

# Lyvennet Red Squirrels

Winter 2022-23



Photo: Andrew Wallis



The main news being:

- Still looking quite positive with sightings of reds far out numbering that of greys.
- Greys are more numerous though in the Morland and Kings Meaburn area.
- Road signs – have put a number up in Reagill and on Morland Bank.
- It has actually gone very quiet over the last six weeks in terms of sightings and visits to feeders



### General

X 16 Greys Despatched

Year Total (2023) = 14

Final total for 2022 = 57

Road Deaths (Reds) = 0    Year Total = 0  
2022 = 8

Other Deaths – one (2022 = 1)    Year Total 2023 = 0

Reds with S/pox despatched this year in locality = 0

## Report

If you speak to our two local P&DRSG rangers, Gary will tell you that things are looking fine and Jerry will say:

*"I've not known it like this before [large number of greys] I could go to one of twenty places tomorrow where I know they are"*

However, Jerry will also add that he is seeing a lot of reds as well, but in locations such as Crossrigg, for every grey that he despatches, another one just seems to take its place.

My usual starting point in this report would be to outline the position in the various woods that we now have access to following the end of the pheasant season - the fact that I haven't is because the situation is healthier than expected.

However, that was greatly helped by four being despatched at the rear of Flass at the end of November and beginning of December.

But as always, Three Cornered Wood is the fly in the ointment – why greys gravitate to this small wood is still beyond me, but they do.

However, at present there seems to be just the one (along with a red) and numerous visits to 'find it' have proved to be in vain ... but moving just into March and we think that the little critter has been dealt with.

Orchard Wood (further below) provided a curious case, both with horses and the seeming fickleness of reds to visit a feeder, even if that feeder has been there years.

No visits in three weeks? Just move it 100 yards and they will be there straight away!

Reds are back in 'Caravan Wood' on Morland Bank, but this wasn't ascertained until the very end of this winter period and actually came about following a sighting of greys nearby – it would seem that the caravan is now close to having been removed as well!

All gone quiet - from the last week of January and for the whole of February, the amount of activity, visits to feeders and the amount of food taken has gone very quiet indeed.

We know that the reds are there, but they are just not visiting the feeders.



If you haven't had one in your garden for some time, don't worry, they will return.

2022 was a '**Mast Year**' and the large quantity of natural food that is about is notable and it is for this reason that their visits are so sporadic and random.

To read up on what a Mast Year is:

<https://naturescalendar.woodlandtrust.org.uk/blog/2022/is-2022-a-mast-year/>

There is one photo from Orchard Wood that you will see below, one that I have not captured before and which goes some way to demonstrating the point.

At present I would very much suggest that you only put out a few (6-10) monkey nuts at a time so that food doesn't rot and go to waste.

Now, only I could bring you actual red squirrel updates from France!

This is from the occasional '**slightly further afield**' section – but first of all, I'll start a little nearer to home:

Deborah at Newbiggin (Temple Sowerby) who runs the Ladies Group and for whom I am doing a Tea Tasting in November (my 'fee' will be a whip round for P&DRSG) tells me that:

*"We used to have red squirrels regularly round here but they are much rarer although they still hang out at Acorn Bank."*

And then a little further afield, a friend up at Brampton tells me that he has despatched x18 greys in nearby woods (Ridge Wood on Lanercost Road and Hellbeck Woods very close to Gelt Woods and Railway) as part of the squirrel group up there, but they have fewer reds.

Now, just that bit slightly further afield - Red Squirrels in France?

I knew that they were common in Germany, but I'd never really given much thought about whether they were common in the land of the frog – but ...

Nigel, my best man, has lived in The Loire Valley for some 17-18yrs, he is very much into his wine and his website details all the tours, etc that he and his wife run <https://www.letastingroom.com/>

However, I was talking to him recently and mentioned red squirrels, to which he said:

*"We've got loads of them, come in the garden, love walnuts and bury things in our plants pots".*

I've told him that he needs to include 'nature' on his website and in particular, red squirrels.

So I did a bit of research and this website is quite good and no frogs:

<https://loirenature.blogspot.com/2009/01/red-squirrel-sciurus-vulgaris.html>

And

<https://wildlifeinfrance.com/mammals-france/red-squirrel-in-france>

notable is the life span that they quote which is quite a bit more than in the UK

Finally, just my usual plea to keep sightings coming in and to send me any photographs – any of reds that are not sat on feeders are especially welcomed.

