

**MID-WEST DEER
MANAGEMENT GROUP
DEER MANAGEMENT PLAN**

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MID WEST DMG 2017 COUNT PLAN

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CWD LEAFLET

1.0 Executive summary / Action Plan

DMG Actions		Who is to action	Completed by	Complete
1	SNH to internally discuss DMG boundaries and inclusion of land not previously included within a DMG	SNH	April 2018	
2	All stakeholders to be invited to view draft DMP	DMG Secretary	May 2019	
3	Approved Deer management plan to be distributed to all stakeholders	DMG Secretary	May 2019	
4	Stakeholder engagement event to be held. Members supportive and will review for 2020	Members	End of 2019	

Communication Actions				
1	Update DMG webpage	DMG Secretary	Dec 2018	Yes
2	Circulate DMP version 2.1 to members requesting comments	DMG Secretary	End April 2019	
3	DMG secretary to write to all stakeholders to inform them of DMG and to offer the opportunity to comment and /or discuss the DMG's proposed DMP	DMG Secretary	Early March 17	Yes
4	Agree on Action Plan for year ahead	All members	Feb 2019	Yes
5	Organise DMG pre season review – 16 July 2019	Bidwells	April 2019	Yes

Natural Environment				
1	Develop specific actions to allow the DMG to maintain designated sites in a favourable condition or to improve sites to a favourable for recovering status.	All members	Feb 16	Yes
2	All members to carry out habitat monitoring following training day to contribute to a whole group habitat monitoring report	All members	August 16	Yes
3	To maintain 90% of sample locations in the low/ low to moderate impact range	Ben Alder SAC Group	Duration of DMP	ongoing
4	Ben Alder, Camusericht, Ardverikie and Corroul to work together to reduce population of deer on the SAC and around the SAC (Buffer Zone) to 12deer / km2.	Ben Alder SAC Group	July 2018	Yes
5	Ben Alder, Camusericht, Ardverikie and Corroul commit to setting up habitat / population monitoring on and around the Ben Alder SAC	Ben Alder SAC Group	August 2016	Yes
6	To cull sika deer within season and according to Best Practise	All members	Continual	ongoing

7	To cull Feral pigs as appropriate and in accordance with Best Practise	All members	Continual	ongoing
8	Rhododendron clearance project to be set up within Leven Valley SSSI	SIMEC	Ian Stewart	Yes
9	Members to look at Peatland Action Plans to restore peatland across estates	All members	December 2019	
10	Once Peatland Action Feasibility Studies have been completed, members to implement on the ground	All members	Duration of DMP	
11	Member to discuss and agree on a wildfire policy	All members	Mar 2016	Yes
12	Members to adhere to Muirburn code and inform neighbours when muirburning	All members	At all times	ongoing
13	All members to submit a copy of habitat monitoring reports to DMG Secretary	All members	Dec 2018	Yes

Woodland Environment		Who is to action	Completed by	Complete
1	Corrour to complete 200ha felling programme for peatland restoration	Corrour	Dec 15	Yes
2	Ardverikie to undertake expansion plan of up to 182ha of mixed commercial / non-commercial Sitka / Scots Pine	Ardverikie	December 2019	Yes – 182.7ha planted
3	SIMEC to work with Nevis Landscape Partnership to create a number of small enclosures of totalling 0.97ha of Caledonian Scots Pine in Glen Nevis	SIMEC	Dec 2017	Yes
4	John Muir Trust to undertake planting, with individual protection where appropriate in Glen Nevis	John Muir Trust	Ongoing	
4	Cruach to fell NE part of Cruach Woodland	Cruach	2016	
5	Cruach to re-stock NE part of Cruach woodland	Cruach	2018	
6	Ben Alder to provide woodland actions	Ben Alder	April 2019	
7	All members to annually report with a summary of forestry actions, e.g. areas felled, areas planted, areas opened up to deer	All members	Part of annual return	
8	DMG require specific actions to target improving woodland under very high or high grazing pressure.	All members	Feb 2016	Yes
9	JMT to continue targeted culls in potential regeneration areas included out of season from mid Feb to end March	John Muir Trust	Yearly	
Deer Population and Management				
1	Group to decide when & how to carry out a count over the whole of DMG area	All members	April 16	Yes
1b	Group to carry out count by helicopter in Spring 2020 (some members may foot count on same day as heli-count)	All members	Mar 20	

2	Carry out foot counts where foot counts are normally carried out to ensure continuity of members own count statistics	All members	Annually	
3	Results of all foot counts to be submitted to DMG secretary who will make available on the DMG's library of information	As above	Annually	
4	DMG should research options & feasibility of obtaining funding	DMG Secretary	July 2019	
5	All members to record and annually report back to the DMG secretary: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Culls (all species) • Mortality • Average Larder Weights • Any foot / recruitment counts • Habitat assessment reports • Forestry: areas felled, planted, or opened up to deer • Any know DVC • Any issues raised by members of the public 	All members	Annually	
6	All members to distribute the CWD leaflet to sporting clients, particularly those from North America or those who have may have visited	All members	Continuous	
7	Corrour to register with the SQWV	Corrour	July 2016	Yes
8	All members to carry out recruitment counts on estate annually, assessing same area yearly to establish trends	All members	All established by July 2019 Annually after	
9	All members to carry out mortality counts on estate annually, assessing same area yearly to establish trends	All members	All established by July 2019 Annually after	
10	All members to inform neighbours of out of season licences or night licences being applied for	All members	Continuous	
11	All members in DMG to consider effect of culls on neighbours and on deer movement. Members to quantify loss where possible, taking into account all factors possible	All members	Feb 20	
Wellbeing of people				
1	Clarification is required from SNH as to who requires to collect /report Deer Vehicle Collisions	Bidwells	Jan 16	Yes
2	All members to make a note and report any DVC they are made aware of	All members	Continuous	
3	Link to be created on DMG website to DVC website to aid with reporting by members and public	DMG Secretary	April 16	Yes
4	DMG to review DVC on an annual basis. Should there be any concerns, these will be addressed	All members	Annually	
5	Website to contain contact details for members of the public	DMG Secretary	Apr 16	Yes
6	All members to circulate to all staff guidance on Lyme's disease and how to best remove ticks	All members	Apr 16	Yes
7	All members to confirm that the Best Practise documents are up to date and available to all employees	All members	Oct 16	Yes

8	Ardverikie to confirm if they have any employees working towards DSC Level 2	Ardverikie	Feb 16	Yes
9	Camusericht, Ben Alder and Corroul to confirm expected dates of completion for those working on Level 2.	Camusericht, Ben Alder & Corroul	Feb 16	Yes
10	DMG to review access information available to the public on the Heading to the Hill website	All members	Apr 16	Yes
11	DMG to organise training or information day on Habitat Monitoring	DMG Secretary	May 19	
12	Ardverikie to organise Public Engagement Event via Laggan Heritage Society	Adverikie	Oct 19	
13	Corroul to run talk on estate practices via Lochaber Natural History Society	Corroul	Jan 19	Yes
14	All members to look at possibility of running talks or engagement events	All members	Dec 19	
15	All members to review signage on estate for public access, and to agree a common approach	All members	Aug 19	

2.0 Introduction

- 1.1 This document has been created for a number of reasons; the groups previous Deer Management Plan was last reviewed in depth during 2017 and since then there has been political, legal and industry lead developments, as well as changes within the deer management group.
- 1.2 During 2014 the Scottish Parliament Rural Affairs Climate Change and Environment Committee carried out a review of Deer Management. This resulted in the creation of the document Scotlands Wild Deer – A National Approach action plan 2018 – 2019. On a local deer management scale all DMG were assessed in terms of delivering public interest. This deer management plan brings together in one document the work carried out over the area of the DMG to demonstrate the group's contribution to effective deer management in line with the key priorities set out in the document Scotland Wild Deer – A National Approach.
- 1.3 To assist with the delivery of the action plan Scottish Natural Heritage have produced the "Code of Practise on Deer Management." The code applies to all those who own or manage land where wild deer are found and if "adopted deer will continue to be valued as an important part of the nature, economy and culture of Scotland" (Code of Practise).
- 1.4 All three documents can be found under the Reference Documents



3.0 About the Deer Management Group

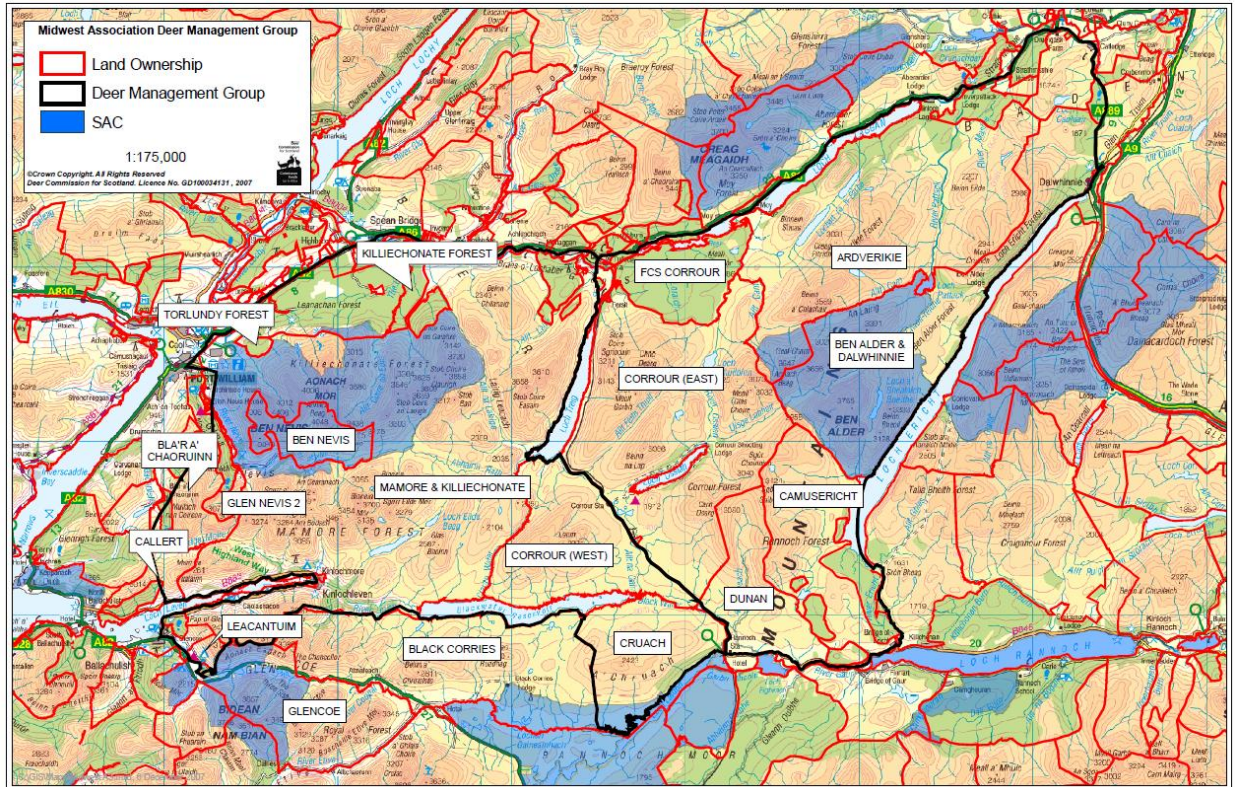
3.1 Membership area

- 3.1.1 The DMG is located to the east of Fort William and bounded to the north by the A86 from Spean Bridge to Laggan. The boundary follows the A889 to Dalwhinnie, along the north west shores of Loch Ericht and the eastern boundary of Camusericht Estate to the Bridge of Ericht. The southern boundary follows the River Gaur and around the Cruach march between Cruach Estate and Black Corries Estate. The southern boundary continues along the southern shores of the Blackwater reservoir and the southern boundaries of Caolasnacon and the Aonach Eagach ridge. The western boundary follows the River Coe, loops around the village of Glencoe before heading around Loch Leven to Callart and over the hills of Doire Ban, Sgorr Chalum and to Fort William.
- 3.1.2 Cruach Estate is located to the east of Black Corries Estate which is within the Black Mount Deer Management Group. This is a difficult area of the country to draw a deer management boundary with arguments that Black Corries could be part of this DMG and likewise Cruach could be sit

within the Black Mount DMG. Historically Black Corries has been part of the Group but at present will continue to be part of Black Mount DMG.

- 3.1.3 Following feedback from current members of the group, the Mid-West DMG is to extend the western boundaries to follow the shores of Loch Leven and Loch Linnhe. This would mean land around north Ballachulish, Onich and Glenrigh would be included within the Mid-West DMG.

3.2 Mid-West DMG Boundary Plan



Please also refer to the full sized boundary plan in appendix 1.

3.3 Membership

- 3.3.1 There are currently eight members of the group. Below is a summary:

Land holding	Area (ha)	Owner	Ownership type
Ardverikie	15,380	Ardverikie Estate Ltd	Ltd Company
Ben Alder	8,798	Ben Alder Estate Ltd	Private
Camusericht	6,193	Ben Alder Estate Ltd	Private
Ben Nevis	1,761	John Muir Trust	Conservation Charity
Corrou	22,904	Corrou Lands Ltd	Private
Cruach	4,400 (1,200 Rannoch Trust)	Lord Pearson of Rannoch & The Rannoch Trust	Private & Charitable Trust
Dunan	4200	Hamish McCorquodale	Private
Killiechornate & Mamore	20,350	SIMEC Lochaber Hydropower 2Ltd	Ltd Company
Callart		Scottish Ministers	State Forestry
Glen Nevis		Scottish Ministers	State Forestry

Glenrigh		Scottish Ministers	State Forestry
Leanachan,		Scottish Ministers	State Forestry
Rannoch Lodge		Scottish Ministers	State Forestry

3.4 Non-members

- 3.4.1 The group recognise that there are areas of land within the boundaries which do not have an active representation within Mid-West DMG. Some of these land areas have been identified below.
- 3.4.2 New members should be encouraged to join the group. This could be achieved through effective communication of the deer management plan, stakeholder engagement events, and generally greater openness and transparency of the Group. It also appreciated that there is a cost implications in becoming a member and there are a lack of powers available to ensure those who cull deer are members of a deer management group.

	Location
Catlodge	North –east of group area
Killiechonate (Leanachan) Woodlands	North-east of Fort William
Callart	
Glen Nevis Estate	Glen Nevis, Fort William
Cuilcheanna Grazings	Around Onich

3.5 Deer Management Group Name

- 3.5.1 Historically this group has been known as the Mid-West Association of Highland Estates Deer Management Group (MWAHE DMG) but during consultation for this revised DMP it was agreed by all that the name of the group should be changed to the Mid-West Deer Management Group.

3.6 Constitution

- 3.6.1 The group do have a constitution in place, however this is rather dated and a revised constitution has been drafted below:

Name

The Group name shall be the Mid-West Deer Management Group.

Objectives

The Group's objective is to promote the sustainable management of deer in the Mid-West DMG area in accordance with the Mid-West DMG Deer Management Plan.

Group Area

The geographic area covered by the Mid-West DMG is as depicted on the attached map. The boundary may be open to amendment should the Group so decide.

Membership

The Members of Mid-West DMG will be the owners of land within the Group area or their authorised representatives. For the avoidance of doubt private, public sector, voluntary body or corporate land owners are entitled to be Members of the Group. Members may be represented at Group meetings in their absence by an individual nominee on notification to the Secretary in writing.

Representatives from relevant public bodies, NGOs and local bodies may be invited to attend meetings of the Group.

Members' obligations

- Members agree to support the effective running of the Group by:
- Attending or being represented at all DMG meetings.
- Supplying information required for the administration of the Group
- Supplying information required for the writing and review of the Group Deer Management Plan and for the other purposes of the Group.
- Paying an annual subscription to the Mid-West DMG at such rates as may be agreed.
- Collaborating with other Members and other relevant interests as set out in the ADMG Principles of Collaboration (Appendix 1).
- Advising the Group of any relevant changes in terms of ownership or land management in respect of their individual landholdings. Carrying out deer management in accordance with all relevant legislation, the SNH Code of Practice for Deer Management and Wild Deer Best Practice.

Office Bearers

Office bearers will comprise a Chair and, if required, Vice Chair, who shall be elected annually at the Group AGM. Re-election on a rolling basis is permitted with no restriction on the period of time that an office bearer may serve.

The administrative positions of Secretary and Treasurer (which may be combined) and external Auditor are appointed positions and such appointments and any terms of employment shall be for approval annually at the Group AGM.

Meetings

- The Group will meet twice annually or more frequently as may be necessary.
- The Secretary will take a Minute of all meetings and circulate copies to all Members.
- An Annual General (AGM) meeting shall be held at such a place, date and hour as the Group shall decide. Advance notice will be given to Members not less than 28 days in advance of the AGM.
- A voting majority shall be defined as a simple majority of the full Membership of the Group.
- Only Members or representatives of Members with a mandate submitted in writing to the Secretary are entitled to cast a vote.

Funding and Financial Arrangements

The Group will be self-financing and the subscription will be set annually at the AGM. The basis of subscription calculation shall be agreed by the Group and approved by members at an AGM. Subscriptions will be set a rate sufficient to cover all the operating expenses of the Group. Subscriptions will be payable at a date to be determined by the Group. Notwithstanding the above the Group may apply for public grants, subsidies or other funds in order to meet the objectives of the Group.

The Treasurer will operate a Bank Account for the Group and all financial transactions will be made on this account. Joint signatures of the Treasurer and Chair will be required on all cheques or debits drawn on the account in excess of £500.

A financial Statement will be prepared by an Auditor appointed by the Group and presented at the AGM for approval by Members. In the event of funds being left upon the winding up of the Group the disbursement of these funds will be determined by the Members. The Auditor shall be a Chartered Accountant.

Conflict resolution

It shall be the duty of all Members to seek agreement in respect of Group objectives and, where a dispute arises between Members, to resolve such dispute by negotiation and compromise. When agreement cannot be reached it shall be in the option of the Chairman to refer the matter to arbitration by the Chairman of the Association of Deer Management Groups or such other independent expert as the parties may agree.

Membership information, records and data

Storage of membership information will be the responsibility of the Secretary, such information to be used solely for the administration of the Group and stored in accordance with the law.

The Group shall determine such deer management and related data as will be required to fulfil the objectives of Mid-West DMG. Such data will be collected by all Members and submitted to the Secretary for storage and analysis and shall be regarded as the property of the Group.

DMG Actions:

Membership Area

- | | |
|--|-------------------|
| ■ SNH to internally discuss DMG boundaries and inclusion of land not previously contained within the DMG | April 2019 |
|--|-------------------|

Non-members

- | | |
|---|-----------------|
| ■ DMG Secretary to invite all stakeholders to view draft DMP | May 2019 |
| ■ DMG Secretary to distribute DMP to all stakeholders | May 2019 |
| ■ Stakeholder engagement event. Members supportive and will review for 2020 | 2019 |

Constitution

- | | |
|--|--|
| ■ Revised constitution to be approved by all members | |
|--|--|

4.0 Communication

4.1 Communication Policy

4.1.1 Members of the Deer Management Group will promote and encourage 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 though:

- Deer management planning will be open, inclusive and seek local consultation
- DMG web-site will be regularly updated to include the Deer Management Plan, Minutes and Agendas for meetings as well as any other relevant information which seeks to promote openness and transparency
- The DMG will ensure that contact details are available for anyone seeking information or wishing to raise concerns.
- DMG members will actively promote deer management to raise awareness
- DMG will seek opportunities to promote deer management through training, educational or awareness raising events

4.2 Data Protection Policy

4.2.1 DMGs are subject to The Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA) which regulates the use of "personal data." "Personal data" covers any data that can be used to identify a living individual including their name and address, telephone number or e-mail address.

4.2.2 The DMG will only hold and use those details of its members which it needs in order to contact them, i.e. name, address, phone number and email address, in as far as each member is willing to supply those details. No details will be held by the DMG without the parties consent, in line with GDPR rules. These details should normally only be available to those in the DMG who need to have them, e.g. Chair, Secretary or Treasurer, as appropriate.

4.3 Internal Communication

4.3.1 The Mid-West DMG currently meets annually every October for the annual general meeting and can meet more often to resolve any issues that arise. The annual meetings are open to all landowners within the MWDMG and in addition representatives are invited from SNH and the Association of Deer Management Groups (ADMG). Invites are also extended to other interested parties, such as local MP's and MSP's, as well as relevant interested parties such as the local access officer.

4.3.2 The Chairman and Secretary of the group are in regular contact with all members and have a good understanding of all landholdings and their aspirations. There is also a good understanding between all members and the group are open and transparent with each other. The members infrequently change and there is a good neighbourly relationship between members and this allows any problems to be addressed.

4.3.3 In addition the Chair and Secretary are prepared to co-ordinate any discussions that are required to deal with matters that may arise from meetings or between annual general meetings and as and when required. It is proposed in the new constitution that the Group formally meet a second time during the year. The suggested time of year would be at the end of the hind season in February.

4.4 External Communication

4.4.1 It is proposed that the stakeholders who have been identified as part of this DMP are invited to view the DMP and provide comment. DMG to consider any relevant issues and revise. The DMP

will be made available through the DMP website or stakeholders may visit the Bidwells office to review and discuss the plan. On approval of the DMP by members, a copy of the full DMP will be made available on the DMG webpage and all stakeholders will be invited to view and comment on.

4.4.2 Members have held open days / information tours with local schools in the past, though this is increasingly difficult due to health and safety legislation. Members however are supportive of holding an open day in the future and will discuss this further following the communication of the DMP with stakeholders. JMT have some interactions with local schools including wild poetry competition on general wildlife, nature topics including deer and land management. Many local schools complete the John Muir Award which encourages them to explore and learn about wild places.

