

How to Oppose Shooting

A practical guide to understanding, challenging, and taking action against the cruel shooting industry.



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INTRODUCTION

This booklet is written to support people who oppose the shooting of birds and mammals on moral or ethical grounds. It is also intended for those experiencing distress, disruption or concern about shooting activity taking place near their homes, in places of quiet enjoyment or along public rights of way.

The information provided offers clear, practical guidance on shooting and the relevant areas of the law, helping you to understand your rights and options. It is designed to empower you with concise, accessible knowledge so that you can respond with confidence in difficult situations.

This booklet is not a substitute for full, independent legal advice, which may be necessary in specific or complex circumstances, but it aims to give you a solid foundation from which to seek further support if needed.

Most people know little about shooting except that it bothers them. It is a noisy and cruel activity that generally only affects people in close proximity. The shooting industry produces millions of purpose-bred pheasants and partridges every year. Any wild animals or birds deemed to be a threat to the short-term survival of these 'game birds' are legally, or illegally, persecuted.

You may have a personal issue about your property or be disgusted by these unnecessary excesses. This booklet is written for you.

DIFFERENT TYPES OF SHOOTING

Most people who experience gun shots near their homes will be hearing the 'sport' shooting of pheasants and partridges.

Up to 60 million of these birds are purpose-bred on game farms every year, solely to be released into the countryside to be shot. The shooting season begins on 1 September for partridges and 1 October for pheasants. The season for both partridges and pheasants ends on 1 February in England, Wales and Scotland. It is illegal to shoot on Sundays and Christmas Day.

Release enclosures containing the birds are situated in coppices or woods. They can cover several acres. Wire fences, similar to those used around tennis courts, are able to be rolled up from the base, or large doors may be left open in late August and September while low-height electric fencing may be used on the perimeter to deter foxes. If no woods are available, cover crops are planted. Kale-type crops are typically surrounded by sheep fencing. Release areas are close to release enclosures with feed and water used to keep the birds where intended. On shoot days, 'beaters' will frighten the birds into flying upwards, where waiting 'guns' will take aim and shoot them from the sky.

It is also possible, outside of the seasons for shooting pheasants and partridges, that you will be hearing what is termed 'pest control' – that is the mass shooting of pigeons or crows and other corvids, under the terms of General Licences, because of alleged economic or environmental damage.

LICENCES TO KILL BIRDS

People who shoot pheasants and partridges must have a valid shotgun licence, have permission from the landowner and shoot within the designated shooting seasons. There are controls relating to the mass release of pheasants and partridges near to sites of special interest, under the General Licences (GL43).

Other birds (cruelly labelled as 'pest' species) may be shot (or trapped and then killed) under the terms of the General Licences (GL42). Wood pigeons are the most widely shot 'pest' species.¹ You do not need to register for a General Licence nor carry one on your person, but are required to "comply with the terms and conditions of this licence" and "follow good practice guidelines".² In practice, this means that the trapping and killing of birds deemed to be 'pests' is wholly unregulated and unchecked.

What are the seasons for shooting birds?

Pheasant: 1 October – 1 February (Northern Ireland – 31 January)

Partridge: 1 September – 1 February (Northern Ireland – 31 January)

Red Grouse: 12 August – 10 December (Northern Ireland – 30 November)

Black grouse: 20 August – 10 December

Common snipe: 12 August – 31 January (Jack snipe is currently protected but not in Northern Ireland where the season starts on 1 September)

Woodcock: 1 October – 31 January (Scotland – 1 September)

Inland Duck and Goose:
1 September – 31 January

Coastal Duck and Goose:
1 September – 20 February (Northern Ireland – 31 January)

Coot and Moorhen: 1 September – 31 January (in Northern Ireland they are a protected species)

Golden Plover: 1 September – 31 January





Partridge pair in barren raised cage.

THE ANIMAL WELFARE ACT 2006

The Animal Welfare Act 2006 introduced the concept of the protected animal, which in the context of shooting is an animal under the temporary or permanent care of man. For the purposes of the Act, pheasants and partridges are “protected” when in captivity but are unprotected – because they are considered wild – when released for shooting.

