buglife

The Invertebrate Conservation Trust

Annual Review 2009

> “If we and the rest of the back-boned animals were to disappear overnight, the rest of the world would get on pretty well. But if the invertebrates were to disappear, the world’s ecosystems would collapse”
>
> *Sir David Attenborough*

A Big Thank You

To the many people and organisations who have given us so much support and help this year. Our members and donors, who have contributed enormously; our staff who have worked tirelessly to promote invertebrate conservation; and our trustees who have enthusiastically and professionally overseen Buglife. A special mention goes to all of Buglife’s volunteers for the huge contribution they have made and especially to Buglife’s first intern – Charlotte Bruce-White - for giving up 6 months of her time to work with the staff team. Thanks also to our dedicated President and Vice-Presidents for promoting invertebrate conservation so effectively.

We are grateful to the following organisations that have provided financial support or other gifts this year:

A S Butler Charitable Trust, Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund, Amphibian and Reptile Conservation, Anglian Water, Big Lottery Fund – Awards for All, Broads Authority, Bromley Trust, Bugbites Books, Bumblebee Conservation Trust, Butterfly Conservation Scotland, Cambridge and Peterborough Biodiversity Partnership, Cecil Pilkington Charitable Trust, Chapman Charitable Trust, Cobb Charity, Coda Widlife Trust, Countdown 2010 Biodiversity Action Fund, Countryside Council for Wales, Courtyard Farm Trust, Darwin Initiative, Defra, Dulverston Trust, Ernest Cook Trust, Ernest Kleinwort Charitable Trust, Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, Essex Environment Trust, Essex Field Club, Field Studies Council, Forestry Commission Scotland, Freshwater Biological Association, Garfield Weston Foundation, Hanson Brick, Industry Nature Conservation Association, Insectlore, J & JR Wilson Charitable Trust, John Ellerman Foundation, John Muir Trust, John Spedan Lewis Foundation, Jordans Cereals, Manifold Trust, National Grid, Natural England, News International (Peterborough), Norfolk Biodiversity Partnership, Oakdale Trust, Pilkington General Charity, RSPB, RSPB Scotland, Scottish Environment Protection Agency, Scottish Natural Heritage, Scottish Wildlife Trust, Sita Trust, Teesside Biodiversity Partnership, The Engine Group (for donation of IT equipment), The Observer, The Wildlife Trusts, Tubney Charitable Trust, University of East London, Veolia ES Cleanaway Trusts, Whitley Wildlife Conservation Trust, Wiggly Wigglers, WREN

A word from our Chair

It is gratifying to look back over a year at Buglife that has been so full of exciting, new conservation work, underpinned by organisational growth and development. Thanks to funding from Scottish Natural Heritage, we began new work this year in Scotland to implement a Strategy for Scottish Invertebrate Conservation. We have also been joined by a new Conservation Assistant at our Stirling office. Funding from the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, Essex Environment Trust, Tubney Charitable Trust and Veolia ES Cleanaway Trusts has enabled Buglife to begin an exciting new programme of work. This work is called 'Stepping Stones for Wildlife' and builds upon our previous work for the benefit of threatened species on brownfield sites. Practical work on the ground, initially in south Essex, Peterborough and Teesside will develop a network of sites, or 'Stepping Stones' in each area, enabling threatened species to spread.

During the year we worked with the aggregates extraction industry to save one of the UK's largest freshwater invertebrates – the White-clawed crayfish. Aggregates sites have a role to play as isolated water-bodies created where rocks or minerals have been dug out of the ground can become sanctuaries for rescued populations of the disappearing native crayfish – these are called Ark Sites. This work was supported by Natural England through Defra's Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund.

We have continued to work internationally during the year and have collaborated with partners in Sri Lanka to develop a project to conserve freshwater crabs and other invertebrates. Sri Lanka is particularly important for freshwater crabs - all 51 species are endemic to the country and some are restricted to extremely small patches of threatened habitat. Funding from the Darwin Initiative enabled Buglife staff to visit Sri Lanka in November 2009.

Our 3-year fight to try to save West Thurrock Marshes for its rare invertebrates was acknowledged during the year, when Buglife won the prestigious Conservation Award in the National Observer Ethical Awards. Our work to save wildlife-rich sites from the threat of destruction has continued, and this year we celebrated Buglife playing a part in saving 15 sites to date.

