



**Leicestershire
& Rutland**
Wildlife Trust

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Dear Simon

Thank you for your letter.

Whilst you state that you are unconvinced of the need for deer management and the assessment method used, the approach as described in our previous letter is a recognised methodology developed by the Forestry Commission and used widely. A deer management assessment (an example of which was provided as requested) is undertaken by two experienced Officers and reviewed by a Deer Manager from the Forestry Commission. This is a robust approach by individuals experienced in conservation management.

I believe we fully explained in our previous letter the rationale for undertaking deer management and why we are considering it at this stage. I don't believe I can add anything further.

We are aware of the damage to trees by Squirrels and will continue to monitor this.

As we explained in our previous letter, any areas of the reserve where culling could take place are not open to the public. We would not provide specific details in advance of any potential shooting activity because this is not a spectator activity, and doing so could encourage people to enter parts of the site without public access and create safety risks. Any deer management is undertaken by a qualified DSC2 professional abiding by a clear code of practice and method statement as detailed in our previous response. These would be developed by the Deer Manager before being approved by the Trust. We would not share these for the reasons outlined above.

Management of all our sites is done solely for the benefit of nature. We do this based on the best conservation management techniques, knowledge, and experience. We try to minimise our interventions, but we do manage our sites to maximise their benefit for wildlife.

I recognise that you disagree with our approach to deer management, but I believe we have provided you a comprehensive explanation for our approach at Holwell.

Your sincerely

Mat Carter

Creating a wilder Leicestershire and Rutland

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