

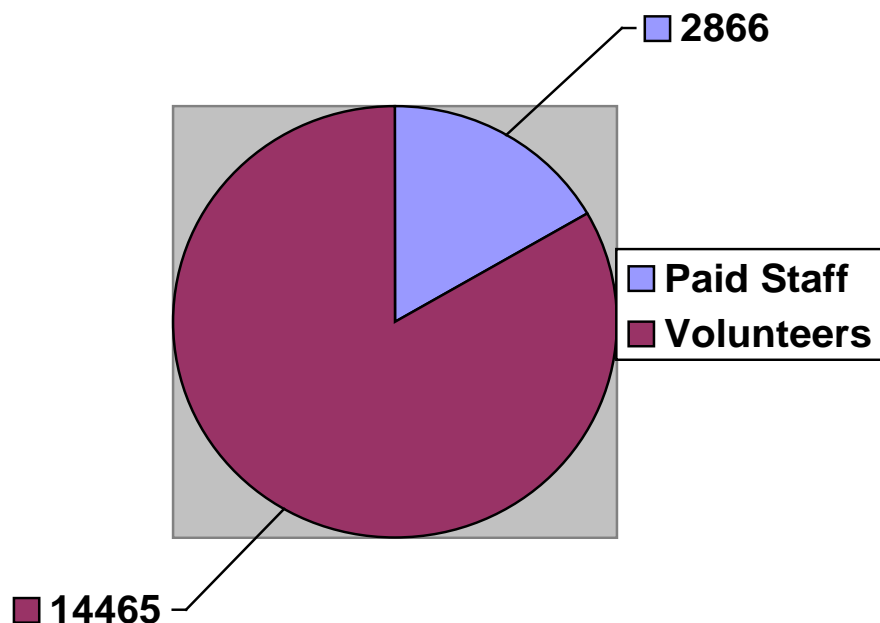
# HOW DO ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS BENEFIT THE ECONOMY IN THE EAST OF ENGLAND?

In the East of England there are a number of organisations who work to protect and enhance our environment. Some are charities, others are statutory bodies. Some are over a century old whereas others are far more recent. All have the environment as their main focus, though their particular specialisms vary widely from birds to biodiversity and woodlands to wetland.

Many of these are members of the East of England Environment Forum (EEEF). These include large national organisations such as the National Trust, RSPB and the Campaign to Protect Rural England as well as government bodies including the Forestry Commission, Environment Agency and Natural England

The environment makes a significant contribution to the economy in the East of England – a contribution that is all too often overlooked. This paper provides a brief overview showing how EEEF member organisations play a major role in boosting the economy in the East of England by creating jobs, providing training and using local services.

## EEEF Members create jobs and volunteering opportunities in the East of England

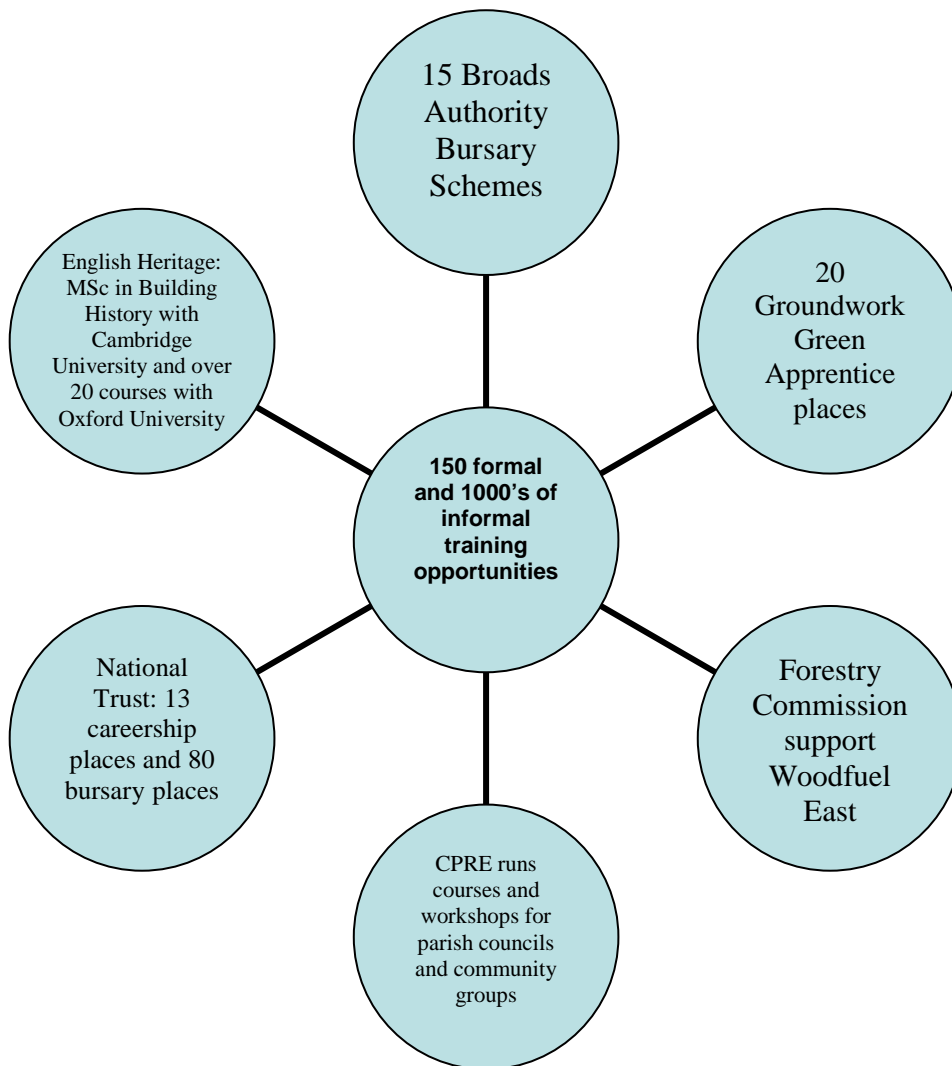


In an era of austerity and high unemployment the valuable contribution made by environmental organisations in the region in creating jobs cannot be overlooked. EEEF members create and secure thousand of jobs in the region and, while some are seasonal, very many are permanent. Often these jobs are in rural areas where other opportunities are hard to find. In so doing they reinforce vulnerable local communities. This relatively small work force manages land, habitat, property and services for the benefit of nearly 5.5 million residents and over 11 million visitors.

