

Wild Ennerdale

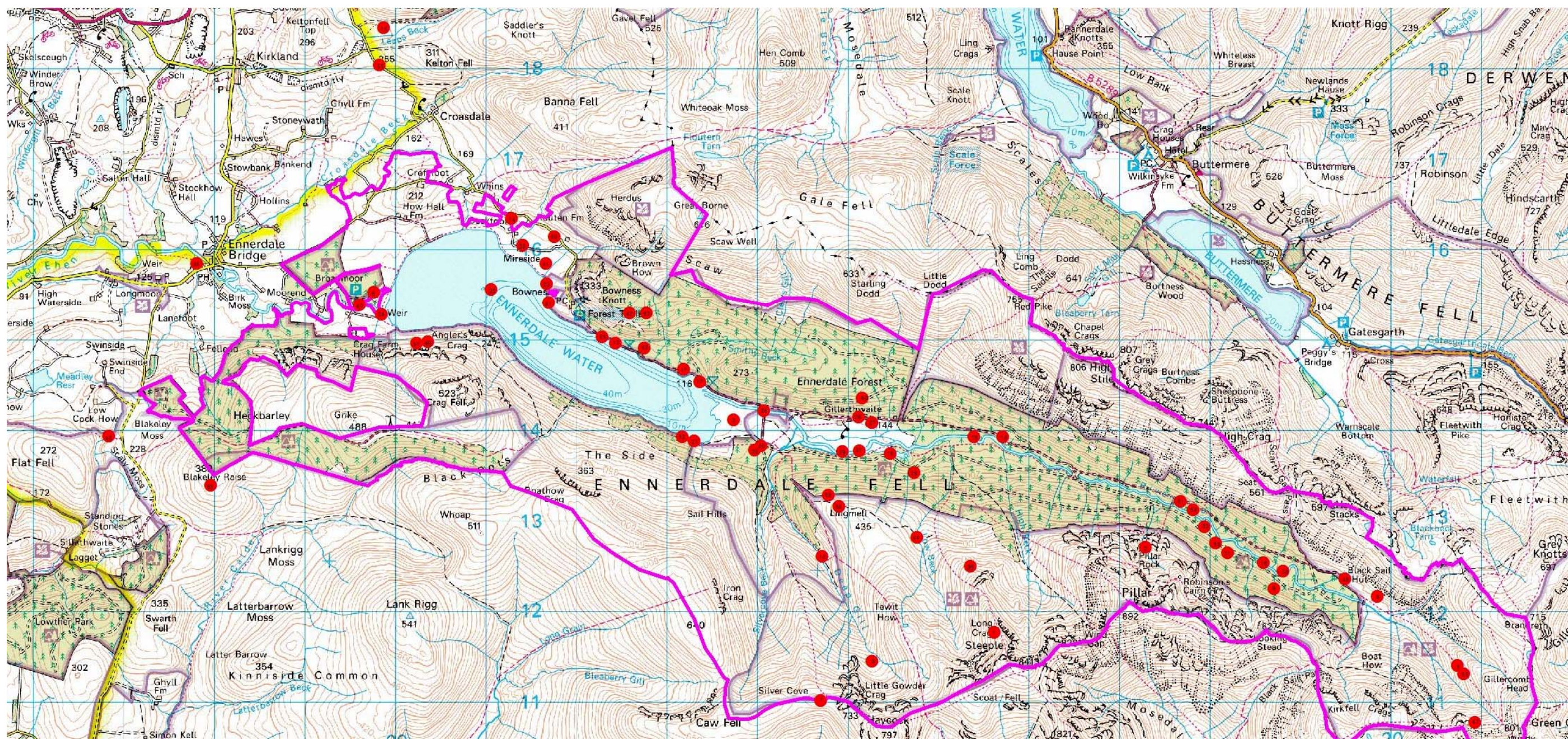


Stewardship Plan Photos – 2006



Wild Ennerdale is very grateful for the funding and support of English Nature





The map below shows the locations of the photos presented in the photo survey. Each image in the photo survey is numbered and its location can be found by referencing the same number on this map.

