

Countryside Council for Wales



Annual Report



2004-2005



The Countryside Council for Wales champions the environment and landscapes of Wales and its coastal waters as sources of natural and cultural riches, as a foundation for economic and social activity, and as a place for leisure and learning opportunities. We aim to make the environment a valued part of everyone's life in Wales.

Our Corporate Strategy, which sets out concisely what we need to do over the next ten years to achieve our vision, can be found on our website, www.ccw.gov.uk



Contents

Foreword

Introduction: Meeting the challenge	1
Chapter 1: Understanding change	3
Chapter 2: Enabling others	6
Chapter 3: Raising the quality of the natural heritage	10
Chapter 4: Improving accessibility	14
Chapter 5: Sustainable living	18
Annex 1: Declarations of interest – Council members	22
Annex 2: Key target performance for 2004 -05	25
Annex 3: Statement of account	29

Foreword

As this report shows, we can take pride in our achievements during the year. As an accountable public body, we must show that the funding which has been entrusted to us is money well spent. Accordingly the Assembly sets us tough targets each year against which to measure our performance. It is a cause for satisfaction that we have met these in full this year (see Annex 2: key target performance for 2004 – 05).

Much of what we do can only be achieved through others. For example, the better management of those areas most important for nature often depends on individual landowners and managers – farmers and foresters – and our role is to encourage and help them, providing advice and support, within the framework of legislation and financial incentives. We recognise this dependence in the way we work, and we have generally found that our partners recognise our good intentions and give us a fair hearing.

But we do have complete control over much of what we do, and have worked hard to set an example in the way we conduct our business. Environmental standards for all organisations in Wales can be measured through the system of ‘Green Dragon’ awards. We have achieved high environmental standards during the year, earning ourselves the Green Dragon level 4 award, and now have our sights set firmly on the top level of award, to enable us to become the Assembly’s exemplar body for environmental management.

Our ability to secure over £3m in Objective 1 funding for environmental projects during the year provides a useful demonstration of the economic benefits of viewing the environment as

a vital long-term asset to be nurtured, and not a source of short-term income to be spent. Almost half of this money was obtained on behalf of our voluntary sector and local authority partners, to improve the management of their nature reserves. The project was called ‘Phoenix’, a name chosen because it rose from the ashes of an unsuccessful bid that faltered when the relevant funding pot was exhausted. This funding has also enabled us to improve visitor facilities on our National Nature Reserves.

We have continued to reform the way we work to make it more inclusive and transparent, and make the organisation more flexible and better able to meet the challenges that lie ahead. Pinning down these challenges, and what to do to achieve the outcomes we all want, has been the subject of the Assembly’s Environment Strategy. We have supported the preparation of a draft of this vital document during the year. The global context for it is increasingly dark; climate is changing, life-support systems such as the oxygen-giving forests and carbon-regulating oceans are under stress, and biodiversity is in rapid decline.

This should concern us all. We all need to see that the scale of the environmental challenges which we face has been recognised, and feel optimism that positive actions can be taken to address them. The task has to begin at home, but it is not the job of any one organisation – we are all in this together.

John Lloyd Jones
Chairman





Meeting the challenge

All our targets for the year have been achieved or exceeded but, beyond those, we have continued to work towards a broader vision for the Welsh environment

Public bodies are increasingly expected to strive for effectiveness and efficiency, to make the best possible use of limited resources. As an environmental body, acutely conscious of the scale of the environmental challenges which we face in Wales, we have even more reason to make sure that all our staff and funds are directed where they will do most good for the environment.

In last year's annual report we devoted the first chapter to the organisational changes which we were making to lay the foundations for the next decade. Here we provide an update on this work.

We attained Green Dragon level 4 during the year. This is a measure of our environmental performance as an organisation and we aim to get to level 5 shortly. To achieve this we must demonstrate that we have systems in place to identify our environmental impacts and to minimise them (for example reducing our energy and paper use and minimising travel). Working with the Carbon Trust we have also calculated our carbon footprint and will be using the reduction in this as a clear demonstration of progress towards more sustainable working practices.

We provided grant aid to our partners to the tune of £5.8m. This is the highest level of grant we have funded to date and our range of partners is wider than it has ever been. Projects range from those to allow disadvantaged communities to improve and benefit from their local environment through to very specific small-scale work on threatened wildlife. A particular focus for grant this year has been to help partners develop access links to the open countryside that will become available to the public in May 2005.

As in previous years, our work during the year has been guided by the key targets which the Assembly has set us. Many of these, such as the target to increase the areas of Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) under sympathetic management by 5,000 hectares, and the number of Tir Gofal farms by 500, are numerical and easily measured; others, such as the target to develop a system of reporting on the state of SSSIs, are not so quantifiable. That we have managed to meet the first two very challenging targets, spending our £18.1m Tir Gofal budget in full for example, has been a major achievement. The quality of our report on the state of SSSIs, which is described

in Chapter 3, reflects the high standards of professionalism which we set ourselves. All our targets for the year have been achieved or exceeded but, beyond those, we have continued to work towards a broader vision for the Welsh environment which we have set ourselves.

The chapters which follow provide a narrative for the year's work; they report on many of the key targets which have been met, but these are not specifically mentioned as such. Instead, they are listed in Annex 2, together with an achievement report. Many targets are cross-cutting in nature, achieving benefits across our remit and beyond. For example our work to promote the health benefits of walking illustrates how a high quality environment for people to enjoy can also meet human health and other social objectives. It is part of our remit to encourage access to, and enjoyment of the countryside, and in giving people a chance to use their local

environment, and making the connection for them between the great outdoors and a healthy life, it contributes to our aim of promoting sustainable lifestyles.

We have made a fundamental change to the way that we plan our work. All our work comes under one of five broad headings or 'themes', which form the chapters of this report. Five 'theme groups' have been established, which are able to look at priorities across the organisation rather than within the different parts of the organisation's structure. The result is that we are able to plan our work in a more integrated way and that we communicate better with each other in developing our plans to deliver better outcomes. The first year of working in this way had its fair share of problems, but we will learn from these, and we are confident that we have the building blocks for a more transparent and inclusive way of delivering our objectives.



Torfaen Walking the Way to Health Group



Understanding Change

Sharing knowledge and providing a good source of information on important aspects of our work

Improving our efficiency to achieve the most we can for the environment from limited resources, and meet the expectations of the public, was a constant theme of the year's work. Research and survey is sometimes regarded as a luxury, but gathering information is an essential prelude to effective action, and there are often benefits along the way. Sharing knowledge and providing a good source of information on important aspects of our work can save front line staff valuable time previously spent answering queries. Here is one example of this.

A great deal of our work relates to protected sites (see Chapter 3), in particular SSSIs, and yet it is not easy to get a rounded picture of what this work is achieving on Wales' most important sites for wildlife and geology. With over 1,000 sites covering 13% of Wales, and requiring much staff effort and finance, we decided that the interested public, voluntary bodies, politicians and our own staff should all have easy access to information about the state of SSSIs. To reinforce this, devising an SSSI reporting system was one of our key

Assembly targets for the year. So we have prepared a report on SSSIs which can be updated annually and which paints a picture of how the series is doing. This gives a breakdown of the changes to the area of land notified as SSSI, as some sites have to be removed and others are added, and much detail about the geological and wildlife value of sites, their condition, access to them, the full range of designations, protection, recovery and the long-term outlook.

Colourfully illustrated, this report gives the fullest account ever of Wales' SSSIs, all of which is underpinned by a programme of monitoring and surveillance. It is available on our website, and will be updated annually.

Climate change is, according to the Government, its highest priority long-term issue. We have recognised the importance of this issue too, and during the year we have raised awareness and developed policies and practice to help tackle climate change. We have undertaken the first phase of a Climate Change Audit of the organisation. This has provided us with an assessment of





Snowdon, Crib Ddisgl from Lliwedd © CCW,

the current state of our response to climate change and we are now developing recommendations and an action programme for us to undertake in future.

As part of a UK-wide environmental change network we continue to collect detailed weather measurements on Snowdon, which have revealed a rapid rate of climate change there. Traditionally the mountains of Snowdon have a nine-month winter, with snow falling on any day between early September and late May and much of the mountain top covered with snow in winter. Our monitoring has revealed that, in the last three years, the area covered by snow has halved, and temperatures have risen by one degree Celsius in recent years.

As previously mentioned, we have established a partnership project with the Carbon Trust in Wales to monitor and reduce energy use in our buildings and ultimately reduce our carbon footprint. The inter-agency MONARCH project has completed its second phase of research, which through its modelling for Snowdonia has shown the scale of the threat to montane and

upland heaths. These habitats are at risk from species spreading from lower altitudes. Against the background of rapid environmental change, in partnership with the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology, we have undertaken a national review of monitoring data sets to establish the first inter-agency meta-database of environmental monitoring data for Wales. This unique source of environmental information, containing some 200 data sets, has paved the way for a preliminary assessment of gaps in environmental information within Wales.

During the year we contributed to the development and roll out of BARS (Biodiversity Action Reporting System) in Wales. This is a new online information system to help manage and inform Biodiversity Action Plans (BAPs) in the UK. This new system helps conservation organisations and Local Biodiversity Action Plan partnerships (LBAPs) to manage action for biodiversity. They are able to access information on their contribution to the BAP process instantly; and to review how much progress has been made to improve the status, condition and extent of habitats and species listed as local or national conservation priorities. BARS also allows the general public to search for information and learn about what is being done to help us reach the 2010 target to halt the decline of biodiversity in the UK.

We have also continued to support the development of a network of Local Record Centres to service users of biological information and the biological recording community of Wales. The aim is to have a full complement of such centres servicing the whole of Wales by 2007. Biodiversity Information Service (BIS) in

Powys has been servicing East Wales for nearly five years. South East Wales Biodiversity Records Centre (SEWBReC) was established during the year and a development plan has been written for a centre in North Wales this year, which will be established in 2005/06. Complete record centre coverage of the whole of Wales will follow when West Wales establishes its own centre, and plans for this are in preparation.

Our programme of monitoring in Special Areas of Conservation has continued, and we completed 70 assessments of terrestrial and freshwater features during the year. These condition assessments not only provide us with a sound basis for reviewing and adjusting management on these sites to help secure our conservation objectives but also provide the basis for reporting to Europe in 2007 on the conservation status of features. Monitoring of marine areas also continued, but because of the scale of the task, complete assessments are not expected until nearer the end of the current Habitats Directive reporting period.

In the wider countryside, the Countryside Survey remains an important vehicle for providing information on changes to widespread habitats. We have been working with partners to ensure that the next survey provides a better representation of habitats within Wales. Current

recommendations include expanding the number of sample squares in Wales from the current 64 to around 100.

Soils are full of life, but their biodiversity has only recently become a recognised subject for policy development. During the year we have had an opportunity to introduce soil management into Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) cross compliance and into Tir Cynnal, the new entry-level agri-environment scheme. We have also joined a UK Soil Indicators Consortium (UK SIC) which is developing a monitoring scheme for UK soil; and have contributed to the development of the 6th Environment Action Programme (EAP) Soil Thematic Strategy, expected to give rise to a framework directive for soil by the end of 2005.

Two other important soils initiatives have required our input. We have helped the Environment Agency with the publication of their report on the State of Soils in England and Wales, and their associated strategy for soil protection, management and restoration; and we have helped the Wales Assembly Government (WAG) to develop a soil strategy for Wales, the key messages from which will be incorporated into the Assembly's Environment Strategy.





Enabling others

Funding is one of the key mechanisms to help others deliver work for people and the environment of Wales.

Working with other people and organisations permeates almost every aspect of our work. Effective collaboration requires us to provide frameworks to guide action by others, to develop and maintain a range of other means which can help sustain successful partnerships and to ensure that we can all learn from practical experience of joint action.

Funding is one of the key mechanisms to help others deliver work for people and the environment of Wales. We reviewed our grant aid programme during the year, following initial research with our grant aided partners, and this will be completed during 2006-7.

The Phoenix project, which we helped to launch during the year, has enabled a number of environmental organisations to upgrade the standard of environmental and visitor management on a suite of sites which they manage around Wales. This is a three-year project, funding a diverse range of works on 97 nature reserves belonging to partners throughout the Objective One area of Wales. Works

include removing damaging invasive plants such as Japanese knotweed and sea buckthorn; restoring traditional boundaries such as hedgerows and dry stone walls; extending and upgrading footpaths; creating buffer zones along water courses; and upgrading visitor facilities to help people enjoy these wildlife havens.

The Phoenix Project is part-funded by European Objective One funding (Priority 5 Measure 7) through WAG (£1.4 million), which is being matched by partner funding, both in cash and in kind.

The partners are Bridgend County Borough Council, Butterfly Conservation; Countryside Council for Wales (CCW), Gwent Wildlife Trust, the North Wales Wildlife Trust, the RSPB and the Wildlife Trust for South and West Wales, with CCW being responsible for overall project management.

