



Countryside Jobs Service

Focus on Wildlife

In association with The Wildlife Trusts



22 November 2010

The Wildlife Trusts' vision for A Living Landscape

By Tanya Perdikou and David Ireland

The Wildlife Trusts, like many other conservation organisations, are thinking big. With around 2,300 nature reserves established around the UK, has come the realisation that even this isn't enough to protect our wildlife. Within the wider landscape, The Wildlife Trusts' nature reserves represent isolated patches of habitat with no room for wildlife to move and expand its range. It's time to join the dots.

A Living Landscape is The Wildlife Trusts' vision for the future of the UK's natural environment. Wildlife conservation now needs to have an emphasis on restoring, recreating and reconnecting key habitats for wildlife. This is important not only in terms of its benefit for wildlife, but for people too. A healthy natural environment means processes such as flood defences, carbon absorption, and crop pollination - all of which have a direct impact on our lives - can function efficiently. And on a more spiritual level, contact with nature greatly benefits our mental well-being.

There are currently more than 100 Living Landscape schemes across the UK. Through them, The Wildlife Trusts are influencing land-use policy and land management in the wider countryside, making it easier for wildlife to move around and providing more opportunities for wildlife to re-colonise the landscape.

Partnership working is critical to the long-term success of these schemes as working at a landscape-scale involves building relationships with a wide range of people and organisations that have a role in managing land between isolated nature reserves. Only by working together with local authorities, landowners, farmers, communities, schools, developers – in short anyone who is responsible for looking after a patch of our landscape – can A Living Landscape truly become a reality.

Government must also play a key role. The Government has recently consulted on a Natural Environment White Paper and received an independent report on the status of England's wildlife sites and networks (Make Space for Nature – published by a panel chaired by Sir John Lawton, also Chair of Yorkshire Wildlife Trust). These two documents could lay the foundations for a new era in nature conservation, one which takes us from protection of the natural environment to one that supports protection and recovery of nature on a significant scale. It could be a turning point for our wildlife, a major step on the journey towards creating A Living Landscape across the whole country.

A healthy, thriving natural environment is in everyone's interest. And whilst organisations like The Wildlife Trusts will continue to lead the way, we can only achieve A Living Landscape by taking people along with us – making it a shared, and cherished, vision for us all.

Case study: Thinking big: Devon Wildlife Trust demonstrates partnership working to manage large areas of land, the kind of scheme being mirrored across the UK in order to create A Living Landscape where wildlife can thrive

Working Wetlands is just one of the 100 plus Living Landscape schemes being delivered by The Wildlife Trusts nationwide. It is the largest and most ambitious project that Devon Wildlife Trust has embarked upon. It represents the culmination of more than 20 years of concerted conservation effort in this little known but internationally important corner of the Devonian ecological landscape; the Culm.

The term Culm grassland is used to describe the unimproved wet pasture scattered across the Culm measures. Culm grassland encompasses a broad range of habitats from damp neutral meadow, fen meadow, tall herb fen, wet flush, swamp, species-rich rush pasture and wet heath.

In contrast to other lowland semi-natural grasslands, the history of Culm grassland loss is a recent one. More than 50 percent of the semi-natural grasslands present in 1980 had been lost by the early 1990s, principally to agricultural improvement driven by poorly targeted subsidies.

A range of organisations have been instrumental in furthering the conservation of the Culm since the 1980's. Devon Wildlife Trust has played a key role with considerable effort from Natural England, Devon County Council, Cornwall Wildlife Trust, Butterfly Conservation and the Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group.

The Working Wetlands project is founded on the principle that in order to achieve robust Culm ecosystems Devon Wildlife Trust needs to work alongside farmers, at the landscape scale and support whole holding conservation. To achieve this goal, Devon Wildlife Trust provides a comprehensive advisory service within three priority areas and covering 65,000 hectares.

The benefits of this approach to wildlife are already showing. Web counts of marsh fritillary butterflies, which thrive in Culm grassland, reached record highs on Devon Wildlife Trust's Volehouse Moor nature reserve this year. To date 900 advisory visits to landowners have been made, including some sites that have received multiple 'care and maintenance' visits to support special capital projects and HLS applications. The total area of land covered by these visits now exceeds 10,000 hectares.

Working Wetlands has, this year, received landmark funding support from South West Water as part of its 'Upstream Thinking' programme, which will invest £10m in moorland and farmed land improvements between 2010 and 2015. This has enabled the advisory resource to be significantly increased.

