



WORLD
LAND
TRUST

news

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editorial

Jaguars, Film Stars, Rainforest. All in a day's work? Rarely.

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Moving?

Please be sure to let us have your new address so that we can keep your records up-to-date.

For further details on contacts and addresses please visit our website: www.worldlandtrust.org or telephone the WLT office

Registered charity: 1001291

It is a dilemma to know what to respond when people say, as they frequently do, something along the lines of "You are so lucky to go to such wonderful places as part of your work." Because, of course, it is true. Even so it is often on the tip of my tongue to snap "Yes, but it isn't a holiday and it is very hard work ... and when I get back there are vast quantities of urgent work to be done ... and I rarely get time in the field", and so on. Generally speaking I don't say any of these things because I do love my job and firmly believe that the principles on which the WLT is based are the only sure ways of saving wildlife and habitats. However, it would be nice to have a bit more time to look for the wildlife we are saving.

Take for instance the six days between 25 July to 1 August, just gone. Jaguar cars, long time supporters of conservation work in Belize, asked me to put together a group of journalists to go out to Belize to look at what conservation had achieved so far, and report back in the British press. What a wonderful opportunity this gave us to demonstrate how we had used supporters' donations and why we urgently needed to raise more funds. Two journalists came to mind immediately, award winning journalist of The Times, Simon Barnes, because of his genuine love of wilderness and his ability to inspire and enthuse about wildlife, and David Tomlinson, a freelance journalist who has been a tremendous supporter of the WLT since Day One. Simon, David and I were joined by Alison Jane Reid writing for Hello! Magazine, and Daryl Hannah, US film star of Kill Bill, Splash and Attack of the Fifty-foot Woman. You might wonder what a Hollywood film star wants with the jungles of Belize but in the US Daryl is a fervent campaigner on ecological issues. She wanted to see first hand what was being done by Programme for Belize.

After a 7am check-in at Gatwick, 16 hours later we touched down in Belize, followed by a three hour drive to the Rio Bravo Conservation and Management Area. Staying in the cabanas at PFB's La

Milpa field station, situated in the heart of the forests which WLT supporters helped save, was a good starting point. The accommodation is comfortable without being lavish, and the food is home-cooked and delicious. However, the insects were the worst I had known them - partly to do with the time of the year but also the heavy rains which preceded our visit. But this was no group to be found hiding behind mosquito nets. On the second day Simon and David drove off into the forest with the guides while I stayed behind to help with Daryl's photo shoot for Hello! I'll now hand over to Simon:

"There are two kinds of luck. The first comes from work, from the hours put in, from the ability to recognise and seize an opportunity. Call it deserved luck. The second kind is much better. It is the luck that comes from nowhere, the luck that comes as a whimsical blessing from fate. That is undeserved luck. It happens sometimes to those with a taste for the wild. And in PFB's Rio Bravo Conservation and Management Area it happened to me.

Vladimir Rodriguez has worked as a field naturalist for PFB for six years and he has seen them 14 times. Ramon Pacheco has worked as station manager at La Milpa for eight years, and has seen them eight times, John Burton, WLT CEO, has made "about 20" trips to Belize over the past 15 years and has never seen one.

My guide book to Belizean wildlife told me: "Banish all thoughts right now of encountering El Tigre". But with wildlife you never banish all thoughts. The secret is to set out with hopes high and expectations low. Even on your second day in the rainforests of Belize.

And there, as we hammered down a forest track in the pick-up, a wild yell from Vladimir, and Ramon was standing on his brakes: there ahead of us, nonchalant, burly, huge, perfect, a total embodiment of bottomless cool: the matchless spotted coat in perfect light as he watched us, turned and padded nonchalantly brimming with easy, understated confidence, back into the



PROGRAMME FOR
BELIZE



guts of the forest.

Jaguar. Or perhaps I mean: Jaguar! And we were swapping hand shakes and whooping and uttering prayerful obscenities (that was me) and wondering, above all, what we would say to Burton. For this, should you need me to tell you, is undeserved luck: and it was a great moment in a lifetime of chasing wildlife.

Looking for wildlife in the forest is not like the open plains of Africa. You need luck, and you need to revel in sudden, vivid glimpses. The forest teems with life, but it stores up the actual sightings as sudden, startling revelations. Everything, then, is to be treasured."