4.4.3 Members will also look to hold talks to inform interested parties about deer management in the local area. These talks will be held in conjunction with local community groups, and all members will agree which members will take on the responsibility of this public engagement.

4.5 Deer Management Plan Implementation

4.5.1 This Draft DMP plan will be circulated to all members for comments. Following amendments a meeting will be held to formally approve the plan and confirm an action plan. It is recommended that the DMP is reviewed annually and that the Action Plan is updated every year. The DMP and Action plan should be an agenda item for discussion at both meetings.

4.6 Mid-West DMG Website

4.6.1 ADMG have made provisions to host a webpage for each DMG. This is an obvious method of sharing information to the public. Further investigations are required as to whether the hosting site will allow members only login. This would a good option for sharing information between members. It is proposed that the following information is made available to the public:

- Deer Management Plan
- Extracts of key information from DMP, such as boundary plans, designated area maps and condition
- General information about stalking operations (seasons), access taking, contact details.

4.7 Stakeholders

Stakeholder	Email / Contact details
Scottish Natural Heritage	Lorraine Servant
Stewart Eastaugh	Highland Council Access Officer
Kate Forbes, Skye, Lochaber & Badenoch MSP	Kate Forbes MSP kate.forbes.msp@parliament.scot 01349 863888
Claire Baker, Mid Scotland & Fife MSP	Claire Baker MSP, claire.baker.msp@parliament.scot 0131 348 5293
Perthshire North MSP	John Swinney MSP John.Swinney.msp@scottish.parliament.uk 0131 348 5717
Laggan Community Council	Not currently established
Laggan Community Association	laggan.webmaster@gmail.com

Spean Bridge (Roybridge & Achnacharry) Community Council	John Fotheringham (Chair / interim secretary), Lorient, 33 Altour Road, Spean Bridge, PH34 4EZ
Inverlochry & Torlundy Community Council	Andrew McKenna (Chair), Woodside, Tomacharish, Fort William, PH33 6SW
Dalwhinnie CC	Angus Munday (Chair) Osgilath, Dalwhinnie, PH19 1AB
Fort William CC	Neil Clark (Chair), 14 Perth Place, Fort William, PH33 6UL
Nether Lochaber CC	Iain Jenner (Chair), Cuilodraig House Onich Fort William PH33 6SD
Nevis Partnership	Mike Pescod, The Nevis Partnership / Nevis Landscape Partnership, An Drochaid, Claggan Road, Fort William, PH33 6PH
Kinlochleven Community Trust	Steven Jamieson (Chair), Kinlochleven Community Trust, Unit 4A, Kinlochleven Business Park, Kinlochleven, PH50 4SH
Kinlochleven CC	Yvonne Rosie (Chair) 60 Foyers Road, Kinlochleven, PH50 4RU
Lochaber Chamber of Commerce	Bruno Beradelli (Chair) Station Square, Fort William, Inverness-shire, PH33 6EN, mailto:membership@lochaberchamber.co.uk
Mountaineering Council	The Mountaineering Council of Scotland, The Old Granary, West Mill Street, Perth, PH1 5QP, Telephone. 01738-493942
North Highland College UHI	
Tillhill, West Highland	Glencruitten Road, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4DW , Tel: 01631 562906
Highland Perthshire Communities Project	HPCP 23 Atholl Road Pitlochry PH16 5BX Telephone: 01796 470222 info@hpcp.co.uk
Rannoch & Tummel Community Council	Perth & Kinross Council Website says this group is currently not established
John Muir Trust	Tower House, Station Road, Pitlochry PH16 5AN. Tel. 01796 470080
Scottish Wildlife Trust	Harbourside House, 110 Commercial Street, Edinburgh, EH6 6NF, 0131 312 7765.
Forestry Commission Scotland	John Risby,
Crofting Commission	info@crofting.scotland.gov.uk
Grazing Clerks	Roybridge / Spean Bridge / Onich areas

4.8 Members' Contact Details

ESTATE / POSITION	NAME	PHONE NO	EMAIL
Forest Enterprise Scotland			
Deer Management Officer	Colin Lavin	07771 940350	colin.lavin@forestry.gsi.gov.uk
		The Forestry Commission, Lochaber Forest District, Torlundy, PH33 6BA	
Wildlife Ranger Manager	John Jackson		John.Jackson@forestry.gsi.gov.uk
Ardverikie			
Ardverikie Estate	Estate Office	01528 544300	ardverikie@ardverikie.com
		Ardverikie Estate Office, Kinlochlaggan, Newtonmore, PH20 1BX	
Ben Alder, Camusericht & Dalwhinnie			
Factor	Nick Baikie	017864 34617 / 07811 286789	nkb@btconnect.com
		Ben Alder Estate, The Shielling Office, Dalwhinnie, PH19 1AE	
Assistant Factor	Ben Johnson		Ben.Johnson@bhsporting.co.uk
		BH Sporting LLP, King James VI Business Centre, Riverview Business Park, Friarton Road, Perth, PH2 8DY	
Dunan			
Dunan Estate	Estate Office	01882 633314	http://dunan-estate.co.uk
SIMEC Lochaber Hydropower 2 Ltd			
Factor	Finlay Clark	01397 707641	finlay.clark@bidwells.co.uk
		SIMEC Lochaber Hydropower 2 Ltd, Bidwells, Carn Dearg House, North Road, PH33 6PP	
Assistant Factor	Calum Hogg	01397 608535	calum.hogg@bidwells.co.uk
		Bidwells, Carn Dearg House, North Road, Fort William, PH33 6PP	
Cruach			
Cruach Estate	Estate Office	01882 633241	http://rannoch-estate.com
		Rannoch Barracks, Bridge of Gour, Pitlochry, Perthshire, PH17 2QE	
Ben Nevis			
Head of land & Science	Mike Daniels	01796 484937	mike.daniels@johnmuirtrust.org
		John Muir Trust, Tower House, Station Road, Pitlochry, PH16 5AN	

Nevis Property Manager	Alison Austin	01397 705049	alison.austin@jmt.org
		Lochaber Rural Complex, Torlundy, Fort William, PH33 6SW	
Corrour			
Corrour Estate Factor	Philip Dean		Philip@corrour.co.uk
		The Estate Office , Corrour Estate, Corrour, By Fort William, PH30 4AA	
SNH			
Area Operations Officer	Cathy Mayne	01397 715332	Cathy.Mayne@snh.gov.uk
		Scottish Natural Heritage, Torlundy, Fort William ,PH33 6SW	
Wildlife Management Officer	Graeme Taylor	01463 725 356	Graeme.Taylor@snh.gov.uk
		0776 803 3243	
		Scottish Natural Heritage, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness, IV3 8NW	

Communication Actions

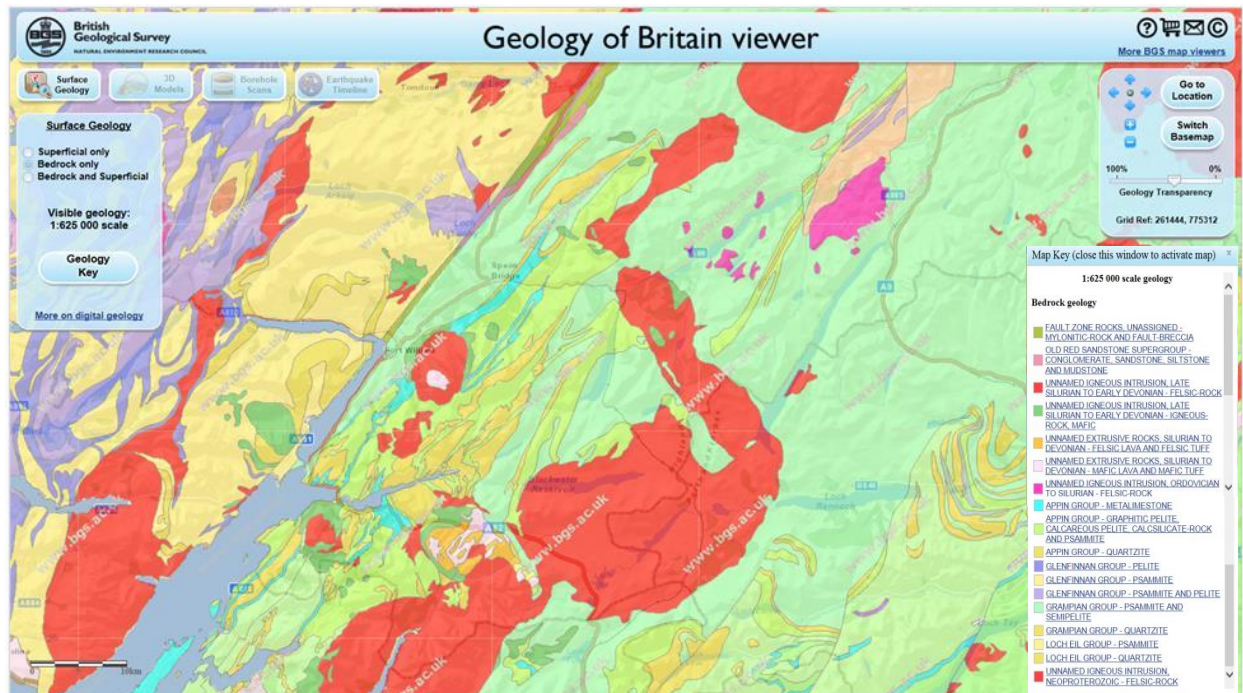
Deer Management Plan

- Bidwells to circulate Draft DMP and request comments from members **Feb 2019**
- Bidwells to discuss draft DMP with Lorraine Servant **Feb 2019**
- Bidwells to arrange meeting with DMG to further discuss and approve DMP **Feb 2019**
- DMG secretary to write to all stakeholders to inform them of DMG and to offer the opportunity to comment and /or discuss the DMG's proposed DMP **Mar 2019**
- All members to agree on action plan for year ahead **Feb 2019**
- DMG to annually review DMP and action plan for year ahead **Feb 2019**

5.0 Natural Environment

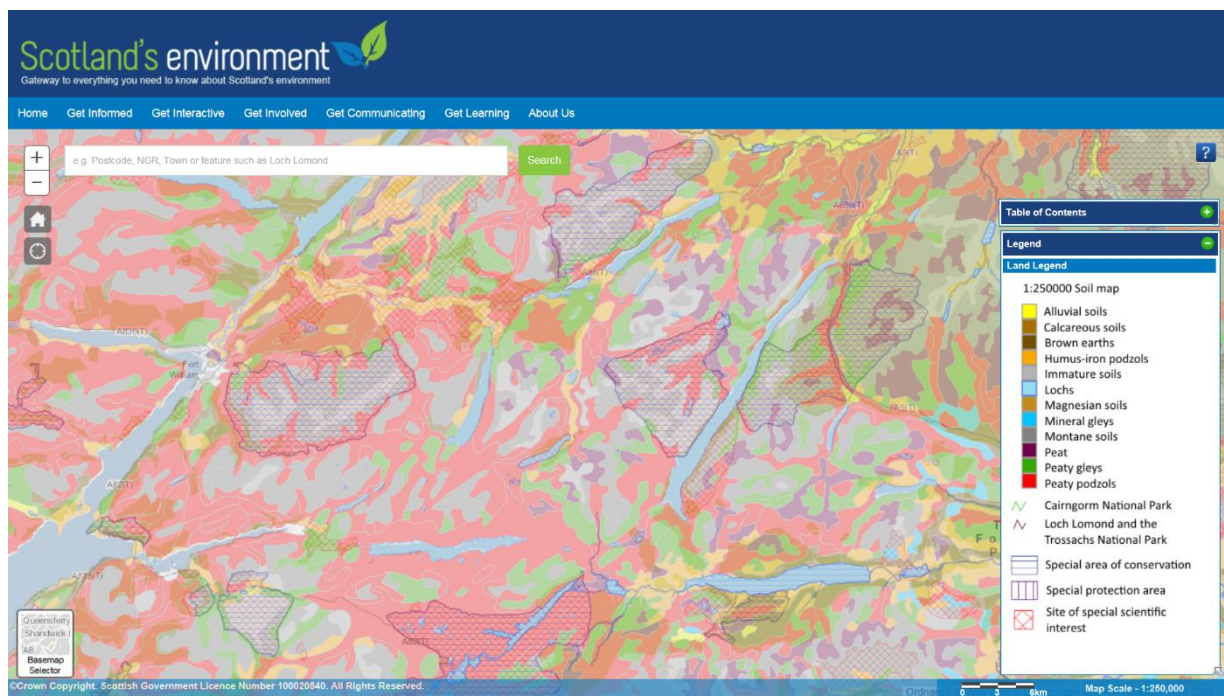
5.1 Geology

- 5.1.1 The Mid-West DMG area contains some of the highest mountains in the UK. It is dominated in the west and north west by the high, steep sided massifs of the Mamores and the Nevis Range, with gentler hills in the south west, and running out to the flat, boggy expanse of Rannoch Moor to the south east. To the east there is a further area of high mountainous ground comprising the summits of Ben Alder, Aonach Beag, and Beinn a Chlachair, with rolling foothills stretching north-east towards Strath Spey" (Waterhouse et al. 2003).
- 5.1.2 The geology is dominated by a number of granitic inclusions, though metamorphic rocks of Dalradian and Moine origin and base-rich rocks also exist in the MWAHE area.



5.2 Superficial Cover / Soils

- 5.2.1 Soils are dominated by nutrient poor peat with better soils in the valleys arising from alluvial deposits. Montane soils are found on the highest mountainous masses with the more peaty podzols in the corries and floors of valleys. The west of the group has more peaty gleys, and peat than the east of the group with greater dominance of peaty podzols.

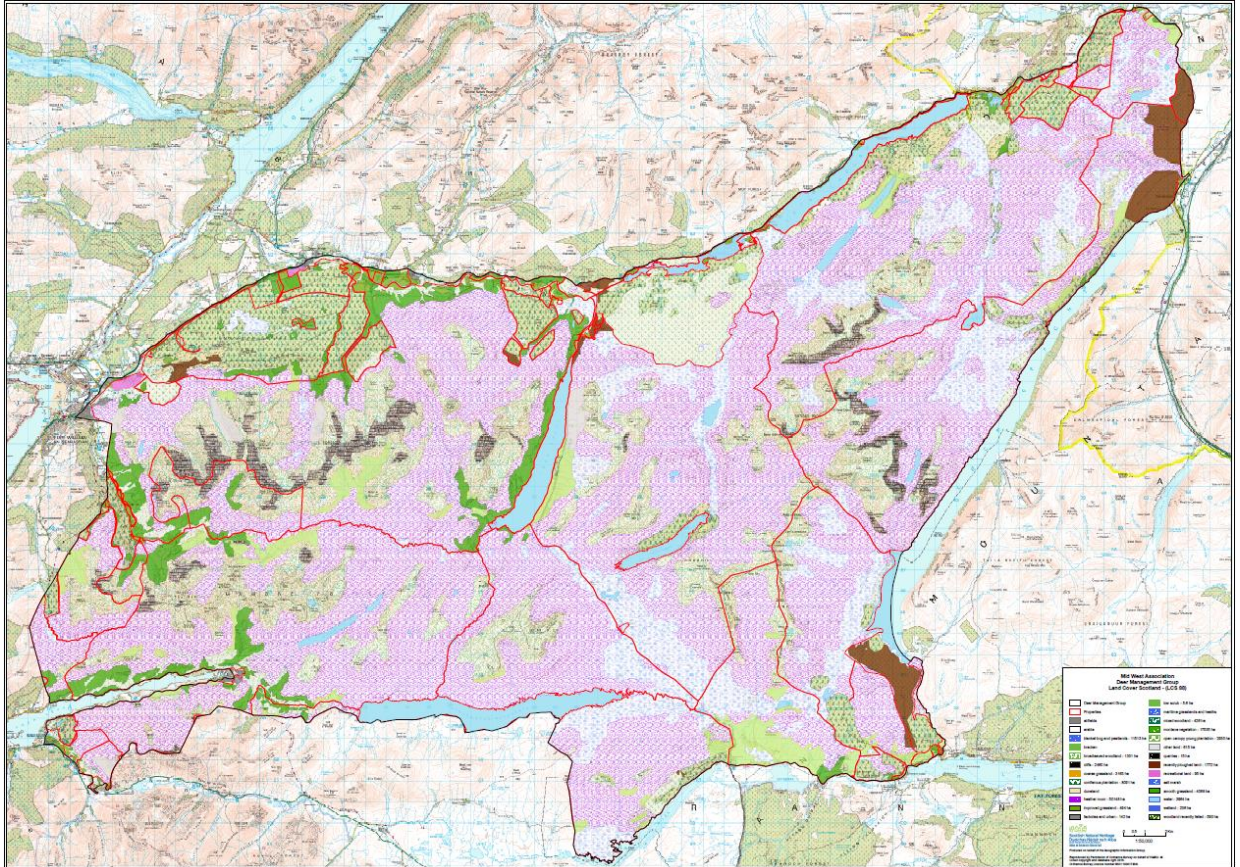


<http://map.environment.scotland.gov.uk/seweb/map.htm?menutype=1&layers=434>

5.3 Land Cover

- 5.3.1 According to data held by SNH the principal habitats within the Mid-West DMG are heather moor, montane vegetation and blanket bog. There are areas of coniferous, broadleaf and young woodland. Appendix 2 details the distribution of land cover over the DMG area with section 5 of the DMP covering woodland within the DMG area.

5.4 Land Cover – Mid-West DMG area



Please refer appendix 2 for a full sized plan

Land Cover	Area (ha)	% of total
Heather Moor	50,148	49.4
montane vegetation	17,535	17.3
Blanket bog & peatlands	11,516	11.3
coniferous woodland	8,091	7.9
smooth grassland	4,068	4.0
water	3,964	3.9
Coarse grassland	3,163	3.1
open canopy young plantation	2,930	2.9
Cliffs	2,460	2.4
recently ploughed land	1,772	1.7

Land Cover	Area (ha)	% of total
Broadleaved woodland	1,331	1.3
woodland recently felled	590	0.6
other land	615	0.6
improved grassland	494	0.5
mixed woodland	426	0.4
wetland	236	0.2
recreational land	95	0.1
Urban	142	0.1
quarries	15	0.0
Total	101,500	

5.5 Mammals, birds and invertebrates

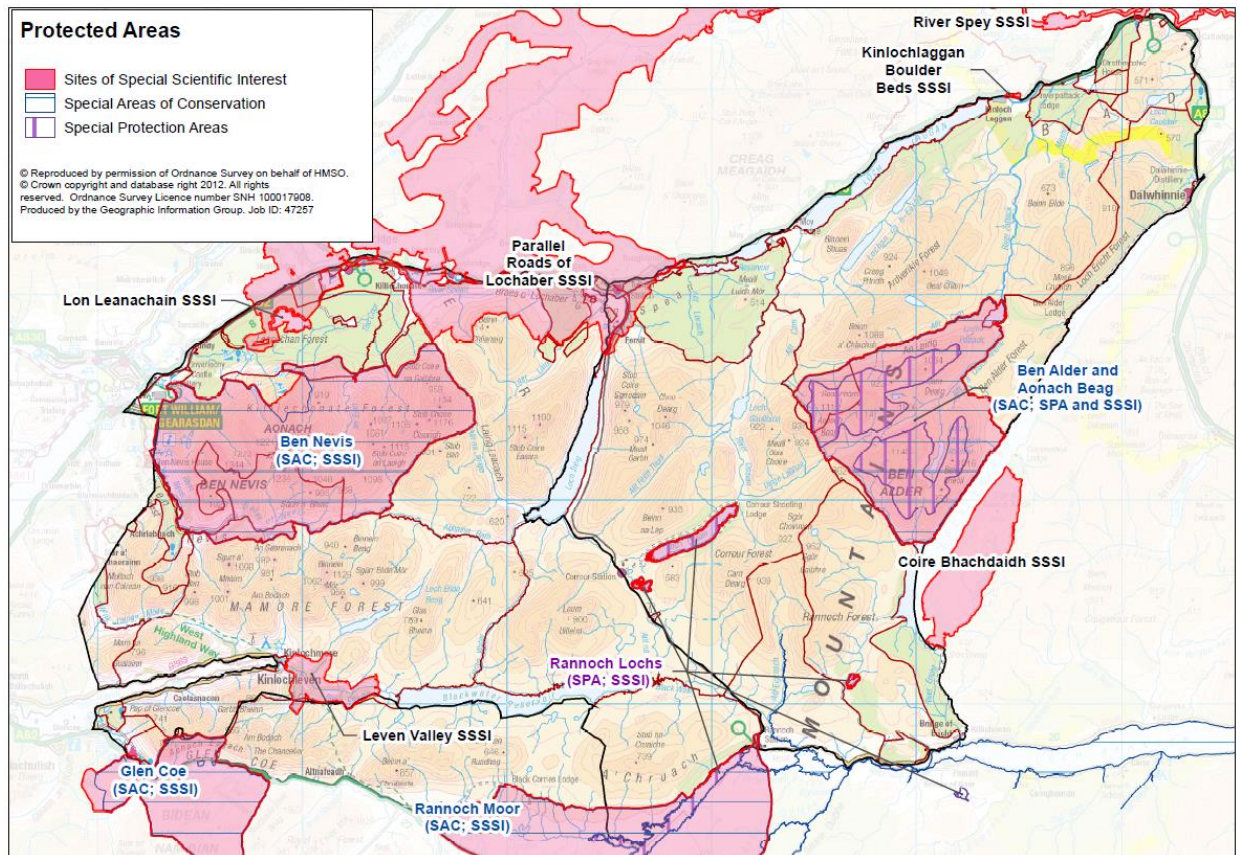
- 5.5.1 A more detailed account of mammals, birds and invertebrates is provided by professor Putman in a previous DMP but notable species include golden eagle, peregrine, merlin, hen harrier, goshawk, sparrow hawk, and buzzard. Breeding populations include red-throated and black throated diver, redshank, common sandpiper, dotterel, golden plover, ringed plover, dipper, ring ouzel, red grouse, black grouse and occasional capercaillie.
- 5.5.2 Mammals include foxes, pine martins, European otters, and some badgers and red squirrels. Water voles have also been identified in the area Beaully-Denny power line, in the bottom of Glen Nevis and in the higher corries of Glen Nevis. JMT monitors water vole activity in Glen Nevis. Deer are mainly red though roe are also widespread but at lower density and there are sika in some areas.

