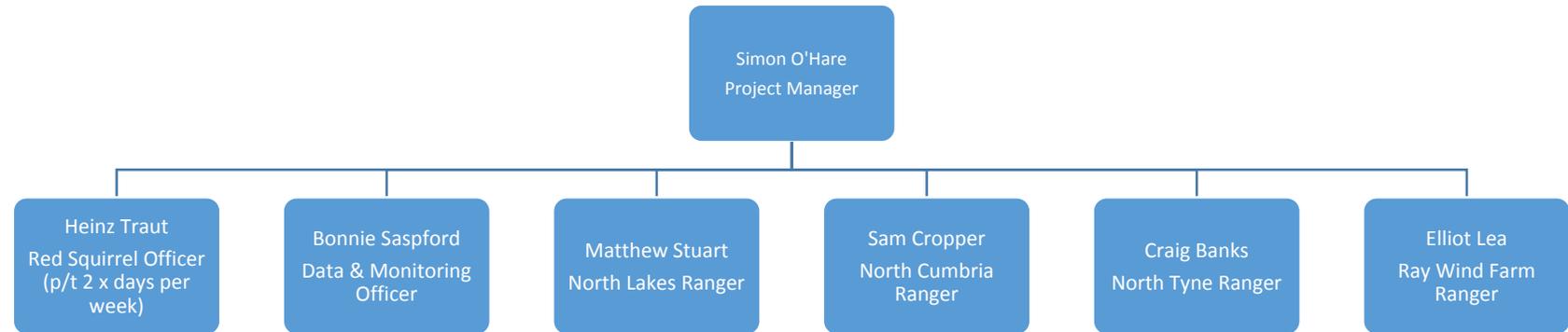




Update from northern England
Simon O'Hare Project Manager Red Squirrels Northern England

Peter Skilton Art

NWT red squirrel projects



- Wildlife Trusts in Cumbria and Northumberland involved since early 1990s
- Red Squirrels Northern England project launched 2011
- Also involved in multi-partner Red Squirrels United project; fieldwork around Kielder, largest red reserve in northern England
- Small team in 2019
- Dependant on support of local community groups to deliver work: local groups are leading the effort in so many areas

What does RSNE do?

Providing leadership in northern English conservation practice to ensure red squirrels flourish

