

REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: 03889382 (England and Wales)
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1080838

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND
UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024
FOR
WILD GROUND

M. D. Coxey and Co. Limited
Chartered Accountants
25 Grosvenor Road
Wrexham
LL11 1BT

WILD GROUND

CONTENTS OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

	Page
Report of the Trustees	1 to 6
Independent Examiner's Report	7
Statement of Financial Activities	8
Balance Sheet	9 to 10
Cash Flow Statement	11
Notes to the Cash Flow Statement	12
Notes to the Financial Statements	13 to 19

WILD GROUND
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

The trustees who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31st March 2024. The trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and aims

Our mission is to engage, inspire and enthuse local communities, acting together to protect wildlife, and enhance habitats and eco-systems.

Our aims are:

1. To provide opportunities to all members of the community to connect with and to value their local wildlife;
2. To provide ecological training, providing learning opportunities for personal and professional skills development;
3. To create opportunities and provide support for a diverse range of volunteers;
4. To conserve habitats for the benefit of amphibian and reptile populations and other endangered wildlife.

Each year the trustees of the charity review the objectives and activities of the charity to ensure they continue to reflect the aims of the charity.

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Charitable activities

The Trustees are mindful of the Charity Commission's requirement to report on public benefit and the following summary of achievements and performance indicates how our activities contribute towards the public benefit.

It was another busy year with full engagement with schools, local communities, and other beneficiaries as well as with our volunteers, creating opportunities for all to understand, connect with and value their local environment and wildlife. The narrative which follows provides an account of Wild Ground's principal activities, as well as examples of its achievements during the year.

Wild Ground owns fifteen nature reserve sites which are grouped into thirteen reserves for management purposes. Most of the sites were taken on as mitigation sites for great crested newts. We manage the sites in a way which benefits wider biodiversity. Funds for the long-term management of these sites are made available via a one-off payment from the developer at the point of site transfer and are based on an agreed management plan. In addition to these land management funds four sites attract payment of rent charges from house owners. As well as owned sites, Wild Ground manages two sites with an amphibian and reptile interest on behalf of the site owners. Work on these sites is funded directly by the site owners.

The work is managed and carried out by our Reserves Team, which comprises the Head of Contracts and Project Delivery, and a small team of Reserves Officers. Some of the reserves have public footpaths and permissive footpaths which enable local communities to access and enjoy their local reserves. Wild Ground runs a full and varied volunteering programme, enabling local communities to support Wild Ground's work, get to know the reserves better and engage in personal and professional development.

Wild Ground holds occasional public events at sites that do not have open public access to engage with local communities and enable them to learn more about the nature reserves.

Wild Ground has for many years managed the Rhydymwyn Valley Nature Reserve (RVNR) site on behalf of Defra under a tendered contract. Since 2019 the contract had been subject to a series of fixed-term extensions, while Defra reviewed the future ownership of the site ahead of formal contract tender. The restrictions and complications arising from the pandemic added to the delay. This contracted work provides a significant proportion of Wild Ground's turnover and work activity. We were very pleased to win the most recent tender with an award of contract for one year from October 2022 and to be extended for a further year from October 2023, with the potential for extension for a further year after that.

Examples of Wild Ground's achievements during 2023-24 are set out below.

Annual Survey of Great Crested Newts

The annual survey of great crested newts took place in April and May 2023 and was completed in line with contract and SSSI requirements. The survey season is a major undertaking for Wild Ground requiring staff to work night shifts. Through careful planning we succeeded in carrying out our survey obligations as well as maintaining our regular work

WILD GROUND
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

with volunteers and schools and delivering our contractual obligations at our various nature reserve sites.

