



The Game Shoot
Standards
Assurance
Scheme 2006

Assessment criteria
and check list

The Game Shoot Standards Assurance scheme is owned and managed by the members of *Game Shoot Standards* - a company limited by guarantee



With the support of the National Game Dealers Association, and sporting agents, represented by Strutt and Parker,

and with advice from



Overseen, Monitored & Certified by:



Scheme Standards Assessment Criteria Checklist and Reporting Form

Participating shoots will be audited on this checklist by an independent assessor from CMi, thereby demonstrating adherence to the Code of Good Shooting Practice. The symbol R signifies that documentary evidence will be necessary. The inspection will include a discussion on the required Shoot Management Plan, where questions on the provisions that do not involve documentary evidence will be raised.

Before completing the form, shoot managers are required to have read the attached shoot management handbook, which contains advice on a number of practical issues referred to below.

Participants confirm they have undertaken the work and retained any necessary documents to comply with the criteria, and have prepared a shoot management plan to no less a standard than is set out in the tick box plan at page 9, using the advice in the handbook. Where applicable, the participant confirms that he ensures anyone involved with the shoot (partner, syndicate member, employee or gun) also complies with the criteria.

The participants also confirm they have complied with the required legislative standards summarised at page 11.

This assurance scheme is delivered on behalf of *Game Shoot Standards* by Checkmate International plc (CMi), which provides crop and livestock assurance to many thousands of farmers.

Scheme Standards Assessment Criteria Checklist and Reporting Form

The symbol **R** signifies that documentary evidence will be necessary. Applicants should refer to the handbook for a fuller description of the scheme and further advice. Where there is any doubt, the provisions of the 2003 Code of Good Shooting Practice will apply.

- | | | Tick |
|-----------|---|--------------------------|
| 1. | Shoot Policy | |
| 1.1 | Does the shoot have a copy of the Code of Good Shooting Practice and comply with the provisions therein? R | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1.2 | Does the shoot have a copy of a shoot law handbook* and comply with the provisions therein, and with the applicable legislation particularly set out at Annex A? R | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1.3 | Does the shoot or estate have a suitable insurance policy covering the shoot? R | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1.4 | Does the shoot take account of and, as appropriate, make arrangements for the convenience and safety of neighbours and other countryside users on shoot days? | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1.5 | Does the shoot take account of rights of way, open access land, walkers and riders and cyclists when planning the shoot? | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1.6 | Does the shoot issue instructions that neighbours' property must not be entered without consent? | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1.7 | Does the shoot limit bag sizes and number of shooting days to take account of the carrying capacity of the habitat available on the shoot? | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1.8 | Does the shoot keep a record of any formal complaints raised against it and deal with them in a courteous and professional manner? R | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1.9 | Does the shoot have a shoot management plan which sets out the steps taken to comply with the above and to deliver habitat and conservation improvements on the shoot? (This includes a map showing the relevant features) R | <input type="checkbox"/> |

***See the Handbook (page 14) for available guidance**

- | 2. Habitat and Gamebird Management | Tick |
|---|--|
| 2.1 Does the shoot seek to ensure that game cover crops enhance the habitat and are sympathetically sited? | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2.2 Does the shoot either
A Not shoot wild grey partridge?
OR
B undertake a survey to show that autumn stocks are adequate (above 20 birds per 100 hectares) and not shoot other than any sustainable excess above this number? R | <input type="checkbox"/>

<input type="checkbox"/> |
|
3. Shoot Day Management | |
| 3.1 Does the shoot take steps to make sure rights of way are safe for walkers and horse riders on shoot days by mounting stops and/or halting shooting and where appropriate by putting out signs? | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3.2 Does the shoot ensure food hygiene rules on inspection of game are complied with on shoot days? | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|
4. Health and Safety | |
| 4.1 Has the shoot undertaken a risk assessment to cover the most important hazards on the shoot? R | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4.2 Does the shoot have a written shoot emergency plan which is on display in a suitable place? R | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|
5. Pre-shoot written notification | |
| 5.1 Does the shoot when writing to paying guns in advance of a shoot day inform them that the shoot is assured and complies with the Code of Good Shooting Practice? R | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5.2 Does the shoot make sure everyone directly involved with the shoot is informed and has copies of the Code if required? R | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|
6. Pre-shoot briefing for guns | |
| 6.1 Does the shoot make sure that guns are briefed on safety and conduct at the start of any shooting day, covering the points set out in the guidance? | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Tick

- 6.2 Does the shoot remind guns that the shoot is assured and complies with the Code of Good Shooting Practice, and make sure they have a copy if required?

