

Buglife – The Invertebrate Conservation Trust

Conserving the small things that run the world



Annual Review 2004-5

Buglife offers lifeline to endangered bugs

Buglife is the first organisation in Europe set up specifically for the conservation of all invertebrates. Our aims are clear: to prevent invertebrate extinctions and maintain sustainable populations of invertebrates in the UK.

Invertebrates comprise the majority of all biodiversity on earth. At least 98% of all animal species are invertebrates, many of which provide us with food, agricultural and medical benefits. The role of invertebrate populations are diverse from being important as a vital food source for other animals (including birds, reptiles, amphibians, and mammals), to pollination, maintenance of soil structure, nutrient recycling and seed dispersal.

Despite this at least 230 invertebrate species have become extinct in the UK in recent times. Currently, it is thought that at least 50% of invertebrate species in the UK are in decline.

The UK needs to halt this decline by protecting the habitats of our surviving invertebrate populations, and Buglife has made an excellent start towards achieving this.



"The fact that we can let so many invertebrates disappear before our very own eyes just because they lack obvious charisma and wet watery eyes, is a real worry. They are critical to the well being of everything" Nick Baker, Buglife President

A word from our chair

The Litmus test is did Buglife make a difference this year? You will find plenty of evidence that we did, the more remarkable considering that for at least half the year we had only one and a half staff. With success in new project funding, we now have five and half staff in post so things are now really going with a buzz.

As yet we are a small organisation. To have influence where it matters we need to punch above our weight. In the following pages you will see that we were a strong influence at Northwick Road, being a test case for the primacy of brownfield invertebrate values in the planning system: we are enormously pleased English Nature backed our case with the planners and developers, largely based on the survey data of one our Friends, and has now declared Canvey Wick a SSSI.

Another site threatened with development, Auchininnis Moss,

we challenged Scottish Natural Heritage's scientific stance; subsequently questions were asked in the Scottish Parliament and the case was referred to the European Commission.

It was Buglife that blew the whistle when a bill went to Parliament that could have eradicated ragwort over wide areas. Buglife's evidence that 30 species of invertebrates are completely dependent on ragwort, apart from pollen and nectar sources, was cited in the House of Lords debate on the bill. We attracted the support of fellow conservation organisations with the result being Defra Guidelines that defused the hyperbole and arrived at a more sensible balance of objectives.

Buglife has shown that we are effective in action, that we have a sound approach and that we are competent in running projects and carrying out valuable research. This is what Buglife was set up to do, and we are delivering both for bugs and our members. However, as is inevitably the case, there is still plenty to do, with the support of our donors, Friends and Members we will continue to go from strength to strength.



"Our most important heritage is not man-made. It is the treasure we call biodiversity"
Germaine Greer – Buglife Vice-President

Buglife – Making a difference

Saving important bug habitats

In the last year we have worked to protect habitats that are home to endangered invertebrates and have helped to save:

- **11** sites
- **103** populations of Red Data Book species
- **14** populations of Priority Species listed in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan
- Over **223** populations of Nationally Scarce species



Buglife is making a real difference for invertebrates by applying effective pressure to save threatened sites, and making the public and decision makers reassess how policies affect invertebrate populations.

Buglife has successfully raised awareness of issues such as the biodiversity importance of Brownfield sites and the plight of Ragwort associated invertebrates.

Buglife helps save England's rainforest

Thanks to Buglife campaigning, the 32 Red Data Book, 120 Nationally Scarce and five Biodiversity Action Plan Priority invertebrates found on the Northwick Road site will be saved.

The campaign initiated by Buglife generated articles in the national press and hundreds of people petitioned for the site to be saved. Now new planning proposals are committed to saving the richest two thirds of the site as a nature reserve and promise to deliver a ground breaking business park that will fully integrate the needs of brownfield invertebrates.

Brooklands racetrack

After identifying nationally important communities of rare beetles, bees, wasps and ground bugs on Brooklands racetrack, Surrey, Buglife has consequently launched a campaign against plans by Mercedes-Benz to redevelop the site.



Aucheninnes Moss

The peat bog at Aucheninnes Moss was on the verge of being lost when the Dumfries and Galloway Council gave planning permission for the site to be turned into a 21 metre-high rubbish dump.

Since then Buglife has campaigned relentlessly to save the site which has received widespread media coverage, and extensive debate in the Scottish Parliament.

The battle centres on the technical definition of the habitat. A survey commissioned by Buglife clearly proves that much of Aucheninnes Moss is 'active raised bog' and that many parts are currently in the process of regeneration and re-establishment.

This is significant as under the EU Habitats Directive 1992 the UK has a legal



obligation to look after both 'active raised bogs' and 'degraded raised bogs capable of regeneration. Despite this all attempts by Buglife to reverse the planning permission has so far failed. Buglife is now considering taking the matter to a judicial review.

Scotland's 'Giant Panda' Saves Bog Wood from Destruction

Due to Buglife action, planning permission was rejected to build 117 houses in amenity woodland at the village of Carrbridge within the Cairngorms National Park.

A message from Buglife was read out at the meeting. Buglife raised concerns over the intention to build on a site that contains rare UK BAP Priority species including Narrow-headed ant (*Formica exsecta*). Wood ants are the lifeblood of Scottish woodland and the Narrow-headed ant is the Giant panda of the wood ant fauna.

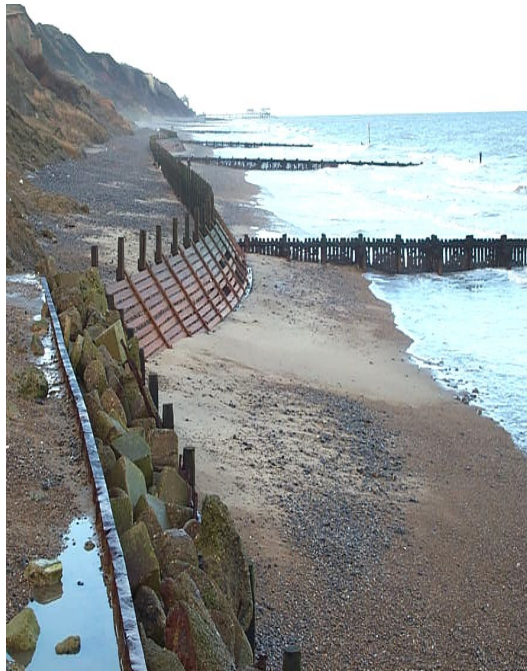
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Increasing Bug Knowledge

Soft Rock Cliffs and Invertebrate Biodiversity

In 2004 Buglife succeeded in securing funding to put this habitat centre stage. Warm, sheltered and structurally intriguing, soft rock cliffs can be a haven for invertebrates, but there are concerns that climate change will affect the erosion rates of key sites, while management of adjacent land may not be conducive to maintaining healthy invertebrate populations

This three-year project, funded by the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation will summarise knowledge about invertebrate populations of soft rock cliffs and address the threats facing invertebrate biodiversity.



Managing land for Bugs

With a Defra grant Buglife has produced an important new source of information about habitat management for invertebrates. For the first time detailed information on the habitat requirements of 18 groups of invertebrates on the 32 UK Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Habitats is available as written guides and on CD.

Contributing to Invertebrate Biodiversity Prioritisation

Buglife to coordinate the Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Species review in 2005. Buglife's contribution will ensure that the conservation needs of invertebrates are recognised.

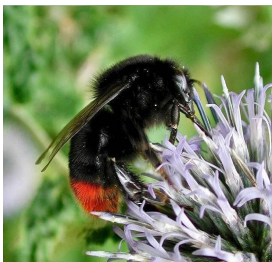
Building support for invertebrates

The Big Bee Hunt - Bumblebees as indicators

Buglife received a project development grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) to develop a five-year National Bumblebee Survey. At least six bumblebee species have declined by more than 80% in the last 30 years, and one – the Short haired bumblebee (*Bombus subterraneus*) – has become extinct. This project will recruit at least 30,000

Members of the public to survey Bumblebee populations across the country. The project

focuses heavily on public involvement and includes a strong training element.



Buglife reaching out – members strengthen Buglife

Buglife's corporate members are an important part of the organisation. We are delighted that the number of corporate members keeps rising, currently totals 20.

