

[REDACTED]

From:

Sent:

21 April 2025 11:41

To:

[REDACTED]
LICENSING

Cc:

[REDACTED] Lic No: 262600

Subject:

Foxes shot under licence 2024.docx: [REDACTED]

Attachments:

Categories:

[REDACTED]

Caution! This message was sent from outside NatureScot.

Please can we re-apply for a licence for the period 15/09/25 to 15/03/26 for the above.

From our experience of operating under licence so far it is very important that the licence runs between these dates, last winter as shown by the table below we had very limited success after the new year, this was partly due to the weather, but also because access to certain areas on the farms was limited due to the locations of in lamb ewes. We also require the whole six month period so we can space out our visits to the farm, we would visit the farm two or three times before the new year, and still have days available on the licence to visit immediately prior to or during lambing if the owner has a fox problem.

Thanks

[REDACTED]





!!!





Licence application form –

For the use of more than two dogs for the management of wild mammals above ground to prevent serious damage to livestock, woodlands or crops

Legislation: Hunting with Dogs (Scotland) Act 2023 (the 'Act')

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

Email: licensing@nature.scot

Telephone: 01463 725364

Please answer all relevant questions fully.

Who should use this application form

This form is for new applications for anyone who wishes to hunt a wild mammal using more than two dogs for the purpose of preventing serious damage to livestock, woodland or crops.

Amendments

If you wish to apply for an amendment to a current Licence please email [NatureScot Licensing Team](#) with the Licence number, the details you wish to change and the reasons for the proposed change.

Section A: Licensable Purpose and Licensable Activity:

<p>The applicant is applying for a licence for the Purpose of preventing serious damage to either: (select the appropriate category)</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Livestock <input type="checkbox"/> woodlands <input type="checkbox"/> Crops</p>
<p>The proposed Licenced Activity is for (i) searching for, stalking or flushing from cover a wild mammal, with the intention of killing it for the purpose of preventing serious damage and (ii) searching for and retrieval of a wild mammal which has been killed as a result of the proposed Licensable Activity.</p>	

Section B: Applicant

Please provide the name and address of the person applying for the licence. If a licence is granted, the Applicant will be designed as 'Licence Holder' on the licence and will be legally responsible for ensuring that all licence terms and conditions are met and for submitting a return to NatureScot at Licensing@nature.scot at the end of the Licence Term (as defined in the licence).

Title	
First name	
Surname	
Email address	
Address	
Postcode	
Type of address	
Contact telephone number(s)	
Nature of interest in farm/property (e.g. Land owner/tenant/manager)	

	Other (please state) Pest/Predator Controller
Have you or anyone who it is proposed will work under the licence being applied for been convicted of a wildlife crime or disqualified from owning or keeping dogs?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes x No

Section C: Dog Handler Details

The Dog Handler is the individual who will be in control of the dogs during the course of any Licensable Activities. They will be named on any licence and, subject to them having the prior written authorisation of the Licence Holder, may undertake the Licensable Activities on behalf of Licence Holder.

The Licence Holder shall be responsible for ensuring that any Dog Handler reads, understands and complies with the terms of any licence to follow. Any act or omission on the part of any Dog Handler which is contrary to the terms and conditions of such a licence shall entitle NatureScot to revoke that licence.

Do you intend to carry out/oversee this activity yourself?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes x No
If 'no', please provide details of the Dog Handler	
Title	
First name	
Surname	
Address	
Organisation/consultancy name (optional)	
Email address	
Contact telephone number(s)	
Has the Dog Handler or anyone who may be assisting him in relation to any Licensable Activities been convicted of	

a wildlife crime or disqualification from owning or keeping dogs?	
If a licence is granted, may we email a copy of the licence to the Dog Handler?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Do you give permission for the Dog Handler to request amendments to any licence issued pursuant to this application?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

Section D: Named Assistants

If the Licence Holder or the Dog Handler are likely to require assistance in carrying out any Licensable Activities, for example to aid in the control of the dogs, they can make use of "Named Assistants" for that purpose.

The name(s) and contact details of any individual who the Applicant wishes to be a Named Assistant on any licence following upon this application, must be provided where indicated below.

Only persons named as such on a licence will be Named Assistants. It is an offence for any person who is not the Licence Holder, the Dog Handler or a Named Assistant to carry out Licensable Activities pursuant to a licence.

The Licence Holder shall be responsible for ensuring that any Named Assistant(s) read(s), understand(s) and comply(ies) with the terms and conditions of any licence to follow. Any act or omission on the part of any Named Assistant which is contrary to the terms of such a licence shall entitle NatureScot to revoke that licence.

Named Assistants can only work under the personal, direct supervision of the Licence Holder or the Dog Handler.

Please provide the following details of any persons you wish to be Named Assistants.

Note: this does not include details of named guns. They are not required in an application but in the event of a licence being issued, they must be recorded at the time of the activity and be available for inspection by any Police Officer or official of NatureScot on demand.

Full Name	Postal Address	E mail Address	Contact number	Work Undertaking e.g. dog handler

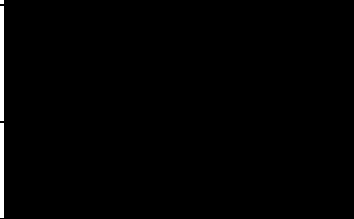

Section E: Licence details

Licence details required	Provide required information below
Site name (where you consider that serious damage is occurring or likely to occur- this is how your application will be referred to in all future correspondence)	
Address <i>(please include full postal address for the farm if different from above)</i>	
Farm CPH number if relevant	
Six figure grid reference of location of serious damage (actual or likely). (e.g. NX100200. If multiple locations please provide references for each.)	
Have you received landowner permission to undertake the Licensable Activities?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Species of wild mammal which you wish to control <i>(which is causing or likely to cause serious damage e.g. fox)</i>	Fox
Is the species of wild mammal a protected species? For more information see our website	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
What breeds or types of dogs will be used any Licensable Activities?	Foxhounds
Proposed start date(s) and end date(s) of any periods of Licensed Activity	15/09/25 to 15/03/26

<p>Requested total number of days for the activity(s) (e.g. 3 days) <i>This must be justified with reference to evidence and can be no more than 14 days</i></p>	<p>14</p>
<p>Date you require a licence (i.e. date you need confirmation that a licence will be issued to allow preparation for the activity)</p>	<p>01/09/25</p>
<p>Does any part of the proposed activity fall in and/ or adjacent to an area covered by a nature conservation designation? (e.g. Site of Special Scientific Interest, Special Protection Area, Special Area of Conservation etc. – see our website for site locations and information)</p>	<p>No</p>

Section F: Licensable Activities

The Applicant must describe all locations where they wish to undertake the Licensable Activities. **Please also enclose a location map, this should be at an appropriate scale, clearly labelled and outlining each such location, any areas of cover within or nearby such locations and the location(s) of the livestock and /or woodlands and or / crops requiring protection.** A method statement should be submitted along with the application detailing how any Licensed Activities will be managed- See [Annex I](#) at the end of the form.

<p>Name of the area of land within which the Licensed Activities will be undertaken (this should correlate with the map label)</p>	
<p>Location 1 (Six figure grid reference from centre of the area) e.g., NX100200</p>	
<p>Description of the proposed area where the Licensed Activity is proposed (e.g., conifer plantation): Conifer and broadleaf plantations, including overgrown clear-felled area</p>	
<p>Justification for why the control of the wild mammal by the use of more than two dogs in this location, at the times proposed, will prevent serious damage to livestock (this must be supported by evidence which the Applicant can attach to or enclose with their application):</p> <p>This area, due to the nature of the terrain and proportion of covert in relation to the farmed areas has a high fox population and the farm carries a large number of lambing ewes [2000]. In order to keep the fox population down a number which can survive off the natural food supply, regular flushing to guns has historically proved to be the most effective. All ewes and hogs (first time lambers) give birth outside. We have tried to flush foxes with two dogs twice already this year without success.</p> <p>Lord Bonomy was very clear in his report that two hounds would be ineffective.</p> <p>Please see attached map:  the map showing the layout of the covers to be flushed looks quite confusing, but we use natural features, roads and tracks to separate each flush, the dogs star at these points, and through the cover to push the fox out into the open.</p>	
<p>Proposed minimum number of guns</p>	<p>5</p>
<p>Justification for the number of guns (this must be supported by evidence which the Applicant can attach to or enclose with their application):</p> <p>The smaller of the areas that are covered under the licence have few egress points and to have in place more than 5 guns would be unsafe. Any areas requiring the use of more than 5 guns will be well covered by marksmen and we are able to draw on eight guns on any particular day. We are well-versed in ensuring specific areas are covered by marksmen and our local knowledge and previous experience will ensure that any larger areas will be sufficiently covered by an appropriate number of guns. Two of the guns will be mobile & for the larger covers we will have additional guns who could be mobile present.</p> <p>It is very important fact, that for the last 21 years we have successfully and safely flushed all the covers with between five and eight guns, on the very rare occasions that a traveling fox has broken out of the cover it is always because the fox has</p>	

broken back between the dogs, so there must be enough dogs to adequately push the foxes forward, any fox that has evaded the dogs has been left unmolested and unharmed. The welfare of the fox is paramount, but as is the safety of the guns who must be in sight of one another.

Proposed number of dogs (this should be the minimum number which would be effective at achieving the licensable purpose)	18
---	----

Justification for the number of dogs (this must be supported by evidence which the Applicant can attach to or enclose with their application):

Given the scale of the area to cover in a single day, and the varying degrees of cover within the licenced area, it is clear that a smaller number of dogs would not be successful in achieving the aim of successfully finding and flushing foxes in most areas. We have already attempted utilising 2 dogs in these areas, areas that we find normally hold foxes, and we have been unsuccessful on each occasion. Through our previous experience, and our knowledge of our dogs and their individual behaviours, we feel that a minimum number of 18 dogs will allow us to be effective in the areas we have detailed. We have tried to flush foxes with two dogs twice already this year without success.

This number of dogs is the minimum number, we know, that will allow us to be effective and successful and to pressurize the fox to leave to cover in the desired direction towards the guns. Fewer than this will be less effective and does not give enough presence in the cover to stop the fox doubling back on itself between the dogs.

Lord Bonomy was very clear in his report that two dogs would be ineffective.

Name of the area to be licenced (this should correlate with the map label)	
Location 2 (Six figure grid reference from centre of the area) e.g. NX100200	
Description of the proposed area where the Licensed Activity is proposed (e.g. conifer plantation):	
Justification for why the control of the wild mammal by the use of more than two dogs in this location, at the times proposed, will prevent serious damage to livestock (this must be supported by evidence which the Applicant can attach to or enclose with their application):	
Proposed minimum number of guns	
Justification for the number of guns (this must be supported by evidence which the Applicant can attach to or enclose with their application):	
Proposed number of dogs (this should be the minimum number which would be effective at achieving the licensable purpose)	
Justification for the number of dogs (this must be supported by evidence which the Applicant can attach to or enclose with their application):	

Additional locations can added using the tables provided in Annex II at the end of the application form.

Section G: Details of serious damage to livestock, woodland or crops.

Provide details of the location where the serious damage is occurring/ expected to occur, describe the severity of damage that is expected/ is occurring, and when the serious damage is likely to occur / reoccur. **Please enclose a location map of the property showing the area (e.g., specific lambing field(s)) where the damage has occurred or is expected).**

Location of where the serious damage is occurring or likely to occur (e.g. lambing field A)	Name of the Livestock or woodlands or crops at risk (e.g. new-born lambs)	Period when damage is expected to occur / reoccur (e.g. start and end date of vulnerable lambing period)	
		Start date	End date
[REDACTED]	New born lambs	18/02/26	31/04/26

Please describe the serious damage which you consider will occur if the Licensable Activities are not undertaken. The extent of the anticipate damage should be quantified (e.g. numbers of animals killed / injured, and the financial cost). Quantification should be supported by evidence.

Where the justification provided includes reference to historic damage, the extent of that damage should be described and quantified with reference to evidence, including evidence which shows that such damage did in fact occur

For both historic and anticipated damage, evidence must be provided which shows that it was / will be caused by the species of wild mammal being targeted.

