



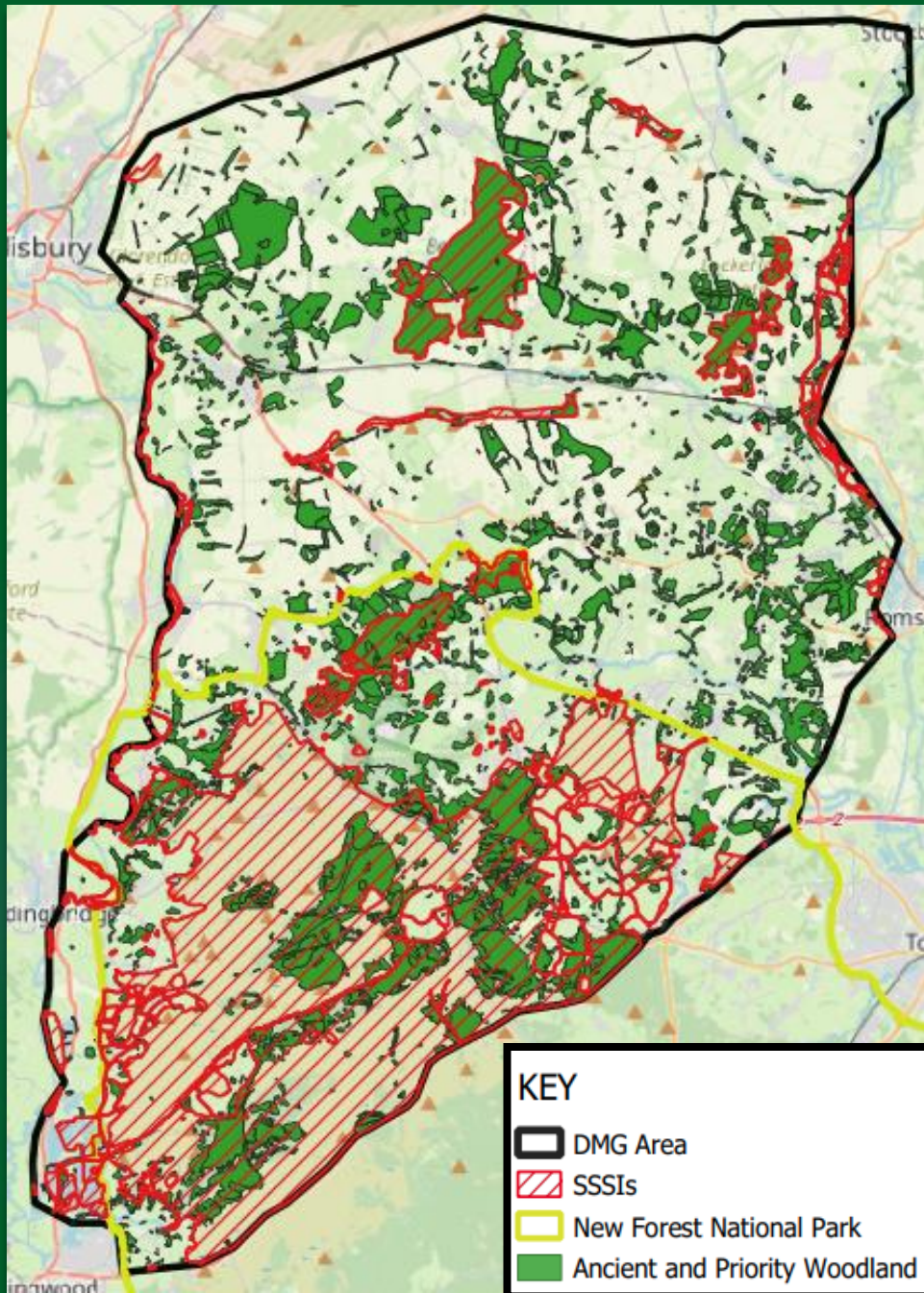
NORTHERN NEW FOREST AND SOUTHEAST WILTSHIRE DEER MANAGEMENT PROJECT

Supported by Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL)



Who are the Deer Management Group (DMG)?

