

Deer Impact and Activity Report

Date	07/05/2020
Woodland Name:	Sandon Bury Farm, Compartment 2a, Philpotts Wood
Recorder:	R Smith
Species present:	Fallow, Muntjac
Species doing most damage:	Fallow, Muntjac
Weather Conditions:	Sunny, dry, 16 degrees

Activity	Score (0-3)	Low Mod High	Comments
Sightings of deer	3	High	1 muntjac buck and 14 fallow deer were seen within the block
Slot marks	3	High	Both muntjac and fallow slots were found throughout the wood
Active pathways	3	High	There are active pathways throughout the wood
Droppings & scrapes	2	Mod	Some droppings were found but flora and leaf cover made it difficult to see
TOTAL SCORE	11	High	Activity within and throughout the block is high with a lot of deer in the area
Trend	Base Line		

Damage			Score (0-3)	Comments
		Low Moderate High		
Flora/grasses eaten			0	
Woody shoots eaten	Regeneration	High	3	Browse on all basal shoots/old stools
	Coppice	Low		No coppice present
	Bramble	High		Bramble browsed throughout the wood
	Other			
Bark removed	Fraying	Low	0	No fraying was found
	Bark stripping	Low		No bark stripping was found
Browse line	Bramble	High	3	Bramble browsed throughout the wood
	Coppice/standards	High		Browse was found on a lot of the basal shoots and hawthorn showed a browse line, very little undamaged regen on hazel
	Shrubs			
Broken stems		Mod	2	Some broken stems were found
TOTAL SCORE			8	
Trend: Base line		High		Damage in the wood is High

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### Other comments

Is there evidence of stalking occurring	One seat was seen near the entrance to the wood
Are agricultural impacts occurring	Nothing known or observed but droppings found in the fields
Are DVC's an issue	Not known
Next steps / recommendations	See Below

Activity and impact within the compartment are high. The ground cover was high in places but generally the deer have trampled or eaten the rest. Very little regen on basal shoots or hazel stools which wasn't damaged. There is a pheasant pen in the wood which shows how the hazel should be as anything inside is protected from the deer. There is a browse line on hawthorn and hazel and some bramble shows browse. There are a lot of heavily used tracks throughout the wood and around the edges. It is unknown if deer management is in place on the estate but if not it should certainly be considered as a priority. Any work within the wood would require deer fencing to protect regeneration. There are a lot of footpaths around the wood so installation of more high seats should also be considered.

### Photographs taken during the survey



Area where deer lay up has virtually no ground cover

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Hazel browse throughout the wood



Browse on old stool



Hazel on the right in the pen has regen, on the left shows no regen and anything within reach has been browsed

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Browse on hawthorn



Browse on bramble