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NATURE

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November 1998

The Rt. Hon John Prescott MP  
The Deputy Prime Minister and  
Secretary of State for the Environment,  
Transport and the Regions  
6th Floor  
Eland House  
Bressenden Place  
London SW1E 5DU

Dear John,

As requested by section 20(1) of Schedule 6 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990,  
I am pleased to present herewith the sixth report of English Nature (Nature  
Conservancy Council for England) covering the period 1 April 1997 to 31 March 1998.

Best wishes,

Baroness Young of Old Scone

Nature Conservancy Council for England

## English Nature's Council

Chairman: The Earl of Cranbrook DSc, DL (until 31.3.98)

Professor J M Anderson FRGS

Ms J Barber

Professor D L Hawskworth CBE, DSc, FDhc

Miss J Kelly

Dr D R Langslow

Professor G Lucas (appointed 1.2.98)

Professor D Norman

Mr M T Thomasin-Foster CBE, BSc, DL (until 31.3.98)

Mr S R Tromans

Professor R C L Wilson MBE, BSc, PhD, CGeol

Mr G N Woolley FRICS, FAAV, FRSA

## English Nature's Board

Chief Executive: Dr Derek Langslow

Directors: Dr Andrew Brown (appointed 23.2.98)

Ms Sue Collins

Dr Keith Duff

Mr Eddie Idle (retired 23.8.97)

Ms Caroline Wood

## Chairman's overview

English Nature is the statutory nature conservation organisation for England. This is our seventh Annual Report, although this contribution is my first. As incoming Chairman, I would like to extend my warm thanks to my predecessor, the Earl of Cranbrook, for his hard work, achievements and commitment since English Nature began work in 1991.

This report and its appendices provide a detailed picture of English Nature's actions and strategies during 1997/98. Among the many achievements this year are:

- Providing MAFF with a number of key assessments, including the environmental implications of the Agenda 2000 proposals for CAP reform, and the implications of the BSE restrictions on grazed wildlife sites.
- Continued work to restructure financial agreements with SSSI owners and occupiers to stimulate positive action for wildlife, with a reduction in the area under compensatory agreements from 15,178 hectares to 10,702 hectares.
- The drive to complete the series of river SSSIs in England, and our commitment, through our *Conserving water for life* campaign and input to AMP3 proceedings, to secure agreements and action to keep vital freshwater wetlands wet.
- Delivering our Species Recovery Programme and Habitat Action Plan work to meet the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) objectives.
- With fellow UK nature conservation agencies, publishing the rationale for identifying candidate Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and delivering the process for submitting sites to Government to fulfil Government obligations under the European Habitats Directive.
- Work by our European project to develop our ties with, and influence on, European partners.

While much has been achieved, it is also important to look forward to the continuing issues that English Nature will be tackling.

I am particularly looking forward to working with the organisation's skilled and committed staff to help us realise our vision to sustain and improve England's wildlife and natural features for all.

We will draw our strength from the rational analysis of scientific and technical information. We will reflect Government's commitment to put the environment at the heart of all policies. A healthy and sustainable environment is not only important for wildlife, it is absolutely essential for people and society.

### Delivering biodiversity as a key test of sustainability

Biodiversity is a key test of sustainability: if biodiversity is declining, we are not making sustainable decisions. English Nature gives strong advice to Government to ensure that biodiversity becomes a part of the sustainability debate and that every government department identifies and addresses clear biodiversity targets.

In the past year, we gave advice to the Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions on sustainability indicators and environmental accounting, as part of our advocacy of sustainable development principles in economic and social development. This is a useful start in weaving biodiversity factors into the fabric of Government policies.

Earth heritage features are fundamental to the biodiversity that overlays them and are key in determining local character. English Nature's Natural Area profiles provide a local framework for the delivery of the UK Biodiversity Action Plan.



English Nature will continue to develop its key role in delivering the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP). In doing so, we have some pivotal functions:

- Encouraging and enabling others to participate in work towards national and local BAP targets.
- Delivering our share of the BAP's Habitats and Species targets.
- Encouraging and facilitating a network of local BAPs from local authorities, businesses and others within the national framework.
- Promoting change and development of policies that help biodiversity and natural features .
- Helping the public to understand biodiversity better.

### Sites of Special Scientific Interest

Some of the practical work of promoting biodiversity takes place on SSSIs and this is an important part of our work. Many are small and fragmented - the last besieged remnants of important wildlife habitats. While nowadays we rarely see gross damage to SSSIs, far too many of them still suffer from neglect and lack of suitable management. We shall be continuing our drive towards all SSSIs being positively managed for their wildlife interest. Excellent progress has been made in agreeing Site Management Statements with a whole range of owners and occupiers. We must continue to foster excitement and enthusiasm for nature conservation among our key partners, the owners and occupiers of SSSIs. But excitement and enthusiasm are not enough and we shall continue to press for eight key changes to policy and practice.

- 1 The Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) is a huge engine with the potential to effect great change. At present it is driving in the wrong direction. We want to see environmental conditions imposed on mainstream agricultural payments across Europe and expanded agri-environment programmes in England.

- 2 We need to see the end of compensatory SSSI agreements that simply reward landowners and occupiers for not carrying out damaging activities that could harm the wildlife interest of the area. We shall continue to press for revised Financial Guidelines to help us achieve that vital goal.
- 3 All public sector owners and managers of SSSIs should have a duty of care. As some of the key policy makers and influencers, they should lead by example.
- 4 We must help secure the future of wetland SSSIs by raising awareness of the impact that water use and water pollution can have on our most valued wetland wildlife sites. A tremendous start would be funding, as part of the water price round, to remedy the impact of over-abstraction and eutrophication on 79 threatened SSSIs .
- 5 We need an improved legislative framework for SSSIs. For instance, the system of Nature Conservation Orders, under which we can halt work that is damaging a site's wildlife interest, needs to be made much more effective. We are working very closely with the Department of Environment, Transport and the Regions, and with non-governmental organisations, to achieve a beneficial change to SSSI legislation that builds on the current position without producing unnecessary extra costs and administration.
- 6 Strengthened planning guidance needs to be introduced, with more stringent tests before planning consent is given for development on SSSIs.
- 7 We need to build on progress in changing and developing forestry practice to accommodate wildlife interests.

8 On resources, most importantly we want to see the re-direction of existing public money away from schemes which damage nature conservation into payments which promote positive conservation measures. But English Nature also needs sufficient resources to enable us to encourage and support others in positively managing their land for biodiversity.

We look forward to the Government consultation document on the protection and management of SSSIs.

#### Outside protected sites

English Nature continues to make a significant contribution to the development of policies affecting the environment on land and in the sea outside protected wildlife sites.

Though we welcome the direction of Common Agricultural Policy reform in Agenda 2000, mainstream compensatory payments will stay in place for some time. Minimum environmental conditions must be applied to those payments for as long as they exist. Farmers should receive support in managing the countryside for the twin outcomes of wildlife gain and useful agricultural product.

We have highlighted the problems facing freshwater and wetland sites very clearly in *Wildlife and fresh water – an agenda for sustainable management*. The resource of fresh water must be managed in a sustainable way and we have worked very hard over the last few years with the Environment Agency, DETR, OFWAT and water companies to obtain significant investment in SSSI protection and enhancement through the water companies' AMP3 investment programme.

Resolving the challenges of transport is going to be vital for biodiversity. Road building and pollution pose growing threats to wildlife. English Nature will continue to advocate an integrated

transport policy that reduces the wasteful movement of goods and people and facilitates easy shifts between public road and rail networks.

In the marine environment, we will have an opportunity to change practice for the better through the Review of the Common Fisheries Policy. Presently, we have unsustainable fishing, destruction of habitat and a declining fishing industry. English Nature will work with fishing communities to raise their awareness of the wildlife impact of fishing to help set the context for the achievement of lower fishing effort and more sustainable practices. This is in tandem with work to record the main wildlife and geological interests of the seabed off our coasts.

## Conclusion

Our strategy document, *Beyond 2000*, sets out our priorities in our roles as an adviser, regulator, enabler and promoter of wildlife. However, without the joint effort and co-operation of our many partners, we cannot achieve the conservation of wildlife in this country. There are ample demonstrations of successful partnership throughout this Annual Report and I am determined that this remains central to the way we work.

I am honoured to have been appointed Chairman of English Nature. We look forward with determination to building on our achievements in practical nature conservation and developing our role as an influential force for wildlife and the countryside.

## Review

English Nature provides England's statutory conservation service for wildlife and natural features. English Nature was constituted on 1 April 1991 under the Environmental Protection Act 1990. This seventh annual report covers the period from 1 April 1997 to 31 March 1998.

### Our vision

English Nature will sustain and improve the wildlife and natural features of England for everyone.

We launched our *Beyond 2000* document in October 1997 to update our strategy, following extensive external and internal consultation. *Beyond 2000* confirms our focus on nature conservation targets derived from the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) priorities, and obligations from European Union Directives. We will use our Natural Areas framework in a targeted approach to sustain and enhance our native species and habitats for overall wildlife gain. *Beyond 2000* also reaffirms the importance of Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) and our approach based on partnership.

### Our nature conservation goals

We have worked throughout the year to conserve wildlife and natural features within and outside SSSIs, and to developing ever-stronger support for nature conservation, which we believe matters to everyone. Our effort has remained focused on eight strategic goals:

- Setting clear local targets for nature conservation through the Natural Areas approach.
- Securing the integration of nature conservation objectives into all government policies.

- Achieving the sustainable management of all Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) through securing the commitment and understanding of owners and occupiers.
- Increasing the populations and distributions of priority species.
- Establishing strong support for nature conservation and English Nature.
- Increasing the opportunities for people to take action for wildlife and natural features and to experience them directly.
- Developing the practice of sustainability, including the promotion of personal stewardship.
- Seeking to get more people to accept environmental quality standards and to use environmental appraisal and audit to safeguard nature conservation targets.

Our priorities for 1997/98 were summarised in our Work Plan, published in May 1997. The major components include:

- Integrating the UK BAP targets for habitats and species into the Natural Areas approach to ensure there are clear local nature conservation targets that will deliver the national targets as well.
- Advising the Government on BAPs, the UK Strategy for Sustainable Development, the EU agri-environment programme, the Habitats Directive, reform of the Common Agricultural Policy, priorities for the AMP3 investment programme, the Common Fisheries Policy and Coastal Management.
- Advising the Water, Planning, Wildlife and Countryside Directorates of the Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions (DETR).
- Recommending terrestrial and marine sites as candidate Special Areas of Conservation and undertaking the necessary consultations.

- Recommending Special Protection Areas for birds for DETR to submit to the EC.
- Completing the Geological Conservation Review site notification project.
- Securing management to sustain the special features of SSSIs through management agreements, production of Site Management Statements and contact with owners and occupiers; monitoring site management and the conditions of the key features for which sites were selected.
- Completing the review of National Nature Reserves (NNRs), continuing the declaration programme for Section 35(1)(c) NNRs, ensuring appropriate management of key BAP species and habitats on NNRs, reviewing NNR plans, and staging demonstrations of practical land management techniques.
- Setting BAP targets and integrating our Species Recovery Programme with them; and helping our partners to undertake more statutory work on species.
- Increasing the opportunities for wider public involvement in, and understanding of, nature conservation through the English Nature Enquiry Service, our publication programme, including journals, the publication of the NNR Charter standard, and national and local press coverage.
- Sustaining the quality of the environment by working with the Environment Agency, working on Local Agenda 21 development, working with other partners on national indicators and environmental accounts to guide national programmes on sustainable development, and taking the lead agency role on air pollution and toxic chemicals.

We have introduced a number of improved working methods and changes to decision-making processes that support the *Beyond 2000* strategy, published in October 1997. We have:

- Changed our planning and reporting system to reflect the new strategy.
- Introduced controls to reduce running costs whilst maintaining and improving the quality of services and delivery of nature conservation objectives.
- Completed our review of pay and grading.
- Implemented a Human Resources Plan that aims to make English Nature a competency-based organisation, motivating people through the provision of job satisfaction, reward systems and learning opportunities.
- As part of our major IT infrastructure project, we have updated our information networks and systems, aiming to connect all our staff to corporate information and communications systems.

During the year English Nature also reached agreement with the Heritage Lottery Fund and others to earmark funds for heathland conservation, and we established the £18 million Tomorrow's Heathland Heritage programme to restore and increase lowland heathlands. This is one of the priority habitats included in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan. English Nature is also leading a joint project involving all the statutory nature conservation bodies in the UK for work on some of the candidate marine Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), six of which are in England. Half of the project's £4 million cost is coming from the European LIFE programme and, over its four and a half year duration, English Nature is contributing £200,000 per annum for marine projects.



During the year, English Nature continued to manage an increasing workload against a backdrop of tightening resources. Our grant-in-aid for 1997/98 was £39.194 million. Of this, £2.47 million was allocated to the Joint Nature Conservation Committee. On 1 April 1998, we had the equivalent of 585 full-time staff, a fall of almost seven per cent from 627 the previous year. This was a considerable reduction since April 1994, when we had 700 staff.

On 31 March 1998, the total area of SSSI land stood at 967,365 hectares, a rise of 15,685 hectares on the previous year and an increase of almost over 200,000 hectares since April 1991 when English Nature began work.

The following pages summarise the year's work.

## Natural Areas and reporting on England's natural heritage

### Targets and priorities for nature conservation

English Nature developed Natural Areas as a framework to relate national and local nature conservation priorities. During the year, we finished identifying and characterising all Natural Areas in England. We published 120 Natural Area profiles, drawn up with input from local partners. These provide the basis for our advice to all involved in nature conservation locally. Each profile contains a description of the nature conservation interest, a review of impacts and trends affecting the Area, and objectives to enhance biodiversity. This year we started work on establishing six marine Natural Areas (to cover the offshore sea) to complement the existing 120 coastal and terrestrial Natural Areas.

Natural Areas help us ensure that all the published national Biodiversity Action Plans for individual species and habitats are reflected in relevant local Biodiversity Action Plans. We can now identify the wildlife gain that each action or policy change will deliver

in each Area, and in what Areas particular programmes will be most valuable for nature conservation. For instance, with the Game Conservancy and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, we developed the concept of Arable Stewardship, now being piloted by the Ministry of Agriculture. Areas of East Anglia and the West Midlands were chosen as pilots because we felt any beneficial changes wrought by the scheme would be most noticeable there. Natural Areas have also been used by local authorities, water companies and conservation organisations.

We have assembled information on local nature conservation, including Natural Area profiles, arranged by Natural Area, and will publish it on a Compact Disc. This will help local authority planners, the voluntary nature conservation sector and businesses to relate national nature conservation priorities to their work in local areas.

#### SSSI monitoring

England's designated SSSIs contain the best and rarest of our plants, animals and Earth heritage features. They are the core of the country's variety of wildlife and are therefore the areas that need most care and monitoring.

The fifth year of our monitoring programme saw the full-scale implementation of ENSIS, the SSSI information system that we have developed to provide directly-comparable, consistently good nature conservation and management data on the condition of all SSSIs. This information is available to all English Nature teams. We plan to extend ENSIS by improving its reporting capabilities and by adding information on the specific habitat types and species covered by the Habitats Directive.

In June 1997, English Nature and its fellow statutory conservation agencies, the Countryside Council for Wales, Scottish Natural Heritage and the Environment and Heritage Service (Northern

Ireland), agreed through the Joint Nature Conservation Committee a consistent approach to monitoring SSSIs throughout the UK. We will pilot these standards in 1998/99 before adopting them fully in the following year.

Monitoring SSSIs using this approach entails defining for each of the habitats and species for which the site was selected the characteristics and conditions that, if met, will ensure the conservation interest will be sustained. These can be summarised in the form of quantified targets which allow consistent judgements to be made about whether or not the overall condition of part or all of the site is favourable to the main wildlife components.

English Nature has developed broad conservation objectives for all SSSIs and has used these condition assessments over the last few years. These are now being refined as part of the work on common standards undertaken by the agencies. Priority is currently being given to the habitats and species listed in the Habitats Directive.

We also began work on analysing a sample survey of heathland SSSIs to understand better the various pressures that SSSI management places on different types of owner and occupier. The results emphasised the fact that heathlands generally have low agricultural value and, often, are not being grazed or managed positively for wildlife. The full results will be published in 1998/99.

Government and Agency policies – building an environmentally sustainable future

English Nature, as the Government's statutory adviser on policies for or affecting nature conservation, has been pressing Government and regulators since 1991 for changes in policies and incentives for key economic sectors so they support, rather than damage, our biodiversity. This is a key element of the UK Biodiversity Action Plan

and also helps Government to implement international conservation obligations. The severe losses and fragmentation of biodiversity in England over the last few decades have resulted from the loss of semi-natural land to intensive agriculture, housing, road building, and mineral extraction. Some SSSIs are not in favourable condition, for instance due to inappropriate levels of grazing, both in the uplands and lowlands, the drying out of wetlands and the eutrophication of SSSI rivers. We set out the key requirements for the agriculture sector in our Position Statement *Environmentally sustainable agriculture and nature conservation* published in May 1997.

During 1997/98, English Nature's work helped to achieve the following shifts in policy.

#### Agriculture

We continued to support the reform proposals from the EU Commission on the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) which included environmental objectives more centrally than in their Agenda 2000 document. We presented policy research results to EC Directorate-General VI (Agriculture) and Directorate-General XI (Environment, Nuclear Safety and Civil Protection) in Brussels and to MAFF and DETR in London. We did this in close partnership with our sister agencies in Scotland and Wales, the JNCC and the Countryside Commission. We have given detailed evidence to both the House of Commons and House of Lords Select Committee Inquiries into CAP reform.

We have pressed home three key messages:

- The need for a form of agricultural support that is linked more closely to environmental benefits.
- Any support for agricultural production must be conditional on the meeting of basic environmental standards.
- There must be a substantially larger budget for direct payments to deliver environmentally sensitive agriculture.

If the last two changes in particular are agreed at EU level in 1999 they will be vital in supporting recovery of wildlife across the wider countryside, especially to stem the loss of farmland birds. To this end, we worked with colleagues in other Member States and organised a seminar in Germany in the Spring. To support these changes, we continue to give practical advice based on our experience of species recovery and habitat restoration.

We used our scientific and practical knowledge, and the results of our monitoring and our work on setting Natural Area and BAP targets, to help MAFF review 11 ESA schemes and target better Countryside Stewardship. In partnership with the RSPB and Game Conservancy Trust our proposal for a pilot arable stewardship scheme was launched by MAFF, and we advised on their upland pilots in Bodmin Moor and the Forest of Bowland. This work will ensure that these improvement schemes deliver more wildlife gains, both within and outside SSSIs, over the coming years. We want to make sure that our partners understand how to help achieve:

- The recovery of the farmland birds and arable wildflowers such as the skylark and corncockle;
- The improvement in biodiversity in the Norfolk Broads;
- The improved management of upland woods.

But we still need to see the small-scale pilot schemes grow into effective countrywide programmes.

### Roads

We have achieved a breakthrough this year in how the road planning process treats the environment. We have been working for this with Government for several years. *Position statement on roads and nature conservation* sets out the links between roads and nature conservation and illustrates why more environmentally sustainable and integrated transport policies and practices are essential to wildlife. Under an

accelerated review, a number of environmentally damaging schemes, notably including the Salisbury bypass, were deferred or cancelled as a result of our advice and persuasive argument. Others incorporated conditions which will mitigate, but not remove, their adverse effects. We worked closely with the Highways Agency to achieve these results. We remain concerned about the direct and indirect impact of roads, particularly bypasses, on wildlife habitats, often causing fragmentation, disturbance to birds and animals and increases in run-off that pollutes watercourses. We successfully persuaded DETR to incorporate environmental values in their new process for assessment of road proposals. We expect that this approach will be applied to decisions on other transport-related development.

#### Water

AMP3, the Asset Management Plan covering water industry investment for the period 2000-2005, has been a key target for us in 1997/98. Our clear message to Government, the Office of Water Services (OFWAT), the Environment Agency, water companies and the public has been that SSSIs at risk of eutrophication from sewage discharges or at risk of drying out from over-abstraction must be high priorities for remedial investment in the AMP3 programme.

Government has underlined this priority in the guidance they gave to OFWAT this summer and this needs now to be delivered in practical remedial schemes. If this opportunity is lost, some of our finest rivers, wetlands and the wildlife that depends on them will deteriorate. We have worked very closely with the Environment Agency on this and have agreed a list of 79 SSSIs at risk which require action.

#### Coasts and seas

Our coasts, with their fine dunes, saltmarshes, shingle beds and other habitats, need continued protection. We are working with partners for sustainable management of the marine environment, particularly Marine SACs, SPAs and coastal SSSIs. In 1996 we launched the

Marine LIFE SACs project with SNH and CCW, Environment and Heritage Service (Northern Ireland), JNCC and the Scottish Association of Marine Sciences. With EU money from the LIFE SAC project and our own resources, we have:

- Improved the scientific understanding of the dynamics and habitats in the marine areas and interaction with those who use the sea.
- Set up the process for agreeing sustainable management on 63 marine sites in England.

Over three years this project, alongside other work by English Nature, will further our ambition of safeguarding these internationally important marine areas, to the benefit of all wildlife.

Commercial sea fishing poses very significant threats to our marine natural resources. During the year we built strong links with key regulatory bodies and organisations, providing a foundation for building environmentally sustainable fisheries within protected areas in England. We are analysing the changes needed for the Common Fisheries Policy to sustain natural marine resources and we have advised MAFF and EC Directorate-General XIV (Fisheries) that further radical cuts in fishing effort are essential if the current unsustainable approaches are not to end in disaster in the North Sea. This is an urgent priority for action.

We have complemented this work with continuing advocacy and practical support to MAFF and the Environment Agency and coastal engineers to implement the Government's strategy for more environmentally and economically sustainable flood and coastal defences. We successfully ensured that soft engineering solutions are now an accepted part of the planning of coastal defence works in England. An important factor in this success has been the practical knowledge we have acquired through joint trials. At Tollesbury in

Essex, in partnership with MAFF and the Environment Agency, we are demonstrating the successful managed realignment of the coast. We have pressed MAFF and Parliament to do more to safeguard and re-create important coastal habitats as part of a sustainable strategy for flood and coastal defences.

#### Planning and local authorities

Our advice to local authorities on development plan consultations and on individual planning applications has helped to safeguard many individual SSSIs. Protection comes through strengthened planning policies, moving harmful development away from sensitive locations or the use of conditions and obligations to remove or reduce adverse effects. We have successfully helped local authorities and other relevant authorities to understand their responsibilities under the Habitats Directive, Birds Directive and PPG9, through a series of local seminars and through publishing guidance (*Habitats Regulations Guidance Notes Nos 1 and 2*). In this way, we have helped local authorities to be more aware of the Government's commitments to biodiversity and sustainability and how important it is for them to work with us in achieving these objectives.

#### Sustainable development

We have pressed the Government and others to acknowledge that biodiversity is a key test of sustainability. We gave evidence to the Government's consultation on sustainable development, *Opportunities for Change*, and are helping them to develop sustainability indicators related to wildlife and natural processes. Our Chairman, the Earl of Cranbrook, was an influential member of the UK Round Table on Sustainable Development and we are closely involved, through our lead Local Teams, in a number of initiatives sponsored by Government Regional Offices to identify sustainable development issues at a regional level and to develop partnerships to take practical action. Among the most advanced of these initiatives are:



- Government Office South West's proposal to establish a Round Table and Support Unit as a focal point for sustainable development in the South West with five English Nature Local Teams as funding partners.
- Government Office South East's Sustainable Development Forum, which has an initial focus on agriculture and biodiversity.
- Government Office North West's Sustainable Development Forum and a linked Local Authority led organisation, Sustainability North West.
- Government Office West Midlands' Sustainable Development Round Table, with a strong emphasis on Local Agenda 21 and a proposed Regional Sustainability Action Framework to identify action on sustainability in a regional context (i.e. positioned between the UK Sustainable Development Strategy and Local Agenda 21 Action Plans).

We also collaborated with other European Environmental Advisory Councils to influence the scope and content of the proposed European Commission sustainable development strategy.

We were influential in securing Ministers' commitment to place sustainable development at the heart of the work of Regional Development Agencies. It is important that Regional Development Strategies take full account of biodiversity objectives. At the local level, we have worked with many local authorities to implement Agenda 21. These long-term changes are underpinned by our environmental economics work, including that on national environmental accounts and improved methods of environmental assessment and appraisal.

