

**Birse Parish Deer Management Group
(BP DMG)**

**REPORT ON DEER MANAGEMENT
2017-18**

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BIRSE PARISH DEER MANAGEMENT GROUP

Report on Deer Management 2017-18

Introduction

The Birse Parish Deer Management Group (BP DMG) involves all the properties over 100 ha within the DMG area. The members are Ballogie, Finzean and Birse Estates, Birse Community Trust (BCT), Balfour Estate and the Shannel.

The DMG area covers the civil parish of Birse and the adjoining Carlogie area, as outlined on the map on the next page. The DMG area is approximately 13,387 hectares or 33,080 acres.

The production of this annual cull report is part of implementing the Birse Parish Deer Management Plan 2014-19. The purpose of the report is to inform BP DMG discussions about:

- (a) the DMG's red and roe deer culls in the previous year (2017-18);
- (b) the DMG's red and roe deer cull targets in the coming year (2018-19)

The Group's Deer Management Plan and annual reports since 2012-13, are on the Birse Community Trust website with other BP DMG papers at: http://www.birsecommunitytrust.org.uk/Local_Notice_Board/rep4Other.html

The DMG area is divided into 26 Deer Management Units (DMUs), as shown on the map on the next page. The DMUs are allocated to one of three zones, depending on their character (low ground, forest, hill). There are:-







- 6 hill DMUs covering 5,546 ha (c.40% of DMG area)(average c.1,100ha ea)
- 10 forest DMUs covering 3,929 ha (c.30% of DMG area)(average c.450ha ea)
- 10 low ground DMUs covering 3,912 ha (c.30% of DMG area)(av.c.500ha ea)

Birse Parish Deer Management Group

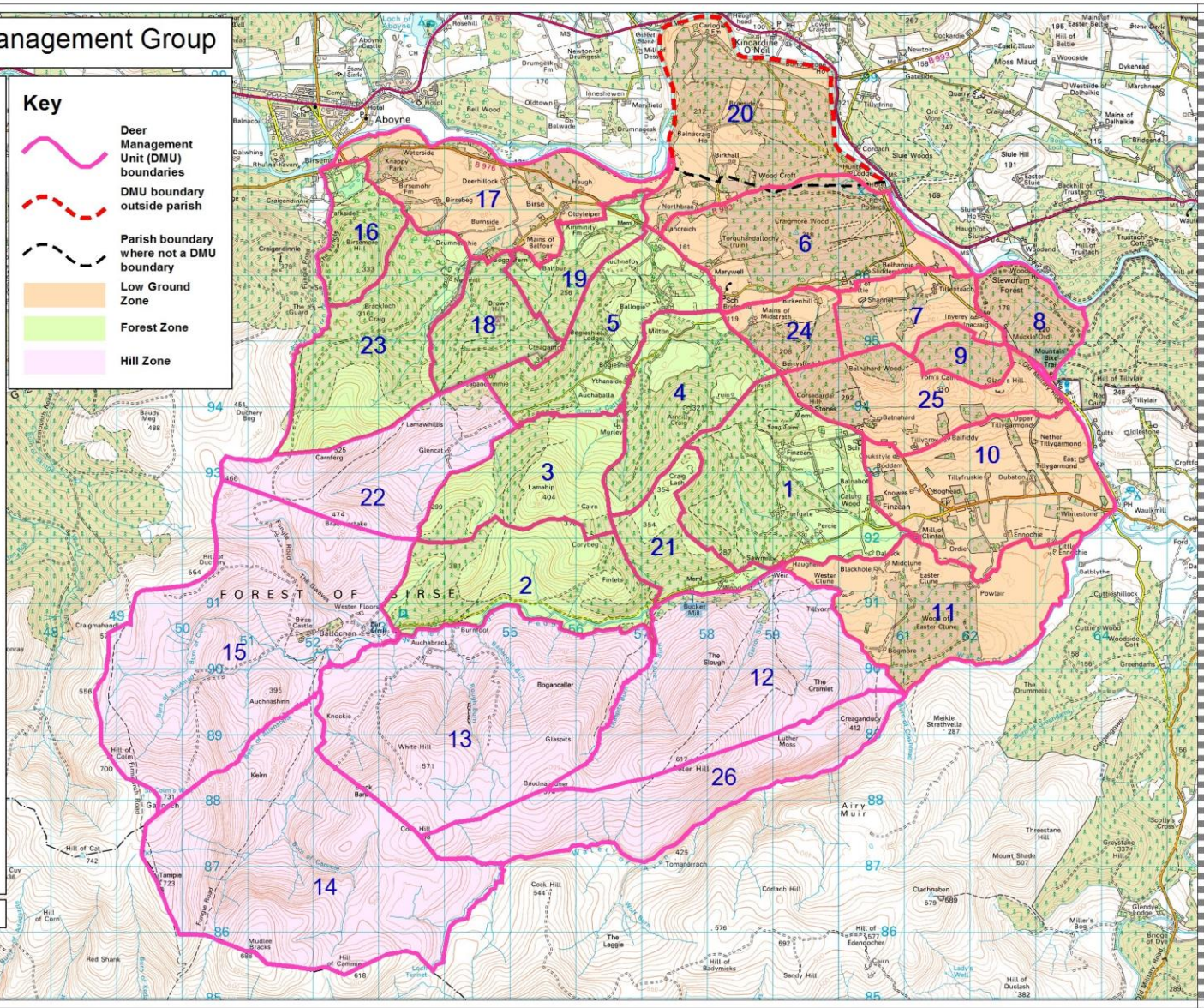
Deer Management Units

- 1 Finzean West Woods
- 2 Commonty Pinewoods
- 3 Lamahip
- 4 Arntilly
- 5 Bogieshiel
- 6 Craigmore and Midstrath
- 7 Shannel and Coulnacraig
- 8 Slewdrum Forest
- 9 Craigbeg Plantation
- 10 Finzean East
- 11 Easter Clune
- 12 Peter Hill
- 13 White Hill and Glaspits
- 14 Mudlee Bracks
- 15 Birse Hill
- 16 Birse Forest North
- 17 Birse Low Ground
- 18 Balfour Forest
- 19 Balfour Estate
- 20 Carlogie
- 21 Glen Ferrick
- 22 Glencat
- 23 Birse Forest South
- 24 Midstrath
- 25 Tom's Cairn
- 26 Glen Aven

