

NFAS Woods Practice Area Guide

Reviewers

Review period

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General Secretary

Safety Officer

3 years

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Introduction

This has been written as a guide and is not meant as definitive. Each course and club premises are different to the next and should be viewed with its layout and conditions in mind. The points set out below should help lay a safe practice area for guests and club members to use. This guide can be used for practice woods and for open shoots.

Steps to laying a practice area

Start with a map of the location and plan where the practice area is going to be.

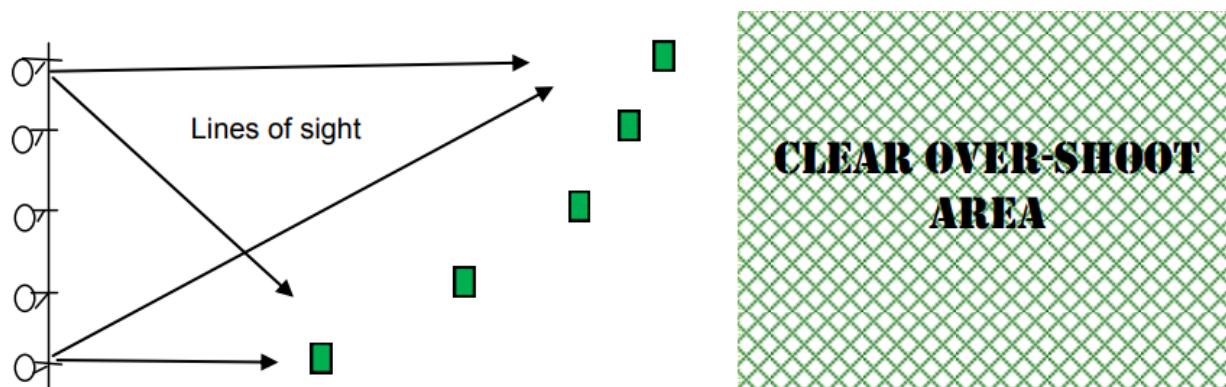
The same consideration should be given to this area as to the course regarding safety. The overshoot must be safe and clear with adequate clearance to take into account the risks of ricochets. The area to either side should be kept clear of people and cars etc., to avoid incidents with arrows bouncing back.

Bearing in mind that it is a practice area and not a 'challenging course' it should be clear of obstructions with a clear view of the bosses. Low or obstructive branches, ferns, natural growth etc should be avoided. Avoid dark areas caused by a heavy canopy of trees and foliage as good natural light is important for safety.

The shooting line should be flat and level with good even footing. There should be a defined line to shoot from which could be indicated by marking across the whole length with tape etc. or marked at each end (if a shorter space) by pegs or flags so that the line is easy to identify.

Where large numbers are involved, for example at an open shoot, it is advisable to have a marshal in charge to control the shooting and collection of arrows.

Where multiple bosses are in use that are set to differing distances, consideration should be given to right-handed majority to avoid being 'blindsided' to shooters using other bosses as shown below:



This layout will allow right-handed archers to have a clear line of vision to all bosses whether on the far right or the far left of the shooting line.

Points to remember

- 🕒 The boss must be hittable
- 🕒 It is recommended that the closest boss be at least 10 metres from the shooting line and the farthest no more than 60 metres
- 🕒 Ensure the area in front, side AND behind is clear
- 🕒 Consider what happens if the arrow misses the target? Will it be easily found?
- 🕒 How do archers arrive at and move away from the practice area?
- 🕒 Have you allocated a controlling marshal for the practice area during open shoots?
- 🕒 **Have you completed a risk assessment?**

Remember: There is nothing you have to do in archery that cannot be done safely