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The Committee, staff and offices during the financial year 2002/2003

The Joint Nature Conservation Committee Members

Sir Angus Stirling	Chairman (to June 2002)
Mrs Katharine Bryan	Chairman (from October 2002)
Sir Ewan Cameron DL	Countryside Agency
Dr Lucinda Blakiston-Houston	Council for Nature Conservation and the Countryside
Dr John Faulkner	Environment and Heritage Service (Northern Ireland)
Sir Martin Doughty	English Nature
Mr John Lloyd Jones OBE	Countryside Council for Wales
Dr John Markland CBE	Scottish Natural Heritage
Dr Mike Moser	English Nature
Mr Michael Scott	Scottish Natural Heritage
Prof Lynda Warren	Countryside Council for Wales (member to January 2003)
Prof Bill Heal	Independent (member to March 2003)
Prof David Ingram OBE	Independent
Prof Jan Pentreath	Independent

Declaration of Interests

Sir Angus Stirling (Chairman to June 2002)

- Chairman of the Trustees, The Greenwich Foundation for the Royal Naval College
- Member of the Executive Committee and Chairman of the Policy Committee, Council for the Protection of Rural England
- Trustee, Samuel Courtauld Trust
- Member, Advisory Council, London Symphony Orchestra
- Member of Court Governors, The Fishmonger's Company
- Trustee, The World Monument Fund in Britain
- Trustee, Stowe House Preservation Trust

Mrs Bryan (Chairman from October 2002)

- None

Professor Heal

- Chairman, Scientific Advisory Committee, Royal Holloway Institute for Environmental Research
- Member, Steering Committee, EC SCANNET Project
- Honorary Professor, University of Edinburgh
- Visiting Professor, University of Durham
- Member, Council of Elders, University of the Arctic

Professor Pentreath

- Professor, The University of Reading
- Honorary Professor, University of East Anglia
- Chairman, Advisory Board of the Centre for Social and Economic Research on the Global Environment

- Trustee Sir Alister Hardy Foundation for Ocean Science
- Member, Advisory Board of the Centre for Climate Change Impact Assessment
- Member, Cornwall Wildlife Trust

Professor Ingram

- Master of St Catherine's College, Cambridge
- Honorary Senior Research Fellow, Department of Plant Sciences, University of Cambridge
- Chairman, Advisory Committee to the Darwin Initiative (Defra)
- Chairman, Committee for Interdisciplinary Environmental Studies, University of Cambridge
- Honorary Professor and Advisor on the Public Understanding of Science, University of Edinburgh
- Visiting Professor of Environmental Sciences, Napier University, Edinburgh
- Visiting Professor in the Institute of Biomedical and Life Sciences, University of Glasgow
- Chairman, Appointments Committee for Biological Sciences, University of Cambridge
- Trustee, World Conservation Monitoring Centre 2000 Trust
- Member, Council of the University of Cambridge and Chair of many of its Committees
- External examiner, University of London, University of Reading, Cork University
- Fellow, Royal Society of Edinburgh
- Fellow, Royal College of Physicians
- Honorary Fellow, Royal Scottish Geographical Society
- Honorary Fellow, Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh
- Honorary Fellow, Downing College, Cambridge
- Honorary Fellow, Worcester College, Oxford
- Honorary Fellow, Myerscough College, Preston
- Editorial Board, Biological Reviews, Cambridge

Dr Faulkner (Environment and Heritage Service, Northern Ireland)

- Trustee, Armagh Natural History and Philosophical Society
- Chairman, Country Armagh Wildlife Society
- Member, Institute of Biology
- Member, Butterfly Conservation
- Member, Botanical Society of the British Isles
- Member, Ulster Wildlife Trust
- Member, Woodland Trust
- Member, National Trust
- Member, Ulster Grassland Society
- Member, Royal Horticultural Society

Dr Blakiston-Houston (Council for Nature Conservation and the Countryside)

- Director of Blakiston-Houston Estate Co.
- Minority shareholder of MarEnCo Ltd., a subsidiary of KMM
- Director/Trustee of Sustrans (charity promoting sustainable transport)
- Shareholder in Morton Hall Estate

Registers of the interests of the members appointed from the Countryside Agency, the Countryside Council for Wales, English Nature and Scottish Natural Heritage

are maintained by those agencies and are open for public inspection through:

- **Juliet Grace**, Countryside Agency, John Dower House, Crescent Place, Cheltenham, Gloucester GL50 3RA
- **Barbara Roberts**, Countryside Council for Wales, Maes Y Ffynnon, Ffordd Penrhos, Bangor, LL57 2DN
- **Cathy Morgan**, English Nature, Northminster House, Peterborough, PE1 1UA
- **Iain Rennick**, Scottish Natural Heritage, Hope Terrace, Edinburgh, EH9 2AS

JNCC Offices

Headquarters

Joint Nature Conservation Committee
Monkstone House, City Road
Peterborough, PE1 1JY
Tel: 01733 562626, Fax: 01733 555948
Web: www.jncc.gov.uk

Scottish office

Joint Nature Conservation Committee
Dunnet House, 7 Thistle Place
Aberdeen, AB10 1UZ
Tel: 01224 655704, Fax: 01224 621488

Brussels office

UK Nature & Landscape Office
David Morgan, European Co-ordinator
Ave des Gaulois/Gallierslaan 18,
1040 Bruxelles/Brussel, Belgium
Tel: +32 (0)2 738 74 80
Fax: +32 (0)2 738 74 87

Staff assigned to the JNCC 2002/2003

The number of staff working in the JNCC Support Unit at 31 March 2003 was 107. This comprised 98 permanent, 7 fixed term appointments and 2 casual employees, of which 61 were assigned from English Nature, 30 from Scottish Natural Heritage and 16 from the Countryside Council for Wales.

Senior JNCC staff, 2002/2003

Managing Director	Deryck Steer
Projects Director	Malcolm Vincent

Management Services

Head of Planning and Resources	Marcus Yeo
Senior Personnel Manager	Trish Williams
Finance and Office Services Manager	Francis Mitchell
Business Manager	Lynsey Bigger
Business Change Manager	Sue McQueen
Communications Manager	Alex Gairms
Information Manager	Lawrence Way
FMPR Project Co-ordinator	Keith Little

The Committee, staff and offices during the financial year 2002/2003

Advisors

Head of Habitats Advice	Wyn Jones
Head of Species Advice	Ian McLean
Head of International Advice	Vin Fleming
Head of Earth Science and Coastal Advice	Tony Weighell
Head of Marine Advice	Mark Tasker
Head of Seabirds and Cetaceans	Jim Reid
Head of Marine Habitats	David Connor
Head of Biodiversity Information Service	Paul Rose

Lead Agencies

Pesticides and Toxic Chemicals	Alastair Burn (English Nature)
GMOs	Brian Johnson (English Nature)
Lowland Heathland	Isabel Alonso (English Nature)
Soils	John Gordon (SNH)

Lead Co-ordination Networks (Chairs)

Freshwater	Phil Boon (SNH)
Uplands	Des Thompson (SNH)
Lowland Grasslands	Tim Blackstock (CCW)
Woodlands	Keith Kirby (English Nature)
Lowland Wetlands	Roger Meade (English Nature)
Air Pollution	Simon Bareham (CCW)
Coastal	Tony Weighell

For the current list of JNCC Committee members and full list of staff, please refer to our website: www.jncc.gov.uk

Public access to environmental information

Background

As a public body with responsibilities for the environment, the JNCC is subject to the Environmental Information Regulations 1992 (currently being amended), the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information. The Regulations, Code and Act give the public a general right of access to environmental information held by the JNCC, unless there are "substantive reasons for refusing" or the request falls under one of the specific exemptions. The JNCC is obliged to respond to requests and to give a full written explanation for refusal or restriction of access.

