



River Liza channels Photo: Scotland Big Picture

National Nature Reserves (NNR)

This year marks the 70th anniversary of the creation of National Nature Reserves (NNR) in England. NNRs are a haven for species, habitat and geology and now they are at the heart of the growing 'Nature Recovery Network' too. There are 219 NNRs in England with Cumbria home to 25 sites; all have a common goal of nature conservation and nature recovery. 'Super NNRs' like Somerset Wetlands and Purbeck Heaths in Dorset are the next generation of NNRs, achieving the same goals but on a much bigger scale.

As an established partnership with a focus on natural processes and nature recovery at scale, Wild Ennerdale has also recently been considered for a 'Super NNR' declaration. We're really pleased that the Natural England Board have supported our NNR proposals and confirmed the national importance of Wild Ennerdale and the Ennerdale valley. This opens the opportunity for Natural England to declare Wild Ennerdale as a new NNR later this year.

An NNR declaration would embed the long term continuity of partnership working with a focus on natural process in the valley. This also reflects the many individuals, groups and community at local, regional and national level who have helped support this journey so far.

"Seventy years from the creation of our first National Nature Reserves in England, these wonderful places are needed now more than ever as we face the challenges of global warming, wildlife decline and reconnecting people with the natural world." Tony Juniper, Natural England (Chair)

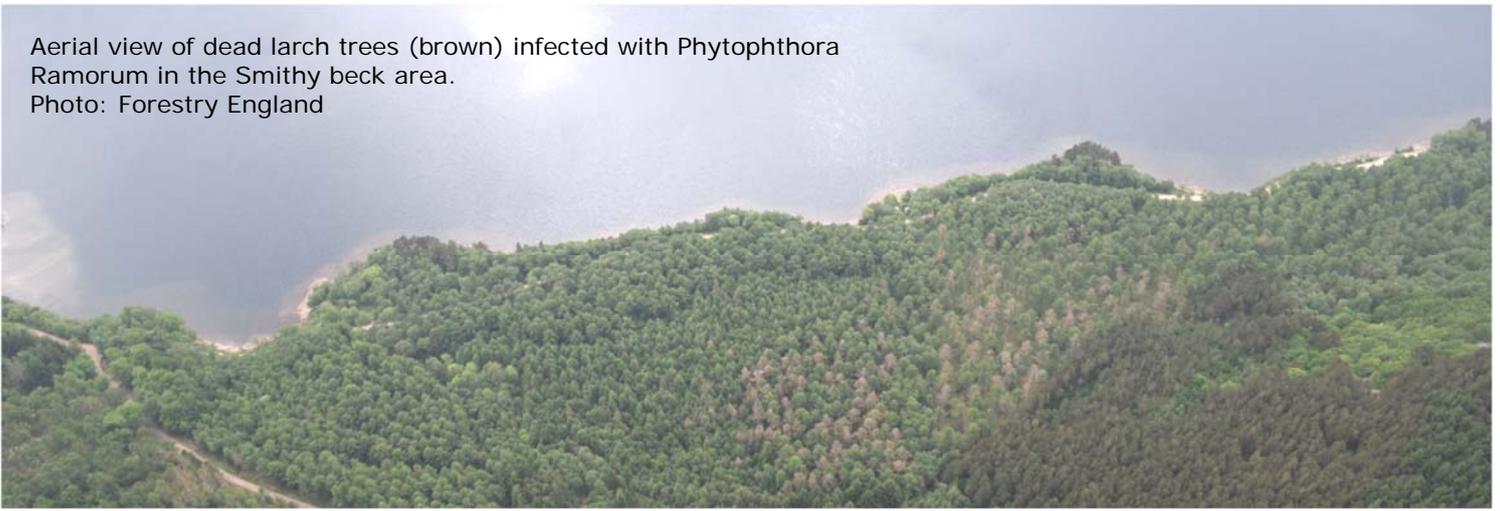
Red Grouse (*Lagopus lagopus*) making a comeback

Recent surveys this Spring by local ornithologist Pete Ullrich have shown the presence of Red Grouse on the south side of the valley (near Iron Crag) for the first time since surveys began in 2007. The birds breed in the UK in the uplands of the north and west and are resident all year round, travelling very little in their lives. The population is generally declining, perhaps linked to diseases and the loss of heather moorland (rspb.org.uk). These sightings and other casual observations (outwith of the surveys) in Ennerdale are indicative of this species and the heather moorland habitat starting to recover.

Likewise, Dipper have been monitored over a long period and a recent sighting of a newly fledged chick in the West end of the valley brings hope for this species too. Whitethroat and Garden warbler were other species recorded along the western lakeshore area.



Aerial view of dead larch trees (brown) infected with Phytophthora Ramorum in the Smithy beck area.
Photo: Forestry England



Harvesting Update

During Summer and Autumn 2021 Phytophthora Ramorum was identified across 60 hectares of larch forest at the west end of the Ennerdale valley. See this link for more information <https://www.wildennerdale.co.uk/managing/forest> . To help control the spread of the disease and reduce the risk of a variant jumping into another tree or shrub species, Forestry England is required to fell or kill standing the infected trees. Harvesting work is planned to begin in June 2022 and will start along the Lakeshore first then progress east and north through the summer. The larch around Bowness Knott car park is also infected and will be felled after the summer holidays to reduce the impact on car park users. Following discussion with the Parish Council and Cumbria County Council, Forestry England has incorporated the following commitments within the timber harvesting contract:

- Timber haulage from Ennerdale will follow the Agreed Route to and from Bowness Knott via Croasdale, Ennerdale Bridge, Kirkland and A5086 south of Lamplugh Cross.
- There will be no timber haulage on weekends.
- Timber lorries will be limited to 25mph between the A5086 and Ennerdale Forest with a lower 10mph speed limit through Croasdale. All vehicles are limited to a 15mph speed limit on forest roads.
- Timber hauliers will avoid Ennerdale Bridge school opening and closing times to reduce congestion. During these exclusion periods lorries will wait on the A5086 or in the wide section of road beside Broadmoor.
- Forestry England will install temporary highways specification metal signs along the length of the timber haulage route to warn road users that timber lorries are using the road. Signs will also be installed at main routes from the A5086 to advise when Bowness Car park is closed.

Beavers

Thank you to everyone who attended online, on-site and face-to-face engagement/information opportunities during the Spring to find out about beaver and the ambition for Ennerdale. The engagement phase continues and there will be further opportunity to formally comment on the reintroduction proposal via a consultation which will form part of a statutory licence application.

We anticipate that the formal consultation process will take place in the late autumn and we will publicise this widely.



Photo : Wild Intrigue

Wild Ennerdale is a partnership of people and organisations led by Forestry England, National Trust, United Utilities and Natural England. The Wild Ennerdale Partners are allowing the landscape to evolve naturally with reducing human intervention and invite you to explore this unique valley and experience its special sense of wildness. wildennerdale.co.uk

