

Licence application form – to kill mountain hares

**The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)**

The Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994 (as amended)

If you need assistance filling in this form please contact the NatureScot Licensing Team:

Email: [licensing@nature.scot](mailto:licensing@nature.scot) Telephone: 01463 725364

Please answer all relevant questions fully and do not defer to other attached documents.

This application form may be used to apply for a licence to kill mountain hares for the following purposes:

1. Preventing serious damage to growing timber (for mountain hare management to protect Forestry Grant Scheme (FGS) areas, or trees which are grown for commercial benefit e.g. tree nursery).
2. **Preventing serious damage to agriculture – crops, vegetables, fruit** (applications must be limited to specific fields where vulnerable crops/vegetables are growing. *Note: it is unlikely that pasture will be eligible unless it is currently being re-seeded*).
3. Conservation of wild birds, wild animals or wild plants (for conservation of wild birds, animals or plants & protection of vulnerable species outside Protected Areas, or forthe translocation of mountain hares.
4. **Conserving an area of natural habitat** (For moorland conservation. For conserving any other Protected Area’s habitat type. For conserving arctic-alpine natural habitat).
5. **Conserving an area of natural habitat** (For conserving young native trees; including areas of natural regeneration which are unfenced or **not** part of a Forestry Grant Scheme (FGS); areas which are providing nature-based solutions to offset climate change).
6. **Preventing the spread of disease** (For managing mountain hares to prevent the spread of tick borne diseases. *Note: NatureScot will review and assess any licence application on its merits but having reviewed the current body of knowledge, NatureScot believes that the evidence base on the role of mountain hare to prevent the spread of tick borne diseases is not sufficiently robust to allow licensing for the purpose*).
7. **Any other social, economic or environmental purpose** (For mountain hare management that gives rise to/contributes towards the achievement of a significant social, economic, or environmental benefit).

Who should use this application form

* All persons seeking a licence, whether applying for the first time or re-applying for a licence that has expired.

All new applications are referred to NatureScot Wildlife Management Officers for advice, and may require a site visit. If so a NatureScot Wildlife Management Officer will contact you to arrange this.

Submission of licence returns

If you have previously held a licence and wish to apply for a new one, you must submit a licence return for your expired licence before we can process your new application.

Amendments to existing licences

If you wish to amend a current licence please email [NatureScot Licensing Team](mailto:licensing@nature.scot?subject=Hare%20licence%20XXXXX%20-%20amendment%20request) citing the licence reference number, the details you wish to change, and the reasons for this change. If your amendment request involves significant changes we may seek advice from NatureScot Wildlife Management Officers and / or advise that you need to fill in a new application form

Section A: Licence holder details

Please provide the name and address of the licence holder, this person will be legally responsible for ensuring that all licence conditions are met and for submitting a return to NatureScot Licensing at the end of the licence period.

| **Contact details required** | **Provide required information below** |
| --- | --- |
| **Title** |  |
| **First name** |  |
| **Surname** |  |
| **Email address** |  |
| **Address** |  |
| **Postcode** |  |
| **Contact telephone number(s)** |  |
| **Organisation and position** |  |
| **Type of address** | Home  Work |
| **Applicant details** | Land owner  Land manager  Land Agent / Factor  Tenant |

**Section B: Licence details**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Licence details required** | **Provide required information below** |
| **Site name (where impact is occurring)**  (this is how your application will be referred to in all future correspondence) |  |
| **Address** (please include the full postal address of the farm/location if different from Section A) |  |
| **Farm CPH number if relevant** |  |
| **Six figure grid reference**  *(e.g. NX100200)* |  |
| **Proposed start date** | Click here to enter a date. |
| **Proposed end date** | Click here to enter a date. |
| **Date you require your licence**  (i.e. date when you need confirmation that a licence will be issued to allow preparation for the works) | Click here to enter a date. |
| **Is the works area covered by a nature conservation designation & if so, what is it called?** *(e.g. give name of affected Site of Special Scientific Interest, Special Protection Area, Special Area of Conservation etc.) –* [*see our website for site locations and information*](http://gateway.snh.gov.uk/sitelink/index.jsp)*)* |  |

