



# Countryside Jobs Service Weekly Special Edition 15 August 2005

## Country Sports Supplement

In association with The Game Conservancy Trust



**The Game Conservancy Trust** is an independent wildlife conservation charity which carries out research into game, associated species and habitats. In 2003 the Trust spent £3 million in furtherance of its charitable objects of which £2 million was spent on research that is carried out by 60 scientists based at Fordingbridge, and at study centres throughout the country. The Trust's main areas of interest include farmland, moorland and woodland conservation, river and habitat restoration, disease, predation control and education. The Trust is also responsible for a number of Government Biodiversity Action Plan species and is lead partner for grey partridge and joint lead partner for brown hare and black grouse. They advise farmers and landowners on improving wildlife habitat and they lobby for agricultural and conservation policies based on science. Many supporters take part in field sports. They invest in managing wildlife habitat in the countryside. This improves biodiversity and represents a philosophy of "Conservation through wise use".

The term *wise use*, when applied to hunting, is based on the *optimum sustainable yield*. Stable wildlife populations have reproduction and death rates that balance each other. This happens because, as natural resources are used up, mortality increases and fecundity reduces. This *density dependence* maintains population stability. When hunted, a population is reduced, but this frees-up resources which reduces other mortality or increases the birth rate. Thus regularly hunted populations stabilise at lower levels than un hunted ones, but are more productive. The maximum sustainable hunting rate is achieved when the largest number of animals are breeding at the fastest possible rate. This is the *maximum sustainable yield*. Harvesting strategies are usually set at a rate lower than this - *the optimum sustainable yield*.

Game managers try to enhance productivity by providing better habitat and more food, and at the same time reduce the mortality due to predators and disease. In this way managed game populations are very productive and often have higher breeding stocks than populations that are not managed and not shot. Game management can also benefit animals and plants that have similar requirements. But, over intensive game management can reduce some biodiversity if, for example, rare carnivores and birds of prey are exterminated. Hunting and game management is only *conservation through wise use* if these species are conserved too.

In this way, by conservation through wise use, game management can be said to support wildlife conservation overall. This is amply illustrated by a new conservation report called 'Nature's Gain' which has identified that if it were not for game management the British countryside would be a lot poorer and much wildlife habitat would have been lost to intensive, subsidised farming and forestry. The 32-page report, written by Dr Stephen Tapper, Director of Policy and Public Affairs with The Game Conservancy Trust, argues that management by gamekeepers and land owners for game shooting, has enhanced and protected the British landscape and improved habitats for a range of animals and plants as well as gamebirds. In writing the report Dr Tapper has drawn together published scientific research as well as the views of other conservation writers to illustrate the story.

The report shows that:

- Upland heather moor (a habitat of international importance) has been better conserved on properties that manage grouse for shooting than it has been elsewhere.
- Moors managed for grouse typically have many more golden plover, lapwing, curlew and merlin than other moorland.
- Pheasant shooting has been a key incentive for managing and retaining lowland woods over the last 100 years, and has prevented many from being ripped out for agriculture or replaced by conifer plantations.
- The management of woods for shooting, with rides and glades, improves the numbers of butterflies and some songbirds.
- Game biologists were pioneers of wildlife research on arable land and were the first to recognise the detrimental indirect effects of herbicides on farmland bird populations.
- Thousands of hectares of game crops and thousands of tonnes of grain, put out for pheasants and partridges, feed many farmland songbirds over winter.
- Field margins managed for gamebirds provide a refuge for butterflies in the countryside, and help to conserve the last relics of an ancient Neolithic weed flora.

The full report is available from The Game Conservancy Trust, Fordingbridge, Hampshire, SP6 1EF. Telephone : 01425 652381. Or visit the Trust's website: [www.gct.org.uk](http://www.gct.org.uk) to view the report or for more about The Game Conservancy Trust, it's work and aims.

The term 'Country Sports' covers a wide range of activities, however they all have a common focus of chasing, but not necessarily killing, a game species. Until February 2005 this included hunting with dogs for fox, deer, hare and mink. These are still considered game species within the confines of legal open seasons and are now hunted in differing forms. In England and Wales this is by being flushed by no more than two dogs before being shot. In Scotland larger packs of hounds, known as gun packs, may flush through coverts driving the hunted towards waiting guns.

