

## The CONservation organised culls.

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The RSPB, Woodland Trust, BTO etc slaughter millions of animals each year between them. They call these animals "pests", a euphamism to legal eliminate anything you dont like. Based on classic nazi principals.

They suggest, though you'd be hard pushed to find any of the groups willing to discuss it, that the killing is carried out by professional marksmen, with minimal suffering.

Here's an interesting story that proves the lie in conservation carried out by CONservation hooligans.

<http://homepages.which.net/~rex/bourne/diary199902.htm>

Saturday 20th February 1999

We went to Bourne Woods a few days back for one of our regular walks only to find a notice in red letters stuck up at the entrance announcing that they were closed that day because shooting was in progress. Visitors at the entrance who had also been disappointed by the closure asked us: "Who is doing the shooting and at what?" The last time I complained to the Forestry Commission about shooting in these woods I was told that culls of fallow deer were carried out on two or three days each year because the population in the area is so high that they killed off the young trees in new plantations. Bourne Woods, like many others in Britain, have survived for thousands of years without culling so why start now? If deer do cause damage, then that damage will be done whether the herds number a hundred or a mere fifty. No, the answer is that these deer are shot for profit because their carcasses are handed over to a game dealer who sells them for venison.

Those who cull will insist that their marksmen do it humanely but we can be sure of nothing in this world and certainly not when trying to hit a moving animal with a rifle shot. I have often seen pools of blood on woodland trails left by a large animal and this indicates that they have merely been wounded and on another occasion, a young stag broke cover and dashed across the path in front of me with one of

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its antlers dangling broken and loose. It was terrified and disorientated and it seemed obvious that the animal had either been hit by one of the gunmen or frightened by the noise of the firing.

The Forestry Commission has made no mention of organised shoots, which I have witnessed on several occasions when the quarry is rabbit and pheasant. We have even seen these gunmen in the woods on a Saturday afternoon when walkers were in the vicinity, a most frightening experience.

We once ignored these warning notices and watched a shooting party at work in Bourne Woods in mid-week. Two dozen or more men armed with shotguns arrived in lorries and then fanned out in line before moving forward in order to give maximum cover to the woodland ahead and therefore anything living in that area had little chance of escaping their attention. Most of these men were farmers or connected with the agricultural industry, which has already been responsible for so much devastation in our green and pleasant land.

Why does the Forestry Commission allow this shooting to continue? Pet owners are asked to keep dogs on a lead when walking in the woods and horse riding is banned yet gunmen are regularly allowed in to destroy wild animals. This is sheer hypocrisy.

Coincidentally, I have just been reading a leaflet issued by the Forestry Commission which has owned the woods since 1926 and is always ready to parade its green credentials. "Fallow deer are abundant in the wood and if lucky you may catch a glimpse of their shy cousin the muntjac", it said. "Be on the lookout for other dwellers of these woodlands such as foxes, squirrels, owls, snakes and woodpeckers. Not so common are the white letter hairstreak and white admiral butterflies, hazel dormouse, nightingale and badger that also live there."

It should also have said: beware of shooters because they regularly roam these woods killing off our wildlife. Do these gunmen not know of the changes that have been wrought on the English countryside in the last fifty years? Are they unaware of the flora and fauna that is now under threat? Have they not heard the siren calls of alarm that creatures such as the brown hare and the common partridge that were once so abundant are fast disappearing?

The leaflet also carries a warning to visitors asking them to remember the forest code by protecting trees, plants and wildlife. Leave things as you find them, take nothing away, it says. How does the Forestry Commission reconcile these guidelines to the public with a day's closure to enable gunmen hunt our wild animals? The Forestry Commission should practice what it preaches and leave these animals in peace. Hunting is a barbaric practice and totally unnecessary and allowing it in the woodlands it controls is tantamount to pulling the trigger on anything that moves.

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I notified the Forestry Commission on Monday that because of the increasing public concern over the threat to wildlife in these woods, I intended writing on the subject and I asked them for a statement to explain their shooting policy but although almost a week has elapsed, they have not replied.