



ENGLISH
NATURE

Sustainable Development Report 2004/5



working towards *Natural England*
for people, places and nature

Foreword

This is our first Sustainable Development Report, a document designed to show staff and stakeholders the progress English Nature has made on sustainable development, social policy and the environmental management of our operations over the last year. As a government-funded organisation it is important for English Nature to embrace the principles¹ of the UK Sustainable Development Strategy *Securing the future* (Defra, March 2005) and the emphasis it places on the public sector to be a leading exponent of sustainable development.

We recognise that we need to reinvigorate the actions and targets of our environmental management programme and hope that this report gives an open and honest account of progress to date. English Nature is entering a period of significant change, as it becomes part of a new and much larger organisation – *Natural England* – which will be operational in October 2006. This report is an important step in our accountability and should be read as a statement of intent as we move towards *Natural England*.

We hope you find the report useful. We welcome your comments on the content and presentation, and any specific issues you would like *Natural England* to address. If you would like more detailed financial performance data you can find this in English Nature's Annual Report 2004/5. English Nature's key objectives and targets are set out in the Corporate Plan 2003 – 2006.

Dr Andy Brown,
Chief Executive

For copies of our Business and Corporate plans please contact us on 01733 455100 or download them from the publications section of our website.

Our full Sustainable Development Report will be online at: www.english-nature.org.uk

¹Living within environmental limits; ensuring a strong, healthy and just society; achieving a sustainable economy; promoting good governance; and using sound science responsibly.

Chief Executive's overview/summary highlights

This report puts into context what English Nature is doing to help deliver the commitments of the UK sustainable development strategy *Securing the future*. It outlines our actions in terms of our sustainable development policy and the impacts of our actions on society and the environment.

As an organisation our remit is to protect and enhance the natural environment. To do this successfully we need to involve a wide range of partners and use our science and knowledge to show people why the natural environment is important to their everyday lives and how they benefit from it. With the help of the case studies we have provided in this document, English Nature reports (such as *Revealing the value of nature*) and our maritime strategy (*Our coasts and seas*) we will show how we are working to the five sustainable development principles outlined in *Securing the future* to benefit people as well as the natural environment.

The land that we own and manage as National Nature Reserves is a wonderful resource that we want to share with people. The reserves provide a focus for local community groups and

disadvantaged people to help them learn new skills through, for example, our work with the Prison Service. Reserves can also improve our health through projects such as the BTCV's green gyms, and 'Healthier outlooks' in the North East. National and Local Nature Reserves are the focus for community events such as the series of Wildspace! children's events organised on Local Nature Reserves as part of National Lottery Day.

As an environmental organisation we are aware that we need to look carefully at the environmental impacts of our own operations, in our offices and on the land we manage. Over the last year we have reviewed our environmental impacts and identified five key indicators by which we will measure performance – including the implementation of an Environmental Management

System to comply with ISO 14001. We should also give credit to our Area Teams who came up with a variety of innovative projects – in response to the Environmental Challenge Fund – to target specific environmental issues relevant to their workplace.

As we become part of *Natural England* we will strive to align ourselves more closely with the reporting of government departments and other statutory bodies by using the *Framework for sustainable development on the government estate*² and *Sustainable Development Action Plans – Getting started! A Sustainable Development Commission guide for government departments and executive agencies*.³ This will provide a framework of targets and a means by which *Natural England* can judge its future performance.

²www.sustainable-development.gov.uk/delivery/integrating/estate/estate.htm

³www.sd-commission.org.uk/pages/government/

Organisational overview

“Significant nature conservation gains have been made through greater understanding of sustainable development.” English Nature’s Corporate Plan 2003 – 2006

We aim to protect and enhance England’s natural environment for the benefit of present and future generations.

English Nature is a public service organisation, working with government, industry, regulators, charities, landowners and managers and local communities. We work in close partnership with the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) and contribute to the delivery of European and national nature conservation legislation and Public Service Agreement targets.⁴ Of particular importance are targets relating to Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), farmland birds and access to, and protection of, the rural, urban and marine environments.

For 2004/5 we received grant-in-aid funding of £71.5 million for English Nature programmes. Our performance and achievements are published in our Annual Report and Annual Accounts which are available on our website. We employ over 1,000 staff, 500 in our head office in Peterborough and the rest in our 22 county-based Area Teams throughout England.

Duties and powers

Our main duties and powers have been given to us by the following Acts of Parliament:

- National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949.

- Countryside Act 1968.
- Nature Conservancy Council Act 1973.
- Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (amended 1985).
- Environmental Protection Act 1990.
- Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000.

We are governed by a council whose chairman and members are appointed by the Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

We work closely with the Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Scottish Natural Heritage and the Countryside Council for Wales to deliver a consistent approach to nature conservation throughout Great Britain, and to fulfil our international obligations.

We have a key role in helping the Government to deliver its sustainable development commitments – particularly in relation to Public Service Agreement targets to reduce the decline in farmland birds by 2020 and to bring 95% of all SSSIs into favourable condition by 2010⁵. English Nature is also a lead partner in the delivery of the biodiversity strategy for England *Working with the grain of nature* (Defra 2002) and for the national

Biodiversity Action Plans which are designed to reverse wildlife decline. A copy of the strategy can be accessed through Defra’s website at:

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/wildlife-countryside/biodiversity/biostrat/index.htm>. How we contribute to these targets is set out in our Corporate Plan 2003 – 2006.

We also have an interest in helping government to achieve ‘clear improvements’ in a number of framework sustainable development indicators, as set out in *Sustainable development indicators in your pocket 2005* (Defra). Full details of individual indicators are available from: www.sustainable-development.gov.uk/performance/indicatorsindex.htm

English Nature has a particular interest in indicators on:

- Bird population indices:
 - a) farmland birds
 - b) woodland birds
 - c) coastal birds.
- Wintering wetland birds.
- Biodiversity conservation.
- Farming and environmental stewardship.
- Fish stocks.

⁴Public Service Agreement (PSA) targets set out publicly clear targets showing what departments aim to achieve in terms of public service improvements. Of particular relevance to English Nature is Defra’s PSA 3: care for our natural heritage, make the countryside attractive and enjoyable for all, and preserve biological diversity

⁵SSSIs are selected by English Nature and protected by wildlife legislation. They form a nationally-important series of the best and rarest examples of our wildlife and geological features. A site is in favourable condition if the special habitats and species are in a healthy state and being conserved for the future by appropriate management.

- Ecological impacts of air pollution.
- River quality.

We have mapped our corporate targets for 2004/5 against the indicators most relevant to our work to show how we are helping the government move these indicators in the right direction (see Table 1). To address the ecological impacts of air pollution we are working in partnership with the Environment

Agency – through the Review of Consents process – to address this issue on sites protected by European legislation (Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas). The Review of Consents looks at the impact of existing and new permissions and licences, operated by the Environment Agency, on European sites.

“These indicators help us to chart progress and help to see whether we are succeeding in our goal of

securing a better quality of life for everyone, or whether we need to change direction and act accordingly.”

Elliot Morley, Environment Minister






We recognise our targets need to be revised to make them forward-looking but this will be a role for *Natural England*, and its new duties under the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Bill.

