

The Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire

# 2010-11 Annual Review

People close to nature, in a land rich in wildlife



Chris Rutter

Bedfordshire  
Cambridgeshire  
Northamptonshire



Barnes Meadow  
- part of our Nene  
Valley Living  
Landscape  
project

## Thanks to all our members

By the end of the year there were 35,883 members (35,659: 2010). The 0.6% net increase was accompanied by 4.6% increase in income from subscriptions (including corporate membership).

## Looking to the future

In July 2010 the Trust published its first Corporate Plan. This comprised a Development Plan defining the Trust's aims; a Business Plan to ensure it has the resources to deliver them; and a Marketing Plan to raise profile and build support.

The Plan identified the Trust's top four Living Landscapes: the Great Fen, North Chilterns Chalk, West Cambridgeshire Hundreds and Nene Valley Vision. With these the Trust will seek to increase the quality and area of high-value wildlife habitat. In five more schemes it will pursue opportunities when they arise. The Plan also contains a new vision, mission and values.

In June 2011 the Government's White Paper on the Natural Environment set out an approach to conservation and land use which aligns with Living Landscapes: larger nature reserves, better managed, with climate change impacts accounted for, and set in a better-connected countryside.

In 2012 the Wildlife Trusts celebrate 100 years of nature conservation. It all started on our patch when Northamptonshire naturalist Charles Rothschild set up the Society for the Promotion of Nature Reserves in 1912. Our centenary offers a unique chance to highlight the impact of our work during the last 100 years and what we hope to achieve in the future.

# Our work in 2010-11

## Managing land for wildlife

The Trust now has 128 nature reserves covering 2,420 hectares (5,980 acres). All but two are free to visit.

### Across our three counties

Rare barbastelle bats were recorded at several nature reserves across our three counties, along with serotine bats at Pitsford Water in Northamptonshire and Nathusius's pipistrelle at Grafham Water in Cambridgeshire.

### In Bedfordshire

A new member of staff is working to unlock the secrets of Cooper's Hill and Flitwick Moor - two fascinating reserves along the county's greensand ridge.

### In Cambridgeshire

More than 3000 conifers were felled in Brampton Wood allowing native

broadleaf trees such as oak, ash and hazel, to flourish, as well as many woodland flowers.

### In Northamptonshire

More than 40 pyramidal orchids appeared on restored limestone grassland at Sammocks Hill, Old Sulehay. The former arable land also has several clumps of knapweed broomrape and a large population of bombardier beetle.

## Acquiring high value land, creating new habitats

The way we look after local wildlife is changing. We're thinking big, joining up our nature reserves and working with other land owners and managers, to create 'joined up' landscapes more valuable for wildlife - Living Landscapes.

### In Bedfordshire

With the proposed guided busway route passing next to our Blows Downs nature reserve, detailed negotiations continued all year to secure funding for the long-term management of new land to mitigate for the impact of the busway.

### In Cambridgeshire

In the Great Fen, 134 hectares (331 acres) of land was restored, funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund. The project partners published a masterplan, conveying the project's wide range of benefits for wildlife and people. It won the top award at the Royal Town Planning Institute's annual planning awards ceremony in London.

### In Northamptonshire

Negotiations have continued over sites in

the Nene Valley - including Irthingborough Lakes and Meadows, which could soon be our second largest reserve in Northamptonshire.

## Gathering wildlife information

Our 300 Ecology Group volunteers carry out pioneering ecological monitoring to assess the effectiveness of our nature reserves management.

### Across our three counties

More than 10,000 planning applications were screened for their possible effects on wildlife, and over 300 comments or objections were made.

### In Bedfordshire

Staff and volunteers have surveyed Himalayan balsam on the River Flit to enable control of this invasive species.

### In Cambridgeshire

Habitat network surveys in West Cambridgeshire Hundreds woodlands will provide information about the foraging behaviour and movement of barbastelle bats, and identify priority areas for new woodland creation.

### In Northamptonshire

Hover Watch gathers information on the abundance and distribution of hoverflies using nectar sources along woodland paths and glades at Old Sulehay Forest.

## Influencing people to take action

The Trust is focusing on providing training and support for teachers and engaging with communities close to our Living Landscapes areas.

### Across our three counties

Wildlife Watch and Greenwatch groups are continuing to raise awareness among children, young people and families. There are currently 23 Wildlife Watch groups for children aged 8-12 and four Greenwatch groups for 12-16 year-olds. Paxton Pits Watch won The Wildlife Trusts' national award for Best Watch Group.

### In Cambridgeshire

A new outdoor education centre at Paxton Pits offers school visits, community events and teacher training.

### In Northamptonshire

The Great Outdoors Project is engaging new and existing audiences around five local nature reserves including King's Wood in Corby.

# Financial Review

The Trust's finances are managed through the Resources Committee of Council, delegating its authority on a day-to-day basis to the Chief Executive, who has authority to spend up to £100,000, and senior managers who co-ordinate individual budgets.

The Trustees have agreed a policy to maintain a financial reserve that would cover at least three months' expenditure on running costs and to aim for six months' cover. This reserve is calculated by taking the total budgeted regular expenditure for the year, deducting the major income-dependent costs and dividing the total by four. The Trust invests its financial reserves in a way that increases its assets, the bulk of which are invested in optimum-return bank deposit accounts. A small number of shares donated to the Trust have been retained.

