



Wildlife Estates Scotland

Application for Level 2 Accreditation

Introduction

The Wildlife Estates Scotland (WES) Accreditation initiative is owned, managed and administered by Scottish Land & Estates. It has its own independent Board of Directors, with extensive experience of game, wildlife and land management in Scotland. WES is fully endorsed and supported by Scottish Government, Scottish Natural Heritage, and a range of other conservation organisations and charities.

WES is a national version of the EU Wildlife Estates (WE) label. Scotland differs from other European countries in that wildlife and sporting management objectives have been second only to farming as determinants of land use over very large areas of the countryside for many generations. Shooting, stalking and fishing in Scotland are not by-products of management for other purposes; they are an important primary land use and integral to our landscape and culture.

The purpose of WES is to introduce an objective accreditation system to underpin and improve game and wildlife management undertaken by Scottish landowners and managers, in line with the principles of biodiversity conservation. Through the collection of general information about land management, WES also seeks to identify related benefits for society and rural communities.

Basis of assessment

WES accreditation standards focus on establishing whether an Estate:

- can demonstrate it is meeting responsibilities to manage land actively and in a sustainable manner for biodiversity, economic and social benefit
- has given due priority to wildlife and biodiversity in planning and implementing its management policy

Scoring is based on evidence of these key aspects. WES measurement will also take into account other indicators including collaborative work to reverse biodiversity fragmentation, investment in biodiversity projects and mitigation of threats to biodiversity.

In order for an estate to secure accreditation, it must achieve a minimum number of points in its application and in the opinion of the assessor (who is independent of WES itself) demonstrate ongoing commitment to achieving biodiversity dividends. The assessor can call upon field staff to visit an estate to verify features of an application, and on the advice of an expert panel to adjudicate queries arising from the application or site visit.

10 Commitments

1. Identification of the land-owner or nominated representative for the estate concerned.
2. Undertaking active wildlife management following a long-term integrated wildlife management plan.
3. Maintaining records and monitoring delivery of the wildlife management plan.
4. Undertaking sustainable shooting, stalking and/or fishing.
5. Managing for a sustainable balance of game, deer and other species and their shared habitats.
6. Maintaining best practice standards of animal welfare.
7. Compliance with all legal requirements and relevant Scottish codes of practice.
8. Adhering to the requirements of the Agreement between Birdlife International and FACE on Directive 79/409/EEC, the European Charter on Hunting and Biodiversity and the EU Commission's Guide on Hunting under the Birds Directive.
9. Maintaining active engagement with local communities and undertaking education/awareness raising activities.
10. To apply for the Level 2 Accreditation process.

Contents

Guidance on completing this form

Section 1 – Summary information about your Estate

Section 2 – Species, habitats and their condition

Section 3 – Game and wildlife management

Section 4 – Conservation measures undertaken on your Estate

Section 5 – Integrating Game and Wildlife management with
other Estate activities

Section 6 – Social, employment and cultural aspects

Declaration

Description of scoring and overall evaluation

Guidance on completing this form

This questionnaire should be read in conjunction with the Wildlife Estates Scotland (WES) Concept Briefing and the 10 'Level 1' Commitments. By virtue of Level 1 membership, Applicants for Level 2 accreditation have already undertaken to recognise the 10 Commitments.

Confidentiality and Data Protection

Any personal information provided in the WES application form will be treated as private and confidential between the Applicant and Wildlife Estates Scotland ('WES'), except where disclosure is made at your request or with your consent or where we are required by law to disclose.

Information gathered in this application form will be used for the purposes of assessing your application for accreditation. With the exception of personal information, it may also be used and published as part of wider data sets generated by WES to demonstrate the role of Estates in relation to the Scottish rural economy, local communities and biodiversity. Such reporting will include only generic area identification.

No personal information will be disclosed to third parties except to the National Gamebag Census, which will only be for the purpose of enabling a census return to be completed.

If you wish to check or amend the data held, you can contact WES by e-mail via info@wildlife-estates.co.uk or by contacting Linda Cairns at Scottish Land & Estates, tel 0131 653 5400.

Guidance on Completion of the Level 2 Application for WES accreditation

We have compiled guidance notes to help you in completing the application form. We have created a link at the beginning of each of the main sections indicated by the following text:

[FOR HELP WITH THIS SECTION, CLICK HERE](#)

By clicking on this link, it will take you straight to guidance for that section. Alternatively, you can refer to the full guidance notes which are set out at the end of this Application form.

Please bear in mind the following points in completing this Application Form:

Throughout this Application Form, the term 'estate' should be interpreted broadly to mean any size of landholding. Applications should normally be submitted only by the owner of the estate or their appointed representative on their behalf, or by long-term tenants as agreed with WES. We seek a mixture of factual and more descriptive information about the estate and how it is managed. There is no one model or ideal response to the questions. Each application will be assessed in its own context.

The application form has been designed to cover a wide range of estate circumstances and activities. Some questions will not apply to every situation – please indicate 'Not Applicable' or 'N/A' where this is the case. Such responses will not affect the outcome of the assessment.

Equally, although specific response prompts and space have been provided for many questions, there may be cases where you may wish to provide us with more information. We welcome any additional background you wish to provide to us.

Submission instructions

We recommend that you save the application form on your own computer, and within the folder we have sent to you.

When you are ready to submit the whole folder (including the application and supporting documents) to us, please attach this to an e-mail and send this to:

ross@affinityworks.net

Alternatively, you can send a printed copy of your application and supporting documents to:

Linda Cairns
Scottish Land & Estates
Stuart House
Eskmills Business Park
Musselburgh EH21 7PB

If you have any queries about the best way to return your application and supporting information, you can contact Ross either by e-mail (ross@affinityworks.net) or by phone on 07773 898 625 to discuss arrangements.

