

Dunkeld Deer Management Forum 2018 Report



Dunkeld Deer Management Forum 2018 Report

- **Statement of Purpose 2018:**

The aims of the Dunkeld Deer Management Forum (DDMF) are:

- To collaborate as responsible professionals in meeting obligations to local and national interests.
- To manage the four-local species of deer sustainably, in compliance with the Deer Code.

This involves a collective effort to:

- Share, gather and make available relevant data on deer and any concerns re numbers or distribution.
- Exercise our rights with consideration to each other and the needs of the wider community.
- Maintain open and active communication with all stakeholder interests, and be accountable to them.

In achieving these the DDMF wish that a sustainable and healthy deer population is maintained at acceptable levels and that the natural environment is improved by our actions within the DDMF range.

The Dunkeld Deer Management Forum has currently 19 represented stakeholders, covering some 110 square kilometres centred around Dunkeld.

The interests of the stakeholders in our range are very diverse.

Commercial Forestry	Community Council	Farming
National Trust for Scotland	Sporting Estates	Safety - Police Scotland
Wildlife Tourism	Scottish Natural Heritage	Commercial Tourism Interests

A balance needs to be established to ensure that the natural environment can be improved while managing to support the diversity of our stakeholders. Engagement with the DDMF is key to achieving our aims, if you have any input which we can utilise please address to the secretary at ddmfsecretary@aol.com.

Dunkeld Deer Management Forum

2018 Report

Stakeholders Current Status and Risk Assessment.

All stakeholders have carried out a “current status” assessment and identified key areas of concern. These have been risk assessed and where required an action plan is in place.

On an annual basis, all stakeholders will review their status and determine if their plans are improving the current position.

Of 40 risk assessments taken, 2 are Red (immediate action is required), 18 are Amber (a plan is in place to rectify the issue) and 20 are Green (status quo is maintained).

The objective for the DDMF is to work towards and attain Green in all stakeholder assessments, this will be measured on an annual basis and effective performance will be demonstrated.

Legislation

Currently in Scotland there are various legislative requirements for land owners to control deer densities on their land. Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) promotes, cares for and improves Scotland’s natural heritage. SNH have powers to ensure that the natural heritage is improved and continue to work with government, various organisations and private individuals to reach their 2025 plan. SNH also support the DDMF with professional advice and support.

www.nature.scot/about-snh/our-work.

Safety and Deer Welfare.

Safety is a key priority for the DDMF. Training providers and contact details for advice on deer matters will be made available through the DDMF via the secretary at ddmfsecretary@aol.com.

Any queries with respect to deer management or formal Deer Management Qualifications (DMQ) can be addressed via the secretary at ddmfsecretary@aol.com.

The highest standards in deer welfare and culling activity are expected within the DDMF range.

www.bestpracticeguides.org.uk

Road Traffic Collisions

The A9 duelling is ongoing and DDMF engagement with the design consultants will be sought, to ensure that the design of the new duelled sections will take in to account the resident deer population and road safety.

Signage across all other affected roads and education with drivers will be a priority with ongoing awareness via the various communication channels at key times during the annual deer natural cycle, where behavioural change can increase risks at certain times of year.

Dunkeld Deer Management Forum 2018 Report

Deer Density Management

Deer density in the DDMF range is planned to be reduced by increased culling activity. This process will be conducted over several years with assessment taken annually. There are some specific hot spot areas within the range which will be addressed individually with stakeholders.

Deer Density and Cull Plan.

It is recognised by the DDMF that there are overall increasing deer numbers particularly with Fallow Deer in specific areas.

An ultimate population number in thick woodland will only ever be an estimate; the DDMF are using known cull number/square km as the base measure with the risk assessment model monitoring the effectiveness, this ensures factual evidence to determine impact.

Specific areas within the DDMF range have been identified as hotspots, with action plans in place.

An overall cull increase (circa 20%) across the range is planned for 2018, with females and immature animals a priority in reducing population density.

	Fallow	Roe	Red	Total Cull
2017 Cull Totals	608	186	66	860
2018 Planned Cull Totals	802	208	75	1085

Achieved Cull Density 2017 (110 sq km)	8 animals per Sq Km
Planned Cull Density 2018 (110 sq km)	10 animals per Sq Km