

## **Summary of English Nature's response to Centre for Ecology & Hydrology's consultation on NERC's council's statement of intent.**

- English Nature greatly values the internationally-competitive, high quality research and analysis carried out by CEH. This provides a significant part of the evidence-base underpinning environmental policy and practice in the UK, including that of English Nature.
- Major concerns by English Nature are over the scale of the proposed cuts in staff and facilities. This seems inappropriate at a time when the outcomes of research are needed to inform key concerns such as climate change, biodiversity conservation and environmental pollution. English Nature is looking for CEH to provide assurances that these cuts will not impact its ability to deliver environmental research in the UK.
- English Nature is looking for assurances that the current biodiversity research programme will be safeguarded if the re-structuring proposal goes ahead as planned.
- The long term research and data collections that CEH hold is particularly valued by English Nature, therefore seeks assurances that these programmes will be maintained in the future.
- English Nature is concerned that even if biodiversity research programmes, and work on long term research and data, are retained, closure of centres and relocation of staff may mean that key staff with skills and knowledge essential to such work may be lost. This risks compromising these vital programmes.

13 February 2006.