Section 1

Summary information about your Estate

In this section, we would like to establish the location, contact and general information about your Estate.

Identification and Location [FOR HELP WITH THIS SECTION, CLICK HERE](#)

[1.1 Location](#)

Name of Estate

Area of Estate in ha

Address 1

Address 2

Postcode

[1.2 Contact details](#)

Land owner

Name

Address 1

Address 2

Postcode

Email

Manager/Factor (or person with day to day management responsibility)

Name

Address 1

Address 2

Postcode

Email

[1.3 Principal sporting & wildlife management activities](#)

We would like to learn about the range of sporting and wildlife management currently undertaken on your Estate. Please use the box below to provide a summary of the principal activities:

Please **SAVE** this form now

1.4 Sporting rights [FOR HELP WITH THIS SECTION, CLICK HERE](#)

Percentage (%) of estate over which sporting rights are exercised

Are sporting rights on the estate:

a) In-hand?

- Yes – private use
 Yes – short lets (daily, weekly) please tick for different activities listed below

	Daily Lets	Weekly Lets
Shooting	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stalking	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fishing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

OR

b) Let out for long or annual lease?

- Yes – If yes, please indicate the length of let (eg long-lease, annual) in the table below

	Length of lease
Shooting	
Stalking	
Fishing	

Do you hold or rent sporting rights on land adjacent to the Estate which is not owned by you?
 If you answer 'yes', please include a copy of any sporting tenancy agreement with this application

- Yes
 No

1.5 Land types and usage on your Estate [FOR HELP WITH THIS SECTION, CLICK HERE](#)

In this section, we would like to understand the broad composition of main land types and usage on your Estate.

Land types

Land description	Area of estate (ha)	% of estate
Montane (above treeline)		
Open hill/moorland		
Wetlands		
Woodlands (enclosed)		
Open woodland / pasture		
Permanent pasture (in-by, enclosed)		
Temporary pasture / Arable		
Cultivated game crops		
Long fallow/Set aside (incl. voluntary)		

If the estate has standing waters such as lochs, dams or ponds, please indicate the number & area. In the case of running waters (such as rivers or large burns), please indicate the approximate length:

Water assets

Water description	Number	Approx area (ha)
Natural lochs		
Man-made dams or ponds		
	Approximate length (Km)	
River		
Burns / streams		

Land usage

In hand agriculture	Area of in-hand agricultural land (ha)	% of estate
Amount		

Let agriculture	Number of holdings	Total area of let holdings (ha)	Total area of lets as % of estate
Amount			

Crofted land	Number of holdings	Total area of croftings (ha)	Total area of crofts as % of estate
Amount			

Common grazings	Number of graziers	Total area of grazings (ha)	Area of grazings as % of estate
Amount			

In hand Forestry	Total area of in hand forestry (ha)	Area of in hand forestry as % of estate
Amount		

Let Forestry	Total area of let Forestry (ha)	Total are of let Forestry as % of estate
Amount		

Commercial Activities (eg quarry, industrial)	Total area of commercial activities	Total area of commercial activities as % of estate
Amount		

Section 2

Species, Habitats and their condition

In this section, we wish to explore the range of species and habitats both managed and present on your Estate.

2.1 Species managed on the Estate [FOR HELP WITH THIS SECTION, CLICK HERE](#)

Please can you indicate all species on the estate that you harvest as part of stalking, shooting and fishing activities, and pest species managed under general or specific licence by marking appropriate boxes. Primary attention should be given to the species highlighted in yellow, which WES has nominated as being of significant conservation management importance and as indicators of the Estate's overall stewardship approach.

Mammals	Present	Managed	Population on estate	Basis of count	Pop trend since 2000
Red Deer	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
Roe Deer	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
Sika Deer	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
Fallow Deer	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
Brown Hare	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
Mountain Hare	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
Rabbit	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
Fox	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
North American Mink	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
Grey Squirrel	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
Stoat	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
Weasel	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
Hedgehog	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
Brown Rat	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
Other (please identify)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
Other (please identify)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
Other (please identify)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			

Birds (Game / Quarry)	Present	Released	Shot	Population on estate	Basis of count	Pop trend since 2000
Red Grouse	<input type="checkbox"/>	-	<input type="checkbox"/>			
Black Grouse	<input type="checkbox"/>	-	<input type="checkbox"/>			
Pheasant	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
Grey Partridge	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
Woodcock	<input type="checkbox"/>	-	<input type="checkbox"/>			
Common Snipe	<input type="checkbox"/>	-	<input type="checkbox"/>			
Teal	<input type="checkbox"/>	-	<input type="checkbox"/>			
Red-legged Partridge	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
Mallard	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
Other (please identify)	<input type="checkbox"/>	-	<input type="checkbox"/>			
Other (please identify)	<input type="checkbox"/>	-	<input type="checkbox"/>			
Other (please identify)	<input type="checkbox"/>	-	<input type="checkbox"/>			

Fish	Present	Managed / Stocked	Catch & release %
Salmon	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Sea Trout	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Brown Trout	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Rainbow Trout	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Arctic Charr	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Pike	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Other (please identify)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Other (please identify)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Pest species controlled under general license	Present	Managed	Population on estate	Basis of count	Pop trend since 2000
Carrion/Hooded Crow	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
Magpie	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
Woodpigeon	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
Other (please identify)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
Other (please identify)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
Other (please identify)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			

Species controlled under specific license (eg Raven control)	Reason for license	Population on estate	Basis of count	Pop trend since 2000
Please identify				
Please identify				
Please identify				

2.2 Species present on the estate [FOR HELP WITH THIS SECTION, CLICK HERE](#)

In this section, we would be grateful if you can indicate the presence, and where possible, the status of any species and habitats that are present on the Estate. If you are aware of the presence of a rare species or one that is of particular interest or importance to you that is not listed, please add it in at the bottom of the relevant section. We are particularly interested in establishing how the presence of species relates to biodiversity management practices. Primary attention should be given to the species highlighted in yellow, which WES has nominated as being of significant conservation management importance.

