

Ayrshire Red Squirrel Group
SSG Report
September 2012

- Our main focus continues to be raising funds for the employment of an Ayrshire project officer. We anticipate that a new PO will be in post by March 2013, subject to the necessary funds being secured.
- The group has seen an increase in the level of community participation in the South, particularly focussed in the Stinchar Valley. We are working closely with people living in the communities in this area to provide traps and submit samples for pox testing.
- Grey control and pox testing continues across Ayrshire, supported by RSSS GSCOs. We were relieved that a number of the seropositive greys reported at the previous SSG meeting turned out to be erroneous. However, there are still clusters of sero-positives within Ayrshire so we remain vigilant for new incidences.
- We have circulated letters and squirrel pox protocol documents to every veterinary surgery in East and South Ayrshire.
- We intend to run a series of events in the autumn and winter including a photographic competition and a guided walk. We are continuing to work on raising our profile locally, by re-issuing our sightings postcards, improving our website and creating a social media presence.