Raising awareness and increasing understanding of invertebrates is a vital element of Buglife's work and this year we have been able to employ our first Outreach Officer. During 2009 we have taken on six new staff members, five of them into completely new posts. Buglife's achievements and progress in conserving invertebrates during the year would not have been possible without the support of our funders, members and donors, volunteers, and the input and help of other conservation bodies – particularly the experts in our 28 Member Organisations. Thanks also to the Board of Trustees who have led the charity during the year, and to our dedicated and talented staff.

Alan Stubbs
Chairman

About Buglife

Buglife is the only organisation in Europe devoted to the conservation of all invertebrates, and we are actively working to save Britain's rarest little animals, everything from bees to beetles, worms to woodlice and jumping spiders to jellyfish. There are more than 40,000 invertebrate species in the UK and many of these, as well as many international species, are under threat as never before.

Invertebrates are vitally important to a healthy planet – humans and other life forms could not survive without them. The food we eat, the fish we catch, the birds we see, the flowers we smell and the hum of life we hear, simply would not exist without bugs. Invertebrates underpin life on earth and without them the world's ecosystems would collapse.

Small red damselfly (*Ceriagrion tenellum)*

Invertebrates are facing an extinction crisis

Today, thousands of invertebrate species are declining and many are heading towards extinction. World wide 150,000 species could be gone by 2050 if we do nothing. Each invertebrate species plays a critically important role in the web of life. Once lost, they cannot be replaced. Many invertebrates have incredible life stories yet to be told, and we literally don't know what we are on the brink of losing.

Buglife's aim is to stop the extinction of invertebrate species and to achieve sustainable populations of invertebrates. We are working hard to achieve this by:

- Undertaking practical conservation projects that will contribute to achieving our aim.
- Promoting the environmental importance of invertebrates and raising awareness about the challenges to their survival.
- Assisting in the development of legislation and policy that will ensure the conservation of invertebrates.
- Developing and disseminating knowledge about how to conserve invertebrates.
- Encouraging and supporting invertebrate conservation initiatives by other organisations in the UK, Europe and worldwide.

Creating Stepping Stones for Wildlife

The very rare Distinguished jumping spider

Brownfield sites are areas of land that have previously been developed. Once abandoned by industry, nature can reclaim these places and wildlife can thrive, undisturbed. It is often sites where noisy factories once stood or where heavy machinery excavated the ground, that are now refuges for wildlife, filled with flowers and plants. In our towns and cities, they can be oases of green set amongst buildings, roads and industrial areas.

Brownfield sites, particularly those found in the Thames Gateway, are home to some of our rarest and most threatened invertebrate species such as the Streaked bombardier beetle (*Brachinus sclopeta*), the Distinguished jumping spider (*Sitticus distinguendus*) and the Brown-banded carder bee (*Bombus humilis*). To date, the Streaked bombardier beetle and Distinguished jumping spider have only ever been found on brownfield sites. The spider has only been found on two sites in the UK – both of them threatened with development.

During 2009 we began exciting new work to protect the rare invertebrates that live on brownfield sites. We were awarded funding to begin a new project called 'Stepping Stones for Wildlife', where we will work to conserve invertebrates on brownfield sites in locations across the UK. We will be working in each area to develop a network of sites, or 'Stepping Stones', which will enable threatened species to spread into new areas. We are grateful to the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, Essex Environment Trust, Tubney Charitable Trust and Veolia ES Cleanaway Trusts for funding this new work.

Work has already begun in south Essex and funding has been secured for work in Peterborough and Teesside. In Essex, we are building on our previous work to conserve threatened species in the Thames Gateway. We have carried out detailed invertebrate surveys and begun to plan out practical work to improve five key sites, including Canvey Wick, for the wildlife living there. Canvey Wick is a site that Buglife has a long history of involvement with, having campaigned for its protection when it was threatened with development in 2005. It is now a Site of Special Scientific Interest, protected primarily for its rare invertebrates.

During the year we published 'Planning for Brownfield Biodiversity- a best practice guide' which is aimed at all those involved in planning and implementing new developments. The report provides practical solutions for sustainable reuse of brownfield land. The report is available free to download from the Buglife website.

