

# Lyvennet Red Squirrels

Autumn 2023



Mains Wood, Maulds Meaburn -- Credit: Arthur Clegg



The main news being:

- Greys are turning up in various locations, but are generally being quickly dealt with.
- Reds are numerous and present in most locations
- Greys are generally feeding from the ground at present and not overly visiting feeders
- Couple of new feeders put up during the period
- My main focus, in dealing with greys, has been in the various woods on Morland Bank, Brackenslack and latterly, Crosby Ravensworth.
- More than 100 greys now despatched this year – mostly by Jerry and Gary

## General

**X 41 Greys Despatched (inc' X2 road deaths)**

**Year Total (2023) = 105**

**Reds with S/Pox despatched this year in locality = 1**

## **ROAD DEATHS**



**= 2 (Both Morland Bank) Year Total = 3**

**Other Deaths – one (see Flass)**

**Year Total 2023 = 2**

## Report

The section on *'Chronology of grey sightings'*, below, has once again taken up several pages, but progress has been made in removing those that do turn up. However, it could be said that it is a constant fire-fight and more often than not, in more than one location at a time!

That yearly total of 105 greys despatched on 'our patch' will be a minimum total as it will not have captured all of Gary's and Jerry's work – but it is a very sobering number.

Maintaining a focus on grey eradication is still very important so it was pleasing that on the 28<sup>th</sup> November the issue of grey squirrels was debated in the *'House of Commons'* – follow the link to read what was discussed and by whom. However, that being said, the debate was a little underwhelming and I note that no Cumbrian MP's are mentioned ...!

[Grey Squirrels - Hansard - UK Parliament](#)

During this period I have spent time in Brackenslack (no reds there, but three greys removed), Morland Bank (four reds and two greys removed) and latterly Crosby Ravensworth.

At the start of the period quite a few sightings came in of greys on Harberwain Lane, but these stopped relatively quickly and then the focus came on the area around Bank Lane – to remove three greys from there was a result, but these three had clearly 'set up home' and established themselves.

It was also pleasing for myself as I don't often have the time to devote to Crosby Ravensworth, but that situation has eased and when needs must ...!

At the start of autumn the leaves were on the trees, nature's harvest was available and activity from reds and greys was harder to detect; they were certainly less conspicuous at feeders.

However, towards the end of the season, the leaves have all virtually fallen, nature's harvest is mainly on the ground now and whilst reds have been back on the feeders for some time, very slowly greys are also beginning to return.

The task of controlling them becomes that bit easier; theoretically at least!

I've learnt from Jerry and Gary that at such times



'scatter feed' (food scattered on the ground in optimum locations) becomes a very useful tool, something which Jerry demonstrated to good effect in Caravan Wood and Mains Wood on 30<sup>th</sup> November.

However, in spite of some successes I've had a fair share of failures, frustrations and returning from a wood empty handed having not seen a single squirrel. Sat in Morland Bank for 60-90 minutes at a time, watching four reds running riot is lovely, but very frustrating when at the same time you can see a grey in the tree tops but who is too far away to shoot and who clearly isn't going to play ball today.

I should thank the several landowners who I have had reason to approach this season and who have all been very supportive of the work that we do.

I wish that I had more time to devote, but the work that our rangers do for us continues to impress and their support and advice to myself has been invaluable. Even now my learning curve is a steep one, but hopefully I have made some progress.

During the period I raised £30.00 for the group as a result of a tea-tasting at 'Newbiggin Ladies Group'.

I hope to raise similar amounts in January and February at Kings Meaburn and Warcop WI's.

Who would have thought it ... tea and squirrels!

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

## Sept'

**2<sup>nd</sup>** - **Winter's Tarn** - running along the road towards Oddendale

**4<sup>th</sup>** - **Crosby Ravensworth**, x2 sightings on Harberwain Lane

**5<sup>th</sup>** – **Crosby Ravensworth** – top end of Harberwain Lane

**Maulds Meaburn** – Orchard Wood – seems to be another one back

**6<sup>th</sup>** – **Maulds Meaburn** – very top end of Brackenslack Lane

**7<sup>th</sup>** – **Morland Bank** - Reagill road end

**11<sup>th</sup>** - **Maulds Meaburn** – Near to Crake Trees

**12<sup>th</sup>** – **Morland** - from Facebook a number of sightings near to the church.

Also x1 grey run-over nearby

**13<sup>th</sup>** – **\*\*GREYS DESPATCHED\*\*** – X3 Crosby Ravensworth (Crosby Lodge) and  
X1 Maulds Meaburn (Brackenslack)

**14<sup>th</sup>** – **Maulds Meaburn** – in the trees near the cattle grid south end of village  
Orchard Wood – every day now.

**18<sup>th</sup>** – **Crosby Ravensworth** – Dalebanks – on the road just before the courtyard

**21<sup>st</sup>** – **Maulds Meaburn** – back in Lyvennet Bank at The Folly

**24<sup>th</sup>** – **Maulds Meaburn** - (Flas near to the tunnel)

**Reagill** - on the road at Wyegill/Green Lane

**26<sup>th</sup>** – **Crosby Ravensworth** – at 'Gilts' south end of village, near to the river

## Oct'

**1<sup>st</sup> – Morland Bank** – it has returned

**2<sup>nd</sup> - Maulds Meaburn** – (Brackenslack) – X2 seen running about the wood

**Crosby Ravensworth** – Gilts/Crosby Gill in Tommy Wood

**3<sup>rd</sup> – \*\*GREYS DESPATCHED\*\*** – X3 Kings Meaburn (Crabstacks) and  
X1 Maulds Meaburn (Holesfoot)

**9<sup>th</sup> – Kings Meaburn** – X1 GREY Road Death

**11<sup>th</sup> – Morland Bank** – Caravan Wood – on the road by the gates

**15<sup>th</sup> – Crosby Ravensworth** – X2 greys at 'The Haven' – also seen 11<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>

**23<sup>rd</sup> - \*\*GREYS DESPATCHED\*\*** – X2 Crosby Ravensworth (Crosby Lodge) and  
X1 Maulds Meaburn (Brackenslack)

**30<sup>th</sup> – Maulds Meaburn** – (Orchard Wood) – X2 greys there this lunch-time  
(Holesfoot) – Gary going on Friday

**31<sup>st</sup> - \*\*GREY DESPATCHED\*\*** – X1 Maulds Meaburn ('The Avenue' - rear of Flass)

**Last full week of Oct' \*\*GREYS DESPATCHED\*\*** – X5 Morland (Cross Rigg)

## Nov'

2<sup>nd</sup> – **Maulds Meaburn** – ('The Avenue') two of them  
**Crosby Ravensworth** – (The Haven)

5<sup>th</sup> – **\*\*GREY DESPATCHED\*\* Maulds Meaburn** (Orchard Wood), 10 days ago

6<sup>th</sup> - **\*\*GREY DESPATCHED\*\*** – X1 Maulds Meaburn (Brackenslack)

6<sup>th</sup> - **\*\*GREY DESPATCHED\*\*** – X1 Maulds Meaburn (Morland Bank)

**Crosby Ravensworth** - by the Lyvennet between Orton Rd and Stonework  
Garth -- also seen on the road just up from Low Row

**Maulds Meaburn** – Green Ends – in the garden

7<sup>th</sup> – **Morland Bank** – Near to Caravan Wood

8<sup>th</sup> - **\*\*GREYS DESPATCHED\*\*** – X2 Kings Meaburn (Crabstacks)

9<sup>th</sup> – **Crosby Ravensworth** – the Bank (Coppice)

12<sup>th</sup> - **\*\*GREY DESPATCHED\*\*** – X1 Crosby Ravensworth ('The Bank' - Coppice)

15<sup>th</sup> - **\*\*GREY DESPATCHED\*\*** – X1 Crosby Ravensworth ('The Bank' - Coppice)

**\*\*GREYS DESPATCHED\*\*** – X2 Morland/Kings Meaburn (Whitbarrow Wood)

17<sup>th</sup> – **Maulds Meaburn** - Barnskew

19<sup>th</sup> – **Maulds Meaburn** – Flass, 'The Avenue'

13<sup>th</sup> – **\*\*GREYS DESPATCHED\*\*** – X1 Crosby Ravensworth (The Bank – Coppice) and  
X1 Morland Bank (Caravan Wood)

Crosby Ravensworth – tree/fence line above the sheep penfold

21<sup>st</sup> – **Morland Bank** – Caravan Wood

22<sup>nd</sup> - **\*\*GREY DESPATCHED\*\*** – X1 Maulds Meaburn (Barnskew)

**\*\*GREYS DESPATCHED\*\*** – X2 Morland Bank (Caravan Wood)

23<sup>rd</sup> - **\*\*GREY DESPATCHED\*\*** – Morland Bank

24<sup>th</sup> – **Reagill** – Pithills Plantation

26<sup>th</sup> – **Crosby Ravensworth** – in trees behind The Haven

27<sup>th</sup> - **\*\*GREYS DESPATCHED\*\*** – X4 Morland (CrossRigg)

30<sup>th</sup> - **\*\*GREYS DESPATCHED\*\*** – X3 Morland Bank (Mains Wood)

## Maulds Meaburn



**Longhill Wood – Photo Darren Rogers**

At the beginning of the period things were so-so.

