

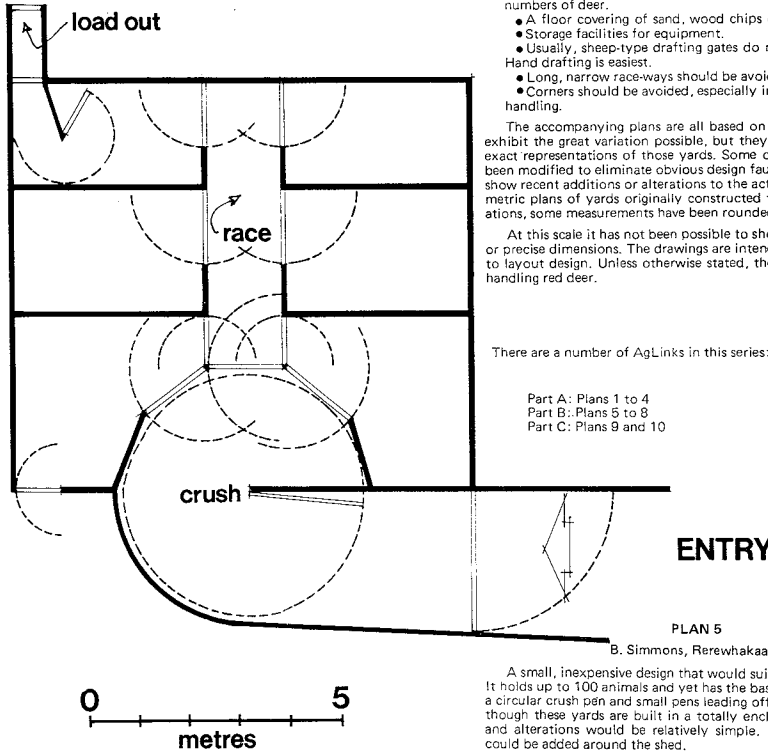
Some form of yards, no matter how simple, is essential on every deer farm right from the time it is first stocked. There is no such thing as a 'standard' deer yard. Every farm has its own design, although many are variations of basic themes.

It is not necessary to lavish money on building elaborate yards, especially if the herd is small. Many large yards are totally impractical; smaller, well designed yards are often much easier to work. As long as there are a sufficient number of holding pens or paddocks, the actual yards for close handling of stock can be kept to a minimum. Good design makes provision for future extensions.

The advice presented here should be considered in conjunction with the requirements for farm location and design (AgLink FPP 246).

Most successful yards have some or all of the following points in common:

- A long lead-in race, close boarded for about 9 m out from the yards. Ideally, it should not be straight, but should offer an indirect approach so that the yards are hidden from the animals' view until the last minute.
- The whole working area, or at least some of the pens or main handling area, completely roofed-in and darkened. Whether roofed or not, all walls should be close-boarded and at least 2.1 m high for red deer (2.6 m for fallow).
- Sheet or corrugated iron is avoided because it is noisy.
- Plywood is well supported on framing to avoid 'drumming' on impact.
- A central, circular crush pen with two centrally swung gates is common in many designs. Farmers often use them more for directing stock into lateral pens rather than as a 'crush'. Five metres is a suggested maximum diameter.



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Deer Yard Design Requirements and Plans

Part B: Plans 5 to 8

- Small pens (the actual number depending on the size of herd) for working with small numbers of animals at close quarters. Larger uncovered areas can be used for holding large numbers of deer.
- A floor covering of sand, wood chips or coarse saw dust.
- Storage facilities for equipment.
- Usually, sheep-type drafting gates do not work very well. Hand drafting is easiest.
- Long, narrow race-ways should be avoided.
- Corners should be avoided, especially in areas used for close handling.

The accompanying plans are all based on existing yards and exhibit the great variation possible, but they do not claim to be exact representations of these yards. Some of the drawings have been modified to eliminate obvious design faults and some may not show recent additions or alterations to the actual yards. In drawing metric plans of yards originally constructed to Imperial specifications, some measurements have been rounded off.

