

SNH Red Deer Count Information (July 2019)

Background: SNH, and previously the Red Deer Commission & Deer Commission for Scotland, carry out open range red deer counts over Deer Management Group areas or in some cases smaller focus areas (i.e. Section 7 areas). Along with carrying out the SNH deer count program SNH staff assist individual estates/ DMGs to carry out and complete their deer counts.

Currently the vast majority of SNH open range red deer counts are undertaken using helicopter(s) to survey the area, locating the deer and either visually counting or photographing the group. Generally most counts are carried out in the winter/ spring counts, with a few counts carried out at other times of year (i.e summer). For further information on open range deer counting see [Wild Deer Best Practice Guide Open Range Counting](#) .

Table 1 – Summary of annual red deer count information.

Year	Area (Ha)	Total Deer	Cost (£ ,000s)	£/ha	£/deer
2006/07	258,791	47,413	100	0.39	2.14
2007/08	590,000	69,930	166	0.28	2.39
2008/09	708,000	89,618	180	0.25	2.01
2009/10	523,971	64,673	180	0.34	2.78
2010/11	578,382	66,376	180	0.31	2.71
2011/12	420,760	49,760	169	0.4	3.4
2012/13	501,616	63,416	181	0.44	4.38
2013/14	250,419	31,372	95	0.4	3.9
2014/15	452,624	44,373	246	0.6	7.43
2015/16	606,847	73,816	205	0.34	2.77
2016/17	545,957	56,813	204	0.37	3.59
2017/18	416,136	48,335	222	0.53	4.58
2018/19	528,184	49,657	241	0.46	4.85
Total/ Average	(T) 6,381,687	(A) 58119	(T) £2,369,000	(A) 0.39	(A) 3.61

Table 2 – Summary of Individual deer counts per year

2018/19							
Count Area	DATE	Area (ha)	Total Deer	cost	£/ha	£/deer	no. of properties
Monadiaths DMG (shared costs between SNH/ DMG)	Apr-19	169145	13837	61300	0.40	4.43	48
North Ross DMG	Jan-19	118009	12171	50000	0.42	4.11	33
Mull DMG	Mar-19	88170	7055	50000	0.57	7.09	25
Glenelg DMG	Mar-19	39495	5682	26715	0.68	4.70	13
Balquhiddar DMG	Feb-19	35101	3643	13008	0.37	3.57	18
Monadiaths SAC	Jul-19	10673	1758	6596	0.62	3.75	7
East Loch Shiel DMG	Jan-19	44391	4579	30000	0.68	6.55	20

West Loch Lomond DMG	Mar-19	23200	932	8000	0.34	8.58	3
SNH Total		528184	49657	245619	0.47	4.95	167
Staff Assisted Counts							
Letterewe	Jul-18	16931	1611	-	n/a	n/a	1
North Harris Trust	Feb-19	23961	695	-	n/a	n/a	1
Mar Lodge	Jan-19	29322	1640	-	n/a	n/a	1
Invercauld Homebeat & Glenavon	Mar-19	23600	1499	-	n/a	n/a	2
Lochluichart	Apr-19	11800	1190	-	n/a	n/a	1
2018/19 Overall Total		633798	56292				173

2017/18							
Count Area	DATE	Area (ha)	Total Deer	cost	£/ha	£/deer	no. of properties
East Ross (shared costs between SNH/ DMG)	Apr-18	15652	1875	6298.04	0.4	3.36	7
West Ross DMG	Feb-18	107203	9147	54288.68	0.51	5.94	21
West Lochaber DMG	Mar-18	47013	6392	39204.01	0.84	6.13	20
Caenlochan Section 7 Area	Jan-18	43596	9195	14630.51	0.34	1.59	16
Morven DMG	Mar-18	43984	4690	24849.38	0.56	5.3	17
East Loch Ericht DMG	Jan-18	35226	6524	14913.47	0.42	2.29	13
Strathtay DMG	Feb-18	8000	1195	5502.88	0.9	4.6	11
South Perthshire	Feb-18	73727	5606	27287.42	0.37	4.87	36
Assynt Peninsula DMG	Mar-18	18398	2003	15479.39	0.84	7.73	13
Uists DMG	Apr-18	70350	1708	19077.67	0.27	11.17	4
SNH Total		463149	48335	221531.4	5	5.45	158
Staff Assisted Counts							
Letterewe	Jul-17	31917	1589	-	n/a	n/a	1
Ben Alder SAC	Jul-18	17000	4396	-	n/a	n/a	3
Mar Lodge & Invercauld Home Beat	Jan-18	40000	2599	-	n/a	n/a	2
Reay Forest & Wildland Ltd North Estates	Feb-18	80000	6028	-	n/a	n/a	9
Cabrach & Glenfiddich Estate	Feb-18	17000	2107	-	n/a	n/a	2
2017/18 Overall Total		649066	65054				175

