

## BIRSE PARISH DEER MANAGEMENT GROUP

### OPERATING FRAMEWORK

#### 1 The Group

The Birse Parish Deer Management Group (DMG) is an informal association to promote the sustainable management of wild deer within the area covered by the DMG.

#### 2 Group Area

The land covered by the Birse Parish DMG consists of the civil parish of Birse and adjoining Carlogie area in Aboyne parish, as outlined on the attached map. The total area of the DMG is approximately 13,382 hectares or 33,000 acres.

#### 3 Group Membership

Membership of the Group is open to all owners of 100 ha or more of land in the DMG Area. Members owning 400 ha or more land in the DMG Area will be Full members. Members with less than 400 ha of land will be Associate Members.

#### 4 Group Objective

The objective of the Group is to ensure sustainable management of the wild deer in the DMG Area, with sustainable management defined as “*managing deer to achieve the best combination of benefits for the economy, environment, people and communities now and for future generations*”.<sup>1</sup>

#### 5 Deer Management Standards

All Members of the Group will carry out deer management in accordance with the Code of Practice on Deer Management. All Members will also follow the Best Practice Guides on deer management produced by Scottish Natural Heritage in partnership with other organisations.

#### 6 Group Committee

The Group will be managed by a Committee consisting of a representative of each of the Full Members. The Committee will operate on the basis of consensus. A Member of the Committee will be agreed as Chair of the DMG for a three year term. The Annual General Meeting of the Group will be the Spring meeting referred to in Clause 7 below.

#### 7 Group Meetings

The Group will have not less than two meetings a year (1<sup>st</sup> April-31<sup>st</sup> March). The first will be a meeting of the Committee in the Spring to consider a report on the

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<sup>1</sup> Code of Practice on Deer Management, as approved by the Scottish Parliament (December 2011)

previous year and to plan for the year ahead. The second will be a full meeting of the Group in the autumn, with appropriate public agencies and main land owners adjoining the DMG Area also invited.

## **8 Group Records**

The Committee will ensure that, each year, the Group collects appropriate information from its Members about deer management in the DMG Area during the year, and collates this with the Group's existing deer management records. The Committee will maintain and develop the Group's deer management records, and also be responsible for deciding any request that might be received to use the Group's records.

## **9 Group Administration**

The Committee will ensure that proper records are kept of the Group's operation. The Committee will appoint a person on a paid basis as the Group Secretary, to carry out the administration of the Group including correspondence, the collection and collation of deer management information, arrangements for meetings and such other tasks as may be agreed.

## **10 Group Finances**

The Group will hold no money on its own account. Any expenditure on behalf of the Group will be agreed by the Full Members and shared equally between the Full Members, or in such proportions as may be agreed. Payments on behalf of the Group will be made by a Full Member, who will be re-funded by the other Full Members as appropriate in each case.

## **11 Changes to the Constitution**

Any change to this constitution will only be made on the basis of consensus between the Full Members following consultation with the Associate Members.

## **12 Dissolution of Group**

The Group as currently constituted will be dissolved, if one or more of the Full Members resigns their membership. In the event of dissolution, the Group's administrative and deer management records will be donated to the Birse Parish Archive managed by Birse Community Trust.

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*The founding Members of the Birse Parish Deer Management Group are:-*

<i><u>Full</u></i>	<i>Ballogie Estate (Nicol)</i>	<i><u>Associate</u></i>	<i>Balfour Estate (Cochran)</i>
	<i>Birse Community Trust</i>		<i>The Shannel (Alcock)</i>
	<i>Birse Estate (Pearson)</i>		
	<i>Finzean Estate (Farquharson)</i>		

*Date Operating Framework Agreed by All Members:- .....2014*

