

Questions & Answers

Coillte Webinar 30th September 2021

General Questions

Why are Coillte moving to HAMS?

HAMS is an integrated online platform, which allows for much more streamlined management of a currently administration-heavy process for both the hunter and Coillte. It is a system which is becoming standard across many EU countries and allows for:

- Better:- Paperless system through which tendering, issuing permits, inviting nominees, issuing nominee permits, checking in/out and logging culls can all be carried out digitally on one platform. It is a self-managing system whereby there is no time wasted in waiting for physical permits to be issued.
- Greater:- Communications- there are instant notifications on the system. Notifying of new tenders, out of date documents such as insurance and HCAP. There is instant access to all of your licence information, digital map and documents.
- Improved functionality- Digital map of your licenced area provided, system notifies the local forester of your intention to hunt through a reservation system.
- Reduced interactions with Coillte staff requesting permits, waiting for the hard copies in the post.
- You can use HAMS.online to manage non Coillte related lands, clubs, estates.

Will it apply to both deer and bird shooting?

Yes it applies to both.

I have a current hunting licence with Coillte, when do I need to register for HAMS?

From the 11th October 2021 you will be able to activate and access your HAMS account. An email will be sent to the email address we have on file for you on the 11th October 2021 with a link and instructions on how to get set up. The 1st November is the deadline by which to activate your account.

How do I register for HAMS?

For active licence holders, an email will be sent to the email address we have on file for you on the 11th October 2021 with a link and instructions on how to get set up. The 1st November is the deadline to activate your account by.

Who needs a HAMS account?

Everyone who uses a firearm on Coillte lands.

Anyone who has a current hunting licence (Deer and Game) with Coillte requires a HAMS subscription. All nominees e.g. guest hunters, who hunt under the Licence holders account requires a HAMS account also. Nominees/Guest Hunters will need to sign up themselves with their own email address. Many overseas nominees already have a HAMS subscription as it grows it's coverage across EU countries.

After the 11th October 2021, what do I need to do prior to going Hunting.

You will need to give a minimum of 48 hours advanced notice through a **reservation** system in HAMS. This has to be carried out a minimum 48 hours in advance of a hunt but there is no outer time limit so you can do it a number of weeks in advance. You will then need to **check in** in advance of your hunt. Check-in can be carried out at the point of entry or up to 2 hours in advance of entering the property.

I am a current Hunting Licence holder, once I have activated my account what do I need to do?

Once your account is activated you need to fill in your details, upload your insurance and HCAP/ other competency certification and pay the subscription fee. You will then have access to your licence details and digital map of your licenced area.

How does a commercial hunter manage a number of customer hunters during a hunt event.

The Licencee and guest hunters require their own separate HAMS accounts. The licencee invites the guest hunters through HAMS. The Licencee can make a reservation and check in/out on behalf of the nominee (guest hunter). A reservation is required up to 48hrs in advance of the hunt. The licencee can also check in on behalf of their guest hunters.

Does a guest hunter coming in with a commercial hunter have to register with HAMS?

Yes. After sending out an invite from your account they have to go through the sign up, upload their insurances and that's it. If they already have a HAMS account, they just have to accept the invitation.

Would clay shooting on Coillte land require a HAMS account and check in?

Clay shooting falls under recreational (non-hunting or bird shooting) activities and will be licenced separately under RAMS (Recreational Area Management System) at a later stage.

If I run a business and I have guests from other countries shooting here, does each guest pay the fee or just the licence holder?

Each guest pays the HAMS subscription fee and registers an account using their email address.

If I am a guide registered with the app and I am guiding some paying guests, do I, the registered licence holder have to pay a fee for each of the hunters or do they come under my registration?

Each hunter must have a HAMS subscription. Every hunter, whether licence holder, nominee or guest must hold their own HAMS account.

Is the price per person, or per hunting club?

Per person, where the person has a permit and wants to carry out hunting or bird shooting related activities.

Will purchase of HAMS be compulsory for all Coillte licence holders?

Yes. Everyone who uses a firearm on Coillte lands must have a HAMS account.

Subscription Queries

Who receives the €72 subscription fee?

100% of the subscription fee goes to Bit and Pixel the company who developed HAMS. The subscription fee is for the ongoing running costs and security of the platform. The subscription fee covers a 12month period. The Licence Fee paid to Coillte annually is completely separate from the HAMS subscription.

