



Roe Deer

Capreolus capreolus

Quick facts

Order Cetartiodactyla

Conservation status

GB *Least concern*

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England *Least concern*

Scotland *Least concern*

Wales *Least concern*

Global *Least concern*

GB trend *Stable*

Size 60 - 75 cm at the shoulder. Males slightly larger than females.

Weight 10 - 25 kg

Life span 16 years, most live around 7 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 understorey, open coniferous woodland, open agricultural land.

Behaviour

Usually lives alone or in small groups; larger groups can be seen feeding together during the winter, or in spring and summer if at very high densities.

Diet & Feeding

Varied, including buds and leaves of deciduous trees and shrubs, bramble, ivy, herbs, conifers, ferns, heathers, and grasses.

Reproduction

The rut occurs from mid-July to the end of August. Males are seasonally territorial and fighting may result in injuries or death. Females delay implantation of the fertilised egg, giving birth usually to twins, but sometimes single kids or triplets, between mid-May and mid-June.

Conservation & Threats

Roe deer have been hunted in Britain since prehistoric times. Became extinct in England, Wales, and southern Scotland in the 18th century, re-introduced to Dorset and East Anglia in the 19th century. Due to an increased interest in roe as a game species, they are now covered by various Acts imposing a close season and other measures.

Range