Mammals	Population on estate	Basis of count	Pop trend since 2000
Pine Marten			
Red Squirrel			
Water Vole			
Wildcat			
Polecat			
Badger			
Otter			
Beaver			
Pipistrelle bat			
Brown Long-eared bat			
Daubenton's bat			
Other (please identify)			
Other (please identify)			
Other (please identify)			

Birds	Population on estate	Individuals or pairs	Breeding / wintering?	Pop trend since 2000
Black-throated Diver †				
Red-throated Diver †				
Whooper Swan †				
Capercaillie †				
Golden Eagle †				
Osprey †				
Hen Harrier †				
Red Kite				
Merlin †				
Peregrine Falcon †				
Buzzard				
Kestrel				
Dotterel †				
Curlew				
Golden Plover †				
Lapwing				
Redshank				
Ring Ouzel				
Tree Sparrow				
Twite				
Barn owl				
Pied Flycatcher				
Redstart				
Nuthatch				
Kingfisher				
Corn Bunting				
Other (please identify)				
Other (please identify)				
Other (please identify)				
Other (please identify)				
Other (please identify)				
Other (please identify)				
Other (please identify)				

† Subject to being sustainably managed to ensure agricultural, landscape, ecological & environmental functions/services

Amphibians	Extent	Pop trend since 2000
Great Crested Newt	Number of sites	
Other (please identify)		
Other (please identify)		
Other (please identify)		
Other (please identify)		

List any rare plants found on the estate	Widespread or localized on estate?

[2.3 Habitats on the estate](#) (Annex A provides definitions) [FOR HELP WITH THIS SECTION, CLICK HERE](#)

Habitat type	Approx extent	Ha. (or Km if linear)
Woodland		
Pinewoods		
Native broadleaved woodland and scrub		
Lowland & Farmland		
Species rich lowland grassland		
Hedgerows and arable field margins		
Upland		
Heathland and mountains (incl rock/screes)		
Upland herb-rich (calcareous) pastures		
Freshwater & Wetland		
Fens, flushes and swamps		
Bogs		
Freshwater lochs and ponds		
Rivers and streams		
Marine & Coastal		
Cliffs and slopes		
Sand dunes, machair and shingle		
Saltmarsh		

[2.4 Biodiversity value – Biodiversity Area](#) [FOR HELP WITH THIS SECTION, CLICK HERE](#)

Other features on the estate or holding can have biodiversity value. If you have any of the following, please indicate the number, area or length of these features:

Type of biodiversity area	Number, area or length
FARMED ARABLE/OTHER SPECIALLY CREATED HABITATS	
Isolated trees (eg parkland)	(number)
Dry-stone walls/dykes	(length in m)
Hedges	(length in m)
Forest edge, spinney	(length in m)
Field ditches, minor watercourse,	(length in m)
Grass cross-field path, field border	(length in m)
Wildflower Strips & Wildbird seed-mix	(area in ha)
Permanent fallow (except Industrial set-aside)	(area in ha)

Section 3

Game & Wildlife management

[3.1 Sporting management](#) [FOR HELP WITH THIS SECTION, CLICK HERE](#)

Full completion of this section will generate an outline game and wildlife management plan for the purposes of WES evaluation. The outline plan will be made available for you to retain and make use of. You can supplement the information you supply in this section by attaching any existing plans you may have at section 3.4

3.1 a) Summary of game & wildlife management objectives:

Please provide a description of your chief objectives in managing game, fisheries and wildlife assets on the estate

3.1 b) Development of your Game & Wildlife Management practices:

We would like to understand the main game and wildlife management practices on your estate (eg in respect of muirburn & heather management, woodland & game cover planting, game releasing policy or fisheries management) and how these have evolved to address current circumstances, changes in legislation and other influences affecting your management:

3.1 c) Summary of key conservation or re-introduction programmes on the estate:

What would you describe as the key conservation or re-introduction initiatives undertaken on your estate?

3.1 d) Game-bag and predator management returns for past 5 years

As part of the WES assessment, we wish to consider game-bag figures alongside other management information you provide. If your estate already contributes to the GWCT's National Game-bag census (NGC), please indicate here:

If your Estate is not yet part of the National Gamebag census, we will arrange for census forms to be sent to you by e-mail for completion.