Grey(s) were in Brackenslack Wood, there were occasional sightings along the length of Brackenslack Lane and with one in Holesfoot. Also one was floating about Lyvennet Bank.

However, plenty of reds

### Flass (FL) and Lyvennet Bank (LB)

**FL** – X1 feeder up at the folly and not viewable to the public

X1 feeder at **The Tunnel** – on a tree, on the left, immediately prior to the tunnel

**LB** - X1 feeder looking out over the green (**LB/GF**)

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

All feeders are visited on a regular, daily, basis.

## September

3<sup>rd</sup> – curious, the grey within LB didn't appear at any of the feeders yesterday.  
It had been at the Folly at some point every day in the last week and curious how now it doesn't go to LB/RF

4<sup>th</sup> – it's back



5<sup>th</sup> – and then nothing today!

9<sup>th</sup> – this is continuing with the grey, its visits becoming less and more sporadic.  
Where it is and what it is doing there, I don't know.  
Much less feed going at present.

10<sup>th</sup> – no greys and very little food going.

22<sup>nd</sup> – it's back!

Briefly at 1732h (2 photos) yesterday and another 2 photos today 1121h  
Also again just after 16h

24<sup>th</sup> – whilst a grey wasn't up at The Folly yesterday, today as walking through Flass, on the track from the house up to the tunnel, a grey popped out from my left and ran off when the dog gave chase.

Undoubtedly it will have been on the feeder at the tunnel so popped a camera up.  
Gary informed.

Seen again this afternoon in the same place – Gary updated and will be popping in

25<sup>th</sup> – Gary popped in and only saw X3 reds – curiously the grey hasn't been caught

on camera

- 26<sup>th</sup>** – still no grey on camera and one hasn't been up at The Folly since the 22<sup>nd</sup>  
Popped a new feeder up at the tunnel (hope the horses leave it alone)  
A safer location for shooting - It is on the other side. Go through the tunnel  
into the field and look left – only a few monkey nuts as mainly corn in it.

## October

- 1<sup>st</sup>** – plenty of activity at present and all from reds. Greys will be nearby though.  
And indeed x1 grey in just x1 photo at The Tunnel, but not on the feeder.
- 5<sup>th</sup>** – from checking the cameras this morning all is Ok, no greys  
Have moved that temporary feeder from the near the tunnel as nothing has  
touched it. It is now on 'The Avenue' about 30 yards further down.
- 7<sup>th</sup>** – grey popped back briefly to the Tunnel.



- 9<sup>th</sup>** – grey again. 11h, but in just two photos – the temporary feeder on 'The Avenue' has had its first visit
- 11<sup>th</sup>** – moved the camera this morning from The Tunnel down to 'The Avenue'
- 21<sup>st</sup>** – only reds at present
- 27<sup>th</sup>** – have had six days away, but only reds caught on camera in that time



## November

3<sup>rd</sup> – greys are very nearby on 'The Avenue' but haven't turned up on camera here yet.

5<sup>th</sup> – all seems ok and after topping up LB/GF this morning, about 30mins it was empty

7<sup>th</sup> – following the sighting of a grey at Green Ends in the village, have put cameras on both feeders in Lyvennet Bank

8<sup>th</sup> – checked this morn' and only reds on all feeders and cameras



9<sup>th</sup> – no grey, all reds and the autumn colours are now really coming out.

14<sup>th</sup> – red arrived at the same time as myself this morning at The Folly

18<sup>th</sup> – DEAD RED – (young male) found near to the feeder at The Tunnel

There is a ? about whether it has S/Pox or not; but I'm not recording it as such.

I don't think it is and Jerry has seen the photos and he tends to agree but adds that *'it is hard to tell'*

The feeder has been emptied and disinfected and only has corn in it at present.

Tomorrow I will do likewise with the one in Orchard Wood.

19<sup>th</sup> – the perspex front to the feeder at the tunnel was broken when I attended this morning – but see today's entry for Orchard Wood.

The perspex was fairly flimsy as it was a replacement for the original that had been broken – but I suspect a pair of greys

20<sup>th</sup> – replaced the feeder at The Tunnel with a new one and as I left saw a grey on 'The Avenue'

21<sup>st</sup> – typical. Had a hour on 'The Avenue' this morning and nothing, only for a grey to pop up on the feeder at The Tunnel, 1326 – 1426h.

Also a red visited this feeder

23<sup>rd</sup> – has been pretty quiet on all of the feeders the last two days

26<sup>th</sup> – steady, but after the dead red there is another red visiting the feeder at the tunnel and it appears healthy.

**End of period** – it's OK. Need rid of the occasional grey that is in the woods at 'the back of Flass

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

X2 feeders here – one just past 'The Avenue' and near to the gate out into the field (with the footpath through to Crosby Ravensworth).

The second is at the far end on the Three Cornered Wood side – no access to this during the pheasant season!

For autumn/winter a temporary one put up on 'The Avenue' back towards Flass – but later removed.

At the start of the period it was generally fine with a pair of reds visiting the feeder on a regular basis, but there had been the odd, if slightly rare visit from a grey.

## September

2<sup>nd</sup> – GREY – a.m. at 'The Avenue'

5<sup>th</sup> – GREY – from 10-12h today.

9<sup>th</sup> – no grey since the 5<sup>th</sup> but was here twice today. Just after 09h and then again just after 16h.

14<sup>th</sup> – grey has been here at various times every day for the last three

22<sup>nd</sup> – following a spell with Covid only got back today and no greys in the last week

## October

1<sup>st</sup> – still only reds

5<sup>th</sup> – have put up a temporary feeder on 'The Avenue'.

It is about 30 yards along from The Tunnel at Flass. It had been put up there about a week ago and nothing had touched it.

Oh and no greys showing on the camera.

9<sup>th</sup> – only reds that are visiting

10<sup>th</sup> – monkey nuts have now gone out of the temporary feeder on 'The Avenue'.

11<sup>th</sup> – popped a camera on the temporary feeder on 'The Avenue'

Just a red, no greys on the temporary feeder

15<sup>th</sup> – generally OK, apart from a grey for one photo on the 14<sup>th</sup> at 1015h on the feeder in Orchard Wood and had a 1000 photos from the temporary feeder, but only one was of a squirrel ... a red



30<sup>th</sup> – this isn't good though



Two of them! However, there is only the one photo so they didn't hang about for too long.

31<sup>st</sup> – **\*\*GREY DESPATCHED\*\*** – adult male on 'The Avenue' - by me.

When I was walking the dog this morning I very briefly saw x1 grey on 'The Avenue', and hence came straight back (1020h).

Curiously I was sat up at the end of 'The Avenue' looking over the gate into the field at the feeder that is just inside Orchard Wood. As you look at the gate from 'The

Avenue' there is a short section of dry stone wall on the right, which is about 7-8 yards in front of where I was sat.

Just as the rain started to ease it just popped up from the side of the wall and sat on the top, facing away from me – still managed to get it to the side of the head though.

But whilst I have a slightly limited view, I'm just beginning to wonder if it had been inside the wall and was now coming out. The wall is quite hollow on the inside. If I get chance I will pop back later.

Returned for a hour late afternoon – it is getting dark early now and especially when the skies are overcast. Anyway, nothing showed up and from the camera there had been a pair of reds earlier and no grey

## November

**2<sup>nd</sup>** - When walking the dog this morning saw x2 greys wondering up 'The Avenue'. Came back for a hour at 0945h, but no show and again this afternoon.

