

Bisley Field Archery – Member & Interested Party Briefing Note

Introduction

Bisley Field Archery is a new and important development within the National Shooting Centre (NSC) estate. It is being established to provide a safe, well-managed and inclusive field archery facility, operated to the same professional standards as all other shooting disciplines at Bisley.

This note is intended for existing archers, including legacy Bisley Bowmen members, prospective new members, and anyone with an interest in the future of archery at Bisley. It sets out the vision, transition arrangements, and what to expect over the coming months.

The Vision

Our aim is to create a high-quality field archery facility that:

- Is centrally managed, safe, and sustainable
- Welcomes beginners, experienced archers, and established clubs
- Allows clubs to retain their own identity where they wish
- Treats all individual archers equally, regardless of club affiliation
- Operates under clear governance, with safety and membership decisions taken by NSC

Bisley Field Archery will be an NSC-controlled facility. While clubs are welcome to participate and retain their identity, all operational, safety, and membership decisions will sit with the National Shooting Centre.

Governance and Control

- The National Shooting Centre Ltd is the site operator and will formally take over the ground on 1 January.
- NSC will control access, booking, safety management, and membership requirements.
- All archers using the facility will do so on equal terms, regardless of club background.
- No individual or club will hold exclusive rights to the facility.

This structure ensures clarity of responsibility and long-term viability of the range.

Membership and Insurance

From 1 January, all archers wishing to shoot at Bisley will be required to hold appropriate NSC membership.

- All archers will be expected to become members of **Bisley Air**, which provides the appropriate insurance and access framework.
- Fleet Ibex members, Bisley Bowmen members, independent archers, and new joiners will all access the facility through NSC membership.

Bisley Bowmen (BB) Transition Arrangements

As part of the transition to NSC management, the following arrangements apply to existing Bisley Bowmen members:

- The NRA insurance arranged by Mike Murphy expires on **31 December**.

- Bisley Bowmen club membership purchased under the previous arrangement runs until **31 March**.

To ensure there is no interruption to shooting during this transition period, Bisley Bowmen members will be offered **three months' free membership to Bisley Air**, covering **January to March**. This ensures continued insurance cover and access while the handover and reorganisation takes place.

From **1 January onwards**, access to the site and insurance cover will only be valid through Bisley Air membership.

The range will be closed after Christmas until 6 Jan 2026. If you would like to shoot at the existing targets left by Mike Murphey until such time as the new targetry is in place, you may do so if you have signed up to be a member of Bisley Air.

For the BB members We have decided to credit your account with 1 year's membership for the price of 9 months in recognition of the fact that you have paid for the first three months in 2026. To that end the BB members (who can prove this) need to phone the pavilion reception and pay £27. Anyone unable to prove they are a paid-up member of BB will need to pay the full Bisley Air rate of £50.00. The pavilion staff will be on leave from 23 Dec to 2nd Jan. Please call 01483798810 to join during working hours.

New Archers and Existing Experience

Bisley Field Archery is open to both newcomers and experienced archers.

- Complete beginners will be required to attend a beginner course or a short series of coached lessons before being signed off as competent.
- Archers from other recognised clubs may be accepted where they are formally vouched for by their own club committee. In these cases, the NSC induction will focus on course orientation rather than full reassessment.
- Members of Fleet Ibex and Bisley Bowmen will be assumed to be competent by virtue of their existing participation. However, all such members will be required to complete an NSC orientation and awareness brief covering the new rules, booking process, and operating arrangements.

All members will be issued with a Bisley shooting competency record, consistent with other disciplines across the NSC.

Probation and Standards

- All new members will initially be subject to a probationary period.
- This allows NSC to ensure safety standards, behaviour, and range etiquette are consistently maintained.

Existing NRA Members

Existing NRA members are already insured through their NRA membership and are welcome to use the Bisley Field Archery facility. NSC recognises the financial commitment already made by NRA members; however, an additional membership charge is required to support the ongoing costs of range operation, maintenance, and targetry provision. In recognition of this, NRA members will receive a 20% discount on Bisley Field Archery membership and a 20% discount on all required induction or orientation sessions.

All NRA members remain subject to the same induction, orientation, and competency requirements as all other users of the facility. No exemptions apply in respect of safety standards, competency assessment, or ongoing compliance with National Shooting Centre rules and procedures.

Booking, Accountability and Check-In

- All shooting sessions must be booked in advance through the NSC booking system.
- Each session will have a named individual responsible for that booking.
- On arrival, all archers must check in at the clubhouse before proceeding to the range.

Site Clearance and Preparation Timeline

To allow the new facility to be properly prepared:

- All personal items belonging to Bisley Bowmen must be removed from the site by **5 January**.
- A skip will arrive on **6 January**.
- A work party will be organised to clear remaining unwanted items and general debris. Coordination of this work party will be led by Gazz K.
- New equipment will begin arriving during the week commencing 12 January.

January and Early Operations

- Archers are welcome to use the facility during January.
- Please note that there will be a **reduced service** for the first couple of months while work continues and systems are finalised.
- Some disruption should be expected during this bedding-in period.

Field Course Readiness

While an exact date cannot yet be confirmed, the current expectation is for the field course to be **fully operational by 1 April**, ready for normal use.

Terms and Conditions

All Bisley Air and Bisley Field Archery members will be subject to NSC Terms and Conditions.

- These will set out member responsibilities, safety requirements, booking rules, and conduct expectations.
- Terms and Conditions are currently being finalised and will be issued prior to the facility becoming fully operational.
- Acceptance of the Terms and Conditions will be a condition of membership and use of the facility.

Working Together

We value the long-standing contribution of Bisley Bowmen and the expertise of clubs such as Fleet Ibex.

Clubs are welcome to maintain their identity and community, but the facility itself will be run as a shared, professionally managed NSC range. All members are treated equally, and all decisions relating to safety, access, and membership are taken by the National Shooting Centre.

We will continue to keep members updated as the transition progresses and look forward to working constructively with all archers during this next phase.

Richie Vallance

Head of Operations

National Shooting Centre