If the Estate only manages game, deer or pests for control purposes, we still welcome completion of the NGC as part of the accreditation assessment

3.1 e) Disease management:

Disease management is an increasingly important aspect of sound management policy. We would be grateful if you could indicate how you manage for diseases in wild & released game bird stocks, deer and other health risks:

3.1 f) Conflict management:

We would like to understand about conflicts affecting game / wildlife management on the estate, such as how population/density of quarry or other species can affect returns, how deer management practices carried out on neighbouring estates impact on your work, or how avian and mammalian predation affects your gamebag. We would also appreciate your description of any techniques you use to mitigate such impacts:

3.1 g) Sporting activity and compatibility with other Estate activities

Please describe how sporting activity is compatible with other land uses on the Estate (such as Forestry, Farming, Tourism, commercial activities)

3.1 h) Membership of game & land management organizations & training support We would be grateful if you could indicate what game and land management organizations you subscribe to, and which you would choose for training support:

	Membership	Training support
Scottish Land & Estates	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
British Association for Shooting & Conservation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Scottish Gamekeepers Association	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
British Deer Society	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Association of Deer Management Groups	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Local Fishery Trust	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Institute of Fisheries Management	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Royal Society for the Protection of Birds	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
British Trust for Ornithology	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (please specify)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

3.1 j) Predator & Pest control (if this section is not applicable to you, please click on the box here to indicate N/A and move to the next question)

We would like to know how predators (such as foxes, crows and stoats / weasels) and pests (such as Rabbits) are controlled, including a description of shooting, trapping and snaring management. Please also indicate what records are maintained, and whether maps of snares and traps are available. Please attach any documentation to support this part of the application:

3.1 j) Predator & Pest control cont'd

Do staff on the estate hold snaring accreditation, as now required by legislation? Yes, all Yes, some

If you are happy to provide estate snaring accreditation ID and/or trap numbers, please enter details here:

NB Rather than provide us with numbers, you may prefer that we approach GWCT as the administrators of the snaring accreditation database to confirm that they hold records for staff on your estate

If no one holds accreditation, can you indicate why?

3.2 Best Practice [FOR HELP WITH THIS SECTION, CLICK HERE](#)

3.2 a) Game rearing best practice If this section is not applicable to you, please indicate by checking the N/A box here and move to the next question:

If the estate rears game birds (as well as releasing them), please indicate compliance with the Scottish Code of Practice for the Welfare of Gamebirds Reared for Sporting Purposes.

1. Can you demonstrate records showing origin of stock?

Yes No

2. Are hatchery facilities separate from rearing facilities?

Yes No

3. Are you registered with a Vet?

Yes No

If you indicate yes, we would be grateful if you could supply the name and address of your Vet here:

4. Do all birds have adequate access to clean water, and to appropriate feed?

Yes No

5. Do you regularly use biting, trimming or brailing techniques?

Yes No

6. Is housing and penning in line with the Scottish Code of Practice?

Yes No

7. Is your disease treatment and record keeping in line with the Scottish Code of Practice?

Yes No

8. Do you carry out catching and transportation in line with the Scottish Code of Practice?

Yes No

9. Gamebirds are in a healthy condition, well adapted and appropriately hardened off in respect of feather development, weather tolerance, diet and method of feeding for release.

Yes No

Please include any documentation to confirm rearing best practice

3.2 b) Game releasing best practice

If this section is not applicable to you, please indicate by checking the box here to indicate N/A and move to the next question:

If the estate releases quarry species, please indicate below compliance with sustainable game-bird releasing, for instance, in line with GWCT Guidelines

There are no more than 700-1000 birds per ha (300-400 per acre) in release pens

Confirm

There is no more than 1/3 of total woodland on a shoot enclosed by release pen

Confirm

Release pens are not sited directly on or close to particularly sensitive locations (eg reptile breeding or hibernation sites, patches of woodland with notable ground flora or insect fauna), or close to public highways

Confirm

Please include any documentation to confirm releasing best practice

Please SAVE this form now

3.2 c) Shoot management best practice

If this section is not applicable to you, please indicate by checking the box here to indicate N/A and move to the next question:

If the estate shoots gamebirds or wildfowl, please indicate below how it complies with the Code of Good Shooting Practice published by SL&E, SGA, BASC, GWCT and others?

Please describe how you promote the safe conduct of shooting, respect for the countryside and consideration for others

What steps does the estate undertake to demonstrate respect for quarry

Please describe arrangements for game meat hygiene and handling

Are risk assessment and emergency action plans in place?

Confirm

The estate does not release birds to replace any already released & shot in that season.

Confirm

Please include any documentation to confirm releasing best practice

3.2 d) Deer Management code

If this section is not applicable to you, please indicate by checking the box here to indicate N/A and move to the next question:

If the estate manages deer, please indicate below the steps it takes to ensure it does so in line with the Code of Deer Management published by SNH?

How does your estate Manage deer as a sustainable resource?

What steps does the estate undertake to minimize negative deer impacts on the public interest?

How does the estate safeguard deer welfare?

3.2 e) Deer management best practice If the estate manages deer, what steps does it take to ensure that those who kill them (including unaccompanied stalkers) have demonstrated their competence to do so? Please also indicate what qualifications are held by estate staff:

3.2 f) Collaborative work in support of game and wildlife management Does the estate collaborate with neighbours in respect of game and wildlife management? Please provide a description of the work undertaken and indicate other estates or organizations involved

3.2 g) Muirburn best practice

If this section is not applicable to you, please indicate by checking the box here to indicate N/A and move to the next question:

If the estate carries out muirburn, please indicate below how it does so in line with the Muirburn Code of Practice
Please identify any situations on your estate where burning should not be carried out ("fire-free" areas)

Please indicate how the estate plans where and how to carry out burning in advance

Please describe what preparation is undertaken before any burning is undertaken

What steps does the estate undertake to ensure burning is carried out in a safe and professional manner?

What techniques are used by the estate to control and manage fire risks?

3.2 h) Fishery Management best practice If the estate manages a fishery, how does it exercise Good Practice in Fishery Management?