5.6 Designations/ Environments present & current condition

- 5.6.1 The Mid-West DMG area has a number of designations for landscape and species diversity for mammals birds and vegetation. Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) are designated for internationally important habitats and species. Special Protection Areas (SPA) are designated for rare, threatened or valuable bird species listed in Annex I of the Birds Directive and can also be designated because of migratory species. SAC and SPA are Natura designations under European Directives. From April 2010 the UK Government has an obligation to ensure these features are in favourable or unfavourable recovering condition.
- 5.6.2 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) are designated under the UK legislation of the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004 by Scottish Natural Heritage for areas they consider to best represent our natural heritage. The following designated sites exist in the MWAHE management area; those with little or no sensitivity to deer grazing impacts are placed at the bottom of the list.
- Ben Alder and Aonach Beag (SAC & SSSI)
 - Ben Nevis (SAC & SSSI)
 - Leven Valley (SSSI)
 - Rannoch Moor (SAC & SSSI)
 - Lon Leanachain (SSSI)
 - Glen Coe (SAC & SSSI) – very small part within Mid-West DMG area
 - Onich to North Ballachulish Woods (SAC & SSSI)
 - Rannoch Lochs (SPA & SSSI)
 - Ben Alder SPA
 - Parallel Roads of Lochaber (SSSI)

- Ben Nevis and Glen Coe National Scenic Area

5.7 Locations of designated sites



Please refer to appendix 3 for a full sized version of this plan

5.8 Site Condition Monitoring (SCM)

SCM monitoring is carried out by SNH. When assessing the results of Site Condition Monitoring, the condition of an individual natural feature is assigned to one of eight condition categories:

- Favourable Maintained** - the attribute targets set for the natural features have been met, and the natural feature is likely to be secure on the site under present conditions;
- Favourable Recovered** - the condition of the natural feature has recovered from a previous unfavourable condition, and attribute targets are now being met;
- Favourable Declining** - the attribute targets set for the natural features have been met, but evidence suggests that condition will worsen unless remedial action is taken;
- Unfavourable Recovering** - one or more of the targets have not been met on the site, but it has begun to show, or is continuing to show, a trend towards favourable condition;
- Unfavourable No Change** - one or more of the attribute targets have not been met, and recovery is unlikely under the present management and activity on the site;
- Unfavourable Declining** - one or more of the attribute targets have not been met, evidence suggests that condition will worsen unless remedial action is taken;

vii) **Partially Destroyed** - something has happened on the site which has destroyed part of the natural feature; there is no prospect of restoring the destroyed area;

viii) **Totally Destroyed** - the natural feature is no longer present, there is no prospect of restoring it.

5.9 Latest Site Condition Monitoring Results

- 5.9.1 There are four SACs and two SPAs within the Mid-West DMG though only part of the Rannoch Moor SAC exists and a very small part of the Glencoe SAC is within DMG area. There are nine SSSI's though only a very small part of the Glencoe SSSI and part of the Rannoch Moor and Rannoch Lochs SSSI exist within DMG area.
- 5.9.2 Of the designations which are more sensitive to deer, 60% of features are in a favourable maintained condition; however 36% of features are within one on the unfavourable status classifications. The table below summarises the condition of features across the designated sites with the designations less likely to be impacted on by deer near the bottom of the table.

5.10 Summary of condition

Designation (in rough order of sites most susceptible to grazing impact where the DMG is in control)	No. of features (% of features)						Total
	Favourable maintained	Favourable recovered	Favourable Declining	Unfavourable recovering	Unfavourable no change	Unfavourable declining	
Ben Alder & Aonach Beag SSSI	5		1				6
Ben Alder & Aonach Beag SAC	7				5		12
Ben Nevis SSSI	7			1	1		9
Ben Nevis SAC	8			7	1	1	17
Leven Valley SSSI	1					1	2
Rannoch Moor SSSI	7						7
Rannoch Moor SAC	6				3		9
Lon Leanachan SSSI	1						1
Glen Coe SSSI	3	2			1		6
Glencoe SAC	4			2	7		13
SubTotal	49 (59.8%)	2 (2.4%)	1 (1.2%)	10 (12.2%)	18 (21.9%)	2 (2.4%)	82
Onich to North Ballachulish Woods SAC (not within current DMG boundaries)	1					2	3
Onich to North Ballachulish Wood & Shore SSSI (not within current DMG boundaries)	1					3	4
Rannoch Lochs SSSI (designated for birds)	1						1
Rannoch Lochs SPA (designated for birds)	1						1
Ben Alder SPA	1						1
Parallel Roads of Lochaber SSSI (designated for geology & fluvial geomorphology)	2						2
Total	56 (59.6%)	2 (2.2%)	1 (1.1%)	6 (6.5%)	22 (23.6%)	7 (7.5%)	94

- 5.10.1 The tables below give the specific conditions of each of the features on the designations. The designated sites that are less likely to be impacted on by deer are located at the end.

Ben Alder SPA

Visit Date	Feature Category	Feature	Last Assessed SCM Condition
01/07/2011	Birds	Dotteral	Favourable Maintained

Ben Alder & Aonach Beag SSSI

Visit Date	Feature Category	Feature	Last Assessed SCM Condition
28/08/2013	Vascular plants	Vascular plant assemblage	Favourable Declining
10/04/2011	Structural and metamorphic geology	Dalradian	Favourable Maintained
16/06/2010	Non-vascular plants	Lichen assemblage	Favourable Maintained
20/08/2014	Non-vascular plants	Bryophyte assemblage	Favourable Maintained
28/09/2004	Upland	Upland assemblage	Unfavourable No change
06/07/2001	Birds	Breeding bird assemblage	Favourable Maintained

Ben Alder & Aonach Beag SAC

Visit Date	Feature Category	Feature	Last Assessed SCM Condition
17/07/2009	Upland habitat	Plants in crevices on base-rich rocks	Favourable Maintained
17/07/2009	Upland habitat	Blanket bog	Unfavourable No change
25/08/2013	Upland habitat	Alpine and subalpine calcareous grasslands	Unfavourable No change
28/08/2013	Upland habitat	Tall herb communities	Favourable Maintained
23/08/2013	Upland habitat	Wet heathland with cross-leaved heath	Unfavourable No change
02/08/2009	Upland habitat	Plants in crevices on acid rocks	Favourable Maintained
02/08/2009	Upland habitat	Montane acid grasslands	Favourable Maintained
02/08/2009	Upland habitat	Alpine and subalpine heaths	Favourable Maintained
02/08/2009	Upland habitat (Upland)	Dry heaths	Favourable Maintained
02/08/2009	Upland habitat	High-altitude plant communities associated with areas of water seepage	Unfavourable No change
28/08/2013	Upland habitat	Mountain willow scrub	Unfavourable No change
28/09/2004	Upland habitat	Acidic scree	Favourable Maintained

Ben Nevis SSSI

Visit Date	Feature Category	Feature	Last Assessed SCM Condition
19/07/2013	Woodland	Native pinewood	Unfavourable Recovering
30/06/2015	Invertebrates	Fly assemblage	Favourable Maintained
31/07/2015	Invertebrates	Small mountain ringlet (Erebia epiphron)	Favourable Maintained
14/09/2013	Non-vascular plants	Bryophyte assemblage	Favourable Maintained
31/05/2003	Birds	Breeding bird assemblage	Favourable Maintained
30/09/2003	Upland Habitat	Upland assemblage	Favourable Maintained
18/07/2002	Earth Sciences	Caledonian Igneous	Favourable Maintained

08/09/2013	Vascular plants	Vascular plant assemblage	Favourable Maintained
13/06/2001	Woodland	Upland oak woodland	Favourable Maintained

Ben Nevis SAC

Visit Date	Feature Category	Feature	Last Assessed SCM Condition
10/07/2014	Upland Habitat	Tall herb communities	Favourable Maintained
19/05/2013	Upland Habitat	Blanket bog	Unfavourable No change
19/05/2013	Upland Habitat	Montane acid grasslands	Unfavourable Recovering
19/05/2013	Upland Habitat	Wet heathland with cross-leaved heath	Unfavourable No change
06/06/2013	Upland Habitat	Species-rich grassland with mat-grass in upland areas	Unfavourable Declining
20/06/2013	Upland Habitat	Plants in crevices on base-rich rocks	Favourable Maintained
19/07/2013	Woodland	Caledonian forest	Unfavourable Recovering
13/09/2013	Upland Habitat	High-altitude plant communities associated with areas of water seepage	Favourable Maintained
08/05/2015	Upland Habitat	Dry heaths	Unfavourable Recovering
11/07/2009	Upland Habitat	Alpine and subalpine calcareous grasslands	Unfavourable No change
11/07/2009	Upland Habitat	Alpine and subalpine heaths	Unfavourable No change
11/07/2009	Upland Habitat	Acidic scree	Favourable Maintained
05/08/2009	Freshwater habitats	Clear-water lakes or lochs with aquatic vegetation and poor to moderate nutrient levels	Favourable Maintained
01/09/2003	Upland Habitat	Mountain willow scrub	Unfavourable No change
28/09/2003	Upland Habitat	Base-rich scree	Favourable Maintained
30/09/2003	Upland Habitat	Plants in crevices on acid rocks	Favourable Maintained
13/06/2001	Woodland	Western acidic oak woodland	Favourable Maintained

Leven Valley SSSI

Visit Date	Feature Category	Feature	Last Assessed SCM Condition
12/03/2013	Woodland	Upland birch woodland	Unfavourable Declining
09/03/2006	Earth Sciences	Dalradian	Favourable Maintained

Rannoch Moor SSSI

Visit Date	Feature Category	Feature	Last Assessed SCM Condition
05/06/2013	Invertebrates	Beetles	Favourable Maintained
14/06/2013	Upland habitat	Blanket Bog	Favourable Maintained
28/06/2007	Birds	Breeding Bird assemblage	Favourable Maintained
02/09/2014	Freshwater habitats	Dystrophic loch	Favourable Maintained
29/06/2015	Invertebrates	Flies	Favourable Maintained
16/07/2014	Invertebrates	Moths	Favourable Maintained
13/08/2009	Freshwater habitats	Oligotrophic loch	Favourable Maintained
14/06/2013	Vascular plants	Vascular plant assemblage	Favourable Maintained

Rannoch Moor SAC

Last Visit Date	Feature Category	Feature	Last Assessed SCM Condition
02/09/2014	Freshwater habitats	Acid peat-stained lakes & pools	Favourable Maintained

13/04/20 07	Upland habitat	Blanket Bog	Favourable Maintained
13/08/2009	Upland habitat	Clear-water lakes or lochs with aquatic vegetation & poor to moderate nutrient levels	Favourable Maintained
13/04/2007	Upland habitat	Depressions on peat substrates	Favourable Maintained
26/05/2016	Upland habitat	Dry heaths	Unfavourable – No change
08/09/2010	Invertebrates	Freshwater pearl mussel (<i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i>)	Unfavourable – No change
25/05/2012	Mammals (except marine)	Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>)	Favourable Maintained
13/04/2007	Upland habitat	Very wet mires often identified by unstable 'quaking' surface	Favourable Maintained
26/05/2016	Upland habitat	Wet heathland with cross-leaved heath	Unfavourable – No change

Lon Leanachan SSSI

Visit Date	Feature Category	Feature	Last Assessed SCM Condition
06/01/16	Upland habitat	Blanket Bog	Unfavourable Declining

Glen Coe SSSI – very small part within Mid-West DMG

Visit Date	Feature Category	Feature	Last Assessed SCM Condition
02/10/2014	Bryophyte assemblage	Non-vascular	Favourable Maintained
21/05/2010	Woodland	Wet woodland	Favourable Recovered
22/09/2010	Vascular plants	Vascular plant assemblage	Favourable Recovered
25/10/2009	Upland Habitat	Upland assemblage	Unfavourable No change
09/08/2006	Earth sciences	Mass movement	Favourable Maintained
02/11/2006	Earth sciences	Fluvial Geomorphology of Scotland	Favourable Maintained
02/11/2006	Earth sciences	Caledonian Igneous	Favourable Maintained

Glen Coe SAC – very small part within Mid-West DMG

Visit Date	Feature Category	Feature	Last Assessed SCM Condition
06/09/2009	Freshwater habitats	Clear-water lakes or lochs with aquatic vegetation and poor to moderate nutrient levels	Favourable Maintained
25/10/2009	Upland Habitats	Alpine and subalpine heaths	Unfavourable No change
25/10/2009	Upland Habitats	Plants in crevices on acid rocks	Favourable Maintained
03/08/2012	Upland Habitats	Species-rich grassland with mat-grass in upland areas	Unfavourable No change
19/09/2014	Upland Habitats	Tall herb communities	Favourable Maintained
25/10/2009	Upland Habitats	Mountain willow scrub	Unfavourable No change
25/10/2009	Upland Habitats	Plants in crevices on base-rich rocks	Favourable Maintained
25/10/2009	Upland Habitats	High-altitude plant communities associated with areas of water seepage	Unfavourable No change
25/10/2009	Upland Habitats	Base-rich fens	Unfavourable Recovering
25/10/2009	Upland Habitats	Alpine and subalpine calcareous grasslands	Unfavourable No change
08/09/2003	Upland Habitats	Acidic scree	Favourable Maintained
30/04/2014	Upland Habitats (Upland)	Dry heaths	Unfavourable Declining
31/10/2003	Upland Habitats	Montane acid grasslands	Unfavourable Recovering

Onich to North Ballachulish Woods SAC (not currently within boundaries of DMG)

Visit Date	Feature Category	Feature	Last Assessed SCM Condition
22/06/2007	Upland habitat	Base-rich fens	Favourable Maintained
17/01/2008	Woodland	Mixed woodland on base-rich soils associated with rocky slopes	Unfavourable Declining
17/01/2008	Woodland	Western acidic oak woodland	Unfavourable Declining

Onich to North Ballachulish Woods and Shore SSSI (not currently within boundaries of DMG)

Visit Date	Feature Category	Feature	Last Assessed SCM Condition
22/06/2007	Upland habitat	Alkaline fen	Favourable Maintained
27/07/2006	Earth sciences	Dalradian	Unfavourable Declining
17/01/2008	Woodland	Upland mixed ash woodland	Unfavourable Declining
17/01/2008	Woodland	Upland oak woodland	Unfavourable Declining

Rannoch Lochs SSSI (unlikely to be impacted upon by deer)

Visit Date	Feature Category	Feature	Last Assessed SCM Condition
31/07/2003	Birds	Black throated diver (<i>Gavia arctica</i>)	Favourable Maintained

Rannoch Lochs SPA (unlikely to be impacted upon by deer)

Visit Date	Feature Category	Feature	Last Assessed SCM Condition
31/07/2009	Birds	Black throated diver (<i>Gavia arctica</i>)	Favourable Maintained

Ben Alder SPA (unlikely to be impacted upon by deer)

Visit Date	Feature Category	Feature	Last Assessed SCM Condition
01/07/2011	Birds - aggregations of breeding birds	Dotterel (<i>Charadrius morinellus</i>), breeding	Favourable Maintained

Parallel Roads of Lochaber SSSI (unlikely to be impacted upon by deer)

Visit Date	Feature Category	Feature	Last Assessed SCM Condition
26/08/2002	Earth Sciences	Fluvial Geomorphology of Scotland	Favourable Maintained
10/06/2009	Earth Sciences	Quaternary of Scotland	Favourable Maintained

5.11 DMG Monitoring – Historic & Current

5.11.1

Across the group there is a variety of monitoring methods and levels of monitoring. Woodland monitoring is discussed under section 5. There are members who have only taken part in the group monitoring by the MacAulay Institute in 2003 to those who have commissioned their own monitoring studies. Below is a summary of the monitoring that is currently carried out:

- Whole of Mid-West DMG: Rapid Assessment of Grazing & Trampling Impacts on Upland Habitats for the Mid-West DMG. The Macaulay Institute, October 2003.
- FES: monitor deer impact on forest restocking & new planting using nearest neighbour methodology and for native woodland they use the FC "Woodland Grazing Toolbox" system
- JMT: Use the Best Practise Guidance methodology for Heath plots and tree seedling. They have 30 of the heath plots and 160 of the seedling plots. They also carry out fixed pint photography every 3 years on Blanket Bog and Woodland edges. Juniper is also monitored where size & browsing are considered on tagged individual plants.
- Corrour: Utilise the Best Practise Guidance methodologies for dwarf shrub heath & blanket bog. They also carry out tree and watercourse monitoring.

- SIMEC: Have carried out monitoring this year for the first time using the methodology that has been used on their Glenshero Estates since 2003. They intend on expanding this methodology over the Mamore and Killiechornate to provide an estimate of deer population and information on the impact of deer on habitats.

5.12 Future DMG Monitoring

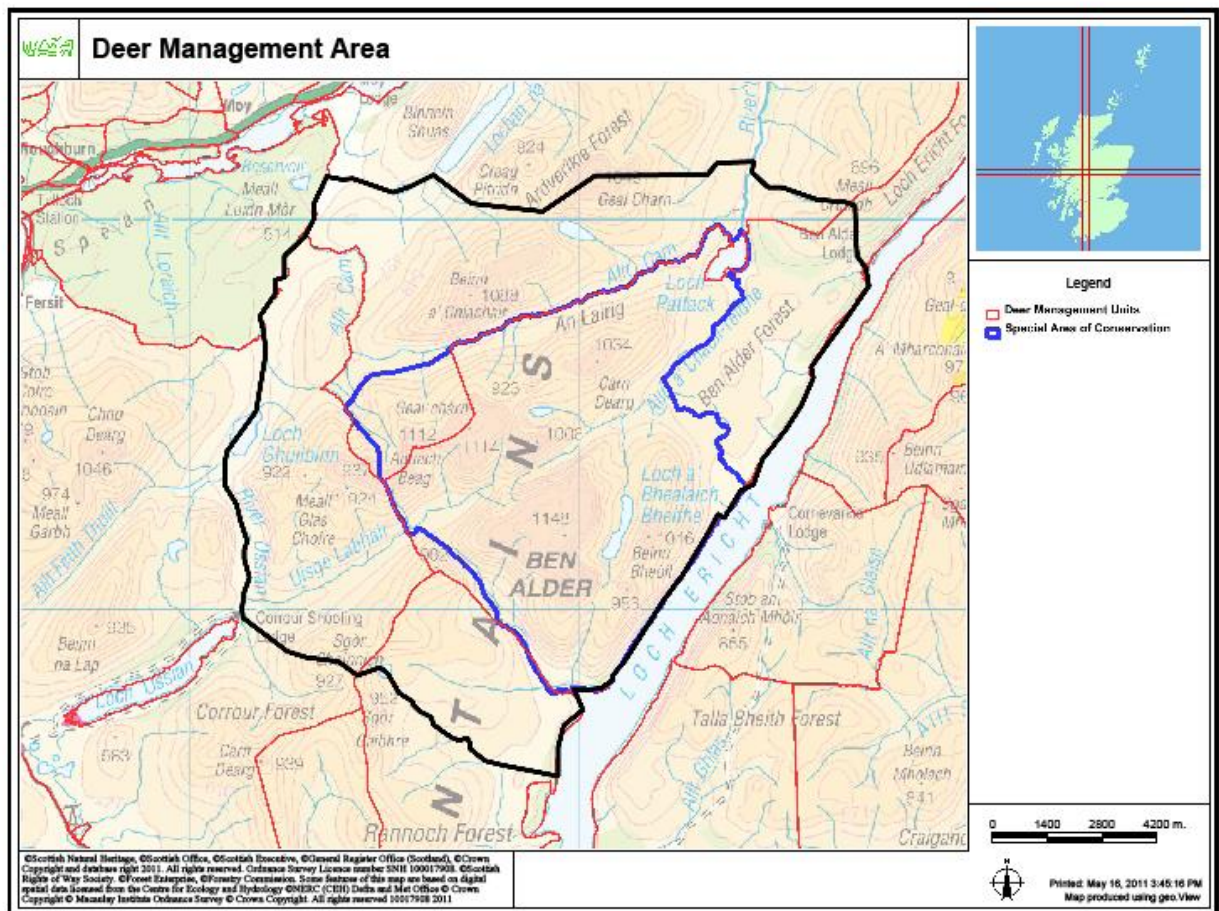
- 5.12.1 Different methodologies of monitoring have been utilised on the Mid-West DMG area. These monitoring methods should continue unless members disagree otherwise. The DMG have agreed to implement a monitoring programme over the whole of the DMG using a uniform methodology. All members are keen to learn the skills required to undertake monitoring and many members already use the Best Practise methodology of habitat monitoring. A group training session will be organised for early summer and followed up with monitoring across the DMG to produce an assessment of impact across the DMG area.
- 5.12.2 A count in 2017 will give the group confirmation of population for the time of the count but population can also be monitored through dung counts. This will be carried out as part of the DMG's monitoring across the whole DMG area.
- 5.12.3 The DMG have agreed to collate and share all monitoring results with other members. This could be achieved through a member's only library on the DMG website.