Through Working Wetlands and all the other Living Landscape schemes around the UK, The Wildlife Trusts are showing how conservation can be achieved on the scale needed to protect our precious wildlife for the future.

More information: The Wildlife Trusts wildlifetrusts.org or Devon Wildlife Trust devonwildlifetrust.org



photo online

Organisations:

The Mammal Society is the only organisation solely dedicated to the study and conservation of all British mammals and is recognised as the leading national provider of quality mammal training, with an extensive range of mammal related publications. Find out more at www.mammal.org.uk or phone 02380237874



The SOC is Scotland's national bird club, with 14 branches throughout Scotland. Established in 1936, the organisation brings together novice birdwatchers, seasoned birders and research ornithologists with the aims of studying, documenting and enjoying Scotland's varied bird life. Membership includes four quarterly issues of the journal, 'Scottish Birds'. 01875 871330 www.the-soc.org.uk

Wales Environment Link (WEL) is an umbrella body for environmental / countryside Non-Governmental Organisations in Wales and the official link between eNGOs and the Welsh Assembly Government. WEL provides an information service, a forum for joint-working and a mechanism for interaction with the Assembly. Email: enquiry@waleslink.org Web: www.waleslink.org

Landscape ecology is the study of interactions, across space and time, between the structure and function of physical, biological and cultural components of landscapes. The International Association for Landscape Ecology (UK) is a not-for-profit organisation promoting communication between scientists, policy-makers, planners and practitioners; anyone can subscribe. Discover more at www.iale.org.uk

Wild Scotland is the Scottish wildlife tourism association. We are a membership organisation for businesses and other organisations who provide wildlife watching activities. The association works to promote Scotland as a responsible wildlife watching destination. For more information, go to www.wild-scotland.org.uk or email info@wild-scotland.org.uk for details

Coming Home

The Great Bustard (*Otis tarda*) was once widespread across large areas of England. While populations in the current strongholds of southern Russia appear to be relatively stable and those in Spain perhaps rising, Great Bustards were lost to England by the middle of the nineteenth century. The last breeding probably took place in Suffolk in 1832, and by around 1845 it was difficult to be certain whether the few bustards still being seen in eg Norfolk were native or birds fleeing hard weather on the Continent.



With no data to plot the species' decline, or even precisely map the original range, the causes for its extinction are mostly anecdotal, but 18th Century naturalists like Gilbert White and George Montagu had already noted its disappearance from large areas of countryside. Two factors in particular, though, appear to

have accelerated the process: the introduction of the horse-drawn drill and intense persecution by hunters and collectors. The drill allowed landowners to plant crops in straight lines and to send employees between the lines to pull out weeds: bustards regularly nest in crops and undoubtedly disturbance of nesting females and collection of their eggs hugely increased after the drill's introduction. Bustards had always been a target species, but hunting pressure increased the rarer the birds became, and the last individuals present in an area were inevitably hunted and killed.

The first serious attempts to re-establish Great Bustards took place in 1970, when the Great Bustard Trust (GBT) built a captive-breeding pen on Ministry of Defence (MoD) land at Porton Down. While intentions were undoubtedly good the breeding biology and requirements of the species were still poorly understood. Birds were regularly handled and the importance of flock structure not properly recognised. Though eggs were laid at Porton Down, no chicks ever hatched and no birds released and the GBT was wound up in 1998.

One GBT member, David Waters, refused to give up and straight away formed the Great Bustard Group (GBG). Still the GBG's Director, David made clear that his aim was to release non-imprinted birds to establish a self-sustaining wild population. The GBG commissioned a feasibility study in 2001 which conclusively demonstrated that the UK offered suitable environmental and climatic conditions for Great Bustards, and that a release project would not be detrimental to either the donor population or the ecosystem of the planned release-site - the unimproved chalk grasslands and arable fields of Salisbury Plain. Based on the exemplary work carried out during the feasibility study Defra issued a 10-year trial-licence in 2003 to release 'up to 40 Great Bustards a year' to the Great Bustard Consortium (originally the GBG and Stirling University, with the RSPB joining in 2009).

By this time the GBG was working with the A.N. Severstov Institute which runs a Biological Station in Saratov, Oblast in southern Russia, home to the world's second largest Great Bustard population. Both the Institute and other Russian authorities were receptive to a GBG proposal to use eggs from what were termed 'doomed' nests (nests deemed to be destroyed by normal agricultural activity in the region's vast cereal fields) to raise chicks for release both in the UK and in Saratov.

