

Company Number: 217338

Annual Report
of
Norfolk Wildlife Trust
2000-2001



Norfolk Wildlife Trust: registered as The Norfolk Naturalists Trust Registered Charity No 208734

NORFOLK WILDLIFE TRUST

Who we are, what we do

Norfolk Wildlife Trust is working for the protection and enhancement of Norfolk's wildlife and wild places. It aims to secure a better future for wildlife and to improve people's understanding and appreciation of wildlife.

The wildlife of Norfolk is exceptional. The county boasts nationally and internationally important wildlife habitats - the Broads and their associated reedbeds and grazing marshes, the Brecks with their botanically rich and unique heaths, the north Norfolk coast and its wild and evocative landscape of dunes, lagoons, salt and freshwater marshes, and the many other heathlands, ancient woodlands and wetlands. All are home to an abundance of wild plants and animals, many of which are internationally rare and endangered.

The Norfolk Naturalists Trust was founded in 1926 with the purchase of Cley Marshes. Now called Norfolk Wildlife Trust (NWT) we are the oldest in a network of 46 Wildlife Trusts encompassing the whole of the United Kingdom and collectively managing over 2,600 nature reserves. The Wildlife Trusts work actively on conservation and education to protect wildlife for the future. In Norfolk:

- We own and manage forty nature reserves covering over 2,600 ha. Many of these are of national and international importance and they receive about 200,000 visitors per year.
- We run five nature reserve centres where sales, wildlife interpretation and reception for visitors are provided.
- Our education programme provides national curriculum based activities for over 5,000 school children per annum. Opportunities for people of all ages to learn from and become actively involved with nature conservation are readily available.
- We manage the County Wildlife Sites system with data on 1,200 sites. Assisted with this we provide a programme of survey and advice to landowners.
- We manage an ambitious series of projects, including the Securing the Future Programme which is bringing unprecedented restoration of wildlife habitats and improvements for visitors on many of our nature reserves.
- We are developing a programme of extending land for wildlife. This includes new reserves, extensions to existing reserves and projects to restore arable and forestry land back to wildlife rich habitats.
- We have established a consultancy arm, Norfolk Wildlife Services Ltd, to provide professional ecological survey and management advice to a wide range of organisations.

Our work is supported by over 17,000 members and is carried out by a professional team of over 40 staff assisted by over 1,000 active volunteers. Our local volunteer groups also provide over 300 lectures, guided walks, events and social events each year.

Norfolk Wildlife Trust, 72 Cathedral Close, Norwich NR1 4DF
Tel 01603 625540 Fax 01603 630593 Email Admin@nwt.cix.co.uk

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL OF NORFOLK WILDLIFE TRUST

(registered as The Norfolk Naturalists Trust)

The Council, being the Trustees and Directors of Norfolk Wildlife Trust, presents its report and audited financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2001.

Legal and Administrative Information

Norfolk Wildlife Trust is registered as The Norfolk Naturalists Trust and is a registered charity (No. 208734) and a company limited by guarantee (No. 217338). The principal and registered office of Norfolk Wildlife Trust is 72 Cathedral Close, Norwich, Norfolk, NR1 4DF.

The objects of Norfolk Wildlife Trust are set out in its Memorandum of Association. The principal activities for the year were in pursuance of the objects for which Norfolk Wildlife Trust was formed, namely, to advance the conservation of wildlife and wild places in Norfolk for the public benefit. Norfolk Wildlife Trust has adopted policies to develop further its education activities, continue to build on landholdings and to improve access and information on its nature reserves. It has adopted a new Business Strategy to guide its work over the next five years. Norfolk Wildlife Trust has achieved 'Investor's in People' status in recognition of good business management and employee development practices. Details of how Norfolk Wildlife Trust has pursued its objects are contained in the review of activities on the following pages. Details of the Members of Council, Officers and Staff are given on page 17.

The Council is required by Statute to prepare financial statements and a report of activities for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of Norfolk Wildlife Trust. In preparing Norfolk Wildlife Trust's financial statements, the Council confirms that it has:

- (a) selected suitable accounting practices and applied them consistently
- (b) made judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- (c) followed applicable accounting standards
- (d) prepared the financial statements on a going concern basis.

The Council is responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of Norfolk Wildlife Trust and enable it to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 1985 and the requirements of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) as set out by the Charity Commission (October 1995) and subsequently amended. It is responsible for safeguarding the assets of Norfolk Wildlife Trust and for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES

For the period April 2000 to March 2001

Introduction

Our work for the financial year 2000-2001 has been funded by the continuing support of our members, a major grant from Heritage Lottery Fund and the support of many key organisations including English Nature, MAFF, Broads Authority, Waste Recycling Environmental Ltd, RMC Aggregates, Aventis CropScience UK Limited, British Sugar and William George Waste Disposal amongst others.

After a successful year of activity, we were hit by the wettest winter on record which hampered access to many sites and prevented planned management work. It also compromised the reed harvest from our Broadland nature reserves. Then the foot and mouth disease crisis took hold. Although it did not (and hopefully will not) affect Norfolk directly, we followed advice from Government and other organisations and closed all our nature reserves. This proved to be an unpopular move with many of our members but we felt we had to act responsibly and limit as far as possible the spread of the disease. At the time of writing we have re-opened the majority of our reserves and have almost resumed normal activities, but this ongoing crisis has led to an estimated £10,000 loss so far for which we will receive no compensation.

Despite these setbacks we have made good progress on all fronts.

NATURE RESERVES MANAGEMENT

Securing the Future

Our Securing the Future project, which is supported by Heritage Lottery Fund, an appeal to members and various donations and sponsorships, continued to fund vital capital improvement work on our nature reserves around the county. Now in its third year the project has successfully delivered habitat restoration work, the installation and upgrading of infrastructure to improve access to and maintenance of nature reserves by providing fencing, gates, access routes and visitor facilities, the introduction and maintenance of grazing programmes, signage and interpretation work, habitat and monitoring work and the purchase of capital equipment. Much of the major work referred to in this report was enabled by Securing the Future.

The Broads

Work was completed on the three-year restoration project at **NWT Hickling Broad**. This included the final phase of scrub removal achieved using two purpose built machines: - 'Moose', the scrub eater and 'Beaver', the stump grinder. A total of 15ha has been restored back to open fen over the three years. Grazing management using sheep, cattle and ponies was introduced to this and other areas of the reserve, enabled by the installation of 'wet' and dry perimeter fencing.

Experimental work on protecting the reed fringe from damage caused by geese has so far produced poor results, but work will continue in the search for a sustainable solution to this problem. Sadly, the winter heralded an unexpected decline in the conditions of the broad itself. The clear water conditions witnessed previously have been lost and the rare stonewort beds have declined dramatically.

The year also saw the completion of new visitor facilities. The revamped visitor centre was re-opened, the new purpose-built 'Tree Tower' was opened providing magnificent views over the broad and surrounding area. Our reed lighter boat 'Little Tern' was refurbished and five replacement bird observation hides were completed and opened.

At **NWT Ranworth Broad** new information boards were sited along the nature trail to inform visitors about the habitat type, wildlife and history of each stage in the succession from open water to oak woodland. New improved and safer dyke dipping facilities have been built for the use of school and other educational groups. A new bridge and the replacement of 45m of boardwalk provide easier access for all to the nature reserve. Our nesting rafts continue to be popular with visiting common tern but were in need of urgent replacement. Two new rafts were installed in April 2001.

The new perimeter fence was completed at **NWT Ebb and Flow Marshes** so that grazing by our Flying Flock can now be introduced.

At **NWT Barton Broad** the Bure and Ant team was helped by volunteers to clear scrub from the edge of the broad and carry out restoration mowing. We worked in partnership with the Broads Authority on the Clearwater 2000 project, including the installation and maintenance of the biomanipulation barriers and participation in the Barton event during early May 2000. 19 pairs of common tern nested on our two nesting rafts, an increase of six pairs over the previous year.

Volunteers helped clear encroaching scrub from the edge of the flight pond at **NWT Upton Fen** and carried out restoration mowing to re-establish sedge fen habitat. The car park was re-designed, new fencing and gates put up around it and a new building constructed nearby. This new building will operate as a much-needed workbase for the Bure and Ant team, providing a welcome site for meetings and the maintenance of machinery.