The JNCC approach

The JNCC welcomes these initiatives and is working to ensure that its policy on the application of the Environmental Information Regulations, the Freedom of Information Act and the Code of Practice is consistent with those of the Countryside Council for Wales, English Nature and Scottish Natural Heritage. Registered under the Data Protection Act, the JNCC has an open commitment to managing its data in a responsible way. The JNCC meets at least twice a year with the country conservation agencies to develop ideas for improving information management and disclosure and to share best practice ideas. As required under the Freedom of Information Act, the JNCC submitted its publication scheme to the Information Commissioner in September 2002 and received formal approval.

We aim to make information available on request unless there are compelling reasons to refuse – for instance if disclosure would breach an existing legal duty of confidentiality. Enquiries may be referred back to the customer if fulfilling the request is likely to create an unreasonable amount of work and/or if a charge is likely to be made. Enquirers may also be referred to the agency or contracting body who hold the original data, if appropriate.

None of the requests for information received during the year specifically cited the Environmental Information Regulations, the Freedom of Information Act or the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information.

The JNCC publishes a range of information as research reports, books and leaflets. A publications catalogue is available from Communications Team, JNCC, Monkstone House, City Road, Peterborough PE1 1JY, tel: 01733 562626, fax: 01733 555948, e-mail: communications@jncc.gov.uk. Our book distributor is NHBS Ltd, 2-3 Wills Road, Totnes, Devon TQ9 5XN, tel: 01803 865913, fax: 01803 865280, www.nhbs.com or www.nhbs.co.uk. In addition, much information can be freely accessed on our website, www.jncc.gov.uk, and those that we host for other bodies, for example the UK Biodiversity Group (www.ukbap.org.uk) and the Convention on Biological Diversity Clearing House Mechanism (www.chm.org.uk).

Prompt payment code

The JNCC follows the principles of the Better Payment Practice Code and our policy is to ensure, as far as possible, that all payments are made by the due date. This policy is known throughout the organisation and we have a formal complaints procedure which enables us to deal with suppliers' complaints very quickly. During the year we paid 84% of all invoices by the due date, which is a 10% increase on the previous year. The vast majority were paid within suppliers' payment terms.

Service Standards (in operation since 1 April 1997)

The standard we aim for is:

General

Staff will provide an efficient and friendly service. The operating language will normally be English.

Office hours

Monkstone House and Dunnet House will be open from 9am-5pm Monday-Thursday and 9am-4.30pm on Friday. Outside these hours and on public holidays an answering machine service will operate.

Telephone calls

Telephone calls will be answered promptly and courteously. Staff will answer with their name and endeavour to respond to the call satisfactorily or take prompt action to achieve this.

Correspondence and Information

A full reply to correspondence will be provided within requested deadlines and, otherwise, within 20 working days. If more time is needed before a full response can be made, a date for this will be agreed with the correspondent. The JNCC is committed to the policy of open Government, and to facilitating access to our information as required by law.

CITES advice

Advice will be provided to Defra on 95% of CITES applications within three working days of receipt of consultation.

Publications

Reports of commissioned work will be disseminated in a publicly available form within six months of acceptance of the texts from the authors. Proceedings of seminars and conferences will be published within nine months of the event. Book volumes will be published within one year of acceptance of the text. Leaflets and research reports will be despatched as soon as possible and, in any event, within 10 working days of receipt of a request.

Invoices

All invoices from suppliers of accepted goods and services will be paid within any discount period and, in any event, by the due date.

Complaints

If you feel you have not received the promised level of service from JNCC, please raise the matter in the first instance with the person who provided the service, who will respond within 10 working days. If your complaint is not resolved satisfactorily please contact the Business Manager who will respond within 10 working days. In the last resort a complainant can seek redress through their Member of Parliament and the Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration (Ombudsman).

Audited Accounts: Joint Nature Conservation Committee

Foreword⁰¹

1. History and statutory background

The Joint Nature Conservation Committee was established by the Environmental Protection Act 1990 to deliver the special functions of the three Conservation Councils for England, Scotland and Wales and under Section 133(3), to advise the Councils on matters which concern nature conservation for Great Britain as a whole or nature conservation outside Great Britain. The Committee became fully operational on 1 April 1991.

2. Funding

The Committee receives the majority of its funding from the three Conservation Councils: English Nature, Scottish Natural Heritage and the Countryside Council for Wales. The amount of grant available in each financial year is ring-fenced in the three Councils' main supply estimates. An increasing proportion of income is received from various other sources and these are detailed in the accounts. The assets and liabilities of the Committee are owned by the three Conservation Councils in direct proportion to their funding for the year.

3. Results and appropriations

In conducting its activities the Committee complies with the guidance laid down in its financial memorandum operational from 1 April 1991, updated where appropriate by the English Nature Financial Memorandum, 1998, pending agreement of a new JNCC Financial Memorandum. These financial statements relate to the year ended 31 March 2003 during which the revenue expenditure of the Committee totalled £6,539,000, and income, including revenue grant in aid of £5,205,000, amounted to £6,058,000, leaving an operating deficit for the year of £481,000. Expenditure includes a charge for notional cost of £35,000 in respect of the cost of capital employed. Following adjustment for notional costs and interest receivable of £9,000, the retained deficit for the financial year was £282,000. A retained surplus of £439,000 was brought forward from the previous financial year, giving a retained surplus carried forward of £90,000.

Included in the gross income and expenditure within the Income and Expenditure Statement are transfers which were made to and from provisions and reserves. A total of £155,000 was transferred from the deferred Government grant account to the income and expenditure account in 2002/03 to cover in year depreciation and the release of unexpended depreciation and £67,000 was transferred to the deferred Government grant reserve to correct the over-release of the reserve to the Income and Expenditure Account in previous years.

4. Fixed Assets

In 2002/03 the Committee spent £22,000 on vehicles, £123,000 on computer equipment and £34,000 on scientific and office equipment.

5. Payment of Creditors

The Committee follows the principles of the Better Payment Practice Code, and the policy is to ensure that all payments are made by the due date. This policy is known throughout the organisation and there is a formal complaints procedure to enable suppliers' complaints to be dealt with very quickly. 84 percent of invoices were paid within the due date in 2002/03.

6. Functions

The Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) is the statutory committee through which English Nature, Scottish Natural Heritage and the Countryside Council for Wales exercise their special functions. The special functions are defined by Section 133 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990. The JNCC is responsible for advice and research on international and Great Britain-wide nature conservation matters and for establishing common standards for science and monitoring.

7. Review of activities

During 2002/03 we delivered a wide-ranging programme of work that made a significant contribution to nature conservation, both nationally and internationally. Key achievements are listed below.

- In April 2002, we supported Defra at the 6th Conference of the Parties for the Convention on Biological Diversity in the Netherlands, most notably providing advice on guiding principles for non-native invasive species, a global strategy for plant conservation and marine protected areas.
- In support of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), we provided advice to Defra at the 12th Conference of the Parties in Chile in November 2002, contributing to successful achievement of the UK proposal to list basking shark on Appendix II of the Convention. During the course of the year we also responded to nearly 24,000 CITES licence consultations.
- We worked with Government, country agencies, the European Commission and other bodies to gain agreement on a list of UK Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) that fully meets the requirements of the Habitats Directive. Through the JNCC website, we delivered comprehensive information on the UK SAC series to a wide range of users. We also co-ordinated work to complete the UK series of marine SACs and Special Protection Areas (SPAs), in particular providing formal advice to Government on the selection of the UK's first offshore SAC (the Darwin Mounds).
- We continued to provide a high-quality enquiry and intelligence service on European nature conservation issues for staff in JNCC and the country agencies, through the provision of frequent briefings and reactive advice. In January 2003, we hosted a high-level seminar between country agency staff and DG Environment.

