BASC
Deerstalking Scheme

Baronscourt Estate

Information and registration form

2026/2027

The BASC (Northern Ireland) Baronscourt Deerstalking Scheme

Introduction

Please note that all enquiries (other than outing bookings) should be directed to BASC NI office and **NOT** Baronscourt Estate.

Given the lack of deer stalking opportunity in Northern Ireland, BASC NI, working in partnership with the prestigious Baronscourt Estate, decided to launch the stalking scheme, exclusively for BASC members, back in 2015. All stalking under this scheme is accompanied and will involve either a morning or an afternoon stalk.

The Baronscourt deerstalking scheme is open to all BASC members holding the Deerstalking Certificate 1 (DSC1) qualification. The scheme is designed to provide practical follow-on experience for those who have completed DSC 1. This is the only deerstalking qualification that is accepted.

Baronscourt Estate is willing to provide BASC members participating in the scheme with a 'Letter of Deerstalking Opportunity', in order to facilitate the acquisition of a deerstalking rifle. The letter will remain valid only for the duration of the BASC member's current firearm certificate.

In addition, the following conditions must be met on an annual basis, throughout the duration of the members current firearm certificate, in order for the letter to remain valid;

- The certificate holder must remain in BASC membership on an annual basis
- The certificate holder/member must register for the scheme on an annual basis
- Having initially completed three stalks on the Estate, during their first year of scheme membership and thereafter, the certificate holder/member must complete at least one accompanied stalk on the Estate, on an annual basis.

The letter will be supplied on the condition that it may be rescinded by the Estate, at any time and for any reason, without explanation. In accepting the BASC Baronscourt Deerstalking Scheme Terms and conditions, members accept that should they fail to meet the conditions on which a Letter of Deerstalking Opportunity is issued, as set out above, the Estate will advise the Police Service of Northern Ireland's Firearms and Explosives Branch (PSNI FEB) that the letter has been rescinded.

Under the scheme, participants (stalkers) will have the opportunity to stalk stags, prickets (young stags) and hinds. The shooting of stags will be at the discretion of the Estate's head gamekeeper/guide. This **may** involve a cull fee of £150 inc VAT, depending on the quality of the animal.

To avail of this exclusive scheme, you must first complete a registration form which can either be downloaded from our website, or obtained by calling the BASC NI office on 028 92 60 50 50 or emailing nire@basc.org.uk

Completed forms must then be returned to BASC NI. The registration fee (payable per season) is £30 inclusive of VAT. Payment can be made over the telephone using either credit or debit card.

By registering for the scheme, participants agree to be bound by the schemes Terms and Conditions as shown below:-

Stalking procedures

Stalkers are asked **NOT** to contact the Estate initially.

Once the completed registration form and the registration fee have been received, BASC NI will then advise the stalker to make contact directly with the Estate to arrange a mutually agreeable date and time for the stalk. A stalking fee of £140 inclusive of VAT per outing is payable directly to the Estate and this must be paid prior to any stalking being undertaken.

It should be noted that prior to any stalking outing, stalkers will be required to complete an outing pack. This will consist of, amongst other things, a stalker/guide agreement; a prohibited persons declaration and return of ammunition declaration. **The outing pack will be provided upon arrival at the Estate.**

Stalking may take place over any part of the Estate, which is a mixture of woodland and undulating farmland and scrubland. All stalkers will be accompanied by an experienced deerstalker who is also a member of the Estate's cull team. Each outing will normally last for approximately four hours and will involve either a foot stalk or the use of high seats or a mixture of both however this will mainly be dependent upon the physical capabilities of the stalker and the terrain.

Stalkers may bring a guest provided the guest is a BASC member and the stalker has obtained prior written permission from Baronscourt Estate.

Some travel between different areas of the Estate may be required to ensure stalkers have maximum opportunity to shoot cull animals which will vary depending on the time of year.

The main quarry species will generally be sika deer however stalkers may have the opportunity to shoot other species of deer if they are encountered but this will be at the discretion of the Head Gamekeeper or the guide.

Stalkers will generally only be permitted to shoot one cull animal per outing. However stalkers may be afforded the opportunity to shoot more than one animal within the stalking period, if they have the opportunity and time to do so. This will be at the sole discretion of the Estate's Head Gamekeeper or the guide and there will be no additional charge.

Once an animal has been shot, the carcass will be recovered to the Estate's game larder where it will be inspected, gralloched and tagged. Carcasses will remain the property of the Estate at all times however BASC members participating in the scheme may have the opportunity to purchase complete carcasses or venison products at a discounted rate, however this will be at the discretion of the Estate as it is obliged to meet the orders of its existing clients.