**Also if you are not already a member of P&DRSG please join – they really do need more members, follow the link to the website below - thank you**

Keep up the good work.



[www.penrithredsquirrels.org.uk/](http://www.penrithredsquirrels.org.uk/)

[www.facebook.com/PDRSG01](https://www.facebook.com/PDRSG01)

Below is a chronology of **sightings of greys** over these last three months:

Also refer to the relevant section within the report for more details

**1<sup>st</sup> Dec - Flass** – feeder on The Avenue

**5<sup>th</sup> Dec - Flass – e-mail from resident** “have just seen grey squirrels chasing a red.  
It was at the gate leading towards the pheasant area but to my end.

**6+7<sup>th</sup> Dec - Flass** - \*\*X2 GREYS DESPATCHED\*\*

**9<sup>th</sup> Dec** - e-mail rec'd re **Holesfoot and also Wickerslack**

*“We have spotted a grey squirrel on site at Holesfoot. It was only one sighting here so far. I have also since heard from my groundskeeper that someone has spotted one in Wickerslack also -- Thanks -- Liv*

Both Gary and Jerry informed and I'll e-mail Nigel Jackson at Wickerslack.

And then curiously a slightly late report:

Grey seen Woodfoot Farm at approx NY 623 135.

**20<sup>th</sup> Jan (approx) – Btwn Sleagill and Newby (Old Mill Flatt)**

**26<sup>th</sup> Jan** - \*\*X4 GREYS DESPATCHED\*\* Morland

X2 at Whitbarrow Wood and x2 at Cross Rigg Hall

Cross Rigg twin wood seems to be never ending with greys at present  
as fast as Jerry despatches them a few more arrive or appear.

**27<sup>th</sup> Jan – Btwn Sleagill and Reagill** – grey seen on the hill (road)

**31<sup>st</sup> Jan – Jerusalem (Hawkrigg/Colby)** – apparently the chap who lives there is  
seeing them when he is out riding on his horses – Gary informed.

**5<sup>th</sup> Feb – MORLAND BANK (Caravan Wood)** – report to Jerry of x2 greys having  
been seen at <https://w3w.co/iteration.pelted.best>

**5<sup>th</sup> Feb - Three Cornered Wood** – grey this morning.

**6<sup>th</sup> Feb** - \*\*X1 GREY DESPATCHED\*\* – Town Wood, Morland

**7<sup>th</sup> Feb** - \*\*X6 GREYS DESPATCHED\*\* - X4 Keld Farm (Kings Meaburn) and  
X2 Whitbarrow Wood, Morland

**8<sup>th</sup> Feb** - \*\*X2 GREYS DESPATCHED\*\* - Crabstacks, Kings Meaburn

**17<sup>th</sup> Feb** - the grey in Three Cornered Wood continues to taunt us

**18<sup>th</sup> Feb** - \*\*X1 GREY DESPATCHED\*\* - Crabstacks, Kings Meaburn

## Maulds Meaburn



**Flass, Maulds Meaburn Photo: Darren Rogers**

At the beginning of the period I was having an issue with the horses at Flass that knocked X3 feeders of the tree in a four day period.  
And then whilst visits from greys to Flass had been sporadic into late November, suddenly at the start of December they became an issue.  
The visits were frequent and they were seen chasing reds away!  
Gary attended and despatched a couple, but there were still others.  
However, it did gain us permission to put a feeder up on The Avenue – which I did only for one the horses to knock both it and the camera of the tree just 3hrs later!



## Lyvennet Bank

X1 feeder looking out over the green (**GF**)

X1 feeder on a tree in the main garden next to the river (**RF**).

Feed goes constantly from both of the feeders – fairly good chance of spotting a red feeding.

At the start of the period all was well – both feeders being visited on a daily basis over the green

**17<sup>th</sup> Dec** – in spite of not having seen any squirrels in the garden or on the feeders,



the feed still goes every day – and still just the monkey nuts!

**23<sup>rd</sup> Dec** – why will they only eat the monkey nuts and nothing else?

**28<sup>th</sup> Dec** – seen up a tree on the lane opposite the house

**27<sup>th</sup> Jan** – all is good and still regular visits. Not so much feed has been taken this last week.

**End of period** – just very quiet.

The feeder 'GF' is rarely been visited at present, but the feeder 'RF' is being visited, but not excessively.



# Flass



Feed goes constantly from the four feeders - all being very popular.

See my notes at the start of the 'Maulds Meaburn' section re the start of the period and the issues with greys.