5.13 Management of Designated Sites

- 5.13.1 The designated sites Ben Nevis SAC and the Ben Alder SAC both have steering groups set up to specifically focus on the operations which take place within these areas. SIMEC and JMT are members on the Ben Nevis Steering Group and Ben Alder Estate, Ardverikie and Corrour for the Ben Alder & Aonach Beag SAC Management Group. Management of both the Ben Alder SAC and Ben Nevis SAC are described in more detail below.

5.14 Ben Alder SAC Management

- 5.14.1 The Ben Alder and Aonach Beag Special Area of Conservation (SAC) is about 67km² and lies to the west of Loch Ericht. The boundary of the SAC and the boundaries of properties with land in the SAC are shown on the diagram below. The boundary of the SAC is the same as the boundary for the Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). The Ben Alder SAC is of international importance and the Ben Alder SSSI of national importance. For a list of features and condition please refer to section 4.7.3.
- 5.14.2 This section of the Deer Management Plan is designed to replace the current Statement of Intent between the above properties which is due to expire in 2016. Inclusion of these management actions as well as the Mid-West DMG member's acceptance of the DMP will provide assured management status to the site.
- 5.14.3 The implementation of these management actions will be overseen by the Mid-West Deer Management Group (MWDMG).
- 5.14.4 The Ben Alder Deer Management Area (see below) extends to about 170km² and lies entirely within the area covered by the Mid-West Deer Management Group. The area of the SAC is 67sqkm.



5.14.5 Objectives and Methods

5.14.6 The primary objective of this section of the Mid West Deer Management Plan is to set out the deer management and habitat monitoring measures that will be implemented, by the properties involved, to maintain 'favourable' or achieve an 'unfavourable-recovering' status in the short term, leading to the achievement of 'favourable' status in the longer term.

5.14.7 The implementation of this Deer Management Plan will enable SNH to deem those habitats classified as 'unfavourable' to be re-classified as 'unfavourable – recovering'. It is acknowledged that achieving 'favourable' condition for some designated habitats may take many years.

5.14.8 Habitat Management

5.14.9 It is acknowledged that the combined effects of the complex interaction between various influences, past and present, have a direct bearing on the current condition of habitats in the Ben Alder SAC. Influences impacting on habitats include deer, climate, soil and topography.

5.14.10 Higher deer numbers in the past have been one of the contributory factors in determining the current condition of the site. When the site was first designated as an SSSI, deer numbers were significantly higher than at present (see 4.9.7.2 below) and although there is no record of habitat condition at the time of notification in 1964, it is likely that it would have been found to be 'unfavourable' using Common Standards Monitoring and may even have been in a worse condition than at present.

5.14.11 These management actions are aimed at addressing the most significant current factors influencing the condition of habitats in the SAC that can be influenced by management. Grazing and trampling by red deer are considered by SNH to be one of the principle current factors and habitat management measures will be aimed at reducing these impacts to improve habitat condition.

- 5.14.12 SNH advisory targets for overall herbivore impacts were set in 2011 and will be maintained for the duration of the DMP. They are:

Habitat	Advisory impact target
Alpine and subalpine heath	90% of sample locations should have impacts in the range from Low to Moderate to Low.
Blanket bog	
Dry heath	
Tall herbs	
Wet heathland with cross-leaved heath	
Montane acid grassland	
Plants in crevices on acid rocks	No impact assessment methodology
Plants in crevices on base-rich rocks	
Acidic scree	
Alpine and subalpine calcareous grassland	90% of sample locations should have impacts in the range from Low to Moderate to Moderate to High. However, not all impacts should be either Low to Moderate or Moderate to High.
Mountain willow scrub	90% of sample locations should have impacts in the Low range.
Flushes, including High-altitude plant communities associated with areas of water seepage	75% of sample locations should have impacts in the range from Low to Moderate to low. Up to 25% of samples may have impacts in the Moderate range.

- 5.14.13 Previously surveyed habitats (Blanket Bog, Wet Heath (Maier 2008)) were resurveyed in 2013. The results of this work showed that herbivore impacts were reduced between 2008 and 2013 to make significant progress towards the SNH advisory targets.

2013 Grazing and Trampling Impacts

		L	%	ML	%	M	%	HM	%	H	%	TOTAL
Blanket bog whole site	G	35	64	18	33	2	4	0	0	0	0	55
	T	21	38	24	44	10	18	0	0	0	0	55
Wet heath Ben Alder	G	2	7	22	79	4	14	0	0	0	0	28
	T	7	25	18	64	3	11	0	0	0	0	28

- 5.14.14 These figures combined with a generally positive picture of additional survey information would indicate that the general prognosis for the site is improving and that continuation of the management principles agreed in 2011 should continue.

5.14.15 Deer Management Measures

5.14.16 Deer Management Area

- 5.14.17 The area over which deer will be managed in connection with delivering the aims extends beyond the boundary of the SAC. The map above shows the boundary of the Ben Alder Deer Management Area. The Deer Management Area (about 170km²) has been selected on the basis that it is believed to be a practical area over which to manage deer in connection with the Ben Alder SAC.

5.14.18 Deer Population

- 5.14.19 Red deer numbers have been reduced significantly in the Ben Alder Deer Management Area over the past forty years, as demonstrated by the deer count figures in the table below.

Year	1972	1986	1998	2006	2011	2013 (Summer)
Count	3909	3599	2727	2,492	2320	2335
Density (N km ⁻²)	23.0	21.2	16.0	14.9	13.6	14

(Data from RDC, DCS & SNH sources)

5.14.20 As with all counts, the count number is simply the number of deer there on the day. Particularly with summer counts, this may vary significantly in the short term and individual counts are therefore indicative only.

5.14.21 Indicative Target Deer Population

5.14.22 The initial aim is to achieve 'unfavourable – recovering' condition and the ultimate aim is to achieve 'favourable' condition, which will be assessed at future SNH Site Condition Monitoring (section 4.9.5 above). While providing a useful indicator in assessing progress toward this, deer numbers and density can only provide a crude indication. Given the reduction in deer numbers achieved over the past forty years and the long term nature of habitat improvements anticipated on blanket bog and wet heath habitats, the Ben Alder SAC Management Group believe that habitat improvements may still be occurring as a result of past reductions in deer numbers and will continue to do so for years to come. As the number of deer in the SAC area in summer is considered by the Group to be likely to be greater than in winter, herbivore impacts in summer may be relevant to achieving 'favourable' or 'unfavourable - recovering' condition (section 4.9.5.1 above).

5.14.23 When a relevant set of summer population or usage data has been obtained (this is likely to be at least 3 relevant summer counts) the Group will identify a suitable summer population taking into account the most recent habitat surveys, an economic sporting deer population and other relevant information.

5.14.24 The SNH advisory indicative target summer deer population for the SAC area is no more than about 12 deer km⁻² or about 800 deer (12 x 67 = 804) and SNH expects that delivering the target deer population will deliver the objective (section 4.9.5.1). The SNH advisory indicative target summer deer population is theoretical and based on research carried out elsewhere. The most recent SNH summer count (2013) indicated that 904 deer were present on the SAC.

5.14.25 The SNH indicative target summer deer population for the Ben Alder Deer Management Area is no more than about 2,000. A population of about 2,000 will give an overall density of deer in the Deer Management Area of about 12 deer km⁻² (12 x 170 = 2,040). The most recent SNH summer count indicated that were 2335 deer present in the management area.

5.14.26 Target Deer Culls

5.14.27 Deer culls in the Deer Management Area will be carried out by Ardverikie Estate, Corroul Estate, Camusericht and Ben Alder Estates. While Ardverikie, Camusericht and Ben Alder are content to increase the concentration of the cull within the management zone there would be no intention of increasing the whole estate culls.

5.14.28 A population model, based on the most recent deer count figures, may be used to indicate target culls. Indicative cull targets on an annual basis will be agreed at the MWDMG.

5.14.29 Achieving cull targets may require cooperation within and between estates in response to changes in deer behaviour and distribution.

5.14.30 Administrative Arrangements

5.14.31 A BASACMG Steering Group consisting of representatives from the properties involved and Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) has met in the past. This function will be superseded by the MWDMP.

5.14.32 The MWDMG will discuss monitoring information such as the condition of designated habitats, deer count information, cull achievement, management issues and any deer management proposals relevant to the management of designated habitats to reach consensus on the work

programme necessary to achieve 'favourable' or 'recovering' status for those habitats. Ardverikie Estate, Corrour Estate and Ben Alder and Camusericht Estate will retain responsibility for accepting and progressing management measures of benefit to the management of designated habitats.

5.14.33 Monitoring and Review

- 5.14.34 Estate staff will monitor progress towards deer management objectives by, for example, obtaining and collating information on overall cull achievement and sharing information on deer numbers, distribution and movements and by habitat monitoring.
- 5.14.35 Subject to the availability of resources, SNH will carry out a helicopter deer count across the Deer Management Area over the period of the MWDMP.
- 5.14.36 Subject to the availability of resources, SNH will carry out a repeat assessment of herbivore impacts in the SAC area, over the period of the MWDMP. Information obtained during any assessment of herbivore impacts will be interpreted by SNH in the context of SNH advisory herbivore impact targets (see table in 4.9.6.4).
- 5.14.37 Feature condition is assessed periodically by SNH (usually every six years) during Site Condition Monitoring (SCM) by SNH. Habitat Impact Assessments (HIA) provides a means of assessing current impacts and may indicate potential changes in condition. For example, high impacts may be indicative of deteriorating condition. However, this may not always be the case and it is possible that high impacts could be recorded during a period of improving condition i.e. when herbivores are consuming large amounts of available vegetation but the sward is improving in condition. Deer numbers may provide a surrogate indicator of potential impacts and changing condition, but this indicator is likely to be rather crude as the relationship between deer density and impact is complex.
- 5.14.38 Deer population and habitat monitoring information will be considered by MWDMP members and appropriate management responses will be explored, agreed and subsequently implemented.
- 5.14.39 All monitoring carried out by SNH or the estates will be carried out in the spirit of partnership and the management group may have input into the survey methodology and interpretation of the survey data for surveys carried out by SNH. All survey data and survey reports commissioned by SNH will be made available for comment by the group.

5.14.40 Communication

- 5.14.41 Delivery of the actions associated with this designated sites as well as information on habitat condition and survey results will be included in the minutes of the MWDMP and circulated as per the DMP.

5.14.42 Duration

- 5.14.43 These actions will be delivered under the timescales associated with the MWDMP.

5.15 Ben Nevis SAC Management

- 5.15.1 The Ben Nevis Special Area of Conservation (SAC) lies to the south east of Fort William. The boundary of the Ben Nevis SAC and the boundaries of properties with land in the SAC are shown on the map below. The Ben Nevis SAC is of international importance and the Ben Nevis Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) of national importance. The Ben Nevis SSSI has a slightly bigger area, including the Nevis Range ski area in addition to the area covered by the Ben Nevis SAC. The features and condition are listed below in section 4.
- 5.15.2 The Ben Nevis SAC lies entirely within the area covered by the Mid-West Deer Management Group. The area of the SAC is 93sqkm.
- 5.15.3 This section of the Deer Management Plan specifies the actions that members of this DMG make towards the Ben Nevis Steering Group which consists of: SIMEC Lochaber Hydropower 2 Ltd (Mamore & Killiechonan), Ben Nevis (John Muir Trust), SIMEC Grazing Tenants (Ian and Col McColl), SIMEC Agricultural Tenants (Cathy McColl & Donald McColl), Forestry Commission, Nevis Partnership, and Scottish Natural Heritage. Meetings have been held regularly since November 2010.

5.15.4 Objectives and Methods

5.15.5 The primary objective of this section of the Mid West Deer Management Plan is to set out the deer management and habitat actions that will be implemented, by the properties involved, to maintain 'favourable' or achieve an 'unfavourable-recovering' status in the short term, leading to the achievement of 'favourable' status for features of both the Ben Nevis SSSI and the Ben Nevis SAC in the longer term.

5.15.6 The implementation of the actions agreed by the Ben Nevis Management Group and set out briefly within this Deer Management Plan is designed to deliver favourable condition for a number of relevant habitats. Commitment to the Deer Management Plan (when published) will enable SNH to deem those habitats classified as 'unfavourable' to be re-classified as 'unfavourable – recovering due to management'. It is acknowledged that achieving 'favourable' condition for some designated habitats may take many years as their current condition is the result of decades of high herbivore impacts.

5.15.7 Past and present management

5.15.8 It is acknowledged that the combined effects of the complex interaction between various influences, past and present, have a direct bearing on the current condition of habitats in the Ben Nevis SAC. Influences impacting on the Ben Nevis habitats include herbivores, recreational activities, climate, soil and topography.

5.15.9

5.15.10 Higher herbivore numbers in the past has been one of the contributory factors in determining the current condition of the site. The number of sheep using the site has been reduced in the last twenty years, and there was further reduced by about 3000 since 2003. Grazing and trampling by red deer and sheep are considered by SNH to be one of the principle current factors affecting habitat condition and habitat management measures will be aimed at reducing these impacts to improve habitat condition.

5.15.11 Areas within the SSSI are very popular for hillwalking, sightseeing, winter climbing and rock climbing. These activities have led to the formation of several footpaths, and some paths have become eroded. The Nevis Partnership have organised repair work on substantial lengths of the path with financial assistance from SNH and Highlands and Islands Partnership Programme and the Heritage Lottery Fund. There was a potential specific problem in the use of Ben Nevis's No. 4 Gully as a summer descent route, as it crosses important plant populations. However, this has been largely addressed by the discoveries of new rare plant populations by the Nevis Landscape Partnership's North Face Survey.

5.15.12 The Nevis Range ski area on Aonach Mór was constructed in 1989-91, and attracts large numbers of visitors both in winter and in summer. In order to minimise the impacts of the ski area on natural heritage interests a number of conditions were attached to the granting of planning permission. These included careful and sensitive construction methods, and an annual monitoring programme. SNH and other key interests are represented on the Aonach Mor Liaison Group which was formed in order to review progress and advice on appropriate management actions. This includes a Hill Monitoring Group which undertakes twice-yearly site inspections. The monitoring programme uses a Limits of Acceptable Change (LAC) system with the LAC values agreed in advance by the Liaison Group. Overall, the system is working well and the few measures which exceed LAC values are subject to agreed management action and continued monitoring.

5.15.13 Woodland management to encourage natural regeneration is being carried out in two areas within the SSSI by fencing, with deer control within the fenced areas. The two areas are an enclosure in Glen Nevis, and a Woodland Grant Scheme on Meall an t-Suidhe which commenced in the early 1990s. A project involving small fenced enclosures and planting from seed sourced within the Glen is being led by The Nevis Partnership, with support from SIMEC and the John Muir Trust

5.15.14 Current Condition

Feature	Designation	Current condition	Date	Comments
Breeding bird assemblage	SSSI	Favourable – maintained	2003	Site check in 2013 – no follow up
Bryophyte assemblage	SSSI	Favourable – maintained	2005	SCM fieldwork for cycle 3 has been completed – current being assessed but no change anticipated
Caledonian Igneous	SSSI	Favourable – maintained	2002	Site check in 2013 – no follow up
Fly assemblage	SSSI	Favourable – maintained	2010	SCM fieldwork for cycle 3 has been completed – current being assessed but no change anticipated
Native pinewood	SSSI	Unfavourable – recovering	2013	Under threat from impacts of deer over 2 previous poor winters
Small mountain ringlet	SSSI	Favourable – maintained	2015	
Upland assemblage	SSSI	Favourable – maintained	2003	SCM for cycle 3 has been partially completed; internal debate about assessment but it is possible that this feature will fail assessment for deer impacts as a result of a change in how this feature is assessment
Upland oak woodland	SSSI	Favourable – maintained	2005	Site check in 2013 – no follow up
Vascular plant assemblage	SSSI	Unfavourable – no change	2002	SCM for cycle 3 has been completed and is augmented by the North Face project; assessment likely to be favourable – recovered in 2016
Acidic scree	SAC	Favourable – maintained	2009	Site check in 2014 – no follow up
Alpine and sub-alpine calcareous grasslands	SAC	Unfavourable – no change	2009	Due for site check in cycle 3 – may be changed to SCM. Failed for bare ground and trampling impacts by herbivores.
Alpine and sub-alpine heaths	SAC	Unfavourable – no change	2009	Due for site check in cycle 3 and changed to SCM. Failed for herbivore impacts – current (browsing and trampling) and historic (cover of grasses).

Base-rich scree	SAC	Favourable – maintained	2003	Due for SCM in cycle 3 with new sample points required.
Blanket bog	SAC	Unfavourable – no change	2013	Failed for herbivore impacts but showing signs of improvement
Caledonian forest	SAC	Unfavourable – recovering	2013	Under threat from impacts of deer over 2 previous poor winters
Clear-water lochs with aquatic vegetation	SAC	Favourable – maintained	2009	Site check in 2014 – no follow up
Dry heaths	SAC	Unfavourable – recovering	2015	Still failing for herbivore impacts but significant improvement and failure is marginal
High-altitude plant communities associated with areas of water seepage	SAC	Favourable – maintained	2013	
Montane acid grasslands	SAC	Unfavourable – recovering	2013	Still failing for herbivore impacts but significant improvement and failure is marginal
Mountain willow scrub	SAC	Unfavourable – no change	2003	Due for SCM in cycle 3 but debates about targets for this feature nationally as yet unresolved; mostly failed for herbivore impacts but also lack of seed
Plants in crevices on acid rocks	SAC	Favourable – maintained	2003	Site check in 2014 – no follow up
Plants in crevices on base-rich rocks	SAC	Favourable – maintained	2013	
Species-rich grassland with mat-grass in uplands	SAC	Unfavourable – declining	2013	This feature will deteriorate as other features come into favourable condition as it requires high levels of grazing. So result is good.
Tall herb communities	SAC	Favourable - maintained	2014	One of the features that is benefiting from the loss of grazing on the above feature
Western acidic oak woodland	SAC	Favourable – maintained	2005	Site check in 2013 – no follow up

Wet heathland with cross-leaved heath	SAC	Unfavourable – no change	2013	Failed for herbivore impacts but showing signs of improvement
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5.15.15 **Deer Management**

- 5.15.16 From the last count in 2011, deer density over Ben Nevis was found to be 3 deer/km² with the density over Killiechonate at 9 deer/km² and Mamore at 7 deer/km² (See below diagram)
- 5.15.17 As with all counts, the count number is simply the number of deer there on the day. Particularly with summer counts, this may vary significantly in the short term and individual counts are therefore indicative only.
- 5.15.18 The initial aim is to achieve 'unfavourable – recovering' condition and the ultimate aim is to achieve 'favourable' condition, which will be assessed at future SNH Site Condition Monitoring. While providing a useful indicator in assessing progress toward this, deer numbers and density can only provide a crude indication.
- 5.15.19 The benefits in reducing in sheep numbers and maintaining efforts to cull deer within the SAC deer over recent years are beginning to show, with signs of improvement in Dry heaths, Blanket bog, Montane acid grassland Wet heathland with cross-leaved heath. Dry heath habitats moved from unfavourable – no change to unfavourable – recovering in the 2015 cycle 3 assessment. The Ben Nevis Steering Group recognise the time delay in taking actions and in seeing the benefits, therefore the Steering Group have agreed to maintain deer numbers at the current levels through appropriate culls and to maintain stocking densities of sheep at the same level.
- 5.15.20 Deer culls are carried out by SIMEC and Ben Nevis Estate. The SAC area is not an easy area to stalk & extract deer though efforts are made to cull within the SAC. Focus is also directed in Glen Nevis during harsh weather as the sheltered glen is susceptible to influxes of deer. This has a particular effect on the designated feature of the Caledonian Pine.

5.15.21 **Monitoring and Review**

- 5.15.22 The MWDMP members will obtain, collate, share and discuss information such as the condition of designated habitats, deer count information, cull achievement, deer movements, management issues and any deer management proposals relevant to the management of designated habitats to reach consensus on the work programme necessary to achieve 'favourable' or 'recovering' status for those habitats.
- 5.15.23 The DMG members will also establish a monitoring programme in terms of assessing deer impact and population on open hill and in the woodland area of Glen Nevis. Appropriate management responses will be explored, agreed and subsequently implemented.
- 5.15.24 Subject to the availability of resources, SNH will carry out a repeat assessment of herbivore impacts in the SAC area, over the period of the MWDMP. Information obtained during any assessment of herbivore impacts will be interpreted by SNH in the context of SNH advisory herbivore impact targets.
- 5.15.25 Feature condition is assessed periodically by SNH (usually every six years) during Site Condition Monitoring (SCM) by SNH. Habitat Impact Assessments (HIA) provides a means of assessing current impacts and may indicate potential changes in condition. For example, high impacts may be indicative of deteriorating condition. However, this may not always be the case and it is possible that high impacts could be recorded during a period of improving condition i.e. when herbivores are consuming large amounts of available vegetation but the sward is improving in condition. Deer numbers may provide a surrogate indicator of potential impacts and changing condition, but this indicator is likely to be rather crude as the relationship between deer density and impacts - both current and historic - is complex.
- 5.15.26 All monitoring carried out by SNH or the estates will be carried out in the spirit of partnership and the management group may have input into the survey methodology and interpretation of the survey data for surveys carried out by SNH. All survey data and survey reports commissioned by SNH will be made available for comment by the group.

5.15.27 Communication

- 5.15.28 Delivery of the actions associated with this designated sites as well as information on habitat condition and survey results will be included within the annual review of the DMP and circulated as per the DMP.

5.15.29 Duration

- 5.15.30 These actions will be delivered under the timescales associated with the MWDMP.

