

# Lyvennet Red Squirrels

## Summer 2024



Morland Bank, July 2024 – photo Darren Rogers (trail camera)



**The main news being:**

- Sightings of greys has really picked up from mid August.
- Otherwise a steady stream of greys to deal with throughout the season.
- However, it has been really quiet at times, both for reds and greys.
- And then a case of the disappearing greys. They are moving about a lot and it would appear that the autumn dispersal has started early – that could be concerning as the females may be ready to mate again!
- But our reds are still there.



**General**

**X 58 Greys Despatched**

**Year Total 2024 = 153**

**Reds with S/Pox despatched this year in locality = 3**

Town Wood, Morland, early March

Reagill 20<sup>th</sup> April

Main Ings Plantation (Morland Bank) early July

**ROAD DEATHS**



**= 0**

**Year Total = 0**

**Other Deaths – none**

**Year Total = 0**

# Report

When I look at just how many greys are been dealt with and hear accounts from Jerry and Gary as to how many they deal with on a daily basis, my thoughts often turn to *'if it wasn't for the rangers how long would it be before we had no more reds'*?

Any advance on two years? Three maybe where we have plenty of reds.

Without the rangers the game would have been up a long time ago, but it seems now that with a seemingly endless supply of greys to replace the ones that get dealt with, that the task is only getting ever more difficult.

I'm only a volunteer and give as much time as I can, but I'm 'doing something' every day and still it isn't enough, but to do nothing isn't an option.

Fortunately, but not always, I'm often just looking for the one grey squirrel, sometimes it can be more, such as at Barnskew this year – but that creates its frustrations as it can be very time consuming trying to get just the one, they rarely sit on a feeder just waiting for you to turn up and shoot it.

The times when a grey squirrel has been on a feeder two or three days running at 0730h and on the third/fourth day I will be there, but it won't be!!

And of course not everyone is supportive of the work that the rangers do – see Maulds Meaburn, Flass, 16<sup>th</sup> July below.

If at 1730h on the 21<sup>st</sup> August you had told me that I would be shooting a grey in the village (Maulds Meaburn) 30 minutes later, I wouldn't have believed you; but that is what happened (see 'Maulds Meaburn – others sightings') – I know that we always say to report any sightings of greys asap, please do, we may just get lucky. And on that occasion the thermal imager came into its own, but a few days later someone else rang asap to report a grey in Crosby Ravensworth, but that didn't have such a positive outcome.

But it was about the only day of summer when the sun shone and the thermal isn't as good at such times.

There hasn't really been a balance over the summer and by that I mean at times it has been really busy and then at others the squirrels have literally disappeared and this has continued into September.

At a number of sites greys that we already knew about have seemingly moved on or just stopped coming to the feeders and then at other locations they turn up



for a few days and then move on. I've often been asking myself 'where are they?', but undoubtedly it is all brewing up to create a busy autumn.

You should never wish your time away, but wishing for the trees to shed their leaves is acceptable, but there are still a good few more weeks to go yet for that. Then we will be able to see them a little bit more easily and deal with them more quickly; well that's the theory anyway.

But of course that is slightly balanced against the fact that since August our access to various woods stopped due to the arrival of pheasants for rearing prior to the start of that season. This runs through to 1<sup>st</sup> February and then with a 'round-up day' on the 2<sup>nd</sup>; a long time for us to go without being able to be pro-active in dealing with the greys in those locations.

And of late one of the more common statements that I've heard from people who are reporting having seen a grey is: *"I tried to run it over, but .....!"*

Valiant efforts; and as strange as it maybe, indeed the greys do use our road network to get about. They should set up a campaign for a more frequent and reliable bus service!

And staying on the theme of transport, check this link re a pair of greys causing a train to be cancelled: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cly32plprg5o>

This year P&DRSG were present at the Crosby Ravensworth show at the end of August and whilst I was away that day, I understand that it went well.

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

## June

**3<sup>rd</sup> - \*\*GREYS DESPATCHED\*\* – X3** – large female at Trainlands Wood (MM) and  
Two greys out of Crabstacks (Kings Meaburn)

**4<sup>th</sup> – Kings Meaburn** between Peaselands and Wormpotts  
Also there is yet another grey at Trainlands Wood – Gary informed re both

**5<sup>th</sup> – \*\*GREY DESPATCHED\*\*** – adult female at Trainlands Wood (MM)  
**Maulds Meaburn** – Barnskew – x2 arrived on the 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Longhill Wood – just one photo in the afternoon

**6<sup>th</sup> – \*\*GREYS DESPATCHED\*\* – X2** – x2 male kits at Barnskew (BW2)  
Sighting of two in Crosby Gill (Gilts)

**7<sup>th</sup> – \*\*GREY DESPATCHED\*\*** – adult female at Barnskew (BW1)  
Another adult grey seen on camera in Trainlands Wood

**13<sup>th</sup> – Crosby Ravensworth** (Devils Bridge) – on the road

**14<sup>th</sup> – Wormpotts, Colby Road** - seen at house/barn just past Wormpotts

**15<sup>th</sup> – Kings Meaburn** - Jackdaw Scar at the entrance to Kemplea Farm  
**Morland Bank** – Duck Ponds

**16<sup>th</sup> – Maulds Meaburn** – on a telegraph pole opposite Lyvennet Bank

**17<sup>th</sup> – \*\*GREY DESPATCHED\*\* – Morland Bank Duck Ponds** – adult female

**21<sup>st</sup> – Morland Bank** (Caravan Wood) – seen x2 this week crossing the road

**22<sup>nd</sup> – Update from Jerry:-** *“On Wednesday I filled the feeder and scattered feed at Caravan Wood have sat and watched and only seen a couple of reds so far. Morland Bank Duck Ponds I have shot 2 greys there, camera up and there are two more greys and at least 1 red.*

*Morland Bank only seen reds and have walked all the standing big trees 3x , put a camera in yesterday but low as to watch the ground toward feeder, seen 3 reds at one time no greys so far.*

*Mains Wood seen 1 red there.*

*Barnskew shot 1 grey in BW1, but there is another.*

*Kings Meaburn Ford I have shot 5 there this week and Gary has shot 1.*

*Had a report of a grey at Keld farm*

*CrossRigg hall in big wood (Town wood) shot 3 more greys there again.*

*Will start it all again on Monday and go around as much as I can"*

**23<sup>rd</sup> – Colby Lane area** - Peaslands Lane end.

**24<sup>th</sup> – **\*\*GREYS DESPATCHED\*\***** – Morland (Cross Rigg) X3 by Jerry this morning  
And over the weekend Gary removed three out of Barnholme Wood, Kings  
Meaburn (private wood across the river from Jackdaw Scar)

Maulds Meaburn – Lyvennet Bank – it's x2 greys in there

**25<sup>th</sup> – Maulds Meaburn** (Trainlands) – it probably never went away, but it's back.

**26<sup>th</sup> - **\*\*GREY DESPATCHED\*\*** - Maulds Meaburn – Lyvennet Bank** – juvenile male

**27<sup>th</sup> - **\*\*GREY DESPATCHED\*\*** - Barnskew (BW2)** – adult male

Sighting – Colby Road, Nr Jerusalem

**29<sup>th</sup> - **\*\*GREY DESPATCHED\*\*** - Maulds Meaburn – Lyvennet Bank** – adult male

Maulds Meaburn - Trainlands – it's now x2 greys there

**30<sup>th</sup> - **\*\*GREY DESPATCHED\*\*** - Maulds Meaburn** (Trainlands) – male kit

## July

**2<sup>nd</sup> – **\*\*GREY DESPATCHED\*\***** – Maulds Meaburn (Trainlands) male kit/juvenile

**9<sup>th</sup> - **\*\*GREY DESPATCHED\*\***** – Crosby Ravensworth - (Crosby Gill) female

**10<sup>th</sup> – Maulds Meaburn** (Trainlands) – another one has turned up.

**11<sup>th</sup>** – met up with Jerry today and I really should have made notes, but the recent scores re greys being despatched are:

