

# Lyvennet Red Squirrels

Spring 2023



A red squirrel in Prickley Bank Wood - By RobinWoodstover



The main news being:

- Greys are fairly numerous in the Morland and Kings Meaburn area.
- Greys began their '*June Dispersal*' very early this year and the simple fact is that they are popping up almost anywhere.
- Reds are still plentiful, but it is a very challenging time
- Multiple new feeders have been put in multiple new locations – mainly with positive outcomes

## General

X 24 Greys Despatched

Year Total (2023) = 38



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

## ROAD DEATHS



= 0 Year Total = 0

Other Deaths – none

Year Total 2023 = 0

## Report

Ordinarily I can keep the 'Chronology of grey sightings' to one page – not this time!

The position would seem to be that they could turn up just about anywhere (and that has continued into June).

The 'June Dispersal' would appear to have begun a month early this year or maybe it is just that they have



had such a good breeding season and an early one at that, or quite possibly a third litter ... something that doesn't bare thinking about.

Come June and finalising this report it seems strange to be looking at photos with ... snow on them (from March), and indeed quite a lot has happened in the last three months.

Greys turning up just about anywhere was one, the tree felling on Morland Bank, a meeting with Lowther to increase our coverage locally in their woods and then the subsequent positioning of feeders in new locations, the P&DRSG presentation at CRVH – and I think that I have become a 'volunteer ranger'!

But right back at the very beginning of March I sustained what was in the end quite a bad ankle injury – did it coming out of Three Cornered Wood when I stood on a rock ... over I went and it did it hurt.

A number of days off work and not being able to do my 'squirrel rounds' followed and was all very frustrating.

We had an incursion of greys into Brackenslack Wood at the end of March which was very quickly dealt with and Jerry is fighting a constant battle in various locations (Morland and Kings Meaburn areas amongst them) and in spite of despatching many greys he says that he is struggling to clear the woods.

**Tree felling on Morland Bank** – Late March and through April is not the best time to be doing this just as any wildlife is beginning or indeed already into the breeding season - Jerry tells me that:

*"I have spoken to Andy from Lowther about this and myself and another lad had a walk through prior to felling.*

*They are felling half this year up to where they have put a new road in.*

*I will take a look there later.*

*Always bad timing but at the end of the day it's a crop and has to be harvested.*

*Andy, head forester at Lowther, is good and always talks to me about plans and what's going on."*

The other half of the wood gets done next year – yet whilst reds are often seen crossing the road here, years back when I put two feeders up they were never visited.

And one of the new feeders in Mains Wood this spring as proved the same



And of course we all like a good photo, this one was taken by Robin Woodstrover on the edge of Prickly Bank Wood (curiously between Morland Bank and Reagill). He took the photo as he was sitting quietly reading in the evening sun at the bottom of the fields here near the wood - he then heard a noise as the squirrel landed on a tree branch near him...then he started his shoot. Some may say that he's been extremely lucky – I would say that he created his own luck.

P&DRSG held a 'presentation evening' at CRVH on the 17<sup>th</sup> May, which was not intended as a fund-raiser but as one of a series of evenings across the area to 'get the message out.

It was a good evening with a turnout of about 24 and it seemed to be very well received.

£59 was raised from sales, £99.50 from donations and we gained a new member.

Over the spring I have read 'A Scurry of Squirrels' by Polly Pullar.

An interesting read about her time as a 'wildlife rehabilitator' more focusing on her experiences of hand-rearing orphaned kits in Perth, with some interesting stories and accounts.

There are also some thought provoking views about nature and our role within it – however, I wouldn't pay the £14.99 cover price and would look around for it on offer.

I've mentioned that I have put a number of new feeders, they are:

Hulls Wood (Crosby Ravensworth)

Barnskew (Maulds Meaburn) – one in each wood

Mains Wood (Maulds Meaburn) – but which is already down and ready to go elsewhere.

And I have still to pop one up in Spring wood (Reagill) and Lankaber Wood (between Maulds Meaburn and Kings Meaburn)

So recycling old feeders is a good idea – in this case it was more a case of rescuing them! Gary provided me with these:



I think I did a reasonable job of cleaning them



I'm happy with that and the first one was put up in Three Cornered Wood the same day.

But Dave Thompson continues to be a great help when it comes to repairing broken boxes – like the nine that the horses in Flass have done!

Apart from a seeing a hell of a lot of deer in the woods over the previous months, I'm also seeing a lot of this:



either on a rock or a tree stump – see Flass and Reagill for more info’, but I have no doubt that you know what it is and what has done it.

And of course I've got this far and not mentioned our REDS.

Yes things aren't great at present with the amount of greys, but the reds are still there, doing OK and I've really got to hand it to Gary, Jerry and the other rangers for the work that they do and the hours that they put it.

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

**4<sup>th</sup> Mar - Longhill Wood** - for an hour this morning.

**6<sup>th</sup> Mar - Three Cornered Wood** - Hopefully the grey was despatched, just didn't drop to the ground

**Crabstacks (Kings Meaburn)** - **\*\*X4 GREYS DESPATCHED\*\***

**7<sup>th</sup> Mar** - for the first time this year **Orchard Wood** - but only briefly

**11-13<sup>th</sup> Mar - Three Cornered Wood** - yes, it's either recovered or it's a new one!

**23<sup>rd</sup> Mar** - still present in Three Cornered Wood.

**24<sup>th</sup> Mar - Brackenslack** **\*\*X1 GREY DESPATCHED\*\*** - adult female

**25<sup>th</sup> Mar - Brackenslack** – at least two more greys in the wood.

**27<sup>th</sup> Mar - Brackenslack** **\*\*X1 GREY DESPATCHED\*\*** - large adult male

**28<sup>th</sup> Mar - Brackenslack** **\*\*X2 GREYS DESPATCHED\*\*** - one adult male and female

**7<sup>th</sup> Apr** - it's still there in Three Cornered Wood

**10<sup>th</sup> Apr - Three Cornered Wood** **\*\*X1 GREY DESPATCHED\*\*** - adult male

**17<sup>th</sup> Apr – Caravan Wood (Morland Bank)** – there on and off all day  
Jerry is going to go and sit and wait on it tomorrow

**18<sup>th</sup> Apr – Caravan Wood** – **\*\*X1 GREY DESPATCHED\*\*** - adult male

**19<sup>th</sup> Apr – Caravan Wood** – still a grey(s) in there – Jerry Updated

**20<sup>th</sup> Apr - Threaplunds gill, Sleagill** - grey seen

**21<sup>st</sup> Apr – Caravan Wood** – **\*\*X1 GREY DESPATCHED\*\*** - adult female

**24<sup>th</sup> Apr – Longhill Wood** – grey on F2 – Gary informed

**28<sup>th</sup> Apr – Kings Meaburn** – Near the Ford, on the roadside about 20 yards from the ford on the Newby side.

Update from Jerry:

I had a report of a grey at Dedra bank near Newby - been this morning and set a feeder and camera .

Two greys despatched in Crow Wood, Morland (Crossrigg Hall estate) and one grey despatched in Town Wood, Cross Hall estate this week.

**1<sup>st</sup> May – Lyvennet Bank, Maulds Meaburn** – on the feeder in the garden.  
A first and quite concerning.

**2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> May – Crosby Ravensworth** – Woodfoot/Crosby Villa

**4<sup>th</sup> May – Kings Meaburn (Crabstacks)**

**5<sup>th</sup> May – Crosby Ravensworth** - in the gill of the river above Woodfoot

**7<sup>th</sup> May – Newby** - report direct to Jerry in an area where he's had them before.

**9<sup>th</sup> May – Barnskew (Maulds Meaburn)** – 0720h On the telegraph pole outside  
Peggies barn - Then at 0915h at High Lankaber.

