

NPI Name: Red squirrel feeder

NPI Code: RSF

NPI Payment: Year 1: £84.00 per box

NPI Aim(s): To facilitate remedial management of EFS(H) sites and contribute to the protection of the red squirrel.

Scheme Applicability: Wider – EFS(W) Higher – EFS(H) Group – EFS(G)

This NPI is: Permanent Rotational

NPI Description and Outcome: 'Red squirrel feeders' are eligible where they will maintain and enhance the biodiversity value of EFS(H) sites and are included in the site specific Remedial Management Plan (ssRMP). 'Red squirrel feeders' will provide supplementary feeding sites for red squirrels and facilitate implementation of the ssRMP.

Number Permitted: Minimum 1 Maximum Not Applicable*

*DAERA reserves the right to limit a Higher Level agreement value where it considers appropriate to ensure value for money.

Requirements and Controls:

Code	Non-productive investment requirements (capital works)	Control type ¹		
		Admin	CwRS	OTSC
RSF1C	All 'Red squirrel feeders' must be erected by the end of Year 1.	✓		✓
RSF2C	New 'Red squirrel feeders' must be used.	✓		✓
RSF3C	The claimed number of 'Red squirrel feeders' must be erected in the field(s) where they have been approved.	✓		✓
RSF4C	The claimed number of 'Red squirrel feeders' must be erected to the Specification outlined below.			✓
RSF5C	Field records must be kept detailing number, location and date erected for each 'Red squirrel feeder'.	✓		✓

¹ The possible control types for each requirement may be:

'Admin' – administrative checks, 'CwRS' – Control with Remote Sensing, 'OTSC' – On-the-Spot Check

Specification:

The 'Red squirrel feeder' must:

- be fitted with a tilting floor mechanism which will hold the weight of an adult red squirrel but not an adult grey squirrel; and
- be erected, maintained and managed as detailed in the ssRMP for EFS(H) sites.

Further Advice:

'Red squirrel feeders' should be attached to a large tree at least 2 m above the ground. A strap should be used to secure the feeder to a tree. Ideally the canopy of this tree should connect with the canopy of other trees. Do not attach the feeders to electricity poles.

The tilting mechanism should be checked regularly to ensure that it is correctly set at between 350 – 400 g.

Between March and the end of August, the feeders should be checked weekly and topped up with approved food, if necessary.

The feeder should be located in woodlands where red squirrels are known feed, easily accessible, sheltered and free from disturbance.