The four feeders are:

**Garden** - on a yew tree to the left of the swimming pool – not viewable to public.

**Pump House** - on a tree, just on the high ground immediately next to the building  
Go through the tunnel into the field and immediately look right  
Currently 'retired' after one of the horses knocked it off the tree!

**Folly** – up at the folly and not viewable to the public

**The Tunnel** – previously called 'The Avenue'  
on the tree immediately through the tunnel on the left hand side

At the beginning of the period a grey(s?) were making occasional visits to the feeders, but this became 2/3 and chasing reds off.

## DECEMBER

1<sup>st</sup> - **GREY** at The Avenue feeder this afternoon

Reds are prominent though

5<sup>th</sup> – e-mail from Jodie at Flass:

*"I have just seen grey squirrels chasing a red at Flass. It was at the gate leading towards the pheasant area but to my end.*

*If we could get the ranger out asap I give my permission to pass the gate"*

'The Gate' – is the start of The Avenue which leads down to Orchard Wood, both of which we do not have access to.

I then saw Jodie and she also said that we could put a feeder up down The Avenue – I did but then one of the horses knocked it off.

I may wait awhile before trying again!

6<sup>th</sup> – **\*\*X1 GREY DESPATCHED\*\***

7<sup>th</sup> – **\*\*X1 GREY DESPATCHED\*\***

8<sup>th</sup> – **The Avenue Feeder** – because this was knocked of the tree twice by the horse it has been re-positioned to the other side of the tree and so far, so good.

Reds at various times today – no greys.



Reds up at The Folly at various times as well

Have found a new location on The Avenue to put a feeder.

## At the folly



11<sup>th</sup> – reds seem happy on the re-positioned feeder and the horses haven't knocked it off the tree (yet?) -- and no greys



14<sup>th</sup> – horse has had the feeder off again!

It can't half reach up high and I'm going to need step ladders to get it high enough so as the horse can't reach it – which doesn't really work.

I quite like this photo below:



**From this point on the feeder 'The Avenue' is called 'The Tunnel' – due to the fact that there is now a feeder on The Avenue itself (see Orchard Wood and The Avenue)**

**17<sup>th</sup>** – have put a feeder back up at 'The Tunnel' (and also on 'The Avenue') – this one at the Tunnel is nearly in its original position, before the horse knocked it off and is viewable from the gate in the tunnel.

When the horse had knocked it off the last time, the reds were still visiting, but alas there was nothing for them.

**23<sup>rd</sup>** – The Tunnel feeder is now getting regular visits

**26<sup>th</sup>** – all good

## **JANUARY**

**2<sup>nd</sup>** – all good at present with no greys.

**5<sup>th</sup>** – position remains the same

**27<sup>th</sup>** – all good. Reds on a daily basis and no greys



## FEBRUARY

3<sup>rd</sup> – all good at present, feed going regularly, although it is that bit quieter at the moment.

Moved the camera from The Folly to go to Orchard Wood, but got a decent photo from the last few days:



4<sup>th</sup> – all good, but still quiet with the amount of food being taken.

14<sup>th</sup> – the tunnel feeder – topped up this a.m. did a few more feeders and when I came back heard the distinct sound of the feeder door shutting and off up into the tree was a red with its monkey nut – it did at least stop and wave to me.

**Now this is of concern** – saw Dave today at Flass and he told me of some photos that he had taken of a red about 4-5 weeks ago at the back of Flass and he mentioned that it looked a little poorly.

He was able to get within 2 metres of it, but it did then climb the tree and go - photo below:



I'm not 100% sure if it is S/pox, but there is some weeping in the eye and its face looks 'messy'.

However, whilst things are generally quiet at present on the feeders, in this time I've not seen anything with the reds to give me concern, although nothing as yet visited the feeder in Orchard Wood since the end of the pheasant season.

Needless to say I have sent the photos to Gary and Jerry for the opinion/info'.

Reply from Jerry:

*"Eyes don't look too bad and can't really see its digits or mouth. Ears look ok.  
Hard to tell really"*

I think the most important thing is that I've not seen anything on the cameras to concern me.

The wildlife cameras are not just there to see if greys are present, we also look at 100's of photos of reds to monitor their health.





