

Epping Forest *Countrycare*

19th Annual Report

2004 – 2005

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1. Introduction

Epping Forest Countrycare is Epping Forest District Council's Countryside Management Service. Based within the Forward Planning and Environment Section of Planning Services, Countrycare is fully funded by the Council and is the key resource for advice, information and practical assistance on countryside and nature conservation issues.

Countrycare's five key objectives are:

- To Conserve and promote the landscape and wildlife habitats of the District
- To improve public access to the countryside and provide for informal recreation.
- To promote a greater understanding and respect for the countryside.
- To involve local communities in all aspects of the Service's work.
- To implement the goals of the Council's Community Plan.

Operating throughout the whole of the Epping Forest District, Countrycare undertakes a wide range of community-based activities and coordinates a regular programme of practical conservation tasks. The ability of Countrycare to engage and involve the local community in "hands on" practical conservation work remains its key strength. As one of the Council's primary "enablers" Countrycare involves people of all ages and abilities in all aspects of its work. With a credible and proven track record for delivering quality projects over the last 19 years and an obvious public interest in the countryside, Countrycare is in the enviable position of being able to recruit and keep volunteer help. This year Countrycare organised 114 practical project days and 19 walks and educational events.

Examples of these core activities over the last year include;

- Habitat management and creation - ponds, grassland, woodland and hedgerows
- Access improvements – new pathways and the installation of countryside furniture.
- Educational activities - guided walks, events and working with young people.

In 2004/05, Countrycare had 4 full time members of staff complemented by volunteers, student work placements and seasonal staff.

The Epping Forest Countrycare Staff for 2004/05 were:

Personnel	Role	
Paul Hewitt	Countryside Manager	
Jordan Thomas	Countryside Assistant	
Zoë Freeman	Assistant Countryside Manager	Maternity leave Left 29/10/04
Ben Sanderson	Assistant Countryside Manager	Left 20/08/04
Andrew Vaughan	Assistant Countryside Manager	Started 13/09/04
Gareth Jones	Work Placement Student Temporary Staff	Until 31/05/04 Started 01/06/04
Kevin Hebden	Work Placement Student	Left 18/06/04
Luke McKenzie	Work Placement Student	Started 01/10/04

The following report highlights Countrycare's key achievements for the financial year 1 April 2004 to 31 March 2005. Detailed overleaf are the major projects undertaken in the course of the year, however fuller descriptions of all the individual projects undertaken are detailed within the appendices. Throughout this report every attempt has been made to avoid jargon and specialist terms where possible, however where used an asterisk* indicates that the term is explained in the glossary of terms in Appendix 2.

Paul Hewitt
Countryside Manager, Epping Forest District Council.

2. Executive Summary

The Service's principal achievements of 2004/05 can be summarised as follows:

2.1 Achievements for 2004/05

Highlights of the year include:

- For a 4th consecutive year more than 1000 volunteer days were given to the Service.
- Declaration of 3 new Local Nature Reserves (LNRs) - Weald Common Flood Meadows and Thornwood Flood Meadow in North Weald and Home Mead in Loughton.
- Work on the District's 9 Local Nature Reserves included 47 project days that involved 3,455 hours of staff and volunteer time.
- Major access project completed at Home Mead LNR, Loughton. Part funded by a £6,700 grant from the Essex Environment Trust.

2.2 Major projects in 2004/05

Much of the Service's efforts again this year went into improving the District's biodiversity with work concentrating on the management District Council owned site and those to which Countrycare has had a long term commitment. These included the District's 9 LNRs at which staff and volunteers spent just under 3,500 hours making improvements. The most significant single project this year was the access improvement project at Home Mead LNR, where staff and volunteers created a 360m hardened pathway around the reserve. A full description of this and all other projects can be found in Appendices 1 and 2.

2.3 Working with the community

In 2004/05, Countrycare enjoyed its 4th consecutive year when more than 1,000 volunteer days were given to the service. Staff organised 114 practical days on 55 sites in 22 parishes across the District. In total 1,109 adult volunteer days were given and 170 children were involved in practical conservation work. By using a figure provided by English Nature, the Government's statutory agency for nature conservation, of £6.25 per hour, it is possible to put a financial value on the adult volunteers time of just under £41,600. This figure equates to around a quarter of Countrycare's net expenditure.

A huge thank you goes out to all these special volunteers who have given so much of their time.

2.4 Working with young people

The "Roots" programme, coordinated by Countrycare and Community Leisure since 2000, has been a successful way of engaging 11 to 16 year olds in the outdoors and the countryside. Involving a mixture of practical conservation work and outdoor activities the programme enjoyed a very successful year. This format was also tried on "Rootlets" 5 to 11 year olds with 2 successful days. In all 10 events were organised involving 105 young people. Full details are given in appendix 8

The Service worked with 9 schools from across the District giving advice and involving them in a range of practical activities. In all 588 pupils were able to gain experience of practical conservation work.

2.5 Guided walks, talks and events.

This year staff organised a total of 19 walks, talks and events aimed at increasing people's knowledge and understanding of the countryside. A total audience of 205 people attended.

2.6 Projects for 2005/06

Key objectives include:

Projects	Comments/Objectives
Establish a Countrycare Trainee Post.	Countrycare has over the last few years been fortunate to have had a number of long term work placements students. In April 2005, the Service's first Trainee Post will be established. Gareth Jones, one of Countrycare long-term student placements will fill the position. The training programme will last 2 years and is recognition of Gareth's commitment over the last 3 years.
Swaines Green, Epping	Finally, after 10 years the future of Swaines Green has now been secured. In the summer of 2005, this 9.6 hectare wildlife site was bought by The Corporation of London and Epping Town Council. Countrycare will be working with both the new owners and The Friends of Swaines Green to produce a long term site management plan and continue to coordinate the volunteer group that has been undertaking much of the management work over recent years.
Site Management Plans	<p>To complete reviews of existing plans for Chigwell Row Wood LNR, Nazeing Triangle LNR, Swaines Green and Church Lane LNR, Thornwood Common Flood Meadow LNR and Weald Common LNR.</p> <p>Produce full new plans for Old Shire Lane, Waltham Abbey and Loughton Brook FSR.</p>
Grants	<p>Forestry Commission - In October 2004, Countrycare were successful with a grant application to the Forestry Commission for a woodland improvement grant. A grant of £850 will go towards the creation of a waymarked woodland walk around Chigwell Row Wood LNR.</p> <p>Countryside Agency - An application will be made to the Heritage Lottery via the Countryside Commission's Local Heritage Initiative to fund a project entitled "Epping Forest District's 50 favourite trees. The project will involve the whole community in nominating their favourite trees - at least 2 from each Parish will be chosen to give a top 50. Projects will include an exhibition, dedicated web site and a tree database. This project should have lasting benefits in that it will establish a web-based database for recording and photographing veteran and landmark trees across the District. This should raise the whole profile of our tree heritage and give useful information to help protect these trees into the future.</p>
2006/07	Countrycare will be 20 years old in 2006 and a series of events to celebrate this achievement is planned.

3. Improving Public Access to the Countryside (See also Appendix 1)

3.1 Improving the Public Rights of Way Network (PROW)

Countrycare's main focus for improving public access to the countryside continues to be the enhancement of the vast public rights of way network across the District. As a free resource that is available to all the upkeep of this network is a major focus. Most of Countrycare's work involves the installation of countryside furniture. Through working with interest groups such as the Ramblers Association the installation of bridges, gates, stiles and waymarkers has remained our main focus.

This year staff organised 36 project days that saw improvements to 50 paths across the public rights of way network. This amounted to 2,290 hours of staff and volunteer time. (1,815 volunteer hours and 475 staff hours)

Full details of works undertaken are given in Appendix 1, but examples of work undertaken this year are highlighted below.

3.2 Improving access to public open space

Since 2000, Countrycare has concentrated much of its efforts on improving access to countryside sites that the District Council owns. The majority of these have now been declared Local Nature Reserves (LNRs).

In August 2004, Home Mead LNR in Loughton was the latest site to see major access improvements. Through a generous grant of £6,784 from the Essex Environment Trust, Countrycare was able to undertake the creation of a 360m circular hardened pathway around the reserve. All the work was undertaken by Countrycare staff and volunteers and was completed in just 12 project days. In total 523 hours of staff and volunteer were given. See also section 7.

3.3 Project examples

Location	Comments
Matching Parish	Staff worked with volunteers from both the regular Countrycare volunteer group and the West Essex Ramblers Working Party to make major improvements to 8 footpaths around the village of Housham Tye. Over 4 project days, 3 footbridges and 16 waymarkers posts were installed involving 216 hours of staff and volunteer time.
Claygate Lane and Galleyhill Green, Waltham Abbey	Only Dorset has more green lanes than Essex and the Epping Forest District is fortunate to have a great network of these special lanes. Almost all have some form of public access over them and many are Wildlife Sites showing how important they are for nature conservation. This winter, Countrycare worked on two lanes - Claygate Lane (Bridleway 26) and Galleyhill Green (Bridleway 27). Both are on designated Forest Land and form part an important link between Epping Forest and the Lea Valley Park. Over 6 project days, staff and volunteers from both the West Essex Ramblers and the regular Countrycare group worked to clear 325m of encroaching blackthorn and elm from both lanes. This helped to clear pinch points and improve the surface of the lanes. In total 515 staff and volunteer hours were given to improving the 2 lanes in the parish.
High Ongar Parish	Staff and volunteers spent 3 project days upgrading 9 footpaths around the village of Nine Ashes. In all 15 waymarker posts and 4 footbridges were installed and a total of 38 staff hours and 150 volunteer hours were given to the task.

4. Improving and protecting biodiversity* (See also Appendices 2 and 4)

4.1 Local Nature Reserves (LNRs)* and Wildlife Sites*.

Striving to protect the District's biodiversity remains one of Countrycare's core objectives and practical habitat management work to enhance sites of nature conservation value is a key task.

