



# **Wester Balcormo Deer Enterprise**

Nicholas Gilmour  
John Gilmour and Partners

# History

- Started in 1986/7 after a trip to New Zealand
- Stock from wild capture in Newtonmore
- Set up of various initiatives and marketing schemes
- Subsequent demise of schemes due to the difficulty of finding suitable abattoirs
- Last 12 years our deer enterprise has operated as a park selling culled stock to game dealers.
- 60 breeding hinds, 2 to 3 mature stags, average 55 calves/year
- 60 acres in fence, set over 4 fields.

# Layout 2013



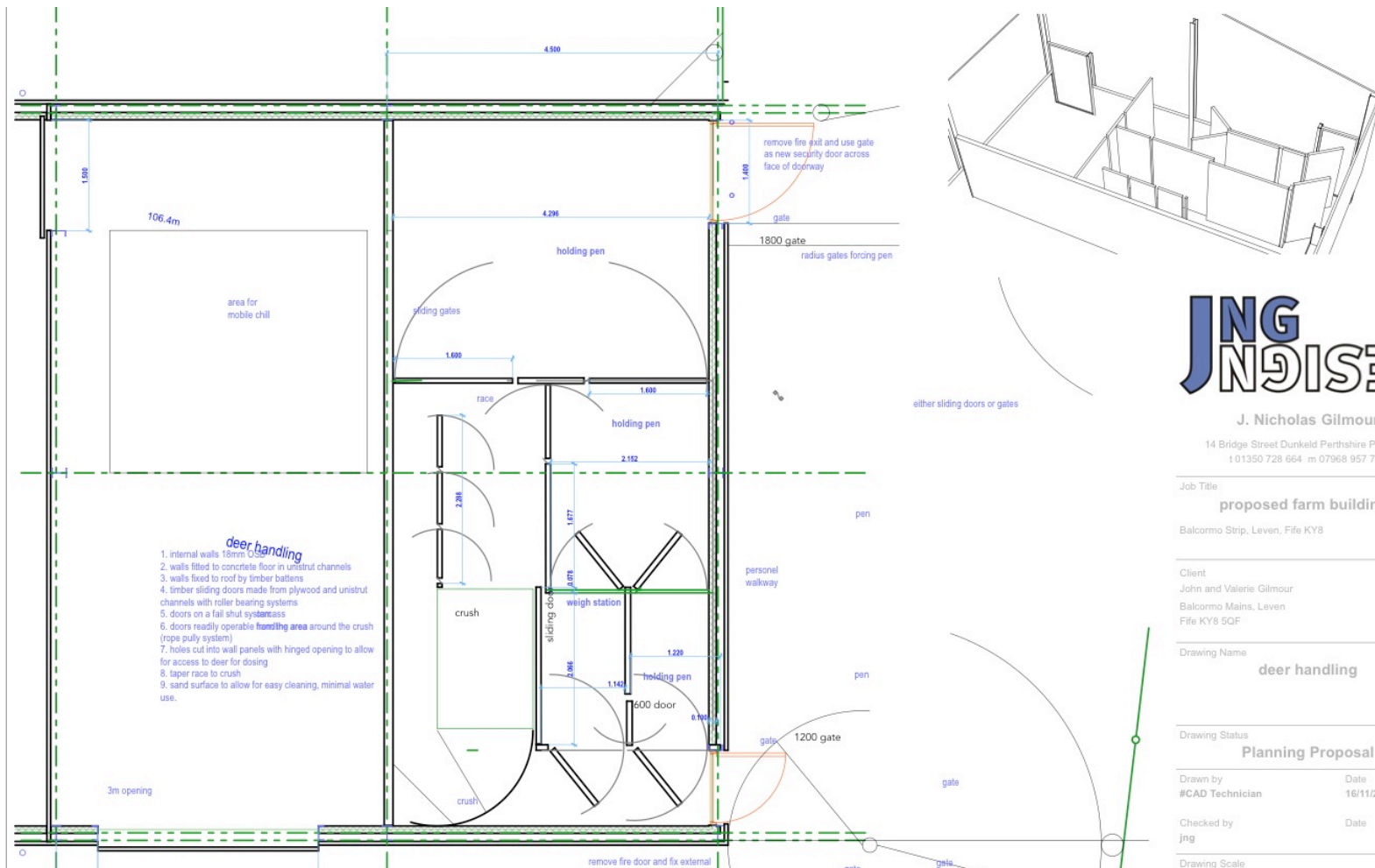
# 2011 to today (The current scene)

