



The World Owl Trust Sanctuary for 49 species of owls from all over the world, the Trust's captive breeding and release programmes ensure the preservation of rare species such as barn and eagle owls. A barn owl was shown on the 17p in the 1986 Nature Conservation set, voted by *Bulletin* readers their favourite set that year.



National Space Science Centre Visitors to Leicester's Space Centre will be able to view the far reaches of the universe beneath the skies of a high-tech planetarium. Children in the Challenger Learning Centre can learn about astronauts and simulate the tasks they perform on a shuttle mission.



The Torrs Millennium Walkway From the steel cantilever bridge of this aerial walkway, curving across the sandstone landscape of Torrs Gorge in Derbyshire, visitors have a bird's-eye view of the River Goyt which powered textile mills in the Industrial Revolution, giving rise to the industrial town of New Mills.



Vincent Serventy/Telegraph Colour Library



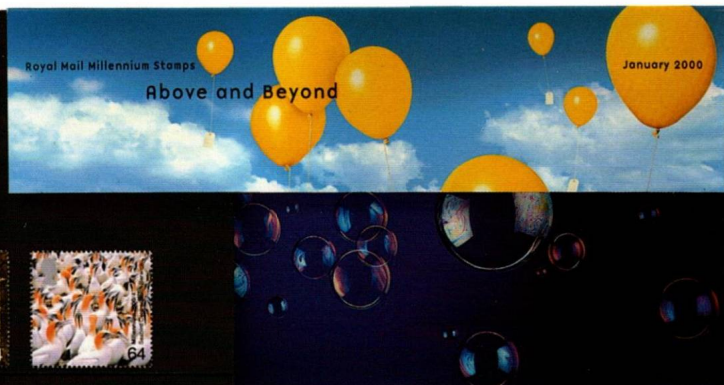
Scottish Seabird Centre Remote cameras will monitor the gannets on Bass Rock in North Berwick and relay live film to interactive displays at the Centre, allowing visitors to study the world's largest single rock gannetry. A gannet was shown on the 35p value of the Birds issue in January 1989.

Above and Beyond is the first set of 12 Millennium issues for 2000, inspired by Millennium projects throughout the UK. The 19p stamp features a barn owl, to represent the work of the World Owl Trust at Muncaster Castle, Cumbria

- The 26p denomination symbolises the National Space Science Centre in Leicester where visitors will be able to see the universe in a high-tech planetarium
- The Torrs Millennium Walkway, the last link in a 225-mile national walking route, is the subject of the 44p value
- The 64p depicts gannets on Bass Rock, which visitors will be able to study at the Scottish Seabird Centre, North Berwick



Above and Beyond goes on sale at post offices and philatelic outlets on 18 January



Technical details

Printer The House of Questa
Process 19p 26p 64p gravure
 44p litho
Size 37 x 35mm
Sheets 100
Perforation 14 x 14.5 44p;
 13 1/2 x 14 others
Phosphor One band 19p; two
 bands others
Gum PVA
Central gutter horizontal 44p;
 vertical others

A well-illustrated presentation pack (above, price £1.90) and stamp cards (price 25p each) will be available at main post offices and philatelic outlets.



Cylinders and colours

19p & 26p Q1 greenish yellow
 ● Q1 magenta ● Q1 pale new
 blue ● Q1 black ● Q1 silver
44p Q1 black ● Q1 bistre-
 brown ● Q1 buff ● Q1 silver
64p Q1 greenish yellow ● Q1
 magenta ● Q1 blue ● Q1 black
 ● Q1 silver ● Q1 orange
 All have Q1 phosphor number

FIRST DAY FACILITIES Unstamped Royal Mail FDC envelopes will be available from main post offices and philatelic outlets about a week before 18 January, price 25p. Orders for FDCs with the stamps cancelled by a pictorial first day postmark of the Bureau or Muncaster, Ravenglass must reach the Bureau by 18 January. Price £2.22 UK (including VAT) or £1.89 overseas (no VAT).

Collectors may send stamped covers on the day of issue to: British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, Edinburgh EH3 5TT, or Special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail, Forth Street, Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 1AA (Muncaster postmark), marking the outer envelope 'FD0001' (Bureau), or 'FD0002' (Muncaster). Covers can be posted or handed in at main post offices for the Muncaster postmark. A non-pictorial Muncaster postmark is also available from the Special Handstamp Centre, request 'FD0002 NP'.

Details of the Muncaster postmark, also sponsored handstamps for 18 January will be announced in the *British Postmark Bulletin* – available on subscription from the Bureau (£10 UK/Europe; £21.75 elsewhere). For a sample copy write to: The Editor, British Postmark Bulletin, Royal Mail, 2-14 Bunhill Row, London EC1Y 8HQ. Covers may bear just the 19p Above and Beyond stamp for any philatelic postmark in use on 18 January ●