

## General Licences



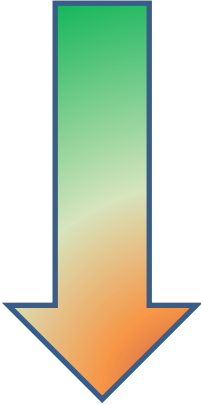
# GL 03/2020: To kill or take certain birds for the preservation of public health, public safety and preventing the spread of disease

General Licences allow authorised people to carry out activities that would otherwise be illegal under the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). They cover situations where we are satisfied that there is no other satisfactory solution in respect of the species to which they relate and the circumstances in which the licensed action may be taken.

### Terms and conditions

If you operate under General Licence 03/2020 you must meet the following terms and conditions otherwise your actions may constitute an offence which could lead to prosecution.

<p><b>What can this General Licence be used for?</b></p>	<p>This Licence can be used for the following activities for the purpose of preserving public health, public safety and preventing the spread of disease;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• to kill or take certain wild birds listed below</li> <li>• to attempt to kill those birds, where the attempt results in injury to the bird concerned</li> <li>• to take, damage or destroy the nests or eggs of those birds</li> </ul>
<p><b>Who is authorised to use this General Licence?</b></p>	<p>An authorised person may be the owner or occupier of the land on which the action will be carried out, or any person nominated by the owner or occupier of that land.</p>
<p><b>When and where is this General Licence valid?</b></p>	<p>Across Scotland from 1 April to 31 December 2020 unless where previously revoked, or on certain designated sites where permission has not been granted. Please see Annexes 2 &amp; 3 for further details.</p>
<p><b>What restrictions apply to the use of this General Licence?</b></p>	<p>NatureScot reserves the right to exclude the use of this General Licence by certain persons and/or on certain areas of land where there is evidence to suggest that a wild bird or birds has / have been killed, injured and / or taken, and / or that an attempt has been made to do so other than in accordance with a licence, or where General Licences are being otherwise misused.</p>

	<p>This General Licence cannot be used by those convicted of a wildlife crime on or after 1 January 2015 unless, in respect of that offence, they are a rehabilitated person (for the purposes of the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 and that conviction is spent), or a court discharged them absolutely.</p> <p><b>Any person not able to use this General Licence can still apply to NatureScot for an individual <a href="#">licence</a>.</b></p>	
<p><b>What other information must authorised persons know before considering use of this General Licence?</b></p>	<p>Authorised persons must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• understand this General Licence and comply with its terms and conditions</li> <li>• only use it for preserving public health, public safety and preventing the spread of disease</li> </ul>	
<p><b>What species may be taken or killed under this General Licence?</b></p>	<p><b>Feral pigeon</b> <b><a href="#">Canada goose</a></b></p>	<p><i>Columba livia</i> <i>Branta canadensis</i></p>
<p><b>What methods of taking or killing are permitted under this General Licence?</b></p>	<p><b>Method</b></p>	<p><b>Potential Welfare Impact</b></p>
	<p>Pricking of eggs Oiling of eggs Destruction of eggs and nests By hand Targeted falconry Shooting with any firearm, including semi-automatic firearms, shotguns or air guns</p>	<p>LOWER</p>  <p>HIGHER</p>
<p><b>What general animal welfare requirements are there when using this General Licence?</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Authorised persons should consider the least impactful permitted method of taking or killing</li> <li>2. Any bird which this General Licence allows you to kill must be dispatched humanely.</li> </ol>	
<p><b>What are the registration and reporting requirements for operators using this General Licence?</b></p>	<p>There are no registration or reporting requirements under this Licence.</p>	
<p><b>What decoy birds can be used under this Licence?</b></p>	<p>None</p>	