Newt Networks

In early 2023 we were delighted to be awarded £250k funding by the Nature Networks Fund (a Welsh Government grant programme delivered by the National Lottery Development Fund) to support our Newt Networks programme which started on 1st April 2023 and will extend over three years. By working in partnership and involving communities the programme aims to increase the resilience of the network of all our protected sites in Northeast Wales. The Wild Ground team are engaging with local communities, schools, and volunteers with the aim of making our site habitats more resilient and increasing nature connectivity. A wide range of enjoyable, accessible engagement activities to suit varied interests, abilities and access needs are being delivered. The programme also includes capital investment in sites to deliver habitat improvement, especially for great crested newts, and support partner neighbouring sites to improve connectivity. In the winter months capital works were delivered at Maes y Grug (pond creation), Knowle Hill (pond restoration, scrub management, and fencing), Spon Green (pond restoration), and Glascoed (pond restoration). All the capital works were designed to improve and expand suitable habitats for newts on the sites.

Woodland Wellness

Funded by Landfill Tax grant secured in 2022-23, this project has focused on woodland improvements at our Broughton, Knowle Hill and Maes y Grug reserves. The project has engaged volunteers to carry out woodland management. Volunteers have supported staff with tree planting, hedge laying and woodland thinning. Monthly wellbeing events have been held, including walks, bushcraft, and craft sessions. The project concluded in November 2023.

Rhydymwyn Valley Nature Reserve

Staff have continued to manage and deliver the contract for this Defra owned site. The contract stipulates a range of site management prescriptions and survey requirements. The contract is managed by Defra with monthly liaison meetings. In addition to an annual report, we are also required to report against KPIs and produce survey data at regular intervals. The most recent contract was awarded in October 2023 for one year with potential annual extensions for a further two years. The first of the annual extensions has been secured.

General Reserve Management

General reserve management has continued across our network of sites. Our team of reserves officers work across sites to ensure they are maintained safely and provide the best habitat for our range of supported species. The team provide a range of volunteer opportunities for local communities, deliver educational sessions to local schools, and organise events throughout the year. Work has been prioritised across all sites based on contractual obligations, project aims and commitments, and safety requirements. Priority sites with a designation or linked to a contract are maintained to a good or excellent standard, while other sites are maintained to a moderate or good standard. The focus of reserve management through the year included grassland management, access improvements, pond management, tree management, clearing invasive species, and infrastructure improvements such as fencing, bridge repairs and drainage. As regards site and tree safety, monthly safety checks have been recorded digitally using a mapping system, allowing staff to report issues directly via site maps, pinpointing the location accurately. We plan to use this system for tree safety checks in due course.

Volunteering

Support from our volunteers is vital to enable us to carry out some of our projects, it also enables us to engage local people in practical conservation work which brings immediate benefits to the local area and long-term benefits with increased local knowledge, enthusiasm and participant confidence and wellbeing. The monetary value of this contribution can be used to match funding received from outside sources to maximise the benefits financially and in terms of work completed on the ground.

Performance Measures	Actual
Trees Planted	15
Square metres of land Improved / maintained	277,000/542,000
Volunteers	325
Waste Removed from Public Spaces (kg)	870

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Financial position

The trustees have reviewed the Charity's need for reserves in line with the Charity Commission guidelines and the Group's Management Plan, Financial Forecast and Risk Assessment Policy.

Given the Charity's dependence on a mix of both contractual and discretionary grant income and to ensure that the Charity can run efficiently and to enable it to discharge its charitable duties, it is considered prudent to maintain unrestricted reserves of no less than three months of unrestricted expenditure. These are to cover costs such as salaries, repairs/replacements, and potential other employment costs. In the past this level of reserves has been shown to be sufficient to absorb unexpected setbacks and short-term fluctuations such as the mismatch between expenditure and discretionary grant income. In addition, the trustees anticipate having to absorb the shortfall between expenditure and income with regards to the managed sites and specific projects provided for in the restricted reserves: the unrestricted reserves need to be maintained to cover the anticipated shortfall. Unrestricted reserves as at 31st March 2024 amounted to £227,049

Principal funding sources

The Charity has a variety of funding streams which vary from short term to long term. This year the primary sources included continuing payments from Defra in respect of the Rhydymwyn nature reserve.

