

BIRSE PARISH DEER MANAGEMENT GROUP

Report on Deer Management 2013-14¹

Introduction

The Birse Parish Deer Management Group (DMG) is an informal group involving 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 covers the civil parish of Birse and the adjoining Carlogie area, as outlined on the attached map. The DMG area is approximately 13,382 hectares or 33,000 acres.

The DMG area is divided into 20 Deer Management Units (DMUs). The DMU boundaries are shown on the attached map, with the three zones to which the DMUs are allocated depending on their character (low ground, forest, hill). There are:-

- 4 hill DMUs covering 5,546 ha (c.40% of the DMG area) and averaging c.1,400 ha each;
- 8 forest DMUs covering 3,929 ha (c.30% of the DMG area) and averaging c.500 ha each;
- 8 low ground DMUs covering 3,907 ha (c.30% of the DMG area) and averaging c.500 ha.

The DMG is currently implementing the Birse Parish Deer Management Plan 2009-14.

The purpose of this report is to inform Birse Parish DMG discussions about (a) the red and roe deer culls in 2013-14; (b) the target red and roe deer culls for 2014-15 and (c) the arrangements for cooperating over local deer management in 2014-15.

CONTENTS

Part A	<u>Description of Cull 2013-14</u>
1	Overall Cull Totals
2	Red Deer Cull
3	Roe Deer Cull
4	SNH Authorisations
5	Carcase Weights
Part B	<u>Culls 2013-14 and Targets 2014-15</u>
6	Red Deer
7	Roe Deer
8	Overall Targets
Attached	<u>Map of DMG Area and Deer Management Units</u>

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PART A - DESCRIPTION OF DEER CULL

1 Total Cull

The total cull in the Birse Parish DMG area in 2013-14 was 595 deer, consisting of 248 red deer and 347 roe deer.

Table 1 below shows that the total cull of 595 deer was the highest since 2004-05 at the start of the first DMP for 2004-09. The table also shows that 2013-14 was the first year since roe statistics started to be shared, when the number of roe culled has been higher than the red deer cull.

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

On the following page:-

Table 2 gives the total culls of red and roe deer by DMG members. Each member shot fewer red deer compared to the previous year except BCT, which increased its cull of red deer by over a third. As the table also shows, BCT accounted for 50% of the roe cull in the DMG area.

Table 3 gives the distribution of the total red and roe culls between the three DMU zones and the density of the total cull in each zone. The table shows that the culls of both red and roe increased slightly in the hill zone, while the roe cull also increased in both the low ground and forest zones. The reduction in the red cull in those two zones, was mainly in the forest zone.

Table 4, which excludes the cull figures from the four large open hill DMUs, gives the density of cull by members on the Low Ground and Forest DMUs for which they are responsible. The table shows that in these two zones, only BCT increased the number of deer culled per 100 ha compared to the previous year.

Table 2: Total Culls of Red and Roe Deer by DMG Member 2013-14

RED DEER	DMUs	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
Ballogie Estate	3,4,5,6,13,14,20	98	90	83	76
BCT	2,8,18	54	47	63	86
Finzean Estate	1,9,10,11,12	109	46	56	52
Birse Estate	15,16,17	37	41	66	11
Shannel	7	0	0	41	21
Balfour Estate	19	6	2	6	2
Totals		304	226	315	248

ROE DEER	DMUs	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
Ballogie Estate	3,4,5,6,13,14,20	63	89	92	89
BCT	2,8,18	14	45	82	174
Finzean Estate	1,9,10,11,12	58	31	51	27
Birse Estate	15,16,17	17	6	9	49
Shannel	7	0	0	0	5
Balfour Estate	19	0	0	0	3
Totals		152	171	234	347

Table 3: Red and Roe Deer Culls by DMU Zone 2013-14 (figures in brackets / 100 ha = previous year)

DMU Zone	Area (ha)	Red	Cull/100h a	Roe	Cull/100h a	Total Cull	Cull / 100 ha
Low Ground	3,907	108	2.8 (3.1)	129	3.3 (1.9)	237	6.1 (5.0)
Forest	3,929	113	2.9 (4.2)	181	4.6 (3.5)	294	7.5 (7.7)
Hill	5,546	27	0.5 (0.4)	37	0.7 (0.3)	64	1.2 (0.7)
Totals	13,382	248	1.9	347	2.6	595	4.4 (4.1)