- In support of the Government's Review of Marine Nature Conservation, we successfully completed the first year of the Irish Sea Pilot Project, which aims to trial the application of the ecosystem approach in the marine environment. Achievements during the year included defining and mapping ecological units and testing criteria for the identification of nationally important marine nature conservation features.
- We worked to improve sustainability aspects of the Common Fisheries Policy by participating in EU and international scientific working groups, and responding to 12 Governmental or Parliamentary enquiries and consultations.
- We provided responses to statutory consultations on offshore industries (including 31 Environmental Statements, 302 dispensations from Environmental Statements, 49 oil spill contingency plans, 89 consents under the Food and Environment Protection Act, 4 decommissioning proposals and 177 seismic survey applications), and advised the Department of Trade and Industry on the 21st oil and gas offshore licensing round and the 3rd Strategic Environmental Assessment for oil and gas.
- We developed the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) website so that it could support online reporting against local BAPs and national Habitat and Species Action Plans.
- We promoted UK-wide standards for monitoring protected sites by co-ordinating the preparation of draft monitoring guidance for habitat, species and earth science features on Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), SACs, SPAs and Ramsar sites.
- We enhanced our ability to report on the status of UK biodiversity by maintaining long-term surveillance programmes for wetland and terrestrial birds, seabirds, butterflies and moths, and progressing the development of a surveillance programme for terrestrial mammals.
- Working with a wide range of partners, we continued to play a pivotal role in developing the infrastructure of the National Biodiversity Network (NBN) and providing access to key biodiversity datasets. We also represented the NBN as UK node to the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF).
- To support the collection and management of biodiversity data, we released a new version of Recorder (Recorder 2002), incorporating major improvements in response to user feedback.
- We worked with Government and the country agencies to agree a process for implementing the recommendations arising from JNCC's Financial Management and Policy Review (FMPR), through use of the Regulatory Reform Act and establishment of the JNCC as a company limited by guarantee.
- In December 2002, the Joint Committee agreed a revised Statement of Strategic Direction for the JNCC, following consultation with Government stakeholders. The Statement summarises our current position and possible future directions, and provides a basis for further strategic development over the coming year.

Audited Accounts

8. Future developments

Our key targets for 2003/04 include the following:

- Provide scientific advice to Government and country agencies on the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), including advising on the development of a UK strategy for CBD implementation, and providing technical support to Defra at the 7th Conference of the Parties in 2004.
- Provide scientific advice to Government on UK, EC and global policy and practice relating to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species, including providing on-line advice to Defra on approximately 24,000 licence consultations.
- Work with Government, statutory agencies and voluntary bodies to prepare and deliver a UK implementation programme for the Ramsar Convention Strategic Plan 2003-2008.
- Provide support to FCO and Overseas Territory governments on the development and implementation of conservation initiatives and conventions in the UK Overseas Territories.
- Provide high-quality technical advice, with the aim of influencing European environmental programmes and strategies (including the 6th Environmental Action Programme, and the EC Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans) so that they deliver nature conservation gains in the UK and across Europe.
- Provide high-quality, timely advice to Government, country agencies and others regarding implementation of the EU Habitats and Birds Directive in the UK; in particular:
 - complete the submission to the European Commission of an agreed list of UK SACs;
 - support the selection of terrestrial SPAs by undertaking targeted research;
 - support full implementation of the Directives in the marine environment, and especially beyond 12 nm, by providing advice to Government on site selection issues.
- Support Government in implementing the EU Water Framework Directive in the UK by providing advice on technical issues, such as the development of monitoring programmes and the characterisation of water bodies.
- Provide advice to DTI, devolved administrations and others on issues associated with marine industry, including about 45 Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs), 400 EIA dispensations, 35 oil spill contingency plans, 30 dumping licences, 120 seismic applications and 30 miscellaneous items.
- Provide advice to DTI to enable full Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) to be carried out prior to further offshore renewables licensing and the 4th SEA process to be carried out fully prior to oil and gas licensing.
- Ensure that air pollution policies take nature conservation interests fully into account by providing technical advice to Government, and ensure that vulnerable habitats and species within SACs are protected from air pollution by developing and promoting

- robust approaches to undertaking 'appropriate assessments' under the Habitats Directive.
- Complete the Irish Sea Pilot Project and publish a final report, including conservation objectives, an assessment of how the approach contributes to sustainable development, and recommendations for changes to existing nature conservation mechanisms (legislation, enforcement and governance).
- Enhance the UK BAP website and the content of the NBN Gateway so that together they can handle the information required for the 2005 BAP reporting round and manage the information needed for biodiversity research co-ordination.
- In partnership with Defra, promote and enable biodiversity research that supports the delivery of UK BAP objectives, e.g. by establishing a collaborative programme for commissioning biodiversity research projects and updating web-based catalogues of research projects and research requirements.
- Agree with key partners a costed action plan to develop a framework and standards for the surveillance and monitoring of terrestrial, freshwater and coastal Annex I and BAP priority habitats.
- Develop a system for monitoring habitat, species and earth heritage interest features on SSSIs, SACs, SPAs and Ramsar sites, in close collaboration with the country agencies and other organisations; in particular, agree a comprehensive quality assurance programme for designated site monitoring, and produce an interim report summarising available site monitoring results for the UK.
- Establish a performance specification for the NBN Gateway taking into account the likely volume of information growth and estimates of usage by priority audiences over the next three years, and deliver improvements to the Gateway so that it meets the needs of the JNCC and partner organisations.
- Provide NBN access to JNCC habitat data sets and surveillance data for birds, seabirds and butterflies.
- Revise the JNCC website so that it contains balanced coverage of UK-level conservation issues, and allows users to find information and advice efficiently.
- Complete a comprehensive review of the JNCC's strategic position, identify strategic goals and priorities, and begin to draw up operational strategies.
- Continue to make progress towards implementing the recommendations arising from the JNCC's FMPR by working with Defra to progress to the scrutiny stage a Regulatory Reform Order, preparing draft governance documents for the new organisation, and progressing the negotiation of a single set of terms and conditions for JNCC staff.

9. Committee members

Sir A Stirling	(21.07.97 – 30.06.02)*
Mrs K Bryan	(07.10.02 – 06.10.05)*
Dr L Blakiston-Houston	(27.05.02 – 27.05.05)
Sir E Cameron	(01.04.99 – 30.03.05)
Prof R Dodgshon	(01.04.03 – 31.03.06)
Sir M Doughty	(08.05.01 – 07.05.04)
Prof P Doyle	(01.04.03 – 31.03.06)*
Dr J Faulkner	(01.04.91 – 01.04.05)
Prof O W Heal	(01.09.96 – 31.03.03)*
Prof D Ingram	(01.04.00 – 31.03.06)*
Mr J Lloyd Jones	(28.02.00 – 28.02.04)
Dr J Markland	(01.04.99 – 30.03.05)
Dr M Moser	(31.03.01 – 31.03.04)
Prof R J Pentreath	(01.04.02 – 31.03.05)*
Mr M Scott	(09.09.00 – 09.09.03)
Prof L Warren	(05.06.97 – 31.01.03)

The Joint Nature Conservation Committee is only responsible for the remuneration of independent members, indicated by * above. Members sponsored by the country agencies are remunerated directly by those agencies. Sir Angus Stirling's term of office as Chairman concluded in June 2002 and Katharine Bryan took up the post of Chairman in October 2002. During the interim period Professor Heal was acting Chairman.

10. Corporate governance

Legislation requires the appointment of 11 voting members to the Joint Nature Conservation Committee. These comprise the Chairman of the Committee and three independent members, all appointed by the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs; the Chairman and one other member of each of the Councils of English Nature, the Countryside Council for Wales and the Board of Scottish Natural Heritage, and the Chairman of the Countryside Agency. Legislation also requires the appointment of 2 non-voting members to the Committee; these are appointed by the Department of the Environment for Northern Ireland. The term of appointments is typically 3 years and members may be considered for re-appointment for one further term. The Committee follows the Guidance on Codes of Practice for Board Members of Public Bodies, issued by the Cabinet Office, for the purposes of corporate governance. The Committee maintains a register of interests of its Chairman and the independent and Northern Ireland members. Registers of interest are also maintained by the Councils, Board and Commission for their members. The Committee's register of interests is open to public inspection through the Committee secretary and published in the Annual Report. Four formal Committee meetings take place annually and the achievement of targets and objectives is reviewed regularly. The Committee's corporate governance arrangements are incorporated within the Statement of Internal Control.