As you might imagine my journalist colleagues couldn't wait to get back to gloat. No, I couldn't convince them that seeing Jaguarundi was just as impressive. But Simon has put his finger on it when he says, it is the sudden startling revelations of the rainforest that are so amazing. Yes, seeing a Jaguar under any circumstances would be amazing, but all the brief, tantalising glimpses of rainforest wildlife are what give the forest their magical, mystical quality.

So, the trip to Belize was hard work. We travelled some 300 miles on pretty rough terrain during the four days we were there. I arrived back at Heathrow around 7am and at 1.30 I was stepping off the train at our small town of Halesworth in East Suffolk. It is a five minute walk from the station to the office, and I was back at work. After 24 hours travelling, give or take time differences, did I have a rest? No, I was ushered firmly to my desk to deal with the urgent backlog. So, do I enjoy my job? Yes, or as Simon might say, Yes! Again, as Simon so aptly summed up, "Jaguars, Daryl, the teeming forest, and the mosquitos: however tough I wouldn't have missed it for the world." I feel rather like that about my job as CEO of the World Land Trust.

The extracts in green above are taken from Simon Barnes' article published in The Times, 6 August. The full text appears on the WLT website.



Partners in Success

The creed of ecotourism is to "Leave nothing but footprints and take home nothing but photos and memories". Sensitive, small-scale tourism, is one of the ways that Programme for Belize is working towards sustainability, and last year Verla Neal, PFB's Tourism Development Officer and Vladimir Rodriguez (PFB Forest Guide) came to the UK for the first time to promote tourism on PFB lands. Sharing the WLT stand at the annual Bird Fair at Rutland Water their brochures attracted a lot of interest. This year Verla said "Last year was very successful for us. We had at least 25 people visiting after talking with us at the Fair. We now know the kind of questions that people ask and this year we feel sure that more people will want to come to Belize".

As well as Verla and Vladimir we were also joined at the Bird Fair by Francisco (Pancho) Sornoza (President of Fundación Jocotoco in Ecuador) and Marco Altamirano, Executive Director of the Ecuadorian Museum of Natural

Sciences in Quito. They were also in the UK for meetings with the WLT and the Natural History Museum (London). A four-way partnership between Quito Museum, FJ, the Natural History Museum and WLT is being drawn up to facilitate research on FJ reserves.

Visiting the land you have saved

For further information on visiting any of the WLT funded reserves please see our website:

www.worldlandtrust.org/projects/visit.htm
Or contact the WLT office: 01986 874422



Above: (l to r) Marco Altamirano, Francisco Sornoza, John Burton and Nigel Simpson (WLT Trustee and FJ Board member) 'in the field' in Suffolk, August 2005.

Save 4 Acres for a Jaguar for £100

A gift for yourself, or a loved one, A gift for the present, A gift for the future

See donation form insert

With Fundación Jocotoco in Ecuador



News from the Reserves:

Report from Francisco (Pancho) Sornoza, President of FJ in Ecuador

Tapichalaca

NEWLY DISCOVERED: The first ever nest of the elusive Maroon-chested Ground Dove. There are less than a dozen sightings recorded for this rare bird of the Andes, and it has never been seen in Tapichalaca before. The nest, discovered by visiting scientist Harold Greeney, was in a bamboo thicket quite close to the Jocotoco Antpitta's range.

A new 2.5 km trail beginning in the Ventanillas sector on the edge of the reserve, and finishing in the Christopher Parsons rainforest, is now completed. Along the trail you could encounter Mountain Tapir, Black and Chestnut Eagle and several species of Mountain Tanager.

On 7th June, a new purchase of 107 ha of forest, adjacent to the Christopher Parsons Rainforest, was completed

Radio communications between the Tapichalaca and Buenaventura Reserves and FJ's Quito office are now in place. This certainly makes contact a lot easier.