- 2011 Construction of new farmhouse and farmyard. Better security for deer fields.
- New shed designed as GP building with allocated space for chill and handling.
- 2013 I take over the day to day running of the farm.
- Deer conference 4th September 2013 kicks off investment by Scottish Government for Deer Demonstration Day Project starting in 2014
- At the same time Robert and Jane Prentice are working towards building the

# 2011 to today (The current scene)

- Attendance at the Deer demonstration project provides introduction to Scottish Venison Partnership
- Employ Alan's services to reconfigure farm.
- Start the move from park system to farm system.
- Winter 2014 / 2015 - construct new handling system internally and externally

# Handling System



JNG  
DESIGN

J. Nicholas Gilmour

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Job Title

proposed farm buildings

Balcormo Strip, Leven, Fife KY8

Client

John and Valerie Gilmour  
Balcormo Mains, Leven  
Fife KY8 5QF

Drawing Name

deer handling

Drawing Status

## Planning Proposal

#CAD Technician

16/11/2015

Checked by

jng

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Drawing Scale

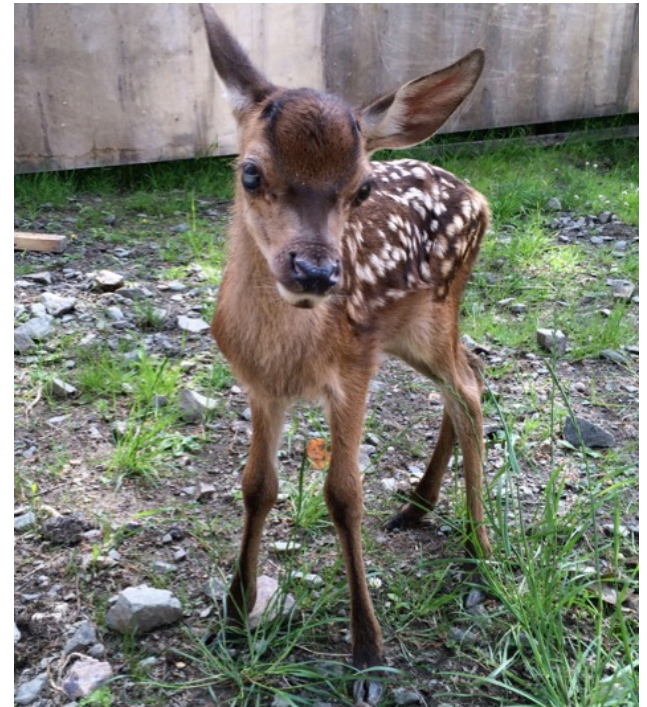
# 2011 to today (The current scene)

- 2015 – renew fencing and install raceways, reconfigure fields.
- Employ Jonathan Holmes as agronomist, sample and treat fields summer 2015 – ongoing project.
- Overwintering of calves in farm building.



# Current stock

- 140 hinds of mixed age
- 40 yearling hinds
- 3 stags
- approx. 100 calves.
- 36 yearling stags –  
batches of 6 to 8  
transported to  
Downfield each  
Monday. (20  
remaining)

