

Wild Eurasian Lynx

Are lynx roaming wild in the UK?



Photo of a Eurasian Lynx in a Cornish village.

Rhoda Watkins

22nd April 2021

Multiple lynx sightings across the UK

During the long months in lockdown the British public have been spending more time outdoors. Our daily outings for exercise have resulted in a surge of interest in our native flora and fauna, and perhaps not surprisingly, multiple sightings of mysterious big cats.

I've been investigating the British big cat phenomenon for many years, more seriously in the last year, and I'm coming across some staggering witness accounts and increasingly, actual evidence.



I have camera traps set at various locations where big cats have been spotted, hoping to get that conclusive video evidence, as inevitably every photo presented as proof is met with cries of 'fake' and 'photoshopped!'

This morning I was sent what appears to be an amazing image. I immediately contacted the witness, who claims to have seen the animal when stopping to catch his breath at a field gate, out on his morning run. He scrolled through mental images of creatures in his mind.. dog? No.. fox? No... cat!! He grabbed his phone, his fingers were too sweaty to swipe to video, but managed to capture one image. Posting the photo to the village Facebook group, he sought confirmation that he wasn't losing his mind. Most were in agreement. Lynx!

The photo started circulating on social media, as is often the case. Many claimed it to be faked. The thing is I'm not sure it matters.

You see this isn't the only sighting in the village in the past week. Someone else saw it. Someone lost a duck. Lynx have been sighted across Cornwall, in fact across the whole country.

We searched the field to try to confirm the photo with additional evidence. It's always best to have multiple 'proofs.' There was part of a dead bird, a partial track and some scat. The scat will be sent for DNA analysis. It's crucial to be scientific when looking for any rare wildlife.

Will we prove that there is a lynx roaming wild in a small village in Cornwall?

Maybe. What is more important though is to look at the bigger picture. Many credible witnesses tell us that big cats are living peacefully amongst us, hiding in woodlands, scrubland and on the edges of farms.

With lynx reintroduction and rewilding in general such a hot topic of debate at the moment, the question we really need to consider is this: If they are already here and causing no harm, in fact keeping our rabbit and deer populations under control, why not bring the lynx back officially?