Trust	Community	7,225
		197,824

Figure 2: DMG Boundary and Management Units



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1.2.6 Land Use: Crofting



Crofting is the predominant form of land use in the Western Isles and is the foundation of the way of life, the language and the culture. The quality of land and sizes of crofts and grazings vary considerably throughout the area. There are currently some 3,759 registered crofts on Lewis and 602 on Harris.

Table 2: Crofting Summary (Source -Crofting Commission & Western Isles Crofters Commission Office 2007)

	All Crofts	Western Isles	Lewis	Harris
Tenanted Crofts:	14,975	6,068	3,667	555
Owned Crofts:	5,756	233	87	46
Part Tenanted/Part Owned Crofts:	171	24	5	1
Total:	20,902	6,325	3,759	602
Total number of sheep in 2005			103,860	39,862
Total number of cattle in 2005			1,290	289

1.3 Deer Populations and Management

1.3.1 Deer Species

Red deer (*Cervus elaphus*) are the only 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*), Fallow Deer (*Dama dama*) and Sika deer (*Cervus nippon*) are not currently established in the Group area.

1.3.2 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 on the open range which is approximately **197,824 hectares**. The last full helicopter Red Deer count of part of the DMG area (**107,254 ha**) was carried out in 2014 and estimated a total population of **2800 deer (2.6 deer per km²)** (Figures 3 and Table 3a). The spring recruitment rate was approximately 36% with a sex ratio of **1:1.7** stags to hinds.

Table 3a,b,c: Red Deer DMG Population Count 2014 & Counts for NHT and Taransay.

Helicopter Count November 2014								
NAME	Area (ha)	Stags	Hinds	Calves	Total	Density	Recruit	
AIRD BHEAG ESTATE	1,133	29	73	24	126	11.1	33%	
ALINE	5,203	37	31	9	77	1.5	29%	
EISHKEN	16,872	393	679	234	1,306	7.7	34%	
GRIMERSTA	7,969	11	-	-	11	0.1	0%	
HAMANAVAY/UG	21,230	126	220	84	430	2.0	38%	
MORSGAIL	5,710	38	67	24	129	2.3	36%	
NORTH HARRIS TRUST	23,931	205	369	139	713	3.0	38%	
PAIRC	10,769	1	-	-	1	0.0	0%	
SCALISCRO	4,187	6	-	-	6	0.1	0%	
SOBHAIL	10,278	1	-	-	1	0.0	0%	
Total	107,282	847	1,439	514	2,800	2.6	36%	

North Harris Trust (Western)	Stags	Hinds	Calves	Unclass	Total	Density	Recruit
1993	231	-	-	466	697	2.9	
2000	396	-	-	678	1,074	4.5	
2006	246	-	-	583	828	3.5	
2008	359	-	-	1,018	1,377	5.8	
2010	298	685	203	19	1,205	5.0	30%
2012	325	573	174	7	1,079	4.5	30%
2013	207	432	177	-	816	3.4	41%
2016	358	539	107	107	1,297	5.4	20%

Taransay	Stags	Hinds	Calves	Total	Density	Recruit
2014	43	100	40	183	12.4	40%
2015	78	102	42	222	15.1	41%
2016	73	94	58	225	15.3	62%
2017	60	123	41	224	15.2	33%

Figure 3: Red Deer DMG Population Count DMG Sub-Area 2014

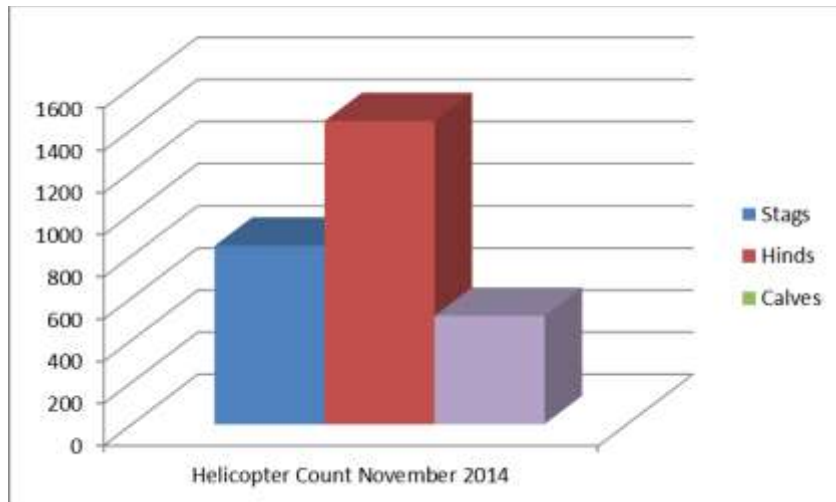


Figure 4: North Harris Trust Red Deer Counts

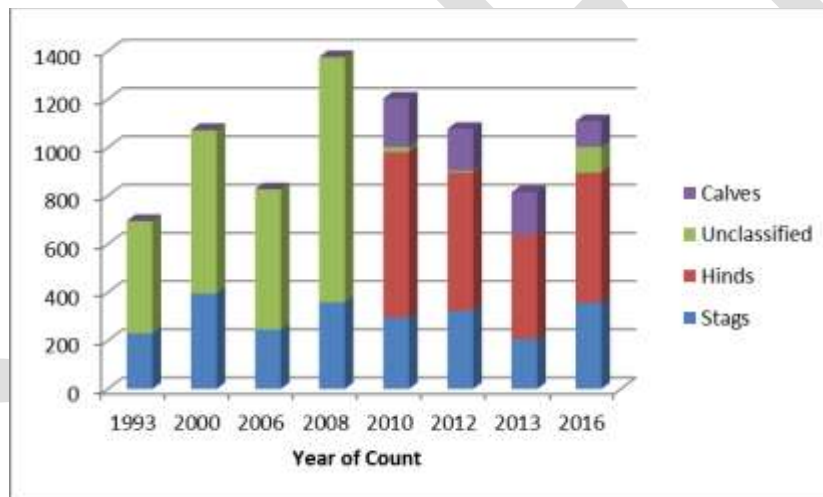


Figure 5: Taransay Red Deer Foot Counts

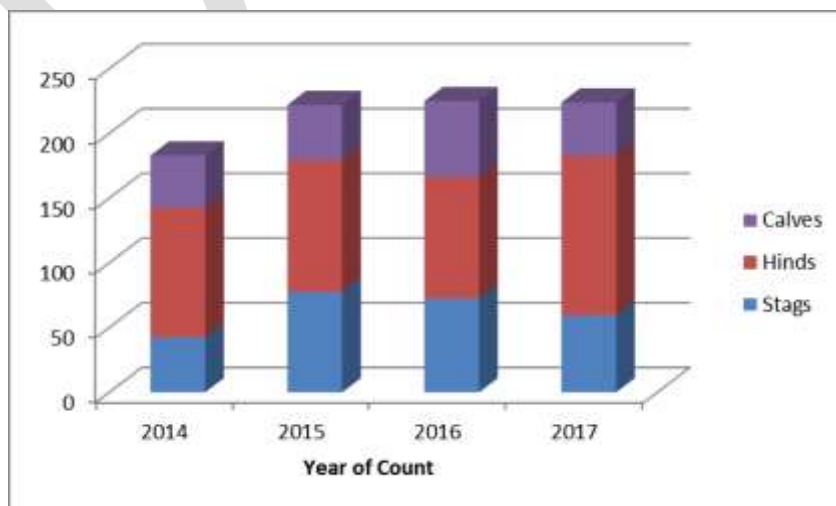
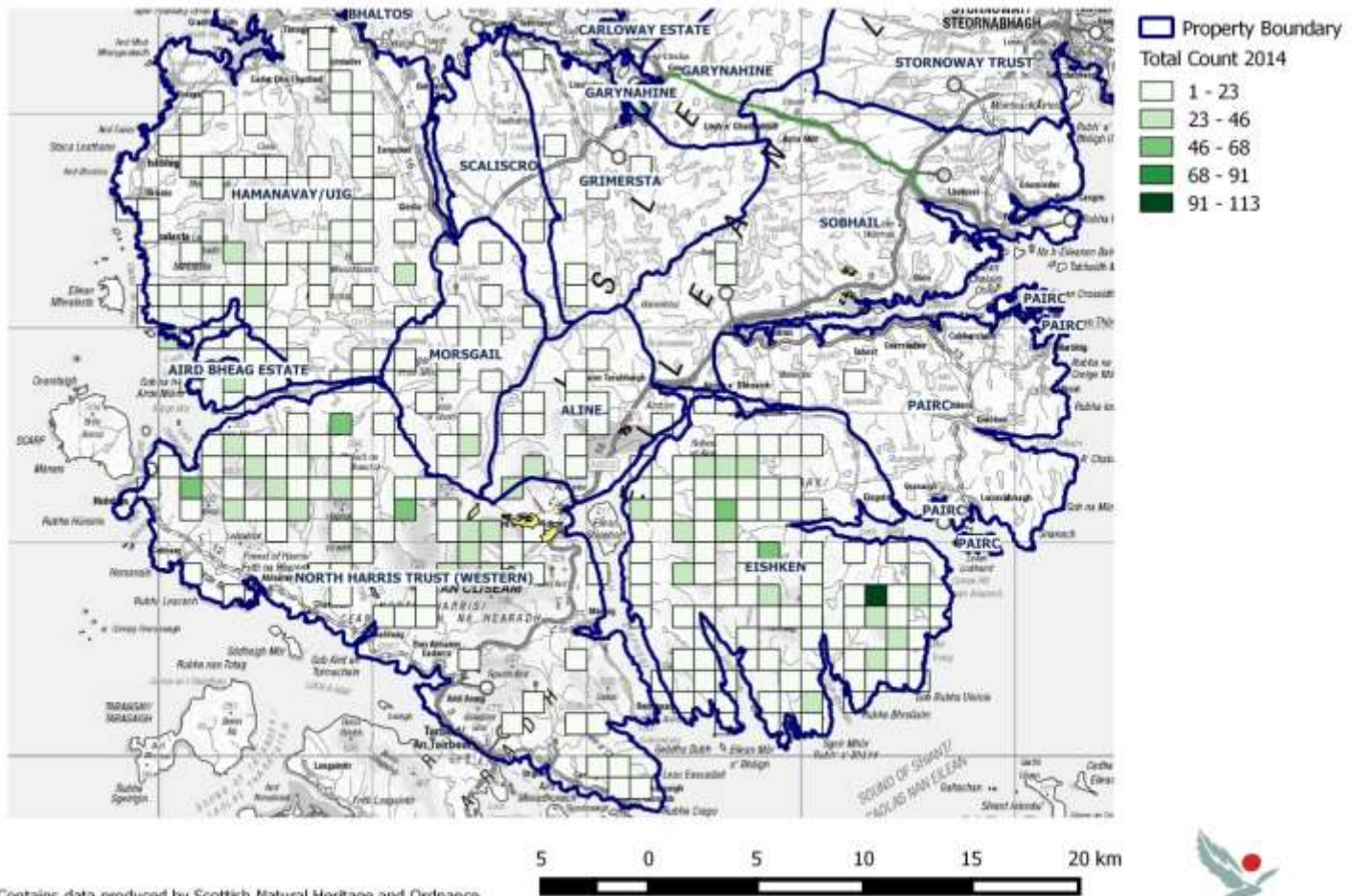


Figure 6: Red Deer Distribution (Population Count 2014)



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Figure 7: Distribution of Hinds (Population Count 2014)

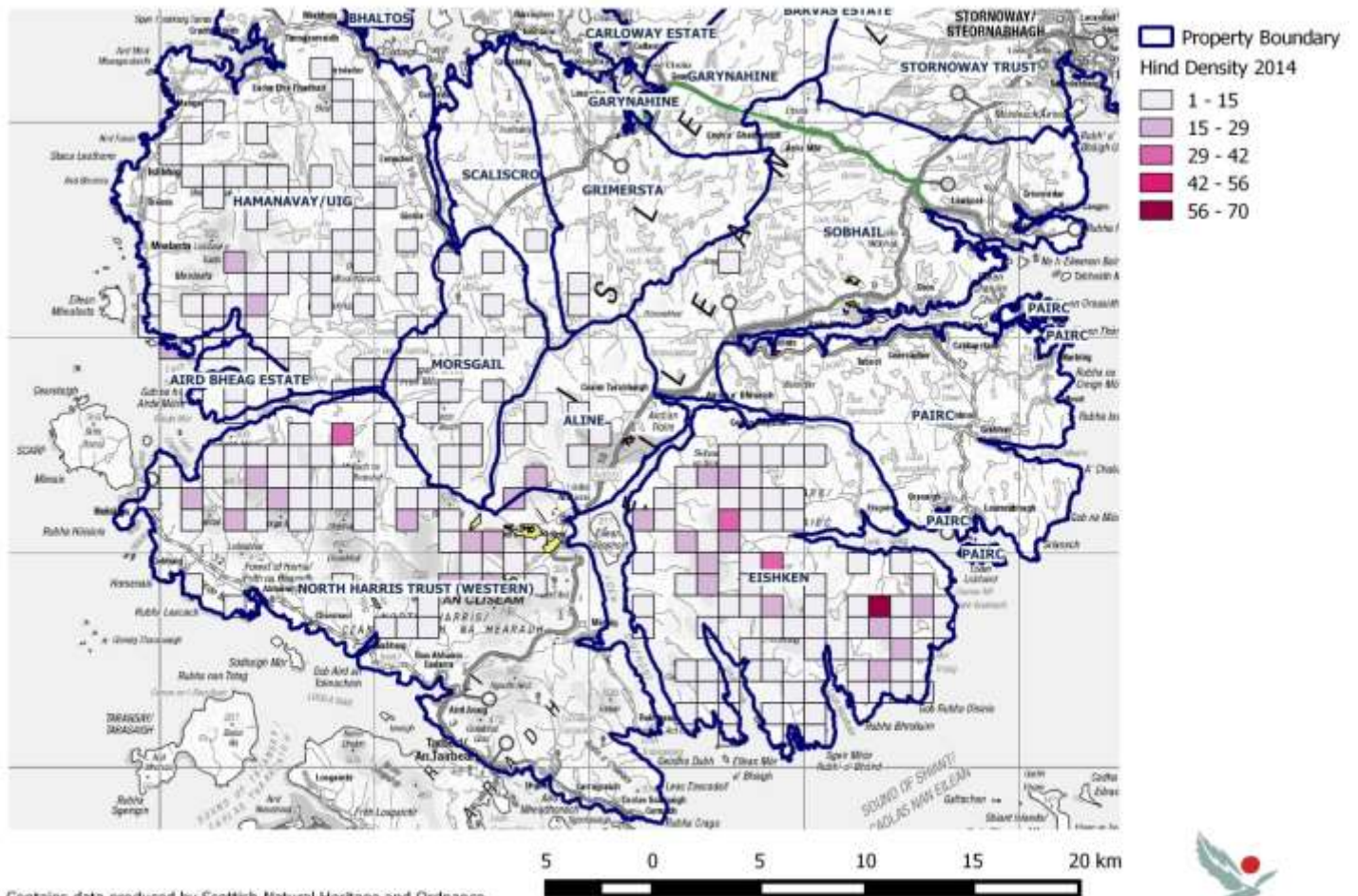
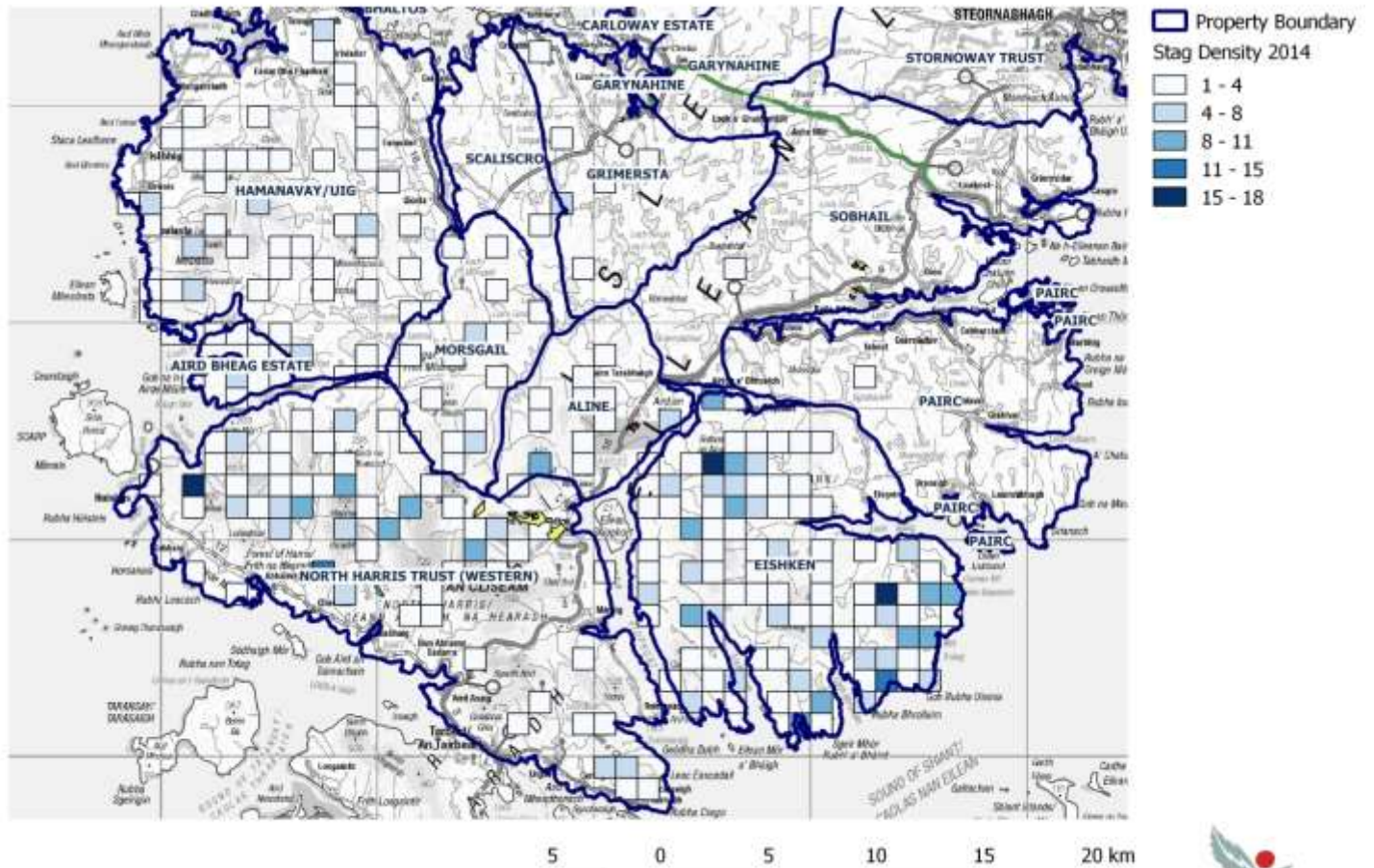


