

Job title: Grey Squirrel Control Coordinator (South Ayrshire)

Base: Within the South Carrick project area (preferred).

Working Hours: temporary for 12 months full-time, working 37 hours per week

Salary: £19,000

Responsible to: Project Manager of Ayrshire Rivers Trust, ARSG Management Committee

Objectives:

To manage and coordinate control of non-native grey squirrels in South Ayrshire.

Background to project

ARSG formed in 2002 with the aim of conserving the red squirrel in Ayrshire. The region is currently experiencing an expansion in the range of the invasive grey squirrel, putting the red squirrels at risk of local extinction. Additionally, grey squirrels spread the squirrelpox virus which kills red but is harmless to greys. Until 2011 Ayrshire was free of the virus and we wish to halt its spread into the Central Belt, which would threaten the red squirrels stronghold in the north of Scotland.

The Ayrshire Rivers Trust currently run a project which aims to control and remove invasive species from within the Carrick area.

The key remit of the post-holder will be to coordinate a network of grey squirrel control in South Ayrshire, complementing the work of the Carrick Invasive Species Officer and linking with existing grey squirrel control networks in South Scotland.

Key Contacts

Ayrshire Rivers Trust (staff, members and contacts)

Ayrshire Red Squirrel Group (members and contacts)

Landowners, foresters/ woodland managers, gamekeepers, householders, farmers

Saving Scotland's Red Squirrels project staff and volunteers

Main Duties

- Coordinate a programme of strategic grey squirrel control within the project area, identifying priority areas to target with support from the ARSG management committee.
- Liaise with, recruit, manage and coordinate volunteers (including land owners/managers) to participate in control programme and/or trap loan scheme in order to create coordinated grey squirrel control networks. Advise on the positioning, baiting and operation of traps according to legal standards and project standard operating procedures. Support participants to report control effort.

- Carry out grey squirrel control as necessary.
- Coordinate and participate in the collection of grey squirrel blood samples for squirrelpox testing.
- Provide training where necessary to volunteers in survey, control and reporting methodology.
- Coordinate data collection and collation on control effort (Volunteer and Officer), control totals, trap loan scheme, surveys, distribution of target species, squirrelpox sampling and other key information. Submit records regularly to ARSG management committee.
- Liaise closely with relevant stakeholders and partners to ensure coordination in the delivery of grey squirrel control networks. Contribute towards relevant regional and national data collection schemes.
- Contribute to grey squirrel monitoring programmes by carrying out surveys to detect the presence of invasive mammals in under-recorded areas.
- Where time and resources permit, coordinate production of maps and statistics to support ARSG volunteers in the production of reports.
- Where time and resources permit, encourage interest in local red squirrel conservation with relevant local communities and organisations. Encourage recording and reporting of squirrel sightings. Undertake publicity activities to promote understanding of invasive species in the wider community.
- Ensure compliance with legislation and Health and Safety requirements.

Person specification

Qualifications, training, knowledge and experience

Essential:

- Minimum 2 years practical experience in wildlife management, gamekeeping or other relevant field
- Good understanding of conservation principles, practices and legislation

Desirable

- SVQ/ NVQ Level 2 or equivalent qualification in game and wildlife management or related discipline

Competencies, skills and abilities

Essential:

- Proven knowledge of legislation and best practise to ensure control operations comply with legislation.
- Understanding of estate management, game keeping and ability to work in harmony with the needs of land management in areas where control programme and surveys are located.
- Ability to communicate effectively with stakeholders, landowners, householders and the wider public. Able to motivate others.
- Ability to keep accurate and comprehensive records

- Ability to use Microsoft Office software, particularly Word and Excel
- Ability to coordinate volunteers and maintain accurate and comprehensive records.
- Organised with ability to manage own time effectively
- Ability to access and work in remote sites
- Self-motivated, energetic and enthusiastic
- Willing to learn new skills and operating methods
- Full UK driving licence and own vehicle
- Willing to work unsocial hours
- Familiarity with project area

Desirable:

- Experience of working with landowners, volunteers and members of the public
- Experience with use of GIS software
- Experience of mammal survey techniques
- Experience of working with the media
- Ability to project manage

This Project has been part funded by the local Community Benefit funds of Scottish and Southern Energy's Hadyard Hill Fund and Scottish Power Renewables Carrick Futures Fund