At this scale it has not been possible to show structural details or precise dimensions. The drawings are intended merely as a guide to layout design. Unless otherwise stated, they are intended for handling red deer.

There are a number of AgLinks in this series:

Part A: Plans 1 to 4
Part B: Plans 5 to 8
Part C: Plans 9 and 10

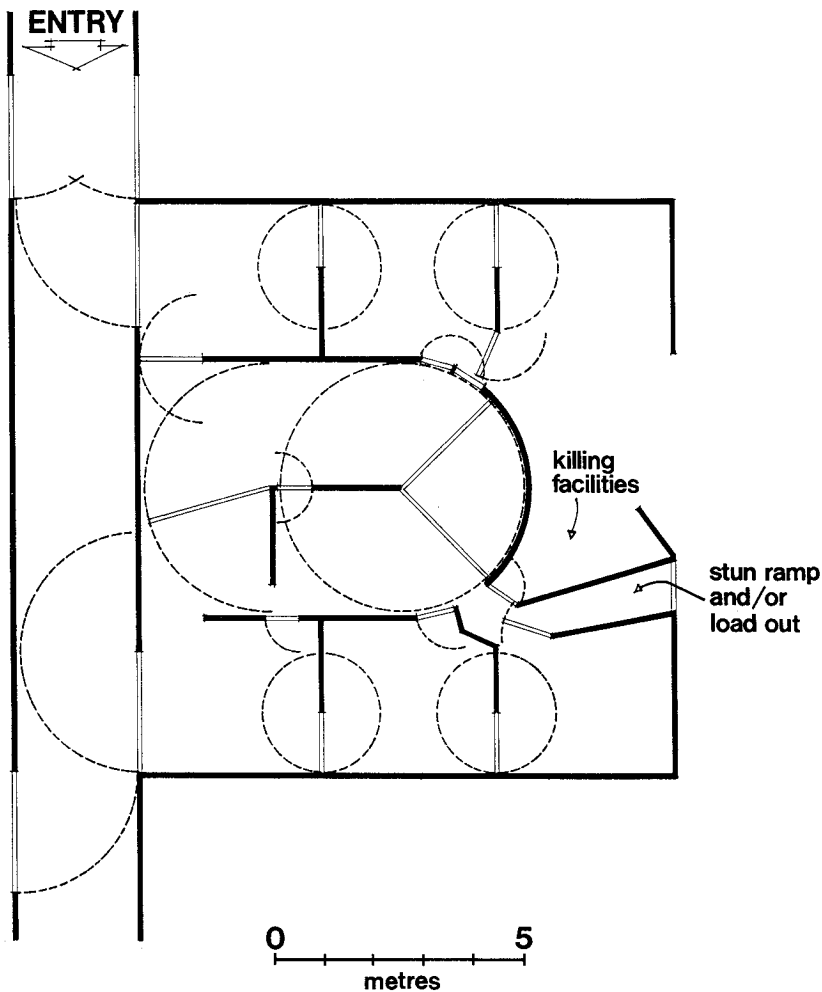
FPP 251
FPP 252
FPP 253

ENTRY

PLAN 5

B. Simmons, Rerewhakaaitu

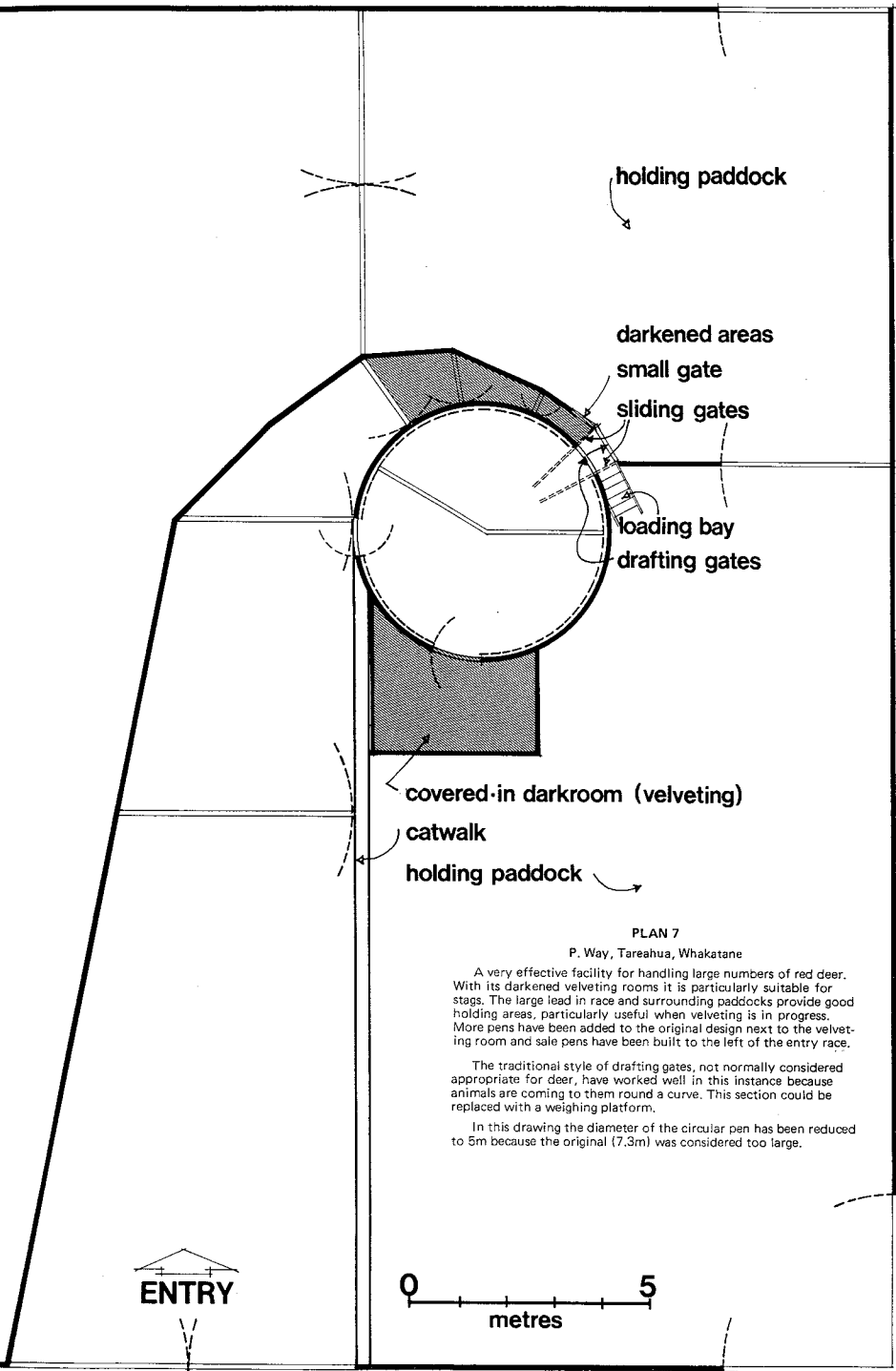
A small, inexpensive design that would suit many small herds. It holds up to 100 animals and yet has the basic requirements of a circular crush pen and small pens leading off a central race. Although these yards are built in a totally enclosed shed, additions and alterations would be relatively simple. Large holding pens could be added around the shed.



PLAN 6

A. Ford, Highlands Station, Rotorua

This is a complex and expensive set of yards for a large deer farm. The whole complex is enclosed in a shed. The individual pens are probably larger than optimum. A particular feature of this design is the inclusion of an excellent killing area. This area has a concrete floor while the rest has a sand floor. Hay can be stored above the yards. Simple and multi-way drafting is possible from the central crush into the outer pens.