Figure 8: Distribution of Stags (Population Count 2014)



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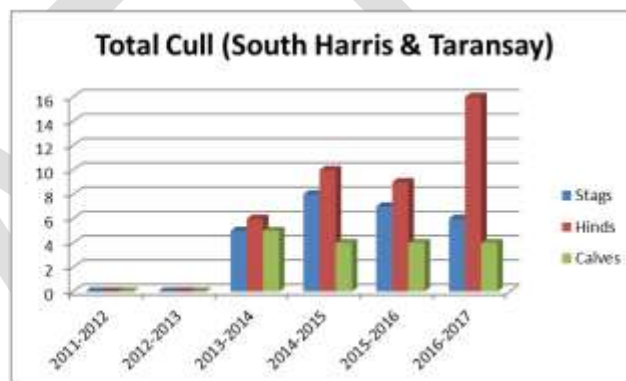
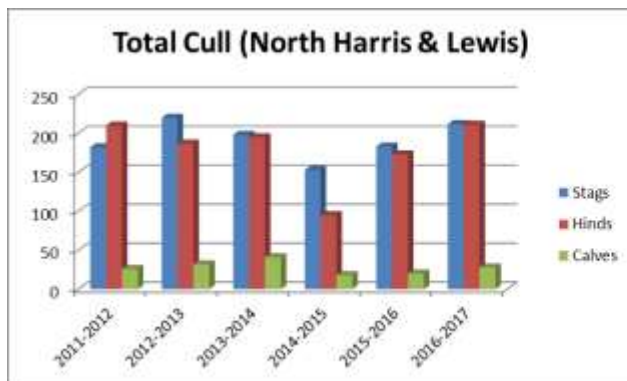


1.2.3 Deer Culls

Red deer cull data have been recorded for the last 6 years (Table 4). Cull figures for South Harris reflect historic low numbers.

Tables 4: Historic Group Red Deer Culls

	Total Cull (North Harris & Lewis)				Total Cull (South Harris & Taransay)			
	Stags	Hinds	Calves	Total	Stags	Hinds	Calves	Total
2011-2012	182	210	26	418	0	0	0	0
2012-2013	220	187	32	439	0	0	0	0
2013-2014	198	195	41	434	5	6	5	16
2014-2015	153	95	18	266	8	10	4	22
2015-2016	183	173	20	376	7	9	4	20
2016-2017	212	211	28	451	6	16	4	26



1.2.4 Other herbivores

Crofting has historically been a significant land use across Lewis and Harris and in 2005 it was estimated that there were around 146,722 sheep. Although crofting remains a significant land use, since 2005 there has been significant localised reductions in sheep numbers on the hill with at least 5 properties reporting reductions of 19,000 sheep.

1.3 Natural Heritage

1.3.1 Biodiversity

There is a Western Isles LBAP currently in place which translates national targets for species and habitats into effective local level targets and strategies. A full list of the species and habitats included in the LBAP can be found at <http://www.cne-siar.gov.uk/biodiversity>. The LBAP of the Comhairle Nan Eilean Siar includes action plans for corncrake, corn bunting and dunlin.

UK Priority Species include Otter, Corn-crake and Corn bunting. UK species of conservation concern occurring in the Western Isles include Red deer, Red- and Black-throated diver, Golden eagle, Merlin, Golden plover, Dunlin, Greenshank, Whooper swan, Peregrine and Arctic tern.

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 (DMG) 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](#).
- Historically Lewis and Harris DMG was made up of 10 key properties in North Harris and South Lewis. In 2017, recognising the need for a landscape approach to deer management, the DMG expanded and now includes representatives of all **20 properties who manage deer across the whole of Lewis and Harris including the island of Taransay**.
- On all properties conservation is a common objective but deer are also managed as a resource. Other objectives include crofting and livestock production, renewable energy, sporting shooting (stalking and rough shooting) fishing and tourism. Although Red deer occur in relatively low densities across the DMG and are considered to be a UK species of conservation concern occurring in the Western Isles, they have the potential to impact (positively and negatively) on many of these objectives and collaborative deer management at a landscape level is essential in order for the objectives of the whole Group to be met.
- To achieve an overall target population density that delivers sustainable deer management, it is essential to be able to estimate the current deer population. The last helicopter deer count in 2014 was conducted over the core part of the DMG area and estimated the population to be **2,800** deer representing a density of **2.6 deer/km² over the main red deer range**. **Although deer are present out with the core count area, it is estimated that numbers are significantly lower elsewhere**.
- A current estimate of numbers across the whole DMG using a combination of counts and local knowledge has estimated there to be around 3,375 deer in total (1,020 stags, 1,751 hinds plus calves) which represents a density of **1.72 deer/km² (Table 5)**. A more detailed description of trends in deer numbers and historic annual cull figures can be found in **Section 1.3**.
- In woodland habitats, dung counting may be appropriate for estimating woodland populations of deer.

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 land-uses at a local level. The planning process should also be consultative, transparent and open.

1.4.3 Current Delivery.

- All the main properties in Lewis and Harris are Members of the DMG and a Deer Management Plan is currently being developed for all 20 management units.
- Since 2014 a Deer Management Protocol has been in place between the four adjacent estates of Morsgail, Uig and Hamanavay, North Harris Trust and Aird Bheag, encompassing some 500 km² in North Harris and South Lewis. There is agreement that the management of a shared deer population which moves freely between estates requires a collaborative approach and the estates share an interest in ensuring that each and all adopt common management practices. A target density of approx. 1,800 deer (3.6 deer per km²) is currently required.
- North Harris Trust and Uig & Hamanavay also have individual deer management plans in place.
- Minutes of meetings, agendas and a copy of the plan will be available on the Lewis and Harris DMG web site as well as contact details and a summary of DMG information. A link to the web site is also available on the [Association of Deer Management Groups](#) web site.
- The DMG currently works in Partnership with Government Agencies including **Scottish Natural Heritage** (SNH) and the Local Community.
- The Group meets bi-annually and cull targets will be set and reported on. Group Membership is encouraged to continue its practice of open discussion of cull levels at all meetings.
- The DMG held three consultation meetings in Stornoway, Laxay and Tarbert. These were advertised through the local newspaper and on the ADMG website. Community Councils have also been contacted with details of the DMG and the DMP.

1.4.4 Targets to be delivered by 2021

Actions to develop mechanisms to manage deer	When?	Who?	How?
Final Plan and Minutes of Meetings will be made publically available and published on DMG Website.	By Spring 2018 and ongoing	DMG Secretary	<i>DMG Website.</i>
Repeat DMG Assessment.	By Spring 2019 and ongoing	DMG Chair and Secretary	<i>Use baseline DMG Assessment carried out in 2016.</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 agreed, 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>
A helicopter count ideally of the whole DMG area will be conducted in Autumn 2019	Autumn 2019	DMG Secretary and DMG Members	<i>DMG will ensure adequate resources in place for repeat helicopter count in 2019. Possible funding contribution from SNH to be explored.</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>
Group will carry out a review of deer movements and contribute to wider discussions on deer movements within the DMG.	Autumn 2018 and Spring 2020	DMG Members	<i>Deer count data from 2014 and 2019 will be reviewed by the DMG.</i>
Group will encourage representatives from the local community to attend meetings as well as Police Scotland, local crofters and conservation interests such as the RSPB.	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 and organisations in advance.</i>
Group will ensure adequate resources are available to fund the administration and aspects of delivery of the DMP	Ongoing	DMG Chair and Secretary	<i>DMG will ensure adequate resources for the ongoing delivery of the plan through individual funding</i>

Table 5: Current Population Estimate (Figures in green are estimated figures).

Property	Ownership	Area (ha)	Year	Stags	Hinds	Calves	Total	Density	Recruit
Aird Bheag	Private	1,133	2014	29	73	24	126	11.1	33%
Morsgail & Anhuinnsuidhe	Private	5,710	2014	38	67	24	129	2.3	36%
North Harris Trust	Community	23,961	2014	205	369	139	713	3.0	38%
Uig & Hamnavay	Private	21,230	2014	126	220	84	430	2.0	38%
Eishken	Private	16,872	2014	393	679	234	1306	7.7	34%
Pairc Estate	Community	10,806	2018	20	24	8	52	0.5	
Aline	Private	3,237	2018	45	70	20	135	4.2	
Aline Community Woodland	Community	663	2018	19	31		50	7.5	
Grimersta	Private	7,891	2014	11	0	-	11	0.1	0%
Scaliscro	Private	4,187	2018	20	30	10	60	1.4	
Soval	Private	10,278	2018	100	150	50	300	0.4	
Garynahine	Private	4,963							
Barvas Estate Trust	Community	14,264							
Stornoway Trust	Community	17,443							
Urras Oighreachd Ghabhsainn	Community	23,432							
Carloway Estate Trust	Community	4,863	2018	2	14	4	20	0.4	
Dalmore	Private	4,836	2018	2	14	4	20	0.4	
West Harris Trust	Community	7,225	2018	10	10	4	24	0.1	
Bays of Harris	Private	13,355							
		196,349		1,020	1,751	605	3,376	1.72	
Borve Lodge Estate (Taransay)	Private	1,475	2017	60	123	41	224	15.2	33%

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

1.5.1 Background

- There are around 356 designated features (15.8% of total) within the current national DMG network where herbivores impacts are contributing to the unfavourable condition of the feature. LHDMG will contribute to the Scottish Government target of achieving 80% of features in Favourable or Unfavourable Recovering condition by facilitating the reduction of herbivore impacts where this is contributing to the unfavourable condition.

Lewis and Harris are highly designated (Figure 9) with a total of:

- **58,960 ha** (60% of the DMG area) designated as a RAMSAR site (wetlands of international importance);
- **72,736 ha** (74% of the DMG area) designated as a Special Protection Area (SPA);
- **42,555 ha** (44% of the DMG area) designated as a Special Area of Conservation (SAC); and
- **16,219 ha** (17% of the DMG area) is designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).
- **112,300 ha** (part) is designated as a National Scenic Area

The Lewis Peatlands RAMSAR, SPA and SAC contains a large proportion of the blanket bog on the Isle of Lewis. Within Britain, the Lewis Peatlands are second in extent only to the Caithness and Sutherland Peatlands and represent the extreme north-west part of the range of variation. Associated with these peatlands and open water is a unique and diverse assemblage of breeding birds that is of international importance.

According to a report commissioned by the Baile an Truiseil Community Wind Project the SPA supports nationally important populations of five Annex 1 and two internationally important populations of migratory species. These are:

- Red-throated diver (80 pairs, 9% of the British breeding population);
- Black-throated diver (13 pairs, 8%);
- Golden eagle (5 pairs, 1%);
- Merlin (20 pairs, 2%);
- Golden plover (1800 pairs, 8%);
- Dunlin (3400 pairs, 37% of British population and 31% of the global population of schinzii race); and
- Greenshank (140 pairs, 10% of British population)

Ness and Barvas SPA consists mainly of semi-improved grasslands and marshy areas within crofts which regularly supporting a nationally important breeding population of Annex 1 species corncrake.

1.5.2 Plan Objectives

The Deer Management Plan (DMP) will monitor deer impacts and manage deer to continue to deliver favourable condition on designated sites in the area.

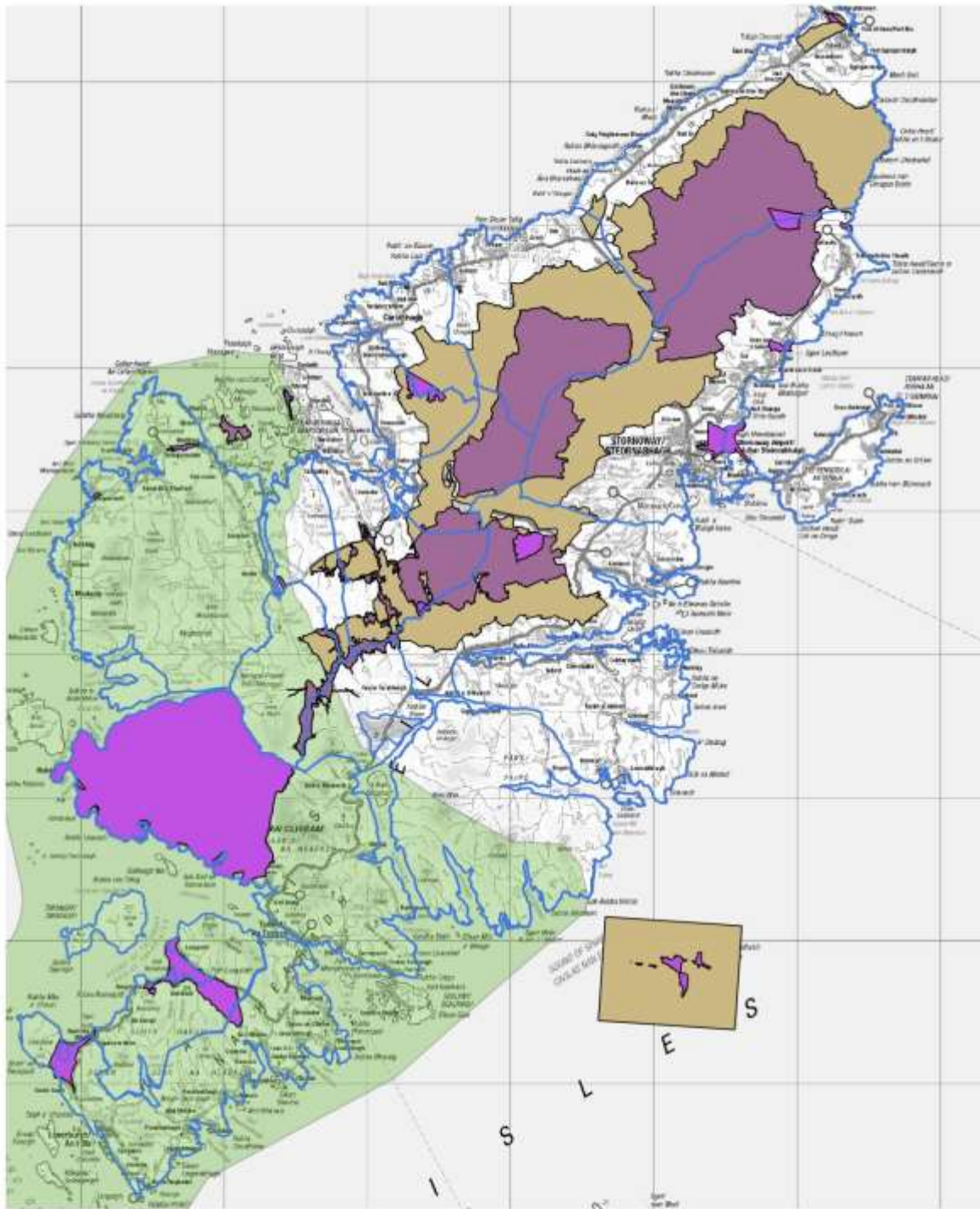
1.5.3 Current Delivery.