## Designation of special sites

On 31 March 1998 there were 3,987 SSSIs notified in England, covering a total of 967,365 hectares, and cared for by over 32,000 owners and managers spanning every sector of the community. The Council of English Nature approved the notification of 64 sites during the year and 11 sites were given approval to renotify to take account of new information on features and to make adjustments to boundaries. 71 sites were either notified or renotified during the year.

Over 2,800 owners and occupiers were notified under the SSSI programme in 1997/98, a rise of some 1,400 from the previous year. Over the same period, there was a significant fall in the proportion of those objecting to notification. In 1996/97, the figure was 10%. In 1997/98 it was 4.5%. This is a tribute to the skill and professionalism of our staff in dealing with the extensive consultations involved in notifying sites.

Our programme of river SSSI notification, begun in 1992, is nearing completion with 10 notifications during 1997/98. Only two of the 27 rivers in the programme remain to be notified. We also made good progress with the Environment Agency in producing conservation strategies for these river SSSIs. During the year, we put six approved strategies in place and a further four were drafted.

We successfully completed a three-year project aimed at submitting for notification, as SSSIs, all known sites selected through the Geological Conservation Review. This series of geological and geomorphological SSSIs provides the foundation upon which all our current Earth heritage conservation work is built. There are now over 1,000 SSSIs notified for their geological features.

During the year there was a proposal to denotify about 5% of Thorne Moor SSSI and 35% Hatfield Moor SSSI which were being milled for peat.

The public consultation generated considerable controversy. Council considered all of the available information, including more detailed hydrological evidence, and decided that the whole areas should be retained as an SSSI.

National Nature Reserves (NNRs) comprise the very best of our natural heritage: species, habitats and landforms. On 31 March 1998, England's SSSIs included 191 NNRs, covering 73,374 hectares. During the year, one NNR managed by English Nature was extended and six new NNRs managed by Approved Bodies were declared under Section 35(1)(c) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981.

Throughout the year, we played a key role in helping the Government implement the European Habitats Directive. A major consultation was carried out on 26 possible new Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and amendments to a further 26 candidate SACs. We have now consulted on 150 sites and 131 of these have been submitted to the European Commission by the Government. The total area covered by candidate SACs at year end was 595,553 ha. The new sites included seven rivers chosen for their internationally important habitats, such as water crowfoot beds, and species, such as salmon, freshwater pearl mussel and otter.

We worked with the other country agencies to help the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) document the process and rationale behind selecting possible SACs. The subsequent JNCC report *The Habitats Directive: Selection of Special Areas of Conservation in the UK*, published in October 1997, is the first such account in Europe. We also organised a number of seminars on the Habitats Regulations to further the understanding of SACs by relevant authorities and interest groups.

We completed consultations on marine SACs with around 250 relevant organisations and have been forming active working partnerships and developing nature conservation objectives on all the sites. Government submitted 13 of the 15 candidate sites to Europe. The remaining two, the Solent and Severn estuaries, were still being considered by Government at the end of the year.

We worked with relevant authorities and the wider public to create management groups for all six European LIFE funded marine projects. We worked with Scottish Natural Heritage, the Countryside Council for Wales, the Environment and Heritage Service (Northern Ireland) through the Joint Nature Conservation Committee to produce a background guidance document, *European Marine Sites: An Introduction to Management*. This has subsequently become widely requested by organisations in other EU countries. The same partnership also began work on a marine site monitoring handbook, giving guidance on the most cost-effective and practical monitoring methods.

We also consulted on seven new, or major extensions to, European Special Protection Areas for birds (SPAs), and the Government submitted six SPAs to the European Commission. In due course the agreed SACs together with existing SPAs will form a network of Europe's finest wildlife areas. Collectively, these will be known as Natura 2000 sites.

As a result of our recommendations, through the year Government designated three sites under the Ramsar Convention as Wetlands of International Importance, bringing the total number of Ramsar sites to 68, with 12 further sites being considered for designation by Government. We also contributed towards the setting and implementation of the UK targets for the Ramsar Strategic Plan 1997-2002.

## Positive management of SSSIs

Many SSSIs require careful management to conserve the special wildlife and geological features for which they were selected. This can only be done in partnership with the owners and managers of these sites and we are committed to build and strengthen continually this partnership. Throughout the year we have argued for a series of legislative and policy changes, and more resources, to help this process and secure the positive management of SSSIs. These eight changes are described in the foreword from the Chairman.

## Working with owners and occupiers

In the last year, 4,430 Site Management Statements (potential agreements between our staff and owners and occupiers, setting out the agreed positive actions to be undertaken to benefit the outstanding nature conservation features of the sites) have been prepared, of which 3,528 have been discussed and agreed with owners and occupiers. More than 85% of owners and occupiers were contacted in some way by Local Teams during the year and we have had personal meetings with nearly 40% of them.

Our Management Agreement Corporate Project was concluded at the end of the year and all management agreement payments are now negotiated on the principles of positive action for nature conservation set out in the Wildlife Enhancement Scheme (WES). WES has set a national standard for agreements and the Project has ensured that it is applied consistently.

Compensatory agreements now represent only 30% of overall funding for agreements, compared with 81% in 1992/93, the first year of WES. Over 1,000 agreements have been concluded under WES and they cover more than 69,000 ha of SSSIs.

In the last six years, our spending on SSSI management agreements has increased by 8%, while the total area subject to agreements has increased by 115% and the total number of agreements has risen by 50%. The average cost per agreement has decreased from £99 per hectare in 1991/92 to £49 in 1997/98

The Reserves Enhancement Scheme provides Wildlife Trusts and other voluntary conservation organisations with funds to help manage and monitor SSSIs under their control, to encourage greater use of volunteers and create more public access. Thirty-three voluntary conservation organisations are now included in the scheme, which covers 18,098 ha in 579 SSSIs.

Four issues of *SiteLines*, our national newsletter for all owners and occupiers of SSSIs, were published, augmented in several areas by newsletters and bulletins produced by Local Teams to address local issues.

#### Working with others who influence SSSI management

We have continued to advise DETR, the Environment Agency and OFWAT on improvements needed to water company sewage discharges and abstractions to protect wildlife sites. Our joint leaflet with RSPB, *Investing in wildlife*, promoted schemes on 80 SSSIs. This was launched at a conference in March with speakers from the principal bodies involved in the periodic review of water company investment, including the Environment Minister.

While advising Government at a strategic level on planning and development implications for wildlife, we continued to work with Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) at a tactical level. We held 12 seminars with LPAs on their contribution to sustainable development and worked with them on preparing and implementing structure plans, local plans and unitary development plans. We published four issues of our newsletter *Urban wildlife news* and three of *Nature's Place* to augment this effort.

Our ENPACT (English Nature Practical Application of Conservation Techniques) programme continued to encourage debate and develop innovative methods and machinery to further the cause of good wildlife management. It nurtured the Forum for the Application of Conservation Techniques, comprising 15 representatives from our fellow national nature conservation agencies and leading land management organisations, among them the RSPB, National Trust, the Wildlife Trusts, Forestry Commission and Ministry of Defence. The Forum has also helped initiate the Grazing Animals Project, a group dedicated to sharing the knowledge of managers using grazing animals for nature conservation purposes, which met for the first time in May, 1997. During the year, ENPACT also introduced the Mountain Press mini-baler to the market, offered “bracken bruisers” as an alternative to spraying chemicals, and completed final development on a ragwort and tall weed puller. It also published a report reviewing the suitability of over 70 all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) for use on wet and difficult ground.

Some Earth heritage SSSIs also need management to maintain their interest. With local authorities and district planners in mind, we published two widely-circulated posters, *Conserving your local geological heritage* and *Managing your local geological heritage*, each showing examples of best management practice.

## Enforcement

With such a large and diverse range of SSSIs, a huge variety of casework arises on sites from development proposals, changes in land use and practical management requirements. The vast majority of this casework was dealt with, and resolved, efficiently by our Local Teams, with support and advice from national specialists.

However, when damage has occurred to sites, a range of enforcement action is taken. In most of these cases careful work by our staff

resulted in the prevention or cessation of damaging activities, and many resulted in securing positive management of the sites. However, during the year we did have to resort to formal enforcement action on 15 sites. Letters from solicitors were issued for 10 sites. In six cases the damaging activity was stopped immediately and steps taken to secure the management of the site. Formal investigation officers were appointed to address the remaining four sites, and cases on two other sites were also formally investigated. Of these six investigations two led to injunctions – one to stop burning, harrowing and reseeded and overgrazing on a heathland and the other to stop drainage works on a moorland. One case led to a prosecution for bait digging at Budle Bay, Northumberland, and the other three cases are continuing.

Two Nature Conservation Orders under Section 29 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981, were issued by the Secretary of State during the year – Blackdown and Samford Commons and Clayton to Offham Escarpment. Sixteen Nature Conservation Orders were in force at 31 March 1998. The first ever Special Nature Conservation Order under The Conservation (Natural Habitats etc) Regulations 1994 was issued for a Special Protection Area in the Peak District in order to stop damaging drainage works. In addition, three Nature Conservation Orders on land within European sites became Special Nature Conservation Orders, giving a total of four in force at 31 March 1998.

### Management of NNRs

The area of England designated as NNR rose over the year from 70,561 ha to 73,374 ha, an increase of almost 4%. Management of 36 of England's 191 NNRs is now entrusted to bodies approved by Council, with advice and guidance from staff.



As with other SSSIs, NNRs are managed and monitored for the special features they hold. Our rolling NNR Review assessed Reserves to ensure that we made best use of English Nature's resources while ensuring good nature conservation management.

NNRs and their owners and managers played an important part in furthering vital work in Biodiversity Action Plans. They contributed to at least 29 species plans (including Species Recovery Plans to re-introduce or establish new populations of endangered plants or animals) and 22 habitat plans.

Most NNRs are fully open to the public, and we estimate that some three million people visit our NNRs each year. This year, more than 200 guided walks and events were staged to heighten public awareness of wildlife and to demonstrate management principles and techniques to land managers. Our ENPACT project, mentioned earlier, made full use of NNRs as demonstration facilities.

## BAP implementation

### Targets and Action Plans

The UK Biodiversity Action Plan drives much of English Nature's work at national and local levels. The Targets Group, of which our Chief Executive is Chairman, issued a revised list of priority species, and Action Plans for 56 vertebrates and higher plants were finalised and then launched by the Environment Minister in June 1997.

Detailed costings were produced for these and the 17 new habitat action plans that are nearing publication. Better knowledge about the associations between species and habitats has improved the efficiency and effectiveness of BAP implementation. We were also instrumental in developing a UK BAP reporting process. Progress is still hampered by insufficient funding.

## Implementation schemes

The Environment Minister launched Tomorrow's Heathland Heritage on 30 October 1997. This is a programme of heathland management projects distributed throughout the UK aimed at enhancing wildlife on this threatened habitat. It makes a significant contribution towards meeting the UK lowland heathland BAP targets.

## Species Recovery Programme

A major contributor to BAP work, the English Nature Species Recovery Programme (SRP) is divided into two phases. Phase One has the objective of halting, and if possible reversing, the decline of range and number of highly threatened plant and animal populations. Phase Two of the Programme aims in the longer term to achieve sustainable populations in the wild. In 1997/98, with a budget of £685,000, SRP work involved no fewer than 127 plants and animals, 104 of which are on the UK BAP priority species list. Much of this species work is undertaken by contractors and partners, with funding from English Nature, in line with our policy of involving partners in statutory species casework. Literally thousands of people, both paid and voluntary, are involved.

Phase One projects were undertaken on 47 species, 17 of which were new to the SRP during the year. Objectives were met for 10 of these species. Major supporting projects included work by the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, on seed banking, orchid genetics and micro-propagation; the Zoological Society of London on conservation genetics, captive breeding and veterinary pathology; and Birmingham University on lepidoptera genetics. Feasibility studies were made on a further 60 species to assess their chances of recovery and inclusion in Phase One.

The Phase Two programme has taken in work on five species moving out of Phase One and continued work on 15 other species.

## Statutory protection

Closely allied to SRP work, we spent much time assisting the JNCC to draw up its submission for the third Quinquennial Review of native British species to be protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. Most enter the Government's protected list because their populations are declining because of habitat loss or damage, or through collecting and hunting.

We selected the basking shark, several other marine species, the water vole, the stag beetle (Britain's largest beetle) and a number of other invertebrates, plus a range of fungi and a number of higher plants as being in need of new, or increased, statutory protection. We were delighted when the Environment Minister announced in March that he had accepted all but one of our recommendations, resulting in an additional 28 species (11 animals and 17 plants) receiving protection.

The English Nature Licensing Unit issued more than 2,600 licences to enable people to work with protected species of animals and plants. Notably, we issued 207 licences to allow interference with badger setts by developers, almost three times the figure of the previous year.

## Increasing opportunities for wider public involvement

English Nature employs a wide range of methods to build support for nature conservation across a wide audience. We used the media, our own publications, events, education and our external training activities to raise awareness and enthusiasm. Visits to our World Wide Web site continued to increase (averaging around 500 'hits' a week – a 100% rise on the previous year). We continued to build this site and, with more people having internet access, we view it as an increasingly useful way of providing information to the public and being a more open organisation. This was in addition to our busy programme of media relations (32 news releases issued, and 2,223 radio and TV

interviews undertaken) and publishing. We published all our major journals, *English Nature*, *Urban Wildlife News*, *Earth Heritage*, to deadline. In addition, we issued with *English Nature* magazine a booklet of public activities on NNRs.

Our spending on grants, £2.061 million, amounted to 5.6% of the total 1997/98 budget and supported 447 projects. As in previous years, schemes were well received by our partners. We completed a major revision of our *Grants manual* to improve the focus and efficiency of our grants. Grants information is now provided on our web site.

The Enquiry Service continued to be heavily used by both external and internal enquirers. A total of 17,325 calls were received during the year, a 2% increase on 1996/97. To measure the effectiveness of the Enquiry Service, pre-paid postcards were sent to users. Over 90% of respondents expressed high, or tending to high, satisfaction with both the speed of response and the content of information.

### Sustaining the quality of the environment

Working with partners remains a key way of making wildlife gains outside statutorily protected areas. In June 1997, we signed a Concordat with the Environment Agency reinforcing co-operation between the two agencies. In July we signed Joint Statements of Intent with Forest Enterprise and British Waterways. In January 1998, we signed a Working Practices Agreement with the National Farmers Union. These joined a further eight existing Statements with other leading countryside and conservation bodies, including the National Trust, the Game Conservancy Trust and the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers. All these are geared to promoting more wildlife-friendly methods.

At Local Team level, we have been involved with a range of partners from the public, private and voluntary sectors in developing effective Local Agenda 21 programmes and local Biodiversity Action Plans for both habitats and species – all based on our Natural Areas approach.

*What Matters and Why*, a provisional method for assessing environmental capital, was published with our sister agencies, and the Countryside Commission, English Heritage and the Environment Agency, and will be developed in a series of pilot projects across the country in the coming year.

Our work on improving the wider countryside for wildlife (and, through this, meeting BAP targets) has involved setting targets, identifying how we can achieve them and securing the support of local landowners and occupiers. The Habitat Restoration Project works with partners at reducing habitat fragmentation. It does this through promoting appropriate infilling between existing pockets of wildlife habitat. This year it investigated trial techniques and new methods of working in four 100 km<sup>2</sup> areas of the English lowlands.

On woodlands, we ran several workshops for parkland owners and countryside advisers, including a symposium organised by the Veteran Trees Initiative partnership, of which we are a leading member. We also explored the potential for creating new upland woods, and restoring ground flora in ancient woodlands replanted with conifers. We promoted joint working between organisations to tackle woodland conservation issues, for example by involvement with the Marches Woodland Initiative and New Forest LIFE Project and through a joint Statement of Intent with Forest Enterprise. We were particularly encouraged by the Forestry Authority's role in using Woodland Improvement Grants to support nature conservation.

We issued consultation drafts of the *Upland management handbook* and our own national nature conservation objectives for the uplands. We advised the British Association for Shooting and Conservation and others on moorland management, including joint working. We held discussions with MAFF and FRCA to encourage a more vigorous implementation of the environmental conditions ("overgrazing definition") on livestock subsidies.

Grants totalling £45,000 were made to 14 Voluntary Marine Nature Reserves and we continued to support estuary projects by providing staff input, financial backing and co-ordination through workshops for estuary project officers.

For years, we have pressed regulators to adopt environmental quality standards for air pollutants. In spring 1997, the Environment Agency released formal technical guidance to encourage operators and inspectors to assess impacts on nature conservation sites. It provided full details of levels of contamination that may be tolerated without effects.

We also commissioned work on the indirect effects of pesticides on birds, including a review by a consortium led by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds. This work has been discussed by the Advisory Committee on Pesticides and should lead to a wider appreciation of the problem and further research. Buffer zones to protect aquatic life, sheep dips and integrated pest management are among other subjects on which we have given advice.

### Managing the organisation

Our *Beyond 2000* strategy progressed from development to implementation during the year, with explanatory launches to staff and our partners. Business process management was introduced to ensure effective targeting of resources and ensuring that we are all focused on achieving specific outcomes for wildlife.

The English Nature Council met seven times during the year. At its February meeting English Nature's Council welcomed the principle of a proposed Freedom of Information Act and considered options for opening up more of its work to a wider audience. They proposed the use of the web site to publicise Council agendas, minutes and consultation papers and looked at ideas for an annual public meeting and local public meetings. In March, the relationship between the Government-appointed Council members and our Executive Board underwent a radical re-structuring to achieve a closer, more effective, working relationship.

Communication and information systems also continued to improve. The phase two e-mail project connected a further 200 users. The corporate intranet has been installed and is being developed by a number of teams. Many Local Teams now have a Geographical Information System.

One of the challenges in managing an organisation with offices spread around the country is maintaining a uniform corporate identity. A publicity tool kit was produced to help all Teams to meet these corporate standards.

### Performance against the standards

Even with fewer resources we have maintained and, in some cases, improved our performance against our general service standards set out in *English Nature's Charter*.

### General conduct

Most Teams are meeting the Charter standard all of the time and the remainder most of the time.

### General enquiries

Although the number of enquiries has increased, the average response time was 16 days, compared with 18 in 1996/97.

### Telephone

All National Teams and Head Office met the standard time for answering the telephone, as did the majority of Local Teams.

### Grants

The average response time was 16 days, compared with 18 in 1996/97.

### Publications

All Teams met the standard time of five working days to respond to requests for publications.

### Open Government

We remain fully committed to the principles of Open Government. We have a public position statement on freedom of access to information on the environment, which incorporates our responsibilities under the Environmental Information Regulations. We come under the jurisdiction of the Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration.

In 1997/98 we received 10 requests for information which specifically cited the Open Government Code of Practice or Environmental Information Regulations. Of these, two were refused due to the sensitive nature of the information requested. All replies were given within the stated time scale.

### Complaints

Our complaints system is explained in *English Nature's Charter*, published in 1995. Complaints are defined as expressions of dissatisfaction with how English Nature carries out its business. We



received 107 complaints in 1997/98. Many of these were concerning English Nature not meeting its service standards, for example the late issue of licences, late payments or the tone of a standard letter. Where a complaint is justified it is our policy to apologise and put the problem right as quickly as possible. We also look at why the problem occurred to see if there is anything we can do to stop the problem arising again. In the case of the examples given above we increased the number of staff working on issuing licences, adopted a new system for noting when payments were due and rewrote the standard letter.

Not all complaints were about standards. A substantial number were about how NNRs or SSSIs are managed, for example about tree felling or the lack of weed control. In these cases we give an explanation of what is happening and why a particular management regime is being followed.

## Sites of Special Scientific Interest

Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) form a nationally important series which contributes to the conservation of our natural heritage of wildlife habitats, geological features and landforms. SSSIs are areas of land that have been notified as being of special interest under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 or the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949. In England SSSIs are notified by English Nature and at 31 March 1998 there were 3,987 SSSIs covering 967,365 hectares.

Since 1949, English Nature's and its predecessors have identified areas of land or water of special interest. Before 1981 these areas, known as SSSIs, were notified to local planning authorities so that consideration could be given to their conservation in the planning process. About 2,600 SSSIs in England were notified in this way.

In 1981 Parliament introduced new legislation to safeguard SSSIs. Under the 1981 Act SSSIs have to be formally notified to the owners and occupiers of the land and the Secretary of State for the Environment, the local planning authority, the Environment Agency, the Water Companies and the Internal Drainage Boards. Sites notified under the 1949 Act remain SSSIs, but the provisions of the 1981 Act relating to owners and occupiers do not apply until the land has been notified to them formally and to the Secretary of State. The process of notifying these existing SSSIs to owners and occupiers is often referred to as 'renotification'. This process is now virtually complete.

Surveys since 1981 have revealed further areas which are of special interest. We continue to notify these areas, which include extensions to some existing SSSIs.

	Number as at 31.3.98	Area (Hectares)
SSSIs notified under the 1981 act	3,980	967,135
SSSIs notified under the 1949 act and awaiting re/denotification	7	230
Total number of SSSIs	3,987	967,365
<i>1949 act SSSIs (whole sites) denotified during 1997/8</i>	0	0
<i>1981 act SSSIs (whole sites) denotified during 1997/8</i>	0	0

## Management agreements

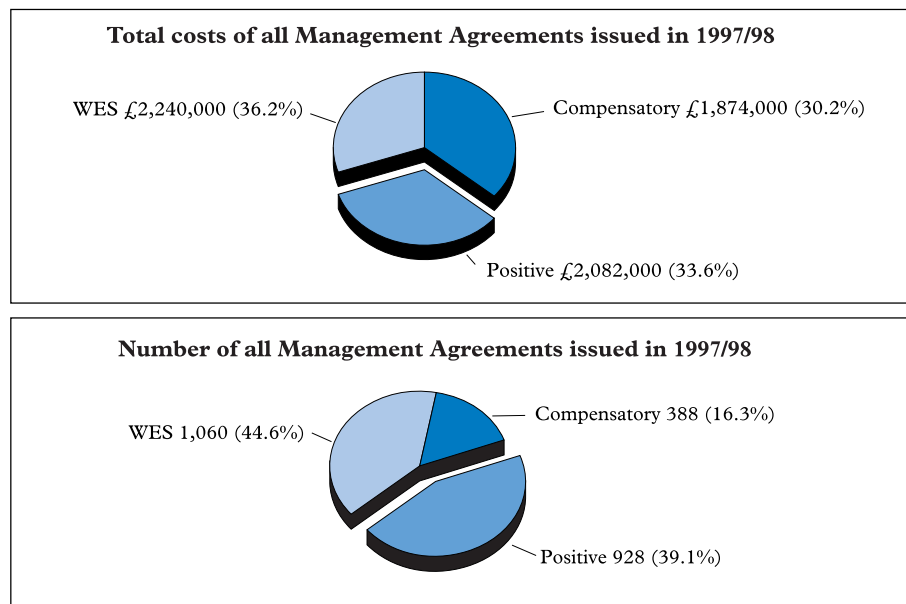
The implementation of the Management Agreement Policy is continuing to bring positive benefits for nature conservation and offers good value for money. All agreements have different characteristics, often reflecting their origins. In order to enhance our relationship with owners and occupiers and to increase the wildlife gain from Agreements, we have developed three categories of Agreements. In many of the Agreements completed soon after the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, payments were just made for restrictions on the management of the land - and we refer to those as Compensatory Agreements. The second type of Agreement is called a Positive Agreement since the management policy will be achieving wildlife gain. Finally there is the Wildlife Enhancement Scheme Agreement, which is described below.