The Charity also receives land management funds from developers to cover the long-term management costs of nature reserves. These funds are calculated based on the management plan of the site over a 15-year period and paid as a lump sum to the Charity which it retains as deferred income. This enables the Charity to draw down annual amounts for most of its nature reserves which it then uses for conservation management and community works on the sites.

Other income sources include management contracts, consultancy, ground rent and property charges, and interest on bank deposits, as well as small amounts derived from donations and fundraising activities.

Total income for the year 2023-24 was £366,428. The main funding sources have been:

	£
National Lottery	129,789
Charitable grants	78,683
Public sector	69,884
Private sector	88,072

These figures allow for accrued and deferred income from all funding sources.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Investment policy and objectives

The trustees invest the Charity's funds in accordance with its investment policy which complies with the regulations and guidelines laid down by the Trustee Act 2000 (or a statutory re-enactment or modification of that Act) and legally binding restrictions as set out in the transfer documents of some sites.

As previously advised, following a significant injection of cash arising from the successful conclusion of the Lane End nature reserve transfer deal with Redrow Homes (North West) Ltd the trustees decided to invest £600k of Wild Ground's total cash balances (all restricted reserves) in a balanced and relatively low risk ethical investment portfolio comprising bonds, gilts, and shares, with the strategic objective to at least maintain purchasing power over the longer period by earning appropriate returns. Following a competitive selection process, Canaccord Genuity (CG) were appointed as our investment manager in March 2022. The two years which followed have seen turbulent times in the financial markets, because of the conflicts in the Ukraine and Middle East, high inflation, and political and economic instability. At 31st March 2024, the value of the investment portfolio stood at £563k—a reduction of £37k from the original investment sum but an increase of £10k over the equivalent 2023 valuation. Regular meetings continue to be held with CG to monitor their performance and the efficacy of the investment strategy with a view to further recovering ground and earning the targeted returns in the longer term. A formal review of arrangements is planned for the first quarter of 2024-25

To earn further returns from Wild Ground's cash holdings £100k continues to be held on deposit in an interest-bearing NatWest Treasury reserve account on a rolling fixed term basis, and a further £55k in a NatWest 35-day access account which also yields interest.

Sufficient liquidity has been retained to meet the organisation's working capital and foreseeable day-to-day needs and the balance of Wild Ground's cash at 31st March 2024 remained on instant access in a current account and a gold account

WILD GROUND
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

with CAF Bank, with a further sum in a NatWest current account.

FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

The Charity recognises the need to continue to work closely with partners and communities to ensure funding streams are maintained and aims and objectives are met. Whilst the Charity is continually striving to secure funding to meet its immediate needs, it also recognises the need to diversify funding streams and create innovative projects to secure income and to capture the support of the local communities it serves to ensure its continuing viability. To this end the Charity continues to consult with other third sector organisations, charities, and communities it already works with in addition to new community groups to examine how it can better serve local needs.

Mindful of the economic climate and the impact this is having on grant funding, the Charity is also pursuing closer collaboration with like-minded charities. It is hoped that developing closer working relationships with our partners, as well as developing new partnerships, will enable us to pool existing skills and knowledge as well as to work together on projects and fundraising for the benefit of partners and local communities alike.

Business plan priorities 2024-25

The trustees of Wild Ground continue to pursue the following business plan priorities as part of a strategy for ensuring the long-term sustainability of the Charity:

1. To increase and diversify funding streams,
2. To develop internal and external relationships via a fit for purpose governing document and a review of our membership offer, and
3. To build capacity within the organisation to grow and develop our service offer and the skills of our specialist team to deliver outcomes in pursuit of Wild Ground's mission.

The investment arrangements for Wild Ground's portfolio of investments will be reviewed in the first quarter of the year.

The GWNW Group's strategic plan for 2024-27 includes the following strategic goal for Wild Ground:

- To champion nature conservation through positive and proactive land management and help more people to experience and value open spaces

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing Document

The Charity is controlled by its governing document, the Memorandum and Articles of Association incorporated 6 December 1999, as amended by special resolutions dated 19 July 2005, 2 December 2014, 28 November 2016, 28 February 2019, and 6 October 2021, and constitutes a limited company, limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006.