**12<sup>th</sup> May - Mains Wood (Maulds Meaburn)** – 06h on the new feeder!

**17<sup>th</sup> May - Barnholme Wood (Kings Meaburn)** – X2 greys seen  
Seen again by people at the holiday cottage and Gary

**23<sup>rd</sup> May - Barnholme Wood \*\*X2 GREYS DESPATCHED\*\*** - one more seen

**24<sup>th</sup> May - Hawkrigg \*\*X2 GREYS DESPATCHED\*\***

**26<sup>th</sup> May – Crosby Ravensworth** – seen on the bridge at Gilts, the '*Woodfoot one*'

**27<sup>th</sup> May – Barnskew** at Lankaber Road end (Peggies Barn) a.m.

**1<sup>st</sup> June** – Three Cornered Wood – a grey is back

**5th June - Barnholme Wood \*\*X1 GREY DESPATCHED\*\***

## Maulds Meaburn



**Lyvennet Bank – Photo Darren Rogers**

At the beginning of the period everything was really quiet.

Reds are numerous but weren't visiting the feeders that regularly or taking much feed.

As far as we knew there was just the one grey and it was in the usual place, Three Cornered Wood – this rather small wood is where they always seem to gravitate to and this particular one had been taunting us for some time and doing a good job at avoiding its despatch.

As mentioned in the intro' there was a brief incursion of greys in Brackenslack, quickly dealt with, and the odd one as seemingly passed through on the northern outskirts of the village, but overall the village has faired quite well for greys

## Lyvennet Bank

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

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

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

At the start of the period all was well – but GF was rarely been visited, but RF more so, but not excessively – still a good chance of spotting a red though

**20<sup>th</sup> Mar** – like elsewhere it was a slow start to the month with only a little food been taken, but it is now start to pick up and feed goes daily from the RF

**23<sup>rd</sup> Mar** – since I moved the RF feeder a few months back to a different tree I've never actually seen a red on the feeder, but today I did.

Topped it up, then went off to The Folly and on my return shortly after ...

Feed had gone from both feeders

**26<sup>th</sup> May** – red on the RF this afternoon, had a good look at me before going off up the tree and was still there when I returned from the Folly – so I took a photo, using a ... camera!



just happened to find it lying in the bottom of my rucksack



**7<sup>th</sup> Apr** - much more activity on all of the feeders the last few days

**12<sup>th</sup> Apr** - the food goes from RF every day, less often from the GF

**1<sup>st</sup> May** – \*GREY\* e-mail from Julian - he has seen a grey on the feeder (RF). As Julian points out, a first for him and it is also the first time that I've known of a grey in the village.

Popped a camera up at the Folly tonight - Gary informed.

e-mail sent out to the group for attention of folk in Maulds Meaburn.

**2<sup>nd</sup> May** – well curiously all the food had gone from GF and not quite all the food from RF – however, as of tea-time there are cameras on both feeders

**3<sup>rd</sup> May** – and those cameras only show reds.

**4<sup>th</sup> May** – ditto – spot the red (easy)



I'm fairly happy now that there are (now) no greys in the immediate vicinity. However, where this one came from and where it has gone to, is a mystery.

**End of period** – all is well

# Flass



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

No known issues with greys.

The three feeders are:

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

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

**The Tunnel\*\*** – previously called 'The Avenue' - on a tree on the left just before the tunnel

\*\*because of the horses at Flass knocking the feeders off the trees, this particular one has had multiple re-sitings.

## MARCH

**20<sup>th</sup>** - at the beginning of the month feed was going slow to steady, but is now picking up a bit, although up at the Folly it has yet to do so (yet the food is going readily at Lyvennet Bank) – no greys seen

**23<sup>rd</sup>** - feed is going but only steadily

**31<sup>st</sup>** - all seems OK and a red popped out of the Folly feeder as I walked up to it this morning.

## APRIL

7<sup>th</sup> – much more activity on all of the feeders the last few days

9<sup>th</sup> – that increase in activity continues. Popped a camera up on the feeder at The Tunnel last night and a red has been making regular visits.



10<sup>th</sup> – definitely two different reds visiting.

12<sup>th</sup> - food now going well from  
all three feeders

23<sup>rd</sup> – all seems fine.

## MAY

2<sup>nd</sup> – well the food is going well,  
just concerned following the  
sighting of a grey in  
Lyvennet Bank – had put the  
camera up at the Folly last night,  
but today none of the food had  
gone and nothing had visited.



**3<sup>rd</sup>** – feeder at the tunnel destroyed! Base plate and the lid still on the tree, the rest on the floor.

**4<sup>th</sup>** – replaced the feeder at the tunnel

**5<sup>th</sup>** – red running towards and then onto the Tunnel feeder this a.m. just after I had topped it up.

**8<sup>th</sup>** – found the feeder at the tunnel and then down on 'The Avenue' both broken. I have to climb to get to them, so how the horses are getting up there to do it, I don't know.

But they have a new way now, knock off the bottom, the bit that the squirrel sits on, and when it drops off the food fall out.

Haven't replaced the tunnel feeder yet, need to think about a solution!

**14<sup>th</sup>** – new feeder put back up at the tunnel.

If you are stood in the field looking at the tunnel, it is high up on the left.

**22<sup>nd</sup>** – how things go full circle!

The squirrels haven't really taken to the re-positioned feeder at the tunnel, so I've moved it back to where it was at the very beginning.

It is now before the tunnel, about 15 yards on the right

**23<sup>rd</sup>** – The Folly – saw this today:



Mentioned in the Intro' and later on in Reagill – the reds find a tree stump or in this case a rock/stone, take a cone to it and strip it there for the seeds.  
The stump/rock acts as a table and they pick one that will afford them a good 360° view.

A better idea of the setting.



**27<sup>th</sup>** – the re-positioned feeder at the tunnel has now been found – empty  
**End of period** – all seems fine.

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

At the start of the period I had just moved the feeder in Orchard Wood to another location, nearer to Three Cornered Wood and a pair of reds were loving it.

I had X2 cameras on it, one being at the base of the tree to try and get some close ups that did not include a feeder. And then I did my ankle!

Later in the period (see May 8<sup>th</sup>) 'The Avenue' had to be moved

### MARCH

6<sup>th</sup> - Gary saw the two reds on the feeder this morning on his way to Three Cornered Wood

14<sup>th</sup> – finally got to hobble back to the woods today and obviously the feeder was empty – had been a grey here on the morning of the 7<sup>th</sup>, but hasn't been back since.

There was one (poor) photo of x2 reds on the 5<sup>th</sup> but otherwise haven't had two together since.

The camera at the base of the tree hasn't worked as hoped – will give it another go at some point.

16<sup>th</sup> – the 'The Avenue' feeder is going well and a lightish coloured red is visiting the feeder in the wood – a smattering of snow.



**18<sup>th</sup>** - not that much food gone at all and I had tried again with a camera on the ground – it was mainly the Jays that took the monkey nuts, but there was one photo:



**20<sup>th</sup>** - red on the tree next to the one with the feeder on it on 'The Avenue' this morning when I topped up.

**23<sup>rd</sup>** – work has kept me away for a few days, but since the 20<sup>th</sup>, the 22<sup>nd</sup> saw x2 reds together and repeated again this morning ... but then a grey turned up this morning at 08h for ½ hour – it will be the grey from Three Cornered Wood. Because I've also not been there for the last few days and the feeder will be empty, it's come through to here ... and indeed on viewing the camera from Three Cornered Wood it was there about 0750h and then no more photos

**27<sup>th</sup>** - grey had some time here this morning. Probably because of what I had found in Three Cornered Wood

**29<sup>th</sup>** – grey had a hour here this morning

## **APRIL**

**5<sup>th</sup>** – been away for a few days and in that time a grey visited at 09h on the 2<sup>nd</sup> but there is just the one photo – but the photo below made me go ... wow”



**7<sup>th</sup>** – food in the feeder on 'The Avenue' was still there this a.m. at 0705h, but gone when I returned at 0820h

**12<sup>th</sup>** – food going daily

**23<sup>rd</sup>** – all seems fine. Camera moved.

## **MAY**

**8<sup>th</sup>** – all seems ok at present, except that today I found the feeder on 'The Avenue' Broken – See 'Flass' entry.

