

WILD OXFORDSHIRE

England & Wales · Charity number 1131540

Details

Other names	OXFORDSHIRE NATURE CONSERVATION FORUM LTD, ONCF, WILD OXFORDSHIRE
Status	Registered
Legal form	Charitable company
Company number	06828051
Registered	2009-09-08
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	The Manor House Little Wittenham Abingdon OX14 4RA
Phone	01865407034
Email	laura@wildoxfordshire.org.uk
Website	www.wildoxfordshire.org.uk

Activities

Objects: TO CONSERVE AND IMPROVE OXFORDSHIRE'S NATURAL ENVIRONMENT FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT

Activities: Wild Oxfordshire's aim is to improve Oxfordshire's environment. It does this by drawing together all the groups that have an impact on conservation in Oxfordshire, with the aim of working together so that duplication of effort is avoided and the scarce resources of time and money are optimised.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Human Resources, Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Acts As An Umbrella Or Resource Body
- **What:** Environment/conservation/heritage
- **Who:** Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** OXFORDSHIRE
- Oxfordshire

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£680,397	£695,334	£385,326	11
2024-03-31	£726,418	£712,433	£343,691	9
2023-03-31	£458,848	£460,400	-	-
2022-03-31	£436,174	£379,859	-	-
2021-03-31	£407,512	£361,145	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Dr David Knight		2021-01-15
Ebony Brie Holland		2023-06-07
Fiona Danks		2020-12-09
Frances Brindle		2024-09-25
Jane Ibrahim		2025-06-04
Nicola Hindle		2024-09-25
Sarah Leatherbarrow		2024-09-25
Sathvika Krishnan		2025-12-03
Timothy Walter John Lowth		2025-06-04

WILD OXFORDSHIRE

England & Wales - Charity number 1131540

Accounts



Wild Oxfordshire

Trustees' report and financial statements 1st April 2024 to 31st March 2025

Company number 06828051

Charity number 1131540

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Together for Nature

Legal and Administrative Information

Trustees/Company Directors

Victoria Robinson (re-elected 4th December 2024)

Fiona Danks (re-elected 4th December 2024)

Nick Rowe (re-elected 4th December 2024)

David Knight (elected 15th February 2021)

Mike Russell (Treasurer) (elected 10th December 2020)

Ebony Holland (elected 7th June 2023)

Frances Brindle (elected 25th September 2024)

Nicola Hindle (elected 25th September 2024)

Sarah Leatherbarrow (elected 25th September 2024)

Ian Curtis (resigned 25 October 2024)

Pete Cranston (resigned 5 March 2025)

Fiona Racher (resigned 7 November 2024)

Tim Lowth (elected 4 June 2025)

Jane Ibrahim (elected 4 June 2025)

Secretary

Laura Murphy (appointed 7 June 2023)

Wild Oxfordshire

Charity number 1131540 (registered 9th September 2009)

Company number 06828051 (registered 24th February 2009)

Registered Office: Bull Pen, Manor House, Little Wittenham, Abingdon OX14 4RA

Independent Examiner: Certax Accounting, Little Sturt, Oxford Rd, Burford, Oxon, OX14 4ET

Bank: CAF Bank Ltd., PO Box 289, West Malling, Kent ME19 4TA

Investment Manager: CCLA Investment Management Ltd, 85 Victoria St, London EC4V 4ET

Contact: Laura Murphy, Manor House, Little Wittenham, Abingdon, Oxon OX14 4RA

Number of employees: 11

Web Site: www.wildoxfordshire.org.uk

Trustees' Annual Report

Structure, Governance and Management

Wild Oxfordshire is incorporated as a company limited by guarantee and governed by Memorandum and Articles.

The Trustees are elected by the members of the charity at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) each year with one third standing down each year but eligible for re-election indefinitely. The Chair of Trustees is appointed by the Board from time to time.

The Board of Trustees

Wild Oxfordshire's Board of Trustees has an upper limit of 12 to enable the broad partnership that is the core of the charity's purpose to be fully represented. Development of the Board is seen as an ongoing process, with review of representation and skills carried out in response to vacancies as they arise, and a more structured skills audit carried out periodically. New Trustees are given an induction into the work and policies of the Charity.

The trustees retain authority and decision-making powers in respect of the key areas of Wild Oxfordshire's activities. The day-to-day overall executive leadership of activities are delegated to the Chief Executive, who started in June 2020.

Chairman's Report 2024/25

Wild Oxfordshire exists to help create a more natural, resilient and biodiverse County for the benefit of all. So how do we achieve this?

We focus on the change-makers that can make this happen - the owners and managers of land from gardens to estates, and those with responsibility for the quality of our streams and rivers. We also focus on those who can influence the change-makers such as community members, politicians, and policy-makers.

Many of Oxfordshire's landowners and managers are doing the right thing for nature and then our role is to thank them, amplifying their stories to help inspire others.

Where needed, we help remove blockers, and foster the right conditions to trigger changes in land management practices which favour nature recovery alongside other considerations such as the need to produce food, to remain financially sustainable, and to enable people to connect with nature.

The UK Government is seeking to reverse the decline in biodiversity by the year 2030. Many recent reports show that they are currently off-target and must do so much better to stop and reverse that decline. However, we do have some policy tools that can help us change hearts and minds.

Perhaps most obvious are financial incentives and these are now coming in stream, whether they are the imperfect environmental land management scheme (ELMS) to promote nature-friendly farming or Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) requirements for new development, generating money that can be either spent on making the development more biodiverse or on the biodiversity hotspots around the County identified in our Local Nature Recovery Strategy. Also coming on stream are the first natural capital projects in the County, putting a financial value on ecosystem services such as carbon capture and natural flood management.

In many cases those who can directly impact land management practices have their hearts and minds in the right place and what we can add is the inspiration, advice, guidance and knowledge on how to do the right thing. This is especially true of community groups who have patches of land and want to manage them in the best way to benefit wild species and allow local people to enjoy the space they have and in turn inspire them to introduce wildlife friendly ideas into their own spaces, whether that's a hole in a fence for a hedgehog highway or bug hotel nestling alongside the tall grasses of a no-mow may lawn.



Together for Nature

When seeking to reverse biodiversity declines at a whole landscape level the patchwork quilt of land management responsibilities must be sewn together in trusted partnerships of groups, businesses, and organisations working together for change. Structures such as river catchment partnerships, farmer clusters, conservation target areas, and urban wildlife initiatives can create the right condition to bring people together from across the private, public, and NGO sector. Maintaining such partnerships requires diligence, empathy, determination and much unsung activity behind the scenes in meetings, joint grant applications, and conversations which provide the glue that keeps people together.

As a charity Wild Oxfordshire has no nature reserves and manages no land, but we connect with many, many people and organisations that do. We also know that working to do the right thing for Oxfordshire's wildlife is hard work. Working together, to share challenges, inspire each other and foster the human connections that will protect the natural connections of a healthy ecosystem is what we do. It's in our lifeblood and it wouldn't happen without our dedicated staff, trustees, volunteers, supporters, funders, partners, friends and colleagues.

Thank you to everyone who is helping with Nature's Recovery across Oxfordshire.

