

FAQs: Frequently Asked Questions

Please contact us if you have a question that is not answered here.

We recommend visiting the Small-Bore Rifle UK web site for answers to many of the questions you may have about shooting.

What sort of shooting do you do?

Almost all our shooting is Target Rifle in .308" (7.62mm) calibre. Some members use 5.56mm (NATO calibre) target rifles.

Some of our members also shoot "F" Class rifle in various calibres. See the home page for more details.

Where do you shoot?

Club members shoot on behalf of the club at meetings all over the country - including at the National Shooting Centre at Bisley - the "home" of British shooting.

Locally we shoot mainly at the Thorpe Range in Derbyshire.

What happens during a shooting day?

Please contact us for details of what happens during a typical shooting day at Thorpe Range.

How do I become a member?

The first thing is to contact us for an invitation to one of our Guest Days.

I have a firearms certificate and a rifle - can I just turn up?

No. For legal and insurance reasons our shooting days are open to members only.

However, you would be most welcome at one of our Guest Days before deciding if you want to join us or not.

I have never shot before - can I come along?

Yes. We can provide a club rifle, one to one supervision and training. Many guests will have had 0.22 small-bore experience, but it is not essential.

Can I reach the rifle range using public transport?

Unfortunately, no. If you are transporting your own rifle then definitely no. In these days of mobile phones someone will make a call - and being greeted off the bus by armed police officers is not a pleasant experience.

How do I obtain a firearms certificate (FAC)?

- You must be aged 18 or over.
- You must have a valid reason which can be target shooting or hunting/pest control. We will deal with target shooting.
- You must be a full and active member of a recognised rifle club. "Active" means that the club keeps a record of each time you shoot and what you shoot - this information is passed to your local police force at least once a year. If you are not active the police may visit you and they may withdraw your FAC.
- To become a member of a club you will need to attend your club regularly as a probationary member for at least six months and undergo a recognised course of instruction.
- You will almost certainly need to be a member of a full-bore club before you will be allowed to put full-bore rifles on your FAC.
- You must have an approved security cabinet in which to store firearms. This cabinet must be fixed to the wall or floor of your permanent home. You will need a separate smaller secure cabinet for the storage of ammunition and rifle bolts/actions. There are many suppliers of suitable cabinets - this one for example.
- You must complete an application form which may be obtained from the firearms department of your local police force.
- Consult with the members of your club when you complete the form - they will advise on what firearms and ammunition to request.
- You will have to provide two independent referees who will complete a form to be sent to your local police force which will double check the information they supply.
- You will be visited by the police to check the information you have provided and to ensure that you have facilities for keeping firearms securely.
- The police will also check with the secretary of your rifle club to ensure that you are a full member, that you have received instruction and that you attend regularly.

What kit will you need if you take up shooting?

Like all sports, you need the right kit - and the cost can range from the "quite reasonable" to the astronomic ("Cheque Book Shooters" only - they may not be the best shots, but they have some nice kit!)

You will need:

- Rifle with sights, sling and hook. (The hook clips the sling to the rifle.)
- Approved security cabinet to store your rifle and ammunition - a requirement before you can get your firearms certificate.
- Shooting jacket.
- Shooting glove to take the weight of the rifle.
- Shooting cap to keep the sun out of your eyes and to avoid distractions.
- Shooting mat for comfort and to keep out the damp.
- Shooting glasses if you wear glasses - these have a higher bridge to put the centre of the lens in front of the sights.
- Safety glasses.
- Hearing protection.
- Weather-proof marking writer for recording scores.
- Spotting scope to see your scores.
- Breech flag - inserted into the breech to show the rifle is not loaded.
- Waterproofs for the wet days.

Browse through the NSRA or Edinkillie on-line shops to see the sort of kit available. Our links page contains more useful links for rifles etc.

Warning: too much browsing can seriously damage your wallet.

Remember: there is always a good supply of second-hand rifles and other equipment around - you don't have to spend a fortune. The annoying thing is that the very best shots tend not to have the most expensive equipment - you can't buy your way to a top score - it's the shooter, not the gun, that counts.