



# Herbivore Delivery Plan 2025 to 2030

## Year 1 Action Plan for 2025-26

<b>What is our strategy?</b>	This document supports the National Park Authority’s Herbivore Position Statement 2025, which lays out our strategic approach to herbivore management in the National Park.
<b>Objective</b>	To work collaboratively with land managers to ensure sustainable local businesses thrive whilst reducing overall herbivore pressure where required, allowing widespread natural recovery and expansion of native woodlands, and the protection of fragile peat soils, wetlands and other land use interests.
<b>Delivery Plan</b>	This plan is part of a strategic five-year delivery plan for the National Park Authority and partners. It has a rolling annual action plan and reporting structure and is a tool to agree partner roles and responsibilities in delivering the objectives of the Herbivore Position Statement. It will also communicate plans to wider stakeholders, supporting the delivery of a Priority Area Action Plan, as required by the Scottish Government’s <a href="#">Strategic Deer Board’s</a> Operational Delivery Workstream.
<b>Governance</b>	A Working Group formed of statutory agency staff and representatives from key stakeholders will provide strategic input and expertise.
<b>Projects we have contributed to so far include:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ongoing support to individual Deer Management Groups</li> <li>- Habitat Impact Assessment training events</li> <li>- Phase one venison report</li> <li>- East Loch Lomond community larder project</li> <li>- Deer Managers Training Grant</li> <li>- Deer Management Incentive Scheme</li> </ul>
<b>Latest Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)</b>	<p>As detailed in <a href="#">National Park Partnership Plan 2024-29 Monitoring &amp; Reporting Framework – Measures of Success Methodology</a> and the <a href="#">Future Nature Route Map</a>:</p> <p>Annual KPIs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Percentage of ground covered by landholdings carrying out Herbivore Impact Assessments in each Deer Management Group in the National Park</li> <li>- Most recent average deer density for each Deer Management Group in the National Park</li> </ul> <p>Every 5 years:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Changes in herbivore pressure in the National Park will be analysed as part of the <a href="#">State of Nature Assessment</a> every 5 years. There are three indicators used to assess herbivore pressure in the National Park: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Average sheep density (per km<sup>2</sup>)</li> <li>- Average deer density (per km<sup>2</sup>)</li> <li>- Percentage of total woodland with unsustainable grazing pressure ('high' and 'very high' impacts).</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

**RAG rating**

**6/16<sup>1</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>This RAG rating is reviewed annually as part of the overall Future Nature reporting. It is based on:

1. Progress on planned deliverables in the last 12 months (rated 1 to 4)
2. Overall progress towards 2030/2040 targets (rated 1 to 4)

The RAG rating is then represented by the multiple of the two ratings.

# Executive Summary

In 2025 the National Park Authority published its Herbivore Position Statement, setting out ambitions for herbivore management towards the objective:

**To work collaboratively with land managers to ensure sustainable local businesses thrive whilst reducing overall herbivore pressure where required, allowing widespread natural recovery and expansion of native woodlands, and the protection of fragile peat soils, wetlands and other land use interests.**

This Herbivore Delivery Plan covers a 5-year period, from 2025 – 2030, with an annual rolling action plan.

It sets out the actions that the National Park Authority and its partners will deliver in the coming year and how that approach will develop over the next five years to progress the realisation of the Herbivore Position Statement's vision and objectives.

It identifies four key workstreams and priority year 1 actions in each workstream:

## Workstream 1: Coordination and Reporting

- **Governance** Year 1 action:  
*Establish working relationships with key partners and stakeholders, with regular two-way information sharing and herbivore management prioritisation.*
- **Reporting** Year 1 action:  
*Summary table of Deer Management Groups (DMGs) within the LLTNP established and updated annually with key information on actions and progress in each one.*

## Workstream 2: Projects and Resource Mobilisation

- **Current Projects** Year 1 action:  
*A range of projects will be instigated, delivered and reviewed that bring greater capacity and resources to delivery of Deer Management Groups (DMGs) and Landscape-scale projects within the LLTNP.*

## Workstream 3: Capacity Building

- **Year 1 action:**  
*Identify immediate priorities and longer-term plans to bring greater capacity and resources to delivery of Deer Management Groups (DMGs) and Landscape-scale projects within the LLTNP.*

## Workstream 4 - Monitoring and Evaluation

- **Year 1 action:**  
*Establish a clear mechanism for collecting data, monitoring progress, and evaluating the impact of actions outlined in the Herbivore Delivery Plan. This will be aligned with current Future Nature and Operational Delivery Workstream reporting, and support the annual review and adjustment of interventions as needed.*

The Delivery Plan lays out the focus of delivery for this year and will be reviewed annually with partners and stakeholders to evolve plans over the coming five years. Given the current national focus, this plan prioritises deer management but wider approaches on all herbivores will be enhanced as the plan develops.

