



# Fallow Deer

*Dama dama*

## 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** 138-179cm, 50-120 cm at the shoulder. Males larger than females.

**Weight** 31- 63 kg

**Life span** 16 years



**Mammal SOCIETY**

**A medium-sized deer with a variable, often spotted coat, and a longer tail than other deer. It is now considered naturalised in Great Britain, and much of the current population is descended from deliberate introduction and escapees from deer parks.**

### Habitat

Mature broadleaved woodland with understory, open coniferous woodland, open agricultural land.

### Behaviour

Largely diurnal, but becomes more nocturnal in disturbed areas. Peak activity tends to be around dawn and dusk. Forms single-sex herds which may number as many as a hundred individuals, but fewer than five is more common.

### Diet & Feeding

Grazing and browsing herbivore. They prefer to graze on grasses but will browse on young trees and shoots in autumn and winter when other foods are less available.

### Reproduction

Bucks and does come together for the annual rut which peaks in mid-October. A single fawn is born in June or July. Twins are rare.

### Conservation & Threats

Fallow deer are culled to reduce the impact of their grazing and browsing on biodiversity - which could be significant in areas where they are locally very common. An increase in broadleaved and coniferous forest between 1990 and 2007 has created more habitat availability for this species, which in turn has had a positive impact on population change.

## Range