**End of period** – all is fine, just quiet with not a lot of feed going.

Key to map below:

F – Flax 1 – The Avenue 2 – Orchard Wood 3 – Three Cornered Wood  
H – Hulls Wood L – Longhill Wood (LX – Where the feeders are) 4 – Ewe Close



## Orchard Wood and The Avenue

Due to the pheasant season the wood had been out of bounds until the 1<sup>st</sup> Feb

**Also see Flass 5/6/7<sup>th</sup> December**

**17<sup>th</sup> Dec** – after a failed attempt at putting a feeder up on The Avenue (one of the horses clean knocked it and the camera off the tree!), today I have put another feeder up – half way down on the R/hand side and obviously that bit higher up.

**18<sup>th</sup> Dec** – birds have found the new feeder, but the squirrels haven't

**23<sup>rd</sup>** – due to work I hadn't been here since the 18<sup>th</sup> and when I got to 'The Avenue' the feeder looked as though it hadn't been touched ... but:

Once I viewed the camera there has been a red making fairly frequent visits and curiously eating the seeds/nuts and not the monkey nuts.

At least there hasn't been a grey, but I am confused as at all the other feeders they only seem to take the monkey nuts.

**26<sup>th</sup> Dec** – reds have definitely found the new feeder on 'The Avenue' and feed going well from the all.

I'm also getting used to climbing trees to top the feeders up



Middle of January – still good. Regular visits and no greys



I've included this photo because I like the sky scene and the light in it

**27<sup>th</sup> Jan** – all good. Reds visiting 'The Avenue' every day and ... no greys.  
That's nearly two months now with none

## **FEBRUARY**

**3<sup>rd</sup>** – today I filled up the feeder in Orchard Wood and placed a camera on it  
Removed the camera from the feeder on 'The Avenue'

Let's see what's in the wood ...!

**4-6<sup>th</sup>** – well it's not happened yet!

**11<sup>th</sup>** – and it still hasn't happened. However, food is going from all the other adjacent feeders.

**13<sup>th</sup>** – food going from the feeder on 'The Avenue' but still nothing in the wood

**16<sup>th</sup>** – feed gone on 'The Avenue' but still absolutely nothing on Orchard Wood

**23<sup>rd</sup>** – still absolutely nothing ... until this morning!

Found the metal gate into the wood open, a horse in the wood and ... below.

The feeder is now empty, fortunately not broken and (just) still on the tree – I think I may take the opportunity to move it.

And so on the 24<sup>th</sup> I moved it, about 200 yards away to the south nearer to Three Cornered Wood. I did this just before 11 a.m.





I give in!

I know nothing!

3 flaming weeks at the other site, not even a dickie bird before the horse came along and then when I move the feeder to here ... 2 hrs ... and ... bingo.

To my defence, the other ('old') site has served us well for a few years and this 'new' site was going to be the location for 'feeder 2'

That red is quoted as saying:

***“I’ll just take this rather juicy cone back home with me for lunch ... hangabouts, who’s put this feeder here? Are they Monkey nuts? Don’t mind if I do.”***

That photo with the cone was the first photo – needless to say there are no more photos of it with a cone and when I went back at 5 p.m. the feeder was empty.

But come here ... closer ... and there’s more ....?



Two of them!      Where have they been?      What have they been doing!





**26<sup>th</sup>** – so just before 1130h I was walking through the wood en-route to losing another hour of my life in the vain and mistaken hope that I may get that grey in Three Cornered Wood and there before me, at the end of the wood, by the gate, scampering about on the ground ... two white tailed red squirrels.

Checked the feeder ... empty.

Topped it up and when I returned a hour later most of that had gone and saw one of the reds up a tree rubbing his now rather large and full belly – at least it made it up for the lack of success in Three Cornered Wood



**End of Period** – well the re-positioned feeder is proving to be very popular and the pair of reds are making regular and lengthy visits and unlike at other feeders, all the food is going.

## Three Cornered Wood



**In many ways this photo sums up the position in this wood – photo from 2022**

However, due to the pheasant season the wood was out of bounds until the 1<sup>st</sup> February.

Callum had told me that he had seen x2 greys in here some time back – this is the wood that just seems to attract greys, more so than the others hereabouts.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Feb** – visited and filled up the feeder and placed a camera on it.

Let's see what happens, but this wood just looks dead.

**4<sup>th</sup> Feb** – crows have found the feeder and I think are even getting into it, but no Squirrels.

So I went with the intention of having an hour here before sunset , but after 15 mins Gillian turned up to cut up some fallen branches in the field and so I called it a day and then broke a promise – see Longhill Wood.

It was a slightly chilly, overcast day and maybe one when the squirrels stayed at home, but I just get the impression that I might be waiting a while to see one here. Surely not and hopefully I'm wrong.

