



Deer Framework for the Cairngorms National Park



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 The Cairngorms National Park Authority
 14 The Square
 Granttown-on-Spey
 Moray PH26 3HG
 Tel: 01479 873535
 Fax: 01479 873527
 Email: enquiries@cairngorms.co.uk
www.cairngorms.co.uk

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 Illustrations: Justin Prigmore

The Cairngorms Deer Advisory Group (CDAG) is a body with members drawn from many different backgrounds, working together to find common ground in the debate about deer. At the heart of this is the recognition that there is scope for a diversity of deer densities within the Park.

The Framework is a result of much debate and discussion to set that image into words. It has not been an easy process. Some may feel that points/issues have been missed, and they are welcome to raise this through CDAG. Our hope is that, guided by the Deer Framework, policies will be set by careful consideration of multiple views. This will help multiple land uses to flourish within the Park, with scope for all of these to support this iconic mammalian species long into the future.

Michael Hone, Chairman,
Cairngorms Deer Advisory Group

Tha Buidheann Comhairleachaidh air Fèidh a' Mhonaidh Ruaidh (CDAG) na buidheann le buill bho mòran diofar shuidheachaidhean, ag obair còmhla air deasbaid nam fèidh. 'S e cnag na cùise gun tèid aithneachadh gu bheil cothrom ann airson diofar dhlùiths de fhèidh a bhith air taobh a-staigh na Pàirce.

Tha am Frèam seo na thoradh de gu leòr deasbaireachd agus beachdachadh gus an dealbh sin a chur ann am faclan. Chan eil e air a bhith furasta. Dh'fhaodadh gum bi cuid den bheachd gu bheil puingean/ceistean a dhìth, agus faodaidh iad seo a thogail le CDAG. Tha sinn an dòchas, le stiùireadh bho Fhrèam nam Fèidh, gum bi poileasaidhean air an steidheachadh air cnuasachadh cùramach bho tòrr diofar bheachdan. Cuidichidh seo gus diofar dhòighean-cleachdaidh fearainn a shoirbheachadh taobh a-staigh na Pàirce, le cothrom airson na dòighean-cleachdaidh seo uile taic a chur ris an gnè sònraichte seo airson an àm ri teachd.

Michael Hone, Cathraiche,
Buidheann Comhairleachaidh air Fèidh a'
Mhonaidh Ruaidh

I would like to congratulate all those who have contributed to this Framework for their hard work and sharing their expertise. This Framework is not an end in itself, but rather part of a process, ensuring deer are viewed positively in the Cairngorms National Park. Deer are a fantastic asset, appreciated by residents and visitors alike, as well as being an important part of our cultural heritage. Of course, being an important part of the special qualities of the Park brings with it responsibilities for careful management, to ensure that the special habitats in the National Park are cared for.

David Green, Convener,
Cairngorms National Park Authority

Bu mhath leam meal-an-naidheachd a chur air a h-uile duine airson an obair chruaidh agus an eòlas a chuir iad seachad air an Fhrèam seo. Chan eil am Frèam seo a' tighinn gu crìch ged-tà, ach tha e mar phàirt de phròiseas, a' dèanamh cinnteach gun tèid fèidh fhaicinn mar rud buannachdail do Phàirc Nàiseanta A' Mhonaidh Ruaidh. Ann an da-rìribh, 's e deagh bhuannachd a th' ann am fèidh. Tha iad a' còrdadh ri muinntir an àite agus luchd-tadhail agus tha iad mar phàirt chudromach de ar dualchas cultural. Gun teagamh, air sgath gur iad nam pàirt chudromach de chomharraidhean shònraichte na Pàirce, tha uallach ann a bhith gan stiùireadh gu faiceallach gus a bhith cinnteach gun tèid cùram a ghabhail air àrainnean sònraichte na Pàirce Nàiseanta.

David Green, Neach-gairm,
Ùghdarras Pàirc Nàiseanta a' Mhonaidh Ruaidh



Michael Hone



David Green



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The significance of deer to the Cairngorms National Park

Although red and roe deer are native¹ to Britain as a whole, there is perhaps no place more fitting for seeing them than in the native Caledonian forests, the open heather moorland and montane plateau of the Cairngorms National Park.

Red and roe deer are the largest and arguably the most popular of all species of land mammal in the Cairngorms National Park. In the absence of any natural predators, it is down to man to ensure their populations are managed. Ensuring deer numbers are maintained at levels whereby the habitat upon which they depend is not depleted and they have sufficient food and shelter, requires careful planning and sensitive negotiation, in particular between neighbouring landowners.

