

What to do:

- Stop your vehicle safely, and as close as possible to where the accident occurred.
- Put on your hazard warning lights.
- Wear 'high-vis' clothing if you leave your vehicle on the highway.
- Try to remain calm – especially when calling for assistance.
- Approaching the animal may cause it more stress, but covering its head (not the body) with a blanket can help calm it. Animals in distress can thrash about so keep clear of antlers and hooves which can inflict very painful injuries.
- If you decide not to approach the animal keep an eye on it to see if it moves off, what its injuries are, and where it moves to.
- Please wait until the Police, Forest Ranger or Deer Warden arrives at the scene.
- When the Police, Forest Ranger or Deer Warden arrive please help them by doing what they ask.

Who to call for assistance:

- If the deer (alive or dead) is blocking the road and is causing an obstruction or is a likely danger to traffic please call 999 and ask for the Police.
- If the deer is at the side of the road (alive or dead) and you are unsure if you are on Ashdown Forest call the Police on the non-emergency number 101 and they will arrange an East Sussex Deer Warden to assist you.
- If you know you are on Ashdown Forest call the Rangers on: 01342 822846.
- If you are NOT on Ashdown Forest call the Police on the non-emergency number 101 and they will arrange an East Sussex Deer Warden to assist you.

What to tell the Police or the Ranger:

- Give the Police / Forest Ranger / Deer Warden / Police Call Centre as much detailed information as possible about your location.
- Give them your mobile number (if you have one) so they can call you back as

it is often very difficult to find an injured animal if the directions are not very specific, especially at night.

What will happen:

- The Ranger / Deer Warden will make a calm and quiet approach and decide the best method to euthanize the animal. The Rangers are very experienced at doing this and will cause the animal as little distress as possible. It is quick and painless.
- If the animal is already dead, and causing an obstruction, the Police / Deer Warden will drag it to the side of the road. The body is usually reported to the District Council for removal.
- Sometimes the Rangers will take the body away. They are then passed to a local wildlife park to feed the carnivores.
- Sometimes they are dragged off into the undergrowth – this happens when the deer is well off the beaten track.

What to do about dead animals:

- Removing dead animals from the side of the road is the job of the District Council.
- You can report dead animals by phone on 01323 443322 or 01892 653311
- Or you can use the Wealden District Council website 'report it' section: www.wealden.gov.uk/Wealden/Environment/Street_Care_And_Cleaning/Waste_Dead_Animals.aspx
- If a dead animal is on your land, in your garden, on the drive etc it is your responsibility to remove the carcass not the Forest Rangers. Contact the Council for advice.

Be Deer Aware:

- There are deer around all the time though they peak in May and October though to January.
- The 40mph speed limit is for your safety – hit a deer at 40 you are likely to walk away unscathed. The deer may also survive.
- Deer are very big animals, fast moving and unpredictable so drive with caution across the Forest.

- Dawn and dusk are the two times of the day you are most likely to encounter deer on the road.
- If one deer crosses in front of you it is more than likely more will follow, so stop and wait a few moments – warn other drivers by using your hazard lights.



The roads crossing Ashdown Forest are A22, A275, A26, B2026, B2188, C2 & C3.

What to do if you hit a deer on Ashdown Forest



We estimate that there are about 500+ deer collisions with vehicles each year in and around Ashdown Forest.

This number is rising every year. If you hit a deer whilst driving in the area, please follow the steps detailed inside.

Keep this guide in your car