**3<sup>rd</sup>** – this morning when I checked the camera, no greys

**5<sup>th</sup>** – saw Callum this morning and he told me that about 10 days ago he shot a grey - **\*\*GREY DESPATCHED\*\***

This was in Orchard Wood and at the time it was in the pheasant pen and one of his feeders

**19<sup>th</sup>** – GREYS – seen by myself this a.m. on 'The Avenue'. They turned back and headed towards Orchard Wood – I suspect that they might have been at The Tunnel by Flass

**20<sup>th</sup>** – GREY – seen by myself on 'The Avenue' at 1110h, just after I had replaced a broken feeder at The Tunnel - waited up for a while but it didn't return. Have scattered a load of feed for it and will return in the morning.

**21<sup>st</sup>** – see today's entry for Flass.

### **End of the period:**

As for Flass, there is undoubtedly two greys here or hereabouts (Three Cornered Wood?) – need rid and 2<sup>nd</sup> February after the pheasant season feels too far away

## Three Cornered Wood



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

Currently no access in this wood due to the pheasant season!

As of 4<sup>th</sup> August it was grey free, but that won't last.

## Longhill Wood and Hulls 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 (left) side of this ravine, about 125 yards apart.

The original feeder (F1) is lower down the second feeder (F2) is further into the wood.

A feeder was put up in Hulls Wood (HW) for the first time during May 2023.

All feeders are popular and visited daily.

Due to the pheasant season access is currently denied (until 2.2.24.)

Regrettably when the wood was 'left' on 4.8.23. there was a grey in Longhill Wood and even worse is that it was a pregnant female (able to tell from the camera).

What it will be like come February ...!





**Edge Close – (Ewe Wood) above Flass Pasture NY 632 146**

Due to the pheasant season there is no access until the 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2024!

On 4.8.23. when the wood was left there were no greys, but they had been popping over from Longhill Wood.

**GREEN ENDS / THWAITES COTTAGES + ‘Arthur’s Cottage’**

**September**

9<sup>th</sup> – having completed a full make-over of his garden Arthur is now getting red(s) in his garden.

still at it..today darting in and out between the rain showers to do stonework and while I've been doing that I've been keeping an eye open for that charming Red Squirrel who's visiting every day now

14<sup>th</sup> – Green Ends - saw a russet red squirrel in our garden on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> Sept' and the same little chappie this morning. It's great to have them back



doing their crazy leaping from lawn to tree and back. So sweet!

Pennie

Arthur is now getting two reds into his garden

## **November**

6<sup>th</sup> - Nightmare, I briefly saw a grey squirrel in our garden that ran towards our shed, top right of the garden from the house, at 3pm.

It disappeared immediately, probably over the wall.

This is the first sighting I've had of a grey in Cumbria and I hope it's the last!!

Pennie

ED: if it comes back, a trap comes in. However, now have cameras on both feeder in Lyvennet Bank.

## **BRACKENSLACK**

This is a wood also used for pheasants, but which has a public footpath running through it – the feeder is above the top of the ravine on the R/hand side of the footpath and is viewable from the FP

Because it is a wood with no reds, I only used to pay it passing attention, but an incursion of four greys at the end of March has seen me visiting more often.

At the start of the period there was undoubtedly greys) in here.

The feeder was full and a few visits late August had seen me leave empty handed.

## **September**

9<sup>th</sup> – first time back and apart from the corn the feeder was empty – topped up.

11<sup>th</sup> – here for a hour at lunch, no show, but the food from the 9<sup>th</sup> has gone

Back at 5 p.m. for a hour, no show, but the food that I left at lunch was gone.

13<sup>th</sup> - \*GREY DESPATCHED\* (by Gary)

## October

1<sup>st</sup> - first time back in a while and most of the food had gone

2<sup>nd</sup> – had 90 mins here this morning (1050 – 1230h), the food was still there, but had a slightly surreal experience with X2 greys that were chasing each other  
They are still there!

3<sup>rd</sup> – Gary popped in and the greys didn't show

9<sup>th</sup> – popped up just after lunch for 35mins – food gone and quite a lot of corn on the table part of the feeder, although corn still in the feeder – topped up

10<sup>th</sup> – it should never get personal between the grey and the person trying to shoot it, but today it feels like it has!!!

After last week's surreal experience I changed where I sit. Now behind a tree and virtually unable to see them approach the feeder from what we believe is their normal route – but if I can't see them, then they can't see me either.

Arrived 1535h and after about 35 minutes I was looking directly ahead at the feeder, but which is side on to myself and then I looked to my right!

There sat on a rock, about 10 yards away was a grey squirrel – it had come from totally the opposite direction.

As soon as I saw it, it was off and with undergrowth, etc I had no shot – and to make matters worse, I then saw it with another grey.

Then I never saw either again - they are still out there and that makes it ...

Squirrels 2 v 0 Me.

I am either the worst volunteer ranger or the unluckiest.

Before I left I searched out another location from which to sit and wait.

12<sup>th</sup> – had a hour here from 1140h, no show from any greys. The food from the 10<sup>th</sup> had mostly gone.

Came back at 1540h until 17h and nothing again – the food that I had put in at lunch-time was still there

And now I am back at work tomorrow.

19<sup>th</sup> – after a week of work getting in the way, popped up today. The feed had gone, although the corn hadn't.

Had 70 mins up to 5 p.m. but nothing.

23<sup>rd</sup> - **\*\*GREY DESPATCHED\*\*** – adult male (By Gary)

29<sup>th</sup> – had a hour here 1530-1630h – saw the grey (just one) some distance away, but it didn't venture near to the feeder.

30<sup>th</sup> – hour here this morning (0920-1030h) - saw it again, but once again, had no shot.

And then I saw it later at the bottom of the ravine, cross the stream and go out of sight. The only thing down there is the pheasant pens.

And then when I checked the squirrel feeder, none of the food has been touched!

## November

4<sup>th</sup> – because of greys at the back of Flass I haven't been here for a few days, but had just over a hour through lunch-time and once again I saw it, the grey, far, far away.



5<sup>th</sup> – saw Callum in the wood this morning and following our chat I have now put a trap out directly under the tree with the feeder.

Apparently the pheasants are now too big to fit in one!

Back at 1630h to check and as I walking through the wood saw something for about one second run across the floor and out of sight – nothing in the trap.

This one squirrel has really run me ragged!

6<sup>th</sup> – trap checked mid a.m. - empty - But it wasn't at tea-time when I went back!!!

**\*\*GREY DESPATCHED\*\*** – adult female

I think that the wood is now clear of them (for now), but just in case I will leave the trap in for a few days

7<sup>th</sup> – trap empty

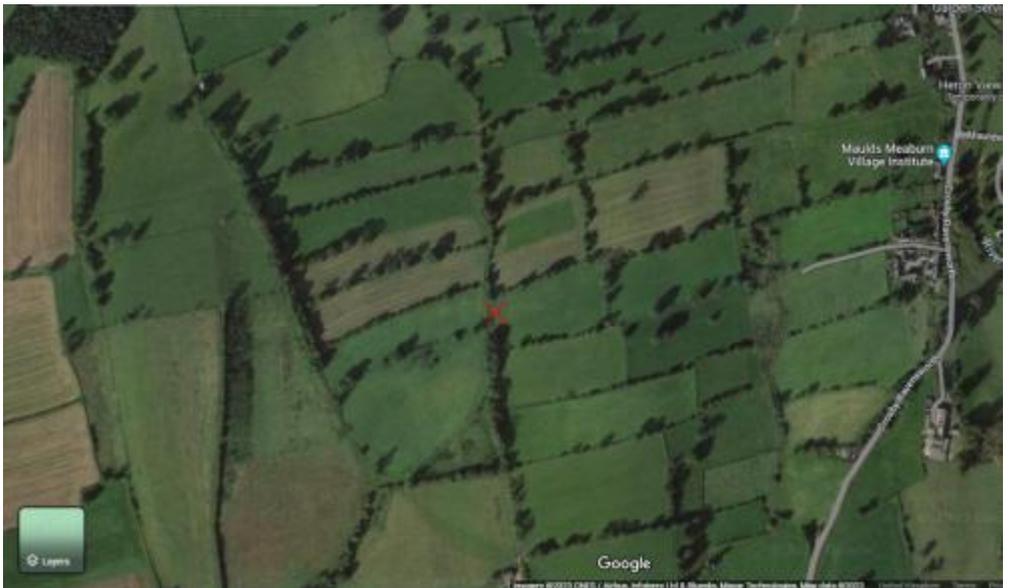
8<sup>th</sup> – trap empty and removed, will go back to checking the feeder every few days

13<sup>th</sup> – popped back today and none of the food left on the 8<sup>th</sup> has been taken

23<sup>rd</sup> – all the food is still there and just about all the leaves are off the trees.