I can't take the chance again with the horses as that's the third feeder that they've broken in as many days.

Therefore, I have put a new feeder up at the very end of 'The Avenue', but technically just inside Orchard Wood near to the gate out into the field.

**14<sup>th</sup>** – food now being taken from the new 'The Avenue' feeder.

**22<sup>nd</sup>** – all the food has gone from the new 'The Avenue' feeder – but today the metal gate from 'The Avenue' into Orchard Wood was open and that means just one thing, the horses have been in!

Sure enough, yet another broken feeder.

They shouldn't be able to get into this wood, but now used my last remaining feeder and put it about 12ft up a tree that was good climb for me.

Would need to be Pegasus to get to this one!

**23<sup>rd</sup>** – as I walked into the wood this a.m. saw x2 reds on the same tree.

The newly positioned feeder (red circle) with 'x' marking the previous occasion – but will the reds like it?



**27<sup>th</sup>** – whilst still some food in it, the re-positioned feeder has now been found.

The new 'The Avenue' feeder is going strong

**End of Period** – all seems ok

## Three Cornered Wood



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

And so it has continued into 2023 – a grey was visiting daily and for long periods of time, but had somehow avoided us.

There was also a red in there as well, but it made fewer visits – and then on the 5<sup>th</sup> March when I came out of this wood I fell awkwardly on a rock, badly sprained my ankle and was absent for some time!

## MARCH

**6<sup>th</sup> - \*\*GREY DESPACHED ... ?\*\***

Gary visited and thinks he got the grey – but it just didn't drop to the ground!  
And because of my ankle I can't get back to check the camera to make sure that it (or others) aren't still about!

**14<sup>th</sup>** - finally got to hobble back to the woods today and obviously the feeder was empty – and upon checking the camera all was good up to the 10<sup>th</sup> with only a red visiting ... but then on the 11<sup>th</sup> a grey turned up.

It was also here on the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> ... and of course the luck of sod.

Gary was here this morning, but so far the grey hasn't put in an appearance!

However, because who doesn't like a photo of a red squirrel in a snowy scene, even if it is the spring! See below

**16<sup>th</sup>** - grey from sunrise, but not for too long and likewise with a red this afternoon.



**18<sup>th</sup>** – not a lot of activity the last two days and all mainly in the hour or so after sunrise and equally shared between a red and a grey.  
I suspect that this grey may be slightly hard work to get.

**23<sup>rd</sup>** – work has kept me away for a few days and in that time the red has been visiting a fair amount and at different times of the day.  
However, the grey is still here, but it only comes early morning and doesn't hang about for ages ... but then as to where it goes? Back to its drey probably.

**24<sup>th</sup>** – position remains the same – there is just something about this wood!



**And I also removed the camera as well as I needed it up at Brackenslack – I feel slightly naked without one here!**

Most cameras have a strap which to attach it to a post or tree, but such as here in Three Cornered Wood and Brackenslack, there isn't another tree close enough. However, Jerry Moss makes these rather good 'tree spikes' for attaching a camera to a tree a tree, but I've only got the one and the need at Brackenslack was that bit greater as present – but hopefully I have another one on its way!

This camera in Three Cornered Wood is screwed into an over-hanging branch and works quite well.

**28<sup>th</sup>** - something has managed to pull out the Perspex screen from the feeder and hence all the feed has gone.

And to be honest, this feeder is now a little past its best - a new one is Required.

**31<sup>st</sup>** – the grey in this wood doesn't appear to eat the corn, virtually all of it was left

## **APRIL**

**5<sup>th</sup>** - have been away for a few days, but today there was still corn left in the feeder. However, have brought the camera back.

**6<sup>th</sup>** – grey was here this morning for a hour from 0640h, but the red then spent quite a bit of the morning here as well.

Then I had a hour here at tea-time. No grey turned up, but saw two reds and then Bambi turned up and had a slow and steady mooch about before then having a sit down behind some fallen branches no more than 20 yards away from me – the camouflage must be working!

**7<sup>th</sup>** – here at 0710h to 0815h and nothing. Did see a squirrel further into the wood, but I think it was a red.

Yet when I walked back all the food out of the feeder on 'The Avenue' had gone! Pulled the card out of the camera this afternoon and upon checking:

Grey was here 0642-0705h – then again 0950-10550h – then again 1110-1145h. It really is now pushing its luck ... but to be fair, it's doing it well.

RIP the old feeder here ... it has served us well, but it was already knackered when I out it up a few years ago – the new one:



**And so what would be the first thing to try out the new feeder?**



But then the little rascal did this:



Knocked the camera causing it to point downwards!

It was pointed to the ground throughout the night and the whole of the 8<sup>th</sup> until I turned up at tea-time. It had taken a few photos though .... about 300!

The whole animal kingdom had turned up and then I remembered that when I had swapped the feeders over I had spilt most of the corn that was still in the old one and boy did they like it.

But then on the 8<sup>th</sup> ...

8<sup>th</sup> – grey turned up early, but is now hanging about for longer in the morning.

Red(s) are still visiting regularly – and my thoughts on the red having knocked the camera are that it thought it wanted a few more action photos of itself:



9<sup>th</sup> – was here from 0845h to 10h and no joy ... but frustration.

At 0915h saw a squirrel in the upper reaches of a tree about 50 yards back and knew that it was grey, confirmed shortly after when it moved into the sunlight. It moved about the branches for a short while and then went out of sight for 15 minutes, and was now on the same tree, but close to the ground.

It was coming to me and then I'm certain I saw it on the ground ... here it comes and then nothing.

About 5 minutes later I saw it back up the tree moving away and then going out of sight!

So, tonight (after The Archers – 7 p.m. BBC Radio 4) I returned with a trap, placed it at the base of the tree (as seen on the photo above) – will be back just after 7 in the morning.

And then frustration No.2 – I brought home the wrong card out of the camera! I've done it before – somehow put the SD card that I have just taken out of the camera back in instead of the replacement one – it's a gift!

10<sup>th</sup> – that is an early alarm call for a Bank Holiday Monday, but with my insomnia and the wife's snoring, I don't really need it anyway.

Curiously it turns out that there isn't even a photo of the grey on the feeder this morning, scratching its head and wondering where the large stone came from that is now on the lid and preventing it from getting in ... grey was in the trap.

**\*\*X1 GREY DESPATCHED\*\***

Now let us hope that that was the only one in here.

And when I returned this afternoon – there was only one photo to see, a red going up the tree with a monkey nut in its mouth.

12<sup>th</sup> – I had changed the camera position again as it kept getting knocked and ended up facing the ground, but since I've done this and dealt with that grey, I've gone from 400 photos a day to 4!

However, none are of greys and just in case I've put the camera back on the tree alongside the feeder.

13<sup>th</sup> – more photos today and all of a red

14<sup>th</sup> – as there are no greys I shouldn't moan, but, these reds are only eating monkey nuts!

**18<sup>th</sup>** – I can't remember the last time that I came to this wood and there was still some food left in the feeder!

A red(s) are visiting daily though

**23<sup>rd</sup>** – still a little food left when I arrived today – camera shows no greys.

## **May**

**1<sup>st</sup>** – quite remarkable that today I had to top up all of the feeders in Maulds Meaburn, but not this one – camera put back.