Historically there has been a year-round programme of fox control. On average eight to ten lambs are either killed or show signs of attack. In some areas this is possible with a firearm, but there are large areas of dense cover and a number of footpaths including [REDACTED] [REDACTED] also a number of residences not occupied by persons involved with the farm.

This programme has been very successful at keeping fox numbers manageable. During foot and mouth when there was no access to the land it was noticed that fox numbers increased, including regular sightings around outbuildings and around livestock.

[REDACTED]

Unfortunately photographs historically have not been retained, although they will be going forward.

Section H: Alternatives

Before granting a licence we need to be satisfied that there is no other solution available to prevent serious damage to livestock, woodlands or crops.

There are a number of recognised measures which can achieve the licensable purpose without the need for Licensable Activity. Some of those are set out in the table below.

In order for NatureScot to assess whether or not there is any alternative to licensing, we require evidence as to the efforts the applicant has made to implement non-licensable measures.

For each of those known measures, applicants will require to confirm whether or not they have been attempted.

Where any known measures have not been attempted, the Applicant should say why and should provide evidence which shows why, in the Applicant's view, those measures would not prevent serious damage from occurring.

Where those known (and any other) measures have been attempted, the Applicant should provide evidence which shows that those attempts were implemented (including details of the method of implementation, locations, dates of implementation and evidence of outcomes) and evidence which they consider demonstrates that such measures will not prevent serious damage from occurring.

Stating that there is "dense cover" and there is "no alternative" is not appropriate (*e.g. have you attempted control by firearms, moving the sheep to lower risk areas, bringing sheep into lambing sheds etc.*)

Measure	Explanation and evidence
----------------	---------------------------------

Use of firearms:

please provide details of effort (including dates, times of day, location(s) of attempts, outcomes of those attempts, and why you consider that this has not been and cannot be an effective solution in this case). If this has not been attempted, please explain why not and, with reference to evidence, why you consider that it could not be an effective solution.

Please see attached map [REDACTED].

Sheep Farm known to have at least 8 to 10 resident fox families and at least 12 transient foxes in the area, and this number is expected to increase during lambing.

Shooting with a rifle has been tried over the years, but [REDACTED] [REDACTED] has and encourages public access and enjoyment of the countryside, including having the well-used and popular [REDACTED] running through it. Rifle shooting of predators is very difficult, in some areas, in other areas the basic rules of rifle shooting are that one should never shoot within the cover or shoot from the outside into the cover, this means that the only option is to shoot foxes once they have left the cover in the open, this requires finding a position where there is a clear view and a “backstop” to safely stop any bullets travel. During daylight hours very few foxes are seen. Night time shooting is not allowed because of the proximity of residences not occupied by people with a connection to the estate. The evidence and results show that flushing a fox to marksmen with shotguns in daylight is the most humane, safest and most successful method of control. Two hounds have been tried numerous times and failed to move a fox out of cover.

Above all safety for all those enjoying the area is paramount.

Firearms in public places

Under Section 19 of the Firearms Act 1968 and Article 61 (1) of the Firearms (Northern Ireland) Order 2004, a person commits an offence if, without lawful authority or reasonable excuse (the proof whereof lies with him), he has with him in a public place a loaded shotgun, an air weapon (whether loaded or not) or any other firearm (whether loaded or not) together with ammunition suitable for use in that firearm, or an imitation firearm.

‘Public place’ is defined as including any highway and any other premises or place to which at the time in question the public has access. It includes public rights of way.

	<p>Under Section 20 of the Firearms Act 1968 and Article 62 (2) of the Firearms (Northern Ireland) Order 2004, a person who enters or is on any land, or enters any building (or part thereof) as a trespasser while he has a firearm or imitation firearm with him, shall be guilty of an offence unless he shows that he had lawful authority or reasonable excuse for doing so. In the 1968 Act 'land' includes land covered with water.</p> <p>The Highways Act 1980 Section 161 in England and Wales, makes it an offence to discharge, without lawful authority or excuse, any firearm within 50 feet of the centre of the highway (which consists of or comprises a carriageway) if in consequence of which a user of the highway is injured, interrupted or endangered.</p>
<p>Using up to 2 dogs (can the searching for, stalking or flushing from cover be achieved by using up to two dogs)</p>	<p>We have tried to flush foxes with two dogs twice on this property without success. Two dogs do not fill a cover sufficiently enough to press a fox from a cover, Lord Bonomy was very clear in his report that two hounds would be ineffective.</p>
<p>Land or stock management (can the livestock be moved to a less vulnerable location? Can the livestock be housed in lambing sheds at lambing? Have you tried or considered enhanced shepherding?)</p>	<p>Limited resources and staffing numbers to enable farm to employ alternatives.</p> <p>Some of the ewes are lambed indoors, but due to the limited shed space available as soon as a ewe has lambed it and its lambs are turned out into one of the fields and the next batch brought in, the ewes and their lambs are spread out across all the fields to prevent miss mothering. The lambs at this stage are under 12 hours old and very vulnerable to predation.</p> <p>All ewes and hogs (first time lambers) give birth outside.</p>

Use of physical barriers (fencing type and location e.g. map)	Hilly land and not easy to access by vehicle. Fencing - Given to the area of land considered, it would be prohibitively expensive to use electric and/or fox-proof fencing in the lambing fields. Foxes are well adept at dealing with fences and so this does not ensure the safety of any livestock.
Snaring: (if used, please provide snaring log)	This is not now an option
Other alternative solutions attempted/considered	Research and experience of live-catch trapping shows that it is virtually impossible with truly wild foxes and yields little to no benefit. Diversionary feeding (leaving deer evisceration out for foxes and raptors) seems only to attract foxes that may not normally have visited. Asked resident stalkers to trial this and found it to be ineffective (or too much of a draw) and ended up seeing foxes return for a feed. Seemed to draw foxes from areas where livestock were kept.

Section I: Required documents checklist

Confirm by ticking the box below that all the information we require to assess your application has been submitted. If information is omitted, your application may be refused as a result. We may also request further information from you if we consider that it is required in order to properly assess your application.

X Location map(s) clearly showing land on which the Licensable Activities are to take place, the proposed locations of that activity (this should be outlined), any areas of cover on or adjacent to those areas, the locations where you consider that serious damage will occur if the Licensable Activities are not undertaken.

X Evidence that damage will occur/ is occurring (e.g. photos of historic damage if relied upon)

x Any other evidence in support of the application (e.g in support of number of guns).

X Annex I Method statement (of activity)

Annex II –Additional locations of activity if applicable

Herbivore management plan (*for Preventing serious damage to woodlands or crops only*)

Section J: Declaration

- I understand that it is an offence under The Hunting with Dogs (Scotland) Act 2023 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.

Applicant

Date: 21/04/2025	Print name	[Redacted]
	Electronic signature:	[Redacted]

Dog Handler

Date: 21/04/2025	Print name:	[Redacted]
	Electronic signature:	[Redacted]

Submitting your application form

This application **should be submitted by email from the Applicant** as named on this licence application. Please email the completed application form, together with all supporting information, to: 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.

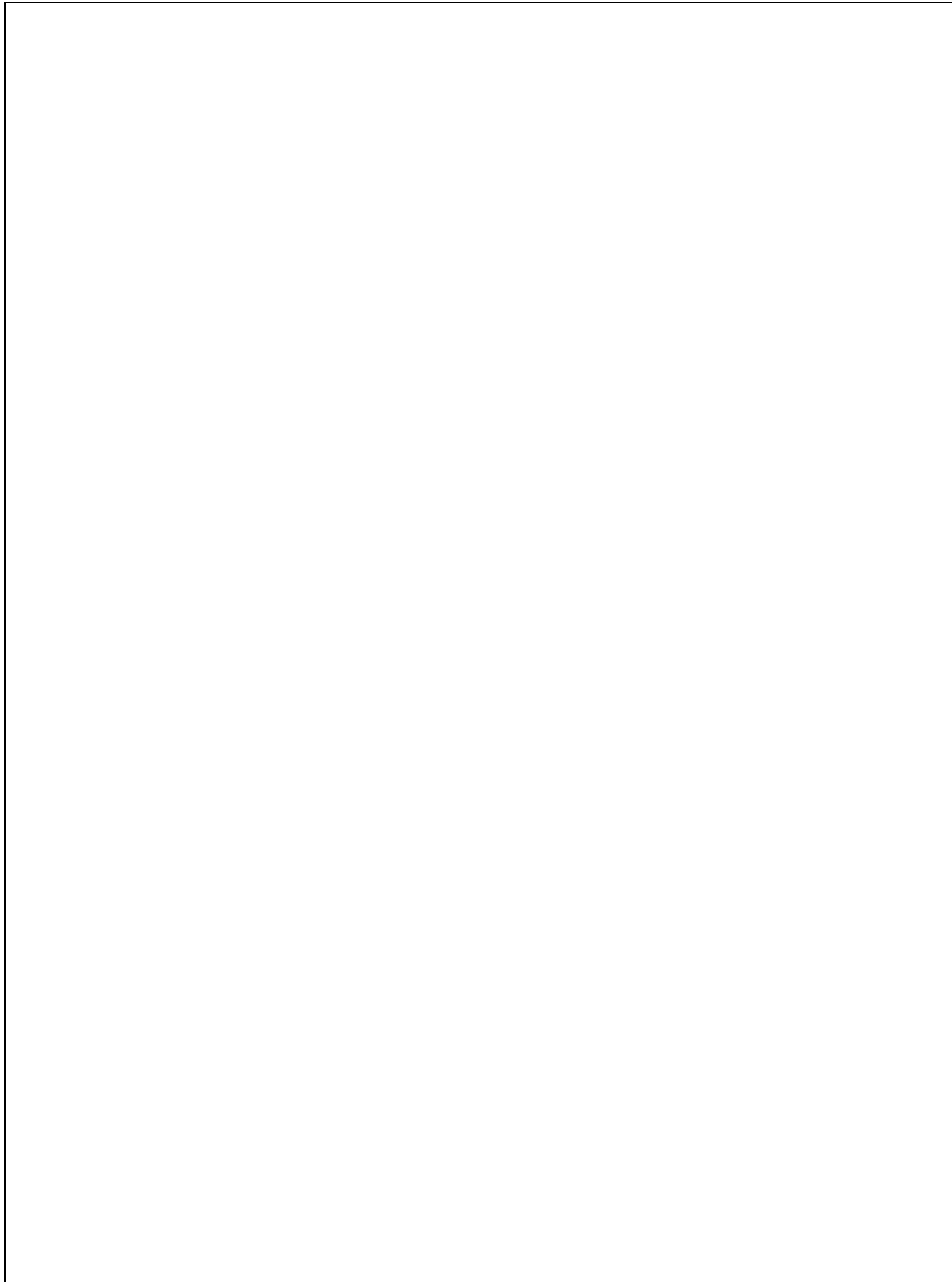
If you do not have access to email, you can print out and send your application and supporting information to the postal address below. Please note if you apply by post you will not receive confirmation that your application has been received.

**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](#)

Annex I- Method Statement

This should provide detail of how the activity will be undertaken with reference to the licensable elements (e.g. **stalking and/or searching for and / or flushing from cover**) e.g. how will the Licensable Activity be conducted effectively, will the area be divided into management areas, and how the guns and dogs will be deployed. If there are multiple areas of proposed Licensable Activity, please provide a statement for each area.



