

Annual report

1 April 2000 - 31 March 2001



working today
for nature tomorrow

Introduction

English Nature's mission is to ensure that future generations can enjoy a wealth of wildlife as a major part of their quality of life. We also promote the protection and understanding of our geological heritage. We are the government wildlife adviser, with powers and duties to protect and enhance the natural heritage throughout England.

We own and manage many National Nature Reserves, which represent the very best of our natural heritage. There are more than 200, covering around 820 square kilometres. Those we do not manage ourselves are looked after by carefully selected organisations, including government agencies, voluntary conservation organisations, local authorities and the private sector.

We are responsible for Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs). These are places that are protected because of their special wildlife or geology. There are currently well over 4,000 SSSIs, mostly in private ownership, covering about seven and a half percent of the area of England. We work in partnership with about 26,000 SSSI owners or

occupiers to maintain and enhance these special places. There are rules and regulations about what can be done on SSSIs, but in most cases these reinforce existing good management. Through this site series, we contribute to fulfilling the UK's international obligations to select Natura 2000 sites (under the Habitats and Birds Directives) and Ramsar sites (under the Ramsar Convention on the conservation of wetlands).

Designated sites alone are not enough to sustain England's biodiversity and geological heritage. They cannot exist as isolated islands but are part of a wider Lifescape. We work in the wider countryside to restore degraded or impoverished landscapes in order to improve their life-supporting functions. This will contribute to meeting UK Biodiversity Action Plan targets and improve the quality of the environment for everyone.

Contents

Foreword from the Chair

2

Designated sites

5

Biodiversity and the wider countryside

17

People and policies

23

Modernising and managing English Nature

35

Science

39

Appendices

Council Members

43

Summary financial statement

44

Glossary

47

Local Teams and National Office contacts

48

More information about our work, including statistics on subjects in this report, can be found on our website.

www.english-nature.org.uk

Foreword from the Chair

The past year has been eventful for English Nature and the environment as a whole.

The Countryside and Rights of Way Act gives us, for the first time, real protection for Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), our best wildlife sites. We believe that it is important that people can experience nature first hand, and welcome the provisions in the Act for increased responsible access to the countryside. Biodiversity is a major factor in making many landscapes attractive to visitors, who bring in significant income to the rural economy.

The news has been dominated since February with foot and mouth disease. This has been a dreadful time for livestock farmers, notably in Cumbria and Devon. The rural economy as a whole has been hit, not least by the resultant decline in tourism, and with many of our most valuable wildlife sites being dependent on grazing, the effect on SSSIs is still to be determined. However, it is important that we look to the future and take this chance to review much of our

policy on agriculture. Heavy grazing regimes in the uplands have meant that 70% of heathland and grassland SSSIs are in unfavourable condition, a major challenge to achieving the Government's Public Service Agreement target of 95% of all SSSIs in favourable condition by 2010. Farmers are central to maintaining our SSSIs but to do this they need help with support for sustainable practices rather than for production. Reform of the Common Agricultural Policy is crucial to achieving this, but there is more that can be done with the current powers available to Government.

We recognise the importance that the Government attaches to our work, reflected in their setting favourable SSSI condition as a PSA target. However, our welcome budget increase for this year is only a start. Considerably more resources are needed if we are to help Government to achieve its 2010 target.

The autumn floods had a devastating impact on the lives of many town dwellers. This may be a further sign that the much

talked about climate change is already with us. A chance also for us to learn some lessons about the type and location of housing, and about integrated floodplain management, which would be better for wildlife and would offer some protection to property in affected areas.

Climate change is going to have a major impact on much of our wildlife, and if our best examples are restricted to special “islands” with little biodiversity between they will have no flexibility to move with the climate. This means that we need to ensure that the wider environment is managed more sympathetically, linking the special areas. Our Lifescapes approach seeks to address this in ways that make gains for biodiversity, while taking account of community and economy.

It is good to know that our advice is taken seriously. Our staff are involved in discussions with Treasury over proposed environmental taxes, in Europe over the proposed Sustainability Strategy, and with many partners in trying to ensure that wildlife and geological conservation gets a seat at the policy table.

As I take up the reins, I would like to thank my predecessor Barbara Young for her period of inspired leadership and Dr David Norman, who has bridged the gap superbly in the intervening time.

Sponsorship by the new Government Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs creates the opportunity for our work to be driven forward within an integrated sustainable framework, not just in rural areas but also in urban, coastal and marine environments.

We should seize this opportunity with enthusiasm.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Doughty', with a stylized, flowing script.

Sir Martin Doughty
Chair





Vital to our approach to nature conservation is the protection of a coherent network of special sites. These safeguard for present and future generations the finest of England's wildlife and natural features. They provide safe havens for our biological resources and demonstrate the geological processes that shaped the Earth. Our objective is to maintain a series of special sites, including Sites of Special Scientific Interest and National Nature Reserves, that is well managed and in favourable condition. Well over half of SSSI land is internationally important and is designated as Natura 2000 sites under the EU Birds and Habitats Directives, or as Ramsar sites under the Convention on wetlands of international importance.

Sites of Special Scientific Interest

England's Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) are our finest sites for wildlife and geology. Approximately one million hectares of land in England are notified as SSSIs, which is about seven and a half per cent of the area of England. Some SSSIs are very small - about 130 are less than half a hectare. Others cover thousands of hectares.

Designated sites

The largest is The Wash, an area of intertidal mudflats of great importance for its waterfowl and wader populations, covering 66,050 hectares.

The protection of these important sites is achieved primarily through partnerships between English Nature and the 26,000 SSSI owners and managers. The majority of SSSIs are in good condition and well managed. Further information on this is given below. The Government has set a Public Service Agreement (PSA) target of 95% of SSSIs land to be in favourable or recovering condition by 2010.

Key highlights

- New legislation to protect SSSIs
- Condition of 66% of SSSIs now assessed
- 212 SACs submitted to Europe

The Wash SSSI, Norfolk.
England's largest SSSI



Peter Wakely/English Nature

During 2000/01, 27 new SSSIs were designated, bringing the total to 4,115 covering 1,097,766 ha. 42 SSSIs were actually notified, but this total includes amalgamation of existing SSSIs. New sites will continue to be designated as necessary to meet national and international obligations.



Roger Key/English Nature

The Countryside and Rights of Way Act

In November 2000 English Nature welcomed the arrival of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act (CRoW) 2000, which came into force on 30 January 2001. Part III of the Act concerns SSSIs, and is the most significant measure for their conservation since 1981. The SSSI provisions in the Act are the result of a long campaign by many organisations and committed individuals to address the shortcomings of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 in conserving and enhancing these special sites.

The new provisions will considerably strengthen the protection afforded to SSSIs, and give English Nature powers to ensure that neglected SSSIs are brought into appropriate management. Under the 1981 Act, only owners and occupiers were liable for damage to SSSIs. The CRoW Act now makes it an offence for any person intentionally or recklessly to damage the special interest of an SSSI, or disturb any of its special fauna. There are stronger penalties for any person convicted of an offence under the Act. Above all, the Courts can now order the restoration of illegally damaged SSSIs, in so far as this is practicable. There are also strong new duties on all public bodies to take reasonable steps to further the conservation and enhancement of those SSSIs on which they carry out their functions.

The Act contains new rights of appeal to the Secretary of State, when owners or occupiers are aggrieved about a consent which has been refused, or is conditional or has been modified, or about the terms of a management notice which has been served. The conservation of SSSIs will still rely upon a co-operative and positive relationship between English Nature and the owners and occupiers, and only when this breaks down will the provisions in the new legislation be used.

The Act will greatly improve our chances of securing the appropriate management of SSSIs. The Government's revision to the SSSI financial guidelines, *Guidelines on Management Agreement Payments*, published in February 2001, will mean that public money will now be directed towards positive nature conservation management.

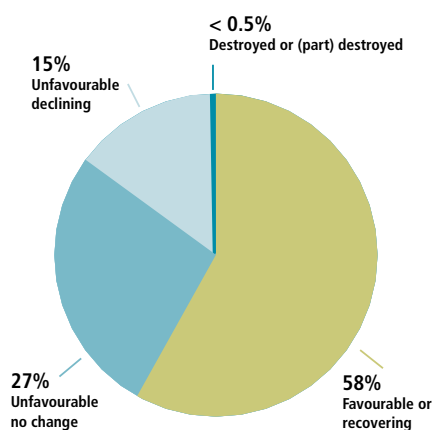
We are also encouraged to see that DETR's Rural White Paper *Our Countryside: The Future* contains an undertaking to increase the funding for wildlife, notably new measures to protect and enhance key wildlife sites in England under the new Act.

The condition of wildlife and geological features on SSSIs

The condition of SSSIs is assessed by English Nature using standards agreed at the UK level (the Joint Nature Conservation Committee's Common Standards). A feature on

a site will be recorded as favourable or recovering when set criteria are met which ensure the feature will be sustained in the long term.

English Nature assesses the condition of all features on all SSSIs over a six-year period. We began this programme on 1 April 1997 and have now completed 66% of the condition assessments. In 2000/01, we made 5,302 assessment visits to 1,793 SSSIs. We expected to complete the remaining 34% by March 2003, but the foot-and-mouth crisis has caused the suspension of much monitoring work. We have assessed the effects of this upon the SSSI condition assessment timetable, and priorities will need to be adjusted to ensure the programme is completed by March 2003.



Condition of SSSIs by area at 31 March 2001

The overall condition of SSSIs is similar to that reported last year. Almost sixty percent of the area of SSSIs is in good condition - either already favourable or well on the

Main habitat type within SSSIs based on the Biodiversity Action Plan

	Percentage area in 'favourable or recovering' condition	Percentage area in 'unfavourable no change' or 'unfavourable declining' condition
Lowland woodland	77	23
Upland woodland	72	28
Lowland neutral grassland	71	29
Upland neutral grassland	72	28
Lowland calcareous grassland	38	62
Upland calcareous grassland	33	67
Lowland acid grassland	62	38
Upland acid grassland	42	58
Lowland heathland	74	26
Upland heathland	27	73
Fen, marsh and swamp	71	29
Bogs	40	60
Standing water & canals	66	34
Rivers and streams	50	50
Supra-littoral rock	85	15
Supra-littoral sediment	66	34
Intertidal mud /rock	83	17
Saltmarsh	78	22

way to recovery. It is too early for the additional resources granted to English Nature and the new powers made available under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act to have made an impact upon the condition of SSSIs.

English Nature is moving towards providing information on the condition of habitats within SSSIs, rather than merely on SSSIs as a whole.

The table shows considerable differences in the condition of different habitats, and highlights the problems facing many upland habitats.

The table shows the result of monitoring undertaken up to 31 March 2001, most of which was carried out before the outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease. Grazing is vital to the management of many SSSIs, and the disease will have a considerable effect upon SSSI condition, caused by overgrazing where stock cannot be moved, or under-grazing if suitable stock are no longer available.

The Bowland Initiative

Bowland Fells is an SSSI and Special Protection Area in Lancashire. An internationally important expanse of blanket bog and heather moorland, it is notable as the only regular breeding hen harrier site in England. The site is an important water catchment, and is principally managed as grouse moor and for grazing sheep. About a fifth of the site is covered by Wildlife Enhancement Scheme agreements.

English Nature has been closely involved with the Bowland Initiative, a partnership between local landowners, conservation bodies, national and local government, led by Lancashire County Council. Its aim is to join up economic and environmental advice to farmers in making business decisions. It has helped them to identify sympathetic management to maintain and enhance Bowland's landscape and wildlife, which will also benefit the rural economy.

The Initiative has helped to bring a further 30% of the site into positive management, making an important contribution to meeting BAP targets for the Forest of Bowland Natural Area.



Littledale, Bowland



Peter Wakely/English Nature

Heather thrives when grazing is low, but is lost when overgrazed (right hand slope)
Skiddaw, Cumbria

As in previous years, the condition of upland heaths causes particular concern, due principally to over-grazing. Once the foot-and-mouth epidemic has been controlled, it will be important to ensure that stock levels on upland SSSIs do not return to the high densities that lead to overgrazing. English Nature recommends that livestock subsidies should be based on area, rather than number of animals, and we urge the Government to make much greater use of agri-environment schemes in upland areas. We also wish to see practical schemes to help farmers market local, high quality produce, together with a whole-farm approach to ensure integrated and balanced land management in the uplands.

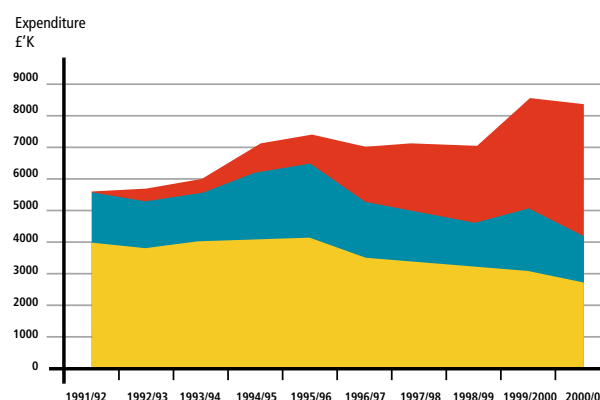
Management agreements

Management agreements continue as the main mechanism available to English Nature for positive management of SSSIs in partnership with owners and occupiers. Without this commitment from owners and occupiers to deliver the right management it will not be possible to achieve gains for

nature conservation, and meet the Government's target for SSSIs in favourable condition.

During the year we gave priority to those sites in unfavourable condition. We hope that over a period of time, the condition of these sites will improve as a result of the investment made by owners and occupiers and English Nature. Many agreements include a capital payment for habitat restoration, such as scrub clearance, in addition to annual payments.

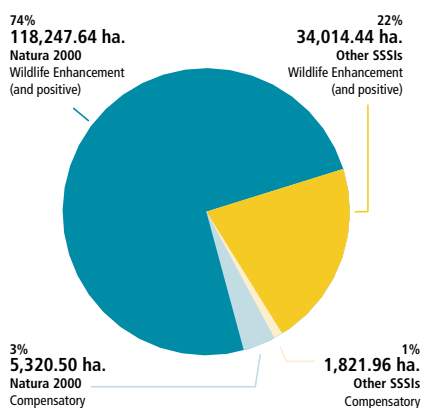
Following on from the Countryside and Rights of Way Act, the Government published new



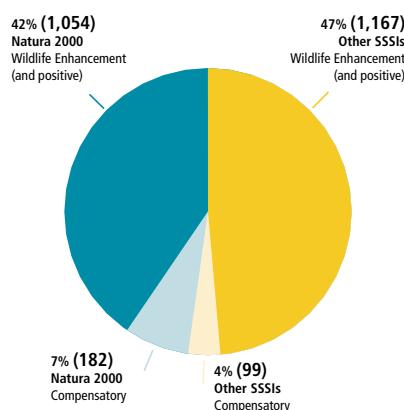
Change in management agreement expenditure since 1991

KEY

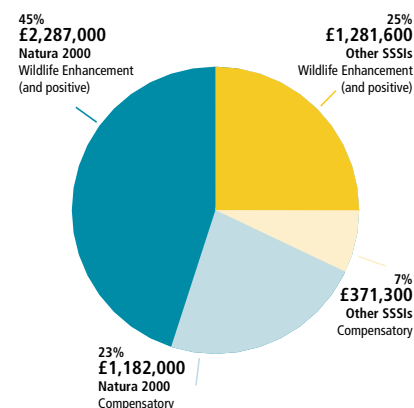
- Wildlife enhancement
- Other positive agreements
- Compensatory agreements



Management agreements by area



Management agreements by number



Management agreements by cost

Guidelines on Management Agreement Payments and Other Related Matters. These guidelines set out the basis by which the payments are calculated, and are compliant with the European Commission's rules in respect of State Aids.

