

# The Common Ground Forum

## Terms of Reference

Version: 10/11/23

**This document:** *This Terms of Reference has been put together to:*

- ensure that individuals that have joined the Common Ground Forum are clear on the purpose of the forum and the accord, and the expectations of their role in being part of the Forum.
- ensure that organisations/businesses/groups that have signed up to the Our Common Ground Accord are clear on the expectations that come with their sign up.

If you have any questions about this document, please contact [info@thecommongroundforum.scot](mailto:info@thecommongroundforum.scot)

### DEFINITIONS

**The Common Ground Forum** is a group of individuals who have a connection to Scotland's upland deer management sector and are committed to working in the spirit of the Our Common Ground accord. Together they are looking at how a more collaborative approach to deer management, based on mutual respect and consensus building, can contribute to a vision of a greener, healthier and economically vibrant future.

The **Our Common Ground Accord** is a set of principles that sets a standard for respectful behaviour across Scotland's upland deer management sector. Organisations, businesses and groups that are involved in upland deer management in Scotland who have signed up to the accord are committed to work in its spirit.

### SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

- [The Founding Document](#) - sets out the Forum's **Vision, Aim and Objectives**
- [Our Common Ground Accord](#) – including the list of current signatories
- CGF [Privacy policy](#)

### PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

#### Members of the Common Ground Forum:

- have a connection with the upland deer management sector in Scotland;
- are committed to work in the spirit of the Our Common Ground Accord;
- agree that their email address can be used by CGF Project Manager/Steering Group to send them updates on the work of the Forum;
- positively promote the Forum and its aims within their own organisations and networks;
- are encouraged to contribute to discussions and the development of statements and documents being prepared for the Forum;
- are encouraged to contribute to, or become involved with activities related to the Forum's [Framework for Delivery](#);
- can access the Forum's 'public' files on [the shared Google Drive](#);

### **Signatories to the Our Common Ground Accord:**

- have a connection with the upland deer management sector in Scotland;
- have a representative on the Common Ground Forum;
- promote the Accord to their staff/members to encourage them to work within the spirit of the Accord;
- inform their organisation's staff, volunteers, supporters etc. about the Forum and relevant activities as relevant;
- are listed on the Common Ground Forum website.

### **FORUM GOVERNANCE**

The work of the Common Ground Forum is guided by a Steering Group consisting of a number of individuals who have a good understanding of upland deer management in Scotland in the current context; a high stake in the outcomes; and a willingness to find and implement solutions. The Chair of the Steering Groups plays a neutral role to facilitate discussions. Together, the role members play is to ensure that the work of the CGF is effective, rather than to represent any particular side of the debate.

The Steering Group ultimately makes the decision on the direction of the work of the Forum, in consultation with Forum members. The Steering Group takes responsibility to ensure the "A" and "B" activities in the Framework for Delivery are carried out, but others in the Forum are welcome to lead the "C" activities, or propose others to be delivered under the umbrella of the CGF.

[The ToR for the CGF Steering Group is here](#)

### **CFG Project Manager**

The project manager supports the work of the Forum. The current role of the project manager is to progress a phase of early development of the Common Ground Forum, driving forward work that has been prioritised for immediate delivery, and developing a fully-costed funding proposal for a longer term plan of work.

[The current role description for the CGF Project Manager is here](#)

### **PROCESS FOR JOINING THE FORUM**

Individuals can join the Forum once they have confirmed that:

- they have a connection with the upland deer management sector in Scotland;
- they agree to work in the spirit of Our Common Ground Accord;
- they have read, and agree to, this ToR.

### **PROCESS FOR SIGNING UP TO THE ACCORD**

Organisations, businesses and groups can become signatories to Our Common Ground Accord by:

- committing to working within the spirit of the Accord.
- confirming they have read, and agree to, this ToR.

### **MORE INFORMATION**

[www.thecommongroundforum.scot](http://www.thecommongroundforum.scot)