

ENGLISH NATURE
Magazine

Issue 62

July 2002



Choughed to bits!

After 50 years the chough is nesting in Cornwall

From the ground up

A new fund benefits
wildlife and geology

Not just wildlife

How NNRs are finding
a broader role

The sky's the limit

Red kites are once more
in the skies of Yorkshire

English Nature is the statutory body which achieves, enables and promotes nature conservation in England.

We do so by working in partnership with individuals and a wide range of organisations including Government, representative bodies, agencies and voluntary organisations.

English Nature Magazine is published six times a year to promote nature conservation in England and make people aware of the latest developments. The views expressed in it by individuals are not necessarily those of English Nature.

For further information contact any of our offices. English Nature's National Office is:
Northminster House,
Peterborough PE1 1UA
Tel: 01733 455000
Fax: 01733 568834

We operate a number of other offices across the country, from where our staff deal with local nature conservation issues.

Details of your nearest office can be obtained by phoning Northminster House, or by requesting a copy of English Nature Facts and Figures Information guide, free from the Enquiry Service at Northminster House, Tel 01733 455100.

You can also learn more about us via the Internet. Our address is:
www.english-nature.org.uk



Awarded for excellence

Cover picture



Cover photograph: Andy Hay/www.rspb-images.com

After an absence of 50 years, the chough is once again nesting in England. See the full news article on the opposite page.

English Nature magazine can now be read on the English Nature website at:
www.english-nature.org.uk/magazine

brief update

Time for a sea change

English Nature is set to employ a Fisheries Liaison Officer in a bid to involve fishermen in the management of the fishing industry in the South West.

The officer will work with fishermen, Cornwall Fish Producers Organisation and South West Fish Producers Organisation to collect their ideas on improving the long-term future of the industry.

The three-year position is part of a wider World Wildlife Fund (WWF) initiative to build up a financial model on the benefits of better fisheries management.

Head of the project is Roger Covey, English Nature's Maritime State of Nature Project Officer. He said: "Support from fishermen will be essential to recover fish stocks from their low levels. The Liaison Officer will be vital in collecting ideas and information from fishermen to develop proposals for improved management of fish stocks, and better conservation of

our marine wildlife."

The post comes as English Nature continues to monitor Britain's first No Take Zone initiative, which was set up in 1997.

English Nature helped fund the set up of the scheme, which involved St Agnes Quay Fisherman's Association keeping fishermen out of 24 hectares of their usual fishing ground to try to improve the sustainability of local crab and lobster stocks.

Concerns were raised over the decline of shellfish stocks over the years, especially as shellfishing alone contributes around £1.73 million to the Cornish economy every year, supporting 768 fishermen and a further 3,300 people on the shore.

Dr Miles Hoskin, Maritime Conservation Officer for Cornwall and ex research-scientist, has implemented a rigorous experimental evaluation of the effect of the No Take Zone.

He said, "The study involves comparing shellfish numbers in the No Take Zone with numbers in two nearby 'control areas' that continue to be fished. This kind of science is vital for effective management because it is unwise to just assume that the actions we take will have the desired effect. Currently, there are no clear positive effects of the No Take Zone, but there has been only limited sampling and, given the biology of crabs and lobsters, it is probably still too early for positive effects to appear. The study is set to run for another four years, so hopefully we'll see improvements yet."

Stand innovation

English Nature has won three awards for its stand at the Gardener's World Live exhibition in Birmingham.

The awards were for Best Interactive Stand in Show (out of 600 competitors), Highly Commended - Best Environmental Stand, and Highly Commended - Best Educational Stand. Alan Titchmarsh was on hand to present the three certificates and a glass vase to the organisation.

While highly impressed with the overall quality of the stand, especially the pond, the judges nevertheless found it difficult to decide which award to present and finally opted for the interactive category, which had a much larger number of entries.

Chuffed about choughs!

This year not only sees the nation celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Queen's ascension, but English Nature is also popping corks after a pair of wild choughs, not seen since the Queen was crowned, have successfully nested in West Cornwall.

The pair, along with their four newly-born chicks, have delighted conservationists, who have been waiting for 50 years to see these delightful birds of the crow family return to the cliff tops of England, especially in Cornwall, where the chough features on the county's coat of arms.

Conservationists were so keen to see choughs return that they spent ten years using cattle to graze the cliff tops to create the ideal conditions for the birds to nest.



Andy Hay/www.rspb-images.com

The birds, first seen in Cornwall last summer, were probably blown across the English Channel from the small population in Brittany.

Fear of persecution meant the birds have been protected by a round-the-clock-watch by RSPB staff and local volunteers. The hatching of the chicks was a cause for great celebration for the Cornwall Chough

Project, a partnership between English Nature, the RSPB, The National Trust, DEFRA and, of course, Cornwall residents.

The partnership with landowners, farmers and DEFRA's Countryside Stewardship Scheme paid off. It is now looking to fund a project officer to ensure further sites are prepared to welcome back choughs.

Prince praises decision on peat

Prince Charles has congratulated English Nature for its part in stopping large scale peat extraction from lowland raised bogs in Yorkshire.

During his acceptance speech for the Euronatur Award in Lübeck, Germany, on June 11, the Prince made particular reference to the move, saying, "The decision is likely to lead to recreation of a scarce habitat, much richer wildlife, increased opportunities for tourism and recreation and a new local industry based on peat

alternatives. It is an excellent example of sustainability in action and all those who worked so hard to reach this conclusion deserve to be congratulated."

He also spoke of his deep love and attachment to the country, saying, "I want to end by briefly discussing a subject which I know is a fundamental aim of Euronatur, and which also lies close to my own heart, and that is the preservation of traditional, cultural landscapes. We need to communicate the fact that

the people, the wildlife, the land on which they live and, indeed, the type of products that are produced, are inextricably linked and always will be.

"As far as I am concerned, the most important factor is to accept that all our actions have consequences and that mankind has a duty of stewardship for the natural world. The degree of skill, commitment and foresight – in other words 'wisdom' – we apply to that duty will shape our own destiny, and that of our children."

NEWS IN SHORT

Great green spaces

English Nature is urging the Government to consider implementing the recommendations of the Urban Green Spaces Taskforce Report, published in May.

