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Mid Wales

Red Squirrel Partnership

Canolbarth Cymru

Partneriaeth Gwiwerod Coch

South and West Wales  
De a Gorllewin Cymru

## Red Squirrel News

The [new MWRSP website](#) has gone live! As well as key information and reports on our red squirrels, the new site includes an easy-to-use reporting facility for red squirrel sightings. You can also find out where and when reds have been seen in your locality by checking out maps of red squirrel sightings. Please do donate if you can to our

**Red Squirrel Appeal**, all the more imperative after the sad news that Environment Wales grants have been withdrawn. Also in this edition, read Huw Denman's article about why the Trap Loan Scheme is having a positive impact on our reds. Find some interesting tips on how to trap with badgers around and what to do with your unwanted grey squirrel carcasses. And, in the final instalment from the MISE project, learn about the latest developments in their work with red squirrels in north Wales.

## Newyddion y Wiwer Goch

Mae [gwefan newydd Prosiect Gwiwerod Coch Canolbarth Cymru](#) ar waith erbyn hyn! Yn ogystal â gwybodaeth allweddol ac adroddiadau am ein gwiwerod coch, mae'r safle newydd yn cynnwys cyfleuster hawdd ei ddefnyddio i gofnodi gwiwerod coch sy'n cael eu gweld. Gallwch hefyd ddarganfod ble a phryd y gwelwyd gwiwerod coch yn eich ardal drwy edrych ar fapiau penodol. Byddwch cystal â chyfrannu at yr **Apêl Gwiwerod Coch**. Mae cyfraniadau yn bwysicach nag erioed ar ôl y newyddion trist na fydd grantiau Amgylchedd Cymru ar gael mwyach. Hefyd, yn y rhifyn hwn, darllenwch erthygl Huw Denman sy'n esbonio pam mae'r Cynllun Benthyc

Trapiau yn cael effaith gadarnhaol ar ein cochion. Cewch wybod sut mae trapio gyda golwg ar y moch daear sydd o gwmpas, a beth ddylech ei wneud â charcasau gwiwerod llwyd. Ac mae manylion am brosiect MISE, a'r diweddaraf am waith y prosiect gyda gwiwerod coch yng ngogledd Cymru.



## Support Our Red Squirrel Appeal

The Red Squirrel Project has been running since May 2014 with support from Environment Wales, a Welsh Government funded initiative, which has been supporting environmental organisations for over 20 years. In the past year, not only has the project



received funding for equipment for the Trap Loan Scheme and new website, Environment Wales has also provided the funding for the Red Squirrel Officer post. Without the funding award from Environment Wales, the project would never have become a reality. However, this funding has come to an abrupt end! The Welsh Government have carried out a review of

Aline Denton, MISE Project Officer: *"The MWRSP Officer has made a much-needed impact on red squirrel conservation by setting up a Trap Loan scheme and supporting the volunteers. It is vital that a network of local grey controllers is co-ordinated and supported and that red squirrel conservation remains prominent in the minds of local people to ensure that we do not lose our red squirrels."*

Isabel Macho,

Carmarthenshire Biodiversity Officer:

*"The MWRSP The loss of Welsh Government support for Environment Wales is disappointing. It supports vital conservation work on the ground by organisations who have the experience and knowledge to get the maximum benefit from the funding. Withdrawal of this funding, is, I feel, a backward step."*

Shelagh Yeomans,

TLS Co-ordinator for Llanddewi Brefi: *"Like most people living here I did not know that there are red squirrels living in this area of Wales and through the MWRSP we have learned of their plight. We have been able to access*

all of their funding programmes, under new arrangements, recipients will no longer be able to use funding to run grant schemes. This means that Environment Wales will not be able to continue as a grants provider and therefore funding of the Red Squirrel Officer post will end on 30 September 2015.

The 5-year Red Squirrel project is out-of-pocket to the tune of over £30,000.

As a result WTSWW have set up an appeal. It's quick and easy to donate. Text **REDS11 £10** to 70070, donate at [www.justgiving.com/MWRSP](http://www.justgiving.com/MWRSP) or phone 01656 724100 and say that you want to donate to the Red Squirrel Appeal.