In law, free-living, wild deer belong to no-one, but are managed as a shared resource. Ensuring that deer populations are managed effectively can be complex, especially when neighbouring landholdings have different land management objectives which require different densities of deer. The grazing impacts of other species: sheep and cattle, rabbits and hares and even small rodents, can also be significant when considering the management of deer. From a purely ecological point of view this can be complicated. Add on social and economic objectives to maintain local employment, tourism income, cultural heritage, food production, timber and wood fuel, carbon sequestration, water management, moorland and sporting management, and you have a subject that has an impact on many people living, working or visiting the National Park.



¹ Naturally occurring in the UK

The purpose of the Deer Framework

How do we ensure that deer and their habitats are sustained into the future in one of the nation's most prized landscapes? We must determine that future generations of deer, or the habitat upon which they depend, are not disadvantaged by current day-to-day decisions in relation to deer management.

The Deer Framework for the Cairngorms National Park seeks to acknowledge the many different values that people attribute to deer. It aims to bring together those with an interest in their management and promote respect for a range of different management objectives and encourage a spirit of co-operation and compromise.



National and local policy combined

The *Cairngorms National Park Plan 2007-2012* (CNPA, 2007) contains seven priorities for action, one of which is 'Supporting Sustainable Deer Management'. This is a priority because it is recognised that there are strongly held views about deer and their management, which have been particularly prominent in the Cairngorms National Park. The Deer Framework seeks to address the controversial issues that surround deer.

The Scottish Government's strategy document, *Scotland's Wild Deer – A National Approach* (2008), provides a national policy framework aimed at ensuring deer and their management contribute to 'a high quality, robust and adaptable environment, sustainable economic development and social well being'. The *Deer Framework for the Cairngorms National Park* provides a locally based and locally led focus for delivering national policy.

The recently passed Wildlife and Natural Environment (Scotland) Bill seeks to help deliver legislation that will support deer management appropriate to the times. The Bill stipulates that a Code for Deer Management is to be drafted by Scottish Natural Heritage. The Code will clarify the requirements for responsible deer management. The Deer Framework will work alongside the Code in guiding deer management practice in the Cairngorms National Park.

Cairngorms Deer Advisory Group

The Cairngorms Deer Advisory Group (CDAG) has worked in partnership with the Cairngorms National Park Authority (CNPA) to prepare the Deer Framework. CDAG was set up in 2006 to:

- promote better communication and understanding between all organisations with an interest in deer and their management in the National Park;
- advise the CNPA on deer and their management.

Deer management groups (DMGs) and the Association of Cairngorms Communities are represented on this group to give both a land management and a local perspective. Public agencies and other voluntary organisations and interest groups help to provide a national perspective.

Membership of CDAG:

- Access and Recreation representative
- Association of Cairngorms Community Councils (2 members)
- Association of Deer Management Groups
- British Association of Shooting and Conservation
- British Deer Society
- Cairngorms National Park Authority
- Cairngorms Speyside Deer Management Group
- East Grampian Deer Management Group
- East Loch Ericht Deer Management Group
- Forestry Commission Scotland
- Midwest Association of Deer Management Groups
- Monadhliath Deer Management Group
- Scottish Environment LINK (2 members)
- Scottish Gamekeepers Association
- Scottish Natural Heritage
- West Grampian Deer Management Group





A Vision for deer in the Cairngorms National Park

The following vision looks 20 years ahead to 2030. It acknowledges the importance of deer to the environment, to the economy and to social well-being; stating the fundamental importance of caring for their habitat and highlights the importance of long-term planning. It recognises that deer play not only an important and integral part in the management of flourishing habitats, but they are highly significant in economic terms and also to our sense of well-being and cultural identity:

This vision for the future of deer and their management embraces the vision for the Cairngorms National Park as a whole, as published in the *Cairngorms National Park Plan 2007-2012*.

Native, free-ranging, wild deer are vital to the fabric of the environment, the economy and social well-being in the Cairngorms National Park. Their populations are managed to ensure the habitats upon which they depend for food and shelter are protected and enhanced. The long-term vitality of deer and the economy which depends upon them is secure for future generations.



