

ANNUAL REVIEW 2022

About BASC

The British Association for Shooting and Conservation (BASC) is the largest shooting organisation in Britain and a representative body for sporting shooting and associated conservation.

BASC is a not-for-profit organisation, governed by an elected council. In 2022, its membership was approximately 150,000. Based in Rossett, near Wrexham, the association has 134 staff. BASC is the only shooting organisation in the country with specialist full-time teams covering:

- Firearms
- Conservation
- Land management
- Gamekeeping and gundogs
- Deer management
- Training and education
- Wildfowling
- Media and political issues.

There are country centres based in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, as well as five regional offices in England.

BASC's mission is:

- to promote and protect sporting shooting and advocate its conservation role throughout the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland;
- to represent members' interests by providing an effective and unified voice for sustainable shooting sports;
- to benefit the community by providing education, promoting scientific research and advocating best practice in firearms licensing, habitat conservation, and wildlife and game management; and
- to promote the benefits of game as food.

Today, BASC is working as hard as ever to protect and promote shooting. Detailed in the pages of this publication are a number of the key projects, initiatives and activities that have comprised the association's work in 2022.

To keep up to date with BASC's latest activity, see the BASC website, social media, e-newsletters and bi-monthly print magazine.

The British Association for Shooting and Conservation Limited is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority ref 311937 as an insurance intermediary.



A proud heritage

The association was born in a small black hut on the banks of the Humber more than a century ago. A group of wildfowlers, concerned at the loss of habitat and other threats to waterfowl, decided to form their own organisation. They were led by Stanley Duncan, a railway engineer and a highly experienced wildfowler and naturalist. In 1908, the Wildfowlers' Association of Great Britain and Ireland (WAGBI) held its first official meeting in Hull.

By 1981, WAGBI boasted a membership of 50,000, had merged with the Gamekeepers' Association, and had a far wider remit than simply representing wildfowlers. To reflect its inclusive role as the voice of shooting, its name was changed to the British Association for Shooting and Conservation (BASC).

BASC not only provides a service to its members but is active in the public and political arenas, defending the interests of shooting. In its century-long history, BASC has many notable achievements:

- BASC has worked with the government to produce codes of practice, promoting the highest standards of animal welfare and firearms ownership. Digital copies can be found on the BASC website.
- When the Protection of Birds Act (1954) introduced protection for all wild birds, the association helped to found more wildfowling clubs throughout the UK to ensure that shooting was carried out responsibly, sustainably and within the law.
- In 2000, BASC produced a biodiversity action plan for all shooting and now works with a wide range of conservation organisations, from county wildlife trusts to government authorities.

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Chairman's report

BASC chairman Eoghan Cameron looks back at another tumultuous year in which the association tackled threats both familiar and unexpected, and bounced back from the difficulties imposed by the pandemic.

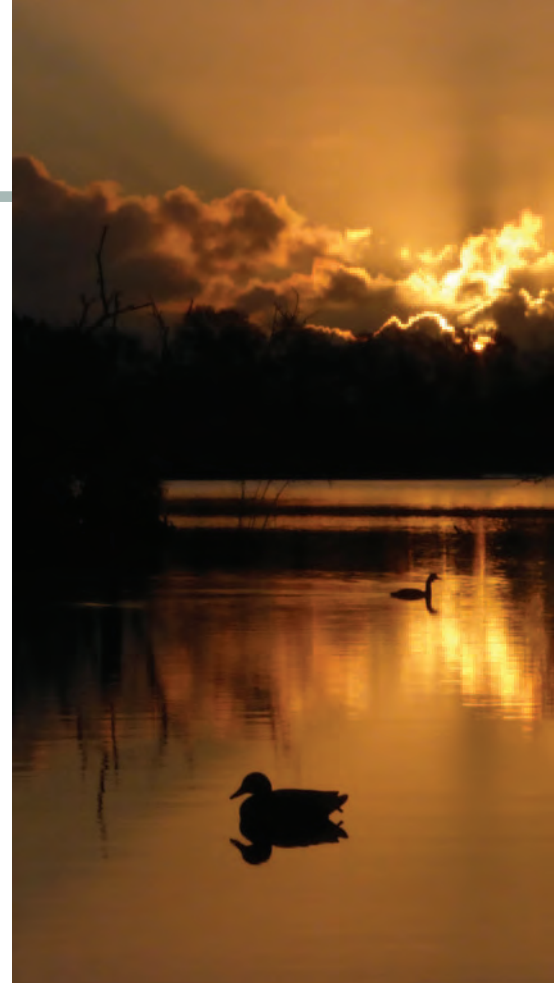
During 2022, the association and our members were impacted by avian influenza and the cost-of-living crisis, among other challenges. Despite these, BASC has remained the unparalleled driving force in fighting for sustainable shooting and conservation of the countryside. Maintaining this momentum, we have re-shaped and re-named some of our expert teams to reflect a more holistic and targeted approach.

The year has been notable for a range of key achievements:

- We have lobbied for and secured successful outcomes from Home Office firearms consultations, with government accepting our recommendations on .50 cal, the use of airguns on private land by 14-17-year-olds, miniature rifle ranges, shotgun cartridge possession and home loading.
- We successfully challenged Wild Justice's unfounded claims through use of the BASC Fighting Fund and the presentation of detailed evidence in court.
- Our campaign in the Lords and Commons on the Animal Welfare (Sentience) Bill, led to the government accepting an amendment and reducing the scope of the new Animal Welfare Committee.
- BASC staff provided training to police rural and wildlife crime teams and firearms licensing departments on

a range of wildlife- and shooting-related subjects. Our regional teams delivered more than 300 on-site shoot visits during 2022 and held numerous training, practice and expert advice events, including 'Try Sustainable Ammunition' days.

- We responded robustly to the UK REACH lead ammunition consultation, providing four detailed technical reports. This resulted in the HSE delaying by six months its decision on the proposed complete ban on outdoor recreational uses of all forms of lead ammunition, as well as recognising a need to examine alternative risk management options and derogations.
- Through surveys such as that carried out for the *Value of Shooting* report, the new BASC evidence and environmental law team gathered data which will be vital in future policy work. This latest research will highlight the economic, environmental and social value of shooting in the UK.
- The UK's largest outdoor education project, 'Let's Learn Moor', continued to grow, and has brought together 50 partner organisations to educate over 900 children since 2017.
- We part-funded Natural England's hen harrier recovery work. During 2022, 119 chicks fledged in England, the greatest breeding success for the species in more than a century.
- BASC successfully campaigned for



- amendment of the Habitats Regulations Assessment. Many of our recommendations, including addressing the overly restrictive precautionary principle, were submitted as a supporting document to Defra's Nature Recovery green paper and presented to the Environmental Audit Committee. Appropriate amendments to the Habitats Regulations are now firmly on the political agenda.
- Our specialist firearms team assisted with over 10,000 membership enquiries and conducted a review of firearms licensing departments in England and



IMAGE: TOPS SHOTS PHOTO COMP 2022/CLIVE ELLISTON

Wales. The review was sent to MPs, chief constables and police and crime commissioners in order to highlight performance issues.

And let's not forget the many direct benefits the association continues to provide for members. These, and the association's achievements during 2022, are covered in more detail in the following pages.

Looking ahead to 2023, we will be focussing on existing and new threats to shooting, including the Welsh government's proposals to license

gamebird releasing. If not robustly challenged by the UK shooting community, this could effectively ban game shooting in Wales and have a ripple effect in other home nations. The Scottish Government's Wildlife Management and Muirburn (Scotland) Bill gives equal cause for concern and BASC will continue to vigorously oppose any unnecessary or unworkable legislation.

Similarly, the growing calls for shotguns to be made subject to much more stringent controls in the wake of the Keyham murder inquests will be strongly resisted by BASC. Applying Section 1 firearms licensing to shotguns would have far-reaching and unnecessary consequences for a large section of the shooting community.

BASC will also continue to resist unwarranted and unnecessary restrictions on lead ammunition for certain firearms.

We will carry on fighting for the shooting community and the conservation of our countryside by taking legal action, lobbying for your rights and influencing legislation – this includes tackling anti-shooting organisations and their unsubstantiated rhetoric.

We will keep pressure on the police and politicians to deliver a licensing system which is proportionate, fair and consistent for all.

BASC is home to by far the largest group of subject matter experts in our field. All our teams are passionate about ensuring a bright future for sustainable shooting and the enormous practical conservation efforts underpinned by it. Thanks to our members, BASC can continue to deploy the best expertise to develop and deliver the long-term strategy for sustainable shooting in the UK. In a nutshell, the future of shooting



depends on having something to shoot with, something to shoot at and somewhere to go shooting. BASC is – and with your continued support, will remain – the only organisation capable of safeguarding all three of these central components.

Constant challenges, public ignorance and misplaced hostility are not a recent evolution for field sports. However, BASC will continue to evolve, to educate, to fight for what we know to be right and banish the practices and people we know are not.

My sincere thanks for your steadfast support of BASC during 2022.

EOGHAN CAMERON
Chairman

BASC Council

BASC is governed by an elected council. Any full member of the association may be nominated and if elected will serve for five years, with a maximum of two terms. BASC Council meets ten times a year.

Oliver McCullough

Elected 2015 –
Northern Ireland seat
(County Down)



Oliver has been a member of BASC/WAGBI for 51 years. He is a keen wildfowler and woodcock shooter. He has been a committee member of the Comber Wildfowlers for the past 18 years and is also the club's representative on the joint council on Strangford Lough. He has chaired BASC's Executive and Finance Committee and led in the governance review of the association.

Ian Grindy

Elected 2014
National seat (Lancashire)



Ian is a retired estate manager and was a professional gamekeeper for 33 years. He has a wealth of experience working with statutory and non-statutory organisations, and an interest in deer stalking, wildfowling and grouse moor management.

