

Deer Management Plans

In November 2013, the Scottish Parliament RACCE Committee recommended to the Minister that the effectiveness of Deer Management Groups (DMG) under the Voluntary Principle would need to be demonstrated through the implementation of Deer Management Plans. DMGs have until the end of 2016 to have their Deer Management Plans in place.

Overview

Background

There are nearly fifty DMGs across Scotland. Some of already have an effective Deer Management Plan (DMP) in place while others are starting from scratch. The Association of Deer Management Groups (ADMG) has established a benchmark in response to the RACCE committee recommendations which should form the basis on which any group develops its plan.

ADMG Benchmark

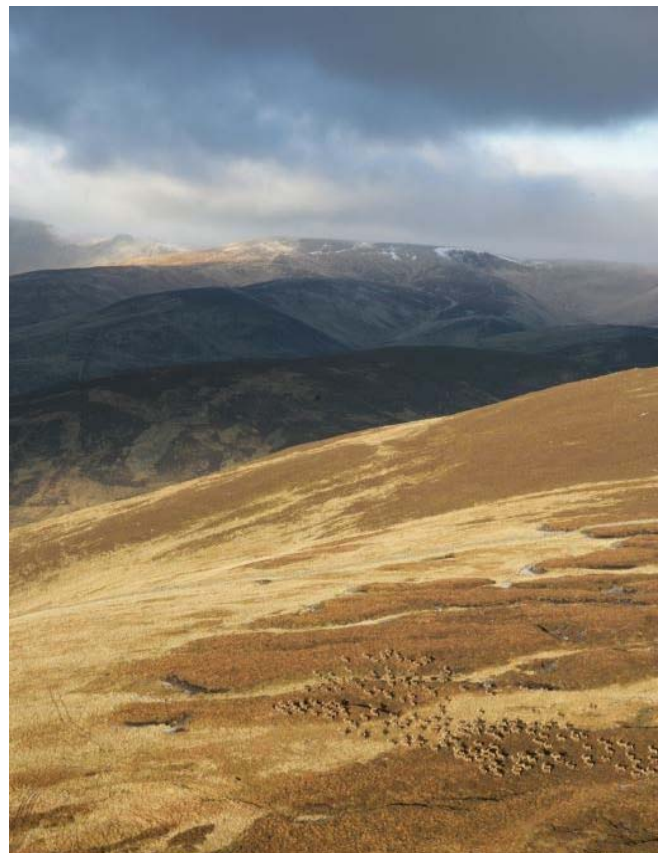
The DMG Benchmark sets out criteria whereby a Deer Management Group or Sub-Group can assess and demonstrate its effectiveness in relation to the Code of Practice on Deer Management. Aimed at meeting a range of management objectives and delivering public interest, all DMGs should have an up-to-date, effective and forward-looking DMP which:

- Records all land management objectives in the DMG area;
- Identifies the public interest aspects of deer management;
- Includes an annually updated list of actions that deliver the collective objectives of DMG Members as well as public interest objectives;
- Fully involves all DMG Members in the planning process and in the implementation of agreed actions;
- Identifies potential conflicts and how they can be prevented or addressed to ensure an equitable approach to the shared deer population; and
- Is publicly available.

Relevant local stakeholders should be consulted on new DMPs and advised of any changes as they come forward.

SNH Delivering Public Objectives

In addition to the ADMG benchmark, Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) has produced an assessment tool called 'Delivering Public Benefit', against which all DMGs and their plans will be judged. Based on SNH's Codes of Practice for Deer Management, The assessment tool will be used to



demonstrate the progress of DMGs between now and the deadline of 2016. Criteria include:

- Deer impacts on designated sites and the wider countryside;
- Delivering higher standards of competence;
- Promoting public health and wellbeing;
- Ensuring effective communication;
- Minimising costs associated with deer and their management.

The majority of DMGs have been through this assessment with SNH and are now in a position to address any identified issues through their Deer Management Plans.

How we can help

Bell Ingram has the knowledge, expertise and resources to produce quality Deer Management Plans for Deer Management Groups across Scotland. We understand that each DMG is very different in terms of size, structure, relationships and management objectives. Our strength is in engaging with everyone involved and developing a cohesive, effective and simple solution.

Bell Ingram

Knowledge & Expertise

Bell Ingram can assist in planning, writing and implementing your DMP. Located across Scotland, our experts are already involved with a number of DMGs, whether in an estate role or as secretary/ treasurer. We have well-established contacts with estates and strong relationships with the public sector; allowing us to identify effective, efficient, and appropriate methods of deer management planning.

Additional Resources

Bell Ingram's digital mapping and GIS department produces high quality maps for DMPs and other estate management purposes. In digital or printed format, these are an effective way of presenting detailed information across large areas, as recommended by the ADMG.



Our Objectives

Deer Management Planning

All DMPs must satisfy private and public sector interests as well as engaging with the wider public. All stakeholders with a genuine interest in deer should be included in the planning process through collaboration between land owners, managers and the wider public. The DMP should establish the structures and processes within the DMG required to deliver appropriate social, economic and environmental benefits.

Our Step-by-step Process

Our step-by-step process involves splitting the DMP into three stages, as follows:

Stage 1 - Consultation

- Liaise with Chairman and Executive Committee of DMG
- Review available data relating to the DMG and their deer
- Visit each estate and conduct questionnaire
- Discuss 'Delivering Public Benefit' assessment with SNH

Stage 2 - Planning

- Analyse data from questionnaires
- Assess strategic deer management options and identify potential recommendations
- Identify any conflicts and areas for dispute resolution
- Develop a strategy for improvement against objectives of SNH assessment
- Identify DMG's mapping requirements

Stage 3 - Implementation

- Carry out any dispute resolution
- Devise draft DMP with comprehensive mapping
- Consult with DMG to finalise DMP
- Develop strategy for monitoring effectiveness of DMP

Each plan is as individual as the DMG. Our approach and fee structure are tailored accordingly to ensure the best results. Some funding for DMPs may be obtainable from SNH.

Contact Details

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