This year the service undertook work on 36 sites across the district involving the organisation of an impressive 77 practical project days. Over 5,300 hours of staff and volunteer time were given to managing the sites to improve their biodiversity.

Local Nature Reserves (LNRs). In December 2004, Epping Forest District Council used its powers under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act to declare 3 new LNRs. This now gives the Epping Forest District 9 of the 36 LNRs that are currently declared in Essex.

The LNRs are now the major focus of Countrycare's work and this is reflected in the time and resources put into them. This year alone nearly 3,000 hours of staff and volunteer time went into their improvement. Most of the LNRs are relatively small, less than 3 hectares, but all are situated near centres of population and so offer great potential for people to have contact with nature right on their doorsteps. Further details of about LNRs can be on the Countrycare web site www.eppingforestdc.gov.uk/countrycare

Wildlife Sites. There are 180 designated wildlife sites across the Epping Forest District and the majority are in private ownership. Partnership working is therefore vital on many sites and this has always been one of Countrycare's strengths. This year, the Service teamed up with a number of landowners and conservation organisations on a number of sites.

Full details of works undertaken are given in Appendix 2, but below are examples of work undertaken this year.

Location	Comments
Hundsdon Mead WS G8	Unimproved grassland site managed by the Hertfordshire and Middlesex Wildlife Trust. Countrycare staff and volunteers spent a project day working with staff and volunteers from the Trust to help clear encroaching scrub from the SSSI meadow.
Hainault Forest WS W50	Ancient Forest managed by the Woodland Trust since 1998. This year Countrycare joined forces with the Trust to work on both the Forest and Chigwell Row Wood LNR. Work has started on forming a "Friends of" group that can in the future take on much of the needed management work.
Roding Valley Meadows LNR WS G10 and Hawksmere Springs WS M13	Both these unimproved grassland nature reserves are managed by the Essex Wildlife Trust and this year Countrycare joined forces with EWT to help out. On the Roding volunteers helped to manage the SSSI fen while at Hawksmere Springs assistance was given with the annual hay cut.
West Hatch High School	Staff worked with students from the school to begin restoring an old pond within the school grounds. A day was spent removing fallen willow from the pond and future projects are planned.
Matching Green WS G30	Matching Green is unimproved grassland and one of the largest surviving village greens in Essex. In 1999, Countrycare in partnership with the owners Matching Parish Council began a 5-year restoration programme. Now in its 5 th year the green has responded really well and the wildflowers are flourishing.

4.2 Practical habitat management work.

This year, Countrycare organised 86 practical project days that were dedicated to improving biodiversity on 36 sites in 17 parishes across the district. Of these, 9 sites were LNRs, 4 were sites of special scientific interest* and 20 were designated Wildlife Sites.

Woodlands - Although the District gives an appearance or a perception of being well wooded, mainly due to Epping Forest, only 10% of the land area is in fact woodland. The majority of the woods are relatively small and often isolated within arable farmland.

This year, Countrycare worked in 8 woodlands undertaking management with both volunteers and contractors. A range of projects were undertaken from coppicing* through to pollard* restoration work. Of the 8 woods, 5 were semi natural ancient woodland*. **In total 1.1 hectares (acres) of woodland was brought back into management.**

Ponds and Wetlands - It has been estimated that in the UK a pond has been lost every hour since 1880. This staggering statistic equates to about a million lost ponds. This is clearly going to have serious consequences for any species that relies on ponds and wetlands to survive.

One such species is the Great Crested Newt, whose population numbers have declined at an alarming rate over the last 50 years. This decline has been so dramatic it now has European protection. The UK is fortunate to have the last big population of these special newts and Essex with its historic land use of mixed farming did have a lot of ponds and with it newts. In the Epping Forest District the Great Crested Newt was identified as one of the District's Flagship Biodiversity Species. This means extra efforts are made to try and influence people to undertake projects for newts whether through surveying or improving habitats such as ponds. Again, this year, Countrycare worked on 2 ponds where these amphibians are present. The most notable site is Nazeing Triangle LNR, where a significant breeding population of newts exists.

In all Countrycare worked on 5 ponds, managing 4 existing ones and creating a new one.

Grasslands – In a District where arable farming has dominated over the last 40 years, grassland has become a very uncommon sight. Rarer still are the irreplaceable unimproved grassland* sites. These now cover just 0.28% of the District and represent the rarest and most threatened habitat type in Essex. As a consequence, Countrycare has given their management a high priority. Everything possible is being done to try and save this precious biodiversity resource.

This year, 17 grassland sites and 4 mosaic sites (combining grassland and woodland) received management. Of these 12 were unimproved grassland sites. Their sizes ranged from the small special roadside verges through too much bigger sites such as village greens and nature reserves. **The total area of grassland managed was 19.65 hectares (48.5 acres)**

5. Community Involvement and Education (See also Appendices 3, 5, 6, 7 and 8)

5.1 Community involvement

Since its formation in 1986, the Service's primary aim has always been to work with and engage the community in all aspects of its work. Whether this is through hands on practical work, walks, talks or simply giving advice, guidance and encouragement this still holds true today. Countrycare's key strength remains its ability to be proactive and responsive to local people's needs and views and give communities, groups and landowners the means to help themselves.

Today, Countrycare finds itself in a very fortunate position. After years of delivering quality projects, almost exclusively with the help of volunteers, the service has developed a good reputation and a proven track record. This in turn has built the vital ingredient of trust. Being able to persuade either landowners to allow work on their land, grant funding bodies to give money or volunteers to then help do all the hard work are of course all crucial when trying to get projects off the ground. Below are some examples of how the Service works with the local community.

5.1.1 Volunteers

Since 1986, nearly 87,000 volunteer hours have been given to the service, which equates to over half a million pounds using government figures. It goes without saying that without this fantastic support only a fraction of the work would have been possible.

Volunteers are involved in the whole spectrum of tasks undertaken by the service ranging from habitat management work such as pond restoration through to access projects such as building paths and bridges. Not only are there benefits to the wider community and wildlife, but the volunteers benefit greatly too in improved health and sense of well being.

There is increasing evidence coming forward that clearly demonstrates contact with wildlife and physical exercise outdoors enhances people's health both mentally and physically. Over the past year, the Service has worked with a number of volunteers who are suffering with mental health problems. Their involvement with Countrycare in an outdoor group task has seen them flourish and their improvement has been striking.

In 2004/05, this gratifying support was as strong as ever. Over 114 practical days were organised by staff, this equates to over 2 a week, and 1,109 adult and 170 Children (under 16s) volunteer days were given.

A huge thank you goes out to all these special volunteers who have given so much of their time.

5.1.2 Epping Forest District Tree Wardens.

In 2004, Countrycare took over the coordination of the Epping Forest Tree Wardens. This successful scheme has now been running in the district for 10 years and has around 60 tree wardens. The wardens are the eyes and ears on the ground caring and giving advice about trees in their local area. Over the past year, tree wardens have been responsible for helping staff with the Parish Tree Strategies, coordinating several tree planting schemes and are also helping Countrycare to start a veteran tree survey for the District.

5.2 Guided Walks and Events

This year due to changes in personnel, it was decided not to run a full programme of walks. However, staff still organised 19 walks and events that attracted over 200 people.

5.3 Involving young people

Working with young people remains one of Countrycare's priorities. The following are examples of where the Service has been able to offer young people the opportunity to get involved in a practical conservation task or an outdoor activity.

5.3.1 Working with schools

Every year the service works with a number of schools involving them in a range of "hands on" practical days either within the school itself or on sites close to the school. This year Countrycare worked with 9 schools across the District involving some 588 pupils. Examples of these types of project are given below.

5.3.1.1 Practical project days

West Hatch High School, Chigwell. Staff worked with 8 students from the school to begin restoring an old pond within the school grounds, which through years of neglect had become swamped by willows. Students spent the day removing fallen trees from the pond and future projects are planned.

Theydon Bois Primary School. 90 pupils were taken out of school and spent the day learning to plant trees at the nearby Great Gregories Farm. (Epping Forest buffer land managed by the Corporation of London) The children all had a great time and a new 75m section of hedge stands as testament to all their hard work. This was the 3rd successive year the school had been involved in the planting project and it is hoped this relationship with the School can continue.

Davenants Foundation School and Buckhurst Hill Primary Schools. In partnership with the Copped Hall Trust, Countrycare staff organised 5 project days involving the pupils from both schools and the regular volunteer group. The task was to restore an old boundary hedgerow within the grounds of the mansion. A –level students from Davenants helped with the coppicing of the old hedge and pupils from Buckhurst Hill Primary were involved in planting 400 trees to complete the job.

5.3.2 Work placement students

Over the last year, Countrycare has been fortunate to have 3 dedicated work placement students. Both Kevin Hebden and Gareth Jones came from St John's School in Epping and worked with staff for 3 months helping in all aspects of the Service's work. In June, Kevin left to gain full time employment and Gareth was taken onto the Countrycare staff until the end of the year. Both students received recognition of their commitment to Countrycare with an achievement award from the Jack Petchey Foundation.

In October 2004, Luke McKenzie joined the team on a placement from Writtle College where he is studying an HND in Countryside Management.

5.3.3 "Roots" programme 2004/05

"Roots" was established back in 2000, as a joint initiative between Countrycare and the Council's Community Leisure Service. The intention was to give 11 to 16 year olds the opportunity to get involved in practical conservation work and other countryside activities. Last year proved very successful and 87 young people were involved in the 8 organised activities that ran through the year. Examples of the activities included:

"Bridge Builder", Theydon Mount

9 young people spent the day learning about the public rights of way network and installed a footbridge on a footpath near Beachet Wood.

"Xmas Coppice", Chigwell Row Wood LNR

17 young people spent the day with staff helping to improve this woodland Local Nature Reserve and learning all about the importance of coppicing to wildlife and the wood.