The Code of Practice for the Welfare of Game Birds Reared for Sporting Purposes, issued under the Animal Welfare Act, provides minimal welfare regulations for pheasants and partridges reared for shooting.³

Pheasants are polygamous. They are bred in either traditional breeding pens or battery (raised laying) cages, which hold around eight females and one male. Partridges are monogamous. Game farmers pair them off and confine them in breeding boxes or in (raised laying) battery cages.

Animal Aid’s investigations over the last 25 years have exposed: the daily cruelty involved in intensively farming pheasants and partridges; the physical and mental stress suffered by these birds on game farms; numerous, repeated breaches of the Code; and the systematic ways in which the shooting industry’s treatment of animals fails to adhere to even the most basic principles of the Animal Welfare Act. The regulatory system which should exist to protect the birds has utterly failed them, as evidenced by Animal Aid’s repeated, detailed complaints to the authorities regarding breaches of legal requirements – which often result in little more than a visit and advice to the game farm’s owners.

PERSECUTION OF OTHER ANIMALS BY THE SHOOTING INDUSTRY

Shoot operators kill – both legally and illegally – wild animals perceived to interfere with the profitability or smooth running of a shoot. If animals are thought to kill partridges or pheasants, take eggs or even eat the feed or cover crop provided for game birds, then they are killed through the use of poison, traps or shooting.

Snares

Snares – which are a wire loop used to trap certain animals, such as foxes, before they are killed by game keepers or die in the snare – are now illegal in Wales and Scotland.

The Government has committed to making these illegal in England soon (2026).

Bird traps

Many people will have stumbled across bird traps in the countryside. These are incredibly cruel contraptions, used mainly by the shooting industry to eliminate birds who are viewed as a threat to the short-term survival of the pheasants and partridges who are due to be shot themselves.

Larsen traps have a compartment where a live 'decoy bird' is trapped. Confined and distressed, their cries attract other birds who are territorial or inquisitive and unknowingly enter the main part of the cage, becoming trapped themselves. Ladder traps are baited with either a decoy bird or food to lure other unsuspecting birds into the cage – where they will be trapped and unable to escape. When the gamekeeper returns, the birds are killed.

If you find a trap, it is useful to know that there are regulations about how they should be used, which gives you grounds for complaint to your local police wildlife officer, namely:

- The 'decoy bird' must be provided with a perch, fresh water and suitable feed.
- 'Decoy birds' must be protected from pain, suffering, injury and disease.
- The 'decoy bird' must be provided with shelter from wind, rain and sun.
- Traps should not be used in severe weather conditions or when bad weather is anticipated.
- The 'decoy bird' must not have their wings clipped.
- Traps must be inspected every 25 hours and any dead birds or animals must be removed.
- Traps should be set to minimise trapping non-target species.
- Trapped birds must be dispatched 'humanely'.

Spring traps

Certain types of spring traps are permitted by law to target stoats, weasels, rats and squirrels.⁴ The traps are incredibly cruel, using food as bait to lure the unsuspecting animal into the trap, where their weight will trigger the mechanism which kills them. Theoretically, death should be instant – but even if it is, this does not excuse the use of these devices to kill wildlife.

GUN LAW

It has been estimated that more than 7,000 tonnes of lead ammunition are discharged by shooters into the countryside every year, poisoning waterways and killing animals.

For years, the shooting industry resisted the implementation of a self-imposed ban on lead shot. In 2020, nine UK shooting organisations agreed a voluntarily transition away from the use of lead shot over a five-year period, to be completed by 2025. However, due to lack of movement from the shooting sector, in July 2025, the Environment Minister announced that the government would outlaw shotgun pellets containing more than 1% lead, and bullets containing more than 3% lead, to be phased in from 2026 until 2029.⁴

In 2025, the cost of firearms and shotgun licences increased to just under £200 for a new licence – to address the shortfall of the cost to the police for processing applications. Children under the age of 15 may use a shotgun if they carry a certificate and are supervised. An article in *The Field* points to children as young as 9 or 10 years old being taught to shoot.⁶

What is a firearm?

A firearm is any lethal, barrelled weapon of any description, from which any shot, bullet or other missile can be discharged and includes any prohibited weapon, whether it is a lethal weapon or not. It includes any component part of a legal or prohibited lethal, barrelled weapon designed or adapted to diminish the noise or flash caused by firing the weapon.

