
LEAFLET 5: MANAGEMENT OF WILD DEER & OTHER HOOFED MAMMALS

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OVERVIEW

5-1. As a responsible landowner, MOD has a statutory obligation to undertake the sustainable management of wild deer populations

5-2. Government policy and legislation for wild deer aims to ensure a well-managed and healthy wild deer population, which presents no threat to long-term environmental, social, or economic sustainability, and to limit, as far as practicable, further spread of the recently introduced non-native species. For the MOD this also involves ensuring deer populations are sustainably managed in the context of estate management and military requirements.

5-3. Proper management and control of wild hoofed mammal populations (mainly deer) is consistent with MOD Sustainable Development (SD) Policy that aims to ensure MOD estate management activities are in balance with environmental, social and economic considerations.

SCOPE

5-4. This policy details the responsibilities of MOD personnel involved in the management and control of wild or feral hoofed mammals. These personnel include Defence Estates (DE), Commanders / Top-Level Budget (TLB) Authorities over all MOD land (including trading funds) and Defence Deer Management (DDM)¹. This policy is supported by specific operating guidance. All MOD deer management operations should be undertaken in line with the procedures set out in the Defence Deer Management Procedures (DDMPs), available from the DE Operations (Ops) North Professional Technical Service (PTS) Environmental Advisory Service (EAS) (Natural Environment Team)² and DDM.

WHO SHOULD READ THIS

5-5. All MOD staff involved with the management of land supporting wild hoofed mammals requiring management.

ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

DE Property Directorate (DE Prop)

5-6. Deer Management policy is the responsibility of DE Property Directorate (DE Prop). Deer Management sits within the SD policy area and is aligned with the MOD's wider commitments to Government SD policy and targets.

DE Operations (DE Ops)

5-7. The delivery of Deer Management on the Defence Estate is the responsibility of DE Operations Chief Operating Officer (DE Ops COO). This responsibility is delegated to DE Ops EAS. DDM are tasked as the voluntary deer management service provider in partnership with DE.

5-8. DE Ops is to ensure that a Deer Management Group (DMG) is established, in liaison with DDM, on every MOD site or area where deer are found in sufficient numbers to require active management or monitoring.

¹ Formally known as the Services Branch of the British Deer Society (SB-BDS) on behalf of DE Ops COO

² Hereafter referred to as DE Ops EAS

5-9. Sporting Rights agreements held by, or let to, any military/civilian syndicate or individual will not include the right to shoot deer, the management of which rests with DE Ops EAS. For further information on sporting rights please consult JSP362 Section 2 Leaflet 3 on Public and Non-Entitled Use for Social, Recreational and Commercial Purposes.

5-10. DE Ops EAS is responsible for:

- a. Overseeing all deer management on the MOD estate;
- b. Producing and maintaining DDMPs in partnership with DDM;
- c. Authorising DDM members;
- d. Defining, in partnership with DDM, and local DE staff and TLB representatives, the site-level deer management requirements;
- e. Approving DDM reports and deer management plans for each site;
- f. Advising and liaising with TLB Authorities, DE Estate Surveyors and DE Foresters etc on deer matters;
- g. Monitoring the quality of deer management and treatment of deer on MOD property and the maintenance of associated records;
- h. Preparing with DDM, an annual deer management report covering the whole of the MOD estate;
- i. Reporting to statutory bodies, liaison with the Deer Initiative and liaising with civilian deer organisations;
- j. Advising DE Prop on deer management.

Defence Deer Management (DDM)

5-11. DDM is a voluntary, not-for-profit, deer management group with membership restricted to MOD employees, both civilian and service personnel (current and retired). DDM is a special interest group within the British Deer Society, the organisation that promotes the correct management of deer in England, Wales and Scotland and provides advice to Government and other bodies. Eligibility to join DDM and the associated training requirements in order to actively manage deer on MOD Land is detailed in the DDMPs.

