



Chinese Water Deer

Hydropotos inermis

Quick facts

Order Cetartiodactyla

Conservation status

GB N/A - non-native

RE CE E V NT LC DD

England N/A

Scotland N/A

Wales N/A

Global *Least concern*

GB trend *Increasing*

Size Head & body 82-106 cm, tail 2.5 - 9 cm, 42 - 65 cm at the shoulder.

Weight 12 - 18.5 kg

Life span At least 6 years

A small, compact deer with large round ears. Bucks have tusk-like canines and lack antlers. Native to east China and Korea, it was kept in parks and zoos from 1896 onwards. Releases occurred from 1901 onwards; the first reported in the wild in 1945.

Habitat

Prefers freshwater marshes and wetlands with adjoining woodland and fen, ranging onto nearby farmland. Most evident in Norfolk Broads and coastal wetlands.

Behaviour

Both sexes territorial, marking twigs with scent from preorbital glands and leaving dung piles at territory boundaries. Does not form herds but may be seen in family groups of a doe and her kids.

Diet & Feeding

They feed mostly around dawn and dusk on grasses, herbs, and crops including winter wheat, carrots, and potatoes.

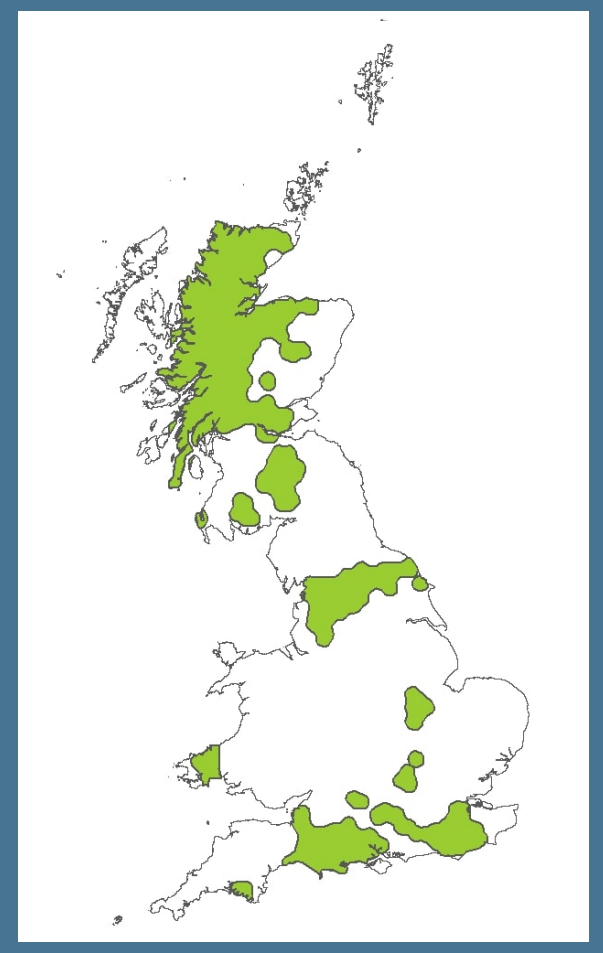
Reproduction

The rut occurs in December. Males fight viciously and most bear scars. Does have twins, sometimes up to 5 kids, in May - July after a gestation of up to 210 days.

Conservation & Threats

Very restricted geographical range in the UK. Densities seems to be low and the habitats they favour are less sensitive to browsing damage - they therefore have not yet posed the problems often caused by muntjac. Road mortality seems to be significant and some are hunted. Changes in land management have improved habitat availability and quality.

Range



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