

Tees Valley Wildlife Trust Annual Review 2009/2010



Trustees
David Counsell (Chairman)
John Wright (Vice Chairman)
Keith Hissitt (Secretary)
John Tombs (Treasurer)
George Baker
John Dear
Mark Fishpool
Peter Kerr
Julie Mason
Cliff Shepherd
Alan Simkins
Ken Smith
Andree Welsh (Retired 17/9/09)

Senior Staff
Chief Executive:
Jeremy Garside
Finance Manager:
Diane Hatfield
People & Wildlife Manager:
Steve Ashton

Auditors
SV Bye

Bankers
Barclays Bank PLC
Cafcash

Company No.
1528307
Registered Charity No.
511068

Registered Office
Margrove Heritage Centre,
Margrove Park,
Saltburn, TS12 3BZ.

*Photo credits: Dan van den Toorn,
Kenny Crooks, Beth Andrews, Richard
Perks.*

Who we are and what we do

The Trust is a local charity that manages a string of nature reserves covering more than 500 acres of the Tees Valley. Our aim is to secure a natural environment, rich in wildlife that the people who live here, or visit, can enjoy for generations to come.

As well as managing our nature reserves we work with local authorities, businesses and other landowners to protect, manage and enhance places for wildlife and by delivering a wide-ranging programme of education and training in environmental matters to inspire people about the natural world.

The Trust has a local membership of over 9,600 people and works with 60 regular volunteers who give their time to support our vision of an environment rich in wildlife for everyone.

Our achievements in 2009/10

The Trust achieves its objectives through a varied programme of projects and activities. During the year these included:

- Excavating new wetland habitats for wildlife on the River Tees at Preston Farm; creating new ponds and improving others to create thriving pond networks across the Tees Valley.
- Engaging people in guided walks and talks on the geological heritage of East Cleveland; inspiring people by filming otters, water voles, badgers and deer along Middlesbrough's beck valleys.
- Protecting the area's best wildlife and natural habitats by working with the planning authorities to establish a protected network of Local Wildlife and Geological Sites and by reviewing local development plans and planning applications.
- Inspiring children with the wonders of the natural world through a varied programme of environmental education activities in schools and receiving visits from schools to the Margrove Heritage Centre and its Woodhill nature space.
- Increasing public understanding of wildlife and the natural environment through publication of a book "The Birds of Cleveland", by producing four wildlife supplements with the local newspaper and supporting the North Sea Living Seas website.
- Involving people who work in a law firm in managing Himalayan balsam on Bowesfield Nature Reserve, bringing young people to Portrack Marsh to control scrub and building boardwalks with people who have mental health problems at Saltburn Gill Nature Reserve.

Our appreciation and thanks go to members, volunteers, funders and partner organisations for supporting this work.



Wildlife and the natural environment

The Trust continues to play a key role in the Tees Valley Biodiversity Action Plan as a strategy for wildlife conservation for the area, involving a wide range of organisations and individuals. During the year, a series of action plans were agreed between partners to safeguard the area's priority species and habitats.



Southern Hawker dragonfly

Through the Tees Valley Pondscape project, the Trust has been mapping and monitoring ponds, creating new ones and restoring some of our best ponds for aquatic wildlife. In 2008/09 a total of 19 wildlife-rich ponds were restored and a further 14 new ones were constructed. There are now more than 1000 ponds on the project's data base with field assessment carried out on 350 of these.

The number of field surveys achieved was increased thanks to the efforts of a number of volunteers.



Inspiring people about the natural world



Ammonite

A two-year project called "Alum, Alchemy and Ammonites" was started during the year, aimed at promoting the geology of East Cleveland. The project uses the Alum industry, which was a nationally important feature of the area in the past and which had strong links to the work of Louis Hunton, a local geologist who set out some key principles of geological study that went on to have global influence. The project has already engaged many people from all age groups.

The WildPlaces project focuses on mammals and uses the latest camera systems to capture images that demonstrate how important urban areas are for wildlife. Otters, badgers, deer and water voles have all been

recorded in gardens and green spaces, surprisingly close to the centres of Stockton and Middlesbrough. The project has established a new way of working as it is the first project that the Tees Valley Wildlife Trust has delivered alongside both Northumberland and Durham Wildlife Trusts to give region wide coverage.



Urban otter

Living sustainably

Growing Food for the Future is one of five projects carried out by the Trust during the year which linked wildlife conservation to wider environmental issues and the sustainable use of natural resources. Food production and consumption has significant ecological costs through demands for fertilisers, artificial heating, packaging, storage and transportation. The Trust's project is supporting school-based food growing projects, particularly where these are part of extended schools activity and have links with the local community.