The Report - Green Spaces, Better Places – highlights the importance of parks and urban green spaces in supporting biodiversity and reinforcing people's contact with nature. In particular it recommends the establishment of: a strong national champion; a new £500 million funding initiative for parks; new green spaces from brownfields; and national benchmarks such as the Green Flag Award.

Sustainability out of the woods

A commercial and wildlife-friendly future for the UK's woodlands was the vision of an English Nature sponsored conference held on 6-7 June.

The ground-breaking 'In Praise of Trees' conference, part of the Salisbury Festival, joined woodland conservationists with builders, designers, architects and artists who use wood. The aim of the event was to develop a vision of the future that encourages people to ditch plastic and rediscover wood as the ultimate sustainable building material.

"It's time to consign the ethos of the disposable society to the dustbin of history and rediscover the delights of natural building materials that are sustainable in every sense of the word," said Sir Martin Doughty, chair of English Nature.

Correction

In the May edition of English Nature Magazine a photograph of Paston Great Barn, which appeared in the news pages, was mistakenly attributed to English Nature. The photograph should instead have been credited: 'Supplied by North Norfolk Historic Buildings Trust'. We apologise for any inconvenience this may have caused.

brief update

NEWS IN SHORT

Road kills count

Almost 100,000 miles of road was surveyed in last year's National Hedgehog Survey, and Mammals Trust UK is hoping the 2002 survey will prove even more successful.

This year the Trust aims to use road kill counts of all mammals, not just hedgehogs, to find out how many are killed per mile, indicating population numbers and fluctuations. More than 800 foxes and badgers, 5,000 rabbits and 2,600 hedgehogs were spotted in last year's survey.

This year motorists are encouraged to report all the mammals they see on the roads. To take part, contact the Trust on 0207 498 5262.

Rainham Marshes reprieve

The threat of development hanging over a Site of Special Scientific Interest in London looks set to be removed.

Rainham Marshes, the largest block of historic grazing marsh in London, is home to hundreds of pairs of nesting reed warblers, rare dragonflies and one of the UK's largest populations of water voles. In May, Havering Council announced its intention to remove the long-standing threat of development plans, to the delight of conservation groups including English Nature.

New NNR

Norfolk's largest remaining area of ancient woodland, Foxley Wood, believed to be around 6,000 years old, has been designated a National Nature Reserve (NNR) by English Nature.

This brings the total of NNRs in Norfolk to 20 and, after Swanton Novers, Foxley Wood is Norfolk's second ancient woodland Site of Special Scientific Interest to receive NNR status.

Norfolk Wildlife Trust manages the wood, grant-aided by English Nature's Reserves Enhancement Scheme.

A signal achievement



Eric Tyler, Relief Signalman at Yeovil Junction (pictured left, with Peter Banfield of the Somerset Bat Group), helped save a colony of 50 rare and endangered bats. He contacted English Nature after noticing dead bats had been brought into the signal box by a stray cat. The lesser horseshoe bats had been using a nearby underground tunnel as a hibernation site, now classed as one of the most important roosts in south Somerset. A new protective barrier now guards the tunnel entrance and allows bats to come and go, but keeps the cat out.

Grassland restored

Internationally important limestone grassland has been given the chance to breathe again at Whitbarrow National Nature Reserve (NNR) in Cumbria following the removal of extensive pine plantation.

An 80 hectare area of pine trees has been removed in the programme, which started in 1998, under an agreement between English Nature and the Forestry Commission.

"We had a commitment that once the trees reached maturity they would be felled and not replaced," explained Martin Colledge, Area Forester with the Forestry Commission, who carried out the work. "The grassland, which is recognised under the European Habitats Directive, was in danger of being lost if we did not act promptly. The pine plantation was starting to cause damage and we took the opportunity to act now so that the grassland is preserved."

The programme has now moved into its second phase, repairing fences and dry stone walls ready for grazing under an organic system using hardy breed cattle.

First prize for English Nature

The launch of the Traditional Breeds Incentive got off to a winning start in May at the Royal Bath and West Show.

English Nature presented prizes for the first time at the event, held on 29 May, to the best Red Ruby Devon male and female cattle in the show.

The awards highlight the Traditional Breeds Incentive, which aims to provide financial assistance to farmers who use pedigree traditional cattle, sheep and pony breeds to sustainably manage areas such as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and National Nature Reserves (NNRs).

"Our aim is to encourage farmers to bring



Dr Andy Brown awards Devon Red Cattle winner at the Bath & West Show

back the hardier, more indigenous animals to maintain the conservation of our special sites," said Dr Andrew Brown, English Nature's Deputy Chief Executive, who presented the prizes on the day.

Farming for wildlife

English Nature's Farming for Wildlife Award was formally launched at the Royal Show earlier this month and will form part of the National Farmers' Union (NFU) Farming Excellence Awards 2003.

This award, which was formerly called the Biodiversity Award has been renamed to emphasise the links between farming and wildlife. Open to all NFU members, it recognises achievements in nature conservation on the farm and provides funding for new wildlife projects. The national winner will receive up to £6,000 and the runner-up, up to £4,000 from English Nature to put their conservation plans into action. Regional prizes will also be awarded.

The last 30 years have seen serious losses of wildlife on and around farmland. For example, the skylark has declined by 75 per cent since 1970, while the wild cornflower is now only found on a handful of farms in England. Farmers and land managers have a vital role in reversing these declines.

The English Nature Chair, Sir Martin Doughty, said, "All farmers have an important part to play in developing biodiversity. The winners of the English Nature Farming for Wildlife Award demonstrate that conservation can be combined with running a profitable business."

This year's winners are now getting their projects off the ground. National winner David Passmore is using his prize to participate in a farm study led by the Game Conservancy Trust, which

For previous winner Robert Kynaston, a number of simple things can be done to encourage biodiversity such as clear pools and coppice trees.

compares the differences in biodiversity between traditional mixed and conventional arable farms. The study will be used to identify what kinds of farming systems help wildlife.

Runner-up Nicholas Watts has planted a new hedge and will be excavating a pond with wet area, around which he will sow a wildflower meadow. He aims to encourage the breeding of birds such as skylarks, meadow pipits and reed buntings.

Last year's projects have now been completed and outright winner Robert Kynaston of Shropshire has used the award for a variety of measures. These range from a FWAG Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP), to assistance with developing his farm to function as a LEAF (Linking Environment And Farming) demonstration farm. "I'm expecting quite a few visitor groups over the coming months



Images courtesy of NFU



now that I have the means and facilities to

welcome them," says Robert.