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# 1 Introduction

## 1.1 Overview

In 2025 the National Park Authority published its Herbivore Position Statement, setting out ambitions for herbivore management towards the objective:

- To work collaboratively with land managers to ensure sustainable local businesses thrive whilst reducing overall herbivore pressure where required, allowing widespread natural recovery and expansion of native woodlands, and the protection of fragile peat soils, wetlands and other land use interests.

This Herbivore Delivery Plan covers a 5-year period, from 2025 – 2030, with an annual rolling action plan. It sets out the actions that the National Park Authority and its partners will deliver in the coming year and how that approach will develop over the next five years to progress the realisation of the Herbivore Position Statement’s vision and objectives. This Plan builds on the progress made so far, as well as recognising current and emerging priorities.

As delivery of this Plan requires action by the public, private, community, and third sectors, it has been developed by the National Park Authority, with input from a range of stakeholders with herbivore management and land-use interests. This includes a Working Group of statutory agency members and representatives from key stakeholders.

The rest of this section outlines the policy context and scope for this Herbivore Delivery Plan. Section 2 then details our five-year strategic plan, setting out the actions that the National Park Authority and its delivery partners intend to carry out over the next five years to help deliver the Herbivore Position Statement’s ambitions. Section 3 is the proposed annual action plan for 2025-2026.

## 1.2 Policy Context

This Herbivore Delivery Plan will fulfil the function of the Priority Area Action Plan originally proposed by the Operational Delivery Workstream - one of the four workstreams identified by the [Strategic Deer Board](#).

The Operational Delivery Workstream comprises several statutory agencies working together to deliver sustainable deer management ‘on the ground’ with partners for climate and biodiversity. They also ensure implementation of the 23 Deer Working Group recommendations falling under the theme of operational delivery.

The Operational Delivery Workstream’s criteria for identifying Deer Management Priority Areas included:

- Areas where landscape-scale impact reduction and restoration was underway and delivery opportunities had been identified

- Reducing impacts in the uplands by focussing on Deer Management Groups with the highest red deer densities (<15/km<sup>2</sup>)
- Public land ownership as areas of opportunity to demonstrate best practice
- Regulatory priorities
- Forestry Grant Scheme delivery and leverage associated with incentive and contractual obligations
- Impacts on the National Forest Estate where collaborative approaches could be better utilised
- Protecting peatland restoration (Peatland Action sites)
- Priority peatland habitat impacts
- Public safety – priority risk areas as identified by the Deer Vehicle Collisions project and local intelligence
- Agricultural impacts from deer linked with the expansion of the red deer range in addition to Fallow and Sika range expansion.
- Areas in the lowlands where opportunities for collaborative working are more limited based on the fragmented landscape

Within Deer Management Priority Areas, the aim is to deliver a cohesive and dynamic ‘on the ground’ approach to deer management, with all partners maintaining focus on opportunities for delivering at a landscape scale. This approach reflects the urgency associated with the climate and biodiversity crises, in addition to addressing other impacts such as damage to agricultural and safeguarding public safety. The Operational Delivery Workstream will ensure consistency of approach, consider and resolve barriers to delivery and keep priorities under review.

## 1.4 Scope

The Herbivore Delivery Plan focuses on all large mammalian herbivore species resident in the National Park, including deer, sheep, cattle, and goats. All herbivore species impact habitats but precise effects will vary as individual populations are often spatially distinct due to natural behaviour and land management. This Plan does not consider hares, rabbits, voles, or beavers.

The evidence base presented in this Delivery Plan is currently focused primarily on deer management reflecting the national collaborative approach.

In 2025/26, the National Park Authority plans to evaluate the economic, environmental and social value of farming and other land uses in the National Park. This will provide an evidence-base on which to develop more actions related to domesticated herbivores (i.e. sheep and cattle) into 2026 onwards.

This Delivery Plan will evolve over time through annual reviews and embodies the NPA’s commitment to joint working towards sustainable herbivore management that reduces negative environmental and land use impacts.

# 2 Five-year Strategic Approach

## 2.1 Strategic Planning

As lead organisation within the Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park Priority Area, the National Park Authority is responsible for overseeing the implementation of the delivery plan with the support of key government partners, including NatureScot, Forestry and Land Scotland, and Scottish Forestry.

We will work collaboratively with these partners, local DMGs and land managers to annually review and update our action plan to deliver the overall objectives laid out in the herbivore statement.

### **Outcomes:**

This plan aims to deliver the following outcomes:

- Government agencies and land managers engage positively and constructively about managing the wider impacts of herbivores on the environment, and land managers are supported in delivering sustainable herbivore management.
- The National Park is in good ecological condition and is being managed sustainably for the benefit of current, and future, generations. There is widespread natural recovery and expansion of native woodlands, and fragile peat soils, wetlands, and other land use interests are protected.
- A range of outputs are being sustainably produced from the land, which support both local communities and the wider population of Scotland. Land management is carried out by a skilled workforce, supported by appropriate education and training.