<p><b>General Notes</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. This General Licence does not exempt any operator from complying with relevant firearms and public safety legislation.</li> <li>2. This General Licence does not provide the authorised person with consent on designated sites where consent is not already held.</li> <li>3. Authorised persons should not use the General Licence within 500m of a designated site listed in Annex 2 &amp; 3 where you cannot meet the site's "Designated Sites-Standing Conditions"</li> <li>4. Intentionally or recklessly killing, injuring or taking any wild bird of a species not authorised under General Licence is an offence. It is the responsibility of operator to ensure that any methods of control permitted under this Licence do not intentionally or recklessly kill, injure or take any non-target species. Schedule 1, 1A &amp; A1 of the Wildlife &amp; Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) provide additional protection for some species. Authorised persons should ensure they do not commit offences in relation to these provisions.</li> </ol>
-----------------------------	---

**Annex 1- Definitions**

For the purposes of this General Licence;

"humanely" means taking all reasonable precautions to ensure that any killing of birds under this Licence is carried out by a single, swift action.

"wild bird" means any bird of a species which is ordinarily resident in or is a visitor to any member State or the European territory of any member State in a wild state but does not include poultry. "Bird" includes all stages from chick to adult.

"wildlife crime" means any offence under the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981, the Conservation (Natural Habitats &c.) Regulations 1994, the Protection of Badgers Act 1992, the Protection of Wild Mammals (Scotland) Act 2002, Deer (Scotland) Act 1996, Agriculture (Scotland) Act 1948, the Animal Health & Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006, the Protection of Animals (Scotland) Act 1912 and the Wild Mammals (Protection) Act 1996 (all as amended).

"designated site" means either a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) which protects habitats and/or species listed in on Annex I and II of the Habitats Directive, or a Special Protection Areas (SPAs) which protect rare, threatened or vulnerable bird species listed in on Annex I of the Birds Directive.

"Oiling of eggs" means oiling of eggs using paraffin oil (also known as Liquid paraffin BP or light/white mineral oil).

"NatureScot" means Scottish Natural Heritage acting under its operating name NatureScot.



**Robbie Kernahan**

Director of Sustainable Growth  
For Scottish Natural Heritage acting under its  
operating name NatureScot  
1 April 2020

NatureScot  
Licensing Team  
Great Glen House  
Leachkin Road  
Inverness  
IV3 8NW

**Annex 2- Use on Designated Sites**

Authorised persons wishing to operate on the designated sites (listed below) must visit-  
<https://www.nature.scot/professional-advice/safeguarding-protected-areas-and-species/licensing/species-licensing-z-guide/birds-and-licensing/general-licences-birds>

You must understand and comply with any standing conditions for that site contained within the document- "Designated Sites- Standing Conditions" **prior** to carrying out any of the permitted methods over these sites.

**If you cannot comply with these standing conditions then contact**  
[Licensing@nature.scot](mailto:Licensing@nature.scot) or 01463 725 364.

**SPAs**

Abernethy Forest  
Anagach Woods  
Assynt Lochs  
Ballochbuie  
Cairngorms  
Caithness and Sutherland Peatlands  
Craigmore Wood  
Darnaway and Lethen Forest  
Drumochter Hills  
Forest of Clunie  
Foula  
Glen Tanar  
Hermaness, Saxa Vord and Valla Field  
Hoy  
Inverpolly, Loch Urigill and nearby Lochs  
Kinveachy Forest  
Knapdale Lochs  
Lairg and Strath Brora Lochs  
Lewis Peatlands  
Loch Lomond  
Loch Maree

Loch Shiel  
Mointeach Scadabhaigh  
Morangie Forest  
Muirkirk and North Lowther Uplands  
Novar  
Orkney Mainland Moors  
Otterswick and Graveland  
Rannoch Lochs  
Rinns of Islay  
Ronas Hill - North Roe and Tingon  
Tips of Corsemaul and Tom Mor  
West Inverness-shire Lochs  
Wester Ross Lochs

**SACs**

Strath  
Dornoch Firth and Morrich More  
Creag nan Gamhainn  
Loch of Isbister  
Ballochbuie  
Lewis Peatlands  
Glen Tanar  
Sanday  
South-East Islay Skerries  
Garron Point

**Annex 3- Designated Sites Maps**

More detailed site mapping is available at <https://sitelink.nature.scot/home>

