



Moss Dub in early summer
Credit: Steve Hurr

Early Summer Marsh Fritillary

This lovely photo was captured by one of our eagle eyed volunteers during a work party on United Utilities land in the Western valley.

Marsh Fritillary are now much more widespread across the valley since first being reintroduced in 2007, following a captive breeding programme to save this butterfly from being lost completely in West Cumbria. Their decline was considered partly due to genetic weakness caused by inbreeding and isolated colonies. Fast forward a decade and though partnership work led by Butterfly Conservation & Natural England, along with other organisations and individuals, the Marsh Fritillary is in a much healthier position to hopefully withstand climate uncertainty and fluctuating weather patterns.



Marsh Fritillary at The Mill
Credit: Barbara Nelson

More Water voles for Ennerdale

Following on from the initial release of water voles to Ennerdale last August, a further batch of 62 of these endangered native mammals arrived in early June to unoccupied sites in the middle valley.

As done previously, the water voles were held and fed in pens located close to the river and streams for a few days prior to being released. The pens provided a safe retreat for the voles, if needed, and were removed after a week. Ongoing monitoring will establish whether they grow into sustainable populations and will check for dispersal into new areas. The project is led by Forestry England with support from the Wild Ennerdale volunteers.



Water vole release day
Credit: Barbara Nelson

Wildflowers out West

Over the past few years, the Wild Ennerdale volunteers have helped plant grassland species of wildflowers on United Utilities land in the west of the valley. Wildflowers play a vital role in the natural environment by providing food for wildlife, boosting biodiversity, and improving soil health. However, grazing by wild animals can threaten their growth and survival in this area until various species and seed sources become more established.

To address this, the volunteers designed and installed protective cages around the plants and the results have been encouraging with survival rates looking very positive. Species include ragged robin, valerian, knapweed, meadow vetchling and water avens. This compliments our floral enrichment ambition for the wider valley as we combine planting with cattle grazing & pig disturbance to encourage a richer variety of flowering native species.



Latterbarrow timber harvesting

Work is continuing on Latterbarrow, north of Ennerdale YHA. The area of trees to be felled is steadily reducing and work has begun to lift the dense brush mats so that the soil beneath becomes accessible for planting and natural seed germination.

Given the distance from existing seed sources, it is unsurprising that, so far, there has been only limited natural regeneration. Consequently, Forestry England expects to plant the majority of the site. Given the scale of the area however, planting will be phased over a number of years.



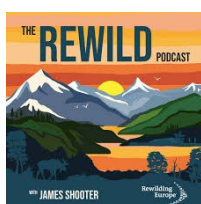
Silver Cove Rowan regeneration

In contrast to Latterbarrow, the area felled beside Deep Gill on the south side of the valley is surrounded by birch and rowan. Consequently, across the Deep Gill site, rowan regeneration is thriving and carpeting the ground. Rowan is one of the most prolific regenerating species across the valley, with similarly high levels of young trees also seen beneath the dead larch stems on Lingmill.

For interest, Wikipedia notes that the name “rowan” was first recorded in 1804, having previously been known as “rountree” from the 1540s. The word is often thought to derive from a Germanic source or Old Norse, related to the Norwegian *rogn*, Danish *røn*, and Swedish *rönn*, ultimately from the German verb *raud-inan*, meaning “to redden,” in reference to the colour of rowan berries.



Nature Podcasts: If you like a good nature podcast here are some that the Wild Ennerdale team have enjoyed . Wild Ennerdale was mentioned In the most recent Rare Earth episode “Into the Wild” [Rare Earth - Into the Wild - BBC Sounds](#)



Wild Ennerdale is a partnership of people and organisations led by Forestry England, National Trust, United Utilities and Natural England. For more information please visit wildennerdale.co.uk

