

## Protect the island of Ireland:

- Do not introduce deer
- Report all sightings
- Prevention is better than cure

## Report sightings:

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Roe deer



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## Play your part in protecting native wildlife, habitats, and the rural economy:

### Observe the law

### Be vigilant!



## We need your help

Protect the environment,  
and field sports...  
do not introduce new species of deer



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Muntjac deer



## Introduction

Ireland is currently home to three species of deer; the red deer, which is native to the island, and the Sika deer and the Fallow deer, both of which have long been naturalised on the island. The EHS and NPWS recognise the role these species play in society today. However, as part of an All-Ireland project on alien species, the introduction of additional non-native deer (e.g. Roe, Muntjac, Chinese water deer) into Ireland has been assessed. This assessment has concluded that any introduction of such species into the wild in Ireland would pose a significant economic and environmental threat.

## Nature of threat

The establishment of wild populations of non native deer in Ireland would affect many aspects of the economies of both Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. There is strong scientific evidence and case histories to support this. The likely impacts of an introduction of these species include:

- Loss of biodiversity
- Negative impact on protected sites
- Increased erosion and overgrazing of uplands
- Damage to forests and forestry plantations
- Increased road traffic accidents
- Dispersal of other non native species e.g. Rhododendron
- Spread of parasites of agricultural livestock
- Damage to crops and competition for food with livestock and other wildlife
- Loss of agricultural productivity and profitability
- Negative impact on other game animals and birds
- Reservoir for disease such as bovine TB and foot and mouth disease
- Damage to national parks and nature reserves

## EHS and NPWS response

EHS and/or NPWS, as appropriate, will endeavour to follow up and validate all reports of non native deer in the wild in Ireland. Because of the high economic and environmental risk posed by new species of non native deer, we will explore all possible mechanisms, including legal proceedings, to remove any such animals from the wild.

## Non native deer and the law

**The introduction and release of non native deer constitutes a criminal act in both jurisdictions.**

## Republic of Ireland

Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2000 establishes it as an offence to release or transfer wild animals for the purpose of establishing them in a wild state in another place.

## Northern Ireland

The Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985 establishes it as an offence to release or allow to escape into the wild any animal which is of a kind not ordinarily resident in and is not a regular visitor to Northern Ireland in a wild state.

## Police powers

A PSNI or An Garda Síochána officer or a wildlife officer who suspects with reasonable cause that a person has committed or is committing an offence under the relevant piece of legislation (outlined above) may -

- arrest that person
- search that person, and search or examine any associated vehicle, animal or article if the officer suspects that evidence in connection with the offence is likely to be found
- seize that evidence, including a vehicle or animal
- enter land, other than a dwelling to exercise the power to search
- instigate legal proceedings

## What you should do

If you suspect that there are wild populations of any deer other than Red, Sika and Fallow in any area you should report this to the appropriate agency immediately. Contact details are given overleaf for the relevant individuals.

## Benefits of keeping non native deer out of Ireland

- Avoidance of the serious threats listed above
- Prevention of the impact that these species would have on native biodiversity, agriculture, and game.
- Avoidance of the financial burden of continuous control should any deer species become established.



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