Birse Parish Deer Management Group
(BP DMG)

REPORT ON DEER MANAGEMENT
2024-25

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BIRSE PARISH DEER MANAGEMENT GROUP

Report on Deer Management 2024-25

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 2025-30. The purpose of the report is to inform BP DMG discussions about:

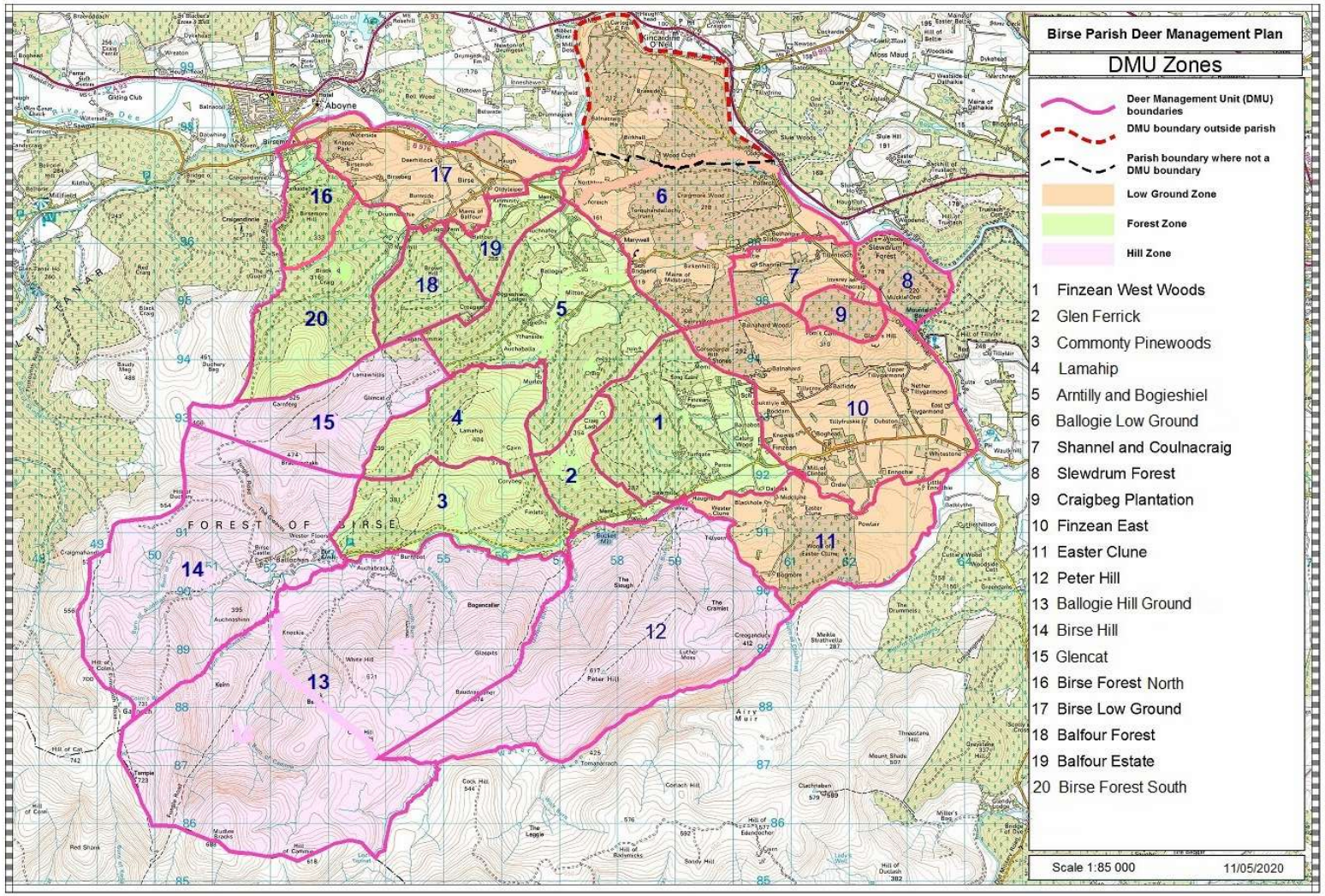
(a) the DMG's red and roe deer culls in the previous year (2024-25);

