Scottish Forestry
Coilltearachd na h-Alba

General Deer Management Plan

You can use this Deer Management Plan (DMP) template to support a Long Term Forest Plan or a Woodland Creation Proposal or if you are applying for the Forestry Grant Scheme Sustainable Management of Forests (SMF) – Reducing Deer Impact option or the SMF – Low Impact Silvicultural Systems (LISS) or Native Woodland options (you will also need to complete the supporting information template for each option).

If you have insufficient information to prepare this plan then grant funding may be available to obtain and prepare data to formulate a Deer Management Plan.

1. General details

BRN:	231115		
Application name:	Ichrachan		
FGS Application ref:	23FGS76134	Long Term Forest Plan / Management Plan number:	Ichrachan

Main Grid Reference (e.g. NH 234 567):	NN 019295
Woodland type(s):	Diverse age mixed conifer and broadleaf woodland
Deer species present:	Red deer (Cervus elaphus) Roe Deer (Capreolus capreolus) Sika deer (Cervus nippon)

Woodland area (ha):	194.18
Open ground (ha):	29.8
Total area coved by plan (ha):	223.98

Plan Date starts	2026
Plan Date ends	2046

2. Overview

Please provide an overview of the area covered by this DMP. Include a description of the current and proposed deer management and tree protection methods, clarify what trees and habitats are vulnerable to deer impacts, briefly describe what needs to be carried out during the five year duration of the DMP and identify if the DMP area forms part of a wider estate/holding or is included in a wider DMP.
Ichrachan forest (grid reference: NN 022 306) is located approximately 2 miles south-east of Taynuilt village in Argyll, adjacent to the main A85 between Tyndrum and Oban.

Ichrachan is located along a broad north-south ridgeline, dissected at its mid-point by an east to west flowing minor watercourse. Ranging in height from 160m a.s.l at the southern end, to around 20m a.s.l in the north, the highest point within the forest is the tree covered Creag Bhainneach. The forest is bordered by ancient semi-natural woodland to the west, and conifer plantation, under different ownership, to the south and east.

Ichrachan is privately owned and managed principally as a financial investment. The long-term vision is to maximise return from timber sales and to increase capital value through effective and sustainable management. Alongside this the forest will be managed to meet the requirements of the United Kingdom Forest Standard (UKFS) and the United Kingdom Woodland Assurance Standard (UKWAS), and to enhance the natural capital value of the forest regarding biodiversity, cultural, amenity and landscape opportunities and by improving resilience to climate change.

Red and Roe deer are present throughout the year, with densities fluctuating due to open-range dynamics and deer movements across porous boundary fences. Sika deer are seen sporadically. Ongoing deer management is critical in achieving the proposed restructuring objectives, and the primary objective is to maintain deer numbers, through annual culling at a sustainable level that minimises damage to newly planted and regenerating trees. The impact of deer on areas of Ancient semi-natural woodland, PAWs restoration and the adjacent designated sites of Glen Nant SSSI/Loch Etive SAC are also important objectives of deer management. Deer control will be carried out by trained and certified individuals, utilising best practices and legal authorisations. The focus will be on maintaining deer numbers at a level that prevents excessive browsing while ensuring compliance with welfare and environmental regulations. Ongoing herbivore impact assessments will be conducted to monitor deer distribution and if excessive browsing damage occurs the cull will be increased accordingly. Taking a collaborative approach to deer management with neighbours could be beneficial and where feasible deer management and the exchange of cull data will be shared with adjacent forest owners.

Provide details on the habitat types/species diversity within your DMP as listed. Include the name and condition of the habitat as appropriate.