Chris Barker

Elected 2021
National Seat (Yorkshire)



Chris has been shooting for 45 years and a member of BASC for 32 years. He is secretary of the Fenland Wildfowlers and serves on the Hull and East Riding Wildfowlers Association committee. Semi-retired, he lives with his wife and their four dogs on a smallholding in the Yorkshire Wolds where they raise their own rare-breed pork and lamb.

Eoghan Cameron

Chairman
Elected 2017 –
Scotland seat (Angus)



Eoghan lives in rural Angus and is dedicated to protecting and promoting sustainable shooting for generations to come. He has participated in field sports since childhood and his passions are deer stalking, all forms of driven and walked-up game shooting, as well as casting the odd fly. A BASC member of 24 years, he is also a trustee of SYCET, WHT, WHCT and WHCST.

Professor Ann Mortimer

Elected 2015
National seat (Yorkshire)



Ann enjoys air rifle, shotgun and rifle shooting. She is a member of a ladies-only roving syndicate and a regular deer stalker. As a psychiatrist with 42 years' experience, she teaches junior doctors and firearms enquiry officers about mental health and firearms issues.

Robin Marshall-Ball

Elected 2016
England seat (Wiltshire)



Robin was a secondary school teacher for 27 years. He has also worked in the food industry and as BASC's conservation officer in south-west England. He is now retired and conducts game cookery demonstrations at events. Robin has written many articles for shooting magazines. He has published seven books on shooting-related matters.

John Harlow

Elected 2022
National seat (Lincolnshire)



A passionate wildfowler, John also picks up on his local farm shoot and loves training his dogs. Now retired, he served in the Metropolitan Police for 30 years, progressing to the rank of chief inspector for the last ten years of his career.

Claire Sadler

Vice chair
Elected 2018 –
National seat (London)



Claire is a senior business lawyer and a passionate advocate of field sports. Her legal experience includes FCA regulatory compliance and associated contentious matters. She is keen to encourage more women and younger people into field sports.

Al Gabriel

Elected 2020
National seat (Northumberland)



Al is a molecular biologist with a background in ecology and genetics. He is a keen deer stalker and a freelance writer for shooting magazines. Al has a strong interest in promoting diversity in shooting and public understanding of country sports.

Carl Woodall

Elected 2018
National seat (West Midlands)



Carl has been interested in lurchers and ferrets since childhood, progressing to air rifles, shotguns and then rifles. He began working with the Forestry Commission, became an underkeeper, and then retrained as an arborist. Carl then joined the police. Alongside this career he runs a farm pest control syndicate of 30 shooters.

Alasdair Mitchell

Elected 2018
National seat (Northumberland)



Alasdair is a prolific author. He has served on the boards of a national park authority, two PR firms and a care home. He has also served on two government working groups. His farm includes two SSSIs. His interests include wildfowling, deer, game, hunting overseas, beating, airguns and gundogs.

Richard Garner Williams

Elected 2022
Wales seat (Cardiff)



Richard's shooting interests mainly centre around deer management, with a bit of walked-up game shooting thrown into the mix. He is also a committed angler and passionate about defending shooting sports from those who wish to see an end to them.

Ian Coghill (Co-opted in 2018)



Ian is a former chairman of the GWCT and a lifelong conservationist and sportsman. He believes profoundly – based on a huge body of direct experience and scientific research – that properly conducted field sports are not just a force for good in the countryside, but essential. Without all or any of them the British countryside would be immeasurably poorer in every respect.

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

Lord Geoffrey Dear



As a retired police officer, a former chief constable and a member of HM Inspectorate of Constabulary, Lord Dear has been a BASC member for 39 years. He was elected president of the association in 2017. He lists country sports as a recreation and is a keen Shot who has previously supported the charitable work of the Wildlife Habitat Trust.

Ian Bell



Ian joined the BASC team as chief executive in February 2018. A former Brigadier in the British Army, he took up the position at BASC at the end of his final deployment as Commander British Forces Germany. He joined the army in 1983 and later commanded 3rd Regiment Royal Horse Artillery. Ian has a lifelong passion for shooting and the conservation benefit it brings. He first joined BASC as a Young Shot.

Christopher Graffius



An ex-officio member of BASC Council since 2001, Christopher has worked in politics, media and PR since 1983. Committed to securing all-party support for shooting and balanced media coverage, he has hunted across Europe and the States, stalked deer in Scotland, fowled in Wales and the north west and enjoys shooting game on a syndicate in the Welsh Marches.

Angela Davies



Angela is BASC's executive director of business management, and society secretary. A qualified chartered management accountant with a masters in policy and business management, Angela has over 25 years of financial, strategic, governance and business management experience with 17 years in senior, director and company secretary roles across a variety of sectors.

Colin Shedden



Colin has been BASC Scotland director since 1994, having previously worked for BASC on both deer and international affairs. He is currently chair of the Lowland Deer Network Scotland and of the Scottish Firearms Practitioners Group. Colin is also a vice chair of the Heather Trust. He runs a small shoot in Highland Perthshire and is a keen angler.

Steve Griffiths



BASC Wales director Steve has a background and experience in farming and land management in Wales. He previously worked for the National Trust and University of Wales as an estate manager. Before joining BASC, Steve was a projects manager and deer liaison officer for the Deer Initiative. He is a keen deer stalker and is passionate about conservation work and protecting Wales' rural landscapes.

Caroline Bedell



Caroline holds a degree in rural land management which led her to qualifying as a rural practice chartered surveyor, managing a mixed portfolio of rural estates. In 2001, Caroline joined the CLA as their regional surveyor, progressing to their national public access adviser. In 2006, she took on the position of CLA Midlands regional director. In 2018, Caroline joined BASC to lead the conservation team.

Steve Bloomfield



Following a career in gamekeeping and deer management spanning 30 years, Steve joined BASC in 2008 as a regional director. Currently he is BASC's executive director of shooting and operations. Unsurprisingly, other than shooting, fishing and stalking, Steve is never more at home than when carrying out gamekeeping duties on land where he shoots.

Gareth Dockerty



Gareth joined BASC in 2016 as a regional officer in the north-east of England. He was subsequently appointed to a new post as uplands officer, a role close to his heart, having grown up in the North Yorkshire moors. He has recently been appointed as BASC's deputy executive director of shooting and operations.

Tommy Mayne



Tommy has been involved in shooting for 37 years and was employed by BASC as country officer back in 2008, before becoming BASC's director for Northern Ireland in 2010. He is a BASC-accredited shotgun coach and holds both DSC1 and DSC2 qualifications. Tommy is also a Deer Management Qualification (DMQ) assessor and a BASC-approved trainer for a range of courses.

Working together

Collaboration with various organisations and partners is a key element of our strategy to achieve our objectives. BASC works with all political parties, parliamentary groups, legislative bodies, government departments (through their ministers and senior staff), police committees and many organisations with an interest in shooting, nature and conservation. We routinely produce evidence-based briefings for policymakers and MPs.

What BASC does:

- We provide the secretariat for the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Shooting and Conservation.
- We co-host receptions at the Conservative and Labour party conferences with the Angling Trust.
- We work on European legislation on firearms, shooting and conservation with the European Federation for Hunting and Conservation (FACE).
- We are one of the partners within Aim to Sustain, which was launched in 2021, and we sit on the British Shooting Sports Council.
- We work with the UK Squirrel Accord to enhance woodland health and red squirrel recovery through grey squirrel and woodland management.

BASC's ability to work with such a wide range of stakeholders demonstrates the flexibility of our community and broadness of our interests and goals. Our openness and readiness to engage at all times sends a very powerful message.

A few of the key organisations BASC continues to work with...



Sponsorship

The BASC commercial services team develops a range of sponsorship agreements that help defray significant costs incurred in the delivery of activities such as training programmes and gundog events. Throughout 2022, BASC had sponsorship agreements with Eley Hawk, Browning, BSA, Leica and Promatic to support the delivery of our shotgun and rifle training programmes.

Skinner's remains the sponsor of BASC gundog activity, which includes but is not limited to the delivery of the BASC gamekeepers' classes at Crufts, BASC working tests, and official BASC gundog training days.

Sporting Saint has now joined us as the dedicated sponsor of the BASC Scurries. Our sponsors provide essential products and funding, which allows BASC to deliver effective events across the UK.

We thank our sponsors for their generous support and continue to uphold these vital working relationships through an increasing level of brand exposure received at BASC events, shows and training programmes. We also aim to communicate, support, and promote our sponsors where possible through our various media channels.

Member benefits

At BASC we campaign for the future and wellbeing of our sport. But our members also profit from a wide range of exceptional services and benefits.

In addition to representation, expert advice, advocacy, events, courses and sporting opportunities – all of which are detailed in the pages of this publication – two of the fundamental benefits of BASC membership are its insurance cover and the array of offers available on a wide variety of products and services.

Additionally, members have during the past year gained complimentary entry to The Game Fair and the Northern Shooting Show.

BASC insurance

All members are automatically protected by the BASC group insurance package which includes:

- Up to £10 million public, employers' and product liability cover*
- Up to £50,000 personal accident cover*

**While engaged in BASC-recognised recreational activities.*

Member offers

BASC members have access to offers across a range of products, goods and services, varying from vehicles to shooting equipment and books.**

The key objective of the BASC commercial services team is to generate income for the association over and above that of membership subscriptions. This enables us to invest in and deliver increased member services while reducing



pressure on subscription rates. The team achieves this by forming commercial partnerships with key businesses and negotiating special offers on products, goods and services that have a relationship with shooting. Members are kept up to date on the latest offers via the BASC *Shooting and Conservation* magazine, website, social media and monthly EDM (electronic direct mailing).

Savings by BASC members in 2022

In 2022, members saved more than £5.2 million on the purchase of new vehicles from 23 manufacturers.

Over the course of 2022, we have

retained and built upon the offers from our commercial partners, allowing members to continue accessing excellent deals on a wide range of products and services including 4x4 vehicles, cars, vans, vehicle accessories, discounted fuel cards, bespoke insurances, sporting books, hearing protection and much more.