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Mountains and Valley



1 Steeple (891m) is one of the well known mountain summits in the Ennerdale Valley



2 Pillar Rock is an imposing, atmospheric crag with a summit only accessible by climbing



3 Aerial view looking east up the valley showing the wide valley floor, inbye and rough grazing



4 Looking west from below Great Gable reveals the glacial past and shows the narrow eastern valley flanked by high mountains

Heritage



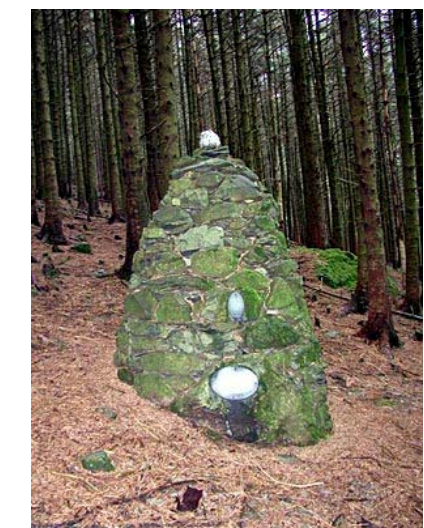
5 Aerial view of a shieling group in Great Cove



6 The glacial hummocky moraines at the east end of valley designated as a Regionally Important Geological Geomorphologic Site



7 Aerial view of the southern boundary ridge wall between Caw fell and Pillar



8 A more recent archaeological feature – a memorial cairn from the mid 19th century

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Flora & Fauna



9 The valley is home to a number of Bio-diversity Action Plan species and habitats including Red squirrel



10 Sundew growing within the lower altitudes of the Pillar and Ennerdale SSSI



11 Arctic Char spawning up Smithy Beck. Char numbers have been falling over a number of years and concerns are that they may be lost from the valley.



12 Orchids, whilst not particularly rare, are uncommon in the valley and often only found individually as this example beside Ennerdale Water

People



13 Recreation is an important activity in the valley bringing in income to accommodation providers and benefiting visitors health and fitness



14 Ennerdale is a place of work & supports livelihoods for people primarily through farming, tourism and conservation activities.



15 Involving people in "Wild Ennerdale" at the annual Ennerdale Show



16 Ennerdale is a place of learning and research. This image shows students from Leeds University surveying the River Liza

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Natural Processes



17 Death is a natural process which is operating in the valley including both domesticated and wild animals



18 Spruce regeneration exploiting an old windblow gap within conifer forest near Moss Dub



19 The River Liza is constantly changing its path, up to 100m in a single flood event. River erosion is one of the natural processes that daily shapes the valley's landscape.



20 High winds in January 2005 blew down many trees in the valley including this area near Woundell Beck. Whilst causing short term access problems, wind blow is a natural process bringing age diversity, new habitats and new views.

Ennerdale Water



21 Looking across Ennerdale Water showing the more natural graduated south eastern shoreline



22 Ennerdale water at sunset is a spiritual place which attracts people for its solitude and beauty



23 The revetted north western shoreline of Ennerdale water is being eroded through wind and wave damage and its future needs careful thought



24 Ennerdale is a reservoir and water supply for West Cumbria. At the western end of the lake a number of structures include a low dam and overflow with fish pass and bridge

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Detracting Features



25 A number of stark boundaries between forest and fell and between differently grazed areas detract from the sense of a wild untamed landscape. This image from the Lingmell ridge.



26 A number of man made structures can be found in the valley and these can reduce the sense of wildness and hinder natural processes . This is the Irish bridge over the River Liza



27 Methods of generating power and energy in the valley can have a significant impact on the sense of wildness . In the past, diesel generators have been the mainstay of power generation but increasingly hydro is being installed including this image showing the late Chris Brasher opening the Hydro scheme at the Ennerdale VHA



28 Whilst public vehicle access is restricted beyond Bowness Knott, any traffic up the valley is a significant detracting feature increasing in impact the further east its found.



29 Typical mature conifer forest, with recent windblown gap in the background



30 All the timber harvested in the valley must be hauled out by lorry along narrow, winding roads



31 Large scale harvesting, especially clear felling, is a major detracting feature reducing the sense of wildness in the valley.