12 | 3. Deer Species in the Cairngorms National Park

The following five species of deer are found in the Cairngorms National Park:

Red Deer (*Cervus elaphus*)

Red deer are native and have been here since the end of the last ice age over 10,000 years ago. They are the largest and by far the most common deer species in the National Park. A count in 2010, which covered much although not all of the National Park, indicated that the population of red deer is somewhere in the region of 40,000. Red deer today occupy the open hill range, but they also like the shelter and good browsing offered by woodland. Their distribution across the National Park is varied and significantly affected by man's influence.

Roe Deer (*Capreolus capreolus*)

Roe deer are also native and very common in the National Park. They are more likely to be found in woodlands or woodland edges, but can also be spotted in a wide variety of other habitats, including moorland and farmland. They are notoriously difficult to count, but increasing observation of roe deer in gardens and villages and impacts on woodland suggests the population is on the increase.

Sika Deer (*Cervus nippon*)

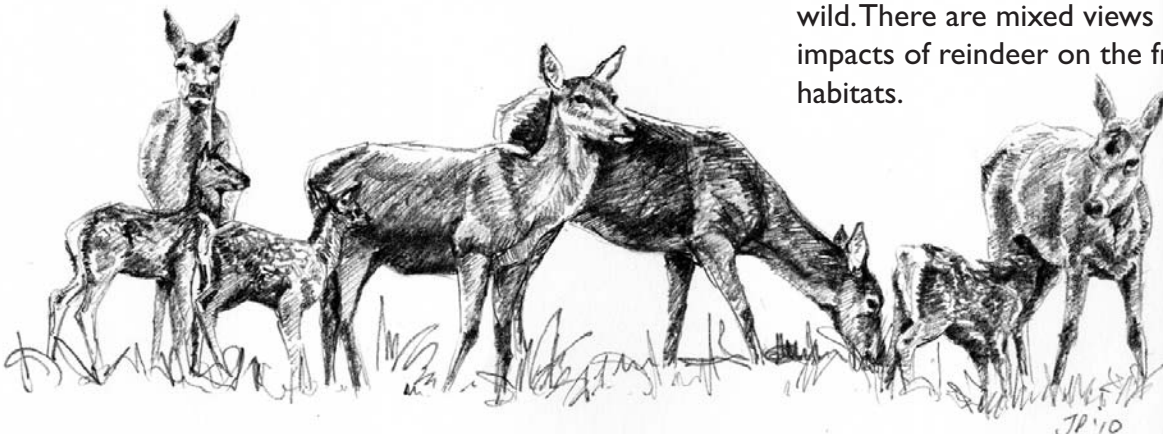
Sika deer are a non-native species introduced from Japan in the 1890s. They are widely distributed throughout Scotland, but mainly in the north and west. Established populations of sika deer are present in the Monadhliath mountain range to the west of the Cairngorms, and individuals are occasionally observed in other areas within the National Park. Sika deer are able to mate with red deer, producing fertile hybrid offspring. This presents a threat to the genetic distinctiveness of the red deer. However, a recent study east of the river Spey indicated little evidence of hybridisation in that area. Further work is planned to assess the extent of hybridisation with sika deer in other areas of the National Park.

Fallow Deer (*Dama dama*)

Fallow deer were introduced to Britain by the Normans in the 11th century. There is a small population in Perthshire, within the southern section of the Cairngorms National Park. Fallow deer have also occasionally been reported in the Tomintoul and Braemar areas.

Reindeer (*Rangifer tarandus*)

The Reindeer Centre in Glenmore manages a herd of semi-domestic reindeer which occasionally roam free but are not considered wild. There are mixed views on the ecological impacts of reindeer on the fragile plateau habitats.



4. Deer and their Habitats

Deer are a key component of our diverse wildlife, serving an important function in manipulating the habitats upon which they depend by browsing, grazing and trampling. In the past their densities, distribution and movements were influenced by natural predators such as the wolf or the lynx. Today, it is up to us to manage deer populations, to mimic the role of the predators in order to achieve a diverse array of landuse objectives.

