

Static displays will be manned and available to view pre-conference (09.30 – 10.30)  
and during the lunchtime session (12.50 – 14.00).

Best Practice Guidance – *Mike Cottam, Scottish Natural Heritage*

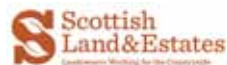
Firearms – *Callum Ferguson, Precision Rifle Services*

Ballistics – *Jim Govan*

SQVV Assurance Scheme - *Scottish Venison Partnership – Johnny Morison*

Butchery – *Mark Smith, George Bower, Edinburgh (morning only)*

The Lowland Deer Network provisional steering committee acknowledges the help and support  
of the following organisations in the staging and promotion of this event:



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*Lowland deer in Scotland –  
changing times; new challenges*

CONFERENCE - MONDAY 14 NOVEMBER 2011

The Macdonald  
Cardrona Hotel  
Cardrona  
Peebles EH45 8NE

### CONFERENCE

Under the Wildlife & Natural Environment Act, all Scotland's deer managers have increased duties and obligations to fulfil including those in lowland areas.

For the most part, in the uplands, the Deer Management Group structure ensures delivery of sustainable deer management on the ground, whereas, for lowland areas, no similar network or structure exists.

This one-day conference is designed to explore the concept of a lowland deer network to provide a more co-ordinated approach to deer management in areas where management of deer populations can be difficult and fragmented, and where the deer themselves can be regarded either as a problem or as an economic opportunity.

**09.30**      **Registration, networking and indoor displays**  
*Coffee and biscuits*

**10.30 – 10.45**    **Opening remarks**  
*Richard Cooke, Conference Chair - Morning*  
New legislation, the greening of lowland Scotland and increasing deer numbers. Risks to and from deer in urban areas, and public safety issues. Do these factors merit a more co-ordinated approach?

**10.45 – 11.00**    **Keynote address**  
*Stewart Stevenson MSP, Minister for Environment and Climate Change*  
The Scottish Government has supported the voluntary principle that works to varying degrees through the DMG system in the uplands. But the public interest in deer, as reflected in the W&NE Act cannot be overlooked. Can a lowland deer network create a culture of collaboration across a broad range of interests in the Scottish Lowlands, and low ground in East and North-east Scotland?

**11.00 – 11.30**    **Deer – and economic and environmental sustainability**  
*Andrew Thin, Chairman, Scottish Natural Heritage*  
The onus for delivery under the W&NE Act is now firmly on deer managers and, indeed, on some who may not even consider deer management among their responsibilities. What are those responsibilities, and where does the buck stop?

**11.30 – 11.45**    **BREAK**

**11.45 – 12.15**    **Lowland deer populations – opportunities and threats**  
*Robbie Kernahan, Wildlife Operations Unit Manager, Scottish Natural Heritage*  
The dynamics of deer populations in the lowlands and the opportunities and threats that they represent. Why deer managers need to act now to prevent future problems. The relevance of the W&NE Act.

**12.15 – 12.35**    **North Lanarkshire DMG – a case study**  
*Robert Speirs, Derek Kneller*  
A brief case study on the management of lowland deer in North Lanarkshire through a collaborative 'Group' approach.

**12.35 – 12.50**    **Morning panel – questions**

**12.50 – 14.00**    **LUNCH, displays, networking**

**14.00**            **Afternoon panel presentation and questions**  
*Dr Bob McIntosh, Director, Forestry Commission Scotland, Chair – Afternoon*

**14.00**            **Forestry leases**  
*Ian Fergusson, Deer Management Officer (South), Forest Enterprise Scotland*  
How leases are structured, their importance for local deer management, opportunities for third parties.

**14.10**            **Questions**

**14.25**            **Deer management for farmers and owner occupiers**  
*Jonathan Hall, Head of Rural Policy, NFUS*  
Issues for lowland farmers, landowners and owner-occupiers to grasp in relation to improving deer management and why this is important.

**14.35**            **Questions**

**14.50**            **Best Practice**  
*Mike Cottam, SNH Best Practice Group*  
The importance of the Best Practice initiative in raising skill levels across the sector and demonstrating competence.

**15.00**            **Questions**

**15.15**            **Open discussion**  
Panel comprising both morning and afternoon speakers, plus questions to other experts in the room.

**15.45**            **Summing up**  
*Dr Bob McIntosh, Director, Forestry Commission Scotland*

**16.00**            **Closing remarks and next steps**  
*Richard Cooke*

**16.20**            **Conference closes**