

The RED SQUIRREL PROJECT Info Sheet



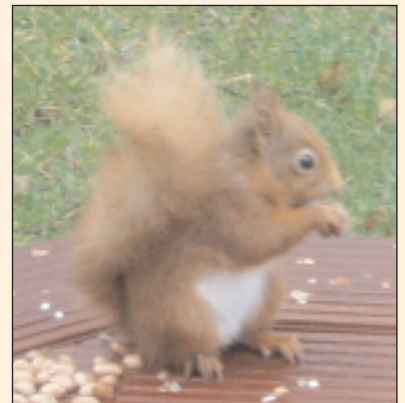
Introduction

The Sustain Dundee Red Squirrel Project aims to protect and enhance the city's threatened population of red squirrels. Not long ago these animals were common throughout Dundee but the rising population of competing American grey squirrels has put their survival in danger. Now they are confined to Camperdown Park, Templeton Woods, Caird Park, Liff Hospital and the surrounding areas.

What Are We Doing to Help?

The Project is helping the red squirrel by taking practical action in and around the remaining strongholds. Volunteers and interested organisations are working together. This is what is happening:-

- Red Squirrel Action Group volunteers carry out squirrel surveys in parks and woods to keep records of red numbers and monitor how many greys are moving in.
- Woodland management. The City Council is managing its woods to make them more suitable for reds.
- Supplementary feeding. Feeders that can only be entered by red squirrels are used to help them survive lean periods and be fit to breed in places where greys are competing for food.
- The Grey squirrel population is controlled by trapping and shooting in designated areas in and around the places where reds live.
- The Project Officer stages events, gives public talks and visits schools in order to make local people aware of the presence of this special animal and how it lives in our city.
- This pack has been produced to tell residents about the Project and invite them to lend their support.
- A schools pack has been devised to teach Dundee primary children about red squirrels.
- Dundee College and Dundee University have also been involved with us in various projects to aid red squirrel conservation.



What can I Do to Help?

The Dundee Red Squirrel Action Group is a group of volunteers who are surveying squirrels in Dundee's parks and woodlands to find out how the numbers of greys and reds are changing. There are fourteen, 1kilometer, survey lines throughout the city. Each of our volunteers carries out a two hour survey on a designated line once a month. We provide training in how to spot and record squirrels in the wild.

Get in touch with the Project Officer Ken Neil if you would like to help:-

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