

# Hunting in the United Kingdom

## Hunting at a glance



### Introduction

In the UK we generally use the term 'field sports' to describe hunting in its European meaning. It is important for the visitor to know that the word 'hunting' is generally used to mean hunting mammalian quarry and pest species with dogs. The use of firearms to shoot man-made targets or to shoot species of birds and mammals is collectively referred to as 'shooting'. Examples of other field sports carried out in the UK are fishing (or angling) and falconry. There are many UK-based membership organisations that represent and provide services for those interested in field sports. This guide is a summary of information. Visit the websites of the organisations listed in this guide to find out more about the field sports that you are interested in, especially for the law that regulates field sports and for a full list of quarry species and seasons.

## Territory

<b>Area</b>	244,157 km <sup>2</sup>
<b>Woodland</b>	8.3%
<b>Unbuilt area</b>	82.7%
<b>Farmland</b>	48.7%
<b>Aquatic environment</b>	
inland water:	0.7%
rivers	92,990 km
<b>Huntable area</b>	average 60%
In Great-Britain in 1996:	
3.3 million people went fishing	
704,500 people shot game and wildfowl	
14,500 people stalked deer	
215,500 people hunted or followed hounds	
12,500 people participated in falconry	

## Hunter / Inhabitant

<b>Inhabitants</b>	56,500,000
<b>Number of hunters</b>	625,000
<b>% hunters</b>	0.9%
<b>Inhabitant/Hunters</b>	90
<b>Density</b>	280



## Expenditure Generated by Fieldsports

The list of trades and services associated with country sports is extensive. It includes manufacturers and retailers of sporting guns and ammunition, equipment and clothing, game bird rearing, manufacturers and suppliers of fishing tackle, flies, lures and bait, and bedding, feed, saddlery, transport, furriery and veterinary support for horses. Contribution to central and local government income include licence fees, VAT, Income Tax, National Health Insurance and sporting rates.

**TOTAL: 6.2 billion £**

### Contribution to central and local government income

Total, including licence fees, VAT, Income Tax, National Health Insurance and sporting rates: £655 million.

## FACE-UK



FACE-UK brings together 19 major national field sports organisations who are concerned with European matters and existing and potential Community legislation affecting field sports. It is a vibrant institution, which is respected for its output. In this regard, we are still accepting new members, the latest organisation joined in December 2009.

The *Chairman* is John Gardiner, *Deputy Chief Executive Politics* at the Countryside Alliance and the *Executive Officer/Secretary* is Tim Hoggarth, who is also the Alliance's European and Fisheries Policy Officer. The *Deputy Chairman* is John Swift, *Chief Executive* of the British Association for Shooting & Conservation.

Current members are:

- ASSOCIATION OF MASTERS OF HARRIERS & BEAGLES
- ASSOCIATION OF SALMON FISHERY BOARDS
- ATLANTIC SALMON TRUST
- BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR SHOOTING & CONSERVATION
- BRITISH DEER SOCIETY
- BRITISH FALCONERS' CLUB
- COUNTRYSIDE ALLIANCE
- GAME AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION TRUST GAME FARMERS' ASSOCIATION HAWK BOARD
- MASTERS OF DEER HOUNDS ASSOCIATION
- MASTERS OF FOXHOUNDS ASSOCIATION
- MASTERS OF MINK HOUNDS ASSOCIATION
- NATIONAL GAMEKEEPERS' ORGANISATION
- SALMON & TROUT ASSOCIATION
- SCOTTISH RURAL PROPERTY AND BUSINESS ASSOCIATION
- ST HUBERT CLUB
- UNION OF COUNTRY SPORTS WORKERS
- WELSH WOODCOCK CLUB

## RURAL ADMINISTRATION

**Responsibilities are now devolved to England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.**

England:

Rural matters, Fisheries Policy, Animal By-Products Regulations etc:

**Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs**

Nobel House

17 Smith Square, UK-London SW1P 3JR

Tel.: 08459335577

[www.defra.gov.uk](http://www.defra.gov.uk)

Defra eCommunications Team

Area 6C, Nobel House

17 Smith Square

London

SW1P 3JR

Email: [webmaster@defra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:webmaster@defra.gsi.gov.uk)

Tel: 020 72386401

Food and Hygiene matters, Food Hygiene Regulations, Wild Game Meat and Hunter Training:

