

# Wild Ennerdale



[www.wildennerdale.co.uk](http://www.wildennerdale.co.uk)

Wild Ennerdale is a partnership between the Forestry Commission, National Trust and United Utilities. The partners share 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". The partnership covers an area of 4300ha and includes a spectacular combination of mountains, rivers, farmland, woodland, forest and lake. This newsletter provides a brief update on the work of the partnership in Ennerdale.



*Autumn Beech*

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## Recent Events & Visits

A canoeing event in July proved very popular and was over-subscribed! The event was led by Carol & Richard from Low Gillerthwaite Field Centre. Exploring the lake by boat is a wonderful opportunity to see the valley from a unique perspective. Sorry to those who were unable to join in this time. A similar event will be organised again next year. A walk in August to see the Galloway Cattle also proved popular and was led by Gareth Browning, along with two student volunteers on placement in the valley doing their Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award. The students also carried out some visitor surveys and wildlife monitoring along the lakeshore and River Liza. Their work will be available on the website soon.



*Limbering up for canoeing on the lake!*

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## More Bird Surveys

Baseline information on birds in Ennerdale is growing following the recent completion of a report on bird species in the areas of Char Dub, Gillerthwaite Fields and the River Liza (middle valley). A local Ornithologist is contracted to undertake the bird survey work using the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) Common Bird Census methodology. The survey involved three visits during April, May and June this year. A total of 35 species were recorded, 13 of which demonstrated 'territorial' behaviour (nesting/feeding). Four species recorded are listed as 'Birds of Conservation Concern'. This bird survey will help us to monitor and understand bird populations in relation to changing conservation management through cattle grazing in this area. The report will be available on the website soon.

*Green Woodpecker*



### Felling on Bowness Knott

Clear felling of conifer trees has begun on the top of Bowness Knott. The aim of the harvesting work is to deliver the objectives set out in the Wild Ennerdale stewardship plan, including the removal the last of the remaining harsh boundaries within the valley. In addition, the remaining large spruce west of the middle concrete bridge (beyond Gillerthwaite) have been removed to open up the River Liza. An area of spruce will also be removed from east of the ford at the valley head to further open the valley bottom and mires. Lastly, the forest between Bowness Knott and Gillerthwaite will be thinned by removing the trees marked with paint at about 1.3m high. Trees marked with paint at the base and unmarked trees will be left standing. The thinning is aimed at giving the predominantly broadleaf regeneration more light and room to grow. The harvesting work will require the diversion of a number of rights of way but a route up the valley will always be maintained. In addition, harvesting around Bowness Knott and along the lakeshore will avoid Bank and school holidays. The route from Bowness Knott to Gillerthwaite will not be closed but will be marshalled during operations. This will be the last period of significant clear felling in the valley east of Bowness Knott. In future, the forest will be managed through thinning alone with only small occasional clear felling to remove further harsh boundaries and conifer growing on important habitats. More information is available on the website.



*Timber being extracted and stacked at roadside*



*Conifer to be cleared on the summit of Bowness Knott*

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### A Community Hub in Ennerdale?

An exciting project is underway to provide local people, commuters and visitors with a village shop and post office facility. The Fox & Hounds pub plans to host the venue and the managers are drawing up detailed plans for a final planning application to the LDNPA, following approval on an initial informal enquiry. The alterations would mean an extension to the rear entrance of the pub, providing space for a small shop, post office counter and tourist/local information display. The managers are making good progress (with help from a small team of people) in taking the project forward and exploring funding opportunities. If anyone would like further information, e-mail Simon & Becky



*The Fox & Hounds, Ennerdale Bridge*

([bookings@foxandhoundscumbria.co.uk](mailto:bookings@foxandhoundscumbria.co.uk)) or call into the pub in for a chat.

Closely linked with the plans for the Fox & Hounds is a project to create a local 'producer group' which is aimed at anyone with a local product/service wishing to 'add value' and market potential via branding and working together. Ennerdale has some fantastic products on offer including meat, honey and beer. Not forgetting of course the valley itself and the wonderful landscape and its associated 'products' such as farming, accommodation and outdoor activities. The group is in the early stages of being formed and is getting advice from other similar community ventures and social enterprise organisations.

If you have a product to sell/market and are interested in joining the group, it would be helpful if you could complete a 'product audit' form which is a 2-page questionnaire asking for some basic information on your product(s). Wild Ennerdale (through Project Officer time) is helping to support the above community ventures. The product audit form can be obtained from Rachel – see contact details below.

The partners value your views on Wild Ennerdale and would welcome any feedback you may have. To contact us, please telephone Rachel Oakley on 01946 816942 or e-mail [rachel.oakley@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:rachel.oakley@nationaltrust.org.uk) or visit our website at [www.wildennerdale.co.uk](http://www.wildennerdale.co.uk)