Brownfield sites can be beautiful places - a Pyramidal orchid on Canvey Wick

Buglife Out and About

Buglife's Zoë Bunter chats with Jelly at Gardener's World 2009

During the summer Buglife attended events across the UK to help spread the word about invertebrate conservation. We exhibited at a number of new events including Malvern Spring Gardening Show where we talked to visitors about gardening for bugs. At Gardeners' World Live we made over a hundred Ladybird and Lacewing Lodges with visitors to the show. We even had a special mention from Cbeebies' Jelly – puppet presenter of Green Balloon Club. Later in the summer we attended the British Birdwatching Fair where we took the award for Best Conservation Stand for the third year running. We were joined by Buglife Vice President, and TV Presenter, Nick Baker at this event.

The Buglife stand at Gardener's World Live 2009

Nick helped out with 'Bug TV' – linking a microscope to a laptop computer to display live bugs close up!

Buglife Scotland

Scabious mining bee (*Andrena marginata)*

It has been a busy year for Buglife in Scotland. Following the launch of a Strategy for Scottish Invertebrate Conservation in January 2009 we are now working with partners to begin the implementation of the strategy. One of the first tasks in implementing the Strategy was to review the state of knowledge on invertebrates in Scotland. This review is ongoing and is working out which invertebrate groups are poorly studied, alongside preparing a list of the most important invertebrates in Scotland. Workshops are now being organised to promote some of these under-studied groups. Developing greater knowledge and understanding underpins appropriate and effective conservation action. In December 2009 a Conservation Assistant was recruited. This officer will be helping our existing Scottish Officer to take action to conserve species under threat in Scotland.

We have continued to work with Scottish Environment Link during the year and have got people involved in our work through a series of walks and talks. We have also worked with the Garden for Life forum to promote the importance of gardens as a habitat for beneficial bugs.

The Narrow-headed wood ant (*Formica exsecta*) is a threatened species found in Scotland

Fen Raft Spider Art

Fen raft spider - one of Sheila Tilmouth's pieces

In summer 2009 Buglife was involved in an exciting project to bring together an artist and one of the UK's most spectacular invertebrates – the Fen raft spider (*Dolomedes plantarius*).

Artist Sheila Tilmouth spent the summer up to her waist (and sometimes her armpits!) in pools of water studying, photographing and sketching the spiders at the Suffolk Wildlife Trust reserve at Redgrave and Lopham Fen. She spent the rest of the summer in her studio producing some fantastic art which was exhibited at the Redgrave and Lopham Fen visitor centre during the Autumn.

The Fen raft spider is a large and beautiful spider – females can reach up to 7cm across (including legs!). Fen raft spiders live in fens and other wetlands, and are now restricted to just three sites. Consequently, the spider is a priority species for conservation action under the UK Biodiversity Action Plan.

The female spiders are very caring mothers. After mating, the female builds an egg sac which she carries for approximately three weeks, dipping the egg sac in the water every few hours to keep the eggs moist. When it is time for the eggs to hatch the female builds a nursery web – a silken tent up to 25cm across which is suspended above the water and attached to plants. The mother spider will guard her nursery for the first week of the young spiders lives after which they will disperse into the surrounding vegetation.

This project was funded by the Arts Council, and supported by Suffolk Wildlife Trust, the British Arachnological Society and Buglife.

Fen raft spider (*Dolomedes plantarius*) with spiderlings

Sheila Tilmouth at work

Conserving the White-clawed crayfish

This year Buglife began exciting new work to save the UK's largest freshwater invertebrate – the White-clawed crayfish – from extinction.

The White-clawed crayfish (*Austropotamobius pallipes*) is our only native crayfish. It was once a common species in English rivers, but has suffered severe declines. Many populations of White-clawed crayfish have been lost already and most of those remaining in streams and rivers are at risk. The White-clawed crayfish has been badly affected by a disease known as crayfish plague that is transmitted by the larger, more aggressive, invasive American Signal crayfish (*Pacifastacus leniusculus*).

White-clawed crayfish (*Austropotamobius pallipes*)

Ark Sites for Crayfish

Buglife has been working with the aggregates industry, the Environment Agency and other conservation partners to take action to conserve the White-clawed crayfish through creating 'Ark Sites'. Ark Sites are isolated ponds and lakes, where new populations can be established. Here, the White-clawed crayfish are safe from non-native crayfish and disease.