Figure 1 the location of SSSIs in England and English Nature’s offices in 2004

- Sites of Special Scientific Interest
- Area team offices



Table 1 English Nature's contribution to the UK Sustainable Development Framework Indicators

Indicator	Direction of change since 1990	Direction of change since 1999	English Nature's contribution targets for 2004/5	Target met
Bird populations				
(a) farmland birds			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Implement one landscape-scale partnership project in each Government Region and measure biodiversity gains from these specific sustainable development partnerships ● Decline is halted or reversed for 50% of the 88 species where English Nature is a lead partner by March 2005 ● Targeted statements for farmland bird recovery to be set in 159 Joint Character Area (JCA) by Dec 2005 ● Conduct Biodiversity Action Plan species distribution surveys for three species groups (including birds) 	<p>YES. Ten area-based delivery initiatives at the landscape-scale up and running, one per region (two in North East)</p> <p>PARTLY. English Nature leads on three farmland bird species, one is recovering and two declining⁶</p> <p>YES. All appropriate JCAs⁷ have targeted statements to deliver bird targets through agri-environment schemes</p> <p>YES. Monitoring programme for birds implemented</p>
Biodiversity conservation	No trend data is available, but latest assessments show a clear deterioration			
(a) priority species status 2002 (b) priority habitat status 2002			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Decline is halted or reversed for 50% of the 88 species where English Nature is lead partner by March 2005 ● Halt or reverse decline on a further 40% of Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) habitats for which English Nature is the lead partner by March 2005 ● Restore or recreate 800 ha of chalk grassland, 886 ha of freshwater and 223 ha of coastal habitats outside SSSIs by March 2005 	<p>YES. 51% (45 English Nature led Biodiversity Action Plan species) are considered stable or increasing</p> <p>PARTLY. 40% of English Nature led BAP habitats are stable or increasing</p> <p>PARTLY. 771 ha increase in chalk grassland, 877 ha of freshwater and 271 ha of coastal habitat * figures for March 2005</p>
Farming and environmental stewardship				
Land covered by environmental schemes	 since 1992		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Implement one landscape-scale partnership project in each Government Region and measure biodiversity gains from these specific sustainable development partnerships 	<p>YES. Ten area-based delivery initiatives at the landscape-scale up and running one per region (two in the North East)</p>



clear improvement since base year



little or no change since base year



clear deterioration since base year



insufficient or no comparable data

⁶ English Nature leads for the curlew (numbers are increasing as part of the Species Recovery Programme) and turtle dove and corn bunting which are declining but will be targeted through agri-environment schemes.

⁷ Joint Character Areas are distinct geographical areas that cover the whole terrestrial area of England. The 159 areas have been identified by analysing geology, soils, landform and land use across England.



Phil Newby, Director of Communications



James Marsden, Head of Policy

Governance of sustainability

This Sustainable Development Report covers all of our work related to SSSIs, the wider countryside, our people and nature programme, our buildings and land and the way we use sustainable development in our policy advice. The figures that we give in relation to our environmental management indicators relate to the financial year 1 April 2004 – 31 March 2005. The next report will, we hope, be produced by *Natural England* and we will propose that it reports annually from the end of 2007 onwards.

English Nature’s work is described under four interdependent programmes, two of which are particularly relevant to this report – sustainable development and environmental management.

- Sustainable development forms a key part of our policy work, led by a Policy Director through our People and Policies Programme.
- Environmental management sits with our Managing the Organisation Programme, led by the Communications Director.

Each of our National Head Office and Area Teams has an Environmental Management Co-ordinator to liaise with the Environmental Management Officer.

This report has been produced internally by key people within English Nature. However, we recognise that, in line with best practice, we need to involve stakeholders in defining what they want us to report on, and in the planning of our future objectives and targets. This will be a strong recommendation for the future reporting of *Natural England*.

English Nature to *Natural England* – for people, places and nature

This report covers the work of English Nature for 2004/5. It will change significantly in the future as English Nature becomes part of *Natural England*. The new agency will contribute to sustainable development in the delivery of its functions and this will need to be reflected in future reporting. www.english-nature.org.uk/about/naturalengland.htm

Vision for *Natural England*

“England, from seabed to mountain top, will support diverse, resilient and accessible landscapes, habitats and green spaces. They will be rich in wildlife and contribute to our wealth and well-being. We want people to see themselves as part of nature and enjoy its benefits everywhere.” Consultation draft of *Natural England* Strategy (July 2005).

Natural England’s draft strategic outcomes (October 2005) will be:

1. Conserved, recovered and where appropriate enhanced dynamic landscapes, ecosystems, habitats, species, geology and resilient functioning of our land, rivers, lakes, coasts and seas through special sites, protected areas, green networks, green farming and Marine Protected Areas.
2. Increased access to the countryside, greenspaces, coasts and seas, and greater participation, learning and volunteering leading to more enjoyment and healthier lifestyles.
3. Increased respect, knowledge and understanding of the natural environment and its importance, its functioning and dynamics and the need to adapt in the face of climate change.
4. More sustainable farming, food, fishing, development and economic policies and practices and increased public and private investment in recovery of biodiversity, landscape quality and ecosystem functioning.
5. Increased contribution of the natural environment to national, regional and local economies, sustainable enterprises and more cohesive communities.
6. *Natural England* as an excellent public body delivering its statutory purpose.

Natural England – for people, places and nature

Following the publication of the draft Natural Environment and Rural Communities Bill in February 2005, English Nature, the Rural Development Service and the Countryside Agency's Landscape, Access and Recreation division are working towards integration as a single body: *Natural England*. It will work for people, places and nature with responsibility for enhancing biodiversity, landscapes and wildlife in rural, urban, coastal

and marine areas; promoting access, recreation and public wellbeing, and contributing to the way natural resources are managed – so they can be enjoyed now and for future generations. *Natural England* is expected to be operational by October 2006, subject to the necessary legislation.

The **Rural Development Service** is the largest deliverer of the England Rural Development Programme and a range of advisory and regulatory rural services. With the administration

of a multi-million pound grant budget for schemes which support land management, rural businesses and rural communities, the Rural Development Service is the single largest organisation working for the benefit of rural areas in England.

The aim of the Countryside Agency's **Landscape, Access and Recreation division** is to help everyone respect, protect and enjoy the countryside – protecting natural landscapes; and encouraging access to, enjoyment of and sustainable management and use of, the countryside.

Sustainable development policy

Biodiversity is a key test of sustainable development

Natural resources are vital to our existence and to the development of communities throughout the world.

“The issues we face are the need for better understanding of environmental limits, the need for environmental enhancement where the environment is most degraded to ensure a decent environment for everyone, and the need for a more integrated policy framework to deliver this.”

***Securing the future*, Defra (March 2005)**

Although our primary interest is in the natural environment we recognise that we work within a context of sustainable development. We must help people recognise there are environmental limits nationally and globally, and emphasise the contribution the natural environment makes to social and economic priorities such as jobs, health and education⁸. Environmental limits are difficult to quantify but English Nature’s state of nature reports on the uplands, lowlands and maritime environments, and on the condition of SSSIs give strong scientific evidence regarding the state of our natural resources.

All four reports – *Upland challenge* (2001), *Getting onto an even keel* (2002), *England’s best*

wildlife and geological sites (2003) and *Future landscape for wildlife* (2004) are available via our website or from our Enquiry Service.

“We must protect the natural environment and biodiversity for current and future generations. We depend on a healthy natural environment to provide the clean air, water, fuel, food, medicines, scientific knowledge and open greenspace that are essential to our well-being. Biodiversity regulates our climate, helps protect us from flooding and improves the areas in which we live and work. The natural environment can only deliver these benefits if we use existing resources wisely and replace past losses. Maintaining economic growth and social progress without damaging the natural environment and using up natural resources is a major challenge.”

English Nature Sustainable Development Position Statement (September 2003)

Our full Policy Position on Sustainable Development can be viewed at www.english-nature.org.uk/news/statement.asp?ID=30

As an organisation we recognise the risks of not understanding or taking adequate account of the economic and social drivers of change. Sustainable development forms the basis of many of the discussions and projects we undertake with our partners – particularly with regional bodies and industry. It can help us develop solutions to site-based nature conservation issues and help people appreciate the value of biodiversity and the benefits it provides for people’s wellbeing.

Operationally, our work on sustainable development is led by the People and Policies Programme Board. One of the priorities for the Board is to ensure that the benefits of nature to people’s quality of life are fully recognised in sectoral policies and programmes (for example agriculture, water and coastal/marine) and through engagement with business. Our Corporate Plan 2003 – 2006 sets out key objectives and targets detailing how we will achieve a wider recognition of the contribution that nature makes to sustainable development.

