

Upland Habitat Impact Assessment for Deer Management

Date published: 21 November, 2023

For recent changes to this guidance, please see the bottom of the page.

Note: In January 2024, the Deer Management Plan inserted on the published date of this page has been replaced with an updated version

Aim

The aim of this item is to benefit upland and moorland habitat where deer are present by assessing the impact current grazing levels are having on the habitats present.

This assessment can be used to provide baseline information on which to base management decisions, or can also be undertaken at three to five year intervals to check the effectiveness of management already undertaken.

Where the deer population and / or the designated site extends across more than one ownership, it may be appropriate to collaborate with neighbours.

Eligibility

Rough grazing land, which forms part of a deer range that includes land designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest or European site and is in, or at risk of falling into, unfavourable condition due to grazing pressure from deer is eligible.

Application requirements

You must prepare and submit to NatureScot for approval a habitat impact assessment plan.

This plan must include a map showing the proposed habitats to be assessed along with the locations of assessment plots.

NatureScot will provide advice on where and when to monitor the habitat you are managing.



[Deer Management Plan \(including Habitat Impact Assessment\) \(MS Word, Size: 70.7 kB\)](https://www.ruralpayments.org/media/resources/AECS-2024-Guidance---Revised-Deer-Management-Plan-Template---22-Jan-2024-FINAL.docx)

doc_external_url: <https://www.ruralpayments.org/media/resources/AECS-2024-Guidance---Revised-Deer-Management-Plan-Template---22-Jan-2024-FINAL.docx> [Plan template]

Requirements

- you must provide NatureScot with a report of the impact assessment findings, which must include a map showing the plot locations, their GPS co-ordinates and details of the impacts recorded
- you must maintain a diary

Payment

Payment will be made on an actual cost basis, upon completion of the work and approval of the report by NatureScot. For actual cost capital items, quotes are required. You must follow the Actual costs quotation guidance at the: Quotes section of the [Further requirements for applicants page](#) .

Payment will be restricted to a maximum of £4,400 per location code unit.

Inspections

Your report will be reviewed by NatureScot, who will confirm whether it is up to standard.

[Additional guidance](#)

Supporting guidance is available for this item.

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Section	Change
Application requirements	Updated Deer Management Plan

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