## Other sightings from the village:

11<sup>th</sup> Sept – GREY – near to Crake Trees (by Mike)



On the 14<sup>th</sup> I popped a feeder with camera up

14<sup>th</sup> Sept – GREY - in the trees by the cattle grid (near Vanda's house) as leave the village towards Crosby Ravensworth

22<sup>nd</sup> Sept – nothing doing at the temporary feeder near Crake Trees – removed



## Trainlands Wood, Holesfoot

## Sideway Bank Crabstacks + Hawkrigg

Trainlands (TW) is the wood at the point where 'Little Beck' rises.

From MM – go past the entrance to Holesfoot and

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.

**Holesfoot** – the large country house on the opposite side of the road  
They have ten feeders out for guests to be able to see.

**Sideway Bank** - is a farm on the left when going towards Kings Meaburn from the Appleby Road

**Crabstacks** is a farm on the left after Sideway Bank when going towards Kings Meaburn from the Appleby Road

**Hawkrigg** is on the Colby Road – turning right just past Crabstacks

## September

6<sup>th</sup> – **GREY** and a red seen at the very top end of Brackenslack Lane

End of the month and greys are popping up here and there with one still plaguing Holesfoot and at least one at Crabstacks

Gary as also 'borrowed' my feeder from TW to pop in Holesfoot.

## October

3<sup>rd</sup> – **\*\*GREYS DESPATCHED\*\***

Gary had a productive few hours and got X3 at Crabstacks and one out of Holesfoot.

31<sup>st</sup> – **Holesfoot** – a grey is back. Gary going on Friday.

## November

5<sup>th</sup> – Liv at Holesfoot tells me that Gary did not see any greys on Friday (3<sup>rd</sup>) and that she herself hasn't seen it (one) since her last sighting about a week ago. She is seeing plenty of reds and her guests love seeing them as well

4<sup>th</sup> – Trainlands Plantation (not the 'wood') – grey seen by one of the shoots

7<sup>th</sup> – Colby to Kings Meaburn Road by Fousonsrigg Plantations  
saw a red just before 13.00 in the verge - looked healthy and lively – Janet.

8<sup>th</sup> - **\*\*GREYS DESPATCHED\*\*** – X2 Kings Meaburn (Crabstacks)

# Morland Bank (Inc' Caravan Wood and Mains Wood)

There is a feeder in what is left of Morland Bank wood, one in Mains Wood and another in 'Caravan Wood'.

At the start of the period a grey was visiting the feeder in Morland Bank, but there was three reds.

There are at least X2 reds in Caravan Wood



Mains Wood 25<sup>th</sup> September – Arthur Clegg

## September

6<sup>th</sup> – apart from just one photo on the 1<sup>st</sup>, no greys have shown up.

Not seen the red with the head injury though

7<sup>th</sup> – **GREY – 1130h** - just seen a big fat grey at the Reagill road end on the Maulds Meaburn to Morland road.

Also saw a healthy red at the double corners in Morland Bank wood - Colin

Jerry informed and the timing is ... I was going to pop a camera into Caravan Wood today!

9<sup>th</sup> – **DEAD RED (Road Death)** – on the bends just past the Reagill turn-off and before Caravan Wood – will have been in the last 24Hrs

**Mains Wood** – all the food is still there

**Caravan Wood** – not much food gone – only one photo from the camera ... a red.

**Morland Bank** – only red(s)

12<sup>th</sup> – **DEAD RED (Road Death – male)** – on the bends after the long straight near to the pull in.

13<sup>th</sup> – another red running along the road this morning

23<sup>rd</sup> – Arthur was out and about today and saw red(s) in Mains Wood - good



25<sup>th</sup> – Arthur was out with his camera again and saw x3 reds in Mains Wood

## October

1<sup>st</sup> – red on the feeder as I walked into Morland Bank, but a grey has been there for the last four days – Jerry informed.

4<sup>th</sup> – topped the feeder up at 0600h – grey had been here 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> mainly afternoons

5<sup>th</sup> – Jerry was here today and didn't see anything - checked the camera and the grey had been the day before about 11am and then again at 17.00 hours.

7<sup>th</sup> – Arthur saw a grey caching food in a field just off Mains Wood

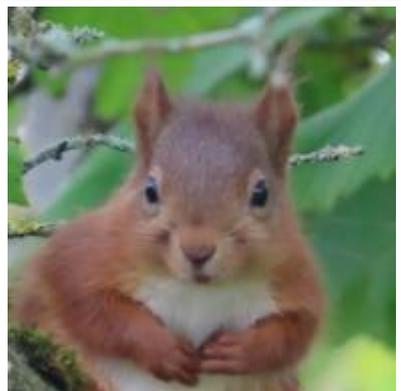
9<sup>th</sup> – I have now moved the feeder from the badger set at Mains Wood; the food was rotten and none had been eaten

It is now here – X roughly marks the tree, give or take one or two, but it is clearly visible from the gate down the lane (G)

In Morland Bank the grey is putting in the odd appearance, still mainly afternoons



Arthur Clegg



**11<sup>th</sup> – GREY – Caravan Wood** – what is described as being a young grey was seen on the road by the gates to the wood at 4.45 p.m. (Phil Winder)

I had just topped the feeder up at 3.30 p.m. – Jerry informed.

**17<sup>th</sup>** – had popped a camera in Caravan Wood on the 15<sup>th</sup> and very few photos, but none of a grey – but checking the camera on the 18<sup>th</sup>, a grey had arrived at 15h, but very briefly and only x2 photos.



**27<sup>th</sup>** – I've been away for a few days and in my absence all the feed has gone from the three locations.

The grey was in Morland Bank 18-19<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>, but its visits are always very, very brief.

## November

**1<sup>st</sup> – Morland Bank** - since the 27<sup>th</sup> the grey has only appeared for x1 photo!  
(29<sup>th</sup> at 1141h)

**3<sup>rd</sup>** – GREY seen this morning on the sharp bend with the track down to Mains Wood – Rachel Seymour

**5<sup>th</sup>** – went to Mains Wood this morning and topped the feeder up and placed a camera on it – but the grey was in Morland Bank at the same time!

I then walked through to Morland Bank and the grey hasn't been there much, but had been here about 30 minutes earlier!

Went back to Mains Wood at 16h and most of the food that I had put in earlier, but nothing on camera!

Whilst the cameras are not the greatest, I just can't get a great position to place the camera – but it does show the ground and half way up the tree, but not the feeder itself. Nonetheless, still a little surprised to get nothing.

6<sup>th</sup> – GREY seen again by Rachel in the verge on the sharp bend – trap to go in.

7<sup>th</sup> – **\*\*GREY DESPATCHED\*\*** – X1 Morland Bank, in the wood, but out of tree, not on the feeder – adult male – trap removed

8<sup>th</sup> – **GREY** - whilst not quite at Caravan wood, the wife saw a grey squirrel run across the road this morning.

It was in between the wood and the turn off to Reagill – Jerry informed Camera and scatter feed in the wood

**GREY** – in Morland Bank Wood – obviously not just the one then!

Was there yesterday and this morning – will pop back tomorrow

9<sup>th</sup> – eck'!

Definitely a grey in Caravan Wood – Jerry is on to it – but also a red



But the 'eck' bit was that from 1020-1130h I was in Morland Bank waiting for a grey that did not show, only to then see it as I was driving home!

Coming back to Maulds Meaburn, go round the sharp left hand bend and it was on the bank on the left hand side feeding from the ground – that's the third time here.



Grey in caravan Wood

**13<sup>th</sup>** – still a red and grey in Caravan wood and the grey in Morland Bank has been visiting that little bit more of late, but each visit still isn't that long.