**Food Standards Agency**

Aviation House  
125 Kingsway  
London WC2B 6NH

**HELPLINE**

**If you wish to make a telephone enquiry you can ring the helpline.**

**Tel: 020 7276 8829**

**email: [helpline@foodstandards.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:helpline@foodstandards.gsi.gov.uk)**

Inland Fisheries and Angling

**The Environment Agency**

Rivers House, Waterside Drive  
Aztec West, Almondsbury, UK-Bristol BS12 4UD  
Tel. 08708506506

[enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk)

**Joint Nature Conservation Committee**

Monkstone House,  
City Road,  
Peterborough PE1 1JY  
Tel. 01733 866839 Fax. 01733 555 948

[communications@jncc.gov.uk](mailto:communications@jncc.gov.uk)

**Natural England**

1 East Parade  
Sheffield S12ET  
Tel: 08456003078  
Fax: 03000601622

[enquiries@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@naturalengland.org.uk)

**Commission for Rural Communities**

John Dower House  
Crescent Place  
Cheltenham GL50 3RA  
Tel: 01242 521381  
Fax: 01242533290

[info@ruralcommunities.gov.uk](mailto:info@ruralcommunities.gov.uk)

**Wales:**

Department for Rural Affairs  
Welsh Assembly Government  
Cathays Park  
Cardiff  
CF10 3NQ  
Tel. 0845 010 3300

<http://cymru.gov.uk/about/civilservice/departments/depc/?jsessionid=zvDRKkKZqccwQFp1nR5Zc2pGQLH2fy2cjBL1JcQ133c2fq4hGTt6!-402253988?lang=en&ts=3>

**Scotland:**

The Scottish Government  
Victoria Quay  
Edinburgh  
EH6 6QQ  
Tel. 0131 556 8400

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/farmingrural/Agriculture>

**Northern Ireland:**

Department of Agriculture and Rural Development  
Dundonald House  
Upper Newtownards Road  
Belfast  
BT4 3SB  
Tel. 028 9052 4420

<http://www.dardni.gov.uk>

## **Principal Non Government Organisations**

Unless specified as regional organisations these operate throughout the United Kingdom.

**Association of Masters of Harriers & Beagles Association**

Lizzie Salmon  
Director AMHB  
The Hunting Office,  
Overley Barn, Daglingworth, Cirencester, Gloucestershire  
GL7 7HX

Tel: +44 (0) 1242 602564  
+44 (0) 7811 262 859

Email: [director@amhb.org.uk](mailto:director@amhb.org.uk)

Web: [www.amhb.org.uk](http://www.amhb.org.uk)

**Association of Salmon Fishery Boards**

CBC House  
24 Canning Street  
Edinburgh  
EH3 8EG

Tel: 01312722797

Fax: 01312722800

[general@asfb.org.uk](mailto:general@asfb.org.uk)

[www.asfb.org.uk](http://www.asfb.org.uk)

**The Atlantic Salmon Trust**

Suite 3/11  
King James V1 Business Centre  
Friarton Road  
Perth PH2 8DG

Tel: 01738 472032 Fax: 01738 472033

[director@atlanticsalmontrust.org](mailto:director@atlanticsalmontrust.org)

**The British Association for Shooting and Conservation (BASC)**

Marford Mill,  
Rossett,  
Wrexham LL12 0HL  
Tel. 01244573000 Fax. 01244573001  
enquiries@basc.org.uk  
<http://www.basc.org.uk>

**The British Deer Society**

The Walled Garden, Burgate Manor  
Fordingbridge, Hants SP6 1EF  
Tel: 01425655434 Fax: 01425655433  
[davidkenyon@bds.org.uk](mailto:davidkenyon@bds.org.uk)  
05601633668/ 07894278514

**British Falconers' Club**

Westfield, Meeting Hill  
Worstead  
North Walsham, Norfolk, NR28 9LS  
Tel: 01692404057  
[admin@britishfalconersclub.co.uk](mailto:admin@britishfalconersclub.co.uk)

**The Countryside Alliance**

The Old Town Hall  
367 Kennington Road,  
London SE11 4PT  
Tel. 0207 840 9260 Fax .0207 793 8899  
[info@countryside-alliance.org](mailto:info@countryside-alliance.org)  
<http://www.countryside-alliance.org>