**Kings Meaburn** (Barnholme Wood) - total is now 23 (14 to add to that above).  
(near the Mill) - 1

**Morland** (Cross Rigg) – another 3  
(Hagg Wood) – 1  
(Whitby wood) - 3



**18<sup>th</sup> – Maulds Meaburn (Hulls Wood) – and still there 20<sup>th</sup>**

**20<sup>th</sup> – Maulds Meaburn (Trainlands) – grey is back**

**28<sup>th</sup> - \*\*X2 GREYS DESPATCHED\*\* - Reagill (Dunkirk) – x2 visiting the garden.**  
Was a few weeks ago

**30<sup>th</sup> – Maulds Meaburn (Lyvennet Bank)**

## **August**

**3<sup>rd</sup> – Reagill – Wyegill Plantation – just one photo of it running through the wood**

**5<sup>th</sup> – \*\*GREY DESPATCHED\*\* – Maulds Meaburn (Lyvennet Bank) – adult male**

**6<sup>th</sup> – Morland Bank (Duck Ponds) – Finally found the new feeder**  
**Morland Bank (Mains Wood) – could it be the same as above?**

**8<sup>th</sup> – Crosby Ravensworth – near Low Row**

**9<sup>th</sup> – Maulds Meaburn (Lyvennet Bank) – another one still there or just turned up.**

**10<sup>th</sup> - Maulds Meaburn (Morland Bank) – one in here as well now**

**14<sup>th</sup> – Crosby Ravensworth – in the church yard**

**16<sup>th</sup> – Maulds Meaburn – Orchard Wood, briefly.**

**17<sup>th</sup> – Crosby Ravensworth – near Tenter Row**

**21<sup>st</sup> – Maulds Meaburn - Maranatha House - ran through the garden**

**\*\*GREY DESPATCHED\*\* – Maulds Meaburn – in a tree opposite Maranatha**

**24<sup>th</sup> – Crosby Ravensworth (Bank Lane)**

**26<sup>th</sup> – Reagill – on the road going down to Reagill Grange**

**30<sup>th</sup> – Reagill – early a.m. - on the road between Pithills and Wyegill plantations.**  
**Wickerslack – again on the road**

**31<sup>st</sup> – Crosby Ravensworth (Gilts Lane)**

The eleven feeders that I look after in Maulds Meaburn - 'around Flass'





And then the rest of Maulds Meaburn - also Morland Bank, Barnskew and Reagill



# Maulds Meaburn



## Longhill Wood – Photo Darren Rogers

At the beginning of the period things were OK, just very quiet, everywhere.

Reds are there, but not really visiting feeders that much – no known issues with greys though.

During the spring a few greys had turned up but were quickly removed from the woods at the 'back 'o' Flass' and none were outstanding.

Reports of reds in people's gardens are quite rare.

## 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 (**GF/LB**)

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

All feeders are visited on a regular, daily, basis and there are approx' 5-6 reds here.



## June

**16<sup>th</sup>** – **GREY** – seen on the telegraph pole out on the lane opposite Lyvennet Bank

**22<sup>nd</sup>** – I have been away for a few days but tonight popped a camera into LB

**23<sup>rd</sup>** – a **grey** had been on the feeder in Lyvennet Bank – set x2 traps.

I only have a bit of maize left and nothing else (but should be seeing Jerry tomorrow for more food), so I laced the traps with maize and peanut spread on the plate - see what happens.

NOTE:- I prepped the traps at home and the dog was going berserk to get in the trap and then just sat at the side of one, must be the peanut spread!

Next time we have to give it a Bravecto tablet I know what to hide it in now!

No visits to the feeder by anything during the day.

**24<sup>th</sup>** – grey was eating off the ground in between the traps this morning, but no joy  
Will the addition of a monkey nut make a difference?



The little sod has been here quite a lot today (last check of traps before writing this was 1545h) – if the traps are empty tonight when I check again, I may remove the stone from off the feeder, top it up and close the traps, all ready for the morning and try and shoot it off the feeder.

And it turns out one was here till past 21h tonight

**25<sup>th</sup>** – it's me so of course there is a story, but at 0730h this morning I suddenly realised that there is probably two of them; later confirmed

Oh dear – a photo from early a.m. and they have eaten from off the ground even though I have taken the stone off the feeder so that they can get in.

This morning had a shot through undergrowth at one. Was sure that I had hit it, but couldn't find it!



Then through mid a.m. this – and below what we are trying to protect .



Come tea-time those greys haven't returned.

**26<sup>th</sup>** – certainly x1 grey was here at 05h, but come tea-time ... not been seen since.  
**\*\*GREY DESPATCHED\*\*** - a juvenile male at 20h – and it was still feeding on the ground!

Only saw the one grey, what has happened to the other?

**29<sup>th</sup>** – grey back on the feeder this morning and at lunch – I had been away for two days so only found this out at tea-time.

Popped back just after 19h and had a red come onto the feeder, spend about 10-15 mins before leaving.

It returned shortly after, but was unsettled and wouldn't go on the feeder; it then left.

It returned soon after, but was still unhappy and then a grey appeared, head first down the tree.

The two were about a foot apart and stared each other out for about five seconds before the red departed.

The grey remained and didn't move – so I now shot it!

**\*\*GREY DESPATCHED\*\*** - an adult male.

Note:- whilst I've had these greys I have kept the other feeders empty

**30<sup>th</sup>** – no grey this morning

## July

**10<sup>th</sup>** – have been away since the 4<sup>th</sup>, but no greys and only reds in Lyvennet Bank.

**14<sup>th</sup>** – food now going up at The Folly - today put food back into GF/LB

**16<sup>th</sup>** – food is now going from all feeders in Flass and Lyvennet Bank.

**NOTE:-** for some years now Gary has had a sign up at the tunnel by Flass asking that people report sightings of greys to you – he hasn't now!  
This morning I saw that it has gone and it has quite clearly been ripped off by someone.

**30<sup>th</sup>** – tonight as I drove by Lyvennet Bank on my way to go to Longhill Wood there was a grey sat on the feeder.

I just wasn't quite quick enough to get it – guess I will be back here tomorrow

## August

**1<sup>st</sup>** – that grey has only been back the once, briefly.

**3<sup>rd</sup>** – checked this morning and the grey has been here more than I thought. Even though I've been going by 4-5 times a day I've not seen it.

**4<sup>th</sup>** – had a hour here from 19h and only saw a red

**5<sup>th</sup>** – checked this morning and the grey hasn't been here for about two days.  
But then sometimes you get lucky, **\*\*GREY DESPATCHED\*\***



Took the dog for a walk (in the car!) and thought that I would pop by Lyvennet Bank en-route and the grey was coming down the tree.

Parked up out of view, quietly got out and got the rifle, didn't close the car doors, crept up and it was now sat on the feeder eating something.

**9<sup>th</sup>** – tree surgeons have been in Lyvennet Bank the last three days sorting out the fallen tree and not surprisingly due to the proximity, they haven't seen anything ... but when I checked the camera this morning, a grey; it turned up this morning.

**11<sup>th</sup>** – that grey is only visiting very early a.m. and not returning

**16<sup>th</sup>** – that grey had disappeared, but it was back very briefly this morning. I have put some food in the feeder up at The Folly with a camera just to see what happens.