5.16 Other Herbivores

- 5.16.1 Other herbivores in the Mid-West DMG include sheep and some cattle. There is little agriculture over the DMG area and the Scottish hills nationally have seen a decline in sheep. 2500 sheep have been removed from Glen Nevis since 2005 and 2000 sheep from Loch Treig side. In 2009 an additional reduction of 250 sheep were removed from Carn Dearg on the Ben Nevis SAC and 6000 sheep were removed from the Mamore hills during the early stage of the Kinlochleven native woodland scheme.
- 5.16.2 The grazing sheep is limited to in-bye fields on Ardverikie, Camusericht, Killiechonate, Mamore, and FES. Exceptions are the secure Agricultural tenancies on Killiechonate where limited flocks do extend over the west side of the Grey Corries on Killiechonate Estate. Corrour have approximately 35 cattle grazing the Strath Ossian/ Loch Ghuilbinn area during July and August. Through the Rannoch Trust Cruach have been trialled the grazing of cattle as a method of improve the vegetation. The Trust are intending on funding another long term experiment from 2017 – 2042.

5.17 Non-native Species - Mammals

- 5.17.1 As a result of The Wildlife and Countryside Act 2011 and the Code of Practice -July 2012 landowners are required to ensure non-native species are managed to prevent spread. In terms of deer species, Muntjac, Chinese Water deer, Sika are all classed as non-native to Scotland. Only Sika deer are noted to exist within the Mid-West DMG area. All members are in agreement to cull Sika within season and according to Best Practise to limit spread of the population.
- 5.17.2 Other non-native animal species include Feral Pigs which have been sighted within the FES, Killiechonate & Corrour areas Mid-West DMG area. Though only very limited in numbers, there is agreement by members to cull on sight. Advice would always be sought from SNH with regards to the management of any non-native species within the Mid-West area. Reports of sightings and any culls should be reported to SNH and the DMG secretary. There have also been unconfirmed sightings of Mink. Nevis Landscape Partnership with JMT will be surveying for presence with mink rafts followed by intention to trap and dispatch if present in 2016.
- 5.17.3 Feral Pigs have been observed by the FES, Killiechonate, and Corrour. The Mid-West DMG have agreed to cull these as appropriate and according to Best Practice.

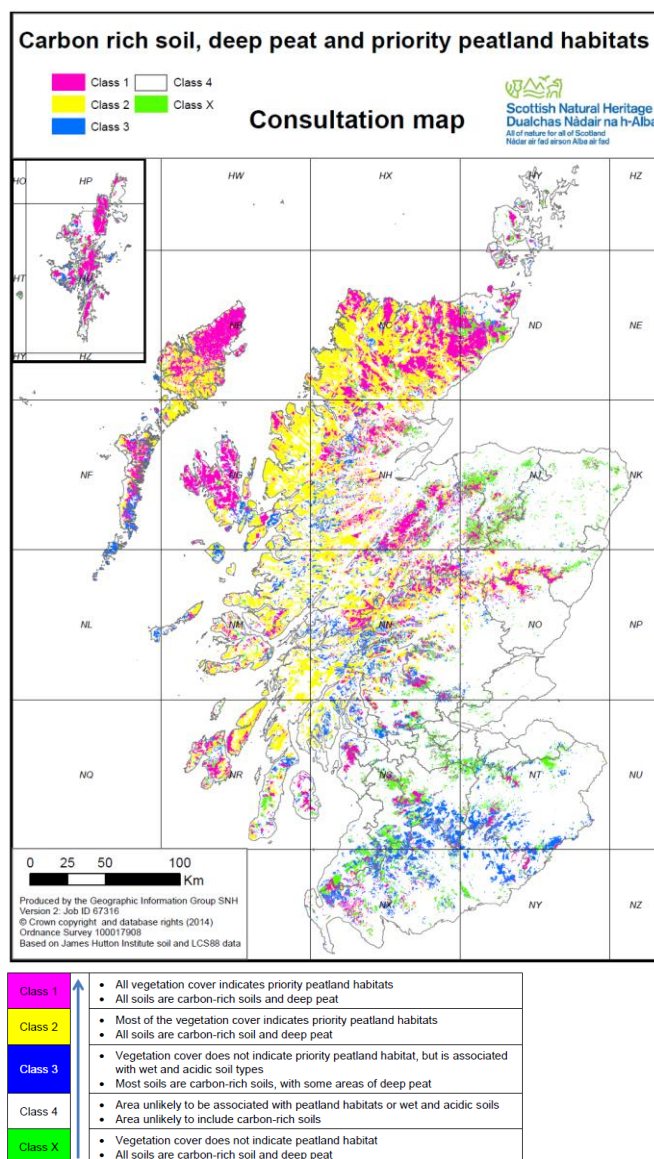
5.18 Non-native Species - Plants

- 5.18.1 Notable non-native plant species include Rhododendron, particularly to the west of the DMG and Japanese knotweed. SIMEC have committed to making an application for funding for a removal programme within the Leven Valley SSSI and are working with the Lochaber Fisheries Trust in tackling Japanese Knotweed around Fort William.
- 5.18.2 For further information on non-native species please refer to the reference document; Code of Practise on Non-Native Species <http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0039/00398608.pdf>

5.19 Carbon Sensitive habitats

- 5.19.1 Peatlands are known to store large amounts of carbon and a greater emphasis is being placed on ensuring peatlands are improved or a least maintained. Almost a fifth of Scotland's land is covered with peat. Blanket bogs are found over much of the north-west Highlands, the islands and in most of our upland areas.

- 5.19.2 SNH has produced Scotland's first National Peatland Plan (available as a Reference Document) and have set up Peatland ACTION to deliver projects to restore peatlands. In recognition of the high potential environmental and social value of peatlands, the Government has made £15million available for restoration projects. £5 million of this is available immediately through with the remaining £10 million to be delivered through the Scotland Rural Development Programme 2015-2020.
- 5.19.3 SNH have also looked at identifying priority peatland habitats as defined by land covered by peat forming vegetation or vegetation associated with peat formation. A map was produced with the pink areas given highest priority followed by the yellow, blue, white and lastly green.
- 5.19.4 The Mid-West Deer Management Group as a whole have not discussed peatland management, though Rannoch Deer & Forestry Management Association are working with SNH on a Peat restoration project. Corrour Estate also has a woodland peatland restoration programme in place and hosted a Peat ACTION workshop. Corrour are felling 200ha of woodland to allow peatland restoration to take place.
- 5.19.5 Blanket Bog will be one of the habitat types monitored as part of the habitat monitoring for deer impact.

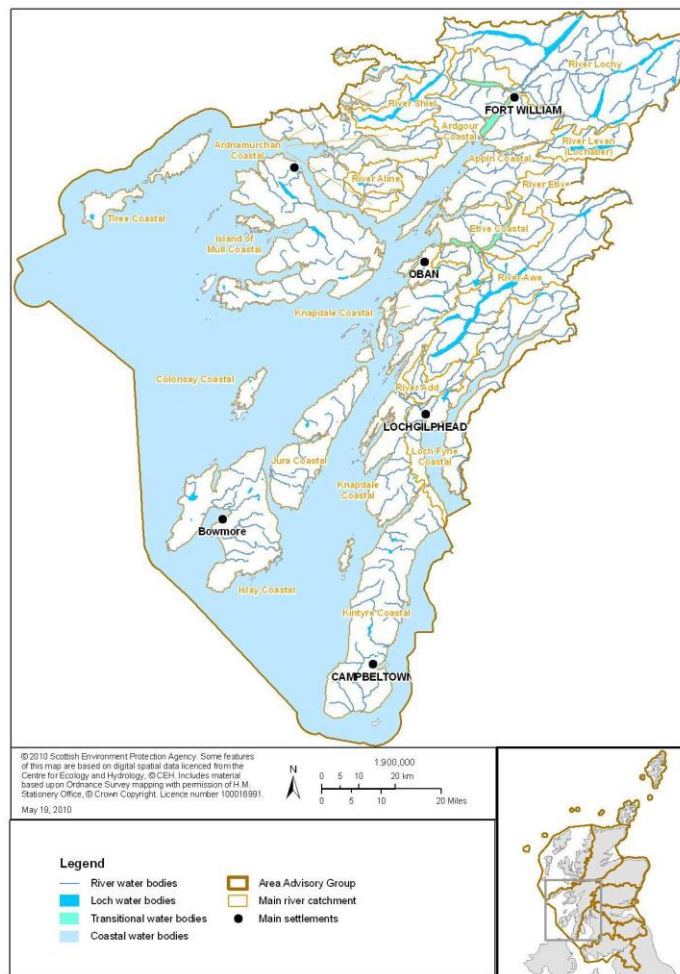


Please refer to appendix 5 for a full sized plan

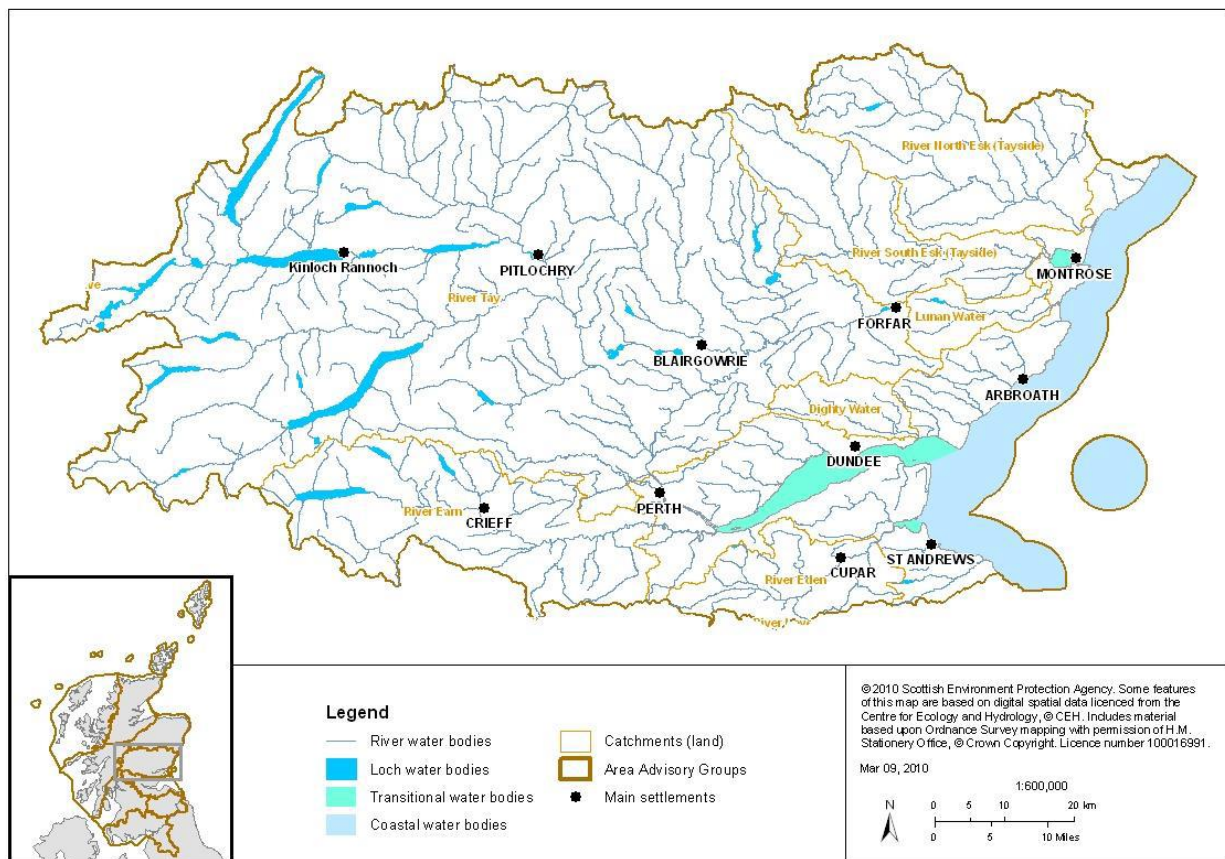
5.20 River basin management planning

- 5.20.1 River basin management planning is about protecting and improving Scotland's water environment. There is now a second edition of Scotland's river basin management plan for the Scotland River Basin District 2015-2027. These are written by SEPA for the Scottish Government in order to comply with European legislation of the Water Framework Directive which came into force in Europe in in December 2000. The directive applies to all rivers which drain a catchment area greater than 10km², all lochs bigger than 0.5km², and all coastal waters up to 3 nautical miles out to sea, estuaries, groundwater and wetlands.
- 5.20.2 The directive became law in Scotland through the Water Environment and Water Services (Scotland) Act 2003 and sets out arrangements to prevent deterioration of the water environment and where possible restore surface waters and groundwater damaged by pollution, water abstraction dams and engineered activities to "good status" by 2015.
- 1.4.1 Scotland's water is amongst the best in Europe, with 63 per cent of water bodies already of good or better status. Ministers have now approved River Basin Management Plans (RBMPs) with a target of 97 per cent of Scotland's water bodies to achieve good or better status by 2027.
- 5.20.3 The Mid-West DMG have not been asked to contribute to the development of the river basin management plan, though some members are involved with local fishery trusts and SIMEC are members of the Argyll and Lochaber Advisory Groups. The Mid-West DMG falls within two advisory groups; Argyll & Lochaber and the Tay Advisory Group.

Argyll & Lochaber River Basin Management Area



Tay River Basin Management Area



5.21 Wildfire

- 5.21.1 This is currently a topic that is managed on an individual level or with neighbours. Corrour Ardverikie and FES also have written plans in place. The basis of a fire plan is to:
 - 5.21.2 Assess the situation
 - 5.21.3 Raise the alarm and communicate the situation (e.g. phone fire brigade; contact other members of staff and neighbours who may be able to assist.
 - 5.21.4 Gather equipment (Fire Plan, vehicles, beaters, water bowsters, radios / phones etc.)
 - 5.21.5 Liaise with fire brigade to co-ordinate action plan before taking action.
 - 5.21.6 Members comply with the Muirburn Code and inform neighbouring landowners if they are to be carry going out Muirburn. An electronic copy will be made available as part of the reference documents which accompany this DMP. An example Fire plan for an estate can be found in the Wildfire Operational Guidance document produced by the Scottish Government.

Actions - Environment:

- DMG to develop specific actions to allow the DMG to maintain designated sites in a favourable condition or to improve sites to a favourable for recovering status. **Complete**
- All members to carry out habitat monitoring following training day to contribute to a whole group habitat monitoring report **August 2019**
- Ben Alder SAC Group to maintain 90% of sample locations in the low / Low to Moderate impact range **Duration of DMP**
- Ben Alder, Camusericht, Ardverikie and Corroul to work together to reduce population of deer on the SAC and around the SAC (Buffer Zone) to 12deer / km2.
- Ben Alder, Camusericht, Ardverikie and Corroul commit to setting up Habitat / population monitoring on and around the Ben Alder SAC **Complete**
- To cull sika deer within season and according to Best Practise. **Continual**
- To cull feral pigs as appropriate and in accordance with Best Practise. **Continual**
- Rhododendron clearance project to be set up within Leven Valley SSSI **In Progress**
- Request information from SNH in order to priority peatland habitats within the Mid-West Deer Management Group
- Inform River Basin Advisory Groups of the existence of the DMG and ask if they require any information or support from members in reviewing and delivery of River Basin Management Plans. **March 2019**
- Member to discuss and agree on a wildfire policy **Complete**
- All members to submit copies of any habitat monitoring results to DMG secretary **ASAP**
- Members to adhere to Muirburn code and inform neighbours when muirburning **At all times**

6.0 Woodland Environment

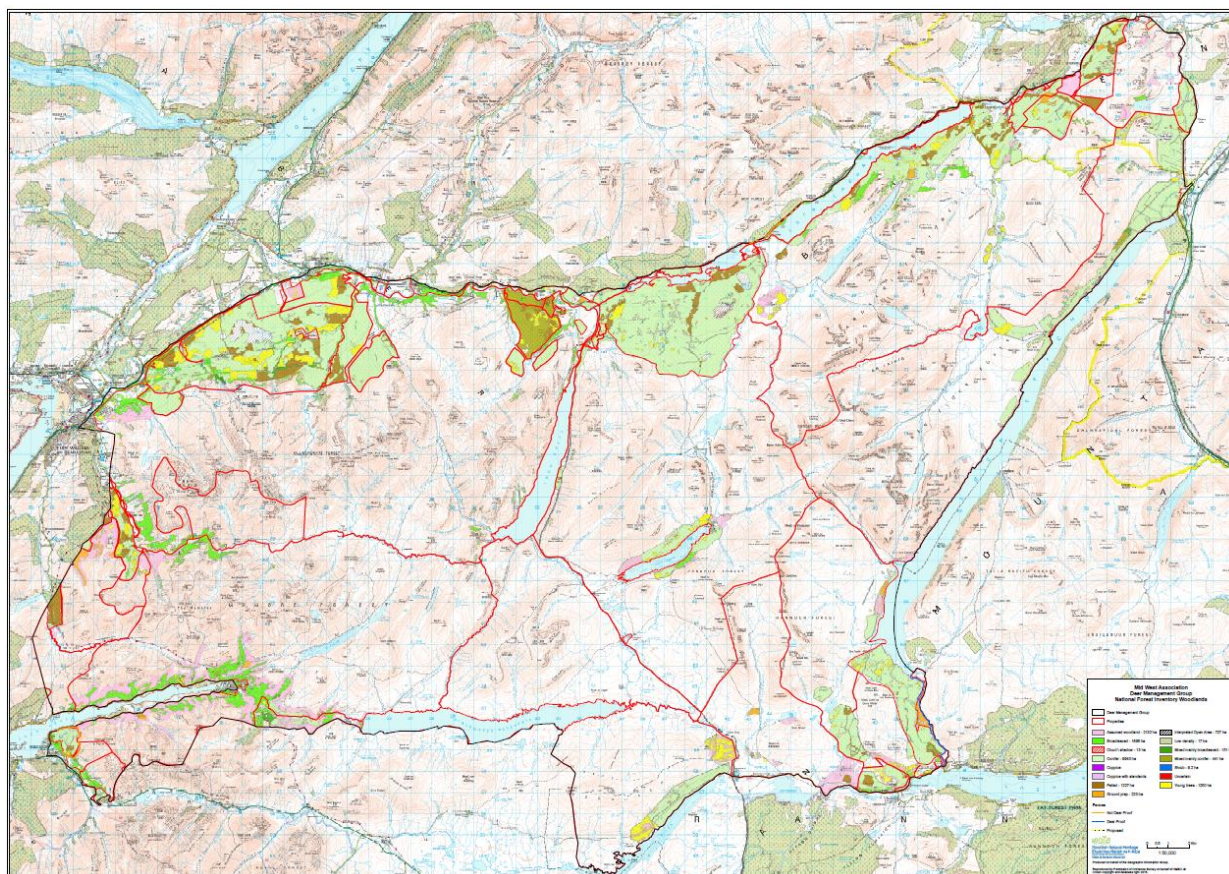
6.1 National Forest Inventory & Woodland Creation Schemes

- 6.1.1 The tables below are taken from the National Forest Inventory Records. The main forest cover is conifer, followed by assumed woodland cover, then broadleaf, giving a total of 17,269ha of woodland coverage within the Mid-West DMG. A total of 13,874 ha of woodland have been created with the assistance of woodland creation schemes.

Woodland Creation Scheme	Area (ha)
SFGS scheme (2005-06)	1,188
WGS 1 Scheme (1991-92)	1,070
WGS 2 Scheme (1993-94)	1,884
WGS 3 Scheme (1995 – 04)	9,552
SRDP (2007-13) – low cost	44
SRDP (2007-13) – Native woodland	136
Total	13,874

Woodland Cover	Area (ha)
Assumed Woodland	2,132
Broadleaved	1,896
Conifer	9,940
Mixed – mainly broadleaf	151
Mixed mainly conifer	441
Young trees	1,250
Felled	1,227
Ground prep	223
Shrub	9.2
Total	17,269.2

6.2 National Forest Inventory within the Mid-West area.



Please refer to appendix 6 for a full sized version of this plan

6.3 Woodland Creation Schemes - Mid-West DMG Area.

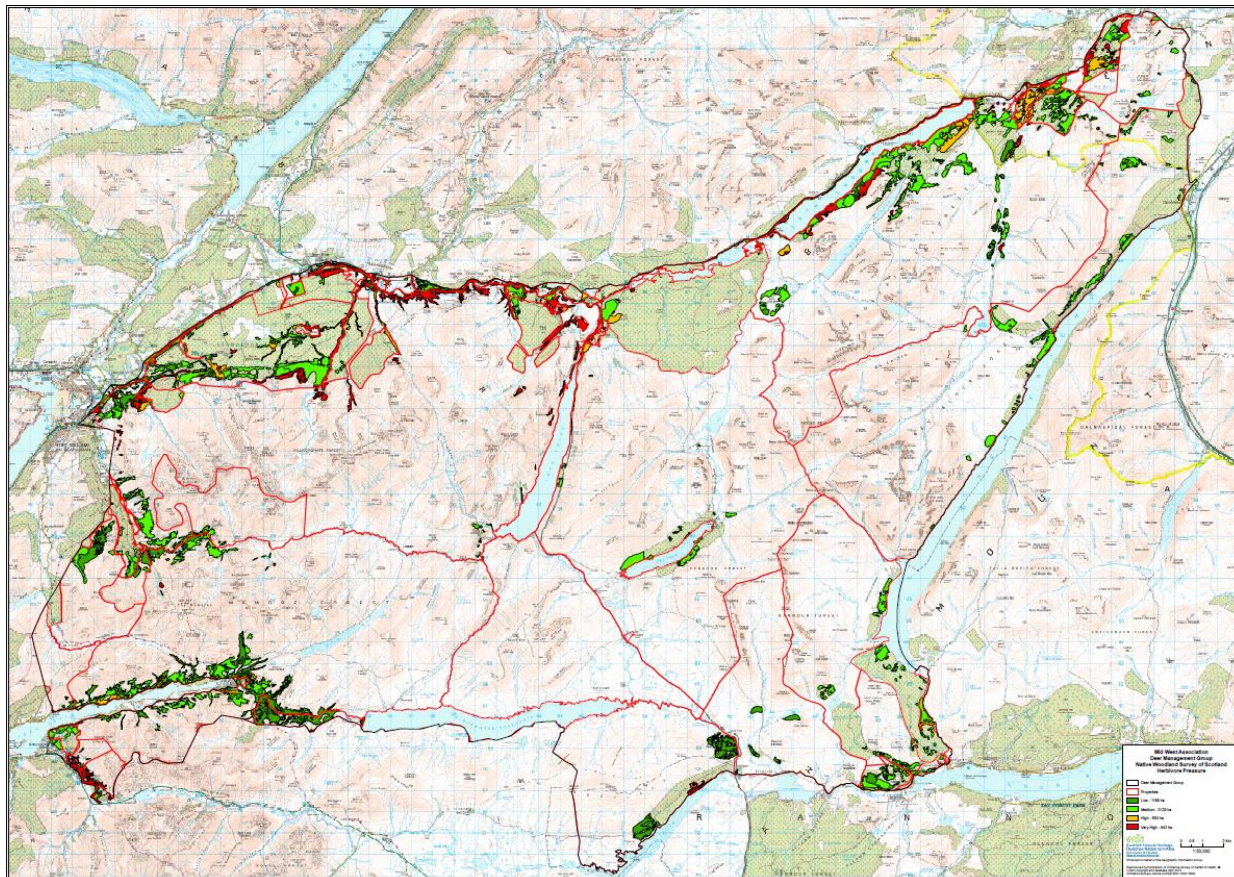


Please refer to appendix 7 for a full sized version of this plan

6.4 Native Woodland Herbivore Pressure

- 6.4.1 The national forest survey of Scotland of native woodland within the Mid-West DMG shows that 4327ha (76%) has a low or moderate level of herbivore pressure and 1392ha (26%) of native woodland subject to a high or very high herbivore pressure. The below plan shows where the herbivore pressures are the highest.
- 6.4.2 The high pressure areas between Spean Bridge and Tulloch are likely to be largely attributed to sheep or cattle pressure as the land in this area is occupied under Secure Agricultural Tenancies. Other areas identified as high are most likely to be open to deer to provide essential deer shelter.