Aggregate and mineral extraction sites such as quarries and gravel pits can offer excellent opportunities to safeguard White-clawed crayfish populations. Quarries often fill with water when operations finish and these pools have enormous potential for all sorts of wildlife, including providing homes for White-clawed crayfish. Setting up Ark Sites is often straightforward and inexpensive, and with support from aggregates and minerals operators we can help conserve the White-clawed crayfish into the future.

During the year Buglife published 'Ark Sites for White-clawed Crayfish – Guidance for the Aggregates Industry' – this is the first published guidance to establishing Ark Sites for crayfish conservation. We have also completed a project which has identified and mapped potential Ark Sites across South West England. This work has shown the potential of aggregates and minerals extraction sites as Ark Sites for crayfish, and demonstrated how Ark Sites can be strategically planned at a regional level. We will continue to build on this work in 2010 through establishing new Ark Sites in South West England.

This project is part of Buglife's 'Bringing Aggregate Sites to Life' programme, and is supported by Natural England through Defra's Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund.

White-clawed crayfish factfile

- The White-clawed crayfish (*Austropotamobius pallipes*) is a globally threatened species which is a conservation priority in Europe and the UK, and has been identified as a UK Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Species. This means it has been officially named as a species in need of urgent conservation action.
- It is one of the UK's largest freshwater invertebrates and is our only native crayfish species. Adult White-clawed crayfish can grow to over 12cm long.
- The crayfish can live for more than 10 years, and usually reach sexual maturity after three to four years.
- White-clawed crayfish are omnivorous but the bulk of their diet is made up of other, smaller, invertebrates. They are food for larger animals such as otters.
- Their name refers to the undersides of their claws that are white or off-white

Captive breeding success for rare beetle!

In 2009 Buglife successfully captive bred the rare Scarlet malachite beetle – a world's first!

The Scarlet malachite beetle (*Malachius aeneus*) is a beautiful metallic red and green beetle. Once widespread across southern England and south Wales it is now so rare that it is only found in a handful of small sites. Adult Scarlet malachite beetles rely on unspoilt wildflower meadows but most of this habitat has been lost to modern agriculture and development.

Buglife has been working to conserve the Scarlet malachite beetle for some years. Our surveys in 2004 doubled the number of known sites for the beetle, although only to a total of eight sites. Buglife volunteers continue to monitor these populations - their efforts are vital to the conservation of this species.

The rare Scarlet malachite beetle (*Malachius aeneus*)

Appearing for only four weeks in May and June, the adults mate and then vanish without trace. Little is known about what the beetle needs in order to breed, and a successful captive breeding programme helps to identify possible ways to conserve this species in the wild. Graham Smith, the entomologist working with Buglife to breed the beetles, said "successfully breeding the Scarlet malachite beetle in captivity will enable Buglife to take forward the conservation work necessary to save this species." This is an exciting first step but there are many more mysteries to solve about this enigmatic creature.

Our Scarlet malachite beetle conservation work is part funded by Natural England, we are grateful for the support of Buglife volunteers.

Conserving freshwater crabs in Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka boasts a huge variety and abundance of plants and animals, particularly invertebrates – it is known as a 'global biodiversity hotspot'.

Buglife was contacted by the National Environment Forum of Sri Lanka to see whether we could work together for the conservation of freshwater crabs in Sri Lanka. Unlike marine crabs, which are much more familiar to most people, freshwater crabs live in and around lakes, rivers and streams. Sri Lanka has 51 species of freshwater crabs – all of them endemic. This means that they only live in Sri Lanka. A recent conservation assessment of 41 of these species found that 30 are threatened with complete global extinction.

Sri Lankan Freshwater crab

Freshwater habitats in Sri Lanka are affected by a number of problems including invasive alien species and pesticides, which are regulated only for human safety. The removal of vegetation on mountains and lower slopes for agriculture results in soil being washed into rivers and streams, which also makes the habitat unsuitable for the crabs.

In November 2009, two Buglife staff members visited Sri Lanka to meet with the National Environment Forum of Sri Lanka, the University of Peradeniya and Government officials to plan how we might work effectively together for the conservation of aquatic invertebrates in Sri Lanka, with a focus upon freshwater crabs. This visit also gave us the opportunity to see the threats faced by the endangered crabs at first hand. The trip was funded by the UK Government's Darwin Initiative, and we are now working with partners in Sri Lanka to develop a full conservation project proposal.