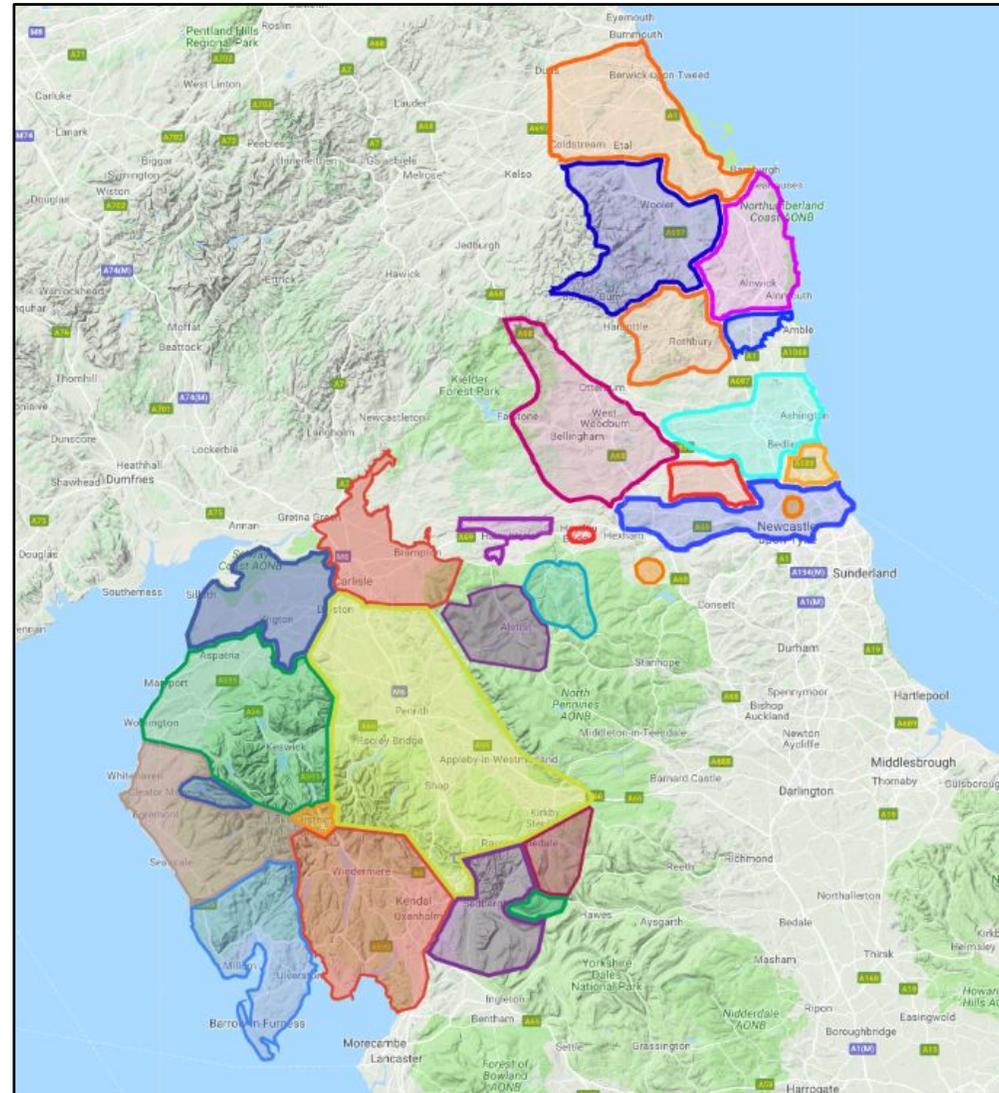
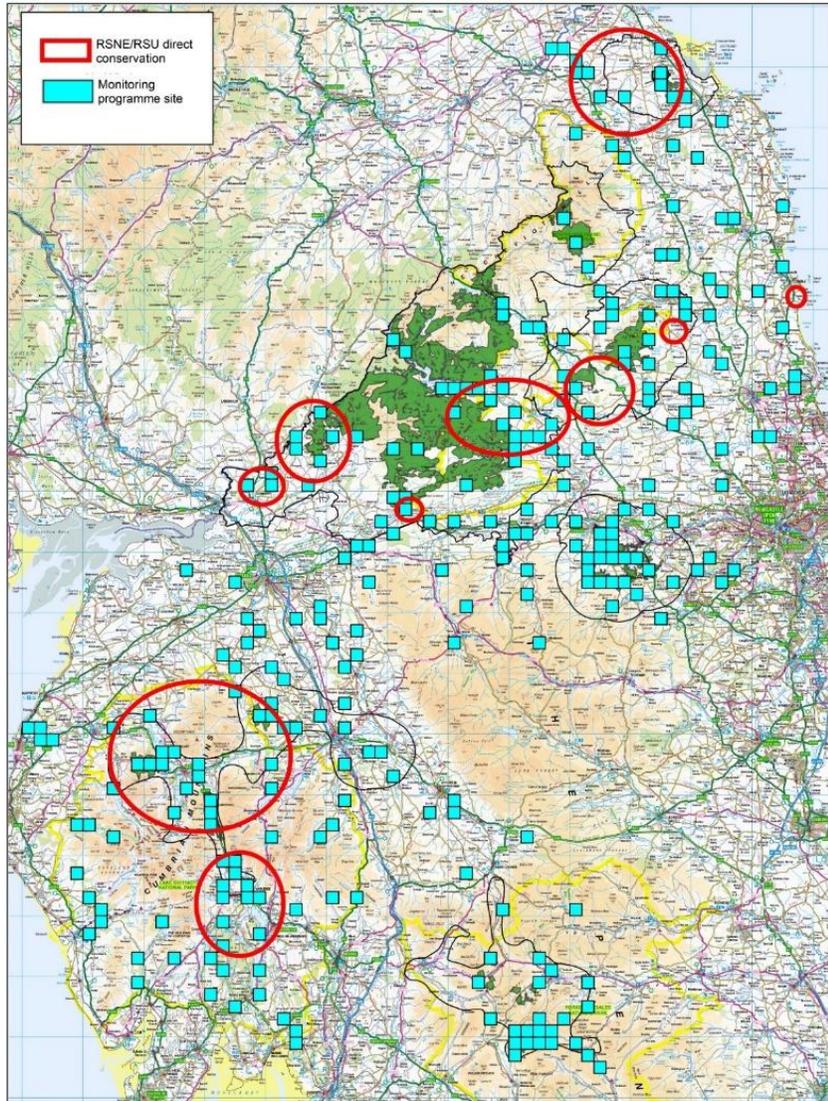


Leading networks of grey squirrel management and associated red & grey monitoring programmes