Buenaventura Reserve

An existing track running through the Buenaventura reserve created by the

Government more than 20 years ago, has been opened up to form an 11 km ecological route through the forests. Covering altitudes of 650 to 1,000 m above sea level this enables visitors to see a wide range of different vegetation including wonderful orchids, bromeliads and ferns. Several additional trails have been added, including the El Oro Parakeet Trail, Umbrellabird Trail and the Garden of Colibries (hummingbirds) where it is possible to see hundreds of individuals of several species. The route contains up to 300 species of birds, including the El Oro Parakeet, the El Oro Tapaculo, Long Wattled Umbrellabird, Gray-backed Hawk, Choco and Chestnut-mandibled Toucan as well as Mantled Howler Monkey, Puma, Ocelot, Peccary, Armadillo, Tayra, Coati, Sloth, Kinkajou and other mammals. There are also huge numbers of amphibians, including some colourful Poison Dart Frogs.

Ututana Reserve

A further 16 ha of forest has recently been purchased to extend the Ututana Reserve in the Province of Loja. This forest is important for the survival of many special bird species including Gray-headed Antbird, Black-crested Tit Tyrant, and Purple-throated Sunangel.



Canandé Reserve

Two pieces of forest have been acquired in the Chocó in the Provincia de Esmeraldas to extend the Rio Canandé reserve. A 33 ha plot is an important purchase, not only for its wildlife value but also for the water source which is used at the FJ field station. The second plot, of some 345 ha, with a high diversity of species of Choco birds, connects to the northeast of the Canandé Reserve. It is the best mature forest of the area, with an elevation from 250 m to 450 m above sea level, providing excellent habitat for the Great Green Macaw. FJ has paid the first installment of \$12,000 and the balance of approx. \$70,000 will be paid as soon as funds can be raised. This chunk of land was considered a priority as there was a risk that it would be sold to a lumber company.



Buenaventura

A small lodge is now available for use by visitors to the Buenaventura Reserve. Umbrellabird Lodge currently accommodates four people but is due to be extended in the near future to accommodate up to eight. This reserve protects a narrow zone of cloud forest habitat on the otherwise seasonally dry west slope of the Andes, in Southern Ecuador.

Several pairs of the endangered Umbrellabird (left) nest at Buenaventura. Members of the cotinga family, the male is blue-black with a spreading crest of arched feathers rising from the forehead and shaped like an umbrella. They also have a distinctive dewlap of skin on the breast. Females are brownish. They live in thick forests where they feed on fruit and nuts. As with so many endangered birds of the rainforest very little is known of their life history.

It's Official ... Jocotoco Bird is Emblem of the City of Quito.



On June 23 the Mayor and City Council of Quito declared the Black-breasted Puffleg the Emblem of the City. This beautiful little hummingbird is critically endangered and is only known from a small area around the Volcano Pichincha, less than 20 km from Quito. In a bid to save it from extinction Fundación Jocotoco has purchased the major part of its range which is now protected as the Yanacocha reserve. Quito City Council also plans to declare the Yanacocha Reserve as "Natural Heritage of Quito".

Congratulations to Nigel Simpson, WLT Trustee and FJ Board Member, who was awarded an OBE for services to environmental conservation in Ecuador in the Queen's Birthday Honours list in June.

Fundacion Jocotoco's Seventh reserve at Jorupe saving Tumbesian forest



Treasures of the Forgotten Forest

The Artists for Nature group visited the Jorupe reserve area (as well as reserves at Utuana and Buenaventura) when gathering material for their publication "Treasures of the Forgotten Forest". You can purchase a copy of this beautifully illustrated book for £30 (post free in the UK) from The Wildlife Art Gallery, 97 High Street, Lavenham, Suffolk CO10 9PZ. (Please make cheques payable to The Wildlife Art Gallery and mention WLT when ordering, or telephone them: 01787 248562).



To win a copy enter the competition on the back page.



With little more than seven percent of the Tumbesian dry forests of SW Ecuador in tact, and much of its biodiversity surviving only in small fragmented pockets, this region was a high priority for Fundación Jocotoco.

Known as Jorupe, FJ's latest reserve is situated close to border with Peru and protects numerous rare and endemic plants and animals. Surveys on this reserve have recorded several key bird species, including the globally threatened Rufous-headed Chachalaca, Henna-hooded and Rufous-necked Foliage-Gleaner, Slaty Becard, Gray-cheeked Parakeet and Pacific Royal Flycatcher.

