

## GREY SQUIRREL TRAPPING COURSE

### WHY CONTROL GREYS?

The Eastern Grey Squirrel (*Sciurus carolinensis*) is a native of North America. It was first introduced into the UK in 1876 and has now spread across most of the country. It is a destructive pest causing serious damage to trees through stripping bark, to songbird populations by predated nests and to our native red squirrel which it has driven from 90% of the British mainland. Greys are much more adaptable in finding their food and it has been shown that young reds fail to establish territories in the presence of high grey numbers.



Greys also carry a virus that does not affect them but is fatal to our native red squirrel, causing lesions to the face particularly, preventing the squirrel from eating and introducing secondary infection.



#### **PROGRAMME (APPROX 10.30 - 2.30)**

- **Background to red and grey squirrel ecology and interaction**
- **Trapping and despatching squirrels using cranial despatch and firearms – the legalities and the practicalities**

**The day will include lunch and an outdoor session, so bring appropriate footwear and clothing.**