

UK Squirrel Accord

www.squirrelaccord.uk



The UK Squirrel Accord consists of 32 leading woodland, timber industry and conservation organisations in the UK. It was created at the invitation of HRH Prince Charles – who had the aim of bringing a concerted and coordinated approach to securing the future of our red squirrels and woodlands, and to controlling the introduced grey squirrel.

The grey squirrel is an invasive, non-native species in the UK. They were first introduced to England from North America in 1876 as an ornamental species to populate the grounds of stately homes. They rapidly spread and colonised much of mainland England with devastating consequences for our native red squirrels. They need controlling because they are causing major economic, social and environmental damage to the broadleaved woodlands of the United Kingdom. Grey squirrels damage our forests by stripping bark from trees' main trunks (at the base and up in the canopy) and branches. When they strip a complete ring of bark around the tree, it will kill the tree.

The most significant threat associated with grey squirrels is the spread and transmission of a disease called squirrelpox virus (SQPV) to the red squirrel; grey squirrels are immune to SQPV.

UK Squirrel Accord's commitment to the effective and targeted control of grey squirrels and the protection of red squirrels will be achieved through the following key areas. Ensuring the public understand the importance of our work; communicating to the public through platforms such as engaging with Landowners and local groups; working with and building on existing partnerships to ensure that all relevant landowners are aware of the impact of grey squirrels; offering practical support and advice on grey squirrel management; a long-term commitment to practical action and scientific research, ensuring its work is in line with available national research and guidance; developing and trialling innovative control methods, research and monitoring; developing a series of case studies highlighting exemplary management, coordination and communication and so bringing groups together to ensure they work effectively and to a common purpose.