

National Nature Reserves

THE FUTURE

A policy statement
JANUARY 2000



This is one of a range of publications produced by Publicity and Marketing,
English Nature, Northminster House, Peterborough PE1 1UA.

“The expression “nature reserve” means land managed for the purpose -

- a. of providing, under suitable conditions and control, special opportunities for the study of, and research into, matters relating to the fauna and flora of Great Britain and the physical conditions in which they live, and for the study of geological and physiographical features of special interest in the area, or
- b. of preserving flora, fauna or geological or physiographical features of special interest in the area,

or for both those purposes.”

National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act, 1949

“Where the Nature Conservancy Council are satisfied that any land which -

- a. is being managed as a nature reserve under an agreement entered into with the Council;
 - b. is held by the Council and is being managed by them as a nature reserve; or
 - c. is held by an approved body and is being managed by that body as a nature reserve,
- is of national importance, they may declare that land to be a national nature reserve.”

Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981

“We will:

implement an effective site safeguard programme that fulfils international obligations and contributes to wildlife gain through sustaining and enhancing SSSIs and NNRs.”

Corporate Plan, 1999, English Nature

“The NNR series includes the best examples of England’s wildlife. Our aim is to manage the series to the highest standards, demonstrate good management practice including value for money, provide opportunities for people to experience wildlife, and provide opportunities for applied research.”

Work Plan 1996-97, English Nature

“Our priority actions include a commitment to increase the size, use and value of NNRs.”

Beyond 2000 Strategy, English Nature 1997

“We are convinced that the establishment, maintenance and management of NNRs remains a key statutory function for the conservation agencies.”

Sites of Special Scientific Interest Better Protection and Management, DETR 1998

National Nature Reserves (as at January 2000) and English Nature Local Teams

Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire & Northamptonshire Team
(Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Northamptonshire and Luton)
Ham Lane House
Ham Lane
Nene Park
Orton Waterville
Peterborough
Cambridgeshire PE2 5UR
Tel: 01733 405850
Fax: 01733 394093
E-mail: beds.cambs.nhants@english-nature.org.uk

Barnack Hills & Holes NNR
Castor Hanglands NNR
Collyweston Great Wood & Eastern Hornstocks NNR
Holme Fen NNR
King's Wood, Heath & Reach NNR
Monks Wood NNR
Upwood Meadows NNR
Wicken Fen NNR
Woodwalton Fen NNR

Cumbria Team
Juniper House
Murley Moss
Oxenholme Road
Kendal
Cumbria LA9 7RL
Tel: 01539 792800
Fax: 01539 792830
E-mail: cumbria@english-nature.org.uk

Bassenthwaite Lake NNR
Bilham Bog NNR
Clatsorpe Fell NNR
Cliburn Moss NNR
Drumburgh Moss NNR
Duddon Mosses NNR
Finglandridge Woods NNR
Gosk Bank NNR
Great Asby Scar NNR
Hallenua Moor NNR
High Lays NNR
North Fen NNR
North Walney NNR
Park Wood NNR
Roadsea Wood & Mosses NNR
Rusland Moss NNR
Sandy Beck Meadows NNR
Smaradale Gill NNR
South Solway Mosses NNR
Tarn Moss NNR
Thorhill Moss & Meadows NNR
Whitbarrow NNR

Devon, Cornwall & Isles of Scilly Team
The Old Mill House
37 North Street
Okehampton
Devon EX20 1AR
Tel: 01837 55045
Fax: 01837 55046
E-mail: devon@english-nature.org.uk
or *Cornwall Office*
Trevint House
Strangways Villas
Truro
Cornwall TR1 2PA
Tel: 01872 262550
Fax: 01872 262551
E-mail: cornwall@english-nature.org.uk

Axonouth-Lyme Regis Undercliffs NNR
Black-a-Tor Copse NNR
Dendles Wood NNR
Dunsdon Farm NNR
East Dartmoor Woods & Heaths NNR
Golitha Falls NNR
Goss Moor NNR
Lundy MNR
Slapton Ley NNR
The Lizard NNR
Wistman's Wood NNR

Dorset Team
(Bournemouth, Dorset & Poole)
Slepe Farm, Arne
Wareham
Dorset BH20 5BN
Tel: 01929 556688
Fax: 01929 554752
E-mail: dorset@english-nature.org.uk