The projects are being carried out in 12 of the Objective 1 counties in Wales (Anglesey, Blaenau Gwent, Bridgend, Caerphilly, Carmarthenshire,

Top: Charcoal burning at Coedydd Aber NNR – CCW/David Woodfall

Right: Coedydd Aber - CCW/David Woodfall



Ceredigion, Conwy, Denbighshire, Gwynedd, Pembrokeshire, Swansea and Torfaen). They protect over 4,000 hectares of Wales' most important wildlife sites whilst creating or safeguarding local jobs, increasing opportunities for volunteering in the environmental sector and awareness of and accessibility to some of the most important landscapes and wildlife sites in Wales.

At one of our own reserves, Coedydd Aber NNR, we have put much effort into developing opportunities for members of the public to participate and take responsibility for their environment, and for the local community to take action, for example through the Aber Valley Heritage Partnership.

A team of voluntary wardens has carried out many routine but important tasks such as monitoring declining species like the pied flycatcher, maintaining information boards and monitoring visitor numbers, as well as keeping a watch on the reserve and collecting litter. Local students have been given work experience



placements, sampling a wide range of activities from assisting with the long-term monitoring of small mammals to researching the history of the landscape through local archives.

We have been pleased to support a community archaeology project, which has attracted numerous students and volunteers under the direction of professional archaeologists, to excavate two Bronze Age burial monuments located in the shade of the popular Aber waterfall. This work contributes to a wider project to increase our



Top: Digging rabbit holes at Kenfig sands, part of conservation work as part of the Phoenix project © Bridgend County Borough Council

Left: Piece of hand quern found during the initial archaeological dig being shown by Dr Bob Johnson, Community archaeological project, Coedydd Aber © Ifor Williams

understanding of how the cultural landscape has evolved, and local people are involved in this work at all levels, including a project to record the childhood memories of older residents. All this information gathering will eventually become part of an archive which will be available to the public in many forms, not least of which will be the small exhibition and visitor centre which will be situated in the renovated old mill in the village. In this way, it is hoped that landscape-scale conservation will increasingly become the property of all.

During the year we made a grant available to Coed Cymru to purchase an industrial oven to experiment with a technique for heat treating wood. The heat treatment technique originates in Finland but has not been used on any scale in Britain. The process hardens the timber, making it more resistant to insect attack and decay without using chemical preservatives. The timber also darkens, which can make some timbers attractive for a wider range of uses.

Coed Cymru have concentrated on testing timbers such as beech and sycamore which are not durable and are often difficult to market, but heat treatment makes them potentially suitable for a wider range of products. This work complements their programme of product development which is designed to improve the market for small dimension timber, mainly from farm woodlands. Coed Cymru continues to provide advice on broadleaf woodland management across Wales and during the year 293 plans for 1,838 hectares of woodland were completed. The total area of woodland brought into management as a result of Coed Cymru advice now exceeds 23,000 hectares.

We supported a pilot system of school farm visits in Powys which we hope will be replicated in the other counties of Wales. The purpose of the project is to reconnect the classroom to the countryside, farms and food production. This project will complement and support those farmers who have signed up to the Tir Gofal Education option as well as supporting those farmers who are not in the scheme or who are awaiting entry.

A project co-ordinator has been employed and will train teachers from participating schools and help to organise farm visits. The partner farmers offer pre-arranged learning opportunities such as farm trails, and shearing and milking demonstrations. The project will work with partners such as the Local Education Advisory Service, food and farming organisations and Wildlife Trusts, arranging workshops and providing training and literature to support the visits by children and students. A website will be developed to demonstrate good practice and a mobile resource bank will be created to provide appropriate clothing and equipment for farm visits and biodiversity studies.

We are one of many partners contributing to BTCV's Green Gym Network, which is a new approach to creating healthier communities and a healthier environment. Green Gyms offer the opportunity to improve physical fitness by involvement in practical conservation activities such as green space enhancement. Spending time in green spaces and learning new skills have been shown to make a positive contribution to people's health as well as supporting biodiversity and community regeneration.



Traditional orchards are an integral part of the landscape and offer a wide range of habitats with associated flora and fauna, contributing to the biodiversity of the area.

Left and below: Orchards on farmland in Llangenny, Powys © Archie Miles/CCW

Our grant to Marcher Apple Network was to support heritage or museum orchards in the Welsh Marches. Traditional orchards are an integral part of the landscape and offer a wide range of habitats with associated flora and fauna, contributing to the biodiversity of the area. This project will safeguard rare and endangered varieties and make them available as graft material, enabling people to obtain authentically identified local cultivars as healthy young trees for new orchards. The orchards will be available for training courses in skills such as pruning, grafting and budding and learning the methods of identification of fruit varieties.

Grant aid was an important means by which we supported the work of others during the year, but it was not the only

one. We provided information, guidance and training, for example, and the completion and publication of the Voluntary Sector Compact in 2005 was a notable achievement for us and many of our partner organisations.





Raising quality

The variety of different plants and animals and their habitats which we have across the country is a huge national asset.

The whole environment needs care and sensitive management, and our aim is to restore and expand the range of our wildlife on land and sea, to make Wales even more special and attractive. One way we have achieved this is through the Tir Gofal agri-environment scheme, which promotes environmentally sensitive farming, and also benefits local communities and the rural economy (see Chapter 5).

Designation of sites of particular importance for wildlife and geology as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) is a crucial step towards their protection, but it is not the end of the story. They need positive management of a kind that is quite different from the farming and forestry practices which many of their owners and managers wish to follow. Reaching agreements which allow for positive conservation action on SSSIs has been the subject of an ambitious target for the year - to increase the area of SSSIs under sympathetic management by 5,000 hectares. We have comfortably exceeded this, thanks to cases like the following.



Allt Rhyd y Groes NNR – CCW/David Woodfall

Since the second world war most of the dune systems at Pembrey and Laugharne-Pendine have been under the control of the Ministry of Defence - a weapons testing site at the latter and a RAF bombing range at Pembrey. Consequently, large areas of these sites have not received traditional management in the form of grazing, by cattle or sheep, leading to land scrubbing over; invasive sea buckthorn has colonised the dryer dunes, and alder and creeping willow have taken over many of the damp slacks. In turn, this has resulted in the demise of various uncommon or rare plants and



invertebrates. For example, the fen orchid has not been seen at Pembrey since about 1970 and it was down to its last slack at Pendine.

We have been keen to see management restored at both Carmarthenshire localities for a number of years, but the opportunity for action arose last year with an unexpected Government announcement, which released significant monies for MoD SSSI/SAC sites.

At Pendine, £40k has been spent on excavation at the remaining fen orchid slack. This has involved removing a thin veneer of surface vegetation, bulldozing away adjacent scrub and erecting fencing so that grazing can be reintroduced. Other slacks have been similarly treated.

Over at RAF Pembrey, about £65k has been spent on large-scale scrub removal, using specialist vehicles to tackle the robust growth. This was carried out over an extensive area and was supplemented by £30k which we provided for fencing; this was through a management agreement, the first which we have signed with MoD in Wales. The fencing has allowed the re-establishment of cattle grazing and we hope that monitoring will show a steady re-colonization by rare plants and animals.

This kind of work can seem remote to peoples' lives, but nature is just as much a presence in towns and cities, where it can improve the quality of life, as in the countryside. We have worked with local communities during the year, recognising that restoring wildlife encourages sustainable living, as people feel less need to travel to find places for quiet recreation, and has health and economic benefits.



Scrub clearance at Pembrey sands © Crown Copyright reserved

One example we have been involved in has developed a most productive and flexible partnership between the Assembly and its various agencies and local people and organisations. The Llanelli Green Network developed from a public consultation exercise in the late 1990s. In the urban area of Llanelli, it became clear that there was a public demand for areas of accessible greenspace for a range of recreational activities. People often expressed a desire to see the monotonous post-industrial, part-restored grasslands upgraded to make them visually and recreationally interesting. They wanted to be able to enjoy safe walkways, play areas, well-designed urban woodland and parkland, and wildlife and educational areas; and to take pride in and ownership of these areas. The community representatives (both elected and those from local groups)



Afon Lliedi project, an intergenerational project involving the Health and Wellbeing Project of Penygaer Primary School
© Richard Davie

have been keen and active in discussions, achieving a sense of empowerment and assisted through the design and grant aid process by officers of various bodies.

A group has been established, with membership drawn from Carmarthenshire County Council, CCW, EA, WDA, Llanelli Town and Rural Councils, representatives of community groups and other local organisations, to take these aspirations forward. It has identified a suite of such sites, all in public ownership, including extensive quarry or industrial sites, riverside walks, allotments, school grounds, a cemetery, an old people's home and minor pocket-sized parcels of land.

Work has already commenced on the Afon Lliedi riverside walk, with substantial plantings of trees and shrubs to enhance the biodiversity of this urban river; educational signage has

been provided for use of adjacent schools. Some of the other smaller sites have also been completed, such as a community garden and tree planting next to sheltered accommodation.

The largest and most ambitious scheme which the group has managed to raise funds for is at Penyfan. This site consists of an expanse of featureless grassland between a large housing estate and the eastern approaches to Llanelli railway station, abutting low-income areas of the town. New pathways, play areas, major tree and shrub planting, a wildlife area in part of a quarry and a wetland zone are among the improvements planned or underway.

Some of our nature reserves provide a bridge between the special needs of rare wildlife and people's needs for space. The Newport Wetland Reserve, where avocets bred for the first time in recorded history in Wales in 2003, is a good example. There is much



Right and below: Newport Wetlands Reserve © Graftic House

community and volunteer involvement with the reserve, and many events and open days were held during the year. For example, to celebrate World Wetlands Day, we organised a special walk to see some of the thousands of duck, such as wigeon, pintail, shoveler, tufted duck and gadwall, which spend the winter here, along with almost a hundred bitterns, a rare heron which is confined to reedbeds.

In addition to raising the quality of the freshwater environment, we have been much concerned with that of the marine environment. Just one example of cooperation across a wide range of statutory bodies was the preparation of a byelaw to increase the protection afforded to marine wildlife within the Skomer Marine Nature Reserve. This balanced the interests of wildlife with those of recreation and fishing, to come

up with limits to the taking of commercial species in the reserve without harming the local economy.

The variety of different plants and animals and their habitats which we have across the country is a huge national asset. The economic benefits of the 80 million visits that Welsh residents made to the countryside and coast alone justify taking biodiversity seriously, but this has often involved having fun at the same time. This is the hallmark of the many events with which we have been involved during the year to support biodiversity, for example during Wales Biodiversity Week in June, during European Bat week in August, and when celebrating wildlife and habitats ranging from moths to bogs. The economic benefits of our work are covered more fully in Chapter 5.





Improving accessibility

The extension of access rights to open land has presented us with a major challenge during the year.

Walking in the countryside, for example climbing a mountain track by a fast flowing stream, brings many health benefits with it. The exercise will tone muscles and work the heart and, as the many people who are keen walkers know, it will also bring that rare combination of peace and replenishment, encouraging reflection and stimulating thought. Increasing opportunities for people to enjoy the countryside has been an important plank of our work during the year.

The extension of access rights to open land has presented us with a major challenge during the year. We have issued, on behalf of the Assembly, conclusive maps showing all open countryside and common land subject to the new rights of public access on foot. Alongside this, we have worked hard on a new Countryside Code, to ensure that visitors and land managers understand and exercise the rights and responsibilities that go with access to the countryside.

The majority of people living in Wales have heard of the Country Code and

most of those have some awareness of what it means; we want to increase this amongst visitors to the countryside, and have set ourselves targets to increase the proportion of visitors who are aware of it.

We held three regional seminars in May 2004 to explain the new Countryside Code to stakeholders, to help people work out how they would use it and to encourage them to tell us what support they needed from us. This has helped us find out what publications and other supporting material people would find the most useful as well as helping us to build up a network of partners who have taken ownership of the Code and who have been promoting it as part of their own campaigns, events and publications.

The main promotional campaign for the new Code started at the Eisteddfod in the summer. This gave us time to circulate it widely before the new right of access came into operation at the end of May 2005, helping us to fulfil our commitment to farmers and landowners to prepare the ground for

Walkers on Dunraven Coast ©
PhotolibraryWales

Left: Gower Coast
© Grafic House / CCW





Top: CCW Chairman John Lloyd Jones, Carwyn Jones, Minister for the Environment, Planning and Countryside, and CCW Chief Executive Roger Thomas launch the Countryside Code at the Royal Welsh Show
 Right: Character from the public information campaign. Images ©Aardman Animations Ltd 2004



the new right. Over half a million copies of the Code have been distributed, and we have used a variety of means to get the message over, including the Web and other publications. We have also promoted it in schools, and have so far reached 55,000 pupils and their parents. Jointly with the Countryside Agency, we commissioned a television public information announcement, to reach as many people as possible.

