

March 17, 2009

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

Please find below results of our latest deer count which took place on **1st March 2009**. Counting conditions were generally good with occasional sunshine, but cold wind on the hills.

Overall **680 Red deer** were seen - a very similar total to last year. For the second year running numbers seen were rather lower than in past years to the south and east of Lydeard Hill (with zero counts of red deer in Wind Down, Broomfield and Kings Cliff woods on the day), whereas numbers in the northern half of the Quantocks have shown far less change over the last five years. An encouraging result this year was that the count included a higher proportion of stags than recorded for some time (including 62 prickets, 70 young stags (2-4yrs) and 27 older stags >4yrs); with a few further mature stags also reported to be residing in areas well off the hill but which were not seen on the day of the count.

Numbers of roe deer recorded during the count totalled 39; this is higher than last year, but nevertheless likely to under-record actual numbers by a long way, as the present count is designed foremost to focus on red deer. No muntjac deer were seen on the day, but a number have been reported over recent months in the Cothelstone and Crowcombe Heathfield districts. Please report any other muntjac sightings to us if you encounter them during the year.

The next deer count is likely to be either Sunday 28th February or 7st March 2010. Please let us know your availability nearer the time. Once again thank you to everyone who turned out at the crack of dawn to help and to all landholders for their continued co-operation with these counts. Regards , **Jochen Langbein & Andy Harris** (Deer count co-ordinators).

Quantock Deer Count Results 1 March 2009

Red Deer Total	Hinds & Calves (of both sexes)	Prickets	Young Stags	Older Stags (> 4 yr old)		Roe Deer Total	Muntjac Total
680:	521	62	70	27		39 (inc > 13 bucks)	0

Comparison of Red deer count March 2007 and 2008 by region:

2009			2008		
Total	Hinds & followers	Prickets & Stags	Total	Hinds & followers	Prickets & Stags

A: North (all count blocks lying north of the Crowcombe to Overstowey road)

396	277	119	397	334	63
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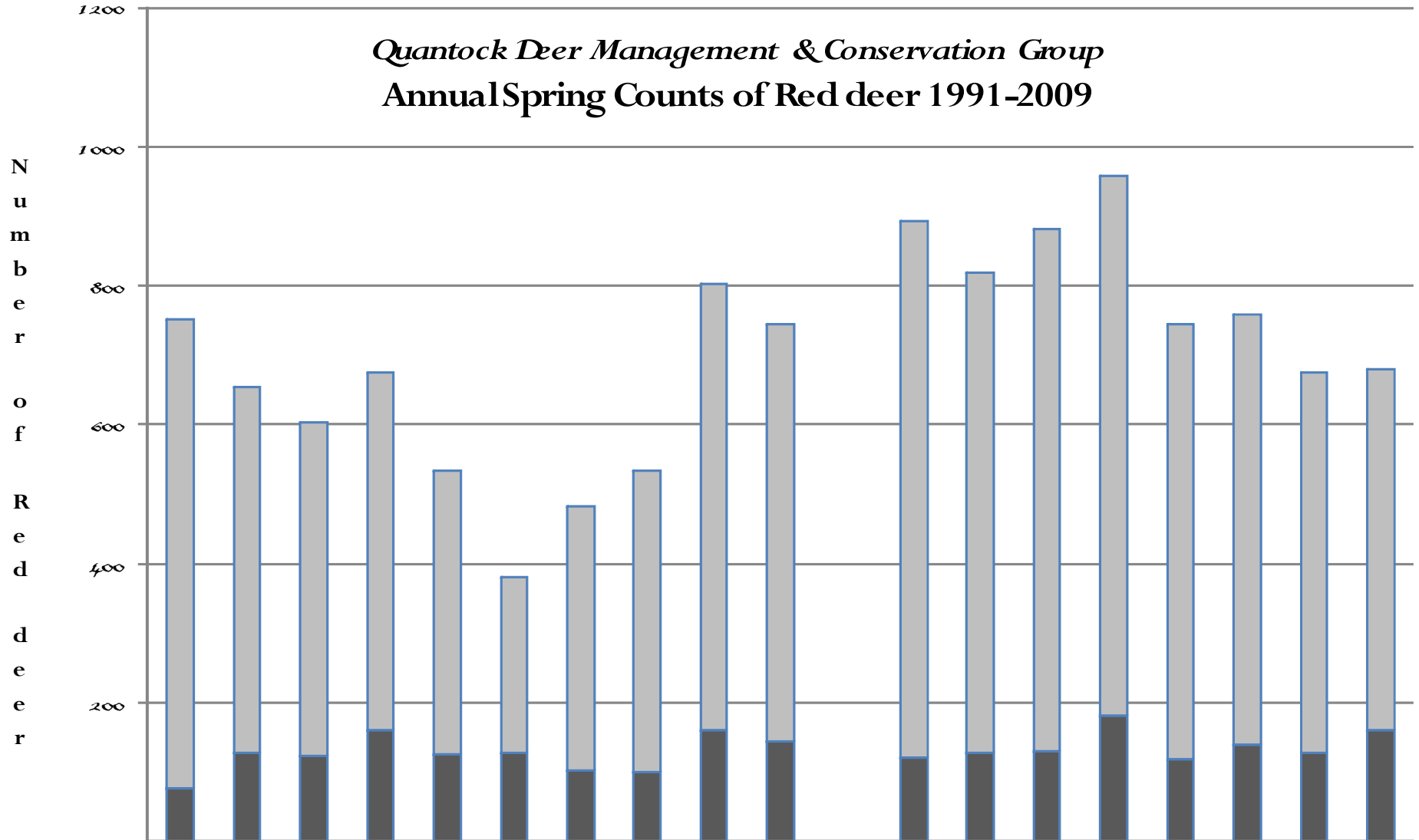
B: Central: (South of Overstowey Road to Great Wood / West Bagborough & including Aisholt Common , and Crowcombe Heathfield)

270	232	38	263	200	63
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C: South-East (all areas south-east of Lydeard Hill - includes Cothelstone Hill, Broomfield Hill, Wind Down & King's Cliff)

14	12	2	15	13	2
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Quantock Deer Management & Conservation Group
Annual Spring Counts of Red deer 1991-2009



	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Finds & Followers	677	528	482	516	410	254	379	434	643	602		772	691	752	777	626	619	547	521
Dags & Fickets	76	127	122	160	125	127	103	100	159	143		121	128	129	181	119	139	128	159