

NATURE CONSERVANCY COUNCIL ACT 1973

**NATURE CONSERVANCY COUNCIL**

**ACCOUNT 1979-80**

ACCOUNT of the Nature Conservancy Council showing the Income and Expenditure for the year ended 31st March 1980 and Balance Sheet as at 31st March 1980; together with the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon. (In continuation of House of Commons Paper No. 620 of 1979-80.)

*Presented pursuant to Act 1973, c. 54, Sch. 3, para. 18 (3)*

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LONDON  
HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE

## FOREWORD

### NATURE CONSERVANCY COUNCIL

*Statement of account prepared pursuant to paragraph 18 of Schedule 3 to the Nature Conservancy Council Act 1973*

#### 1. *Funding*

The Nature Conservancy Council was established "for the purposes of nature conservation and fostering the understanding thereof". It is financed by Grant in Aid from the Department of the Environment (Class VIII, Vote 4). The grant for 1979-80, originally £6,848,000, was increased to £7,300,000 in the autumn, in respect of pay rises and in recognition of Council's difficulties in financing some £300,000 of the cost of the Ribble Estuary Site from the normal budget, and increased again late in the year to £8,000,000 to provide for the special purchase of Scotland Lodge Farm, including Parsonage Down (see paragraph 3). Management activities on National Nature Reserves produced receipts of £124,519 and other receipts amounted to £297,952. Income from all sources thus totalled about £8.4 millions compared with £10 millions in 1978-79. The supplementary grant of £1.6 millions (see foreword to 1978-79 Account) was not available in 1979-80. In consequence there was an all-round reduction in activities.

#### 2. *Recurrent expenditure by headings shown in the Supply Estimates*

##### (i) *Salaries and superannuation £4,056,073*

In conformity with Government policy a reduction in staff numbers of approximately 7 per cent was achieved during the year by natural wastage. Note 1 to the Income and Expenditure Account gives information on the remuneration of Council Members.

##### (ii) *Maintenance of Nature Reserves (net) £232,453*

The financial stringencies allowed only essential maintenance to be undertaken. Continuing remedial work at Coed Tremadoc NNR following a rock fall in the winter of 1977 accounted for £138,189. Payments made under section 15 of the Countryside Act 1968 amounted to £25,170 during the year. Other expenditure was offset by a significant increase in receipts, £124,519 compared with £79,015 the previous year.

##### (iii) *Publicity £79,179*

Expenditure, significantly reduced from 1978-79, includes the production costs of priced publications, priced and free leaflets, displays, wall-charts and posters relating to general nature conservation topics and to the management of National Nature Reserves and their use by visitors.

##### (iv) *Research £949,946*

This heading covers commissioned research and contracted field survey work only. Details of the research programme are given in the 6th Report of the Nature Conservancy Council laid before Parliament under paragraph 17(2) of Schedule 3 of the Nature Conservancy Council Act 1973.

##### (v) *Grants £167,834*

Expenditure on Capacity Grants, £133,625, and management projects, £34,209, arose solely from commitments initiated the previous year.

3. *Capital expenditure £1,232,725*

The total cost of land purchased for declaration as National Nature Reserves during the year was approximately £926,000. The most outstanding purchase was Scotland Lodge Farm, including Parsonage Down, in Wiltshire. The generosity of the will of Mr. R. Wales, late of Scotland Lodge Farm and a special supplementary grant of £670,000 from the Department of the Environment, enabled Council to acquire the 1,000 acre farm, containing 706 acres of permanent chalk grassland classified as a site of special scientific interest, as a going concern. Land of lesser conservation interest will be sold to repay the special supplementary grant. The gift element of the bequest is referred to in paragraph 4 below.

Other purchases, originally in the 1978-79 programme, but delayed by the purchase of the Ribble site, included further land at the Lizard, Cornwall and extensions to NNRs at Wye and Crundale, Kent, Derbyshire Dales and Wybunbury Moss, Cheshire. Significant expenditure other than purchases for NNRs included work on a new headquarters for Wales (£114,637) and the acquisition of a warden's house in the Derbyshire Dales. No new proposals were approved during the year.

4. *Gifts to the NCC*

Gifts and bequests provide a welcome addition to funds for nature conservation and donors are exempt from Capital Transfer Tax on such gifts. The bequest of the late Mr. R. Wales (paragraph 3 above) enabled the Nature Conservancy Council to acquire Scotland Lodge Farm, including Parsonage Down, in Wiltshire, on behalf of the nation. The actual cost to the Nature Conservancy Council inclusive of fees and expenses, though not yet finalised, is expected to be £732,465. The farm and the live and deadstock purchased have been valued at £1,741,481. The value of this most generous bequest is therefore assessed at £1,009,016.

