

Grants made for the year ended 31 March 2009

Organisation

Grant Amount (£)

Conservation of the Natural Environment

Royal Society for the Protection of Birds

1,000,000

To establish a restricted fund for the purposes of the acquisition and subsequent restoration of land of strategic importance in the Flow Country of Caithness and Sutherland

To contribute towards the purchase and restoration of land in an area of the UK that forms one of the largest and most intact areas of blanket bog in the world. The peatlands include an exceptionally wide range of vegetation and surface pattern types, some of which are unknown elsewhere. The peatlands have been damaged by forestry planting and associated drainage and it is part of the RSPB's strategy to acquire priority areas to deliver landscape-scale habitat restoration in the Flow Country. Blanket bog is a priority habitat under the UK BAP. In addition, UK BAP priority species to benefit include the common scoter, black-throated diver, skylark, water vole and otter.

Pond Conservation

649,634

Towards the creation of networks of high quality ponds

To support strategic work to create 5,000 new ponds across England and Wales contributing towards the newly created UK BAP habitat of Ponds. As well as the habitat benefits, work with major landowners to create well-designed clusters of ponds and collaboration with specialist NGOs to create individual ponds will target a large range of UK BAP priority species including slender stonewort, marsh clubmoss, starfruit, white-clawed crayfish, tadpole shrimp, mud snail, great crested newt, natterjack toad, tree sparrow and soprano pipistrelle.

City of London Corporation – Open Spaces – Epping Forest

270,658

Towards the "Epping Forest – Branching Out" project

To support habitat restoration in Epping Forest, one of the most important wood pasture sites in the UK. Work will target 1,500 ancient pollards to extend their life and increase their biodiversity importance and naturalistic grazing will be re-introduced across an area of over 700 hectares. UK BAP priority species that will benefit include Knothole moss and the fungi Oak Polypore and Zoned Rosette.

Organisation**Grant Amount (£)****Sussex Wildlife Trust****246,353**

Towards the “Conservation of A Living Landscape in the West Weald” project

To support a landscape-scale vision focused on forest network creation and the conservation of woodland bat species in the West Weald. Using detailed survey knowledge, improved woodland management and the creation and restoration of connecting corridors will benefit two priority bat species Bechstein’s and barbastelle and other UK BAP priority species such as pearl-bordered fritillary and dormouse.

Kent Wildlife Trust**200,000**

Towards the Blean Conservation Complex

To support habitat restoration to re-establish diverse semi-natural ancient woodland across over 1,000 hectares of the Blean complex. Conifer and sweet chestnut removal will allow natural regeneration of broadleaved woodland and complementary habitats such as lowland heath, lowland acid grassland and lowland fens will be established. UK BAP priority species including nightjar, nightingale and heath fritillary will benefit.

Avon Wildlife Trust**197,556**

Towards the “Restoring Avon's Wildflower-rich Grasslands” project

To support the creation and restoration of approximately 1,000 hectares of grassland habitats in an area of national importance for these habitats. Through targeted advice to landowners, the UK BAP priority habitats of lowland calcareous grassland and lowland meadows will benefit along with associated UK BAP priority species.

Buglife – The Invertebrate Conservation Trust**187,864**

Towards the “Stepping stones for wildlife: developing a network of invertebrate reserves in Essex” project

To support the creation of a sustainable network of habitats for priority invertebrates by improving the management of brownfield sites, now included within the UK BAP priority habitat of “open mosaic habitats on previously developed land”. This will be achieved by the implementation of carefully-designed features in nature reserves and open spaces, providing the conditions required by the target species and by developing best practice guidance for habitat management and site protection of these fragile but key sites.

Tyne Rivers Trust**160,000**

Towards the “Tyne Habitat Inventory Strategic Geographical Information System” project

To support a targeted programme of work in the Tyne Catchment in partnership with landowners and relevant agencies to maintain and improve the Catchment's ecology and biodiversity. A range of human pressures will be addressed in a holistic way to improve key habitats and demonstrate best practice in watercourse management. UK BAP priority species that will benefit include Atlantic salmon, freshwater pearl mussel, otter, water vole, white-clawed crayfish, lamprey and river jelly lichen.

Organisation**Grant Amount (£)****The Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Northamptonshire and Peterborough****150,000***Towards the "The Nene Valley Vision" project*

To support the delivery of a strategic vision in the Nene valley where the proposed growth development area provides the opportunity to create a planned "green infrastructure," linking sites and providing potential funds for acquisition, restoration and on-going management. A project officer will work with and influence landowners (including aggregate extractors), developers, planning authorities and development agencies covering the valley to identify and develop opportunities for the acquisition of key sites, restoration of these sites, and the influencing of management of land in other ownerships for the benefit of biodiversity.

Cornwall Wildlife Trust**150,000***Towards the West Cornwall Wetland Networks – restoring and reconnecting West Penwith's wetlands and moors*

To support work to reduce the impact of farm production decisions on 470 hectares of UK BAP priority heathland and wetland habitats within a core project area of over 6,000 hectares. Areas identified to be of high potential for habitat restoration and reconnection will be surveyed and targeted for land management advice and restoration work, resulting in a measurable increase in the extent, quality and function of wetland and heathland habitats within the working agricultural landscape.

Scottish Native Woods**108,200***Towards the Restoration of Plantation on Ancient Woodland Sites*

To support work with landowners of Planted Ancient Woodland Sites (PAWS) to undertake restoration work to benefit biodiversity on at least 600ha of woodland and to create a network of demonstration sites to encourage further landowners to undertake gradual and effective restoration to native woodland. UK BAP priority habitats that will benefit include upland birchwoods, upland mixed ashwoods, upland oakwoods, lowland mixed deciduous woodlands, wood pasture and parkland and wet woodland.

