

Grizedale

Red Kite - Questions & Answers

Why do we need to re-introduce Red Kites?

Re-introducing Red Kites will enable the species to recolonise areas from which it disappeared many years ago, speeding up a process which could take many decades to occur naturally.

What do they eat?

*Almost any type of animal **carrion** is taken, live prey is limited to invertebrates and creatures weak enough to be overpowered by a bird not noted for its strength. They pose no threat to livestock.*

How do they interact with other species?

Competition with Common Buzzards and Ravens exists throughout the Red Kite's range. This is entirely natural and is not deemed to be a problem.

How many birds will be released and when?

Approximately 90 birds will be released over a 3-year period, this equates to approximately 30 birds per annum and will begin during the summer of 2010.

Does this mean more visitors?

The re-introduction of Red Kites presents an excellent opportunity to educate and inform visitors about Red Kites and wider environmental issues. In a national context, Red Kites are becoming a relatively common sight so an increase in visitor numbers in peak periods is not anticipated.

How is the project funded?

The project is funded jointly by the Forestry Commission and external sponsorship.

Will they predate ground-nesting birds?

Carrion is the preferred food source of red kites and as such ground nesting birds occur in their diet only infrequently, occurring usually when red kites are feeding dependent young.

Will they have any impact on livestock?

Red kites will not have any impact upon livestock, although as carrion feeders, it is expected that they will feed upon fallen stock.