**2<sup>nd</sup>** – only reds on the camera and more food has gone – camera removed to Lyvennet Bank.

**8<sup>th</sup>** – still so strange to come here and find that there is still some food left.

**22<sup>nd</sup>** – all the good food had gone but all the corn was still in the feeder.

The camera that was chewed by the mice at Reagill normally goes in here ...!

### **End of period (4<sup>th</sup> June):**

It was only reds up to the 31<sup>st</sup> and then a grey arrived on the 1<sup>st</sup> and has been here ever since.

It could be the 'Longhill Wood' grey has that hasn't been seen on camera all week

# 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 side of this ravine, about 125 yards apart. The original feeder (F1) is lower down the second feeder (F2) is further into the wood.



Once back in the wood at the beginning of February, there was a red visiting F1, but Gary had seen three reds on one visit.

I intend to put a new feeder up just further away from F2 as last year, whilst reds did visit it, mice and woodpeckers were a problem.

Then right at the beginning of the period I sprained my ankle, badly, had to have time off work and couldn't visit for some time ... bugger!

At the beginning of May a feeder was put up in Hulls Wood for the first time

## MARCH

14<sup>th</sup> - finally got to hobble back to the woods today and obviously the feeder was empty – had been a grey here on the morning of the 4<sup>th</sup>, but hasn't been back since.

However, reds are still visiting

17<sup>th</sup> – still just reds visiting, but I do think that it is the same one – light coloured, small and looks young.



The monkey nuts are also going from F2, but I think the time has come to put up another feeder

And of course we all like snowy photos.



**18<sup>th</sup>** - really quiet on F1, but all the monkey nuts had gone from F2

**22<sup>nd</sup>** - Gary saw x2 reds near to the feeder this morning

**23<sup>rd</sup>** - work has kept me away for a few days, but on checking the camera, just reds

**24<sup>th</sup>** – not a lot of movement, but a couple of reds visiting F1

I have now put the other feeder up (F2 with the old F2 becoming ‘unused’),  
About another 50 yards further along the ravine.

The problem with the old F2 is that it is an old wooden type and had a  
slight gap at the top of the Perspex and the lid ... mice just took advantage

**26<sup>th</sup>** – nothing has found the new feeder ... yet! I'm confident it won't be long.

**28<sup>th</sup>** – a red has now found the new feeder (see photo further below), but there is  
just the one photo. Early days!



**Where do you think you're going?**

**And below, the first photo of a red on the new feeder**



## APRIL

5<sup>th</sup> – **F2** is been visited, but I've not had to top the feeder up yet.

Save for the corn, **F1** was empty though

7<sup>th</sup> – still very slow at present

10<sup>th</sup> – last few days they have started to get going. More visits and more food going



12<sup>th</sup> – most of the activity now is **on F2**.

Some food is going from **F1**, but the visits to **F2** are now daily, fairly regular and from sunrise.

22<sup>nd</sup> – they are really getting going now!

Regular visits, food going from both feeders – just reds.

18<sup>th</sup> – feed has gone from both and there is still plenty of activity on F2, by more than one red



23<sup>rd</sup> – food all gone and all seems fine

25<sup>th</sup> – upon checking the camera today a grey has been here yesterday and today!  
Gary informed



# May

**1<sup>st</sup>** – grey is making regular visits to **F2**, as are reds -- Camera put up on **F1** as well.

**2<sup>nd</sup>** – had just over an hour here this morning (0810-0930h) – the grey had already been and was very early at **F1**.

A red turned up at **F1**, had some food for himself, then took something away, crossing the stream, trying to bury it in a little island in the middle before going over to the far bank and burying it there.

He/she returned to the feeder, took something else and went off in a different direction.

Then had 40 mins in the afternoon and nothing

**3<sup>rd</sup>** – Gary was here today, saw the grey (and reds) but didn't get a shot at it.

It was then back on the feeder at lunch-time!

**5<sup>th</sup>** – the grey is still here and it is putting in appearances on both feeders, but over the last two days it hasn't really hung about for long.

Camera removed from **F1**

**HULLS WOOD (HW)** - put up a feeder here (with camera). The first time that we have had one here

undoubtedly there are reds and the wood looks good for them – let's see what happens.

**8<sup>th</sup>** – grey has only been on **F2** on the **6<sup>th</sup>** the last few days (but no camera on **F1**)

But

At **HW** a red has now found the feeder. It actually found it on the **6<sup>th</sup>**, but it looks like it took until this morning to work out how to get into the feeder!

Which is good as that would suggest it is a 'Hulls Wood Red' ...

But

Whilst the feeder is in the bottom of the wood, near the slurry pit, as I was walking through to Longhill Wood I saw a grey in the top L/Hand corner.

Maybe, hopefully, it was the 'Longhill Wood grey' and not a new/second one.

**12<sup>th</sup>** – grey is still visiting on a daily and regular basis, albeit the visits aren't for that long and tend to be a.m. and just into the afternoon.

Meanwhile at Hulls Wood, the grey hasn't found the feeder yet and whilst the red(s?) were a little slow and shy at first:

I can still see you!



they have now really got the hang of it – over 600 photos worth!



**13<sup>th</sup>** – had a hour at Longhill Wood (F2) from 1120h, no show

For the first time in a long time, the grey was on the feeder in the evening.

**14<sup>th</sup>** – Hulls Wood – the reds are absolutely loving the new feeder and are rarely off it and the grey has still to find it – camera removed.

22<sup>nd</sup> – Hulls Wood – all the food gone, apart from the corn  
Longhill Wood – the grey is still floating about

24<sup>th</sup> – as I approached Hulls Wood today I found this:

A topic that I have covered elsewhere in this report, but this ‘table’ was a



first for me. Just seems a slightly odd place, on the stile into the wood from the field. There was , one cone on each side of the fence, a *‘his and hers’*.

Grey still floating about in Longhill Wood

27<sup>th</sup> – no grey at F2 for the last two days.

**End of period (4<sup>th</sup> June):**

the grey hasn't been seen on camera at all over the last week – it may have moved onto Three Cornered Wood.

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



At the beginning of the period a red(s?) was making the occasional visit to the feeder

### MARCH

14<sup>th</sup> - finally got to hobble back to the woods today and the feeder was empty.

23<sup>rd</sup> - no need to top up today as little, if any, food has been taken

26<sup>th</sup> – quite curious now. No food gone and where are my reds?

28<sup>th</sup> – a small amount of food had gone today.

### APRIL

5<sup>th</sup> – some food has gone, but not enough as to needing to top it up.

7<sup>th</sup> – a decent amount of food has now gone

10<sup>th</sup> – quite a bit of food has gone – camera put up

12<sup>th</sup> – it is red(s) visiting and regular enough to take most of the food.

**14<sup>th</sup>** – I was going to replace the feeder today anyway as the screen has cracked on the current one, but when I arrived the current one was dangling somewhat. Must have been something heavy that had sat on it – replaced

**18<sup>th</sup>** – all of the food had gone, with just some corn left.  
I was tempted to put a camera up, just in case, but I need one spare at present for Caravan Wood.

**23<sup>rd</sup>** – all the food gone, apart from the corn – camera put up.

**25<sup>th</sup>** – x2 reds feeding:



## **May**

**1<sup>st</sup>** - all seems good, reds visiting fairly regularly

**22<sup>nd</sup>** – all seems good

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

## **GREEN ENDS + THWAITES COTTAGES**

### **March**

**8<sup>th</sup>** - I saw a red running along the river bank towards our garden last week, about Wednesday, but by the time I'd grabbed the camera he was nowhere to be seen.

Pennie

## 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 I've not seen, nor had reports of, any squirrels in here for some time, red or grey, it hasn't really been on my list of places to visit.

