



QUANTOCK DEER

Management & Conservation Group

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

The annual ground-based end of winter Quantock deer count took place on **Sunday 2nd March 2025**.

This 2025 Quantock Deer Count has been our 34th deer count! It would have been our 35th had we also counted in 2001 (Foot and Mouth)! Quite some record and achievement to all involved, past and present. It's quite a logistical task to organise the counters, allocate areas and maps and then the time looking over each return, looking for double counts, checking timings of observations, directions, numbers in group, males/females and comments, and then comparing to the neighbouring area/s.

Overall, red deer numbers are lower than the highest ever (1102) visual count of 2024. It was agreed numbers were higher than acceptable for the area, agriculture, forestry, roads etc. and so an increased cull through the winter has, based on the numbers, resulted in some reduction. Both hind and stag numbers have fallen, but hind numbers remain high. The majority are still to be found in the northern hills – north of the Over Stowey – Crowcombe road. Lower numbers the further south you go in the hills – more agricultural land and more fragmented woodland. A good number of roe deer were seen, although much harder to spot than the larger red. No fallow, sika or muntjac were seen (muntjac are still present on the Quantocks, and I have had 2 sightings recently).

The weather was once again perfect, a cold clear morning with good visibility which helps not only seeing the deer, which are then also more inclined to be out in the open. Once again, a 'rave', in Ramscombe this year rather than Croydon Hill, the same morning may have affected some areas, but didn't seem to affect deer behaviour in the nearby area I was counting. Thank you to the 62 counters who once again were up very early on a Sunday morning to come out and count. I wonder how many of you have done all 34 counts? Matt Peaster, Group Chairman.

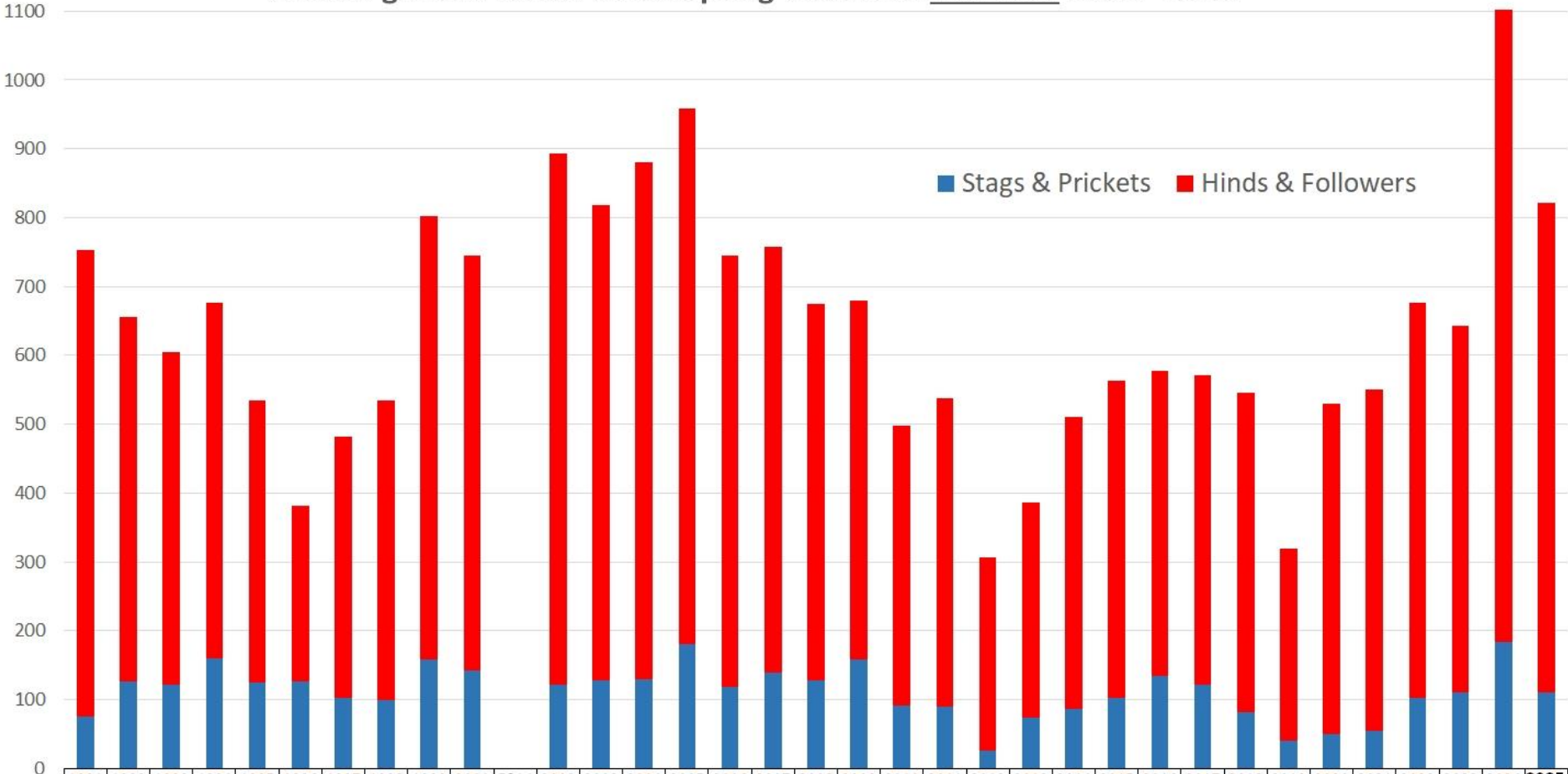
Quantock Deer Count - Summary total of ALL deer counted 3rd March 2024

Red Deer	Hinds & calves	Prickets	Young Stags	Stags 4+ years	Roe Deer	Fallow deer	Muntjac deer	Sika
821	711	18	58	34	149	0	0	0

Breakdown of RED DEER seen by region and comparison with average over previous four years

Year 2025			4-yr Average 2021 - 2024		
Total	Hinds & Followers	Prickets & Stags	Total	Hinds & Followers	Prickets & Stags
821	711	110	743	631	113
A: North (all count blocks lying north of the Crowcombe to					
591	503	88	552	473	79
B: Central: (South of Crowcombe to Overstowey Road to Lydeard					
198	182	16	151	125	26
C: South-East (all areas south-east of Lydeard Hill – incl.					
32	26	6	41	33	8

Quantock Deer Management & Conservation Group Annual ground-based visual Spring Counts of Red deer 1991 - 2025



■ Hinds & Followers	677	528	482	516	410	254	379	434	643	602		772	691	752	777	626	619	547	521	406	447	280	312	424	460	443	450	464	280	479	497	574	533	918	711
■ Stags & Prickets	76	127	122	160	125	127	103	100	159	143		121	128	129	181	119	139	128	159	92	90	26	74	87	103	135	121	82	40	50	54	102	110	184	110
Total	753	655	604	676	535	381	482	534	802	745		893	819	881	958	745	758	675	680	498	537	306	386	511	563	578	571	546	320	529	551	676	643	1102	821