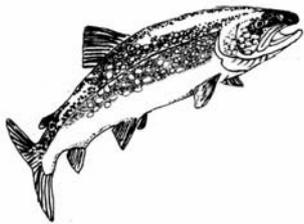
Sports which are currently under no additional restrictions and are included in the Special Edition are fishing, both fly and coarse, shooting - upland, lowland and wildfowling, stalking and falconry. These all have seasons, many enforced by legislation, in addition they all have 'good codes of practice' agreed by the representative organisations and followed, mostly voluntarily, by participants.

These activities are pursued by many people, country sports account for approximately 130 million activity days per year<sup>①</sup>. As the name suggest country sports happen in the countryside and therefore have relevance to how the countryside is managed. Over 60,000 jobs are reliant on country sports<sup>①</sup>. 26,300 full time jobs in the UK are directly dependent on shooting, 7,212 (directly and indirectly) in Scotland alone<sup>②</sup> and this makes it relevant to job seekers.

You don't have to agree with these activities, however some understanding of each will help land managers who have these sports on 'their patch' to manage the land and the sports followers in the best possible way for all involved.

<sup>①</sup> Figures from Countryside Alliance.

<sup>②</sup> Figures from British Association for Shooting and Conservation.



**Wildlife and Angling in harmony at  
Wiltshire Wildlife Trust's Langford Lakes  
Nature Reserve.**



Fishing and wildlife watching sit happily side by side at Langford Lakes Nature Reserve, each benefiting from improvement works and management. Owning a nature reserve does not mean just putting a fence around a piece of land. These dynamic living places have to be managed to make sure they are in the best condition to benefit wildlife and a site as important as this one requires careful management and sympathetic use.

In 2001 Wiltshire Wildlife Trust purchased the former Langford Fisheries in Steeple Langford near Salisbury, a 33 acre site with two flooded gravel pits and a half mile stretch of River Wylye, a chalk river of exceptional conservation. The Trust said at the time that this "site is a wonderful addition to our nature reserves across the county, it is already well known as an exceptional site for over-wintering birds as well as for its top-quality river fishing." Since then the Trust has been able to add a further gravel pit to the site. The waters are home to brown trout and grayling and the Trust owns the fishing rights both for the lakes and the half mile stretch of river. The river fly-fishing is let out on a day-ticket system on a strictly 'no-kill' basis with all fish returned to the river after capture. There is also coarse fishing on Brockbank Lake, available to members of the Langford Lakes Fishing Club run by the Wildlife Trust. All fish are wild and no artificial restocking of the river has taken place for over 5 years.

Since acquiring the nature reserve the Wildlife Trust has made many improvements to the site, erecting screens of woven hazel along the approaches to the bird watching hides to ensure birds are not disturbed whilst visitors are close enough to watch them from close quarters. There has also been a wide range of habitat improvements on the River Wylye all of which benefit trout & grayling but also a wide array of other wildlife. These improvements range from flow deflectors creating deeper areas of water suitable for adult fish and bank stabilisation using live willow and dead hazel to reduce erosion to continuing the removal of pike by electrofishing in an effort to reduce predation. Habitat creation work has turned the lakes into an ideal place for breeding and over-wintering birds, work along the river has improved the living conditions for many plants and animals that are found only in chalk streams. The River Wylye as a whole is of international importance and brown trout and salmon are known to have spawned on the stretch owned by the Trust. Some of the shores of the three lakes have been reshaped to diversify the range of habitats for birds and fish; three islands have been created and the lakes' shores planted with rushes, sedges and reeds to create safe habitats for breeding birds. Over 150 bird species have been recorded at Langford Lakes in the last 20 years including one for the UK's most endangered birds the bittern. Otters and voles regularly use the river and lakes.

The Wylye is part of the River Avon System SSSI and is designated a cSAC for a range of species and habitat types. The improvement for both river and lakes and for fishing and wildlife in general are ongoing and the trust runs a series of conservation workdays, visit the Wiltshire Wildlife Trust website (see below) or contact them for more information.

The Trust runs many family wildlife experience events and other groups use this special site for fishing related events. At the end of July the Environment Agency ran Learn to Fish events at the Reserve and in June The Wild Trout Trust uses the site for an in depth introduction to wild trout.

For information please contact Wiltshire Wildlife Trust on 01722 790770, email: [wwtlangford@btinternet.com](mailto:wwtlangford@btinternet.com) or visit the website at: [www.wiltshirewildlife.org](http://www.wiltshirewildlife.org)



## So you want to be a gamekeeper?

### What Gamekeepers do...

Gamekeepers manage both upland and lowland areas for the benefit of reared or wild game (eg pheasant, partridge, grouse, duck, deer).