Habitat	Name of site/ Compartment No.	Area	Vulnerable to deer impact?	Comments
Protected site e.g. SSSI, SAC, SPA	Glen Nant SSSI, Loch Etive SAC	503ha	Yes	Glen Nant SSSI and Loch Etive SAC border Ichrachan along the western boundary. Only approx. 1.41ha extends into the forest in compartment 6b which is existing ASNW. This represents only a

				minor percentage of the designated sites as a whole (approx 0.3%). Transient deer from Ichrachan have the potential to negatively impact features of interest within the SSSI/SAC.
Important/ priority open habitats			No	
Internal Open Ground	FMU		No	Internal open ground (approx 30ha (13%)) is mostly made up of internal rides, glades etc.
Native Woodland and natural regeneration	ASNW	37ha	Yes	Existing broadleaf woodland/low density/open ground
Broadleaves			N/A	Other broaqdleaf woodland is present along riparian corridors and natural regeneration is vulnerable to browsing
Palatable Conifers	2w	2.15ha	Yes	Restocked Norway spruce and Douglas fir in compartment 2w is vulnerable to deer browsing but has established well. Planned restructuring of the forest will mean that there will be more palatable young crops that will be vulnerable to deer browsing, for example Scots pine and native broadleaves
Less palatable Conifers	Across FMU		Yes	Existing areas of less palatable species, i.e. Sitka spruce as mature and younger restocked crops do not appear to be adversly affected by browsing. Planned

				restructuring of the forest over the next 20 years will mean that there will be restock sites which could be vulnerable to browsing. As restocked areas transition to pre-thicket and thicket stage the deer population is likely to increase in response to an increase in available habitat and shelter, particularly for the roe deer population.

Please tell us any other relevant information to support the DMP.

Protection using deer fencing and tree guards may be required, particularly to ensure the successful establishment of palatable species such as Scots pine and broadleaves. Outside any deer fenced areas native broadleaf planting or regeneration may also be protected using tree shelters. Trico may also be considered as an alternative to deer fencing, for example in compartments 3 and 10, which is proposed to be established with native species. Decisions on which protection measure, or combination of measures will be implemented will be taken by the Forest Manager during on site operational planning in response to the threats posed at the time.

Please attach a map(s) which clearly delineate the deer management plan area and the location of vulnerable species or habitats.

2.1 Collaborative/landscape scale deer management

Are you in an active Deer Management Group (DMG) or a local equivalent? If yes, please specify which DMG, confirm if you have spoken to them about your proposals and identify any concerns that have been raised.

Although there is no formal deer management group there is sufficient communication between neighbouring interests to allow basic collaborative deer management to be undertaken.

You should discuss your management proposals with your neighbours, particularly if they are likely to have impacts on them.

Have you discussed your management proposals with your neighbours? If yes, specify who and identify any concerns that have been raised.

Scoping for the LTFP included communication with neighbouring estates and no particular issues were identified. Once the LTFP is approved, and an

operational programme of work is underway, the Forest Manager and shooting tenant will liase with the neighbouring properties to discuss our forest management plans and collaborative deer management opportunities.

Consultation with NatureScot highlighted the importance of deer management with regard to impacts to the adjacent designated sites.

Provide information on any immigration and/or emigration of deer in the DMP area.
There is an existing perimeter deer fence around the property, and whilst this is generally in good condition, there are gaps and deer can move freely between Ichrachan and some of the neighbouring land. Maintaining a secure deer fenced perimeter is currently not a priority, as deer on the property are culled and the cost of maintaining a long perimeter fence is expensive. The highest deer pressure is generally from adjoining conifer forest to the south and sout-east, and most deer that are shot in Ichrachan have immigrated from this area. Deer pressure is generally lower in the north of the forest.

Provide details on adjacent land use and how this may impact on the DMP.		
Existing and new woodland		Ichrachan is bordered on three sides by adjacent broadleaved woodland and forestry plantation. To the east and south is Fanans Forest, a commercial forest similar to Ichrachan. To the west is Loch Etive Special Area of Conservation/Glen Nant SSSI which is ancient woodland.
Arable/improved land		In the north/north-west there is predominantly rough grazing land around Ichrachan Farm and patchy broadleaf woodland and rough fields.
Open hill/unimproved land		
Other (Specify):		

Please provide maps showing neighbours, surrounding land use and any areas where deer emigrate/immigrate.

3. Deer management plan objectives

Please list your objectives for your woodland and deer management. This should include a clear statement of the intended targets for herbivore impact, damage assessment and/or deer density and a timescale for achieving the targets. For

example, reducing from an average of medium to low Woodland Herbivore Impact Assessment over the next 5 years or undertaking a compensatory cull before planting starts to ensure there is no increase in deer impact on neighbouring land use.

Please be specific as Scottish Forestry will use these objectives in the future to assess to what extent they have been achieved.