We are confident that our portfolio of member offers will continue to grow and add value to the overall BASC membership experience.

On behalf of BASC and our commercial partners, we would like to thank those members who have taken advantage of our available offers and contributed to the ongoing success of the organisation.

*BASC is a trading name of British Association for Shooting and Conservation which is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) under firm reference number 311937. You may check this on the Financial Services Register by visiting the FCA's website or by contacting the FCA on 0800 111 6768

**T&Cs apply for a number of our member offers

Political affairs

We work to secure and maintain our strategic objective of all-party political consensus in support of shooting and conservation. That depends on forging strong relationships with politicians and officials and having the opportunity to educate and inform them of the facts.

KEY OBJECTIVES

- ◆ Maintain cross-party support for shooting and conservation.
- ◆ Promote the interests of shooting in Westminster and in the devolved parliaments.
- ◆ Broaden political understanding of the importance of shooting and conservation.
- ◆ Increase parliamentary understanding of BASC's conservation work.

Activity in 2022

The political affairs team achieved a record number of engagements with politicians across the country in 2022. BASC hosted MPs at county shows where local MPs could meet their constituents and learn about the work they and BASC are doing in their patches.

As usual we hosted (alongside the Angling Trust) receptions at the party conferences where shadow ministers and the secretary of state for Defra addressed packed audiences, outlining their support for BASC and sustainable shooting.

The biggest event for the team was without doubt The Game Fair, where more than 30 MPs attended as BASC guests to experience the event and sit down with us to discuss shooting and conservation. Guests included Labour shadow Defra ministers, Conservative ministers, peers and even Nigel Farage.

Throughout the year, we continued to hold weekly meetings with MPs, peers, ministers, shadow ministers and civil servants to discuss matters on issues including firearms licensing, game management and conservation. The meetings of the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Shooting and Conservation, for which we provide the secretariat, continued online and attracted even larger attendances.

The Lords v Commons clay shoot returned during the summer break, with both senior and new parliamentarians taking part. More MPs than ever before tried clay shooting for the first time with BASC at game fairs, local grounds and BASC lobbying events; and 2022 saw the creation of a new group of urban MPs who, sponsored by BASC, hosted clay shooting days focussed purely on introducing MPs to the sport.

Looking ahead

New threats to shooting from hostile legislation are continuing to come before parliament, and that is why it is so important to continue our work of engagement and education with politicians from all parties and all walks of life. The political team will be keeping a close eye on forthcoming Home Office and Defra legislation to ensure sustainable shooting's voice is heard loud and clear.

CASE STUDY

The All-Party Parliamentary Group for Shooting and Conservation

All-Party Parliamentary Groups (APPGs) are informal cross-party groups run by members of the Commons and Lords to discuss and share information on areas of special interest.

BASC provides the secretariat for the APPG for Shooting and Conservation. Over the last year the group of MPs and peers from across the political spectrum discussed topics on upcoming legislation and important issues which impact sustainable shooting and conservation. The year started with prominent members of the House of Lords addressing the APPG about the upcoming Animal Welfare (Sentience) Bill, a piece of legislation which had the ability to impact shooting. Other discussions included a briefing by BASC's head of firearms Martin Parker on his review of firearms licensing departments, and how MPs' constituents were being affected by poor service from their police forces. As we look to 2023, BASC has arranged for government ministers from both the Home Office and Defra to address the group.

With various imminent challenges such as proposed changes to firearms licensing, the political affairs team will continue to educate and challenge politicians from across the political divide as we strive to ensure the future of sustainable shooting in the UK.



IMAGE: ISTOCKPHOTO.COM/TOMAS SEREDA

Public acceptance and media

The staff in BASC's communications team aim to give a voice to shooting that is loud, clear and authoritative. Maintaining focus on our digital output, we are always looking at new ways to deliver our messages to our members and the wider shooting community.

KEY OBJECTIVES

- ◆ Provide balanced comment in the media, with BASC seen as an authoritative voice for shooting.
- ◆ Communicate effectively, inform the debate, and be prepared to swiftly rebut incorrect or misleading information.
- ◆ Ensure proactive communications are provided to print, broadcast and online media.
- ◆ Ensure the membership is engaged through effective and informative communications across various multi-platform channels.
- ◆ Ensure communication to all stakeholders is undertaken, analysed, interpreted and acted upon.
- ◆ Produce a sector-leading shooting magazine and other publications.

Activity in 2022

We entered 2022 unshackled from the last remaining Covid restrictions and with an air of positivity for the coming season. The vaccine was working, life was returning to normal and BASC was making up for lost time, with a full roster of events, engagement and output. Little did we realise another substantial challenge in the shape of avian influenza (AI) was about to rear its ugly head.

The shooting community is resilient and tenacious, though. While the long-term impact of AI on shooting and conservation is yet to be fully realised, the actions of

BASC and its members played a part in ensuring the game shooting season could go ahead, even if severely reduced. Our dedicated AI webpage served as a one-stop shop for the latest information and developments, and BASC staff members worked seven days a week to ensure the information remained up to date and relevant. Throughout the year that page alone was visited more than 50,000 times.

In 2022, BASC also launched an educational initiative to further highlight and promote outreach to younger audiences; 'BASC to School' reached almost 32,000 children at a variety of events across the country.

Following the death of Her Majesty The Queen, BASC paid tribute to her dedication and love of the countryside, dogs, Scotland and field sports. Her daughter, Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal, was announced as BASC's patron in October, following in the footsteps of her late father, HRH Prince Philip.

Throughout the year, BASC's media output led to coverage across national television outlets, dozens of local radio stations, and national, regional and local papers. We set out a series of unique press campaigns to further our reach including 'Steer clear of baby deer', 'Be Tick Aware' and 'The Moorland Chorus'. Simple and strong messaging proved a hit.

BASC's Eat Game Awards once again offered the communications team a chance to promote wild game as food, increasing public awareness and

showcasing the brilliant individuals and businesses going the extra mile. The awards saw a record number of nominations and growing media reach, something that will continue to be built on.

In its third year, BASC's official podcast continued to stimulate debate on varying shooting topics to a growing and engaged audience. The BASC website was viewed 2,739,889 times in 2022. Our social media following grew by 16,636, reaching more than 12 million social media feeds. And our members' magazine, *Shooting and Conservation*, which is mailed out to more than 130,000 people every two months – including MPs, police forces and major opinion formers – carried more than 180 articles featuring key information, advice, comment and thought-provoking opinion.

Looking ahead

The *Value of Shooting* report will play a significant role in output when launched later in 2023. The report will showcase the social, economic and conservation value of shooting across the UK, including specific case studies and plenty of talking points. The previous report, published in 2014, was utilised by all major media outlets and this updated version will become a vital tool in both promoting and protecting shooting activities.

As always, BASC will continue to utilise both traditional and new channels to reach new and interested audiences as we strive to secure our sport for the future.



CASE STUDY

BASC Live e-newsletter

BASC Live, the association's weekly email newsletter sent to members and others interested in shooting and conservation matters, went from strength to strength in 2022.

By the end of the year its weekly circulation had grown to more than 100,000, with an impressive open rate of 44 per cent.

Each newsletter contains an eclectic mix of news stories, calls to action and links to interesting features and blogs.

Members were kept up to date with key issues including avian influenza restrictions, firearms licensing campaigns, the *Value of Shooting* report, BASC Council elections and the FACE petition to protect shooters' rights in Europe. Each newsletter also carries a summary of BASC press activity.

In a lighter vein, there were also links to competitions, prize draws and game recipes.

If you are not receiving BASC Live in your inbox, check your spam settings or visit [basc.org.uk/basc-live](https://www.basc.org.uk/basc-live) and subscribe for free.

Training and education

From game shooting, airgunning and wildfowling to deer stalking, clay shooting and pest and predator control, BASC's training and education team covers a wide array of shooting disciplines, engaging directly with members to provide advice, put on courses, and write codes of practice. This department also maintains a stable of accredited shotgun coaches who deliver shooting lessons all over the UK.

KEY OBJECTIVES

- ◆ Set, develop, and maintain standards in all areas of shooting.
- ◆ Work with partner organisations and other BASC teams to provide comprehensive training opportunities, produce codes of practice and monitor and improve standards in shooting and food hygiene.
- ◆ Establish the credentials and improve the standards of our skilled trainers and assessors so that the work they do has public credibility.
- ◆ Anticipate and respond to demand for awards such as Wild Game Meat Hygiene and the Game Shooter Certificate 1.

Activity in 2022

BASC and partner organisations continued to drive promotion of the Code of Good Shooting Practice in 2022 with efforts on social media and at events across the country. BASC is also working with Aim to Sustain and its member organisations to promote standards.

The Deer Initiative's suite of best practice guides in England and Wales is now managed by the sector for the sector. BASC is one of the organisations involved and the guides are available online. A similar suite of guides for deer stalkers, managed by NatureScot, is available in Scotland.

BASC is one of only two organisations currently delivering wild boar training and is approved by Deer Management Qualifications (DMQ) to assess the DMQ wild boar qualification.

The association ran numerous shotgun coaching lines and airgun lines in 2022, introducing 4,049 people to the sport. We also ran the shotgun shooting line at the Poacher 2022 International Jamboree in Lincolnshire, introducing 4,844 youngsters to the sport. In a smaller event at the Suffolk Punch, we introduced 294 Scouts to shotgun shooting.

Additionally, we delivered 163 courses for 930 people covering all aspects of shooting sports.

The BASC Deer Assessment Centre, which administers DMQ qualifications, took 682 Deer Stalking Certificate 1 (DSC1) registrations, 197 DSC2 registrations and 38 registrations for the Wild Boar Certificate. Online assessments for DSC1 and the Wild Boar Certificate now stand at 2,367, with 3,812 people taking the Safe Shot assessment online.

BASC develops and maintains relevant codes of practice for the shooting sector, as well as best practice guidance which is hosted on our website. These codes and best practice guides are regularly visited by more than 50,000 people a year and serve as valuable reference documents.