**18<sup>th</sup>** – and as of this morning, nothing. The grey hasn't been back.

**21<sup>st</sup>** – still nothing, but see 'other sightings' for today's date

**24<sup>th</sup>** – fairly quiet and no grey(s) now for some time. Reds visiting in Lyvennet Bank and also up at the Folly.

**25<sup>th</sup>** – ditto 24<sup>th</sup>, but topped up GF/LB today + removed the camera from The Folly

**26<sup>th</sup>** – at 0625h there is a photo of the end part of a tail which I'm sure is GREY, but that was it (and hadn't returned prior to 09h on the 27<sup>th</sup>.)

Key to map below:

F – Flass      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!

At the start of the period all was fine, but quiet – I believe that there may only be the one pair in here.

A third feeder was put up in July, in the field just outside of Orchard Wood on the Three Cornered Wood side (OWF)

## **June**

10<sup>th</sup> – still quiet with little food being taken, although the monkey nuts do.

30<sup>th</sup> – had popped a camera up yesterday on the main feeder. This morning showed a red, but not many photos.

## **July**

2<sup>nd</sup> – not a lot of activity, but red only.

10<sup>th</sup> – removed the camera. Some activity, but not too much, but only red.

11<sup>th</sup> – more food gone today

14<sup>th</sup> – food going quite nicely now

20<sup>th</sup> – all seems fine

26<sup>th</sup> – well, the food is going, but two days ago I put up a new feeder (OWF).

It is just outside the wood (about 35 yards) on the Three Cornered Wood side, on a tree in the fence line that effectively runs between the two woods. I class it as 'strategic'.

Anyway, this morning all the food had gone.

## **August**

3<sup>rd</sup> – pheasants are here! Popped a camera on 'The Avenue'

5<sup>th</sup> – with the pheasants here, cleaned out the main feeder in the wood

**18<sup>th</sup>** – up to date it had been quite steady on the feeder that I left ('The Avenue' ), but popped back today and a grey had been here on the 16<sup>th</sup> at 0930h for five mins. Tomorrow I will go to OWF and pop a camera up

**24<sup>th</sup>** – fairly quiet on both remaining feeders. Only a little food is going.

**25<sup>th</sup>** –took the camera down at OWF as needed elsewhere; not a lot of activity.



End of the period – all seems Ok, but there hasn't been a great deal of activity

## Three Cornered Wood



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

The wood almost too small to be called a wood, but that still has a pair of reds ... but always attracts greys; why? I wish I knew.

A number of greys had been shot during the winter and spring, but at the beginning of this period it was free of greys.

I make the assumption that there is a pair of reds here, but for a while now I have only seen one at a time - feeder is visited, but not always daily.

### **June**

**6<sup>th</sup>** – not a lot of activity, but red only.

**20<sup>th</sup>** – this is a bit of a first; at 0724-25h a GREY, but that was it and now on the 25<sup>th</sup> it hasn't been back (so where is it?)

**29<sup>th</sup>** – camera malfunction, but I think it is still only reds

### **July**

**2<sup>nd</sup>** - only reds

**11<sup>th</sup>** - camera has become temperamental and not taking many photos, but all seems OK.

**12<sup>th</sup>** - not much food gone, but only red on the camera

**14<sup>th</sup>** – only red

**20<sup>th</sup>** – not much activity, but only red.



**28<sup>th</sup>** – I'm beginning to think that there are no squirrels in here at all and the red that does come to the feeder is 'visiting' from Orchard Wood – I could be wrong.

**5<sup>th</sup> August** – and now that is it!

Pheasants are here (well not in this wood, they are penned in other woods nearby), but now I don't have access

Visited this morning to remove the camera and empty out the feeder.

Upon checking the camera a grey had been here for 10mins on the 31<sup>st</sup> at 1930h, but not since.

In previous years Three Cornered Wood would have taken up several pages of this report, but not this year .....!?

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

Another 'pheasant wood', but at the start of the period reds were visiting, not excessively, but definitely there

**25<sup>th</sup> June** – not visited since the 10<sup>th</sup>, but now all the food has gone

**11<sup>th</sup> July** – visited and topped the feeder up, corn still left, but then that was also the case in Longhill Wood

**14<sup>th</sup> July** – some food has gone but not a lot

**20<sup>th</sup> July** – more food has gone last few days

**28<sup>th</sup> July** – just very steady with the amount of food going

**3<sup>rd</sup> Aug** – pheasants are now here and that is it until February.

Just like the other woods hereabouts, it has been a quiet season .....!?



# 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.

At the start of the period it was really fairly quiet. Hulls Wood was probably seeing that bit more activity with Longhill Wood very quiet – there was a camera on F2.



## June

2<sup>nd</sup> – visited and all seemed OK and at last, the food has gone

6<sup>th</sup> – yesterday there is x1 photo of a **grey** at F2. Hasn't appeared since.

10<sup>th</sup> – not too much activity in Longhill Wood, but no greys on camera

25<sup>th</sup> – finally made it back today to Longhill Wood (but not Hulls Wood I'm afraid) and ..... where have they been and what have they been doing?

I only have a camera on F2 and when I saw that it had 1200 photo's my heart sank a little, but not a single grey on one.

I would hope that there are more, but a lovely pair of reds have been very active



## July

11<sup>th</sup> – finally made it back today and with all the corn still been left in the feeders I thought that all was ok, but!

On checking the camera on F2 a grey was here 26-29<sup>th</sup> June and then the batteries ran out!

Will hopefully get back tomorrow to check -- Camera put into Hulls Wood.

**12<sup>th</sup>** – not much activity since yesterday, but no grey has turned up ... but it will.

**14<sup>th</sup>** – only reds on camera, both at F2 and Hulls Wood.

**20<sup>th</sup>** – visited today and all fine in Longhill Wood with reds, but turns out a grey has been in Hulls Wood since the 18<sup>th</sup> (and I moved the camera as well this morning!)

Gary informed

Went back this afternoon and popped a camera back up – left a trap, but closed, just for it to get used to.

**21<sup>st</sup>** – did all feeders in both woods, which all now have cameras on them and ... only reds.

**23<sup>rd</sup>** – the grey turned up again this morning in Hulls Wood and so went back tonight and set the trap.

**26<sup>th</sup>** – the trap didn't work and in fact the grey hasn't returned to Hulls Wood since it was last caught on camera

**28<sup>th</sup>** – well. Turns out that a grey was on F1 in Longhill Wood 0530h on both the 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>, but not since!

No real way of accounting for such sporadic nature, but I will do my best to visit every day this week and if it crops back up at those times at F1 I'll pop a trap in. Curiously it's not visited F2

**30<sup>th</sup>** – tried traps overnight at F1 in Longhill Wood and the grey went to F2!

Me thinks that tonight there will be traps at both.

But it only seems to be an early morning visitor and not every morning, which isn't very helpful.

No grey has popped up on camera in Hulls Wood (have had x2 reds at the same time though) – and saw Barry this afternoon and he tells me that he is seeing quite a few reds in and around the Field House there.

Back tonight to set the traps and put another one in – the grey was on F1 at tea-time; looks like it is starting to float about this area, unless of course there are two.

**Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> August** – well that was a waste of my time!

On Tuesday the grey appeared at tea-time, all of my traps went out and I have been checking them x4 per day since – and what hasn't turned up since tea-time on Tuesday!!!

Traps still empty this morning - and that now is it! The pheasants are now here and I'm not allowed to be – come back in February

## Other sightings from the village:

**21<sup>st</sup> Aug – GREY** – it does not get any better than this!

1740h had a call from Scarlett in Marantha House (the next to last one on the left as you leave the village to go up the hill to Appleby) that a grey had just run out of her garden to the side of the house, crossed the road and gone up a tree opposite. I was able to go straight out and Scarlett was just leaving. On the thermal I picked up nothing from that tree, so thought best to go and check Lyvennet Bank as it was probably heading that way.