The main objective for deer management across Ichrachan is to ensure deer numbers are satisfactorily controlled and maintained at a density that avoids significant negative impacts to newly planted and existing woodland and adjacent protected sites, as well as allowing natural regeneration of woodland, and maintains other sensitive open ground and riparian habitats.

The secondary objective is to contribute towards the effective management of deer within the locality through working collaboratively with neighbouring landowners.

Although there is no formal deer management group there is sufficient communication between neighbouring interests to allow collaborative deer management to be undertaken.

Over the next 5 years, the main objectives of the Deer Management Plan are as follows:

- To manage deer numbers to successfully establish planned restocking and native woodland restoration across the property, through both planting and natural regeneration.
- To monitor the impact of the deer population and adjust cull plans accordingly in order to minimise damage to vulnerable trees and features of interest within adjacent designated sites. Annual reporting and cull figure returns.
- To reduce herbivore impacts on areas of existing native woodlands, areas of PAWS restoration and riparian zones.
- Fence inspections at regular intervals and especially following storm events to ensure that strategic internal fences remain secure and any deer encursion is dealt with expediently.
- To have considered opportunities for collaborative approaches to management with all ownerships and neighbouring properties, including collaborative culling where possible.

3.1 Deer management plan constraints

Please list any constraints to delivering your woodland and deer management objectives. For example a lack of resources, such as larders, equipment or access routes or different management objectives at the landscape scale.

In addition, provide proposed actions to address these constraints.

The forest is used informally by locals and members of the public for exercise and dog walking. Permanent and temporary high seats are already used on the property.

4. Deer population

Provide details of the deer species and any other herbivores (e.g. livestock, feral goats, rabbits, hares, feral pigs) that are present within the DMP area. If other herbivores are present provide details and outline if they are having an impact. Give evidence of existing/historical herbivore impacts to the woodland and also any impacts to natural heritage interests. State the method of assessment used (e.g. woodland herbivore impact assessments, nearest neighbour method, transects, drones, fixed plots or visual assessment) and include results of these assessments and a map of monitored areas if appropriate.
Roe deer are the principle resident deer species present, and transient Red deer are present at different times throughout the year. Sika deer are sometimes encountered but at low numbers.

4.1 Population assessment

Provide any information relating to current deer densities. In the uplands there may be information on local deer populations (for example: estate counts, dung counts, drones or helicopter count information from NatureScot). Ideally we need to know the estimated population densities both within and adjacent to your woodland, including the open hill. The table below can be used to estimate densities.

Please mark the relevant boxes in each of the Woodland Deer Density Indicators if no count data is available.

Evidence	Low Density (0-6 deer per km2)	Medium Density (6-12 deer per km2)	High Density (12+ deer per km2)
Tracks (for Red, Fallow, Sika)	Difficult to find deer slot marks or defined paths.	Defined paths slot marks easy to find in areas of soft ground.	Many well defined tracks and paths often black with constant use.
	☐	☒	☐
Dung	Difficult to find with just the odd isolated pellet group.	Pellet groups relatively easy to find, particularly on woodland edges and good feeding areas.	Pellet groups very easy to find. Highly concentrated on favoured feed areas.
	☐	☒	☐
Browsing of Vegetation	Natural regeneration of broad-leaved trees taking place with no or little damage to current year's incremental growth.	Broadleaved saplings present but showing significant damage.	No seedlings growing above dominant vegetation height. Often well-defined browse lines on established

			shrubs and plants.
	☐	☒	☐

If you have more detailed information about deer densities e.g deer or dung count data, you can record this in the table below.						
	Present	Source of count - NS or Land Holding	Type of count/ estimate- Foot, Helicopter, Drone, Dung count	Year of count	Density in woodland per km2	Density on open hill per km2
Red	Choose an item.	Choose an item.	Choose an item.			
Roe	Choose an item.	Choose an item.	Choose an item.			
Sika	Choose an item.	Choose an item.	Choose an item.			
Fallow	Choose an item.	Choose an item.	Choose an item.			

Provide details of when the population data was gathered. If future population counts/assessments are proposed, detail when these are likely to be undertaken and what methods will be used.

Historical Cull – If this information is available, please provide details of any previous cull data relating to the application area.