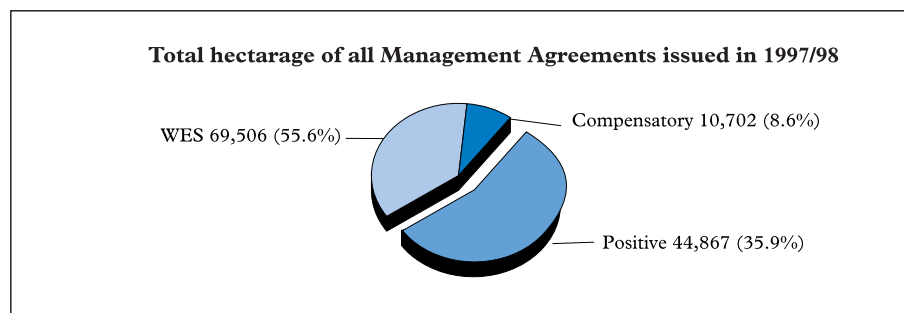
### Total number of Agreements

	No.	Area (ha)	Cost in 1997/98
Agreements in force at 31.3.98	2,376	125,076	£6,196,000*

\*Excludes legal and agents' fees

The apportionment of all existing Agreements, as at 31 March 1998, between these three categories by number, area and payment is illustrated below:





### Management Agreement policy

English Nature's Management Agreement Policy supports the objective of securing the sustainable management of all SSSIs by the year 2000. This is achieved by gaining the commitment of SSSI owners and occupiers and providing products and services to help deliver the right management. This is, principally, advice on the management needed to sustain and enhance the special interest of SSSIs. The advice is focused through Site Management Statements which are agreed with the owners and occupiers of all SSSIs and through regular contact with local staff.

English Nature also gives advice on environmental land management schemes and grants available from other bodies which might help to support this management (eg. Environmentally Sensitive Areas, Countryside Stewardship, Woodland Grant Scheme).

Where SSSIs cannot be brought into positive management through advice or schemes and grants operated by other bodies, then English Nature may offer Management Agreements to help owners and occupiers achieve the proper management. English Nature's Wildlife Enhancement Scheme now provides the basis for these Management Agreements.

### Wildlife Enhancement Scheme

The Wildlife Enhancement Scheme (WES) supports the positive management of SSSIs by linking the knowledge and skills of owners and occupiers with English Nature's experience of Wildlife Management. Financial support is given to land managers through short term agreements of up to five years. Standard Payments may be made for achieving appropriate nature conservation management with additional payments for carrying out specific managements works such as hedge laying and scrub control.

The Scheme was launched as a trial in 1991, and has expanded over subsequent years (see previous Annual Reports for details). Following the successful completion of the trial, the Scheme has now been adopted nationally. It is targeted at those habitats and features which need positive management but are not adequately covered by schemes or grants available from other bodies. In some areas, top-up payments to these other schemes and grants may be available through the Scheme for additional special management.

The Scheme is especially designed for private land owners and occupiers. Voluntary Conservation Organisations, Local Authorities and other bodies may be eligible for other English Nature schemes and grants.

### Existing Management Agreements

English Nature will continue to work alongside owners and occupiers with existing management agreements to help achieve more for nature conservation on those sites. Payment reviews will be used as an opportunity to agree with owners and occupiers that greater emphasis should be placed on positive management by changing to a WES agreement or, where appropriate, to an alternative environmental land management scheme. When the agreement ends, the need for a new agreement will be assessed. English Nature will use WES as the basis for any renewed agreements.

### Value for money

English Nature uses public money to further nature conservation, and will continue to seek better value for money in all cases. This applies both to the payments made under management agreements, and the cost of negotiating them. In this way English Nature has ensured that more SSSIs are managed to sustain their special interest.

This focus on obtaining better value for money has resulted in some significant changes over the last six years. The total expenditure on Agreements has only increased by 8%, but the total area subject to agreements has increased by 115%, and the total number of agreements has increased by 50%. The majority of these Agreements now achieve significant enhancement of the nature conservation interest rather than merely protecting the site from agricultural intensification or change of use. The average cost per agreement has decreased from £99 per hectare in 1991/92, to £49 per hectare in 1997/98.

## Joint Statements of Intent

### Environment Agency

A Concordat, building on earlier agreements on research and rivers protocol with the former National Rivers Authority, was agreed and signed on 23 June 1997, with a rolling Joint Ventures Programme.

### British Waterways

A Joint Statement of Intent was agreed and signed on 16 July 1997.

### Forest Enterprise

A Joint Statement of Intent, to replace that signed in 1986 with the Forestry Commission, was agreed and signed on 25 July 1997, with a rolling Joint Action Plan.

### National Farmers Union

A Joint Working Practices Agreement was agreed and signed on 28 January 1998.

### Forestry Authority

Discussions with this body were well advanced, and an agreement is to be signed in 1998/99.

Quarry Products Association (formerly the British Aggregate Construction Materials Industry and the Sand and Gravel Association), and the Silica and Moulding Sand Association

Discussions with these bodies were well advanced, and agreements are to be signed in 1998/99.

In addition, nationally agreed joint undertakings continued to operate with:

- ☐ British Association for Shooting and Conservation
- ☐ British Trust for Conservation Volunteers
- ☐ The Game Conservancy Trust
- ☐ The Woodland Trust
- ☐ The National Trust
- ☐ National Park Authorities
- ☐ Ministry of Defence
- ☐ Countryside Commission



## Nature Conservation Orders

These Orders are made by the Secretary of State for the Environment, Transport and the Regions under Section 29 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 in order to conserve nature conservation interests on land of national importance or to comply with international obligations. By 31 March 1998, 16 Nature Conservation Orders remained in force. Three Orders became Special Nature Conservation Orders, see page 51.

Name of Order	Date made	Hectares
The Sandford Heath (Dorset) Nature Conservation Order 1982	9 December 1982	33.18
The Carnkief Pond (Cornwall) Nature Conservation Order 1984	21 September 1984	2
The Uddens Heath (Dorset) Nature Conservation Order 1984	22 October 1984	17.7
The Upton Heath (Dorset) Nature Conservation Order 1985	22 January 1985	50
The River Hull Headwaters (Humberside) Nature Conservation Order 1989	15 May 1989	2.1
The Upton Heath (Dorset) Nature Conservation Order 1989	1 December 1989	0.5
The Grove Farm (Somerset) Nature Conservation Order 1990	16 February 1990	37
The Helmdon Disused Railway Cutting (Northamptonshire) Nature Conservation Order 1990	31 October 1990	2.8
The Sawston Hall Meadows (Cambridgeshire) Nature Conservation Order 1992	12 November 1992	2.5
The Kernick & Ottery Meadows (Cornwall) Nature Conservation Order 1993	27 April 1993	5.1
The Lingwood Meadows (Suffolk) Nature Conservation Order 1994	8 February 1994	2.66

Name of Order	Date made	Hectares
The Whetley Meadows (Dorset) Nature Conservation Order 1994	1 July 1994	8.5
The Leven Canal (Humberside) Nature Conservation Order 1995	7 August 1995	22.3
The Syresham Marshy Meadows (Northamptonshire) Nature Conservation Order 1996	1 March 1996	10.6
The Clayton to Offham Escarpment (East Sussex) Nature Conservation Order 1997	17 April 1997	16
The Black Down & Sampford Commons (Devon & Somerset) Nature Conservation Order 1997	30 October 1997	124
No Nature Conservation Orders were revoked or lapsed between 1 April 1997 and 31 March 1998.		

## Special Nature Conservation Orders

These orders are made by the Secretary of State for the Environment, Transport and the Regions under Regulation 22 of The Conservation (Natural Habitats etc) Regulations 1994 in order to conserve the nature conservation interests on any land within a European site. During the year 1 April 1997 to 31 March 1998, English Nature applied for one Special Nature Conservation Order details as follows :-

Name of Order	Date made	Hectares
The Readyleech Green (Staffordshire) Nature Conservation Order 1998	5 February 1998	17

Under Regulation 27, Orders made under Section 29 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act on land which comes within a European site become Special Nature Conservation Orders. There are three such instances :-

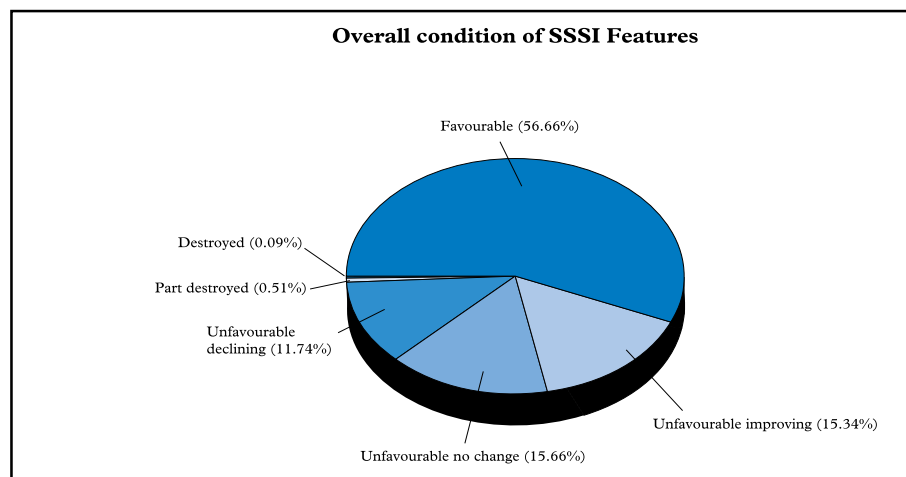
Name of Order	Date made	Hectares
The Tealham & Tadham Moors (Somerset) Nature Conservation Order 1985	8 July 1985	16.7
The Westhay Moor (Somerset) Nature Conservation Order 1987	17 June 1987	7.57
The Lindisfarne (Northumberland) Nature Conservation Order 1993	15 October 1993	344.76

## Condition of Sites of Special Scientific Interest 1 April 1997 to 31 March 1998

In 1997/98 English Nature staff made 5,694 visits to 1,729 sites in order to assess the condition of features of interest on Sites of Special Scientific Interest. During the course of these monitoring visits 2,698 natural features, comprised of 4,849 units<sup>1</sup>, were assessed. Some units were visited more than once during the twelve month reporting period, especially if threats were found or management changes were made. The overall state of SSSIs in England is now based on an assessment of condition of the features of interest using the approach established in *Common Standards for Monitoring Designated Sites* (JNCC 1997). Sites may be designated for one or more interest features and each feature may occupy one or more units which reflect a single management regime within a single administrative area. The condition assessment is based upon clear, measurable objectives for each feature.

### Overall feature condition on SSSIs

For 1997/98 the overview of SSSI feature condition is based upon a planned visit programme and with *ad hoc* visits made as a reaction to known threats. The summary statistics for all features on SSSIs is that over 55% of all units were meeting their conservation objectives, thus judged to be in *favourable* condition, and a further 15% are *unfavourable* but improving. Of those units where features did not currently meet the conservation objectives 16% are in a stable but unfavourable condition whilst 12% are unfavourable and becoming worse.



<sup>1</sup> Qualifying features on SSSIs can be broken down into several units for operational purposes. Each unit reflects a single management regime within a single administrative area.

The main reason for a decline in the condition of some features is the lack of appropriate management, especially in habitats with little economic value. For example, lowland heathland was judged, in a 1994/95 sample survey (English Nature 1998), to have 28% of units in unfavourable declining condition. Since the 1994/95 survey the percentage of lowland heathland units in decline has fallen from 28% to 15%, largely as a result of a project funded by English Nature to improve the management of a series of heathlands. Fens and mires also appear to be in poor condition, with 25% of units assessed as declining.

Other features, such as grasslands, are in better condition with 63% of units judged to be in favourable condition. Of these, neutral grasslands (often hay meadows) are in better condition than calcareous and acid grasslands which often suffer from insufficient management in the lowlands and overgrazing in the uplands.

Activities which threaten features were recorded on 40% of units visited in 1997/98. These threats range from unconsented recreational activities to major development of land and vary in the degree to which they affect feature condition. The most frequently recorded threats were neglect (one in ten units) and overgrazing (one in 20 units). Grassland is the habitat most at risk in both cases, with calcareous grasslands having almost half of the total recorded threats.

#### Loss and damage statistics 1997/98

During the year reportable<sup>2</sup> damaging activities occurred on 69 SSSIs and affected an area of 7,182 hectares (3,262 hectares in 1996/97) or 0.74% of total SSSI area. The increased area damaged between 1996/97 and 1997/98 is the result of a number of large upland sites which were included in the 1997/98 monitoring programme and which suffer from overgrazing.

Damage caused by agricultural activities accounts for 31% of all reported cases of loss and damage in 1997/98 and 88% of the area. Continued overgrazing of upland heath and grassland was responsible for 99% of the area reported damaged by agriculture. This damage is reversible and reducing sheep numbers will enable the vegetation to recover in most cases, others will need remedial habitat management work.

<sup>2</sup> Damage which meets the thresholds in the table below

Development activities account for 13% of all cases and 8% of area damaged overall. The area reported damaged in this category has increased considerably over the previous year. Some 90% of development related damage is attributed to continuing peat extraction with planning permission at two SSSIs; Bolton Fell Moss and Wedholme Flow in Cumbria.

At two sites the whole area occupied by the feature has been affected by water related factors. In both cases the feature is recoverable if appropriate action is taken. At Maer Pool (Staffordshire) the 6 hectares of open water have been polluted by septic tank overflows to the point where the quality of the aquatic plant community is declining. At Bryan Mills Field (Yorkshire) the spring fed fen is being severely affected by a reduction in water supply caused by tree planting adjacent to the SSSI. In both cases the feature condition is unfavourable declining and the special interest will be completely lost unless the damaging factors can be removed.

Partial loss of a feature occurred on ten SSSIs. These include part of the heathland and acid grassland mosaic on Biddulph's Poll and No Mans Land SSSI (Staffordshire) where open cast coal mining has destroyed 50 hectares over several years. However, extensive mitigation measures have been taken to partially recover some of the lost habitat. A highly publicised damaging event occurred at Freeman's Marsh (Berkshire) where there was a complete fish kill along a 2 km stretch of the River Dun. The cause is still under investigation by the Environment Agency, but there appears to be no effect on the rest of the chalk stream community.

### Recovery potential

The irrecoverable level of damage to SSSIs remains low, with only 10 recorded incidents (11 in 1996/97) resulting in partial loss of a feature of interest on a SSSI. This does not equate to the loss of any SSSI as each SSSI may have more than one feature of interest. In 73% of all recorded cases (94% by area) recovery is possible through the application of appropriate management. In a further 6% of cases we anticipate that recovery will be achieved spontaneously through natural processes.

## Summary

The main adverse impact on SSSIs continues to be agricultural activities, particularly overgrazing in the uplands. Until a resolution is found, reported damage from overgrazing will always dominate the SSSI statistics because of the large size of most upland sites. Work on improving conservation objectives for SSSI features is anticipated to emphasise the overall poor condition of our uplands for nature conservation, but will also clarify why overgrazing is leading to a decline in condition. Damage arising from development is due mainly to the exercise of planning permissions for mineral extraction. Most of these permissions were granted many years ago and thus we anticipate that damage from these sources will continue for the foreseeable future.

Progress continues to be made in implementing the condition assessment approach and we anticipate being able to move from the current Loss and Damage reporting to full reporting on the condition of SSSI features and losses to sites in 1999/2000. We will provide both reporting formats in our 1998/99 Annual Report, but will provide only condition and loss reporting in the 1999/2000 report.

## Damage to Sites of Special Scientific Interest 1 April 1997 to 31 March 1998

1 The cases reported are those which involve damage exceeding any of these thresholds:

- a. Greater than 0.5 Ha damaged, or
- b. Greater than 10% of the SSSI area damaged, or
- c. Greater than 100m of a linear feature on the SSSI damaged, or
- d. Greater than 10% of a particular habitat or species feature damaged

These thresholds do not necessarily reflect English Nature's view on the severity of individual instances of damage. They are applied to enable comparisons to be made with former reports.

2 This report is not exhaustive, especially with regard to cases of gradual deterioration of the special interest due to lack of positive management.

3 The definitions below are those used by English Nature and are based on the *Common Standards for Monitoring Designated Sites* report - Joint Nature Conservation Committee (1997).

4 The report is based on damage to site units (management or tenure parcels) rather than whole sites.

"No Recovery, whole feature"	-	Damage which may result in the denotification of the whole feature
"No Recovery, part of feature"	-	Damage which may result in the denotification of part of the feature
"Long Term Recovery"	-	A reduction in the special interest which will take more than 3 years for recovery
"Short Term Recovery"	-	A reduction in the special interest taking less than 3 years for recovery.
"Unknown"	-	Damage where the likelihood of recovery cannot be assessed.

Indication is given whether recovery from damage is likely to be spontaneous or requires management.



Cases reported on notified sites			
	Outcome of damaging activity	Cases	Area (hectares)
Agricultural activities	No recovery part of feature	1	0.3
	Long Term managed recovery	19	6,311
	Short Term managed recovery	3	16.6
	Long Term spontaneous recovery	1	4
	Unknown	1	0.3
Forestry activities	Long Term managed recovery	2	76.2
	Short Term managed recovery	1	2
	Long Term spontaneous recovery	1	23.3
Development activities	No recovery part of feature	8	385.7
	Long Term managed recovery	8	200.5
	Short Term managed recovery	1	1
Recreational activities	No recovery part of feature	1	1
	Long Term managed recovery	4	23
	Short Term managed recovery	1	1
	Short Term spontaneous recovery	1	5
Insufficient management	Long Term managed recovery	4	13.3
	Short Term managed recovery	7	48
Miscellaneous activities (including pollution, unauthorised tipping and burning)	Long Term managed recovery	7	47.8
	Short Term managed recovery	2	2.3
	Short Term spontaneous recovery	2	4.4
	Unknown	4	9.1
	No Effect	2	6
Totals (cases)		81	7,181.8
No. Cases Area			
Totals in each recovery group	Sites with partial loss of (unit) feature	10	10 387
	Sites with long term recovery of features	39	46 6,699.2
	Sites with short term recovery of features	18	18 80.3
	Sites with unknown feature recovery period	5	5 9.4
	Sites where no effect was observed	2	2 6
Totals number of sites damaged		69	

# List of SSSIs damaged in 1997/98

## Recovery potential codes:

MRLT / MRST	Managed Recovery Short Term / Long Term
SRLT / SRST	Spontaneous Recovery Long Term / Short Term
NRPF	No Recovery Part Feature
U	Unknown
NE	No Effect

Site name	County	Feature type	Damage area (Ha)	Site area	Recovery potential
Agricultural damage					
Appleby Fells	Cumbria	Mire	3,363	10,687.4	MRLT
Aqualate Mere	Staffordshire	Lake	2	241.0	MRLT
Black Down and Sampford Commons	Devon	Heathland	30	156.6	MRLT
Bourne Alder Carr	Kent	Woodland	0.6	12.6	MRLT
Cage Brook Valley	Hereford and Worcester	Woodland	1	5.1	MRLT
Catherton Common	Shropshire	Heathland	129.5	129.5	MRLT
Clayton To Offham Escarpment	West Sussex	Grassland	8	431.3	MRLT
Congrove Field and The Tumps	Avon	Grassland	6	13.9	MRLT
Exmoor Coastal Heaths	Somerset	Mire	1	1751.0	MRLT
Forlorn Hope Meadow	North Yorkshire	Grassland	1.6	1.6	MRLT
Leek Moors	Derbyshire	Grassland	1.5	3,960.2	MRLT
Long Mynd	Shropshire	Heathland	2,035	2,719.3	MRLT
Lune Estuary	Lancashire	Coastland	87.5	7,733.7	MRLT
Pig Hill	Durham	Grassland	4.61	13.3	MRLT
Pillar and Ennerdale Fells	Cumbria	Heathland	150	1,498.2	MRLT
Red Moss	Greater Manchester	Mire	1.25	44.5	MRLT
Rhos Fiddle	Shropshire	Heathland	66	66.1	MRLT

Site name	County	Feature type	Damage area (Ha)	Site area	Recovery potential
Seatoller Wood, Sourmilk Gill & Seathwaite					
Graphite Mine	Cumbria	Woodland	0.5	137.2	MRLT
Titterstone Clee	Shropshire	Grassland	421.9	421.9	MRLT
Barn Gill Meadow	Lancashire	Grassland	5.58	5.6	MRST
Holland Hall (Melbourne)					
Railway Cutting	Cambs	Grassland	3	3.3	MRST
Leek Moors	Derbyshire	Mire	8	3,960.2	MRST
Thornhill Moss & Meadows					
	Cumbria	Mire	0.25	24.6	NRPF
Deadman	Somerset	Mire	4	29.8	SRLT
Maulden Heath	Bedfordshire	Grassland	0.3	7.6	U
Total			6,332.11		
Insufficient management					
Raisby Hill					
Grassland	Durham	Grassland	2.58	15.3	MRLT
Tuthill Quarry	Durham	Grassland	10.7	10.7	MRLT
Bassenthwaite Lake					
	Cumbria	Fen	17	674.2	MRST
Humber Flats and Marshes					
Spurnhead	Humberside	Saltmarsh	2	5,460.6	MRST
Oxhouse Farm	Warks	Grassland	10	16.9	MRST
Purn Hill	Avon	Grassland	3	6.2	MRST
Puxton Moor	Avon	Wet Ditch	10	31.1	MRST
Shiplate Slait	Avon	Grassland	4	34.1	MRST
Whichford Wood	Warks	Woodland	2	45.6	MRST
Total			61.28		

Site name	County	Feature type	Damage area (Ha)	Site area	Recovery potential
Development damage					
Chichester Harbour	West Sussex	Grassland	1.5	3,728.5	MRLT
Elterwater	Cumbria	Lake	6	36.0	MRLT
Inner Thames Marshes	Greater London	Grass/Saltmarsh	4	487.4	MRLT
Inner Thames Marshes	Greater London	Grass/Saltmarsh	23.5	487.4	MRLT
Inner Thames Marshes	Greater London	Grass/Saltmarsh	2	487.4	MRLT
Ravenhead Brickworks	Lancashire	Geological	2.3	4.9	MRLT
Ribble Estuary	Lancashire	Saltmarsh	1.2	9,327.7	MRLT
Wedholme Flow	Cumbria	Mire	160	780.3	MRLT
Dee Estuary (England side only)	Merseyside	Intertidal	1	13,135.4	MRST
Biddulph's Pool and No Man's Bank	Staffordshire	Heathland	50	97.3	NRPF
Bolton Fell Moss	Cumbria	Mire	261	303.7	NRPF
Castleton	Derbyshire	Caves	20	838.3	NRPF
Horn Park Quarry	Dorset	Geological	0.2	2.7	NRPF
Hurst Castle and Lymington River Estuary	Hampshire	Open Water	50	1,109.9	NRPF
Lee-On-The Solent To Itchen Estuary	Hampshire	Intertidal	0.5	631.5	NRPF
Morecambe Bay	Cumbria	Intertidal	2	25,975.4	NRPF
Portsmouth Harbour	Hampshire	Intertidal	2	1,266.1	NRPF
Total			587.2		

Site name	County	Feature type	Damage area (Ha)	Site area	Recovery potential
Forestry damage					
Chattenden Woods	Kent	Woodland	1.2	128.0	MRLT
Hutton Roof Crag	Cumbria	Limestone Pavement	75	395.9	MRLT
Long Itchington and Ufton Woods	Warks	Woodland	2	78.9	MRST
Bullock Wood	Essex	Woodland	23.3	23.4	SRLT
Total			101.5		
Recreational damage					
Arreton Down	Isle of Wight	Grassland	1	29.3	MRLT
Bryn Marsh & Ince Moss	Greater Manchester	Swamp	7	70.6	MRLT
Cotswold Commons and Beechwoods	Glos	Grassland	10	684.5	MRLT
Inner Thames Marshes	Greater London	Saltmarsh	5	487.4	MRLT
Seaford to Beachy Head	East Sussex	Grassland	1	1,093.2	MRST
Fordon Chalk Grasslands	Humberside	Grassland	1	55.7	NRPF
Sundon Chalk Quarry	Beds	Grassland	5	26.2	SRST
Total			30		

Site name	County	Feature type	Damage area (Ha)	Site area	Recovery potential
Miscellaneous damage					
Delph Bridge Drain	Cambs	Fen	0.01	0.04	MRLT
Inner Thames Marshes	Greater London	Grassland	2	487.4	MRLT
Lee-on-the Solent To Itchen Estuary	Hampshire	Foreshore	3	631.5	MRLT
Red Moss	Greater Manchester	Mire	35	44.5	MRLT
Yar Estuary	Isle Of Wight	Saltmarsh	0.03	132.5	MRLT
Lee-On-The Solent To Itchen Estuary	Hampshire	Heathland	0.75	631.5	MRST
Medway Estuary and Marshes	Kent	Intertidal	1.5	4,744.7	MRST
Severn Estuary	Avon	Grassland	5	16,991.0	NE
Upper Solway Flats And Marshes	Cumbria	Saltmarsh	1	30,710.0	NE
Bryan Mills Field	Humberside	Fen	1.3	1.3	NRPF
Maer Pool	Staffordshire	Lake	6.4	8.6	NRPF
Freemans Marsh	Berkshire	River	0.4	26.2	SRST
Whitacre Heath	Warks	Wetland	4	45.2	SRST
Green Croft and Langley Moor	Durham	Heathland	6.5	28.7	U
Severn Estuary	Avon	Saltmarsh	2	16,991.0	U
Upwey Quarries and Bincombe Down	Dorset	Geological	0.2	6.5	U
Yar Estuary	Isle of Wight	Saltmarsh	0.35	132.5	U
Total			69.44		

## National Nature Reserves

In the year ended 31 March 1998 we declared 6 new NNRs and extended one other - the suite now consists of 191 NNRs, covering 73,374 hectares, with 43 of them partly or wholly managed by an Approved Body (section 35(1)(c) of the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981).