Annex II – Supplementary areas of proposed activity

<p>Name of the area of land within which the Licensed Activities will be undertaken (this should correlate with the map label)</p>	
---	--

Location 3 (Six figure grid reference from centre of the area) e.g. NX100200	
Description of the proposed area where the Licensed Activity is proposed (e.g. conifer plantation):	
Justification for why the control of the wild mammal by the use of more than two dogs in this location, at the times proposed, will prevent serious damage to livestock (this must be supported by evidence which the Applicant can attach to or enclose with their application):	
Proposed minimum number of guns	
Justification for the number of guns (this must be supported by evidence which the Applicant can attach to or enclose with their application):	
Proposed number of dogs (this should be the minimum number which would be effective at achieving the licensable purpose)	
Justification for the number of dogs (this must be supported by evidence which the Applicant can attach to or enclose with their application):	

Name of the area of land within which the Licensed Activities will be undertaken (this should correlate with the map label)	
Location 4 (Six figure grid reference from centre of the area) e.g. NX100200	

Description of the area where the activity is proposed (e.g. conifer plantation):

Justification for why the control of the wild mammal by the use of more than two dogs in this location, at the times proposed, will prevent serious damage to livestock (this must be supported by evidence which the Applicant can attach to or enclose with their application):

Proposed minimum number of guns

Justification for the number of guns (this must be supported by evidence which the Applicant can attach to or enclose with their application):

Proposed number of dogs (this should be the minimum number which would be effective at achieving the licensable purpose)

Justification for the number of dogs (this must be supported by evidence which the Applicant can attach to or enclose with their application):

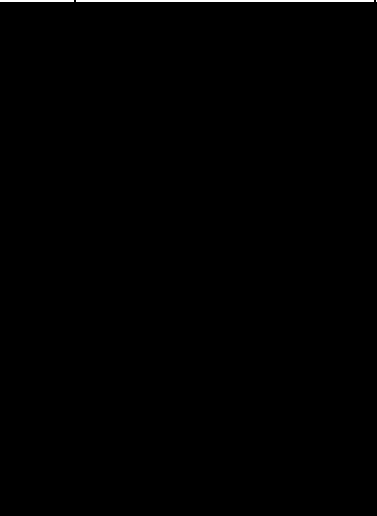
Name of the area of land within which the Licensed Activities will be undertaken

(this should correlate with the map label)

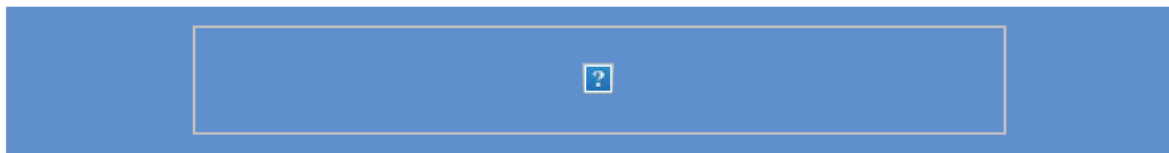
Location 5 (Six figure grid reference from centre of the area) e.g. NX100200	
Description of the proposed area where the Licensed Activity is proposed (e.g. conifer plantation):	
Justification for why the control of the wild mammal by the use of more than two dogs in this location, at the times proposed, will prevent serious damage to livestock (Description of the proposed area where the Licensed Activity is proposed (e.g. conifer plantation):	
Proposed minimum number of guns	
Justification for the number of guns (this must be supported by evidence which the Applicant can attach to or enclose with their application):	
Proposed maximum number of dogs	
Justification for the number of dogs (this must be supported by evidence which the Applicant can attach to or enclose with their application):	



Foxes shot under licence 2024/2025

Farm	Licence No	Date	Result
	269384	01/03/25	0
	270968	22/02/25	0
	282471	08/02/25	0
	262600	01/02/25	1 flushed, not shot
	275636	18/01/25	0
	269402	04/01/25	1
	270818	28/12/24	1
	269129	26/12/24	1
	272029	21/12/24	2
	275636	14/12/24	2
	276592	11/12/24	1

From: [LICENSING](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED] [-Wilson](#)
Subject: [REDACTED] - Hunting With Dogs - Preventing Serious Damage - Licence 292612 - Licence Issued - 29 May 2025
Date: 29 May 2025 16:59:00
Attachments: [Annex III - HWD Licence 292612 - \[REDACTED\] - Are Over Which Licence Applies.jpeg](#)
[\[REDACTED\] - Hunting With Dogs - Preventing Serious Damage - Licence 292612 - Statement of Reasons.pdf](#)
[\[REDACTED\] - Licence 292612 - Annex II Permitted Activity details - 29 May 2025.xlsx](#)
[Licence 292612.pdf](#)



Licence Number

292612

Dear [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Please find attached your licence to save or to print out as required. Please read the licence carefully and ensure that you fully understand its conditions.

It is the responsibility of the licence holder to ensure that works are not being conducted out-with the dates as stated on this licence.

How does my licence work?

Your licence allows you to carry out an action in relation to a protected species that would otherwise be against the law. To ensure that you are operating legally you must comply with all conditions on the licence. It is important you read through your licence entirely and are content you can follow all conditions contained within.

What else am I required to do?

It is a requirement that at least 2 days prior to undertaking the

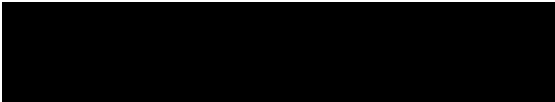
licensed activity, the licence holder and/ or Named Agent must give Police Scotland and NatureScot a minimum of 2 full working days written notice (by email) of the date, start time, and precise location at which the licensed activity will take place. A notification of activity form is available on the Police Advice Website: Police notification form. The required information of activity must be passed onto both NatureScot at Police Scotland.


Returns

It is a legal requirement that you provide a return detailing what work was carried out under your licence. Full details of what this return should include can be found on the relevant condition of your licence. Even if no action was taken under the licence you must report this back to let us know. A simplified returns form is available in Annex II of the attached licence.

Without the correct return information being submitted we are unable to issue further licences. Submitting return information in a timely manner ensures that future requests for licences can be dealt with quickly and efficiently.

Best wishes,



NatureScot Licensing Team
E-mail: licensing@nature.scot
Tel: 



NatureScot NàdarAlba

Scotland's Nature Agency
Buidheann Nàdair na h-Alba

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

01463 725364
e-mail: licensing@nature.scot

Licences are issued by Scottish Natural Heritage, acting under its operating name NatureScot.

Animal Licence

Licence Number	292612	Valid from	01 Nov 2025	Valid to	01 May 2026
----------------	--------	------------	-------------	----------	-------------

This Licence has been amended from Licence Number: 262600

Licence Holder

Name	
Address	

This licence is granted under the following legislation

Hunting with Dogs (Scotland) Act 2023 Section 3 (2) (a)

Project Details

This Licence permits the use of a maximum number of dogs as specified in Annex II, to carry out the Licensed Activities at the licensed Locations as specified in Annex II and Annex III. The licence only covers the use of dogs to flush from cover in these areas and does not allow for the searching for, stalking or flushing from any locations between these areas. The Licence permits the Licence Holder to undertake the Licensed Activities for no more than 12 days, falling within the period commencing on the 1st November 2025 and ending on the 1st May 2026 (the "Licence Term"), but where Annex II specifies a time period, the licensed activities can only be undertaken during those periods. The licensed activities must be carried out in accordance with the method statement "Method statement for flushing foxes from covert to waiting guns." and subsequent correspondence agreed in writing with the NatureScot Licensing Team, and the other terms and conditions of the licence.

This licence is granted subject to compliance with the terms and conditions specified.

Authorised on behalf of NatureScot by: on 23 Apr 2025

Project Details

Activities, species and locations covered by this licence are listed in Annex 1

Conditions

1	Notwithstanding the granting of this Licence, licensed Activities can only be carried out when, at the time they are carried out, there is no other solution which would be effective in achieving the licensed Purpose.
2	Unless otherwise agreed in writing between NatureScot and the Licence Holder, the Licence Holder or Dog Handler must give Police Scotland and NatureScot a minimum of 2 full working days notice prior to undertaking any licensed Activity. The notice must include the date, start time, and specific licensed Location at which the licensed Activities are to take place. A Police Scotland notification form is available at: https://www.scotland.police.uk/advice-and-information/wildlife-crime/ . The notice must also include the name, home address, email address and mobile telephone number of the licence holder, the dog handler, and any assistants who are to undertake the licensed activity. The notice should be sent by email (including the Licence number in the subject line) to: licensing@nature.scot and to Police Scotland by email contactus@scotland.police.uk . If the Licence Holder does not have an email account, they can give notice orally, by calling Police Scotland on 101 and NatureScot on 01463 725364.
3	The use of dogs above ground for the licensed Activity only relates to the permitted species, foxes (<i>Vulpes Vulpes</i>).
4	The Licence only permits licensed Activities to be undertaken within the licensed Location(s) as outlined in Annex III.
5	The dogs used in the activity must be under control at all times. The dogs activity must be able to be directed by physical contact or verbal or audible command.
6	A minimum of 25% of the dogs used in any licensed Activity must be fitted with a GPS tracking device to allow the Dog Handler to track the position of the dogs. The track data recorded by each of the GPS units fitted to the dogs must be downloaded and stored by or on behalf of the Licence Holder until the expiry of the period of one year from the end of the Licence Term and the Licence Holder must provide that data to NatureScot or Police Scotland on request.
7	Annex II sets the maximum number of dogs that are permitted to be used in the area (s) covered by the licence. No more than the maximum number of dogs are permitted to be used in the licensed Activities.
8	Annex II sets the minimum number of guns required to be deployed in the area(s) covered by the licence.
9	The minimum guns (as specified in Annex II) must be deployed around areas of cover before the dogs are used in the licensed Activities.

This licence is granted subject to compliance with the terms and conditions specified.

Authorised on behalf of NatureScot by: on 23 Apr 2025

Conditions - continued	
10	The names and home addresses of marksmen for each day of licensed Activity must be recorded by the Licence Holder and retained until the expiry of one year from the end of the Licence Term. The Licence Holder must make that information available to NatureScot or Police Scotland, on request.
11	The Licence permits the Licenced Activities for no more than the maximum number of days specified in the Project Details section of the Licence. The Licenced Activities may only occur within the Licence Term but where Annex II specifies a time period, the licence activities can only be undertaken during those periods.
12	The wild mammal which is being searched for, stalked or flushed should be shot dead as soon as reasonably possible. If an attempt to kill the wild mammal, results in it being injured but not killed, reasonable steps must be taken to kill it in a way (other than by using a dog) that causes it the minimum possible suffering.
13	While engaged in work authorised by this licence, the Licence Holder and the Dog Handler (if specified) must each be able to produce a copy of this Licence to any Police Officer, or official of NatureScot, on demand.
14	No later than one month after the date on which this Licence expires or otherwise comes to an end, the Licence Holder must provide NatureScot with a Licence return which must set out the following information: The dates on which any licensed Activities took place, the locations at which each of the licensed Activities took place and, in each case, the number of dogs used, the number of guns deployed, the result of each activity, how many wild mammals were flushed, the outcome of the activity (e.g. killed immediately, injured and then killed / escaped, escaped), and the extent to which the activity succeeded in addressing the licensed Purpose. Annex II provides a simplified returns form for your use. Please send this information by email if possible (including your licence number in the subject line of the email), to: licensing@nature.scot

Notes

Licence holders or any other persons covered by this licence should note the following;

1	This licence is granted subject to compliance with the conditions as specified. Anything done otherwise than in accordance with the terms of the licence may constitute an offence. It is the responsibility of the licence holder, agents and assistants working under this licence to report to NatureScot any breaches of the licence conditions that they become aware of as soon as is reasonably possible.
	If a Dog Handler is specified at Annex II, the Dog Handler may work independently of the Licence Holder provided that they have been given the express written permission of the Licence Holder to do so. It is the responsibility of the Licence

This licence is granted subject to compliance with the terms and conditions specified.

Authorised on behalf of NatureScot by: on 23 Apr 2025

Notes - continued

2	Holder to ensure that the Dog Handler has the appropriate training and experience and that they read, understand and act in accordance with the terms and conditions of this Licence, and the Act.
3	Where Named Assistants are specified at Annex II, those Named Assistants may work under the personal supervision of the Dog Handler provided that they have been given the express written permission of the Licence Holder to do so. It is the responsibility of the Licence Holder to ensure that the Named Assistants have the appropriate training and experience, and that they read, understand and act in accordance with the terms and conditions of this Licence, and the Act.
4	Nothing in this licence shall confer any right of entry on to land or property.
5	This Licence may be modified or revoked by NatureScot at any time.
6	The Licence Holder shall ensure that NatureScots staff shall have such access as they may reasonably require to the licenced Locations and to any surrounding land which forms part of the same title or subjects of lease (or similar), for the purposes of observing the licenced Activities and monitoring compliance with the terms and conditions of the Licence, and the Act. For the avoidance of doubt, NatureScots staff may reasonably require access to such land and Location(s) prior to, during, and following any licenced Activities taking place.
7	It is the responsibility of the licence holder to ensure that all contact details are up to date. Not advising NatureScot of changes to licence holder contact details could result in the licence being revoked.



