

Nottinghamshire

Wildlife Trust



Annual Review

2010-11



A year at Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust

This was a landmark year for Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust, with two major planning victories secured on the back of our commitment to stand up for wildlife - preventing landfill at Bentinck Void and opposing the waste incinerator at Rufford. These significant achievements illustrate that supporting wildlife conservation in the county through painstaking work behind the scenes on planning and policies is just as important as our more visible activities, such as buying new nature reserves. The support of members is critical across our full range of activities, providing a mandate for campaigning as well as helping us secure new sites.

Highlights this year also included the launch of the Ecominds project at the Idle Valley Nature Reserve, the start of the Wildlife in the City programme to help deliver our Living Landscape vision for Nottingham, and a number of high profile campaigns such as the Mini Meadows scheme. It was also a year when Attenborough Nature Centre celebrated its fifth anniversary and welcomed its 20,000th child through the education programme. This is quite an achievement in such a short space of time and shows the dedication of everyone at the Wildlife Trust to creating a Living Landscape rich in wildlife for everyone.



“ It has been a very busy year for the Wildlife Trust and I’d like to personally thank staff, volunteers, members and our partners for all your support in helping to make Nottinghamshire a better place for wildlife and people. ”

Valerie Holt
Chairman

“ We can be proud of last year’s achievements but we must not be complacent. Despite continued threats to the county’s wildlife, our Living Landscapes approach is showing we can make real progress to protect and enhance our wonderful habitats and species. ”

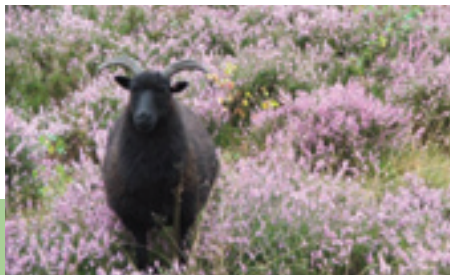
John Everitt
Chief Executive



Campaigning for wildlife

This was another busy year for our planning work, influencing new plans, working with minerals applications and responding to potential developments. Following many years of campaigning, the application for landfill at Bentinck Void near Kirkby-in-Ashfield was finally refused, helping to secure the long term future of this important wildlife site. Alongside this, we worked long and hard to prepare our case against the proposed Energy Recovery Facility at Rufford in the heart of Sherwood Forest's heathlands, which concluded

with the Secretary of State refusing the planning application. Such successes are not achieved overnight and we would like to thank all involved in this campaign, both from within the Trust and partners, including our legal experts, Newark and Sherwood District Council and the local community group People Against Incineration.



There have also been continued efforts this year to ensure the best deal for wildlife from the Attenborough Flood Alleviation Scheme, and we have seen continued nature conservation gains at the restoration of Newington South quarry, near Misson. This has been complemented by a range of species work from peregrines in Nottingham, to bats and great-crested newts, recording of water voles and cataloguing bird records with Notts Birdwatchers across the county.



The year ahead

We will continue to engage with politicians, planners and landowners to promote our aspirations for the environment and wildlife of Nottinghamshire. In particular we will be taking forward the actions in the Government's new White Paper for the Natural Environment and supporting The Wildlife Trusts nationally in campaigning for better protection for the marine environment through Petition Fish.

In 2010-11 we:

- Screened more than 8,000 planning applications, with nearly 340 responses being made, and had a success rate of 60% of our comments being taken up.
- Wrote to all local MPs on matters of local and national significance.
- Met four Nottinghamshire MPs for discussions in their constituency, on location or at Westminster.
- Joined a delegation of Trusts from around the country at a House of Commons event to promote our work on Living Landscapes and the new Natural Environment White Paper.

Working with partners to restore biodiversity

This year saw major progress in delivering our Living Landscapes initiatives across the county. Through the Trent Vale Landscape Partnership we advised farmers, landowners and community groups between Newark and Gainsborough on a range of wildlife improvements. This work also involved distributing small grants, running survey and training sessions and improving site interpretation to help reconnect communities to the river. We continued to deliver the Idle Valley Wetland Vision project, as part of a wider scheme across the Humberhead levels into

Lincolnshire and Yorkshire. This included advising farmers and landowners on biodiversity and how to reduce the risk of flooding.

