

The UK has already lost its native red squirrel from most of England and Wales and much of lowland Scotland. The North American grey squirrel, which was first introduced here in the late 19th century, has displaced reds by dominating most of the foods shared by both species. Three quarters of the remaining 160,000 or so red squirrels in the UK are to be found in Scotland and if allowed to continue to decline, are in danger of disappearing eventually from its heartlands in the Highlands, Grampian, northern Perthshire, Argyll and Dumfries and Galloway.

The Scottish Strategy for Red Squirrel Conservation highlighted the need for conservation work to be underpinned by robust nationwide data on red and grey squirrel distribution and monitoring of red squirrel status in key woodlands. To meet this need Scottish Natural Heritage set up the Scottish Squirrel Survey to establish a system of ongoing surveys and data recording.

Cost: Registration is free. Lunch and teas/coffees included.

Accommodation: Not provided. If help is required finding accommodation please contact the Survey Co-ordinator.

For further information and to reserve a place at the Forum please complete and return the booking form to

Mel Tonkin
Survey Co-ordinator
email: mtonkin@swt.org.uk

Scottish Squirrel Survey
c/o *Scottish Wildlife Trust*
Cramond House
Cramond Glebe Road
Edinburgh EH4 6NS

0131 312 4733 or 07778 412 146

For further information on the survey or to report sightings online, please go to our website
www.scottishsquirrelsurvey.co.uk

Project funded by Scottish Natural Heritage



THE SCOTTISH SQUIRREL FORUM



Meeting of Scotland's Field Practitioners of Red Squirrel Conservation Action

Swallow Hotel Dundee,
Wolf & Lane Suite,
Kingsway West, Invergowrie, Dundee, DD2 5JT

Saturday 21 April 2007 at 09.30 – 16.30

A one-day meeting for local squirrel group members, countryside rangers, working foresters, woodland managers and local officers of the wildlife agencies to update on the progress of the Scottish Squirrel Survey and to discuss practical issues of red squirrel conservation in Scotland, with an option for a morning's field visits to Dundee Red Squirrel Project's active project sites.



Scottish Squirrel Survey was set up in August 2004 with the aim of establishing a sustainable system of survey and monitoring of red and grey squirrels throughout Scotland through using Local Squirrel Group volunteers and others to undertake systematic surveys designed to answer the following questions:

- Where are red squirrels found in Scotland?
- Which forests sustain the best and most secure populations of red squirrels?
- What is the current limit of grey squirrel spread in Scotland?
- Where are grey squirrels expanding their range into areas that currently support healthy red squirrel populations?

The Scottish Squirrel Survey is funded by Scottish Natural Heritage.



Scottish Natural Heritage aims to promote the care and enhancement of Scotland's unique and precious natural heritage and its responsible enjoyment, its greater understanding and appreciation and its sustainable use now and for future generations.



Dundee Red Squirrel Project was set up in 2004 by Dundee City Council's Countryside Ranger Service To determine the numbers and distribution of the Red Squirrel in Dundee with a vision to enhance and protect the existing population through appropriate management. Also, to raise awareness and involve the local community in Red Squirrel conservation projects across the City.

The Dundee Red Squirrel Strategy is a priority project in Dundee's Community Plan and is part of the Dundee Partnership for the Environment's action plan.

Forum Programme

The first morning session will report on national initiatives - the future of red squirrel conservation action and its funding in Scotland and an overview of the Scottish Squirrel Survey and its progress to date.

This is to be followed by reports on delivering red squirrel conservation at the local level - the progress of local squirrel groups, the role of the red squirrel conservation officer, the need for involvement of local woodland managers and the role of the Forestry Commission Woodland Officer.

A third session will give an overview of squirrelpox disease and its implications for local red squirrel conservation, and report on the progress of a project to assess the effectiveness of the current squirrel monitoring techniques used by squirrel surveyors.

Much of the afternoon will be given to workshops designed to share best practice on a number of practical issues that face many local squirrel conservationists: grey squirrel control, community involvement and squirrelpox outbreak containment.

The morning of Sunday 22 April 2007 (optional) will be an opportunity to visit Dundee Red Squirrel Project sites accompanied by the Dundee City Council Countryside Rangers who run the Project who will be able to discuss many practical aspects of their urban work.

Posters are invited from local squirrel groups and students who wish to report on any local projects that are not included in the discussion programme.