

# Upper Deeside and Donside Deer Management Group Deer Management Group

## Part 3: Deer Management Working Plan 2017-2018

Update Version: 1 – December 2017



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## 3.1 Introduction

**3.1.1** The purpose of Upper Deeside and Donside Deer Management Group is to manage deer on a collective basis, in accordance with Scottish Government strategy (Scotland's Wild Deer: A National Approach, 2015), the [Code of Practice on Deer Management](#) (2012), and in a manner that integrates different land-use objectives, recognising that compromises over objectives may be required where conflict occurs.

The overall purpose of this Working Plan is to provide:

- The necessary up-to-date information including population models to assist the DMG in making informed, collective management decisions at a landscape level;
- A summary of actions (from Part 1) to ensure that deer management in the local area will be delivered according to the targets set out and agreed in the Deer Management Plan.

This Working Plan sets out the most up to date information on culls, counts and population targets as well as a summary of specific actions the Deer Management Group (DMG) will undertake which are detailed in Part 1 of the plan. The Working Plan will be reviewed at least annually, with a systematic review of the whole plan taking place at the end of the five year period. A complete summary of all the Background Information relevant to this plan and the functioning of the DMG can be found in Parts 1 and 2.

### 3.1.2 Key Deliverables of the plan

Over the next 5 years, the main deliverables of the Group are as follows:

- To have implemented management to ensure Designated Sites are in Favourable/Unfavourable Recovering Due to management status;
- To use the Mar Lodge Section 7 review process, the Cross-DMG Working Group and the Cairngorms National Park Partnership Plan (2017-22) (see Part 1 Section 1.3 for details) to review deer movements, review DMG boundaries and implement collaborative deer management to deliver the combined objectives of conservation and the sustainable harvest of deer at a landscape scale;
- To have implemented DMG wide Habitat Monitoring of Heather Moorland and Blanket Bog to help inform future management;
- To have conducted two full aerial counts of the population in Winter 2017 & 2020;
- To have secured additional Funding through ECAF to carry out a review of existing native woodland and explore opportunities for woodland expansion.

## 3.2 Counts 2017

Over the last 20 years, the Group has conducted regular counts either on foot or using a helicopter. The last count was conducted by helicopter in the west group in Spring 2017. Only a partial count was conducted for East Area due to the extremely low numbers of deer present overall. As well as properties to the west of the Group, the neighbouring DMGs of Cairngorm & Speyside and West Grampians were also counted.

The helicopter count in 2017 which included Mar Estate, Mar Lodge, Invercauld (Homebeat & Baddoch) and Glenavon Estates estimated the current population to be 2522 stags, 2342 hinds and 848 calves (total population 5710) which represents a density of 8.5 deer per km<sup>2</sup>. The last full count of the west area in 2013 indicated a population of 6614 deer (2332 stags, 3118 hinds and 1174 calves) a population of 9.9 deer per km<sup>2</sup>.

Over the Group as a whole, the estimated current population is 5,821 red deer (2,566 stags, 2,389 hinds and 866 calves), representing an overall density of 5.97 deer per km<sup>2</sup>.

**The main point to note is that since 2016, due to increased culling activity by the Group, hind densities across the whole Group have reduced with a sex ratio close to 1:1.**

DMG	Year	Whole DMG Total					West Area Totals					East Area Totals				
		Stags	Hinds	Calves	Total	Density	Stags	Hinds	Calves	Total	Density	Stags	Hinds	Calves	Total	Density
All	1996	3465	3808	1138	8411	<b>8.625</b>	3323	3467	1036	7826	<b>11.67</b>	142	341	102	585	<b>1.92</b>
All	1998	2806	4027	1145	7978	<b>8.181</b>	2684	3673	1042	7399	<b>11.03</b>	122	354	103	579	<b>1.90</b>
All	2000	3018	3430	1004	7452	<b>7.642</b>	3011	3381	990	7382	<b>11.00</b>	7	49	14	70	<b>0.23</b>
All	2001	3692	4011	1260	8963	<b>9.191</b>	3628	3888	1226	8742	<b>13.03</b>	64	123	34	221	<b>0.73</b>
All	2003	3538	3100	971	7609	<b>7.803</b>	3486	2980	936	7402	<b>11.03</b>	52	120	35	207	<b>0.68</b>
All	2004	3341	3145	1030	7516	<b>7.708</b>	3310	3026	994	7330	<b>10.93</b>	31	119	36	186	<b>0.61</b>
Heli	2005	3112	2904	914	6930	<b>7.107</b>	3055	2822	890	6767	<b>10.09</b>	57	82	24	163	<b>0.54</b>
All	2006	2724	2722	818	6264	<b>6.424</b>	2707	2673	804	6184	<b>9.22</b>	17	49	14	80	<b>0.26</b>
All	2007	2609	2954	937	6500	<b>6.666</b>	2592	2864	910	6366	<b>9.49</b>	17	90	27	134	<b>0.44</b>
All	2008	1742	2492	853	5087	<b>5.217</b>	1693	2364	815	4872	<b>7.26</b>	49	128	38	215	<b>0.71</b>
All	2009	1826	2720	668	5214	<b>5.347</b>	1763	2517	608	4888	<b>7.29</b>	63	203	60	326	<b>1.07</b>
Heli	2010	2172	2586	760	5518	<b>5.659</b>	2034	2158	634	4826	<b>7.19</b>	138	428	126	692	<b>2.27</b>
All	2013	2344	3187	1195	6726	<b>6.897</b>	2322	3118	1174	6614	<b>9.86</b>	22	69	21	112	<b>0.37</b>
Heli	2017	2566	2389	866	5821	<b>5.969</b>	2522	2342	846	5710	<b>8.51</b>	44	47	20	111	<b>0.36</b>