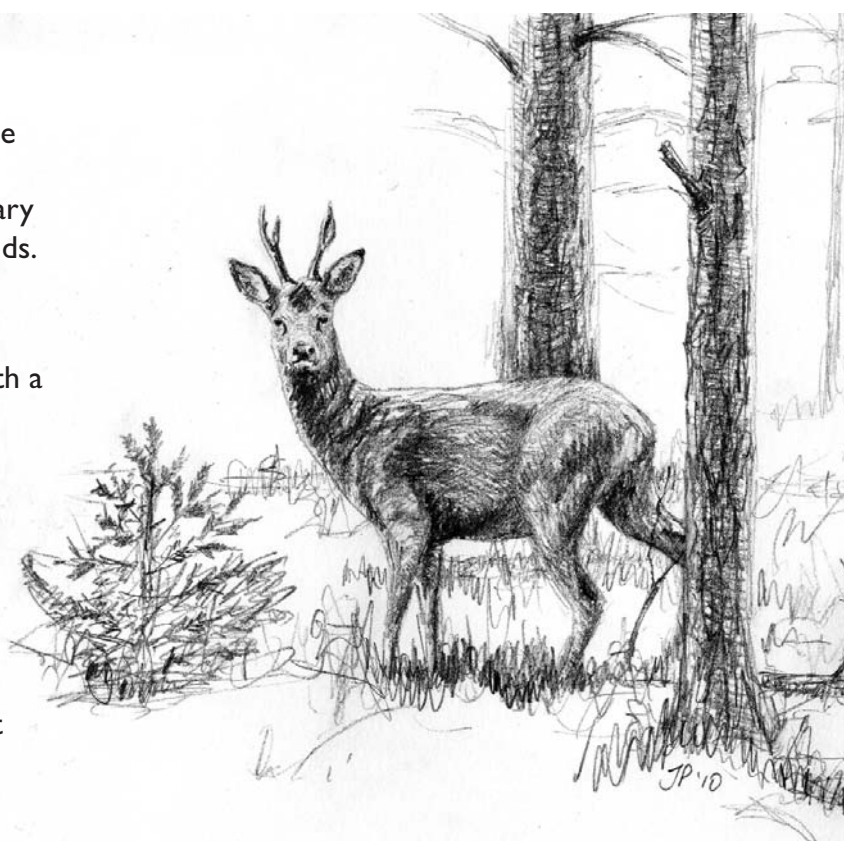
The desired state of Scotland's upland landscape and habitats is the source of continued discussion and debate. Environmental, social and economic objectives heavily influence opinion on how our upland landscapes and habitats should look and be managed. However, within all these views, there is plenty of room for shared vision and for compromise.

The Cairngorms National Park is large enough to host a diverse array of landscapes and habitats and therefore can accommodate habitat management objectives that suit an equally diverse array of aspirations and perspectives. Whatever that perspective, one fact remains: that the land, its soils and the habitats that grow upon them are the primary resource upon which everything else depends.

Landowners and land managers have been controlling grazing and monitoring the condition of the habitats they look after with a long-term view of sustainability. Where significant problems have occurred, through deer numbers reaching densities above the habitat 'carrying capacity', a range of measures and partnership agreements between government agencies and land managers have helped to resolve them. But upland habitats remain vulnerable and require continual monitoring to ensure that deer and other grazing or browsing species

are managed, in order to avoid damage and to allow habitats to recover where necessary.

Through monitoring of designated sites in the Cairngorms National Park, we know that there are clear signs that some habitats are being significantly depleted; this is most evident in shallower, vulnerable montane soils and in the deep, wholly organic peat soils. Both of these soil types are a common feature of the Cairngorms National Park. We now know that the erosion of carbon rich peat soils contributes significantly to carbon emissions into the atmosphere. There is a general acceptance that all efforts to sequester carbon in the soil collectively contribute to the global movement to combat climate change.



14 | 5. The Economic Value of Deer

In recent years there has been an upsurge in interest in the economic value of our natural heritage. Scotland's environment contributes £17.2 billion to the Scottish economy and supports 242,000 jobs², 'nature-based tourism' generates £1.4 billion into the economy, with 39,000 associated full-time jobs³.

The most comprehensive study on the economic value of deer and their management was undertaken by Public and Corporate Economic Consultants⁴ (PACEC) in 2006, on behalf of the Association of Deer Management Groups. This report finds that direct and indirect employment connected to deer management in Scotland amounts to just over 2,500 full-time equivalents, with an estimated value to the Scottish economy of approximately £105 million per annum. In the Cairngorms National Park, a 2010 study⁵ has shown that the wider land-based industry, including sporting estates, accounts for at least 900 jobs in the Park (10 per cent of the total employment) and contributes a minimum of £42 million gross value added to the local economy (11 per cent of the total).

