

**Watchtree Nature Reserve  
Limited**

(A company limited by guarantee)

**Annual Report and Financial  
Statements**

**31 March 2024**

Company registration number: 05214585

Charity registration number: 1127029



## **Watchtree Nature Reserve Limited**

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**Watchtree Nature Reserve Limited**  
**Reference and Administrative Details**

<b>Charity name</b>	Watchtree Nature Reserve Limited
<b>Charity registration number</b>	1127029
<b>Company registration number</b>	05214585
<b>Principal office</b>	Watchtree Great Orton CARLISLE CA5 6NL
<b>Registered office</b>	Watchtree Great Orton CARLISLE CA5 6NL
<b>Trustees</b>	C M Tinker  B Bowe  R W Bushby  W Little  F J Mawby  R W S Speirs  N Latimer  A G Roberts  K A Jones       (Appointment 1 November 2023)  J Fell           (Appointed 1 November 2023)
<b>Bankers</b>	The Co-Operative Bank PLC 1 Ballon Street MANCHESTER M60 4EP
<b>Accountant</b>	Dodd & Co Audit Limited FIFTEEN Rosehill Montgomery Way Rosehill Estate CARLISLE CA1 2RW
<b>Investment Advisor</b>	David Allen Financial Services Dalmar House Barras Lane Estate Dalston CARLISLE CA5 7NY

**Watchtree Nature Reserve Limited**  
**Trustees' Report for the Year Ended 31 March 2024**

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in the accounts and comply with the charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2011 and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland.

**Foreword by Richard Speirs, Watchtree Chair**

In our last Annual Report we focused on our progress against the Key Performance Indicators (KPI's) in our Strategy Plan. Whilst the report contained a lot of information regarding what had happened in 2022-23 and where performance had improved or needed future attention it wasn't exactly a readable document.

So, for this report we are going back to our traditional format to let you know some of the high points of the last 12 months. We still work towards our KPI's and measure our performance against them. This information is important to assure potential funders that we do work within an overall Strategy and that we continually monitor how we are progressing.

**Structure, Governance, and Management**

**Governing Document**

The company was incorporated on 25 August 2004 as a company limited by guarantee and is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association. The company was registered with the Charity Commission on 3 December 2008 (Charity number 1127029) and has a registered office at Watchtree, Great Orton, Carlisle. Cumbria. CA5 6NL.

The Trustees are appointed by the members at the AGM. The Chair of the board is responsible for the induction of any new trustees.

**Objectives and Activities**

The objectives of the charity are to:

- Maintain, improve or provide public amenities,
- Promote for the public benefit the Watchtree site in Cumbria and its environs, in particular by associating local community organisations in a common effort to advance education, to relieve poverty, need and hardship, to provide facilities for leisure time occupation in the interests of social welfare and to conserve and improve the environment.

The charity maintains Watchtree Nature Reserve for visitors, school parties and groups and continues to develop the wheelers facility providing cycles for use by disabled groups and individuals.

In setting the objects of the charity, the trustees have paid due regard to the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit.

**Risk Management**

The trustees have assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed, in particular those related to the operations and finances of the charity and are satisfied that systems and procedures are in place to mitigate exposure to the major risks.

**Finance Review**

Financially, we are covering our costs and have made a healthy surplus on the year of just under £34,000. During this year we have invested in assets such as a new dry store for the café and the, much appreciated, Gelato Parlour. For Watchtree Wheelers operations we converted a garage into a proper cycle workshop which should make conditions much better for those who work on the bikes in cold and wet weather. We also put timber cladding on the building to improve its appearance.



**Watchtree Nature Reserve Limited**  
**Trustees' Report for the Year Ended 31 March 2024**

Whilst on the subject of the Wheelers we were saddened to see Matt Wind move from Watchtree to another organisation. Cycle hire continues to be a particularly important function for us, during the year we recorded 11,632 hirings. Sales of quality second hand cycles and new parts increased by £4,000 from 2023 to £25,451. This additional income was very much welcomed as our staffing costs have continually increased in line with visitor demand. We now employ 11.6 Full Time Equivalent staff to cope with the numbers of visitors Watchtree receives. The steady increase in visitor numbers is making itself apparent in that our car parking space is proving inadequate on a more frequent basis.

This has the knock on effect of cars parking on the entrance road and roadside verges where they can obstruct normal traffic. To this end a major plan for next year is to increase car parking spaces. This will be done using plastic mesh over grassland rather than creating a solid surface in order to minimise environmental damage.

We never forget that Watchtree was initially created as a Nature Reserve and we continue to develop and improve what we have on site. The quality of our wildflower meadows was reflected in a noticeable increase in 5 and 6 spot Burnett Moths. We have also seen a steady increase in the number of orchids, even in the areas disturbed by the excavations to replace the electricity supply to the Visitor Centre.

Our volunteers repaired some of our bird hides and we have plans for further renewal works next year. We also started a programme of installing deer fencing to protect important scrub areas and minimise the loss of important bird nesting habitats. Our recently planned Jubilee woodland is developing well but will still require a lot of maintenance until the trees become more established.

The majority of work on the reserve is carried out by our amazing team of volunteers who meet twice a week and ensure that hedges, fences, ditches and woodland are properly maintained and cared for. Without their invaluable help Watchtree could not continue as it does now. They always manage to successfully resolve any problems that come up during the year.

We have always been keen to develop as an Education and Welfare resource and, thanks to Leanne Fisher, this last year saw a significant increase in the number of school visits. Our education work, linked into Forest Schools, has an increasing range of user diversity from Special Educational Needs schools and groups throughout Cumbria. Our Kids club events are always popular and ensure that children can learn to value and appreciate their environment.

We organised many events during the year, from our running, cycling and walking challenges through to local history and astronomy nights. Some of these only ask for donations but others do require a minimal charge to cover costs. Overall, 1337 people took part in the year's events. Although we arrange many of the events ourselves, we again rely heavily on two volunteers, Morag and Dave, who organise virtually all the running and walking events.

A major part of our day to day income comes from the cafe and this year saw an increase of over 20% from the previous 12 months. During the year we said goodbye to Sarah Sessford who managed and developed the café so effectively, we wish her well in her newly married life. The café is also another area where we benefit from the enthusiasm and willingness of regular volunteers.

We also fully recognise the value of our members who now number over 1,000 and whose subscriptions make a valuable addition to our income.

Whilst our regular income enables us to largely cover our day to day costs we have to rely on external charities and other funders for any major improvements and projects. Thanks to the skill of several of our employees in identifying suitable sources and submitting appropriate bids we were successful in attracting funds of over £48,000 during the year. All of which is being used to improve visitor experience and ensure that Watchtree continues to provide an important community and educational resource.

### **Reserves**

The Watchtree Nature Reserve reserves policy was reviewed and updated during August 2024.

The trustees have set a level equivalent to six months of operating costs for the organisation as a desired level of reserve. This fund is a contingency in the event of a sudden reduction in income, in order to protect the future operation of the organisation from the effects of any unforeseen variations in its income and expenditure. It also provides a cash flow for grants and contracts that are paid in arrears.

**Watchtree Nature Reserve Limited**  
**Trustees' Report for the Year Ended 31 March 2024**

The trustees have designated reserves where there are planned commitments that cannot be met by anticipated future income alone. These reserves are broken down into a number of funds that relate to:

- The organisation's responsibilities as an employer to hold sufficient funds to provide proper notice and redundancy costs in the event of closure.
- The organisation's responsibilities as a leaseholder to maintain and improve the Nature Reserve for public benefit.

The reserves policy and the levels of reserves required are reviewed yearly as part of the annual budgetary process.

Free reserves at the year-end are £166,730 (excluding fixed asset investments) and therefore sufficient to meet these costs.

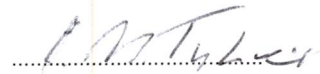
To finish I must express the appreciation of the Directors and myself to our wonderful employees and crucially to the volunteers whose dedication consistently proves invaluable in making Watchtree the valued place that it has become.

Richard Speirs Chairman

**Small company provisions**

This report has been prepared in accordance with the small companies regime under the Companies Act 2006.

Approved by the Board on 9 October 2024 and signed on its behalf by:



C M Tinker  
Trustee



R W S Speirs  
Trustee

## **Watchtree Nature Reserve Limited**

### **Trustees' Responsibilities in relation to the Financial Statements**

The trustees (who are also directors of Watchtree Nature Reserve Limited for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and the Financial Reporting Standard 102 - 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland'.

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.