DMG	Year	Mar Estate					Mar Lodge					IC- Homebeat					IC- Baddoch					Glenavon				
		Stags	Hinds	Calves	Total	Density	Stags	Hinds	Calves	Total	Density	Stags	Hinds	Calves	Total	Density	Stags	Hinds	Calves	Total	Density	Stags	Hinds	Calves	Total	Density
Heli	2010	477	381	114	972	16.36	900	747	223	1870	6.37	122	340	101	563	5.43	216	502	150	868	19.91	319	188	46	553	3.25
Partial	2010	633	582	174	1389	23.38	907	772	270	1949	6.64	185	520	155	860	8.29	0	0	0	0	0.00	349	329	95	773	4.55
Partial	2011	407	330	99	836	14.07	721	771	438	1930	6.57	125	261	78	464	4.47	183	383	114	680	15.60	0	0	0	0	0.00
Partial	2012	398	361	108	867	14.60	571	575	179	1325	4.51	81	512	138	731	7.05	153	132	39	324	7.43	0	0	0	0	0.00
All	2013	431	427	127	985	16.58	1042	894	339	2275	7.75	290	729	297	1316	12.68	214	462	138	814	18.67	345	606	273	1224	7.20
Partial	2014	0	0	0	0	0.00	1063	613	226	1902	6.48	220	506	194	920	8.87	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0.00
Partial	2015	386	329	98	813	13.69	1040	728	288	2056	7.00	224	468	133	825	7.95	166	233	70	469	10.76	0	0	0	0	0.00
Partial	2016	444	456	136	1036	17.44	986	698	205	1889	6.43	246	437	150	833	8.03	190	205	125	520	11.93	0	0	0	0	0.00
Heli	2017	458	387	113	958	16.13	938	602	213	1753	5.97	352	487	168	1007	9.71	294	355	140	789	18.10	480	511	212	1203	7.08

DMG	Year	Corndavon, Micras M & Gairnshiel					Delnadamp					Allargue					Candacraig					Dinnet					
		Stags	Hinds	Calves	Total	Density	Stags	Hinds	Calves	Total	Density	Stags	Hinds	Calves	Total	Density	Stags	Hinds	Calves	Total	Density	Stags	Hinds	Calves	Total	Density	
Heli	2010	138	425	126	689	5.34	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	1	0	1	0.04	2010	0	2	0	2	0.04	0	0	0	0	0.00
Partial	2010	70	277	83	430	3.33	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0.00	2010	1	11	3	15	0.29	0	0	0	0	0.00
Partial	2011	92	333	99	524	4.06	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0.00	2011	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0.00
Partial	2012	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0.00	2012	1	11	3	15	0.29	0	0	0	0	0.00
All	2013	19	69	21	109	0.85	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0.00	2013	3	0	0	3	0.06	0	0	0	0	0.00
Partial	2014	71	63	19	153	1.19	0	0	0	0	0.00	10	13	6	29	1.26	2014	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0.00
Partial	2015	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0.00	13	10	8	31	1.34	2015	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0.00
Partial	2016	24	31	7	62	0.48	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0.00	2015	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0	0	0	0.00
Heli	2017	32	18	7	57.00	0.44	12	19	7	38	1.18	0	10	6	16	1	2017	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	

### 3.3 Red Culls & Roe Culls

Culls	Total Group				Total West				Total East			
	Stags	Hinds	Calves	Total	Stags	Hinds	Calves	Total	Stags	Hinds	Calves	Total
2010-2011	444	508	250	1202	408	394	194	996	36	114	56	206
2011-2012	330	451	146	927	263	307	103	673	67	144	43	254
2012-2013	358	458	172	988	308	404	154	866	50	54	18	122
2013-2014	648	958	394	2000	492	787	339	1618	156	171	55	382
2014-2015	448	750	322	1520	386	677	297	1360	62	73	25	160
2015-2016	445	471	167	1083	428	460	160	1048	17	11	7	35
2016-2017	356	488	238	1082	345	470	231	1046	11	18	7	36

TOTAL ROE CULL				
	Bucks	Does	Kids	Total
2005-2006	71	147	15	233
2006-2007	83	75	30	188
2007-2008	55	69	24	148
2008-2009	76	130	19	225
2009-2010	179	156	52	387
2010-2011	196	219	46	461
2011-2012	101	105	17	223
2012-2013	151	180	48	379
2013-2014	130	159	46	335
2014-2015	83	118	53	254
2015-2016	78	34	0	112
2016-2017	136	192	31	359

### 3.4 Proposed Culls West Group

	Proposed 2017/18				Actual 2016/17			
	Stags	Hinds	Calves	Total	Stags	Hinds	Calves	Total
Mar Estate	45	100	30	175	45	105	35	185
Mar Lodge	250	150	50	450	216	120	71	407
IC-Home Beat	30	130	40	165	8	115	56	179
IC-Baddoch	30	70	21	121	26	50	35	111
Glenavon	45	80	35	160	50	80	34	164
Total	400	500	171	1071	345	470	231	882

## 3.5 Population Model (2017- 2022)

**3.5.1 West Area:** The last full helicopter count was conducted in March 2017 and the population was estimated to be 5710 deer (2522 stags, 2342 hinds and 846 calves) which is a density of **8.5** deer per km<sup>2</sup>. The last full count of the west group in 2013 indicated a population of 6614 deer (2332 stags, 3118 hinds and 1174 calves) a population of **9.9** deer per km<sup>2</sup>. The Group has therefore seen a marked reduction in the number of hinds with a sex ratio closer to 1:1. The current density should sustain a commercial harvest of 250 stags for the properties in the west (ie 1,875 stags theoretically required).

Note the population model has been set to show the long term impact of an annual cull of 400 stags and 500 hinds initially. The population will be adjusted on an annual, ongoing basis to deliver the collective objectives of the Group.

		<i>Stags</i>	<i>Hinds</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Density</i>
<b>2017</b>	<i>Spring Population</i>	2522	2342	846	8.5
	<i>Summer Population</i>	2945	2765	968	10.0
	<i>Cull</i>	400	500	165	
	<i>Mortality</i>	59	55	58	
<b>2018</b>	<i>Spring Population</i>	2486	2210	745	8.1
	<i>Summer Population</i>	2858	2582	904	9.5
	<i>Cull</i>	400	500	165	
	<i>Mortality</i>	57	52	54	
<b>2019</b>	<i>Spring Population</i>	2401	2030	684	7.6
	<i>Summer Population</i>	2744	2373	830	8.9
	<i>Cull</i>	400	400	132	
	<i>Mortality</i>	55	47	50	
<b>2020</b>	<i>Spring Population</i>	2289	1925	649	7.2
	<i>Summer Population</i>	2613	2249	787	8.4
	<i>Cull</i>	400	300	99	
	<i>Mortality</i>	52	45	47	
<b>2021</b>	<i>Spring Population</i>	2161	1905	641	7.0
	<i>Summer Population</i>	2481	2225	779	8.2
	<i>Cull</i>	400	300	99	
	<i>Mortality</i>	50	45	47	
<b>2022</b>	<i>Spring Population</i>	2032	1881	633	6.8
	<i>Summer Population</i>	2348	2197	769	7.9