## 2.2 Workstreams

This five-year delivery plan is built around four workstreams with priority actions and longer-term outlines for each:

- Coordination and Reporting
- Projects and Resource Mobilisation
- Capacity Building
- Monitoring and Evaluation

# 3 Action Plan - Workstreams

## 3.1 Workstream 1: Coordination and Reporting

The National Park Authority will facilitate communication and collaboration among government agencies, partner organisations, stakeholders, and local communities to facilitate a more unified approach to herbivore management efforts across the National Park.

The National Park Authority is signatory to the [Common Ground Accord](#), which sets the following seven principles for respectful behaviour:

- Identify the common purpose
- Respect our diversity of objectives
- Keep an open mind
- Listen to understand
- Engage honestly
- Work for mutually beneficial solutions
- Apply these principles in public facing communications on contentious issues

These seven principles should be adhered to by all staff and stakeholders when engaging in interactions relating to this Plan.

### 3.1.1 Governance

#### Year 1 action:

Establish working relationships with key partners and stakeholders, with regular two-way information sharing and herbivore management prioritisation.

Over the coming five years we will develop this delivery plan as a collaborative document with input from a range of key stakeholders. This will incorporate both a small Working Group as well as being embedded in the wider developing picture of the need for a Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park Land Use Forum.

The role of the **Working Group** is to provide strategic input and expertise for the five-year delivery plan and annual action plans. The Working Group will meet at least biannually.

Over the period of this five-year plan, the NPA will establish a Land Use Forum approach to involve stakeholders and partners involved in land management in Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park. The group will be consulted on all aspects of land management that the NPA has a role in, for example the Regional Land Use Framework, Resilient Farming Network, as well as the Herbivore Delivery Plan.

This **Land Use Forum** (or equivalent structure) will review and prioritise actions and agree to commitments as part of the Working Group's annual update as key delivery partners.

The tables below list the current proposed range of potential participants in both the working group and the wider land use forum.

## Partner and Stakeholder Roles and Responsibilities

Please note that the table below is a starting point and exact roles and individuals to be involved in groups will be reviewed and discussed during 2025/6 to establish the most effective approach for herbivore management as well as wider land use collaboration.

Who	Working Group	Land Use Forum	What	How	Date agreed
Loch Lomond & the Trossachs National Park Authority (NPA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rebekah Mayhew</li> <li>Simon Jones</li> <li>Harriet Donald</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rebekah Mayhew</li> <li>Simon Jones</li> <li>Harriet Donald</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lead organisation responsible for drafting and overseeing the implementation of the delivery plan, with the support of key government partners</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide support and secretariat for meetings of the Working Group and Steering Group</li> <li>Collate information already held and request additional information to fill gaps</li> </ul>	
NatureScot (NS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jamie Hammond</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jimmy Irvine</li> <li>Nathan Berrie</li> <li>Kevin McCulloch</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Key government partner responsible for providing lead strategic input and expertise into the delivery plan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Attend Working Group and Steering Group meetings</li> <li>Provide relevant data when requested</li> </ul>	
Forestry & Land Scotland (FLS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Paul Bekier</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Matthys Jooste</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Key government partner responsible for providing strategic input and expertise into the delivery plan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Attend Working Group and Steering Group meetings</li> <li>Provide relevant data when requested</li> </ul>	
Scottish Forestry (SF)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Matt Young</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Craig Armstrong</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Key government partner responsible for providing strategic input and expertise into the delivery plan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Attend Working Group and Steering Group meetings</li> <li>Provide relevant data when requested</li> </ul>	

Who	Working Group	Land Use Forum	What	How	Date agreed
Association of Deer Management Chairs (ADMG)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tom Turnbull</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tom Turnbull</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Key government partner responsible for providing strategic input and expertise into the delivery plan</li> <li>Agree to commitments as key delivery partner</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Attend Working Group and Steering Group meetings</li> </ul>	
Chairs (or their nominated representative) of Deer Management Groups (DMGs) within LLTNP		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hamish Thomson (BqDMG)</li> <li>Stephen Tong (Cowal DMG)</li> <li>Michael Aldbridge (GDMG)</li> <li>David Sumsion (ITDMG)</li> <li>Simon Miller (WLLDMG)</li> <li>ELLLMF nominated representative</li> <li>LLIDMG nominated representative</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review and prioritise actions identified in the Plan</li> <li>Agree to commitments as key delivery partner</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Attend annual Steering Group meetings</li> </ul>	