Indika Karunarathna of the National Environment Forum of Sri Lanka with Buglife staff Craig Macadam and Vicky Kindemba

Getting people involved!

In 2009 Buglife appointed its first Outreach Officer to raise the profile of invertebrates and their conservation. We have been able to run a number of exciting and successful activities to get people involved in finding out more about bugs.

The Buglife Spider Hunt

At the end of September, Buglife asked the public to get involved in the first ever national spider hunt. We asked people to search their homes and gardens for common types of spider such as House spiders (*Tegenaria sp.*), and Garden cross spiders (*Araneus diadematus*), as well as a few rarer types. Over 460 people took part, recording over 13,265 spiders. The Spider Hunt was launched on the Radio 4 'Today' programme and was widely covered on TV, radio and in the press.

One spider spotter found a Bronze tubed web spider (*Segestria florentina*) with amazing iridescent jaws

Worm charming success at Osbournby Primary School, Sleaford

Worm Week

In March Buglife ran 'Worm Week' to spread the word about wonderful worms and their importance as nature's great recyclers. Worm Week was launched at a Peterborough primary school with an assembly and a morning of worm-charming and worm crafts for the reception children. Over 200 schools across the UK registered to take part in Worm Week. We ran a schools Worm-Charming competition and a worm-themed poetry competition which was judged by Julia Donaldson - author of The Gruffalo.

Bug Hotels can provide shelter for bugs in cold or wet weather

The Snug as a Bug campaign

In Autumn 2009 we ran a national campaign to get hundreds of people creating cosy homes for bugs in their gardens. We asked people to create a Bug Hotel and fill it with autumn leaves, providing a safe place for bugs to shelter in over the winter. The campaign was mentioned live on BBC Autumnwatch by presenter Simon King. Over 270 people and organisations (including hospitals, primary schools and prisons!) made Bug Hotels and will be dismantling them in spring to see which bugs 'checked in' over the winter.

White-legged snake millipede (*Tachypodoiulus niger*)

Buglife wins Observer Ethical Award

Buglife has been awarded the Conservation Award in the National Observer Ethical Awards for our 'Fighting to Save West Thurrock Marshes' campaign.

The award is recognition of the increasing acceptance that the conservation of bugs is an issue of critical ethical importance; that our work to try to prevent the destruction of large areas of West Thurrock Marshes on behalf of bugs is at the cutting edge of biodiversity conservation. Of course it is also recognition of the work and commitment of Buglife's staff, trustees, legal team and supporters – well done everyone!

Shockingly, the Thurrock Development Corporation has now given permission for West Thurrock Marshes to be built on and other brownfield sites where endangered species live in the Thames Gateway are similarly imperiled.

Matt Shardlow receiving the award from Lucy Siegle and Colin Firth

Pollinator Protection

Human beings depend on pollination. Bees, hoverflies, beetles, moths and many other insects take pollen from one flower to another and thereby fertilise the plants. This creates seeds, fruits and the next generation of plants. All the main groups of British pollinators are suffering from declining populations and very little is being done to stop these declines. Losing pollinators will have a massive impact on food production and ecosystem health.

One theory is that modern insecticides may be causing the declines. In 2009 Buglife undertook a major scientific review of the evidence of impacts of one of the most toxic groups of pesticides - the neonicotinoids. These chemicals were introduced in the 1990s and are now very widely used. The potency of the neonicotinoids is incredible, tiny amounts applied to seeds will sterilise the surrounding soil of insects when the seed is planted. The toxins – Imidacloprid is the commonest – are used in pot plants as well as arable fields. Due to concerns about impacts on Honeybees, neonicotinoids have been banned to different degrees in a number of European countries. However, the UK government has always maintained that there is no evidence that neonicotinoids could cause damage to pollinator populations.

Matt Shardlow presenting the report to Number 10, Downing Street

Buglife's review "The impact of neonicotinoid insecticides on bumblebees, Honey bees and other non-target invertebrates" (Kindemba 2009) is the first independent review of evidence about the potential impacts of neonicotinoids on pollinators. We found several peer reviewed research papers that show significant negative impacts of Imidacloprid on bees and other non-target invertebrates at levels predicted to be present in the UK countryside.

