

# LIFE in the Ravines

Restoration of ravine woodland in the Peak District SAC to mitigate the effects of ash dieback



## Project Information Note 2

### Project update:

LIFE in the Ravines project is now into its second year and a lot has been achieved despite the difficulties of carrying out a project through Covid-19 lockdowns and restrictions.

We now have a full team and are busy planning for the winter tree planting program starting in January. Our new office at Parsley Hay is also now up and running.

### Tree Planting:

To restore the canopy lost through ash dieback, tree species being planted include aspen, large and small leaved lime, wych elm and yew. This will ensure the survival of the woodland by creating a more resilient landscape to cope with environmental changes and support a diversity of wildlife.

### Seed Collecting:

We are also busy seed collecting large and small leaved lime. These seeds will be sent off to a company that will hopefully break some of the viable seeds' dormancy so they can then be grown on in a nursery for future planting in the SAC.

Also, small and large-leaved lime material has been collected to be propagated with the aim to produce 2,000 saplings from cloned material for planting through winter 2022/23.



LIFE in the Ravines (LIFE19 NAT/UK/000147) has received funding from the LIFE Programme which is the European Union's funding instrument for the environment. Funding is awarded to best practice, innovative and demonstration projects that contribute to the objectives of Natura 2000 (a network of the very best areas for wildlife across Europe).

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### Surveying:

Most of the Ash Vulnerability Assessments have now been completed across the high forest areas of the SAC. Data has been collected by the LITR team and by staff from our partner sites. Following this assessment, 25% of the high forest identified as most vulnerable to ash dieback will be selected to form a 180ha area for the project's woodland management interventions.

Areas are divided up into smaller hexagonal 'coupes' and visually assessed for tree canopy cover and tree health using the DAFOR scale. This will ensure we apply appropriate woodland management techniques to protect and enhance our stunning ravine woodlands.

### Cutting:

Cutting has begun on some of the 0.25ha coupes in Cressbrook dale alongside the National Nature Reserve (NNR) team.

### Vehicles:

With the arrival of our new All-Terrain Vehicle, the team will be able get equipment around some of the very tricky and difficult to access sites.

We also now have branding across our vehicles so we will be easily visible to passers-by.

### Social Media:

Our social media channels are now set up @LIFEinRavines. Please follow us to keep up to date with all LIFE in the Ravines project news:



Contact: [Lifeintheravines@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:Lifeintheravines@naturalengland.org.uk)

Working in partnership with:



Derbyshire  
Wildlife Trust



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