

DRIVEN GROUSE SHOOTING
HEALTH AND SAFETY REQUIREMENTS

All guns must be in possession of the following:

1. A valid Shotgun Certificate OR a valid UK visitor's permit
2. A valid certificate of Third Party or Public Liability Insurance (BASC or Countryside Alliance membership is satisfactory)

Following a comprehensive risk assessment, the following key points for shoot days are drawn to your attention.

Shooting Competence

It is expected that you are a competent shot with a full understanding of the Grouse Shooting safety protocol – the BASC Code of Safe Shooting Practice can help. Novice guns should notify the Estate well in advance of the day to enable supervision arrangements to be made.

Shooting Procedure

- Guns must be unloaded and carried in a secure gun slip in between drives
- Guns should be loaded only when you are in position in a butt or at a peg. They should be unloaded at all other times.
- Whilst waiting for game to come guns should be pointing forwards either at the ground or straight up in the air.
- If using double guns weapons should have their safety catch on and the barrels pointed skyward when being handed back and forth. A practice exchange should be carried out before the drive starts.
- At every new butt / peg you should familiarise yourself with the position of the direction of the beaters, flankers and pickers up.
IF IN ANY DOUBT **DO NOT SHOOT**
- Butt sticks or H sticks will be provided and should be erected before shooting starts. **DO NOT** swing through the line of butts. If following a bird through the line of butts dismount weapons and point barrels skywards before turning to take the bird behind.
- NEVER leave your butt with a loaded gun, and never shoot from outside the butt, or after the drive is over.
- Always check your barrels are free of obstructions before loading. In the event of misfire unload your gun with the barrels pointing away from others
- Ensure that cartridges of the correct calibre are used
- Birds should only be shot that are within your zone, and particular care should be taken when taking a second shot at falling wounded birds.
- A horn will sound to signal that the beaters and flankers are approaching. Sometimes you or your neighbour may not hear the horn. To ensure that all guns know that the horn has been blown, please raise your gun vertically to signal to your neighbours that the horn has sounded and it is no longer safe to shoot in front, and ensure that each neighbour acknowledges that he appreciates that there must be no more shooting in front. All shooting in front must cease after the horn. Shooting behind may continue as long as it is safe.
- Stay in your butt until the drive is completely finished. Sometimes the line of beaters will be close to your butt, but still much further away from butts at the other end of the line. Ensure that the drive really is complete along the whole line before emerging from your butt. All guns must be unloaded before you leave the butt and left empty and broken on or near the butt, or put back in their slips.
- All birds must be accounted for before proceeding to the next drive.
- **Please note that the shoot captain/shoot manager/ head keeper has full authority to require anyone deemed by him to be shooting unsafely to cease shooting at any time during a drive and/or for the remainder of the day, and if appropriate to leave the moor immediately. His authority in this matter shall not be questioned, and any consequences of such a requirement may not be discussed until after the day is completed.**

Environment

- The whole moor is designated as Open Access land. Please be aware that members of the public could wander into the drive. If this happens, all shooting must cease until they have moved to a safe location. If you become aware of any walkers please immediately warn your neighbours and ensure that they do likewise.
- Moorland terrain is very uneven and appropriate sturdy footwear should be worn. Walking sticks are a useful aid.

- The moorland environment can be subject to extreme weather conditions and appropriate clothing should be worn / available in your vehicle.
- Mine shafts and bogs are present on all three estates and care should be taken when walking across the moor to butts / pick grouse etc.
- Dogs should be tied to the ring / wooden peg provided, or otherwise secured
- All non shooting companions should sit / stand at the back of the butt (in a position agreed with the gun) whilst the drive is in progress.

Transport

- Moorland roads can be steep and uneven and care should be taken when driving along them. Sufficient distance should be allowed between vehicles and an appropriate gear selected. If in any doubt stop the vehicle and ask an experienced driver to take over.
- When being transported off road the ride may be uneven and uncomfortable. All passengers must be seated at all times and dogs held or secured.
- The vehicle's doors or hatches may have sharp edges; and all passengers must ensure that no clothing / possessions are trailing that could become entangled in the moving parts of the vehicle or in fixed points over or past which the vehicle travels.

Personal Health

- Ear protection should be worn by all persons in a butt. Safety glasses are also recommended.
- During a drive the barrels of a gun may get hot and it is therefore advisable to wear leather gloves or use a barrel guard.
- Wooden butts / hurdles may be treated with creosote which could cause skin irritation.
- Midges and other biting insects may be present and repellent spray / cream should therefore be taken in case.
- Heather moorland and heath are home to the Adder – Britain's only venomous snake. They are quite commonly seen on warm days. They rarely bite unless they feel threatened, but it is possible for you or your dog to threaten them without intending to do so. For this reason, appropriate footwear including ankle protection is advisable to reduce the risk of being bitten.

It should be noted that Adders are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

- Tick may be present on the moor. If they bite, they are capable on rare occasions of transmitting to humans serious viral diseases, including Lyme's disease. If a tick becomes attached to your skin, do not simply pull it off, as the head and/or some legs may be left behind, resulting in local infection. Seek assistance from the shoot manager or a keeper as to the best method of removal.
- Please ensure that any necessary medication is kept with you at all times including antihistamine if allergic to wasp / bee stings.
- Please advise the shoot organiser of any food allergies / intolerances before the day
- Alcoholic drinks may be available at certain points during the day. **ALL GUNS MUST BE AWARE OF THE DANGERS OF IMMODERATE DRINKING during the shooting day, and must exercise restraint until the day is completed. The shoot captain/shoot manager/ head keeper has full authority on the ground of possible impairment of judgment at any time to require any gun to desist from drinking further alcohol during the day, and/or to cease shooting. His judgment in such a matter shall not be questioned.**
- Water or other non alcoholic drinks should be taken regularly on hot days.

Disruption

- If a shoot day is disrupted by saboteurs unload your gun immediately and return it to its slip.
- Do not confront the saboteurs but return to your vehicle until the situation is resolved.

Health and Safety is your responsibility and any concerns should be raised immediately with the Head Keeper / Shoot Manager.