

Our red squirrels are under threat



The red squirrel is one of Scotland's most iconic, popular and instantly recognisable native animals. They have probably been present in Scotland since the last ice age. Once common across all of the UK, it has become largely extinct in England and Wales in the last 50 years and is now under threat in Scotland, its last stronghold. The Scottish Government's wildlife advisors, Scottish Natural Heritage believe it could be extinct by the end of the century.

The main reason for its rapid decline is the non-native grey squirrel which was introduced from North America - the first one was recorded in Scotland in the 1890s. Greys out-compete reds for food and shelter with reds typically dying out 15-20 years after greys become established in an area.

Grey squirrels are also carriers of a virus known as 'squirrelpox' which is harmless to them but deadly to the reds. This disease can kill all the red squirrels that come into contact with an infected grey squirrel in a matter of days, usually 15. In the last few years infected grey squirrels have been recorded in the south of Scotland with local red populations being devastated. If this disease spreads to other grey squirrel populations, the rest of the Scotland's red squirrels will be at grave risk.

Unlike in the cities of Dundee and Aberdeen, the grey squirrels in Perth city are currently not controlled meaning they can spread out and threaten the survival of red squirrels at places such as Kinnoull Hill, Moncreiffe Hill and Scone Palace.

How you can help

There are lots of ways you can help red squirrels – have a look at our website to find out more. The easiest way is to report any red or grey squirrels you see as follows on our website -

www.pkrsg.com -> Get involved -> Report sightings

All records are forwarded to the Scottish Squirrel database managed by The Scottish Wildlife Trust and help all those involved in red squirrel conservation build up a more accurate picture of squirrel populations and also where to target resources.

About us

Perth & Kinross Red Squirrel Group is an independent not for profit organisation run by volunteers in their spare time. We are not funded by central or local government. We rely on the generosity of our members to support us (since we were founded in 1995). This leaflet was funded by the National Lottery through Big Lottery Fund.

Our purpose is quite simple – to protect and increase the red squirrel population right across the Perth & Kinross region. Please help red squirrels before it's too late and they are gone.



**Perth & Kinross
Red Squirrel Group**



LOTTERY FUNDED



The reds on your doorstep!



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Did you know there are red squirrels living in woods right next to Perth city?

Two great places to see them are on **Kinnoull Hill** and **Moncreiffe Hill Wood**.



Kinnoull Hill Woodland Park

is a mixed broadleaf and coniferous woodland just to the east of Perth. The best place to see reds is amongst the larch and Scots pine trees.

Remember, you are more likely to hear them nibbling cones up a tree before you see them – look out for bits of discarded cone dropping down from the treetops!

How to get there



By car

...from Bridgend (across the Perth Bridge i.e. West Bridge Street from Perth), follow the signpost and go directly up Muirhall road for 1.5 miles to Jubilee car park, which is signed on the right.

There is also the smaller Quarry car park which is accessed from either Muirhall road or Hatton Road (with Corsie Hill road running in-between).

By bus

...take the Number 11 from the city centre onto Hatton Road as far as Langley drive as it joins Muirhall road. Take the short walk to Quarry car park or less than a mile on to Jubilee.

Moncreiffe Hill Wood

is a major landmark situated on the edge of Perth. Owned by the Woodland Trust Scotland the wood is home to great variety of trees and wildlife. It also contains two Iron Age forts...and of course red squirrels! Follow the red or yellow routes to the top of the hill and look out for squirrels in the pine and larch trees.

How to get there



By car

Tay car park (north) – *From Edinburgh Road (A912) just south of Perth, turn onto Rhynd Road (signposted for Rhynd and Elcho Castle) just before the M90 motorway ramp. Follow the road for approx. 2km, and car park entrance is on the right.*

Earn car park (south) - *From Bridge of Earn head towards Perth on the A912. Just out of the village over the bridge turn right (signposted for Rhynd, Elcho Castle & Moncreiffe Hill woodland walks) and drive for approx. 1.5 km. Turn left at the sign for Moncreiffe Hill up and proceed up to the car park.*

You can also reach either car park by bus

Take the 35 and either get off on Edinburgh road for the Tay car park or continue towards Bridge of Earn, getting off before entering the village and following the signs.