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SQUIRREL

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The True Cost of
Grey Squirrel Damage



Dear Supporters

ESI celebrated its 21st year this year. The organisation has finally reached adulthood and as such we can look back with a degree of satisfaction about what we have influenced, shaped and established during our childhood and teenage years.

I look back on our earlier toddler years as one of exploration, finding friends and allies facing the same frustrations in the UK, Ireland and Italy. It was a time of 'understanding the rules of the game' and how ESI was going to play its hand to achieve its aims.

The second decade or teenage years were ones of further exploration, influencing and building allies – whether it be lobbying at a European level to get the Alien Invasive Species (AIS) Directive through to Member state legislation, the assistance with setting up Red Squirrel Survival Trust (RSST) and support for the umbrella UK Squirrel Accord (UKSA).

ESI has been seeking to push its aim of removing the Grey Pest from UK shores. ESI have championed and supported the development of Immuno-contraception through APHA, with the RFS, knowing that it would be a helpful tool in the armoury for all woodland owners and foresters.

Our goal however remained unchanged and as we now embark into adulthood as an organisation, this is the period when we can knuckle down with serious intent, having found 'the thing' that could help us achieve our long-standing goal.

The development of Direct Inheritance Gender Bias (DIGB) through the advent of gene drive technology offers the prospect of being able to make dramatic reductions in grey squirrel populations, and in so doing protecting our beloved next generation of broadleaved trees and protect our iconic Red squirrel from being lost.

The development of DIGB offers the prospect of humane, targeted, species specific control which other forms of control do not. It will be another decade or so before we know how successful our endeavours may be, however with a strong commitment and a significant investment in



Graham Taylor

research, the prospect is worth the effort, and hopefully worth the wait.

The next decade can't come quickly enough for impatient foresters and landowners, but it will pass quickly and hopefully by the time we reach our thirties, we will be able to turn to large scale application of a successful approach to control not just my squirrels, but my neighbours squirrels as well.

With warmest seasons greetings

Graham Taylor MBE FICFor

Jigger Writes...

November 2022

Tadpole

Tadpole is my new terrier. My wife Elsa bred Tadpole, her mother Snipe, and her grandmother Jay.

I use them to help with my job as a squirrel catcher. They make the job quicker and easier; they run beside me when I'm on the quad checking the traps and know where every single one is, not missing any. If a squirrel is in one, they will turn the trap over and

bark; if empty they will go on to the next one. I give them a rest in the box on the front of the quad when they are tired because our trap line is approximately 30 miles long.

My dogs enjoy every minute in the woods, just like me. Our happy place.

We take the squirrels back to base for the game dealer as they all go for human consumption.



ESI Update - by Andrew Kendall, ESI

This is the 40th edition of 'Squirrel' newsletter and I hope it demonstrates ESI's range of activity and interest. The charity remains focused on its core principle of seeking a way to totally control the grey squirrel.

For the past two years ESI had been focusing on developing the use of gene editing to control grey squirrels. As we have reported in previous editions and elsewhere in this newsletter, scientists at the Roslin institute have begun work in earnest on this project. Over the past twelve months ESI has been focusing on three main areas linked to gene-editing, research, communication, and fundraising.

The initial research work carried out at Roslin and funded by ESI is complete, and we are moving on to the next phase which will involve the Roslin Institute modelling the impact of gene-drive on the forest ecosystem. This will involve input from various academics from different institutions from around the country. Alongside this, specific activities will include work into dynamic sequencing and gene-drive constructs. On the communications side ESI has been working closely with and informing politicians including government

ministers, organisations such as The Forestry Commission and APHA. Lead scientist, Prof Bruce Whitelaw, has recently participated in the Wellcome Conference on Conservation Geonomics and the University of Exeter has produced a helpful video on gene-editing.

Perhaps the most significant development has been the publication of the Genetic Technology (Precision Breeding) Bill. The Bill is now at its committee stage with the report stage expected in the new year. ESI has been involved in a range of discussion and forums with the aim of keeping the Bill, covering all animals- i.e., wildlife.

