

|                 | 1 - What exact control methods are being used (for each species please)? | 2 - What evidence led to that decision to cull (for each species)?                                                                                                          |
|-----------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Canada geese    | Shooting                                                                 | Not for culling / population control purposes. Dispatched due to injury                                                                                                     |
| Crows           | Shooting and licenced traps                                              | Protection of red/amber listed bird species as per Natural England General Licences granted on an annual basis (for conservation)                                           |
| Fallow deer     | Shooting                                                                 | Deer management control methods based on cull plans / population counts and under veterinary supervision to ensure herd health and population structure and manage grazing. |
| Foxes           | Shooting (dispatch)                                                      | Not for culling / population control purposes. Dispatched due to injury (lameness, mange, etc).                                                                             |
| Greylag geese   | None                                                                     | N/A                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Jackdaws        | Shooting and licenced traps                                              | Protection of red/amber listed bird species as per Natural England General Licences granted on an annual basis (for conservation)                                           |
| Magpies         | Shooting and licenced traps                                              | Protection of red/amber listed bird species as per Natural England General Licences granted on an annual basis (for conservation)                                           |
| Parakeets       | Shooting                                                                 | Protection of trees, some dispatch when injured (for example, injured on roadside)                                                                                          |
| Pigeons (feral) | Shooting and licenced traps                                              | Public health and safety around buildings to address risk of spread of disease                                                                                              |
| Rabbits         | Shooting                                                                 | Protection of horticultural collections. Dispatched due to disease/injury                                                                                                   |
| Rat             | Shooting and licenced traps                                              | Public health and safety around buildings to address risk of spread of disease                                                                                              |

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|----------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Red deer | Shooting                    | Deer management control methods based on cull plans / population counts and under veterinary supervision to ensure herd health and population structure and manage grazing. |
| Squirrel | Shooting and licenced traps | Woodland and tree protection in line with national guidance, Countryside Stewardship woodland management grants and Natural England consent                                 |
|          |                             |                                                                                                                                                                             |
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3 - What evidence of squirrel damage or other damage by animals of any of these species has been collected?

In terms of squirrel damage, visual evidence of damage to trees frequently observed by park management and arboriculturists and recorded in woodland condition surveys and management plans.

Control of corvids for protection of red/amber listed bird species based on wider awareness of the risk posed to ground nesting birds in particular, with preventative control to help maintain bird species known to be threatened nationally and in the park e.g. skylark.

Deer populations are closely monitored on an annual basis to develop the cull plan with veterinary oversight

Control for public health purposes (e.g. feral pigeons and rats) is informed by visual assessments and presence of faeces, nesting material etc. in at risk areas (i.e. around buildings and food stores)

4 - How was that evidence collected and quantified?

- Woodland condition surveys and management plans prepared by specialists
- Population counts of bird species particularly skylark

5 - What assessment has been made of the effectiveness of the programme?

- Regular inspections of trees throughout the park and delivery of woodland management plans have been and will be monitored through woodland grants
- Ongoing monitoring of bird populations particularly skylark

#### 6 - Was fertility control considered (for any species)?

The wildlife experts at the Royal Parks charity have been monitoring the science and practice of contraception in wild animals for some years. Unfortunately, it is not possible to use this form of management in the parks.

Current oral contraceptives, similar to those used by humans, cannot be given to wild animals because other animals picking on remnants of deer feed would be adversely affected, and droppings and urine from the deer would also contaminate the habitat. Hormonal contraceptives interfere with antler growth and shedding; it is impossible to feed such contraceptives only to the female deer and prevent the male deer consuming them.

Non-hormonal immunocontraceptives can be used on some zoo animals and have been used on feral ponies in the UK, but they must be injected. Wild deer in the parks cannot be rounded up or handled without causing severe stress and injury.

Darting the deer with contraceptives is not an option, as it is impossible to identify individual animals to ensure single dosing.

When immunocontraceptives have been used on feral ponies or zoo animals, the result is a population of animals that gets older and older, with poor social structure because there would be no juvenile animals coming through into the herds.

Eventually, the frail, sterile animals would develop complications associated with old age and would have to be put down on welfare grounds.

There are no contraceptives licensed for use in free-living deer in the UK.

For all these reasons The Royal Parks cannot administer contraceptives to deer through either feed or injections, but we will continue to keep abreast of the science.

There are also no contraceptives licensed for use for grey squirrel with trials of an oral contraceptive and species-specific feeders still underway. Again we continue to keep abreast of the science.

#### 7 - If fertility control was rejected, on what grounds (for any species)?

See above

8 - If fertility control was freely available, would you use it (for any species)?

TRP will continue to keep abreast of the science and review potential use if treatments become available subject to the potential impacts on population structure and animal health, and potential impacts on wider biodiversity.