

Dunkeld Deer Management Forum 2019 Report



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- **Statement of Purpose:**

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.

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Stakeholders Current Status and Risk Assessment.

All 26 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 48 risk assessments taken, 1 is Red (immediate action is required), 22 are Amber (a plan is in place to rectify the issue) and 25 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.

Health & 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.

Tick attachments are a critical risk to human health, although ticks are not as active in winter conditions the awareness to potential transmission of Lyme Disease is important and it is the intention of the Dunkeld Deer Management Forum to highlight the risks to people active in the outdoors. A tick awareness article will be published locally in the spring.

More info can be found @:

<https://scotland.forestry.gov.uk/managing/work-on-scotlands-national-forest-estate/health-safety-wellbeing/lyme-disease-and-tick-awareness>

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Road Traffic Collisions

Deer vehicle collisions are monitored and currently there is an increasing trend in deer and vehicle collisions.

Trunk Roads

Year	Number carcasses uplifted A 9 trunk	Number carcasses uplifted Scotland trunk roads
2014	12	243
2015	13	267
2016	8	194
2017	18	204
2018 (6 month data)	15	91

Other Roads

Year	Number Carcasse Uplifts
25/09/2017 – 31/03/2018	66 reported 60 uplifted
01/04/2018 – 01/01/2019	54 reported 52 uplifted

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.

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.

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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 estimated population in the Dunkeld Deer Management range is of the order 4,000-6,000 animals, this represents a density of 40-60 animals per sq km.

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

An overall cull increase across the range is planned for 2019, this represents an increase of 100% from 2017, with females and immature animals a priority in reducing population density.

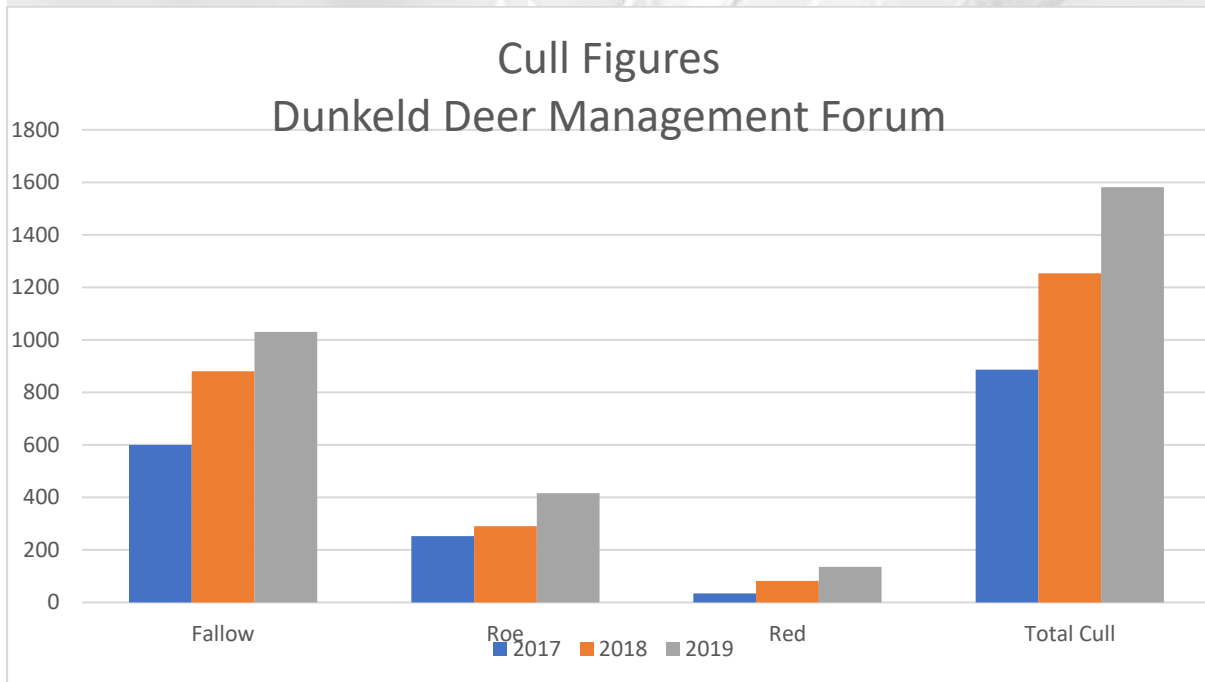
	Fallow	Roe	Red	Total Cull
2017 Cull Totals	608	186	66	860
2018 Cull Totals	981	290	82	1353
2019 Planned Cull Total	1031	416	135	1582

The cull density is a key measure as to effectiveness of deer management, this cull density if applied consistently will allow the DDMF to establish the actual density of deer within our range and allow us to manage the population to a level acceptable to all stakeholders. Another key reduction target is to focus on female animals during the cull. Detailed cull returns are essential, a comprehensive cull return demonstrates the professional and effective actions that land managers within the Forum range are taking to manage the environment within their control.

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One square kilometre is equivalent of 244 acres.

Achieved Cull Density 2017 (110 sq km)	8 animals per Sq Km
Achieved Density 2018 (110 sq km)	12 animals per Sq Km
Planned Cull Density 2019 (110 sq km)	15 animals per Sq Km



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Dunkeld Deer Management Forum Range.