Table 4: Red and Roe Culls by DMG Members in Low Ground and Forest Zones 2013-14

Excl. Hill DMUs	Area (ha)	Red Cull	Roe Cull	Total Cull	Av. Cull / 100 ha
Ballogie Est.	2567	68	80	148	5.8 (6.0)
Finzean Est.	2545	37	26	63	2.5 (3.6)
Birse Est.	1370	7	22	29	2.1 (4.6)
BCT	936	86	174	260	27.8 (15.5)
Shannel	225	21	5	26	11.6 (18.2)

Balfour Est.	193	2	3	5	2.6 (3.1)
Totals	7836	221	310	531	6.8 (6.4)

2 Red Deer Cull

Table 5 below shows the distribution of the 2013-14 red deer cull by DMU. The percentage of the red deer cull in the different DMU Zones was, with the previous year's figures in brackets:-

Low Ground 44% (39%), Forest 45% (53%) and Hill 11% (8%).

There was a significant increase in the red deer cull in the Shannel / Slewdrum / Craigbeg area, with these three low grounds DMUs contributing 27% of the DMG red deer cull from 3.6% of the DMG area. If Balfour Forest is added, 40% of the red deer cull was from 5.4% of the DMG area.

Table 6 on the following page shows the red deer culls by DMG members over the ten year period 2004-14. In 2013-2014, the numbers of stags and of hinds/others shot were equal at 124. The average annual stag and hind culls over the previous 9 year period were 140 and 145 respectively.

Table 5 Birse Parish DMG Red Deer Cull by DMU 2013-14 (brackets = previous year)

Deer Mgt Units	Hectares	Red Deer Cull 2013-14				Cull/100 ha	Zone
		Stags	Hinds	Calves	Total		
1 Finzean West Woods	872	7	4	0	11	1.3 (2.4)	F
2 Commonty Pinewoods	528	14	6	4	24	4.5 (5.9)	F
3 Lamahip	401	14	2	1	17	4.2 (1.7)	F
4 Arntilly	405	7	5	4	16	4.0 (5.7)	F
5 Bogieshiel	434	7	1	0	8	1.8 (3.0)	F
6 Craigmore & Midstrath	713	9	7	2	18	2.5 (2.7)	L
7 Shannel & Coulnacraig	225	9	4	8	21	9.3 (18.2)	L
8 Slewdrum Forest	168	5	15	9	29	17.3 (1.2)	L
9 Craigbeg Plantation	93	0	13	3	16	17.2 (0)	L
10 Finzean East	1008	6	0	0	6	0.6 (1.5)	L
11 Easter Clune	572	4	0	0	4	0.7 (1.6)	L
12 Peter Hill	1433	12	3	0	15	1.0 (0.8)	H
13 Whitehill & Glaspits	1189	2	0	0	2	0.2 (0)	H
14 Mudlee Bracks	1264	6	0	0	6	0.5 (0.9)	H
15 Birse Hill	1660	1	2	1	4	0.2 (0.1)	H
16 Birse Forest	856	1	1	0	2	0.2 (4.0)	F
17 Birse Low Ground	514	2	3	0	5	1.0 (4.9)	L
18 Balfour Forest	240	14	12	7	33	13.8 (12.5)	F
19 Balfour Estate	193	0	2	0	2	1.0 (3.1)	F
20 Carlogie	614	4	4	1	9	1.5 (1.6)	L

Totals	13,382	124	84	40	248		1.9 (2.3)	
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Table 6: Birse Parish DMG Red Deer Culls 2004-14

	Ballogie Estate			Finzean Estate			Birse Estate			Birse Community Trust			Shannel + Balfour Estate ²			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

² No red deer were culled on the Shannel until 2012-13, when 20 stags and 21 hinds/others were shot. In 2013-14, the Shannel cull was 9 stags and 12hinds/others

3 Roe Deer Cull

Table 7 below shows the distribution of the 2013-14 roe deer cull by DMU. The percentage of the roe cull in the different DMU Zones was, with the previous year's figures in brackets:-

Low Ground 37% (33%), Forest 59% (59%) and Hill 11% (8%).