These figures highlight that deer management is by no means of peripheral interest to the rural economy. Alongside agriculture, forestry and tourism (including country sports), deer management is a mainstay of the Cairngorms National Park economy. Many properties within the National Park are purchased and managed primarily for field sports, including red deer stalking. The ability to provide red deer stalking contributes to the capital value of land holdings within the Park.

Significant culls, aimed at habitat restoration or grouse moor management, have taken place in the Cairngorms National Park. Such culls can generate concerns amongst neighbouring estates about the potential impacts on stalking activity. Accurate assessments of the economic impacts of major culls are difficult to obtain; partly because financial information may not be readily available and partly because information may be sensitive and confidential. In addition, income generation and employment on most estates is typically obtained from a variety of sources.



Alongside traditional deer stalking there is an increasing interest in wildlife tourism. Red deer are a particularly potent symbol of Scotland and have long been of interest to tourists. Many businesses capitalise on the array of wildlife found in the National Park and deer, alongside the golden eagle, osprey, salmon, Scottish wildcat and red squirrel, are viewed as the ‘must-see’ wildlife to be found in the Park.

With increased public awareness of the need to protect the diversity of species and habitats, has come ‘ecotourism’ and the opportunity to promote deer stalking as an important tool for conservation. For many deer stalking businesses the selling point is not simply shooting, but the whole cultural experience of stalking in beautiful surroundings and the fact that the client is contributing to the management of sensitive habitats.

Venison, due to a range of national and local initiatives, for example the Scottish Venison Working Group and Royal Deeside Food Tourism Group, is increasingly recognised as

a healthy, nutritious food; not simply a by-product of the deer stalking industry. It is a relatively lean meat and deer are considered better converters of protein than cattle or sheep. Venison is recognised in its own right as an important economic product that drives the sustainable management of deer.

UK supermarkets currently rely upon imports from as far afield as New Zealand in order to meet demand for venison. This high demand for venison combined with favourable prices, compared with beef and lamb, make deer farms and deer parks an emerging diversification option for farmers in the National Park.

² *Valuing our Environment – The Economic Impact of Scotland’s Natural Environment*, Scottish Natural Heritage, 2009

³ *Assessing the economic impact of nature based tourism in Scotland*, Scottish Natural Heritage, 2010

⁴ *The Contribution of Deer Management to the Scottish Economy*, Public and Corporate Economic Consultants, 2006

⁵ *The Economic and Social Health of the Cairngorms National Park*, Cogentsi and Rocket Science, 2010





*H M Sheridan's
High Class Butcher*

*H M Sheridan's
BARRY*

*H M Sheridan's
JIMMY*

6. The Social Significance of Deer

Of the three mainstays of sustainability – social, economic and environmental – perhaps the least explored, in relation to deer and their management, is the social. Deer, alongside farming and forestry for example, support a way of life that provides part of the bedrock of rural society. Our association with deer, particularly through deer stalking, is a major part of the social fabric of the National Park. Many extensive land holdings within the National Park have been purchased and managed for centuries as ‘deer forests’.

Our cultural connection to deer extends to the kitchen. Venison has been a part of our diet since the first hunter-gatherers discovered meat. Today, burgeoning environmental awareness and direct promotion of healthy food is leading to the return of a greater appreciation and consumption of wild and free range meat. One of the important selling points of venison is the sense of connection between landscape and the food we eat.

It’s no surprise that Robert Burns found room for deer in one of his most famous songs – ‘My Heart’s in the Highlands’, written in 1789. ‘*My heart’s in the Highlands, a-chasing the deer; Chasing the wild-deer, and following the roe ...*’.

The red deer is so rooted in Highland culture that even the famous Scottish dance, *The Highland Fling*, is thought to have originated as an impression of the dominant rutting stag.

The Monarch of the Glen, painted by Edwin Landseer in Glenfeshie in 1851, still accurately reflects the regard in which red deer are held by many people today. That image – and many others which have appeared since then on brochures, websites and postcards – conveys a sense of wildness, which our increasingly urbanised society still longs for.



⁶ <http://www.deercollisions.co.uk>



Why deer are managed

Stable and healthy deer populations are dependent upon adequate food and shelter. In order to ensure suitable habitat in the long-term, it is necessary for grazing to be carefully managed. People need to manage deer to preserve the habitats within which they browse, shelter and breed and also to prevent over-population which can lead to starvation and disease. They are also managed in order to achieve a wide range of land use objectives ranging from the protection of farm crops and forestry to game management and road safety. It is estimated that there are between 42,000 and 74,000 deer-related traffic collisions in the UK each year, resulting in several hundred human injuries and several human deaths⁶. The Cairngorms National Park has relatively low numbers of deer-related road traffic accidents compared to other parts of the UK, but it is still a significant issue which requires management.