(b) the DMG's red and roe deer cull targets in the coming year (2025-26)

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: https://www.birsecommunitytrust.org.uk/download-categories/birse-parish-deer-management-group

The DMG area is divided into 20 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:-

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


Birse Parish Deer Management Plan
DMU Zones
Deer Management Unit (DMU) boundaries
DMU boundary outside parish
Parish boundary where not a DMU boundary
Low Ground Zone
Forest Zone
Hill Zone
1 Finzean West Woods
2 Glen Ferrick
3 Commonty Pinewoods
4 Lamahip
5 Arntilly and Bogieshiel
6 Ballogie Low Ground
7 Shannel and Coulnacraig
8 Slewdrum Forest
9 Craigbeg Plantation
10 Finzean East
11 Easter Clune
12 Peter Hill
13 Ballogie Hill Ground
14 Birse Hill
15 Glencat
16 Birse Forest North
17 Birse Low Ground
18 Balfour Forest
19 Balfour Estate
20 Birse Forest South
Scale 1:85 000
11/05/2020
FOREST OF BIRSE
Aboyne

PART ONE - DESCRIPTION OF THE CULL IN 2024-25

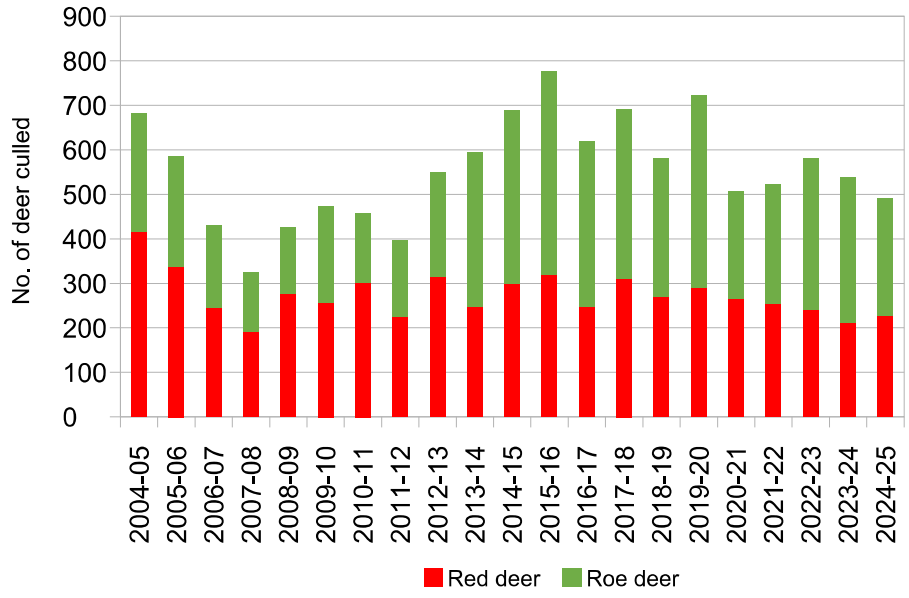
1 Overall Total Culls

The total red and roe culls in the DMG area in 2024-25 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
2018-19	269	312	581	46 : 54
2019-20	290	433	723	40 : 60
2020-21	267	239	506	53 : 47
2021-22	257	264	521	49 : 51
2022-23	241	340	581	41 : 59
2023-24	212	327	539	39 : 61
2024-25	228	263	491	46 : 54