On the fundraising side, ESI has appointed Tim Rowland, an experienced charitable fundraiser, who joined ESI from Future Trees Trust where he ended up as its Chief Executive Officer.

Clearly funding is important to the success of our gene-editing project and while ESI will continue to seek support



Andrew Kendall has been involved with ESI since its founding in 2002, and is responsible for the day to day operation of the charity.

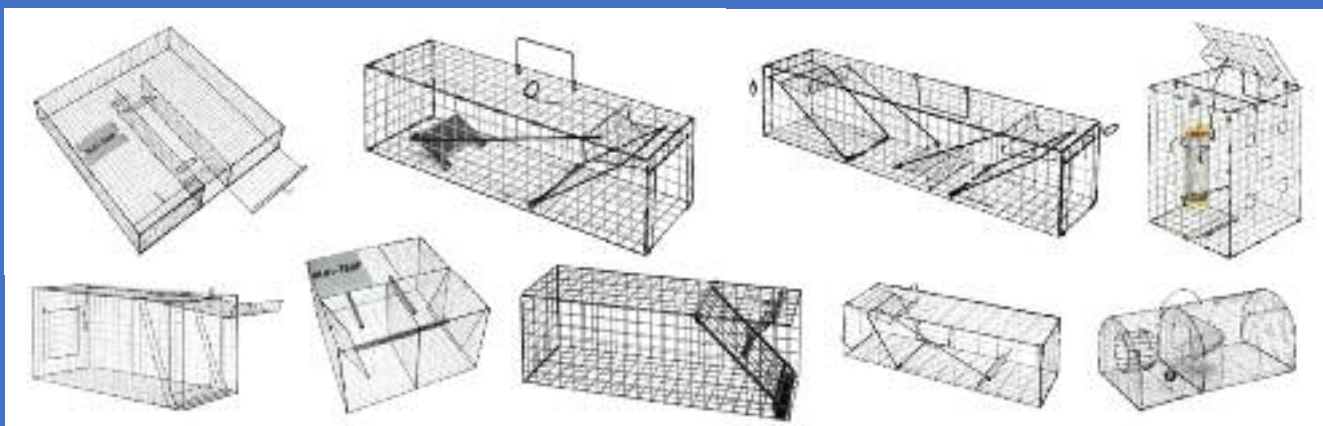
from private individuals, trusts and supportive companies, it firmly believes the best solution to the financial issue is for government to take up the project and to fully support it financially. You will see elsewhere in the newsletter, Graham Taylor's article on The True Cost of Grey Squirrel Damage, it does not take much to realise that a relatively small amount of government funding would save the country many tens of millions of pounds.

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ESI welcomes Genetic Technology (Precision Breeding) Bill

The European Squirrel Initiative (ESI), has welcomed news that legislation to change the laws in England to allow gene editing research to be used in the breeding of crops and livestock, has progressed to the House of Lords.

ESI believes the Genetic Technology (Precision Breeding) Bill, which had its second reading in the House of Lords on 21 November, has the potential to unlock opportunities to provide a solution to the wider problem of invasive alien species, including grey squirrel populations in the UK.

Gene editing makes changes to the traits within a species of plant or animals much more quickly and precisely than traditional selective breeding, which has been used by farmers and growers for centuries.

Gene editing differs from genetic modification, as it does not introduce DNA from one species to another, instead only producing changes that could be made slowly using traditional breeding methods.

“ESI has funded research, through the Roslin Institute, into species-specific,

humane and cost-effective solutions to managing invasive grey squirrel populations in the UK,” explained Graham Taylor, ESI Chairman.

The ESI believes that by embracing gene editing tools, grey squirrel populations could be suppressed by spreading female infertility genes through targeted populations, leading in time to population decline owing to the lack of fertile female squirrels available as breeding partners.

“We welcome this latest stage in the progression of the Genetic Technology Bill, which we feel offers the opportunity for a realistic proposition for red squirrel conservation, while controlling the damage grey squirrels cause both economically and ecologically to the UK,” he added.