Releases began in 2004 and the formation of the first social units began soon afterwards. In the summers of 2007 and 2008 young male Great Bustards performed their spectacular breeding display at the Project Site, and in 2007 the first Great Bustard eggs for 175 years were laid in the UK: not unexpectedly they were infertile. In 2008 a young female also nested near the Project Site, though again, no chicks were hatched. In 2009 the Project took its greatest step forward when two females successfully hatched three chicks. Wild Great Bustards had bred in England for the first time since 1832.

Chicks were again born the following year, and the GBG has now conclusively proved that Salisbury Plain provides the right breeding conditions for Great Bustards. There appears to be plenty of suitable habitat available locally and elsewhere and establishing a viable British population is undoubtedly a realistic vision. The GBG and its partners will be doing everything possible to increase the numbers of nesting birds in future years and with the additional finances provided by the award of an EU LIFE grant in late-2010, we are confident that we will achieve our stated aim – and the Great Bustard will be re-established in the UK after its tragic loss nearly two centuries ago.

Credit: Charlie Moores, GBG (Otis Editor)

Great Bustard Group +44 (0)1980 671 466 <http://www.greatbustard.org>

Twitter @bustardgroup



photo online

Consultants:

Thomson Ecology is the UK's leading ecology specialist.

Our work is wide ranging, from major infrastructure projects to agri-environment schemes to individual bat surveys. We're always looking for first class ecologists to join our team. If you have a masters degree in ecology (or related discipline) or a degree in ecology and two years professional experience and would like to join a dynamic consultancy with varied work opportunities, excellent training, fast progression and lots of parties, then send your c.v. and a covering letter outlining what you have to offer to: enquiries@thomsonecology.com

thomson
ecology

With eight years' experience of environmental consultancy you need go no further than MAB Environment & Ecology for protected species surveys, Farm Environment Plans, Stewardship Applications, BREAAAM / CfSH, management plans, EIA, other biological surveys including NVC. Phone 01845 537845, www.mab-ecology.co.uk or email info@mab-ecology.co.uk. Small, local affordable, reliable and friendly.

Crestwood Environmental Ltd. is a multidisciplinary environmental consultancy, based in the west midlands, serving the public and private sectors within the UK and Ireland. Principal expertise relates to landscape restoration design and management, landscape and visual impact assessment, digital landscape modelling, environmental permitting and monitoring, land use planning and ecological assessment. 01902 824037 www.crestwoodenvironmental.co.uk

Ecological Land Management Ltd specialises in conservation and wildlife protection services. Based in North Wales we operate throughout the North West with a fleet of equipment and machinery for operating in difficult to access or ecologically sensitive areas. Contact us on 07960 570777 or www.elm.uk.net

CES is the consultancy of Cheshire Wildlife Trust. We offer a range of ecological services such as surveys / reports / management plans / protected species mitigation/implementation by our in-house field team/habitat creation and management / species and habitat monitoring. Contact us today for a no-obligation chat on 01829 770797.

The Ecology Consultancy, 6-8 Cole Street, London SE1 4YH, 020 7378 1914
www.ecologyconsultancy.co.uk
The Ecology Consultancy provides the full range of ecological services throughout the UK. These include Phase 1 habitat and protected species surveys, bream and CfSH assessments and mitigation works. We have offices in London, Lewes and Norwich.

Compassionate Conservation Animal Welfare in Conservation Practice

Compassionate Conservation: A New Synthesis

The Born Free Foundation and our friends at WildCRU (the Wildlife Conservation Research Unit) were honoured to organise and host an international conference on animal welfare in conservation practice at the University of Oxford in Sept. The “Compassionate Conservation” symposium welcomed delegates to discuss practical and ethical issues relating to wildlife conservation and its inter-relationship with animal welfare.

At the heart of Compassionate Conservation lies the commitment of individuals joined in common cause. Individual animals, individual plants, individual species, habitats and ecosystems supported protected and nurtured by individual people, families, communities, towns, countries, regions, continents.

We talk a lot about scaling up projects - establishing pilots, proving they work and then ‘scaling up’, making them bigger and better and even more effective.

Compassionate Conservation scales up, starting with the individual. By setting individual animals at its heart, it allows each and every one of us to both understand the issues and engage in the solutions. It permits everyone of us to subscribe to an accessible agenda and help contribute, each in our way, to delivering long-term solutions.