The reed harvest on our nature reserves at Barton and Ranworth Broads and at Ebb and Flow Marshes was compromised this year by starlings who got there before we did. Their nightly roosts severely damaged the reed crop and as a result our saleable yield was reduced to only 350 bundles.

Our Bure and Ant nature reserves continued to attract varied wildlife. Three main heronries exist on this network of waterways. At Heron's Carr, Barton eight nests were occupied, a drop of one on the previous year. At NWT Upton Fen the number of occupied nests increased from one to six in 2000 and at Cockshoot Broad there were five nests, an increase of three over the previous season. Young herons are now a very common sight for visitors to our reserves. Otters also appear to be doing well, leaving obvious signs of occupation at all our Bure and Ant nature reserves. The area around NWT Barton Broad is particularly well populated and there have been several sightings of adults - footprints have even been found inside some boatsheds! Our monthly wildfowl surveys carried out as part of the national WeBS scheme emphasised the importance of both NWT Ranworth and Cockshoot Broads as refuges with over 2,000 birds present throughout much of the winter. Our cormorant roost, now catering for over 300 birds, continues to be an important inland site.

The Brecks

At **NWT East Wretham Heath** Securing the Future has enabled vital infrastructure work to expand the area of grass heath, improve access on nature trails, implement restoration grazing and make ongoing maintenance easier. The work has included the clearance of scrub, tree surgery, the completion of the fence around the reserve, replacement of the old stiles with kissing gates and spraying of bracken. We started an innovative project to strip nutrient-rich turf from the grass heath to restore early successional communities. Work of this sort on this scale has never been carried out in Breckland before and followed detailed feasibility studies and surveys for both soil and vegetation. We stripped 4,000m² before work was suspended as a precaution against foot and mouth disease.

Wildlife is flourishing on the nature reserve. We were delighted when *Coleophora tricolor* (basil thyme case-bearer moth), a Biodiversity Action Plan species, was discovered on the nature reserve in 1999. This moth is extremely rare, known only on three other Breckland sites and we have manipulated our grazing regime, scraped turf and cleared scrub from old wartime runways where the moth occurs on the reserve to encourage it. Woodlarks are now recorded breeding on the reserve more regularly, an indicator of habitat improvement resulting from recent heath restoration work.

The Breckland Growers Pipeline is a major EU Objective 5b project led by a consortium of local farmers to secure irrigation water supplies. Approximately 900m of pipeline has been put through the nature reserve under careful supervision to minimise impact on grass heath and local hydrology. The new pipeline will relieve the impact of groundwater abstraction on the meres, particularly Langmere and Ringmere. Water levels in the meres rose to unprecedented levels by March 2001, and are still rising. This project also included funding to support the habitat improvements we have carried out on the nature reserve.

Securing the Future has enabled the clearance of approximately 4ha of trees and scrub from pingos and adjacent grassland, fen and heath at **NWT Thompson Common**. This work has been a major benefit to specialised invertebrate communities and to the vegetation of the pingos. Over 3km of new fencing has been put up along with five new bridges constructed along the Great Eastern Pingo Trail to improve access. New waymarking has been installed on the Great Eastern Pingo Trail in partnership with Tracks in the Sand, an EU funded, Objective 5b project.

A Desmoulins whorl snail survey showed this tiny invertebrate to be benefiting from restoration management and is widely distributed around NWT Thompson Common. We are participating in an English Nature Species Recovery Programme, monitoring local hydrology to determine the habitat requirements of this BAP species.

At **NWT Weeting Heath** Securing the Future funded the planting of 423 mixed scrub plants to complete the scrub screen between the pine belt and the heath and to continue the development of the old disused car park as an area of wildlife interest for visitors. The visitor centre was open for the full season for the first time in 2000-2001, resulting in increases in sales and visitor numbers. We carried out routine rotovation to provide vital nutrient stripping and establish firebreaks and swiped around 10ha of rough grassland, tall herbs and bracken.

We achieved 1.71 chicks per pair of stone curlews in 2000-2001, which was well above the Breckland average of 0.55.

NWT New Buckenham Common benefited from the removal of approximately 1.5ha of thorny scrub from unimproved grassland, bringing to an end the major phase of scrub clearance on the nature reserve and benefiting green-winged orchid, cowslip and adderstongue fern. We treated approximately 8ha of regenerating scrub and bramble to prevent its re-invasion onto cleared areas

and carried out spot-spraying of ragwort on approximately 3ha, treated as part of an ongoing weed-control programme.

At **NWT Thetford Heath** we continued with our ongoing maintenance, including rotovation for nutrient stripping and firebreaks and swiping of around 5ha of bracken while at **NWT Hockham Fen** we swiped around 1ha of grassland and fen to clear it of bracken.

The Coast

Work was started on the wading pools at **NWT Holme Dunes**. This involved removal of spoil and reprofiling work in order to re-create a shallow lagoon to provide habitat for wading birds. A record 25 pairs of avocet were breeding on and close to this pool in summer 2001.

Six areas were identified for grazing by the Flying Flock to clear it of tussocky growth. 50% of each area was cut, raked off and burnt with the help of volunteers and our Community Service team. These areas were then grazed throughout the winter.

Recent work to clear dune slacks of naturally invading coarse grasses has begun to reap rewards. One of the cleared areas has been populated by 140 bee orchids, together with other dune slack species such as adderstongue fern and marsh pennywort.

Sadly, it was a poor season for breeding birds. The highlight of the year was undoubtedly the bittern that stayed with us briefly in April and was heard to boom on one occasion. We remain hopeful that the introduced rudd and recently created reedbed will encourage bittern to breed here in future. On the marshes garganey failed to breed successfully for the first time in two years. Nest failure due to predation and very poor June weather meant that wildfowl broods were generally down. Waders fared similarly with 35 pairs of lapwing fledging relatively few young. Avocets, however, fared much better and seven pairs managed to fledge six young. On the beach the news was also better; 16 pairs of ringed plover fledging 5-10 young. Our real success of 2000-2001 was the little tern. Two pairs fledged two young – the best result for several years.

Natterjack toads bred with only limited success. The recent run of wet summers has meant that the pools in which they breed had become overhung with reed and sedge which blocked out the sunlight required by the developing tadpoles. Wet autumns have maintained high water levels in the pools allowing dragonflies to breed. Mild winters have meant that the nymphs have survived in sufficient quantity to threaten the tadpole population the next spring.

At **NWT Cley Marshes** we carried out major restoration work on 'Pat's Pool' to allow water levels to be better controlled in future. By the end of autumn 23 species of waders were recorded. The new 'Pat's Pool' will serve an important function when work starts on the new flood defence bank in 2002 by providing a haven for birds disturbed by work elsewhere on the nature reserve.

Work was also completed on the much-needed refurbishment of the visitor centre and the new interpretation has been very favourably commented on by visitors.

Breeding success was mixed. We were delighted when a pair of bittern nested. Bearded tits bred successfully and some good sized broods were seen. Avocets did not do so well - only one young fledged on the nature reserve, the rest being lost to predators. Marsh harrier nested but no young were seen, perhaps due to the cold, wet spring.

West Norfolk Commons

Approximately six thousand tonnes of the commercial conifer crop were felled at **NWT Tony Hallatt Memorial Reserve (Grimston Warren)**. The cleared area will be fenced during early summer and grazed to control scrub and sward. Bracken and further mechanical scrub control will also be necessary.

We received permission from Government to fence the perimeter of our National Nature Reserve at **NWT Roydon Common** and the new fence was erected during the summer, funded by the Securing the Future project and English Nature. The site is now being grazed for the first time in 50 years. A new car park was constructed adjacent to the north-western end of the site, and a boardwalk connecting this to the main path across the Common is now part completed.

The nature reserve continues to be favoured by wildlife. The vegetation of the northern mire continues to recover after scrub removal and destumping in March 1999 and black darter dragonflies were seen there again this year. They are not yet seen in the numbers common before the droughts of 1988-92 but are continuing to recover from apparent extinction. Small numbers of raft spider *Dolomedes fimbriatus* were seen, but their elusive nature prevents us from accurately assessing the population size or its true distribution. We were delighted to find the lesser butterfly orchid on the restored section of mire.