"It's about showing a broader audience the simple things that can be done on a farm to encourage biodiversity, such as maintaining field margins, planting trees and clearing ponds.

"Introducing a farm BAP has also helped me target species that aren't doing so well on the farm, rather than thinking I'd done it all by winning the award. A good example is woodland butterflies. I've chosen areas of woodland to coppice, which will let light in and allow woodland plants and, in turn, butterflies to flourish."

Award application forms are available from NFU regional offices, by calling NFU CallFirst on 0870 840 0638, and through the NFU members' website www.NFUnet.org.uk.



Extracting benefits for wildlife and geology

Thousands of environmentally important sites could benefit from millions of pounds of investment through English Nature's largest ever grants scheme.

Mick Murphy/English Nature

The Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund could be awarding grants of up to £350,000 from this month, aiming to boost biodiversity and geological conservation around quarries from Kent to Cumbria.

English Nature, working in partnership with English Heritage and the Countryside Agency, has £5 million to distribute in grants this year to support local projects that help to address the impact of aggregate extraction activities on wildlife, geology and communities.

Everyone from community groups to local councils can apply for the grants, which will be awarded by an independent panel. The English Nature Grant Management Team will provide guidance and will be able to award grants up to £50,000 between Grant Panel meetings.

"Aggregate extraction is a necessary industry, this is helping to make it a sustainable industry."

"Aggregate extraction is a necessary industry, this is helping to make it a sustainable industry," explained Phil Denham, Grant Programme Manager.

Within English Nature the scheme is divided between work on geological conservation and on biodiversity. Sites that will qualify for grants will

Bardon Hill (above) in Leicestershire is just one quarry where operators are managing sites with concern for geological and biological habitat interests. Other sites such as Dryhill, Kent, Wren's Nest NNR, West Midlands, and Ketton Quarry (right), Rutland, are other examples of geological interpretation on disused quarries.

include worked-out or active quarries, old sandpits, and other man-made exposures of rock which have generated aggregate. A key consideration is that the site is accessible for study.

"Money can be available to clear rock faces, allow access to the site, set up interpretative or educational opportunities, but it can also be available for strategic works," Phil said. "We are working very much in partnership with the other two agencies and are keen to see joint projects that overlap areas of interest."

Most locally based geological conservation work is carried out by Regionally Important Geological Sites (RIGS) groups. "This scheme

will give RIGS groups the chance to get an injection, over two years, of a reasonable amount of capital," said Helen Stace, Lead Conservation Officer for Herefordshire, who works with the Western Association of RIGS groups.

"Most of the conservation organisations I know have put together



Colin Proser/English Nature

Facts and figures

The Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund was announced in April's budget, and raises money through a tax on every tonne of rock taken from quarries.

Around £360 million is expected to be raised through the levy on aggregates extraction this year and 10 per cent of this will go into the Fund.

English Heritage, the Countryside Agency and English Nature will equally share £16 million this year from which to distribute the grants, and £13.5 million next year.

The money will only be available until March 2004, so groups should contact English Nature immediately to take advantage of the grants on offer.

Information packs and application forms are available on the English Nature website, www.english-nature.org.uk, or contact Sally Allen on 01476 584 821.

applications – RIGS groups and other voluntary bodies. There are a lot of projects that can benefit, particularly with funding for the less glamorous aspects of conservation, such as all the research people have to put in. It's a great opportunity - I think English Nature will be inundated with applications."

Clearing pines off Bettisfield Moss using a skyline and harvester.

Bettisfield – back from the brink

Bringing boggy biodiversity back to Fenn's, Whixall & Bettisfield Mosses National Nature Reserve (NNR) has been a difficult and, due to tree felling, controversial battle. But with nesting curlews back, sheets of cotton sedge flowering and bogmoss thriving, it is one that staff at the site are winning.

Clearing pine trees at the NNR, on the Wrexham and Shropshire border, has released 52 hectares of Bettisfield Moss from the threat of extinction, including the NNR's largest areas of uncut peat. In the end, it took just 13 months to clear the trees, using specialist equipment, and cost over £275,000 – quite a challenge.

Besides facing public opposition to the tree felling, staff have also had to call in large-scale clearance experts, deal with the collapse of the timber market, the withdrawal of a contractor, over 8 metres of jelly-like peat, and even the weather has been against them.



J Robinson

Curlew have bred on felled areas this spring.

"There have been difficult times, and even unpleasant ones for staff," said Site Manager Joan Daniels. "In 1994, when English Nature and the Countryside Council for Wales (CCW) announced

the need to save Bettisfield Moss, there were petitions, letters to local MPs and the press, public meetings and demands for tree felling work to stop. Gradually, through negotiation, people's concerns about marginal trees, increased run-off from the Moss, timber wagons and supposed loss of wildlife were addressed."

Previous small-scale work to clear access tracks and clearings by hand instantly demonstrated the need for a larger-scale approach. In 1996, responses to a tender to clear the whole Moss varied from a 'clear it for the timber' offer to a cost of over a quarter of a million pounds. A six-year contract at no-cost was granted in 1996 to the owner of a Vimek Mini-master (a mini-tractor and self-driven trailer).

Unfortunately, following the collapse of the timber market, limited funds for subsidising the operation, and horrendous weather, the Vimek's limited capacity resulted in the contractor withdrawing in spring 2000.

"All was not lost, though," Joan said. "In 2000, repeated bids for large-scale

Onwards and upwards

The protection of Bettisfield Moss has been an uphill battle – but one that is finally reaching the top.

up to c1970

Peat cutters kept the raised bog open by burning it.

1991

English Nature and CCW acquire the NNR. Most of Bettisfield Moss is covered by pines up to 20 metres in height, with internationally important bog plants being rapidly replaced by brambles, ferns, birch and pine.

1994

English Nature and CCW announce the need to save Bettisfield Moss - local opposition to tree felling mounted.

1996

Six year contract with the Vimek owner agreed.

2000 – 2002

Vimek contractor withdraws.

£25,000 granted from English Nature's Recovery programme, plus post-Foot and Mouth funding

Clearance completed by Euroforest and RCJ Davies of Buckley, Flintshire, in 13 months, at a cost of over £275,000.

The work is demonstrated to peatland managers facing similar challenges.

