



# **Falkland Islands Research Licence Guidance**

**FIG Environment Department**

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## 1. Overview

All environmental research conducted in the Falkland Islands (including within the EEZ) requires a Research Licence issued by the Environment Department.

There are two application routes:

- **General Research Licence Form**
  - For non-invasive research not involving protected species
  - For passive filming/drone operations
- **Invasive Techniques Research Form**
  - For research involving protected species (see list on pg. 7) or any invasive sampling or handling

All forms and this guide can be found on the FIG Environmental Department website:

[www.gov.fk/environment/licenses-permits/](http://www.gov.fk/environment/licenses-permits/)

## 2. Which Form Do I Need?

Use the General Research Form if:

- You are not handling or disturbing protected species
- You are not undertaking invasive sampling (e.g. no capture, tagging, tissue samples)
- You are undertaking filming or droning operations

Use the Invasive Techniques Research Form if:

- You work with protected animals or plants
- You are carrying out capture, handling, tagging or tissue/blood samples
- Your methods could disturb or harm any vertebrate species even if the species is not listed as protected

## 3. What Documents Do You Need to Submit?

For a General Research Application

Submit:

- Completed General Research Form
- CV of lead researcher
- Any supporting documents (optional)

For an Invasive Techniques Research Application

Submit:

- Completed Invasive Research Form
- CV(s) of relevant team members
- Evidence of skills, training or certifications for invasive work
- Home institution ethics approval (recommended but not mandatory)

## 4. Key Information Required (Both Forms)

Applicant & Team

- Lead researcher details
- Team roles, qualifications and experience

#### Project Details

- Title and purpose of research
- Clear objectives and benefits

#### Fieldwork

- Dates and locations
- Landowner permission (required before work begins)

#### Methods

- Clear description of methodology
- Mitigation measures (e.g. biosecurity, site protection)

## 5. Additional Requirements for Invasive Research

Applications must clearly justify:

#### Scientific need

- Why the research is necessary
- Conservation relevance
- Knowledge gaps addressed

#### Ethical Justification

- Why invasive methods are required
- Why alternatives are not suitable (3Rs; Replace, Reduce, Refine)

#### Welfare Risk

- Handling procedures (capture, sampling, release)
- Risks to species and environment
- Mitigation and monitoring methods

#### Sample size

- Must be justified and minimised

## 6. Processing Times

#### General research

- Processing of general licences can take up to two weeks

#### Invasive techniques research

- Processing of invasive research can take up to three months.
- Applications will be reviewed by the Ethics panel, before being sent to Environmental Committee for final determination.
- Applicants are asked to submit invasive research applications no later than six weeks before Environment Committee. Committee dates can be found at:  
[www.gov.fk/environment/licenses-permits/](http://www.gov.fk/environment/licenses-permits/)

## 7. After Your Licence is Approved

All researchers must:

- Submit metadata and/or datasets (if not deposited into an alternative equivalent) to the IMS-GIS Data Centre

- Provide:
  - Any final or interim report
  - Copies of publications
- Ensure data is submitted within 2 years
- Report any adverse effects to the Environment Department as soon as reasonably possible

## 8. Biosecurity & Field Responsibilities

All researchers must:

- Clean and disinfect equipment before and between sites
- Avoid spreading invasive species
- Follow check-clean-dry protocols
- Follow all protocols as set out in the Avian Influenza Falkland Islands Guidance
- Report any suspected species immediately

## 9. Fees

A fee may apply (£250)

- May be waived for:
  - Non-commercial research
  - Charities
  - Education or government projects

## 10. Contact

Environment Department

Email: [environment@sec.gov.fk](mailto:environment@sec.gov.fk)

Phone: +500 28449

## Protected Animals and Plants

The following list is correct as of June 2026 and includes all protected plant and animal species in accordance with Falkland Islands law. If you have any queries and for a more up-to-date list please contact the environmental officer.

### Protected Animals:

- All wild birds including seabirds and penguins.
- All marine mammals, including cetaceans and pinnipeds.
- All species of butterfly
- Trout (*Salmo trutta*)
- Falkland Islands Trout (*Aplochiton zebra*)

### Protected Plants:

- Adders Tongue (*Ophioglossum crotalophoroides*)
- Dusen's Moonwort (*Botrychium dusenii*)
- Chilean Maidenhair Fern (*Adiantum chilense*)
- Feltons Flower (*Calandrinia feltonii*)
- Shrubby Seablite (*Suaeda argentinensis*)
- Falkland Rock Cress (*Phlebotobium maclovianum*)
- Fuegian Saxifrage (*Saxifraga magellanica*)
- Native Yellow Violet (*Viola maculata*)
- Yellow Lady's Slipper (*Calceolaria dichotoma*)
- Falklands False Plantain (*Nastanthus falklandicus*)
- Hairy Daisy (*Erigeron incertus*)
- Falkland Pondweed (*Potamogeton linguatus*)
- Yellow Pale Maiden (*Sisyrinchium chilense*)
- Pale Yellow Orchid (*Gavilea australis*)
- Yellow Orchid (*Gavilea littoralis*)
- Gaudichaud's Orchid (*Chlorae gaudichaudii*)
- Fir Clubmoss (*Huperzia selago*)
- Comb Fern (*Schizaea fistulosa*)
- Leathery Shield Fern (*Rumohra adiantiformis*)