



# Deer Management Scheme

## **Isle of Arran**

Information Booklet 2018/19

## **BASC Deer Management Scheme – Isle of Arran**

The Arran Deer Management scheme is open to all BASC members who are in possession of their own stalking rifle and hold DSC level 1 and also hold or are registered for DSC level 2. Members are given the opportunity to stalk red deer (there are only red deer on the island) unaccompanied in a commercial forestry environment. The scheme is designed to provide practical follow-on experience for those who have completed the DSC level 1.

**Stalking on Arran is a mixture of open hill and commercial forestry, hence the terrain can be arduous and physically demanding. Stalkers should ensure that they have a sufficient level of fitness and are not suffering from any medical condition which may endanger their own safety or restrict the activities of their stalking partner.**

The stalking area is extensive and is located on the southern half of the Isle of Arran, which is situated in the Firth of Clyde west of Ardrossan. Travel to Arran is facilitated by taking the Caledonian MacBrayne passenger/car ferry from Ardrossan to Brodick, which runs 4 times daily in both directions during the winter period.

All stalking, which takes place as part of the scheme is under the overall supervision of a co-ordinator who will supervise the briefing, deployment of stalkers and conduct of all culling operations. The co-ordinator is a qualified assessor/approved witness for the DSC level 2 and the scheme therefore offers members some limited opportunity to obtain evidence towards the DSC level 2. The co-ordinator is principally there as a safety supervisor and can only provide witness evidence for DSC level 2 if his primary duties allow. **It is emphasised that this scheme is not a DSC level 2 course.**

### **Dates for the 2018-19 season**

#### **Stag Weeks**

- Stag 1 – Monday 17<sup>th</sup> - Friday 21<sup>st</sup> September 2018
- Stag 2 - Monday 24<sup>th</sup> - Friday 28<sup>th</sup> September 2018
- Stag 3 - Monday 1<sup>st</sup> - Friday 5<sup>th</sup> October 2018
- Stag 4 - Monday 8<sup>th</sup> - Friday 12<sup>th</sup> October 2018

#### **Hind Weeks**

- Hind 1 - Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> - Friday 26<sup>th</sup> October 2018
- Hind 2 - Monday 7<sup>th</sup> - Friday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2019
- Hind 3 - Monday 21<sup>st</sup> - Friday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2019
- Hind 4 - Monday 4<sup>th</sup> - Friday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2019

## **STALKING PROCEDURES**

The stalking lease covers a vast area and is divided up in to a number of widely dispersed beats in order to accommodate multiple stalkers. The BASC scheme co-ordinator has the overall responsibility for all stalkers attending the scheme with assistance from the Forest Enterprise Scotland (FES) wildlife ranger. Both of these co-ordinators are very experienced stalkers and they will each have an ATV to assist with extraction of deer carcasses.

Participating stalkers are paired off and two people will stalk together on their allocated beat in order to provide a measure of safety if an injury or illness occurs and also to enable the initial extraction of the very large red deer that are resident within the woodlands on Arran. At all times there will only ever be one rifle loaded and in use within each pair of stalkers and the loaded rifle will always be carried by the person who takes the lead. The lead stalker will continually ensure that his rifle is always pointed in a safe direction and the stalkers will take turns at leading with the rifle. A more detailed safety briefing will take place prior to outings in the field.

## **RIFLES AND AMMUNITION**

It is essential that anyone who intends to take advantage of the scheme has a basic knowledge of deer stalking and is confident / proficient in using their rifle in field conditions. Practice is therefore essential! Potential stalkers should have taken the time to practice live firing from the sitting, standing and kneeling positions using a stick or other support. Before stalkers are allowed onto their beat they will be required to demonstrate that their rifle is zeroed by putting 3 shots in a 4" group at 100 metres. Stalkers who cannot achieve this will not be permitted to stalk live quarry.