Arne Recliffs NNR
Hambleton Hill NNR
Hartland Moor NNR
Hog Cliff NNR
Holt Heath NNR
Holton Heath NNR
Morden Bog NNR
Stoborough Heath NNR
Sturland & Godlington Heath NNR
Valley of Stones NNR

East Midlands Team
(Leicester City, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, Nottinghamshire & Rutland)
The Maltings
Wharf Road
Grantham
Lincolnshire NG31 6BH
Tel: 01476 568431
Fax: 01476 570927
E-mail: ingridg@english-nature.org.uk

Bardney Limestoods NNR
Gribbs Meadows NNR
Gibraltar Point NNR
Muston Meadows NNR
Saltfleetby-Theoddtorpe NNR
The Wash NNR

Essex, Hertfordshire & London Team
Colchester Office
Harbour House
Hythe Quay
Colchester
Essex CO2 8JF
Tel: 01206 796666
Fax: 01206 794466
E-mail: essex.herts@english-nature.org.uk
or *London Office*
Ormond House
26/27 Boswell Street
London WC1N 3JZ
Tel: 0207 831 6922
Fax: 0207 404 3369
E-mail: london@english-nature.org.uk

Blackwater Estuary NNR
Brosbourne Woods NNR
Cohne Estuary NNR
Dengie NNR
Hales Wood NNR
Hamford Water NNR
Hatfield Forest NNR
Leigh NNR
Ruislip Woods NNR

Hampshire & Isle of Wight Team
(Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Portsmouth & Southampton)
1 Southampton Road
Lyndhurst
Hampshire SO43 7BU
Tel: 01703 283944
Fax: 01703 283834
E-mail: hants.iwight@english-nature.org.uk

Ashford Hangers NNR
Ashford Hill NNR
Beacon Hill NNR
Butser Hill NNR
Castle Bottom NNR
Kingston Great Common NNR
Netonon Harbour NNR
North Solent NNR
Old Winchester Hill NNR
Titchfield Haven NNR

Humber to Pennines Team
(East Riding of Yorkshire (area west of Goole), North East Lincolnshire, North Lincolnshire, South Yorkshire & West Yorkshire)
Bull Ring House
Northgate
Wakefield
West Yorkshire WF1 1HD
Tel: 01924 387010
Fax: 01924 201507
E-mail: humber.pennines@english-nature.org.uk

Humberhead Pastlands NNR

Kent Team
The Countryside Management Centre
Coldharbour Farm
Wye
Ashford
Kent TN25 5DB
Tel: 01233 812525
Fax: 01233 812520
E-mail: donna.hills@english-nature.org.uk

Blean Woods NNR
Dungeness NNR
Elmley NNR
Ham Street Woods NNR
High Halstow NNR
Lydden Temple Etwell NNR
Sandwich & Pegwell Bay NNR
Stodmarsh NNR
Swanscombe Skull Site NNR
The Swale NNR
Wye NNR

Norfolk Team
60 Bracondale
Norwich
Norfolk
NR1 2BE
Tel: 01603 620558
Fax: 01603 762552
E-mail: norfolk@english-nature.org.uk

Ant Broads & Marshes NNR
Blakeney NNR
Bure Marshes NNR
Calthorpe Broad NNR
Dersingham Bog NNR
Hickling Broad NNR
Holkham NNR
Holme Dunes NNR
Ludham - Potter Heigham NNR
Martham Broad NNR
Mid-Yare NNR
Roydon Common NNR
Scot's Head Island NNR
Swanton Novers NNR
Waeting Heath NNR
Winterton Dunes NNR

North & East Yorkshire Team
(East Riding of Yorkshire (excluding area west of Goole), Kingston-Upon-Hull & North Yorkshire)
Genesis 1
University Road
Heslington
York YO10 5ZQ
Tel: 01904 435500
Fax: 01904 435520
E-mail: york@english-nature.org.uk
or *Leayburn Office*
(Yorkshire Dales)
Thornborough Hall
Leayburn
North Yorkshire DL8 5ST
Tel: 01969 623447
Fax: 01969 624190
E-mail: leayburn@english-nature.org.uk

Duncombe Park NNR
Forge Valley Woods NNR
Ingleborough NNR
Ling Gill NNR
Lower Derwent Valley NNR
Malham Tarn NNR
Scoska Wood NNR
Spurn NNR