2016/17							
Count Area	DATE	Area (ha)	Total Deer	cost	£/ha	£/deer	no. of properties
West Gramps - Tayside & Speyside DMGs	Mar-17	223107	25508	56508.28	0.25	2.21	49
South West Ross DMG	Feb-17	62789	4197	33124	0.5	7.51	20
East Sutherland DMG	Mar-17	110801	14958	39985.92	0.3	2.67	27
Inverary & Tyndrum DMG	Feb-17	53233	3883	33173.92	0.62	8.54	26
Gairloch Conservation Unit DMG	Jan-17	42000	1368	15514.04	0.4	11.34	7
Glenartney DMG	Mar-17	21981	5561	12508.48	0.56	2.25	5
Rum	Mar-17	10731	1009	7755.68	0.72	7.68	1
South East Sutherland DMG	Mar-17	21315	329	5657.52	0.26	17.2	12
SNH Total		545957	56813	204227.8	0.37	3.59	147

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Staff Assisted Counts							
Wildland - Hope, Loyal & Kinloch	Aug-16	56898	3043	-	n/a	n/a	7
Letterewe	Jul-16	31917	-	-	n/a	n/a	1
Mar Lodge & Invercauld (Homebeat & Corndavon)	Nov-16	45000	2889	-	n/a	n/a	2
Mid West Association DMG	Mar-17	90045	10352	-	n/a	n/a	10
2016/17 Overall Total		769817	73097				167

2015/16							
Count Area	DATE	Area (ha)	Total Deer	cost	£/ha	£/deer	no. of properties
South Ross - 5 x DMGs (shared costs between SNH/ DMG)	Mar-16	206972	30393	38145.78	0.37	2.51	49
West Sutherland DMGs	Feb-16	147652	10795	66109.68	0.45	6.12	38
East Gramps - Sub area 1,2 &3	Jan-16	117277	16819	36119.88	0.31	2.15	34
Moidart DMG	Feb-16	20031	2292	14282.76	0.71	6.23	10
Ardnamurchan DMG	Feb-16	21510	1803	13568.4	0.63	7.53	20
Islay DMG	Mar-16	34000	4415	15917.76	0.47	3.61	7
Jura DMG	Mar-16	36505	5077	17821.44	0.49	3.51	7
East Ross DMG (Shared costs between SNH/ DMG)	Mar-16	22900	2222	2520	0.22	2.27	7
SNH Total		606847	73816	204485.7	0.34	2.77	172
Staff assisted counts							
Glenelg DMG	Mar-16	36532	4197	-	n/a	n/a	8
Reay Forest (North beats)	Feb-16	21108	1837	-	n/a	n/a	1
Mar Lodge & Invercauld (Homebeat & Corndavon)	Feb-16	45000	2889	-	n/a	n/a	2
Wildland Ltd - Hope, Loyal & Kinloch	Aug-15	32489	2284	-	n/a	n/a	3
Letterewe	Jul-15	31917	-	-	n/a	n/a	1
South Skye DMG	Mar-15	17707	322	-	n/a	n/a	3
2015/16 Overall total		791600	85345	-	n/a	n/a	190

2014/2015							
Count Area	DATE	Area (ha)	Total Deer	cost	£/ha	£/deer	no. of properties
Assynt Peninsula DMG	Nov-14	18049	881	13001	0.72	14.75	13
Knoydart DMG	Nov-14	74135	7095	55443	£0.75	7.81	16
Arran DMG	Nov-14	18560	1532	15702	0.85	10.25	3
Blackmount DMG	Jan-15	101264	8284	41531	0.41	5.01	34
North Ross DMG	Feb-15	123142	14348	57868	0.48	4.03	28
Fannich Section 7 Area	Feb-15	19611	2137	6800	0.35	3.18	4
Breadalbane DMG	Mar-15	87141	9330	49522	0.57	5.31	34
Rum	Apr-15	10722	766	6968	0.65	9.09	1
2014/15 Total		452624	44373	246835	0.6	7.43	133
staff assisted counts							
Wildland Ltd North	Mar-15	30752	1952	-	n/a	n/a	5

South Ross - Strathconon DMG	Apr-15	37461	4616	-	n/a	n/a	3
South Uist	Mar-15	30000	778	-	n/a	n/a	1
Great Trossachs Forest	Mar-15	25000	1325	-	n/a	n/a	3
2014/15 Overall Total		575837	53044				145