Rifles and ammunition must comply with the Scottish legislation for shooting red deer:

**Not less than 100-grain bullet weight**

**Not less than 1750 ft lbs muzzle energy**

**Not less than 2450 fps muzzle velocity**

**Ammunition that is designed to deform in a predictable manner**

**All rifles must be prepared and zeroed prior to arrival on the programme.**

The Co-ordinator may have up to 14 stalkers (in 7 pairs) to supervise and he cannot spend a protracted amount of time trying to sort out rifles that have not been properly prepared for the scheme. It would be prudent to bring enough ammunition to cover all eventualities that might occur over the five days.

The nearest gun shop is in Ardrossan and problems caused by lack of maintenance or preparation of firearms will necessitate a return ferry trip to the mainland. In addition, if not enough ammunition is brought; Ardrossan will be the closest source.

The Arran scheme involves stalking over demanding terrain in a climate where the weather can change for the worse in an instant. Anyone considering participating should be aware of the challenging nature of managing deer under these conditions and should be physically capable of taking part. During warmer periods midges will be prevalent and all participants will need to be prepared with repellents and/or head nets.

A full synchronisation and safety briefing will be undertaken prior to commencing stalking operations. Each pair of participants will be issued a safety pack containing such items as a two-way radio, marked maps and an emergency strobe light etc. The BASC scheme allows members to cull any deer on the cull plan that is in season. The choice of individual animals to be culled will be at the discretion of the stalker and there will be no additional trophy fees for male animals.

The scheme coordinators main role is to ensure participant safety and to ensure all activities are conducted to current best practice. The coordinators are also there to offer advice and guidance to participants attending the scheme. Participants are encouraged to contact them at an early stage if they are struggling to find deer or have any other concerns relating to the scheme.

While all arrangements for a satisfactory outing will be made in good faith, BASC can give no guarantees that deer will be encountered.

**Stag programmes will cost £410 for 8 outings, and Hinds will cost £260 for 8 outings.** These fees are exceptionally competitive and are a unique BASC membership benefit.

If any stalker wishes to take venison home with them, then it can be purchased through the FCS ranger at the private sales rate.

## **TIMINGS & PROGRAMME**

All participants are required to be at the meeting point at the Arran Sports Association Hall, Shore Road, Brodick. KA27 8DA on the first day. A map, directions and time of the meeting will be provided by BASC.

**The programme for a typical event is likely to be as follows:**

### **Day prior to start**

**PM** – Majority of participants will arrive on the island

### **First day**

**AM** – Participants meet at briefing venue

**AM** – Briefing and issue of safety equipment

**AM** – Move to range – check zero rifles

**AM** – Walk beat areas

**PM** – Stalking under co-ordinator supervision

**Last light** – Carcasses located and marked for morning extraction if necessary, check-in with co-ordinator and return to accommodation

### **Middle days of programme**

**1st light** – Check-out with co-ordinator. Stalking in pairs

**AM** – Recover carcasses to larder

Change over and walk new beat area if necessary

**PM** – Check-in with co-ordinator. Stalking in pairs

**Last light** – carcasses located and marked for morning extraction if necessary, check-in with co-ordinator and return to accommodation

### **Final day**

**1st light** – Check-out with co-ordinator. Stalking in pairs

**AM** – Recover carcasses to larder

Pick up any venison required under larder sales

Return to FC office for debrief / feedback and return safety kit

**PM** – Disperse and return to mainland

## OTHER FEES

Stalkers are expected to arrive with their rifles zeroed and the programme cannot cater for protracted delays to allow for rifles to be adjusted. Before stalkers are allowed onto their beat they will be required to demonstrate that their rifle is zeroed by putting 3 shots in a 4" group at 100 metres. Stalkers who cannot achieve this will not be permitted to stalk live quarry. A penalty fee of £50.00 may be charged for any deer missed or wounded.

Accommodation options on the island are numerous and should easily cater for all tastes and budgets.