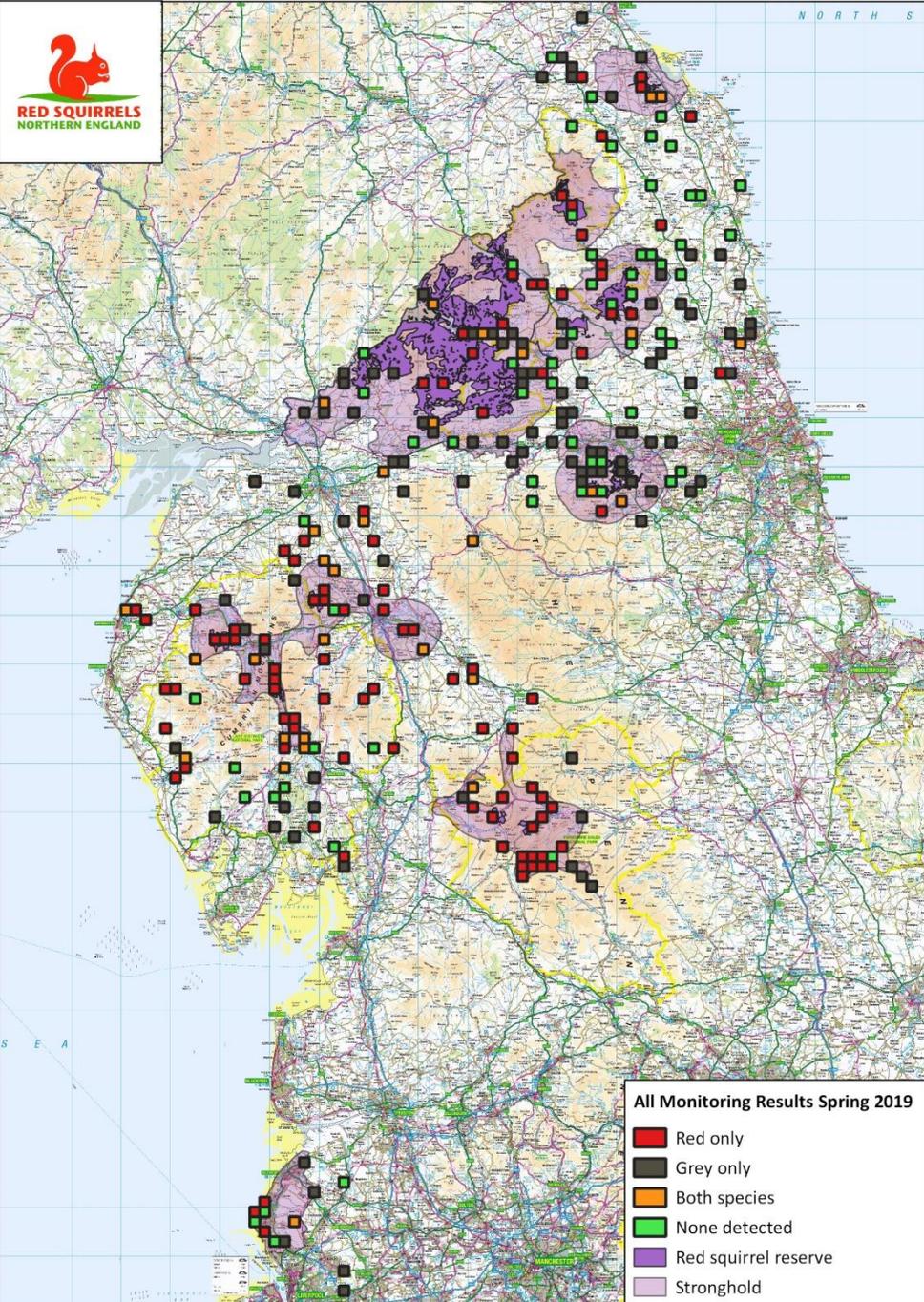
Supporting local community-led conservation

Collaborating with multiple partners to share knowledge and develop new approaches to conserving reds





2019 footprint for RSNE/RSU: Ranger/contractor patches
 Network of 30+ local groups under the banner of Northern Red Squirrels



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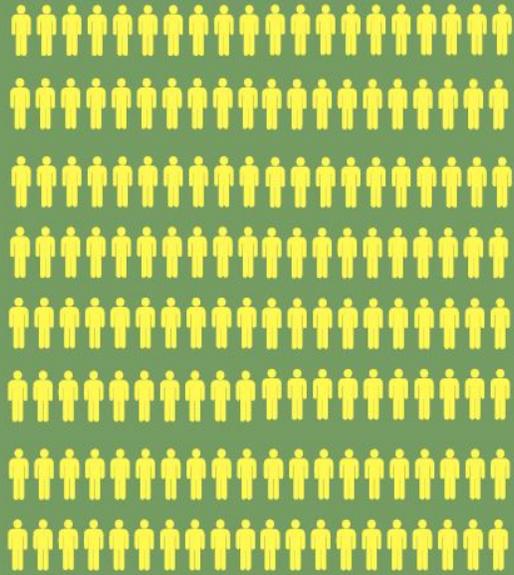
Monitoring Programme 2019



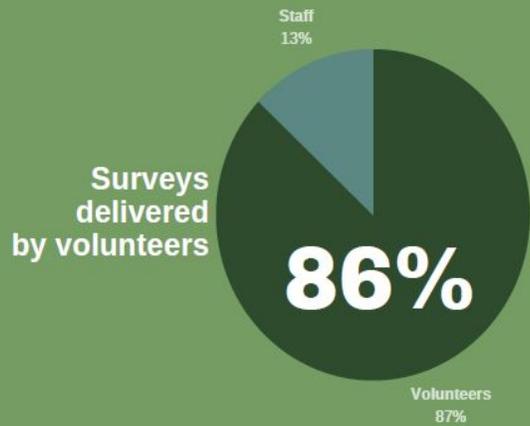
- 8th year of the programme
- Critical long term assessment
- Overall message: red squirrel range maintenance over time
- Geographical variation in results
- High red detection in Cumbria, North Yorkshire; low in Northumberland
- > 80% reds North Lakes, Yorkshire Dales
- > 70% greys in Slaley stronghold