**Game Farmers' Association**

Colnbrook  
Withington  
Nr Cheltenham, Glos GL54 4BW  
Tel: 01242890372  
[jimatgfa@aol.com](mailto:jimatgfa@aol.com)

**Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust**

Fordingbridge, Hants  
SP6 1EF  
Tel: 01425652381  
Fax: 01425655848  
[stapper@gct.org.uk](mailto:stapper@gct.org.uk)

**The Hawk Board**

Mike Clowes  
Le Moulin de l'Age  
86390 Lathus, St Remy  
France  
Tel: 0033 54991 7930  
Mijules13@orange.fr

**Master of Deer Hounds Association**

Riphay Barton  
Exbridge  
Dulverton  
Somerset, TA22 9AX  
Tel: 01398323361

**Master of Fox Hounds Association**

Overley Barn, Daglingworth,  
Cirencester, Glos GL7 7HX  
Tel: 01285653001  
Fax: 01285 653559  
[office@mfha.co.uk](mailto:office@mfha.co.uk)

**Master of Mink Hounds Association**

8 Wilson-Valkenburg Court  
Old Bath Road  
Newbury, Berkshire, RG14 1QP  
Tel: 0163544754  
[p.wild@valkenburg.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:p.wild@valkenburg.fsnet.co.uk)

**The National Gamekeeper's Organisation**

Stable Edge  
Newbiggin-in-Teesdale  
Barnard Castle  
DL12 0UG  
Tel: 01833 660869  
[info@nationalgamekeepers.org.uk](mailto:info@nationalgamekeepers.org.uk)

**Salmon & Trout Association**

Fishmongers' Hall  
London Bridge  
London, EC4R 9EL  
Tel: 02072835838 Fax: 02079291389  
[paul@salmon-trout.org](mailto:paul@salmon-trout.org)  
[www.salmon-trout.org](http://www.salmon-trout.org)

**Scottish Rural Property & Business Association**

Stuart House, Eskmills Business Park  
Musselburgh, Edinburgh EH21 7PB  
Tel: 01316535400 Fax: 01316535401  
[alaing@logie.co.uk](mailto:alaing@logie.co.uk)  
[www.srpba.com](http://www.srpba.com)

**St Hubert Club**

Crowground Hall  
Kenny Hill  
Bury St Edmunds Suffolk IP28 8DS  
01353675410  
[golfinsuffolk1@btconnect.com](mailto:golfinsuffolk1@btconnect.com)

**Union of Country Sports Workers**

PO Box 129  
Banbury  
Oxon OX17 2HX  
Tel 01295712719  
[office@ucsw.org](mailto:office@ucsw.org)  
[www.ucsw.org](http://www.ucsw.org)

**Welsh Woodcock Club**

24 Brynhyfryd  
Tircoed Forest Village  
Swansea SA4 9JJ  
Tel 01792892441 & 07772706697  
[mail@simonreesphotography.co.uk](mailto:mail@simonreesphotography.co.uk)

**Secretary/Executive Officer FACE-UK**

The Countryside Alliance  
367 Kennington Road  
London SE11 4PT  
Tel: 02078409264  
[tim-hoggarth@countryside-alliance.org.uk](mailto:tim-hoggarth@countryside-alliance.org.uk)

**Deer Commission for Scotland**

82 Fairfield Road, UK-Inverness IV3 5LH  
Tel. 01463 231751 Fax. 01463712931  
<http://www.dcs.gov.uk>

**British Shooting Sports Council**

P.O. Box 11, Bexhill on Sea, East Sussex, TN40 1ZZ,  
UK-Clwyd LL12 0HL  
Tel/Fax. 01424 21 70 31

## Legislation

The official text that regulates hunting (shooting) practice in the United Kingdom from a legislative point of view is the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. Hunting with Hounds is subject to the Hunting Act 2004. The conduct of Country Sports in the United Kingdom is guided by a number of associations, and the sports are subject to varying degrees of legal regulation.

### Hunting system

Hunting is primarily governed by the Game Laws - a complex body of legislation dating back to 1831, but much amended since then. However there are also laws on poaching, pest control and, most importantly, the Wildlife and Countryside Act. Scotland has its own legal system and there are some significant differences, as there are in Northern Ireland.



