

Saving Scotland's Red Squirrels – south update

Grey Squirrel Control Update

- **Ayrshire:** Control in Ayrshire remains focussed on identifying the seropositive / seronegative grey squirrel interface. Once better knowledge been gained for the area, control efforts shall be re-focused and intensified. No new incidences of positive grey squirrels have been found outwith known positive areas (Culzean, Mauchline).
- **Central Borders:** Control efforts have moved further north to the upper parts of the Tweed and Leader catchments in response to containing the spread of new positive grey squirrels found here.
- **South East:** Work remains focused along the Blackadder and Whiteadder Waters with frequent sampling being undertaken at Abbey St Bathans, Longformacus and Coldingham to ensure there have been no northward leaps in the SQPV. It is likely long-term control in this area will need to be maintained for the foreseeable future.
- **Dumfries & Galloway:** Control remains focussed within the Annan Valley with additional areas being targeted close to and around Dumfries town in response to 'new' grey squirrel sightings.

SQPV distribution

There has been an increase in the distribution of seropositive grey squirrels caught

Dumfries & Galloway

- Corriedoo (1 of 2)

Scottish Borders

- Bowmont Forest / Kale Water (south Kelso) (2 of 2)
- Stow (7 of 13)
- Near Lauder (4 of 19)

Survey and Monitoring

- **Large-Scale Squirrelpox Surveillance Scheme:** Total of 75 x 10km squares across south Scotland to be sampled. To date 32 squares have been completed for this year; sampling for the remaining 43 squares (many are half complete) is ongoing. Sampling across Scotland is to be completed by November.
- Discussions have been held regarding the development of tetrad surveys for the south. Two different sampling options are currently being discussed.

Notable Events

- Visit by Claudia Beamish Shadow Minister for Environment and Climate Change
- Cross-Border Landowner Engagement Day (SSRS, RSNE, RSST, ESI) – Nov 2012

Plans for Red Squirrel Week

- Red Squirrel Feeder Box Watch
- Various talks / events across south Scotland