Looking ahead

The team will be focusing on providing more online self-assessments. New courses will be developed to fill gaps in our portfolio where there is a need to improve standards and a willingness from our members to get involved. We continue to develop, maintain, and promote best practice with key partners.

We are also looking forward to working with the Essex International Jamboree in 2024, the largest of its kind in the UK. And we plan to run more Try Sustainable Ammunition days with our regional and country colleagues, as well as having sustainable ammunition on our coaching lines for people to try. Indeed, all 12 bore and 20 bore cartridges used at game fairs in 2023 will contain steel shot and biodegradable wads as we phase out the use of lead.





CASE STUDY

The Poacher 2022 International Jamboree

With two years in the planning, it was important to get organised for this large, six-day event. The 'Poacher 2022' International Jamboree at Lincolnshire Showground had several thousand attendees, with representatives from across the UK and the globe. Our shooting line was operational for the full six days with the capacity to theoretically deliver 6,000 introductions to the sport.

It was only possible to deliver such an event with support from our sponsors – Browning, Promatic and Eley Hawk. It also would not have been possible without our volunteer coaches, many of whom worked for the duration of the event for BASC. In the run-up to the event we trained several Scout leaders to assist with eye dominance, stance and gun fit; this freed up fully qualified coaches to concentrate on working in the cages. We were also assisted by a small army of Scout leader marshals, who helped with booking youngsters in and managing the queues.

The organisers of the Jamboree surveyed all the attending Scouts to find out what their most popular on-site event was – and you've guessed, it was clay shooting with BASC! A massive thank-you to our volunteers and sponsors for making this happen.

Firearms

BASC is the only UK shooting organisation that offers its members access to a full-time, in-house team of experts able to advise on all aspects of firearms ownership and use. They are also able to provide forensic evidence and expert legal support for members facing court proceedings.

KEY OBJECTIVES

- ◆ Provide BASC members with the best possible advice – legal, technical and practical – on all aspects of firearms possession and use.
- ◆ Work with key stakeholders to reform the current firearms licensing system.
- ◆ Using credible advocacy, attempt to influence decision makers involved in firearms policy and regulation. These include:
 - Parliamentarians** – encourage effective, evidence-led legislation.
 - The Home Office** – promote sensible public policies for the legitimate ownership of firearms.
 - The National Police Chiefs’ Council** – promote consistency of administrative practice in firearms licensing.
 - Police and crime commissioners** – work to ensure chief constables are held to account.
 - Firearms licensing departments** – use direct advocacy to represent members’ interests.
 - Other police personnel** – provide bespoke, quality training on shooting matters.

Activity in 2022

BASC is the only shooting association in the UK which has a dedicated firearms team. Now that individual firearms officers are well embedded within the BASC regional structure, this has enabled the

director and head of firearms to deal exclusively with strategic issues which affect the membership, effectively creating a strategic firearms unit.

Detailed briefing papers are routinely prepared for parliamentarians, both according to individual needs and to support the work of the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Shooting and Conservation. These briefs have to be technically accurate, concise and correct in law. They are often needed at short notice and BASC prides itself on being able to produce quality briefings quickly to influence and inform politicians. This is a good example of inter-departmental working within BASC to create a consolidated approach to lobbying for shooting. Areas upon which the strategic firearms unit has briefed politicians include the proposed deregulation of sound moderators, the case for ten-year certificates, and the concept behind and benefit of a firearms licensing regulator.

The experience and expertise of the strategic firearms unit is widely recognised and often sought. BASC sits on the National Crime Agency’s Criminal Use of Firearms (Prevent) Board where it can continue to emphasise that sporting firearms have no link to armed crime. BASC’s head of firearms chairs the forensic regulator’s specialist firearms group.

BASC remains unique among UK shooting associations as it has a well-established firearms team that can not only shape any debate at a national level but

which can also represent and support its members at a local one.

Looking ahead

Although many of the difficulties caused by Covid have eased, the system for firearms licensing remains patchy. It is so characterised by administrative inconsistency that the service received by certificate holders is a postcode lottery. BASC is committed to working with government, the National Police Chiefs’ Council, and police and crime commissioners to see a fair and consistent firearms licensing regime that not only delivers a good service to its customers but also protects public safety by not issuing authorities to people unsuited to possessing firearms.

BASC continues to shape the debate on the cost of certificates by its membership of the Home Office Fees Working Group. Using data collected by its review of police firearms licensing units (FLUs), BASC has been able to challenge the inclusion of inefficient forces in the sample used to capture the data upon which the process costings for fees will be based. It is self-evident that any such sample must not include forces which are markedly inefficient, otherwise certificate holders will end up paying for those inefficiencies; the police should not be rewarded for failing to adopt good practices. BASC takes the view that, if some FLUs operate efficiently, then those which do not should not be rewarded.



CASE STUDY

Performance monitoring of firearms licensing units

Traditionally, BASC has monitored the performance of FLUs by producing a Red/Amber/Green (RAG) analytical chart. This has proven to be invaluable when identifying failing licensing departments for police and crime commissioners and chief officers. By recording the amount of time taken for each major licensing process, e.g. the grant of a firearm certificate, using data supplied by the National Firearms Licensing Management System, a useful comparative analysis can be produced.

In order to build on that firm foundation, BASC has expanded the narrative to contextualise its RAG chart by assessing the relative performance of FLUs, looking at both quantitative and qualitative measures. To this end Freedom of Information requests were used to ascertain some 14 aspects of firearms licensing practice within individual FLUs, ranging from training and staffing levels to turnaround times and departmental budgets.

A consolidated analysis was produced providing an at-a-glance performance comparator for the majority of police FLUs in England and Wales. This has given BASC further empirical information with which to challenge underperforming forces. It has also identified those forces which perform well, allowing BASC to identify and encourage best practice.

BASC is the only shooting association to produce such a detailed and comprehensive analysis. More pertinently, such information is not collected by government or the police.

Game and wildlife management

The game and wildlife management team specialises in a wide and diverse range of areas, from gamebird rearing, pest and predator control, and shoot management, to cover crops and all aspects of gundog ownership.

KEY OBJECTIVES

- ◆ Ensure a sustainable future for game shooting and game management.
- ◆ Promote high standards and good game and wildlife conservation practice.
- ◆ Provide guidance on all aspects of game, habitat and shoot management.
- ◆ Work with and advise government agencies on aspects of game shooting and game management.
- ◆ Provide shooters, gundog owners and gamekeepers with professional, full-time representation.
- ◆ Ensure gamekeeping and game shooting activities are treated proportionately within exotic disease planning and disease outbreak management.

Activity in 2022

Throughout 2022, the game and wildlife management team continued to represent members and the wider shooting community on various committees and advisory bodies across a diverse range of areas including rodenticide use, game feed and avian influenza (AI). The head of the team is also secretary of the Code of Good Shooting Practice.

Following a hiatus due to Covid, Crufts 2022 returned bigger and better than ever before. The gamekeeper classes showcase working dogs to a wide audience. Flat-coated retriever Ruger was crowned overall winner of the BASC gamekeepers'

classes. Afterwards the team moved on to running scurry events across the country, culminating in the grand final at Weston Park.

The team also attended a variety of events, including The Game Fair and the Royal Welsh Show, where we advised visitors on key issues including gamebird release, trapping and general shoot management. Another key part of these events was highlighting the consultations that we were involved in on issues such as general licences.

We have worked with colleagues and engaged with civil servants and politicians on a number of key areas such as ensuring any changes to existing general licences were not burdensome or unworkable; these included suggested changes to GL43 (relevant to release of gamebirds on or near European Protected Sites in England). The licences were reissued at the end of May with minor changes. These changes were around wording in relation to 'consents' and additional advice on AI.

We continued to promote high standards across many areas including the use of the most modern design of fox snares.

Via the BASC Legacy Fund, we have contributed £75,000 towards Natural England's hen harrier recovery work over a three-year period. The annual payments will assist in winter roost monitoring, support and education around diversionary feeding, and the southern reintroduction of the species. Over 100

hen harrier chicks fledged in England in 2022, the highest number for more than a century.

Once again BASC were sponsors of the National Wildlife Enforcers Conference 2022, and we proactively engage as members of the Poaching Priority Delivery Group and the Bird of Prey Crime Priority Delivery Group. Following the lifting of Covid restrictions the team was back on the road training police at BASC workshops. These were adapted to the operational needs of the force or, in the case of the National Wildlife Crime course, provided advice to police staff on key subjects such as poaching, general licences and trapping.

Looking ahead

The forthcoming year looks set to be another demanding one with many ongoing work streams and projects ahead of us. We will be delivering a recognised national course to police officers covering various topics including trapping and general licences. Once again, we will also be running the BASC gamekeepers' classes at Crufts, and we will continue to support gundog clubs across the UK. Additionally, we will feed into a range of relevant advisory committees and consultations that may arise, covering areas such as avian influenza and the use of rodenticides.

As always we will continue to support members and promote sustainable shooting and game management.



CASE STUDY

Avian influenza

In 2021 we saw a high number of avian influenza (AI) cases in the UK and unfortunately 2022 followed a similar trend. Working with colleagues, the team once again engaged with civil servants, Defra, NatureScot, DAERA, NRW and other stakeholders to ensure that the shooting sector was appropriately represented and considered in plans to combat and tackle the disease.

However, AI severely restricted the availability of eggs and poults from Europe. This was due in part to a trade barrier in place, namely a 90-day surveillance period in AI-affected areas.

Following work between BASC and partners, the minister responsible cut the 90-day surveillance period to 30 days, bringing UK-EU trade exchanges in line with other countries within the EU bloc. This change will potentially reduce delays in importing poultry including game while protecting GB security.

The team continued to provide technical advice on AI and ensured the correct information was relayed to members.

Deer management

The BASC deer team promotes sustainable deer management across the UK by providing advice to members on habitat and species management, developing and supporting best practice, offering deer stalking opportunities and influencing government policy in order to protect shooting.