This licence is granted subject to compliance with the terms and conditions specified.

Authorised on behalf of NatureScot by: on 23 Apr 2025

Annex 1: Permitted activities

Action	Purpose	Species	Location	Grid Reference	Method
To search for and retrieve a wild mammal which has been killed as a result of the activity	Preventing serious damage to livestock, woodland or crops	Domestic dog		-	N/A

Action	Purpose	Species	Location	Grid Reference	Method
The use of dogs above ground to stalk, search for or flush from cover a wild mammal with intention of killing it for the licenced Purpose.	Preventing serious damage to livestock, woodland or crops	Domestic dog		-	N/A

This licence is granted subject to compliance with the terms and conditions specified.

Authorised on behalf of NatureScot by: on 23 Apr 2025





NatureScot
NàdarAlba

Scotland's Nature Agency
Buidheann Nàdair na h-Alba

Dear [REDACTED]

Licence 292612

Statement of reasons for granting a licence for the use of more than two dogs to stalk, search for or flush from cover a wild mammal species.

A licence to use more than two dogs to stalk, search for or flush from cover a wild mammal for the purpose of preventing serious damage can only be issued if the two licensing tests are met. NatureScot must also be satisfied that the activity ensures there is the minimum deployment of guns to ensure the wild mammal is dispatched as soon as reasonably possible and may only permit the use of the minimum number of dogs. The licence only covers the use of dogs to flush from cover in these areas and does not allow for the searching for, stalking or flushing from any locations between these areas. The number of dogs permitted for each named area of proposed activity may not exceed the number of dogs dictated in Annex I, accompanying this licence.

Test 1 - Licensable Purpose

This licence application was received under the Hunting with Dogs (Scotland) Act 2023 Section 3 (2) (a) Preventing serious damage to livestock, woodland or crops.

This application relates to [REDACTED] where foxes are anticipated to cause serious damage to livestock.

Timing

You state that the period when serious damage may take place (lambing) will occur between 18th February 2026 and 31st April 2026.

The activity is proposed outwith the main period when foxes disperse to new territories, and it is therefore likely to be effective at controlling the local fox population.

The licence was requested to cover the dates between 15th September 2025 and 15th March 2026. Licences granted for preventing serious damage to livestock can permit the use of more than two dogs on up to 14 days within a period of up to 6 consecutive months. NatureScot will grant licences covering times of year when the activity is likely to prevent serious damage. Unless there is a robust justification, NatureScot will only issue licences leading up to and not exceeding periods of vulnerability (lambing).

Therefore, this licence has been issued to cover the 6-month period of 1st November 2025 to 1st May 2026, with permitted activities dates specified if applicable within the Annex II as supplied with the issuing of this licence.

Location

The location of the area(s) of proposed activity are within the vicinity of the livestock which are pertinent to this application.

You have demonstrated that the area(s) of control are considered to be within the area of effective management of the wild mammal species.

Serious damage

In this case, we are satisfied, based on the information and evidence received from the applicant, that the following serious damage issues will occur if no action is undertaken because of fox activity at the site:

The applicant is anticipating that foxes will attack (as has happened in previous years) and kill newborn lambs. The applicant states that there are 2000 lambing ewes at the farm. The applicant states that, historically, on average, eight to ten lambs are either killed or show signs of attack; historic fox control has been very successful at keeping fox numbers manageable, and during foot and mouth, when there was no access to the land, it was noticed that fox numbers increased, including regular sightings around outbuildings and around livestock. We consider this damage to be “serious” in nature. This damage will result in significant financial loss to the applicant.

Test 1 is passed

Test 2 – There is no other solution which would be effective in achieving the purpose

In assessing whether Test 2 is met, we have considered if there is a way of achieving the licensing purpose through measures which do not require a licence.

To minimise or eliminate the serious damage occurring, the following solutions to the licensable actions have been considered:

Do nothing – this is not considered a satisfactory option as the foxes may cause serious damage to livestock at a substantial financial loss to the applicant.

Shooting using a firearm or shotgun (including at night) – The applicant states that shooting with a rifle has been tried several times in past years and has been ineffective. Shooting at night is only carried out in some areas of the farm due to the number of residential properties on and near to the farm, as well as the Annandale way public footpath running through the farm. The applicant also states that due to the level of cover on the farm in some areas, shooting with a rifle is not possible. This method alone has been ineffective and is anticipated to not provide effective management of foxes.

Housing or other protection of livestock during vulnerable periods - This has been considered but the applicant states that there are limited resources and staffing numbers to enable the farm to employ alternatives. The applicant states that some of the ewes are already lambed indoors, but due to the limited shed space available, as soon as a ewe has lambed both it and its lambs are turned out into one of the fields and the next batch brought in.

Using fences to exclude foxes from livestock - The erection of fox proof fencing around the vulnerable livestock for the extensive area is uneconomical for the livestock manager. The applicant also states that the very hilly nature of the land makes much of it difficult to access by vehicle.

Using up to two dogs – The applicant states that this has been attempted twice on this property without success, and that two dogs do not fill a cover sufficiently to press a fox from a cover.

Diversionsary feeding – The applicant asked resident stalkers to trial this method, however it encouraged foxes to the area from elsewhere, and caused them to return after the fact for a feed.

In this case, we are satisfied that there is no other effective solution to the use of more than two dogs to stalk, search for or flush a fox from the areas proposed in the application.

Test 2 is passed.

Activity Details

NatureScot must be satisfied with the number of guns and dogs proposed by an applicant.

Number of guns

A licence granted to use more than two dogs for the purpose of preventing serious damage to livestock requires the deployment of the minimum number of guns which NatureScot is satisfied would be effective for compliance with ensuring that the wild mammal that is being searched for, stalked, or flushed is shot dead as soon as reasonably possible.

You have proposed that 5 guns is sufficient to ensure that the wild mammal which is being stalked or flushed is shot dead as soon as reasonably possible. NatureScot is satisfied with the number of guns proposed and that it is sufficient to ensure that if a fox is flushed, that it would be dispatched as soon as reasonably possible. If the activity flushes a wild mammal, it is therefore likely to contribute towards meeting the licensable purpose.

NatureScot is satisfied that sufficient guns will be present for the proposed activity.

Number of dogs

A licence granted to use more than two dogs may only permit the use of the minimum number of dogs which NatureScot is satisfied would be effective in achieving the licensable purpose set out in the application.

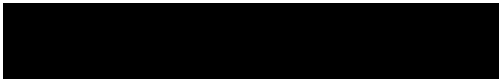
You have proposed that 18 dogs is the minimum required to undertake the activity. The application has provided a justification that 18 is required to ensure there are sufficient dogs to search for, stalk, or flush from cover.

NatureScot is satisfied that number of dogs proposed by the applicant is the minimum number of dogs to effectively undertake the activity.

Summary

It is considered that this application meets the two licensing tests dictated under the Hunting with Dogs (Scotland) Act 2023. The activities details provided in the application satisfy NatureScot that; (i) only the minimum number of dogs will be permitted to achieve the licensable purpose and (ii) there will be sufficient guns to ensure any flushed wild mammal will be dispatched as soon as reasonably possible. A licence has therefore been approved for the use of more than two dogs to search for, stalk, or flush from cover a wild mammal with the intent of killing it for the purpose of preventing serious damage to livestock. The number of dogs permitted for each named area of proposed activity may not exceed the number of dogs dictated in Annex II accompanying the licence.

Yours sincerely,

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of the Licensing Officer.

Licensing Officer

Annex II - Hunting with dogs - Permitted Activity details



Licence Number 292612
 Licence holder Name [REDACTED]
 Permitted Named Agent (Dog handler) [REDACTED]
 Permitted Named Assistants [REDACTED]

Name of the area licenced	Location of activity (Six figure grid reference from approximately the centre) e.g. NX100200	Maximum number of dogs permitted	Minimum number of guns	Periods during which Licensed Activities are permitted
1	[REDACTED]	18	5	1st November 2025 - 18th February 2026
2	[REDACTED]	18	5	1st November 2025 - 18th February 2026
3	[REDACTED]	18	5	1st November 2025 - 18th February 2026
4	[REDACTED]	18	5	1st November 2025 - 18th February 2026
5	[REDACTED]	18	5	1st November 2025 - 18th February 2026
6	[REDACTED]	18	5	1st November 2025 - 18th February 2026
7	[REDACTED]	18	5	1st November 2025 - 18th February 2026
8	[REDACTED]	18	5	1st November 2025 - 18th February 2026
9	[REDACTED]	18	5	1st November 2025 - 18th February 2026
10	[REDACTED]	18	5	1st November 2025 - 18th February 2026
11	[REDACTED]	18	5	1st November 2025 - 18th February 2026
12	[REDACTED]	18	5	1st November 2025 - 18th February 2026
13	[REDACTED]	18	5	1st November 2025 - 18th February 2026
14	[REDACTED]	18	5	1st November 2025 - 18th February 2026
15	[REDACTED]	18	5	1st November 2025 - 18th February 2026
16	[REDACTED]	18	5	1st November 2025 - 18th February 2026
17	[REDACTED]	18	5	1st November 2025 - 18th February 2026
18	[REDACTED]	18	5	1st November 2025 - 18th February 2026

Licence returns form - Hunting with dogs - Preventing serious damage to livestock



Licence Number

Licence Holder Name

Date of activity (DD:MM:YYYY)	Name of area licenced	Location (six figure grid reference e.g. NH60240)	Dog Handler (Named agent)	Licence Assistants	Number of dogs used	Number of guns deployed	Species of wild mammal of which the activity relates	Outcome of the activity (Number of wild mammals and outcome- killed immediately, injured and then killed / escaped, escaped)

Please describe if the activity was effective at preventing serious damage to livestock:

From: [REDACTED]
To: [LICENSING](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: [REDACTED] 07/05 - Return required for 275636 then Renew] Licence No. 261964
Date: 30 April 2025 09:09:00
Attachments: [REDACTED].docx
[Annex III - HWD Licence 275636 - \[REDACTED\] - Area Over Which Licence Applies - 08 November 2024.jpeg](#)

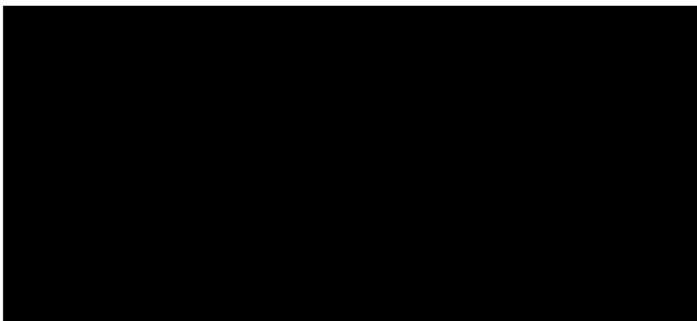
Caution! This message was sent from outside NatureScot.

Please can we re-apply for a licence for the period 01/09/25 to 01/03/26 for the above.

From our experience of operating under licence so far it is very important that the licence runs between these dates, last winter as shown by the table below we had very limited success after the new year, this was partly due to the weather, but also because access to certain areas on the farms was limited due to the locations of in lamb ewes. We also require the whole six month period so we can space out our visits to the farm, we would visit the farm two or three times before the new year, and still have days available on the licence to visit immediately prior to or during lambing if the owner has a fox problem.

Thanks

[REDACTED]



[REDACTED]

From:

[REDACTED]
30 April 2025 09:07

To: LICENSING

Cc:

[REDACTED] [AR_07/05 - Return required for 275636 then Renew] Licence No. 261964

Attachments: [REDACTED].docx

Categories:

[REDACTED] incomplete and or outstanding return

Caution! This message was sent from outside NatureScot.

Please can we re-apply for a licence for the period 01/09/25 to 01/03/26 for the above.

