



Fife Red Squirrel Project

Our native red squirrel is a threatened species now extinct in much of England and Wales. We are very fortunate that this charismatic animal still lives here in Fife. Some of the key red squirrel sites in the region can be found at:

Tentsmuir
Pitmedden
Ladybank
Devilla
Falkland.



Though the red squirrel is elusive, it is on our doorstep!

Sadly, there are only approximately 160,000 red squirrels left in the UK, yet there are about 2.5 million non-native grey squirrels. The grey squirrel, which was introduced from America, is a threat to the red squirrel for two reasons: it is a better competitor for food and it spreads the deadly squirrel pox virus. Upon arrival of the grey squirrel in an area, the red squirrel usually disappears within about 15 years. Loss and fragmentation of red squirrel habitat are also a problem. Road traffic is becoming an increasing concern.



The Fife Red Squirrel Project was set up to help protect red squirrels in the kingdom of Fife. With the help of volunteers and local groups and communities, we undertake a range of conservation initiatives. These initiatives contribute to the delivery of the Fife Local Species Action Plan for the red squirrel.

Practical tasks include:

- surveying and monitoring squirrels to get a more accurate picture of where they are so that we can better protect them
- planting trees to create new habitat
- carrying out targeted grey squirrel control to protect red squirrel populations
- creating leaflets and interpretation
- managing a website
- visiting schools and taking children to the woods to see squirrels for themselves
- giving talks and guided walks and holding events.



For the Fife Red Squirrel Project to succeed, it is essential that we commit to our aims in the long-term and over the whole of Fife. We also need to be able to offer continuous support to the volunteers and community groups taking part in the project. We are hoping to raise enough funds to make a tangible difference to red squirrels in Fife, and would be most grateful for your donations.



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