### **24<sup>th</sup> March**

Hands-up, I've not been here for a while – but last year the feeders weren't getting touched at all and so you go elsewhere.

But last week Gary did visit – Stephen at the farm had seen had seen a grey crossing the road, further down near to where the footpath exits out of the field.

Today when I attended there was just a very small amount of corn left in the feeder – no doubt Gary will have topped it up and to all intense and purposes, it looks like we could have a grey(s).

I popped some food in and I'll have to get the camera from Three Cornered Wood and pop it up.

I happened to see Stephen who said that they've not seen any more greys, but that last summer they did see some reds.

### **Popped back tonight to put the camera up - **\*\*X1 GREY DESPATCHED\*\*****

It became the longest game of patience that I've played – had seen it further down the wood/gill and then it returned 20 mins later (4.50 p.m.) jumping onto the tree with the feeder on it, but round the back of the tree to myself – and then I never saw it again and it didn't go on the feeder!

I was actually thinking of calling it a night and then it suddenly appeared on the ground, but still round the back of the tree and I could see very little of it.

Turns out that there was food on the ground, from the feeder and it must have been eating that.

Thought that it, it's now or never - it had been 40 minutes since it had jumped on the tree – but once despatched I couldn't find it!

So now I thought that I must have missed it and got angry with myself, but then after about 5 mins I saw it on a rock in the stream down below – so I had to go wading in to get it out.

Let's just hope there aren't too many in there.

**25<sup>th</sup> March** – I had a hour here again tonight, but no show. However ... the feeder was virtually empty.

When I got home and checked the camera there has been a grey there from 0610 hrs to 1435 hrs, virtually without a break – over 500 photos.

Made a quick call to try and borrow a trap, took it to the wood as it was almost dark and then when I got home finished looking at the 500+ photos and there is just one amongst that lot which ...



Bad news! Even if one falls for the trap .... and I wonder if there are even more? All too close to home and it's also breeding time – back first thing in the morning.

**26<sup>th</sup> March** – how these squirrels poke fun at you – I was there this morning, the greys weren't!

And upon checking the camera they hadn't been here early on either – obviously had too good a feed yesterday.

Then Gary came out and set up a second trap and I then I came back at 4.45 p.m. and still nothing ... but these greys are real vermin.

They had been here this afternoon, but have managed to push the Perspex screen up about 0.5cm and just enough to be able to claw some corn out ....!

I've pinned the screen so now the only place that they will find some lovely corn is ... in the traps.

However, time will tell. Well tomorrow actually when Gary will be back – the day job beckons for me.

### **27<sup>th</sup> March - X1 GREY DESPATCHED**

And this rather large adult male was ... in the trap

Gary saw the other grey but it ran off – he will be back tomorrow

### **28<sup>th</sup> March – X2 GREYS DESPATCHED**

Obviously good news that we are getting through them and quite quickly, but it is slightly concerning and you are left wondering ... how many are there?

These two (one adult male and one adult female) – were both trapped.

Traps re-set and see what tomorrow brings

### **29<sup>th</sup> March – nothing today**

Gary has closed the traps up, but the camera is still there

**30<sup>th</sup> March** – checked this morning, but no visits from anything.

## **APRIL**

**5<sup>th</sup>** – the only thing visiting the feeder now is birds.

Removed the camera to Three Cornered Wood, but will keep visiting and monitoring if any of the food has been taken.

**7<sup>th</sup>** – nothing, with all the food still there

**14<sup>th</sup>** – nothing, with all the food still there

**20<sup>th</sup>** – nothing, with all the food still there

## **May**

**4<sup>th</sup>** - nothing, with all the food still there

**25<sup>th</sup>** - nothing, with all the food still there

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

**No Reports**



**Trainlands Wood,**  
**Holesfoot**  
**Crabstacks +**  
**Hawkrigg**

Trainlands 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

**Thankyou** – to Holesfoot for the purchase of ten feeders.

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

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

## **March**

6<sup>th</sup> - \*\*X4 GREYS despatched at **Crabstacks**\*\*

24<sup>th</sup> - all seems Ok and food going regularly

30<sup>th</sup> - popped a camera up, just in case following what's happened in Brackenslack  
Popped back late at night to get the card out of the camera and just red(s?)

## **April**

5<sup>th</sup> – have been away for a few days and when I checked this morning, I was slightly worried as the corn had gone from the feeder and I also removed the camera.

Unfortunately the camera has only taken photos up to the 1<sup>st</sup>, but it was only reds (x2) that were visiting -- Will have to return the camera.



And as I was driving back at tea-time to pop the camera up, I suddenly remembered that this is a feeder that I need to replace due to the lid not closing flush with the body of the feeder – which means that the mice can get in!

Let's hope that the camera backs my theory up ... mice not greys.

**7<sup>th</sup>** – over the last two days the red(s) here have been prolific! Took the now dilapidated feeder down and replaced it

**13<sup>th</sup>** – it was the mice. All the corn is still in-situ, but all of the good food has gone

## May

**4<sup>th</sup>** – food going well at Trainlands  
\*GREY\* - at Crabstacks. Gary is to visit tomorrow

**24<sup>th</sup>** – Hawkrigg - **\*\*X2 GREYS DESPATCHED\*\***  
**Crabstacks** seems ok at present

## **End of the period (4<sup>th</sup> June):**

the position remains the same and at Holesfoot the red squirrels are back in full force now.

Guests spot them every weekend now & it's so lovely having them around! Olivia

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

At the very beginning of the period we had just ascertained that X2 reds had returned to Caravan Wood - all they were eating was monkey nuts!

However, this had followed a sighting of a grey in the area about a fortnight earlier. And to increase coverage and for the first time, a feeder was put into Mains Wood.

**15<sup>th</sup> Mar** - first time back since my ankle injury and all the food (apart from the corn) had gone – topped up.

**17<sup>th</sup> Mar** - food still going

**22<sup>nd</sup> Mar** - food going and this morning saw a red with a very blonde tail scampering away from the feeder

**24<sup>th</sup> Mar** - red on the feeder at 1130h when I attended – went off up the tree and watched what I was doing.

**29<sup>th</sup> Mar** - food still being taken

**5<sup>th</sup> Apr** – food all gone

**9<sup>th</sup> Apr** – food all gone

**12<sup>th</sup> Apr** – food all gone along with the Perspex screen, which I then tried to pin with a couple of sunflower seeds!

**13<sup>th</sup> Apr** – red on the feeder when I attended this morning and the x2 sunflower seeds are holding firm!

**16<sup>th</sup> Apr** – food all gone along with a lot of the corn, albeit there is quite a bit of it on the ground.

Whilst I think it is just a red chucking it out as opposed to a grey, I have put a few monkey nuts with some corn on the ground under the feeder and propped a camera up to monitor.

**17<sup>th</sup> Apr** – I was wrong, there is a grey in there!



Was there from early on and on and off all day – Jerry informed and he is going to tomorrow to sit up and wait on it.

However, red(s) were making frequent visits

18<sup>th</sup> Apr – **\*\*X1 GREY DESPATCHED\*\*** -- Update from Jerry

“Got to caravan wood about 6.15am watched 3 reds back and forth to feeder and chasing about - 8.20 am grey turned up on feeder – despatched”  
and what about this?



20<sup>th</sup> Apr – pulled the camera this morning and there was this:



Have updated Jerry.

**21<sup>st</sup> Apr** - **\*\*X1 GREY DESPATCHED\*\***- adult female (suckled) – camera back

**22<sup>nd</sup> Apr** – pulled the camera out – no greys in last 36Hrs (reds, deer, badgers!)

**28<sup>th</sup> Apr** – had put the camera back on the 26<sup>th</sup> and then pulled it out today.

Only reds and no greys, although the reds for some reason took a liking to the camera and ultimately knocked it over!