Total number of agreements		
No.	Area (ha)	Payments
2,502	159,404.54	£7,608,700
Agreements in force at 31.3.01		

Land purchase grants

English Nature made 12 Land Purchase Grants during the year, which enabled a range of organisations to safeguard sites and contribute to habitat restoration. The projects supported showed tremendous variety, but all are designed to deliver favourable condition, and to contribute to Habitat Action Plans under the Biodiversity Action Plan.

Face Lift

A third of our SSSIs are important for geological conservation - 1,400 SSSIs in England are notified partly or wholly for their geology. Face Lift, English Nature's geological site enhancement programme, makes a crucial contribution to achieving the Government's 95% favourable condition target for SSSIs. It has also strengthened partnerships with many organisations and individuals, including local authorities, Wildlife Trusts and Regionally Important Geological/geomorphological Sites Groups. Last year the programme budget was £60,000. Work was carried out on 30 geological SSSIs to clear exposures of vegetation, rubbish and scree, and to improve access for visitors to the geological features. At a further 10 sites information panels were installed to raise awareness of site geology and management.

Dundry Main Road South Quarry SSSI, Somerset (below right). Re-exposure of Inferior Oolite limestone - approximately 170 million years old; (below left) cleaned section, together with fencing and access



Andy King/English Nature



Andy King/English Nature



Peter Wakely/English Nature

Carrine Common
candidate SAC,
Cornwall

International sites

Terrestrial

In August 2000 a major consultation took place on proposals for new Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), or extensions to existing sites, that were required for particular habitats and species under the EU moderation process. More than 16,000 owners, occupiers, local authorities and other interested parties were consulted on 181 sites that qualified as SACs. By December the consultation was completed and responses were forwarded to Government for consideration, and 212 sites (including the re-submission of some previous sites) were then forwarded to the European Commission in two tranches in January and March. At the end of the year a small number had not been submitted to Government as they either required amendments to the site boundaries or there were objections outstanding.

During the year five Special Protection Areas (SPAs) were classified and one existing site extended, virtually completing the designation phase under the EU Birds Directive. This brings the number of SPAs in England to 85, covering a total area of 665,227 ha. Work began on drawing up selection criteria for marine sites (those below the sub-tidal limit), which will continue to be refined into

practical guidance for site selection and the determination of boundaries.

Except for 13 sites, wetland SPAs in England are also Ramsar sites, designated under the Ramsar Convention. There are now 78 Ramsar sites in England, two having been classified during the year. In November the Government launched a Ramsar Policy Statement, which focused on the protection and management of Ramsar sites in England and the increased level of protection now afforded to them by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act.

Casework levels have risen throughout the year as a result of the extension of legal measures contained in the Habitats Regulations, to candidate SACs; the extension of these measures as a matter of Government policy to Ramsar sites, and the increase in the number of international sites (see above). A number of large developments affecting international sites will be determined at public inquiry.

With continued support from English Nature, competent authorities continue to review extant consents given under their respective consenting regimes. In particular, English Nature has developed close working links with the Environment Agency's project to review their consenting permissions.

Brittlestars on a
mussel bed



Marine

Under the Habitats Regulations English Nature has a duty to provide advice on all operations likely to damage or disturb marine SACs and SPAs. The advice packages also include conservation objectives. At 31 March 2001, 35 of the 39 packages covering the 57 sites in England were complete.

UK Marine SACs project

The UK Marine Special Areas of Conservation LIFE Project, led by English Nature in partnership with SNH, CCW, EHS, JNCC and the Scottish Association for Marine Science, was established in 1996 to gain experience in setting up management schemes for 12 demonstration marine SACs in the UK that are agreed and implemented locally. The majority of the 12 pilot sites have successfully established agreed

management schemes, and the project has been extended until October 2001 to allow remaining agreements to be completed. The Project held a conference in November 2000 to bring together the knowledge and experience gained since the project began. Each of the demonstration sites has a distinct set of biological and socio-economic characteristics. Within the confines of the Habitats Regulations, differing approaches have been taken on the sites, and this has led to a wealth of learning for others. A report outlining good practice and a manual for monitoring marine SACs are due in Spring 2001. The Project's website has been greatly expanded to improve access to the breadth of site-based, scientific and monitoring knowledge generated by the Project. The Project has not only given a lead to others in the UK but has relevance for practitioners in the rest of the European Union.

Semi-natural dry grasslands

Semi-natural dry grasslands found on calcareous (chalky) soils were once widespread in England, but are now a rare and threatened habitat. They support a wide diversity of plant species, many of them rare, and often provide a home to important invertebrate communities. As an example, several chalk grassland candidate SACs also support the marsh fritillary butterfly, a species which has suffered a dramatic decline in Europe.

Together with sites specifically chosen for their important orchid populations, semi-natural dry grassland is a qualifying interest feature on 43 candidate SACs in England, ranging from Cumbria to Sussex. These sites represent a significant proportion of the remaining English resource and encompass a wide range of variation, such as the vegetation structure and transitional zones to other types of habitat.



Peter Wakely/English Nature

Special Protection Areas (SPAs) & Ramsar sites in England 31 March 2001

- Key
- SPA
 - Ramsar site
 - SPA & Ramsar site

- The Swale
- Holburn Lake and Moss
- Farne Islands
- The Dee Estuary
- Irthinghead Mires
- Martin Mere
- Leighton Moss
- Chesil Beach and the Fleet
- Coquet Island
- Chew Valley Lake
- Chichester and Langstone Harbours
- The Wash
- Pagham Harbour
- North Norfolk Coast
- Redgrave and South Lopham Fens
- Walmore Common
- Rutland Water
- Esthwaite Water
- Abberton Reservoir
- Chippenhams Fen
- Minsmere-Walberswick
- Porton Down
- Lindisfarne
- Upper Solway Flats and Marshes
- Exe Estuary
- Nene Washes
- Roydon Common
- Stodmarsh
- Medway Estuary and Marshes
- New Forest
- Ouse Washes
- Bowland Fells
- Salisbury Plain
- Gibraltar Point
- Great Yarmouth North Dunes
- Hornsea Mere
- Hamford Water
- Lower Derwent Valley

- Flamborough Head and Bempton Cliffs
- Malham Tarn
- Thursley and Ockley Bog
- Benfleet and Southend Marshes
- Denge (Mid Essex Coast Phase 1)
- Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 1
- Colne Estuary (Mid Essex Coast Phase 2)
- Stour and Orwell Estuaries
- Thanet Coast and Sandwich Bay
- Thursley, Hankley and Frensham Commons (Wealden Heaths Phase 1)

- Humber Flats, Marshes and Coast Phase 1
- Sewern Estuary
- Ribble and Alt Estuaries Phase 2
- Portsmouth Harbour
- Blackwater Estuary (Mid Essex Coast Phase 4)
- Dersingham Bog
- Wicken Fen
- Woodwalton Fen
- Mersey Estuary
- Ashdown Forest
- Benacre to Easton Bavents
- Deben Estuary
- Alde-Ore Estuary

- Foulness (Mid Essex Coast Phase 5)
- Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 2
- Tamar Estuaries Complex
- Somerset Levels and Moors
- South Pennine Moors Phase 2
- Wealden Heaths Phase 2
- Avon Valley
- Broadland
- Duddon Estuary
- East Devon Heaths
- Solent and Southampton Water
- Crouch and Roach Estuaries (Mid Essex Coast Phase 3)
- Dorset Heathlands
- Pevensey Levels

- Dungeness to Pett Level
- Poole Harbour
- Arun Valley
- Morecambe Bay
- Northumbria Coast
- Peak District Moors (South Pennine Moors Phase 1)
- North York Moors
- Lee Valley
- Breydon Water
- South-West London Waterbodies
- Thorne and Hatfield Moors
- Thames Estuary and Marshes
- Teessmouth and Cleveland Coast
- North Pennine Moors
- Rostherne Mere

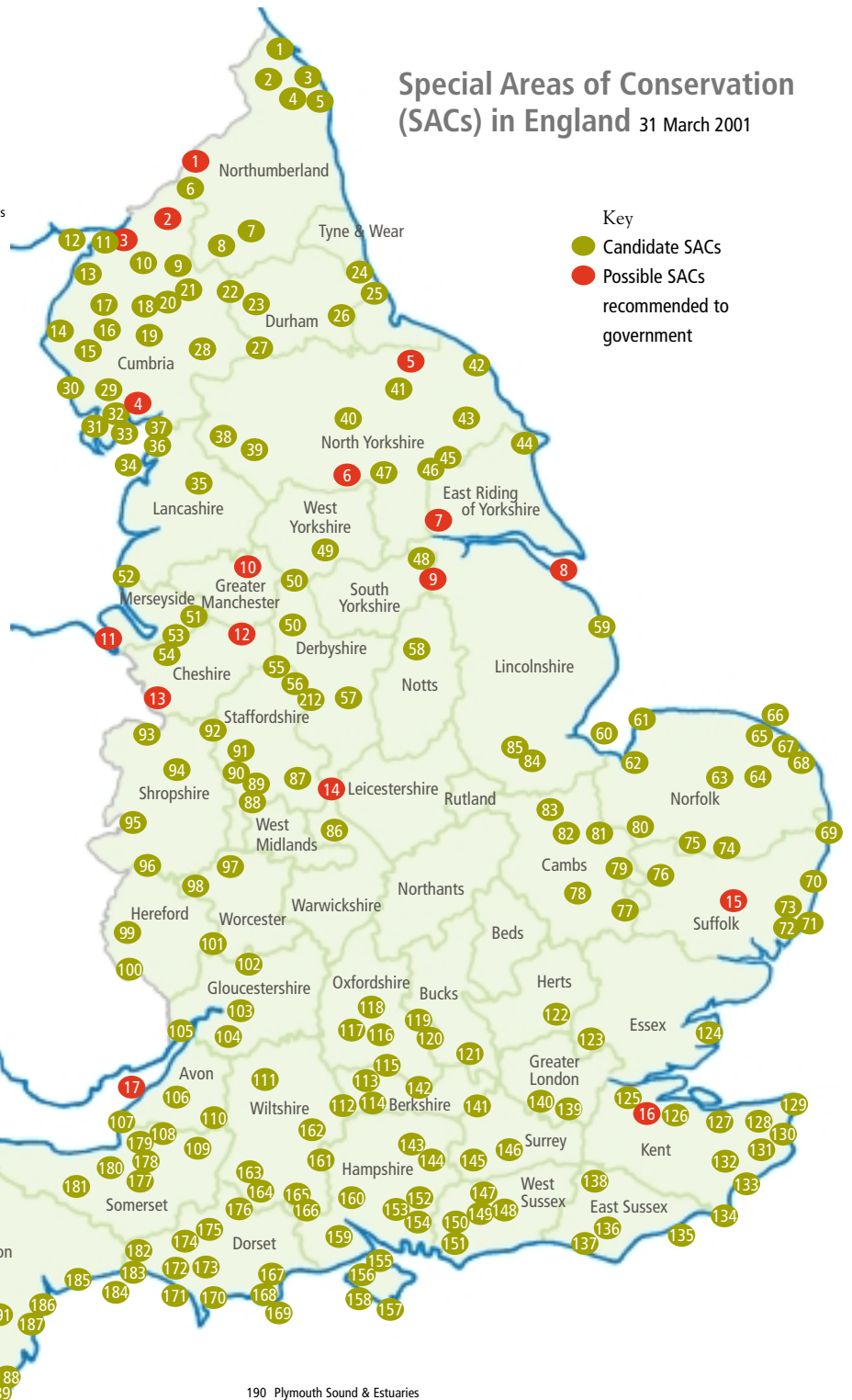
Candidate SACs

- 1 Tweed Estuary
- 2 Ford Moss
- 3 Berwickshire & North Northumberland Coast
- 4 North Northumberland Dunes
- 5 Newham Fen
- 6 Border Mires, Kielder - Butterburn
- 7 Roman Wall Loughs
- 8 Tyne and Allen River Gravels
- 9 Tyne and Nent
- 10 Cumbrian Marsh Frithill Site
- 11 South Solway Mosses
- 12 Solway Firth
- 13 Clints Quarry
- 14 River Ehen
- 15 Wast Water
- 16 Borrowdale Woodland Complex
- 17 River Derwent & Bassenthwaite Lake
- 18 Ullswater Oakwoods
- 19 Lake District High Fells
- 20 River Eden
- 21 Helbeck and Swindale Woods
- 22 Bollihope, Pikestone, Eggleston and Woodland Fells
- 23 Moor House - Upper Teesdale
- 24 Durham Coast
- 25 Castle Eden Dene
- 26 Thrislington
- 27 North Pennine Dales Meadows
- 28 Asby Complex
- 29 Subberthwaite, Blawith and Torver Low Commons
- 30 Drigg Coast
- 31 Duddon Mosses
- 32 Yewbarrow Woods
- 33 Roudsea Wood & Mosses
- 34 Morecambe Bay
- 35 Calf Hill and Cragg Woods
- 36 Witherslack Mosses
- 37 Morecambe Bay Pavements
- 38 Ingleborough Complex
- 39 Craven Limestone Complex
- 40 Ox Close
- 41 North York Moors
- 42 Beast Cliff - Whitby (Robin Hood's Bay)
- 43 Eilers Wood & Sand Dale
- 44 Flamborough Head
- 45 River Derwent
- 46 Lower Derwent Valley
- 47 Strensall Common
- 48 Thorne Moor
- 49 Derby Grange Colliery Ponds
- 50 South Pennine Moors
- 51 Manchester Mosses
- 52 Sefton Coast
- 53 Rixton Clay Pits
- 54 Oak Mere
- 55 Bee's Nest & Green Clay Pits
- 56 Peak District Dales
- 57 Gang Mine
- 58 Birklands and Bilhaugh
- 59 Saltfleetby - Theddlethorpe Dunes & Gibraltar Point
- 60 The Wash & North Norfolk Coast
- 61 North Norfolk Coast
- 62 Roydon Common & Dersingham Bog
- 63 Norfolk Valley Fens
- 64 River Wensum
- 65 Paston Great Barn
- 66 Overstrand Cliffs
- 67 Winterton - Horse Dunes
- 68 The Broad
- 69 Benacre to Easton Bavents Lagoons
- 70 Minsmere to Walberswick Heaths and Marshes
- 71 Orfordness - Shingle Street
- 72 Alde, Ore & Butley Estuaries
- 73 Staverton Park and The Thicks, Wantisden
- 74 Waveney and Little Ouse Valley Fens
- 75 Breckland
- 76 Rex Graham Reserve
- 77 Devils Dyke
- 78 Portholme
- 79 Fenland
- 80 Ouse Washes
- 81 Nene Washes
- 82 Orton Pit

