



BASC Deer Management Scheme

Hockwold Thetford

Scheme Information

INTRODUCTION

The BASC Hockwold Deer Management scheme is open to all BASC members and the scheme is designed to provide practical experience for stalkers of all levels of experience and ability.

The scheme also has an “estate rifle” facility which provides the opportunity for complete novices and beginners to go out on their first stalks under the supervision of an experienced deer manager.

An area of 962 hectares at Hockwold, part of Thetford Forest on the Suffolk/Norfolk border is licensed exclusively to BASC permit holders. The area consists of a mosaic of mature and newly planted blocks of conifer and is relatively flat. Under the scheme participants will have the opportunity to stalk Roe, Fallow and Muntjac deer throughout the relevant seasons to each species.

All stalking activities which take place as part of the scheme are under the direct supervision of a coordinator.

STALKING PROCEDURES

Accompanied Stalking / Deer Stalking Certificate (DSC) Level 2 Witnessing

All stalking is accompanied by the scheme coordinator.

For those who are considering or have completed the DSC 1, the scheme offers the chance to gain more experience under expert supervision, and for those working towards DSC 2, it offers the chance to make witnessed stalks for assessment. An accompanied stalk may be made up of a foot stalk, high seat or a combination of the two.

For an accompanied stalk a fee of £125 is charged for each outing regardless of the number of animals culled. This fee is not refundable if no deer are shot.

Unaccompanied High Seat Outings

There will be some limited opportunity for those members holding DSC 2 to participate in unaccompanied high seat sessions. These sessions will be under the direct supervision and control of the coordinator.

For an unsupervised high seat outing a fee of £90 is charged for each outing regardless of the number of animals culled. This fee is not refundable if no deer are shot.

Group Cull events

There is limited opportunity for those members holding DSC 2 to participate in Group Cull events. A single event can accommodate up to eight stalkers and will comprise of two stalking outings over two days. The first will be a PM outing on the afternoon/evening of the first day followed by an AM outing the following morning. All stalkers will be positioned in a high seat unaccompanied.

For a Group Cull event a fee of £145 is charged for each 2-session outing regardless of the number of animals culled. This fee is not refundable if no deer are shot.

All scheme participants will be briefed by the co-ordinator before heading out on to the ground with a detailed safety briefing.

Before stalkers are taken out by the coordinator they will be required to demonstrate that their rifle is zeroed by putting 3 shots into a 4 inch group at 100 metres. Subsequent bookings made will not require a shooting test but participants must ensure their rifles are zeroed.

Stalkers should ensure that their rifle is zeroed before coming on the scheme as those who cannot achieve the 4 inch group will not be permitted to stalk live quarry. Members using the “estate rifle” will have the opportunity to familiarise themselves with the rifle before taking the shooting test. The “estate rifle” is a moderated .308 and can be used for all species of deer.

ADDITIONAL FEES

There are no additional trophy fees for Roe, Fallow or Muntjac, which makes the charges for the scheme very competitive.

There will be an option to buy venison from BASC at the current market price.

GENERAL CONDITIONS

A permit authorises the holder to shoot specified deer over a part of a particular forest on a certain date. Stalking will be by agreement with and at times convenient to the coordinator or his delegated representative. The permit will only be valid for the season/date booked and will be forfeited if not exercised within that period.

The wearing of DPM or military style patterned clothing is not allowed whilst participating in the BASC Hockwold stalking scheme.

- a) Only factory ammunition will be accepted. No home loads are to be used. All rifles must be fitted with sound moderators.

The permit holder will be required to:

- b) Give notice as detailed within the cancellation policy.
- c) In the case of novice and DSC1 holders, be accompanied by, and act under the direction of the scheme coordinator;
- d) Use a moderated rifle of a calibre not less than .243 inches and soft or hollow-nosed bullets with a published muzzle energy of not less than 1,700 foot pounds;
- e) Fire on request, a group of sighting shots, at a range and accuracy to the satisfaction of the supervising stalker or other authorised person;
- f) Produce, for inspection on request by the coordinator or other authorised person, a valid Firearms Certificate (unless using the "Estate" rifle facility) and proof of current membership of BASC (which gives third party insurance cover with an indemnity limit of £10,000,000 legal liability);
- g) Indemnify BASC against any loss, injury or damage;
- h) Note that shooting from any moving vehicle or by artificial light is prohibited;
- i) Note that if a deer is wounded, stalking will stop until it has been despatched or otherwise accounted for;
- j) Note that the carcass is the property of BASC. Weight and other measurements of interest will be recorded officially. The permit holder may purchase the venison at the current market price outlined by the coordinator and make their own arrangements for its removal;
- k) Note that while all arrangements for a satisfactory outing will be made in good faith, BASC can give no guarantees that deer will be encountered and/or shot;
- l) 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;
- m) Note that BASC reserves the right to vary these conditions and charges without notice;
- n) This stalking opportunity is solely for the benefit of BASC members and permits may not be bought or resold for any commercial purpose or for financial gain. BASC

reserves the right to cancel or withdraw without recompense: any permit which the Game and Deer Management team believes may have breached this condition

- o) Comply with best practice guidance at all times.

CANCELLATION POLICY

Please note carefully before making a booking

Full payment must be made at the time of booking. The relevant application and letter confirming the booking will be sent out once payment has been received.

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:

- 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

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.

INSURANCE

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

The stalking area is relatively flat with good access from public roads. Vehicles are only permitted within the stalking area with prior authorisation of the coordinators. The lease does not allow participants to use quad bikes or similar all-terrain vehicles and they should not be brought to the scheme.

DOGS

Participants who wish to bring dogs with them must seek prior permission from BASC. The scheme co-ordinator will have access to a deer dog if required.

For Further Information
Please contact:

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