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 - 2024/25 1

	Ballogie Estate *(DMUs 4,5,6,13)***2** *5,020 ha*			**Finzean Estate** *(DMUs 1,2,9,10,11,12) 3,978 ha*			**Birse Estate** *(DMUs 14,15,16,17,20) 3,039 ha*			**BCT** *(DMUs 3,8,18) 936 ha*			**Shannel+Balfour Est.** *(DMUs 7 + 19) 419 ha*			**BP DMG Area** *(DMUs 1-20) 13,382 ha*		
	Red	*Roe*	***Total***	*Red*	*Roe*	***Total***	*Red*	*Roe*	***Total***	*Red*	*Roe*	***Total***	*Red*	*Roe*	***Total***	*Red*	*Roe*	***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**
2018/19	74	101	**175**	73	69	**142**	78	18	**96**	37	100	**137**	7	24	**31**	269	312	**581**
2019/20	79	77	**156**	43	67	**110**	73	74	**147**	80	198	**278**	15	17	**32**	290	433	**723**
2020/21	102	67	**169**	55	60	**115**	51	23	**74**	44	82	**126**	15	7	**22**	267	239	**506**
2021/22	81	77	**158**	48	30	**78**	76	60	**136**	33	90	**123**	19	7	**26**	257	264	**521**
2022/23	88	116	**204**	55	55	**110**	43	52	**95**	37	104	**141**	18	13	**31**	241	340	**581**
2023/24	101	105	**206**	49	63	**112**	28	63	**91**	26	87	**113**	8	9	**17**	212	327	**539**
2024/25	108	53	**161**	51	49	**100**	28	50	**78**	29	105	**134**	12	6	**18**	228	263	**491**

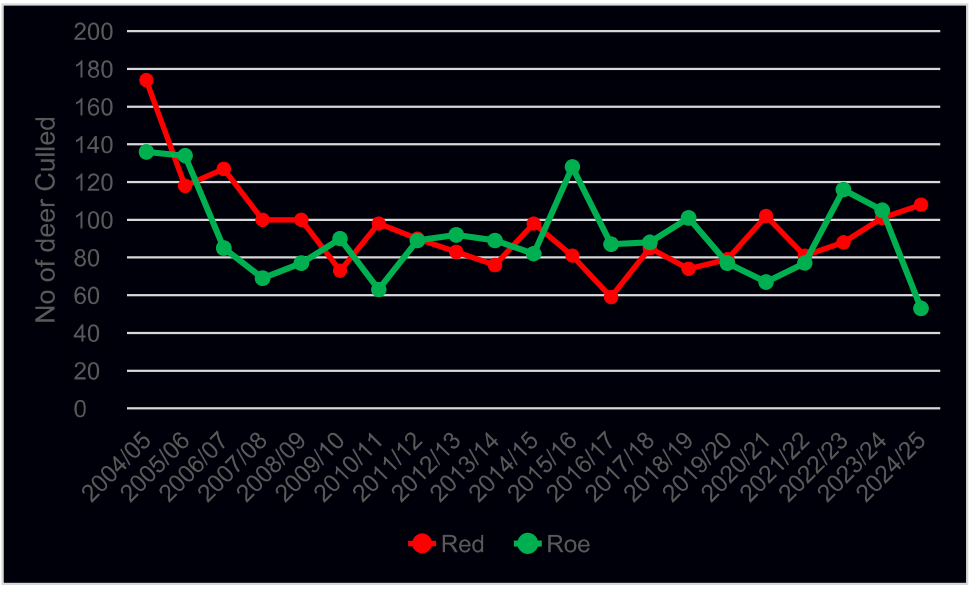
1 In October 2014/15, a male Sika deer was also shot on Ballogie Estate

2 These totals do not include the cull carried out by Ballogie Estate in DMU 3, the Commonty Pinewoods, which is included in the BCT totals

