



General Licence information for Scotland as of the 1st January 2021

NatureScot released a new set of General Licences for Scotland that came into effect on the 1st January 2021. Be aware that there are separate licences for operating in both England & Wales.

The **three main** Scottish Licences are GL01/2021, GL02/2021 and GL03/2021. Contained in each licence there are conditions for trapping birds in Ladder and Larsen type traps and using and caring for live decoys.

All trap operators must be registered in advance with NatureScot in order to use traps under this licence, to register follow the link: <https://licensing.nature.scot/trap-registration/start>

You do not have to apply for the General Licences but you do have to read, understand and adhere to the conditions contained in them. It is important that you understand under licence each species can be controlled and why.

Each licence has specific rules about its use on Special Protection Areas (SPA's): <https://www.nature.scot/special-protected-areas-spa-scotland-map> or Special Areas of Conservation (SAC's): <https://www.nature.scot/special-areas-conservation-sac-scotland-map>. You must comply with site base standing conditions: <https://www.nature.scot/designated-sites-standing-conditions>. These conditions cover disturbance of species and damage to habitats. If you can meet the standing conditions then you can proceed with your activities, if you can not meet the standing conditions set out for the site then you will need to apply for a Specific permission by contacting licensing@nature.scot

Species Control at a Glance

Licence	GL02/2021				GL03/2021		GL01/2021
	To Prevent serious damage to:				To Preserve:	To Prevent:	Conservation
Control Purpose	Livestock	Foodstuff for Livestock	Livestock & Foodstuffs for Livestock	Crops, Vegetables & Fruit	Public Health & Public Safety	Spread of Disease	To Conserve the eggs or chicks of Wild Birds.
Carrion Crow	Yes		Yes		No	No	Yes
Hooded Crow	Yes		Yes		No	No	Yes
Magpie	Yes		Yes		No	No	Yes
Rook	Yes		Yes		No	No	No
Jackdaw	Yes		Yes		No	No	Yes
Jay	No		No		No	No	Yes
Wood Pigeon	Yes		Yes		No	No	No
Feral Pigeon	Yes		Yes		Yes	Yes	No
Ruddy Duck	No		No		No	No	Yes
Greylag Goose	Yes		Yes		No	No	No
Canada Goose	Yes		Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes

GL01/2021

Allows you to kill or take listed species for the conservation of Wild birds. "Wild bird" means any bird of a species which is ordinarily resident in or is a visitor to the UK or any member State or the European territory of any member State in a wild state but does not include poultry. "Bird" includes all stages from chick to adult.

<https://www.nature.scot/general-licence-birds-gl012021-kill-or-take-certain-birds-conservation-wild-birds-1-january-31>

GL02/2021

Allows you to kill or take certain birds for the prevention of serious damage to livestock, foodstuffs for livestock, crops, vegetables and fruit.

<https://www.nature.scot/general-licence-gl-022021-kill-or-take-certain-birds-prevention-serious-damage-livestock-foodstuffs>

GL03/2021

Allows you to kill or take certain birds for the preservation of public health, public safety and preventing the spread of disease.

<https://www.nature.scot/general-licence-gl032021-kill-or-take-certain-birds-preservation-public-health-public-safety-and>

To recap

General Licences do not have to be applied for but, you need to read and understand which licence is specific to the pest control operation that you are carrying out. You must adhere to all of the terms and conditions of the relevant licence in the links above. It may be wise to print out the relevant licence and keep it with you to show that you have read and understood how the licences work.