Governance Review

A comprehensive review of the governance of Wild Ground and the other members of the GWNW Group was conducted in 2020-21 using the framework for governance reviews issued by the parent company. While the findings were generally positive, several improvement actions were identified which were approved by the Board and were progressively implemented with completion in 2023.

Recruitment and Appointment of New Trustees

Following an amendment to the Articles in February 2019, Trustees can be appointed by the member(s) at a general meeting. The members are mindful of their responsibilities towards trustee recruitment and regularly review the recruitment policy, as well as the induction and training offered to new Trustees. A further amendment was made to the Articles in October 2021 to align the appointment terms of Trustees with the three years which applies to the Trustees of Groundwork North Wales, the holding company.

Organisational Review

During the period of this report, Wild Ground has been effectively managed by a Board of Trustees who are responsible for the overall governance of the Charity, its financial stability and strategic direction. For the sake of administrative efficiency and except for the AGM and when otherwise determined, the governance and business of Wild Ground is conducted under the umbrella of the GWNW Group Board which meets on a quarterly basis, by GWNW's Finance and Human Resources Sub-Group which meets in the period between Board meetings, while risk assurance is overseen by the Group Board's Risk Assurance Sub-Group.

Day to day responsibility for the operational running of Wild Ground is delegated to the Head of Contracts and Project

WILD GROUND
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

Delivery, who line manages, supervises, and monitors work programmes undertaken by a team of 6 staff. Trustees are presented with regular progress reports on services and activities as well as financial reports; they exercise scrutiny and approve budgets.

Trustees also take responsibility for the development and approval of all company policies and procedures and for the recruitment and appointment of the most senior staff. Wild Ground is a subsidiary of Groundwork North Wales and benefits from the support of the parent's back-office functions in HR, Finance, Business Development, IT and Sales & Marketing, as well as sharing accommodation and the associated costs.

Related Parties

Wild Ground collaborates with a wide range of partners at local, regional, and national level. These include public bodies and other third sector organisations. The purpose of this collaboration is to develop new projects and services, to secure additional resources and to represent the third sector. A register of interests is kept, and the declaration of any potential conflicts is invited at each trustee meeting.

Risk Management

The trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the charity is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error. The controls that are in place to reduce the likelihood of risk occurring include:

1. Having strong financial controls and procedures in place,
2. Having a reserve policy in place,
3. Taking appropriate and timely financial advice.

Statement of public benefit

The Objects of Wild Ground as stated in the Memorandum and Articles of Association are: to promote and assist in the preservation and conservation of land in the areas of benefit (as defined below) which is of educational or scientific interest to the general public, including land within which the wildlife is in need of protection and including the improvement and maintenance of public parks, and to educate the public in all matters concerning wildlife and nature conservation.

The areas of benefit are Wales and England.

The trustees have taken note of the Charity Commission's guidance on 'public benefit' and trust that this report reflects that guidance. Wild Ground discharges its responsibility under 'public benefit' by working primarily in North East Wales to engage, inspire and enthuse local communities acting together, to protect wildlife, and enhance habitats and eco-systems as set out in 'Objectives and Activities'.

WILD GROUND
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Company number

03889382 (England and Wales)

Registered Charity number

1080838

Registered office

3-4 Plas Power Road

Tanyfron

Wrexham

LL11 5SZ

Trustees

S V Moore Retired

M Booker Retired

H E Wright Retired

N F Reader Retired

Independent Examiner

Joanne Evans

FCCA, ACA

M. D. Coxey and Co. Limited

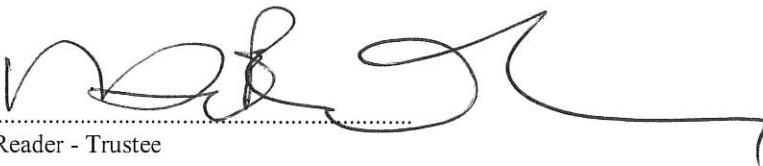
Chartered Accountants

25 Grosvenor Road

Wrexham

LL11 1BT

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 28th November 2024 and signed on its behalf by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'N F Reader', written over a dotted line.