Red Squirrel Officer Becky Hulme commented: "We have a 5-year conservation plan we want to deliver for mid Wales' red squirrels. We need your support to recruit and train volunteers and to work with landowners in mid Wales. Make our

*training and trapping equipment that we would not have considered purchasing. More red squirrels have been sighted, more people are interested and involved and more greys are being dispatched. Without the loan scheme none of this would have happened!*

*If the funding is removed, all our work on this vital environmental project will be for nothing. Don't take away this funding - don't lose our red squirrels.*

**vision a reality, please help if you can."**

**Working together, we have made a good start, but there is plenty more work to be done before we can say that the future of the red squirrel in mid Wales is secure.**

## Cefnogwch ein Hapêl Gwiwerod Coch

Mae'r prosiect gwiwerod coch yn rhedeg oddi ar fis Mai 2014 gyda chymorth gan Amgylchedd Cymru, menter yn cael ei hariannu gan Lywodraeth Cymru ac sydd yn cefnogi sefydliadau amgylcheddol ers dros 20 mlynedd. Yn y flwyddyn ddiwethaf, mae'r prosiect nid yn unig wedi derbyn arian i brynu offer ar gyfer y Cynllun Benthycia Trapiau ac i sefydlu gwefan newydd,

ond mae Amgylchedd Cymru hefyd wedi cyllido swydd y Swyddog Gwiwerod Coch. Heb yr arian gan Amgylchedd Cymru, ni fuasai'r prosiect erioed wedi bodoli.

Fodd bynnag, daeth y cyllido hwn i ben yn ddisymwth. Mae Llywodraeth Cymru wedi cynnal adolygiad o'i holl raglenni ariannu, ac o dan y trefniadau newydd, ni fydd derbynwyr mwyach yn gallu defnyddio'r arian i redeg cynlluniau grant. Mae hyn yn golygu na fydd Amgylchedd Cymru yn gallu parhau i ddarparu grantiau, ac felly daw'r cyllid ar gyfer swydd y Swyddog Gwiwerod Coch i ben ar 30 Medi 2015.

Mae hyn yn golygu bod y Prosiect Gwiwerod Coch yn colli mwy na £30,000 dros gyfnod o bum mlynedd.

Fel canlyniad, mae Ymddiriedolaeth Natur De a Gorllewin Cymru wedi cychwyn apêl. Mae gwneud cyfraniad yn gyflym a hawdd. Tecstiwch **REDS11 £10** i 70070, cyfrannwch yn [www.justgiving.com/MWRSP](http://www.justgiving.com/MWRSP) neu ffoniwch 01656 724100 a dweud eich bod am gyfrannu at yr Apêl Gwiwerod Coch.

Dywedodd y Swyddog Gwiwerod Coch, Becky Hulme: "Mae gennym gynllun cadwraeth dros gyfnod o bum mlynedd ar gyfer gwiwerod coch y Canolbarth. Mae angen eich cymorth arnom i recriwtio a hyfforddi gwirfoddolwyr, ac i weithio gyda thirfeddianwyr y Canolbarth. Helpwch ni i wireddu ein breuddwyd, a chyfrannwch os gwelwch yn dda."

Wrth gydweithio, rydym wedi gwneud dechrau da, ond mae llawer mwy o waith i'w wneud eto cyn y gallwn ddweud fod dyfodol y wiwer goch yng nghanolbarth Cymru yn ddiogel.

# The Search for Reds in Llanddewi



A remote camera and feeding station, known as a 'camera trap' has been installed in woodland near Llanddewi Brefi. The camera is being monitored by Merryll Hills, who lives next to forestry where there have been several previous sightings of reds. Merryll is a self-declared nature-lover and is keen to find red squirrels in her locality. Thanks to Graham Sinclair for making feeding boxes and Natural Resources Wales (NRW) for the camera loan.

Pictured here at the feeding station is Merryll Hills (left) with NRW Conservation Manager, James Tinney (centre) and WTSWW Red Squirrel Officer, Becky Hulme (right)

**Becky commented:**

***"To date the camera has only revealed jays and mice, but we are all hoping for the best! We are looking to install further 'camera traps' in the focal area and, with any luck get some current footage of our reds in their mid Wales habitat."***

## Trap Loan Scheme / Cynllun Benthycha Trapiau

For free bait and loan of trapping equipment,  
contact your nearest Local Co-ordinator, based in  
Pontrhyfendigaid, Tregaron, Llanddewi Brefi, Llanfair Clydogau, Cellan,  
Ffarmers, Crugybar, Rhandirmwyn and Llanwrtyd Wells.

