

GILLIES HILL RED SQUIRREL SURVEY

One of Gillies Hill's open secrets is that it has for a long time been a sanctuary for red squirrels, a species whose Latin name, *sciurus vulgaris*, is today ironic: that *vulgaris*, once implied how 'common' – numerous – they were: sadly, no longer the case. As an expert visiting the Hill recently said, "These days, the red squirrel's future is far from certain."

And, should quarrying recommence there, this already endangered and attractive species would be under even greater threat. By nature red squirrels are solitary creatures and thrive best when living in a large, quiet territory. And the large quiet area likely to be quarried is – more irony – one part of the Hill where many sightings have been made.

However, as part of *Save Gillies Hill's* dialogue with those who will ultimately decide whether quarrying goes ahead, we need as many details of sightings as possible, something not always easy, given the passage of time. Yet, if you have seen a red squirrel on the Gillies Hill – or, equally useful, on the surrounding countryside, etc – please record the details, as best you can, below. And, if you can't recall everything, put in what you can. Photos are especially welcome. Send the completed information to our website (savegillieshill.org) or to ptpaterson@hotmail.co.uk, or return to 1 Thomson Place, Cambusbarron,

MONTH AND/ OR YEAR OF SIGHTING

AREA OF GILLIES HILL/ OR FURTHER AFIELD

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REPORTER'S NAME AND CONTACT DETAILS:

Name:

Address:

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Post Code: