

Squirrel Information Sheet

PCD41 - April 2011



Introduction

Grey squirrels were introduced from the USA about 100 years ago and are now common. It was once thought that grey squirrels had led to the demise of our native red squirrels, but it now appears that loss of suitable habitat and/or disease may have caused this. Red squirrels are a rare and protected species and have increased in numbers in recent years.

Squirrel Problems

Grey squirrels can cause serious problems including:

- tree damage
- eating cereal, vegetable and fruit crops
- damage the structure of buildings such as roof timbers, insulation, wiring and plumbing
- nuisance to individuals and families, for example, the noise they make if they get into your roof space.

Prevention and Control

Kirklees Council does not provide a squirrel control service. As with other pests, prevention is better than cure. Grey squirrels will take advantage of any gaps that will allow them to enter a building, especially the roof space. To prevent this:

- check for any gaps regularly and carry out any appropriate preventative work, but make sure the squirrels are outside before doing this
- cut back tree branches that grow near or overhang your property that may give squirrels an easy route to any building access point - remember to check beforehand that there are no preservation orders on any trees.

You may need a local builder or tree surgeon to help you carry this work out. Squirrel control is difficult and complicated and is covered under legislation and we recommend you talk to an experienced, professional, private sector pest controller if you have a squirrel problem.



Further Information Kirklees Environmental Protection
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