Before a Firearms Certificate is issued, the Firearms Licensing Officer is supposed to be satisfied that the applicant has a need for each firearm and that it will be used for the sole purpose stated. Each firearm is authorised for a specific purpose.

What is a shotgun?

A shotgun is a smooth-bored gun (not being an air gun) which has a barrel not less than 24 inches and does not have any barrel with a bore exceeding two inches in diameter. It must be incapable of holding more than two cartridges in a non-detachable magazine.

Shotguns must be held on a shotgun certificate. Shotguns and cartridges must be safely and securely stowed. This means that only one person – the certificate holder – should have access to the stowage.

The carriage of firearms in a public place

It is an offence to have, in a public place without lawful authority or reasonable excuse, a loaded shotgun, an air rifle (whether loaded or not) or any other firearm whether loaded or not, together with ammunition suitable for use in that firearm. The onus is on the accused to show that they had reasonable excuse.⁷

A public place “includes any highway and any other premises or place to which at the material time the public have or are permitted to have access, whether on payment or otherwise”.⁸

The carriage of firearms in vehicles

When carried in vehicles, any guns should be hidden and stored in a locked boot.

If the vehicle is left unattended for any reason, firearms should be concealed and an essential component such as the bolt or forend removed and kept in possession of the responsible person. The vehicle should be locked, have an alarm or immobilizer fitted, not be left unattended for long periods of time and be kept within the sight of the responsible person.⁹

Shooting on or near public roads and footpaths

A public highway is defined as a carriageway over which the public has right of way for the passage of vehicles. It is an offence to shoot a firearm or shotgun within 50 feet of the centre line of any public highway. But the offence is committed only if, in doing so, the accused interrupts, endangers or injures a user of the highway.¹⁰ If falling shot or birds or noise alarms a lawful user of the public highway and shooting is taking place within 50 feet of the road, an offence is committed. For the purposes of this law, a public footpath is not a public highway.¹¹

However, even pro-shooting organisations urge caution when discharging weapons over footpaths and bridleways where they may be members of the public or horses.¹²

THE LAW OF THE LAND

The countryside and rights of way act (crow act)¹³

The CRoW Act, sometimes termed the Right to Roam allows the public right of access to mountain, moorland, heath, down and registered common land (or open country), without the need to stick to paths.

Landowners may restrict access to open access areas without notice for up to 28 days per year by notifying the appropriate authority (National Park Authority, Natural England, etc.), and longer periods under dog control restrictions (landowners will use this restriction to prevent access of the public to grouse moors).¹⁴ Restriction notices should be displayed at the most common entry points to the land.¹⁵

Trespass

Trespass is a civil offence. If shooting takes place over your land, it is technically trespass because the air space is also owned up to a reasonable height above your land. If a bird falls on your land,¹⁶ the bird is your property and, if that bird is then retrieved by a shooter, they are trespassing. If a shooter enters your land with a gun, whether loaded or not, without authority, it is the criminal offence of armed trespass.¹⁷

To commit trespass a person must cross the boundary of another's land, either intentionally or unintentionally, without authority. The extent of the intrusion is immaterial. No damage need be created or proved.¹⁸ Allowing a dog to retrieve birds on another's property is also trespass.¹⁹

The best way of dealing with trespass by shooters is to issue a written warning that trespass will not be tolerated. Warning signs amount to a written warning.²⁰ Dealing with trespass in the civil courts may be expensive or difficult to prove.

What are sporting rights?

Sporting rights – the right to take 'game' or fish from land – exist as part of the land and are exercisable as such unless they are separated from it.²¹ Usually, the landowner holds the rights, unless they are separated by, for example, the landowner selling the land but retaining the right; the landowner keeping the land but selling the rights or the landowner granting a licence to someone to have the rights for a set period of time.²²

Persons holding firearms or shotgun certificates may shoot over private land with permission of the occupier. The occupier is defined as the person occupying or possessing physical control over the land. This description may include tenants.

Sometimes, shooting rights are described in legal documents and deeds as profits a prendre, which means right of taking. If you want to discover who owns the shooting rights or profits a prendre over a piece of land you will need to search the Land Registry. Details of property, which include ownership, charges and profits a prendre over it are all in the public domain and can be examined for a small fee on the Land Registry website.²³

THE TAXATION OF SHOOTING

There is a history of tax evasion in commercial shooting. Much is due to the deliberate or mistaken confusion with agricultural operations.