**5<sup>th</sup> Feb** – as sure as eggs are eggs ... I was wrong!

And with a RED sat on the feeder at 0810h this morning my heart rose, only to be cruelly shattered with the photo below – strange though that there is just the two photos of the grey and it hasn't yet been on the feeder.

The red made several visit during the day.



Apart from a lot of greys having been despatched in this wood over the last year, not a lot as changed in that time!

I'm sure that you prefer this though:



**6<sup>th</sup>** – it is a red that is the main visitor, but there is a grey about. Had some time here late afternoon but nothing showed

**11<sup>th</sup>** – all this week there has only been a red visiting the feeder, then this morning a grey has been there from sunrise up to 0955h!

**13<sup>th</sup>** – grey(s?) have been prominent, although the red makes occasional visits. Grey had been there from sunrise to 09h, I then topped up and in the next 2hrs it returned – but did it show when I returned at 1055-1215h?

Of course not!

Did see two squirrels in the tree tops towards the back of the wood, but they were too far away to see if red or grey.

Well, decided to try a trap tonight – went down well after dark and heard a few things go *'bump in the night'*, but the trap is set.

Placed a rock on the feeder so that nothing can get in, which will annoy the grey in the morning when it turns up.

Will be down early tomorrow (just in case a red ....)

**14<sup>th</sup>** – frustration all round



Grey can't get into the feeder so it's frustrated and even though it has had a look downwards towards the trap, it hasn't gone and had a look – so I'm frustrated. Left things as they are and will pop down again later this morning.

Nothing at midday

Back at 4.45 p.m. and nothing turned up and nothing has been there since the grey this morning.

Re-set the trap.

**15<sup>th</sup>** – I've removed the trap!

Nothing in it again and the grey has been back this morning – I don't want to 'move it on' and now it is down to being there at the right time to shoot it.

When I was there this morning I did see a squirrel in the upper part of a tree further back, sure it was a grey, but then 2mins later saw a red.

This red went across the tree-tops, onto a tree out in the field and over to the hedge row behind. It then made its way along the hedge row towards Orchard Wood.

Had another hour here tonight – it didn't show up.

**16<sup>th</sup>** – grey there virtually all morning and it quite simply took all the food.

Red turned up this afternoon, but there was nothing left for it.

**17<sup>th</sup>** – grey continues to taunt us – Gary was here this morning, saw it, but was unable to get a shot at it.

Hopes to return tomorrow

**18<sup>th</sup>** – Gary back this morning and the grey wasn't seen – but on checking the camera it spent some time here a.m.

**19<sup>th</sup>** – only a red so far this morning, but the feeder was close to empty

**24<sup>th</sup>** – update – still predominantly the grey, but the red is making appearances.

Have spent a few hours in total here, various times and ... nothing.

Totally frustrating.

**25<sup>th</sup>** – had a hour this morning from 0740h. Turns out the grey had been here for a short while about 30 mins earlier!

A pair of woodpeckers were 'drumming' nearby – one was on hard wood and it made a racket and the other was on softer wood – I bet the former will get the lady woodpecker! Not that I know anything.

After 30 mins a red showed up, even went on the tree with the feeder on it and then bugged off. I get the feeling no-one likes me!!!

**26<sup>th</sup>** – had a hour here from 1130h – nothing.

From the camera though, the red was here this morning at the same time as I was here yesterday and not here as the same time as yesterday when I've turned up at that time today!

**End of period:** position remains the same with both a red and a grey visiting.

Of the 1000's of photos that I have looked at I have only ever seen a single red and a single grey at the same time.



## Longhill Wood

This wood is the main one used for pheasant rearing – there is a ravine that runs through it with the main pheasant pens on the hill to one side. The X2 feeders are on the other side of this ravine, about 125 yards apart. The original feeder (F1) is lower down the second feeder (F2) is further into the wood.



However, due to the pheasant season the wood was out of bounds until the 1<sup>st</sup> February.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Feb** – I'm going to hang back a day or so until I have an idea what is about in Orchard Wood and Three Cornered Wood and then move up here.

However, I said that last year!

**4<sup>th</sup> Feb** – so, yes, my intentions very quickly went to pot, but I have an excuse. I had been in Three Cornered Wood at tea-time to see what moved there, but after just 15 mins Gillian turned up to cut up some fallen branches in the field!

What to do?

Popped up here and filled the feeders up – just haven't got a camera with me.