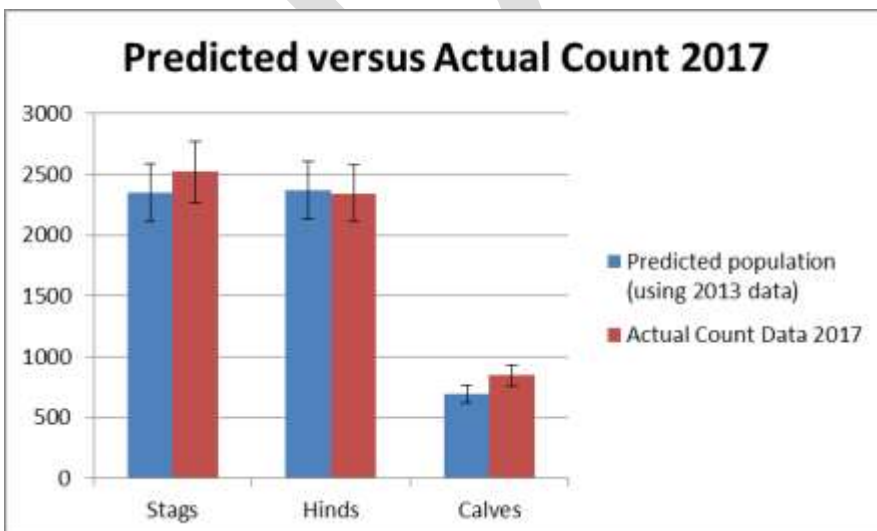
**East Area:** (deer are not required as a resource in the west part of the Group and are managed to keep numbers at a minimum therefore population modelling is not required by the group).

### 3.5.2 Predicted Versus Actual Population Estimates

The following exercise was conducted to test the population model to predict the 2017 population using the count data from 2013 and annual recruitment rates taken from the counts. The graph shows the predicted versus actual count data with 10% error bars attached.

		<i>Stags</i>	<i>Hinds</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Density</i>
2013	<i>Spring Actual Population</i>	2322	3118	1174	9.9
	<i>Summer Population</i>	2909	3705	1393	11.9
	<i>Cull</i>	492	787	339	
	<i>Mortality</i>	58	74	84	
2014	<i>Spring Population</i>	2359	2844	970	9.2
	<i>Summer Population</i>	2844	3329	1248	11.1
	<i>Cull</i>	386	677	297	
	<i>Mortality</i>	57	67	75	
2015	<i>Spring Population</i>	2401	2586	877	8.7
	<i>Summer Population</i>	2839	3024	1013	10.3
	<i>Actual Cull</i>	428	460	160	
	<i>Mortality</i>	57	60	61	
2016	<i>Spring Population</i>	2355	2503	792	8.4
	<i>Summer Population</i>	2751	2899	986	9.9
	<i>Actual Cull</i>	345	470	231	
	<i>Mortality</i>	55	58	59	
2017	<i>Spring Population</i>	2351	2371	696	8.1
	<i>Summer Population</i>	2699	2719	952	9.5

	Stags	Hinds	Calves	Total	Density
Predicted Population (2013 data)	2351	2371	696	5418	8.1
Actual Count Data from 2017	2522	2342	846	5710	8.5



### 3.6 Deer Welfare Indicators

	Recruitment Count			Average Weights		Age Profile of Stags			
	Hinds	Calves	%	Stag Wt	Hind Wt	Yearling	Young (2-4)	Med (5-7)	Old (8+)
Delnadamph	19	7	36.84%	88	36.5				2
Mar Lodge	100	40	40.00%	87	45				
Mar	387	113	29.20%	90	0				
IC -Home Beat	487	168	34.50%	89	0	0	7	6	15
Total	993	328	33.03%						

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## 3.7 Management Update

Management Unit	Management Changes/Reports
Allargue, Delnadamp	All properties maintaining low deer densities to encourage good habitat condition & to support Grouse Moor Management. All properties interested in carrying out Habitat Impact Assessment Training scheduled for 2017. Ongoing roe deer management carried out in lowland/woodland areas.
Dinnet Moor	Felling of 'Tom Wood' with replacement natural regeneration North of Balmenach.
Candacraig	Peatland restoration works completed in 2016 on Camock Hill and a further project presently underway on Carn Fiachlach and possible further smaller areas in 2018. Renewed LTFP has been approved by FCS and is presently on Public Register with formal sign off anticipated by the end of this year. Welcome to the Moor signage fitted across the estate. No DVC's identified.
Mar Lodge	Mar Lodge continues to work collaboratively with neighbouring properties in adjacent DMGs. North Geldie to be re-designated from moorland zone to regeneration zone. The Section 7 Agreement was completed early due to targets having been met.
Mar Estate	Peatland restoration project undertaken in 2015, completing the works commenced in 2014. A further project to be considered for Autumn 2017. Riparian planting up the Glen Ey burn in conjunction with River Dee Trust. Community hydro scheme to have riparian enclosures constructed on Corriemulzie Burn. Estate interested in Habitat Impact Assessment and to consider next steps, training to take place in 2017. Estate update to LTFP to be produced in 2017. Damage to deer fences on River Dee from January 2016 spate to be repaired. Estate to continue to provide guidance to responsible access takers, in addition to participating in the Heading for the Scottish Hills initiative and to continuing to engage with the local community and neighbours. No DVC issues identified.
IC Gairnshiel	Area of Peatland Restoration adjacent to Candacraig Carnock Hill completed in 2016 with further work proposed for 2017. May 2016 - Crathie school visit to the moor. Dundee photography visit to the hill. Estate provides articles for local newspaper. Signage to assist in education of public in land management to be rolled out.
IC Corndavon	Dry heath, wet heath and Blanket Bog Monitored last year. Approx 20 conservation students from Aberdeen University taken round moor on 9th April 2017 to explain deer and grouse management and integration with other conservation measures. Tree planting along Slugain Burn (2016). Attendance at Community Council meetings to take questions on deer management. Moorland Forum to visit in June 2017 to discuss integration of moorland management with woodland management.
IC Baddoch	Attendance at Community Council meetings to take any questions on deer issues. Proposed visit by CNPA Board.
IC Homebeat	Dry heath, wet heath and Blanket Bog Monitored last year. CWD to be intimated to stalkers along with tick awareness in 2017. Approx 20 conservation students from Aberdeen University taken round moor on 9th April 2017 to explain deer and grouse management and integration with other conservation measures. Braemar Primary school taken onto hill edge and helped plant trees. No issues with Deer Vehicle Collision issues identified. Tree planting along Slugain Burn (2016). Attendance at Community Council meetings to take questions on deer management. Moorland Forum to visit in June 2017 to discuss integration of moorland management with woodland management.
IC Micras	No Deer Vehicle Collision issues identified. Works undertaken to Gealig Hill track to improve public access. Continuing member of SQWV. Heading for the Scottish Hill website checked. Stock fence erected along east side of B976 increasing safety by reducing sheep access to road. Signage to assist in education of the public in land management to be rolled out.

