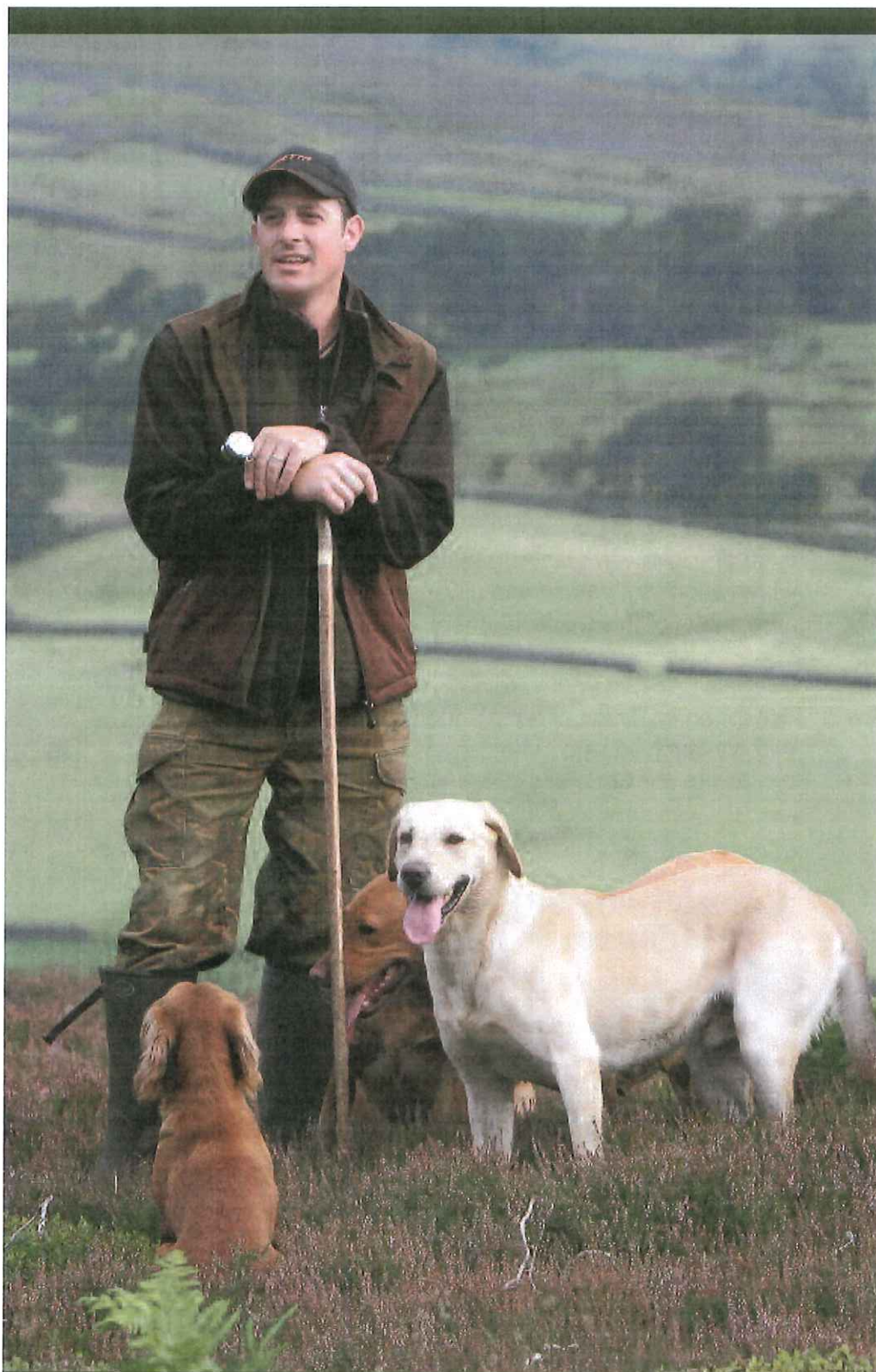


Note on The Code of Good Shooting Practice

1. During cross examination of Susan Tilbrook on S24 in relation to paragraph 2.14.37 of Proof of Evidence NR32/1, The Code of Good Shooting Practice was discussed in relation to the management of shooting activities in the vicinity of Bridleways.
2. The relevant sections of the Code of Practice are shown in Appendix A of this note.

