



English Woodland Grant Scheme

Operations Note 12

1st June 2008

EWGS Support for Deer Management

Purpose This note explains how Forestry Commission England will support the management of deer populations for the benefit of woodland biodiversity, using Woodland Improvement Grant (WIG) and Standard Costs

Introduction The impact of deer on woodland is well understood. Deer can adversely affect woodland biodiversity through excessive browsing. This prevents the natural regeneration of trees that threatens the long-term survival of the woodland, and loss of important woodland flora. Deer are a common and significant factor affecting the condition of ancient and semi-natural woodlands throughout England, hence something that FC England wants to help private woodland owners address

FC England are working in a variety of ways to try and deal with deer pressure in woodlands and contribute to the Defra action plan "The sustainable management of wild deer populations in England". This operations note explains how Woodland Improvement Grant and in particular Standard Costs can be used to support deer management

Use of WIG SSSI woodlands that are in unfavourable condition and not recovering (according to English Nature assessment) may receive WIG SSSI support at 80% of Standard Costs, if deer are one of the threats that needs to be addressed. In certain priority areas, deer support can be funded for non-SSSI woodlands where it will help deliver improving condition in nearby SSSI woodlands

Non-SSSI woodlands that are ancient or native and threatened by deer may receive WIG Biodiversity support, if the management helps improve the woodland condition and hence deliver Biodiversity Action Plan targets. Support is offered at the regional percentage of standard costs

The table in Annex 1 shows the type of work that can be supported through the WIG SSSI and WIG Biodiversity funds, the standard of work expected and the Standard Costs (from the list in Operations Note 009) that relate to those operations

Use of Other EWGS Grants Woodland Planning Grant - Deer management issues (if present) should be addressed within the Plan

Woodland Assessment Grant – ecological WAG can be used to support the production of a deer management plan in the format promulgated by

the Deer Initiative

Woodland Management Grant – the following deer related work can be considered as eligible operations: implementation of landscape scale, organised population management; participation in an effective deer management group; monitoring and responding to changes in deer populations

Further Advice The EWGS website www.forestry.gov.uk/ewgs contains all the information needed to apply for grant support. If you do not have access to the internet, you can request any of the information from your local Forestry Commission office.

We recommend getting professional advice on woodland management and grants. A list of national and regional professional organisations is available at www.forestry.gov.uk/england-advice or from your local FC office.

Versions Version 1.0 issued 22nd June 2006

Version 1.1 issued 1st June 2008 – minor changes including header

Annex 1

Work items	Description & purpose for deer management	Which Standard Cost operation can be used to support the work				
		Operation Reference	Specification	Unit	Rate/Unit	
Creation of a deer lawn	Clearing tree and shrub vegetation to establish a grass area that deer will use	V1	Management of open ground - Tree / scrub cutting	Material majority <7cm diameter, cut with a flail mounted machine	net hectare	£ 250.00
		V2		Material majority <7cm diameter, manually cut	net hectare	£ 500.00
		V3		Material majority >7cm diameter, flailed with a mulcher	net hectare	£ 1,000.00
		V4		Material majority >7cm diameter, manually cut and left to decay	net hectare	£ 1,500.00
Deer lawn management	Repeated mowing of open areas to maintain grass generally below 100mm	V13	Grass cutting recreation areas	Repeated mowing of open areas to maintain grass generally below 10cm	Hectare / year	£ 550.00
Deer Fence	Fencing to protect young trees during establishment or coppice regrowth after cutting. Should be used in conjunction with deer population management	F4	Deer Fencing	FC Bulletin 102 "Forest Fencing" - Minimum to match light spec but must be fit for purpose, i.e. suitable for species excluding - fallow & red will need a higher spec. Deer proof for a min of 10 years	metre	£ 6.00
		F4a	Deer Fencing in SDAs	as per F4 but for sites within Severely Disadvantaged Areas and site access is poor	metre	£ 8.00
		F5	Temporary Deer Fencing	FC Practice Note 9 - temporary fencing. Costs takes account of reuse	metre	£ 4.00
		F6	Deer & Rabbit Fencing	FC Bulletin 102 "Forest Fencing" - as above.	metre	£ 8.00
Deer Gate		F7	Deer gate	Vehicle access gate - swing type - 3m x 1.8m	each	£ 330.00
Deer browse exclosures	For monitoring browsing levels	F14	Deer exclosure plot	4m x 4m exclosure plot, using stock fence and rabbit fence if necessary	each	£ 100.00
Deer high seat	Portable, freestanding in galvanised tubular or box section steel	C6	Deer high seat	Portable, free standing in galvanised tubular or box section steel	each	£ 300.00
Deer stalking	Suitably qualified stalkers, working to agreed cull from management plan, and including collaborative culls using teams of stalkers for limited periods	L1	Forest Craftsman		per day	£ 130.00
		L2	Forestry Agent	professionally qualified	per hour	£ 40.00
Landscape deer management	Population control/management at landscape/national scale	C7	Deer Control	Report compiled to format agreed with FC to Deer Initiative specification on an annual basis	per net hectare per year	£ 5.00