

How You Can Help!

Volunteer opportunities

PLANTING:

Take part in a work party planting out new areas of natural broadleaved woodland and juniper. Tubing the young trees will help to protect them from hungry rabbits, sheep and deer.

FENCING:

Help to maintain areas of stock fencing, keeping trees safe from grazing animals.

SCRUB CLEARANCE:

Join a group in clearing areas of vegetation in readiness for planting new trees

AFTERCARE:

Once planted, tree guards need to be checked regularly and saplings kept clear of encroachment by other plants. Help us to perform this essential task.

Interested in this project or other WoW projects? Contact.

Wealth of Wildlife Project
wow@cumbriawildlifetrust.org.uk
T. 01768 212528

For further information on this project and others visit us at

www.wealthofwildlife.org.uk

Wealth of Wildlife

The Wealth of Wildlife (WoW) project aims to promote Cumbria as the number one wildlife destination in the country, protecting Cumbria's rare species and habitats, and involving people in practical conservation work.

The Legal Bit

Wild habitats and their flora and fauna are protected under various British and European laws. So when you are visiting these areas please take care not to damage or disturb any of the plants and animals that live there.

For guidance and advice on the legal protection of these places go to www.english-nature.org.uk or 01733 455101

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English Nature, Cumbria Wildlife Trust*

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WEALTH OF WILDLIFE

Precarious Nature of Upland Woodlands



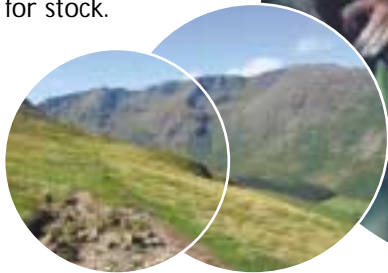
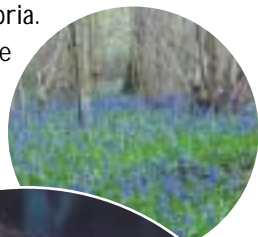
a WEALTH OF WILDLIFE project

Why Upland Woodlands?

For many people, the Lake District brings to mind images of stunning views over barren fells and exposed mountain sides. Far from being natural, this is very much a landscape created by human activity as all but the most exposed peaks and screes would have supported woodland or scrub vegetation at one time. The landscape we recognise today was gradually created as vast areas of woodland were cleared to provide more land to graze sheep and for use in industry.

While much of upland Cumbria is recognised as being of national or international importance for wildlife, habitats within these areas have been in gradual decline due to overgrazing and increased visitor pressure. Concerns over these declines lead to management plans being prepared for Helvellyn and Skiddaw in the late 1990's. Subsequent changes in sheep numbers and grazing levels have had positive benefits, but little impact on the restoration of native upland woodland and juniper.

Upland oak and ash woodlands are the most commonly found native woodland types in upland Cumbria. Together these woodlands support a diverse range of animals and plants, including a distinctive range of breeding birds, rare and unusual invertebrates and many scarce flowers. However, the restoration of upland woodland is not only good for wildlife but can also help to prevent erosion, stabilise slopes and provide shelter for stock.



What is Wew doing?

Project aims

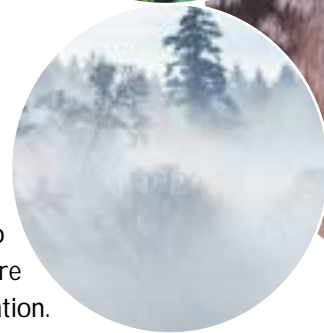
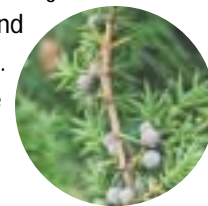
The *Wealth of Wildlife (WoW)* project aims to restore or recreate a minimum of 50 hectares of upland woodland on the Helvellyn and Skiddaw Massifs. This will be achieved through a combination of natural regeneration, new planting and reversion of conifer plantation to native woodland. The focus will be ghylls, screes and other areas where a link to existing woodland can be made.

Habitat Re-creation

Woodland restoration will be achieved in a number of different ways. Where possible, areas of land will simply be fenced, to offer protection from browsing animals, and natural regeneration allowed to occur. In areas where there are few trees, natural regeneration may not be possible so new planting will be undertaken. If required, these trees will be protected by fencing or individual tree guards. In suitable areas we will also replace non-native conifer plantations with new native woodland. The trees and shrubs to be used in the planting schemes will be carefully chosen based on their ecological requirements. For example, willow will be planted in lower, wetter areas while juniper planting will focus on thinner soils on higher ground. Each planting scheme will carefully selected to make a long term, positive contribution to the Lake District landscape.

Advice

In addition to the practical side of the project, there will also be an ongoing programme of walks, talks and demonstration days. The project will also offer advice to landowners who are considering similar upland woodland restoration.



Did you know?

Just one oak tree can support about 290 species of insects compared to just 16 on fir tree. In fact broadleaved woodland supports almost twice as many species of conservation concern as any other habitat.

Britain has lost 97% of its tree cover. 50% of this loss has occurred since 1945.

Trees are one of the major converters of greenhouse gases. The average person in England produces 2.5 metric tons of CO₂ per year. It would take 1 tree over 400 years to offset 1 person's emissions for 1 year.

Trees not only help offset CO₂ emissions but they also clean the air and water of other harmful elements.

Broadleaved woodlands are home to 78 globally threatened species and 46 species have already been lost in the last 100 years.

