

Grants made for the year ended 31 March 2008

Organisation

Grant Amount (£)

Conservation of the Natural Environment

The Woodland Trust

750,000

Towards the purchase and restoration of Brede High Woods, Sussex

To contribute towards the purchase and large-scale restoration of 263 hectares of land on a planted ancient woodland site (PAWS) in Sussex. In the area of the UK with the highest remaining ancient woodland resource, the project will also restore the UK BAP priority habitats of lowland heathland, lowland dry acid grassland and benefit such UK BAP priority species as the dormouse, pipistrelle bat, water vole, great crested newt, turtle dove, spotted flycatcher, pearl-bordered fritillary, white admiral, dingy skipper and grizzled skipper.

Devon Wildlife Trust

500,000

Towards the "Natural Networks – Working Wetlands on the Culm" project

To support work to improve the condition of the nationally important concentrations in North Devon of the UK BAP priority habitats of culm grassland and wet woodland. Through beneficial management and the provision of advice to landowners, large areas of contiguous habitat of high wildlife value will be established and maintained. Such UK BAP priority species as otter, water vole, dormouse, freshwater pearl mussel and marsh fritillary will benefit.

Berkshire, Buckinghamshire & Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust

344,083

Towards the purchase of floodplain grazing marsh at Gallows Bridge Farm, Grendon Underwood, Buckinghamshire

To contribute towards the purchase and restoration of a traditionally functioning floodplain environment. The acquisition, restoration and enhancement of 58 hectares of land on the Upper River Ray will benefit the UK BAP priority habitats of floodplain grazing marsh and lowland meadows. A key area for wading birds, the UK BAP priority species of the priority species that will benefit include lapwing, true fox sedge and great crested newt.

Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust

247,033

Towards the "Rebuilding Biodiversity in Gloucestershire's Severn Vale" project

To support landscape scale work to achieve appropriate biodiversity management over an area in excess of 6,000 hectares within 12 prioritised Strategic Nature Areas in the Severn Vale. Through the provision of targeted advice to landowners and the development of sustainable grazing, the UK BAP priority habitats of floodplain grazing marsh, reedbeds and intertidal habitats will benefit as well as the associated UK BAP priority species of otter, water vole, brown hare, reed bunting and bullfinch.

Organisation**Grant Amount (£)****The National Trust****221,923***Towards the purchase of Trevean Farm, Penwith, Cornwall*

To contribute towards the purchase of 73 hectares of farmland which will be managed for biodiversity benefit. The following UK BAP priority habitats will be restored to favourable condition: maritime cliff and slopes, lowland heathland, upland heathland, lowland dry acid grassland and lowland meadows. UK BAP priority species that will benefit include the greater and lesser horseshoe bat, adder, linnet and hornet robberfly.

Gwent Wildlife Trust**214,503***Towards the purchase and restoration of Wyewood Common, Monmouth*

To contribute towards the purchase of land which will strategically link a SSSI grassland nature reserve with the Wye Valley Special Area of Conservation. The subsequent habitat restoration and re-creation and the landowner advisory work undertaken will benefit the UK BAP priority habitats of lowland meadows, wood pasture and parkland, and hedgerows and a variety of UK BAP priority species including the lesser and greater horseshoe bat, dormouse, shrill carder bee, wood white butterfly and spreading bellflower.

Staffordshire Wildlife Trust**132,150***Towards the "flower-rich meadow heritage of northeast Staffordshire" project*

To support strategic work to create, restore and link significant areas of a variety of grassland habitats. Through the provision of advice to landowners, the existing areas of habitats will be brought into favourable condition and sustainably managed for the future. The UK BAP priority habitats of lowland calcareous grassland, lowland meadows and dry acid grassland will benefit along with associated UK BAP priority species.

Cumbria Wildlife Trust**104,159***Towards the "Cumbria Hay Meadows" project*

To support the restoration and enhancement of 350 hectares of a matrix of the UK BAP priority habitats of upland hay meadows and lowland meadows. Developed to complement the "Pennine Dales Meadow Heritage Initiative" project (towards which a grant was awarded to The Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust in 2006), this project will provide advice and encouragement to landowners to manage their land effectively and give practical demonstrations in all aspects of hay meadow management.