X2 reds were here when I arrived at 13h today



## May

**11th** – had the camera in Caravan Wood the last few days ... reds.

Which is good news as greys are moving about very near by.

**Mains Wood** – put a feeder up today (with camera)

There were a good number of cones on the ground that had been eaten, so I'm expecting something positive

**13<sup>th</sup>** – well, went to Mains Wood this morning, none of the food had gone, but swapped the card in the camera anyway and my expectations were wrong ...

On the 12<sup>th</sup> at 06h there was a grey.

Can't believe it, but it was just the one photo.

**14<sup>th</sup>** – even if no squirrel visits a feeder there will still normally be a few photos of the odd bird or the wind blowing branches about ... just one photo ... me arriving this afternoon!

17<sup>th</sup> – still no action on the feeder in Mains Wood so I have re-positioned the feeder much further back into the wood and beyond the pheasant pens.

22<sup>nd</sup> – had the camera in Caravan Wood for a day recently – only reds

23<sup>rd</sup> – **Mains Wood** – still nothing! Will give it until early June and then remove.

### **End of Period:**

Caravan wood is fine and no greys seen with at least x2 reds

Mains Wood has been a failure – absolutely nothing and ultimately the feeder was removed in June

Will find a new location somewhere on Morland Bank

## Barnskew, Lankaber Wood and environs

Between Maulds Meaburn and Kings Meaburn



C = Caravan Wood      L = Lankaber Wood      CR = Crabstacks

Lankaber Wood is somewhere else that is (was) on the 'to do' list - towards the end of April I contacted Emma and Jamie at Barnskew to ask if they are seeing many reds and to check on who owns the wood, etc.

Apart from a general curiosity, there are a few reasons why it would be good to find out what the situation with reds/greys is in there:

There could be a displacement to here following the on-going timber felling on Morland Bank, but mainly as we do get a few greys that seem to run through Sleagill, Morland Bank and on to Crabstacks, with Lankaber Wood being in that line and also being next to the river, it is a fairly obvious place to monitor.

Emma told me that Jamie hasn't seen much red activity recently but that Will has had two sightings in last two months, one on our bridge at the bottom of the hill and one heading out towards Maulds Meaburn side of the farm.

Then Jerry told me:

*"I have been there and had feeders going in three places.*

*Jamie reported a grey to me last year and I despatched X3 in the wood near farm.*

*Feeders are still there, but I haven't been for a while now.*

*Was also few reds there. Think it was around June July time 2022?"*

Then I spoke with Gary the gamekeeper for the Reagill shoot and he was very much on board with our work and offered to despatch any greys that may crop up.

However, he said that he hadn't seen any!

That is in the various woods in Reagill, but also here at Lankaber/Barnskew and he added that he does see a couple of reds down at the footbridge.

**9<sup>th</sup> May – \*GREY\*** – seen at 0720h on the telegraph pole outside Peggies barn.

Then at 0915h it was seen further east at High Lankaber.

There is a large degree of coincidence with this because in the last few days various things have been taking place to get this area better covered ... more to follow!

**12<sup>th</sup> May** – went and familiarised myself with the surroundings of Barnskew and to find the three feeders that Jerry put up last year.

- 1.) one was now on the ground in the wood just past the farm
- 2.) one on the far side of Lankaber Wood is a steady walk and then half way back up the hill with no stile over the fence and
- 3.) This was another hike through the farm and up the hill on the other side

Removed the feeder at Lankaber (to clean and then re-position) - will put up two other feeders.

One in the wood on the opposite side to the farm, the other in the wood further down-stream towards Maulds Meaburn over the footbridge.

**15<sup>th</sup> May** – put x2 feeders up today – see map

Informed that reds are been seen fairly regularly in the woods and also on Barnskew Bank, a plantation that was felled but has been replanted.

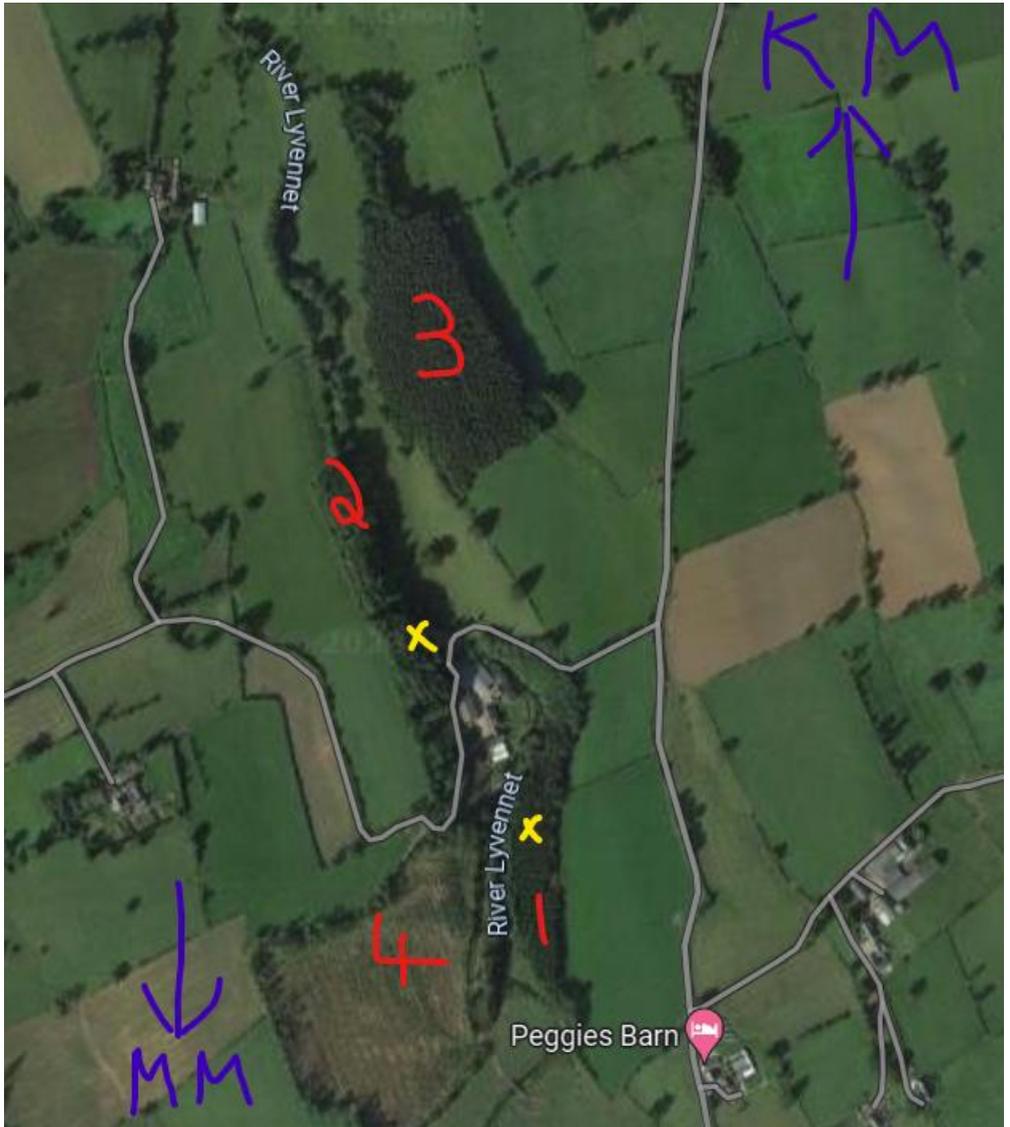
Apart from No.3 (Lankaber Wood) the woods are not named – so I have given them names:

1 = Barnskew Wood No.1 (BW1)  
3 = Lankaber Wood

2 = Barnskew Wood No.2 (BW2)  
4 = Barnskew Bank

The yellow crosses mark the feeders.