32 Traditionally, within in 2 to 4 years of harvesting, new trees are planted to produce another timber crop.

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Farming



33 Farming in Ennerdale provides a livelihood supporting around half a dozen families who live at the western end of the valley but whose animals spend much of the time on the high fells



34 The Herdwick sheep has been a traditional part of farming in Cumbria since around the 10th Century when they are believed to have been brought into England by Norse settlers



35 The stone farm buildings and patchwork of fields divided by walls that typifies the lake district is also to be found at the western end of the Ennerdale Valley



36 The high fells of the Ennerdale Valley have been sculpted by a number of centuries of sheep grazing. Whilst stocking levels have fallen in recent years a large part of the Pillar and Ennerdale SSSI remains in unfavourable condition

Rivers



37 The western end of the Liza showing a wide river with woody debris, large boulders and mobile shingle beds. The natural process of erosion and river movement is significantly at work in Ennerdale adding to the sense of wildness



38 The eastern end of the River Liza flowing through recently clear felled conifer



39 Aerial view of the River Liza illustrating its braided, uncontrolled nature and diverse shingle habitats



40 The River Ehen leaving Ennerdale water illustrating a much less dynamic river than the Liza

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Woodlands



41 Looking across the eastern lakeshore towards Crag and Broadmoor showing the developing wet woodland which is a UK Biodiversity Action Plan habitat



42 Following felling this young oak has naturally regenerated through the conifer brash



43 Mature Larch forest on the northern shore of Ennerdale water with an understory of larch and native broadleaf natural regeneration



44 Native broadleaf woodland expanding up a watercourse gulley

Tourism



45 Within the valley there are two accommodation providers, the YHA, & Low Gillerthwaite Field Centre. Blacksail YHA (illustrated here) is located at the remote east end of the valley.



47 Wild Camping is a less obvious form of tourism in the valley but one which, when carried out responsibly, fits well with the philosophy of Wild Ennerdale.



46 Outside the valley a range of accommodation providers service visitors to the area including those walking the coast to coast.



48 Whilst there is no cycle hire locally horse riding is available just outside the valley. Wild Ennerdale offers new business opportunities for a range of tourism related activities and providers.

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Lakeshore characterised by developing wet woodland and mire behind which can be seen a pastoral landscape of fields divided by walls and hedgerows.

A right of way for walkers exists around the lake and is served by three car parks, two at Bleach Green and one at Bowness Knott