### Bequest funds

Bequest funds received by English Nature, are used exclusively for the purchase of extensions to National Nature Reserves. We carried forward £328,090 from 1996/97 and gratefully received a total of £42,000 from the following benefactors -

A L Jones  
R E Knight

A total of £112,700 was spent on extensions to the following NNRs during 1997/98 (these areas will be declared in due course)-

Derbyshire Dales  
Fenns, Whixall and Bettisfield Mosses  
The Lizard  
Somerset Levels

Further information about each NNR, including details about access to it, is available from the appropriate Local Team (LT) office - see below.

## National Nature Reserves in England: location, size and tenure type

This is a list of National Nature Reserves in England as at 31 March 1998 under section 19 of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 and Section 35 of the 1981 Act.

Key: LT	=	to identify the relevant Local Team, refer to the listing on pages 146 to 148
O	=	land owned by English Nature
L	=	land leased to English Nature
NRA	=	land held and managed by other parties under Nature Reserve Agreements with English Nature
S35	=	land held and managed by the specified approved body, declared under section 35(1)(c) of the 1981 Act
*	=	new NNR declared in 1997/98
+	=	existing NNR extension declared in 1997/98

Reserve	LT	Area (Ha)	Tenure
Ainsdale Sand Dunes, Merseyside	3	492	O
Ant Broads & Marshes, Norfolk (Norfolk Naturalists' Trust and British Butterfly Conservation Society Limited)	11	178	S35
+ Aqualate Mere, Staffordshire	8	210	L
Arne, Dorset	19	9	O
Ashford Hangers, Hampshire (Hampshire County Council)	17	147	S35
Ashford Hill, Hampshire	17	23	O/L
Ashted Common, Surrey (Corporation of the City of London)	15	181	S35



Reserve	LT	Area (Ha)	Tenure
Aston Rowant, Oxfordshire	16	129	O/L/NRA
Avon Gorge, Avon	20	63	NRA
Axmouth-Lyme Regis Undercliffs, Devon	21	321	O/L/NRA
* Bardney Limewoods, Lincolnshire (Forestry Commission)	6	384	S35
Barnack Hills and Holes, Cambridgeshire	10	23	L
Barrington Hill, Somerset	20	18	O
Barton Hills, Bedfordshire	10	44	L
Bassenthwaite Lake, Cumbria (Lake District Special Planning Board)	2	523	S35
Beacon Hill, Hampshire	17	40	O
Benacre, Suffolk	12	393	O/NRA
Black-a-Tor Copse, Devon	21	29	L
Blackwater Estuary, Essex	13	1,031	L/NRA
Blakeney, Norfolk (National Trust)	11	1,097	S35
Blean Woods, Kent	14	90	O
Blelham Bog, Cumbria	2	2	L
Bovey Valley Woodlands, Devon	21	73	O/L
Bradfield Woods, Suffolk (Suffolk Wildlife Trust)	12	64	S35
Bredon Hill, Hereford and Worcester	9	45	O
Brettenham Heath, Norfolk	11	233	L
Bridgwater Bay, Somerset	20	2,559	O/L/NRA
Broxbourne Woods, Hertfordshire (The Woodland Trust and Hertfordshire County Council)	13	237	S35
Buckingham Thick Copse, Northamptonshire	10	45	L
Bure Marshes, Norfolk	11	412	NRA
Burnham Beeches, Buckinghamshire (Corporation of the City of London)	16	220	S35
Cabin Hill, Merseyside	3	28	L
Calthorpe Broad, Norfolk	11	44	O

Reserve	LT	Area (Ha)	Tenure
Cassop Vale, Durham	1	24	O/NRA
Castle Bottom, Hampshire (Hampshire County Council)	17	29	S35
Castle Eden Dene, Durham	1	221	O
Castle Hill, Lewes, East Sussex	15	47	L
Castor Hanglands, Cambridgeshire	10	90	L
Cavenham Heath, Suffolk	12	204	O/L
Chaddesley Woods, Hereford & Worcester	9	102	O
Chartley Moss, Staffordshire	8	44	O/L
Chimney Meadows, Oxfordshire	16	50	O
Chippenham Fen, Cambridgeshire	10	117	L
Chobham Common, Surrey & Berkshire (Surrey County Council)	15	517	S35
Cliburn Moss, Cumbria	2	26	O/L
Clawthorpe Fell, Cumbria	2	14	O/NRA
Collyweston Great Wood & Easton Hornstocks, Northamptonshire & Cambridgeshire	10	155	L
Colne Estuary, Essex (Essex Wildlife Trust)	13	576	L/S35
Coom Rigg Moss, Northumberland	1	36	L
Cothill, Oxfordshire	16	2	L
Cotswold Commons & Beechwoods, Gloucestershire	9	343	O/L/NRA
Dendles Wood, Devon	21	30	O
Dengie, Essex	13	2,366	L
Derbyshire Dales, Derbyshire	7	335	O/L/NRA
Derwent Gorge & Muggleswick Woods, Northumberland	1	71	L
Downton Gorge, Hereford & Worcester	9	48	L
Drumburgh Moss, Cumbria (Cumbria Wildlife Trust)	2	121	S35
Duddon Mosses, Cumbria	2	53	O/L
Duncombe Park, North Yorkshire	4	103	NRA
Dunkery and Horner Woods, Somerset (National Trust)	20	1,604	S35

Reserve	LT	Area (Ha)	Tenure
Dunsdon Farm, Devon	21	38	NRA
Ebbor Gorge, Somerset	20	41	L
* Elmley, Kent (ECT (Conservation) Ltd)	14	931	S35
Farne Islands, Northumberland (National Trust)	1	96	S35
Fenns, Whixhall and Bettisfield Mosses, Shropshire	8	104	O
Finglandrigg Woods, Cumbria	2	65	O
Forge Valley Woods, North Yorkshire	4	63	NRA
Foster's Green Meadows, Hereford & Worcester (Worcestershire Wildlife Trust)	9	12	S35
Fyfield Down, Wiltshire	18	248	L
Gait Barrows, Lancashire	3	69	O
Gibraltar Point, Lincolnshire (Lincolnshire Trust)	6	414	S35
Golitha Falls, Cornwall	21	18	O
Gordano Valley, Avon	20	66	L
Goss Moor, Cornwall	21	482	O/L
Gowk Bank, Cumbria	2	15	O
Grain Heads Moss, Northumberland	1	18	L
Great Asby Scar, Cumbria	2	307	O/NRA
Greenlee Lough, Northumberland, (Northumberland National Park Authority and Forestry Commission)	1	57	S35
Hales Wood, Essex	13	8	L
Halsenna Moor, Cumbria	2	24	O
Hambleton Hill, Dorset	19	73	NRA
Hamford Water, Essex (Essex Wildlife Trust)	13	1,448	L/NRA/S35
Ham Street Woods, Kent	14	97	O
Ham Wall, Somerset (Royal Society for the Protection of Birds)	20	77	S35
Hardington Moor, Somerset	20	9	O

Reserve	LT	Area (Ha)	Tenure
Hartland Moor, Dorset	19	243	O/L
Hatfield Forest, Essex (National Trust)	13	392	S35
Hickling Broad, Norfolk	11	487	NRA
Highbury Wood, Gloucestershire	9	47	O
High Halstow, Kent	14	52	NRA
High Leys, Cumbria	2	9	O
Hog Cliff, Dorset	19	88	O
Holkham, Norfolk	11	3,851	L/NRA
Holme Dunes, Norfolk (Norfolk Naturalists' Trust)	11	187	S35
Holme Fen, Cambridgeshire	10	259	O
Holt Heath, Dorset	19	488	L
Holton Heath, Dorset	19	117	L
Humberhead Peatlands, South Yorkshire and Humberside (Lincolnshire Trust)	5	1,381	O/S35
Ingleborough, North Yorkshire, (Yorkshire Wildlife Trust)	4	989	O/L/NRA/S35
Kingley Vale, West Sussex	15	150	O/L
King's Wood Heath and Reach, Bedfordshire (Bedfordshire County Council, Redland Aggregates Limited and Bedfordshire and Cambridgeshire Wildlife Trust)	10	63	S35
Kingston Great Common, Hampshire	17	54	L
Knocking Hoe, Bedfordshire	10	9	NRA
Lady Park Wood, Gloucestershire	9	45	NRA
Leigh, Essex	13	257	L
Lewes Downs, East Sussex	15	49	NRA
Lindisfarne, Northumberland	1	3,541	L
Ling Gill, North Yorkshire	4	5	O
Lower Derwent Valley, East Riding of Yorkshire (Carstairs Countryside Trust)	4	467	O/NRA/S35
Ludham-Potter Heigham, Norfolk	11	82	O

Reserve	LT	Area (Ha)	Tenure
Lullington Heath, East Sussex	15	63	L
Malham Tarn, North Yorkshire (National Trust)	4	137	S35
Martham Broad, Norfolk (Norfolk Naturalists' Trust)	11	59	S35
Martin Down, Hampshire (Hampshire County Council)	18	342	O/L/S35
* Mid-Yare, Norfolk (RSPB)	11	779	S35
Moccas Park, Hereford and Worcester	9	139	NRA
Monks Wood, Cambridgeshire	10	157	O
Moor House, Cumbria	2	3,894	O
Morden Bog, Dorset	19	149	L
Motley Meadows, Staffordshire	8	37	O/L
Muckle Moss, Northumberland	1	170	NRA
Muston Meadows, Leicestershire	6	9	NRA
Newham Bog, Northumberland	1	13	L
Newtown Harbour, Isle of Wight (National Trust)	17	288	S35
North Fen, Cumbria	2	2	L
North Meadow, Cricklade, Wiltshire	18	40	O
North Solent, Hampshire	17	820	NRA
North Walney, Cumbria	2	144	L
Old Winchester Hill, Hampshire	17	63	O
Orfordness-Havergate, Suffolk	12	228	O/NRA
Park Wood, Cumbria	2	15	O
Parsonage Down, Wiltshire	18	276	O
Pevensey Levels, East Sussex (Sussex Wildlife Trust)	15	184	O/S35
Pewsey Downs, Wiltshire	18	166	O/NRA
Prescombe Down, Wiltshire	18	47	NRA
Redgrave and Lopham Fen, Norfolk and Suffolk	11	125	NRA
Ribble Estuary, Lancashire and Merseyside	3	4,520	O/L/NRA
Rodney Stoke, Somerset	20	35	O

Reserve	LT	Area (Ha)	Tenure
Rostherne Mere, Cheshire	8	152	O/NRA
Roudsea Wood and Mosses, Cumbria	2	388	L
Roydon Common, Norfolk (Norfolk Naturalists' Trust)	11	181	S35
* Ruislip Woods, Greater London (London Borough of Hillingdon)	13	296	S35
Rusland Moss, Cumbria	2	24	O/L/NRA
Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe Dunes, Lincolnshire	6	440	O/L
Sandybeck Meadow, Cumbria	2	1	O
Scolt Head Island, Norfolk	11	737	L
Scoska Wood, North Yorkshire	4	10	O
Shapwick Heath, Somerset	20	390	O/L/NRA
Slapton Ley, Devon	21	192	NRA
* Smardale Gill, Cumbria (Cumbria Wildlife Trust)	2	40	S35
Somerset Levels, Somerset	20	299	O
South Solway Mosses, Cumbria	2	560	O/L/NRA
Spurn, East Riding of Yorkshire (Yorkshire Wildlife Trust)	4	296	S35
Stiperstones, Shropshire	8	448	O
Stoborough Heath, Dorset	19	109	O
Stodmarsh, Kent	14	163	O
Studland Heath, Dorset	19	631	L
Sutton Park, West Midlands (Birmingham City Council)	8	812	S35
Swanscombe Skull Site, Kent	14	2	O
Swanton Novers Woods, Norfolk	11	84	NRA
Tarn Moss, Cumbria	2	16	L
Teesmouth, Cleveland	1	355	L
The Flits, Hereford and Worcester	9	28	L
The Lizard, Cornwall	21	1,662	O/L/NRA
The Swale, Kent	14	220	O/L
The Wash, Lincolnshire	6	9,899	L
Thetford Heath, Suffolk	12	94	NRA

Reserve	LT	Area (Ha)	Tenure
Thornhill Moss and Meadows, Cumbria	2	12	O
Thrislington, Durham	1	24	NRA
Thursley, Surrey	15	326	O
Titchfield Haven, Hampshire (Hampshire County Council)	17	119	S35
Upper Teesdale, Durham	1	3,493	O
Upwood Meadows, Cambridgeshire	10	6	NRA
Walberswick, Suffolk	12	582	O/L/NRA
Walton Moss, Cumbria	2	20	O
Weeting Heath, Norfolk	11	137	NRA
Wem Moss, Shropshire (Shropshire Wildlife Trust)	8	29	S35
Westhay Moor, Somerset (Somerset Wildlife Trust)	20	101	S35
Westleton Heath, Suffolk	12	47	O
* Whitbarrow, Cumbria (Cumbria Wildlife Trust)	2	103	S35
Wicken Fen, Cambridgeshire (National Trust)	10	240	S35
Winterton Dunes, Norfolk	11	109	L/NRA
Wistman's Wood, Devon	21	170	NRA
Woodwalton Fen, Cambridgeshire	10	208	L
Wren's Nest, West Midlands	8	35	NRA
Wybunbury Moss, Cheshire	8	17	O
Wychwood, Oxfordshire	16	262	NRA
Wye, Kent	14	133	O
Wylze Down, Wiltshire	18	34	O
Wyre Forest, Hereford and Worcester	9	549	O/L/NRA
Yarner Wood, Devon	21	150	O

## National Nature Reserves in England: A summary of tenure

By area:		
<i>Tenure</i>		<i>Area declared (ha)</i>
Owned		16,522
Leased		29,815
Nature Reserve Agreement		15,086
Held by Approved Body		11,951
Total		73,374
By number:		
<i>Tenure</i>		<i>Number of National Nature Reserves</i>
Owned		48
Leased		40
Nature Reserve Agreement		26
Held by Approved Body		36
Owned/leased		12
Owned/Nature Reserve Agreement		7
Owned/Leased/Nature Reserve Agreement		12
Owned/Leased/Held by Approved Body		1
Owned/Nature Reserve Agreement/Held by Approved Body		1
Owned/Held by Approved Body		2
Owned/Leased/Nature Reserve Agreement/ Held by Approved Body		1
Leased/Nature Reserve Agreement/Held by Approved Body		1
Leased/Nature Reserve Agreement		3
Leased/Held by Approved Body		1
Total		191
Yearly totals since 1991		
Date	Number of NNRs	Hectares
31 March 1991	128	42,270
31 March 1992	135	46,804
31 March 1993	140	57,424
31 March 1994	150	59,327
31 March 1995	164	65,071
31 March 1996	173	68,222
31 March 1997	185	70,561
31 March 1998	191	73,374



Ramsar sites

Ramsar sites

The UK Government signed the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance Especially as Waterfowl Habitat (the Ramsar Convention) in 1973. The Ramsar Convention requires the conservation of wetlands, especially sites ‘listed’ (designated) under the Convention. Ramsar sites are areas which have been formally ‘listed’ (designated) as Wetlands of International Importance by the Secretary of State. English Nature carries out consultations on the proposed listing with owners, occupiers and local authorities. English Nature then submits the case for listing to the Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions.

All ‘listed’ Ramsar sites are also Sites of Special Scientific Interest. Many sites qualify for both Ramsar and SPA designations.

Details of the protection afforded to Ramsar sites are given in Planning Policy Guidance Note 9, Nature Conservation, HMSO 1994.

Proposed and listed  
Ramsar sites in  
England

Name	County	Area listed (ha)	Status	Date listed/ submitted*
Abberton Reservoir	Essex	716.3	Listed	24 July 1981 (Area revised September 1990)
Alde-Ore Estuary	Suffolk	2,554.3	Listed	4 October 1996
Avon Valley	Hampshire & Dorset	1,385.1	Listed	2 February 1998
Benfleet and Southend Marshes	Essex	2,251.3	Listed	14 February 1994
Breydon Water	Norfolk	514.5	Listed	29 March 1996
Extended	Norfolk	-	Submitted	26 March 1997
Broadland Ramsar sites				
Bure Marshes	Norfolk	412	Listed	5 January 1976
Hickling Broad and Horsey Mere	Norfolk	883.8	Listed	5 January 1976
Broadland	Norfolk & Suffolk	3,350	Listed	21 September 1994
Broadland extended	Norfolk & Suffolk	-	Submitted	16 March 1998
Chesil Beach and The Fleet	Dorset	763	Listed	17 July 1985

Name	County	Area listed (ha)	Status	Date listed/ submitted*
Chichester and Langstone Harbours	Hampshire & West Sussex	5,764	Listed	28 October 1987
Chippenham Fen	Cambridgeshire	114.8	Listed	1 March 1992
Deben Estuary	Suffolk	976	Listed	11 March 1996
Dersingham Bog	Norfolk	159.1	Listed	12 September 1995
Dorset Heathlands	Dorset	-	Submitted	26 March 1997
Duddon Estuary	Cumbria	6,806.3	Listed	16 March 1998
Dungeness to Pett Levels	East Sussex & Kent	-	Submitted	10 September 1993
Esthwaite Water	Cumbria	133.6	Listed	7 November 1991
Exe Estuary	Devon	2,388.6	Listed	11 March 1992
Hamford Water	Essex	2,179.3	Listed	8 June 1993
Holburn Lake & Moss	Northumberland	22	Listed	17 July 1985
Humber Flats, Marshes and Coast Ramsar sites				
Humber Flats, Marshes and Coast Phase 1	Humberside & Lincolnshire	15,230.3	Listed	28 July 1994
Phase 2	Humberside	-	Submitted	30 March 1994
Irthinghead Mires	Cumbria & Northumberland	608	Listed	17 July 1985
Leighton Moss	Lancashire	124	Listed	28 November 1985
Lindisfarne	Northumberland	3,123	Listed	5 January 1976
extended		502.1	Listed	11 March 1992
Lower Derwent Valley Ramsar sites				
Derwent Ings	North Yorkshire	783	Listed	17 July 1985
Lower Derwent Valley	Humberside & North Yorkshire	306.4	Listed	8 June 1993
Malham Tarn	North Yorkshire	288.8	Listed	28 October 1993
Martin Mere	Lancashire	119	Listed	28 November 1985
Medway Estuary and Marshes	Kent	4,681.8	Listed	15 December 1993
Mersey Estuary	Cheshire & Merseyside	5,004.4	Listed	20 December 1995

Name	County	Area listed (ha)	Status	Date listed/ submitted*
Mid-Essex Coast Ramsar sites				
Dengie (Mid-Essex Coast Phase 1)	Essex	3,127.2	Listed	24 March 1994
Colne Estuary (Mid-Essex Coast Phase 2)	Essex	2,701.4	Listed	28 July 1994
River Crouch Marshes (Mid-Essex Coast Phase 3)	Essex	905.7	Listed	24 March 1995
Old Hall Marshes (Part of Blackwater Estuary)	Essex	627.1	Listed	11 March 1992
Blackwater Estuary (Mid-Essex Coast Phase 4)	Essex	3,657.1	Listed	12 May 1995
Foulness (Mid-Essex Coast Phase 5)	Essex	10,968.9	Listed	4 October 1996
Midland Meres and Mosses Ramsar sites				
Rostherne Mere	Cheshire	79	Listed	24 July 1981
Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 1	Cheshire,	513.2	Listed	9 May 1994
Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 2	Shropshire, Staffordshire & Clwyd	1,588.26	Listed	2 February 1997
Minsmere-Walberswick extended	Suffolk	1,697	Listed	5 January 1976
		307.7	Listed	19 May 1992
Morecambe Bay	Cumbria & Lancashire	39,759.5	Listed	4 October 1996
Nene Washes	Cambridgeshire	1,310	Listed	5 March 1993
New Forest	Hampshire	28,001.2	Listed	22 September 1993
Northumberland Coast	Northumberland	-	Submitted	25 March 1994
North Norfolk Coast	Norfolk	5,559	Listed	5 January 1976
extended		2,141	Listed	20 January 1989
Ouse Washes	Cambridgeshire & Norfolk	2,276	Listed	5 January 1976
extended		127	Listed	5 March 1993
Pagham Harbour	West Sussex	616	Listed	30 March 1988
Pevensy Levels	East Sussex	-	Submitted	7 February 1996
Poole Harbour	Dorset	-	Submitted	7 April 1994
Portsmouth Harbour	Hampshire	1,248.4	Listed	28 February 1995

Name	County	Area listed (ha)	Status	Date listed/ submitted*
Redgrave and South Lopham Fens	Norfolk & Suffolk	124.9	Listed	15 February 1991
Ribble and Alt Estuaries	Ramsar sites			
Alt Estuary	Merseyside	1,160	Listed	28 November 1985
Ribble and Alt Estuaries Phase 2	Lancashire & Merseyside	12,120.2	Listed	16 February 1995
Roydon Common	Norfolk	194.1	Listed	5 March 1993
Rutland Water	Leicestershire	1,339	Listed	4 October 1991
Severn Estuary Ramsar sites				
Bridgwater Bay	Somerset	2,703	Listed	5 January 1976
Upper Severn Estuary	Gloucestershire	1,357	Listed	5 February 1988
Severn Estuary	Avon, Gloucestershire, Somerset, Gwent & South Glamorgan	20,512.7	Listed	13 July 1995
Remainder of the Site		-	Re-submitted	1 June 1994
Solent and Southampton Water	Hampshire & Isle of Wight	-	Submitted	31 March 1996
Somerset Levels and Moors	Somerset	6,386.1	Listed	26 June 1997
Stodmarsh	Kent	481.3	Listed	16 December 1993
Stour & Orwell Estuaries	Essex & Suffolk	3,334.1	Listed	13 July 1994
Teesmouth & Cleveland Coast	Cleveland	941.7	Listed	15 August 1995
Thanet Coast & Sandwich Bay	Kent	2,183	Listed	28 July 1994
Thames Estuary and Marshes	Essex & Kent	-	Submitted	10 December 1993
The Dee Estuary	Cheshire, Merseyside & Clwyd	13,055	Listed	17 July 1985
The Swale extended	Kent	5,835	Listed	17 July 1985
		421.7	Listed	15 December 1993

Name	County	Area listed (ha)	Status	Date listed/ submitted*
The Wash Ramsar sites				
The Wash	Lincolnshire & Norfolk	63,124	Listed	30 March 1988
Gibraltar Point	Lincolnshire	414	Listed	5 March 1993
Thursley & Ockley Bog	Surrey	265.2	Listed	14 February 1994
Upper Solway Ramsar sites				
Rockcliffe Marshes	Cumbria	1,897	Listed	1 October 1986
Upper Solway Flats and Marshes	Cumbria, Dumfries & Galloway	28,053	Listed	30 November 1992
Walmore Common	Gloucestershire	51.4	Listed	5 December 1991
Wicken Fen	Cambridgeshire	254.4	Listed	12 September 1995
Woodwalton Fen	Cambridgeshire	208.1	Listed	12 September 1995

\* Submitted - English Nature has carried out public consultations on the proposed listing on behalf of the Department of the Environment. Area figures are only available for listed Ramsar sites.