From our experience of operating under licence so far it is very important that the licence runs between these dates, last winter as shown by the table below we had very limited success after the new year, this was partly due to the weather, but also because access to certain areas on the farms was limited due to the locations of in lamb ewes. We also require the whole six month period so we can space out our visits to the farm, we would visit the farm two or three times before the new year, and still have days available on the licence to visit immediately prior to or during lambing if the owner has a fox problem.

Thanks

[REDACTED]



Licence application form –

For the use of more than two dogs for the management of wild mammals above ground to prevent serious damage to livestock, woodlands or crops

Legislation: Hunting with Dogs (Scotland) Act 2023 (the 'Act')

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

Email: licensing@nature.scot

Telephone: 01463 725364

Please answer all relevant questions fully.

Who should use this application form

This form is for new applications for anyone who wishes to hunt a wild mammal using more than two dogs for the purpose of preventing serious damage to livestock, woodland or crops.

Amendments

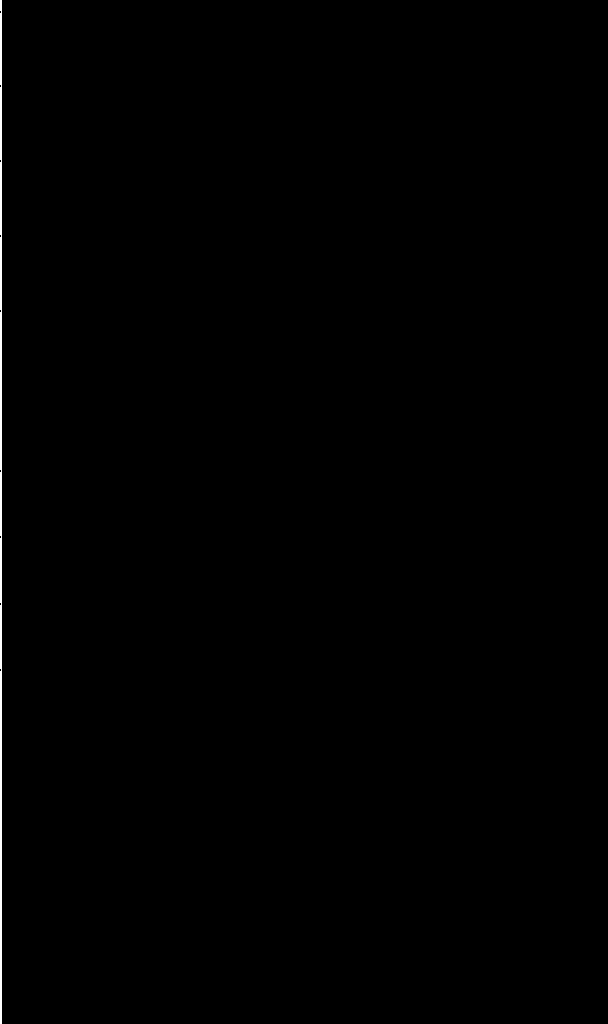
If you wish to apply for an amendment to a current Licence please email [NatureScot Licensing Team](#) with the Licence number, the details you wish to change and the reasons for the proposed change.

Section A: Licensable Purpose and Licensable Activity:

The applicant is applying for a licence for the Purpose of preventing serious damage to either: (select the appropriate category)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Livestock <input type="checkbox"/> woodlands <input type="checkbox"/> Crops
The proposed Licenced Activity is for (i) searching for, stalking or flushing from cover a wild mammal, with the intention of killing it for the purpose of preventing serious damage and (ii) searching for and retrieval of a wild mammal which has been killed as a result of the proposed Licensable Activity.	

Section B: Applicant

Please provide the name and address of the person applying for the licence. If a licence is granted, the Applicant will be designed as 'Licence Holder' on the licence and will be legally responsible for ensuring that all licence terms and conditions are met and for submitting a return to NatureScot at Licensing@nature.scot at the end of the Licence Term (as defined in the licence).

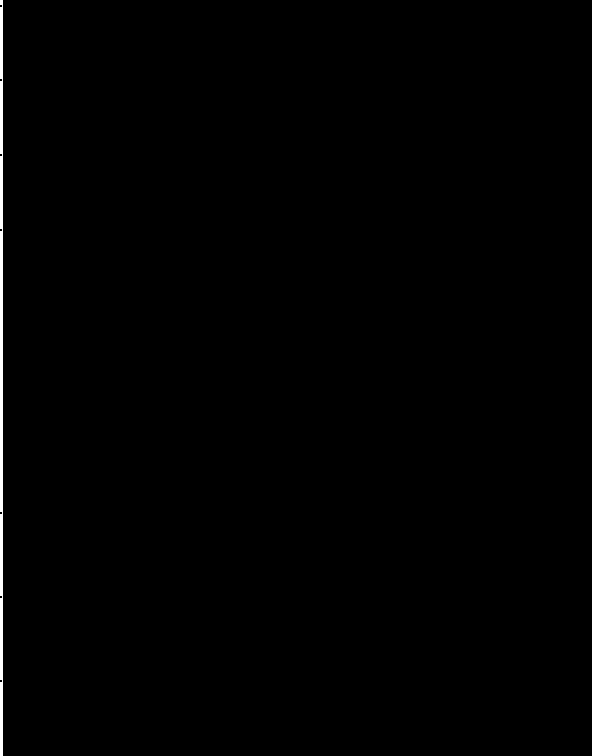
Title	
First name	
Surname	
Email address	
Address	
Postcode	
Type of address	
Contact telephone number(s)	
Nature of interest in farm/property (e.g. Land owner/tenant/manager)	

<p>Have you or anyone who it is proposed will work under the licence being applied for been convicted of a wildlife crime or disqualified from owning or keeping dogs?</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes x No</p>
---	---

Section C: Dog Handler Details

The Dog Handler is the individual who will be in control of the dogs during the course of any Licensable Activities. They will be named on any licence and, subject to them having the prior written authorisation of the Licence Holder, may undertake the Licensable Activities on behalf of Licence Holder.

The Licence Holder shall be responsible for ensuring that any Dog Handler reads, understands and complies with the terms of any licence to follow. Any act or omission on the part of any Dog Handler which is contrary to the terms and conditions of such a licence shall entitle NatureScot to revoke that licence.

<p>Do you intend to carry out/oversee this activity yourself?</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes x No</p>
<p>If 'no', please provide details of the Dog Handler</p>	
<p>Title</p>	
<p>First name</p>	
<p>Surname</p>	
<p>Address</p>	
<p>Organisation/consultancy name (optional)</p>	
<p>Email address</p>	
<p>Contact telephone number(s)</p>	
<p>Has the Dog Handler or anyone who may be assisting him in relation to any Licensable Activities been convicted of a wildlife crime or disqualification from owning or keeping dogs?</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes x No</p>
<p>If a licence is granted, may we email a copy of the licence to the Dog Handler?</p>	<p>x Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>

Do you give permission for the Dog Handler to request amendments to any licence issued pursuant to this application?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
---	---

Section D: Named Assistants

If the Licence Holder or the Dog Handler are likely to require assistance in carrying out any Licensable Activities, for example to aid in the control of the dogs, they can make use of “Named Assistants” for that purpose.

The name(s) and contact details of any individual who the Applicant wishes to be a Named Assistant on any licence following upon this application, must be provided where indicated below.

Only persons named as such on a licence will be Named Assistants. It is an offence for any person who is not the Licence Holder, the Dog Handler or a Named Assistant to carry out Licensable Activities pursuant to a licence.

The Licence Holder shall be responsible for ensuring that any Named Assistant(s) read(s), understand(s) and comply(ies) with the terms and conditions of any licence to follow. Any act or omission on the part of any Named Assistant which is contrary to the terms of such a licence shall entitle NatureScot to revoke that licence.

Named Assistants can only work under the personal, direct supervision of the Licence Holder or the Dog Handler.

<p>Please provide the following details of any persons you wish to be Named Assistants.</p> <p>Note: this does not include details of named guns. They are not required in an application but in the event of a licence being issued, they must be recorded at the time of the activity and be available for inspection by any Police Officer or official of NatureScot on demand.</p>				
Full Name	Postal Address	E mail Address	Contact number	Work Undertaking e.g. dog handler
				Dog handler

Section E: Licence details

Licence details required	Provide required information below
Site name (where you consider that serious damage is occurring or likely to occur- this is how your application will be referred to in all future correspondence)	
Address <i>(please include full postal address for the farm if different from above)</i>	
Farm CPH number if relevant	
Six figure grid reference of location of serious damage (actual or likely). (e.g. NX100200. If multiple locations please provide references for each.)	
Have you received landowner permission to undertake the Licensable Activities?	x Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Species of wild mammal which you wish to control <i>(which is causing or likely to cause serious damage e.g. fox)</i>	Fox
Is the species of wild mammal a protected species? For more information see our website	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes x No
What breeds or types of dogs will be used any Licensable Activities?	Foxhounds
Proposed start date(s) and end date(s) of any periods of Licensed Activity	01/09/25 to 01/03/26
Requested total number of days for the activity(s) (e.g. 3 days) <i>This must be justified with reference to evidence and can be no more than 14 days</i>	14
Date you require a licence (i.e. date you need confirmation that a licence will be issued to allow preparation for the activity)	01/09/25
Does any part of the proposed activity fall in and/ or adjacent to an area covered by a nature	No

<p>conservation designation? (e.g. Site of Special Scientific Interest, Special Protection Area, Special Area of Conservation etc. – see our website for site locations and information)</p>	
---	--

Section F: Licensable Activities

The Applicant must describe all locations where they wish to undertake the Licensable Activities. **Please also enclose a location map, this should be at an appropriate scale, clearly labelled and outlining each such location, any areas of cover within or nearby such locations and the location(s) of the livestock and /or woodlands and or / crops requiring protection.** A method statement should be submitted along with the application detailing how any Licensed Activities will be managed- See [Annex I](#) at the end of the form.

Name of the area of land within which the Licensed Activities will be undertaken (this should correlate with the map label)		
Location 1 (Six figure grid reference from centre of the area) e.g. NX100200		
Description of the proposed area where the Licensed Activity is proposed (e.g. conifer plantation): Conifer and broadleaf plantations, including overgrown clear-felled area		
Justification for why the control of the wild mammal by the use of more than two dogs in this location, at the times proposed, will prevent serious damage to livestock (this must be supported by evidence which the Applicant can attach to or enclose with their application): There have been two attempts this year on separate days to flush foxes to waiting guns, with two dogs, both times, it was ineffective, even though there was evidence of the presence of foxes in the cover. This area, due to the nature of the terrain and proportion of covert in relation to the farmed areas has a high fox population and the farm carries a number of lambing ewes [200]. In order to keep the fox population down to a number which can survive off the natural food supply, regular flushing to guns with 18 plus dogs has historically proved to be the most effective.		
Proposed minimum number of guns	5	
Justification for the number of guns (this must be supported by evidence which the Applicant can attach to or enclose with their application): The smaller of the areas that are covered under the licence have few egress points and to have in place more than 5 shotguns would be unsafe. Any areas requiring the use of more than 5 guns will be well covered by marksmen and we are able to draw on 8 shotguns on any particular day. We are well-versed in ensuring specific areas are covered by marksmen and our local knowledge and previous experience will ensure that any larger areas will be sufficiently covered by an appropriate number of guns.		
Proposed number of dogs (this should be the minimum number which would be effective at achieving the licensable purpose)	18	
Justification for the number of dogs (this must be supported by evidence which the Applicant can attach to or enclose with their application): Given the scale of the area to cover in a single day, and the varying degrees of cover within the licenced area, it is clear that a smaller number of dogs are not be successful in achieving the aim of successfully finding and flushing foxes in most areas. We have already attempted using 2 dogs in these areas, areas that we find normally hold foxes, and we have been unsuccessful on each occasion. We have been flushing foxes to guns in these covers for 20 years, we know that there have to be enough dogs to pressurise the fox into leaving the cover, also enough dogs to make		

sure the fox goes in the desired direction towards the guns. Too few dogs often result in the fox breaking back through the line of dogs.
This number of dogs is the minimum number, we know that will allow us to be effective and successful. Fewer than this will be ineffective.

