

CONSERVATION AND COMMUNITY



Giving back

Since 2017, the Estates' Annual Clay Shoot has raised more than £150,000 for charity. Hosted in the grounds of Wykeham Abbey, with the shooting taking place all across the Estate. Each year the total is divided between the Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust - the permanent beneficiary, and a different local charity being - Scarborough and Ryedale Mountain Rescue, St Catherine's Hospice, Support Dogs and Ryedale Special Families. The date for next year's Charity Clay Shoot is Thursday 25 May 2023 and the charity will be Support Dogs.

To book a team please email:
james.stephenson@dawnay.co.uk

Waste not, want not



With a low fat / low cholesterol / high protein composition, pheasant and partridge meat is an increasingly popular ingredient for professional and amateur chefs alike. Passing the British Game Assurance audit means the Estates' game holds the equivalent of the 'Red Tractor' level of quality. Meat not used in the shoot lunches goes to game dealers such as the Lincolnshire Game Company and Shardale who supply pubs, restaurants and supermarkets nationwide. Game sausages and burgers will also feature on the autumn menus of the two in-house cafes on the Estate.



A new era



As part of an industry wide transition, this season our Wykeham shoot is switching to non-lead cartridges. We also ensure that the used cartridges don't go to waste. H&M Recycling on the Yorkshire Wolds separate the metal and plastic components - the plastic is extruded into drainage pipes and the metal recycled.



Taking a native species under our wing

Part of the shoot revenue goes into Estate conservation projects such as re-establishing a wild population of Grey Partridge, a native bird under threat from loss of habitat.

"We incubate around 200 eggs a year, then release the juvenile birds into a quiet area on the Estate. If possible, we foster them onto a barren pair without chicks. They are fiercely maternal and usually integrate the young birds into their territory, boosting their chance of survival."

2022 has seen several families of wild Grey Partridge raise their chicks and flourish.

**PHEASANT SHOOT
WYKEHAM
1ST NOVEMBER 2022**



Covering all the bases



The Estate invests heavily in growing crops such as maize, chicory, kale, mustard and specialist wild bird cover and pollinator mixes. This provides invaluable permanent cover, seeds and insects not only for gamebirds but other species including songbirds. In the most recent biodiversity assessment by the Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust, the Estate achieved top marks in all categories for these efforts. Importantly we continue to supplementary feed beyond the shooting season to ensure native birds are fed through to spring.



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BEHIND THE SCENES OF A DAY'S SHOOTING

Shooting plays a major but often overlooked role in boosting rural economies, providing jobs and promoting countryside management. This newsletter focuses on the positive impacts the Estates' grouse, pheasant and partridge shoots have on our corner of North Yorkshire.

Almost five million acres of land in the UK is actively managed for conservation as a result of shooting, a fifth of this land being managed grouse moors. This year, the Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust (GWCT) commissioned a wide-ranging report on managed grouse moors, (Sustaining eco systems – English grouse moors). It found they reduce the risk of wildfire, create internationally important wildlife habitats whilst acting as a huge carbon sink via extensive peat reserves. This autumn issue shares some of the Dawnay Estates' conservation projects from bolstering native species to mitigating climate change.

Shooting is estimated to be worth £2 billion a year to the UK economy and provides the equivalent of 74,000 full-time jobs. On a local level, as well as supporting the immediate biodiversity, the associated spin-offs from grouse shooting in the North of England is worth at least £15 million a year. This benefits a huge range of businesses from hospitality to transport, many based in remote rural areas. We hope you enjoy reading about the benefits the Dawnay Estates' shoots bring to both Danby and Wykeham.

Hellos



St Helens in The Park
Congratulations to Simon Roe, who has been promoted to Manager and welcomes to Louise Wilson, office manager, plus groundsmen Mick Smith and Tony Fletcher.



Maintenance Department
Welcome to Michael Day who became our Property Maintenance Manager in May and Paul Gray who has joined the maintenance team.

