

Upland Habitat Impact Assessment for Deer Management

This is an old version of the page

Date published: 11 March, 2022

Date superseded: 26 January, 2023

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

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 \(including Habitat Impact Assessment\) \(MS Word, Size: 223.0 kB\)](https://www.ruralpayments.org/media/resources/AECS-2022---Deer-Management-Plan---March-22_1.docx)

doc_external_url: https://www.ruralpayments.org/media/resources/AECS-2022---Deer-Management-Plan---March-22_1.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.

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.](#)

[Recent changes](#)

| Section | Change |
|--|---|
| Whole Page | Change of name from Scottish Nature Heritage to NatureScot. |
| Eligibility | Change of name from 'Natura 'to 'European' sites. |
| Application requirements | Updated Deer Management Plan. |

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