

WESTMORLAND RED SQUIRREL SOCIETY

Newsletter

Issue 7 Autumn 2013

In this issue Professor John Gurnell reports on research at Foulshaw, and from further afield we have news of the Cornish Red Squirrel Project and of ESI's work both in Europe and in the UK. Reports from our own area show the importance of feeders and pre-baiting in grey control, and how different tactics are continually being tried to cope with the different seasons and conditions.

It is most encouraging to hear of the increasing support and involvement we are getting from local communities and landowners – this is vital in helping our red squirrels to maintain and increase their range. I would like to thank everyone who is contributing towards this success.

Geoff Hetherington, Chairman

“It Will Never Work”

“It will never work.” “Too little, too late.” “It’s years since we’ve seen red squirrels here.” “You’re twenty years too late.” These are all statements that I heard in the first couple of weeks of my employment. However, after meeting with volunteers from the Grasmere and Westmorland squirrel groups, the story seemed much different, and it became very clear that I was going to be working in an area where a lot of hard work had already been carried out over many years by a group of dedicated and committed people with one thing in common - red squirrel conservation.

My name is Mike Green and I was lucky enough to be given the position of Red Squirrel Ranger for the Central Lakes area with Red Squirrels Northern England.



My first week in March 2012 was spent getting to know the area that I would be working in, and gaining access to operate from the relevant land owners. Things seemed very daunting, as every steep bank and gully seemed to be covered with thick woodland that looked like perfect grey squirrel habitat. Everywhere was busy with tourists and footpaths, and some of the woodlands have open access to the public. Would it be possible to effectively trap these woodlands? I was unsure. After spending a day’s training with one of my colleagues further north, who had been a ranger for quite some time, I felt reassured, as he promised me that once I got to know the land it would seem much smaller and I would learn to trap in the busy woodlands. How true these wise words were.

April 2012 saw me starting to put out my first traps. All of my previous experience of grey squirrel control was for crop protection in the south of England so I knew I had a lot to learn about conservation trapping. My strategy was to start in the north and systematically work south. As the end of the year arrived, I had caught almost 200 greys and the first signs of my effort being worthwhile were starting to show, with some landowners reporting red sightings for the first time in several years.

I use a pre-bait method for my traps. Early in the week I set out my trap round for the following week, with the doors tied open and plenty of feed available to attract any passing squirrels. On Friday I get around all the traps and ensure they have feed in them for the weekend. On Monday the round goes live (traps set to catch).

In Autumn effective trapping stops, as the amount of wild food available (mainly hazel nuts, beech mast and acorns) means the greys won’t venture into traps. At this time of year tactics change, and I put out wooden feeders to attract any passing squirrels that are left in the woods. Initially I use remote cameras to let me know what is using the feeders, at what time, and how often they are visiting. I will then sit at the feeder and hopefully dispatch with an air rifle any grey that comes within range. Once all the wild food has gone, these feeder sites are perfect for pulling in and trapping any greys that are looking for a winter feed.

In November 2012, I decided one of my personal goals was to try to get red squirrels back into Rydal by next Autumn. Speaking to locals, it seems the reds had been absent for at least five years - in some cases many more. I concentrated a lot of my Winter efforts on this area, and through intensive trapping and shooting, and with the help of the local residents reporting grey sightings to me, I soon started to make an impact. On the 28th of January 2013 I bumped into a Rydal resident who has been trapping greys on his property for many years. He said that someone from the cottages at the top of the village had told him there was a red visiting his bird feeder every day. Could this really be the case? It seemed too good to be true.

"It Will Never Work" (cont.)

I headed straight up the hill and spoke to the gentleman in question. He was over the moon, as it had been five years since he had seen a red on his property, and he kindly allowed me to put a remote camera on his hanging basket directed at the bird feeder. Five days later I returned to collect it. On first inspection of the images on the small screen inside the camera there was definitely a squirrel, but due to the poor light it was impossible to tell the colour. That evening, as I drove home to get the images onto my PC, my mind raced with the possibilities - could this be the Rydal red or just a gingery grey? On downloading the images it was very clear - Rydal had a red squirrel again. I can only compare the feeling to that of Christmas morning as a child. And it turned out I had gone to the wrong cottage, it was a neighbour who had reported the red.

