

A fruitful partnership? Exciting new orchard project with the National Trust

The National Trust at Sizergh, near Kendal, is looking for help with managing their orchards. They have around 2ha of traditional orchards on the estate but never have the time to pick all the fruit, meaning a lot of it goes to waste. With a variety of apples, pears, plums and damsons the Ranger team thought it would be a great opportunity to team up with the WI and see the fruit put to good use. If you would be interested in helping out and creating something delicious with the orchard produce then please contact Gemma Wren, Countryside Manager

gemma.wren@nationaltrust.org.uk

Summer/introduction pruning day – Wednesday 9th August 10am – 3pm. Be prepared for a little bit of pruning/cutting back but this will mainly be a chance to meet our rangers and get to know a bit about the orchards.

Picking day – late September, date to be confirmed.

National Trust will provide all necessary equipment. Meet at Sizergh main car park (not currently P&D but donation boxes may be being installed during the summer). Bring your own lunch, warm clothing and sturdy shoes. To reach some of the orchards we will need to share lifts out to the wider estate – this will vary depending on numbers on the day.

The Orchards at Sizergh

Orchard	Size	Fruits	Management
Lane End	0.3ha	Apples, damsons	Just been cleared out after overgrown for many years. Winter pruning for apples, winter and summer prune for damsons. Some thinning of damson thickets. Picking of fruit - September.
Park End	0.5ha	Apples, pears, plums, damsons	Winter prune. Currently working with local community. Picking of fruit - September.
Holeslack	0.75ha	Pears, apples, plums, damsons	Winter and summer prune (damsons and plums). Help from SLOG in past - juicing. Picking of fruit - September.
Pub orchard	0.25ha	Apples, plums, damsons	Needs some work to revitalise, overgrown and not pruned for a while.

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Sizergh Orchards partnership - Interested? Please fill out your details below and return to National Trust, Sizergh Estate Office, Sizergh, Kendal LA8 8AE or send your information by email to gemma.wren@nationaltrust.org.uk

Name: _____ **WI:** _____

Contact (phone & email): _____

Please edit below as appropriate

- I will/will not be able to attend the Pruning day on August 9th 10am-3pm.
- I will/will not be able to attend the Picking day in September (date to be confirmed).
- I can't attend any of the above dates but would be interested in future/additional dates