

Authorisation application form

It is quicker and easier to complete this form online at licensing-deer.nature.scot/deer-authorisations/

If you prefer to continue with this PDF form:

- download this document and either save it or print it (don't use your internet browser)
- complete the form and sign it
- send the form by email or post

You may include the following documents to support your application:

- map of any unregistered properties (mandatory)
- map of proposed control areas
- habitat impact assessment
- deer management plan

If you are having difficulty completing this form, contact the Licensing team.

Licensing team contact details

Postal address

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

Email

licensing@nature.scot

Telephone

01463 725 364
Monday to Friday, 10am to 4pm (except public holidays)

[Find out about call charges \(GOV.UK\).](#)

Before you begin

NatureScot has a statutory responsibility for the sustainable management of deer in Scotland.

Any control of deer must be carried out in line with the [Deer \(Scotland\) Act 1996](#), and certain activities require a specific legal authorisation.

You can use this form to apply for permission to:

- shoot female deer out of season
- shoot deer at night (from one hour after sunset until one hour before sunrise)

You must use a different form to apply to shoot female deer over one year old between 1 April and 31 August to prevent damage to agricultural land or woodland.

For further information, [read our authorisations guidance](#).

General authorisation for deer

The General Authorisation allows the owner or occupier of land to cull deer out of season to prevent damage to agricultural land or enclosed woodland.

You do not need to apply for the right to use the General Authorisation but you must ensure that all conditions are understood and followed.

Abuse of, or failure to comply with, the conditions of the general authorisation could constitute an offence.

[Find out more about the general authorisation](#).

Your details

By providing your details, you agree for NatureScot to contact you regarding this application.

Full name (as it appears on official documents)

Your role in regard to this authorisation

Email address

Telephone number

Address

Key contact details

Are you applying on behalf of someone else?

Yes

No

If 'Yes', please specify the contact's details.

Full name (as it appears on official documents)

Organisation name (if applicable)

Email address (optional)

Authorisation details

Help with authorisations

Out of Season Authorisation 5(6)

Required to shoot female deer during the day in the closed season:

- 6 February – 31 March and 1 September – 20 October (red, sika and fallow deer)
- 1 September – 20 October (roe deer)

This authorisation can be granted to prevent damage to unenclosed woodland, the natural heritage or in the interests of public safety.

Night Shooting Authorisation 18(2)

Required to shoot deer between one hour after sunset and one hour before sunrise regardless of the time of year or target species.

You must use a different form to apply to shoot female deer over one year old between 1 April and 31 August.

Why is an authorisation required?

Select all that apply.

Out of season

To prevent damage to unenclosed woodland

To prevent damage to the natural heritage

In the interests of public safety

Night shooting

To prevent damage to agricultural land

To prevent damage to woodland

In the interests of public safety

Proposed controller(s)

You must add at least one controller to this application.

Individuals listed in this application must be [registered as fit and competent by NatureScot](#).

Enter the controller's full name and at least one of the other three optional fields.

Controller 1

Full name (as it appears on official documents)

Fit and competent number (optional)

Postcode (optional)

Email address (optional)

Has this controller been convicted of a wildlife crime in the last five years (to the best of your knowledge)?

Yes

No

Controller 2

Full name (as it appears on official documents)

Fit and competent number (optional)

Postcode (optional)

Email address (optional)

Has this controller been convicted of a wildlife crime in the last five years (to the best of your knowledge)?

Yes

No

Controller 3

Full name (as it appears on official documents)

Fit and competent number (optional)

Postcode (optional)

Email address (optional)

Has this controller been convicted of a wildlife crime in the last five years (to the best of your knowledge)?

Yes

No

Controller 4

Full name (as it appears on official documents)

Fit and competent number (optional)

Postcode (optional)

Email address (optional)

Has this controller been convicted of a wildlife crime in the last five years (to the best of your knowledge)?

Yes

No

Controller 5

Full name (as it appears on official documents)

Fit and competent number (optional)

Postcode (optional)

Email address (optional)

Has this controller been convicted of a wildlife crime in the last five years (to the best of your knowledge)?

Yes

No

Controller 6

Full name (as it appears on official documents)

Fit and competent number (optional)

Postcode (optional)

Email address (optional)

Has this controller been convicted of a wildlife crime in the last five years (to the best of your knowledge)?