⁸ *Revealing the value of nature* (English Nature, 2002)

Nature delivers economic benefits

In the North West a conservative estimate of the 'value' of the natural environment and those businesses operating within it is £2.5 billion; a quarter of tourist visits to the region (33 million) being due to 'environmental attractions'. At Bassenthwaite alone the tourism generated by England's first pair of breeding ospreys for 150 years has added an estimated £500,000 per year to the local economy.

Natural Economy North West, a partnership led by English Nature on behalf of the Northwest Development Agency, is bringing nature into the heart of the economy. It is being guided by a 2003 report called *The economic and regenerative value of the natural environment in the North West* (ERVNE).

ERVNE identifies a range of current and proposed projects across the North West which have the potential to generate

significant economic, regenerative and environmental benefits for the region. In the immediate future the Northwest Development Agency will co-ordinate the expenditure of £5.1 million of Objective Two funding for natural economy projects that particularly benefit the region's tourism. *Nature's edge, investing in sustainable development as a natural advantage for England's Northwest*, Northwest Development Agency (June 2005).

Working with site owners for sustainable development outcomes

Canvey Wick is a 100 hectare brownfield site situated in the south-west corner of Canvey Island within the Thames Gateway. In 2002, the East of England Development Agency (EEDA) purchased 27.5 hectares of this site with the intention of developing the land to create local employment. Site surveys showed that the area is of national importance for the exceptional biodiversity it supports. With over

1,300 species of invertebrates found on the site Buglife, the Invertebrate Conservation Trust, describes it as having "more biodiversity per square foot than any other site in the UK". With the Government's England Biodiversity Strategy underlining the need for brownfield sites and their biodiversity to be protected, Canvey Wick was an important opportunity to prove it was possible to protect our natural environment and grow the economy.

English Nature, EEDA and others have worked closely to understand the site's biodiversity and agree an approach that will help ensure that local employment and community needs are addressed alongside the need to protect and enhance the environment. Once development is completed two-thirds of the site will become a wildlife area with interpretation facilities. The rest of the site will become offices built using sustainable design and construction techniques to provide further habitats for invertebrates (for example, 'brown roofs'). In total the Canvey Wick development will create up to 900 new jobs in an area that has the highest proportion of long-term unemployed in the Eastern region. www.eeda.org.uk/index.asp?id=1002469

Business delivering biodiversity

Business has an important role to play in helping government and English Nature deliver national biodiversity commitments. A 2005 report on the condition of SSSIs in company ownership showed that:

- 81 companies own or manage 84,500 ha of SSSI land (8% of the total).
- The water sector (with 16 companies owning or managing 40,000 ha of SSSI) has the biggest direct influence.

Osprey. Mike Hammett/English Nature





The interfaces between the land, sea and people – St Mawes, Fal Estuary. Keith Hiscock/JNCC

Living within environmental limits

English Nature’s maritime strategy *Our coasts and seas: making space for people, industry and wildlife* is based on extensive dialogue with stakeholders and forms the basis for our ongoing advocacy on policy designed to conserve and restore our coastal and marine environments. The strategy is underpinned by the Government’s sustainable development principles:

- Other sectors with an influence on SSSIs include transport, construction and building materials, electricity, leisure, entertainment and hotels, and steel and other metals.
- 71% of sites owned/managed by companies are in favourable condition (the Government target is 95% by 2010).
- Agriculture has, by far, the biggest impact on SSSIs in terms of land use. Although sites are primarily owned by individual farmers, food producers and retailers have a key role to play through the supply chain.

Target 2010: The condition of England’s SSSIs in 2005 owned and managed by business

Members of a Watch group construct an otter holt at Low Barns Nature Reserve as part of the Mineral Valleys Project. Dave Long/Durham Wildlife Trust



- Living within environmental limits.
- Ensuring a strong, healthy and just society (meeting the needs of current and future generations).
- Promoting good governance (stakeholder engagement).
- Using sound science responsibly (policy developed from the Maritime State of Nature report).
- Achieving a sustainable economy (efficient use of resources).

The maritime strategy is exemplary in promoting an ecosystems approach – integrating the management of land, water and living resources and promoting conservation. This approach recognises that people depend on healthy ecosystems and that there are limits to how much the environment can sustain social and economic pressures. If these ‘environmental limits’ are exceeded the integrity of natural systems break down and they become less productive (for example, the catastrophic decline of fish stocks on the Grand Banks of Canada). www.english-nature.org.uk/science/coasts_and_seas/default.asp

Environment led regeneration for local communities

West County Durham is an area steeped in a rich social, industrial and natural heritage. The Mineral Valleys Project, which covers an area of 89,000 hectares aims to use environment-led regeneration to help local communities. The Mineral Valleys Partnership – a combination of 50 businesses, statutory, community and voluntary organisations, led by English Nature and supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund, has put together a £5.2 million project over five years. Fourteen separate, but connected, initiatives aim to regenerate the natural, social and industrial heritage of the area, giving local people the opportunity to take part and develop new skills. Other initiatives encourage environmental and geological tourism to boost the local economy. www.mvp.org.uk

For more information on English Nature’s Sustainable Development Policy please contact Helen Doran, Sustainability Adviser, English Nature
Tel: 01733 455206
e-mail: helen.doran@english-nature.org.uk

Environmental performance

We will work to achieve more improvements in environmental management by adopting a certifiable environmental management system

“As an environmental organisation we must demonstrate good practice and leadership in environmental management. We are fortunate that many employees within English Nature are environmentally aware and must capitalise on this enthusiasm by working systematically to minimise our footprint. This will enable our employees to work in an organisation that respects their environmental values.”

Phil Newby, Director of Communications

We recognise that the environmental management of our operations is a fundamental part of our contribution to sustainable development. Our planned direct expenditure on resources and business management for 2004/5 is over £1 million and over £800,000 is allocated for projects relating to vehicle replacement, office accommodation, environmental

management, video-conferencing, PC replacement and office equipment (Business Plan 2004/5).

English Nature's environmental policy

We will conduct our own activities and operations to reflect best environmental practice and implement an environmental management system to pursue sustainability, continual improvement and the prevention of pollution. In particular, we will:

- Comply with all applicable legal and other requirements.
- Identify environmental aspects and prioritise action to reduce them.
- Set challenging targets to reduce our environmental impacts and regularly review progress.

- Raise awareness of the environment amongst our employees through training, our environmental co-ordinators network and communication of environmental performance.
- Report annually on our progress and performance, making this available both within the office and externally.
- Undertake regular management reviews to ensure that our environmental management system remains effective.

Andy Brown, Chief Executive, English Nature, January 2005

Our approach to reporting on environmental management is based on five key indicators that reflect our main environmental impacts as an organisation. It covers our head office in Peterborough (Northminster House) with over 400 employees and, where we have data, the operational activities of our 22 Area Teams.

Issue: Climate change

Indicator 1: Energy use and emissions of carbon dioxide

A 'carbon footprint' represents our climate change impacts in terms of the total amount of greenhouse gases we produce, measured in units of carbon dioxide (CO₂). Many of our activities generate greenhouse gases (heating, lighting, office equipment and business travel) which contribute to accelerating global warming and climate change. As an organisation we recognise that to tackle climate change successfully we need to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions.

Peter Wakely/English Nature



The graph illustrates that our consumption has increased by 156922 kWh in the reporting year 2004/5. The average consumption for 2004/5 was 1276/kWh per employee (based on 1,008 employees and excludes NNRs). Despite investments in energy efficient lighting and purchasing energy star rated IT equipment the results are disappointing. The introduction of video conferencing, whilst reducing the impact of our business travel, will account for some increase in this consumption. (Conversion factors taken from Defra *Guidelines for Company Reporting on Greenhouse Gas Emissions*).

