



JNCC Annual Report and Accounts
2004/2005

Joint Nature Conservation Committee Annual Report and Accounts 2004/05

Contents

Chairman's Introduction			
Introduction, in English	4		
Introduction, in Welsh	5		
International Conservation Advice			
Conventions are the Key	7		
World Summit on Sustainable Development.....	10		
The Convention on Biological Diversity.....	10		
CITES	11		
Bonn Convention	12		
OSPAR	12		
Marine habitat mapping	12		
Ramsar	13		
World Heritage Convention	14		
UK Overseas Territories	15		
Europe	15		
IUCN – The World Conservation Union.....	16		
UK's Global Impact	16		
Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna	16		
Site-based Advice			
Natura 2000	17		
Geological Conservation Review	19		
Species Advice			
Plant Conservation Strategy	20		
Review of Schedule 4 of the Wildlife & Countryside Act.....	21		
Non-native Species	21		
Wider Environment Advice			
Marine	22		
Climate Change.....	23		
Fisheries Advice	23		
Air Pollution	23		
Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) ..	24		
Survey and Monitoring			
Biodiversity Indicators	25		
Common Standards Monitoring	26		
Mammals.....	26		
Ornithological Monitoring.....	27		
Wetland Bird Survey	27		
Biological Records Centre	28		
Wildlife and Pollution.....	28		
Knowledge/Information Management			
National Biodiversity Network	29		
Global Biodiversity Information Facility	29		
Biodiversity Research and Reporting	30		
JNCC Website	30		
Services			
Organisational Arrangements	31		
Communications	31		
Finance	32		
Personnel	32		
Environmental management	33		
Appendices			
Committee, Staff and Offices	34		
Audited Accounts	37		
Statement on Internal Control.....	39		
JNCC Financial Statements	41		
Notes to the Financial Statements.....	42		
Performance Against Key Targets	48		
Research Contracts	50		
Contract Papers and Publications	51		



Cover image: Brown long-eared bat *Plecotus auritus*
© Frank Greenaway

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
Monkstone House, City Road,
Peterborough PE1 1JY, United Kingdom
Tel: 01733 562626 Fax: 01733 555948
Direct dial: 01733 866900
Email: chairman@jncc.gov.uk
Website: www.jncc.gov.uk

19th July 2005



Adrian Darby OBE

© JNCC

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.





Nile crocodile *Crocodylus niloticus* carrying one of her young

© Anup Shah/naturepl.com

There is increasing recognition that the sustainable use of wildlife, particularly in developing countries, may provide incentives to support their conservation. CITES regulates trade in all crocodylian species, some of which (including the Nile crocodile) are exploited for their valuable skin and meat.

Impacts on our environment affect nature conservation on a global scale and international agreements help set the agenda for nature conservation in the UK. As part of its new strategy, JNCC will have much greater involvement in international activities, will consider the impact of the UK abroad, and will continue to support nature conservation in the Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies.

Water lilies in Guyana © Diana Mortimer/JNCC



International Conservation Advice

Conventions are the Key

The UK is a party to a wide range of wildlife Conventions at global, regional and European levels. JNCC provides scientific advice to Government on these agreements, and works to implement decisions and resolutions.

Conventions are international agreements between countries, dealing with specific subjects of common concern. European Directives are legislative texts adopted by the European Community, affecting all member states. Where necessary, the UK transposes the provisions of Conventions and European legislation into national law, to meet its obligations under these agreements. As with other sectors, such a legislative framework exists for nature conservation.

A range of Conventions relating to nature conservation have been concluded, covering subjects including trade in endangered species, migratory species, the marine environment, and biodiversity. European Directives have concentrated on conserving species and habitats of European Community importance, and protecting aquatic ecosystems. Implementing legislation in the UK provides protection for specified animals and plants, and enables the establishment and protection of designated sites.

African lion *Panthera leo*

© Anup Shah/naturepl.com

Kenya withdrew its proposal to up list the African lion from Appendix II to Appendix I at the 13th meeting of the Conference of Parties; however, the Parties agreed to convene a series of workshops to address the concerns raised by range States during discussions.

As well as supporting the UK Government at Convention conferences and meetings, JNCC provides scientific and technical advice to Government departments and the country agencies on the national implementation of Conventions and European Directives, and produces progress reports to both Europe and the Convention secretariats.



Giant's Causeway

© Environment and Heritage Service, Northern Ireland

A close-up of the basalt columns that make up the Giant's Causeway.



01 The Convention on Biological Diversity

KNOWN AS CBD or the Biodiversity Convention
www.biodiv.org

WHEN 1992

WHY To support the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components, and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits from the use of genetic resources.

OUR ROLE During the lifetime of the CBD, JNCC has played a central role in advising UK Government on the development and implementation of the Convention, and has developed systems to support the flow of biodiversity information.



03 The Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage

KNOWN AS The World Heritage Convention
<http://whc.unesco.org>

WHEN Adopted by United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) in 1972.

WHY To encourage the identification, protection and preservation of cultural and natural heritage around the world, considered to be of outstanding value to humanity.

OUR ROLE JNCC supports the Department of Culture, Media and Sport at World Heritage Committee meetings and advises on UK sites. We also advise UNESCO on Earth heritage issues.



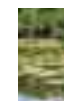
02 The Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats

KNOWN AS Bern Convention
www.chm.org.uk/cats.asp?t=24

WHEN 1982, under Council of Europe.

WHY To conserve wild flora and fauna and their natural habitats, and to promote European co-operation in that field. EC Council Directive 79/409/EEC (the EC Birds Directive) and 92/43/EEC (the EC Habitats Directive) that implement Bern have established the Natura 2000 network of protected areas that tackle the continuing losses of biodiversity on land, at the coast, and in the sea.

OUR ROLE JNCC contributes to implementation and plays a part in Convention working groups.



04 The Convention on the Conservation of Wetlands of International Importance

KNOWN AS Ramsar or the Wetlands Convention
www.ramsar.org

WHEN 1971, ratified by UK in 1976.

WHY To provide a framework for national action and international co-operation for the conservation and wise use of wetlands and their resources.

OUR ROLE JNCC contributes to national implementation via advice to Government and supports international development of the Convention.



05 The Convention on Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments

KNOWN AS Global Ballast Water Management Programme <http://globallast.imo.org>

WHEN 2004

WHY The introduction of invasive marine species into new environments by ships' ballast water, attached to ships' hulls and via other vectors, has been identified as one of the greatest threats to the world's oceans.

OUR ROLE JNCC represented the UK on the drafting group that drew up this international Convention.



08 The Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean

KNOWN AS The Cartagena Convention www.cep.unep.org/law/cartnut.html

WHEN 1983, ratified by the UK in 1986.

WHY To prevent, reduce and control pollution in the wider Caribbean Region, to protect and preserve rare or fragile ecosystems, and to develop guidelines for the planning and environmental impact assessments of important development projects.

OUR ROLE JNCC assists the Foreign and Commonwealth Office at the Conference of Parties.



06 The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species

KNOWN AS CITES or, rarely, the Washington Convention www.cites.org

WHEN 1975

WHY To ensure that no species of wild fauna or flora becomes, or remains subject to, unsustainable exploitation because of international trade. CITES achieves this by strictly regulating, by permits, international trade in listed species.

OUR ROLE JNCC is appointed by Defra as the UK CITES Scientific Authority for animals. We provide scientific advice to Government on the issue of CITES permits and certificates as well as advising on related issues and supporting UK delegations to CITES meetings.



09 The Oslo and Paris Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic

KNOWN AS OSPAR Convention www.ospar.org

WHEN 1992, replacing two predecessors from the 1970s.

WHY To prevent and eliminate pollution, to assess the quality of the marine environment, and to protect and conserve ecosystems and biological diversity in the north-east Atlantic region.

OUR ROLE JNCC supports Defra at meetings and helps develop and implement OSPAR's strategies.



07 The Convention on Migratory Species

KNOWN AS CMS or the Bonn Convention www.wcmc.org.uk/cms/

WHEN 1979, ratified by UK in 1985.

WHY To protect those species of wild animals that migrate across or outside national boundaries.

OUR ROLE The UK is party to the Convention and to CMS Agreements on the conservation of albatrosses and petrels, small cetaceans, bats and African-Eurasian waterbirds, with JNCC advising on the implementation of all these. JNCC also plays a role in a Memorandum on turtles and their habitats in the Indian Ocean. The UK is currently Chair of the Scientific Council.

Wandering albatross *Diomedea exulans*

© Eric Baccega/naturepl.com

The wandering albatross is the largest of the 24 species of albatross, and with a declining population of less than 10,000 pairs is IUCN Red Listed. The Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP), ratified by the UK in 2004, will aid in conserving albatrosses.



World Summit on Sustainable Development

At the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in Johannesburg in 2002 it was agreed to “achieve by 2010 a significant reduction of the current rate of biodiversity loss at the global, regional and national level as a contribution to poverty alleviation and to the benefit of all life on earth.” This is an important target which is now driving global conservation programmes.

In response to the WSSD target, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) produced an implementation plan for the UK: *Beyond Johannesburg: Delivering Our International Biodiversity Commitments*. During the year, JNCC contributed to several of the actions identified in the plan and our input will increase in the future.

One of the commitments in the Defra plan was to create an Inter-ministerial Group on Biodiversity, bringing together Environment Minister Elliot Morley, Foreign and Commonwealth Office Minister Bill Rammell and Department

for International Development Minister Gareth Thomas, to create a more joined-up approach to this work. Adrian Darby, JNCC Chairman, was invited to participate in this group, and attended one meeting in November 2004. JNCC has also provided officer-level support to the group.

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

During the year, JNCC provided scientific advice to Defra on a range of CBD issues and attended the tenth meeting of the CBD’s Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice in Bangkok, Thailand in February 2005.

This meeting considered a number of issues, including island biodiversity and global indicators for measuring progress towards the 2010 target.

Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice meeting

© Diana Mortimer/JNCC

You can find out more about the work of the SBSTTA at their website at www.biodiv.org/convention/sbstta.asp

At the seventh Conference of Parties held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, in February 2004, a decision was taken to create an *Ecosystem Approach Sourcebook*. The Ecosystem Approach is the framework for delivering sustainable development, recognising that humans and their cultural diversity are an integral part of biodiversity conservation and use. Diana Mortimer of JNCC has been working in partnership with the CBD secretariat to create this resource. It gives guidance on using the Ecosystem Approach, and highlights case studies that show how sustainable development can be achieved, drawing on practical examples from projects around the world. The sourcebook is available on the CBD’s website at <http://www.biodiv.org/programmes/cross-cutting/ecosystem/sourcebook/home.shtml>



CITES

JNCC provides advice to Government on policy and practice relating to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES).

In October 2004, JNCC's Head of International Unit, Vin Fleming, and CITES adviser, Alison Littlewood, attended the 13th Conference of Parties in Bangkok, Thailand, as part of the UK delegation led by Environment Minister Elliot Morley. The meeting considered more than 60 resolutions on a range of topics, including synergy with CBD, principles and guidelines on sustainable use of wildlife, and the relationship between *in situ* conservation and *ex situ* captive breeding.

Marine and fish proposals were high on the agenda, with the humphead wrasse, the great white shark and the European date mussel listed on Appendix II of CITES (species not considered to be under the threat of extinction, but which may become so if trade is not regulated). Trophy hunting was a controversial issue, but the parties agreed to quotas for the export of hunting trophies of black rhino and leopard.

Earlier in the year, JNCC participated in the 20th CITES Animals Committee in Johannesburg, the outcomes of which



Great white shark *Carchardodon carcharias*

© Jeff Rotman/naturepl.com

Great white sharks were listed by a significant majority vote on to Appendix II of CITES at the Conference of the Parties in October 2004.

contributed to a CITES training course for enforcement officials in Estonia. During the year, we gave scientific advice on 32,000 licence consultations for the import, export or commercial use of species listed under CITES, an increase of over 4,000 on the previous year. These were all carried out to the service standards agreed with Defra.

contributed to the Conference of the Parties. JNCC also participated in four meetings of the EU CITES Scientific Review Group in Brussels, to assist the harmonisation of the implementation of CITES within the, newly expanded, European Union.

Leopard *Panthera pardus*

© Tony Heald/naturepl.com

The leopard is listed in Appendix I; however, CITES recognises that in a number of range States the leopard is not threatened, and both Namibia and South Africa had increased quotas for hunting trophies accepted by the 13th Conference of the Parties.

In December 2004, Alison Littlewood contributed to a training course organised by TRAFFIC East Asia (the international NGO which monitors trade in endangered species). The aim was to help officials in Taiwan, Province of China, to improve their work on CITES implementation. She also



Bonn Convention

The first meeting of the parties to the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP) was held in Hobart, Australia in November 2004. JNCC seconded a staff member to support the meeting secretariat and also assisted Defra at the meeting.

A comprehensive review was started of the status and trends of all albatross species, including a review of species taxonomy. Work will continue to find appropriate techniques to eliminate the bycatch of albatrosses and petrels on long lines and hooks, which is identified as a predominant cause of population declines. Our Head of Marine Advice, Mark Tasker, was elected to chair the newly established Advisory Committee to the Agreement.

In response to the fourth meeting of the Parties to the Agreement on the Conservation of Small Cetaceans in the Baltic and North Seas (ASCOBANS), JNCC has collaborated in a major project, co-funded by the EU, to count the number of dolphins, and particularly porpoises, in the North Sea and the Atlantic. As chair of the Advisory Committee to ASCOBANS, Mark

Harbour porpoise *Phocena phocena*

© Florian Graner/naturepl.com

In 2005, JNCC has contributed to the SCANS II (Small Cetacean Abundance in the North Sea) survey that aims to assess population sizes of cetaceans of the north-east Atlantic region.

Tasker led a group which reviewed the effects of sonar on cetaceans. The work, carried out under the auspices of the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) has been investigating concerns that military equipment could be killing some beaked cetaceans.

OSPAR

Marine conservation was high on the agenda for the year and this was reflected through JNCC's work on OSPAR.

During the year, JNCC prepared guidelines on achieving an ecologically coherent network of well-managed Marine Protected Areas (MPAs). The guidelines will help all Contracting Parties to the convention to nominate MPAs across the whole OSPAR maritime area including the high seas – those parts of the north-east Atlantic outside the jurisdiction of individual countries. Ministers indicated a commitment to identify the first set of MPAs by the end of 2005.



Marine habitat mapping

The Irish Sea Pilot study, set up under Defra's Review of Marine Nature Conservation and carried out by JNCC, investigated the concept of marine landscapes (coastal, seabed and water column) and their ecological relevance.

This concept is being extended to produce a map of marine landscapes for the rest of UK waters – a project that JNCC is leading on behalf of a consortium of UK public bodies and non-government organisations.