Compassionate Conservation brings together the most important evidence available: credible science and informed popular sentiment. An overpowering combination. In his introduction Will Travers from the Born Free Foundation said “That’s why I am looking forward so much to the next two days. I want to test the hypothesis that adding Compassion to Conservation isn’t a sign of weakness but is a sign of strength.” Compassionate Conservation isn’t a luxury. It isn’t some slightly soppy, overly-anthropomorphic, and anthropocentric luxury or frivolous diversion. It actually may be the tool we have been searching for to help overcome the challenges – many of our own making – that threaten the natural world and modify the activities most singular of species that is both the cause of its demise and, just possibly, could be its salvation.

Why did we do this? For decades the twin disciplines of conservation and animal welfare have been kept apart but we felt that the Compassionate Conservation symposium could begin to change all that by engaging many more people in finding long-term conservation solutions. Born Free believes that the concept of Compassionate Conservation, which lies at the heart of our work, could help shape the agenda for the future of wildlife conservation in decades to come.

“Animal welfare is not only a potent component of the conservationist’s toolkit, it is also an important consideration in the choices that conservationists face” remarked Will Travers. “This Symposium challenged everyone to re-analyse their methods and to strive to improve them in our quest to make better choices for wildlife and its conservation. The shared commitment of individual people to individual animals lies at the heart of Compassionate Conservation.”



For further information on the Compassionate Conservation symposium and to download some of the presentations, visit www.compassionateconservation.org

Publications:

SCENES is an independent digest of environmental news in Scotland. It is for anyone with an interest in the land or sea, whether professional or amateur. It is based solely on published information and contains only news with no comment or opinion. Mailed monthly to subscribers. www.scenes.org.uk

Wildlife Extra is for people who like wildlife, who like watching wildlife, who like conserving wildlife, who like photographing wildlife and who like hearing the latest wildlife news. We bring you the latest news and a free guide to UK nature reserves. Go to www.wildlifeextra.com.



Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust

Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust is an international charity working globally towards our mission of saving species from extinction. Committed to conserving the diversity and integrity of the life on earth, Durrell has developed a worldwide reputation for its pioneering conservation techniques.

Working with a wide range of international partners, we combine the skills of our staff at our wildlife park, in our field programmes and our International Training Centre to save some of the most threatened species in the most threatened places. We operate a dedicated programme of species led conservation projects around the world.

With a team of dedicated conservationists we focus on highly threatened species and habitats found in isolated island or highland regions. These regions are our TopSpots and represent areas that have either high concentrations of threatened species or a high proportion of species that are found nowhere else in the world.

Our strategy and challenge is to remain focussed on delivering our mission in a world where the threats and pressures continue to develop and diversify; becoming increasingly intertwined and globalised. However we remain true to the original vision of Gerald Durrell and thus the focus of our conservation programme is to:

Stabilise and restore threatened species evidence-based programmes of species recovery, habitat restoration and capacity building.

To meet this objective we focus on the following basic components of our programme:

- We will enhance the conservation status of species in Durrell's programme through action either in their habitat or through ex situ breeding efforts.
- We will enhance the capacity of local communities and partners to sustainably manage natural resources in the long term and to protect biodiversity and support human wellbeing.
- We will strengthen the evidence-base for restoration of species and their habitats.

Editor: Pippa Stewart

Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust, Tel: +44 (0) 1534 860000, Info@durrell.org, www.durrell.org



photo online



Wildlife Rescue

If you think working at a wildlife rescue centre involves shovelling shit and bunny huggingread on.

Hessilhead Wildlife Rescue runs one of the country's busiest wildlife hospitals. More than 3000 casualties are admitted every year, and advice is given for many more wildlife incidents. Our team has a surprising variety of skills.

1 ID skills. Easy when it's an adult bird in breeding plumage, but what about 3 day old mistle thrush chicks, or could they be finches? Is that a nestful of dippers, or could they be sand martins? It matters, because they will need different food, Neonate mammals can be tricky too. Badgers and foxes are no problem, but what about stoats and red squirrels, otters and mink?

2 Assessing the patient. Does it need sub-cut fluids, or have a fracture that must be stabilized. Can it be treated at the centre, or must we call a vet?

3 Nursing. Daily medical rounds, monitoring and assessments.

4 Wildlife knowledge is essential, informing us where and when to release our patients. We need to know what each species eats, how it behaves, where it sleeps. We aim to make treatment at Hessilhead as stress free as possible, and never forget we are dealing with wild creatures. Contact with local bat, bird and badger groups is extremely useful.

5 Rescues Wildlife gets into some amazing predicaments. We are called out to rescue swans from roofs, deer from shafts, and once there was a badger stuck on a phone box! Problem solving skills are essential.

