

East Loch Ericht DMG

Delivering a Deer Management Plan

James Adamson, Secretary
17 March 2017



Planning

plan

/plan/

noun

1. a detailed proposal for doing or achieving something.
"the UN peace plan"
synonyms: scheme, plan of action, idea, master plan, game plan, proposal, proposition, ploy, suggestion, project, programme, system, method, procedure, strategy, stratagem, formula, recipe, scenario, arrangement, schedule, agenda; More
2. an intention or decision about what one is going to do.
"I have no plans to retire"
synonyms: intention, aim, idea, intent, objective, object, goal, target, hope, aspiration, ambition
"her plan was really just to find the hotel"

A plan must have objectives

But we don't know what is round the corner...

In terms of implementing a plan its been a strange year for many;

- Lack of mature stags
- Where are the hinds
- Weights down
- Pregnancies up

that tells us that when your plan meets the real world...the real world wins



What we are

savills

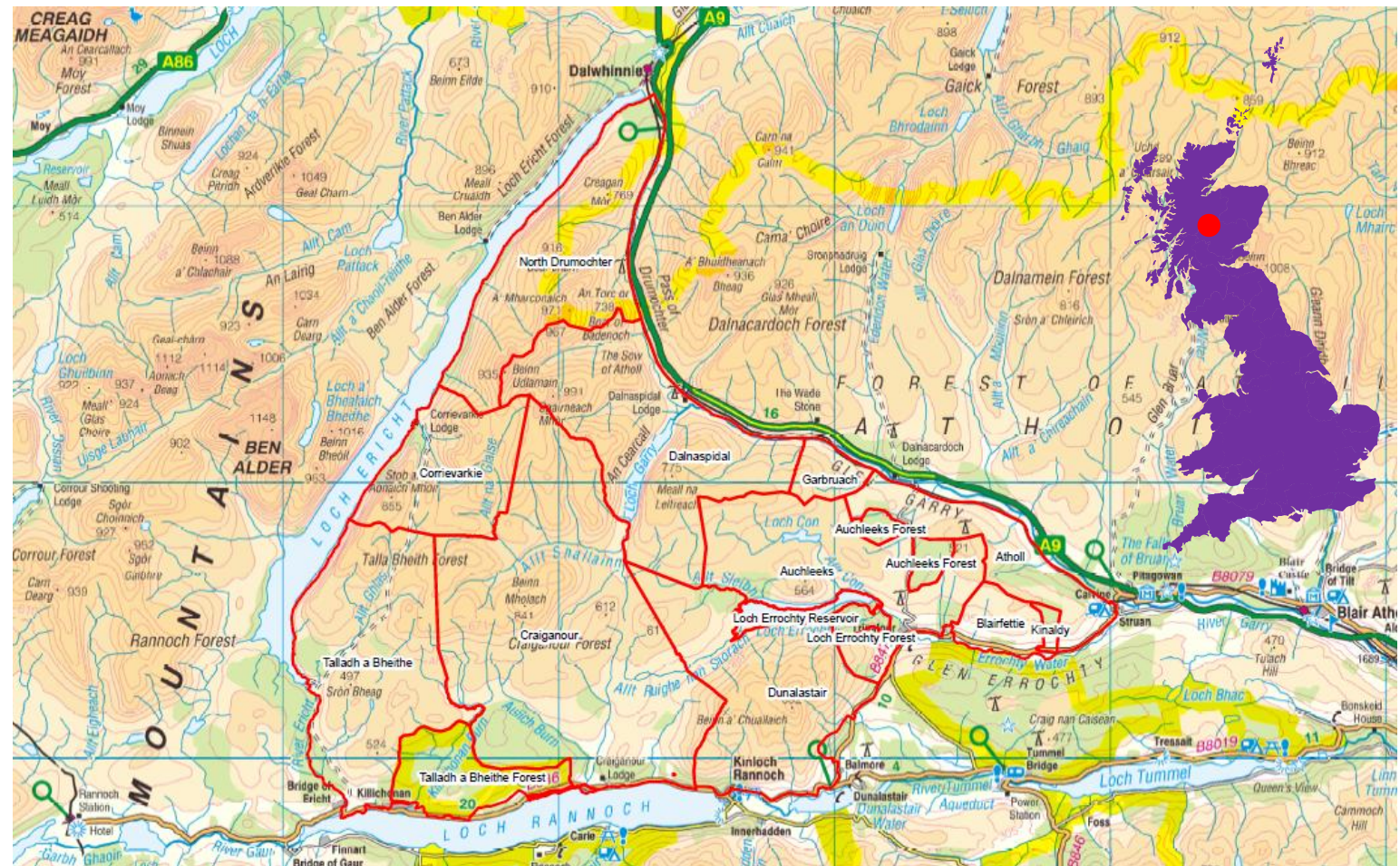
10 principal properties

Clear physical boundaries

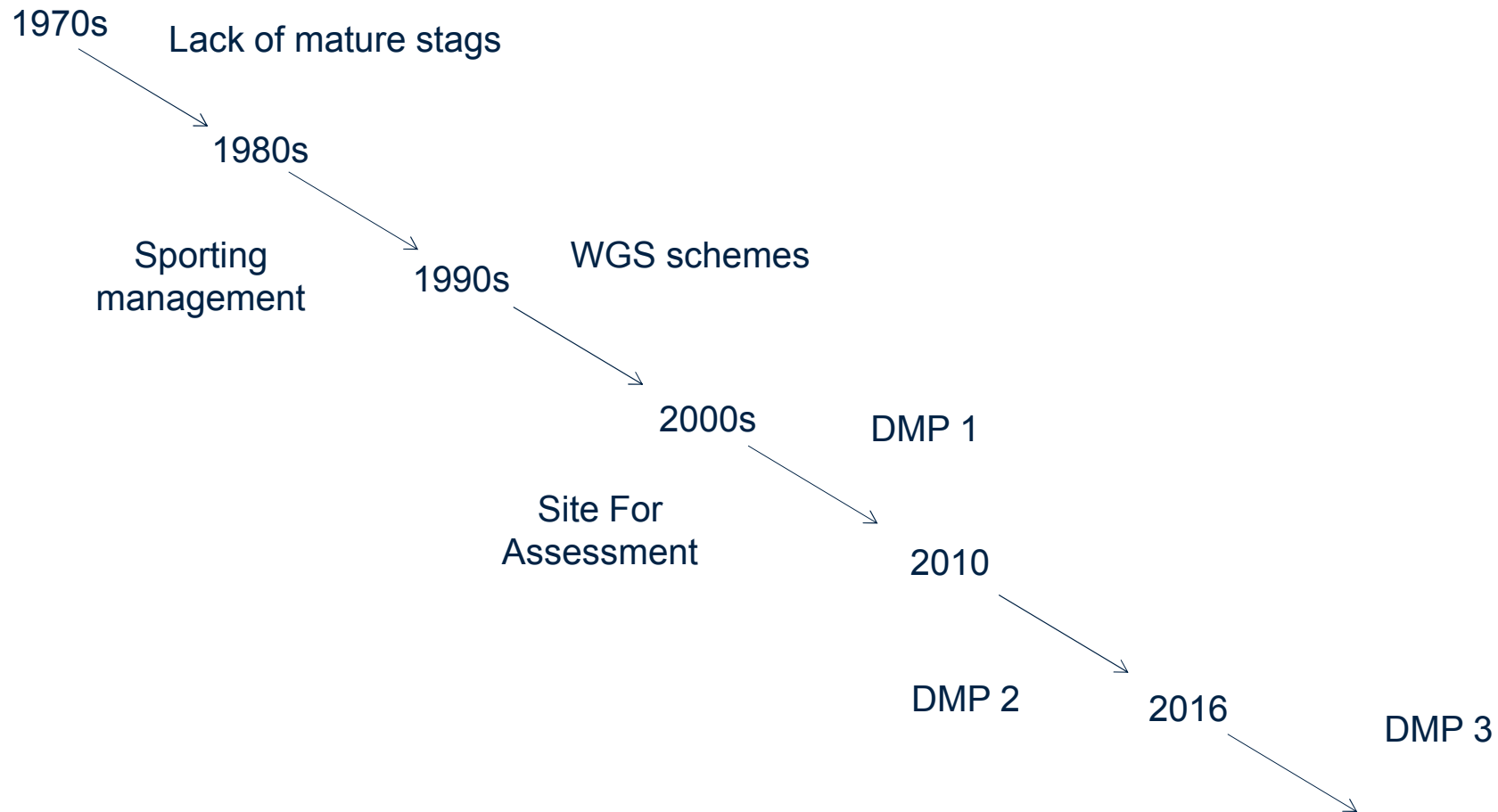
90,000 acres total

Net deer range 72,000 acres (290km²)

46 FTE jobs



Timeline



Challenges to delivery

- habitat and designated sites
- authorisations
- changing objectives
- knowing the population



Designated sites

Features (10)

Feature Pressures (16)

Agreements (0)

Casework (50)

Map

Links

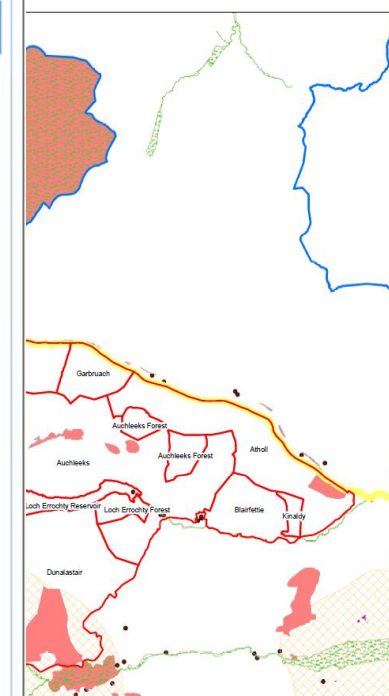
Note to land owners and occupiers.

Search or filter:

Show 25 entries

Feature Category	Feature	Statutory Interest
Bogs (Upland)	Blanket bog	International - SAC qualifying feature
Calcareous grassland (Upland)	Species-rich grassland with mat-grass in upland areas	International - SAC qualifying feature
Dwarf shrub heath (Upland)	Dry heaths	International - SAC qualifying feature
Dwarf shrub heath (Upland)	Wet heathland with cross-leaved heath	International - SAC qualifying feature
Inland rock	Acidic scree	International - SAC qualifying feature
Inland rock	Plants in crevices on acid rocks	International - SAC qualifying feature
Inland rock	Tall herb communities	International - SAC qualifying feature
Montane habitats	Alpine and subalpine heaths	International - SAC qualifying feature
Montane habitats	Montane acid grasslands	International - SAC qualifying feature
Montane habitats	Mountain willow scrub	International - SAC qualifying feature

Showing 1 to 10 of 10 entries



Habitat - 10 year change

Impact of Grazing and Trampling for East Loch Ericht Deer Management Group Area, 2014

