

Have you seen a Grey Squirrel in Finzean, Ballogie or Birse?

Birse Community Trust and the local estates are working with the Saving Scotland's Red Squirrels project to protect our Reds from the threat posed by the non-native North American Grey Squirrel.



Red Squirrel



Grey Squirrel

Please report any Grey Squirrel sightings as soon as you can either to Birse Community Trust or one of the local estate offices.

Birse Community Trust - T: 01330 850200 E: BCTOffice@birsecommunitytrust.org.uk

Finzean Estate - T: 01330 850710 E: Andrew@Finzean.com

Ballogie Estate - T: 01330 86497 Email: info@ballogie-estate.co.uk

Dunecht Estates - T: 01330 860223 E: info@dunechtestates.co.uk

Help Protect the Red Squirrel in Birse Parish

The Red Squirrel is found throughout the forests and woods of Birse parish and many residents are fortunate to see these beautiful animals in their gardens. However, Grey Squirrels are now also in the area.

- Grey Squirrels were released in Aberdeen in the early 1970s and are now well established along the Dee to Banchory
- There have been several reports of Grey Squirrels from Finzean, Ballogie and Birse in recent years as they move further up Deeside
- Grey Squirrels outcompete Reds for food in broadleaved and mixed woodland, eventually leading to the loss of Reds from these areas
- Grey Squirrels can also carry and transmit Squirrelpox – a virus lethal to Reds which does not harm Greys

At present the population of Grey Squirrels in Aberdeenshire is isolated from other populations in Britain and is thought to be free of Squirrelpox. However, if left unchecked, the Greys will eventually replace the Reds in the lower lying areas with broadleaved trees, including most of the gardens in our area. Although conifer forests provide a refuge for Red Squirrels, even these could be devastated if Squirrelpox spreads into the area.

The Saving Scotland's Red Squirrels project hopes to remove the Grey Squirrel from Aberdeenshire altogether before the population expands to meet populations further south, where Squirrelpox is already present. BCT is monitoring local woodlands for Grey Squirrels to ensure that they do not get established here, but you can help by letting us know if you see a Grey Squirrel in our area.

For further information on the Saving Scotland's Red Squirrels project, contact Hollie Walker at redsquirrelgrampian@swt.org.uk or see www.scottishsquirrels.org.uk