



JOHN
MUIR
TRUST

FOR
wild LAND &
wild PLACES

Annual Report 2011

www.johnmuirtrust.org



A busy, challenging, optimistic future

THE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

In reviewing Chairman's Reports for the past few years, it has been interesting to note the fast-changing society that we must respond to and operate in across the UK. The economy, development pressures and potential devolution all shape our policies and the way in which we must operate.

Despite the gloomy economy, our membership grew in 2011 and we gained 685 new members. We continue to retain 94 per cent of members each year, thanks to the hard work of staff and volunteers across the organisation, and to engage with people at a broad range of events, such as Outdoor Pursuits Scotland, BBC Gardeners World Live and Llanberis Mountain Film Festival.

Around 200 members attended our AGM and Members' Gathering in Cumbria last year at which there were calls for stronger visibility in England and Wales. We have responded to this by allocating additional budget for work south of the border in policy, and to the expansion of the John Muir Award, including its contribution to outdoor education and social inclusion. Further, we have been working more closely with UK landscape organisations, and at the time of writing are assessing potential land acquisitions in Wales, England and Scotland.

How we might influence other landowners was another AGM question and I am very pleased that we have now published our Wild Land Management Standards to encourage others to adopt a similar approach (see page 4). This will also be of interest to anyone wanting to know more about the work of the Trust thus emphasising what we are for, rather than what we might be against.

Members' contribution to our work and thinking has again been considerable, through volunteer work parties and in Members' Groups extending from the south west of England to the north east of Scotland. Trustees are looking at how we might encourage the formation and strengthening of members groups. Outside of membership, we have been holding open meetings at our properties and will continue this during 2012.

The changes to our Articles of Association that will be recommended to the Ardlui 2012 AGM result from the Governance Review that is currently underway. I will speak about this at the AGM.

I would like to record our appreciation to our funders who have enabled us to carry out a huge variety of activities this year. This Annual Report sets out how we have allocated funds in 2011. I also thank members, fellow Trustees and Donald Thomas, our Company Secretary, for their support throughout the year.

We face another busy and challenging year in 2012. Our success will depend on many things, not least being the on-going support from our funders and members, dedicated effort from our staff and volunteers, the advice and guidance of Trustees and the co-operation of the many partners and communities with whom we work.

John Hutchison
CHAIRMAN
JOHN MUIR TRUST

Continuing to work to our vision

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

This year has seen the Trust embark on some new ventures, including the development of a public engagement space beneath our headquarters in Pitlochry, which herald an exciting phase in the Trust's development. Working to our vision, I'm confident that we have a clear sense of collective purpose and ambition, and that we are making progress in a challenging time. I've been encouraged by the way staff, volunteers and members have focused their activities around our objectives to protect and enhance wild places and engage people with the values of wildness.

On the following pages, we outline some of the Trust's highlights from 2011 and take a look ahead at some of our plans for the future.

Stuart Brooks
CHIEF EXECUTIVE
JOHN MUIR TRUST

The John Muir Trust is the leading wild land conservation charity in the UK. We love wild places and are dedicated to protecting and improving them for people and wildlife. Over 10,000 members support us in our work. Find out more at www.johnmuirtrust.org

Cover:

Looking across Loch Coruisk to Marsco peak in the Red Hills on Skye

Opposite (left to right):

Quinag in the Assynt-Coigach National Scenic Area

Presenting our petition at the Scottish Parliament

Back cover:

Crags of Meall Cumhan



Protecting wild land

It has been a busy year progressing our Scottish Parliament petition, countering key threats to wild land, and engaging with politicians and the public throughout the UK.

To make the case for increasing protection of the best wild land in the UK the Trust has been explaining why this is necessary and gathering evidence of wide public support for our work. Our Wild Land Campaign has provided the framework and a highlight this year was the presentation to the Scottish Parliament of our petition seeking better statutory protection for wild land.

Following the Scottish elections, the Trust was delighted that the petition remained live at the Scottish Parliament's Petitions Committee, having received favourable responses from Scottish Natural Heritage and the Scottish Government. The committee noted the startling statistic that the amount of land in Scotland visually unaffected by built development has fallen dramatically, from 41% in 2002 to 28% in 2009 and further consideration of the petition would occur when new wildness mapping was available.

The Trust's petition to Westminster for greater protection of wild land in England, Wales and Northern Ireland has reached more than 5,000 signatures and we plan to take this forward as part of our increased policy work at a UK level in 2012. The Trust is also part of the Lakes to Dales coalition supporting Natural England's suggested enlargement of the Lake District and Yorkshire Dales National Parks. The enlargement would be a positive first step in increased landscape protection.

