

More on Drones

Editor of R/C Flight Camera Action, Denis Stretton, says: "there are a number of options but I must start with safety and the law. It is essential that whoever flies the remote aircraft is competent and if paid for doing such work they must be in possession of an exemption from the CAA for such work. There are insurance liabilities too. Having said all that if the aircraft weighs less than 3.5 kg all up the regulations are not as strict. On that note the Phantom 2 Vision + is a good place to start. It has its own camera and gimbal, has GPS for way point and flight data recording, can be flown using an iPad or apple device and has a lot of safety features."

Mike Rendle says: "Re what to do with leverets detected by drones - the advice I give to people checking for leverets ahead of grass cutting is place any found in a cardboard box (or similar), cover with a cloth and place somewhere safe nearby. I suggest they leave an uncut edge and/or corner field margin. As soon as the machinery has left the immediate area, the leveret(s) can be released into the long uncut grass area. When the mother returns to the field at night, she will almost certainly find them."

Worcester City Council bans snares

Snares have officially been banned on council-owned land in Worcester - after the city council's leadership labelled them "inhumane". The policy, which has been eight months in the making, was recently approved by the Conservative cabinet. During the debate Councillor, Andy Roberts, said: "I support this measure, that as a major landowner we support a ban on the use of snares and show leadership on this issue." The rest of the cabinet agreed, saying the practise was considered cruel and outdated. Councillor David Wilkinson, cabinet member for safer and stronger communities, said: "In this day and age it's incredibly important that we are mindful of the way animals are treated."

Pithy comment from a contact in Scotland!

Estate owners etc often claim that "raptor removal", mountain hare extermination is necessary for their finances, which benefits the Highland/Scottish economy, but has anyone actually ever done a report on how much the Scottish economy would benefit from wildlife tourism - an industry the estates are killing. What is the point after all, of a wildlife tourist coming to an area where all the golden eagles, goshawks, mountain hares etc have been killed by some retarded forelock-tugger who gets paid a pittance for doing so by some toff who is probably running a large proportion of the estate on tax dodges, grant scams and sharp practice in the City ?

Mountain hare protection

Dave Windle reports that he has had a letter back from the EU commissioner via the local MEP asking for clear evidence that the species is no longer in favourable status and also emphasising the need to work with national bodies (in our case, SNH). The agreed plan is now to wait until we get a reply back from the SNH scientific advisory sub-committee on sustainable moorland management. They are due to report in December and so we're not talking of waiting too long.

Article on hares

Editor of Devon Life magazine, Andy Cooper has accepted our offer of one for the March 2015 edition. The magazine has a circulation of 140,000, so this is an excellent opportunity to raise hare awareness in a county which has seen a particularly steep decline in numbers since the 1960s.

VoteForAnimals.org.uk

This easy-to-use website examines the animal-friendly credentials of all current MPs, as well as listing party policies. Constituents can also contact their MP directly through the site and ask him or her to support key animal issues.