As I write this, seven months on, reds are regularly seen at Rydal Hall (partly due to the continued trapping effort of their staff), and I have picked up reds on my cameras all over the Rydal area. One property on the side of the A591 had a red in the garden last week for the first time in over twenty years - from the photograph it looks as if it could be a juvenile, which would suggest that a litter has been born in Rydal this summer. Reds can now also be found in all the woodlands along Loughrigg terrace, to the south of Rydal.

I think that Rydal highlights how a combined effort can really make a difference to red squirrel conservation and shows it is possible to conserve the reds that we are lucky enough still to have in Cumbria. With a continued effort, and by expanding the ever-growing network of people who would rather have red squirrels in their gardens than greys, I have no doubt in my mind that we can continue to extend the red squirrels' range.

It amazes me how many people that I meet of early retirement age from as far south as the Midlands who tell me they can remember having reds around their homes when they were children. Let's make sure future generations can enjoy Cumbria's red squirrels.

Mike Green, RSNE

Grey Squirrel Control at Sizergh Castle (National Trust)

In early April we met with Tim Wood the Forest Ranger at Sizergh Castle and discussed our proposals for controlling the grey squirrels in the woodland on the estate. It was agreed that trapping would be focused on the south and south east perimeter of the estate and that shooting would take place in two of the woods to the north and north west which would be least likely to be affected by public access.

Initial baiting using a variety of "testers" showed squirrel activity in the woods and by the end of the month the first grey had been shot. Trapping was also showing some results in the Heaves Hotel area on the southern perimeter. During May shooting continued while the greys were feeding on sycamore buds at tree-top level but the numbers were low. Feeders were continually being emptied but were not drawing in squirrels in large numbers.

In June two large permanent feeding stations were set up in the woods and a week later these were having the desired effect by drawing in squirrels who had become accustomed to the continuous supply of food. Eight squirrels were accounted for in two visits. By early July a further six squirrels were shot and one of the feeders (containing 25kg of crushed maize) was almost empty! A further six squirrels were accounted for after the feeders were re-filled but by now the numbers had diminished on each visit.

At the end of July a further meeting was held with Tim Wood to report our progress and we were pleased to hear that the Rangers had been shooting greys on their bird feeding areas at the Castle and twelve had been accounted for. It was agreed that we would put some "testers" in to two other woods to check for squirrel activity. The immediate choice was Brigsteer Park wood, where the Rangers had previously trapped and shot greys, and where the last of the reds had been sighted several years ago. The other site was Low Park wood, which is situated near Low Sizergh Barn, and part of which is used as a touring caravan site. Both of these woods have regular public access and shooting may prove difficult and will need to be restricted to the more remote areas. The caravan site closes in October and this will present an opportunity for both trapping and shooting.

BJ, WRSS



Ambleside & Langdale

Pleased to advise the trend continues and that we are seeing more and more reds and fewer greys over a wide area. The more success we have, the greater the amount of local interest and the more people offering to help and get involved. The bigger picture is that the RSNE presence is having knock on benefits. Langdale and Ambleside dovetail with their trapper, Mike Green, who has been doing an excellent job in this area. In addition, Troutbeck has a new sub-group in operation and the Windermere and Bowness area now have new co-ordinators organising publicity, distributing leaflets and offering

Ambleside & Langdale (cont.)

advice as to where help can be obtained. They are also visiting traps over a wide area, thus releasing the trappers to go further afield by only having to attend traps when something has been caught.

It is hoped that more small groups can be motivated like this, and individuals can undertake the daily task of checking a few nearby traps. Anyone with a little time on their hands and a vehicle can also help by running trappers around at times when transport is a problem - it all helps.

The feeders we make continue to be invaluable; we place the feeders in woods over a wide area and check them to see where activity has been present. This is indicated by the squirrel biting through the string at the bottom of the feeder - if the contents of the feeder go down and the string is intact we are fairly certain it is birds. But if the string has been bitten through, then there is a good chance it is a squirrel, so we merely remove the feeder and place a trap as near as possible to where the feeder was sited.

This reduces our food/bait bill considerably as we only place and bait traps where we are relatively confident we will have success, and thus we are not spending money on feeding the local wildlife.

A&L Co-ordinator, WRSS



String tied near base of feeder



Broken string indicates squirrels

Longsleddale



Throughout the year there have been regular sightings of red squirrels the length of Longsleddale. Reds have been seen at Kilmstone, Capplebarrow, Well Foot Farm, Sadgill and Stockdale. There have been two sightings of greys but these have been dealt with immediately. The Stockdale sightings are daily with two babies having been seen this year. The reds at Stockdale are so comfortable with the feeding station provided for them that if the residents are late in putting out the food, the squirrels 'knock' on the conservatory door.