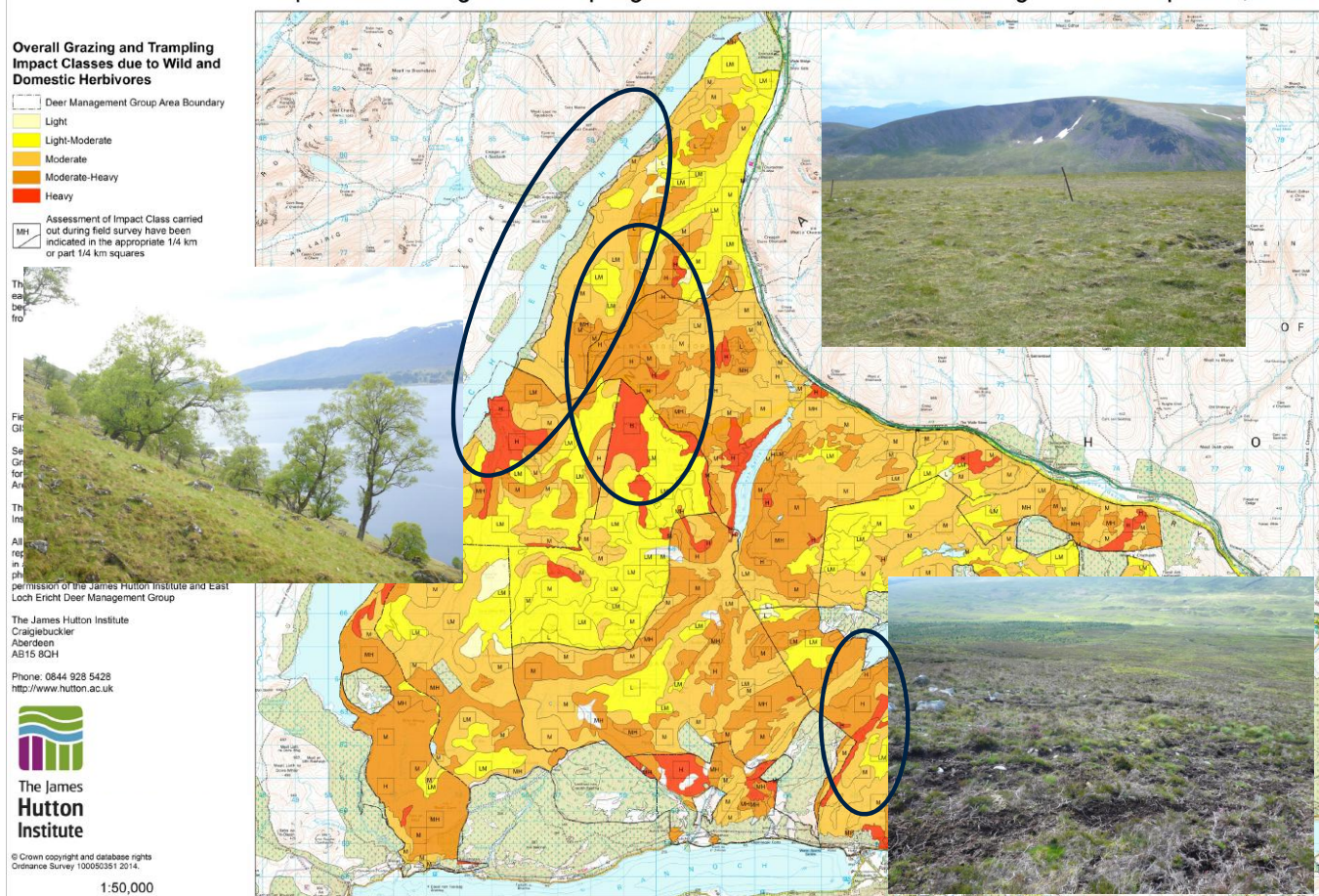
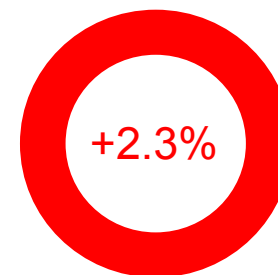
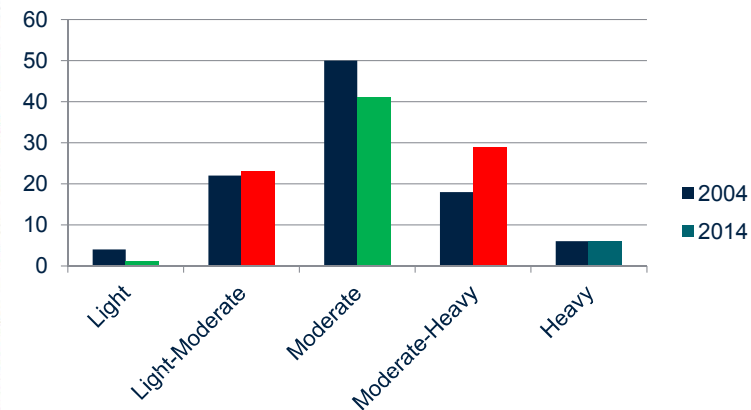
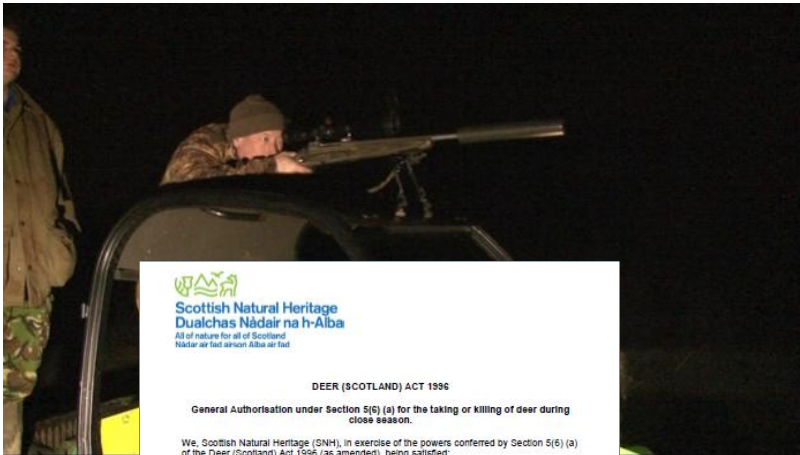