- 83 Barnack Hills & Holes
- 84 Grimsthorpe
- 85 Baston Fen
- 86 Ensor's Pool
- 87 Fens Pools
- 88 Cannock Extension Canal
- 89 Cannock Chase
- 90 Motte Meadows
- 91 Pasturefields Salt Marsh
- 92 West Midlands Mosses
- 93 Fenn's, Whixall, Bettisfield, Wem and Cadney Mosses
- 94 Brown Moss
- 95 The Stiperstones and The Hollies
- 96 River Clun
- 97 Llyppard Grange Ponds
- 98 Downton Gorge

- 99 River Wye/Afon Gwy
- 100 Wye Valley Woodlands
- 101 Bredon Hill
- 102 Dixon Wood
- 103 Cotswold Beechwoods
- 104 Rodborough Common
- 105 Wye Valley and Forest of Dean Bat Sites
- 106 Avon Gorge Woodlands
- 107 Mendip Limestone Grasslands
- 108 Hestercombe House
- 109 Mells Valley
- 110 Bath and Bradford-on-Avon Bats
- 111 North Meadow and Clatting Farm
- 112 Kennet & Lambourn Floodplain
- 113 River Lambourn
- 114 Kennet Valley Alderwoods
- 115 Hackpen Hill
- 116 Little Wittenham
- 117 Cothill Fen
- 118 Oxford Meadows
- 119 Aston Rowant
- 120 Chilterns Beechwoods
- 121 Burnham Beeches
- 122 Wormley - Hoddesdon Park Woods
- 123 Epping Forest
- 124 Essex Estuaries
- 125 North Downs Woodlands
- 126 Queendown Warren
- 127 Bleas Complex
- 128 Stodmarsh
- 129 Thanet Coast
- 130 Sandwich Bay
- 131 Lydden & Temple Ewell Downs
- 132 Wye & Crundale Downs
- 133 Folkestone to Etchingham Escarpment
- 134 Dungeness
- 135 Hastings Cliffs
- 136 Lewes Downs
- 137 Castle Hill
- 138 Ashdown Forest
- 139 Wimbledon Common
- 140 Richmond Park
- 141 Windsor Forest & Great Park
- 142 Hartslock Wood
- 143 Shortheath Common
- 144 Woolmer Forest
- 145 Thursley, Ash, Pirbright & Chobham
- 146 Mole Gap to Reigate Escarpment
- 147 Ebernoe Common
- 148 The Mens
- 149 Duncton to Bignor Escarpment
- 150 Rook Clift
- 151 Kingley Vale
- 152 East Hampshire Hangars
- 153 River Itchen
- 154 Butser Hill
- 155 Solent Maritime

- 156 Solent and Isle of Wight Lagoons
- 157 South Wight Maritime
- 158 Isle of Wight Downs
- 159 The New Forest
- 160 Emer Bog
- 161 Salisbury Plain
- 162 Pewsey Downs
- 163 Chilmark Quarries
- 164 Prescombe Down
- 165 Great Yews
- 166 River Avon
- 167 Dorset Heaths
- 168 Dorset Heaths (Purbeck & Wareham) & Studland Dunes
- 169 St Albans Head to Durlston Head
- 170 Isle of Portland to Studland Cliffs



Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) in England 31 March 2001

Key

- Candidate SACs
- Possible SACs recommended to government

Possible SACs

- 1 River Tweed
- 2 Bolton Fell & Walton Mosses
- 3 Solway Moss
- 4 River Kent
- 5 Arnecliffe and Park Hole Woods
- 6 Kirk Deighton
- 7 Skipwith Common
- 8 Humber Estuary
- 9 Hatfield Moor
- 10 Rochdale Canal
- 11 Dee Estuary/Aber Afon Dyfrdwy
- 12 Mobberley and Oversley Ponds
- 13 River Dee and Bala Lake
- 14 River Mease
- 15 Dewes Ponds
- 16 Peters Pit
- 17 Severn Estuary

- 171 Chesil and the Fleet
- 172 Cerne and Sydling Downs
- 173 West Dorset Alderwoods
- 174 Bracket's Coppice
- 175 Rooks Moor
- 176 Fontmell and Melbury Downs
- 177 Quants
- 178 Mendip Woodlands
- 179 North Somerset and Mendip Bats
- 180 Exmoor and Quantock Oakwoods
- 181 Holme Moor & Clean Moor
- 182 River Axe
- 183 Sidmouth to West Bay
- 184 Beer Quarry & Caves
- 185 East Devon Pebblebed Heaths
- 186 Dawlish Warren
- 187 South Hams
- 188 Blackstone Point
- 189 South Devon Shore Dock
- 190 Plymouth Sound & Estuaries
- 191 South Dartmoor Woods
- 192 Dartmoor
- 193 Culm Grasslands
- 194 Exmoor Heaths
- 195 Braunton Burrows
- 196 Lundy
- 197 Tintagel-Marsland-Clovelly Coast
- 198 River Camel
- 199 Phoenix United Mine and Crow's Nest
- 200 Polruan to Polperro
- 201 Carrine Common
- 202 Newlyn Downs
- 203 Penhale Dunes
- 204 Breney Common and Goss and Tregoss Moors
- 205 Godrevy Head to St Agnes
- 206 St Austell Clay Pits
- 207 Fal & Helford
- 208 The Lizard
- 209 Tregonning Hill
- 210 Lower Bostraze and Leswidan
- 211 Isles of Scilly Complex
- 212 Peak District Dales Woodlands

National Nature Reserves (NNRs) in England 31 March 2001

- 1 Cothill
- 2 High Halstow
- 3 Cavenham Heath
- 4 Moor House - Upper Teesdale
- 5 Ham Street Woods
- 6 Kingley Vale
- 7 Holme Fen
- 8 Monks Wood
- 9 Blean Woods
- 10 Orfordness - Havergate
- 11 Hartland Moor
- 12 Scolt Head Island
- 13 Old Winchester Hill
- 14 Swanscombe Skull Site
- 15 Woodwalton Fen
- 16 Castor Hanglands
- 17 Bridgwater Bay
- 18 Blenheim Bog
- 19 North Fen
- 20 Axmouth-Lyme Regis Undercliffs
- 21 Wychwood
- 22 Hales Wood
- 23 Wybunbury Moss
- 24 Westleton Heath
- 25 Morden Bog
- 26 Fyfield Down
- 27 Lullingston Heath
- 28 Wren's Nest
- 29 Winterton Dunes
- 30 Rusland Moss
- 31 Rodney Stoke
- 32 Ling Gill
- 33 Weeting Heath
- 34 Aston Rowant
- 35 Thetford Heath
- 36 Knocking Hoe
- 37 Hickling Broad
- 38 Bure Marshes
- 39 Shapwick Heath
- 40 Rostherne Mere
- 41 Chippenham Fen
- 42 Chartley Moss
- 43 Lindsfame
- 44 Ainsdale Sand Dunes
- 45 Dendles Wood
- 46 Ebbor Gorge
- 47 Holkham
- 48 Saltfleetby - Theddlethorpe Dunes
- 49 Pewsey Downs
- 50 Stodmarsh
- 51 Walberswick
- 52 Derbyshire Dales
- 53 North Meadow, Cricklade
- 54 Chaddesley Woods
- 55 Leigh
- 56 The Lizard
- 57 Swanton Novers
- 58 Castle Hill
- 59 The Swale
- 60 Barnack Hills & Holes
- 61 Great Asby Scar
- 62 Clawthorpe Fell
- 63 Ashford Hill
- 64 Gait Barrows
- 65 Forge Valley Woods
- 66 Wyre Forest
- 67 Thursley
- 68 Moccas Park
- 69 North Solent
- 70 Wye
- 71 Studland & Godlingston Heaths
- 72 Parsonage Down
- 73 Motley Meadows
- 74 Roudsea Wood & Mosses
- 75 Park Wood

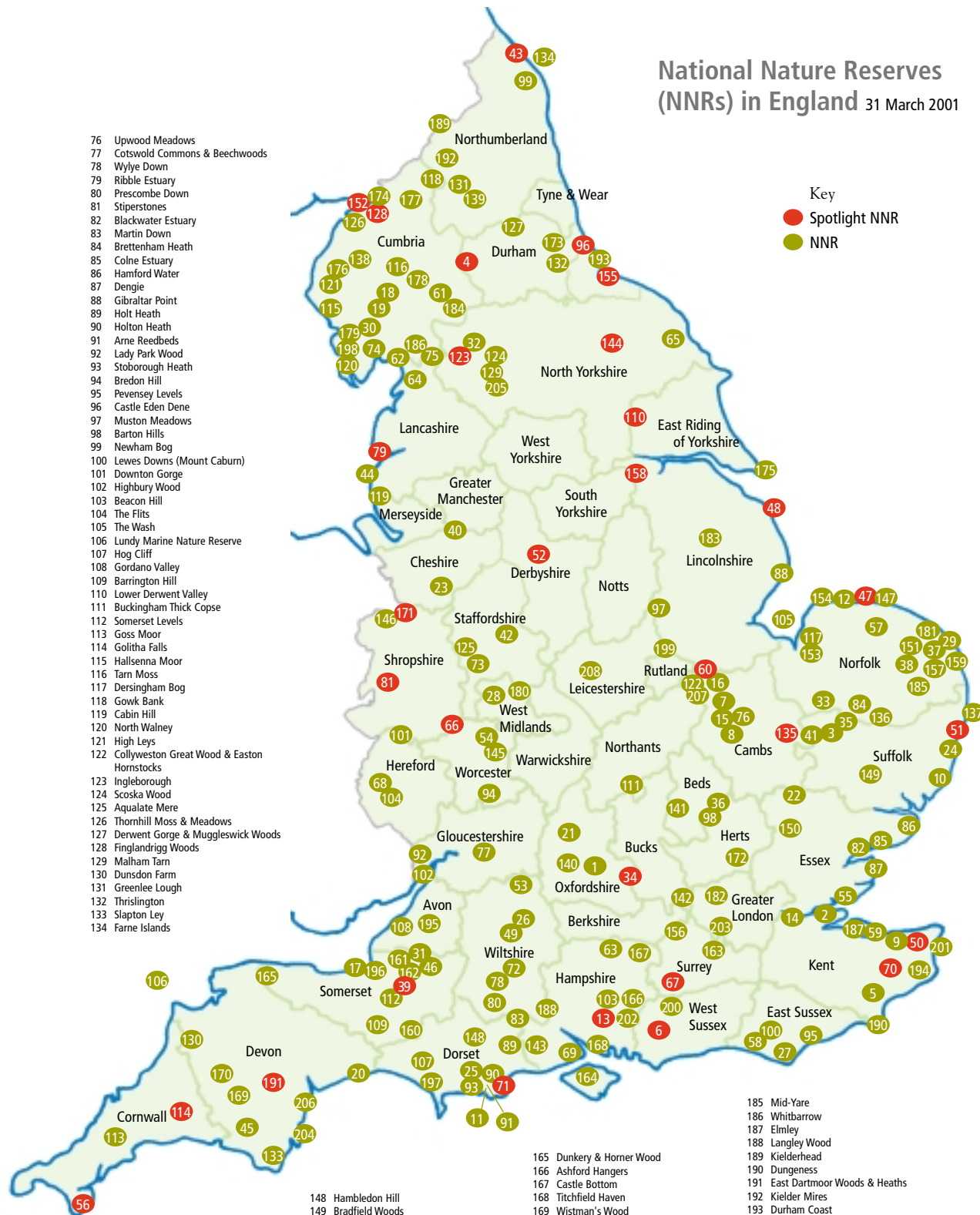
- 76 Upwood Meadows
- 77 Cotswold Commons & Beechwoods
- 78 Wylde Down
- 79 Ribblesdale
- 80 Prescombe Down
- 81 Stiperstones
- 82 Blackwater Estuary
- 83 Martin Down
- 84 Brettenham Heath
- 85 Colne Estuary
- 86 Hamford Water
- 87 Dengie
- 88 Gibraltar Point
- 89 Holt Heath
- 90 Holton Heath
- 91 Arne Reedbeds
- 92 Lady Park Wood
- 93 Stoborough Heath
- 94 Bredon Hill
- 95 Pevensey Levels
- 96 Castle Eden Dene
- 97 Muston Meadows
- 98 Barton Hills
- 99 Newham Bog
- 100 Lewes Downs (Mount Caburn)
- 101 Downton Gorge
- 102 Highbury Wood
- 103 Beacon Hill
- 104 The Flits
- 105 The Wash
- 106 Lundy Marine Nature Reserve
- 107 Hog Cliff
- 108 Gordano Valley
- 109 Barrington Hill
- 110 Lower Derwent Valley
- 111 Buckingham Thick Copse
- 112 Somerset Levels
- 113 Goss Moor
- 114 Goltha Falls
- 115 Hallsenna Moor
- 116 Tarn Moss
- 117 Dersingham Bog
- 118 Gowk Bank
- 119 Cabin Hill
- 120 North Walney
- 121 High Leys
- 122 Collyweston Great Wood & Easton Hornstocks
- 123 Ingleborough
- 124 Scoska Wood
- 125 Aqualate Mere
- 126 Thornhill Moss & Meadows
- 127 Derwent Gorge & Muggleswick Woods
- 128 Finglandrigg Woods
- 129 Malham Tarn
- 130 Dunsdon Farm
- 131 Greenlee Lough
- 132 Thrislington
- 133 Slapton Ley
- 134 Farne Islands

- 135 Wicken Fen
- 136 Redgrave & Lopham Fen
- 137 Benacre
- 138 Bassenthwaite Lake
- 139 Muckle Moss
- 140 Chimney Meadow
- 141 King's Wood, Heath & Reach
- 142 Burnham Beeches
- 143 Kingston Great Common
- 144 Duncombe Park
- 145 Foster's Green Meadows
- 146 Wem Moss
- 147 Blakeney

- 148 Hambledon Hill
- 149 Bradfield Woods
- 150 Hatfield Forest
- 151 Ant Broads & Marshes
- 152 South Solway Mosses
- 153 Roydon Common
- 154 Holme Dunes
- 155 Teesmouth
- 156 Chobham Common
- 157 Ludham - Potter Heigham
- 158 Humberhead Peatlands
- 159 Marham Broad
- 160 Hardington Moor
- 161 Westhay Moor
- 162 Ham Wall
- 163 Ashted Common
- 164 Newtown Harbour - Isle of Wight

- 165 Dunkery & Horner Wood
- 166 Ashford Hangers
- 167 Castle Bottom
- 168 Titchfield Haven
- 169 Wistman's Wood
- 170 Black-a-Tor Copse
- 171 Fenn's, Whixall & Bettisfield Mosses
- 172 Broxbourne Woods
- 173 Cassop Vale
- 174 Drumburgh Moss
- 175 Spurn
- 176 Sandy Beck Meadows
- 177 Walton Moss
- 178 Cliburn Moss
- 179 Duddon Mosses
- 180 Sutton Park
- 181 Calthorpe Broad
- 182 Ruislip Woods
- 183 Bardney Limewoods
- 184 Smardale Gill

- 185 Mid-Yare
- 186 Whitbarrow
- 187 Elmley
- 188 Langley Wood
- 189 Kielderhead
- 190 Dungeness
- 191 East Dartmoor Woods & Heaths
- 192 Kielder Mires
- 193 Durham Coast
- 194 Lydden Temple Ewell
- 195 Leigh Woods
- 196 Huntspill River
- 197 Valley of Stones
- 198 Sandscale Haws
- 199 Cribbs Meadow
- 200 Ebernoe Common
- 201 Sandwich & Pegwell Bay
- 202 Butser Hill
- 203 Richmond Park
- 204 Berry Head
- 205 New House Farm, Malham
- 206 Dawlish Warren
- 207 Bedford Purlieus
- 208 Charnwood Lodge



Key
● Spotlight NNR
● NNR

National Nature Reserves

National Nature Reserves (NNRs) protect some of the very best of England's wildlife and geology. We aim to ensure that they are well managed, contribute to achieving the UK Biodiversity Action Plan, and increasingly provide leisure opportunities and wilderness experience for the general public.

At 31 March 2001, there were 208 NNRs, covering a total area of 83,703 hectares. The condition of NNRs is monitored in the same way as all other SSSIs, and at 31 March 2001 73% of features on NNRs were in favourable condition, with a further 15% moving towards favourable condition.

There were six new declarations in 2000-01: Bedford Purlieus (Cambs), Berry Head (Devon), Charnwood Lodge (Leics), Dawlish Warren (Devon), New House Farm, Malham (Yorks), and Richmond Park (London). There were eight extensions to existing NNRs. We appreciate the



Paul Glendell/English Nature

financial assistance from the Heritage Lottery Fund enabling us to add to our freehold interest at Aston Rowant NNR, which will give us opportunities for habitat creation and better access.

NNRs are important in demonstrating nature conservation management techniques to land managers, including farmers, students and local community groups. During the year over 400 local and six national events were held on NNRs, ranging from talks and tours to on-site machinery demonstrations and habitat management seminars.

Although most NNRs are managed by English Nature, 68 are wholly or partly in the hands of other bodies approved by our Council. To help with management on these reserves we give grants under our Capital Grant scheme. During the year £95,500 was given to support projects on 15 NNRs.



Paul Glendell/English Nature

Number and tenure of NNRs

	1991-92	2000-01
No of NNRs:	135	208
Area (ha):	47,008	83,703
Owned:	13,866	16,247
Leased:	18,432	31,231
Nature Reserve Agreement:	14,170	13,702
Approved body:	540	22,523

Two NNRs declared during the year - Dawlish Warren (top) and Berry Head, Devon





Peter Wakely/English Nature

Biodiversity and the wider countryside

Nature conservation is about safeguarding the rich variety of plants and animals and the habitats in which they live. This rich variety is what we call biodiversity. Our best places for wildlife, and therefore biodiversity, are within designated sites. However, when isolated, these special sites cannot sustain their rich biodiversity indefinitely. They need buffer zones to protect them, and to be linked by wildlife corridors, through which species can move. In this way we can make these sites more ecologically viable. Outside special sites we need more wildlife-friendly landscapes, particularly for those species that are wide-ranging, such as bats, farmland birds and red kites. In the long term, having a healthy habitat matrix across the landscape will also provide flexibility for wildlife to adapt to climate change effects.

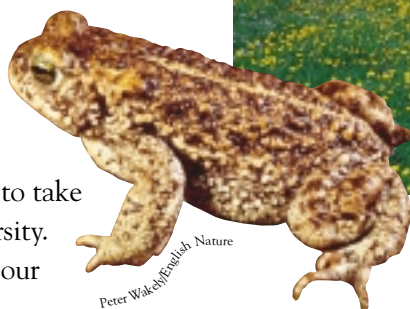
English Nature uses the framework of Natural Areas to decide where best to take action for biodiversity. Natural Areas are our

way of dividing the country into areas of discrete ecological character, to help identify which habitats and species are nationally important, and enable us to target our efforts more effectively. Our aim is to increase biodiversity where it can be sustained and contribute to local character.

Key highlights

- 93% of SRP species showing progress
- Four Lifescape pilot projects
- *Tomorrow's Heathland Heritage* Cornish heathland re-created

E A Janes/NHPA



Peter Wakely/English Nature

Hawthorn hedgerow and hay meadow, Buckinghamshire



Peter Wakely/English Nature

Hale Wood beech woodland,
Chilterns Natural Area,
Buckinghamshire

Lifescapes

The Lifescapes concept is about delivering our wildlife goals for a Natural Area, within the context of the landscape, people and economy. This approach is being piloted in four Natural Areas: the Chilterns, Suffolk Coast and Heaths, the South Downs and the Forest of Bowland. These projects involve close working with other local organisations to find the best areas and ways in which to achieve biodiversity aims, while sustaining local communities and economies.

The landscape-scale approach has both economic and social benefits. It helps focus the use of agri-environment schemes to give the best value for money; it enables us to take account of the cultural identity and the heritage value of the landscape; and it provides opportunities for employment, brand marketing and products from locally native species and environments.

The Chilterns project

The Lifescapes pilot in the Chilterns is initially looking at the pattern of current land use, with a view to identifying the best areas of the landscape for re-creating habitats. These include chalk grassland and beech woodland, habitats for which the Chilterns Natural Area is nationally important. A joint project with the Countryside Agency and Forestry Commission,

with input from the local County Councils, has brought together information on various ecological factors, current land use and landscape character into a Geographical Information System. This has shown which parts of the landscape are suitable for the re-creation of chalk grassland and beech woodland, and where this would be most in keeping with the local character. The next stages of the work will be to identify the social and economic opportunities that could arise in taking this forward, and to see where we can work jointly with other agencies and local communities for mutual benefit.

Biodiversity Action Plans

Since the UK Government published *Biodiversity: The UK Action Plan* in 1994, action plans have been published for more than 390 species and 45 priority habitats in the UK. English Nature staff also made significant contributions to the UK Biodiversity Group's report *Sustaining the variety of life*, which was published by DETR early in 2001.

Terrestrial and freshwater habitats

This year has seen further significant activity towards meeting the targets for 17 priority habitats in England.

As lead agency for grazing marsh, reedbed, raised bogs and fens, English Nature has again had a strong focus on these wetlands.

We have consolidated our previous work on reedbed and other wetland creation on the Somerset Levels, and, with the Environment Agency, have initiated a two-year grazing marsh restoration project on the Pevensey Levels. This flagship initiative has the aim of attaining nearly 10% of the UK restoration target for this habitat, through the raising of water levels and enhancement of associated priority species. During the year, English Nature formed an umbrella group to bring together partners working on other actions for these habitats.

English Nature's lowland heathland steering group has also been active in complementing the *Tomorrow's Heathland Heritage* programme with a raft of activities in support of this habitat. Lowland calcareous grassland has been targeted for action in the Chilterns and South Downs. We continue to lead on the wood pasture and parkland plan, and are contributing to a major restoration initiative in Rockingham Forest.

Maritime habitats and species

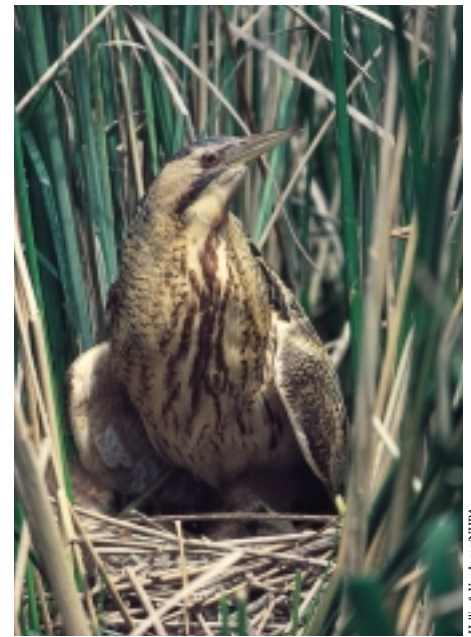
Our priority this year has been to establish the management structures for maritime Biodiversity Action Plan implementation, to ensure the full integration of work on both the habitats and species plans. Two new UK umbrella groups have been established, a coastal group

chaired by English Nature and a marine group chaired jointly by English Nature and the Wildlife Trusts. The involvement of a wide range of partners, covering the public, private and voluntary sectors, has also been secured.

Species Recovery

The Species Recovery Programme began in 1991, with the aim of saving rare or threatened species from extinction in England. In 2000/01, 109 species were added to the programme, making a total of 342 species (of which 294 are BAP priorities). Partnership with other organisations, such as voluntary conservation organisations, academic bodies and wildlife trusts, is essential to the success of the programme in delivering biodiversity action on the ground. New partnership arrangements with the Natural History Museum, Butterfly Conservation and the British Dragonfly Society were established during the year, and we continue to seek new partners. As the programme enters its 10th year, our annual meeting with partners is to be enlarged as a conference, in December 2001, to bring together learning from the last ten years.

The Species Recovery Programme makes a significant contribution to the delivery of UK BAP Species Action Plans, and carries out work on other priority species. Action includes advances in genetic and ecological knowledge, development of management techniques, survey and



Hellie & Van Ingen/NHPA



MJ Hammer/English Nature

Bittern (top), and otter. Two species meeting their Species Recovery Programme targets

Habitat Action Plans in England

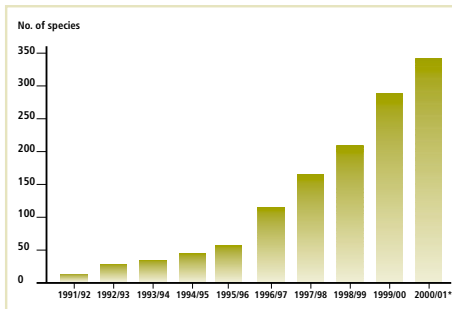
No. of priority habitats	45
English Nature lead partner habitats	15
No. of English Nature HAPs which were reported on during 2000/01	15
No. of English Nature HAPs showing some progress towards targets	10 of 15
No. of English Nature HAPs showing some progress against actions	15 of 15

Species Recovery in England 2000

No. of species covered by BAP or SRP	550
No. of BAP species for which English Nature is the lead partner	91
No. of BAP species for which English Nature is the contact point	237
No. of BAP species actioned through SRP	294
No. of priority species actioned through SRP	48
% of SRP species showing progress against biological targets (31% status unknown)	50%
% of SRP species showing progress against actions	93%

monitoring methods, and on-the-ground management. There have been some very real achievements in increasing populations of species. For example:

- new colonies of the crane fly *Lipsothrix nigristima* have been discovered and clear ecological links to the importance of wet wood established;
- substantial populations of the whorl snail *Vertigo geyeri*, have been found, showing it to be more abundant than previously thought, although it is still rare;
- for the first time, one of the lady's slipper orchids re-introduced into the wild has flowered, a positive outcome from a long programme of action to save a very rare species;
- 254 pairs of stone curlew bred in Breckland in 2000, surpassing the Action Plan target of 200.



Number of SRP species

*NB: From 2000/2001 the number of species in the SRP refers to the numbers of species being actively worked upon rather than the cumulative number of species within the programme

The Species Recovery Programme also makes significant contributions to the Government's target to address the decline of farmland birds, such as tree sparrow and chirl bunting. The Biodiversity Grant Scheme supports the delivery of local Biodiversity Action Plans, especially through community initiatives. 80 grants were awarded, supporting work on 53 different species and 22 priority habitats.

Farmland birds

In 1999, the Government adopted the wild bird index as a headline biodiversity indicator for both sustainable agriculture (by MAFF) and the general quality of life in the UK (by DETR). The index is derived from the population trends of a suite of 20 relatively common bird species closely associated with lowland farmland. Their combined populations declined by some 40% between the mid-1970s and 1998.

Following the Government's Comprehensive Spending Review 2000, MAFF adopted a Public Service Agreement target to reverse the long-term decline in the number of farmland birds by 2020. English Nature is delighted with the adoption of this target and looks forward to continuing work with MAFF and other key partners to help achieve it.

Relations with the voluntary geological community

The past year has been a period of rapid development for the voluntary geological conservation movement. English Nature has worked closely with UK RIGS, which oversees the Regionally Important Geological/geomorphological Sites (RIGS) movement, and with RSNC and the Geologists' Association who actively support local geological conservation. In particular we have supported UK RIGS in the development of their new five year strategy, and their website. To support practical conservation on the ground, and the sharing of good practice, we have partly funded production of the RIGS Handbook, and the UK RIGS newsletter and annual conference.

In May 2000 the Geologists' Association organised and hosted *Earth Alert*, a Millennium festival of geology in Brighton. English Nature's Chairman, Barbara Young, delivered the conference opening address.

The conference examined the importance of geology in understanding the past, present and future of our environment, demonstrating the importance of understanding geology for achieving the sustainable management of our planet and its natural resources. English Nature presented a paper demonstrating the importance of geology in influencing and framing sustainable environmental policy. English Nature also participated in the closing public forum on the future of our planet, and staffed a display throughout the conference.

Tomorrow's Heathland Heritage

Tomorrow's Heathland Heritage is a 10 year, £26 million programme that is helping to restore and re-create substantial areas of lowland heathland across the UK. It is managed by English Nature on behalf of the Heritage Lottery Fund and 140 other partners including government bodies, local authorities, conservation organisations, charities and industrial companies. In 23 separate projects, THH will deliver 70% of the Biodiversity Action Plan target of 58,000 hectares of sustainably managed heathland, and 40% of the re-creation target of 6,000 hectares.

We believe it is essential to improve access to data on wildlife, to underpin our work on both statutory sites and wider biodiversity work. The National Biodiversity Network (NBN) is a major opportunity to help us report on wildlife outcomes, and English Nature has significantly expanded its contribution to this initiative during the year. We have continued to fund the development of Local Record Centres; hosted the NBN Access and Accreditation Officer post; seconded an officer as the NBN's Funding Development Officer; and started a major project with a wide range of partners in the south west. We have collaborated with other NBN partners in a major breakthrough over access to data sets through the World Wide Web, which can link the Local Record Centres, and give access to information wherever it is held.

Cornwall's wild heart



Paul Glendell/English Nature

Part of *Tomorrow's Heathland Heritage*, *Putting back the wild heart of Cornwall* is a five-year project that will see over 750 hectares of heathland re-created within the china clay mining area of mid-Cornwall.

In partnership with the clay companies IMERYS and Goonvean, and Cornwall County Council, English Nature is taking the lead in delivering one of the largest habitat re-creation programmes of its kind in Europe, turning this derelict industrial area into one with high biodiversity and landscape value.

Costing just over £2 million, the project is at the cutting-edge of habitat re-creation technology and shows that integrated habitat, social and economic restoration is achievable at the landscape scale.

The project has also acted as a lever for re-creation and restoration of other habitats, such as woodland and hedges.

Re-created heathland at
Caerloggas Downs, Cornwall





Peter Wakely/English Nature

People and policies

Wildlife matters to people. The future of wildlife is influenced by the choices that people make, whether as policy makers or in their personal lives. In turn people recognise the many benefits a diverse and healthy natural environment can bring.

Important to many people is the chance to experience green spaces, quiet places away from the noise of traffic or industry, and to see and hear the wealth of colour and sounds that diverse wildlife provides. English Nature is keen to promote this experience in a number of ways. While most National Nature Reserves are open to visitors, we have identified 31 Spotlight Reserves with good access that are able to cope with many visitors. During the year £145,000 was spent on 23 projects to improve access for disabled visitors on these reserves. Two Spotlight NNRs, Ainsdale and Castle Eden Dene, have full time Community Officers, who encourage the understanding and involvement of local people.

We are indebted to a large number of voluntary wardens for their work in monitoring species and help in managing NNRs. In recognition of the value of their

effort we made 14 awards to voluntary wardens. To increase their numbers and encourage even more active participation, we have begun a project to improve our services to volunteers.

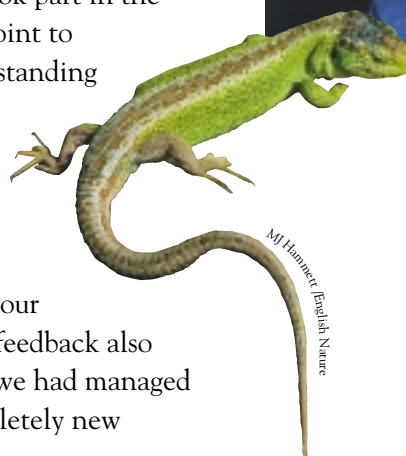
English Nature seeks to inspire people about our work with wildlife, and to widen the community that participates in nature conservation. More than 17,000 people had a *Wild Day Out* to celebrate the Millennium with us on 14 May last year. The events all took place on NNRs, and included activities such as face painting, and building sandcastles, along with the more usual pond dipping and beetle hunting. As part of the day, Sir David Attenborough joined our Chairman, Barbara Young, in London to declare Richmond Park an NNR. Comments made by those who took part in the *Wild Day Out* point to increased understanding of nature conservation and of English Nature, along with a sense of involvement in our activities. The feedback also confirmed that we had managed to reach a completely new

Key highlights

- *Wild Day Out* on NNRs
- New grants for LNRs
- *Upland Challenge* issued
- Birling Gap protection ensured



Paul Glendell/English Nature



MJ Hammer/English Nature

Pond dipping at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe Dunes NNR, Lincolnshire (Adult supervision is recommended)

Ainsdale Sand Dunes

On some National Nature Reserves the management is not always fully supported by local residents. On Ainsdale Sand Dunes National Nature Reserve the Dune Restoration Project aims to restore the internationally important dunes with their characteristic plants and animals. The Project received an international award, but the felling of trees caused local concern. In response, English Nature employed a Community Officer to make a fresh start, with stronger links between the NNR and local residents. This has enabled us to take a greater part in local events, and our staff are increasingly asked to give talks on the wildlife and reserve management issues. During English Nature's *Wild Day Out*



Peter Wakeley/English Nature

local families thoroughly enjoyed a 'day on the beach' at the Reserve. Guided walks to see woodland and red squirrels proved popular, and those to see the dune flowers so popular that more were laid on. Increased interest in the wildlife of Ainsdale has prompted a new newsletter specifically on the work of the Reserve, and a local paper now runs a 'nature notes' column written by our Community Officer. The Community Officer approach is new to English Nature, but has been well received, and we look forward to closer links between our NNRs and local communities.

Paul Glendell/English Nature



Each year we publish a programme of guided walks and events on NNRs. Last year there were 140 events on more than 40 reserves, including a family day out looking at pond life on Castle Eden Dene (Durham), a woodland craft day at Golitha (Corwall), and boat trips at Bure Marshes (Norfolk).

Local Nature Reserves

Local Nature Reserves (LNRs) are designated by local authorities in consultation with English Nature. At the end of March 2001 there were 666 Local Nature Reserves in England, and a full list can be found on our website.

LNRs make an essential contribution to quality of life, especially in and around towns and cities. We encourage local authorities to provide LNRs and we recommend that there should be at least one hectare of accessible LNR per thousand people. To help create and manage LNRs we give grants to local authorities, wildlife trusts and other groups, giving preference to those schemes that involve local communities and

volunteers. Grants cover, among other things, habitat enhancement, improved access, and information material. During the year we gave 64 grants, totalling £126,327, which helped to generate a further £716,451 from other sources, benefiting projects on 83 LNRs.

In September we were delighted to hear that £4.6 million from the New Opportunities Fund *Green Spaces and Sustainable Communities* Programme has been awarded to our LNR grant programme. This added to our own funding, will mean £5.2 million over the next five years, a significant boost for the environmental improvement of community green spaces throughout England.



James Chinaloy/English Nature

Wild Day Out events at (top) Lathkill Dale NNR, Derbyshire (below) Richmond Park NNR, London

Influencing policy

Most human activity has a potential or real impact on wildlife and our geological heritage. English Nature works with Government, Regional Development Agencies and private companies to minimise negative effects and to maximise wildlife gain. We promote a sustainable development approach, and seek to integrate nature conservation at the heart of policy, ensuring that it has at least an equal place alongside the social and economic aspects of development.

At the European level we have continued to focus on the development of an EU sustainable development strategy, which promises to be an important driver for change in other EC policy areas, notably agriculture and fisheries. English Nature has been an active member of the European Environmental Advisory Councils' working group on sustainable development. As part of its work the group published a paper in February 2001, *Greening Sustainable Development Strategies*, with proposals for the EU strategy and held a major conference in Stockholm, attended by key EU, NGO and Member State representatives to launch this paper. We have also responded as part of the network, and independently, to a recent Commission consultation document about the sustainable development strategy. On behalf of the European Environmental Advisory Councils English Nature

led a meeting with delegates of the Cairns Group of agricultural exporting nations, to discuss environmental issues in the current trade negotiations.

At a national level we established a dialogue with the Treasury's environmental tax team to advise them on the nature conservation impacts of their policy proposals. We have continued to monitor the Government's cost benefit processes and have advised how best to take account of environmental issues. We have worked closely with the Ministry of Defence over work to

Volunteers constructing a footpath at Queen's Wood LNR, Haringey, London



take forward its Rural Estate Strategy, and especially welcome the introduction of funding to take forward biodiversity and other conservation projects on the Army Training Estate. In September we signed a joint Statement of Intent with the Association of National Park Authorities, that will further nature conservation in National Parks and recognises their importance for biodiversity.

FACT

English Nature has continued to fund and coordinate FACT (the Forum for the Application of Conservation Techniques), a liaison group made up of representatives from the 21 organisations with the aim of helping deliver practical land management.

The Grazing Animals Project's regionalised grazing schemes emphasise the value of local feedback loops. Local sites are grazed by local graziers, who market their produce to the local community, who in turn appreciate the role this plays in the management of their local countryside sites which they can visit and enjoy. 21 schemes are under development or discussion.



FACT continues to develop and promote many specialist techniques, equipment and machinery to help deliver land management more sustainably and efficiently. New developments include a specially designed 'HRH Horse Harrow' for stirring of pine needles to improve germination of heather seeds on heathland rehabilitation sites, and the 'Lazy Dog Tools' for quicker manual removal of deep rooted perennial grassland weeds. The latter not only is a non-chemical control method but is guaranteed to keep you fit at the same time!

The HRH Horse Harrow

At a regional level we have worked hard for the integration of nature conservation targets into the new regional strategies and frameworks. We now have a regional co-ordinator for each Government Region, and have produced biodiversity targets and indicators for each region. With regional partners we contributed to a series of regional projects to assess the relationship between the environment and the economy. These studies reveal that the environment already makes a significant contribution to economic well being, and identifies opportunities to enlarge this sector in a way that will contribute to achieving sustainable development. We have developed our dialogue with the Regional Development Agencies and the Regional Chambers/Assemblies, and nationally we have built on our links with DETR on regional matters.

Agriculture

Agriculture is one of our top priorities. Four fifths of England is under some sort of agricultural regime. Most semi-natural habitats, on SSSIs and in the wider countryside, result from farming practices and depend on agricultural management for their continued existence. If we are to maintain these habitats and their associated species, we need an environmentally sustainable agriculture sector.

Foot-and-mouth has had a devastating impact on the livestock industry. We are working hard with farmers and Government on a 'recovery package' that will help towards achieving environmentally sustainable agriculture.

The crisis in farming, particularly hill farming, has been deepened by foot-and-mouth disease. As part of the Prime Minister's Action Plan for Farming, David Arnold-Forster, our Chief Executive, was appointed Chair of the Hills Task Force. It reported in March 2001 on ways to help hill farmers develop sustainable enterprises that contribute to upland economy, society and environment.

We have worked closely with MAFF to influence the England Rural Development Programme, launched last year, and have begun work with partners to influence the mid-term review which is due in 2002/3.

The replacement of the Hill Livestock Compensatory Allowance by the Hill Farm Allowance, where payment is based on area rather than on number of animals, is a welcome step forward. We hope that refinements to it can make it work better for farmers and the environment, but the majority of subsidy will still come from headage payments. We continue to press MAFF to consider taking advantage of the flexibility in EU



Mosaic of upland habitats, South Pennines

subsidies for beef farming to adopt an area based scheme for environmentally sustainable beef farming.

Through the Land Use Policy Group *Baseline Environmental Standards in Agriculture* was published at the end of January 2001 to coincide with the issue of the Government's response to the Better Regulation Task Force, which has the purpose of easing the burden of regulation on farmers. English Nature's input has been to ensure the adoption of a positive approach to raising environmental standards.

We have pressed for joined up advisory services to farmers linking environmental, business, training and other advice, and MAFF is now taking this forward.

We have supported the Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group through funding and have seconded former Somerset Team Manager Michael Woodhouse to be their Director for England.

We have worked closely with the NFU in several areas:

- developing wildlife criteria for the Red Tractor mark which promotes products that meet food safety and animal welfare criteria;
- sponsoring the NFU Chairman's national biodiversity awards;
- a joint five point plan for improving biodiversity on farms, to be launched after the foot-and-mouth crisis has abated.

Uplands report

Approximately 70% of upland heathland and calcareous grassland SSSIs (an area of over 185,000 ha) is in unfavourable condition, due mainly to overgrazing. This overgrazing is the result of financial incentives, through CAP subsidy, to farm more animals than the land can sustain without losing its structure and species composition. Reversing the problem of environmentally unsustainable

grazing in the uplands is essential, if we are to meet the target of 95% of SSSIs in favourable condition by 2010.

Our report *State of nature - the Upland Challenge* summarises the condition of upland habitats, analyses the main land uses affecting them, and provides a list of action needed to restore or enhance them. The ten most important action points form the Upland Challenge. Key action points to tackle overgrazing are:

- to reform the CAP sheepmeat and beef subsidies to make payments based on area rather than stock numbers;
- to enforce the overgrazing rules;
- to better target agri-environment schemes to restore and maintain SSSIs; and
- to promote the effective implementation of the Rural Development Programme to maintain the rural environment and viable rural communities.

GMOs

Our Biotechnology Advisory Unit, which also provides a lead agency service to the JNCC, continued to raise the profile of biodiversity and sustainability as key considerations in biotechnology research, development and regulation. They have been involved in developing the Advisory Committee on Release to the Environment's (ACRE) recently published *Guidance on Principles of Best Practice in Genetically Modified Crop*

Design, and also help to develop a new protocol for assessment of risks to wider biodiversity from growing GM crops, which is expected to be adopted by the UK regulatory system in May 2001. Officers are working with ACRE to define 'environmental harm' in GM crop risk assessment. The Unit has also provided DETR with assessments of risks to biodiversity for more than 100 applications to release GMOs, mainly agricultural crops.

Fresh water

Serious floods in England again focused attention on the use and management of floodplains and the need for a catchment-based approach to flood management. We issued a position statement *Managing floodplains to reduce flood risk and enhance biodiversity*. Reinstatement of wildlife habitats on floodplains, and the creation of washlands can help reduce flood risk in urban areas. We published research on the value of washlands and the case for an incentive scheme to create them. We shall be working with MAFF and the Environment Agency to ensure that biodiversity gains are achieved through the introduction of Catchment Flood Management Plans.

For more than 500 SSSIs water level is crucial to the survival of their wildlife. Water Level Management Plans (WLMPs) are almost complete, and implementation has started on



Paul Glenakill/English Nature

Mute swans by houses,
Bewdley, Worcestershire, after
River Severn floods

sites of international importance. MAFF recently announced increases in grant-aid for actions to implement WLMPs. We are working with MAFF to develop guidance on the application of the European Habitats Directive to WLMPs, as assessments are required to ensure that drainage operations are not adversely affecting the integrity of candidate SACs and SPAs. On the Somerset Levels SPA, we have appointed a project officer on secondment from the Environment Agency to work with the 14 internal drainage boards to adapt the draft WLMPs to the requirements of the Directive.

On 22 December 2000 the European Water Framework Directive, which requires surface waters to achieve good ecological quality, came into force. We have published a guide to the Directive, and are keen that it should produce biodiversity benefits.

Although good status does not have to be achieved until 2015, much will depend on the initial classification of waters and the review of impacts due by 2004.