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



There is a camera in BW1

**17<sup>th</sup> May** – back today to check on what’s being happening!

**BW2** – none of the food has gone, but had a walk further into the wood (along the footpath) and saw a red.

Will give it another week and re-position if remains the same

**BW1** – well! The feeder was found the morning after (16<sup>th</sup>) it was put up and since when a pair of reds have virtually been ever present!!!



And curiously today I walked into the wood from the opposite direction and found two very old feeders about 15 yards away from the feeder that I have just put up. They could be cleaned and re-used if needs be.

**19<sup>th</sup> May – BW2** – food now going

**BW1** – the x2 reds are still ever present on the feeder, from early to late Jamie at Barnskew tells me that they never really used to see reds in BW2, maybe a result of displacement from Morland Bank

**22<sup>nd</sup> May – BW1** is prolific (camera removed to BW2)

**BW2** food going, but not like BW1

**27<sup>th</sup> May** – well, I would say that all is looking fine and that finally the red(s) in BW2 are now visiting the feeder on a regular basis, but ... a grey was seen at Lankaber Road end this morning (Peggies Barn).

Also last week grey(s?) were seen at the new pheasant pens in Barnskew Bank



funny thing is in BW2 that it only seems to be the one red, unless there are two that both have a pale tail and very distinctive blonde ear tufts.



And then there were two!

**End of period:** all is well in Barnskew and whilst there has been the odd sighting of a grey at Lankaber road end this has been a good and useful addition to our local knowledge.

## Crosby Ravensworth



Well Head, Crosby Ravensworth – Photo Andrew Wallis

## Well Head + Anna Well

**9<sup>th</sup> Apr** – the reds have yet to return

**1<sup>st</sup> May** – **WH** - Red squirrel at one of our feeders this afternoon.

This is the first sighting at Well Head bar one since last August - Andrew

**AW** - After months with no sightings I watched the most beautiful red squirrel run past our front gates – it was a dream come true -- Dorothy

## Crosby Ravensworth South – Gilt

**9<sup>th</sup> Apr** – a good sign, all the food has gone.

**13<sup>th</sup> Apr** – unlike the other two feeders (below) I didn't get here today

**14<sup>th</sup> Apr** – checked today though and the food was still there

**4<sup>th</sup> May** – checked and all the food had gone

**5<sup>th</sup> May** – food left, but following the sighting of the grey (Woodfoot) popped a camera up for a few days.

**8<sup>th</sup> May** – not much activity, but a red spent some time here p.m. 6<sup>th</sup>



camera removed

## Summer House

9<sup>th</sup> Apr - food all gone. Topped up

13<sup>th</sup> Apr – food all gone. Topped up

23<sup>rd</sup> Apr – food all gone, topped up

## The Bank Coppice (by River)

9<sup>th</sup> Apr - food all gone. Topped up

13<sup>th</sup> Apr – food all gone. Topped up

23<sup>rd</sup> Apr – most, but not all of the food had gone. Topped up.

## Other Sightings:-

### **MARCH -- No Reports**

### **APRIL**

6<sup>th</sup> – **Croftlands** - The other day a red squirrel was spotted in our garden trying to get at the bird feeders, it was hilarious to watch.

A while back I made a square cage out of old shelving from a plastic green house and hung the feeders inside.

The many different birds happily pop in and out but not the greedy crows or jackdaws. Lovely to watch.

28<sup>th</sup> – **Croftlands** - We have had a red squirrel in our back garden today and then it disappeared across the field.

### **MAY**

3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> - **\*GREY\*** Gary had a report of a grey near to Woodfoot and when he attended on the 4<sup>th</sup> it ran down across the road as he was driving down.

He had a walk up the gill from Woodfoot towards Crosby Lodge, saw quite a few reds, but no greys.

He will be returning to do a full walk of the gill from Woodfoot to Crosby Lodge.

**5<sup>th</sup>** – today I had a walk up the river from Woodfoot and saw a grey in the trees above the little ravine before you get to the bridge.

**Dalebanks** - Thanks Darren, I was about to put the air rifle away as we haven't seen any here but I will keep it out a bit longer!

A few healthy reds up here though, they are regularly in the garden -- Andrea

**16<sup>th</sup>** – **Stoneworks Garth** – a visitor today –

Stealing bird seeds/berries but then found squirrel nuts in window sill.

Jane Renton



**26<sup>th</sup> May** - \*GREY\* - seen at Gilts on the stone road bridge over the river  
Quite possibly the '*Woodfoot grey*' – Gary informed

# Reagill

The feeders that I have are:

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

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

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



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

## **Start of the period**

All was positive with reds abundant and making regular visits to the feeders that I have out and there were no on-going reports of greys, although it would appear from sightings that the odd grey was moving about in between Reagill and Sleagill

Additionally the reds here seem to eat everything that is put out for them and don't just eat the monkey nuts – could be mice getting into the feeders though.

I had to take down one broken feeder in PH and hope to replace it.

My injured ankle then prevented me from getting up here until the 17<sup>th</sup> March.

# MARCH

**17<sup>th</sup>** – hobbled up, well drove here and then hobbled to the feeders which were obviously empty.

Replaced the second feeder that had previously broken down in **PH** but instead of just putting back near the original (**F1**), I have put it about 100yards further into the wood, but very prominent (**F2**) – will just be awkward to put a camera on it

The photo below shows where the two feeders are and the 'C' marks where I park the car up to walk through to them – I wonder how many feeders this wood would support? Any takers?

**21<sup>st</sup>** – back very late at night and the new feeder in PH was empty.

Popped a camera up on the original feeder

**24<sup>th</sup>** – well all the feed has gone, but the camera has only taken two photos!



**29<sup>th</sup>** – all still fine in both woods

## APRIL

All still seems fine at present and Robin Woodstrover took this great photo below:



And the coincidence with this photo is that it was taken at Prickly Bank Wood. This is one of three woods, the others being Low Beck and Spring Wood, which I have on my 'to do' list to find out about their squirrel population. I have actually made a start though as the previous occupiers of Reagill Grange now live in MM (about three years) and it is now their nephew who lives there.

They told me that they used to feed the squirrels (round the back of the house), always reds and never saw a grey.

On one occasion they had nine (9) reds in the garden at the same time!

**12<sup>th</sup>** – red appeared on a tree about 20 yards away from **F2** in PH when I was here this afternoon.

**24<sup>th</sup>** –had a walk round Reagill today (from Morland Bank up to Beech Tree Farm and down round Reagill Grange, which I haven't done since the start of covid) and popped into Reagill Grange to introduce myself to Thomas (thoroughly nice chap and seemed totally onboard with red squirrel conservation).

Tom said that they are seeing plenty of reds and whilst I did not venture far into Prickly bank (from the footpath in the NW corner) I soon saw a red.

The land and woods belong to Charles Lowther – in case Jerry knows him I have asked him if would prefer to make contact re putting up feeders and despatching any greys that may turn up – but if not, I'll do it?

Low Beck Wood appears to have virtually gone now (felled), but Prickly Bank looks like it has the scale to house a few reds.

**28<sup>th</sup>** – a midnight walk into the woods to top up and place a camera in each wood

## May

**1<sup>st</sup>** – pulled the camera out today and it is 'just' reds – a couple in each wood



This is the new feeder (F2) in PH

And how many reds can you count in WP? Answer is ... 3



**Also:** then fortunately Gary (the gamekeeper for the Reagill shoot) was at the MMVI coffee morning and we had a good chat.

He was very much on board with our work and offered to despatch any greys that may crop up.

However, he said that he hadn't seen any!

**12<sup>th</sup>** – today wasn't good – found my trail camera damaged, possibly beyond repair. In PH I had noticed a stump of a tree that had been felled and near to F1 that appeared to be a 'table'.