Figure 1. East Loch Ericht DMG: summary of impacts, 2004-2014, based on overall DMG area



Authorisations




Scottish Natural Heritage
Dualchas Nàdair na h-Alba
All of nature for all of Scotland
Nàdar air fad airson Alba air fad

DEER (SCOTLAND) ACT 1996

General Authorisation under Section 5(5) (a) for the taking or killing of deer during close season.

We, Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH), in exercise of the powers conferred by Section 5(6) (a) of the Deer (Scotland) Act 1996 (as amended), being satisfied:

1 (a) that the taking or killing of deer is necessary:-

- (i) to prevent damage to any crops, pasture or human or animal foodstuffs on any agricultural land which forms part of that land; or
- (ii) to prevent damage to any enclosed woodland which forms part of that land;

and,

- (b) that no other means of control which might reasonably be adopted in the circumstances would be adequate,

hereby authorise:

- 2(a) the occupier suffering damage to those interests outlined in subsection 1(a) above and;

if duly authorised in writing by the occupier suffering damage for the purpose, any or all of:

- (b) the owner in person;
- (c) the owner's employees;
- (d) the occupier's employees, or any other person normally resident, on the land;
- (e) any other person approved in writing by SNH as a fit and competent person for the purpose

to take or kill:

- 3(a) Male deer and juveniles (up to 12 months old) of any species, during the period of any statutory close season; and/or
- (b) Female deer of any species during the period of any statutory close season, but not including the period 1st April to 31st August;

Only during daylight hours, as may be necessary to prevent damage to the aforementioned interests on:-

- 4(a) arable land, improved permanent pasture (other than moorland) and land which has been regenerated so as to be able to make a significant contribution to the productivity of a holding which forms part of that agricultural land; or
- (b) enclosed woodland