## **Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of**

### **Watchtree Nature Reserve Limited**

I report on the accounts of the company for the year ended 31 March 2024, which are set out on pages 7 to 23.

#### **Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner**

The trustees (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales.

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006 and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145 (5) (b) of the 2011 Act; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

#### **Basis of independent examiner's report**

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

#### **Independent examiner's statement**

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
  - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; and
  - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records, comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charitieshave not been met; or
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

  
Joanne Thomlinson FCA  
Dodd & Co Limited  
Chartered Accountants

9 October 2024

FIFTEEN Rosehill  
Montgomery Way  
Rosehill Estate  
CARLISLE  
CA1 2RW

## Watchtree Nature Reserve Limited

### Statement of Financial Activities (including Income and Expenditure Account and Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses) for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2024	Total Funds 2023
	Note	£	£	£	£
<b>Income</b>					
Donations and legacies	2	27,004	48,327	75,331	37,429
Other trading activities	3	25,541	-	25,541	21,406
Investment income	4	9,050	-	9,050	6,566
Charitable activities	5	310,035	-	310,035	265,291
Total income		371,630	48,327	419,957	330,692
<b>Expenditure</b>					
Charitable activities		382,269	32,456	414,725	346,574
Cost of raising funds		2,567	-	2,567	2,512
Total expenditure		384,836	32,456	417,292	349,086
<b>Transfers</b>					
Transfers between funds		(9,301)	9,301	-	-
Gains/(losses) on investment assets		31,248	-	31,248	(23,741)
Net income/(expenditure)		8,741	25,172	33,913	(42,135)
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>					
Total funds brought forward		479,073	18,310	497,383	539,518
Total funds carried forward		487,814	43,482	531,296	497,383

All of the Charity's activities derive from continuing operations during the above periods.

**Watchtree Nature Reserve Limited**  
**Company registration number: 05214585**  
**Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2024**

		2024		2023	
	Note	£	£	£	£
<b>Fixed assets</b>					
Tangible assets	11		77,498		70,597
Investments	12		243,586		262,465
			<u>321,084</u>		<u>333,062</u>
<b>Current assets</b>					
Stocks and work in progress		1,996		1,500	
Debtors	13	12,352		5,307	
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>240,156</u>		<u>182,494</u>	
		254,504		189,301	
<b>Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year</b>	14	<u>(44,292)</u>		<u>(24,980)</u>	
<b>Net current assets</b>			<u>210,212</u>		<u>164,321</u>
<b>Net assets</b>			<u>531,296</u>		<u>497,383</u>
<b>The funds of the charity:</b>					
<b>Restricted funds in surplus</b>			43,482		23,840
<b>Restricted funds in deficit</b>					
Jubilee Wood			-		(5,530)
<b>Total restricted funds</b>			<u>43,482</u>		<u>18,310</u>
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>					
Unrestricted income funds			<u>487,814</u>		<u>479,073</u>
<b>Total charity funds</b>			<u>531,296</u>		<u>497,383</u>

The notes on pages 10 to 23 form an integral part of these financial statements.

**Watchtree Nature Reserve Limited**  
**Company registration number: 05214585**  
**Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2024**

..... continued

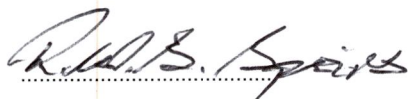
For the financial year ended 31 March 2024, the charity was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006.

The members have not required the charity to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476 of the Act.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

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

Approved by the Board on 9 October 2024 and signed on its behalf by:



R W S Speirs  
Trustee

The notes on pages 10 to 23 form an integral part of these financial statements.

## **Watchtree Nature Reserve Limited**

### **Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2024**

#### **1 Accounting policies**

##### **Summary of significant accounting policies and key accounting estimates**

The principal accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all the years presented, unless otherwise stated.

##### **Statement of compliance**

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with 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) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

##### **Basis of preparation**

The charitable company meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes.

##### **Going concern**

These financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis.

The trustees assess whether the use of going concern is appropriate i.e. whether there are any material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the ability of the Charity to continue as a going concern. The trustees make this assessment in respect of a period of one year from the date of approval of the financial statements.

##### **Fund accounting policy**

Unrestricted income funds are general funds that are available for use at the trustees' discretion in furtherance of the objectives of the charity.