**5<sup>th</sup> Feb** – shame that I didn't have a camera with me last night – both feeders empty this afternoon!

There's a camera there now

**6<sup>th</sup> Feb** - pleasantly surprised ... a red was there this afternoon and no greys.

**11<sup>th</sup> Feb** – what a pain! When I got there this morning the feed is gone from both feeders, but someone has opened the camera, switched it off and then left it open!

Why would you do that?

However, spoke to the farmer who has sheep in the adjacent fields, who said that he hasn't seen any greys and that he does see reds in Hulls Wood.

I don't have a feeder a Hulls Wood, but will have a look around

**13<sup>th</sup>** – well good news, one small and quite dark RED is the only thing to have been to the feeder





The white thing on the floor behind the tree is a pheasant feeder – sheep are getting into the wood and they like the contents of the feeder, problem is the contents are very dangerous for the sheep.

In the next few months the backdrop to this photo will change beyond recognition.

**15<sup>th</sup>** - would appear to be the same red each time, but it is making daily visits

**17<sup>th</sup>** - Gary here today, just saw the one red.

**18<sup>th</sup>** - Gary back here today and saw **three** reds.

**22<sup>nd</sup>** – GREY – on the feeder from 1154 – 1337Hrs and it was big  
However, up to the 25<sup>th</sup> it hasn't been back.



I'll leave you to work out what the next one is ...!



**End of period:** the grey hasn't been seen since and the feed is still going

## Edge Close - Wood above Flass Pasture NY 632 146



Due to the pheasant season the wood was out of bounds until the 1<sup>st</sup> February

**3<sup>rd</sup> Feb** – I'm going to hang back a day or so until I have an idea what is about in Orchard Wood and Three Cornered Wood and then move up here. However, I said that last year!

**4<sup>th</sup> Feb** - topped the feeder up

See Longhill Wood (4<sup>th</sup> Feb) for why

**6<sup>th</sup> Feb** - some of the food has now gone – camera put up.

**11<sup>th</sup> Feb** - they may not be taking a lot of food, but only red(s)

**15<sup>th</sup> Feb** - after missing a couple of days the red was back today.

**25<sup>th</sup> Feb** – a small red is visiting most days, but not for long and it isn't taking much Feed.

**End of period:** position remains the same





## GREEN ENDS + THWAITES COTTAGES

### **December**

25<sup>th</sup> – I've got flu but I did catch a brief shot of a red whisking up our tree on Christmas Day.

Not a good photo so not worth publishing but thought I'd send it anyway -- Pennie ED: but I have used it anyway and it looks fine to me





## Trainlands Wood and Holesfoot

This is the wood at the point where 'Little Beck' rises.

From MM – when you go past the entrance to Holesfoot and go down into the dip, the wood is on the left.

Feeder is on the R/hand side of beck, 50 yards in.

I top the feeder up every 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> day and the food is always gone – mice are a bit of an issue.

**Holesfoot** – the large country house on the opposite side of the road

## **December**

9<sup>th</sup> – e-mail from Liv at Holesfoot re a GREY

“We have spotted a grey squirrel on site at Holesfoot - it was only one sighting here so far.”

Gary informed – and we were only up here a few days ago as well!

10<sup>th</sup> – Liv (Holesfoot)

*“Our reds are good!*

*There was a period where we weren't feeding them as regularly recently as James parents moved off site who were the feeding and the routine got affected but we're back to it now and we still see them every day luckily!*

*Thanks again for being so on it!*

Gary did attend today and only saw reds

And across the road ... reds



And what else can I see?



End of the period – the position remains the same



## **Colby/Hawkrigg**

**31<sup>st</sup> JAN – Jerusalem** (Hawkrigg/Colby) – apparently the chap who lives there is seeing them when he is out riding on his horses – Gary informed.

Gary attended and the chap stated that he saw the grey running through and that it kept on running and hasn't been seen since.

## **MEABURN EDGE**

**No Reports**

## **Other sightings from the village:**

**No Reports**

## **Morland Bank Wood**

**5<sup>th</sup> FEB – MORLAND BANK** (Caravan Wood) – report to Jerry of x2 greys having been seen at <https://w3w.co/iteration.pelted.best>

He will visit tomorrow, top up the feeder\* and speak with the land owner.