Yes

No

Property details

You must include a map for any property which is not yet registered with NatureScot.

Property 1

Property name

NatureScot property code (optional)

OS grid prefix (for example: HP or NU)

National Grid Reference (a six-digit grid reference at the centre of the property)

Property 2

Property name

NatureScot property code (optional)

OS grid prefix (for example: HP or NU)

National Grid Reference (a six-digit grid reference at the centre of the property)

Property 3

Property name

NatureScot property code (optional)

OS grid prefix (for example: HP or NU)

National Grid Reference (a six-digit grid reference at the centre of the property)

Property 4

Property name

NatureScot property code (optional)

OS grid prefix (for example: HP or NU)

National Grid Reference (a six-digit grid reference at the centre of the property)

Property 5

Property name

NatureScot property code (optional)

OS grid prefix (for example: HP or NU)

National Grid Reference (a six-digit grid reference at the centre of the property)

Property 6

Property name

NatureScot property code (optional)

OS grid prefix (for example: HP or NU)

National Grid Reference (a six-digit grid reference at the centre of the property)

Control area details

Control area 1

Control area name

OS grid prefix (for example: HP or NU)

National Grid Reference (a six-digit grid reference within the control area)

Control area 2

Control area name

OS grid prefix (for example: HP or NU)

National Grid Reference (a six-digit grid reference within the control area)

Control area 3

Control area name

OS grid prefix (for example: HP or NU)

National Grid Reference (a six-digit grid reference within the control area)

Control area 4

Control area name

OS grid prefix (for example: HP or NU)

National Grid Reference (a six-digit grid reference within the control area)

Control area 5

Control area name

Grid prefix (for example: HP or NU)

National Grid Reference (a six-digit grid reference within the control area)

Control area 6

Control area name

OS grid prefix (for example: HP or NU)

National Grid Reference (a six-digit grid reference within the control area)

Authorisation dates and species

Applications are assessed on an annual basis. Most authorisations will run to 31st March, unless otherwise stated. Submit any previous cull returns before applying for an authorisation to avoid processing delays.

What dates do you require an authorisation for?

Date from (dd/mm/yyyy)

Date to (dd/mm/yyyy)

Which species do you intend to shoot?

Red

Roe

Sika

Fallow

Reasons for applying

What are your objectives for the proposed control site(s)?

Let us know what objectives this licence will allow you to meet that can't be achieved through other reasonable means.

What is your definition of damage?

Consider this in relation to your objectives for the site(s).

What evidence is there to confirm that deer are responsible for the damage?

Evidence can include effort that has taken place in season to control deer, details of a deer management plan or monitoring data.

What methods of damage prevention have you tried to date?

Explain which preventative steps you have taken to date (for example scaring or in-season control) and why this has not been sufficient to limit damage without applying for a specific licence.

How many deer have been shot to prevent damage over the last 12 months?

If you're unsure, provide an estimate to the best of your knowledge.

How will you know if control measures have been successful?

Describe how you will continue to evaluate the reduction of damage. Consider this in relation to your objectives.

What discussions have you had with others to try to address the damage?

You may wish to speak to people who manage deer on this land, neighbouring landowners and managers or the local deer management group.

What evidence do you have that deer are posing a threat to public safety? (Optional)

You must answer this question if you have selected 'In the interests of public safety' in answer to the question 'Why is an authorisation required?'

How will culling under the authorisation reduce the risk to public safety? (Optional)

You must answer this question if you have selected 'In the interests of public safety' in answer to the question 'Why is an authorisation required?'

Declaration

I confirm that:

- I am the owner/occupier of the land or have permission to apply on their behalf
- the taking or killing of deer is necessary to prevent damage or in the interests of public safety
- the killing of deer is necessary to prevent damage to crops, pasture, human or animal foodstuffs, or to woodlands
- the information provided is correct and up to date
- NatureScot can contact me in relation to this application
- others listed in this application gave consent to be included
- I agree with the privacy policy of this service at licensing-deer.nature.scot/deer-authorisations/privacy
- this declaration is equivalent to an electronic signature

Yes, I confirm

Signature

Send this form by email or post. We aim to assess your application within 10 working days of receipt.