Had 5-10 mins there and no joy. The weather was crap, wet and windy, but thought that I'd have a quick look round before going home.

As I got back towards the start of the drive down to Flass I picked up a heat source from that tree which Scarlett had pointed out; of course now I was on the opposite side.

Too far away and too windy, but I was able to get to and behind a fallen tree trunk only some 15 yards behind the tree – but now all I could see was branches and leaves and no squirrel and the rifle was well up in the air.

Still got a heat-source though, but couldn't sight it through the scope.

Had to move away and now I saw something 'grey', but only just.

Leaves and branches were blowing everywhere, but suddenly I got a sight of a head – it was on the side of the main trunk, about 20 yards up the tree and was facing head down.

All I saw was the head and now the branches and leaves obscured my view.

Here at least I could rest the rifle on top of the fallen tree trunk, to move would alert the squirrel and I would have to free-hold the rifle – moving position wasn't therefore an option.

I decided to go with the 'last known position' and fire the next time the wind blew the branches and leaves out of the way; what was there to lose?

And by crikey, the wind blew, the head came back into view and then it was:

**\*\*GREY DESPATCHED\*\*** - when we say '*report any sightings asap*' we do realise that 'asap' may not translate into 'immediately', and to be fair this was probably a 'one in virtually never' occasion, but Scarlett did her bit and I just got lucky.

But without the thermal I would never have got it.

## GREEN ENDS / THWAITES COTTAGES + 'Arthur's Cottage'

### **No Reports**

#### **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 it does occasionally get an incursion of greys and hence this has seen me visiting more often -- At the start of the period the wood was clear and had been for some time

#### **June**

8<sup>th</sup> – the food is still there and the wood seems clear.

#### **July**

3<sup>rd</sup> – food still there and feeder emptied and topped up.

#### **August**

5<sup>th</sup> – it's a bit overgrown in there, but the good food had gone.

Cleaned out and topped up – will come back in a few days

7<sup>th</sup> – went back for a look and no food has gone

24<sup>th</sup> – visited today and none of the food had been taken from the feeder. Cleaned out and replaced with a layer of maize with a few monkey nuts on top





## **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 goes.

At the end of May a grey had been removed from here and it was a question of where there anymore and if so, how many?

**Holesfoot** – the large country house on the opposite side of the road - they have ten feeders out for guests to be able to see. Have about five reds there, but regular incursions of greys

**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 – reds not seen here for a while and it does get regular incursions of greys

**Hawkrigg** is on the Colby Road – turning right just past Crabstacks. Some reds here, but during May Gary removed nine greys.

## **June**

3<sup>rd</sup> - **\*\* X3 GREYS DESPATCHED\*\*** - a large female out Trainlands Wood and two at Crabstacks

**4<sup>th</sup> – GREYS** – *“Hi just seen a small grey possibly a young one at the wood on the right just after you turn off for Colby between Peaslands and Wormpotts South of Kings Meaburn”* - Colin

I also re-visited Trainlands Wood and there has been another grey on the feeder. Have informed Gary re both of the above.

**5<sup>th</sup> – \*\*GREY DESPATCHED\*\*** – adult female, possibly pregnant, by myself in Trainlands Wood, 1605h.

I went up for a look and it was sat on the feeder and I was able to get a shot whilst still sat in the car! Then only 20 mins later this:



**6<sup>th</sup>** – popped in at midday and no greys since I shot the one yesterday.

**7<sup>th</sup>** – from checking the camera, a large adult GREY was on the feeder in TW this morning

**8<sup>th</sup>** – had 0720-08h at TW this morning and only saw reds and came back about 1130h and saw nothing – the grey had been here up to 1105h!

**10<sup>th</sup>** – greys hasn't been her yesterday and today!

**11<sup>th</sup>** - Gary at TW this morning. Had a shot at a grey (it was back), but it may have lived for another day (or maybe not). Either way it made off!

**13<sup>th</sup>** – checked the camera this morning and that grey ... it came back!

**14<sup>th</sup>** – **GREY** - at house/barn on Colby Road just past Wormpotts a.m. - James

**23<sup>rd</sup>** – **GREY – near Peaslands Wood**, junction of Colby Road - James

I have been away for a few days, but checked the camera at TW today and no grey since the 18<sup>th</sup>

**25<sup>th</sup>** – typical! Topped the feeder up yesterday and a grey arrived in the evening and was back again this morning.

However, when I went at 1545h there was nothing on the feeder, but as I went along the path to it a grey jumped down off a tree and legged it!

**27<sup>th</sup>** – **GREY** – “Saw a grey this morning in a field down a lane behind a little wood on the Colby moor road near Jerusalem Farm lane end -- Regards Colin  
Gary informed

**29<sup>th</sup>** – have been away for two days and today swapped the card in the camera only to discover that it is now x2 greys! One is a kit.

Gary had intended to visit tomorrow morning – updated.



**30<sup>th</sup>** - **\*\*GREY DESPATCHED\*\*** – male kit (by myself) in Trainlands Wood.

I went up for a look and after just 4-5 mins it appeared - and I was able to get a shot whilst still sat in the car!

## July

**2<sup>nd</sup>** - **\*\*GREY DESPATCHED\*\*** – male kit/juvenile (by myself) in Trainlands Wood.

Tonight was the first time I can say that I got the grey due to the thermal.

It wasn't on the feeder, but on the ground nearby and I wasn't sure what it was due to not being able to see it at all and also at night the rabbits come out here.

But it then shot of up the bank, got half way up and stopped, but I still couldn't see it by eye, but was able to scope it and shoot it.

Also needed the thermal to find the little bugger when I went to pick it up.

I couldn't see it at all, but using the thermal found it in the middle of a bush

I hope it is the last one, but I'm not so sure.

**3<sup>rd</sup>** – up to 1530h no greys so far.

**10<sup>th</sup>** – I was then away 4-9<sup>th</sup> and when I returned today there has been a grey here (Trainlands) briefly 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> first thing in the morning.

**11<sup>th</sup>** – **Trainlands** and no greys today! And Gary had a look in as well.

**15<sup>th</sup>** – checked today and only reds at Trainlands

**20<sup>th</sup>** – went to Trainlands today and a grey has been back. Arrived on the 15<sup>th</sup>, here on the 18-19<sup>th</sup> but not yet today. Gary was here on the 18<sup>th</sup>

**22<sup>nd</sup>** – popped up to Trainlands at 1030h and transpired the grey had been here 0915-45h.

I then returned 1140h for 50mins and at 1530h but no show – Gary is popping in tomorrow.

**26<sup>th</sup>** – the grey was seen again at 1330h on the 24<sup>th</sup> but up to 14h today it hasn't come back ... and I've spent some time in the last few days waiting for it!  
Same again on the 27<sup>th</sup>

**30<sup>th</sup>** – visited today at lunch, re on the feeder, but a grey was here a few times yesterday a.m.

## **August**

**2<sup>nd</sup>** – grey hadn't been here since the 29<sup>th</sup> but turned up for 30mins this morning

**5<sup>th</sup>** – grey there yesterday and today at 0745h for a while, but then hasn't returned – Gary informed

**6<sup>th</sup>** – I was here at 0745h ... but the grey wasn't!

**9<sup>th</sup>** – grey has disappeared again

**15<sup>th</sup>** – but it has been here the last few days, yesterday in particular, but not today!

**19<sup>th</sup>** – then here 16-18<sup>th</sup>

**24<sup>th</sup>** – the grey has disappeared, again!

**27<sup>th</sup>** – activity has quietened down, and that grey hasn't been seen for a while now.

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

A collection of plantations, mainly owned by Lowther, but with a fairly abundant population of reds in each.