Wrexham County Borough Council's Biodiversity Action Plan launched onsite by MEP, Karen Sinclair.

funds resulted in £25,000 from English Nature's Recovery programme. And

amazingly, as a result of repeated begging by me, funds released nationally, because of Foot and Mouth, helped us complete the clearance in May this year. RCJ Davies staff, sub-contractors to Euroforest, floated 46 tonnes of machinery on the bog without losing any of it!

"Now all that remains is the intense efforts of site staff and the BTCV to stop the Moss turning back into a jungle, while bog plants re-establish."

A detailed report including the many lessons learned, can be obtained from joan.daniels@english-nature.org.uk

Changes to English Nature Area Teams

English Nature has adjusted some local operating areas to bring itself into line with Government Regional Office boundaries. Some of our teams have changed names to reflect this change.

The move is designed to make it easier for our Area Teams to deal more effectively with issues raised by national and European government initiatives and regional policy making.

National Office

Northminster House,
Peterborough PE1 1UA
Tel: +44 (0)1733 455000
Fax: +44 (0)1733 568834
Web: www.english-nature.org.uk

1 Northumbria Team

Darlington, Durham, Hartlepool,
Middlesbrough, Northumberland,
Redcar and Cleveland, Stockton-on-Tees,
Tyne and Wear
Stocksfield Hall, Stocksfield,
Northumberland NE43 7TN
Tel: +44 (0)1661 845500
Fax: +44 (0)1661 845501
Email: northumbria@english-nature.org.uk
Team Manager: Tony Laws

2 Cumbria Team

Juniper House, Murley Moss,
Oxenholme Road, Kendal,
Cumbria LA9 7RL
Tel: +44 (0)1539 792800
Fax: +44 (0)1539 792830
Email: cumbria@english-nature.org.uk
Team Manager: Des O'Halloran

3 Cheshire to Lancashire Team

Lancashire, Greater Manchester,
Merseyside and Cheshire
Pier House, Wallgate, Wigan,
Lancashire WN3 4AL
Tel: +44 (0)1942 820342
Fax: +44 (0)1942 820364
Email: northwest@english-nature.org.uk
Team Manager: Paul Glading

4 North & East Yorkshire Team

East Riding of Yorkshire
(excluding area west of Goole),
Kingston-Upon-Hull & North Yorkshire
Genesis 1, University Road,
Heslington, York YO10 5ZQ
Tel: +44 (0)1904 435500
Fax: +44 (0)1904 435520
Email: york@english-nature.org.uk
**Team Manager:
Dr Lawrence Jones-Walters**

4a Leyburn Office

Yorkshire Dales
Asquith House, Leyburn Business Park,
Harmby Road, Leyburn DL8 5QA
Tel: +44 (0)1969 623447
Fax: +44 (0)1969 621298
Email: leyburn@english-nature.org.uk

5 Humber to Pennines Team

East Riding of Yorkshire
(area west of Goole), North East
Lincolnshire, North Lincolnshire,
South Yorkshire & West Yorkshire
Bull Ring House, Northgate,
Wakefield, West Yorkshire WF1 3BJ
Tel: +44 (0)1924 334500
Fax: +44 (0)1924 201507
Email: humber.pennines@english-nature.org.uk
Team Manager: Jeff Lunn

6 East Midlands Region – Eastern Area Team

Leicester City, Nottingham City,
Leicestershire, Lincolnshire,
Nottinghamshire, Northamptonshire
& Rutland
The Maltings, Wharf Road, Grantham,
Lincolnshire NG31 6BH
Tel: +44 (0)1476 584800
Fax: +44 (0)1476 584838
Email: eastmidlands@english-nature.org.uk
Team Manager: Rick Keymer

7 East Midlands Region – Peak District & Derbyshire Team

Peak District National Park,
Derbyshire & Derby City
Manor Barn, Over Haddon, Bakewell,
Derbyshire DE45 1JE
Tel: +44 (0)1629 816640
Fax: +44 (0)1629 815091
Email: peak.derbys@english-nature.org.uk
Team Manager: Tom Moat

8 North Mercia Team

Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin,
Staffordshire, Stoke-on-Trent,
Birmingham, Dudley, Sandwell,
Walsall and Wolverhampton
Attingham Park, Shrewsbury,
Shropshire SY4 4TW
Tel: +44 (0)1743 282000
Fax: +44 (0)1743 709303
Email: north.mercia@english-nature.org.uk
Team Manager: Peter Knights

8a Warwickshire Office

10/11 Butchers Row,
Banbury, Oxfordshire OX16 5JH
Tel: +44 (0)1295 257601
Fax: +44 (0)1295 257602
Email: north.mercia@english-nature.org.uk

9 Herefordshire and Worcestershire Team

Bronsil House, Eastnor, Nr Ledbury
Herefordshire HR8 1EP
Tel: +44 (0)1531 638500
Fax: +44 (0)1531 638501
Email: herefordshire.worcestershire@english-nature.org.uk
Team Manager: Rob Williams

10 Bedfordshire and Cambridgeshire Team

Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire,
Peterborough and Luton
Ham Lane House, Ham Lane, Nene Park,
Orton Waterville, Peterborough PE2 5UR
Tel: +44 (0)1733 405850
Fax: +44 (0)1733 394093
Email: beds.cambs@english-nature.org.uk
Team Manager: Sarah Fendley

11 Norfolk Team

60 Bracondale, Norwich,
Norfolk NR1 2BE
Tel: +44 (0)1603 620558
Fax: +44 (0)1603 762552
Email: norfolk@english-nature.org.uk
Team Manager: Rob Cooke

12 Suffolk Team

Regent House, 110 Northgate Street,
Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk IP33 1HP
Tel: +44 (0)1284 762218
Fax: +44 (0)1284 764318
Email: suffolk@english-nature.org.uk
Team Manager: Richard Rafe

13 Essex, Hertfordshire and London Team

Colchester Office, Harbour House,
Hythe Quay, Colchester,
Essex CO2 8JF
Tel: +44 (0)1206 796666
Fax: +44 (0)1206 794466
Email: essex.herts@english-nature.org.uk
Team Manager: Greg Smith

13a London Office

Ormond House, 26/27 Boswell Street,
London WC1N 3JZ
Tel: +44 (0)20 7831 6922
Fax: +44 (0)20 7404 3369
Email: london@english-nature.org.uk