Although not rare, the curlew that breed on the Common add greatly to the atmosphere. Sixteen 'churrers' were recorded during a survey of nightjars and there were at least two woodlark territories.

At **NWT Syderstone Common** sections that were dry enough were forage harvested with a compact tractor during late winter. A programme of scrub removal was just getting under way when the foot and mouth disease crisis took hold.

As at other sites, the quality of the natterjack toads' terrestrial and aquatic habitat has been adversely affected by several years of wet weather. The real problem is the lack of grazing to control the sward as the site has no fence to contain the stock and prevent them straying on to the nearby main road. This is being addressed by starting the process of explaining the need for a fence to local people and by putting the funding in place. Woodlark were singing on the Common as far as we know for the first time.

At **NWT East Winch Common** the heathland part of the site was grazed for the third year by South Devon cattle and sheep from the Flying Flock. No other routine management was required. Our management produces diversity of vegetation structure within the heath and also provides a degree of scrub control, keeping other management activities to a minimum.

This has been an important year for the conservation of **NWT Ringstead Downs**. We carried out work to agree the principles for the sustainable management of the site. A fenceline has been cut and a perimeter fence around the western, floristically rich, section of the Downs completed. This will allow sheep from the Flying Flock to graze, controlling both sward and invasive scrub.

Woods and Heaths

Access and car parking at **NWT Foxley Wood** were improved during the year and vehicle barriers have been installed to prevent 4x4 vehicles entering the woodland and damaging the ancient ride network. A new entrance sign has been designed, manufactured and installed, and design work for information signs and an orientation station has been completed.

One hectare was coppiced during the winter and derelict coppice of at least 40 years old has been felled for the benefit of ground flora, birds, small mammals and some invertebrates. These areas will now be maintained within a seven-year rotation. Increasing deer numbers threaten the regeneration of the existing coppice stools and of new trees. We completed trials this year which indicate that deer fencing will help address this problem. The project has generated interest from the Forestry Commission and Anglia Woodnet as landowners often experience problems with deer browsing in coppice.

Workshop improvements required considerable preparation and planning. The new facilities will provide long needed purpose-built office accommodation to enable the effective management of the increasingly complex activities undertaken on NWT woodlands and heaths.

A specially made vehicle barrier installed at the entrance of **NWT Honeypot Wood** has proved very successful. Fly-tipping has been greatly reduced and no cars have been dumped here since. Some of the large standard trees were felled to reduce the density of their shadow and encourage the ground flora.

We carried out extensive work in the car park of **NWT Wayland Wood** to raise its height and improve car movement by demarcating the parking arrangements with banks. Once new growth appears following coppicing the car park area will be much enhanced. A further gate has been added at the woodland end of the car park to facilitate access to the wood through the car park and will provide a safer entrance from the road.

At **NWT Ashwellthorpe Wood** coppicing of poplars prevented overshadowing of hornbeam stools, and an electric deer fence was installed.

Seven ancient oak pollards had their crowns reduced at **NWT Thursford Wood** in attempts to increase their longevity. Volunteers installed new waymarkers and planted trees originally collected as acorns from the wood, ensuring new oak recruits are present as inevitably some of the now very ancient pollards succumb to old age. We treated bracken with a highly specific herbicide to make sure it does not smother the ground flora of this ancient wood.

New post and rail fencing was put in around the car park at **NWT Hoe Rough** and an additional fence was installed to provide a more extensive grazing area. Scrub was cleared. Hawthorn was not treated to allow regrowth to promote structural scrub diversity. Bracken was treated to prevent it smothering rare meadow plants such as green winged orchid.

A record 12 common terns nested at **NWT Sparham Pools** and we believe a little ringed plover also nested successfully, suggesting the work carried out by the Sparham Pools volunteers to clear the second island of scrub has successfully reduced pressure from the geese.

Scrub clearance was carried out at Holt Lowes, Cawston Heath, Marsham Heath, Buxton Heath and Upgate Common and paths cleared at NWT Booton Common and NWT Lolly Moor.

We are delighted that sales of woodland products, including timber, mulch, oak butts and faggots reached an all time high, generating £16,500 of income to subsidise our conservation effort.

MONITORING AND SURVEYS

Work under the Securing the Future project to establish new surveys and baseline monitoring on our reserves continued during the year. 12 more nature reserves were surveyed to National Vegetation Classification (NVC) level in our habitat survey programme, bringing the total surveyed during the course of the programme to 22. NWT now has full NVC habitat map coverage for most reserves.

Survey work has been undertaken to improve water level management and has included the installation of gauge boards to provide vital data. A survey of beetles from the ancient pollard oaks at NWT Thursford Wood located a nationally rare species that is new to the county.

Monitoring is essential to the proper management of reserves. This year saw the completion of monitoring plans for all NWT nature reserves. These detail monitoring requirements for habitats, key species and key environmental factors such as water quality and hydrology, and will be tested and refined during 2001-2002. Further work has focused on the storage of monitoring data and on developing ways in which we can manage and interpret this data efficiently and effectively.

EDUCATION AND AWARENESS

Formal Education

Our formal education programme has continued to develop and we remain at the forefront of field based education provision in the county, delivering guided activities to all ages. A total of 5,250 students took advantage of the facilities at our nature reserves during the year, an increase of 7% from 157 to 169 school groups. At NWT Hickling Broad the newly installed pond dipping platform and education shelter were well used.

Assistance from Shell UK provided water quality test kits for older students to improve study of the aquatic environment in the Broads. Our formal education programme was generously supported by Aventis CropScience UK Limited who also assisted with the provision of 5,000 clipboards for school use.

Informal Education

A total of 30 educational events were organised on and off our nature reserves during the year, including participation in a Schools Day at Raveningham Hall and a Countryside Day at the county showground which attracted over 4,000 visitors. At NWT Ranworth Broad a series of themed activity and involvement days attracted 120 participants throughout the summer holidays.

Norfolk Floodlight Project

Continued support from DETR (Environmental Action Fund) and Aventis CropScience helped us to build on work at our coastal nature reserves to raise awareness amongst visitors and school

groups about the threats associated with climate change. More than 500 people were involved in over 50 guided activities, including 20 bird walks. We built on our range of resources for the public with an additional 8,000 new environmental action cards which were distributed to encourage people to reduce their impact on the environment.

Wildlife Watch

A new Wildlife Watch Group was established in Watton jointly with RSPB to cater for NWT's junior members. Watch membership continued to grow during the year from 550 to 600 members – an increase of 9%. Over 400 children aged 8 to 12 were involved in our wide ranging activity programme.

Visitors on Reserves

With funding from Waste Recycling Environmental Ltd (WREN) we started a new project to spread positive messages about recycling and waste minimisation to visitors and school groups. The Education 2000 project has installed recycling facilities, including can crushers on three key nature reserves. Interactive information displays and information leaflets have been produced to encourage action.

Interpretation

Work to install new signage and interpretation in our visitor centres and at 26 of our nature reserves has continued under the Securing the Future project. Interpretation for the visitor centre at NWT Cley Marshes has been completed and plans for the installation of identification charts in bird hides are scheduled for later in the year. New entrance signs have been installed at NWT Cley Marshes and Holme Dunes. Signage design and text have been completed for 19 other reserves for installation in autumn 2001.

ACTION IN THE WIDER COUNTRYSIDE

Our major aim in the wider countryside, outside our nature reserves, is to ensure that Norfolk's best wildlife sites are protected from damaging development. We comment on planning applications, water abstraction licensing and development plans and seek to ensure that nature conservation is taken fully into account at every stage of the planning process. We work closely with landowners and other interest groups to ensure that important wildlife sites are well managed, and provide advice on land management and the grant schemes available to private individuals.

NWT has been active in addressing topical conservation issues at a local level wherever possible. We are pleased to be working with other conservation organisations to achieve mutual goals. For example, we worked jointly with RSPB, National Trust and WWF on the production of *Coast in Crisis*, a document highlighting the need to create new coastal wildlife habitats to compensate for losses due to rising sea levels.

In early 2001 the Countryside and Rights of Way Act became law. The Wildlife Trusts played a crucial role in the drafting process to ensure the new Act is a powerful tool for nature conservation.