Walking the Way to Health is a programme designed to improve the health and well-being of inactive people and people living in areas of poor health by promoting regular and brisk walking within local communities. We were set the target of supporting 22 local projects and thereby improving the health of 80,000 people.

This initiative is well on the way to delivering its target of 22 projects supported, and improved health for 80,000 people. We estimate that around 38,500 people are walking more, and over 200 people have been given the opportunity to contribute by volunteering. All of these people will

have improved health and/or well-being as a result of taking part in Walking the Way to Health. We have continued to support a complementary initiative, the Walk and Talk programme, designed to encourage walking.

As well as delivering health benefits, the countryside is a source of mental stimulation and endless fascination. Careful interpretation can bring the natural heritage to life, so that visits to the countryside become an enriching experience. Accordingly we have continued to support Dehongli Cymru / Interpret Wales (DC/IW), a steering group of the main agencies in Wales



Walking the Way to Health Project, Tredegar



New interpretative panels at Cors Caron National Nature Reserve – Paul Culyer, CCW

which have an interest in improving the quality of interpretation of all aspects of Welsh culture and heritage. DC/IW produced a couple of issues of a high quality magazine and ran a successful two day training event on thematic interpretation led by Professor Sam Ham of the University of Idaho, a leading figure in the project to ground interpretive practice within communication psychology.

We take our responsibilities to provide access onto our reserves for those with disabilities very seriously. Specialist access contractors have been to some of the most visited National Nature Reserves (NNRs) to see whether the current facilities are accessible to disabled visitors, how they could be improved and to identify the most appropriate parts of reserves for all-ability access. The Disability Discrimination Act 1995 requires us to make improvements to conform with current best practice in providing access for disabled people; but we are

also looking to make improvements beyond the range of the Act, so that we provide a lead in the provision of access for all, creating exemplar sites throughout the country, with NNRs leading the way.

Accordingly we have been implementing our audit of the facilities and accessibility of some of our most popular reserves through five major projects. At Cors Caron NNR we have obtained planning permission and a design for the Teifi bird hide and observation tower. Signage and interpretation panel designs have been completed, ready for erection in the second year of this two-year project. At Newborough NNR, preparatory work for improved footpaths has been completed. A slight delay in the contract timetable has been due to the Objective 1 budgeting timetable.

A disabled car parking facility, with a ramp and the necessary signage, has been installed at Dyfi NNR.

Coedydd Aber NNR, which has been the subject of much work in the past, has reached a new phase. The village car park has been completed and a new 'pay to park' scheme at the Bontnewydd car park at the top of the valley will be installed shortly. Two disabled bays are in place here. There is a new access gate with radar lock at the Bontnewydd car park entrance.

At Corsydd Llangloffan NNR a new boardwalk, approximately 150 metres long, meeting BT Countryside for All Standards for wheelchair use, has been installed. This includes a ramped connection to the access road via a new wheelchair accessible gate to the roadside. Further access work, including completion of a circular route, is planned for this NNR in 2005-06 subject to available funding.

A range of infrastructure and interpretive facilities has been planned at Cors Caron and Coedydd Aber. At the latter reserve we started an archaeological revelation project on what was thought to be a Bronze Age burial cairn, with the interpretation of a trial excavation over Easter. This was very successful, enthusing local people and visitors alike about the long history of human habitation in the Aber valley. An exciting new interactive computer will soon be up and running at Ynyslas, which will allow users to navigate

through a 'virtual' landscape of the Dyfi and interrogate video clips and other information sources on their journey.

On the education side we have produced a variety of new resource materials including a well-received Education Pack for Snowdon. Whiteboard teaching resources have been produced to support field work on several of our NNRs, with more in the pipeline.

The responsibilities we have for managing land to maintain its exceptional wildlife and geological value are long-term ones, requiring a continuity of purpose. This year Wales' very first NNR, Cwm Idwal, celebrated its fiftieth birthday. It is a place of world renown, and its dramatic landscape and wild gardens of arctic-alpine plants hanging from the towering crags above a gleaming lake attract more visitors than ever. The experience we have gained over the years has allowed us to balance the multiple interests of the reserve, and provide for visitors; during the year we have invested in developing the network of stone-pitched paths, designed to last until the end of the century, and used by thousands of feet.

Walkers at Cwm Idwal NNR
– David Woodfall/CCW





Sustainable living

In the first three years of Tir Gofal, capital works on farms (hedgerow renovation, stone wall building and the renovation of old buildings) was estimated to create 385 jobs for local people.

Various opportunities have been open to us to steer economic development in Wales in an environmentally sustainable direction, and to optimise the economic and social benefits to local communities of our own work. We have invested time advising WAG on its Spatial Plan *People, Places and Futures*, which sets a crucial framework for achieving sustainable development at a local level. We have provided advice to WAG as it revised and updated various Technical Advice Notes (TANs). We have advised local authorities on the environmental sustainability issues relating to Unitary Development Plans/Local Development Plans and dealt with about 1200 individual planning applications under the Town and Country Planning framework. Our preference is to work closely with the developer at an early stage to help identify and manage any potential conflicts between the proposed development and the natural environment and people's enjoyment of it.

An example is our work to minimise the environmental impact of port developments. We receive

consultations on all port developments and operations that may affect the special features of designated sites. We have also advised the ports industry on marine pollution contingency planning matters as they relate to nature conservation. We have worked hard to develop productive relationships with the ports industry, some of it at a strategic level with central government departments and ports industry representatives, as responsibility for ports is not devolved.

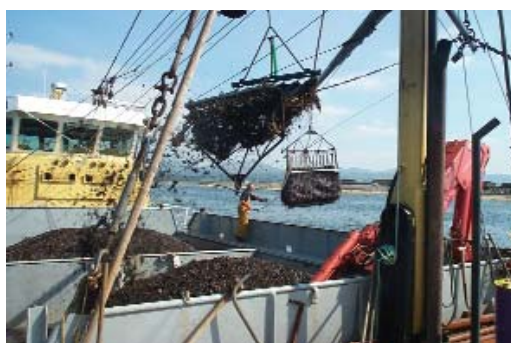
During the year we have been involved in a number of initiatives aimed at developing relationships with the industry at a regional level. We held discussions with Associated British Ports (ABP) concerning the development of a Memorandum of Understanding in relation to conservation interests and their port activity in South Wales. The Memorandum will strengthen working relationships, improve understanding and promote good practice to secure benefits for nature conservation and minimise regulatory burdens on the ports industry.



Above and right: Tir Gofal farmland
© CCW/David Woodfall

As members of the Association of Severn Estuary Relevant Authorities (ASERA), we have had the opportunity to work closely together with ABP on a range of matters relating to a management scheme for the Severn Estuary Special Protection Area.

As part of the implementation of our Fisheries Policy (published in 2003) a number of joint projects and initiatives began with the industry during the year. We helped to establish a Fisheries Forum so that we could meet with the fishing industry to discuss issues surrounding Natura 2000 sites, partnership working and the Marine Bill. We started a project to assess the sustainability of three fishing sectors in North Wales, mussel cultivation, scallop dredging and potting. The sustainability of the three fisheries will be judged against five criteria: environmental, fish stocks, social, economic and management, using current information and identifying information shortfalls. A project collecting skate and ray data from chartered angling boats began towards the end of the year, which will help



Mussel dredger, Menai Strait
- Mark Gray CCW

identify the distribution of skate and ray species around the coast of Wales. Work has continued with the mussel farmers operating in the Menai Straits. We are monitoring the environmental impacts of mussel farming with the University of Wales, Bangor, with input from the industry.

We continued to monitor and manage our programmes to help optimise their economic and social benefits. Jointly with WAG we have commissioned consultants to undertake a detailed assessment of the socio-economic benefits of Tir Gofal, the WAG's agri-environment scheme. Fieldwork was undertaken this year, and the final report showed that:

- 1% of Tir Gofal farmers said their income had increased (35% of farmers) or been sustained (56% of farmers) since joining the scheme;
- 92% of Tir Gofal farmers said the scheme was creating additional work on their farms, on average equivalent to 66 days a year. Contractors, for work such as renovating farm buildings, hedge laying or fencing, carry out half of this work. The farmer and his family carry out 42% of the additional work, with existing and new employees accounting for the remainder.
- 95% of Tir Gofal payments to farmers stay in the Welsh economy, 55% within a 10-mile radius of the farm, supporting, directly or indirectly, the equivalent of 385 full time jobs in rural Wales.

Farms of all types and sizes consider that payments made under Tir Gofal are important to their business revenue to some degree, almost a fifth considering

them essential, 45% very important and 27% quite important.

In the first three years of Tir Gofal, the work required to undertake capital works on farms (such as hedgerow renovation, stone wall building and the renovation of old buildings) was estimated to create 385 jobs for local people.

We also monitored the impact on businesses of Adfywio, the £5.2 million grant scheme funded by WAG, and managed jointly by ourselves and the Wales Tourist Board (WTB), with additional support from the Forestry Commission (FC). It aimed to stimulate rural economic recovery following the foot and mouth outbreak. This evaluation showed that the £5.2million

supported projects worth in total £13.64m. Including the additional effects of this spending, total expenditure within the Welsh economy was estimated at £32.87m. It was estimated that Adfywio directly stimulated the creation of 50 full-time, 85 part-time and 150 seasonal jobs – equivalent to full-time jobs. When the above additional economic effects are taken into account this rises to 313 full-time jobs.

We also began to examine ways in which our NNRs could make a bigger economic contribution to local communities. Our grant aid also supported a number of projects which help utilise the natural environment in ways which generate economic benefits. We continued to support Coed Cymru, for example grant aiding a heat treatment facility for Welsh hard wood that will add value to the wood produced from sustainably managed woodlands in Wales (see Chapter 2).

We are developing programmes to help disadvantaged groups and communities benefit from the natural environment. We made available a £250,000 grant scheme targeted at these groups and communities. To help us do this effectively we commissioned research from the Black Environment Network on the environmental needs of excluded groups.

The findings from this showed that people from all backgrounds, however disadvantaged, aspired to have equal and fair access to the environment. Access was not just about physically being able to get to places but also about inclusion and representation. It is about welcoming everyone and promoting a sense of belonging and ownership of a clean, safe and pleasant



Children at Eco-fest at Rosehill Quarry – Rosehill Quarry Group

environment. Safety also links to concerns about the presence of chemicals in the environment and in what we eat and use. In addition, the social outcomes connected with environmental activities are of paramount importance to disadvantaged groups.

We will use these results to help us develop a full Social Justice Action Plan, which will spell out how our work contributes to WAG's social justice agenda.

Environmental challenges such as climate change place demands on all of us to live more sustainable lives. To raise awareness and encourage people to change their lifestyles, we ran a campaign, called Spring to Life. This promoted three key messages: 'waste less', 'drive less' and 'buy local', and provided a theme for our work at shows and for our website. The campaign received considerable press and TV coverage and raised awareness of sustainable living issues amongst the wider public.

To learn more about the impact of such campaigning we ran three pilots in Carmarthen, Caernarfon and the Cynon Valley. In each pilot we carried out market research before and after a period of intense advertising using different promotional methods, such as billboards, bus-back posters and drop-in sessions. The results have been shared with the Assembly and other key organisations and will help bring about a more coordinated approach to campaigning on sustainable living amongst the public and voluntary sector.

We continued to improve the way we manage the environmental impact of

our own work. We were the first Assembly Sponsored Public Body to estimate our own ecological footprint - an indicator which expresses the relationship between the consumption of natural resources and the capacity of the natural environment to provide these. This showed that in 2003/4, we consumed 1,017,628 kWh (just over 1GWh) of energy, of which 92% was electricity, all of it produced by a gas fuelled combined heat and power (CHP) plant; that we purchased and consumed approximately 433 tonnes of materials and products; that we generated an estimated 47 tonnes of waste, of which 28% was recycled, and 66% was land-filled general refuse; and that our staff travelled a total of 9,007,180 passenger-kilometres. Of this, 4,783,346 passenger-kilometres was business travel, and 4,223,833 passenger-kilometres was commuting to and from work.

We will use these data to help manage and reduce our own ecological footprint. As part of this we are working in partnership with Carbon Trust to undertake a detailed carbon audit of all our work to help us mitigate our contributions to global warming.

Register of Council Members' interests 2004-2005

1. Directorship of companies, public or private, both remunerated and unremunerated.
2. Employment(s) or office(s), both remunerated and unremunerated.
3. Remunerated trades, professions or vocations.
4. The names of clients when the interests referred to above include personal services by the Member which arise out of or are related in any manner to his/her membership of the Council.
5. Land holdings which have been notified as SSSI, any conservation payments being received and any other land held in 'heritage' designation.
6. The names of companies or other bodies in which the Member to his/her knowledge has, either himself/herself or with or on behalf of his/her spouse and infant children, a beneficial interest in shareholdings of a nominal value greater than one-hundredth of the issued share capital.
7. Do your spouse/partner or children have any relevant interests not notified above? If so, please give details.

