Grey Squirrel Control - How the Public can Help

Support Red Squirrel Conservation Groups

- Share accurate information.
- Donate.
- Attend talks.
- Report sightings.
- Support controlled grey-management.

Build Local Awareness

Most people don't realise that grey squirrels damage trees, displace red squirrels, carry squirrelpox, and can breed twice – sometimes even three times – a year, meaning they can multiply rapidly in areas where they are artificially fed.

Stop Feeding Squirrels

Even 'accidental feeding' counts:

- Overflowing bird feeders
- Food left on the ground
- Compost that isn't sealed

Removing easy calories is the #1 thing that reduces population growth.

Use Grey-Proof or Squirrel-Resistant Bird Feeders

- Switch to squirrel-resistant feeders.
- Use 'hot pepper' bird feed.
- Avoid loose feeders where food spills on the ground.

Reduce Nesting Opportunities

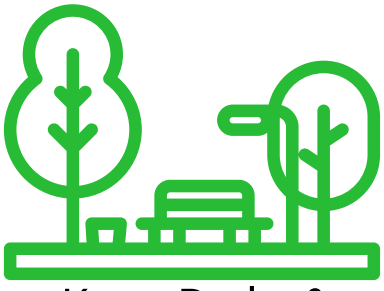
- Fix gaps in lofts or roof spaces.
- Keep ivy trimmed away from houses.
- Remove old blankets, bags or boxes from sheds that could be used for nesting.

Avoid Planting 'Grey Favourites' in Urban Gardens

- Beech, Hazelnut, Walnut and Sweet Chestnut.
- Don't plant any extra nut-producing trees in small urban gardens.

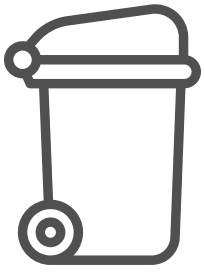
Protect Trees in Gardens

- Fit tree guards or mesh around young trunks to stop bark stripping.
- Prune branches that squirrels use to jump between trees, fences, and roofs.
- Keep the area tidy by removing fallen nuts, fruit, and spilled bird seed.



Keep Parks & Communal Areas Clean

- Dispose of food waste properly. Litter attracts grey squirrels.
- Don't feed squirrels in parks or communal spaces.
- Report overflowing bins so they can be emptied quickly.



Keep Lids Closed on House & Garden Bins

- Keep wheelie bins shut.
- Don't leave bin bags next to bins overnight.
- Clean up food waste areas.
- Use compost bins with secure locking lids.