There is a feeder in what is left of Morland Bank wood, two in Mains Wood (top F1 and bottom F2), one at the duck ponds and another in 'Caravan Wood'.

At the start of the period the position was uncertain. Two greys had been seen on Morland Bank end of May, but then went 'missing



## **Mains Wood – Arthur Clegg**

### **June**

**3<sup>rd</sup>** – cameras have been up both in Morland Bank and at the duck ponds and no greys have turned up.

**13<sup>th</sup>** – removed the camera from Morland Bank and no greys have turned up.

**15<sup>th</sup>** – got to the duck ponds at lunch-time and the grey(s) have turned up! They arrived on the 7<sup>th</sup>, one photo, and then have made an appearance every day since, even though there is no food left.

Jerry Informed

I went back at 19h, topped up the feeder and gave it a hour during which it turned up, but only stayed in the tree tops further back.

**17<sup>th</sup>** – **\*\*GREY DESPATCHED\*\*** – at the duck ponds this morning (Jerry) adult female – he will look back in again.

**21<sup>st</sup>** – Caravan Wood – informed today that someone has seen a grey here on two separate occasions this week crossing the road – Jerry informed.



**22<sup>nd</sup>** – **Update from Jerry** – *“On Wednesday (19<sup>th</sup>) I filled the feeder and scattered feed at Caravan Wood have sat and watched and only seen a couple of reds so far. Duck Ponds - I have now **shot 2 greys** there, camera up and there are two more greys and at least 1 red.*

*Morland Bank only seen reds and have walked all the standing big trees three times, put a camera in yesterday but low as to watch the ground toward feeder, seen 3 reds at one time no greys so far.*

*Mains Wood - seen 1 red there.”*

**24<sup>th</sup>** – met up with Jerry this morning. He had been at the duck ponds since 06h, but the greys had been and gone. A ‘plan B’ may have to be enacted. Only reds elsewhere in Morland Bank.

**27<sup>th</sup>** – update from Jerry – *“Morland Bank still only reds. Caravan Wood only seen reds. Duck Pond them greys hit and miss and Mains wood reds only”*

Jerry tells me that he has x3 traps out at the duck ponds but as yet no grey has shown any interest.

## July

**2<sup>nd</sup>** – the greys are starting to show an interest in the traps at the duck ponds

**10<sup>th</sup>** – I've been away since the 4<sup>th</sup>, but Jerry tells me that he has pulled the camera and traps out of the duck ponds (pheasant poults arrive 13<sup>th</sup>).

There are at least x2 greys there – **a new plan will be formulated**

Topped up feeders on Morland Bank and Mains Wood.

**Main Ings Plantation** – this is a smallish wood a few hundred yards away from Caravan Wood on the Morland side.

Have been told today that a person who ‘looks after it’ shot a red in here last week that had **S/Pox**.

The wood has a few reds in, but gets the occasional grey which this person deals with.

**12<sup>th</sup>** – met Jerry this morning and put up a new feeder in Morland Bank Duck Ponds (2), but well away from the pheasant pens. Hopefully the reds (but especially the greys) will find it and we can get them sorted. Emptied the original feeder.

Reds everywhere else and no greys known about, which includes Caravan Wood



**13<sup>th</sup>** – checked Morland Bank Duck Ponds 2 but no visits yet -- Morland Bank topped up and seems fine.

Mains Wood is fine with reds visiting every day – moved the camera away to Postage Stamp Wood

**16<sup>th</sup>** – no joy yet with Morland Bank Duck Ponds 2 – only reds at Morland Bank (x3)



**19<sup>th</sup>** – the new feeder in Morland Bank Duck Ponds was found last night by ... a red.

It was then also there again this morning.

**21<sup>st</sup>** – at the duck ponds it is only reds. Where have those greys gone and why haven't they found this new feeder yet?



**22<sup>nd</sup>** – moved the camera out of Morland Bank this afternoon.

The new feeder at the duck ponds still hasn't attracted the greys. Reds visit daily, but aren't hammering the feeder.

Tonight popped back to the original feeder and scattered food on the ground and popped a camera up – I just want to see if those greys are still about.

All fine in Morland Bank and Mains Wood.

**23<sup>rd</sup>** – still only reds at the duck ponds and becoming more frequent. Only saw a lot of Jays on that scatter feed at the original feeder.

**25<sup>th</sup>** – I would love to know where those greys at the duck ponds have gone – still only reds and becoming more frequent.

**29<sup>th</sup>** – I'm still only seeing reds.

## **August**

**2<sup>nd</sup>** – still only reds

**5<sup>th</sup>** – not too much food gone from the main feeder in Mains Wood, more has gone from F2

**6<sup>th</sup>** – **GREY – Morland Bank Duck Ponds** – finally found the new feeder this morning – Jerry Informed.





Whilst I found out on the 7<sup>th</sup>, a grey has been seen by Arthur in Mains Wood, but from the photo I can't make out where exactly.

**8<sup>th</sup>** – popped to Mains Wood at lunch-time and all the food at the top feeder has gone; could that be the grey? Camera popped up

**9<sup>th</sup> – back today and:**

The grey is on F1 in Mains Wood and visited a few times since I put the camera up Morland Bank – popped a camera back in

Morland Bank Duck Ponds – camera hadn't taken any photos ....!

GREY was seen this morning by a motorist on the sharp bend, Maulds Meaburn end, as you turn onto Morland Bank itself (the long avenue)

I had 30 mins in Mains Wood at 15h and saw nothing

**10<sup>th</sup>** – had some time at Mains Wood today a.m. and p.m. and only saw a red, but there is a grey and there is also one in Morland Bank

**11<sup>th</sup>** – that grey hasn't been in Mains Wood (up to 1530h) today!

No grey in the duck ponds since the 7<sup>th</sup>

Grey is visiting daily in Morland Bank, but early and maybe again at tea-time

**15<sup>th</sup>** – grey had become a little reclusive the last few days, but was back today at lunch-time, but only briefly.

**19<sup>th</sup>** – where have the greys gone?

None on camera anywhere the last few days



27<sup>th</sup> – as I'm going to be away for a few days did all the woods today – no greys. Things are a little quieter at present, but I really would like to know what those greys are up to and where

# Barnskew, Lankaber Wood and environs

Between Maulds Meaburn and Kings Meaburn

1 = Barnskew Wood No.1 (BW1)

2 = Barnskew Bank (BB) previously felled

3 = Barnskew Wood No.2 (BW2)

L = Lankaber Wood

The yellow crosses mark the locations of the feeders – the middle cross of the three in a line is 'BBR' (Barnskew Bank River).

A walk around Lankaber had previously being undertaken and with it due to be felled in 2024 it was decided not to put up any feeders here.



There is a really good population of reds here, in both BW1 and 2 and surprisingly in BB as well, even though it has been felled.

During the summer Lankaber and BW2 are due to be felled.

This location is becoming a problem for greys though – keep shooting them and more just keep appearing.



# June

2<sup>nd</sup> – popped in and there has been no grey for the last few days

5<sup>th</sup> – after being at work the last two days, popped in tonight to see a grey making off from BW2

They, there are two, arrived on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and have become prolific

Not sure about BW1 as the camera had a battery fault.

Back tomorrow!



6<sup>th</sup> – **\*\*X2 GREYS DESPATCHED – male kits\*\*** - BW2 drove down at 0820h within five minutes a grey appeared on the bank and which then made its way to the feeder - shot.