OBJECTIONS AND ENGAGEMENT

The Trust has been involved with a number of specific planning applications that present a threat to wild land. In 2011, this included the proposed gold mine at Cononish, near Tyntrum in the Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park, where we successfully worked to decrease its visual impact on the surrounding landscape. Objections were raised to a number of large wind energy developments including Glenmorie in Ross-shire, Allt Duine in the Monadhliath Mountains, and an extension to the already approved Muaitheabhal scheme on Lewis in the Western Isles.

The Trust took its message to the Conservative, Labour and SNP party conferences, as well as the Scottish Liberal Democrat conference, to engage with elected members and delegates about the value and need for protection of wild land. We have also been engaged with a broader debate on some aspects of planning and strategic energy developments. Our head of policy Helen McDade contributed to a round table discussion in the Scottish Parliament on Scotland's renewable energy targets ahead of an inquiry in 2012 where we will give evidence.

We have also been developing links with other bodies from across the UK including the Campaign for National Parks, the Outdoor Industries Association and the Campaign for the Protection of Rural Wales to build a strong alliance of organisations concerned about the conservation of natural landscapes.

IN NUMBERS

8,895

number of signatures gathered on our Wild Land Campaign petitions

48%

percentage of the UK's wild land unprotected by any designation

460

delegates engaged at party political conferences

5

development threats to wild land objected to through the planning system

3 billion

tonnes of carbon stored in the UK's blanket peat bog. Scotland holds 80% of this resource, which is under increasing threat from development

'The amount of land in Scotland visually unaffected by built development has fallen dramatically, from 41% in 2002 to 28% in 2009.'

LOOKING AHEAD

In 2012, we plan to increase the level of policy advocacy work we undertake with the UK Government, particularly on strategic energy and transmission issues because of their impact on the country's best wild land areas. The Trust's increased use of visualisations has helped to raise public understanding of the impact of developments on wild land.

To help people understand what is meant by, and why we need, statutory protection, the Trust will produce policy briefings and case studies. We hope to build on the alliances we established in 2011 to work with others across the UK in a more coordinated fashion.



Enhancing wild land

We have been monitoring impacts and ecological change, implementing our wild land management standards and engaging in a wide range of conservation activities.

This year, we implemented Wild Land Management Standards across our properties. These standards provide a framework for land management that helps set aims and objectives, and guides action on the ground that accords with our wild land principles. We also created a website (www.wildlandmanagement.org.uk) and a PDF handbook to share these standards and principles with others.

We continue to carry out a wide range of ecological and public access projects, monitoring the impact of these on habitats and species. We are beginning to see positive indications of change appearing in our data, including expansion of native woodland in areas where we have decreased grazing levels from deer and sheep. We are also pleased to report that 85% of the designated features on our properties are assessed by Scottish Natural Heritage as being in favourable condition.

As ever, volunteers were at the heart of our conservation work. In 2011, 153 volunteers contributed 5,600 hours of work across our properties and partnership properties. Their achievements included clearing 654 bags of rubbish from beaches and inshore lochs, maintaining 20 kilometres of path, tackling invasive plants such as giant rhubarb, rhododendron and Himalayan balsam, and carrying out monitoring work.

A log boiler has been installed at our office on Skye, which will help us reduce our carbon footprint and our fuel costs. The boiler makes use of the abundant wood resource close to the office.

ENGAGING WITH OTHERS

The Trust has joined five other landowners to form the UK's largest conservation project - the Coigach and Assynt Living Landscape, which covers 70,000 hectares including Quinag in the north west of Scotland. This ambitious project aims to kick-start initiatives that bring ecological and social benefits to the whole area.

Our Conservation Fund has benefited communities across the Highlands and Islands awarding £15,000 to community and conservation projects in and around Trust land. This included funding for a new pony enclosure on Knoydart, solar panels for Elgol Village Hall and support for crofters undertaking conservation projects.

2011 saw the beginning of a banana awareness campaign at Nevis where our staff have been dressing up as comic superhero Bananaman to highlight the problems of litter on the Ben (banana skins comprise half of the litter cleared from the summit). Over the summer, they spoke to thousands of walkers at the start of the path and their efforts achieved widespread media coverage.

IN NUMBERS

85%

percentage of designated features managed by the Trust that are in favourable condition

650

number of bags of litter removed from Ben Nevis and wild beaches

24,000

total hectares of land cared for by the Trust

20

kilometres of path maintained by Trust volunteer work parties

577

number of donations made to our Glenlude Appeal, which eventually totalled more than £50,000

'We are beginning to see positive indications of change including expansion of native woodland.'