2019 Annual Monitoring in Numbers

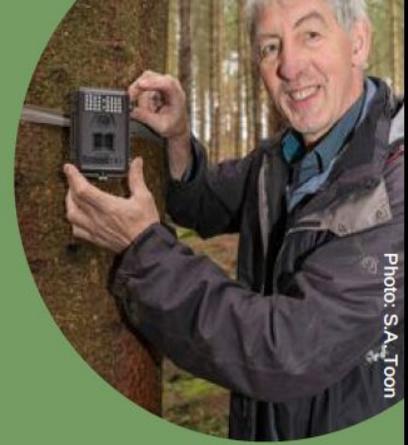
People



170 people involved



2290 woodlands & gardens surveyed since 2012



Logistics



Results



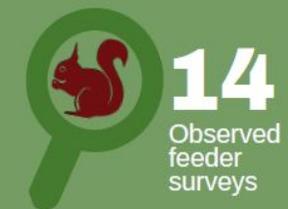
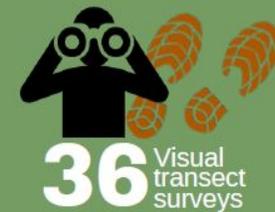
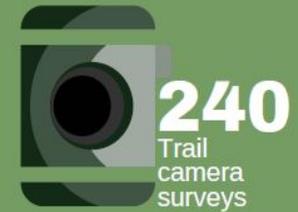
45.9%



