



JNCC Annual Report and Accounts
2004/2005

Joint Nature Conservation Committee Annual Report and Accounts 2004/05

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Cover image: Brown long-eared bat *Plecotus auritus*
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The brown long-eared bat is one of our more common bat species, but with a UK population estimate of 245,000 is still relatively rare. The National Bat Monitoring Programme, operating as part of the Tracking Mammals Partnership, shows stable populations at present, with summary results published in the TMP First Report.

The Joint Nature Conservation Committee was established under statute in 1990* and commenced its work in April 1991.

The Joint Nature Conservation Committee is the forum through which the three country nature conservation agencies – the Countryside Council for Wales (CCW), English Nature and Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) – deliver their statutory responsibilities for Great Britain as a whole and internationally. These responsibilities, known as the special functions, contribute to sustaining natural systems. The special functions are principally to:

- advise ministers on the development of policies for, or affecting, nature conservation in Great Britain and internationally;
- provide advice and knowledge to anyone on nature conservation issues affecting Great Britain and internationally;
- establish common standards throughout Great Britain for the monitoring of nature conservation and for research into nature conservation and the analysis of results;
- commission or support research which the Committee deems relevant to the special functions.

The work falls into two broad categories: core work, which covers all of the main advisory functions, and a series of supporting projects.

The work can be done through the Committee’s own Support Unit, composed of staff assigned from the three country agencies, by one country agency leading on behalf of the others, or through a network of agency staff. Work is also commissioned from outside organisations.

Increasingly, JNCC is implementing its national advisory functions on a United Kingdom basis, and is working closely with the Environment and Heritage Service, Northern Ireland.

From 1 April 2005, JNCC became a company limited by guarantee, allowing the organisation to, amongst other benefits, employ its own staff and let its own contracts.

For a full overview of UK conservation in 2004/05, this report should be read in conjunction with those of the Countryside Council for Wales, English Nature, Scottish Natural Heritage and the Environment and Heritage Service, Northern Ireland.

*The Environmental Protection Act 1990



SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE





Rt Hon Rhodri Morgan AM
First Minister
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Dear First Minister of State

As required by paragraph 10 (1) of Schedule 7 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990, I have the honour to present herewith the report covering the period from 1 April 2004 to 31 March 2005.

Yours sincerely

Adrian Darby OBE

From the Chairman:



Jack McConnell MSP
First Minister
Scottish Executive
St Andrews House
Regent Road, Edinburgh
EH1 3DG

Dear First Minister

As required by paragraph 10 (1) of Schedule 7 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990, I have the honour to present herewith the report covering the period from 1 April 2004 to 31 March 2005.

Yours sincerely

Adrian Darby OBE

From the Chairman:



The Right Hon Margaret Beckett MP
Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Nobel House
17 Smith Square
London
SW1P 3JR

Dear Secretary of State

As required by paragraph 10 (1) of Schedule 7 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990, I have the honour to present herewith the report of the Joint Nature Conservation Committee covering the period from 1 April 2004 to 31 March 2005.

Yours sincerely

Adrian Darby OBE

From the Chairman:

Adrian Darby OBE
Joint Nature Conservation Committee
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19th July 2005



Adrian Darby OBE

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Adrian is a self-employed farmer in Worcestershire, and Vice-President of the RSPB, Chairman of the Advisory Council of Plantlife International, and former regional committee member of The National Trust.

Chairman's Introduction

Adrian Darby was appointed as JNCC's new Chairman in October 2004

It gives me great pride to introduce this Annual Report in my first year as Chairman of JNCC. We have entered into an important period of change for the organisation, and much has already been achieved to take us forward into a new era of nature conservation.

The first JNCC strategy was endorsed by Committee in June 2004, and will guide all our actions in the years to come. It will bring significant changes in what we do and how we work.

Our new strategy is the culmination of two years of hard work and deliberation and has three elements:

- The Vision sets out our aspirations for wildlife and natural features, and how we see them contributing to everyone's quality of life;
- The Mission Statement outlines the purpose, character and future direction of JNCC;
- The eight Strategic Objectives encapsulate our priorities for the next ten years.