Visit the [website for contact details](#)

If you are interested in becoming a Co-ordinator for your local area,  
contact Becky on [b.hulme@welshwildlife.org](mailto:b.hulme@welshwildlife.org) / 07972 201202

**I gael abwyd a benthycha cyfarpar trapio am ddim,  
cysylltwch â'ch Cydgysylltydd Lleol agosaf ym  
Mhontrhyfendigaid, Tregaron, Llanddewibefi, Llanfair Clydogau, Cellan,  
Ffarmers, Crug-y-bar, Rhandir-mwyn a Llanwrtyd.**

**Ewch i'n [gwefan i gael y manylion cyswllt](#)**

**Os oes gennych ddiddordeb mewn bod yn Gydgysylltydd yn eich ardal leol,  
cysylltwch â Becky ar [b.hulme@welshwildlife.org](mailto:b.hulme@welshwildlife.org) / 07972 201202**



# Why Control Grey Squirrels? Pam rheoli gwiwerod llwyd?



Forester and ecologist Huw Denman gives his verdict on the progress of the Trap Loan Scheme. Huw is pictured here (photo: Chloe Griffiths) at the MISE conference giving a red squirrel talk, with innovative use of a (badly) stuffed red squirrel.

**Y coedwigwr a'r ecolegydd Huw sy'n rhoi ei ddyfarniad ar y Cynllun Benthycu Traipiau. Gwelir Huw yma (llun: Chloe Griffiths) yng nghynhadledd MISE yn rhoi sgwrs ar wiwerod coch, gyda defnydd arloesol o wiwer goch wedi'i stwffio (yn wael).**

**New grey squirrel control groups**, made up of willing volunteers have already been tremendously successful in dramatically reducing the number of grey squirrels in areas which had previously been untrapped and had held very high numbers of greys. Villages and caravan parks, often with good and reliable squirrel food availability, such as bird feeders or oak and hazel woodlands tend to hold grey squirrels at very high population densities with good breeding success. Some of these greys will disperse into areas where there are reds.

It would be wonderful to be able to permanently remove greys from the buffer but at this stage this isn't possible due to repopulation of the buffer with greys from further out or untrapped areas. The questions I'm sometimes asked are 'is it worthwhile if they're going to re-populate so quickly?', or 'what's the point if the buffer is so porous?' The mid Wales red squirrel conservation strategy is based on reducing the number of greys in the buffer as much as possible, in order to minimise the dispersal of greys into the core conifer area where most of the red squirrels live.

Studies show that trapped areas can begin to be repopulated within a matter of a few weeks or months; unfortunately this means that it will be a continuing task to maintain the buffer free of grey squirrels. However, the good news is that it can take a considerable time before the trapped area assumes the pre-trapping population density. This may be because the new squirrels are unfamiliar with the new location, or are young inexperienced squirrels, and therefore are unable to access food supplies so efficiently and may be more vulnerable to predation. In addition, young female squirrels tend to have smaller litters so the newly established population is slower to increase.

There is also another advantage. Let me explain: red squirrels are known to decline and disappear in the presence of grey squirrels due to competitive exclusion, red squirrels fail to get

to breeding weight due to competition for food resources with greys. However, reds have also been known to decline and disappear before the appearance of greys, and this is usually attributed to the transfer of squirrelpox-virus from greys into the red population, then leaving a habitat vacuum for the expanding greys. In mid Wales, we have carried out blood tests on grey squirrels and the results showed that 50% and 90% of the two sets of tested samples had squirrelpox-virus antibodies present, which means that they'd been exposed to the virus. Greys don't die of squirrelpox-virus but reds do and so reducing the chances of transmission is vital to the health of the reds. It has been shown that reducing grey squirrel population densities also reduces the proportion of the remaining greys that carry squirrelpox-virus antibodies, and therefore by controlling the grey numbers in the mid Wales buffer we're also reducing the probability of transfer of squirrelpox-virus from the greys to the reds.