Research commissioned by ESI reveals that grey squirrels cost the

English forestry industry in excess of £40 million per annum. Taking into account total losses, including timber loss, additional imports, carbon and habitat loss, the cost to the economy could amount to £64 million per year, for England alone.

As well as damaging trees, parks and gardens and predating on woodland birds, grey squirrels have driven our native red squirrels to the verge of extinction, both through competition and as carriers of the squirrel-pox virus to which greys are immune.

“By using gene editing to harness natural genetic resources, we believe further research can lead to a humane solution to the problem of grey squirrels, as well as other invasive, non-native species, while also being of huge environmental benefit for our country,” concluded Mr Taylor.



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Fundraising at ESI by Tim Rowland

In May, ESI appointed me as our part-time Fundraising Manager - our very first member of staff. It's always a big decision to move from a volunteer-led charity to one employing people, even if it's only one person working two days a week. But ESI needs to grow, needs to extend its reach and influence and to engage more people across the environmental, forestry and wildlife sectors. And all of that is going to need additional financial support. So I was appointed with the brief to raise as much unrestricted funding – money we can use however we best see fit rather than grants or donations to support a specific project – as possible.

I've got lots of experience of doing that. After deciding that a career as a civil engineer wasn't for me, the career guidance I'd had suggested that I'd make a good charity fundraiser, so I volunteered at Cancer Research UK for a year before starting work there at the age of 37 as a junior admin assistant. By the time I left 12 years later, I was managing a team of corporate fundraisers raising over a £1M a year from the likes of Tesco, Easyjet, Lloyds Bank and Peacocks. A committed countryside lover, when my job relocated to London, I found a job that allowed me to stay in my beloved Cotswolds at what became Future Trees Trust. Fast forward another 12 years, by which time I had become the Trust's Chief Executive Officer, and it was time to make another change.

After a brief spell in retirement, my dog started complaining about doing too much walking, so when Graham and Andrew at ESI approached me to take on a part-time fundraising role, I jumped at the chance. And I love it!

Most people couldn't stand the idea of constantly asking people for money, but I seldom, if ever, do that. Believe it or not, there are lots of people out there whose job it is to give money away.

As a fundraiser, you can talk to people that know all about you and your work but might not have spare funds to donate, or you can talk to people that you know have funds to donate but might not know about you. In the UK, there are 13,000 grant-making organisations – mostly private charitable trusts set up in memory of a deceased relative who, during their lifetime, might

have been passionate about donkeys, human rights, cancer, steam trains, red squirrels or trees. The trustees of these trusts are tasked with finding charities to whom they can donate the annual interest on the initial investment made when the trust was set up. One such trust, set up with an initial investment of £5000 in 1918 now donates £1M each year – the annual interest on that initial investment - to charities that support the deceased's benefactor's passions or enthusiasms.

So my role at ESI is to find charitable trusts that are set up to support the kind of work we do – environmental protection or improvement, forestry, land management, animal welfare, protecting endangered species and yes, even climate change. And there are lots of trusts keen to support these issues. Since May, I have issued 128 funding applications, raising a total of £18,000. The key to all fundraising is to know how to tell the right people the right things in the right way at the right time. Knowing who to ask is the first step and after 12 years of fundraising for a tree charity, I had lots of ideas about who to talk to. Each application is only submitted after an initial telephone conversation to determine the right things to say (what aspects of our work are most likely to excite them?), when to submit it (the trustees might not meet for another year so timing is crucial) and how best to make an application (online? Email? Paper?). Apparently, few fundraisers bother to make such calls, so I've already created a 'relationship' with the donor before my application even arrives.



Making myself memorable definitely helps – trusts receive hundreds of unsolicited, inappropriate and unwelcome applications, but never from me.

Because I research my targets thoroughly before picking up the phone, nearly everyone I've spoken to has been interested and engaged in our work. One memorable call was greeted with the response "Those bloody grey squirrels have just killed all my oak trees – I've been waiting for years to hear from someone like you". Knowing that I'll have conversations like that makes my job fantastically enjoyable.