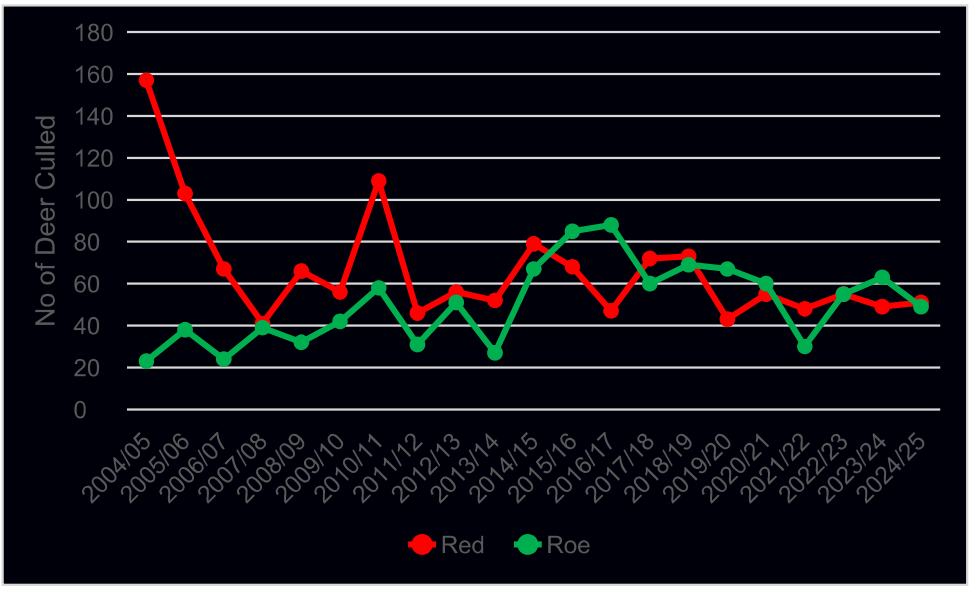
10 yr av	85.8	89.9	**189.5**	56.1	62.6	**118.7**	55	56.9	**111.9**	52.3	114.1	**166.4**	15.5	14.9	**30.4**	264.7	338.4	**603.1**
5 yr av.	96	83.6	**179.6**	51.6	51.4	**103**	45.2	46.8	**94.8**	33.8	93.6	**127.4**	14.4	8.4	**22.8**	241	286.6	**527.6**