Does the estate undertake any measures to improve or impede drainage, alleviate flood risks or modify water channels and flows for other purposes? If relevant, please describe how the estate complies with SEPA's published guidance and the Code of Best Practice for Gravel Working in Scottish Salmon Rivers

3.2 j) Game & Wildlife Management Best Practice credentials

In this section, we seek information on the Estate's training policy and remedial action taken in response to any issues regarding best practice management

What steps has the Estate taken in respect of best practice training and accreditation for its staff? Please indicate any courses arranged for staff:

What instruction is given to new employees and trainees regarding estate policy and what specific conditions are they asked to adhere to?

Have any members of staff, or anyone contractually connected with the estate, been convicted in respect of a wildlife crime in the last 5 years?

Yes No

If you have answered yes to the previous question, please provide brief details of the circumstances, and steps taken to ensure adherence to the Law and Best Practice

If charges have been made in respect of wildlife crime in the last 5 years that have not led to convictions, please indicate actions taken to ensure that staff are fully appraised and adequately trained to prevent recurrence:

[3.3 Game & Wildlife Management plans](#) [FOR HELP WITH THIS SECTION, CLICK HERE](#)

Estate plans and their practical usage are central in demonstrating fulfillment of WES commitments. Examples of plans that will help your application include:

- Existing Game and Wildlife management plans (Deer, Shoot, Fishery)
- SRDP plans
- Conservation plans
- Collaborative plans (eg fishery management / river boards, Deer management, Black Grouse, Grey Partridge)

Please add any relevant documents to the Management plan folder we have set up within your main WES application folder.

3.4 Income & Expenditure generated by your Game and Wildlife Management work [FOR HELP WITH THIS SECTION, CLICK HERE](#)

We are interested in establishing income generated by Game and Wildlife Management, annual running costs and investment in specific projects. It will not affect this application if you don't provide this information, but we would be grateful if you can indicate figures under the following headings:

	Shooting	Stalking	Fishing
Annual Income from Game management			
Annual running costs of game management			

The private investment you have made in specific game & wildlife projects (last 5 years):

£

Level of financial assistance received from Scottish Government via RP or LMO payments (last 5 years):

£

3.5 Sporting use [FOR HELP WITH THIS SECTION, CLICK HERE](#)

What is the annual number of:

Rifle days	
Gun days (shoots x guns)	
Rod days	
Paying clients / tenants	
Non-paying guests	

Section 4

Conservation measures undertaken on your Estate [FOR HELP WITH THIS SECTION, CLICK HERE](#)

In this section, we would like to understand the extent of conservation measures undertaken on your Estate in relation to game and wildlife management.

Conservation measures	Please briefly describe work undertaken
<i>Re-vegetation/ Re-forestation:</i>	
Woodland habitat networks	
On river banks and other water margins	
Other (please identify)	
<i>Creation/maintenance of farmed landscapes</i>	
<i>(Where appropriate, please indicate length in m or Km, or area in Ha)</i>	
Strips with natural vegetation (Beetle Banks)	
Hedges with fruiting bushes	
Natural boundaries	
Field margin strips	
Game / Wild-bird crops	
In-field plots	
Low-input meadows	
Other (please identify)	
<i>Forestry</i>	
Creation of Clearings	
Preservation of old dead-wood/ trees	
Felling to waste	
Other (please identify)	
<i>Upland management</i>	
Montane scrub regeneration	
Heather restoration	
Bracken control	
Drain/Ditch blocking	
Peatland erosion control	
Other (please identify)	
<i>Wetlands and river bed</i>	
Restoration of meanders/floodplains	
Natural banks and gently sloping banks	
Creation of islands	
Construction of fishing ponds	
Provision of marginal riparian habitats	
Other (please identify)	
<i>Measures that favour nest-building</i>	
Placement of artificial nests for birds & chiroptera	
Protection of nests of valuable & symbolic birds	
Other (please identify)	

Conservation measures	Please briefly describe work undertaken
<i>Shelters and refuges for wildlife</i>	
Artificial holts/setts	
Cover made from branches/brashings	
Long/dense vegetation left for breeding sites	
Coppiced woods and bushes	
Plots of game crops	
Other (please identify)	
<i>Domestic & industrial processing of residues</i>	
Reed bed treatment	
Other (please identify)	
<i>Control of predators</i>	
Foxes	
Crows	
Magpies	
Stoats / Weasels	
Rats	
Feral cats	
Other (please identify)	
<i>Food supply & other measures for game-birds or deer</i>	
Supplementary/alternative food supplies provided	
Preventative vaccination /dosing measures	
Protection against game damage	
Other (please identify)	

Section 5

Integrating Game & Wildlife management with other Estate activities

In this section, we would like to understand how Game & wildlife Management integrates with other important activities on the Estate. There are 4 key areas covering:

1. Agriculture
2. Forestry
3. Tourism
4. Other commercial activities (for instance quarrying, mining, renewable energy schemes)

Please complete only those sections relevant to your Estate.

[5.1 Agriculture](#) [FOR HELP WITH THIS SECTION, CLICK HERE](#)

How farming integrates with game and wildlife management on your estate

Applicants should complete questions in this section in relation to 'in-hand' farming operations. If there is no 'in-hand' ground, please indicate 'Not Applicable', or leave blank

Is any part of your farming operation in receipt of Less Favoured Area (LFA) support?

Yes No

Is any part of your farming operation LEAF Marque certified?

Yes No

5.1 a) Crops

If you do not regularly grow crops on the estate, please move on to 5.1 c) Rural development Contracts.