The unrestricted surplus for the year was £157,343 (£137,178: 2010) resulting in unrestricted net current assets of £981,400 (£841,057: 2010) made up of current assets £1,293,523 less creditors £312,123, which equated to 4.5 months' free reserves. The restricted deficit for the year of £4,871,589 (surplus £5,253,749: 2010) includes a write-back in the value of farms on the Great Fen to their original cost amounting to £5,122,239. This is due to the re-classification of this land from Investment Assets to Land in tenure, and reverses the gain shown last year. Moving Great Fen farmland from investment to Land in tenure also transfers rental income from Investment income to Other income. Total fixed assets decreased from £20,992,964 to £15,769,492, mainly through the above re-classification exercise. Heritage assets represent the holdings of nature reserves and are

entered at their value on their acquisition totalling £7,580,281 (£6,546,179: 2010). The freehold of The Manor House at Cambourne is subject to a legal charge with the developers of the site. This diminishes by 10% per annum and therefore £435,000 of the value remains to be recovered over the next three years.

The principal funding sources are restricted grants £1,253,210 (£1,029,072: 2010), subscriptions and Gift Aid £1,156,626 (£1,126,816: 2010), service agreements £544,575 (£503,107: 2010), and landfill tax credits/aggregates levy sustainability fund £371,954 (£481,016: 2010). Of the total voluntary income of £1,846,713 (£1,785,605: 2010), £1,779,044 (£1,565,160: 2010) was unrestricted, mainly from subscriptions and gift aid. Of the total income from other sources of £2,779,823 (£2,598,331: 2010), £2,058,457 (£1,877,943: 2010) was restricted.

Total restricted grants (including Landfill tax credit) amounted to £1,625,164 (£1,510,088: 2010) compared with the Fundraising and donor development costs of £310,554 (£340,354: 2010) which include the resources used to help raise this level of restricted income.

## Thanks

Enduring and improving relationships continue to be essential to the Trust's success. The support of members, corporate members, sponsors, charitable trusts, government organisations at all levels and our professional advisors has been vital, as has the dedicated work of our volunteers and staff. We are particularly grateful for the legacies we received from Edmund Parker, Kenneth Clayton, Pamela Jennings, John Wainwright and Eric Roberts.

## Enduring relationships continue to be essential to the Trust's success

## Financial Report

### Statement of financial activities for the year ended 31 March 2011

	2011	2010
	£	£
<b>INCOME</b>		
Subscriptions and Gift Aid	1,156,626	1,126,816
Donations and sponsorships	129,221	116,093
Grants	1,647,351	1,343,299
Legacies	166,725	228,469
Appeals	36,944	26,766
Community fundraising activities	808	11,836
Landfill tax credits	371,954	481,016
Service agreements	544,575	503,107
Investment income	30,492	248,803
Other income	541,840	297,731
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>4,626,536</b>	<b>4,383,936</b>

### EXPENDITURE

Fundraising and donor development	310,554	340,354
Marketing and membership services	494,556	459,947
Nature reserve management	1,550,434	1,247,158
Wider countryside	639,172	588,256
Partnership projects	518,934	620,330
Education	637,386	726,025
Governance costs	67,507	50,659
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>4,218,543</b>	<b>4,032,729</b>

Gain/ (loss) on investments	(5,121,214)	5,122,606
Gain/ (loss) on fixed assets	15,654	-

Net income (after expenses)	(4,697,567)	5,473,813
Funds at start of year	22,446,823	16,973,010
<b>Funds at end of year</b>	<b>17,749,256</b>	<b>22,446,823</b>

### Summary of Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2011

#### FIXED ASSETS

Freehold land & buildings	1,424,668	1,455,615
Investment properties	-	11,635,505
Land in tenure	5,481,626	-
Heritage assets	7,580,281	6,546,179
Other tangible assets	1,282,917	1,355,665
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>15,769,492</b>	<b>20,992,964</b>

#### CURRENT ASSETS

Stocks	34,090	37,118
Debtors	821,937	1,276,820
Investments	3,126	2,101
Cash at bank and in hand	2,044,358	1,305,590
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,903,511</b>	<b>2,621,629</b>

Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(598,611)	(685,088)
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<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b>2,304,900</b>	<b>1,936,541</b>
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	(325,136)	(482,682)

<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<b>17,749,256</b>	<b>22,446,823</b>
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#### FUNDS

Restricted	15,164,043	20,035,632
Unrestricted	2,585,213	2,411,191
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>17,749,256</b>	<b>22,446,823</b>

## The Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire

**President** Baroness Young of Old Scone

**Vice Presidents** Michael Allen, Prof David Bellamy, Mrs Mary Bevan, Mr Hugh Duberly, Dr Norman Moore, Mr Ioan Thomas

**Chairman of Council** Sir Charles Chadwyck-Healey, Bt

**Vice Chairman** Ms Margaret Goose

**Honorary Treasurer** Mr Richard Astle (retired 9 Oct 2010), Ms Karen Silcock (appointed 9 Oct 2010)

**Honorary Secretary** Mr Richard Townley (retired 9 Oct 2010), Ms Fiona Chesterton (appointed 9 Oct 2010)

**Chairman of Conservation Education & Community Committee** Prof David Gowing (appointed 2 Feb 2010)

**Council Members** Mr Martin Baker (appointed 9 Oct 2010), Dr Jenna Bishop (appointed 9 Oct 2010), Dr Patrick Doody (retired 9 Oct 2010), Mr Tony Juniper, Dr Derek Langslow, Dr Sheila Pankhurst, Sir John Robinson Bt, Cllr John Yates (resigned 2 Aug 2011)

**Chief Executive** Mr Brian Eversham

**Registered and principal office**  
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**Principal Bankers** Barclays Bank plc  
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**Solicitors** Hewitsons  
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Cambridge  
CB5 8EP

**Company number** 2534145

**Registered Charity number** 1000412