A great deal of planning has taken place during the report year to prepare us for the implementation of the strategy. We have already seen a change of direction. Our activities will now be more focused on the international arena, and sit within the framework of sustainable development, rather than dealing with nature conservation issues in isolation.

Another important progression has been the establishment of the JNCC Support Co in March 2005. This should bring greater stability for all our staff, as they go about the business of providing advice and sharing knowledge to protect and enhance our environment, both in the UK and on a European and global scale.

In particular, I would like to thank David Ingram for holding the fort to ensure that all this important business could continue to progress throughout this landmark period. We can be proud that JNCC has put in place the foundations for a whole-UK approach to nature conservation at home and abroad, and the mechanisms to enable us to see clearly the challenges ahead.

Adroddiad a Chyfrifon JNCC

Rhagarweiniad y Cadeirydd

Ym mis Hydref penodwyd Cadeirydd newydd, Adrian Darby.

Rwy'n hynod falch o allu cyflwyno'r Adroddiad Blynyddol hwn yn fy mlwyddyn gyntaf fel Cadeirydd JNCC. Rydym wedi cychwyn ar gyfnod pwysig o newid ar gyfer y sefydliad, a chyflawnwyd llawer yn barod er mwyn ein tywys i mewn i gyfnod newydd o gadwraeth natur.

Cymeradwyodd y Pwyllgor Strategaeth gyntaf JNCC ym Mehefin 2004, a fydd yn pennu ein holl weithredoedd yn ystod y blynyddoedd sydd i ddod. Daw â newidiadau pwysig yn ei sgil o ran y pethau a wnawn a'n dull o weithio.

Mae ein strategaeth newydd yn ganlyniad dwy flynedd o waith caled ac ystyriaeth ofalus gan y Pwyllgor a'r Uned Cynhorthwy, ac mae iddi dair elfen:

- Mae'r Weledigaeth yn nodi ein huchelgeisiau ar gyfer bywyd gwyllt a nodweddion naturiol, a sut rydym yn eu gweld yn cyfrannu at ansawdd bywyd pawb;
- Mae'r Datganiad Gorchwyl yn rhoi amlinelliad pendant o bwrpas, cymeriad a chyfeiriad JNCC ar gyfer y dyfodol;
- Bydd yr wyth Amcan Strategol yn ein helpu i ganolbwyntio ar ein blaenoriaethau ar gyfer y deng mlynedd nesaf.

Gwnaed llawer iawn o waith cynllunio yn ystod blwyddyn yr adroddiad er mwyn ein paratoi ar gyfer gweithredu'r strategaeth.

Gwelsom newid cyfeiriad yn barod. Bydd y pwyslais yn ein gweithgareddau yn cael ei gyfeirio'n gynyddol yn awr at y maes rhyngwladol, ac o fewn fframwaith datblygu cynaliadwy, yn hytrach nag ymdrin â

David Ingram OBE

© JNCC

David took up the role of Acting Chairman

materion cadwraeth ar eu pennau eu hunain. Gwelir tystiolaeth o hyn yn ein gwaith yng nghyswllt Effeithiau Byd-eang y DU.

Cynnydd pwysig arall a wnaethpwyd oedd sefydlu'r JNCC Support Co ym mis Mawrth 2005. Dylai hyn ddod â mwy o sefydlogrwydd i'n holl weithwyr, wrth iddynt ymgymryd â'r gwaith pwysig o ddarparu cyngor gwerthfawr a rhannu gwybodaeth er mwyn gwarchod a gwella ein hamgylchedd, yn y DU ac ar raddfa Ewropeaidd a Byd-eang.

Hoffwn ddiolch yn arbennig i David Ingram, am sefyll yn y bwlch er mwyn sicrhau fod yr holl waith pwysig hwn yn gallu mynd yn ei flaen drwy gydol y cyfnod hwn sy'n garreg filltir yn ein hanes. Gallwn ymfalchïo fod JNCC wedi gosod y sylfeini ar gyfer agwedd tuag at warchod natur sy'n rhychwantu'r DU gyfan, ynghyd â'r mecanweithiau fydd yn ein galluogi i weld yn glir yr heriau sydd o'n blaenau.

