



## Scottish Natural Heritage Dualchas Nàdair na h-Alba

All of nature for all of Scotland  
Nàdar air fad airson Alba air fad

### Scottish Natural Heritage

### Authorisations under the Deer (Scotland) Act 1996

### Guidance for Forestry Companies

This guidance has been produced to assist Forestry Companies who apply for authorisations under the Deer (Scotland) Act 1996 (“the Act”). These authorisations may be issued under the terms of Section 5(6) of the Act for out of season shooting in unenclosed woodland or under the terms of Section 18(2) of the Act for night shooting.

Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) has obligations under the Act to be satisfied that whether for out of season shooting on unenclosed woodland, or night shooting in woodland that:

- The killing or taking is necessary to prevent serious damage occurring to that woodland’ **and**
- That no other means of control which might reasonably be adopted would be adequate

In order to fulfil these obligations, we require all sections of the Authorisation Application form (available at: <http://www.snh.gov.uk/protecting-scotlands-nature/species-licensing/deer/authorisations/>) to be completed.

It is necessary for a map to be supplied showing the property boundary and the proposed control area. Additionally, any areas which are unenclosed and require an out of season authorisation under Section 5(6) of the Act must be identified. This map should be at a scale of 1:50,000 and may be supplied in hard or electronic copy. Applications for multiple properties should only be made where all the control areas lie within the same Police Area.

The form should be completed in the following manner:

**Section 1:** This should normally be completed the agent for the area concerned.

**Section 2:** All proposed controllers should be listed, giving full details as requested for each. A continuation form is available at the link above.

**Section 3:** Please tick all that apply and provide dates that you wish to be authorised for. In general, night shooting authorisations are now issued for an initial period of one month, however this period may be longer for woodland where longer term protection is required.

**Section 4:** Please provide a list of property names to which this authorisation will apply.

**Section 5:** Please provide block names for proposed control areas and include grid references.

**Section 6:** Please tick all that apply.

**Section 7:** Please provide details of damage prevention and why this has not limited damage.

**Section 8:** This section of the form should be copied and completed once for EACH CONTROL AREA. Levels of damage being experienced and target levels of damage must be supplied for each control area. Details of deer shot should be specific to each control area. Similarly, quantification of effort should be supplied at control area level.

**Section 9:** Please provide details if any of the control areas are designated sites (e.g. SSSI, SAC or SPA).

**Sections 10 & 11** are self explanatory.

**Definitions:**

**Night:** The period beginning on the expiry of one hour after sunset and ending on the commencement of one hour before sunrise.

**Enclosed:** enclosed by a stock-proof fence or other barrier. **Unenclosed** shall be construed accordingly.

**Note:** In general, and with particular regard to definition of enclosed woodland, it is for the person killing or taking deer to ensure that they are complying with the law at all times.