The marine landscapes project is closely linked with MESH (Mapping European Seabed Habitats), a wider JNCC-led project to map the seabed habitats of north-west Europe, launched in May 2004.

MESH is an 8 million-Euro three-year project undertaken by a consortium of 12 partners from the UK, Ireland, the Netherlands, Belgium and France, and is supported by the EU INTERREG IIIB fund. JNCC is the lead partner responsible for the overall management and delivery of the project.



A seabed habitat map for NW Europe will be derived by collating existing habitat map data, and will be made available on the internet. JNCC’s Head of Marine Habitats, David Connor said, “There have been lots of studies producing habitat maps, but for different purposes; they are inconsistent, and cannot easily be accessed. This project will pull them together under a single web-based mapping system using key standardised classification systems.”

During the year, significant progress was made in compiling existing maps into a catalogue, reviewing mapping standards and developing a ‘metadata’ standard for the project (a method for describing data sets using consistent terms), culminating in an

OSPAR maritime area

A network of Marine Protection Areas is to be created over the entire Oskar area by 2010 (turquoise blue is the contracting parties’ waters, dark blue is high seas).

international workshop hosted by the British Geological Survey at Keyworth, Nottingham in November 2004.

To communicate its results, the project website www.searchmesh.net was launched with more than 100 pages of information,

including an on-line, searchable version of the map catalogue. An interactive section to display the maps will be launched in autumn 2005.

Ramsar

JNCC provides scientific advice to Government on Ramsar, the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance.

JNCC’s senior ornithologist David Stroud, who is a member of the Ramsar Scientific and Technical Review Panel, and our international designations officer, Colin McLeod, attended the fifth Ramsar European Regional meeting at Yerevan, Armenia in December 2004.

Colin made a presentation to the meeting on the review of the UK’s national suite of Ramsar sites. The first phase of the review has been completed. It comprised a re-assessment of wetland interests within existing sites and an assessment of the possible overlap between Ramsar wetland interests and those found within Natura 2000 sites designated under the EC Habitats and Birds Directives.

World Heritage Convention

The UNESCO World Heritage Convention brings together cultural and natural heritage issues, and JNCC advises the UK Government on nature conservation aspects of the Convention.

JNCC has provided specific assistance to the IUCN, who act as advisers to UNESCO, in developing a better understanding of the role of geological conservation within the Convention. In this role, the UK hosted a major international geological conference in September 2004 at Wareham, Dorset, close to the Dorset and East Devon World Heritage Site – the Jurassic Coast.

The *Earth Heritage: World Heritage* conference brought together experts from 20 nations, including Australia, Argentina and Namibia. Delegates were drawn from the fields of tourism, biology, cultural heritage, planning and economics. The basics of geoconservation were discussed – what it is that we are trying to protect, and specific local, national and international mechanisms to do this. The focus was on the use of existing conservation programmes and planning processes to integrate

geoconservation with biological and cultural heritage conservation. Agreement was reached to establish closer working links between the principal organisations interested in global geoconservation.

JNCC's Earth Science and Coastal Adviser Tony Weighell explains, "Topics discussed ranged from local to global, scientific to economic, and from small protected area programmes to entire landscapes. But, in all areas, the key was seen as people – their expectations, understanding of the natural world, and their behaviour."

To maintain the momentum of the conference, a communication network was established, including a series of newsletters, and a conference website at www.geoconservation.com/conference

JNCC is also involved in the Global Geoparks Programme, which is working to create links between people and geology, and developing a better understanding of geology in landscapes.

In June 2004, Tony Weighell presented a keynote paper at the first International Conference on Geoparks in Beijing, China. The conference, the first of what is to be a regular biannual event, was held to promote the growing concept of protected areas based on geodiversity values, with particular emphasis on landscape and links with social history.

The theme of the JNCC contribution was the need to link geoconservation with existing programmes, and establish working relationships between relevant conventions and international bodies, such as the IUCN and the International Union of Geological Sciences.

The *Earth Heritage: World Heritage* conference

© Emma Durham/JNCC

Peter Doyle and Tony Weighell from JNCC introducing one of the conference sessions.



UK Overseas Territories

As one of its strategic objectives, JNCC aims to promote measures that protect and enhance biological and geological diversity in the UK's Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies, and share good conservation practice worldwide.

A review commissioned by JNCC during the year found that nearly 3,000 non-native species are recorded as occurring in the UK Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies. Invasive, non-native species are a significant threat to global biodiversity, especially on island ecosystems, and Bermuda had the highest total, with 1,139 non-native species recorded. This audit will now guide further work on measures to eradicate, control or prevent the future establishment of non-native species.

The third meeting of the signatory states to the Indian Ocean Turtle Agreement took place in Bangkok at the end of March 2005 and JNCC contributed to the UK national report for the British Indian Ocean Territory. Work has begun to implement elements of the agreed management plan, including the use of key index beaches for monitoring. The meeting also looked at the impact of the December 2004 tsunami on marine turtles in the region.

Non-native species in UK Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies

The graph shows the number of non-native species in the UK Overseas Territories.

Abbreviations are British Indian Ocean Territory (BIOT); British Virgin Islands (BVI); Turks and Caicos Islands (TCI); Isle of Man (IoM); British Antarctic Territory (BAT); and South Sandwich Islands (SSI).



JNCC agreed to act as CITES Scientific Authority to the Falklands Islands government for a trial period and a Memorandum of Understanding is now being negotiated.

The Head of our International Unit, Vin Fleming, participated in the panel assessing applications to the Overseas Territories Environment Programme of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and Department for International Development.

Europe

JNCC is increasing its work on European policies that affect biodiversity, with the aim of tackling the threats as much as the symptoms.

Over the last year we have directed our time and efforts into this wider area through our work on the review of the EU Sustainable Development Strategy and the Mid-Term Review of the Lisbon Strategy (which is the EU strategy for economic growth and competitiveness). Both will be important

in driving policies which impact on biodiversity, such as climate change, fisheries, transport, employment, and research and development.

By helping to draw attention to the relationships between biodiversity and sectoral interests, JNCC hopes to strengthen the awareness of policy makers and the public to the fact that economic prosperity depends on a healthy environment. By encouraging better integration of environmental considerations, and particularly biodiversity, into policy, through tools like impact assessment, more progress can be made in conserving biodiversity and achieving the target to halt biodiversity loss in Europe by 2010.

This work will increase in 2005/06 as the UK Government takes the Presidency of the European Union for six months, and as we look outside the European Union into the rest of Europe to contribute to its biodiversity conservation.



Cover of IUCN UK Committee leaflet

Presented at the IUCN 3rd World Conservation Congress, in Bangkok.

IUCN – The World Conservation Union

JNCC continued to fulfil its secretariat function to the IUCN’s UK Committee.

A major focus for the work of the UK Committee and the secretariat over the year was the preparation for, and feedback from, the third World Conservation Congress (Bangkok, November 2004). The secretariat was actively involved in the production of two UK Committee leaflets: *People and Nature – Only One World* summarising the UK perspective on the four Congress Themes; and *Wealth from the Wild* looking at how we use wildlife in the UK today. Both publications were well received at the Congress, which had active UK Committee participation.

UK’s Global Impact

One of the objectives in the new JNCC strategy is to advise on the effect that UK activities and policies have on biological and geological diversity internationally, and to contribute to the development of appropriate responses.

During the year, this work was started under the auspices of the Global Impacts project. This links to existing JNCC international work around CBD, CITES and the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

The initial steps in the project have involved discussion with Government departments on developing a strategic approach to assessing the UK’s global biodiversity influence, exerted through activities such as international trade, investment, foreign aid and tourism. Links to major UK-based businesses that are interested in biodiversity issues are being developed. The project aims to look at ways of identifying and mitigating impacts, through better national and corporate governance, and sharing of best practice.

Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF)

The UK is an observer on CAFF, a working group of the Arctic Council.

JNCC continues to act as the link in the UK to CAFF, hosting a meeting of the CAFF Circumpolar Seabird Group (CBird) in Aberdeen in March 2005. It was attended by Esko Jaakkola, Chair of CAFF, and 16 representatives of nine circumpolar countries, with several observers from the UK and one from the Convention on Migratory Species secretariat. The meeting was organised by Jim Reid, JNCC’s Head of Seabirds and Cetaceans.

Issues addressed included: progress with the CBird work plan focused on the circumpolar murre and eider conservation strategies; birds of arctic conservation concern; harvest of seabirds in the Arctic; the circumpolar seabird monitoring network; the Arctic seabird status and trends report; a circumpolar black-legged kittiwake status and trends report; and an international ivory gull conservation strategy.

Ivory Gull *Pagophila eburnea*

© Steve Young/FLPA

JNCC was involved in an international ivory gull conservation strategy.



The protection of individual sites is an important nature conservation mechanism and JNCC advises on the selection and designation of protected areas, on land and at sea.

Drifting sand and marram grass at Forvie SAC © SNH

Site-based Advice

Natura 2000

In December 2004, the European Commission announced the establishment of the Atlantic list of Sites of Community Interest (SCIs) under the EC Habitats Directive, the result of 10 years of concerted efforts by the Member States of the European Union.

The sites submitted as candidates by the Government, and considered by the Commission in the context of the Atlantic biogeographical region, have since been designated by Government in England, Scotland and Wales as Special Areas of Conservation (SACs). Northern Ireland is to designate shortly. A small number of

sites remain to be submitted to the Commission to ensure the completeness of the UK's contribution to Natura 2000.

JNCC staff helped to develop the understanding and interpretation of the Habitats Directive by participating in workshops and working groups arranged by the European Commission. These covered issues such as implementation in the marine environment, species protection, and defining favourable conservation status.

The European Commission are producing guidance on the identification, management and protection of marine Natura 2000 sites, particularly those in offshore waters. Charlotte Johnston, JNCC's

Marine Strategy and Sites Co-ordinator, leads on the chapter on identification of sites being produced by the Marine Working Group.

During the year, we recommended five areas to Defra as potential offshore SACs: three in the North Sea, one near the Darwin Mounds off west Scotland, and one off south-west England. These are: Saturn Reef (for biogenic reef); Wyville Thomson Ridge (for iceberg ploughmark boulder and cobble reef); Haig Fras (for bedrock reef); Dogger Bank (for sandbanks slightly covered by seawater all the time); and Scanner Pockmark (for submarine structures made by leaking gases).



Red deer *Cervus elaphus* on Rum SAC

© SNH

Amongst other habitats Rum supports a range of heath and grassland habitats.



Great bittern *Botaurus stellaris*

© Mike Read/naturepl.com

The bittern was chosen by the UK to represent a Birds Directive success story for the 25th Anniversary EU Conference this year. Bittern numbers have increased as a result of targeted conservation action in the UK, including the protection of key reed bed habitats as Special Protection Areas.

Wyn Jones, JNCC's Head of Habitats Advice, participated in a number of EC projects to assess the framework of countries wishing to join the EU and their capacity to implement EU wildlife legislation. His most recent visit was to Bulgaria which is making considerable progress towards future membership in 2006.

The year saw the 25th anniversary of the European Birds Directive, and JNCC participated in a major conference held in Bergen op Zoom in the Netherlands in November 2004. The meeting attracted bird conservationists, national government representatives and non-government organisations from across Europe.

JNCC actively participated in the conference, the concluding statement of which sets out ten priorities for safeguarding the future of Europe's wild

birds. These highlight the urgent need to complete a functionally coherent terrestrial network of Special Protection Areas (SPAs) by 2005 and the need to extend it fully to the marine environment by 2008. It also stressed the importance of international action plans and national measures for threatened species. The 10 objectives of the concluding statement provide helpful prioritisation for the national implementation of the Birds Directive (see www.minlnv.nl/25yearsbd).



During the year, JNCC's Seabirds and Cetaceans Team carried out much field and analytical work in support of identifying SPAs in the marine environment. Using a variety of analytical methods, notably spatial and geostatistical tools, advice to the country agencies was offered regarding different types of seabird and waterbird concentrations.

Recommendations were made in respect of extending existing terrestrial seabird colony SPAs into the sea. Liverpool Bay was assessed

Kreshna Gorge in southern Bulgaria

© Wyn Jones/JNCC

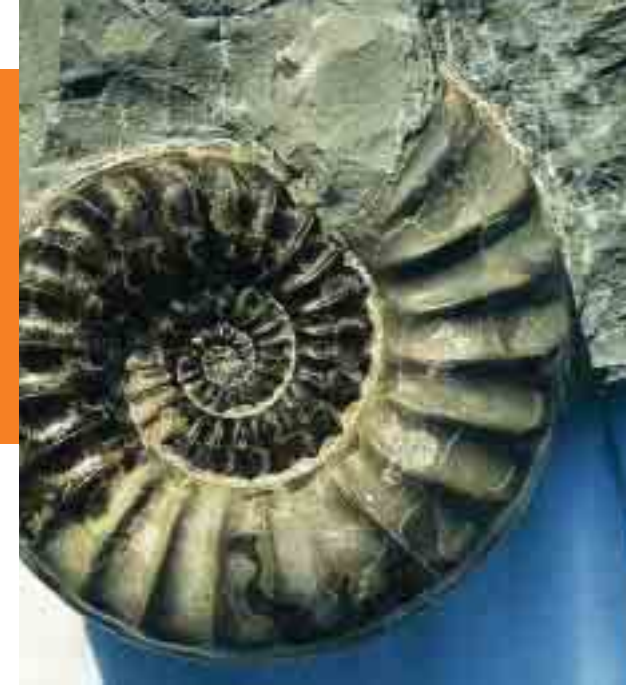
This area is exceptionally rich in wildlife being on the boundary between the Mediterranean and Continental biogeographical regions.

as a possible SPA in relation to its black scoter and red-throated diver populations. The results of this work were presented in two reports to English Nature and the Countryside Council for Wales. Analyses were also undertaken to help determine whether the Thames area hosted red-throated divers in sufficient numbers for SPA qualification.

Fossil ammonite *Asteroceras obtusum* from Charmouth, Dorset

© KN Page

The site is important for its fossils, such as this ammonite (a type of cephalopod, related to the modern squid, octopus and Nautilus), fossil fishes and even reptiles and insects, but is also helpful for helping us interpret the environmental conditions of the Early Jurassic Epoch as represented in Britain. The geological history of the Early Jurassic Epoch is the subject of the *British Lower Jurassic Stratigraphy* GCR volume.



Geological Conservation Review (GCR)

The GCR is a long-term publication programme pulling together technical information on Britain's important geological sites. Once completed, the series will contain 44 volumes describing over 3,000 sites.

During the year, two further volumes were published: Volume 30, *British Lower Jurassic Stratigraphy* in July 2004 and Volume 31, *The Old Red Sandstone of Great Britain* in March 2005.

