

## UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity

11<sup>th</sup> February 2026

Dear sir,

I wish to write in support of Wildfowling in the United Kingdom being added to the list of activities considered as part of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

I am myself a Wildfowler and have been involved in this activity since my teenage years in East Anglia.

Having been brought up in a working-class rural household and community, this activity was closely bound as both a practical source of quality food and a social cohesion between those we lived and worked alongside.

Wildfowling like other pursuits built a firm foundation and knowledge of the countryside for both the birds we pursued and the greater fauna and flora surrounding us, it shaped and nurtured a love of nature in me as this knowledge was passed down from older generations and learnt over time.

I continue to pass on this knowledge when I can in the same way. Those who Wildfowl are following a traditional activity whilst pursuing a valuable and sustainable source of natural food. In addition, we are immersing ourselves in the natural world around us hunting our food with authentic values and restraint.

Wildfowlers respect and value wildfowl and the environment in which they live. The benefits to the individuals involved are many ranging from a grounding sense of enjoyment when in the natural environment to the sense of belonging within the local and wider social group of wildfowlers.

As a younger man my involvement developed me to interact more easily with people from varying ages and backgrounds shaping me into the person I am today. Many of my friendships and social activities are closely linked or initiated from Wildfowling and shooting.

It would be a loss to wildfowlers and future generations if Wildfowling was ever restricted. The wildfowl would also lose in my opinion their greatest

advocate as Wildfowlers are uniquely focused on them through a symbiotic relationship.

Yours faithfully,

David Stranks

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UK