Introduction

Shooting has long been used as a method for managing some problematic wildlife populations, but must be carried out in a responsible, humane and controlled manner. Without complete control it can have a negative impact on wildlife conservation, but when used effectively, it can contribute to improvements in biodiversity. In many cases the survival of some vulnerable species can rely on the control of predators through shooting. Dartington does not run commercial shooting activities. The small-scale practices employed and outlined in this policy are for environmental management purposes. Dartington is committed to acting as a responsible landowner and good neighbour.

Dartington Policy

- Shooting is only allowed on the Dartington Hall Estate, by authorised personnel who have been issued a shooting permit.

- Only specific species are to be managed through shooting. These species are to be determined by the Estate Manager and Property Director.

Dartington Code of Practice

- All personnel undertaking shooting on the Estate to do so with the permission of the Trust’s Estate Manager.

- Only the following species to be shot: wood pigeon, rabbits, grey squirrel, rats, deer; personnel to refer to species management plans prior to undertaking shooting.

- Lead free shot to be used whenever possible.

- All personnel are required to hold a Shotgun or Firearm license as appropriate.

- A list of all personnel authorised to shoot on the estate to be kept on record by Property Maintenance and reviewed annually.

- All shooting to take place on foot and never from a vehicle.

- Personnel undertaking shooting are responsible for disposal of all ammunition and other related debris (pellets, cartridges, shot).

- The estate will seek as far as possible to re-use the carcass and by-products of the animals culled.

- No clay pigeon shooting to be undertaken on the estate.
LAND USE POLICY
SHOOTING

- All shooting activities to be monitored by the Estate, Conservation and Gardens team to ensure only listed species are shot.

- Public safety is paramount and it is the responsibility of the authorised individual who is shooting to ensure public safety at all times, with no shooting to take place in the vicinity of people.

- Any non DHT employee who shoots on the estate should be covered by Public Liability insurance with a minimum limit of 2 million and this cover should be checked annually.

- The generic DHT risk assessment for shooting should be reviewed by the Health, Safety Manager at the time of policy review.

- Inform and educate members of the public on the policy guidelines where appropriate.

Current Legislation

- The Firearms (Amendment) Regulations 2010
- All species of gull are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. “This makes it illegal to intentionally recklessly injure or kill any gull or damage or destroy an active nest or in contents. However, the law recognises that in certain circumstances control measures may be necessary. Simple nuisance or minor damage to property are not legally sanctioned reasons to kill gulls. The UK administrations can issue licenses, permitting nests to be destroyed or even birds to be killed if there is no non-lethal solution, and if it is done to prevent serious damage to agriculture, the spread of disease, to preserve public health and safety and air safety, or to conserve other wild birds.”

Policy Review

Policy is to be reviewed every two years by the Estate Manager, unless new legislation is enforced, at which time an immediate review will be undertaken. Dartington reserves the right to modify and implement this policy at any time.

Contacts

- Dartington Hall Trust Property Maintenance
  01803 847036

- Dartington Hall Trust Property Management
  01803 847024

- Dartington Security
Copies of the Policy to be held by the following DHT departments:

- Property Maintenance
- Conservation
- Property Management
- Grounds and Gardens
- Security
- Tenant Farmer

Cross reference to other Dartington documents

- Dartington shooting risk assessment
- Dartington grey squirrel policy
- Dartington deer policy

References

The British Association for Shooting and Conservation Code of Good Practice
http://www.basc.org.uk/content/codeofgoodshootingpractic

Legislation.gov.uk