I have in possession a very badly stuffed red squirrel specimen (an understatement, it's stuffed with the Westmoreland Gazette!) that was handed to me about 20 years ago by a friend who'd picked it up on a south Cumbrian roadside, when red squirrels were common there. I was very pleased to read this week that red squirrels have been seen again in Windermere after an absence of 15 years, a fact that solely be attributed to the actions of the many volunteers that have been trapping grey squirrels in the area. This is inspirational, and shows that it can be done here too, and I believe it's only a matter of time before I get phone call from a volunteer trapper saying that they have a red squirrel in their cage trap in Pontrhydfendigaid or on their bird table in Rhandirmwyn. Keep up the good work! **Huw Denman, MWRSP**

## Pine Marten Restoration

There is growing scientific evidence that pine marten represent a sustainable solution to grey squirrel control and red squirrel conservation. In Counties Laois and Offaly in Ireland grey squirrels have disappeared and red squirrels have increased as pine martens have recolonised from the west. Oak and hazel woodlands which in Britain would be dominated by grey squirrels are now teaming with reds! Find out more about pine martens and the Vincent Wildlife Trust's pine marten restoration project in mid Wales at this event in Devil's Bridge



## Adfer Bele'r Coed i Ganolbarth Cymru

### Restoring the Pine Marten to Mid Wales

**Fel rhan o gynllun peilot i atgyfnerthu poblogaeth frodorol yr anifail yn yr ardal, yr ydym yn cynnal cyfres o gyfarfodydd cymunedol i argyhoeddi a gwrandao ar bobl leol. Dewch draw i ddarganfod mwy.**

As part of a pilot plan to strengthen the animal's native population in the area, we are conducting a series of community meetings to inform and listen to local people. Please come along to find out more.

**DYDDIAD/DATE:** Mehefin 18 June  
**LLEOLIAD/LOCATION:** Gwesty'r Hafod Hotel, Pontarfynach/Devil's Bridge  
**AMSER/TIME:** 7-9pm

Te, coffi a chacen - Tea, coffee & cake

**CYSWLLT/CONTACT:**  
Jenny MacPherson  
jennymacpherson@vwt.org.uk  
07584 415760, 01239 851921

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3 & 4 Bronsil Courtyard, Eastnor, Ledbury, Herefordshire HR8 1EP | Tel: 01531 636441

## Working in Partnership with BASC

Landowners that manage land outside the focal area are not eligible for the MWRSP Trap Loan Scheme. However, thanks to a new partnership with BASC, if you live, shoot or manage land in mid Wales, but outside of the focal area, you can get support for grey squirrel control from



**BASC. The British Association for Shooting and Conservation (BASC) has agreed to provide trapping equipment for properties which border the red squirrel focal area buffer zone, where grey squirrel control on the property could have an impact on the population in the focal area. Please get in touch with the Green Shoots Officer, Audrey Watson at BASC with details of your location; you do not need to be a BASC member.**

**Audrey Watson - 07531 141497 / [audrey.watson@basc.org.uk](mailto:audrey.watson@basc.org.uk)**

## **A Squirrel Night Out!**



Having dispatched, skinned (a labour of love!) and frozen 96 squirrels, a feast night was held at the New Inn in Llanddewi Brefi. We had a fun Saturday night sharing the spoils of two months trapping, trying out several methods of cooking and educating people about the MWRSP. Simple methods of cooking were employed to make the most of the squirrel flavour. Stewed then 'pulled' meat served in wraps, roasted, stewed in red wine (stifado) and deep fried were all received encouragingly. My favourites were the simple stewed and the stifado.

The secret is long slow cooking as the meat is quite tough and do beware of bones. Huge thanks to Orwel and Yvonne at the New Inn for hosting this venture which involved a great deal of hard work on their part for enjoyment on ours. I have cured a few pelts (using a lot of salt) but not yet utilised them – ideas please!