N F Reader - Trustee

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF
WILD GROUND

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Wild Ground ('the Company')

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 31st March 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees of the Company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5) (b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

Since your charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a listed body. I can confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a registered member of FCCA, ACA which is one of the listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities (applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)).

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Joanne Evans
FCCA, ACA
M. D. Coxey and Co. Limited
Chartered Accountants
25 Grosvenor Road
Wrexham
LL11 1BT

Date: 28th November 2024

WILD GROUND

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
(INCORPORATING AN INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	31.3.24 Total funds £	31.3.23 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Donations and legacies	2	154,187	208,472	362,659	238,993
Investment income	3	<u>3,769</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>3,769</u>	<u>539</u>
Total		157,956	208,472	366,428	239,532
EXPENDITURE ON					
Charitable activities	4				
Salaries and Wages		57,129	89,024	146,153	103,096
Office Expenses		88,883	89,038	177,922	152,727
(Surplus)/Loss on investment revaluation			(9,963)	(9,963)	46,859
		<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>
Total		146,013	168,099	314,111	302,682
		<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>
NET INCOME		11,943	40,373	52,316	(63,150)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		215,106	871,186	1,086,292	1,149,442
		<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		<u>227,049</u>	<u>911,559</u>	<u>1,138,608</u>	<u>1,086,292</u>

WILD GROUND

BALANCE SHEET
31ST MARCH 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	31.3.24 Total funds £	31.3.23 Total funds £
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	10	28,780		28,780	30,169
Heritage assets	11	<u> </u>	<u>305,044</u>	<u>305,044</u>	<u>305,044</u>
		28,780	305,044	333,824	335,213
 CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	12	74,174		74,174	79,602
Investments	13		563,104	563,104	553,141
Cash at bank and in hand		216,564	64,328	280,893	226,306
		<u>290,738</u>	<u>627,432</u>	<u>918,170</u>	<u>859,049</u>
 CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	14	(20,889)		(20,889)	(22,128)
		<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
 NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>269,849</u>	<u>627,432</u>	<u>897,281</u>	<u>836,921</u>
 TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		298,629	932,476	1,231,105	1,172,134
 ACCRUALS AND DEFERRED INCOME	15	(71,580)	(20,917)	(92,497)	(85,842)
		<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
 NET ASSETS		<u>227,049</u>	<u>911,559</u>	<u>1,138,610</u>	<u>1,086,292</u>
 FUNDS	16				
Unrestricted funds				227,049	215,106
Restricted funds				<u>911,559</u>	<u>871,186</u>
 TOTAL FUNDS				<u>1,138,608</u>	<u>1,086,292</u>

The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31st March 2024.


The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 31st March 2024 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for

- (a) ensuring that the charitable company keeps accounting records that comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006 and
- (b) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at the end of each financial year and of its surplus or deficit for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of Sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the charitable company.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to charitable companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 28th November 2024, and were signed on its behalf by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'N F Reader', written over a dotted line.

N F Reader - Trustee

WILD GROUND
CASH FLOW STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

	Notes	31.3.24 £	31.3.23 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Cash generated from operations	1	<u>58,503</u>	<u>(36,548)</u>
Net cash provided by operating activities		<u>58,503</u>	<u>(36,548)</u>
 Cash flows from investing activities			
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(7,685)	(14,163)
Purchase of heritage assets		-	-
Sale of tangible fixed assets		-	275
Purchase of other investments		-	-
Interest received		<u>3,769</u>	<u>539</u>
Net cash (used in)/provided by investing activities		<u>(3,916)</u>	<u>(13,349)</u>
 Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period		 54,587	 (49,897)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		<u>226,306</u>	<u>276,203</u>
 Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period		<u>280,893</u>	<u>226,306</u>