All crops may potentially be used by game and wildlife. Please indicate:

Total cultivated area in ha (incl temp grass)	
Principal crops grown (You can nominate up to five)	

5.1 b) Wildlife friendly farming practices

Please indicate any wildlife friendly management practices you undertake in relation to crops

Wildlife friendly practices	Please check if Yes	Area in ha to which practices are applied
i) Do you use min-till or direct drilling techniques?	<input type="checkbox"/>	
ii) Are unharvested crops left for wildlife?	<input type="checkbox"/>	
iii) Do you leave any uncultivated or unsprayed crop margins/ headlands?	<input type="checkbox"/>	
iv) Are wildlife friendly mowing or harvesting techniques used?	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Stubble		Height
Please indicate the typical height of any stubble left (in cm):		

What other wildlife-friendly operations are undertaken to minimise negative impacts? (eg marking/avoiding wader nests in spring cultivations:

5.1 c) Rural Development contracts

Please indicate the agricultural area where biodiversity measures under Rural Development Contracts (LMO or RP) or other agri-environmental schemes are in place:

Type of contract	Tick if yes	Area in ha	Description of work
Land Management Options (LMO)	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Rural Priorities (RP)	<input type="checkbox"/>		

5.1 d) Livestock

Does the estate farm commercial livestock?

Yes No

Type of livestock	Intensive / semi-intensive farming?	Extensive farming?
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

If you maintain livestock on upland ground what particular measures do you undertake to integrate their management with that for game and wildlife? (Please describe for both sheep and cattle)

Please describe how any livestock health measures you use (eg sheep dipped for tick) may also benefit game and wildlife. Please also indicate whether tenants are required to comply with health & preventative measures:

Are ground-nesting birds or other wildlife protected from disturbance or trampling by livestock during the breeding season?

Yes No

If yes, please describe what actions are undertaken:

5.1 e) Water quality measures

Does the estate take measures to improve water quality (eg slurry/manure management)?

Yes No

If yes, please describe:

What management does the estate undertake to mitigate diffuse pollution (farming or other estate activities)?

5.1 f) Deer and Farmland

Are stocking rates managed to prevent overgrazing & reduce competition with wild deer and other herbivores? (eg goats hares)

Yes No

If yes, please describe:

Can you indicate the area of grassland and cultivations that are made available to deer (or goats and hares)?

5.1 g) Farming tenancy arrangements

How does the estate work with tenants to promote wildlife-friendly farming techniques?

5.1 h) Other comments on how farming activities integrate with game and wildlife management on the Estate**5.1 i) Farm management plans**

If appropriate to your WES application, please include your farm business plan in the Management plan folder we have set up within your main WES application folder.

5.2 Forestry [FOR HELP WITH THIS SECTION, CLICK HERE](#)

How forestry integrates with game and wildlife management on your estate

5.2 a) Woodland certification

Does the Estate hold any woodland certification? Please indicate any on the following list:

Certification	Held?
Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)	<input type="checkbox"/>
UK Woodland Assurance Standard (UKWAS)	<input type="checkbox"/>
PEFC	<input type="checkbox"/>

5.2 b) Woodland cover

Woodland cover is important for biodiversity and other benefits including carbon storage. Please indicate:

Total area of forest/woodland in ha	
Area of ancient or semi-natural woodland in ha	
Area of commercial woodland in ha	
Proportion of commercial deciduous woodland	
Proportion of commercial conifer woodland	

5.2 c) Annual growth / harvest balance

Please describe the pattern of timber removal and timber planting / growth over the last 10 years on your estate, and whether a balance between removal and growth has been maintained

5.2 d) Restocking

Is re-stocking mainly by natural regeneration and / or by planting?

Natural regeneration Planting

If both, please indicate the approximate proportion of each over last 10 years:

Regeneration Planting

5.2 e) Forestry work – wildlife and environmental impacts

When forestry activities are undertaken, please indicate measures taken to minimise disturbance to wildlife, especially during the breeding season. Please also indicate the use of any forestry techniques that minimise potential environmental impacts (eg Movement of personnel, vehicles, machinery, soil compaction, dust production, crossing streams, noise.) Please indicate what methods and techniques are used:

Are woodland features and habitat sites (such as wet woodland, mires, key species areas) listed and mapped (eg for the benefit of staff and contractors carrying out forestry work)

Yes No

Do you maintain a native species policy?

Yes No

Please describe any circumstances when you have preferred the establishment of exotic over native species plantations

Are wildlife corridors, thinning, streamside zones and stands of different ages/rotation periods provided for when designing the layout of plantations?

Yes No

5.2 f) Conversion to non-forest land uses

During the past 5 years, have any forest plantations been converted to non-forest land uses?

- No
- Yes, a limited portion
- Yes, to enable long-term conservation benefits
- Yes, to facilitate renewable energy projects

5.2 g) Measures to prevent forest and woodland damage

Are measures taken within the estate to prevent and minimise outbreaks of pests, diseases, fires, and invasive plant introduction?

Yes No

If yes, please describe:

5.2 h) Measures to prevent game or deer damage

What measures are taken within the estate to prevent game/deer damage?

None Measures taken

If so, please describe the measures:

What other measures taken on the estate to maintain or improve soil structure, fertility, and biological activity within Forest or woodland areas that benefit game and wildlife management? Please describe the measures:

5.2 j) Forestry and woodland management plans

If appropriate to your WES application, please attach your Forestry and/or Woodland management plan within the Management plan folder we have set up within your main WES application folder.

5.3 Tourism [FOR HELP WITH THIS SECTION, CLICK HERE](#)

The role of tourism-related enterprises can be important in generating revenue to assist game and wildlife management work on the Estate. We are therefore interested in establishing the type of tourism and how this fits in.

If there is no tourism business on the Estate, please advance to the next section on 'Other commercial activities'.

5.3 a) Tourism activities on estate

Please indicate the approx number of individual participants and those staying one or more nights on the Estate.