They also control pests. Gamekeepers maintain and create woodlands, hedgerows, and ponds for quarry species these also provide shelter for many other kinds of wildlife, helping to ensure the biodiversity of our countryside. Habitat maintained for game provides important habitat for "at risk" species such as the dormouse, spotted flycatcher and a variety of butterfly species. Pest and predator control carried out by gamekeepers benefits ground nesting birds such as the redshank. Gamekeepers are involved in conservation initiatives and work with many conservation agencies such as English Nature, British Trust for Ornithology and local wildlife trusts. Many manage areas which are legally protected for wildlife, such as Sites of Special Scientific Interest. In total, gamekeepers manage around 7.3 million hectares of countryside in the United Kingdom, an area almost the size of Scotland. It is officially recognised by the statutory conservation bodies - English Nature, Scottish Natural Heritage and the Countryside Council for Wales – that land managed for game shooting not only maintains and creates important habitats but also directly contributes to the survival of other wildlife.

The gamekeeper works closely with the farm manager and forester to arrive at estate management policies which are economically viable whilst at the same time conserving both game and wildlife. There are different types of gamekeepers: **Lowland keepers** work in woodland and open farmland and are concerned mainly with pheasant, partridge and mallard. **Upland keepers** work on moors and are concerned mainly with grouse, blackcock and deer. **Highland keepers/stalkers** are mainly involved with the stalking of deer. In some of the higher areas of Scotland they are also concerned with ptarmigan. There are currently some 5,000 full-time gamekeepers employed in the UK. In addition, there are many who spend their leisure time and money, rearing game and maintaining habitats on their own small shoots. Traditionally, gamekeeping was a family occupation with the know-how being passed down from generation to generation. Today gamekeeping is a profession with codes of practice and agreed national standards through a Gamekeeping Vocational Qualification. Also many colleges now offer land based management degrees and courses which include gamekeeping.

### What the work involves...

There are no set hours in gamekeeping and no over-time. Gamekeepers need to work until the job is finished, which can mean very long hours, including early morning, evening, night and weekend work. Most of the time working outdoors in all weather conditions. At many times of the year any social life you have disappears because of the demands of the job.

The work of a gamekeeper varies from season to season. In spring and summer as a lowland keeper the main task is rearing young, upland or highland keepers do not rear the game. All keepers ensure game is kept safe from predators and competitors and make any necessary repairs to buildings, equipment and game pens.

The shooting season is the busiest time of the year and varies according to the particular game and its season. Gamekeepers arrange shoots and hire and supervise beaters.

Throughout the year, much of the work involves maintaining the shoot habitat. This involves clearing woodland or burning heather, building and maintaining fences and hedges also clearing ponds and ditches. If poaching is a problem game is protected by frequent patrols of the beat area at night and keeping in touch with the police. Other tasks include keeping records and training gun dogs.

**A gamekeeper should be:** ● fit, energetic and strong ● willing to work outdoors in all weather conditions ● knowledgeable of the countryside and its wildlife ● good at working with their hands and willing to tackle all sorts of practical jobs ● able to work on their own for long periods, but also work as part of a small team ● safety conscious when dealing with guns and chemicals ● alert and observant. ● It helps to have an interest in the environment and in shooting and traditional countryside activities.

Gamekeepers do not always need academic qualifications, but it can help if they have some GCSEs or S grades. They may need some practical experience before they start work. The best experience would be helping a gamekeeper. Weekend beating or helping with pheasant-rearing is also useful.

Foundation Modern Apprenticeships and Modern Apprenticeships may be available for young people in Wales. Agricultural colleges in England, Wales and Scotland run a number of full-time courses to train for gamekeeping.

**And finally...**

There are only a few job vacancies every year with thousands of people after them. The pay is very low especially when you consider how much work is completed and how worthwhile it is. Despite this the job is very rewarding and all gamekeepers love their work.

CJS gratefully acknowledges the assistance of the British Association for Shooting and Conservation ([www.basc.org.uk](http://www.basc.org.uk)) and Connexions ([www.connexions.gov.uk](http://www.connexions.gov.uk)) in writing this article.



