



Deer Stalking Licence Agreement Guidance

Deer stalking agreements can be complex and sometimes overwhelming for both parties. *The Deer Stalking Agreement Template* created by us is a simple and easy to follow document that can be tailored to both parties' objectives.

The Template comes in the form of a 'Licence agreement' whereby the landholder retains the 'Deer Rights' (the right to take deer) but gives the deer stalker permission to stalk, cull deer and if agreed, keep deer carcasses. The file is downloadable in both PDF format (for printing and completing in pen) and word document format which can be completed digitally and can be edited to suit the aims and objectives of your overall land management.

Information regarding how to complete the *Deer Stalking Agreement Template* can be found below.

1. Identification of parties

- 1a. The name(s) of the landowner, landholder, or tenant that holds or acts on the behalf of the holder of the deer rights.
- 1b. The name of the deer stalker(s) allowed to stalk and cull deer on the land.
- 1c. The address of the landholding on which the deer stalker has permission to shoot. It is important that the deer stalker and the landowner understand where the land boundaries begin and end. Both parties should undertake a walk of the boundaries and a map of the land, including boundaries, can be attached to the agreement.

2. Agreement outline

The agreement outline is a section of the agreement that can be tailored to the needs of both the landowner and the deer stalker. Points A to F give some specific actions that we feel are necessary to include and is not exhaustive. There could be other additional actions added to this list that may be highlighted in a pre-agreement meeting between the landholder and deer stalker. Below is a list of other action headings that could be included in the agreement outline:

- Annual stalking period with a review
- Land management objectives and aspirations for level of deer impact
- Cull numbers and sex ratios
- Vehicle use and parking areas
- Deer carcass sales
- Interactions with the public and other land users
- Permission to erect high seats
- Use of facilities e.g deer larder and or chiller

2a. The notification method is the way in which a deer stalker and landowner should communicate regarding deer stalking activities. For example the deer stalker may suggest setting up a text group or a group using a mobile application such as WhatsApp. The deer stalker can then text all necessary parties prior to commencing stalking. The amount of prior notice required of an intention to stalk can also be specified. Individuals that might be included in the group could be the tenant farmer, forester and gamekeeper. This also gives the other parties the opportunity to contact the deer stalker regarding any activities that may affect stalking.

3. Deer stalker information

The deer stalker information is a section that provides points of contact for the landowner and other deer stalkers if there are more than one.

Relevant insurance information can be provided here and it is also important to obtain a copy of the deer stalkers insurance policy. Deer stalking or shooting insurance can be purchased from several organisations and usually includes public liability, employers liability and products liability at approximately £10,000,000 each. This sum may vary from one organisation to another. Some organisations offering insurance for deer stalkers and shooters are as follows:

- The British Association of Shooting and Conservation (BASC)
- The British Deer Society (BDS)
- Scottish Association for Countryside Sports (SACS)
- The Countryside Alliance
- The National Game Keepers Organisation (NGO).

The Large Game Trained Hunter Number is issued after completing a game meat hygiene assessment. A trained hunter number states that a person has sufficient knowledge and skill to identify abnormal characteristics that may indicate that the meat from a deer presents a health risk. This number must be included on the signed declaration 'deer tag' and attached to the hind leg of the animal when selling to a non-retail game dealer or an Approved Game Handling Establishment (AGHE). For more information regarding this please read our ***Deer Management FAQ for Landowners*** on www.highweald.org

4. Relevant signatures

The relevant signatures of all parties concerned can either be completed in person or digitally. Completing the agreement in person gives all parties the opportunity to review and discuss the agreement outline before signing.

5. Additional materials needed

When setting up the environment for deer stalking on a property it is beneficial if landowners undertake a simple, generic risk assessment by the landowner, such as that available on www.highweald.org. The deer stalking agreement should also include a map of the land area to be covered and the format of the cull data sheet to be used. The cull data sheet can be based on the template provided on www.highweald.org.