North Wales Wildlife Trust**102,671***Towards the purchase and management of fenland on Anglesey*

To contribute towards the strategic purchase of 17 hectares of land situated in a major ecological connectivity corridor linking two of the most valuable wetland sites in Europe. The acquisition will protect the land and its neighbouring SSSI and, with appropriate management, will benefit the UK BAP priority habitats of fen, lowland calcareous grassland and hedgerows as well as such UK BAP priority species as brown hare, linnet, song thrush, medicinal leech and dwarf stonewort.

Organisation**Grant Amount (£)****North Highland Forest Trust****98,849***Towards the "Far North Coppice-Forestry" project*

To support work to reduce the fragmentation of key woodland habitats in Caithness and Sutherland and promote the delivery of appropriate woodland management to ensure more sustainable and biodiversity focused forestry in the future. The UK BAP priority habitats of upland birchwoods, upland oakwood, wet woodland, upland mixed ashwoods and native pine woodland will benefit along with a wide-ranging list of UK BAP priority species including the narrow-headed ant, jumping weevil, capercaillie, corncrake, cousin German moth, poroid fungus, Wilson's pouchwort, twinflower and red squirrel.

Shropshire Wildlife Trust**90,000***Towards the purchase and restoration of The Hollies, Shropshire*

To contribute towards the acquisition and restoration of 36 hectares of a SSSI as part of the "Back to Purple" initiative (restoring heathland and associated habitats along The Stiperstones ridge). The UK BAP priority habitats that will benefit are lowland heathland, lowland dry acid grassland, wood pasture and parkland. Bringing back the habitats into favourable condition will provide benefits for such UK BAP priority species as red grouse, tree pipit, brown long-eared bat and grayling butterfly.

Vale Landscape Heritage Trust**70,000***Towards the purchase, restoration and management of Hipton Hill Orchard, Worcestershire*

To contribute towards the purchase of 28 hectares of traditional orchard. With the orchard being of an exceptionally large size and the site containing the additional UK BAP priority habitat of lowland calcareous grassland, the land purchased is of significant biodiversity value. UK BAP priority species such as the noble chafer, bullfinch and skylark are likely to benefit from the acquisition and subsequent management of the orchard.

Tweed Forum Ltd.**68,761***Towards the "Tweed Invasives" project*

To support work with landowners to control the non-native species which threaten the biodiversity of the Tweed Catchment. Since the project area covers 768,000 hectares and incorporates a SSSI and SAC, considerable biodiversity benefits will be gained from the landscape scale control of the invasive species. In particular, riverine and riparian UK BAP priority species such as otter, atlantic salmon, lampreys and three-lobed water crowfoot will benefit from the improvements to the catchment.

Organisation**Grant Amount (£)****Suffolk Wildlife Trust****61,446**

Towards the “Dunwich Forest Wood Pasture” project

To contribute towards the restoration and management of 260 hectares of land in an area of the Suffolk coast with a complex of sites of national and international conservation importance. The short-term restoration and longer-term re-creation work on the land will increase the area of UK BAP priority habitat of wood pasture, link existing fragmented habitats and enlarge the area of the coast under conservation management. A wide range of UK BAP priority species will benefit including adder, grass snake, common lizard, nightjar, turtle dove, woodlark, song thrush, linnets, spotted flycatcher, lunar yellow underwing moth, white letter hairstreak and grayling butterflies, pipistrelle bat and hedgehog.

Derbyshire Wildlife Trust**60,000**

Towards the “Water for Wildlife” project

To support strategic work with landowners to link and buffer critical sites within two river catchments in Derbyshire. Covering a total area of 65,500 hectares, the work to restore, create and expand the UK BAP priority habitats of wet woodland, reedbeds, eutrophic standing waters, ponds and floodplain grazing marsh will result in the improvement of the biodiversity in-stream and on the banks and floodplains of the rivers Dove and Erewash. This in turn will benefit the UK BAP priority species of water vole, otter, great crested newt and white-clawed crayfish.

Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust**60,000**

Towards the “Ribble Crayfish Conservation” project

To support work of international interest to eradicate the invasive, non-native species of signal crayfish from the river Ribble catchment in order to protect the UK BAP priority species of white-clawed crayfish and the wider riverine biodiversity.

Little Ouse Headwaters Charity**55,218**

Towards the purchase and restoration of fenland adjacent to the Little Ouse River in Suffolk

To contribute towards the purchase of land situated in the most important area of the UK for valley fen (a sub-type of the UK BAP priority habitat of lowland fen). Habitat creation will increase the area of valley fen and improved management of the land will also benefit the UK BAP priority habitats of reedbeds, wet woodland, lowland dry acid grassland, lowland heathland and hedgerows. These habitats support a number of UK BAP priority species including fen orchid, fen raft spider, great crested newt, common toad, slow-worm, common lizard, grass snake, adder, water vole, brown hare, otter, reed bunting, grey partridge and spotted flycatcher.