## Permitted hunting methods

The conduct of Country Sports in the United Kingdom is guided by a number of associations, and the sports are subject to varying degrees of legal regulation.

### Shooting and Stalking

Shooters from the UK have an excellent track record of international target shooting success, at Olympic, Commonwealth and European level. For live quarry shooting the UK is a very popular destination for overseas visitors, especially for species such as pheasant, red grouse and red deer. With over 1 million participants, shooting generates £1.6 billion annually for the UK economy and supports the equivalent of 70,000 full time jobs. Shooting is involved in the management of two-thirds of the rural land area. Two million hectares are actively managed for conservation as a result of shooting with £250 million a year spent annually on conservation.



Anyone visiting the UK with firearms, (including those from EU States), must first obtain a UK visitor's permit from the police through a resident UK sponsor. EU nationals must supply an EU Firearms Pass (in original, not a copy).

In the UK shooting is provided in various ways. A small group may form a syndicate to rent the right to shoot over land, a club may perform a similar function, or an individual may reach an agreement directly with the landowner. The landowner may manage the shooting directly renting shooting days on a commercial basis or an agent may take on this role. Many owners may simply shoot over their own land in an informal way inviting family and friends. Most land on which shooting takes place is privately owned, rather than state-owned.

The UK boasts a wealth of quarry species of birds, which include pheasant, grey partridge, red-legged partridge, red grouse, snipe, woodcock, mallard, widgeon, teal, pink-footed and greylag geese. The main quarry species of deer are red, fallow, sika and roe. There are growing populations of muntjac, Chinese water deer and wild boar.

Note that there may be significant differences in firearms law, shootable species of birds and mammals, and their seasons, depending on whether you are in England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland, Isle of Man, Jersey or Guernsey.



#### The British Association for Shooting and Conservation (BASC)

Marford Mill, Rossett, UK - Wrexham LL12OHL

Tel. + 44 1244 573 000 - Fax. + 44 1244 573 001

E-mail: [enq@basc.org.uk](mailto:enq@basc.org.uk)

<http://www.basc.org.uk>



#### The Countryside Alliance

The Old Town Hall

367 Kennington Road, UK-London SE11 4PT

Tel. + 44 171 582 5432 - Fax. + 44 171 7938484

E-mail: [info@countryside-alliance.org](mailto:info@countryside-alliance.org)

<http://www.countryside-alliance.org>

**The British Deer Society**

Burgate Mano, Fordingbridge  
Hants SPG IEF  
Tel. + 44 01425 655 434

Fax. + 44 01425 655 433

<http://www.bds.org.uk/>

☐ **Deer Commission for Scotland**

82 Fairfield Road, UK-Inverness IV3 5LH

Tel. + 44 01463 23 17 51 – Fax. + 44 01463 71 29 31

<http://www.dcs.gov.uk>

☐ **British Shooting Sports Council**

P.O. Box 11, Bexhill on Sea,

East Sussex, TN40 1ZZ

Tel./Fax. + 44 01424 21 70 31

**Hunting with Hounds**

Hunting with Hounds in England and Wales is subject to the provision of the Hunting Act 2004 and in Scotland The Protection of Wild Mammals (Scotland) Act 2002. There is no legislation in N Ireland.

Numbers of packs:

- Foxhounds - 185 packs (of which 10 in Scotland)
- Harriers, beagles, bassets (hare hunting) - 62 packs of beagles and 20 packs of harriers. Of these one pack each of beagles and harriers are Hound Clubs with no hounds of their own.

- Deerhounds - 3 packs (South West England)

- Mink hounds - 19 packs

*Access and control:* Each association issues its own Rules and Codes of Conduct and determines the area allocated to individual hunts. Hunting can only take place across land where the owner and, if appropriate, the farmer, have given permission. Although most foxhound hunts are mounted, some packs are hunted on foot in areas where the terrain precludes riding. Beagles are hunted on foot and hunting by mink hounds takes place on land adjacent to rivers.

*Regulation:* As well as full members, most hunts accept visitors, with an annual or daily fee. No licence is required, but insurance for public liability and personal injury (sometimes covered by membership of sporting organisations) is advised.

*Season:* Depends on regional farming activity - normally from after harvest in August or September to mid-March (up to late April in moorland or forest areas).