A target during the year was to make the information more accessible, and exploration has begun into technological channels, with the introductory chapters of each volume being made available online.

Durdle Door, Dorset

© Sally King, World Heritage Coast Team, Dorset County Council

Conference delegates on an excursion to the Dorset and Devon Coast World Heritage Site.



Old red sandstone

© British Geological Survey/NERC

Large-scale cross-bedded sandstones of the Qui Ayre Sandstone Formation at Yesnaby, Orkney.





Planta Europa meeting © Chris Cheffings/JNCC

Species Advice

Plant Conservation Strategy

Good progress was made implementing the UK Plant Conservation Strategy, which sets the agenda for the conservation of plants and fungi for the rest of the decade.

The UK strategy was drawn up in response to the Convention on Biological Diversity's (CBD) Global Strategy for Plant Conservation, and was launched at the start of 2004. Following the launch, JNCC formed the UK Implementation Group with Plantlife International and the

Royal Botanic Gardens Kew to promote the strategy and oversee its implementation. This has cemented the excellent working partnership that was developed during the formulation of the strategy. JNCC represents the partnership as the National Focal Point, responsible for reporting back to the CBD secretariat and working with the Global Partnership for Plant Conservation.

At the end of 2004, JNCC contacted all the organisations that had helped in developing the strategy, in order to produce the first update on implementation. Twenty-five organisations were able to report on progress that had been made since the strategy was launched.

JNCC's Species Advice Team responds to the needs of policy makers for issues such as dealing with non-native species and over the content and operation of legislation. We base our advice on sound science, making extensive use of the results from the JNCC survey and monitoring programmes (chapter 5). In addition, we are active in national and international networks of species specialists to share knowledge and to spot significant emerging issues.

This information has been collated, and now forms a part of the 3rd National Report which the UK Government will submit to the CBD secretariat.

JNCC's Plant Conservation Adviser, Chris Cheffings, represented the UK at Planta Europa, held in Spain in September 2004. This was an opportunity for the UK to influence the implementation of the European Plant Conservation Strategy, and share their experiences in developing a national strategy.

Review of Schedule 4 of the Wildlife & Countryside Act

At the request of Defra and the Welsh Assembly, JNCC reviewed the schedule of birds that must be ringed and registered if kept in captivity.

A total of 381 species were reviewed to assess whether they met the relevant criteria – whether they were known or believed to be subject to illegal taking or trade and whether this might pose a threat to the species. These criteria, and the scope of species to be reviewed, were agreed at an earlier Defra-organised workshop in 2003.



Harlequin ladybird *Harmonia axyridis spectabilis*

© Mike Majerus

The Harlequin ladybird arrived in England in summer 2004. In March 2005 the Biological Records Centre and the University of Cambridge launched a high-profile survey to record the occurrence and spread of this invasive and potentially very damaging species. This project trials the use of the internet to record the spread of a non-native species, as well as providing data to help tackle the resulting problems for other aphid-feeding insects.

Lear's macaw *Anodorhynchus leari*

© Pete Oxford/naturepl.com

The review of Schedule 4 recommends the addition of species like Lear's macaw, which is designated as critically endangered by IUCN because of its extremely small population (246-280 individuals), and continued decline due to trapping for trade. It recommends the deletion of some species like Wallace's hawk-eagle *Spizaetus nanus* which is mainly threatened by loss of habitat; no individuals of this species have ever been registered since its inclusion on Schedule 4. The review is likely to go out to public consultation later in 2005.

Recommendations were submitted to Defra in December 2004, namely to retain 30 of the current 59 taxa, add 12 and delete 29. This would create a proposed Schedule 4 containing 42 taxa.

JNCC's Head of International Unit, Vin Fleming, said, "While having fewer taxa, we believe these recommended changes would result in a schedule which is more focused on delivering conservation benefit than the current schedule".



Non-native Species

We continue to support initiatives to improve responses to the impacts of non-native species in Britain. There is a need to keep up the momentum from the 2003 Defra Review of Non-native Species Policy and to link together better the different organisations responsible for tackling problem species. JNCC's Head of Species Advice, Ian McLean, spoke at the Non-native Species Forum in March 2005 on the need for an audit of current arrangements for dealing with non-native species prior to changes being made.

Wider environment advice



Serpula vermicularis © Dr Colin Moore

JNCC provides high-quality advice on a wide range of environmental issues, looking at how human activities impact on the natural environment, both in the UK and globally. This will become an increasingly important part of our role as we adopt a wider sustainability approach to nature conservation.

Marine

A far-reaching State of the Seas report was published by Defra in March 2005, *Charting Progress: an Integrated Assessment of the State of the UK Seas*. JNCC co-ordinated the production of the Biodiversity section of this report.

Also published was the Working Group Report on Defra's *Review of Marine Nature Conservation*, the most comprehensive undertaken in the UK, which makes 16 key recommendations and 73 supporting recommendations on a range of issues.

These include:

- the overall strategy for marine conservation;
- the use of Regional Seas for management purposes;
- the role of marine landscapes, protected areas and priority features;
- spatial planning;
- legislation and enforcement;
- governance arrangements;
- monitoring;
- and the provision of information.

A key issue highlighted in the report concerns collating data and information on biodiversity and the gaps in current monitoring programmes.

JNCC will be working with Defra under the Marine Data and Information Partnership to look at better ways of co-ordinating and accessing data. The new National Biodiversity Network Gateway will be harnessed in this area (see page 29).

The review drew on the findings of the *Irish Sea Pilot* report, which was published at the beginning of the year. It used the Irish Sea to trial the Ecosystem Approach to managing the marine environment. Work on marine landscapes classification and a 'countryside map' of the Irish Sea was well received as a tool for future planning and management (see pages 12/13).

Climate Change

JNCC is one of the partners in the MONARCH (Modelling Natural Resources Responses to Climate Change) research project, Phase 2 of which was completed during the year.

Other participants in the project include Government, statutory nature conservation agencies and non-governmental organisations. JNCC is a member of the project steering group.

Phase 2 tested the methodology developed in Phase 1 in four regions chosen for their potential sensitivity to future climate change. The case study areas were Hampshire, the Central Highlands of Scotland, Snowdonia and Cuilcagh/Pettigoe in Northern Ireland. The results increase our understanding of the possible impacts of climate change, but also highlight the difficulties in applying the methods at different geographic scales.

Fisheries Advice

JNCC offers scientific advice to Government on a sustainable future for the UK fishing industry.

During the year, JNCC contributed to the work to implement the recommendations of the Government report *Net Benefits: A sustainable and profitable future for UK fishing* which was published in 2004.

Led by our Head of Marine Advice, Mark Tasker, JNCC has been looking at the



potential for adapting the Strategic Environmental Assessment technique, currently used in the field of licensing for oil, gas and renewable energy for use in the management of sea fisheries. This system is beneficial in involving the public and user groups, and could be successfully applied in the fisheries sector.

Air Pollution

Despite substantial decreases in emissions of some of the main sources of air pollution in the UK, atmospheric deposition remains a significant threat to large areas of sensitive ecosystems.

In June 2004, JNCC and its partners launched a web-based Air Pollution Information System (APIS) at www.apis.ac.uk, which provides a searchable database of information on air pollution and

Coral bleaching

© Brandon Cole/naturepl.com

JNCC, together with the University of East Anglia and Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research, supported a PhD study aimed at defining the impacts of climate change on UK Overseas Territories. The study focused on the impacts on coral reefs in the Caribbean of rising sea temperatures which can cause 'bleaching' of corals (shown here), potentially resulting in their death.



Fiddlers Ferry Power Station, Lancashire

© Peter Wakely/English Nature

The Air Pollution Lead Co-ordination Network is advising the country agencies on a major assessment of the impacts of air pollution emissions from power stations.

Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs)

English Nature leads, on behalf of JNCC and the country agencies, on the provision of advice on the impacts of biotechnology, particularly GMOs, on nature conservation interests in Great Britain. In doing so it advises Government on individual applications for the release of GMOs into the countryside, and also represents JNCC and the country agencies on the Advisory Committee on Releases to the Environment that considers such applications.

its effects on habitats and species. APIS is a partnership project involving all the UK statutory environment and conservation agencies along with the Scotland and Northern Ireland Forum for Environmental Research (SNIFFER) and the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology (CEH).

In the first instance, APIS was developed to help staff in the agencies consistently assess potential air pollution impacts on ecosystems across the UK, while fulfilling their obligations under the Habitats Regulations and Pollution Prevention and Control Regulations.

JNCC's Air Pollution Lead Co-ordination Network (APLCN) continued its work on developing risk assessment and monitoring methods. With Defra, the Environment Agency and the country agencies, JNCC funded a study to provide options and

recommendations for the development of an air pollution impacts monitoring network. A key part of the study was to review existing monitoring programmes and other initiatives to assess whether better use can be made of the results, either directly or through some integrating project.

A workshop was held in January 2005 bringing together experts to discuss the recommendations. It was attended by over 60 staff from the country agencies, researchers and Government. During the year, JNCC and the country agencies completed a two-year project developing and testing biomonitoring approaches to help support the proposed network.

APIS home page

The Air Pollution Information System website was launched in June 2004.



JNCC needs high-quality data on the biological and geological diversity of the UK to enable it to make informed judgements on the best ways to protect our environment, and conserve the UK's rich natural heritage. A variety of surveillance and monitoring schemes, many in partnership with other organisations and backed by dedicated volunteers, provide this information.

Snake's head fritillary *Fritillaria meleagris*
© Peter Wakeley/English Nature



Survey and Monitoring

Biodiversity Indicators

At the 7th Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Conference of Parties in February 2004 a framework of indicators was adopted to measure progress towards the 2010 target to achieve a significant reduction in the current rate of biodiversity loss.

Within the UK, JNCC has played a major co-ordinating role. The third UK Biodiversity Indicators Forum was held at our Peterborough headquarters in July 2004, and an Interagency Indicators Group was established to provide links and co-ordination with country-level initiatives.



A European framework has been agreed and six expert groups set up to drive the work forward. JNCC is chairing two of the indicators groups, with James Williams for species, and Simon Bareham for nitrogen deposition.

Biodiversity Indicators Forum

© JNCC

Dr James Williams speaking at the UK Biodiversity Indicators Forum at Monkstone House, Peterborough.



Common dormouse

© Paul Bright

One of our native species that is not doing well is the common dormouse, which has suffered a 23% decline since 1993.

Mammals

The Tracking Mammals Partnership has brought together 24 Government and non-government organisations in an innovative project to collect information on UK mammal populations.

In March 2005, the group published its first report: *UK Mammals: Species Status and Population Trends*. JNCC's Jessa Battersby played a major role in driving forward the work in the role of Partnership Co-ordinator. The partnership currently brings together 17 schemes covering information on 34 of the UK's 65 resident land mammals.

The picture emerging from these first results is that ten native species have seen increases since the mid-1990s, four have stable populations, and three have shown declines.

Otter and roe deer have increased by more than 50% while water voles have declined at the same rate. For bats, trend analyses show that greater and lesser horseshoe, and common pipistrelle, all BAP species, are doing well, with lesser horseshoe populations up by more than 50%. Natterer's bat and Daubenton's bat are also doing well. Badger, red deer and polecats have also increased, but mountain hare and common dormouse are showing declines.

The report can be downloaded from www.trackingmammals.org

Common Standards Monitoring (CSM)

JNCC is working with the country agencies to monitor and assess the condition of designated nature conservation sites.

CSM provides a simple, quick, judgement-based assessment of specific features on SACs, SPAs, Ramsar sites, Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) and Areas of Special Scientific Interest (ASSIs). A six-year report on the condition of the whole site series is due to be published in late 2005.

Work continued during the year to give guidance on the setting of conservation objectives and assessment methods, and guidance was completed for around 75% of the features of designated sites.

Guidance for vascular plants and for freshwater habitats, including standing waters, canals, ditches and rivers, was published during the year. Updating of guidance occurred in several areas, including upland, coastal, marine and lowland wetland habitats.

Guidance for lower plants have reached the stage of agreement on common criteria, which will now be used for ongoing site assessments.

This work has involved staff from JNCC, Lead Co-ordination Networks, Inter-Agency Working Groups and members of the Inter-Agency Monitoring Group. A significant effort by all concerned, the resulting guidance is being published at www.jncc.gov.uk/csm.

Ornithological Monitoring

Long-term monitoring of UK bird populations informs some of the decisions made by Government on sustainable development.



Seabird surveys

JNCC's Seabirds and Cetaceans Team monitors seabird breeding around the UK coast on an annual basis.

The results of this Seabird Monitoring Programme (SMP) were reported in the annual SMP report, but also, for the first time in 2004, in a new JNCC publication, *UK Seabirds in 2004*.

2004 saw the worst season on record for UK seabird breeding performance. Many species experienced complete or near-complete breeding failure in some regions. Some species have shown a steady decline since the SMP was launched in 1986, while others have declined sharply only in recent years. In order to investigate the reasons for low breeding success, the SMP has been investigating possible links to the availability of sandeels, one of the most important prey items of seabirds, as well as other possible factors.

In April 2004 the results of the Seabird 2000 project were published. This reported on the results of the third complete census of all seabird colonies in Britain and Ireland. Organised every 15 years, the project is an initiative involving JNCC, the RSPB, the Seabird Group, the country agencies and Birdwatch Ireland. Its baseline figures are invaluable and will assist JNCC in continuing to implement conservation action for our internationally important seabird populations.

Birding at Titchwell, Norfolk

© Dawn Balmer

Volunteer birdwatchers collecting Wetland Bird Survey data.

Wetland Bird Survey

The UK is recognised as internationally important for migrating and wintering waterbirds.

A highly-skilled and enthusiastic group of around 2,500 volunteer birdwatchers has been meticulously monitoring the UK's waterbirds each year, enabling us to assess the status of populations and about 2,000 wetland sites.



Their work is carried out under a project known as WeBS – the Wetland Bird Survey – a partnership between JNCC, the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) the RSPB and the Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust (WWT). The partnership agreement was renewed last year, enabling us to build on the scheme’s ongoing success.

Ian McLean of JNCC’s Species Advice Team says, “We are very pleased to have a new agreement and are looking forward to working together to enhance the precision and capacity of the scheme. Not only does it give numbers of birds wintering here, but it also gives us very accurate annual counts, sector by sector, for the UK’s estuaries and inland water bodies.” The January count has been replicated abroad to provide an international picture.

UK monitoring and research has been informing bird conservation on a wider scale, feeding into a review of waders in Africa, Western Eurasia and the Middle East published by the International Wader Study Group, and also a series of publications on wintering swans and geese produced with the WWT: the *Waterbird Review Series*.

Biological Records Centre (BRC)

In February 2005 a new six-year partnership agreement began for the work of the BRC based at the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology in Monks Wood.

