

# Wild Ennerdale



## Introduction...

Wild Ennerdale is a partnership between The Forestry Commission, National Trust and United Utilities with a vision "to allow the evolution of Ennerdale as a wild valley for the benefit of people relying more on natural processes to shape its landscape and ecology". This newsletter provides a brief update about what the Partnership is doing in Ennerdale.



## Events

The Wild Ennerdale Partnership believes that people are very important in the development of Ennerdale as a wilder place. Each year the Partnership organises events to give people the opportunity to experience and find out more about Ennerdale. This year's events are concentrated during the May holiday week and are detailed on the back page.

## Native Tree Planting

During March, 10,000 Downy Birch and 3,000 Juniper were planted at the east end of Ennerdale. During May it is hoped to scatter 2kg of Downy birch seed, enough to produce 200,000 trees.



## Supporting Tourism

As part of supporting tourism in and around Ennerdale it is proposed to set up a Tourism working group. The aim of this group will be to investigate ways of developing tourism opportunities within and around the valley. No date has been set for a first meeting but if anyone would like to be involved please contact Jeremy Barlow on 01946 816946 or (07810) 180253. If you have a tourism related business you can advertise for free on the Wild Ennerdale website. Please email [gareth.browning@forestry.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:gareth.browning@forestry.gsi.gov.uk).

## Footpath work

The National Trust footpath team are repairing the Loft Beck path this summer. Bags to fill with stone were transported up by Cumbrian Fell Pony (which featured on Border TV), thanks to Christine and Kerbeck Ponies. The bags of stone were flown by Helicopter in late April and the footpath team will use the stone to



repair the path during May and June

## Cattle

Six of the Galloway Cattle which are extensively grazing the forest and fell around Silver Cove are pregnant and expected to give birth during May. If you are walking in and around Silver Cove please keep your dog on a short lead. Why not visit the young calves by joining one of our May week events.

## Gillerthwaite YHA

Redevelopment work at the Ennerdale (Gillerthwaite) YHA is progressing well. The work will give the hostel a new reception area and refurbish the whole hostel with new equipment and fittings. The hostel should reopen in June.

## Pillar and Ennerdale SSSI

Much of the fell land on the south side of the valley from Anglers Crag to Blacksail is designated as a Special Area of Conservation as it is one of the best examples in England of altitudinal succession from lake shore habitats through to sub alpine meadow. Work to make the southern boundary stock proof so as to reduce grazing is underway this summer. A helicopter flew out fencing



material in April and fencing should start in early May. Walling should also start in May with the walling contractors living 4 days a week on the fell below Little Gouda Crag. Temporary accommodation in the form of a portacabin and shed will be removed on completion of the work.

## Woundell Beck Bridge

Discussion is ongoing as to the best way to provide public access across Woundell Beck and fish access for spawning. The plan is currently to remove the existing road bridge and replace it with a foot bridge and new public footpath. The existing bridleway which crosses upstream of the Woundell beck Irish bridge will be unaffected.

## Lakeshore Revetment

This concrete structure is significantly eroded in many places and the Partnership along with Natural England is keen to see a natural



lakeshore develop, wherever possible whilst maintaining and improving public access. Following consultation with a range of people and organisations it is proposed to go ahead with works to remove and landscape the shore at the Anglers Inn site. In other areas the revetment will be repaired for the time being. For more information come along to the family fun day event on 9<sup>th</sup> June.

## Harvesting

A period of timber harvesting is about to start in the valley with work planned to remove harsh forest boundaries



above Bowness Knott, the triangle below Pillar, and at Crag. In addition the forest between Bowness Knott and Gillerthwaite is being

thinned to encouraged natural regeneration and a more open diverse forest to develop. The timber has been sold to Iggesund Forestry based north of Workington. Work should start in May/June and last up to 16 months.

For reasons of safety some routes including the forest road and bridleway to Blacksail, Liza Path and Pillar Path will need to be diverted. However a route up and down the valley will always be maintained. Please check the information boards at Bowness Knott or our website for up to date information. Following felling these areas will be allowed to regenerate naturally with trees and open vegetation as natural processes decide.

## Longmoor Common

Progress is being made to restore grazing and Marsh Fritillary to Longmoor Common. An advert will appear in the local media in early May offering people the opportunity to have their say on the fencing and cattle grid plans. As part of a project to restore Marsh Fritillary to Ennerdale a number of captive bred pupae were placed on Longmoor in April. If you have comments on this ring Justin Holt at the National Trust – 01946 816947

## Events

**All events are free (inc car parks) but must be pre-booked (except 9<sup>th</sup> June Fun day) as places are limited. Please ring the National Trust on 01946 816941 weekdays between 9am and 5:00pm.**

### Tue 29<sup>th</sup> May – Wet and Wild

Discover trees, water and fish on a family fun walk in conjunction with the Environment Agency. Games and prizes on route. Meet at Bowness Knott car park (NY109153). 2pm to 4pm. Forest paths not suitable for push chairs.

### Wed 30<sup>th</sup> May – Drinking in the Landscape

Find out how Ennerdale supplies West Cumbria with drinking water on this guided tour of the Ennerdale Water Treatment Works. Meet at Ennerdale Water Treatment Works (NY083153), park at the works or if full at Bleach Green Car Park (NY085153, 5 minutes walk) Tours start at 11am and 2pm and last around 1½ hours.

### Wed 30<sup>th</sup> May – Nature Detectives

Fun for all the family as we look for creatures lurking in the under growth. Meet at Bowness Knott car park (NY109153). Event starts at 10:30am walking along the lakeshore and back by 1pm. Bring a packed lunch. Not suitable for pushchairs.

### Thur 31<sup>st</sup> May – Stones, Feathers and Calves

Discover the rich history of the valley its birdlife and see the new born calves on a family fun walk. Games and prizes on route. Meet at Bowness Knott car park (NY109153). 10am start, returning back by 1pm using gravel forest roads so suitable for off road push chairs and accessibility vehicles.

### Fri 1<sup>st</sup> June – Paddle Around

Enjoy spectacular views of the valley and have fun on the water in two person open canoes. All equipment provided. Sessions last two hours starting at 10:30am and 2:30pm. Meet at the Anglers Inn site (NY094161)



### Sat 9<sup>th</sup> June – Family Fun day

A day of fun for families beside Ennerdale Water with a range of organised craft and trail activities. For grown ups there is the opportunity to discuss proposals for the lakeshore revetment and find out more about Wild Ennerdale. Come along anytime between 10:30 and 2:30 Why not bring a picnic. Limited parking available at the Anglers Inn Site (NY094161) or why not park at Bleach Green (NY085153) or Bowness Knot (NY109153) and enjoy a short walk before hand.