Dr Andy Brown
Accounting Officer
30 June 2003

Statement on the System of Internal Control



Deryck Steer

Internal Control: Principles & Progress

As Managing Director, I have responsibility for maintaining a sound system of internal control that supports the achievement of the policies, aims and objectives of the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC), set by the Joint Committee, whilst safeguarding the public funds and assets for which I am responsible, in accordance with the statement of accounting responsibilities placed upon me by the Chief Executive of English Nature on behalf of the Accounting Officers of English Nature, Scottish Natural Heritage and the Countryside Council for Wales, in accordance with the responsibilities assigned to those Accounting Officers in Government Accounting.

The system of internal control is designed to manage rather than eliminate risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives, and can only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of its effectiveness.

The system of internal control is based on an ongoing process designed to identify the principal risks to the achievement of the JNCC's policies, aims and objectives, to evaluate the nature and extent of those risks, and to manage them efficiently, effectively and economically. This process has been in place for the major part of the year ended 31st March 2003, and up to the date of approval of the annual report and accounts, and accords with Treasury guidance.

As Managing Director, I also have responsibility for reviewing the effectiveness of the system of internal control. The JNCC has established the following processes:

Governance

The Joint Nature Conservation Committee
Members of Committee have overall responsibility for the agreement of the Corporate Plan priorities and resources and monitor performance against this throughout the year.

Chief Executives

Quarterly I meet with Chief Executives from English Nature, Scottish Natural Heritage, and the Countryside Council for Wales in their Accounting Officer capacities.

Management Team

The JNCC has a Management Team which meets monthly to consider the organisation's plans and strategic direction and to monitor progress against targets (the team consists of the Managing Director, Projects Director and other senior managers).

Internal Financial Control

The system of internal financial control is based on a framework of regular management information, administration procedures including the segregation of duties, and a system of delegation and accountability. In particular, it includes:

- comprehensive budgeting systems with an annual budget which is reviewed and agreed by the Management Team;
- regular reviews by the Management Team of periodic and annual financial reports which indicate financial performance against the forecasts;
- setting targets to measure financial performance and timeliness of target completion.

The Audit and Risk Management Committee

The English Nature Audit and Risk Management Committee acts on behalf of the three conservation agencies in relation to the JNCC and has an exclusively non-executive membership. It raises concerns and issues as necessary with the Accounting Officer of English Nature. Its terms of reference require internal control and risk management to be considered on a regular basis throughout the year.

A representative of the JNCC attends the English Nature Audit and Risk Management Committee meetings, and periodic reports from the Chairman of the Committee are received by the Managing Director of the JNCC. These reports concern internal control, and a status report from the JNCC is presented to every meeting of the English Nature Audit and Risk Management Committee to advise the steps taken to manage risk within the JNCC, including a progress report on each corporate risk.

Risk Management

The risk register that was in place throughout 2001/02 has been reviewed to widen risk management work and refined to include both corporate and lower level risks. Throughout the 2002/03 reporting period the JNCC has taken the following actions to further develop its risk management systems:

- quarterly reports from managers on the steps they are taking to manage risks in their areas of responsibility, including progress reports on key projects;
- regular discussion by the JNCC's Management Team to identify and keep up to date the record of risks facing the organisation;
- implementation of a robust prioritisation methodology based on risk ranking and cost-benefit analysis;
- maintenance of an organisation-wide risk register.

During 2003/04, the JNCC plans to establish key performance and risk indicators for the organisation.

Internal Audit

Internal Audit of the JNCC and its Support Unit is carried out by representatives from the internal audit functions of the three agencies. They submit regular reports by the appointed internal auditors in accordance with the requirements of Government Internal Audit Standards (GIAS).

The reports include the opinions of senior internal auditors representing English Nature, Scottish Natural Heritage and the Countryside Council for Wales concerning the adequacy and effectiveness of the JNCC's system of internal control together with recommendations for improvement.

My review of the effectiveness of the system of internal control is informed by the work of the internal auditors and the executive managers within the JNCC's Support Unit who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework, and comments made by the external auditors in their management letter and other reports.

JNCC Income & Expenditure, Balance Sheet & Cash Flow

Income & Expenditure account for the year 31 March 2003

	Notes	02/03 £000	02/03 £000	01/02 £000
Gross income				
Grant-in-aid	15	5,205		4,546
Income from activities	2	853		709
			6,058	5,255
Expenditure				
Conservation support	3	2,020		1,909
Information and publicity	4	293		92
Staff costs	5.1	2,770		2,121
Other operating costs	6	1,270		1,013
Depreciation	7	91		93
Impairment of asset values	7	12		64
Assets written off		48		
Notional costs	8	35		40
			6,539	5,332

(Deficit) on operating activities	(481)	(77)
(Loss) on sale of fixed assets	0	(9)
Interest receivable	9	9
Notional costs	8	35
Notional costs		40
Appropriations - Transfer from Government grant reserve	9	155
		170
Retained (deficit) for the financial year		(282)
		133

	02/03 £000	01/02 £000
Statement of retained surplus		
Retained surplus brought forward	439	306
Retained (deficit)/surplus for the financial year	(282)	133
Transfer to Government grant reserve	(67)	
Retained surplus carried forward	90	439

All income and expenditure is derived solely from continuing operations. There have been no material acquisitions or disposals in the year.

	02/03 £000	01/02 £000
Statement of total recognised gains & losses		
(Deficit)/surplus for the financial year	(282)	133
Grant for capital assets (Note 10)	179	104
Transfer from Government grant reserve	(155)	(170)
Net gain on revaluation of assets (Note 9)	1	4
Total gains and losses relating to the year	(257)	71

The accounting policies and notes on page 76 to 79 form part of these financial statements.

Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2003

	Notes	02/03 £000	02/03 £000	01/02 £000
Fixed assets				
Tangible assets	7		361	336
Current assets				
Stocks	10	102		245
Debtors	11	491		250
Cash at bank and in hand		67		119
		660		614
Creditors				
Amounts falling due within 1 year	12	(570)		(242)
Net current assets			90	372
Net assets less all liabilities			451	708

Capital and reserves

Government grant reserve	9	361	269
Income and expenditure account		90	439
		451	708

The accounting policies and notes on pages 76 to 79 form part of these financial statements.

Cash Flow Statement for the year ended 31 March 2003

	02/03 £000	01/02 £000
Operating activities:		
Grant-in-aid received	5,205	4,546
Receipts	613	569
Payments	(5,883)	(5,163)
Net cash (outflow)/inflow from operating activities (see Note 1)	(65)	

Returns on investments:

Interest received	8	10
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Capital expenditure

Payments to acquire fixed assets	(179)	(104)
Proceeds from sale of fixed assets	5	
Net cash (outflow) before financing	(231)	(142)

Financing

Government grants received and applied to the purchase of fixed assets	179	104
Increase in cash and cash equivalents (see Note 2)	(52)	(38)

The notes on pages 76 to 79 form part of this statement.