### 3.8 Mechanisms to manage deer

Actions to develop mechanisms to manage deer	When?	Who?	How?	Progress As at 14 November 2017
3.8.1 Final Plan and Minutes of Meetings will be made publically available and published on DMG Website.	By Summer 2016 and ongoing	DMG Secretary	DMG Website.	Achieved
3.8.2 Repeat DMG Assessment.	By Summer 2016 and ongoing	DMG Chair and Secretary	Use baseline DMG Assessment carried out in 2014.	Achieved
3.8.3 Working plan will be reviewed and updated annually. Management actions will be adjusted and agreed accordingly. An annual report will be produced.	Bi-annually	DMG Secretary and DMG Members	Provision of data from DMG members in advance of and during meetings. Secretary will update Working Plan and produce an Annual Report to be published on the DMG Website.	Achieved
3.8.4 Review deer movements at a landscape level and define the most appropriate scale at which current population models should operate.	Ongoing	Upper Deeside and Donside, West Grampians and Cairngorms & Speyside DMGs	Representatives of each DMG to meet with SNH and CNPA to scope alternative options by summer 2016 and meet with CDAG by end of 2016. Data from the deer count scheduled for 2017 to be used to discuss deer movements and to help define the most appropriate scale for population modelling to be effective.	Population model indicates a significant movement of deer with neighbouring properties. LS to produce a map of deer movements.
3.8.5 Culls will be delivered and reported on accurately. Cull targets will set and agreed based on information relating to habitat condition, population census, deer welfare and any other relevant information (i.e. where deer are impacting negatively on the Public Interest).	Bi-annually	DMG Members	Population models (once agreed) will be updated and cull targets set, agreed and delivered according. If final culls likely to be different from target, identify reasons and discuss with Group at the earliest opportunity.	Culls agreed annually

<p><b>3.8.6</b> Mar Lodge will participate in a cross-DMG working group (facilitated by CNPA).</p>	<p>WG will meet 4 times a year.</p>	<p>Mar Lodge, Atholl Estates, Dalnacardoch, Wildland Ltd, CNPA, SNH</p>	<p><i>A working group of relevant properties from Cairngorms &amp; Speyside DMG, West Grampians DMG and Upper Deeside and Donside Sub Area 5 will meet 4 times a year to agree cull targets (based on a population model) and will contribute to providing accurate cull and count data on a regular basis. WGDMDG &amp; CNPA will continue to facilitate</i></p>	<p><i>Marr Lodge will continue to contribute to collaborative discussion but main discussion is between Atholl Estates and Wildland Ltd.</i></p>
<p><b>3.8.7</b> A helicopter count will be conducted in late July 2016 to coordinate with neighbours (Wildland Ltd), Atholl Estates and Dalnacardoch.</p>	<p>Late July 2016</p>	<p>Mar Lodge, Atholl Estates, Dalnacardoch, Wildland Ltd, CNPA, SNH</p>	<p><i>All properties to agree count by spring 2016. West Grampians DMG to coordinate count. Possible funding contribution from CNPA (TBC). Mar Lodge to liaise with Fealar &amp; Mar Estate to discuss incorporating these properties.</i></p>	<p><i>Didn't occur but full heli count of all 3 DMGs conducted in March 2017</i></p>
<p><b>3.8.8</b> Mar Lodge, Invercauld and Glenavon to facilitate and deliver collaborative deer management at a landscape scale.</p>	<p>On-going</p>	<p>Mar Lodge, Invercauld &amp; Gleavon</p>	<p><i>Mar Lodge, Invercauld and Glenavon will meet on an annual basis specifically to agree collaborative actions to assist in the delivery of Favourable Condition on the features of the cairngorms SAC.</i></p>	<p><i>Meetings held frequently to ensure collaboration. Impacts on SAC mapped and areas identified for targeted action.</i></p>
<p><b>3.8.9</b> A helicopter count of the whole DMG will be conducted in 2017 and an aerial count will be repeated in Year 3.</p>	<p>Late Winter 2017 and 2020</p>	<p>Chair &amp; DMG Members</p>	<p><i>DMG will ensure adequate resources in place for repeat aerial count in 2020 and liaise with neighbouring DMGs to coordinate count at the same time if possible.</i></p>	<p><i>Completed</i></p>
<p><b>3.8.10</b> Foot counts will be carried out annually in years with no aerial count.</p>	<p>Spring 2018, 2019, 2021</p>	<p>DMG Members &amp; DMG Secretary</p>	<p><i>Stalkers will undertake a coordinated foot count on the same day. Count coordinators will be nominated and DMG Secretary will collate figures.</i></p>	<p><i>Ongoing</i></p>

<b>3.8.11</b> Group will carry out a review of deer movements within the DMG and contribute to wider discussions on deer movements within and across current DMG Boundaries.	Autumn 2017	DMG Members	<i>Deer count data from 2017 and 2020 will be reviewed by the DMG and by West Grampians DMG and Cairngorms &amp; Speyside DMG. DMG boundaries will be reviewed and amended if necessary.</i>	Agreed to do at Spring Meeting
<b>3.8.12</b> Group will invite representation at meetings of the local community as well as local agricultural/woodland/conservation interests.	Annually	DMG Chair.	<i>Meeting dates and Agendas will be publically available on DMG website and circulated to community councils in advance.</i>	DMG represented at local Community Council meetings
<b>3.8.13</b> Group will ensure adequate resources are available to fund the administration and aspects of delivery of the DMP	Autumn 2016	DMG Chair and Secretary	<i>DMG will ensure adequate resources for the ongoing delivery of the plan through private funding and through a possible Environmental Cooperation Action Fund (ECAAF) application.</i>	Financial planning at DMG level

## 3.9 Designated Sites

<b>Actions for the delivery of designated features into Favourable Condition</b>	<b>When?</b>	<b>Who?</b>	<b>How?</b>	<b>Progress As at 14 November 2017</b>
<b>3.9.1 Craig Leek SSSI:</b> Upland Assemblage and Bryophyte Assemblage located within deer fence. Unfavourable condition not due to deer impacts. Extensive birch regeneration and bracken cover.	2016 and Ongoing	Invercauld Homebeat	<i>SNH undertook scrub management in 2015 and is in discussion with Invercauld Estate about a management agreement to extend this work to improve the habitat for the Bryophyte Assemblage (likely to be in 'Unfavourable Recovering due to Management' condition through scrub management).</i>	Updates required for all
<b>3.9.2 Eastern Cairngorms SSSI:</b> Bryophyte Assemblage. Unfavourable condition not due to deer impacts. Loss of snow-bed communities caused by changes in climate.	No Action Required	Invercauld Home Beat, Mar Lodge, Glenavon	<i>No action required.</i>	