**14<sup>th</sup>** – red on the feeder in Morland Bank when I arrived this morning

**15<sup>th</sup>** – grey was sighted (yet again) on the bank just before the sharp right hand bend that leads onto the straight – yet the trap that I had here as failed to entice it

**16<sup>th</sup>** – after 55 mins the grey turned up, well nearly turned up!

It just never quite made it to the feeder and gave no opportunity for a shot.

Will try again with a trap tomorrow, but in a new location

Bumped into Jerry at Caravan wood and he had a similar story with the grey there, but like myself, he will be trying again tomorrow.

**17<sup>th</sup>** – not a good day.

Looks like being drawn out and a case of perseverance.

Jerry has drawn a blank in Caravan wood for a third day and in Morland Bank I was there for over 2 hours from 11h with nothing to show for it.

However, having pulled the camera tonight the grey has pulled a flanker and was there from 08-0850h today; it hasn't been here that early before and it did not return at all today.

However, after just 5-10 mins I saw it in the tree tops down the bottom of the wood and then it disappeared.

It returned about 1 ½ hrs later, but pulled another flanker and came down the hill from the direction of the road – I didn't move, it went to the tree with the feeder, swerved round it and kept going to the bottom where the field is and went back up the trees!!

It is still alive and taking the piss out of me!

But it is also the case that it didn't go to the feeder yesterday either and that is in spite of it being in the trees right down by the bottom near the field

However, there were x4 reds running about all over the place. They covered some miles and gave me a good show and were hardly off the feeder.

Unfortunately one fell for the trap – it was unarmed and the trap has now been removed.

This grey is testing my patience, but not my resolve – but I cannot be here all the time.

**20<sup>th</sup>** – These are my emails from Jerry today:

11.56h – *“Been at caravan wood seen that grey again done the same thing. Came from Right to left straight over track and vanished up wood , Went for a look about but nothing. I had scattered feed on track as well. Two reds back and forth feeding.”*

**\*\*GREY DESPATCHED\*\***

14.27h – *“Popped back about 2pm and about 5 minutes ago grey appeared on scatter food on ride so have shot it. Hopefully just that one?”*

**21<sup>st</sup>** – e-mail from Jerry:

*“Must be another grey at caravan wood as Gary had a message today to say seen my pick-up parked there yesterday but that they have seen a grey this morning on road outside the wood; will have a look first thing in morning again.”*

And I had just over a hour in Morland Bank from 1140h – and:

It's getting to me now!

topped the feeder up, scattered some feed, sat down and a minute later saw it in the normal place; tree tops down at the bottom over the field.

It went away to the left and when I finished at 1255h I went down to have a look and it was in the field about 100 yards out running a line of trees back into the wood.

Have now run an idea past Jerry to see what he thinks.

**22<sup>nd</sup> - \*\*GREYS DESPATCHED\*\*** – X2 Caravan Wood -- this is Jerry's e-mail:

*"After Shap wells I drive back and went back to Caravan Wood (had 45 minutes this morning and seen 2 reds).*

*Pulled up about 12.45 and straight away grey on scatter feed so shot that.*

*Then went to Morland Bank spent until just after 3pm there sat watching and walked the field side and seen two reds at feeder together.*

*Left there and went via Caravan Wood pulled up stuck thermal on scatter feed and 2 heat sources looked through scope 1 red and 1 grey so shot the grey.*

*I will go to Morland Bank first light in morning (Thursday) and sit and watch feeder for a bit and have a walk along again.*

*Let you know how I come on but will have 2 - 3 hours there"*

**26<sup>th</sup> – SUCCESS - \*\*GREY DESPATCHED\*\*** – X1 Morland Bank -- Jerry's e-mail:

*"Nice job getting that grey at Barnskew mate*

*I arrived at Morland Bank about 8am headed over toward feeder and picked 3 heat sources up around there, stood and seen 2 reds running about on deck then grey appeared under the feeder tree and went up to feeder.*

*Luckily I was only 20 yard off and shot it with the 410.*

*Adult female, I have scattered feed and filled feeder and now headed to Caravan Wood for an hour."*

This grey has been hard work and now I obviously hope that there are no more.

Quite clearly Jerry currently as 'a thing' about Caravan Wood!

I will pull the cards from the cameras in MB and Caravan Wood later today.

Checked the cameras at tea-time and ... all good so far, only reds

**26<sup>th</sup>** – fault with the SD card from Morland Bank, hence no photos and from Caravan Wood there has been X2 photos that could be of a grey – Jerry informed.

**27<sup>th</sup>** – Jerry is happy that the photo is not a grey and from the camera it is now only reds in Morland Bank

We came aware of a photos from Arthur of a grey in Mains Wood and I visited today, but saw nothing. Jerry will visit and with the flare he might hopefully pick something out – and I might pop a trap in

29<sup>th</sup> – a few things:

Only reds in Morland Bank

Caravan Wood – was a grey in there a.m. 27<sup>th</sup>. Only two photos and not seen since

Mains Wood – interesting! Today's emails from Jerry:

*"I scattered feed around the gate area yesterday and arrived here about 12.15h today and seen 2, possibly 3, greys run off into wood pheasant pen side.*

*I am sat here now watching and hoping they come back as they must have found the feed, if no luck this afternoon I will be back 1st light in the morning to have a sit and wait"*

And

*"Still here and just seen another one but vanished again plus a red came to gate  
Don't worry about a feeder, they are coming to the scatter feed"*

30<sup>th</sup> – **\*\*GREYS DESPATCHED\*\*** – X3 Morland Bank (Mains Wood)

Jerry was here early this morning and at one point was surrounded by greys.

Whilst he shot 3 (two males and a female) he also saw another two

He was then calling into Caravan Wood.

I returned at 15h, saw a grey in undergrowth, but didn't have a clean shot

**End of Period:** what a 3 month period and still two to get

## Barnskew, Lankaber Wood and environs

Between Maulds Meaburn and Kings Meaburn

1 = Barnskew Wood No.1 (BW1)

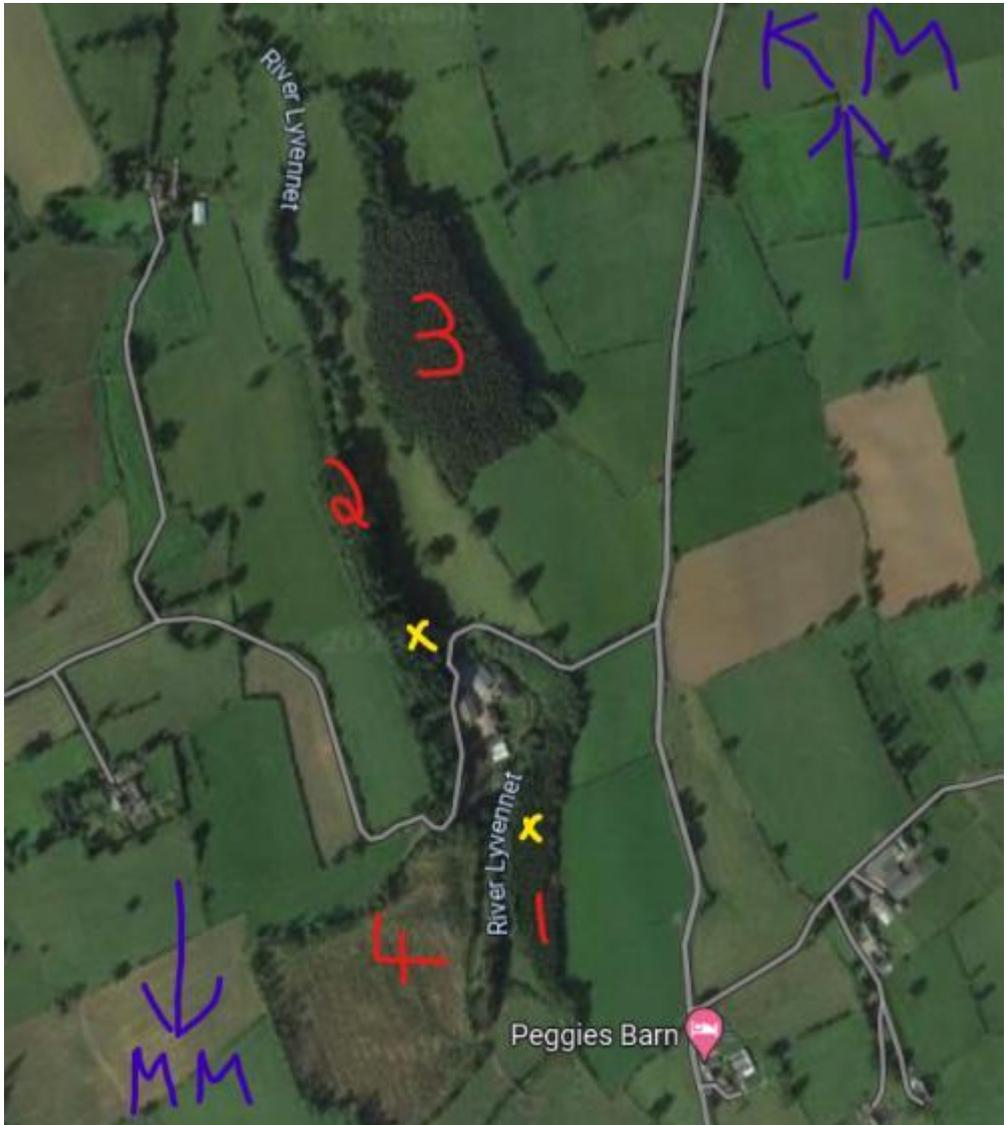
2 = Barnskew Wood No.2 (BW2)