It often had partly eaten cones on it and discarded monkey nut shells – so, I had rigged up a camera to try and capture it.

Captured it alright, but somehow a mouse as climbed along the metal spike that attached it to the tree, gnawed through a plastic cover that connects the batteries to the camera part and gnawed through the power cable

**Anyone good at electronics? That's a £60 camera up the swanny. \*\***

However, the now very expensive photo:



**And at the end of the period all remains good**

\*\*I managed to get someone to fix the camera, it's no ideal, but for £10 it's worth it

## Oddendale + CastleHowe Scar

### **16<sup>th</sup> Mar – update from Liz:**

Squirrels at Oddendale seem fine, I usually see one or two when I'm up there, no greys caught on camera to date and the feed is going generally at a constant rate. I'd send some pics but the cameras are not too well placed for artistic shots with brilliant lighting - I'll have to wait for that until a tree decides to spring up nearer! It's surprising though, I think of the feeders as being fairly cut-off, but there are sometimes people walking right past the feeders and I did have a shock once when all the feeders appeared untouched. But it turned out on camera that one guy actually refilled them, though I wouldn't want to encourage him to try that with his accompanying kiddie and dog when the cattle are in!

For what it's worth, I'll wade through some pics in the week and try to find something to send...

### **6<sup>th</sup> Apr – Castle Court (CastleHowe Scar)**

We haven't seen the red in our garden again since December, though we have spotted a couple in the Oddendale copse now and again - usually when the weather is a bit milder.

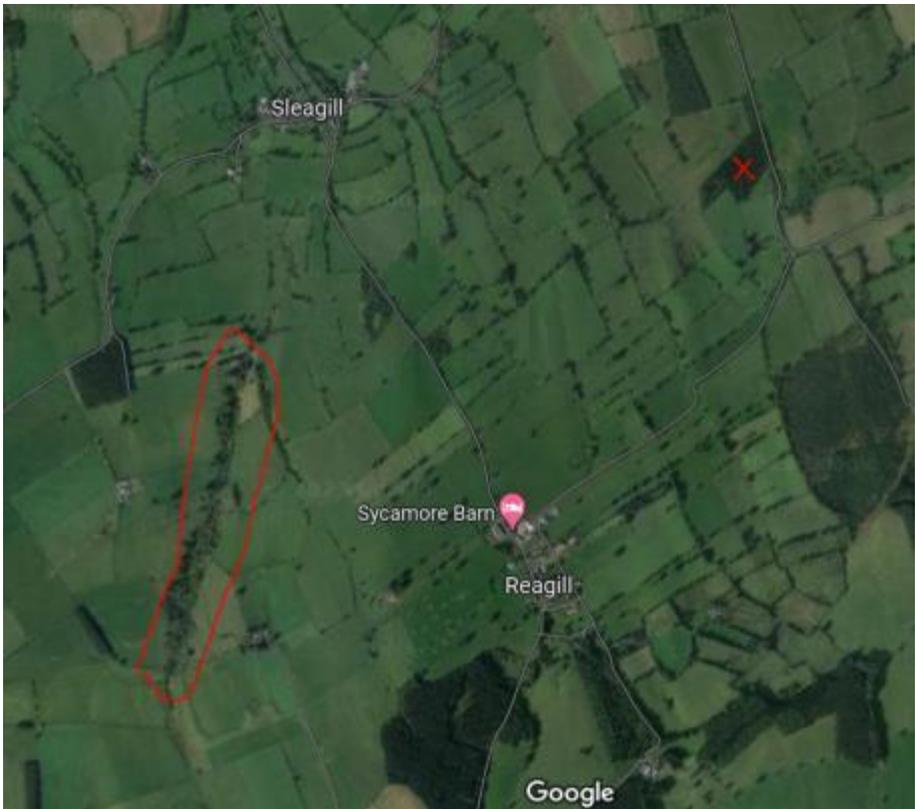
They do seem to be taking the food that the lady from Shap puts out. On the wider wildlife front, we've seen a stoat in the garden, and there's a resident kestrel, which perches on the overhead electricity cable, surveying the scene.

Hope neither of these predators is a threat to any reds which might otherwise be on our patch!

We are hoping they will focus their attentions instead on the pesky rabbits, which are increasing in numbers already.

## Kings Meaburn / Littlebeck + Sleagill + Newby

20<sup>th</sup> Apr – Sleagill – sighting of grey in Threaplands Gill – Jerry attending 21<sup>st</sup>



The gill is in the red circle – its proximity to Reagill and Caravan Wood ('X') is a concern

28<sup>th</sup> Apr – **GREY (Kings Meaburn)** - Near the Ford, on the roadside about 20 yards from the ford on the Newby side.

Also, from Jerry: *"I had a report of a grey at Dedra bank near Newby. Been this morning and set a feeder and camera."*

4<sup>th</sup> May – Update on Threaplands – Jerry now has a feeder and camera in there and has done a walk through.

Reds seen but seems to be a grey floating about – caught on camera

7<sup>th</sup> May - **\*GREY\* (Newby)** - report direct to Jerry of a grey in an area where he's had a grey before. He is checking it out today (8<sup>th</sup>).

**17<sup>th</sup> May – \*X2 GREYS\* Barnholme Wood (Kings Meaburn)**

Effectively the same location as that of 28<sup>th</sup> April

Jerry is currently on holiday so I will take a look in the morning

**18<sup>th</sup> May** – I had a walk through 9-10h, saw nothing, but topped the feeders up. The people staying at the holiday cottage saw a grey on the footpath in the wooded area prior to the meadow.

Gary then attended and as I was speaking to him he had seen a red on a feeder, and then a grey ran across the track, up a tree and away. He's giving it another hour.

**22<sup>nd</sup> May** – well ... popped a camera in here yesterday at 14h and today at 1545h it was gone! Gary was the culprit!!

Whilst he was here he saw a red and a grey – poor Jerry, already has a list for when he returns from holiday

**23<sup>rd</sup> May – \*\*X2 GREYS DESPATCHED\*\*** - by Gary this morning and one more seen.

Guess that Jerry owes him one! Also saw reds



When I got my camera back ... !

**24<sup>th</sup> May** – had a hour this morn' and only saw x3 reds, for some time and who were up and down the trees having a right old play/fight – lovely.

There are x6 feeders in here, but we seem to have opted for the second feeder that you find as you walk through, imaginatively called ... *Feeder No. 2*



On checking the camera it might have been a grey on the feeder early this morn', but I just can't quite be sure.

**26<sup>th</sup> May** – I removed the camera at tea-time, it showed:

A grey had been there p.m. on the 24<sup>th</sup> and then not on the 25<sup>th</sup> (when Gary popped along), but it was back today.

Jerry and Gary will do a 'joint operation' next week!

**1<sup>st</sup> June - \*\*X4 GREYS DESPATCHED\*\* - Barnholme Wood**

Gary tells me that that he and Jerry are going to '*hit it hard*' w/c 5<sup>th</sup>

**5th June - Barnholme Wood \*\*X1 GREY DESPATCHED\*\***

## Morland

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

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

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

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

**Hagg Wood** - Two reds at feeder

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

**13<sup>th</sup> Apr** – red seen near the old mill just before River Lyvennet/ opposite side of road to Town Wood

**19<sup>th</sup> Apr** – Jerry tells me that he is still picking up the odd grey in the area – which sounds an improvement from a few weeks back

**28<sup>th</sup> Apr** – **Update from Jerry: X3 greys despatched this week**

two in Crow Wood, Morland (Crossrigg Hall estate) and one in Town Wood, Cross Hall estate this week.

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

And Finally – a few other photos.



Both of the above are in Orchard Wood



Caravan Wood – Morland Bank



Darren Rogers 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2023