5-12. DDM is tasked with undertaking deer management safely and in accordance with the DDMPs and agreed best practice, through :

- a. Actively managing deer on MOD land through a process of census, planning and selective culling;
- b. Advising DE Ops EAS on deer management matters, best practice and standard operating procedures;
- c. Establishing a DMG for each MOD site where deer management is required;
- d. The maintenance of deer management standards among members in accordance with the DDMPs;
- e. Recruiting and training Deer Managers;
- f. Assisting and advising Deer Managers in field operations;
- g. Production of an Annual Deer Plan for each MOD site requiring deer management;
- h. Liaising with other deer organisations on behalf of DE;
- i. Attending relevant national meetings and keeping DE Ops EAS informed as appropriate;
- j. Liaising with DE Ops EAS for the maintenance of DDMPs;
- k. Ensuring that all DDM deer managers are aware of current deer management policy, standards and procedures in accordance with the DDMPs.

5-13. A fully qualified DDM Deer Manager will be appointed as the Principal Deer Manager (PDM) for each DMG and is responsible to the relevant TLB Authority and to DE Ops EAS for the conduct, effectiveness, training and reporting of the DMG. Their responsibilities include:

- a. Undertaking an Initial Report for any land holding deer, on request by DE Ops EAS or the relevant TLB authority;
- b. Preparing annual reports and deer management plans for each DMG in consultation with local DE staff and the local TLB authority;
- c. Providing cull data to DE Ops EAS;
- d. Engaging with DE Ops EAS, local DE managers and TLB authority representatives on the deer management requirements for each site;
- e. Delivery of deer management in accordance with the agreed Annual Deer Plan.

Top Level Budget Authorities (TLBs)

5-14. Establishments are responsible for resourcing any permanent infrastructure required to address site deer management obligations.

5-15. Heads of Establishments (HoE) are responsible for checking that Risk Assessments contained in the Annual Deer Plans take account effectively of the risks associated with active deer management on the land for which they are responsible.

MOD POLICY

Deer Management

5-16. All deer management activity is to follow the command / liaison channels set out in this policy and the supporting DDMPs. A chart setting out the chain of command is contained at Appendix 1. Deer management and associated activity, such as zeroing and range practice, are core estate management activities. Please see JSP403 'Handbook of Defence Land Ranges Safety' for more information.

5-17. Culling by DDM may only be carried out in accordance with a cull plan approved by DE Ops EAS and in accordance with the procedures set out in the DDMPs. Heads of Establishment and DE Ops Land Management Service (LMS), in partnership with DE Ops EAS, are responsible for ensuring that no culling takes place on MOD land by any individual who is not authorised to do so.

5-18. During any period when DDM is unable to supply a Deer Manager, DE Ops may, following consultation with DDM and the TLB Authority, task an appropriate supplier to undertake the necessary actions in accordance with the DDMPs and the agreed cull plan as approved by DE Ops EAS.

Wild Boar

5-19. There are a few established feral breeding populations of wild boar in the United Kingdom and occasional sightings of wild boar on the MOD Estate.

5-20. In 2007, the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) published an action plan covering feral wild boar in England and MOD's policy on wild boar is consistent with this action plan. In Scotland and Wales, no specific action plan or policy for wild boar has been published.

5-21. Any Wild Boar sightings should in the first instance be reported to the Defra National Wildlife Management Team (which aims to monitor the status of the known

feral Boar populations and any new reports of Boar or feral Pigs) via the contact details below, and copied to the DE Ops EAS:

Wild boar policy, Wildlife Species Conservation Division, Defra, Area 108, 2 The Square, Temple Quay, Bristol, BS16PN. Telephone 0845 6014523

5-22. The following key details should be included in any report:

- Type of animal (e.g. Wild Boar);
- Description of animal (e.g. colour, size, and any other identifying features);
- Type of evidence (e.g. visual, tracks or other indirect signs);
- Date observed;
- Location (as precise as possible please);
- Number of animals observed, or inferred from signs;
- Comments on behaviour or activity of animal;
- Contact details (in some cases DEFRA may wish to further discuss details of the evidence)

5-23. In the UK, the primary responsibility for feral wild boar management lies with individual landowners. The delivery of boar management on the Defence Estate is the responsibility of DE Ops COO. DDM are tasked as the voluntary boar management service provider in partnership with DE.

5-24. At present wild boar are not routinely culled by DDM on MOD land. Any, wild boar culling must be approved and overseen by DE Ops EAS and undertaken in line with agreed best practice for wild boar management available from DE Ops EAS.

Other Species

5-25. There may be occasions where culling by shooting is the preferred mechanism for control of other animals, or when other control measures are not deemed appropriate. DDM are the preferred method of delivery in such circumstances. Any such requirements for additional support must be requested through DE Ops EAS, and will be considered on a case-by-case basis and agreed between DE and DDM.

