

LDNS Template for Lowland Deer Group Constitutions

CONSTITUTION

Name

The Group name shall be the XX Lowland Deer Group (XXLDG).

Objectives

The Group's objective is to promote the sustainable management of deer in the parts of the ABCD area where deer management is carried out by members of the XXLDG in the interests of Group Members, the Owners and Occupiers of land within the Group area and in the general interests of the Public.

Group Area

The geographic area covered or partially covered by the XXLDG is as shown on the attached map. The boundary may be open to amendment should the Group so decide and the map may show the location of relevant features such as for example the location of designated sites.

Membership

The Members of XXLDG will be practising deer managers within the Group area.

New Members will be selected and admitted at the sole discretion of the existing membership.

At the discretion of Members, other interested parties including land owners and land managers may join the Group as Associate Members. At the discretion of Members other classes of Member such as Adult, Junior and Affiliate Members may be created.

Representatives from relevant public bodies, NGOs and local bodies may be invited to attend meetings of the Group.

XXLDG is a Group Member of Lowland Deer Network Scotland (LDNS).

Members obligations

Members agree to support the effective running of the Group by:

- Attending or being represented at Group meetings.
- Supplying information required for the administration of the Group
- Supplying information required for the writing and review of a Group Deer Management Plan (*if any*) and for the other purposes of the Group.
- Paying an annual subscription to the XXLDG at such rates as may be agreed.
- Submitting annual returns of deer culled to SNH
- Collaborating with other Members and other relevant interests including other LDGs or Sub-Groups.

- Advising the Group of any relevant changes in terms of deer management or land ownership or management in respect of their individual deer management areas.
- Carrying out deer management in accordance with all relevant legislation, the SNH Code of Practice for Deer Management and Wild Deer Best Practice.
- Undertaking relevant training and maintaining the highest level of individual skill and personal development in all matters relating to deer management.

Office Bearers

Office bearers will comprise a Chair and, if required, Vice Chair, who shall be elected annually at the Group AGM. Re-election on a rolling basis is permitted with no restriction on the period of time that an office bearer may serve.

The administrative positions of Secretary and Treasurer (which may be combined) and external Auditor are appointed positions and such appointments and any terms of employment shall be for approval annually at the Group AGM.

Meetings

- The Group will meet once annually or more frequently as may be necessary.
- The Secretary will take a Minute of all meetings and circulate copies to all Members.
- An Annual General Meeting (AGM) shall be held at such a place, date and hour as the Group shall decide. Advance notice will be given to Members not less than 28 days in advance of the AGM. The AGM is for the purpose of electing office bearers, admitting or demitting Members, setting an annual subscription, approving an annual Statement of Account, taking decisions and, where required, conducting votes on matters material to the Constitution or administration of the Group or on other relevant matters.
- Only Full Members or representatives of Full Members with a mandate submitted in writing to the Secretary are entitled to cast a vote at the AGM or other Meeting of the Group. Other classes of Member will have no entitlement to vote.
- A voting majority shall be defined as a simple majority of the Full Members of the Group or their mandated representatives present at a meeting of the Group or at the AGM

Funding and Financial Arrangements

The Group will be self financing and the subscription will be set annually at the AGM. The basis of subscription calculation shall be agreed by the Group and approved by members at an AGM. Subscriptions will be set at a rate sufficient to cover all the operating expenses of the Group. Subscriptions will be payable at a date to be determined by the Group. Notwithstanding the above the Group may apply for public grants, subsidies or other funds in order to fulfil the objectives of the Group.

The Treasurer will operate a Bank Account for the Group and all financial transactions will be made on this account. Joint signatures of the Treasurer and Chair will be required on all cheques or debits drawn on the account in excess of £100.

A financial Statement will be prepared by an Auditor appointed by the Group and presented at the AGM for approval by Members.

In the event of funds being left upon the winding up of the Group the disbursement of these funds will be determined by the Members.

Liability and Insurance

The XXLDDG carries no insurance cover and will accept no liability for the actions of any of its Members. Members will be required to carry personal liability and public liability insurance to indemnify them against any claim which may arise against them in connection with any deer management activity which they may undertake. (Personal liability cover can be obtained through membership of certain organisations, eg BASC and SGA).

Conflict resolution

It shall be the duty of all Members to seek agreement in respect of Group objectives and, where a dispute arises between Members, to resolve such dispute by negotiation and compromise. When agreement cannot be reached it shall be in the option of the Chairman to refer the matter to arbitration by the Chairman of the Lowland Deer Network Scotland or such other independent expert as the parties may agree.

Membership information, records and data

Storage of membership information will be the responsibility of the Secretary, such information to be used solely for the administration of the Group and stored in accordance with the law.

The Group shall determine such deer management and related data as will be required to fulfil the objectives of XXLDDG. Such data will be collected by all Members and submitted to the Secretary for storage and analysis and shall be regarded as the property of the Group.

***Note:** This template is for guidance only. Lowland Deer Groups are advised to adopt a Constitution which reflects their individual circumstances and may modify this template for their own purposes.*

Lowland Deer Network Scotland.
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