



Risk Assessment Statement (RAS)

This is Orkney Wildfowling Holiday's risk assessment. This article has been constructed to make all visitors aware of the dangers that they may encounter on their trip. Any queries about this document must be addressed before any shooting occurs.


By reading this document you will become informed of the possible hazards that you can encounter. Ultimately **your safety is your responsibility**.


When wildfowling is not given the respect it deserves it can be a dangerous sport.


Thus it is vital that everyone who participates on a wildfowling flight must understand the risks and how to act to minimise the risk of any accidents.

Emergency contact numbers:

It is advised that you have the emergency numbers to hand in case an accident occurs.

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Fit and able bodied:

If you are not fit and healthy you are at risk of heart attacks, passing out and other exercise induced problems.

Slipping and tripping:

If you do not wear appropriate footwear to cope with countryside conditions then you put yourself at risk of slipping. Also, if you do not pay attention to where and how you are walking you are at risk of tripping. Both of these can lead to serious injuries.


Dogs:



Bringing your own dogs is permitted. However if dogs are not well trained they can cause problems. Dogs must be under control at all times. If they are not they may disrupt livestock which may cause damage to the dog, equipment, people, fencing and themselves. If any of this occurs the owner of the dog will be liable.

Dogs can also damage themselves jumping fencing and gates. It is up to the owner to make sure this occurs safely. Leads must not be tied to any person, as this is also a potential problem.

Alcohol and drugs:

Being under the influence of drugs or alcohol will impair the control of the person. In an environment where guns are being used this is simply not acceptable. It is up to the individual to make sure that they are in a fit state to be able to handle a gun safely, and under total control.

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Direction of shooting:

People will be shooting in groups up to six guns plus the guide. It is up to the individual to make sure that they shoot safely. There may also be livestock, housing, cars and possibly members of the public and farmers around. The guide will do his best to make the guns aware of all these factors, however, it is ultimately down to the individual to decide whether each shot is safe to take.


Public access:


There may be public footpaths or roads near the shooting location.


Weather:

The weather in Orkney can be unpredictable and extreme. You are at risk of becoming cold which can have a number of more severe effects. It is up to you to be prepared and make sure that you have suitable clothing for all conditions. Checking the weather forecast is advised when making your decision. Also note at times of extreme weather visibility may be impaired. So do not shoot if you can't be confident of the background and what you are shooting.

There are strong winds in Orkney so there is a risk of any objects (including decoys, camo netting etc) blowing and hitting you. It is up to you to be aware of the wind and what is happening around you.

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Transportation of guns:

There are dangers of accidents and damage to the guns if transportation is not done properly. To prevent these risks guns should be always unloaded and in slips when travelling in vehicles. Guns must not be left in unlocked cars. Shotgun certificates must also be provided for every shotgun being used.

Transport of people:


Do not travel in a vehicle that you deem to be unsafe. It is up to you to assess this and make your way to the shooting grounds.


Use of tools:


If you help the guide set up there are also potential risks. The decoys may have sharp spikes so you can risk causing damage to yourself or others if not properly handled.

Parking:

When parking at shooting destinations it is your responsibility to make sure that your vehicle is not in the way of anyone and is not in a position where it is likely to move.

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Shoot demonstrators:

If we encounter shoot demonstrators, how we react will have a big impact on future investigations. Treat them politely however much you disagree with their aims.

Shooting must stop immediately and guns must be unloaded and placed in slips.

Take notes of any abusive or threatening behaviour, take photographs if possible and be ready to call the police if the situation gets out of control. Under no circumstance should you engage physically except in self-defence.

Livestock:


Leave all the gates, fences and styles how you found them. If livestock gets out as a result of not abiding this advice then you will be liable. When finishing the flight, all cartridges and other materials you have brought must be picked up and taken back with you. If animals ingest any of the items not picked up then you will be liable for vet bills. Note: this is why we advise you to use felt wads.


Lone shooting:


On occasions you may find yourself apart from the rest of the group. If you don't know the ground you are at risk of getting stuck, lost or in a situation you don't want to be in. Make sure the guide knows where you are and you have a method of contacting him.

Watercourses:

Some rivers, streams, ditches etc can be deep and dangerous. You should be careful when trying to cross or assessing whether to cross.

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Fencing, gates and styles:

These can be a source of danger. Some may be old and break and some may be slippery. It is up to you to assess them and get to the require destination in the safest manner.

Immunisation:

It is your responsibility to get your tetanus immunisation up to date.

Eye protection:

It is recommended to wear eye protection to prevent mud, powder and other foreign objects damaging your eyes.

Hearing protection:


Firing shotguns can have a serious impact on your ears ability to function. It is up to you to wear hearing protection.