Coillte is not making a profit from the introduction of the subscription. HAMS won a tender to provide a 21st century Wildlife and Hunting Management System that caters for all needs, hunter and landowners. HAMS developers have been paid by Coillte to tailor the software to Coillte needs.

How often is the subscription fee due?

The subscription fee covers a 12 month period. If a subscription is purchased in e.g. Nov 2021, it runs until end Oct 2022.

Is this an annual payment for HAMS or one off payment?

It is an annual payment. The annual period starts on the day the subscription has been paid and ends a year later.

If I have 3 guides working for me, then do I just pay the one fee or do I have to pay for each of them?

If a guide is not using a firearm, they do not require a HAMS account or permit. If they use a firearm, then they require both.

Why is there a subscription fee?

“Free” services like Facebook, Whatsapp, Tik-tok, Google search sell your private data and information and flood you with adverts to generate income. We don't sell your private data, nor do we advertise.

For this you get access to the world's most advanced and widely used wildlife and habitat management software which to develop from scratch cost approximately 5 million euros over 2 years with a team of 15 senior developers and wildlife management experts and which requires a team of approx. 20 staff to maintain.

Signal, network coverage

How will the issue of no phone signal at entry points to hunting areas be addressed with regards to checking in?

It is a requirement to give advanced notice up to 48 hours in advance of hunting through a reservation function. You can check out 2 hours in advance of the reserved time. You can check in before you leave to go to the site. You can make a report and check out where you have network coverage again.

The mobile application will provide offline reporting without network coverage and the app will sync the data when the phone connects to the internet again.

Recreational users and other activities

What other activities require licences in Coillte forests ?

Archery

Bee Keeping

Camping

Catering / mobile catering

Clay Pigeon Shooting

Club Activities

Cycling

Educational / School Tours

Events (General)

Horse Hunt

Laser War / Paintball Games

Mountain Biking

Orienteering

Photography

Sled Dog Training

Grazing

Land Letting

Motor Bike Rallying

Motor Sport Activity

Four Wheel Driving

Pony Trekking (Individual)

Pony Trekking (Group)

Filming

Turbury

Right of Way

Boreholes

Foliage cutting

Do recreational users e.g. walkers, horse riding, beekeeping, camping, cyclists require a HAMS subscription?

No. Non-hunting recreational activities that require a licence do not require a HAMS subscription. At a later date, a new RAMS system will be introduced to manage other recreation licences.

Hunter - recreational conflict

How will "checking in" stop conflict with non-hunters.?

When an area is licenced for other activities (for example beekeeping, marathon, cycling event) the hunter will be notified at the time of check in that the location they picked to check in is already on another licenced activity.

Non-hunting related licence holders won't get access to information on hunting related activities, nor will they see your location. It is up to the BAU to review any potential conflicts in the first instance before deciding on awarding a licence for any activity.

Poaching

How will it stop poaching?

If the poachers know that they can be tracked more accurately, or if they know that they can be caught more easily, poaching activities decrease. This is based on HAMS subscribers' experience. If a report is received of illegal hunting we can check that the area is licenced for hunting and we can check if the licensee checked in at the time of the alleged poaching incident. This will allow for greater reporting to the Gardaí and the NPWS of illegal poaching.

Can any registered Hunter check the system to see if there is poaching on their licenced area.

You can only get access to information related to the land you have a licence/permit or if you are the land administrator.

Check-in related questions

What about technically inept users, can someone manage their check-in and check-out for them?

As a "Host" you can check-in a hunter (a member, or permit holder), but the hunter has to make the report and check out for themselves due to safety and administrative reasons.

The ideal case is that every hunter and shooter manages their own check-ins, reports and check-outs.

If 6 of us go hunting together, can one person manage the group instead of all 6 people having to do it individually?

The check-in can be managed by one person, but the reporting and check-out has to be done individually.

How will a hunter from another country be able to check in when they don't know the land?

The availability of a digital satellite view map of the land within HAMS will help guests to get familiar with the land.

Also you can check the guest in, therefore they will see what the area is where they are allowed to hunt and by using the land occupancy view they can get familiar with the area. The reporting and check-out has to be done by the guest.