APPENDIX A

EXTRACTS FROM THE CODE OF GOOD SHOOTING PRACTICE



THE CODE OF GOOD SHOOTING PRACTICE

The Code of Good Shooting Practice

In Britain we are rightly proud of our shooting sports. Game management and conservation help shape and enhance our landscape. Wildlife thrives where land is managed for shooting. Over a million people are involved in shooting; many more enjoy the end product as consumers of pheasants, partridges and other game. Moreover, shooting makes a substantial contribution to the rural economy – often at times and in places where other income is scarce. Shooting is worth £2 billion to the UK annually.

But shooting has its opponents; the good name of shooting – and the ability of our organisations to defend it – depends on everyone involved following this Code. Whatever your role within shooting, you should always be 'Code-aware' and raise awareness of this Code in others.

Use this Code as your yardstick when deciding if you should accept an invitation or what shooting to buy. Check if shoots you are involved with, whether as a Gun, a beater or a picker-up, are Code compliant. If not, go elsewhere.





This Code applies to all game shooting, walked up, driven, wild bird or reared. Provided it is carried out following the advice set out in this Code, the release of reared birds is an entirely valid method of increasing or sustaining a stock of wild game: indeed, it is fundamental to British game shooting and its attendant conservation benefits.

We must never be complacent about the future of shooting. Shooting and shoot management practices will be judged by the way participants and providers behave. Our sport is under increasing and detailed scrutiny and we must demonstrate that we conduct it to high standards. *The Code of Good Shooting Practice* brings those standards together and makes them easily available to all participants. It embodies fundamental respect for the quarry species, and care for the environment.

This Code sets out the framework that enables shoot managers, Guns, gamekeepers and their employees to deliver sustainable shooting, paying attention to management of habitat and avoiding nuisance to others. All who shoot, or are involved in shooting in any way, should abide by and remind others of the provisions set out within this Code.

The Code is covered in ten sections in the following pages.

3. Consideration for others

Shoot managers and Guns must ensure that their activities take account of others' interests: due care and courtesy are guiding principles.

- All involved in shooting must have regard for others and their safety at all times.
- The frequency of shooting must not give rise to unreasonable nuisance (particularly noise) to neighbours.
- Shoot managers must have obtained permission before entering neighbouring property especially during a shoot.
- Shoot managers should locate, provide and manage adequate habitat and feed supplies to avoid boundary problems with neighbours.
- Released birds should be managed to avoid damage to neighbouring crops and gardens.
- Avoid birds and spent shot falling on to public places, roads and neighbouring property.
- Guns should use cartridges with degradable wads where possible and all cartridge cases and other litter should be removed after each shoot.
- Cover crops should enhance the habitat and be sympathetically sited.
- Release pens should, where possible, be sited out of public view.

The public highway

- Shoot managers and Guns must ensure that shooting does not obstruct, cause danger or alarm to users of the public highway, including roads, bridleways, footpaths and other rights of way.
- Guns should note that to shoot across any form of public right of way, e.g. a footpath or bridleway that is in use by walkers or riders may constitute a public nuisance (a criminal offence) or wilful obstruction. There may also be a liability in negligence if it is known that people are on, or likely to be on, such a right of way.





- In particular, care should be taken when siting Guns near carriageways including roads. Section 161 of the Highways Act 1980 (England & Wales) makes it an offence to discharge a firearm within 50 ft of the centre of a highway with vehicular rights without lawful authority or excuse, if as a result a user of the highway is injured, interrupted or endangered.
- The Highways Act does not apply in Scotland but Procurators Fiscal may use common law offences of 'culpable and reckless conduct' and 'reckless endangerment' in situations in which the 1980 Act would be contravened in England and Wales.
- In Northern Ireland, Section 61 of the Firearms (Northern Ireland) Order 2004 makes it an offence for a person to discharge any firearm on any public road, or within 18 metres of the centre of any public road, or in any church, churchyard or burial ground.
- Information signs, if appropriate, should be erected on shoot days on footpaths or bridleways.
- The siting of release pens and feeding of game near highways should be avoided. Game managers should collect and dispose of road casualties where possible.

Horses and walkers

- Shoot managers and Guns must have special regard to the safety of riders and their horses. Noise from gunfire, beaters working in cover adjacent to bridleways or falling shot can alarm horses and endanger riders.
- Shoot organisers should liaise with local riders or yards, informing them when shoots are taking place.
- Shooting or beating should be paused to allow horses or other rights of way users to pass.
- All Guns should be made aware of bridleways and other rights of way and of any land to which the public have access by right or by permission, as well as any fields in which horses are kept. Drives should be organised with this in mind.