- ▶ A group of 45 landowners
- ▶ Representing an area of circa 180 km²
- ▶ DMG area bounded by main roads and rivers



Northern New Forest Nature Recovery Area

- ▶ Bentley Wood SSSI – nationally important woodland butterfly site
- ▶ Mottisfont Bats SAC
- ▶ Blackmoor Copse SSSI
- ▶ Brickworth Down and Dean Hill SSSI
- ▶ Whiteparish Common SSSI
- ▶ Loosehanger Copse and Meadows SSSI
- ▶ Langley Wood NNR
- ▶ Franchises RSPB Reserve
- ▶ The New Forest SSSI/SAC/SPA/Ramsar
- ▶ Lots of priority woodland habitat
- ▶ Important woodland bird assemblage

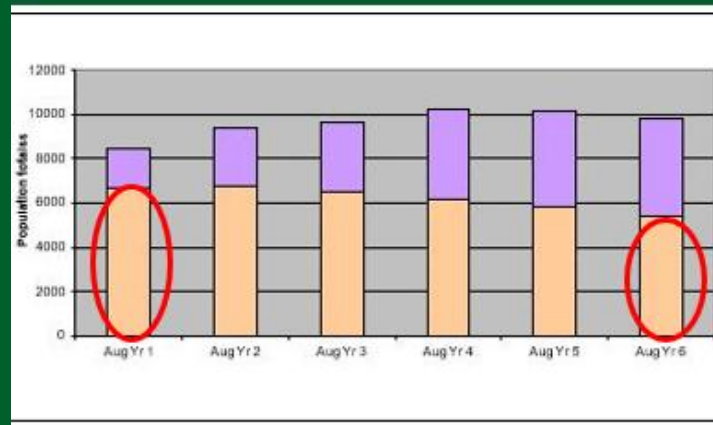
EVIDENCE BASED APPROACH

Main Evidence Base

- 1) Landscape Scale drone surveys (320km²)
 - ▶ Night thermal deer counts
 - ▶ Daytime flights – species/sex/age class ratios
- 2) Collation of cull data from all landowners
- 3) Population modelling to determine appropriate cull targets
- 4) Deer Impact Assessment Monitoring



	Cull	Remainder	Mortality	Remainder	Aug Yr 2	Aug Yr 3	Aug Yr 4
	1113	3677	202	3475	4211	3471	3572
	159	751	15	736	713	1529	1236
	226	751	38	713	1835	1527	1395
	558	359	31	328	560	2	1331
	236	237	5	232	226	1594	1301
	157	238	12	226	1835	1527	1395
	2449	6013	303	5710	9380	9650	10230



What is a Sustainable Deer Population?

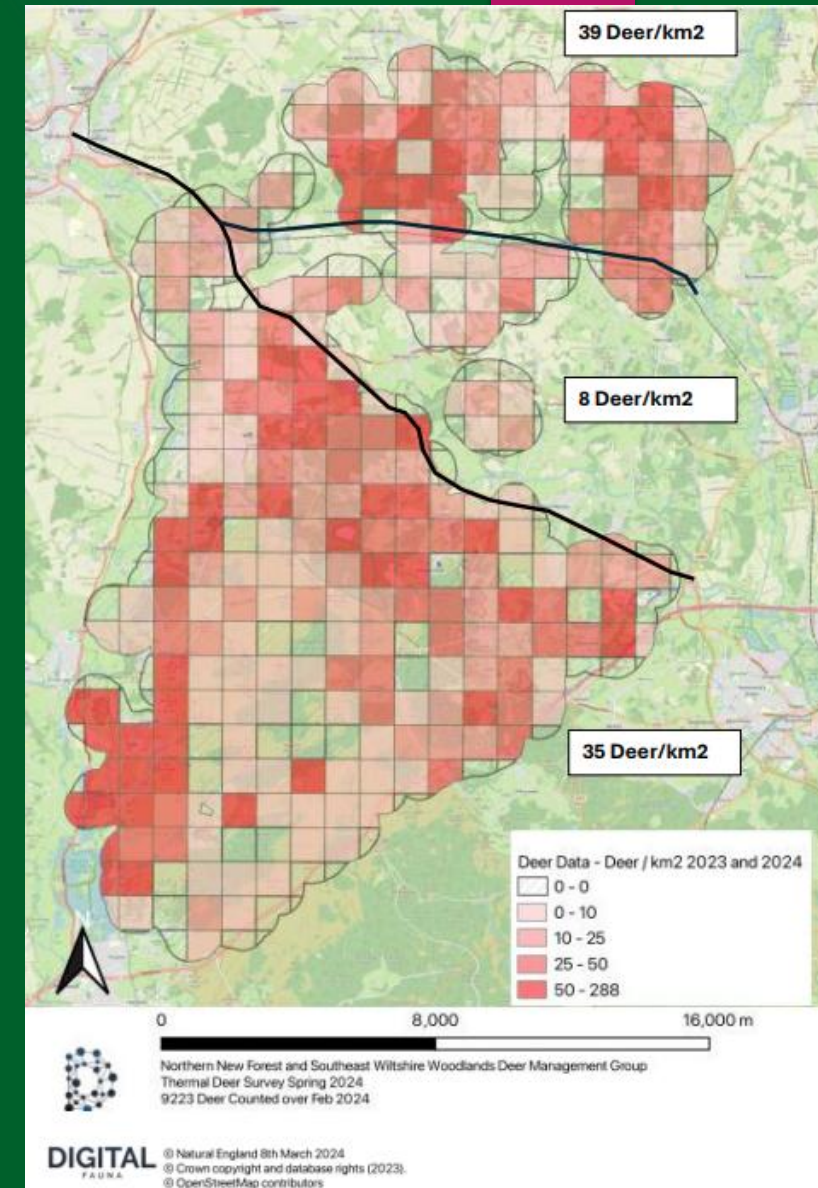
	Sustainable Deer Density
Deer Initiative (2009) – native woodland nat regen	4 – 5 deer/km2
FE Research (2000) – biodiversity/nat regen/forestry damage/DVCs	4 – 7 deer/km2