Additional smaller hunting associations include: Masters of Basset Hounds, Masters of Drag & Blood Hounds, Central Committee of Fell Packs and the Federation of Welsh Packs.

**Principal Organisations**

**COUNTRYSIDE  
ALLIANCE**  
Love the countryside

**The Countryside Alliance**

The Old Town Hall

367 Kennington Road, UK-London SE11 4PT

Tel. + 44 171 582 5432 – Fax. + 44 171 7938484

E-mail: [info@countryside-alliance.org](mailto:info@countryside-alliance.org)

<http://www.countryside-alliance.org>

☒ **Masters of Foxhounds Association**

Parsloes Cottage  
 Bagendon, Nr. Cirencester, UK-Gloucestershire GL7 7DU  
 Tel./Fax. + 44 01308 48 26 85  
 Website: [www.mfha.org.uk/](http://www.mfha.org.uk/)

☒ **Masters of Deerhounds Association**

Bilboa House  
 Dulverton, UK-Somerset TA22 9DW  
 Tel. + 44 01398 32 34 75

☒ **Association of Masters of Harriers and Beagles**

P.O. Box 5692  
 Newbury, UK- Beritshire RG14 7JB  
 Tel. +44 01635 41 320 – Fax. + 44 01635 58 29 36  
 Website: [www.amhb.org.uk](http://www.amhb.org.uk)

☒ **Masters of Mink Hounds Association**

8 Wilson-Valkenburg Court, Old Bath Road, UK-Newbury Berkshire  
 RG13 1QP  
 Tel./Fax. + 44 0163 54 47 54

## Falconry



*Access and control:* The clubs issue a code of conduct and operate a self-policing scheme in support of the requirements of the Department of the Environment and other relevant legislation, for the registration of raptors. Regulation: Although registration regulations have been relaxed as a result of the increase in the wild population of most raptors, there is still a requirement for the ringing and registration of certain species while kept in captivity. Licenses are available to falconers to allow them to hunt species such as larks and blackbirds,

which are otherwise protected by existing legislation.

*Seasons:* Falconers observe the seasons that apply to game shooting. Open general licenses allow falconers to control pest species at most times of the year, subject to their conditions of use, but in practice there is little flying after April.

*Conservation Activities:* Following the decline of, and access to, wild raptor populations in the 1960s, falconers pioneered the captive propagation of raptors. In the development of captive breeding programmes, which have reached self-sustaining captive populations, the knowledge, experience and expertise gained has been utilised in the successful conservation re-introduction programmes for native species that had become recently extinct in the British Isles - Red kite and White-tailed sea eagle. Furthermore, the return of the Goshawk to the UK was assisted by lost falconer's hawks.

*Rehabilitation of Wild Raptors:* Falconers are the point of contact for the public and wildlife rehabilitators when injured raptors are found and require expert care and knowledge to release healthy birds back to the wild.

### Associations

#### ☐ **British Falconers' Club**

Home Farm, Hints, Nr Tamworth,  
UK-Staffordshire B78 3DW  
Tel./Fax. + 44 01543 481 737  
Website: [www.britishfalconersclub.co.uk/](http://www.britishfalconersclub.co.uk/)

#### ☐ **Welsh Hawking Club**

c/o Birthorpe Rd, Bullingborough  
Lincs NG34 00S  
Tel. + 44 01529 240 443  
Website: [www.thewelshhawkingclub.com](http://www.thewelshhawkingclub.com)

#### ☐ **North of England Falconry Club**

Mrs. Waram  
20 Frances Ane  
Milnsbidge Huddersf HD3 4LE  
Tel. + 44 01484 654 187  
Website: [www.northernenglandfalconryclub.co.uk](http://www.northernenglandfalconryclub.co.uk)

## **Fishing**

Fishing licences are required throughout the UK and can generally be purchased at Post Offices. They are issued on a daily, weekly or annual basis. Rod fishing is permitted for salmon and sea trout, wild brown, stocked brown and rainbow trout and coarse fish. A game licence covers all forms of fishing and is more expensive than that issued for trout and coarse fish. Rates are reviewed annually. Fishing seasons vary and are also subject to local rules set by riparian owners, clubs and associations. The sale of rod caught salmon is now banned and in parts of the season salmon are subject to catch and release regulations. It is always advisable to check with owners and clubs in advance of proposed fishing trips to ensure that you are planning your visit within the permitted fishing seasons.