There are 2 classes of taxation that are liable in shooting.

- Non-Domestic (Business) Rates.
- Value Added Tax (VAT)

Business rates

Business Rates are due on all commercial property in the UK. Agricultural land and buildings are an exception. Often a land owner who is otherwise engaged in agricultural operations will commence a commercial shooting business on the same land – however, that land will not be classed as agricultural if they keep pheasants and partridges on the land, even for only part of the year. Commercial shooting is not an agricultural operation and is liable for Business Rates.²⁴

There have been at least two decisions in the House of Lords and Valuation Tribunals which ruled that the principal purpose of 'game farming' was for sport shooting, not food production, and therefore, not agricultural. (See annex C).

It is important to understand the different roles of the Valuation Office Agency (VOA) and the local authority in the context of Business Rates. The VOA is responsible for the valuation of property and the maintenance of the Valuation List. The local authority is responsible for the collection of Business Rates by using the Valuation List and a multiplier that is set by central government.²⁵ The revenue raised is passed to central or devolved government.

It is possible to do a search for any property on the VOA website.²⁶ If your search provides a negative return, the property is not valued for Business Rates. If you suspect that a commercial shooting operation is taking place on agricultural land, you should contact the Valuation Office Agency (VOA) which will inspect. (see Annex A)

If a valuation is made, arrears of Business Rates are liable only for the preceding year, backdated no further than 1 April.

VAT

VAT is a tax on the value added to a product at each stage of its development. Food is zero-rated for VAT. This means that farmers do not collect VAT on food they produce. Instead, they are able to collect back VAT they have paid in the development of their products.

The shooting of pheasants or partridges for sport can be a commercial operation but sometimes it is not. Commercial shoots must register for VAT if their turnover exceeds £85,000 (in 2026) and charge VAT to those who participate in the shoot. You can check the accounts of a business by searching for them here: <https://www.gov.uk/get-information-about-a-company> and clicking on the tab 'Filing History'.

Shooting in hand/Private Shoots

The tax term shooting in hand (private shooting) is used where a landowner keeps control of a shoot, makes all the necessary arrangements and decides who participates in a shoot. If they accept contributions towards the cost of maintaining the shoot from other guns, they are considered not liable for VAT providing the following conditions are also met:

1. Only friends and relatives can join.
2. The shoot is not publicly advertised
3. The shooting accounts show an annual loss at least equal to the usual contribution made by a single gun over a year.
4. The loss is borne personally and not charged to any of their businesses.²⁷

In the circumstances above they need not charge VAT to the 'guns' but equally cannot recover any VAT incurred in maintaining the shoot.

Syndicates

The word syndicate appears frequently in shooting. In taxation terms this can mean that they share the burden of costs involved in shooting without making any profit (as above).

Conversely, a syndicate has come to mean any group of shooters who purchase shooting from commercial operators or arrange their own.

However, if the syndicate is regularly paid to provide shooting facilities to individuals who are not members, or it provides taxable supplies of other goods or services, then it is in business. The syndicate must, if its turnover meets the criteria, account for VAT on all its supplies including those to its members. Typically, there are eight guns in a syndicate. Shooting takes place several times a week in multiple locations over the typically 20-week season for partridge and pheasant. It is clear that these accumulated charges may exceed the government's VAT turnover threshold in a single tax year.

Sometimes, surplus shooting purchased or arranged by the syndicate is sold to others. In other similar situations a landowner is a member of the syndicate that is shooting on their own land. If a landowner or tenant grants shooting rights for less than their normal value to a syndicate of which they are a member, they must account for VAT on the open market value of those rights. If they supply other goods or services, such as the services of a gamekeeper or beater, they must charge VAT in the normal way.²⁸

If they make a profit, then VAT is due if the turnover exceeds the government-set threshold of £85,000 (in 2026).²⁹

VAT EVASION

In 2006, HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) approached representative shooting organisations with indications that shooting tax irregularities were occurring across the country. The crackdown by HMRC came after six years of research and campaigning by Animal Aid and included the publication of three major reports exposing VAT avoidance to the tune of between £12 and £20 million.