Mr J Lloyd Jones (Chairman)

1.
 - i Board Member of Institute of Grassland and Environmental Research.
(Chairman, Finance and General Purposes Committee)
 - ii Director JNCC Support Co.
2.
 - i Chairman: Countryside Council for Wales
 - ii Member: Joint Nature Conservation Committee
 - iii Member: Rural Economy and Land Use Strategic Advisory Committee
(Chairman RELU Food Chain Forum)
 - iv Member: National Trust's Estates Panel
 - v Member: Woodland Strategy Advisory Panel for Wales
3.
 - i Farmer
5.
 - i Hendy Farm in Tir Gofal Scheme
7. Spouse
 - i Member: Gwynedd Unitary Authority
 - ii Chairman: Mid Wales Tourism Company
 - iii Director: Pan-Wales Tourism Alliance
 - iv Director: Festival of the Countryside
 - v Panel Member for Snowdonia National Park, Environment Development Fund
 - vi Member: Gwynedd Objective 1 Local Partnership

Dr E M N Andrews

1.
 - i Tufnol Industries Ltd
 - ii Medway Properties Ltd,
 - iii Wales European Centre Brussels
2.
 - i Countryside Council for Wales
 - iii Vice President Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
 - iv President Brecknock Wildlife Trust
3.
 - i Consultant Biologist (short term contract) Environment Agency
6.
 - i Tufnol Industries Ltd

Dr K Bishop

2.
 - i Head of Environment and Regeneration, Welsh Local Government Association.

- ii. Member: RSPB Committee for Wales
- iii. Member: World Commission on Protected Areas
- iv. Member: Council of National Parks Welsh Advisory Group

3. See above

Professor R A Dodgshon

- 1. i Council Member and Trustee, National Trust
- 2. i Professor, University of Wales, Aberystwyth
 - ii Member, Countryside Council for Wales (to November 2004)
 - iii President, Society for Landscape Studies
- 3. i Writer
- 4. i Council Member and Trustee, National Trust
 - ii Member, Joint Nature Conservation Committee (to November 2004)

Professor Dianne Edwards

- 1. i Trustee: Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh
 - ii Trustee: National Botanic Garden of Wales
 - iii Trustee: Natural History Museum
- 2. i Research Chair, (Head of School) Cardiff University
 - ii Part-time Interim Director: National Botanic Garden of Wales
 - iii Member: Darwin Initiative Committee
- 4. i Mr Alan Hayward (Chair, National Botanic Gardens of Wales)
 - ii Prof Steven Blackmore (Keeper Royal Botanic Gardens of England)
 - iii Prof David Ingram (Chair, Darwin Initiative)
 - iv Dr M Dixon (Director Natural History Museum)

Mr R Jarvis

- 2. i Chair: Flintshire Biodiversity Partnership Action Plan Steering Group (unremunerated)
- 7. i Subscribing Members of National Trust (self and wife)
 - ii RSPB (wife subscribing member)

Mr R Lovegrove

Nothing to declare.

Mr R Pratt

- 4. i 'Marine Strandings' facility based at farm, on behalf of Marine Environmental Monitoring who are part funded by CCW (unremunerated)
- 5. i Part designated SSSI and SAC. No management payments.

Mr B Riddleston

1. i Trustee: RSPB and Member of RSPB Council
2. i Chairman: RSPB Cymru Committee

Dr S Shackley

2. i Senior Lecturer: School of Biological Sciences University of Wales, Swansea
- ii Member: Countryside Council for Wales
3. i As in 2. above.

Mr D Tomos

2. i Self-employed/Freelance broadcaster and journalist
- ii Independent Assessor for Public Appointments Unit at Welsh Assembly Government

Mr A Underwood

1. i Au Partnerships Ltd (remunerated)
- ii Watersavers Ltd (unremunerated)
2. i Secretary: Third Sector Development and Training Ltd (unremunerated) (Wife's company)
4. i Together with my wife Margaret we have, through our respective companies, Au Partnerships Ltd and Third Sector Training and Development Ltd, recently been awarded a contract by CCW namely "Call-Off Contracts for various packages of support on external funding, management and economic advice.
- ii My wife, through her company, has undertaken consultancy work for CCW on previous occasions.
- iii A number of my past clients have received or are in regular receipt of grant aid from CCW, including Gwent Wildlife Trust, Radnor Wildlife Trust and Groundwork Bridgend and Neath Port Talbot. Given the nature of my clients this situation is likely to recur.
6. i Au Partnerships Ltd
7. i Please see above

Mr R Williams

2. i Vice Chairman: Governors – Coleg Llysfasi, Rhuthin
- ii Chairman: Agri Food Partnership, North Wales
- iii Member: Appeals Panel for Wales re Single Farm Payment
3. i Farmer - smallholder
- ii Landowner
5. i Land at Rhiwbebyll Isaf, Llandyrnog subject to ESA agreement and CCW Hedgerow Renovation Scheme
- ii Owner of approx 250 acres tenanted mountain land which qualifies for ESA assistance payable to the tenant.

Key Target performance for 2004-05

Target	End of year	Result
IMPROVING ACCESSIBILITY		
Open Access Issue on behalf of the Welsh Assembly Government conclusive maps of all open countryside and registered common land to which the public will have rights of access on foot by the end of the financial year.	We issued the final conclusive maps on 4 March 2005. We also processed all the maps to exclude certain areas of excepted land. We delivered the modified maps of accessible land to the Ordnance Survey in time for them to have their new Explorer maps for all Wales in the shops by the end of May 2005.	Target met
Rights of Way Improvement Plans Support (with advice, guidance and grant aid) the development and publication of the 3 pilot draft Rights of Way Improvement Plans.	Supporting information and advice has been provided on CCW's website. Advice and training for the year has included a seminar (attended by 24 of 25 Local Authorities) and 2 training workshops (attended by 21 officers from 14 authorities). Completed reports received from 3 supported Local Authority Pilots that are developing Draft ROWIPs.	Target met
National Nature Reserves We will deliver: a) comprehensive interpretation/education packages on specific NNRs within CCW's 3 Regions.	W Region: Computer interactive & White Board (WB) resources at Ynyslas have been installed and will be completed by mid-April, also panels at Cors Caron. Educational visits program continuing at Gower (Oxwich). N Region: White board resources completed for Newborough, Morffa Harlech & Coedydd Aber. Snowdon key skills 2 pack completed ready for distribution. Study into use of building at Cader Idris completed. S.Region: Signage installed at Merthyr Mawr & Gwent Levels	Target met
b) 5 major projects on access resulting from Disability Discrimination Act surveys (Corsydd Llangloffan, Dyfi, Newborough, Coedydd Aber and Cors Caron NNR's).	5 DDA projects now complete at: Corsydd Llangloffan, Dyfi, Newborough, Coedydd Aber and Cors Caron NNR's	Target met
National Trails We will develop the standards for the condition of National Trails; and standards for the marketing of National Trails (in partnership with Wales Tourist Board).	Draft standards have been developed and are ready for consultation with partners.	Target met
ENABLING OTHERS		
Scope and develop in CCW the Biodiversity Action Reporting System (BARS) which records and reports on progress towards the actions and biological outcomes specified in UK and LBAP habitat and species action plans for implementation by March 2005 (to enable us to report by October 2005).	The roll-out of BARS is on schedule to be ready for BAP reporting Oct 05. CCW has had continued involvement with BARS advisory group and testing/roll out phases. BARS became live in November when it was available to a limited number of final trial users. Representatives of LBAPs in Wales have attended a training workshop and are beginning to enter information into the live site. UK HAPs and SAPs are centrally administered & will become live at a later date. All CCW Lead Partners and country contacts for UK BAP have been given user accounts on the live site. Workshops for HQ and Regional staff involved in UK and LBAP action/reporting have started and will be complete by May 05. To help promote BARS within the BAP	Target met

Target	End of year	Result
ENABLING OTHERS		
	community, workshops have also been extended to a contact from key partner organisations in each Region. An additional/refresher workshop for Lead Partners is scheduled for October when the 2005 reporting round begins. Initial guidance has been prepared for CCW staff and will be finalised as BARS is further rolled out and feedback received. 2 user workbooks tailored for LBAPs	Target met
Grant aid the establishment of a Local Record Centre (LRC) in South Wales and the production of development plans for LRCs in North and West Wales.	South Wales LRC established and staffed and CCW SE Region starting to work with this new LRC in Cardiff. Development plan for North Wales is complete. 30 applications received for North Wales LRC manager/establishment officer post which will take the LRC into its next phase; interviews scheduled for early April. West Wales LRC steering group formed. Service Level Agreement with the Forestry Commission signed. Development officer post advertised.	Target met
Access for All We will develop a £250k <i>The Environment for All</i> grants programme, which will actively target excluded groups and disadvantaged communities and help connect communities to their environment.	Grants totalling £315k have been offered to partners of which £171k has been claimed. The balance will be claimed next financial year.	Target met
SUSTAINABLE LIVING		
Tir Gofal With the Assembly Government we will assess the socio- economic benefits of Tir Gofal to rural Wales.	Target met and on time. The Minister is launching the report on 25 May	Target met
Greening As part of our 'greening strategy' we will establish an ASPB greening forum, to embed sustainable working practices, by October 2004.	Due to the impact of public sector forum, it was agreed with the Assembly to postpone the first meeting until mid 2005. Most other ASPBs have, however, expressed an interest in participating and arrangements have been made for a forum meeting. During the year, CCW achieved Green Dragon Level 4 and we are well on the way to achieving level 5 by July 2005 which will set the benchmark for other ASPBs.	Target met
Environment and Health We will work with partners to ensure that there is a local Walking the Way to Health project in each of the 22 Local Health Board Areas.	A walking the way to health project is now being supported in all local health board areas in Wales; they are at various stages of maturity. Twenty projects are in receipt of grant aid support, with the other two being supported through coordinator and volunteer training. Project monitoring suggests in excess of 36,000 people benefiting from the projects over the reporting period.	Target met

Target	End of year	Result
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SUSTAINABLE LIVING		
We will monitor public attitudes towards specific aspects of sustainable development and report the results by March 2005. This will deliver our 'Spring to life' campaign, specifically prioritising the public understanding of the relationship between the environment and health.	Spring to Life Campaign delivered successfully. Further pilots completed in March 2005. The subsequent evaluation of these will be completed in the first quarter of 2005/6.	Target met
Work with the Welsh Assembly Government and partners to develop a draft Wales Environmental Strategy by March 2005.	The Reference Group has met twice to consider the draft consultation strategy which is to go out to consultation in the early summer. CCW has contributed to the draft document in various ways with colleagues providing data, comments and text. The Chief Executive is a member of the Minister's reference group and CCW has a secondee working in the WAG-led Environment Strategy Team alongside EA, FC and Wales Environment Link representatives. It is anticipated that the final version of the Strategy will be launched in autumn 2005.	Target met
RAISING QUALITY		
Increase by 5,000ha (2%) the areas of SSSI under sympathetic management.	The target was exceeded with 6,668ha.	Target met
Prepare at least 300 Site Management Statements for sharing with owners /occupiers.	The target was exceeded with 313 SMS achieved.	Target met
Tir Gofal a) 50,000ha of new agreements (500 farms) b) 10% compliance monitoring	500 new Tir Gofal agreements were signed up and the budget of £18.1 million was paid out to agreement holders. The average size of farm coming into Tir Gofal was 85.4 hectares and this means that we have increased the area under TG agreements by 42,706 hectares. The target for compliance monitoring has also been met.	Target met
National Parks Play an active part in the follow up and delivery of the National Parks Review Action Plan by March 2005.	Detailed comments have been submitted in relation to the consultation. Guidance on the statutory duties of relevant authorities to have regard to the purposes of National Parks and AONBs and proposals for a seminar were submitted. Meeting on 12 April to discuss seminar details. Agreement reached with National Park Authorities over details of a formula for allocating National Park Grant.	Target met
Review of Consents We will take 30% of sites through to the conclusion of the process (options appraisal) and a further 30% of sites through Stage 3 (Appropriate Assessment).	We have assessed a further 30% of sites to see whether any of our consents are having an adverse affect on the integrity of the SAC features. In total we have carried out this assessment on 70% of the Natura 2000 sites. We also took 40% of the sites into stage 4 (options appraisal), which is where we make decisions about what to do with any that are a problem.	Target met

