



INTRODUCTION

Best Practice

Welcome to Best Practice Guidance on the Management of Wild Deer in Scotland. The guides within this folder have been developed by Scotland's deer sector to provide you with the best information available on wild deer management in a format that is easy to access.

At the heart of the guides is the need for clarity on the law, along with three central aims: safeguarding public safety, ensuring food safety and taking full account of deer welfare. Public confidence in these three issues is essential if wild deer management in Scotland is to maintain the understanding and respect of a wider audience at home and abroad.

The guides, produced by SNH in partnership with a steering group comprising ADMG, BASC, BDS, FCS, LANTRA and SGA, are dynamic and practitioners are encouraged to debate and share ideas to help develop future editions. Revision will also be made in light of new research, changes to policy and new legislation.

Following Best Practice

Best Practice aims to provide guidance on relevant legislation and on how best to reinforce the three central aims of public safety, food safety and deer welfare (see overleaf). The guides seek to support, reassure and educate by setting out where possible general principles rather than tight prescription. In this way the Steering Group recognises that there is often more than one way of doing something and welcomes discussion of alternative approaches that add value to the way that the deer sector can enhance public safety, food safety and deer welfare. In the development of the concept, the Steering Group recognised that there will always be situations, when for what ever reasons, things do not go according to plan. Following Best Practice is about understanding what the benchmark is for an activity, aiming to deliver at least to that level and aspiring to go further

Acknowledgements

SNH and the Steering Group are extremely grateful to a wide range of professional and part-time deer managers, individual experts, students and organisations such as SSPCA and HSE who have given up their time to help ensure the quality of the guides.

(see overleaf for guide format)

Format of the Guides

In order to assist practitioners in following Best Practice, the guides have been designed to highlight legal requirements and issues relating to public safety, food safety and deer welfare. Links to other Best Practice guides have also been identified, as well as references to other relevant material.

1 This symbol highlights a legal requirement. It is an offence not to comply.

2 This symbol highlights an action or task required in order to safeguard public safety, food safety and animal welfare.

3 This symbol highlights an action or task required in order to carry out the task effectively.

Back ground text

Back ground text without a symbol attached is generally used to describe the following:

- ◆ Advantages & disadvantages associated with the method;
- ◆ Situations where the method is appropriate;
- ◆ Procedures which reduce costs, effort or time;
- ◆ Procedures which represent the ideal option if not constrained by limited time or money. The costs of implementing these may outweigh the benefits.

* See BPG

Asterisks in the text (*) denote links to other Best Practice Guides which are detailed in the blue box at the end of the guide..



1 Publications

¹ Superscript numbers and symbols in the text denote links to other sources of information which are detailed in these boxes at the end of the guide.