Some parts of the canal network have become havens for aquatic wildlife, including 15 of our 21 native pondweeds and 20 species of dragonfly. Two stretches of canal have been proposed as SACs for the rare floating water-plantain. Although SSSIs occupy less than 1% of the network, mainly on remainder canals, more than half of them are affected by proposals to restore navigation for pleasure boats. Following the publication of *Waterways for tomorrow* by the Government in June 2000, the House of Commons Committee on Environment, Transport and Regional Affairs conducted an inquiry into Inland Waterways. English Nature gave written and oral evidence, and we were pleased that the Committee's report contained recommendations for

Coastal defence

Birling Gap on the East Sussex coast forms a key part of the Seaford to Beachy Head Site of Special Scientific Interest. The spectacular cliffs here expose a peri-glacial dry valley cut into Chalk, and the site is also nationally important for its naturally forming coastline and its Chalk foreshore habitats. Proposals to build a rock revetment against the cliff at Birling Gap were opposed by English Nature at a Public Inquiry held in July 2000, on account of the effect it would have had in damaging and obscuring the features for which the site was notified. The proposals, which were also opposed by the National Trust and the Sussex Downs Conservation Board, were refused by the Secretary of State for the Environment following the Inquiry, making the long-term future of this important SSSI more secure.

nature conservation priorities to be incorporated in canal restoration projects at the planning stage and that the enhancement of biodiversity be a condition of lottery and other funding. The Committee also proposed that all navigation authorities should sign up to minimum environmental standards agreed with English Nature.

Our working relationship with the Environment Agency is underpinned by a formal Concordat signed in 1997, and we continued to urge them to achieve environmental outcomes from all their functions. We also identified three urgent issues that we wish to work closely with the Agency to address over the next five years: diffuse pollution and siltation of water bodies from agriculture; working with nature

in floodplain and shoreline management; and achieving favourable status of species and habitats on SACs and SPAs.

Coastal Habitat Management Plans (CHaMPs)

A natural coastline is not fixed in one place. The action of the sea causes parts of the coast to be eroded and other parts to be built up in a dynamic, ever-changing process. Our attempts to defend what we perceive to be a historic coastline can only be short lived, and can result in worsening erosion further along the coast. With the sea level rising, soft coastal habitats such as saltmarsh are squeezed between the sea and these hard defences, eventually disappearing altogether.



Birling Gap,
East Sussex

Mick Murphy/English Nature

The CHaMPs programme is part of *Living with the Sea*, a four-year project led by English Nature, in partnership with the Environment Agency, MAFF and the Natural Environment Research Council, and funded by EU LIFE Nature fund. The programme contributes to meeting our obligations under the EU Birds and Habitat Directives to maintain the integrity of the network of coastal Natura 2000 sites.

The pilot programme will put in place CHaMPs in seven areas where there is potential threat to Special Protection Areas, Special Areas of Conservation and Ramsar sites from natural processes or coastal defence strategies. The Plans will provide a framework for managing these sites, so that where habitat cannot be conserved, schemes are put in place to address the net losses.

Coastal Habitat Management Plans: an interim guide to content and structure was launched by Elliot Morley in April 2000. The seven pilot CHaMPs will be completed between January 2001 and October 2002, and the framework and best practice model will be published in 2003.

Sea fisheries

The process for reviewing the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) in 2002 is well underway. We have published a number of policy research reports which inform the debate. In particular, *An ecosystem based approach to the Common*

Fisheries Policy : Defining the goals & achieving the objectives has created considerable interest at a national and European level. We have also provided written and oral evidence to the House of Lords inquiry: *The Reform of the Common Fisheries Policy*. The Committee agreed with our view and recommended that the priority objective of a revised CFP should be to ensure that the exploitation of marine resources takes account not only of social and economic consequences but also ecological processes.

Inland transport

English Nature broadly welcomed the aims of *Transport: 2010*, the Government's 10 year investment plan announced in July 2000. We support imaginative and integrated solutions to transport problems that achieve more environmentally sustainable outcomes and believe that the plan provides the resources to enable such solutions to be found. Examples include the proposal to run the A3 through a tunnel at Hindhead Common and the scheme to remove the A30 from Goss Moor NNR in Cornwall, which is now being promoted with our support as the preferred option. It is also encouraging that when we expressed concern over potential damage to SSSIs from some of the 40 proposed additional trunk road schemes, the Government took account of our advice and removed these from the announcement. The final eight schemes included the A3 Hindhead improvement and the A30 Bodmin to Indian Queens improvement.

Paul Glendell/English Nature



Goss Moor NNR, Cornwall. An example of a site affected by road proposals

On a less positive note, we are concerned that not all of the Multi-Modal Studies carried out by Government Regional Offices have made full and proper use of the Government's new appraisal technique, NATA (New Approach to Appraisal), and may be putting too much emphasis on conventional road building solutions. As a result there is a significant risk of damage to SSSIs and other habitats and species protected by European law.

Railtrack is a major partner in the inland transport sector being responsible for over 150 SSSIs on its land in England. During the year we worked closely with its East Anglia Zone to develop a Biodiversity Action Plan, and we have agreed Site Management Statements for six SSSIs in East Anglia. In due course we plan to extend this approach to other parts of the country.

Electricity

The Government has a target for generating 5% of the UK's electricity from renewable resources by 2003 and 10% by 2010. Wind generation is one method being exploited to meet these targets. English Nature recognises the potential benefits but is keen to ensure that proposed developments do not have an unacceptable environmental impact. As a contribution to this debate we have published jointly with British Wind Energy Association, RSPB and WWF-UK *Wind Farm Development*

and Nature Conservation, a guide for developers and nature conservation organisations on proposals for wind farms on land and at sea.

Minerals and aggregates

The minerals extraction industry is a significant landholder with control over many SSSIs. Through its business of extraction and restoration it can directly damage SSSIs but is also in a unique position in being able to make a major contribution to nature conservation through restoration. English Nature seeks to halt or reduce extraction which damages SSSIs, and seek maximum benefit for nature conservation in the restoration and afteruse of extraction sites. Work has been undertaken to determine the scale of impacts arising from current planning permissions held by the quarrying industry.

Following the announcement of an aggregates levy in the March 2000 budget, we have worked with the Treasury and DETR on ways that the new Sustainability Fund, raised as part of the levy, could best be spent to benefit nature conservation.

In January 2001, following a number of meetings with DETR, we submitted views on how Minerals Planning Guidance 6, *Planning for the Supply of Aggregates in England*, could be better developed to provide more sustainable minerals extraction, and in doing so be more



Peter Cordhill English Nature

New pond at Ribblehead
Quarry, North Yorkshire

compatible with Government policies for nature conservation.

Following on from the Memorandum of Understanding signed between Hanson Quarry Products Europe and English Nature in January 2000, we have been working with Hanson QPE to implement the agreements made. In particular, we have been working with Hanson QPE to assess the conservation status of the SSSIs under their control. At the end of 2000/2001, of 42 SSSIs controlled by Hanson QPE, 26 were in favourable condition, one was unfavourable with appropriate management now in place, 10 were unfavourable with appropriate management being discussed, and five sites were yet to be assessed by English Nature.

English Nature and Hanson QPE have discussed a number of areas for further environmental improvement, and in October 2000 Hanson QPE handed over their Ribblehead Quarry site to English Nature, and it will now be allowed

to regenerate and re-establish its nature conservation interest.

Ports

England's estuaries provide very valuable habitats for many waterfowl and specialised plants, and as a result many have international designations. They are also the locations for many major ports. The ports industry is going through an unprecedented change and last year saw a big increase in the number of ports wishing to extend their facilities in estuaries. Proposals for expansion of some eight large ports, including Immingham on the Humber and Southampton at Dibden Bay, as well as new port proposals, present a range of threats to the conservation of estuaries. Whilst we are committed to working with the ports industry to help achieve sustainable development outcomes where possible, our aim is to ensure the conservation of our estuaries and maintain in a favourable conservation state those with international designations.





M J Hammett/English Nature

Modernising and managing English Nature

Modernising Government

Putting the *Modernising Government* White Paper into practice is a challenging task, but we have much to build on. We have achieved externally recognised standards, such as Investors in People and the Charter Mark, and have streamlined our pay structures and modernised our information systems.

Investors in People

English Nature first achieved the Investors in People standard in March 1999, and we were successfully reassessed in September 2000. Around 50 staff from all parts of the organisation were externally assessed against the revised, and much more rigorous, National Standard. The assessor noted that English Nature clearly continues to be committed to developing its people and improving on the way it does things. It is important that we continue to

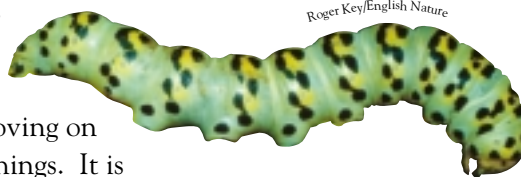
maintain and build upon the good work, and will act on the assessor's suggestions to improve the development of our employees.

Website

This year English Nature's website was re-structured and re-designed, and we have received many positive comments. The site has much more information, is relevant to a wider range of people, is easier to use, and we are working towards meeting the Web Accessibility Initiative 'A' Standard, expected of all UK Government websites. User sessions have increased from around 20,000 to over 41,000 each month.

Key highlights

- Investors in People achieved for second time
- Website relaunched
- Six open meetings held



Roger Key/English Nature

Service First - the New Charter Mark programme

We have continued to look for ways to improve the services we provide using the best practice contained in *Service First- the New Charter Mark programme*.

We regularly monitor our performance against our service standards as set out in our charter. The standards cover nine activities including staff conduct, time taken to respond to grant and licence applications, responses to general enquiries and for handling casework. Overall we meet our service standards most of the time. A report of our performance against service standards is available on our website.

As the Countryside and Rights of Way Bill progressed through Parliament, we kept SSSI owners and occupiers up to date through regular articles in *Sitelines*, our quarterly SSSI newsletter, about how the Bill might affect them. Once the Bill was enacted we wrote to all owners and occupiers to tell them formally about the changes to the legislation. So that the contents of the formal letter held no surprises, we sent out in advance a special edition of *Sitelines* featuring straightforward informal guidance on the implications of the Act.

As part of the SAC consultation (see page 10) we carried out a survey on the quality of the consultation letter and its

enclosures. 89% of those people who replied said that the reasons of the designation were clear. 83% felt that our explanatory leaflet was helpful or very helpful. We continue to monitor complaints received. See our website for our complaints procedure, and more information on the complaints we received during the year, and what lessons can be learnt from them.

We held six open meetings during the year. The audiences and themes of these meetings varied from venue to venue. All proved very useful in increasing awareness and understanding of our work, and gave individuals and organisations the opportunity to give us their views and opinions. For more information on these see our website.

As part of our statutory responsibility to respond to oil pollution incidents, we ran two training courses for staff, and made a significant contribution to a major national oil pollution exercise, *Operation Kernow*. The lessons from the exercise, which include a better understanding of the role of the Environment Group, will be used to improve English Nature's response procedures and the Government's National Contingency Plan.

Corporate governance

Corporate governance is a key part of the *Modernising Government* agenda. During 2000/01 we compiled a Corporate Governance Manual which for the first time defines the legal and procedural framework for all our work. This helps to assure Government and Parliament that we have the systems in place to be an efficient and effective organisation, and provides our Council and officers with clear guidance on their roles and responsibilities. The Manual will be formally adopted by our Council during 2001/02.

Good corporate governance is about more than defining roles and responsibilities. During the year we began work on corporate risk management, identifying the major risks for English Nature and how we need to manage them. For example, threats to the security and currency of our information represents a major risk to us, and we are introducing systems to manage this risk and to report on the progress we have made.

Information systems

During the year, DETR approved a major project to standardise and upgrade English Nature's IT infrastructure. By February 2002, we will have installed a new standard desktop platform across the organisation and extended the network to all staff and main nature reserve bases.

In reviewing our Information Systems Plan, we identified a need for better customer information management, the wider use of geographical information systems, and electronic document management. We began work on procuring new systems to support our payroll and Human Resources functions, library services and our management of paper records. We have developed a computer based planning and time recording system, and piloted the use of new web-style technology in developing our intranet site, local map-based systems and our species licensing system.

Environmental management

We have made good progress on a significant programme of projects and activities to reduce the impact of our business on the environment. In the short term we are implementing a number of 'quick wins', such as the introduction of LPG-fuelled pool cars and video-conferencing. Beyond that we are seeking external verification of the environmental management system we have adopted through the Peterborough Environment City Trust. More details are provided in a separate report on our environmental performance over 2000/01, which can be found on our website and through our Enquiry Service.





Science

Scientific
information
and
knowledge

underpins our nature conservation activities. It is central to our work on the designation and protection of special sites, and informs our policy advice to Government and others. Science is also vital in our work on habitats, species and geology outside designated sites, not least in the context of the UK Biodiversity Action Plan and our own Species Recovery Programme.

Our range of scientific activities is broad, from strategic work to assess the possible impacts of climate change on wildlife, through the assessment of the effects of pollutants on habitats and species, to site-specific investigations which underpin conservation advice on the ground. We also put considerable effort into developing improved practical techniques for habitat management, through our Forum for the Application of Conservation Techniques. Our total spend on scientific work, including work to underpin biodiversity action and the Species Recovery Programme (but excluding work on SRP itself), was nearly £2.5 million. A full list of projects is available on our website.



Overall split of science spend 2000/01

£

Climate change work	20,000
Coastal processes	116,710
Diffuse pollution	51,042
Geological conservation	47,664
Habitat and area studies	274,294
Habitat management	250,338
Hydrology	73,232
Impact studies	181,418
Invasive exotic species	29,295
Landscape ecology and restoration	150,719
Natural heritage information systems	101,000
Remote sensing	85,350
Risk assessment methodology development	10,728
Site survey	240,576
Socio-economics	217,041
Species survey	582,345
Total	2,431,752

Key highlights

- Climate change project
- Three year project on the decline of turtle doves
- First coordinated UK breeding survey of red kite

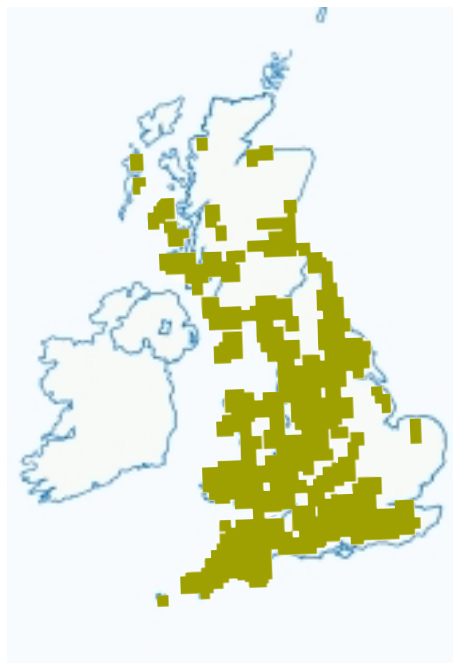
Climate change

The MONARCH (Modelling Natural Resource Responses to Climate Change) project was funded by a partnership of 11 organisations across the British Isles. English Nature was a major sponsor, contributing 40% of the overall cost. The work was carried out by a team led by the Environmental Change Institute at Oxford

University, and included the School of Geography at Oxford University, ADAS, BTO and ERM.

