

EAST LOCH SHIEL HABITAT ASSESSMENT LOG/PROGRAMME

Appendix 13.

Introduction

The following Log/Programme sets out the Habitat Impact monitoring carried out by the named properties as well as a forward-looking programme committed to three years into the future. This lists our achieved or committed to timebound actions.

Habitat Targets

The herbivore impact target for designated sites is to be favourable/stable or improving. Often there are more than one feature which requires different conditions so to improve one may degrade another.

The designated sites are reported on in the DMP 9th Edition, Background Information Document at Section 10. At present (July 2018) the majority of the designated SSSI's, SAC's, SPA's land and habitats within the ELSDMG area are deemed to be in favourable condition by SNH.

The group's herbivore impact target for non-designated open range is to be predominantly light to moderate.

A programme of habitat impact assessments over the open range is underway, but current information today is limited. As an interim until more data is available we take into consideration as proxies: That the deer density is at the lower end of the SNH medium rated category of 8 to 15 deer/km². That the designated sites are generally favourable. That >13170 sheep + followers and >350 cattle + followers have been removed from the open range in recent history. The information we do have suggests there is no issue with open range herbivore impacts.

The group herbivore impact target is for non-designated woodland to be predominantly light to moderate, in order to retain existing native woodland cover and improve woodland condition in the medium to long term.

SF 12/01/2019.

Prior to and at the ELSDMG meeting 29/04/2019 significant HIA monitoring progress was reported as committed to. The following Log and 'ELS HIA Appendix 11 Plot Map indicative' map give more information.

FLS explained that their priority was to monitor woodland condition. They have extensive woodland HIA data and results. Their view is that if the woodland condition impacts are satisfactory then adjacent open range by default should also be satisfactory. FLS are in dialog with SNH to agree this is a reasonable way forward.

GT recent comments are noted that our Habitat Impact Targets are generic. A request was made for some guidance on what he thinks the targets should be in time to prepare for the meeting of the 29th April 2019. With no SNH response or meeting attendance ELSDMG is not

able to progress this further at this stage. Guidance, if presented, will be considered at our next meeting to allow the DMG to agree our impact targets going forward.

In total, at today's date 110 plots have been created and assessed. A further 65 have been committed to for assessment this season. A timebound action is to analyse all the results by the end of July and use the results to inform the population model during August 2019.

Current deer densities and culls have been stable for a long time. Open range densities are at the lower end of the SNH medium rated density. Herbivore pressure is significantly reduced. Habitat monitoring is under way and the DMG will adapt to issues as they arise. It is not appropriate to alter the cull or density on the basis of crystal ball gazing or guess work. It may be that evidence, when it is available, will inform changes to address specific issues. Cull and density levels may alter or even just where the culls are concentrated may change.

It is recognised that the most robust method of protection of designated site interests is often by exclusion of herbivores by deer fencing and that the principle of rotational fencing is suitable to retain existing native woodland cover and improve woodland condition in the medium to long term whilst at the same time taking other factors into consideration.

Often designated sites will have more than one designated feature that requires different conditions. In this situation rotational fencing may also be utilised to provide the different conditions specific features may need.

SF 30/04/2019

East Loch Shiel Deer Management Group. HIA Log/Programme of Commitment

Sheet No.1A	Landholding: - Ardgour/Glenscaddle	Date created	17/04/2019
Responsible	EM	Date updated	30/04/2019

Year	Area/Location	Number/Measure	Habitat	Method	Condition/Status
2018	Glengour	Ecologist survey			Results awaited
2019	Glenscaddle	5 Baseline	BB	BPG	Done not analysed.
2019	Glenscaddle	5 Baseline	DSH	BPG	Done not analysed.
2019	Glengour	5 Baseline	BB	BPG	Done not analysed.
2019	Glengour	5 Baseline	DSH	BPG	Done not analysed.
2020	Glenscaddle	5 Baseline	DSH	BPG	
2020	Glengour	5 Baseline	DSH	BPG	
2022	Glenscaddle	5, 1 st re-measure	BB	BPG	
2022	Glenscaddle	5, 1 st re-measure	DSH	BPG	
2022	Glengour	5, 1 st re-measure	BB	BPG	
2022	Glengour	5, 1 st re-measure	DSH	BPG	

Information provided by: - EM

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Sheet No. 2A	Landholding: - Carnoch	Date created	17/04/2019
Responsible	SF	Date updated	