Deer densities can be managed to vary over wide areas in order to suit the available habitat and land management objectives. They can also be managed to fluctuate over time, for example reducing deer density to allow some woodland regeneration, followed by an increase to allow impacts by deer to manipulate woodland structure a number of years later.

Around 25 per cent of the Cairngorms National Park is designated as internationally important for conservation. Agencies and land managers are legally required to ensure that designated habitats are not damaged. The Joint Agency Working process, led by Scottish Natural Heritage, is intended to ensure that designated habitats are in 'favourable condition', or at least 'recovering condition'.

This is usually achieved through formal partnership agreements with estates, Section 7 Voluntary Control Agreements⁷ or, in emergencies, Section 10 Intervention Measures⁸.

The Cairngorms National Park is renowned for its open landscape, in particular the montane plateau and managed heather moorland which together covers 70 per cent of the Park. Sheltered woodland habitat occupies only around 20 per cent of the National Park and some of this is enclosed by fencing to exclude deer. During severe winter weather deer require woodland for shelter and where this is not available, or has been fenced to exclude deer, mortality rates may be higher and significant damage to habitat may occur.

Many estates within the Cairngorms National Park have aspirations to increase woodland cover. Increased woodland cover is likely to be beneficial to deer and increase their productivity and survival rates. In the long-term this would enable there to be proportionally more deer in the National Park. Enabling woodland regeneration and expansion requires the protection of tree seedlings from browsing. The decision on whether or not to use fencing can be complex. *The Joint Agency Statement and Guidance on Deer Fencing (2004)* provides guidance to assist with decisions on the erection of deer fences.

Techniques for assessing deer numbers and habitat condition have become more refined in recent years to assist deer management planning. Better information about habitat condition and grazing pressure will result in a more informed plan.

⁶ www.deercollisions.co.uk

⁷ Deer (Scotland) Act 1996

⁸ Deer (Scotland) Act 1996

Deer Management Groups (DMGs)

There are over 50 land-holdings of greater than 500 ha in the Cairngorms National Park and the motivations for controlling deer populations within them vary enormously. This can lead to difficulties where neighbouring estates have incompatible policies for deer management. Deer management groups have an important role in promoting compromise and collaborative management.

There are six deer management groups in and around the Cairngorms National Park. The Cairngorms Speyside DMG is wholly contained within the Park. The other five groups are: Monadhliath, Mid-west Association, East Loch Ericht, West Grampian and East Grampian. East Grampian is subdivided into five sub-groups.



Collaborative and inclusive deer management planning

Deer management groups also take a lead in the development of deer management plans which meet the reasonable collective needs of member estates and also take account of national and local interests.

Although the right to shoot deer rests primarily with the landowner or occupier, their management has important implications for others, including those with related business interests and those with obligations to protect certain national or European designated habitats. The development of a deer management plan should take account of all relevant views and such obligations.



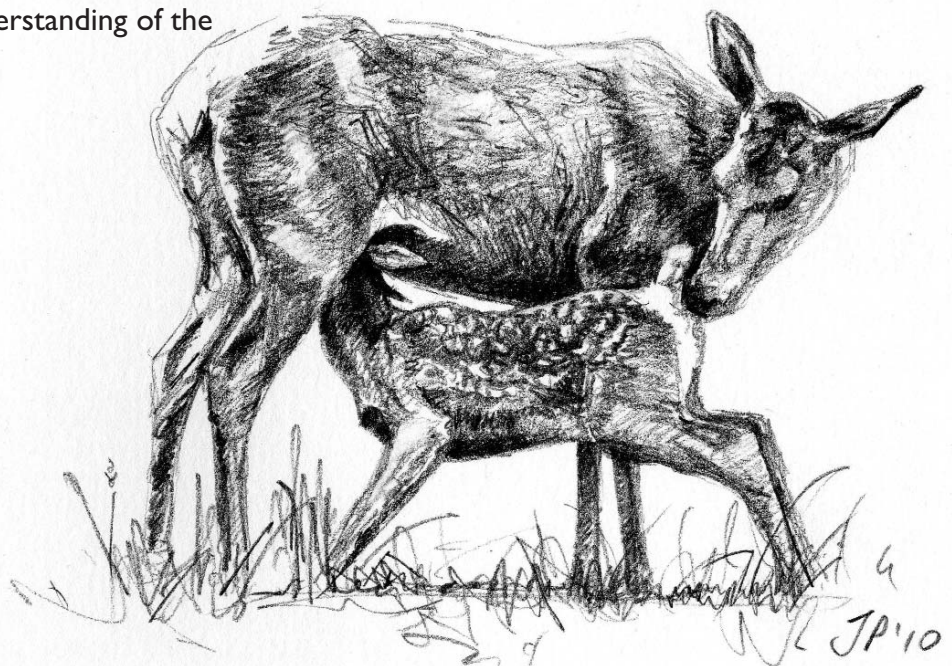
Red deer have been cited, in a Scottish Government survey, as the most popular wild species in Scotland. Seeing and hearing wild deer in the dramatic scenery of the Cairngorms National Park can be an unforgettable experience.