Notes to the Financial Statements

Note 1 to the Cashflow Statement

Reconciliation of operating surplus to net cash (outflow)/inflow from operating activities

	02/03 £000	01/02 £000
Operating (deficit)	(481)	(77)
Depreciation charge	91	93
Write off of assets	48	
Impairment of asset values	12	64
Decrease/(Increase) in stocks	143	(75)
(Increase) in debtors	(241)	(139)
(Increase) in closing debtor on interest		(1)
Increase in creditors	328	47
Notional costs	35	40
Net (outflow)/inflow from operating activities	(65)	(48)

Note 2 to the Cashflow Statement

Reconciliation of net cash flow to movement in net funds

	1 Apr 2002 £000	Cashflow £000	31 Mar 2003 £000
Cash at bank and in hand	119	(52)	67

Notes to the Financial Statements

1. Basis of accounting

1.1

i) The financial statements are intended, without limiting the information given, to meet the requirements of the Companies Act 1985 and 1989 and the Statements of Standard Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting Standards issued or approved by the Accounting Standards Board, insofar as these requirements are appropriate. These accounts reflect changes in the 'Executive NDPB's Annual Reports and Accounts Guidance'.

ii) The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, as modified by the revaluation of fixed assets to market value, or, where material, uplifted by an appropriate index. Revaluations of tangible fixed assets are taken to a Government Grant Reserve.

1.2

The Committee are not a body corporate and cannot enter into any contracts or liabilities in their own right. All such commitments are entered into by the three country agencies on their behalf. All assets and liabilities are shared between the three country agencies as follows: English Nature – 56.17 per cent, Scottish Natural Heritage – 30.09 per cent and Countryside Council for Wales – 13.74 per cent.

Fixed assets and depreciation

1.3

Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets other than land at rates calculated to write off the cost or valuation of each asset evenly over its expected useful life as follows:

Improvement to leasehold properties	depreciated over life of individual leases (1- 49 years)
Computer equipment	5 years
Other equipment	5 to 10 years
Vehicles	5 years

i) Improvements to leasehold properties have been valued at depreciated historical cost and, where material, values are updated annually using indices for buildings and works contained within the Price Index Numbers for Current Cost Accounting published by the Office for National Statistics.

ii) Computer equipment and furniture have been valued at depreciated historical cost and, where material, values are updated annually using Price Index Numbers for Current Cost Accounting published by the Office for National Statistics.

iii) Other equipment and vehicles are valued at depreciated historical cost and, where material, values are updated annually using Price Index Numbers for Current Cost Accounting published by the Office for National Statistics.

iv) Fixed assets costing less than £2,000 are charged to the income and expenditure account in the year of purchase.

Stock valuation

1.4

Stocks are valued using the lower of cost or net realisable value. The stock valuation is adjusted for obsolete stock, which is considered to be those stocks with levels of over ten years worth of sales remaining and where it is considered unlikely that there will be any future income flow.

Bad debts

1.5

Bad debts are written off to income and expenditure when they are at least 12 months old and they are considered uneconomic to recover.

Value Added Taxation (VAT)

1.6

As from 1 December 1995 the Joint Nature Conservation Committee has been registered for VAT purposes, on behalf of the three Councils as a partnership, and VAT returns are completed on a quarterly basis.

Grants receivable

1.7

Government grants received of a revenue nature are credited to income for the year to which they relate. Grants for depreciable capital expenditure are credited to a government grant reserve and are released to revenue over the expected useful life of a relevant asset by equal annual amounts.

Notes to the Financial Statements

Research and development

1.8

The Committee write off all expenditure on research and development in the year it occurs.

Notional costs

1.9

In line with HM Treasury guidance 'Executive NDPB's Annual Reports and Accounts Guidance', the Committee recognise notional costs with respect to cost of capital.

Cost of capital - The financing structure of the Committee does not include specific interest bearing debt, but to ensure that the income and expenditure account bears an appropriate charge for the use of capital in the business in the year, a notional interest charge is included. In accordance with Treasury guidance, the calculation is based on a 6 per cent cost of capital on average net assets.

Operating leases

1.10

Rentals are charged to the income and expenditure account as incurred over the life of each lease.

Managing risk in financial instruments

1.11

The Committee holds all surplus funds in an interest bearing deposit account. The interest rate is fixed for the period of the contract at 2.0 per cent below base rate on amounts up to £200,000 and 0.5 per cent below base rate for amounts over £200,000. No other investments are made and so there is no exposure to interest rate risk. Transactions that are denominated in a foreign currency are translated into sterling at the exchange rate on the date of the transaction.

2 Income from activities

	02/03 £000	01/02 £000
Sales of publications	52	73
Advice and other services	761	631
Other receipts	40	5
	853	709

Income from sales is stated net of VAT and trade discounts.

3 Conservation support

	02/03 £000	01/02 £000
Contracted out survey and research	1,898	1,812
Other costs	122	97
	2,020	1,909

4 Information and publicity

	02/03 £000	01/02 £000
Publications	279	78
Other publicity costs	14	14
	293	92

5.1 Staff costs

	02/03 £000	01/02 £000
Direct costs of salaries excluding National Insurance:		
Chairman	24	30
Members	27	24
Staff	2,371	1,955
Social Security costs	163	112
Accruing Superannuation Liability Charge payment	185	
	2,770	2,121

All the Committee staff are employed by either English Nature, Scottish Natural Heritage or the Countryside Council for Wales. All pension provisions are made for staff by these bodies.

5.2 Staff numbers

The average number of permanent staff during the year was 85 (70 in 2002/2003), these were employed as follows:

	02/03 No.	01/02 No.
Management	15	15
Operational	45	30
Administration	23	23
IT	2	2
Total	85	70

During 2002/2003 the average number of permanent English Nature staff assigned to the Committee was 52, 24 were assigned from Scottish Natural Heritage and 9 from the Countryside Council for Wales.

5.3 Senior Staff

The salary and pension entitlements of the independent members of the Committee and of the most senior staff were as follows:

Council Members:		age	Salary including performance pay	Real increase in pension at 60	Total accrued Pension at 60 as at 31.03.03	Time Commitment Days per year	Salary including performance pay	
			£k	£k	£k		£k	
Sir A Stirling	Chairman	21.07.97 30.06.02	68	5-10	n/a	n/a	104	7,746
Mrs K Bryan	Chairman	07.10.02 06.10.05	50	15-20	n/a	n/a		16,451
Prof Ingram	Independent member	01.04.00 31.03.06	61	5-10	n/a	n/a	30	8,348
Prof OW Heal	Independent member	01.09.96 31.03.03	67	10-15	n/a	n/a	30	10,729
Prof RJ Pentreath	Independent member	31.03.00 31.03.03	58	5-10	n/a	n/a	30	8,348
Senior Staff:								
Mr D Steer	Managing Director		50	50-55	0-2.5	15-20	n/a	53,576

"Salary" includes gross salary and performance pay. The Committee is only responsible for the remuneration of the independent members. Members sponsored by the country agencies are remunerated directly by those agencies.

The Managing Director is a member of the Classic Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme, the benefits of which are set out in the English Nature Accounts (note 15.3). The independent members are not members of the pension scheme.

Notes to the Financial Statements

The Managing Director is an ordinary member of the English Nature pension scheme, the benefits of which are set out in the English Nature Accounts (note 1.11). The independent members are not members of the pension scheme.