6. Resources Generated (See also Appendix 9)

6.1 Volunteer resources

Volunteers are the key to Countrycare's success and vital in all aspects of the service's work. Without the great dedication and enormous year round support, the vast majority of the practical conservation work that is achieved would simply not be possible. Using a figure provided by English Nature, the Government's statutory agency for nature conservation, it is possible to put a financial value on the volunteer help Countrycare has received this year. English Nature gives a value of £6.25 per hour for adult volunteer help. Using this figure it has meant Countrycare was able to generate just under £41,600 of volunteer help. This figure equates to over a quarter of Countrycare's net expenditure and when combined with grants and sponsorship for the year this gives a combined notional income of £56,000.

6.2 Grants and Sponsorship.

Since 1999, Countrycare has managed to secure income in the form of grants totalling £51,872. This has exclusively come from grants for large scale one off projects on the local nature reserves. Again, this year several grants and donations were secured that generated a total income of £14,480 to the Council. (See Appendix 9 for a summary breakdown of expenditure and income)

6.2.1 Essex Environment Trust

In June 2004, Countrycare was successful with a grant application to the Essex Environment Trust for a major access, interpretation and habitat creation project at Home Mead Local Nature Reserve in Loughton. A grant of £6,784 combined with money from the district council enable Countrycare to create a 350m of all weather pathway, a new pond and erect signage for the site.

6.2.2 Essex County Council – Landscape Conservation Grant.

For the last 14 years, the County Council's Countryside Section based in Environmental Services has supported Countrycare with an annual landscape conservation grant. This has allowed Countrycare to run its very successful Free Tree Scheme. This year a grant of £1074 was given. This valuable support given by the County Council is greatly appreciated and without it the Free Tree Scheme could not operate.

6.2.3 Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs - Countryside Stewardship.

In partnership with the Senior Engineer in Land Drainage, Countrycare manages the District's 4 flood alleviation schemes, 3 of which are now statutory Local Nature Reserves. In October 2002, the 3 sites were entered into DEFRA's Countryside Stewardship Scheme. An annual grant is received for managing the grassland and one off grants are received for hedgerow management and creation. This year over £2477 was received for projects undertaken by the Countrycare volunteers working with staff.

6.3 The Future 2004/05

In October 2004, Countrycare was awarded a woodland improvement grant from the Forestry Commission to create a waymarked circular route around Chigwell Row Wood LNR. In total £850 will be given to coppice rides and install 70 waymarker posts on a 1.5km circuit. Staff and volunteers will undertake all the work.

Appendix 1 - Access to the countryside

Summary

PROW network – Worked in 19 Parishes organising 36 project days. 50 paths were improved by installing 87 waymarker posts, 6 fingerposts, 23 footbridges, 2 kissing gates, 7 stiles and 2 rambler pedestrian gates. Cleared 1.97km of pathways.

Permissive routes/access to the LNRs – 18 project days installing 9 gates, a bridge and 360m of hardened pathway.

The following is a list of access projects undertaken by the regular Countrycare Volunteer Group working alongside Countrycare staff. Other groups are mentioned by name.

Abbess, Beauchamp and Berners Roding, Footpaths 15, 23, 26 and 62. On paths 23, 26 and 62 volunteers from the West Essex Ramblers Working Party worked with staff to install 2 footbridges, 4 waymarker posts and 2 fingerposts. On path 15 staff installed a step to an existing footbridge.

A total of 30 hours of staff time and 72 hours of volunteer time were dedicated to improving the 4 paths within the parish.

Buckhurst Hill, Footpaths 46, 47 and 63 and Bridleway 64 and 65. Staff spent an hour clearing 400m of encroaching nettle and bramble on footpaths 46 and 47 adjacent to Linder's Field LNR.

On footpath 63 and bridleways 64 and 65 staff and volunteers spent a further 18 hours installing 4 new waymarker posts. A total of 13 hours of staff time and 6 volunteer hours were spent on improving the 5 paths in the parish.

Chigwell, Froghall Lane, Footpath 79. Froghall Lane forms part of the Chigwell Country Walk that was established back in 1993. Surveys had revealed the lane was becoming increasingly overgrown and so it was decided cut back encroaching bramble and blackthorn to widen the lane once more. Working with the West Essex Ramblers Working Party a project day was held that saw a 60m section of the lane cleared. In total 18 staff hours and 78 volunteer hours were dedicated to improving the lane.

Epping Upland, Footpaths 39, 40 and 108 and Byway 12. Volunteers from the West Essex Ramblers Working Party worked with staff to install 6 waymarker posts on footpaths, which run parallel with and across Epping Long Green. This included some major clearance work to reopen footpath 39.

On the Long Green itself, a "pinch point" where scrub was narrowing the lane was also cleared allowing good clearance once more. In total 18 staff hours and 72 volunteer hours were dedicated to improving the 4 paths in the parish.

High Ongar, Footpaths 27, 28, 30, 31, 32, 33, 37, 62 and 63. Staff and volunteers spent a project day upgrading the footpath network around Rookery Farm at Nine Ashes by installing 14 waymarker posts and a footbridge. On a second project day, a bridge and waymarker was installed on footpath 37, while on a third project day students from Capel Manor College installed 2 footbridges.

In total 38 staff hours and 150 volunteer hours were given to improving the 9 paths in the parish over 3 project days.

Lambourne, Footpaths 1, 5, 8, 13 and 16. On footpaths 13 and 16 staff and volunteers installed a new footbridge, 3 stiles and a waymarker post around Hill Farm, Abridge. On footpath 1 volunteers from "Roots" helped staff install a bridge and stile.

On footpaths 4 and 8 around Great Wood and Patch Park staff and volunteers installed a footbridge, 3 waymarkers and 2 steps.

A total of 42 hours of staff and 174 hours of volunteer time were dedicated to improving 5 paths in the parish over 3 project days.

Loughton, Home Mead Local Nature Reserve, Candidate Wildlife Site (2 ha). This District Council owned site is a mosaic of scrub, secondary woodland and acid grassland. It has huge potential and in December 2004 was declared a statutory LNR by the District Council.

In August 2004, staff and volunteers undertook a major access improvement project involving the creation of a 360m circular hardened pathway around the site. The funding for the project was aided by a generous grant of nearly £7k from the Essex Environment Trust.

Over 12 project days, 285 staff hours and 238 volunteer hours went into completing the project.

Magdalen Laver, Footpaths 3, 18, 20, and 28. Volunteers from the West Essex Ramblers Working Party worked with staff to install 3 footbridges and 2 waymarker posts on paths 2, 18 and 20. On footpath 28, staff and volunteers installed a further footbridge.

In total 24 staff hours and 144 volunteer hours were given to improving 4 paths in the parish over 2 project days.

Matching, Footpaths 1, 10, 29, 31, 52, 53 and 63 and Bridleway 2. On bridleway 2 and footpaths 10, 29, 52, 53 and 63 volunteers from the West Essex Ramblers Working Party spent 3 project days with staff installing 2 footbridges and 10 waymarker posts.

On footpaths 1, 10, 29 and 30, the Thursday Countrycare volunteer group assisted staff with the installation of a footbridge, 4 waymarkers, 2 fingerposts and the clearance of 90m of vegetation.

In total 81 staff hours and 135 volunteer hours were given to improving 8 paths across the parish over 4 project days.

Moreton, Footpaths 3, 12, 15, 16, 17, 18 and Byway 1 North Lane WS W119. Staff and volunteers spent a project day improving footpaths close to Moreton village and at Wood Farm. In all 3 stiles, 2 finger posts, 2 waymarkers, a rambler gate and small boardwalk were installed.

On Byway 1, North Lane (an impressive wildlife site and ancient green lane that forms part of the Moreton Country Walk) a volunteer day was organised to clear back overhanging vegetation to improve access for riders and walkers.

A total of 30 staff hours and 162 volunteers hours were given improving the 7 paths in the parish.

North Weald Bassett, Footpaths 1, 25, 26, 27, 30, 58 and 60 and Bridleway 19. On footpaths 1, 25, 26, 27, 58 and 60, volunteers from the West Essex Ramblers Working Party spent 3 project days assisting staff with the installation of 2 footbridges, 21 waymarker posts and 700m of vegetation clearance.

On paths 19, 28 and 30 a fourth project day was held in the parish as volunteers from the Thursday Volunteer group worked with staff to install 2 footbridges and 6 waymarkers.

In total of 51 staff hours and 258 volunteer hours were dedicated to improving 8 paths in the parish over 4 project days.

Ongar, Footpath 1, Essex Way Students from Capel Manor College worked with staff to install a new footbridge by the River Roding on the Essex Way. 8 staff hours and 20 volunteer hours were dedicated to the task.

Roydon, Bridleway 70, Blind Lane WS W112. Volunteers from the West Essex Ramblers Working Party assisted staff with the clearance of 40m of encroaching scrub on this old green lane to improve access for both walkers and riders. A total of 10 staff hours and 33 volunteer hours were given.

Stanford Rivers, Footpaths 8,11,12,16 and 53. Staff and volunteers from the Sunday volunteer group spent a project day installing a footbridge and 2 waymarker posts on paths 16 and 53.

On paths 8, 11 and 12, volunteers from the West Essex Ramblers assisted staff with the installation of a bridge, 4 steps a waymarker post and fingerpost.

In all over the 2 project days 24 staff hours and 78 volunteer hours were dedicated to improving 5 paths in the parish.

Theydon Bois, Hydes Lane, Theydon Country Walk. Staff spent 3 hours cutting Hydes Lane that forms part of the Theydon Country Walk.

Theydon Bois, Great Gregories Farm Access Land. Footpaths 1 and 18. Working in partnership with the Corporation of London, staff and volunteers spent 4 project days improving access to buffer lands to the south of Great Gregories Farm. The regular Countrycare volunteer group installed 9 kissing gates replacing 9 stiles on the path network over the buffer lands. Most paths were permissive routes, but one path was footpath 1.