PLAN 7

P. Way, Tareahua, Whakatane

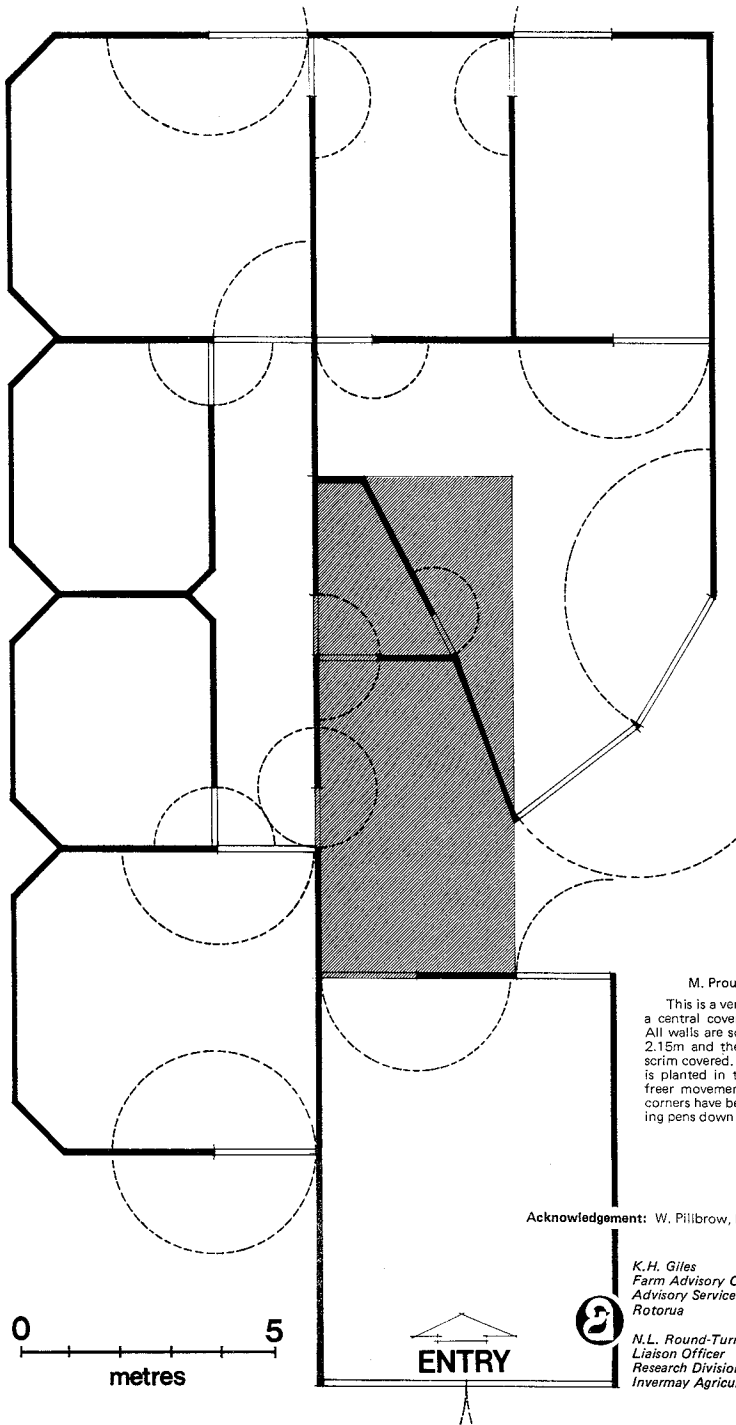
A very effective facility for handling large numbers of red deer. With its darkened velveting rooms it is particularly suitable for stags. The large lead in race and surrounding paddocks provide good holding areas, particularly useful when velveting is in progress. More pens have been added to the original design next to the velveting room and sale pens have been built to the left of the entry race.

The traditional style of drafting gates, not normally considered appropriate for deer, have worked well in this instance because animals are coming to them round a curve. This section could be replaced with a weighing platform.

In this drawing the diameter of the circular pen has been reduced to 5m because the original (7.3m) was considered too large.

ENTRY

0 ————— 5
metres



PLAN 8

M. Prouting, Mesopotamia

This is a very large set of yards with a central covered area for handling. All walls are solid sided to a height of 2.15m and the entry race fences are scrim covered. The area round the entry is planted in trees, which encourages freer movement of stock. Note that corners have been eliminated in the holding pens down the left hand side.

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0 ————— 5
metres

ENTRY