CALENDAR Save the Date

**St Catherine's Hospice
Festive 5K
11th Dec 2022**

**Wykeham Charity
Clay Shoot
Thur 25th May 2023**

GROUSE SHOOT
DANBY MOOR
25TH AUGUST 2022

“THOUSANDS OF HOURS ARE SPENT CONSERVING THE HEATHER AT DANBY. WITHOUT THIS CONTINUED MAINTENANCE THE MOORS WOULD SOON BE OVERRUN BY BRACKEN”

“IN ADDITION TO THE 1,500 FULL TIME POSTS, GROUSE SHOOTING SUPPORTS TENS OF THOUSANDS OF SMALL RURAL BUSINESSES”

“OVER £50 MILLION IS SPENT ANNUALLY IN ENGLAND, ON GROUSE MOOR LAND MANAGEMENT”

THE TEAM
BEHIND
THE TEAM

This photo represents those typically involved in a days grouse shooting – either directly or indirectly

* Those not on the photo are in red

Team Of Guns | Estate Managers | Head Keeper | Beat Keepers | Caterer | Beaters | Loaders | Pickers Up | Flankers | Drivers | Office Staff | **Accountants**
Sporting Agents | **Game Dealers** | **Butchers** | **Baker** | **Fish Merchant** | Wine Merchant | **Builders** | **Painters** | **Plumbers** | **Electrician** | Bracken Spraying Contractors
Tyre Fitters | **Digger Drivers** | Fencers | **Drystone Waller** | **Gardeners** | **Ammunition Suppliers** | **Spray Suppliers** | Car Mechanics | **Fuel Providers** | **Insurance Brokers**
Grouse Grit Suppliers | Accommodation Providers | **Radio Equipment** | **Vehicle Sales & Maintenance** | **Hauliers** | **Builders Merchants** | **Tailors**

Capturing carbon

Peatlands play a vital role in the fight against climate change, storing twice as much carbon as all the world's forests, (Source: United Nations Environment Programme). Since 2020, the Danby Estate has worked collaboratively with the Common Graziers to improve peatland health across the Estates' moorland. The 10 year Countryside Stewardship Scheme guides how the moorland environment is managed. The aims amongst other things are to reduce water run-off by blocking channels and installing dams made of peat, wood and stone – continuing the good work of the Estate's Gamekeepers. The investment is showing results particularly in an area known as Glaisdale. "This particular area of Danby Moors was badly damaged by a wildfire in 1976 and has slowly been healing since" says David Steel, Chief Executive of Dawney Estates.

"We've used heather bales to block up channels and planted thousands of sphagnum moss plugs with a view to renew and revitalise degraded areas of deep peat."



Moorland under attack

In 2020 and 2021 the heather cover of the North York Moors was severely threatened. Swarms of Heather Beetle and its larvae stripped the heather and held back the area's iconic purple flower.



The Estate partnered with the National Resources Institute to undertake scientific research to aid understanding of the heather beetle life cycles and their little-known behaviour patterns. The research work has focused on synthesising heather beetle pheromones for bait traps to monitor population levels. It is hoped this will help save the heather from the devastating attacks in the future.



Getting back on track

During the last decade, a byway that crosses open moorland on the Danby Moors and its surrounding SSSI (Site of Special Scientific Interest) has been damaged by 4x4 off-road vehicles, motorcyclists and water erosion. The top layer of vegetation and soil was lost. In some places the track had deteriorated to the underlying clay, creating holes up to a metre deep.

In partnership with the North York Moors National Park Authority and North Yorkshire County Council, a contractor levelled out the track and created a hardwearing stone surface. The Estate's Gamekeepers added heather bales to the side of the track to help slow the flow of run-off water. Further heather seed was collected and sown to bind the damaged site together. A small example of the ongoing efforts to conserve the moors.



Goodbyes

St Helens in the Park say goodbye to Andrew & Sue Backhouse who managed the Caravan Park for six years, and to Dylan and Carolin, this year's seasonal wardens. We thank them for all their hard work as they move onto pastures new and wish them well.



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