Green electricity

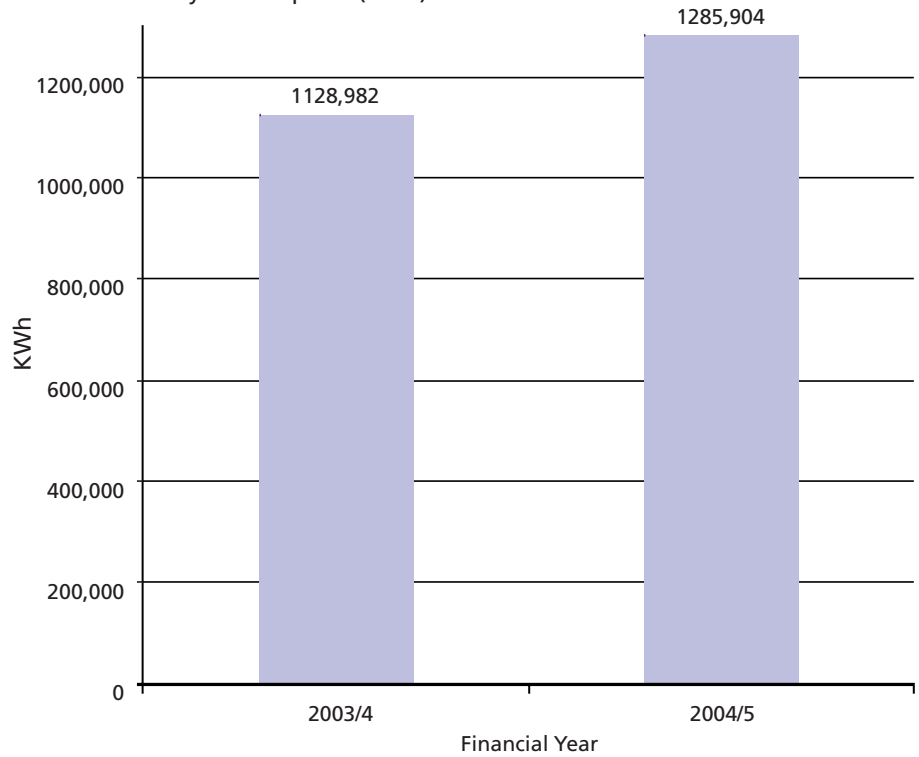
In 2002 we awarded a contract to Scottish and Southern Electricity to supply all our offices with 100% green electricity from renewable energy sources. This move was in recognition that renewable energy has less environmental impact than traditional power generation which often uses fossil fuels such as gas, oil or coal as the primary energy source. This demonstrates our commitment to reducing our organisational contribution to global climate change and has led to us offsetting 1,038 tonnes of indirect CO₂ emissions between financial year 2003–2005.

Gas consumption

Gas predominately provides heating for our offices and forms a significant proportion of our energy use.

Gas consumption data excludes sub offices and properties where gas is included in service charges. In 2004/5 gas consumption for the offices (shown in graphs) was 830161 kWh contributing to 158 tonnes of indirect CO₂ emissions. The second graph shows gas consumption per m² of floor space (Gross Internal Area (GIA)).

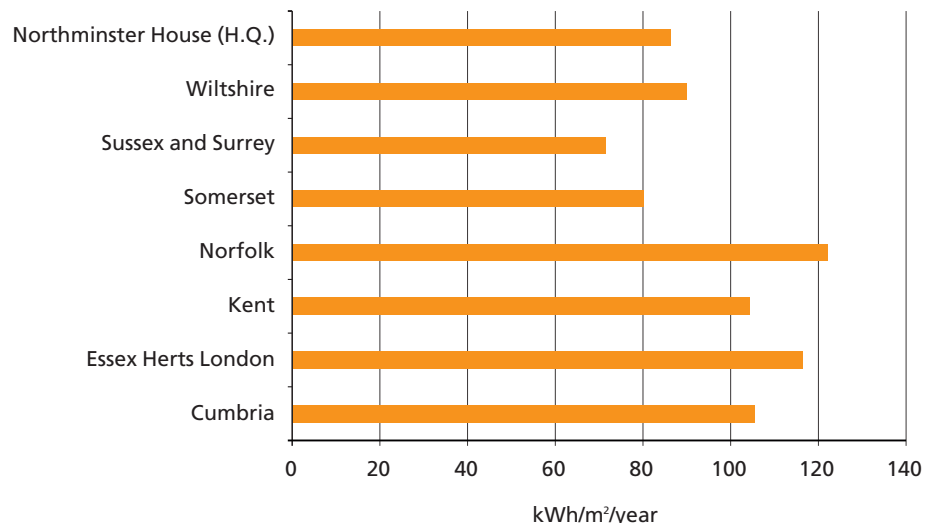
Total electricity consumption (KWh)



Total office gas consumption 2004/5



Gas consumption (kWh/m²) 2004/5





English Nature LPG car. David Williams/English Nature

Cycling

Cycling is encouraged through the provision of bicycle cages and showers for employees. Some Area Teams have invested in mountain bikes in order to navigate National Nature Reserves, while others operate a pool bicycle for short journeys.

Defensive Driver training

This training is available for all employees who travel on English Nature business. Since 2002 a number of employees have taken advantage of the voluntary training programme.

Integrated Business Travel Policy

English Nature's Integrated Business Travel Policy (July 2002) aims to minimise the impact of our business travel on the environment. This is made available through our intranet site and employees are encouraged to consider its principles. For example, environmental impacts can be lessened by selecting meeting locations easily accessible by public transport and unnecessary mileage can be reduced through video conferencing.

Transport

Transport-related environmental issues continue to grow in importance as current transport patterns in the UK are unsustainable.

Business travel, whether by car, train or aeroplane consumes energy derived from fossil fuels. Fossil fuels are a finite resource and the combustion of fossil-fuel derivatives, such as diesel and petrol, is a major source of greenhouse gas emissions.

Other impacts resulting from our business travel include congestion, noise and air pollution; these affect people's health and the wider environment. Commuting and lengthy business trips can have a significant impact on the work/life balance of employees. Travel options available to staff, and the choices made by them, have implications for a wide range of sustainable development issues and we have addressed these through five key measures:

- video conferencing
- cycling
- 'Defensive Driver' training
- an Integrated Business Travel Policy
- developing Travel Plans

Video conferencing

Video conference facilities have now been installed in Northminster House and all our Area Team offices. This has resulted in a reduction in business travel. We currently have no accurate data to report on the mileage reduction this has led to, but this will be addressed in subsequent years. Training has been provided for teams in the use of the technology and it is expected that the benefits of video conferencing will increase as staff become more comfortable with it.

Video-conferencing. Saville Audio-visual/English Nature



Travel Plan

We have committed resources to develop a Travel Plan for Northminster House in partnership with Peterborough City Council's Travel Choice Project. A Travel Plan is a package of measures/initiatives tailored to an organisation's site that promote more sustainable travel choices. Our Area Teams are setting the standard within English Nature with

