



## The Scottish Squirrel Forum

Saturday 21 April 2007 - Swallow Hotel, Dundee

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09.30 – 10.00

REGISTRATION & COFFEE

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### FIRST SESSION – NATIONAL INITIATIVES

10:00

**Welcome**

*Lord Provost of Dundee*

**Introduction**

*Ron Macdonald, Head of Policy and Advice, Scottish Natural Heritage*

10.15

**SNH**

*Mairi Cole, Species Advisory officer, Scottish Natural Heritage*

*Scottish Red Squirrel Action Plan - Brief synopsis of the Plan and report on progress support the Survey and the local squirrel groups financially in the short-term. The future of red squirrel conservation and its funding in Scotland.*

10.35

**The Scottish Squirrel Survey – a progress report**

*Mel Tonkin, Survey Co-ordinator, Scottish squirrel Survey*

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11.00 – 11.30

COFFEE

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### SECOND SESSION – LOCAL INITIATIVES

11.30

**Local Squirrel Groups**

*Mel Tonkin, Survey Co-ordinator, Scottish Squirrel Survey*

11.45

**Seven Years of the Red Squirrel in South Scotland Project**

*Ann-Marie McMaster, Red Squirrel Conservation Officer, RSSS Dumfries & Galloway*

12.15

**Red Squirrel Stewardship at Falkland**

*Ninian Stuart, Steward of Falkland, Falkland Centre for Stewardship & Raymond Henderson – Forester, Bidwells Scotland Division*

12.35

**Red Squirrels and the Woodland Officer**

*Ian Collier, Woodland Officer, Forestry Commission Scotland, Highland Division*

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12.55 – 13.45

LUNCH & POSTER SESSION

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### THIRD SESSION - RESEARCH UPDATES

13.45

**Squirrelpox – what we do and do not know.**

*Dr. Colin J. McInnes, Moredun Research Institute, Edinburgh*

14.10

**Developing a monitoring strategy for red squirrels (*Sciurus vulgaris*) across the UK**

*Peter W.W. Lurz<sup>1</sup>, John Gurnell<sup>2</sup>, Robbie McDonald<sup>3</sup> and Sarah Cartmel<sup>4</sup>*

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14.30 - 15.30

**WORKSHOP SESSION (Choice of Workshops)**

**1. Grey Squirrel Control**

*Facilitator: Dr Brenda Mayle, Forest Research*

Topics may include

Strategies for control in interface zones, priority woodland buffers, eradication.

Techniques – trapping, disposing of squirrels, problems, reporting

Future possibilities for grey squirrel control – contraception, disease, predation, selective poisoning.

**2. Community Involvement (led by the**

*Facilitator: Dundee Red squirrel Project)*

Topics for discussion may include publicity campaigns, public attitude surveys, projects, events, surveying, grey control

**3. Squirrelpox Disease Outbreak Containment**

*Facilitator: Fiona Whitfield, Lancashire, Manchester & N. Merseyside Wildlife Trust)*

Comparing methods at Whinfell, Formby/Ainsdale, South Scotland

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15.30 – 16.00

COFFEE

16.00

**Summaries and discussion of workshops**

16.30

**Conclusions and the Way Forward**

*Ron Macdonald, Head of Policy and Advice, Scottish Natural Heritage*

16.45

Close

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**DAY 2**

**Sunday 22 April 2007**

**09.45a.m. – 12.30p.m.**

**Field excursion to Dundee Red Squirrel Project sites**

Templeton Woods, Backmuir Wood, Liff Hospital.

*Hosted by the Dundee Red Squirrel Project*



*Scottish Squirrel Survey funded by Scottish Natural Heritage*

