

## **National Zoological Society of Wales**

### **Red Squirrels at the Welsh Mountain Zoo – National Zoo of Wales, Colwyn Bay**

This NZSW project started in 1989 and breeding and release research was carried out in 1996/7. This project is the Welsh Mountain Zoo's longest running conservation project focussed on a single species and includes:

- captive breeding at the Zoo;
- the co-ordination of a UK-wide co-operative breeding programme involving zoos and private breeders (co-ordination includes advice on captive husbandry, accommodation, breeding and population management);
- working with partners to breed and reintroduce or augment existing wild populations (in strict accordance with IUCN Guidelines, including pre-release and post-release protocols, health screening, etc.);
- support for research into the impact of virus diseases on red squirrel conservation;
- contributing to the scientific literature on red squirrel conservation;
- raising public awareness of red squirrel conservation.

The captive breeding and reintroduction research at the Zoo was a key component of the successful re-establishment of red squirrels on the island of Anglesey, carried out in partnership with Red Squirrel Trust Wales.

Red squirrel reintroduction and population augmentation work has continued in recent years at Ogwen Valley, Gwynedd and Clocaenog Forest, Denbighshire.

[www.welshmountainzoo.org](http://www.welshmountainzoo.org)

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