**Section C: Activities to be licensed**

Please select below which purpose you require this licence for.

| Licensable purposes | **Tick box** |
| --- | --- |
| 1. Preventing serious damage to growing timber (for mountain hare management to protect Forestry Grant Scheme (FGS) areas, or trees which are grown for commercial benefit e.g. tree nursery). |  |
| 1. **Preventing serious damage to agriculture – crops, vegetables, fruit** (applications must be limited to specific fields where vulnerable crops/vegetables are growing. (Note: it is unlikely that pasture will be eligible unless it is currently being re-seeded). |  |
| 1. **Conservation of wild birds, wild animals or wild plants** (**f**or conservation of wild birds, animals or plants & protection of vulnerable species outside Protected Area**s**, or **for**the translocation of mountain hares. For translocations, applications must provide a completed [Scottish Code for Conservation Translocations](https://www.nature.scot/professional-advice/protected-areas-and-species/reintroducing-native-species/scottish-code-conservation-translocations) proforma. |  |
| 1. **Conserving an area of natural habitat** (For moorland conservation. For conserving any other Protected Area’s habitat type. For conserving arctic-alpine natural habitat). |  |
| 1. **Conserving an area of natural habitat** (For conserving young native trees (including areas of natural regeneration which are unfenced or **not** part of a Forestry Grant Scheme (FGS); areas which are providing nature-based solutions to offset climate change). |  |
| 1. **Preventing the spread of disease** (For managing mountain hares to prevent the spread of tick borne diseases. *Note: NatureScot will review and assess any licence application on its merits but having reviewed the current body of knowledge, NatureScot believes that the evidence base on the role of mountain hare to prevent the spread of tick borne diseases is not sufficiently robust to allow licensing for the purpose*). |  |
| 1. **Any other social, economic or environmental purpose** (For mountain hare management that gives rise to or contributes towards the achievement of a significant social, economic or environmental benefit). |  |

*If you are applying for purposes not listed above e.g. science, research and photography, please contact the NatureScot Licensing Team.*

**Supplementary Documents**

| **Licence Purpose**  (See Above Table) | **Supplementary Documents Required** |
| --- | --- |
| **1, 2, 5** | A location map showing, the landholding and the fields or woodland areas where mountain hare damage is occurring. Please show any fencing (and type of fencing), stone dykes, and supplementary deer feeding sites.The scale of the map must be at least 1:25,000.  A map clearly detailing the area in which hare control is proposed. The scale of the map must be at least 1:25,000. |
| **1, 2** | Evidence of damage occurring e.g. photos |
| **1, 5** | * A plan of how herbivore impacts will be assessed e.g. as required through a Long Term Forest Plan. |
| **6** | * A map clearly detailing the area in which hare control is proposed. The scale of the map must be at least 1:25,000. |
| **3, 4, 7** | * Herbivore Management Plan. |

**Section D: Licence Purpose**

**Fill in the boxes below if you are applying for:**

* **Purpose 1 & 2** - preventing serious damage to growing timber or agriculture – crops, vegetables, fruit
* **Purpose 3** -conservation of wild birds, wild animals or wild plants;
* **Purpose 4 & 5** - conserving an area of natural habitat*.*

|  |
| --- |
| **Please provide an outline of the proposed activity which requires control of mountain hares** e.g. planting of a new tree nursery, protecting an area of native naturally regenerating woodland, protecting a vulnerable crop. |
|  |
| **Describe the damage caused and/or potential damage by mountain hares and describe the evidence that this damage is or will be caused by mountain hares** |
|  |
| **Provide details of what measures you have taken to prevent damage by mountain hares** (include details of all scaring, fencing or other preventative methods used and their effectiveness). |
|  |
| **Detail the number of mountain hares to be killed and how this number has been determined.** |
|  |