Restricted income funds are those donated for use in a particular area or for specific purposes, the use of which is restricted to that area or purpose.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds set aside at the discretion of the trustees for specific purposes.

Further details of each fund are disclosed in note 18.



## Watchtree Nature Reserve Limited

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

..... continued

#### Income and endowments

Donations are recognised when the Charity has been notified in writing of both the amount and settlement date. In the event that a donation is subject to conditions that require a level of performance by the Charity before the Charity is entitled to the funds, the income is deferred and not recognised until either those conditions are fully met, or the fulfilment of those conditions is wholly within the control of the Charity and it is probable that these conditions will be fulfilled in the reporting period.

Legacy gifts are recognised on a case by case basis following the grant of probate when the administrator/executor for the estate has communicated in writing both the amount and settlement date. In the event that the gift is in the form of an asset other than cash or a financial asset traded on a recognised stock exchange, recognition is subject to the value of the gift being reliably measured with a degree of reasonable accuracy and the title to the asset having been transferred to the Charity.

Income from Government and other grants, whether 'capital' grants or 'revenue' grants, is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the grants have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably and is not deferred.

Deferred income represents amounts received for future periods and is released to incoming resources in the period for which, it has been received. Such income is only deferred when:

- The donor specifies that the grant or donation must only be used in future accounting periods; or
- The donor has imposed conditions which must be met before the charity has unconditional entitlement.

Cafe income and income derived from events is recognised as earned (that is, as the related goods or services are provided).

Investment income is recognised on a receivable basis.

Income from charitable activities includes income recognised as earned (as the related goods or services are provided) under contract.

#### Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to the expenditure. All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category.

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

#### Support costs

Support costs include central functions and have been allocated to activity cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of resources, for example, allocating property costs by floor areas, or per capita, staff costs by the time spent and other costs by their usage.

#### Irrecoverable VAT

Irrecoverable VAT is charged against the category of resources expended for which it was incurred.

#### Taxation

The Charity is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the Charity is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3 Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

## Watchtree Nature Reserve Limited

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

..... continued

#### Fixed assets

Individual fixed assets costing £100 or more are initially recorded at cost.

#### Depreciation

Depreciation is provided on tangible fixed assets so as to write off the cost or valuation, less any estimated residual value, over their expected useful economic life as follows:

Plant and machinery	25% reducing balance basis
Fixtures and fittings	25% reducing balance basis
Computer equipment	25% reducing balance basis

#### Investments

Fixed asset investments are included at market value at the balance sheet date.

Realised gains and losses on investments are calculated as the difference between sales proceeds and their market value at the start of the year, or their subsequent cost, and are charged or credited to the statement of the financial activities in the period of disposal.

Unrealised gains and losses represent the movement in market values during the year and are credited or charged to the statement of financial activities based on the market value at the year end.

#### Stock

Stock is valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value, after due regard for obsolete and slow moving stocks. Net realisable value is based on selling price less anticipated costs to completion and selling costs. Items donated for resale or distribution are not included in the financial statements until they are sold or distributed.

#### Trade Debtors

Trade debtors are amounts due from customers for merchandise sold or services performed in the ordinary course of business. Trade debtors are recognised initially at the transaction price. They are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less provision for impairment. A provision for the impairment of trade debtors is established when there is objective evidence that the Charity will not be able to collect all amounts due according to the original terms of the receivables.

#### Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash on hand and call deposits, and other short-term highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to a known amount of cash and are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value.

#### Liabilities

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of business from suppliers. Accounts payable are classified as current liabilities if the Charity does not have an unconditional right, at the end of the reporting period, to defer settlement of the creditor for at least twelve months after the reporting date. If there is an unconditional right to defer settlement for at least twelve months after the reporting date, they are presented as non-current liabilities.

Trade creditors are recognised initially at the transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

## **Watchtree Nature Reserve Limited**

### **Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2024**

..... continued

#### **Operating leases**

Leases in which substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership are retained by the lessor are classified as operating leases. Rentals payable under operating leases are charged in the Statement of Financial Activities on a straight line basis over the lease term.

#### **Pensions**

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions are charged in the statement of financial activities as they become payable in accordance with the rules of the scheme.

#### **Financial instruments**

Financial assets and financial liabilities are recognised when the charity becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument. Financial liabilities and equity instruments are classified according to the substance of the contractual arrangements entered into. An equity instrument is any contract that evidences a residual interest in the assets of the Charity after deducting all of its liabilities.

