



Buff-tailed bumblebee



Meadows

to the UK economy

Insects help **84%** of European crops...
...a service **£430m** worth over

erosion, the wetlands lock in lots of carbon, flower-rich hay meadows support pollinating insects, and mires and swamps store rainfall. This helps to keep the water supply clean, combats climate change, helps with food production, and slows water run-off helping to reduce flooding downstream.

Today Eycott Hill is a mosaic of habitats: from the wetlands, to flower-rich meadows, moorland, and hedgerows. This diversity is wonderful for wildlife, and a healthy upland also has benefits for people; good tree and scrub cover helps to reduce soil

Sphagnum moss species. Eycott Hill was shaped by volcanic activity; over 20 ancient lava flows, each formed by a different eruption, tilted and eroded to create a landscape of ridges and hollows. The older lava flows are unusual for the large, pale feldspar crystals clearly visible in the rock. A unique mire and swamp system formed between the lava ridges and created an important habitat for wetland invertebrates and high numbers of sedges and

Feldspar crystals



Living cattle

Native breeds of cattle are used to manage the land. They help wildflower species thrive by eating the coarser grasses, and by dispersing and treading in seeds. The impact they have on the land also creates varied habitats for wildlife. Hardy native breeds are perfectly adapted to cope with a British winter so they can stay on the nature reserve year round.

Conservation grazing

A volcanic landscape

Eycott Hill, our first upland nature reserve, is nationally important for its geology and wetlands, with rare plant species and fantastic wildlife.

a special upland

Eycott Hill Nature Reserve:

the volcanic rock is over **460 million** years old!



Visiting

Eycott Hill Nature Reserve

We hope you enjoy exploring Eycott Hill Nature Reserve and the wealth of wildlife it has to offer. We'd love to hear about your wildlife encounters so please share your photos and comments on Flickr, Facebook or Twitter.



There is a waymarked route to the summit of Eycott Hill, look for the white topped wooden posts. This follows the driest route but it is over uneven and sometimes very wet ground so wellington boots are recommended, particularly after heavy rain.



Please keep dogs on a lead to avoid disturbing the wildlife and grazing animals that are on the nature reserve year round.

We're keen for you to experience Eycott Hill Nature Reserve as a wild place – there are no visitor facilities on site.

Sign up for the Eycott Hill newsletter: www.cumbriawildlifetrust.org.uk/eycott-hill

Nearby facilities

The Sportsman's Inn, just off the A66 near Berrier, and the Mill Inn in Mungrisdale serve lunch and evening meals. Cocklakes Farm Shop and Tea Room is on the other side of the A66, opposite the Sportsman's Inn.

There is a petrol station at Rheged, near to Penrith.

Close by, you may also like to visit...



Thacka Beck Nature Reserve, Penrith

About us



Cumbria Wildlife Trust

Cumbria Wildlife Trust is the only voluntary organisation devoted solely to the conservation of the wildlife and wild places of Cumbria. The Trust stands up for wildlife, creates wildlife havens and seeks to raise environmental awareness. Formed in 1962, the Trust now cares for over 40 nature reserves, works to protect endangered habitats and species such as peat bogs and red squirrels and helps adults and children to discover the importance of the natural world.

JOIN US!

If you love Cumbria and wildlife too, why not support Cumbria Wildlife Trust
Visit www.cumbriawildlifetrust.org.uk

Directions

By car

From the M6 junction 40 follow the A66 towards Keswick. After approx. 7 miles turn right, signposted Hutton Roof (look out for the Sportsman's Inn from the A66), take the next left, signposted Hutton Roof, Berrier and Whitbarrow. Follow this road for 1.6 miles through the hamlet of Berrier, the reserve is on the left hand side.

By bicycle

Eycott Hill Nature Reserve is adjacent to National Cycle Network route 71 on the Mungrisdale loop. Follow NCN71 signs. Cycle racks can be found by the entrance to the reserve.

By public transport

The nearest bus stop is 1.5 miles away at the Sportsman's Inn just off the A66. The regular service between Penrith and Keswick stops here.

Map reference

OS Landranger sheet 90, Explorer Map OL5.
GR: NY 394 301. Size: 216 hectares.
Status: Site of Special Scientific Interest (111ha).
GPS co-ordinates: 54.662272 (N), -2.941436 (W).

www.cumbriawildlifetrust.org.uk

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LOTTERY FUNDED

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Cumbria Wildlife Trust

Eycott Hill Nature Reserve



Wildlife highlights



Wheatear (March – September)

This summer visitor can be seen running or hopping along the ground over the summer months before migrating to Africa for the winter. Look out for its characteristic tail pattern in flight; a black 'T' on a white rump. Curlew, snipe, meadow pipit, and skylark also breed on the nature reserve.



Small pearl-bordered fritillary (June – September)

An orange and black butterfly with a silvery underside, it takes its name from the small 'pearl' shapes along the outer edge of the wing. Earlier emerging orange-tip butterflies can be seen from April to June as well as small heath, meadow brown, and ringlet butterflies throughout the summer months.



Short-eared owl (October – March)

These ground nesting owls are a similar size to a barn owl and are active through the day. Look out for pellets on the ground, particularly around the wooden posts on the waymarked route, evidence of their vole-based diet!

Finding your way around Eycott Hill Nature Reserve



The distinctive flower of Grass-of-Parnassus, also known as the 'bog star', appears in the wetlands over summer; it's named after the green stripes on each petal and isn't actually a grass. Cotton grass, marsh cinquefoil, 20 species of sedge including the rare few flowered sedge, 18 species of *Sphagnum* moss, and the carnivorous round-leaved sundew can also be seen in the wetlands.



Grass-of-Parnassus (June – September)



Golden-ringed dragonfly (June – September)

This large dragonfly is easily identified by the yellow bands along its body, look out for it around the streams where it breeds, such as Naddles Beck. Another noticeable species, the common hawk, can be seen in its typical moorland habitat. Other dragonflies that may be encountered around the nature reserve include four-spotted chasers, black darters and large red, emerald and blue-tailed damselflies.

Photo credits: Wheatear, Richard Bowler. Small pearl bordered fritillary, Steve Doyle. Short-eared owl, Amy Lewis. Grass of Parnassus and mountain pansy, Philip Precey. Golden-ringed dragonfly, Margaret Holland. Map: Evelyn Sinclair.



Mountain pansy (May – August)

This beautiful flower brightens the uplands over the summer months as clusters of plants create splashes of purple amongst the grassland. Marsh hawk's-beard is another attractive yellow flower that is found on rocky stream-sides in upland areas as well as wet alder woodlands.