# Grey Squirrel Activity and Impact Assessments

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Revision History

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| Date   | Version   | Comments   | Sections updated   |
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Author/Who to Contact?

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Guidance Notes

The WS3 Squirrel supplement requires that Grey squirrel control is carried out to prevent excessive bark stripping damage to trees and that Squirrel Impact and Activity are monitored.

One method of monitoring the effect of control measures on squirrel populations is to carry out a Grey Squirrel Activity and Impact Assessment.

The method used is that promoted by the National Forest Company ([WS3.5 NFC Grey Squirrel Activity and Impact Assessment Methodology – available on Operations Note 60 page of GOV.UK).](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/management-requirements-for-woodland-supplement-ws3-squirrel-control-and-management-operations-note-60) This standard methodology reduces bias, and makes the assessments consistent, robust and repeatable.

Please note that for the WS3 Squirrel supplement you must indicate survey start points and routes in your Squirrel Control Plan as agreed with your Deer Officer. The survey results must be recorded using the [WS3.4 NFC Squirrel Activity and Impact Recording Sheet – available on the Operations Note 60 page on GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/management-requirements-for-woodland-supplement-ws3-squirrel-control-and-management-operations-note-60). Survey results should be summarised in a [WS3 Survey Summary Report Template – available on the Operations Note 60 page on GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/management-requirements-for-woodland-supplement-ws3-squirrel-control-and-management-operations-note-60) must be reported to the Forestry Commission in years 1,3,5 of your agreement.

Survey records should be retained for the life of your agreement.