6 Dealing with the public Tricky! Many people have an unrealistic idea of what can be fixed. Some would like us to amputate limbs, and offer permanent homes to disabled wildlife. We don't believe this is a humane option, but try convincing caring people of that.

7 **Volunteers** They contribute a lot to Hessilhead. Some help at the centre, others provide transport for casualties. Some have many years experience of rescuing wildlife, and on their 'wildlife day', like to discuss patients, rescues, and wildlife/conservation issues.

8 **Education** Staff visit schools and give talks on the work of the centre. We run training days on First Aid for Wildlife, attended by countryside rangers, vets/vet nurses, wildlife crime officers as well as our volunteers and members.

Do you have or would you like to acquire these skills? Then a career in wildlife rescue could be for you.

Andy Christie, Hessilhead Wildlife Rescue, near Beith in North Ayrshire, Scotland
www.hessilheadwildlife.org.uk



photo
online

Training:

Biocensus Training one day courses on wildlife legislation, protected species, field skills and ecological surveying. Highly experienced tutors provide classroom instruction and practical sessions in a relaxed and interactive atmosphere. Suitable for ecologists, conservation workers, amateurs and those seeking employment in ecology. Visit www.biocensus.co.uk, email enquiries@biocensus.co.uk or call 0845 4594810.



Acorn Ecology is one of the top providers of ecological short courses in the UK. We provide training for new graduates, career changers, experienced ecologists and conservationists wishing to work in consultancy. Most of our courses are field based and are taught by practising ecologists. Find out more at www.acornecology.co.uk.

Cresswell Associates is developing accredited CPD courses for professional ecologists and environmental managers who want to improve their expertise in: field identification for protected species; ecological survey design; wildlife and habitat legislation; ecological impact assessment and mitigation; and sustainable development. Further details can be found at: www.cresswellassociates.com/training

Adult volunteers needed to help run the Moray Wildlife Watch group, near Elgin. Year round meetings on the last Saturday of the month, running environmental education sessions for children aged 5 to 12. Also space for more kids to join! Contact Lynne or Rosie: watchgroupmoray@btinternet.com

2011 IEEM Training Workshops

The Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management will shortly be publishing its training workshop programme for 2011. If you are looking for training in botanical identification, habitat survey, European protected species, and/or many other aspects of the ecological profession, then please visit www.ieem.net/workshops.asp for further details.



big
garden
BIRDWATCH
29-30 January 2011

The World's Biggest Wildlife Survey

For over 30 years, the RSPB has been asking people across the UK to count the birds in their garden. It began as an activity for children in 1979, to help them connect with nature. Since then the Big Garden Birdwatch has grown substantially, to over half a million people reporting results from 280,000 gardens each year. That's more than 3 million hours clocked up watching and enjoying birds in our gardens!

Garden habitats are exceedingly important for birds and other wildlife and we hope people will be motivated to do all they can to support nature by transforming their outside spaces into wildlife havens.

The survey happens at the end of January each year. Garden bird populations are at their most stable at this time of year, and identification is easier as it is not confused by e.g. the presence of juveniles. So conducting the survey in January gives us the most accurate picture of what is happening to our garden birds.

The large scale of the survey allows us to create a 'snapshot' of bird numbers for each region, and the long history of data helps us spot trends in bird numbers. The Big Garden Birdwatch provided the first evidence of the dramatic 62% decline in house sparrows. We've also lost more than three-quarters of our starlings. But spotting a decline is the first step towards plans to aid species recovery, and both species have been placed on the Red List.

The Big Garden Birdwatch is easy and fun to do – you don't need to be an expert to take part, and it only takes an hour. For more information see <http://www.rspb.org.uk/birdwatch>



a million voices for nature

The RSPB speaks out for birds and wildlife, tackling the problems that threaten our environment. Nature is amazing - help us keep it that way. Click here to join today
www.rspb.org.uk/join



photo online

Heather Griffiths, RSPB

A new bat species for Britain: Alcatheo bat



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

My research group is interested in the ecology and conservation of bats. We use a wide range of field and lab techniques to study bats across a wide range of projects, concerning feeding and roosting ecology through to mating behaviour, hibernation and migration. Although our research has well-defined scientific and conservation goals, this does not mean that we don't get the occasional surprise, as you'll see. One of our most important areas of research concerns the mating behaviour of 'swarming' bat species. In the later summer and autumn these bats gather in huge numbers from large areas of the countryside and chase each other inside and outside caves as part of their mating behaviour, before going into hibernation for the winter. Many hundreds of bats can visit a single cave on a given night and even in the UK as many as eight species may turn up on the same night. The turnover from night to night is considerable, so between mid August and the end of September several thousand bats of each species may have visited the cave, often staying for only a night or two. Many will return in the winter to hibernate. From ringing recoveries in the UK we know that bats will fly over 60 km between summer roost and cave and probably much further. As part of a study of the ecology of swarming and migration we have been genotyping bats caught and released at caves and other underground sites all over Europe, from Ireland to Italy and north to Estonia.