## Special Protection Areas

Directive 79/409/EEC on the Conservation of Wild Birds ('the Birds Directive') was adopted on 2 April 1979. The Directive applies to birds, their eggs, nests and habitats. It provides for the protection, management and control of all species of naturally occurring wild birds in the European territory of Member States. It requires Member States to take measures to preserve a sufficient diversity of habitats for all species of wild birds naturally occurring within their territories in order to maintain populations at ecologically and scientifically sound levels. It also requires Member States to take special measures to conserve the habitats of certain particularly rare species and of migratory species. These special measures include the 'classification' (designation) of Special Protection Areas (SPAs). Special Protection Areas are classified by the Secretary of State.

English Nature carries out consultations on the proposed classifications with owners, occupiers, and local authorities. English Nature then submits the case for site classification to the Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions.

All classified SPAs are also Sites of Special Scientific Interest. Many sites qualify for both SPA and Ramsar designations.

Details of the protection afforded to Special Protection Areas are given in Planning Policy Guidance Note 9, Nature Conservation, HMSO 1994.

## Potential<sup>+</sup> and classified Special Protection Areas in England

Name	County	Area classified (ha)	Status	Date classified/ submitted*
Abberton Reservoir	Essex	716	Classified	5 December 1991
Alde-Ore Estuary	Suffolk	2,437.3	Classified	4 October 1996
Ashdown Forest	East Sussex	3,206.8	Classified	11 March 1996
Avon Valley	Hampshire & Dorset	1,345.9	Classified	2 February 1998
Benacre Broad to Easton Bavents	Suffolk	516.8	Classified	4 October 1996
Benfleet and Southend Marshes	Essex	2,251.3	Classified	14 February 1994
Bowland Fells	Lancashire	15,759	Classified	16 December 1993
Breydon Water	Norfolk	514.5	Classified	29 March 1996
Extended	Norfolk	-	Submitted	26 March 1997
Broadland	Norfolk & Suffolk	4,645.9	Classified	21 September 1994
Extended	Norfolk & Suffolk	-	Submitted	16 March 1998

<sup>+</sup> Only those potential SPAs on which consultations with owners, occupiers and local authorities have been carried out are listed.

Name	County	Area classified (ha)	Status	Date classified/ submitted*
Chesil Beach and The Fleet	Dorset	763	Classified	17 July 1985
Chew Valley Lake	Avon	565	Classified	17 July 1985
Chichester and Langstone Harbours	West Sussex & Hampshire	5,764	Classified	28 October 1987
Coquet Island	Northumberland	21	Classified	17 July 1985
Deben Estuary	Suffolk	976	Classified	11 March 1996
Dorset Heathlands	Dorset	-	Submitted	23 March 1993
Extended	Dorset	-	Submitted	26 March 1997
Duddon Estuary	Cumbria	6,806.3	Classified	16 March 1998
Dungeness to Pett Levels	Kent	-	Submitted	10 September 1993
East Devon Heaths	Devon	-	Submitted	14 October 1992
Exe Estuary	Devon	2,388.6	Classified	11 March 1992
Farne Islands	Northumberland	97	Classified	17 July 1985
Flamborough Head and Bempton Cliffs	Humberside	211.5	Classified	5 March 1993
Great Yarmouth North Denes	Norfolk	146.2	Classified	5 March 1993
Hamford Water	Essex	2,179.3	Classified	8 June 1993
Holburn Lake and Moss	Northumberland	22	Classified	17 July 1985
Hornsea Mere	Humberside	230	Classified	5 March 1993
Humber Flats, Marshes and Coast SPAs				
Humber Flats Marshes and Coast Phase 1	Humberside & Lincolnshire	15,230.3	Classified	28 July 1994
Phase 2	Humberside	-	Submitted	30 March 1994
Lee Valley	Greater London	-	Submitted	26 March 1991
Leighton Moss	Lancashire	124	Classified	28 November 1985
Lindisfarne	Northumberland	3,625.1	Classified	11 March 1992
Lower Derwent Valley SPAs				
Derwent Ings	North Yorkshire	783	Classified	17 July 1985
Lower Derwent Valley	Humberside & North Yorkshire	306.4	Classified	8 June 1993
Martin Mere	Lancashire	119	Classified	28 November 1985
Medway Estuary and Marshes	Kent	4,681.8	Classified	15 December 1993

Name	County	Area classified (ha)	Status	Date classified/ submitted*
Mersey Estuary	Merseyside & Cheshire	5,004.4	Classified	20 December 1995
Mid-Essex Coast SPAs				
Dengie (Mid-Essex Coast Phase 1)	Essex	3,127.2	Classified	24 March 1994
Colne Estuary (Mid-Essex Coast Phase 2)	Essex	2,701.4	Classified	28 July 1994
River Crouch Marshes (Mid-Essex Coast Phase 3)	Essex	905.7	Classified	24 March 1995
Old Hall Marshes (Part of Blackwater Estuary)	Essex	627.1	Classified	11 March 1992
Blackwater Estuary (Mid-Essex Coast Phase 4)	Essex	3,657.1	Classified	12 May 1995
Foulness (Mid-Essex Coast Phase 5)	Essex	10,968.9	Classified	4 October 1996
Minsmere-Walberswick	Suffolk	2,000.3	Classified	19 May 1992
Morecambe Bay	Cumbria & Lancashire	39,759.5	Classified	4 October 1996
Nene Washes	Cambridgeshire	1,310	Classified	5 March 1993
New Forest	Hampshire	28,001.2	Classified	22 September 1993
Northumberland Coast	Northumberland	-	Submitted	25 March 1994
North Norfolk Coast	Norfolk	7,700	Classified	20 January 1989
North Pennine Moors SPAs				
Moor House	Cumbria	3,894	Classified	31 August 1982
Moorhouse-Upper Teesdale (North Pennines Moors Phase 1)	Cumbria & Durham	-	Submitted	28 March 1996
East Nidderdale Moors (North Pennine Moors Phase 2)	North Yorkshire	-	Submitted	26 March 1997
Geltsdale and Glendue Fells (North Pennine Moors Phase 4)	Cumbria & Northumberland	-	Submitted	26 March 1997
Cotherstone and Bowes Moors (North Pennine Moors Phase 5)	Durham	-	Submitted	26 March 1997



Name	County	Area classified (ha)	Status	Date classified/ submitted*
Muggleswick, Stanhope, Edmunbyers Commons & Blanchland Moor	Durham & Northumberland	-	Submitted	9 January 1998
Bollihope, Pikestone, Egglestone & Woodland Fells	Cumbria, Durham & North Yorkshire	-	Submitted	24 March 1998
Orfordness-Havergate	Suffolk	117	Classified	31 August 1982
Ouse Washes	Cambridgeshire & Norfolk	2,372	Classified	5 March 1993
Pagham Harbour	West Sussex	616	Classified	30 March 1988
Poole Harbour	Dorset	-	Submitted	7 April 1994
Porton Down	Wiltshire & Hampshire	1,227.4	Classified	3 July 1992
Portsmouth Harbour	Hampshire	1,248.4	Classified	28 February 1995
Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPAs				
Alt Estuary	Merseyside	1,160	Classified	28 November 1985
Ribble Estuary	Lancashire	2,182	Classified	31 August 1982
Ribble and Alt Estuaries (Phase 2)	Lancashire & Merseyside	8,768.4	Classified	16 February 1995
Rutland Water	Leicestershire	1,540	Classified	4 October 1991
Salisbury Plain	Wiltshire & Hampshire	19,690	Classified	3 November 1993
Severn Estuary SPAs				
Upper Severn Estuary	Gloucestershire	1,357	Classified	5 February 1988
Severn Estuary	Avon, Gloucestershire, Somerset, Gwent & South Glamorgan	23,215.7	Classified	13 July 1995
Remainder of the site		-	Re-submitted	1 June 1994
Solent and Southampton Water	Hampshire & Isle of Wight	-	Submitted	31 March 1996
Somerset Levels and Moors	Somerset	6,388.5	Classified	26 June 1997

Name	County	Area classified (ha)	Status	Date classified/ submitted*
South Pennine Moors SPAs				
South Pennine Moors Phase 1	Derbyshire, Greater Manchester, South Yorkshire, Staffordshire & West Yorkshire	37,096.8	Classified	29 March 1996
South Pennine Moors Phase 2	West Yorkshire & Lancashire	20,938.1	Classified	26 June 1997
Stodmarsh	Kent	481.3	Classified	16 December 1993
Stour and Orwell Estuaries	Suffolk & Essex	3,334.1	Classified	13 July 1994
Tamar Estuaries Complex	Cornwall	1,952.7	Classified	25 June 1997
Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast	Cleveland	941.7	Classified	15 August 1995
Thames Basin Heaths	Berkshire, Hampshire & Surrey	-	Submitted	26 March 1997
Thames Estuary and Marshes	Essex & Kent		Submitted	10 September 1993
Thanet Coast and Sandwich Bay	Kent	1,877	Classified	28 July 1994
The Dee Estuary	Cheshire, Merseyside & Clwyd	13,055	Classified	17 July 1985
The Swale extended	Kent	113	Classified	31 August 1982
further extended		5,722	Classified	17 July 1985
		421.7	Classified	15 December 1993
The Wash SPAs				
Gibraltar Point	Lincolnshire	414	Classified	5 March 1993
The Wash	Lincolnshire & Norfolk	63,124	Classified	30 March 1988

Name	County	Area classified (ha)	Status	Date classified/ submitted*
Upper Solway SPAs				
Rockcliffe Marshes, (Part of Upper Solway Flats and Marshes)	Cumbria	1,897	Classified	1 October 1986
Upper Solway Flats and Marshes	Cumbria, Dumfries & Galloway	28,053	Classified	30 November 1992
Walmore Common	Gloucestershire	51.4	Classified	5 December 1991
Wealden Heaths SPAs				
Thursley, Hankley and Frensham Commons (Wealden Heaths Phase 1)	Surrey & Hampshire	1,869.9	Classified	14 February 1994
Wealden Heaths Phase 2	Hampshire, Surrey & W Sussex	2,053.8	Classified	16 March 1998

\* Submitted - English Nature has carried out public consultations on the proposed classification on behalf of the Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions. Area figures are only available for classified SPAs.

## Special Areas of Conservation

Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (the 'Habitats Directive') was adopted on 21 May 1992. It contributes to the conservation of biodiversity by requiring Member States to take measures to maintain or restore habitats and species at a favourable conservation status in the Community, giving effect to both site and species protection objectives. Following a period of consultation, sites to be designated as Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) must be agreed with the European Commission. Together, Special Protection Areas for birds (SPAs) and SACs will make up a network of sites in Europe called Natura 2000.

English Nature has carried out consultations on behalf of the Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions with owners, occupiers, local authorities and other interested parties on 150 possible SACs in England. Between 1995 and 1996 the Department sent a list of 113 candidate SACs in England to the European Commission, followed by a further 18 sites during the period covered by this report.

Details of the protection afforded to candidate SACs are given in Planning Policy Guidance Note 9, Nature Conservation, HMSO 1994.

## Candidate and possible SACs<sup>+</sup>

Name	County	Area (ha) <sup>+</sup>	Status*	Date sent to European Commission
Asby Complex	Cumbria	3,080.77	Candidate	8.1.96
Avon Gorge Woodlands	Avon	152.35	Candidate	8.1.96
Barnack Hills and Holes	Cambridgeshire	23.27	Candidate	20.3.98
Bath and Bradford-on-Avon Bats	Avon & Wiltshire	131.42	Candidate	8.1.96
Beer Quarry and Caves	Devon	31.1	Candidate	20.6.95
Benacre to Easton				
Bavents Lagoons	Suffolk	367.08	Candidate	20.6.95
Berwickshire and North Northumberland Coast	Borders & Northumberland	65,280.6	Candidate	16.10.96
Birklands and Bilhaugh	Nottinghamshire	270.96	Candidate	20.6.95
Blean Complex	Kent	520.62	Candidate	20.6.95
Bollihope, Pikestone, Eggleston & Woodland Fells	Durham	7,949.20	Candidate	20.3.98

<sup>+</sup> Area figures are only available for candidate SACs.

Name	County	Area (ha)*	Status	Date sent to European Commission
Border Mires, Kielder - Butterburn	Cumbria & Northumberland	11,668.57	Candidate	16.10.96
Borrowdale Woodland Complex	Cumbria	667.82	Candidate	20.6.95
Braunton Burrows	Devon	1,346.66	Candidate	8.1.96
Breckland	Norfolk & Suffolk	7,600.12	Candidate	8.1.96
Bredon Hill	Hereford & Worcester	359.86	Candidate	20.6.95
Burnham Beeches	Buckinghamshire	-	Possible	-
Cannock Extension Canal	Staffordshire & West Midlands	5.5	Candidate	20.6.95
Carrine Common	Cornwall	45.86	Candidate	20.6.95
Castle Eden Dene	Durham	191.11	Candidate	20.6.95
Castle Hill	East Sussex	114.67	Candidate	20.6.95
Chesil and the Fleet	Dorset	1,631.8	Candidate	16.10.96
Chilmark Quarries	Wiltshire	9.7	Candidate	20.6.95
Chilterns Beechwoods	Buckinghamshire & Oxfordshire	523.02	Candidate	20.6.95
Clints Quarry	Cumbria	-	Possible	-
Cothill Fen	Oxfordshire	43.55	Candidate	20.6.95
Cotswold Beechwoods	Gloucestershire	585.85	Candidate	8.1.96
Craven Limestone Complex	North Yorkshire	-	Possible	-
Culm Grasslands	Devon	768.68	Candidate	20.6.95
Dartmoor	Devon	22,864.57	Candidate	8.1.96
Denby Grange Colliery Ponds	West Yorkshire	-	Possible	-
Devils Dyke	Cambridgeshire	8.02	Candidate	20.3.98
Dorset Heaths (Purbeck and Wareham)	Dorset	-	Possible	-
Dorset Heaths	Dorset & Hampshire	-	Possible	-
Downton Gorge	Hereford & Worcester	69.3	Candidate	8.1.96
Drigg Coast	Cumbria	1,390.56	Candidate	8.1.96

Name	County	Area (ha) <sup>+</sup>	Status	Date sent to European Commission
Duddon Mosses	Cumbria	313.06	Candidate	8.1.96
Dungeness	East Sussex & Kent	3,223.56	Candidate	8.1.96
East Devon Pebblebed Heaths	Devon	-	Possible	-
East Hampshire Hangers	Hampshire	519.24	Candidate	20.6.95
Ebernoe Common	West Sussex	133.94	Candidate	20.6.95
Ellers Wood and Sand Dale	North Yorkshire	4.09	Candidate	20.3.98
Ensor's Pool	Warwickshire	3.8	Candidate	8.1.96
Epping Forest	Essex	1,604.95	Candidate	8.1.96
Essex Estuaries	Essex	50,441	Candidate	16.10.96
Exmoor Heaths	Devon			
	Somerset	9,954.15	Candidate	20.3.98
Fal and Helford	Cornwall	5,677.2	Candidate	16.10.96
Fenland	Cambridgeshire	618.63	Candidate	20.6.95
Fenn's, Whixall, Bettisfield, Wem and Cadney Mosses	Shropshire & Clwyd	946.97	Candidate	8.1.96
Flamborough Head	Humberside & North Yorkshire	6,469.85	Candidate	8.1.96
Folkestone to Etchinghill Escarpment	Kent	181.95	Candidate	8.1.96
Fontmell and Melbury Downs	Dorset	261.1	Candidate	8.1.96
Gang Mine	Derbyshire	8.25	Candidate	20.6.95
Godrevy Head to St Agnes	Cornwall	128.07	Candidate	20.6.95
Great Yews	Wiltshire	28.71	Candidate	20.6.95
Grimsthorpe	Lincolnshire	0.35	Candidate	20.3.98
Helvellyn and Fairfield	Cumbria	2,487.64	Candidate	20.6.95
Holme Moor and Clean Moor	Somerset	7.58	Candidate	20.6.95
Ingleborough Complex	North Yorkshire	-	Possible	-
Isle of Portland to Studland Cliffs	Dorset	-	Possible	-

Name	County	Area (ha) <sup>+</sup>	Status	Date sent to European Commission
Isle of Wight Downs	Isle of Wight	461.8	Candidate	20.6.95
Isles of Scilly Complex	Isles of Scilly	26,851.49	Candidate	8.1.96
Kennet and Lambourn Floodplain	Berkshire, Wiltshire	114.47	Candidate	17.10.97
Kingley Vale	West Sussex	208.04	Candidate	8.1.96
Lewes Downs	East Sussex	146.85	Candidate	20.6.95
Lower Bostraze & Leswidden	Cornwall	2.33	Candidate	20.3.98
Lower Derwent Valley	Humberside & North Yorkshire	906.4	Candidate	8.1.96
Lundy	Devon	3,098.87	Candidate	8.1.96
Lydden and Temple Ewell Downs	Kent	61.69	Candidate	20.6.95
Mells Valley	Somerset	28.22	Candidate	8.1.96
Mendip Woodlands	Somerset	119.76	Candidate	20.3.98
Minsmere to Walberswick Heath and Marshes	Suffolk	1,265.52	Candidate	20.6.95
Mole Gap to Reigate Escarpment	Surrey	640.31	Candidate	8.1.96
Moor House - Upper Teesdale	Cumbria & Durham	38,795.99	Candidate	8.1.96
Morecambe Bay	Cumbria & Lancashire	55,304.3	Candidate	16.10.96
Morecambe Bay Pavements	Cumbria & Lancashire	2,229.53	Candidate	8.1.96
Mottey Meadows	Staffordshire	-	Possible	-
Newham Fen	Northumberland	13.4	Candidate	20.6.95
Newlyn Downs	Cornwall	115.71	Candidate	20.3.98
Norfolk Valley Fens	Norfolk	602.63	Candidate	20.6.95
North Meadow and Clattinger Farm	Wiltshire	104.88	Candidate	8.1.96
North Norfolk Coast and Gibraltar Point Dunes	Norfolk & Lincolnshire	3,453.81	Candidate	8.1.96
North Northumberland Dunes	Northumberland	1,147.56	Candidate	20.6.95
North Pennine Dales Meadows	Cumbria, Durham, North Yorkshire & Northumberland	466.62	Candidate	20.6.95

Name	County	Area (ha) <sup>+</sup>	Status	Date sent to European Commission
North Somerset & Mendip Bats	Avon Somerset	561.19	Candidate	20.3.98
Oak Mere	Cheshire	68.78	Candidate	20.6.95
Orfordness-Shingle Street	Suffolk	1,357.72	Candidate	8.1.96
Orton Pit	Cambridgeshire	-	Possible	-
Ouse Washes	Cambridgeshire & Norfolk	303.88	Candidate	8.1.96
Oxford Meadows	Oxfordshire	265.89	Candidate	20.6.95
Pasturefields Salt Marsh	Staffordshire	7.67	Candidate	20.6.95
Peak District Dales	Derbyshire & Staffordshire	828	Candidate	8.1.96
Peak District Dales Woodlands	Derbyshire & Staffordshire	-	Possible	-
Penhale Dunes	Cornwall	625.57	Candidate	8.1.96
Pewsey Downs	Wiltshire	153.86	Candidate	20.6.95
Plymouth Sound and Estuaries	Devon & Cornwall	6,298.5	Candidate	16.10.96
Portholme	Cambridgeshire	-	Possible	-
Prescombe Down	Wiltshire	76.14	Candidate	20.6.95
Queendown Warren	Kent	14.28	Candidate	20.6.95
Rex Graham Reserve	Suffolk	2.67	Candidate	20.6.95
River Avon	Hampshire, Wiltshire, Dorset	466.17	Candidate	20.3.98
River Camel	Cornwall	-	Possible	-
River Derwent & Bassenthwaite Lake	Cumbria	-	Possible	-
River Eden	Cumbria Northumbria	2,444.05	Candidate	20.3.98
River Ehen	Cumbria	24.39	Candidate	20.3.98
River Itchen	Hampshire	145.15	Candidate	20.3.98
River Wye	Gloucestershire, Hereford & Worcestershire, Monmouthshire, Powys	-	Possible	-
Rodborough Common	Gloucestershire	104.3	Candidate	8.1.96
Rook Clift	West Sussex	10.82	Candidate	20.3.98



Name	County	Area (ha) <sup>+</sup>	Status	Date sent to European Commission
Rooksmoor	Dorset	61.36	Candidate	20.6.95
Roudsea Wood and Mosses	Cumbria	470.3	Candidate	8.1.96
Roydon Common and Dersingham Bog	Norfolk	351.66	Candidate	8.1.96
Salisbury Plain	Hampshire & Wiltshire	21,113.6	Candidate	8.1.96
Sandwich Bay	Kent	1,190.1	Candidate	8.1.96
Sefton Coast	Merseyside	4,101.86	Candidate	8.1.96
Severn Estuary	Avon, Gloucestershire, Somerset, Gwent & South Glamorgan	-	Possible	-
Sidmouth to West Bay	Devon & Dorset	897.27	Candidate	8.1.96
Solent and Isle of Wight Lagoons	Hampshire & Isle of Wight	36.3	Candidate	16.10.96
Solent Maritime	Hampshire, Isle of Wight & West Sussex	-	Possible	-
Solway Firth	Cumbria, Dumfries and Galloway	43,693.8	Candidate	16.10.96
Solway Mosses	Cumbria	1,318.9	Candidate	16.10.96
South Dartmoor Woods	Devon	1,422.63	Candidate	8.1.96
South Devon Shore Dock	Devon	9.48	Candidate	20.3.98
South Hams	Devon	129.97	Candidate	8.1.96
South Wight Maritime	Isle of Wight	-	Possible	-
St Albans Head to Durlston Head	Dorset	278.61	Candidate	8.1.96
Staverton Park and The Thicks, Wantisden	Suffolk	81.45	Candidate	20.6.95
Studland Dunes	Dorset	336.74	Candidate	8.1.96
Thanet Coast	Kent	2,807.8	Candidate	16.10.96
The Broads	Norfolk & Suffolk	4,636.37	Candidate	8.1.96
The Lizard	Cornwall	3,257.11	Candidate	8.1.96

Name	County	Area (ha) <sup>+</sup>	Status	Date sent to European Commission
The Mens	West Sussex	203.28	Candidate	20.6.95
The New Forest	Hampshire & Wiltshire	28,714.97	Candidate	20.6.95
The Stiperstones and The Hollies	Shropshire	601.57	Candidate	20.6.95
The Wash and North Norfolk Coast	Norfolk & Lincolnshire	107,802	Candidate	16.10.96
Thorne Moor	South Yorkshire	975.78	Candidate	20.6.95
Thrislington	Durham	22.72	Candidate	20.6.95
Thursley, Ash, Pirbright and Chobham	Surrey	5,100.56	Candidate	8.1.96
Tintagel-Marsland	Cornwall & Devon	2,434.91	Candidate	8.1.96
Tregonning Hill	Cornwall	5.21	Candidate	20.6.95
Tyne and Allen River Gravels	Northumberland	36.83	Candidate	20.6.95
Wasdale Screes	Cumbria	343.96	Candidate	20.6.95
Wast Water	Cumbria	286.21	Candidate	20.3.98
Waveney and Little Ouse Valley Fens	Norfolk & Suffolk	193.16	Candidate	8.1.96
West Midlands Mosses	Cheshire, Shropshire & Staffordshire	184.21	Candidate	20.6.95
Windsor Forest and Great Park	Berkshire & Surrey	855.11	Candidate	20.6.95
Winterton-Horsey Dunes	Norfolk	425.94	Candidate	8.1.96
Wormley Hoddesdonpark Woods	Hertfordshire	335.52	Candidate	8.1.96
Wye and Crundale Downs	Kent	112.24	Candidate	20.6.95
Wye Valley Woodlands	Gloucestershire, Hereford & Worcester & Gwent	875.58	Candidate	8.1.96
Wye Valley and Forest of Dean Bat Sites	Gloucestershire & Gwent	0.78	Candidate	8.1.96

\* Candidate SACs are possible SACs which have been submitted to the European Commission. Area figures are only available for candidate SACs.

Marine Nature  
Reserves

In England the Secretary of State for the Environment has the power to declare Marine Nature Reserves. To date only one MNR has been declared.