Target

End of year

Result

UNDERSTANDING CHANGE		
<p>Monitoring Sites</p>	<p>A total of 70 terrestrial and freshwater features were monitored in 2004/05 though a few of these remain subject to additional analysis (lakes contract) or appropriate QA; 38 of these were assessments made in-house, mainly by SAC Monitoring Officers; a further 32 features were monitored under contract. The total of 70 features exceeds the 20% target for terrestrial and freshwater SAC features (which translates to an annual target of 67 features). Additional contract work undertaken in 2004/05 will deliver assessments of 3 further features early in 2005/06. Field monitoring of a number of additional terrestrial features has taken place but final agreement on performance indicators is required before these can be considered complete. Monitoring of marine SAC features has continued but because of the large size of most of these features, completed assessments are not expected until nearer the end of the current Habitats Directive reporting period.</p>	<p>Target met</p>
<p>b) Develop by March 2005 a system to report annually on the state of the Welsh SSSI series.</p>	<p>Report on the state of the SSSI series in Wales for FY 2004/05 complete and circulated for consultation / comment. Final document will be included on the CCW web site.</p>	<p>Target met</p>
<p>Work with Partners to develop an integrated environmental monitoring system, which we will use to track the state of, and pressures on, the natural heritage, including those caused by climate change.</p>	<p>We have continued to work with the ADAS Countryside Survey Scoping Study team and other partners to develop a specification for the next survey. The Centre for Ecology and Hydrology (CEH) proposals for the survey include a significant 'integrated assessment' component. Country-level workshops as well as themed topic groups have collated views of potential funders, relevant specialists and other stakeholders. A meeting to distill this information and to agree a way forward for implementation of the next survey is scheduled for 12/13 April 2005. A workshop to raise the profile of the proposed ECN Biodiversity Network, to engage interested parties, and to move the work forward, was held in Edinburgh on 28 Feb 2005. Negotiations with the Assembly have begun, to renew the 5-year Memorandum of Agreement covering funding of the Environmental Change Network 'integrated monitoring' site on Snowdon. A review of environmental monitoring in Wales has been undertaken by CEH Bangor and is expected to be completed shortly.</p>	<p>Target met</p>
<p>Landscape/ Catchment Scale Projects Develop proposals for 3 landscape scale projects including, for example: habitat restoration, species reintroductions, linkages with community strategies and the involvement of partner organisations.</p>	<p>All local authorities in the area covered by the proposed Dyfi Biosphere Reserve extension have agreed to form a steering group for the project, completing the first key step in getting agreement to the extension itself. The Black Mountains cross border project has commenced and the programme for 05-06 developed. Strait to the Head project has been scoped. Llyn Tegid project plan developed and the core partnership established for the Assembly catchment sensitive farming project. This is an element of a wider integrated rural development project being developed for Llyn Tegid.</p>	<p>Target met</p>

FOREWORD

1. History of the Body and Statutory Background

The Countryside Council for Wales was established on 5 November 1990 in accordance with the provisions of the Environmental Protection Act 1990, to carry out statutory responsibilities for promoting the conservation of the natural world and the enhancement of natural beauty together with encouraging recreation and enjoyment of the countryside of Wales, and advising Government on all matters relating to countryside and nature conservation issues, as set out in Part VII Section 130 of the Act. It is financed by annual grant-in-aid from the National Assembly for Wales. Under Part VII Section 132(2) (a) of the Act the Council is empowered to accept gifts and contributions for the purposes of its functions which are defined in Section 132(2). The Accounts are prepared under paragraph 21(1), schedule 6, of the Act in a form directed by the National Assembly for Wales with the approval of the Treasury. A copy of the Accounts Direction can be obtained from the Council.

The Joint Nature Conservation Committee was established on 5 November 1990 by Section 128(4) of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 to carry out such functions previously discharged by the Nature Conservancy Council listed in section 133 therein. The expenses of the Joint Conservation Committee are met in accordance with Schedule 7 of the Act and defrayed in proportion to the funding agreed by English Nature, Scottish Natural Heritage and the Countryside Council for Wales. Assets and liabilities are jointly owned by English Nature, Scottish Natural Heritage and the Countryside Council for Wales, apportioned on the agreed funding percentage for that year.

2. Funding

The Council's grant-in-aid from the National Assembly for Wales finances the excess of its capital and revenue expenditure (excluding depreciation) over its income.

3. Results and Appropriations

The 2004-05 Income and Expenditure account records a deficit on operating activities of £1.056 million on total income of £60.254 million over total expenditure of £61.310 million.

The income included £56.211 million of government grant towards revenue expenditure and £0.847 million in respect of the share of the revenue expenditure for the Joint Nature Conservation Committee. In addition the Council received £1.736 million in grants towards capital expenditure and

£0.009 million in respect of the share of Joint Nature Conservation Committee capital expenditure.

Non-retainable income of £4.038 million of European Union funds for Tir Gofal was remitted to the National Assembly for Wales.

A deficit of £0.519 million was taken to the general reserve. A deficit occurred as a result of CCW spending monies (£1.119m) in the current financial year where the income to fund this expenditure was actually received in the previous financial year, and was held as part of the retained surplus as at 31st March 2004 of £3.542 million, which was brought forward into the 2004-05 financial year. As at 31st March 2005 there is a retained surplus carried forward of £3.023 million.

4. Fixed Assets

In 2004-05, the Council purchased £1.736 million of capital assets as detailed in Note 13.

The majority of land is held as nature reserves and a market value is not appropriate.

5. Payment of Creditors Policy

The timing of payments is stipulated in all the Council's contracts and goods and service orders, the standard being payment within 30 days of receipt of goods or services or a valid invoice, whichever is the later.

The Countryside Council for Wales aims to settle all bills within the terms specified in accordance with the Better Payments Practice Code. During 2004-05, the Council paid 92% of invoices within the 30 day terms and the Council was not charged any interest on late payments.

6. Council Members for 2004-05

J Lloyd Jones, OBE (Chairman)

Dr E M N Andrews

Mr B Riddleston

Professor R A Dodgshon *

Professor D Edwards

Mr R Lovegrove, OBE

Mr R Pratt

Mr D Tomos

Mr R Jarvis

Mr R Williams

Dr S Shackley

Dr K D Bishop **

Mr A J Underwood ***

* Term of office ended on the 4th November 2004

** Term of office started 5th November 2004

*** Term of office started 1st October 2004

7. Disabled Persons

The Disability Discrimination Act 1995 brought in new legislation to counteract the discrimination that people with disabilities face. It gives rights to people who have or have had a disability which makes it difficult for them to carry out normal day to day activities. The disability may be physical, sensory or mental but must be substantial and must last or be expected to last for at least 12 months.

The Council has been awarded the '2 tick', Positive about Disability, symbol, a status granted by the Employment Service to employers following best practice guidelines in dealing with people with disabilities. The use of the symbol demonstrates to the Council staff and external applicants that the Council is committed to providing employment opportunities to people with disabilities, and will judge them solely upon their abilities.

8. Employee Involvement

The Countryside Council for Wales involves employees through the Countryside Council for Wales Whitley Council which brings together representatives of the management and trade unions in a working environment. There have been six Whitley Committee Meetings during the year and the discussions have been wide ranging and productive.

9. Auditors

Under paragraph 21 of schedule 6 to the Environmental Protection Act 1990 the Auditor General for Wales is required to examine and certify the statements of account and lay copies of them, together with his report, before the National Assembly for Wales.

10. Tir Gofal Agri Environment Scheme

In terms of significant future changes that can be foreseen at present, one issue is material enough to warrant a specific reference. The Welsh Assembly Government has determined that the Tir Gofal Agri-Environment Scheme and certain associated delivery resources will transfer from the Countryside Council for Wales to being directly operated by the Environment, Countryside and Planning Division of the Welsh Assembly Government from January 2007. This will involve the transfer of significant numbers of staff and Scheme related funding.

R Thomas
Chief Executive
Date

STATEMENT OF COUNCIL'S AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S RESPONSIBILITIES

Under paragraph 21 of schedule 6 to the Environmental Protection Act 1990 the Countryside Council for Wales is required to prepare a statement of accounts in the form and on the basis determined by the National Assembly for Wales, with the consent of the Treasury. The accounts are prepared on an accruals basis and must give a true and fair view of the Council's state of affairs at the year end and of its income and expenditure and cash flows for the financial year.

In preparing the accounts the Council is required to:

- observe the accounts direction issued by the National Assembly for Wales, including the relevant accounting and disclosure requirements, and apply suitable accounting policies on a consistent basis;
- make judgements and estimates on a reasonable basis;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, and disclose and explain any material departures in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis, unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Council will continue in operation.

The Accounting Officer for the National Assembly for Wales has designated the Chief Executive of the Countryside Council for Wales as the Accounting Officer for the Council. His relevant responsibilities as Accounting Officer, including his responsibility for the propriety and regularity of the public finances and for the keeping of proper records, are set out in the National Assembly for Wales Accounting Officers' Memorandum, issued by the Treasury.

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE STATEMENT ON INTERNAL CONTROL

Scope of Responsibility

As Accounting Officer, I have responsibility for maintaining a sound system of internal control that supports the achievement of the Countryside Council for Wales (the Council) policies, aims and objectives, set by the National Assembly for Wales, whilst safeguarding the public funds and Council assets for which I am personally responsible, in accordance with the responsibilities assigned to me in Government Accounting.

Purpose of the system of internal control

The system of internal control is designed to manage rather than eliminate the risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives; it can therefore only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness. The system of internal control is based on an ongoing process designed to identify the principle risks to the achievement of the Council's policies, aims and objectives, to evaluate the nature and extent of those risks and to manage them efficiently, effectively and economically. The system of internal control has been in place for the year ended 31 March 2005 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and accounts, and accords with guidance.

Capacity to handle risk

Leadership is given to the risk management process by its being embedded into each part of the management, planning and reporting process. Responsibilities thus clearly relate to me as Accounting Officer and in addition the recognition of risk management as an integral part of management and delivery is reinforced.

Risk and Control Framework

CCW's risk management strategy has been drawn up and implemented in accordance with Treasury guidance. Key elements of the strategy include:

Maintenance of an organisational wide Key Risk Register (KRR), which identifies high-level corporate risks and evaluates the likelihood of those risks being realised and the impact should they be realised.

Maintenance of Regional and Group Local Risk Registers (LRRs), which identify risks specific to functional areas of operational activity, within the context of corporate risks. These are reviewed by the relevant management teams on a regular basis and risks elevated to the Directors Team where appropriate.

For all identified risks, an assessment is made of the control measures in place to manage the risk and the effectiveness of those control measures, identifying

need for improvement where appropriate. Additionally, a lead owner is identified, who has overall responsibility for the management of the risk.

The Directors Team and Senior Management Team meetings include a standing agenda item on risk management and internal control. Directors Team additionally maintains an Annex to the KRR, which details current issues and the management thereof.

All Committee papers presented to Council include a risk assessment relevant to the topic. Council has delegated the responsibility for managing risks to the Audit and Risk Management Committee, who through their fuller knowledge of systems of internal control, are better placed to consider risk on behalf of Council. The Audit and Risk Management Committee receive an annual risk management review, which reports on progress in the financial year ended.

Risks identified in both the key and local risk registers are used to inform the work programme of the Internal Audit team.

Risks associated with projects are managed in accordance with recognised project management methodologies.

Review of Effectiveness

As Accounting Officer, I have the responsibility for reviewing the effectiveness of the systems of internal control. My review of the effectiveness of the system of internal control is informed by the work of the internal auditors, the Audit and Risk Management Committee which oversees the work of the internal auditor, the executive managers within the Council who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework, and comments made by the external auditors in their management letter and other reports. Plans are in place to address any weaknesses arising and to ensure continuous improvement of the systems.

CCW's Audit and Risk Management Committee comprises 5 non-executive members from our Council and 1 independent member. It raises issues and concerns as necessary with me as Accounting Officer. Its Terms of Reference ensure that risk management and internal control are regularly considered within the year.

The Council receives regular reports from the chairman of the Audit and Risk Management Committee concerning internal control. Each Director, Group Head and Regional Manager has provided the Chief Executive with a written statement of assurance

that all systems of management and financial control are fully effective. The issues that have been raised, which will be dealt with in 2005/06, do not lessen the adequacy of internal control.

The Council has an Internal Audit Unit, which operates to standards defined in the Government Internal Audit Manual. They submit regular reports to the Chief Executive and the Audit and Risk Management Committee, which include HIA's independent opinion on the adequacy and effectiveness of the Council's system of internal control together with recommendations for improvement.

Roger Thomas
Accounting Officer
Date

THE CERTIFICATE AND REPORT OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL FOR WALES TO THE MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY FOR WALES

I certify that I have audited the financial statements on pages 34 to 50 under paragraph 21 of schedule 6 to the Environmental Protection Act 1990. These financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, as modified by the revaluation of certain fixed assets, and the accounting policies set out on pages 38 to 39.