\* I filled it up tonight and scattered some corn

**6<sup>th</sup> FEB** – Jerry has seen the landowner and he is fine with him going in the wood.

He added – *“Have been over (seen you have filled the feeder) and had a ratch about but didn't see any, definitely squirrels in there going by the fresh stripped spruce cones - Will let you know how I come on.”*

**24<sup>th</sup> FEB** – popped in today and there is something in there as the feed is going – have informed Jerry

Put a pair of **'Drive slowly'** signs up – one in the wood itself as going towards Morland (on the straight a bit before the bends) and the other from the other direction before you get to the incline into the wood



**27<sup>th</sup> FEB** - feed has gone again. Need to know if red or grey, but the owner wasn't happy when we put a camera in last year, so won't ask.

**28<sup>th</sup> FEB** – **REDS** - a pair seen by Jerry - these only seem to eat monkey nuts as well

## Crosby Ravensworth



Well Head, Crosby Ravensworth – Photo Andrew Wallis

## Well Head + Anna Well

**27<sup>th</sup> Jan** – as been a few weeks now without any reds.

## Crosby Ravensworth South – Gilt

**27<sup>th</sup> Jan** – visited today and the feeder was empty (maybe someone cleaned it for me?) – anyway, topped up.

**13<sup>th</sup> Feb** – feed hasn't been taken

**26<sup>th</sup> Feb** – feed still there. Gone a little mouldy so cleaned and new put in.

## Summer House

**27<sup>th</sup> Jan** - visited today and the feeder was empty (maybe someone cleaned it for me?) – anyway, topped up.

**13<sup>th</sup> Feb** - feed has gone – topped up.

**26<sup>th</sup> Feb** – feed has gone – topped up

## The Bank Coppice (by River)

**27<sup>th</sup> Jan** - visited today and the feeder was empty (maybe someone cleaned it for me?) – anyway, topped up.

**16<sup>th</sup> Feb** - feed has gone – topped up.

**26<sup>th</sup> Feb** – feed has gone – topped up.

## Other Sightings:-

### **DECEMBER**

9<sup>th</sup> – **GREY** - Hello, picked up this pic of a grey squirrel just about **Woodfoot farm** at approx NY 623 135.



### **JANUARY + FEBRUARY**

**No Reports**

## WICKERSLACK

9<sup>th</sup> Dec – e-mail from Liv at Holesfoot:

“... I have also since heard from my groundskeeper that someone has spotted one in Wickerslack also.”

Jerry informed and I contacted Nigel Jackson who was unaware and hadn't seen it himself.



## Hopper Hill / Wood

**X1 feeders here – on the opposite side of the river to the footpath along the river, but quite visible.**

**1.) Feeder on a lone tree standing just outside the copse on the bend of the river**

There used to be X2 feeders, but over the summer visits stopped and have not yet resumed from our friends

**27<sup>th</sup> Jan** – still the old feed there

**6<sup>th</sup> Feb** – feed has now gone! Topped up.

**16<sup>th</sup> Feb** - feed still there

## Kings Meaburn / Littlebeck + Sleagill + Newby

**20<sup>th</sup> Jan** (approx) – **GREY** - at Old Mill Flatt (Btwn Sleagill and Newby)

**28<sup>th</sup> Jan** - report of **grey** at Kings Meaburn

**7<sup>th</sup> Feb** - **\*\*X4 GREYS** despatched at Keld farm\*\*

**8<sup>th</sup> Feb** - **\*\*X2 GREYS** despatched at Crabstacks, Kings Meaburn\*\*

**18<sup>th</sup> Feb** - **\*\*X1 GREY DESPATCHED\*\*** - Crabstacks, Kings Meaburn

Another grey was seen as well

## Oddendale + CastleHowe Scar

**7<sup>th</sup> Dec** – sad way to start the winter, e-mail from Jerry:

*“Gary got a call from Liz today and I had an email re a dead red in one of the feeders at Oddendale.*

*I have been up and removed said dead red looks like it curled up in feeder and never woke up?*

*No marks signs of trauma and no signs of pox so?”*

And Liz tells me:

*“Hi Darren -- Thanks for that.... it was the last feeder I went to, I didn't notice before as I was watching out for the cattle.*

*There was just a tail hanging out. I'd never anticipated something like that happening.....*

*I can't see anything on camera either, it was too far away to see anything like the tip of a tail.*

*The temperature there the night before was -10, though because there was so much food left in the box, I think it happened over the weekend (I last filled them on Saturday morning).*

*My big worry was that it was the dreaded pox, so at least it doesn't appear to have been that.*

*One of the cameras has packed up. I've ordered another, waiting for it to arrive.*