TAXABLE SPORTING RIGHTS

"Sporting rights" include killing birds, deer, fish and rabbits. Income from sporting rights is chargeable as property income, since income from allowing such activities comes from the recipient exploiting an interest or rights in or over land. It includes, for example, income from the granting of fishing licences and shooting permits.³⁰ The supply of sporting rights is normally standard-rated for VAT.³¹

If you have any doubt as to what is commercial or private in a shoot that is bothering you, simply provide information about the shoot to your local HMRC office. It can make taxation investigations and decisions without your further involvement. HMRC is wary of anonymous reports that may be motivated by malice rather than public spirit. HMRC provides complete discretion for informants. (See Annex A)

PLANNING CONSENT

Buildings and land developed for agricultural purposes often do not need planning consent.³²

Shooting, including the production of pheasants and partridges for the shooting industry on game farms, is not legally classified as 'agriculture'. Thus, any building erected for shooting purposes on agricultural land requires planning consent. This involves game farms, shooting lodges and any structure to facilitate shooting.

If a game farm is already in place for which no planning consent exists and a complaint is made, there may be a Certificate of Lawfulness application by the game farmer. This is where they wish to confirm that any existing use or operation or activity in breach of a planning condition or limitation is lawful in that when it occurred it did not need planning consent, or took place so long ago that the time for enforcement action has expired. If a game farm is developed near you without planning consent, the owner may try to apply for a Certificate of Lawfulness but must prove that the use of the land is historic.

Row upon row of raised cages for breeding pheasants on a game farm.



If a shooting development is in the planning stages, public notices will be issued. Local authorities take note of the volume of objections. If there are sufficient objections, it will convene a full planning meeting at which objectors may speak. If the objections are limited, it may confer automatic planning consent without discussion by the planning committee.

If you have any grounds for opposing planning consent, they must be grounds that are recognised by the Planning Act. Typically, these are green belt land, local plans, noise, smell, access, traffic and nuisance. It is not possible to lodge a valid complaint about the cruelty of shooting live animals or the cruelty of farming birds for shooting. These are not recognised grounds for planning law objection.

The shooting organisations

Shooting is supported by several organisations. All receive income from a membership and in that sense are businesses competing against each other in the same subscription arena.

- THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR SHOOTING AND CONSERVATION (BASC)
- THE COUNTRYSIDE ALLIANCE (CA)
- THE COUNTRY LAND AND BUSINESS ASSOCIATION (CLA)
- THE GAME FARMERS' ASSOCIATION (GFA)
- THE NATIONAL GAMEKEEPERS ORGANISATION (NGO)
- THE GAME AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION TRUST (GWCT)

The code of good shooting practice

The Code of Good Shooting Practice is essential reading for anyone opposed to shooting because it lists everything that is wrong with shooting. It describes all the malpractice that make the Code necessary. Listed within the Code are the legal requirements made of guns and shooting participants, as well as the code of good practice – which has no legal standing.³³ It is, however, useful when dealing with shooters who are troubling you.

OPPOSITION TO SHOOTING

Many people contact us because shooting is taking place on land adjacent to their home. This can be deeply unsettling, particularly where it affects personal safety, peace and quiet, or the enjoyment of gardens, footpaths and nearby countryside.

Below are some practical steps that you can take to protect yourself, assert your rights and respond calmly and effectively in these situations.

Consult the code of good shooting practice.

The Code advises consideration for others and regard for other people's property and safety, and states that shoots must ensure that their activities take account of others' interests. The frequency of shooting must not cause unreasonable nuisance to neighbours. Shoots must obtain permission before entering neighbouring land.

Your first approach should always be to the landowner. You should next make your complaint to BASC. If the shoot operator is a member, BASC should investigate both sides of the story. It has no authority but can appeal to its membership and, ultimately, expel members. Another route may be to write to the Chairman of the Code of Good Shooting Practice.

If the shoot is not a member of BASC and cares little about the Code of Good Shooting Practice, consider making a complaint to the police. The police are responsible for assisting good relations in the community and it is advisable that they know that there is a problem. The shoot operator might realise that it would be far less trouble to arrange the shooting on land that does not cause nuisance to neighbours. The police can take no action with regard to trespass, which is a civil offence, but they would want to know if guns were involved in any confrontation or trespass.