Key

-  Deer Management Unit (DMU) boundaries
-  DMU boundary outside parish
-  Parish boundary where not a DMU boundary
-  Low Ground Zone
-  Forest Zone
-  Hill Zone

Scale 1:85 000 07/05/2017



PART ONE - DESCRIPTION OF THE CULL IN 2017-18

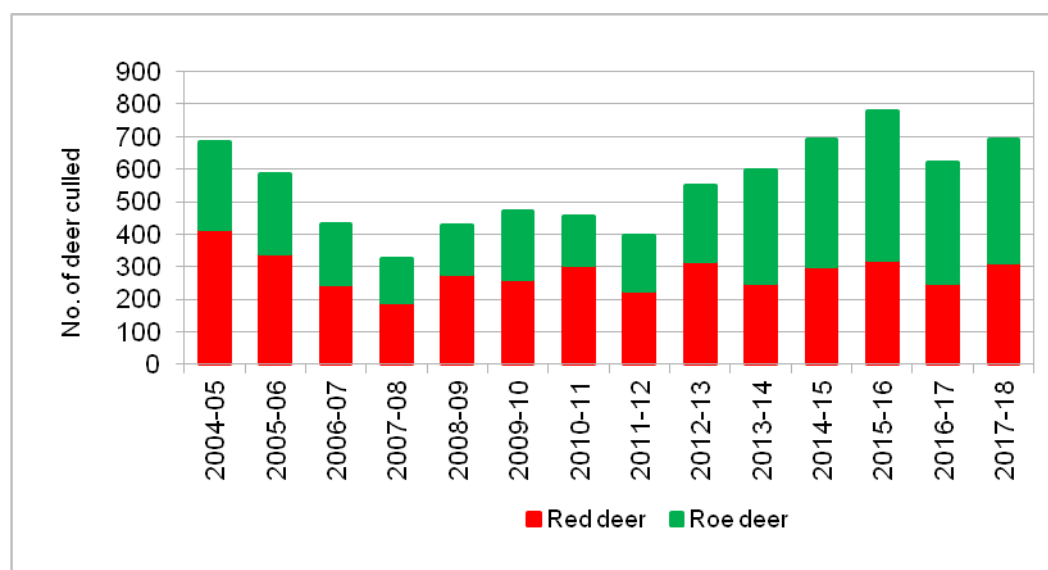
1 Overall Total Culls

The total red and roe culls in the DMG area in 2017-18 are shown in Table 1 and Figure 1 below. The contributions of the six DMG Members to the total red and roe culls are shown in Table 2 on the next page. Fig.2 then shows the patterns of the annual culls by the four main DMG Members.

Table 1: Total Culls of Red and Roe Deer

	RED	ROE	Total Cull	Red : Roe %
2004-05	415	267	682	61 : 39
2005-06	340	245	585	58 : 42
2006-07	246	184	430	57 : 43
2007-08	191	133	324	59 : 41
2008-09	276	150	426	65 : 35
2009-10	260	212	472	55 : 45
2010-11	304	152	456	67 : 33
2011-12	226	171	397	57 : 43
2012-13	315	234	549	57 : 43
2013-14	248	347	595	42 : 58
2014-15	300	390	690	43 : 57
2015-16	320	458	778	41 : 59
2016-17	249	371	620	40 : 60
2017-18	314	377	691	45 : 55