**WHY DEER  
MANAGEMENT?**

I have been involved with guns and country pursuits since childhood, from shooting my first air rifle under my grandfather's supervision to ferreting with him and my father, through rough shooting, running a pheasant shoot and grouse moor to deer stalking and deer management. I first became interested in deer 30 years ago when Roe deer were just starting to colonise this part of North Yorkshire. The first Roe I saw was a large healthy doe, standing on the grass verge as I drove to work at 4.00am one morning. I braked so hard to stop and look that I smashed the 30 dozen eggs stacked in the boot of my car! Following that first sighting I began looking for, and finding, Roe. I then bought a rifle and took up stalking. I became a member of the British Deer Society and would read anything I could about all kinds of deer. As I read my interest grew and I realised that there is much more to deer than just shooting, so I attended courses about deer and their management.

Some years later I was given the chance to manage the deer on a large private estate. This was the start! My task was to manage deer Red, Roe and Muntjac over a large area. This included working out a cull plan, sticking to it and keeping records of all deer shot. I also had to work in harmony with the forestry interests on the estate, a large operation involving lots of felling and replanting of vulnerable young trees. As on any large estate, it was essential to fit in with all other land uses without causing any upset through careless or thoughtless actions.

The culling of deer is a sensitive and emotive issue but deer do damage crops and trees and if left unchecked their numbers increase rapidly. Deer are beautiful, elegant animals capable of feeling pain so, in my view, the primary aim of culling should be to minimise suffering of any kind. I have seen areas where deer have not been managed and properly culled resulting in dozens of corpses and extensive environmental damage. Allowing deer to suffer and die of starvation and/or disease due to overpopulation is cruel and immoral and also totally unnecessary in this day and age. Better to harvest a beautiful natural asset than watch them suffer and waste away.

I have managed the deer on a large estate and local farmland for the last ten years and have conducted deer census work for other interested landowners to develop future management plans. Lack of space restricts me from delving deeper into the subject but I believe deer enhance the countryside and deserve fair and humane treatment. When I say I stalk deer the most common response is "We like to see them around" **So do !!** By managing the population of an area the deer can thrive without causing excessive damage to crops, gardens etc and so remain for all to enjoy.

For more information please contact Paul Ventress, Professional Deer Manager, on 01947 880819

**Organisations – Deer:**

**D&G Consultants (UK) Limited** This company was founded by Roger Buss a Professional Deer Stalker based in Hampshire in 1981, it now trades throughout the UK. During 21 years as a Sole Trader Roger provided Guided deer Stalking and training Facilities over various properties by arrangement with landowners and others. A long established and avid supporter of the British Deer Society Roger followed their excellent example in providing training courses for new stalkers and has provided first class instruction and follow on stalking facilities for several hundred people during that period. He has also provided guided stalking for visitors and land permit stalking facilities for rifle shooters.

The present limited company (Est in 2003) now has the expertise of Steve Moorhouse another Director and experienced stalker, as a qualified tutor Steve is also able to assess stalking clients and prepare them for taking the Deer Stalking Certificate. The company also holds a Registered firearms Dealership and membership of the gun Trades Association.

Contact details ; [www.deerland.co.uk](http://www.deerland.co.uk) tel:02392 467236 Roger mob 07802 854396, 01590 682085 Steve.

**The Deer Commission for Scotland** is a non-departmental public body which has responsibility for the conservation, control and sustainable management of all species of wild deer in Scotland, and keeps under review all matters relating to wild deer, including welfare. For more information visit [www.dcs.gov.uk](http://www.dcs.gov.uk).

**The Deer Initiative** is a broad partnership of statutory, voluntary and private interests whose aim is "ensuring the delivery of a sustainable, well-managed wild deer population in England and Wales". Established as a partnership in 1995, it now encompasses most national organisations which have an interest in deer management. [www.thedeerinitiative.co.uk](http://www.thedeerinitiative.co.uk)

## The Wild Trout Trust: restoring Britain's rivers for the benefit of wildlife



A visit from the Wild Trout Trust is often the catalyst that helps transform an overgrown, silted up and practically lifeless stretch of river into a pristine example of that sparkling oasis of wildlife - the traditional British trout stream.

Founded in 1997, the Trust has some 2,500 members, but only one full-time salaried member of staff, no political allegiances or objectives and no fancy offices. It exists solely to encourage hands-on conservation work and kick-start river restoration projects.

The Advisory Visit (AV) scheme is at the heart of the Trust's work and characterises its 'hands on' approach to wild trout conservation. Under the scheme, the Trust subsidises a visit from an expert fisheries consultant who makes a detailed report on the river in question and offers advice on means to restore, maintain and improve habitat for wild trout throughout their life cycle.



