

# Wild Ennerdale



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

## The Partnership

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 of the recent work in Ennerdale.



*Autumn sunset over Ennerdale Water*

## Arctic Char Fish

Ennerdale Water is home to a unique fish called Arctic Char. The Char have been isolated for thousands of years and are genetically distinct from other Char populations. Unlike other Cumbrian Char (which spawn in lakes), the Ennerdale Char leave the lake to spawn in nearby rivers and streams. The population is critically low and the Environment Agency is working to boost numbers by catching migrating female fish then stripping their eggs. The eggs are then taken to a fishery at Kielder where they are fertilised, hatched and grown in the safety of the fishery before being released back again to Ennerdale next spring. More photos of the wonderful Arctic Char can be found on the website.

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/wildennerdale/tags/charr/>



*Using nets to catch Char in Ennerdale*

## Public Events

A number of events were held during the year, offering a range of experiences for people in the valley. Canoeing events were very popular, led by experienced guides Carol & Richard. To find out more about their courses, log on to [www.carolclimb.co.uk](http://www.carolclimb.co.uk) Guided walks by partnership staff included a forest walk around Bowness Knott and a mountain walk to the majestic Pillar. Beckfoot was the perfect setting for a Halloween event which included a torch led lakeshore walk, storytelling, broomstick making and pumpkins. A number of groups have also visited the valley during the year to find out more about Wild Ennerdale. The groups ranged from local schools to a team of foresters from Nepal, on an exchange with the University of Cumbria. The Project Officer has done a number of evening talks to local groups including the WI, U3A and the Lake District National Park Volunteers.



*On the approach to Pillar*

## Autumn / Winter 2009

### Forest & Cattle

Timber Harvesting is continuing at Heckbarley where all the trees are being felled with the aim of establishing a future scrub birch/juniper habitat. In Ennerdale the forest between Bowness and Smithy Beck is being thinned with the aim of giving the understorey regeneration space and light to continue growing. This should see the forest become more diverse with a wider range of native broadleaf species.

In addition to the two existing herds of extensive grazing cattle a third herd of Galloways has been introduced to the head of the valley. They are able to graze a large area of fell below Great Gable as well as recently felled forest and developing native woodland. They have been introduced as a missing natural processes creating more diverse vegetation.



*Galloway Cattle in Ennerdale.*

### Smithy Beck Trail

The only way-marked path in Ennerdale is the Smithy Beck trail. This popular walk was rough going in places with trip hazards caused by erosion. To make the route safer and more pleasant, the path has been resurfaced and drainage improved. Stone from nearby Bowness Quarry was used for the surfacing material. The resulting work is a much improved path, though looks a little stark and 'engineered' at present but will soon blend in as it weathers in with use and new vegetation growth. Download our trail guide at <http://www.wildennerdale.co.uk/visit.html>



*New surface on Smithy Beck path*

### Other Items

**Robinson's Cairn** – On the 22<sup>nd</sup> August, members of the Fell & Rock Climbing Club made a visit to Ennerdale to complete a restoration project of Robinson's Cairn. The cairn was built in 1908 to commemorate the contribution of John Wilson Robinson to rock climbing in the Lake District. A full report and great photos of the work can be found on the Wild Ennerdale website.

**Volunteers** – The Wild Ennerdale volunteers have been busy with visitor surveys during the summer months. The results are currently being entered onto a database and will provide valuable information on visitor trends such as where in the valley most people spend time, types of activities, modes of travel etc. More recently, the volunteers have been collecting and scattering rowan berries from the west end of the valley and transporting to the east where rowan trees are few and far between (literally!).

**Archaeology Report** – The Wild Ennerdale archaeology management plan identifies 14 principle sites. Two sites per year are monitored on a 7 year cycle. The sites visited were Latterbarrow, Smithy Beck and Gillerthwaite. Observations and recommendations for future management are made in a report which can be found on the website.

**Merry Christmas!** – A big 'thank you' for your continued support. On behalf of the partners, we wish you a Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year.



*Rebuilding of Robinsons Cairn*

*©John Robinson*

The partners value your views on Wild Ennerdale and welcome any feedback. 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) or our photo diary at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/wildennerdale/>