In tandem with applying to trusts, I'm constantly trying to engage corporate supporters to recognise the advantages to their bottom line of a partnership with us – the enhanced perception that supporting such a great charity will have on their customers, how we might promote their business through our communications channels (such as this newsletter), providing them with access to all our supporters and that supporting us is simply the right thing to do. Most don't get it, but the more enlightened companies, such as those advertising in this newsletter, certainly do. If your company would like to benefit from a partnership with ESI, I'd love to have a chat with you about how we can enhance your bottom line with all sorts of marketing benefits.

Call me on 07833 691259

or email me at

tim@europeansquirrelinitiative.org



The True Cost of Grey Squirrel Damage (Part 1)

Graham Taylor MBE FICFor,
Chairman ESI

In so many areas of life the saying ‘You don’t know what you’ve got until you lose it’ – is true. The repeated damage that many woodland owners and forester experience to young broadleaved forests typically from about the age of 10 years after establishment is the same.

It is frustrating seeing the leader completely stripped by grey squirrels with withering leaves above it. We know that many trees will try and regrow upwards, leading to tangled form with a repeated cycle of bark damage. We know that in the absence of GS control, this damage renders the trees as useless for the production of fine sawlog grade timbers, and it makes mechanised harvesting of thinnings more or less impossible. Even the potential to produce fine grade processable firewood is lost rendering the material only suitable for low grade firewood & biomass. The lost opportunity or ‘Opportunity loss’ is quite difficult to calculate even at a stand level, let alone a national level. ESI knows that the number is large, but how large is it ?

At the most recent CLA Forestry conference in Newbury, I presented a desk-based attempt to answer this question. Using data available from the



2015 NFI data		No. of NFI squares with squirrel damage	
Region	No. of NFI squares		Prevalence
Great Britain	14,447	1,261	9%
England	6,510	1,024	16%
East England	723	28	4%
East Midlands	475	17	4%
North East England	564	38	7%
North West England	550	11	2%
South East England and London	1,505	249	17%
South West England	1,202	388	32%
West Midlands	544	78	14%
Yorkshire and the Humber	947	215	23%
Scotland	6,109	39	<1%
Wales	1,828	198	11%



Forestry Commission National Forest Inventory, I have made an assessment of the English portion of the UK broadleaved growing stock and using over 30 years of forestry experience across much of England & Wales where I have managed and visited hundreds of woodlands in a wide array of geographic contexts, I have projected my own judgements on the condition, trajectory and damage levels pertinent to each

conifer and broadleaved species that are susceptible to Grey squirrel damage and have calculated the anticipated loss of future timber value, based on current market prices for that timber. This assessment is hugely subjective, but at each stage of development I have tested the assumptions made against the ‘Is this reasonable, based on my experience?’ as a test of any assumption.



The table below summarises the assumptions and for the benefit of readers I will attempt to highlight the assumptions made column by column:

Table 1 - Impact of GS damage on stand valuations at maturity in England

	Quality Class	YC	Undamaged Mature Value £ / Ha	Stand Value at Maturity with 100% damage £/ ha	Net Opportunity Loss with 100% damage	Average Rotation Length	Net Loss / annum £/ ha	England ha by Species / Quality Class	% of Quality Age class damaged by GS	% of Total Hectarage by SPP in Damage Phase	Total in damage phase by spp (ha)	Total Opportunity Loss / Quality Class £
Broadleaves												
Oak	High	6	74000	9500	64500	120	538	55400	80	73	40442	2,086,807,200
	Medium	4	45000	8500	36500	150	243	55400	50	73	40442	738,066,500
	Low	4	25000	7500	17500	180	97	55400	30	73	40442	212,320,500
Beech	High	6	12500	9500	3000	150	20	35000	90	73	25550	68,985,000
	Low	4	12500	7500	5000	180	28	35000	60	73	25550	76,650,000
Sweet Chestnut	High	8	40000	7500	32500	100	325	5000	80	73	3650	94,900,000
	Low	4	15000	7500	7500	140	54	5000	40	73	3650	10,950,000
	Coppice	10	2500	1500	1000	16	63	20000	25	73	14600	3,650,000
Sycamore	High	8	15000	9500	5500	100	55	25000	80	73	18250	80,300,000
	Low	4	12000	7500	4500	120	38	50000	40	73	36500	65,700,000
Birch	Medium	6	9000	5000	4000	60	67	95000	20	73	69350	55,480,000
								436200			318426	3,493,809,200
												Annual Loss over 60 years = 58,230,153
Conifers												
Scots Pine	Medium	12	28500	17100	11400	60	190	61500	10	48	29520	33,652,800
Larches	Medium	12	19500	13500	6000	45	133	40200	30	48	19296	34,732,800
N Spruce	Medium	16	33750	26100	7650	50	153	26800	10	48	12864	9,840,960
												78,226,560
												Annual Loss over 40 years = 1,955,664
												Total Cumulative Opportunity Cost Of GS Damage = 3,572,035,760
												Annual average loss = 60,185,817