Then lol and behold another appeared five minutes later, but only about 6 yards away from me. It was in the lower reaches of a beech tree eating 'the fruit' – shot. Came back at 1115h and swapped cards in the cameras and ... there's still more! Another appeared in BW2 at 1030h for a while and x1 photo from yesterday of a grey in BW1, but not back since.

Popped back at 1530h for 35 mins and saw nothing in BW2 and then again at 19h. But it had been here, a lot!

BW1 - Grey popped back at 1345h and this time for two photos, but isn't going onto the feeder. Looks like a male kit.



7<sup>th</sup> - **\*\*X1 GREY DESPATCHED - Adult Female\*\*** - BW2 – 0745h.

This was the mum of the kits – how many are left?

Well at least one! Went back at 16h to check the camera and a large adult was in BW2 for 7 minutes just before 10h this morning!

Up to 1615h no greys today in BW1

8<sup>th</sup> – popped in for 20 mins just after 08h (saw a red in BW2) and again just after 12noon (saw nothing).

10<sup>th</sup> – no grey in BW2 last few days. A grey, probably a kit was in BW1 9<sup>th</sup> 1110-13h  
And with no greys the reds are back, a lot

14<sup>th</sup> – had a little time here today on BW2, no grey and it seems to have gone ‘missing’ which is the same for BW1

22<sup>nd</sup> – **Update from Jerry:- “Shot 1 grey in BW1, but there is another.**

**BW2 - only seen reds.**

*Spoke to a Jamie he tells me that wood and the wood on right on top of hill is to be clear felled in the next couple of weeks.”*

23<sup>rd</sup> – I have been away for a few days but visited today and checked cameras. Any greys in BW1 haven’t visited, but one (more?) are hammering the feeder in BW2

25<sup>th</sup> – gone a little quiet, but the grey(s) is still there, but not as much as recently.

26<sup>th</sup> – I'm sure it is simply because it is me! Sat on BW2 from 0720-08h and saw nothing and that would be because it was on the feeder in BW1.

Tonight ... x2 traps into BW1 and x1 trap in BW2 and get back at 0720h again in the morning to find .....?.

27<sup>th</sup> – well I found nothing in the traps, but as I drove into the farm a grey was sat on the feeder in BW2 and just stayed there whilst I reached into the back of the car for the rifle - **\*\*GREY DESPATCHED\*\*** - adult male.

Went and sat on BW1 for a while but nothing showed up – a grey had been there 0613-28h -- how many are left?

29<sup>th</sup> – have been away for two days but popped up tonight. The batteries in the camera for BW1 ran out when I left on the 27<sup>th</sup>!

Curious in BW2 – after shooting the grey on the 27<sup>th</sup>, the smallest grey that I have ever seen on a feeder appeared at 1128-31h, but hasn’t been back.

## July

**2<sup>nd</sup>** – no greys in BW2 for a while now, but an adult male grey is becoming a regular feature in BW1

**3<sup>rd</sup>** – grey back in BW2 this morning. I'm now away for five days; Jerry informed

**10<sup>th</sup>** – back today and visited to top up feeders and check cameras ... and oh dear! X2 greys have become prominent in BW1, visiting every day and more regularly. Whilst in BW2 that kit is back. It's a little bit bigger, but not visiting too regularly and not since the 8<sup>th</sup>. Although there is also an adult grey about as well.

Visits by reds are becoming less frequent, especially in BW1



**11<sup>th</sup>** – both Jerry and I had some time her today, at various and numerous times, but saw no greys.

X3 traps have been put in tonight and a camera that sends photos straight to Jerry's phone!

**12<sup>th</sup>** – **WELL** – here about 0715h and nothing in the traps and missed a grey that was sat on the rock on top of the feeder in BW1 by 8 minutes!

And we had no luck at all during the day – but ....!

Was with Jerry on Morland Bank and had finished there when he checked his phone to check on BW1, photos of greys and one was there, now.

Round we went and it had gone, but came back, but Jerry couldn't get a clear shot! He 'went after it' and I watched as he crawled along the ground, up a steep slope on his belly, finally got a 'now or never' shot and .... missed.

It was on the ground and undergrowth was in the way – I think that it may now becoming personal for Jerry as well!

**13<sup>th</sup>** – it is personal, but even though so many greys have been shot here this year, I still don't think that I'm winning.

Here at 16h in BW1 – a grey turned up, went to the back of the tree with the feeder and I had no shot. It jumped onto the feeder lid, then down onto the table but only showed me its tail and rear end.

I waited for it turn to go into the feeder, but it didn't and buggered off straight away – down onto the ground to chase a red off and it never came back, but it was eating down on the ground, nearish to where the traps are – I'll aim to re-open the traps tomorrow night.

Went back to the car and a grey shot up the tree in BW2 and I don't think that it was that kit!

**14<sup>th</sup>** – had 50 mins on BW2 this afternoon and no show from anything  
Jerry is here first thing in the morning for a good while – it clearly has become a personal thing!

**16<sup>th</sup>** – **from Jerry:** *"Went to Barnskew yesterday morning had 3 ½ hours there and nowt and by my camera not a grey all day. Checked camera this morning and an early grey so went down and spent until 9.45 there again nowt. Just checked my camera and grey on at 12.30 and in there now so heading there for an hour now."*

**\*\*X1 GREY DESPATCHED – Young Male\*\* - BW2** -- note BW2, not BW1

Update from Jerry:

*"Went down to Barnskew as said on way in grey on feeder in BW2, shot that Youngster but not really small. Had an hour sat on bridge but nothing came back".*

**17<sup>th</sup>** – Jerry rang me this morning to say that once again no luck in BW1.

A grey came, but went straight down onto the ground to chase a red off and then disappeared as well!

**19<sup>th</sup>** – no more greys in BW2, but those in BW1 are still winning at the moment

**20<sup>th</sup>** – had a little while in BW1 this afternoon and no show, but turns out the grey only arrived this afternoon for a short while – it is becoming erratic.

**23<sup>rd</sup>** – had a hour in BW1 from 0830h and only saw reds, in fact four or was it five of them. One of them was on the feeder across the river from BW1, which I haven't seen for a while.

Apart from very early, stupid o'clock, the grey(s) are sporadic and brief.

When it's not meant to be!

Back at 1530h for 30 mins and then at 1555h a grey. It was coming down the bank in BW1 towards the feeder and after five seconds it turned round and was never seen again. Well up to 1615h

One does not like to swear ... but ... they are taking the –iss ... and winning.

**26<sup>th</sup>** – all gone quiet and no grey has popped up in BW1 for 48hrs now. Where is it?

**28<sup>th</sup>** – well it made the odd, but fleeting visit 27<sup>th</sup>, but hasn't been back today.

**30<sup>th</sup>** – **this is a lost cause!** Yesterday it was here 1540h for just two photos and today when I was here at the same time it transpires that it hasn't been back since

## August

**2<sup>nd</sup>** – no greys turning up now at all, how bizarre.

**9<sup>th</sup>** – no greys on camera in either wood!

**15<sup>th</sup>** – well, after no greys for some time, they reappeared on the 13<sup>th</sup> in BW1. Two were caught on camera at the same time as well and one was back briefly 14<sup>th</sup> at tea-time, but none today.

**20<sup>th</sup>** – back to, where have the greys gone?

**23<sup>rd</sup>** – no greys at all. I wish I could explain it and know where they are!

Went back up the hill on the other side today and filled the feeder in BB and popped a camera up.

