

Who to call if you hit a deer

Call the emergency services on 999 if:

Anyone is injured.

Or there is a danger to others e.g. a deer (alive or dead) is on the road or is a danger to traffic.

Call the non-emergency line on 101 if:

The deer is injured and on the side of the road, not causing a danger to traffic.

The police will deal with any traffic issues and have access to specialist Deer Wardens who will know the best course of action to take if the deer is still alive.

What to say

Give the police as much detail as possible about your location.

Sometimes it is difficult to find an injured animal, especially in the dark.

The what3words app or a longitude and latitude can help pinpoint your exact location if there are no obvious landmarks.

Give them your mobile number, if possible and make them aware if they can pass it onto the Deer Warden, so they can call you back.

Did you know?

There may be as many as 1.5 million deer in the UK.

We have six species of deer in the UK:

Fallow deer make up a large part of the deer population in Sussex. They have been here since Roman times.

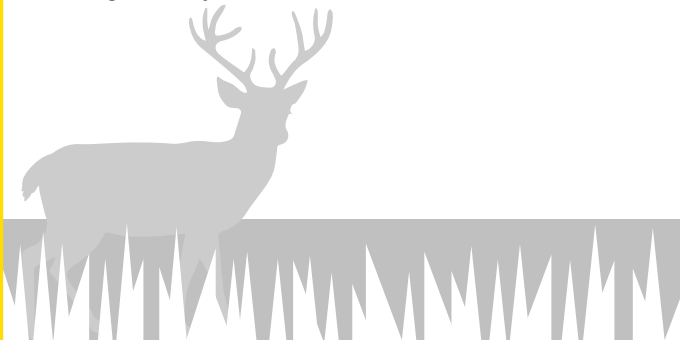
Red deer are native and our largest species. They are uncommon in the wild in Sussex but are seen occasionally.

Sika deer are native to East Asia. In Sussex most are escapees from deer parks.

Roe deer are widespread and native to the UK. They are territorial and smaller than the three species above.

Reeves' muntjac deer are native to Southeast Asia and becoming more common. They are even smaller than Roe deer and have small, hooked antlers.

Chinese water deer are also small deer. The bucks have no antlers but have long canine teeth that look like fangs. They are rare in Sussex.



#DeerAware

Information created by East Sussex County Council, Ashdown Forest Rangers supported by Sussex Police and the Deer Initiative.

Deer

Aware

Tips for keeping you safe on the county's roads





What to do if you hit a deer

1 Remain calm and keep safe

Keep yourself and anyone with you as safe as you can.

2 Park up

Park your car in a safe place with your hazard lights on.

3 Call for assistance

Advice on who to call is provided overleaf.

4 Don't touch the deer

It is best not to approach injured deer as it could cause further distress or cause it to run back into the road. An injured deer will not benefit from efforts to sit with it or keep it warm.

Driving advice

When are deer around?

Deer cross the roads all year round. However their presence peaks in April to May when territorial deer and young deer are dispersing and from October to November when deer will be on the move for the autumn mating season. This is around the times the clocks go forward and back.

Take particular care at dawn and dusk.

Seen one? Look for another

If a deer crosses in front of you, it is likely that another will follow. If it is safe to do so, **slow right down or stop and wait**. Deer are unpredictable so drive with caution.

Be aware

Deer often cross the roads in the same locations. Deer warning signs are put up where deer are known to cross regularly.

When you see a warning sign or are travelling through a heavily wooded stretch of road, slow down, stay alert and be prepared to stop.

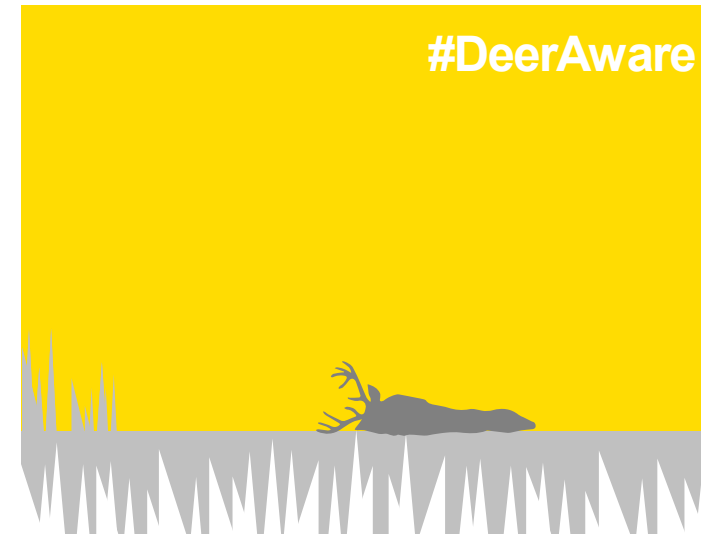
Use your lights

After dark, use full-beam when there is no opposing traffic. The headlight beam will illuminate the eyes of deer on or near a roadway and help you to spot them.

When a deer or other animal is seen on the road, dip your headlights as animals startled by the beam may 'freeze' rather than leaving the road.



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Dead animals

Who is responsible?

Removing dead animals from the side of the road is the responsibility of your local district or borough council.

How do you report them?

You can report them directly to the district or borough council by phone or via the website.

Deer on private land

Deer on private land are the responsibility of the landowner. For injured deer on your own land you may be able to contact a local wildlife organisation, deer management company or a vet. Be aware that they may charge you for any services.

If the deer is on someone else's land, you will need permission from the landowner before taking any action.