Figure 1: Total Culls of Red and Roe Deer



**Birse Parish Deer Management Group
(BP DMG)**

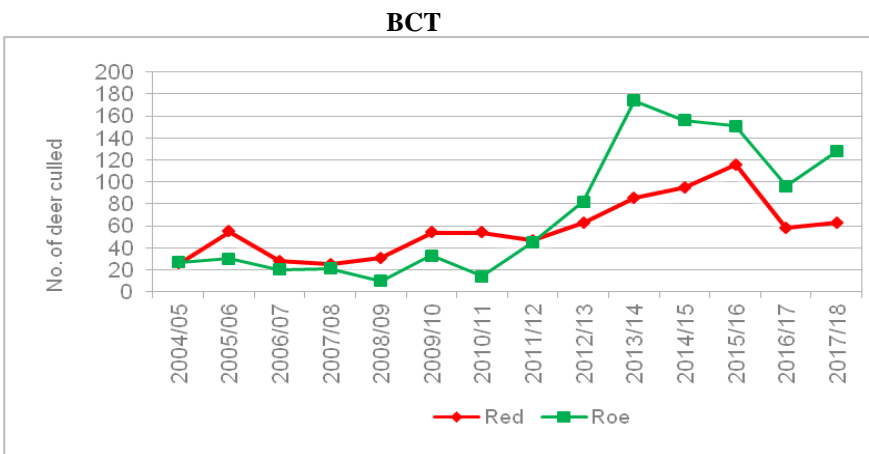
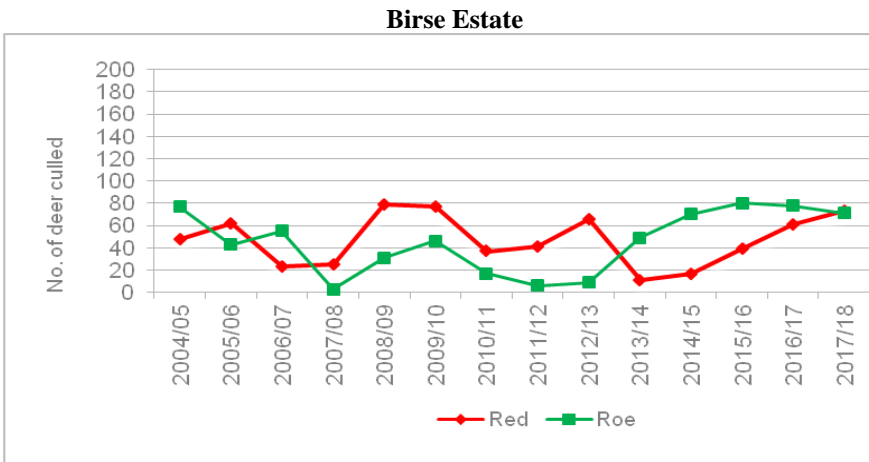
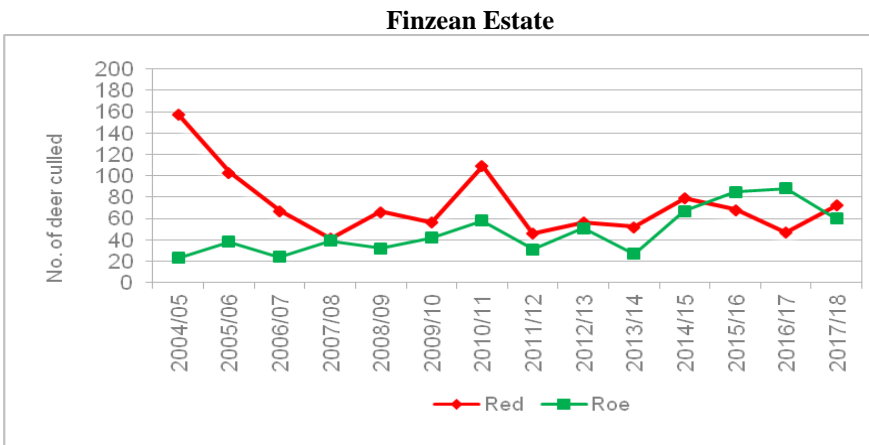
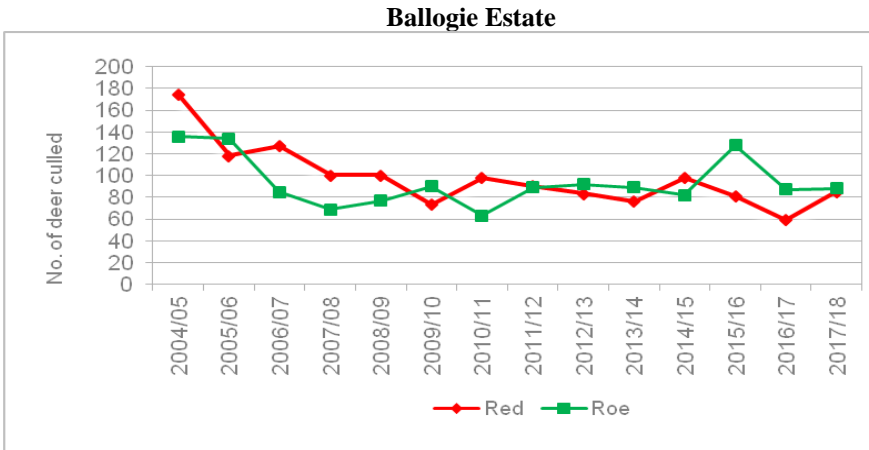
Table 2 Red and Roe Deer Cull Totals 2004/05 - 2017/18 ¹

	Ballogie Estate <i>(DMUs 3,4,5,6,13,14,20,24)²</i> 5,020 ha			Finzean Estate <i>(DMUs 1,9,10,11,12,21,25,26)</i> 3,978 ha			Birse Estate <i>(DMUs 15,16,17,22,23)</i> 3,039 ha			BCT <i>(DMUs 2,8,18)</i> 936 ha			Shannel+Balfour Est. <i>(DMUs 7 +-19)</i> 419 ha			BP DMG Area <i>(DMUs 1-26)</i> 13,382 ha		
	<i>Red</i>	<i>Roe</i>	Total	<i>Red</i>	<i>Roe</i>	Total	<i>Red</i>	<i>Roe</i>	Total	<i>Red</i>	<i>Roe</i>	Total	<i>Red</i>	<i>Roe</i>	Total	<i>Red</i>	<i>Roe</i>	Total
2004/05	174	136	310	157	23	180	48	77	125	26	27	53	10	2	12	415	267	682
2005/06	118	134	252	103	38	141	62	43	105	55	30	85	2	0	2	340	245	585
2006/07	127	85	212	67	24	91	23	55	88	28	20	48	1	0	1	246	184	430
2007/08	100	69	169	41	39	80	25	3	28	25	21	46	0	1	1	191	133	324
2008/09	100	77	177	66	32	98	79	31	110	31	10	41	0	0	0	276	150	426
2009/10	73	90	163	56	42	98	77	46	123	54	33	87	0	1	1	260	212	472
2010/11	98	63	161	109	58	167	37	17	54	54	14	68	6	0	6	304	152	456
2011/12	90	89	179	46	31	77	41	6	47	47	45	92	2	0	2	226	171	397
2012/13	83	92	175	56	51	107	66	9	75	63	82	145	47	0	47	315	234	549
2013/14	76	89	165	52	27	79	11	49	60	86	174	260	23	8	31	248	347	595
2014/15	98	82	180	79	67	146	17	70	87	95	156	251	11	15	26	300	390	690
2015/16	81	128	209	68	85	153	39	80	119	116	151	267	16	14	30	320	458	778
2016/17	59	87	146	47	88	135	61	78	139	58	96	154	24	22	46	249	371	620
2017/18	85	88	173	72	60	132	73	71	144	63	128	191	21	30	51	314	377	691
<i>10 yr av</i>	<i>84</i>	<i>89</i>	<i>173</i>	<i>65</i>	<i>54</i>	<i>119</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>46</i>	<i>96</i>	<i>67</i>	<i>89</i>	<i>156</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>281</i>	<i>286</i>	<i>567</i>
<i>5 yr av.</i>	<i>80</i>	<i>95</i>	<i>175</i>	<i>64</i>	<i>65</i>	<i>129</i>	<i>40</i>	<i>70</i>	<i>110</i>	<i>84</i>	<i>141</i>	<i>225</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>37</i>	<i>286</i>	<i>389</i>	<i>675</i>