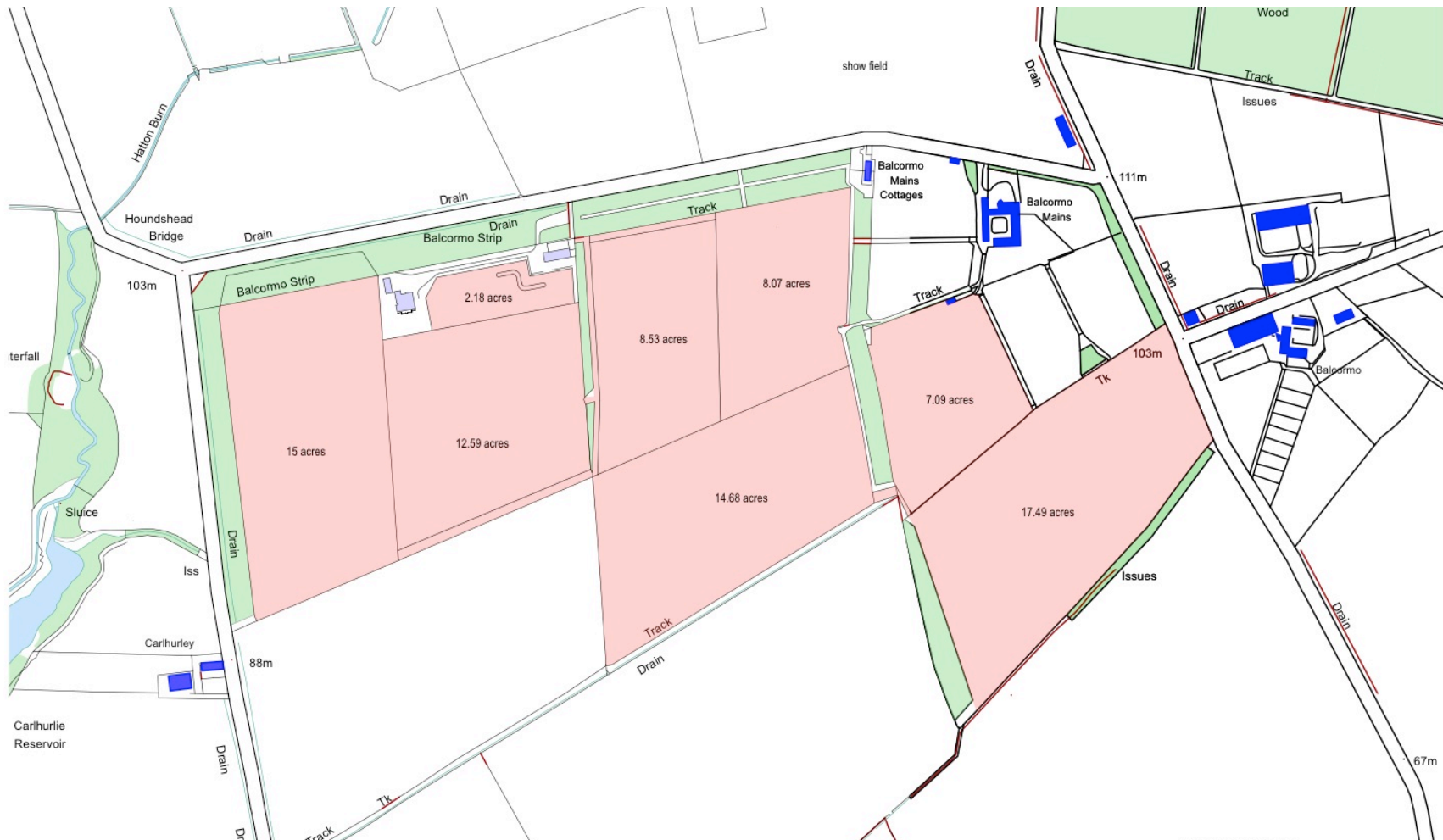




# The future

- Carry on with upkeep of fences.
- Purchase / construction of new deer crush.
- Install approx. 1.6km of new fencing to take in 2 new fields additional 26 acres. Capacity up to approx. 200 hinds.

# Additional Fields



# The future

- Investigate grazing of winter crops.
- Renew grass and stich in new grass species to improve grazing and silage production.
- Install approx. 1.8km of new fencing on a second site to take in 3 fields totaling 60 acres. Additional capacity of approx. 150 hinds.
- New farm building for overwintering of stock. 300 calves!