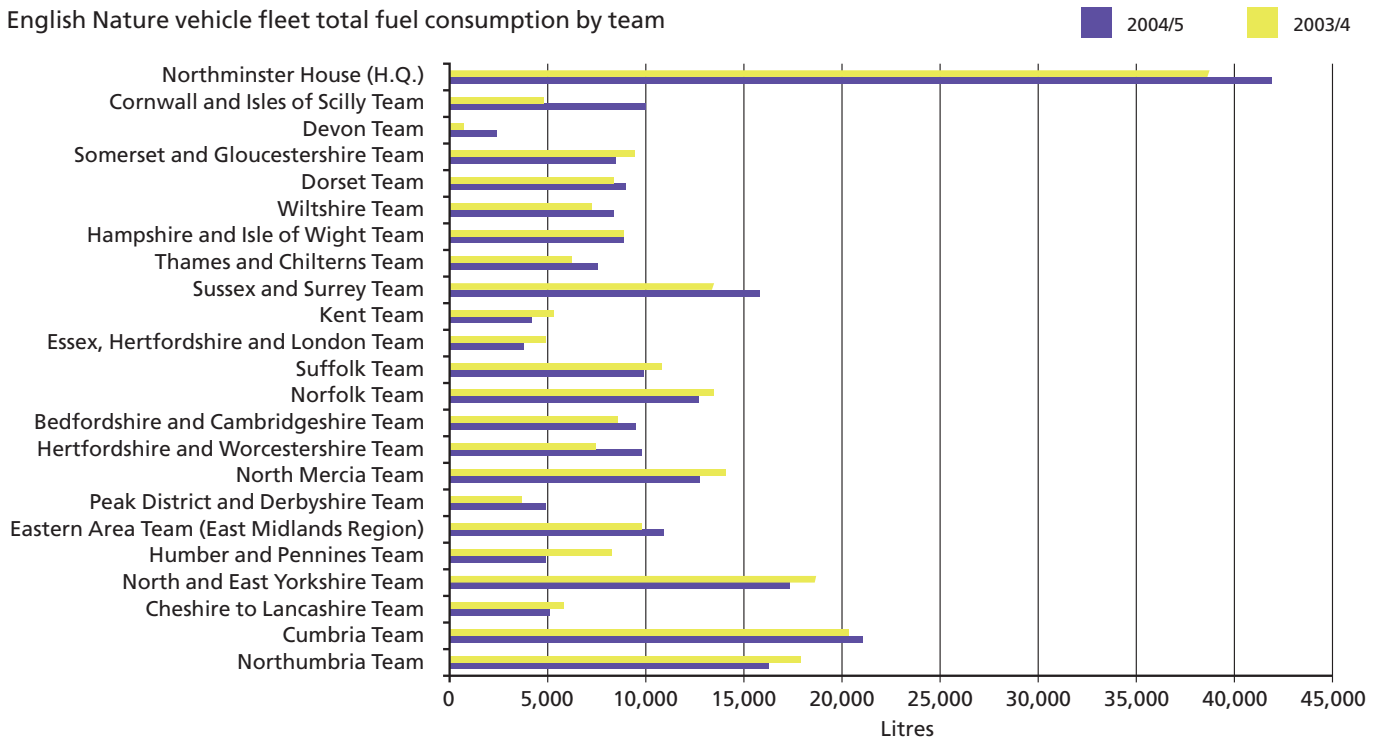
eight teams already having a full 'green' Travel Plan in operation.

Fuel consumption data excludes employees using their own cars for business use, public transport and air travel. In 2004/5 the total fuel consumption of our road vehicle fleet was 255,973 litres (a combination of Liquid Petroleum Gas and petrol and diesel) resulting in a 3.5% increase on the previous year (247,278 litres).

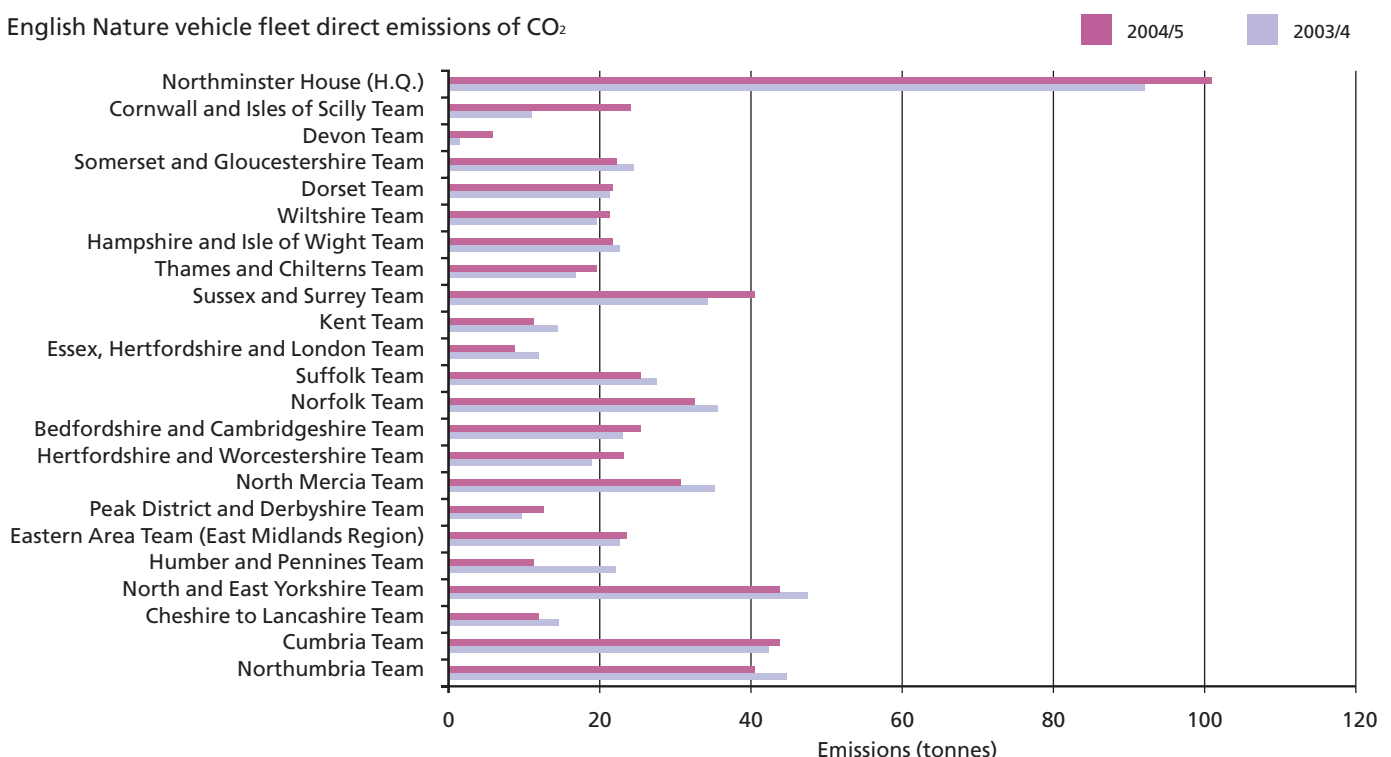
In 2004/5, the percentage of Liquid Petroleum Gas/dual fuel vehicles in our road fleet reached 46%, compared to 25% in 2003/4.

In 2004/5 our road vehicle fleet emitted 623 tonnes of direct CO₂, representing an increase of 1.3% on the previous year. (Conversion factors for LPG, petrol and diesel are taken from Defra's *Guidelines for company reporting on gas emissions.*)

English Nature vehicle fleet total fuel consumption by team



English Nature vehicle fleet direct emissions of CO₂





Compost bin. David Williams/English Nature

Issue: Waste

Indicator 2: Waste management and waste minimisation

We need to move away from landfill towards more proactive and sustainable waste management. The Government set out its vision for sustainable waste management in the *Waste Strategy 2000*. This document illustrates how the greatest priority should be given to ‘reduction’ – the most sustainable option; and the least priority given to ‘disposal’ – the least sustainable option. Waste management within English Nature is based on this principle with most consideration given to options at the top of the scale; only moving down the scale when no alternative is available.

Waste hierarchy

- waste reduction
- re-use
- recycling/composting
- energy recovery with heat and power
- landfill

The initiatives described below and the figures for waste arisings are based on information from our head office – Northminster House. Comparable figures are not available for our Area Teams but all our offices are proactive in reducing and recycling waste.

Re-use and recycling initiatives in Northminster House

- Refurbishing and recycling redundant IT equipment is an important part of our approach to sustainable waste management. All redundant IT equipment is collected centrally and then passed to a local non-profit making charity for the benefit of the local community. Skilled volunteers refurbish the computers and associated equipment. Where this is not possible, component parts are recycled.
- All waste office paper and cardboard is collected and taken to a local commercial recycling facility.
- There are no individual waste bins. We have centrally located colour-coded bins for glass, cans, plastics and general waste. This system aims to encourage the responsible segregation of waste by employees and has been successfully running since 2002.