Will a permit holder be able to apply to hunt on the app without going through the licence holder?

Yes. But the licence holder has access to the check-in list also, to the land occupancy view. But the licence holder can limit the area where each permit holder can check into.

How many permit holders can book in at any one period of time?

Due to safety reasons and considerations when multiple hunters are planning to check into the same zone, the first hunter who checked in has the right to check in the others.

This way the first person who is out in the land knows that others are going to the same area. Multiple hunters can check into the same zone (compartment or property) if they do hunting on a fixed spot (deer box, ladder stand, etc.)

Always keep safety in mind!

Will the permit holder know how many others have a permit to hunt the same property?

Yes, permit holders will see who are the other permit holders under the same licence.

Can a permit holder see if another permit holder is checked in on the same property?

Yes, if the permit holders fall under the same licence they will know who checks into what location. This is paramount for safety.

Forest Activities

Will hunters be made aware of Coillte workers on the land through the app?

When a hunter makes a reservation (advanced notice), the forest manager will be notified and will pass any relevant operational data onto the hunter.

Cull returns, reporting

Are cull returns done through HAMS on a daily basis now? Per person? Or at a club level?

Reporting of culling is part of the check in, check out process. Before checking out, HAMS requires the user to make a report or an observation.

The available report types are:

- Nothing happened
- Successful harvest
- Wounding
- Missed shot
- Found deceased game

- Capture alive
- Other special Event

The report can be a “nothing happened” report too, this helps to know more about the hunting pressure of an area, also helps with personal statistics (success rate, etc.) and other additional information.

Due to the fact that the reports are done on a daily basis, if the land administrators (BAU admins, Forest Managers) visit the statistics, they see real-time information related to harvests.

Observations

Recording observation is more relaxed compared to harvest reporting. You don't have to check in to record an observation. Also the fields are not mandatory to fill in, but you can select the species you have seen, you can record the number of the animals and mark the location of the sighting on a satellite view map. You can attach an image if you wish.

Historical data upload and storage

I have approximately 15 years of this data including photos of harvested animals ...can I import it into this system and if so who has access to it?

It is possible to upload historical data into HAMS, we have multiple clubs and estates in the system who upload historical information to use HAMS to analyze and track their game management and habitat management strategy and plans. Also they can produce statistics that were extremely time consuming to generate in the past with other tools like Excel tables or pen and paper based data.

Also if your images contain GPS coordinates HAMS will help you to mark the accurate location of the harvest by reading out the GPS coordinates stored in the image.

A hunting club gave permission to us to use their 10 years of data to write a series of articles about their issues and findings:

[Using data 1](#)

[Using data 2](#)

As a Coillte licence holder you cannot upload the historical data, but if you let us know in what format you have the data we can help you to make the upload as easy as possible. Also, we will get in contact with the relevant Coillte admin to help you with this.

Who has access to your historical data

1. If all the data related to your licence and you upload the data under your Coillte licence account then you, and the Coillte administrators can see the data.
2. You can upload historical data under your personal account that will be created during the subscription process, in this case you will be the only person who can get access to the data.
3. If your data originates from another location or area you lease or own and not related to Coillte, you can set up a separate “club” account and upload the data there. In this case you and the club members you give access to can see your data.

Other

Can a registered HAMS user hunt on lands that are not under a specific lease?

You can use HAMS.online to set up non-Coillte lands. Therefore if you hunt in other areas, you can use your subscription to manage these areas.

But you cannot hunt on Coillte lands that are not listed in your licence. That is poaching.

With regards to recreational users who just wander into the hunting areas even though there is signs on the gates, what is the plan to address this?

HAMS.online does not track your location nor other person’s location. Therefore HAMS cannot solve this problem. But you can use HAMS.online to record observations of illegal trespassing and you can use internal messaging to get in contact with the Forest managers or BAU administrators.

Communication, user guides

What is the communication plan to get this information to all impacted stakeholders? e.g. gun club members who shoot club lands but are unaware of licences.

In the upcoming weeks short and detailed tutorials and guides will be published and made available to download.

Also HAMS will provide short video tutorials on how to use most of the features.

HAMS has an inbuilt detailed user manual on how to use the system.

It is the responsibility of a licence holder, to ensure that everyone hunting under that licence is aware of the requirement to register for HAMS