*Members of a fishing club on the River Wensum, Norfolk, installing faggot bundles to narrow an over-wide section of river that had been previously dredged for land drainage purposes.*

Demand for these Advisory Visits (AVs) is increasing as fishing clubs and riparian owners begin to appreciate the benefits of managing their fisheries to encourage sustainable wild trout populations. But it isn't just trout stocks which benefit from the WTT's work - habitat restoration creates the ideal environment for otters, water voles, kingfishers and a raft of other wildlife.

Since the scheme began in 2001, more than 100 km of river have benefited from improvement work carried out as a direct result of a WTT visit and the scheme looks set to more than double that figure inside the next two years. With more than 170 visits due to be completed by the end of this year, the Trust is on target to break the 200 AV mark some time next year - and is aiming to undertake some 35-40 visits a year thereafter.

Through sponsorship from organisations like the Environment Agency, English Nature, Orvis, Sage and Hardy, the Trust is able to heavily subsidise the consultancy costs - so all the fishery owner has to cover is the consultant's expenses.

The recipient is then free to make whatever they wish of the recommendations, and responses to a recent survey of AV recipients suggest that over 90 per cent of all AVs turn into a substantial habitat improvement project. The WTT is always keen to assist where there is enthusiasm for more work. This follow-up assistance from the WTT ranges from sponsorship, match funding or even national recognition at the prestigious annual Conservation Awards.

WTT projects director Edward Twiddy believes much of the increased demand is down to 'word of mouth' recommendation as fishing clubs witness first hand the benefits neighbouring riparian owners have reaped following a successful AV. "As the advisory visit scheme continues to translate into real change on the ground, a pattern is emerging of requests coming in from clubs and managers of neighbouring waters," explained Edward. "The 10 latest AV's approved by the Habitat Advisory Unit exemplify the geographical and habitat spread of the Trust's work. From Somerset and Dorset in the south, through Lincolnshire, Staffordshire and Derbyshire, north to the Pennines in West Yorkshire and then to Loch Achray in the Trossachs and the fabulous Aberdeenshire Don, the Trust is providing expert advice to clubs and managers on all kinds of rivers and stillwaters across the UK."

The WTT always welcomes applications and still has some funding for more AVs in 2005. The application process is straightforward - simply email: [projects@wildtrout.org](mailto:projects@wildtrout.org) or write to: The Projects Officer, Wild Trout Trust, PO Box 120, Waterlooville, PO8 0WZ with a request for support and a short summary of the location and current management of the site.

In order to continue its work, the Trust relies on a healthy membership base and new members are always welcome. For details of how to join, contact the Trust at the address above, or log onto the WTT website: [www.wildtrout.org](http://www.wildtrout.org).

**Organisations – angling / fishing:**

**The Atlantic Salmon Trust** sponsors practical research projects to tackle problems which wild salmon and sea trout face at sea, around our coasts and in our rivers. Its current priorities are the research of the survival of salmon at sea and the restoration of stocks especially off the west coast of Scotland.

The Trust is an Atlantic-wide, UK-based charity which champions only the wild fish themselves. It relies totally upon the generosity of donors to fund its activities.

**HELP US HELP THE SALMON NOW!**

AST, Moulin, Pitlochry, Perthshire PH16 5JQ

Tel: 01796 473 439, E-mail:

director@atlanticsalmontrust.org

www.atlanticsalmontrust.org regcharityno252742

**THE WILD TROUT TRUST** - Giving wild trout a future! Successful wild trout populations indicate healthy countryside. Habitats supporting healthy trout support other wildlife including invertebrates, birds, mammals and flora. The WTT works to conserve wild trout in the UK and Ireland through habitat protection and restoration. Visit [www.wildtrout.org](http://www.wildtrout.org).

**Anglers' Conservation Association (ACA)** 01568

620447 / admin@a-c-a.org / [www.a-c-a.org](http://www.a-c-a.org)

Making polluters pay, fighting for pure waters. The ACA was founded in 1948 to win compensation for member angling clubs affected by pollution. It currently has 57 civil cases ongoing. Its entire income is derived from membership subscriptions, donations & legacies. Individual annual membership is currently £17.

**Organisations – General:**



**THE COUNTRYSIDE RESTORATION TRUST**

CREATING A LIVING AND WORKING COUNTRYSIDE

Please help us to save the beauty of our unique British Countryside for future generations

**The Countryside Restoration Trust** is a farming and conservation charity dedicated to restoring and protecting the countryside. The Trust demonstrates profitable farming which blends historic wisdom and sustainable modern methods to restore wildlife and maintain rural culture.