<p><b>3.9.3 Inchroy SSSI:</b> Main issues on the site are special calcareous grasslands which are currently undergrazed and flushes which show slight signs of trampling (deer and sheep). Management to be implemented by the Estate.</p>	<p>2016 and Ongoing</p>	<p>Glenavon</p>	<p><i>Estate in discussion with SNH to agree grazing management of sheep on calcareous grassland. Possible use of Agri-Environment Grant Schemes through SRDP. Some of the trampling impacts may be due to movement of deer between the Estate and Invercauld- Homebeat. Estates to continue to discuss collaborative approach to deer management.</i></p>	
<p><b>3.9.4 Ladder Hills SSSI:</b> The main negative impacts on the Sub-alpine dry heath in the past have been due to muirburn on sensitive areas, principally sphagnum-rich heath, but also on steep slopes and in heather with uneven structure. High levels of localised browsing were also found on blaeberry heaths.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Glenavon &amp; Allargue</p>	<p><i>Estates follow Muirburn Code of practice. Both Estates have relatively few deer but sheep grazing the open hill. Estates will consider implementing Habitat Impact Assessment on Dwarf Shrub Heath to monitor herbivore grazing impacts.</i></p>	<p><i>Allargue noted that getting hinds in from North (used to be West) and numbers starting to increase indicating a change in migration patterns. Allargue to speak to Glen Livet.</i></p>
<p><b>3.9.5 Cairngorms SAC:</b> The main issues affecting the features are Muirburn on Heaths, undergrazing of calcareous grassland, trampling of Blanket Bog (particularly on the Moine Mhor (Glenfeshie) and Moine Bhealaidh (Mar Lodge) and</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Glenavon, Mar Lodge, Invercauld Homebeat.</p>	<p><i>Glenavon to continue burning according to the Muirburn Code. Wildland Ltd (Glenfeshie) and Mar Lodge have agreed to be part of a Working Group to implement a more collaborative approach to managing deer across Deer Management Groups which should reduce deer pressure on the Moine Mhor. NTS Mar Lodge already implements a programme of monitoring across its site on a range of habitats. Invercauld Homebeat will continue to work collaboratively in order to reduce pressure on designated features and on neighbouring Mar Lodge (to assist with reducing deer pressure on the Caledonian Forest feature.</i></p>	



<p><b>3.9.6 Cairngorms SAC: Caledonian Forest feature.</b> This feature is currently in 'Unfavourable Recovering due to Management' however, the feature remains vulnerable to deer impacts. Mar Lodge is currently in a 25 year management agreement with SNH, as well as the Section 7 Agreement (to expire 2021).</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Mar Lodge and members of the Section 7 Steering Group</p>	<p><i>NTS will continue to manage deer in collaboration with neighbours and with use of Out of Season Authorisations.</i></p> <p><i>NTS will continue monitoring according to targets in the Section 7/Management Agreement.</i></p> <p><i>Mar Lodge to undertake a count this July –if time and finances allow they will try to count over the hill into Glenavon and Invercauld Home Beat to gain an understanding of the number of stags summering in the area where the 3 estates meet;</i></p> <p><i>Mar Lodge to seek help from Invercauld Home beat to drive deer out of the Quoich rather than shoot where possible;</i></p> <p><i>Mar Lodge to consider heavy thinning of compartment 2 at the Quoich to make this area less attractive to deer</i></p> <p><i>Invercauld Home Beat to consider feeding stags cobs on trial basis this coming winter to try to hold stags more</i></p> <p><i>Invercauld Home Beat to start doing recruitment counts to inform the population model.</i></p> <p><i>The Section 7 Steering Group will meet in 2016 to discuss how to interpret the 2015 monitoring data then decide whether or not to end the Agreement.</i></p>	<p><i>Section 7 Agreement concluded early in late April. NTS will continue to monitor impacts and deer populations</i></p>
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## 3.10 Woodland Management

Actions to manage deer to retain existing native woodland cover and improve woodland condition	When?	Who?	How?	Progress As at 14 November 2017
<p><b>3.10.1</b> NTS will continue to manage deer impacts and carry out woodland management to achieve good condition in its native woodlands.</p>	Ongoing	NTS Mar Lodge	<p><i>NTS will use their own monitoring of herbivore impacts as well as woodland population census/utilisation methodology to inform on-going management. Results of NTS annual woodland regeneration monitoring to be reviewed and used as a guide for the success of management on an annual basis. Annual browsing levels should be at 15% or less. Mar Lodge also to provide reports on Montane Scrub Survey Assessment.</i></p>	To update
<p><b>3.10.2</b> For properties with SRDP Natural Regeneration Schemes in place, provide evidence of woodland condition in the form of an appropriate survey report if available.</p>	Year 3	DMG Members & Mar Lodge	Woodland Survey reports.	
<p><b>3.10.3</b> To use ECAF bid to undertake a review of native woodland condition in the Group area (including Riparian woodland), consolidating existing survey reports and implementing woodland herbivore impacts assessment monitoring protocols where required.</p>	Year 3	DMG Members & Consultant	<p><i>Subject to successful ECAF bid, delivery of DMG Native Woodland Review Report and recommended actions.</i></p>	<p><i>ECAF no longer available. Group will look to other possible funding mechanisms ie FCS?</i></p>
<p><b>3.10.4</b> Continue to implement management to reduce negative impacts including use of Forestry Grant Schemes where practical and appropriate.</p>	By 2021	SG Members	<p><i>Monitoring results used to inform management actions. Entry into Forestry Grant Schemes.</i></p>	

<b>Actions to demonstrate DMG contribution to the Scottish Government woodland expansion target of 25% woodland cover.</b>	<b>When?</b>	<b>Who?</b>	<b>How?</b>	<b>Progress As at 14 November 2017</b>
<b>3.10.5</b> To inform the DMG about any future woodland proposals and incorporate in the DMP - taking account of potential implications for deer management.	Ongoing	DMG Members	<i>Members will circulate/present proposals to DMG for discussion.</i>	Ongoing
<b>3.10.6</b> DMG to use ECAF bid carry out a strategic review of potential opportunities for new woodland schemes using the Scottish Government's Forestry Strategy. Review will consider need from a DMG perspective ie shelter provision for deer population at landscape scale.	Year 2	DMG Members & Consultant	<i>Subject to ECAF bid, delivery of DMG Woodland Expansion Report and recommended actions.</i>	ECAF Funding not currently available. DMG to consider at next meeting.