- There are 80 designated features within the DMG area (see Table 6) of which **96%** are in 'Favourable' or 'Unfavourable Recovering Due to Management status'. Deer are not considered to be negatively affecting any of the features in Unfavourable condition.
- Impacts leading to Unfavourable status of Northon Bay are related to agricultural grazing only.
- Factors contributing to Unfavourable status of the Red Throated Diver on the Lewis Peatlands SPA are not linked to deer.
- Deer are not considered to be contributing to the Unfavourable status of Freshwater Pearl Mussels on North Harris SAC.
- Deer management activity contributes positively to the Golden Eagle SPA which is in Favourable Condition.
- North Harris Trust has an approved Deer Management Plan and Moorland Management Plan which set out the agreed management for features within the North Harris SSSI/SAC.






1.5.4. Targets to be delivered by 2021

Actions for the delivery of designated features into Favourable Condition	When?	Who?	How?
North Harris SSSI /SAC: To continue to implement deer management according to the agreed DMP and MMP.	Ongoing	North Harris Trust	<i>The Trust will work in collaboration with neighbouring properties and SNH to continue to manage deer to achieve 'Favourable' status of the site. The Trust will implement monitoring of impacts. Deer numbers on the property will be maintained at 3 deer per km2 and the Trust will seek to redistribute deer throughout the area to reduce localised impacts.</i>
North Harris Mountain SPA: Estates will continue to manage habitats and deer to benefit Golden Eagles	Ongoing	North Harris Trust	<i>Estates will seek to work with in collaboration with SNH and other stakeholder organisations such as RSPB to gather and share information on bird populations (numbers, locations, breeding success) to help inform future habitat management.</i>

Figure 9: Designated Features



5 0 5 10 15 20 km

-  DMG Boundary
-  Site of Special Scientific Interest
-  Special Area of Conservation
-  Special Protection Area
-  National Scenic Area

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Table 6: Designated features within the DMG area

Site	Designation	Area (ha)	Feature	Assessed Condition
Lew is Peatlands	RAMSAR	58,960	Breeding bird assemblage	Favourable Maintained
Lew is Peatlands	RAMSAR	58,960	Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina schinzii</i>), breeding	Favourable Maintained
Lew is Peatlands	RAMSAR	58,960	Blanket bog	Unfavourable Recovering
Langavat	SAC	1,472	Atlantic salmon (<i>Salmo salar</i>)	Unfavourable Recovering
Lew is Peatlands	SAC	27,955	Depressions on peat substrates	Favourable Maintained
Lew is Peatlands	SAC	27,955	Acid peat-stained lakes and ponds	Favourable Maintained
Lew is Peatlands	SAC	27,955	Clear-water lakes or lochs with aquatic vegetation and poor to moderate nutrient levels	Favourable Maintained
Lew is Peatlands	SAC	27,955	Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>)	Favourable Maintained
Lew is Peatlands	SAC	27,955	Wet heathland with cross-leaved heath	Unfavourable Recovering
Lew is Peatlands	SAC	27,955	Blanket bog	Unfavourable Recovering
North Harris	SAC	13,128	Plants in crevices on acid rocks	Favourable Maintained
North Harris	SAC	13,128	Acid peat-stained lakes and ponds	Favourable Maintained
North Harris	SAC	13,128	Clear-water lakes or lochs with aquatic vegetation and poor to moderate nutrient levels	Favourable Maintained
North Harris	SAC	13,128	Atlantic salmon (<i>Salmo salar</i>)	Favourable Maintained
North Harris	SAC	13,128	Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>)	Favourable Maintained
North Harris	SAC	13,128	Acidic scree	Favourable Recovered
North Harris	SAC	13,128	Depressions on peat substrates	Favourable Recovered
North Harris	SAC	13,128	Freshwater pearl mussel (<i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i>)	Unfavourable Declining
North Harris	SAC	13,128	Dry heaths	Unfavourable Recovering
North Harris	SAC	13,128	Wet heathland with cross-leaved heath	Unfavourable Recovering
North Harris	SAC	13,128	Alpine and subalpine heaths	Unfavourable Recovering
North Harris	SAC	13,128	Montane acid grasslands	Unfavourable Recovering
North Harris	SAC	13,128	Blanket bog	Unfavourable Recovering
Traigh na Berie	SAC	154	Machair	Favourable Declining
Lew is Peatlands	SPA	58,959	Black-throated diver (<i>Gavia arctica</i>), breeding	Favourable Maintained
Lew is Peatlands	SPA	58,959	Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina schinzii</i>), breeding	Favourable Maintained
Lew is Peatlands	SPA	58,959	Golden eagle (<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>), breeding	Favourable Maintained
Lew is Peatlands	SPA	58,959	Golden plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>), breeding	Favourable Maintained
Lew is Peatlands	SPA	58,959	Greenshank (<i>Tringa nebularia</i>), breeding	Favourable Maintained
Lew is Peatlands	SPA	58,959	Merlin (<i>Falco columbarius</i>), breeding	Favourable Maintained
Lew is Peatlands	SPA	58,959	Red-throated diver (<i>Gavia stellata</i>), breeding	Unfavourable Declining
Ness and Barvas, Lew is	SPA	649	Corncrake (<i>Crex crex</i>), breeding	Favourable Recovered
North Harris Mountains	SPA	13,128	Golden eagle (<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>), breeding	Favourable Maintained
Achmore Bog	SSSI	297	Blanket bog	Favourable Maintained
Glen Valtos	SSSI	55	Quaternary of Scotland	Favourable Maintained
Gress Saltings	SSSI	87	Saltmarsh	Favourable Maintained
Little Loch Roag Valley Bog	SSSI	21	Blanket bog	Favourable Maintained
Little Loch Roag Valley Bog	SSSI	21	Valley fen	Favourable Maintained

Site	Designation	Area (ha)	Feature	Assessed Condition
Loch Laxavat Ard and Loch Laxavat	SSSI	271	Oligotrophic loch	Favourable Maintained
Loch Laxavat Ard and Loch Laxavat	SSSI	271	Breeding bird assemblage	Favourable Maintained
Loch Laxavat Ard and Loch Laxavat	SSSI	271	Scrub	Unfavourable Recovering
Loch na Cartach	SSSI	25	Eutrophic loch	Favourable Maintained
Loch na Cartach	SSSI	25	Maritime cliff	Favourable Maintained
Loch nan Eilean Valley Bog	SSSI	32	Valley fen	Favourable Maintained
Loch nan Eilean Valley Bog	SSSI	32	Blanket bog	Unfavourable Recovering
Loch Scarrasdale Valley Bog	SSSI	218	Blanket bog	Favourable Maintained
Loch Siadar	SSSI	8	Tidal rapids	Favourable Maintained
Loch Siadar	SSSI	8	Saline lagoon	Favourable Maintained
Loch Stiapavat	SSSI	8	Open water transition fen	Favourable Maintained
Loch Stiapavat	SSSI	8	Eutrophic loch	Favourable Maintained
Loch Stiapavat	SSSI	8	Machair	Favourable Maintained
Loch Stiapavat	SSSI	8	Breeding bird assemblage	Favourable Recovered
Luskentyre Banks and Saltings	SSSI	1,082	Flood-plain fen	Favourable Declining
Luskentyre Banks and Saltings	SSSI	1,082	Dystrophic and oligotrophic lochs	Favourable Maintained
Luskentyre Banks and Saltings	SSSI	1,082	Machair	Favourable Maintained
Luskentyre Banks and Saltings	SSSI	1,082	Sandflats	Favourable Maintained
Luskentyre Banks and Saltings	SSSI	1,082	Saltmarsh	Favourable Maintained
Luskentyre Banks and Saltings	SSSI	1,082	Breeding bird assemblage	Favourable Maintained
Luskentyre Banks and Saltings	SSSI	1,082	Coastal Geomorphology of Scotland	Favourable Maintained
Luskentyre Banks and Saltings	SSSI	1,082	Upland assemblage	Favourable Maintained
Luskentyre Banks and Saltings	SSSI	1,082	Sand dunes	Unfavourable Recovering
Mangersta Sands	SSSI	19	Coastal Geomorphology of Scotland	Favourable Maintained
North Harris	SSSI	13,128	Bryophyte assemblage	Favourable Maintained
North Harris	SSSI	13,128	Subalpine wet heath	Unfavourable Recovering
Northton Bay	SSSI	13,128	Transition saltmarsh	Favourable Maintained
Northton Bay	SSSI	13,128	Sand dunes	Favourable Maintained
Northton Bay	SSSI	13,128	Saltmarsh	Favourable Maintained
Northton Bay	SSSI	13,128	Saline lagoon	Favourable Maintained
Northton Bay	SSSI	13,128	Breeding bird assemblage	Favourable Maintained
Northton Bay	SSSI	13,128	Mineralogy of Scotland	Favourable Maintained
Northton Bay	SSSI	13,128	Sandflats	Favourable Maintained
Northton Bay	SSSI	13,128	Machair	Unfavourable Declining
Port of Ness	SSSI	5	Quaternary of Scotland	Favourable Maintained
Tob Valasay	SSSI	40	Tidal rapids	Favourable Maintained
Tob Valasay	SSSI	40	Saline lagoon	Favourable Maintained
Tolsta Head	SSSI	4	Quaternary of Scotland	Favourable Maintained
Tong Saltings	SSSI	440	Sand dunes	Favourable Maintained
Tong Saltings	SSSI	440	Mudflats	Favourable Maintained
Tong Saltings	SSSI	440	Saltmarsh	Favourable Maintained
Tong Saltings	SSSI	440	Breeding bird assemblage	Favourable Maintained
South Lewis, Harris and North Uist	NSA	112300		

1.6. Actions to manage deer to retain existing native woodland cover

1.6.1 Background

- Total area of native woodland in Scotland is 311,153 ha. 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 \(WDNA\)](#) and the [2020 Challenge for Scotland's Biodiversity](#) has set a **national targets that 60% of native woodlands** should be considered to be in "satisfactory condition" by 2020 and that approximately 10,000 ha of native woodland should be in satisfactory condition through Deer Management Plans.
- The National Forest Inventory identified approximately **1798 ha** of woodland within the DMG area which is 0.01% of the total area of the DMG (Table 7).
- Of this woodland, the NWSS has identified approximately **188 ha** of native woodland within the DMG area (Table 7). This represents a tiny fraction of the total area of native woodland in Scotland.

1.6.2 Plan Objectives

- DMG Members will consider 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 **159 ha (85%)** of native woodlands are considered to have **Low/Medium Impacts** (Table 8).
- On Sobhail, 13.2 ha of Very High Impacted woodland is covered by a Woodland Grant Scheme (WGS2).
- 11.2 ha of very highly impacted native woodland is located within Aline Community Woodlands. Aline have been re-populating with native broadleaves as the lodgepole pines die off, and some have arrived naturally. Aline will consider management actions to reduce Very High impacts on native woodland.

Table 7: National Forest Inventory Woodland Type

Property Name	Assumed woodland	Broadleaved	Conifer	Felled	Ground prep	Low density	Mixed mainly broadleaved	Young trees	Total
ALINE COMMUNITY WOODLAND	4.8	1.1	297.2	2.1	30.5			68.2	403.9
BARVAS ESTATE	7.6				5.6			10.0	23.2
CARLOWAY ESTATE	1.3	0.5							1.8
DALMORE	0.8								0.8
EISHKEN			0.6		54.6				55.1
GALSON TRUST	5.7				24.4			2.6	32.8
GARYNAHINE			89.3		8.5			90.1	187.9
GRIMERSTA	43.1				27.2		0.9	7.0	78.2
HAMANAVAY/UG	10.6		2.5					16.0	29.0
MORSGAIL	1.7								1.7
NORTH HARRIS TRUST	145.3	0.6	1.0		4.2				151.1
PAIRC	11.3				1.5			3.3	16.1
SCALISCRO					3.3				3.3
SOBHAIL	109.6	3.3	2.7		70.8			27.8	214.1
STORNOWAY TRUST	372.8	102.2	51.5	2.5	362.7	1.4	0.7	259.6	1153.4
WEST HARRIS TRUST	43.2								43.2
Total	757.8	107.7	444.7	4.6	593.1	1.4	1.7	484.7	2395.6

Table 8: Native Woodland Survey for Scotland Herbivore Impacts

Property Name	NWSS Herbivore Impact (ha)				Total
	Low	Medium	High	Very High	
ALINE				11.2	11.2
GRIMERSTA			0.9		0.9
NORTH HARRIS TRUST	12.1	104.6			116.8
PAIRC			3.2		3.2
SOBHAIL	1.5	14.0		13.2	28.7
STORNOWAY TRUST	1.3	25.8			27.1
WEST HARRIS TRUST	1.8	14.3	0.0	0.0	16.1
BORVE LODGE			3.8		3.8
Total	14.9	144.5	4.1	24.4	187.9

1.6.4 Targets to be delivered by 2021

Actions to manage deer to retain existing native woodland cover and improve woodland condition	When?	Who?	How?
<p>Group will undertake a review of native woodland condition in the Group area, consolidating existing survey reports and implementing woodland herbivore impacts assessment monitoring protocols where required. See monitoring Schedule in Working Plan.</p>	<p>Year 3</p>	<p>DMG Members & Consultant</p>	<p><i>DMG Native Woodland Review Report and recommended actions.</i></p>
<p>Group will implement management to reduce negative impacts including use of Forestry Grant Schemes where practical and appropriate.</p> <p>For increased payment rates and alternative stocking densities/contract requirements for Western Isles see https://www.ruralpayments.org/publicsite/futures/topics/all-schemes/forestry-grant-scheme/woodland-creation/native-broadleaves-northern-western-isles/</p>	<p>By 2021</p>	<p>DMG Members</p>	<p><i>Monitoring results used to inform management actions. Entry into SRDP Schemes.</i></p>

1.7 Actions to contribute to the Scottish Government woodland expansion target.

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 National 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 however opportunities for further woodland expansion on Lewis and Harris will be constrained and limited by the following:
 - Land biophysically and biologically unsuitable for planting. Biophysically constrained land includes alpine, eroded peat, montane areas, water, built up areas. Biologically unsuitable land including land with designations ie SPA,SAC,SSSI.
 - Policy restrictions : Prime agricultural land (Land Capability for Agriculture classes 1 – 3.1) and areas of peat deeper than 0.5 metres.
- 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.

- The extent of boundaries of woodland schemes is estimated to be **4259 ha** (Table 9) and represents **2%** of the DMG area.
- A total of 892.93 ha new broadleaved woodland and 341.21 ha of new conifer woodland has been created through these schemes.
- Given the extent of peatlands throughout the DMP area, there may be limited opportunities for further schemes however some properties have expressed an interest in investigating potential opportunities.
- Larger areas of woodland on properties such as Garynahine, Soval, Stornoway Trust and Aline Community Woodlands have fences which are now porous and which are utilised by deer (See Section 1.17).

