



Cross-Border Conference for landowners and volunteers Kelso, 13th September 2016

Hosted by:

The Duke of Northumberland
The Duke of Buccleuch

1. Key messages

Opening presentation by Lord Joicey, Ford & Etal Estates, North Northumberland

Creating a sense of balance. If there is one issue that unites us all as land-owners, land managers, stewards of the countryside – whatever Job Description best suits us – it is that we are faced with an almost impossible task: how to make sure that we keep everything in balance? We juggle financial return against a sense of stewardship; efficient production of raw materials against food safety; keeping the countryside healthy in terms of jobs and economics, against providing the natural environment that the overwhelmingly urban-based population can enjoy. I am not the only one in this room who struggles constantly to balance these things out.

Conflicts in nature created by mankind. Right in the middle of this battleground, plenty of skirmishes and conflicts are going on, which we must keep a careful eye on. These are the conflicts within nature, mostly entirely seeded by mankind – sometimes inadvertently. It is rare to see them resolved without much time and effort, yet left to their own devices they risk upsetting the essential balance of things very seriously.

Focusing on the problem of invasive species. No surprise then, in this afternoon's context, that I want to focus on the problem of invasive species; to summarise the effects they have on land management, particularly in order that our panel of distinguished speakers, who help us by understanding and developing the science and by working on potential devices to check the spread of invasives, can understand – and therefore address – the myriad pressures which we are under.

Science's role. Landowners and land managers are the point of delivery of practical control and conservation work on the ground. The process and procedure is often guided by science – but it is the practical skills and hard work which can make the difference. They have to make some pretty tough decisions as to how, or where, or when, or more importantly if, they are willing to act to help.

It also matters that our practical control and conservation work has an effect on a landscape scale, not just on our own patch. We need to get a result across the bigger picture.

Firstly, there are the Native Invasives that we must not overlook: Ragwort, Gorse, Bracken, Badgers, Carrion Crows, Magpies

Secondly. Then, the Non-Natives – the ones that cause the conflicts. We have all heard of Ponticum, Grey Squirrels, Signal Crayfish, Himalayan Balsam, Japanese Knotweed, Ring-Necked Parakeets, Canada Geese, Canadian Pond Weed, Giant Hogweed, Sika Deer, Chinese Water Deer, Muntjac, Ruddy Duck. To my knowledge, the Tweed Valley has not yet welcomed the Water Primrose, Quagga Mussel, Asian Hornet, Killer Shrimps or Carpet Sea-Squirt. But a quick look at the Non-Native Species portal on the internet will provide you with details of 300 of these things, and it will provide (to quote it) “access to distribution data for over 3000 non-native species in GB”

Thirdly. On top of these, come the Reintroductions - Lynx (postulated for Kielder and the forest areas in the Borders), or the Beaver (real, with arguments on both sides, indecision by agencies, and no real likelihood of it ever being sorted out one way or the other.)

Briefly, my view on the third of these categories (Reintroductions) is quite clear. We should be concerned at conserving what we already have, and dealing with the problems of Invasives, before worrying about Reintroductions. They are probably going to make our jobs a whole lot more complex.

History of success with non-native species. In the Non-Native category, it is worth mentioning the Coypu and Zander as examples of pretty successful eradication programmes (perhaps along with the Ruddy Duck?). It can be done. Professor Tony Martin of Dundee University is promoting mink eradication on the UK mainland, his successful programmes in the south Atlantic (on rats) and the Scottish islands showing the potential.

Addressing the grey squirrel & red squirrel issue. The Grey Squirrel/Red Squirrel issue is a challenge for us all. The one thing that makes us all want to do everything that we can is that we are in a critical area for squirrels. According to the IUCN, the Grey Squirrel features in the top 100 of the world’s worst invasive species. Grey Squirrels have been effectively eradicated on the island of Anglesey and the Red Squirrel population has come back so successfully that they are beginning to re-populate the mainland. After several years of consistent control, the City of Aberdeen is just about free of Greys, and Reds are returning to local parks and gardens.

It’s about help on two fronts. Firstly, to reverse the fortunes of the Red Squirrel – which we still have – and secondly to contain (or, better, reduce) the spread of Greys and the Squirrelpox disease that they carry which is fatal to Reds. Some of you have done some superb work – even to the extent of seeing Reds return. Our speakers will be interested in knowing what has driven you to do this and what challenges you have had along the way.

