



Save our Squirrels Berwick Group



Squirrel Times

September 2013

A date for your diaries. The Groups AGM will be held on Monday October 14th starting at 14:00 at the Lowick Village Hall. NU018408
The AGM will be followed by an update from Emma Wright of RSNE.
Hope that you can all make it.

Hello all.

An update on our activities.

The sad news is that the two red squirrels sighted at Waren Caravan Park at Budle Bay have not been seen for over 2 months, however there has now been at least 3 Red squirrels seen at Bradford Farm, which is only approx. 2 miles away as the crow flies.

Kyloe Reserve

Access is now available to Kyloe woods, forestry work has now ceased for the time being. Kyloe shows some signs of the Red squirrels returning after the pox outbreak last year.

There have been Red squirrels caught on camera, in Shiellow & Detchant, with the feeders being emptied at a voracious rate. There has been a steady increase of Red activity since the start of the year with the majority of the monitoring equipment in both woods now showing signs of Reds.

Red hairs have also been found in Kettleburn feeders, with one very irate red trapped and released. Kettleburn woods lie on the south east side of Detchant and has formed the main incursion route into the reserve so this is good news showing a return of Reds to Kettleburn following the extensive Grey control there over the last few years.

Monitoring throughout our area is showing a similar pattern to the reserve with fewer Greys everywhere and Reds starting to return to woods where they have not been seen for some years. Early days but terrific news.

RSNE surveys.

During the RSNE Spring survey 300 woodlands and garden across northern England were surveyed with results showing that red squirrels were found in 7% more sites and grey squirrel found in 18% fewer sites than in spring 2012.

Control

For this year up to the end of August there have been 58 Greys trapped, the majority being females which is good news as far as breeding is concerned. This is considerably less than previous years (2012 up to end of August 190 Greys trapped) but there appears to be far fewer Greys in our woods this year. Ian Hardie, our local RSNE Ranger, is also finding the number of Greys trapped are considerably down this year compared to last. All good news.

Control for 2013 up to the end of August.

Location	Greys	Reds
<u>Beal Result</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>0</u>
<u>Berrington Wood Result</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>
<u>Castle Hills Result</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>
<u>Chainbridge Result</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>0</u>
<u>Glen Ord, East Ord Result</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
<u>Haydon Dene Result</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>
<u>Kettleburn Woods Result</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>Knapdene Result</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>
<u>Licker Dene Result</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>
<u>Longridge Towers Result</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>0</u>
<u>Lowick Mill Result</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>
<u>New Haggerston Result</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
<u>Spittal House Result</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>
<u>Tillmouth Farm Result</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>0</u>
<u>Tillmouth Hotel Result</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>
<u>Tiptoe Result</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>0</u>
<u>Grand Total</u>	<u>58</u>	<u>1</u>

Best wishes, and hope to see you at the Group's AGM,

John