In 2026 we will instigate an initial working group with the organisations listed in the tables above. We will also continue discussions with a range of other organisations to establish their involvement in the working group, wider land use forum or both. Organisations to be included in this discussion will include:

- Argyll and the Isles Coast Countryside Trust (ACT)
- CONFOR
- Loch Lomond & the Trossachs Countryside Trust (LLTCT),
- National Farmers Union Scotland (NFUS)
- RPID
- Scottish Environment LINK (SE LINK)
- Scottish Land and Estates (SLE)
- Scotland's Rural College (SRUC)
- The Great Trossachs Forest (Project Coordinator) (TGTF)
- Venison Advisory Service (VAS)

### 3.1.2 Reporting

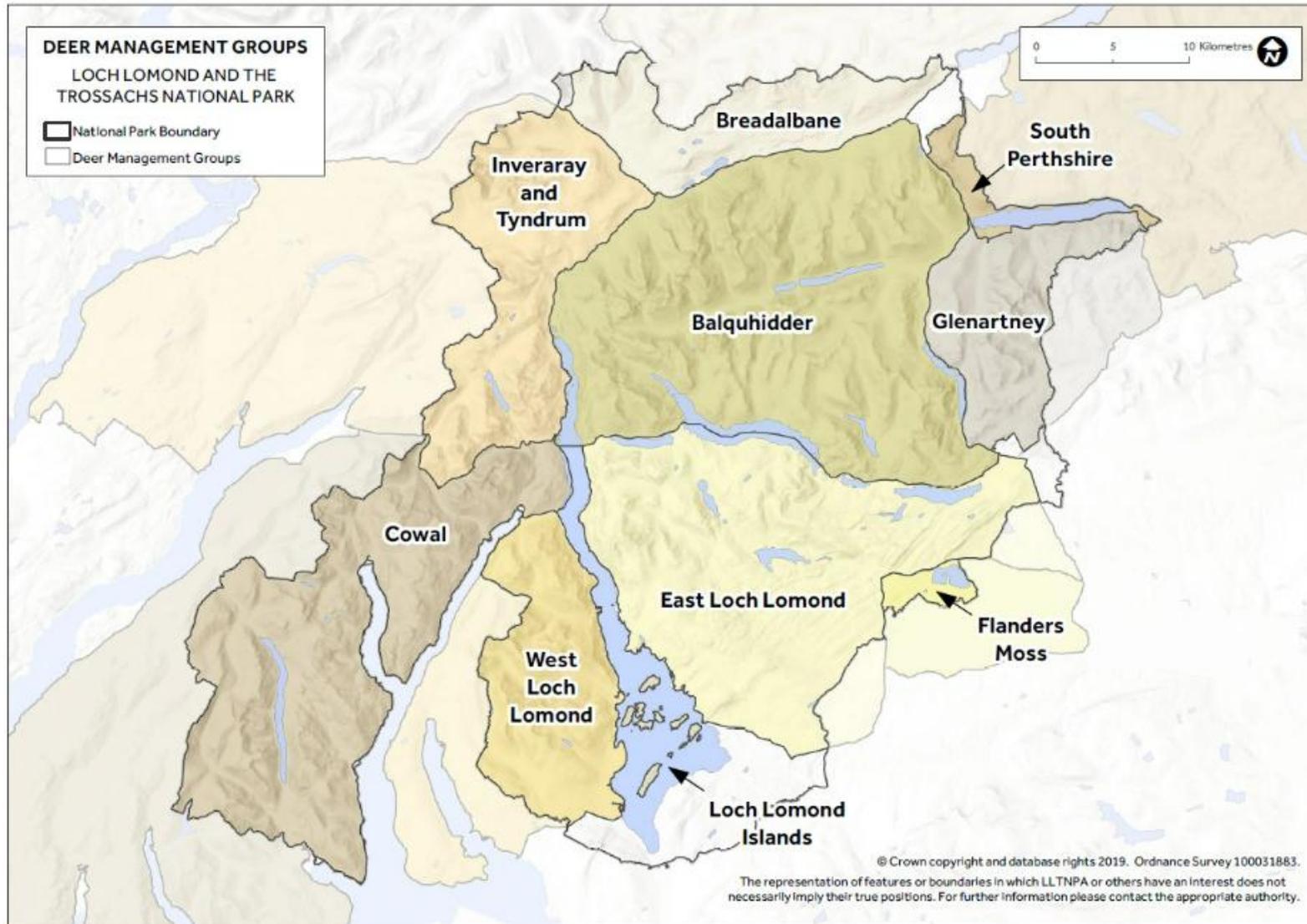
#### **Year 1 action:**

Summary table of Deer Management Groups (DMGs) and Landscape-scale projects within the LLTNP established and updated annually with key information on actions and progress in each one

Transparent communication, reporting and sharing of information on herbivore management projects and their progress are a key element in a collective effort across the National Park.