Given the essential nature of pollination and the current precarious state of these animals any additional risk to their populations from pesticide use constitutes an unacceptable influence on the environment. Buglife is now calling for a suspension of all existing outdoor approvals for neonicotinoids until a formal review of the environmental safety of these toxins can be completed.

Marine life to be saved

Flame shells (*Limaria hians*)

Buglife has been active in the drafting of a new set of laws that should turn around the status of endangered marine life in Britain.

There are over 15,000 species of invertebrates in our seas - many of them beautiful and spectacular animals. Decades of exploitation and competition between sea users has left wildlife as the main loser. The Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 aims to ensure that we get clean, healthy, safe, productive and biologically rich oceans and seas. Government now has a duty to establish a network of marine wildlife sites (marine conservation zones) and has committed to make sure that some of these are highly protected – i.e. safe from fishing, sea bed extraction and other damaging developments. A new body, the Marine Management Organisation will oversee the management of and a planning system for English seas and offshore areas away from Scotland – Scotland will soon bring in its own Marine Act.

We hope that endangered marine invertebrates such as the Pink sea fan (*Eunicella verrucosa*), Sunset coral (*Leptopsammia pruvoti*) and Flame shell (*Limaria hians*) now have a more rosy future. Indeed Buglife was successful in getting an amendment that ensured that invertebrate life would be protected within the new marine conservation zones.

Buglife also worked with other conservation charities through the umbrella body Wildlife and Countryside Link to make sure that the draft bill was fit for purpose. While we did not get everything we wanted, the Bill was significantly strengthened through the second longest House of Lords scrutiny period in history.

Working with anglers to conserve riverflies

Riverflies are a group of flies living in and around rivers and streams which includes mayflies, stoneflies and caddisflies. Riverflies are under threat and have declined by 66% in recent years.

Buglife is a founder member of the Riverfly Partnership and currently chairs the Riverfly Partnership's 'Species and Habitat' group. This group is working on a project to conserve eight riverfly species listed on the Biodiversity Action Plan – these are species officially named as in need of urgent conservation action. Together, the members of the partnership are working to conserve charismatic insects such as the Window winged sedge (*Hagenella clathrata*) and the Yellow mayfly (*Potamanthus luteus*). Anglers are in an ideal position to monitor these species on the rivers and streams that they fish, so the group is developing postcards featuring the eight species. These will allow anglers to identify the riverflies and contribute valuable records of where and when they spotted them.

Yellow mayfly adult (*Potamanthus luteus*)

Watery homes for rare bugs

Martin Drake at work on Chetney Marsh, North Kent

2009 was Buglife's third and final year of fieldwork to investigate the value of grazing marsh ditches to rare invertebrates. Ditches provide a home for a wide variety of plants and freshwater invertebrates, however the importance of this habitat for the wildlife living there is not well understood. Buglife's 'Ecological Status of Grazing Marsh Ditches' project, funded by the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, aims to increase knowledge and understanding of this specialised habitat and provide advice on managing ditches for the benefit of the wildlife living there.

This year's highlights included finding two rare species: the Norfolk Hawker dragonfly (*Aeshna isosceles*) and the Large-mouthed valve snail (*Valvata macrostoma*). Next steps are to analyse all the information we have gathered during the three years of surveying – the species we have found and their abundance. This information will help us to better understand the importance of grazing marsh ditches for invertebrates, and how they can be managed to conserve rare and threatened species.

Aucheninnes Moss is saved!

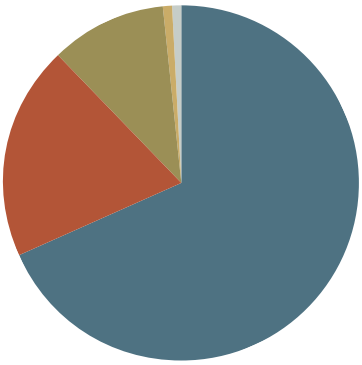
2009 brought the fantastic news that Aucheninnes Moss is saved! This site, a classic peat bog with wet heath, is the only Scottish home for Bog bush cricket (*Metrioptera brachyptera*) and Pygmy sorrel moth (*Enteucha acetosae*) as well as a whole host of other internationally threatened invertebrates including the Large heath butterfly (*Coenonympha tullia*) and Small pearl-bordered fritillary (*Boloria selene*). Six years after Dumfries and Galloway Council granted permission to dig up the peat bog and turn it into a landfill site they decided to close the site completely.