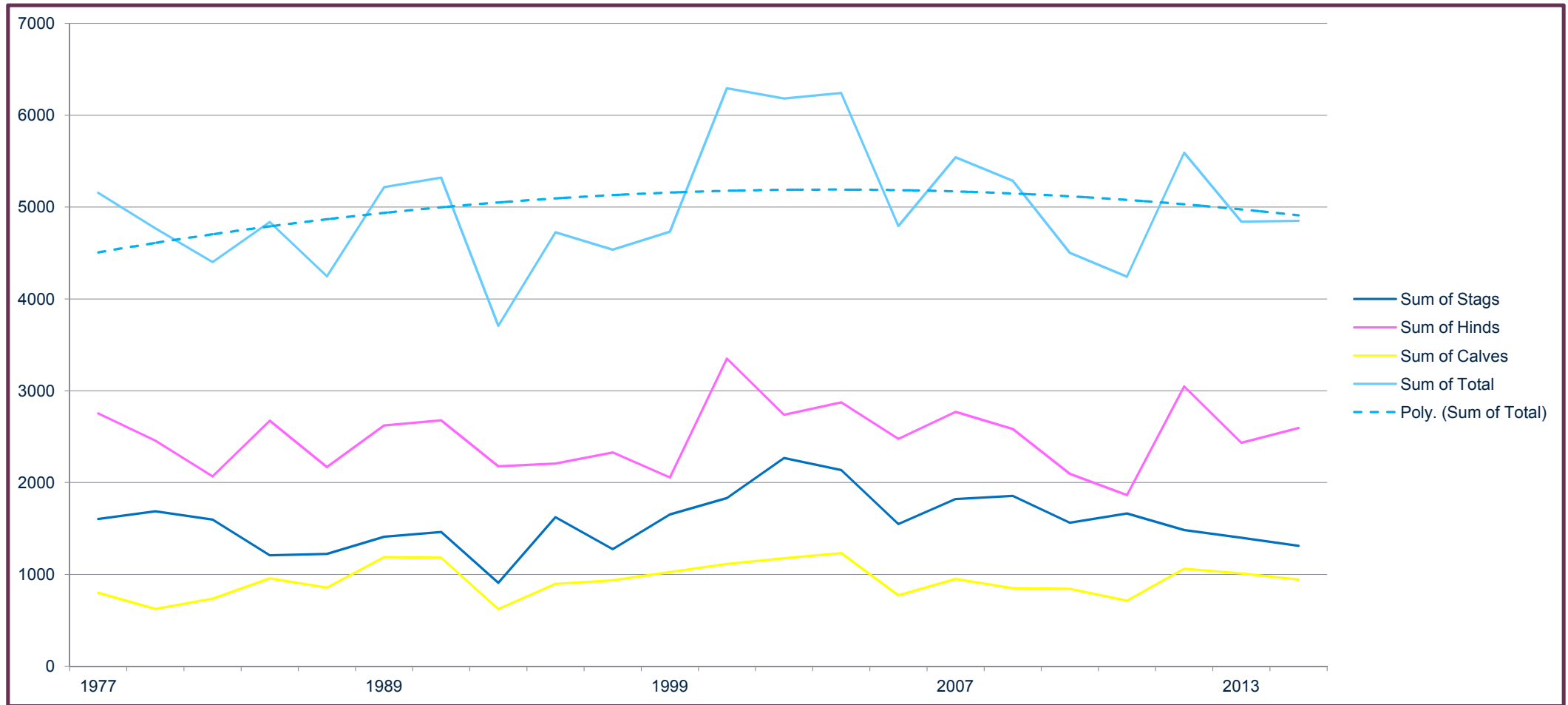
Changing objectives



Counting



We don't know the population

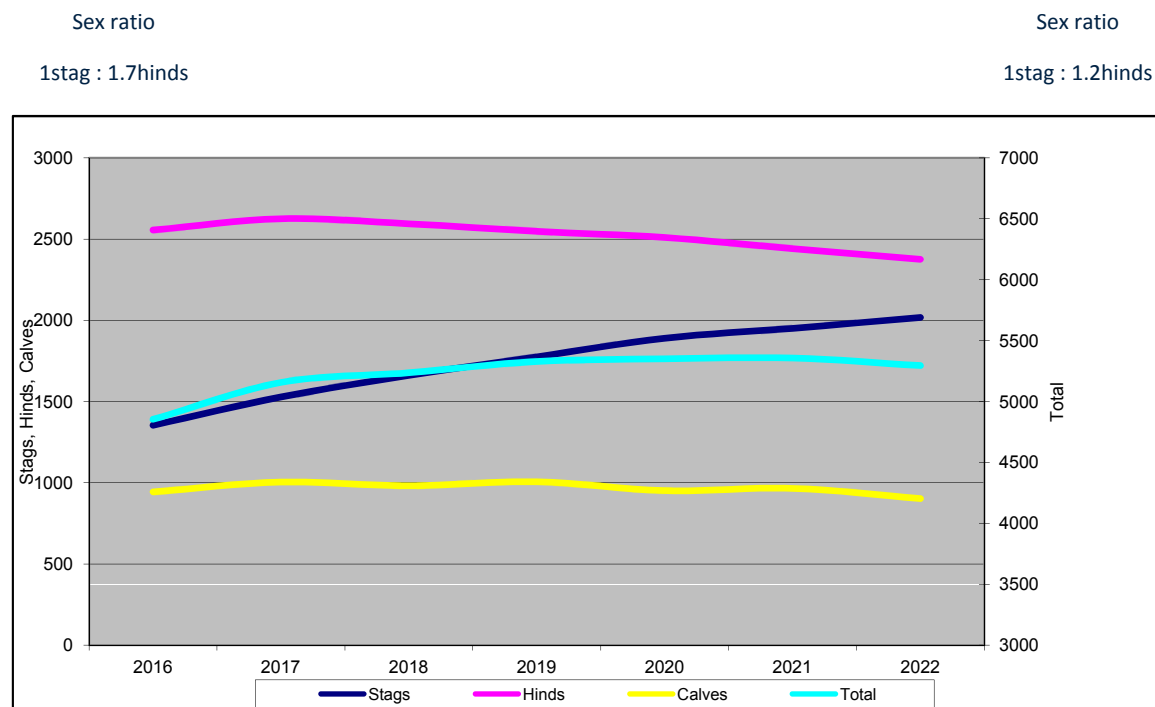


Impact on planning

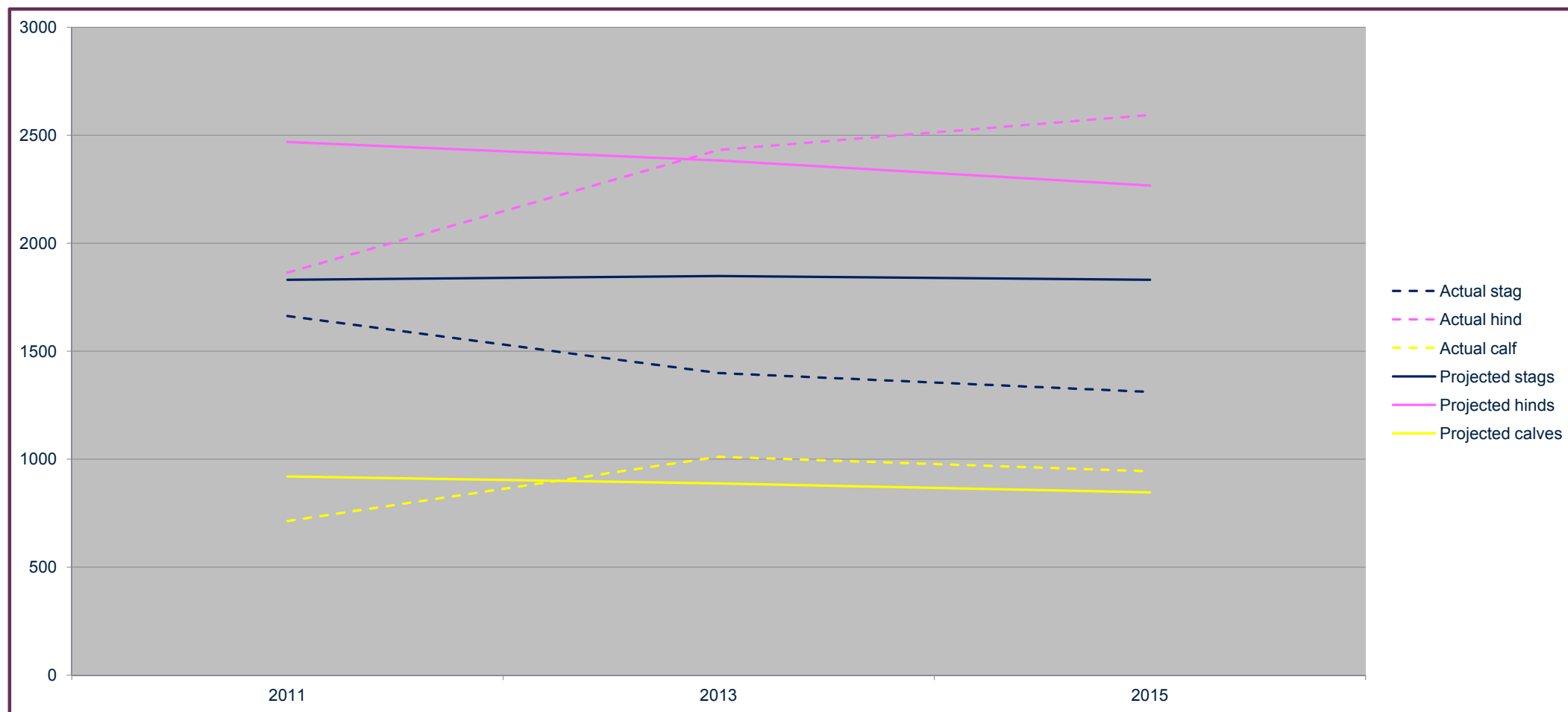
Table 5: Target Deer Culls (Open range red deer) 2016-2021

Year	Stags	Hinds	Calves	Total
2016	330	475	143	948
2017	335	480	144	959
2018	340	485	146	971
2019	350	490	147	987
2020	375	495	149	1019
Period	1730	2425	729	4884

2016
 Stags 267 (-19%)
 Hinds 349 (-27%)
 Calves 82 (-42%)
 Total 698 (-26%)



Sensitivity



Action plan

Deer Management Plan 2016-26

Action Plan

			Plan Period 1									
			2016		2017		2018		2019		2020	
