



## DESCRIPTION

The red squirrel is instantly recognisable. It is the native and smaller relative of the more common grey squirrel.

## TYPICAL HABITATS

Woodland, urban gardens.

## RANGE

Widespread in Scotland and northern England. Isolated populations in Wales, the Isle of Wight and Brownsea Island.

## FIELD SIGNS

### Footprints

Tracks can be seen in mud, sand and snow. Squirrel leave tiny tracks, which can be easily overlooked. Forefoot width 2.5cm, length 3.5cm, hind foot width 3.5cm, length 4.5cm.

### Feeding signs

The red squirrel eats nuts, acorns, berries and the cones of conifer trees (see photo). They split acorns and hazelnuts and leave rough often jagged edges. Pine cones are stripped leaving the top sections are untouched.

### Nests

The nests of red squirrel (and grey squirrel) are known as dreys. They are spherical collections (approx. 30cm across, at least 6m above the ground) of twigs and leaves which are usually located in the fork of the branches, close to the trunk.

It is easier to observe these in winter, when there are fewer leaves on the trees. It is not possible to distinguish between red and grey squirrel dreys.