Deer stalking and deer management is an important economic activity within the Park; it attracts high spending visitors and is a reason for investment by many land owners and sporting tenants and is a major employer in more remote areas. Land managers can further enhance this experience by encouraging visitors and residents to fully appreciate the reasons why deer need to be managed and culled and the benefits to the local economy and environment.

To achieve the objectives of both those who own, manage or make their living from the land and those who access the land, there needs to be mutual respect and consideration for the objectives, desires and needs of others. This can be achieved by communication and better awareness and understanding of the various interests involved.

The public right of responsible access to the countryside is now protected by Scottish law. Access legislation⁹ places an obligation on the land owner to use and manage the land in a way which respects access rights and does not cause unreasonable interference to those exercising them. Deer managers should communicate effectively about where and when culls are taking place so that people accessing the Park may do so responsibly, with minimum impact on stalking.

A number of estates in the National Park use the Hillphones¹⁰ system. Some have taken up the Heading for the Scottish Hills¹¹ pilot project to provide a web-based site for informing the public about stalking activities. These services provide regularly updated information and readily-accessible details of who to contact for more information.



⁹ Land Reform (Scotland) Act, 2003

¹⁰ www.snh.org.uk/hillphones

¹¹ www.outdooraccess-scotland.com





The National Policy document, *Scotland's Wild Deer a National Approach*, sets out six 'guiding principles for ways of working'. This section builds on those principles and provides a local approach in the Cairngorms National Park for sustaining the deer resource in the long-term.

Wild deer are integral to the many ecosystems that make up the National Park. The principles acknowledge the functions of landowners/land managers, agencies, interest groups and the public in the management of deer. They are based on recognition of the public interest in deer management, the diverse estate objectives across the National Park and the key role of landowners as stewards of the countryside.

The aim of the principles is to maintain local business and employment, to support rural communities and to protect the Cairngorms National Park environment.

Principles

Management based on sound evidence and objectives

Deer are managed to ensure the maintenance of good quality deer habitat, to maintain the health and welfare of the deer herd and to take account of other land uses. Management should be guided by knowledge of population density, welfare, habitat condition and grazing pressure obtained through best practice monitoring techniques.

Public benefits and public funding

The provision of public benefits through deer management, which may not be in the immediate interests of the landowner, may be a justification for public funding assistance.

Integration and collaboration

Neighbouring landowners do not operate in isolation, but through deer management groups and can reconcile competing objectives and involve other interest groups in decision making.

Geographic areas and timescales

Densities of deer across the Cairngorms National Park are highly variable and are significantly influenced by habitat, topography, weather and management objectives. Long-term changes in habitat and managements objectives mean that the density of deer in any one location may also increase or decrease through time.

Communication

Wider understanding of the value and importance of deer, and the public benefits provided by their management and the area they occupy, should be promoted.

Marketing

New opportunities to optimise the value of wild deer for food, crafts, tourism and sport, should continue to be explored.





The future of deer in the Cairngorms National Park depends upon carefully planned management, good quality habitat and the co-operation of deer managers. The following checklist, of both practical and strategic activities, will help ensure sustainable deer management meets national policy objectives¹², alongside the objectives of individual land managers and other relevant interest groups.

Each activity has been allocated to one of four groups with a particular interest in deer and their management in the Park, but this does not mean they are exclusively the responsibility of that group.