Northumbria Team
(Darlington, Durham, Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Northumberland, Redcar and Cleveland, Stockton-on-Tees, Tyne and Wear)
Stockfield Hall
Stockfield
Northumberland
NE43 7TN
Tel: 01661 845500
Fax: 01661 845501
E-mail: northumbria@english-nature.org.uk

Cassop Vale NNR
Castle Eden Dene NNR
Derwent Gorge & Muggleswick Woods NNR
Durham Coast NNR
Farne Islands NNR
Greenlee Lough NNR
Kielder Mires NNR
Kielderhead NNR
Lindisfarne NNR
Moor House - Upper Tessedale NNR
Muckle Moss NNR
Nesham Bog NNR
Teesmouth NNR
Thrislington NNR

North West Team
(North Cheshire, Lancashire, Merseyside & Greater Manchester)
Pier House
Warrington
Wigan
Lancashire WN3 4AL
Tel: 01942 820342
Fax: 01942 820364
E-mail: northwest@english-nature.org.uk

Ainsdale Sand Dunes NNR
Cabin Hill NNR
Gait Barrows NNR
Ribble Estuary NNR

Peak District & Derbyshire Team
(Peak District National Park, Derbyshire & Derby City)
Manor Barn
Over Haddon
Bakewell
Derbyshire DE45 1JE
Tel: 01629 815095
Fax: 01629 815091
E-mail: julieg@english-nature.org.uk

Derbyshire Dales NNR

Somerset Team
(South Gloucestershire, Bristol, Bath and North East Somerset and North Somerset)
Roughmoor
Bishop's Hull
Taunton
Somerset TA1 5AA
Tel: 01823 283211
Fax: 01823 272978
E-mail: janc@english-nature.org.uk

Barrington Hill NNR
Bridgwater Bay NNR
Dunkery & Horner Wood NNR
Ebbor Gorge NNR
Gordano Valley NNR
Ham Wall NNR
Hardington Moor NNR
Huntspill River NNR
Leigh Woods NNR
Rodney Stoke NNR
Shapwick Heath NNR
Somerset Levels NNR
Westhay Moor NNR

Suffolk Team
Regent House
110 Northgate Street
Bury St Edmunds
Suffolk IP33 1HP
Tel: 01284 762218
Fax: 01284 764318
E-mail: suffolk@english-nature.org.uk

Benacre NNR
Bradfield Woods NNR
Brettenham Heath NNR
Cavenham Heath NNR
Chippingham Fen NNR
Orfordness - Havergate NNR
Redgrave & Lopham Fen NNR
Thetford Heath NNR
Walberswick NNR
Weston Heath NNR

Sussex & Surrey Team
(Brighton & Hove, East Sussex, West Sussex & Surrey)
Howard House
31 High Street
Leaves
East Sussex BN7 2LU
Tel: 01273 476595
Fax: 01273 483063
E-mail: sussex.surrey@english-nature.org.uk

Ashstead Common NNR
Castle Hill NNR
Chobham Common NNR
Ebernoe Common NNR
Kingley Vale NNR
Letes Downs (Mount Caburn) NNR
Lullington Heath NNR
Perensley Levels NNR
Thursley NNR

Thames & Chilterns Team
(Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Milton Keynes & Oxfordshire)
Foxhold House
Thornford Road
Crookham Common
Thatcham
Berkshire RG19 8EL
Tel: 01635 268881
Fax: 01635 268940
E-mail: thames.chilterns@english-nature.org.uk

Aston Rotant NNR
Barton Hills NNR
Buckingham Thick Copse NNR
Burnham Beeches NNR
Chimney Meadows NNR
Cothill NNR
Knocking Hoe NNR
Wyche Wood NNR

Three Counties Team
(Gloucestershire, Herefordshire & Worcestershire)
Bronsil House
Eastnor
Ledbury
Herefordshire
HR8 1EP
Tel: 01531 638500
Fax: 01531 638501
E-mail: three.counties@english-nature.org.uk

Bredon Hill NNR
Chaddesley Woods NNR
Costwold Commons & Beechwoods NNR
Foster's Green Meadows NNR
Highbury Wood NNR
Lady Park Wood NNR
Moccas Park NNR
The Flits NNR
Wyre Forest NNR