The notes form part of these financial statements

WILD GROUND

NOTES TO THE CASH FLOW STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

1. RECONCILIATION OF NET INCOME TO NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

	31.3.24 £	31.3.23 £
Net income for the reporting period (as per the Statement of Financial Activities)	52,316	(63,150)
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges	9,074	5,708
Interest received	(3,769)	(539)
Increase/(Decrease) in group creditor	(1,617)	(59,253)
Decrease/(increase) in Investments	(9,963)	46,859
Decrease in stocks	-	-
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	5,428	54,311
(Decrease)/increase in creditors	<u>7,034</u>	<u>(20,486)</u>
Net cash provided by operations	<u>58,503</u>	<u>(36,548)</u>

2. ANALYSIS OF CHANGES IN NET FUNDS

	At 1.4.23 £	Cash flow £	At 31.3.24 £
Net cash			
Cash at bank and in hand	<u>226,306</u>	<u>54,587</u>	<u>280,893</u>
	<u>226,306</u>	<u>54,587</u>	<u>280,893</u>
Liquid resources			
Deposits included in cash	-		
Current asset investments	<u>553,141</u>	<u>9,963</u>	<u>563,104</u>
	<u>553,141</u>	<u>9,963</u>	<u>563,104</u>
Total	<u>779,447</u>	<u>64,550</u>	<u>843,997</u>

WILD GROUND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statements of the charitable company, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, as modified by the revaluation of certain assets.

The company's presentational currency is pound sterling.

Income

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Tangible fixed assets

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

Plant and machinery	- 20% on cost
Fixtures and fittings	- 33% on cost
Motor vehicles	- 20% on cost
Computer equipment	- 20% on cost

Heritage assets

The charity's accounting policy for its heritage assets is to value at cost where a site has been purchased or at fair value for donated sites. At present all sites have been acquired through section 106 agreements with local authorities. The charity has adopted the policy under FRS 102 section 18.19 to treat the initial valuation as deemed cost.

No depreciation is provided in respect of freehold land.

Stocks

Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value, after making due allowance for obsolete and slow moving items.

Investments

Interest-bearing bank deposits are held at cash value. Longer term investments are stated at the relevant market valuation.

Taxation

The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

Pension costs and other post-retirement benefits

The charitable company operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions payable to the charitable company's pension scheme are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate.

WILD GROUND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

2. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	31.3.24	31.3.23
	£	£
Donations	24	507
Grants	208,472	68,444
Rent charge	4,050	4,731
Land management	<u>150,113</u>	<u>165,311</u>
	<u>362,659</u>	<u>238,993</u>

Grants received, included in the above, are as follows:

	31.3.24	31.3.23
	£	£
WCVA	48,125	32,721
Heritage Lottery	129,789	35,723
Groundwork UK	2,998	-
Swire Charitable Trust	2,576	-
Postcode Community Trust	<u>24,983</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>208,471</u>	<u>68,444</u>

3. INVESTMENT INCOME

	31.3.24	31.3.23
	£	£
Deposit account interest	<u>3,769</u>	<u>539</u>

4. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES COSTS

	Direct Costs £	Support costs (see note 5)	Totals £
Salaries and Wages	146,153		146,153
Office Expenses	173,162	4,759	177,922
(Surplus)/Loss on investment revaluation	<u>(9,963)</u>		<u>(9,963)</u>
	<u>309,352</u>	<u>4,759</u>	<u>314,111</u>

5. SUPPORT COSTS

	Governance Costs £
Office Expenses	<u>4,759</u>

6. NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)

Net income/(expenditure) is stated after charging/(crediting):

	31.3.24	31.3.23
	£	£
Depreciation - owned assets	<u>9,074</u>	<u>5,709</u>

WILD GROUND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

7. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31st March 2024 nor for the year ended 31st March 2023.

Trustees' expenses

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 31st March 2024 nor for the year ended 31st March 2023.

