**Red Squirrels United Knowledge Fair 2017**

**Northern Ireland**

**Day one: Tuesday 7th March**

09:30 Registration opens at Cultra Manor within the Ulster Folk and Transport Museum, Belfast

**10:00 Morning session: Lessons from European red squirrel conservation projects**

Chaired by Nick Mason, Northumberland Wildlife Trust

**10.00** Welcome – Jennifer Fulton, Ulster Wildlife

**10.10** RSU: a nationwide approach to red squirrel conservation – Cathleen Thomas, The Wildlife Trusts

**10.30** RSU: Northern Ireland – Conor McKinney, Ulster Wildlife

**11.10** Break with refreshments

**11.40** Saving’s Scotland’s Red Squirrels – Mel Tonkin

**12.00** European Squirrel Initiative – Andrew Kendall

**12.20** USaveReds in Italy – Valentina La Morgia

**13:00** Lunch & networking opportunity

**14:00 Afternoon session: Sharing knowledge and best practice for red squirrel conservation**

Chaired by Rachel Miller, Lancashire Wildlife Trust

**14.00** Community conservation – Julie Bailey, Northern Red Squirrels

**14.20** Public attitudes – Mariella Marzano, Forest Research

**14.40** Trapping and control techniques – Craig Shuttleworth, Red Squirrels Trust Wales

**15.00** Remote trapping technologies – Iain Evans, Newcastle University

**15.05** Data collection and citizen science – Aileen Mill, Newcastle University

**15.20** Break with refreshments

**15.50** Workshop session with Mariella Marzano and Mike Dunn, Forest Research

Round table discussion to focus on:

* Community engagement – how to raise awareness and why
* Volunteer recruitment and motivation
* Control measures – what works where
* Squirrel biology and monitoring

**17.00** End

**18:30 Drinks reception at Culloden Hotel, Belfast with posters on display**

**19:30 Evening reception at Culloden Hotel, Belfast: celebrating national red squirrel conservation**

With speaker Brian Black, former UTV environment correspondent

**Day two: Wednesday 8th March**

09:00 Board coach at hotel

09.30 Leave hotel and travel to Mourne Mountains

**11:00 Red squirrel conservation in the Mourne mountains**

* Introduction by Conor McKinney, Ulster Wildlife
* Opportunity for policy makers to meet the team in the field
* Techniques in use in the area, biosecurity and trapping
* The eradication strategy in the Mournes

A packed lunch will be provided

Return to Belfast for approximately 3pm

**Conference end**

**Maps**

Map from Culloden hotel to Cultra Manor