Misplaced shots may result in the carcass being deemed unfit to enter the food chain. In such circumstances the stalker will be required to pay a fee of £50. The decision as to whether a carcass is unfit to enter the food chain will be at the discretion of the Estate's Head Gamekeeper and his decision will be final and binding.

All stalking, which takes place as part of this scheme, is controlled, co-ordinated and supervised by the Estate's Head Gamekeeper and his guides.

The Head Gamekeeper and guides are responsible for ensuring the briefing, deployment and safety of all stalkers and the conduct of all culling operations.

The meeting point on the Estate is the Estate's game larder which is situated beside the Head Gamekeeper's house and the kennels, unless otherwise advised.

The post code for Baronscourt Estate is BT78 4EZ.

To find out more about Baronscourt Estate or for specific directions please visit http://www.barons-court.com/

Rifles and ammunition

Stalkers may use their own rifle providing that they hold a valid firearm certificate for that specific firearm which must be of .243 calibre or above. The firearm (and any moderator used) must also be "conditioned" on their firearm certificate for deerstalking.

Stalkers using their own rifle and ammunition must prepare and zero their rifle prior to arrival at the Estate. Any member stalking on the Estate for the first time, will automatically be required to zero their rifle on the Estate's approved range, under the supervision of the Head Gamekeeper/stalking guide. In addition, if the Head Gamekeeper and/or guide desires, stalkers may be asked at any time, to zero their rifles on the Estate's approved range – failure to comply with such a request may result in the cancellation of the outing and no refund of fees will be due.

Stalkers may be granted access to the Estate's approved shooting range however this will be dependent upon the "conditions" listed on the stalkers firearm certificate and the availability of Estate staff. Stalkers will not incur a charge for zeroing on the Estate's approved range.

Stalkers should ensure they have sufficient ammunition to cover all eventualities. Stalkers must only use factory produced ammunition as the Estate's risk assessment does not permit the use of home loaded ammunition.

Under the Schedule 1 paragraph 10 exemption contained within the Firearms (Northern Ireland) Order 2004, stalkers may use the Estate rifle however this requires a deposit of £60 alongside a small hire charge of £20 inclusive of VAT per outing. The £60 deposit will be refunded provided the Estate rifle is returned undamaged at the end of each outing. Anyone borrowing the Estate rifle must first sign a "Prohibited Persons Declaration" certifying that they are not prohibited from possessing a firearm or ammunition under Article 63 of the Firearms (Northern Ireland) Order 2004 or, Section 21 of the Firearms Act 1968. This form will be provided by the Estate and must be completed prior to handling the Estate rifle. All unused ammunition must be returned with the Estate rifle.

Travelling with firearms from countries outside the UK to Northern Ireland.

Travelling times to Baronscourt Estate

- Average travel time from Belfast International Airport 1 hr 40 minutes.
- Average travel time from Belfast City Airport 1 hr 55 minutes.
- Average travel time from Larne port 2 hr 5 minutes.
- Average travel time from Belfast port 1 hr 50 minutes.

BASC members travelling to Northern Ireland using Stena Line Irish Sea ferries may also avail of the 15% discount. To find out more please visit http://basc.org.uk/northern-ireland/

P&O Ferries also offer an "exclusive" discount for BASC members. Further details can be obtained by contacting BASC NI office on 028 92 605050 or by email at nire@basc.org.uk.

Terms and Conditions

By completing the scheme registration form, participants agree to be bound by the scheme's Terms and Conditions as shown below. Please note that these are subject to change, without notice, and it is the stalkers responsibility to ensure that they have read the terms and conditions.

All stalkers are required to:

- Read the information sheet and return the completed, signed registration form, certifying that they are not a prohibited person and confirming that they agree to be bound by the scheme Terms and Conditions.
- It should be noted that prior to any stalking outing, stalkers will be required to complete an outing pack, which is provided by the Estate on arrival.
- Note that the £30 registration fee payable to BASC (per season) is non-refundable.
- Note that, stags may only be shot at the discretion of the Estate's head gamekeeper/guide. Each stag shot may incur a cull fee of £150 inc VAT.
- In certain circumstances, cull stags may be shot, for which no cull fee will be charged, however this will be at the discretion of the Head Gamekeeper/guide.
- Note that both BASC and Baronscourt Estate reserve the right to refuse entry to the scheme or, to remove a member from the scheme for any reason whatsoever. In such cases, and where a registration fee or stalking fee has been paid, the fees will be non-refundable.
- Note that all animals must be shot in the heart/lung area to ensure that they are dispatched quickly and humanely.
- Note that stalkers will be required to assist with the follow up and carcass recovery.
- Note that all carcasses will remain the property of Baronscourt Estate at all times however BASC members participating in the scheme may have the opportunity to purchase complete carcasses or venison products at a discounted rate, but this will be at the discretion of the Estate as it is obliged to meet the game demands of its existing clients.
- Give cancellation notice as detailed within the Estate's cancellation policy as shown below.