Respective responsibilities of the Council, the Chief Executive and Auditor.

As described on page 30 the Accounting Officer is responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the Environmental Protection Act 1990 and National Assembly for Wales directions made thereunder, and for ensuring the regularity of financial transactions. The Accounting Officer is also responsible for the preparation of the other contents of the Annual Report. My responsibilities, as independent auditor, are established by statute and I have regard to the standards and guidance issued by the Auditing Practices Board and the ethical guidance applicable to the auditing profession.

I report my opinion as to whether the financial statements give a true and fair view and are properly prepared in accordance with the Environmental Protection Act 1990 and National Assembly for Wales directions made thereunder, and whether in all material respects the expenditure and income have been applied to the purposes intended by the National Assembly for Wales and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them. I also report if, in my opinion, the Foreword is not consistent with the financial statements, if the Countryside Council for Wales has not kept proper accounting records, or I have not received all the information and explanations I require for my audit.

I read the other information contained in the Annual Report and consider whether it is consistent with the audited financial statements. I consider the implications for my certificate if I become aware of any apparent misstatements or material inconsistencies with the financial statements.

I review whether the statement on pages 31 to 32 reflects the Countryside Council for Wales' compliance with Treasury's guidance on the Statement on the Statement on internal control. I report if it does not meet the requirements specified by Treasury, or if the statement is misleading or inconsistent with other information I am aware of from my audit of the financial statements. I am not required to form an opinion on the effectiveness of the Council's corporate governance procedures or its risk and control procedures.

Basis of audit opinion

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

I planned and performed my audit so as to obtain all the information and explanations which I considered necessary in order to provide me with sufficient evidence to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by error, or by fraud or other irregularity and that, in all material respects, the expenditure and income have been applied to the purposes intended by the National Assembly for Wales and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them. In forming my opinion I have also evaluated the overall adequacy of the presentation of information in the financial statements.

Opinion

In my opinion:

- the financial statements give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Countryside Council for Wales at 31 March 2005 and of the deficit, total recognised gains and losses and cash flows for the year then ended and have been properly prepared in accordance with the Environmental Protection Act 1990 and directions made thereunder by the National Assembly for Wales; and
- in all material respects the expenditure and income have been applied to the purposes intended by the National Assembly for Wales and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

I have no observations to make on these financial statements.

Jeremy Colman
2-4 Park Grove
Auditor General for Wales
Cardiff
Date
CF10 3PA

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2005

STATEMENT 1

		2004/05 £000	2004/05 £000	2003/04 £000
	Notes			
GROSS INCOME				
Grant in Aid	19	56,211		50,247
Grant in Aid applied to the JNCC Support Unit	6 & 19	847		784
Share of JNCC other income	6	234		140
Release from Government Grant Reserve	18	1,730		1,491
Income from Activities	2a	614		139
Retainable European Income	2b	<u>618</u>		<u>1,568</u>
			60,254	<u>54,369</u>
EXPENDITURE				
National Nature Reserves and Site Protection	3	4,383		4,430
Scientific and Technical Support	4	2,101		1,434
Operational Support	5	1,291		1,604
Annual Cost of the JNCC Support Unit	6	1,088		923
Grants Payable	7	5,837		3,889
Tir Cymen Grants Payable	8	2,145		2,787
Tir Gofal Grants Payable	9	18,449		14,402
Staff Costs and Council Members' Remuneration	10	17,763		16,487
Notional Charge - Cost of Capital		180		125
Other Operating Charges	11	6,255		6,378
Purchase of Heritage Assets		81		69
Depreciation	13	<u>1,737</u>		<u>1,496</u>
			<u>61,310</u>	<u>54,024</u>
Surplus/(Deficit) on Operating Activities			(1,056)	345
Surplus on Disposal of Fixed Assets			31	20
Interest Receivable			308	209
Surplus/(Deficit) on Ordinary Activities			<u>(717)</u>	<u>574</u>
Non- retainable European Income	9		4,038	3,729
Add back of notional costs			180	12
Amount surrendered to the National Assembly for Wales	12		(4,038)	(3,729)
Transfer from Reserves:	18		11	9
Surplus/(Deficit) on activities for the financial year			<u>(526)</u>	<u>708</u>
Surplus for the financial year			(526)	708
Adjustment for JNCC Support Unit surplus			7	(1)
Amount transferred to retained surplus for the year			<u>(519)</u>	<u>707</u>
Retained surplus at 1 April			3,542	2,835
Retained surplus at 31 March			<u>3,023</u>	<u>3,542</u>

All activities are regarded as continuing.

The notes on pages 38 to 50 form part of these accounts.

STATEMENT OF TOTAL RECOGNISED GAINS AND LOSSES**STATEMENT 2**

	Notes	2004/05 £000	2003/04 £000
Surplus/(deficit) for the financial year		(519)	707
(Surplus)/deficit on revaluation of fixed assets	13&18	24	15
Movement in Share of JNCC Provisions and Reserves	6&18	(12)	16
Movement on Government Grant Reserve	18	6	403
Movement on Donated Assets Reserve	18	(2)	(2)
Total recognised gains or (losses) for the year		<u>(503)</u>	<u>1,139</u>

The notes on pages 38 to 50 form part of these accounts.

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2005

STATEMENT 3

	Notes	2004/05 £000	2004/05 £000	2003/04 £000
FIXED ASSETS				
Tangible assets	13		3,513	3,484
Investment in the Joint Nature Conservation Committee Support Unit	6		66	78
CURRENT ASSETS				
Stock	15	9		8
Debtors	16	3,162		2,837
Cash at Bank and in Hand		<u>1,242</u>		<u>2,150</u>
		4,413		4,995
CURRENT LIABILITIES				
Creditors falling due within one year	17	<u>(1,391)</u>		<u>(1,453)</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS			3,022	3,542
TOTAL NET ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES			<u>6,601</u>	<u>7,104</u>
FINANCED BY:				
CAPITAL AND RESERVES				
Government Grant Reserve	18		3,096	3,090
Donated Assets Reserve	18		34	36
Revaluation Reserve	18		382	358
Share of Provisions and Reserves of the Joint Nature Conservation Committee Support Unit	6&18		66	78
Income and Expenditure Reserve			<u>3,023</u>	<u>3,542</u>
			<u>6,601</u>	<u>7,104</u>

The notes on pages 38 to 50 form part of these accounts.

Accounting Officer

date:

CONSOLIDATED CASH FLOW STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2005

STATEMENT 4

Reconciliation of Operating Surplus to net cash inflow from operating activities

		2004/05	2003/04
	Notes	£000	£000
Surplus/(Deficit) on ordinary activities		(1,056)	345
Transfer from Government Grant Reserve	18	(1,730)	(1,491)
Depreciation	13	1,737	1,496
Decrease/(Increase) in stock	15	(1)	(3)
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	16	(325)	(1,988)
Increase (decrease) in creditors	17	(62)	(324)
Net Annual Contribution to JNCC	6	7	(1)
Notional Costs		180	125
Net cash outflow from ordinary activities		(1,250)	(1,841)

CASHFLOW STATEMENT

		2004/05	2003/04
		£000	£000
Operating Activities			
Net cash outflow from ordinary activities		(1,250)	(1,841)
Non Retainable European Income	9	4,038	3,729
Amount surrendered to the National Assembly for Wales	12	(4,038)	(3,729)
		(1,250)	(1,841)
Return on Investments and Servicing of Finance			
Investments received		308	209
Capital Expenditure			
Payments to acquire fixed assets		(1,737)	(1,894)
Proceeds from sale of fixed assets		34	24
		(1,703)	(1,870)
Net cash (inflow)/outflow before financing		(2,645)	(3,502)
Financing:			
Government grant received and applied to purchase fixed assets		1,737	1,894
Increase / (decrease) in cash		(908)	(1,608)

Reconciliation of net cash flow to movement in net funds

	2004/05	2003/04
	£000	£000
Increase/(decrease) in cash in period	(908)	(1,608)
Net funds at 1 April 2004	2,150	3,758
Net funds at 31 March 2005	1,242	2,150

The notes on pages 38 to 50 form part of these accounts.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

NOTE 1. STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES

1.1 Basis of Accounting

The Accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention, as modified by the revaluation of certain fixed assets and on a going concern basis. Without limiting the information given, the Accounts meet the accounting and disclosure requirements of the Companies Act 1985 and accounting standards issued or adopted by the Accounting Standards Board so far as those requirements are appropriate. The Accounts Direction as issued by the National Assembly for Wales exempts the Council from the requirement to produce a statement of historical cost profits and losses.

1.2 Fixed Assets and Depreciation

1.2a Valuation Policy

Land, buildings and works services classified as non-operational heritage assets, located on designated conservation areas have been assigned a nil valuation on the balance sheet. All other freehold land and buildings are valued at open market valuation for existing use or depreciated replacement cost in the case of specialised buildings. Full valuations are obtained every 5 years and are updated by appropriate indices published by the Office for National Statistics in the intervening years. The last revaluation was at March 2002 conducted by King Sturge Independent Property Valuers.

Equipment, computers and vehicles are shown at depreciated historical cost and are not revalued as in the opinion of the Council such adjustments would not be material.

Adjustments arising from revaluations are taken to the revaluation reserve. Any permanent diminutions in value are charged to the Income and Expenditure Account.

Fixed assets costing less than £1,000 are charged to the income and expenditure account in the year of purchase.

1.2b Depreciation

Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets, other than freehold land, at rates calculated to write off the cost or valuation of each asset to its residual value evenly over its expected useful life as follows:

Freehold Buildings	50 years or professionally estimated life
Freehold Buildings [short term structures]	20 years [or less if appropriate]
Computer Equipment	3 years [or up to 10 years on specific items]
Other Equipment	5 -10 years
Cars	4 years
Commercial Vehicles, Vans and 4WD	5 years

For freehold buildings, an amount representing the difference between the depreciation charged on the revalued assets and that which would have been charged if the assets were shown at cost is either added to or deducted from the revaluation reserve and either debited or credited to the Income and Expenditure Account.

The depreciation charge on all other tangible fixed assets calculated at the above rates is charged to the Income and Expenditure Account and an amount is transferred from the government grant account to cover the in year depreciation.

1.2c Sale of Fixed Assets

The proceeds from the sale of fixed assets are surrendered to the National Assembly for Wales in their entirety, except where the proceeds are used for like-for-like replacement.

1.2d Donated Assets

The value of donated assets, or donations used for the purchase of fixed assets are credited to the donated assets reserve. An amount representing the depreciation on these assets is deducted from the donated assets reserve and credited to the Income & Expenditure Account.

1.3 Joint Nature Conservation Committee

The Joint Nature Conservation Committee [JNCC] is funded jointly by the three Conservation Councils: English Nature, Scottish Natural Heritage and the Countryside Council for Wales. The assets and liabilities of the Committee are owned by the three Conservation Councils in direct proportion to their funding for the year. The percentage contribution and overall budget will in future be set by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs in discussion with the devolved administrations in Scotland and Wales.

JNCC is considered by the above bodies to be a JANE 'Joint Arrangement Not an Entity' as defined by FRS9

“Associates and joint ventures”. It produces a separate account, audited by National Audit Office, and the proportionate share of JNCC income, expenditure, assets, provisions and reserves is incorporated into the Countryside Council for Wales financial statements on an agreed abbreviated form of the equity method.

1.4 Stock Valuation

Stocks of publications are valued on a first in first out basis at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

1.5 Taxation

The Council is not liable to corporation tax or capital transfer tax on gifts and bequests received. Income is shown net of VAT. Expenditure and fixed asset purchases are shown inclusive of VAT, which is not generally recoverable.

1.6 Grant in Aid

Government grants received of a revenue nature or applied to the purchase of assets ascribed a nil value in line with the Council’s valuation policy [see1.2a] are credited to income in the year to which they relate. Grants for capital expenditure are credited to the government grant reserve, and released to revenue over the expected useful life of the relevant assets by equal amounts.

1.7 Grants, Research Contracts and Management Agreements.

Research expenditure, grants awarded and management agreements payments are charged to the income and expenditure account when incurred.

1.8 Notional Costs – Cost of Capital

A charge, reflecting the cost of capital utilized by the Countryside Council for Wales is included in the Income and Expenditure Account. The charge is calculated on the basis of the average net capital employed for 2004-05 at 3.5% excluding cash balances held with the Office of the Paymaster

General.

1.9 Pension Values

Employers’ contributions are payable to the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme (of which the Countryside Council for Wales joined on 1st October 2002) at one of four rates, as set out below, based on salary bands.