Fig. 2 Red and Roe Deer Culls by main Group Members 2004-25

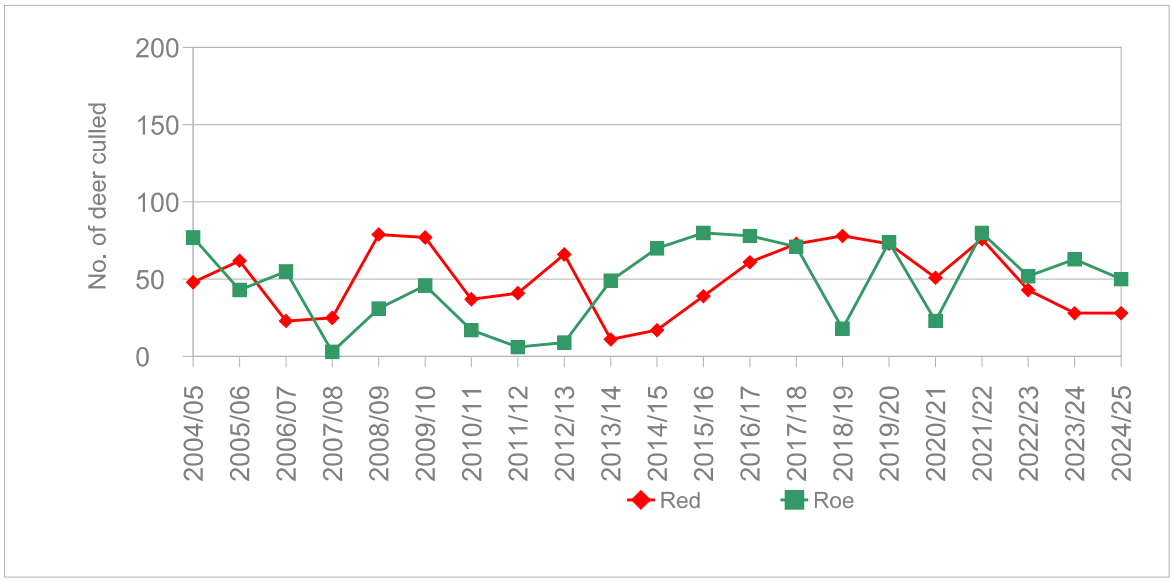
Ballogie Estate



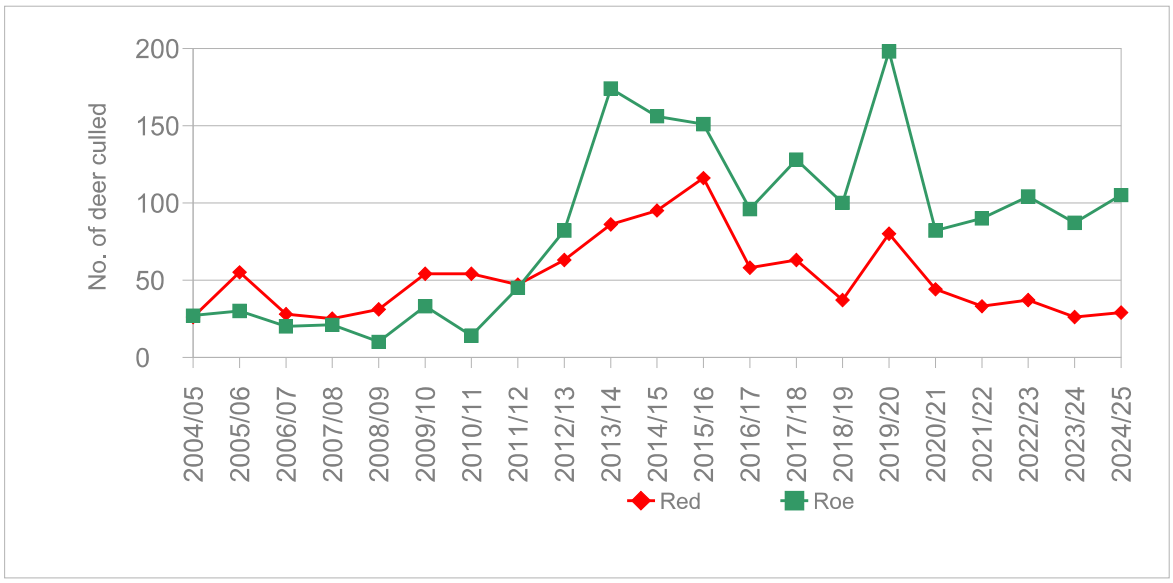
Finzean Estate



Birse Estate



BCT



2 Red Deer Cull

Table 3 below shows the red deer culls by DMG members for the period 2004-25

	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**
2018/19	35	39	**74**	22	51	**73**	57	21	**78**	27	10	**37**	5	2	**7**	146	123	**269**
2019/20	38	41	**79**	32	11	**43**	50	23	**73**	27	53	**80**	10	5	**15**	157	133	**290**
2020/21	50	52	**102**	27	28	**55**	36	15	**51**	26	18	**44**	6	9	**15**	145	122	**267**
2021/22	50	31	**81**	26	22	**48**	64	12	**76**	26	7	**33**	9	10	**19**	175	82	**257**

