

The Gather Ennerdale

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This is the tale of a curious Red, who had a wild thought as he went to bed.

I'm sick of the 'normal', the rules and the grind, instead I'll adventure and see what I find!

First thing tomorrow I'll pack a bag and visit the Nannycatch... the wise old hag.

She'll know the way to return to The Wild, I've dreamt of this day since I was a child.

So Red set off on his way at first light, the witch's valley was now in sight.

She stood bent at a gate with staff in hand and asked little Red what he had planned.

"I want to go wild," said Red with a grin, "to climb up trees and dance and spin,

to lie in long grass and smell the flowers, and look up at the stars and dream for hours."



"What I'm trying to say is I want to be free, wild as the wind and as fierce as the sea."

"Well now," said the witch with a wise old wink. "Give me a treat and I'll have a think."

So Red handed over his yummiest nuts, the witch scoffed the lot, the greedy guts.

But in exchange she gave Red a map, then without a word disappeared with a clap.

"Go through the stone circle on Blakeley Moss, and Ennerdale Bridge which you must cross,



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Down a lane that leads to the trees, here starts The Wild, hear its call on the breeze."

"What will it say?" I hear you wonder, well Red soon found out before he went... under...

Under the spell The Wild casts within you, this wonderful feeling that can never leave you.

Where wild waters flow, where mountains meet skies, where creatures live with The Wild in their eyes.

Water dogs, salmon, otters and pearls thrive in these waters that glisten and whirl.

Wildflower meadows humming with bees and riverbanks lined with willow trees.

Wonderful woodlands that carpet the slopes, heather-clad hills full of



dreams and hopes.

"Wow, this is the place where I need to be, so I can be wild and young and free."

So Red entered The Wild and found the glade where the wise man lives in his bearded shade.

Covered in mosses from head to toe, an ancient being who's in 'the know'.

"Walk a figure of eight through this land," said he, "and forever you will be wild and free."

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Wild Ennerdale is one of the UK's largest woodland partnerships and has recently been designated as a National Nature Reserve. The landscape is diverse and varied and supports many of the UK's rare species including red squirrels, freshwater pearl mussels and Arctic char. You can find out more at www.wildennerdale.co.uk

Trail Length
A 5km loop can be completed from The Gather cafe in Ennerdale Bridge, which includes a short section of road through the Jubilee Trail). There are shorter loops from the car parks by Ennerdale Water which can include one or both of the woodland areas. Please see the map for details.

Trail Safety Information
This Tale Trail explores the woodland trails around Broadmoor woodlands and Ennerdale Water, including the new Jubilee Trail and the link path to Ennerdale Bridge village. The terrain is a mixture of quiet roads, forest tracks and well-marked footpaths. There is deep open water, fast-flowing rivers and some rocky ground near to the trails, so please stick to the main pathways. The majority of the trails are pram and tamper friendly.

Directions and Parking
Ennerdale Bridge is located 8 kilometres from the A595. The Gather cafe and shop is a great place to start and can be found at postcode CA23 3AR. For a shorter figure-of-eight loop, park at Bleach Green car park by Ennerdale Water, nearest postcode CA23 3AS.

Refreshments
The Gather is a community-owned and run cafe and shop in Ennerdale Bridge village. There is car parking available for customers, toilets and visitor information.

Extra Explorations
To visit Nannycatch Valley and Kinniside Stone Circle park on the Cold Fell road. Turn left as you exit Ennerdale Bridge from The Gather and in 2km you will find roadside parking adjacent to the stone circle and the footpath leading down to Nannycatch Valley.

The Smithy Beck trail is a 3km woodland and waterfall loop that starts from Bowness Knott car park. The track is well marked and has a small gradient. This car park can be found 5km from Ennerdale Bridge village on the northern side of Ennerdale Water. Nearest postcode CA23 3AX.

This trail has been developed with CopeLand Borough Council and The Outdoor Partnership as part of the part of the Levelling Up programme. Published by Tale Trails www.taletrails.co.uk Illustrations and Design by Custard Graphic Design www.custard-graphic-design.co.uk Squirrel illustrations with thanks to www.lisallustrates.co.uk Copyright ©CopeLand Borough Council 2023

The bit for grown ups....

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His bearded branches went quiet once more and Red thoughtfully looked at the fern-covered floor.

He checked the path, he studied the map, and realised the answer was right on his lap!

The wild woods of Broadmoor, a figure of eight, he was ON the trail and it felt great.

Woodpeckers, oak trees, roe deer, the lake, he was so excited he started to shake.

Red ran past the orchids, stomped through the mud, put his hands in the water just like a kid should.

He rolled down a bank, barefooted with glee, and shouted aloud, "I'm wild and I'm free!"

The butterflies clapped him, the birds cheered and laughed, it's so much fun just being daft.

This place is special, it's magic, unique. "Then show that you love me," said The Wild with a shriek.



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Red looked across the lake, he had heard her call, but how could he show it, with being so small?

"You don't need to DO anything, you just need to BE," said a wise tawny owl half asleep in a tree.

So Red made a promise to Earth that day... to stay wild, to care, to love and to play,

To visit wild places and notice small things and wonder at the gifts that nature brings.

We are all worthy of wildness coz The Wild is in you, so get outside and you'll feel it too.

Explore by your feet and look up to the sky, maybe Red's watching with a glint in his eye.

So... that is the tale of how a little red knew that we're all connected, and that means you too.

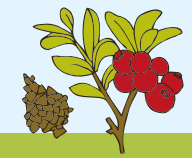
So please explore YOUR patch and go wild for a day, I promise it will feel great in every way.



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Activity time!

Let's go back in time to 8,000 years ago and return to The Wild. Why did we need to be so connected to nature back then?



1. Choose three different plants to smell. Can you smell green?
2. Sit quietly until you spot an animal. Who came to say hello first?
3. Scatter some seeds you spot, left over from last autumn.
4. Let your face catch the sun's rays in dappled patterns under the trees.
5. Get some soil on your fingertips and walk with it for a while.
6. Dip your hands and feet in some fresh water.
7. Splash your cheeks with some morning dew off the leaves.
8. Spot shapes and patterns in ice.
9. Stand barefoot on the earth for one minute.
10. Try and work out which way North is before you look at the map.
11. Try and work out which way your home is.
12. What would your perfect 'Wild Place' look like?

Walks around

Cumbria

fun local story walks

for children and the young at heart

The Red Squirrel's Tale

A story walk to Ennerdale Water

By Anja Phoenix



Easy to follow Map & Story
Explore, spot things & search for clues on the way