Keep a diary and take photos

If you are having problems with a local shoot, it is always wise to keep a diary of events, with dates, times and a summary of what has happened. If you have any phone calls or correspondence, make sure you keep a copy of these as well. This may prove useful when presenting evidence on the conduct of the shooters to the local authorities or to the police.

Additionally, photographic evidence may be useful – whether it is of pheasants on your property, or vehicles or individuals trespassing on your land. Make sure that you put a date and time on your pictures. Be aware that photographing individuals may antagonise them, so please be mindful and, if in doubt, desist.³⁵

Individuals may say that it is illegal to take photos of them without their permission but “there is no law preventing people from taking photographs or a video in public. This includes taking photos of other people’s children.”

Report noise and nuisance to your local council

You could consult the council about noise nuisance and health and safety but you should also consult a solicitor for legal advice about your right of enjoyment of your property, trespass and nuisance.

Try to find out if the shoot is commercial.

If you have doubts, write to the HMRC in your area about your suspicions. A farmer registered for VAT and operating a shoot must not pass shooting overheads through their agricultural accounts, and neither must they buy services by barter. They must not lease sporting rights without collecting VAT.

Check for Business Rates

Check that the shoot operator’s game farm is valued for Business Rates (see www.voa.gov.uk). If it is not, inform the Valuation Office Agency with a view to getting a valuation. Find and copy any advertisements for the shoot placed in local papers, shoot magazines or on the internet. (This will prevent the shoot operator claiming that all the people invited to shoots are friends and relatives.)

Check for Planning Consent

If the game farm is a new development, check that it has planning consent via your local council's Planning Department. If it has not, inform the planning authority. Ensure that the planning authority commences action to request that the developer applies for consent. The shoot operator is not obligated to do this but risks being the subject of enforcement action if they do not do so. Be prepared for an application for a Certificate of Lawfulness. Such an application allows a quicker process than an application for consent and requires evidence only that there has been a historic use of the land.

Has there been a change of use?

Alteration of the landscape for a Change of Use requires planning consent. If excavation is required for shooting, challenge its validity with your local planning officers. Be prepared for those involved to claim that the access roads are needed for agricultural reasons. Find out who is completing the excavation works. It may be another farmer. If it is, they should be charging a fee for the work and collecting VAT. Inform HMRC of the activity and let it decide if the work is being completed by way of exchange or barter.

Will the road excavation with heavy machinery pass near badger setts? Heavy machinery may not be operated within 20 metres of a badger sett. Badger setts can be more than a hundred years old with many entrances and exits. The police assisted by the RSPCA can carry out a test to ascertain if a badger sett is live. Guard hairs from the badgers’ heads and necks are left in the entrances to setts. If the hairs have follicles, the sett is live.

Team up with neighbours and get active!

Enlist the help of as many like-minded opponents of shooting in your neighbourhood as you can. Call a meeting to advise and discuss your fears. Form an association of opposition. Call for input from your local councillor and your county councillor. Be prepared for them to not be sympathetic to your view!

Encourage all members of your association to write individual letters of objection to any application for planning consent. Ensure that the complaints are valid objections. Lobby the councillors on the planning committee. Attend any meeting of the committee. It is now permissible for objectors to speak at planning meetings.

- Leaflet in your local area and/or set up an information stall in your town centre – contact Animal Aid for more information and for materials.
- Get a petition going.
- Plan a peaceful demonstration against the intrusion. Report any threats to the police. Invite the media.
- Be receptive to requests from journalists.

Media attention

Tell the local media. Interesting stories of residents' opposition to unreasonable developments attract attention from the newspapers, local radio and even local television.

Make use of the Letters page of local newspapers. Be prepared for responses you may not like. Stand your ground, politely.

In all of your complaints, never act anonymously. Your inconsiderate neighbour should be aware of whence the complaint emanates. Your neighbour should understand how best to deal with the complaint, and treat you with fairness, respect and sympathy.

However, whilst it is important to stand your ground and to defend your right to enjoy your property and surroundings, it is more important not to place yourself in physical danger. If you feel a situation is getting out of control, walk away and call the police.



Photo Credit: Craig Redmond

ANNEX A

1) Sample text to VOA regarding business rates

Dear VOA

I cannot find an entry for the following business premises on the Non-Domestic Rating Valuation List for the **TOWN NAME** Billing Authority:

NAME AND FULL ADDRESS OF GAME FARM PLUS PHONE NUMBER IF POSSIBLE

Can you please confirm that the hereditament is valued and listed? If not, could you please arrange a visit to the premises with a view towards valuation?

