

*Bunodophoron melanocarpum*



### An amazing world of Lichens (Photo credits: Paul Hanson)

We were lucky to benefit from a recent visit in May by the Cumbria Lichen & Bryophyte Group (CLBG) who carried out a lichen survey (joined by some of the Wild Ennerdale volunteers) in Side Wood on the south side of the lake. The wood forms part of the Pillar & Ennerdale Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and exhibits one of the best examples of altitudinal succession (vegetation ranges from lakeshore to high summits) in England; from upland birch-oak woodland on the shores of the lake through sub-montane heaths and grasslands to montane heaths along the summit ridge at an altitude of 890m. Within this habitat are regionally and nationally important lichens. A full species list and survey report by Paul Hanson can be found on our website.

What is a lichen? A lichen is not a single organism; it is a stable symbiotic association between a fungus and algae and/or cyanobacteria. Like all fungi, lichen fungi require carbon as a food source; this is provided by their symbiotic algae and/or cyanobacteria, that are photosynthetic (*British Lichen Society*).

The group surveyed a third of Side Wood in the time available and made 114 records of 69 species in four monads (plots). An extract from the feedback reads: "It was good to see quite a few instances of *Lecanora alboflavida* mentioned in the SSSI citation as *Ochrolechia inversa* - Nationally Scarce. And nice to see *Bunodophoron melanocarpum* with "Black-eyed Susan" fruit - not often fertile in Cumbria. There were no *Xanthoria parietina* or *Physcia* - indicators of pollution. Lots of Wilson's filmy fern. Nice to see the Wolf's milk slime mold. Some of the species found are in the Upland Rainforest Index (URI) which is one of the ways used to determine if a site is of SSSI quality. The count is just over 10 which is the threshold to be an SSSI around here".

We thank the experts and look forward to more surveys in Side Wood and also Latterbarrow in the future.



*Cetrelia olivertorum*



*Ochrolechia tartarea*



## The Forest

Although disease continues to have a big impact on trees in the valley, with Larch in particular being affected, there is much work ongoing to expand broadleaf species across the whole partnership area. From Low Moor End in the west, to planting around Middle Bridge, to the valley head enclosure (beyond Black Sail YHA) in the east, broadleaf species are increasing and along with it, new floral diversity too. Conifers do have a role to play within the wooded landscape by providing shelter, shade, structure and habitat. Deadwood is important too. We strive to create more of a diverse tree'd landscape with a greater mix of species and enabling more varied habitats to expand and thrive. Our more variable climate needs an adaptive mosaic of habitat, of which trees are a crucial part.



Norway Spruce by the Liza  
Photo: John Gorst

## Welcoming, Sharing & Learning

We continue to host different audiences to the valley interested in our work. This is always a highlight to do in a beautiful valley and we learn too from the conversations and advice from visitors, many of whom are specialists from a range of backgrounds. This spring we were delighted to host the Duke & Duchess of Devonshire to Ennerdale where we shared conversations on land management, opportunities and challenges and ambitions for the future. Other visiting groups include staff from the Lake District National Park Authority, Cumbria Connect (Eastern Fells) and an Inter-agency group of freshwater specialists from England, Scotland and Northern Ireland. We are also assisting with some Post-graduate research through interviews and surveys.



The Duke & Duchess of Devonshire in Silver Cove  
Photo: John Gorst

Summer Highlight: Marsh Fritillary in Gillerthwaite fields  
Photo: Gareth Browning



Summer Highlight: Galloway Cattle in Great Cove  
Photo: Richard Maxwell



**Wild Ennerdale** is a partnership of people and organisations led by the Forestry England, National Trust, United Utilities and Natural England. The Wild Ennerdale Partners are allowing the landscape to evolve naturally with reducing