As chair of the Sherwood Forest Regional Park Board, we moved forward the new vision and boundary for the Regional Park. Also within Sherwood Forest we continued to work closely with the Forestry Commission, trialling pony grazing on heathland and linking up with research programmes at the University of Nottingham and Nottingham Trent University.



Through the Green Infrastructure programme in the Erewash Valley we worked with partners to improve access and enhance interpretation of the natural environment, including designating a Local Nature Reserve and developing the new Erewash Valley Trail.

The year ahead



In 2011-12 we will continue as Chair of the Sherwood Forest Regional Park to develop a major landscape partnership proposal for the area. We will work with the Trent Vale Landscape Partnership to promote conservation grazing alongside the Trent. We will also explore increased opportunities to restore and link our precious habitats and support Friends Groups to manage their sites.



In 2010-11 we:

- Launched the Living Landscape project for the City of Nottingham in partnership with the City Council and with support from the Big Lottery Fund and Natural England. Two new staff were appointed to help engage communities with their local greenspace.
- Held 120 advisory visits with landowners – 18 of these were to provide management advice on Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation.
- Expanded the Blue Butterfly grassland scheme to 50 sites (up from 45 last year).
- Developed a major new Service Level Agreement with Mansfield District Council to focus on Local Nature Reserves (LNRs) in the district.
- Worked with 42 volunteer Friends Groups.
- Have now attracted 56 landowners into the Bed and Breakfast for Farmland Birds project, in partnership with Notts Birdwatchers.



Managing and enhancing our estate



The addition of a second water meadow at Girton, thanks to support from the Heritage Lottery Fund, took our estate to 71 sites covering 1,205 hectares. We undertook our largest habitat restoration scheme of £0.5 million at Besthorpe Nature Reserve in the Trent Vale, creating reedbed and wet grassland, as well as improving access. Our ongoing work at Attenborough Nature Reserve included creating a new expanse of wet grassland habitat on Wheatear Field.

Major restoration work has also been undertaken across other areas of the

estate with highlights including work at Quarry Holes, Faith Marriott, Annesley Woodhouse Quarry, Harrison's Plantation and Ploughman Wood. In addition, continued improvements to access and interpretation have been made at many sites including Holme Pit and Clarborough Tunnel.

Conservation grazing has again played a significant role in achieving high quality sustainable management of the Wildlife Trust's nature reserves. Improvements to livestock welfare were continued with another successful lambing season.

The year ahead

We will progress with the improvements made this year at the Heritage Lottery funded Idle Valley Nature Reserve, which have included new paths, signage and interpretation, helping to restore habitats and develop new visitor facilities at this flagship site. This work will be mirrored throughout our reserves where the vital work of staff and volunteers will continue to improve habitats and enhance visitor enjoyment.



In 2010-11 we:

- Produced up-to-date management plans on 32 of the 71 sites managed by the Wildlife Trust.
- Completed all the remedies for bringing our Sites of Special Scientific Interest into favourable condition.
- Registered 786 hectares for Environmental Stewardship - securing long-term support for habitat management, and successfully applied for a further 248 hectares.
- Completed a feasibility study at the Idle Valley Nature Reserve into new facilities for visitors as well as managing livestock.
- Undertook pilot work on expanding sales of nature reserve products, including new materials and markets.
- Grazed 36 Wildlife Trust sites with 542 sheep and 23 cows.



Inspiring people to take action

The Trust is run by local people for the benefit of local wildlife. In doing so, our varied programmes touch the lives of residents across Nottinghamshire, providing inspiration, enjoyment and education.

Our Education and Community team worked with more than 5,700 students, providing formal education to all age ranges. This included more than 3,800 pupils visiting Attenborough Nature Centre and more than 600 at the Idle Valley Rural Learning Centre. Alongside the development of new facilities at Idle Valley, a major new programme supported by Ecominds was established, working with mental health clients on

practical conservation management, horticulture and training.