¹ In October 2014/15, a male Sika deer was also shot on Ballogie Estate

² These totals do not include the cull carried out by Ballogie Estate in DMU 2, the Commonly Pinewoods, which is included in the BCT totals

Fig. 2 Red and Roe Deer Culls by main Group Members 2004-18



2 Red Deer Cull

Table 3 below shows the distribution of the 2017-18 red deer cull by Deer Management Unit (DMU)

Table 4 on the following page shows the red deer culls by DMG members for the period 2004-18.

Table 3 Birse Parish DMG Red Deer Cull by DMU 2017-18 (brackets = (2015/16)(2016/17))

Deer Mgt Units	Hectares	Red Deer Cull 2017-18				Cull/100 ha	Zone
		Stags	Hinds	Calves	Total		
1 Finzean West Woods	654	7	8	0	15	(2.0) (2.6) 2.2	F
2 Commonly Pinewoods	528	22	4	5	31	(12.9) (4.9) 5.9	F
3 Lamahip	401	6	7	5	18	(2.5) (4.2) 4.5	F
4 Arntilly	405	7	7	2	16	(7.9) (4.9) 3.9	F
5 Bogieshiel	434	10	7	1	18	(1.4) (0.2) 4.1	F
6 Craigmore & Midstrath	713	1	4	2	7	(1.5) (0.8) 1.0	L
7 Shannel & Coulnacraig	226	4	12	0	16	(5.8) (9.7) 7.0	L
8 Slewdrum Forest	173	2	2	0	4	(10.7) (5.8) 2.3	L
9 Craigbeg Plantation	94	2	0	0	2	(6.4) (8.5) 2.1	L
10 Finzean East	1007	5	2	0	7	(2.0) (0.1) 0.7	L
11 Easter Clune	572	4	9	0	13	(0.5) (0.9) 2.3	L
12 Peter Hill	1433	12	22	0	34	(1.6) (1.1) 2.4	H
13 Whitehill & Glaspits	1189	0	0	0	0	(0.6) (0.3) 0	H
14 Mudlee Bracks	1264	7	1	1	9	(0.8) (0.4) 0.7	H
15 Birse Hill	1293	30	3	0	33	(0.2) (0.8) 2.6	H
16 Birse Forest	336	0	1	1	1	(2.6) (3.8) 0.3	F
17 Birse Low Ground	514	1	1	0	2	(2.3) (2.7) 0.4	L
18 Balfour Forest	240	16	12	0	28	(12.5) (9.2) 11.7	F
19 Balfour Estate	193	2	3	0	5	(1.6) (1.0) 2.6	F
20 Carlogie	614	14	2	1	17	(0.8) (1.1) 2.8	L
21 Glen Ferrick	218	1	0	0	1	(1.4) (0) 0.5	F
22 Glencat	486	10	1	0	11	(1.0) (1.9) 2.3	H
23 Birse Forest South	400	16	10	0	26	6.5	F
Totals	13,387	179	118	17	314	(2.4) (1.9) 2.3	

Table 4: Birse Parish DMG Red Deer Culls 2004-18

	Ballogie Estate			Finzean Estate			Birse Estate			Birse Community Trust			Shannel + Balfour Estate ³			Parish Totals		
	Stags	Hinds+	Total	Stags	Hinds+	Total	Stags	Hinds+	Total	Stags	Hinds+	Total	Stags	Hinds+	Total	Stags	Hinds+	Total
2004/05	72	102	174	53	104	157	27	21	48	18	8	26	3	7	10	173	242	415
2005/06	44	74	118	46	57	103	49	13	62	17	38	55	0	2	2	156	184	340
2006/07	45	82	127	37	30	67	17	6	23	15	13	28	0	1	1	114	132	246
2007/08	67	33	100	22	19	41	25	0	25	15	10	25	0	0	0	129	62	191
2008/09	57	43	100	35	31	66	68	11	79	12	19	31	0	0	0	172	104	276
2009/10	34	39	73	29	27	56	49	28	77	9	45	54	0	0	0	121	139	260
2010/11	45	53	98	32	77	109	13	24	37	9	45	54	0	6	6	99	205	304
2011/12	53	37	90	18	28	46	20	21	41	19	28	47	2	0	2	112	114	226
2012/13	49	34	83	36	20	56	37	29	66	38	25	63	23	24	47	183	132	315
2013/14	49	27	76	29	23	52	4	7	11	33	53	86	9	14	23	124	124	248
2014/15	51	47	98	34	45	79	11	6	17	43	52	95	4	7	11	143	147	300
2015/16	54	27	81	34	34	68	19	20	39	94	22	116	12	4	16	213	107	320
2016/17	35	24	59	23	24	47	32	29	61	41	17	58	15	9	24	146	103	249
2017/18	45	40	85	31	41	72	57	16	73	40	23	63	6	15	21	179	135	314

³ *No red deer were culled on the Shannel until 2012-13, when 20 stags and 21 hinds/calves were shot.
 In 2013-14, the Shannel cull was 9 stags and 12 hinds/calves
 In 2014-15, the Shannel cull was 2 stags, 5 hinds/calves
 In 2015-16, the Shannel cull was 9 stags, 4 hinds
 In 2015-16, the Balfour Estate cull data is only to 31.12.15
 In 2016-17, the Shannel cull was 14 stags, 8 hinds/calves (including 2 hinds on Coulnacraig)
 In 2017-18, the Shannel cull was 4 stags, 12 hinds*

3 Roe Deer Cull

Table 5 below shows the distribution of the 2017-18 roe deer cull by Deer Management Unit.

