LINDISFARNE NATIONAL NATURE RESERVE ("THE RESERVE")
WILDFOWLING PERMIT RESTRICTIONS AND CONDITIONS

RESTRICTIONS FOR 2026/27 SEASON

This permit is issued by the Lindisfarne Wildfowling Management Group on behalf of Natural England who permits the holder to shoot ONLY:

i. With a single **SHOTGUN** of no less than **20 bore or greater than 8 bore** [and a punt gun].
ii. Within the area marked on the map supplied (the "Shooting Zone").
iii. The Wildfowl set out in column 1 of the table below (the "Quarry Species").
iv. Within the dates specified in column 2 of the table below (the "Permitted Dates") only.
v. Subject to the restrictions set out in **Conditions for 2026/27 Season** below and overleaf.

Your Permit also permits you to use, within the Shooting Zones and within the Permitted Dates and subject to the rules set out in **Conditions for 2026/27 Season** "Shooting Restrictions" overleaf, a dog to retrieve any wildfowl shot by you under this Permit.

Column 1 The Quarry Species	Column 2 The Permitted Dates
Canada Goose, Greylag Goose, Pink-footed Goose, European White-Fronted Goose*, Gadwall, Goldeneye*, Mallard, Pintail, Shoveler, Teal, Tufted Duck*, Wigeon	From: 1st September to 20th February inclusive except for Christmas Day
Golden Plover	From: 1st September to 31st January inclusive except for Christmas Day and Sundays

A prohibition on the harvest of Pochard, Common Snipe and Woodcock is in place during the 2026/27 season.
**A recommended full moratorium on the harvest of Goldeneye, Tufted Duck and White-Fronted geese is in place during the 2026/27 season.*

All the conditions overleaf apply to your Permit. Breach of any Condition may lead to [immediate] withdrawal of your Permit and may disqualify you from holding further permits of this kind or any kind which relate to the Reserve.

Your Permit is not valid without a signature. It is valid for you the Holder only and is not transferable. You must carry your Permit with you at all times when Wildfowling on the Reserve.

Your Permit expires 20th February 2027.

You are responsible for ensuring that you can identify the Shooting Zone boundaries and distinguish between Quarry Species and other wildfowl not covered by your Permit. For example, Bean, Barnacle, and Brent Geese are species protected by law, which frequent the Reserve. If you are unsure, please contact the wildfowling warden before you shoot on the reserve. IF IN DOUBT, DON'T SHOOT.

CONDITIONS FOR 2026/27 SEASON

Condition 1 – Shooting Restrictions

I. You may only shoot within the restrictions imposed by your Permit.
**Full season permit holders taking a permit for the first time will be required to: -*
   a. Attend an online training session organised by the BASC Wildfowling Advisor.
   b. To contact and meet the wildfowling warden prior to your first visits to the reserve.

II. You are authorized to use only the firearms covered by your Permit. Home-made firearms, i.e. guns built or altered by individual Permit holders rather than recognized gunsmiths or registered firearms dealers, must be offered for and pass proof before they are used on the reserve.

III. You may not shoot nor be present for that purpose in the Reserve outside Permitted Dates.

IV. You may not shoot nor be present for that purpose in the area 50 meters either side of the Causeway at any time or in the "down shore" area beyond 50 metres below high-water mark of mean ordinary tides between 10.00 and 15.00 hours. These areas are excluded from the Shooting Zone.

V. The Reserve may be closed for the purpose of wildfowling without advanced notice at any time and for any period in the event of severe weather conditions, or diseases such as Foot and Mouth, Avian Influenza or for any other reason. In such an event, NO refunds will be given.

VI. You may not shoot any species other than the Quarry Species given above.

VII. Shooting within 100m of houses and 50m of buildings and access points is not permitted.

Condition 2 – Your Permit

I. **First time permit takers** are required to attend an online training session and must meet with the Lindisfarne Wildfowling Warden prior to visiting the NNR for the first time.

II. **When wildfowling on the Reserve you must carry with you your Permit and a valid shotgun certificate in your name.**

III. You must display your car permit card in the vehicle in which you traveled when on site. If more than one permit holder traveled in the vehicle, then all car permit cards must be displayed.

IV. You must **return** a completed Bag Return Form to the address specified on the Permit. **Note that there is a separate form for those issued with a punt permit from those issued with a shoulder gun permit.**

V. **We strongly advise you to make a copy of the completed form, keep your email acknowledgement or get proof of postage stamp in case your return is lost in the post.**

VI. You must retain valid Third-Party Insurance for shooting activities of a minimum cover of £5 million.

VII. If you are under 18 years of age, you must be under the direct supervision of another permit holder who is over 21 years of age.

Condition 3 – Additional conditions for punt permit holders and those on the punt permit waiting list.

I. People on the punt permit waiting list must take a shoulder gun permit out each year to maintain their place on the list.

II. If you do not use your permit in a season, then you need to supply a good reason for this. If 3 years pass without the permit being used and no good reason is given, then the permit will be issued to the next person on the waiting list.

III. Puntgunning is not permitted at weekends or on Christmas day.

IV. The use of outboard motors is not permitted when pursuing quarry.

V. Punt-guns should not be fired during the period from one hour after sunset to one hour before sunrise.

VI. Punt permit holders must contact the Wildfowling Warden prior to visiting the reserve to ensure that another punt permit holder is not already booked to visit.