Above (left to right):

A prospering pine marten

John Muir Trust staff remove fences on East Schiehallion

John Muir Award participants on Loch Eil with Outward Bound Trust

Exploring woodland in Midlothian

LOOKING AHEAD

In 2012, we plan to take a new proactive approach to our footpath maintenance, employing a new footpath officer to lead a dedicated footpath team that will survey all paths on our properties and do regular remedial repair work to stop problems before they happen. This will be a more efficient way of maintaining access to our important wild places.

Going forward, we'll also have improved access to our Knoydart property, thanks to the deployment of a new boat funded by the People's Postcode Lottery. We are also planning to produce an annual report dedicated to our properties, which will highlight what we are doing and what's changing on the land that we own.



Engaging people with wild places

The John Muir Award has gone from strength to strength, our new visitor centre at Pitlochry is in development and we have been working with partners to help people enjoy the outdoors.

Our engagement work continues to take many forms. Our key educational initiative, the John Muir Award, goes from strength to strength as an inspirational way to engage people in the values of wild places. A total of 23,153 John Muir Awards were achieved in 2011, delivered through 803 partnerships. An audit that captured 81% of these Award recipients revealed they had completed an incredible 138,531 hours of conservation activity, an average of over seven hours per participant.

Our conservation work parties, highlighted on page four, help get many people close to the land through practical activities that benefit them and the land. Our Land Days (renamed Wild Days for 2012) encourage members, supporters and other interested parties to discover a Trust property and the work we do. Our Wild Land Awareness Teams have been out and about on our properties and at local events to raise awareness of the Trust and our work. The teams have spoken to thousands of visitors and recruited new members.

A number of significant milestones were reached in 2011. Active community volunteer Johnathan Stewart achieved the 1,000th John Muir Award in the north east of England. Jade Codd was presented with the 25,000th John Muir Award in Wales at the National Assembly in Cardiff by John Griffiths AM, the Minister for Environment and Sustainable Development.

Our existing and highly successful partnerships with the Lake District and Cairngorms National Parks were strengthened, while South Ayrshire Council demonstrated its commitment to outdoor learning by using the John Muir Award as an outcome indicator in its Children & Community Directorate Plan. The John Muir Award also worked with the 2020VISION nature photography project to recruit 20 young people to work alongside professional photographers. These Young Champions are acting as ambassadors for the project.

We took part in the Olympics Discovering Places initiative to encourage people to get outdoors. Professional climber Dave MacLeod led 26 members of the public on a walk into the shadow of the North Face of Ben Nevis, one of 1,200 events marking one year to go until the start of the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. 2011 also saw the release of a new film focusing on our work at Ben Nevis.

IN NUMBERS

5,600

collective hours of conservation work undertaken by volunteers on work parties

23,153

the record number of John Muir Awards achieved in 2011

30

number of UK events the Trust attended to raise awareness and recruit members

30%

percentage of Award participants from socially excluded backgrounds.

138,531

hours of conserve activity completed by 81% of Award participants in 2011

‘Our plans to expand support for the Award in England will result in a significant increase of participants and providers.’

LOOKING AHEAD

Reaching people and engaging them in our work is fundamental to achieving our overall ambitions for wild land in the UK. Our largest capital project, to expand and redevelop our existing HQ at Pitlochry to create a shop, exhibition, gallery and meeting space, is now well underway. With a generous donation from the Reece Foundation we have purchased the premises and work will start in 2012 to be ready for opening in 2013. Our website is also planned for a major upgrade in 2012.

Additionally, we are hopeful that our plans to expand support for the John Muir Award in England will take shape in 2012 resulting in a significant increase and geographical spread of participants and providers.



Honorary Treasurer's Report

An overwhelming show of financial support now sees the Trust in a financially robust position for the year ahead

The main story in the 2011 accounts is the large increase in financial support from a wide range of benefactors, including members, which the trustees gratefully acknowledge. Voluntary income (including legacies of £1,150k and donations of £818k) totalled £2.7m, an increase of £1.8m (see figure 1). Total income for the group increased from £1.45m to £3.04m. The consolidated net surplus in funds of £1,431k compared to a deficit of £67k in 2010. Net assets increased from £5.4m to £6.8m.