There was a significant increase in the roe cull in Balfour and Slewdrum Forests, from 66 to 142. These two DMUs covering 3% of the DMU area, produced 41% of the DMG roe cull.

Table 8 on the following page shows the roe deer culls by DMG members over the ten year period 2004-14. In 2013-14, the buck cull (175) was higher than the doe cull (168) for the first time in contrast to the previous nine years. The overall cull of 347 was approaching twice the average roe cull of over the previous nine years of 194 (72 bucks and 122 does/others).

Table 7 Birse Parish DMG Roe Deer Cull 2013-14 by DMU (brackets = previous year)

Deer Mgt Units	Hectares	Roe Deer Cull 2013-14				Cull/100 ha	Zone
		Bucks	Does	Kids	Total		
1 Finzean West Woods	872	10	3	1	14	1.6 (3.2)	F
2 Commony Pinewoods	528	10	21	1	32	6.1 (3.0)	F
3 Lamahip	401	17	2	0	19	4.7 (2.7)	F
4 Arntilly	405	2	5	1	8	2.0 (3.2)	F
5 Bogieshiel	434	7	5	0	12	2.8 (3.9)	F
6 Craigmores & Midstrath	713	13	6	0	19	2.7 (3.5)	L
7 Shannel & Coulnacraig	225	3	1	1	5	2.2 (0)	L
8 Slewdrum Forest	168	22	21	11	54	32.1 (7.1)	L
9 Craigbeg Plantation	93	0	0	0	0	0 (0)	L
10 Finzean East	1008	5	0	1	6	0.6 (1.2)	L
11 Easter Clune	572	4	0	2	6	1.0 (1.2)	L
12 Peter Hill	1433	0	1	0	1	0.1 (0.3)	H
13 Whitehill & Glaspits	1189	4	1	0	5	0.4 (0.5)	H
14 Mudlee Bracks	1264	3	1	0	4	0.3 (0.3)	H
15 Birse Hill	1660	6	21	0	27	1.6 (0.3)	H
16 Birse Forest	856	1	4	0	5	0.6 (0)	F
17 Birse Low Ground	514	11	6	0	17	3.3 (0.8)	L
18 Balfour Forest	240	43	33	12	88	36.7 (22.5)	F
19 Balfour Estate	193	0	3	0	3	1.6 (0)	F
20 Carlogie	614	15	7	0	22	3.6 (2.6)	L
Totals	13,382	176	141	30	347	2.6 (1.7)	

Table 6: Birse Parish DMG Roe Deer Culls 2004-14

	Ballogie Estate			Finzean Estate			Birse Estate			Birse Community Trust			Shannel + Balfour Estate ³			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

³ There are no recorded roe culls from the Shannel until 2013-14, when the cull was 3 bucks and 2 does/others.

4 SNH Authorisations

The information supplied by Ballogie, Finzean and BCT showed that:

- 92 red deer or 43% of their cull was shot out of season and 46 roe or 16% of their cull
 - 68 of the 138 deer shot out of season were male and 70 were female/other
- 49 red deer or 23% of their cull was by night shooting and 70 roe or 24% of their cull
 - 51 of the 119 deer shot by night shooting were male and 68 were female/other

5 Carcase Weights

The weights of the deer are taken as the clean carcase weight – no gralloch.

(a) Red

It is considered that the average weight of a stag in the parish might be 50-60 kg, with heavier ones 70-80 kg and some very large stags bigger than that.

The average weights reported for stags by Ballogie, Finzean and BCT (Balfour/Slewdrum) were 49.5, 56 and 65 / 81 kg, with top weights of 85, 90 and 89 / 103 kg respectively.

It is considered average hinds might be 40-50 kg, with Ballogie, Finzean and BCT's average weights 41, 48 and 42 / 45 kg and top weights 55, 55 and 63 / 68 kg.

(b) Roe

An average weight for a buck is considered 15-18 kg and for a doe 15-16 kg.

The Ballogie, Finzean and BCT (Balfour / Slewdrum) average weights for bucks were 12.5, 18 and 13.5 / 14.5 kg, with top weights of 19, 25 and 17.5 / 18.5 kg.

