



Job Description

Title: Beat Keeper, Forest Lodge Beat

Reporting to: Head Keeper

Based: Forest Lodge

Job Duties:

Management of wild deer population on Forest Lodge and West Hand beats

- Carry out stag and hind cull in accordance with Estate instructions and DCS Good Practice Guidance in a competent and professional manner compliant to all relevant codes of good practice
- Retrieve all carcasses and prepare them for uplift by the game marketing dealer directly from the Estate larder. Carcasses to be prepared in accordance with guidelines as set out by the Estate or Dealer
- Maintain larder records as directed by the Estate or DCS
- Maintain Kennels Larder in clean and hygienic condition at all times
- Maintain firearms in good condition and secure at all times
- Carry out deer population counts as directed by the Estate or DCS
- Liaison with Game Dealer for carcass collection
- Participation in Deer Management Group initiatives
- Care and maintenance of Estate rifles ensuring a minimum of one service annually through recognised gunsmith.

Management of wild grouse stocks on Forest Lodge and West Hand beats

- Annual muirburn during open season and in accordance with method as directed by Estate to be agreed annually
- Absolute control of foxes, stoats and weasels using all legal methods available
- Control of corvids to every reasonable extent
- Periodic testing for worm burden and other disease as required by Estate
- Completion of Spring and Summer population counts using best practice methods as agreed with the Estate in advance
- Maintenance of butts as required by Estate
- Careful handling of Game and tidy presentation in larder for Game Dealer collection
- Liaison with Game Dealer for Game collection

Management of Sporting Guests at Forest Lodge and West Hand beats

- Organisation and hosting of all field sport as requested by tenants of Forest Lodge & Marble Lodge in accordance with the terms of lease and in discussion with Rural Manager and Headkeeper
- Organisation and hosting of all field sport for day guests as directed by Rural Manager and Headkeeper
- Polite and competent treatment of all guests at all times
- Management of all sport events to be in accordance with best practice as directed by Estate
- Accurate recording of sporting results (bag) and prompt reporting of results to Estate

Management of Vehicles at Forest Lodge

- Operation of all vehicles to be careful and responsible at all times
- Vehicles to be checked at least once weekly for basic running condition
- Vehicles to be kept in reasonably clean and hygienic condition but particularly so when entertaining guests
- Servicing to be in accordance with Estate programme. Any fault or concern occurring between services to be reported directly to assigned garage

Management of Buildings at Forest Lodge and Marble Lodge

- Buildings to be checked for minor external repairs at least twice annually. If work required beyond competence then report in writing to Estate
- Area around buildings to be kept free of debris and redundant objects at all times. Weeds and vegetation to be kept under control at all times
- Area within buildings to be kept tidy at all times
- Painting of non domestic buildings wood and iron wear to be completed at least once every 3 years using paint provided by the Estate
- Drains and rainwater goods to be kept free of obstruction at all times
- Fencing around Lodge to be kept in good repair at all times
- Filters and pipework on water supplies to be kept free of obstruction / renewed as required
- Garden ground around lodge and houses to be kept tidy at all times and lawns mown at least fortnightly in summer
- Clear out rubbish bags from lodge on a weekly basis and dispose of them in bins for Council uplift
- Monitor lodge oil tanks and order refills timeously.
- Ensure the lodge has an adequate supply of seasoned firewood at all times
- Bothy to be kept tidy at all times and occupied in a safe and responsible manner by assistants

Management of animals at Forest Lodge

- Dogs are to be kept under control at all times and adequately trained as working gundogs
- Kennels are to be cleaned out at least once per day
- Dogs and ponies are to be kept free of worms or other burdens at all times
- Dogs are to be exercised at least once per day and given adequate covered area to rest
- Quantity of working dogs allowed will be solely the discretion of the Estate
- Assistance with pony training and management of ponies in accordance with Estate direction

Management of hillroads and drains at Forest Lodge

- Care will be taken with the use of vehicles on hill tracks to prevent excessive wear
- Road drains and offlets will be kept clear of obstruction at all times but specific attention will be given to clear out all road drains and offlets at least once during the autumn, winter and spring.
- Potholes will be filled routinely at least twice per year
- Any drainage or resurfacing work required by digger will be notified to the Estate promptly and assistance given to the Contractor in locating and undertaking the work
- Gates on hill roads to be kept free swinging at all times

General Management Duties at Forest Lodge

- Assistance with in-hand farming and forestry enterprises as directed by Rural Manager
- Supervision, training and mentoring of trainee gamekeepers and ghillies
- Compliance with Estate Health and Safety Policy and responsibility for applying Policy to all staff
- Compliance with the letter and the spirit of the law in relation to the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004
- Tolerant and constructive approach to the public
- Participation in Estate patrols of the salmon rivers as part of the rota team and as directed by the Estate
- Attendance at all Department meetings
- Monthly reporting of work achieved and news
- Use of Estate tweed on all formal Estate occasions and when entertaining guests.
- Control of pollution at all times
- Disposal of all debris at Estate skip or public refuse facility
- Any other Estate duty instructed by the Rural Manager or Headkeeper from time to time for which you are adequately trained.