West Midlands Team
(Cheshire, Shropshire, Staffordshire, Stoke-on-Trent, Warwickshire & West Midlands)
Attingham Park
Shrewsbury
Shropshire SY4 4TW
Tel: 01743 709611
Fax: 01743 709303
E-mail: wmt.en.ap@tmet.gov.uk
or *Banbury Office*
(Warwickshire)
10/11 Butchers Row
Banbury
Oxfordshire OX16 8JH
Tel: 01295 257601
Fax: 01295 275180

Aqualate Mere NNR
Chartley Moss NNR
Denton Gorge NNR
Fem's,Whitall & Bettisfield Mosses NNR
Monsey Meadows NNR
Rothorne Mere NNR
Stapertons NNR
Sutton Park NNR
Wem Moss NNR
Wren's Nest NNR
Wybbury Moss NNR

Wiltshire Team
(Swindon & Wiltshire)
Prince Maurice Court
Hambleton Avenue
Devizes
Wiltshire SN10 2RT
Tel: 01380 726344
Fax: 01380 721411
E-mail: wiltshire@english-nature.org.uk

Fyfield Down NNR
Langley Wood NNR
Martin Down NNR
North Meadows, Cricklade NNR
Parsonage Down NNR
Perensy Downs NNR
Prescombe Down NNR
Wye Down NNR



Castor Hanglands NNR
Cambridgeshire.

PAUL GLENDELL/ENGLISH NATURE

1 INTRODUCTION

National Nature Reserves (NNRs) are amongst the finest wildlife and Earth heritage sites in England, containing examples of a wide range of ecosystems, habitats, communities and species, and of geological and geomorphological features and formations. The smallest consist of a field or two of species-rich grassland or fen, whilst the largest are at a landscape scale. Some are lowland habitats which are now very rare, such as botanically rich meadows and pastures in southern England; some are important because of the rare species they contain; some because of their internationally important populations of wetland birds; and some because of special geological and/or geomorphological features. Many contain diverse mixtures of communities and species, both common and rare, which make them wonderful places for wildlife.

NNRs are a public recognition, on behalf of Government, of a site's importance for nature conservation, with the primary management aim being to maintain and, if appropriate, enhance that nature conservation interest. More has, therefore, been expected for wildlife gain from an NNR than from other important wildlife sites, where nature conservation has to be achieved alongside the objectives of other land users.

This high expectation of NNRs was established over 50 years ago, and remains true today. Government has acknowledged this in their 1998 consultation paper on SSSIs, noting that NNRs have an enhanced role compared with other SSSIs. The NNRs are seen as being particularly important for delivering high quality land management, for providing outdoor laboratories for ecological research, and for being places where people can see and enjoy wildlife. English Nature is fully committed to fulfilling this high expectation for the NNR series, both through those we manage directly, and through those managed by approved bodies. English Nature places great value on the contribution made to the NNR series by those Voluntary Conservation Organisations, and others, who manage NNRs as approved bodies under Section 35 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. Their work contributes significantly to the delivery of international and national objectives for nature conservation.

The NNRs managed by English Nature are fundamental to providing the practical land management experience needed to deliver sound and authoritative advice to Government, land managers and others. This policy statement reinforces this approach, and aims to ensure that NNRs make the best possible contribution to the delivery of nature conservation objectives. It states our objectives for NNRs, places them in the wider context of Natural Areas, describes the rationale and approach to NNR management, and itemises future actions and outcomes.



Exmoor ponies at Gait Barrows NNR, Lancashire.

PAUL GLENDELL/ENGLISH NATURE



Common cotton grass at Walton Moss NNR, Cumbria.

PAUL GLENDELL/ENGLISH NATURE



*Electric deer fence,
Monks Wood NNR,
Cambridgeshire.*

PETER WAKELY/ENGLISH NATURE

2 WHY ENGLISH NATURE NEEDS NNRS

National Nature Reserves are the jewels in the crown of the SSSI series. They lie at the heart of English Nature's conservation strategy, since they are all nationally (or internationally) important sites managed with the primary aim of maintaining and enhancing their wildlife or natural features. Whilst each is important in its own right, they have even greater significance as a suite of sites which complement each other, through contributing a variety of features and management experience, which is fundamental to providing sound and authoritative advice to owners and occupiers of SSSIs.