The National Park Authority will therefore establish a simple reporting structure for which information is collated each year to share aims, approaches and progress within and across key stakeholder.

## Overview of Current Deer Management Groups



DMG	Area (ha)	Mean deer density estimate (deer/km <sup>2</sup> )	Range of deer densities per land holding (deer/km <sup>2</sup> )	Count method and date	Lead	Context	Actions	Progress to date	Milestones
Balquhiddier DMG <sup>2</sup>  <a href="https://balquhiddierdmg.deer-management.co.uk/">https://balquhiddierdmg.deer-management.co.uk/</a>	46,172  (100% inside LLTNP)	10	<5 - 40	Heli 2019	NatureScot: - WMO <sup>3</sup> Jimmy Irvine	Challenge to balance sporting interest and other nature priorities.  Some key landholdings not participating.  Goat impact at Pollochro Woods SSSI <sup>4</sup> .	NatureScot to consider regulation.  Link with role of Wild Strathfillan project to support collaborative mechanisms.	Scottish Forestry Collaborative Funding used to update DMP <sup>5</sup> in 2024. This includes woodland expansion proposals for 14 separate projects.  Recent deer culls show an increase across DMG and on several estates compared to previous years. Further analysis required to see if sufficient to prevent	<10/km <sup>2</sup>  Sub-group areas <5/km <sup>2</sup>  Link with The Great Trossachs Forest, FLS, Woodland Trust Scotland aspirations.  Clear delivery of red deer population reduction to deliver local land management objectives.

<sup>2</sup> Deer Management Group

<sup>3</sup> Wildlife Management Officer

<sup>4</sup> Special Site of Scientific Interest

<sup>5</sup> Deer Management Plan

DMG	Area (ha)	Mean deer density estimate (deer/km <sup>2</sup> )	Range of deer densities per land holding (deer/km <sup>2</sup> )	Count method and date	Lead	Context	Actions	Progress to date	Milestones
								population increase.	
Loch Lomond Islands DMG <sup>6</sup>  <a href="https://www.lochlomond-trossachs.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/Loch-Lomond-Islands-DMG-DMP-2024-2029.docx">https://www.lochlomond-trossachs.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/Loch-Lomond-Islands-DMG-DMP-2024-2029.docx</a>	490  (100% inside LLTNP)	12.9	<5 – 66.6	Thermal drone 2025	NatureScot: - <i>WMO</i> <sup>7</sup> <i>Kevin McCulloch</i>	Resident fallow deer and wallaby populations.  Protected area impacts.  Insufficient cull levels.	Ongoing support of DMG and engagement with non-participating stakeholders.  Increased cull efforts and subsequent HIA <sup>8</sup> .  Explore further options for greater collaboration with Luss estates.	NatureScot routine census by drone along with Endrick mouth.  NatureScot deer culling contractor in place from 2023/24 season.	Mitigation of SSSI <sup>9</sup> impacts.
East Loch Lomond Land Management Forum	14,026	6.9  19.6		Heli 2002  Thermal drone –	FLS: - <i>AWM</i> <sup>10</sup> <i>Paul Bekier</i>	Historic DMG area.	Support functions of revamped group.	Regular attendance of key stakeholders and wider	Mitigation of SSSI impacts.

<sup>6</sup> Deer Management Group

<sup>7</sup> Wildlife Management Officer

<sup>8</sup> Habitat Impact Assessment

<sup>9</sup> Special Site of Scientific Interest

<sup>10</sup> Area Wildlife Manager

DMG	Area (ha)	Mean deer density estimate (deer/km <sup>2</sup> )	Range of deer densities per land holding (deer/km <sup>2</sup> )	Count method and date	Lead	Context	Actions	Progress to date	Milestones
<a href="https://www.lochlomond-trossachs.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/East-Loch-Lomond-Management-Forum-May-2020.pdf">https://www.lochlomond-trossachs.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/East-Loch-Lomond-Management-Forum-May-2020.pdf</a>	(94% inside LLTNP)			5,400 sub-section, 2024	NatureScot: - <i>WMO</i> <sup>11</sup> <i>Jimmy Irvine</i>  National Park Authority: - <i>LUA</i> <sup>12</sup> <i>Rebekah Mayhew</i>	Widespread herbivore impacts, including agricultural ground.  Protected area interests.  Complex interplay between deer, sheep, and goats.	Consider problematic areas for application of regulation  Case study for interplay between herbivores and associated impacts with reporting to SDB <sup>13</sup> and links to agricultural subsidy reform	community interest.  NatureScot funded drone deer count - spring 2024.  National Park Authority funded venison community larder feasibility study in final stages with capital funding confirmed for 25/26.	Reduce agricultural damage to acceptable levels.  Improved use of local venison supplies.
Glenartney DMG <sup>14</sup>	16,410	24.9	7.42-34.8	Heli 2023	NatureScot: - <i>WMO</i> <sup>15</sup> <i>Jimmy Irvine</i>	Open range DMG with high	Delivery of new DMP <sup>17</sup> .	Increased hind culls through 2023/24 season.	<13.5/km <sup>2</sup> by 2030.