EEEF member organisations also provide many and varied volunteering opportunities. At a time when the limits of what the government can do are becoming clearer, volunteering can help meet important social needs, benefiting both individuals and the wider community and, on occasion, helping people back in to work.

The further scope for volunteering among EEEF members is huge: between them EEEF members such as CPRE, English Heritage, the National Trust, RSPB and the Wildlife Trusts have nearly six hundred thousand members in the region.

## Training and learning opportunities offered by EEEF member organisations

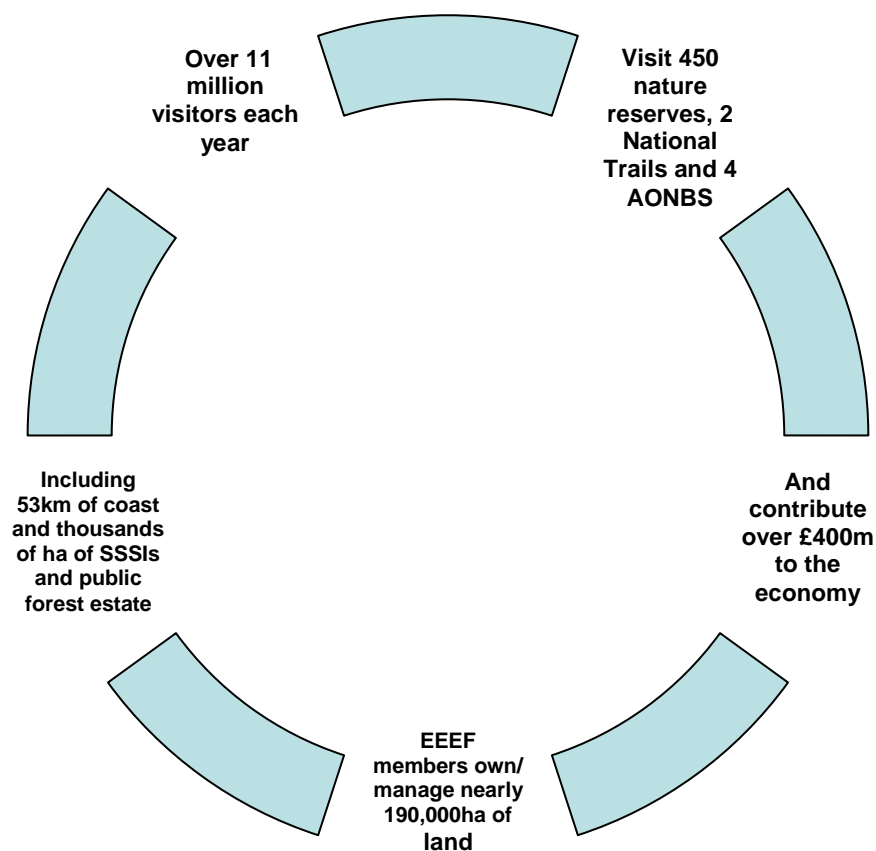


# Environmental organisations make a huge contribution to the economy and society in the Region

EEEF member organisations make a massive contribution to the economy in the East of England quite apart from the wider benefits secured for the environment.

For example, millions of people visit stately homes and historic properties maintained by the National Trust and reserves managed by the RSPB. Tourism is promoted benefiting hotels, pubs and local services. EEEF members own and manage almost two hundred thousand hectares of land in the East of England and supply a significant proportion of its agricultural produce.

Other contributions cannot be easily quantified but are just as valuable: the enhancement and protection of the countryside, valuing and supporting communities – both urban and rural – and promoting sustainability and a better quality of life.



- *Value of drinking water safeguarded by the Broads Authority - £17m*
- *The RSPB secured nearly £3m for farmers/landowners delivering optimal habitat management*
- *Groundwork planted 5737 trees and created or safeguarded 43 jobs in 2010/11*
- *The Wildlife Trust spent around £1m with local businesses in 08/09*
- *Between them, the organisations offer over 150 formal training, bursary or qualification courses or schemes, as well as a huge number of informal learning opportunities.*
- *The National Trust owns 57 properties in the region.*
- *EEEF organisations manage 53km of coast (402km in total in the region) and 190,000ha of land (for comparison, 1.4 million ha of land in the region is farmed).*
- *English Heritage has 49 properties in the East of England: 33 are free to visit*

**EEEF Member Organisations:**

Forestry Commission (FC)

The Broads Authority (BA)

Groundwork East of England

The National Trust (NT)

Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE)

Environment Agency (EA)

RSPB

Wildlife Trusts (WLT)

Woodland Trust (WT)

Natural England (NE)

Sustainable Transport for the East of England Region (STEER)

Civic Trust Societies

British Trust for Conservation Volunteers (BTCV)

The Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers (ALGAO)

English Heritage

**Sources**

East of England Regional Observatory

National Farming Union

Visit East of England