**Fill in the table below if you are applying for:**

* **Purpose 1 & 2** – preventing serious damage to growing timber or agriculture – crops, vegetables, fruit

Provide details below of where damage is occurring, trees / crops being damaged and numbers of mountain hares causing damage.

| **Crop/plantation type** | **Age of Trees** (if applicable) | **Field/area identifier** (if known) | **Approx area in hectares** | **Approx number of mountain hare causing damage** | **Number to be taken/killed** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |

**Fill in the boxes below if you are applying for:**

* **Purpose 6** – preventing the spread of disease

|  |
| --- |
| **What disease is being spread or will be spread if mountain hare are not controlled?**  Please provide evidence to support this. |
|  |
| **Provide details of what measures you have taken to prevent impact by mountain hares** (include details of scaring or preventative methods used and their effectiveness). |
|  |
| **Detail the number of mountain hares to be killed and how this number has been determined.** |
|  |

**Fill in the boxes below if you are applying for:**

* **Purpose 7** – any other social, economic or environmental purpose

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **What type of benefit(s) will be realised by shooting mountain hare**  tick any relevant box(es) | **Economic**  **Social**  **Environmental** |
| **Please provide an outline of the proposed activity and the economic, social or environmental benefit(s) which will be realised by the proposed activity.** | |
|  | |
| **Who will benefit from the proposed activity (individual(s), local community, regional area, national level benefit)? Will the benefit(s) be long or short-term?** | |
|  | |
| **Provide details of what measures you have taken to prevent impact by mountain hares** (include details of scaring or preventative methods used and their effectiveness). | |
|  | |
| **Provide details of the number of mountain hares to be killed and how this number has been determined.** | |
|  | |

**Method of Killing**

Fill in the table below for **all** purposes:

| **Method of killing** | **Tick box** |
| --- | --- |
| Daytime shooting |  |
| Night shooting using illuminating or sighting devices |  |
| Falconry |  |

**Section E: Required documents checklist**

|  |
| --- |
| **Confirm by ticking the box below that all the information we require to assess your licence has been submitted with your application.**  **Supplementary information as requested in Section C** *(e.g. Location Maps clearly showing where mountain hare damage is occurring and where mountain hare control is proposed, a plan of how herbivore impacts will be assessed)*  **Evidence of any damage that is occurring (if you are applying to prevent serious damage)** *(e.g. photos).* |

**Section F: Declaration**

* I understand that it is an offence under Section 17 of The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and Regulation 46 of The Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994 (as amended) to knowingly or recklessly provide false information in order to obtain a licence, and I declare that the particulars given in this application and any accompanying documents are true and accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief, and I apply for a licence in accordance with these particulars.
* I understand that failure to comply with any conditions included on any licence granted in respect of this application may constitute an offence.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Date**: Click here to enter a date. | **Print name:**  **Electronic signature: Click here to insert an electronic signature** |

**Submitting your application form**

This application **should be submitted by email by the licence holder** as named on this licence application (in which case please print name above and a signature is not required). If this application is not submitted by the licence holder, the electronic signature of the licence holder must be inserted above, and they must be copied in to the submission email. Please email the completed application form, together with all supporting information, to:[**licensing@nature.scot**](mailto:licensing@nature.scot)

Please do not send zip files as these may be blocked by our security system and not received.

Once we have received your application, you will receive an automated email acknowledging this. Please quote the reference number given in the email if you need to contact us in relation to your application.

If you do not have access to email, you can print out and send your application and supporting information to the postal address below. Please note if you apply by post you will not receive confirmation that your application has been received.

**Licensing Section**

**NatureScot**

**Great Glen House**

**Leachkin Road**

**Inverness**

**IV3 8NW**

[How we adhere with the Data Protection Act and the Scottish Regulators' Strategic Code of Practice](https://www.nature.scot/data-protection-how-we-use-your-personal-information-accordance-data-protection-act)