3 *No red deer were culled on the Shannel until 2012-13, when 20 stags and 21 hinds/calves were shot.*
Shannel cull – 2013-14 (9 stags, 12 hinds/calves) 2014-15 (2 stags, 5 hinds/calves) 2015-16 (9 stags, 4 hinds) 2016-17 (14 stags, 8 hinds/calves) 2017-18 (4 stags, 12 hinds) 2018-19 (3 stags, 2 hinds/calves) 2019-20 (8 stags, 4 hinds/calves) 2020-21 (4 stags, 9 hinds/calves) 2021-22 (5 stags, 7 hinds/calves

2022/23	37	51	**88**	26	29	**55**	32	11	**43**	20	17	**37**	10	8	**18**	125	116	**241**
2023/24	55	46	**101**	32	17	**49**	22	6	**28**	21	5	**26**	7	1	**8**	137	75	**212**
2024/25	64	44	**108**	22	29	**51**	5	7	**12**	24	5	**29**	7	5	**12**	134	94	**228**

3 Roe Deer Cull

Table 4 below shows the roe deer culls by DMG members for the period 2004-25

	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**
2018/19	46	55	**101**	27	42	**69**	12	6	**18**	64	36	**100**	18	6	**24**	167	145	**312**
2019/20	37	40	**77**	34	33	**67**	43	31	**74**	73	125	**198**	10	7	**17**	197	236	**433**

4 *There are no recorded roe culls from the Shannel prior to 2013-14.*
The cull in the Shannel DMU (including Coulnacraig) 2013-14 (3 bucks, 2 does/others) 2014-15 (6 bucks, 1 doe) 2015-16 (4 bucks) 2016-17 (9 bucks, 1 doe) 2017-18 (11 bucks, 2 does) 2018-19 (10 bucks) 2019-20 (7 bucks, 5 does/kids) 2020-21 (2 bucks) 2021-22 (1 buck)

2020/21	18	49	**67**	24	36	**60**	7	16	**23**	40	42	**82**	7	0	**7**	96	143	**239**
2021/22	24	53	**77**	14	16	**30**	33	27	**60**	49	41	**90**	3	4	**7**	123	141	**264**
2022/23	36	80	**116**	25	30	**55**	25	27	**52**	54	50	**104**	9	4	**12**	149	191	**340**
2023/24	44	61	**105**	36	27	**63**	17	46	**63**	49	38	**87**	6	3	**9**	152	175	**327**
2024/25	25	28	**53**	23	26	**49**	22	28	**50**	55	50	**105**	3	3	**6**	128	135	**249**

4. Interim Cull Totals

Table 5 Birse Parish DMG Cull in 2024-25 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*
20th Oct.	126	116	(229) (276) 242	(40%) (51%) 49
31st Dec.				
31st March	102	147	(347) (263) 249	(60%) (49%) 51
Totals	*228*	263	*(576) (539) 491*	*100%*

5. SNH Authorisations

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

Table 6 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%	
2018/19	67	25%	25	8%	67%	33%	
2019/20	67	23%	41	9%	44%	56%	
2020/21	77	29%	21	9%	72%	28%	
2021/22	67	26%	24	9%	75%	25%	
2022/23	62	26%	29	8.5%	75%	25%	
2023/24	26	12%	31	9%	54%	46%	
2024/25	16	7.5%	34	13%	60%	40%	

Table 7 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%	
2018/19	23	9%	50	16%	38%	62%	

2019/20	68	23%	126	29%	27%	73%	
2020/21	27	1%	54	2%	36%	64%	
2021/22	6	2%	37	14%	42%	58%	
2022/23	26	28%	65	71%	24%	75%	
2023/24	8	4%	36	11%	30%	70%	
2024/25	11	5%	62	25%	34%	66%	

6. Carcase Weights (clean carcase weight – no gralloch)

Table 8 Red Deer Carcase Weights (kgs)