2004/05

Salary Band	Percentage
£17,500 and under	12%
£17,501-£36,000	13.5%
£36,001-£62,000	16.5%
£62,001 and over	18.5%

2003/04

Salary Band	Percentage
£17,000 and under	12%
£17,001-£35,000	13.5%
£35,001-£60,500	16.5%
£60,001 and over	18.5%

1.10 Derivatives

In accordance with FRS13 the Council has to provide information about the role that financial instruments play in creating or changing the risks that it faces in its activities. The Council has no borrowings and relies primarily on departmental grants for its cash requirements, and is therefore not exposed to liquidity risks. It also has no material deposits, and all material assets and liabilities are in denominated sterling, so it is not exposed to interest risk or currency risk.

NOTE 2 - INCOME

	2004/05 £000	2003/04 £000
a) Income from Activities		
Income from National Nature Reserves	65	53
Interpretation	12	8
Research	3	1
Non European Grants	305	77
Miscellaneous	229	-
	<u>614</u>	<u>139</u>
b) Retainable Grants from the European Community		
Grants from the Objective 5B Structural programme *	36	1,120
Grants from the Objective 1 Structural programme	61	-
LIFE Programme Grants	39	22
Interreg Grants	19	35
EAGGF Structural funds **	463	-
ERDF	-	408
Repayment	-	(17)
	<u>618</u>	<u>1,568</u>

* £1.120M was received in 2003/04 in respect of the completion of an NNR Maintenance Project under Objective 5B. Since projects like this one relate to clearly defined work executed over a distinct period of time, it therefore follows that the co-funding grant for a particular project will be transitory in nature. Thus the project co-funding grants received in one financial year are not directly comparable to the same category of receipts in another financial year. Co-funding grant receipts in different years will relate either to entirely different projects, or at least to differing stages of the same project where a project is executed over more than one financial year.

** The only other significant one-off item received in 2004/05 was £463,000 relating to a project for the reinstatement of traditional field boundaries, co-financed from EAGGF structural funds.

NOTE 3 - MANAGEMENT OF NATIONAL NATURE RESERVES AND SITE PROTECTION

The cost of leasing, managing and maintaining National Nature Reserves and the cost of payments to Landowners of Sites of Special Scientific Interest for the environmentally beneficial management of their land.

	2004/05 £000	2003/04 £000
National Nature Reserves		
Reserve Maintenance	1,392	1,457
Reserve Leases	36	34
Reserve Section 16 Management Agreements	349	437
Section 15 Management Agreement Costs		
Annual payments including Arrears to owners and occupiers	2,041	1,676
Annual & Works Costs	291	242
Monitoring and Management Planning		
Monitoring	46	142
Management Planning	9	66
Associated Legal Costs		
Public Enquiries	16	21
Legal Costs Relating to Management Agreements	90	192
Other Costs		
Other Activities [Wayleaves, Licences etc]	92	139
Land Agency Consultancies	27	35
Reimbursements	(6)	(11)
	<u>4,383</u>	<u>4,430</u>
Forward Commitments on Management Agreements		

As a result of management agreements concluded by 31 March 2005, commitments to continuing annual payments are as follows:

	£000	£000
In the next financial years	1,870	1,744
In years 2-5 (annually)	956	943
5 years and over	1,563	1,701

NOTE 4 - SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT

The cost of contracts to support CCW's scientific and technical programmes and the development of environmental policies for Wales.

	2004/05 £000	2003/04 £000
Natural Science Resource Base	848	804
Cultural Resource Base	113	5
Environmental Monitoring	426	232
Science / Policy Impact Studies	145	131
Grants Consultancies	46	2
Research to Develop Policy	415	316
Science Data Systems Collation	-	-
Special Initiatives	28	-
Experiments in Sustainability	82	-
Conference Costs	-	6
Reimbursements on Joint Projects	(2)	(116)
	<u>2,101</u>	<u>1,434</u>

NOTE 5 - OPERATIONAL SUPPORT

The cost of CCW's Operational Support.

	2004/05	2003/04
	£000	£000
Agri Environment Support	422	377
Operational Projects (non Research)	327	863
Cartography Costs	166	149
Data Systems	-	58
Library Costs	120	112
Cost of Operational Equipment	24	5
Legal Costs	44	-
EU reimbursement to subordinate partners	59	-
Misc Operational Costs	129	40
	<u>1,291</u>	<u>1,604</u>

NOTE 6 - INVESTMENT IN JOINT NATURE CONSERVATION COMMITTEE SUPPORT UNIT

The Joint Nature Conservation Committee Support Unit is funded jointly by the Nature Conservancy Council for England, the Countryside Council for Wales, and Scottish Natural Heritage on the basis of agreed proportional contributions. Assets and Liabilities are jointly owned by the 3 bodies, apportioned on the basis of their agreed funding percentage for that year. The Countryside Council for Wales agreed proportion for 2004/05 was 14.36% [Prior Year 13.85%].

The attributed share of the income and expenditure of the JNCC Support Unit was:

	2004/05	2003/04
	£000	£000
Ring fenced Grant in Aid to JNCC	847	784
Share of JNCC Expenditure	(1,088)	(923)
Share of JNCC other income	<u>234</u>	<u>140</u>
(Deficit) /Surplus for the year	(7)	1

Movements in the Council's investment in the JNCC Support Unit were:

(Defecit)/Surplus for the year	(7)	1
Adjustment for change in funding percentage	1	-
Other changes to asset value	<u>(6)</u>	<u>15</u>
Increase in investment for the year	(12)	16
Value of investment at 1 April	<u>78</u>	<u>62</u>
Value of investment at 31 March	<u>66</u>	<u>78</u>

financed by:

Income and Expenditure account	7	13
Other Provisions and Reserves	<u>59</u>	<u>65</u>
	<u>66</u>	<u>78</u>

The Joint Nature Conservation Committee Accounts are audited by the National Audit Office and laid before Parliament as an attachment to the English Nature Accounts.

NOTE 7 - GRANTS PAYABLE

	Public Sector £000	Private Sector £000	2004/05 Total £000	2003/04 Total £000
Capital	41	106	147	73
Biodiversity	832	631	1,463	1,224
Landscape	329	73	402	481
Awareness	164	772	936	733
Access	730	245	975	737
External Training	-	99	99	66
Education	-	238	238	66
Environment for all / Community Strategy	93	130	223	-
Phoenix Project	-	50	50	-
Special Initiatives	-	798	798	294
Sustainable Development	29	-	29	-
European Development Fund	244	-	244	245
Partnership Agreements	132	101	233	-
Reclaimed Grants	-	-	-	(30)
	<u>2,594</u>	<u>3,243</u>	<u>5,837</u>	<u>3,889</u>

NOTE 8 - TIR CYMEN GRANTS

	2004/05 £000	2003/04 £000
Annual Payments	1,753	2,247
Lump Sum Payments	392	540
	<u>2,145</u>	<u>2,787</u>

1. Forward Commitments on Tir Cymen Agreements

As a result of Tir Cymen agreements concluded by 31 March 2005, commitments to continuing annual and works payments are as follows:

	£000	£000
In the next financial year	1,153	1,580
In years 2-5 (annual average)	481*	1,010
5 years and over	-	-

* Tir Cymen is a closed scheme, and all remaining agreements will mature and end by March 2008. £671k is due in 2006/7, with a further £291k due in 2007/8. The scheme will then have expired.

NOTE 9 - TIR GOFAL

	2004/05 £000	2003/04 £000
Annual Payments	12,922	9,798
Lump Sum Payments	5,521	4,622
Reimbursements	6	(18)
	<u>18,449</u>	<u>14,402</u>

1. The Countryside Council for Wales operates Tir Gofal within the framework of the European Union Agri-environment scheme and forms part of the Rural Development Plan for Wales.

The Countryside Council for Wales is entitled to reclaim reimbursement of 50% of most Management payment elements from either the European Agriculture Guidance & Guarantee Fund (EAGGF) or from Modulation funds set aside by the National Assembly for Wales from other EU funded Schemes falling within the Wales Rural Development Plan. The EAGGF income is not retainable and is surrendered to The National Assembly for Wales and amounts to £4.038 million [Prior Year £3.729 million].

2. Forward Commitments on Tir Cymen Agreements

As a result of Tir Cymen agreements concluded by 31 March 2005, commitments to continuing annual and works payments are as follows:

	£000	£000
In the next financial year	22,500	17,200
In years 2-5 (annually)	22,950	18,500
5 years and over	67,400	59,900

NOTE 10 - STAFF COSTS & COUNCIL MEMBERS REMUNERATION

Total costs

	2004/05 £000	2003/043 £000
Salaries	14,553	13,621
National Insurance	1,046	968
Superannuation	2,084	1,892
Net Superannuation Transfer Values	1	(2)
Early Retirement Costs	79	8
	<u>17,763</u>	<u>16,487</u>
Average Numbers	607	614

Staff are employed within the Council as follows :

	2004/05	2003/04 restated *
Chief Executive and Central Office	5	5
Regions	298	298
Science Directorate	92	115
Policy Directorate	88	74
Corporate Services Directorate	109	107
Joint Nature Conservation Committee Support Unit.	15	15
	<u>607</u>	<u>614</u>

* The 2003/04 staff numbers have been restated to allow a direct comparison to be made with 2004/05 staff numbers. The restatement was to take into account corporate restructuring from April 2004, involving a change in the distribution of staffing resources.

Council Members	£000	£000
Council members' Remuneration including National Insurance	97	100
Chairman's Remuneration including National Insurance	48	42

The Chairman is appointed by the First Secretary to the National Assembly for Wales. It is a part-time pensionable appointment of 130 days a year

Council members are appointed by the National Assembly for Wales on a part-time basis of 30 days a year. Their appointments are non-pensionable, with the exception of the Chairman

The following numbers of Council members received emoluments on the following ranges:

	2004/05	2003/043
£10,001 - £15,000	-	1
£ 5,001 - £10,000	10	10
£ 0 - £ 5,000	2	-

Senior Employees

In accordance with the Greenbury Code and DAO (GEN) 3/00, the Council is required to disclose the following details concerning senior staff, including those with responsibility for running policy making departments.

Name and Title	2004/05 Salary (as defined below) £000	2004/05 Real Increase in pension and lump sum at 60 £000	2004/05 Total accrued pension at 60 at 31/3/04 and related lump sum £000	CETV at 31/3/04 nearest £000	CETV at 31/3/05 nearest £000	Real increase in CETV after adj for inflation and changes in market investment factors nearest £000
D R Thomas - Chief Executive	80-85	2.5 - 5 plus 0 - 2.5 L. sum	30-35 plus 0-5 L. sum	396	457	33
John Lloyd Jones Chairman	35-40	0 - 2.5 plus 0 - 2.5 ls	0 - 5 plus 5-10 L. sum	34	43	7
Dr Malcolm Smith - Senior Director (retired 30/7/04)	20-25	0 - 2.5 plus 0 - 2.5 L. sum	20 - 25 plus 65 - 70 L. sum	365	386	10
Dr David Parker - Director Conservation	50-55	0 - 2.5 plus 0 - 2.5 L. sum	5-10 plus 0 - 5 L. sum	57	75	11
Dr John Taylor - Director Policy	50-55	0 - 2.5 plus 0 - 2.5 L. sum	5-10 plus 5-10 L. sum	57	72	10
Mr L Warmington - Director Corporate Services	50-55	0 - 2.5 plus 2.5 - 5 L. sum	20 - 25 plus 60 - 65 L. sum	307	344	20
Dr Maggie Hill - Regional Manager	45-50	0 - 2.5 plus 2.5 - 5 L. sum	5-10 plus 15-20 L. sum	64	83	14
Mr T W Jones - Regional Manager	45-50	0 - 2.5 plus 5 - 7.5 L. sum	10-15 plus 30 - 35 L. sum	92	124	25
Dr D H Worrall - Regional Manager	45-50	2.5 - 5 plus 10 - 15 L. sum	10-15 plus 35 - 40 L. sum	120	180	53

Salary includes gross salary and bonus pay. Only the Chief Executive is eligible for a performance bonus based on targets set by the Council and approved by the National Assembly for Wales. Other senior staff receive a gross salary only. None of the Council Members or senior staff received any remuneration other than shown above or received any benefits in kind.

The table above shows the member's cash equivalent transfer value (CETV) accrued at the beginning and the end of the reporting year. The final column reflects the increase in CETV effectively funded by the employer (including the value of any benefits transferred from another pension scheme or arrangement) and uses common market valuation factors for the start and end of the period. For 2004-05 no contributions have been made in respect of senior staff to Partnership pension schemes.