David Knight, Chair of Trustees

Our Vision

A more natural, resilient, and biodiverse Oxfordshire for the benefit of all

Our Purpose

To catalyse change by identifying needs, convening partnerships and unlocking opportunities for conservation action

Our Values

Positive

Working collaboratively; seeking to understand other points of view and approaches

Agile

Responding quickly once we have identified a need for conservation action

Open

New ideas, new ways of working and alternative approaches

Our Key Activities



Collaborating

Bringing people within the conservation sector together at the strategic and operational scale, to work for more effective change, avoiding duplication and conflict



Engaging

Providing bespoke advice to inspire and empower individuals and communities to enhance their environment and use nature-based solutions



Inspiring

Piloting innovative exemplar on-the-ground activities and sharing stories to encourage others



Informing

Horizon-scanning and sharing curated, relevant, and trusted information to raise awareness and facilitate action for nature's recovery

Summary of Achievements

Strategic Plans & Partnerships

We are lucky in Oxfordshire to have a wonderful group of hardworking, passionate and knowledgeable individuals, whether employed by a variety of organisations, volunteering in their community, or working independently. We help effective working across these groups through knowledge-exchange and networking, achieved by a variety of formal and informal groups, and partnerships which we host. We also share inspiring stories via our monthly email bulletin, social media platforms, films, and website.

We worked very closely with Oxfordshire County Council on developing the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) for Oxfordshire – the big plan for nature which sets out what we need to do, and where to achieve nature recovery.

This year we:

- Were Vice-Chair of the Oxfordshire Local Nature Partnership as well as focusing on funding for delivery of the LNRS with the Local Nature Partnership Nature Finance Group.
- Chaired the Engagement & Comms working group for the Local Nature Recovery Strategy. We have been championing an inclusive and collaborative approach to the creation of the LNRS, resulting in Oxfordshire County Council receiving 2,130 responses to the public consultation on the draft LNRS in October 2024. This high volume of responses included suggestions for additional biodiversity priorities and actions, and more locations to include. We worked with the LNRS team on several working groups to enable the publication of the final version in Autumn 2025.
- Hosted several meetings, workshops, and site visits for each of the Biodiversity Advisory Group, Conservation Target Area Managers, Communities Round Table, and Oxfordshire Environment Board.
- Held a Nature Positive Business event on “Sowing the Seeds of Change for Nature” looking at how we can seed and accelerate positive approaches to nature recovery in your organisation. It was so inspiring to hear all about those who have already started their journey, and those who are keen to begin!
- Held our Annual Lecture on the topic of “Nature-Based Solutions for Systemic Change”, with the brilliant Professor Nathalie Seddon, University of Oxford, with many thanks to Professor David Macdonald for hosting the event at WildCRU’s offices.

Community Ecology Programme

Wild Oxfordshire has committed more than 25 years to supporting parish councils and volunteer-led nature groups to enhance nature on their patch. We provide highly valued resources on our website, alongside a reliable 'in person' service from our Community Ecologist. We have excellent relationships with stakeholders and those working and volunteering in the environmental sector. With growing pressure from development and the biodiversity and climate emergencies, it is crucial that local communities are given the skills and resources to influence their changing countryside.



Botanical survey at Swyncombe Downs,
Rachel Crookes



Wildlife presentation at Asthall Leigh,
Rachel Crookes

This year we have:

- Provided on-site advice for 12 community groups resulting in the improved management of grasslands, churchyards and green spaces and the planting of a pollinator patch.
- Worked directly with 24 parish councils, providing advice on identifying, protecting and then improving their land through hedgerow planting, meadow creation and enhancement, road verge management and pollinator planting.
- Developed the new Wild Didcot project, which plans to work to the same model as our Wild Kidlington project but on a bigger scale.
- Attended 16 events promoting engagement with nature, including talks, walks, and attendance at local nature fairs.
- Secured new funding from a local business to survey their green spaces and deliver a series of events to tenants in their local area.
- Run two in-person workshops on training local community groups on bat and reptile surveying.

- Worked with West Oxfordshire District Council to refresh outdated biodiversity guidance and create a new Community Town and Parish Guide to Nature Recovery, with funded case studies to demonstrate action local communities can take in Asthall Leigh, Filkins and Eynsham.
- Updated habitat guidance on our website to improve our set of collated resources for local community groups to use.
- Held our Local Environment Groups conference themed around 'Nature's Recovery: Local to Landscape', which included 5 speakers, and a panel discussion -attended by 65 people from around the county.



Networking at the Local Environment Groups Conference 2024, Rhiannon Young

- Delivered the 2024/5 Hedgerow Heroes Project: working with 10 local groups and parishes across Oxfordshire to plant 3,480m of new hedge this planting season and supporting management of 273 m of existing hedgerows through gapping up, coppicing and hedgelaying.
- Run 16 hedgerow planting days spread across twelve locations in Oxfordshire, engaging with around 200 volunteers. For two of these days we had volunteers from FarmAbility, a local charity that runs farming and outdoor projects for adults with learning disabilities.
- Run five hedgelaying courses this autumn in collaboration with CPRE Oxfordshire, Wychwood Forest Trust and Nigel Adams Countryside Management. These courses upskilled 30 people in the traditional craft of hedgelaying and resulted in laying around 45m of hedge.

- Continued to work with hedgerow expert Nigel Adams to provide management advice to landowners and create two hedgerow management plans for Oxfordshire landowners.
- Run two hedgerow Walk and Talk sessions, educating farmers and landowners on the benefits of managing hedgerows in a sustainable manner.
- Run three Engaging Community Nature Recovery Action meetings with conservation professionals to share knowledge and build partnership working.
- Hosted two Conservation Target Area Leads meetings to gather professionals taking nature recovery action in key areas of the county to knowledge share and collaborate.
- Delivered 24 nature-based events for residents of Kidlington, partnering with local schools, nursing homes, scouts, the local growing spaces group and the library.
- Run a successful Open Wildlife Gardens event, with over 100 people signed up to be inspired by 12 gardens big and small that were managed for wildlife in mind.
- Enhanced green spaces by tree and hedgerow planting with local volunteers.
- Created an interpretation panel for a local nature reserve St Marys Fields, for users to learn more about the site's local wildlife.
- Created a new video celebrating the success of the project's last three years of activities, aimed at inspiring other communities to do similar projects.
- Developed a new partnership with Sustainable Didcot to launch next year – this will involve delivering the same model as the Wild Kidlington but on a bigger scale.



Hedgerow planting session at Oddington,
Lorraine Ray CPRE

Curlew Recovery Partnership

Wild Oxfordshire is collaborating with the Curlew Recovery Partnership on what is called the 'Curlew Solutions Trial' (CST). This initiative aims to improve our understanding of curlew breeding in grasslands and to provide evidence of the effectiveness of conservation efforts to policy makers. Spread across 5 sites in England –Yorkshire Dales, Shropshire Hills, Breckland, Severn and Avon Vales and the Upper Thames - the project includes consultation with stakeholders through workshops, a review of the potential impact of conservation efforts on Curlew populations and novel research to assess what influences breeding success across project landscapes.

We also support the Upper Thames Wader Group; this partnership currently comprises RSPB, Berks, Bucks & Oxon Wildlife Trust, Natural England, Environment Agency, River Thame Conservation Trust, Freshwater Habitats Trust, British Trust for Ornithology and Banbury Ornithological Society. Partners meet on a regular basis to co-ordinate work, develop new initiatives, and share best practice.