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?
<p>To inform the DMG about any future woodland proposals and incorporate in the DMP - taking account of potential implications for deer management. See- https://www.ruralpayments.org/publicsite/futures/topics/all-schemes/forestry-grant-scheme/woodland-creation/ https://www.ruralpayments.org/publicsite/futures/topics/all-schemes/forestry-grant-scheme/woodland-creation/native-broadleaves-northern-western-isles/</p>	Ongoing	DMG Members	<i>Members will circulate/present proposals to DMG for discussion.</i>
<p>DMG to 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.</p>	Year 2	DMG Members & Consultant	<i>DMG Woodland Expansion Report and recommended actions.</i>

Table 9: Summary of WGS Schemes on Lewis and Harris

Scheme	Property	Total Area (ha)	Broadleaved (ha)	Conifer (ha)
WGS1	BARVAS ESTATE	100		
	NORTH HARRIS TRUST	1.8		
	SOBHAIL	2.6		
	STORNOWAY TRUST	14.6		
WGS2	DALMORE	2.85	1.58	0.32
	GALSON TRUST	12.5	0	0
	GRIMERSTA	26.74	7.54	1.5
	MORSGAIL	2.1	0.5	0
	NORTH HARRIS TRUST	5.2	2.6	0
	SOBHAIL	183.1	61.69	15.13
	STORNOWAY TRUST	832.94	217.37	56.5
	BORVE LODGE	24		
WGS3	BARVAS ESTATE	22.4	9.9	0
	CARLOWAY ESTATE	2.46	1.23	0
	GALSON TRUST	39.2	14.42	5.18
	GRIMERSTA	225	38.13	14.38
	HAMANAVAY/UIG	90.34	20.88	0
	NORTH HARRIS TRUST	306.3	113	0
	SOBHAIL	130.96	57.83	0
	STORNOWAY TRUST	2226.02	346.26	248.2
	WEST HARRIS TRUST	8.1		
Total		4259.21	892.93	341.21

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.
- The appropriate overall stocking rate for a site is dependent on the aims of management (Table 10). To maintain good site condition, a balance must be achieved between the annual production of dry matter in the vegetation and the utilisation of this production by grazing herbivores. If the utilisation is too low, there will be a build-up of taller plants and dead plant material, while if it is too high there will be a loss of structural diversity in the vegetation. Both situations usually result in a loss of biodiversity.
- Where red deer are the primary grazing animal in upland areas, grazing levels are generally expressed as deer per km² and are typically low if converted into LU/ha. This is partly due to the fact that large upland areas include significant areas of fragile and low-quality grazing such as blanket bog and alpine vegetation above the tree-line, and partly due to the habit of deer of concentrating in favoured areas (particularly in winter) and their greater propensity for browsing of heather and other shrubs, compared with sheep. Anything greater than 20 red deer/km² (equivalent to approximately 0.06 LU/ha) would normally be considered a very high density with potential for negative impacts on vegetation. Around 5-10 deer/km² is likely to result in low to moderate impacts across most large upland areas, but some areas may sustainably support higher densities than this (FAS Technical Note, 2017).
- The area available to Red deer across the DMG, including Taransay is approximately **184,502 ha** (excluding areas of water). According to the Land Cover Scotland 88 data set, blanket bog and peatland are the most extensive habitat covering **102,460 ha** which represents **52%** of the land available to deer (Figures 10 & 11). Heather moorland (dwarf shrub heath methodology) is the second largest habitat covering approximately **61,280 ha (31%)**.
- Blanket bog & peatlands and heather moorland are two of the habitats that Scottish Natural Heritage have recommended deer managers monitor for herbivore grazing and trampling impacts. Heather moorland is comprised of both dry heath and wet heath, however, wet heath is likely to be the more dominant habitat. The DMGs will take responsibility for the monitoring of herbivore impacts across the deer range and seek to manage these to contribute to wider ecosystem health. See Table 11 for habitat distribution per property.
- **Blanket bog** habitats account are found on lower lying ground around patches of wet heath, extending from loch and stream edges. The blanket bog areas are comprised of two distinct habitat types. In places, a drier, more heathy blanket bog community is present where common heather is co-dominant with Hare's-tail cottongrass *Eriophorum vaginatum*. In terms of NVC, this community corresponds with the **M19 *Calluna vulgaris* –*Eriophorum vaginatum* mire** and is interspersed with wetter blanket bog patches corresponding with the **M17 *Trichophorum cespitosum* –*Eriophorum vaginatum* blanket mire** where carpets of *Sphagnum papillosum* and round-leaved sundew *Drosera rotundifolia* become more frequent.

- **Wet dwarf shrub heath** habitats are the main heath habitat type and are generally made up of abundant heather *Calluna vulgaris* interspersed with frequent cross-leaved heath *Erica tetralix*, deergrass *Trichophorum cespitosum* and patches of bog asphodel *Narthecium ossifragum* and tormentil *Potentilla erecta*. Wet heath areas are best described by the **M15 *Trichophorum cespitosum* – *Erica tetralix* wet heath**, with **M15b**, the typical sub-community, being the most frequent wet heath type on site but with occasional patches of wet heath with abundant *Cladonia* lichens representing the **M15c** community.

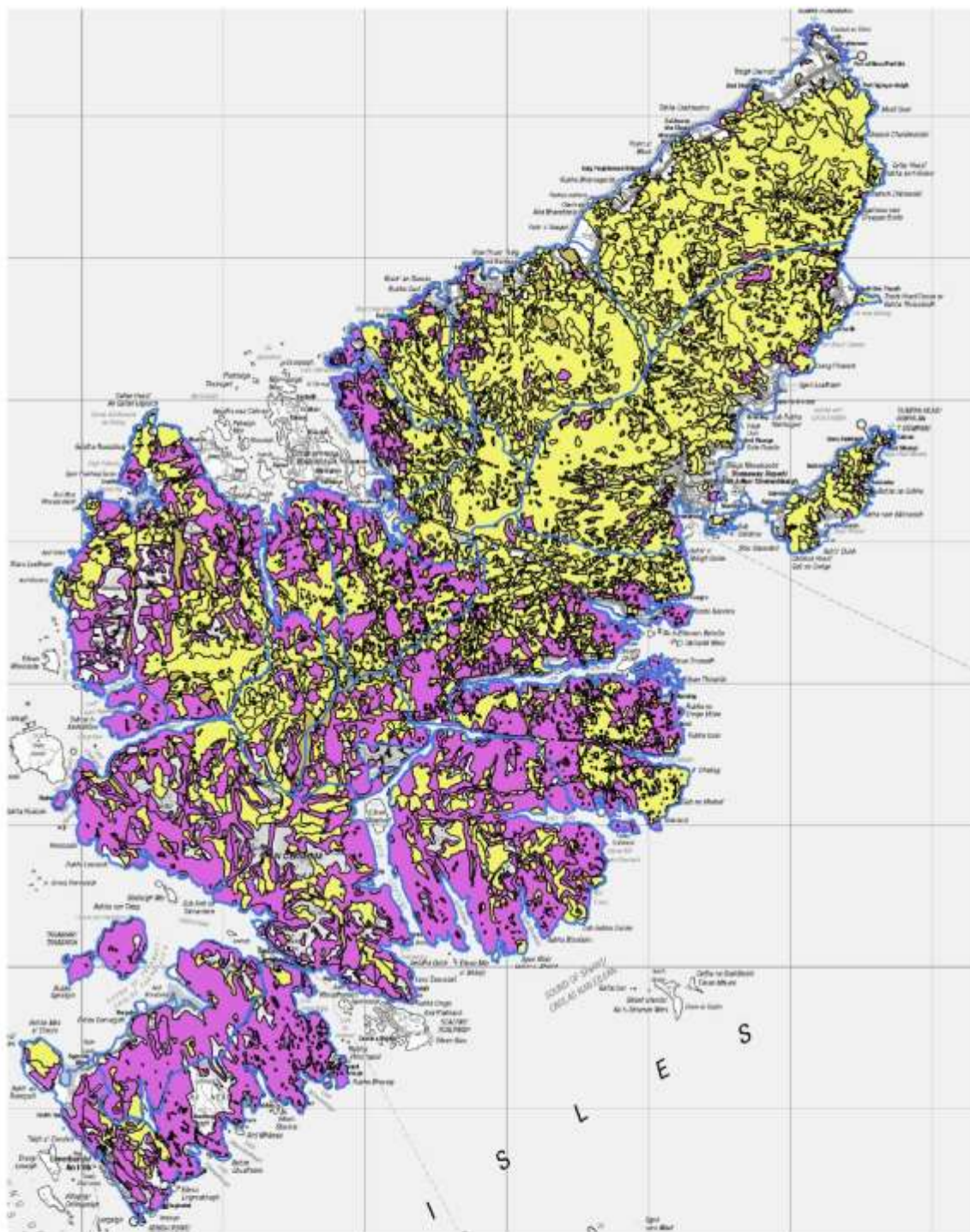
Table 10: Guideline stocking rates for upland habitats

	Examples of NVC communities included	Indicative annual stocking rate (LU/ha)
Blanket and Raised Bog	M17, M18, M19	0.02 (0.00-0.05)
Wet Heath	M15, M16	0.08 (0.05-0.10)
Dry Heath	H9, H10, H12, H16	0.12 (0.10-0.20)
Bracken	U20	0.00 – 0.10

Table 11: Distribution of Habitat Type (LCS88 Data)

Property	blanket bog & peatlands	heather moor	water	improved grassland	montane vegetation	cliffs	coarse grassland	Dune, salt marsh, maritime heath	smooth grassland	coniferous plantation	total
AIRD BHEAG ESTATE	72	989	20				22	2			1,105
ALINE (Including ACW)	1,459	2,645	437	6	138			0		272	4,958
BARVAS ESTATE	11,103	1,039	790	1,095			52	104			14,183
BAYS OF HARRIS	1,336	8,590	602	299	292		217	210	99		11,645
CARLOWAY ESTATE	2,096	1,800	371	556				3			4,826
EISHKEN	4,036	11,676	377	18	683	17		3			16,810
GALSON TRUST	19,221	543	610	2,001		0	603	279	163	2	23,422
GARYNAHINE	4,015	358	347	40				0		199	4,960
GRIMERSTA	3,446	3,363	1,090	67				4			7,969
HAMANAVAY/UG	8,517	7,913	1,249	656	724	1,710	122	107	201	2	21,199
LEWIS ISLAND CROFTERS	3,188	939	201	437		0		64			4,829
MORSGAIL	3,397	1,463	501	32	302		3	0			5,698
NORTH HARRIS TRUST	5,746	13,349	440	161	3,064	895	129	51	66		23,901
PAIRC	3,868	5,823	735	461		5		1			10,894
SCALISCRO	2,171	1,674	311	27				4			4,187
SOBHAIL	7,608	4,723	1,586	1,120		23		5		3	15,068
STORNOWAY TRUST	21,176	1,750	1,026	2,761		3	316	210	43	12	27,298
TARANSAY (BORVE ESTATE)	5	1,176	11			19	40	18	29		1,297
WEST HARRIS TRUST	629	5,231	41	126	367		171	129	121		6,815
Total	102,460	61,280	10,704	9,438	5,203	2,673	1,503	854	601	490	195,206
% of land area	52%	31%	5%	5%	3%	1%	1%	0%	0%	0%	

Figure 10: Distribution of Habitat Type (LCS 88 data)



5 0 5 10 15 20 km

DMG Boundary

Habitat Type

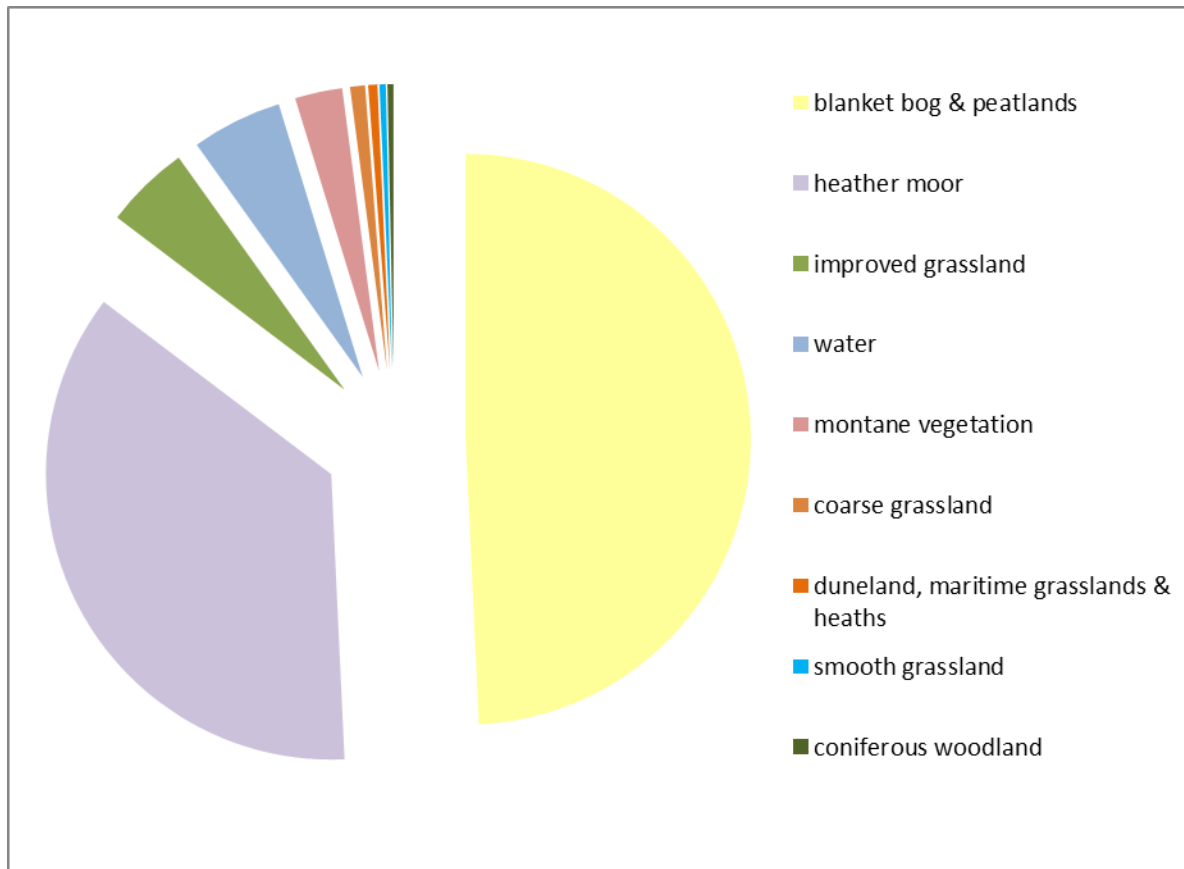
blanket bog & peatlands

heather moor

Data produced by Scottish Natural Heritage.
Contains Ordnance Survey Data © Crown
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Figure 11: Proportion of Habitat Type (LCS 88 data)



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 1998¹](#)).
- 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. The DMG will adopt these targets.
- Different habitats will require different levels of grazing to deliver these targets e.g woodland regeneration without fencing may require densities of less than 4 deer per km² whereas upland features such as Dwarf Shrub Heath may withstand grazing at much higher densities of deer, which will be informed by habitat monitoring.

1.8.3 Current Delivery.

- All main members of the DMG have agreed to implementing monitoring in Spring 2018 and will use Habitat Impact Targets as recommended by SNH. Results are being used to inform deer management. The Working Plan for 2018/19 sets out the proposed survey.
- The following ecological surveys were carried out on Eishken in 2010 to inform the Ecological Impact Assessment (EclA) for the Muaitheabhal Windfarm East Extension :
 - Phase 1 Habitat Survey;
 - National Vegetation Classification (NVC) characterisation;
 - Otter survey;
 - Freshwater pearl mussel survey;
 - Fisheries survey.
- The Phase 1 Habitat Survey was carried out during three days in May 2010 on Eishken. Habitats were marked on a 1:10,000 base map using the standard Phase 1 classifications and mapping codes. NVC quadrats were recorded in habitats of particular ecological interest, primarily mires and heaths. Heathland and mire quadrats were 4 x 4m in dimension. Species abundance was recorded using the Domin scale¹⁷. Additional environmental parameters were also recorded for each quadrat, including an estimate of peat depth and sward height.

1.8.4 Targets to be delivered by 2021

Actions to monitor and manage deer impacts in the wider countryside	When?	Who?	How?
Using revised BPG Guidance undergo training, set up plots and carry out a baseline habitat impact assessment (HIA) of the current grazing and trampling impacts on blanket bog & dwarf shrub heath.	By Spring 2018	DMG Members	<i>DMG to set up random plots and to carry out monitoring with the production of a report.</i>
Summary of assessment results reported to DMG. Management actions agreed.	Ongoing	DMG Members & Secretary	<i>Secretary will combine HIA data for Group and produce a map. DMG will agree management decisions based on overall Habitat Baseline Reports and Habitat Targets.</i>
Repeat HIA and management actions agreed.	Spring 2021 and Ongoing	DMG Chair and Secretary	<i>Members will collect repeat monitoring data. Secretary will provide assistance with data analysis and the production of a report. Members will use report to inform management.</i>

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.

In addition, renewable energy is an important land use for many properties. The Comhairle Nan Eilean Siar has prepared a Western Isles Local Plan (adopted in June 2008) which emphasises the importance of nature conservation in West Highland and Islands through its Objective to adopt a “proactive approach to the wise use of the natural environment” which includes reference to “promote opportunities for maximising the development of ‘renewables’”.

1.9.2 Plan Objectives

- The plan will aim to acknowledge all contributions to carbon storage mainly through 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 **2395 ha of woodland** (Section 1.6) and an area of **102,270 ha of blanket bog** (see Section 1.8) has been identified within the DMG Area.
- DMG has agreed to undertake Habitat Monitoring Training and Blanket bog is one of the habitats that the DMG has included in the monitoring programme.
- A full-time Peatland Restoration Project Officer is due to take up post, based at Carloway and will be working with properties to investigate opportunities for Restoration Projects.
- The actions currently being undertaken by the DMG to retain existing native woodland and encourage woodland expansion have been detailed in Sections 1.6/1.7.
- The DMG has not been asked to contribute to River Basin Management Planning however, Grimesta Estate is actively involved in projects to maintain and improve riparian habitats to contribute to the health of rivers.

1.9.4 Targets to be delivered by 2021

Actions to improve Scotland's ability to store carbon by maintaining or improving ecosystem health.	When?	Who?	How?
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 considered.	By Year 2	DMG Members	<i>Members to work with Peatland Project Officer to explore opportunities for Peatland Restoration</i>
Contribute to River Basin Management Planning as appropriate	Ongoing	DMG Members	<i>DMG will contribute as required.</i>

DRAFT

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

1.10.1 Background

Law on non-native species in Scotland

Scotland leads the way in the battle against non-native species. New legislation came into force in July 2012. The Wildlife and Natural Environment (Scotland) Act 2011 made significant amendments to the law in Scotland. It contains the following offences:

- Releasing an animal to a place out with its native range.
- Allowing an animal to escape from captivity to a place out with its native range.
- Otherwise causing an animal out with the control of any person to be at a place out with its native range.
- Planting a plant in the wild at a place out with its native range.
- Otherwise causing a plant to grow in the wild at a place out with its native range.