KEY OBJECTIVES

- ◆ Provide opportunities for deer stalkers of all abilities to improve their knowledge and skills.
- ◆ Promote the public goods delivered by deer management, including the protection of trees and provision of venison.
- ◆ Influence the future of deer management across the UK.
- ◆ Ensure that best practice is demonstrated by all in the sustainable management of wild deer populations.

BASC is the main representative body for deer stalkers and it is estimated that around 42,000 (28 per cent) of our members are involved in deer management. As such, we contribute to the formulation of government policy, and ensure that all decision makers are aware that the most effective and humane method of managing deer and feral wild boar is culling by shooting.

Climate change and the continuing loss of biodiversity are the two major drivers affecting change in the UK countryside that will impact how deer are perceived and managed in the future. Both of these are linked to trees and woodlands.

All UK governments are looking to plant more trees (30,000ha per year by 2025) and to ensure better management of existing woodlands. Most of this will be incentivised either through the Nature for Climate Fund or the Countryside

Management Scheme (CMS+) and we are already seeing grants for deer management. As tree cover increases, the need to manage deer more effectively will also increase.

Activity in 2022

As a result of the need to protect trees from deer, Defra launched a consultation on its proposed Deer Management Strategy for England in August 2022, and we worked hard in conjunction with other organisations to ensure that our response was balanced and based on evidence. The key points that we put across were as follows:

- Deer should not be relegated to pest status.
- Deer are not a national problem but localised to specific areas and species; therefore any strategy should be targeted.
- We want to work with Defra to develop sound solutions.
- We represent at least 90 per cent of all the deer managers in England.
- We are the main organisation working to increase the number and skills base of deer managers in England.

Looking ahead

The results of the above-mentioned consultation are not yet published but we hope that most of our comments will be given due consideration. We are working hard to find better ways to incentivise deer managers so that they are willing and able

to increase their deer culls. Reducing bottlenecks in the venison supply chain and increasing the consumption of venison are high priorities.

Another key area of work is to ensure the highest standards are shown in all aspects of deer and feral wild boar management. Our deer advisor James Sutcliffe has taken over the editorial role for the Deer Initiative Best Practice guides and we are working on a project to review and update all the guides over the next two years. The feral wild boar best practice guides were the first to be completed and they are now available online.

We have also just completed a series of educational videos on aspects of deer stalking which relate primarily to the skills required to advance from the Deer Stalking Certificate Level 1 (DSC1) to the DSC2. These can be found on the BASC YouTube channel and have proved very popular.





CASE STUDY

The Isle of Arran stalking scheme – a member's testimonial

"I've been lucky enough to attend the BASC/Forestry and Land Scotland deer management scheme on Arran for many years now. It's always been a pleasure and a superb opportunity to learn at first hand, with expert guidance, about the management of woodland red deer. It's never been easy, and it certainly demands a high level of fitness, a great deal of patience and, above all, a willingness to listen and learn from those who have made deer management a lifelong career.

"As a training opportunity, the scheme remains unsurpassed in the UK and I believe it offers a win/win/win solution to many of the challenges of modern deer management and environmental protection. In a safe and respectful way, the deer numbers are controlled, trainee stalkers are allowed to learn the techniques required in line with best practice protocols, and the forests are kept vibrant and healthy. Moreover, the scheme allows folk from far and wide to enjoy the unrivalled scenery of Arran and, in so doing, contribute significantly to the local economy. This is a model for sustainable and viable deer management that should be considered across much more of Scotland's public forests."

Wildfowl and wetlands

The wildfowl and wetlands team is responsible for providing BASC members and the 140 affiliated wildfowling clubs around the UK with support and guidance on all matters relating to wildfowl and wetland management.

KEY OBJECTIVES

- ◆ Work proactively to ensure a long-term future for sustainable wildfowl shooting.
- ◆ Promote high standards and sound moral ethics.
- ◆ Increase participation and better detail the value of wildfowl shooting and its associated conservation work.
- ◆ Work with our affiliated wildfowling clubs and external legal and ecological teams to secure a positive outcome to the ongoing issues surrounding consenting.
- ◆ Provide wildfowl shooters with professional, full-time, national representation.
- ◆ Engage with the BASC membership through educational and member events.
- ◆ Upskill BASC staff and external bodies like NE, NRW, NatureScot and others.
- ◆ Ensure the continuation of sustainable wildfowling on Crown Estate land through our role on the Joint Group on Wildfowling and Conservation on Tidal Land (JTG).

Activity in 2022

The avian influenza (AI) H5N1 virus decimated some of our seabird colonies and shook our poultry industry. Hundreds of thousands of our migratory birds were starting to return to overwinter on our shores and no one could predict what the

outcome would be. As a result, the team's focus soon turned to AI as its priority workflow.

By April of 2022, we had recruited Chris Wright as our new wildfowling advisor. We were then able to broaden our remit and move to a more proactive way of working, while ensuring member engagement expectations continued to be met.

Wildfowling clubs continue to be impacted by conservation legislation. The 2022 round of consenting saw only minor improvements to some consents, while others were still being heavily restricted. BASC continues to work at every level to seek a solution to these ongoing issues.

We submitted a white paper aimed at influencing a dedicated Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) review group, and thus potential amendments to environmental law with a view to resolving many of the issues faced. This was led by our newly formed 'evidence and environmental law' department, headed by Dr Marnie Lovejoy.

The team has taken key Natural England (NE) staff and Crown Estate representatives out wildfowling around the UK, to experience the activity first hand and see what valuable role wildfowling play in the management of our estuaries.

BASC's Wildfowling Liaison Committee (WLC) met at various times throughout 2022 and continues to go from strength to strength. It advises BASC Council on

wildfowling-related matters, many of which require very difficult and complex decisions.

Looking ahead

The wildfowl and wetlands team will continue to provide BASC members with both high-level and operational support and will explore all legal and ecological avenues to help safeguard wildfowl shooting for the long term.

It is important that the wildfowling community is proactive in the defence of our pastime. The collection of data and clearly defining the value of our presence for the land we frequent is essential. The team will continue to work with our affiliated clubs to improve communication and simplify consenting processes. We will engage with those responsible for the management of our protected sites to ensure sustainable and responsible wildfowl shooting is understood and can continue.

On the foreshore we have a lot of information at our disposal, but it is important that we start to take the same approach to data collection elsewhere; inland of the sea wall there is still a lot of work to be done. With that in mind we will be stepping up our efforts to demonstrate sustainability in all we do. Improving the way we document and record activity is key.

CASE STUDY

Securing more than 150 linear kilometres of wildfowling in the UK

In 2022, BASC successfully supported the renewal of 12 leases and started a number of consultation processes to secure new shooting leases. The Crown Estate is the main landowner that grants leases. A total of 21 management plans were renewed as part of the Crown Estate JTG lease requirements for wildfowling clubs. We supported more than 21 consent and licence applications. This work undertaken with the clubs in question has secured more than 150 linear kilometres of wildfowling in the UK.

In 2022, BASC organised a number of wildfowling experiences around the UK for key NE staff. These outings give the regulators a first-hand experience of what wildfowling is all about and how the activity is carried out, helping them to make informed decisions.

IMAGE: HOLLY STRANKS



Conservation

Sustainable shooting and the conservation of the countryside is at the very heart of the association's ethos. We align our sport with internationally recognised principles of sustainability and link shooting activities and nature conservation.

KEY OBJECTIVES

- ◆ Expand BASC's evidence base to close knowledge gaps and support sustainable shooting, and engage members in citizen science projects that link shooting and conservation.
- ◆ Provide members with guidance to promote sustainable practices in all live quarry shooting disciplines as well as advise on practical work which delivers for nature conservation.
- ◆ Ensure BASC has clear and evidence-led policy statements for key conservation issues to support sustainable shooting and promote nature conservation.
- ◆ Promote actions to improve sustainability and align shooting activities with internationally recognised principles.

Activity in 2022

BASC adopted a definition of sustainable shooting based on the 12 principles set out in the Bern Convention's European Charter on Hunting and Biodiversity:

Sustainable shooting respects quarry species and their habitats and seeks to conserve and improve the environment. It avoids excessive consumption, promotes a greater understanding of the environment, complies with the law, improves the health and wellbeing of participants and provides food and social and economic benefits to the wider community.

In order to align our shooting practices with this definition of sustainability, BASC and its membership must work towards closing knowledge gaps and enhancing our evidence data base.

In the last year, we have continued to work on our citizen science projects that provide us with invaluable data. We have analysed over 200 wings through the wing survey and over 100 cases of sarcocystosis (rice breast disease). Our duck nest tube project allowed us to monitor over 220 nest tubes. Nearly half were occupied and 98 per cent of those had successful hatchings.

We have also gathered data which will be vital in future policy work through surveys, such as the Value of Shooting survey (see case study), a survey on the use of lead-free ammunition that fed into the HSE consultation on lead ammunition restriction proposals, and a survey of the impact avian influenza had on gamebird releasing in 2022/23.

To complement this internal work we also commissioned external partners to conduct important research projects; these included the GWCT, which is currently studying the relationship between fox abundance and gamebird releases, and the predatory impact of gulls on other wild birds.

Looking ahead

Going forward we will continue our citizen science projects to gather data and publish peer-reviewed research to

support sustainable shooting in the political discourse.

We will encourage our membership to participate in the wing survey, the duck nest tube project, our sarcocystosis monitoring scheme as well as the GWCT/BTO national breeding woodcock survey which will take place in early summer 2023.

In terms of surveys, we will process our Value of Shooting data to illustrate the economic, social and environmental benefits of shooting and shooting-related activities, which will be fundamentally important for upcoming policy work. It will also help us to set up more targeted survey work in order to close existing data gaps.

The data collected through Value of Shooting will also allow us to produce natural capital accounts to strengthen our political arguments and put them on a sound numeric basis.