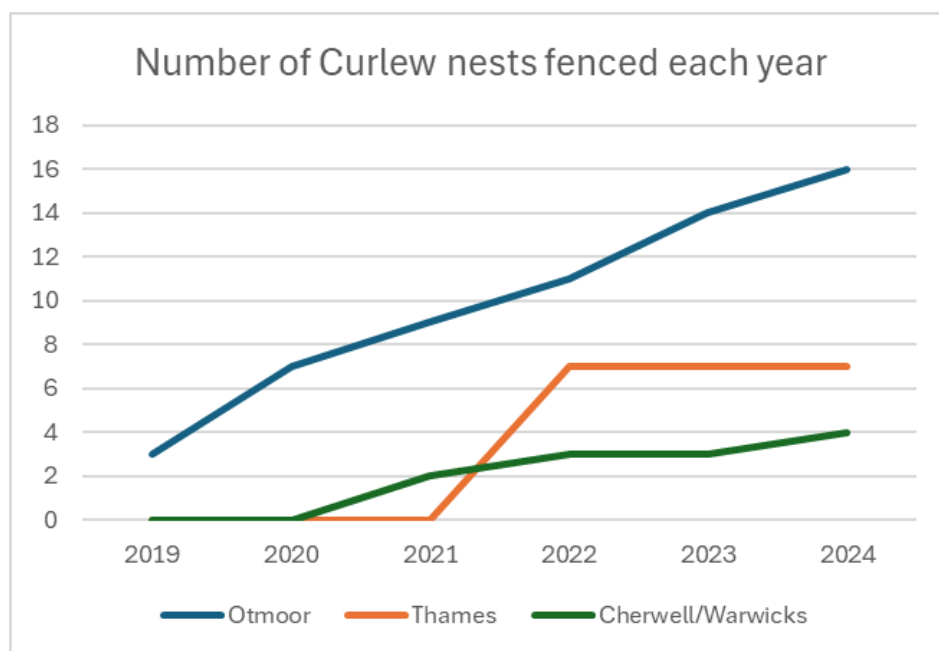
'It has been extremely useful to be able to share information and between fieldworkers and benefit from the experience gained by partner organisations each year. We have also been able to help each other out by sharing fencing equipment'. Jan Gilbride, Banbury Ornithological Society.



Young Curlew bathing, Cherwell Valley 2024. Photo © Mark Hunter

This year we have:

- Located 68 territorial pairs of Curlews across the project area, the most we have found in a single year so far, thanks to our partnership's network of fieldworkers
- Monitored 29 Curlew nests in detail for the CST, out of a total of 146 across the five study landscapes in England.
- Fenced 27 nests, of which 15 hatched (56%). This was the lowest hatching success rate since the project began.
- Enabled twelve chicks to fledge - a poor year which is possibly linked to very wet weather early in the breeding season (many floodplain meadows flooded), and a cold wet spring. High generalist predator numbers remain a consistent issue.
- Three chicks fledged from a nest in the Cherwell Valley, where two also fledged last year – a very encouraging result.
- Held an annual autumn meeting which was well attended and included presentations by partners and the findings of the first year of the CST, presented by Harry Ewing (BTO).



The high loss of fenced nests to predators in 2024 has been partly addressed by increasing attention to some of the details of the fence construction, including adding extra strands of wire and adjusting the spacing to reduce the ability of badgers to push through the fence.

Yellow Wagtail Partnership

The Yellow Wagtail Partnership is a landscape scale conservation project which aims to restore four miles of wetland meadows and pastures along the River Thames. Working alongside our partners, Earth Trust, Church Farm Partnership and Lower Farm, we are holistically managing the riparian grasslands to create a place that can be enjoyed by people and allow farming businesses and wildlife to thrive.

This year we have:

- Had botanical surveys on two of our meadows to inform management
- Welcomed 13 Dexter Cattle onto Lower Farm which will play a key part in grassland management of the YWP area.
- Enabled at least three pairs of yellow wagtails to nest in the nearby arable crops last summer.
- Delivered 4 YWP talking to community and farming group, engaging with 67 people.
- Written one article for the West Berkshire Countryside Society about the Yellow Wagtail Partnership

Farmer Clusters

We now facilitate two farmer clusters, The Clumps Farmer Cluster, located between Nuneham Courtenay and Cholsey and the Ridgeway Cluster which is located along the Ridgeway South of Wantage. Farmer clusters are networks of local farmers who come together to learn about sustainable farming practices and deliver nature recovery at a landscape scale. They are also important social networks, allowing farmers to socialise and meet their neighbours and create dialogue that might not otherwise happen. The Clumps Farmer Cluster is still a fairly new cluster and we are working to identify group priorities and potential projects. The Ridgeway Cluster has been running for a few years but Wild Oxfordshire only started working with them a year and a half ago.

This year we have:

- Engaged with 22 farmers from the two clusters, and included more farmers on our mailing list who we hope may wish to get more involved in future.
- Secured Facilitation Funding for three years for the Clumps Cluster
- Secured FiPL funding for the Ridgeway Cluster to allow it to run for last financial year.
- Held 7 training events for the Clumps Cluster, and 4 training events for the Ridgeway Cluster. Topics covered included hedgerow management, Stewardship updates, Biodiversity net gain and deer management.

- Worked with other clusters to deliver bigger and better events and create more opportunities for farmers to network and learn from each other and experts in their field.

Funding has been a challenge this year as DEFRA decided not to continue the Countryside Stewardship Facilitation Fund which we were relying on to continue the Ridgeway Cluster. The Clumps will continue to be funded by this until June 2027 but after that, funds are uncertain.



Clumps Farmer Cluster, Weatherproof Farming event. Photo © Sophie Cunningham



Clumps Farmer Cluster Hedgerow event with Nigel Adams and Jessica Bouwer. Photo © Sophie Cunningham.

Evenlode Catchment Partnership

The Evenlode Catchment Partnership (ECP) is a dynamic collaboration of over 20 organizations and countless individuals, united by a shared commitment to return the River Evenlode and its tributaries to good ecological status. Since 2014, the ECP has been dedicated to improving water quality, enriching biodiversity, and managing flood risks while increasing climate resilience across the Evenlode catchment.

Supported by our partners, our work includes innovative approaches to river restoration, such as the creation of wetlands, ponds and fish passages, alongside natural flood management (NFM) efforts. These interventions not only restore natural habitats but also reduce flood risks, benefiting local communities. We have fostered greater community engagement with our rivers through our education and outreach programme, and our network of citizen scientists regularly monitor water quality in the catchment. By combining local knowledge, scientific expertise, and on-the-ground action, we work to deliver effective, long-lasting improvements that benefit both people and nature.

Due to the serious harm from sewage pollution to our rivers and wider catchment, and Thames Water's failure to commit to much needed upgrades to sewage treatment works, the ECP has made the moral decision not to accept any more funding from Thames Water beyond March 2025. In March 2025, the ECP was awarded £780k over the next two years from the Water Restoration Fund – a DEFRA-backed project administered by the RPA using fines paid by Thames Water.

"I am really impressed with the innovative approaches for river restoration and natural flood management." - Professor Sir Dieter Helm

Regarding the Cornwell wetlands, Landowner Alex Ward says:

"I've been amazed by the birdlife which the new wetland has attracted. Heron and Egret arrived within days, and you could see Mallard feathers after a few weeks. Within six months this wetland has turned unquestionably the least attractive part of the farm into a paradise for ducklings, Ringed Plover, Sandpiper, Yellow Wagtail and Wheatear. I am looking forward to seeing what it will look like in two, let alone five years' time."

This year we:

- Proved that earlier Natural Flood Management measures worked. In 2018, NFM measures, including temporary water storage bunds, were installed on a farm above Milton-under-Wychwood to reduce flood risk in the village below. Storm Bert put these to the test in November 2024. On this occasion, the houses along the Littlestock Brook in Milton-under-Wychwood did not flood.

The first photo shows a group of people standing in the bottom of a field bund on 24th October 2024.	The second photo shows the same field bund in action on 25th November 2024, following Storm Bert. The water is around 2m deep at its maximum and the bund is holding back around 1700m³ flood water.
	
People in a field bund. Photo © SpongeScapes	Field bund filled with water. @Ann Berkeley

- Won an award for our film 'Beneath the Surface'. A film commissioned by Wild Oxfordshire and directed by Nicola Schafer won a prestigious Award of Merit from *The Best Shorts Competition*. The award was given for the documentary '[Beneath the Surface](#)', which highlights the vital work of the Evenlode Catchment Partnership in helping improve water quality in the Evenlode and associated biodiversity. 'Beneath the Surface' seamlessly weaves the stories of the farmers, landowners, community groups and environmental organisations involved into a compelling narrative, showing the innovative action being taken – and what still needs to be done to save the river.
- Delivered an NFM scheme at Fairspear Hill Farm. We delivered a scheme worth £34k at Fairspear Hill Farm creating areas where surface water flows can be stored to reduce flood risk and to settle out sediments.