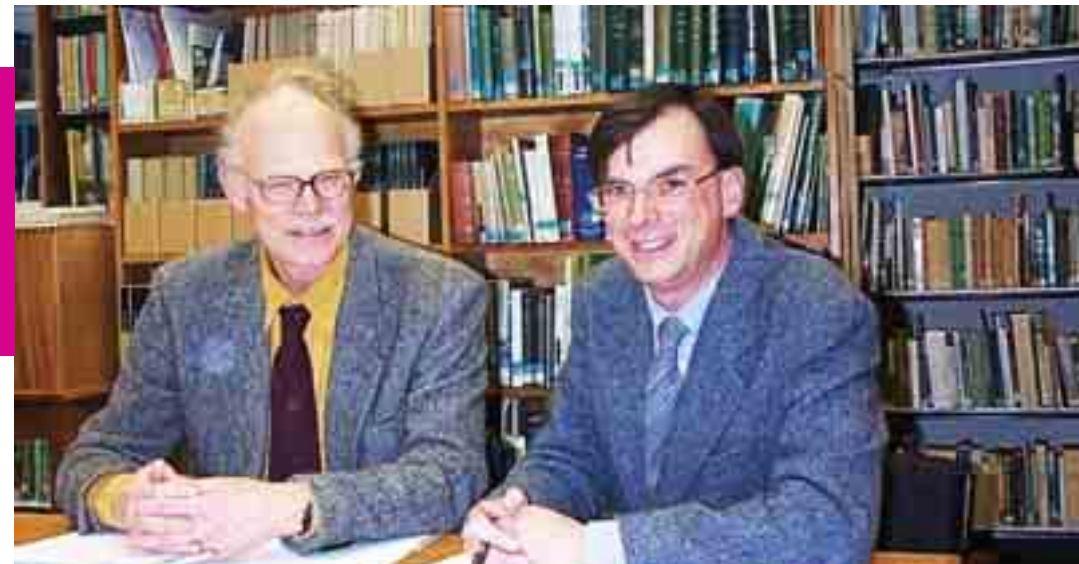
The BRC, which is part-funded by JNCC, is the focal point for around 60 UK recording schemes for plants and animals with about 7.5 million records of 18,000 species.

The new agreement will enable research to progress on how many species are responding to climate change. Results are made available through the NBN Gateway www.searchnbn.net (see page 29) and the publication of distribution atlases.

BRC Agreement

© JNCC

Professor Mark Hill (left), Head of BRC, with JNCC’s Head of Species Advice, Ian McLean, at the signing of the new agreement.



Wildlife and Pollution

For many years, JNCC has commissioned the surveillance of organochlorine insecticide residues and their metabolites – mercury, PCBs and rodenticides – in the tissues and eggs of a range of seabirds and predatory and freshwater birds.

The results enable JNCC and the country agencies to monitor trends and advise on the effectiveness of measures to restrict the use and entry into the environment of some of these compounds. We can also assess how concerned we need to be about the levels of toxic compounds found in wildlife.

This year, JNCC took major steps with partners in modernising the ways in which biodiversity data and information are shared and made accessible. This helps support the many organisations and decision-making levels involved in biodiversity strategies. Such improvements also help JNCC gain background information needed for our own advice, and provide others with access to our data.

Duke of Burgundy *Hamearis lucina*
© Alan Barnes/Butterfly Conservation



Knowledge/Information Management

National Biodiversity Network (NBN)

A new-look NBN Gateway was launched by the National Biodiversity Network Trust, enabling a broad cross-section of organisations to share information about wildlife species and habitats.

The updated Gateway www.searchNBN.net was unveiled in June 2004 by nature conservation Minister Ben Bradshaw.

The work to update the site was project managed by JNCC working with partners the Centre for Hydrology and Ecology, English Nature and Scottish Natural Heritage.

At the launch, JNCC's Acting Chairman, Professor David Ingram, reflected on the significant progress so far and said, "The challenge ahead is to find ways in which the data provided by NBN can be used to influence the development of policies that affect biodiversity and to show how biodiversity data can be integrated with social, economic and scientific data to predict policy outcomes and target effort more accurately."

The NBN Gateway has grown considerably in content and now has 17.9 million data points (records of a species in a certain place at a particular time), from 134 data sets, contributed by 36 organisations.

Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF)

JNCC had a major input into a third year review of the GBIF which has developed from a concept to a tangible service.

It now boasts 67 million data points from 32 countries and international organisations. The UK has contributed 12 million publicly accessible data points, from the NBN gateway, and at the time of writing is the largest contributor to GBIF.

Work has been going on to encourage wider use of the system and to establish its role in support of the target to significantly reduce the loss of biodiversity by 2010.



Children encounter nature in a bluebell wood

© Naturepl.com

We need to improve understanding of how different stakeholders value biodiversity, and its role in the provision of environmental goods and services. Stakeholders who are better informed are likely to make better judgments about the sustainable use of biodiversity.

Biodiversity Research and Reporting

JNCC continued to provide the secretariat to the two sub-groups supporting the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP).

There was good progress by the Biodiversity Reporting and Information Group (BRIG) and its four working groups. During the year, processes were developed to review the existing UK BAP priority species and habitats. There are currently 450 action plans for individual species or habitats, which, in some cases may no longer be the most efficient conservation mechanism.

The review of existing HAP and SAP targets got underway with the first round of new targets completed. A consultation period will follow before the new targets are finalised.

In April 2004, the new-look UK BAP website www.ukbap.org.uk was launched. Data were updated and improved to enable use of a new

search facility. Links were made with the NBN Gateway (see page 29) so the distribution of UK BAP priority species can be viewed.

The Biodiversity Research Advisory Group (BRAG) made good progress on identifying research needs in support of the UK BAP, on themes as diverse as socio-economic issues, non-native species, monitoring of biodiversity and evaluation of actions, and the management of habitats and ecosystems. Ideas were fed through to a variety of bodies, including Defra, the Scottish Executive, and the Environmental Research Funders' Forum.

JNCC Website

A new Content Management System was put in place to change the way we manage our website.

Red Squirrel *Sciurus vulgaris*

© Niall Benvie/naturepl.com

The new JNCC website is host to the UK Red Squirrel Group's website www.ukredsquirrels.org, bridging the gap for red squirrel conservation.

This was a mammoth republishing task. 1,400 pages were converted and 5,000 database pages changed to be delivered through the new system, and 200 further pages were added. Progress was better than planned allowing the new system to be used to meet needs of the Mapping European Seabed Habitats project (see page 13).

This powerful mechanism allows us to manage over 6,000 pages of data more efficiently and makes navigation of the site much easier for visitors. Information Manager Lawrence Way says, "As an advisory body, our main product is information. It is critical that our many different sorts of customers can find the information they want quickly and presented in a coherent form."

To see the website in action, visit www.jncc.gov.uk



2004/05 was an extremely important year organisationally, as it saw the introduction of the first JNCC strategy. Legislation was also brought in to allow important changes to our staffing, financial and governance arrangements, which will affect everyone working for and with the organisation.

Polecat *Mustela putorius* © George McCarthy/naturepic.com



Services

Organisational Arrangements

JNCC was established by the Environmental Protection Act 1990, so a change in legislation was required to allow organisational changes in response to the Government's 2002 review of JNCC.

A Regulatory Reform Order has been used to amend the legislation to allow the Committee to set up a not-for-profit company (a company limited by guarantee) with the power to employ staff and let contracts. The Directors of the new company will be the Joint Committee Members and three executive Directors from JNCC, currently Managing Director, Deryck Steer, Director of

Science, Malcolm Vincent, and Director of Resources and External Affairs, Marcus Yeo.

The JNCC Support Co was established in March 2005 and became operational from 1 April 2005. The first Board meeting of the company was held at the end of March 2005.

During the year, JNCC prepared its corporate plan for the years 2005 – 2008. This plan shows how the new JNCC strategy will be delivered over the next three years.

Communications

JNCC's drive to make its messages more accessible received further recognition with our Annual Report receiving two major accolades.

For the second year running, the Report was crowned the Public Service Annual Report/Review of the Year at the annual 'Popcomms' – the Charity and Public Service Publishing Awards. The Report also received an Award of Excellence at the prestigious 2005 CiB Awards, organised by the British Association of Communicators in Business.

The Communications Team has supervised the production of all of JNCC's corporate publications and reports over the year, and has advised on numerous news releases related to JNCC's work and partnerships, issued not only by itself, but also by partner organisations.



Celebrating another award win

© CiB

An award of excellence was presented to JNCC for its 2003/2004 Annual Report at the 2005 Communicators in Business Awards.

three country agencies, Defra and HM Treasury before the terms and conditions could successfully be offered to staff. All staff previously assigned to the JNCC from the country agencies were given the opportunity to transfer to the new company on the agreed salary levels and terms and conditions. The vast majority of staff have transferred to the company.

Director of Resources and External Affairs, Marcus Yeo, said, "As well as improving our efficiency and effectiveness it is hoped that the new arrangements will boost staff morale because there will be consistent terms and conditions for everyone."



Personnel

JNCC, as from 1 April 2005, has its own employees, rather than staff assigned from the country agencies.

During the year, work has been completed to finalise consistent JNCC terms and conditions for the new employees of the support company. This work involved intensive consultation with the trade unions,

JNCC tsunami appeal

© Peterborough Evening Telegraph

Members of JNCC's Marine Team took part in a sponsored gym marathon in a Peterborough Fitness Club. JNCC's Andy Harley said, "We understand the tsunami disaster in terms of the human tragedy, but also the environmental impact."

Finance

With the changes that enabled JNCC to set up a company limited by guarantee, JNCC will be able to let contracts in its own name, appoint its own staff, and receive some of its funding directly from Government in the future.

During the year, the Finance and Procurement Services Team made the preparations necessary to ensure a smooth transition when the new company went 'live' in April 2005. To assist with financial management of the new company a new financial management system, based on English Nature's system, has been implemented.

Environmental Management

In keeping with our environmental protection and conservation role, we reinforced our commitment as an organisation and as individuals to strive for the best in the area of environmental management.

It was agreed that JNCC should adopt a formal system of environmental 'footprinting' to allow a quantitative assessment of the organisation's environmental impact and help to develop a strategy to minimise this impact. Reporting performance each year against this target will allow us to track progress and benchmark ourselves against other

organisations. Critical to the success of such performance monitoring is the availability of good data.

During the year, work was started to collate information on environmental indicators for water, energy, waste, use of materials, recycling and travel for input to a detailed assessment in 2005.

Mobile phones make Scots pine *Pinus sylvestris*

© Laurie Campbell/NHPA

JNCC recycles its mobile phones through an organisation called Future Forests. On our behalf, they are planting Scots pine in Balblair which lies halfway up the Dornoch Firth, beside Cambuscurrie Bay.

Feedback Welcomed

We value your opinions. What do you particularly like and dislike about the style of the report, both in terms of writing and layout? Is there enough detail in this year's report? What would you like to see included in next year's report, and what do you think is not necessary?

You can make your views known online via our website at: www.jncc.gov.uk/feedback

We strive to make this report as useful as possible to our readers, so please take the time to let us know your information needs.



Committee, Staff and Offices

Joint Nature Conservation Committee Members during financial year: April 2004 – March 2005

Mr A Darby	Chairman (from October 2004)
Dr E Andrews	Countryside Council for Wales (from November 2004)
Dr L Blakiston Houston	Council for Nature Conservation and the Countryside (Northern Ireland)
Reverend Dr S Burgess	Countryside Agency
Professor R Dodgshon	Countryside Council for Wales (to October 2004)
Sir M Doughty	English Nature
Professor P Doyle	Independent
Dr J Faulkner	Environment and Heritage Service (Northern Ireland)
Professor D Ingram	Independent (Acting Chairman to October 2004)
Mr J Lloyd Jones	Countryside Council for Wales
Dr J Markland	Scottish Natural Heritage
Dr M Moser	English Nature
Professor RJ Pentreath	Independent
Mr M Scott	Scottish Natural Heritage

Declaration of Interests:

Mr AMG Darby OBE – Chairman

- Self-employed farmer, Kemerton Court, Tewkesbury, GL20 7HY
- Lloyds of London Underwriter through Nameco (No. 222) Ltd. Membership No 54432Z
- Lloyds of London Underwriter Adrian Darby OBE. Membership No 17109C
- Chairman of Fieldfare International Ecological Development plc
- District Councillor with Wychavon District Council
- Self-employed print dealer trading as Darby Bird Art
- Adviser to Esmée Fairburn Charitable Trust for its UK Biodiversity Programme

- All farmed land under Countryside Stewardship: 65 acres at Upton Ham, Upton upon Severn, Worcs (part of Upton Ham SSSI); 55 acres on Bredon Hill (part of Bredon Hill SSSI)
- Trustee of the Kemerton Conservation Trust (KCT) in receipt of funds from English Nature under Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund Grant Scheme for the management of the Kemerton Lake Nature Reserve which the KCT leases from Matthew Darby (son)
- Life Fellow and Vice President of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
- Life member and Chairman of the advisory Council of Plantlife International
- Member and former regional committee member of the National Trust
- Trustee of the Herpetological Conservation Trust
- Member of the following Wildlife Trusts – Brecknock, Gloucestershire and Worcestershire
- Member of the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust, the British Trust for Ornithology and BirdLife International
- Member and former county committee member of the Country Land and Business Association
- Member of the Game Conservancy and the Campaign to Protect Rural England
- Member of the Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group, the Royal Agricultural Society of England, the Red Poll Cattle Society and the Rare Breeds Survival Trust
- Member of the Friends of Westonbirt Arboretum
- Judge of the Whitley Conservation Awards 2005
- Governor of Howick Trustees Ltd

Professor D Ingram OBE

- Master of St Catherine's College, Cambridge
- Chairman, Advisory Committee to the Darwin Initiative (Defra)
- Honorary Professor and Adviser on the Public Understanding of Science, University of Edinburgh
- Self-employed author of biological and horticultural books (Blackwell Scientific, Harper-Collins, Cambridge University Press, Klower, etc.)
- External Examiner, University of London, University of Reading, University of Cork
- Member, Forestry Commission Advisory Board
- Trustee of the World Conservation Monitoring Centre 2000 Trust (until June 2004)

- Member, Council of the University of Cambridge and Chair or Member of many of its Committees
- Visiting Professor of Environmental Sciences, Napier University, Edinburgh
- Visiting Professor in the Institute of Biomedical and Life Sciences, University of Glasgow
- Fellow, Royal Society of Edinburgh
- Fellow, Royal College of Physicians, Edinburgh
- 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

Professor J 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 Alistair Hardy Foundation for Ocean Science
- President, Cornwall Wildlife Trust
- Member, International Commission on Radiological Protection

Professor P Doyle

- Self-employed geologist consultant, contracted to HMCE for aggregates work
- Self-employed editor for Blackmells Ltd, Oxford, editing 'Geology Today' magazine
- Self-employed freelance TV consultant, working on geological projects
- Self-employed education consultant, working for University of Greenwich and London South Bank University
- Self-employed author of books and articles
- Chairman, Geoconservation Commission, Geological Society of London
- Chair, Greater London Regionally Important Geological and Geomorphological Sites (RIGS) Group

Dr L Blakiston Houston

- Director, Blakiston Houston Estate Co.
- Director (non executive), Sustrans
- Chairman, Council for Nature Conservation and the Countryside
- Shareholder, Morton Hall Estate
- Shareholder, KMM Marengo, Environmental Consultants, Belfast

Dr J Faulkner

- Director of Natural Heritage in Environment and Heritage Service
- Investor in Ecological Building Society
- Member of Institute of Biology
- Member of Butterfly Conservation
- Member of Botanical Society of British Isles
- Member of Ulster Wildlife Trust
- Member of RSPB
- Member of Woodland Trust
- Member of National Trust
- Member of Ulster Grassland Society
- Member of Royal Horticultural Society
- Trustee, Armagh Natural History and Philosophical Society

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:

- **Felicity Carr**, 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: +44 (0)1733 562626 Fax: +44 (0)1733 555948

Web: www.jncc.gov.uk

Scottish office

Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Dunnet House
7 Thistle Place, Aberdeen, AB10 1UZ
Tel: +44 (0)1224 655704 Fax: +44 (0)1224 621488

Brussels office

UK Nature & Landscape Office
Hugh Laxton
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 JNCC 2004/05

The number of staff working at the JNCC support unit at 31st March 2005 was 117. This comprised 107 permanent and 10 fixed term staff, of which 66 were assigned from English Nature, 36 from Scottish Natural Heritage, and 15 from the Countryside Council for Wales.