The four groups are:

- **Cairngorms Deer Advisory Group** – CDAG brings together representatives of all with an interest in deer across the National Park and who monitor and provide advice on sustainable deer management.
- **Scottish Natural Heritage** – SNH has a duty, under the Deer (Scotland) Act 1996, to further the conservation, control and sustainable management of deer in Scotland. SNH continues to promote care for and improvement of the natural heritage, help people enjoy it responsibly, enable greater understanding and awareness of it and promote its sustainable use, now and for future generations.
- **Cairngorms National Park Authority** – the CNPA has a co-ordinating role embracing the four aims of the Cairngorms National Park:
 - To conserve and enhance the natural and cultural heritage of the area;
 - To promote sustainable use of natural resources of the area;
 - To promote understanding and enjoyment (including enjoyment in the form of recreation) of the special qualities of the area by the public;
 - To promote sustainable economic and social development of the area's communities.
- **Estates and deer management groups** – this includes all estates whether privately owned or run by non-governmental organisations or public agencies. It also includes the deer management groups connected to the Cairngorms National Park.

¹³ Cairngorms National Park Plan 2007-2012, Cairngorms National Park Authority, 2007

Cairngorms Deer Advisory Group

- Promote better communication and mutual understanding between all organisations with an interest in deer and their management in the Cairngorms National Park.
- Advise the CNPA on deer and their management in the Cairngorms National Park.
- Advise the CNPA, SNH and other public agencies on local application of National initiatives relating to deer, such as the Code for Deer Management.
- Maintain an overview of health, welfare and population density of all deer species in the Cairngorms National Park.
- Support and advise deer managers and deer management groups across the Cairngorms National Park.
- Improve understanding of deer management plans across the Cairngorms National Park by consulting with DMGs to produce map(s) of deer managers' aspirations.
- Review the effectiveness of deer management planning in the Cairngorms National Park.
- Co-ordinate and stimulate new research into deer and their management in the Cairngorms National Park.
- Monitor the value and effectiveness of the Deer Framework.

Scottish Natural Heritage

- Continue to provide guidance and advice, when requested, to those involved in managing deer in the Park, including land owners, farmers, foresters and Deer Management Groups.
- Work with others with an interest in deer management to implement the Code of Practice for Deer Management, associated with the forthcoming Wildlife and Natural Environment Act. The Code and the Act will cover matters such as deer welfare, sustainable deer management and public safety.
- Help raise awareness of Best Practice methods for monitoring habitats and deer populations.
- Work with deer managers to implement practical, affordable and effective monitoring of habitats and deer populations.





- When appropriate, SNH resources may be used to carry out deer population assessments, herbivore impact assessments and Site Condition Monitoring; all of which are expected to provide information that will assist in the deer management decision making process.
- Raise awareness of the scope to use public funding, for example under the Scotland Rural Development Programme, to allow deer managers to better deliver public and private benefits.
- Through routine SNH case work, and through the Joint Working process, work in partnership with deer managers to ensure that designated habitats in the Park are either maintained in 'favourable' condition or achieve 'recovering' condition.
- In the context of national policy, provide guidance aimed at assisting deer managers to formulate practical strategies for dealing with non-native deer present in the Park.
- Continue working with those involved in deer-related research to identify and implement a programme of research that is of direct relevance to deer management matters.

Cairngorms National Park Authority

- Support and facilitate the Cairngorms Deer Advisory Group.
- Promote awareness and understanding of the role deer management plays in the local economy and the management of important habitats.
- Ensure there is an active website presence explaining the importance of deer and their management in the Cairngorms National Park.
- Work with rangers to encourage links with local schools to promote understanding of deer management and stalking.
- Promote new opportunities for more people to understand and experience deer management and stalking.
- Encourage co-operation in marketing of sport, venison and other deer related products.
- Conduct research into the value of deer and associated economic importance in the Cairngorms National Park.
- Publish and promote the Deer Framework to appropriate audiences.

Estates and Deer Management Groups

- Monitor health and condition of deer.
- Conduct systematic comparable counts of deer numbers.
- Use best practice methods to systematically monitor the effects of herbivore grazing, browsing and trampling.
- Ensure each DMG has an agreed deer management plan which guides and informs deer management.
- Openly and amicably seek to resolve deer related issues arising from competing land management objectives.



Published by
Cairngorms National Park Authority
14 The Square
Grantown-on-Spey
Moray PH26 3HG
Tel: 01479 873535
Fax: 01479 873527
Email: enquiries@cairngorms.co.uk

www.cairngorms.co.uk

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