<sup>11</sup> Wildlife Management Officer

<sup>12</sup> Land Use Adviser

<sup>13</sup> Strategic Deer Board

<sup>14</sup> Deer Management Group

<sup>15</sup> Wildlife Management Officer

<sup>17</sup> Deer Management Plan

DMG	Area (ha)	Mean deer density estimate (deer/km <sup>2</sup> )	Range of deer densities per land holding (deer/km <sup>2</sup> )	Count method and date	Lead	Context	Actions	Progress to date	Milestones
<a href="https://glenartneydmg.deer-management.co.uk/">https://glenartneydmg.deer-management.co.uk/</a>	(66% inside LLTNP)					deer density <25/km <sup>2</sup> .  Formal request under Section 6A Deer Act for updated DMP <sup>16</sup> including updated population model and cull allocations.		Collaborative mechanisms at play through local WhatsApp group and provision of shared radio equipment to improve communication.	
West Loch Lomond DMG <sup>18</sup>	23,454  (55% inside LLTNP)	5	<5 - 6	Heli 2019	NatureScot: - WMO <sup>19</sup> <i>Jimmy Irvine</i> - AO <sup>20</sup> <i>Liz Pryor</i>	Operational DMG with deer at <10/km <sup>2</sup> .	Luss to continue to deliver high culls and reduced population of deer.  MOD <sup>21</sup> continue to manage deer	Luss due to deer count April 2024 and provide fresh information on delivery of culls.  Attendance and delivery of DMG objectives.	Deliver reduced deer population.  Improve SSSI and wider woodland condition.  Ensure managed risk of Deer

<sup>16</sup> Deer Management Plan

<sup>18</sup> Deer Management Group

<sup>19</sup> Wildlife Management Officer

<sup>20</sup> Area Officer

<sup>21</sup> Ministry of Defence

DMG	Area (ha)	Mean deer density estimate (deer/km <sup>2</sup> )	Range of deer densities per land holding (deer/km <sup>2</sup> )	Count method and date	Lead	Context	Actions	Progress to date	Milestones
							and local impacts.		Vehicle Collisions on local roads.
Inverary & Tyndrum DMG <sup>22</sup> <a href="https://inverarayandtyndrumdmg.deer-management.co.uk/">https://inverarayandtyndrumdmg.deer-management.co.uk/</a>	57,025  (35% inside LLTNP)	5.8  7.29	<5 – 12.1	Foot count 2025  Heli 2017	NatureScot: - WMO <sup>23</sup> <i>Jimmy Irvine</i>	Operational DMG with deer at <10/km <sup>2</sup>	Continue to support DMG in delivery of wide range of objectives.  Key hotspots with potential for deer impacts (Coille Coire Chuilc SSSI & Ben Vorlich SSSI)	Culls are at an appropriate level and DMG appear committed to maintaining this.  Wide range of local objectives, discussion around impacts to woodland as well as open range.	TBC
Cowal DMG <sup>24</sup>	86,739	unknown			NatureScot: - WMO <sup>25</sup> <i>Nathan Berrie</i>	Historical DMG.  Increasing deer populations and associated	Reinvigoration of DMG.  Link with Alliance for Scotland's	Inaugural DMG meeting with ~50 stakeholders in 2024.	DMP <sup>29</sup> completed and actions within delivered.

<sup>22</sup> Deer Management Group

<sup>23</sup> Wildlife Management Officer

<sup>24</sup> Deer Management Group

<sup>25</sup> Wildlife Management Officer

<sup>29</sup> Deer Management Plan

DMG	Area (ha)	Mean deer density estimate (deer/km <sup>2</sup> )	Range of deer densities per land holding (deer/km <sup>2</sup> )	Count method and date	Lead	Context	Actions	Progress to date	Milestones
	(32% inside LLTNP)				<p>FLS: - <i>WRM</i><sup>26</sup> <i>Mattys Jooste</i></p> <p>Scottish Forestry: - <i>Matt Young</i> - <i>Ewan Young</i></p>	<p>impacts to commercial forestry, native woodland protected areas.</p> <p>Alliance for Scotland's Rainforest area</p>	<p>Rainforest priority work and John Risby project.</p> <p>Explore impacts for new UKFS<sup>27</sup> and requirements for updated DMP<sup>28</sup>.</p> <p>Application of section 6A for fit-for-purpose DMPs for private forestry.</p> <p>Possible future trial area for incentive-based deer management pilot.</p>	<p>New Terms of Reference for group agreed in 2025.</p> <p>Section 6a in progress for west area of DMG.</p> <p>Community larder funding confirmed for 2025/26.</p>	