All financial assets and liabilities are initially measured at transaction price (including transaction costs), except for those financial assets classified as at fair value through profit or loss, which are initially measured at fair value (which is normally the transaction price excluding transaction costs), unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction. If an arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, the financial asset or financial liability is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest for a similar debt instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are only offset in the statement of financial position when, and only when there exists a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and the Charity intends either to settle on a net basis, or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Financial assets are derecognised when and only when a) the contractual rights to the cash flows from the financial asset expire or are settled, b) the Charity transfers to another party substantially all of the risks and rewards of ownership of the financial asset, or c) the Charity, despite having retained some, but not all, significant risks and rewards of ownership, has transferred control of the asset to another party.

Financial liabilities are derecognised only when the obligation specified in the contract is discharged, cancelled or expires.



**Watchtree Nature Reserve Limited**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2024**

..... continued

**2 Donations and legacies**

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2023 £
<b>Donations and legacies</b>				
Legacies and bequests	-	-	-	1,933
Appeals and donations	17,570	-	17,570	15,294
Sponsorship	2,165	2,000	4,165	-
Calendar donations	7,269	-	7,269	8,284
	<u>27,004</u>	<u>2,000</u>	<u>29,004</u>	<u>25,511</u>
<b>Grants</b>				
Cumbria Community Foundation	-	-	-	970
RPA	-	12,885	12,885	-
Other agencies	-	13,442	13,442	8,573
Joyce Wilkinson	-	-	-	2,375
Ernest Cook	-	20,000	20,000	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>46,327</u>	<u>46,327</u>	<u>11,918</u>
	<u>27,004</u>	<u>48,327</u>	<u>75,331</u>	<u>37,429</u>

Of the donations and legacies income in 2023, £30,659 related to unrestricted funds and £6,770 related to restricted funds.

**3 Other trading activities**

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2023 £
Sale of bikes and parts	<u>25,541</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>25,541</u>	<u>21,406</u>

All of the other trading activities income in 2023 related to unrestricted funds.

**4 Investment income**

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2023 £
Dividends and interest received	4,934	-	4,934	4,842
Bank interest	4,116	-	4,116	1,724
	<u>9,050</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>9,050</u>	<u>6,566</u>

All of the investment income in 2023 related to unrestricted funds.

**Watchtree Nature Reserve Limited**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2024**

..... continued

**5 Charitable activities**

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2023 £
Membership	25,328	-	25,328	24,780
Cycle income	61,837	-	61,837	57,618
Cafe Sales	184,629	-	184,629	145,021
Grazing income	3,520	-	3,520	3,620
Education and events income	15,152	-	15,152	15,951
Other income	19,569	-	19,569	18,301
	<u>310,035</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>310,035</u>	<u>265,291</u>

All of the income from charitable activities in 2023 related to unrestricted funds.

Watchtree Nature Reserve Limited

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

..... continued

6 Expenditure

	Nature reserve activities	Investment managem - ent	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£
<b>Direct costs</b>				
Purchases	91,972	-	91,972	68,744
Wages and salaries	239,717	-	239,717	193,705
Staff NIC (Employers)	7,006	-	7,006	5,765
Staff pensions	8,751	-	8,751	7,769
Land maintenance	1,604	-	1,604	1,010
Portfolio management costs	-	2,567	2,567	2,512
Insurance	5,308	-	5,308	5,129
Repairs and maintenance	4,551	-	4,551	9,231
Hire of plant and machinery	2,168	-	2,168	784
Depreciation of plant and machinery	22,393	-	22,393	21,717
	<u>383,470</u>	<u>2,567</u>	<u>386,037</u>	<u>316,366</u>
<b>Support costs</b>				
Staff training	765	-	765	3,454
Volunteer expenses	1,677	-	1,677	1,285
Telephone and fax	1,078	-	1,078	1,588
Computer software and maintenance costs	2,987	-	2,987	4,429
Printing, postage and stationery	2,676	-	2,676	2,822
Sundry expenses	1,312	-	1,312	1,290
Advertising	2,081	-	2,081	1,386
Accountancy fees	5,562	-	5,562	3,623
Independent examiner's fee	500	-	500	500
Legal and professional fees	7,036	-	7,036	5,844
Bank charges	5,581	-	5,581	5,426
(Profit)/loss on sale of tangible fixed assets held for charity's own use	-	-	-	1,073
	<u>31,255</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>31,255</u>	<u>32,720</u>
	<u>414,725</u>	<u>2,567</u>	<u>417,292</u>	<u>349,086</u>

Of the expenditure in 2023, £346,574 related to unrestricted funds and £2,512 related to restricted funds.