- Constructed the Cornwell fish passage. The return channel from Cornwell's lower wetland runs fast over a clay bed. This is where the Chipping Norton Brook joins back into the Swail. The Environment Agency suggested we construct a fish spawning bed with gravel, boulders and tree trunks to create slower flowing refuges in steps to allow fish places to rest when swimming against the flow. The gravel bed is the favoured substrate for fish spawning and the faster flowing water keeps the gravel free of sediment. Trout have been seen upstream of this bed now that the water quality has improved. Project cost: £22,500.



Fish spawning bed at Cornwell. @Ann Berkeley

- Delivered a series of river restoration, wetland creation, NFM and weir removal projects at Rynehill Farm. The river restoration permanently re-set the course of a small brook to follow the original valley bottom in a project worth £32k.



This photo shows the brook in flood after storm Bert Nov 2024. @Clare Ambler

We had a very wet winter which jeopardised the completion of some of our construction projects at Cornwell and Rynehill. However, the weather turned in our favour just in time to complete these projects.

Treasurer's Report 2024-25

Financial Review of the year ended 31st March 2025

Because of the level of turnover during the period 2024/25, the company is entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies. The directors nevertheless acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and preparation of accounts. So, these accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to The Small Companies regime.

Comparative position

Incoming resources of £680,397 in 24/25 was a decrease of £46,201 on the previous year (£726,418) with £601,358 (£651,362 23/24) related to Restricted projects as per the table below.

The remaining charitable income of an unrestricted £79,039 (22/23 £75,056) was higher by £3,983

In addition, a surplus of £58,282 surplus was achieved on the sale of an investment (23/24 nil), together with an unrealised loss of £1,709 (23/24 £12,305 surplus) on investments.

	2024/25	2023/24	Increase/ (Decrease)
	£	£	£
Evenlode Catchment Project	383,576	444,486	(60,910)
Hedgerow	46,688	45,867	821
Wild Kidlington	21,269	17,495	3,774
Curlew Recovery	29,927	22,524	7,403
Clumps Farmer Cluster	8,195	794	7,401
Ridgeway Farmer Cluster	1,758	390	1,368
Environmental Strategic Work	6,000	8,750	(2,750)
Community Ecology	79,458	76,890	2,568
Landscape Ecology	4,935	-	4,935
Local Nature Recovery	200	-	200
Yellow Wagtail	19,352	34,166	(14,814)
Total Restricted Income	601,358	651,362	(50,005)
Unrestricted Income	79,039	75,056	3,983
Total incoming Resources	680,397	726,418	(46,021)
Realised Gain on Investment Sale	58,282	-	58,282
Unrealised Gains/(Losses) on Investments	(1,709)	12,305	(14,014)
Total Income and Gains	736,970	738,723	(1,753)

In 24/25 Wild Oxfordshire's total expenditure decreased by £17,078 to £695,355 down from £712,433 in 23/24. The larger share of this spend was on restricted projects totalling £663,340 (23/24 £687,815) with a deficit of £36,243 on Environmental Strategy project and £25,695 on Landscape Ecology strategic projects together with a small (£44) deficit of the Clumps Farmer Cluster Project. All of which were offset by a transfer from unrestricted funds.

Just over 58% (23/24 64%) of restricted expenditure related to the Evenlode Catchment Partnership projects and the remainder on other restricted projects.

Spending on our core charitable activities in the year totalled £31,995 (23/24 £24,618) an increase of £7,377 mainly resulting from a change in the allocation basis and overall increase of staff costs.

Overall, after the net investments gains of £56,573 (23/24 £12,305) we made a surplus in the year of £41,635 (23/24 £23,290).

Cash/Bank/Investments

Total held in our bank accounts and investments at the year-end was £1,183,547 (23/24 £598,858) of this £774,610 (23/24 £413,062) is advance income held for expenditure on projects in future years.

Therefore, balance of available funds is £408,937 (23/24 £185,795) and with other net current liabilities of £25,789 (23/24 Other Net current assets £155,053), Net free reserves at the end of this financial year stood at £383,148 (23/24 £340,858). With fixed assets at £2,180 (£2,844 23/24) total funds on 31 March 2025 were £385,327 (£343,692 23/24).

Investment Policy

Trustees held the assets of the charity in accordance with their powers during the year. The trustees have absolute discretion to invest the funds of the charity. Our policy for the selection of investments for the charity has been to place at minimum 75% of surplus funds in fixed fund units with COIF via CCLA, and a COIF investment fund (listed equities).

Our expenditure for 24/25 was on average around £58,000 per month but for 24/25 is expected to increase to c. £83,000 per month, so we would argue we need 5/6 months liquid funds so perhaps £500,000, meaning that of our year end £1,183,547 cash (including investments) some £680,000 is currently surplus of which policy dictates 75% or c. £510,000 could be invested short to medium term.

At the end of the financial year some £327,539 of our banking funds are held in interest bearing accounts and our investments held amounted to £114,822, so in total we have funds invested of £472,361, a little less, but not significantly so, than our policy requirement.

Reserves Policy

Our policy has been to maintain unrestricted reserves available at a minimum of £175,000. As Wild Oxfordshire's capacity grows, so does its costs albeit modestly, but it would be prudent to keep the reserves policy under review.

In a nutshell, as shown in note 14 Funds, Wild Oxfordshire's 23/24 Financial position was:

	£
Balance at start of year - all unrestricted	343,692
Incoming resources	680,397
Resources expended	(695,355)
Net gains on investments	56,573
Funds carried forward to 2025/26 - all unrestricted	<u>385,327</u>

Our resulting strong financial position means that Wild Oxfordshire remains comfortably above its agreed £175,000 minimum reserves threshold.

This position has allowed us to continue to invest in increasing our structural capacity and our work for the future and has been achieved because of our fundraising achievements against a relatively modest base spend.

My thanks to all staff and to Trustees for yet another great fundraising effort which remains a priority for us, and the resultant generosity of donors in their financial support for the work of Wild Oxfordshire in 24/25 (recognised elsewhere in this report).



Mike Russell, Treasurer 2024-25

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

Charity law requires trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity at the year end and of its incoming resources and resources expended during the year. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed subject to any departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

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

Independent Examiner

The Trustees have appointed CerTax Accounting to carry out the examination of these accounts, which exceed the threshold that requires independent examination under Charity Commission accounting rules. The trustees recommend that Certax Accounting remain in office until further notice.

This report was approved by the trustees on 24th September 2025 and signed on their behalf by

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Knight".

David Knight
Chair of Wild Oxfordshire 2024-25

Independent Examiner's Report

to the trustees on the unaudited financial statements of Wild Oxfordshire.

We report on the financial statements of Wild Oxfordshire for the year ended 31st March 2025 which comprise the statement of financial activities, balance sheet and related notes.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

As the charity trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts, you consider that the audit requirements of section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the Act) does not apply. It is our responsibility to state, on the basis of procedures specified in the general Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under section 43(7)9b of the Act, whether particular matters have come to our attention.

Basis of Independent examiner's report

Our examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners and in accordance with the provisions in part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime. 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 we do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

In our opinion the financial statements:

Give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31st March 2025 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including income and expenditure, for the year then ended;

Have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and

Have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 and the statement of Recommended Practice for charities.



