

Open-range Deer Management

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Aim

The aim of this item is to benefit upland and moorland habitat, and their associated species by reducing grazing and / or trampling pressure from deer through additional culling over and above maintenance culls.

Reducing the deer population on designated sites will help ensure that the upland and moorland habitats are maintained or brought into favourable condition and continue to support a wide range of birds and other wildlife.

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

You must combine this option with the [Moorland Management](#) option.

Application requirements

You must prepare and submit to Scottish Natural Heritage for approval a deer management plan for the additional culling.



[Deer Management Plan \(MS Word, Size: 137.7 kB\)](#)

doc_external_url: <https://www.ruralpayments.org/media/resources/Deer-Management-Plan-AECS-April-2015.docx> [Plan template]

Requirements

- you must reduce deer numbers by the agreed cull target (as detailed in your plan)
- you must keep all your venison receipts covering the period you have been undertaking this work and show them at inspection
- you must maintain a diary

Claim requirements

You must submit copies of your annual cull returns covering the years you have been undertaking this work along with your claim

Payment

Payment will depend on the size of the reduction cull as follows:

Payment rate per hectare	Size of reduction cull
£0.80	At least two deer per 100 hectares
£1.20	At least three deer per 100 hectares

£1.60	At least four deer per 100 hectares
£2.00	At least five deer per 100 hectares

The basis of your claim will be your venison receipts. You must claim for the payment rate which reflects the numbers of deer for which you have venison receipts.

You may apply for payment on an actual cost basis for this item if the work you are proposing to carry out will benefit the notified features of a designated site, and where there are exceptional circumstances.

Inspections

The inspectors will check:

- the location and extent of the work
- you have reduced deer numbers by the agreed cull target (as detailed in your plan)
- you must submit copies of your annual cull returns covering the years you have been undertaking this work along with your claim
- your venison receipts covering the period you have been undertaking this work and show them at inspection
- you have maintained a diary

Additional guidance

[Supporting guidance is available for this item.](#)