7. Pre-shoot briefing for beaters, stops, pickers up

- 7.1 Does the shoot make sure that everyone involved in the field on a shoot day is properly briefed as to safety and conduct at the start of the day, covering the points set out in the handbook, and does it make copies of the Code of Good Shooting Practice available as necessary?
- 7.2 Has the shoot prepared a safety prompt card which is available on display for staff and others involved on the shoot? **R**

8. Medicine storage and use

- 8.1 Does the shoot record its use of veterinary medicines and observe any relevant withdrawal periods? **R**

9. Feed Storage and Use

- 9.1 Does the shoot ensure all feed (including grain) used on the shoot is stored properly and is clean and free from contamination?
- 9.2 Does the shoot purchase any bought-in compound feed from United Kingdom Feed Assurance Scheme certified mills? **R**
- 9.3 Does the shoot keep records of feed used on the shoot (including grain, tailings and home mixes) and keep batch labels of compound feed or delivery notes of bulk feed of for two years? **R**

10. Rearing and releasing

- 10.1 Does the shoot have a copy of and comply with any relevant current codes of practice for rearing? **R**
- 10.2 Does the shoot ensure it knows the provenance of all birds brought onto the shoot and that the supplier complies with the relevant current codes of practice? **R**

- | | Tick |
|---|--------------------------|
| 10.3 Does the shoot ensure that all those involved in rearing are competent in bird husbandry? | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 10.4 Does the shoot ensure that the health and welfare of the birds is properly provided for at all times and ensure they are inspected at least daily for signs of disease or injury? | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 10.5 Does the shoot ensure any birds suffering ill health or injury receive immediate attention and if appropriate, the attendance of a veterinary surgeon? | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 10.6 Does the shoot keep records of significant losses through disease and post mortem results for a minimum of 12 months? R | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 10.7 Does the shoot provide appropriate housing which delivers high animal health and welfare standards with an outside run of a size suitable for the number of birds housed and manage stocking densities so as to minimise stress? | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 10.8 Does the shoot ensure housing is cleansed and sanitised between batches? | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 10.9 Does the shoot provide adequate food and supplies of clean water to stock in pens? | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 10.10 Does the shoot management plan detail the habitat available on the shoot and ensure that no more birds (including duck) are released than can be sustained without irreversibly damaging the environment and habitat and without being detrimental to the health and welfare of stock? | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 10.11 Has the shoot read the Game Conservancy Trust advice on stocking densities and does it comply with the recommendations set out in the handbook? R | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 10.12 Does the shoot ensure that stock for shooting is not introduced to replenish or replace birds shot in that season after the start of the shooting season for that species and does it ensure that shooting does not commence until the birds (including duck) are mature and adapted to the wild? | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Tick

- 10.13 Does the shoot ensure that release pens, cover crops and feeders are sited away from public highways so far as is possible to minimise road kills and nuisance to traffic?
- 10.14 Does the shoot use its best practical endeavours to ensure that bird numbers and locations are controlled to avoid them wandering onto roads or causing damage to neighbouring crops and gardens?
- 10.15 Does the shoot ensure that calling birds are not used and does it remove or render unusable partridge release pens before shooting commences?
- 10.16 Does the shoot ensure duck are released only into a suitable wetland habitat and are encouraged to become wild before it starts shooting, and does it provide alternative water to which they may fly?
- 10.17 Does the shoot ensure that reared game is free from disease and parasites when releasing?
- 10.18 Does the shoot ensure that veterinary checks are undertaken to ensure there is no risk of disease contamination when it releases birds on moorland or moorland edges into existing populations of wild birds that may be at risk? **R**
- 10.19 Does the shoot provide sufficient feed for released birds remaining after the end of the shooting season until natural food is available (normally until the end of May)?
- 11. Predator and pest control**
- 11.1 Does the shoot have copies of the current relevant Codes of Practice for the pest control it undertakes and does it comply with their provisions? **R**
- 11.2 Does the shoot inspect any traps and snares at least once a day and remove any dead animal including any dead bird in accordance with the relevant Codes of Practice?
- 11.3 Does the shoot ensure any targeted species caught in a live catch trap is killed (save where it is to be kept) in a quick and humane manner as soon as reasonably practicable after discovery and that non-target species are released unharmed?

- | | Tick |
|---|--------------------------|
| 11.4 Does the shoot ensure that predator or pest carcasses are disposed of properly and not displayed? | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 11.5 Does the shoot take steps when burning or undertaking other land management to avoid harm to non-target species? | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 11.6 Does the shoot ensure any predator and pest control is carried out with due consideration to local residents and other countryside users and does it keep records of the type of work undertaken? R | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 11.7 Does the shoot ensure only approved chemicals are used by qualified persons and in accordance with label instructions? | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 11.8 Does the shoot keep records of its pesticide use including: product used, amount, location and date? R | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Trapping Pest Birds, Code of Good Practice (BASC)

Hints on using Larsen traps (Game Conservancy Trust)

Trapping Pest Mammals, Code of Good Practice (BASC)

Defra Code of Practice for the use of snares in fox and rabbit control (Defra)

Lamping, Code of Practice (BASC)

Application:

I have read the above and the accompanying handbook and wish to apply for membership of the Shoot Assurance Scheme. I enclose a cheque for the requisite fee.

