



LANDOWNER SUPPORT

WORKING TOGETHER TO PROTECT SCOTLAND'S RED SQUIRRELS

Saving Scotland's Red Squirrels is working to ensure red squirrels continue to be a part of Scotland's special native wildlife.

The main threat to red squirrels in Scotland today is the spread of the grey squirrel, an invasive non-native species which was introduced to Britain from North America.

Larger and more robust, grey squirrels out-compete red squirrels for food and living space. Some grey squirrels also carry squirrelpox, a virus which doesn't affect greys but is lethal to reds.

Grey squirrels are also known to cause significant damage to both commercial timber production and native woodland habitats.

The spread of grey squirrels in Scotland is a man-made problem that is our collective responsibility to manage.

With the help of partners, landowners and local volunteers, the project is monitoring squirrel numbers across Scotland, managing the impact of squirrelpox and helping to combat the spread of grey squirrels in the project's target areas, where this action will have a positive impact on Scotland's core red squirrel populations.



Saving Scotland's Red Squirrels project areas

- North East Scotland
- Central Lowlands
- South Scotland priority areas

Our efforts are making a difference — in many of the target areas, red squirrels are already making a comeback.

We rely on the support of Scotland's landowners to help us manage grey squirrel populations in our target areas. We're thinking big: our aim is to build landscape-scale networks of landowners who will help ensure Scotland's red squirrels are fully protected.

Working together

Grey squirrel control

The UK Forest Standard encourages all land managers to participate in collaborative actions to control invasive species (BG38). We would like to encourage landowners to work with local SSRS networks to protect your red squirrels. This could include carrying out grey squirrel control on your own land or alternatively permitting access where requested for control work carried out by project staff and volunteers.

The project has formed a network of skilled volunteers who carry out grey squirrel control work across our target areas throughout the year. All SSRS staff and volunteers are fully trained and must follow our strict live trapping and humane dispatch protocol.

Assisting with grey squirrel control will help ensure we achieve a fully coordinated and effective approach to red squirrel conservation in Scotland.

Landowners could also consider providing financial support to cover expenses for volunteers carrying out grey squirrel control on their land.

Please note – SSRS staff and volunteers cannot provide grey squirrel control services on estates receiving Forestry Grant Scheme funding for grey squirrel control,

unless arrangements are made for the grant funding to be allocated to the project or a local red squirrel volunteer group.

The spring survey

In March and April, Saving Scotland's Red Squirrels conducts a landscape-scale survey to monitor the populations of red and grey squirrels in our project areas. Permitting feeder boxes to be installed and visited at regular intervals during this time will help the project measure its impact and know where to focus its trapping efforts.

Advice and training

Our Conservation Officers can provide landowners in project areas with advice and training on a number of topics including:

- Managing woodlands for the benefit of red squirrels (<https://scotland.forestry.gov.uk/supporting/strategy-policy-guidance/biodiversity/conserving-scotlands-red-squirrels>)
- Accessing Forestry Grant Scheme funding for grey squirrel control
- Effective grey squirrel control work, for example live trap placement, baiting and humane dispatch

Advice can be provided by phone or email, through a local training workshop or with a site visit as appropriate.

How to contact the Saving Scotland's Red Squirrels team

General enquiries

squirrels@scottishwildlifetrust.org.uk

Scottish Wildlife Trust reception:
0131 312 7765

In Your Area

The project employs red squirrel Conservation Officers in the following regions:

- North East Scotland
- Tayside
- Argyll, the Trossachs and Stirling
- Scottish Borders
- Dumfries & Galloway

To contact a specific staff member, please visit scottishsquirrels.org.uk/about/the-team/ for details

PROJECT
PARTNERSHIP



Scottish
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FUNDERS



scottishsquirrels.org.uk

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