6.5 Native Woodland Survey of Scotland – Herbivore Pressure



Please refer to appendix 8 for a full sized version of this plan

6.6 Individual Members Woodland summary

- 6.6.1 Corrour have a commercial forest area of approx. 380ha; of which the perimeter fencing is porous to deer in places. 200 ha have been made deer proof with fencing. Over the last 10yrs approx. 383 ha have been felled and replanted. An additional 200ha is being felled for peatland restoration purposes. New native woodland planting (Jubilee Wood) of 6ha took place in....Corrour are also looking long-term to natural regenerate without the support of grants 600ha along Loch Treigs side.
- 6.6.2 Ardverikie also have a forest plan in place for their commercial forest. This is out with the deer range. All felling and re-planting is taking place within exiting enclosures, though there are plans to expand through a compensatory planting scheme. – Up to 100ha of mixed commercial /non-commercial, Sitka Spruce/ Scots Pine. Out with the forest plan some small deer shelter belts (1-3ha) have been planted without the use of grants.
- 6.6.3 Glen Nevis comprises mainly unfenced native woodland dominated by birch. Scattered veteran Caledonian pines are present on the steep crags, with rowan, alder, oak and willow present on parts of the lower slopes. The native woodland is located within the Ben Nevis SSSI and the Ben Nevis and Glen Coe SAC. The Caledonian pine and upland oak woodland areas are features identified in the SSSI Management Statement, with the upland oak classified as being in favourable condition, while the Caledonian pine is reported as being in unfavourable condition.
- 6.6.4 The John Muir Trust ethos is to encourage native regen through monitoring and targeted culls. Individual protected planting is also planned by JMT in Glen Nevis. The woodland in Glen Nevis is susceptible to deer damage during harsh weather conditions. Together with SIMEC, The Nevis Partnership and Ben Nevis Steering Group specific actions are being taken. SIMEC in partnership with the Nevis Landscape Partnership are in the process of creating 8 small

enclosures within the existing woodland (totalling 0.38Ha on the south side and 0.59Ha on the north side.), to be planted with Scots pine. This is not receiving any external funding and is programmed to be completed in autumn 2016. This project assists the Nevis Landscape Partnership with the Caledonian Pine and education projects. The seeds have been sourced within the Glen and grown in local schools and nurseries.

- 6.6.5 In 2002 SIMEC were granted WGS funding for the Kinlochleven Native Woodland Restoration project. The scheme extended over an area of approximately 3600ha with a total of 288ha of new woodland established. Work was also carried out to control Rhododendron and stock was excluded.
- 6.6.6 SIMEC also has an active SFGS scheme in Glen Nevis. This was planted in 2006 in association with the neighbouring Glen Nevis Estate. The woodland comprises 48.27 hectares of planted Scots pine and native broadleaves. To ensure compliance with the SRDP contract 20ha was replanted in 2015 due to extensive damage by a fire.
- 6.6.7 On Dunan Estate there are 3 small plantations totalling approximately 100 acres. These were planted in fenced enclosures 18 years ago and remain inaccessible to deer, though over the next 2 or three years Dunan will open them up to deer. 400 acres of native woodland was planted 4 years. This is also fenced.
- 6.6.8 Cruach Estate has a forest plan in place. Recently the fence was removed around the 1963/75 plantation though at either end there are new WGS plantations (90ha planted in 2001 and 130ha planted in 2002). These are fenced, however once they are sufficiently established the Estate will remove the fences and open up to deer. Cruach intend on felling in 2016 the NE part of Cruach Woodland and the SW part will be felled in around 10 years' time. The felled areas will be replanted.
- 6.6.9 Ben Alder and Camusericht Estate are in the process of reviewing their Forest Plan and will provide information to the DMG in due course. They do have woodland which deer can gain access to for shelter
- 6.6.10 Forest Enterprise Scotland has a number of woodland areas within the Mid-West DMG's area. These are:
- Glen Nevis
 - Leanachan
 - Rannoch Lodge
 - Glenrigh & Calart (not currently within the DMG boundary but will be if agreed to extend the western boundary)

Actions – Woodland Environment:

- Corrour to complete 200ha felling programme for peatland restoration **Complete**
- Ardverikie to undertake expansion plan of up you 100ha of mixed commercial / non-commercial Sitka / Scots Pine **Ask Ardverikie**
- SIMEC to work with Nevis Partnership to create a number of small enclosures of totalling 0.97ha of Caledonian Scots Pine in Glen Nevis **Complete**
- Cruach to fell NE part of Cruach Woodland **December 2016?**
- Cruach to re-stock NE part of Cruach woodland **December 2018?**
- Ben Alder to provide woodland actions **March 2016?**
- All members to annually report with a summary of forestry actions, e.g. areas felled, areas planted, areas opened up to deer **Annually**
- DMG require specific actions to target improving woodland under very high or high grazing pressure. **Complete**
- JMT to continue targeted culls in potential regeneration areas including out of season from mid-Feb to end March **Yearly**

7.0 Historic & Cultural Environment

- 7.1.1 The online mapping facility at <http://pastmap.org.uk/> allows a map based search of the DMG area for areas with Historic Environment Record, Scheduled monument status, gardens & designated landscapes, conservation areas, listed buildings and inventory battlefields. The Highland council maintain an online Historic Environment Record which provides further information on features. Perth and Kinross do not appear to have this facility and contact would have to be made with them directly for further information.
- 7.1.2 Members were asked to identify any historic or cultural features known to them which could be impacted upon by deer. The JMT identified the Charcoal Platforms in Glen Nevis and Cruach an old croft. There are a number of Charcoal Platforms which have been recorded. The Glen is also sensitive to deer numbers from a pine tree perspective and numbers of deer are kept to a minimum. Though this is a very difficult area to extract deer from and an area with high public access. Deer are also known to seek shelter and food during harsh winters.
- 7.1.3 The croft site - Creag Dhubh-Bheag on Cruach Estate has a Historic Environment Record I.D. of MPK13473. This site exists within an enclosed woodland and is known to the Estate. Dunan also protect all their old croft sites.
- 7.1.4 SIMEC allow the local archaeological club to carry out digs with recent interests around the Inverlochy Battlefield site, the dummy smelter factor and at Killiechonate.
- 7.1.5 There are no other historical features at risk from damage by deer.

8.0 Deer Population and Management

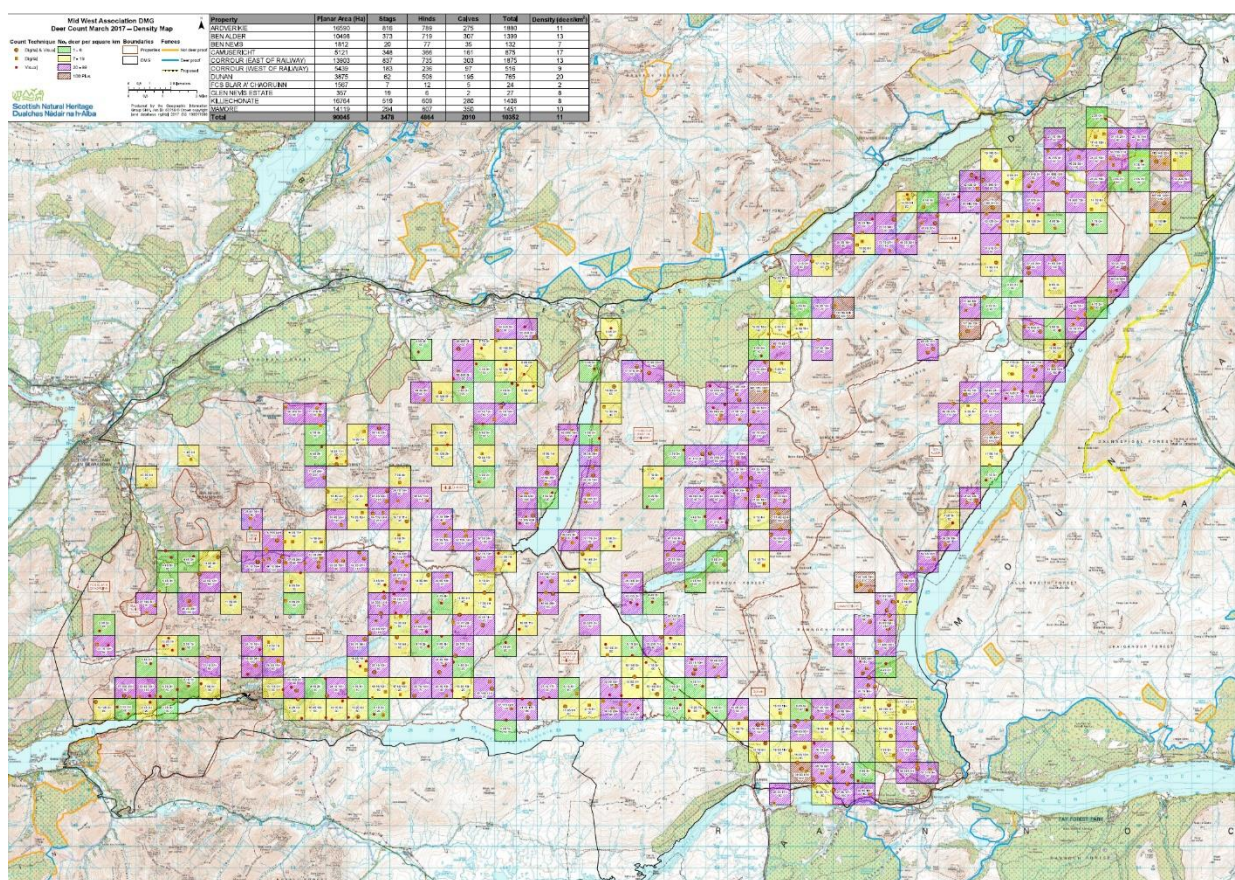
8.1 Counts

- 8.1.1 SNH carried out a helicopter count in Spring 2011 and Spring 2006. This has provided reliable data on the population of deer. The group have discussed future counts and agreed that future counts should be carried out by helicopter in spring 2017 to maintain comparable accurate methods of counting.
- 8.1.2 However, funding from SNH is unlikely in the coming years and if the group are to continue with helicopter counting alternative means of funding should be sought, otherwise the helicopter counts will have to be privately funded. Members appreciate how expensive helicopter counting is and some members can feasibly carry out ground counts. It was agreed that a ground count if carried out on the same days as the helicopter counts would be acceptable to the whole group as an accurate count. Forestry is also not suited to helicopter counts and the FES Forestry blocks have always been excluded from helicopter counts over the Mid-West area.
- 8.1.3 A quotation has been sought from PDG with regards to counting. There is a lack of competitors with regards to helicopters firms, however PDG are very experienced in carrying out counts and SNH have offered to assist with manpower and mapping. The estimate provided was in the region of £34,000 plus VAT.

8.2 Count Information

- 8.2.1 A helicopter count of the MWAHE was carried out in spring 2011 by SNH. Photography was used to capture large groups of deer which could not be counted from the helicopter. A helicopter count was also carried out in spring 2006 though the photography was less detailed and resulted in more unclassified deer. Appendix 9 contains the map produced by SNH detailing the count results of the 2011 count. The table below details the deer populations in each area following the counts in 2006 and 2011 and is shown in graph format below.

8.3 Mid-West 2017 Count Plan



Please refer to appendix 9 for a full sized version of this plan

Breakdown of Counts carried out in 2006 and 2011 over the Mid-West DMG area

Property	Year	Planar Area (Ha)	Stags	Hinds	Calves	Total	Density (deer/km²)
Ardverikie	2006	16528	977	1706		2683	16.2
Ardverikie	2011	16,590	786	1,167	285	2,238	13.5
Ardverikie	2017	16,590	816	789	275	1880	11
Ben Alder & Dalwhinnie	2006	10,498	472	1,194		1,666	15.9
Ben Alder & Dalwhinnie	2011	10,498	469	523	159	1,151	11
Ben Alder & Dalwhinnie	2017	10,498	373	719	275	1399	13
Ben Alder Split	2011	8,720	352	371	117	840	9.6
Dalwhinnie Split	2011	1,890	117	152	42	311	16.5
Ben Nevis	2006	1,812	0	120		120	6.6
Ben Nevis	2011	1,812	6	38	14	58	3.2
Ben Nevis	2017	1,812	20	77	35	132	7
Blar a' Chaoruinn	2006	No data					
Blar a' Chaoruinn	2011	1,584	8	17	6	31	2
FCS Blar a' Chaoruinn	2017	1,567	7	12	5	24	2
Callart	2006	No data					

Callart	2011	635	60	4	1	65	10.2
Camusericht	2006	5,123	465	482		947	19.7
Camusericht	2011	5,123	415	297	103	815	15.9
Camusericht	2017	5,123	348	366	161	875	17
Corrour (East)	2006	13,898	1,091	1,456		2,547	18.3
Corrour (East)	2011	13,905	588	773	224	1,585	11.4
Corrour (East)	2017	13,903	837	735	303	1875	13
Corrour (West)	2006	5,499	219	396		615	11.2
Corrour (West)	2011	5,499	154	214	70	438	8
Corrour (West)	2017	5,499	183	236	97	516	9
Cruach	2006	4,505	76	177		253	5.6
Cruach	2011	4,505	143	240	57	440	9.8
Dunan	2006	3,843	21	579		600	15.6
Dunan	2011	3,875	41	448	135	624	16.1
Dunan	2017	3,875	62	508	195	765	20
FCS Glen Righ	2006	No data					
FCS Glen Righ	2011	2,052	24	0	0	24	1.2
FCS Leanachan	2006	No data					
FCS Leanachan	2011	3,124	40	3	2	45	1.4
Glencoe & Achnacon	2006	No data					
Glencoe & Achnacon	2011	609	52	6	3	61	10
Leacantuim	2006	No data					
Leacantuim	2011	254	6	22	7	35	13.8
Mamore & Killiechonate	2006	31,326	479	807		1,286	4.1
Mamore & Killiechonate	2011	31,332	856	1,308	431	2,595	8.3
Mamore & Killiechonate	2017	31,332	813	1416	630	2859	9.1
Mamore split	2011	14,567	255	597	207	1,059	7.3
Mamore Split	2017	14119	294	807	350	1451	10
Killiechonate split	2011	16,764	601	711	224	1,536	9.2
Killiechonate Split	2017	16764	519	609	280	1408	8
Total	2006	92,715	3,800	6,917		10,717	11.6
Total	2011	101,397	3,648	5,060	1,497	10,205	10.1
Total	2017	90045	3478	4864	2010	10352	11

8.4 Culls 2019-2020

8.4.1 The most recent cull figures for the group are summarised below.

	Culls 20019/20		
	Stags	hinds	calves
Ardverikie	109	83	19
Ben Alder & Dalwhinnie	23	100	30
Ben Nevis (JMT)	10	20	5
Cammusericht	22	32	12
Corrour fersit			20
Corrour old corrour	410	278	115
Cruach	20	24	8
Dunan	27	40	10
FES	40	2	0
Glen Nevis	3	4	0
Killiechonate	55	120	40
Mamore	39	200	50
total	758	903	309

8.5 Ben Alder SAC Culls

8.5.1 Figures include a buffer zone around the SAC

- 2014/15 hind cull - 100 hinds (57 SAC) 37 calves (14 SAC)
- 2015 Stag cull - 31 Stags (17 SAC)
- 2014/15 Natural mortality - 23 stags (23 SAC). 21 Hinds (19 SAC). 38 Calves (28 SAC)

8.6 Cull history

Red - Stags																													
Estate	98/99	99/00	00/01	01/02	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	07/08	08/09	09/10	10/11	11/12		12/13		13/14		14/15		15/16		16/17		17/18		18/19	5 yr average
														in	out	in	out	in	out	in	out	in	out	in	out	in	out		
Ardverkie	186	106	142	147	147	139	143	153	145	174	132	134	125	102	0	104	4	100	0	129	0	106	0	110	0	110	0	108	112.6
Camusericht	62	66	70	60	68	64	69	58	55	57	63	63	61	65	0	50	0	65	0	65	0	38	5	31	0	30	0	25	38.8
Ben Alder	94	73	119	79	74	91	70	45	65	62	62	62	56	55	0	50	0	50	1	52								41	
Ben Alder Woodland							4	2	2	13	21	5	2	1	0	0	0	3	0	4									
Dalwhinnie							6	6	8	9	10	10	9	11	0	8	0	12	0	11	0	37	0	40	0	40	0		45
Dunan	46	42	46	45	51	72	60	52	53	65	42	45	49	60	0	53	0	49	0	53	0	45	0	50	0	47	0	42	47.4
Mamore	70	87	82	124	155	232	80	50	131	62	66	63	182	55	65	35	30	13	3	20	0	17	0	25	0	50	0	65	35.4
Killiechonnate							45	50	67	55	41	42	49	66	0	65	0	63	0	64	0	63	0	56	0	56	0	49	57.6
Crusach	55	50	47	45	47	52	51	46	39	35	29	23	27	24	0	34	0	34	0	31	0	36	0	32	0	30	0	20	29.8
Corrour	137	170	165	173	144	162	189	222	230	343	352	350	254	237	0	180	5	130	0	113	7	119	27	139	39	421	197	435	299.4
Ben Nevis							0	0	5	6	7	8	19	10	0	3	0	11	0	3	7	3	0	8	1	9	2	8	8.8
FCS					58	62	49	44	91	120	96	10	26	36	0	30	42	7	43	19	81	30	110	152	0	222	0	135	
Total	650	594	671	673	744	874	766	728	879	1000	921	815	859	722	65	612	81	537	47	564	95	494	142	643	40	1015	199	928	684.800
																					659		636		683		1214		

Red - Hinds																													
Estate	98/99	99/00	00/01	01/02	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	07/08	08/09	09/10	10/11	11/12		12/13		13/14		14/15		15/16		16/17		17/18		18/19	5 yr average
														in	out	in	out	in	out	in	out	in	out	in	out	in	out		
Ardverkie	303	302	317	298	100	135	164	185	203	250	200	202	201	200	0	200	0	180	0	206	0	139	0	129	0	107	0	107	137.6
Camusericht	76	52	60	58	50	48	56	45	55	53	62	62	33	50	0	50	0	35	0	33	0	40	0	40	0	52	0	36	40.2
Ben Alder	223	208	223	185	38	123	117	135	126	207	101	151	158	95	0	70	0	100	0										55.6
Ben Alder Woodland							1	0	1	23	22	14	9	3	0	0	0	2	0	126	0	73	0	83	0	122	0	80	41.2
Dalwhinnie							3	5	4	10	29	22	11	6	0	20	0	20	0										0
Dunan	108	75	86	77	67	72	80	65	70	70	53	52	52	44	0	40	0	30	0	31	0	31	0	59	0	140	0	58	63.8
Mamore	303	186	346	242	193	230	47	49	108	46	59	64	146	47	11	54	36	100	20	29	0	12	0	27	0	200	0	126	78.8
Killiechonnate							45	70	53	84	33	51	59	98	0	72	9	110	0	105	0	75	0	86	0	84	0	120	94
Crusach	129	128	77	71	62	43	59	37	35	38	28	36	52	38	0	40	0	36	0	45	0	35	0	35	0	39	0	35	37.8
Corrour	264	317	296	331	126	160	119	178	159	285	281	280	244	299	0	301	13	120	0	132	0	244	0	156	3	407	61	280	256.6
Ben Nevis																													17
FCS					34	35	45	28	71	59	59	11	20	26	0	29	9	12	9	3	7	16	13	26	0	72	0	42	
Total	1406	1268	1405	1262	670	846	736	797	893	1143	941	959	1044	925	11	896	67	763	29	733	10	683	13	644	4	1242	63	900	822.6
																								648		1305			

Red - Calves																													
Estate	98/99	99/00	00/01	01/02	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	07/08	08/09	09/10	10/11	11/12		12/13		13/14		14/15		15/16		16/17		17/18		18/19	5 yr average
														in	out	in	out	in	out	in	out	in	out	in	out	in	out		
Ardverkie	63	53	91	71	15	34	41	9	36	59	40	50	56	43	0	61	0	42		55		27		35		69		31	43.4
Camusericht	28	21	25	22	15	22	26	8	12	16	15	17	20	22	0	22	0	15		17		17		22		26		18	20
Ben Alder	70	65	78	60	9	35	61	29	35	53	32	41	38	24	0	23	0	22											
Ben Alder Woodland							3	0	1	16	6	4	1	2	0	0	0	11		51		19		26		31		22	29.8
Dalwhinnie							2	0	1	5	16	11	2	4	0	22	0	9											
Dunan	32	37	48	40	30	33	15	15	15	8	10	6	12	14	0	8	0	11		15		7		20		60		25	25.4
Mamore	97	39	118	92	35	31	21	19	24	26	17	27	61	18	6	38	0	41		9		6		13		84		46	31.6
Killiechonnate							14	0	16	4	5	7	14	26	0	19	0	30		40		20		32		34		40	33.2
Crusach	67	71	40	36	24	25	37	13	13	15	15	17	36	20	0	18	0	26		26		11		12		19		5	14.6
Corrour	105	117	112	115	38	70	53	131	53	89	98	92	83	112	0	106	4	41		76		71		80		245		109	116.2
Ben Nevis								0	8	4	4	4	24	3	0	4	0	4		3	1	7		0		8		9	5.6
FCS					14	12	18	9	24	19	21	2	14	10	0	18	0	13		8		12		17		38		23	
Total	462	403	512	436	180	262	291	233	230	318	279	278	361	298	6	339	4	255	0	300	1	197	0	257	0	614	0	328	337.6

8.7 Population Model

- 8.7.1 The current population model is based on the count carried out in Spring 2017 and the cull figures to date. Overall the DMG are aiming to keep a stable population, though there is flexibility within the group to target specific areas such as the SAC areas where an increased effort is made to keep deer densities low. The current population model does show a decrease in population. When new count figures are obtained the model mortality and recruitment rates will be reviewed.