Signed

Address

Date

PROFORMA (TICK BOX) SHOOT MANAGEMENT PLAN

Prepared by

Shoot name

PHYSICAL NATURE OF SHOOT

ACREAGE (GROSS)

Farmed arable /pasture acreage

Woodland acreage

Moorland acreage

NO. RELEASE PENS

Area of release pens (acreage)

SHOOT POLICY

(Tick and provide numbers as appropriate)

DRIVEN GAME (RELEASED)

Pheasant (number)

Redleg partridge (number)

Duck (number)

Other (number)

OVERALL RELEASE DENSITY

(BIRDS / ACRE)

DRIVEN GAME (WILD BIRD) DENSITY

WALKED UP (RELEASED)

Pheasant (number)

Redleg partridge (number)

Duck (number)

Other (number)

WALKED UP (WILD BIRD) DENSITY

OTHER DENSITY (SPECIFY)

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

FARMLAND PROVISIONS

Wide hedgerows

Uncultivated field margins

Beetle banks

Wild bird cover

Heather management

WOODLAND PROVISIONS

Coppicing

Thinning

Wide rides

Underplanting

Natural regeneration

TICK IF PRESENT

**OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL
PROVISIONS (SPECIFY)**

Stewardship (ELS)
Stewardship (HLS)
Stewardship (Organic)
SSSI/SPA/local nature reserve
management agreement
Wetland management
Other

TICK IF PRESENT

**SPECIES MANAGEMENT:
CONSERVING WILD BIRDS**

No shooting policy (eg grey
partridge)
Fox control
Rat and grey squirrel control
Corvid control
Other

REARING POLICY

**REARED ON SHOOT
BOUGHT IN AS POULTS
WILD GAME ONLY**

SPECIES PRESENT ON SHOOT

TICK IF PRESENT

Pheasant
Grey partridge
Redleg partridge
Red grouse
Black grouse
Ptarmigan
Mallard
Gadwall
Shoveler
Pintail
Teal
Wigeon
Tufted duck
Pochard
Goldeneye
Canada goose
Greylag
Pinkfoot
Whitefront
Snipe
Woodcock
Golden plover
Wood pigeon
Collared dove
Brown hare
Blue hare
Rabbit
Other

RELEASE POLICY

PLANNED DATE OF RELEASE

Partridge
Pheasant
Other

GAME MEAT POLICY

SAFE FEED PROVISION
WITHDRAWAL OF MEDICINES
INSPECTION ON SHOOT DAY
TRANSPORT TO LARDER
GAME LARDER /REFRIGERATION
SHOOT PROCESSING
SALE TO GAME DEALER %
DIRECT SALE %
SALE OR GIFT TO SHOOT
PARTICIPANTS %

PUBLIC RELATIONS POLICY

AVOIDING BIRDS ON ROADS
AVOIDING DAMAGE TO
NEIGHBOURING PROPERTY
AVOIDING IMPEDING RIGHTS OF
WAY OR ACCESS USERS
DISTRIBUTING GAME TO
NEIGHBOURS
ENGAGING WITH THE LOCAL
COMMUNITY
OTHER

HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICY

RISK ASSESSMENT UNDERTAKEN
HEALTH AND SAFETY PLAN
EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN
SHOOT VEHICLE PLAN
OTHER

SHOOT MAP TO BE ANNEXED

(See chapter 3 of the handbook for advice)

ANNEX A: APPLICABLE LEGISLATION

NB: THIS ANNEX IS NOT A COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF ALL THE REGULATIONS THAT MAY APPLY TO A SHOOT: IT REFERS ONLY TO THE ELEMENTS OF CURRENT LEGISLATION THAT WILL BE SUBJECT TO AUDIT BY CMI UNDER THE SCHEME

1. Does the shoot ensure all involved have a shotgun licences and comply with the conditions thereon? **R**
2. Does the shoot ensure all involved who need one have game licences? **R**
3. Does the shoot have a game dealers licence (if required) and/or has it registered with the local authority as a food business? **R**
4. Does the shoot ensure all involved comply with relevant food safety legislation? **R**
5. Does the shoot ensure all involved comply with the lead shot regulations and use non toxic shot for the appropriate areas and species? **R**.
6. Does the shoot either:
A) Employ more than 5 people on the shoot and has a written health and safety plan ?**R**
OR
B) Employ fewer than 5 people on the shoot and complies with relevant health and safety legislation?
7. Does the shoot ensure any transport and other equipment used on the shoot complies with relevant health and safety regulations? **R**
8. Does the shoot comply with COSHH* regulations on medicine storage and dispose of out of date medicines safely and in accordance with legal requirements? **R**.
9. Does the shoot comply with current regulations* in relation to pesticides? **R**.
10. Does the shoot comply with current regulations in relation to predator and pest control?

***See Handbook (Chapter 1) for a list of relevant legislation. Advice on compliance is available from the Code organisations listed.**