	Ballogie Estate				Finzean Estate				BCT (Balfour+Slewdrum)				Birse Estate			
	Stag Aver Wt	*Stag Top Wt*	*Hind Aver Wt*	*Hind Top Wt.*	*Stag Aver Wt.*	*Stag Top Wt.*	*Hind Aver Wt.*	*Hind Top Wt.*	*Stag Aver Wt.*	*Stag Top Wt.*	*Hind Aver Wt.*	*Hind Top Wt.*	*Stag Aver Wt.*	*Stag Top Wt.*	*Hind Aver Wt.*	*Hind Top Wt.*
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
2018/19	54	85	44	62	53	95	41	58	52	67	40	51	-	-	-	-
2019/20	56	-	43	-	66	100	52	60	72	109	41	52	-	-	-	-
2020/21	53	-	46	-	60	80	46	60	54	94	47	61	54	-	-	-
2021/22	51	-	45	-	58	75	45	60	58	100	46	70	44	-	27	-
2022/23	58	96	44	60	60	70	45	60	66	84	50	62	53	71	50	58
2023/24	59	94	47	65	55	80	46	60	67	101	50	58	53.9	77	44.5	52
2024/25	56		45		52	65	45	58	67.4	101	61	61	52	65	45	58

Table 9 Roe Deer Carcase Weights (kgs)

	Ballogie Estate				Finzean Estate				BCT (Balfour+Slewdrum)				Birse Estate			
	buck aver wt	*buck top wt*	*doe aver wt*	*doe top wt.*	*buck aver wt.*	*buck top wt.*	*doe aver wt.*	*doe top wt.*	*buck aver wt.*	*buck top wt.*	*doe aver wt.*	*doe top wt.*	*buck aver wt.*	*buck top wt.*	*doe aver wt.*	*doe top wt.*
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
2018/19	13	18	12	17	16	21	14	18	14	18	14	18	-	-	-	-
2019/20	13	-	11	-	15	20	15	20	14	19	15	20	-	-	-	-
2020/21	14	-	12	-	19	20	16	20	12	19	13	18	11	-	-	-
2021/22	12	-	13	-	18	20	16	20	13	19	13	19	10	-	11	-
2022/23	12	17	12	16	18	20	16	20	13	19	13	18.5	10	15	8	15
2023/24	14	19	12	15	18	20	16	19	13	19.5	14	18.5	13.46	17.5		
2024/25	14		12		17	20	15	20	12.8	19.5	13.4	19	8.79	16	10.22	16

PART TWO TARGETS FOR THE CULL IN 2025-26

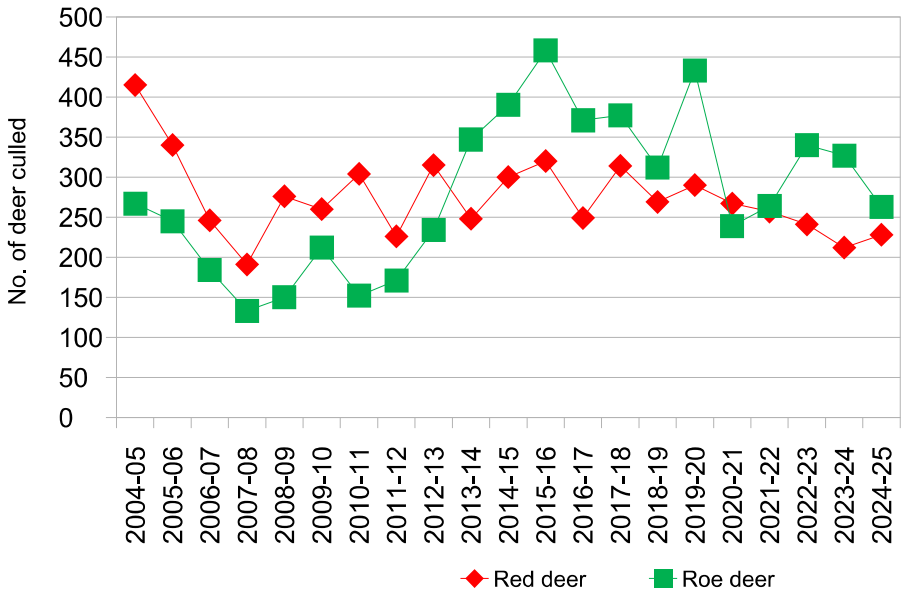
7. Overall Cull in 2024-25

1 Part One of the Report shows that 212 red and 249 roe deer were shot in the BP DMG area in 2024-25. The overall cull of 461 deer was 46% red and 54% roe. This ratio reflects the DMG's target of culling more roe than red deer.

