

# Red Squirrels at Formby

Formby has long been recognised as one of the last strongholds of our native red squirrel, a place where people can see these lovely creatures.



In 2008, the population was decimated by squirrel pox and approximately 80% of the squirrels were lost. The last known case of squirrel pox in Formby was on 22nd December 2008. Since then there has been a steady recovery, and it is once again possible for visitors to enjoy seeing red squirrels at Formby.

Squirrel feeders are now being regularly used by red squirrels around Squirrel Walk.



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**Seen a Squirrel?**

Please tell the wardens about any squirrels you see.

## Top Tips for Squirrel Spotting

### When

Early morning is the best time to see squirrels. They take their first feed of the day, but can be seen at any time of day and at any time of year. They prefer average weather and may stay in their drey if it's too windy, wet or hot.

### Where

Squirrels spend most of their time in the tree tops. You know you're in the right spot if you see individual pine scales falling from the trees as they strip pine cones to eat the seeds. Look for chewed and stripped pine cones on the ground a sure sign of squirrel feeding.

### How

**Keep quiet:** Squirrels can be curious, but they are easily frightened and will freeze or hide if scared by noise.

**Listen:** You may hear squirrels as they run up and down trees, chew on pine cones or chatter in the tree tops.

**Watch:** Look for movement in the trees, maybe a bouncing branch or the flick of a tail round a tree trunk.

**Wait:** Stand still or sit down. Take time to check your area.

**For more information visit:**

[www.nationaltrust.org.uk/formby](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/formby)

[www.rsne.org.uk](http://www.rsne.org.uk)