Year	Male				Female				Juveniles (under 1 year old)				Total
	Red	Roe	Sika	Fallow	Red	Roe	Sika	Fallow	Red	Roe	Sika	Fallow	
2020-2021	11	3			13	4							31
2021-2022	9	7			10	9			8				43
2022-2023	13	3			6	2			2				26
2023-2024	12	2			10	5			3				32
2024-2025	11	5			11	4			4				35

2025-2026	11	8			10	6			4				35

Comments / Additional Information
Cull data is submitted annually by the shooting tenant to both the forest owner and Scottish Woodlands as a requirement of UKWAS certification and the shooting lease.

4.2 Protection method

If deer fencing or individual tree protection is to be used, set out the rationale for this decision. A map should be provided showing existing and proposed deer fencing.

Whilst the preferred approach in achieving successful tree growth and natural regeneration will be through active deer management, there may be some areas, for example the proposed Scots pine in compartment 8 that may require deer fencing. This will be kept under review in response to deer pressures at the time and whether natural regeneration of native broadleaves is successful.

Outside any deer fenced areas native broadleaf planting will be protected using 1.2m tree shelters. Where natural regeneration is desired, damage levels will be monitored and if the level of damage is preventing successful regeneration, then deer fencing, tubes or alternatively treatment with deer repellant may be considered.

Any new deer fencing will be phased in line with the felling and restock plan and will be removed expediently once the restock areas are fully established or at the stage that the trees are no longer vulnerable to damage.

The specification of any new fences will be suitable for the exclusion of both Red and Roe deer (as per FC Bulletin 102). The location of fences will be assessed to minimise where possible, landscape impacts and consideration will also be given to minimising the potential for intrusion (e.g. at low spots).

Fencing across forest roads will be avoided to ensure unimpeded operational and public access. There will be no deer fencing close to any main public roads, thus there will be no risks associated with funnelling deer through corridors and road traffic collisions.

Trico deer repellent may also be considered as an alternative to deer fencing. Decisions on which protection measure, or combination of measures will be implemented will be taken by the Forest Manager during on site operational planning in response to the threats posed at the time.

Ichrachan is located c. 2.5km north of an area of Highest Regional Priority for Black Grouse, with several leks of 5 - 9 males recorded by RSPB Scotland during the 2025 season. Whilst not presently known to be within the forest, given that suitable habitat for Black Grouse exists within and close to the LTFP area, it is possible that this species may utilise the site in the future. Should lekking Black Grouse be confirmed near or within the boundary, then NatureScot will be consulted to advise whether marking of any new deer fences might be required to reduce the liklehood of bird strike.

If deer fencing or individual tree protection is to be used what is the proposed inspection and maintenance programme.
Fences will be inspected and maintained to ensure that they are in an operative condition. Inspection frequency will depend on the time of year and the weather conditions. Fence inspections would be carried out after periods of extreme weather events such as high winds or heavy snow when there is a greater risk of damage to the fence. Tree shelter maintenance will consist of inspections to check for damage and to ensure that shelters are upright and securely fixed. Damaged or ineffective shelters will be straightened, repaired or replaced to maintain their protective function. Tree shelters will be removed when the trees are fully established (unless biodegradable materials are used). This is expected to be at around year 10.

If deer fencing is proposed provide an assessment and mitigation of the risk from the proposed deer fence location on deer movement and bird strikes. Please complete and append the checklist as per the Joint Agency Statement on Deer Fencing and associated guidance.

If other herbivores are present (e.g. livestock, feral goats, rabbits, hares, feral pigs) detail how the woodland will be protected from their impacts.
The perimeter of the forest is stock fenced along the northern boundary and will be maintained in good condition to ensure neighbouring livestock do not enter the forest and impact forest management objectives, habitats or species. The use of rabbit netting will be considered on an individual site basis at the time of restocking depending on the potential impact that rabbits/hares may pose.

4.3 Cull targets

Compensatory Cull – Where deer are likely to be displaced from an area by fencing then a compensatory cull will be required to avoid negative or increased impacts elsewhere e.g. on other woodlands, public roads, priority woodland and open habitats including peatland and designated sites. This cull needs to be agreed with Scottish Forestry, implemented before fencing and will be conditioned in the Scottish Forestry approval.

