



31st March 2010

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

Please find below results of our latest annual deer count held on **Sunday 7th March 2010**. Visibility for counting was good with clear bright skies from dawn, but with temperatures well below freezing well into the morning and very cold winds across on the hills..

Overall **498 Red deer** were seen within the count area on the day – making this the lowest count recorded for that species this decade. The unusually cold conditions for this time of year may have contributed to that result, possibly leading to a higher proportion of deer than normal remaining in cover and out of view of counters. The low result does however remain consistent with the overall trend towards lower red deer numbers ever since Spring 2005 when 958 red deer were seen during the count. As in the last two years, only very few red deer were seen in the southern third of the count region. However, numbers seen in the northern and central counting blocks were also down by more than a quarter compared to 2009. Male deer older than 12 months (prickets and stags) seen on the day only totalled 92 – but as a proportion remains similar to most previous years; several further mature stags are known to be residing in areas off the hill not covered fully by the count.

Numbers of roe deer recorded during the count totalled 47, an increase again compared to the last two years. At very least a further 20+ roe not actually seen on the day were reported to be resident and regularly seen by the deer managers for one of the counting blocks in the north, In addition two muntjac were seen during the count in woods to the south of Lydeard Hill.

The deer count is likely to repeated once more in March next year. 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** (Quantock Deer Count co-ordinators).

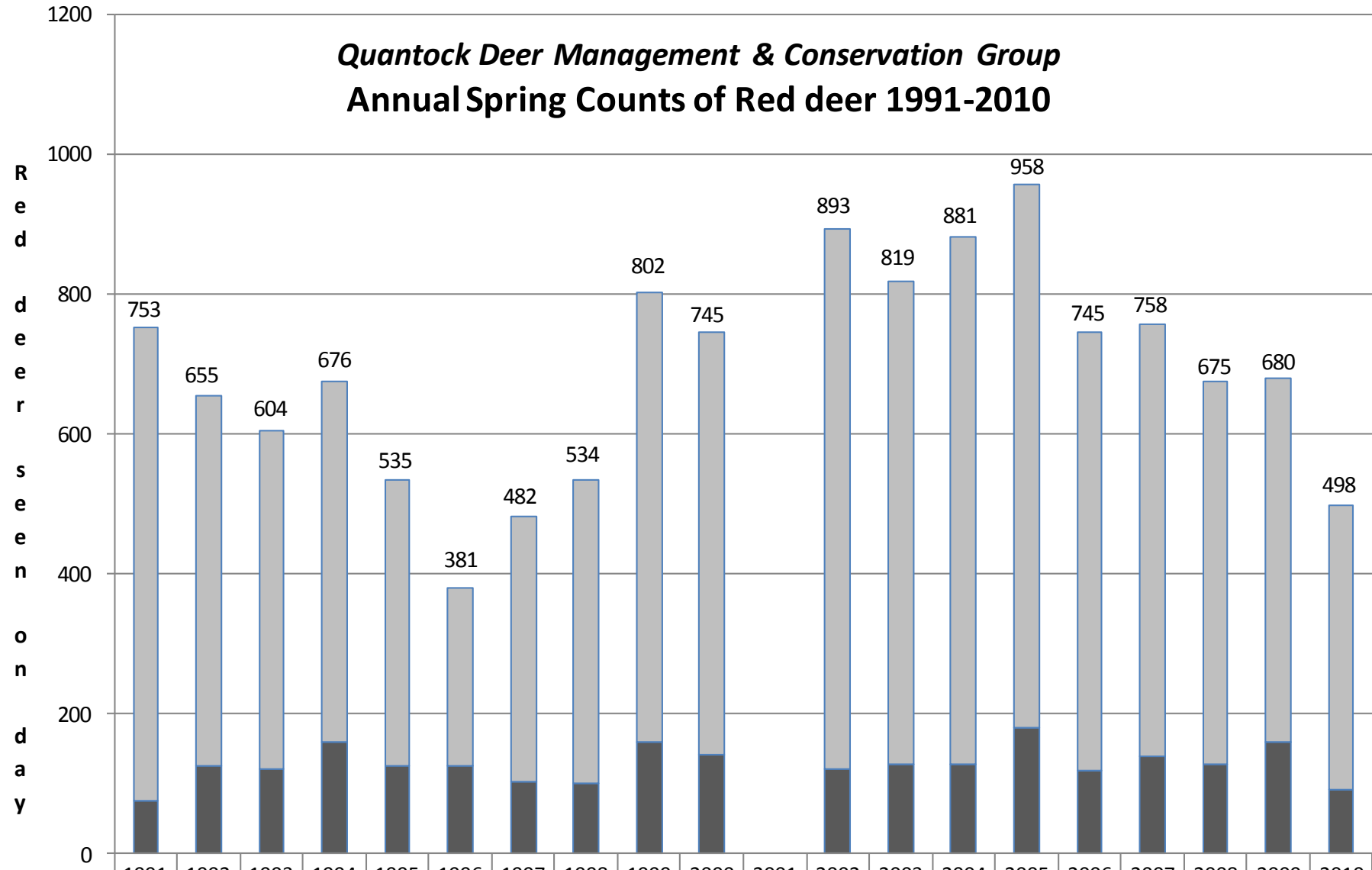
Quantock Deer Count Results 7 March 2010

Red Deer Total	Hinds & Calves (of both sexes)	Prickets	Young Stags	Older Stags (> 4 yr old)		Roe Deer Total	Muntjac Total
498:	406	29	54	9		47 (inc > 9 bucks)	2

Comparison of Red deer count March 2010 and 2009 by region:

2010			2009		
Total	Hinds & followers	Prickets& Stags	Total	Hinds & followers	Prickets& Stags
<u>A: North</u> (all count blocks lying north of the Crowcombe to Overstowey road)					
304	246	58	396	277	119
<u>B: Central:</u> (South of Overstowey Road to Great Wood / West Bagborough & including Aisholt Common , and Crowcombe Heathfield)					
181	155	26	270	232	38
<u>C: South-East</u> (all areas south-east of Lydeard Hill - includes Cothelstone Hill, Broomfield Hill, Wind Down & King's Cliff)					
13	5	8	14	12	2

Quantock Deer Management & Conservation Group
Annual Spring Counts of Red deer 1991-2010



Hinds & Followers	677	528	482	516	410	254	379	434	643	602		772	691	752	777	626	619	547	521	406
Stags & Prickets	76	127	122	160	125	127	103	100	159	143		121	128	129	181	119	139	128	159	92