For further information on how you can help, please contact the Trust. The Countryside Restoration Trust, Barton, Cambridge, CB3 7AG. Tel: 01223 262999 [www.livingcountryside.org.uk](http://www.livingcountryside.org.uk) Charity Reg. No. 1007793

**Organisations – Shooting:**

**The Guild of Shooting Instructors** is an organisation founded in 1988 to provide a nucleus of professional Instructors for the Shooting fraternity. Further details can be found with a brief resume at our website [www.shootinginstructors.co.uk](http://www.shootinginstructors.co.uk)

**Campaigning:**

**Game-to-Eat** is the Countryside Alliance's campaign on behalf of the shooting industry to assist and promote the sales of game meat. It helps shoots by providing them with point-of-sale material to support direct sales and advice on matters such as how best to sell game locally and what they have to do to comply with the new EU meat hygiene regulations. For further information see [www.countryside-alliance.org](http://www.countryside-alliance.org)

**The Allerton Project**

As farm incomes fall and payments switch from production to environment through the Environmental Stewardship Scheme, farmers are increasingly turning their attention to environmental management on their own farms. Very often this is compatible with their recreational interests such as shooting and fishing. In fact many of the habitat options within Environmental Stewardship were developed by the Game Conservancy Trust, including the work of the Allerton Project, from habitats created primarily for gamebirds. The Allerton Project is based on its own 333 hectare farm at Loddington, Leicestershire. As well as running its own farm business (ensuring our practical credibility to farmers and policy makers alike) the Allerton Project has been at the forefront of developing practical environmental management practices since it started in 1992. The project simultaneously demonstrated the enormous conservation benefits, in terms of increases in farmland bird numbers that can arise from the adoption of a wild gamebird management system. The system and the research programme include work on such features as beetle banks, grass field boundary strips, and wildlife seed mixtures, all of which are now part of Environmental Stewardship. Increasingly we are researching soil management and its implications for water quality. The link between soil management and the potential of streams for trout fishing is not always immediately obvious, but our work is investigating how changing management practices and introducing other mitigation can reduce the movement of soil and nutrients to water and thereby improve spawning habitat for wild trout, as well as for other aquatic species.

Much of our research is carried out in collaboration with a number of universities, according to their specialist expertise, and research is often carried out by PhD and MSc students co-supervised by us. We also occasionally take on seasonal staff to help with our research work at peak times. This collaboration brings new insights to our work. Over the coming years we will be continuing to contribute important and practical research based information on how the farmland environment can be managed to meet economic, environmental and social objectives simultaneously as the objectives of both farmers and policy makers continue to evolve. [www.allertontrust.org.uk](http://www.allertontrust.org.uk)

**Events:**

**The CLA Game Fair** Friday 28th - Sunday 30th July 2006, Broadlands, Romsey, Hampshire.

The world's largest Country Sport and the National Countryside Show. This world class event attracts over 130,000 visitors, has 950 exhibitors and hosts numerous show areas covering all aspects of rural life from Shooting and Fishing to Gardening and regional foods. [www.gamefair.co.uk](http://www.gamefair.co.uk)

### Events cont.:

**The Midland Game Fair** is the highlight of the sporting year, offering an unrivalled range of championship Grand Final competitions, world-famous arena displays and visitor have-a-go events with exceptional prize packages. Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> September, Weston Park, Shropshire. For more details, visit [www.countrymanfairs.co.uk](http://www.countrymanfairs.co.uk).

**Galloway Country Fair** 20 + 21 August 05  
Traditional country fair, trade, craft, food, family day out - August. Tel: 01557 860259, Email: [jane@gallowaycountryfair.co.uk](mailto:jane@gallowaycountryfair.co.uk), Web: [www.gallowaycountryfair.co.uk](http://www.gallowaycountryfair.co.uk)

### Misc:

**Hillphones service for Scottish hillwalkers.**  
Recorded phone messages advise on hillwalking options to avoid disturbance during the red deer stag stalking season from July to October. The service, covering 101 Munros, is organised by the Mountaineering Council of Scotland, Scottish Natural Heritage and participating estates. Visit [www.hillphones.info](http://www.hillphones.info) for more information.