Sika deer and “Refugia Islands”

- Sika were introduced as an ornamental species during the late 19th and early 20th centuries and have now become established on mainland Scotland, occupying more than 40% of the red deer range.
- They are genetically closely related to red deer and hybrids are common. Given the adaptability of sika, they have steadily expanded their range and are likely to continue to do so. This is likely to result in continued hybridisation with red deer.
- There are also ‘deer refugia’ – islands where it is an offence to release deer to protect the genetic integrity of native deer populations. These include Arran, Islay, Jura, Rum and the Outer Hebrides.

Feral pigs or feral goats

Feral pigs or feral goats have not so far established within the DMG area

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 highlight other invasive species such as Feral Pigs and Feral Goats.
- Plan to detail an agreed policy and actions required by DMG to monitor.

1.10.3 Current Delivery.

- Lewis and Harris form part of the “refugia” islands.
- DMG have adopted the Non-Native Policy (**Part 2: 2.12.4**) to manage Sika Deer, Feral Pigs and Feral Goats.

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.	Ongoing	DMG Members	<i>Members will contact local SNH Wildlife Management Officer immediately on suspected sighting of Muntjac.</i>
Sika Deer managed to prevent their establishment within the DMG area and managed as per the Non-Native Species Policy.	Ongoing	DMG Members	<i>Members will shoot Sika on sight (within current legal restrictions) to prevent their spread.</i>
Feral Pigs and Feral Goats managed according to DMG Policy and future Policy Guidelines currently being agreed by SNH.	Ongoing	DMG Members	<i>Members will report sightings of feral pigs and feral goats and shoot on sight (subject to welfare considerations) within DMG area. Implement Feral Pig and Feral Goat management policy once agreed by SNH.</i>
Encourage control of invasive plants species.	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 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.
- There are a range of archaeological features across the DMG area some of which appear on the [CANMORE](#) website.
- 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 this assessment
- South Lewis, Harris and North Uist National Scenic Areas lies within the DMG area. Any new proposed fencing will be assessed for landscape impacts according to Joint Agency Guidance.

1.11.4 Targets to be delivered by 2021

Actions to protect designated historic and cultural features from being damaged by deer e.g. by trampling.	When?	Who?	How?
Identify any features within DMG area that may be impacted on by deer.	By end of 2018	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>Part of DMG falls within National Scenic Area - new fencing proposals will take account and 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 59 individuals involved in carrying out practical deer management across the DMG that have DSC Level 1 and at least 7 have Level 2.

Group members attended two training courses for Habitat Impact Assessment carried out in Spring 2018.

1.12.4 Targets to be delivered by 2021

Actions to contribute to delivering higher standards of competence in deer management.	When?	Who?	How?
DMG will adopt the training policy statement (Part 2 of plan).	Spring 2018	DMG Members	<i>Adopted as part of DMP.</i>
Ascertain training requirements among DMG Members and investigate opportunities for Training/Continuous Professional Development. Report on progress on an annual basis.	Annually	DMG Secretary and Members	<i>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.</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. Actions relating to venison production are included in Section 19. 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 1.14 and road traffic accident actions are covered in Section 1.15.
- **Lyme disease** is caused by a spiral-shaped, spirochaetal bacterium of the Borrelia genus. There are hundreds of strains of Borrelia bacteria, many of which remain unstudied. Lyme disease (also termed Lyme borreliosis or Borreliosis) is spread to humans (and other mammals and birds) through the bite of infected ticks. In the UK, there are two families of ticks, hard ticks and soft ticks. It is usually hard ticks that spread Lyme disease. The most common ticks to transmit Lyme disease to people and companion animals in the UK are Ixodes ricinus (also known as the sheep tick, deer tick, wood tick, and castor bean tick) and Ixodes hexagonus (the hedgehog tick). More information on Lyme Disease and deer can be found at <http://www.bestpracticeguides.org.uk/people/lyme-disease>.
- Lewis and Harris are popular tourist destinations, 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.
- **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 (July 1st to 20th October). There is only one Corbett listed in Table 1 on the [Heading For The Scottish Hills website](#).

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 1.15);
- 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.

- Tick awareness already discussed widely in the community and with estates and staff on all estates. Tick information is provided for visitors through accommodation providers. DMG website to provide downloadable information leaflets.
- DMG collectively signed up to principles of Best Practice which provides guidance on safeguarding public safety and food safety.
- Access is promoted across DMG and up to date information is provided in the Table 1 of the [Heading For The Scottish Hills website](#).
- North Harris Trust have a Ranger Service which provides opportunities for camera stalking, wildlife tours, etc.
- Borge Lodge Estate are considering the use of signage on Taransay to inform the public about deer management and risks of disturbance to deer during calving.
- Police Scotland attend the DMG meetings and provide information on occurrences of DVCs

1.13.4 Targets to be delivered by 2021

Actions to Identify and promote opportunities contributing to public health and wellbeing.	When?	Who?	How?
Update and make access leaflet available on-line and to relevant tourism operators - possibly include health information about tick awareness.	By end of 2018 and ongoing	DMG Secretary	<i>Secretary to circulate leaflets 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. Lewis and Harris to continue to provide Estate Access Information and ensure it is up to date.	By end 2018	Secretary	<i>Secretary to ensure information is kept up to date. Information on Access to be made available on DMG web site.</i>
Raise awareness of threats relating to Chronic Wasting Disease and sign up to CWD Biosecurity Policy (Part 2 of plan).	By end of 2018 and ongoing	DMG Members	<i>Members to raise awareness of CWD with Clients and Visitors from USA, Canada and Scandanavia.</i>
Investigate opportunities for awareness raising/educational events for the local community.	Ongoing	DMG Members	<i>Members to discuss opportunities at Spring meeting. Open events to be advertised on DMG website.</i>
Provide opportunities for any concerns from the local community to be addressed.	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.</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 2018	DMG Chair and access organisations	<i>DMG to explore opportunities to work together to improve information provision through social media</i>

1.14. Actions to maximise economic benefits associated with deer

1.14.1 Background

- Wild deer are considered a valuable 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 most, 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 **167 stags** are ideally required by the group to be harvested annually. In order to achieve a sustainable harvest of stags, theoretically a minimum total population of around **2880 deer** (1.5 deer per km²) is required.

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 167 stags plus hinds are let for stalking. An average of 320 venison carcasses are produced annually providing an additional further potential income. Most venison is processed and consumed on the islands, with one processor offering a mail delivery service to the main land.
- A very rough estimate of potential direct income from stalking activities could be around 100K annually.
- 15 full-time employees and an additional 15 part- employees associated directly with deer management.
- At least 19 individuals employed with additional estate activities.
- 7 properties which employ a manager who oversees deer management.
- Across the DMG there are 8 Sporting Lease agreements in place which include deer management and a total of 40 individuals shooting under those leases.
- There are at least 16 properties (including self-catering and fully catered lodges) involved in accommodating visiting guest across the DMG.
- All properties use local services in the local surrounding area - such as shops, fuel, hotels and B&Bs, local tradesmen, vets, livestock feed suppliers.
- All those undertaking stalking have access to larders with only one property not having larder chills. Two estates are currently members of Scottish Quality Assured Wild Venison and two estates have venison processing facilities.
- Given the current costs associated with managing deer (including wages for 15 full-time and 15 part-time employees plus capital costs of vehicles and equipment etc), the income derived from the letting of stalking and any sale of venison is unlikely to cover these costs. Deer management therefore is likely to represent a **net cost to land-owners**.
- On Lewis, opportunities for maximising the revenue from venison production are limited and future deer management could be better facilitated by improved access to lardering/processing facilities. There is scope for further investigation into possible opportunities for a collaborative approach to venison production which would better support the continued sustainable management of deer in this area.

1.14.4 Targets to be delivered by 2021

Actions to maximise economic benefits associated with deer	When?	Who?	How?
Investigate opportunities for membership of SQWV Quality Assurance Scheme.	By 2021	DMG Members	<i>On-going discussion at DMG meetings.</i>
Investigate opportunities to add-value to deer management in particular for more effective collection of carcasses and possible collaborative processing of carcasses using existing or new facilities.	Annually	DMG Members	<i>Agenda Item and discussion at meetings.</i>
DMG Members to seek opportunities to market venison locally.	Ongoing	DMG Members	<i>Individual members undertake.</i>
DMG Members to continue to monitor sustainable harvest of sporting stags.	Ongoing	Secretary & DMG Members	<i>Population model used to monitor sustainable harvest of stags.</i>
Investigate opportunities for a Student Project to look at economic costs/benefits in association with University of Highlands and Islands	Ongoing	Chair and UHI	<i>Continue dialogue/liason with UHI about future student projects.</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 (see Section 19). However they can also create costs to other land-use objectives and have a negative impact on other economic activities including agriculture and forestry.
- Within the LHDMG area, deer largely have access to roam freely. From late Winter/early Spring, pasture on Croft ground becomes extremely attractive to deer, particularly stags. Attempts by Crofters throughout the DMG area to improve the quality of pasture (including the use of lime) or the planting of feed crops for livestock are may be negatively impacted on by deer. Whilst deer have always had access to Croft ground, it is likely that increasing numbers of deer as well as changes in sheep and cattle grazing practices on the open hill will continue to increase the pressure of deer coming onto Crofts.
- The **actual economic loss** to Crofters through deer is extremely difficult to quantify however it includes loss of pasture and grazing for livestock (particularly where lime has been applied at a cost per acre) as well as loss of crops and damage to croft infrastructure such as fences/walls. In addition, there is potentially an indirect environmental cost of over-grazing of certain habitats including machair. However, from a resource perspective every stag shot out of season represents a lost commercial opportunity.
- It can also be argued that the impact of ticks on public health and on livestock carries an economic cost. The role of deer as a tick vector and the issue of tick borne disease is detailed in Section 1.13.
- Under the [Deer \(Scotland\) Act 1996](#) the close seasons for Red Deer in **Scotland** are:
 - Red Stags: 21st Oct - 30th Jun
 - Red Hinds: 16th Feb - 20th Oct

In legal terms, wild deer belong to no-one and can only be shot by those who own or manage the land or with their permission. . However there are a number of other people such as tenants that can take or kill deer for certain purposes. but Authorisations are issued by the Scottish Natural Heritage under the Deer (Scotland) Act 1996 to allow individuals to cull deer in circumstances when they would not normally have the legal right to shoot them, for example to prevent deer damaging agricultural ground. More information on the legal status of deer and the use of Authorisations is contained in **Appendix 1**.

- Deer Vehicle Collisions (DVCs) may also incur an economic as well as social cost. Although relatively infrequent, these occur predominantly on the occur predominantly on the A859 (between Tarbert to Loidse Ath Linne) and the A859 (Stornoway to Barvas) to the northwest. Figure 11 shows data collected between 2015 and 2013. During this time a total of 13 incidents were recorded by the Police. In many places there are long straight stretches and increased vehicle speed may increase chances of DVCs.

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 and Future Delivery

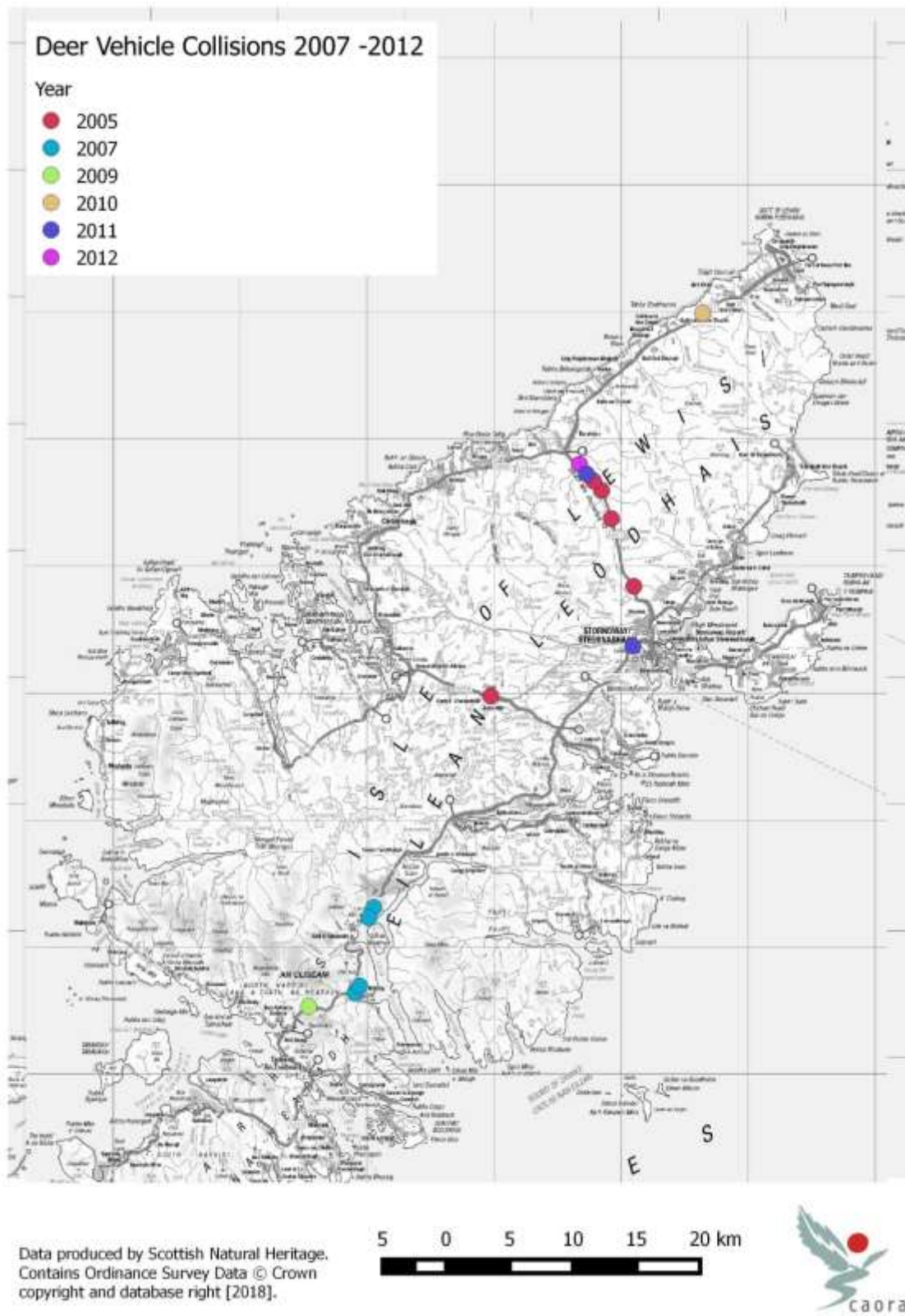
- DMG Members currently work closely with Crofting Communities to identify issues and take action to minimise the impacts of deer on Crofts. On most Croft ground issues with deer are reported to the landowner and are dealt with. Methods may include Out of Season control by trained deer managers and occupiers of agricultural ground.
- Police Scotland are an active member of the DMG and provide an opportunity for greater liaison, for DVC hot-spots to be identified and for possible mitigating actions to be agreed.
- Some signage has been used on A859 but still issues with visibility of seeing deer crossing at night/early morning. Gritting also attracts sheep/deer onto road.
- Public consultation meeting highlighted an issue with marauding stags (10 to 15) on crofts around Laxay.

1.15.4 Targets to be delivered by 2021

Actions to minimise the economic costs of deer, and ensure deer management is cost-effective	When?	Who?	How?
Ensure local crofting interests are consulted on DMP and invited to/represented at DMG meetings.	Spring 2018	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 2018 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 of deer culled under authorisation.</i>
DMG to carry out an economic survey of deer management in the area, including an assessment of investment, employment, infrastructure etc.	By Year 3	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>

Figure 12 Road traffic accidents involving deer 2005 to 2012

Source: Freedom of Information request ref: IM-FOI_2013-1476 dated 14 Nov 13



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, the 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 works in close collaboration with neighbouring properties and neighbouring DMGs.
- Trusts who manage Community Owned Land have good communication with Crofting Interests.
- An extensive consultation process was conducted including an opportunity to comment on the draft plan as well as 3 drop-in sessions and public evening meetings in Stornoway, Tarbert and Laxay. These were attended by 12 people with a range of interests represented: Board Member from a Community Trust, Crofters, Recreational and Professional Stalkers.
- DMG has a [web site](#).
- The DMG works in partnership with SNH, Police Scotland and the Local Community.
- There are 20 Community Councils across Lewis and Harris <https://www.cne-siar.gov.uk/your-council/community-councils/>. These were contacted through the consultation process.