Control of grey squirrels. When it comes to the arguments in favour of, or against, the various possibilities of control, we are faced with a battery of choices, a cacophony of sound. We risk being confused, losing confidence or even just being apathetic.

The quick fix. But we also risk pursuing what we might call the Quick Fix option, by adopting or pursuing one cause to the exclusion of others, which can include illegal releases. Nature is complex, and so there are always holistic considerations to be made. The consequences of action either in favour of the Red, or against the Grey, must be thought through very carefully. Doing something unilaterally or in isolation is fraught with problems and risks. If it goes wrong, or is not thought through properly, it can lead to a worse situation, and then a sense of apathy, or at best reluctance to do anything at all, for fear of upsetting people, upsetting other interest groups, upsetting gamekeepers, upsetting farm tenants, upsetting the shooting syndicate, upsetting the government agency with whom you have been careful to build up good relationships.

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No broadleaf planting at the moment. Grey Squirrel control is more urgent than just damage to tree/timber quality from bark stripping. There are now cases where there is no new planting or restocking with broadleaved trees because of the damage and tree death that Greys will cause to young plants emerging from tree shelters and to pole-stage crops. There is the dawning realisation in areas like the National Forest that the massive investment of public money into tree planting has resulted in a haven for Grey Squirrels. Were the consequences of planting the National Forest really, and clearly, thought through? There are those in that part of the country who are bordering on the hysterical, such is their desperation and frustration with trying to deal for decades with Greys. For them, a Quick Fix option soon becomes very attractive. There may be some who might consider illegal releases into their region without due consideration of the collateral damage that they might cause. At that point the spectre of prosecution looms, because in some cases an animal killed in a kill trap, or shot, does lead to prosecution, and in Scotland that implies vicarious liability.

BASC & National Forest Company. The BASC and the National Forest are running a squirrel control club pilot project: BASC members get some shooting at fixed point grey squirrel feeding stations; and forest owners get some free control. BASC are keen to do more nationwide. The Northern England group uses a lot of excellent local volunteers to carry out a range of conservation activity including Grey control. Some run fixed point feeding stations, similar to BASC, allowing great partnership between land owners/managers and volunteers. However, there can be problems, such as in some parts of Cumbria where the Forestry Commission locally is not playing ball.

Thinking outside the box for Landowners. I think that many landowners are sometimes a little reluctant to think outside the box. We tend to think that we have to do everything – either ourselves or through our employees or contractors, and that implies one thing: expense. We are not always good at delegating things like monitoring to others, especially to the volunteer groups. I confess I wasn't good at it, once upon a time. I am not sure that I am even now, but I have come to see that it works extremely well. I am very conscious that amongst us this afternoon are some whom once upon a time I would have been hesitant about: volunteers and volunteer groups. Land-owners and land managers have not always been terribly good at embracing volunteers – but in my experience, here in the Borders, the volunteers are exceptional: keen, educated, understanding (that's the crucial bit) of the problem and how to go about it, efficient and effective. As landowners and managers we

engage with people who are (often, but not deliberately), just like ourselves, ignorant of the science but wanting to help.

Our Approach. I have done two things recently:

Firstly, I now invite the local Wildlife Group to do surveys of all species on our SSSI and SAC ground. They do it quinquennially. They are all 'informed amateurs', often with great knowledge of (say) moths and butterflies, or lichens. They get involved in surveying or trapping for a range of reasons - from exercise and activity in retirement, to a sense of social responsibility, to a friend telling them to do it. They always tell me that they get a real buzz out of what they do and (as very often happens) finding something unexpected or strange; they live locally and often pop in and out from their own personal interest (as opposed to the consultant who probably only visits once or twice and is not familiar with the patch); they produce an excellent report, which in turn allows me (and them) to get a sense of what is changing on our land – hugely important baseline data when it comes to assessment of the condition of the area of land. They are fun to talk to, fun to be with, and the occasional get-together is a very effective opportunity of saying Thank You.

Secondly, along with George Farr of Pallinsburn, Frank Dakin at Duddo and three other landowners, we have given our ground for a pilot project through the University of Exeter and the Animal & Plant Health Agency. It has just finished, having run for a full year. It was potentially controversial. Our first concern was to ensure that all permits and licences were in place; our second concern, that the work would be discreet. The full project has been carried out now and has not given us a moment of trouble. In looking around the hall, I am wondering how many hectares of Pilot Ground might be available for similar projects.