## GENERAL CONDITIONS

**A permit authorises the holder to shoot specified deer on BASC leased ground on certain dates. Stalking will be by agreement with the BASC Game and Deer Department. The permit will only be valid for the period booked and will be forfeited if not exercised within that period.**

The Permit Holder will be required to:

- a. read conditions and complete booking form;
- b. give notice as detailed within the cancellation policy. A refund will only be provided where the place can be reallocated and an administration fee for legitimate and unavoidable cancellations will then apply;
- c. comply at all times with any instructions issued by the co-ordinator;
- d. use a rifle and expanding ammunition of not less than 100grain bullet weight which produces a muzzle energy of not less than 1750 foot pounds and a muzzle velocity of not less than 2450 feet per second. The ammunition must be designed to expand in a predictable manner;
- e. fire a group of sighting shots – on request – at a range and accuracy to the satisfaction of the co-ordinator or other authorised person;
- f. produce – for inspection on request by the co-ordinator or other authorised person – a valid Firearms Certificate and proof of current membership of BASC (which gives third party insurance cover with an indemnity limit of £10,000,000 legal liability) and proof of holding a game meat handling qualification;
- g. indemnify BASC against any loss, injury or damage;
- h. shoot any injured or diseased deer that may be encountered;
- i. all shots fired must be notified immediately to the supervisor who will make the final decision on any follow up action required;
- j. stop stalking if a deer is wounded, until it has been despatched or otherwise accounted for to the supervisors satisfaction
- k. ensure that he/she does not shoot from any vehicle or by artificial light;
- l. pay to BASC fees as set out on the attached advisory paper by the times stipulated;
- m. note that the carcass is the property of the Forestry Commission. Weight and other measurements of interest will be recorded officially. The Permit Holder may purchase the venison at the current market price and make their own arrangements for its removal;
- n. note that while all arrangements for a satisfactory outing will be made in good faith, BASC can give no guarantees that deer will be encountered;

- o. note that BASC reserve the right to suspend or withdraw a Permit at any time and its decision in any matters arising from the granting of a Permit will be final;
- p. note that BASC reserves the right to vary all conditions, dates and charges without notice.
- q. this stalking opportunity is solely for the benefit of BASC members and permits may not be bought and resold for any commercial purpose or for financial gain. BASC reserves the right to cancel or withdraw without recompense; any permit which the Deer Management team believes may have breached this condition.

## **CANCELLATION POLICY**

### **Please note carefully before making a booking**

Full payment must be forwarded with any application for a permit.

If a permit is cancelled then BASC will endeavour to reallocate the permit but if this is not possible, then the following scale of charges will apply:

- Reallocation of permit by BASC at any stage – admin fee of £30.00
- More than 8 weeks before start of permit - admin fee of £30.00
- Less than 8 weeks but more than 4 weeks before start of permit - 30% of permit fee
- Less than 4 weeks but more than 2 weeks before start of permit - 60% of permit fee
- Less than 2 weeks before start of permit - 100% of permit fee

## **INSURANCE**

BASC operates a cancellation charging scheme and it would be prudent to consider an insurance policy to cover cancellations due to unforeseen eventualities. Members should ensure that the 'holiday element' is covered by separate insurance cover and should inform any potential insurer that the 'shooting element' is covered under BASC membership.

## **VEHICLES**

A 4x4 vehicle is not essential but as forest tracks will be used some of the time, it can be an advantage. The lease does not allow participants to use quad bikes or similar all-terrain vehicles and they should not be brought to the scheme.

## **HOW TO MAKE A BOOKING**

Bookings will only be taken from 10am 30<sup>th</sup> April 2018 by calling the Game and Deer department direct and will be on a first come first served basis to ensure fairness. Those interested in booking must contact the Game and Deer Management team by phone (01244 573019) to confirm availability. Please note that messages or calls received before this time will

not be processed. Card payments over the phone and cheques sent in by post are both accepted.

**BASC reserves the right to cancel any booking at any time at which point a full refund of the outing fee will be made. BASC will not be liable for any other costs incurred by the member in booking the outing.**

**BASC cannot accept responsibility for delays or inconvenience caused by cancelled or re-scheduled ferries due to adverse weather conditions or any other reason.**

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