



DEER ON YOUR DOORSTEP



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WHY ARE WE SEEING MORE DEER IN AND AROUND TOWNS?

Deer populations are flourishing on the edges of our town and cities.

Deer numbers are increasing because of habitat creation, green networks and tree planting.

Deer like cultivated and other ground close to towns, development and abandoned industrial sites, leisure areas such as golf courses and parks, and woodland.

Deer are increasingly making their way into towns and cities, into allotments and gardens, and coming into contact with the public.

Deer are a valuable part of Scotland's natural heritage. People like to see deer - but not always.

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WHOSE RESPONSIBILITY ARE WILD DEER?

Deer belong to no one. The Code for Deer Management says that deer are the responsibility of the person who owns the ground on which they live.

Local Authorities and other public bodies have a 'duty' to manage the deer on their ground 'sustainably'. Private landowners have a responsibility to manage deer on their ground.

If not managed properly deer numbers can increase. This could give rise to issues in relation to deer and undermine their status as one of our iconic species.

The Minister for the Environment has the final responsibility for how Scotland's deer are managed. Legislation such as the Wildlife and Natural Environment Act sets out the rules in conjunction with the Deer Code. Delivery of deer policy is overseen by Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH).

Scotland's Wild Deer – A National Approach is the Scottish Government's 20 year vision for deer management. It says: "We manage wild deer to achieve the best combination of benefits for the economy, environment, people and communities for now and for future generations."

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DEER IN AND AROUND OUR TOWNS AND CITIES – RISKS AND REWARDS

RISKS

Increasing deer numbers can result in:

- More road traffic accidents (RTAs) involving deer.
- Damage to crops, trees and gardens – both on private land and on public spaces.
- More wildlife crime – coursing, poaching, illegal snaring and animal cruelty.
- Dogs chase deer.
- Possible spread of disease, ticks, lyme disease...

CAN YOU THINK OF MORE RISKS?

REWARDS

- A healthy, well-managed deer population is an asset for neighbourhoods and communities to take pride in.
- People enjoy seeing deer – provided they are not likely to cause an accident or are not causing damage.
- Deer managed properly, culled discreetly by suitably qualified deer managers, stalkers and gamekeepers, provide venison that goes into the human food chain.
- Deer provide an educational resource.
- Healthy deer are a biodiversity indicator.

CAN YOU THINK OF MORE REWARDS?

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