What is our DMG Deer Population?

	TOTAL COUNT (Drone thermal 2024 – all deer species)	Our Deer Density
Northern Area	2399	39/km2
Central Area	266	8/km2
Southern Area	6546	35/km2

UK Average Deer Density –

11.25/km2



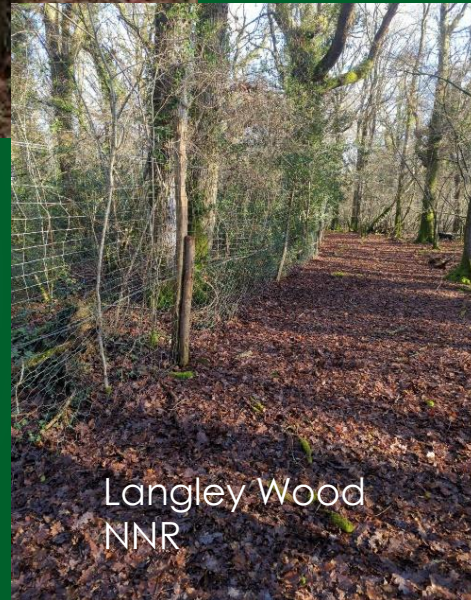
Landscape Scale Woodland Deer Impact Assessment 2024



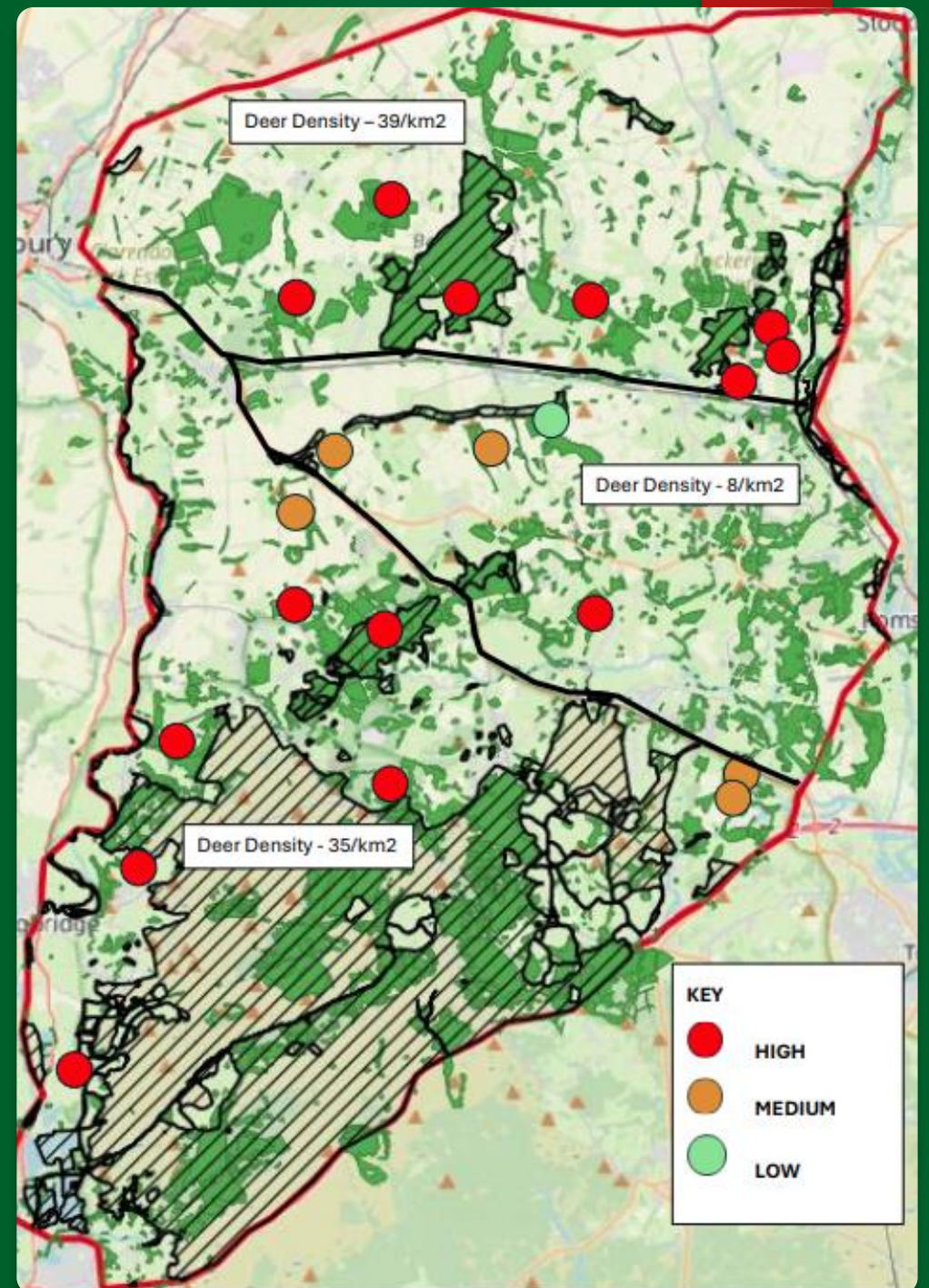
Avon Valley woodland



Dead Coppice Hale

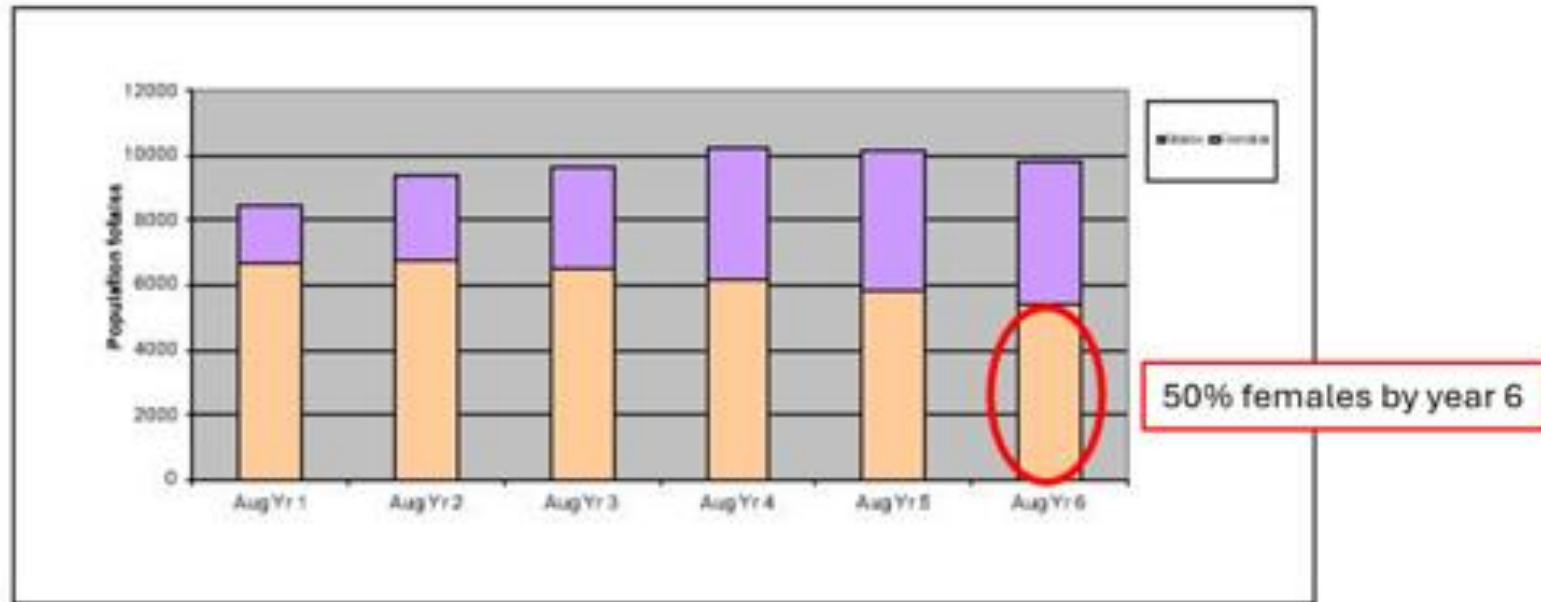


Langley Wood
NNR



Population Modelling

Fallow Deer – Southern DMG Area



SUMMARY

- ▶ Current deer densities one of the biggest threats to nature recovery in the woodlands and scrub habitats in Northern New Forest
- ▶ Deer are having a major impact on the economic resilience of our landscape and public health and safety
- ▶ Deer management has to happen across the whole landscape – a long-term collaborative effort which requires our encouragement and support