

Deer Managers Training Grant Scheme 2025-26

Conditions



1. Scheme Objectives

- 1.1 The aim of this grant is to help provide a skilled workforce to facilitate sustainable deer management in Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park (LLTNP). This will be achieved by 1) encouraging skill development of current deer managers, and 2) enabling necessary training for people who'd like to get involved in deer management.

2. Who can apply?

- 2.1 Applications are open to any individual who can demonstrate they are actively and regularly involved in deer management or have arrangements in place to start active and regular deer management, within the grant boundary area. We'll confirm this with a reference check from the land manager. If requested, the applicant will provide evidence of their right to work in the UK.
- 2.2 Applicants do not need to be based within the LLTNP, provided that the deer management activity is delivered within LLTNP boundary, or within one of the Deer Management Group (DMG) areas with a deer population that is likely to range within LLTNP boundary (i.e. parts of Breadalbane DMG, Cowal DMG, Flanders Moss DMF, Glenartney DMG, Inveraray & Tyndrum DMG, South Perthshire DMG, and West Loch Lomond DMG).
- 2.3 Applicants may apply more than once, but priority will be given to new applicants.
- 2.4 Board members and staff of LLTNP Authority are not eligible to apply.
- 2.5 Applicants must disclose if any family members work for the LLTNP Authority, together with the relationship and proximity of the employee to the grant being sought.

3. Eligible training and amount of grant

- 3.1 If the applicant qualifies to receive this grant, we will contribute:
 - 75% of the total cost (inc. additional associated costs such as preparatory or registration fees) for the training course, if it is directly related to practical deer management, for example:
 - Deer Stalking Certificate 1 (DSC1)
 - Deer Stalking Certificate 2 (DSC2)
 - Proficient Deer Stalking Certificate (PDS1)
 - Large Wild Game (Deer) Meat Hygiene / Trained Hunter status
 - Deer Management Certificate
 - Deer Night Shooting Certificate
 - Use of Thermal and Night Vision for Wildlife Management (Scotland)
 - Venison butchery courses
 - UHI's Sustainable Deer Management course

- 50% of the total cost for the training course, if it is indirectly related to practical deer management, for example:
 - ATV Quad Bike courses

3.2 The training course must be verified as a course provided by an official provider.

3.3 The applicant must demonstrate in their application why this training is necessary and will enable sustainable deer management.

3.4 The training course must start before 31 March 2026.

3.5 Successful applicants agree to participate in and co-operate with us to create press releases or stories for social media or other media in relation to the grant scheme and the training received.

4. Application process and timings

4.1 We must receive applications on or before 13 February 2026.

4.2 The applicant must apply before the training has taken place, and before they have paid for the course.

4.3 The applicant must submit evidence of the cost of the course and course start date with their application.

4.4 We will assess applications on a first come first served basis. The scheme will close early if all funds have been committed.

4.5 We will assess applications on eligibility and value for money.

4.6 We aim to let the applicant know if their application has been successful or not within a month of receipt. Our assessment may be delayed if we can't contact the land manager to check the applicant's involvement with deer management.

5. Paying the grant

5.1 If the application is successful, we'll send the applicant a claim form and bank account details form. The applicant must complete and return these to us with:

- proof of booking, and
- proof of payment (which must confirm who made the payment)

by 28 February 2026. We aim to pay the grant within one month of receiving all of these correctly completed.

5.2 We will make payment by bank transfer to the account details on the bank account details form. That must be a UK bank account in the name of the person who paid for the course. We won't pay the training provider direct.

5.3 If the applicant fails to complete the course (or if the course fails to start on or before 31 March 2026) we reserve the right to require some or all of the grant to be repaid as is reasonable in the circumstances.

6. After the training

Within one month of the end of the training the applicant must give us:

6.1 evidence of completion, eg a completion certificate from the training provider; and

- 6.2 a completed short evaluation form summarising what the applicant learned and the impact the grant had on enabling the training to take place.

Background information about the grant scheme

The Nature and Land Use team provide funding to a range of projects aligned to the priorities laid out in the Future Nature Route Map.

The Route Map provides a structured delivery plan to deliver a long-term vision:

A resilient nature-rich National Park, where abundant wildlife and a healthy natural environment provide a wealth of benefits through an extensive, well-connected living network.

This grant will support the delivery of this vision by contributing to Pathway 1: Action for Nature and specifically to address Herbivore Pressure, which has been identified as one of four key threats in LLTNP.

This grant will also contribute to Pathway 2: Mainstreaming Nature Friendly Processes and Practices by supporting two of the key areas; Agricultural and Forestry Grants and Subsidies, and Jobs and Skills.