### Organisations – Falconry:

Four thousand years ago people first began to train birds of prey. This was often done for sport and to provide food for the table, through the centuries falconry has changed very little but the conservation of birds of prey is now of paramount importance. Here at **Falconry UK**, the centre's ethos is to demonstrate birds of prey behaving as naturally as possible within captivity. We have raptors from every different family and the centre offers three different flying displays each day throughout the season. The demonstrations provide educational information on all aspects of the individual species displayed. We also provide experience days and courses, for more information please visit: [www.falconrycentre.co.uk](http://www.falconrycentre.co.uk)

### Organisations – Coursing:

Since 1858 the **National Coursing Club** has regulated the sport of greyhound coursing. Its strictly controlled meetings encourage the conservation of thousands of brown hares on the estates and farms over which coursing takes place. Full details are available from the NCC website at [www.nationalcoursingclub.org](http://www.nationalcoursingclub.org).

## DEER MANAGEMENT & PUBLIC ACCESS

The creation and preservation of habitats and ecosystems and the maintenance of areas for public enjoyment are key goals in Countryside Management practice.

However, into the melting pot of management come an expanding population of deer which are well known for impacts on upland habitats and trees. Also included is an alien species, the Muntjac deer, which has the potential to threaten the habitat of native roe deer as well as a host of other species in woodland ecosystems, principally through the selective browsing of woodland flora.

The humane control of deer by shooting with high-velocity rifles is endorsed by Government, yet we also have an expanding provision for open access in the countryside. Are the two compatible?

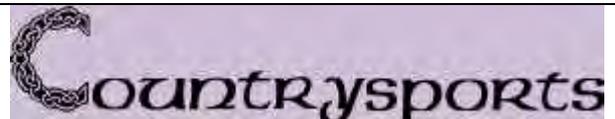
If you are directly involved in the management of the countryside be it as a reserve manager or as a recreation ranger, and have to reconcile wildlife management and public access provision, the International Centre for the Environment at the University of Bath would like you to contribute to a research programme on Deer Management and Public Access.

To take part please log on to [www.bath.ac.uk/ice/landmanagers](http://www.bath.ac.uk/ice/landmanagers) to access a briefing document and questionnaire. Copies can also be obtained by post from: ICE Office, Wessex House 9.38, School of Management, University of Bath, Claverton Down, Bath BA2 7AY Or by telephoning 01225 386156, quoting "Land Managers' Questionnaire".

### Websites:

Expanding year on year, the online e-magazine "**shooting4all.com**" leads the field in internet advertising and journalism for shooters. It has page after page of advertising from let days, syndicate guns and walked up shooting to trained gun dogs and Land Rovers for sale, plus a weekly news update and comment. One of its most successful services is its national Single Guns register for driven shooting – the only one of its kind in the UK, enabling you to choose when and where you shoot.

**HappyKeeper.com** is a website designed for Gamekeepers and country people to discuss topical issues and share ideas with each other. Designed and managed by a full time gamekeeper with the purpose of communicating with others in the profession and those who are interested in field sports. Articles are received and welcomed from anyone around the world covering topics such as bear hunting in Russia and duck decoys in Canada. The site also includes free classified ads, a forum and links page.



UK Shooting and Stalking Agency and Outfitter Service. We look after corporate groups, private individuals, roving syndicates. We organise : Red Stag, deer hunting /stalking. Roe Buck, Fallow, Red Hind. Also Wild Boar & deer shoots in Poland (driven & stalking) Side tours, castles, distilleries, Or just our fabulous scenery! [www.countrysports.co.uk](http://www.countrysports.co.uk)

**Angling News** The largest Global, interactive News and reporting service in the world today, six years in operation, an all encompassing angling web site, for angling reports, news and articles, interactive categories, with where to fish and stay, angling holidays, tackle and bait suppliers, guides and ghillies, tourist and fishery boards, from around the globe, the one stop information service for all aspects of angling. [www.anglingnews.net](http://www.anglingnews.net)

Websites Cont.:

**Gamekeeping with James Grimston** Hi everyone. Let me share the knowledge I gained over 50 years as an experienced poacher turned gamekeeper. My personal memoirs. Include sections on everything from, Job description, Shooting days, Working dogs, And more, Advice given if required. Why not step into my website. [www.gamekeeping.com](http://www.gamekeeping.com)



**THE COUNTRYMAN'S WEEKLY** INCORPORATING  
**Gamekeeper & Sporting Dog**

Written by enthusiasts for enthusiasts the now long-established Countryman's Weekly presents news, comment and informative articles in a lively and provocative manner, reflecting the views and opinions of fieldsportsmen and the trade.