**27<sup>th</sup>** – visited this morning, probably the last time this month as I go away tomorrow for a few days. It has gone very quiet – no greys in BW1 and the reds aren't exactly prolific at the moment.

**BW2** - all seems fine -- **BBR** - not much at all has gone

**BB** – since I put feed back in there is only x1 photo of a squirrel, but it was red.

# Crosby Ravensworth



## **The Bank Coppice, Crosby Ravensworth -- Credit: Darren Rogers**

This is where I used to say "*I don't get to Crosby Ravensworth much*", but since November I have been able to spend much more time here.

However, over this summer my visits had been less frequent, but sightings of greys towards the end of August changed that!

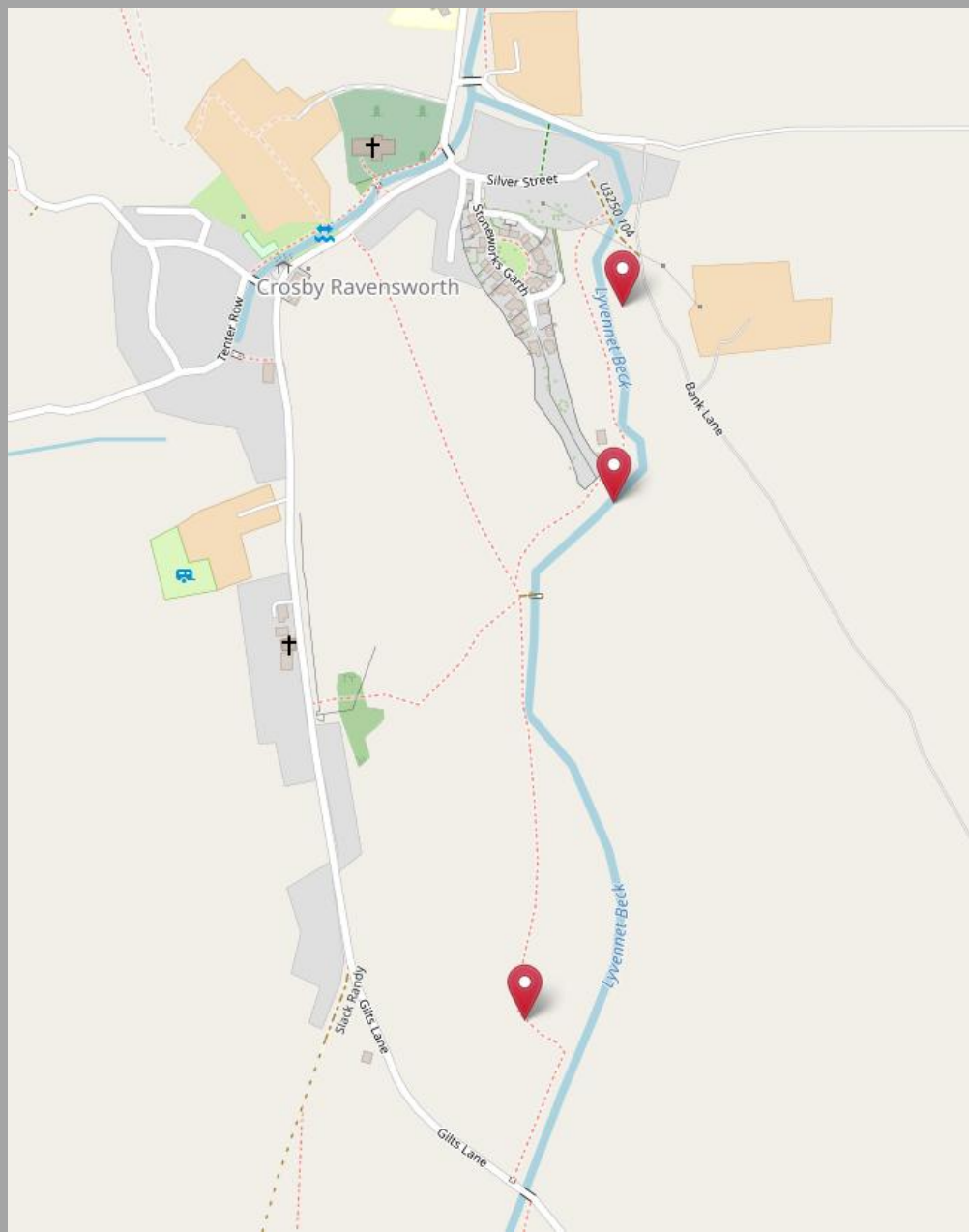
There hadn't been any reports of greys into the village since the winter when a decent number had been despatched.

However, up in Crosby Gill there had been the odd sighting and a few greys dealt with – but there could be more.

Gary does make occasional trips there.

At the start of the period there were no known issues with greys and whilst reds may not be numerous, they are there.

The three feeders that I look after in Crosby Ravensworth are shown below



Obviously many people have feeders in their gardens.



## **Well Head + Anna Well + The Haven**

**No Reports** – this is very unusual, but has been like it for a while now

## **Crosby Ravensworth South – Gilt**

**6<sup>th</sup> Aug** – monkey nuts that I put in a while back are still there

## **Summer House**

**2<sup>nd</sup> July** – visited and still some monkey nuts in the feeder

**30<sup>th</sup> July** – food hasn't gone

**6<sup>th</sup> Aug** – food hasn't gone

**15<sup>th</sup> Aug** – food hasn't gone

## **The Bank Coppice (by River)**

It was from here that quite a few greys had been shot over the last autumn and winter.

At the end of spring though visits from reds were becoming infrequent.

**3<sup>rd</sup> July** – feeder empty and topped up.

**30<sup>th</sup> July** – some food has gone. Will aim to pop a camera up soon.

**6<sup>th</sup> Aug** – some food has gone - not quite enough to warrant a camera at present.

**15<sup>th</sup> Aug** – not a lot of food has gone, but with a grey having been seen in the church yard, popped a camera up.

**19<sup>th</sup> Aug** – nothing at all and removed the camera

**22<sup>nd</sup> Aug** – still no food going

**24<sup>th</sup> Aug** – with a grey seen nearby on Bank Lane at tea-time, checked in. Food still there, but will have to try and find a spare camera to put up

**27<sup>th</sup> Aug** – no activity at all on the feeder, but will keep the camera in-situ.

## Other Sightings:-

### JUNE

6<sup>th</sup> – **GREYS** – seen in Raven Gill/Crosby Gill – Gary informed.

When opportunity allows we are going to have to pop a feeder up.

10<sup>th</sup> – **Raven Gill** – popped a feeder up this afternoon. Will the greys find it?

**Low Dalebanks** - The reds are definitely quiet up here, I haven't seen any yet this year so I am fearing they are no longer living in the trees right behind me, hopefully they are still around but just a bit further up! Andrea

13<sup>th</sup> – **GREY** – on the road Devils Bridge (Raven Gill) – Gary informed.

21<sup>st</sup> – checked the new feeder in Crosby Gill and it still hasn't been 'found'

30<sup>th</sup> – checked the new feeder in Crosby Gill and it still hasn't been 'found' – so placed a lot of food on the feeder itself. That will attract the birds and then maybe the squirrels will see them ....!

### JULY

9<sup>th</sup> – **\*\*GREY DESPATCHED\*\*** – Crosby Gill – pregnant female – by Gary

12<sup>th</sup> – checked the feeder in Crosby gill and all the food is still there! It will be coming down.

19<sup>th</sup> – took the feeder down in Crosby Gill

### AUGUST

3<sup>rd</sup> – **Low Dalebanks** – for the first time in quite a while, a red back in the garden.