8. STAFF COSTS

	31.3.24	31.3.23
	£	£
Wages and salaries	133,326	93,736
Social security costs	8,234	6,124
Other pension costs	<u>4,592</u>	<u>3,236</u>
	<u>146,153</u>	<u>103,096</u>

The average monthly number of employees during the year was as follows:

	31.3.24	31.3.23
	7	7
Office, management & operational	<u>7</u>	<u>7</u>

No employees received emoluments in excess of £60,000.

9. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM			
Donations and legacies	170,549	68,444	238,993
Other trading activities	-	-	-
Investment income	<u>539</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>539</u>
Total	171,088	68,444	239,532
EXPENDITURE ON			
Charitable activities			
Salaries and Wages	62,811	40,285	103,096
Office Expenses	109,845	42,882	152,727
Loss on Investment Revaluation	-	46,859	46,859
	<u>172,656</u>	<u>130,026</u>	<u>302,682</u>
Total			
NET INCOME	(1,568)	(61,582)	(63,150)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS			
Total funds brought forward	216,674	932,768	1,149,442
	<u>215,106</u>	<u>871,186</u>	<u>1,086,292</u>
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD			

WILD GROUND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

10. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Improvements to property £	Plant and machinery £	Fixtures and fittings £
COST			
At 1st April 2023	10,459	58,833	11,232
Additions	-	4,369	-
Disposals	-	-	-
At 31st March 2024	<u>10,459</u>	<u>63,202</u>	<u>11,232</u>
DEPRECIATION			
At 1st April 2023	4,890	58,833	11,232
Charge for year	<u>1,046</u>	<u>874</u>	-
At 31st March 2024	<u>5,936</u>	<u>59,707</u>	<u>11,232</u>
NET BOOK VALUE			
At 31st March 2024	<u>4,523</u>	<u>3,496</u>	-
At 31st March 2023	<u>5,569</u>	-	-

	Motor vehicles £	Computer equipment £	Totals £
COST			
At 1st April 2023	36,475	16,579	133,578
Additions	2,832	483	7,685
Disposals	-	-	-
At 31st March 2024	<u>39,307</u>	<u>17,062</u>	<u>141,263</u>
DEPRECIATION			
At 1st April 2023	11,875	16,579	103,409
Charge for year	<u>7,033</u>	<u>121</u>	<u>9,074</u>
At 31st March 2024	<u>18,908</u>	<u>16,700</u>	<u>112,483</u>
NET BOOK VALUE			
At 31st March 2024	<u>20,399</u>	<u>362</u>	<u>28,780</u>
At 31st March 2023	<u>24,600</u>	-	<u>30,169</u>

11. HERITAGE ASSETS

	Total £
MARKET VALUE	
At 1st April 2023 and 31st March 2024	<u>305,044</u>
NET BOOK VALUE	
At 31st March 2024	<u>305,044</u>
At 31st March 2023	<u>305,044</u>

The directors have valued the Heritage Assets having sought advice.

WILD GROUND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

12. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	31.3.24	31.3.23
	£	£
Trade debtors	13,843	15,452
Amounts owed by group undertakings	43,320	43,320
Accrual income	16,780	19,638
Prepayments	<u>231</u>	<u>1,192</u>
	<u>74,174</u>	<u>79,602</u>

13. CURRENT ASSET INVESTMENTS

	31.3.23	31.3.24
	£	£
Other	<u>563,104</u>	<u>553,141</u>

14. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	31.3.24	31.3.23
	£	£
Trade creditors	334	4,134
Amounts owed to group undertakings	12,687	14,304
VAT	4,830	728
Accrued expenses	<u>3,038</u>	<u>2,962</u>
	<u>20,889</u>	<u>22,128</u>

15. ACCRUALS AND DEFERRED INCOME

	31.3.24	31.3.23
	£	£
Accruals and deferred income	<u>92,497</u>	<u>85,842</u>

16. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1.4.23	Net movement in funds	At 31.3.24
	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds			
Group Fund	215,106	11,943	227,049
Restricted funds			
Restricted Fund	871,186	40,373	911,559
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>1,086,292</u>	<u>52,316</u>	<u>1,138,608</u>