### 3.11 Wider Habitat Management

<b>Actions to monitor and manage deer impacts in the wider countryside</b>	<b>When?</b>	<b>Who?</b>	<b>How?</b>	<b>Progress As at 14 November 2017</b>
<b>3.11.1</b> Using revised BPG Guidance undergo training, set up plots and carry out a baseline habitat impact assessment (HIA) of the current grazing and trampling impacts on blanket bog & dwarf shrub heath.	May & June 2017	DMG Members & Consultant	<i>Subject to ECAF bid, Consultant will work with DMG to set up random plots and to provide assistance with data analysis and the production of a report. Invercauld will continue to carry out HIA using existing methodology in place.</i>	<i>Training Day completed for Group. HIA undertaken by Invercauld, Mar Lodge, Delnadamph and Allargue. Group to seek funding from SNH to do further training and to support the setting up of baseline plots on remaining properties (Gairnshiel/Micras, Dinnet, Mar and Glenavon)</i>



<p><b>3.11.2</b> NTS to continue to implement habitat monitoring across wider habitats.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>NTS Mar Lodge</p>	<p>Over the next 5 years the Estate should maintain the following targets: Within the Regeneration Zone: 90% of sample locations on blanket bog habitat should have impacts in the range of Low to Moderate to Low. No impacts to be higher than M, 90% of sample locations on dry heath habitat should have impacts in the range of L to ML. No impacts higher than M, 90% of sample locations on wind-clipped heath should have impacts in the range of Low to Moderate to Low. No impacts higher than M, Within the Moorland Zone, the impacts recorded should be below those recorded in the 2010 HIA.</p>	<p>Update on HIA from NTS</p>
<p><b>3.11.3</b> Members with existing habitat monitoring will be encouraged to share results with DMG where appropriate.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>DMG Members</p>	<p>Members will circulate monitoring results to DMG.</p>	<p>Members to collate HIA data in 2018 with support from consultant.</p>
<p><b>3.11.4</b> Summary of habitat assessment results reported to DMG. DMG will reduce deer impacts to improve overall habitat condition where required. Targets and management actions to be agreed.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>DMG Members</p>	<p>DMG will agree management decisions based on Habitat Impact Assessment Reports.</p>	<p>Members to collate HIA data and produce DMG report/ map in 2018 using SNH Funding</p>
<p><b>3.11.5</b> Repeat HIA and management actions agreed.</p>	<p>May &amp; June 2020</p>	<p>DMG Members</p>	<p>Members will collect repeat monitoring data. Consultant will provide assistance with data analysis and the production of a report. Members will use report to inform management.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>

<p><b>3.11.6</b> NTS will implement projects relating to wider biodiversity benefits.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>NTS Mar Lodge</p>	<p><i>Management for key species: narrow headed wood ants and waders in Quoich floodplain. NTS to start monitoring for green shield moss (Cairngorms Nature) and continue with monitoring of black grouse, dotterel, ptarmigan, narrow-headed wood ants, water vole/mink, montane scrub, monitoring of twinflower field layer trial</i></p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
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<p><b>Actions to improve Scotland's ability to store carbon by maintaining or improving ecosystem health.</b></p>	<p><b>When?</b></p>	<p><b>Who?</b></p>	<p><b>How?</b></p>	<p><b>Progress As at 14 November 2017</b></p>
<p><b>3.11.7</b> Using revised BPG Guidance set up plots and carry out a baseline habitat impact assessment (HIA) of the current grazing and trampling impacts on blanket bog and native woodland.</p>	<p>As per monitoring schedule in the Working plan</p>	<p>DMG Members</p>	<p><i>As per Actions for woodland and managing impacts in the wider countryside. Members to provide existing survey reports or conduct baseline monitoring and reports. Invercauld will continue to carry out HIA using existing methodology in place.</i></p>	<p><i>Training Day completed for Group. HIA undertaken by Invercauld &amp; Mar Lodge</i></p>
<p><b>3.11.8</b> Potential areas for Peatland Restoration identified and options for Peatland restoration or management considered. Mar Estate to consider working up further schemes.</p>	<p>By end 2016</p>	<p>DMG Members &amp; Mar Estate</p>	<p><i>Members to use Blanket Bog monitoring results as well as assistance from CNPA to identify opportunities for further Peatland Restoration.</i></p>	<p><i>Peatland Restoration occurring on Invercauld Estate and Mar.</i></p>
<p><b>3.11.9</b> Contribute to River Basin Management Planning as appropriate</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>NTS Mar Lodge</p>	<p><i>NTS Mar Lodge will contribute to aims of Dee Catchment Partnership including helping to deliver the Dee floodplain restoration project and also Upper Dee Riparian Project. (Riparian Action Plan)</i></p>	<p>Ongoing</p>

### 3.12 Invasive non-native species

<b>Actions to reduce or mitigate the risk of establishment of invasive non-native species</b>	<b>When?</b>	<b>Who?</b>	<b>How?</b>	<b>Progress As at 14 November 2017</b>
<b>3.12.1</b> Muntjac Deer managed as per the Non-native Species Policy (Part 2 of plan).	Ongoing	DMG Members	<i>Members will contact local SNH Wildlife Management Officer immediately on suspected sighting of Muntjac.</i>	Ongoing
<b>3.12.2</b> Sika Deer managed to prevent their establishment within the DMG area and managed as per the Non-Native Species Policy (Part 2 of plan).	Ongoing	DMG Members	<i>Where Sika Deer not currently established, Members will report sightings to DMG and will prevent their establishment by shooting on sight (within current legal restrictions).</i>	<i>Micras reported sighting of Sika. Situation to be monitored.</i>
<b>3.12.3</b> Record invasive plants species and encourage their control.	Annually	DMG Members	<i>Members will inform DMG of invasive plant species at annual meetings and will report on control undertaken.</i>	None identified to date
<b>3.12.4</b> Feral Pigs managed according to Policy Guidelines currently being agreed by SNH.	Ongoing	DMG Members	<i>Members will report sightings of feral pigs and shoot on sight (subject to welfare considerations) within DMG area. Implement Feral Pig management policy adopted once agreed by SNH.</i>	None identified to date
<b>3.12.5</b> Feral goat management policy to be agreed.	By end 2016	DMG Members	<i>Group will use meeting in Autumn to agree a policy for the management of Feral Goats should they ever become established.</i>	Policy agreed