Creating wildlife havens

The Trust's main efforts in creating havens for wildlife were made at Preston Farm, on the River Tees in Stockton. This involved the creation of a new nature reserve on 17.3 hectares of farmland, on the floodplain and valley sides of the River Tees. The scheme re-establishes the natural characteristics of a floodplain with areas subject to seasonal flooding, some permanent wetland features such as pools, ponds and reedbeds and the planting of a significant area of new woodland. It is at a prime location, connecting a number of natural areas on the course of the River Tees to form a significant, urban Living Landscape, initially combining 175 hectares of nature reserves, natural habitats and public green spaces, but potentially extending through the valleys of the Rivers Tees and Leven to cover some 20 square kilometres.



Excavations at Preston Farm

The Environment Agency has been a key partner in the project because of the site's capacity for flood water management upstream of the Stockton - Middlesbrough conurbation as well as its contribution to regional and national biodiversity targets.



Path work at Saltburn Gill

During the year, much time and effort had to be applied to the project's development as formal planning consent was required, involving support from stakeholders including Northumbrian Water Ltd and Durham Tees Valley Airport. This was completed in time for much of the habitat construction and associated planting to be delivered before the end of the financial year.

At Saltburn Gill, work was undertaken to improve access through the reserve, by consolidating muddy paths, revetting river banks and renewing steps and boardwalks. These efforts have maintained a secure and navigable route for visitors through this steep wooded valley. The work was funded through the Landfill Communities Fund and the Tees Valley Community Foundation's Easy Access Fund. It was delivered by conservation volunteers including those at the Hutton Unit, a facility supporting people with mental health problems.

Our objectives for 2010/11 are to:

- Work for a resilient and connected natural landscape that enables wildlife and people to adapt to change and flourish.
- Work with the area's Local Authorities to increase the number of Local Wildlife and Geological Sites in positive management.
- Create and care for natural places as wildlife havens for people to enjoy.
- Deliver conservation and access projects in the East Cleveland Living Landscape and at Preston Farm and Bowesfield at the core of the Tees Corridor Living Landscape.
- Inspire the next generation to care for the natural world.
- Deliver a range of environmental education activities with schools, including provision of support for the Sustainable Schools Programme.
- Create opportunities for everyone to gain access to and take action for wildlife and the natural environment.
- Deliver activities which engage and inform the public in a range of wildlife, geological and environmental issues.
- Continue to increase our membership.



FINANCIAL REVIEW

Financial support from Trust membership continued to grow during the year. This makes a vital contribution to the unrestricted funds available to support core activity costs and provides the basis from which applications are made for project grant funding.

The main sources of project funding received during the year came from the government agencies Natural England and the Environment Agency; the Heritage Lottery Fund and Big Lottery Fund; Landfill Communities Fund distributors Impetus Environmental Trust, SITA Trust and Veolia Environmental Trust; Charitable Trusts including the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation.

The accounts show a decrease in the restricted funds held by the Trust. This relates to planned expenditure during the year on our conservation scheme at Preston Farm using financial support provided by the Environment Agency in 2008/09.

A small surplus was made on unrestricted fund transactions during the year, in line with the trustees stated intention to increase the financial reserve.

These summarised accounts are an extract from the statutory Annual Report and Accounts for the financial year ended 31 March 2009. They may not contain sufficient information to gain a complete understanding of the financial affairs of the charity. The full accounts and the auditors' report on those accounts may be obtained from the Trust's registered office at Margrove Heritage Centre, Margrove Park, Saltburn TS12 3BZ.

TEES VALLEY WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2010

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Project Funds £	Total 2010 £	Total 2009 £
INCOMING RESOURCES				
Incoming resources from Generated funds:				
Voluntary Income:				
Donations and Gifts	1544	-	1544	1121
Legacies	262	-	262	2719
Investment income				
Bank Interest	856	1309	2165	16061
Incoming resources from charitable activities				
Conservation	39134	234061	273195	519881
Education	30392	38456	68848	53886
Membership	137847	-	137847	124425
Other incoming resources				
Other income	4001	4788	8789	2614
Total incoming resources	214036	278614	492650	720707
RESOURCES EXPENDED				
Charitable Activities	254473	360597	615070	592456
Governance Costs	10608	-	10608	10158
Total resources expended	265081	360597	625678	602614
Net incoming resources/ (resources expended)	-51045	-81983	-133028	118093
Transfers	61190	-61190	-	-
Net movement in Funds	10145	-143173	-133028	118093
Balance at 1st April 2009	170834	569791	740625	622532
Balance at 31st March 2010	180979	426618	607597	740625

BALANCE SHEET AT 31ST MARCH 2010

	£	2010 £	2009 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible assets		189519	195770
CURRENT ASSETS			
Trade debtors	29694		34851
Cash at bank and in hand	434184		541986
	463878		576837
CREDITORS – amounts falling due within one year:	45800		31982
NET CURRENT ASSETS		418078	544855
NET ASSETS		607597	740625
RESERVES			
Unrestricted funds		180979	170834
Restricted project funds		426618	569791
		607597	740625