*Liz Still no greys”*

**9<sup>th</sup> Dec** – e-mail from Janet at Castle Court (next to Castlehowe Scar):

*“We were forwarded your newsletter below by our neighbour, Alex Barbour. We have seen Gary's notices round and about on our walks in the Crosby Ravensworth/Maulds Meaburn area, and are always on the look out for red squirrels.*

*This is to report that my husband, Tony, saw a red early on Wednesday morning in our garden.*

*We shall keep a watch out for it (and any others which might head our way).*

*We quite often see several up at the conifer copse that runs along the road to Oddendale, but as there are feeders there we guessed you have a pretty good idea of how many there are in that location, so haven't reported in sightings.*

*We are now feeling inspired to join the P&DRSG!” Janet Furlong*

## Reagill

**The feeders that I have are:**

**Pithills Plantation (PH) – X2** – regular visits by at least two reds

**Wyegill Plantation (WP) – X1** – very regular visits from at least two reds.

**There are other feeders in resident's gardens**

**Start of the period**

All was positive with reds abundant and making regular visits to the feeders that I have out and there were no on-going reports of greys.

Additionally the reds here seem to eat everything that is put out for them and don't just eat the monkey nuts

I removed the camera from WP at the beginning of the period.

**8<sup>th</sup> Dec – DUNKIRK** – in relation to Autumn's report and my observation that in most locations the only food being taken is monkey nuts – but no-one had told the '**Reagill Reds**' that, who eat everything.

*"Hi Darren, interesting report.*

*I was going to say our reds eat much more than just monkey nuts - but saw your Reagill Reds caveat, yes they do eat everything!*

*We have one or two visiting most days, not as much as usual at this time of year but with other food sources in the village, that explains why, didn't know that you've been around and feeding. All good for the reds.*

*No sign of any greys or sick reds in our garden, so fingers crossed it stays that way.*

*Thank you -- Jackie"*

**19<sup>th</sup> Dec** – I've had a camera in **PH** since the 15<sup>th</sup> and it remains reds all the way.

Usually one on each feeder at the same time and a few photo's with x3

However, because it is so dark in there the photos are not the best

**24<sup>th</sup> Dec** – there at 2330h topping the feeders up on my way home from work – it's quite good for the soul!



## JANUARY

27<sup>th</sup> – position remains the same ... all good  
Visits are daily and regular and no greys

**Beech Tree Farm** – not had any reds in the garden for a while

**GREY** – seen on the hill (of the road) between the village and Sleagill

## FEBRUARY

1<sup>st</sup> – position still remains the same though  
in the two plantations.

5<sup>th</sup> – two cute(ish) photos for you below.

When I got here late tonight, I thought  
'what's that?'

A mouse – sat in the feeder, quite happy and  
not keen on being evicted.







**Bet you like this one**

**23<sup>rd</sup>** – all still fine  
Had to remove one of  
the feeders out of PH  
as it has finally  
broken.



New *'Drive slowly'* signs put up on the approach to the village from Shap.



And at the end of the period all remains good

## Morland

There are a good number of woods hereabouts, they are, with an overview from Jerry:

**Cross Rigg Hall** - See three reds in the grounds.

**Town Wood** - regularly see 6-8 reds

**Whittbarrow Wood** - Have seen three reds at one time at feeder

**Hagg Wood** - Two reds at feeder

**Crow Wood** and **Arthur's Wood** - reds are regular visitors to feeders.

**5<sup>th</sup> Dec** - **\*\*GREY DESPACHED\*\*** - grounds of Cross Rigg Hall

**29<sup>th</sup> Jan** – update from Jerry (with X4 GREYS DESPACHED):

“Yeah few greys about. Constant at Cross Rigg and now reports Kings Meaburn, loads to do and check out but not enough daylight hours

Despached two at Whittbarrow wood on Thursday and two at Cross Rigg Hall (the big house).

Cross Rigg twin wood seems to be never ending at the moment - as fast as I shoot a few, a few more arrive or appear.

Plus side still good numbers of reds in there.

And touch wood all seem ok





6<sup>th</sup> Feb – x1 grey despatched in Town Wood – plenty of reds, but still a few greys to go.

7<sup>th</sup> Feb – x2 greys despatched in Whitbarrow Wood.

Where are all these woods hereabouts that Jerry is currently dealing with?



1 = Whitbarrow Wood

2 = Cross Rigg (Main House)

3 = Crow Wood

4 = Arthur's Wood

5 = Town Wood

6 = Strawberry Wood

**Darren Rogers 8<sup>th</sup> March 2023**