2 The DMG started 2024-25 with cull targets of over 270 red and over 320 roe

3 Figure 3 below shows that the cull of 212 red and 249 roe is below the DMG's targets.

Figure 3 Total Culls of Red and Roe Deer in BP DMG Area 2004-25



8. RED DEER - Cull Targets 2025-26

8.1 Red Deer Cull 2024-25

1 It was noted that deer cull totals are down.

2 Concern was expressed by Ballogie Estate that the gathering of red deer in Balfour Estate woods is not being moved on, possibly 180 deer are present. Birse Estate are also aware of the Balfour deer but no movement of deer from Glen Tanar estate. Finzean Estate are going to contact Burnett and Reid to see what they plan to do about the high numbers of red deer in Balfour woods.
Finzean Estate reported that red deer numbers are low, a group of about 40 have moved in recently to Home Farm. Peter Hill still has about 80 reds.

3 Finzean Estate contacted Glen Dye and they are going to renew their fence all the way along.

8.2 Red Deer Cull Targets 2025-26

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 The main members have agreed that they need to cull a minimum of 270 red deer in 2024-25, The main members have allocated that minimum total between themselves as shown in Table 10.

Table 10 *Agreed Minimum Red Deer Target Culls 2025-26.*

Member	*Area (ha)*	Total Cull 2024-25	Min. Target 2025-26
Ballogie Estate	*5,020*	108	85
Finzean Estate	*3,978*	51	50
Birse Estate	*3,029*	28	70
BCT	*936*	29	65
Total		216	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 270 should be achieved. In 2024-25, Balfour Estate and the Shannel shot 12 red deer or 5.6% of the DMG total.

9. ROE DEER - Cull Targets 2025-26

9.1 Roe Deer Cull 2024-25

1 The 2024-25 roe cull of 263 was lower than the DMG's target of 320 or more.

2 All the estates agreed that there are less roe deer around, numbers seem to be decreasing, and roes are now requiring more effort to cull.

9.2 Roe Deer Cull Targets 2025-26

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 320 roe deer in 2025-26 and have allocated that minimum total between themselves as shown in Table 11.

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 350. In 2024-25, Balfour Estate and the Shannel shot 6 roe deer or 2.4% of the DMG total.

5 There is already a significant roe cull in the 7 DMUs in the northwest 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 11 *Agreed Minimum Roe Deer Target Culls 2025-26.*

Member	*Area (ha)*	**Total Cull 2024-25**	**Min. Target 2025-26**
Ballogie Estate	*5,020*	53	100
Finzean Estate	*3,978*	49	70
Birse Estate	*3,029*	50	50
BCT	*936*	105	100
Total		257	320

10. OVERALL CULL TARGETS 2025-26

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 2025-26 season, the main members have agreed the minimum cull targets below, with the aspiration that the red deer cull should be 270 or more and the roe cull 320 or more.

Table 12 Agreed Minimum Red and Roe Deer Target Culls 2025-26

Member	*Area (ha)*	**Min. Red 2024-25**	**Min. Roe 2024-25**		**Min. Target 2025-26**
Ballogie	*5,020*	108	53		185
Finzean	*3,978*	51	49		120
Birse	*3,029*	28	50		120
BCT	*936*	29	105		165
Total		216	257		610

5 The cull of 228 red and 263 roe in 2024-25 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 those cull levels in 2025-26.