Year	Area/Location	Number/Measure	Habitat	Method	Condition/Status
2014	Carnoch SW	10 Baseline	DSH	BPG	Light/moderate
2014	Carnoch SW	7 Baseline	NWood		See Summary
2015	Druim Laith NE	10 Baseline	DSH	BPG	Light/moderate
2016	Druim Laith NW	10 Baseline	DSH	BPG	Light/moderate
2017	Carnoch SW	9 First re-measure	DSH	BPG	Light Moderate
2017	Carnoch GC	5 Baseline	DSH	BPG	Light/moderate
2018	Druim Laith NE	First re-measure	DSH	BPG	Light/moderate
2018	Carnoch SW	First re-visit	NWood		See summary
2019	Druim Laith NW	First re-measure	DSH	BPG	
2020	Carnoch SW	2 nd re-measure	DSH	BPG	
2020	Carnoch GC	First re-measure	DSH	BPG	
2021	Druim Laith NE	2 nd re-measure	DSH	BPG	
2022	Druim Laith NW	2 nd re-measure	DSH	BPG	
2023	Carnoch SW	3 rd re-measure	DSH	BPG	
2023	Carnoch GC	2 nd re-measure	DSH	BPG	
2024	Druim Laith NE	3 rd re-measure	DSH	BPG	

Information provided by: - SF

East Loch Shiel Deer Management Group. HIA Log/Programme of Commitment

Sheet No.3A	Landholding: - Claish Moss SNH.	Date created	17/04/2019
Responsible	??	Date updated	

[illegible]

Information provided by: - GT

Email GT 12/09/2019.

Just to let you know that we will be monitoring Claish in 2019 using Wild Deer Best Practice. The site has also been subject to multiple rounds of SNH site condition monitoring between 2000-2013 so effectively the 2019 HIA is a continuation. We could also do woodland plots in 2019 whilst doing our open range if that helps the group progress, however woodland is very limited on the site so I would expect we could manage only one or two plots.

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Sheet No.4A	Landholding: - Conaglen	Date created	17/04/2019
Responsible	DM	Date updated	30/04/2019

Year	Area/Location	Number/Measure	Habitat	Method	Condition/Status
2018	Conaglen	10 Baseline	BB	BPG	Light/moderate
2019	Conaglen	45 Baseline	DSH	BPG	Done not analysed
2019	Conaglen	5 Baseline	BB	BPG	Done not analysed
2021	Conaglen	10 1 st re-measure	BB	BPG	
2022	Conaglen	45 1 st re-measure	DSH	BPG	
2022	Conaglen	5 1 st re-measure	BB	BPG	
2024	Conaglen	10 2 nd re-measure	BB	BPG	

Information provided by: - DM

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Sheet No.5A	Landholding: - FES	Date created	17/04/2019
Responsible	JJ	Date updated	30/04/2019

[illegible]

Information provided by: - JJ KK

FLS explained that their priority was to monitor woodland condition. They have extensive woodland HIA data and results. Their view is that if the woodland condition impacts are satisfactory then adjacent open range by default should also be satisfactory. FLS are in dialog with SNH to agree this is a reasonable way forward.

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Sheet No.6A	Landholding: - Inversanda	Date created	17/04/2019
Responsible	HP	Date updated	30/04/2019

Year	Area/Location	Number/Measure	Habitat	Method	Condition/Status
2019		5 Baseline	DSH	BPG	
2020		5 Baseline	DSH	BPG	
2022		5 1 st re-measure	DSH	BPG	
2023		5 1 st re-measure	DSH	BPG	

Information provided by: - HP

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Sheet No.7A	Landholding: - Resipole	Date created	17/04/2019
Responsible	PS	Date updated	30/04/2019

Year	Area/Location	Number/Measure	Habitat	Method	Condition/Status
2019		10 Baseline	DSH	BPG	Done not analysed.
2022		10 1 st re-measure	DSH	BPG	
2025		10 2 nd re-measure	DSH	BPG	

Information provided by: - RS

Resipole also report they carry out 'Woodland Grazing Toolbox' Impact Assessments on an annual basis which commenced 2014 following on from other woodland HIA.

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Sheet No.8A	Landholding: - SGRIPD	Date created	17/04/2019
Responsible	RD	Date updated	24/04/2019

Year	Area/Location	Number/Measure	Habitat	Method	Condition/Status
2019		30 Baseline	BB	BPG	
2019		30 Baseline	DSH	BPG	
2022		30 1 st re-measure	BB	BPG	
2022		30 1 st re-measure	DSH	BPG	
2025		30 2 nd Re-measure	BB	BPG	
2025		30 2 nd Re-measure	DSH	BPG	

Information provided by: - RD.

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Sheet No.	Landholding: - TEMPLATE.	Date created	
Responsible		Date updated	

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Information provided by: -