



Fallow Deer by Vijay Patel



TEIGN VALLEY
FACILITATION FUND



EVENT: Working Together for Healthy Deer, Productive Farms and a Thriving Teign Valley

You're invited to join us for a free event to meet the Teign Valley Deer Management Group, and to learn about the benefits of deer drone surveys, and how collaborative, informed deer management can benefit your land, your business and biodiversity across the wider valley.



Tea, coffee, light lunch and open discussion. No cost. All farmers, landowners, and land managers welcome.

LIMITED SPACES. BOOKING ESSENTIAL.

Sat. 14th Feb. 2026



10:00 - 16:00



Swanaford Estate, Swanaford Road, Bridford, Exeter, EX6 7HG

Scan the QR code or visit the link below to book



<https://www.bds.org.uk/tvff-event>



Why Join This Event?

Through existing work, we've identified that fallow deer numbers in the Teign Valley have expanded to levels that are out of balance with the landscape. This has had a negative impact on biodiversity and habitat regeneration efforts, crop yields, public safety, disease risk and deer welfare.

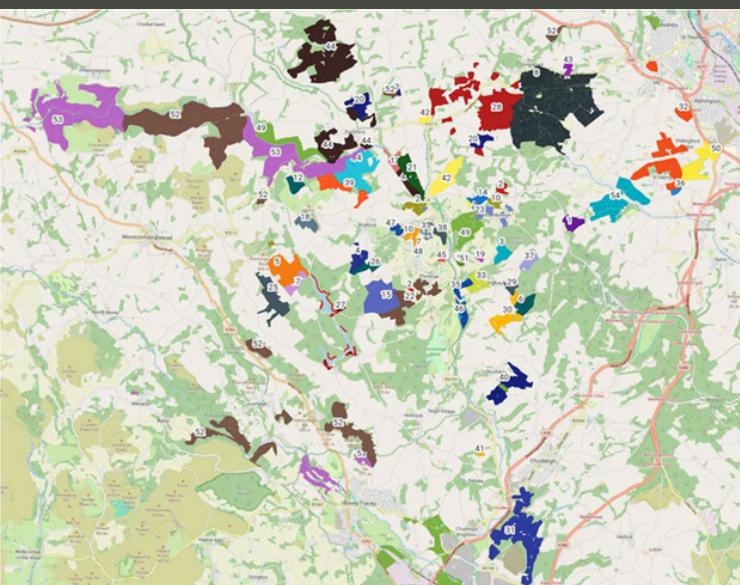
No individual holding can fix this alone. Deer move freely across the landscape, and can even use unmanaged areas as a harbour.

Collaboration is the only approach that works across a landscape.

This event will give you a clear, practical understanding of:

- The work of the Teign Valley Facilitation Fund group (which is free to join!)
- The benefits of deer drone surveys and monitoring impacts
- What the deer situation looks like here, based on monitoring to date
- How it affects farming, woodlands and rural livelihoods
- What a healthy, in balance deer population actually is (and isn't)
- How coordinated, informed management can reduce pressure effectively
- What joining the Teign Valley Deer Management Group involves

If you've noticed more deer, more damage or have uncertainty about how to manage them or how humane, sustainable deer management can be achieved, this event is for you.



This map shows the location of landholdings who have already joined the Teign Valley Facilitation Fund group.

If you are not part of this landscape scale restoration and deer management project then why not join? It's free to join the group!

Get in touch with Elliott Fairs:
tvffef@outlook.com

Additional Background Information



TEIGN VALLEY FACILITATION FUND

The TVFF is a DEFRA-funded initiative supporting landowners, farmers and managers to improve biodiversity, build resilience and create a more joined-up approach to managing land across the valley.

Members gain access to:

- Free training and events
- Farm advice and signposting
- Support with agri-environment schemes and grants
- Specialist biodiversity knowledge
- Practical resources and local collaboration

Membership is free – and includes access to the Teign Valley Deer Management Group. Learn more: www.tvff.co.uk



BDS is the only charity in the UK dedicated to deer welfare, public education and evidence-based deer management. We work with landowners, farmers, conservation bodies, and deer managers to promote responsible, humane and informed approaches to managing wild deer.

BDS supports evidence-based, collaborative, landscape-scale management because it delivers the best outcomes for deer, habitats and rural livelihoods – protecting crops, restoring woodlands and enabling more communities to benefit from high-quality wild venison. Find out more at:

[https://www.bds.org.uk](http://www.bds.org.uk).

Parts of this work have been made possible through the Big Give Green Match Fund



Wild deer are an important and valued part of the landscape. But in some areas, some species have flourished to levels where their presence can significantly influence how the land functions. When numbers rise beyond what the habitat can support, this can affect woodland regeneration, crop yields, public safety through increased risk of vehicle collisions, and, ultimately, the welfare of the deer themselves.

To manage deer responsibly, we need to be as informed as possible. That means understanding:

- Which species are present
- Where impacts are occurring
- The scale of those impacts
- Population structure – sex ratio, age and annual recruitment
- How deer are using the wider landscape

TVFF has begun this work. A recent drone survey recorded 110+ fallow deer per km² in parts of the valley. To bring habitats back into balance and maintain a healthy, resilient population, densities *may* need to fall to around 5–15 deer per km². As management progresses, ongoing monitoring of both numbers and impacts will be essential to guide decisions and ensure deer remain healthy and the landscape continues to recover.

Fallow deer do not stay in one place. They move across farms and estates, often using neighbouring land to harbour in areas with limited or no management activity. This means no single landowner can address the issue alone.

A collaborative, landscape-scale approach is the only effective way to manage deer humanely, reduce impacts and support a thriving, balanced environment for everyone involved.