Name of the area to be licenced (this should correlate with the map label)	
Location 2 (Six figure grid reference from centre of the area) e.g. NX100200	
Description of the proposed area where the Licensed Activity is proposed (e.g. conifer plantation):	
Justification for why the control of the wild mammal by the use of more than two dogs in this location, at the times proposed, will prevent serious damage to livestock (this must be supported by evidence which the Applicant can attach to or enclose with their application):	
Proposed minimum number of guns	
Proposed number of dogs (this should be the minimum number which would be effective at achieving the licensable purpose)	

Additional locations can added using the tables provided in Annex II at the end of the application form.

Section G: Details of serious damage to livestock, woodland or crops.

Provide details of the location where the serious damage is occurring/ expected to occur, describe the severity of damage that is expected/ is occurring, and when the serious damage is likely to occur / reoccur. **Please enclose a location map of the property showing the area (e.g., specific lambing field(s)) where the damage has occurred or is expected).**

Location of where the serious damage is occurring or likely to occur (e.g. lambing field A)	Name of the Livestock or woodlands or crops at risk (e.g. new-born lambs)	Period when damage is expected to occur / reoccur (e.g. start and end date of vulnerable lambing period)	
		Start date	End date
[REDACTED]	Sheep/Lambs	Year round	
	Domestic hens	Year round	

Please describe the serious damage which you consider will occur if the Licensable Activities are not undertaken. The extent of the anticipate damage should be quantified (e.g. numbers of animals killed / injured, and the financial cost). Quantification should be supported by evidence.

Where the justification provided includes reference to historic damage, the extent of that damage should be described and quantified with reference to evidence, including evidence which shows that such damage did in fact occur

For both historic and anticipated damage, evidence must be provided which shows that it was / will be caused by the species of wild mammal being targeted.

Historically there has been a year-round programme of fox control. In some areas this is possible with a firearm, but there are large areas of dense cover and a number of footpaths, also a number of residences not occupied by persons involved with the farm.

This programme has been very successful at keeping fox numbers manageable. During foot and mouth & Covid when there was no access to the land it was noticed that fox numbers increased, including regular sightings around outbuildings and around livestock.

There is also a history of foxes coming in from the nearby town and industrial estate, these are easily distinguished and are more often seen in daylight hours.

Section H: Alternatives

Before granting a licence we need to be satisfied that there is no other solution available to prevent serious damage to livestock, woodlands or crops.

There are a number of recognised measures which can achieve the licensable purpose without the need for Licensable Activity. Some of those are set out in the table below.

In order for NatureScot to assess whether or not there is any alternative to licensing, we require evidence as to the efforts the applicant has made to implement non-licensable measures.

For each of those known measures, applicants will require to confirm whether or not they have been attempted.

Where any known measures have not been attempted, the Applicant should say why and should provide evidence which shows why, in the Applicant's view, those measures would not prevent serious damage from occurring.

Where those known (and any other) measures have been attempted, the Applicant should provide evidence which shows that those attempts were implemented (including details of the method of implementation, locations, dates of implementation and evidence of outcomes) and evidence which they consider demonstrates that such measures will not prevent serious damage from occurring.

Stating that there is "dense cover" and there is "no alternative" is not appropriate (*e.g. have you attempted control by firearms, moving the sheep to lower risk areas, bringing sheep into lambing sheds etc.*)

Measure	Explanation and evidence
<p>Use of firearms: please provide details of effort (including dates, times of day, location(s) of attempts, outcomes of those attempts, and why you consider that this has not been and cannot be an effective solution in this case). If this has not been attempted, please explain why not and, with reference to evidence, why you consider that it could not be an effective solution.</p>	<p>The [REDACTED] has controlled foxes in certain "safe" areas quite successfully, accounting for four to six foxes in the months leading up to lambing. [REDACTED].</p> <p>The area of the farm which is deemed safe, to use a rifle is inaccessible with a vehicle, so has to be accessed on foot, normally where a vehicle can be used it is possible to drive round the area picking up foxes leaving or returning to the covert. Trying to shoot foxes on foot is time consuming so requires a number of visits to the area. [REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED] But this only represents 20% of the farm and its coverts, the rest of the property as can be clearly seen from the maps is not suitable for rifle shooting, the decision on the safety of the area lies with the rifle shooter and no one else, in the event of an accident the courts would not accept the reason for using a rifle was because a third party said it was safe.</p>

The [REDACTED] will not allow anyone else to use a high-powered rifle on the farm because of the proximity of houses roads and public footpaths. Also because of the “Right to Roam” in Scotland and the close proximity of a major town on one side, a village on the other side, the advice from experienced predator controllers is apart from two areas on the farm it is unsafe to use a rifle and that decision can only be taken by an expert that has surveyed the property for that purpose. Please see below advice from BASC recommended by the Scottish Government on their website.

Please also be aware that BASC also say that only a heavy calibre centre fire rifle is suitable for fox shooting, lighter rim fire rifles are not a humane weapon for fox control. This of course means the bullet will travel much further, much faster, also a ricochet will cause much more damage.

Firearms in public places

Under Section 19 of the Firearms Act 1968 and Article 61 (1) of the Firearms (Northern Ireland) Order 2004, a person commits an offence if, without lawful authority or reasonable excuse (the proof whereof lies with him), he has with him in a public place a loaded shotgun, an air weapon (whether loaded or not) or any other firearm (whether loaded or not) together with ammunition suitable for use in that firearm, or an imitation firearm.

‘Public place’ is defined as including any highway and any other premises or place to which at the time in question the public has access. It includes public rights of way.

Under Section 20 of the Firearms Act 1968 and Article 62 (2) of the Firearms (Northern Ireland) Order 2004, a person who enters or is on any land, or enters any building (or part thereof) as a trespasser while he has a firearm or imitation firearm with him, shall be guilty of an offence unless he shows that he had lawful authority or reasonable excuse for doing so. In the 1968 Act ‘land’ includes land covered with water.

	<p>The Highways Act 1980 Section 161 in England and Wales, makes it an offence to discharge, without lawful authority or excuse, any firearm within 50 feet of the centre of the highway (which consists of or comprises a carriageway) if in consequence of which a user of the highway is injured, interrupted or endangered.</p> <p>Flushing foxes to shotguns, that have a relatively short range, in daylight has always proved to be the safest and most humane method of fox control, also the most expedient, the whole farm can be cleared on a day.</p>
<p>Using up to 2 dogs (can the searching for, stalking or flushing from cover be achieved by using up to two dogs)</p>	<p>Since October we have only been using two dogs, this has proved to be unsuccessful every time we have been here.</p> <p>Given the scale of the area to cover in a single day, and the varying degrees of cover within the licenced area, it is clear that a smaller number of dogs would not be successful in achieving the aim of successfully finding and flushing foxes in most areas. We have already attempted utilising 2 dogs in these areas, areas that we find normally hold foxes, and we have been unsuccessful on each occasion. Through our previous experience, and our knowledge of our dogs and their individual behaviours, we feel that a maximum number of 18 dogs will allow us to be effective in the areas we have detailed.</p> <p>This number of dogs is the minimum number, we know, that will allow us to be effective and successful. Fewer than this will be less effective, the size of the covers requires a good number of dogs to force the fox out of the cover in the desired direction towards the guns. We have been using this method with great success for 20 years.</p>
<p>Land or stock management (can the livestock be moved to a less vulnerable location? Can the livestock be housed in lambing sheds at lambing? Have you tried or considered enhanced shepherding?)</p>	<p>Limited resources and staffing numbers to enable farm to employ alternatives. Only have lambing fields with shelters for sheep to use, no lambing sheds large enough to take all ewes and lambs, etc.</p> <p>Foxes do not respect boundaries.</p> <p>The advantage of this farm is that it is generally dry ground and suits a low input outdoor lambing enterprise.</p>

Use of physical barriers (fencing type and location e.g. map)	Fencing - Given to the area of land considered, it would be prohibitively expensive to use electric and/or fox-proof fencing in the lambing fields. Foxes are well adept at dealing with fences and so this does not ensure the safety of any livestock.
Snaring: (if used, please provide snaring log)	Snaring is illegal
Other alternative solutions attempted/considered	<p>Research and experience of live-catch trapping shows that it is virtually impossible with truly wild foxes and yields little to no benefit.</p> <p>Diversionsary feeding (leaving deer evisceration out for foxes and raptors) seems only to attract foxes that may not normally have visited. Asked resident stalkers to trial this and found it to be ineffective (or too much of a draw) and ended up seeing foxes return for a feed. Seemed to draw foxes from areas where livestock were kept.</p>

Section I: Required documents checklist

Confirm by ticking the box below that all the information we require to assess your application has been submitted. If information is omitted, your application may be refused as a result. We may also request further information from you if we consider that it is required in order to properly assess your application.

X Location map(s) clearly showing land on which the Licensable Activities are to take place, the proposed locations of that activity (this should be outlined), any areas of cover on or adjacent to those areas, the locations where you consider that serious damage will occur if the Licensable Activities are not undertaken.

X Evidence that damage will occur/ is occurring (e.g. photos of historic damage if relied upon)

x Any other evidence in support of the application (e.g in support of number of guns).

X Annex I Method statement (of activity)

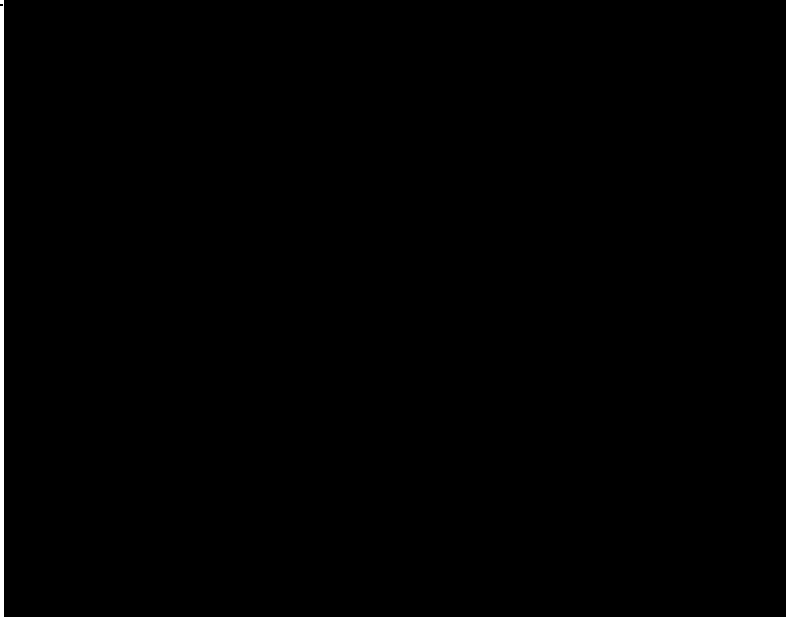
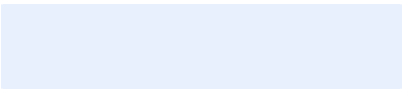
Annex II –Additional locations of activity if applicable

Herbivore management plan (*for Preventing serious damage to woodlands or crops only*)

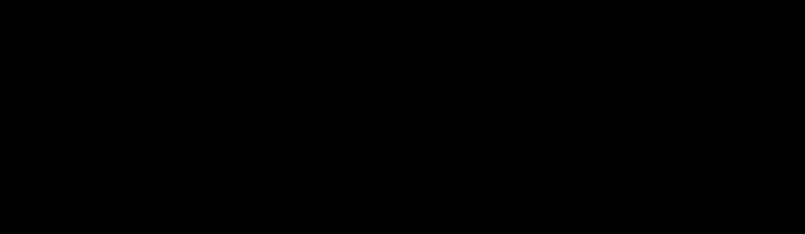
Section J: Declaration

- I understand that it is an offence under The Hunting with Dogs (Scotland) Act 2023 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.

Applicant

<p>Date: 16/10/24</p>	
<p>Electronic signature: </p>	

Dog Handler

<p>Date: 16/10/24</p>	
------------------------------	--

Submitting your application form

This application **should be submitted by email from the Applicant** as named on this licence application. Please email the completed application form, together with all supporting information, to: 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.