Outreach work this year has increased in west Nottinghamshire with additional activities at Portland Park as part of a county-wide health walks initiative and greater involvement at the park's visitor centre, in partnership with Ashfield District Council.

More than 2,000 people participated in family-friendly events and the eight volunteer-run Local Groups delivered an impressive programme of walks, talks and other events with a further 2,000 participants.





The year ahead

We will expand the Wildlife in the City project in Nottingham to engage new audiences and improve access to urban greenspace. Alongside this we will re-focus our Education and Community work to provide increased capacity and visitor facilities in the west of the county, revitalise our training programmes and review our volunteering support. In addition, we will begin a major new programme of work at Attenborough, to enhance the reserve's reputation as a gateway to the Wildlife Trust.

In 2010-11 we:

- Were supported by more than 700 active volunteers – making invaluable contributions to our work.
- Welcomed more than a quarter of a million visitors to Attenborough Nature Reserve.
- Saw hundreds of people use the Cottam Environmental Education Centre, in partnership with EDF Energy.
- Had contact with one in four of Nottingham and Nottinghamshire's schools and advised nine schools on improving their grounds for wildlife.
- Ran training courses with 150 people learning about species identification and conservation.
- Worked with eight active Wildlife Watch Groups, with Farndon and Woodthorpe Guides Groups being commended in this year's National Watch Awards.



Income and expenditure 2010-11

This was another challenging year financially, but one where we saw membership increasing again, a good performance from our subsidiary companies, success with major grants and donations and a slight increase in investment income. The economic climate did have an impact however, and coupled with the budgetary pressures of a major Public Inquiry, resulted in a net decrease in funds of £42,574 after taxation and minority interest.



Voluntary help is essential to the success of the Wildlife Trust and while the value of the time and effort of unpaid volunteers cannot be quantified, we are again extremely grateful for their support. We would also like to thank members who continue to support us and those who have been able to raise their subscription levels.

Financial headlines 2010-11

During the financial year, the Wildlife Trust and its subsidiaries had income of £2.59 million and expenditure of £2.67 million.

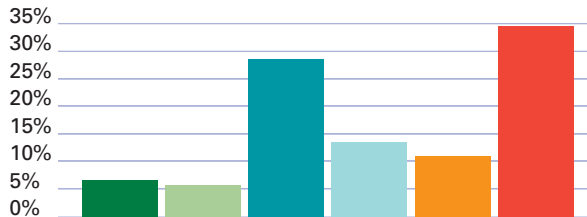
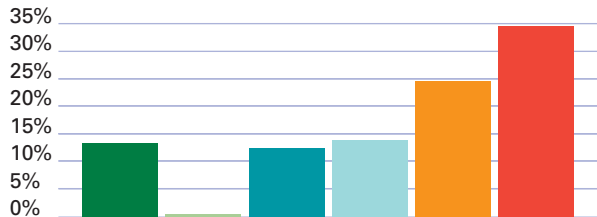
East Midlands Environmental Consultants (EMEC) had another good year with an increased turnover of £294,754, resulting in a gift aid donation to the Wildlife Trust of £47,146. Attenborough Nature Centre continued to perform well with a turnover of £512,771, leading to a gift aid donation to the Trust of £23,896.

The cost of generating funds, including support for members, was 10% of total expenditure (a reduction from 12% the previous year).

Annual Report charts: financial year 2010 - 2011 (group)

Incoming Resources	£	%
Corporate (including landfill)	348006	13.4
Grant Making Trusts	5320	0.3
Lottery Funds	330230	12.7
Statutory Bodies (including Aggregates Tax)	363324	14.0
Membership + Public Support	644627	24.8
Merchandising & Other income	904163	34.8
Total	2595670	100.0

Resources Expended (excluding Capital Costs)	£	%
Fundraising & Publicity	175585	6.6
Merchandising & Consultancy Costs	156274	5.8
Estate Management	762915	28.5
Conservation Policy	360373	13.5
Education & Community	292832	11.0
Operational Costs	924261	34.6
Total	2672240	100.0



The tables are based upon consolidated audited accounts. Full copies of accounts are available on request.