Herdus

Bowness Knott Car Park



Ennerdale Water

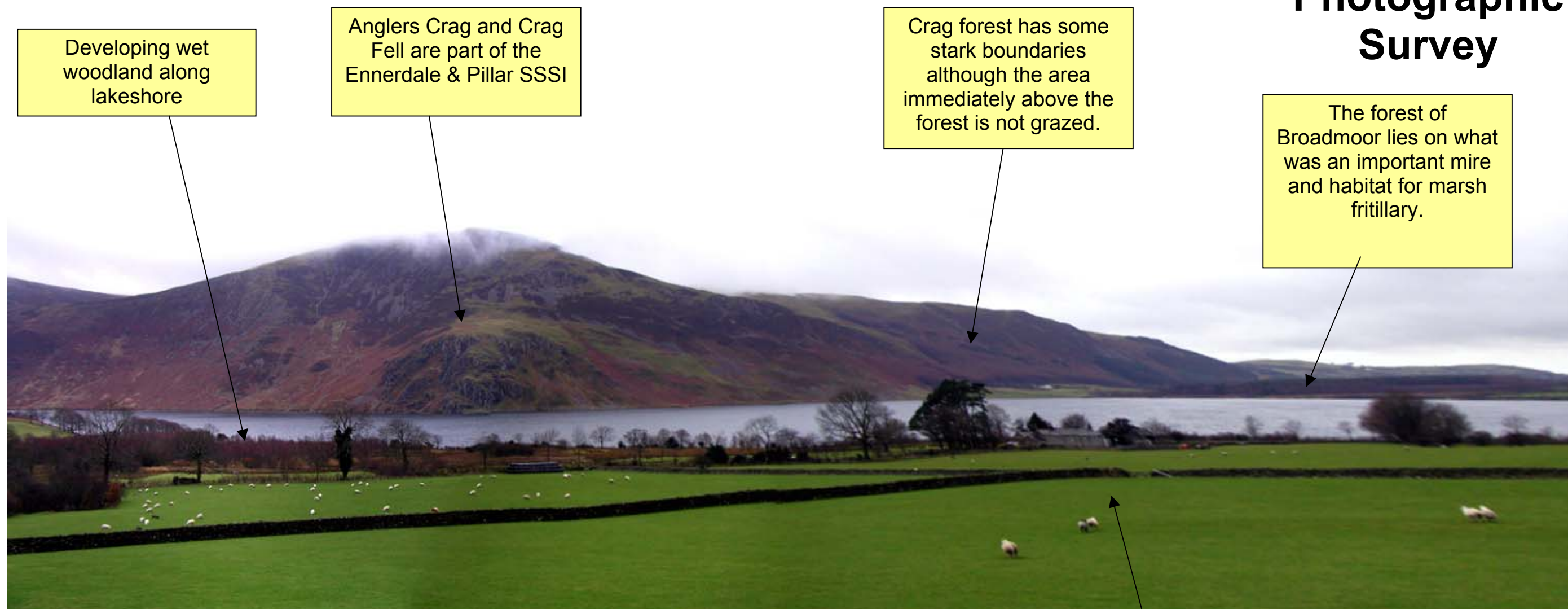
49 Looking north from below Crag Fell

With the big sweep of Ennerdale Water this view illustrates the character of the western end of the valley with the lake in the centre and to the west traditional pastoral fields divided by walls and hedges. Either side of the lake the first of the mountains rise with Herdus and Great Bourne to the north and Grike to the south. Whilst not as wild as the eastern or central valley, the western valley provides a valuable "buffer" and opportunity for a long walk in . The opportunity to increase the role of natural processes in developing the landscape still exists as can be seen by the developing wetland habitats around the lakeshore.



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**50 Looking south west across Ennerdale
Water towards Broadmoor**

This image shows the western end of the valley looking towards Crag Fell. As the number of buildings and structures is greater at this end of the valley the sense of wildness will always be less than further east. Wet woodland along the lakeshore, the mosaic of green fields and stone walls are key features of this end of the valley.

Grazed fields divided by stone walls are the typical character of much of the western valley

Photographic Survey

Anglers crag is an important visual feature and provides a raised viewpoint for visitors walking around the lake.

Ennerdale water is a SSSI for its lakeshore habitats and is a public water supply for west Cumbria. Reductions in industrial water use in the last decade have seen the lake level remain more static improving the visual look of the lake and lakeshore habitats

Natural lakeshore margins are important habitats which add to the aesthetic and conservation values of the lake



51 Looking west across Ennerdale Water towards Broadmoor

This image shows the western end of the valley looking towards Broadmoor. As the number of buildings and structures is much greater at this end of the valley the sense of wildness will always be less than further east. Increasing wetland along the lakeshore, the mosaic of green fields and stone walls are key features of this end of the valley.

The lakeshore has suffered some erosion over the years and the integrity of the retaining wall is threatened in some places. It will be important to decide how much to allow natural processes to develop the lakeshore in these areas and how public access and the right of way are maintained.