Biodiversity Action

NWT is national lead partner for the fen orchid Biodiversity Action Plan and so we have a central role to play in co-ordinating conservation efforts for this internationally endangered species. The year marked our seventh fen orchid monitoring season and we began introducing a small number

of plants propagated at the Royal Botanical Gardens Kew to three sites in Norfolk and Suffolk. This work has been funded by English Nature as part of its Species Recovery Programme.

We produced and distributed an information sheet on great crested newts. It has proved very popular with landowners as a means of conveying information on sympathetic land management and the protection afforded this rare species in law.

NWT continued its involvement in attempting to secure the future of the silver studded blue butterfly in the county. With the help of grant aid from English Nature and support from our corporate sponsor Kelling Heath Holiday Park we were able to carry out a study to look at suitable sites for reintroducing the species on heathland in north Norfolk.

Anglian Otters and Rivers Project

The Anglian Otters and Rivers Project, one of a network of similar projects across the country is supported by Water UK, Anglian Water, Essex & Suffolk Water and the Environment Agency. The project works towards the conservation of some important Biodiversity Action Plan wetland habitats and species including otter, water vole, pipistrelle bat, Desmoulins whorl snail, wet grassland, fens, and chalk rivers.

We completed otter surveys at 141 Norfolk sites as part of the national otter survey of England. Results show that otter numbers are steadily increasing but there are still large gaps in occupancy, particularly in west Norfolk. The project tackles some of the continuing threats to otters, which include a lack of suitable habitat, poor fish populations and deaths on roads.

Water voles are declining nationally but Norfolk remains a stronghold. River rehabilitation and erosion prevention schemes that will benefit water voles required detailed work during the year and we have devised guidelines for best practice management of watercourses that support water vole colonies. A register of water vole colonies, supplemented by reported sightings from members of the public, is being compiled for use by planners and watercourse managers.

Action on County Wildlife Sites

NWT's delivery of Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) targets through the County Wildlife Site (CWS) system and advice to CWS owners is supported by English Nature. During the year 59 CWSs were visited and the owners provided with advice on BAP habitats or species. A database of information was developed, allowing NWT to target advice to priority habitats and sites.

Four new sites were identified in 2000, with another five already in the pipeline for 2001. An extensive update of the criteria used to notify sites was undertaken, bringing them in line with national BAP priorities and the findings of the Norfolk Flora group. Information on new sites and all changes to the system was circulated to local authorities and other users as part of an annual update.

Roadside Nature Reserves

There are now 46 Roadside Nature Reserves (RNRs) in Norfolk, and an annually updated directory of the sites is circulated to local authorities. A team of volunteers carried out much of the survey work during the year. The RNR notification allows for some protection for the verges including sensitive management and this is overseen by our project partner, Norfolk County Council.

Most RNRs are species-rich grassland, and therefore contribute significantly to the remaining stock of conservation grade grasslands in the county. A few RNR's have been notified for the presence

of the sandy stilt puffball (*Battarraea phalloides*), a nationally rare fungus prioritised through the Norfolk BAP system.

Churchyard Conservation Project

Advice on churchyard wildlife management continues to be co-ordinated by a small team of NWT volunteers. In 2001 over 60 churchyards throughout the county were surveyed. A survey of Norwich churches was carried out by a student from Easton College and supplied Norwich City Council with useful management information.

The Churchyards and Wildlife workshop, held at NWT Ranworth Broad in July and funded by Broadland District Council and Barclays Bank, drew representatives from over 50 churchyards and provided a chance for churchyard managers to meet, share experiences and learn more about caring for the wildlife of churchyards.

The Churchyard Conservation Award, funded by Barclays Bank, forms part of the Eastern Daily Press Village of the Year Award. Churchyards are judged on the efforts made to protect wildlife and on the provision of information for visitors. The joint winners in 2000 were St Margaret's, Thorpe Market and St Catherine's, Ludham, with the churches of Seething, Mulbarton and Shotesham as runners-up.

The local authorities supporting our work during the year were Breckland Council, Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk and Broadland District Council.

STANDING UP FOR WILDLIFE

We were consulted on 249 planning and water abstraction applications during the year and provided comments where we believed that the development would have an adverse effect on our nature reserves or County Wildlife Sites. Of these 249 we raised objections in seven cases and made comments on another 84 cases. We routinely monitor the outcomes of planning applications and are pleased to report a number of positive outcomes from our involvement in the planning process during the year. One case resulted in the issuing of an enforcement order and in several cases the planning authority attached conditions to works that threatened County Wildlife Sites.

NWT continues to have an input into forward planning and we commented on a range of strategy documents put forward by statutory bodies including the Environment Agency and local authorities on issues ranging from flood defence schemes to local development plans.

During the year planning permission was granted for the Cley-Salthouse flood defence scheme subject to a number of outstanding details. This scheme will have a significant impact on our nature reserves at Cley and Salthouse and we have worked closely with the Environment Agency to maximise the benefits of the scheme for nature conservation. The proposals now include the creation of 9.6ha of new reed bed in an area of grazing marsh adjacent to the visitor centre at NWT Cley Marshes and this will contribute to the reed bed creation targets in both the Norfolk and bittern Biodiversity Action Plans.

EXTENDING LAND MANAGED FOR WILDLIFE

The heaths of Breckland are internationally important for wildlife, supporting rare species such as stone curlew, spiked speedwell and vulnerable lichens. We are committed to increasing the area and quality of this habitat. We are pleased to be playing a central role in Tomorrow's Heathland Heritage, a major five year project to restore 300ha of conifer forest to heathland in Thetford Forest. This ambitious project is a partnership between NWT, English Nature, Forest Enterprise and Brecks Countryside Project and is grant aided by Heritage Lottery Fund. Once the conifer crop is removed on each of the seven identified sites, fencing will be erected and we will take on management responsibility using our Flying Flock. We have expanded the Flock in anticipation and an additional shepherd has been employed.

RAISING PROFILE AND SUPPORT

So as to enhance the development of NWT, marketing activities have increased considerably with a view to increasing our profile and therefore our support. 2001 marked our 75th anniversary and we used this as a springboard from which to launch many of our marketing activities.

Publicity

2000-2001 was an excellent year for NWT publicity. We achieved 250 references in national, regional and local media. 50 of these were on television and radio. The event we organised to mark the completion of the Hickling Restoration Project was particularly successful and was attended by six key Norfolk media.

Publications

NWT's main publication Tern merited a 'specially commended' award in BBC Wildlife Magazine's Best Environmental Charity Publication Awards and continues to serve as a vital mouthpiece to the county at large – 80,000 copies are distributed with the Eastern Daily Press three times a year.

Our membership forms and nature reserves leaflets were revised at the end of the year to include a new Gift Aid certificate and updated information on how to reach our key nature reserves by public transport.

Fundraising

We continue to build good relationships with our funders. Nearly 300 applications were sent to charitable trusts in 2000-2001 and we received £46,401 for our conservation and education projects. The corporate sector responded generously to requests for funding. 84 corporate members contributed £20,000 and 24 sponsors gave a further £116,234 for our education and conservation projects. £9,900 of this income from sponsors came via agreements negotiated by The Wildlife Trusts UK Office and a further £22,974 of it was received through the landfill tax credit scheme.

We were given a total of £35,337 from the Environment Fund (DETR), North Norfolk District Council, East of England Development Agency, Breckland Council, Environment Agency and

Water UK in grant aid towards education, Hickling Restoration Project, NWT Ranworth Broad. Tracks in the Sand and the Anglian Otters and Rivers Project.

Legacy income for the year stood at £34,328 – the combination of 9 bequests and some reclaimed tax. In recent years legacy income has enabled us to make important capital purchases including the acquisition of new computers and vehicles and the opportunity to add to our land portfolio. To this end we increased legacy marketing activity in the year, promoted its benefits to our members and added to our contact with local solicitors.

Membership

We recruited nearly 2,400 new members in the year, representing a very healthy year. More than 400 new members were signed up in each of May, June and August 2000 and we achieved a record income of £279,015 including VAT and tax reclaims from ordinary and life membership subscriptions for the year. Obsolete data was removed from the membership database by archiving over 2,000 records. As a result our overall membership was revised to just under 17,000 as at 31 March 2001.

