

# DEER SURVEYS AND MONITORING

Deer monitoring has involved the use of trail cameras, thermal cameras, an annual deer count and the collection of records from stalkers and landowners.

Deer impacts are also being monitored both by carrying out standard deer impact assessments as promoted by the Deer Initiative and Forestry Commission, and by erecting simple small-scale enclosures.

With thanks to the volunteers involved in deer counts and impact assessments, to the Forestry Commission for lending the thermal camera and to the Deer Initiative for training and advice.

## Deer Impacts



Deer fraying in Midgeley Wood

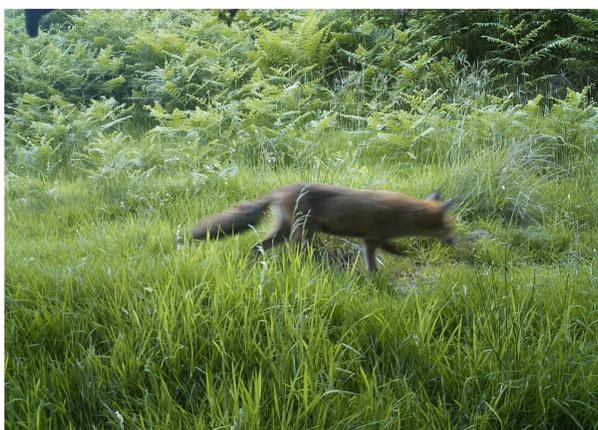


Enclosure designed to assess the impact of deer in the woods. These are constructed using two posts and 6m of weld-mesh.

## Trail Camera Pictures



## Other wildlife caught on camera



## DEER COUNT REPORT 27 March 2014

### Conditions

The weather was fine for the morning count, but cold and still with good visibility and consequently deer were seen in most of the expected locations. In the evening the weather was poor with rain and very low cloud resulting in very poor visibility. Deer were unhappy to move from shelter and few were seen.

### Count results

Total North of A54 = 66 including at least 2 stags  
 South of A54 – Shell brook, Swallowdale and River Dane to Danebridge. = as an absolute minimum 63 including at least 2 stags  
 River Dane above Danebridge = 3 in Backforest & 9 in Gib Tor area

### Monitoring prior to the Count

In the run up to the count, a large amount of time was invested in both daytime counts by farmers and stalkers plus night time thermal counts. Up to 85 animals were seen in and around Mareknowles and Lower Greasley in the Shell Brook valley and regular sightings of 30-40 around Cartlidge wood. A group of 34 were counted around the Backdane area the week before the count and a large group of 25 + were seen above Gib Tor the same week. Farmers around Backforest regularly see around 20 animals early morning late evening when inspecting stock/lambing. A very large herd exist around Rudyard which may stray over towards Tittesworth, Gun and Heaton. Numbers reached 72 this spring and 68 were counted the evening prior to the count day, and 54 the day following. This area was not included in the count.

### Expected minimum reproduction for the general area for 2014 = 106

North of A54 – expected to yield 35+ calves.  
 South of A54 - expected to yield 34 + calves  
 Backforest area – expected to yield 10 + calves.  
 Rudyard/Tittesworth- expected 27 + calves.