Commissioned research on some of our most cherished quarry species will help us assess the sustainability of our shooting practices and deliver scientific evidence to influence regulatory decisions around wildfowling and shooting in general. Two such research projects are about to commence: the first will examine the reasons behind the decline of our wild wintering and breeding mallard; the second will analyse the threats and pressures our migratory quarry species face at their breeding grounds and on their flyways.

CASE STUDY

The Value of Shooting

The Value of Shooting project brought together 24 UK shooting and countryside management organisations to commission new research into the economic, environmental and social value of shooting in the UK. This new project aims to refine and expand on the previous studies and provide an independent and statistically robust report.

The main objective is to estimate the scale and nature of shooting in the UK, across all types of shooting activities. It will assess the contribution shooting brings to the UK economy and to individuals' social, physical and mental wellbeing. It will also give account of the investments shoot providers and individual participants make towards nature conservation.

The study was made available via an online survey to all those involved in shooting activities, including beaters, pickers-up, shooting providers such as shoot managers, landowners, gamekeepers and shooting grounds / ranges, and the trade sector (e.g. gun shops and game farms).

Results of this research will be made available in due course.



Biodiversity

The biodiversity team works across the association, with governments and external partners to inspire shooters to conserve the environment through their activities. Our main focus is to ensure that shooting contributes as much as it can to tackle the twin nature and climate crises we face.

KEY OBJECTIVES

- ◆ Ensure politicians and policymakers understand the value that shooting provides to solving the nature and climate crises we collectively face.
- ◆ Align the value of shooting with key policy areas governments are committed to delivering.
- ◆ Expand our advice and support to members to deliver practical conservation on the ground.

Activity in 2022

Last year was a busy one for international and domestic policy. In December, the second part of the 15th meeting of the Convention on Biological Diversity agreed a post-2020 global biodiversity plan which the UK is now honour-bound to deliver. One of the key commitments in the plan is to protect 30 per cent of terrestrial areas and 30 per cent of marine areas for biodiversity by 2030 (the 30 by 30 initiative). BASC is already engaged with the Defra team leading on this and has contacts inside the other home countries working on this.

Legally binding environmental targets were set for England. BASC consulted on these and we are central to their delivery, especially the target to increase tree cover from 14.5 to 16.5 per cent by 2050, the two targets on species diversity and creating or restoring 500,000ha of wildlife-rich habitat. The latter is being addressed by a government-led partnership called

the Nature Recovery Network. BASC represents members at the top level of this partnership and addressed the inaugural conference to show how shooting can deliver environmental gain through habitat creation and appropriate species management.

BASC, along with other stakeholders, has met ministers in England and Wales to discuss key conservation topics. It is a powerful message for government to see, via BASC, alignment between the shooting community and non-shooting conservation organisations on priorities such as curlew and red squirrel recovery.

Brexit has led to a reshaping of agri-environment schemes. In England the new Environmental Land Management Scheme continued to build on its offers to farmers with some extremely welcome supplements for deer and grey squirrel management. A combination of lobbying from BASC and others through consultations and our professional relationships with civil servants has led to this most-needed addition. We have also been lobbying for the benefits of shooting to biodiversity and the natural environment to be included in the new Welsh Sustainable Farming Scheme.

Looking ahead

We are continuing to expand our advice to members by developing a series of woodland management guidance documents. These are focussed on the key ecological requirements of woodlands as



informed by the government's regular review on the extent and health of GB woodlands, the National Forest Inventory. These will be ready in 2023.

Other key work areas for 2023 include:

- continuing to brief politicians and policymakers on the public benefits shooting provides society while meeting the challenges of the nature and climate crises;
- integrating the benefits of shooting into each home country's 30 by 30 frameworks for delivery;
- influencing the development of agri-environment schemes to make best use of the benefits shooting provides on farmed land for nature recovery; and
- supporting our members to deliver sustainable shooting alongside nature recovery.



CASE STUDY

The natural capital value of shooting

Natural capital is fundamentally the amount of nature we have and what benefits we get from it. It is now at the heart of global and domestic policymaking and BASC is preparing initial accounts to show the value of shooting in these terms.

The natural capital approach uses a number of tools and models to estimate the financial value of our natural resources and the benefits they bring us. This means they can now be factored into public spending and business decisions.

Some government and conservation NGOs have been quietly producing their own 'natural capital accounts' for a few years, listing their environmental assets like woodlands, moorlands and wetlands alongside the benefits we get from them. For example, a woodland provides a range of benefits such as capturing and storing carbon, improving air and water quality, supplying resources like wood for building, and providing us all with a space for recreational activities.

Shooting's fit with the natural capital approach is a close one. Shooting relies on creating and maintaining high value habitat and from this we get wild food, recreation and we help regulate the balance of species. By producing natural capital accounts for shooting, we can better target our advice to members in relation to them and communicate our value in these terms to decision-makers.

Evidence and environmental law

The key to defending sustainable shooting is to broaden our scientific, ecological and legal evidence base to influence policy and law reform and to support the community against legal challenges launched by anti-shooting activists. In 2022 this department's name changed from 'science and research' to 'evidence and environmental law'.

KEY OBJECTIVES

- ◆ Collate scientific and legal evidence to promote policy and law reform to support sustainable shooting and nature conservation.
- ◆ Represent the shooting community in public consultations and calls for evidence by providing scientific, ecological and legal evidence as well as data collected through surveys.
- ◆ Defend the interests of the shooting community in legal challenges launched by activists, and support – where appropriate – litigious consenting work in relation to wildfowling and gamebird releasing.
- ◆ Represent members and shooting nationally and internationally at relevant environmental agreements and work with international partners such as the European Federation for Hunting and Conservation (FACE).

Activity in 2022

Scientific and legal research form the cornerstones of proactive policy and law reform work as well as the defence against legal challenges launched by anti-shooting organisations.

In May 2022, the evidence and environmental law team responded to Defra's Nature Recovery green paper. We welcomed Defra's proposal to focus more on an outcome-based nature protection

framework than the current area-based approach. We also laid out how species protection and the licensing framework could be amended to align better with the Bern Convention and provide appropriately for necessary wildlife management and sustainable shooting. It was pleasing to see that many of the recommendations we made last year in our Habitats Regulations Assessment white paper were truly considered by Lord Benyon's working group and referred to in a supporting document to the Nature Recovery green paper.

We also submitted extensive legal and scientific evidence to the Welsh call for evidence on regulating the release of gamebirds. We submitted an 80-page document highlighting the economic, environmental and social benefits of gamebird shooting as well as the fact that regulations in relation to protected sites, highly pathogenic avian influenza and best practices are already in place and sufficient.

The team has also engaged in legal work to support shooting and shooting-related activities. The year started very positively with a decision by the Court of Appeal to refuse Wild Justice's application for a judicial review of the 2021 Burning Regulations in England. BASC was involved in the proceedings as an interested party, from the High Court to the Court of Appeal.

The team was also involved in continuous legal work in relation to wildlife licences in all home nations as well as consenting issues in relation to wildfowling and gamebird releasing on protected sites. This was not limited to reactive work. We also started to undertake our internal review of the quarry species lists, which will be completed in 2023. We have not only gathered comprehensive ecological data on quarry species, but also developed recommendations for specific action and management for some of these species (see case study).

Looking ahead

Important policy work is already on the horizon for 2023, such as a public consultation on the licensing of gamebird releasing in Wales, a consultation launched by the Office for Environmental Protection on the legal framework around protected sites in England and Northern Ireland, as well as the above-mentioned review of the quarry species lists in England, Wales and Scotland.

We are furthermore identifying areas in the regulatory and legal framework that could be improved to support sustainable shooting and nature conservation and we are on standby for any litigious legal challenges shooting and shooting-related activities might face in 2023.

CASE STUDY

Schedule 2 review

In autumn 2022, we started to undertake an internal evidence review of our gamebird, wildfowl and pest bird species. This work runs in parallel to internal reviews by regulators and enabled us at BASC to develop recommendations for specific action or management of quarry species going forward. Our review gathers evidence on all gamebird, wildfowl and pest bird species, assessing their conservation status alongside the threats and pressures they face.

This work also highlights the role of shooting, if any, in population trends, as well as the conservation action incentivised by shooting. This review not only identifies the gaps in knowledge but also emphasises the need for improved bag records to help understand the sustainability of harvest. We expect that this work will feed into regulator reviews of Schedule 2 in England, Wales and Scotland and provide sound guidance on quarry species listings in both an ecological and shooting context.

IMAGE: SYKES MEDIA/PA

Uplands

On the whole, 2022 was a better year for sustainable grouse shooting than the past few years, with most moors having the opportunity to shoot grouse.

KEY OBJECTIVES

- ◆ Provide technical support and advocacy.
- ◆ Ensure that upland shooting is resilient to change.
- ◆ Tackle raptor persecution, while promoting and supporting sustainable raptor populations.
- ◆ Ensure that grouse moors are viewed as open and accessible landscapes for both shooters and non-shooters.

Activity in 2022

A warm spring with some rain meant the breeding season of 2022 started well, producing good insect populations for chicks to eat. The extremely hot and dry summer did have a negative impact in some areas, with many gamekeepers having to take much-needed water onto the moor to help the wildlife. We sadly broke another record for wildfire occurrences as the vegetation was tinder dry. However, we did not see the huge landscape-scale devastation predicted, as the hard work of the shooting community – reducing fire fuel loads, undertaking site patrols, and educating the public about wildfire risks – paid off.

England also recorded the best breeding hen harrier numbers for over a century, with 119 chicks successfully fledging. This is testament to not only the quality of grouse moor habitats, but also a shift in attitude towards hen harrier conflict. BASC is proud to be supporting hen harrier conservation by contributing £75,000 to

Natural England's hen harrier recovery work. The brood management and hen harrier monitoring project has been a huge success working alongside other shooting organisations and grouse moors.