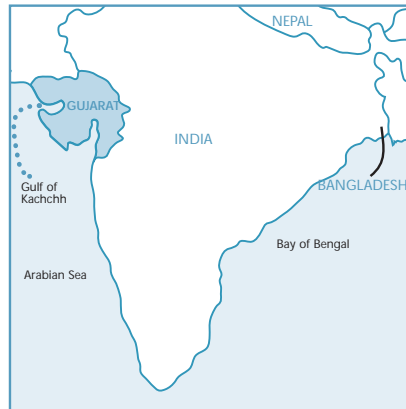
As well as the 250 ha reserve, FJ also has a 40% share in a 250 ha Community Forest higher up at 2,000 m which is jointly conserved for watershed. This reserve has convenient access for educational purposes and for visitors, and it is also quite close to the Utuana reserve which protects a remnant of high altitude semi-deciduous forest.

Above: The Tumbesian forests of SW Ecuador are dominated by the statuesque Ceiba trees (left) also known as the Kapok tree.

Reef & Mangrove Appeal India and the Philippines

WLT and its local partners are committed to saving critically threatened habitats, and their wildlife, throughout the world. And by saving vital habitats we are also helping save

Life on Earth. Mangroves protect vulnerable coastal communities and provide essential spawning grounds for fish and invertebrates, while coral reefs slow down potentially damaging tidal



Left: Danjugan Island, in the Visayan Island group, was purchased with funds donated by WLT supporters and is protected by the Philippine Reef & Rainforest Conservation Foundation. Mangrove replanting is being carried out on other islands in the Visayan group
Right: WLT will be starting a mangrove replanting and coral restoration project, jointly with the Wildlife Trust of India, focusing on the Gulf of Kachchh in Gujarat.

waves as well as acting as sensitive indicators of water quality. Coral reefs are also considered 'medicine chests' of the future, as scientists believe that their organisms could well hold the key to cures for cancer, and coral skeletons are already being used as bone substitutes in reconstructive bone surgery. Coral reefs are home to a huge concentration of wildlife and it is estimated that one-third of all fish species depend on coral for their existence. Although we hope to raise funds to replant and protect other mangrove and coral regions, we are concentrating on the Visayan Islands in the Philippines and the Gulf of Kachchh as our first two projects. See also page 7.

In Belize - Stars in the Rainforest



Daryl Hannah in Belize

When asked the question "What are your impressions of Programme for Belize and the challenges facing environmental protection?" Daryl Hannah replied

"I'd like to be positive but it shocks me that, in a country the size of Wales, this reserve is just over 250,000 acres. That sounds big but it isn't. It is scary and sad if that really is the best we can do as a human race to protect the rainforest.

"But there's hope too. The work that the charity [WLT] is doing is brilliant and inspired. It co-ordinates the purchase of endangered parts of the forest, then places them in trust for local people. It's a bold and great thing to figure out a way for the people who were born on this soil to sustain themselves economically, as well as preserve the forest for future generations. Now Programme for Belize wants to save another 160,000 acres of forest. And I want to help them".

Daryl Hannah visited the PFB lands with John Burton and a group of journalists. While in Belize she particularly enjoyed sightings of Toucan, Kinkajou and Morelet's crocodile. She also

encountered vast quantity of biting insects as well as a number of large spiders (commonly known as Tarantulas, but they aren't really). In fact these large spiders are very much stars of the rainforest. When you are out after dark spotlighting you are conscious of hundreds of single, 'cyclop' lights shining out of the darkness. These are the eyes of the many spiders of the forest. Spiders have eight eyes, which, when caught in the spotlight, sparkle as one large one. *"Handling these big, furry spiders is usually a cure for arachnophobia",* says John Burton. *"Most people start off thinking that they couldn't possibly handle one but when they do they feel quite a kinship with them and suddenly start laughing for some reason!"*

The trip to Belize was funded by Jaguar Cars and arranged by Verla Neal, the Programme for Belize Tourism Development Officer. We were all extremely impressed with the organisation of the visit: the itinerary worked like clockwork, transport arrangements and accommodation and food at La Milpa Field Station were all first class. So why not book yourself a few days in the forest? Verla can also organise your stay on the reef or anywhere else in Belize.

Email: pfbel@btl.net
www.pfbelize.org



PFB's exciting Harpy Eagle Restoration Project

The Harpy Eagle is one of the largest of the fifty species of eagle, and can be over a metre in length. They have a very restricted range and are now rare residents in Belize. In an attempt to build up numbers, PFB is involved in reintroduction on the Rio Bravo Conservation Area. The released birds are being monitored using radio collars and satellite transmitters. One of the birds has travelled over 100 km since his release in January 2005. His flights have taken him from Belize to Mexico, to Guatemala and back to Belize. Other introduced birds have remained in and around the Rio Bravo. PFB is working with The Peregrine Fund and its biologists and volunteers.