August 2013.

Troutbeck

"Being ginger myself I find I have a particular attachment to our Red friends and seeing the great work that Westmorland Red Squirrel and the Grasmere Red Squirrel groups do spurred me to look at what we could do in Troutbeck.

We have posters up on three village notice boards and I'm glad to say we have captured the imagination of some of our residents. Two of our youngest residents, Gabriella and Ben, took it upon themselves to raise some money for the cause during the Troutbeck Village Garden Trail. By running a raffle they managed to raise £50 which will go towards feeders.

We look forward to continuing our work and the return of Reds to Troutbeck."

Ben Berry lives in Troutbeck and represents residents on South Lakeland District Council as an elected member



Cumbria Community Foundation

WRSS is very grateful once again to have received a grant from Cumbria Community Foundation, this time enabling the purchase of a projector and screen to use when giving talks, and also to cover the cost printing for leaflets and flyers. This all helps to spread the message that red squirrels need our help and to gain further support for the cause.

Monitoring of Squirrel Populations at Foulshaw Moss (2013)

By John Gurnell

Foulshaw Moss Nature Reserve (350 ha) is one of three raised mires that make up Witherslack Mosses to the west of the Kent Estuary in Cumbria; these peatbogs are Designated Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) under the Habitats Directive. However, conifer trees (mainly Scots pine, *Pinus sylvestris* but with some other species such as western hemlock, *Tsuga heterophylla* and Sitka spruce, *Picea sitchensis*) were planted, and associated drainage ditches excavated, across the raised mire in the 1950s and 1960s. In time, the conifers provided a suitable home for red squirrels with peak numbers possibly reaching two to three hundred animals in the 1990s. Since Cumbria Wildlife Trust (CWT) acquired the sites in 1998, and in partnership with Natural England, it has been working to restore the mire. This work has involved felling artificially planted conifers, blocking internal ditches and raising water levels. One hundred and eighty hectares of conifers from the centre of the site were felled some 10 years ago leaving about 130 ha of forest. The latter comprised a broad strip of conifers along the eastern and southern edges together with two original mixed woodlands, Ulpha Wood and Ulpha Fell, on the western side of the site. The last important phase of tree felling took place during 2011 and 2012 where the majority of the remaining conifers were removed leaving just an edge line of pine to the east with some small shelter patches of pine and birch. In all, there remains approximately 51 ha of woodland centred on Ulpha Wood (15 ha) and Ulpha Fell (11 ha) which have been retained to provide refuge areas for red squirrels.

During this period a focus of attention has been to try and minimise the impact of the restoration work on the already dwindling red squirrel population. Of course, not only have the red squirrels had to contend with a considerable loss of habitat over the years, but also with the continued influx of grey squirrels, first reported at Foulshaw about 15 years ago. Later work by Corrie Bruemmer also indicated that a significant proportion of greys tested positive for squirrelpox virus (53% of 505 greys tested). In 2011, Cumbria Wildlife Trust commissioned John Gurnell from Queen Mary, London University (QMUL) to monitor the squirrel populations at Foulshaw over the period of felling. Working with Peter Lurz and Corrie Bruemmer and in collaboration with Anna Meredith, Head of Exotic Animal and Wildlife Service, Edinburgh University, advice was provided on felling prescriptions that would be least disruptive to the red squirrels, and monitoring and health studies of the squirrel populations were carried out. These studies included maintaining a programme of grey squirrel control that had been in operation for research and red squirrel conservation purposes more-or-less continuously for 10 years or so previously. Most of the tree felling took place between autumn 2011 and spring 2012.

The studies consisted of broadscale habitat surveys for signs of the presence of squirrels in the spring of 2011 (pre-felling) and the spring of 2012 (post-felling), monitoring of red and grey squirrels using visual transects, camera trapping and live cage trapping at Ulpha Fell and Ulpha Wood, but also in the eastern conifers before they were felled. In addition, a health check of red squirrels was carried out during summer 2011. Some of the findings from 2011 were reported in an earlier edition of the Newsletter (Issue 3, Autumn 2011).