For does, the average weights were 10, 11 and 12 / 12.5 kg and top weights 16, 23 and 18 / 18 kg.

PART B - CULLS 2013-14 AND TARGETS 2014-15

6 Red Deer

6.1 Past Year

- 1 The red deer cull was 315 in 2012-13 and based on the numbers of red deer being seen during that year, the Group's target for 2013-14 was 300+. However, fewer red deer were seen than expected in 2013-14 and the cull was significantly down at 248.
- 2 There were noticeably fewer reports in 2013-14 of larger groups of red deer in the Low Ground and Forest DMUs. A group of around 30-40 was seen in the Shannel area on a couple of occasions and there was also a group of around 20-30 in the Kinminity / Balfour area. Similar sized groups were also seen in the Corsedardar area.
- 3 The rut started around the normal local time of the second to third week of September. The rut seemed to be in small, scattered ruts, and was also very quiet across the parish in terms of the limited roaring by stags. This might possibly have reflected the conditions at the time of the rut or a reduction in the number of young stags competing for hinds.
- 4 As in previous years, small groups of young stags came across into the Forest of Birse from Glen Tanar. While these incursions maintain the groups of young stags in the south of the Forest (DMUs 13 and 14), some of the stags ended up again in the Lamahip and Commonty pinewoods (DMUs 2 and 3).
- 5 There continued to be a sizeable group of c.90+ deer in Glen Aven at the back of Peter Hill (DMU 12), as a legacy of the deer that have come through the Glen Dye fence since it was completed in 2010. During the winter, further holes were found in the fence through which deer have been going back and forth. These were reported to Glen Dye Estate.
- 6 There were over 200 red deer counted in DMUs 12-15 when Finzean, Ballogie and Birse Estates participated in the EGDGMG open hill count. This was delayed because of the open weather and did not take place until early April. The counts were:
 - Finzean - 6 stags 41 hinds / calves = 47 (DMU 12)
 - Ballogie - 39 stags, 52 hinds / calves = 91 (DMUs 13, 14)
 - Birse - 23 stags, 41 hinds / calves = 64 (DMU 15)
- 7 The open winter with very little snow cover meant that the weights and condition of the red deer culled in the parish during the year were good. There were no reports of significant damage to agricultural crops during the year, in comparison to 2012-13.

6.2 Main Areas

- 8 In reviewing the year past and the year coming, the management of the red deer in the DMG Area can be considered in terms of seven relatively distinct areas.

(i) Craigmore and Carlogie (DMUs 6, 20)

- 9 While there was no serious damage to agricultural crops, red deer were coming into kale at Potarch in September / October. This stopped, however, when Ballogie Estate created the new deer fence up the Cattie Burn between DMUs 6 and 7. A length of this fence in DMU 6 remains to be completed. As a result of the fence, the numbers of red deer in DMUs 6 and 20 to the north were reduced during 2013-14.

It is anticipated that the 2014-15 cull in these DMUs (6, 20) will continue that reduction.

(ii) Shannel, Craigbeg and Slewdrum (DMUs 7, 8, 9)

- 10 South of the new Ballogie fence and as previously mention (1.2), there was a significant increase in the cull in the Shannel / Craigbeg / Slewdrum area in 2013-14. This was because, while a cull continued for a second year on the Shannel, Craigbeg was stalked for the first time and the stalker in Slewdrum completed his first full year there.

It is anticipated that the effort in these DMUs (7, 8, 9) will continue in 2014-15, with further liaison with Forestry Commission Scotland to reduce the red deer in Blackhall Forest.⁴

(iii) Finzean West Woods and links to Arntilly and Finzean East (DMUs 1, 4, 10)

- 11 The red deer being seen in the Corsedardar area are considered by Finzean Estate to be part of the Shannel centred population, rather than linked to the deer in Finzean West Woods. A significant extent of the western half of that area was thinned in 2013-14, further opening up these 1950s/60s plantations. While this improves the environment for deer, the thinning may also make it easier to assess and manage the number of red deer in the area.

It is anticipated that there will be a continued effort in 2014-15 to control the number of red deer in the Finzean West Woods / Arntilly / Corsedardar area.

