

[News Front Page](#)
[World](#)
[UK](#)
[England](#)
[Northern Ireland](#)
[Scotland](#)
[Wales](#)
[Business](#)
[Politics](#)
[Health](#)
[Education](#)
[Science/Nature](#)
[Technology](#)
[Entertainment](#)
[Have Your Say](#)
[Magazine](#)
[In Pictures](#)
[Week at a Glance](#)
[Country Profiles](#)
[In Depth](#)
[Programmes](#)
[BBC SPORT](#)
[BBC WEATHER](#)
[BBC NEWS](#)
[On This Day](#)
[MAGAZINE](#)

Last Updated: Wednesday, 18 February, 2004, 06:56 GMT

 [E-mail this to a friend](#)
 [Printable version](#)

Plans to protect red squirrels

Conservationists have come up with a plan to prevent the decline of the red squirrel in Scotland.

Twenty-five refuges are being created in large coniferous plantations, a habitat which is disliked by the rival grey squirrel.

The plan was worked up by the Scottish Squirrel Group, which includes the Forestry Commission, Scottish Natural Heritage and other bodies.

In the last 50 years the species has experienced a widespread decline.

The new strategy aims to improve habitat, establish a local squirrel group network and maintain a national database of records.

Mammals specialist at Scottish Natural Heritage, Mairi Cole, said: "Red squirrels in Scotland continue to be threatened, particularly by development, woodland management and competition from the grey squirrel.

"This strategy will help us to focus on areas where we can maximise our efforts to protect this endangered species and sets out clear ways of working with foresters and other groups which can help red squirrels survive."

Despite their high profile, red squirrels are under-recorded in a large part of the country, but it is known that about 75% (121,000 animals) of the UK population, are based in Scotland.

Forestry Commission Scotland conservator, Alex Morris, said: "The contribution that foresters and landowners continue to make to managing the woodland habitat to favour red squirrels, and also controlling competing grey squirrels in woodlands, is crucial to the long-term future of red squirrels in



Efforts are being made to protect red squirrels



The grey squirrel is among the threats to the red squirrel

WATCH AND LISTEN

BBC Scotland's Alan Grant

"Protecting their habitat has become a priority"



SEE ALSO:

- ▶ [Virus threatens UK's red squirrels](#)
07 Mar 03 | Science/Nature
- ▶ [Refuge offers red squirrels hope](#)
03 Feb 04 | Science/Nature
- ▶ [Squirrel survival plea](#)
29 May 03 | Scotland

RELATED INTERNET LINKS:

- ▶ [Scottish Natural Heritage](#)
- ▶ [Forestry Commission Scotland](#)

The BBC is not responsible for the content of external internet sites

TOP SCOTLAND STORIES NOW

- ▶ [Lockerbie evidence is re-examined](#)
- ▶ [Workers protest against pay cuts](#)
- ▶ [Lawyer in 'legalise drugs' call](#)
- ▶ [Dairy farmers stage milk protest](#)



| [What is RSS?](#)

TOP UK STORIES NOW

- ▶ [Met 'resisted Tube death probe'](#)
- ▶ ['Modest' rise in A-level passes](#)
- ▶ [Three questioned in rape inquiry](#)
- ▶ [Eye cancer embryo check allowed](#)



| [What is RSS?](#)

Scotland.

"The strategy moves us in the direction of identifying where such work is going to be most effective and should engender even more close working between forest managers and local groups to conserve these important red squirrel populations."

 [E-mail this to a friend](#)

 [Printable version](#)

LINKS TO MORE SCOTLAND STORIES

[News Alerts](#) [E-mail services](#) [Mobiles/PDAs](#) [Headlines for your site](#)

- [BBC Copyright Notice](#)
- [Back to top](#)

[Help](#) [Privacy and Cookies Policy](#) [News sources](#) [About the BBC](#) [Contact us](#)

[News Front Page](#) | [World](#) | [UK](#) | [England](#) | [Northern Ireland](#) | [Scotland](#) | [Wales](#) | [Politics](#)
[Business](#) | [Entertainment](#) | [Science/Nature](#) | [Technology](#) | [Health](#) | [Education](#)

[Have Your Say](#) | [Magazine](#) | [In Pictures](#) | [Week at a Glance](#) | [Country Profiles](#) | [In Depth](#) | [Programmes](#)