



SECOND CONSULTATION DRAFT

4.10	(Game-rearing, shooting and fisheries management)		
	Requirement	Example verifiers	Guidance (i.e. recommendations and explanation)
4.10.1	<p>a) Game-rearing and release are carried out sustainably and in accordance with the spirit of codes of practice produced by relevant organisations.</p> <p>b) The location of each game release pen within the WMU is mapped, its area quantified, and its stocking density recorded.</p> <p>c) New game-release pens are located outside areas identified in sections 4.1 to 4.4 and 4.9.</p> <p>d) Existing game-release pens within areas identified in sections 4.1 to 4.4 and 4.9 are taken out of use by 30 November 2028 unless:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No other suitable locations are available, and • They are managed in accordance with a release-pen management plan which 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Field observation • Relevant permissions and leases • Discussion with the owner/manager/responsible person demonstrates awareness of the law and good practice • Discussion with interested parties • Consents or licences from the relevant statutory agencies where these are required • Membership of a sporting and conservation organisation • Game release pen location map • Gamebird release plan • Poultry and captive bird registration. 	<p>The conservation value of areas within the WMU, identified in sections 4.1 to 4.4 and 4.9, should be maintained and wherever possible enhanced, and those areas should not normally be used for game release unless requirement 4.10.1d) or e) is met.</p> <p>Relevant codes of practice include those produced by the British Association for Shooting and Conservation (BASC) (Code of good shooting practice) and the Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust (GWCT) (Guidelines for sustainable game bird releasing).</p> <p>Game release pens are a potential threat to conservation values. Release and associated feeding areas should be located in areas where there will be low impact on soils, ground flora, arboreal lichens, fauna such as invertebrates and reptiles, and other priority species. Suitable assessment and monitoring of potential impacts is important so that any damage to conservation values can be minimised, mitigated and repaired.</p> <p>A 'new game-release pen' is one that is newly created or an extension of a pre-existing pen or pens.</p> <p>A 'relocation' of a game-release pen occurs when a pre-existing release pen is taken out of use and a replacement pen is established in a different location.</p> <p>Stocking density refers to the number of birds within each release pen and should be presented as birds per hectare. The stocking density of birds should follow current best practice not exceeding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1,000 birds per hectare generally, or • 700 birds per hectare within areas identified in sections 4.1 to 4.4 and 4.9. <p>A release pen management plan can include:</p>

<p>is consistent with current best practice, and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is an initial assessment and ongoing monitoring of relevant positive and negative impacts, and • Any damage to conservation values which occurs within the pen, is mitigated and/or repaired, and steps are taken to minimise the risk of recurrence. <p>e) Relocation of those game-release pens retained in an area of a WMU identified in sections 4.1 to 4.4 and 4.9, only takes place in justified circumstances and providing that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The pen relocation site is not of greater conservation value than the area from which it is being relocated, and • A mapped record of the location and area of each former pen is maintained, and • There is ongoing monitoring of the recovery of the conservation values on the sites of former pens. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommendations from current codes of good shooting practice • A baseline habitat condition assessment of those WMUs in which game-release pens are situated • A priority species assessment • A monitoring regime to identify the impact of the game-release pens • A timetable, where applicable, for taking game release pens out of use or their appropriate relocation <p>Where there are deemed to be no other suitable locations for pens located within areas identified in sections 4.1-4.4 and 4.9, the release pen management plan should include an assessment of the potential for the establishment of new woodland and/or changes in management of any existing secondary woodlands to provide suitable re-location sites for existing pens.</p> <p>When identifying suitable and unsuitable locations for game release pens, shoot requirements should be taken into account.</p> <p>When considering the suitability of a site for the relocation of a pen from areas identified in sections 4.1 to 4.4 and 4.9, it should not have a greater conservation value than the woodland from which it is being relocated.</p> <p>Where the WMU is formed exclusively from areas identified in sections 4.1 to 4.4 and 4.9, it is not required that existing pens are taken out of use.</p> <p>Where not all release pens are being taken out of use, those situated in woodlands of highest conservation value should be prioritised for removal.</p> <p>Redundant game-release pens and associated infrastructure should be removed in accordance with section 3.7.1.</p> <p>In relation to 4.10.1 e):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Justified circumstances for the relocation of existing pens located in areas identified in sections 4.1 to 4.4 to 4.9 might, for example, include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Safeguarding against disease, which could have a negative effect on the health and welfare of gamebirds or wild birds
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	<p>f) Where release pens remain within parts of the WMU identified in sections 4.1 to 4.4 and 4.9, there is no increase in the area they occupy.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Forestry operations are required within the pen such as harvesting or wind-blow clearance • The ongoing monitoring of the recovery of the conservation values of the sites of former pens should continue until the forest owner/manager can demonstrate that they have recovered to the extent that they are equivalent to the surrounding area of the WMU where no pens have been situated. <p>Where negative impacts have been identified, suitable within-pen mitigation measures might include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduction in the stocking density of birds • Reducing the time birds are required to spend within the pen by stocking with older poults • Temporary or permanent internal fencing for protection of impacted areas by excluding birds and a consequent reduction in stocking density in the accessible areas of the pen. <p><i>See also section 2.2.1 b) in relation to assessment of relevant components of the forest resource, and section 2.15 in relation to monitoring.</i></p> 
4.10.2	<p>Shooting is carried out sustainably and in accordance with the spirit of codes of practice produced by relevant organisations.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Field observation • Relevant permissions and leases • Discussion with the owner/manager/responsible person demonstrates awareness of the law and good practice • Discussion with interested parties 	<p>Impacts on priority habitats and species and other native species should be considered. Where appropriate, issues should be discussed with neighbouring land managers.</p> <p>Pest and predator control, where necessary, should be carried out in line with good practice using methods that meet all regulatory requirements.</p> 

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