Raptor Persecution UK

The dark side of UK’s gamebird shooting industry – Channel 4 News

RaptorPersecutionUK

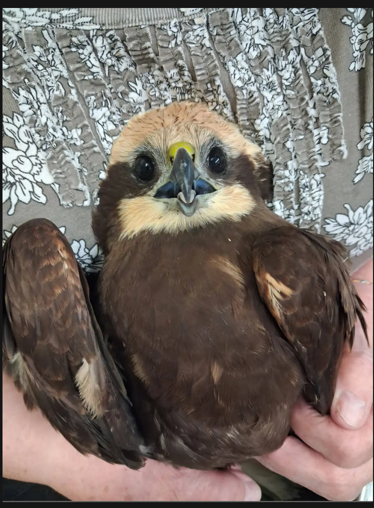
November 4, 2026

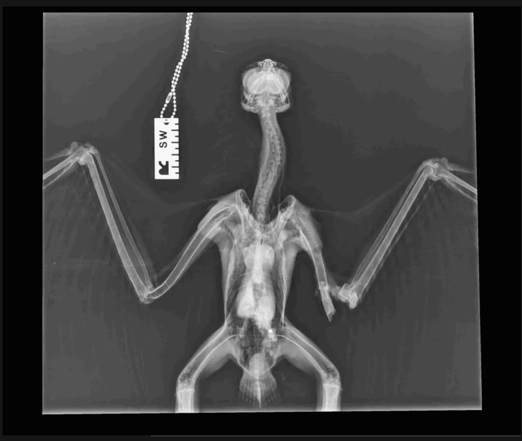
2026 persecution incidents, News, Persecution Incidents in England

Last Friday evening, Channel 4 News had another good piece exposing the dark side of the UK’s gamebird shooting industry.

It included some pretty gruesome undercover footage from gamebird rearing farms in England, including Westfield Farms near Pickering, North Yorkshire, who’ve featured on this blog several times over the years.

The piece also covered grouse shooting, again in North Yorkshire, and included information about the shot Marsh Harrier found critically injured on a grouse moor in the Westerdale area of the North York Moors National Park in August this year. She was about two months old. She didn’t survive her catastrophic injuries.

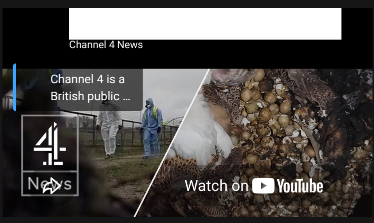




There’s an interview with Fiona Howie, one of the UK’s leading veterinary pathologists, discussing the damage caused to this Marsh Harrier and the wider issue of shot raptors, and Howard Jones from the RSPB’s Investigations Team, who repeats the society’s call for gamebird shoot licensing. There’s also an interview with Matthew Goodall from the GWCT who says he doesn’t think there’s a need for licensing as the industry can police itself. He said that with a straight face.

The timing of the piece was clearly intended to coincide with Defra’s Call for Evidence on gamebird rearing and shooting, designed to inform future policy which may include licensing. That consultation has now closed and we await Defra’s response.

The Channel 4 News piece is about 8 minutes long but be warned, it contains some distressing footage.



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2 thoughts on “The dark side of UK’s gamebird shooting industry – Channel 4 News”

Jeremy Moore

November 4, 2026 at 5:27 pm

A brilliant report by Alex Thompson. Well done Alex.

Reply

Richard Mills

November 4, 2026 at 8:49 pm

I don’t know about licencing, it should be banned, no need for it in this era. They could make more money by diversifying into tourism, and probably employ more people, who wants a moor full of grouse and nothing else? Only those sicos with guns.

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- 2005 persecution incidents (8)
- 2006 persecution incidents (18)
- 2007 persecution incidents (14)
- 2008 persecution incidents (13)
- 2009 persecution incidents (50)
- 2010 persecution incidents (71)
- 2011 persecution incidents (51)
- 2012 persecution incidents (124)
- 2013 persecution incidents (147)
- 2014 persecution incidents (182)
- 2015 persecution incidents (106)
- 2016 persecution incidents (149)
- 2017 persecution incidents (146)
- 2018 persecution incidents (219)
- 2019 persecution incidents (221)
- 2020 persecution incidents (278)
- 2021 persecution incidents (235)
- 2022 persecution incidents (164)
- 2023 persecution incidents (149)
- 2024 persecution incidents (113)
- 2025 persecution incidents (78)
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- November 2025 (26)
- October 2025 (22)
- September 2025 (18)
- August 2025 (23)
- July 2025 (19)
- June 2025 (13)
- May 2025 (19)
- April 2025 (22)
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- April 2023 (31)
- March 2023 (27)
- February 2023 (24)
- January 2023 (30)
- December 2022 (16)
- November 2022 (15)
- October 2022 (22)
- September 2022 (14)
- August 2022 (33)
- July 2022 (21)
- June 2022 (26)
- May 2022 (32)
- April 2022 (26)
- March 2022 (34)
- February 2022 (28)
- January 2022 (31)
- December 2021 (22)
- November 2021 (27)
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- July 2021 (21)
- June 2021 (15)
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- April 2021 (41)
- March 2021 (38)
- February 2021 (42)
- January 2021 (38)
- December 2020 (33)
- November 2020 (48)
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Balmoral Estate
barn owl
Bendiocarb
buzzard
Cabrach Estate

Cairngorms National Park
carbofuran
Cardross Estate
Cawdor Estate
chloralose
clam trap
Corrybrough Estate
crow trap
dailyprompt
dailyprompt-1889
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Environment Minister
gamekeeper
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gin trap
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