



BLAGDON ESTATE

MANAGING RURAL ENTERPRISE

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Red Squirrels Factsheet



Red Squirrel at Blagdon Estate

We used to have a very healthy population of Red Squirrels on the estate until fairly recently when the grey squirrel started to move into the area. There are reds around, however they tend to hide when greys are in the area, thankfully we have not heard of any incidences locally of the fatal disease which is spread by the greys and has wiped out the red squirrel population in many parts of the country.

We work closely with The Wildlife Trust and Red Alert North East to try to control the spread of the grey squirrel and look after the remaining red population.

Below are some interesting facts that you may not know about red squirrels. (Thanks to Red Alert North East)

Latest news: Grey Squirrels.

There are increasing numbers of greys being sighted, and recently incidents of reds affected by the squirrel pox, which is carried by the greys and is fatal to reds, have been reported at Wallington and near Hexham.

Anyone spotting a grey squirrel can report it on the squirrel hotline, 0845 3479375 or at www.saveoursquirrels.org.uk

Affected red squirrels appear to be slower than usual and almost tame. they then develop lesions around their eyes and mouth, become almost blind and struggle to eat because they are in pain. Sightings of ill reds should be reported to Castle Morpeth Wildlife ranger, Sam Talbot on 01670 535319, who can arrange for them to be captured and taken to Robson and Precott who will try and treat them.

Please help to protect the red squirrel, without our help they will be lost forever.

RED SQUIRREL FACTS

- THEY STORE THEIR NUTS IN THE GROUND IN THE AUTUMN.
- THEY DO NOT HIBERNATE OVER WINTER.
- THEY CAN SWIM.
- SQUIRRELS EAT NUTS, SEEDS, BUDS, BERRIES, FLOWERS, SHOOTS AND FRUIT FROM MANY TREES AND SHRUBS. THEY EAT FUNGII AND INSECTS OCCASIONALLY.
- THEY CAN BE RIGHT OR LEFT HANDED WHEN EATING A PINE CONE.
- SQUIRRELS MOULT THEIR COAT TWICE A YEAR, ONCE AFTER WINTER AND THEN AGAIN IN THE LATE SUMMER BEFORE IT GETS COLD AGAIN.