

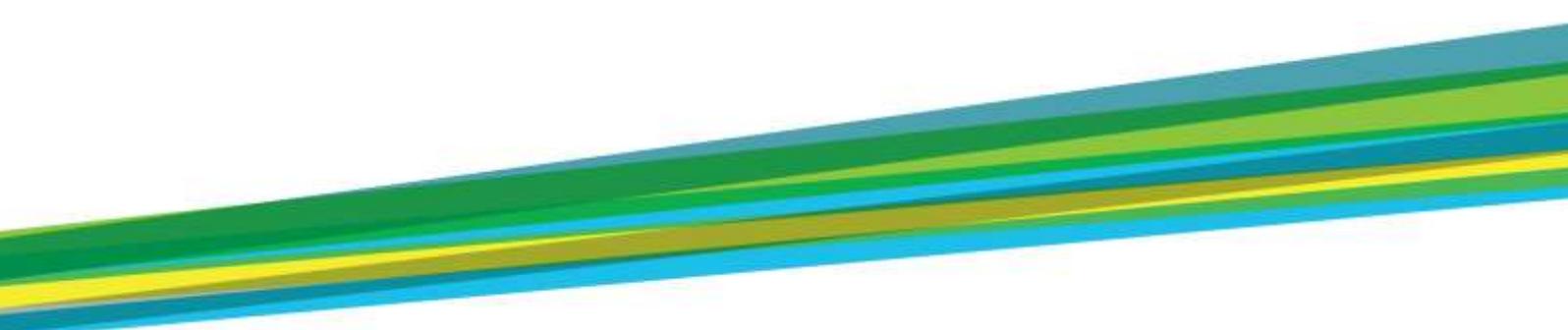
# SPORT+ RECREATION ALLIANCE

Stour Head Estate – archery and timber production side by side

Field archery clubs are always in need of woodlands in which to stage tournaments. This case-study illustrates how landowners and archery clubs can combine to provide much-needed facilities, to mutual benefit.



Objectives	Provision of field archery tournament in a woodland setting, without jeopardising the woodlands' value for wildlife and timber.
Background	The Stourhead Estate was created by the Hoares, a banking family, who built the house and garden in the 18th century. After World War 2, the house, gardens and 2,300 acres (930 ha) was gifted to the National Trust. The Stourhead (Western) Estate, remained with the family, and it is this part where the archery takes place.



	<p>The Estate's website provides information about the woodland's history:</p> <p>"The estate has always been at the forefront of forestry thinking. Over two thirds of the current 496 hectares of woodland were open ground two hundred years ago, and the estate was one of the first to plant widely with the conifer species such as Douglas fir which thrive on the site." Current management involves the production of about 3600 cubic metres of timber a year, operating a system of Continuous Cover forestry and regeneration. This forestry system concentrates on achieving the best quality timber in a sustainable and environmentally friendly manner. The woods are certified under the Forest Stewardship Council scheme as being run to the highest environmental and social standards.</p> <p>Ballands Bowmen have a 40 year history of staging archery tournaments. The club are always seeking new and varied venues in which to practice and stage tournaments.</p>
Actions and achievements	<p>The Stourhead (Western) Estate, situated in rural Wiltshire, has a long history of allowing public and recreational access to its extensive area of broadleaf and coniferous woodland. However, it had no experience of field archery. Ballands Bowmen approached the landowner, Mr Nic Hoare, to enquire whether he would permit a section of his woodland to be used for a single day of field archery. Following meetings, demonstrations of the type of archery involved, safety assessments and confirmation of suitable insurance, Mr Hoare agreed to allow a trial shoot. Ballands Bowmen liaised with the Estate Secretary, Sally Monkhouse, and the shoot took place without any problems.</p> <p>The closure of several acres of woodland allowed 130 archers to enjoy several hours of competitive archery in a superb location, with no damage to any part of the estate.</p> <p>Mr Hoare has generously consented to Ballands Bowmen's continued use of woodlands on his estate, and has even permitted a larger area to be used. The woods are now used about twice a year for archery (in May and October) for one or two-day shoots. This varies from year to year but the Estate is very accommodating.</p> <p>There are other users of the woodlands – such as mountain bikers and horse riders, so the Estate asks the archery club to put signs at all access points two weeks before an event to advise that the estate will be out of bounds during the period of the shoot. Archery butts are not placed in front of trees so that arrows do not embed themselves in the trunks.</p>

Quotes	<p><i>'One of the best woodlands in England made available to archers through the generosity of an enlightened owner.'</i> – Andrew Rees – Vice Chairman - Ballands Bowmen.</p> <p><i>'The Estate welcomes responsible local groups and organisations who wish to use the woodland for events and competitions.'</i> – Sally Monkhouse – Estate Secretary – Stourhead (Western) Estate.</p>
Partners	The partnership was solely between the landowner and the archery club.
Funding	No external funding was available. Tournament entry fees are charged by the club and 10% of that income is donated to a charity of the landowner's choice.
Lessons learnt	Once landowners see what low environmental impact field archery has, they are happy to allow the use of their woodlands.
Contact	<p>More information about the Estate can be found on - <a href="http://www.stourhead.com/estate/history.html">http://www.stourhead.com/estate/history.html</a>.</p> <p>Andrew Rees, Vice-Chairman, Ballands Bowmen and Chairman of the Archery GB Field Committee: <a href="mailto:areesriba@aol.com">areesriba@aol.com</a></p> <p>Sally Monkhouse, Estate Secretary, Stourhead Western Estates: <a href="mailto:sally.monkhouse@stourhead.com">sally.monkhouse@stourhead.com</a></p>