Waste arisings

Northminster House	2003/4	2004/5
Paper and cardboard recycling	12.9 tonnes	15.5 tonnes
Cans (steel & aluminium) recycling*	No data	0.06 tonnes
Glass recycling*	No data	0.03 tonnes
Plastics recycling*	No data	0.2 tonnes
General office waste**	No data	15.6 tonnes
IT equipment sent for recycling/re-use	72 items	72 items

* Figures calculated on number bags recycled x average weights plastics 0.8kg; cans 1.2kg; glass 0.5kg

** Figure calculated using average waste removal volumes and DEFRA volume to mass ratio (DEFRA Company reporting guidelines on waste)

- Green waste from grounds maintenance is composted on-site together with organic kitchen waste and used as a soil improver for landscaping.
- Toner cartridges, spent batteries and fluorescent tubes are sent to registered recycling facilities.

Fluorescent tube and battery recycling schemes were established in 2005 and data on these will be available in the next reporting period.

Northminster House: reams purchased



Paper consumption

We have reduced our paper consumption with a number of initiatives:

- Investment in a digital reprographic copier (commissioned in 2003) which enables hard-copy reports to be produced on demand rather than stock-piled.
- We encourage the use of electronic forms of communication, particularly through our comprehensive Intranet site which is the main repository of information for English Nature staff.
- We purchase Evolve 100% recycled photocopier paper and Treesaver envelopes made from 100% post consumer waste.

The data on paper use is based on number of reams purchased and includes card. The results are a significant improvement on the previous year and show that our initiatives to reduce paper

consumption, such as installing printers capable of double-sided printing and the increased use of electronic forms of communication, are working well. Total paper use in 2004/5 was 13 reams per employee per year.

Issue: Water consumption

Indicator 3: Water conservation

Over the last two decades the demand for water in the UK has reached unprecedented levels. The Water Act 2003 places a duty on all public bodies to “take into account, where relevant, the desirability of conserving water supplied or to be supplied to premises.” This means that all public bodies should reduce the water used on their premises to an efficient level.

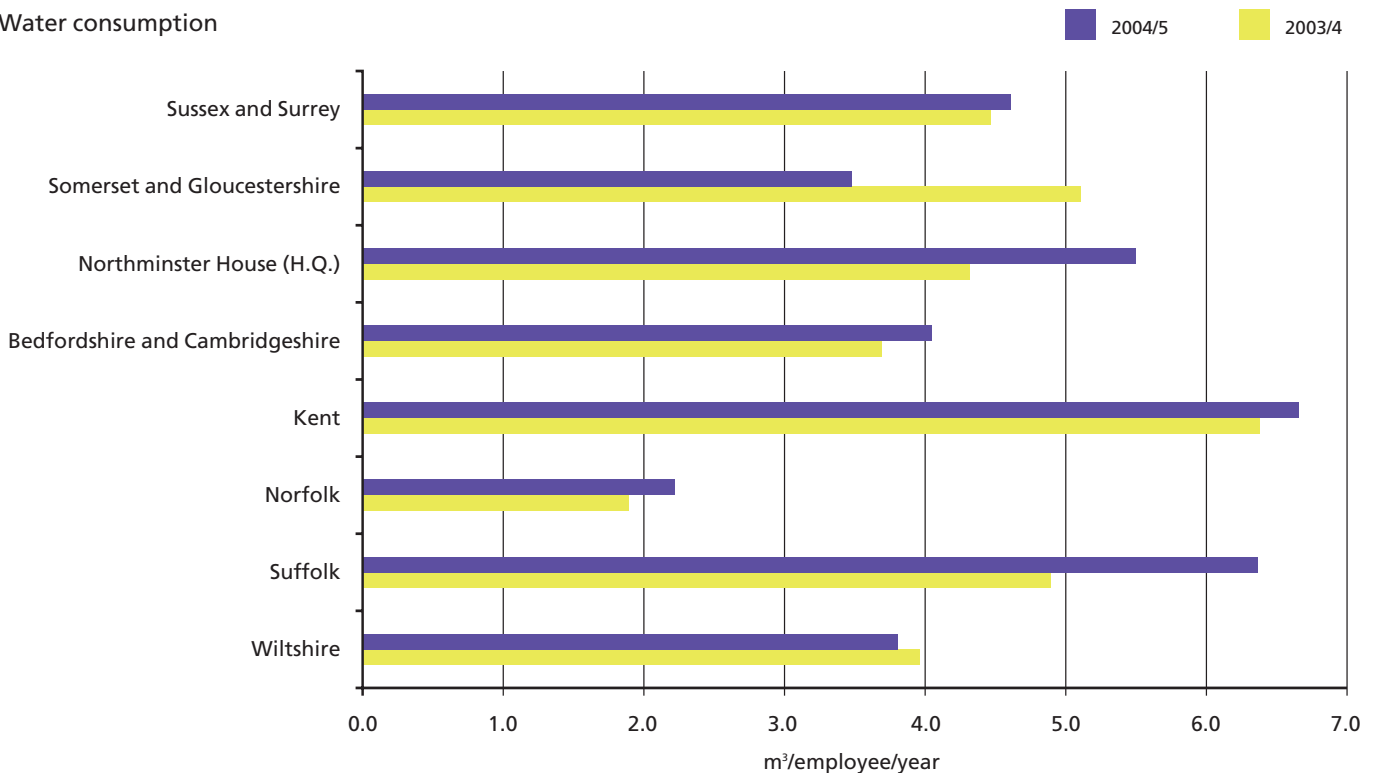
Over two-thirds of water use in the average office takes place in the washroom. English Nature’s toilet refurbishment programme in Northminster House presented an opportunity to address water efficiency. Old style toilets (that use nine litres per flush) were

replaced with new efficient six litre low-flush toilets, representing a saving of 33% on water use. In addition, ‘motion sensitive’ taps were fitted to restrict unnecessary flow. In 2004/5 this refurbishment, along with other measures, led to Northminster House successfully reducing average water consumption to 4.3 m³ per employee per year. This is well below 6.4 m³ per year which is considered best practice for a typical office space.

All teams take their environmental responsibilities seriously and endeavour to conserve water through no-cost or low-cost initiatives and, where practicable, have adopted new technologies.

Water consumption data is only available for offices with water meters (and excludes sub-offices and National Nature Reserves). The data illustrates that all offices are using water efficiently and that in 2004/5 all our offices fell within the best practice figure of 6.4 m³ per employee per year (best practice figures from the Watermark Project).

Water consumption



Issue: Environmental performance and continual improvement

Indicator 4: Environmental Management Systems – ISO 14001

ISO 14001 is an internationally accepted standard providing a framework that allows organisations to consistently control their significant impacts on the environment, reduce risks of pollution incidents, ensure compliance with environmental legislation and continually improve operations.

An Environmental Management System (EMS) will formalise English Nature's environmental management programme and ensure that we remain focused on our main impacts. It will provide a toolkit to track past activity and

help to identify objectives and targets on which we can focus on in the future. Over a number of years we have made significant improvements in our environmental performance.

Implementing an EMS will improve on-going maintenance and monitoring of our environmental management programme, ensure that key issues are raised with senior management and that the momentum for continuous improvement is maintained.

In English Nature senior management is committed to the implementation of an EMS to the ISO 14001 standard. Resources have been allocated to the project and it is envisaged that English Nature/*Natural England* will be in a position of readiness for the first phase of roll-out of the standard by 2006/7.

Wind generator for work base (English Nature Humber & Pennines team). Steve Hiner/English Nature



Issue: Legal Compliance

Indicator 5: Incidents of and fines for non-compliance with applicable national, regional and local regulations

We are pleased to report that we have had no reported incidents or non-compliance issues in the last Financial Year.