The 2011 broadscale survey revealed most signs of squirrel feeding and food availability at Ulpha Fell and in the pine along the eastern boundary. Squirrel dreys were also found in the eastern section, at Ulpha Fell and also in the north-west. In 2012, no signs of squirrels were detected in the felled eastern part of the site. Also, and in contrast to 2011, fewer signs of squirrels were seen in the western woodlands in 2012; some squirrel feeding remains were detected in Ulpha Fell but no cones on trees or dreys were observed. In general, over the study period the standardised visual surveys at Ulpha Wood and Ulpha Fell were unsuccessful with very low detection rates ranging between 0.0 and 0.9 squirrels seen per transect walked. One reason for this low return was the poor visibility in these woodlands. By comparison the camera traps were successful. Ten to twelve cameras were operational at any one time, focused on the squirrel trapping platforms attached to the side of trees 1 - 2 m above the ground. Over the two years more than 156,000 images were taken of a whole variety of birds and mammals, including squirrels (Figure 1).

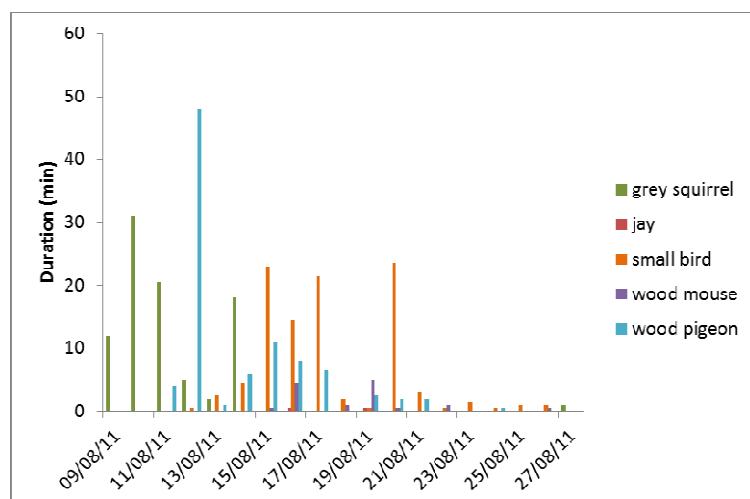


Figure 1. Estimated duration of visits of birds and animals to one camera each day between 9th and 27th August 2011.

The platform was last baited on 20th August. Birds including small birds such as tits, chaffinches, robins, blackbirds, nuthatches, as well as jays, lesser spotted woodpeckers and wood pigeons, visited the platforms frequently and spent considerable amounts of time feeding when bait was present.

Grey squirrels were trapped and removed on a regular basis between March 2011 and August 2012 (Figure 2). In total, 64 grey squirrels were removed from across the site in 2011 and 30 from Ulpha Wood and Ulpha Fell in 2012. These numbers represented a considerable control effort with overall <0.2 grey squirrels captured per trap-day.