## **Coursing**

### **COURSING**

Principal Organisation

#### **The National Coursing Club (NCC)**

16 Clocktower Mews, Newmarket CB8 8LL

Tel.: 01638667381 Fax: 01638669224

Coursing is currently banned in the UK under the provisions of the Hunting Act 2004.

## Hunting territory

The general principle is that the rights usually belong to the owner of the land. He may give permission to other persons to exercise these rights, provided that they observe the appropriate legal requirements, unless he has already leased them to a sporting tenant or other occupier. Codes of conduct for good shooting, stalking and game management practice have been produced by the principal associations, with the assistance of The Game Conservancy Trust. They run a number of training schemes in shooting and in game and deer management.

The Country Landowners Association is the principle body representing landowners in England and Wales. It publishes advisory handbooks on shooting and stalking rights, including a form of agreement.

### ☐ **Country Land and Business Association**

16 Belgrave Square  
London SW1X 8PP  
Tel. + 44 0207 235 0511  
Fax. + 44 0207 235 4696

## Hunting Permit

### **Game Licences**

Game Licences are no longer required in England and Wales. However, in Scotland and N Ireland licences are currently required and may be obtained from Post Offices to cover appropriate periods.

## Firearms, Calibres & Ammunitions

### **Firearms licence**

UK residents must hold the appropriate certificates for shotguns or rifles. Firearms may be borrowed without a certificate under certain circumstances; provided that the user is at all times closely supervised by a person legally entitled to use the borrowed firearm.

### **Legal calibres & ammunition**

The characteristics of rifles and ammunition permitted for shooting deer are strictly defined, and differ in some respects between Scotland and England and Wales. Advice may be obtained from the:

#### ☐ **British Deer Society.**

Burgate Manor  
Fordingbridge  
Hants SPG IEF  
Tel. + 44 01425 655 434 – Fax. + 44 01425 655 433  
<http://www.bds.org.uk/>

#### ☐ **Home Office**

F8 Division  
Firearms Section  
50 Queen Anne's Gate, UK-London SW1H 9AT



Semi-automatic rifles are only legal in .22 rimfire in the UK. These are only suitable for small ground game. Semi-automatic shotguns are usually inappropriate for shooting game, and must not be able to hold more than three cartridges.

### Travel in/out with firearms

Sportsmen visiting the UK with firearms, (including those from EU States) must first obtain a UK visitor's permit from the police through a resident UK sponsor, who must be provided with proof of good character and legal entitlement to possess any firearm to be imported, such as an EU Firearms pass (in original, not a copy).

## Game & Hunting Seasons

### Species Season

#### Annual bag

Capercaillie	01/10 - 31/01
Grouse	12/08 - 10/12 (Northern Ireland to 30/11)
Ptarmigan	12/08 - 10/12
Black grouse	20/08 - 10/12
Snipe	12/08 - 31/01
Woodcock	(Northern Ireland, from September 1) 01/10 - 31/01 (Scotland: 01/09 - 31/01)

### Wild duck

Common pochard, Gadwall, Goldeneye, Mallard, Pintail, Shoveler, Teal, Tufted duck, Wigeon, Golden plover

Inland:	01/09 - 31/01
Foreshore:	01/09 - 20/02 01/09-31/01
Partridge	01/09 - 01/02 (Northern Ireland: 01/10 - 31/01)
Pheasant	01/10 - 01/02 (Northern Ireland to January 31)

### Wild geese

Canada, Greylag, Pinkfooted, White-fronted (in England and Wales only)

Inland:	01/09 - 31/01
Foreshore:	01/09 - 20/02

**Close Seasons in England and Wales**

<b>Species</b>	<b>Sex</b>	<b>Close Season</b>
<b>Red Deer</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>1 May - 31 July</b>
	<b>Female</b>	<b>1 November – 31 March</b>
<b>Red/Sika Hybrids</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>1 May - 31 July</b>
	<b>Female</b>	<b>1 November – 31 March</b>
<b>Sika Deer</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>1 May - 31 July</b>
	<b>Female</b>	<b>1 November – 31 March</b>
<b>Fallow Deer</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>1 May - 31 July</b>
	<b>Female</b>	<b>1 November –31 March</b>
<b>Roe Deer</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>1 November - 31 March</b>
	<b>Female</b>	<b>1 November – 31 March</b>
<b>Chinese Water Deer</b>	<b>Male &amp; Female</b>	<b>1 April - 31 October</b>
<b>Muntjac</b>	<b>Male &amp; Female</b>	<b>No closed season</b>

