



MUIRBURN CODE REVIEW
Start-Up Meeting Notes
22 January 2016

Attendance:

Victoria Quay: Susie Turpie, Simon Thorp
Phone: Andrew Coupar

1 Programme

- 1.1 The date for the Milestone 2 payment may need to be adjusted if additional time is required to develop the first draft of the Code.
- 1.2 A launch event will not be held in September 2016.
- 1.3 As proposed, the programme will be extended to run until 31 March 2017.
- 1.4 Milestone 4 may need to be delayed, if the final workshop, which is planned for March 2017, requires additional work to produce the recommendations for the final version of the Code.
- 1.5 An updated version of the Project Plan is forwarded with these notes.

2 Project Management

- 2.1 The Steering Group will be established and will meet face-to-face / by conference call to develop the project.
- 2.2 Membership of the Steering Group can be developed if suitable candidates / volunteers come forward. However, the aim will be to avoid making it too large and cumbersome.
- 2.3 The Muirburn Group will provide the link to a wider audience. No meetings are planned, but this will be reconsidered if there is interest / demand. The updated version of the Project Plan includes an expanded list of Muirburn Group members. This will develop through the project.
- 2.4 Susie and Andrew will seek **additional representation from crofters**, and Susie will **discuss the review within the Rural Affairs department** and provide their input into the review process.
- 2.5 In event of any blockages to progress, the **escalation route** will be to SG / SNH for a discussion at first and a decision if necessary. An early indication of developing problems will be provided.

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Director: Simon Thorp

Administrator: Anne Stoddart

3 Input to the Project

- 3.1 Practitioner input to the review is of fundamental importance, and every effort will be made to achieve engagement from practitioners through the life of the project.
- 3.2 Expertise available through SNH and members of the Steering Group will be called on at all stages to develop a revised Code that has the widest possible acceptance.
- 3.3 The **Rural Affairs department** will be asked to provide input about the interaction of the Code with **GAEC & SRDP**.

4 Contents of the Revised Code

- 4.1 The Code will be a stand-alone document.
- 4.2 Its main function will be to act as a **practitioners guide** and it will provide signposts to other information.
- 4.3 It will contain 'headline' guidance relating to **burning on deep peat** and on **grassland**. It may be more effective to classify the different types of burning by function rather than habitat; this might be a way to cover burning in crofting counties and agricultural purposes.
- 4.4 **Additional detailed guidance** will be prepared to cover: **peatland, grassland, crofting and agriculture**. This will enhance the level of information available in the Code, but it will be available separately. The interaction of muirburn and grouse moor management will also be covered.

5 Link to Research

- 5.1 It will be important that the contents of the Code are **supported by evidence and/or research**.
- 5.2 References to research will not be included in the revised Code, but a separate stream of work will be carried out to update the review carried out by JHI for the WANE review. **Further discussion will take place between Susie, MRPs and the project**.

6 Publication

- 6.1 There is no budget for printing, and it is assumed that if any printing is required, the Scottish Government will fund this separately. The format of a printed version of the revised Code will need to be agreed.
- 6.2 The aim of the review project will be to provide information that can be published on a website.