The suite of NNRS in England needs to meet the high standards of NNR management expected by Government and the public. It must also contribute to Government's international and national priorities for nature conservation, maintain and develop practical experience of land management for nature conservation, and provide access for the enjoyment of England's wildlife and Earth heritage.

An overarching NNR management objective is to maximise their contribution towards delivering Government's responsibilities and targets under the Natura 2000 and Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) programmes. English Nature's periodic reviews of NNR management plans are designed to ensure that appropriate contributions are being made to these objectives and targets. In the light of this, England needs a suite of NNRS which:

- conserves and enriches key sites in England for their wildlife and Earth science features;
- contributes directly to maintaining the diversity of England's wildlife and natural features, through delivery of Natural Area objectives;
- exemplifies the characteristic landscapes, wildlife and natural features of England's Natural Areas, and demonstrates the influence of geology, soils, topography and climate on vegetation, wildlife, landscape and patterns of land use;
- provides opportunities for habitat restoration and species recovery, and for trialing innovative land management techniques to achieve specific wildlife and Earth heritage gains;
- provides opportunities for demonstration, training and study of nature conservation and Earth heritage management;
- provides opportunities for research and experimentation to improve understanding of ecological and Earth heritage processes, and to enhance the quality of English Nature's advice on management for nature conservation;
- provides a core resource from which to build the wider nature conservation and Earth heritage character of a locality;
- acts as reference points and controls in wider land management studies and for monitoring the impacts on wildlife and Earth heritage features of management practices and regimes;
- provides opportunities for enhancing people's understanding, appreciation and enjoyment of England's wildlife and Earth heritage features, through managed access, and through providing opportunities for formal and informal education.



*Horner Woods & Dunkery NNR,
Somerset.*

PAUL GLENDELL/ENGLISH NATURE

*Checking moth traps at Gait
Barrows NNR, Lancashire.*

PAUL GLENDELL/ENGLISH NATURE



3 THE NATURAL AREAS CONTEXT

English Nature has defined 97 terrestrial and 23 maritime Natural Areas, and published documents which describe the nature conservation character and objectives of each. Natural Areas are biogeographic zones which reflect the geological foundation, the natural systems, processes and wildlife in different parts of England, and which provide a framework for setting objectives for nature conservation. Our aim is to enhance the wildlife and natural features of each Natural Area, paying particular attention to Biodiversity Action Plan targets. Whilst site safeguard will continue to have a vital part to play in every Natural Area, other mechanisms (such as incentive schemes for positive management, and the incorporation of nature conservation objectives within the policies and programmes of others) are also essential.

We use the Natural Areas approach as a framework for delivering our commitments under the Biodiversity Action Plan, including site safeguard and NNR acquisition programmes, and as a means of determining priorities.

National Nature Reserves play a vital role in delivering Natural Area objectives, not least because they support habitats and species characteristic of the Natural Area in which they occur. They also act as a reservoir from which wildlife can expand into the adjacent countryside.

New NNRS will, increasingly, be selected using the Natural Areas context as a prime consideration. We will place particular emphasis on ensuring that priority is generally given to habitats, species and Earth heritage features which are especially important in each Natural Area, and which have been identified as characteristic features. We will also seek to ensure that there is an appropriate geographic spread of NNRS across England, with the long term objective of having at least one NNR in every Natural Area, to provide more accessible opportunities for people to experience and enjoy wildlife.

What should English Nature directly hold and manage?

English Nature staff need thorough practical knowledge of how species populations and habitats of greatest conservation importance can be maintained, enhanced and restored. This knowledge is the foundation of our advice to other land managers, and from this management prescriptions for sites within the SSSI series are produced. Therefore, we need to manage directly a suite of NNRs which provides credible practical experience to underpin our advice and recommendations to others, and must ensure that this knowledge and experience is used by those staff involved in advising other land managers.

Bassenthwaite NNR, Cumbria.
PETER WAKELY/ENGLISH NATURE



As well as providing practical land management experience, the NNRs managed by English Nature are also a vital resource for research and monitoring into the effects of land management on the distribution of wildlife. Such knowledge enables us to evaluate the effects of management techniques and regimes on SSSIs, and in the wider countryside generally. NNRs are also used for ecological research by universities, research institutions and others. English Nature assists students with the costs of fieldwork projects through its College - English Nature Links (CEL) Grants Scheme.