- Comply at all times with the Firearms (Northern Ireland) Order 2004 and the Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985 (as amended 2011).

- Comply at all times with the "General Conditions" listed on their firearm certificate and any instructions given by the Head Gamekeeper or his authorised representative. Failure to do so may result in termination of the stalk without recompense.

- Use a rifle having a calibre of not less than .243 inches (6mm) with a bullet which must be designed to expand in a predictable manner with a bullet weight of not less than 100 grains (6.48 grammes) and a muzzle energy of not less than 1,700 foot pounds (2,305 joules)

- Arrive at the Estate with a prepared and zeroed rifle and on request, fire a group of sighting shots at a range and accuracy to the satisfaction of the Head Gamekeeper or his authorised representative.

- Produce for inspection on request by the Head Gamekeeper or his authorised representative a valid Firearms Certificate which must be conditioned for "deerstalking".

- Produce proof of current BASC membership (which gives third party insurance cover with an indemnity limit of £10,000,000 legal liability).

- Indemnify BASC against any loss, injury or damage.

- At the direction of the Head Gamekeeper or his authorised representative shoot any injured or diseased deer that may be encountered.

- Stop stalking if a deer is wounded until it has been dispatched or otherwise accounted for to the satisfaction of the Head Gamekeeper or guide.

- Ensure that he/she does not shoot from any vehicle or by using any artificial light.

- Pay to BASC a seasonal registration fee of £30 inclusive of VAT which BASC reserves the right to vary from season to season.

- Note that while all arrangements for a satisfactory outing will be made in good faith, BASC can give no guarantees that deer will be encountered and/or shot.

- Note that BASC reserves the right to vary the Terms and Conditions of the scheme without notice.

- Note that this stalking opportunity is solely for the benefit of BASC members holding the DSC 1 qualification.

- Notify the Estate of any and all accidents, no matter how trivial, the details of which will be recorded in the Estate's accident book.

- Note that no photographs may be taken without the approval of the Head Gamekeeper or his representative and BASC

Cancellation Policy.

- Should Baronscourt Estate have to cancel any outing for whatever reason, members of the scheme will not be entitled to an immediate refund however the Estate will rearrange the cancelled outing at another date, at no extra charge. If, for any reason, a rescheduled date cannot be agreed a full refund will be given.

- In the event that any statutory ban is set in place in respect of the culling of deer for whatever reason, any fees paid by qualifying members will not be refunded.

- If the BASC member cancels an outing 14 days or more from the scheduled date, they will be entitled to a full refund or a rescheduled outing.

- If a BASC member cancels an outing within 14 days of the scheduled date, they will not be entitled to a refund and may not be offered a rescheduled outing.

- Any rescheduled outings must take place within the same season.

- At all times the rescheduling of any outings will be at the sole discretion of Baronscourt Estate.

Accommodation

- **Baronscourt Estate** offer a 10% discount on any accommodation taken with a deerstalking outing, subject to availability. Such accommodation is offered through the Governor's Lodge 4-star standard self-catering apartments. Further Information is available on the Estate's website http://www.barons-court.com/

- **Cedar Country Hotel** offer a 15% discount off all overnight accommodation for BASC members.

  Due to its close proximity to Baronscourt Estate, the hotel is ideally located for members availing of the BASC Baronscourt Deer Stalking scheme.

  Please note that in order to avail of the 15% discounted rate for BASC members you will need to produce a valid BASC membership card.

  For bookings or further details, please call the hotel directly on 07877100126 or email info@thecedarcountryhotel.com.

Pike & Salmon Fishing

Baronscourt Estate offer Qualifying Members a 10% discount on all salmon and pike fishing on offer at the Baronscourt Estate throughout the duration of the Exclusivity Agreement.

DSC 2 witnessing

A number of the Baronscourt Estate stalking guides are approved witnesses which means that they may, on agreement, witness stalks for persons completing their DSC 2 portfolio. If you are registered for DSC 2 and interested in contacting one of the Estate's approved witnesses please contact the Estate office directly on 028 81 661 683. Please note that any agreement between the stalker and the Estate's approved witnesses is outside the BASC/Baronscourt Stalking Scheme

Please return form to:

Laura Morrison – BASC Northern Ireland
33 Castle Street
Lisburn
Co Antrim
BT27 4SP

Tel: 028 92 605050
Email: nire@basc.org.uk
www.basc.org.uk