Simon Oakland, CerTax Accounting

Independent Scrutineer

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31st March 2025

		2024/25	2024/25	2024/25	2023/24
		Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
		Funds	Funds		
	Notes	£	£	£	£
Incoming resources					
Voluntary income	2	72,021	600,589	672,610	719,300
Investment income	3	7,019	768	7,787	7,118
Total incoming resources		79,039	601,358	680,397	726,418
Resources expended					
Fundraising		2,012	-	2,012	1,380
Charitable activities	4	29,085	663,340	692,425	710,146
Governance costs	5	897	-	897	907
Total resources expended		31,995	663,340	695,335	712,433
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources before transfers		47,045	(61,982)	14,938	13,985
Transfers between funds		(61,982)	61,982	-	-
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources before other recognised gains and losses		(14,938)	-	(14,938)	13,985
Net gains on investments	8	56,573	-	56,573	12,305
Net movement in funds		41,635	-	41,635	26,290
Total funds brought forward from 2023/24		343,692	-	343,692	317,402
Total funds carried forward	13	385,327	-	385,327	343,692

The notes on pages 26 to 32 form an integral part of these financial statements.

Balance Sheet as at 31st March 2025

	Notes	2025 £	2024 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	9	2,180	2,844
Investments	10	114,822	118,211
Total fixed assets		117,001	121,054
Current assets			
Debtors	11	23,860	222,191
Cash at bank and in hand		1,068,725	480,647
Total current assets		1,092,585	702,838
Liabilities			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	12	(824,260)	(480,201)
Net current assets		268,325	222,637
Net assets		385,327	343,692
Funds	13	385,327	343,692

The notes on pages 26 to 32 form an integral part of these financial statements.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on xx September 2025.
and signed on its behalf by:



Mike Russell

(Hon. Treasurer)

Notes to the Financial Statements

Accounting convention

The accounts are prepared under the historical cost convention, as modified by the revaluation of investments, and in compliance with applicable accounting standards. In preparing the accounts the company has followed best practice as laid down in the Companies Act 2006, the Charities Act 2011 and the Statement of Recommended Practice "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" (SORP 2015 Second Edition, effective 1st January 2019) and applicable accounting standards (FRS102).

The charity has taken advantage of the exemption in FRS1 from the requirement to produce a cashflow statement because it is a small charity.

Incoming resources

Incoming resources are generally recognised on a receivable basis and are reported gross of related expenditure, where the amounts are reasonably certain and when there is adequate certainty of receipt related to restricted expenditure incurred.

The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

- Voluntary income received by way of grants, donations and legacies is included in full in the Statement of Financial Activities when receivable. Gift Aid recoverable is accounted for in the same period as the related donation.
- Unrestricted funds can be spent on any of the organisation's charitable activities. Restricted funds must be spent on activities specified by the funder
- Legacies are recognised as income only when the charity becomes entitled to the income, receipt is certain, and the amount concerned is measurable.
- Grants (including grants for the purchase of fixed assets), where entitlement is not conditional on delivery of a specific performance by the charity, are recognised when the charity becomes unconditionally entitled to the grant.
- Investment income is accounted for when receivable.
- Donated assets are included at the value to the charity where this can be quantified, and a third party is bearing the cost. Gifts donated for resale are included as income when they are sold.
- The value of services provided by volunteers has not been included.

Resources expended

Resources expended are accounted for on an accruals basis and gross of any related income. They are classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. They are split according to restricted and unrestricted funds to enable us to report back to funders who have requested their donation be spent on specific activities. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings, they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with use of the resources.

Fundraising costs are those incurred in seeking voluntary contributions and do not include the costs of disseminating information in support of the charitable activities.

Costs of charitable activities comprise direct expenditure including direct staff costs attributable to activities. Where costs cannot be directly attributed, they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Governance costs include those costs, such as statutory audit and legal and professional fees, associated with constitutional and statutory requirement.

Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost or valuation less residual value of each asset over its expected useful life, as follows:

Fixtures, fittings and computer and office equipment – 33.3% reducing balance

Investments

Where there is a readily ascertainable market value, investments are shown at market value as at the year-end. In the absence of a readily ascertainable market value, investments are valued at cost. Movements in value are shown in the income and expenditure account.

Pensions

The pension costs charged in the financial statements represent the contribution payable by the charity during the year.

2. Voluntary income

	2024/25 Unrestricted Funds £	2024/25 Restricted Funds £	2024/25 Total £	2023/24 Total £
Donations	26,001	11,494	37,495	40,650
Grants	795	589,096	589,891	657,167
Subscriptions	608	-	608	683
Other	44,617	-	44,817	20,800
Total	72,021	600,589	672,610	719,300

Gifts and services in kind

The trustees recognise that gifts and services in kind were an important contributor to the overall financial well-being of Wild Oxfordshire. The total value of help in kind including invaluable support of volunteers is conservatively estimated at £50,000.

3. Investment Income

	2024/25 Unrestricted Funds £	2024/25 Restricted Funds £	2024/25 Total £	2023/24 Total £
Deposit Interest	5,939	768	6,707	6,118
Dividends	1,080	-	1,080	1,000
Total	7,019	768	7,787	7,118

4. Costs of charitable activities

	2024/25 Unrestricted Funds £	2024/25 Restricted Funds £	2024/25 Total £	2023/24 Total £
Staff Costs	65,929	266,397	332,325	278,425
Admin & Comms	41,349	-	41,349	36,255
Core Overhead allocated to projects	(78,192)	-	(78,192)	(33,348)
Total other Core Overheads	(36,842)	-	(36,842)	2,907
Projects (excluding staff costs)				
Evenlode Catchment Project	-	269,510	269,510	325,316
Hedgerow	-	39,454	39,454	32,625
Wild Kidlington	-	6,423	6,423	3,230
Curlew Recovery	-	29,927	29,927	17,524
Clumps Farmer Cluster	-	5,452	5,452	8
Ridgeway Farmer Cluster	-	711	711	10
Environmental Strategy Work	-	384	384	5,422
Community Ecologists Projects	-	16,361	16,361	21,434
Landscape Ecology	-	15,911	15,911	14
Local Nature partnership	-	200	200	-
Yellow Wagtail	-	12,611	12,611	23,232
Total Projects	-	396,943	396,943	428,815
Total	29,085	663,340	692,425	710,146

5. Governance costs

	2024/25 Unrestricted Funds £	2024/25 Restricted Funds £	2024/25 Total £	2023/24 Total £
Independent Examination Costs	720	-	720	720
AGM & Trustee Meetings	177	-	177	187
Total	897	-	897	907

6. Operating gain

Operating gain is after charging:	2024/25	2023/24
	£	£
Depreciation and other amounts written off tangible assets	714	1,421

7. Employees

Number of employees	2024/25	2023/24
	No	No
Average monthly number of employees during the year	11	9

Employment costs	2024/25 Unrestricted Funds £	2024/25 Restricted Funds £	2024/25 Total £	2023/24 Total £
Wages and salaries	65,929	266,397	332,335	278,425

Pension costs

The company pays pension contributions to employees' personal pension schemes. The pension charge represents contributions due from the company and amounted to £24,437 (2024 - £20,387).