<sup>26</sup> Wildlife Ranger Manager

<sup>27</sup> UK Forestry Standards

<sup>28</sup> Deer Management Plan

DMG	Area (ha)	Mean deer density estimate (deer/km <sup>2</sup> )	Range of deer densities per land holding (deer/km <sup>2</sup> )	Count method and date	Lead	Context	Actions	Progress to date	Milestones
							Scoping support for venison facilities.		
Flanders Moss Deer Management Forum	8,000  (16% inside LLTNP)	15.6		Thermal drone 2024	NatureScot: - WMO <sup>30</sup> <i>Jimmy Irvine</i>  FLS: - AWM <sup>31</sup> <i>Paul Bekier</i> - WRM <sup>32</sup> <i>Mattys Jooste</i>	Significant NatureScot involvement through section 10 to address agricultural damage issues.	Phased extraction from direct NatureScot support.  Ongoing monitoring of action on FLS and Cardross & Rednock Estate properties.	Drone count Spring 2024.  NatureScot to fund independent chair and facilitator until Spring 2025.	Reduced agricultural damage complaints.
Breadalbane DMG <sup>33</sup>  <a href="https://breadalbanedmg.deer-management.co.uk/">https://breadalbanedmg.deer-management.co.uk/</a>	94,905  (12% inside LLTNP)	15	<5 – 25+	Heli 2024	NatureScot: - WMO <sup>34</sup> <i>Iain Hope</i>	Historical Section 7 area.	Lower priority subject to latest Heli count completed late March 2024.	Heli Count March 2024 to inform DMP <sup>35</sup> and populations models.	TBC

<sup>30</sup> Wildlife Management Officer

<sup>31</sup> Area Wildlife Manager

<sup>32</sup> Wildlife Ranger Manager

<sup>33</sup> Deer Management Group

<sup>34</sup> Wildlife Management Officer

<sup>35</sup> Deer Management Plan

## 3.2 Workstream 2: Projects and Resource Mobilisation

This workstream will focus on the development of projects and securing funding, grants, and other resources necessary to deliver them. These projects will include implementation of the Herbivore Delivery Plan’s initiatives, including research, monitoring, and habitat restoration projects.

### 3.2.1 Current Projects

#### Year 1 action:

A range of projects will be instigated, delivered and reviewed which bring greater capacity and resources to delivery of Deer Management Groups (DMGs) and Landscape-scale projects within the LLTNP

The following table details the priority projects for the coming year.

Project	Current status and funding source	Aims and progress to date
East Loch Lomond Land Management Forum community larder project	In progress  NPA and Forth Valley & Lomond Community Led Local Development fund	Community larder project scoping and business case study completed in April 2025.  Funds secured from Forth Valley & Lomond Community Led Local Development and NPA for capital funding for two chiller trailers in 2025/26.  Chiller trailers due to be delivered and up and running by end of 2025.
Deer Management Incentive Scheme	In progress  Funding for scheme agreed by NPA and NatureScot	Criteria for scheme agreed by NatureScot and NPA, and scheme launched in October 2025. It aims to deliver an increased female cull across the National Park.  The scheme will run until end of March 2026. Uptake and success of the scheme in year one will then be reviewed, and we hope to run in subsequent years, dependent on funding.
Habitat Impact Assessments (HIA)	Completed	2025 training programme delivered.

Project	Current status and funding source	Aims and progress to date
		Plans to review need and possibly merge with Wild Deer Best Practice HIA training programme in 2026.
Deer Managers Training Grant	In progress  Internal NPA funding secured for 2025/26	Scheme launched in 2025 and aims to provide funding to upskill deer managers in the National Park.  Success of the grant will be reviewed and we hope to run again in subsequent years.
Larder investment	In progress  Internal NPA funding secured for 2025/26	Improvement of venison infrastructure in the National Park, helping increase availability of facilities and add value to venison products.  Funding for one new community larder and processing unit agreed within Cowal DMG, and improvements to two private larders in north of National Park.
Common Ground mediation services for BqDMG	Initial discussions between Common Ground Forum, NPA, NatureScot, and BqDMG	Collaborative, landscape-scale, deer management within BqDMG through engagement of all land holdings within DMG area.
Loch Lomond Venison brand	Internal discussion within National Park Authority in progress.	Recommendations from 1) ELLLMF community larder project scoping report and from 2) VAS Loch Lomond Venison - Project Discovery and Business Case Development report and scoping study for a Loch Lomond Venison brand to help add value to venison products in the National Park.  This project has been included in the Natural Heritage Lottery Fund bid submitted by NPA, LLTCT and RSPB in 2025.
Venison larder and processing infrastructure review for LLTNP	Internal discussion within National	Aim is to appoint consultant to review current infrastructure and make recommendations for improving larder and processing network across