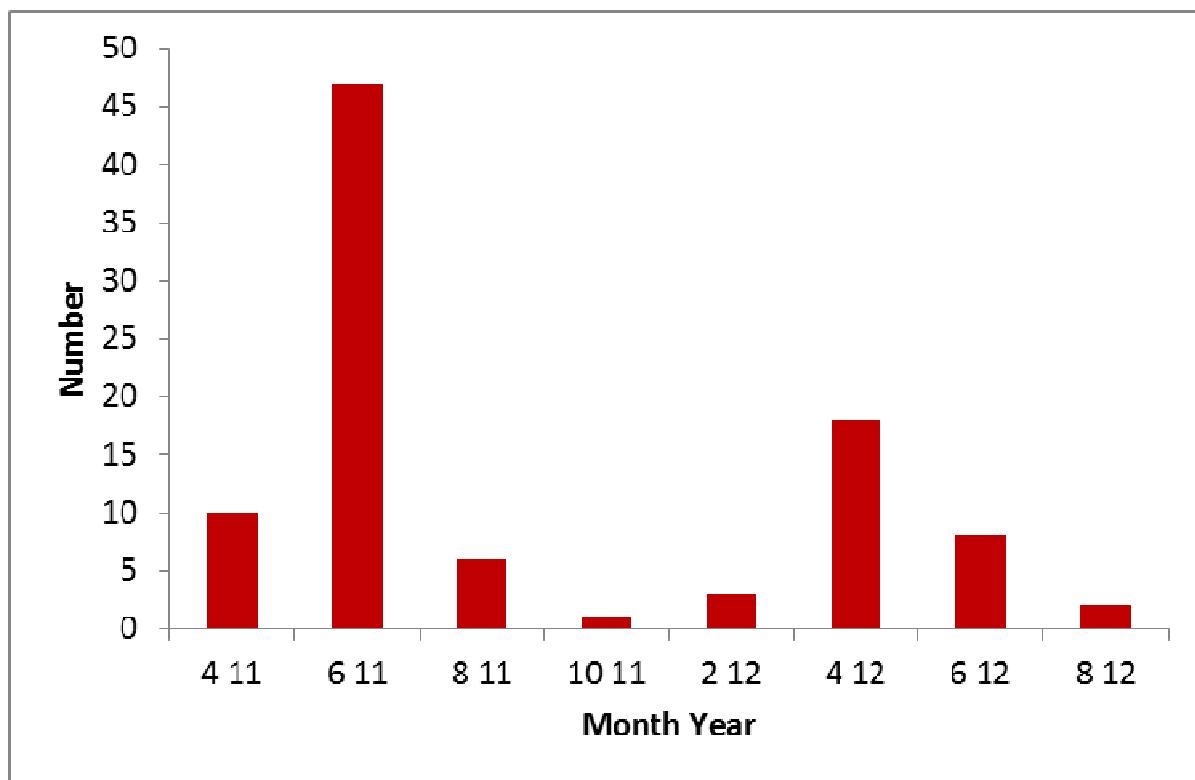


Figure 2. The number of grey squirrels removed during control sessions

Squirrel records were analysed with respect to three, 3-day periods around live trapping: before, during and after. Average numbers of grey squirrels visits to platforms ranged from 0.5 to 3.5 for pre-trapping periods and 0.23 to 3.14 during trapping periods. More importantly, grey squirrels were detected after trapping had finished on several occasions.

Encouragingly, five red squirrels were captured: three females and two males in the eastern blocks of pine in the summer of 2011. These animals were in good health and the females showed signs of having bred in the spring with one being pregnant for a second time. Interestingly, despite the high prevalence of Squirrelpox virus antibody in grey squirrels at Foulshaw, there are no records of red squirrels at Foulshaw ever becoming infected. In 2011 a red squirrel had also been seen in Ulpha Fell, but no red squirrels were captured in Ulpha Wood or Ulpha Fell in 2012. Thus the fate of the five red squirrels captured in 2011 and their offspring is not known. This is despite of the fact that the felling was carried out during the non-breeding season and in such a way as to encourage the red squirrels to move into Ulpha Fell and Ulpha Wood. So, how many red squirrels are left on Foulshaw is pure guesswork but records from camera traps and visual surveys in the autumn of 2012 and two sightings so far in 2013 suggest they are still present.

The woodlands at Ulpha Wood and Ulpha Fell could support a small population of up to 30 individuals, depending on the availability of tree seeds. Such small numbers would be vulnerable; their only chance of persisting into the future is to maintain a low grey squirrel presence by appropriate levels of control. This can only really be achieved by systematic and ongoing, wide scale control both within Foulshaw and in the surrounding landscape. If, on the other hand, the red squirrels were to disappear, the woods on Foulshaw would become an oasis for grey squirrels that in time would move out into the nearby countryside. One of the key findings from this study highlights the importance of systematic and ongoing, wide scale control in all woodlands surrounding areas that still contain red squirrels to ensure their future. Following recent discussions with Geoff Hetherington, it is extremely encouraging to see the high level of support and activity of the Westmorland Red Squirrel Society and their reports of a recent revival of red squirrel sightings in the south-east Lakes (Spring Newsletter 2013).

John Gurnell is Professor of Ecology at the School of Biological and Chemical Sciences, Queen Mary, University of London

Red Squirrels on the Cornish Horizon

By Natasha Collings

The full version of this article first appeared in the 2013 Spring/Summer issue of Songbird Survival Newsletter and this extract is reproduced here with the kind permission of the author.