Our guest speakers are going to outline their work, and how they see the future of their work – what their chances of success are in the work to restore Reds or reduce Greys. We welcome them warmly and thank them for making the long journey to Kelso. They will already know that delivery of what they are working on (be it a trap, a pill, a form of bait) depends upon us land managers being ready, interested and willing to see it through – either ourselves or through the work of volunteers. Maybe we can offer them ground to conduct practical pilot work, to see if it really works to everyone's satisfaction. I see that working with them is very much parallel to working with volunteer groups or universities.

Complex Cross - Compliance issues. But we also need to think about other issues too, such as cross-compliance – especially where land is let to tenant farmers with their own Stewardship schemes, or where shootings are let to third parties. And are the agencies happy with what we propose to do about an Invasive Non-Native? Some years ago, I was asked to keep the sandy banks of the River Till nice and loose and sandy so that a rather uncommon sand-loving, sand-living beetle could thrive; at the same time another agency was urging me to stabilise the sandy banks of the River Till so as to prevent erosion. There are also the ever-present conflicts between forestry interests, the production of commercial timber and the many environmental benefits that forests provide to society.

What is the public perception of forestry, or of sandy-banked rivers, or indeed of Grey Squirrels and Red Squirrels? Does perception matter if nature risks becoming so very out of kilter? It is a very **complex and fraught world** – and as I said at the start it represents just

one of the hundreds of strands of work that we have to keep an eye on when we pursue our roles as land managers. Let's now hear from the experts, whose work is crucial to everyone, and let's hear how they see us – either as obstacles or (I hope) how they can guide us and encourage us to be conduits to greater success. I hope what I have just outlined is helpful to them and that they can understand the many pressures and conflicts that surround us.

2. Dr. Giovanna Messei

The National Wildlife Management Centre – APHA York

The work of the National Wildlife Management Centre in York, part of APHA, an executive agency of Defra. The main focus of our work is to provide solutions to prevent or mitigate the environmental and economic impact of wildlife.

We would like to offer a brief overview of our work on fertility control to manage human-wildlife conflict, talk about progress on oral contraceptives and present a study that we would like to conduct and that we believe has potential to revolutionize this field.

Non-lethal methods of managing human-wildlife conflicts. You may be aware of the environmental and economic impacts of wildlife that I have listed in this slide. To resolve such conflicts we can use either lethal control (poisoning, shooting, trapping and culling) or non-lethal methods. Among the latter, the use of fertility control and particularly of an approach known as immunocontraception is increasingly advocated to manage these conflicts. I also wish to emphasize that we do not consider contraception as the sole method to control populations of grey squirrel but we see this as one of the options in the tool box of methods to manage wildlife impact.

Reproduction control. To prevent reproduction, we must target one of the several steps that lead to sperm production, ovulation and conception. One key hormone in this process, sometimes referred to as the “master hormone” is the GnRH (Gonadotropin Release Hormone) that initiates the cascade of reproductive processes. Immunocontraceptives are vaccines that induce antibodies to proteins or hormones essential for reproduction. In particular, single-dose injectable vaccines are now available, targeting the GnRH, that render most animals infertile for several years, thus making practical applications credible. GnRH-based vaccines work by inducing antibodies that block the action of GnRH and, in turn, the production of sex hormones essential for reproduction.

Labour intensive capturing of animals. To be injected, animals must be captured first, which is labour intensive and thus expensive. Hence, the availability of oral immunocontraceptives would reduce significantly the cost and thus substantially broaden the scope of potential application of fertility control.

Single dose needed Work carried out by our group (funded by Defra) with our collaborators in the US showed that after a single injection of the vaccine most animals stop reproducing for several years.

What does an ideal contraceptive look like: An ideal oral contraceptive would have **no side effects** on welfare, physiology and behaviour, **long-term** effectiveness with single/few doses, be effective on/deliverable only to **target species**, have no effects on **food chain** (predators, risks to humans), be **inexpensive** to produce and administer and also be **deliverable to a large proportion of the population**

Effective? We have also modeled the population consequences of applying different levels of fertility control to grey squirrels. Our results suggest that a population (Y axis) is likely to be eradicated in a few years if > 70% of the animals are rendered infertile.