Population Model for Mid-west Group using Bidwells Model & actual 2017 count numbers							
		Stags	Hinds	Calves	Total	Area (km ²)	Density
							Calving Rate %
	Spring 2006 population	3800	6917 unclassified		10717	927.15	11.6
	Spring 2011 population	3783	5612	1650	11045	1,117.14	9.9
	Spring 2017 population	3596	5201	2155	10952	963.11	11.4
					area (km2)	963.11	
Year		Stags	Hind	Calves	Total	Density	
2017	Spring 2017 Count	3596	5201	2155	10952	11.4	
	Recruitment	1078	1077				
	Summer (post calving)	4674	6278	2511	13463	14.0	
	Actual Cull	1218	1313	613	3144	3.3	
	Winter mortality	93	126	613	832	5.7	
	Spring 2018 estimate	3363	4839	1688	9890	10.3	
2018	Spring estimate	3363	4839	1688	9890	10.3	
	Recruitment	844	844				
	Summer (post calving)	4207	5683	2273	12163	12.6	
	Actual Cull	934	910	329	2173	2.3	
	Winter mortality	84	114	136	334	0.3	
	Spring 2019 estimate	3189	4659	1625	9473	9.8	
2019	Spring estimate	3189	4659	1625	9473	9.8	
	Recruitment	813	812				
	Summer (post calving)	4002	5471	2188	11661	12.1	
	Cull	758	903	309	1970	2.0	
	Winter mortality	80	109	131	320	0.3	
	Spring 2020 estimate	3164	4459	1556	9179	9.5	
2020	Spring estimate	3164	4459	1556	9179	9.5	
	Recruitment	778	778				
	Summer (post calving)	3942	5237	2095	11274	11.7	
	Cull	645	946	302	1893	2.0	
	Winter mortality	79	105	126	310	0.3	
	Spring 2021 estimate	3218	4186	1460	8864	9.2	
2021	Spring estimate	3218	4186	1460	8864	9.2	
	Recruitment	730	730				
	Summer (post calving)	3948	4916	1966	10830	11.2	
	Cull	555	781	215	1551	1.6	
	Winter mortality	79	98	118	295	0.3	
	Spring 2022 estimate	3314	4037	1408	8759	9.1	

8.8 Targets

- 8.8.1 There is a desire by the group to maintain the current cull rates of deer, though Corroul have expressed they wish to concentrate culls locally around Treigside. The heavy winter mortality experienced in over 2014/15 may influence the actual number of deer culled and particularly if winter 2015/16 is equally harsh.
- 8.8.2 Below is a summary of stags culled in season during 2015 and the proposed hind culls for 2015/16. The Mid-West DMG is of the opinion that a group wide count should be carried out before making any decision on changing dramatically from the current culls rates. The Stalkers on these estates are very experienced and can gauge if there are any changes in population. Proposed culls by each member are discussed at every AGM and based upon the knowledge of the stalkers and factors such as mortality, and birth rates.

	Stags (Actual)	Hinds (2015/16)
Ardverikie	110	130 – 140 + calves
Ben Alder	31	60 + calves
Ben Nevis	10 (will also shoot out of season)	20 + calves
Camusericht	41	40 + calves
Corroul	160	250 + calves
Cruach	20-30	35 + calves
Dunan	45	40 + calves
FES - red	80	40 + 15 calves
FES - Roe	50	50 + 30 calves
Killiechonate	63	80 + calves
Mamore	17	30 + calves

8.9 Density

- 8.9.1 Following the 2017 count a plan showing the changes in deer density was produced. This can be seen below;

[Please refer to appendix 9 for the full sized plan](#)

8.10 Non-native deer species

- 8.10.1 The Wildlife and Countryside Act 2011 together with the Code of Practice which came into effect in July 2012 means landowners are required to ensure non-native species are managed to prevent spread. In terms of deer species, Muntjac, Chinese Water deer, Sika are all classed as non-native to Scotland. Only Sika deer are known to exist within the Mid-West DMG area. All members are in agreement to cull Sika within season and according to Best Practice.

8.11 Feeding of Deer

- 8.11.1 Deer are provided supplementary feed over the winter months on Ardverikie, Ben Alder, Dunan, Cruach, Camusericht and small amount around Inverlair on Killiechonate Estate Feed includes hay, silages, cobs, and licks. Corroul, Mamore, Ben Nevis, FES and largely Killiechonate do not provide any additional feed.

8.12 Woodland Shelter

- 8.12.1 Section 5.3 on woodland within each members area provides information of what shelter is available to deer. Going forward it would be beneficial to map which woodlands have secure fencing and which are open to deer.

8.13 Mortality

- 8.13.1 A note is taken at every AGM on mortality found over the winter months. In some areas due to remoteness it is difficult to find deer. As part of the increased recording by the DMG it is recommended that each member specifies on the annual return the mortality found. Any significant mortality will be discussed as DMG meetings and any actions that can be taken to reduce will be put in place. As part of the Stalking operations over the Mid-West DMG area the poorest deer are selected thereby reducing the natural mortality.

8.14 Biosecurity

- 8.14.1 Biosecurity important to forestry industry with regards to tree disease. The majority of members do not currently have particular Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) measures in place. It is recommended that all members utilise the information given the CWD leaflet and distribute this to sporting clients. Killiechornate and Mamore provide the CWD leaflet to all sporting clients as part of the terms of let.



Chronic wasting disease (CWD) is a highly infectious disease which has devastating effects on many populations of wild and farmed deer. Red deer are also susceptible. CWD affects only deer and at present CWD is restricted to the United States of America and Canada.

CWD is caused by a prion and belongs to the same group of diseases as scrapie, which affects sheep and goats, and 'mad cow disease' (bovine spongiform encephalopathy or 'BSE'). This group of diseases are known collectively as 'transmissible spongiform encephalopathies' or 'TSE'. For short and CWD is the most infectious of these as shown by it being the only one that is maintained in a wild population.

- CWD has resulted in the death of every known infected deer
- There are currently no treatments or vaccines available to control the disease
- Efforts to control the spread of CWD in the USA/Canada have failed and it may be beyond control.

The prion is transmitted in deer body fluids and body parts including urine, faeces, saliva, central nervous system tissues and meat. The prion can remain infectious for up to ten years when bound to soil, several years on stainless steel and it defies normal farm disinfection processes. It is not known whether it can be disseminated via a carrion eater's digestive system.

Animals may take 18-24 months to exhibit clinical signs after becoming infected and become more infectious to others as the incubation period progresses.

CWD, like any TSE, is a Notifiable Disease and suspicion of the disease in any animal must be reported to your local Animal Health Office.

Disease surveillance carried out in some European countries has so far failed to find evidence of CWD present. However, if it were to become established in wild deer it would have major consequences:

- Loss of large numbers of the wild deer population
- Restrictions on sales of venison and live deer
- Restrictions on stalking activities

If the disease became established stopping its spread might be extremely challenging or practically impossible.

A possible (likely) route of transmission into the UK could be through countryside users bringing in contaminated clothing and equipment. A specific risk group might be hunters or stalkers who have hunted in parts of North America where CWD is present.

What can I do to limit the risk of disease spread?

CWD is highly infectious and is very resistant to both weather conditions and traditional disinfectants so it can remain in the environment for a long time. Additionally, it has been shown to stick to soil particles very efficiently for up to ten years. The only way to rapidly inactivate the infectious agent of CWD is to soak articles in a solution of bleach that has 20,000 parts per million of active chlorine, or 2 molar sodium hydroxide solution for one hour. This treatment would obviously be highly detrimental to most clothing, footwear and hunting equipment and so is mostly impractical.

As a countryside user visiting the UK/USA/Canada

- Consider whether you need to take clothing/equipment with you. Clothing and equipment bought or borrowed, used and then left in North America poses no risk to UK deer populations.
- If you need to bring such clothing or equipment to the UK, make sure it is scrupulously clean of all potential contamination - soil, blood, faeces etc.
- Meticulous cleaning of all adherent debris from equipment and clothing, especially footwear, will significantly reduce the risk of introducing CWD into this country, although it will not eliminate the risk.
- Do not bring any trophies or body parts back to the UK.

As a host/sporting agent

- Send this leaflet to North American stalking guests and also those who may have visited North America so they are aware of their responsibilities.
- Check all of their kit for cleanliness (it is unlikely that their kit will have been inspected for appropriate cleanliness at border control).
- Don't assume that because they are visiting from North America they will be aware of the risk of CWD transmission.

By adopting these guidelines you can help minimise the risk of transmission of this harmful disease into the UK.

Further information including details of clinical signs of CWD and the action to be taken if disease is suspected is available at:

http://www.bds.org.uk/chronic_waste_disease.html

<http://www.archive.defra.gov.uk/foodfarm/farmanimal/diseases/etoz/tse/publications/documents/tse-deer.pdf>

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/farmingrural/Agriculture/animal-welfare/Diseases/disease/wasting>

This information leaflet has been produced by the Deer Management Round Table. Membership includes:



Please refer to appendix 11 for the full sized version of the CWD leaflet.

8.15 Record Keeping

8.15.1 The DMG currently retain cull records for all group members and minutes of the AGM. As part of the development of this DMP, members are to submit more detailed information to the secretary. Information to be collected and retained:

- Culls (all species)
- Mortality (locations if possible)
- Average Larder Weights
- Any foot counts
- Any recruitment counts
- Habitat Assessment Results
- Forestry: Areas felled, planted or opened up to deer
- Any known deer vehicle collisions
- Any deer issues raised by members of the public

8.16 Membership facilities (SQWV membership etc.)

8.16.1 Scottish Quality Wild Venison (SQWV) is assurance scheme which exists to maintain, develop and promote Quality Assurance Standards throughout the whole venison industry. Assessments and checks are made throughout the food chain on members of the SQWV. Membership of the scheme commands a higher price for carcasses but also provides the venison market the reassurance that venison is safe to eat. Membership also further promotes the quality image of wild venison, re-assurance that food hygiene laws are being met, and reduced inspections from local authorities.

8.16.2 All members with the exception of Corroul who have confirmed they would be willing to join are members of the SQWV scheme. The John Muir Trust share a deer larder with FES and therefore also required to abide by SQWV standards.

Actions – Deer Population and Management

- | | |
|--|-------------------|
| ■ Group to decide when and how to carry out a helicopter count over the whole of DMG area. | Complete |
| ■ Group to carry out helicopter count in spring 2017 (some members may foot count on the same day) | Complete |
| ■ Carry out foot counts where foot counts are normally carried out to ensure continuity of members own count statistics. | Annually |
| ■ Results of all counts to be submitted to DMG secretary who will make available on the DMG's library of information | Annually |
| ■ DMG to research options & feasibility of obtaining funding | Annually |
| ■ All members to record and annually report back to the DMG secretary: | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Culls (all species) • Mortality • Average Larder Weights • Any foot / recruitment counts • Habitat assessment reports • Forestry: areas felled, planted, or opened up to deer • Any know DVC • Any issues raised by members of the public | Annually |
| ■ All members to distribute the CWD leaflet to sporting clients, particularly those from North America or those who have may have visited. | Continuous |
| ■ Corrou to register with SQWV | ? |

9.0 Wellbeing of People

9.1 Food safety

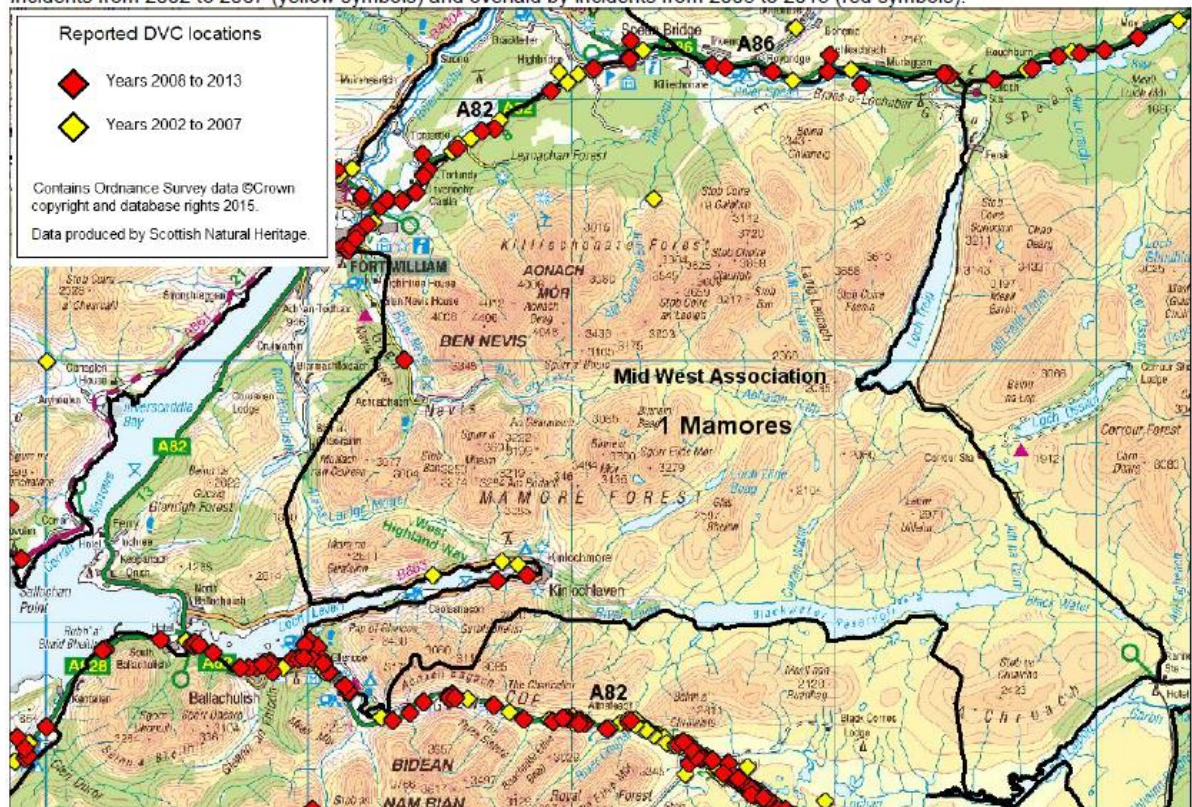
- 9.1.1 All members with the exception of Corroul (though are willing to join) are members of the SQWV scheme and all stalkers hold at least a Level 1 Deer Stalking Certificate. The Level 1 qualification covers deer biology, & ecology, the law on firearms and the culling of deer, stalking techniques, deer identification, the safety of handling firearms, shooting accurately and large game meat hygiene.

9.2 DVC / deer issues in urban areas

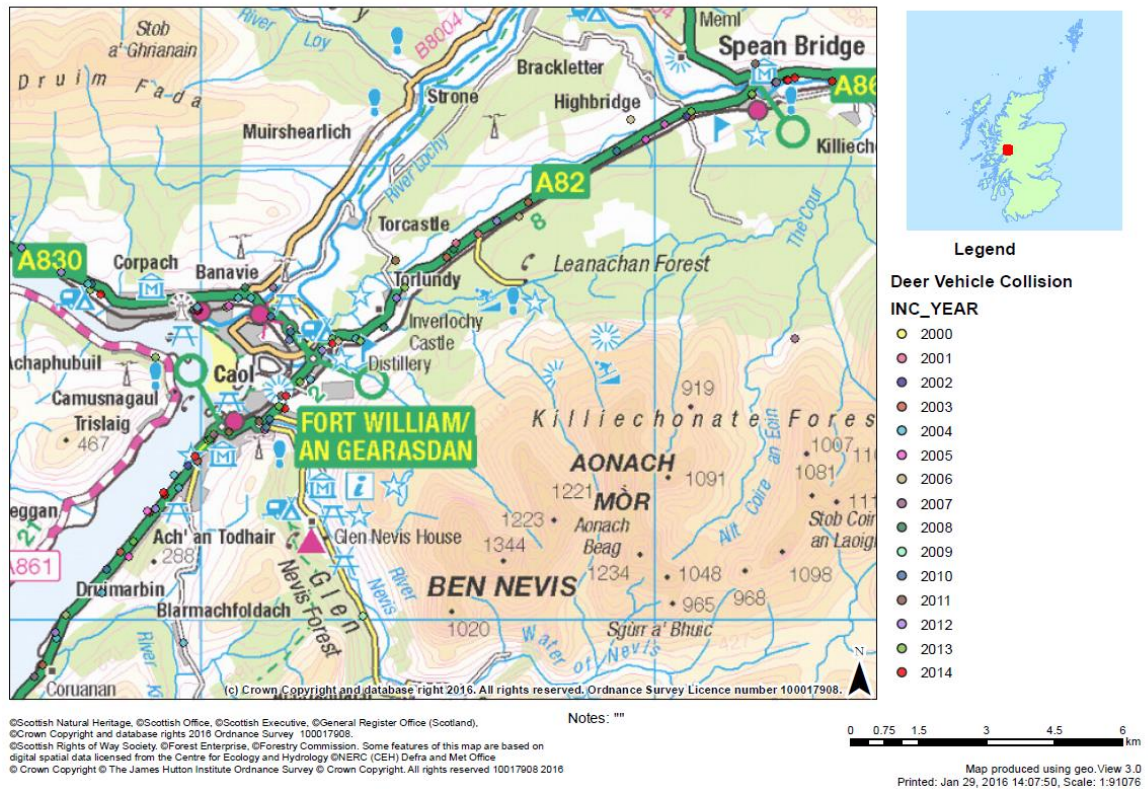
- 9.2.1 The reporting of Deer Vehicle Collisions (DVC) is new to the Mid-West DMG. To date data has not been collectively shared between the group, however SNH have provide the DMG with details of DVC which they have recorded. Please see the below maps for an indication of where DVC have been recorded.

9.3 Plans of Reported DVC across Mid-West DMG

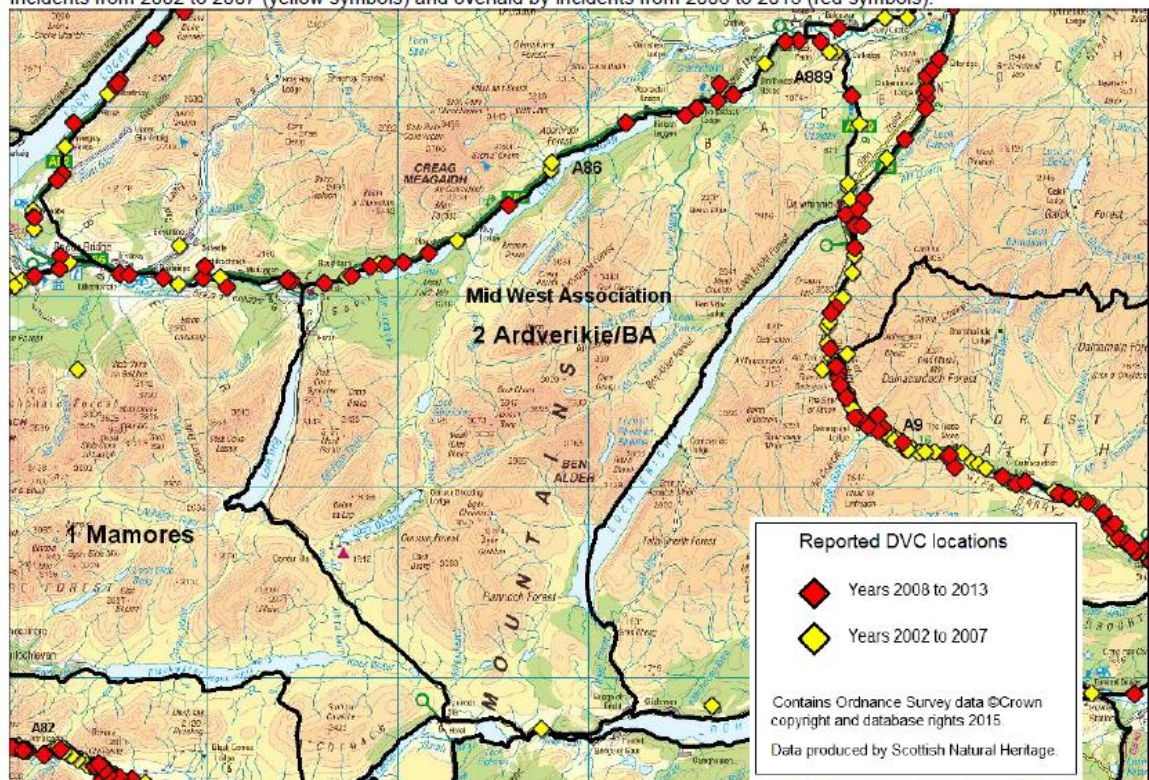
Reported locations of deer road casualties or related traffic collisions (DVCs) logged in SNH DVC database from 2002-2013. Incidents from 2002 to 2007 (yellow symbols) and overlaid by incidents from 2008 to 2013 (red symbols).