Senior JNCC staff 2004/05

Managing Director	Deryck Steer
Director of Science/ Acting Managing Director	Malcolm Vincent
Director of Resources and External Affairs	Marcus Yeo

Management Services

Head of Planning & Resources	Brian Lawrence
Senior Personnel Manager	Trish Williams
Finance and Procurement Manager	David Burton
Organisational Change Manager	Sue McQueen
Communications Manager	Alex Geairns
Information Manager	Lawrence Way

Advisers

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
European Co-ordinator	Hugh Laxton
International Adviser	Steve Gibson
Reporting Standards Manager	James Williams
Recorder Project Manager	Stuart Ball
Web Service Project Manager	Steve Wilkinson
Knowledge Manager	Andy Webb
Geological Conservation Review Manager	Neil Ellis
MESH Project Co-ordinator	Jon Davies
Senior Ornithological Adviser	David Stroud
CITES Adviser	Alison Littlewood
Seabird Colony Team Leader	Ian Mitchell
Senior Offshore Adviser	Zoe Crutchfield
Senior Habitats Adviser	Ian Strachan
Senior Biodiversity Officer	Ant Maddock
Tracking Mammals Partnership Co-ordinator	Jessa Battersby
Biodiversity Research Co-ordinator	Richard Ferris
Air Pollution Officer	Clare Whitfield
Ecosystems Officer	Diana Mortimer
Marine Strategy & Sites Co-ordinator	Charlotte Johnston
Marine Fisheries Adviser	Eunice Pinn
Marine Fisheries Adviser	Lee Hastie
Marine Monitoring Officer	Jane Hawkridge

Lead Agencies

Pesticides and Toxic Chemicals	Jennifer Best (English Nature)
GMOs	Brian Johnson (English Nature)

Lead Co-ordination Networks (chairs)

Freshwater	Phil Boon (SNH)
Uplands	Des Thompson (SNH)
Soils	John Gordon (SNH)
Lowland Grasslands	Tim Blackstock (CCW)
Woodlands	Keith Kirby (English Nature)

Lowland Wetlands	Roger Meade (English Nature)
Lowland Heathlands	Isabel Alonso (English Nature)
Air Pollution	Simon Bareham (CCW)
Coastal	Tony Weighell (JNCC)

For the current list of JNCC Committee members and an extended list of staff, please refer to 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 2005, 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.

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 that holds 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. All requests were responded to in accordance with our service standards (see below).

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 Partnership (www.ukbap.org.uk) and the Convention on Biological Diversity Clearing House Mechanism (www.chm.org.uk).

Prompt payment code

The JNCC implements the CBI’s ‘Prompt Payers’ guidelines 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 83% of all invoices by the due date, which is a 4% decrease on the previous year.

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

We will provide on-line advice to Defra on c.32,000 licence consultations p.a. to agreed service standards (90% within 5 days, 8% within 10 days) seeking to ensure that no species of wild fauna becomes or remains subject to unsustainable exploitation because of international trade involving the UK.

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 Unit 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

Foreword

These accounts were audited by NAO as part of the accounts of English Nature, which were signed by the Comptroller and Auditor General on 30 June 2005.

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. Following the passing of the Regulatory Reform Order (JNCC) 2005, a Company Limited by Guarantee, the JNCC Support Co., was formed, to enable the Joint Committee to deliver the special functions more efficiently in the future. It was incorporated on 2 March 2005 and commenced operations on 1 April 2005.

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. The Environment and Heritage Service, Northern Ireland also contributes to the general funding of the Committee. An increasing proportion of income is received from various other sources and these are detailed in the accounts. Funding from other sources is normally linked to particular projects. 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, 2003, pending agreement of a new JNCC Financial Memorandum. These financial statements relate to the year ended 31 March 2005 during which the

revenue expenditure of the Committee totalled £7,594,000, and income, including revenue grant in aid of £5,895,000, amounted to £7,502,000, leaving an operating deficit for the year of £92,000. Expenditure includes a charge for notional cost of £19,000 in respect of the cost of capital employed. Following adjustment for notional costs and interest receivable of £14,000, and a loss on disposal of fixed assets of £11,000, the retained surplus for the financial year was £42,000. A retained surplus of £95,000 was brought forward from the previous financial year, giving a retained surplus carried forward of £137,000.

4. Transfers

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 £112,000 was transferred from the deferred government grant account to the income and expenditure account in 2004/05 to cover in year depreciation, the release of unexpended depreciation, and the impairment of asset values.

5. Fixed Assets

In 2004/05 the Committee spent £18,000 on computer equipment, £48,000 on software licenses and £1,000 on scientific and office equipment.

6. 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. 83% of invoices were paid within the due date in 2004/05; this is a decrease of 4% on the previous year.

7. 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 common standards for science and monitoring.

8. Review of Activities

During 2004/05 the JNCC made a significant contribution to nature conservation on both the national and international levels via an extensive and varied programme of work.

Key achievements realised during the year are listed below.

Providing advice on international nature conservation issues

- Provided influential support to Defra at meetings of the Convention on Biological Diversity's Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) and at EU preparatory meetings.
- Participated in the UK delegation to the 13th Conference of Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES).
- Responded to over 32,000 CITES licence consultations within service standards (compared to 27,400 consultations in 2003/04).
- Made substantial progress in progressing an OSPAR-wide programme to map the distribution of 14 priority habitats, including the development of a web-based mapping facility.
- Completed a review of non-native species in the UK's Overseas Territories.

Furthering nature conservation in a European context

- Working with the country agencies, made a significant contribution to reviews of the Lisbon strategy, the EU Sustainable Development Strategy and the EU BAP on Economic and Development Co-operation, and made preparations for the UK Presidency of the EU.
- Recommended five potential offshore Special Areas of Conservation to Defra.

Providing scientific advice on the sustainable use of natural resources

- Provided responses to statutory consultations on offshore industries, including 57 Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA), 326 EIA dispensations, 78 oil spill contingency plans, 87 dumping consents and 173 seismic applications.

- Provided advice to Government on the 5th Strategic Environmental Assessment of offshore energy.
- Worked closely with Defra to ensure that nature conservation interests were taken fully into account in the development of air pollution policies and guidance.
- Successfully promoted the Ecosystem Approach sourcebook at a SBSTTA meeting.

Developing common standards for nature conservation and co-ordinating UK approaches

- Continued to support the UK Biodiversity Research Advisory Group, completed a socio-economic research strategy, and organised a successful meeting to discuss the latest research findings for woodland Species Action Plans.

Assessing the status of UK biodiversity and earth heritage

- As lead partner, successfully established the EU-funded Mapping European Seabed Habitats (MESH project), with 12 partners across five countries.
- Published the first overview report for the UK mammal surveillance programme (Tracking Mammals).
- Produced a third interim report on the Common Standards Monitoring programme.

Making nature conservation information accessible

- Improved update mechanisms for the National Biodiversity Network Gateway and undertook work to enhance the Gateway's reliability and performance.
- Implemented a content management system for the JNCC website and revised its content so that it provides balanced coverage of UK nature conservation issues.

Supporting the JNCC's business by providing high-quality services

- Changed JNCC management structures and corporate planning processes in line with the JNCC's strategy.
- Established a company limited by guarantee and successfully managed the transfer of staff to the new organisation.

9. Future developments

2005/06 will be a year of change for JNCC. On 1 April 2005 the recently formed JNCC Support Co started to operate and the majority of staff assigned from the three country agencies and working for the JNCC transferred to the new company. This is a great change for JNCC because the new support company is able to employ its own staff and to issue contracts in its own name. Staff within JNCC have been working to establish new policies in areas such as corporate governance, finance and personnel for the new company.

For 2005/06 JNCC will be focusing on the priority issues arising from the recently approved corporate strategy. Over the next few years the JNCC will be working towards the achievement of these priorities. Our key targets for 2005/06, analysed over the JNCC's eight strategic objectives, include the following.

Vision of nature conservation

- Develop and renew a shared vision for our wildlife and natural features and champion it to Government and other organisations.

Provision of information

- Ensure that Government bodies and other organisations are provided with scientifically robust information on nature conservation issues to assist them in making decisions to protect and enhance the environment.
- Produce initial frameworks for marine and terrestrial habitat surveillance.
- Set up data management, licensing and exchange practices with key suppliers of biological and geological diversity data to improve the collection, dissemination and analysis of data.

European and international influencing

- Provide on-line advice to Defra on approximately 32,000 CITES licence consultations in accordance with agreed service standards.
- Provide high-quality scientific support to Defra to enable effective implementation of Multilateral Environmental Agreements.

- Provide support for the UK Presidency of the European Union and the G8 group of countries.
- Provide advice to Defra and others on the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity in Europe.
- Support Defra's World Summit on Sustainable Development international biodiversity delivery plan and the 2010 Gothenburg and Kiev targets.

UK co-ordination

- Complete publication of the final volumes of the Geological Conservation Review series.
- Prepare the first UK-wide Common Standards Monitoring report on the condition of designated sites.
- Work with Government and other bodies to establish a coherent suite of biological and geological targets covering existing international obligations.
- Develop a strategy for using socio-economic information to support nature conservation advice and the development of conservation strategies.

Nature conservation beyond territorial waters

- Act as lead partner for an EU INTERREG-funded project to develop a framework for Mapping European Seabed Habitats (MESH) and deliver the second year's work programme.
- Develop a broad-scale marine landscape map for the UK Continental Shelf.
- Start work on developing finer scale marine habitat maps and establish mechanisms for their update.
- Identify and establish an initial network of Marine Protected areas to fulfil OSPAR Commission requirements.
- Start work on recommendations to Government for Special Protection Areas and Special Areas of Conservation in the offshore marine zone.

Nature conservation in the Overseas Territories

- Undertake an analysis of the JNCC's role and future direction in supporting nature conservation work in the Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies.
- Provide to UK Government Departments and others scientific advice to support the implementation of Environmental Charters and Multilateral Environmental Agreements extending to a particular territory.

UK's Global Impact

- Identify where the UK's use of global natural resources affects global biological and geological diversity in a substantial way and prepare an issues list for priority action.
- Develop a list of sustainable development practices relevant to the management of biological and geological diversity.

Support Services

- Carry out a review and make recommendations for office accommodation for JNCC.
- Identify and adopt suitable environmental indicators for the JNCC so that the organisation's environmental performance can be monitored and benchmarked against other similar organisations.

10. Committee Members

Committee Member	Appointment Dates
Mr A Darby	1 October 2004 – 30 August 2007*
Dr E Andrews	5 November 2004 – 30 September 2005
Dr L Blakiston Houston	27 May 2002 – 27 May 2008
Rev Dr S Burgess	13 September 2004 – 12 September 2007
Prof R Dodgshon	1 April 2003 – 31 October 2004
Sir M Doughty	8 May 2001 – 7 May 2007
Prof P Doyle	1 April 2003 – 31 March 2006*
Dr J Faulkner	1 April 1991 – 31 March 2005
Prof D Ingram	1 April 2002 – 31 March 2008*
Mr J Lloyd Jones	28 February 2000 – 28 February 2007
Dr J Markland	1 April 1999 – 30 September 2006
Dr M Moser	31 March 2001 – 31 March 2008
Prof RJ Pentreath	1 April 2000 – 31 March 2006*
Mr M Scott	9 September 2000 – 31 March 2005

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 and 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 two 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 has adopted the Code of Best Practice for Board Members of Public Bodies issued by HM Treasury (since superseded by Guidance 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 of the Independent and Northern Ireland members. Registers of Interests are also maintained by the country agency Councils and Boards 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 biannually.

11. Corporate Governance

The Committee's corporate governance arrangements are incorporated within the Statement of Internal Control.

*The Joint Nature Conservation Committee are only responsible for the remuneration of Independent Members indicated by * (see left), members sponsored by the country agencies are remunerated directly by those agencies.

Statement on Internal Control

Scope of responsibility

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 purpose of the system of internal control

The system of internal control is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level rather than to eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives; it can therefore only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness. The system of internal control is based on an ongoing process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of the JNCC's policies, aims and objectives, to evaluate the likelihood of those risks being realised and the impact should they be realised, and to manage them efficiently, effectively and economically. The system of internal control has been in place in the JNCC for the year ended 31 March 2005 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and accounts, and accords with Treasury guidance.

Capacity to handle risk

Leadership

Leadership is given to the risk management process by its being embedded into each part of the management, planning and reporting process. Responsibilities thus clearly relate to me as analogous Accounting Officer and in addition the relationship of risk as an integral part of management and delivery is reinforced.

Staff training

Guidance explaining the responsibilities of risk managers has been produced and there is an ongoing training programme to meet the organisation's requirements on project and risk management.