Reserve	Team	Date of declaration
Lundy, Devon	21	21 November 1986

## Environmentally sustainable agriculture

### General agricultural policy

English Nature continues to work bilaterally with Government and other statutory agencies in all areas of agricultural policy development and formally through the National Agri-Environment Steering Group (NAESG) and its regional equivalents the National Agri-Environment Forum (NAEF) and the Uplands Working Group. We have extended our technical advice on the interaction of agriculture and environmental issues to the European Commission and equivalent organisations in other Member States.

With the other British countryside agencies, we held a seminar in Germany in February 1998 on the use and potential development of agri-environment schemes. We also produced a paper on integrating biodiversity and agriculture as part of the Pan-European Biodiversity Strategy. We will continue to work with other similar EU organisations to develop understanding and partnership over agricultural and environmental issues.

During 1997/8 we have provided evidence to the House of Commons Agriculture Committee Inquiries into CAP reform: Agenda 2000; The UK Beef Industry; and the House of Lords Inquiry into Rural Policy.

A position statement on environmentally sustainable agriculture and nature conservation was produced during 1997/8. We advised MAFF on the development of new approaches to integrating the rural economy and the environment in the uplands, linking Structural Funds with agri-environment measures. We also provided input to MAFF's review of Hill Livestock Compensatory Allowances.

To inform our discussions on CAP reform under the Agenda 2000 proposals (and more widely), the country agencies jointly commissioned policy analyses of the sheepmeat, beef and dairy regimes, the likely environmental impact of the liberalisation of agricultural trade and held seminars on environmental standards in EU agriculture and integrated rural policy.

We provided advice to Government on Genetically Modified Organisms and responded to all statutory consultations on GMOs.

### Agri-environment programme

During 1997/98, English Nature provided detailed technical advice nationally and locally, to the policy review of 11 Environmentally Sensitive Areas in England, which were relaunched in Spring 1998. Initial work has been undertaken for the review of stage 4 ESAs.

We advised MAFF on the targeting of Countryside Stewardship, using Joint Character Areas and on the implementation of the Arable Incentive Scheme. We also provided detailed technical advice on the enhanced upland options for Stewardship.

We have participated in, and provided advice to, NAEF Working Groups on the uplands, and advice and information. We will continue to contribute to these in 1998/9.

### Land management practice

Work has continued on the *Upland Management Handbook* and the *Lowland Grassland Management Handbook*. These have been developed in consultation with partners and will be reference manuals for conservation and advisory staff in English Nature and other organisations.

We have continued to develop a rapid and repeatable method for assessing the condition of the most widespread upland habitats. During 1998/9 we will provide English Nature staff and advisers in other organisations with training in its use.

Common land is an important wildlife asset and its sustainable management is crucial for maintaining and enhancing biodiversity in both the uplands and lowlands. We provided technical advice to DETR in their production of a good practice guide for managing commons to be launched summer 1998.

We have provided advice on land management to the British Association of Shooting and Conservation, the Heather Trust and the Moorland Association through demonstration and training events. We also explored an approach to linking conservation management practices to the farm business in the Yorkshire Dales. This will be further developed in another Natural Area during 1998/9.

## Species Recovery Programme

English Nature's Species Recovery Programme (SRP), initiated in 1991, consists of a range of partnership projects with, in phase 1, the objective of halting, and for many species reversing, the reduction of the range and numbers of plant and animal populations that are in severe decline or under threat of extinction. Once the initial recovery objectives are achieved, projects move into phase 2 where the longer term objective is to achieve favourable conservation status for these species by restoring sustainable populations in the wild.

In 1997/98 initial recovery projects were undertaken on 47 species, 17 of which were new to the Programme. In the year, initial recovery objectives were met for ten of these species (cirl bunting, sand lizard, stone curlew, adder's tongue spearwort, brown gallingale, fen orchid, grey mouse-ear, meadow clary, narrow-leaved cudweed, starved wood sedge). Major supporting projects included work by the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, on seed banking, orchid genetics and micro-propagation; the Zoological Society of London on conservation genetics, captive breeding and veterinary pathology and Birmingham University on lepidoptera genetics.

During the year work was continued on 15 species, and initiated on another 5, for which the initial recovery objectives had been met in previous years (the phase 2 programme). Also, preliminary work was carried out on another 60 species to investigate the feasibility of recovery.

Projects generally rely on a combination of survey work and ecological studies to achieve a better understanding of the habitat requirements of endangered species so that site management work can be carefully targeted. Common objectives for recovery projects are:

- ☐ Survey to determine current status of the species.
- ☐ Conserving extant populations, monitoring extant and (re)introduced populations.
- ☐ Provision of guidelines on site management to site owners and occupiers.
- ☐ The production of species action plan targets to achieved favourable conservation status in the longer term.

Reintroduction of species to former sites, or their introduction to suitable alternative areas is often undertaken to restore sustainable populations in the wild. All of these projects benefit greatly from the co-operation of the landowners and managers of sites of both existing and re-established populations.

The SRP continues as a high priority for us and makes an important contribution to the UK Biodiversity Action Plan. In 1997/98, work was targeted at 104 plants and animals in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan priority species list.

The budget for the Species Recovery Programme in 1997/98 was £685,000.

The associated Species Recovery and Species Action Grant Programmes are reported on page 99.

Licences issued by  
English Nature's  
licensing unit in  
1997/98

Deer Act 1991 (Section 11)	Number of licences
Moving deer from one area to another	9
Taking deer for scientific purposes	1
Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (Section 16)	
<i>Taking, killing, injuring and possessing wild birds and taking, damaging, destroying and possessing wild birds' nests and eggs</i>	
for scientific purposes	90
for ringing or marking	9
for conservation purposes	40
<i>Disturbing wild birds included in Schedule 1 of the Act while they are building a nest or are in, on or near a nest containing eggs or young and disturbing dependent young of such birds</i>	
for scientific or conservation purposes	484
for photography	84
British Trust for Ornithology ringing scheme	415
British Trust for Ornithology nest recording	54
Royal Society for the Protection of Birds	227
<i>Taking, killing, injuring and possessing wild animals in Schedule 5 or 6 of the Act and disturbing such animals while they are occupying a structure or place used for shelter or protection</i>	
for scientific purposes	414
for ringing or marking	66
for conservation purposes	322
for photography	29
<i>Picking, uprooting, destroying and possessing wild plants included in Schedule 8 of the Act</i>	
for scientific and conservation purposes	52



Number of licences

English Nature staff licences	
to disturb wild birds included in Schedule 1 of the Act	21
to disturb and take bats	21
Protection of Badgers Act 1992	
<i>Killing, taking and interfering with badger setts</i>	
for marking	4
for scientific purposes	2
for conservation purposes	19
<i>Interfering with badger setts</i>	
for development of land	207
for investigation of offences	34
for archaeology	5
for fox control for protecting wildlife	0

## Grants

English Nature is empowered to give grants under Section 134 of the Environment Protection Act 1990. Our current priorities and policies for grant giving are directly related to our overall strategy. In 1997/98 grants totalling £2,061,000 were given. Of this, £ 25,630 was provided to assist land purchase, £13,000 helped student projects and £400,000 was English Nature's contribution to Rural Action.

The majority of the new projects supported by the National Conservation Development Grants Scheme related to biodiversity and included 3D mapping techniques to interpret biodiversity issues to local communities, using GIS to develop ecological networks, raising awareness of freshwater issues, whole farm plans, action for butterflies and the establishment of the European Elasmobranch Society. The 1997/98 expenditure of £168,000 supported 25 projects.

English Nature Local Teams gave grants to support locally based conservation action projects concentrating effort on enriching local biodiversity and natural areas. The 1997/98 expenditure of £336,000 supported 289 projects, including 5 Land Purchase Grants see page 101 and 54 College-English Nature Links (CEL) grants see page 99.

The Reserves Enhancement Scheme supported 30 Trusts within the Wildlife Trusts Partnership and 3 other Voluntary Conservation organisations. The aims of the scheme are to enhance the management of SSSI nature reserves, to seek further involvement of volunteers with those reserves, to increase the accessibility of reserves to the public, and to increase the public's understanding and appreciation of the natural heritage. Five-year management grants are given based upon standard payments per hectare within broad habitat types, and 50% grants are also given for capital projects. The 1997/98 expenditure was £828,000.

The Section 35(1)(c) NNR Capital Grant Scheme has been established to assist approved body managers of Section 35 NNRs with their management. The aims of the scheme are to maintain and where appropriate enhance the nature conservation value of section 35 NNRs, to improve the accessibility of the reserves to the public, and to increase the public's understanding and appreciation of the natural heritage. Grants are up to a maximum of 50% for capital projects. The 1997/98 expenditure of £61,000 supported 8 projects.

The Species Recovery Grants Scheme augments the Species Recovery Programme by extending the range of species projects included and also encourages more partnerships with individuals and organisations. Grants were given for action directed at restoring, maintaining or enhancing populations of species of plants and animals in severe decline or under threat of extinction. Grant aided projects contributed additional action on species already included in the Species Recovery Programme as well as targeting recovery work on additional species including Natterers', barbastelle & lesser horseshoe bats, Purbeck mason wasp, fiery clearwing, speckled footman & netted carpet moths, monkey, military & bog orchid, downy woundwort, jacob's ladder and hydroid fungi. The 1997/98 expenditure of £62,000 supported 39 projects.

The complementary Species Actions Grants Scheme is directed at supporting work on those species for which action plans have been prepared as part of the UK Biodiversity Action Plan. Grants are offered to help meet targets for site and species management, research and monitoring, and communications and publicity. During the year grants were given for work on a number of species including brown hare, dormouse, greater horseshoe bat, stone curlew, natterjack toad, sand lizard, great crested newt, pearl bordered, high brown, heath & marsh fritillary butterflies, large copper and large blue butterflies, shrill carder bee, narrow headed ant, native crayfish and also a suite of 10 plants and the devil's bolete in association with Plantlife. The 1997/98 expenditure of £108,000 supported 19 projects.

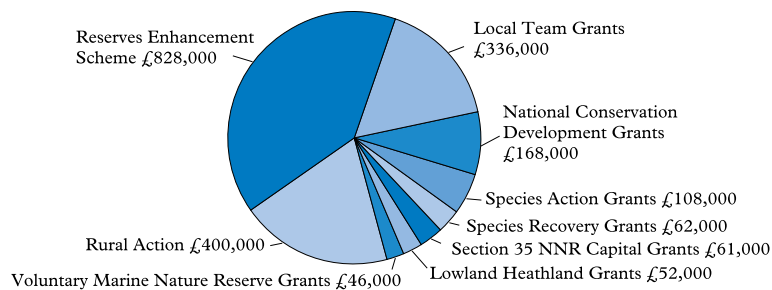
The Lowland Heathland Grants Scheme which was directed at heathland management and restoration projects came to the end of the successful five year programme. The 1997/98 expenditure of £52,000 supported 7 projects.

The Voluntary Marine Nature Reserves Grants Scheme continued support for individuals and organisations involved in work to develop and establish reserves. The 1997/98 expenditure of £46,000 supported 26 projects including 10 CEL grants.

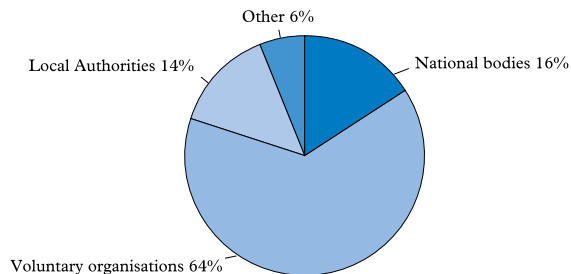
CEL (College-English Nature Links) Grants contribute to the expenses of final year undergraduates, HND students or one-year post graduates doing a Masters Degree who are carrying out fieldwork projects on protected sites such as National Nature Reserves. Sixteen local and two national teams funded these projects and the total expenditure of £13,000 supported 74 students.

Rural Action is sponsored by English Nature, the Countryside Commission and the Rural Development Commission working in partnership with the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers, The Wildlife Trusts Partnership, Shell Better Britain Campaign and ACRE. The scheme continued to provide advice, training and financial support for locally organised environment projects. Many of the 999 projects supported in 1997/98 involved people who were new to working on projects to improve their local environment. In 1997/98 English Nature contributed £400,000 towards the total budget of £1,200,000.

**Funding by grant scheme**



**% funding by type of recipient  
(excluding Rural Action)**



Land purchase grants

Applicant	Site	Area of land purchased (hectares)	Grant given £
Derbyshire Wildlife Trust	Chee Dale	30.00	5,250
Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust	Clarke’s Pool Meadow	1.78	9,000
National Trust	Parkwood	3.731	3,000
Sussex Wildlife Trust	Amberley Wildbrooks	29.91	6,820
Worcestershire Wildlife Trust	Marshlands Meadow	1.03	1,560

## Local Nature Reserves

In England Local Nature Reserves (LNRs) are declared by local authorities in consultation with English Nature under section 21 of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act, 1949. For land to be declared as an LNR it must be of special value locally and within the jurisdiction of the planning authority. The local authority must have a legal interest in the land. As a statutory consultee, English Nature can advise on procedures for declaration and the application of byelaws, and on site management. English Nature offers grants to community groups toward managing LNRs, to develop and protect their natural interest and to allow people to enjoy them.

Local authorities have maintained a steady rate of declarations of new LNRs and by the end of March 1998, 598, covering over 29,032 hectares, had been notified to English Nature. Twenty eight, covering 8,468 hectares, were listed for the first time in 1997/98 and 4 LNRs for the previous year 1996/97.

New Local Nature Reserves in England, notified to English Nature in the year ended 31 March 1997

Reserve name	County/Local authority	Area (in hectares)	Date of declaration
Alderman Canal	Ipswich Borough Council	3.00	1997
Ardingly Reservoir	West Sussex County Council	78.00	1997
Barnett's Wood	Tunbridge Wells Borough Council	10.00	1998
Bassington	Blyth Valley Borough Council	7.00	1997
Bixley Heath	Ipswich Borough Council	5.00	1997
Bourne Park	Ipswich Borough Council	4.50	1997
BridgeWood	Ipswich Borough Council	30.10	1997
Camerton Batch Heritage Site	Bath and North-East Somerset Council	4.00	1998
Colney Heath	St. Albans District Council	26.00	1997
Croxley Common Moor	Three Rivers District Council	41.90	1997

Reserve name	County/Local authority	Area (in hectares)	Date of declaration
Danesbury Park	Welwyn Hatfield District Council	24.80	1998
Deer Pond	Burnley Borough Council	1.36	1997
Havannah Nature Reserve	Newcastle City Council	50.00	1998
Howe Grove Wood	Dacorum District Council	8.50	1997
Kinson Common	Bournemouth Borough Council	16.34	1998
Limekiln wood	Wrekin District Council	23.00	1997
Marshall's Arm, Hartford	Vale Royal Borough Council	14.50	1998
Oxhey Woods	Three Rivers District Council	97.70	1997
Par Beach and St. Andrews Road	Restormel Borough Council	41.60	1998
Pipers Vale	Ipswich Borough Council	19.80	1997
Seaton Dunes and Common SSSI	Hartlepool Borough Council	7,771.20	1998
Seaton Valley	Caradon District Council	22.50	1997
Sherrardspark Wood	Welwyn Hatfield District Council	75.40	1998
The Commons	Welwyn Hatfield District Council	13.10	1998
Trowbarrow Quarry	Lancaster City Council	14.49	1997
Turbary Common	Bournemouth Borough Council	42.90	1997
Walbottle Brickworks	Newcastle City Council	13.30	1998
Widewater Lagoon	West Sussex County Council	8.00	1997

A full list of LNRs in England is available from Strategic Development and Reporting Team, English Nature, Northminster House, Peterborough PE1 1UA, Tel 01733 455138. For advice in relation to specific sites, please refer to the appropriate Local Team - see pages 146 to 148.

Yearly totals of LNRs since 1991

Date	Number	Area(Ha)
31 March 1991	222	11,011
31 March 1992	280	12,200
31 March 1993	337	13,977
31 March 1994	393	15,748
31 March 1995	444	17,681
31 March 1996	519	18,431
31 March 1997	566	20,428
31 March 1998	598	29,032

(+ 38 km of linear sites - canals, disused railways, etc.)

NB These figures take account of changes which include boundary amendments, amalgamation of sites and part/whole de-declarations



## English Nature's research

Below is a list of research projects funded or carried out by English Nature during 1997/98. Only projects costing £1,000 or more are listed.

The projects are set out according to the themes in which they fit. The themes are designed to focus our science and research on the nature conservation outcomes which we seek to achieve. The results are intended to contribute to site management and safeguard; to further conservation in the wider countryside; to develop marine nature conservation programmes, and to improve the basis for the conservation of vulnerable species.

Project	Project Officer	Individual or organisation carrying out the work	Cost
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### 1. Natural science resource base

#### 1.1 Terrestrial, freshwater and marine habitats

Botanical survey and assessment of selected SSSIs	I Smith	Ms S Lambert, Environmental Consultant	£4,038
Woodwalton Fen baseline NVC survey	T Barfield	T J Pankhurst, Bugle Ecological Services	£3,650
Feasibility study - Thurlby Fen re-creation project	R Hall	Lapwing Consultants	£3,325
Holme Fen NNR - bog restoration	A Bowley	Environmental Consultancy, University of Sheffield	£1,696
Cumbria Wildlife Trust Sites of Wildlife Interest	I Slater	Cumbria Wildlife Trust	£4,000

Project	Project Officer	Individual or organisation carrying out the work	Cost
NVC mapping of Moor House - Upper Teesdale cSAC site (Cumbria part)	I Slater	Rigby Jerram	£11,500
<i>Zostera</i> mapping in South East England	R Covey	Various	£2,000
Phase 2 of a nature conservation audit of roadside verges in Cornwall	J Clitherow	Cornwall Wildlife Trust	£8,000
Contribution towards incentives for environmentally sensitive farming on Bodmin Moor	J Stewart	University of Exeter	£3,000
NVC survey of dry heathland	C Pulteney	J Cox	£2,053
Natural Areas and freshwater	D Withrington	In-house	£10,500
River characterisation	D Withrington	WRC plc	£27,228
SINC re-survey, Biodiversity Action Plan audit, Nottinghamshire	I Butterfield	EMEC	£3,000
Wash Natural Area Profile	Dr I Paterson	P Murby	£1,500
Biodiversity Action Plan, The National Forest	S Clifton	Ecotech	£2,000

Project	Project Officer	Individual or organisation carrying out the work	Cost
Survey of Lindsey Outmarsh	Dr I Paterson	Dr J Bradley	£4,300
Sherwood Forest heathland re-creation project feasibility study	J Trueman	Faulks Perry Culley & Rech	£6,724
Sea cliff survey, Isle of Wight, Part 2	Dr R Ekins	Isle of Wight Council	£4,500
Production of Natural Area Profile documents (5)	S Davis	Adrian Bury Associates	£3,000
NVC survey of Wealden woodland SSSIs	P Williams	P Harvey	£2,500
Rill restoration on North Kent grazing marsh	R Cameron	P Harvey	£6,000
Chalk cliff, cave and reef biotope survey, Thanet Coast cSAC	D Pound	Natural History Museum	£30,787
Ancient Woodland Inventory	C Reid	In-house	£11,700
NVC mapping of woodland pSACs in England	C Reid	Various	£16,800
Broadscale seabed habitat mapping	Dr D Laffoley	Scottish Natural Heritage	£10,000

Project	Project Officer	Individual or organisation carrying out the work	Cost
Remote sensing of subtidal sandbanks for Severn Estuary	C Francis	Environment Agency and Countryside Council for Wales	£3,000
Estuary mouth survey for Essex estuaries	Dr P Gilliland	Posford Duvivier	£10,000
Acoustic and grab survey for Isles of Scilly	Dr P Gilliland	Ambios Environmental Consultants	£40,000
Habitat change research	T Collins	Environment Agency	£12,500
North York Moors Heritage Coast Project	D Clayden	North York Moors National Park Authority	£2,500
North Pennines Moors proposed Special Protection Area	P Evans	In-house	£10,000
North York Moors proposed Special Protection Area	D Clayden	In-house	£5,000
Flamborough Sensitive Marine Area Project	D Leach	L Howard	£20,000
Leven Canal assessment	D Leach	MJB Associates	£1,500
Alder survey	R Southwood	Norfolk Wildlife Trust	£1,000
County Wildlife sites and species project	J Ward	Norfolk Wildlife Trust	£10,000
Contribution to Hampshire Habitat Survey	Mrs C Chatters	Hampshire Wildlife Trust / Hampshire County Council	£5,000

Project	Project Officer	Individual or organisation carrying out the work	Cost
NVC survey on SSSIs in the Norfolk Breckland	S Rothera	T Smith, Ecological Services Ltd	£6,705
Lancashire neutral grassland survey (Phase 2)	M Beard	N Dayton, Quadrat	£2,000
NVC survey of the Sefton coast	H Bingley	P Gateley	£1,000
NVC survey of Walberswick NNR	N Sibbett	ESL	£4,004
Max Bog water level survey	S Parker	The Wildlife Trust	£1,000
Grassland surveys for West Moor, Wet Moor, Southlake Moor & King's Sedgemoor	R Bradford	Ecological Surveys (Bangor)	£10,000
South West moors bracken project	Dr F Ulf-Hansen	Dr P Skidmore/SERC	£7,500
Species-rich neutral grassland history : a study of South Somerset SSSIs	Dr F Ulf-Hansen	Bioscan	£3,000
Identification of potential SNCI in Surrey	D H Harvey	Surrey Wildlife Trust	£4,000
Sussex Seasearch project 1997-1999	D H Harvey	R Irving	£4,000

Project	Project Officer	Individual or organisation carrying out the work	Cost
Resource assessment of Herefordshire grasslands	J Bingham	A Walker & Partners and Hereford Nature Trust	£9,360
Buckinghamshire SINC project	G Steven	Bucks County Council	£2,500
Condition assessment of the uplands	A Drewitt	Rigby Jerram	£11,300
Survey and evaluation of grassland in Staffordshire	C Walker	Wildscan Ecological Consultants	£6,000
Botanical profiles of Natural Areas	R Cooke	In-house	£4,000
National overview of sand-dune, shingle and saltmarsh	D Rogers	Posford Duvivier	£5,000
Identification of marine Natural Areas	D Laffoley	In-house	£2,000
1.2 Terrestrial, freshwater and marine species			
Plymouth Sound peeler crab study	J Stewart	Tamar Estuaries Consultative Forum	£2,000
Recording of mid Cornwall invertebrates	J Stewart	A Spalding	£1,100
Survey of <i>Schoenoplectus</i> populations	C Pulteney	Lady Rosemary Fitzgerald	£2,771

Project	Project Officer	Individual or organisation carrying out the work	Cost
Comparative Maerl surveys in Falmouth Bay	R Covey	Unicomarine Ltd	£10,650
Pearl bordered fritillary survey	P Page	Dartmoor National Park Authority	£1,479
Ruderal invertebrate review	G Barker	Bioscan Environmental Consultancy	£9,073
River SSSI notification	J Smith	ESL, WRC, J Southey	£11,440
Funding for bat help-line co-ordinator	L Tucker	Hertfordshire & Middlesex Bat Group	£2,754
Assessment of fish species using the Tollesbury set-back site	C Reid	Unicomarine Ltd	£15,000
Travel & subsistence for bat casework	L Oliver	Kent Bat Group	£1,200
Butterflies of Europe: their conservation	Dr D Sheppard	Butterfly Conservation	£7,000
Red squirrel, reversing the effects of habitat fragmentation on the Isle of Wight	Dr A J Mitchell-Jones	University of Newcastle	£2,500
Best practice guidelines on species advice	Dr A J Mitchell-Jones	Nature Conservation Bureau Ltd	£9,500
Rodenticides survey of stoats	Dr A J Mitchell-Jones	People's Trust for Endangered Species	£4,400