- Broadleaves and Conifer – each mainstream forestry species which suffers from grey squirrel damage
- Quality Class – most species have been broken down into quality classes, recognising that all stands of each species do not produce timbers of equal quality.
- Undamaged Maturity value- each stand type has an approximate mature value, these are English averages
- Stand maturity value – this is the value of the stand in the future, once a stand has been 100% damaged by squirrels.
- Net opportunity loss – this figure contrasts the effective future loss as an impact of GS damage
- Net Loss / annum/ha - With Yield classes varying, the rotation length varies, with slower growing stands taking longer to mature. The loss / annum is the Net opportunity loss divided by the rotation length and thus highlights this loss on an annual basis.
- England ha by species class – the total hectares of woodland by species in the NFI is split according to quality class by area . Hence with Oak there are 166k hectares which have been split into 3 quality classes.
- % of Quality class affected by GS damage – the faster the growth rate, typically the higher the level of GS damage within the stand type.
- % of Total age class split by species – 73% of these stands are in the 60 year and below age class which represents a total of 318k ha of England's woodlands which are in or have grown through the susceptible phase of damage. This effectively includes new planting and restocking of broadleaved and conifer stands and circa 5300ha / annum as an average over the last 60 years.
- The 318k hectares in Table 1 above contrasts with the NFI squirrel damage specific estimates of 160k ha in England and Wales where squirrels damage has been noted and is dramatic. In the authors experience there are an equivalent number of stands by area where GS damage occurred on a significant Oak component at say year 10 and other less susceptible and lower value species eg Ash / Birch / Cherry or Alder then came to dominate the stand. These stands are now registers as Ash / W Cherry etc within the NFI, but the original intention was to grow Oak, which succumbed to GS damage at a young age. One a first thinning is done, the remains of dead or heavily stunted GS damaged Oak trees have been lost. The disparity in these two elements requires considerable more research.
- The 2015 NFI data sets (left) highlight dramatic differences in the prevalence of GS damage across England , Wales & Scotland. The highest prevalence of Grey squirrel damage being recorded in SW England 32% of 10km grid squares , with high figures in Yorkshire , SE England and West Midlands. These variances are reflective of species growth rates and climate. Grey squirrel damage is recorded in 11% of 10km grid squares in Wales, with under 1% of grid squares in Scotland recording Grey squirrel damage.

In summary the results of this desk-based study indicate some interesting highlights:

- The total estimated Opportunity loss at current prices is c £58.2 million / annum
- The highest losses by hectare per annum are in the highest quality classes of Oak and Sweet chestnut at £538 and £325 / ha / annum.
- The loss for damaged conifers is quite modest at c £1.95 million/ annum

These cumulative losses, which exceed £60 million / annum at current timber pricing, are the losses that have been triggered by grey squirrel damage to England & Wales woodlands. This quite high figure covers over 300,000ha of woodland which represents about 10% of UK woodland coverage. Translated into an annual loss, this equates to an average across the whole of £182/ha / annum. It is against this benchmark against which consideration about the costs of Grey squirrel control should be made.