On footpaths 1 and 18 volunteers from the West Essex Ramblers working Party installed a Rambler gate and 3 waymarker posts.

Over the 4 project days 75 hours of staff time and 225 hours of volunteer time were given to the task.

Theydon Garnon, Gernon Bushes Nature Reserve, Epping Country Walk, SSSI and WS M7. (31.99 hectares) Gernon Bushes is notable for its numerous veteran hornbeam pollards, wet springs and bogs. Owned and managed by the Essex Wildlife Trust, Countrycare has, over the last 10 years, worked closely on a whole range of access and habitat improvement projects with the volunteer warden Brian McGhie.

In the summer of 2004, staff and volunteers spent a project day helping to cut the woods important spring/bog area and installing a new section of boardwalk on a path that forms part of the Epping Country Walk.

A total of 12 staff hours and 96 volunteer hours were given to the reserve.

Theydon Mount, Footpath 5. Volunteers from the Countrycare "Roots" group assisted staff with the installation of a footbridge and waymarker. In all 10 staff hours and 10 volunteer hours were dedicated to the task.

Waltham Abbey, Bridleway 26, Bridleway 27 WS W6 and Footpath 22 Claygate Lane, bridleway 26 is a wildlife site and dedicated Epping Forest land. It also forms an important link into and out of the Lea Valley Park. Over 3 project days, staff worked with volunteers from the West Essex Ramblers Working Party to clear 5m by 185m of the lane from encroaching blackthorn and elm. On footpath 22, volunteers installed a sleeper bridge, 2 waymarker posts and cleared 40m of pathway. In all 50 staff hours and 210 volunteer hours were given.

Galleyhill Green is also Epping Forest Land and a wildlife site over which bridleway 27 runs. Staff and volunteers from both the Ramblers and the regular Countrycare volunteer group spent 3 projects clearing 150m of the lane. In all 36 staff hours and 219 volunteer hours were dedicated to this path.

In total over the 6 project days, 86 staff hours and 429 volunteer hours were given to improving the 3 paths in the parish.

Appendix 2 - Caring for Landscape and Wildlife

Summary	2004/05	2003/04	2002/03	2001/02	2000/01
Trees planted	2,011	2,289	2,971	1,816	2,058
Hedgerow created (m)	420	430	645	336	475
Hedgerow managed (m)	155	155	175	150	300
Woodland managed (ha)	1.1	1	1	1.25	0.6
Grassland managed (ha)	19.65	15.02	13.29	12.5	12
Ponds managed	4	2	4	2	3
Ponds created	1	0	0	1	1
Hours worked on LNRs	2,926	2,712	1,740	1,948	1,012
Project days	77	84	78	73	52
Wildlife sites receiving managed	20	18	17	15	14
Total sites receiving management	36	34	37	32	30

The following lists conservation projects undertaken by the regular Countrycare Volunteer Group working alongside Countrycare staff unless. Other groups are mentioned by name.

Abbess, Beauchamp and Berners Roding, Matching Airfield Wildlife Site G30. (8 hectares). This valuable wildlife site is in private ownership however, since 1993 Countrycare has managed parts of it with agreement from the landowner. Occupying land that was formerly a World War Two American Airfield the site today has been reclaimed by nature and can boast a species list of over 160 flowering plants. This includes 3 different species of orchid. The main task has been to keep back invading scrub and maintain open areas of grassland for the wildflowers. This year a project day was held to cut a section of grassland that is particularly good for the orchids. Approximately 0.35h of the site (compartments I and L) was cut and removed. In total 18 staff hours and 60 volunteer hours were dedicated to the site.

Abbess, Beauchamp and Berners Roding, Special Roadside Verges, Wildlife Site G32. These 2 special roadside verges are the richest remaining chalky boulder clay verges in the District. Bordering the Dunmow Road (B184), it is home to a number of uncommon plants such as Sulphur Clover, Bee Orchid and Restharrow. This year staff cut the 2 verges (0.29h) involving 44 hours of staff time.

Buckhurst Hill, Linder's Field LNR, Wildlife Site M19 (3.6 h). Linder's Field LNR was left to the people of Buckhurst Hill by Charles Linder in the 1950's and since then it has been managed in trust by the District Council and its predecessors. Countrycare has been managing the site with the help of the local community since 1990.

Comprising areas of unimproved grassland, small ponds and ancient woodland the site is widely used by local people and is a haven for wildlife. It is particularly special for its notable population of amphibians - Toads, Common Frogs and Smooth Newts.

This year staff organised 3 volunteer days at which 45 staff hours and 202 hours of volunteer time were given. These projects involved both the regular Countrycare Group and the 1st Buckhurst Hill Guides. The following was undertaken;

- In June, volunteers and staff cut a 1/3 rd of the grassland and contractors cut the rest. In October, contractors cut the entire field for a second time. (1.39h)
- Clearing the sites pathways and main alleyway.
- Repairing a 30m section of the woodland path.
- Planted a new tree at the main entrance.
- Installing a site notice board and bench.
- Thinned regenerating oaks by the main path.
- Cleared bramble from the bluebell area in Pluckett's Wood
- Contractors felled a dangerous hornbeam tree (6 hrs)

Chigwell, Roding Valley Meadows LNR, Wildlife Site G10, SSSI. (56.5 hectares). This Local Nature Reserve is managed for the owners the District Council and the Grange Farm Trust by the Essex Wildlife Trust. For a third year, Countrycare volunteers assisted Trust Warden, Paul Cook with the cutting of Great Horseley Meadow. A special fenland area this meadow is a SSSI and important for plants like brown sedge. Each year a section of the fen is cut and this year 0.38 h was cut.

On a second project day volunteers helped to construct an Otter holt in Luscious Mead. A total of 33 hours of staff time and 165 hours of volunteer time were spent on the reserve over the 2 days.

Chigwell, Chigwell Row Wood Local Nature Reserve, Wildlife Site W41. (15 hectares) Back in 1948, Chigwell Row Wood LNR was bought by the then Chigwell Urban District Council for £700. The following year in July 1949 a Charitable Trust was formed to regulate its management and the Council became trustees. Since 1973 EFDC have managed the land and in 2001 the council declared the wood a Local Nature Reserve. Countrycare have helped manage the wood since 1988.

As a remnant of Hainault Forest the wood is of huge conservation value. Ancient woodland makes up the largest portion of the site, but there are also important areas of secondary woodland and relict heathland. The site is perhaps most noteworthy for its numerous veteran oaks and hornbeam trees. As we discover more about the wood, it is becoming increasingly apparent it is very special. Over 400 different species of fly and beetle have been recorded to date (8 of these are in the red data book*) and a moth survey in 2004 has so far revealed 216 species.

This year, the LNR was the major focus for work with 12 volunteer projects being organised. This involved both the regular Countrycare Volunteer Group and the Countrycare "Roots" Group. The following work was undertaken over the 12 project days involving 204 staff hours, 704 volunteer hours and 16 contractor hours.

- Clearance of bramble and scrub from beside the main pathway P1.
- Clearance of holly, hornbeam and oak from around veteran oaks T12, T13 and T26 by volunteers and contractors creating new ride.
- Installed 2 entrance signs by Heathland T4 and top of pathway P1.
- Installed 15 waymarker posts for the start of a woodland trail.
- Felled 10 semi mature oaks around perimeter of the heathland T4 and cleared the area of bramble and stumps.
- Widened rides in C10 and C11, coppicing holly and creating new pollards.
- Coppiced holly and hornbeam along the edges of the wood T1.
- New fencing (4m) was erected along side the Romford Road/Latchford Place entrance.
- Felled willow and birch beside ditch on the Romford Road.
- 0.5h of wood managed in total.

Chigwell, West Hatch Secondary School Pond. Staff worked with 8 students from the school to begin restoring an old pond within the school grounds. A day was spent removing fallen willow from the pond and future projects are planned. In all 24 staff hours and 72 volunteer hours were given to the task.

Chigwell, Limes Farm School. For a second successive year, staff worked with the school to continue the programme of creating a boundary hedge for the school. In all 65 pupils helped staff to plant 200 trees creating a new 50m section of hedge. In total 24 staff hours and 65 children were involved in the project.

Epping, Civic Offices Pond. Staff undertook routine maintenance to this great crested newt pond that lies within the car park of the Civic Offices. 12 hours of staff time.

Epping, Swaines Green Wildlife Site G40. (9.64 hectares) Located on the northwestern fringe of Epping, Swaines Green is a diverse site with ancient hedgerows enclosing areas of scrub, grassland, ponds and developing woodland. Since 1994, the site has been managed by Epping Town Council, Countrycare and local residents under a management and access agreement with the landowner. The long term goal of everyone concerned with the site remains to secure it permanently as a public open space/ nature reserve. Negotiations for the purchase of the land are ongoing.

Working with the Friends of Swaines Green, Countrycare staff ran 2 volunteer days that saw 11 hours of staff time and 78 hours of volunteer time dedicated to the site. Work concentrated on the coppicing trees and clearing bramble along the edge of Middle Lincoln's Field and Forties Field beside the main stream. (0.2h)

Epping Upland, All Saints Churchyard, Wildlife Site G14. (0.8 hectares) Working in partnership with the Church Wardens, Countrycare has managed the conservation area of this churchyard for the past 11 years. A designated wildlife site the churchyards unimproved grassland can boast 138 different flowering plants. To help maintain the diversity of wildflowers, especially the impressive display of Cowslips in the spring, the grass is cut annually and all the arisings removed. This year however, extra cuts were initiated to help improve the flowers and over 3 project days were held on the churchyard. In total 73 hours of staff time and 153 hours of volunteer time were dedicated to this important wildlife site.

Epping Upland, Epping Green Millennium Wildlife Garden. (0.5 hectares) Back in 1999, Epping Upland Parish Council received a £1,500 grant from the Millennium Festival Awards for All Scheme. This went to create a Millennium Wildlife Area on redundant allotments within Epping Green village. Over the last 5 years, Countrycare and volunteers have created a small pond, hedgerows and a wildflower meadow.