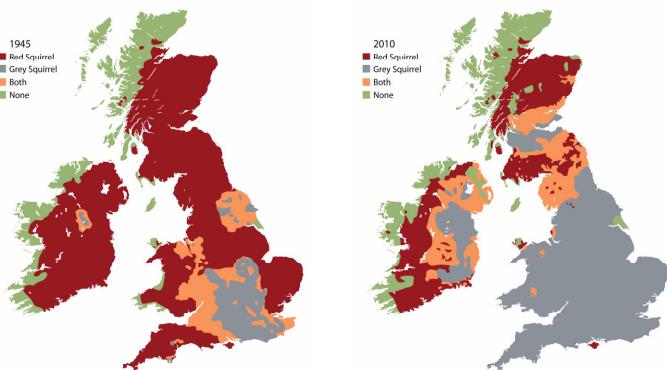
An exciting project to reintroduce the native red squirrel to Cornwall is underway.

The project, which was founded in 2009, plans to use the naturally isolated geography of Cornwall to maximise the chances of this most enchanting mammal becoming successfully re-established in the county. Of course, all this remains a future hope whilst grey squirrels remain established in the county.

By 2000 just 170,000 red squirrels remained in the UK, compared to estimates of 5 million grey squirrels. This shocking loss is estimated to be 50 times faster than if there had just been a competitive issue between the two species. This is of course an issue, but in the mid 1980's the main reason for the loss was discovered – the existence of the squirrel pox virus. Carried by the grey squirrels which appear to suffer no ill effects from the disease the pox is fatal to reds, resulting in sores around the mouth and eyes, and death within 5 to 7 days.

Of course, the introduction of grey squirrels was not just bad news for red squirrels, as songbirds have also suffered from the more voracious appetite and higher population densities of the grey squirrel.

New research by the Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust (GWCT) has shown a significant positive correlation between numbers of grey squirrels in woodland and fledging success in birds. "The results from the research work indicate that grey squirrels at particular densities have a noticeable effect on some birds, particularly those which have open nests, rather than nesting in holes or hollow trees," says George Farr Chairman of the European Squirrel Initiative who commissioned the research. "The study indicated when grey squirrels were at a relatively high density and were then removed there was a measurable positive effect on the post nesting fledging of the woodland bird community," said Professor Nick Sotherton of the Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust, who also acts as Scientific Advisor to the Cornwall Red Squirrel Group.



Maps supplied by RSST



Photo Nigel Housen

Grey Squirrel with two Spotted Flycatcher's eggs in mouth

This adds to the body of evidence already known, including research from the British Trust for Ornithology in 2003 (Hewson, C.M. and Fuller, R.J.), which showed predation of some bird nests by grey squirrel, including those of the blackbird, Eurasian collared dove, green woodpecker, long-tailed tit and Eurasian jay. The same report concluded that bird species potentially most at risk from Grey Squirrel predation are those that nest in the canopy but that no species, even those nesting on the ground or in holes / nest boxes, are completely immune.

