



Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981

1981 CHAPTER 69

An Act to repeal and re-enact with amendments the Protection of Birds Acts 1954 to 1967 and the Conservation of Wild Creatures and Wild Plants Act 1975; to prohibit certain methods of killing or taking wild animals; to amend the law relating to protection of certain mammals; to restrict the introduction of certain animals and plants; to amend the Endangered Species (Import and Export) Act 1976; to amend the law relating to nature conservation, the countryside and National Parks and to make provision with respect to the Countryside Commission; to amend the law relating to public rights of way; and for connected purposes. [30th October 1981]

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C1 Act amended (1.4.1996) by [S.I. 1996/593, reg. 2](#), [Sch. 1](#)
Act: certain functions transferred (E.W.) (19.9.1995) by [1995 c. 25, ss. 69\(1\), 125\(2\)](#) (with [ss. 7\(6\), 115, Sch. 8 para. 7](#))

Changes to legislation:

Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, Introductory Text is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 10 August 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations.

[View outstanding changes](#)

Changes and effects yet to be applied to the whole Act associated Parts and Chapters:

Whole provisions yet to be inserted into this Act (including any effects on those provisions):

- s. 11(1)(ab)-(ad) substituted for s. 11(1)(a)(aa) by [2024 asp 4 s. 6\(2\)\(a\)](#)
- s. 11(2)(aa)(ab) inserted by [2024 asp 4 s. 6\(2\)\(c\)\(ii\)](#)
- s. 11(2A) inserted by [2024 asp 4 s. 1\(6\)\(b\)](#)
- s. 11(3CA) inserted by [2024 asp 4 s. 6\(2\)\(e\)](#)
- s. 12A-12G and cross-heading inserted by [2024 asp 4 s. 7\(2\)](#)
- s. 16(1A)(c)(d) inserted by [2024 asp 4 s. 6\(4\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#)
- s. 16A(ab) inserted by [2024 asp 4 s. 7\(4\)\(b\)](#)
- s. 16A(1A) inserted by [2024 asp 4 s. 7\(4\)\(a\)](#)
- s. 16A(5B) inserted by [2024 asp 4 s. 7\(4\)\(c\)](#)
- s. 21(ga)(gb) inserted by [2024 asp 4 s. 7\(6\)](#)
- s. 26(2)(c) inserted by [2024 asp 4 s. 7\(7\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#)
- s. 26(2)(f) and word inserted by [2024 asp 4 s. 6\(7\)\(a\)](#)
- s. 26(3)(c) inserted by [2024 asp 4 s. 7\(7\)\(b\)\(ii\)](#)
- s. 26(3)(f) and word inserted by [2024 asp 4 s. 6\(7\)\(b\)](#)
- s. 53(3)(c)(ia) inserted by [2015 c. 20 Sch. 7 para. 2\(b\)](#)
- s. 53B(4A)(4B) inserted by [2015 c. 20 Sch. 7 para. 4](#)
- s. 53ZA inserted by [2015 c. 20 Sch. 7 para. 3](#)
- s. 54B54C inserted by [2015 c. 20 Sch. 7 para. 5](#)
- Sch. 13A inserted by [2015 c. 20 Sch. 7 para. 6](#)
- Sch. 14A inserted by [2015 c. 20 Sch. 7 para. 7](#)