Table 6 on the next page shows the red deer culls by DMG members for the period 2004-18.

Table 5 Birse Parish DMG Roe Deer Cull 2017-18 by DMU (brackets = (2015/16)(2016-17))

Deer Mgt Units	Hectares	Roe Deer Cull 2017-18				Cull/100 ha	Zone
		Bucks	Does	Kids	Total		
1 Finzean West Woods	654	12	11	0	23	(4.0) (3.8) 3.5	F
2 Commonty Pinewoods	528	10	20	3	33	(5.5) (3.0) 6.3	F
3 Lamahip	401	11	0	0	11	(4.2) (2.5) 2.7	F
4 Arntilly	405	3	9	1	13	(4.0) (1.5) 3.2	F
5 Bogieshiel	434	8	8	2	18	(4.1) (4.1) 4.1	F
6 Craigmore & Midstrath	713	8	10	3	21	(5.3) (4.1) 2.9	L
7 Shannel & Coulnacraig	226	11	2	0	13	(1.8) (4.4) 5.8	L
8 Slewdrum Forest	173	26	19	0	45	(31.5) (23.7) 26.0	L
9 Craigbeg Plantation	94	6	3	0	9	(8.5) (16.0) 9.6	L
10 Finzean East	1007	6	4	0	10	(2.1) (2.0) 1.0	L
11 Easter Clune	572	3	1	0	4	(2.1) (1.9) 0.7	L
12 Peter Hill	1433	7	7	0	14	(1.0) (1.2) 1.0	H
13 Whitehill & Glaspits	1189	3	0	0	3	(0.3) (0.1) 0.3	H
14 Mudlee Bracks	1264	1	0	0	1	(0.2) (0.1) 0.1	H
15 Birse Hill	1293	15	9	0	24	(2.0) (1.1) 1.9	H
16 Birse Forest	336	3	0	0	3	(4.1) (3.5) 0.9	F
17 Birse Low Ground	514	3	6	0	9	(4.5) (3.1) 1.8	L
18 Balfour Forest	240	33	17	0	50	(28.8) (16.3) 20.8	F
19 Balfour Estate	193	10	7	0	17	(5.2) (6.2) 8.8	F
20 Carlogie	614	7	12	2	21	(5.2) (3.7) 3.4	L
21 Glen Ferrick	218	0	0	0	0	(1.8) (0) 0	F
22 Glencat	486	11	3	0	14	(0.2) (4.5) 2.9	H
23 Birse Forest South	400	5	16	0	21	5.2	F
Totals	13,387	202	164	11	377	(3.4) (2.8) 2.8	

Table 6: Birse Parish DMG Roe Deer Culls 2004-18

	Ballogie Estate			Finzean Estate			Birse Estate			Birse Community Trust			Shannel + Balfour Estate ⁴			Parish Totals		
	Bucks	Does+	Total	Bucks	Does+	Total	Bucks	Does+	Total	Bucks	Does+	Total	Bucks	Does+	Total	Bucks	Does+	Total
2004/05	36	102	136	13	10	23	7	70	77	8	19	27	0	2	2	64	203	267
2005/06	34	100	134	21	17	38	13	30	43	10	20	30	0	0	0	78	167	245
2006/07	27	58	85	10	14	24	13	42	55	10	10	20	0	0	0	60	124	184
2007/08	29	40	69	17	22	39	2	1	3	5	16	21	1	0	1	54	79	133
2008/09	28	49	77	17	15	32	9	22	31	2	8	10	0	0	0	56	94	150
2009/10	43	47	90	19	23	42	11	35	46	17	16	33	1	0	1	91	121	212
2010/11	30	33	63	21	37	58	14	3	17	4	10	14	0	0	0	69	83	152
2011/12	38	51	89	18	13	31	6	0	6	16	29	45	0	0	0	78	93	171
2012/13	39	53	92	21	30	51	5	4	9	30	52	82	0	0	0	95	139	234
2013/14	61	28	89	19	8	27	18	31	49	75	99	174	5	3	8	178	169	347
2014/15	34	48	82	30	37	67	20	50	70	54	102	156	11	4	15	149	241	390
2015/16	36	92	128	35	50	85	18	62	80	57	94	151	8	6	14	154	304	458
2016/17	41	46	87	35	53	88	25	53	78	43	53	96	15	7	22	159	212	371
2017/18	41	47	88	34	26	60	37	34	71	69	59	128	21	9	30	202	175	377

⁴ There are no recorded roe culls from the Shannel prior to 2013-14. The cull in the Shannel DMU (including Coulnacraig) since then has been:

In 2013-14 = 3 bucks and 2 does/others.

In 2014-15 = 6 bucks, 1 doe.

In 2015-16 = 4 bucks.