14 Kent Team

The Countryside Management Centre,
Coldharbour Farm, Wye,
Ashford, Kent TN25 5DB
Tel: +44 (0)1233 812525
Fax: +44 (0)1233 812520
Email: kent@english-nature.org.uk
Team Manager: Teresa Bennett

15 Sussex & Surrey Team

Brighton & Hove, East Sussex,
West Sussex & Surrey
Phoenix House, 32-33 North Street,
Lewes, East Sussex BN7 2PH
Tel: +44 (0)1273 476595
Fax: +44 (0)1273 483063
Email: sussex.surrey@english-nature.org.uk
Team Manager: Chris Edwards

16 Thames & Chilterns Team

Berkshire, Buckinghamshire
and Oxfordshire
Foxhold House, Thornford Road,
Crookham Common, Thatcham,
Berkshire RG19 8EL
Tel: +44 (0)1635 268881
Fax: +44 (0)1635 268940
Email: thames.chilterns@english-nature.org.uk
Team Manager: Alan Law

17 Hampshire & Isle of Wight Team

Hampshire, Isle of Wight,
Portsmouth & Southampton
1 Southampton Road,
Lyndhurst, Hampshire SO43 7BU
Tel: +44 (0)23 8028 6410
Fax: +44 (0)23 8028 3834
Email: hants.iwight@english-nature.org.uk
Team Manager: Rob Wolton

18 Wiltshire Team

Swindon & Wiltshire
Prince Maurice Court, Hambleton Avenue,
Devizes, Wiltshire SN10 2RT
Tel: +44 (0)1380 726344
Fax: +44 (0)1380 721411
Email: wiltshire@english-nature.org.uk
Team Manager: Gerry Hamersley

19 Dorset Team

Dorset, Bournemouth & Poole
Slepe Farm, Arne,
Wareham, Dorset BH20 5BN
Tel: +44 (0)1929 557450
Fax: +44 (0)1929 554752
Email: dorset@english-nature.org.uk
Team Manager: Jim White

20 Somerset & Gloucestershire Team

Gloucestershire, Bristol, Bath,
North East Somerset and North Somerset
Roughmoor, Bishop's Hull,
Taunton, Somerset TA1 5AA
Tel: +44 (0)1823 283211
Fax: +44 (0)1823 272978
Email: somerset@english-nature.org.uk
Team Manager: Andy King

20a Somerset & Gloucestershire Team – Gloucestershire Office

Bronsil House, Eastnor, Nr Ledbury,
Herefordshire HR8 1EP
Tel: +44 (0)1531 638500
Fax: +44 (0)1531 638501
Email: somerset@english-nature.org.uk

21 Devon Team

Level 2, Renslade House, Bonhay Road,
Exeter EX4 3AW
Tel: +44 (0)1392 889770
Fax: +44 (0)1392 437999
Email: devon@english-nature.org.uk
Team Manager: Philip Collins

22 Cornwall & Isles of Scilly Team

Trevint House, Strangways Villas,
Truro, Cornwall TR1 2PA
Tel: +44 (0) 1872 265710
Fax: +44 (0) 1872 262551
Email: cornwall@english-nature.org.uk
Team Manager: Stephen Warman



NNRs

more than meets the eye...

National Nature Reserves (NNRs) are clearly important in raising public appreciation of England's wildlife and natural beauty. But for many people and organisations, they also play a much broader social and practical role.

England's wilder spaces hold a great attraction for many people. Away from the grind of modern life, they provide a good opportunity to unwind and recharge batteries. But, by the same token, they can also prove treacherous for individuals, particularly those unprepared for poor weather conditions and isolated from help. It's in these cases that organisations such as the National Search And Rescue Dog Association (SARDA) can mean the difference between life and death.

A voluntary body, SARDA England is responsible for training mountain rescue team members to become handlers of search and rescue dogs. Such dogs hunt for missing persons, predominantly in the mountains and high moorlands, but also increasingly in lowland, rural and urban areas of Britain. To remain effective, they have to train all year round in a variety of extreme conditions – conditions

that aren't always available. Fortunately English Nature has been able to help.

"Our team in the Peak District has been using the Derbyshire Dales NNR to train our dogs and handlers for the last 12 years at least," says Isobel Manning, Secretary of SARDA England and a handler with the Edale Mountain Rescue Team. "Back then, one of our dog handlers happened to be an English Nature voluntary reserve warden and recognised that two of its five dales offered just the mix of steep and slippery conditions that we require. This was ideal as we can only train on the high moors such as Kinder Scout for the second half of the year and needed somewhere for the first. We approached English Nature for permission

and have since built up a good relationship with their Peak District and Derbyshire team, which is responsible for the site. Provided we respect their restrictions, we can continue using the site for training and assessment."

SARDA training in the Peak District focuses on Cressbrook and Monk's Dales, which combine the type of crags, difficult wind conditions, and relative isolation needed for the work. This normally involves three handlers and dogs working individually to locate up to four 'dogsbodies' – volunteers pretending to be missing walkers. "The dogs search by scent carried on the air rather than by following a trail," continues Isobel. "This means that as long as the dog is searching downwind of a casualty or items which carry human scent, they should find them."

Although based in the Peak District, Isobel and her black labrador 'Baggage' have been called to help by police and other mountain rescue teams as far away as Norfolk, Milton Keynes and Wales. Last year they located an elderly man in Stoke-on-Trent who became lost while bird watching. He was found suffering from severe hypothermia. Twenty more minutes and he would have been dead.

When considering permission for any activity on the NNR, Ben Le Bas, English Nature's local Site Manager, has to consider the likely impact on the wildlife and livestock on the reserve. "We obviously want to make sure that the sheep and cattle that use the reserve aren't affected so, in this case, the dogs are only allowed on once the grazing season is finished in December."

Dave Coss and Isobel Manning who use Cressbrook Dale NNR to train their search and rescue dogs Sally and Baggage.



Search and rescue dogs Sally and Baggage next to the Cressbrook Dale NNR sign

Another potential issue is that the SARDA dogs are always required to work off the lead, which could send out the wrong message to dog walkers also using the reserve. "We require that dogs be kept 'under control' rather than specifically on a lead, but I wouldn't want everyone to think that this is a free-for-all for dogs," adds Ben. "Signs are put up clearly stating that this is an exercise involving highly trained dogs – dogs which are trained not to be distracted by livestock or birds and to work closely with their handlers."