Swarming sites are magnets for bats and good places to look for rare species. When working at swarming sites we've found species in areas in which they have never before been recorded. Last autumn we were a little suspicious of some of the bats we caught in Sussex, so when the genotyping told us they were Alcatheo, we were pleasantly surprised. This tiny relative of the whiskered bat was only formally 'discovered' and named in 2001, from individuals caught in Greece. It has since been found in several European countries, the records creeping slowly west and as far as northern France. So, it was perhaps not too surprising to discover that it has been hiding in Sussex - but we were not prepared for the discovery that Alcatheo greatly outnumbered the whiskered and Brandt's bats in our essentially random sample! Discovering them 350 km further north in Yorkshire, at sites we've been visiting since 1998, was an even bigger surprise. This suggests that Alcatheo is not a recent arrival, but a long-established resident that we have simply overlooked.

Alcatheo bat closely resembles whiskered and Brandt's bats, close cousins in the genus *Myotis*. Even experts find it hard to separate them, but now that we know it is here, it will probably be found in other parts of the country - and the evidence suggests it may be widespread. It is not confined to the south as some rare bats are, since it makes up a small but significant proportion of the small *Myotis* bats we have genotyped from swarming sites in Yorkshire. It seems to have a strong preference for semi-ancient, riparian woodland and we have a few encouraging echolocation call recordings from woodland in Cumbria, but have yet to catch any. Chasing Alcatheo is a bit of a diversion from our plans, but as a new UK species, it's something we need to learn more about.

For those working with bats, how do you know when you've got it? It has a distinctive echolocation call: the typical short, broadband sweep of a *Myotis*, but with an end frequency of 43-46 kHz or even a little higher, well above other *Myotis* species. But beware of common pipistrelles flying in clutter: when the CF tail is brief or absent their calls can look very similar.

In the hand it most resembles a small Daubenton's bat with small feet. If the forearm length is less than 33 mm, or better still 32 mm, then Alcatheo becomes a real possibility. For a detailed description look in the recently published Bats of Britain, Europe and north west Africa. Don't expect it to be easy. A small but significant proportion of the bats we and experienced European researchers identified as part of our study have changed species after genotyping!

Professor John Altringham, University of Leeds

To find out more about bats go to the Bat Conservation Trust www.bats.org.uk



photo online

Products & Services:

Wildlife & Countryside Services supply a wide range of products and services aimed at wildlife professionals, local government, utility companies, developers, landowners, schools and individuals, throughout the UK. Check out our website at www.wildlifeservices.co.uk or give us a call on 0845 2300 927 or 070 90 80 9453.

JustMagnifiers supply many types of promotional magnifying glasses, printed with your company name and logo. Low minimums (usually 100) and fast delivery. Most popular are the Credit Card sizes and the Pocket Promo lenses. Great for close-up study of wildlife and the countryside. Ideal for all ages. Visit www.justmagnifiers.co.uk to see the range.

UK Safari is an entertaining wildlife website with an online shop providing a wide range of field equipment for naturalists including; moth traps, bat detectors, butterfly nets, sweep nets, high power magnifiers, identification charts and more. Take a look now. Simply visit www.uksafari.com

Anglian Lepidopterist Supplies. For all of your entomological survey needs from moth trapping to aquatics to small mammals, in the field and indoor studies using microscopes etc. Kits & gifts. visit our website at www.angleps.com or contact Jon Clifton for advice on jon.clifton@btinternet.com

Recycled plastic specialist wildlife products including otter holts, tern rafts, nest boxes, interpretation boards, boardwalks, dipping platforms, fishing pegs and bespoke items. Filcris Ltd, The Old Fire Station, Broadway, Bourn, Cambridge, CB23 2TA Tel: 01954 718327, email: sales@filcris.co.uk, web: www.filcris.co.uk

British Butterflies by Steven Cheshire – The online resource for butterflies, their lifecycles. Extensive stock photo library of British Butterflies and their life stages, graphic design services including typesetting, print management and illustration. New for Jan 2011, a brand new web site and online store. Visit: <http://www.britishbutterflies.co.uk>

Seasearch Marine Life ID Guides. New! Seaweeds of Britain and Ireland published October 2010 and aimed at divers, snorkellers, rockpoolers and other non-specialists who want to identify the seaweeds they see. To purchase this and other guides to British and Irish Sea Anemones and Corals and Marine Life go to www.seasearch.org.uk and follow the Seasearch Shop link.