Grey Squirrel Dispenser. We know squirrel-specific hoppers have been developed that can deliver bait to squirrel only, thus preventing non-target species from being affected by any drug.

Any negative side effects affecting carrion animals? So far, the advantages of GnRH vaccine-based contraception are that there are no persistent residues in treated animals, no known negative side-effects, GonaCon and another GmRH-based contraceptive (Improvac) are already registered in a few countries.

A disadvantage and then a solution found. The disadvantages are that an oral formulation is not yet available to induce immune response and we do not know how long the effect of an oral formulation will last. The National Wildlife Management Centre and our US collaborators at the US Government's National Wildlife Research Center developed a small immunogenic molecule based on GnRH-based vaccine. **80% of rats** fed this molecule had antibodies that suggested infertility. However, when this molecule was incorporated in a bait fewer rats responded and had lower antibodies to the vaccine. Hence a novel formulation is required for the oral vaccine to produce an increased immune response.

- **Oral vaccination.** We have recently focused on oral contraceptives as the key way of realizing large-scale applications. Encapsulation technology is commonly employed in pharmaceutical preparations to achieve controlled drug release. Amongst novel technologies we identified the shells of spores and pollen grains as the most promising method to achieve our goal.
- **Delivery mechanism.** Through this expanding technology, patented by the UK company Sporomex Limited, shells are emptied of their internal genetic material to obtain the sporopollenin exine capsules (SpECs) outer layer. SpECs have many advantageous properties for microencapsulation as detailed in this slide. In particular, this technology has been proven to have high bioadhesive properties that help maintain the capsules within an organism, and has been used successfully to increase the delivery of fats, vitamins, enzymes, oils, hormones and other drugs such as ibuprofen.

Next steps to study:

- More excitingly, a recent study showed that a model vaccine, delivered in SpECs and fed to mice, increased the serum and faecal antibodies in treated animals. The antibody response persisted for up to 7 months and the authors suggested that this was achieved as the spores embed themselves into the mouse gut wall.
- **A plausible mechanism:** Crucially, this study offered a plausible mechanism for oral vaccination and demonstrated the potential to stimulate and to maintain the immune response for at least a few months.
- **Captive trials:** The study we propose will identify the species of spores or pollen to encapsulate the novel contraceptive delivered to a model species (lab rat) in captive trials.

- **Field pilot trials:** These trials will be repeated with grey squirrels at our Animal Unit in York and followed by field pilot trials to confirm the efficacy of the contraceptive and to monitor the proportion of the population that will ingest the bait containing a placebo vaccine.
- **Large scale field trials:** Finally, we plan large-scale field trials to monitor the effects of contraception at population level.

Scalable technology to apply to other human-wildlife conflicts thus benefitting from economies of scale. We believe this approach is scalable to a wide variety of species and diverse contexts. These include non-native invasive species, feral animals, overabundant wildlife, and contexts where culling is illegal, unfeasible or undesirable, where fertility control can complement culling to control populations or their economic and environmental impact.

A prospective timeline:

- **So where are we now** - Done:
 - We have a proven vaccine.
 - We have modelled it
 - We have an oral contraceptive available
 - We have a delivery method available
- **In progress:**
 - We have to confirm the effectiveness of the contraception, have had some great results with other species.
 - We have to sort out the test bait
 - Manage public expectations: contraception as complementary to other methods
- **To do:**
 - Captive field trials
 - Registration of drugs
- **Outcomes** 70% infertility to eradicate population in a few years

Summary: In summary, we believe SEC-based oral immunocontraception has potential to revolutionise the mitigation of human-wildlife conflicts and that the approach is scalable to other species and contexts. So far, we have proven the effectiveness of injectable GnRH-based contraception, modelled the impact of fertility control on population dynamics. We also have a candidate oral contraceptive and a delivery method available. We also have a proposal to confirm effectiveness of oral contraception and to test bait uptake by target proportions of grey squirrels and we are aware we must manage public expectations so that the public understands that we see contraception as complementary to other control methods. We need to conduct captive and field trials and to tackle the registration of drugs. To achieve this, funding, public support and stakeholder engagement will be crucial.