6 Other operating costs	02/03 £000	01/02 £000
Members' travelling and subsistence costs	10	8
Members' other support costs	8	6
Staff travelling and subsistence costs	239	216
Staff other support costs	147	110
Accommodation costs	347	332
Equipment and consumables	270	135
Postage, telephones	77	86
Other support costs	110	81
Audit fee	15	14
Library	8	10
Hospitality costs	39	15
Bad Debt		
	1,270	1,013

No interest was payable in 2001/2002 or 2002/2003. The above costs include:

Operating lease rentals	183	185
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7 Fixed assets at cost or valuation

	Improvements to leasehold premises £000	Computer equipment £000	Other equipment £000	Vehicle £000	Total £000
As at 1 April 2002	364	421	241	36	1,062
Additions during year		123	34	22	179
Less disposals		(308)	(9)	(19)	(336)
Revaluation	(3)		15	1	13
Impairment		(18)			(18)
As at 31 March 2003	361	218	281	40	900
Less depreciation as at 1 April 2002	188	337	165	36	726
Charge for the year	15	39	33	4	91
Less depreciation on disposals		(258)	(7)	(19)	(284)
Depreciation on revaluation	3		8	1	12
Less depreciation on impairment		(6)			(6)
As at 31 March 2003	206	112	199	22	539
Written down values at 31 March 2003	155	106	82	18	361
Written down value as at 31 March 2002	176	84	76	0	336

	Improvements to leasehold premises	Computer equipment	Other equipment	Vehicle	Total
Historical cost at 31 March 2003	300	343	265	41	949
Accumulated historical depreciation	(170)	(218)	(186)	(23)	(597)
Net historical cost at 31 March 2003	130	124	79	18	351

Operating leases:

As at 31 March 2003 the Committee had annual commitments under operating leases as set out below:

	Buildings £000
Operating leases which expire:	
Within one year	0
In the second to fifth year inclusive	41
Over five years	142

All leasehold buildings are short-term leases as defined in accounting policy Note 1.3 (Fixed assets and depreciation).

8 Notional costs	02/03 £000	01/02 £000
Cost of capital	35	40
	35	40

9 Transfer from Government grant reserve

	02/03 £000	01/02 £000
Balance brought forward at 1 April 2002	269	331
Arising on revaluations in the year	1	4
Capital grant received in the year and applied to the purchase of capital assets	179	104
	449	439
Transfer to Income and Expenditure: Depreciation for the year	91	93
Release of unexpended depreciation on assets disposed of in year	52	9
Impairment of asset values	12	64
Excess depreciation charged on assets revalued		4
	155	170
Transfer from Income and Expenditure Account	67	
Balance carried forward at 31 March 2003	361	269

10 Stocks

	02/03 £000	01/02 £000
Publications	102	245

Notes to the Financial Statements

11 Debtors	02/03 £000	01/02 £000
Trade debtors	322	120
Other debtors	19	22
Prepayments	150	108
	491	250

12 Creditors	02/03 £000	01/02 £000
Trade creditors	411	145
Other creditors	31	27
VAT creditors	5	4
Deferred Income	123	66
	570	242

13 Government grant-in-aid

Grant-in-aid receivable in respect of:

	02/03 £000	01/02 £000
Grant-in-aid entitled to receive in cash terms	5,384	4,650
Gross grant-in-aid received	5,384	4,650
Capital expenditure	179	104
Released to Income & expenditure account	5,205	4,546

14 Capital commitments

As at 31 March 2003, the Committee had no capital commitments.

15 Reconciliation of movements in public funds

	02/03 £000	01/02 £000
Opening public funds	708	637
Movement on Government grant account	92	(62)
Transfer from Income and Expenditure Account	(67)	
Retained surplus for the financial year	(282)	133
Closing public funds	451	708

16 Grant-in-aid income

Breakdown of grant-in-aid income (excluding capital) attributable to the three Councils:

	02/03 %	02/03 £000	01/02 £000
English Nature	56.17	2,924	2,573
Scottish Natural Heritage	30.09	1,566	1,345
Countryside Council for Wales	13.74	715	628
		5,205	4,546

17 Net revenue expenditure

Breakdown of net revenue expenditure incurred by the Joint Nature Conservation Committee on behalf of the three Councils:

	02/03 %	02/03 £000	01/02 £000
English Nature	56.17	3,673	3,018
Scottish Natural Heritage	30.09	1,968	1,578
Countryside Council for Wales	13.74	898	736
		6,539	5,332

18 Losses and Special Payments

During the year there were six (five in 2001/2002) losses identified totalling £1,172 (£2,636 in 2001/2002).

19 Related Party Transactions

The Joint Nature Conservation Committee is the statutory committee through which English Nature, Scottish Natural Heritage and the Countryside Council for Wales exercise their joint functions. The Committee receive their funding from these three Conservation Councils, which are Non-Departmental Public Bodies respectively sponsored by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, the Scottish Executive and the Welsh Assembly. The above bodies are regarded as related parties. During the year the Committee has carried out a number of material transactions with these bodies in the normal course of business. During the year the Committee, in the normal course of its business, entered into material transactions with the following organisations in which Council Members, members of the key management staff or other related parties have a financial interest:

Table of transactions between JNCC and other related bodies

Individual staff/ Council member	Corporate Related Body	JNCC paid received	
		£000	£000
Mr D Steer, Trustee	National Biodiversity Network Trust	12	20
Dr M Moser, Trustee	RSPB	7	5

Investment in Joint Nature Conservation Committee Councils share ownership of the net assets of the Joint Nature Conservation Committee in the following proportions:

	02/03 %	02/03 £000	01/02 £000
English Nature	56.17	253	348
Scottish Natural Heritage	30.09	136	176
Countryside Council for Wales	13.74	62	84
		451	608

Provisions and reserves of Joint Nature Conservation Committee Councils share provisions and reserves other than the retained surplus of the Joint Nature Conservation Committee in the following proportions:

	02/03 %	02/03 £000	01/02 £000
English Nature	56.17	203	287
Scottish Natural Heritage	30.09	109	145
Countryside Council for Wales	13.74	49	69
		361	501

JNCC Publications (1 April 2002 – 31 March 2003)



1. Books Published by JNCC

Authors who are not JNCC Support Unit staff are in square brackets.

Annual Report 2001/2002.

Joint Nature Conservation Committee.
Peterborough
(also online at www.jncc.gov.uk/communications/ar01-02).

Corporate Plan for 2002/03 and forward look to 2005/06.

Joint Nature Conservation Committee.
Peterborough
(also online at www.jncc.gov.uk/management/Corporate_Plan)

Seabird numbers and breeding success in Britain and Ireland, 2001

Joint Nature Conservation Committee.
Peterborough.

Dispersion and vulnerability of marine birds and cetaceans in Faroese waters.

Joint Nature Conservation Committee.
Aberdeen.

[D Huddart and NF Glasser]

GCR Volume number 25.

Quaternary of Northern England.

Joint Nature Conservation Committee,
Peterborough, 2002.

[BM Cox and MG Sumbler]

GCR Volume number 26.

British Middle Jurassic Stratigraphy.

Joint Nature Conservation Committee,
Peterborough, 2002.

[D Stephenson, SC Loughlin, D Millward,

CN Waters and IT Williamson]

GCR Volume number 27.

Carboniferous and Permian Igneous Rocks of Great Britain, North of the Variscan Front.

Joint Nature Conservation Committee,
Peterborough, 2003.

2. JNCC Report Series

Authors who are not JNCC Support Unit staff are in square brackets.

[TP Burt, BDA Thompson, J Warburton]

British Uplands - the dynamics of change.

JNCC Reports 319, Peterborough, 2002.

[C] Stone]

The effects of seismic activity on marine mammals in UK waters, 1998-2000.

JNCC Reports 323, Peterborough, 2002
(also online at www.jncc.gov.uk/Publications/JNCC323)

BTO Services in Ornithology Annual Report 2001/2002.

JNCC Reports 326, Peterborough, 2002
(also online at www.jncc.gov.uk/Publications/JNCC326)

[RL Swann]

Seabird Studies 2001.

JNCC Reports 327, Peterborough, 2002
(also online at www.jncc.gov.uk/Publications/JNCC327)

[LJ Wilson, S Wanless, MP Harris]

Isle of May seabird studies in 2001.

JNCC Reports 328, Peterborough, 2002
(also online at www.jncc.gov.uk/Publications/JNCC328)

C McSorley, B Dean, A Webb, J Reid

Seabird use of waters adjacent to breeding colonies (implications for seaward extensions to existing seabird breeding colony Special Protection Areas).

JNCC Reports 329, Peterborough, 2002

A Webb, C McSorley, B Dean, J Reid

Modelling the distribution and abundance of Black Scoter in Carmarthen Bay in winter 2001/2: a method for identifying potential boundaries for a marine Special Protection Area.