But it is by no means just SARDA that request to use the reserve for alternative activities. "NNRs mean different things to different people and we are always getting requests for permits to undertake a range of activities," he continues. "Hang-gliding, burials, memorial benches, orienteering – we have to consider these against the concerns of the wildlife without bringing any of our own pre-conceptions to bear. Ours is a fairly hardy reserve, yet others may have ground-nesting birds or sensitive species that will rule out all but the most subtle of activities."

"Most people will ask for permission, our contact details are clearly visible as you enter the NNR, but a few won't. It's not open access (though in a few years time much of the reserve is likely to be open under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act) and visitors are restricted to the footpaths, but some don't realise that. We once found a whole team of firemen bridging a river in the NNR who seemed surprised when I asked what they were doing there without a permit."

"I guess we really do rely on the public to be our eyes and ears in the reserve to monitor this kind of thing. We will never have sufficient staff to completely supervise 335 hectares. Fortunate then that we have 10 volunteer wardens to help us."

Now is the time for... bumblebees

Continuing in our expert series, English Nature Invertebrate Ecologist Dr David Sheppard tells us why the number of bumblebees is declining in this country and what is being done to help give them a boost.

"Bumblebees are a familiar sight across the country during the summertime, but they are not as abundant now as they were just a few decades ago.

Indeed, bumblebee species *Bombus cullumanus* died out in the 1940s, *Bombus subterraneus* had gone by

1990 and others, such as *Bombus sylvarum*, are restricted to a few dozen nests in five areas of southern England and Wales.

At present, there are 22 species of bumblebee in the UK, of which six are brood parasites (cuckoos on other bumblebees) and 16 are fully social

species, which live in nests either underground or on the soil surface.

The reason why our bumblebees are struggling is that they need to feed their young red clover pollen, and this is becoming increasingly more difficult for them to find in sufficient quantity.

A lot of red clover is sown, but usually as a silage crop, which is cut before it flowers. Hay meadows management is little better because the food resource necessary to raise a brood is removed over a wide area very suddenly just at the time when

bumblebees have the largest number of young to feed.

This means that bumblebees have to forage over very large areas in order to collect enough pollen for their broods. In areas where forage is abundant, a full pollen load can be collected in about twenty minutes. In areas where forage is scarce, this takes about two and a half hours.

However, there is hope for the future. The Countryside Stewardship Scheme offers a bumblebee seed mix option and several seed companies now offer

seed mixes specifically formulated for bumblebee forage. Establishment and management trials are underway in Kent and Yorkshire and much is being learned, and re-learned, about red clover and other legume varieties.

A leaflet entitled *Help save the Bumblebee...get more buzz from the countryside* has also been produced by the UK BAP Bumblebee Working Group. Copies are available from our Enquiry Service or in larger quantities from me."

WHEN NATURE CALLS

It's quiet. Too quiet!

The pond enquiries have dried up, so to speak, but the expected rush of bat and snake calls has not yet materialised.

One reason must be the typical British summer weather of low cloud, drizzle and chilly breezes that has plagued us for what seems like weeks. But what a fantastic spring it has been for hedgerow blossom! Sadly we still get questions about the legality of uprooting hedges or cutting taking place at the peak time for nesting birds. Callers often seem to think there is a statutory ban on hedge work from April until July but, as far as I know, this is not the case. It's a recommendation based on common sense!

Our new colleague, Sarah, is settling in well and enjoying the variety of enquiries. She was rather taken aback this week to be asked about a white eagle seen over Peterborough! I expect it was a heron or just possibly a white stork, unless our caller had just come from a hostelry.

Have you seen the new Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) wildlife advice section on the Internet? It's worth a look, and covers badgers, deer, moles, rabbits and 'pest' birds. Access it at www.defra.gov.uk/wildlife-countryside/vertebrates

By Dick Seamons
English Nature's Enquiry Service

Farming – the natural way

Despite the pressures of intensive farming and Foot and Mouth disease, the outlook for the smaller, traditionally wildlife-friendly farm is by no means bleak. David Chapman, a livestock farmer with a smallholding in Cornwall, shows how English Nature is lending its support.

Over the past fifty years farmers have been encouraged, through subsidies, to use pesticides and insecticides and to rip out hedges so that we can compete with the prairie-sized farms of America. The question is whether we want to take part in this competition. Seventy-five per cent of our land is used for farming and yet agriculture, contributing around £7 billion to the economy, accounts for only one per cent of our GDP! Food has never been so cheap; we do not need to drive down prices any more. Then there is the toll on our wildlife. We're already failing to meet national targets for addressing the decline in birds, and little wonder when the insects and 'weeds' that they depend on are regularly killed by our use of chemicals.

Why don't we play instead to our strengths? Our landscape is enormously varied and rich in biodiversity, and many farmers are already taking advantage of this. Rural tourism, for example, generates £12 billion for our economy and is on the up. Farmers are not daft and realise that diversification is the way to make a living. English Nature is also looking carefully at the way in which its land is managed and is now encouraging a growing number of visitors to its National Nature Reserves.

"...Mel told me that he would rather see farmers paid for increasing the number of breeding birds on their land, than for over-producing cheap food."

Now I don't regard myself as a radical and am not suggesting that we gamble the future of our country on an untested idea, so last week I visited Melvin Yeandle, the site warden of Shapwick Heath, in Somerset. This site is owned and managed by English Nature which actually spends tax-payer's money incredibly effectively here with a vision that is simple and honest. The site, which is a huge 1,300 acres, is split into two parts: a 1,000 acre National Nature Reserve (NNR), and 300 acres of organic farm.

The farm has many paddocks of one acre in size. These small fields are bounded by old hedgerows, protecting the land from the ravages of

The future of farming? Intensive farming and its featureless expanses aren't the only way forward. Many farmers are diversifying, some into wildlife-friendly organic farming. English Nature is supporting one such move on its Shapwick Heath NNR in Somerset.



the weather and man's use of large machinery. The paddocks were once used to provide keep for individual horses in the days when they were used to transport goods from the nearby railway line. The line is long gone and, but for the second half of the twentieth century, this land was worked by a farmer who didn't use chemicals and who maintained the pastures and paddocks as they were. During the middle of the twentieth century English Nature noted the value of the land for wildlife and declared the site a NNR. In 1994, lottery money was used to purchase the land and in the last couple of years the farm has been used to rear an organic herd of red Devon cattle. The herd currently stands at 30 strong, but Mel would like to see this rise to around 90. The meat will be sold locally and, since it will be organic and wildlife-friendly, it should sell at a premium. The land is leased to a local farmer, but English Nature now places strict conditions on its use.