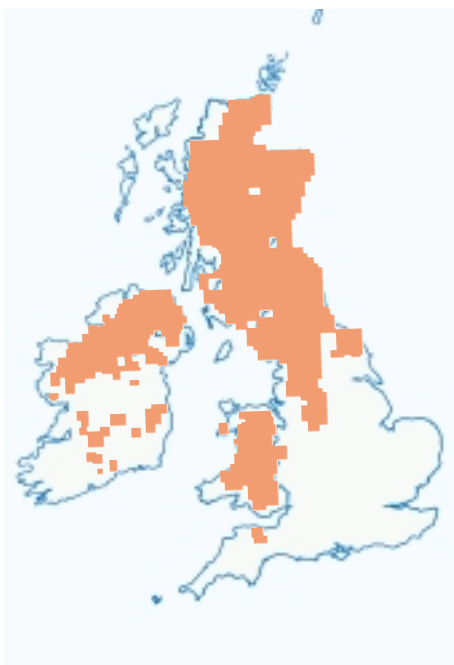


Current climate (1961 - 1990)

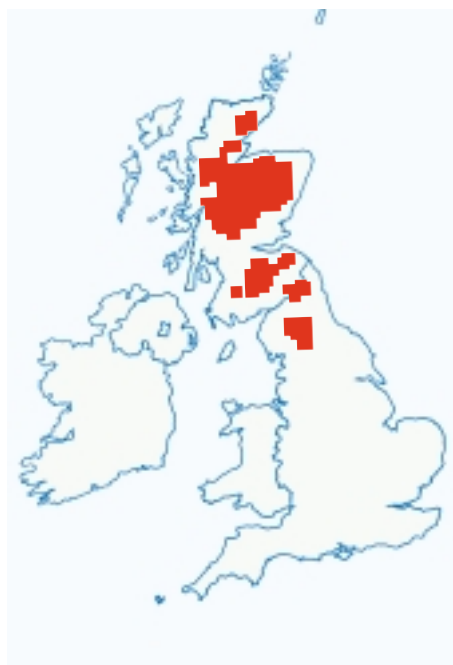


2050s low scenario

Species model results for common beech *Fagus sylvatica*



Current climate (1961 - 1990)



2050s high scenario

Species model results for wood crane's-bill *Geranium sylvaticum*

The main objective of the project was to evaluate the potential impacts of climate change on wildlife and geological features. The first step was to establish a baseline climatology for the British Isles, at 10km grid square resolution, linked to habitats, soil types, geology and land use. From this, 22 statistically validated bioclimatic classes were defined, and for each class a range of key nature conservation attributes obtained. The impacts on these were then studied by applying computer models to the range of UK Climate Impacts Programme climate change scenarios for the 2020s and 2050s. An important part of this work has been mapping available climate space for some 50 species associated with the EU Habitats Directive and BAP priority habitats.

A summary document and a full technical report, describing methods used, the range of impact scenarios produced, and an interpretation of the results will be published in September 2001. This work raises some challenging questions about the long-term management of wildlife and geological features, emphasising the need for a dynamic view of nature, with conservation objectives being set in the context of environmental change.

There are proposals for a second phase of the project that would build on the broad-scale approach and refine the methods at a finer spatial resolution to provide landscape-level guidance.

Invasive aquatic plants

The spread of non-native aquatic plants into the wild is causing serious problems for native freshwater wildlife in England. Species such as Australian swamp stonecrop *Crassula helmsii*, floating pennywort *Hydrocotyle ranunculoides*, parrot's feather *Myriophyllum aquaticum* and water-fern *Azolla filiculoides* are out-competing native plant species and reducing the physical habitat available to freshwater animals. These plants are sold legally for use in ornamental ponds, but their escape to the wild is inevitable. Some of our most treasured freshwater sites, such as the Pevensey Levels, the Norfolk Broads, the lakes of Cumbria and the ponds of the New Forest, are now struggling to keep these invaders at bay. Worse still, many more non-native species are now being sold that are very likely to become serious problems in the future.

English Nature has been working with the Centre for Aquatic Plant Management and key partners such as the Environment Agency to develop a strategy for dealing with these problem species. The need for new legislative mechanisms is being considered, but in the meantime an awareness-raising campaign is being conducted to highlight the risks to freshwater wildlife, and to discourage the purchase and use of such plants in gardens. Native aquatic plants are spectacularly

beautiful in garden ponds, and there is no need to expose our wildlife to this form of risk.

Turtle doves

A three-year joint project investigating the decline of the turtle dove on English farmland, funded by English Nature, the Game Conservancy Trust and WWF-UK, has just been completed. Its key finding is that turtle doves are now having fewer nesting attempts during the breeding season compared to the 1960s, resulting in fewer young being raised per pair. The most likely explanation for this is that birds are not finding enough food (seeds and grain) to maintain breeding condition, and so are stopping breeding earlier in the season. Radio-tracking discovered that some individuals were travelling in excess of 5km from their nest sites to find food. The study concluded that measures which increase the availability of weed seeds and grain within the farmed environment will greatly benefit the species. This knowledge will inform our policy work on agricultural measures relating to farmland birds.

Ecological risk assessment

The process of assessing the risk of making changes to ecosystems through, for example, introducing alien species or permitting pollution discharge, is a developing area of science. English Nature recognises the need to keep up to



Manfred Danegger/NHPA

Turtle dove



Alan Williams/NHPA

Red kite

date with the latest research and techniques, especially where this has relevance for our role in SSSI protection. We held a workshop in February 2001, in collaboration with the Environment Agency, that brought together international experts in the field to examine the application of ecological risk assessment methodologies to a range of areas of English Nature's work, and to look ahead to developing relevant techniques. We are now developing broad guidelines on what risk assessment procedures we should be applying, and what training needs there will be for our staff, so that we can continue to develop the quality of our advice on site and species protection.

Red kite reintroduction

As part of the continuing red kite reintroduction programme English Nature, in partnership with the RSPB and others, carried out the first co-ordinated UK breeding survey in 2000. In the southern England release area the survey was based on fieldwork in randomly selected tetrads, and gave an estimated population of 112 pairs, just 11 years after the first birds were released. In the Midlands, where 70 red kites were released in 1995-98, 16 pairs bred, rearing 22 young.

Research has continued into the main threats faced by the red kite in England through work with the Institute of Zoology, where post-mortems are carried out, and the laboratories of the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology and MAFF

where tissue samples from dead birds are analysed. This work has shown that the use of illegal poison baits and accidental secondary poisoning by rodenticides are hindering the red kite's recovery in England. We are also concerned about the impacts of second-generation rodenticides on other species such as barn owl and polecat, and are extending our work in this area.

Coastal processes

We are increasing our effort to improve understanding of the dynamics of estuarine and coastal ecosystems, so that management of Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas for Birds is better integrated with the functionality of these ecosystems. The work includes investigations by Hydraulics Research into methods to predict changes in estuary functioning, which will help conservation organisations make better decisions on site management. Related to this is work at Newcastle University on ways of defining favourable conservation status for whole estuary systems, to provide advice for Regulation 33 packages for marine SACs and SPAs. We are also working with the Environment Agency on their Sustainable Coastal Wetlands project, which seeks to improve means of achieving habitat creation and enhancement on low-lying coasts, in ways that integrate nature conservation and economic activity.

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 is updated annually. A summary is published below.

Sir G M Doughty

(Chair): Board Member of the Countryside Agency. Board Member of East Midlands Development Agency. Non-Executive Director of ENTRUST (Landfill Tax Credits Regulator). Leader of Derbyshire County Council. Chair of the Peak District National Park Authority. Member of New Mills Town Council. Member of the Tor Vale Mill Trust. Executive Member of the Local Government Association. Lay Member of RSPB.

Mr D Arnold-Forster

(Chief Executive): Chairman of MAFF Task Force for the Hills. Member of William Nichols Court Management Company, Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust, National Trust, Council for the Protection of Rural England, Council for National Parks, North Yorkshire Moors Association, Derwent Anglers Club, Salmon and Trout Association and Game Conservancy Trust.

Professor S Tromans: Barrister. Research Professor, Nottingham Law School. Member of National Grid Environment Advisory Panel. Member of UK Environmental Law Association. Trustee, Forum for the Future.

Mr G N Woolley: Managing Director of Woolley & Company. Chairman of Beaver Securities Ltd. Director and Trustee of Torbay Coast and Countryside Trust. Member of Environment and Water Sub Committee. Chairman of Suffolk Branch Country Landowners Association. President of RICS Rural Practice Division.

Ms M Appleby: Nominated Council Member of Royal Agricultural Society of England. Independent consultant on Rural Policy and Communications. Member of Advisory Board, LEAF. Member of Steering Group, RURAL. Member of Working Group on Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development, Farmers Link. Member of the Guild of Agricultural Journalists.

Mr T Burke: Environmental consultant. Director of Ambio Ltd. Trustee of ACT Ltd. Executive Committee Member, Green Alliance. Director of Films of Record Ltd. Environmental Policy Advisor, Rio Tinto plc. Proprietor of Burke and Co. Visiting Professor, Imperial College. Member of RSPB, RSA, and Friends of the Earth.

Mr E P Gallagher: Chief Executive of Environment Agency (until January 2001). Trustee of Living Again Trust. Vice President of Council for Environmental Education. Deputy Chairman of Middlesex University. Civil Service Commissioner. Chairman of ECF Health and Safety and Environment Committee. Member of National Trust, English Heritage, Friend of Kew Gardens, Freedom of the City of London, Water Conservators and Member of Court.

Dr S Gubbay: Independent consultant on marine conservation and coastal management. Member of Marine Conservation Society. Representative on English Coastal Forum, Wildlife and Countryside Link.

Mrs A Kelaart: Director of Hall Farm South Moreton Ltd. Shareholder of Crowmarsh Battle Farms Ltd. Trustee of the Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group. Member of the Country Land and Business Association Executive Committee.

Dr M Moser: Freelance consultant on environment/nature conservation. Board Member of Tour Du Valat Foundation, France. Scientific Councillor of the Bonn Convention. Councillor of Honour to Wetlands International.

Professor D Norman: Director of Synchrotron Radiation, Council for the Central Laboratory of the Research Councils, Daresbury Laboratory, and visiting Professor in Surface Science, University of Liverpool. Chairman and Director of RECORD. Chairman of Merseyside Ringing Group. Member of BTO, British Ornithologists Union, RSPB, Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust, Cheshire and Wirral Ornithological Society and Mersey Estuary Conservation Group.

The complete register is open for public inspection and copies may be obtained from Jonathan Wray, Head Office. Telephone 01733 455356.

Summary financial statement 2000/2001

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 1195/2092) and was signed by Caroline Wood, the accounting officer, on 4 July 2001.

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.

The Environmental Protection Act 1990, augmented principally by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, conferred upon English Nature the following functions:

- i. to establish and maintain and manage nature reserves (according to 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 (SSSIs) 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 of actual or possible ecological changes as appropriate in the discharge of its functions.

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 2000/2001 English Nature met or exceeded the majority of its targets for the year set out in the Corporate Plan 2000-2004, despite the considerable additional work resulting from the EU Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) moderation process, the passage of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, and the additional activity required to spend a 12% increase in its Grant-in-Aid for 2000/2001. The following are highlights of achievements in 2000/2001.

Meeting Government requirements for the EU SAC moderation process. In total, 199 of 228 English candidate SACs have been submitted to Brussels, with consultation on most other sites completed.

The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 involved considerable liaison and building relationships with key people and organisations, with staff attending all parliamentary sessions and providing briefings to the Commons and Lords, in particular on tabled amendments. As part of the implementation process, 17 training courses have been held involving 426 staff, guidance is being revised and a helpline has been set up to deal with enquiries.

Regulation 33 packages were completed on 35 European marine sites (SACs and Special Protection Areas (SPAs)), giving advice on the management of sites and working with relevant authorities to develop management schemes.

Advice and support to Government was provided on a wide range of policy development issues. English Nature has also maintained its reputation for high quality policy advice to Select Committees. Highlights are influencing MAFF on Common Agriculture Policy (CAP) reform, the EU on Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) reform, and the Treasury on the farmland birds package and pesticides package.

On the Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP), English Nature made a substantive contribution to DETR's biodiversity report Sustaining the Variety of Life. Significant long-term partnerships were developed with Butterfly Conservation and the Natural History Museum. The Biodiversity Grants Scheme was launched with emphasis on local delivery of national BAP actions.

The Lifescapes programme was established with four pilots and supporting staff. This will help the integration of biodiversity with socio-economic and cultural objectives within the pilot areas through developing partnerships, improving access to environmental and heritage data, providing a framework for initiatives for

land management and improving the targeting of resources and monitoring of outcomes.

The National Nature Reserves (NNRs) annual report for 1999/2000 shows that 97% were judged satisfactory in achieving progress towards or maintaining satisfactory condition of key features. Over 420 demonstration events were held on NNRs in 1999/2000 and they received an estimated 9.15 million visitors.

Over 200 projects for management works and machinery or equipment purchase were funded under the Reserves Enhancement Scheme, helping to contribute to achieving Biodiversity Action Plan, Natura 2000, and other SSSI targets.

English Nature secured £4.6 million from the New Opportunities Fund (NOF) to run a re-invigorated Local Nature Reserve Grant Scheme. Work to support the NOF application, set up grant giving procedures, and undertake an audit of all processes was completed in time to begin the programme from April 2001.

In 2000/2001 English Nature's web site was completely redeveloped and redesigned to improve its appearance, content, and accountability.

Every Local Team held an event to celebrate the Millennium attracting around 17,000 visitors, increasing awareness of nature conservation and English Nature.

A successful bid to the Treasury Capital Modernisation Fund resulted in the award of £10 million over three years for various projects to improve SSSIs, increase public access to NNRs and establish online resources to allow the public to learn more about nature conservation.

English Nature opted for re-assessment in Investors in People accreditation against the revised and more rigorous National Standard

and was reviewed in September 2000, successfully retaining the IIP award. Feedback identified many strengths and some areas for improvement.

English Nature has complied with the requirements of Treasury Guidance on 'Corporate Governance – statement on the system of financial control' and will be in a position to produce a Statement on Internal control for the year ended 31 March 2002.

Future developments

The Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions announced that English Nature's grant in aid for 2001/2002 is to be £58,010,000.

The Government's Public Service Agreement target - to bring into favourable condition by 2010 95% of all SSSIs - is one of English Nature's key priorities for the benefit of present and future generations and is working in close partnership with owners, occupiers and public bodies to achieve this target. In the wider environment, achieving the wildlife objectives in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan through direct delivery and facilitating others is also a key priority. Implementing the *Modernising Government* programme will help English Nature to be more efficient, joined up and responsive enabling it to have more influence, work better with others and be better at managing itself. Detailed targets for 2001/02 onwards will be set out in English Nature's Corporate Plan 2001-2005. In summary, they are to:

- Increase the area of terrestrial SSSIs in favourable or recovering condition.
- Report on the condition of intertidal features including mudflats, saltmarsh features, vegetated shingle, reefs and sea-cave habitats in order to set future targets for achieving favourable condition.
- Review access arrangements on National Nature Reserves to ensure they are consistent

with the forthcoming extension of access to particular categories of open land as a result of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000.