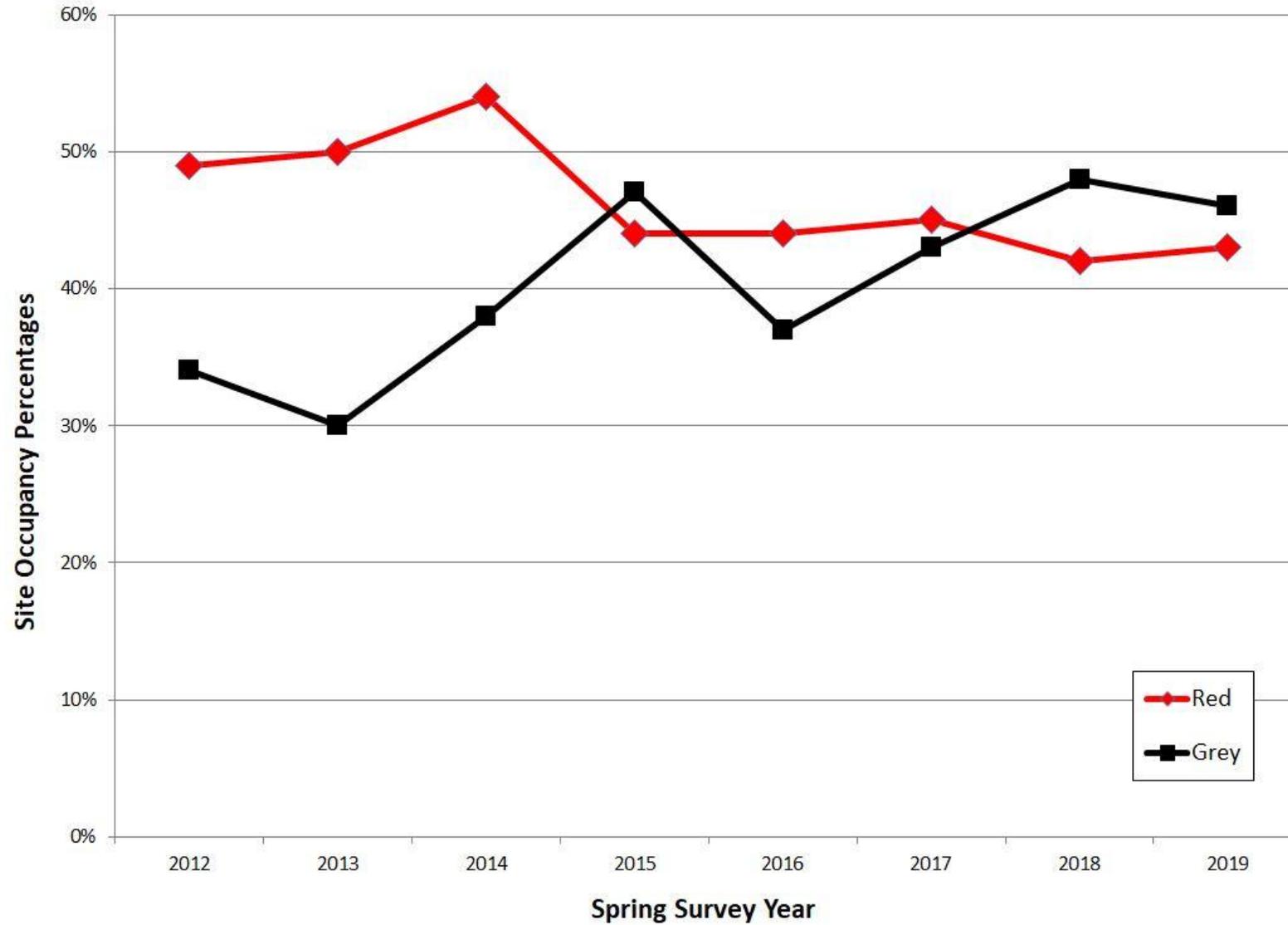
43.4%

of all sites

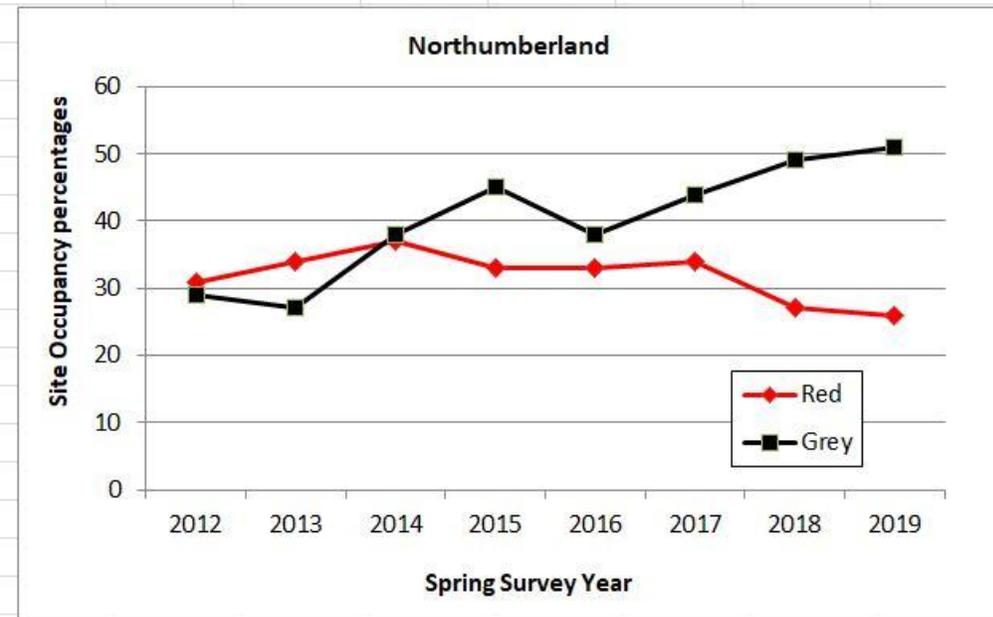
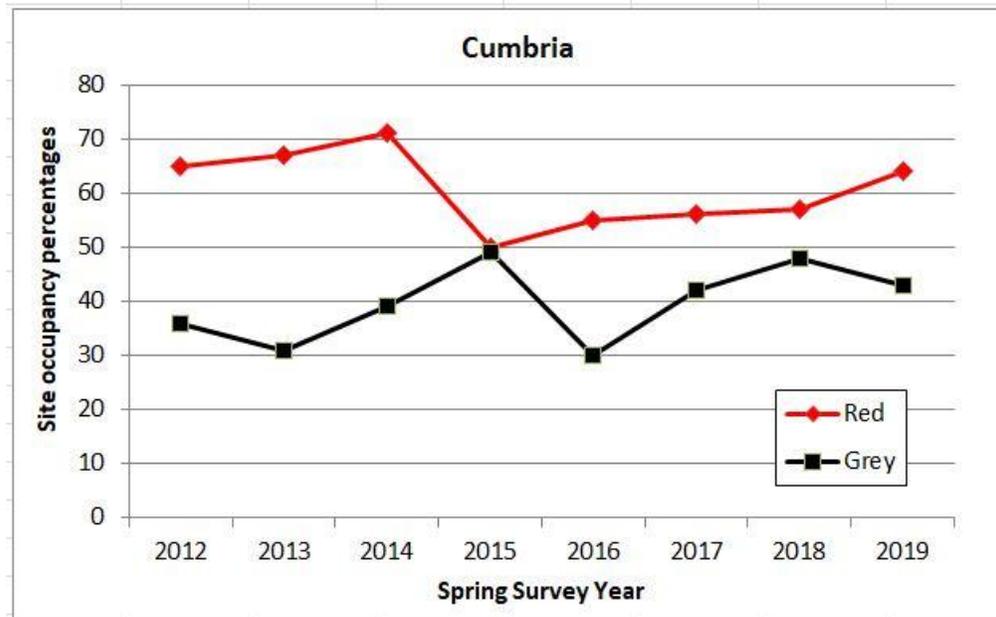
Methods