The meadows within this protected area are managed on a three-year cycle. Each field experiences a year of grazing, followed by a cut of hay, followed by a fallow year. This allows insects to complete their life-cycles and flowers to set seed for subsequent years. Of the noteworthy species, there are six species of orchid, including frog and lesser butterfly orchids (see picture above), and several parasitic plants including heath lousewort and eyebright. Once-common flowers grow at great densities, making these easily the best meadows for wildlife in Somerset, and it doesn't take rocket science to maintain them.

When visiting the site it isn't possible to look at the farm in isolation. Surrounding it is an apparent wilderness of reedbeds and lakes interspersed with shelter belts of alder. Within this 'wilderness' a vast number of rare and unusual species thrive. Water voles are common, bitterns are staging a comeback, Cetti's warblers explode into song from every corner and the presence of otters is apparent,

more from their tracks and signs than from actual sightings. Pathways make access easy and hides are placed so that people can enjoy the wildlife without causing it disturbance.

I was curious to know what sort of money could be made from farming in such an extensive manner on these agriculturally poor soils. English Nature pays a subsidy to the farmer to manage the area for wildlife and Mel told me that he would rather see farmers paid for increasing the number of breeding birds on their land, than for over-producing cheap food. He stressed that he didn't hold farmers responsible for the decline of our wildlife: they have only ever responded to demands placed upon them by successive agricultural policies.

Currently around £3 billion is paid to farmers in agricultural subsidy. Less than 10 per cent of that is for environmental reasons, leaving over 90 per cent for the production of food. Isn't it time we achieved a more even balance in those figures? We live in an age where people have seen the effects of intensive farming and want more honesty, accountability and traceability. It is time for us to support organic farmers whenever we can and buy local produce from people that we know we can trust. The small premium we pay for organic produce is worth it for our conscience and our wildlife. As well as acting locally we must think globally by joining conservation groups which are large enough to make our voices heard. The Wildlife Trust has over a third of a million members and the RSPB, whose chief executive is a member of the 'Food and Farming Policy Commission', has over one million members. English Nature is working hard to reverse the decline of wild species in Britain and if we enjoy our countryside then we must stop taking it for granted. To steal a line from India, "we must live as if we will die tomorrow, but farm as if we will live forever."

Shapwick Heath is near Street in Somerset. Parking for the National Nature Reserve and farm is at the Peat Moors Centre on the road north from Shapwick village. Further details of access and activities can be obtained from Melvin Yeandle on 01458 860120.

Free as a kite

Thanks to the most recent English re-introduction project, red kites are once more in the skies above Yorkshire. But there's more work to be done by English Nature and its partners if this still endangered bird is to thrive.

It's shaping up to be a success story of the best sort. Once a common bird, by 1900 the red kite was driven to extinction in England and Scotland under the mistaken belief that it was a threat to livestock and gamebirds. Not until the Nature Conservancy Council (now English Nature) and the RSPB intervened in 1989 was positive action taken to restore the balance: a re-introduction programme that has since established populations in the Chilterns, Midlands and now Yorkshire, as well as Scotland.

Unlike other areas, Yorkshire's kite population is not yet self-sustaining. Launched in 1999, and supported by English Nature, the RSPB, Yorkshire Water, and the Harewood Estate where it is based, the project has so far released some 40 birds, just half of its eventual target of 80. Taken at about four weeks old from nests in the Chilterns, the chicks are kept in specially built pens for a further four to five weeks before being released as fledglings in July or August.

As Project Officer, a role supported by all four partners, Doug Simpson is also responsible for monitoring the birds' whereabouts and welfare. This he does by means of tiny radio transmitters attached to the tail feathers of individual birds. "Each bird has its own frequency and can also be identified by coloured and numbered wing tags," says Doug. "Think of them as registration plates as there's no telling where the birds will go once we release them. One bird we released in 1999 hasn't, to my knowledge, been beyond the boundaries of the Harewood estate, while others have settled within a few miles or as far away as East Yorkshire."

Even though much of the countryside has changed since kites were commonplace, much of Yorkshire still remains suitable for them. As scavengers, the mixture of pasture, rough grassland, arable farmland and woodland found in many areas meets their dietary requirements (largely animal and bird carcasses plus small mammals and invertebrates) and provides good tree cover for nesting.

"I simply follow the birds and, where they settle, make approaches to the landowner. Thankfully, attitudes have changed and most gamekeepers don't see red kites as any sort of threat to their pheasants and partridges. I have known some to leave out the carcasses of rabbits they have shot for kites and buzzards. Others have been quite proud of breeding pairs of such birds on their estates. It's really a case of developing these partnerships for the good of the birds."



Doug Simpson

In order to ensure continual high level and consistent support for the project, the four main partners meet every three to four months to discuss progress and wider issues that may impact on the project. "One of

these is public awareness," says Tim Page, Assistant Conservation Officer with English Nature's Humber to Pennines team. "For example, we'll have a stand at this year's Great Yorkshire Show where people can find out about the project. One of the messages is how this spectacular, but unfamiliar, bird can thrive alongside us while re-occupying its rightful place in the ecosystem."

To further this approach, the four project partners, in conjunction with Harewood House Trust, have recently created the position of Yorkshire Red Kite Education Officer, which has just been filled by Marie Bowness.

"This is an exciting two-year education and outreach project in which my role will be to develop an inspiring education programme aimed at young people and adults in the local community. I shall be working with a selection of local schools and liaising with teachers to integrate my programme with aspects of the National Curriculum, but the ultimate goals of the project are to: inspire the public, particularly young people, to take an interest in the red kites; to learn about the life cycle of a kite; and to gain a further understanding of conservation issues."

From here, Marie will also create community links. "Red kites haven't been seen in Yorkshire for 150 years so it is a great opportunity to show local people conservation in action on their doorstep."

Early breeding success at Harewood

While just half way to the estimated 80 releases required for the population to be self-sustaining, early breeding success has been a notable feature of the Yorkshire project so far. Project Officer, Doug Simpson explains:

"We've had some significant early breeding in our first two years – more so than the other projects – which is very encouraging. In the summer of 1999, 20 newly fledged birds were released, which we expected to breed at two to three years of age. However, a rehabilitated older female, released at the same time, quickly paired up with a young male and produced two chicks the very next summer. That male is already a grandfather at two years of age!"