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 2018	DMG Secretary	Draft DMP made available on public website. Relevant stakeholders identified and invited to consult. Interested parties invited to attend consultation meetings on Lewis and Harris.
Final Plan and Minutes of Meetings will published on DMG Website.	Spring 2018	DMG Secretary	DMG Website.
DMG Constitution and ADMG Principles of Collaboration adopted (Part 2)	Spring 2018	DMG Members	Adopted as part of DMP.
Agree and adopt a DMG Communications Policy	Spring 2018	DMG Members	Adopted as part of DMP.
Consider producing an Annual Report and holding an Open Meeting	Annually	DMG Members	Annual Report could be published online and one meeting held to include an Open Public Meeting.

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

1.17.1 Background.

and its health is not currently constrained by the by completion for available nutrition. 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

There is very little woodland throughout the DMG but fencing is a management tool that has been used. The exclusion or prevention of deer movements to areas of natural areas of shelter in winter through the erection of enclosures or use of strategic fenced may pose a threat to welfare. Similarly, areas where fencing is no longer required and can be removed, can provide natural shelter which will be attractive to deer.

Supplementary Feeding

Within the DMG, some properties use supplementary/diversionary winter feeding specifically for deer.

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.

- Significant areas of woodland which have been fenced in the past now tend to be open to deer with both resident deer populations and deer using woodlands for shelter, as in the case of Aline Community Woodland and woodland on Garynahine, Grimesta, Sobhail and Stornoway Trust.
- Members currently monitor and report on levels of winter mortality as well as any other significant health issues encountered.
- The Uig and Hamanavay Deer Management Plan sets out methodology used to determine the potential carrying capacity of the Estate. The plan states that there is no evidence that the weight or condition of hinds or stags on the Estate have changed or reduced and the count data from 1993 (0.80 deer per km² on the Estate and Aird Bheag combined), 2000 (3.71 deer per km² on the Estate and Aird Bheag combined) and in 2013 (2.89 deer per km² on the Estate and Aird Bheag combined) all show high and consistent recruitment on both the Estate and Aird Bheag. Since 2000 the number of sheep grazing the hill and competing for food with the deer population has dropped significantly. The Estate's view is that the deer population

1.17.4 Targets to be delivered by 2021

Actions to ensure deer welfare is taken fully into account at individual animal and population level	When?	Who?	How?
Agree and adopt welfare policy (Part 2 of plan).	Spring 2018	DMG Members	<i>Implemented through every day Best Practice in deer management.</i>
Consider opportunities for CPD/Training in relation to deer welfare.	By Year 3	DMG Members	<i>DMG will run at least one event to share Best Practice Management.</i>
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>
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>
Monitoring and reporting of significant levels of winter mortality.	Ongoing	DMG Members	<i>Deer managers will provide information (figures & location) on winter mortality.</i>
Carry out a review of fencing and wintering ground and identify opportunities to open up further woodland to deer.	Year 2	DMG Members & Consultant	<i>Carry out as part of the delivery of the DMG Woodland Expansion Report and recommended actions.</i>

1.18 Management Units: Aird Bheag

Property	Aird Bheag
Area	1,133 ha
Owner	Christopher Young and Julie Brook
Deer Management	Alison Alston

Deer Counts					
Year	Stags	Hinds	Calves	Total	Density
2014 Heli Count (Classified)	29	73	24	126	11.4

Deer Cull				
	S	H	C	T
2011 -2012	2	12	5	19
2012 -2013	2	12	8	22
2013 -2014	3	18	7	28
2014 -2015	0	0	0	0
2015 -2016	0	0	0	0
2016-2017	2	4	1	7

Background	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The main land uses on the property are walking and land art sculpture.
Designations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None
Deer Management Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To improve deer herd health and reduce the detrimental impacts of deer on flora and fauna. To maintain current population depending on the results of the Habitat Impact Assessment.
Future Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Future deer population management to be informed by results of habitat impact assessments. Consideration to be given to future peatland restoration opportunities.
Woodland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not applicable.
Land management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No muirburn. Over the last 10 years sheep numbers have been reduced and there are currently no livestock on the open hill.
Deer Impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No designated sites. No issues with DVCs.
Supplementary Feeding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not undertaken
Deer Distribution & Movements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Primarily a hind forest, stags tend to move in during the rut.
Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No Munroes or Corbetts.
Socio-Economics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 x deer management personnel No letting of stalking Local services and businesses supported. Estate has larder and chill. Venison used for home consumption.

1.19 Management Units: Aline Estate

Property	Aline Estate
Area	3,237 ha
Owner	Fred Martin
Deer Management	Adrian Main

Deer Counts					
Year	Stags	Hinds	Calves	Total	Density
2014 Heli Count (Classified)	37	31	9	77	1.5

Deer Cull				
	S	H	C	T
2011 -2012	13	3	3	19
2012 -2013	24	2	0	26
2013 -2014	-	-	-	-
2014 -2015	-	-	-	-
2015 -2016	19	28	0	47
2016-2017	33	28	0	61

Background Designations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Estate combines conservation objectives with managing habitat for commercial sport (fishing, stalking and walked-up grouse shooting).
Deer Management Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Langavat SAC Lewis Peatlands SPA
Future Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To sustainably harvest 7/8 stags annually (previously 15 shot annually).
Woodland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To see numbers of deer maintained and counted collectively on a regular basis
Land management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aline Estate sold the forest to the Forestry Commission in 1967 but retained the sporting rights in a lease that expired in spring 2017. Aline Estate retains the exclusive salmon fishing rights to the forest. To manage habitat for deer and grouse and improve rivers for fishing. Muirburn carried out annually for grouse. Estate has never had livestock. No crofts on Estate, but Crofters use common grazing.
Deer Impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Old shieling on hill but not impacted by deer. No issues with DVCs on Estate but occasionally called out to deal with incidents.
Supplementary Feeding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not undertaken currently.
Deer Distribution & Movements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stags and hinds are found throughout the Estate – between Kintarvie and the sea; between Tsordsam and Langavat; along the Langavat track and in the Green Corrie between Luid and Langavat. Estate is an important link to deer movements between deer populations in the north and the south.
Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No Munroes or Corbetts.
Socio-Economics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1x employees associated with deer management plus seasonal stalker Stag stalking let. 1 Lodge (sleeps 12) – let for 6 weeks annually. 2 x properties for holiday lets (April to November). 1 property let full-time. Local services and businesses supported. Estate has larder and chill. Venison sold locally.

1.20 Management Units: Aline Community Woodlands

Property	Aline Community Woodlands
Area	663 ha
Owner	Aline Community Trust
Deer Management	Ian MacLeod

Deer Counts					
Year	Stags	Hinds	Calves	Total	Density
2014 Heli Count (Classified)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

Deer Cull				
	S	H	C	T
2011 -2012	0	0	0	0
2012 -2013	0	0	0	0
2013 -2014	0	0	0	0
2014 -2015	0	0	0	0
2015 -2016	0	0	0	0
2016-2017	6	6	0	0

Background	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community acquired the Woodland in 2016. Transferred in 1998 – classified as failed forest.
Designations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None
Deer Management Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To maintain the population on a sustainable basis. 8 years ago numbers were very low. Deer population on Aline was limited by culling activity to the north. Since then deer have increased in quality and number. For the last 50 years, Aline Estate held the shooting rights to the woodland, however ACW acquired these in 2017 and these have been leased to Soval for the next three years for 6 stags and 6 hinds.
Future Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide amenity for local population and tourists. To re-establish some native woodland over a long period of time. To see numbers of deer maintained sustainably as a sporting asset providing a source of revenue Forest Plan to be completed and objectives agreed
Woodland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approximately 422 ha of mainly Lodgepole pine and sitka spruce. Plan to replace pine with hardwoods but will be limited by peat depth in areas 3 areas of woodland (30% of total woodland) have had fences renewed/ replaced. One area of replanting now secure. One area of riparian woodland identified for possible regeneration and limited planting. Third area has been fenced only with some natural regen. Pine Tree Lappet Moth has been identified – clearfelling by hand to break cycles. Generally difficult to establish native woodland due to high densities of sheep. Occasional rowan, birch and alder get away.
Land management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amenity woodland.
Deer Impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Issues with risk of DVCs from deer crossing the road. Aware of at least 8 incidents in last 5 years. Fencing of road not economically possible and would likely push deer into crossing at other points.
Supplementary Feeding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not undertaken currently.

Deer Distribution & Movements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currently estimated to be 60 to 80 deer within the woodlands. Fences porous. • Stags likely come from Eishken and Aline. Stags particularly good quality. • Deer movements increase during periods of bad weather and during the rut, with deer attracted to shelter and stags attracted to resident hinds. About 70% of the population is considered to be resident. • 20 – 30 hinds coming from west side on the straight before the cattle grid and crossing road close to the Gun Club creating a risk of DVCs.
Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No Munroes or Corbetts but Hebridean Way runs through. Access provision made through trails/walks. Seeking funding for MTB trails.
Socio-Economics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stalking leased. • Development of Harris Gun Club clay pigeon shooting facility.

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1.21 Management Units: Barvas Estate

Property	Barvas Estate
Area	14,264 ha
Owner	Urras Sgìre Oighreachd Bharabhais Community Company
Deer Management	Ivan Brown

Deer Counts					
Year	Stags	Hinds	Calves	Total	Density
2014 Heli Count (Classified)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

Deer Cull				
	S	H	C	T
2011 -2012	0	0	0	0
2012 -2013	0	0	0	0
2013 -2014	0	0	0	0
2014 -2015	0	0	0	0
2015 -2016	4	4	0	8
2016-2017	4	4	0	8

Background	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Barvas Estate was purchased in 2016. The main land use is crofting and there are 6 Grazings Committees.
Designations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lewis Peatlands SPA Lewis Peatlands SAC Loch Tuamister SSSI
Deer Management Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deer management currently leased to Barvas Estate Ltd for 25 years. Aspirations are for deer numbers to be under control at an acceptable level to the Grazings Committees and also to the Deer Management Group.
Future Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To develop tourism facilities, renewable energy projects and other commercial developments. Aspirations are to increase the resilience of the community, to increase the population and to move towards making it more sustainable. To scope the creation of a stock club which would increase the amount of sheep or cattle on the outer moor. The Estate is progressing membership of a Peatland Group who are looking to employ a Peatland Officer to look at the condition and habitation of peatlands.
Woodland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the last 10 years, the only woodland that has been planted has been as wind-breaks for the Crofters on croft land. Approximately 23.2 ha.
Land management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Current land management objectives are to utilise the land to deliver crofting objectives. Currently livestock have access to the open hill with about 300-400 sheep using this at present all year round.
Deer Impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not aware of any historic features impacted by deer. Not aware of any issues with DVCs and none reported.
Supplementary Feeding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not undertaken currently.
Deer Distribution & Movements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Over the years, sheep numbers have decreased and deer numbers increased largely due to reduction in sheep grazing on outer moor.
Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No Munroes or Corbetts.
Socio-Economics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1x employee (lease). Stag and hind stalking let. Venison retained locally.

1.22 Management Units: Bays of Harris

Property	Bays of Harris
Area	12140 ha
Owner	Hitchcock
Deer Management	

Deer Counts					
Year	Stags	Hinds	Calves	Total	Density
2014 Heli Count (Classified)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

Deer Cull				
	S	H	C	T
2011 -2012	0	0	0	0
2012 -2013	0	0	0	0
2013 -2014	0	0	0	0
2014 -2015	0	0	0	0
2015 -2016	0	0	0	0
2016-2017	0	0	0	0

Background	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Bays of Harris estate encompasses most of the south end of Harris from Direcleit to Leverburgh, including Northton, Strond & Borrisdale. It also contains the island of Berneray. The Bays of Harris estate is owned by the Hitchcock family, who bought it for £5000 in 1925. Islanders are investigating the feasibility of community ownership. Privately owned land with large numbers of crofts.
Designations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Northton Bay SSSI Lustentyre Banks and Saltings SSSI Loch a' Sgurr Pegmatite SSSI
Deer Management Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extremely low numbers of deer - management not a priority.
Future Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Possible Community Buy-Out by residents being progressed.
Woodland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2.8 ha WGS scheme Small pockets of woodland <1ha scattered around coast.
Land management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Crofting
Deer Impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> .Very few due to low numbers of deer
Supplementary Feeding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None
Deer Distribution & Movements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Very low numbers of deer across south Harris.
Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No Munroes, Corbetts or access issues.
Socio-Economics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No full-time deer managers due to low numbers of deer,

1.23 Management Units: Borve Lodge Estate (Taransay)

Property	Borve Lodge Estate (Taransay)
Area	1475 ha
Owner	Adam & Cathra Kelliher
Deer Management	Steve Woodhall

Count	Stags	Hinds	Calves	Total	Density
2014	43	100	40	183	12.4
2015	78	102	42	222	15.1
2016	73	94	58	225	15.3
2017	60	123	41	224	15.2

Deer Cull				
	S	H	C	T
2011 -2012	0	0	0	0
2012 -2013	0	0	0	0
2013 -2014	5	6	5	16
2014 -2015	8	10	4	22
2015 -2016	7	9	4	20
2016-2017	6	16	4	26

Background	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Estate sits within the larger Estate of the West Harris Trust and occupies a small area around Borve Lodge (approximately 133 acree) however the main deer management unit is the island of Taransay. The Estate combines conservation objectives with recreational tourism and livestock grazing.
Designations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None on Taransay
Deer Management Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To create as natural as possible habitat supporting deer management as a resource on Taransay and to investigate opportunities for letting of stalking on Harris.
Future Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Possible removal of sheep grazing by 2019/20. Opportunities for Peatland Restoration to be explored.
Woodland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited opportunity for woodland on Taransay – one project in place since 2013. 1 planted block was deer proofed but failed. Possible project to be investigated using small strips of planting. Additional woodland pockets around Borve Lodge –2 small blocks of 4 acres and a larger WGS Scheme extending to 24 ha. Within the Scheme, 3.76 ha of native woodland were identified in the NWSS as having High impacts.
Land management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To manage habitat for deer and grouse and improve rivers for fishing. No muirburn undertaken at present although a programme will be implemented in 2018. Around 750 sheep have access to open hill on Taransay all year round. Deer numbers have remained stable over last 10 years.
Deer Impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presence of historically important lazybeds but not impacted by deer. No issues with DVCs.
Supplementary Feeding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some diversionary feeding into a stock-proof area (no sheep).
Deer Distribution & Movements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resident deer population on the island with little immigration/emigration.
Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No Munroes or Corbetts. Considering the use of signage for visitors to provide information about deer management and disturbance during calving time.

Socio-Economics	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 3 x employees associated with deer management plus the processing of venison• 3 employed in other estate activities• Stag stalking let.• 1 Lodge (sleeps 18) plus 4 x luxury properties for holiday lets (sleep 15 combined)• Local services and businesses supported.• Estate has larder, chill and processing facilities. Venison used in Lodge for guests and the rest sold through Estate farm shop• Deer management actively promoted through website, DMG, community trusts and social media.
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1.24 Management Units: Carloway

Property	Urras Oighreachd Chàrlabhaigh
Area	4863 ha
Owner	Urras Oighreachd Chàrlabhaigh (Carloway Estate Trust)
Deer Management	Sally Reynolds

Deer Counts					
Year	Stags	Hinds	Calves	Total	Density
Population Estimate	2	14	4	20	0.4

Deer Cull				
	S	H	C	T
2011 -2012	0	0	0	0
2012 -2013	0	0	0	0
2013 -2014	0	0	0	0
2014 -2015	0	0	0	0
2015 -2016	0	0	0	0
2016-2017	0	0	0	0

Background	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Purchased in 2015, the Estate covers 11,500 acres on the North West coast of the Isle of Lewis.
Designations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lewis Peatlands SPA Loch Laxavat Lorach SSSI Loch Siadar SSSI
Deer Management Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shooting leased to local individual.
Future Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hosting Peatland Restoration officer to look at projects across Island. Common Grazings to come under Moorland Management Scheme
Woodland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1.8 ha assumed woodland & 3.60 ha WGS scheme.
Land management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 200 crofts spread across the townships of Knock, Kirivick, Doune Carloway, Tolsta Chaolais, Breascleite, Breascleite Park and Callanish. 6 Common Grazings
Deer Impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None reported either for agricultural damage or DVCs RSPB carry out monitoring on moorland
Supplementary Feeding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None
Deer Distribution & Movements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deer largely on open moor. Occasional deer within fenced croft ground.
Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No Munroes or Corbetts or access issues.
Socio-Economics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No full-time deer managers due to low numbers of deer,

1.25 Management Units: Dalmore

Property	Dalmore
Area	4836 ha
Owner	Lewis Island Crofters Ltd
Deer Management	Margaret Mackay

Deer Counts					
Year	Stags	Hinds	Calves	Total	Density
2014 Heli Count (Classified)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

Deer Cull				
	S	H	C	T
2011 -2012	0	0	0	0
2012 -2013	0	0	0	0
2013 -2014	0	0	0	0
2014 -2015	0	0	0	0
2015 -2016	0	0	0	0
2016-2017	0	0	0	0

Background	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The occupiers of the Estate are Lewis Island Crofters Ltd
Designations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lewis Peatlands SPA Loch Laxavat Lorach SSSI Loch Dalbeg SSSI
Deer Management Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shooting leased to Garynahine.
Future Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To ensure sustainable crofting enterprise.
Woodland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 0.8 ha assumed woodland and 2.85 ha WGS scheme.
Land management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 200 crofts spread across the townships of Knock, Kirivick, Doune Carloway, Tolsta Chaolais, Breasclete, Breasclete Park and Callanish. 6 Common Grazings
Deer Impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None reported either for agricultural damage or DVCs
Supplementary Feeding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None
Deer Distribution & Movements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deer largely on open moor. Occasional deer within fenced croft ground.
Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No Munroes or Corbetts or access issues
Socio-Economics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No full-time employment associated with deer due to low deer numbers.

