

GAME 2023

THE EVENT FOR GAME MANAGERS

Tuesday 28 March

Shropshire Conference Centre, SY3 8XQ



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Hosted by

GAME & WILDLIFE CONSERVATION TRUST (GWCT)

Venue

SHROPSHIRE CONFERENCE CENTRE,
MYTTON OAK ROAD, SHREWSBURY, SHROPSHIRE,
SY3 8XQ

GAME 2023 is an information-packed conference which will bring game managers up-to-date with the latest research and advice relevant to lowland game shooting, as well as aiming to promote good practice in the game and wildlife management sector. The talks will be delivered by a wide variety of sector experts giving delegates the opportunity to meet and discuss topical subjects highly relevant to the future of shooting.

What do we aim to achieve?

- To update stakeholders involved in game management on key subjects affecting the industry with a series of talks from GWCT staff and external speakers.
- To share essential GWCT research and advice with the game management sector.
- To provide a forum for people to meet and discuss issues within game management.
- Provide an opportunity for industry decision makers to listen to practitioners and stimulate two-way dialogue and provide an opportunity for all involved to learn about advances in both research and practice.
- To promote good practice in game management across the sector.

Programme

MORNING SESSION: *Chairman Matthew Goodall, GWCT*

09:00 COFFEE & REGISTRATION

09:15 Welcome/Introduction

Matthew Goodall, GWCT

09:30 The GWCT's National Gamebag Census:
Past, Present and Future

Dr Julie Ewald, GWCT

10:00 Best Practice with Proof

Dr Nick Hesford, GWCT

10:30 Regulations for Releasing Game in Wales

Matthew Goodall, GWCT

11:00 BREAK

11:30 Aim to Sustain – Why was it created
and what does it do for game shooting?

Spike Butcher, Aim to Sustain

12:00 A Specialist Gamebird Vet's Perspective on Avian Flu

Ian Jones, Hafren Veterinary Group

12:30 A Gamekeepers Perspective on Avian Flu
and Prospects for 2023/24

Tim Weston, NGO

13:00 LUNCH

AFTERNOON SESSION: *Matthew Goodall, GWCT*

14:00 Gamebird Releasing and Foxes in the Spotlight
– New research

Dr Rufus Sage, GWCT

14:30 Causes and Implications of Fox Population Dynamics in
Central Southern England

Nathan Williams, GWCT

15:00 Courses and Training

Matthew Goodall, GWCT

15:15 Summing Up

Dr Roger Draycott, GWCT

15:30 FINISH

Speaker biographies

MATTHEW GOODALL, GWCT
Head of Education, Advisor for
Wales & North-West England

Matt joined the GWCT in July 2018 as an advisor and has played a vital role in building the GWCT's profile in Wales, creating Welsh projects and working on Welsh policy alongside his advisory work. As Head of Education Matt now oversees GWCT's training courses and education programme.



DR JULIE EWALD, GWCT
Principal Scientist – Farmland Ecology & GIS

Julie manages the GWCT's Sussex Study, National Gamebag Census, the Partridge Count Scheme, heads our GIS (Geographical Information Science) team and manages the GWCT's Data Scientist. Her research involves utilising long-term and spatial datasets to explore what drives changes in flora and fauna (agricultural intensification, climate change, landuse change, changes in management).



DR NICK HESFORD, GWCT
Advisor for Scotland

Nick joined the GWCT Uplands team in 2017 with a PhD in Biodiversity and Community Ecology. He worked on variety of research topics from red and black grouse, to wading birds and mountain hare, before joining the GWCT Advisory department in 2020. Now based in the Scottish Borders, Nick leads on practitioner monitoring in Scotland.



SPIKE BUTCHER, AIM TO SUSTAIN
Operations Director

Spike heads up Aim to Sustain, a partnership of eight rural organisations focused on game management and shooting, supported by GWCT as their scientific advisor. Prior to Aim to Sustain, he spent 28 years as an Artillery Officer, followed by a decade as an independent school bursar and chief operating officer in the UK and Middle East.



IAN JONES MA VETMB MRCVS,
HAFREN VETERINARY GROUP
Director

I qualified from Cambridge as a vet in 1985. Starting a commercial poultry flock in 2004, I qualified as a poultry veterinary in 2007. I now provide veterinary care for some of the largest producers in the UK. My work ensures welfare-friendly, sustainable and environmentally sensitive care for my clients' game birds.



TIM WESTON, NATIONAL
GAMEKEEPERS' ORGANISATION
Development Officer

Tim has worked within the fieldsports sector since 2002 and has been working with the NGO since 2009. Tim's role is multi-functional at the NGO but he currently leads on avian influenza and much of the political work the organisation does. Based in Wiltshire his passions are wildlife management and fly-fishing.



DR RUFUS SAGE, GWCT
Head of Lowland Gamebird Research

Rufus is interested in solving problems where game and other land management practices might affect wildlife habitat interests on farmland and in woodland. He oversees the GWCT's research on pheasants and red-legged partridges, particularly issues around releasing for shooting.



NATHAN WILLIAMS, GWCT
Curlew Project PhD Student

Nathan is a PhD student at Bournemouth University and the GWCT, aiming to understand how the predation pressure experienced locally by bird species of conservation concern may be determined by the population dynamics of a key predator – the red fox.



DR ROGER DRAYCOTT, GWCT
Director of Advisory & Education

From a farming background and with a PhD in pheasant ecology, Roger has worked at the GWCT since 1993. Roger provides advice on game management and wildlife conservation to farmers, shoot managers, conservation organisations and the agricultural supply chain.



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Your vision, our mission

Our Advisory team is highly experienced across all land management disciplines.

If you're a farmer, gamekeeper, practitioner or facilitator in the land management sector contact us for specialist advice today.



Contact us

Tel: 01425 651013

Email: advisory@gwct.org.uk

gwct.org.uk/advisory



Game & Wildlife
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