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Scottish Squirrel Survey  
c/o Scottish Wildlife Trust  
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The Scottish Squirrel Survey is a three-year project to set up a system of survey and monitoring of red and grey squirrels throughout Scotland.

There are nine Local Squirrel Groups currently collecting records and seeking to protect the red squirrel across most of Scotland. Your Local Squirrel Group is:



**For more details please contact:**

**Scottish Squirrel Survey Co-ordinator**

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Photography: Front Neil McIntyre, inside left Laurie Campbell,  
middle top Niall Benvie, middle bottom Lorne Gill/SNH

# SCOTTISH QUIRREL URVEY



**We need YOUR help**



### The Problem ...

Grey squirrels were introduced into Britain from North America in the late 19th century and have since become the most common species of squirrel in the UK. Since their arrival, they have displaced our native reds by dominating most of the foods shared by both species. They are also known to spread a lethal pox disease to red squirrels.

**Even in Scotland the red squirrel may not be safe. Although three-quarters of the UK's remaining red squirrels are to be found in Scotland, already grey squirrels have displaced it in much of lowland Scotland and a large slice of the Scottish Borders. We believe that they continue to spread out from here to threaten our native squirrel in its heartlands in the Highlands, north Perthshire, Grampian, Argyll and Dumfries and Galloway.**

### A yawning information gap ...

Recording of squirrel distribution in Scotland has up to now been very patchy, involving just a few local surveys from time to time. Our records tend to come from around towns, roads and forest edges. Few come from the interiors of our large or remote forests. And there are many areas where grey squirrels are so common that people don't think to record them. There are also some areas where we have hardly any records at all, particularly in Argyll.

### We need your help to answer these questions ...

- Is the red squirrel safe in Scotland?
- Where are red squirrels found in Scotland?
- Which Scottish forests have the best and most secure populations of red squirrels?
- Are grey squirrels still expanding in number or range across Scotland?
- Are there places where grey squirrels are taking over from Scotland's red squirrels?

### If you see a squirrel ...

Please use the attached Freepost reporting form. We need to keep updating our records with sightings of squirrels (both red and grey). This allows us to get a better picture of the changes in distribution of red and grey squirrels

### What's the difference?

#### Red Squirrel

Body length: 20 - 22 cm  
 Tail: 17 - 18 cm  
 Weight: 275 - 305 g  
 Shape: Slender  
 Ears: Tufted, especially in winter  
 Tail colour: Dark brown or black to red, often bleaching towards the tip.



#### Grey Squirrel

Body length: 25 - 27 cm  
 Tail: 21 - 22 cm  
 Weight: 540 - 660 g  
 Shape: Stocky  
 Ears: Never tufted. Pale patches behind.  
 Tail colour: Tail hairs banded grey and white giving a "halo" effect.

## Squirrel Recording Form

### Number and type of squirrels seen

Red  Grey

### Date of sighting

If grey, when did greys first appear in the area.

Location (please include name of nearest town)

Grid reference (6 figures if possible)

### Type of woodland/trees nearby (please tick box)

Conifer (eg Scots pine)  Broadleaved (eg oak)

Mixed conifer & broadleaved  No trees within 50m

### Was the squirrel alive or dead?

Alive  Dead

If dead, what was the probable cause?

Road kill  Other

### Your details:

Name

Address



Telephone

Email

Would you like more information on the Scottish Squirrel Survey?

Yes  No

Detach here and post