

2009/10

Annual Review

Bringing people together to take action for wildlife is the Trust's mission. To protect all kinds of wildlife close to home, we manage 126 nature reserves – all of them free to visit – and 95% of the population in our three counties live within five miles of one of them. We are working to make such wildlife havens bigger, better and more joined up, which is vital to help wildlife to adapt to a changing climate. By gathering valuable information about wildlife and working with other landowners, the Trust also monitors and safeguards wildlife beyond the boundaries of its nature reserves.



H. Stanier

Protecting wildlife
close to home

Green-winged orchid

The Trust has five over-arching objectives to protect local wildlife.

Managing land for wildlife

The Trust cares for 126 nature reserves that cover a diverse range of habitats. Our reserves are free to visit and all but two are open to the public at all times.

- Breeding birds did well at two wetland reserves. Grafham Water in Cambridgeshire saw the first confirmed breeding of avocets. Highlights at Summer Leys, Northamptonshire, included four broods of little ringed plovers, two broods of ringed plovers, three broods of redshanks, two broods of shelducks and a high count of 62 juvenile common terns (with two pairs using the new raft).
- We took on the management of Galley and Warden Hills, an important chalk grassland Site of Special Scientific Interest and Local Nature Reserve. Our management is funded by the site's owner, Luton Borough Council
- We continued to work in partnership with other organisations, including Anglian Water, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, the Woodland Trust and local authorities, to manage reserves.



Manx Loghtan ewe and lambs

- Grazing animals, such as flocks of rare breed sheep, are essential to maintain our grassland nature reserves. At the end of the year, we owned more than 430 Hebridean, North Ronaldsay and Manx Loghtan sheep and 11 Murray Grey cattle. To help with livestock management, we took delivery of our third trained sheep dog to work in Northamptonshire.
- Orchid counts at Soham Meadow in Cambridgeshire recorded a total of 72 frog orchids, which is a big increase from the single-figure counts of recent years. Over 2,700 green-winged orchids flourished at Upwood Meadows, also in Cambridgeshire.
- At Cherry Hinton Chalk Pits a survey for the nationally rare moon carrot revealed 64 rosettes growing on the quarry floor and over 200 kinds of flowering plants on top of the cliff. Forty-five glow worms were also recorded during night walks.

Acquiring land of high value, and creating new habitats

Our living landscapes vision helps us to create bigger, better and more joined up spaces for wildlife to thrive.

- The Great Fen Project in north-west Cambridgeshire is one of the largest wetland restoration projects in the country. In partnership with the Environment Agency, Huntingdonshire District Council, Natural England and the Middle Level Commissioners, it aims to link Woodwalton Fen and Holme Fen National Nature Reserves by restoring a 3,700-hectare mosaic of wetland habitats. The project will create a haven for wildlife and rare fen plants as well as provide opportunities for recreation, education and business. We have established grasslands on three farms, and water levels are gradually being raised on Middle Farm.
- At Totternhoe Quarry in Bedfordshire, we acquired a further seven hectares (18 acres) of land to link the Trust's two existing landholdings. This acquisition was funded by a very successful Trust-wide appeal, and by the Chalk Arc Growth Area Fund, the Chilterns Conservation Board, and Butterfly Conservation (local group). Chiltern gentian and heath eyebright flowered on the new land.
- Wistow Wood in Cambridgeshire is an 8.5-hectare ancient woodland reserve and SSSI, which the Trust has been looking after for many years. It was left to the Trust on the death of its owner.
 - At Blow's Downs in Bedfordshire we worked to ensure that new habitats were created to compensate for the impact caused by the proposed guided busway. We hope to gain new land next to our existing reserve, and the funds to manage it.



Little ringed plovers did well at Grafham Water and Summer Leys this year.



Management work helped plants flourish - like this purple loosestrife.



Key bird breeding site - Summer Leys in Northamptonshire.



Research on butterflies will help us manage our reserves in a changing climate.

Gathering wildlife information

Ecological information is vital to help us to manage our nature reserves and defend other important wildlife sites.