In September, an annual hay cut of the grassland (0.4h) was undertaken to encourage the development of the seeded wildflower meadow. In all 30 staff hours and 66 volunteer hours were dedicated to the project.

Epping Upland, Copped Hall Mansion. The hall and its gardens are now in the safe hands of the Copped Hall Trust. For the first time in 10 years Countrycare returned to help lend a hand restoring an old boundary hedge. Years of neglect had left the hedge swamped by blackthorn scrub and sycamore, so a plan was devised to restore the hedge making it an attractive feature for the hall and a in time a good wildlife habitat. Staff involved volunteers from the regular Countrycare Group, The Epping Forest Centenary Trust and pupils from both Davenants and Buckhurst Hill Primary Schools. In all 5 project days were organised that saw the coppicing and clearance of the old hedge and planting up of 400 hawthorn trees to effectively create a new one. In all 120 hours of staff time and 450 hours of volunteer time were given.

High Ongar, Norton Heath Common. (4.3 hectares) Norton Heath is a registered common and is owned by the District Council. During the 1800's Norton Heath was certainly heath and was used for grazing that kept the land open and free from trees. Today, however the area is totally different as secondary woodland with a dense canopy of oak has taken over. Many ponds also now exist created when gravel was extracted for the turnpike road in the early 1900's.

This year a single volunteer day was held on the site as staff and volunteers thinned Silver Birch and Oak from an area either side of the main path within (compartment 3 - 0.1 ha). A total of 12 staff and 102 volunteer hours were dedicated to the site.

Loughton, Thomas Willingale School. Staff worked with 60 pupils from the school to plant 120 trees creating a new 30m section of hedge on the perimeter of the school grounds. In total 18 staff hours, 18 volunteer hours and 60 children were involved in the project.

Loughton, Home Mead LNR, Candidate Wildlife Site. (1.82h) This District Council owned site was declared a statutory Local Nature Reserve in December 2004. A mosaic of scrub, secondary woodland and acid grassland a circular hardened pathway was created around the site in the summer of 2004. See Appendix 1 for full details. This year the following work was undertaken on the site, that involved 60 staff hours and 168 hours of volunteer time over 5 project days:

- Creation of a new pond by contractors (4 days) staff worked to clear the area prior to construction.
- Installed new entrance sign.
- Raked up meadow area (0.35h)
- Coppiced scrub in section 5v (0.2h)
- Planted 200 trees to create a new hedge on the southern boundary.

Loughton, Loughton Brook Flood Meadow, Epping Forest WS M7, SSSI. (0.6 hectares) Loughton Brook Flood Alleviation Scheme was created back in 1995, in a joint initiative between the then National Rivers Authority and the District Council. The land itself is still dedicated Epping Forest land and a site of special scientific interest. This year 2 project days were held involving 49 staff hours and 66 volunteer hours. The following safety and habitat works were undertaken.

- Repaired fencing beside the silt trap and planted 25 dogrose trees.
- Cleared a flight of steps on the embankment
- Coppiced hornbeam and holly beside the main pathway.
- Cut and removed grass from the reservoir bund (0.26h)

Matching, New Way Lane Special Roadside Verge, WS G21. This verge supports some plants that are now very rare in Essex including the “wrongly” named Common Rock Rose. Staff spent 8 hours clearing encroaching scrub from the verge to help the wildflowers. Projects are planned for autumn 2005 to undertake further improvement works.

Matching, Matching Green G30. (4.9 hectares) Matching Green is one of the largest surviving village greens in Essex, it is also a designated Wildlife Site. Surveys in 1998 and 1999 discovered over 170 species of plant including Burnet Saxifrage, Lady’s Smock and Common Restharrow. In 1999 in partnership with the owners, Matching Parish Council, a 5 year restoration and management programme was agreed so that the green was managed sympathetically for its wildflowers. For a fifth year Countrycare organised the cutting of 3.5 hectares of the green for hay by contractors.

Moreton, Tanner’s Cottage. In May 2004, Essex County Council’s, Countryside Archaeological Advisor, Adrian Gascoyne approached Countrycare to see if the service could assist with the management of a medieval moated site near Moreton, known as “Tanners Cottage”. Privately owned by Jim Collins of Newhouse Farm, the site is archaeologically in very good condition with the island largely undisturbed. However, over recent years trees have colonised the island and root damage could threaten the as yet un-investigated archaeology.

Countrycare agreed to help out and the initial works involved clearing of mainly elder scrub from the island site. Work was also undertaken to the adjacent bridleway and 25 hazel trees were planted to restore a section of hedge. A 5 year management plan has been agreed with Mr Collins and so future plans could involve trying to restore the grassland and possibly excavating sections of the moat. In all 4 project days were held involving 54 staff hours and 189 volunteer hours.

Nazeing, Copy Wood Field, Wildlife Site M9. (0.7 hectare) Countrycare has managed this small unimproved meadow since 1986. Situated on the northern edge of Nazeing Common this small field is in fact part of the Copped Hall Estate. It is especially notable for its spring flowers and butterflies and forms part of the Epping Long Green Wildlife Site Complex. Once again, this summer, staff, assisted by volunteers carried out the annual hay cut of the field. A total of 24 staff hours and 55 volunteer hours were dedicated to this important wildlife site.

Nazeing, Nazeing Triangle LNR, Wildlife Site M5. This very important wildlife site was declared a Local Nature Reserve in June 2001 and is managed in partnership with the owners Nazeing Parish Council. The sites small ponds and wetland areas support a wealth of wildlife with dragonflies, amphibians and reptiles all represented. However, the site is probably most notable for its large population of great crested newts. (*Triturus cristatus*). This year 2 volunteer days were organised involving the regular Countrycare group and students from Capel Manor College. In all 36 hours of staff time and 156 hours of volunteer time were dedicated to the LNR. The following was undertaken:

- Cut the main grassland area
- Coppiced 9 old hawthorn stools on the eastern boundary bank
- Laid wire mesh on the boardwalk and removed Reed Mace and bramble from both sides.

North Weald Bassett, Thornwood Nature Area, Proposed Wildlife Site. (0.2 hectares) In 1996 Countrycare and North Weald Parish Council created a nature area on a number of redundant allotment plots paid for by a grant from Rural Action. Since then Countrycare has managed the grassland areas by cutting and scrub clearance that helps to maintain the colony of Bee Orchids and other wildflowers. This year staff and volunteers undertook the hay cut of the area dedicating 21 hours of their time.

North Weald Bassett, St Andrew's Churchyard, Wildlife Site G42 (0.8 hectares). In 1998, this species rich churchyard was designated a Wildlife Site by the Essex Wildlife Trust. For an twelfth year staff and volunteers undertook the annual hay cut of the churchyards conservation area. In all 24 staff hours were dedicated to cutting 0.3 hectares of this important wildlife site.

North Weald Bassett, Roughtalley's Wood LNR, Wildlife Site W58 (3.4 hectares). This Council owned woodland comprises areas of both ancient and secondary woodland and supports a wide variety of plants and animals. Within the woodland interesting flora includes the broad-leaved heliborine and reptiles like Grass Snake and Slow Worm are also present. This year, 2 project days were organised that saw a total of 39 hours of staff and 147 hours of volunteer time. The following work undertaken;

- Cutting and clearing the marsh area beside the boardwalk (0.1h)
- Bramble clearance beside main pathway (compartments M/N)
- Coppicing hawthorn to increase grassland glade (compartment K, 0.2h)
- Fitting wire to bridges and boardwalk.

North Weald Bassett, Church Lane Flood Meadow LNR, Wildlife Site G41. (3.25 hectares) In 1989 the site was created as a flood storage reservoir to protect the village of North Weald Bassett. Sixteen years on and the site has now been transformed in a nature reserve. Over 2,300 trees have been planted on the site and the meadow has over 180 flowers and grass recorded. Notable flowers include Ragged Robin, Common Spotted Orchid, Bee Orchid, Devil's Bit Scabious and Marsh Cinquefoil. There are good populations of dragonfly and butterfly as well as frogs and toads. Since 1992 the whole site has been managed under Countryside Stewardship. This was renewed for a further 10 years in 2002, enabling a range of habitat management projects to be undertaken including hedgerow management.

This year, 9 project days were organised that saw a total of 106 staff hours and 288 hours of volunteer time given. The following work undertaken;

- Installing 3 new specially designed carved waymarkers created by Roydon artist Angela Godfrey.
- Installing an information panel, gatepost, bench and a flight of 9 steps.
- Creating a bird hide with artist Georgia Wisbey and the "Roots" Countrycare group.
- Planting 305 trees to create 70 metres of hedge on the western boundary of the LNR and plant up the outlet structure next to the Weald Brook.
- Coppicing a $\frac{1}{3}$ of the Willow from around the main pond – western side.
- Cutting a section of grassland beside the concrete track.
- Hay cut of meadow by contractor (3.25h)

North Weald Bassett, Foster Street Burial Ground (0.28 hectares) The burial ground at Foster Street was established in 1677 by William Woodward, on a piece of land called Potter's Croft. The burial ground served the two churches at Four Street in Old Harlow and Little Parndon, which later moved to Potter Street.

Today, the site has generated interest from both local historians and ecologists. From a nature conservation aspect there is every indication the site is unimproved grassland with a healthy population of wild flowers including Primrose and Cowslip.

Since the spring of 2002, Countrycare has worked with a small friends group to undertake sympathetic management of the churchyard. A brief management plan has been drawn up that will hopefully see further improvement in the wildflower population.

This summer staff and volunteers once again helped out with the cutting and removing the grass from the site. A total of 18 staff hours and 66 volunteer hours were dedicated to the site.