Plan Ref.	Item	Frequency	Spring Summer	Autumn Winter	Spring Summer	Autumn Winter	Spring Summer	Autumn Winter	Spring Summer	Autumn Winter	Spring Summer	Autumn Winter
All	Aprove and adopt plan		06-May-16									
All	Duration	10 years										
All	Plan Period 1	5 years										
All	Interim review & Plan Period 2	5 years										
All	DMG Meetings	Biannual	May	October	May	October	May	October	May	October	May	October
4.1.2	Review model & cull targets	Biannual	May	October	May	October	May	October	May	October	May	October
6.2	Deer count	Annual		Winter		Winter		Winter		Winter		Winter
4.1.1	Target Deer Population (total)	10 years	6003	4853	6045	4914	6050	4945	6059	4978	5977	4933
	Designated sites - ongoing review	Ongoing										
4.4	Habitat Monitoring	Scheduled					HIA & SCM re-survey?					
4.4	Grazing & Trampling Impact re-survey	Scheduled										
4.3	Identify Areas for Woodland Creation	Annual										
	Training & CPD - training needs analysis	Annual										
4.5	Maintain Website	Ongoing										
6	Other Monitoring - develop new methods for monitoring and review	Annual										

Monitoring

Clear some of the assumptions in the plan are inaccurate

Monitoring is fundamental

Focus on the objectives and don't become fixated on process

Be willing to compromise



Thank you

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