### 3.13 Historical and Cultural Features

<b>Actions to protect designated historic and cultural features from being damaged by deer e.g. by trampling.</b>	<b>When?</b>	<b>Who?</b>	<b>How?</b>	<b>Progress As at 14 November 2017</b>
<b>3.13.1</b> Identify any features within DMG area that may be impacted on by deer.	By end of 2016	DMG Members	<i>DMG members to report at Autumn DMG meeting on features identified.</i>	None identified to date
<b>3.13.2</b> If features identified, ensure the appropriate management is implemented and report to DMG.	Ongoing	DMG Members	<i>Verbal report/update to DMG.</i>	None identified to date

<p><b>3.13.3</b> All future fencing proposals (and subsequent woodland creation/regeneration) to consider impacts on National Scenic Areas follow Joint Agency Guidance</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>DMG Members</p>	<p><i>Any new fencing/woodland proposals will be discussed with the DMG and will consider impacts on National Scenic Areas and will follow Joint Agency Fencing Guidance.</i></p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
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### 3.14 Training and Competence

<p><b>Actions to contribute to delivering higher standards of competence in deer management.</b></p>	<p><b>When?</b></p>	<p><b>Who?</b></p>	<p><b>How?</b></p>	<p><b>Progress As at 14 November 2017</b></p>
<p><b>3.14.1</b> Ascertain training levels among DMG Members. All deer managers to have DSC Level 1. All deer managers in the west of the Sub Group to have DMQ 2 and for those in the east, every stalking party must have someone with Level 2 present. Members to report on progress on an annual basis.</p>	<p>Annually and by 2018.</p>	<p>DMG Secretary and Members</p>	<p><i>All deer managers to undergo necessary training. All members will provide a verbal report at Spring meeting.</i></p>	<p>Actioned</p>
<p><b>3.14.2</b> Develop and implement a training programme to assist in the provision of training for DMG Members who lack the necessary qualification or for individuals who wish to enhance their skills.</p>	<p>Annually</p>	<p>DMG Chair and Secretary</p>	<p><i>Annual training programme to be agreed at Spring meeting. Secretary to organise courses/events. Opportunities for CPD events to be explored by members.</i></p>	<p>Training for 2017 agreed &amp; delivered (HIA Training)</p>

### 3.15 Public Health and Well-being

Actions to Identify and promote opportunities contributing to public health and wellbeing.	When?	Who?	How?	Progress As at 14 November 2017
3.15.1 Provide information on access, CWD and health information about tick awareness to visitors/clients.	By end of 2016 and ongoing	DMG Secretary	Secretary to circulate leaflets/literature at Spring/Autumn meetings for members to distribute. Information made available on DMG website.	Members updated at meetings. Members completed Deer Health Survey samples for Moredun Project.
3.15.2 Complete relevant Access information for the Heading For the Scottish Hills initiative.	By end 2016	Secretary & Relevant DMG Members	Secretary to liaise with DMG members to coordinate information to SNH and ensure information is kept up to date. Information on Access to be made available on DMG website.	Information available.
3.15.3 Recognise the context of the Cairngorms National Park and seek to deliver the Cairngorms Outdoor Access Strategy & National Park Plan.	Ongoing	NTS Mar Lodge	NTS has a Visitor Management Plan in place which will look at opportunities for the Estate to increase delivery of national and Cairngorms health, wellbeing and social inclusion objectives. NTS to complete audit of paths to identify any works required, and ensure existing paths are effectively managed and maintained.	Ongoing
3.15.4 Raise awareness of threats relating to Chronic Wasting Disease and sign up to CWD Biosecurity Policy (Part 3 of plan).	By end of 2016 and ongoing	DMG Members	Members to raise awareness of CWD with Clients and Visitors from USA, Canada and Norway.	Issue discussed at meetings.

<p><b>3.15.5</b> Investigate opportunities for awareness raising/educational events for the local community.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>NTS Mar Lodge and DMG Members</p>	<p><i>NTS will increase volunteer opportunities at the Estate, particularly by locals, young people and underrepresented groups (Locals defined as anyone who can travel to Mar lodge and back to volunteer, within a day trip). NTS will also produce a monthly newsletter for distribution and continue contributions to Braemar Buzzard. NTS will hold 5 Nature Club events and 25 guided walks annually. Ensure local Ranger Service includes deer as a topic in School Visits.</i></p>	<p><i>Invercauld hosted several meetings in 2016/2017 including Aberdeen University and Moorland Forum.</i></p>
<p><b>3.15.6</b> Provide opportunities for any concerns from the local community to be addressed. Ensure Community Council is offered the opportunity to attend meetings.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>DMG Chair and Secretary</p>	<p><i>Meeting dates and Agendas will be publically available on DMG website and circulated to community councils in advance. DMG Chair and Secretary contact details will be available on website. DMG to consider holding an annual public meeting. NTS will hold one well-publicised open day with local community each year to encourage involvement in estate management by community of users of the estate, esp. over plans for major developments (e.g. Derry Lodge).</i></p>	<p><i>Invercauld and Mar Lodge activities contributing to action. DMG to have a community meeting following the Spring AGM.</i></p>
<p><b>3.15.7</b> Explore opportunities for greater liaison/collaboration with organisations such as Scottish Mountaineering Club, Mountaineering Council for Scotland, Ramblers Association etc.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Upper Deeside and Donside DMG Chair</p>	<p><i>Wider Upper Deeside and Donside DMG and organisations to work together to improve information provision through the likes of social media.</i></p>	<p><i>Ongoing</i></p>
<p><b>3.15.8</b> Investigate opportunities to carry out a visitor survey to assess visitor perceptions of deer and land management and identify areas for action.</p>	<p>By 2018</p>	<p>NTS and DMG</p>	<p><i>DMG to scope questions to be included in Visitor Surveys conducted by NTS and local tourism initiatives.</i></p>	<p><i>Ongoing</i></p>



<b>3.15.9</b> Investigate opportunities for the public to see/view deer.	Ongoing	All Members	<i>Identify opportunities such as an annual event, to bring the public in closer contact with Deer.</i>	<i>Group identified opportunities available through Braemar Highland Experience and Balmoral tours.</i>
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### 3.16 Economics

<b>Actions to maximise economic benefits associated with deer</b>	<b>When?</b>	<b>Who?</b>	<b>How?</b>	<b>Progress As at 14 November 2017</b>
<b>3.16.1</b> Investigate opportunities for membership of SQWV Quality Assurance Scheme.	By 2021	DMG Members	<i>On-going discussion at DMG meetings.</i>	<i>Summary at next meeting.</i>
<b>3.16.2</b> Investigate opportunities for more effective collection of carcasses and negotiation of prices. DMG to investigate possible collaborative opportunities for the processing of venison/game. Members to seek opportunities to market venison locally.	Annually	DMG Members	<i>Discussion at Spring meeting. Chair &amp; Secretary to negotiate with Game Dealers on DMG behalf.</i>	<i>Ongoing discussion.</i>
<b>3.16.3</b> DMG Members to continue to monitor sustainable harvest of stags for let stalking and to investigate opportunities for cross-property letting of stalking. Opportunities to collectively market stalking also explored.	Spring 2016 and Annually.	Chair & DMG Members	<i>Population model used to monitor sustainable harvest of stags. Members discuss stalking requirements at Spring meeting. Deer movement meetings following the deer count in 2017 used to monitor stag movements/distribution across the Group.</i>	<i>Population monitored through the population model</i>
<b>3.16.4</b> DMG to carry out an economic survey of deer management in the area, including an assessment of investment, employment, infrastructure etc.	By end 2017	Secretary & Relevant DMG Members	<i>Questionnaire will be developed and completed by members to produce a DMG report of Local Economic Implications of Deer Management.</i>	<i>Requires further discussion</i>

Actions to minimise the economic costs of deer, and ensure deer management is cost-effective	When?	Who?	How?	Progress As at 14 November 2017
3.16.5 DMG to consider the future costs of maintaining fences and financial provision for repairs.	By end of 2016	DMG Members	<i>Those responsible for fences report on current condition and likely repair timetable.</i>	Ongoing
3.16.6 Ensure local agricultural/ forestry interests are consulted on DMP and are invited to/represented at DMG meetings.	Spring 2016	DMG Chairman and Secretary	<i>DMG Chair will correspond with relevant parties.</i>	Ongoing
3.16.7 Set up monitoring and reporting of DVCs through website, DMG meetings and local Police contact.	Spring 2016 and ongoing	DMG Secretary	<i>Members of the public asked to report DVCs to DMG Secretary on website. Members record and report DVCs to meetings.</i>	<i>DMG reported issues with increased hares on roads and an accident involving a hare. Possible issue with hotspot on A93.Rhidorrigh/Braemar section of road less than 15 per year. Some mitigating actions have been taken in form of signage.</i>
3.16.8 Implement actions to mitigate against DVC hotspots including localised deer management, use of signage, fencing etc.	Ongoing	DMG Members	<i>Where hot-spots occur, DMG to discuss appropriate actions at meetings.</i>	No actions required currently
3.16.9 Report on out of season and night shooting authorisations.	Ongoing	DMG Members	<i>Members to inform DMG Chair/Secretary in advance of intention to apply for authorisations. Members to report numbers of deer culled under authorisation at meetings.</i>	Discussed at meetings.



### 3.17 Communication

Actions to ensure effective communication on deer management issues	When?	Who?	How?	Progress As at 14 November 2017
3.17.1 Stakeholders consulted on draft plan.	Spring 2016	DMG Secretary	<i>Draft DMP made available on public website. Relevant stakeholders identified and invited to consult. Interested parties invited to attend a consultation meeting in Braemar.</i>	<i>Actioned.</i>
3.17.2 Final Plan and Minutes of Meetings will be published on DMG Website.	Spring 2016	DMG Secretary	<i>DMG Website.</i>	<i>Actioned</i>
3.17.3 DMG Constitution and ADMG Principles of Collaboration adopted (Part 2)	Spring 2016	DMG Members	<i>Adopted as part of DMP.</i>	<i>Actioned</i>
3.17.4 Agree and adopt a DMG Communications Policy	Spring 2016	DMG Members	<i>Adopted as part of DMP.</i>	<i>Actioned</i>
3.17.5 Ensure representation at wider Upper Deeside and Donside meetings and at meetings of neighbouring DMGs and CNPA/CDAG.	Ongoing	DMG Chair/Secretary	<i>Group Chair and Secretary will ensure representation at relevant meetings.</i>	<i>Actioned</i>

## 3.18 Welfare

Actions to ensure deer welfare is taken fully into account at individual animal and population level	When?	Who?	How?	Progress As at 14 November 2017
3.18.1 Consider opportunities for CPD/Training in relation to deer welfare.	Autumn 2017	Upper Deeside and Donside DMG	<i>Wider DMG will run at least one event to share Best Practice Management.</i>	<i>HIA Training day held in 2017</i>
3.18.2 Provide information on welfare indicators annually. Baseline information established in year 1 of DMP and welfare indicators reported on annually. Any resulting management actions agreed and implemented by members.	Ongoing	DMG Members	<i>Deer managers to provide information on hind reproduction and average larder weights.</i>	<i>Information received</i>
3.18.3 Any new fencing in DMG area will consider welfare implications in design and extent and the appropriate management undertaken.	Ongoing	DMG Members	<i>New fencing proposals will be consulted with DMG.</i>	<i>Ongoing</i>
3.18.4 Monitoring and reporting of significant levels of winter mortality.	Ongoing	DMG Members	<i>Deer managers will provide information (figures &amp; location) on winter mortality.</i>	<i>Ongoing. None reported for 2016/2017</i>
3.18.5 Carry out a review of fencing and wintering ground and identify opportunities to open up woodland to deer.	Year 2	DMG Members & Consultant	<i>Subject to ECAF bid, carry out as part of the delivery of the DMG Woodland Expansion Report and recommended actions.</i>	<i>ECAF Funding currently unavailable</i>

### 3.19 Monitoring Schedule

Actions	Who?	Year 1 2016-17	Year 2 2017-18	Year 3 2018-19	Year 4 2019-20	Year 5 2020-21
Helicopter Deer Count	DMG Members		Winter Count			Winter Count
Foot Count (east Group)	DMG Members	Spring		Spring	Spring	
Habitat Training	DMG Members		Spring/ Summer			
Habitat Monitoring Blanket Bog	DMG Members		Summer			Summer
Habitat Monitoring Dwarf Shrub Heath	DMG Members		Summer			Summer
Habitat Monitoring Native Woodland Review	DMG Members			Summer		
Woodland Expansion Review (Subject to ECAF Funding)	DMG Members		Summer			
Native Woodland Review (Subject to ECAF Funding)				Summer		
Review Habitat Results	DMG Members	Ongoing	Ongoing	Ongoing	Ongoing	Ongoing
Set & Agree Culls	DMG Members	Spring & Autumn	Spring & Autumn	Spring & Autumn	Spring & Autumn	Spring & Autumn
Collate DMG Information & Review Working Plan Actions	DMG Secretary	Bi-annually	Bi-annually	Review DMP-Spring	Bi-annually	Review DMP-Spring
Produce Economic Report	DMG Secretary		Autumn			
Produce Annual Report	DMG Secretary	Spring	Spring	Spring	Spring	Review DMP - Spring