Country sport	Number of participants pa	No. of overnight stays pa
Type of wildlife watching	Number of participants pa	No. of overnight stays pa
Type of active Sports	Number of participants pa	No. of overnight stays pa
Type of Informal recreation	Number of participants pa	No. of overnight stays pa
Cultural heritage attraction	Number of participants pa	No. of overnight stays pa
Other tourism activities	Number of participants pa	No. of overnight stays pa

5.3 b) Tourist accommodation

What type of accommodation is available on the Estate and how many bed-nights are provided p.a.?

Catered accommodation type	Number of bed nights pa
Fully catered lodge or private house	
B&B	
Other	

Uncatered accommodation	Number of properties	Number of bed nights pa
Lodge / House		
Cottage		
Hostel / Bunkhouse		
Off-site (through local providers)		
	Number of pitches	Number of camp nights pa
Camp site		

Do you have a Retail outlet on the Estate?

Yes No

If yes, please indicate number of retail shoppers pa

Please describe the type(s) of retail outlet:

5.3 c) Tourism and local community connections

Please indicate how your package of tourism products connects with other local tourism operators and engages with the local community:

5.3 d) Tourism schemes / customer care programmes

Please indicate what activities/schemes or other steps the estate undertakes to demonstrate the quality of its tourism facilities, for instance, in terms of sustainability, or customer care programmes

5.3 e) Tourism and wildlife management

Please indicate how the estate integrates tourism products with game and wildlife management:

5.3 f) Tourism development & management plans

If appropriate to your WES application, please attach your Tourism business plan within the Management plan folder within your main WES application folder.

5.4 Other commercial activities [FOR HELP WITH THIS SECTION, CLICK HERE](#)

If there is no other commercial activity on the Estate, please advance to Section 6 – Social, employment and cultural aspects

Please indicate other commercial land uses on the estate (eg quarrying/minerals, waste disposal, storage, aquaculture, renewable energy), whether they are directly operated by the estate or by a commercial lessee, and, if appropriate, the area they occupy:

Commercial land use	Estate or lessee-run	Area of estate occupied – ha

For each activity please describe measures taken to manage any negative impacts these might have on other activities including game and wildlife management on the estate and ways in which it is integrated with or contributes towards them.

Commercial land use	Measures to offset impacts on estate activities

For each activity please indicate if the estate complies with, or requires tenants (eg through clause in lease agreements) to comply with published guidance or codes of good practice relevant to that activity (eg forest removal for windfarms, aquaculture). Please tick as appropriate

Commercial land use	Estate compliance	Tenancy requirement
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please describe how compliance is met for any estate or tenancy activity:

Please identify any environmental impact assessment studies carried out in relation to commercial activities on the estate, and what influence they have had on estate activities, particularly in relation to wildlife management

Section 6

Social, employment and cultural aspects

6.1 Access and recreational use in relation to game and wildlife management [FOR HELP WITH THIS SECTION, CLICK HERE](#)

As in preceding sections of this questionnaire, we are interested in exploring the links between social aspects and game & wildlife management. This may also include links with education, communication, access, heritage and overall employment provided by the estate.

6.1 a) Estate access

How is the Estate used by people not linked to its management, for instance by walkers, guided tours, and cyclists, exercising a right to cross the property.

Occasional – describe type of use and approx. number

Description:

Number:

Regular – describe type of use and approx. number

Description:

Number:

How many visitors are there to the estate per year?

Please include the basis for your estimate

What activities do these visitors participate in?

	Est'd Numbers p.a. (public)	Est'd Numbers p.a. (Commercial providers)
Walkers		
Cyclists		
Horse riders		
Paddle sports enthusiasts		
Wild Campers		
Wildlife Watchers		
Education Groups, including D of E Awards		
Mountain Leader groups		
Scientists & researchers, incl. specialist ornithologists.		
Motorised sports (scramble bikes, quad bikes, 4 x 4s)		
Others		

Which of these uses impact (negative or positive) on game & wildlife management and other estate activities?

What is the nature of any such impacts?

Please describe in broad terms how you manage any negative impacts on game & wildlife, eg information provision, infrastructure provision, modification to estate activity

Have you sought help with managing any negative impacts, eg local access officer or access forum, other community groups, or the police?

Yes No

If yes, please give brief details:

6.1 b) Communicating with those enjoying access and recreation

Have you reviewed your signage to ensure it complies with Scotland's access legislation?

Yes No

Has your local authority or national park authority ever contacted you in relation to signage, which it believes is not compliant with Scotland's access legislation?

Yes No

If yes, is the situation now resolved?

Yes No

Please provide a short explanation of the remedy or the on-going issue

Do you provide contact details for access takers in order that they can seek your advice about accessing your property?

Yes No

If yes, is this available via:

Contact mechanism	Website address / other source
a) the Estate's website	
b) another website, eg Heading for the Scottish Hills	
c) meeting points on the estate - car parks / at start of well-used routes	

6.1 c) Facilitating access and recreation

Have you reviewed the Estate's gates, fencing and other potential restrictions to access to ensure that it complies with Scotland's Access Legislation? (Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 and the Scottish Outdoor Access Code developed by SNH):

Yes No

Has your local authority or national park authority ever contacted you regarding an obstruction, which it says is not compliant with Scotland's access legislation?

Yes No

If yes, is the situation now resolved?

Yes No

Please provide a short explanation of the remedy or the on-going issue

Has the Estate taken any measure that positively encourages access and recreation?

