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Improving deer management

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What is included in this presentation:

- Why deer management is important
- News from the deer world
- WS1 funding
- Legal changes, detection and survey methods
- Tree tubes and fencing
- Aiming for more natural woodlands and landscape

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Closed consultation

Deer management strategy

From: **Forestry Commission** and **Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs**

Published 4 August 2022

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Summary

We're seeking views in this consultation on key proposals for a new deer management strategy.

Related content

Space for food growing: a guide

Community governance reviews: guidance

Creating an offence of public sexual harassment: BSL resources

Trialling automated vehicle technologies in public

Why have WS1 supplement?

WD2 support was not enough, effective use of WS1 will:

- Ensure that deer population control allows WMP objectives to be met

- Reduce deer browsing and grazing impacts to woodlands, ground flora and vulnerable features in the wider landscape enabling damaged ecosystems to recover

- Improve woodland structure and species diversity helping to increase resilience to climate change, pests and diseases.

WD2 Deer Capital Payments retained

- High seats
- Deer fencing/gates
- Tree shelters/tubes/guards
- Exclosures (FG11)

CS WD2 remains in place

Purpose of WD2 deer element is to help ensure that deer do not compromise WMP requirements

If deer are recorded in WMP as an issue WD2 requirements in are:

- Deer management plan(DMP) by the end of year 1
- Deer managed throughout by culling or protection
- DIA, cull records, "evidence of activity" available to RPA
- Progress monitoring, reports years 1 3 and 5

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4 new woodland (stackable) supplements to WD2

WS1 – Deer   £105/ha

WS2 – PAWS restoration & maintenance £70/ha

WS3 – Grey Squirrels   £60/ha

WS4 – Access for people   £50/ha

How does WS1 complement WD2?

- Increased support to applicants through Deer Officer and ££s

- Improved monitoring and evidence to support decision making (FC see data and can inform adaptive management)

- Increase in deer control effort, emphasis on results

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Deer Management Plan:

- Draft required at time of application
- Agreed with the Woodland/Deer Officer
- Finalised with Woodland/Deer Officer prior to end year 1

Monitoring requirements

- Deer/Habitat Impact assessments
- Exclosures
- Cull data/Time effort data
- Deer Activity Reports

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	Application Year					First year (Year 1)					Yr 2	Yr 3	Yr 4	Yr 5
	Dec	Feb	Apr	Sep	Dec	Jan	Apr	May	Nov	Dec				
Grant (WD2) process	Prepare and submit WMP	CS window open	30th? CS window closed	30th. Mixed and Woodland applications finalised by WO/FM. Applicant receives and accepts final conditions.	With RPA. contracts back to successful applicants	Grant live start yr 1				Applicant deadline for submission of DMP to RPA		Applicant deadline for submission of key data to RPA		Applicant deadline for submission of key data to RPA
WS1 process		WS1 window opens Applicant submits draft DMP	WS1 window closes 30th? Submission must include final DMP	As above	As above	Grant live start yr 1				Applicant deadline for submission of key data to FC		Applicant deadline for submission of key data to FC		Applicant deadline for submission of key data to FC
WS1 Deer Officer	Finalise guidance docs	WOs/TSOs alert DO re WS1 applications	Finalise DMP draft with applicants before submission	May-Sept. DO/WO/Applicant discussion/visit. Applicant focussed events.		DOs engaged in formal DMP devt, advising on monitoring planning, cull data collection method. Advise on and encourage installation of Excls and start of DIA by April	Ideal completion of DIA/Excl surveys.	End month deadline for cull data (min Jan-Mar) from prev year.	1st Nov Cull record latest start date	End year 1 DOs must have sight of: DMP, Excl details and report, DIA report, Cull record (Jan-Dec).	End year 2 DOs must have sight of Cull record (Jan-Dec).	End year 3 DOs must have sight of: Excl report, DIA report, Cull record.	End year 4 DOs must have sight of Cull record.	End year 5 DOs must have sight of: Excl report, DIA report, Cull record.

WS1 Guidance and templates on Gov.uk

Management Requirements for Woodland Supplement WS1 – Deer Control and Management: operations note 59

This operations note is to be used to determine the appropriate works within Woodland Supplement WS1 – Deer Control and Management.

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WS1 Deer Management Plan Guide
WS1 Deer Management Plan Template
WS1 Deer Habitat Impact Activity Survey Guide
WS1 Deer Habitat Impact Activity Record
WS1 Deer Exclosure Guide
WS1 Deer Exclosure Record Form
WS1 Deer Cull Data Template
WS1 Deer Survey Report Guide
WS1 Deer Survey Report Template
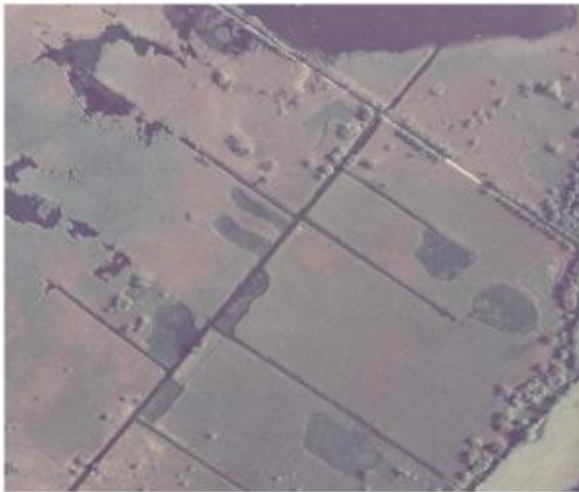
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The drones…..

- There's at least 3 drones easily available.
- Highest spec has 3 cameras; TI, wide angle and zoom lens.
- Built in laser range finder on Matrice 300 and M30.
- Ability to operate in wind and rain.
- Battery life main constraint.
- Upkeep and maintenance costly and time consuming.
- Heavily regulated when flying 'commercially'.

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60cm	70-110mm	2.70	2.45	2.25	2.08	1.93	1.80	1.74	1.69	0
75cm	70-110mm	3.26	2.96	2.72	2.51	2.33	2.17	2.10	2.04	0
1.20m	70-110mm	5.30	4.82	4.42	4.08	3.79	3.53	3.42	3.31	0
1.50m	70-110mm	6.70	6.09	5.58	5.15	4.79	4.47	4.32	4.19	0
1.80m	70-110mm	8.10	7.36	6.75	6.23	5.79	5.40	5.23	5.06	OUT OF STOCK

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Conclusions:

- Don't be complacent

- Good habitat management needs good deer management

- Equip yourself and don't be afraid to ask for help

- Fencing is often just a sticking plaster

- Monitor, monitor, monitor…

- Work collaboratively with your neighbours, but accept that they may have different views and objectives

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Any questions?