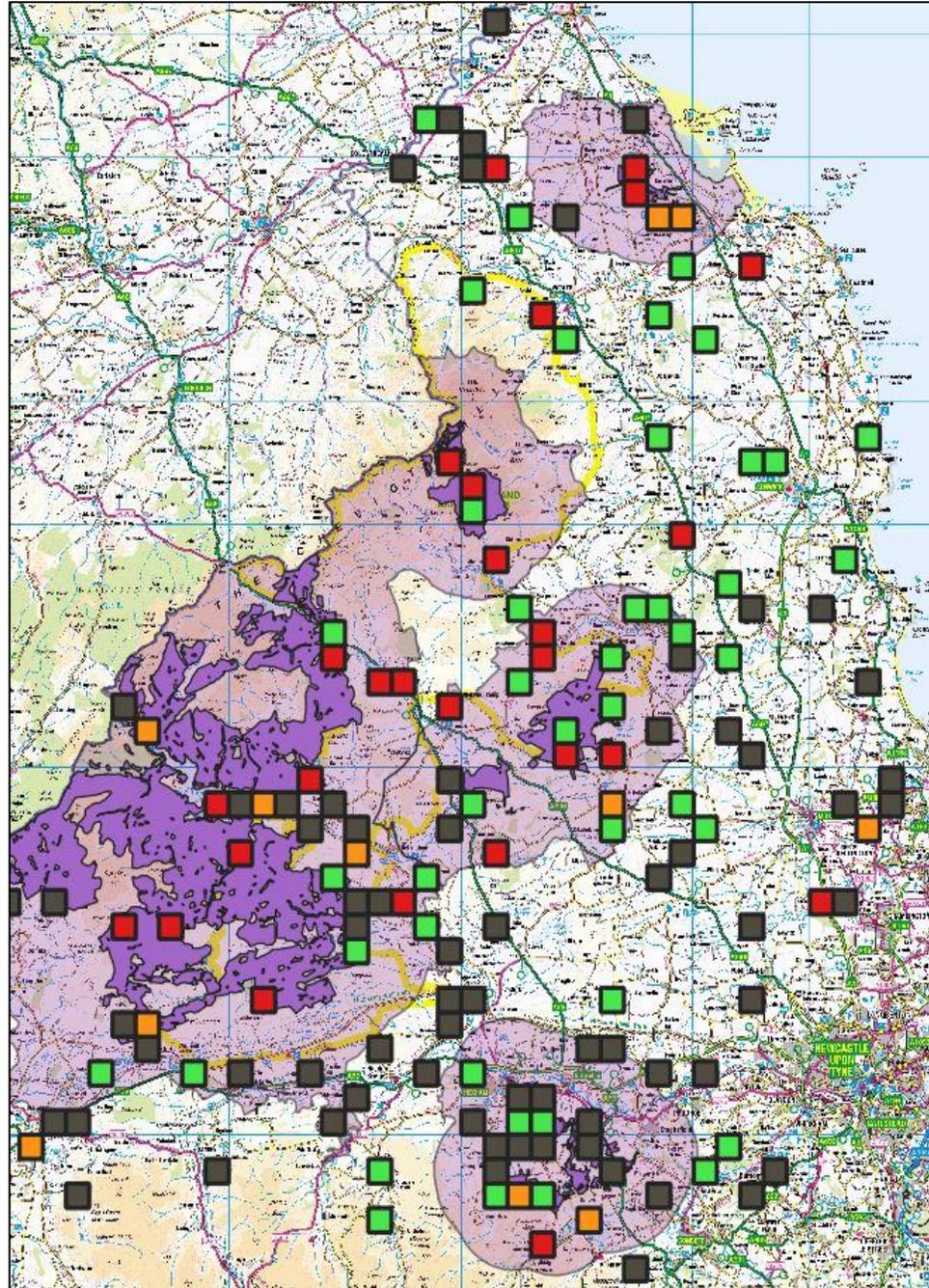
Site Occupancy Over Time (2012-2019)



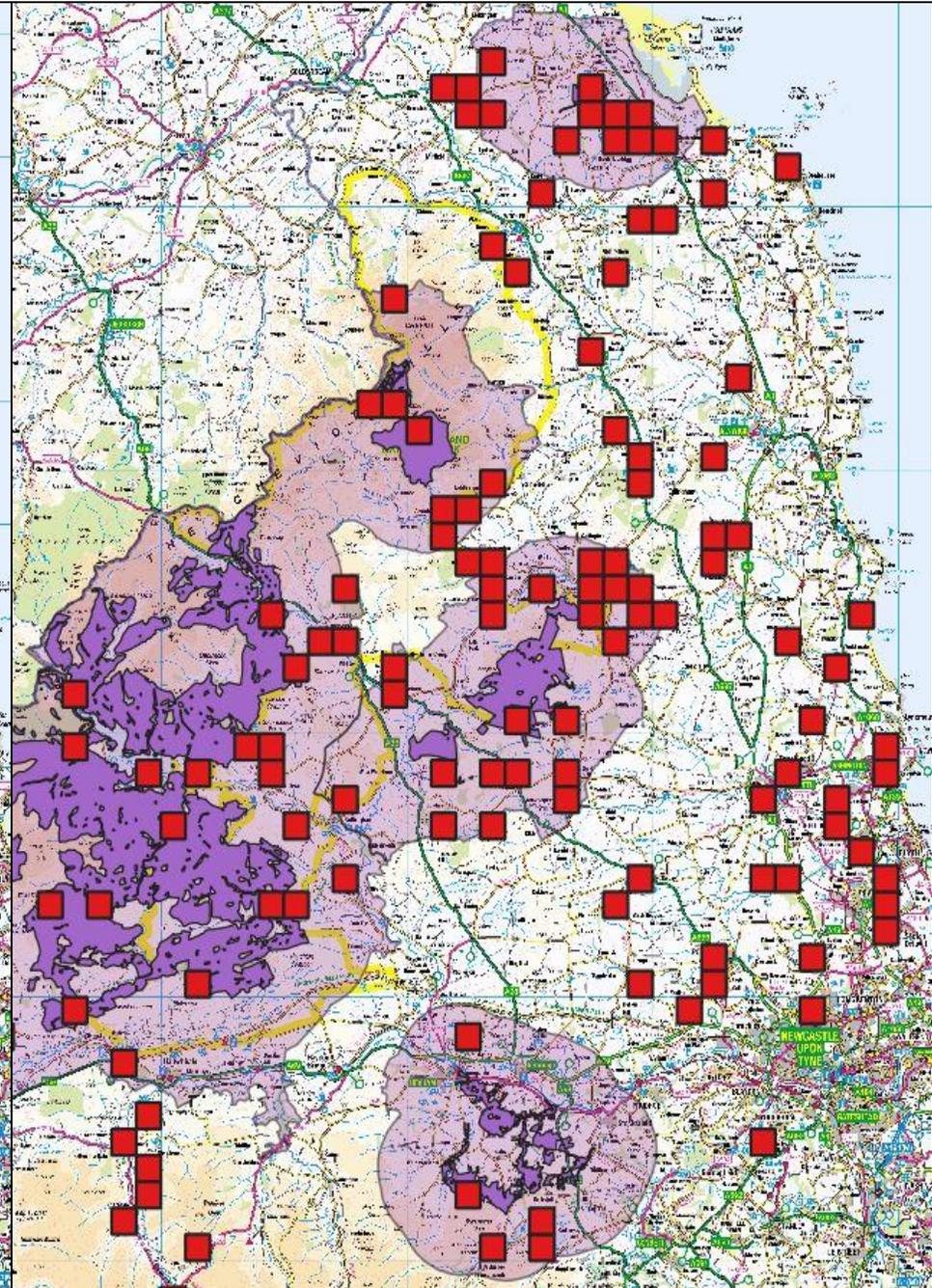
Changing fortunes: Cumbria & Northumberland