Soft mud and sands:

Getting stuck is a risk, epically when shooting in tidal areas. It is up to you to make sure that you do not get stuck.

Unknown substances:

Do not touch any containers you find, as there may be hazardous material inside. Also there may be fertilisers and other substances placed on the fields we shoot or travel through. It is up to you to wash yourselves before eating.

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Licences:




Everyone who shoots must have a shotgun licence. If you bring a person who does not hold a licence then they are your responsibility.

Guests:

There are only a couple of spaces on each flight for guests that aren't shooting. Any guests are the group leader's responsibility (Person making the booking).

Falling birds:

Shot birds can travel at significant speeds that can cause serious damage to people. It is up to you to be aware of falling birds and the environment around you.

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UK Laws and Company Terms and Conditions


This document outlines all the requirements that a client must adhere to when booking/on a holiday with Orkney Wildfowling Holidays. **All visitors must read this.**



Legal requirements:

It is your responsibility to abide by the law. One of these laws is the use of non-toxic shot over wetland areas (SSI No 2004/358). If you do not abide by the law then you are liable. If you do not abide by this then you put yourself at risk of a fine up to £1,000 and potentially having your licence revoked. If you require any clarity on the law please refer to www.basc.org.uk (2010), 'Protecting Waterfowl from Lead in Wetlands': A Practical Guide to the Lead Shot Regulations in Scotland.

Guns:

No FAC shotguns to be used on geese. (A maximum of 3 shot semi-automatics only).

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Identification of birds:

There are serious fines and penalties for shooting birds that are not on the shooting list. It is ultimately **up to you to decide** what the birds are and whether to shoot or not. For further information on bird identification please study www.basc.org.uk (2010). BASC Guide to Quarry Identification.

Power:

The guide has the right to **stop** the flight at anytime or stop individuals shooting **without providing any refund.**

Insurance:


Everyone must have their **own insurance** to cover all aspects of shooting and their trip. Each member must provide details of insurance including expiry dates.


Damaged equipment:


If any of Orkney Wildfowling Holidays equipment is damaged by a member of a group the person/ group will be expected to **pay to fix the damages or buy new.**

Deposit:

A **non-refundable** deposit of £225.00 (for each party member) must be paid no later than 7 days (5 working days after the confirmation of booking).

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Other financial matters:

It is **your responsibility** to get to Orkney. If **all the flights and ferries** are cancelled then **your deposit will be refunded or transferred** to another date. If you do not come due to **a sailing or a flight cancelation** and there are other ones running then you will **lose your deposit**. However, **if it is your fault** that you do not arrive (for example: Car breaks down/ family problems etc) then you will be **liable to the full amount**.


If the **number of guns** that were confirmed at the initial time of booking **does not turn up** for the trip, then the charge for the missing person/s will be **split equally** between the remainder of the party.


Anyone cancelling during a trip or **less than 2 months** before a shooting break and the dates can not be filled then they will be liable for **all costs** for that break. If the client cancels **at least 2 months** before their trip then **only the deposit** will be taken.


All prices are **fixed** and to be **paid in full before** the shooting break to your guide.

Shooting ban:

If a ban is put in place then you will be **lose your deposit** or it can be **transferred** to any spaces remaining in the rest of that season.

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Bag:

As with any wild bird, there can be **no guarantee** as to the number of birds shot on any one day.

When leaving shooting grounds:


All hunters are requested to pick up spent cartridges and all other rubbish and leave the field in a clean and tidy condition. All shooting takes place over private farmland and customers are asked to **respect the farmer's property and equipment**. Any damage (eg. Fence wires etc) **must be paid for**.


During flights:


When any person or the dogs are **picking up shot birds DO NOT shoot**. Orkney Wildfowling Holidays will not be liable for any accidents. Any injury to your guide's dogs caused by any client will be charged in full to the **client responsible** for all the injuries. Do not fire any weapons unless your guider tells you it is OK.

Clients information:

All members of the shooting party **MUST** show **insurance documents**. This must be done before any shooting commences. **You cannot shoot with us without being insured.**


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Rights:

I also release the right and allow OWH to reproduce my image in photographs and video and that any such image of myself, OWH has sole ownership of these rights. I understand that I will not be paid any compensation for this right now or in the future, nor will any of my beneficiaries have the right for compensation now or in the future for photographs or video images of myself taken and used by OWH and its agents for commercial purposes such as videos, advertisements, or televisions shows. I understand this loss of rights and I understand that I am not guaranteed that any such images will ever be used by OWH or any other entities, or that I am entitled to any compensation, whether such footage is used or not used by OWH in anyway whatsoever.

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