Project	Project Officer	Individual or organisation carrying out the work	Cost
Natural Area Profiles for invertebrates	Dr M Drake	Dr P Kirby, Dr M Eyre, D Gibbs, D Clements	£3,150
Invertebrate pre-recovery projects	Dr D Sheppard	Various	£14,000
Yorkshire Dales species project	R Wilson	Yorkshire Dales National Park	£3,000
Bat work, North & East Yorkshire	H Smith	MJB Associates	£2,000
Wader survey, Nidderdale	R Wilson	RSPB	£1,000
Suffolk river valley breeding bird survey	R Cottle	RSPB	£2,000
Invertebrate survey of Avon Levels	S Parker	P Hill-Cottingham & T Smith	£1,500
Combe Down mines Greater horseshoe bat survey	S Parker	Dr R Ransom	£2,000
Upland invertebrate survey	M J Edgington	Exmoor National Park	£2,000
Veteran tree survey of Somerset	M J Edgington	Somerset Environmental Records Centre	£1,500
Cheddar Gorge rare plants survey	R G Corns	L McDonald	£2,000
Mounsey lichen survey	Dr F Ulf-Hansen	S Coppins	£1,600



Project	Project Officer	Individual or organisation carrying out the work	Cost
Somerset fungi survey	M J Edgington	Somerset Environmental Records Centre	£6,000
Ambersham Common (West Sussex) survey	B Savage	M Edwards & P Hodge	£2,000
Cotswold ESA breeding farmland birds survey	M Wilkinson	RSPB	£1,000
Batline casework advisory service	D Heaver	Creswell Associates	£1,800
Bredon Hill entomological survey	P Holmes	P Skidmore	£1,500
Invertebrates of pome and stone fruit orchards in the Wyre Forest, with particular regard to the Noble chafer <i>Gnorimus nobilis</i>	P Holmes	P F Whitehead	£1,025
Arable plant survey, Oxfordshire	R Porley	The Northmoor Trust	£3,000
Review of the status of Early gentian at SSSIs in Berkshire and Oxfordshire	G Steven	Oxfordshire Rare Plants Group	£1,018
Chilterns dormouse survey	G Steven	BBONT	£1,676
River plant survey - River Blythe	J Smith	Ecological Services Ltd	£1,853

Project	Project Officer	Individual or organisation carrying out the work	Cost
Development of a reintroduction and relocation programme for <i>Chara canescens</i>	I Smith	N Stewart	£1,985
Preparation of a woodland management plan for red squirrel at Finglandrigg Wood NNR and SSSI	F Mawby	Clark McTavish	£3,000
1.3 Earth science sites			
GCR notification project - Cumbria	S Webb	In-house	£7,900
GCR site notification	J Larwood	In-house	£19,414
Doncaster RIGS survey	T Kohler	South Yorkshire RIGS Group	£1,200
National RIGS project	M Harley	The Wildlife Trusts	£7,000
Devon, Cornwall and Isles of Scilly geological interpretation strategy	A McDouall	Mr P Sargeant	£3,350
2. Habitat and site management			
Wet Fens for the Future - IDB attitude survey	R Hall	David Noble and Associates	£2,884

Project	Project Officer	Individual or organisation carrying out the work	Cost
Landwise visits to fen farms	R Hall	J Terry, Cambridgeshire FWAG	£2,620
Habitat Regulations seminar	T Barfield	David Tyldesley and Associates	£1,102
Estuary projects in Cumbria	C Lumb	Cumbria County Council and Scottish Natural Heritage	£15,000
Mountain Massif Project	I Soane	Lake District National Park Authority	£6,000
North West & North Wales Sea Fisheries Officer: marine environmental liaison officer	C Lumb	North West and North Wales Sea Fisheries Committee	£3,500
Site Management Statements - Cumbria	G Dalglish	In-house	£31,000
River management project	A Stewart	In-house	£28,000
Site Management Statements -Hampshire	Dr J H S Cox	In-house	£20,000
Employment of a Conservation Officer for the Salcombe-Kingsbridge estuary	C Pulteney	South Hams District Council	£5,000
Fowey Estuary management plan	J Stewart	Fowey Harbour Commissioners	£2,500

Project	Project Officer	Individual or organisation carrying out the work	Cost
Tamar estuaries initiative - gateway to the coast	J Stewart	Plymouth City Council	£2,000
Contribution towards Camel estuary resource pack	J Stewart	North Cornwall Heritage Coast & Countryside Services	£2,400
Yealm estuary project officer	J Crix	South Hams District Council	£5,000
Contribution towards Fal & Helford SAC management plan	J Crix	Cornwall County Council Support Services	£2,000
Contribution towards Fal & Helford SAC project officer	J Crix	Cornwall County Council Support Services	£10,500
Marine litter abatement programme for Plymouth Sound and estuaries	J Stewart	Tamar Estuaries Consultative Forum	£3,000
Torridge headwaters environmental project	Dr R Wolton	Devon Wildlife Trust	£8,500
Cave conservation plans	N Perkins	National Caving Association	£2,000
Sustainable management of Earth Heritage - site clearance interpretation	N Perkins	In-house	£4,925
Canals and nature conservation	M Gibson	Liverpool University	£2,500

Project	Project Officer	Individual or organisation carrying out the work	Cost
Techniques for river restoration	D Withrington	River Restoration Project, Silsoe College	£3,000
Hydrological advice contract	Dr C Newbold	S Bennett	£6,790
Minerals issues	T Moat	Green Balance	£8,812
River SSSI conservation strategies and protocols	D Withrington	In-house	£20,000
Soil analysis	Dr A Farmer	ITE	£3,106
Wash estuary management plan project officer	Dr I Paterson	Lincolnshire County Council	£7,000
Phase 1, habitat restoration scheme, Sherwood	I Butterfield	EMEC	£7,000
Hertfordshire wildlife sites project	G Wyatt	Herts & Middlesex Wildlife Wildlife Trust	£2,500
Hertfordshire Environmental Records Centre service level agreement	G Wyatt	Herts Environmental Records Centre	£2,500
Beneficial use of dredgings/marine dredging sampling	I Black	Read Survey	£2,500

Project	Project Officer	Individual or organisation carrying out the work	Cost
Completion of intertidal biotope mapping and data capture exercise to compile subtidal biotope maps	C Reid	Posford Duvivier Environment	£20,000
Wardening Humber Wildfowl Refuge	R Morris	Upper Humber Wildfowling Committee	£2,300
Species officer	Dr L Jones-Walters	In-house	£3,000
Humber estuary management strategy	R Morris	In-house	£6,000
Hatfield Chase ditches	T Kohler	M R B Ecology & Environment	£2,000
Heathland recreation plan for North Lincs Coversands & Clay Vales Natural Area	C Newlands	Ecological Services Ltd	£4,000
Site Management Statement project officer	B Banks	In-house	£4,000
ENPACT	J Bacon	Various	£18,200
Woodland restoration project	C Reid and K Kirby	Dr E Radford	£3,200
Targeting woodland creation in lowland Natural Areas	C Reid	Wye College	£3,900

Project	Project Officer	Individual or organisation carrying out the work	Cost
Flora Locale	Dr B Johnson	Nature Conservation Bureau	£10,700
Review the extent and location of acid grassland in England	Dr H Robertson	Ecological Planning and Research	£2,200
Pilot study for invertebrates of exposed riverine sediments	Dr M Drake	Environment Agency	£5,000
Geomorphological casework and shoreline management plan advice	T Collins	University of Newcastle	£8,000
Estuaries implementation	A Moffat	Various	£115,000
Estuary management planning	A Moffat	Various	£15,000
North Pennines black grouse recovery	J Barrett	Game Conservancy Trust	£10,000
North Pennines project, Northumbria	J Barrett	In-house	£9,000
Newham Fen artificial recharge scheme	W Smyth	Dr B Wheeler, Sheffield University	£10,000
Northumberland estuaries implementation officer	W Smyth	Northumberland County Council	£2,500
Marine SAC project officer	W Smyth	In-house	£21,500

Project	Project Officer	Individual or organisation carrying out the work	Cost
Lindisfarne Refuge project	W Smyth	Dr S Percival, University of Sunderland	£11,000
River Tweed (England) project	W Smyth	Northern Ecological Consultants	£8,000
Tees Estuary management plan officer	G Barber	INCA	£5,000
Thrislington translocation data handling	S Hedley	In-house	£2,000
Site Management Statement project, North & East Yorkshire	P Welsh/ H Smith	In-house	£13,000
City of York: development work to a Local BAP	S Woolven	City of York	£1,500
North Pennines moorland project	P Welsh	In-house	£10,000
North Yorkshire heritage sites and Local Biodiversity Action Plan	H Smith	North Yorkshire County Council	£1,500
Broads fen management strategy Phase II	R Southwood	Broads Authority and others	£15,000
Habitats Directive study	P Lambley	Environment Agency, Anglian Region	£5,000



Project	Project Officer	Individual or organisation carrying out the work	Cost
Chalk river project	P Lambley	Ted Ellis Trust	£1,000
Site Management Statement officer	R Bridson	In-house	£18,600
Predator control at Big Fernyford Farm	Dr C J Edwards	Peat District National Park Authority	£7,000
Derbyshire Biodiversity Action Plan Steering Group	I Taylor	Ms P Brassley	£2,000
Peak National Park Biodiversity Action Plan	Dr C J Edwards	Peak District National Park Authority	£2,000
Site Management Statements, Peak District and Derbyshire	I Taylor	M Bailey, Dr S Mackenzie and Ms C Beresford	£10,000
Assessment of obstacles to desired changes in land management in the South West Peak	Dr C Edwards	Lancaster Property Services	£3,689
Support of demonstration management on Arnfield Moor	Dr C Edwards	BASC and Heather Trust	£1,000
South Pennine Moors SPA, Phase III project officer	Dr C Edwards	Dr S Mackenzie	£2,900
Sotterly Park tree tagging and lichen survey	P Robinson	S Davey	£1,398

Project	Project Officer	Individual or organisation carrying out the work	Cost
Freshwater flows, Stour - Orwell estuary SPA	R Cottle	Environment Agency	£3,000
Exmoor paths project	Dr F Ulf-Hansen	Exmoor National Park	£1,000
Three Counties rivers project	H Stace	In-house	£29,160
Worcestershire heathlands restoration plan	P Holmes	The Worcestershire Wildlife Consultancy	£2,876
Cotswold Water Park nature conservation grant scheme	M Wilkinson	Cotswold Water Park Society	£5,267
The Marches woodland initiative	M G July	The Marches Woodland Initiative Partnership	£4,000
Herefordshire river SSSI tributaries whole farm plans	S Jennings	Herefordshire FWAG	£2,500
Whole farm plans in Prime Biodiversity Areas	H Whetter	Farming & Wildlife Group	£3,030
Vegetation succession of unmanaged habitats	A Drewitt	ITE	£11,700
Conservation and the farm business	S Hooper	Newcastle University and FWAG	£3,200

Project	Project Officer	Individual or organisation carrying out the work	Cost
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### 3. Autecological studies

Breeding ecology of the twite	Dr A F Brown	H McGhie	£1,800
Cirl bunting studies	P Grice	RSPB	£6,000
Curlew studies	Dr A F Brown	University of Sunderland	£2,000

### 4. Environmental monitoring

#### 4.1 Sites

Monitoring model for the South Pennine Moors	D Ramsay	Penny Anderson Associates	£3,000
Raised water level areas, monitoring grassland interests	R Bradford & L White	Ms W Cox	£2,000
Longleat Woods baseline biological survey	R G Corns	Wessex Ecological Consultants	£2,000
Chalk heath grazing study	M Emery	University of Sussex	£2,000
Condition assessment of Rodborough Common pSAC	J Bingham	D Clements	£1,816

Project	Project Officer	Individual or organisation carrying out the work	Cost
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#### 4.2 Species

Marsh fritillary re-establishment at Folly Farm SSSI	S Parker	The Wildlife Trust	£1,500
Nettlecombe park tree tagging and survey	M J Edgington	SERC	£1,500
Surveillance and monitoring of basking sharks	R Covey	Dr D Simms, Plymouth University	£6,000
Botanical monitoring of cattle grazing on Braunton Burrows	Dr R Wolton	Mr P Robinson	£2,110

#### 4.3 Aquatic

Native crayfish conservation	M Gibson	David Rogers Associates	£6,075
Impact of signal crayfish	M Gibson	Buckingham University	£1,000
Reservoir eutrophication survey	M Gibson	Anglian Water	£1,000
Dyke survey	C Doarks	Ecological Associates	£10,000
Aquatic plant survey of Bassenthwaite Lake	A Stewart	Lake District National Park Authority	£3,000

Project	Project Officer	Individual or organisation carrying out the work	Cost
4.4 Maritime			
The effect of Fisheries Exclusion Zones on crustacea	R Covey	Cornwall County Council	£1,000
Severn Estuary SAC - remote sensing	K Pollock	Environment Agency	£3,000
5. Impact studies			
5.1 Terrestrial			
Corn bunting project	Dr A Burn	Game Conservancy Trust	£8,355
Impact of liming on semi-natural swards	Dr R Jefferson	Countryside Council for Wales	£2,000
5.2 Aquatic			
Fisheries and angling	M Gibson	University of Liverpool	£2,500
5.3 Maritime			
Bait digging survey, Stour - Orwell estuaries SPA	R Cottle	Suffolk Wildlife Trading Ltd	£6,166
5.4 Pollution			
Pesticides project	Dr A Cooke	Game Conservancy Trust	£8,981
Air quality for wildlife	Dr A Farmer	ITE (Bush)	£12,683

Project	Project Officer	Individual or organisation carrying out the work	Cost
River Avon pSAC ecological assessment	J Smith	J Southey Environmental Consultancy	£4,006
River Avon pSAC nutrient budget	J Smith	WRC plc	£5,581
6. Species Recovery Programme			
Stone curlew	P Grice	RSPB	£20,000
Cirl bunting	P Grice	RSPB	£15,000
Sand lizard	Dr T Gent	Herpetological Conservation Trust	£15,000
Western rustwort	Ms B Tonkin	Dr D T Holyoak	£1,100
Conservation genetics	Dr R Mitchell	Institute of Zoology	£11,028
Red kite	P Grice	In-house and various	£40,000
Pine marten	Dr A J Mitchell-Jones	Royal Holloway College	£19,775
Water vole	Dr A J Mitchell-Jones	University of Oxford	£3,459
Pearl mussel requirements	Ms M Gibson	National Museum of Wales	£6,687
Spined loach	Ms M Gibson	ECON Ecological Consultancy	£1,898
Creeping marshwort	G Steven/ Dr R Mitchell	Dr C Lambrick	£2,462

Project	Project Officer	Individual or organisation carrying out the work	Cost
Ladybird spider	Dr R Key	Various	£1,727
Fen orchid	Mr C Doarks/ Dr R Mitchell	Norfolk Naturalists Trust	£11,750
Smooth snake	Dr T Gent	Herpetological Conservation Trust	£5,000
Pool frog	Dr T Gent	Various	£7,000
Triangular club rush	Ms M Gibson	Lady Rosemary Fitzgerald	£2,800
Dormouse	Dr A J Mitchell-Jones	Dr P Morris	£4,480
Dormouse - Nut Hunt	Dr A J Mitchell-Jones	Peoples Trust for Endangered Species	£5,000
Greater horseshoe bat	Dr A J Mitchell-Jones	Dr R Ransome	£3,000
Red squirrel	Dr A J Mitchell-Jones	Forest Enterprise	£18,420
Bechsteins bat	Dr A J Mitchell-Jones	In-house	£1,000
Little whirlpool ramshorn snail	Dr M Drake	I Killeen & Dr M J Willing	£5,468
Southern damselfly	Dr M Drake	Liverpool University	£3,000
Glutinous snail	Dr M Drake	Environment Agency	£2,900
Hoverfly ( <i>Callicera spinolae</i> )	Dr M Drake	Dr G Rotheray	£1,500

Project	Project Officer	Individual or organisation carrying out the work	Cost
Hornet robber fly	Dr M Drake	B Pinchen	£1,000
Water beetle ( <i>Agabus brunneus</i> )	Dr M Drake	Dr D Bilton	£2,000
Barberry carpet moth	Dr D Sheppard	Dr P Waring and Zoo Federation	£6,000
Black-veined moth	Dr D Sheppard	Dr P Waring	£6,000
Reddish buff moth	Dr D Sheppard	Dr P Waring	£7,500
Field cricket	Dr D Sheppard	M Edwards	£2,110
Wartbiter cricket	Dr D Sheppard	Dr V Brown	£11,970
Mole cricket	Dr D Sheppard	M Edwards	£3,110
Large marsh grasshopper	Dr D Sheppard	Dr V Brown	£5,000
Black-backed meadow ant	Dr D Sheppard	M Edwards	£1,200
Pashford leaf beetle	Dr R Key	H Mendel, M Collier	£1,700
Birch/hazel leaf beetle	Dr R Key	P Hodge	£1,800
Crucifix beetle	Dr R Key	D Hemingway	£1,050
Violet click beetle	Dr R Key	Dr Skidmore	£2,500
Lundy cabbage beetle	Dr R Key	Dr S G Compton/ Ropeworks	£4,954



Project	Project Officer	Individual or organisation carrying out the work	Cost
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## 7. Research to develop and refine policy

### 7.1 Land-use

Cumbria Farm Link project	I Soane	Various	£3,000
Environmental standards in EU agriculture	G Hamersley	Scottish Natural Heritage	£4,000
Options for change in CAP dairy regime	G Hamersley	Scottish Natural Heritage	£4,500
Environmental effects of free trade in agriculture	Dr M Tilzey	Wye College	£50,750
Options for change in CAP beef regime	Dr M Tilzey	Cheltenham & Gloucester College of Higher Education	£9,100
Sustainable agriculture indicators	Dr M Tilzey	Newcastle University	£18,250
Variability of agri-environment scheme prescriptions and payments - Stage 1	M Wilkinson	Entec	£2,479
Herefordshire water quality workshops	S Jennings	Herefordshire FWAG	£2,000
Yorkshire Dales - appraisal of opportunities for EU Objective 5b funding	P Evans	Yorkshire Dales National Park	£1,000

Project	Project Officer	Individual or organisation carrying out the work	Cost
7.2 Community			
Attitude survey on the value of heathlands	I Davies	Atlantic Consultants	£10,000
Urban UK-MAB	G Barker	UK-MAB Urban Forum	£5,000
Enhancing public appreciation of the uplands - social, cultural and environmental factors	K Sampson	Lancaster University (CASE studentship)	£10,950
7.3 Planning			
Planning advice contract	G Smith	D Tyldesley & Associates	£12,675
Environmental capital	Dr A Farmer	Countryside Commission	£2,100
Geological contribution	D Markham	Devon County Council	£5,000
Local nature contract	W Brooks	D Tyldesley & Associates	£21,500
Scoping study on integrated rural development	G Hamersley	Countryside Commission	£3,700
German agri-environment conference	G Hamersley	Countryside Commission	£7,500

Project	Project Officer	Individual or organisation carrying out the work	Cost
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#### 8. Data systems, collation and analysis

Aerial photographic survey of Morecambe Bay and coast	N Fletcher	Environment Agency	£6,000
Digitising aerial photographs of Morecambe Bay European marine site	N Fletcher	Exegesis Spatial Data Management	£6,100
Intertidal survey of biotopes on rocky scars in Morecambe Bay European marine site	N Fletcher	WA Marine & Environment	£3,000
Aerial photographic survey of Solway Firth European marine site	C Lumb	Scottish Natural Heritage	£4,000
ENSIS data inputters	D Stone	In-house	£54,000
ENSIS data quality officers	Dr K Porter	In-house	£24,000
ENSIS helpline	Dr K Porter	In-house	£12,000
Lincolnshire Trust for Nature Conservation data management	R Morris	Lincolnshire Trust for Nature Conservation	£1,000
North and East Yorkshire Ecological Data Centre	J Lunn	J Lavin	£2,000
SSSI air photos	N Sibbett	Cambridge University Committee on Aerial Photography	£2,021

Project	Project Officer	Individual or organisation carrying out the work	Cost
East Anglian Plain data collation	N Sibbett	Suffolk Wildlife Trading Ltd	£4,021
Habitat creation database	Dr A Moffat	ABP Research	£2,000
Hereford and Worcester phase 2 woodland and grassland survey data project	P Holmes	In-house	£2,512
Plymouth Sound and Estuaries SAC digital mapping	J Crix	Plymouth City Council	£3,500
Contribution towards GIS for Plymouth Sound and Estuaries SAC	J Crix	Plymouth City Council	£5,410

## Summary financial statement 1997/98

### Summary foreword

This summary financial statement is only a summary of information in English Nature's financial statements and does not contain sufficient information to allow for a full understanding of the results and state of affairs of English Nature. For further information the full annual financial statements and the Comptroller and Auditor General's report on those statements should be consulted. These are published as a House of Commons Paper and can be purchased from The Stationery Office.

This summary financial statement has been prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 1985 section 251 and The Companies (Summary Financial Statement) Regulations 1995 (SI 1995 / 2092) and was signed by Dr Derek Langslow, the Accounting Officer, on 24 June 1998.

### Review of activities

English Nature's purpose is to promote directly and through others the conservation of the wildlife and natural features of England within the wider setting of the United Kingdom and its international responsibilities.

In pursuit of this purpose, the Environmental protection Act 1990 conferred upon English Nature the following functions:

- i. To establish and maintain and manage nature reserves (within the meaning of Section 15 of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949).
- ii. To advise Ministers on policies for or affecting nature conservation.
- iii. To provide advice and disseminate knowledge about nature conservation.
- iv. To commission and support or, if necessary, carry out relevant research.
- v. Various duties, under other statutory provisions notably:
  - a. To notify Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and to take such steps as are open to it to protect them - for example by advice and/or by agreements under Section 15 of the Countryside Act 1968.

- b. To issue or advise Ministers on the issue of licences affecting protected species, for example, under Section 16 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.
- c. To take account as appropriate in the discharge of its functions of actual or possible ecological changes.

English Nature shall (under Section 133(3) of the Act), in discharging its functions have regard to any advice given to them by the Joint Nature Conservation Committee.

During 1997/98 English Nature has concluded the review of its strategy and published a new strategy, *Beyond 2000*. This has helped to focus efforts on improving biodiversity and natural features in England.

Consultations have been undertaken on 26 possible Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), 26 extensions to SACs and seven major extensions to Special Protection Areas (SPAs). In addition 18 new candidate SACs and extensions to 12 cSACs were submitted to Brussels and the River SSSI programme was successfully completed. The contribution to the protection and management of SACs included major inputs to the JNCC 'background to selection' documents and implementation of the second round of consultations including a number of extensions to maritime SACs.

Advice and support to Government was provided on a wide range of policy development issues, including ESAs, Agenda 2000, UK forestry standards, HLCA review, Common Land, water abstraction licensing, aggregate dredging, pesticide buffer zones, Review of Trust Ports, EC Technical Conservation Regulations and oil and gas licensing activities.

A significant level of support has been provided to DETR on the Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP). The integration of BAP targets into the Natural Areas framework was completed. Species Action Plans for 56 of the second tranche species were finalised and a further 200 were drafted. 17 Habitat Action Plans were also drafted and issued for consultation.

Consultations on 120 Natural Area Profiles were completed and there is now a complete set of Natural Area Profiles, including all maritime areas. The Natural Areas framework is now the basis for developing and resourcing our business plans.

Seventeen new projects were initiated under the Species Recovery Programme during the year and work continued on over sixty existing projects. Initial targets on species population and habitat restoration were achieved for five species.

Work with the JNCC has progressed on the development of the Biodiversity Information Service and common standards for monitoring sites have been developed and will be used in trials on SSSIs across the United Kingdom. A Corporate Project has been established to co-ordinate local and national survey and monitoring programmes and report on wildlife outcomes.

A new methodology for assessing environmental capital has been developed and published in conjunction with the Environment Agency, the Countryside Commission and English Heritage. Pilot studies are now underway to trial the methodology.

The programme to produce Site Management Statements, working closely with owners and occupiers of SSSIs continued. Over 3,500 statements have been discussed or agreed and a further 900 produced in draft.

Almost 6,000 individual assessments of site feature units were undertaken during the year, equating to nearly 5,000 individual units being monitored, when repeat assessments are taken into account. Seventy one percent of all assessments made indicated that units were in favourable condition or improving. Less than half of one percent of the units examined had the interest for which they were scheduled destroyed or partly destroyed.

Six new NNRs were declared in 1997/98, all with management by approved bodies. A total of 14 NNRs have been extended and negotiations for 12 other extensions are active. The management costs per hectare on NNRs continues to fall through more efficient use of staff time. Information collected in 1997/98 on the management of NNRs in 1996/97 showed that NNRs are being managed well, with 98% making satisfactory progress towards management objectives.