In 2016-17 = 9 bucks, 1 doe (including one doe from Coulnacraig)

In 2017-18 = 11 bucks, 2 does

4. Cull Totals by Deer Management Zone

Table 7 Total Deer Cull by Deer Management Zone				
	Low Ground 3,912 ha (29%)	Forest 3,929 ha (29%)	Hill 5,546 ha (42%)	Total 13,387 ha (100%)
2012/13	202 (39%) (5.0 /100ha)	304 (53%) (7.7 /100ha)	43 (8%) (0.7 /100ha)	549 (100 %) (4.1 /100ha)
2013/14	237 (44%) (6.1 /100ha)	294 (45%) (7.5 /100ha)	64 (11%) (1.2 /100ha)	595 (100%) (4.4 /100ha)
2014/15	260 (38%) (6.6 /100ha)	307 (44%) (7.8 /100ha)	123 (18%) (2.2 /100ha)	690 (100%) (5.1 /100ha)
2015/16	279 (36%) (7.1 /100ha)	403 (52%) (10.1 /100ha)	96 (12%) (1.7 /100ha)	778 (100%) (5.8 /100ha)
2016/17	237 (38%) (6.1 /100ha)	285 (46%) (7.3 /100ha)	98 (16%) (1.8 /100ha)	620 (100%) (4.6 /100ha)
2017/18	124 (18%) (3.2 /100ha)	348 (50%) (8.9 /100ha)	219 (32%) (3.9 /100ha)	691 (100%) (5.2 /100ha)

Table 8 Red Deer Cull by Deer Management Zone				
	Low Ground 3,912 ha (29%)	Forest 3,929 ha (29%)	Hill 5,546 ha (42%)	Total 13,387 ha (100%)
2012/13	126 (40%) (3.1 /100ha)	165 (52%) (4.2 /100ha)	24 (8%) (0.4 /100ha)	315 (100%) (2.4 /100ha)
2013/14	108 (44%) (2.8 /100ha)	113 (45%) (2.9 /100ha)	27 (11%) (0.5 /100ha)	248 (100%) (1.9 /100ha)
2014/15	103 (34%) (2.6 /100ha)	134 (45%) (3.4 /100ha)	63 (21%) (1.1 /100ha)	300 (100%) (2.2 /100ha)
2015/16	88 (28%) (2.3 /100ha)	184 (57%) (4.7 /100ha)	48 (15%) (0.9 /100ha)	320 (100%) (2.4 /100ha)
2016/17	73 (29%) (1.9 /100ha)	133 (54%) (3.4 /100ha)	43 (17%) (0.8 /100ha)	249 (100%) (1.9 /100ha)
2017/18	68 (22%) (1.7 /100ha)	159 (50%) (4.0 /100ha)	87 (28%) (1.6 /100ha)	314 (100%) (2.3 /100ha)

Table 9 Roe Deer Cull by Deer Management Zone				
	Low Ground 3,912 ha (29%)	Forest 3,929 ha (29%)	Hill 5,546 ha (42%)	Total 13,387 ha (100%)
2012/13	76 (33%) (1.9 /100ha)	139 (59%) (3.5 /100ha)	19 (8%) (0.3 /100ha)	234 (100%) (1.7/100ha)
2013/14	129 (37%) (3.3 /100ha)	181 (52%) (4.6 /100ha)	37 (11%) (0.7 /100ha)	347 (100%) (2.6 /100ha)
2014/15	157 (40%) (4.0 /100ha)	173 (44%) (4.4 /100ha)	60 (16%) (1.1 /100ha)	390 (100%) (2.9 /100ha)
2015/16	191 (42%) (4.9 /100ha)	219 (47%) (5.5 /100ha)	48 (11%) (0.9 /100ha)	458 (100%) (3.4 / 100 ha)
2016/17	164 (44%) (4.2 /100ha)	152 (41%) (3.9 /100ha)	55 (15%) (1.0 /100ha)	371 (100%) (2.8 /100ha)
2017/18	56 (15%) (1.4 /100ha)	189 (50%) (4.8 /100ha)	132 (35%) 2.4 /100ha)	377 (100%) (2.8 /100ha)

5. Interim Cull Totals

Table 10 Birse Parish DMG Cull in 2017-18 by Period of Year (brackets = previous years)				
Period to	Total Red Cull at date	Total Roe Cull at date	Cull in Period	% of Total Cull
30th Sept.	88	179	(253) (229) 267	(33%) (37%) 39%
31st Dec.	215	275	(236) (166) 223	(30%) (27%) 32%
31st March	314	377	(289) (225) 201	(37%) (36%) 29%
Totals	314	377	(778) (620) 691	100%

6 SNH Authorisations

Information from four main members. No authorisations on Balfour Estate or the Shannel.

Table 11 Out of Season						
	Red		Roe		Both Spp. O/S	
	No.	% Cull	No.	% Cull	% Male	% Female + calves/kids
2012/13	68	22%	26	11%	70%	30%
2013/14	92	37%	46	13%	49%	51%
2014/15	73	25%	28	7%	60%	40%
2015/16	155	48%	50	11%	69%	31%
2016/17	94	38%	43	12%	53%	47%
2017/18	108	34%	73	19%	64%	36%

Table 12 Night Shooting						
	Red		Roe		Both Spp. N/S	
	No.	% Cull	No.	% Cull	% Male	% Female + calves/kids
2012/13	24	8%	40	17%	30%	70%
2013/14	49	20%	70	20%	43%	57%
2014/15	53	18%	83	21%	27%	73%
2015/16	33	10%	66	15%	32%	68%
2016/17	27	11%	46	12%	7%	93%
2017/18	21	7%	29	8%	34%	66%

7 Carcase Weights (clean carcase weight – no gralloch)

Table 13 Red Deer Carcase Weights (kgs)																
	Ballogie Estate				Finzean Estate				BCT (Balfour+Slewdrum)				Birse Estate			
	<i>Stag Aver Wt</i>	<i>Stag Top Wt</i>	<i>Hind Aver Wt</i>	<i>Hind Top Wt</i>	<i>Stag Aver Wt.</i>	<i>Stag Top Wt.</i>	<i>Hind Aver Wt.</i>	<i>Hind Top Wt.</i>	<i>Stag Aver Wt.</i>	<i>Stag Top Wt.</i>	<i>Hind Aver Wt.</i>	<i>Hind Top Wt.</i>	<i>Stag Aver Wt.</i>	<i>Stag Top Wt.</i>	<i>Hind Aver Wt.</i>	<i>Hind Top Wt.</i>
2012/13	56	90	45	56	51	90	36	50	65	105	51	82	-	-	-	-
2013/14	50	85	41	55	56	90	48	55	73	103	43	68	-	-	-	-
2014/15	54	90	45	60	55	85	38	50	72	118	51	75	-	-	-	-
2015/16	55	98	44	56	55	80	43	60	62	116	51	61	-	-	-	-
2016/17	53	85	45	63	61	100	43	60	56	92	49	65	-	-	-	-
2017/18	54	84	45	63	56	89	44	60	52	78	44	65	49	84	43	62

