

RED SQUIRREL PROJECT AT THE YORKSHIRE ARBORETUM

AIMS

- To establish a breeding group of Red Squirrels at the Yorkshire Arboretum, leading to reintroduction to the wild as soon as possible
- Promote awareness of the conservation needs of Red Squirrels and native associates
- Develop technologies and research techniques for managing captive Red Squirrels
- To use the facility to interpret the ecological and economic consequences of Grey Squirrels to natural and commercial woodland
- To work with APHA, Squirrel Accord, et al. in trialling innovative control & management techniques for Grey Squirrels

PLANS

- Create a facility based on the model at Escot Park, Devon, of a large secure enclosure with public access for squirrel viewing and encounters, with a separate breeding unit
- Develop interpretation and public engagement to explain the need for Red Squirrel conservation and effective management of Grey Squirrels
- Active involvement with research & development of management technologies for both species with APHA

FUNDING

It is estimated that this facility will cost in the region of £60-75,000, including fencing, interpretation, equipment, boardwalks and access paths. It is envisaged that the construction can be phased over several years. Funding is sought!

SUPPORT

Plans have been developed with encouragement from Defra, APHA, Adrian Vass, Mish Kennaway (Escot Park)

KEW AND CASTLE HOWARD