Right: A Harpy Eagle chick. Adults are monogamous and raise only one young every two or three years.



Saving the Coastal Steppe on The Ranch of Hopes

Surprises in Student Research

As part of the WLT's ongoing programme of cooperation with the University of East Anglia, we were pleased to be able to assist with placement of two Masters' Degree students. At the invitation of our Argentinian partners, Fundación Patagonia Natural, Ana Ribiero studied the impact of sheep grazing on the bird populations on the coastal steppe, and Rebecca Beale studied the competition between Maras (Patagonian Hare) and the introduced European Brown Hares.

Surprisingly, almost no differences were detected in the bird populations occurring in grazed areas when they were compared with the areas with no sheep present. However, a possible reason that Ana suggested, was that even in the areas where sheep are grazed on the Estancia la Esperanza (Ranch of Hopes), the densities are low, and the ungrazed areas may not have had sufficient time to recover from the effects of overgrazing. She concluded that long-term studies would be important to follow up her initial surveys. And perhaps more interestingly she suggested that managing the reserve to maintain a mosaic of areas, some heavily grazed, some lightly grazed and others ungrazed, would probably increase bird species diversity.



A Mara pup, also known as the Patagonia Hare.

The studies on Mara will also provide some base-line data for the management of the reserve, but these studies also highlighted the huge differences in the populations of the native Maras, and the introduced hares. The Mara is very localised, occurring in scattered pockets, whereas the Brown Hare is widespread and very abundant.

India - Saving vital elephant habitat

John Burton visits India to look at new project areas



A family group of elephants in N E India. Indian Elephants throughout their range are suffering from loss of habitat and persecution. A donation to the World Land Trust helps ensure their protection.

In April I visited India, first to talk with staff at the Wildlife Trust of India (WTI) about new projects, and then to look at some of the areas in urgent need of conservation. I was looking at both reef and mangrove sites as well as potential new elephant corridors.

It was obvious in Kerala that the elephants there are in real need of help. Their ranges are getting more and more limited and because of their need to travel over large distances in search of food they are very vulnerable to persecution outside protected areas. However, I was extremely impressed by the spirit of co-operation between the government forestry officials and the Wildlife Trust of India. There is no question that we are all speaking the same language and I am convinced that the programme to buy small areas of corridor between protected areas is the way to help elephant populations. It is a simple solution and everyone involved wants it to work. Those people selling their land really want to move on - elephants are a real problem in agricultural areas, and they also want to relocate nearer to schools and medical facilities. The forest department is keen to co-operate over issues such as patrolling the land when it is acquired. So, as soon as we have the funds we will

be able to give the go ahead to our Indian partners to start buying more corridors. Since the costs are from as little as US\$10,000, it is within the scope of individuals and business to save their 'own' corridor. It would also be possible to visit them.

Meanwhile the elephants in the Garo Hills are on their way to a safe future. Work is going well with the local community and funding has been transferred according to the agreement we have with the WTI.

Reef & Mangrove protection in India

From the hills of the Ghats I descended to the coast and visited some magnificent mangroves, which although under considerable pressure, still survive. It would be great if we could raise the funds to buy a few hundred acres of these remnants. They are very important to the structure of the coastline and the wildlife that depend on them.

From the coast of Kerala I went north to Gujarat, where I visited a coastal area with a coral reef that could only be described as 'trashed'. The fringing mangroves had been destroyed, and the silt released from the rivers had killed off almost all the coral. That was the bad news. The good news is that the forestry department has replanted 20 kms of mangroves along the coastline, and the silting is showing signs of slowing down and, they hope, may even stop in the near future. And there were tiny remnants of living coral. Despite a widespread belief that coral was almost impossible to transplant, experiments have shown that it is possible to transplant living corals, and this something that we will be working on with the Wildlife Trust of India.

We now have a Project Brief on the Reef & Mangrove Appeal. Let us know if you would like a copy. Contact details on page 2.