Our door-to-door recruitment scheme was very successful this year. Four recruiters secured 1,014 new members and the scheme generated £28,670 of donation income.

Sales and Centres

Total Sales and Centres income for the year was £150,735. This increase of 8% on the previous year reflected improved turnover at three visitor centres and increased sales on water trails.

Completion of refurbishment and interpretation at NWT Cley Marshes visitor centre produced a 34% increase in turnover. Similar improvements at NWT Hickling Broad and NWT Weeting Heath produced increased turnovers of 68% and 142% respectively. In June 2000 we moved the embarkation point of the Water Trail at NWT Hickling Broad to provide a more accessible service for visitors on the nature reserve. The result was an increase in bookings of 22% and enhanced income of over £1,700 - 49% up on last year.

NWT staff organised or took part in 24 special events in the year, including 14 Wildlife Watch events. We entertained 50 funders, sponsors and grant aiders from the organisations supporting our Hickling Restoration Project at an event in June 2000 to celebrate the completion of the project and were joined the next day by 80 representatives of corporate member companies to enjoy the nature reserve and revamped visitor centre.

Our sponsored cycle ride and art exhibition (the latter organised by council member Angela Turner) were most successful, raising £1,100 and £4,400 respectively.

NWT attendance at the 2000 Royal Norfolk Show was rewarding. Total turnover doubled that of the previous year, exceeding £2,000, with the added bonus that we were awarded the Somerleyton Cup for the Best Conservation Stand.

DEVELOPING OUR ORGANISATION

The adoption of a new business strategy in March 2000 has helped to set a new direction for NWT, driving forward our conservation, education and marketing activities whilst at the same time developing the systems and procedures that enable us to manage our organisation better. NWT has grown substantially in the past few years and as part of our strategy we have been working towards achieving best practice in the following areas: -

Health and Safety Policy and Implementation

- Adoption of risk assessments for all posts and key operations
- Devising and communicating guidance notes on a wide range of operations
- Establishing regular Health and Safety auditing procedures

Staff Development

- Adoption of a new training policy and strategy
- Achievement in December 2000 of 'Investor in People' status
- Adoption of an Equal Opportunities policy

Information Management

- Adoption and development of Geographical Information Systems (GIS) in the monitoring and management of species and habitats.

Environment

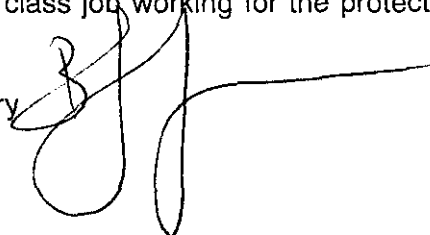
- Adoption of a new environmental policy and development of an associated environmental action plan

Governance

- Formation of an organisation review group to examine governance and management structures and make recommendations for improvements.

We continue to work to ensure that we remain at the forefront of good conservation and education practice, that we have in place the appropriate management and support systems necessary to meet the demands of an increasingly complex organisation and that we meet the requirements and regulations of statutory bodies and funders. Above all, we aim to ensure that our members and supporters have confidence that we continue to do a first class job working for the protection and enhancement of Norfolk's wildlife and wild places.

Brendan Joyce BSc, NWT Director and Company Secretary
for and on behalf of the Council of Norfolk Wildlife Trust



REVIEW OF FINANCIAL POSITION

1. Results

After the rapid increases of the last few years it is perhaps unsurprising to report that the year to 31 March 2001 saw a consolidation of NWT's income and expenditure. Whilst the Statement of Financial Activities on page 19 shows a 14% decrease in total incoming resources to £1,950,745 and a 15% drop in total resources expended to £1,747,393, after allowing for the grant income and purchase cost of the land at Upton last year, overall income and expenditure levels are virtually unchanged year on year.

This year's accounts incorporate the first year of trading for NWT's trading subsidiary, Norfolk Wildlife Services Ltd. The company produced a good result with a profit of £12,738 gift aided to NWT, as shown in note 5 on page 21.

Overall membership subscription income increased by 22% largely through increased tax recoveries from Gift Aid and VAT.

Net incoming resources before transfers amounted to £203,352 which included £81,070 restricted funds to cover future committed expenditure. As well as maintaining funds to cover the five year business strategy, these resources allowed a further £75,000 to be added to designated funds to cover key future development needs of NWT - as shown in note 13 on page 24.

2. Fixed Assets and Investments

Movements in fixed assets are shown in note 8 to the accounts. During the year there were machinery and office equipment additions of £15,448, being mainly enhancements to NWT's computer equipment and machinery funded through the business strategy.

Movements in investments are shown in note 9 to the accounts. All investments held by NWT have been acquired in accordance with the powers available to the Trustees as set out in NWT's Memorandum and Articles of Association.

3. Changes in Accounting Policy

Accounting policies remain as for the previous year, save for the addition of a policy on the consolidation of NWT's trading subsidiary, Norfolk Wildlife Services Ltd.

4. Policy on Financial Reserves

NWT has an agreed policy in respect of the level of financial reserves held, following guidance issued to all charities by the Charity Commission. The policy provides that a minimum equivalent of six month's revenue expenditure should be maintained as financial reserves. This is in keeping with our long term responsibilities as a landowner and employer and helps us to respond to unforeseen expenditure requirements, potential losses of funding and new developments. As at 31 March 2001 the relevant financial reserves stood at £726,805 or approximately seven months budgeted revenue expenditure. This policy will be reviewed annually.

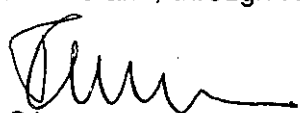
5. The Wildlife Trusts (RSNC)

Norfolk Wildlife Trust continues to work in partnership with the other wildlife trusts around the UK who collectively contribute to the work of The Wildlife Trusts UK Office by way of an annual levy payment. This is calculated on the basis of incoming resources and for NWT was £15,500 for the period.

6. Conclusion

The year to 31 March 2001 saw total balance sheet funds increase to £2,109,529 and a consolidation of NWT's financial activities. The next year will see various fundraising activities in connection with our 75th anniversary and an appeal to members in connection with the Securing the Future project. Expenditure under this project is likely to be £700,000 next year.

Overall, I am pleased to report that NWT has sufficient assets to meet its obligations against projects and activities and, through restricted funds, can meet obligations which are being carried forward.



Ian Couzens ACA
Treasurer
For and on behalf of Council

Norfolk Wildlife Trust

Patron Her Majesty the Queen

Vice Patron Sir Timothy Colman KG

President Sir John Blofeld

Deputy President Mr J S Peel MC MA JP DL

Vice Presidents

Mr J W Loades FCCA

Lt. Cdr. A S McLean BA JP DL

Mr R Washbourn OBE MA

MEMBERS OF COUNCIL as at 31 March 2001

Officers

Don Dorling (Chairman)*

Sir Nicholas Bacon Bt (Vice Chairman)*

Ian Couzens (Treasurer)*

Other Members

John Austen*

Michael Baker*

John Bullard

Tim Cawkwell

John Cryer*

Ursula Jackson

Roger Jones

Warren King

Tim Peet

John Snape*

Angela Turner

Richard Wingate

Neil Woodruff

Adrian Yallop

* Also members of Finance & General Purposes Committee

LOCAL GROUP CHAIRMEN as at 31 March 2001

Breckland Lt Col Ian MacKinnon

Broadland Murray Ferguson

Fakenham Peter Giles

Mid-Norfolk Roy Smith

Norwich Janet Ede

North Norfolk Neil Woodruff

West Norfolk David Reeve

Wymondham Frances Sullivan

AGENTS TO THE TRUST as at 31 March 2001

Auditors

Lovewell Blake Chartered Accountants

102 Prince of Wales Road, Norwich NR1 1NY

Bankers

Barclays Bank plc

Bank Plain, Norwich NR2 4SP

Girobank plc

Bridle Road, Bootle, Merseyside L3 0AA

COIF Charities Deposit Fund

St Alphage House, 2 Fore Street, London EC2Y 5AQ

Solicitors

Cozens-Hardy & Jewson

Castle Chambers, Opie Street, Norwich NR1 3DP

Consultant Land Agents

Francis Hornor Brown & Co.