North Weald Bassett, Weald Common Flood Meadow LNR (2.9 hectares - candidate WS). Since their creation in 1996, these council owned flood storage reservoirs, have been managed jointly by Countrycare and the Senior Engineer based in Environmental Services. In a relatively short time frame they have improved rapidly in nature conservation terms. This s enabled their declaration as a Local Nature Reserve in December 2004.

The meadows support a healthy and varied population of flowers such as Cowslip and Ragged Robin and in addition, animals such as Common Lizard, Grass Snake and the Common Frog have also been recorded there. Like Thornwood Flood Meadow LNR and Church Lane LNR, Weald Common Flood Meadows LNR was entered into Countryside Stewardship in 2002. This will fund both annual maintenance of the site plus projects such as hedgelaying and tree planting. This year a single project day was organised on the southern meadow involving 24 staff hours and 69 volunteer hours. The following was undertaken:

- Planting 100 trees to create a 25 m stretch of hedge.
- New step on the bridge.
- Repaired fencing to the site
- Contractors cut the meadows (2.9h).

North Weald Bassett, Thornwood Flood Meadow LNR, Proposed Wildlife Site. (2.7 hectares) Thornwood was the fourth flood alleviation scheme to be created by the District Council in 1998. Since October 2002, the whole site has been managed under DEFRA's Countryside Stewardship Scheme and is being managed for both flood defence and wildlife. Negotiations have now started with English Nature to see the site declared a LNR. This year, the only major task undertaken was the cutting of the meadows by contractor (2.7h) in December.

Ongar, Spring Pond's Wood (1h). This privately owned area of woodland lies to the south west of Ongar. In 1994 an access agreement was signed with the landowner allowing access. A small circular route goes through the site and in October a small work party was held with the Countrycare "Roots" group to clear back the path of elder and bramble. In all 12 staff hours and 6 volunteer hours were given to the site.

Roydon, World's End, Wildlife Site W112. (4.6 hectares) World's End is a hazel and willow carr woodland notable for a number of native black poplars, one of which, was listed by the Tree Council as one of the 50 Great British Trees marking the Queens Jubilee.

Since 1995, Countrycare has worked in partnership with the landowner (a local farmer) and Roydon Countrycare to undertake a programme of coppice management. This has seen huge improvements to the woodland that was designated as a wildlife site by the Essex Wildlife Trust in May 1996.

This years project days were held in a section of the wood that had been unmanaged for over 30 years. A small area of around 150m² was coppiced, involving 24 staff hours and 72 volunteer hours.

Roydon, Hunsdon Mead, Wildlife Site G8, SSSI (14.2h) The Mead has been jointly owned by the Hertfordshire and Middlesex Wildlife Trust and the Essex Wildlife Trust since 1981. As a site of special scientific interest, the Mead is one of the finest surviving unimproved grassland sites in SE England and lies in an area of common land between the River Stort and the Stort Navigation. Recent boundary changes mean most of the reserve is now in Hertfordshire, originally half was in Essex!

For over 600 years the Mead has been managed on the ancient Lammas system where local farmers graze their cattle in late summer after a hay cut in July. This has led to a huge diversity of flowers with plants such as cowslips, marsh marigolds, yellow rattle, ragged robin, lady's smock, meadowsweet and bugle. There are also small colonies of green-winged orchid and adder's-tongue fern, quaking grass and several uncommon sedges.

Like all grassland sites there is always the issue of scrub invasion and on wet meadows this means willow and blackthorn! Countrycare volunteers joined forces with the HMWT's Green team on a joint task hand clearing willow and blackthorn scrub from this important grassland site. A total of 24 staff hours and 111 volunteer hours were given.

Sheering, County Primary School. Staff worked with 93 pupils from the school to plant 80 trees creating a new 20m section of hedge on the perimeter of the school grounds. In total 24 staff hours and 93 pupils were involved in the project.

Stapleford Tawney, Hawksmere Springs Nature Reserve, WS M13. (1.7 ha) This small reserve is owned and managed by the Essex Wildlife Trust. Comprising unimproved pasture, marsh and a fragment of ancient damp woodland, the reserve is extremely rich in flowers. In the meadows a range of uncommon flowers grow including cowslip, betony, ragged robin and yellow rattle while in the wood bluebells and ransoms carpet the floor in spring.

Following a request from EWT warden Paul Cooke, Countrycare staff and volunteers helped with a hay cut of the meadow using small pedestrian mowers (0.6h). In total 27 staff hours and 108 volunteer hours were given to the nature reserve.

Theydon Bois, Great Gregories Farm, Buffer Lands Epping Forest. For a third successive year, Countrycare joined forces with the Corporation of London in a community tree planting day to mark National Tree Week. Work again focused on planting hedgerows below Great Gregories Farm on land owned by the Corporation of London. Over a project day staff from both organisations worked with 90 pupils from Theydon Bois County Primary School to plant a new 75m section of hedgerow. In total 60 staff hours and 21 volunteer hours were dedicated to the project.

Waltham Abbey, Waltham Abbey Scout Hut. In the summer of 2004, Countrycare was approached by the Waltham Abbey Scout Group, with a request for help on their grounds. The land is wooded and there were a number of issues with tree safety and illegal access to the site. Through surveys it was discovered the site has 6 native Black Poplars or Water Poplar. This was an exciting find and so a programme of work was devised to improve the grounds for the scouts and nature conservation.

The first phase began in February 2005 and through the "Roots" programme 2 "Forester days" were held at the scout hut. Over 150 trees were planted to create a small copse and a section of hedgerow. In addition a couple of dangerous trees were also felled. The next phase of the project will involve works to the trees around the water Poplars and a grant is being sought from the Essex Biodiversity Project towards funding. To date 64 hours of staff time and 162 hours of volunteer time has been dedicated to the site.

Waltham Abbey, Old Shire Lane. (0.8 hectares). Formally an old nursery, the site was given to the District Council when the Swallow Hotel was built in the early 1990s. Since October 2000, Countrycare has managed the site and it has become the focus for a major habitat creation project.

To date a small pond has been created and over 800 trees have been planted creating a copse and boundary hedgerows. In spring 2004, a wildflower meadow was also sown and is developing well.

This year, 4 project days were organised 78 staff hours and 231 volunteer hours were dedicated to the site. The following was undertaken:

- Constructed a giant compost bin
- Cut the establishing wildflower area in June, September and November.
- Laying 35m of the old boundary hawthorn hedge on the sites southern boundary.
- Coppiced willow in the main ditch
- Cut the establishing wildflower area.

Hainault Forest SSSI WS 50. Just over the other side of the Romford Road from Chigwell Row Wood LNR lies Hainault Forest. In the summer of 2004, Countrycare made contact with the Geoff Sinclair, Woodlands Officer for Woodland Trust (who manage the Essex County Council owned section the Forest) In partnership with the WT both organisations are trying to establish a Hainault Forest Volunteer Group that can work both in the Forest and Chigwell Row Wood LNR.

In the autumn, the first tasks were organised and work focused on the restoration of the heathland on the Forest side of the Romford Road. Tasks were held in October and from January monthly joint tasks have been held on the heath in the Forest. By the end of February, staff and volunteers had completed the removal of all the encroaching scrub and trees. Projects then moved to Chigwell Row Wood. In all over the 5 days organised, 72 Countrycare staff hours, 12 Woodland Trust staff hours and 255 volunteer hours were contributed.

Free Tree Scheme 2004/05 - This year 5 schemes were supported across 5 parishes in the District enabling the planting of 1170 trees. In addition, Countrycare gave advice and support to several parish councils, landowners and amenity groups, which enabled the planting of a further 1759. All the schemes listed below were 100% grant aided by Essex County Council's Landscape Conservation Grant.

FTS 1 – Home Mead LNR, Loughton

200 trees were supplied to create 50 metres of hedgerow on the sites boundary.

FTS 2 – Copped Hall Mansion, Epping Upland

400 trees were supplied to create 100 metres of hedgerow on the sites boundary.

FTS 3 - Sheering County Primary School, Sheering

80 trees were supplied to create a new 20m section of hedgerow on the perimeter of the school.

FTS 4 - Limes Farm Junior School, Chigwell

200 trees were supplied to the school to create a new 50m boundary hedgerow.

FTS 5 - Waltham Abbey Scout Hut, Waltham Abbey

150 trees were supplied to create a small copse and hedgerow with the grounds of the scout hut.

**Countryside Stewardship funded by DEFRA
Church Lane Flood Meadow LNR, North Weald.**

300 trees were planted to create a 70m stretch of new hedge on the eastern boundary.

Glossary of terms used.

Biodiversity is short for 'biological diversity'. It describes the whole variety of life on Earth and includes all the world's animals, plants and the natural systems in which they live.

Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) represent the UK's best sites for wildlife and geology. Over half, by area, are internationally important and many play an important part in local culture and economies. Notification as a SSSI is primarily a legal mechanism to protect sites that are of particular conservation interest because of the wildlife they support, or because of the geological features that are found there.

Local Nature Reserves (LNRs) are for both people and wildlife. They are intended to be places that can be enjoyed and where people can have contact with nature. They can also be places where people can study and learn about nature.

Wildlife Sites were identified and declared by the Essex Wildlife Trust following a phase one-habitat survey of the District in 1991 (revised 1996 and 1998). They represent sites, which are important at a County level.

Nationally Notable is a species that occurs within the range of 16 to 100 modern 10km grid squares across the UK.

The red data book (Rdb) lists species whose continued existence is threatened. Rdb species are classified into different categories of perceived risk. Each Rdb usually deals with a specific group of animals or plants (e. reptiles, insects, mosses). They are now being published in many different countries.

Ancient semi-natural woodland is woodland that is known to have existed before 1600 and **Secondary Woodland** is woodland that has developed on land which at sometime has not been wooded.

Coppicing is the process of cutting a tree near ground level and allowing it to regenerate from the stool. Trees, which are regularly coppiced, also have a distinctive shape - a large stool close to ground level with a great many shoots.