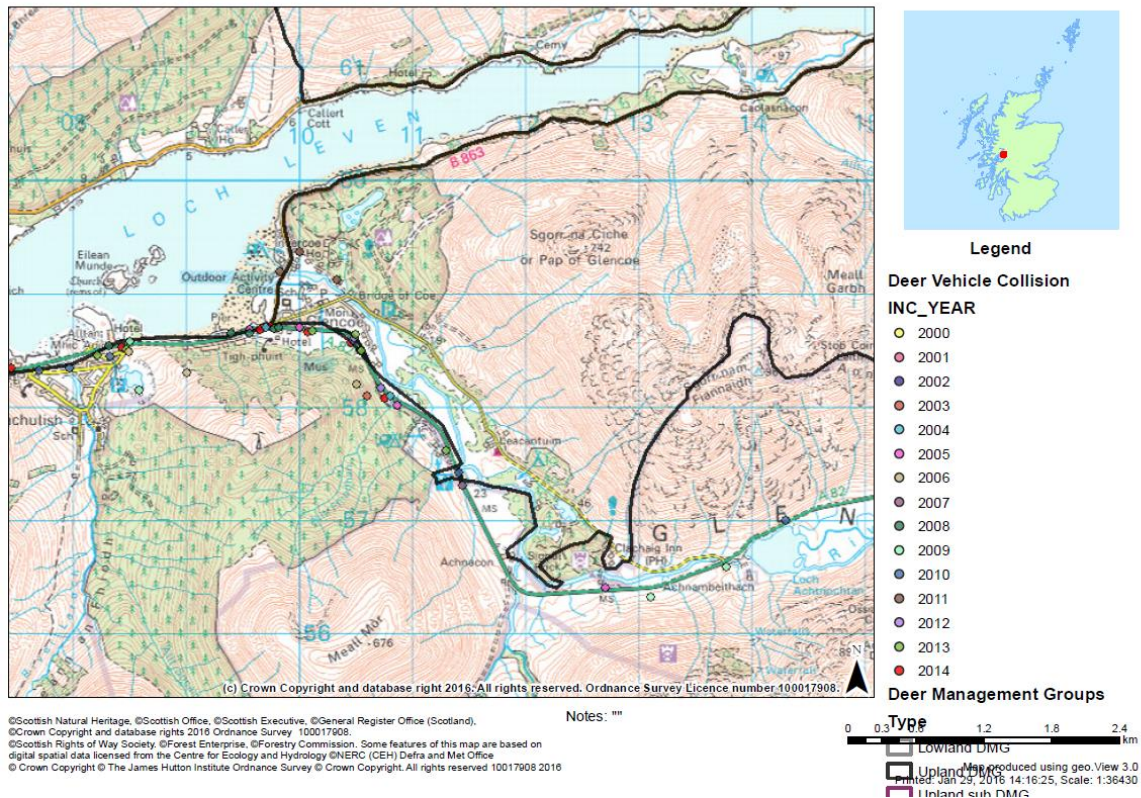
DVC Abstract MWDMDG



Reported locations of deer road casualties or related traffic collisions (DVCs) logged in SNH DVC database from 2002-2013. Incidents from 2002 to 2007 (yellow symbols) and overlaid by incidents from 2008 to 2013 (red symbols).



DVC Abstract MWDMG



9.3.1

Advice to drivers

- When you see deer warning signs, check your speed and stay alert.
- If your headlights are on, use full-beams when you can; but dip them if you see deer, as they may 'freeze'.
- There may be more than one deer waiting to cross in your path.
- Be prepared to stop. Try not to suddenly swerve to avoid a deer. Hitting oncoming traffic or another obstacle could be even worse.
- If you have to stop, use your hazard warning lights.
- Do not approach an injured deer - it could be dangerous.
- If you collide with a deer (or witness a collision) and someone may be injured, or the presence of vehicles/deer in the road are a risk to road safety, then you should treat this as an emergency and ring 999 for Police or Ambulance service immediately, or use an Emergency Roadside Telephone if there is one available

9.3.2

It is noted from the information gathered by SNH that the species of deer involved is rarely reported. Members should report any DVC they are made aware of. This can be done directly through the Deer Vehicle Collision website <http://www.deercollisions.co.uk> or through the Mid-West DMG secretary. Data is collected from the various councils, road departments & police and then verified to ensure there is no double counting.

9.3.3

The Mid-West DMG has few roads within the boundaries of the group and the majority of roads form boundaries with other DMGs. The DMG have not raised any issues that have arisen from deer interactions with the public, however greater communication and interaction from the DMG with the community and public would confirm whether there are any deer issues which need to be addressed. A link to the Deer Vehicle Collision website will be created through the DMG's website.

9.4 Lyme disease

- 9.4.1 Lyme disease is caused by a spiral-shaped, spirochaetal bacterium of the *Borrelia* genus is spread to humans (and other mammals and birds) through the bite of infected ticks. Deer are often carriers of tick and people working in the outdoors can also become suitable hosts for the tick.
- 9.4.2 Those that work in the deer industry or undertake country pursuits are becoming more aware of how to best avoid tick bites and remove correctly when bitten. The Best Practise series of guides has a specific guide on ticks. More details information can also be found at the Lyme disease action website: <http://www.lymediseaseaction.org.uk/what-we-are-doing/information/to-download/>

9.5 Best Practise

- 9.5.1 All members' employees have access to the Best Practise Guides produced by SNH for the industry. Updates to Best Practise guides are sent to all subscribers. Contact should be made with SNH should there be any queries about the guides. The guides can be found online at <http://www.bestpracticeguides.org.uk/>
- 9.5.2 The Best Practise Guides cover the following topics and can be found online at: <http://www.bestpracticeguides.org.uk/>
- Deer Ecology & Behaviour
 - Deer health & Welfare
 - Planning (e.g. population assessments, counts, records, Deer Management Plans etc.)
 - Firearms
 - Culling
 - Carcass Preparation
 - Habitat Assessment
 - Crop & Habitat Protection
 - People & Resources

9.6 Competence / Training Policy

- 9.6.1 All those that carry out stalking operations hold the level 1 Deer Stalking Certificate with many also holding the level 2 DSC. Camusericht, Ben Alder and Corroul are working towards achieving level 2 with all their stalking staff. Ardverikie are working with 2 of their staff to achieve level 2 certification during 2016.
- 9.6.2 Members currently organise for their staff to receive the training they require. As can be seen below members employees hold a range of qualifications. As a deer stalker the important qualifications include Deer Stalking Certificate, Vehicle handling and First Aid, however stalkers carry out a range of tasks and hence qualifications such as chainsaw handling, and vermin control.

Qualification	No. of stalking employees with qualification									Total
	Ardverikie	Ben Alder	Cam	JMT	Corrour	Cruach	Dunan	FES	RT	
DSC level 1	5	3	1	2	4	3	1	4	4	27
DSC level 2	2 in progress	1		1	2 + 2 in progress	1	1	4	2	16
Approved Witness (for Level 2)							1			1
Sit in ATV	4	4	2		4	2	1	4	3	24
Sit Astride ATV	4	4	2	2	4	2	1	4	2	25
First Aid	2	4	2	2	4	2		4	2	22
Off-road driving		1		1	0	2		1		5
Towing	1	1		1	2	2		4	2	13
Basic Fire Fighting (hill & forest)				1				1	2	4
Snaring & trapping	2	4	1			2	1			10
Mole control	1					1				2
Ladder & lifting						2				2
Tractor	3	4				1			1	9
Boat handling		4			2	1			1	8
Basic Chainsaw	3					1	1		2	7
Skilled Chainsaw (larger trees / windblow)									2	2
Butchery					1					1
Meat hygiene	5	1					1			7
Chipper		3							1	4
Habitat Assessment				2					2	4

9.6.3 Courses often require a minimum number of attendee to run and therefore it is recommended that if members are looking into organising course for employees they should invite near neighbours within the DMG.

9.6.4 To assist with the recommendation to carry out group wide monitoring the DMG is to investigate organising training or information day on Habitat Monitoring.

9.7 Recreational Activities & Access



9.7.1 There are a number of notable Munros within the DMG area. Mountain ranges include the Grey Corries, Ben Nevis, the Mamores, Corrour, Ardverikie and the Ben Alder hills. The Mid-West DMG is supportive of the Scottish Outdoor Access Code with individual Estates providing bothies and access to Scotland's hills and Munros. Members do suffer from occasional disruption to stalking but in general members have a good relationship with those taking access to the hill. Hillwalking, climbing, camping, running, mountain biking and horse riding all take part over hill

ground, with many making use of land rover and historic tracks. The MOD also regularly uses hill ground for training.

- 9.7.2 The long distance route The East Highland way runs from Fort William to Aviemore passing through Killiechonate, Corrour & Ardverikie Estates. The West Highland way finishes in Fort William with the last section passing through Mamore Estate.
- 9.7.3 More organised access included events such as hill running, charity events, long distance runs, Duke of Edinburgh Award activities, mountain biking and with permission the Scottish Six Day Trials. Members in consultation with SNH, support and consent to this annual event taking place. The event attracts motorbike riders from across the world and has been running for over 100 years. The Six Day trials typically run over land owned by Dunan, SIMEC, Corrour, and FES. Another large event held in the DMG area is the World Cup Downhill Mountain bike Championship on FES and SIMEC though the Nevis Range.
- 9.7.4 Land leased by SIMEC lease allows the Nevis Range to operate a skiing, mountain biking and a high rope course. Other business such as Highland Activities, Vertical Descents, Mountain Guides all utilise the land across the DMG. Vertical Descents set up first via feratta in Scotland in Kinlochleven and Highland activities utilise sties around Ardverikie.
- 9.7.5 On the waterbodies fishing and canoeing are undertaken. Corrour have Brown Trout & Pike fishing from the bank or by boat. Dunan also offer fishing. All members with the exception of JMT, and FES offer let stalking for stags and hinds. Corrour also offer Clay Pidgeon shooting. Ben alder – Grouse?
- 9.7.6 The footpath from Rannoch Station to Black Corries Estate is maintained Cruach Estate. They also keep Loch Laidon beach / shore tidy. The JMT maintain paths and navigational cairns and organise work parties, guided walks and talks. Both JMT and SIMEC are fully supportive of the organisation Nevis Partnership who secured £3.9M of Heritage Lottery funding to undertake a number of projects in the Glen Nevis area.

9.8 Heading for the Hills

- 9.8.1 This is a source of information that is becoming more widely known by those that take access to the hills as a source of information with regards to stalking activities. The webpage has replaced the hill phone service as more people take to the internet for information and can be found at <http://www.outdooraccess-scotland.com/Practical-guide/public/Heading-for-the-Scottish-Hills>. There are links to the site through SNH's website or on the Scottish Outdoor Access website. The Mid-West DMG is located with area 6.
- 9.8.2 The JMT, Killiechonate and Mamore provide stalking information to this website. Other members, such as Cruach provide information to access takers through signage as and when stalking on certain beats provides access takers with a mobile no. to contact should they require further information. However members should consider providing information to the Heading for the Hills website. There is guidance on what information to provide and who to send this information to on the website.

Actions – Wellbeing of People

- Clarification is required from SNH who requires to collect / report Deer Vehicle collision **Completed**
- Members to make a note and report any DVC they are made aware of. **Continuous**
- DMG Secretary to provide link to DVC website on DMG website **Complete**
- DMG to review DVC on an annual basis. Should there be any concerns about DVC these will be addressed. **Annually**
- Website to contain contact details for members of the public **Complete**
- All members to circulate to all staff guidance on Lyme's disease and how to best remove ticks **Continual**
- All members to confirm that the Best Practise documents are up to date and available to all employees **Complete?**
- Ardverikie to confirm if they have any employees working towards DSC Level 2 **Completed**
- Camusericht, Ben Alder and Corroul to confirm expected dates of completion for those working on Level 2. **?**
- DMG to organise training or information day on Habitat Monitoring. **May 2019**
- DMG to review access information available to the public on the Heading to the Hills website **Complete**

10.0 Sustainability

10.1 Employment - Stalking

- 10.1.1 Stalking for the majority of members is vital to maintaining a viable business and it provides the local economy with jobs, and venison as a food produce. The Mid West DMG are committed to maintaining a sustainable population of deer to allow culls to be maintained at current levels which will maintain the current level of associated employment. Within the Mid-west DMG 20 people are employed full time as stalkers or ghillies. During the main sporting season an additional 11 people are employed as stalkers or ghillies.

Estate	Full time	Seasonal	Student/trainee
Ardverikie	2 Stalkers	1 Ghillie / ponyman	2 FT
Ben Alder	2 Stalkers + 2 Ghillies	1 Ghillie	
Camusericht	1 Stalker	1 Ghillie	
Corroul	3 Stalkers + 1 Ghillie	2 Ghillies	
Cruach	1 Stalker + 1 Ghillie	1 Stalker + 1 Ghillie	
Dunan	1 Stalker	1 Ghillie	
JMT (shared with another JMT Estate)	2		
Killiechonate	1 Stalker	1 Stalker + 1 Ghillie	

Mamore	1 Stalker	1 Ghillie	
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10.2 Employment - Other

- 10.2.1 The members also employ other staff to assist with maintenance tasks, housekeeping duties, conservation (e.g. Habitat monitoring, path maintenance etc.), other sporting / recreation management (fishing ghillies, pony trekking)

Estate	Maintenance	Farmers	Housekeepers	Other
Ardverikie	4 ft		2 ft	1 ft (resident mgr) 1 ft (secretary / office) Subcontracted leisure activities (quad tours, scenic 4x4 safaris, clays shooting etc.: 2ft & 3pt
Ben Alder				17ft + 2 seasonal ghillies
Camusericht				3
Corrour				
Cruach				
Dunan				
JMT (shared with another JMT Estate)				5 (conservation posts)
Killiechonate				
Mamore				

10.3 Training Opportunities

- 10.3.1 Members of the DMG have similar training requirements and with courses often more efficient with a certain number of attendees, it would be beneficial if members could communicate with other members of the group if there are vacant spaces on a course. In considering the actions identified in this deer management plan, there is a potential need for group wide training on habitat monitoring.

10.4 Adding Value / Efficiency Opportunities

- 10.4.1 Within the DMG adding value is considered. Where appropriate and makes economic success. For example Cruach and Dunan work with other neighbouring estates to collectively agree on collection rates for carcasses. It is difficult for the group as a whole to work together due to the geographical distribution of the road network. Corrour also regular carry out a tendering process for collection and FES are tied into a contract with a game dealer which covers all the FES properties.
- 10.4.2 Corrour have also trialled processing carcasses for the open market however they found this unviable and now only supply to the restaurant and guests on the estate.

10.5 Diversification

- 10.5.1 All the estates with the exception of Ben Nevis are run as traditional sporting estates for red deer. In addition Cruach aim to shoot 75 brace grouse. Ben Alder have limited trout fishing, a few roe deer and Dalwhinnie has limited grouse interests. Dunan offers opportunities to fish on two rivers and several lochs with charr, ferrox trout, brown trout and pike all catchable. Cruach also offer boat & river fishing. Corrour offer boating and fishing on unstocked lochs, clay pigeon shooting, and Icelandic pony treks. Killiechonate, Mamore, Ben Nevis and FES have no other sporting

activities but do have mountains and plenty of scope for sporting activities such hillwalking, climbing, and mountain biking.

10.5.2 Holiday cottages are available on many of the estates and some of the members also let the main lodge.

10.5.3 Between members it is estimated that there is about 16MW of hydro power being generated or due to come online in the near future.

11.0 Funding and Grants

11.1.1 The implementation of this DMP has the commitment of members; however the DMG may consider applying for funding to assist with the costs of implementation. This is to be further discussed. Below is a summary of funding mechanisms which may be applicable to members individually or to the group as a whole in implementing actions which have been identified in this DMP.

11.2 Rural Development: Forestry Grant Scheme

11.2.1 The Forestry Grant Scheme (FGS) will support:

- the creation of new woodlands – contributing towards the Scottish Government target of 10,000 hectares of new woodlands per year
- the sustainable management of existing woodlands

11.2.2 During the Scottish Rural Development Programme 2014–2020, £252 million will be available through this scheme. There is support for the creation of woodland and for the management of existing woodland.

11.3 Rural Development: Agri-Environment Climate Scheme (including support for organics and footpaths)

11.3.1 The Agri-Environment Climate Scheme promotes land management practices which protect and enhance Scotland's magnificent natural heritage, improve water quality, manage flood risk and mitigate and adapt to climate change. It will also help to improve public access and preserve historic sites.

11.3.2 A total of £350 million will be available between 2015 and 2020 to fund a range of activities that help to maintain and enhance our rich and varied natural environment. The scheme will be delivered jointly by the Rural Payments and Inspections Division (RPID) of the Scottish Government and Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH).

11.3.3 Under this scheme there are a number of management options. Relevant options to the DMG members would be Moorland Management. This would allow capital claims to be made for management operations such as open-range deer management, upland habitat assessment for deer management, deer census, ditch blocking, treatment of bracken etc.

11.3.4 The scheme is open to farmers, groups of farmers and other land managers with land in Scotland who are registered with Scottish Government Rural Payments and Services and have a Business Reference Number (BRN). Collaborative applications are encouraged as it is recognised that co-ordinated activity between land managers can enhance environmental objectives providing beneficial environmental management at a larger ecological scale.

11.3.5 Therefore collaborative applications will be viewed on favourably if it can demonstrated that the proposed collaboration will:

- add value, enhance environmental objectives, create contiguous and complementary management and improve habitat connectivity

- involve the sharing of resources (e.g. staff time and machinery)
- contribute to a strategic environmental management plan or Environmental Co-operation Action Fund project (see below)
- involves an existing group of land managers with a track record of working together

11.3.6 Though everyone would require to apply individually online for the work to be undertaken on your own land rather than the entire work covered by the collaboration.

11.4 Rural Development: Environmental Co-operation Action Fund

11.4.1 The Environmental Co-operation Action Fund promotes the delivery of landscape-scale environmental projects by groups of farmers, foresters and other land managers.

11.4.2 The fund supports the costs of planning and facilitating these co-operative projects, to deliver the following environmental priorities throughout Scotland:

- Habitat and Degraded Ecosystem Restoration
- Conservation of Vulnerable Priority Species
- Control of Invasive Non-Native Plant Species
- Deer Management
- Catchment Management for Water Quality
- Physical Restoration of Water Bodies
- Natural Flood Management
- Woodland Creation

11.4.3 The scheme funds a project officer to develop and facilitate a collaborative project. Funding for implementation of the project would need to be secured under another scheme, e.g. the agri-environment climate scheme or Forestry Grant Scheme and / or other public funding. The 2016 application window will open in the autumn.

APPENDIX 1

MID WEST BOUNDARIES

APPENDIX 2

LAND COVER – SNH MAP

APPENDIX 3A

DESIGNATED SITES – SNH MAPP

APPENDIX 3B

BEN ALDER SPA

APPENDIX 3C

BEN ALDER SAC

APPENDIX 3D

BEN ALDER SSSI

APPENDIX 3E

BEN NEVIS SAC

APPENDIX 3F

BEN NEVIS SSSI

APPENDIX 3G

NATIONAL SCENIC AREA

APPENDIX 3H

GLENN COE SAC

APPENDIX 3I

GLENN COE SSSI

APPENDIX 3J

LEVEN VALLEY SSSI

APPENDIX 3K

LON LEANACHAIN SSSI

APPENDIX 3L

ONICH TO N. BALLACHULISH SAC

APPENDIX 3M

ONICH TO N. BALLACHULISH SSSI

APPENDIX 3N

RANNOCH LOCHS SPA

APPENDIX 30

RANNOCH LOCHS SSSI

APPENDIX 3P

RANNOCH MOOR SAC

APPENDIX 3Q

RANNOCH MOOR SSSI

APPENDIX 4

BP – HABITAT ASSESSMENT

APPENDIX 5

CARBON PRIORITY PEATLAND HABITATS

APPENDIX 6

NATIONAL FOREST INVENTORY MID WEST

APPENDIX 7

NATIVE WOODLAND SURVEY – HERBIVORE PRESSURE

APPENDIX 8

MID WEST DMG 2017 COUNT PLAN

APPENDIX 9

CHANGE IN DENSITY 2011 TO 2017 COUNT

APPENDIX 10

2017 COUNT REPORT

APPENDIX 11

CWD LEAFLET

