

# GREY SHADOW OVER OUR WOODLANDS

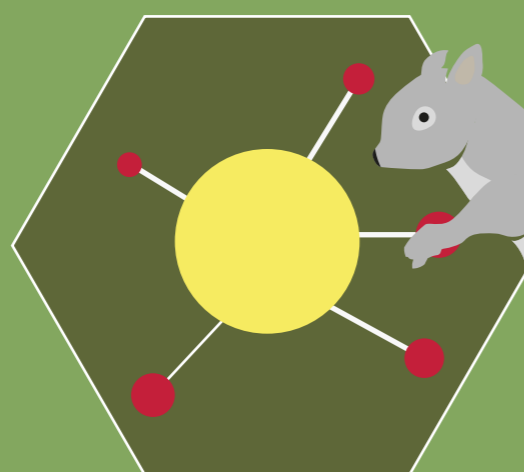
For woodland to flourish we need effective and integrated control of grey squirrels across vulnerable landscapes.

Current controls - shooting and trapping - are time consuming and expensive. The RFS is supporting research into immuno-contraceptives which may prove effective for land managers to use alongside traditional controls.



## DISEASE

- Grey squirrels pass squirrel pox to native red squirrels
- They can carry pathogens from tree to tree



## WILDLIFE

- Damaged trees cannot provide as much natural habitat
- Healthy trees produce more flowers and fruit for insects, birds and woodland mammals



## GREY SQUIRRELS

- Alien species: introduced from North America 1876
- Population: 3 million and rising
- Very few natural predators



## WOODLAND

- Grey squirrels strip bark making trees more susceptible to diseases
- Their damage limits growth, stunts trees and can kill them
- More mature and healthy trees may increase the ability of woodland to prevent flooding or store carbon



## WOODLAND OWNERS

- Can only produce poor quality timber from damaged trees reducing incomes
- Have the added expense of squirrel control and tree safety inspections
- Will have the confidence to plant more broadleaved trees if grey squirrel numbers are controlled



## WOODLAND USERS

- Will see fewer healthy, fully grown trees if grey squirrel numbers are not controlled
- Taxpayer money may be wasted on planting trees that will not grow and mature
- Future generations will be able to enjoy oak and other woodland if damage is prevented