3 = Lankaber Wood

4 = Barnskew Bank

The yellow crosses mark the feeders.

I have yet to put a feeder in 3, but as it is due to be felled next year ....



Start of the period

I hadn't been able to get here that much at the end of August, but the grey is still here and things have been going slowly.

However, there is at least a pair of reds in each of BW1 and BW2.

And during this period I also didn't get here that much, but was able to do more come mid November

## September

**6<sup>th</sup>** – first time back this month, feeders topped up.

Has been a grey in BW1

**9<sup>th</sup>** – not sure about this, hardly any food has gone, but no photos at all on the Camera. Removed camera from BW2

**14<sup>th</sup>** – very quiet and no grey in BW1.

Looking at how much food was still in the feeder I was surprised to see just over 30 photos of a red.

Over the summer I was getting 300 photos a day!

However, more food had gone in BW2

## October

**1<sup>st</sup>** – first day back for a while and all the food was still in the feeder in BW1.

A red is floating about though, but a complete change from the summer.

More food had gone from BW2

**5<sup>th</sup>** – the food in BW2 had gone, but BW1 is still curious as hardly any visits and very little food is going – but a grey was here briefly on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>

**27<sup>th</sup>** – for some reason the camera as malfunctioned and hence no photos.

However, all of the feed has gone from both woods.

Last week Jamie saw a grey – at the far side of the old plantation, which is going back towards Morland Bank.

# November

17<sup>th</sup> – hands up, I've not been here for a while, but that is due to chasing greys elsewhere, but of course when I turn up this afternoon and walking along the river to the bridge, a grey, in the tree by the bridge!

From the camera it would appear that it has turned up in the last 4-5 days.

Traps set and will be here x3 each day to check them. Oh, but there are two reds

18<sup>th</sup> – red in the trap this morning!!!

Released unharmed and I'm now going to try a completely different location for the trap well away from the feeder and out of BW1

Had a hour here from 3.20 p.m. no joy and have removed the trap

21<sup>st</sup> – had 30 minutes from 1530h in BW1 and in which time a red turned up.

It's all gone back to how it was in the summer, pair of reds and a grey making numerous trips – this grey is very snowy white in colour.

None of the food has been taken from BW2

22<sup>nd</sup> - **\*\*GREY DESPACHED\*\*** – in BW1 – adult male

Unlike the greys in some of the other woods, this one had no problem going to the feeder and I'm even slightly hopeful that there was only this one, the reason being: from the camera it would seem to be just this one almost snowy white, slightly fluffy grey that has been visiting, so fingers crossed ...!

23<sup>rd</sup> – only reds, a pair of in BW1 today



And all of the food had gone from BW2. Whatever is in there (and it was a pair of reds) have re-discovered the feeder – but to be sure I've popped a camera up.

**24<sup>th</sup>** – popped down early today and as I drove down the hill I could see a red on the feeder in BW2.

Sat and watched a while from the stile into the wood and then saw a second red and finally one of the cheeky little things clocked me.

It then came through the trees right up to the tree nearest to me and checked me out.

Now totally compromised I thought I'd better show my good intent and went and filled the feeder up (emptied in just two hour this morning) and swop the card over in the camera (only reds)

Then went and had a walk through Lankaber to check re putting a feeder up – there was a lot of cones on the deck but none of them had been chewed/eaten, so now with the wood due to be felled next year I'm beginning to think against the idea.

**26<sup>th</sup>** – all good. A pair of happy reds in both woods and no greys

**End of period:** position remains the same; no greys and a pair of reds in each wood.

## Crosby Ravensworth



### **Branthwaite House, Crosby Ravensworth -- Credit: George**

This is where I have to put my hands up and say “*I don’t get to Crosby Ravensworth much*”, but I do always check any reports of greys and make sure that Gary knows.

At the start of the period there was at least one grey floating about and there had been several sightings up Harberwain Lane, but these totally petered out fairly quickly.

However, come November I was able to devote more time here, which was quite fortunate as it coincided with a number of grey sightings in the area of Bank Lane.

Ultimately they were located and dealt with relatively quickly.

Gary has also had some success further up Crosby Gill and I hope to pop a feeder up here some time soon.

During November we started to get reports of grey(s) towards the south end of the village. These were occasional sightings and in the final week of the month traps were put out, but then removed.

## Well Head + Anna Well

**29<sup>th</sup> Oct** – nothing seen for some time now

## Crosby Ravensworth South – Gilts

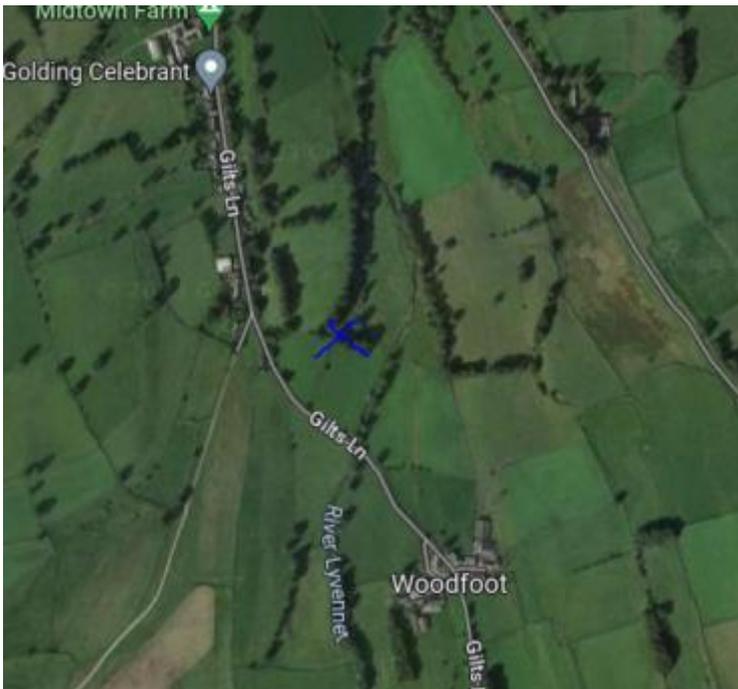
**26<sup>th</sup> Sept** – **GREY** – a.m. Gary informed

**29<sup>th</sup> Oct** - feeder had some old food left, cleaned and a handful of monkey nuts left.

**6<sup>th</sup> Nov** – monkey nuts still there

**8<sup>th</sup> Nov** – monkey nuts still there

**14<sup>th</sup> Nov** – monkey nuts still there



**27<sup>th</sup> Nov** – monkey nuts are still there and this is in spite of the sightings of the greys at this end of the village

## Summer House

**29<sup>th</sup> Oct** – the feeder has been removed

**6<sup>th</sup> Nov** – found a new feeder on a tree nearby – empty and topped up

**8<sup>th</sup> Nov** – feed still there

**14<sup>th</sup> Nov** – slightly curious that the food is still there and hasn't been touched, bearing in mind that just across the river x3 greys have made themselves at home – see 'The Bank Coppice' below

**16<sup>th</sup> Nov** – feed is still there

**20<sup>th</sup> Nov** – feed still there

**27<sup>th</sup> Nov** – feed still there

## The Bank Coppice (by River)

**29<sup>th</sup> Oct** – feeder empty and topped up (in' corn)

**6<sup>th</sup> Nov** – empty and topped up.

**8<sup>th</sup> Nov** – have been in contact with Brian and Shirley and explained re the greys. They are quite happy re a camera going up and then trapping/shooting if a grey does turn up.