Old Bank of England Court, Queen Street,

Norwich NR2 4TA

Insurance Brokers

Marsh Ltd

Victoria House, Queens Road, Norwich NR1 3QQ

Investment Brokers

Barratt & Cooke

5/6 Opie Street, Norwich NR1 3DW

MEMBERS OF STAFF as at 31 March 2001

Director Brendan Joyce

Conservation Manager Reg Land

Reserves Manager Harry Bowell

Marketing Manager Tony Polack

Finance Manager Colin Ford

Sales & Centres Manager Ian Forster

Education Manager Rachel Walters

PA to the Director Susan Reeve

Conservation Officer John Hiskett

Biodiversity Project Officer Helen Baczkowska

Otters & Rivers Project Officer Steve Henson

Membership Officer Jen Drummond

Finance Officer Gill Fisher

Education Officer Hannah Shawyer

Marketing & Communications Officer Val Bowers

Marketing Assistant Kerri Fiske

West Norfolk Field Officer Bill Boyd

Breckland Field Officer Bev Nichols

Field Officer, Woodlands John Milton

Warden, Upper Thurne John Blackburn

Warden, Bure & Ant Marshes George Taylor

Warden, Cley Marshes Bernard Bishop

Warden, Holme Dunes Gary Hibberd

W Norfolk Heaths/Fens Warden Alex Cruickshank

Assistant Field Officer, Breckland Steve Titman

Assistant Field Officer, Woodlands Steve Collin

Estate Worker, Hickling Broad David Jenkin

Estate Worker, Hickling Broad Stephen Lee

Estate Worker, Bure & Ant Marshes Mark Amiss

Shepherd Gary Williams

Securing the Future Project Officer David Price

Securing the Future Project Assistant Susanne Hauck

Grazing Officer Melissa Slote

Monitoring Officer John Jackson

Centre Co-ordinator (Cley Marshes) Shirley Bishop

Weeting Heath Summer Warden Toby Branton

Receptionist Maria Tilley

NOTE: A number of seasonal posts were delayed due to the foot and mouth disease crisis.

AUDITORS' REPORT

Auditors' Report to the members of Norfolk Wildlife Trust (registered as The Norfolk Naturalists Trust)

We have audited the financial statements on pages 19-24 which have been prepared under the accounting policies set out on page 20.

RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF DIRECTORS AND AUDITORS

As described in the Report of Council, the Council is responsible for the preparation of financial statements. It is our responsibility to form an independent opinion, based on our audit, on those financial statements and to report our opinion to you.

BASIS OF OPINION

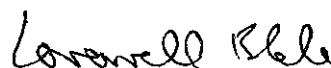
We conducted our audit in accordance with Auditing Standards issued by the Auditing Practices Board. An audit includes examination, on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. It also includes an assessment of the significant estimates and judgements made by the Council in the preparation of the financial statements and of whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the charitable company's circumstances, consistently applied and adequately disclosed.

We planned and performed our audit so as to obtain all the information and explanations which we considered necessary in order to provide us with sufficient evidence to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or error or other irregularity. In forming our opinion, we also evaluated the overall adequacy of the presentation of information in the financial statements.

OPINION

In our opinion, the financial statements give a true and fair view of the state of the group's and charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2001 and of the group's incoming resources and application of resources including the group's income and expenditure for the year then ended and have been properly prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 1985.

102 Prince of Wales Road
Norwich
Norfolk NR1 1NY



LOVEWELL BLAKE
Registered Auditors
Chartered Accountants

17 August 2001

Norfolk Wildlife Trust

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2001 (INCLUDING INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)

Note	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds	Year ended 31.03.01	Year ended 31.03.00
	General Funds £	Designated Funds £	£	£	£
INCOMING RESOURCES					
Donations, Sponsorships & Appeals	130,753	5,000	53,754	189,507	246,920
Legacies	6,328	28,000	-	34,328	208,848
Grants 7	341,734	4,410	602,826	948,970	1,248,857
Membership Subscriptions (inc. tax recovery)	292,015	7,000	-	299,015	244,310
Income from property	50,634	10,000	-	60,634	34,246
Visitor centre & permit sales	150,735	-	-	150,735	139,297
Investment Income	28,331	30,000	1,446	59,777	47,378
Other Income	153,187	-	41,786	194,973	95,738
Profit on disposal of assets	68	-	-	68	1,702
Net income of trading subsidiary 5	12,738	-	-	12,738	-
Total incoming resources	1,166,523	84,410	699,812	1,950,745	2,267,296
RESOURCES EXPENDED					
DIRECT CHARITABLE EXPENDITURE					
Nature Reserve Management	451,593	6,431	576,536	1,034,560	1,060,354
Wider countryside conservation	83,630	-	25,675	109,305	95,414
Education activity	67,352	-	5,000	72,352	62,477
Visitor Centre & permit sales	132,748	-	11,003	143,751	136,650
Purchase of Land	-	-	-	-	331,181
Visitor Centre construction	-	-	-	-	18,495
	735,323	6,431	618,214	1,359,968	1,704,571
OTHER EXPENDITURE					
Fundraising and Publicity	81,110	2,000	-	83,110	80,701
Membership Servicing and Recruitment	143,180	-	-	143,180	121,743
Management and Administration	160,066	541	528	161,135	147,343
	384,356	2,541	528	387,425	349,787
Total resources expended 3	1,119,679	8,972	618,742	1,747,393	2,054,358
NET INCOMING RESOURCES BEFORE TRANSFERS					
	46,844	75,438	81,070	203,352	212,938
Transfer between funds	-	-	-	-	-
NET INCOMING RESOURCES	46,844	75,438	81,070	203,352	212,938
Gains and losses on investment :					
Gains/(losses) on disposal of investments	(33)	-	-	(33)	521
Unrealised loss on revaluation of investments 9	(30,696)	-	-	(30,696)	(10,520)
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS	16,115	75,438	81,070	172,623	202,939
Balance b/fwd as at 1.4.2000 12,13	1,320,947	266,500	349,459	1,936,906	1,733,967
Balance c/fwd as at 31.3.2001 12,13	1,337,062	341,938	430,529	2,109,529	1,936,906

All disclosures relate to continuing operations. There are no recognised gains or losses other than those disclosed above.

CONSOLIDATED & TRUST BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2001

	Note	GROUP		TRUST	
		31.03.01 £	31.03.00 £	31.03.01 £	31.03.00 £
Tangible Fixed Assets	8	610,257	634,607	610,257	634,607
Investments	9	461,052	491,781	461,054	491,781
		<u>1,071,309</u>	<u>1,126,388</u>	<u>1,071,311</u>	<u>1,126,388</u>
Current Assets:					
Stock		66,890	54,241	66,890	54,241
Debtors	10	256,327	266,917	268,982	266,917
Cash in hand and at bank		846,121	634,504	825,484	634,504
		<u>1,169,338</u>	<u>955,662</u>	<u>1,161,356</u>	<u>955,662</u>
Creditors : Amounts falling due in less than one year	11	131,118	145,144	123,138	145,144
Net Current Assets		<u>1,038,220</u>	<u>810,518</u>	<u>1,038,218</u>	<u>810,518</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>2,109,529</u>	<u>1,936,906</u>	<u>2,109,529</u>	<u>1,936,906</u>
Restricted Funds	12	430,529	349,459	430,529	349,459
Unrestricted Funds: General	13	1,182,913	1,136,102	1,182,913	1,136,102
Designated	13	341,938	266,500	341,936	266,500
Revaluation Reserve	13	154,149	184,845	154,149	184,845
		<u>2,109,529</u>	<u>1,936,906</u>	<u>2,109,529</u>	<u>1,936,906</u>

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees and Members of Council on 24 July 2001

D Dorling & Sir N Bacon
Members of Council

Consens

Honorary Treasurer

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2001

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of Preparation: The accounts have been prepared under the historic cost convention except for the revaluation of freehold properties and investments, and in accordance with applicable accounting standards. The recommendations of SORP (Accounting by Charities) as published in October 1995 have been followed in the preparation of the accounts.