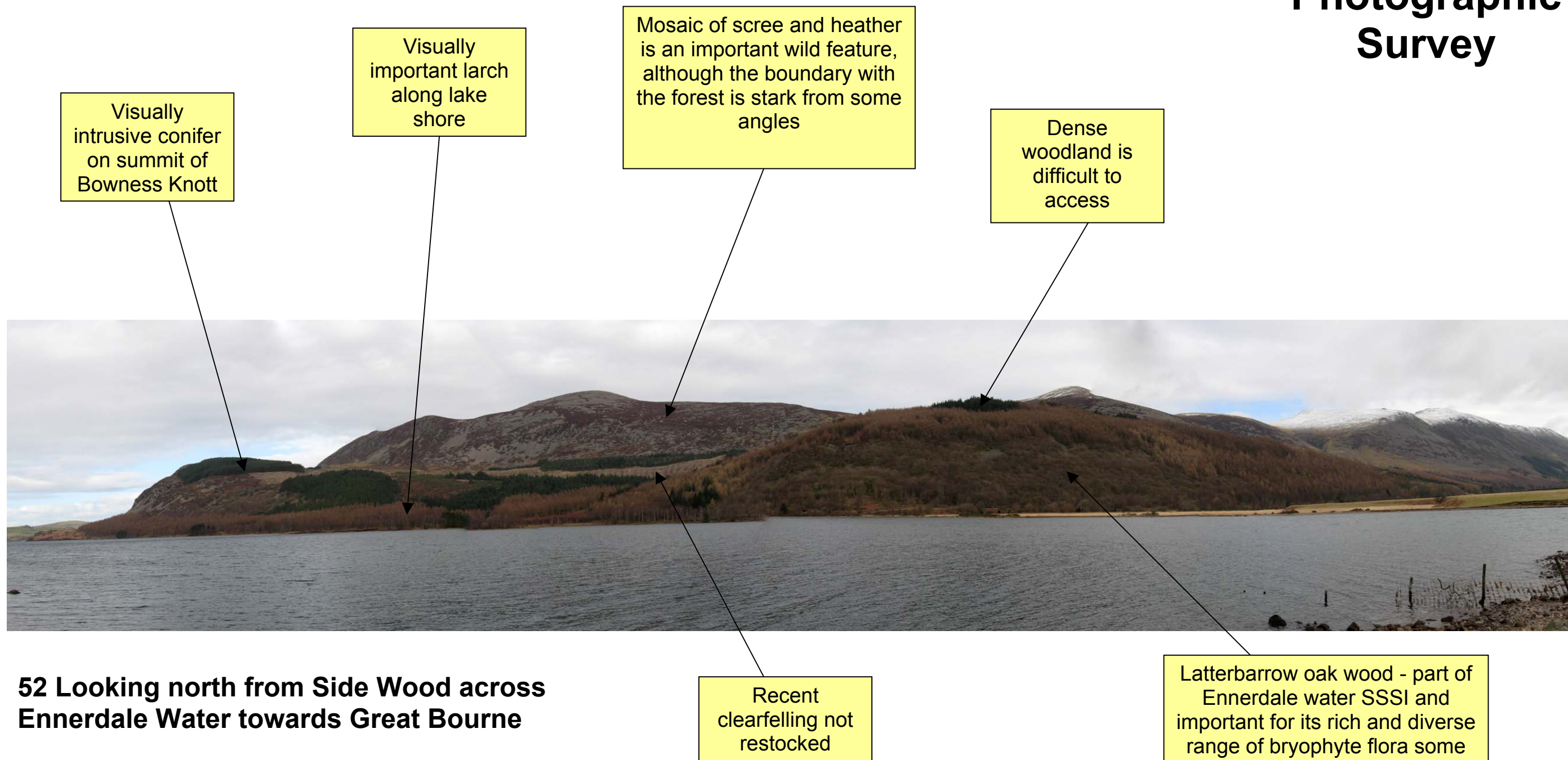


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52 Looking north from Side Wood across Ennerdale Water towards Great Bourne

This image shows the importance of the woodland along the lake shore in reducing the impact of the forest road and immediately absorbing visitors from Bowness Knott into the landscape. The mixture of larch and native broadleaves around Latterbarrow works well, unlike the visually intrusive spruce on top of Bowness Knott which looks out of place. The large recent clearfell below Great Bourne is only partially visible from this low angle.

Photographic Survey

The eastern valley vegetation is dominated by species poor grassland and brash from recently felled mature spruce

Remaining young conifer appears starkly prominent in the landscape

The source of the River Liza flows out from under Great Gable



53 Looking west from the head of the valley

Whilst the valley narrows considerably between Gillerthwaite and Black Sail, this view shows that east of Black Sail the valley widens again into a bowl shape under the summits of Great Gable (899m), Green Gable and Kirk Fell. The vegetation is dominated by matt grass and heath bedstraw (225ha out of a valley total of 297ha for this habitat type). Identified as national vegetation class U5a this is a species poor habitat typically resulting from overgrazing by sheep. The views from this end of the valley have changed recently with the felling of the mature conifer but the smaller clumps of conifer forest at the extreme east end of the valley look visually poor and the valley would benefit from these being felled to open up the valley bottom.

Hummocky moraines are testament to the valleys glacial past when around 10,700BC it is thought a glacier extending from Great Gable and Kirk Fell flowed down the valley covering as much as 1.3km²



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Deciding when to intervene and by how much to control spruce is not easy. The potential exists to allow natural processes (regeneration, heather check, grazing, windblow) to determine the future amount of spruce woodland and the lack of intervention to increase the sense of wildness compared to mechanised intervention and the consequent reduction in wildness.

Recent clear fell immediately below Pillar has opened up impressive views of Pillar rock and the stream falling down from this icon of the valley.