The Let's Learn Moor upland education project, which is supported by the BASC Legacy Fund, has continued to grow. The project has now provided a free education experience on grouse moors for more than 9,000 children, working alongside 50 partner organisations, all hosted and coordinated by local gamekeepers and led by the local moorland groups. We also welcomed several MPs and councillors to the event in 2022 to ensure that decision makers are aware of the vital role that grouse moors play in creating vibrant local communities, protecting wildlife, and fighting our climate emergency.

BASC has a zero-tolerance stance on any form of bird of prey persecution. It is a key priority for BASC as an organisation to tackle and stop the small minority of individuals within our community committing wildlife crimes. This is reflected in our proactive approach to tackle raptor crimes at both the national and regional level, working in partnership with several stakeholders. This includes sitting on the National Wildlife Crime Unit Bird of Prey Crime Priority Delivery Group, as well as other regional groups focusing on wildlife crimes. All wildlife crime is abhorrent, and we must not allow these incidents to derail the continued conservation success of hen harriers and birds of prey in general.

CASE STUDY

Moorland Chorus

During spring, moorland areas become alive with birdsong of some of the UK's most threatened and iconic birds. BASC took to a grouse moor in Calderdale, West Yorkshire, early one morning to capture the sounds of a grouse moor teeming with life. In 15 minutes, we heard curlews, golden plovers, lapwings, wheatears, and red grouse as they welcomed the dawn of a new day.

The recording, named 'Moorland Chorus', was then made available as a free download and featured in a BASC podcast episode, highlighting not only the array of species on the moors, but also promoting the health and wellbeing benefits of listening to this audio extravaganza. The Moorland Chorus was also played in local care homes so people unable to access these landscapes could listen and reflect on positive memories of the areas they lived and worked in.

BASC worked with local grouse moors and the River Don catchment group to build relationships in South Yorkshire and dispel the myths that moorland management is causing flooding in downstream areas like Doncaster and Sheffield. This community engagement is vital if people are to understand the need for a whole-catchment approach to flood risk and does not allow those against shooting to use grouse shooting as a convenient scapegoat for vulnerable communities dealing with the aftermath of floods.



IMAGE: ISTOCKPHOTO.COM/ANNE COATESY

Wild food

The wild food team works across BASC to ensure shooting's end product is embedded in the association's strategy. It runs the Eat Game campaign and the Eat Game Awards.

KEY OBJECTIVES

- ◆ Promote game meat to the end user.
- ◆ Demonstrate the benefits of game meat to the public.
- ◆ Ensure that game meat is a priority within BASC and the supply chain by promoting best practice.

Activity in 2022

Eat Game went from strength to strength in 2022; the website now features more than 300 businesses that sell game, as well as over 140 recipes. The two annual recipe leaflets, one featuring all species of game and the other focussed on venison, were produced and distributed to 100,000 game dealers, farm shops, butchers and consumers across the UK. The success of the website has meant we have engaged with more consumers about the benefits of game than ever before.

The Eat Game podcast aired a successful series of interviews with leading chefs who talked about how they cook and enjoy game, from our regular game chefs Rachel Green and Tim Maddams to Michelin star chef Glynn Purnell, who also enjoyed a deer stalking trip with us.

Our game promotion has also featured some star names including Tony Singh, Cyrus Todiwala, JB Gill, Simon Wood, Hywel Griffiths and TikTok influencer Poppy Cooks. They worked with us at events including The Game Fair and the BBC Good Food Show Winter.

Eat Game sponsored the Festive Kitchen at the Good Food Show where over the



three days all the cooking demonstrations focussed on game. The post-show survey showed that the audiences went away with the key messages that game meat is low in fat, healthy, delicious and underrated. Throughout the year, we worked alongside The Game Fair team to organise the kitchen theatres at several events, including the Welsh Game Fair and the Northern Shooting Show.

The 'Future Chefs' college project which teaches young cooks all about the field-to-fork journey of game, along with butchery and cooking techniques, has now extended to involve more than 35 colleges. Last year we launched a competition in partnership with Highland Game, tasking young chefs with creating a canapé using venison mince. The winner, Kia Vincent from Fareham College, was invited to serve her canapés – Jamaican-style venison patties – at the Eat Game Awards dinner in London. Kia also won a stalking trip.

In addition to this work, in 2022 we continued to encourage the food industry to use more game meat by sponsoring the British Pie Awards, the Q Guild of Butchers and the Charcuterie Awards.

Looking ahead

The team is working alongside various other organisations to produce the British Quality Wild Venison Assurance Scheme, which aims to increase the traceability of British wild venison and ensure that a set of standards are met throughout the supply chain, from point of shot through to the end of processing. By supporting consumer confidence in this way, we hope to increase venison sales.

The team is also working with BASC country offices to engage in food consultations to encourage people to recognise game as a sustainable and healthy source of meat which has benefits for the countryside and the health of the population.

And, of course, we will be continuing to develop our podcasts and sponsorship of key competitions and events to promote game food to a wider audience.





CASE STUDY

The Eat Game Awards

The 2022 Eat Game Awards winners were announced at a prestigious gala dinner for 250 guests in Paddington, London, hosted by TV presenter Adam Henson. The awards were also attended by Amanda Owen, the Yorkshire Shepherdess.

The Eat Game Awards celebrate businesses and individuals who go the extra mile with wild game. More than 250 businesses were nominated and 10,000 votes cast in the final stage of the awards in 2022.

Each of the eight category winners received a certificate and £1,000 - the latter donated by respective category sponsors. The champion of champions was Billy Wyatt who created the Facebook page Giving up the Game.

The category winners were:

Best restaurant/pub: Kitchen W8

Best chef/cook: Chef Pascal

Best added value: Wyre Pies

Best small retailer: Deer Box Ltd

Best large retailer: Aldi

Best butcher: Hanks' Meat & Game

Best influencer: Billy Wyatt

Best educator: Scotland's Regional Moorland Groups

Education and outreach

The education and outreach team is responsible for the creation and development of initiatives which extend BASC's engagement and participation to new audiences. Well-established programmes such as Young Shots also come under this department's scope.

KEY OBJECTIVES

- ◆ Widen the accessibility and inclusivity of shooting sports by creating channels of entry, with emphasis on underrepresented groups and communities.
- ◆ Develop and coordinate innovative engagement opportunities to enable new audiences to participate in shooting and conservation activities.
- ◆ Engage with educational providers, young people and youth groups to demonstrate the entwined relationship between shooting and conservation.

Activity in 2022

Formerly known as 'pathways to shooting', the department was re-branded as 'education and outreach' to create a recognisable and relatable name which resonates with the audiences we seek to engage with.

BASC continues to lead the way in countryside education in our sector. In March 2022 we set the ambitious target of engaging with 25,000 young people during the year. Not only did we achieve that figure, we smashed it! The breadth of engagement was captured and celebrated through our 'BASC to School' campaign. With audiences ranging from primary school children to university students, young farmers to Young Shots, an impressive 31,776 young people attended events and experiences during the year.

BASC delivered – and will continue to deliver – hands-on, fun, educational and engaging activities for audiences across the UK.

The team led on the delivery of the most interactive show displays that BASC has ever had. At both the Royal Welsh Show and The Game Fair we offered visitors an immersive experience, bringing the outside inside, with the sights, smells and sounds of the countryside. From the foreshore to the moors, our displays had the plant species you would expect to see, taxidermy representing iconic wildlife, and integrated activities and quizzes suitable for everyone.

The team was also involved with BASC's Let's Learn Moor initiative and the International Poacher Jamboree.

Looking ahead

We have begun to support Skills Development Scotland to create a new gamekeeping apprenticeship; development work will begin in early 2023. Replacing the current Modern Apprenticeship, the new apprenticeship will cover all aspects of upland and lowland management including large elements of deer management to suit the needs of estates throughout Scotland. Another curriculum workstream in 2023 will be the T Levels development, working with external partners to ensure we have a sector-approved educational route for those looking towards a career in game and wildlife management.

CASE STUDY

£50,000 in scholarships

Now in its fifth year, BASC's Legacy Funded Scholarship Programme is one part of the BASC Legacy package that helps support people who want to develop their knowledge of conservation, land management or gamekeeping. BASC continues to provide support to young people by removing financial barriers which could otherwise halt their educational journey to their dream career.

Since the programme's launch in 2019, BASC has awarded close to £50,000 in scholarships to students across the country studying a range of courses from diploma level through to master's degree.

Recipients of scholarships in 2022 were Jake Bennett, who is studying a Level 3 Land & Wildlife Technical Baccalaureate at Sparsholt College, and Jensen Collingwood who is studying a BSc (Hons) Aquaculture and Fishery Management, also at Sparsholt.

On receiving the scholarship, Jensen said, "I am overwhelmed by BASC's support. As part of a family that has always supported the great work the association does in both conservation and shooting backgrounds, it's amazing to have the opportunity to work with BASC further as I continue my studies."



BASC in your area

BASC's regional and country teams advise and assist members with a wide range of enquiries. They are key to building relationships with partner organisations at local, regional and national levels, and organise and host hundreds of events to inform and educate shooters and non-shooters.

In England...

In 2022 we saw shooting activities and membership engagement begin creeping back toward pre-Covid levels. Over the year the team undertook 273 shoot briefings, held 75 events involving political guests and dealt with over 10,000 enquires through the regional and firearms teams.

The rise in avian influenza (AI) cases across Europe had an impact on the availability of gamebird eggs, particularly from France, while prices in general rose due to the cost-of-living crisis. This combination of challenges impacted game shoots, with some unable to buy birds and others releasing fewer. Fears of nationwide restrictions on shooting activities did not occur, as AI updates and advice became a vital component of shoot briefings.

BASC submitted a comprehensive response to the UK REACH restriction dossier consisting of 280 pages along with four technical reports. We hosted more than 3,000 people at sustainable ammunition events and gave out over 100,000 *Moving away from lead ammunition* booklets.

The BASC presence at The Game Fair was a huge success in all areas. Our main stand featured interactive displays showcasing the association's work. Our shotgun coaches delivered 430 lessons and 650 people visited the BASC airgun range; we ran 1,000 scurries; and we signed up 220 members. We also entertained more than 30 political guests and hosted HRH The Princess Royal for lunch.

