

## INFORMATION SHEET

### WILDFOWLING ON CAERLAVEROCK NATIONAL NATURE RESERVE

Permits for wildfowling on Caerlaverock National Nature Reserve are available from

The Permit Issuing Officer  
Scottish Natural Heritage  
55 – 57 Moffat Road  
DUMFRIES DG1 1NP  
Tel: 01738 458678  
or, southern\_scotland\_admin@nature.scot

The season extends from 1 October - 20 February each year and permits are available as follows.

#### Season Permits

Season permits are issued only to those applicants who are resident within 18 miles of the Reserve on the Scottish side of the Solway. A maximum of 80 are authorised by the Caerlaverock Panel.

#### Short Period Permits

Short season permits are issued to all other wildfowlers who can apply for periods up to 12 days at any one time. You may apply for as many of these periods as you wish provided there is a gap of at least 2 weeks between each block. A maximum of 22 per day, October - November, 20 per day, December - January (except Saturdays when it is 19 in December and 13 in January), and 13 per day in February. Please ensure you only apply for the periods you are likely to use the permit to avoid blocking dates which could be used by others, and that you cancel any dates that you no longer require.

## **YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED**

### ***WHEN DO I APPLY?***

Applications are only accepted with from 1 July for the following season and are issued with on a first-come first-served basis. Applications received before this date will not be considered.

### ***HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?***

Permits are issued free of charge.

### ***HOW DO I APPLY?***

By sending your application form by post to the address above or by scanning and emailing your signed application to southern\_scotland\_admin@nature.scot. Application forms can be downloaded from the link below

[www.nature.scot/caerlaverock-nnr-wildfowling-guidance-documents](http://www.nature.scot/caerlaverock-nnr-wildfowling-guidance-documents)

***DO I REQUIRE A SHOTGUN CERTIFICATE?***

Yes, you are required to provide your shotgun certificate number and the name of the issuing Constabulary on your application form.

***DO I HAVE TO BE A MEMBER OF BASC?***

No, all wildfowlers may apply. (See next question).

***DO I HAVE TO BE INSURED TO SHOOT ON CAERLAVEROCK NNR?***

Yes, we ask that all wildfowlers hold third party public liability insurance with a minimum cover of £5,000,000. Membership of organisations such as BASC provides such cover automatically.

***WHAT TYPE OF AMMUNITION CAN I USE?***

In Scotland, the use of non-toxic shot, regardless of bore, is a legal requirement for shooting over wetlands. Permits are therefore issued on condition that only non-toxic shot is used on Caerlaverock NNR.

***WHAT TYPE OF GUN MAY I USE?***

Only shotguns may be used.

***DO WILDFOWLERS WHO HAVE BEEN ISSUED WITH PERMITS IN PREVIOUS SEASONS HAVE PREFERENCE OVER NEW SHOOTERS?***

No, all applications are dealt with on an equal basis every season, in the order in which they are received.

***IF I DON'T USE MY PERMIT WILL I BE REFUSED ONE IN FOLLOWING SEASONS?***

No. However wildfowlers who do not return their completed permit (whether used or not) at the end of the season may be refused a future permit.

***I HAVE NEVER BEEN TO CAERLAVEROCK. ARE THE BOUNDARIES CLEARLY MARKED?***

Yes, and the permit gives detailed instructions on where and when you can shoot. There are also marker posts on the ground to indicate the boundary of the NNR and the wildfowling area. The byelaws also include a description and a map of the areas within the NNR where shooting can take place. If in doubt, please seek advice from SNH staff.

***WHAT SORT OF RESTRICTIONS ARE IMPOSED?***

Shooting is only allowed in the wildfowling area between: one hour and 15 minutes before sunrise and 10am, and 3 pm and one hour and 30 minutes after sunset. Only legitimate quarry species of waterfowl maybe shot; no game (e.g. hares) or pests (e.g. wood pigeon).

***IS THE RESERVE WARDENED?***

Yes, wildfowling is monitored by SNH Officers and authorised stewards to ensure the permits scheme rules are adhered to and byelaws are in operation.

***I AM NOT SURE I CAN TELL A PROTECTED BARNACLE GOOSE FROM A PINKFOOTED GOOSE ON MORNING FLIGHT***

If in doubt, do not shoot. There is no short cut to identify your quarry. Please ensure you spend some time before you shoot, watching and listening to various waterfowl, and familiarising yourself with each species, so that you can confidently identify all the species you may encounter on the NNR.

***I'M NOT HAPPY ABOUT GOING ON TO A STRANGE SALT MARSH IN THE DARK. IS IT DANGEROUS?***

You may walk over the shooting area (without a gun) at any time. We recommend you walk over the salt marsh in the daylight to get familiar with your surroundings, before you shoot. Make sure you know the tidal conditions for the period of your permit and take special care during spring tides and strong winds.

***CAN I HIRE SNH STAFF TO COME WITH ME?***

SNH staff and authorised stewards are there to give you help and advice, but do not act as guides for individuals or groups.

***MY COMPANION DOES NOT HAVE A PERMIT. CAN HE/SHE COME WITH ME?***

Yes, but they must not carry or use a gun.

***IF I CANNOT USE MY PERMIT CAN I GIVE IT TO A FRIEND?***

No. Permits are not transferable and may only be used by the person to whom they are issued.

***WHERE CAN I CONTACT THE RESERVE STAFF?***

The reserve staff can be contacted at the address above

***WHAT DOES SCOTTISH NATURAL HERITAGE DO?***

Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) is a non-departmental public body, responsible through Ministers to the Scottish Parliament. We are funded by Government and our Board members are appointed by Scottish Ministers.

SNH's remit comes from the Natural Heritage (Scotland) Act 1991. Our purposes are to promote the care and improvement, responsible enjoyment, greater understanding and appreciation, and sustainable use of the natural heritage, now and for future generations. Scotland's natural heritage is its wildlife, habitats, landscapes and natural beauty and includes the rocks, soils, landforms and water on which these are based.

Our mission is to promote 'All of nature for all of Scotland'  
For further information visit our website at [www.nature.scot](http://www.nature.scot)