3. Dr. Julie Lane & Matt Gomm

National Wildlife Management Centre

Traps...tried and tested, but are they the answer?

Control methods for grey squirrels.

Warfarin, drey poking and shooting, cage trapping and dispatch and spring trapping. All traps need to be on the Spring Trap Approval Order.

How do traps get approved?

There is an initial trap testing application from industry to DEFRA. The traps are then tested by APHA at DEFRA's request. The APHA then makes a recommendation to DEFRA to add successful traps to the Spring Trap Approval Order. A few months later approval is given. The approximate cost is £5 to £10k

The process of testing traps. The manufacturer/supplier has to supply 10 traps. The traps have to pass the following condition: in 80% of 12 trials the animal must be rendered unconscious or dead within 5 minutes.

Traps on the STAO (the Spring Trap Approval Order) – Those traps concerned with grey squirrel control are: Magnums, Fenns (soon to be removed as not humane); Kania; DOCS; WCS; Procoll.

Pros and cons of using traps.

The pros: Simple to use, no legal training required, user safety, relatively humane, cheap, no secondary poisoning.

The cons: User safety (disease, live animals, injuries)

Unpleasant – body damage / blood; not public friendly; non-target risk; trap needs to be checked daily and re-set (labour intensive)

Goodnature A24 trap

Special attention was given to this new NZ manufactured trap.

Pros: Lightweight, easy to set up, baited and re-sets itself. The gas canister is expected to last 24 shots. Cons: The trap is quite visible but it is being manufactured in either black or green; carcasses are visible to public as the dead squirrel drops out of the trap onto the ground, non-target risk; has not passed the STAO tests.

If it passes does this mean it's a good trap?

No – it means it is humane!

There are questions that need to be answered....

- What are the non-target risks?
- Does the bait/lure work in the field setting – and for how long?
- How many times can it fire before it resets?
- Does temperature affect it?
- Efficacy (how many trap nights per animal)

Are traps the answer?

Could be part of the answer....?

An integrated approach. There is a view that we need to develop an Integrated Pest

Management approach

- Sustained control over longer periods
- Less staff intensive
- More publically acceptable

4. Alexa Seagrave.

Red Squirrel Project Officer for Saving Scotland's Red Squirrels based in South Scotland

The current situation...

We have an estimated population of 120,000 red squirrels (probably about 80% based in Scotland) and 2.5m+ grey squirrels

Some background

Saving Scotland's Red Squirrels 2009 to 2015 (incl. Red Squirrels in South Scotland) implemented the

Scottish Red Squirrel Action Plan 2006-2011

- Grey squirrel control
- Survey and monitoring
- Squirrel pox virus risk containment
- Forest management
- Control strategy based on SNH document *Protecting Scotland's Red Squirrels: A draft strategy for targeted grey squirrel control (2009)*

SSRS have established an effective grey squirrel control and surveillance network in 3 core areas:

- Aberdeenshire – “island” population – reduction/eradication long term
- Central Lowlands - coast-to-coast band immediately south of the Highland Boundary Fault, plus any outlying greys found to north – grey squirrel containment
- Scottish Borders and Dumfries and Galloway - widely across the landscape – Squirrel pox containment.

The story so far.

Extensive and intensive control has not stopped the spread of SQPV. Computer modelling confirmed no amount of control was likely to do more than just slow down the continuing spread northwards of SQPV.

They have halted the decline of red squirrels in project areas. Their work has allowed reds to thrive in areas where grey squirrel densities are kept very low - even in southern Scotland despite widespread squirrel pox virus (SQPV).

Computer modelling by White & Lurz (2014) confirmed that grey squirrel control is critical in maintaining red squirrel populations in southern Scotland in areas affected by squirrel pox disease.

5. Red Squirrel Northern England. Nick Mason, Manager

RSNE's objectives

2016-19 objectives:

Objective 1: Maintaining 2012 red squirrel geographical range by continuing to lead networks of grey squirrel management with associated annual monitoring.

Objective 2: Assisting the development of red squirrel range extension/consolidation strategies where local community desire, conservation feasibility and team capacity coincide.

Objective 3: Collaborating on UK-scale red squirrel conservation strategies through the [UK Squirrel Accord](#), the multi-partner [Red Squirrels United](#) project and cross-border liaison with [Saving Scotland's Red Squirrels](#).