JNCC Reports 330, Peterborough, 2002

[A Cunha, SA Power, MR Ashmore,

PRS Green, B] Haworth, R Bobbink]

Whole ecosystem nitrogen manipulation: an updated review.

JNCC Reports 331, Peterborough, 2002
(also online at www.jncc.gov.uk/Publications/JNCC331)

[DN Shaw, CA Holt, HE Maggs, D de Palacio]

Fair Isle Seabird Studies 2000.

JNCC Reports 332, Peterborough, 2002

3. Selected papers resulting from JNCC contracts

[JA Robinson, MS Politt]

Sources and extent of human disturbance to waterbirds in the UK: an analysis of Wetland Bird Survey data, 1995/96 to 1998/99.

BTO Bird Study 2002, 49, 205-211.

4. JNCC web-based publications

Material available in electronic format only.

CR McLeod, M Yeo, [AE Brown, A] Burn, JJ Hopkins, and SF Way] (eds.)

The Habitats Directive: selection of Special Areas of Conservation in the UK. 2nd edition.

Joint Nature Conservation Committee,
Peterborough.

www.jncc.gov.uk/SACselection

(These pages provide an explanation of the SAC selection process in the UK, with descriptions of interest features and individual site accounts, together with supplementary information.

They replace JNCC Reports, 270, The Habitats Directive: selection of Special Areas of Conservation in the UK, published in 1997. Launched in August 2002, the pages were updated in October 2002, January and March 2003 following submission of new cSACs to Europe).

DL Jackson and CR McLeod (eds.)

Handbook on the UK status of EC Habitats Directive interest features: provisional data on the UK distribution and extent of Annex I habitats and the UK distribution and population size of Annex II species. Version 2.

JNCC Reports, 312.
www.jncc.gov.uk/publications/JNCC312

(This publication is closely integrated with the SAC selection pages, allowing side by side comparisons of the overall distribution of threatened habitat types and species within the UK with the distribution of SACs designated for that particular interest feature).

Population status of birds in the UK - Birds of conservation concern: 2002-2007.

www.jncc.gov.uk/species/Birds/PosB

(The lists update earlier assessments, *Birds of conservation concern* and *Birds of conservation importance*, which were published in 1996).

Irish Sea Pilot project.

www.jncc.gov.uk/IrishSeaPilot

(The pilot is trialing a proposed new marine nature conservation framework in the Irish Sea)

5. Other web-based publications

Material available in electronic format only that JNCC has contributed to, but is not hosted at the JNCC website.

Land Use Policy Group. www.lupg.org.uk (JNCC is a partner and led the launch. The LUPG aims to advise on policy matters of common concern related to agriculture, woodlands and other rural land uses. It seeks to improve understanding of the pros and cons of policy mechanisms related to land use, particularly farming and forestry; to develop a common view of desirable reforms to existing policies; and to promote these views).

UK Clearing House Mechanism.

www.chm.org.uk (overhaul of content and move to database backed, managed content).

Research Contracts

Title	Contractor	Cost (£)
Supply Shipping & Related Data for the Irish Seas Pilot Project	Anatec Ltd	1,762
Bat Conservation Trust Partnership Agreement	BCT	75,350
2003 Pilot Winter Gull Survey	BTO	3,525
Provision of Ornithological Services	BTO	502,032
Provision of Advice on Ornithological Services	BTO	10,575
Surveillance of Threatened Moths	Butterfly Conservation	8,000
Macrophyte Database	CCW	5,000
Irish Sea Pilot Scheme - Preliminary Study on Biological & Hydrographic Information	CEFAS	2,697
Scoping Study for the Mapping of the Benthos of the NE Atlantic Shelf	CEFAS	20,396
BRC Gateway Project	CEH	19,877
Wildlife and Pollution Contract	CEH	61,982
Butterfly Monitoring Scheme	CEH	36,000
Biological Records Centre	CEH	150,000
Isle of May Studies	CEH	12,906
Countryside Survey 2000 Module 9 - Focus	CEH	10,000
Bio-Monitoring Tools for Assessing Effects of Atmospheric Nitrogen	CEH (Edinburgh)	29,535
Development of the Air Pollution Information System (APIS)	CEH (Edinburgh)	71,990
Collation of Information on Key Coastal Infrastructure Development	CorDah Ltd	4,259
Monitoring of Breeding Cliff-Nesting Seabirds	Dennis Paice	3,200
Development of Recorder 2002 MSDE - Phase 1	Dorset Software	59,920
Undertake GCR Site Assessment for "Mass Movements" Sites	Dr D Jarman	4,000
Irish Sea Pilot Scheme - Preliminary Study on Biological & Hydrographic Information	Dr Frances Dipper	3,357
Provision of Secretariat Services to the Rare Breeding Birds Panel	DR M Ogilvie	7,782
European Forum on Nature Conservation and Pastoralism	Dr M Pienkowski	10,000
Common Standards Monitoring Support	Dr Margaret Palmer	5,250
Bog Surfaces Remote Sensing Contract	English Nature	2,000
Grassland BAP Targets	English Nature	6,000
Woodlands Indicators Project	English Nature	30,000
Mapping & Modelling the Distribution of Biotopes	Envision Mapping LLP	5,000
UK Habitat Mapping Data Collation Project	ERT (Scotland)	8,636
Epibiota Ring Tests	Exegesis	4,700
Fair Isle Seabird Studies	Fair Isle Bird Observatory Trust	7,461
Geostatistical Interpolation Methods for Marine SPA Boundary Selection	Geostokos (Ecosse) Ltd	1,350
Canna Seabird Studies	Highland Ringing Group	2,000
Analysis of Marine Benthic Data	ICES	3,965
Provide Advice to the LUPG on EC Agriculture & Environment Policies	IEEP	54,818
European Environmental Issues and Advisory Service	IEEP	42,539
Cropped Habitats Information Project	Just Ecology	7,755
UK Clearing House Mechanism - DFID Projects And Funding Sources	Just Ecology	4,406
Provision of Overview of Dynamics/Sensitivity Characteristics of Saltmarsh	LAB Coastal	8,982
Review of Current & Historical Time-Series Studies in UK & Near Europe	Marine Biological Association	9,047
MarLIN Programme	MarLIN	15,705
Collation of Data Distribution of Species & Habitats in the Irish Sea	MBA	10,692
Irish Sea Pilot Scheme - Developing Conservation Objectives	Nature Bureau	5,757
Seabird Survival Monitoring on Skomer	Prof. C M Perrins	9,974
Surveys of Seaduck, Divers and Grebes around the United Kingdom	Richard Schofield	1,124
UK Support for International Conservation of Aquatic Warbler	RSPB	6,000
Marine Recorder Application	Sea-Scope	10,763
National Game Census Data	The Game Conservancy Trust	16,000
Monitoring of Severe Winter Weather	The Met Office	5,133
Setting up of UK wide Surveillance Network for British Mammals	University of Bristol	5,565
Develop techniques for faunal analysis of sediment habitats	University of Hull	15,554
Soils Properties as Indicators of Past & Present Vegetation	University of Reading	15,000
Evaluating Conservation Value on Offshore Geological Sites	University of Wales	22,986
Revise Checklist of CITES Species	UNEP-WCMC	5,832
Population Monitoring of Seabirds on Skomer	Wildlife Trust West Wales	10,600
Wetland Bird Survey and services to wildfowl censuses and advice	WWT	50,000
International waterbird monitoring and conservation	Wetlands International	35,000