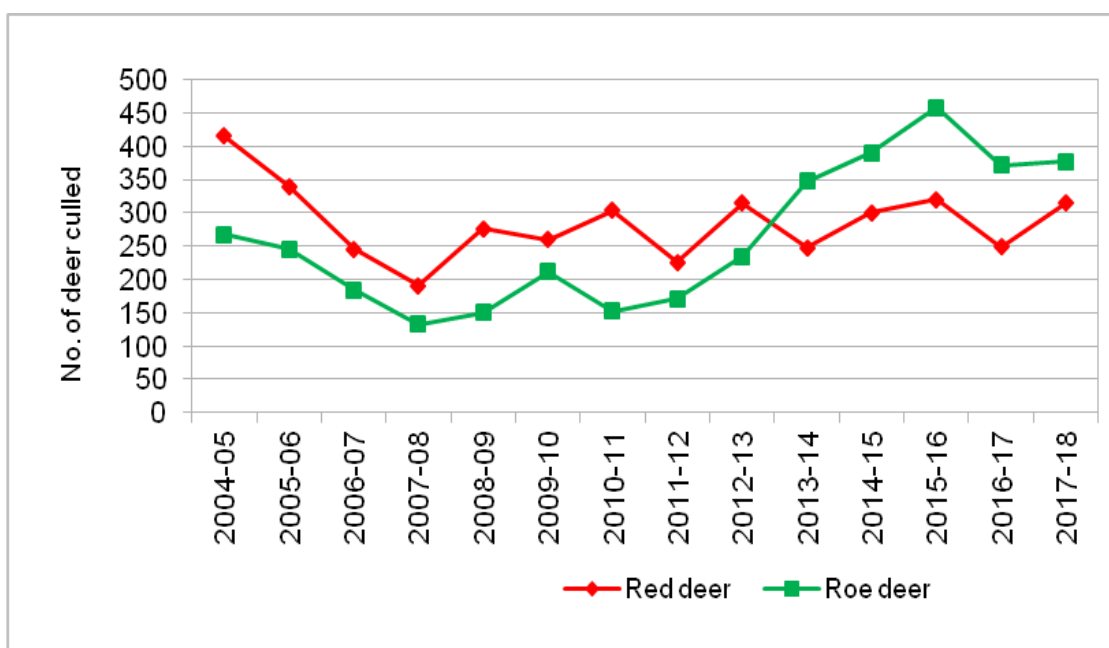
Table 14 Roe Deer Carcase Weights (kgs)																
	Ballogie Estate				Finzean Estate				BCT (Balfour+Slewdrum)				Birse Estate			
	<i>buck aver wt</i>	<i>buck top wt</i>	<i>doe aver wt</i>	<i>doe top wt.</i>	<i>buck aver wt.</i>	<i>buck top wt.</i>	<i>doe aver wt.</i>	<i>doe top wt.</i>	<i>buck aver wt.</i>	<i>buck top wt.</i>	<i>doe aver wt.</i>	<i>doe top wt.</i>	<i>buck aver wt.</i>	<i>buck top wt.</i>	<i>doe aver wt.</i>	<i>doe top wt.</i>
2012/13	12	18	11	18	16	20	16	20	13	19	11	20	-	-	-	-
2013/14	13	19	10	16	18	25	11	23	14	19	12	18	-	-	-	-
2014/15	12	17	10	16	14	18	12	20	14	19	12	19	-	-	-	-
2015/16	12	18	12	18	15	22	14	18	15	20	16	19	-	-	-	-
2016/17	13	17	12	16	14	19	15	20	15	19	17	19	-	-	-	-
2017/18	16	17	11	15	14	19	14	18	12	19	14	18	13	17	11	17

PART TWO TARGETS FOR THE CULL IN 2018-19

8 Overall Cull in 2017-18

- 1 Part One of the Report shows that 314 red and 377 roe deer were shot in the BP DMG area in 2017-18. The overall cull of 691 deer was 45% red and 55% roe. This ratio meets the DMG's target of culling significantly more roe than red deer each year to reflect that there are more roe deer locally than red deer.
- 2 The DMG started 2017-18 with cull targets of over 250 red and over 350 roe to match the cull of over 600 deer in 2016-17, given the apparent numbers of both species locally still.
- 3 Figure 3 below shows that, while the culls of 314 red and 377 roe can be considered to have met the DMG's targets, both totals are slightly higher than the previous year. While the red total continued the pattern of fluctuating red cull levels around 250-300 deer, the roe total maintain the new higher level of roe culls in recent years.
- 4 2017-18 was part of the DMG's 5 year Deer Management Plan 2014-19. During the Plan so far a total of 2,779 deer have been shot in the DMG area. Compared to the previous 3 years, the average annual red cull increased from 290 to 294 during the Plan and the average annual roe cull decreased from 406 to 402.
- 5 In the Plan, the target for red deer was to increase the average cull from the previous 10 year average of 290 but this was not achieved with the average of 281. The target for roe of over 300 each year is still on track with culls of 390, 454, 371 and 377 during the so far.

Figure 3 Total Culls of Red and Roe Deer in BP DMG Area 2004-18



9. RED DEER - Cull Targets 2018-19

9.1 Red Deer Cull 2017-18

- 1 There continued to be significant numbers of red deer in the DMG area during most of the year. There was damage to barley by red deer in the north of the parish again, as well as continuing issues for forestry interests. The large group of 70-80 red deer now seems to have split into smaller groups.
- 2 The total cull of 314 red deer was greater than the target of 250. More stags than hinds were shot again (179:118), slightly up on 2016/17.