8<sup>th</sup> – **GREY** - "4.20 p.m. CR side of the little stream heading towards the school, a grey squirrel ran into Low Row field. The squirrel was very wet, but I'm sure it was a grey." – Joan

14<sup>th</sup> – **GREY** – seen in the churchyard this morning. Person who saw it reported it direct to Gary.

John Raine tells me that he hasn't seen any greys in Crosby Gill for some time now.

**17<sup>th</sup>** – our grey seems to be floating about, now near Tenter Row:

*"Grey Squirrel seen in Beech tree in our garden and thicket behind, this evening.*

*Unfortunately by the time I got my airgun out he had vanished.*

*Probably heading upstream towards John Raine's house."*    Regards Steve Holroyd

**20<sup>th</sup>** – Gary tells me that he did Crosby Gill today and *"only saw one"*

I have asked him 'one what?', but he hasn't got back to me and he's away on holiday next week!

**24<sup>th</sup>** – **GREY** – Bank Lane (Gordon Bowness' house at tea-time.)

Gordon rang me and I popped straight out - had a look around but no sign of it.

**31<sup>st</sup>** – **GREY** – Gilt Lane – about ¾ mile up the lane from Woodfoot

## Oddendale + CastleHowe Scar

This is the plantation immediately on the left as you turn off the Shap to Crosby Ravensworth road to go down to Oddendale.

You wouldn't immediately think that it would support quite a large number of reds.

Liz from Shap 'looks after' the reds here, popping up every other day or so to top up the feeders – at her own expense.

At the end of the plantation as you turn left there is a wood on the right and reds have also been seen in there)

**31<sup>st</sup> July – update from Liz:**

*"SO FAR - no more greys seen on camera up at Oddendale, just that one back in the year that Jerry sorted. Food going down at the regular speed, and some nice healthy reds seen on the pics!"*

# Reagill

The feeders that I have were:

**Pithills Plantation (PH) – X1** – regular visits by at least two reds

**Scar Flatt Wood** – very regular visits from reds.

**Postage Stamp Wood** – a bit further away, half way towards Morland Bank

I did have more feeders in Pithills Plantation and also Wyegill Plantation, but that changed after Wyegill Plantation was clear felled and Pithills ‘thinned out’.

## **Start of the period**

The work in Pithill Plantation was about finished at the start of the period, but reds were fairly abundant and making regular visits to the feeder.

There had been a ‘rogue’ grey knocking about and at the end of the period a few sightings started to come in.



**Dunkirk – photo by Jackie**

## JUNE

5<sup>th</sup> – Dunkirk – “not seen any sign of greys and our reds looking healthy” – Jackie  
Picture above

## JULY

13<sup>th</sup> – my hands are up. Reagill is being neglected by myself at present, but only because of there being so many greys elsewhere.

I don't want to tempt fate, but no sightings of greys have come in from here and long may that continue.

Today went up to Postage Stamp Wood, filled the feeder and popped a camera up.

14<sup>th</sup> – via e-mail

*“It's Matt from Reagill. Happy to report still seeing reds regularly and haven't seen the illusive grey hanging around. ”*

19<sup>th</sup> – all well in Postage Stamp Wood

22<sup>nd</sup> – went to Postage Stamp Wood today and put up a new, replacement feeder, one of the new style black ones.

The old one was a wooden one and the mice were finding it too easy to get in.

28<sup>th</sup> – via e-mail from Jackie in Reagill: **\*X2 GREYS DESPATCHED\***

*“Hi Darren, we had two greys in the garden here couple weeks ago over a few days - Jon has dealt with them and no sightings since - we've had our camera out daily to look out and also to get close up of the reds.*

*So far no sign of illness in our red visitors, we have three regulars.*

*We'll keep a close watch on the reds and hope no more greys visit - we'll sort if they do.*

*First greys we've seen in the 18 years we've lived here - was a bit of a shock. But I guess inevitable given other sightings in the village.”*

30<sup>th</sup> – well! Visited today and cleaned out and topped up the feeders in Pithills Plantation and Scar Flatt Wood. Camera put up in Pithills Plantation

## AUGUST

5<sup>th</sup> – Postage Stamp Wood – most of the food had gone

6<sup>th</sup> – hmmm. Got back today and all of the food in the feeder n Scar Flatt Wood and Wyegill Plantation had gone.



When I started to go through the photos from Wyegill Plantation it was reds all the way, until this below.



But it was just the one photo, it didn't go on the feeder and hasn't been back. The feeder was empty though by the end of the 31<sup>st</sup> and with at least x3 reds visiting.



**19<sup>th</sup>** – went back today and all the food has gone in Scar Flatt Wood and Wyegill Plantation. In Wyegill Plantation a grey is seen on the 16<sup>th</sup> running past the feeder, as towards the road at 0914h and then at 114h is running back in the opposite direction into the wood.

The only times that it has been caught on camera

**24<sup>th</sup>** – Postage Stamp Wood seemed fine today and all the food is going

**26<sup>th</sup> – GREY** – seen on the road going down to Reagill Grange. Jerry informed and also Jackie at Dunkirk which is quite close by.

**30<sup>th</sup> – GREY** - on the road between Pithills and Wyegill plantation (which sadly avoided the 'spirited driving' of Mat who saw it)

## Kings Meaburn / Littlebeck + Sleagill + Newby

**15<sup>th</sup> June – Kings Meaburn - GREY** - Jackdaw Scar at the entrance to Kemplea Farm  
Jerry informed and he is in the area on 17<sup>th</sup>

**22<sup>nd</sup> June – Update from Jerry:** ***"Kings Meaburn Ford** - I have **shot five** there this week and Gary has **shot one**.*

*Had a report of a grey at Keld farm"*

**22<sup>nd</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> June – Kings Meaburn - \*\*Greys Despatched\*\* - x3** – Barnholme Wood  
(this is the same place as the 22<sup>nd</sup> above)

**10<sup>th</sup> July** – Jerry tells me that he is still picking up a few greys out of Barnholme Wood and that he now also has access to another wood down there.

**Sleagill** – have been told of someone who has put feeders up and is getting x2 reds visiting.

**11<sup>th</sup> July** - met up with Jerry today and I really should have made notes, but the recent scores re greys being despatched are:

**Kings Meaburn** (Barnholme Wood) - total is now 23 (14 to add to that above).  
(near the Mill) – 1

**31<sup>st</sup> Aug** - Yesterday evening travelling down to Morland we saw a small Red Squirrel, it looked like a young one. It ran across the road just before the Sleagill/Low Moor junction. Shirley Bowness

# 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

**Whitby 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.

**22<sup>nd</sup> June** – **Update from Jerry** – “Cross Rigg hall in big wood (Town Wood) **shot 3** more greys there again.”

**24<sup>th</sup> June** – **\*\*Greys Despatched\*\*** - **X3** – Cross Rigg - this morning by Jerry

**10<sup>th</sup> July** – Jerry is still getting the odd grey out of Cross Rigg

**11<sup>th</sup> July** – met up with Jerry today and I really should have made notes, but the recent scores re greys being despatched are:

Cross Rigg – another 3 (and for everyone that he shoots, another turns up.

Hagg Wood – 1

Whitby wood - 3



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



1 = Whitby Wood

2 = Cross Rigg (Main House)

3 = Crow Wood

4 = Arthur's Wood

5= Town Wood

6 = Strawberry Wood



### **Other ad-hoc photos:**

Now, I have waited a very long time to have a photo of an owl sat on a feeder with its prey, be that in its talons or in its mouth.

I now have one (Barnskew 22<sup>nd</sup> July) – but I don't know what it is!

Some have naturally suggested rat or mouse, but someone has said it's a baby owl or at least another bird!



**Darren Rogers 15<sup>th</sup> September 2024**