- Contribute to the UK Biodiversity Action Plan, through support to relevant groups, delivery of Habitat and Species Action Plans on which we lead and facilitating others to contribute.
- Ensure there is an integrated national and local BAP planning process to identify appropriate targets, initiate action and monitor outcomes.
- Contribute to the monitoring of the national wildlife resource, through the establishment of inventories for sites important for meeting national nature conservation targets.
- Advise on policies for or affecting nature conservation, proactively and in response to Government and Parliamentary consultations.
- Successfully reapply for a Charter Mark award during 2001/2002 and renew Investors in People accreditation in 2003.
- Implement electronic records management by 2003. Ensure that 90% of low value transactions can be processed electronically by 2002. Infrastructure, hardware, software and staff training on the Team Server and Support Project to be complete by 2002.
- Full risk management process in place for 2003/2004 onwards.
- English Nature's website will continue to be developed expanding the content, improving accessibility and the range of on-line services and extending its appeal to wider audiences.
- A range of national and regional open meetings and events will be offered by English Nature and its work presented through a series of high quality publications.

The foot and mouth epidemic is having a serious impact on English Nature's work programme and nature conservation outcomes, particularly in upland areas of northern England.

Members of the Council are listed on page 43

Summary Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31 March 2001

	2000/2001	Restated 1999/2000
	£'000	£'000
Income		
Grant in aid received	43,470	39,528
Shared conservation income	2,669	2,595
Other government grants	578	545
Income from activities	1,497	1,127
Transfers from reserves and provisions	455	344
Other operating income	180	159
	<u>48,849</u>	<u>44,298</u>

Expenditure

Maintenance of National Nature Reserves (NNRs)	2,733	2,309
Management agreements	8,750	8,896
Conservation support	7,259	6,016
Information and publicity	1,261	1,038
Grants	2,119	2,132
Staff costs	17,014	15,779
Other operating costs	7,495	6,898
Depreciation	1,617	1,299
Shared conservation expenditure	2,676	2,588
Impairment of fixed assets	397	125
Notional costs	970	865
	<u>52,318</u>	<u>47,945</u>

(Deficit) on operating activities

before superannuation	(3,469)	(3,647)
Superannuation receipts	<u>880</u>	<u>454</u>

(Deficit) on operating activities

Profit/(Loss) on sale of fixed assets	73	(72)
Interest receivable	204	167
Notional cost of capital	<u>(184)</u>	<u>(39)</u>

(Deficit) on ordinary activities

Add back notional costs	1,176	924
Transfer from government grant reserve	<u>2,451</u>	<u>1,776</u>

Retained (deficit)/surplus for the financial year

Council Members' emoluments	<u>133</u>	<u>131</u>
-----------------------------	------------	------------

Summary Balance Sheet for the year ended 31 March 2001

	2000/2001	Restated 1999/2000
	£'000	£'000
Fixed assets	<u>8,733</u>	<u>6,665</u>
Current assets	3,867	2,892
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	<u>(1,546)</u>	<u>(1,314)</u>
Net current assets	2,321	1,578
Provisions for liabilities and charges	(5,934)	(7,282)
Net assets	<u>5,120</u>	<u>961</u>
Capital and reserves	<u>5,120</u>	<u>961</u>

The certificate and report of the Comptroller and Auditor General on the full financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2001 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).

Caroline Wood
4 July 2001
Accounting Officer

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

I have examined the summary financial statements on pages 44 to 46 which have been prepared in the form and on the basis set out in the summary foreword on page 44.

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 audit 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 English Nature for the year ended 31 March 2001 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
4 July 2001

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

Glossary

Agri-environment schemes. These include Countryside Stewardship, Environmentally Sensitive Areas and the Organic Aid scheme. Co-funded by the UK Government and the EU, they aim to maintain and enhance the landscape, built heritage, wildlife and public access.

Biodiversity. This is the variety of living things, including the habitats that support them and the genetic variation within species.

Charter Mark. This is awarded by the Government in recognition of service to the public and customers.

Habitat Action Plans are written for habitats including fens, chalk grassland and oak woodland that are suffering sharp decline, are important for rare species, or are internationally important.

Local Biodiversity Action Plans (BAPS). English Nature relies on people's local knowledge and skills to deliver national biodiversity targets on the ground.

Local Nature Reserves (LNRs). In England LNRs are declared by local authorities in consultation with English Nature. For land to be declared an LNR it must be of special value locally.

National Biodiversity Network (NBN). The National Biodiversity Network is a partnership of local and national custodians of wildlife information working to deliver UK wide access to this information.

National Nature Reserves. English Nature manages a network of National Nature Reserves. They protect and are managed to conserve their wildlife and geological interest.

Natura 2000. The network of SPAs and SACs across the European Union.

Natural Areas. We have defined a series of 120 Natural Areas, covering the whole of England. These biogeographic zones reflect the geology, wildlife, land use and cultural aspects of the area.

Nature Conservation Orders (NCOs) and Special Nature Conservation Orders (SNCOs). These orders are made by the Secretary of State for the DETR in order to conserve the nature conservation interests of any land within, respectively, a national or European designated site.

New Opportunities Fund. The New Opportunities Fund distributes national lottery money to education, health and environment projects across the UK.

Public Service Agreements (PSAs). Public Service Agreements provide important information on the aim, objectives and performance targets for each of the main departments in Government.

Ramsar. Under the Ramsar convention, the Government is committed to designate 'wetlands of International Importance' (Ramsar sites) and to use the wetlands within its territory wisely.

Reserves Enhancement Scheme. This aims to improve the management of SSSIs that are managed by voluntary conservation organisations as nature reserves.

Rural Development Programme. The England Rural Development Programme is a seven year plan (2000-2006) outlining the ways in which the Government proposes to use the 'second pillar' of the Common Agricultural Policy - the Rural Development regulation to support schemes to protect and improve the countryside.

Special Areas of Conservation (SACs). The Habitats Directive requires European member states to maintain or restore habitats and species at a favourable conservation status in the community. This involves the designation of SACs.

Special Protection Areas (SPAs). The Birds Directive (1979) requires European member states to designate SPAs to conserve the habitats of certain particularly rare species and of migratory species. English Nature consults with owners, occupiers and local authorities on the proposed classifications.

Species Action Plans are written for priority species that are threatened globally or are declining rapidly in the UK, including the water vole, large blue butterfly and juniper.

Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs). The best wildlife sites are designated as SSSIs. They represent the best examples of the natural variation in wildlife habitats and geological features in England and they protect the range of this variation.

Sustainable development. Sustainable development is that which allows society's social and economic needs to be met without damaging the quality of the natural environment.

UK Biodiversity Action Plan. This is a commitment made by government to increase the variety of native wildlife - the biodiversity - within the UK.

Wildlife corridors. These are areas of habitat such as hedgerow and grassland that link up wildlife sites and reduce their isolation, allowing plants and animals to move between.

Wildlife Enhancement. A voluntary scheme run by English Nature, designed to develop an effective partnership with managers of SSSIs to improve their wildlife interest. The scheme offers annual payments for managing land for wildlife, and fixed costs payments to pay for capital work.

Local Teams

11 June 2001

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

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

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

3 North West Team
(Lancashire, Greater Manchester, Merseyside and North Cheshire)
Pier House, Wallgate, Wigan, Lancashire WN3 4AL
☎ +44 (0)1942 820342
Fax +44 (0)1942 820364
Email: northwest@english-nature.org.uk
Team Manager: Will Williams

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
☎ +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)
Thornborough Hall, Leyburn, North Yorkshire DL8 5ST
☎ +44 (0)1969 623447
Fax +44 (0)1969 624190
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
☎ +44 (0)1924 334500
Fax +44 (0)1924 201507
Email: humber.pennines@english-nature.org.uk
Team Manager: Jeff Lunn

6 East Midlands Team
(Leicester City, Nottingham City, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, Nottinghamshire and Rutland)
The Maltings, Wharf Road, Grantham, Lincolnshire NG31 6BH
☎ +44 (0)1476 584800
Fax +44 (0)1476 570927
Email: eastmidlands@english-nature.org.uk
Team Manager: Rick Keymer

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

8 West Midlands Team
(Cheshire, Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin, Staffordshire, Stoke-on-Trent, Birmingham, Dudley, Sandwell, Walsall and Wolverhampton)
Attingham Park, Shrewsbury, Shropshire SY4 4TW
☎ +44 (0)1743 709611
Fax +44 (0)1743 709303
Email: westmidlands@english-nature.org.uk
Team Manager: Peter Knights

8a Warwickshire Office
(Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire)
10/11 Butchers Row, Banbury, Oxfordshire OX16 5JH
☎ +44 (0)1295 257601
Fax +44 (0)1295 275180

9 Three Counties Team
(Gloucestershire, Herefordshire & Worcestershire)
Bronsil House, Eastnor, Nr Ledbury, Herefordshire HR8 1EP
☎ +44 (0)1531 638500
Fax +44 (0)1531 638501
Email: three.counties@english-nature.org.uk
Team Manager: Rob Williams

10 Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire & Northamptonshire Team
(Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Northamptonshire, Peterborough and Luton)
Ham Lane House, Ham Lane, Nene Park, Orton Waterville, Peterborough PE2 5UR
☎ +44 (0)1733 405850
Fax +44 (0)1733 394093
Email: beds.cambs.nhants@english-nature.org.uk
Team Manager: Tom Tew

11 Norfolk Team
60 Bracondale, Norwich, Norfolk NR1 2BE
☎ +44 (0)1603 598400
Fax +44 (0)1603 762552
Email: norfolk@english-nature.org.uk
Team Manager: Stewart Lane



- 12 Suffolk Team**
Regent House, 110 Northgate Street, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk IP33 1HP
☎ +44 (0)1284 762218
Fax +44 (0)1284 764318
Email: suffolk@english-nature.org.uk
Team Manager: Richard Rafe
- 13 Essex, Hertfordshire & London Team**
Colchester Office, Harbour House, Hythe Quay, Colchester, Essex CO2 8JF
☎ +44 (0)1206 796666
Fax +44 (0)1206 794466
Email: essex.herts@english-nature.org.uk
Team Manager: Greg Smith
- 13a Ormond House, 26/27 Boswell Street, London WC1N 3JZ**
☎ +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
☎ +44 (0)1233 812525
Fax +44 (0)1233 812520
Email: kent@english-nature.org.uk
Acting 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
☎ +44 (0)1273 476595
Fax +44 (0)1273 483063
Email: sussex.surrey@english-nature.org.uk
Team Manager: Dr Chris Edwards
- 16 Thames & Chilterns Team**
(Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire)
Foxhold House, Crookham Common, Thatcham, Berkshire RG19 8EL
☎ +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
☎ +44 (0)2380 283944
Fax +44 (0)2380 283834
Email: hants.iwight@english-nature.org.uk
Team Manager: Dr Rob Wolton
- 18 Wiltshire Team**
(Swindon & Wiltshire)
Prince Maurice Court, Hambleton Avenue, Devizes, Wiltshire SN10 2RT
☎ +44 (0)1380 726344
Fax +44 (0)1380 721411
Email: wiltshire@english-nature.org.uk
Team Manager: Gerry Hammersley
- 19 Dorset Team**
(Dorset, Bournemouth & Poole)
Slepe Farm, Arne, Wareham, Dorset BH20 5BN
☎ +44 (0)1929 557450
Fax +44 (0)1929 554752
Email: dorset@english-nature.org.uk
Team Manager: Jim White
- 20 Somerset Team**
(South Gloucester, Bristol, Bath and North East Somerset and North Somerset)
Roughmoor, Bishop's Hull, Taunton, Somerset TA1 5AA
☎ +44 (0)1823 283211
Fax +44 (0)1823 272978
Email: somerset@english-nature.org.uk
Team Manager: Andy King
- 21 Devon Team**
Level 2, Renslade House, Bonhay Road, Exeter EX4 3AW
☎ +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
☎ +44 (0)1872 265710
Fax +44 (0)1872 262551
Email: cornwall@english-nature.org.uk
Team Manager: Stephen Warman

National Office

11 June 2001

National Office contacts

English Nature
Northminster House
Peterborough
PE1 1UA
Tel +44 (0)1733 455000
Fax +44 (0)1733 568834

Chief Executive David Arnold-Forster

☎ +44 (0)1733 455344

Directors:

Operations Andrew Brown

☎ +44 (0)1733 455324

Policy Sue Collins

☎ +44 (0)1733 455371

Chief Scientist Dr Keith Duff

☎ +44 (0)1733 455208

Resources and Communications Caroline Wood

☎ +44 (0)1733 455340

General Managers:

West Midlands Region and Agriculture Mark Felton

☎ +44 (0)1733 455362

South East Region and Maritime Habitats Tim Bines

☎ +44 (0)1233 812182
or 812525

East Midlands Region Kevin Charman

☎ +44 (0)1661 845528

Communications & Public Relations Andy Clements

☎ +44 (0)1733 455358

North West Region and Terrestrial Habitats
David Henshilwood

☎ +44 (0)1733 455374

North East & Yorks and Humberside Regions and
Environmental Management Systems Martyn Howat

☎ +44 (0)1661 845527

Chief Surveyor Bruce Keith

☎ +44 (0)1733 455373

South West Region & Policy James Marsden

☎ +44 (0)1733 455427

East Region Shaun Thomas

☎ +44 (0)1206 796666

Team Managers:

Strategic Development and Reporting Team:
Sarah Fendley

☎ +44 (0)1733 455351

External Relations Team Richard Leafé

☎ +44 (0)1733 455111

Environmental Impacts Team Janette Ward

☎ +44 (0)1733 455107

Head Office Jonathan Wray (Team Coordinator)

☎ +44 (0)1733 455356

Human Resource Services Team Margaret Bull

☎ +44 (0)1733 455054

Information Delivery Team Ron Donaldson
(Acting Team Manager)

☎ +44 (0)1733 455314

Finance and Procurement Services Team Keith Little

☎ +44 (0)1733 455172

Lowlands Team Richard Wright

☎ +44 (0)1733 455243

Uplands Team David Townshend

☎ +44 (0)1733 455384

Maritime Team Mark Duffy

☎ +44 (0)1733 455230



www.english-nature.org.uk

ISBN 1 85716 567 5

Catalogue Code CORP1.0/4

© English Nature 2001

English Nature is the government agency that champions the conservation of wildlife and natural features throughout England.

This is one of a range of publications published by:
External Relations Team, English Nature,
Northminster House, Peterborough PE1 1UA

Designed by Coral Design Management, Peterborough.
Printed by Arkle Print on Evolution Satin, 75% recycled
post-consumer waste paper, Elemental Chlorine Free. 5M.

Cover photograph: Red deer stag in Richmond Park NNR, London.
Paul Glendell/English Nature



Awarded for excellence