Significant progress has been made in developing a new competency framework for all staff in English Nature and a new Performance Management System based on this framework. This will result in a more systematic approach to planning the learning programme for the organisation and improve efficiency by reducing the time spent on the staff appraisal process. A single application for the Investors in People award will be made in 1999.

### Events since the balance sheet date

There have been no significant changes since the date of the balance sheet.

### Future developments

The Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions have announced that English Nature's grant in aid for 1998/99 is to be £38,540,000.

Priorities are driven primarily by the implementation of the UK Biodiversity Action Plan and the targets of the Habitats Directive, and use the Natural Area framework. English Nature will concentrate on the conservation of nationally and internationally important habitats, species and natural features, targeting advice by using Natural Areas as the context. Resources will be concentrated in those Natural Areas which make the greatest contribution to nationally important nature conservation targets. Support to local bodies will help to maintain local nature conservation character.

Nature conservation priorities for 1998/99 are, therefore to:

- Maintain high standards of advice and guidance to Government, regulatory agencies and land managers.
- Support the Government's delivery of the Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) by implementing targets for which English Nature are responsible and supporting partners in its wider implementation.
- Play an active part in the management and sharing of biodiversity data to develop a National Biodiversity Network.
- Implement common standards for monitoring through the JNCC and reporting, by piloting and demonstrating innovative approaches in the restoration and recovery of significantly reduced or fragmented habitats and species.
- Support the Government in achieving favourable conservation status for habitats and species covered by the Habitats Directive and completing consultations on Special Areas of Conservation extensions and Special Protected Areas.
- Identify the actual and potential contribution of key sectors of the economy, such as agriculture, infrastructure and water, in achieving long term wildlife gain.
- Work with key partners and strategic allies to achieve the implementation of sustainability indicators linked to wildlife gain.



- Increase the proportion of SSSIs managed in favourable condition by continuing to work closely with owners and occupiers.
- Increase the size, value and contribution of NNRs.
- Use experience to enable others to achieve more for habitats, species and natural features through the provision of advice, demonstrations and targeted schemes.
- Develop monitoring capabilities in the marine environment; preparing site objectives for European marine SACs and supporting the preparation of Statutory Management Schemes for candidate marine SACs; establishing partnerships to achieve sustainable management of soft coast habitats.

Members of the Council

See page 4

Summary Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended  
31 March 1998

	1997/98 £000	1996/97 £000
Income		
Grant in aid received	35,262	35,076
Ring-fenced grant in aid to the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC)	2,281	2,339
Other government grants	307	85
Income from activities	997	867
Transfers from reserves and provisions	1,768	1,659
Other operating income	198	396
	<u>40,813</u>	<u>40,422</u>

Summary Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended  
31 March 1998

	1997/98 £000	1996/97 £000
Expenditure		
Maintenance of National Nature Reserves (NNRs)	1,565	1,643
Management agreements	7,562	7,052
Conservation support	3,417	3,195
Information and publicity	801	1,000
Grants	2,062	2,248
Staff costs	16,146	15,910
Other operating costs	6,070	6,716
Depreciation	1,318	1,165
Annual contribution to the JNCC	2,364	2,385
Permanent diminution of fixed assets	100	207
Notional costs	1,137	1,150
	<u>42,542</u>	<u>42,671</u>

Summary Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended  
31 March 1998

	1997/98 £000	1996/97 £000
(Deficit) on operating activities before superannuation	(1,729)	(2,249)
Superannuation receipts	<u>542</u>	<u>362</u>
(Deficit) on operating activities	(1,187)	(1,887)
Profit / (loss) on sale of fixed assets	22	8
Interest receivable	168	160
Notional cost of capital	<u>(477)</u>	<u>(445)</u>
(Deficit) on ordinary activities	(1,474)	(2,164)
Add back notional costs	1,600	1,580
Amount surrendered to the Department of the Environment	-	(51)
Transfer to revaluation reserve	<u>(74)</u>	<u>(51)</u>
Retained surplus (deficit) for the financial year	<u>52</u>	<u>(686)</u>
Council Members' emoluments	<u>109</u>	<u>110</u>

## Summary Balance Sheet for the year ended 31 March 1998

	1997/98 £000	1996/97 £000
Fixed assets	<u>6,911</u>	<u>6,732</u>
Current assets	2,525	2,830
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	<u>(1,174)</u>	<u>(1,387)</u>
Net current assets	<u>1,351</u>	<u>1,443</u>
Total assets less current liabilities	<u>8,262</u>	<u>8,175</u>
Provisions for liabilities and charges	1,352	1,244
Accruals and deferred income	4,949	5,189
Capital and reserves	<u>1,961</u>	<u>1,742</u>
	<u>8,262</u>	<u>8,175</u>

The certificate and report of the Comptroller and Auditor General on the full financial statements for the year ended 31 March 1998 was unqualified and did not contain a statement made under either section 237(2) of the Companies Act 1985 (accounting records or returns inadequate or accounts not agreeing with records or returns) or section 237(3) (failure to obtain necessary information and explanations).

D R Langslow  
Accounting Officer

24 June 1998

## Statement of the Comptroller and Auditor General to the Houses of Parliament

I have examined the summary financial statement on pages 133 to 142 which has been prepared in the form and on the basis set out in the summary foreword on page 133.

## Respective responsibilities of the Council, the Chief Executive and auditors

The summary financial statement is the responsibility of the Council and Chief Executive. My responsibility is to report to you my opinion on its preparation and consistency with the full financial statements and foreword.

## Basis of opinion

I have conducted my work in accordance with the Auditing Guideline *The auditors' statement on the summary financial statement* adopted by the Auditing Practices Board.

## Opinion

In my opinion the summary financial statement is consistent with the full financial statements and foreword of the Nature Conservancy Council for England for the year ended 31 March 1998 and has been properly prepared on the basis set out in the summary foreword to the summary financial statement.

John Bourn  
Comptroller and Auditor General  
7 July 1998

National Audit Office  
157-197 Buckingham Palace Road  
Victoria  
London SW1W 9SP

## Register of interests of Council Members

At the first meeting of the Council of English Nature in 1990, the Council resolved to establish a Register of Interests of Council Members. This was established in February 1991 and it is updated annually. A summary is published below. The complete register is open for public inspection and copies may be obtained from the Head of Private Office, Richard Findon, tel 01733 455356.

### Synopsis of Council Members' interests

The Earl of Cranbrook (Chairman): Biologist and farmer. Member, Broads Authority and Harwich Haven Authority. Non-executive director, Anglian Water plc. Chairman, Environmental Advisory Board of Shanks and McEwan plc. Chairman, ENTRUST, the Regulator of Environmental Bodies under the Landfill Tax Regulations (1996). President, Suffolk Wildlife Trust. Member, UK Roundtable on Sustainable Development.

Dr D R Langslow: Chief Executive, English Nature. Chairman, Asian Wetlands Bureau. Council Member, Wetlands International - Asia Pacific and Wetland International - The Americas.

Professor J M Anderson: Professor of Ecology, University of Exeter. Board of Management, IUBS/UNESCO Tropical Soil Biology Programme 1984-1996.

Ms J Barber: Independent consultant on organisational planning and evaluation of environmental programmes. Member, Groundwork Foundation Board and Tarmac plc's Environmental Advisory Panel. Severn Trent Water plc's Environment Panel. Trustee of Forum for the Future. Consultant to WWF, DoE, Environment Protection Strategy and European Division and National Lottery Charities' Board.

Professor D L Hawksworth: Independent consultant mycologist and environmental biologist. Director, International Mycological Institute 1983-97. President, International Union of Biological Sciences 1994-97. Chair, International Committee on Nomenclature. Visiting Professor of Botany, University of Reading; Visiting Professor of Biology, University of Kent; Visiting Professor of Mycology, Royal Holloway, University of London.

Miss J Kelly: Independent management consultant. Chairman, West Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust. Lay Member, General Council and Register of Osteopaths 1990-1995. Trustee, Lifecare Charitable Trust. Member, Council of the National Trust. Visiting Fellow, Department of Health Studies, University of York.

Professor G L Lucas: Chairman of Wyldcourt Rainforest Ltd, Vice Chairman and Acting Company Secretary National Council for the Conservation of Plants and Gardens. Adviser to Friends of Kew and Treasurer of Linnean Society. Vice-President of Flora and Fauna International, Surrey Naturalists Trust, BTCV and Royal Geographical Society.

Professor D Norman: Director, Synchrotron Radiation, Council for the Central Laboratory of the Research Councils, Daresbury Laboratory, and visiting Professor in Surface Science, University of Liverpool. Chairman, Merseyside Ringing Group and Mersey Estuary Conservation Group.

Mr M T Thomasin-Foster: Farmer. Chairman, Essex Branch, Country Landowners Association - 1995. Member, CLA Executive Committee and Chairman of CLA Environment and Water Sub-Committee. Chairman, MAFF's Consultative Panel on Badgers and Tuberculosis. Chairman, Hawk and Owl Trust. Member, UK Round Table on Sustainable Development. Member of Agricultural Land Tribunal.

Mr S Tromans: Solicitor and Partner, Simmons & Simmons. Member of Environment Development and Advisory Panel (EDAP), National Grid Company. Trustee of Forum for the Future.

Professor R C L Wilson: Professor of Earth Sciences, Open University. Chartered Geologist. Hon. Sec, Foreign and external Affairs, Geological Society. Consultant to petroleum exploration industry. Member, Joint Nature Conservation Committee.

Mr G N Woolley: Managing Director of Woolley & Company. Director of Beaver Securities Ltd, Prudential Corporation in-hand farming company. Board Member of Harwich Haven Authority. Member, Environment and Water Committee, and Council of Country Landowners Association. Vice-Chairman, Suffolk Branch Country Landowners Association. Member, Council, Scottish Landowners' Federation.



## Responsibility of Chairman and Council Members

During the year Council approved a revised *Code of Best Practice for Council Members*. Copies can be obtained from the Head of Private Office, Richard Findon.

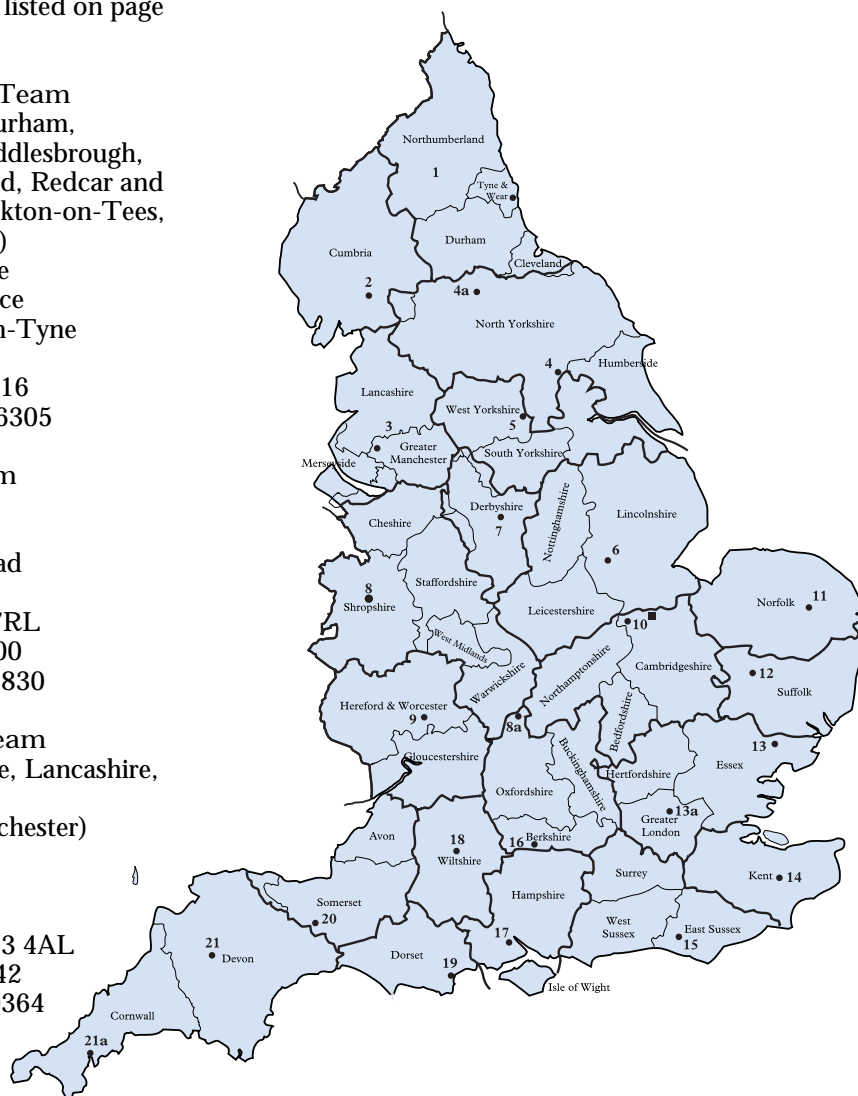
## Audit Committee

English Nature has had an Audit Committee since its creation. The Audit Committee is an advisory committee established by the Council in consultation with the Accounting Officer. The Committee is chaired by the Accounting Officer and has two Council Members, Nicholas Woolley and Jane Kelly plus one Director, Caroline Wood and one General Manager, Kevin Charman as its members. Full details of the terms of reference and responsibilities of the Audit Committee can be obtained from the Head of Private Office, Richard Findon.

## Local Team addresses

For general enquiries about local issues, contact the appropriate team listed below. National Office contacts are listed on page 149.

- 1 Northumbria Team  
(Darlington, Durham, Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Northumberland, Redcar and Cleveland, Stockton-on-Tees, Tyne and Wear)  
Archbold House  
Archbold Terrace  
Newcastle-upon-Tyne  
NE2 1EG  
☎ 0191 281 6316  
Fax: 0191 281 6305
- 2 Cumbria Team  
Juniper House  
Murley Moss  
Oxenholme Road  
Kendal  
Cumbria LA9 7RL  
☎ 01539 792800  
Fax: 01539 792830
- 3 North West Team  
(North Cheshire, Lancashire, Merseyside & Greater Manchester)  
Pier House  
Wallgate  
Wigan  
Lancashire WN3 4AL  
☎ 01942 820342  
Fax: 01942 820364



Isles of Scilly

- |  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| <p>4 North &amp; East Yorkshire Team<br/>(East Riding of Yorkshire (excluding area west of Goole), Kingston-Upon-Hull &amp; North Yorkshire)<br/>Genesis Building 1<br/>Science Park<br/>University Road<br/>Heslington<br/>York YO10 5ZQ<br/>☎ 01904 435500<br/>Fax: 01904 435520</p> <p>4a Leyburn Office<br/>(Yorkshire Dales)<br/>Thornborough Hall<br/>Leyburn<br/>North Yorkshire DL8 5ST<br/>☎ 01969 623447<br/>Fax: 01969 624190</p> <p>5 Humber to Pennines Team<br/>(East Riding of Yorkshire (area west of Goole), North East Lincolnshire, North Lincolnshire, South Yorkshire &amp; West Yorkshire)<br/>Bull Ring House<br/>Northgate<br/>Wakefield<br/>West Yorkshire WF1 1HD<br/>☎ 01924 387010<br/>Fax: 01924 201507</p> | <p>6 East Midlands Team<br/>(Leicester City, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, Nottinghamshire &amp; Rutland)<br/>The Maltings<br/>Wharf Road<br/>Grantham<br/>Lincolnshire NG31 6BH<br/>☎ 01476 568431<br/>Fax: 01476 570927</p> <p>7 Peak District &amp; Derbyshire Team<br/>(Peak District National Park, Derbyshire &amp; Derby City)<br/>Manor Barn<br/>Over Haddon<br/>Bakewell<br/>Derbyshire DE45 1JE<br/>☎ 01629 815095<br/>Fax: 01629 815091</p> <p>8 West Midlands Team<br/>(Cheshire, Shropshire, Staffordshire, Stoke-on Trent, Warwickshire &amp; West Midlands)<br/>Attingham Park<br/>Shrewsbury<br/>Shropshire SY4 4TW<br/>☎ 01743 709611<br/>Fax: 01743 709303</p> <p>8a Banbury Office<br/>(Warwickshire)<br/>10/11 Butchers Row<br/>Banbury<br/>Oxfordshire OX16 8JH<br/>☎ 01295 257601<br/>Fax: 01295 275180</p> | <p>9 Three Counties Team<br/>(Gloucestershire, Herefordshire &amp; Worcester)<br/>Bronsil House<br/>Eastnor<br/>near Ledbury<br/>Herefordshire<br/>HR8 1EP<br/>☎ 01531 638500<br/>Fax: 01531 638501</p> <p>10 Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire &amp; Northamptonshire Team<br/>(Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Northamptonshire and Luton)<br/>Ham Lane House<br/>Ham Lane<br/>Nene Park<br/>Orton Waterville<br/>Peterborough<br/>Cambridgeshire PE2 5UR<br/>☎ 01733 405850<br/>Fax: 01733 394093</p> <p>11 Norfolk Team<br/>60 Bracondale<br/>Norwich<br/>Norfolk<br/>NR1 2BE<br/>☎ 01603 620558<br/>Fax: 01603 762552</p> <p>12 Suffolk Team<br/>Norman Tower House<br/>1-2 Crown Street<br/>Bury St Edmunds<br/>Suffolk IP33 1QX<br/>☎ 01284 762218<br/>Fax: 01284 764318</p> |
|--|---|--|

- 13 Essex, Hertfordshire & London Team  
Colchester Office  
Harbour House  
Hythe Quay  
Colchester  
Essex CO2 8JF  
☎ 01206 796666  
Fax: 01206 794466
- 13a London Office  
Ormond House  
26/27 Boswell Street  
London WC1N 3JZ  
☎ 0171 831 6922  
Fax: 0171 404 3369
- 14 Kent Team  
The Countryside Management Centre  
Coldharbour Farm  
Wye  
Ashford  
Kent TN25 5DB  
☎ 01233 812525  
Fax: 01233 812520
- 15 Sussex & Surrey Team  
(Brighton & Hove, East Sussex, West Sussex & Surrey)  
Howard House  
31 High Street  
Lewes  
East Sussex BN7 2LU  
☎ 01273 476595  
Fax: 01273 483063
- 16 Thames & Chilterns Team  
(Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Milton Keynes & Oxfordshire)  
Foxhold House  
Thornford Road  
Crookham Common  
Thatcham  
Berkshire RG19 8EL  
☎ 01635 268881  
Fax: 01635 268940
- 17 Hampshire & Isle of Wight Team  
(Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Portsmouth & Southampton)  
1 Southampton Road  
Lyndhurst  
Hampshire SO43 7BU  
☎ 01703 283944  
Fax: 01703 283834
- 18 Wiltshire Team  
(Swindon & Wiltshire)  
Prince Maurice Court  
Hambleton Avenue  
Devizes  
Wiltshire SN10 2RT  
☎ 01380 726344  
Fax: 01380 721411
- 19 Dorset Team  
(Bournemouth, Dorset & Poole)  
Slepe Farm  
Arne  
Wareham  
Dorset BH20 5BN  
☎ 01929 556688  
Fax: 01929 554752
- 20 Somerset Team  
(South Gloucestershire, Bristol, Bath and North East Somerset and North Somerset)  
Roughmoor  
Bishop's Hull  
Taunton  
Somerset TA1 5AA  
☎ 01823 283211  
Fax: 01823 272978
- 21 Devon, Cornwall & Isles of Scilly Team  
The Old Mill House  
37 North Street  
Okehampton  
Devon EX20 1AR  
☎ 01837 55045  
Fax: 01837 55046
- 21a Cornwall Office  
Trevint House  
Strangways Villas  
Truro  
Cornwall TR1 2PA  
☎ 01872 262550  
Fax: 01872 262551

## National Office contacts

As at 1 October 1998

English Nature  
Northminster House  
Peterborough  
PE1 1UA  
☎ 01733 455000  
Fax: 01733 568834

Strategy Manager: Mark Felton  
☎ 01733 455357

General Managers: Tim Bines  
☎ 01233 812182  
Kevin Charman  
☎ 0191 281 6305  
Andy Clements  
☎ 01733 455339  
David Henshilwood  
☎ 01733 455374  
Bruce Keith  
☎ 01733 455357  
James Marsden  
☎ 01733 455369  
Sarah Priest  
☎ 01635 268881  
Deryck Steer  
☎ 01733 866899  
Les Waters  
☎ 01733 455362

Private Office  
Team Manager: Richard Findon  
☎ 01733 455356

External Relations Team  
Team Manager: Michael Ford  
☎ 01733 455106

Lowlands Team  
Team Manager: Richard Wright  
☎ 01733 455243

Uplands Team  
Team Manager: Will Williams  
☎ 01733 455276

Environmental Impacts Team  
Team Manager: Colin Prosser  
☎ 01733 455213

Strategic Development and Reporting Team  
Team Manager: Sarah Fendley  
☎ 01733 455351

Maritime Team  
Team Manager: Geoff Radley  
☎ 01733 455230

Human Resource Services Team  
Team Manager: Margaret Bull  
☎ 01733 455054

Information Systems Team  
Team Manager: Alan Williams  
☎ 01733 455310

Information and Marketing Team  
Team Manager: John Creedy  
☎ 01733 455098

Finance Services Team  
Team Manager: Keith Little  
☎ 01733 455172

Refereed  
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Nature staff

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## Learning and development

Budget cuts reduced the programme of formal learning events, shifting further the emphasis to more self-managed learning activities such as Development Clubs and providing the opportunity to instigate an increased amount of training in IT skills - funded from local training budgets. Overall 1,500 training days were funded or organised centrally. Action Learning continued to be promoted with a number of staff gaining NVQs and NVQ assessor awards. The Employee Development Scheme and the Career Guidance Scheme were also fully subscribed and positive feedback received. Core training courses on negotiating/influencing, planning, environmental assessment and a range of land management techniques were fully subscribed, helping ensure that staff continued to work and provide advice in a professional manner and based on an understanding of the issues affecting those with whom we deal.

It was decided that it would be more appropriate, cost effective and efficient for English Nature to make a single application for the Investors in People award rather than on a team by team basis. Work began on preparing the portfolio of evidence to be used by all teams as the basis for local compliance with IiP's national standard. The application will be made in 1998/99.

Full details can be obtained from Marilyn Miller, Human Resource Services.

English Nature  
publications  
published during  
1997/98

<i>English Nature freshwater series no. 5 - Water level requirements of wetland plants and animals</i>	1 85716 269 2
<i>Managing the English uplands 1997</i>	1 85716 270 6
<i>UK marine SACs Project leaflet</i>	1 85716 271 4
<i>Saline lagoons and lagoon-like saline ponds in England - English Nature Science 29</i>	1 85716 401 6
<i>Opportunities for amphibians and reptiles in the designed landscape - proceedings of a seminar held on 24.1.96 - English Nature Science 30</i>	1 85716 265 X
<i>English Nature's research programme 1997/98 - English Nature Science 31</i>	1 85716 272 2
<i>Progress 1997</i>	1 85716 273 0
<i>6th annual report</i>	1 85716 274 9
<i>Whole ecosystem nitrogen manipulation : review study</i>	1 85716 275 5
<i>English Nature's strategy (Beyond 2000)</i>	1 85716 276 5
<i>Veteran Trees Initiative - Specialist survey method</i>	1 85716 277 3
<i>LNRs - A time for reflection : a time for new action</i>	1 85716 278 1
<i>Natural Area profiles</i>	1 85716 279 X - 1 85716 400 8
<i>Working today for nature tomorrow</i>	1 85716 403 2
<i>Your guide to SSSIs</i>	1 85716 404 0
<i>Natural Areas of the Peak District and Derbyshire</i>	1 85716 405 9
<i>UK Biodiversity Group Action Plan Volume 2 Vertebrates &amp; Vascular plants</i>	1 85716 406 7
<i>Wildlife protection and the law folder</i>	1 85716 407 5
<i>Management choices for ancient woodland : getting it right</i>	1 85716 408 3
<i>Investing in wildlife</i>	1 85716 409 1
<i>Focal point for European Environmental Advisory Councils leaflet</i>	1 85716 410 5
<i>Nature conservation in Broadland</i>	1 85716 412 1
<i>Natural Areas in Norfolk</i>	1 85716 413 X