**Shelagh Yeomans, TLS Co-ordinator for Llanddewi Brefi**

## **Gwledda ar Wiwerod!**

Ar ôl difa, blingo (llafur cariad) a rhewi 96 o wiwerod, cynhaliwyd noson wledd yn y New Inn yn Llanddewibrefi. Cawsom hwyl ar nos Sadwrn yn rhannu cynhaeaf deufis o drapio, a rhoi cynnig ar sawl dull o goginio – yn ogystal ag addysgu pobl am Brosiect Gwiwerod Coch y Canolbarth. Roedd y coginio'n syml er mwyn gwneud y gorau o flas gwiwer. Cafodd rhai gwiwerod eu stiwio cyn tynnu'r cig a'i roi mewn amlenni, cafodd eraill eu stiwio mewn gwin coch, a rhoddwyd cynnig hefyd ar rostio a ffrio'r cig. Y



ffefrynnau gen i oedd y cig a gafodd ei stiwiw ar ei ben ei hun neu mewn gwin coch.

Y gyfrinach yw coginio'n araf a hir am fod y cig yn eithaf gwydn. Hefyd, rhaid bod ar wylidwriaeth rhag esgyrn. Llauer o ddiolch i Orwel ac Yvonne yn y New Inn am gynnal y fenter hon. Golygodd llauer o waith caled ar eu rhan, er mwyn i ni gael pleser. Rwyf wedi rhoi amryw o grwyn i'w cadw (trwy ddefnyddio llauer o halen) ond heb eu defnyddio eto. Unrhyw syniadau?

**Shelagh Yeomans, Cydgysylltydd y Cynllun Benthycu Trapiau ar gyfer Llanddewi Brefi.**

## Making the Best Use of Culled Squirrels

If you are a [Trap Loan Scheme](#) member and wondering what use you could make of grey squirrel carcasses, then there are several options:

1. Eat them! 'Google' a recipe
2. Leave them out in the open for Kites and Buzzards
3. Give them to Seasons Farm Foods for use in their Wild Game Pie
4. Keep the tails (frozen) for use in fly fishing
5. Give them to Paula in Crugybar as a snack for her captive birds of prey

To elaborate on the final 3 options:

Amanda from [Seasons Farm Foods](#) would like to hear from anyone who might be interested in supplying whole grey squirrel carcasses, either fresh or frozen to the company for use in their wild game pies. Contact Amanda on 07920 427410 / [sully24@btinternet.com](mailto:sully24@btinternet.com) or visit Seasons Farm Foods at Lampeter Farmers Market (down the side of Sainsbury's store) every other Friday.

Matthew Hand of Rhandirmwyn can get 15p each for squirrel tails from Veniards, fly tying supplies. Tails need to be cut off with the bone left inside and kept in the freezer. If anyone wants to collect them Matthew will bag them up in bulk and send them off. Contact Matthew on 01550 760122 / [m.hand100@btinternet.com](mailto:m.hand100@btinternet.com)

Paula Senior in Crugybar has several captive birds of prey, she is keen to hear from local people who can donate squirrel carcasses, although not squirrels that have been shot, as they may contain lead shot. Contact Paula on 01558 650662 / [paula.senior@talk21.com](mailto:paula.senior@talk21.com)



## Community Action for Red Squirrels

### Cymunedau'n gweithredu dros y wiwer goch



**Thursday 9th July @ 6:30 Dydd Iau 9fed Gorffennaf**

## Drovers' Arms, Ffarmers

### Trap Loan Scheme Drop-In

Free loan of trapping equipment for grey squirrel control

### Cynllun Benthycu Trapiau: Galwch Heibio

Cyfarpar trapio ar fenthyg am ddim i ladd gwiwerod llwyd



Come along and find out how **YOU CAN HELP** red squirrels in your area!

**Dewch draw i gael gwybod sut Y GALLWCH HELPU gwiwerod coch yn eich ardal!**

Contact/Cysylltwch: 07972 201 202 / [b.hulme@welshwildlife.org](mailto:b.hulme@welshwildlife.org)

## Badger-proof Trap

We couldn't let this innovative trap platform, designed by Matthew Hand of Rhandirmwyn go without a mention ...



Back in April, Matthew initiated a grey squirrel control programme in Nant Gwyn, with permission from the woodland owner, Scottish Woodlands.