Funding wildlife protection

We are grateful to the following for their support this year:

Landfill, Lottery, Public and Statutory

- 6 Cs Strategic Green Infrastructure
- Bassetlaw Local Strategic Partnership
- Biffaward
- Big Lottery
- Big Lottery (Access To Nature)
- Big Lottery (Ecominds)
- Broxtowe Borough Council
- CEMEX Community Fund
- Defra
- Environment Agency
- Forestry Commission
- Gedling Borough Council

- Heritage Lottery Fund
- Lafarge/Derbyshire Environmental Trust
- Mansfield District Council
- Natural England
- New Growth Point Funding
- Nottingham City Council
- Nottinghamshire County Council
- Rushcliffe Borough Council
- SITA Trust
- Trent Vale Landscape Partnership (Heritage Lottery Fund)
- Veolia Environmental Trust
- WREN

Grant Making Trusts (GMTs)

- Benoy Foundation
- Boots Charitable Trust
- C L Hill Charitable Trust
- John Speden Lewis Foundation
- Jones Charitable Trust
- Lincolnshire Co-operative Community Dividend Grant
- Mansfield Building Society Community Support Scheme
- Stoneyholme Trust
- The Alan Evans Memorial Trust
- The Linley Shaw Foundation

Wildlife Guardians / Corporate Supporters

Corporate membership of the Trust is designed to enable organisations to demonstrate care for the local environment. The following were corporate members and supporters during the reporting period:

- British Geological Survey
- Browne Jacobson Solicitors
- BT
- Caliba
- Castle Rock Brewery
- Cemex UK
- Center Parcs





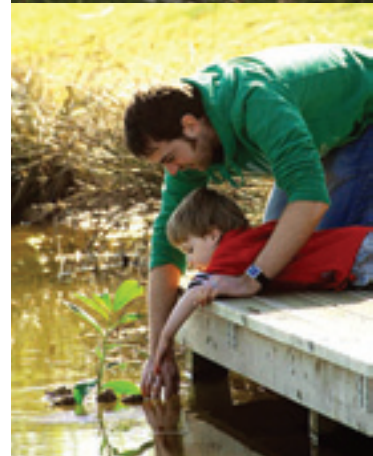
- Cockburn Lucas
- E.ON UK
- East Midlands Airport
- EDF Energy
- Findel Education
- George and Co Press Ltd
- Hanson
- HSBC Bank Plc
- Lafarge Aggregates Ltd
- Maber Associates
- Make Hay Ethical E-Media
- Mansfield Sand Company Ltd
- Morland Brook Promotions
- Newark Area Internal Drainage Board

- North Midland Construction Plc
- Notts Golf Club
- Nottingham Trent University
- Novozymes Biopharma UK Ltd
- Optima Graphic Design Consultants Ltd
- Price and Myers
- Questmark Ltd
- Ransomwood Estates Ltd
- RWE npower
- Severn Trent Water
- Siemens Metering Services
- Speedo International Ltd
- Tarmac Midland

- The Art Department
- Trent Park Developments
- University of Nottingham
- Up & Running
- Waitrose
- Walter Harrison & Sons
- XMA Limited

Income from our membership was a major source of unrestricted income and included a number of significant legacies, as set out below:

- Dorothy Lawson
- Dorothy Turner
- Joan Whomsley



Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust is the county's largest environmental charity run by local people for the benefit of local wildlife and wildlife habitats.

If you share our vision please support us by becoming a member.

Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust

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NottinghamshireWildlifeTrust

Charity No.224168. Company No. 748865. Auditor: Baldwin Cox & Co.
Chartered Accountants: 15 Foster Avenue, Beeston, Nottingham NG9 1AE

Image credits:

Weasel & great spotted woodpecker - John Smith | Valerie Holt - James Greed | Peregrine falcon - Vearl Brown
Aerial view of Trent - Neil France | Dexter at Mansey Common - Olivia Masi | Woodland volunteers - Di Fisher
Heron - Sean Browne | Brown hare - Scott Tilley | Pond dipping - Di Fisher | Notts woodland - Andy Jamieson



www.nottinghamshirewildlife.org

Protecting **Wildlife** for the Future