Condition 4 – Rules of Conduct/Sporting Behavior

I. Permit holders **MUST** adhere to the **BASC Wildfowling Code of Practice** and **BASC Sustainable Shooting Code of Practice for Wildfowl Quarry Species** at all times when visiting the Reserve. Both of which provide advice at two levels: Advice that **must** be followed in order to deliver sustainable shooting and advice that **should** be followed to achieve best practice. See the BASC website for most up to date version(s).

II. You may not commit any act on or in the vicinity of the Reserve which is a criminal offence under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, the Firearms Act 1968, the Game Act 1831 or the Game Licences Act 1860 or any legislation updating those statutes from time to time in force, or any act which breaches the Lindisfarne National Nature Reserve Bylaws from time to time in force.

III. You may not commit any act on or in the vicinity of the Reserve, which is likely to bring the sport of wildfowling or the Reserve into disrepute. If you do so you risk losing your permit and a future opportunity to shoot on the reserve. **Particular attention is drawn to the following:**
   a. The maximum number of decoys per setting is thirty. Duck decoys larger than life-size are not permitted, as are electrically / mechanically operated decoys, or goose decoys. You may not use any decoy method prohibited under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 as amended.
   b. Do not set up too near to other permit holders as this can spoil their sport. 80 to 100 yards is a minimum distance. Similarly, try to not cut off the flight of birds to guns who arrived before you.
   c. Only use a weak torchlight to get over the marsh at night so that you cause minimum disruption to others and wildlife.
   d. Shooting indiscriminately/dangerously or shooting at inanimate objects is not permitted.
   e. Do not shoot into packs/flocks of birds hoping to bring one down (browning).
   f. Your aim should be to always kill your bird cleanly. Do not shoot beyond the range dictated by your chosen gun, cartridge and shooting ability.
   g. You must not leave litter (including cartridge cases) on or adjacent to the Reserve.
   h. You must show consideration and courtesy for all other users of the site.

III. No shooting boxes can be constructed. Portable hides can be used with the following conditions:
   a. No hides can be erected below the mean high-water mark.
   b. Portable hides can be used in conjunction with permanent hides above the mean high-water mark.
   c. The maximum height of the hide must be less than 1.5 metres and the floor space less than 2 square metres.
   d. Hides must be removed after each excursion. They cannot be left in position for the next flight.

IV. The bird watching and stone hides must not be damaged or destroyed.

V. Birds shot on the Reserve cannot be sold.

VI. The carcass / details of any ringed birds shot or found dead must be reported to a wildfowling warden or a site manager.

VII. The use of lead shot at Lindisfarne is prohibited under the Environmental Protection (Restrictions on the Use of Lead Shot) (England) Regulations 1999 as amended. The British Association for Shooting and Conservation can advise on suitable alternatives.

VIII. Lead cartridges are NOT to be carried whilst on the reserve.

IX. The Warden and NE Staff have the right to check what cartridges you are carrying and take samples of them, or any birds shot.

X. Always use a designated point of access to the foreshore. See site map on permit for details.

XI. You should use a dog where retrieval by hand is difficult (for example when using decoys). If you do not have a dog, do not shoot at birds that you will be unable to recover.

Condition 5 – Respect for the Reserve

I. Please show consideration for people living close to the Reserve especially after the hours of darkness. You should refrain from shooting in the vicinity of houses close to the shore or any members of the public using the reserve or in front of permanent bird watching hides.

II. The sand and mud are soft in parts of the shooting zone, if care is not exercised you may experience difficulty. When the tide is rising the dangers are greatly increased. Particular care is needed during the periods of severe weather when soft mud may be covered by a frozen crust. Mist and fog are additional hazards. The Reserve should be treated with respect at all times.

Condition 6 – Consequence of Breach

I. Natural England may withdraw your Permit prior to its expiry (immediately) on any breach or having reasonable grounds for believing there has been a breach by you of any of these conditions. Alternatively, a written warning may be issued.

II. Any breach of these Conditions will be taken into account and may disqualify you on any fresh application by you for a Permit of this or any other kind which relates to the Reserve.

III. Breaches of these Conditions will be reported to the Lindisfarne Wildfowl Panel (the "Panel"). Natural England will then invite a written statement from you which, with any other report or correspondence, will be presented to the Panel. In the light of the Panel's report Natural England will make a decision on what action to take. This could range from a warning to a permanent ban from wildfowling on Natural England controlled sites. You will be informed of the decision in writing. Natural England's decision is final.

IV. Breaches of Conditions 1(VI.) 3(I.) and 3(VI.) above will be reported to the Police or other relevant authority.

Condition 7 – Wardens

I. The Wildfowling Warden and Natural England staff are responsible for overseeing wildfowling and wildfowling Permits on the Reserve. They are willing and able to advise you. Respect the advice given.

II. A warden may require you to show your Permit, shotgun certificate, shot birds and ammunition. Refusal to do so, or any failure to comply with the warden or Natural England staff, is a breach of the Conditions.

Condition 8 – Avian Influenza (AI)

I. If you find 1 or more dead birds of prey, gull, swan, goose or duck in the same place or 5 or more dead birds of any other species in the same place, you should report them to the Natural England NNR Reserve office: 01289 381 470. Please also report it to the Wildfowling warden on: 07831 306 720.

II. Although the risks to human health are very low when handling and processing wildfowl, please follow the 'NHS Bird Flu guidance'.
   a. Wash your hands often with warm water and soap, especially before and after handling food, in particular raw poultry.
   b. Use different utensils for cooked and raw meat.
   c. Make sure meat is cooked until steaming hot.
   d. Avoid contact with live birds or poultry.