- The Wildlife Trust's four Ecology Groups, containing over 300 trained volunteers, continued to pioneer the detailed ecological monitoring of the effectiveness of our nature reserves management work.
- Our butterfly research continued on chalk grasslands in Bedfordshire. The work assessed the effectiveness of butterflies as indicators of habitat type and quality on a range of reserves. Taking the temperature of butterflies, using a highly sensitive probe, showed how well these insects can control their temperature. This work is helping us understand how the butterflies may cope with climate change.
 - Habitat surveys in the West Cambridgeshire Hundreds showed how improving habitat networks can help internationally protected barbastelle bats, which forage through the landscape.
 - August 29 2009 was European Bat Night and 174 people attended the organised bat walks/surveys on Wildlife Trust reserves across the three counties.

Inspiring people to take action

We work to inspire as many people as possible to develop a lifelong commitment to wildlife conservation.

- Our education and community staff had direct contact with over 22,000 people, including almost 16,000 children and young people. More than 10,000 pupils participated in our formal education services.
- We opened a new, purpose-built classroom at Paxton Pits nature reserve - funded by Natural England through Defra's Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund, in a partnership project with Huntingdonshire District Council supported by the Friends of Paxton Pits, Bardonia Aggregates and aggregate industries.
- Wildlife Watch and Greenwatch groups, for young people, continued to grow. There are 18 Wildlife Watch groups across the three counties as well as two Greenwatch groups. Paxton Pits won the award for Best New Watch Group in the Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts' (RSWT) Watch Group of the Year awards.
- The Great Fen masterplan consultation involved 19 events and structured interviews reaching over 500 people at public venues and schools in the local area. These contributed to shaping the masterplan.
- Our Local Groups continued to grow and develop. We have 13 active groups, including a new group in Peterborough.
- Our programme of Wildlife Training Workshops remains the most comprehensive and highly regarded in the country. We ran 52 workshops in 2009. Several other Wildlife Trusts have asked for help to emulate our approach.

Promoting conservation by other land managers

We protect wildlife beyond the boundaries of our nature reserves and helping other landowners to take action to protect local wildlife.

- During the year 5,500 planning applications were screened for their possible effects on wildlife, and we made over 100 comments and objections to defend wildlife.
- Staff helped shape restoration schemes for quarry sites across the three counties.
- The Trust secured many important ecological proposals and safeguards within the Ely masterplan.

New Chief Executive

In October 2009 Nicholas Hammond retired after 10 years as chief executive. His term of office saw the Trust grow from a small and financially weak organisation to one of the largest and most effective members of the Wildlife Trusts movement. In a decade the Trust's staff doubled, its membership increased three-fold and its turnover, four-fold. Nick's successor, Brian Eversham, knows the Trust well, as he has been our Conservation Director for 12 years. He intends to maintain the Trust's overall direction and build on the gains of the last decade.

Thank you!

Without the support of our members and donors and the energy and enthusiasm of volunteers, the Trust simply could not protect wildlife close to home.

By the end of the year the trust had 35,659 members - a net increase of 3% on last year.



Our Totternhoe Quarry appeal helped to link two Trust landholdings.



You're never too old or too young to learn something new.

We work with developers to safeguard wildlife.



New classroom at Paxton Pits



Financial report

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 March 2010

Income	2010 £	2009 £
Subscriptions and Gift Aid	1,126,816	1,100,266
Donations and sponsorship	116,093	164,799
Grants	1,260,840	6,685,477
Legacies	228,469	22,312
Appeals	8,728	16,728
Fundraising activities	29,874	20,833
Landfill tax credits	481,016	211,789
Service agreements	503,107	684,071
Investment income	248,803	266,630
Other income	297,731	425,692
TOTAL INCOME	4,301,477	9,598,597

Expenditure

Fundraising and donor development	338,183	313,106
Marketing and membership service	459,947	484,061
Nature reserve management	1,247,158	1,679,273
Wider countryside	588,256	623,126
Partnership projects	620,330	291,588
Education	726,025	468,573
Governance costs	50,659	42,758
TOTAL EXPENSES	4,030,558	3,902,485
Gain/(loss) on investments	5,122,606	(1,656)
Gain/(loss) on fixed assets	(2,171)	80,469
Net income (after expenses)	5,391,354	5,744,925
Funds at start of year	16,973,010	11,198,085
Funds at end of year	22,364,364	16,973,010

Summary of Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2010

Fixed assets

Freehold land and buildings	1,455,615	1,486,560
Investment properties	11,635,505	8,121,306
Heritage assets	6,546,179	4,614,316
Other tangible assets	1,355,665	1,229,144
TOTAL	20,992,964	15,451,326

Current assets

Stock	37,118	28,456
Debtors	1,194,361	1,045,074
Investments	2,101	1,674
Cash at bank and in hand	1,305,590	1,605,174
TOTAL	2,539,170	2,680,378
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(685,088)	(565,704)
Net current assets	1,854,082	2,114,674
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	(482,682)	(592,990)

Net assets

Net assets	22,364,364	16,973,010
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Funds

Restricted	20,035,632	14,781,883
Unrestricted	2,328,732	2,191,127
TOTAL	22,364,364	16,973,010

Financial Review

The Trust's finances are managed through the Resources Committee of Council that delegates 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 decided to keep 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 income 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 high-return bank deposit accounts. A small amount of shares donated to the Trust have been retained.