Butterfly Conservation**77,545***Towards the conservation of fritillary butterflies across nine priority landscapes in the West Midlands*

To support work to implement a conservation programme for five species of fritillary and other rare Lepidoptera across nine landscape areas in the West Midlands. The project will work with site owners to encourage and support them to enter their land into agri-environment and woodland grant schemes for the benefit of 14 UK BAP priority species including the high brown, pearl bordered and small bordered fritillary and 11 other butterflies and moths.

Plantlife International – The Wild Plant Conservation Charity**77,206***Towards the "Securing the Future of Priority Species in Important Arable Plant Areas" project*

To support work with farmers to promote and encourage cultivated field margins and low input in-field options contributing towards the targets for the UK BAP priority habitat of arable field margins and 26 UK BAP priority arable plant species.

Organisation**Grant Amount (£)****Cree Valley Community Woodlands Trust****77,000**

Towards the “Enhancement and expansion of Cree Valley wet woodland habitats” project

To support work to restore native woodland at key points in the river Cree catchment. Complementing Galloway Fisheries Trust’s project, the work is likely to benefit a suite of UK BAP priority species including water vole, River/Sea Lamprey and European Eel.

Galloway Fisheries Trust**65,000**

Towards the “River Cree catchment rare fish and pearl mussel enhancement” project

To support work for a multi-faceted approach to deliver conservation benefits in the river Cree catchment. The spawning grounds for three UK BAP priority species of migratory fish, Sparling, and Twaite and Allis shad, will be located and protected, bankside management will be undertaken to prevent silting of spawning sites and work with licensed netters on the estuary will continue to ensure that bycatch is reduced. Other UK BAP priority species which are likely to benefit from the habitat improvements (and will be further enhanced by the Cree Valley Community Woodlands Trust project) include brown/sea trout, water vole and otter.

Chillingham Wild Cattle Association**41,500**

Towards habitat and species protection and biodiversity enhancement at Chillingham Park

To support significant restoration works at Chillingham Park in Northumberland. The ancient parkland contains a number of UK BAP priority habitats. As well as the predominant wood pasture and parkland, the site also contains upland heath, rivers and streams, and lowland raised bog habitats. The restoration will increase the number of native trees and improve the floristic richness of the sward benefiting UK BAP priority species including spotted flycatcher, bullfinch, song thrush, brown hare and juniper.

Cranham Common Trust**33,000**

Towards the purchase of Cranham Common

To contribute towards the purchase of 28 hectares of lowland calcareous grassland known as Cranham Common in Gloucestershire. Continued habitat management such as scrub clearance and a sensitive regime of grazing will ensure the site is suitable for a range of UK BAP priority species including frog orchid and the butterflies: Duke of Burgundy fritillary, dark green fritillary, pearl-bordered fritillary, dingy skipper, grizzled skipper and white-letter hairstreak.

Conservation of the Natural Environment – Initiative Expenditure (Direct Costs)

Integrated Marine Management 52,686

To support work on a sectoral review of UK NGOs working to achieve benefits for marine biodiversity with particular focus on the threats to marine biodiversity, information on the NGOs tackling these threats and their effectiveness, and current and potential funding sources for NGOs working this sector.

Farmed Animal Welfare

Compassion in World Farming Trust 100,000

The launch and implementation of the Farmed Animal Welfare Forum's Charter

To support the launch of a charter drawn up by 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. The launch and follow-up work will aim to achieve sign up to the charter by food and farming businesses operating in the UK, recognising publicly that farmed animal welfare is an issue of importance and to encourage specific change in relation to the farmed animal welfare issues identified in Farming Tomorrow, the Forum's 10 year strategic plan.

The University of Bristol 89,156

Expanding the Healthy Feet Project to include new partners and new dissemination opportunities

To support the delivery of the strategy (developed with the support of the grant below) to include new partners in the Healthy Feet Project towards which a grant was awarded in 2006 under the project name of "Reducing lameness in dairy cattle by implementing existing knowledge" and to capitalise on new dissemination opportunities. This work will expand the Healthy Feet Project and encourage and support the involvement of additional influential players in the dairy industry through the promotion and uptake of lameness prevention strategies.

The University of Bristol 12,039

Development of an extension to the Healthy Feet Project

To support the development of a strategy to include new partners in the Healthy Feet Project and to capitalise on new dissemination opportunities.

The University of Bristol (96,792)

Promotion of automatic lameness detection in dairy herds

Grant awarded in 2007/08 cancelled during the year

Organisation

Grant Amount (£)

Farmed Animal Welfare – Initiative Expenditure (Direct Costs)

EcoS Consultancy Ltd

41,748

To support work on the research and production of a feasibility study for encouraging philanthropic support for activities that improve the welfare of farmed animals. The study will include the preparation of recommendations as to how the Trust might raise awareness of farmed animal welfare issues within the philanthropic community and encourage other funders to provide support to build the capacity of the sector.

TOTAL FUNDING

Total Grants – Conservation of the Natural Environment	£3,691,516	
Total Grants – Farmed Animal Welfare	<u>£104,403</u>	
TOTAL GRANTS		<u>£3,795,919</u>
Total Initiative Expenditure – Conservation of the Natural Environment (Direct Costs)	£52,686	
Total Initiative Expenditure – Farmed Animal Welfare (Direct Costs)	<u>£41,748</u>	
TOTAL INITIATIVE EXPENDITURE (DIRECT COSTS)		<u>£94,434</u>