5-26. Any culling, by DDM, of other species whether for conservation management or other reasons must be authorised and overseen by DE Ops EAS.

APPLICABLE LEGISLATION

5-27. Please see Defence Deer Management Procedures for a list of applicable legislation – see the link below.

FURTHER INFORMATION

5-28. There are a variety of documents that provide detailed information on all that is contained within this leaflet. The following list provides details of these documents.

Internal

5-29. The Defence Deer Management Procedures set out the processes and framework for delivery of deer management services on the MOD estate. They can be found at:

http://defenceestates.cis.r.mil.uk/library/documents/DE_publications/deer_mgt_2009.pdf

5-30. Defra's website provides information on legislation for deer, deer health and wild boar management.

5-31. The Deer Commission Scotland's website provides details of relevant deer strategies, licensing and best practise.

5-32. Natural England's website explains the legal status of deer and contains links to relevant further information.

5-33. The Deer Initiative is a broad partnership of statutory, voluntary and private interests dedicated to “ensuring the delivery of a sustainable, well-managed deer population in England and Wales”. The Deer Initiative website contains advice and deer management best practise leaflets.

5-34. The British Deer Society provides general information on deer welfare, advice leaflets and details of training for deer management.

Policy

Operations

Defence Deer Management

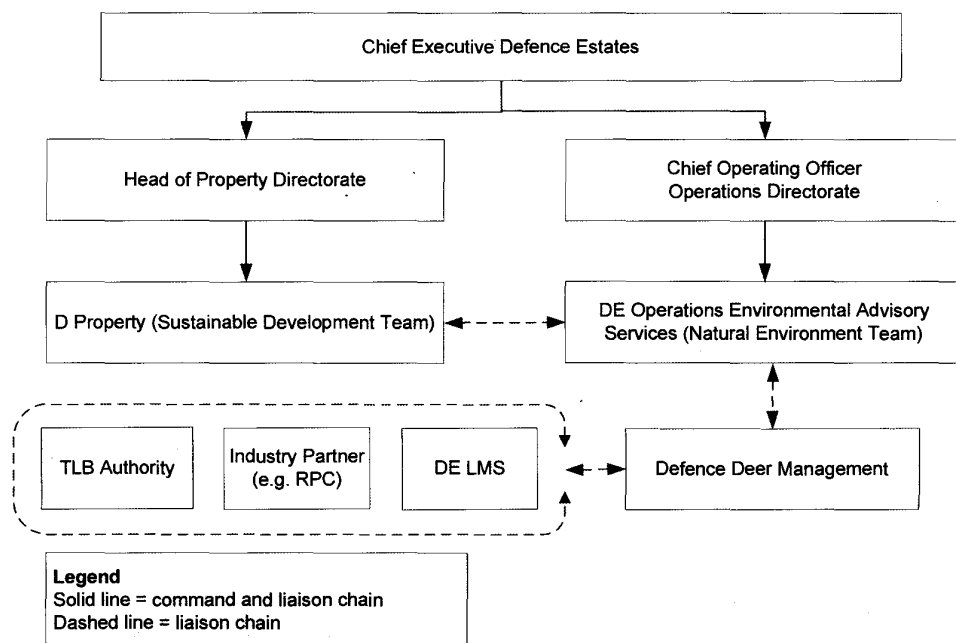
Please refer to the DDMPs for up-to-date contact details.

ABBREVIATIONS

COO	Chief Operating Officer
DDM	Defence Deer Management
DDMP	Defence Deer Management Procedures
DE	Defence Estates
Defra	Department of Environment, Food & Rural Affairs
DMG	Deer Management Group
Prop	Property Directorate
EAS	Environmental Advisory Service
LMS	Land Management Service
Ops	Operations
PDM	Principal Deer Manager
PTS	Professional Technical Services
SB-BDS	Services Branch of the British Deer Society
SD	Sustainable Development
TLB	Top-Level Budget

ANNEXES

Annex 1 – DDM / MOD liaison structures



ANNEX A

SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT BETWEEN DEFENCE DEER MANAGEMENT AND DEFENCE INFRASTRUCTURE ORGANISATION – PART ONE

User Name: Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO)

Provider Name: Defence Deer Management (DDM)

References:

- A. The Deer Act 1991.
- B. The Deer (Scotland) Act 1996.
- C. The Regulatory Reform (Deer) (England and Wales) Order 2007.
- D. JSP 362.
- E. Defence Deer Management Standard Operating Procedures.