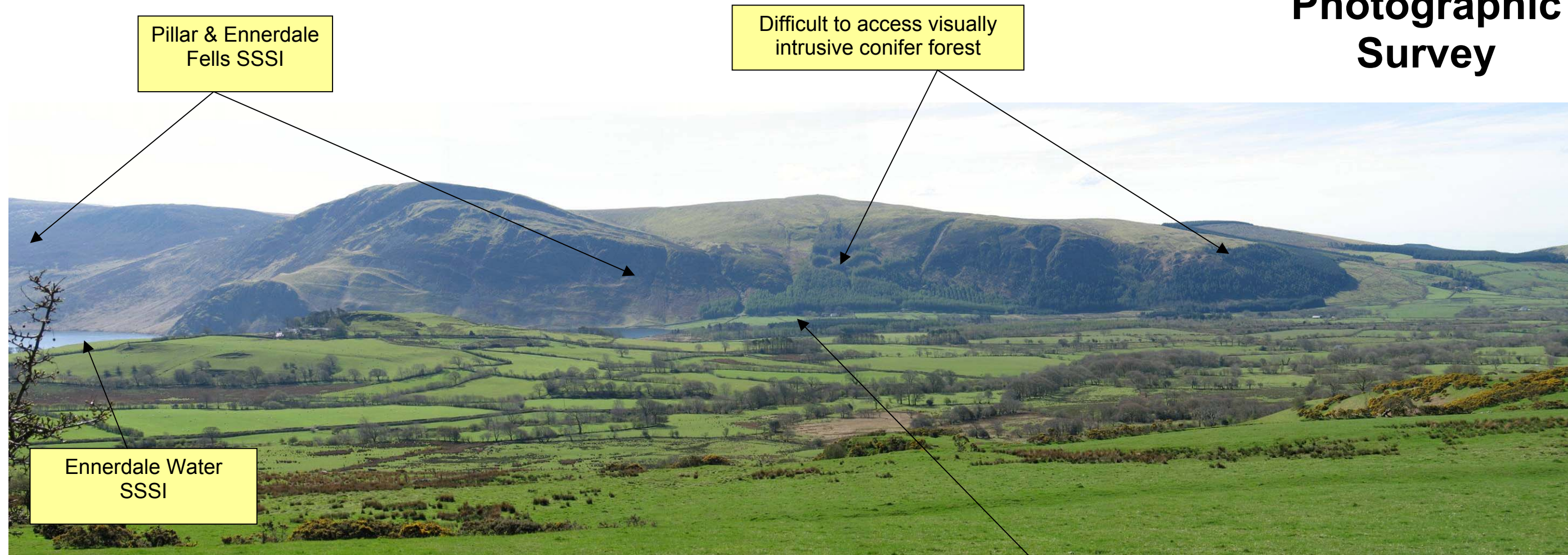


The central valley still has the highest percentage of mature conifer forest in the valley bottom reducing the opportunities for future grazing animals to freely move and shading out the River Liza corridor.

54 Looking west from opposite Pillar Rock

This view shows the transition from the more diverse western and central valley to the spruce dominated eastern valley. Spruce regeneration has benefited from the large disturbed areas post clear fell and will need to be controlled. Some native broadleaf planting has taken place and some native broadleaf regeneration is evident appearing on recent clearfells.

Photographic Survey



55 Looking south from the Croasdale to Fell Dyke Road.

The western end of the valley shown in this view provides a great contrast with views of the eastern valley. This view shows a typically pastoral green landscape with green fields divided by walls and hedges. However there is very little transition between open and woodland habitats and conifer forest planted in difficult to access areas now considered uneconomic. The relatively large number of buildings, roads and modern infrastructure make the western valley much less wild than areas further east but this part of the valley is none the less important as it is the primary access route into the valley and home to a number of families who live and work in the valley.

Photographic Survey

Area of recent clearfelling allowed to regenerate naturally

Ennerdale water plays a very large and important part in the character of the western valley



56 Looking west from Lingmell sheep walk

Improved inbye grassland contains a large collection of archaeological features from the medieval period. The fences surrounding the grassland are a significant barrier to the movement of grazing animals across and along the valley.

This view illustrates the importance of Ennerdale Water in the character of the western end of the valley.

Photographic Survey

Recent restocking of conifer on mire

Mature conifer recently partially windblown planted on a mire which was previously an important habitat for Marsh Fritillary

Scout Camp



57 Looking north across the western shore of Ennerdale from near Anglers Crag

This view illustrates the contrast in landscapes between the extreme eastern end of the valley and the western end. The latter shown here characterised by a lowland wide valley, more intensive organised agriculture, the River Ehen and forest of Broadmoor. During the latter half of the last century the combination of intensive drainage for agriculture and forest planting on mires is now thought to have been the reason for the loss of the rare Marsh Fritillary from this landscape. The Wild Ennerdale partners are working with English Nature to explore whether habitats could be restored to a point where Marsh Fritillary can be reintroduced.