(iv) Bogieshiel, Balfour Forest and Estate, Birse Forest and Low Gnd (DMUs 5,16,17,18,19)

- 12 Groups of 30 or so red deer had been seen in these areas relatively frequently in 2012-13, yet few such sightings were reported in 2013-14. However, as reflected in the increased cull in Balfour Forest in 2013-14, there are still a significant number of red deer in the area. These seem to be centred around the Balfour Estate and Balfour Forest.

It is anticipated that there will be a continued effort to reduce the number of red deer in the north west part of the DMG area, involving DMUs 5, 16-19.

(v) Commonty Pinewoods and Lamahip (DMUs 2, 3)

- 13 The aim in these native pinewood areas is to keep them as clear as possible of red deer. However, they are fairly frequently present and the cull from the two areas was 41 in 2013-14 and 38 the year before. The need for a high level of attention to controlling any red deer in the Commonty Pinewoods has increased further as, in addition to the 20,000 planted broadleaves, BCT has now planted 15,000 pine seedlings in the 2003 wildfire area. More pine planting is scheduled for the next two years.

It is anticipated that there will be continued or increased level of attention in 2014-15 to controlling any red deer in these two native pinewood DMUs (2,3).

(vi) Forest of Birse Open Hill (DMUs 13, 14, 15)

- 14 The aim in these areas is to keep the hill clear of red deer, except for the small groups of young stags that are most commonly on the high ground between DMUs 13 and 14. A cull is taken from these stags to prevent any build up. The cull from the three DMUs was 12 in 2013-14 and 13 in the year before. The main current concerns are the 200+ red deer counted in the Group's four open hill DMUs in April and the potential for deer from the Aven to move into the Forest of Birse.

It is anticipated that there will continue to be a policy of preventing any increase of red deer in these three DMUs (13, 14, 15)

(vii) Peter Hill (Glen Aven) and Easter Clune (DMUs 11, 12)

- 15 The continuing problems with the Glen Dye fence and the difficulties of culling deer in Glen Aven, present an ongoing challenge. There is the risk of deer from the Aven moving into the Forest of Birse and also increasing in the Easter Clune area.

⁴ FCS cull in Blackhall Forest 2013-14 = 9 red, 68 roe.

It is anticipated that there will be a continued effort to limit the number of red deer in the Aven and to prevent deer dispersing from DMU 12 into other areas.

6.3 Targets

- 16 The cull of 248 red deer in 2013-14, while less than the anticipated target, can be considered a fairly typical level of cull for the Birse Parish DMG area. The cull was, for example, only 25 short of the average red deer cull in the area over the last 19 years of 273. During that period, 1995-2014, the cull has been between 200-300 in 13 of the 19 years. It has only once been below 200 (191, 2007-08) and that was not due to a lack of deer.
- 17 The cull of 248 is also still a substantial cull for an area the size of the Birse Parish DMG, with its three main land use objectives across the parish of agriculture, forestry and grouse moor management. As was noted in last year's cull report:

"The aim is that red deer should become increasingly scarce in the Low Ground DMUs and be taken when they are encountered as part of the roe cull in these areas. Thus, the average red deer cull per 100 ha in the Low Ground should be maintained and increased, with the aim that it would fall over time if adequate culls are being achieved in the Forest DMUs.

A sustained effort is required to control the red deer in and around the Forest DMUs, with a particular focus on hinds when the opportunities arise. The serious impact of these deer on forestry interests will continue to become more significant locally, as more areas of post war planting start to be re-structured."

- 18 The evidence from past efforts to reduce the numbers of red deer in the parish, shows that apparent reductions in numbers have been followed by less effort and a build up of the population again. There is a danger of repeating that cycle. There is no firm evidence yet of a real and significant reduction in red deer locally. The need at this stage is for a continued effort to reduce the numbers of red deer to a more manageable and less damaging level.
- 19 The seven areas listed above under 6.2, identify the main areas where reductions in red deer numbers are still required.

It is anticipated that members will aim to maintain or increase their red deer cull in 2014-15, with the collective target of a cull of 250 or more red deer in 2014-15.