In addition to our five key indicators, our purchasing policy on timber has been revised and our successful Environmental Challenge Fund for Area Teams has helped stimulate a variety of local projects.

Environmental purchasing policy

The Government's Timber Procurement Policy requires all Central Government Departments and their agencies to actively seek to buy products from legal and sustainable sources. As a non-departmental public body we too can support the sustainable timber agenda and we are committed to procuring only Forestry Stewardship Council (FSC) certified products (or products approved by similar schemes) and specifying FSC timber in contracts.

Environmental Challenge Fund

Resource efficiency is a key component of environmental management practice, and building relationships both inside and outside an organisation are key to delivering environmental improvements. We have established an Environmental Challenge Fund to enable teams to bid for the purchase of products that demonstrate an environmental or sustainability benefit, from a central budget. The aim is to capitalise on the enthusiasm of teams and encourage individuals to consider sustainable options when making purchasing decisions.

Environmental Challenge Fund

Successful bids 2003/04

Team	Project	Value
Wiltshire	Folding bike	£500
	Solar powered electric fencing	£500
	Intelligent lighting (Parsonage office)	£1,000
	Shredder	£100
	Roof Insulation and clear panels	£500
Peak District	Water butt	£90
	Compost bin	£35
	Bat boxes	£110
	Plants	£100
Humber to Pennines	Energy saving light bulbs	£35
	Recycling containers	£30
	Wormery	£80
	Wind generator for work-base	£3,000
	Rainwater harvesting system	£800
Cornwall	Provision of shower facilities	£3,000
Kent	Bike and carry bag	£450
	Bike stand and fitting	£250
	Water butt	£150
	Radiator valves	£150
Essex, Hertfordshire & London	Water meter	£50
Suffolk	Installation of mains chilled water system	£1,948
Devon	Double glazing (Exeter office)	£3,300
	UV water filter (Yarner Wood)	£825
Northumbria	Two mountain bikes and equipment	£765
	Wormery	£90
	Heated clothes rail	£535
Thames & Chilterns	Sensor for urinal	£400
Cumbria	Presence detector to external lighting	£200
Bedfordshire & Cambridgeshire	Double glazing (Ham Lane)	£6,500
North and East Yorkshire	Mountain bike	£850
	Intelligent lighting (Leyburn office)	£1,225
Sussex & Surrey	Waterproof clothing	£700
	Folding Bike	£500
Property & Facilities Management Unit (PFMU)	Environmental Coordinators Conference	£5,232

For more information on English Nature's Environmental Management Programme please contact Marie Beech, Environmental Management Officer, Tel: 01733 455572 e-mail marie.beech@english-nature.org.uk.

Social reporting

“...it is clear why policies to promote better quality environments also have the capacity to have long-term social and economic benefits. Often those people who are most economically and socially disadvantaged also live in degraded environments...”

Securing the Future, Defra (March 2005)

Social policy

English Nature’s social policy work is led through our People and Nature programme. Our People and Nature Position Statement (August 2003) shows why we think it is important to bring people and nature closer together, and recognises that:

- Nature improves the quality of our lives and everyone is entitled to experience it.
- Everyone should have easy access to nature, in ways that suit their individual situation and abilities.
- Most people value everyday nature rather than nature that is rare or hard to see, and our contact with it can take place anywhere and at any time – at home, on the way to work or school, or on holiday.
- Improving local environments for people and nature will bring economic, social and health benefits to all.
- People need support and encouragement to make better decisions for the environment.
- Information about nature should be accessible and should contribute to lifelong learning.

The full Position Statement can be accessed at www.english-nature.org.uk/news/statement.asp?ID=42

In 2002, we undertook a consultation exercise that reached out to people and organisations

beyond the normal environmental community. The consultation highlighted important areas where social benefits were not realised due to poor access opportunities to ‘quality’ natural areas. The results showed that people were concerned about community engagement (14.7%), education (13.4%) and awareness of the natural environment (12.9%). These issues have shaped core parts of our programme.

A corporate strategy designed to improve our staff’s understanding of the need for stakeholders to participate and engage in decisions relating to nature conservation was adopted in 2004. This approach is fundamental to the UN ‘Aarhus’ convention on citizen’s rights to access environmental information, to participate in environmental decision-making, and to environmental justice; a convention to which the UK government is a signatory. The participative approach also supports three of the Government’s Chartermark public service principles:

- actively engaging customers, partners and staff to ensure services fit their needs;
- being fair and accessible to all; and
- contributing to quality of life in the communities where we work.

The strategy is being taken forward by a cross-organisation co-ordinating group, the focus initially being on staff training, mainly through a programme of in-house courses. New National Nature Reserve (NNR)

management planning guidelines include a section on community and stakeholder involvement, and sessions have been held at the NNR managers’ network meetings. Recent major stakeholder involvement projects have included the development of our maritime strategy and the designation of the Humber Estuary SSSI, among many smaller exercises. The ultimate aim is to bring stakeholder participation into the mainstream of our work.

We are also actively developing opportunities for disadvantaged groups to benefit from contacts with nature, such as:

- Working with Phoenix House Trust, a drug rehabilitation charity (which runs eco-therapy activities in the Derbyshire Dales and Castle Eden Dene NNRs) with clients undertaking challenging land-management activities.
- Working with the Prison Service’s pre-release resettlement programme. Offenders recently made wheelchair accessible paths and rest benches at Aston Rowant NNR. The programme has now been extended to Ribble Valley and Humberhead Levels NNRs.
- Organising a ‘Welcome to Nature’ marquee at the East of England ‘Mela Festival’ (in partnership with other local environmental organisations) to develop links with local ethnic minority communities, to increase their enjoyment of nature and to raise awareness of possible environmental careers.

- Working with the Liverpool Green Health partnership which has drawn together the City Council and Primary Care Trust and local environmental groups. English Nature is complementing community-level activities by funding the production and distribution of co-ordinated information to tell residents what is available in the city and surrounding countryside. We are also supporting the BTCV in its efforts to start Green Gym events in the Everton area.

- Working in close co-operation with the ‘Diversity Review’ a project led by the Countryside Agency, as part of Defra’s rural strategy, to investigate wider access opportunities to the countryside and natural outdoors.

“Natural resources are vital to our existence. Our health and well-being are inextricably linked to the quality of our air, water, soils and biological resources.”

Securing the Future, Defra (March 2005).

Health Concordat 2005

To make the most of the unique part the outdoors plays in people’s health, English Nature (in partnership with Countryside Agency, Sports England, the Forestry Commission, and Association of National Parks Authorities) has signed a concordat of joint working to promote outdoor health. The concordat is recognised in the Department of Health Physical Activity Action Plan (2005). It sets out a vision and actions designed to improve people’s health and wellbeing through opportunities to:

- Be active.
- Relax and enjoy the view.
- Spend time with friends and family and meet new people.
- Raise spirits and stimulate the senses.
- Have fun and enjoyment.

“The Outdoor Health Concordat will encourage active use of the outdoors to improve people’s health and well-being”

Choosing activity: a physical activity action plan, Department of Health (2005)

In addition to our health and wellbeing policy work we support targeted on-the-ground initiatives. For example:

Fit the natural way

We have been working with the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers (BTCV) on the development of the Green Gyms programme so that it reaches more disadvantaged communities. Green gyms are run by the BTCV as a way of improving the health, wellbeing and social networks of individuals while benefiting NNRs and other wildlife-rich sites. The gyms are open to people of all ages and from all backgrounds, some of whom have been recommended to attend by health professionals.