The risk and control framework

JNCC's risk management strategy has been drawn up and implemented in line with Treasury guidance. Key elements of the strategy include:

- maintenance of an organisation-wide risk register, comprising high-level corporate risks and medium/low risks, that is comprehensively reviewed on an annual basis;
- assignment of risk owners to each risk (members of Management Board for corporate risks, appropriate managers for low/medium risks);
- quarterly reports from managers on the steps they are taking to manage risks in their areas of responsibility, including progress reports on key projects;
- quarterly discussion by the JNCC's Management Board to identify and keep up to date the record of risks facing the organisation;
- embedding of risk management in key projects, through the development of specific risk registers and control measures;
- consideration of risk at the project proposal stage;
- implementation of a robust prioritisation methodology for JNCC's work based on risk ranking and cost-benefit analysis.

The JNCC takes a balanced approach to managing risk, accepting that major risks affecting the organisation must be controlled, but that exposure to some risks is necessary to enable the effective delivery of its objectives. The risk register specifically addresses the risk of delays to decision-making and missed opportunities through excessive caution. During 2004/05, the main risk priorities for the JNCC related to relationships with stakeholders, funding, alignment to Government priorities, staffing issues, information

management and the implementation of the recommendations of the Financial, Management and Policy Review.

The JNCC's 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 Board;
- regular reviews by the Management Board of periodic and annual financial reports which indicate financial performance against the forecasts;
- setting targets to measure financial performance and timeliness of target completion.

Review of effectiveness

As Managing Director, I also have responsibility for reviewing the effectiveness of the system of internal control. 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 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. I have been advised on the implication of the result of my review of the effectiveness of the system of internal control by the Joint Committee (including its Audit and Resources sub-group), and English Nature's Audit and Risk Management Committee, and a plan to address weaknesses and ensure continuous improvement of the system is in place.

Control of the process for maintaining and reviewing the effectiveness of the system of internal control is exercised by the following:

The Joint Nature Conservation Committee

Members of the Joint Committee have overall responsibility for the agreement of risk priorities and resources, as set out in the Corporate Plan, and monitor performance against this throughout the year. The Joint Committee receives a half yearly report on performance management which includes a report on the status of risks. From June 2004 all Committee papers were placed within a risk context.

The Audit and Resources sub-group of Committee considers risk, staffing and other resource issues. It receives half-yearly risk reports and proposes the annual review of the risk register to the full Committee.

Chief Executives of the Country Agencies

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

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.

Management Board

The JNCC has a Management Board, consisting of the Managing Director and two executive directors who meet monthly to consider the organisation's strategic direction, plans, processes and procedures. Progress against targets and budgets is also monitored at these meetings. The Management Board has responsibility for managing, reviewing and assessing the corporate risks of 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.

Significant internal control problems

As a result of the JNCC's Financial, Management and Policy Review (FMPPR), new organisational structures and processes will be put in place from 1 April 2005, including the establishment of a company limited by guarantee. This has involved significant and far reaching internal control issues. The issues fell into two areas: the potential disruption to the work and service delivery of the JNCC in the short term as a result of workload and uncertainties arising from the organisational change, and the risks that the proposals might pose to the JNCC's delivery in the longer term. The programme was managed effectively by an internal project team and overseen by a sub-group of the Joint Committee. JNCC Support Co. was incorporated on 2 March 2005 and the Company Board appointed on 23 March 2005.

Mr D Steer
Managing Director
30 June 2005

JNCC Financial Statements

Income and Expenditure for the year ending 31 March 2005

	Notes	04/05 £000	04/05 £000	03/04 £000
Gross income				
Grant in aid	15	5,895		5,664
European Union funds		810		0
Income from activities	2	797		909
			7,502	6,573
Expenditure				
Conservation support	3	2,506		1,978
Information and publicity	4	191		218
Staff costs	5.1	3,503		3,209
Other operating costs	6	1,275		1,175
Depreciation	7	84		98
Impairment of asset values	7	16		
Notional costs	8	19		18
			7,594	6,696
(Deficit) on operating activities			(92)	(123)
(Loss) on sale of fixed assets			(11)	
Interest receivable			14	12
Add back notional costs	8		19	18
Appropriations				
Transfer from government grant reserve	9		112	98
Retained (deficit)/surplus for the financial year			42	5

Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses

	2004/2005 £000	2003/2004 £000
(Deficit)/Surplus for the financial year	42	5
Grant for capital assets (Note 9)	67	190
Net (loss)/gain on revaluation of assets (Note 9)	(6)	12
Transfer from Government Grant Reserve	(112)	(98)
Total gains and losses relating to the year	(9)	109

The accounting policies and notes on pages 42 to 47 form part of these financial statements.

Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2005

Notes	04/05 £000	04/05 £000	03/04 £000
Fixed assets			
Intangible assets	7.1	61	33
Tangible assets	7.2	353	432
Total fixed assets		414	465
Current assets			
Stocks	11	120	94
Debtors	12	940	772
Cash at bank and in hand		118	18
		1,178	884
Creditors			
Amounts falling due within one year	13	(1,041)	(782)
Net current assets		137	102
Total assets less current liabilities		551	567
Creditors			
Amounts falling due after one year			
Provision for pension costs		0	(7)
Total assets less liabilities		551	560
Capital and reserves			
Government Grant Reserve	9	414	465
Income and expenditure account	10	137	95
		551	560

The accounting policies and notes on pages 42 to 47 form part of these financial statements.

Cash Flow Statement for the year ended 31 March 2005

	04/05 £000	03/04 £000
Operating activities		
Grant in aid received	5,895	5,664
Receipts	1,443	636
Payments	(7,243)	(6,361)
Net cash inflow/(outflow) from operating activities	85	(61)

(See Note 1)

Returns on investments

Interest received	14	12
-------------------	----	----

Capital expenditure

Payments to acquire fixed assets	(67)	(190)
Proceeds from sale of fixed assets	1	

Net cash (outflow) before financing

	33	(239)
--	----	-------

Financing

Government grants received and applied to the purchase of fixed assets	67	190
--	----	-----

Increase in cash and cash equivalents	100	(49)
---------------------------------------	-----	------

(see Note 2)

The notes below form part of this statement.

Note 1 to the Cashflow Statement

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

	04/05 £000	03/04 £000
Operating (deficit)	(92)	(123)
Depreciation charge	84	98
Impairment of asset values	16	
Decrease/(Increase) in stocks	(26)	8
(Increase) in debtors	(168)	(281)
Increase in creditors	259	212
Notional costs	19	18
Increase in pension provision	(7)	7

Net (outflow) from operating activities	85	(61)
---	----	------

Note 2 to the Cashflow Statement

Reconciliation of net cash flow to movement in net funds

	At 1 Apr 2004 £000	Cashflows £000	At 31 Mar 2005 £000
Cash at bank and in hand	18	100	118

Notes to the Financial Statements

1. Statement of accounting policies

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 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.

Assets and liabilities

- 1.2 The Committee is 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 – 56.61 per cent; Scottish Natural Heritage – 29.03 per cent; and Countryside Council for Wales – 14.36 per cent.

Fixed assets and depreciation

- 1.3 Depreciation is provided on all tangible and intangible 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
Software licences	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) Intangible assets in the form of software licences 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.
- v) 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 five 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. Funding received from the European Union is treated in a similar way to Government Grants, in that income is released from the Deferred Income account to match project expenditure during the year.

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 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 3.5 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.

Treatment of foreign exchange differences

- 1.11 Transactions that are denominated in a foreign currency are translated into sterling at the exchange rate on the date of the transaction. Any gains or losses on exchange are taken to the Income and Expenditure account in the year in which they are incurred.

Pension Arrangements

- 1.12 Under the arrangements of PCSPS an employer would pay Accruing Superannuation Liability Charges (ASLC) to the Cabinet Office based on the following ASLC bands and rates:

Band 1	£17,000 and under	12 per cent
Band 2	£17,001 to £35,000	13.5 per cent
Band 3	£35,001 to £60,500	6.5 per cent
Band 4	£60,501 and over	18.5 per cent

The scheme's actuary reviews employer contributions every four years following a full scheme valuation by the Government Actuary. The contribution rates reflect benefits as they are accrued, not when the costs are actually incurred and reflect past experience of the scheme.

Managing Risk in Financial Instruments

- 1.13 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

	04/05 £000	03/04 £000
Sales of publications	64	61
Advice and other services	526	657
Other receipts	207	191
	797	909

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

3. Conservation support

	04/05 £000	03/04 £000
Contracted out survey and research	1,688	1,824
Other costs	818	154
	2,506	1,978

4. Information and publicity

	04/05 £000	03/04 £000
Publications	176	192
Other publicity costs	15	26
	191	218

5. Staff

Staff costs

5.1 Direct costs of salaries excluding National Insurance:

	04/05 £000	03/04 £000
Chairman	39	35
Members	21	23
Staff	2,837	2,600
Social Security costs	224	197
Accruing Superannuation Liability Charge Payment	382	354
	3,503	3,209

All the Committee staff were employed by either English Nature, Scottish Natural Heritage or the Countryside Council for Wales.

Staff numbers

5.2 The average number of staff during the year was 115 (109 in 2003/2004). These were employed as follows:

	04/05 No	03/04 No
Permanent Staff:		
Management	17	17
Operational	60	56
Administration	27	26
IT	3	3
	107	102
Temporary and Contract Staff:		
Operational	5	6
Administration	3	1
	8	7
Total	115	109

During 2004/2005 the average number of permanent English Nature staff assigned to the Committee was 59, 33 were assigned from Scottish Natural Heritage and 15 from the Countryside Council for Wales.

Senior Staff

5.3 The salary and pension entitlements of the most senior members of the Committee are shown in the table opposite.

'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 Committee is advised of the salaries of the Committee members by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. No bonus payments were made.

The independent members are not members of the pension scheme. Pension benefits are provided through the Civil Service Pension (CSP) arrangements. From 1 October 2002, civil servants may be in one of three statutory based 'final salary' defined benefit schemes (classic, premium and classic plus). The schemes are unfunded with the cost of benefits met by monies voted by Parliament each year. Pensions payable under classic, premium and classic plus are increased annually in line with changes in the Retail Prices Index. New entrants after 1 October 2002 may choose between membership of premium or joining a good quality 'money purchase' stakeholder arrangement with a significant employer contribution (partnership pension account).

Employee contributions are set at the rate of 1.5% of pensionable earnings for classic and 3.5% for premium and classic plus. Benefits in classic accrue at the rate of 1/80th of pensionable salary for each year of service. In addition, a lump sum equivalent to three years' pension is payable on retirement. For premium, benefits accrue at the rate of 1/60th of final pensionable earnings for each year of service. Unlike classic, there is no automatic lump sum but members may give up (commute) some of their pension to provide a lump sum. Classic plus is essentially a variation of premium, but with benefits in respect of service before 1 October 2002 calculated broadly as per classic.

The partnership pension account is a stakeholder pension arrangement. The employer makes a basic contribution of between 3% and 12.5% (depending on the age of the member) into a stakeholder pension product chosen by the employee. The employee does not have to contribute but where they do make contributions, the employer will match these up to a limit of 3% of pensionable salary (in addition to the employer's basic contribution). Employers also contribute

a further 0.8% of pensionable salary to cover the cost of centrally-provided risk benefit cover (death in service and ill-health retirement).

Further details about the CSP arrangements can be found at the website www.civilservice-pensions.gov.uk

A Cash Equivalent Transfer Value is the actuarially assessed capitalised value of the pension scheme benefits accrued by a member at a particular point in time. The benefits valued are the member's accrued benefits and any contingent spouse's pension payable from the scheme.

A CETV is a payment made by a pension scheme or arrangement to secure pension benefits in another pension scheme or arrangement when the member leaves a scheme and chooses to transfer the benefits accrued in their former scheme. The pension figures shown relate to the benefits that the individual has accrued as a consequence of their total membership of the pension scheme, not just their service in a senior capacity to which disclosure applies.

The CETV figures, and from 2003-04 the other pension details, include the value of any pension benefit in another scheme or arrangement which the individual has transferred to the CSP arrangements and for which the CS Vote has received a transfer payment commensurate to the additional pension liabilities being assumed. They also include any additional pension benefit accrued to the member as a result of their purchasing additional years of pension service in the scheme at their own cost. CETVs are calculated within the guidelines and framework prescribed by the Institute and Faculty of Actuaries.

Remuneration and Pension Benefits	Column 1	Column 2	Column 3	Column 4	Column 5	Column 6	Column 7	Column 8	Column 9	Time commitment days per year
	Salary, including performance pay 2004/05 £k	Benefits in kind (rounded to nearest £100) 2004/05 £k	Salary, including performance pay 2003/04 £k	Benefits in kind (rounded to nearest £100) 2003/04 £k	Real increase in pension and related lump sum at age 60 £k	Total accrued pension at age 60 at 31/03/05 and related lump sum £k	CETV at 31/03/04 nearest £k	CETV at 31/03/05 nearest £k	Real increase in CETV after adjustment for inflation and changes in market investment factors nearest £k	
Committee Members: Chairman/Acting Chair										
Prof Ingram – Acting 01.01.04 to 30.09.04 21.02.05 to 31.03.05	20-25	n/a	15-20	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	58
Mr A Darby 01.10.04 to 31.08.07	15-20	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	48
Independent Members										
Prof D Ingram 01.10.04 to 31.03.06	0-5	n/a	15-20	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	12.5
Prof P Doyle 01.01.04 to 31.03.06	5-10	n/a	5-10	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	30
Prof R Pentreath 01.01.04 to 31.03.06	5-10	n/a	5-10	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	30
Senior Staff										
Mr D Steer	50-55	n/a	55-60	n/a	(5.0-7.5)	90-95	399	398	(27)	n/a
Dr M Vincent	50-55	n/a	n/a	n/a	10.0-12.5	90-95	337	405	47	n/a
Mr M Yeo	40-45	n/a	n/a	n/a	0.0-2.5	5-10	70	87	10	n/a

6. Other operating costs

	04/05 £000	03/04 £000
Members' travel and subsistence costs	4	7
Members' other support costs	0	8
Staff travel and subsistence costs	306	307
Staff support costs	94	126
Accommodation costs	418	342
Equipment and consumables	147	148
Postage and telephones	98	89
Other support costs	159	109
Audit fee	20	15
Library	8	7
Hospitality	24	17
Exchange gains	(3)	0
	1,275	1,175

No interest was payable in 2004/2005 or 2003/2004
There were no bad debts in 2004/2005 or 2003/2004

The above costs include:

	04/05 £000	03/04 £000
Operating lease rentals	219	183

7. Intangible and tangible fixed assets

7.1 Intangible fixed assets at cost or revaluation

	Software licences £000
As at 1 April 2004	48
Additions during year	48
Impairment	(11)
	85
Less depreciation as at 1 April 2004	15
Charge for the year	10
Less depreciation on impairment	(1)
As at 31 March 2004	24
Written down value as at 31 March 2005	61
Written down value as at 31 March 2004	33
Cumulative provision for impairment at 31 March 2005	(24)
Cumulative provision for impairment at 31 March 2004	(14)
Historic cost at 31 March 2005	106
Accumulated historic depreciation	(32)
Net historic cost at 31 March 2005	74