This strong show of support challenged the trustees to decide how best to use these extra resources. Donations included the second half of a £1m restricted gift from the Reece Foundation (see figure 2) to allow development of a public space to promote the Trust's work to a wider audience. A ground floor retail property in Pitlochry, situated below the Trust's offices, was purchased in 2011 and this project is referred to in the Chief Executive's report. New restricted funds include the generous response from members to the Glenlude Appeal, which has enabled the Trust to set up a new Land Management Endowment Fund with a starting balance of £23k.

The trustees have designated £572k towards projects in the corporate strategy to be undertaken within the next five years (see figure 2). These include environmental improvements to the Trust's headquarters, expanding the John Muir Award in England, further investment in policy work, a new website and Muir centenary celebrations in 2014. £506k has been designated to the Operational Assets Fund representing the purchase of new equipment and the retail property referred to above (see figure 2). £105k has been designated to the Copley Fund for land purchase and/or management, and £50k to the Conservation Projects Fund.

Income from charitable activities reduced from £382k to £222k due to a number of funding agreements finishing in 2010. Trustees recognised the importance of work carried out under those funding agreements, and decided to incorporate much of the activities into our core business. Gross expenditure on charitable activities stayed consistent at £1.1m, resulting in net expenditure on charitable activities increasing from £751k to £906k.

Our investment portfolio, managed by Rossie House Investment Management, lost £14.7k over the year. Quoted investments showed a year-end market value of £637k compared with a historical book cost of £510k. The Trust's policy is to hold investments to generate income and provide capital growth over the long term. Given current market conditions, the decrease in market value is not a major concern.

A significant proportion of the increase in financial resources in 2011 has been derived from legacies. Legacies may in future form an increasing part of the Trust's income. We are grateful for this generosity. However, legacies by their nature are not a reliable source of income and the trustees are well aware of the need to take this into account in financial planning.

Free reserves exclude restricted and designated funds (including heritage properties and fixed assets), and are held to absorb peaks and troughs in income over the course of a year. At the year-end they stood at £967k (see figure 2). This is within the Trust's reserves policy to hold four to six months budgeted expenditure in reserve. The introduction in 2010 of a five-year rolling budget and a new reserves policy, have proven their worth in enabling the trustees to make significant investments in charitable activity without in any way prejudicing the Trust's ongoing financial viability.

Walter Semple
 Walter Semple
 HONORARY TREASURER

Figure 1

VOLUNTARY INCOME

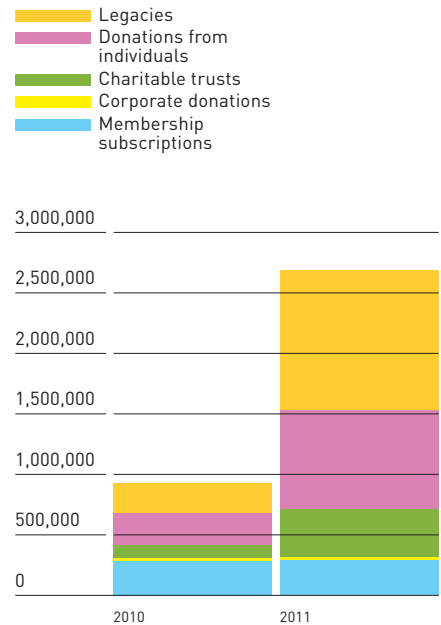
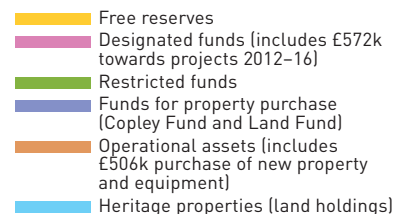


Figure 2

TOTAL FUNDS 2011- £6,814,000



Consolidated Income & Expenditure Account and Statement of Financial Activities (extract)

for the year ended 31 December 2011

	2011 £'000	2010 £'000
INCOMING RESOURCES		
Voluntary income	2,681	928
Income from activities for generating funds	105	115
Investment income and interest receivable	30	25
Charitable activities	222	382
Other incoming resources	1	1
Total incoming resources	3,039	1,451
RESOURCES EXPENDED		
Cost of generating voluntary income	337	329
Costs of trading activities	55	58
Investment management costs	7	7
Charitable activities	1,129	1,133
Governance costs	68	69
Total resources expended	1,596	1,596
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources before other recognised gains and losses	1,443	(145)
Realised gains	3	2
Unrealised (losses)/gains	(15)	76
Net movement in funds	1,431	(67)
Fund balances brought forward	5,383	5,450
Fund balances carried forward	6,814	5,383