Back in 2003 the future of Aucheninnes Moss looked very bleak. Despite a high profile campaign by Buglife and the local community, and a parliamentary motion signed by 40 MSPs, the Scottish Executive had approved plans to turn the Bog bush cricket's habitat into a landfill site. Buglife, along with over 40 local residents and national invertebrate experts, converged on Aucheninnes Moss to record for posterity the biological riches of the bog before its destruction and to express their disgust at plans to turn the wildlife site into a landfill site. Campaigning

Protestors on Aucheninnes Moss in 2003

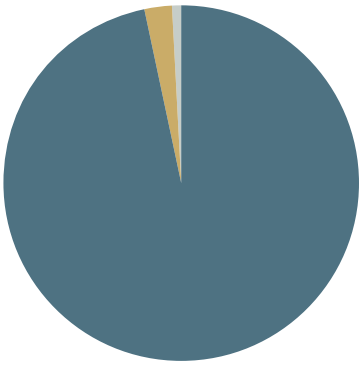
by Buglife and the Dalbeattie Waste Action Group has been instrumental in saving this site for its rare wildlife.

Our finances



Income

	Amount	%
Restricted grants	£372,412	68
Donations and legacies	£107,242	20
Unrestricted grants	£57,366	10
Bank interest	£4,922	1
Other activities	£4,473	1
Total	**£546,415**	**100**



Expenditure

	Amount	%
Charitable activities	£522,633	97
Fundraising	£13,791	2
Governance costs	£3,146	1
Total	**£539,570**	**100**

Alan Stubbs
Chairman

Matt Shardlow
Chief Executive

President:
Germaine Greer

Vice-president:
Steve Backshall

Vice-president:
Nick Baker

Vice-president:
Edward O Wilson

Photography Credits

Front Cover
- Common carder-bee (*Bombus pascuorum*) © Jon Mold

Page 2
- Thick-legged flower beetle (*Oedemera nobilis*) © Peter Hayes
- Sir David Attenborough © Guy Levy

Page 3
- Small red damselfly (*Ceriagrion tenellum*) © Jim Scott

Page 4
- Distinguished jumping spider (*Sitticus distinguendus*) © Peter Harvey
- Pyramidal orchid (*Anacamptis pyramidalis*) © Claudia Watts

Page 5
- Scabious Mining Bee (*Andrena marginata*) © The Badenoch and Strathspey Conservation Group
- Narrow-headed wood ant (*Formica exsecta*) © Gus Jones
- Fen raft spider (*Dolomedes plantarius*) with spiderlings © MJ Clark

Page 6
- White-clawed crayfish (*Austropotamobius pallipes*) photographs © John Mason

Page 7
- Scarlet Malachite Beetle (*Malachius aeneus*) © Tristan Bantock
- Sri Lankan Freshwater crab © Craig Macadam
- National Environment Forum of Sri Lanka plus Buglife © Craig Macadam

Page 8
- Bronze tubed web spider (*Segestria florentina*) © Luis Miguel Bugallo Sanchez
- Children of Osbournby Primary School, Sleaford © Karen Stearn
- White-legged snake millipede (*Tachypodoiulus niger*) © Matt Shardlow
- Observer ethical awards – Lucy Siegle, Matt Shardlow and Colin Firth © Observer

Page 9
- Neonicotinoid report presented at 10 Downing Street © Matt Shardlow
- Flame shell (*Limaria hians*) © Goatchurch

Page 10
- Yellow mayfly adult (*Potamanthus luteus*) © Mike Hammett
- Martin Drake at Chetney Marsh, North Kent © Vicky Kindemba
- Aucheninnes Moss protestors © Paul Raeburn

Back Cover
- Green tiger beetle (*Cicindela campestris*) © Greg Hitchcock
- Long clawed porcelain crab (*Pisidia longicornis*) © Matt Shardlow
- Dingy skipper butterfly (*Erynnis tages*) © Greg Hitchcock

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The Invertebrate Conservation Trust

Front Cover

Common carder-bee
(*Bombus pascuorum*)

Back Cover (top to bottom)

Green tiger beetle
(*Cicindela campestris*)

Long clawed porcelain crab
(*Pisidia longicornis*)

Dingy skipper butterfly
(*Erynnis tages*)

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