

# Survey reveals 70,000 jobs in shooting

**A new independent study released today (Friday 29 September) – in time for the start of the pheasant shooting season across the UK - has revealed that shooting supports 70,000 full time jobs in the UK and boosts the economy by £1.6 billion a year.**

The research, carried out by PACEC\*, shows that 480,000 participants spend over £2 billion each year on goods and services. The last comprehensive assessment in 1997 showed spending of £653 million a year and 40,000 jobs reliant on shooting. Much of the economic benefit is concentrated in areas where the rural economy is struggling with changes in traditional industries.

The report also reveals that shooting plays a major role in conserving the countryside. Shooting and shooting related activities take place over two-thirds of the rural land in the UK and £250 million is spent each year on wildlife and habitats. In addition shooting generates 2.7 million work days on conservation per year; the equivalent of 12,000 full time jobs.

Shoots also supply millions of birds and tens of thousands of deer to local consumers and national outlets that contribute towards a healthy, natural diet.

The research was commissioned by the British Association for Shooting and Conservation (BASC), the Country Land and Business Association (CLA) and the Countryside Alliance.

BASC's Chief Executive, John Swift, said: "The shooting community has always been involved in conservation and the countryside benefits greatly from their hard work. Shooters spend millions of days a year on conservation projects which is a huge contribution to the future of our countryside."

President of the CLA, David Fursdon, said: "Shooting is now a major part of the economy contributing £1.6 billion to GDP. In a rapidly changing rural economy shooting continues to create new businesses and bring new money into the countryside."

Simon Hart, Chief Executive of the Countryside Alliance, said: "The thousands of jobs that shooting supports are crucial for the sustainability of many rural communities at a time of huge social and cultural change. Shooting is an increasingly important and integral part of the countryside."

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## **Notes to Editors:**

\*PACEC is an established, specialist economic consultancy practice, with offices in Cambridge and London. PACEC carries out economic development and regeneration strategies and appraisal and feasibility studies.

The pheasant shooting seasons begins across the UK on 1 October.

A summary of the research is available at: [www.shootingfacts.co.uk](http://www.shootingfacts.co.uk)

## **For more information please contact:**

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