River Ehen, a SSSI designated for the largest known population of the freshwater mussel *Margaritifera margaritifera* known in England.

Lake shore habitat developing towards wetter vegetation



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The problem of spruce regeneration "swamping" native broadleaves has prompted the removal of mature spruce in the eastern valley (to remove the seed source) helping to provide the opportunity for the valley to move away from its spruce dominated past.

Whilst spruce regeneration will need to be controlled it is impractical to aim to remove all the regeneration in the eastern valley. Priority will be on removing spruce between the two roads to provide the opportunity for more open habitats to develop and allow future grazing animals free movement up and down the valley

Large areas of harvesting debris are visually very unsightly at the present but will in time rot away. There is now the opportunity to introduce more native broadleaves and juniper and allow the valley to develop away from a future dominated by spruce.



With changing priorities and moves away from large scale timber harvesting the future need for wide, compact forest roads is doubtful. A number of options exist from allowing them to re-vegetate to more active landscaping. There is a need to consider what to do with culverts and bridges.

58 Looking east from opposite Robinson's Cairn

This view shows the lack of structural diversity and mature trees at the eastern end of the valley caused by recent felling aimed at removing the potential future spruce seed source. The dominance of scree on the southern facing slopes below High Crag is a key feature as is the narrowing of the valley compared to the western and central valley zones.

Photographic Survey

Pillar mountain summit , 897m

Pillar and Ennerdale Fells SSSI extends to 1498 ha and is important in exhibiting one of the best known examples of altitudinal succession in England and its upland breeding bird community



59 Looking east from below Bowness Knot across Ennerdale water towards Pillar

This view illustrates the valley at its widest point and the range of habitats and landscapes found within the Pillar and Ennerdale Fells SSSI which dominates three quarters of this view. This is one of the most frequented view points in the valley being, within easy walking distance of Bowness Knott car park.

Ennerdale Water SSSI

Side Wood, part of Pillar & Ennerdale Fells SSSI is an important example of an upland oak woodland and is a UK Biodiversity Action Plan habitat



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Increasing regeneration of broadleaves, pine and larch on river gravels and the River Liza floodplain

Lack of transition habitats between forest and fell.

Recent clearfell allowed to regenerate naturally should see the native woodland at Side Wood extended



60 Looking at Lingmell from Cat Crag

This view illustrates the diverse character of the central and western valley . The mixture of species and structure is improving and there is ample opportunity for woodland to regenerate with sufficient competition from other species for spruce not to dominate. Transition from the forest to the fell is poor principally due to the boundary fence preventing grazing animal movement and past intensive forestry and grazing creating defined landscape boundaries.

Intensively grazed inbye



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Difficult and dangerous to access mature conifer high up on the southern slopes seems to fit in reasonably well adding a sense of scale to the backdrop of mountains.

Recent harvesting has opened up view of the River Liza which is one of the key features in increasing the sense of wildness along with views of the mountains.

Standing deadwood left to add structure and habitat to the future woodland



Significant areas of spruce regeneration have the potential to dominate the eastern end of the valley.

61 Looking north west from opposite Raven Crag

With a clearly defined "U shape" this view of the eastern valley shows the glacial ancestry of Ennerdale. Recent harvesting has achieved its aim of opening up the valley bottom thus providing the opportunity for more open habitats to develop into the future. As harvesting debris breaks down and vegetation re-establishes the expectation is that spruce regeneration will become less of a problem



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Visually intrusive forest road and quarry will in time) be hidden by forest growth either side

Recent clearfell not restocked showing signs of regenerating with heather, spruce and native broadleaves

Pillar and Ennerdale European Special Area of Conservation



One of the last areas of restocking carried out in 2002.

Pilot site for introduction of extensive cattle grazing

Side Wood, European Special Area of Conservation

62 Looking east towards Pillar from above Bowness Knott

This image shows the valley looking east and south from above Bowness Knott. The width of the valley and the location of Ennerdale Water in the valley can also be seen.

Photographic Survey

Grike (488m)

Ennerdale Valley
northern ridge



63 Looking east from Blakeley across Heckbarley

This photo clearly shows the narrow linear conifer planting of Heckbarley and the harsh boundary that this creates with the neighbouring fell land.

Contacts

The Wild Ennerdale partnership can be contacted through one of the partners as below. Please use email wherever possible and we will try and respond as soon as possible.

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