National Nature Reserves are key places for public access, to raise understanding and appreciation of England's wildlife heritage, including for those with a disability. To help achieve this we use our Website to raise the profile of NNRs, have initiated a 'Spotlight NNR' project to improve visitor satisfaction and understanding at selected NNRs and, where possible, are providing improved access for the disabled. There is much to celebrate about the benefits of NNRs to the nation, and the fiftieth anniversary of the declarations of the first NNRs in England will provide an opportunity for public recognition and reinforcement.

Section 35 NNRs

Under Section 35(1)(c) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, English Nature may declare land belonging to other bodies as National Nature Reserves. The land concerned must be of national importance for nature conservation, and must be managed as a nature reserve. We have a number of schemes which provide a measure of financial assistance to many approved body managers of NNRs, but we also believe it is appropriate for partners to make financial provision from their own resources in support of this.

Approved body NNRs are of equal importance and status as those NNRs managed by English Nature. We value the commitment and important contribution to safeguarding our natural heritage made by all those organisations who are approved bodies, and welcome the opportunity to acknowledge this through the public accolade which comes from the award of such status. We plan to increase the number of approved body NNRs, and will seek the cooperation of current and possible new approved bodies in achieving this.

List of Approved Bodies (as at January 2000)

- Bedfordshire County Council
- Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Northamptonshire and Peterborough Wildlife Trust
- Birmingham City Council
- British Butterfly Conservation Society Ltd
- Carstairs Countryside Trust
- Corporation of London
- Cumbria Wildlife Trust
- Dartmoor National Park Authority
- Devon Wildlife Trust
- Durham County Council
- Easington District Council
- ECT (Conservation) Ltd
- Essex Wildlife Trust
- Forestry Commission
- Hampshire County Council
- Hertfordshire County Council
- Kent Wildlife Trust
- Lake District Special Planning Board
- Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust
- Lincolnshire Trust for Nature Conservation
- London Borough of Hillingdon
- Norfolk Wildlife Trust
- Northumberland National Park Authority
- Redland Aggregates Ltd
- RSPB
- Shepway District Council
- Shropshire Wildlife Trust
- Somerset Wildlife Trust
- Suffolk Wildlife Trust
- Surrey County Council
- Sussex Wildlife Trust
- Teignbridge District Council
- The Environment Agency
- The National Trust
- The Woodland Trust
- Torbay Coast and Countryside Trust
- Worcestershire Wildlife Trust
- Yorkshire Wildlife Trust

Resources

It has always been English Nature's aim to manage NNRs to the highest nature conservation standards, within the requirement to obtain best value for money in the use of public resources. Every NNR has a management plan describing the wildlife importance of the site, evaluating that importance against set criteria, setting management objectives, describing the rationale for arriving at management decisions, and detailing the management actions needed. We are reviewing the costs and effectiveness of our management of NNRs, to ensure that sufficient funding is available to deliver favourable conservation status and the high level of wildlife gain expected from NNRs. We will sharpen our focus on targeted research and long-term monitoring on NNRs, and in improving appreciation, understanding and enjoyment of the natural heritage by visitors to NNRs.

In addition to English Nature's grant-in-aid, from which an allocation is made to cover the core costs of the NNR programme, financial resources are also generated on some NNRs as a by-product of management undertaken to deliver nature conservation objectives. Each English Nature Local Team has a target for NNR income generation.

English Nature is also seeking to secure sponsorship and other funding for specific activities. The NNRs are an attractive sponsorship opportunity, but we do not intend to use any sponsorship funds to support core site management activities, since funding for this is already provided from our grant-in-aid. Sponsorship funding will be used for projects which increase wildlife gain, or which improve NNR visitor resources. In addition, since the NNRs are part of our national heritage, it is important that the Heritage Lottery Fund and the National Heritage Memorial Fund continue to support acquisition of land of national wildlife importance, by both English Nature and Voluntary Conservation Organisations.