Northumberland: Spring Monitoring



Northumberland: Additional Red Records





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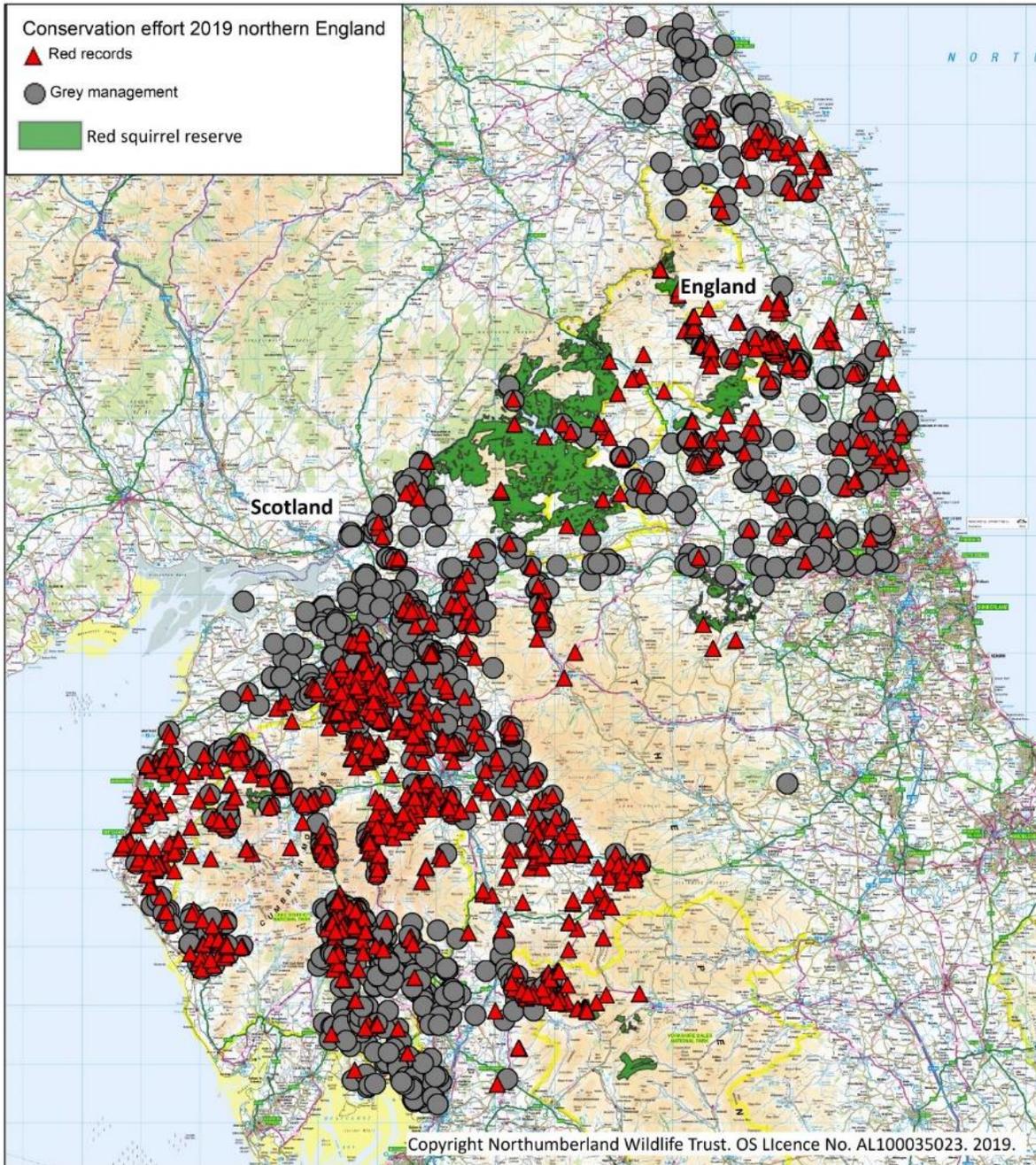