**Watchtree Nature Reserve Limited**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2024**

..... continued

**7 Governance costs**

	2024	2023
	£	£
Accountancy fees	5,562	3,623
Independent examiner's fee	500	500
Legal and professional fees	7,036	5,844
Portfolio management fees	2,567	2,512
	<u>15,665</u>	<u>12,479</u>

**8 Trustees' remuneration and expenses**

During the year no trustees were reimbursed expenses (2023: £nil). No trustees received any remuneration during the year.

**9 Net income/(expenditure)**

Net income/(expenditure) is stated after charging:

	2024	2023
	£	£
(Profit)/loss on disposal of tangible fixed assets	-	1,073
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	<u>22,393</u>	<u>21,717</u>

**10 Employees' remuneration**

The monthly average number of persons (including senior management) employed by the charity during the year was as follows:

	2024	2023
	No.	No.
Charitable activities	<u>27</u>	<u>20</u>

The aggregate payroll costs of these persons were as follows:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Wages and salaries	239,717	193,705
Social security	7,006	5,765
Other pension costs	8,751	7,769
	<u>255,474</u>	<u>207,239</u>

No employee received emoluments of more than £60,000 during the year.

The key management personnel comprise the Trustees and reserve manager. The total employee benefits of the key management personnel of the Charity were £37,226 (2023 - £34,190).

**Watchtree Nature Reserve Limited**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2024**

..... continued

**11 Tangible fixed assets**

	<b>Plant and machinery including motor vehicles £</b>	<b>Fixtures, fittings and equipment £</b>	<b>Total £</b>
<b>Cost</b>			
As at 1 April 2023	94,226	89,885	184,111
Additions	8,443	20,852	29,295
As at 31 March 2024	<u>102,669</u>	<u>110,737</u>	<u>213,406</u>
<b>Depreciation</b>			
As at 1 April 2023	44,406	69,108	113,514
Charge for the year	13,750	8,644	22,394
As at 31 March 2024	<u>58,156</u>	<u>77,752</u>	<u>135,908</u>
<b>Net book value</b>			
As at 31 March 2024	<u>44,513</u>	<u>32,985</u>	<u>77,498</u>
As at 31 March 2023	<u>49,820</u>	<u>20,777</u>	<u>70,597</u>

**12 Investments held as fixed assets**

	<b>Listed investments £</b>
<b>Market value</b>	
As at 1 April 2023	262,465
Revaluation	15,988
Disposals	<u>(34,867)</u>
As at 31 March 2024	<u>243,586</u>
<b>Net book value</b>	
As at 31 March 2024	<u>243,586</u>
As at 31 March 2023	<u>262,465</u>

All investment assets were held in the UK.

**Listed investments**

Investments having a net book value of £243,586 (2023 - £262,465) are listed on a recognised stock exchange and had a market value of £243,586 at the end of the year (2023 - £262,465).



**Watchtree Nature Reserve Limited**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2024**

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**13 Debtors**

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Trade debtors	2,215	1,676
Prepayments and accrued income	10,137	3,631
	<u>12,352</u>	<u>5,307</u>

**14 Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year**

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Trade creditors	9,587	1,868
Taxation and social security	13,074	9,527
Accruals and deferred income	21,631	13,585
	<u>44,292</u>	<u>24,980</u>

Creditors amounts falling due within one year includes deferred income:

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
As at 1 April 2023	10,622	9,935
Amount deferred in the year	333	687
As at 31 March 2024	<u>10,955</u>	<u>10,622</u>

**15 Members' liability**

The charity is a private company limited by guarantee and consequently does not have share capital. Each of the members is liable to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 towards the assets of the charity in the event of liquidation.

**16 Pension scheme**

**Defined contribution pension scheme**

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The pension cost charge for the period represents contributions payable by the charity to the scheme and amounted to £8,751 (2023 - £7,769).