Performance against high-level objectives and key targets for 2002/2003

Key target 2002/2003 achievement

Objective 1: International agreements

Provide scientific advice on the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)	Target achieved	JNCC provided technical support to Defra at the 6 th Conference of the Parties and contributed to the development of a UK implementation plan for the global plant strategy
Provide scientific advice on the Bonn Convention on Migratory Species of Wild Animals	Target achieved	We supported the UK delegation to the 7 th Conference of the Parties for the main Convention and also participated in international meetings for several subsidiary agreements
Provide scientific advice on the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES)	Target almost completely achieved	JNCC supported Defra at the 12 th Conference of the Parties, contributing to achievement of the UK proposal to list basking shark on Appendix II; we also responded to nearly 24,000 CITES licence consultations (66 per cent to service standards)
Provide scientific advice to support implementation of the Ramsar Convention on the Conservation of Wetlands of International Importance	Target achieved	JNCC provided technical advice to Government at the 8 th Conference of the Parties, and secured a JNCC representative on the Convention's Scientific and Technical Review Panel
Provide scientific advice to support implementation of the World Heritage Convention	Target achieved	We supported Government at the annual meeting of the World Heritage Committee, and worked with the World Conservation Union (IUCN) to develop guidelines for the role of geological sites in the Convention
Provide scientific advice to support implementation of the Oslo and Paris Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the north-east Atlantic (OSPAR)	Target achieved	JNCC supported Government at meetings of the Biodiversity Committee and advised on habitat classification and mapping, Marine Protected Areas and Ecological Quality Objectives
Provide scientific advice to support the development and implementation of conservation initiatives and conventions in the UK Overseas Territories	Target achieved	Advice was provided to Government throughout the year, including comments on draft environmental legislation and management plans

Objective 2: Nature conservation in a European context

Develop more effective means of influencing EU nature conservation policy, legislation and practice	Target achieved	JNCC provided technical input to the European Commission on the development of the soils and marine thematic strategies under the 6 th Environmental Action Programme and on the implementation of the European Commission's Biodiversity Action Plans
Complete submission to the European Commission of an agreed list of UK Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)	Target almost completely achieved	A list of UK SACs that fully meets the requirements of the Habitats Directive has been agreed and most sites will be submitted to the Commission early in 2003/04
Identify offshore Natura 2000 sites, in consultation with stakeholders and the European Commission	Target achieved	JNCC co-ordinated work to develop the UK series of Natura 2000 sites, and provided formal advice to Government on the selection of the UK's first offshore SAC (the Darwin Mounds)
Achieve an agreed interpretation of 'favourable conservation status'	Target partially achieved	Government and agencies have agreed an outline interpretation of favourable conservation status, which now needs to be further tested and refined
Provide advice on technical issues relating to the Water Framework Directive	Target achieved	JNCC provided advice on a range of technical issues during the course of the year and contributed to Government consultations on implementation of the Directive

Objective 3: Biodiversity and earth heritage conservation best practice

Help Government develop and implement a UK marine nature conservation strategy	Target achieved	The first year of the Irish Sea Pilot Project (designed to trial a proposed new framework for marine nature conservation) was successfully completed
Assess how biodiversity indicators relate to sustainable development and begin to define standards for biodiversity indicators	Target achieved	JNCC advised Defra on European and global biodiversity indicator initiatives, helping to establish UK negotiating positions, and contributed to the first meeting of the UK biodiversity indicators forum
Advise Government on the development of its national and sectoral biodiversity-related statistics and indicators	Target postponed	Defra's work in this area has been delayed
Promote the importance of soil science in conservation	Target achieved	JNCC contributed a nature conservation perspective to government consultations on soils, and initiated research to identify upland soils where habitat restoration is possible
Consider ways in which the ecosystem approach might be applied in the UK, and develop practical advice on its application	Target postponed	Work delayed until 2003/04 because of lack of resources

Objective 4: Sustainable use of natural resources

Develop policy advice to Government in relation to non-native species and biological translocations	Target almost completely achieved	JNCC provided technical advice to support Defra's Review of Non-Native Species Policy, and will publish its policy advice in 2003/04
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Key target 2002/2003 achievement

Objective 4: Sustainable use of natural resources

Promote reform of the Common Fisheries Policy to enable sustainable fisheries	Target achieved	JNCC participated in EU and international scientific working groups, and responded to 12 Governmental or Parliamentary enquiries and consultations
Advise Government and industry in relation to offshore industrial activities	Target achieved	We responded to approximately 650 statutory consultations on offshore industries, and advised Government on the 21 st oil and gas offshore licensing round
Provide advice on the potential effects of biotechnology on UK biodiversity and in particular the introduction of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs)	Target achieved	Advice was provided to Government throughout the year and responses to Government consultations were submitted
Support implementation of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive	Target achieved	JNCC advised Government on the 3 rd SEA for oil and gas

Objective 5: Environmental change

Understand the implications of climate change for nature conservation and ensure that relevant considerations are integrated into policy	Target almost completely achieved	JNCC contributed to research projects to develop models to assess climate change impacts at a local scale, and to study the effects of climate change on biodiversity in the Overseas Territories.
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Objective 6: Biological surveillance, monitoring and research

Design and implement a general terrestrial mammal surveillance programme and review the existing bats surveillance programme	Target achieved	Implementation of a surveillance programme for terrestrial mammals was progressed successfully, and the bat surveillance programme was reviewed
Develop and implement a system for monitoring designated interest features on protected sites	Target partially achieved	JNCC continued to promote UK-wide standards for monitoring protected sites by co-ordinating the preparation of draft monitoring guidance for habitat, species and earth science features
With key partners, refine broad habitat surveillance programmes	Target postponed	Work delayed until 2003/04 because of lack of resources
Implement surveillance programmes for threatened higher and lower plants	Target partially achieved	In partnership with other organisations, JNCC continued to develop a threatened bryophyte database, and undertook planning to establish a rare plant information and surveillance service
Facilitate the creation of habitat inventories through the development of standards and identification of best practice	Target postponed	Work delayed until 2003/04 because of lack of resources
Undertake seabed resource mapping for UK territorial seas	Target achieved	JNCC collated summary information on marine habitat datasets in UK waters and contributed to international marine habitat mapping initiatives through the International Council for the Exploration of the Seas.
Design a monitoring programme to cover offshore sites, and begin to implement it	Target postponed	Work delayed until offshore sites have been identified and JNCC's role has been clarified
Facilitate and co-ordinate biodiversity research in partnership with Defra	Target postponed	Work delayed because of difficulties in staff recruitment, but the project will be in full progress by mid-2003

Objective 7: Using biological information

Contribute to the development of the National Biodiversity Network (NBN)	Target achieved	JNCC provided access to key biodiversity datasets, including Seabird 2000 and various datasets hosted by the Biological Records Centre, and advised the NBN Trust on the preparation of a business plan
Maintain and develop the JNCC, UK Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP), CBD Clearing House Mechanism and CITES websites	Target achieved	All websites were maintained and enhanced during the year; in particular, the UK BAP website was developed so that it could support online reporting against local and national Action Plans, and additional content was added to the JNCC website, including comprehensive information on the UK SAC series
Disseminate the products from JNCC's work using the most appropriate communications medium	Target achieved	Publications during the year included the Annual Report, two editions of Nature News, and various scientific reports

Objective 8: Managing the JNCC and implementing effective working methods

Ensure that the JNCC has an agreed strategic direction and a corporate plan that deliver clear nature conservation gains	Target achieved	The Joint Committee agreed a Statement of Strategic Direction for JNCC in December 2002, following consultation with Government stakeholders
Reduce staff turnover to no more than 15 per cent by the end of 2002/03	Target achieved	Staff turnover for the year was maintained at 11 per cent, the same level as for 2001/02
Reduce the undesirable environmental impacts of operating the JNCC	Target achieved	We agreed an environmental management policy statement for the JNCC, and held a 'Greening Week' to raise staff awareness of environmental issues
Enable effective implementation of the recommendations arising from JNCC's Financial, Management and Policy Review (FMPR)	Target postponed	Agreement was reached to implement the FMPR recommendations through use of the Regulatory Reform Act and establishment of the JNCC as a company limited by guarantee, but full implementation has been delayed until April 2005