Consolidated Balance sheet (extract)

as at 31 December 2011

	2011 £'000	2010 £'000
Fixed assets	3,337	2,885
Investments	637	669
Net current assets	2,840	1,829
Net assets	6,814	5,383
FUNDS		
Unrestricted Funds:		
Free reserves	967	936
Designated *	2,177	920
Heritage properties	2,573	2,573
	5,717	4,429
Restricted Funds *	1,097	954
	6,814	5,383

* Two funds have an objective of property purchase:

The Copley Fund (designated) and the Land Fund (restricted) with a total value of: £698,187 £450,731

This information is a summary of the Statement of Financial Activities and balance sheet derived from the group financial statements, which received an unqualified audit report from Scott-Moncrieff and were approved by the Board on 12 March 2012. It may not contain sufficient information to allow for a full understanding of the financial affairs of the charity. The group's statutory financial statements are available free of charge on the Trust's website (www.johnmuirtrust.org), or by writing to the Director of Resources, John Muir Trust, Tower House, Station Road, Pitlochry, PH16 5AN. The group financial statements have been submitted to the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR).

Thank you

The John Muir Trust would like to extend heartfelt thanks to all our supporters

LEGACIES

Anne E M Cameron
Mrs SM Collier
Andrew Kirkwood McCosh Elliott
Patricia Littleton Green
Dr David Pedrick Hansell
Hilary Margaret Hipkin
Dr Gething Morgan Lewis
Brenda Elizabeth Moon
Charlotte Moon
Isabella Munro
Rosemary L Paterson
Dr Eric Reid
Stuart Saunders
Joan Doreen Taylor
Gillian Mary Young

We would also like to thank all those who gave us a gift in memory of a loved one.

CHARITABLE TRUSTS AND FOUNDATIONS

A & N Daniell Charitable Trust
Alan & Karen Grieve Charitable Trust
Alan Evans Memorial Trust
AM Pilkington Charitable Trust
Anthony Walker Charitable Trust
Braithwaite Bell Charitable Trust
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Patagonia Environmental Grants Fund

People's Postcode Lottery
P H Holt Foundation
Ponton House Trust
Radfield Trust
Reece Foundation
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Stichting Teuntje Anna (TA Fund)
Talteg Ltd
Tay Charitable Trust
Thornend Charitable Trust
Tulip Charitable Trust
Vivienne & Sam Cohen Charitable Trust
William Haddon Charitable Trust

STATUTORY AND PUBLIC BODIES AND PARTNERS

Cairngorms National Park, Centre for Mountain Studies (Perth College, University of Highlands), Community Energy Scotland, Cumbria Youth Alliance, Discovering Places, Durham County Council, Friends of the Lake District, Heritage Alliance, Heritage Lottery Fund, John Muir Birthplace Trust, Lake District National Park Authority, Nevis Partnership, Outward Bound Trust, Plantlife, Scottish Government, Scottish Natural Heritage, Wildland Research Institute at University of Leeds, YHA (England & Wales), 2020VISION

CORPORATE MEMBERS

Gold Members:

Anatom, Berghaus, Dandy, Highlander (Scotland Ltd), Mountain Equipment, Tiso, Wilderness Scotland

Silver Members:

Ben Nevis Distillery, Fergus MacFarlane Pharmacy, HF Holidays, Radical Travel Group, The Ski and Snowboard School

Bronze Members:

Alpine Exploratory, Beyond the Glens, Charles Taylor Woodwork, Dewars World of Whisky, Edinburgh Mountain Film Festival, Four Seasons Hotel (Loch Earn), Kings Manor Hotel (Edinburgh), Northshots, RSP Consulting Engineers LLP, The Watermill, Webducate

SUPPORTERS

Aspect Capital, Bread&Butter Marketing, BP Foundation Employee Matching Fund, Chevron, Corrou Estate, Glacier Books, Image Scotland, Light and Land, Northern Light, Northern Mountain Sport, Profitmaster Systems, Serco - and thanks to all other corporates who provide support through payroll giving schemes

TRUSTEES 2011

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Rohan Beyts
Patrick Bonnett
(elected 5 June 2011)
Mike Brown
John Finney
(elected 5 June 2011)
Richard Fraser Darling
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(elected 5 June 2011)
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(re-elected 5 June 2011)
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Will Williams
Deirdre Wilson
(re-elected 5 June 2011)
Bill Wright

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Director of Resources
Kate Barclay
Fundraising Manager
Rob Bushby
John Muir Award Manager
Mike Daniels
Head of Land and Science
Helen McDade
Head of Policy
Fiona Mackintosh
Membership Manager
Susan Wright
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