

## **Could big cats be roaming the UK?**

**Video transcript for introduction video presented by Ben Garrod**

***[ARCHIVE NEWS BEGINS]***

“The alert began when a member of the public spotted something unusual in long grass close to the busy M27 motorway.”

“Numerous sightings of a black, puma-like creatures in the area.”

“I heard a very loud roar.”

“It wasn’t a bite – it looked like it could have been from a claw.”

“The way the animal had been killed and eaten was highly unusual.”

“The bite on the nose told me something was going on. The community around here are still convinced something’s going on.”

“The only thing frankly that did fit the shape of what I saw cross the road in front of me was a big cat.”

“I saw what I saw. I don’t know what it was – I’m no expert – but I certainly know that I saw a big black cat.”

***[ARCHIVE NEWS ENDS]***

Ben Garrod:

There are many reports like this in the UK, with roughly two thousand alleged big cat sightings every year.

But are there really big cats roaming in the UK?

I’ll look at some of the famous stories of big cat sightings,

And the very latest scientific studies that point to their existence,

And could a cat that once roamed the UK make a return?

As I explore the question: “Could big cats really be living in the UK?”

*Opening and closing image credit: Pete Cairns / naturepl.com*