



Inveraray & Tyndrum Deer Management Group

Minutes of the Meeting on Wednesday 26th March 2025 at Argyll Estate, Inveraray

Present

David Sumsion – Ardkinglas (Chair) (DS)
David Lowes – Glenfalloch (Vice Chair) (DL)
Deanne Hagan (Secretary) (DH)
Tom Turnbull – Strone & ADMG Rep (TT)
Falcon Frost – Glenfalloch (Chair) (FF)
Julian Clarke – Glenfalloch (JC)
Hugh Nicol – Argyll Estates (HN)
Jayne Young – Argyll Estates (JY)
Peter Kelly – NatureScot (PK)
Tom Kirsop – Argyll Estates
George MacPherson – Brackley (GM)
John Duncan – Inveruglas
Sam Bristow – Tilhill
David McPhie (FLS West)
John Taylor (FLS West)
Dave Beaumont – LLT Countryside Trust
Duncan Tyler (FLS Cowal)
Alan Cory-Wright – Auchreoch/ Strathfillan/ Auchessan (ACW)
Alasdair Campbell – Auchreoch ACF
Ian Robinson – Scottish Woodlands (IR)
Jason Ferguson – Ardkinglas (JF)
Sophia Edejer - LLTNP

Apologies

Martin O’Keeffe – Blarghour (MOK)
Alexander McGrigor – Achlian/ Ardchonnell
Stu MacLachlan - Achadunan
Matthys Jooste – FLS
Ellie Mayhew - LLT Countryside Trust/ Wild Strathfillan
Jimmy Irvine – NatureScot
John Burton – Cononish (JB)
John Macpherson - Balliemeanoch
Fiona Roebuck – Scottish Woodlands
Diane Davidson-Kinghorn - Glencroe
Rebekah Mayhew (LLTNP)
Dom Hall - LLTNP

1. Welcome and apologies.

Chairman welcomed everyone present. Apologies noted.

2. Matters arising from minutes of meeting 6th November 2024

Nothing noted for discussion.

3. Chairman's Report

DL – Useful and informative visit took place at Glenfalloch in late February with Jim Fairlie, Agriculture Minister, and Donald Henderson in attendance.

A Common Ground Stalkers Event took place at Glenfalloch in Mid-March. Comments from those present – ‘best meeting I’ve been to’ & ‘gives stalkers a voice.’ DL asked that all present should consider supporting the Common Ground Forum by signing up to the Accord and by donating to its operating costs - documents attached.

A potential donation from the Group to the Common Ground Forum is to be on the agenda for the next meeting.

DL also reported on the discussions at the AGM of the ADMG on the recently published Natural Environment Bill (see ADMG report below)

Culls & Counts

- a. **Results of Hind Cull 2024-25** - not fully complete with some responsibilities to be confirmed.
- b. **Group Foot Count March 2025 – results & future count plans** – Very successful. Drones have proved useful but not perfect.
- c. **Proposed Stag Cull for 2025** – not all returned.

Updated reports attached – if any additions/ amendments required please contact Deanne.

4. Deer Management Plan priorities

- a. **Habitat Impact Assessments** – appointment of independent consultant discussed. Should be completed at least every 3 years.
- b. **Native Woodlands**
- c. **Peatland Restoration**
- d. **Venison**

5. Discussion with Donald Henderson

After introduction, reassurances were made that the introduction of the Environment Bill was still in progress, and that there will be opportunity for feedback and amendments.

Issues covered:

Deer density targets and sustainability.

Powers of intervention and use of regulatory powers.

Highlands v Lowlands.

Reduction in Government Funding.

Venison marketing and promotion (schools, councils, hospitals, prisons), processing and pricing, seasonality, disparity in funding (beef especially).

Subsequent letter from David Lowes to Mr Henderson is attached.

6. ADMG report

Please see attached, which covers Tom's report, and more.

If any members do not receive regular updates from ADMG (Escopes) and wish to, please let Deanne know.

7. Loch Lomond & the Trossachs National Park update

The main updates from the NPA are the call for expression of interest for Future Nature funding that have already been circulated to the group.

The NPA is developing the LLTNP Herbivore Delivery Plan and will be sending out invites to join a Steering Group in the next month or two. This will include chairs and/or representatives from all DMGs in the National Park. The Steering Group will be tasked to review and prioritise actions in relation to herbivore management.

8. NatureScot update

Most points already covered. Reiterated that current regulatory powers have been used on very few occasions.

9. Wild Strathfillan - Sophia Edejer

- Wild Strathfillan is a nature restoration initiative led by the Loch Lomond & The Trossachs Countryside Trust working together with more than 30 partners.
- The project covers around 50,000 hectares and includes Tyndrum, Killin, Crianlarich and Inverarnan.
- **Wild Strathfillan was awarded £1.1 million funding from the Nature Restoration Fund and £250,000 from the National Heritage Lottery Fund (NHLF) in January 2024.**
- **Progress over the past year** has included planning and contracting for upcoming restoration work, **removal of invasive non-native species**, trialling of **GPS cattle collars**, **drone training to survey remote habitats, plants and herbivores**, continuing operations of the specialist plant nursery at Glenfalloch, student placements, and numerous **sessions with volunteers and primary school pupils**.
- **Planned activities** for the upcoming year include **habitat restoration work** (montane scrub, wetland, native woodland), a **second specialist plant nursery** in RSPB Loch Lomond, and **continued nature engagement** activities with local people.
- In collaboration with RSPB and the National Park Authority, the Trust is submitting a joint bid for the **National Lottery Heritage Fund's Future Nature Landscape Connections** (£10 million over 10 years). If successful, the nature restoration project will connect Wild Strathfillan, The Great Trossachs Forest and the Loch Lomond Rainforest project (map attached) and include a **joint venison project**. If funding is successful, we will invite local DMGs to be part of the development of the venison project. There will be

opportunities to deliver nature projects on your land, e.g. woodland planting, wader scrapes, hedgerows – so do get in touch if you have any ideas.



GPS Cattle Collars



Drone Training



Volunteers and Pupils

10. Any other business

Alasdair Campbell, new owner of Auchreoch, was introduced to the group.

Annual Questionnaires – Members are encouraged to complete these and return to the Deanne Hagan as soon as possible please.

11. Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 5th November – time and venue tbc