7 Roe Deer

7.1 Past Year

- 20 There were bucks with good heads around early in 2013-14, while does were less conspicuous towards the end. With the open winter, the roe were in good condition. The larder weights for roe continue, however, to be relatively low.

7.2 Main Areas

- 21 The three highest roe culls in 2013-14 were in BCT's three forests. The combined cull of 174 roe accounted for 50% of the total roe cull of 347 in the DMG Area, and was achieved on 7% of the DMG land area. There was a cull of 88 in Balfour Forest (240 ha) and of 54 in Slewdrum (169 ha). The density of the cull in both Forests was similar in terms of the number of roe shot per 100 ha (36.7 and 32.1 respectively).
- 22 Ballogie maintained the level of its roe cull. Finzean's cull fell back, but there was a significant increase in the Birse cull particularly on the hill (DMU 15). The cull of 5 on the

Shannel was the first cull of roe that has been reported from there, while cull of 2 on Balfour Estate was the first roe cull there for several years.

7.3 Targets

- 23 In the last year's report on 2012-13, the likely densities of roe deer in the DMG and the reasons for a significantly higher roe were cull were discussed. As a result, it was agreed to try to cull over 300 roe for the first time in 2013-14. This target was achieved with the cull of 347. This total also meant that more roe were shot than red for the first time. This is the position that the Group expects to be maintained over the long term, as red deer numbers are brought down to more sustainable levels.
- 24 The cull of 88 roe in Balfour Forest in 2013-14 after 54 in the nine months before that, is a stark reminder of the high densities of roe that can exist. BCT's target for 2014-15 is for a cull of over 150 roe from its three forests. If other members of the Group also maintained or increased their roe culls, the overall roe cull should be 350 or more in 2014-15.

It is anticipated that each member will aim to maintain or increase their roe deer cull from 2013-14, with the collective target of a cull of 350 or more roe deer in 2014-15.

8 Overall Targets

- 25 The overall Group target for 2013-14 was a cull of 600 or more deer, with that made up of 300 or more of both red and roe. It is anticipated that the target for 2014-15 will again be 600 or more deer, but with that total made up of 250 or more red and 350 or more roe.
- 26 The capacity to achieve target culls is a key challenge. Enough stalkers outings need to take place to reach a target. At current deer population levels, there still appears a fairly straightforward correlation between the cull effort and the cull achieved.
- 27 In 2013-14, thirteen stalkers were involved in achieving the cull of 595 deer (attributing any client culls to the accompanying stalker and counting Alf Sorensen's cull on Finzean as one stalker - 8 red and 12 roe).⁵ The increase in one stalker in the parish compared to 2012-13, was the new shooting tenant on Balfour Estate.
- 28 The statistics for 2013-14 are dominated by George Ritchie's cull in Balfour and Slewdrum Forests, with 204 deer from 408 ha of land. One other stalker shot over 100 deer and another shot over 50. These three stalkers shot 70% of the total cull. Four of the thirteen stalkers involved shot 6 or less deer.
- 29 In 2013-14, interim cull totals were collected for the first time and as shown in Table 7, approximately 40% of the total cull was taken in the first six months and 60% in the second six months. However, the roe and red deer culls have different patterns from each other.

<i>Period to</i>	<i>Red Cull</i>	<i>Roe Cull</i>	<i>Cull in Period</i>	<i>% of Total Cull</i>
30th Sept.	59	174	233	39%
31st Dec.	90	65	155	26%
31st March	99	108	207	35%
<i>Totals</i>	<i>248</i>	<i>347</i>	<i>595</i>	<i>100%</i>

⁵ No information from Birse Estate (assumed at two stalkers).

30 A significant proportion of the total DMG cull in 2013-14 was in DMUs which have traditionally contributed very little to the local cull and do not involve estate staff. Balfour Forest, Balfour Estate, the Shannel, Craigbeg and Slewdrum contributed 41% of the total DMG cull in 2013-14. A potential constraint on estate stalkers tends to be the range of other duties they have to fulfil during the year. The pattern of the cull on Ballogie Estate in 2013-14 is illustrated below.

Table 8
 Graph of the Number of Red and Roe Deer
 culled each month by Ballogie Estate in 2013-14