I further request that you acknowledge this information.

Yours faithfully,

2) Sample letter to HMRC regarding a suspect commercial shoot and the payment of vat

(Provide your address)

Dear HMRC *(Find the address of your own HMRC area office from the HMRC web site)*

I note advertising in the *(name publication and provide copy)* offering shooting for sale at:

(or)

I note that game bird shooting is taking place at:

Give address and postcode.

It is not known if a commercially constituted shoot within HMRC regulations operates from this address.

This information is provided for your information.

Yours faithfully,

(Provide your name)

ANNEX B

1. HOW TO FIND OUT WHO OWNS A PIECE OF LAND:

Visit www.landregistry.gov.uk/

Then hit the link "Search property ownership information", then 'search' at the bottom of the page

You will need to set up an email address and password

You can search by postcode in the box, or by Map (under the heading 'Other ways to search')

For a 'map enquiry'

You need a postcode or road name that is near the place you're looking for.

A list of potential places will come up, that are associated with that postcode.

You can navigate around the area, zoom in and out until you find the piece of land you are interested in.

Hit continue.

You can then use the slider to circle the exact area you are interested in.

Hit continue

It will then list the search results (if there are any).

Click on the listed result.

You will then be able to purchase documents associated for that piece of land for £7 each.

2. HOW TO OBTAIN ACCOUNTS AND DETAILS ABOUT COMPANIES:

Visit www.companieshouse.gov.uk/

Click on 'Search Company Information' on the righthand side

Enter the name of the business, people associated with the business or postcode.

3. FINDING POSTCODES FOR LOCATIONS AND FINDING MAPS AND IMAGES

If you have an address but not a postcode or a postcode without an address, visit the Royal Mail web site and use its Post Code Finder Page. <https://www.royalmail.com/find-a-postcode>

Type the postcode or location into google

Hit maps

Zoom in

Take a screenshot of the location which you can use in correspondence between you and, for example, your local council.

ANNEX C

House of Lords Decisions

HOUSE OF LORDS – Earl of Normanton and Another V Giles (1980)

The House of Lords found:-

(1) The production of food was not the purpose for which the birds were reared.

In this case they were kept for the purpose of shooting and enjoyment and the purpose of shooting was sport and not part of food production or the keeping of livestock. This was a country activity but not an agricultural one.

(2) Pheasants reared for sport were not 'livestock' as they did not fall within the definition in section 1 of the Act of 1976.

In applying this judgement to a planning appeal, it is clear that it is the purpose of the 'keeping' or 'breeding' which is critical in deciding if the proposal is an agricultural activity.

"It may be the case that unless people in general were willing to eat pheasants and pay for that pleasure, shooting would become uneconomic, but it does not follow from this that pheasants are produced for food. If they were to be so produced, many easier ways of rearing and killing them could be found." www.northyorkmoors.org.uk/uploads/publication/10616.pdf (see page 6)

2) Cook v ross poultry (1982) as referenced on the voa website

'Nor are pheasants and partridges which are bred and raised as game birds for release into the wild, because although the birds eventually end up as food they cannot be considered to be kept for this purpose. See Cook (VO) v Ross Poultry Ltd [1982] LT RA 187.'

http://www.voa.gov.uk/instructions/chapters/rating_manual/vol4/sect8/frame.htm

Original Guide researched and written by Kit Davidson

Kit Davidson spent his whole working life in the Royal Navy. He retired to the countryside in which he had spent his youth. When an intrusive shoot was planned around his family home, without prior consultation, he formed a residential group, which petitioned first the shoot operator, then the county council and the local MP. An appeal to the British Association for Shooting and Conservation was ignored. As he moved from NIMBY to concerned environmentalist and animal protectionist, his attitudes to shooting developed. What at first appeared to him to be the odd landowner killing a small number of indigenous creatures to eat, revealed itself to be the annual purpose-breeding of millions of warm-blooded creatures for pleasure-killing and profit.

There are no winners and losers in the opposition of shooting. At stake is peace, community, the right of enjoyment of one's property, employment and most importantly hundreds of millions of avian lives and the unmolested future of Britain's wildlife and environment.

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