9.2 Red Deer Cull Targets 2017-18

- 1 The Group remains committed as its main priority, to reducing the local issues resulting from the relatively high numbers of red deer in the DMG area. The main members of the Group are similarly committed to carrying out the red deer culls necessary to achieve this.
- 2 However, the continuing damage to agricultural and forestry interests in parts of the area and the large sizes of the groups of red deer still seen in the area, reflect that the Group needs to continue to make progress in reducing the numbers of red deer locally.
- 3 The DMG members are continuing to see red deer travel from Glentinar into Balloch and Glencatt. It's difficult to know to which extent this is adding to annual recruitment but something to keep on the radar.
- 4 The main members have agreed that they need to cull a minimum of 275 red deer in 2018-19, The main members have allocated that minimum total between themselves as shown in Table 15.

Table 15 Agreed Minimum Red Deer Target Culls 2018-19.

Member	Area (ha)	Total Cull 2017-18	Min. Target 2018-19
Ballogie Estate	5,020	85	85
Finzean Estate	3,978	72	70
Birse Estate	3,029	73	50
BCT	936	63	65
Total		293	270

- 5 The main members intend to shoot more than the minimum if they can and, with culls that might be taken on Balfour Estate and the Shannel on top of that, the aim is that a cull of 275 should be achieved. In 2017-18, Balfour Estate and the Shannel shot 21 red deer or 7% of the DMG total.
- 6 The main members also recognise that there continue to be particular issues over red deer damage in the north west part of the DMG area. The 7 DMUs in and

around that area cover 20% of the DMG area. The DMUs and the overall culls in that part of the DMG area over the last 6 years are shown in Table 16 below.

- 7 The members responsible for these DMUs are already trying to reduce the numbers of red deer in this north-west area and are agreed that there will be a continuing high cull effort in 2018-19 aimed at reducing both red and roe deer in the area.

Table 16 Six Year Cull in North West Part of DMG Area			
(7 DMUs = Birse Low Ground., Birse Forest, Glencat, Balfour Forest, Balfour Estate, Bogieshiel = 2,603 ha)			
<i>(figures in brackets = % of DMG cull)</i>			
	RED	ROE	TOTAL
2012/13	113 (36%)	75 (32%)	188 (34%)
2013/14	50 (20%)	125 (36%)	175 (29%)
2014/15	61 (20%)	111 (28%)	172 (25%)
2015/16	75 (23%)	147 (32%)	222 (29%)
2016/17	76 (31%)	131 (35%)	207 (33%)
2017/18	91 (29%)	132 (35%)	223 (32%)

10. ROE DEER - Cull Targets 2018-19

10.1 Roe Deer Cull 2017-18

- 1 The 2017-18 roe cull of 377 exceeded the DMG's target of 350 or more. However, the cull maintained the significantly higher level of roe culls in recent years.
- 2 During the last five years 2013/14-2017/18, the DMG has shot 1,943 roe deer. This is over 1,000 more than the 919 shot in the previous five years. However, roe deer continue to be relatively abundant in the DMG area.
- 3 While more bucks than does were shot in 2017-18, this shows a reversal in the previous year where more does than bucks were shot.

10.2 Roe Deer Cull Targets 2018-19

- 1 The main members of the DMG each have a strong, local, economic self-interest in managing roe deer effectively in the DMG area. There are also important local and environmental and social reasons for achieving this.
- 2 The main members recognise that there are still relatively high numbers of roe deer in much of the DMG area and a continuing need for higher overall roe culls to try to reduce the numbers to more sustainable levels.
- 3 The main members have agreed that they need to cull over 340 roe deer again in 2018-19, and have allocated that minimum total between themselves as shown in Table 17.
- 4 The main members intend to shoot more than the minimum if they can and, with culls that might be taken on Balfour Estate and the Shannel on top of that, the aim is that the cull should be nearer 400. In 2017-18, Balfour Estate and the Shannel shot 30 roe deer or 8% of the DMG total.
- 5 There is already a significant roe cull in the 7 DMUs in the north west part of the DMG, where there is a particular focus on tackling the number of red deer. Members in that area will aim to maintain or improve the current level of the roe culls there.

Table 17 Agreed Minimum Roe Deer Target Culls 2018-19.

Member	Area (ha)	Total Cull 2017-18	Min. Target 2018-19
<i>Ballogie Estate</i>	<i>5,020</i>	88	100
<i>Finzean Estate</i>	<i>3,978</i>	60	70
<i>Birse Estate</i>	<i>3,029</i>	71	70
<i>BCT</i>	<i>936</i>	128	100
<i>Total</i>		347	340

11. OVERALL CULL TARGETS 2018-19

- 1 Both species continue to thrive in the favourable habitat of the DMG area and the main members recognise that higher numbers of both species need to be culled to reduce the current local populations to lower, sustainable levels.
- 2 At the start of the 2018-19 season, the main members have agreed the minimum cull targets below, with the aspiration that the red deer cull should be 275 or more and the roe cull 340 or more in 2018-19

Table 18 Agreed Minimum Red and Roe Deer Target Culls 2018-19

Member	Area (ha)	Min. Red 2018-19	Min. Roe 2018-19	Min. Target 2018-19
<i>Ballogie</i>	<i>5,020</i>	85	100	185
<i>Finzean</i>	<i>3,978</i>	70	70	140
<i>Birse</i>	<i>3,029</i>	50	70	120
<i>BCT</i>	<i>936</i>	65	100	165
<i>Total</i>		270	340	610

- 5 The cull of 314 red and 377 roe in 2017-18 represents a substantial amount of time and physical effort by the stalkers involved in carrying out the cull. A key challenge for the deer managers is to ensure that there are human resources available in terms of stalkers and stalker outings, to continue on those cull levels in 2018-19.