



The Wildlife Trust for
**Lancashire
Manchester &
North Merseyside**

Red Squirrel Project Urban Trap Loan Scheme Participant

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 Project

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. We want to see red squirrels return the surrounding parks and gardens for everyone to enjoy but need your help!

The Red Squirrel project works to maintain red squirrels in the Merseyside and West Lancashire Stronghold through control of grey squirrels, monitoring of squirrel populations and public engagement. A major part of the project is controlling grey squirrels in the urban areas, particularly Formby, Ainsdale, Southport, Crosby, Scarisbrick and Maghull (and beyond) through a trap loan scheme. All traps are humane, live-capture traps and red squirrels can be easily released unharmed.

What is an Urban Trap Loan Scheme Participant?

If you live in North Merseyside or West Lancashire, regularly see grey squirrels in your garden and are willing to host a trap, please get in touch.

A volunteer will deliver the trap and explain where best to place it, how to set it 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.

(If you are prepared to carry out the humane dispatch yourself, full training can be provided on request and you will become a 'Red Squirrel Project Urban Trap Loan Scheme Grey Squirrel Control Volunteer').

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 and for this role you will need to become a LWT volunteer.

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

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

Extra information

Location	Your garden / land in and around the North Merseyside and West Lancashire red squirrel stronghold.
Time commitment	Flexible
LWT Staff Contact	Red Squirrel Officer red.squirrel@lancswt.org.uk 07590 745 862
Training/Resources	Training in setting the trap and locking it if you're unable to check it.