Provide details of compensatory cull levels in the table below including details of how they were set and the timing of when they will be undertaken.

Year	Male				Female				Juveniles (under 1 year old)				Total
	Red	Roe	Sika	Fallow	Red	Roe	Sika	Fallow	Red	Roe	Sika	Fallow	

Provide details of how the cull level was set.

Deer culling is the preferred approach in achieving forest management objectives and deer are actively managed on an annual basis. Basically a shoot on sight policy is adopted. Deer are able to move freely both within Ichrachan and to neighbouring properties. Any deer fencing will be at an internal coupe scale, and the movement of deer will not be hindered across ownership boundaries. As such a strategic approach to managing deer numbers across the wider area is possible and so no compensatory cull is proposed.

Management Cull – Provide your proposed cull targets. This may need to be adjusted if annual damage/habitat impact assessments indicate that culls are insufficient to reduce impacts/damage and achieve the DMP objectives.

Please detail how the cull targets were set and how they would be adjusted in response to monitoring results. If the area is deer fenced and deer are present within the fence they should all be culled at the earliest legal opportunity having first considered dialogue with neighbours e.g following a break in after a weather event and consideration of other options first e.g moving deer out.

Year	Male				Female				Juveniles (under 1 year old)				Totals
	Red	Roe	Sika	Fallow	Red	Roe	Sika	Fallow	Red	Roe	Sika	Fallow	
2026	11	5			10	6			4				36
2027	11	6			10	7			4				38
2028	11	8			10	9			4				42
2029	11	10			10	11			4				46
2030	11	12			10	13			4				50

Provide details of how the cull targets were set and how they would be adjusted in response to monitoring results.
Historic cull levels have fluctuated in recent years as in general a shoot on sight policy is adopted. Red deer are mostly transient from neighbouring land and the annual cull will vary. Achieving the target cull for Red deer is therefore less predictable. Any Sika deer encountered will be culled. The Roe deer population is likely to expand in response to more suitable available habitat as young trees develop into pre-thicket and thicket stage. The roe deer cull will therefore likely increase in response to more suitable habitat becoming avaialble and this is represented in the proposed cull.

4.4 Nominated controllers

Notify Scottish Forestry if any changes occur.

	Nominated controller	Owner	Estate Employee*	Contract Stalker	Shooting Tenant
1	Nominated controllers are listed on the sporting lease between the woodland owner and lease holder	☐	☐	☐	☒
2		☐	☐	☐	☐
3		☐	☐	☐	☐
4		☐	☐	☐	☐

*Section 26(i) of the deer act clarifies definition of "employee".

	State the Controller's relevant experience and if they have DSC1 or 2.
1	All nominated controllers have DSC 1 and DSC 2
2	
3	
4	

5. Monitoring and response

Describe the method(s) you will use to assess the delivery of your stated objectives (e.g. woodland herbivore impact assessments, nearest neighbour method, drones, transects or fixed plots) and the frequency of assessment.

It is important that monitoring is undertaken prior to the commencement of the plan (as a baseline) and then usually annually to ensure there is a formal record of what is taking place and to understand whether the measures set out in the plan are being effective in the delivery of the objectives.

Records should be kept including results of assessments and a map of monitored areas if appropriate. You must agree what method and frequency of monitoring will be used with Scottish Forestry.

Annual cull figures are submitted to Scottish Woodlands and reviewed by the Forest Manager.

Browsing damage will be assessed during routine stocking density assessments. Ichrachan will undergo a review of deer management bi-annually, in Spring and in Autumn.

Information on the previous year's cull as well as damage assessments will be reviewed and used to prioritise areas for targeted deer control and to adjust culls for the following year. Necessary Authorisations will be applied for where required.

Set out clearly the proposed response, actions and timescales should monitoring show that the intended target herbivore impact, damage assessment and/or deer density are not being met. For example, increased culls, an application for night shooting, out of season culling.

Night shooting is highly effective in Ichrachan and both out of season and night shooting licences are routinely sought. It is anticipated that deer numbers may increase in the coming years in response to changing available habitat and cull levels will be adapted accordingly to ensure deer damage is managed at an acceptable level.