2013/14							
Count Area	Date	Area (ha)	Total Deer	cost	£/ha	£/deer	no. of properties
Harris & Lewis DMG	Nov-13	115277	3281	40785	0.34	12.42	11
Monadhliaths SAC (part funded)	Jul-13	25322	6652	11,126	0.43	1.67	6
Ben Alder SAC	Jul-13	16987	2335	9000	0.52	3.85	4
Ben Nevis SAC	Jul-13	20833	3414	8810	0.42	2.58	3
Caenlochan Section 7 summer	Jul-13	36000	8825	12439	0.34	1.4	15
Caenlochan Section 7 autumn/winter	Oct-13	36000	6865	12880	0.35	1.88	16
2013/14 total		250419	31372	95040	0.4	3.96	55
staff assisted counts							
Reay Forest	Apr-14	38374	3575	-	n/a	n/a	2
Affric & Kintail DMG (Part)	Mar-14	23981	2479	-	n/a	n/a	5
2013/14 Overall Total		312774	37426				62

2012/2013							
Count Area	DATE	Area (ha)	Total Deer	cost	£/ha	£/deer	no. of properties
Monadhliaths DMG	Jan-13	155312	19744	72,200	0.46	3.66	73
Northern DMG	Feb-13	150678	11778	40,142	0.27	3.41	41
Caenlochan Section 7 (summer)	Jul-12	36000	8732	11,992	0.33	1.37	18
Caenlochan Section 7 (winter)	Nov-12	36000	7028	11,260	0.31	1.60	18
Wyvis Section 7	Oct-12	14290	1182	4,720	0.33	3.99	6
Inverpolly Section 7	Mar-13	11649	622	6,159	0.53	9.90	3
Ardvar Section 7	Mar-13	17805	1419	17,923	1.01	12.63	11
Breadalbane Section 7 (part)	Nov-12	17658	4026	6,122	0.35	1.52	11
North Uist	Apr-12	32799	915				1
Beinn A Ghlo SAC	Mar-13	29425	7970	10,750	0.37	1.35	10
Total		501616	63416	181268	0.44	4.38	192

Table 3 – Comparison of deer count results between last 2 DMG deer counts.

DMG	Area	Number of Red Deer counted at Last DCS / SNH Count	Date	Number of Red Deer counted at Previous DCS Count	Date	Change +/-	Density
Skye	174730	1175	2003	903	1997	272	0.7
North West Sutherland	158082	7696	2012	8019	1997	-323	4.9
Harris & Lewis	109468	3281	2013	4248	2000	-967	3.0
Northern	150678	11778	2013	10403	2006	1375	7.8
Arran	21832	1532	2014	1461	2002	71	7.0
Knoydart	74135	7095	2014	6041	2003	1054	9.6
Blackmount	101364	8269	2015	6326	2000	1943	8.2
Breadalbane	95135	9009	2015	11467	2011	-2458	9.5
Ardnamurchan	21510	1803	2016	1450	2003	353	8.4
East Grampians (count area)	117277	16819	2016	16285	2010	534	14.3
Islay	34000	4415	2016	3900	2002	515	13.0
Jura	36505	5077	2016	5949	2001	-872	13.9
Moidart	20031	2292	2016	2477	2000	-185	11.4
South Ross (x5 Sub)	206972	30393	2016	30814	2009	-421	14.7
West Sutherland	149344	10795	2016	10348	2006	447	7.2
Cairngorm/ Speyside	75082	2209	2017	4103	2010	-1894	2.9
East Grampians - Upper Deeside & Donside (nb. 2017 includes Glenavon estate)	67798	5731	2017	5041	2010	690	8.5
Gairloch Conservation Group	42600	1368	2017	961	1996	407	3.2
Glenartney	21981	5561	2017	3901	2000	1660	25.3
Inveraray & Tyndrum	53233	3883	2017	2801	2002	1082	7.3
Mid West Association	90045	10352	2017	11045	2001	-693	11.5
Rum	10731	1009	2017	766	2015	243	9.4
SE Sutherland	21315	329	2017				
South West Ross	62789	4197	2017	4006	2008	191	6.7
West Grampians	77124	17568	2017	18936	2010	-1368	22.8
Uists	70350	1708	2018	1647	2000	61	2.4
Strathray	8000	1195	2018	2019	2000	-824	14.9
Morven	43984	4688	2018	4337	2001	351	10.7
West Lochaber	47013	6392	2018	5528	2002	864	13.6
East Loch Ericht	35226	6524	2018	5592	2012	932	18.5
East Sutherland	110801	14958	2018	14,349	2008	609	13.5
South Perthshire	73727	5606	2018	4856	2009	750	7.6

West Ross	107203	9259	2018	12528	2009	-3269	8.6
East Ross	22900	1875	2018	1778	2008	97	8.2
Monadhliaths	169145	13837	2019	19744	2013	-5907	8.2
East Loch Shiel	44391	4579	2019	3238	2002	1341	10.3
Balquhiddy	35101	3643	2019	2761	2010	882	10.4
Mull	88170	7055	2019	6764	2011	291	8.0
North Ross	118009	12171	2019	14348	2015	-2177	10.3
Glenelg	43025	5682	2019	4197	2016	1485	13.2
West Loch Lomond	23400	932	2019	160	2002	772	4.0
Total	3034206	273740		275497		-2086	9.0