Buglife also needs the support of people who care about the environment and want to help save bug populations. With this in mind we embarked on a membership drive in 2004. We carried out a successful direct mailing campaign and promoted our cause at a number of events across the UK.

Buglife leaflets

Thanks to a Defra grant, we have also produced a set of four user friendly, informative leaflets/posters which will be widely distributed, with more to follow.



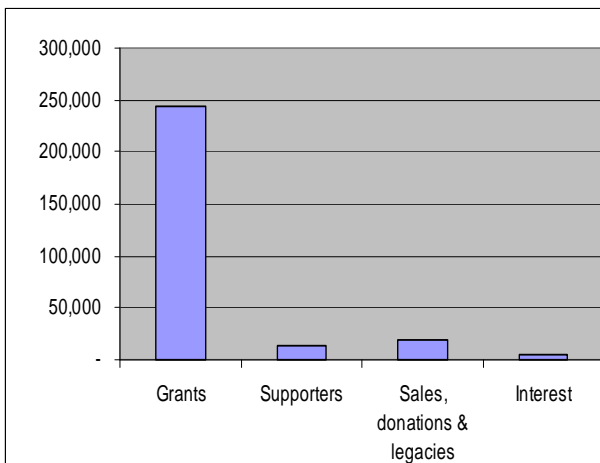
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A big thank you

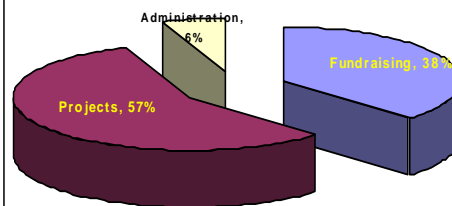
We are extremely grateful for the financial and moral support we have received from so many individuals, organisations and grant making trusts. In particular we would like to thank the following for their generous donations, grants, sponsorship and gifts-in-kind.

- Our donors who have supported our projects the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and Anglian Water.
- All our friends who have collectively donated xxx towards our work.
- Our volunteers who have so kindly given up their time to help, particularly Stephen Arnott, Stephanie Terrier, Carolyn Kellerher and all our Trustees.
- Ann Greenizan who ran the Poznan Marathon in Poland on 10th October 2004 and raised £xxx for Buglife
- FCB London for voluntarily designing a fantastic range of publicity material.

Your impact on our finances



How the money has been spent



Buglife flying high

With your support we will be able to deliver the following:

Conservation Projects

- Put freshwater invertebrates on the agenda
- Raise the profile of brownfield sites – their importance to invertebrates
- Investigate the sustainability of invertebrate trade into the UK
- Implement Biodiversity Action Plans

Outreach & education

- Develop our website
- Produce a range of educational material
- Attend events
- Give talks to schools & groups
- Provide invertebrate expertise

Public involvement & campaigning

- The Big Bee Hunt – National Bumblebee Survey
- Aucheninnes Moss - judicial review
- Scarlet Malachite Beetle Survey



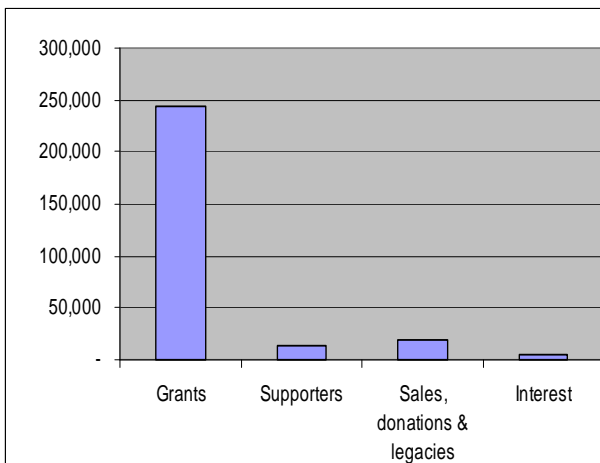
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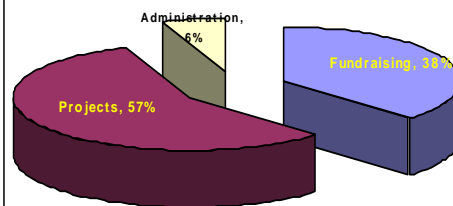
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