

DCS CLIMATE CHANGE & SUSTAINABLE DEER MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP.

**Monday, 30 March 2009, Birnam Arts & Conference Centre,
Dunkeld**

DCS Staff Briefing

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1. Outline of the Workshop

The workshop will take place from 10.00–16.00 on **Monday 30 March** at the Birnam Arts and Conference Centre, Station Road, Birnam, Dunkeld, PH8 0DS. <http://www.birnaminstitute.com/index.asp?cat=Contact%20Us&cookies=True>

Tea and coffee will be available from 9.30 and a buffet lunch will be provided in the mezzanine/upstairs bit.

The workshop will be chaired by Simon Pepper

- **Morning Session – Setting the scene.**
Presentations Cambridge Uni and Macaulay on the impact of climate change and deer, SNIFFER/SCCIP on the changes we will see in the climate and SG on the implications of Government policy.
- **Afternoon Session – Syndicate Groups.**
Facilitated syndicate group discussions will consider key issues and will conclude with a feedback session and an open discussion.

2. Programme

09.30	Coffee & Registration	
10.00	Introduction, aims & objectives	Simon Pepper , Board Member (Deer Commission). Workshop Chair.
10.10	Scottish Government Climate Change Policy	Gavin Barrie , Climate Change Policy Team (Scottish Government)
10.45	Climate Change in Scotland – recent trends and future projections	Julian Holbrook , Climate Change programme Coordinator (SNIFFER & Scottish Climate Change Impact programme (SCCIP))
11.20	Coffee Break	
11.30	Deer & Climate Change	Justin Irvine , Ecologist (Macaulay Land Use Research Institute)
12.05	Deer & climate change on Rum – timing of breeding and reproduction; long term data from Rum	Kelly Moyes , Post Doctoral Research Associate (University of Cambridge)
12.40	Lunch	
13.40	Session to confirm aims of syndicate session	Paul Roberts , Research & Data Manager (Deer Commission)
13.50	Facilitated workshops	DCS facilitators
15.20	Plenary session	DCS facilitators
15.50	Summary/next steps	Simon Pepper , Board Member (Deer Commission). Workshop Chair.
16.00	Depart	

Presenters;

- **Gavin Barrie**, Climate Change Policy Team (Scottish Government) will give a general talk on climate change and emerging SG policy. It'll be quite high-level and the links to deer management will be indirect, however it will outline how future policy *will* impact on deer/land managers. This is part of setting the scene for the day.
 - **Julian Holbrook**, Climate Change programme Coordinator (SNIFFER & Scottish Climate Change Impact programme) will outline the predictions for what the climate in Scotland will look/feel like in 2050 and start to draw the obvious conclusions for how this will affect deer/management. Again the links to deer will not be discussed in detail as this is setting the scene for later discussions. Nb; Julian needs to leave at lunchtime.
 - **Justin Irvine**, Ecologist (Macaulay Land Use Research Institute) will give a presentation on the impact of climate change in Scotland on deer/management.
 - **Kelly Moyes**, Post Doctoral Research Associate (University of Cambridge) has been working with the long-term data from Rum and will give a presentation on climate change and timing of breeding and reproduction. Up to the minute research – you heard it here first!
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- All speakers have been in touch with each other to ensure their presentations dove-tail.
 - Copies of presentations will be circulated to facilitators as soon as they arrive in my inbox.
 - Hard copies for facilitators will be provided on the day (provided I've received them by cop Friday)

3. Background to the Workshop

The following is taken from the invitation email sent out in February;

Changes to the climate of Scotland over the next 50 years and beyond will have a significant impact on deer and deer management, for example;

- We are likely to see changes to deer populations due to longer growing seasons and increased plant productivity. However the picture is more complex as higher winter rainfall in the west may increase winter mortality, with the converse being true for the east, thus we are likely to see varying impacts on populations at a regional and national level.
- Changes in deer populations will have an impact on the habitats they live in and consequently on the management of those habitats.
- Changes to the climate will impact on deer health and welfare for example a warming of the climate may favour disease vectors leading to increases in the incidence of blue tongue and the number of tick.

The response of the Government to climate change will also have an impact on deer and deer management as Government policies respond to the challenge, for example;

- A 25% expansion in woodland is likely to favour deer. We are already experiencing an increase in the number of roe deer in suburban areas bringing new challenges to deer management.
- Carbon storage and sequestration in blanket bog and moorland is increasingly being seen as a valuable resource. Consequently the impact of deer trampling on these habitats is of growing concern.
- The increasing drive to reduce carbon emissions will have an impact on all sections of society; urban, rural, industrial and agricultural. DCS is undertaking a study to assess the carbon footprint of Scottish wild venison as part of this drive to understand the carbon footprint of food.

4. Overall Aims & Outcomes of the Workshop

The aim of the workshop is to better understand these relationships by identifying where research is currently taking place and to identify new areas of work that will increase our understanding.

We also need to better understand how climate change will impact upon deer managers and what advice and guidance we can give them as a result of a better understanding of research and of Government policy on climate change.

To this end the workshop has three specific outcomes;

- A better understanding of the issues and linkages between climate change and deer management.
- An understanding of current and planned research and the identification of future research to clarify the linkages and/or explore the issues further.
- These discussions will inform the development of DCS guidance on climate change aimed at deer managers.

5. Syndicate Session Aims and Objectives

Aim of the syndicate session

The overall aim of the session is to discuss current state of knowledge on the relationship between deer and climate change, and identify research needs. This session will follow a morning of presentations on climate change, its impact on deer ecology and relevant aspects of Government policy.

