



Red Squirrel Awareness Week

Monday 24 – Sunday 30 September 2018

Red Squirrels United Programme Manager, Nikki Robinson gives you some suggestions of how to get involved with Red Squirrel Awareness Week.

Red squirrels were immortalised by Beatrix Potter's famous Squirrel Nutkin at the turn of the nineteenth century. But since the introduction of the grey squirrel in 1876, our native red squirrels are in decline and now only reside in pockets of the UK, with the majority being in Scotland. Grey squirrels outcompete red squirrels for food and resources and carry the squirrelpox virus, which is harmless to grey squirrels but invariably fatal to red squirrels.

For many people across the UK, opportunities to see red squirrels are rare. This precious species needs your help to survive! Red Squirrel Awareness Week takes place annually. You can get involved and make a difference this autumn from 24-30 September. There are many activities running in our project areas throughout the week; from red squirrel safaris in Northern Ireland and Ainsdale to craft making activities on Anglesey. If you live north of the border, that's no problem! Our friends at [Saving Scotland's Red Squirrels](#) are also running numerous events for you to get involved in. This is your chance to see these amazing creatures at close quarters! If you don't live in a red squirrel area you can still [adopt a red squirrel](#) – just think, your own personal Nutkin! Alternatively, why not make squirrel felt masks with your children or friends and put your selfies on social media. At the most basic level, simply discussing red squirrels with friends, colleagues and family to help raise awareness of why these beautiful creatures are in decline.

Do you have some free time and wish to make a difference? Would you like to monitor red and grey squirrel populations, help at a community event, undertake grey squirrel control or radio tracking? Now could be the perfect time to get outdoors and [volunteer](#) with one of our projects supporting red squirrel conservation. Our projects are always looking for additional help and full training and support will be given in your area of preference.

We'd love to hear how you are marking Red Squirrel Awareness Week so do share your stories and photos on social media using #RedSquirrelWeek @RedSquirrelsUtd

If you'd like to stay up to date with project progress you can sign up for our project newsletter [here](#).