Incoming Resources: Voluntary income received by way of donations and gifts is credited to the income and expenditure account on a receipts basis. Tax refunds on covenant income are however accrued.

Grants Received: Revenue grants are credited to the income and expenditure account on a receipts basis unless they relate to a specified future period, in which case they are deferred. Grants received for the acquisition of a fixed asset are credited to restricted incoming resources when receivable. Depreciation on the fixed asset purchased is charged against the restricted fund.

Restricted Funds: Restricted funds are those where the donor has imposed restrictions on the use of funds.

Unrestricted Funds: Unrestricted funds are donations and other incoming resources received or generated for the charity.

Designated Funds: Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the Trustees for particular purposes.

Realised and Unrealised Gains and Losses: Realised gains and losses arise on the disposal of investments whereas unrealised gains and losses arise on the annual revaluation of the investment portfolio.

Investment Income: All investment income is credited according to the date of receipt.

Expenditure: All expenditure other than that which has been capitalised, is included in the income and expenditure account. Account is also taken of goods and services received at the year end but not invoiced until after this date.

Fixed Assets: Fixed assets are stated at original cost at acquisition, or if donated, the value at date of receipt. Depreciation is provided on tangible fixed assets at rates calculated to write off the cost of each asset over its expected useful life, which is set at five years for computers, three years for computer programmes, five years for vehicles, five years for small equipment and ten years for large equipment. No depreciation is charged on nature reserves or freehold property.

The additional capital cost of new conservation land is written off to general funds, as it does not have a financial value to NWT.

Stock: Stock for resale is stated at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

Pensions: NWT operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions are charged to the income and expenditure account as they become payable in accordance with the rules of the scheme.

Cash Flow Statements: NWT has taken advantage of the exemption provided by Financial Reporting Standard 1 and has not prepared a cash flow statement for the year.

Life Membership: Life membership is treated as income in advance and is released to the income and expenditure account in equal instalments over a ten year period.

Basis of Consolidation: The group financial statements comprise the financial statements of NWT and its trading subsidiary Norfolk Wildlife Services Ltd, made up to 31 March 2001.

2. INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

As described on the Statement of Financial Activities on page 19, no separate income and expenditure account has been presented. In this respect the Trustees have changed the format of the accounts and departed from the provisions of Schedule 4 Companies Act 1985, as it is considered that as a charitable organisation, the Statement of Financial Activities gives a more true and fair view of the Trust's activities during the year.

3. ANALYSIS OF TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED

	Staff Costs £	Other Costs £	Total £
Nature Reserve Management	344,346	690,214	1,034,560
Wider Countryside Conservation	75,332	33,973	109,305
Education activity	41,085	31,267	72,352
Visitor Centre & permit sales	54,935	88,816	143,751
Fundraising and Publicity	38,966	44,144	83,110
Membership Servicing and Recruitment	15,304	100,536	115,840
Natural World and RSNC Levy	-	27,340	27,340
Management and Administration	115,921	45,214	161,135
	685,889	1,061,504	1,747,393

Certain management and administration costs have been reallocated to other expenditure headings in order to present a more accurate expenditure analysis.

The largest item of expenditure remaining within the heading 'management and administration other costs' is depreciation totalling £8,559.

4. SURPLUS FOR THE PERIOD

This is stated after charging :	31/03/01 £	31/03/00 £
Depreciation	39,798	33,388
Auditors remuneration :		
re audit fees	1,950	1,950
re accountancy services	1,535	3,706

5. NET INCOME FROM TRADING ACTIVITIES OF SUBSIDIARY

NWT has a wholly owned subsidiary Norfolk Wildlife Services Ltd which traded during the year to 31 March 2001. The company's primary activity is providing consultancy services and the company pays all its profits to the Trust by gift aid. A summary of its trading results is shown below.

Norfolk Wildlife Services Limited	
Summary Profit & Loss Account	Year to 31/03/01 £
Turnover - consultancy fees	44,602
Cost of sales - consultancy fees	(31,620)
Gross profit	12,982
Other expenses	(250)
Bank interest	6
Net profit	12,738
Amount gift aided to Norfolk Wildlife Trust	(12,738)
Retained in subsidiary	-

6. STAFF COSTS

	Year ended 31.03.01 £	Year ended 31.03.00 £
Wages and Salaries	624,373	570,003
Social Security Costs	52,329	47,910
Pension Costs	9,187	8,883
	<u>685,889</u>	<u>626,796</u>

The average number of staff employed by the charity during the year was 42 (2000 : 42). No employee earned in excess of £40,000 in the year. No staff costs were incurred by the Trust's trading subsidiary in the year. Members of Council have received no remuneration or reimbursement of expenses.

7. GRANTS RECEIVED

	Year ended 31.03.01 £	Year ended 31.03.00 £
Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk	4,000	5,450
Breckland Council	-	22,707
Brecks Countryside Project	1,800	(8,160)
Broadland District Council	2,960	-
Broads Authority	22,600	36,250
British Sugar plc (Landfill tax credit)	-	11,250
Countryside Agency	-	2,885
Department of the Environment, Transport & Regions	11,439	12,731
East of England Development Agency	8,422	15,502
English Nature	173,037	189,060
Environment Agency	5,750	3,750
Environment Council (Landfill tax credit)	-	20,000
European Commission	50,853	56,779
Forestry Commission	1,612	8,045
Herpetological Conservation Trust	100	-
Heritage Lottery Fund	474,161	681,898
Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries	164,599	142,670
North Norfolk District Council	4,663	4,663
Waste Recycling Environmental Ltd (Landfill tax credit)	13,066	35,000
William George Waste Disposal (Landfill tax credit)	9,908	8,377
	<u>948,970</u>	<u>1,248,857</u>

8. FIXED ASSETS

Group and Trust	Freehold Property £	Nature Reserves £	Vehicles £	Equipment & Machinery £	Office Equipment £	Total £
Cost as at 1 April 2000	508,000	1	73,384	85,585	34,223	701,193
Additions	-	-	-	11,662	3,786	15,448
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transfer to restricted funds	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cost as at 31 March 2001	<u>508,000</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>73,384</u>	<u>97,247</u>	<u>38,009</u>	<u>716,641</u>
Depreciation as at 1 April 2000	-	-	25,224	31,644	9,718	66,586
Charge for the year	-	-	14,664	18,135	6,999	39,798
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-	-
Depreciation as at 31 March 2001	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>39,888</u>	<u>49,779</u>	<u>16,717</u>	<u>106,384</u>
Net Book Value as at 31 March 2001	<u>508,000</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>33,496</u>	<u>47,468</u>	<u>21,292</u>	<u>610,257</u>
Net Book Value as at 31 March 2000	<u>508,000</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>48,160</u>	<u>53,941</u>	<u>24,505</u>	<u>634,607</u>

Freehold property was revalued on 31 March 1994 by Francis Hornor, Chartered Surveyors. The transitional provisions of the Financial Reporting Standard 15 have been adopted which allow for land and buildings to be valued at the last valuation which has not been updated.

On an historical cost basis, the freehold property and Nature Reserves would have been included at £1,641,049 (1999/00 : £1,641,049) including conservation land.

9. INVESTMENTS

(a) Listed on the Stock Exchange

	£
Value as at 1 April 2000	491,781
Additions at cost	62,566
	<u>554,347</u>
Disposals at opening book value	(62,599)
	<u>491,748</u>
Unrealised decrease in value	(30,696)
Value as at 31 March 2001	<u>461,052</u>

The investments listed on a recognised stock exchange are as follows :

	Year ended 31.03.01 £	Year ended 31.03.00 £
Fixed Interest Stock	148,264	145,755
Unit Trusts	103,492	94,120
Investment Trusts	68,316	88,867
Equities	140,980	163,039
Total	<u>461,052</u>	<u>491,781</u>
Historical cost as at 31 March 2001	<u>358,177</u>	<u>338,336</u>

Certain of the investment holdings represent more than 5% of the investment portfolio by market value; however, these investments are free from any restrictions and are readily realisable.

(b) Group Undertakings

	Year ended 31.03.01 £	Year ended 31.03.00 £
Investments in subsidiary undertakings	2	1

NWT owns 100% of the ordinary share capital of Norfolk Wildlife Services Limited, a company incorporated and registered in England & Wales on 28 March 2000. The principal activity of the company is the provision of consultancy services and the results for the year are shown in note 5.