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
Group Fund	157,956	146,013	11,943
Restricted funds			
Restricted Fund	208,472	168,099	40,373
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>366,428</u>	<u>314,111</u>	<u>52,316</u>

WILD GROUND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

16. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued
Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1.4.22 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31.3.23 £
Unrestricted funds			
Group Fund	216,674	(1,568)	215,106
Restricted funds			
Restricted Fund	<u>932,768</u>	<u>(61,582)</u>	<u>871,186</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>1,149,442</u>	<u>(63,150)</u>	<u>1,086,292</u>

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
Group Fund	171,088	(172,656)	(1,568)
Restricted funds			
Restricted Fund	<u>68,444</u>	<u>(130,026)</u>	<u>(61,582)</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>239,532</u>	<u>(302,682)</u>	<u>(63,150)</u>

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined position is as follows:

	At 1.4.22 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31.3.24 £
Unrestricted funds			
Group Fund	216,674	10,375	227,049
Restricted funds			
Restricted Fund	<u>932,768</u>	<u>(21,209)</u>	<u>911,559</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>1,149,442</u>	<u>(10,834)</u>	<u>1,138,608</u>

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
Group Fund	329,044	318,669	10,375
Restricted funds			
Restricted Fund	<u>276,916</u>	<u>298,125</u>	<u>(21,209)</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>605,960</u>	<u>616,793</u>	<u>(10,834)</u>

Unrestricted Reserves

Group fund is an unrestricted reserve which represents the surplus amounts carried forward to future periods for general spending on site maintenance and other costs determined by the Board of Trustees. The receipt of funding has not been contingent on the resources being expended for any purpose other than that determined by the Board of Trustees.

WILD GROUND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

17. ULTIMATE PARENT COMPANY

The company is under the control of Groundwork North Wales, the parent charity.

Groundwork North Wales is a registered charity, number 1004132. Its Company Registration Number is 02614714. The charity has the following aims and objectives:

- To promote the conservation, protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment including that which is of educational or scientific interest to the general public or within which the wildlife is in need of protection and including the improvement and maintenance of public parks.
- To advance public education in environmental matters and in all matters concerning wildlife and nature conservation, in the ways of better conserving, protecting, and improving the same wheresoever.
- To conserve and protect the physical and natural environment by promotion of sustainable waste management practices in accordance with the best practicable environmental option.
- The promotion for the benefit of the public of urban or rural regeneration of areas in social or economic deprivation, by relieving poverty or financial hardship through improving the employability of disadvantaged individuals through the provision of work placement, affordable childcare, training and volunteering opportunities, the provision of quality affordable furniture and household goods, the provision of items such as food and energy efficiency measures and energy efficiency advice.
- To provide facilities for recreation and other leisure-time occupation in the interests of social welfare with the object of improving the conditions of life for the persons for whom they are intended.
- To advance cultural well-being through people's engagement with the arts and the nation's built and natural heritage.

Groundwork North Wales has the same registered office as Wild Ground.

18. CAPITAL COMMITMENTS

	31.3.24	31.3.23
	£	£
Contracted but not provided for in the financial statements	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

19. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

During the year, the charity purchased services and delivery and overhead recharges from the parent charity amounting to £239,814 (2023: £192,586) and sold services and overhead recharges to the parent charity amounting to £11,724 (2023: £11,669).

During the year, the charity purchased services and delivery and overhead recharges from the Refurbs Flintshire charity amounting to £18.98 (2023: nil) and sold services and overhead recharges to the Refurbs Flintshire charity amounting to £7,969 (2023: £7,969).

20. LEGAL STATUS OF THE CHARITY

The charity is a company limited by guarantee and has no share capital.

Every member promises, if the charity is dissolved while they remain a member or within 12 months of their resignation as a member, to pay up to £1 towards the cost of dissolution and the liabilities incurred by the charity.