Yes No

If yes, please give a brief description

[6.2 Management resources](#) [FOR HELP WITH THIS SECTION, CLICK HERE](#)

6.2a) Estate employee accommodation

Where do gamekeepers / Ghillies / Stalkers live? – please indicate number in each category:

Accommodation type	Number of employees
Free estate property with job	
Estate property – rent paid	
Lodgings paid for by estate	
Private, off estate	

6.2b) How many stalkers, gamekeepers or other specialised wildlife management staff does the estate employ?

Game Management staff	Number	Full time?	If PT please enter days pw	And weeks pa
Gamekeeper		<input type="checkbox"/>		
Underkeeper		<input type="checkbox"/>		
Ranger / Wildlife Manager		<input type="checkbox"/>		
Stalker		<input type="checkbox"/>		
Ghillie		<input type="checkbox"/>		
Assistant Ghillie / Stalker		<input type="checkbox"/>		
Volunteers		<input type="checkbox"/>		

On average, how many casual employees (beaters, loaders, or pickers-up) per day are there for:

	Average number of helpers per day	Average number of days per season
Grouse		
Pheasant / Partridge		

6.2 c) How many agricultural staff does the estate's farming business employ?

Agricultural Staff	Number	Full time?	If PT please enter days pw	And weeks pa
Manager / Grieve				
General Farm-worker				
Tractorman				
Stockman				
Shepherd				
Casual worker				
		Number of days pa		
Contractor				
How many other agricultural tenants and other occupiers does the estate have?				

6.2 d) How many staff does the estate's forestry enterprise employ?

Staff	Number	Full time?	If PT please enter days pw	And weeks pa
Forest Manager				
Forester				
Woodman				
Casual worker				
		Number of days pa		
Contractor				

6.2 e) How many staff does the estate employ in tourism-related activities (other than Country Sports)?

Tourism-related staff	Number	If PT please enter days pw	And weeks pa
Full-time			
Part-time			
Casual			

6.2 f) Commercial activities on the Estate (include employment via rented business/office space)

Commercial business staff	Number	If PT please enter days pw	And weeks pa
Full-time			
Part-time			
Casual			

6.2 g) Other employment

Other employment on estate	Number	Full time?	If PT please enter days pw	And weeks pa
Please describe				
Please describe				
Please describe				

Modern rural apprenticeships

Does the estate run any modern rural apprenticeships?

Yes No

If yes, what areas of estate work are apprentices involved with (eg game-keeping, agriculture, forestry, tourism)

6.3 Cultural and built heritage conservation [FOR HELP WITH THIS SECTION, CLICK HERE](#)

If present within the estate, please list cultural and built heritage elements including their state of conservation. Here are some examples to guide you:

Built heritage: Listed Buildings, Scheduled Ancient Monuments, sites recorded on local authority sites and monuments registers, locally important sites, groundworks, structures, ruins, field patterns etc.

Built heritage (please identify)	State of conservation
	N/A
	N/A
	N/A
Cultural heritage (please identify)	State of conservation
	N/A
	N/A
	N/A

Please describe plans or measures taken to conserve, interpret or facilitate enjoyment of any of the features listed above:

6.4 Communications and education [FOR HELP WITH THIS SECTION, CLICK HERE](#)

Are organised activities facilitated by the Estate which promote enjoyment/raise awareness of, or help interpret game and wildlife management, species and habitats, new ways of working, or management methods? If so, please indicate what community relations and other educational/awareness raising activities the estate participates in and, where possible, provide an indication of the annual number of events and participants:

Activity	Number of events	Average no. participants per event
Visits (eg field trip, schools)	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Open Days	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Exchange/placement programmes	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Books and other publications	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Press articles	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Research project participation	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Talks and displays/presentations	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Other	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Please indicate the kind of media the estate uses for communication (for instance signs, leaflets, interpretation displays / visitor centre, rangers, website / IT, social media)

Media used for communications
<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>

Please add any other observations you would like to make with regard to communication and education on the estate:

Declaration

I confirm that the answers provided in this application for WES accreditation are accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Name

Position

Date

Description of Evaluation and Scoring Grid

These notes are intended to provide explanation of features in the pilot WES evaluation grids. These provide a framework for assessment of an Estate's sustainable wildlife management performance based on two main criteria:

- 1 A scoring pattern based on the Wildlife Estates Europe model, adapted and developed to suit Scottish environment, conditions and management
- 2 The assessor's overall interpretation of the Estate's management performance within each scoring section, taking into account all attributes identified in the Application and any additional feedback from site visit (Mgt rating).

These criteria have been developed both within and external to the WES initiative. The scoring pattern enables us to set a threshold for awarding the Level 2 WES label. The management rating introduces a more qualitative assessment based on practical evidence of sustainable wildlife management.

1. Points scoring grid

Pilot evaluation will be tested on the basis of a minimum of 70%. Given the focus on a Wildlife Estates accreditation, most focus, and therefore points allocation, is placed on:

- Sporting / wildlife management and adherence to relevant codes of practice
- Conservation plans, management delivery and collaborative activities

2. Management rating grid

For each of the points scoring components, we are also looking to assess overall management. The management rating column is based on the Centre for Mountain Studies' sustainable estates toolkit. We propose to review the outcomes from each of the WES assessment areas using the following designations:

'P' (proactive) – management plans & execution that generate improved wildlife management, demonstrate economic initiative and add to social cohesion

'A' (active) – adequate management plans and execution that maintain sustainable wildlife management, economic stability and collaboration

'U' (under-active) – plans and management that need further development for sustainable wildlife management, diversification of economic base, and contribution to local partnering and initiatives

These set a current 'performance' status and provide a basis on which to measure future improvement, similar to other accreditation schemes operated in the land management sector.