

Joining a rove shoot – What you need to know

You need to read this document before registering



Roving Archery is one of the safest forms of the sport as all archers shoot on a line in the same direction in open land. That way we maintain good visibility and we ensure that all archers can clearly see the intended target and the ground around and beyond it.

The Risks of which you need to be aware:

In English Law all people are responsible for their own actions.

While we carry Public Liability Insurance, which is exactly the same as the other established archery Societies, insurance is only there to cover unforeseen eventualities. It does not cover anyone who acts irresponsibly.

1. **Weather.** This is something that we cannot control, so we need to be open to adjusting the way we shoot. In the case of high winds, we can alter direction of shooting. In extreme hot and cold weather we can wear appropriate clothing and carry fluids, wear hats and sunscreen, and so on. Luckily in the UK our weather is not so extreme, but being aware of conditions is important.
2. **Terrain.** This the discipline of roving archery is over undulating and sometimes rough terrain you will need to wear stout footwear and to be aware of your own ability to traverse the ground safely. We try to minimise the need to cross fences or hedges, although there are sometimes stiles and gates. As there are a number of archers moving from one place to another clear walkways are important.
3. **Watching for trespassers.** There is always the possibility of someone casually walking their dog and being unaware of the archers. While the area allocated to us for by Castle Hill for the rove is not open to the public, there is still the necessity to be careful. Our protocols are as follows:
 - a. The archers will be advised before the start of shooting of the safety procedures in place.
 - b. Within the group there will be a number of people who are tasked with the job of being “spotters” These people will carry a whistle and will blow the whistle several times if they see anyone approaching the intended target. All archers need to be aware that any whistle blown means – “stop shooting” – and only on the word of the field captain can shooting resumed.

- c. If you see someone who could walk into the shooting area do not assume that a spotter has also seen them also but shout FAST and alert the field captain whilst stopping shooting.

It is better to be delayed a little to make sure that it is safe, before we shoot, than to take a possible risk.

4. **The field captain.** This is the person who will tell you which mark we are shooting, how many arrows to shoot, and when to start shooting. You will be asked to form a reasonably straight shooting line and MUST NOT in any circumstances shoot over another person.
5. **Trip hazards.** This is generally arrows. In order to minimise the risks in this instance all archers are advised to approach the target area to one side or the other as arrows are more clearly seen side-on rather than end-on. In this way it is much easier to see and find your own arrows whilst avoiding other peoples.
6. **Parking:** On the Castel Hill estate, parking is in one line along the wall. Please drive slowly and carefully into the area where we park and congregate as people can be distracted and not aware of a slow moving vehicle. Some people might have electric cars, which are almost completely silent and pose a threat that has not yet become commonplace.
7. **Respect for the countryside.** It is a privilege to shoot on these estates and rove archers pride themselves on leaving a ZERO footprint in a landscape.

Keep safe and look out for each other and then we will all have a good day's shooting.