**Close Seasons in Scotland**

Species	Sex	Close Season
Red Deer	Male	21 Oct - 30 June
	Female	16 Feb - 20 October
Red/Sika Hybrids	Male	21 Oct - 30 June
	Female	16 Feb - 20 October
Sika Deer	Male	21 Oct - 30 June
	Female	16 Feb - 20 October
Fallow Deer	Male	1 May - 31 July
	Female	16 Feb - 20 October
Roe Deer	Male	21 Oct - 31 March
	Female	1 April - 20 October



It is unlawful to kill wildfowl in Scotland on a Sunday or on Christmas Day; in England and Wales, gamebirds, and in some counties wildfowl, cannot be killed on these days.



## Research Centres

### ☐ **The Game Conservancy Trust Ltd**

Fordingbridge,

UK-Hampshire SP6 1EF

Tel. 0044 1425.652381 – Fax. 0044 1425.651026

E-mail: [admin@gct.org.uk](mailto:admin@gct.org.uk)

<http://www.gct.org.uk/>

### ☐ **The Atlantic Salmon Trust**

Moulin

Pitlochry, UK-Perthshire PH16 5JQ

Tel. + 44 01746 473 434 – Fax. + 44 01796 473 554

### ☐ **British Deer Society**

Burgate Manor

Fordingbridge, UK-Hampshire SP6 1EF

## Travel in/out with hunting trophies

### Customs and Excise authorities

E-mail: <http://www.hmce.gov.uk>

## Gundogs

Contact BASC

## Tourism

Contact BASC and Countryside Alliance

## Heritage

### Hunting events

Annual local and national Game Fairs.

### Field sports magazines

For most of the field sports magazines listed below it is possible for people living outside the UK to pay a subscription fee to receive them. Click on their websites to find out more.

**Countryman's Weekly**

[www.countrymansweekly.com](http://www.countrymansweekly.com)

**Fieldsports Magazine**

[www.fieldsportsmagazine.com](http://www.fieldsportsmagazine.com)

**FlyFishing and Flytying**

[www.flyfishing-and-flytying.co.uk](http://www.flyfishing-and-flytying.co.uk)

**Horse and Hound**

[www.horseandhound.co.uk](http://www.horseandhound.co.uk)

**Shooting and Conservation**

[www.shootingandconservation.com](http://www.shootingandconservation.com)

**Shooting Gazette**

[www.shootinggazette.co.uk/](http://www.shootinggazette.co.uk/)

**Shooting Times**

[www.shootingtimes.co.uk/](http://www.shootingtimes.co.uk/)

**Sporting Gun**

[www.sportinggun.co.uk/](http://www.sportinggun.co.uk/)

**Sporting Shooter**

[www.sportingshooter.co.uk/](http://www.sportingshooter.co.uk/)

**The Field**

[www.thefield.co.uk/](http://www.thefield.co.uk/)

## Conservation Activities lead by hunters

- Wetland management to benefit waterfowl
- □ Moorland management to maintain heather and associated wildlife
- Adapting farming on the margins of cereal fields to promote game bird rearing, which also benefits song birds, butterflies and wild flowers
- Planting and upkeep of woodlands to improve habitats
- Control of predators
- Many hunts own or manage areas of woodland for the benefit of wildlife. The maintenance of copses, small woods and hedgerows owes much to the encouragement of hunts, many of whom promote the craft of traditional hedge laying.
- Research and development to improve land use and game management
- Habitat conservation. A survey has shown that farmers with an interest in game shooting spend on average 25% more on landscape improvement than those with no sporting involvement.
- Following the decline of, and access to, wild raptor populations in the 1960s, falconers pioneered the captive propagation of raptors. In the development of captive breeding programmes, which have reached self-sustaining captive populations, the knowledge, experience and expertise gained has been utilised in the successful conservation re-introduction programmes for native species that had become recently extinct in the British Isles - *Red kite* and *White-tailed sea eagle*. Furthermore, the return of the Goshawk to the UK was assisted by lost falconer's hawks.