Save One Acre of Elephant Habitat, Ecuadorian Rainforest or Patagonia Coastal Steppe for just £25. The perfect gift for those who care about wildlife.

All donations go towards saving Real Acres in Real Places.

We will send you a personalised certificate to record your support, either for yourself or on behalf of a loved one. We will also enclose a beautiful card, specially designed for WLT by graphic artist, Bob Linney, a project brief and the latest issue of WLT News.



Weddings, Mountaineering and Cycle Treasure Hunts all raise funds for WLT's land purchase and protection



WLT Competition

Rowina Brunas and Paul Rushden - married 11 June

When planning their marriage, Rowina and Paul decided that instead of mundane wedding presents they would prefer WLT rainforest acres from friends and relatives. They raised a grand total of £1,425 to enable us to purchase and protect 57 acres on their behalf. Rowina wrote afterwards, "Many thanks for sending us the final list and certificate. Our guests were really happy to contribute to the WLT and we were so pleased with their generous contributions." Best wishes to Rowina and Paul for the future.

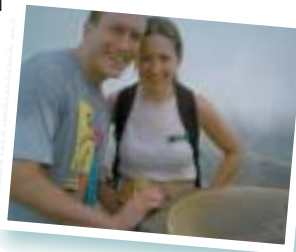


Cycling for WLT

In August WLT Intern, Vicky Evans organised a Cycle Treasure Hunt in East Anglia's Dunwich Forest (left) Competitors of all ages set out on a warm, wet Sunday morning and cycling through the dripping dense native woodland was not unlike being in the tropical forests of Ecuador which the event was raising funds to save. The Cycle Treasure Hunt was so successful that we plan to make this an annual event.

David Scott and Rachel Rowlands at the top of Snowden

On Sunday 17 July David Scott and his fiancé Rachel Rowlands completed the Three Peaks 24-hour Challenge in 21 hours and 40 minutes. (The Three Peaks being Ben Nevis, Scafell Pike and Snowdon). In May it was the Richmond Half Marathon and in March the Reading Half Marathon. Their aim was to raise £4,000 and as we go to press they have reached £3,884.51 and are hoping for a few last minute sponsors to bring them up to their target. They have their own website if you would like to help out. To see the web page Dave and Rachel created visit



www.justgiving.com/3-halves-3peaks

And their next challenge is their Wedding and again they have set up a special web page. David said, "we didn't really want to ask for any wedding presents, and would far rather that our guests make a donation to the WLT instead.

www.justgiving.com/david_and_rachel

Even sitting in silence raises funds!

Thirteen year old, Tori Ratcliffe from Fleet in Hampshire, decided to raise funds by holding a sponsored silence. She stayed silent for an impressive 12 hours and raised £120.31.

You can set up your own webpage to raise funds by visiting

www.justgiving.com/worldland/raisemoney or phone: 0800 028 6183 (UK only) for more information.

Or for more general advice telephone the WLT Office: 01986 874422

FIRST PRIZE:

Treasures of The Forgotten Forest, by The Artists for Nature

Answer the following 5 questions (all answers can be found in this newsletter):

In Ecuador, Tumbesian forest is found in:

- A) North-east
- B) Central
- C) South-west

A foliage-gleaner is:

- A) A Bird
- B) An Insect
- C) A mammal

Another name for the Ceiba tree is:

- A) Chiclé
- B) Rubber
- C) Kapok

Fundacion Jocotoco's new reserve at Jorupe is close to the border with:

- A) Peru
- B) Colombia
- C) Brazil

Umbrellabirds feed on:

- A) Fruit and nuts
- B) Insects
- C) Carrion

Send your answers with your name and address to:

WLT, Blyth House, Bridge Street, Halesworth, Suffolk IP19 8AB, UK

Entries to be received by: 10.02.2006

Prize kindly donated by the publisher, Andrew Haslen, Wildlife Art Gallery, Lavenham.

The winner of the Spring Competition was Mrs J C Bailey of Leicester



LAST WORD

One of the WLT's corporate sponsors, the Ecology Building Society, has raised £912.50 for the Trust by donating 25p for every survey form completed by its customers. The EBS is based in an award-winning, environmentally friendly building and an extension being added uses straw for the internal walls and sheep's wool as insulation.

Although we do not usually include inserts from other organisations we thought that supporters may be interested to know about EBS mortgages for eco-build and eco-renovation.