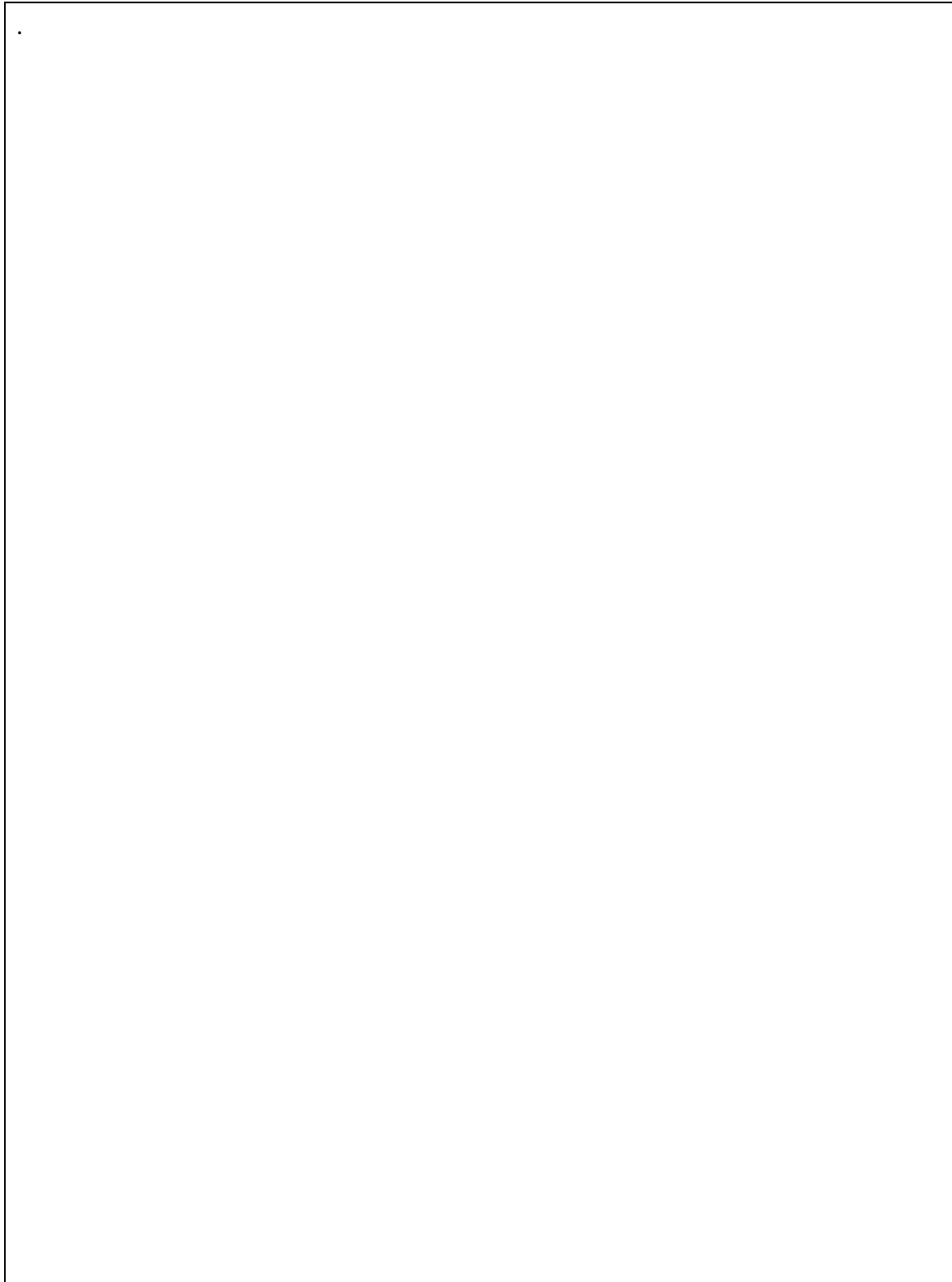
If you do not have access to email, you can print out and send your application and supporting information to the postal address below. Please note if you apply by post you will not receive confirmation that your application has been received.

**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](#)

Annex I- Method Statement

This should provide detail of how the activity will be undertaken with reference to the licensable elements (e.g. **stalking and/or searching for and / or flushing from cover**) e.g. how will the Licensable Activity be conducted effectively, will the area be divided into management areas, and how the guns and dogs will be deployed. If there are multiple areas of proposed Licensable Activity, please provide a statement for each area.



Annex II – Supplementary areas of proposed activity

<p>Name of the area of land within which the Licensed Activities will be undertaken (this should correlate with the map label)</p>	
---	--

Location 3 (Six figure grid reference from centre of the area) e.g. NX100200	
Description of the proposed area where the Licensed Activity is proposed (e.g. conifer plantation):	
Justification for why the control of the wild mammal by the use of more than two dogs in this location, at the times proposed, will prevent serious damage to livestock (this must be supported by evidence which the Applicant can attach to or enclose with their application):	
Proposed minimum number of guns	
Justification for the number of guns (this must be supported by evidence which the Applicant can attach to or enclose with their application):	
Proposed number of dogs (this should be the minimum number which would be effective at achieving the licensable purpose)	
Justification for the number of dogs (this must be supported by evidence which the Applicant can attach to or enclose with their application):	

Name of the area of land within which the Licensed Activities will be undertaken (this should correlate with the map label)	
Location 4 (Six figure grid reference from centre of the area) e.g. NX100200	

Description of the area where the activity is proposed (e.g. conifer plantation):

Justification for why the control of the wild mammal by the use of more than two dogs in this location, at the times proposed, will prevent serious damage to livestock (this must be supported by evidence which the Applicant can attach to or enclose with their application):

Proposed minimum number of guns

Justification for the number of guns (this must be supported by evidence which the Applicant can attach to or enclose with their application):

Proposed number of dogs (this should be the minimum number which would be effective at achieving the licensable purpose)

Justification for the number of dogs (this must be supported by evidence which the Applicant can attach to or enclose with their application):

Name of the area of land within which the Licensed Activities will be undertaken

(this should correlate with the map label)

Location 5 (Six figure grid reference from centre of the area) e.g. NX100200	
Description of the proposed area where the Licensed Activity is proposed (e.g. conifer plantation):	
Justification for why the control of the wild mammal by the use of more than two dogs in this location, at the times proposed, will prevent serious damage to livestock (Description of the proposed area where the Licensed Activity is proposed (e.g. conifer plantation):	
Proposed minimum number of guns	
Justification for the number of guns (this must be supported by evidence which the Applicant can attach to or enclose with their application):	
Proposed maximum number of dogs	
Justification for the number of dogs (this must be supported by evidence which the Applicant can attach to or enclose with their application):	

From: [LICENSING](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: [REDACTED] - Hunting with Dogs - Preventing Serious Damage - Licence 293597 - Licence Issued - 24 July 2025
Date: 24 July 2025 14:39:00
Attachments: [Annex III - HWD Licence 293597 - \[REDACTED\] - Area Over Which Licence Applies.jpeg](#)
[\[REDACTED\] - Licence 293597 - Annex II Permitted Activity Details - 24 July 2025.xlsx](#)
[\[REDACTED\] - Hunting with Dogs - Preventing Serious Damage - Licence 293597 - Statement of Reasons.pdf](#)
[Licence 293597.pdf](#)



Licence Number

293597

Dear [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Please find attached your licence to save or to print out as required. Please read the licence carefully and ensure that you fully understand its conditions.

It is the responsibility of the licence holder to ensure that works are not being conducted out-with the dates as stated on this licence.

How does my licence work?

Your licence allows you to carry out an action in relation to a protected species that would otherwise be against the law. To ensure that you are operating legally you must comply with all conditions on the licence. It is important you read through your licence entirely and are content you can follow all conditions contained within.

What else am I required to do?

It is a requirement that at least 2 days prior to undertaking the

licensed activity, the licence holder and/ or Named Agent must give Police Scotland and NatureScot a minimum of 2 full working days written notice (by email) of the date, start time, and precise location at which the licensed activity will take place. A notification of activity form is available on the Police Advice Website: Police notification form. The required information of activity must be passed onto both NatureScot at Police Scotland.

Returns

It is a legal requirement that you provide a return detailing what work was carried out under your licence. Full details of what this return should include can be found on the relevant condition of your licence. Even if no action was taken under the licence you must report this back to let us know. A simplified returns form is available in Annex II of the attached licence.

Without the correct return information being submitted we are unable to issue further licences. Submitting return information in a timely manner ensures that future requests for licences can be dealt with quickly and efficiently.

Best wishes,

██████████

NatureScot Licensing Team

E-mail: licensing@nature.scot

Tel: 01463 ██████████

Annex II - Hunting with dogs - Permitted Activity details



Licence Number 293597
 Licence holder Name [REDACTED]
 Permitted Named Agent (Dog handler) [REDACTED]
 Permitted Named Assistants [REDACTED]

Name of the area licenced	Location of activity (Six figure grid reference from approximately the centre) e.g. NX100200	Maximum number of dogs permitted	Minimum number of guns	Periods during which Licensed Activities are permitted
1	[REDACTED]	18	5 to 8	01/11/2025 to 01/02/2026
2	[REDACTED]	18	5 to 8	01/11/2025 to 01/02/2026
3	[REDACTED]	18	5 to 8	01/11/2025 to 01/02/2026
4	[REDACTED]	18	5 to 8	01/11/2025 to 01/02/2026
5	[REDACTED]	18	5 to 8	01/11/2025 to 01/02/2026
6	[REDACTED]	18	5 to 8	01/11/2025 to 01/02/2026
7	[REDACTED]	18	5 to 8	01/11/2025 to 01/02/2026
8	[REDACTED]	18	5 to 8	01/11/2025 to 01/02/2026
9	[REDACTED]	18	5 to 8	01/11/2025 to 01/02/2026
10	[REDACTED]	18	5 to 8	01/11/2025 to 01/02/2026

Licence returns form - Hunting with dogs - Preventing serious damage to livestock



Licence Number

Licence Holder Name

Date of activity (DD:MM:YYYY)	Name of area licenced	Location (six figure grid reference e.g. NH60240)	Dog Handler (Named agent)	Licence Assistants	Number of dogs used	Number of guns deployed	Species of wild mammal of which the activity relates	Outcome of the activity (Number of wild mammals and outcome- killed immediately, injured and then killed / escaped, escaped)

Please describe if the activity was effective at preventing serious damage to livestock:



NatureScot NàdarAlba

Scotland's Nature Agency
Buidheann Nàdair na h-Alba

Licence 293597

Statement of reasons for granting a licence for the use of more than two dogs to stalk, search for or flush from cover a wild mammal species.

A licence to use more than two dogs to stalk, search for or flush from cover a wild mammal for the purpose of preventing serious damage can only be issued if the two licensing tests are met. NatureScot must also be satisfied that the activity ensures there is the minimum deployment of guns to ensure the wild mammal is dispatched as soon as reasonably possible and may only permit the use of the minimum number of dogs. The licence only covers the use of dogs to flush from cover in these areas and does not allow for the searching for, stalking or flushing from any locations between these areas. The number of dogs permitted for each named area of proposed activity may not exceed the number of dogs dictated in Annex I, accompanying this licence.

Test 1 - Licensable Purpose

This licence application was received under the Hunting with Dogs (Scotland) Act 2023 Section 3 (2) (a) for the purpose of preventing serious damage to livestock, woodland or crops.

This application relates to [REDACTED] where **foxes** are causing serious damage to livestock.

Timing

You state that the period when serious damage may take place (lambing) will occur between mid-January 2026 and April 2026.

The activity is proposed outwith the main period when foxes disperse to new territories and is therefore likely to be effective at controlling the local fox population.

The licence was requested to cover the dates between 1st September 2025 and 1st March 2026. Licences granted for preventing serious damage to livestock can permit the use of more than two dogs on up to 14 days within a period of up to 6 consecutive months. NatureScot will grant licenses covering times of year when the activity is likely to prevent serious damage. Unless there is a robust justification, NatureScot will only issue licences leading up to and not exceeding periods of vulnerability (lambing). Therefore, this licence has been issued to cover the 6-month period of 1st November

2025 to 1st May 2026, with permitted activities dates specified if applicable within the Annex II as supplied with the issuing of this licence.

Location

The location of the area(s) of proposed activity are within the vicinity of the livestock which are pertinent to this application.

