



## Tails from the Forest – Part Two

By Rhian Mai Hubbart: Volunteer with the Mid Wales Red Squirrel Partnership.

There has been a lot of wildlife action in the forest since my last blog. I have been following the most wonderful roe deer doe and her two fawns over several months with appearances of the family being picked up on two of my cameras. The image below is a still taken from some film footage. The second fawn is there too but was a little way behind and had to run to catch up!

Don't worry there will be plenty of photographs of red squirrels to come but it would a shame not to have mentioned this family as they have brought me so much joy.



Below is one of the last photographs I have of the family together. Recent footage has shown the deer family fleeing at speed through one of the locations and since then, footage has only picked up a single doe and one fawn or footage of a single deer. I am not sure if this deer is part of the family that I have been following or if there are further deer in the woodland. In time, hopefully I will learn more about this.



### A **RED** letter day!

Several cameras I monitor in the forest are set to video mode allowing me to watch the squirrels in more detail and document different behavior like this red squirrel gnawing on a bone. Squirrels including lactating females are known to do this for the vitamins and minerals contained in the bone. It is a wonderful documentation of squirrel behavior and I am hoping it may have been a lactating female as it would mean my small population of reds in the forest is growing.





Recently, at one location I picked up footage that I never thought I would get! I feel lucky every time I spot one red squirrel on the camera image or video so imagine my joy when I spotted four! I will be looking around the area to see if I can spot any dreys (nests) on my next visit.



Following an organised drey search, two dreys were found in the forest. The search included several other wonderful volunteers coming out to help scope the area for dreys. We are currently investigating the potential to use a thermal imaging camera to see if the dreys are active but this has not been set up yet.

If you are interested in viewing the videos mentioned in my blog please visit my [youtube page](#) where you can watch the findings from the forest.