7.2 Tangible fixed assets at cost or valuation

	Improvements to leasehold premises £000	Computer equipment £000	Other equipment £000	Vehicles £000	Total £000
As at 1 April 2004	382	163	391	40	976
Additions during year		18	1		19
Less disposals		(46)	(109)	(19)	(174)
Revaluation	21		(7)	2	16
Impairment		10			10
As at 31 March 2005	403	145	276	23	847
Less depreciation as at					
1 April 2004	222	94	202	26	544
Charge for the year	11	24	35	4	74
Less depreciation on disposals		(42)	(101)	(19)	(162)
Depreciation on revaluation	29		(8)	1	22
Less depreciation on impairment		16			16
As at 31 March 2005	262	92	128	12	494
Written down values at 31 March 2005	141	53	148	11	353
Written down value as at 31 March 2004	160	69	189	14	432
Cumulative provision for impairment at 31 March 2005		(10)			(10)
Cumulative provision for impairment at 31 March 2004		(4)			(4)
Historic cost at 31 March 2005	311	285	268	22	886
Accumulated historic depreciation	(201)	(219)	(120)	(13)	(553)
Net historic cost at 31 March 2005	110	66	148	9	333

Operating leases:

As at 31 March 2004 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	32
Over five years	173

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

8. Notional costs

	04/05 £000	03/04 £000
Cost of capital	19	18
	19	18

9. Government grant reserve

	04/05 £000	03/04 £000
Balance brought forward at 1 April 2004	465	361
Arising on revaluations in the year and Capital grant received in the year and applied to the purchase of capital assets	(6)	12
	526	563
Transfer to Income and Expenditure: Depreciation for the year	84	98
Release of unexpended depreciation on assets disposed of in year	12	
Impairment of asset values	16	
Transfer from Income and Expenditure Account	112	98

Balance carried forward at
31 March 2004

	414	465
--	-----	-----

10. Statement of retained surplus

	04/05 £000	03/04 £000
Retained surplus brought forward	95	90
Retained (deficit)/surplus for the financial year	42	5
Retained surplus carried forward	137	95

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

11. Stocks

	04/05 £000	03/04 £000
Publications	120	94

12. Debtors

	04/05 £000	03/04 £000
Trade debtors	824	427
Other debtors	22	231
Prepayments	94	114
	940	772

13. Creditors

	04/05 £000	03/04 £000
Trade creditors	851	645
Other creditors	24	36
VAT creditors	2	16
Deferred income	164	85
	1,041	782

14. Pensions provision

	04/05 £000	03/04 £000
Balance brought forward at 1 April 2004	7	0
New provision for 2004-05	0	7
Transfers out	(7)	0
Balance at 31 March 2005	0	7

15. Government grant in aid

Grant in aid receivable in respect of:	04/05 £000	03/04 £000
Grant in aid entitled to receive in cash terms	5,962	5,854
Gross grant in aid received 2003/2004	0	5,675
Gross grant in aid received 2004/2005	5,962	179
Capital expenditure	(67)	(190)
Released to Income & Expenditure Account	5,895	5,664

16. Reconciliation of movements in public funds

	04/05 £000	03/04 £000
Opening public funds	560	451
Movement on government grant account	(51)	104
Retained surplus/(deficit) for the financial year	42	5
Closing public funds	551	560

17. Grant in aid income

Breakdown of grant in aid income (excluding capital) attributable to the three Councils:	04/05 %	04/05 £000	03/04 £000
English Nature	56.61	3,337	3,282
Scottish Natural Heritage	29.03	1,711	1,598
Countryside Council for Wales	14.36	847	784
		5,895	5,664

18. Net revenue expenditure

Breakdown of net revenue expenditure incurred by the Joint Nature Conservation Committee on behalf of the three Councils:	04/05 %	04/05 £000	03/04 £000
English Nature	56.61	4,299	3,880
Scottish Natural Heritage	29.03	2,205	1,888
Countryside Council for Wales	14.36	1,090	928
		7,594	6,696

19. Contingent liabilities

For the financial year 2004/05 English Nature leased Monkstone House in Peterborough on behalf of JNCC for use as their main office facility. The landlord has, without consultation, increased the service charge on the property to fund work on improving the standard of the building. These improvements are the subject of dispute by JNCC. It is recognised the some work is required to refurbish the lifts, and a provision has been made to meet this cost. At the date of these accounts, the Directors believe that any further work is unnecessary.

It is not possible to quantify the cost of such work at this stage, nor estimate when it might be incurred, although it should be noted that to date JNCC has not provided for approximately £14,000 of disputed service charge which has been invoiced.

There were no contingent liabilities in 2003/04.

20. Losses and special payments

During the year there were 12 (5 in 2003/2004) losses or special payments identified valued at £8,615 (£2,191 in 2003/2004).

21. Intra-Government Balances

	Debtors: Amounts falling due within one year £000	Debtors: Amounts falling due after more than one year £000	Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year £000	Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year £000
Balances with other central government bodies	431	-	125	-
Total at 31 March 2005	431	-	125	-

There were no balances outstanding with local authorities, public corporations and trading funds or NHS trusts in 2004/05 or 2003/04. There were no balances outstanding with central government bodies in 2003/04.

22. 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 Related Bodies

Individual staff/Committee Member	Corporate related body	Payable (Amount Owed by English Nature at 31/03/05)	Receivable (Amount Owed by English Nature at 31/03/05)	Nature of transaction
Mr D Steer, Trustee	National Biodiversity Network Trust	15 (15)	39 (45)	Goods & Services
Mr M Yeo, Trustee	National Biodiversity Network Trust	15 (15)	39 (45)	Goods & Services
Prof J Pentreath, Professor	University of Reading	18 (0)	0 (0)	Goods & Services
Dr J Faulkner, Member	Butterfly Conservation	16 (0)	0 (0)	Goods & Services

Performance against key targets for 2004/2005

Providing advice on international nature conservation issues

Provide scientific advice to Defra, devolved administrations and country agencies on the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)	Target achieved	Provided influential support to Defra at meetings of the Convention on Biological Diversity's Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) and at EU preparatory meetings.
Provide scientific advice to Government on UK, European and global Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) policy and practice	Target achieved	Provided scientific support to the UK delegation to the 13th CITES Conference of Parties and participated in other global and EU meetings. Provided advice on over 32,000 CITES licence applications within service standards.
Provide the OSPAR lead on marine habitat classification and mapping, and by February 2005 complete a programme to map 14 priority habitats across the OSPAR area	Target substantially achieved	OSPAR-wide programme to map distribution of 14 priority habitats established and substantially progressed, including the development of a web-based mapping facility linked to the National Biodiversity Network Gateway.
Provide support to FCO and Overseas Territory governments on the development and implementation of conservation initiatives and conventions in the UK Overseas Territories, and in particular support the implementation of Environment Charters	Target achieved	JNCC review of non-native species in the Overseas Territories completed and made available to interested parties. Commented on various draft legislation and reports. Helped to assess funding bids for the Overseas Territories Environment Programme.

Furthering nature conservation in a European context

By providing high-quality technical advice, seek to influence the relevant thematic strategies of the 6th Environmental Action Programme, the EC Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans, the EU Sustainable Development Strategy, and where possible debate on the new constitution for Europe, so that collectively they deliver nature conservation gains in the UK and across Europe	Target substantially achieved	Made a significant contribution to reviews of the EU Biodiversity Action Plan for Economic and Development Co-operation, the Lisbon strategy, and the EU Sustainable Development Strategy. Worked with the country agencies through the Inter-agency International Network on preparations for the UK Presidency of the EU.
Support full implementation of the Habitats Directive in the marine environment and especially beyond 12 nautical miles	Target achieved	Five potential offshore Special Areas of Conservation recommended to Defra. Contributed towards one chapter of a European Commission guidance document on implementing Natura 2000 in the marine environment.
Support full implementation of the Birds Directive in the marine environment and especially beyond 12 nautical miles	Target achieved	Work ongoing on implementing identification of inshore Special Protection Areas. Generic guidance on seaward extensions to breeding colony SPAs reviewed and refined.

Providing scientific advice on the sustainable use of natural resources

Provide advice to DTI, devolved administrations and others on about 40 Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs), 400 EIA dispensations, 40 oil spill contingency plans, 30 dumping licences, 120 seismic applications and 30 miscellaneous items within timescales established in negotiation with customers	Target achieved	57 EIAs, 326 EIA dispensations, 78 oil spill contingency plans, 87 dumping consents, 173 seismic applications and 53 miscellaneous items advised upon through the year.
Provide advice to DTI to enable the 5th Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA5) of offshore energy to be carried out prior to oil and gas licensing and further renewables licensing	Target achieved	Provided advice on SEA5 throughout the year. Harmonised work on SEA, Environmental Impact Assessments and Special Protection Areas in relation to wind farms and seabirds.
Provide advice to mitigate the damaging environmental impacts of air pollution	Target achieved	Worked with the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology and Defra to ensure that nature conservation interests were taken fully into account in the development of policies and guidance.

Promote the application of ecosystem management approaches in the UK through discussion with the CBD secretariat, country agencies, Government and others, and prepare best-practice guidance	Target achieved	Successfully produced an ecosystem approach sourcebook in collaboration with the CBD secretariat.
Developing common standards for nature conservation and co-ordinating UK approaches		
In partnership with Defra, promote and enable biodiversity research that supports the delivery of UK BAP objectives	Target substantially achieved	Continued to support the UK Biodiversity Research Advisory Group, completed a socio-economic research strategy and organised a successful meeting to discuss the latest research findings for woodland Species Action Plans.
Assessing the status of UK biodiversity and earth heritage		
With partner organisations, develop a framework and standards for the surveillance and monitoring of terrestrial, freshwater and coastal Annex I and BAP priority habitats	Target not achieved	Some preparatory work undertaken through development of the concept of favourable conservation status and discussion with Habitat Action Plan groups.
Establish an EU INTERREG-funded project to develop a framework for Mapping European Seabed Habitats (MESH) and deliver the first year's work programme	Target achieved	As lead partner, successfully established the MESH project, with 12 partners across five countries.
Publish the first overview report for the UK mammal surveillance programme (Tracking Mammals)	Target achieved	Report published in March 2005.
Develop a system for monitoring habitat, species and Earth heritage interest features on A/SSSIs, SACs, SPAs and Ramsar sites, in close collaboration with the country agencies and other organisations	Target substantially achieved	Prepared third interim report on work completed within the first 6-year monitoring cycle. Continued to develop guidance for monitoring interest features on designated sites. Preparatory work undertaken to develop a quality assurance programme.
Making nature conservation information accessible		
Deliver improvements to the National Biodiversity Network Gateway so that it meets the needs of JNCC and partner organisations	Target achieved	Major release version of Gateway launched in June 2004. Update mechanism improved so content can now be prepared by any data owner using a data checking tool, and significant work done to make the Gateway reliable, improve its performance and manage business continuity risks.
By December 2004, deliver the JNCC website via a content management system so that it contains balanced coverage of UK-level conservation issues and improves the ease with which detailed information and advice can be found	Target achieved	JNCC website and MESH website delivered within target time using a content management system and improvements made to address balance of subject coverage.
Support JNCC's business with high-quality services		
By December 2004, make the necessary changes to management structures and systems to facilitate implementation of the JNCC's strategy, and develop stakeholders' understanding of the strategy	Target achieved	New programme and project framework put in place. Management structures have been changed and through corporate planning JNCC's work has been aligned with the strategy.
By April 2005, implement the recommendations arising from the JNCC's Financial, Management and Policy Review	Target achieved	Company limited by guarantee became operational in April 2005, with successful transfer of staff to JNCC employment. Revised corporate governance, finance and HR procedures and policies established.

Research Contracts 2004/2005

Title	Contractor	Costs £
Scoping Study for Countryside Survey 2006	ADAS Consulting Ltd	5,000
Bat Conservation Trust	BCT	1,000
Bat Conservation Trust Partnership	BCT	80,000
Global Impacts Programme	Best Foot Forward Ltd	6,127
GCR Text Revision of Mineralisation in England & Wales	BGS	4,000
Analysis of Mammal Data Breeding Bird Survey 2004/05	BTO	6,474
Provision of Ornithological Services and Additional WeBs Support	BTO	588,477
Surveillance of threatened moths project	Butterfly Conservation	5,000
Review of BAP Priority and Invasive Species 2005	Butterfly Conservation	3,000
BRC Agreement	CEH	175,000
Monitoring Impacts of Air Pollution	CEH	4,000
Monitoring of Seabirds on the Isle of May	CEH	13,186
NBN Gateway Project	CEH	63,877
UK Butterfly Monitoring Scheme	CEH	38,000
Wildlife and Pollution 2004/05	CEH	52,896
Broadscale Biotope Mapping to the West of the Outer Hebrides	DARD	47,500
Monitoring of Breeding Success of Cliff-Nesting Seabirds	Dennis Paice	3,200
Copy-editing of the MNCR Sector 15 Volume	DJ Environmental	3,800
Updating & modifications to NBN Habitats Dictionary	Dorian Ecological Information	2,500
Text Writing/Update of Pleistocene Vertebrata GCR Volume	Dr D Schreve	2,345
Updating the National Review of Water Beetles	Dr G N Foster	2,000
Provision of Secretariat Services to the Rare Breeding Birds Panel	Dr M Ogilvie	9,040
Contribution to the Pesticides Lead Agency	English Nature	5,000
UK Habitat Mapping Video	Envision	28,623
Fair Isle Seabird Studies	Fair Isle Bird Observatory Trust	6,592
Fisheries Strategic Environmental Assessment	Hartley Anderson	5,875
Canna Seabird Studies	Highland Ringing Group	2,060
Provision of advice to the LUPG on EC Agriculture and Environment Policies	IEEP	8,795

Title	Contractor	Costs £
Contribution to the National Seasearch Programme	Marine Conservation Society	14,200
Analysis of Biological & Geological Samples	Marine Ecological Surveys Ltd	16,039
MarLIN Programme	MBA	15,025
Water Framework Directive	MBA	12,803
Monitoring of Severe Winter Weather 2004/05	Met Office	3,693
Scoping Red Squirrel Surveillance	Queen Mary, University of London	7,740
Mapping the OSPAR priority list	Sea-Scope	25,168
Implementation of findings from the Irish Sea Pilot	SNH	3,000
Miscellaneous Seabird Monitoring studies	The Seabird Group	3,400
Further Revision of the CITES checklist	UNEP - WCMC	9,492
Updating the content of UK's Clearing House Mechanism	UNEP - WCMC	3,400
The MONARCH Project	University of Oxford	15,000
Various Survey Work	Various	10,129
International Waterbird Monitoring and Conservation	Wetlands International	50,000
Monitoring of UK goose and swan populations 2004/07	Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust	35,145