The unrestricted surplus for the year was £139,349 (£110,356: 2009) resulting in unrestricted net current assets of £841,057 (£872,454: 2009) made up of current assets £1,070,415 less creditors £229,358, which equated to 3.7 months' free reserves. Land acquired in the Great Fen, which has not yet been restored for conservation, currently appears as an investment asset. The restricted surplus for the year of £5,253,749 (£5,585,756: 2009) therefore includes an increase in the market value of farms on the Great Fen amounting to £5,122,179. This gain will be offset by losses in future years, as the land is put into restoration and written back to original cost. Total fixed assets increased from £15,451,326 to £20,992,964 mainly through the above revaluation exercise. Heritage assets represent the holdings of nature reserves and are entered at their value on their acquisition totalling £6,546,179 (£4,614,316: 2009). 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, £580,000 of the value remains to be recovered over the next four years.

The principal funding sources are restricted grants £1,029,072 (£6,683,937: 2009), subscriptions and Gift Aid £1,126,816 (£1,100,266: 2009), service agreements £503,107 (£684,071: 2009), and landfill tax credits/aggregates levy sustainability fund £481,016 (£211,789: 2009). Of the total voluntary income of £1,703,146 (£1,288,917: 2009), £1,565,160 (£1,153,750: 2009) was unrestricted, and mainly from subscriptions and Gift Aid. Of the total income from other sources of £2,598,330 (£8,309,680: 2009), £1,877,943 (£7,659,204: 2009) was restricted.

The restricted grants for 2009 included £5,323,995 to fund the purchase of land at Holme Fen. The remaining restricted grants (including Landfill tax credit) amounted to £1,571,731 compared with the income from similar sources in 2010 of £1,510,088. The fundraising and donor development costs of £338,184 (£313,106: 2009) include the resources used to help raise this level of restricted income.

The Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Northamptonshire and Peterborough.

President Baroness Young of Old Scone	Chief Executive Mr Nicholas Hammond (retired 31 October 2009), Mr Brian Eversham (appointed 1 November 2009)
Vice Presidents Mr Michael Allen, Prof David Bellamy, Mrs Mary Bevan, Mr Hugh Duberly, Dr Norman Moore, Mr Ioan Thomas	Registered and principal office The Manor House, Broad Street, Great Cambourne, Cambridge CB23 6DH
Chairman of Council Sir Charles Chadwyck-Healey, Bart	Auditors Saffery Champness, Stuart House, City Road, Peterborough, Cambridgeshire PE1 1QF
Vice Chairman Ms Margaret Goose	Principal Bankers Barclays Bank plc, Bene't Street, Business Centre, PO Box 2, Cambridge CB2 3PZ
Honorary Treasurer Mr Richard Aistle	Solicitors Hewitsons, Shakespeare House, 42 Newmarket Road, Cambridge CB5 8EP
Honorary Secretary Mr Richard Townley	Company number 2534145
Chairman of Conservation & Education Committee Mr Rupert Paul (retired 2 February 2010), Prof David Gowing (appointed 2 February 2010)	Registered Charity number 1000412
Council Members Prof Richard Chandler (retired 10 October 2009), Ms Fiona Chesterton, Mr Bob Cornes (retired 10 October 2009), Dr Patrick Doody, Mr Tony Juniper (appointed 10 October 2009), Dr Derek Langslow, Dr Sheila Pankhurst (appointed 10 October 2009), Mr Peter Pilbeam (retired 10 October 2009), Prof Jeremy Purselove (retired 10 October 2009), Sir John Robinson (appointed 10 October 2009), Mr John Yates	Please contact the Wildlife Trust at: The Manor House, Broad Street, Cambourne, Cambridge CB23 6DH, Tel: 01954 713500, Fax: 01954 710051
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