



Job Description

Title	Seasonal Monitoring and Control and Officer (North East) 3 years fixed term <i>Saving Scotland's Red Squirrels – Developing Community Action</i>
Based	Home-based in a flexible location near Aberdeen
Dept/Region	Conservation
Line Manager	SSRS-DCA Conservation Officer North East

Overall Purpose of the Job

To contribute to the implementation in North East Scotland of the *Saving Scotland's Red Squirrels - Developing Community Action* (SSRS-DCA) project:

- To protect red squirrels in Aberdeen and surrounding countryside from replacement by grey squirrels and work towards complete eradication of grey squirrels from the region.
- To detect squirrel presence and alert the project to the presence of grey squirrels, while monitoring the response of red squirrels to grey squirrel removal.
- To provide assistance to the Grey Squirrel Control staff in their grey squirrel trapping duties.

Main Duties

Surveying and Monitoring

1. Carry out Squirrel Presence/Absence Surveys twice a year in spring and autumn, using feeder-box hair-traps at permanent sites across Aberdeenshire according to the existing protocol. Responsible for maintenance and hygiene at feeder-boxes.
2. Assist recruitment of volunteers wherever possible to take over the running of the boxes and the hair sample collection.
3. Analysis of hair samples to identify species and collation of data into a standardised database
4. Maintain trail cameras in specified sites to assist in the detection of red and grey squirrels.
5. Identification of squirrel hair samples collected in the surveys and entering survey data into the SSRS spreadsheets.
6. Contribute to innovative approaches to survey and trapping methodologies.

Grey Squirrel Control

7. Carry out grey squirrel control in areas outlined above in reaction to grey squirrel hairs being detected or images collected at a site.
8. Assist with grey squirrel control in and around Aberdeen as advised by the SSRS-DCA Conservation Officer North East, including delivering an on-call service on 1 weekend in 3 providing professional grey squirrel despatch for householders on the trap-loan scheme.
9. Produce risk assessments for all outdoor work and comply with SWT's lone working policy for personal and third party safety.

Reporting

10. Keep records of monitoring and trapping effort, location and results to agreed SSRS project standards and submit accurate records and timesheets monthly to the Conservation Officer North East. Data collection sheets will be provided by the SSRS project and should be submitted in Excel format. (Computer are provided, Excel training can be provided if required.)

Job Description

Public Relations

Where time and resources permit:

11. Encourage interest in local red squirrel conservation with relevant local communities and encourage recording and reporting of squirrel sightings
12. Raise public awareness of, and involvement in, grey squirrel control for red squirrel conservation through the promotion of the Project's trap-loan scheme.
13. Assist the SSRS-DCA Conservation Officer North East to respond to enquiries from the public regarding grey squirrel control for red squirrel conservation.
14. Assist at occasional events to raise awareness with the public of the red squirrel conservation work of the project.

Key Internal & External Contacts

- SSRS-DCA Project staff, volunteers and stakeholders
- Householders, land owners/managers, community councils and local community interest groups, volunteers and individuals.
- Existing long-term volunteers participating in the trap-loan scheme or annual survey
- Forest Enterprise Scotland, Aberdeen City Council, Aberdeenshire Council.

Personal Specification

Qualifications, Training, Knowledge and Experience:

Essential Qualifications:

- Degree or vocational qualification in ecology/countryside management or related discipline.

Specific Experience

- Experienced in undertaking standardised wildlife surveys and understanding of scientific method.
- Proven practical wildlife management/ invasive non-native species control skills, preferably including humane dispatch of animals. Refresher training will be given.
- Experience of working with, and able to communicate with, landowners, householders and members of the public
- Ability to keep accurate and comprehensive records, with experience entering data into spreadsheets.

Advantageous:

- Good understanding of conservation principles, practices and legislation
- Commitment to environmental causes
- Experience of ArcGIS to create mapping of data points.
- Experience of microscope work.

Special Competencies:

Skills and Abilities

- Ability to access and work in woodland sites, some of which are remote
- Self-motivated, energetic and enthusiastic, with ability to manage own time schedule
- Willing to learn new skills and operating methods
- Full clean UK driving licence
- Willing to work some evenings and weekends
- Familiarity with Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire

Date	03 January 2018
Author	Mel Tonkin
Position	Saving Scotland's Red Squirrels – Developing Community Action Project Manager