The above figures are a best estimate solely using desk-based analysis based on decades of forestry experience. There are additional costs including the losses to biodiversity, the loss of capital value the carbon losses and the future cost of imports of hardwood timber that the nation will have to incur because England's woodlands will fail to produce quality timbers into the future, owing to the historic and long-term effects of grey squirrel damage. These estimates will be reported on in subsequent editions.



Keeping the Pressure on: Taking Greys in the Late Autumn, Early Winter

J.D.J Braithwaite gives some tips for optimising hunting methods at this time of the year.

A feeder-based approach to culling grey squirrel is an extremely effective way to control and reduce the numbers of grey squirrels in the area. If pressure is maintained throughout the year, dividends can be had. In my part of the world (the Lake District), I know of several woodlands where red squirrels have returned to woodlands as a direct result of removing greys. It works. However, from around mid to late August until late October greys squirrels can show little interest in feeders. This can indeed be a frustrating time for the shooter looking to make a large impact on the grey squirrel population. There may be a few reasons for this, the main one being that the grey squirrel is hard-wired to forage for the natural fruit and nuts provided in the woodlands at this time. During late summer the tree canopy itself is very dense and so opportunities for safe and clear shots are few and far between.

One approach is to simply stop targeting greys at this time. It makes some sense under the circumstances. However, it's a good idea to keep an eye on the woodlands as once the nuts start naturally dropping to the ground – the greys will follow the food to the woodland floor. This is also the time when you can scoop up what is on the ground and put it in the feeder. Even though the ground is covered in fruit and nuts – the greys will start to come to the feeder again stocked with the same items that are naturally all over the place. Stormy weather can cause a lot of nuts to fall to the ground and can clear the canopy a little bit and so there can be some variability in terms of the exact timing of when shooting on the feeder will be effective again but around late October – early November would be typical. I will often start back on the



A squirrel feeder in early winter containing a high caloric nutty mix designed to attract them to the feeder with vigour at this time of the year.

feeder by scooping up the hazelnuts, acorns, and chestnuts etc from the ground, put them in the feeder and these nuts will be gone in a day or two – telling you that the greys are coming in for them. Around this time greys will also be caching food to survive the winter and shelled nuts survive being buried, while other types of food will not. So placing better quality nuts in the feeder will help to ensure they come back to the feeder sooner, come back in good numbers, and for more than one reason. You only need to use the more substantive nuts for a few weeks before migrating back to typical peanuts and normal service can resume, but it is a worthwhile short-term fix to ensure, as much as you can, that greys prioritise visits to your feeder.

Another approach that works very well at this time of the year is that of thermal imaging technology. A few years ago I purchased a Pulsar Helion XP38 thermal

spotter to assist me in my woodland shooting – and I've never looked back. Out with the imager means you will see more than you will without it. With the canopy clearing at this time of year, the grey squirrel has fewer hiding places and thus their heat signatures become easier to detect. It is not just a great bit of kit for detecting possible shots to be taken, but the imager can give you a healthier appreciation of squirrel numbers more generally (i.e., in the distance) thus informing future visits. It can also help with an assessment of the wildlife in the area more broadly as well. I've spotted raptors just sat there quietly in the trees watching me take the grey squirrels – perhaps hoping for a gift or two, stoats one-third up a tree slowly moving away from me, numerous deer and pheasants moving through the space. I can see tiny mice running around the woodland floor with ease. These days I rarely leave the cottage without it.



The Pulsar Helion XP38 hand-held thermal spotter - a very useful addition to the hunting rig.