Joint Nature Conservation Committee

Monkstone House, City Rd,
Peterborough PE1 1JY

Tel: +44 (0) 1733 562626

Fax: +44 (0) 1733 555948

Website: www.jncc.gov.uk

Countryside Council for Wales

Maes-y-Ffynnon, Ffordd
Penrhos, Bangor,
Gwynedd LL57 2DW

Tel: +44 (0) 1248 385500

Fax: +44 (0) 1248 355782

Website: www.ccw.gov.uk

English Nature

Northminster House,
Peterborough PE1 1UA

Tel: +44 (0) 1733 455000

Fax: +44 (0) 1733 568834

Website:

www.english-nature.org.uk

Scottish Natural Heritage

12 Hope Terrace,
Edinburgh EH9 2AS

Tel: +44 (0) 131 447 4784

Fax: +44 (0) 131 446 2277

Website: www.snh.org.uk

Environment and Heritage Service Northern Ireland

Commonwealth House,
35 Castle Street, Belfast BT1 1GU

Tel: +44 (0) 28 9025 1477

Fax: +44 (0) 28 9054 6660

Website: www.ehsni.gov.uk

Designed and produced by CDS.
www.cds.co.uk, 3M

Printed on

Cover: Plike

Flysheet: Monadnock Dulcet,
Elemental Chlorine Free paper

Book: Monadnock
Astrolite PC 100
100% post-consumer
waste recycled paper



ISBN 1 86107 571 5
© JNCC 2005

Contract Papers and Publications

Books published by JNCC

Authors who are not JNCC Support Co staff in [square] brackets

Annual Report 2003/2004

JNCC, Peterborough, 2004

Seabird numbers and breeding success in Britain and Ireland, 2003

JNCC, Peterborough, 2004

GCR Volume No. 30

[Simms MJ], Chidlaw N, Morton N, Page KN]

British Lower Jurassic Stratigraphy

GCR Volume No. 31

[Barclay W], Browne MAE, McMillan AA, Pickett EA, Stone P, Wilby PR] *Old Red Sandstone Rocks of Great Britain*

JNCC Report Series

[Brown JG, Perrins CM, Boyle D, Duffield S, Dustan A, Easton J, Smith S], Parsons M.

Seabird Monitoring on Skomer Island in 1999 – 2002

JNCC Report 339, Peterborough, 2004.

Dean BJ, Webb A, McSorley CA, Reid JB.

Surveillance of wintering seaduck, divers and grebes in UK inshore areas: 2002/03

JNCC Report 345, Peterborough, 2004.

[Sutton MA, Pitcairn CER], Whitfield CP.

Bioindicator and bio-monitoring methods for assessing the effects of atmospheric nitrogen on statutory nature conservation sites

JNCC Report 356, Peterborough, 2004.

Dean BJ, Webb A, McSorley CA, [Schofield RA], Reid JB.

Surveillance of wintering seaduck, divers and grebes in the UK inshore areas: Aerial surveys and shore based counts, 2003/4

JNCC Report 357, Peterborough, 2004.

[Fowler S], Mogensen CB, Blasdale T.

Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks in UK Waters

JNCC Report 360, Peterborough, 2004.

[Swann RL].

Canna seabird studies 2003

JNCC Report 361, Peterborough, 2004.

[Wilson LJ], Wanless S, Harris MP, Jones G].

Isle of May seabird studies in 2003

JNCC Report 362, Peterborough, 2004.

Books published or co-published by JNCC

UK Mammals: Species Status and Population Trends. First report by the Tracking Mammals Partnership

Battersby J (Ed), [Tracking Mammals Partnership]

JNCC/Tracking Mammals Partnership, Peterborough, 2005.

Other products

Nature News – corporate magazine – two editions

JNCC publications catalogue – A5 booklet

UK Seabirds in 2004: results from the UK Monitoring Programme – A5 booklet

UK Mammals: Species Status and Population Trends –

Information for volunteers on the First Report by the Tracking Mammals Partnership – A5 booklet

Sustainability and the Ecosystem Approach – A5 leaflet

Caring for our uplands: Delivering the UK Upland Habitat Action Plans – Upland HAP Steering Group

Nature conservation and aggregate extraction within the Eastern Channel Region – Statement of advice (with Countryside Agency).

JNCC web-based publications

Connor DW, Allen JH, Golding N, Howell KL, Liebernecht LM, Northen KO, Reker JB.

The Marine Habitat Classification for Britain and Ireland

Version 04.05 JNCC, Peterborough, 2004.

www.jncc.gov.uk/MarineHabitatClassification

Irish Sea Pilot final report – www.jncc.gov.uk/page-1541

Golding N, Vincent MA, Connor DW.

Irish Sea Pilot – a Marine Landscape Classification for the Irish Sea (2004)

JNCC Report 346. © Defra 2004. www.jncc.gov.uk/page-2834

Lieberknecht LM, [Carwardine J], Connor D, Vincent MA, Atkins SM, Lumb CM. *The Irish Sea Pilot - Report on the identification of nationally important marine areas in the Irish Sea (2004)*

JNCC Report 347, Peterborough, 2004. www.jncc.gov.uk/page-2836

Lieberknecht LM, Vincent MA, Connor D.

Report on the identification of nationally important marine features in the Irish Sea (2004)

JNCC Report 348, Peterborough, 2004. www.jncc.gov.uk/page-2839

Lumb C, Webster M, Golding N, Atkins S, Vincent MA.

Collation and mapping of data for the Irish Sea Pilot (2004)

JNCC Report 349, Peterborough, 2004. www.jncc.gov.uk/page-2842

Lumb CM, [Fowler SL], Atkins SM, [Gilliland PM], Vincent MA.

Developing Marine Nature Conservation Objectives for the Irish Sea (2004)

JNCC Report 350, Peterborough, 2004. www.jncc.gov.uk/page-2844

Marine Habitat Classification – new section at

www.jncc.gov.uk/MarineHabitatClassification

Seabird 2000 – species accounts, graphs and data tables at

www.jncc.gov.uk/page-1548

Major conventions and legislation that drive UK nature

conservation – new section at www.jncc.gov.uk/page-1359

UK Red Squirrel Group – hosted within JNCC website at

www.ukredsquirrels.org

Common Standards Monitoring guidance updated at

www.jncc.gov.uk/page-2217, including a new freshwater section at

www.jncc.gov.uk/page-2232

Special Area of Conservation (SAC) site data – updated at

www.jncc.gov.uk/SACselection

Special Protection Areas (SPAs) – updated at www.jncc.gov.uk/page-162

Ramsar site lists – updated at www.jncc.gov.uk/page-161

Online publications catalogue – updated with new structure and

additional content – www.jncc.gov.uk/page-1482

Selected papers resulting from JNCC contracts

Bareham S. 2004

No quick fix for the 'dirty man' of Europe

Water and Environment Magazine, The Magazine of the Chartered Institution of Water and Environmental Management, Volume 9, Number 10 (November 2004), 8-9

Freiwald A, Fossa JH, Grehan A, Koslow T, Roberts JM (Edited by Johnston C, Tasker M). 2004

Cold-water coral reefs: Out of sight – no longer out of mind

UNEP-WCMC, Cambridge, UK.

Reid JB. 2004.

Great Black-backed Gull

In Mitchell PI, *et al* (Eds). *Seabird Populations of Britain and Ireland*. 263-276. T & AD Poyser, London.

Reid JB. 2004.

International importance of the seabird population of Britain and Ireland

In Mitchell PI, *et al* (Eds). *Seabird Populations of Britain and Ireland*. 438-441. T & AD Poyser, London.

Whitfield C, Bareham S. 2004 *Air Pollution Assessment by the Statutory Nature Conservation Agencies* In Lambley P, Wolesley P. (Eds) *Lichens in a changing pollution environment*. English Nature

Research Report 525. English Nature, Peterborough.

Publications arising from contracts

Atkins SM, Vincent MA. 2004.

Marine nature conservation and sustainable development: The Irish Sea Pilot. A summary report of conclusions of the European Commission and Member states Defra, London.

Austin GE, Rehfisch MM. 2003.

The likely impact of sea level rise on waders Charadrii wintering on estuaries *Journal of Nature Conservation* 11: 43-58.

Benton TG, Vickery JA, Wilson JD. 2003.

Farmland biodiversity: is habitat heterogeneity the key? *Trends in Ecology and Evolution* 18: 182-188.

Chamberlain DE, Crick HQP. 2003.

Temporal and spatial associations in aspects of reproductive performance of Lapwings *Vanellus vanellus* in the United Kingdom, 1962-1999 *Ardea* 91: 183-196.

Clark J, Robinson RA, Balmer DE, Blackburn JR, Griffin BM, Adams SY, Collier MP, Grantham MJ. 2003.

Bird ringing in Britain and Ireland in 2002 *Ringling & Migration* 21: 234-267.

Crick HQP. 2004.

The impacts of climate change on birds

In: Rehfisch MM, Feare CJ, Jones NV, Spray C (Eds) *Climate Change and Coastal Birds*. Ibis 146 (suppl.1): 48-56.

Denny MJH, Clausen P, Percival SM, Anderson GQA, Koffijberg K, Robinson JA. 2004.

Light-bellied Brent Goose *Branta bernicla hrota* (East Atlantic population) in Svalbard, Greenland, Franz Josef Land, Norway, Denmark, the Netherlands and Britain 1960/61 – 1999/2000 *Waterbird Review Series*, The Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust/Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Slimbridge.

Dolman PM, Fuller RJ. 2003.

The processes of species colonisation in wooded landscapes: a review of principles

In: *The Restoration of Wooded Landscapes*. Humphrey J, Newton A, Latham J, Gray H, Kirby K, Poulson E, Quine C (Eds) 25-36. *Proceedings of a conference held at Heriot Watt University, Edinburgh, 14-15 September 2000*. Forestry Commission, Edinburgh.

England Marketing. 2005.

Habitat & Ecosystem Management Research in support of the UK Biodiversity Action Plan Report Warboys, Cambridgeshire.

Fuller RJ, Noble DG, Smith KW, Vanhinsbergh D. 2005.

Recent declines in populations of woodland birds in Britain: a review of possible causes *British Birds* 98: 116-143.

Gillings S, Beaven P. 2004.

Wintering farmland birds: results from mass-participation surveys *British Birds* 97: 118-129.

Greenwood JJD. 2003.

The monitoring of British breeding birds: a success story for conservation science?

The Science of the Total Environment 310: 221-230.

Greenwood JJD, Carter N. 2003.

Organisation eines nationalen Vogelmonitorings durch den British Trust for Ornithology – Erfahrungsbericht aus Gro_britannien (Organising a national bird monitoring by the BTO-Experiences from Britain) In: *Berichte des Landesamtes für umweltschutz Sachsen-Anhalt. Sonderheft 1/2003*: 14-26.

Greenwood JD, Crick HQP, Bainbridge IP. 2003.

Numbers and International Importance of Raptors and Owls in Britain and Ireland In: *Birds of Prey in a Changing Environment*. pp 25-49. Scottish Natural Heritage, Edinburgh.

Hearn RD. 2004.

Greater White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons albifrons* (Baltic/North Sea population) in Britain 1960/61 – 1999/2000 *Waterbird Review Series*, The Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust/Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Slimbridge.

Hearn RD. 2004.

Recommendations for improved survey design for estimating the abundance of the Iceland Greylag Goose population in the United Kingdom Report from WWT to JNCC.

Hearn RD, Mitchell C. 2004.

Greylag Goose *Anser anser* (Iceland population) in Britain 1960/61 – 1999/2000 *Waterbird Review Series*, The Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust/Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Slimbridge.

Laffoley D d'A, Maltby E, Vincent MA, Mee L, Dunn E, Gilliland P, Hamer JP, Mortimer D, Pound D. 2004.

The Ecosystem Approach. Coherent actions for marine and coastal environments: A report to the UK Government English Nature, Peterborough.

Mead C. 2003.

The Migration Atlas – 90 years of bird-ringing and recording migration *British Wildlife* 14: 313-319.

Newson SE, Woodburn R, Noble DG, Baillie SR. 2005.

Evaluating the Breeding Bird Survey for producing national population size and density estimates *Bird Study* 52: 42-54.

Ogilvie MA & the Rare Breeding Birds Panel. 2004.

Rare breeding birds in the United Kingdom in 2002 *British Birds* 97: 492-536.

Ogilvie MA & the Rare Breeding Birds Panel. 2004.

Non-native birds breeding in the United Kingdom in 2002 *British Birds* 97: 633-637.

Raven MJ, Noble DG, Baillie SR. 2004.

The Breeding Bird Survey 2003 BTO, JNCC, RSPB. BTO Research Report 363, British Trust for Ornithology, Thetford.

Rehfisch MM, Austin GE, Armitage MJS, Atkinson PW, Holloway SJ, Musgrove AJ, Pollitt MS. 2003.

Numbers of wintering waterbirds in Great Britain and the Isle of Man (1994/1995 – 1998/1999): II. Coastal waders (Charadrii) *Biological Conservation* 112: 329-341.

Rehfisch MM, Holloway SJ, Austin GE. 2003.

Population estimates of waders on the non-estuarine coasts of the UK and the Isle of Man during the winter of 1997-98 *Bird Study* 50: 22-32.

Robinson JA, Colhoun K, Gudmundsson GA, Boertmann D, Merne OJ, O' Briain M, Portig AA, Mackie K, Boyd H. 2004.

Light-bellied Brent Goose *Branta bernicla hrota* (East Canadian High Arctic population) in Canada, Ireland, Iceland, France, Greenland, Scotland, Wales, England, the Channel Islands and Spain 1960/61 – 1999/2000 *Waterbird Review Series*, The Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust/Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Slimbridge.

Waterbird Review Series, The Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust/Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Slimbridge.

Robinson RA, Crick HQP, Peach WJ. 2003.

Population trends of Swallows *Hirundo rustica* breeding in Britain *Bird Study* 50: 1 – 7.

Rowell H, Spray C. 2004.

The Mute Swan *Cygnus olor* (Britain and Ireland populations) in Britain and Northern Ireland 1960/61-2000/01 *Waterbird Review Series*, The Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust/Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Slimbridge.

Sparks TH, Crick HQP, Dunn PO, Sokolov LV. 2003.

Birds In: *Phenology: An Integrated Environmental Science* (Ed. Schwartz, MD) 421 – 436. Kluwer, Dordrecht.

Van Noordwijk AJ, Speek G, Clark JA, Rohde Z, Wassenaar RD. 2003.

The EURING exchange code 2000 *Journal of Ornithology* 144: 479-483.

www.jncc.gov.uk