Project	Current status and funding source	Aims and progress to date
	Park Authority in progress.	<p>the National Park to help increase throughput of carcasses.</p> <p>This project has been included in the Natural Heritage Lottery Fund bid submitted by NPA, LLTCT and RSPB in 2025.</p>
National Lottery Heritage Fund (NHLF): Landscape Connections	Application to NHLF for development stage funding submitted	A NHLF bid is being developed in collaboration with National Park Authority, LLTCT and RSPB. This has a venison and adaptive grazing workstream, with several projects in scoping stage to progress venison projects in the National Park. Funding outcome will be announced in early 2026.
Evaluating the value of farming and land use in the National Park	Internal National Park Authority funding secured for 2025/26	This project will provide an evidence base to develop actions related to domesticated herbivores (i.e. sheep and cattle).
Resilient Farming Network	Internal National Park Authority funding secured for 2025/26	Project paused while staff are recruited.

### 3.2.2 Potential Future Projects

In addition to the table of current projects in progress we will continue to annually review additional project ideas and funding opportunities.

Currently these include:

Project	Current status and potential funding source	Aims and progress to date
Deer Counts (foot, helicopter, drone)	No progress to date	Scottish Government highlighted that deer count data not suitable to provide Scotland-wide deer density information.  There is a need to improve capacity and funding to improve these records
Venison for local schools, community kitchens and food banks	No progress to date	
<b>Explore other funding schemes including:</b>		
Agri-Environmental Climate Scheme (AECS):		Moorland Management Open-range deer management Upland habitat assessment
Forestry Grant Scheme (FGS)		Woodland Improvement Grant Sustainable Management of Forests Planning
Nature Restoration Fund (NRF)	Extensive funding programme 2025/6 including a number of deer management projects	Continue to secure NRF funding and encourage applications from land managers and DMGs
Green Finance	Some potential demonstrated by RSPB Biodiversity Enhancement agreement with SSE	
Community Led Local Development fund	Funding currently being sought from Forth Valley & Lomond Community Led	Potential for other similar schemes?

Project	Current status and potential funding source	Aims and progress to date
	Local Development for ELL community larders.	
NatureScot and Scottish Agricultural Organisation Society (SAOS) Low Ground Venison Supply Chain project	<p>Project to explore ways to help low ground deer managers improve the infrastructure for handling and chilling venison carcasses and increase throughput.</p> <p>NatureScot and SAOS are working with Lowland Deer Network Scotland and Scottish Venison to provide up to 50% of capital costs to successful applicants for small and micro-scale chillers.</p>	Potential to replicate a similar scheme in the National Park if we could secure funding source?

### 3.3 Workstream 3: Capacity Building

Providing training, technical assistance, and educational resources to stakeholders to enhance their capacity for effective deer conservation and herbivore management practices.

#### **Year 1 action:**

Identify immediate priorities and longer-term plans to bring greater capacity and resources to delivery of Deer Management Groups (DMGs) and Landscape-scale projects within the LLTNP

In 2025/6 we will introduce deer management training grants enabling people to apply for funding support for training which they believe will support enhanced capacity for deer management.

We anticipate this training to include the following options, and we will review uptake of the grant and the appropriate of these and other courses into 2026.

- Deer Stalking Certificate Level 1
- Deer Stalking Certificate Level 2
- Trained Hunter
- Butchery Courses
- UHI Sustainable Deer Management course
- Common Ground Forum training events

## 3.4 Workstream 4: Monitoring and Evaluation

### Year 1 action:

Establish a clear mechanism for collecting data, monitoring progress, and evaluating the impact of actions outlined in the Herbivore Delivery Plan. This will be aligned with current Future Nature and ODW reporting and support the annual review and adjustment of interventions as needed.

#### 3.4.1 Data Collection

Key data to be collated will include:

- Deer count data available for each DMG area
- Herbivore Impact Assessment data available for designated sites and other key upland and woodland sites

#### 3.4.2 Monitoring

The National Park Authority's [Future Nature Route Map](#) includes a long-term monitoring plan, which utilises a range of monitoring indicators. These are presented in a dashboard that will be reviewed and updated every five years. There are three indicators used to gauge herbivore pressure in the National Park:

- Average sheep density (per km<sup>2</sup>).
- Average deer density (per km<sup>2</sup>).
- Percentage of woodland with unsustainable grazing pressure (high and very high impact on woodland).

In addition, the National Park Authority will:

- Monitor completion of Woodland and Upland Herbivore Impact Assessments by land managers.