Peterborough Mela festival. Chris Gomersall/English Nature





Green gym. BTCV

The gyms offer regular sessions of conservation activities and people can join for an hour or more on a weekly or twice weekly basis. English Nature and BTCV have set up five green gyms on NNRs which target specific communities in the East Midlands. BTCV has 50 other groups running, many in socially deprived areas. (www.btcv.org/greengym)

Healthier outlooks in the North East

English Nature and the North East Health Development Agency both recognise that walking is a great way of building exercise into everyday life and for discovering the natural world. We have published a guide, *Healthier outlooks – exploring National Nature Reserves in the*

North East on foot 2004, detailing ten walks from four NNRs in the North East region. Copies of the guide are distributed through GPs' surgeries. The guide describes how difficult each walk is, gives a brief description of the natural highlights to be encountered, and tells you how to reach each reserve by private and public transport. (www.english-nature.org.uk/about/teams/Pubs.asp?PageNo=8&Id=10)

Many of our 215 NNRs are open to the public and our 35 'spotlight' reserves offer the best opportunities for visitors to experience wildlife. You can find full details about your nearest NNR through our website (www.english-nature.org.uk/special/nnr/nnr_search.asp)

Wildspace!

Wildspace! is an English Nature initiative, funded by the Big Lottery Fund, to help local communities create more Local Nature Reserves and enhance existing ones. The green spaces within our towns, cities and countryside are important, not only because they support a rich and vibrant variety of wildlife, but because they make the places where we live and work healthier and less stressful. Wildspace! empowers communities to make their Local Nature Reserves better for wildlife and better used by people – helping them to understand and appreciate the value of the natural world on their doorsteps.

The scheme has awarded 169 grants for just over £7 million covering 151 projects, employing 90 Community Liaison Officers, 7 land purchases and 141 capital grants. (www.english-nature.org.uk/special/lnr/lnr_search.asp)

Volunteers

English Nature recognises that people benefit from contact with the natural world. Even if people do not get actively involved in nature conservation, they usually appreciate the beauty of a forest, the tranquillity of a country lane or the power and energy of the ocean. Where possible, we promote our NNRs as places for people; places to enjoy nature, to take some exercise, or to escape from the pressures of bustling towns and cities.

English Nature needs the support of people who live and work near NNRs in order to successfully protect and enhance these sites. We encourage people from all walks of life to take an interest in, and be active in supporting, nature conservation where they live and work.

Volunteers are ambassadors for English Nature, gaining trust and respect from the public on our behalf. They help to spread the word about English Nature and the special sites and species we protect. That message is all the more powerful because our volunteers do what they do simply because they want to. By involving volunteers, English Nature benefits from a huge range of new skills. We are also able to increase the amount of time spent on protecting nature – we have estimated that, in total, our volunteers give around 7,500 days of support per year. Further information on opportunities for volunteers is available on our website.

Health and Safety

English Nature's Health and Safety Policy is founded on the following key principles:

- All employees have a right to a safe and healthy place of work which can only be achieved by the commitment and co-operation of everyone.
- We all have a responsibility for those staff, volunteers and contractors who work and report to us.
- We must all accept personal responsibility of our own safety and that of others who may be affected by our acts or omissions.
- We must accept that the majority of accidents and occupational diseases are preventable and that reporting and investigation of them is a vital part of the prevention strategy.

- No job or operation should be started unless it can be completed or terminated in a safe condition, through the use of proper job planning, procedures and the risk assessment process.
- We must all be aware of hazards and take steps to control the ensuing risks.

Our key principles and policy on Health and Safety can be accessed through our *Corporate Governance Manual* www.english-nature.org.uk/about/pdf/CGMANUAL1.pdf

Our policy is put into practice through a *Health and Safety Manual* and we publish a *Health and Safety Annual Report* on our website. Our report for 2004/5 is available from www.english-nature.org.uk/about/meetings/GCP0526.pdf

Equal Opportunities

English Nature is committed to being an Equal Opportunities Employer. Our goal is to build a diverse workforce in a fair and equitable organisation. It is our policy that all eligible people will have an equal opportunity for employment irrespective of their sex, sexual orientation, marital status, age, disability, race, colour, religion, nationality, ethnic or national origins. For more information please contact our Enquiry Service for *Equal opportunities in English Nature* (2001). An Executive Summary of the *Human Resources Annual*

Report 2004/5 is available at www.english-nature.org.uk/about/meetings/GCP0515a.pdf and the latest employment figures for gender and ethnicity are available in the associated *Human Resources Annual Report 2004/5, General Committee of Council Paper GC P05 15 (Appendix 1)*. Please contact English Nature's Enquiry Service for a copy of GC P05 15 Appendix 1.

Access to information

English Nature is committed to promoting and actively developing, a culture of openness, transparency and customer focus.

These principles are defined in English Nature's Access to Information Statement. This statement sets out our commitment to our staff, stakeholders and the wider public about how we set about creating a more open and transparent public service organisation. Information on the Statement, our publications scheme, Enquiry Service, records management and complaints and suggestions is available from www.english-nature.org.uk/about/access/

For more on information on our social policy please contact Judith Hanna, Social Policy Adviser, Tel: 0207 3404870 e-mail: judith.hanna@english-nature.org.uk. For our programme related to health please contact Dave Stone, People and Wildlife Advisor, Tel: 01733 455118 e-mail: dave.stone@english-nature.org.uk.

Assurance statement

SGS United Kingdom Limited's report on sustainability activities in English Nature's Sustainable Development Report 2004 / 05

Nature and scope of the Assurance

SGS United Kingdom Limited was commissioned by English Nature to conduct an independent assurance of their Sustainable Development Report 2004/05. The scope of the assurance, based on the SGS Sustainability Report Assurance methodology, included the text, graphs and data in accompanying tables, contained in the Environmental Performance section of the report from page 12 to page 20. No other information in the report was included in this assurance process.

The information in the Sustainability Report of English Nature and its presentation are the responsibility of the directors and the management of English Nature. SGS United Kingdom Limited has not been involved in the preparation of any of the material included in the Report.

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the text, data, graphs and statements within the scope of verification set out below.

The SGS Group has developed a set of protocols for the Assurance of Sustainability Reports based on current best practice guidance provided in the Global Reporting Initiative Sustainability Reporting Guidelines (2002) and the AA1000 Assurance Standard (2003). These protocols follow differing levels of Assurance depending on the reporting history and capabilities of the reporting organisation.

This report has been assured using our Level 1 protocol for content veracity. The assurance comprised a combination of interviews with relevant employees, documentation and record review.

Statement of Independence and Competence

The SGS Group of companies is the world leader in inspection, testing and verification, operating in more than 140 countries and providing services including management systems and service certification; quality, environmental, social and ethical auditing and training; environmental, social and sustainability report assurance. SGS United Kingdom Limited affirm our independence from English Nature, being free from bias and conflicts of interest with the organisation, its subsidiaries and stakeholders.

The assurance team was assembled based on their knowledge, experience and qualifications for this assignment, and included EMAS verifiers and auditors registered with IEMA.

Assurance Opinion

On the basis of the methodology described and the verification work performed, we are satisfied that the information and data contained within the Sustainability report 2004/05 is reliable and provides a fair and balanced representation of English Nature's sustainability activities during 2004/05.

We believe that English Nature has chosen an appropriate level of assurance for this stage in their reporting.

Signed:

For and on behalf of SGS United Kingdom Limited



Pauline Earl

Business Manager, Systems & Services Certification
SGS United Kingdom Limited

January 2006



English Nature, the Rural Development Service and the Countryside Agency. Working in partnership to conserve and enhance our landscapes and natural environment, to promote countryside access and recreation as well as public well-being, now and for future generations.

This is one of a range of publications published by:
External Relations Team
English Nature
Northminster House
Peterborough PE1 1UA

www.english-nature.org.uk

© English Nature 2006

Printed on Evolution Satin,
75% recycled post-consumer waste
paper, elemental chlorine free.

ISBN 1 85716 931 X

Catalogue code CORP2.9

Designed and produced by
statusdesign.co.uk.

Front cover photographs:
Top left: Compost bin. David Williams/English Nature
Middle left: Peter Wakely/English Nature
Bottom left: English Nature LPG car. David Williams/
English Nature
Main: Green gym. BTCV



Awarded for excellence