The imager can easily pick up the heat signature of a grey squirrel out to +80 yards. In terms of features on suitable units, I'd recommend a wide field of view is much more important than a high level of digital magnification. This means fewer head movements and a large field of view in one go. A decent frame rate (50Hz) is excellent for capturing smooth dynamic motion in the field (which helps with species identification) and a good sized sensor (640x480) giving higher resolution and a crisper image, is all you need. This type of sensor not only gives higher definition but copes better with challenging and inclement conditions relative to inferior sensors - which is worth it in a country known for its poor weather. Thermal works just as well in

broad daylight and darkness. Grey squirrels are not nocturnal, they are only active during daylight hours and so the imager can cope with this quite well. The imager itself can assist with feeder-based ambush approaches and stalking. Interestingly, during stalks I have often observed a running squirrel doing the well known corkscrew run up the tree – but the imager show they often poke their heads out from the other side out of curiosity. This is near impossible to spot with the naked eye – but once the imager has revealed it, it is now simply a case of swapping the spotter for the air rifle and more often than not, the shot is on. Without the imager I'd be convinced it ran to the other side and simply stayed there (which they sometimes do, but not



A grey squirrel sat on one of my feeders in the woods around 28yds away. The squirrel is easily detectable.

always). Coupling technologies like imaging with good fieldcraft should give the shooter an edge, an advantage that is worth having.

SQUIRREL

This is the 40th edition of The Squirrel, and here at ESI we are constantly looking at ways to improve our communication with our readers and supporters. In order to help improve communication with you all we will be producing an e-newsletter in addition to the printed magazine that you already enjoy. This will also allow us to communicate with our readers more regularly.

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BT phone wire damage



For some time ESI has been concerned about the damage grey squirrels do to other thing than trees. In north America, telephone wires are often damaged and in some states, the problem is serious, so much so, that a short section of loose gutter pipe is placed over wire nearest a telegraph pole, to stop squirrels running along the wire. Charles Dutton has seen this in Sherborne.

Now, for the first time, we have first-hand evidence of the damage, supplied by chief engineer Lloyd Rimmer of BT open-reach. Mr Rimmer says that it is quite come to find wire eaten through by squirrels.

Why grey squirrels eat into wire, we have no idea, but they do, only sometimes the wires kick back.



The cost of damage, could be substantial when you could consider the cost of downtime when out phone system are down.



Poachers Squirrel Pie with Mixed Root Mash Topping

Prep Time: 20 minutes

Cook time: 30 minutes

Total time: 50 minutes

Ingredients

1 squirrel once skinned, I slow cooked him in water on high for around 4 hours, by which time the meat was falling off the bone. I let it cool before stripping the meat from the bones. For those that are interested, there was 110g cooked meat on a well fed, winter male squirrel

½ bulb garlic peeled but cloves left whole

1 onion diced

*3 savoy cabbage leaves chopped.
Add any veggies you have available*

*Various root vegetables for the mash
I used potato, sweet potato, carrot, swede and parsnip*

Butter for the mash



Instructions

1. Chop the root vegetables, and boil then mash with the butter.
2. Fry the onion until it has a little colour. Add a ladle at a time of the water the squirrel was cooked in, letting it reduce before adding the next. Add the cabbage with the last ladle of stock. Simmer down a little and add gravy powder/cornflour to thicken it.
3. Mix the cooked squirrel meat with the onion and cabbage gravy and tip into a casserole dish or individual pie dish. Top with the root mash and bake until the top is golden brown.

This recipe was originally published on www.hedgecombers.com

Recipe by Jane Sarchet.

Exeter University Film on GeneDrive

Some months ago, ESI was contacted by Prof. Sarah Hartley of Exeter University, asking for a 'volunteer'



John Wilding MBE

to explain about grey squirrel damage and why the GeneDrive method of control just might be real solution. Prof Hartley is involved in a number of projects around the world looking at

GeneDrive, so it was good opportunity to explain the problem and possible solutions and where ESI thinks GeneDrive might fit into the Toolbox of pest control. John Wilding MBE and ESI's Charles Dutton volunteered to explain the impact of GSq damage of Britain's lowland woodland. The film was watched by some 100 people from the University in Exeter and was surprisingly well received. There was a Q & A session after the film with some

pertinent question.

Of concern was the questioning from a Green-peace lady who persistently tried to confuse the audience by calling GeneDrive as gene editing, even after being corrected. In all, I felt it was a well presented & balanced film on a difficult topic.





The Grey Squirrel Management Handbook

By Charles Dutton



The Grey Squirrel Ecology & Management of an Invasive Species in Europe

by Craig M. Shuttleworth

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