

## Quantock Deer Management and Conservation Group

[www.quantockdeergroup.co.uk](http://www.quantockdeergroup.co.uk)



### **To all deer count helpers, landholders and members of QDM&CG**

The 29<sup>th</sup> annual end of winter deer count took place on **Sunday 3rd March 2019**. The weather conditions were poor with patches of fog and drizzle, but all planned back-up dates had similar or worse forecasts. Nevertheless 59 counters took part on the count day with some larger areas being divided up to increase the likelihood of sightings.

After exclusion of probable duplicate sightings (e.g. deer noted to move between blocks during the count) **320** different **red deer** were recorded, of which 40 were prickets or stags. The poor visibility and unusual weather conditions in the weeks and months leading up to the count (exceptionally dry and warm weather in late February) may also have contributed to this comparatively low count this year.

As always, it is important to note that for this annual one-day count we do not presume to see the entire Quantock red deer herd, as some will be missed in concealing cover and a proportion of stags move further off the hills by late winter. The greatest value of the count lies in it being done in the same way year on year, to provide long term trends (see graph overleaf), minimum numbers and a guide to deer distribution.

Whilst the count is designed primarily to record red deer, sightings of **123 Roe** (including at least 19 bucks) were also logged. In addition, two muntjac were recorded in the northern part of the Hills.

Many thanks are due to all volunteers who participated, all Quantock landholders for their continued co-operation, the Quantock Hills AONB/FC staff for their organisational role and to Jochen Langbein for compiling the results.

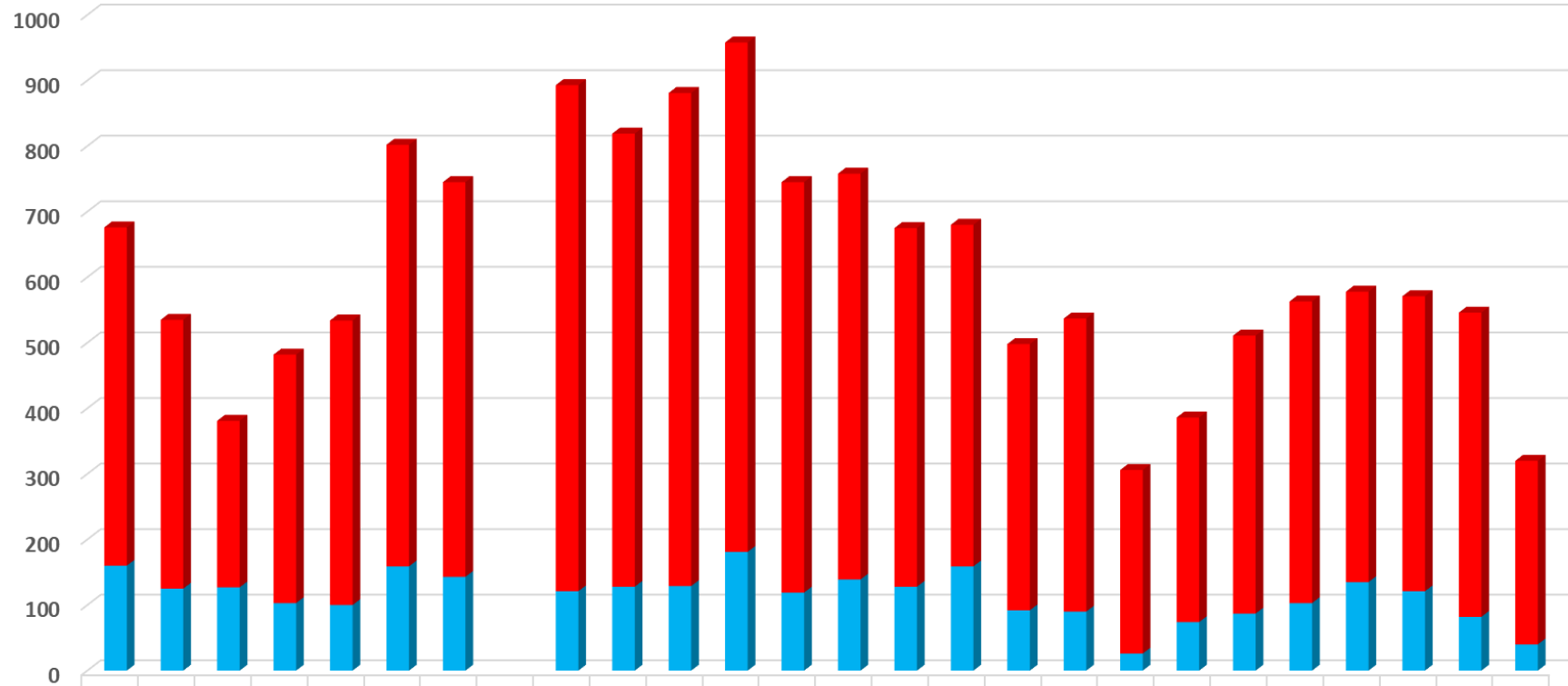
### **Quantock Deer Count - Summary of deer count 3 March 2019**

Red Deer	Hinds & Calves (of both sexes)	Prickets	Young Stags	Older Stags ( > 4 yr old)		Roe Deer	Fallow Deer	Muntjac Deer
<b>320:</b>	280	8	26	6		<b>123</b>	0	2

### **Comparison of Red deer counted March 2019 with 4-year average by region:**

<b>Year 2019</b>			<b>Average 2015 – 2018</b>		
Total	Hinds & Followers	Prickets & Stags	Total	Hinds & Followers	Prickets & Stags
<b>320</b>	280	40	<b>565</b>	454	110
<b>A: North</b> (all count blocks lying north of the Crowcombe to Overstowey road)					
<b>252</b>	226	26	<b>380</b>	309	71
<b>B: Central:</b> (South of Crowcombe to Overstowey Road to Lydeard Hill, incl. Great Wood, Aisholt)					
<b>66</b>	52	14	<b>166</b>	127	39
<b>C: South-East</b> (all areas south-east of Lydeard Hill – incl. Cothelstone, Broomfield to Kings Cliff.)					
<b>2</b>	2	0	<b>10</b>	8	2

**Quantock Deer Management & Conservation Group**  
**Annual Spring Counts of Red deer 1994-2019**



■ Stags & Prickets      ■ Hinds & Followers

**RED DEER : Totals by Year**

Year	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
<b>Total</b>	<b>676</b>	<b>535</b>	<b>381</b>	<b>482</b>	<b>534</b>	<b>802</b>	<b>745</b>	<b>FMD</b>	<b>893</b>	<b>819</b>	<b>881</b>	<b>958</b>	<b>745</b>	<b>758</b>	<b>675</b>	<b>680</b>	<b>498</b>	<b>537</b>	<b>306</b>	<b>386</b>	<b>511</b>	<b>563</b>	<b>578</b>	<b>571</b>	<b>546</b>	<b>320</b>