



# CHOOSING THE RIGHT STALKING STICKS

Many stalkers make great use of garden canes and a rubber ring, but as **Sam Thompson** discovers, more stable platforms are available

For as long as men have been firing weapons, they have been using aids to increase accuracy. The earliest evidence of a shooting aid I can find is in *The Double Armed Man*, a 1625 book by archer William Neade, which explains — among other things — the use of a staff to steady the long yew bow.

Technology has advanced somewhat since then, and the past 10 years have seen leaps forward from the traditional single hazel pole used by the originators of woodland stalking. I doubt they would recognise any of the four sets of shooting sticks that were sent to me for review.

## GARDEN CANES

I decided to add into the review my own shooting sticks — a pair of plastic-coated B&Q garden canes, connected with a rubber teat cup liner (easily acquired from a friendly dairy farmer for nothing, or from Donington Deer Management for £4). At about 2m tall, the lightweight sticks create a simple bipod for either sitting or

▼ (Left to right): Sam's home-made garden cane stick, Vanguard Quest T62U, Seeland Decoy sticks, Hammond Sporting Quad-pod, and Primos Trigger Stick