This afternoon went and put a camera up, but sods law, all the feed from the 6<sup>th</sup> was still there!

**9<sup>th</sup>** – my hunch was correct, but it wasn't here for too long (lunch-time)

Apart from will it come back, there are a few issues and a trap maybe best – in conflag with Gary as to the next step.



Should add though that at 1615h when I went to check the camera, a red went up the tree – and that is just one of the issues!

Back at 7:30 p.m. in the pitch black to set a trap!

**10<sup>th</sup> Nov** – the grey was here just after 08h and again 1610h, but not in the trap.

**11<sup>th</sup> Nov** – there are two of them and they took the pee out of me this afternoon!

Even though they were just on the other side of the river I couldn't get a shot and they did not go to the feeder – possibly the most frustrated that I've ever been in my comparatively short time at doing this.

**12<sup>th</sup> Nov** - **\*\*GREY DESPACHED\*\*** – adult female

Leaves one to get, which I did see further up the bank to the right, running the fence line at the top end of the copse and probably caching. – after I had shot the one and realised that the other one wasn't going to play ball went to try and get it, but by now it was virtually dark and it didn't come back.

Oh and they are still not bothered about the feeder

However, this young chap had been here about 09h, but I don't think he's worked out how to get into the feeder!



**13<sup>th</sup> Nov** – a really grim day for the weather and not a 'squirreling day' (albeit still had the trap to check) – will move the trap up to that fence line in the morning and I might be able to return for a hour or so; hopefully.

**14<sup>th</sup> Nov** – there this morning for a hour and would you credit it ... two greys.

They are simply not interested in the feeder (they may feel it is a little exposed?). Looks like they are bringing food out of the copse to bury just inside the field at the top left hand corner of the copse – there are now x2 traps out for them, but if they won't go to the feeder, why will they fall for a trap?

Tomorrow when I check the traps I will put up another feeder – on the tree next along the river bank. They do seem to go to this tree periodically ... worth a go.

**15<sup>th</sup> Nov - \*\*GREY DESPACHED\*\*** – juvenile male – fell for one of the traps.

Had it not been for the fact that when I had been sat up waiting in vain for them to come to the feeder, I had been able to see their movements, there is no way I would have put the traps where I have. They are nowhere near the feeder!

Popped a second feeder up today, but no visits by dark.

**16<sup>th</sup> Nov** – had a hour this morning, no show from a grey – but a red was on the new feeder and it has now worked out how to get into the feeder!



**17<sup>th</sup> Nov** – saw nothing on the three occasions that I visited to check the traps and no squirrels at all on the feeder – have removed one of the traps

**20<sup>th</sup> Nov - \*\*GREY DESPACHED\*\*** – adult male – fell for the trap.

It was perfect timing as somebody had contacted me about a grey elsewhere in the village and so at 2 p.m. I went to get the trap to move it to there ... and there in the trap was the little critter. Hadn't seen it for six days!

The trap is now moved to that new location and I'll monitor the area by the feeders/camera, etc

**23<sup>rd</sup> Nov** – no greys, or at least not on the camera; but this morning ...



**27<sup>th</sup> Nov** – little activity on the feeder, but a young red has been here.  
Have now removed the camera.

## Other Sightings:-

### SEPTEMBER

**4<sup>th</sup> – GREY(S)** – Harberwain Lane - x2 sightings.

One at the bottom end near the village and one further up near a barn

**5<sup>th</sup> – GREY** – Harberwain - a large grey squirrel ran across the road into the wood opposite High Harberwain.

It was actually between the first corner after Wickerslack turning and the next corner before coming down Harberwain.

Both Jerry and Gary informed of each of the above

9<sup>th</sup> – a Saturday morning visitor -- **Photo:** Gwynne TIMSON



13<sup>th</sup> - **\*\*GREYS DESPATCHED\*\*** - X3 at Crosby Lodge.

They had had a charmed life for a while now

18<sup>th</sup> – **Weston House** - I haven't seen the Grey 'B' again but on the plus side have spotted a new Red in my garden who has visited for the previous 2 days 🐿️ Mark

**GREY – Dalebanks** – seen on the road just before the court yard – Kitty Gary informed – I now have covid!

## OCTOBER

**2<sup>nd</sup> – GREY – Woodfoot** - just spotted a grey this morning about 11.30 in the Tommy Wood about 200 metres down from Woodfoot bridge up a tree next to the footpath. I have reported it to Gary, cheers Mike.

**RED** - just opposite the church.

We saw the red squirrel on Monday evening. It ran right across the garden.

My two sons are very keen to help the red squirrels. Is there anything we could put in our garden to encourage them in? Or maybe something they could do with school? Naomi

**15<sup>th</sup> – GREYS – The Haven** - We saw 2 greys on our garden wall on the 11<sup>th</sup>, they went into the Sycamores in the field next to us.

Saw them again on the 13<sup>th</sup> then one on its own around the 15<sup>th</sup> – but nothing since.

Two Reds had been in the trees just minutes before the first sighting, only seen one since for brief moment then nothing recently -- Pete and Janette

**23<sup>rd</sup> – \*\*GREYS DESPATCHED\*\*** – X2 Crosby Ravensworth (Crosby Lodge)

Hopefully they are the same two from the 15<sup>th</sup>

Also during this week a grey(s) were seen on Bank Lane – one near to Gordon Bowness's house and one further up the lane

## NOVEMBER

**2<sup>nd</sup> – GREY – 'The Haven'** - Big fat Grey in the field behind us, looking to stash some food. Just turned up on the derelict wall behind us with what looked like a conker in its mouth -- Pete

**6<sup>th</sup> - GREY** – two sightings - one footpath by Lyvennet between Orton Road and Stonework Garth and on the road just up from Low Row.

Hope to pop a camera up on the feeder at 'The Bank' (Coppice) – done 8<sup>th</sup>

**8<sup>th</sup> – WOODFOOT** – bumped into Matt from Woodfoot out in the fields and he tells me that he hasn't seen any greys for some time.

They see the occasional red, most likely in the yard itself.

Curiously though they don't get any squirrels in the wood at the back of the farm.

Matt happy for me to pop a feeder up along the river and then deal with any issues as and if the crop up.

**20<sup>th</sup> – GREY** – I was out, but a chap popped up to the house to say that he has seen a grey on three occasions and all in the same place; that being on the wall that runs above the sheep penfold towards the south end of the village – trap put in.

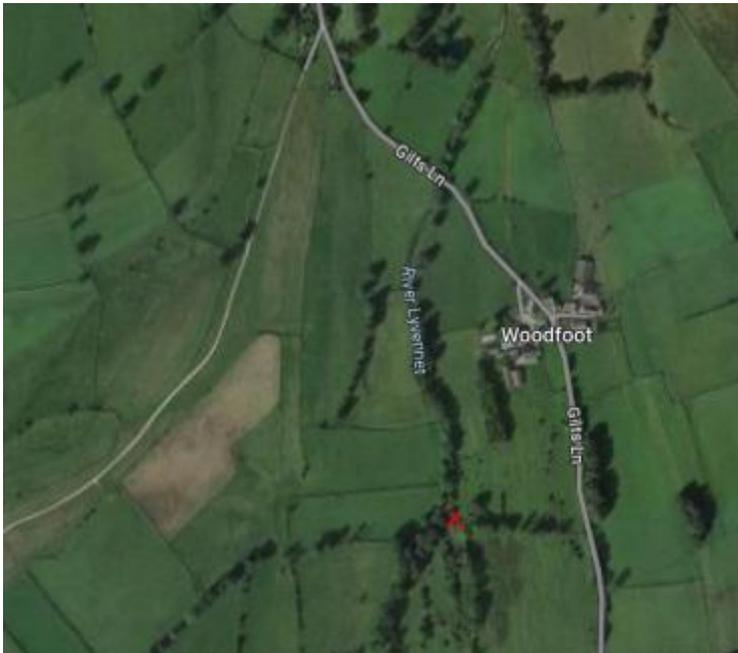
**23<sup>rd</sup>** – have removed the trap, as above. Had a hedgehog in it twice today

**26<sup>th</sup> – GREY** - ... saw a grey squirrel at 1pm - just in the big trees south of 'The Haven' going towards Slack Randy. Jack

Looks like I will have to return for another scout about and find a new location for a trap

**27<sup>th</sup>** – as above, X2 traps set – but removed 29<sup>th</sup> due to inquisitive sheep.

**28<sup>th</sup>** – popped a new feeder up today, 'X' marks the spot



## Hopper Hill

The main bits of activity here had been sightings of greys on the road and nothing at all in the two copses by the river.

