

28th March 2011

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

Please find below results of our latest annual deer count held on **Sunday 6th March 2011**. Weather for the count this year was mostly overcast but dry, without fog and average to good visibility throughout the count region. The count took place based on the usual 44 different count areas with at least one or two counters in each (with exception of one small area near Broomfield Common; and partial coverage only for the Heddon Oak area).

Overall **536 Red deer** were seen within the count area on the day – up a little on the previous year, but still the second lowest figure over the past decade. Though it was felt likely that the 2010 figure (498) was so low partly due to the extremely cold conditions during that count, these latest figures seem to confirm that numbers have reduced significantly compared to the consistently high counts between 2002-2009 (range 680 to 958 – see graph overleaf).

As for several recent years now only a very low proportion of the red deer (23) were recorded in the southern third of the count region. Numbers in the central areas are closely similar to last year, while numbers of both hinds and stags seen in the northern block are up slightly. Very few red deer were seen this year in woodlands to the west of the A358, but up to 8 extra stags reported as commonly seen there during preceding days may have moved off the count areas only temporarily. Numbers of roe deer recorded during the count totalled 64; but many others are known to reside in various counts areas where none were recorded on the day.

If you do not receive a copy of this sheet by email, please could you send your e-address to j.langbein@btinternet.com to ensure inclusion in future e-circulation of results. 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).

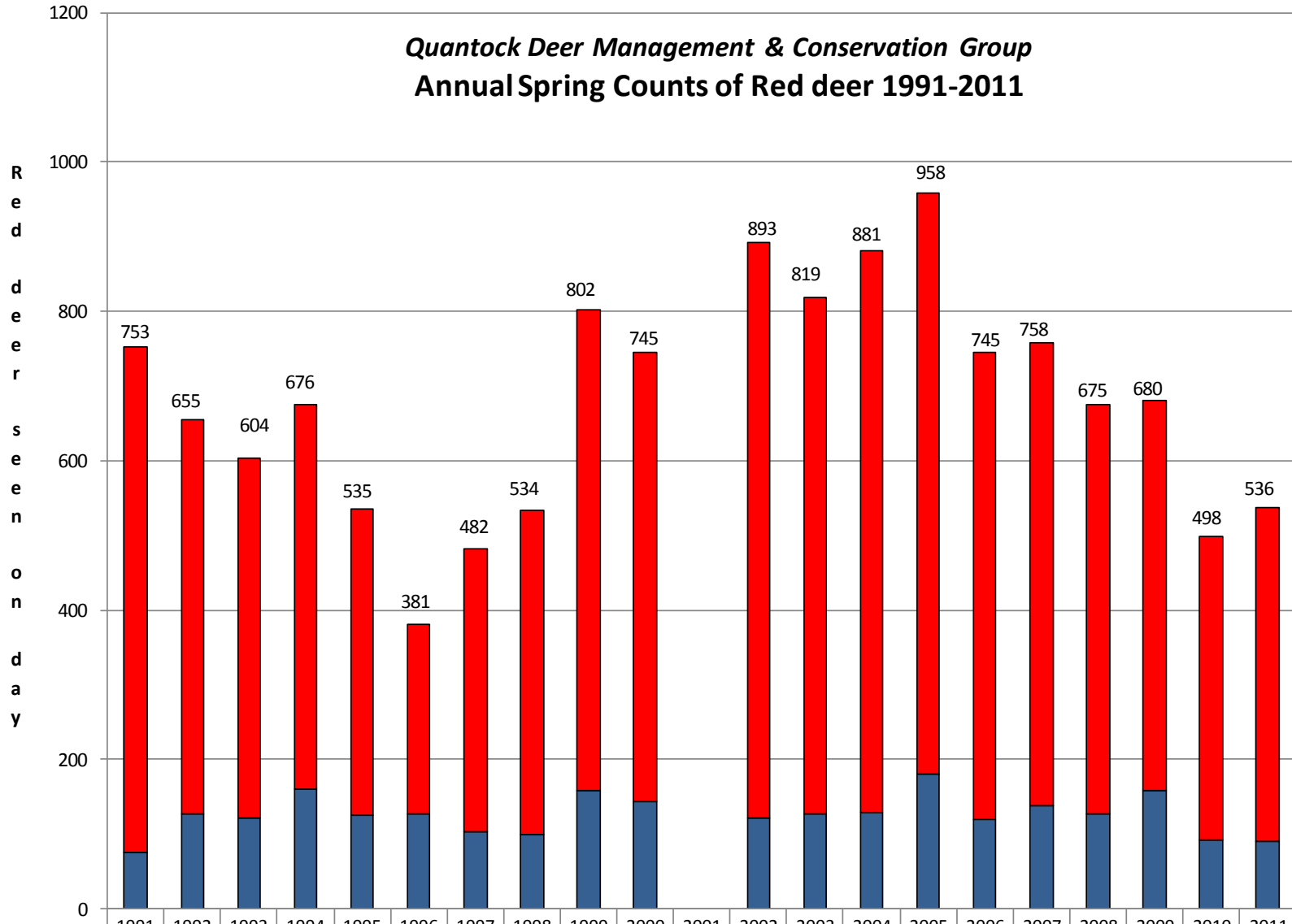
Quantock Deer Count Results 6 March 2011

Red Deer Total	Hinds & Calves (of both sexes)	Prickets	Young Stags	Older Stags (> 4 yr old)	Roe Deer Total	Muntjac Total
536:	447	31	47	12	64 (incl.min 9 bucks)	0

Comparison of Red deer count March 2010 and 2011 by region:

<u>2010</u>			<u>2011</u>		
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	350	284	66
<u>B: Central:</u> (South of Overstowey Road to Great Wood / West Bagborough & including Aisholt Common , and Crowcombe Heathfield)					
181	155	26	164	142	22
<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	23	21	2

**Quantock Deer Management & Conservation Group
Annual Spring Counts of Red deer 1991-2011**



■ Hinds & Followers	677	528	482	516	410	254	379	434	643	602		772	691	752	777	626	619	547	521	406	447
■ Stags & Spikers	76	127	122	160	125	127	103	100	159	143		121	128	129	181	119	139	128	159	92	90