Organisation

Grant Amount (£)

Argyll Green Woodworkers Association

45,508

Towards the restoration of native woodland habitat in Argyll

To support the restoration of three ancient woodland sites in mid Argyll. Focused on over 230 hectares of the UK BAP priority habitat of upland oakwood, the restoration work will also benefit the UK BAP priority species of pipistrelle bat, otter, black grouse, bullfinch, nightjar, song thrush, pearl-bordered fritillary and red squirrel.

3,226,304

Welfare of Farmed Animals

Farm Animal Welfare Trust

1,537,500

Towards the “Novel commercial broiler genetic selection techniques integrating welfare traits with production traits” project

To support work to develop and test a genetic selection process that focuses on efficient chicken meat production as well as the welfare of the animal and which will ultimately influence breeding. The aim is then to test the results commercially and bring the changes to the marketplace. The project will be carried out through a partnership with FAI Farms Ltd and the Department of Zoology, Oxford University.

Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals

1,221,068

Towards the “Meeting the welfare needs of commercially farmed ducks by providing water in which they can bathe” project

To support work with key players across the food chain to develop and produce a commercially viable system which will deliver a significant welfare improvement for commercially farmed ducks by ensuring the provision of water in which they can swim and perform other natural behaviours.

The University of Bristol

868,295

Towards the “Reducing injurious pecking amongst layer hens by implementing existing knowledge” project

To support a project designed to make a quantifiable reduction in injurious pecking amongst the UK’s estimated 30 million laying hens. A practical, cost-effective husbandry advisory package will be developed and made available to egg producers and their advisors, identifying the most appropriate husbandry solutions for each individual farm.

Compassion in World Farming Trust

120,000

Towards core and business planning costs for the Farmed Animal Welfare Forum

To provide support for the Farmed Animal Welfare Forum, a group of influential organisations working to effect large-scale, long-term and sustainable improvements in the welfare of farmed animals in the form of core and business planning costs in order to strengthen and develop the Forum for the future.

Organisation	Grant Amount (£)
<p>World Society for the Protection of Animals</p> <p><i>Towards the Long Distance Transport Coalition's "Handle With Care" Campaign</i></p> <p>To support a one year global campaign against the long distance transport of animals for slaughter. Launched in February 2008, the campaign will be known publicly as the "Handle with Care" campaign and involve a global coalition of 11 leading, reputable and experienced animal welfare organisations.</p>	100,000
<p>The University of Bristol</p> <p><i>Towards the promotion of automatic lameness detection in dairy herds</i></p> <p>To support the promotion and facilitation of intensive lameness monitoring in UK dairy cattle herds using an automatic lameness detection system. Developed by the Royal Veterinary College, the system has been designed to be easy, accurate and cost-effective to use on a large scale, enabling farmers, milk suppliers and retailers to undertake the level of monitoring of dairy herds necessary to effect widespread reduction of lameness in the UK.</p>	96,792
<p>Compassion in World Farming Trust</p> <p><i>Towards a development plan for a Food Policy Unit within Compassion in World Farming</i></p> <p>To support the creation of a development plan for the establishment of a Food Policy Unit. By engaging with industry and consumers Europe-wide, the Unit will aim to ensure that farmed animal welfare is brought to the heart of the food industry in the European Union (EU).</p>	68,000
<p>The Soil Association</p> <p><i>Towards a development plan for the "Development of organic poultry systems as models for best practice" project</i></p> <p>Towards a development plan for a project which will develop a model of best practice in organic poultry systems in order to reduce key welfare problems.</p>	65,565
<p>Compassion in World Farming Trust</p> <p><i>Towards the costs of the development of a coordinated 10 year strategic plan for the Farmed Animal Welfare Forum and support for the Forum until 31/03/2008</i></p> <p>To provide support for the development of a co-ordinated strategic plan for the Farmed Animal Welfare Forum, a group of influential organisations working to effect large-scale, long-term and sustainable improvements in the welfare of farmed animals in the form of core and business planning costs in order to strengthen and develop the Forum for the future.</p>	55,000
	4,132,220
Grand Total	7,358,524