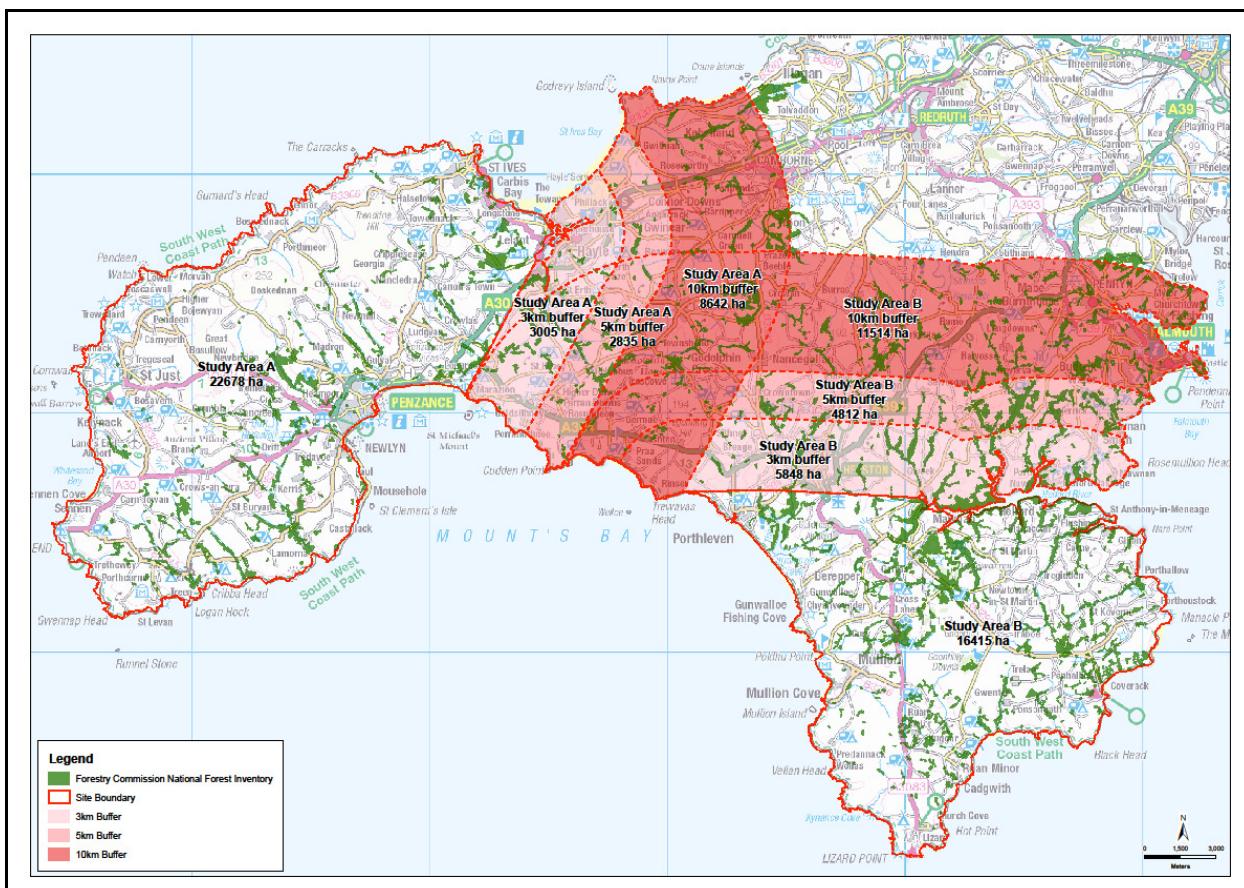
The impact on bird species from grey squirrels is not only down to direct predation of eggs and fledglings, but also through stripping of trees. Grey squirrels are well known for attacking our broadleaved tree species, often resulting in the death of the tree either directly or through fungal attack. The cost to the UK forestry industry is over £50 million a year in commercial forestry alone, with many arboriculturists believing the true figure is six to ten times this amount. Geraint Richards, Head Forester for the Duchy of Cornwall believes the true cost of grey squirrel damage to woodland is yet to be seen; "the fact is that we will have far fewer native broadleaved trees maturing from the post grey squirrel era, meaning that the type of Ancient Woodlands we enjoy today may well be the last". This point is now even more serious, as historically the only native tree species the grey squirrel hasn't favoured has been the Ash. Now of course with this species likely to suffer extensive losses through Ash dieback (*Chalara fraxinea*) the picture for mature native woodland looks even more bleak.

All of this means that success for the Cornwall Red Squirrel project would be good news for bird species in Cornwall, as well as for the Red Squirrel itself.

In tandem with the removal of grey squirrels the Cornwall Project has also joined the captive breeding efforts, and a new captive population of red squirrels was established at Trewithen, near Truro in spring 2012. Paradise Park in Cornwall has been breeding red squirrels for 17 years, and gave Trewithen two of its 2011-born female red squirrels on loan, and then helped source an unrelated male squirrel from the Welsh Mountain Zoo. It's hoped in the near future to develop "Red Squirrel Walk Packs" for both locals and visitors to encourage them to visit the two captive populations of red squirrels in Cornwall, learn about the threats the species faces, and then walk into the surrounding habitat and imagine our native red squirrels back there again.

For now though, the prospect of release remains a few years off as efforts are concentrated on removing the grey squirrels from the two target areas, and an associated buffer zone.

The target areas were chosen with the help of Dr Craig Shuttleworth in 2009, as the project commenced. Both areas are peninsulas with narrow bands of land joining them to the rest of Cornwall. West Penwith uses the Hayle River to Marazion line as a boundary, and the Lizard uses a line between the Helford river and Loe Bar near Porthleven. Both of these lines make use of natural watercourses, but although these help delineate the areas, they have little effect on the grey squirrel populations except at the wider end of the Helford, as greys are good swimmers and will cross even substantial water bodies if they can see woodland on the other side.