You have demonstrated that the area(s) of control are considered to be within the area of effective management of the wild mammal species.

The proposed activity in the area(s) applied for have provided a satisfactory justification that the activity will be likely to meet the licensable purpose.

Serious damage

In this case, we are satisfied, based on the information and evidence received from the applicant, that the following serious damage issues are occurring and will continue to occur if no action is undertaken, because of fox activity at the site:

It is anticipated that foxes will attack (as has happened in previous years) and kill newborn lambs. We consider this damage to be “serious” in nature. The farm holds approximately 200 lambing ewes. This damage will result in significant financial loss to the applicant.

Test 1 is passed

Test 2 – There is no other solution which would be effective in achieving the purpose

In assessing whether Test 2 is met, we have considered if there is a way of achieving the licensing purpose through measures which do not require a licence.

In order to minimise or eliminate the serious damage occurring, the following solutions to the licensable actions have been considered:

Do nothing – This is not considered a satisfactory option as the foxes may cause serious damage to livestock at a substantial financial loss to the applicant.

Shooting using a firearm or shotgun (including at night) – You have provided information that [REDACTED] use both lamping and night sights to cover areas where it is safe to shoot foxes on a weekly basis. You have stated that in the months leading up to lambing, this shooting activity accounts for around four to six foxes. This alone has been ineffective and is anticipated to not provide effective management of foxes.

Housing or other protection of livestock during vulnerable periods – This has been considered but the cost of the infrastructure has been deemed economically unviable for the livestock manager.

Using fences to exclude foxes from livestock – The erection of fox proof fencing around the vulnerable livestock for the extensive area is uneconomical for the livestock manager.

Using up to two dogs – You have stated that the use of two dogs has been attempted on multiple occasions, and due to the scale of the area and the varying degrees of cover, this has been unsuccessful.

It is not clear from the information provided by the applicant that all applied for areas of cover on the map would require the use of more than two dogs to flush foxes from the area. Approved areas are included in Annex II and Annex III of this licence.

Other solutions that have been considered or tried are live trapping and diversionary feeding. Neither of these methods are considered appropriate because research and experience has deemed trapping to be unsuccessful, and diversionary feeding has brought more foxes to the area in prior experience.

In this case, we are satisfied that there is no other effective solution to the use more than two dogs to stalk, search for, or flush the wild mammal species from only the areas included in Annex II and Annex III.

Test 2 is passed.

Activity Details

NatureScot must be satisfied with the number of guns and dogs proposed by an applicant

Number of guns

A licence granted to use more than two dogs for the purpose of preventing serious damage to livestock requires the deployment of the minimum number of guns which NatureScot is satisfied would be effective for compliance with ensuring that the wild mammal which is being searched for, stalked, or flushed is shot dead as soon as reasonably possible.

You have proposed that **5** guns is sufficient to ensure that the wild mammal which is being stalked or flushed is shot dead as soon as reasonably possible. You have provided information that **8** guns will be called upon for the larger areas of cover that have been granted under this licence. You have stated that the dog handler and marksmen will use their experience to ensure that all fox egress points are covered by waiting guns. NatureScot is satisfied with the number of guns proposed and that it is sufficient to ensure that if a fox is flushed, that it would be dispatched as soon as reasonably possible. If the activity flushes a wild mammal, it is therefore likely to contribute towards meeting the licensable purpose.

NatureScot is satisfied that sufficient guns will be present for the proposed activity.

Number of dogs

A licence granted to use more than two dogs may only permit the use of the minimum number of dogs which NatureScot is satisfied would be effective in achieving the licensable purpose set out in the application.

You have proposed that **18** dogs is the minimum required to undertake the activity. The application has provided a justification that **18** is required to ensure there are sufficient dogs to search for, stalk, or flush from cover.

NatureScot is satisfied that number of dogs proposed by the applicant is the minimum number of dogs required to effectively undertake the activity.

Summary

It is considered that this application meets the two licensing tests dictated under the Hunting with Dogs (Scotland) Act 2023. The activities details, provided in the application, satisfy NatureScot that: (i) only the minimum number of dogs will be permitted to achieve the licensable purpose and (ii) there will be sufficient guns to ensure any flushed wild mammal will be dispatched as soon as reasonably possible. A licence has therefore been approved for the use of more than two dogs to search for, stalk, or flush from cover a wild mammal with the intent of killing it for the purpose of preventing serious damage to livestock. The number of dogs permitted for each named area of proposed activity may not exceed the number of dogs dictated in Annex I accompanying the licence.



NatureScot NàdarAlba

Scotland's Nature Agency
Buidheann Nàdair na h-Alba

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

01463 725364
e-mail: licensing@nature.scot

Licences are issued by Scottish Natural Heritage, acting under its operating name NatureScot.

Animal Licence

Licence Number	293597	Valid from	01 Nov 2025	Valid to	01 May 2026
----------------	--------	------------	-------------	----------	-------------

This Licence has been amended from Licence Number: 275636

Licence Holder

Name	[Redacted]
Address	[Redacted]

This licence is granted under the following legislation

Hunting with Dogs (Scotland) Act 2023 Section 3 (2) (a)

Project Details

This Licence permits the use of a maximum number of dogs as specified in Annex II, to carry out the Licensed Activities at the licensed Locations as specified in Annex II and Annex III. The Licence permits the Licence Holder to undertake the Licensed Activities for no more than 4 days, falling within the period commencing on the 1st November 2025 and ending on the 1st May 2026 (the "Licence Term"), but where Annex II specifies a time period, the licensed activities can only be undertaken during those periods. The licensed activities must be carried out in accordance with the method statement "Method statement for flushing foxes from covert to waiting guns." and subsequent correspondence agreed in writing with the NatureScot Licensing Team, and the other terms and conditions of the Licence.

Activities, species and locations covered by this licence are listed in Annex 1

This licence is granted subject to compliance with the terms and conditions specified.

Authorised on behalf of NatureScot by: on 09 May 2025

Conditions	
1	Notwithstanding the granting of this Licence, licensed Activities can only be carried out when, at the time they are carried out, there is no other solution which would be effective in achieving the licensed Purpose.
2	Unless otherwise agreed in writing between NatureScot and the Licence Holder, the Licence Holder or Dog Handler must give Police Scotland and NatureScot a minimum of 2 full working days notice prior to undertaking any licenced Activity. The notice must include the date, start time, and specific licenced Location at which the licenced Activities are to take place. A Police Scotland notification form is available at: https://www.scotland.police.uk/advice-and-information/wildlife-crime/ . The notice must also include the name, home address, email address and mobile telephone number of the licence holder, the dog handler, and any assistants who are to undertake the licensed activity. The notice should be sent by email (including the Licence number in the subject line) to: licensing@nature.scot and to Police Scotland by email contactus@scotland.police.uk . If the Licence Holder does not have an email account, they can give notice orally, by calling Police Scotland on 101 and NatureScot on 01463 725364.
3	The use of dogs above ground for the licensed Activity only relates to the permitted species, foxes (<i>Vulpes Vulpes</i>).
4	The Licence only permits licenced Activities to be undertaken within the licenced Location(s) as outlined in Annex III.
5	The dogs used in the activity must be under control at all times. The dogs activity must be able to be directed by physical contact or verbal or audible command.
6	A minimum of 25% of the dogs used in any licensed Activity must be fitted with a GPS tracking device to allow the Dog Handler to track the position of the dogs. The track data recorded by each of the GPS units fitted to the dogs must be downloaded and stored by or on behalf of the Licence Holder until the expiry of the period of one year from the end of the Licence Term and the Licence Holder must provide that data to NatureScot or Police Scotland on request.
7	Annex II sets the maximum number of dogs that are permitted to be used in the area (s) covered by the licence. No more than the maximum number of dogs are permitted to be used in the licenced Activities.
8	Annex II sets the minimum number of guns required to be deployed in the area(s) covered by the licence.
9	The minimum guns (as specified in Annex II) must be deployed around areas of cover before the dogs are used in the licensed Activities.
10	The names and home addresses of marksmen for each day of licensed Activity must be recorded by the Licence Holder and retained until the expiry of one year from the end of the Licence Term. The Licence Holder must make that information available to NatureScot or Police Scotland, on request.

This licence is granted subject to compliance with the terms and conditions specified.

Authorised on behalf of NatureScot by: on 09 May 2025

Conditions - continued	
11	The Licence permits the Licenced Activities for no more than the maximum number of days specified in the Project Details section of the Licence. The Licenced Activities may only occur within the Licence Term but where Annex II specifies a time period, the licence activities can only be undertaken during those periods.
12	The wild mammal which is being searched for, stalked or flushed should be shot dead as soon as reasonably possible. If an attempt to kill the wild mammal, results in it being injured but not killed, reasonable steps must be taken to kill it in a way (other than by using a dog) that causes it the minimum possible suffering.
13	While engaged in work authorised by this licence, the Licence Holder and the Dog Handler (if specified) must each be able to produce a copy of this Licence to any Police Officer, or official of NatureScot, on demand.
14	No later than one month after the date on which this Licence expires or otherwise comes to an end, the Licence Holder must provide NatureScot with a Licence return which must set out the following information: The dates on which any licensed Activities took place, the locations at which each of the licensed Activities took place and, in each case, the number of dogs used, the number of guns deployed, the result of each activity, how many wild mammals were flushed, the outcome of the activity (e.g. killed immediately, injured and then killed / escaped, escaped), and the extent to which the activity succeeded in addressing the licensed Purpose. Annex II provides a simplified returns form for your use. Please send this information by email if possible (including your licence number in the subject line of the email), to: licensing@nature.scot

Notes	
Licence holders or any other persons covered by this licence should note the following;	
1	This licence is granted subject to compliance with the conditions as specified. Anything done otherwise than in accordance with the terms of the licence may constitute an offence. It is the responsibility of the licence holder, agents and assistants working under this licence to report to NatureScot any breaches of the licence conditions that they become aware of as soon as is reasonably possible.
2	If a Dog Handler is specified at Annex II, the Dog Handler may work independently of the Licence Holder provided that they have been given the express written permission of the Licence Holder to do so. It is the responsibility of the Licence Holder to ensure that the Dog Handler has the appropriate training and experience and that they read, understand and act in accordance with the terms and conditions of this Licence, and the Act.
	Where Named Assistants are specified at Annex II, those Named Assistants may work under the personal supervision of the Dog Handler provided that they have been given the express written permission of the Licence Holder to do so. It is the

This licence is granted subject to compliance with the terms and conditions specified.

Authorised on behalf of NatureScot by: on 09 May 2025

Notes - continued

3	responsibility of the Licence Holder to ensure that the Named Assistants have the appropriate training and experience, and that they read, understand and act in accordance with the terms and conditions of this Licence, and the Act.
4	Nothing in this licence shall confer any right of entry on to land or property.
5	This Licence may be modified or revoked by NatureScot at any time.
6	The Licence Holder shall ensure that NatureScots staff shall have such access as they may reasonably require to the licenced Locations and to any surrounding land which forms part of the same title or subjects of lease (or similar), for the purposes of observing the licenced Activities and monitoring compliance with the terms and conditions of the Licence, and the Act. For the avoidance of doubt, NatureScots staff may reasonably require access to such land and Location(s) prior to, during, and following any licenced Activities taking place.
7	It is the responsibility of the licence holder to ensure that all contact details are up to date. Not advising NatureScot of changes to licence holder contact details could result in the licence being revoked.

This licence is granted subject to compliance with the terms and conditions specified.

Authorised on behalf of NatureScot by: on 09 May 2025

Annex 1: Permitted activities

Action	Purpose	Species	Location	Grid Reference	Method
The use of dogs above ground to stalk, search for or flush from cover a wild mammal with intention of killing it for the licenced Purpose.	Preventing serious damage to livestock, woodland or crops	Domestic dog		-	N/A

Action	Purpose	Species	Location	Grid Reference	Method
To search for and retrieve a wild mammal which has been killed as a result of the activity	Preventing serious damage to livestock, woodland or crops	Domestic dog		-	N/A

This licence is granted subject to compliance with the terms and conditions specified.

Authorised on behalf of NatureScot by: on 09 May 2025

