



Sustainable shooting and good codes of practice are key components that the modern Wildfowler must take on board. I am convinced that the majority of true fowlers have indeed been following their own good shooting habits long before the latest codes were put into print, especially when the birds shot ended up on the family table and kitchen freezer. Also carrying 4 grey geese across the estuary mud flats isn't for the faint hearted. In my case being in the vintage age group means that my much smaller game bag seems more than adequate these days.

Whilst returning from a morning flight a couple of weeks ago I had just stepped on some easy walking when I was informed by a member of the public that there was no longer any hunting allowed in that particular area as it had been designated an NNR reserve with SPA, SAC and RAMSAR etc, etc. I gave the person the benefit of doubt as we all have to do and once home started digging on some rather fancy management websites!!

Right enough there it was from 2024 it is now a NNR wouldn't it have been nice if someone had informed the general public of what was coming. However having checked the boundaries on the reserve I was pretty relieved to see that whilst over the mud flats I was well within my rights to continue Wildfowling in the area as I have done for the last 50 odd years. If my interpretation on the plan is wrong then it's been nice knowing you all, oh and best of luck for the wintry parts of the season. Stay safe out there JM