## NATURE CONSERVANCY COUNCIL

### INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 1980

Previous Year £	EXPENDITURE £	INCOME £
3,464,036	Salaries and superannuation (Note 1)	7,970,000
1,705,015	Administrative expenses	—
693,153	Maintenance of Nature Reserves	7,970,000
(79,015)	<i>Less: Related receipts</i>	<i>Less: Repayment of excess balance for 1977-78</i>
204,451	Publicity	1,009,016
1,185,601	Research	8,979,016
253,480	Grants under section 3 of the Nature Conservancy Council Act 1973	<i>Less: transferred to Capital Account to meet capital expenditure for year</i>
14,619	<i>Subscriptions to international organisations</i>	Grant in Aid
—	<i>Surplus carried to Balance Sheet</i>	Bequest/Gift
		1,232,725
		1,009,016
		2,241,741
		6,737,275
		297,952
		—
£7,441,340	£7,035,227	£7,035,227
		<i>Other receipts</i>
		<i>Deficit carried to Balance Sheet</i>

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 1980

SOURCE OF FUNDS		EMPLOYMENT OF FUNDS					
Previous Year		Fixed Assets at Cost: (Note 5)	Buildings and Land	Equipment	Vehicles	Total	
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	
			Balance as at 1 April 1979				
2,861,992	5,702,855	2,861,992	4,925,346	404,514	372,995	5,702,855	
2,859,440	1,232,725	2,859,440	Additions financed by Grant in Aid during year (Note 4)				
—	1,009,016	—	444,815	24,296	31,149	500,260	
5,721,432	7,944,596	5,721,432	5,370,161	428,810	404,144	6,203,115	
(18,577)	17,218	(18,577)	Disposals during year	(401)	(16,317)	(17,218)	
5,702,855	7,927,378	5,702,855	Balance as at 31 March 1980	5,369,760	428,310	387,827	6,185,897
40,577	(394,742)	—	Net assets of Scotland Lodge Farm, Parsonage Down, Acquired during year, as at 31 March 1980 (Note 3)			1,741,481	7,927,378
—	169,355	5,702,855	CURRENT ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES:				
435,319	—	112,053	Sundry debtors	54,966			
(394,742)		14,859	Balance at bank and in hand	8,031			
		126,912	Less: Sundry creditors	62,997			
		521,654		288,384			
		(394,742)					(225,387)
£5,308,113	£7,701,991	£5,308,113					£7,701,991

R. C. Steele  
Accounting Officer

30 November 1980

## NOTES ON THE ACCOUNTS

### 1. COUNCIL MEMBERS' SALARIES AND EXPENSES

The salaries of members of the Nature Conservancy Council amounted to £22,904 (£10,799 in previous year). The salary of the Chairman was £8,072 (£5,474 in previous year). The salaries of the other members of the Council fell within the following ranges:

	1979-80	1978-79
£2,500 – £5,000	2	—
Less than £2,500	10	13

One member of the Council has waived the right to receive emoluments of £1,535. The total paid to members for expenses and hospitality was £14,691 (£11,542 in previous year).

### 2. GRANT IN AID

<i>Previous Year</i>		£	£
8,000,000	General Grant in Aid		7,300,000
—	Special Supplementary Grant in Aid		
1,500,000	— Scotland Lodge Farm purchase	670,000	
	— Ribble Estuary site purchase	—	
		670,000	
<u>£9,500,000</u>			<u>£7,970,000</u>

### 3. NET ASSETS OF SCOTLAND LODGE FARM, PARSONAGE DOWN, ACQUIRED DURING YEAR, AS AT 31 MARCH 1980

Land and Buildings—At Valuation (District Valuer)	£ 1,590,000
Stock	151,481
Net Assets as at 31 March 1980	<u>£1,741,481</u>

The bequest, valued at £1,009,016, enabled Council to purchase Parsonage Down, the balance of £732,465 being financed from Grant in Aid including a special supplementary grant in aid of £670,000. Land of lesser conservation interest included in these assets is to be sold in order to repay the special supplementary grant in aid.

4. Expenditure on Land Acquisitions includes £57,485 paid for legal costs, etc., in connection with the purchase of land at the Ribble Estuary in the previous year.

5. No provision has been made for depreciation of fixed assets as their cost is met in full in the year of purchase from grant in aid.

**CERTIFICATE AND REPORT OF THE COMPTROLLER  
AND AUDITOR GENERAL**

I have examined the foregoing Balance Sheet, Income and Expenditure Account and the supporting information set out in the Notes. These have been prepared under the historical cost convention and comply with the provisions of the Nature Conservancy Council Act 1973 and directions made thereunder by the Secretary of State.

I certify that in my opinion the Balance Sheet, Income and Expenditure Account and supporting information give, under the accounting convention stated above, a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Nature Conservancy Council at 31 March 1980 and of its surplus for the year ended on that date. I have no observations to make upon these Accounts.

*Douglas Henley*  
Comptroller and Auditor General

Exchequer and Audit Department  
24 March 1981

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