A Cash Equivalent Transfer Value is the actuarially assessed capitalised value of pension scheme benefits accrued by a member at a particular point in time. The benefits valued are the member's accrued benefits and any contingent spouse's pension payable from the scheme. A CETV is a payment made by a pension scheme or arrangement to secure pension benefits in another pension scheme or arrangement when the member leaves a scheme and chooses to transfer the benefit accrued in their former scheme. The pension figures shown relate to the benefits that the individual has accrued as a "consequence of their total membership of the pension scheme, not just their service in a senior capacity to which this disclosure applies. The CETV figure, and from 2003-04 the other pension details, include the value of any pension benefit in another scheme or arrangement where the individual has transferred to the Civil Service Pension arrangements and for which the Civil Service Vote has received a transfer payment commensurate to the additional pension liabilities being assumed. They also include any additional pension benefit accrued to the member as a result of their purchasing additional years of pension service in the scheme at their own cost. CETVs are calculated within the guidelines and framework prescribed by the Institute and Faculty of Actuaries.

Pensions

Pension benefits are provided through the Civil Service Pension (CPS) arrangements. From 1st October 2002, civil servants may be in one of three statutory based 'final salary' defined benefits schemes (classic, premium and classic plus). The schemes are unfunded with the cost of benefits met by monies voted by Parliament each year. Pensions payable under classic, premium and classic plus are increased annually in line with changes in the Retail Price Index. New entrants after the 1st October 2002 may choose between membership of premium or joining a good quality 'money purchase' stakeholder arrangement with a significant employer contribution (partnership pension account).

Employee contributions are set at the rate of 1.5% of pensionable earnings for classic and 3.5% for premium and classic plus. Benefits in classic accrue at the rate of 1/80th of pensionable salary for each year of service. In addition, a lump sum equivalent to three years' pension is payable on retirement. For premium, benefits accrue at the rate of 1/60th of final pensionable earnings for each year of service. Unlike classic, there is no automatic lump sum but members may give up (commute) some of their pension to provide a lump sum. Classic plus is essentially a variation of premium, but with benefits in respect of service before 1 October 2002 calculated broadly as per classic.

For 2004-05, employers contributions of £2.084M were payable to the PCS (2003-04 - £1.892M) in respect of employees in either Classic, Premium or Classic Plus schemes. Contributions were set at one of four rates in the range 12 to 18.5 percent of pensionable pay, based on salary bands. The scheme's Actuary reviews employer contributions every four years following a full scheme valuation. Rates will remain the same next year, subject to revaluation of the salary bands, but will increase from 2005-06. The contribution rates reflect benefits as they accrue, not when the costs are actually incurred, and reflect past experience of the scheme.

The Partnership pension account is a stakeholder pension arrangement. The employer makes an age related basic contribution of between 3 to 12.5 percent into a stakeholder pension product chosen by the employee. Employers contributions of £8,633.33 were paid into one or more of a panel of four appointed stakeholder pension providers. The employee does not have to contribute but where they do make contributions, the employer will match up to a limit of 3 percent of pensionable salary (in addition to the employer's basic contribution). In addition, employers also contribute a further 0.8 percent of pensionable salary to cover the cost of centrally-provided risk benefit cover (death in service and ill-health retirement). In 2004-05 this amounted to £523.42 .

During 2004-05 no one retired early on ill-health grounds; the total additional accrued pension liabilities in the year amounted to £0.

The Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme (PCSPS) is an unfunded multi-employer defined benefit scheme but the Countryside Council for Wales is unable to identify its share of the underlying assets and liabilities. A full actuarial valuation was carried out as at 31 March 2003. Details can be found in the resource accounts of the Cabinet Office: Civil Superannuation. The resource accounts and further details about the CPS arrangements can be found at the website www.civilservice-pensions.gov.uk

NOTE 11 - OTHER OPERATING CHARGES

	2004/05	2003/04
	£000	£000
Accommodation Costs	1,593	1,660
Transport Costs	457	655
General Office Costs	630	734
Purchase, Hire & Maintenance of Equipment	288	409
Training	583	585
Travel and Subsistence	180	188
Information Systems Development	848	883
Corporate Services General	362	399
Miscellaneous legal costs	44	54
Audit Fee- statutory	22	23
Audit Fee- non statutory	5	20
Change in Stock Level	(1)	(3)
Publicity/Information/Education	1,365	1,140
Cartography	-	9
Library	-	13
Reimbursements relating to the above Services*	(121)	(391)
	<u>6,255</u>	<u>6,378</u>

* Reimbursements in 2003/04 include an amount of £205,000 which had previously been lodged, on behalf of the Countryside Council for Wales, with a solicitor pending a grazing rights purchase. This transaction subsequently did not go ahead and the funds returned to CCW.

NOTE 12 - APPROPRIATIONS TO THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY FOR WALES

Non-retainable income payable to the National Assembly for Wales

	2004/05 £000	2003/04 £000
European Union grants in support of Tir Gofal [see Note 9]	4,038	3,729
	<u>4,038</u>	<u>3,729</u>

NOTE 13 - FIXED ASSETS

	Freehold Buildings/Land	Equipment	Computers	Vehicles	TOTAL
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
COST OR VALUATION					
As at 1 April 2004	1,165	1,934	4,956	1,356	9,411
Additions	-	107	1,239	390	1,736
Disposals	-	(90)	(166)	(110)	(366)
Revaluation	33	-	-	-	33
As at 31 March 2004	<u>1,198</u>	<u>1,951</u>	<u>6,029</u>	<u>1,636</u>	<u>10,814</u>
DEPRECIATION					
As at 1 April 2004	151	1,407	3,561	808	5,927
Adjustment to Historic Depreciation *	-	(70)	(34)	(61)	(165)
Charge for the year	35	186	1,367	314 **	1,902
Disposals	-	(88)	(165)	(110)	(363)
Revaluation	-	-	-	-	-
As at 31 March 2005	<u>186</u>	<u>1,435</u>	<u>4,729</u>	<u>951</u>	<u>7,301</u>
NET BOOK VALUE					
At 1 April 2004	1,014	527	1,395	685	3,484
As at 31 March 2005	<u>1,012</u>	<u>516</u>	<u>1,300</u>	<u>548</u>	<u>3,513</u>

* Following a review of nil value assets in use, the asset lives have been reviewed resulting in a reappraisal of the remaining asset values.

** A reassessment of the useful economic life of cars from 5 years to 4 years resulted in an additional depreciation charge of £43,585 for the year.

1. Fixed Assets - Non Operational Heritage

In accordance with Accounting Policy 1.2a, Heritage land and buildings are assigned a nil valuation. In 2004/05 the Countryside Council for Wales purchased heritage land at a cost of £81,101 which has been charged to the Income and Expenditure Account in year. [Prior Year £68,600].

As at 31 March 2005 CCW has 67 National Nature Reserves (NNR's) declared under several categories: 39 are managed by CCW; 17 are managed by CCW in partnership; a further 11 are managed by 3rd parties.

	2004/05
	Hecatre
NNR's Owned by CCW	8,463
NNR's Leased by CCW	6,468
NNR's under NRA	8,134
NNR's under S35 agreements	758
	<u>23,823</u>

The NNRs have been classified as non-operational heritage assets, and so no valuation has been placed upon them. We receive adequate information on NNR condition and maintenance, which enables us to fulfill our stewardship role of the NNRs. It is not our intention to dispose of these assets in the foreseeable future, given their importance to natural heritage. In accordance with Treasury Guidance we consider that obtaining a valuation of these assets is not warranted in terms of the benefits which the valuation would deliver. This policy will be kept under review for future years.

2. There are contractual commitments of £171,000 for future years in the following categories (Prior Year £195,000)

	£000
Computers	131
Equipment	2
Vehicles	38
	<u>171</u>

NOTE 14 - ANALYSIS OF ANNUAL COMMITMENTS UNDER OPERATING LEASES

	Land/Buildings £000	Vehicles £000	2004/05 Total £000
Leases which expire within 1 year	20 at 73	6 at 27	100
Leases which expire within 2-5 years	26 at 608	3 at 16	624
Leases which expire over 5 years	38 at 235	-	235
	<u>916</u>	<u>43</u>	<u>959</u>

NOTE 15 - STOCK

	2004/05 £000	2003/04 £000
Publications	9	8
	<u>9</u>	<u>8</u>

NOTE 16 - DEBTORS

	2004/05 £000	2003/04 £000
Trade Debtors	98	421
Accrued Income	177	57
Prepayments	709	585
Other Debtors:		
National Assembly for Wales	1,425	1,205
Rural Payments Agency	748	561
Other	3	6
	<u>3,160</u>	<u>2,835</u>
Amounts falling due after more than one year	2	6
	<u>3,162</u>	<u>2,837</u>

NOTE 17 - CREDITORS

	2004/05 £000	2003/04 £000 * restated
Payable within 1 year:		
Trade Creditors	567	744
Other Creditors & Accruals	824	709
	<u>1,391</u>	<u>1,453</u>

* The creditor analysis for 2003/04 has been restated in order to allow a direct comparison to be made with the 2004/05 analysis. The restatement was required to take into account a reclassification of all creditors outstanding at year end.

NOTE 18 - MOVEMENT OF FUNDS

	Government Grant Reserve £000s	Donated Assets Reserve £000s	Revaluation Reserve £000s	JNCC Provisions & Reserves £000s	Income & Expenditure Account £000s	2004/05 £000s	2003/04 £000s
Balance at 1 April	3,090	36	358	78	3,542	7,104	5,965
Retained surplus for the year	-	-	-	-	(519)	(519)	707
Capital grants & donations	1,736	-	-	-	-	1,736	1,894
Revaluation of tangible fixed assets	-	-	33	-	-	33	22
Transfers to Income & Expenditure account	(1,730)	(2)	(9)	-	-	(1,741)	(1,500)
Movement in JNCC Provisions & Reserves	-	-	-	(12)	-	(12)	16
Balance at 31 March	<u>3,096</u>	<u>34</u>	<u>382</u>	<u>66</u>	<u>3,023</u>	<u>6,601</u>	<u>7,104</u>

NOTE 19 - GOVERNMENT GRANT IN AID

	2004/05 £000	2003/04 £000
Grant in Aid for general activities	55,848	49,979
Additional Grant in Aid for Gwent Levels Wetlands Reserve	119	23
Additional Grant in Aid for the European Development Fund	244	245
Total credited to Income and Expenditure account	<u>56,211</u>	<u>50,247</u>
Grant aid applied to JNCC Support Unit	847	784
Adjustment to cover Share of JNCC Capital Account	9	26
Government Grant Reserve	1,736	1,894
Total Grant in Aid received in year	<u>58,803</u>	<u>52,951</u>

20. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

The Countryside Council for Wales is a Public Body sponsored by the National Assembly for Wales.

The National Assembly for Wales is regarded as a related party. During the year the Countryside Council for Wales has had various material transactions with the National Assembly for Wales and with other entities for which the National Assembly for Wales is regarded as the parent department viz Welsh Development Agency, Wales Tourist Board, National Museum of Wales, Sports Council for Wales and Rural Payments Agency.

In addition, the Countryside Council for Wales has had a small number of transactions with other Government Departments and other central government bodies. Most of these transactions have been with English Nature and Scottish National Heritage. The Countryside Council for Wales, English Nature and Scottish National Heritage execute their joint functions through the Joint Nature Conservation Committee and provide funding for the Committee on an agreed proportionate basis.

During the year, The Countryside Council for Wales, in the normal course of its business, entered into material transactions with the following organisations in which Council Members, members of the key management staff or other related parties have an interest:

Mr D Parker, a director of the Countryside Council for Wales is a member of the National Biodiversity Network which received a grant of £15,000 during the year.

Mr J Ll Jones, the Chairman is a member of the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) and Director of JNCC Support Co. Prof R A Dodgshon, a council member (finished 4/11/04), and Dr E M N Andrews, a council member, are also committee members of JNCC.

During the year, the following transactions took place:	£000
payment to related party	1,087
receipts from related party	503
amounts owed to related party at year end	-
amounts due from related party at year end	40

Mr J Ll Jones received an annual payment of £ 3,185 and a capital payment of £4,538 in relation to the Tir Gofal Scheme in 2004-05.

Prof R A Dodgshon, a council member (finished 4/11/04) was a trustee and council member of the National Trust.

During the year, the following transactions took place:	£000
payment to related party for goods and services	106
grants to related party	138
receipts from related party	1
amounts owed to related party at year end	-
amounts due from related party at year end	-

Prof D Edwards, a council member is a trustee and Interim Director of the National Botanic Garden of Wales.

During the year, the following transactions took place:	£000
grants to related party	15
amounts owed to related party at year end	-
amounts due from related party at year end	-

Prof D Edwards, a council member is a trustee of the Natural History Museum.

During the year, the following transactions took place:	£000
payment to related party for goods and services	5
amounts owed to related party at year end	-
amounts due from related party at year end	-

Mr B Riddleston, a council member is a trustee of RSPB, a member of the RSPB council and Chairman of the RSPB Cymru Committee. "

During the year, the following transactions took place:	£000
payment to related party for goods and services	42
grants to related party	226
receipts from related party	2
amounts owed to related party at year end	-
amounts due from related party at year end	2