Trustee remuneration

No trustee received any remuneration or expenses during the year 2024/25 - £Nil, (2023/24 - £Nil)

8. Net Investment Gains

	2024/25 Unrestricted Funds £	2024/25 Restricted Funds £	2024/25 Total £	2023/24 Total £
Realised gain on sale of investments	58,282	-	58,282	-
Unrealised gains/(losses) on investments	(1,709)	-	(1,709)	12,305
Total	56,573	-	56,573	12,305

9. Tangible fixed assets

	Computer Equipment £	Fixtures & Fittings £	Total £
Cost			
At 1 st April 2024	11,813	1,880	13,693
Additions	-	50	50
At 31 st March 2025	11,813	1,930	13,743
Accumulated depreciation			
At 1 st April 2024	9,640	1,209	10,849
Charge for the year	474	240	714
At 31 st March 2025	10,114	1,449	11,563
Net book values			
At 31 st March 2025	1,699	481	2,180
At 31 st March 2024	2,173	671	2,844

10. Investments

	£
Net book value	
At 1 st April 2024	118,211
Disposals	(1,680)
Revaluations	(1,709)
At 31 st March 2025	114,822

Included in fixed asset investments are the following individual investments, which represent more than 5% of the total investment portfolio:

	2025 £	2024 £
COIF Charities – Fixed Fund Units	8,205	9,433
COIF Charities – Investment Fund Units	106,617	108,788
Total	114,822	118,211

Continued....

10. Investments (continued)

	2025	2024
	£	£
Investments at market value comprise		
UK listed equities	106,617	108,788
UK unlisted equities	-	1,680
UK securities	8,205	7,753
Total	114,822	118,211

The historical cost of investments at 31 March 2025 was £41,907 (2024 £43,587).

11. Debtors

	2025	2024
	£	£
Trade debtors	17,435	31,875
Accrued income	6,425	190,317
Total	23,860	222,191

12. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2025	2024
	£	£
Trade creditors	35,512	53,460
Income in advance	774,610	413,062
Other creditors	6,605	6,804
Accruals	7,532	6,875
Total	824,260	480,201

13. Funds

	1 April 2024	Incoming Resource	Resources Expended	Gains / (Losses)	Transfers	31 March 2025
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted Funds	343,692	79,039	(31,995)	56,573	(61,982)	385,327
Restricted Funds	-	601,358	(663,340)	-	61,982	-
All Funds	343,692	680,397	(695,335)	56,573	-	385,327

WILD OXFORDSHIRE

England & Wales - Charity number 1131540

Accounts



Wild Oxfordshire

Trustees' report and financial statements 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024

Company number 06828051

Charity number 1131540

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Legal and Administrative Information

Trustees/Company Directors

Victoria Robinson (re-elected 9th December 2020)

Ian Curtis (re-elected 9th December 2020)

Fiona Danks (elected 10th March 2021)

Chris Cousins (resigned 7 June 2023)

Nick Rowe (elected 4th March 2020)

David Knight (elected 15 February 2021)

Mike Russell (Treasurer) (elected 10th December 2020)

Fiona Racher (elected 14 September 2022)

Pete Cranston (elected 7 June 2023)

Ebony Holland (elected 7th June 2023)

Kate Jury (elected 7 June 2023, deceased 16 July 2023)

Secretary

Laura Murphy (appointed 7 June 2023)

Wild Oxfordshire

Charity number 1131540 (registered 9th September 2009)

Company number 06828051 (registered 24th February 2009)

Registered Office: Manor House, Little Wittenham, Abingdon OX14 4RA

Independent Examiner: Certax Accounting, Little Sturt, Oxford Rd, Burford, Oxon, OX14 4ET

Bank: CAF Bank Ltd., P.O.Box 289, West Malling, Kent ME19 4TA

Investment Manager: CCLA Investment Management Ltd, 85 Victoria St, London EC4V 4ET

Contact: Clare Mowbray, Manor House, Little Wittenham, Abingdon, Oxon OX14 4RA

Number of employees: 9

Web Site: www.wildoxfordshire.org.uk

Trustees' Annual Report

Structure, Governance and Management

Wild Oxfordshire is incorporated as a company limited by guarantee and governed by Memorandum and Articles.

The Trustees are elected by the members of the charity at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) each year with one third standing down each year but eligible for re-election indefinitely. The Chair of Trustees is appointed by the Board from time to time.

The Board of Trustees

Wild Oxfordshire's Board of Trustees has an upper limit of 12 to enable the broad partnership that is the core of the charity's purpose to be fully represented. Development of the Board is seen as an ongoing process, with review of representation and skills carried out in response to vacancies as they arise, and a more structured skills audit carried out periodically. New Trustees are given an induction into the work and policies of the Charity.

The trustees retain authority and decision-making powers in respect of the key areas of Wild Oxfordshire's activities. The day-to-day overall executive leadership of activities are delegated to the Chief Executive, who started in June 2020.

Chairman's Report 2023/24

As a regional Charity celebrating 30 years since it was first conceived as the Oxfordshire Nature Conservation Forum, Wild Oxfordshire has continued its role in connecting people and organisations to benefit the wildlife of our County.

Just as nature does best when habitats and ecosystems are linked together by hedgerows, verges and riverbanks so too the solutions to halt the decline in nature work best when joined up.

One answer to joining up those solutions is to take a bottom-up and a top-down approach, and to focus on where those two approaches meet in the middle.

The bottom-up approach is best exemplified by our work with local communities at a parish level across Oxfordshire. This year we revised and updated our Community Town and Parish Guide to Nature Recovery, a valuable toolkit for community groups who want to make a difference in their patch. Our team offer support and guidance to local groups and especially on how they can best manage local plots of land for nature. Our Hedgerow Heroes Project with CPRE has added kilometres of new linear habitat back into the landscape, joining up patches of wildlife and allowing dispersal routes for insects.

Wild Oxfordshire can make a difference by ensuring that the sum is greater than the individual parts when communities come together and work to a common cause of helping nature. As local communities come to value the nature that is around them, it creates a sense of place that adds up to the whole of the essence of Oxfordshire.

At the other end of the scale Wild Oxfordshire has been investing time and effort to make sure the voice of local people is being heard as the County Council brings together a range of organisations to develop the Oxfordshire's Local Nature Recovery Strategy, a County-wide document which will identify the best places for intervention to maximise the opportunity for our County to reverse the decline in nature by 2030. Identifying the best places and then bringing the landowners, organisations, funding sources and local people together to deliver the on-the-ground change that can benefit wildlife is a key tenet of the Nature Recovery Strategy.

It is across whole landscapes that bottom-up action meets top-down policy and strategy development. Wild Oxfordshire seeks to bring people and organisations together at a landscape scale. River catchments, defined as the area of land where any drop of rain water that lands in it will eventually run into the water course at its heart, allow us to take an integrated landscape-scale approach that links the bottom-up action of communities with broader strategies. As the host of the Evenlode Catchment Partnership Wild Oxfordshire works to add value to the activities of an amazing group of public and private sector organisations, local community groups and individuals, landowners and river users to increase nature in the catchment. The Partnership provides great benefits, in engaging schoolchildren and communities with their river, using nature-friendly methods to reduce the risk of flooding and working with citizen scientists on measuring water quality to name but a few. However, the impact of poor water quality on the health of the life of the river is holding back nature improvements and offers a challenge to all the partners to work to solve this fundamental problem.



Together for Nature

Focussing on a flagship species can also initiate a landscape-scale approach to land management which benefits wildlife. Our yellow wagtail project on the flood meadows of the River Thames brings together landowners and managers to seek to increase insect numbers on which the yellow wagtails feed, which in turn is influenced by agricultural practice. Similarly, the Upper Thames curlew project brings together landowners, local people, Government Agencies and environmental charities to increase the number of fledged chicks from lowland curlew nests. Again, the techniques and agricultural practices that benefit curlews also has wider benefits for nature across the landscape.

This past year has seen Wild Oxfordshire continue to deliver its charitable mission to bring people and organisations together to catalyse change for the benefit of wildlife. In working at different scales across the County and with groups of people and organisations of all different shapes and sizes we can see how we can add value to the conversations, the flow of information and most importantly the collective actions which add up to making Oxfordshire richer in wildlife.

