

DLR Garden/ School Squirrel Survey

1 Introduction

As part of the DLR Red Squirrel Conservation Project, which involved the translocation of red squirrels to Killiney Hill Park in September 2012, the Council with the assistance of the Killiney Hill Red Squirrel Group wish to monitor squirrels in the areas surrounding the park.

The Garden/ School Squirrel Survey has been designed to assist with the monitoring. Local residents and schools can contribute by monitoring squirrels in their gardens and schools (see map showing core area of interest for garden/ school surveys). This data will supplement survey work being undertaken by members of the Killiney Hill Red Squirrel Group in local parks and green spaces.

2 Instructions for surveying in your garden/ school

Firstly, thank you for participating in the survey scheme. Before going further, familiarise yourself with the differences between red and grey squirrels (see below). Red squirrels have ear tufts in autumn and winter and are about half the size of an adult grey squirrel. Records of sightings of both species in private gardens and school grounds are vital to on-going monitoring work in the Killiney Hill area and its surroundings.



<i>Characteristic</i>	<i>Red squirrel</i>	<i>Grey squirrel</i>
Head and body length (mm)	180 - 200	240 - 290
Tail length (mm)	140 - 200	190 - 240
Hind foot length (mm)	55	>60
Body weight (g)	280 - 350	450 - 650

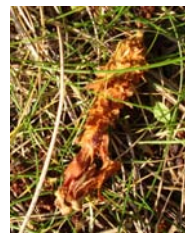
To participate, all you need to do is spend some time in your garden/school grounds each week and record if you see either squirrel species on the form provided. Please indicate the maximum number seen at any one time if this is more than one. Data is particularly required at three times of the year: January/February, May/June and October/November. Please also tick the box on the survey form to indicate if you feed birds in your garden/ school. If you know, could you also note in the comments what species of mature trees are present.

Other information that would help the survey:

If there are any pine trees, could you take a brief walk under them each week and note if there are any eaten cones and if you think they were recently eaten. Fresh cones may still have green bracks at the uneaten tips, will be clean and will not be dried out.



Fresh cone



Older cone

Sighting of squirrels elsewhere (other than your garden /school grounds) are also of use. These may be submitted with the survey form or on the online survey site (www.surveymonkey.com/s/squirrelsurvey2011). You will need to note the date, location and number of animals seen.

The location of possible squirrel dreys (where squirrels sleep) is also vital to the survey monitoring scheme. Dreys look like nests and usually have leaves/needles attached to the twigs as squirrels chew off branches rather than pick them off the ground like birds. They are generally close to the main trunk of a tree. If in doubt, take a note of the location as this can always be verified at a later date.



Squirrel drey

Garden/ School Squirrel Recording Form

Name: _____
 Address: _____

 Email: _____

2013 table for recording squirrels

Survey Period 1: January/ February (week beginning Monday)

Squirrel species	7 Jan	14 Jan	21 Jan	28 Jan	4 Feb	11 Feb	18 Feb	25 Feb
Red								
Grey								

Comments _____

Survey Period 2: May/ June (week beginning Monday)

Squirrel species	6 May	13 May	20 May	27 May	3 June	10 June	17 June	24 June
Red								
Grey								

Comments _____

Survey Period 3: October/ November (week beginning Monday)

Squirrel species	7 Oct	14 Oct	21 Oct	28 Oct	4 Nov	11 Nov	18 Nov	25 Nov
Red								
Grey								

Comments _____

Do you feed birds in your garden/ school? Yes No

Please return 1 copy of the completed form following each peak period to:
 Killiney Hill Red Squirrel Group, C/O Mary Toomey, Biodiversity Officer, Dún
 Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council, County Hall, Marine Road, Dún Laoghaire,
 Co. Dublin or email a copy to killineysquirrels@gmail.com.

Blue line denotes core area of interest for Garden/ School Squirrel Surveys