1.26 Management Units: Eishken Estate

Property	Eishken Estate
Area	17,603 ha
Owner	Nick Oppenheim
Deer Management	Christopher Macrae

Deer Counts					
Year	Stags	Hinds	Calves	Total	Density
2014 Heli Count (Classified)	393	679	234	1306	7.7

Deer Cull				
	S	H	C	T
2011 -2012	74	75	0	149
2012 -2013	88	70	0	158
2013 -2014	92	67	0	159
2014 -2015	80	55	0	135
2015 -2016	80	54	0	134
2016-2017	82	58	0	140

Background Designations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Estate combines conservation objectives with managing habitat for commercial sport (fishing, stalking and walked-up grouse shooting) and renewables.
Deer Management Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None. In 1995 the Estate decided to increase the number of deer on the ground from 1355 and stopped shooting to allow numbers to build. They increased to 1653 over 5 years but since 2013 they have been maintained at 1457. Further habitat monitoring to be implemented to help inform the continued sustainable management of the herd.
Future Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To see numbers of deer maintained at current levels and counted collectively on a regular basis – at least every three years. Windfarm turbines to be erected for renewable energy.
Woodland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 800 acre area of fenced woodland next to lodge with some planting. No woodland schemes in the last 10 years. Areas of ground (<50ha) were prepared in the 80s for planting but didn't progress. No current plans for woodland.
Land management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To manage habitat for deer and grouse and improve rivers for fishing. Environmental assessment carried out in preparation for Windfarm. Peatland disrupted for windfarm roads will be restored and Estate will investigate opportunities for further restoration work. Some muirburn carried out for grouse and deer but not annually. Graziers used to have 1000 sheep on the north-east side of Estate but they were removed 10 years ago. In the north, 10-12 graziers have around 5000 acres and 4-500 sheep which have access to the open ground. They are on the hill most of the year and are gathered 2-3 times a year. There are no crofts in the south.
Deer Impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Old ruins and villages buried now so not impacted by deer. No issues with DVCs on Estate. Occasional deer shot in fenced woodland area next to lodge.
Supplementary Feeding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not undertaken.
Deer Distribution & Movements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Very coastal wintering - stags down round coast during winter. Some movement with neighbouring Pairc Estate- particularly the sheep fank area where 15 good stags and 15-20 hinds come back and forward.
Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No Munroes or Corbetts and no access issues.

Socio-Economics	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2 x full-time employees associated with deer management plus part-time assistance and 1 seasonal stalker 3-4 weeks annually. 4 ghillies employed annually to assist with ponies.• There are 2 full-time and 3 part-time employees associated with running the lodge, plus full-time gardener.• Minimum 30-40 stags let annually.• 1 Lodge – let from July to end of October but occupied by family out with this.• Local services and businesses supported.• Estate has larder and chill. Venison sold locally.
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1.27 Management Units: Garynahine Estate

Property	Garynahine
Area	4,963 ha
Owner	Dougie McGilvray
Deer Management	Donnie Whiteford

Deer Counts					
Year	Stags	Hinds	Calves	Total	Density
2014 Heli Count (Classified)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

Deer Cull				
	S	H	C	T
2011 -2012	0	0	0	0
2012 -2013	0	0	0	0
2013 -2014	6	2	0	8
2014 -2015	6	1	0	7
2015 -2016	8	0	0	8
2016-2017	9	0	0	9

Background	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Estate combines conservation objectives with managing habitat for commercial sport (fishing, stalking and walked-up grouse shooting) and sheep grazing.
Designations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lewis Peatlands SAC Lewis Peatlands SPA
Deer Management Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To maintain current levels to sustainably harvest 3 stags annually - ainly stalking in woodland.
Future Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To continue with grouse, snipe and woodcock shooting. Continue with red deer stalking.
Woodland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 188 ha of woodland open to deer.
Land management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To manage habitat for deer and grouse and improve rivers for fishing. 190 sheep on moor all year round.
Deer Impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Occasional issues with DVCs (approximately 2 per year) Callanish Stones are located on Estate but not impacted by deer.
Supplementary Feeding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Occasional mineral block in winter. .
Deer Distribution & Movements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Estate holds deer in the woodland. Mainly summering population of deer. Increase in resident hind numbers in last two years.
Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No Munroes or Corbetts and no access issues.
Socio-Economics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1x full-time and 1x part-time employees associated with deer management plus 1x employee associated with the estate. Stag stalking let. Larder and chill and venison sold locally. Shooting lodge sleeping up to 18 for weekly let.

1.28 Management Units: Grimersta

Property	Grimersta Estate
Area	7891 ha
Owner	Grimersta Estate Ltd
Deer Management	Estate Manager: Jason Laing, Factor: Simon Scott

Deer Counts					
Year	Stags	Hinds	Calves	Total	Density
2014 Heli Count (Classified)	11	0	0	11	0.1

Deer Cull				
	S	H	C	T
2011 -2012	0	0	0	0
2012 -2013	0	0	0	0
2013 -2014	0	0	0	0
2014 -2015	0	0	0	0
2015 -2016	0	0	0	0
2016-2017	1	0	0	0

Background Designations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Estate combines conservation objectives with crofting and managing habitat for commercial sport (fishing, stalking and walked-up grouse shooting).
Deer Management Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lewis Peatlands SAC Langvat SAC Lewis Peatlands SPA Loch nan Eilean Valley Bog SSSI
Future Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To manage the deer population sustainably allow some commercial stalking of small numbers of stags and hinds without detriment to bankside habitats for salmon. To continue to develop the sporting potential of the Estate regarding grouse, woodcock and stalking as well as maintaining riparian habitat for improved conditions for spawning and juvenile salmon.
Woodland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 78 ha of assumed woodland with Crofters WGS Schemes covering 252 ha resulting in 46 ha of new broadleaves and 16 ha of new conifers. No further woodland planned.
Land management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To manage habitat for deer, grouse, woodcock and improve rivers for fishing. Occasional muirburn carried out on small areas. Livestock have access to the open hill all year round.
Deer Impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Old shieling on hill but not impacted by deer. No issues with DVCs on Estate.
Supplementary Feeding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not undertaken
Deer Distribution & Movements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overall less sheep numbers have resulted in a visible increase in deer. A small herd of stags now summer near Grimersta lodge. Stags and hinds are regularly seen in the NW area of the Estate as well as in the plantation. More deer visible in recent years but movement between Grimersta and neighbouring estates is unknown but certainly happens.
Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No Munroes or Corbetts and no issues with access.
Socio-Economics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1x full-time employee associated with deer management 4 x full-time employees associated with other activities and 10 seasonal staff. No letting of stalking at present. 1 Lodge (sleeps 19) – currently let to guests who undertake stalking elsewhere Local services and businesses supported. Estate has no larder facilities at present but looking to develop one.

1.29 Management Units: Mosgail & Ahmuinnsuidhe

Property	Mosgail & Ahmuinnsuidhe
Area	5710 ha (Mosgail)
Owner	
Deer Management	Innes Morrison

Deer Counts					
Year	Stags	Hinds	Calves	Total	Density
2014 Heli Count (Classified)	38	67	24	129	2.3

Deer Cull				
	S	H	C	T
2011 -2012	21	26	0	47
2012 -2013	21	16	3	40
2013 -2014	15	14	2	31
2014 -2015	10	8	0	18
2015 -2016	12	16	2	30
2016-2017	0	0	0	0

Background	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Estate combines conservation objectives with tourism and managing habitat for commercial sport (fishing, stalking and walked-up grouse shooting).
Designations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Langavat SAC Lewis Peatlands SPA
Deer Management Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To sustainably harvest 12-15 stags annually.
Future Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none">
Woodland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1.7 ha of assumed woodland and 2.1 ha of WGS woodland.
Land management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To manage habitat for deer and grouse and improve rivers for fishing.
Deer Impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Architectural features not impacted by deer. No issues with DVCs on Estate.
Supplementary Feeding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not undertaken currently
Deer Distribution & Movements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A deer management protocol is in place between representatives for Morsgail, Uig and Hananavay, North Harris Trust and Aird Bheag on the management of the shared deer herd (see Section 1.4 for details).
Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No Munroes or Corbetts or access issues.
Socio-Economics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4 x employees associated with deer management plus seasonal assistance Stag stalking let. 1 Castle – let all year round. Local services and businesses supported. Estate has larder, chill and processing unit. Venison processed on site and sold locally.

1.30 Management Units: North Harris Trust

Property	North Harris Trust
Area	23,961 ha
Owner	
Deer Management	Gordon Cummings

	Stags	Hinds	Calves	Unclass	Total	Density	NHT (Eastern)				NHT (Western)					
							S	H	C	T	S	H	C	T		
1993	231	0	0	466	697	2.9										
2000	396	0	0	678	1074	4.5	2011-2012	8	9	0	17	27	51	4	82	
2006	246	0	0	583	828	3.5	2012-2013	12	16	3	31	31	43	9	83	
2008	359	0	0	1018	1377	5.8	2013-2014	12	20	10	42	30	57	17	104	
2010	298	685	203	19	1205	5.0	2014-2015	0	0	0	0	34	5	5	44	
2012	325	573	174	7	1079	4.5	2015-2016	10	0	0	10	25	27	3	55	
2013	207	432	177	0	816	3.4	2016-2017	7	0	0	7	30	53	1	84	
2016	358	539	107	107	1297	5.4										

Background	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Estate combines conservation objectives with the sustainable management of deer Hind stalking Club formed in 2005 and carries out hind cull along with a cull of 10 stags.
Designations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> North Harris SAC (all of the property) North Harris Mountains SPA (all of the property) North Harris Mountains SSSI (all of the property)
Deer Management Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To return all 'priority' habitats on North Harris Trust lands to "favourable condition" Maintain current (2016) numbers but to redistribute deer numbers and therefore impacts more evenly across the ground Maximise the land's positive carbon balance Minimise human impact Maximise potential income to support wider estate activities Ensure financial security through long term planning and fair deal between the costs of delivering public and private benefits Contribute to knowledge through monitoring
Future Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To employ Best Practice Guidance methods and collaborative working to manage deer populations at levels which will allow local ecosystems to naturalise and flourish. To bring designated features into Favourable Condition whilst managing the deer herd collaboratively with neighbours to maintain a sustainable population of deer
Woodland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 145 ha of assumed woodland including 117 ha of native woodland with herbivore impacts assessed as low/medium. Small number of woodland creation schemes enclosed in Glen Langadale, Glen Meavaig and Ardvourlie (313 ha under WGS with 116 ha of broadleaved woodland created) with potential for extension. Long term project to minimise impacts on 1,500 ha of the eastern part of the property to develop a network of small, new native woodlands in sheltered glens and gullies.

Land management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conservation objectives • Deer Management Plan and Moorland Management Plan in place. . • Muirburn not carried out • 4000 sheep (reduced from 17,000).
Deer Impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NHT has been working in collaboration with SNH to reduce impacts on designated features. NHT has a Deer Management Plan and a Moorland Management Plan in place to address herbivore impacts and to bring features into Unfavourable Recovering status
Supplementary Feeding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not undertaken.
Deer Distribution & Movements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stags congregate and overwinter around Beitearsaig and scatter along the coast as far as Bun Abhainn Eadarra. A separate group tends to heft on the north western side of Stulabhal. Wintering hinds tend to congregate at the eastern end of Loch Reasort, on the slopes to the west of Loch Uladail and to the west of Loch a'Ghlinne and along the north-facing slopes above Loch Reasort. Movements of deer with Morsgail. • Over the summer hinds are well scattered across the ground and stags move to the higher tops.
Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Corbett (An Cliseam 799m) detailed on the Heading for the Scottish Hills Web Site. • NHT enforces a policy of only allowing use of vehicles on recognised tracks. ATVs are only permitted off track for deer extraction in situations where manual extraction in not practical. • NHT Ranger Service runs a series of activities for visitors.
Socio-Economics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 full time land manager employed by NHT to oversee the activities of NHT Ranger Service, Harris Stalking Club and Amhuinnsuidhe Castle Estate. • Amhuinnsuidhe Castle Estate (ACE) has sporting lease across the area for 30 stags per annum. This supports 1 full-time and 2 part-time employees. • North Harris Stalking Club also leases part of the ground for 10 stags and hind shooting across the whole area with each member shooting 2 hinds. Excess hind culls are taken by the Club and sometimes leased to ACE. • Local services and businesses supported. • Amhuinnsuidhe Castle Estate has a larder, chill and processing unit.

1.31 Management Units: Pairc Estate

Property	Pairc
Area	10,806 ha
Owner	The Pairc Trust
Deer Management	Fiona Stokes

Deer Counts					
Year	Stags	Hinds	Calves	Total	Density
2014 Heli Count (Classified)	1	0	0	1	0.0
2017 Estimate	15-20	24			

Deer Cull				
	S	H	C	T
2011 -2012	0	0	0	0
2012 -2013	0	0	0	0
2013 -2014	0	0	0	0
2014 -2015	0	0	0	0
2015 -2016	0	0	0	0
2016-2017	2	0	0	0

Background	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Trust was established in 2003 and completed purchase of the Estate in December 2015. The Pairc Estate extends to an area of approximately 10,840ha. The majority of the estate is under crofting tenure, the main exception being an area of grazing land at Steimreway. The estate is mainly hilly moorland with a large number of fresh water lochs. The community consists of around 400 residents plus a number of others who manage crofts in the area.
Designations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None
Deer Management Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Pairc Trust leases its shooting rights to the neighbouring Soval Estate.
Future Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To support crofting
Woodland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11.3 ha of assumed woodland of which 3.2 ha of native woodland are considered to have high herbivore impacts. Area of woodland at Sheildensih – planted and established. Area at Lemreway fenced.
Land management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In total, there are 208 crofts on the estate, spread between 11 townships Muirburn carried out by individual crofters About 2,500 sheep on the open hill most of the year.
Deer Impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Archaeological features not impacted by deer. No issues with DVCs.
Supplementary Feeding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not undertaken
Deer Distribution & Movements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Small deer population that tends to come to shelter in Glen Gravir, or on land that runs along the Eisken road but they move between there and Aline Forest/ Eisken
Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No Munroes or Corbetts or access issues.
Socio-Economics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stag stalking let to Soval Estate. Local services and businesses supported.

1.32 Management Units: Scaliscro

Property	Scaliscro
Area	4187 ha
Owner	
Deer Management	

Deer Counts					
Year	Stags	Hinds	Calves	Total	Density
2014 Heli Count (Classified)	6	0	0	6	0.1

Deer Cull				
	S	H	C	T
2011 -2012	1	1	0	2
2012 -2013	2	2	0	4
2013 -2014	1	0	0	1
2014 -2015	3	2	0	5
2015 -2016	1	1	0	2
2016-2017	0	0	0	0

Background	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Estate is currently up for sale. The Estate combines conservation objectives with farming and managing habitat for commercial sport (fishing, stalking and walked-up shooting for grouse, snipe and woodcock).
Designations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lewis Peatlands SPA Langavat SAC Little Loch Roag Valley Bog SSSI
Deer Management Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Occasional letting of stalking
Future Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To be decided by new owner.
Woodland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No woodland habitat
Land management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Small traditional hill farm and run flocks of 300 Blackface ewes, 20 Hebridean Ewes and graze 40 head of Pedigree Highland Cattle.
Deer Impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None reported either for agricultural damage or DVCs
Supplementary Feeding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None
Deer Distribution & Movements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deer largely on open moor. Occasional deer within fenced croft ground.
Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No Munroes or Corbetts or access issues
Socio-Economics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No full-time employment associated with deer due to low deer numbers. 1 x Lodge (10 bedrooms) Some letting of stalking. Local services and tourism businesses supported.