In Wales...

With business returning to normal in 2022, the team was busy engaging with members, trade members and suppliers across the country. We delivered a full programme of events throughout the year where we introduced new audiences of all ages to different types of shooting. We enjoyed a busy show season, attending the Smallholding and Countryside Festival, Pembrokeshire Show and Royal Welsh Show among others. We fully supported the first GWCT Game Fair, with a trade stand presence, a 'have a go' airgun line and a food area which featured celebrity chefs.

The primary focus remained on political strategy and engaging with newly appointed Senedd members and MPs from all parties, whom we met regularly either face to face or online. We attended the Welsh Labour, Plaid Cymru and Welsh Conservative party conferences where we met various politicians and stakeholders to promote BASC's work and highlight key issues important to our members. We've responded to various Welsh Government consultations and resumed the role of secretariat for the Cross-Party Group for Shooting and Conservation.

On the food front, we delivered the Game Meat Wales project and successfully launched the Welsh Game Meat Guide at the Royal Welsh Show. We also hosted a sponsored, game-themed evening at the Senedd, worked with various colleges and taught students how to prepare and cook game meat. This work complemented a full programme of wild food evenings across the country.

A successful conclusion to a shared outcomes partnership programme between BASC and NRW, 'Woodland Resilience: Deer and Grey Squirrel Management' was another highlight of 2022. We hope to develop future projects and continue as the lead advisory body to NRW in these areas. We chaired the Wales Squirrel Forum, expanded our duck nest tube project and built hundreds of bird boxes in our Young Shots events.

We continued to foster good working partnerships and engagement with the Welsh police forces, liaised and supported Wales' Rural Crime Teams, and delivered continued professional training days to numerous police staff.

In Scotland...

The hoped-for return to a 'normal' game shooting season in the autumn was impacted by a shortage of eggs and chicks due to AI. There was concern that Scotland, being at the end of the export chain, would be hit harder than elsewhere in GB but that did not appear to be the case. Many shoots had no birds, or reduced numbers, but overall the season was successful, even with the increased cost of wheat and poults.

We started the year with another call for restrictions on wildfowling on the Solway. This was due to the deaths of many thousands of Svalbard barnacle geese, but we were able to demonstrate that the voluntary restraint shown by local and visiting 'fowlers meant that statutory restrictions were not necessary.

This issue arose again on Findhorn Bay in November, after the deaths of a number of pink-footed geese, as well as waders and gulls. We did not support the calls for restriction.

The rest of the year was characterised by the return of face-to-face meetings, including a very enjoyable Gamekeepers' Day at Blair Castle, the Royal Highland Show, Scottish Game Fair and Highland Field Sports Fair. At the two fairs we were able to bring back the ever-popular Junior Macnab, in conjunction with the Scottish Youth and Countryside Education Trust. Almost 200 young people enjoyed free access to shotgun and air rifle shooting as well as fly casting.

Political work was dominated by the Hunting with Dogs (Scotland) Bill, in particular the need to ensure that

rough shooting and field trials remained unaffected. We worked closely with the Kennel Club and others, providing evidence to the Rural Affairs Committee, with written briefings and a specially produced video. Looking ahead to the forthcoming Wildlife Management (Grouse) Bill, we also met two ministers on grouse moors in Angus and Perthshire and lobbied for the retention of snaring, which is of particular importance on moorland.

Finally, the fatal shooting of John MacKinnon (a BASC member) on Skye in August led to the Scottish Affairs Committee in Westminster undertaking an enquiry into firearms licensing. We were able to give evidence to this committee and we are currently awaiting their recommendations.

In Northern Ireland...

The lack of a functioning assembly as a result of issues with the Northern Ireland Protocol, has made our job of holding government bodies to account much harder. Nevertheless, in 2022 we worked hard to maintain good working relationships with elected representatives across most political parties.

Throughout the year we provided the highest level of member representation, particularly on firearms related issues. Our success in this area is widely recognised, as BASC remains the 'go-to' organisation on such matters.

BASC continued to chair the Northern Ireland Firearms Representative Group (NIFRG).

Formed in May 2021, the NIFRG is an umbrella body which brings together,

for the first time, all the national and local shooting and countryside organisations under one banner.

Working with NIFRG partners, we applied significant pressure to the Police Service of Northern Ireland's Firearms and Explosives Branch (FEB) in an effort to improve protracted firearms application processing times. This culminated in PSNI declaring a 'critical incident' within FEB, a situation which attracted the attention of the press and the NI Policing Board, who have a statutory duty to ensure an effective and efficient service.

We ran the Northern Ireland Assembly Election campaign website, which members used to lobby election candidates in the run-up to May's NI Assembly Election and ascertain their views on sporting shooting.

We worked closely with Department of Agriculture Economy and Rural Affairs (DAERA) officials and the NI game sector to successfully navigate our way through the AI outbreak.

The team responded to numerous government consultations, too, which included a lengthy and detailed response to the consultation on general licences that permit the killing or taking of wild birds for specific purposes.

And finally, we ran several very successful Young Shots activity days, two DSC1 courses and an Intermediate Deer Course at Baronscourt Estate, plus a schedule of pop-up events where we were kindly hosted by firearms dealers, which gave us the opportunity to provide advice and guidance to members across a wide range of issues.

Legacy-funded project activity

It is thanks to the generosity of members who have remembered the association in their wills that, during 2022, BASC's Legacy Fund was used to support important projects that helped to secure the future of shooting.

The key areas that we use the Legacy Fund for include:

- ◆ work that brings young people into shooting and educates children about shooting and country sports;
- ◆ conservation work to safeguard our rural heritage and to demonstrate how shooting is such an important component in preserving our landscapes and native wildlife;
- ◆ work to increase opportunities to go shooting; and
- ◆ political work to safeguard our continued ability to shoot.

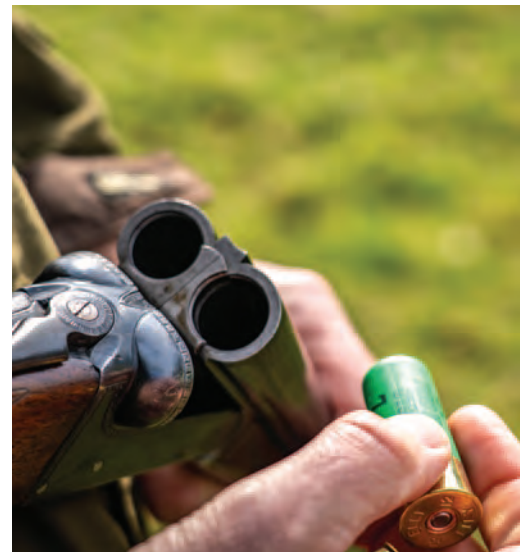
In 2022, legacy funding was used to help support:

- ◆ the BASC Legacy Scholarship Programme 2022;
- ◆ the Let's Learn Moor initiative 2022;
- ◆ sustainable ammunition days;
- ◆ PhD research into gamebird releasing;
- ◆ a woodcock survey in Northern Ireland;
- ◆ the production of conservation films;
- ◆ the duck nest tube project;
- ◆ Value of Shooting research;
- ◆ the development of the Countryside Classrooms project in lowland areas;
- ◆ deer stalking training manual development; and
- ◆ Natural England's hen harrier recovery work.

To find out more or to leave a legacy, please visit basc.org.uk/support-us/leave-a-legacy



IMAGE: MOORLAND ASSOCIATION



BASC's financial position at the end of 2022

The group's statements of comprehensive income and financial position are laid out here. The group includes the association and its subsidiary, BASC Direct Limited. The British Association for Shooting and Conservation Limited is a registered society, no. 28488R.

A full copy of the report of the Executive and Finance Committee and financial statements for the year ending 31 December 2022 is available on the BASC website (basc.org.uk/financial-report). Hard copies are available by post. In order to receive a hard copy, please contact BASC reception on 01244 573 000.

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

	Notes	2022 £	2021 £
Turnover	4	12,748,239	12,330,385
Gross surplus		12,748,239	12,330,385
Administrative expenses		(12,368,623)	(11,660,685)
Other operating income	5	703,364	–
Fair value movements		(688,441)	314,456
Operating surplus	6	394,539	984,156
Interest receivable and similar income	9	17,880	620
Surplus before taxation		412,419	984,776
Tax on surplus	10	108,037	(43,935)
Surplus for the financial year		520,456	940,841
Deficit on impairment/revaluation of tangible fixed assets		(301,914)	–
Other comprehensive income for the year		(301,914)	–
Total comprehensive income for the year		218,542	940,841

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2022

	Notes	2022		2021	
		£	£	£	£
GROUP					
Fixed Assets					
Intangible assets	11		41,283		51,311
Tangible assets	12		2,038,203		2,476,153
Heritage assets	14		481,736		481,745
			<u>2,561,222</u>		<u>3,009,209</u>
Current Assets					
Stocks	15	9,582		9,677	
Debtors: amounts falling due within one year	16	3,290,043		2,298,176	
Current asset investments	17	8,085,638		8,774,348	
Cash at bank and in hand	18	5,938,957		5,454,124	
			<u>17,324,220</u>		<u>16,536,325</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	19	(8,094,158)		(7,907,915)	
Net Current Assets			9,230,062		8,628,410
Total assets less current liabilities			<u>11,791,284</u>		<u>11,637,619</u>
Deferred taxation	20	–		(64,877)	
					(64,877)
Net assets			<u>11,791,284</u>		<u>11,572,742</u>
Capital and reserves					
Revaluation reserve	22	915,481		1,217,395	
Legacy fund	22	590,327		418,263	
Fighting fund	22	550,262		587,656	
Trust funds	22	703,364		–	
Accumulated fund	22	718,284		718,284	
Profit and loss account	22	8,313,566		8,631,144	
			<u>11,791,284</u>		<u>11,572,742</u>

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