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○ 🌡️ 15°C 59°F 29/04/2019 11:05:33 0279





Conservation effort 2019

- Landscape scale effort in some areas where local community participation is strong
- Border regions remain problematic but work supports red populations close by, or in larger forests
- Heavily wooded landscapes with little coordinated control (eg Hexham)
- RSNE focus in remote areas/large forests/state woodlands where local communities not active
- Need more resources!

Red Squirrels United



Involvement with partnership project led by RSWT, including Ulster Wildlife Trust, Lancashire WT, Newcastle University, Forest Research, Red Squirrels Trust Wales

Focus for us around Kielder, the largest red squirrel reserve in England

Early warning system monitoring and grey squirrel management along key pathways

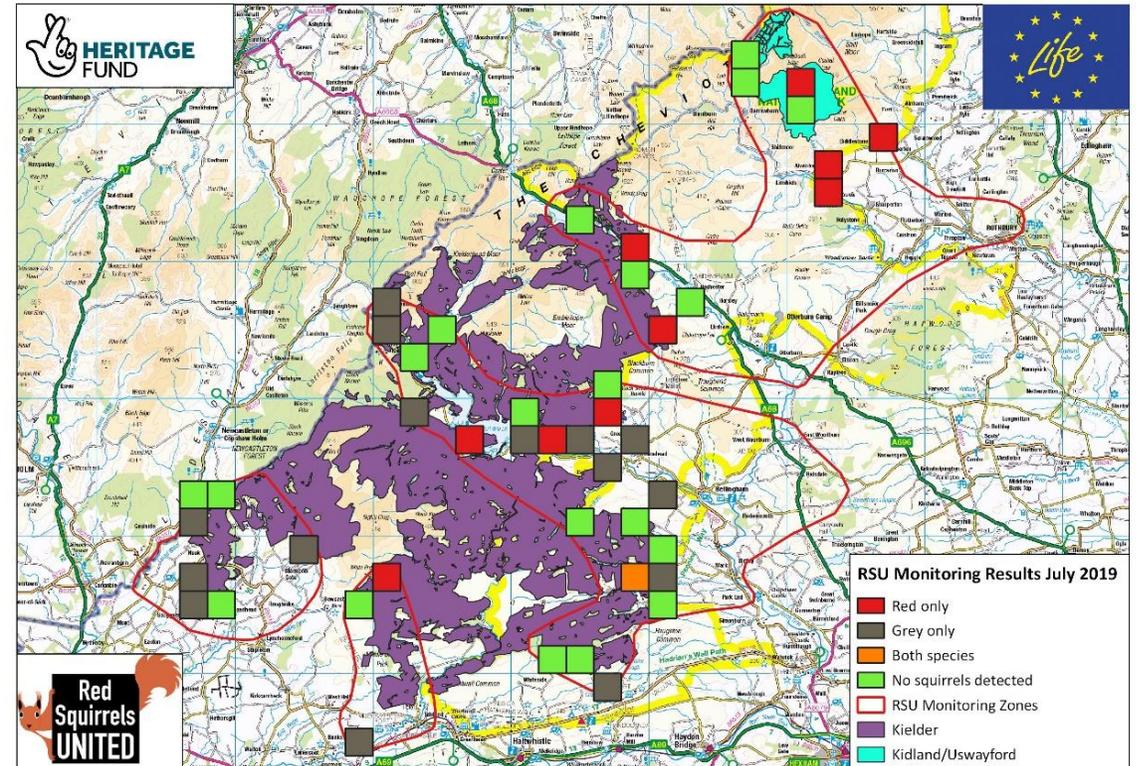
KEY LESSONS LEARNT

Kielder under greater threat than we had presumed

Difficult to protect red squirrels across vast areas of remote forests where human population densities are low

Little understanding of red populations in large, sitka dominated forests

Increased resources needed: Forestry England to lead



Documenting pine marten re-colonisation



KeepGuard

09-10-2018 09:59:35

- Detection of pine martens on trail cams during Kielder monitoring 2018
- Media frenzy around a returning predator sparking much debate amongst squirrel conservation community
- Further work in partnership with Vincent Wildlife Trust and Forestry England to monitor spread

The future in England

- September stakeholder workshop to look at creation of a red squirrel action plan for England led by UK Squirrel Accord & Defra (bringing us in line with Scotland and Wales)
- Exploring new funding streams: Heritage Fund (again)
- Building a larger project to provide more community support (direct grants, better interactive data system, training, community support staff), direct conservation (larger ranger team), pine marten monitoring/recolonization support, fertility control field trials, and a focus on getting a wider range of people involved in heritage