Clearview Binoculars

Specialist retailer in Binoculars, Telescopes, Tripods & accessories. Our extensive showroom is open 7 days a week. We are based at Newmillerdam, Wakefield, WF2 6QG on the A61. Tel: 01924 229787
Email: sales@clearviewbinoculars.co.uk
Web: www.clearviewbinoculars.co.uk

NHBS everything for wildlife, science & environment: offers the largest collection of natural history books available worldwide, as well as a comprehensive range of specialist equipment for environmental professionals including bat detectors, nest boxes, moth traps, optics, environmental meters, aquatic sampling and entomological equipment. 01803 865913
customer.services@nhbs.co.uk www.nhbs.com

Nestboxes made to order, from the experts. The Hawk and Owl Trust pioneered nestboxes to help barn owls and other birds of prey. Tested designs, timber from FSC accredited suppliers. Collect from the Trust's Sculthorpe Moor reserve, Norfolk NR21 9GN, or delivery by arrangement. See www.hawkandowl.org/shop or phone 01328 856788

Ron McCombe Wildlife Photography Large stock of wildlife photographs available for interpretation/leaflets etc. Most British species available. Contact Ron McCombe 01890 840504 of 07802 236740 ron@wildlife-photography.uk.com

Speyside Wildlife offer fully-inclusive bird, mammal and wildlife watching holidays, in Scotland and around the world, for guests of all ages, interests and abilities. Also day guides and evening wildlife watching experiences, plus tailor-made tours for individuals and groups. Find out more at www.speysidewildlife.co.uk or by calling 01479 812498.

Country Solutions Ltd, Think Wildlife Accredited Pest control and Grounds maintenance, all types of pest work undertaken including rats, mice, squirrels, wasp, ants, and mole clearance, NPTA member, Cheshire and Derbyshire. Tel Andy Leach 07581 789990. Email info@countryolutions.co.uk. Web www.countryolutions.co.uk

Scottish Seabird Centre Award-winning five star attraction – open all year. Amazing live cameras for close encounters with puffins, seals and famous Bass Rock gannets. Discovery Centre with Kidszone, Puffin Club (during weekends and holidays), Wildlife Theatre, Exhibitions, Boat Trips (April – September), Gift Shop and Café. Scottish Seabird Centre, North Berwick www.seabird.org

Our Wild Life : Nature photography by John & Tracy Langley. We offer a range of wildlife photographs and greeting cards - ideal gifts for the wildlife enthusiast. We are also available for illustrated talks on a variety of topics. www.ourwildlifephotography.com

Send seasonal greetings with Devon Wildlife Trust Christmas cards. Choose from a wide selection of wildlife and wintery scenes including the beautiful Doves on Dartmoor, Red Squirrel and Fox in Snow. To view and order DWT Christmas cards visit <http://www.christmas-cards.org.uk/devonwild/> or call 01392 279244

Seafari build and fit out bespoke RIBs for survey, patrol, safety and ranger work. We are official commercial outfitters for Humber RIBs and have vast experience in this field. Our expertise is via Seafari Adventures, marine wildlife tour operators. www.seafari.co.uk oban@seafari.co.uk 01852 300003

Free version of AditSite Free wildlife recording and mapping software. AditSite
* For ecological, biological and wildlife recording and mapping - simply the best * The choice for all discerning professionals and amateurs alike. More info at <http://www.aditsite.co.uk/content1.htm> email freesite@adit.co.uk for a link to the free download

Wildlife Conservation work – the inside story.

Mark Hewitt is a Wildlife Conservation Officer for the Yorkshire Dales National Park. Before joining the National Park two years ago, he worked for Natural England as a conservation officer and prior to that as a nature reserve manager.

The job includes providing habitat and species advice to a range of people including the general public, statutory organisations and landowners etc. In addition the National Park provides consultation advice on planning applications, organising surveys, undertaking surveys and advising on projects. Mark works closely with local communities to develop and manage local wildlife sites. Unlike other sites managed for one specific habitat or species, a National Park, by its very nature, covers a wide range of habitats and species.