While only 19 birds were released in 2000, no less than 8 pairs went on to breed in 2001 producing 15 more chicks. After the Foot and Mouth restrictions of last year, the next releases are due to take place in July.

"While breeding has been a success so far, we now find ourselves with significantly more male birds than females. The main reason is that it's very hard to test the chicks for gender. Under a contract with English Nature, the Institute for Zoology in London carries out a health check on all of the chicks selected for release and determines the sex by blood test, the results not usually being known until after the birds have been released.

"To try and redress the balance, this year we're seeking to pool all of the chicks available from the Chilterns in Harewood, initially including those bound for a project in Scotland. Once the genders are established, we will then be able to choose the mix of sexes for our release in July."

WHAT'S ON? GUIDE

JULY

JUL 21

Cavenham Heath NNR discovery trail

A walk around the Cavenham Heath NNR, Suffolk, to see wild plants and animals. From 2.30 to 4pm.

JUL 28

Find out why peat is best left at the bog

At Solway Mosses NNR (Glasson Moss), Cumbria. 2 to 4.30pm - meet at the reserve entrance.

Contact: Frank Mawby, 01697 351517

JUL 28

Pond dipping Castle Eden Dene NNR

2 to 4 pm. Booking required, disabled access.

Contact: Melanie Hall, 0191 5182403

JUL 31

Cultural history of Lathkill Dale NNR

From 10am. Booking is essential.

Contact: 01629 815095 for further info

AUGUST

AUG 4

Peek at reptiles Holt Heath NNR, Dorset

Meet at 9am at Whitesheet car park.

Contact: Derek Gane, 01929 557450.

AUG 11

Wetland Wildlife

Help clear the pond at Chobham Common NNR, Surrey. Meet at the Village car park at 10am. No dogs please. Wear old clothes and wellies, and prepare to get muddy.

Contact: 01276 858291 for further info.

AUG 14

Bog creature biodiversity workshop

At Fenn's, Whixall & Bettisfield Moss NNR with Pete Boardman & Ian Cheeseman. Meet at Manor House 9.30am.

Contact: Joan Daniels, 01948 880362

AUG 17

Woodland craft day

Castle Eden Dene NNR, Northumbria.

11 to 4pm – booking required, disabled access.

Contact: Melanie Hall, 0191 5182403

AUG 18

Family Day Smardale NNR, Cumbria

Activities include guided walks and a children's trail. Meet at Smardale Hall car park at 10.30 am.

Contact: Rachel Osborn, 015394 48280

AUG 28

'As You Like It' Hatfield Forest NNR

Enjoy a cultural evening when Illyria presents an adaptation of Shakespeare's As You Like It. Gates open 6.30 pm. Adults £8.50. Children £6.00 (5-16 years). Free for under 5s. Car parking: £1 per car, National Trust members free.

Contact: 01223 207001, office hours only

SEPTEMBER

SEP 4-8

Book sale Hatfield Forest NNR

from 11am – 3pm from 4 to 6 September and 11am – 5pm on 7 and 8 September.

SEP 8

Seal watch Teesmouth NNR

At 11 and noon. Meet at Teesmouth Field Centre (at Hartlepool Power Station). Booking is essential.

Contact: Mike Leakey, 01429 853325.

For further details call the contact numbers printed or visit english-nature.org.uk

This female red kite, released at Harewood in 2000, has since paired up and produced a chick.

(Right) Two nesting red kite chicks.

Nature for People

Investing for more wildlife

The restoration of Woodwalton (pictured) and Holme Fen NNRs involves three complementary measures: regaining control of water levels on the reserves; reducing scrub on the fen habitats; and reducing fragmentation by recreating new habitat on land between the two reserves. Improved and new access for the public to both these reserves will be created.

A £10 million boost is helping English Nature protect wildlife and bring it closer to people through the Nature for People project.

The award, from the Treasury's Capital Modernisation Fund, will restore some of our most degraded wildlife habitats and provide access to sites, information about our wildlife and opportunities to become more engaged in conservation. Nature for People will, for example, make National Nature Reserves (NNRs) more visible, particularly to physically disadvantaged visitors, through new sensory trails and better interpretation and signage.

"Nature for People is ultimately about giving the public a richer experience of England's wildlife," said John Torlesse, Nature for People Project Manager. "Some of our most precious habitats are gradually declining as a result of the policies and management decisions of the past, and we need to put right these legacies before we can move forward with the appropriate management."

The Nature for People project, which will run for two years, aims to restore degraded lakes, fens, raised bogs, coasts and uplands across England through targeting a selection of sites, including our National Nature Reserves.

"England's fens illustrate one area where investment is needed to restore wildlife," John said. "Intensive agriculture surrounding our fens has gradually whittled them down to a few fragmented and isolated sites in the east of the country. We need, in certain places, to extend and link up these vulnerable habitats and to restore control over water levels.

"Similarly, overgrazing of our uplands by sheep has led to a steady decline in the heather and wildlife of these areas. Combined with excessive burning, drainage and atmospheric pollution, conditions have got so bad in parts of

Nature for People is aiming to achieve:

- restoration of degraded habitats from the Lakes to the New Forest, to the swathes of moorland amongst England's highest mountains;
- major additions to existing wildlife areas through re-creation of new coastal wetlands on the Humber estuary and fenlands in the Fens, Cambridgeshire;
- pioneering new techniques to restore eroded wildlife black spots in the Peak District;
- radical opening up of information on wildlife – via a new website – to enable people to discover and safeguard local wildlife and geology;
- putting National Nature Reserves and their wildlife and geological treasures on the map through national upgrading of access and signage across the country; and
- an all-out bid to gain new recruits for wildlife including on-line signing up and participation in the development of nature conservation policies via the Web.

the Peak District as to lose the vegetation cover entirely, exposing the peat beneath to serious erosion. Investment through Nature for People will help us re-vegetate these areas."

Nature for People will also be tapping into new technologies through a new website, Nature On-line. People will be able to explore the wildlife and reserves within their locality, through increased access to information on sites and, for example, visual tours of our NNRs. Volunteering opportunities and school projects will become within reach of many more.

Peter Walley/English Nature