1.33 Management Units: Soval

Property	Soval
Area	10,278 ha
Owner	
Deer Management	Michael MacKenzie

Deer Counts					
Year	Stags	Hinds	Calves	Total	Density
2014 Heli Count (Classified)	1	0	0	1	0.0

Deer Cull				
	S	H	C	T
2011 -2012	0	0	0	0
2012 -2013	0	0	0	0
2013 -2014	0	0	0	0
2014 -2015	0	0	0	0
2015 -2016	0	0	0	0
2016-2017	0	0	0	0

Background	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Estate combines conservation objectives with managing habitat for diverse commercial sport (fishing and walked-up grouse shooting) and wildlife tourism. Stalking leased elsewhere. Estate has few resident deer due to the habitat of blanket bog and little shelter.
Designations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Achmore Bog SSSI Lewis Peatlands SPA Lewis Peatlands SAC
Deer Management Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stalking leased (21 stags and 30 hinds annually) from other properties (Pairc, Hamanavay and Aline Woodlands)
Future Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To manage designated sites and wider habitats for sustainable shooting.
Woodland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 137 ha of assumed/young woodland. 29 ha of native woodland was assessed for herbivore impacts and 19.5 ha were found to have low/medium impacts. There are around 317 ha under 4 WGS Schemes with 119.52ha of broadleaved woodland and 15.13ha of conifer woodland created. Estate would be keen to explore opportunities for more woodland but would be a crofting decision.
Land management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Permission granted by SNH to conduct muirburn and cutting for grouse.. The Estate is completely under crofting tenure with 300 crofts and 9 Grazings Committees.
Deer Impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Archaeological features not impacted by deer. Occasional issues with DVCs – 1 per year.
Supplementary Feeding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not undertaken currently but may consider diversionary feeding on forest marches to attract deer out of the woodland.
Deer Distribution & Movements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Estate occasionally attracts transient stags from Aline on southern edge of property as well as Eishken, Pairc and Stornoway Trust.
Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No Munroes or Corbetts and no access issues.
Socio-Economics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2x full time employee associated with deer management plus seasonal ghillie Stag and hind stalking let on other properties. 1 Lodge – let May to the end of October. 1 full-time and 5 part-time employees associated with lodge. Local services and businesses supported. Estate has larder and chill. Venison sold locally.

1.34 Management Units: Stornoway Trust

Property	Stornoway Trust
Area	17,443 ha
Owner	
Deer Management	Iain MacIver

Deer Counts					
Year	Stags	Hinds	Calves	Total	Density
2014 Heli Count (Classified)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

Deer Cull				
	S	H	C	T
2011 -2012	0	0	0	0
2012 -2013	0	0	0	0
2013 -2014	0	0	0	0
2014 -2015	0	0	0	0
2015 -2016	0	0	0	0
2016-2017	0	0	0	0

Background	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stornoway Trust is entrusted with the management of a community owned estate in the east of the Isle of Lewis. Bulk of the land is under Crofting tenure, with over 40 townships and 1,300 crofts.
Designations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lewis Peatlands SAC Lewis Peatlands SPA Loch Scarrasdale Valley Bog SSSI Tong Saltings SSSI Gress Saltings SSSI Loch na Cartach SSSI
Deer Management Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Culls and leases to be agreed once deer numbers have been established. Bulk of deer management occurred prior to 2000 with the establishment of the Millennium Forest woodlands. To encourage a zero tolerance policy around settlements.
Future Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If windfarm proposals consented, build would start in 2020 and would open up areas and create opportunities for better access which will assist with deer management. Income from renewables would fund a land manager post with the aim of working with townships to repopulate them. Trust would also consider moorland management/restoration project as well as improvements in fisheries.
Woodland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 632 ha assumed woodland/young woodland . 27 ha of native woodland was assessed for herbivore impacts and all were found to have low/medium impacts. There are around 3074 ha under WGS Schemes with 564ha of broadleaved new woodland and 305ha of conifer new woodland created. This woodland was only stock fenced at the time. Deer were culled at time of new woodland being established.

Land management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Historically families would have migrated with livestock to shielings from May to August to use summer grazings and allow crops to mature. Lambs were weaned in August and by September all stock was taken off the hill and back onto crofts. Previously the moor would have recovered from Grazing impacts over winter. Now there is hardly anyone using the moor for grazing of livestock. There has been a noticeable increase in tick numbers. Increase in numbers of raptors, owls and grouse. Increase in Whitetail eagles - possibly interacting with Golden eagles.
Deer Impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deer are starting to impact on people's gardens and croft ground.
Supplementary Feeding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not undertaken.
Deer Distribution & Movements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hinds mostly to the north with some isolated groups in woodland. In south, predominantly stags – mostly younger stags. Deer movement between Garynahine woodlands, Trust's woodlands, Soval Barvas and Galson. Some deer on the peninsula and in the Castle grounds.
Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No Munroes or Corbetts or access issues. Western Isles way runs through the property.. Two open moorland areas.
Socio-Economics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deer management undertaken by a syndicate of 5 local controllers.

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1.35 Management Units: Uig and Hamanavay

Property	Uig and Hamnavay
Area	21,230 ha
Owner	Fairweather Family Trust (50%), Sir Peter and Mark Creswell (50%)
Deer Management	Simon Hunt

Deer Counts					
Year	Stags	Hinds	Calves	Total	Density
2014 Heli Count (Classified)	126	220	84	430	2.00

Deer Cull				
	S	H	C	T
2011 -2012	36	33	14	83
2012 -2013	40	26	9	75
2013 -2014	39	17	5	61
2014 -2015	20	24	13	57
2015 -2016	24	43	15	82
2016-2017	36	58	26	120

Background	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Estate combines a range of objectives including fishing, stalking, shooting, tourism and farming.
Designations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Glen Valtos SSSI & Mangesta Sands SSSI Neither of these features impacted by deer. South Lewis, Harris and North Uist NSA – deer considered to contribute positively
Deer Management Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To manage a stable deer population sustainably to allow an annual harvest of 30-40 stags and hind culls undertaken accordingly. A deer management protocol is in place between representatives for Morsgail, Uig and Hananavay, North Harris Trust and Aird Bheag on the management of the shared deer herd (see Section 1.4 for details).
Future Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To encourage wild, ecologically conserved habitat. Ensure fish numbers, a sustainable deer population and grouse in some years.
Woodland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 26ha assumed woodland/young woodland. 27 ha of native woodland was assessed for herbivore impacts and all were found to have low/medium impacts. There are around 90 ha under WGS Schemes with 21 ha of new broadleaved woodland created.
Land management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The land is almost entirely crofted. Sheep have access to the open hill all year round although most are now on the in-bye land. Since 2000, sheep numbers have drastically reduced. Occasional muirburn undertaken but in limited areas.
Deer Impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Few deer impacts but rabbit and hare numbers have remained stable. Baseline habitat monitoring conducted in 2011. No DVCs reported and woodland no present next to main road on the Estate. Limited number of deer shot out of season (2 annually).
Feeding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supplementary feeding occasionally provided if ground is frozen/snow cover.
Deer Distribution & Movements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Summer/Autumn – Stag ground on the two main ridges on the Estate, hinds spread through the low ground. Winter/Spring – stags come down to the sheltered low ground out of the prevailing wind. Some stag movement between Hamanavay and the North Harris Trust.
Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No Munroes or Corbetts or access issues.
Socio-Economics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 x Full-time and 2x Part-time employees. 50% of stalking let to other estates who use their own stalkers. Main letting property with 6 beds. No access to larders/chills.

1.36 Management Units: Urras Oighreachd Ghabhsainn (Galson)

Property	Urras Oighreachd Ghabhsainn (Galson)
Area	23,432ha
Owner	Galson Estate Trust
Deer Management	Lisa MacLean

Deer Counts					
Year	Stags	Hinds	Calves	Total	Density
2014 Heli Count (Classified)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

Deer Cull				
	S	H	C	T
2011 -2012	0	0	0	0
2012 -2013	0	0	0	0
2013 -2014	0	0	0	0
2014 -2015	0	0	0	0
2015 -2016	0	0	0	0
2016-2017	0	0	0	0

Background	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Urras Oighreachd Ghabhsainn (Galson Estate Trust) is entrusted with the management of a 56,000 acre community owned estate in the North West of the Isle of Lewis.
Designations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lewis Peatlands SAC Ness and Barvas, Lewis SPA Lewis Peatlands SPA Loch Scarrasdale Valley Bog SSSI Loch Stiapavat SSSI
Deer Management Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> North end of property –deer management conducted by a syndicate. Challenging due to difficulties with extraction. The middle section of the property operates a day-permit system for rabbits/grouse. To the south, there is a two year rolling lease in place with a Sporting Agent who takes clients to shoot woodcock, grouse and snipe but not stalking.
Future Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To promote for the public benefit rural regeneration (following principles of sustainable development, where “sustainable development” means development which meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs) and the development of the areas of social and economic deprivation within the Galson Estate area of the Isle of Lewis, for the benefit of the Galson Crofting Community.
Woodland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8.3ha assumed woodland/young woodland. There are around 51.7 ha under WGS Schemes with 14.4 ha of new broadleaved woodland and 5.2 new conifer woodland created.
Land management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 30 years ago every croft would have had sheep on the moor but not now. Little activity on the moor other than access for peat-cutting. Management framework in place with regards to the local rabbit scheme.
Deer Impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The notable archaeological features on the property include a possible shieling hut at Loch Sminig and an isolated standing stone (Clach an Trushal) located at Ballantrushal which is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM). Neither of these are impacted by deer. Estate has carried out an extended habitat survey based upon Phase 1 habitat survey methodology as well as a peat depth survey in relation to the development of Baile an Truiseil windfarm. A Peat Management Plan detailing measures to be used to minimise impacts on peat and to prevent the drying and oxidation of peat adjacent to construction areas was also prepared. Use of signage implemented to reduce risk of Deer Vehicle Collisions.

Supplementary Feeding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
Deer Distribution & Movements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 40 years ago there were no deer here. Gradually more and more stags were seen and now seeing more hinds into the area. Same groups are seen in the same places. Difficult to see/stalk due to lack of high ground. • Some resident stags but tend to come from neighbouring properties. • In the absence of effective deer management due to the difficulties associated with carcass extraction, it is estimated that the deer population has expanded in this area.
Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No Munroes or Corbetts or access issues.
Socio-Economics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local syndicate has access to a larder and any venison is consumed locally through the local butcher shop.

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1.37 Management Units: West Harris Trust

Property	West Harris Trust
Area	7225 ha
Owner	West Harris Trust
Deer Management	Murdo Mackay

Deer Counts					
Year	Stags	Hinds	Calves	Total	Density
2014 Heli Count (Classified)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

Deer Cull				
	S	H	C	T
2011 -2012	0	0	0	0
2012 -2013	0	0	0	0
2013 -2014	0	0	0	0
2014 -2015	0	0	0	0
2015 -2016	0	0	0	0
2016-2017	0	0	0	0

Background	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The West Harris Trust is a community charity responsible for managing 7225ha of land on the west side of Harris. It was formed when the crofting townships of Losgaintir, Seilebost, Horgabost, Na Buirgh and Sgarasta Mhor were purchased by the local community from the Scottish Government in January 2010.
Designations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lustentyre Banks and Saltings SSSI
Deer Management Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To manage deer to provide a resource in order to utilise areas of hill ground now sheep have been removed. The current population is estimated to be no more than 20.
Future Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revitalize the community by attracting new residents and creating new housing and employment opportunities Create environmentally sustainable energy for the community via small hydro and micro-wind projects Conserve and increase understanding of our stunning natural and cultural heritage
Woodland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 15.75 ha assumed woodland/young woodland. 16.1 ha of native woodland was assessed for herbivore impacts and was found to have low/medium impacts. There is around 8.1 ha under WGS Schemes. Regeneration of pockets of scrub woodland (including willow) & juniper in gorges and steep slopes due to sheep reductions.
Land management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No muirburn carried out now Around 2000 sheep used to occupy 6000 acres of Common Grazings and 700 acres of machair on In-Bye ground. Sheep have now been reduced to about 20-30 now.
Deer Impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sites of archaeological interest at Horgabost but not impacted by deer. No issues with DVCs
Supplementary Feeding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not undertaken
Deer Distribution & Movements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Historically very low numbers of deer – used to see mainly stags but now seeing more hinds. A fence from Tarbert to the west side used to prevent movements of deer but this has since become porous.
Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No Munroes or Corbetts and no issues with access.
Socio-Economics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No employees associated with deer management currently Luskentyre House self-catering property Local services and businesses supported. Estate has no larder or chill.

1.38 References & Acknowledgements

Muaitheabhal Windfarm East Extension: Environmental Statement 2010

Conservation Grazing for Semi-Natural Habitat TECHNICAL NOTE TN686 SEPTEMBER 2017 • ELEC Farm Advisory Service.

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Appendix 1: Deer Legislation

Please Note The following summary of legislation and list of authorisations in this section are **not comprehensive**, and is intended for use as a guide only. For a definitive list of offences you should consult the actual legislation. It is also important to note that this is the law in Scotland, elsewhere in the UK the legislation may differ.

How are deer protected?

Deer are protected under the [Deer \(Scotland\) Act 1996](#). The Act sets out when, where, how and by whom deer can be taken or killed. The Act defines the periods of the year when killing of deer is permitted (the open and close seasons). The dates for these seasons vary according to the deer species and whether stags or hinds are targeted.

Deer close seasons in Scotland

- Red Stags: 21st Oct - 30th Jun Red Hinds: 16th Feb - 20th Oct
- Sika Stags: 21st Oct - 30th Jun Sika Hinds: 16th Feb - 20th Oct
- Fallow Bucks: 1st May - 31st July Fallow Does: 16th Feb - 20th Oct
- Roe Bucks: 21st Oct - 31st Mar Roe Does: 1st Apr - 20th Oct

The Act also requires that **only certain firearms and bullets** can be used to kill deer. While deer do not belong to anybody while they are alive, the right to take or kill them is reserved to the landowner. There are additionally a number of other people such as tenants that can take or kill deer for certain purposes.

Authorisations and deer

Authorisations are issued by the Scottish Natural Heritage under the Deer (Scotland) Act 1996 to allow individuals to cull deer in circumstances when they would not normally have the legal right to shoot them, for example to prevent deer damaging natural habitats.

When are authorisations required?

Authorisations are required when shooting deer in the following circumstances:

- During the Closed Season - see below for more details
- At night - the shooting of deer is not permitted outwith **daylight hours** (between one hour after sunset and one hour before sunrise)
- Driving deer with vehicles- in order to take or kill for the purposes of deer management.

Terminology used in the table below.

***Daylight hours** (between one hour after sunset and one hour before sunrise).

****The definition of enclosed woodland** is also of central importance. It is defined by the Deer (Scotland) Act 1996 as meaning enclosed by a stock-proof fence or other barrier and unenclosed shall be construed accordingly. It is for those operating under the general authorisation to satisfy themselves that the woodland is enclosed.

******"Occupier"** includes any tenant or sub tenant, whether in actual occupation of the land or not. Sporting tenants need to be either controlling deer to prevent damage on behalf of the occupier or if applying on own behalf, the lease needs to make them liable for damage.

Table 1: Summary of Authorisations

Purpose	Authorisation Type	Who?	Restrictions	Application
To to take or kill deer during the Open Season	None	Only those with the legal right to take or kill deer or those who have been given permission from a person having such right.	During open Seasons and daylight hours only. "Land" does not include a dwelling house or any yard, garden, outhouses.	None
To control deer in the close season during daylight hours* to prevent damage to (a) arable land, improved permanent pasture (other than moorland) and land which has been regenerated so as to be able to make a significant contribution to the productivity of a holding which forms part of that agricultural land; or (b) enclosed woodland**	General Authorisation	The occupier*** suffering damage and; if duly authorised in writing by the occupier suffering damage any or all of; (b) the owner in person; (c) the owner's employees; (d) the occupier's employees, or any other person normally resident, on the land; (e) any other person approved in writing by SNH as a fit and competent person for the purpose.	The general authorisation does not allow the culling of female deer, over 1 year old, of any species between the period of the 1st April to the 31st August. Those operating under a general authorisation, must have read and understood the general authorisation and carry out any control in accordance with the conditions listed on the authorisation.	None. You can request a copy by contacting SNH on 01463 725364 or by downloading it from the SNH website
To control deer in the close season during daylight hours* to prevent damage to Unenclosed woodland ***, the Natural Heritage generally or in the interests of public safety	Out of Season Authorisation (5.6)	The owner or the occupier of any land or any person Listed in writing by either of them.	Those operating under an Out of Season (5.6) Authorisation must carry out any control in accordance with the conditions listed on the authorisation. Proposed deer controller must be on the SNH Fit and Competent Register.	Must apply in writing to SNH.
To control deer in the at night* to prevent damage to Improved agriculture land; Enclosed Woodland	Night Shooting Authorisation (18.2)	Occupier or person Listed by the occupier.	Those operating under Night Shooting Authorisation (18.2) must carry out any control in accordance with the conditions listed on the authorisation. Proposed deer controller must be on the SNH Fit and Competent Register. Controllers must follow the Night Shooting Code of Conduct.	Must apply in writing to SNH.