6. Information checklist

Please list the maps or any other documents that you will be uploading with your DMP:

☒ *Map(s) showing the deer management plan area and the location of vulnerable species or habitats.*

☒ *Map(s) showing neighbours, surrounding land use and any areas where deer emigrate/immigrate.*

☒ *Map(s) showing monitoring areas.*

☒ *Map(s) showing existing and proposed deer fencing.*

☐ *Joint agency fencing assessment checklist.*

7. Record keeping

If you have a Forestry Grant Scheme Contract with certain Sustainable Management of Forest (SMF) options, monitoring must be done annually and submitted with a supporting map to Scottish Forestry to enable grant payment of those options.

Monitoring, assessment of effectiveness of current DMP and proposed changes to DMP for next 5 years should be provided as part of woodland creation and forest plan progress and compliance report - 5 Year Review.

All landowners and occupiers asked to do so must provide information to NatureScot about all of the deer they have shot that year. Each April NatureScot write to request these details along with a form to complete. You must return your completed form within 36 days. Your annual cull return should record for each individual landholding the number and sex of each species of deer culled from 1 April to 31 March. Contact NatureScot if you cull deer in Scotland and haven't previously received a letter requesting an annual cull return. This annual return should be made available to Scottish Forestry if requested.

Scottish Forestry
Coilltearachd na h-Alba
Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
gov.scot
The European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development: Europe investing in rural areas
SRDP
Scottish Rural Development Programme

201000 202000 203000

731000 730000 729000 728000

Access

The forest road and network of ATV tracks, which have been constructed post harvesting provide good access across the forest to facilitate deer management.
Permanent high seats are positioned overlooking permanent open ground, e.g the powerline ride, and portable high seats are utilised where most needed i.e. on new restock sites

Deer pressure in the north of the forest is generally lower and the forest is adjacent to the main A85. An existing area of Norway spruce and Douglas fir has established well without fencing, and the proposed PAWS restoration in compartment 3, through a combination of natural regeneration and supplementary planting, will aim to be achieved without deer fencing. Active deer management will be targeted in this area.

There is an existing perimeter deer fence around the property, and whilst this is generally in good condition, there are gaps and deer can move freely between Ichrachan and some of the neighbouring land. Maintaining a secure deer fenced perimeter is currently not a priority, as deer on the property are culled and the cost of maintaining a long perimeter fence is expensive.

Designated Sites

Glen Nant SSSI/Loch Etive SAC is located west of the forest, sharing part of the western boundary of Ichrachan. Deer have the potential to impact on the qualifying features of these sites.

Sitka spruce restocking

Restocks containing Sitka spruce will not be deer fenced and establishment will be achieved through deer management. Deer are effectively 'shot on sight' within Ichrachan, and the proposed management cull is indicative of the likely cull rates achievable.

Proposed expansion of native woodland, PAWS restoration and establishment of Scots pine crop in the south and west of Ichrachan will be vulnerable to deer damage as these areas include the most palatable species to deer. Natural regeneration is the favoured approach to establishment, but where Scots pine is being planted, as pure crop and in mixture with native broadleaves, internal deer fencing around individual coupes may be needed.

Fanans Forest

Commercial conifer plantation borders Ichrachan to the south and south-east. Deer pressure is highest in this area and deer are able to move into Ichrachan. The majority of deer shot within Ichrachan have immigrated from this area.

SCOTTISH WOODLANDS

Ichrachan Forest
Long Term Forest Plan

Deer Management Plan

BRN: 231115
MLC: 68/171/0126

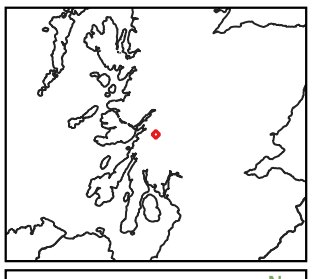
Created on: 15/10/2026

Legend

- Estate Boundary
- Compartment
- Main access
- SAC/SSSI
- Forest road
- ATV track
- Overhead powerline
- Deer Fence

Future Species

- Sitka spruce
- Scots pine
- Mixed conifer
- Native broadleaves
- Scots pine and NBL
- Open ground (OG)
- NBL/OG
- NBL and Scots pine
- OG/NBL



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