Nick highlighted a map which showed red and grey populations if you draw line cross from Lancaster to Newcastle. With a strong population in South Lancashire and Merseyside.

A graph highlighted the red and grey squirrel site occupancy for all spring surveys 2012 – 2016. Site occupancy is shown as a percentage of the total number of surveys completed each year. Whilst we saw a positive increase for red squirrels in 2012 to 2014 we saw a drop in 2015 but this has levelled out in 2016. The converse happened in grey squirrels site occupancy where we saw an increase in 2015 and a significant drop in 2016. A mild winter in 2014/15 benefited grey squirrels populations whilst a very wet winter in 2015/16 benefited red squirrel populations.

In 2016 RSNE have still maintained rangers and contractors in the Kyloe, Harwood, North Tyne, Slaley, North Lakes and Rydal/Grasmere areas. As funding reduces in 2016/17 there may have to be some reductions.

In terms of conservation effort, RSNE's direct contribution is now reducing and the volunteer community programme recorded 20,700 grey squirrel deaths in 2015.

With the new Countryside Stewardship programme in England there is a discussion on the way the Woodland Improvement Grant will be used in forthcoming years.

We were introduced to the new HLF/Life bid – Red Squirrels United. There is three years of national funding for North & Mid Wales, Northern Ireland, Northumberland, Lancashire and Cumbria. In RSNE the focus will be on Kielder. National learning and networking events will begin next spring.

6. The Earl of Kinnoull

Chair of UK Squirrel Accord and Red Squirrel Survival Trust (RSST)

The UK Squirrel Accord Message

Grey squirrels need controlling because they are causing major economic, social and environmental damage to the broadleaved woodlands of the United Kingdom.

The grey squirrel (*Sciurus carolinensis*) was introduced to the UK from North America in 1876 and its population has grown rapidly since then. The problem of grey squirrels was first recognised in 1930 when a law was passed making it illegal to release a grey squirrel into the wild. Today it is estimated that there could be as many as 3 million grey squirrels in the UK and this number continues to grow leaving us with a ratio today of 19 grey squirrels to 1 red squirrel.

Forest damage and the impact on the UK's woodland industry

Grey squirrels damage our forests by stripping bark from trees' main trunks (at the base and up in the canopy) and branches. Severe damage can kill a tree while milder cases involve bad scarring and substantial epicormic [1] growth. Scars left by bark stripping can also be an entry point for other tree pests and diseases – making trees more vulnerable to such threats.

Loss of biodiversity

The other major problem from grey squirrel activity in woodlands is their threat to biodiversity. Potential loss of vulnerable species such as beech within mature woodland canopies could lead to loss of associated fungal and invertebrate faunas and their predators. The impact of grey squirrels also limits the diversity of woodland planting, which reduces potential resilience to pests, disease and climate change.

Squirrel pox virus

The most significant threat associated with grey squirrels is the spread and transmission of squirrelpox virus (SQPV). It can take only one grey squirrel to introduce the virus to a local population of red squirrels and then the virus can spread throughout the reds with devastating effect. Where a grey squirrel introduces SQPV, red squirrel population decline has been observed at between 17-25 times quicker than through competition with grey squirrels alone.

Solutions

The 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 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 our 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

The membership of the organisations that have signed up to the Accord

- BASC
- Confor
- CLA
- Defra
- Duchy of Cornwall
- European Squirrel Initiative
- Forestry Commission England
- Forestry Commission Scotland
- Future Trees Trust
- Heart of England Forest
- Institute of Chartered Foresters
- Killgerm Group Ltd
- National Forest Company
- National Trust
- Natural England
- Natural Resources Wales
- Northern Ireland Forest Service
- Northern Ireland Environment Agency
- Royal Horticultural Society (RHS)
- Red Squirrel Northern England
- Red Squirrel Survival Trust
- RSPB
- Royal Forestry Society
- Royal Scottish Forestry Society
- Scottish Government
- Scottish Natural Heritage
- Scottish Wildlife Trust
- Scottish Land and Estates
- Small Woods Association
- Sylva Foundation
- The Otter Trust
- The Tree Council
- Ulster Wildlife
- Welsh Government
- Woodland Heritage
- Woodland Trust

Adrian Vass
UK Squirrel Accord
August 2016.