



**Lancashire,
Manchester &
N Merseyside**

Red Squirrel Project
Urban trap loan scheme
Volunteer Role Description

About the Lancashire Wildlife Trust

We are part of the Wildlife Trusts movement, the UK's leading conservation charity dedicated to all wildlife. We are your local charity, working hard to improve your local area for wildlife and for you.

The Trust manages over 2,000 acres of some of the region's most precious wild places in the form of 37 nature reserves and 20 Local Nature Reserves. These provide places where wildlife can thrive and people can relax and enjoy the wealth of our natural heritage.

About the Role

Red squirrels once would have been widespread in parks and gardens throughout the towns in Merseyside and Lancashire, but presently, the majority are found within the coastal pinewoods at Formby and Ainsdale and there are small numbers confined to patches of woodland further inland. Red squirrels were still regularly sighted in the Botanic Gardens and Hesketh Park in Southport until around 2010 and in the parks throughout Crosby. We want to see red squirrels return to these parks and the surrounding gardens for everyone to enjoy but need your help!

Grey squirrels currently pose the biggest threat to our red squirrel population. To be most effective for red squirrel conservation we need to control grey squirrels in both woodlands and towns. We currently run a trap loan scheme in Crosby, Ainsdale, Southport and Maghull but would also like to expand into Scarisbrick and Rufford. If you live in one of these areas and have grey squirrels visiting your garden, please get in touch.

A volunteer will deliver the trap and explain where best to place the trap, how to set it, different baits to try and how to lock it if you are unable to check it. You will not be required to dispatch grey squirrels yourself and a list of contacts will be provided who will be able to collect the squirrel from you. Full training can be provided on request however.

We are also looking for volunteers to help with dispatching grey squirrels trapped in the different areas so please contact Rachel Cripps if you are able to help with this.

What's in it for you?

- Play a vital role in the conservation of an endangered species.
- Option to join the Red Alert volunteer group who meet 3 times a year to keep up to date on red squirrel conservation in the area.

What's involved?

- All traps are humane, live-capture traps and red squirrels can be easily released unharmed.
- Traps need to be checked at least twice a day but can be locked when this is not possible.
- Ability to dispatch grey squirrels is not necessary but training can be provided on request.

This role will suit people who;

- Are comfortable with the idea of controlling grey squirrels for the purposes of red squirrel conservation.
- Are able to monitor a trap in their garden.

Extra information

Your place	Towns in and around the north Merseyside and West Lancashire Red Squirrel stronghold.
Time commitment	Flexible
Volunteer Manager	Rachel Cripps rcripps@lancswt.org.uk 07590 745862
Training/Resources	If carrying out grey squirrel dispatch on behalf of LWT: LWT Volunteer Induction Access to the Volunteer Training Programme Health and Safety Training Manual Handling Training Eligible to apply for internal vacancies (once induction has been completed)
Expenses	If carrying out dispatch, out-of-pocket travel costs between home and volunteering place will be paid up to a maximum of £5 per day, and other reasonable subsistence/expenses agreed in advance.

This role is purely voluntary and this arrangement is not meant to be a legally binding one or an employment contract