As Chair of Wild Oxfordshire I'd like to offer a heartfelt thanks to the staff, volunteers and trustees of the Charity that allow it to have impact well beyond its size and resources would belie, and for all the committed folk of Oxfordshire we work with who are determined not to be overwhelmed by the scale of the challenge of creating the best possible environment for nature to thrive in our County.

David Knight, Chair of Trustees

Our Vision

A more natural, resilient, and biodiverse Oxfordshire for the benefit of all

Our Purpose

To catalyse change by identifying needs, convening partnerships and unlocking opportunities for conservation action

Our Values

Positive

Working collaboratively; seeking to understand other points of view and approaches

Agile

Responding quickly once we have identified a need for conservation action

Open

New ideas, new ways of working and alternative approaches

Our Key Activities



Collaborating

Bringing people within the conservation sector together at the strategic and operational scale, to work for more effective change, avoiding duplication and conflict



Engaging

Providing bespoke advice to inspire and empower individuals and communities to enhance their environment and use nature-based solutions



Inspiring

Piloting innovative exemplar on-the-ground activities and sharing stories to encourage others



Informing

Horizon-scanning and sharing curated, relevant, and trusted information to raise awareness and facilitate action for nature's recovery

Summary of Achievements

Community Ecology Programme

- **Recruited a new Hedgerow and Partnerships Officer** allowing Wild Oxfordshire to:
 - Kick-off the 2023 Hedgerow Heroes Project: Approximately 400 people from 13 different communities collectively rejuvenated 500m of hedgerow by coppicing, gapping up or hedgelaying and planted over 2.5km of new hedgerow.
 - Deliver 28 planting days spread across Ewelme, Great Haseley, Upper Heyford, Dorchester on Thames, Kidlington, Wootton by Woodstock, Eynsham, Hill End Outdoor Education Centre, Long Wittenham, Kelmscott Manor, Harwell and Cumnor C of E Primary School.
 - Run four hedgelaying courses and one surveying course thanks to CPRE Oxfordshire, Wychwood Forest Trust and PTES. This resulted in 32 people trained in the rural craft of hedgelaying and 10 people trained to survey hedgerows.
 - Facilitate the End of Project Hedgerow Heroes event which brought together 30 people across the county involved in the HH project.
 - Identify locations for 2024/25 Hedgerow Heroes and apply for funding for which we were successful.
 - Continue to work with hedgerow expert Nigel Adams to provide management advice to landowners. Facilitated a hedgelaying trainee to work alongside Nigel Nov 2023 to Mar 2024.
 - Work on the creation of the new Thame Valley Conservation Target Area which was approved by the Biodiversity Action Group in August 2023.
 - Host two Conservation Target Area Leads meetings.
- **Recruited a new Nature Recovery Lead** to manage the Community Ecology Programme and to work with partners on Oxfordshire's Local Nature Recovery Strategy.
- **Through our Community Ecology programme, we have:**
 - Provided on-site advice for 14 community groups resulting in the improved management of orchards, churchyards and greenspaces and the planting of a pollinator patch.
 - Worked directly in 21 parish councils in the last financial year, providing advice on identifying, protecting and then improving land through means such as hedgerow planting, meadow creation and enhancement, road verge management and pollinator planting.
 - Attended 17 events promoting engagement with nature.
 - Hosted a Local Environment Group conference themed around Linking Up for Nature with Hedgerows and Verges, with over 60 participants signed up.
 - Secured funding as part of the Cherwell Collective's Waste Innovation Station Hubs (WISH) Partnership, to undertake ecological surveys of WISH community green

spaces, produce long-term management plans and improve volunteer community surveying skills over the next five years.

- Worked with West Oxfordshire District Council, refreshed outdated biodiversity guidance to create a new Community Town and Parish Guide to Nature Recovery, with three associated funded case studies to demonstrate action local communities can take.

- **Wild Kidlington**

- Project Officer, Rhiannon, has been hosting fortnightly 'nature hour' activity sessions to help connect people to local wildlife during the winter months.
- We now have 35 connected gardens for hedgehogs recorded as part of our Kidlington's hedgehog highway project.
- St Mary's Fields wildlife records are increasing thanks to Kidlington's local wildlife recorders. The latest recording effort focused on moths.
- A new interpretation board for St Mary's fields is in progress.
- Management Plan drawn up for the Baptist Church grounds
- Planning a wildlife garden open day to highlight ways to improve gardens for wildlife.
- Scheduled in bat and swift walks for the summer months
- Home Close bee –friendly coronation garden has been created with KPC
- Identified two new Parish Council sites for potential wildlife enhancements

Curlew Recovery Project

There are approximately 60 breeding pairs of Curlews throughout the Upper Thames landscape. Over twenty pairs nest on the MoD's Otmoor SSSI and the adjoining RSPB nature reserve but the majority are on private farmland across the floodplains of the rivers Thames, Ray, Cherwell, and Thame. This is one of the largest lowland populations of Curlew in England, but, despite many years of agri-environment funding and advice, the population has been in long term decline.

Wild Oxfordshire and the Upper Thames Wader Group bring together organisations, volunteers, and farmers, to collaborate helping these much-loved birds.

Research has shown that predation by foxes and badgers is a major causes of nest failure and our current activity focuses on finding as many Curlew nests as we can and protecting them from these mammalian predators using temporary electric fencing.

Experience so far has shown that nest fencing is a valuable tool for Curlew Recovery in the Upper Thames. Whilst fencing has significantly increased the number of nests hatching successfully, the losses of chicks are still too high to sustain the current population.

This level of intervention is a 'sticking plaster' in the toolkit of Curlew conservation. What they need in the longer term are extensive mosaics of nature-rich grassland habitats where they can flourish, alongside a reduction in the impacts of predation.

Our Curlew Recovery Project has been funded for the past three years by Natural England through their species recovery programme.

"If farmers can link up – we've got neighbours also doing great things – together we can create a much bigger area, which is what Curlews really need." James Taylor, North Aston Farms.

"Glad it [the Curlew River launch event] went so well Mike, congratulations. And a lovely, important film." Mary Colwell, Chair, Curlew Recovery Partnership England

- Our project partners **fenced 24 nests**, 21 of which hatched at least one chick – an **87.5% success rate!** Of those lost, two were predated and one was affected by flooding.
- Many chicks were lost before reaching the flying stage, but we know that at *least 15 chicks fledged (13 of these from fenced nests) including eight at Otmoor*. Two chicks fledged for the first recorded time on a farm in the Cherwell Valley.
- Our fabulous project video, 'Curlew River' available on YouTube, featuring some amazing aerial footage of Curlew strongholds at Otmoor and Chimney Meadows, interviews with farmers and volunteers and, of course, plenty of Curlews! **Over 9,000 views and 300 likes**, so far, massively exceeding our hopes and expectations. 110 people joined the online launch event.
- Wild Oxfordshire co-hosted a **workshop of over thirty farmers, cluster facilitators and farming advisers** to help co-design of proposals for Curlew-friendly agri-environment schemes including sympathetic grassland management and more effective predator management. Our workshop was one of four delivered by the Curlew Recovery Partnership and conducted in landscapes across England that are important for breeding Curlews – Shropshire, the Yorkshire Dales and Seven and Avon Vale, as well as the Upper Thames.
- We produced our first edition of 'Curlew News', our project newsletter.