There were no outstanding or prepaid contributions at either the beginning or end of the financial year.

**Watchtree Nature Reserve Limited**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2024**

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**17 Related parties**

**Controlling entity**

The charity is controlled by the trustees who are all directors of the company.

**18 Analysis of funds**

	At 1 April 2023	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	Other recognised gains/ losses	At 31 March 2024
	£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Designated Funds</b>						
General purpose reserve fund	-	-	-	200,000	-	200,000
Designated reserve fund	-	-	-	200,000	-	200,000
	-	-	-	400,000	-	400,000
<b>General Funds</b>						
General unrestricted funds	479,073	371,630	(384,836)	(409,301)	31,248	87,814
<b>Restricted Funds</b>						
Trail Project	18,900	3,400	(3,488)	-	-	18,812
Education Peoples Project	-	20,000	-	-	-	20,000
Kitchen Refurbishment	4,027	-	(13,328)	9,301	-	-
CCF Tools & equipment	913	-	-	-	-	913
Jubilee Wood	(5,530)	12,885	(3,598)	-	-	3,757
Education Fund	-	12,042	(12,042)	-	-	-
	18,310	48,327	(32,456)	9,301	-	43,482
	497,383	419,957	(417,292)	-	31,248	531,296

General purpose reserve fund: Funds to provide six months salaries and employers' NI contributions. Redundancy liabilities (and required notice period) based on statutory minimum payments for all staff.

Designated reserve fund: Funds to maintain, repair and improve premises and facilities owned and held on lease. Sums to contribute to external grant funding for specific developments as per Strategy Plan Objective.

**Watchtree Nature Reserve Limited**

**Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2024**

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Trail Project: The fund is being used to re-surface existing multi-use trails to improve the recreation Watchtree Nature Reserve offers to the community making it accessible to all.

Education Peoples Project: A 3 year fund through Ernest Cook to contribute towards an education officer salary.

Kitchen Refurbishment: A fund to update the facilities in the reserve Cafe's kitchen to widen it's appeal and increase it's capabilities.

CCF Tools and Equipment: A grant received for the acquisition of tools necessary for ongoing charitable operations.

Jubilee Wood: A grant received towards planting trees within the nature reserve.

Education fund: Miscellaneous grants received for the ongoing provision of educational workshops and activities.

**Watchtree Nature Reserve Limited**

**Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2024**

..... continued

**Prior period**

	At 1 April 2022	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	Other recognised gains/ losses	At 31 March 2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>General Funds</b>						
General unrestricted funds	510,538	323,922	(335,645)	3,999	(23,741)	479,073
<b>Restricted Funds</b>						
Trail Project	18,900	-	-	-	-	18,900
Education People's Project	5,054	2,300	(7,354)	-	-	-
Kitchen Refurbishment	1,027	3,000	-	-	-	4,027
Adaptive Fleet	3,999	-	-	(3,999)	-	-
Replacement CCF Tools & Equipment	-	970	(57)	-	-	913
Jubilee Wood	-	500	(6,030)	-	-	(5,530)
	<u>28,980</u>	<u>6,770</u>	<u>(13,441)</u>	<u>(3,999)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>18,310</u>
	<u>539,518</u>	<u>330,692</u>	<u>(349,086)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(23,741)</u>	<u>497,383</u>

**19 Transfers**

The transfer from unrestricted funds to restricted funds represents an overspend of restricted grant income received for the purposes of kitchen refurbishment.

The transfer within unrestricted funds relates to the designation of funds by trustees for specific purposes.

Watchtree Nature Reserve Limited

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

..... continued

20 Net assets by fund

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2024	Total Funds 2023
	£	£	£	£
Tangible assets	77,498	-	77,498	70,597
Investments	243,586	-	243,586	262,465
Current assets	211,022	43,482	254,504	189,301
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	(44,292)	-	(44,292)	(24,980)
Net assets	<u>487,814</u>	<u>43,482</u>	<u>531,296</u>	<u>497,383</u>

Prior period

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2023	Total Funds 2022
	£	£	£	£
Tangible assets	70,597	-	70,597	71,640
Investments	262,465	-	262,465	286,187
Current assets	170,991	18,310	189,301	202,471
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	(24,980)	-	(24,980)	(20,780)
Net assets	<u>479,073</u>	<u>18,310</u>	<u>497,383</u>	<u>539,518</u>