Output: The provision of sustainable deer management on The Defence Estate.

1. **General.** Government policy and legislation aims to ensure a well-managed and healthy wild deer population, which presents no threat to long-term environmental, social, or economic sustainability, and to limit, as far as practicable, further spread of the recently introduced non-native species. For the MOD this also involves ensuring deer populations are sustainably managed in the context of estate management and military requirements.

2. **Description of Service.** DDM will provide a comprehensive and sustainable deer management service on behalf of the DIO across the UK Defence Estate in line with Policy and Legislation.

3. **Resources.** DDM will provide sufficient competent and current resources to deliver the outputs required by this SLA without remuneration.

4. **Content.** This SLA consists of this Part 1 (Description), Part 2 (Detailed Outputs) and a series of supporting Annexes.

5. **Principles.** This SLA is underpinned by the following principles:

- a. Proper control of deer numbers is consistent with MOD Conservation Policy that aims to keep the deer on MOD land in balance with their environment. It is also important that the deer population should be healthy and that the correct sex and age balances for each species should be maintained while damage is kept to the acceptable minimum¹.
- b. MOD deer management is an estate management activity.
- c. DIO will ensure that DDM have access to Defence Estate locations specified by DIO as sites where deer are to be managed. Priority for access will be commensurate with other estate management providers.
- d. Deer management is reserved to the MOD and carried out by Defence Deer Management for no fee.
- e. Deer "reduced into possession" on the MOD Estate are the property of The Crown.
- f. MOD venison is reserved for DDM to offset operating costs.
- g. DDM members will give due consideration for any potential conflict of interest arising from activities on the Defence Estate.
- h. Policy, rules and output standards are set by the DIO.

¹ JSP 362, Annex H to Chapter 5.

ANNEX A

- i. Deer management operating practice and procedures are set by DDM.
- j. DIO is responsible for audit and assurance of deer management operations.
- k. In order to maintain MOD deer populations in good health and in balance with the environment, DDM provides a deer management service that is:
 - (1) Predominantly manned by serving military personnel, and MOD employees².
 - (2) Responsible to the MOD and subject to MOD priorities and requirements.
 - (3) Self-regulatory audited and assured³.
 - (4) Effective, sustainable and safe.
 - (5) In line with, and which builds upon, recognised best practice.
 - (6) At no cost to the MOD, except for MOD spare capacity which may be made available to DDM on encroachment terms in accordance with JSP 362.
 - (7) Responsible for all provision and operation of equipment and assets required to fulfil the output; i.e. Larders/Chillers. Unless agreed otherwise with DIO.
 - (8) Delivered by suitably qualified and experienced⁴ persons (SQEP).
- 6. **Performance Indicators.** Key Performance Indicators are detailed below and they will be reviewed annually by the MOD Deer Steering Board.
 - a. Annual Deer Plans provided to the DIO DOM no later than 15th March annually unless an extension is requested through the DDM Executive Committee and agreed by DIO DOM.
 - b. Cull targets achieved within legal timescales unless approval to reduce, increase or cease cull is approved by DIO DOM through the DDM Executive Committee.
 - c. Initial site surveys arranged with the site representative within 6 weeks of the request from DIO DOM. Where this relates to airfield safety, initial contact must be within 48 hours.
 - d. Initial Site Survey Reports will be delivered to DIO DOM through the Executive Committee within 2 weeks of the completion of the survey.
 - e. A system of governance and assurance to ensure safe and effective deer management operations that will not bring MOD into disrepute.
 - f. Executive Committee (EC) Meetings at the frequency required by DIO (generally monthly). The EC is the operational interface with the DIO DOM allowing both parties to discuss delivery issues, transfer data and measure progress against the SLA. Annex D DDM Governance Model shows where EC sits in the overall structure.

² DDM members will be 'Crown Servants'.

³ 1st, 2nd and 3rd Party Assurance in accordance with JSP 525, MOD Corporate Governance.

⁴ Minimum standard for a deer management SQEP is: DDM Assistant Manager (Authorised), DSC 2, six monthly marksmanship test and sufficient annual culls to ensure currency (number set by DDM General Committee).