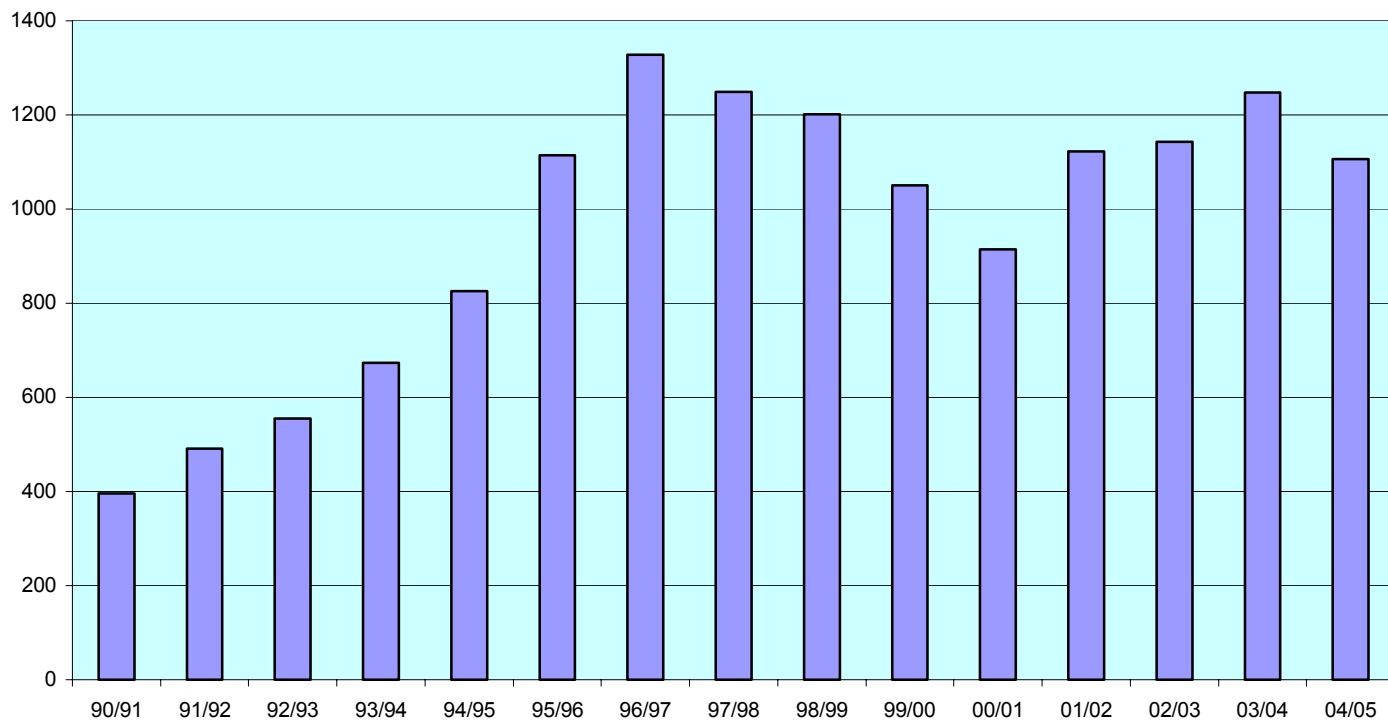
Habitat is a place where a plant or animal lives.

A Pollard is a tree that has been cut once or has had regular cutting at a height above which grazing animals can reach normally between 2 and 4 metres. Pollards are characterised by its distinctive shape - a large trunk (or bole) from which commonly radiate numerous smaller branches.

Veteran trees are of interest biologically, culturally or aesthetically because of its age, size or condition. As a rule, a tree that is either over 250 years old or has a diameter of over 3 metres at breast height can be described as a veteran. However, other factors must be considered such as the location and past management of the tree.

Unimproved grassland is grassland that is species rich and has not had chemical fertilisers, herbicides or pesticides applied to it.

Appendix 3 – Volunteer Attendance 1999 to 2005



Appendix 4 – Local Nature Reserves, Wildlife Sites and EFDC owned countryside sites

Under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949, the District Council has the power to designate sites of nature conservation interest as statutory Local Nature Reserves. The Epping Forest District now has 9 Local Nature Reserves including:

Roughtalley's Wood LNR, North Weald Bassett.

This EFDC owned LNR can be divided into two distinct areas. The first totalling 1.1 ha, is semi natural ancient woodland comprising hornbeam coppice with oak standards. The second area totals 2.3 ha and comprises areas of planted broadleaved woodland and interesting grassland areas.

Reserve area: 3.4 Hectares.

Access: From the entrance off Pike Way, the reserve has a 600m hardened walkway running right the way round it allowing easy access for everyone. There is open access across the whole reserve.

Parking: Street parking along Pike Way.

Grid Reference: TL 489 037

Getting There: Off Epping Road (B181) between Epping and North Weald Bassett.

Special plants and animals: Broad-leaved helleborine, bee orchid, veteran hornbeam coppice, slow worm and grass snake.

Wildlife Site: Yes, W58

LNR Declaration: 17 August 2000

Chigwell Row Wood LNR, Chigwell.

This LNR is managed in Trust by the District Council. A remnant of Hainault Forest this valuable ancient woodland contains a variety of habitats but is especially important for its relict heathland and ancient trees that includes over 50 veteran Oaks and hundreds of Hornbeam pollards.

Reserve area: 15.6 Hectares.

Access: The site has a 370m hardened walkway linking up with the nearby recreation ground promoting safe and easy access for everyone. There is also a whole network of woodland rides throughout the reserve.

Grid Reference: TQ 460 931

Parking: Lodge Close car park.

Getting There: Off Lambourne Road (B173) past junction with Romford Road (A112).

Special plants and animals: Veteran hornbeam and oaks pollards, dwarf gorse Slender st john's wort, dead wood insects and grass snake.

Wildlife Site: Yes, W41

LNR Declaration: 17 August 2000

Nazeing Triangle LNR, Nazeing.

This LNR is managed by the District Council in partnership with the owners Nazeing Parish Council. Although the site is small, it contains a mosaic of ponds and wetland that supports a wealth of wildlife.

Reserve area: 0.6 Hectares.

Access: A hardened granite footpath and boardwalk take you right to the centre of the site.

Parking: Street parking along Betts Lane.

Grid Reference: TL 414 065

Getting There: Off Nazeing Common Road.

Special plants and animals: Great crested newt, emperor dragonfly, greater diving beetle and grass snake.

Wildlife Site: Yes, M5

LNR Declaration: 12 June 2001

Linder's Field LNR, Buckhurst Hill.

This LNR was once the garden of a local businessman Charles Linder who in 1951 gave the site to the people of Buckhurst Hill. Today, the site is managed in trust by EFDC. Half of the LNR comprises of unimproved grassland, scrub with 2 small ponds, while the other half is a semi-natural ancient woodland, Little Pluckett's Wood.

Reserve area: 3.6 Hectares.

Access: By hardened footpath off Roebuck Lane

Parking: Street parking along Roebuck Lane.

Grid Reference: TQ 415 945

Getting There: Roebuck Lane is off Loughton High Road (A121).

Special plants and animals: Wild service trees, wood anemone, bluebell, sneezewort, frogs and toads.

Wildlife Site: Yes, M19

LNR Declaration: 17 August 2000

Church Lane Flood Meadow LNR, North Weald Bassett

This LNR has been a major engineering and habitat creation scheme that began life back in 1989. Designed primarily to help protect the village of North Weald from flooding, the site has a large bowl that can hold 35 million litres of water in a flood event. A wet meadow and large stream fed pond was created within the flood bowl and over 2,000 trees have been planted around its boundary. In addition to the good populations of birds, dragonfly and butterfly over 180 species of flowers, grasses and trees have been recorded.

Reserve area: 3.4 Hectares.

Access: The site can only be accessed via public footpaths. The pathways are informal grass paths.

Parking: Street parking Vicarage Lane at St Andrews Church.

Grid Reference: TL 495 047

Getting There: Church Lane is off Epping Road (B181).

Special plants and animals: Devils-bit scabious, bee orchid and ragged robin, common spotted orchid, kingfisher, heron and water vole.

Wildlife site? Yes G41

LNR Declaration: 13 May 2002

Home Mead LNR, Loughton

Situated to the north of Loughton, the site is roughly square in area and contains a mosaic of woodland, scrub and acid grassland. In 2004 a small pond was also created on the site. The woodland has developed over the last 30 years, having spread by natural regeneration into the once open grassland areas. There is still an area of heather on the eastern side of the site, which possibly gives a clue to the once larger heathland community that existed. Areas of scrub now form an interface between the open grassland areas and the woodland.

Reserve area: 1.8 Hectares.

Access: By hardened path off entrance England's Lane, Loughton.

Parking: Street parking.

Grid Reference: TQ 439 978

Getting There: From A121 Goldings Hill via Clays Lane.

Special plants and animals: heather and bird population.

Wildlife site? No

LNR Declaration: 23 December 2004

Roding Valley Meadows LNR, Chigwell

Managed as a partnership between Epping Forest District Council, the Grange Farm Trust and the Essex Wildlife Trust, this beautiful site is a mosaic of hedgerows and open meadows. Situated on the flood plain of the River Roding, these cattle grazed meadows are now the largest surviving area of traditional river valley grassland in Essex.

Reserve area: 56.5 Hectares.

Access: The site has a network of hardened pathways totalling about 1km. There are also many other pathways across the site.

Parking: Car Park, Roding Lane, Chigwell.

Grid Reference: TQ 430 942

Getting There: Off Roding Lane (B170) between Loughton and Chigwell, next to David Lloyd Centre.

Special plants and animals: Southern Marsh Orchid, Sneezewort, Devils-bit scabious and Brown sedge, Kingfisher, Water vole.

