

## **P-06-1208 New laws to protect rare red squirrels from habitat loss which causes population decline**

This petition was submitted by Craig Shuttleworth, having collected a total of 10,555 signatures.

### **Text of Petition:**

It's illegal to kill or injure a red squirrel. Yet a forest containing them is not protected and can be cut down.

Although a felling licence is required to fell woodland, these licences cannot be refused even if they cause habitat loss and red squirrel population decline.

State owned forests do not require a licence but are managed under Plans which last 10 years or more. They don't have to annually assess the cumulative impact of felling on red squirrel populations.

This must change.

### **Additional Information:**

Rare red squirrels are threatened by outdated 1960s tree felling law:

<https://www.independent.co.uk/climate-change/news/red-squirrels-rare-woodland-wildlife-british-outdated-tree-felling-a8665491.html>

<https://nation.cymru/opinion/wales-should-follow-scotlands-lead-in-protecting-the-red-squirrels-habitat/>

Even in Welsh Government owned forests managed by Natural Resources Wales, the agency clear-fells habitat without assessing the impact on squirrel populations. On Anglesey, NRW has spent £0 in 10 years to monitor red squirrels. They have no idea of the effect of repeated tree felling on populations and are continuing to fell habitat regardless:

<https://www.thenational.wales/news/19304998.expert-raps-nrw-felling-red-squirrel-habitat/>

Welsh Government say tackling global deforestation is 'vital' to prevent 'decline of our biodiversity' yet their forest regulator destroys forest habitat here without assessing impact on red squirrels.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-56185205>.

### **Senedd Constituency and Region**

- Arfon
- North Wales