However, as soon as pre-baiting began it became obvious that trapping would not be straightforward, due to the presence of a large population of badgers, with a predisposition to nuts!

Matthew commented: "it was really frustrating when I went to re-stock the bait and found every one of the 15 traps turned over and cleared out!"

But never a one to shirk a challenge, Matthew came up with a remedy, a badger-proof trap. With the use of a remote camera, trained on the trap, Matthew has gained some interesting insight into woodland wildlife: "Interesting night shots today, watching a mouse clambering all over the trap and eating the bait at night, then an image of the squirrel in trap being attacked by an owl. When the squirrel was inside with the trap sprung, another grey was clambering over the trap and looking at it – hope to have him tomorrow."

This could be a key location for red squirrels in the Rhandirmwyn area, as a red was sighted in Nant Gwyn in 2014. More platforms are needed if Matthew is to clear this woodland of grey squirrels. **If anyone would like to help out by building platforms for badger-proof traps, please get in touch.**

These platforms would also be of benefit in gardens, for those who need to keep the trap and bait out of reach of pets, such as dogs or wildlife, such as hedgehogs.

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**‘Mammals in a Sustainable Environment’  
Project Work  
Gwaith Prosiect ‘Mamaliaid mewn  
Amgylchedd Cynaliadwy’**

**“Mammals in a Sustainable Environment” (MISE) is a project funded by the**



European Regional Development Fund under the Ireland Wales Programme 2007-2013 (INTERREG IVA) that aims to foster involvement of communities in Wales and Ireland in mammal conservation, Read more about the MISE project here (<http://www.vwt.org.uk/our-work/projects/mise-project> ). The Vincent Wildlife Trust is one of the Welsh partners, and has been working with the MWRSP for 3 years, carrying out red squirrel surveys and helping with talks with local communities.

Mae "Mamaliaid mewn Amgylchedd Cynaliadwy" (MISE) yn brosiect wedi'i ariannu gan Gronfa Ddatblygu Rhanbarthol Ewrop fel rhan o raglen Cymru ac Iwerddon 2007-2013 (INTERREG IVA) sydd â'r nod o feithrin cyfranogiad cymunedau yng Nghymru ac Iwerddon yng ngwaith cadwraeth mamaliaid. Mae rhagor o fanylion am y prosiect yn <http://www.vwt.org.uk/our-work/projects/mise-project>. Mae Ymddiriedolaeth Natur Vincent yn un o'r partneriaid yng Nghymru, ac mae'n cydweithio â Phartneriaeth Gwiwerod Coch y Canolbarth ers tair blynedd, gan gynnal arolygon gwiwerod coch a helpu i ymgysylltu â chymunedau lleol.



## Red Squirrel News from North Wales

The MISE Project Officer for North Wales, Becky Clews-Roberts, was recently delighted to catch video footage of a red squirrel using a squirrel feeder in Clocaenog forest, Denbighshire. Along with Anglesey, Clocaenog holds one of the remaining populations of reds in North Wales, but recent sightings have been few and far between and little is known about the





population size and distribution of the remaining population.

But after a great deal of survey time, volunteer training, and collaborative working, a red squirrel has been

recorded sitting on top of a feeder box in the south Alwen area of Clocaenog Forest. This record shows the importance of using camera traps, as the squirrel did not enter the box to leave any hairs for analysis. Interestingly, no grey squirrels were recorded in this section of the forest. Boosted by this evidence, NRW Conservation Officer Rhys Jenkins is hoping to put more feeder boxes up nearby - this supplementary feeding will benefit the red squirrels as well as helping to identify their range.

## Newyddion am y Wiwer Goch o Ogledd Cymru

Roedd Swyddog Prosiect MISE ar gyfer Gogledd Cymru, Becky Clews-Roberts, wrth ei bodd yn ddiweddar pan gipiwyd gwiwer goch ar gamera fideo wrth iddi fwydo yng Nghoedwig Clocaenog, Sir Ddinbych. Ynghyd ag Ynys Môn, Clocaenog sydd ag un o'r unig boblogaethau o wiwerod coch yng Ngogledd Cymru. Yn ddiweddar, prin fu'r achlysuron pan welwyd gwiwer goch, a gwyddys fawr ddim am faint y boblogaeth na'i ddosbarthiad.

