



Description of Event

Designed of a grassed central reservation without deer deterrent measures.

Population at Risk

Construction Workers, Maintenance Workers and Road Users

Hazardous Activity and Residual Risk Description

- Carriageway use and maintenance exposes members of public and workers to the potential of being struck by a deer with an assessed residual risk of an almost certain likelihood of moderate harm.

Potential consequences of this event

- A collision between a deer and a vehicle is likely to result in head and chest injuries to the driver and death of the deer.
- The RSPCA estimate that over 700 people are injured in the UK every year as a result of collisions involving deer.
- The residual risk requires additional considerations to deter deer from the highway network to reduce the likelihood of these incidents.

Safety Hub Alert Database

- Filtering by the text “deer” in subject description has 2 alerts including 1 with fatality (of wildlife).



Photo of deer crossing a carriageway.



Photo of deer fencing in place.

Potential Mitigation Measures

Design

- Avoid planting palatable grasses in central reservations or at roadside.
- Provide barriers that deter deer crossing the carriageways.
- Provide deer crossing points that avoids crossing moving traffic.
- Provide strong scented planting at roadside.
- Assess presence of deer, likely crossing routes and provide information to others and signage.



Construction

- Raise safety observations for deer sightings and review and update the assessment of deer crossing routes.

Maintenance / Operations

- This is applicable to maintenance works e.g., re-surfacing operations and associated TTM requirements.
- Operational risk during use and recovery operations
- Provide temporary measures to protect working area from deer.
- Provide sonic devices to reduce quantity of deer incursions on the highway.

Further Guidance and Reading

- [RtB26 – Safety by Design](#)
- [Well-Managed Highway Infrastructure - A Code of Practice](#)
- [Guidance on palatability of key grass species](#)



Please send ideas for Whole Life Design safety shares to wellbeing@nationalhighways.co.uk

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