The objectives are:

- To discuss the issues raised by the presentations in the morning session and develop these further.

- To discuss recent and ongoing research and to suggest proposals for future research.
- To discuss planned research and to identify potential connections between future projects

Policy context

The context for the session is the DCS Wild Deer Strategy and the achievement of 'sustainable deer management'. This in turn is informed by the Scottish Government's National Performance Framework.

The Wild Deer Strategy specifically refers to climate change; 'climate change is likely to affect the distribution and level of deer populations. Adaptation to, and mitigation of, climate change is also likely to require deer management to contribute to wider land-use objectives'. The Wild Deer Strategy also states that management decisions need to be underpinned by sound science.

Hence there is a clear link between climate change and deer management, and a range of possible research needs to clarify this link.

Copies of the WDS will be available on the day.

Issues for Syndicate Groups

We have identified some 'key issues' for discussion in the syndicate session (see below).

The syndicate groups have been arranged to reflect people's interest in particular subject areas (as have the facilitators). Again not set in stone but for practical reasons we need to orchestrate the afternoon session to a degree to make best use of the time. See list of syndicate groups below.

Each issue will be framed/supported by queries such as; what do we know, what more do we need to know, who's doing this research, who should be doing this research etc.

Key Issues

1. What are the implications of the Climate Change Bill and related policies for deer management/managers? Eg What is the carbon footprint of venison – wild and farmed? **[Katy]**
2. Are deer browsing impacts on forestry and native woodland likely to change due to climate change? **[Jessica]**
3. What impact is climate change likely to have on deer health, especially via diseases and parasites such as blue tongue, tick etc.? **[Alastair]**

4. Are deer effects on non-woodland/forestry habitats likely to change due to climate change? Is deer trampling likely to affect carbon sequestration? **[Linzi]**
5. What are the likely impacts of climate change on the deer populations themselves, and can the effects be distinguished from those of sheep removal? **[Robbie]**

Outputs

DCS facilitators will capture the key elements from the syndicate discussions and also feed back at the plenary session at the end of the day.

The notes and any flipcharts etc will be used to draft a paper following the meeting. The paper will highlight key issues for development by DCS (and others where appropriate) and outline a series of recommendations and actions. This will be circulated in draft to participants for comment.

A further, distinct, output is for DCS to produce guidance for deer managers on the impact of climate change. The workshop will be the first stage in developing this and the notes and report will lead to the guidance but it is not intended to discuss this in any detail on the day.

Logistics

- The syndicate session will run after lunch for approx 1 ½ hours
- PR will introduce the session and clarify the aims.
- Delegates have been split into syndicate groups and allocated a question and a facilitator. See list below.
- Seating lists will be put on the tables and will be on the registration table at the start of the day, along with name badges.
- The tables will be set up in the morning and syndicates will sit together for the whole day.

Role of facilitator

- Facilitate the discussion – keeping to the key issue and the aims in mind
- ‘Chair’ your syndicate group; keep the discussion on track, ensure everyone gets a chance to contribute, be aware of time-keeping
- Flip charts will be available and someone will need to keep notes and feedback (doesn’t have to be the facilitator!).
- Reporting back in plenary session (5 mins, key points)
- Strike a balance between wide-ranging climate change discussion and focus on deer/deer management issues

SYNDICATE GROUP 1 - POLICY

Katy McNeil	DCS - Facilitator
Caspian Richards	Scottish Government
Gavin Barrie	Scottish Government
Mark Aitken	SEPA
Richard Dixon	WWF Scotland
John Milne	DCS Board
Rory Putman	

What are the implications of the Climate Change Bill and related policies for deer management/managers? Eg what is the carbon footprint of venison – wild and farmed?

SYNDICATE GROUP 2 - FORESTRY

Jessica Findlay	DCS - Facilitator
Michael Hymers	Forest Enterprise Scotland
Ian Fergusson	Forest Enterprise Scotland
Helen Armstrong	Forest Research
Peter Mayhew	RSPB & DCS Board

Are deer browsing impacts on forestry and native woodland likely to change due to climate change?

SYNDICATE GROUP 3 – HEALTH & WELFARE

Alastair McGugan	DCS - Facilitator
Sandra Marks	Scottish Government
Rebecca Brassey	Forest Research
John Bruce	British Deer Society
Lucy Gilbert	Macaulay Institute
Hugh Reid	Moredun Institute

What impact is climate change likely to have on deer health, especially via diseases and parasites such as blue tongue, tick etc.?

SYNDICATE GROUP 4 - UPLANDS

Linzi Seivwright	DCS - Facilitator
Justin Irvine	Macaulay Institute
Javier Perez-Barberia	Macaulay Institute
Steve Redpath	Aberdeen University
Duncan Orr-Ewing	RSPB

Christoph Konrad	Aberdeen University
Will Boyd-Wallis	Cairngorms National Park

Are deer effects on non-woodland/forestry habitats likely to change due to climate change? Is deer trampling likely to affect carbon sequestration?

SYNDICATE GROUP 5 – POPULATION DYNAMICS

Robbie Kernahan	DCS – Facilitator
Jenny Bryce	SNH
Josephine Pemberton	Edinburgh University & DCS Board
John Calladine	BTO
Kelly Moyes	Cambridge University
Steve Albon	MLRUI
John Holland	Scottish Agricultural College

What are the likely impacts of climate change on the deer populations themselves, and can the effects be distinguished from those of sheep removal?

Deer Commission for Scotland Climate Change Workshop, Birnam Institute, 30 March 2009

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