NWT also owns 100% of the ordinary share capital of Norfolk Wildlife Trust Limited, a company incorporated and registered in England & Wales on 28 February 2001. The company did not trade during the period to 31 March 2001.

10. DEBTORS - FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	GROUP		TRUST	
	Year ended 31.03.01 £	Year ended 31.03.00 £	Year ended 31.03.01 £	Year ended 31.03.00 £
Grants Receivable	109,821	166,706	109,821	166,706
Tax Recoverable	69,419	43,065	69,419	43,065
VAT Recoverable	18,754	33,912	18,754	33,912
Prepayments	2,041	3,402	2,041	3,402
Owed by Norfolk Wildlife Services Ltd	-	-	29,964	-
Other Debtors	56,292	19,832	38,983	19,832
	<u>256,327</u>	<u>266,917</u>	<u>268,982</u>	<u>266,917</u>

11. CREDITORS - FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	GROUP		TRUST	
	Year ended 31.03.01 £	Year ended 31.03.00 £	Year ended 31.03.01 £	Year ended 31.03.00 £
Owed to Norfolk Wildlife Services Ltd	-	-	572	-
Life Membership	12,249	13,449	12,249	13,449
VAT Payable	5,890	-	-	-
Other Creditors & accruals	112,979	131,695	110,317	131,695
	<u>131,118</u>	<u>145,144</u>	<u>123,138</u>	<u>145,144</u>

12. RESTRICTED FUNDS

	Balance 1.4.00	Incoming	Outgoing	Transfers	Balance 31.3.01
	£	£	£	£	£
Appeals	41,677	531	(6,296)	-	35,912
Education Fund	5,000	5,000	(5,000)	-	5,000
Bittern Projects	6,328	46,842	(24,294)	(12,904)	15,972
Fixed Asset Fund	62,697	-	(15,492)	2,822	50,027
Hickling Restoration Project	18,421	132,361	(144,778)	(550)	5,454
Wider Countryside Fund	1,100	4,319	(1,000)	-	4,419
Reserves Management Fund	45,420	9,047	(14,882)	-	39,585
Grimston Warren Restoration	8,773	57,000	(2,442)	-	63,331
Securing the Future	114,007	397,437	(364,554)	10,632	157,522
Otters & Rivers Project	17,096	38,404	(24,675)	-	30,825
Boat Dyke Marshes, Upton Acquisition & Restoration	1,163	-	(1,870)	-	(707)
Whiteslea Lodge Maintenance Fund	24,892	3,046	(5,759)	-	22,179
NWT Clay Marshes Visitor Centre Refurbishment & Interpretation	2,885	4,704	(6,993)	-	596
Brecks Heathland Project	-	-	(339)	-	(339)
Norfolk Flora Fund	-	1,121	(368)	-	753
	349,459	699,812	(618,742)	-	430,529

Definitions of Restricted Funds

Education Fund: Education activities and projects

Bittern Projects Fund: Bittern conservation projects on various reserves

Fixed Asset Fund: Comprises grants and donations for purchase of fixed assets

Hickling Restoration Fund: Capital improvements at NWT Hickling Broad NNR funded by Heritage Lottery Fund, corporate and private donations

Wider Countryside Fund: Projects related to County Wildlife Sites and work off the nature reserves

Reserves Management Fund: Funds held for future reserve management work

Grimston Warren Restoration: Funds for the restoration of land at NWT Grimston Warren

Securing the Future: Capital improvements at 26 Norfolk Wildlife Trust nature reserves, funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, corporate and private donations

Otters and Rivers Project: Project to restore the Otter population and river habitats

Boat Dyke Marshes, Upton Acquisition and Restoration: Funds for the purchase and restoration of land at Boat Dyke Marshes, Upton

Whiteslea Lodge Maintenance Fund: Funds for the maintenance of Whiteslea Lodge, Hickling

NWT Clay Marshes Visitor Centre Refurbishment and Interpretation: Funds for the refurbishment of NWT Clay Marshes visitor centre including interpretation

Brecks Heathland Project: Partnership project with English Nature and Forest Enterprise to recreate 300 hectares of Brecks heath on 7 sites

Norfolk Flora Fund: Funds for projects of botanical interest, funded by proceeds from the sale of the Norfolk Flora publication

13. UNRESTRICTED FUNDS

	Balance 1.4.00	Incoming	Outgoing	Transfer between funds	Balance 31.3.01
	£	£	£	£	£
General Fund	1,136,102	1,166,490	(1,119,679)	-	1,182,913
Designated Funds:					
Business Strategy	266,500	9,410	(8,972)	-	266,938
Education Plan	-	28,000	-	-	28,000
IIP/Staff development fund	-	10,000	-	-	10,000
Reserves/Building emergency fund	-	10,000	-	-	10,000
Conservation development fund	-	20,000	-	-	20,000
Marketing development fund	-	7,000	-	-	7,000
Revaluation Reserve	184,545	-	(30,696)	-	154,149
	1,587,447	1,250,900	(1,159,347)	-	1,679,000

14. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £
Fund Balances at 31 March 2001 are represented by:			
Tangible Fixed Assets	560,230	50,027	610,257
Investments	439,052	22,000	461,052
Net current assets	679,718	358,502	1,038,220
	1,679,000	430,529	2,109,529

15. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

The company has taken advantage of exemptions available to it under FRS 8 (Related Party Transactions) not to disclose transactions with its subsidiary, Norfolk Wildlife Services Limited.

Corporate Members of Norfolk Wildlife Trust as at 31 March 2001

Agrovista UK Limited
Anglia Maltings Holdings Limited
Anglia Railways
Anglian Group PLC
Anglian Water Services Ltd
AT Bent Properties Ltd
Aventis CropScience UK Limited
Barclays Bank PLC
Barker Bros Aggregates Ltd
Ben Burgess Garden Equipment
Bernard Matthews PLC
Bespak plc
Bidwells
Birdline East Anglia
Birds Eye Wall's Ltd
Blakes Holidays Ltd
Blue Sky Leisure
Bowes of Norfolk Limited
BP Amoco Exploration
The BPS Group
British Sugar plc
Busseys Ltd
Clippesby Holidays
Cox's Boatyard
Creative Image Management Ltd
Crowes Complete Print
Dipple & Son
Dow Chemical Company Limited
East Anglian Pharmaceuticals Ltd
Eastern Counties Newspapers Group Ltd
Easton College
Essex & Suffolk Water
Eversheds
Fakenham Laundry Services
FDP Savills
Fordham Johns Partnership Ltd
Forest Park Caravan Site Ltd
Francis Hornor Brown & Co
Gallpen Colour Print
GT General Trailers
Hoseasons Holidays Ltd
In Focus
Interconnector (UK) Ltd
J & H Bunn Ltd
J S Hay Ltd
Jarrold & Sons Ltd
Knights Farms
Lafarge Aggregates Limited
Larking Gowen
Longwater Gravel Co Ltd
Lovewell Blake
M & H Holdings
Marketing Catalyst Limited
Marsh Ltd
May Gurney Holdings Ltd

Merton Hall Pond Ltd
Middlemarch Environment Ltd
Mills & Reeve
Mobil North Sea Ltd
Moneyfacts Group
NatWest Bank
Norfolk Country Cottages
Norfolk Lavender Ltd
Norwich & Peterborough Building Society
Norwich Union
Notcutts Garden Centre
Overburys
RA Howarth Engineering Ltd
Rapide Design & Print
Reliance Garage
Reeves & Neylan
Risk & Policy Analysts Ltd
RMC Aggregates (Eastern Counties)
Shell U.K. Exploration & Production
Signs Express
Sinclair International Ltd
Syngenta Seeds Limited
Smith-Woolley, Chartered Surveyors
Stills
Swarovski Optik
Tarmac Quarry Products Limited
The National Grid Company plc
Ward Gethin
White Lodge Properties Ltd

Norfolk Wildlife Trust
72 Cathedral Close, Norwich NR1 4DF

Tel 01603 625540 Fax 01603 630593 Email Admin@nwt.cix.co.uk

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This Annual Report has been sponsored by Brown & Co