

POSITION STATEMENT

Field Sports

The National Trust is very much aware of the importance of countryside traditions. We allow field sports to take place on our property where traditionally practised, providing they are within the law and are compatible with the Trust's purposes, which include public access and the protection of rare animals and birds and fragile habitats. The Trust is a charitable body, and as such cannot take a political position either for or against field sports.

The Trust's general position on field sports remains unchanged by its decision in 1997 not to renew licences for the hunting of red deer. This decision was taken following the publication of the Bateson report, from which the Trust's Council concluded that hunting red deer with hounds caused suffering incompatible with the Trust's responsibility for the welfare of red deer on its property. These findings relate to red deer only.

The Trust therefore continues to permit other forms of hunting as well as shooting and fishing where appropriate, subject to controls and licences.