Wildlife site?: Yes, G10

LNR Declaration: 13 April 1986

Thornwood Flood Meadow LNR, North Weald Bassett

This EFDC owned LNR is one of North Weald's 3 flood storage areas all of which have now been declared LNRs. Created in 1998 from an arable field, the site can already boast a great wet meadow with specially designed wetland scrapes ideal for wading birds. The meadow is at it best in early summer, when wildflowers such as Ragged Robin, Oxeye Daisy and Knapweed transform the site with colour.

Reserve area: 2.7 Hectares.

Access: The reserve is reached via a public footpath from North Weald High Road, Thornwood.

Parking: Street parking

Grid Reference: TL 471 045

Getting There: Off (B1393) High Road, Thornwood Common.

Special plants and animals: Ragged Robin, Oxeye Daisy and Knapweed

Wildlife site: No **LNR Declaration:** 23 December 2004

Weald Common Flood Meadows LNR

Created in 1996, this EFDC owned flood alleviation scheme has quickly established into a fantastic wildlife site. In spring Cowslips cover much of the meadow and in early summer Ragged Robin takes over. Grass snake or even a common lizard may be seen basking on a sunny spot. So far over 2,000 trees have been planted creating over half a kilometre of new hedgerows.

Reserve area: 2.9 Hectares.

Access: The reserve is reached via Weald Common Open space.

Parking: By Village hall.

Grid References: TL 499 039 and TL 502 042

Getting There: Off (B181) High Road, North Weald.

Special plants and animals: Grass Snake, Common Lizard, Ragged Robin.

Wildlife site: No **LNR Declaration:** 23 December 2004

Summary

9 Local Nature Reserves	Parish	Area (h) Declared	
Roding Valley Meadows*	Chigwell	56.5	13/04/1986
Roughtalley's Wood	North Weald	3.40	17/08/2000
Linder's Field**	Buckhurst Hill	3.60	17/08/2000
Chigwell Row Wood**	Chigwell	15.60	17/08/2000
Nazeing Triangle***	Nazeing	0.60	12/06/2001
Church Lane Flood Meadow	North Weald	3.25	13/05/2002
Weald Common Flood Meadows	North Weald	3.25	23/12/2004
Thornwood Common Flood Meadow	North Weald	2.70	23/12/2004
Home Mead	Loughton	1.82	23/12/2004
	Total	90.02	

4 EFDC owned sites	Parish	Area (h)
Civic Offices Newt Pond	Epping	0.07
Old Shire Lane	Waltham Abbey	0.80
Norton Heath Common	High Ongar	4.30
Loughton Brook FSR****	Loughton	1.00

* Managed by the Essex Wildlife Trust.

** Managed by EFDC as trustees of a charitable trust.

*** Managed by Countrycare in partnership with the owners Nazeing Parish Council

**** Managed by Countrycare, but land part of Epping Forest SSSI, Corporation of London.

12 EFDC Roadside Verges

No.	N.G.R	Side	Length (m)	Road	Locality
1	506102-512103	N	600	U	New Way Lane, Matching
2	513129-515128	E	250	U	Sheering Lodge, Sheering
3	576101-578104	W	300	B184	Beauchamp Roding
4	573097-574099	E	300	B184	Beauchamp Roding
5	490013-493016	NW	550	U	Mount End, Theydon Mount
6	435995-439995	S	400	B172	Oak Hill, Epping Forest
7	435995-439995	N	400	B172	Oak Hill, Epping Forest
8	432994-432994	S	50	B172	Jacks Hill, Epping Forest
9	419994-420994	N/S	300	B172	Woodreddon Hill, Epping Forest
10	412971-418965	E/W	900	U	Earls Path, Epping Forest
11	428004-431004	S	300	U	Upshire Road, Epping Forest
12	574076-574076	N	50	U	Birds Green, Fyfield

Wildlife Sites

These were identified and declared by the Essex Wildlife Trust following a phase one-habitat survey of the District in 1991 (revised 1996 and 1998). They represent sites, which are important at a County level.

The Epping Forest District has 181 Wildlife Sites. That breaks down as follows:

118 Woodlands
 39 grasslands
 19 mosaic sites
 5 fresh water aquatic.

Appendix 5 - Guided Walks, Talks and Events

Date	Audience and Subject	Attendance
21/04	Talk - Countrycare Liaison Group Meeting, Epping	20
25/04	Guided Walk - EF Tree Wardens/Public - "A walk in the woods", Envilles Farm, Fyfield	14
26/05	Speaker - "Roydon Countryside Conference" - Briggens, Roydon.	40
10/06	Guided Walk - Countrycare Volunteers - "Annual tour of work sites"	13
18/07	Guided Walk - EF Tree Wardens -Bedgebury Arboretum, Pine Tree Collection	10
25/07	Guided Walk - "Public launch of Roydon Tree Strategy", Roydon Village	30
28/07	Activity Day - "Dreamers and Dippers" - Weald Common Flood Meadow LNR joint event with Epping Forest Arts	15
20/10	Talk - Countrycare Liaison Group Meeting, Epping.	17
24/10	Guided Walk - "Fungi Walk", Chigwell Row Wood LNR	18
09/03	Talk "Roydon Countrycare AGM", St Peter's Church Hall, Roydon	15
13/03	Guided Walk - EF Tree Wardens/Public -"Tree ID and Deer", Copped Hall Buffer Lands	13
Total		205

Special thanks to the following people who assisted Countrycare with this year's walks and events programme;

All the staff at Epping Forest Arts
 Michael Collins, Forest Keeper, Corporation of London
 Peter Comber, Chigwell Tree Warden and fungi expert

Chris Neilan, Landscape Officer, EFDC
 Jim Collins, Newhouse Farm
 Alan Burgess, Roydon Countrycare

Appendix 6 – Schools and Education

Date	Audience and Subject	Attendance
24/05	Coppice Row Primary School, Hainault, “Beetles and bugs” Chigwell Row Wood LNR Designing artwork with Epping Forest Arts.	30
25/05	Coppice Row Primary School, Hainault “Beetles and bugs of Chigwell Row Wood LNR” Designing artwork with Epping Forest Arts.	30
09/06	Thomas Willingale School, Loughton “School grounds week – nature area”	48
12/07	Theydon Bois Primary School, “Tree Celebration Day” Exploring Great Gregories Farm	82
20/07	St John’s School, Epping “Practical Day - Pike Pond Meadow management”	15
31/01	West Hatch High School, Chigwell “Practical Day” – Pond restoration in school grounds	08
28/01	Davenants Foundation School, Loughton “Practical day, Hedgerow management. Copped Hall, Epping Upland	24
11/02	Thomas Willingale School, Loughton, “Practical Tree planting in the school grounds	60
18/02	Sheering County Primary School, “Practical Tree planting in the school grounds	93
01/03	Buckhurst Hill Primary School, Buckhurst Hill, “Talk - How and why we plant trees?”	23
07/03	Limes Farm Junior School, Chigwell “Practical Day - tree planting in the school grounds”	65
11/03	Buckhurst Hill Primary School, “Practical Day – Tree planting, Copped Hall”	20
23/03	Theydon Bois Primary School, Theydon Bois “Talk – Why plant trees?”	90
Total		588

Appendix 7 - Young Countrycare “Roots”. (Projects for 11 – 16 year olds in partnership with EFDC’s Community Leisure.)

Date	Event	Attendance
14/04	“Bridge Builder Challenge” How to install countryside furniture, Lambourne	09
02/06	“Outdoor Adventure” – Woodland exploration, Parndon Wood LNR, Harlow (In partnership with Harlow Wildspace Officer)	13
24/08	“Build a bird hide” – Creating a willow birdhide, Church Lane LNR, North Weald	14
25/08	“Build a bird hide” – Creating a willow birdhide, Church Lane LNR, North Weald	10
27/10	“Wetland Work Day” – Ponds and woods Spring Ponds Wood, Ongar	02
22/12	“Xmas Coppice” – Learning about woods, Chigwell Row Wood LNR, Chigwell	17
22/03	“Forester Day” Part 1 – Learning about woods, Waltham Abbey Scout Hut	11
23/03	“Forester Day” Part 2 – Learning about woods, Waltham Abbey Scout Hut	11

Appendix 8 - Young Countrycare “Rootlets”. (Activities for 5 – 10 year olds in partnership with EFDC’s Community Leisure.)

Date	Event	Attendance
16/04	“Pond Dipping” – Rootlets, Nazeing Scout Hut Pond, Nazeing	04
20/12	“Christmas Nature Walk and arts day” – Rootlets, Sheering Village Hall, Sheering	14

Appendix 9 - Summary of Budget, Income and Resources

2003/04			2004/05	
Budget	Actual		Budget	Actual
Expenditure				
3,230	2,448	Printing & Photocopying	3,050	2,205
19,670	15,813	Minor Works & Equipment	17,600	20,569
7,520	10,070	Planning & Environment Group	6,910	6,910
156,060	164,835	Countrycare Group Recharges	178,230	181,400
-	-	Community & Culture Recharges	6,410	6,410
1,260	1,298	Managerial & Professional	880	876
187,740	194,464	Total Expenditure	213,080	218,371
Income				
Grants, General Reimbursements &				
12,700	4,594	Contributions	13,120	14,441
260	212	Country Walk Leaflet Packs	150	39
12,960	4,806	Total Income	13,270	14,480
174,780	189,658	Net Expenditure	199,810	203,891

Grants and Donations (Selection of grants awarded this year)

Source	Project	
Essex Environment	Home Mead LNR Access Project	6,784
DEFRA	Countryside Stewardship	2,477
West Essex Ramblers	Donation PROW projects	1,406
Lambridge Group	Donation Tree planting projects	1,000
Jack Petchey Foundation	Award for work placement students	400

Volunteer Assistance (notional value of volunteer time based on a rate of £6.25 per hour given by English Nature)

Work on public rights of way network = 2,136 hours	13,350
Work on nature conservation projects = 6654 hours	28,237
Total 6,654 hours	41,587