



LEICESTERSHIRE WILDFOWLERS' ASSOCIATION WILDFOWLING SECTION CODE OF CONDUCT / GOOD PRACTICE

The Members Obligation

- Always remember that your main quarries are largely migrant wildfowl and we have a responsibility to safeguard their environment.
- Always remember that others judge our sport by your behaviour.
- Always remember that it is your responsibility to know the rules of the association and the laws relating to your sport; in particular to be able to recognise your quarry and when and where it is safe to shoot.

Consideration for your Quarry

- Always condemn unsporting shooting, ie excessive bags, shooting at out-of-range birds etc.
- Always ensure wounded quarry is picked up and humanely dispatched as soon as possible. A sharp knock on the head with a suitably heavy stick / priest is most effective.
- Always remember a dog is virtually essential for wildfowl shooting to retrieve birds as they are shot - **remember to keep your dog under control at all times.**

Guns and Cartridges

- A double-barrelled twelve bore is a suitable all round shotgun. If your field craft is good you should be successful with the standard "2¾" cartridge of appropriate load.
- Choke only marginally increases your range and is no excuse for attempting out of range shots.
- **Remember it is the law that only non-toxic shot is used on the marsh and for shooting wildfowl.**

	<u>Recommended Shot Size</u>	<u>Quarry</u>	<u>Max Effective Range</u>
Steel	No's 4 or 5	Ducks	35 yards
Bismuth	No's 4 or 5 or 6	Ducks	35 yards
Tungsten	No's 4 or 5 or 6	Ducks	35 yards
Steel	No's 1 or 3	Geese	35 yards
Bismuth	No's BB or 1 or 3	Geese	35 yards
Tungsten	No's BB or 1 or 3	Geese	35 yards

Planning

- Always tell someone where you are going wildfowling and what time you expect to be home.
- Always check your tide table and the weather forecast before going wildfowling.
- Avoid the more inaccessible parts of the marsh when a big tide is expected ie possible flood tide.
- Wear comfortable, inconspicuous, warm, waterproof clothing and waders / wellingtons and suitable headgear.

Equipment

- **Always carry your membership card.**
- It is wise to carry a compass and know how to use it (it could save your life in an emergency). When you sit down in your chosen spot take a compass bearing to the sea bank.
- It is recommended you carry a waterproof wristwatch; it will aid for judging the state / time of the tide.
- It is also recommended you carry a waterproof torch **BUT REMEMBER TORCH FLASHING IS ONLY JUSTIFIED IN AN EMERGENCY.**
- Always carry a "pull through": it is all too easy to get mud or snow into the muzzle of your gun.
- Always carry a mobile phone in your 'highest' pocket to try to ensure it stays dry - in case of having to walk through deep water - but also remember the limitations of a mobile phone.

On the Marsh / Kirby Lakes / Earith Wash

- Never arrive late or leave early and so disturb the shooting or those who have taken the trouble to get into position in good time.
- Make sure you are well hidden; camouflage yourself to suit your surroundings, alert approaching wildfowling of your position.
- Try to make your dog as comfortable as possible.
- Check your barrels for obstructions frequently.
- As the flight develops range judging when wildfowling is notoriously difficult - don't spoil it for others by shooting at out-of-range birds.
- Send your dog to retrieve birds as they are shot (what you think is a dead bird may often run or swim a considerable distance from the spot you marked it down!).
- Take care to recognise legal quarry: **IF IN DOUBT DON'T SHOOT.**
- Never leave cartridge cases or litter of any kind on the marsh, Earith Wash or round Kirby Lake: "the only thing you should leave is your footprints".
- On leaving the marsh / Earith Wash / Kirby Lakes your dog may be cold and wet - consider his needs before your own.

TAKE CARE OF YOUR QUARRY - DON'T WASTE IT