



Restoring Hardknott Forest

Hardknott Forest is a 630 hectare conifer plantation in the upper reaches of the Duddon valley in the Lake District. Originally planted in the 1930's, the plantation is reaching maturity and felling is now taking place.

After consultation with local people and organisations, Forestry England have decided to restore the entire plantation to native habitats of oak and birch woodland, bogs, heather and grassland. This initiative represents a historic opportunity to create the largest semi-natural woodland in the Lake District; linking Hardknott Forest with the existing Duddon Valley Woodlands, a series of ancient oak woodlands that snake down the valley and all the way to the coast.

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An exciting project to restore one of the largest conifer plantations in the Lake District to native woodland

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Restoring Hardknott Forest is an exciting project working to restore one of the largest conifer plantations in the Lake District to native woodland.

We are gradually removing areas of non-native trees, which allows native trees such as oak, birch and willow to naturally regenerate. The new native woodland will benefit a range of



local wildlife. The area supports rare species such as dormice, otters, adders and wood ants. Birds increasingly seen here include green and great spotted woodpeckers, jays and bullfinches. Monitoring of the wildlife and vegetation is an ongoing and fascinating part of the project.



Volunteering and education

In partnership with Forestry England, we are organising practical forest restoration activities and research. Local residents, children from local schools, volunteers from the University of Leeds, and the John Muir Trust have contributed hundreds of days of volunteer work so far. Volunteer days are open to all and are a great opportunity to socialise and to learn about forest restoration, as well as contribute to creating more native woodland in Cumbria. Tasks include removing non-native trees, planting native trees, collecting and propagating seeds, and the protection and maintenance of native trees.

Come and join us

It's always great to see new faces! Volunteer days start at the Forestry England Birks Bridge Car Park (Landranger Map 96. Grid ref: SD234 995). The car park is on the minor road just south of Cockley Bridge and north of Seathwaite.

Regular volunteer days

2nd Sunday of each month*

4th Tuesday of each month*

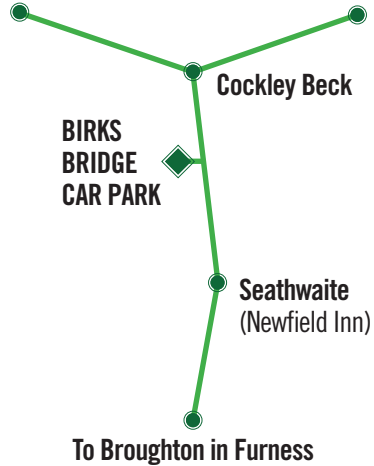
*Except July and August

Please get in touch before attending in case of

cancellations due to bad weather. Days run from 9.30am to about 3.30pm. Tools and work gloves are provided but bring lunch, a drink and suitable footwear and clothing.

Hardknott
Pass

To Ambleside via
Wrynose Pass



What else do we do?

We also run regular residential weekends, and we can organise days for schools, community groups, workplaces and special interest groups. Please get in touch for more information.

Get in touch

Contact details: j.h.hodgson@leeds.ac.uk

Find us here



@HardknottForest

<https://bag.leeds.ac.uk/restoring-hardknott-forest>

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