Ond ar ôl llawer o wyllo, hyfforddi gwirfoddolwyr a gweithio ar y cyd, recordiwyd gwiwer goch yn eistedd ar ben blwch bwydo yn ardal De Alwen o Goedwig Clocaenog. Mae hyn yn dangos pwysigrwydd defnyddio trapiau camera, oherwydd wnaeth y wiwer hon ddim mentro i mewn i'r blwch er mwyn i ni gael ychydig o flew i'w dadansoddi. Yn ddiddorol, ni chofnodwyd unrhyw wiwerod llwyd yn y rhan hon o'r goedwig. Mae hyn wedi hybu hyder Swyddog Cadwraeth Adnoddau Naturiol Cymru, Rhys Jenkins, sy'n bwriadu gosod rhagor o flychau bwyd yn y cyffiniau. Bydd y porthiant atodol o fudd i wiwerod coch a bydd hefyd yn gymorth i ganfod eu tiriogaeth ar hyn o bryd.

## MISE Project Showcase



On 9<sup>th</sup> May, MISE held a Project Showcase at the National Library of Wales in Aberystwyth. The 65 attendees - many of them MISE volunteers - heard talks that covered many of the species that were studied during the 4-year project, including pine marten, otter and bat, and of course the red squirrel. Huw Denman of the MWRSP provided an entertaining and informative account of 'Tracking the mid Wales red squirrel' and the MISE contribution to the partnership's work.

## MISE Achievements



The MISE project sadly comes to an end in June this year. During the last 4 years, we have carried out a variety of research and conservation work on a range of mammal species, but one of the project highlights has been working with the MWRSP. As well as contributing to the awareness-raising of our mid Wales reds by organising

talks and volunteer surveys, our research and monitoring work has



enabled us to confirm the presence of red squirrels in Cwm Berwyn near Tregaron, and to get a handle on the number of reds in Bryn Arau Duon (near Pumsaint). Thanks to the work of our lead partner, Waterford Institute of

Technology, we now have an increased knowledge of the diversity of the mid Wales red squirrels: 3 new haplotypes have been identified, including one previously known only from a British Museum specimen. Volunteers have learned how to identify squirrel-nibbled cones, carried out hair tube surveys, and gained hands-on experience with live-trapping and radio-tracking of red squirrels.

**It's been a fantastic 4 years!**

**Thank you to all the volunteers who helped in a variety of ways  
we couldn't have done it without you!**



## MISE Magazine

The MISE project has published a magazine containing articles about many of the mammal species we studied in Wales and Ireland, including the red squirrels, and is now available to read on-line in English and Welsh: <http://www.miseproject.ie/the-mise-times-2/>

## What Next for MISE? Beth Nesaf i MISE?

**The next round of European Regional Development funding is now open, and plans are afoot for the MISE project partners to submit an application for a new mammal research and conservation project in the Wales /Ireland project area. In the meantime, [the Vincent Wildlife Trust](#) will be continuing with their work on the [Pine Marten Re-introduction Project](#). We will shortly be writing to our MISE volunteers from mid Wales (including those who took part in**

**the red squirrel events and surveys) to ask if they would like to receive bi-annual updates on VWT. We hope you will continue to support our work.**

Mae rownd nesaf Cronfa Datblygu Rhanbarthol Ewrop ar agor erbyn hyn, ac mae cynlluniau ar waith i bartneriaid prosiect MISE gyflwyno cais am brosiect ymchwil a chadwraeth newydd yn ymwneud a mamaliaid yn ardal brosiect Cymru / Iwerddon. Yn y cyfamser, bydd [Ymddiriedolaeth Natur Vincent](#) yn parhau â'i waith ar [Brosiect Ailgyflwyno'r Bele](#). Byddwn yn ysgrifennu cyn bo hir at ein gwirfoddolwyr MISE o ganolbarth Cymru (gan gynnwys y rhai a gymerodd ran yn y digwyddiadau ac arolygon gwiwerod coch) i ofyn a hoffent dderbyn diweddariadau ddwywaith y flwyddyn am Ymddiriedolaeth Natur Vincent. Gobeithiwn y byddwch yn dal i gefnogi ein gwaith.

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