*West Penwith (Area A) and Lizard (Area B) with associated (pink shaded) 0-3km, 3-5km and 10km buffer zones.
Woodland recorded on the Forestry Commission Woodland Inventory is shown in green.*

The buffer zone covers 10km to the north of the two target areas, joining together the areas in a line below Camborne and Falmouth. This gives a total area of more than 39,000 hectares to be cleared, in which it is estimated there are around 3500 grey squirrels. This was worked out using GIS habitat mapping and average population estimates, required to give a robust strategy for the Cornish project, which prides itself on its scientific basis in understanding the challenges of removing the grey squirrels and releasing the reds.

The aim for the next three to five years is twofold, firstly to ensure the on-going removal of grey squirrels from the target areas and buffer zone, and secondly to continue to enthuse and educate the public about the plight of the red squirrel. At the end of this period it is hoped that looking for red squirrels in these very woodlands will require not an active imagination, but just a keen pair of eyes, as red squirrels once again gambol in the woods of Cornwall.

Natasha Collings MEnvSci, MCIEEM, CSci, CEnv, MCIWEM, CWEM, is the Cornwall Red Squirrel Project Coordinator

European Squirrel Initiative Update

By Andrew Kendall, ESI

The European Squirrel Initiative was launched in June 2002 with the aim of encouraging and achieving the control and eventual eradication of American grey squirrels from Europe. While the presence of grey squirrels is well known in the United Kingdom and in Northern Ireland as well as the ROI, they are also present in Italy where they are poised to spread from three principle strongholds in the north throughout Italy and across the Alps into Switzerland and France and eventually the rest of Europe. European activity has very much been at the heart of ESI's work and recently the charity organised a visit of foresters and conservationists from France, Italy and Switzerland to look at squirrel damage here in the UK. This also involved a demonstration of various methods of squirrel control as well as a discussion with the Forestry Commission as to how they see the problem of grey squirrels.

Political support and action is fundamental to the work of ESI. In recent months ESI has concentrated on its core activity, focusing on the case for greater control and the ultimate eradication of grey squirrels. ESI works closely with government ministers and politicians of all parties and has regular meetings with ministers to present its case and discuss issues.

On a practical level ESI is also taking the lead on trying to influence UK Forestry Standards to ensure that it incorporates a stricter approach to grey control. With a significant amount of government money going into the creation of woodlands ESI believes that it is important that more is done to protect those woods. ESI will shortly be launching an updated trapping guide based on a longer version which was launched in 2012 which provided gamekeepers and others in charge of grey squirrel control with guidance on the latest legislative position and advice on steps that can be taken to improve trapping procedures. The new guide will be a more streamlined version and widely available to individuals and organisations.

Europe is critical to the work of ESI as pressure and influence from the EU Commission and Parliament can help to influence European governments over their position towards grey squirrel control. In Italy an EU funded project to monitor and control grey squirrels, EC Square, is making headway. Other good news from Italy is that the Italian authorities have banned the trade in grey squirrels. This is something which ESI has been pressing for and lobbying the Italian national government, the regional governments and also the European Commission through the Bern Convention. This ban will undoubtedly help slow down the movement of greys within and from Italy.

ESI funds various research projects including work being carried out in the Republic of Ireland by scientists at Galway University into the effects of Pine Martens on grey and red squirrel populations. Readers, no doubt, will have seen some early reports on this work in the press. However this research is yet to be completed.

While ESI is involved in a number of high profile initiatives and projects, much of its work goes on "below the radar" dealing with individuals and organisations on a day to day basis, advising them, helping them and in some cases trying to persuade them of the benefits of removing this alien pest. While there are still gaps in people's knowledge and awareness of the threat posed by the grey, it is encouraging that many people and organisations support ESI's aim and work.

Ways You Can Help

- Report any red and grey squirrel sightings via the online form on the WRSS website or by phoning 01539 821714
- Make a donation – see our website or give us a call to find out more
- Become a WRSS member – see our website or give us a call to request a form
- Control your greys – for information and advice please telephone 07836 584201
- Volunteer – there are many ways you can make a difference and we need your help – please telephone 01539 821714 to find out more
- Use squirrel-proof bird feeders to avoid feeding grey squirrels - even if there are no reds nearby yet



Taken at Trewithen gardens near Truro, Cornwall

Westmorland Red Squirrel Society

Website

www.westmorlandredsquirrels.org.uk

Geoff Hetherington, Chairman

Tel: 01539 822089

Mob: 07836 584201

chairman@westmorlandredsquirrels.org.uk

Membership and sightings

Tel: 01539 821714

admin@westmorlandredsquirrels.org.uk

Registered Charity No: 1144416