**Regular features** INCLUDE:  
*Gundogs - Gamekeeping - Lurchers - Terriers - Ferreting - Hunting and horses - Wildfowling - General shooting - Stalking - Falconry - The historical development of shooting.*

**News items** INCLUDE:  
*Political developments - Fieldsports law - Show reports - The work of the Countryside Alliance, the Game Conservancy Trust and other important organisations.*

AVAILABLE FROM YOUR NEWSAGENT OR BY SUBSCRIPTION  
Tel: 01822 855281 Fax: 01822 855372  
[www.countrymansweekly.com](http://www.countrymansweekly.com)

Misc:

**Dr Bruno Broughton, Fisheries Management Consultancy.**  
Comprehensive fisheries management consultancy service, fishery valuations, grant applications etc.  
Contact: 01952 691515, [bruno.broughton@virgin.net](mailto:bruno.broughton@virgin.net)

**Other useful organisations:**

National Gamekeepers Organisation (NGO)  
[www.nationalgamekeepers.org.uk](http://www.nationalgamekeepers.org.uk)

British Association for Shooting and Conservation:  
[www.basc.org.uk](http://www.basc.org.uk)

Countryside Alliance, campaigns are run for each different area of country sports and rural life.  
[www.countrysidealliance.org](http://www.countrysidealliance.org)

Scottish Countryside Alliance  
[www.scottishcountrysidealliance.co.uk](http://www.scottishcountrysidealliance.co.uk)

Union of Country Sports Workers [www.ucsw.org](http://www.ucsw.org)

The Moorland Association  
[www.moorlandassociation.org](http://www.moorlandassociation.org)

British Hawking Association [www.thebha.co.uk](http://www.thebha.co.uk)

**Education / Training:**

**The Countryside Foundation for Education** is one of the country's leading educational charities with two key related aims. To "**Bring the Countryside to the Classroom**" by producing high quality educational resource materials for schools. To "**Bring the Classroom to the Countryside**" by an annual programme of events taking place at locations throughout England.  
Tel: 01422 885566, [info@countrysidefoundation.org.uk](mailto:info@countrysidefoundation.org.uk)  
[www.countrysidefoundation.org.uk](http://www.countrysidefoundation.org.uk)

**Business Partnership Services** offers a range of short courses to provide essential competence based training. The following are some of the courses we offer: Gamekeeping NVQs, Game Meat Hygiene, Pesticides and Spraying, Chainsaw, Forklift, Excavator and Tractor Driving  
Please contact: Jane Bloomfield tel. 01473 784141  
Farmhouse Business Centre Charity Lane OTLEY Ipswich IP6 9EY

**British Deer Society Training Ltd.**  
Burgate Manor, Fordingbridge, SP6 1EF  
Tel: 01425 655434 Email: [education@bds.org.uk](mailto:education@bds.org.uk)  
The society operates several different training courses designed to provide the knowledge and skills required for humane and professional deer management. Courses available during August - October in Northumberland, Northern Ireland, Yorkshire, Lincolnshire & Scotland.



**NORTHERN SCHOOL  
of  
GAME AND WILDLIFE**

**The Northern School of Game and Wildlife** - the major provider of training courses and education in gamekeeping and related subjects in the north of the UK.

The ideal location of the Campus at Newton Rigg in Cumbria gives students ready access to every resource and aspect of modern game and wildlife conservation and estate management.  
For all details and up to the minute information visit [www.gamekeeping.org.uk](http://www.gamekeeping.org.uk)

**The Game Angling Instructors Association**  
Is the main body of game angling instructors in the UK. All members must be STANIC, SGAIC, GAIC or APGAI qualified and are required to uphold standards of conduct.  
To contact an instructor call: Philip White - 01629 734639 or go to [www.gameanglinginstructors.co.uk](http://www.gameanglinginstructors.co.uk)

**Airgun Training & Education Organisation.** Airgun Training and familiarisation, pest control / school visits. Training for professional airgunners Pest control Coaches award BASC Approved Contact tel: 01543 450173. Email address for enquiries: [x\\_calibreuk@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:x_calibreuk@tiscali.co.uk) [www.ateo.org.uk](http://www.ateo.org.uk)

Hawk Conservancy Trust [www.hawk-conservancy.org](http://www.hawk-conservancy.org)

National Federation of Anglers [www.nfadirect.com](http://www.nfadirect.com)

Angling foundation [www.anglingfoundation.com](http://www.anglingfoundation.com)

The Rural Index – leading UK directory of rural businesses, magazines, links etc. [www.ruralindex.net](http://www.ruralindex.net)