Fence construction to enhance Corncrake habitat, Lower Derwent Valley NNR, Yorkshire.
PAUL GLENDELL/ENGLISH NATURE



Ash trees on Castor Hanglands NNR, Cambridgeshire.
PAUL GLENDELL/ENGLISH NATURE



Sheep grazing limestone grassland on Castor Hanglands NNR, Cambridgeshire.
PETER WAKELY/ENGLISH NATURE

5 ACTIONS AND OUTCOMES FRAMEWORK

To ensure that NNRs contribute effectively to our overall objectives, we have set the following objectives for the period 1999/2004:

Achievement of wildlife gain

- Ensure that NNRs make an effective contribution to the implementation of appropriate Natura 2000 habitat and species objectives.
- Ensure that NNRs make an effective contribution to the implementation of appropriate BAP habitat and species action plans.
- Ensure that the NNR series makes an effective contribution to the implementation of Earth heritage objectives.
- Ensure that NNRs make an effective contribution to the delivery of Natural Area objectives and targets.
- Ensure that our recording of management actions taken, and the outcomes which result, enable us to improve the standard of the guidance we provide to other land managers.

The future suite of NNRs

- Produce an acquisition strategy which sets a clear framework and priorities for action, both by English Nature and in partnership with others.
- Acquire threatened priority fragile sites and threatened Earth heritage sites which are amenable to NNR management where other conservation partners are unable to, and manage them to recover and/or maintain favourable nature conservation status.
- Acquire land to assist with the delivery of BAP habitat restoration and creation targets where there are no other effective conservation options.
- Acquire sites that epitomise key features of Natural Areas not covered by existing designations.
- Consolidate existing NNRs to enhance the viability and resilience of priority fragile and vulnerable habitats and species, and to develop links with surrounding sites.
- Ensure, where it is within our power to do so, that any features of interest in unfavourable condition on NNRs reach, or are making significant progress towards, favourable condition by March 2004.
- Maintain the quality and credibility of our advice and recommendations to other land managers, by ensuring that we have a sufficient range of practical experience through direct management of NNRs.
- Achieve a greater transfer of the knowledge and experience of land management from NNR managers to staff involved in advising other land managers on management for nature conservation.
- Increase the usage of NNRs in demonstrating nature conservation management methods to other land managers, and increase levels of local community involvement on NNRs.
- Ensure effective transfer of knowledge and information on land management, and promote good practice and new ideas for achieving wildlife gain, through our magazine *enact*, other publications, and demonstration events.
- Use the NNR series to undertake and foster research directed towards improving our understanding of ecological processes (particularly mid to long-term studies that require security of tenure), and encourage wide dissemination of the results.



Wistman's Wood NNR, Devon.
PAUL GLENDELL/ENGLISH NATURE

- Use the NNR series as the core of a network of SSSIs to monitor and validate the management undertaken, and evaluate the effectiveness of our advice.
- Establish a framework whereby the wildlife resource within NNRs can be used to restore the nature conservation character of the surrounding countryside.
- Increase public access and appreciation of NNRs, especially through the 'Spotlight NNR' programme, to promote opportunities for people, including those with a disability, to experience, learn about and enjoy wildlife at first hand.
- Further develop our Website to raise the profile of NNRs through increasing public awareness and knowledge of them.
- Develop a set of indicators for NNRs which demonstrate their delivery of wildlife gain.

Work with our major VCO partners

- Develop an acquisition strategy with our VCO partners, to ensure best use of resources and experience.
- Enter into management partnerships on jointly owned NNRs to achieve efficiency and value for money for high quality wildlife gain.
- Provide financial support to VCOs for land acquisition to safeguard threatened priority international and national habitats and species, including acquisition of land to assist with the delivery of BAP habitat creation targets.
- Increase the number of Section 35(1)(c) NNRs managed by approved bodies, to strengthen the contribution of the NNR series to international and national nature conservation objectives.

Resources

- Ensure that sufficient funding is available to run our NNR estate to a high standard, to deliver the favourable condition of features of interest and the high level of wildlife gain expected from NNRs.
- Ensure that our core funding supports a targeted research and monitoring programme on NNRs.
- Ensure that core funding is used to improve the appreciation, understanding and enjoyment of our natural heritage amongst visitors to NNRs.
- Generate additional funding for management and interpretation projects on NNRs through external sponsorship and, where appropriate, through utilising the natural and other resources on site, where this can be achieved in a sustainable way.

To ensure delivery of the actions and outputs above, a five-year Action Plan with specific programmes and targets will be produced and implemented.



*Baling rushes at Glasson Moss -
South Solway Mosses NNR,
Cumbria.*
PAUL GLENDELL/ENGLISH NATURE



*Valley of Stones NNR,
Dorset.*
PETER WAKELY/ENGLISH NATURE