YORKSHIRE DALES
National Park Authority

Some iconic species in the Yorkshire Dales would include Black Grouse, Red Squirrel, Peregrine Falcon, White Clawed Crayfish and the Northern Brown Argus butterfly. As a Wildlife Conservation Officer for the National Park, Mark works with this wide range of species and habitats over a 37.5 hour week that can involve evening or weekend work depending upon the projects involved. Along with a diversity of species, the work is pretty diverse too, providing advice and offering consultations take up most time but a fifth of the job is devoted to projects and community work, a further 10% of Mark's time is spent on development and policy work, the remaining third is evenly split between practical work and the inevitable administration.

A typical day might start, like so many others, with the checking of e-mails. These often throw up various queries that may need addressing immediately or can be put on the 'to do' list. Next may be responding to planning application consultations and perhaps attending a meeting about a road verge project with partner organisations. A site visit could take up the afternoon, looking at a local wildlife project providing advice and/or helping with practical tasks or time may be used in drawing together information to develop or take forward a project such as a new wetland creation scheme. Covering so many different tasks, often in tandem, you need to be adaptable and each new task and project brings new challenges and opportunities, some good, some bad.

To get a job like Mark's, an ecologically-based degree is a good start and experience is very important and depends on the role. In some parts of the job it can be gained in post, in other parts it may be a pre-requisite. Mark says he has learnt many new skills during his time at the Authority, "everything from working with a wide range of interest groups to the application of integrated GIS and databases". All National Park staff have access to recognised training either for new skills or for brushing up on old ones. Training is tailored to each member of staff. For Mark, this has covered legislation training, hillcraft and lone working training and some specific courses on species or habitats.

Mark says, "I have a great job and, to be honest, for me it was the experience I had gained through a range of roles and activities that made me suitable for the post. Whether it be volunteering or taking opportunities to try something different when in an existing post, I would say grab it even if it doesn't seem that relevant at the time. It will build a wide range of experience that can be drawn on in a number of roles. To be executed well, these roles require passion and vision - so immerse yourself in the natural world!"

Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority 01756 751600



photo online

Short Training courses in the coming months, all one day unless otherwise specified.

18/12/2010 Badger Survey

Tring, Bucks with Berkshire, Buckinghamshire & Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust. Contact: 01865 775476, www.bbowl.org.uk
This course provides an opportunity for you to learn about badger natural history & how to identify signs of badger, problems & solutions.

29/01/2011 Conservation ecology of the smaller Mustelids - The Weasel, Stoat, Polecat and Pine Marten

Colwall, Malvern with The Mammal Society. Contact: 023 80237874, adunlop@mammal.org.uk,
http://www.mammal.org.uk/index.php?option=com_virtuemart&page=shop.browse&category_id=9&Itemid=219
Ideal for beginners and those looking to further develop their skills, this one day indoor course, delivered by The Mammal Society Chairman, Johnny Birks, covers identification, recording methods, field signs, distribution, status, behaviour, ecology and conservation issues. Cost: £95 Booking Essential.

29/04/2011 Bird Identification 3 days

Machynlleth with Aberystwyth University. Contact: 01970 621580, learning@aber.ac.uk, www.aber.ac.uk/sell

21/05/2011 Tracking: Get Closer to Wildlife

Little Wittenham with Northmoor Trust. Contact: 01865 407792, www.northmoortrust.co.uk
£75. Booking required. Learn the important skills you need to get closer to wildlife: interpret animal tracks and signs, and use this knowledge to get up close for that incredible view.

30/05/2011 Bat Handling Training Course 2 days

Epping with ECHOES Ecology Ltd. Contact: 0870 2340002, www.echoesecology.co.uk
An opportunity to learn good field skills and best practice from experienced, professional bat ecologists. Delegates will have the opportunity to capture and handle bats using a variety of techniques dependent on species and location (e.g. hand-netting, harp trapping).

Surveys

The Nature's Calendar survey run by the Woodland Trust enables you to record seasonal UK wildlife sightings online and add to the longest written biological record in the UK. The website has live interactive maps, personalised data tables and analysis of how the seasons are changing. Visit www.naturescalendar.org.uk

OPAL Biodiversity Survey Open Air Laboratories (OPAL) launched its Biodiversity Survey in September 2010, which looks at the importance of hedges to wildlife and encourages you to get involved. Anyone can take part with free materials downloaded from www.opalexplornature.org

The CJS team would like to thank everyone who has contributed adverts, articles and information for this CJS Focus publication. Next edition will feature Volunteering, published 14/2/11.

A4 sides this CJS Focus: 9

-

Details believed correct but given without prejudice, Ends.