A few monkey nuts that I put in the feeder by the river had partially gone at the very end of August, but on the 30<sup>th</sup> October I removed the feeder.

# Reagill

The feeders that I have are:

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

**Wyegill Plantation (WP + WPGL [Green Lane])** – very regular visits from at least two reds.



**Prickly Bank Wood – photo by Robin Woodstover**

## **Start of the period**

All was generally OK - Reds are fairly abundant and making regular visits to the feeders that I have out and there were no on-going reports of greys, which would make it the only village hereabouts to be in that position.

In the final week of the period a report did come in re greys in Pithills Plantation, but various checks, cameras put up, etc, nothing was found

An additional feeder was put up in Wyegill Plantation, but off Green Lane and a better quality one was put in to Pithills to replace one that is a little old.

## SEPTEMBER

**12<sup>th</sup>** – had topped the feeders up at the end of last week and today all the food was gone. Topped up and popped a camera into Wyegill Plantation

**20<sup>th</sup>** – “we've seen many reds in various places locally recently ... still haven't seen and Grey's thankfully.” Jane

**24<sup>th</sup>** – **GREY** – seen on the road at Wyegill, junction with Green Lane.  
Jerry informed

**25<sup>th</sup>** – finally got back to Reagill today after my spell of covid.

I'm going to have to replace one of the feeders in Pithills Plantation, but the food has gone from them all and the corn was still left.

For some reason the camera in Wyegill Plantation hasn't taken any photos after the 12<sup>th</sup>



## OCTOBER

2<sup>nd</sup> – that camera in Wyegill Plantation is dodgy; will try new batteries, but I've moved it at present and put it on the new feeder that I have put up this afternoon. This feeder is a second one in Wyegill Plantation, but a long way from the other one and is off Green Lane (WPGL).

There is a footpath that goes along the southern edge of the plantation off Green Lane and down towards Reagill Grange (on the opposite side of the road it continues across the field to Wyebourne Farm) – the feeder is along the FP, about 120 yards down on the left.

There were a few part eaten cones on the ground – see what happens

### **Transpires that by 1630h there was a red on the new feeder**

3<sup>rd</sup> – checked the new feeder and all the food had gone and just a few photos ... of a red. Batteries changed in the camera.

Whilst in Wyegill Plantation there was a red in the feeder and I then saw Ollie Jackson who told me that he had just seen X2 reds down at the bottom. He added that he walks hereabouts on a regular basis and has not seen any greys.

5<sup>th</sup> – a pair of reds are feeding quite happily and regularly at WPGL.  
All seems fine elsewhere.

8<sup>th</sup> – position remains the same - I think we need a photo from WPGL



And then of course we need a quirky one as well – with the two reds that are visiting WPGL very regularly



From arriving by car at the first wood, it takes about 20-25 minutes to do all four feeders in the three different woods, driving from wood to wood.

**14<sup>th</sup>** – all seems fine

**27<sup>th</sup>** – all seems fine at all locations – did a complete tour of Reagill, all three feeders on Morland Bank and then Barnskew (with a chat with Jamie). That's nine feeders in effectively seven different woods – it took 1Hr 45 mins.

## **NOVEMBER**

**1<sup>st</sup>** – all seems fine and have now removed the camera from WPGL

**16<sup>th</sup>** – all feeders topped up and all seems OK

**23<sup>rd</sup>** – all feeders topped up and all seems ok

**24<sup>th</sup>** – late in the evening P&DRSG rec'd this:

The red crosses are where my feeders are. I can't go today (25<sup>th</sup>), hopefully tomorrow, but failing that Monday (27<sup>th</sup>) – will pop a camera up and sit up for a while.

**26<sup>th</sup>** – visited today and topped the feeders up in Pithills Plantation and each now has a camera on it.

From a scout round saw nothing

I was walking this morning, at about 8am when I saw two squirrels ahead cross the road and climb a tree. They looked a little too large to be reds and I got close enough to see a lot of grey as they disappeared into the woods. I got about 20 yards further along the road and saw a red in one of the trees appearing quite agitated, barking and climbing up and down the tree rather than disappearing out of sight as is usually the norm.

Sorry, I'm late reporting, work got the better of my time!

Location:

///lame.knots.ounce

<https://w3w.co/lame.knots.ounce>



27<sup>th</sup> – from the cameras it is only reds that are visiting the feeders and saw nothing again in Pithills Plantation on a walk through.

Will move the cameras about over next day or so

29<sup>th</sup> – only reds in Pithills Plantation – have moved the cameras to the feeders in Wyegill Plantation.



**30<sup>th</sup>** - Jon Taylor (from Dunkirk in the village) also had a look around Pithills Plantation today - no sign of any greys.  
He'll have another look tomorrow.

We're still seeing couple of regular reds in the garden and not seen any greys here.  
**And at the end of the period all remains good, although I've not been able to get to Reagill too much of late.**

## Oddendale + CastleHowe Scar

**4<sup>th</sup> Sept - update from Liz:**

I've been told someone spotted a grey running along the road from Winter's Tarn towards Oddendale over the weekend!

Pics on the cameras up at Oddendale all well so far, will check again later today.

**27<sup>th</sup> Sept** – I'm still checking the cameras every 2-3 days - no sign of Grey's yet but I know it's likely to come! Liz

**6<sup>th</sup> Oct** - Miraculously, no greys picked up on camera as yet. But one squirrel has a colour change I don't remember ever seeing in other years - he's got a white back, it's not just poor lighting, he's in many photos in all weathers.

He seems to be as fit as the others, just checking it's not some problem – any ideas  
Other than that, feeders are busier than ever! Liz



**ED:** ran it past Jerry and he confirmed my thoughts that the white back is a moult.  
Apparently there are some similar at Shap Wells at present

**8<sup>th</sup> Nov** - saw two of the reds in the copse a couple of weeks ago - so they are still there and looking well. Janet Douglas

### **Kings Meaburn / Littlebeck + Sleagill + Newby**

**20<sup>th</sup> Sept** – X2 reds in the garden - last house on the left as leave village northbound

**9<sup>th</sup> Oct'** – **GREY – Road Death** – run over just outside the north side of the village

**30<sup>th</sup> Nov** –Gary had a look around Barnholme Wood today and it seemed clear of greys

## 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, greys a plenty though.

**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.

**12<sup>th</sup> Sept** – apparently on the villages' Facebook page there are a number of reports re greys near the church and going down to the little bridge just outside the village.

Also of one grey having been run-over

From Jerry:

*"Thanks Darren had one report last week down the footpath off little Appleby lane I am going over Cross Rigg tomorrow for a walk around the woods to check out the Hazel again.*

*So will have a look again*

*Getting loads of reports of greys as usual this time of year but more so far*

*Also few reports of red road kills mainly I think as the reds hunt the Hazel along the road edges"*

**19<sup>th</sup> October** – a little update from Morland House/Gardens who bought x2 feeders over the summer:

*"The squirrel feeders are up and running and I have ordered more food. The squirrel was coming into the greenhouse to find the feeders before we even put them up!*

*Definitely a red squirrel, often see them in the garden at Morland.*

*HOWEVER, someone who had come to the apple juicing day last weekend said*

*they'd seen a grey squirrel just as they were driving into the village - I think from the Temple Sowerby end."*

**Last week of October** – **\*\*GREYS DESPATCHED\*\*** – X5 Cross Rigg

And by the end of the week another had turned up, but not seen since

15<sup>th</sup> Nov – **\*\*GREYS DESPATCHED\*\*** – X2 Whitbarrow Wood

27<sup>th</sup> Nov - **\*\*GREYS DESPATCHED\*\*** – X4 CrossRigg

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

Other ad-hoc photos:



Coming in to land



## Pithills Plantation



Darren Rogers 11<sup>th</sup> December 2023