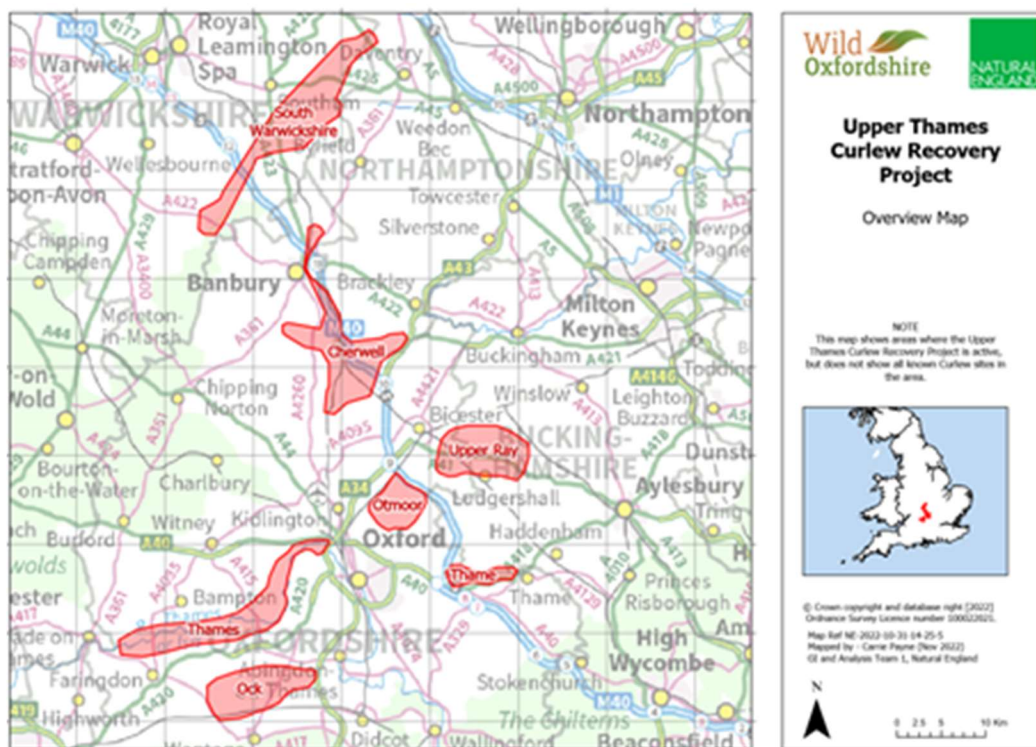
Partner organisations often find it challenging to contribute significant core staff time to manage Curlew recovery work unless funding can be provided. Wild Oxfordshire has worked with Natural England to secure significant project funding each year enabling much progress to be achieved, but more staff and volunteer resource across our partner organisations could still make a significant difference.



A brood of four recently hatched chicks, Thames site, May 2023 (Anne Cotton, Natural England)



Male Curlew defending territory in Cherwell Valley where two chicks fledged successfully (Mike Pollard)



Project overview map showing location of Curlew Recovery Project areas

Yellow Wagtail Partnership

During summer 2023, the Yellow Wagtail Partnership set up a monthly malaise trap in the meadows as part of the Bioscan project which aims to contribute to the worldwide understanding of flying invertebrates. We sent 809 insect specimens to Bioscan who looked at the genetic makeup of the specimens. Diptera represented 72% of samples and Hymenoptera represented 12%. Other specimens included Hemiptera, Coleoptera, Lepidoptera. Bioscan have been able to identify 783 of these specimens to family level which represented 76 families; 636 to genus level representing 153 genera and 541 specimens were identified to species level, representing 166 different species.

We have been working closely with the Oxford Ringing Group who have been ringing birds at Lower Farm, one of our partners and also in Earth Trust's woodland where they completed their second Constant Effort Site project for the BTO.

Engaged with around 250 farmers, landowners and managers, ecologists and communities when giving talks about the Yellow Wagtail Project both in Oxfordshire and further afield including Berkshire and Wiltshire. We were proud to be asked to speak at the North Wessex Downs Annual Forum in October 2023.

Farmer Clusters

- Working with the North Wessex Downs National Landscapes and Earth Trust we established a new farmer cluster, the Clumps Farmer Cluster which was started in December 2023.
- We also took on the Ridgeway Farmer Cluster.
- We applied for Countryside Stewardship Facilitation Funding for both groups in January 2024 and were awarded funding for the Clumps Cluster.
- FiPL have agreed to fund the Ridgeway Cluster for one year.

Evenlode Catchment Partnership

The Evenlode Catchment Partnership has funded four pond creation projects this year at Milton-under-Wychwood. They have been well received and a local teenager is measuring the water quality on a monthly basis as part of our citizen science network.

Bruern Natural Flood Management (NFM) Pilot Project continues to attract groups to explore the various flood storage and slowing-the-flow mechanisms.

Stonesfield Environmental Group are taking the lead on E. coli testing on the Evenlode. In collaboration with ECP, six popular swimming sites between Chadlington and Combe were tested over a two-week period at the end of September. Only one location on the Evenlode is tested on a regular basis, so highlighting the presence of E. coli in the river can lead to informed, evidence-based decision making.

We have engaged with three new landowners looking at opportunities for retaining water and nutrients on their land.

We have created a video to educate people about the ECP project, entitled 'Beneath the Surface', learn about the breadth of work of the Evenlode Catchment Partnership <https://wild-oxfordshire.webflow.io/evenlode/evenlode-catchment-partnership>

Camilla Burrow, Chief Executive Officer

Financial Review of the year ended 31st March 2024

Because of the level of turnover during the period 2023/24, the company is entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies. The directors nevertheless acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and preparation of accounts. So, these accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to The Small Companies regime.

Comparative position

Incoming resources of £726,418 in 23/24 was an increase of £267,570 on the previous year (£458,848) with £651,362 (£392,949 22/23) related to Restricted projects with increases in most projects, as can be seen from the table below.

The remaining charitable income of an unrestricted £75,056 (22/23 £65,899) was higher by £9,157 mainly due to increases in funds received from Friends and donors.

In addition, an unrealised surplus of £12,305 (22/23 £1,132 deficit) was made on our investments.

	23/24	22/23	Increase / (Decrease)
<u>Restricted Income Projects</u>			
ECP (includes NFM &RR)	444,486	287,056	157,429
Hedgerow	45,867	25,000	20,867
Wild Kidlington	17,495	19,930	(2,435)
Curlew	22,524	13,481	9,043
RI Clumps Farmer Cluster	794	0	794
RI Ridgeway Farmer Cluster	390	0	390
Environmental Strategy	8,750	12,910	(4,160)
Community Ecology	76,890	8,418	68,472
Yellow Wagtail	34,166	26,153	8,012
Total	651,362	392,949	258,413
<u>Unrestricted Income</u>	75,056	65,899	9,157
<u>Total incoming Resources</u>	730,668	458,848	271,820
<u>Unrealised Gains/(Losses) on Investments</u>	12,305	(-1,132)	13,437
Total Income	738,723	457,716	281,007

In 23/24 Wild Oxfordshire's expenditure increased by £252,033 to £712,433 up from £460,400 in 22/23. The larger share of this spend was on restricted projects totalling £687,915 with a deficit of £32,203 on the Environmental Strategy project which is offset by a transfer from unrestricted funds.

Note both Community Ecology and Environmental Strategy are considered restricted projects in 23/24 due to restricted funding received, previously these had been mainly internally funded designated projects using unrestricted funding.

Just over 64% of restricted expenditure related to the Evenlode Catchment Partnership projects and the remainder on other restricted projects.

Spending on our core charitable activities in the year totalled £24,618 an increase of £4,784 on 22/23 mainly resulting from the increased staff and overhead due to increased activity.

Overall, after the unrealised surplus on investments of £12,305 we made a surplus in the year of £26,290 (22/23 £2,684 deficit), so an increase of £28,974.

Cash/Bank/Investments

Total held in our bank accounts and investments at the year-end was £598,858, (22/23 £674,202) of this £413,062 (21/22 £340,058) is advance income held for expenditure on projects in future years.

Therefore, balance of available funds is £185,795 (22/23 £334,144) and with net current assets of £175,053 net free reserves at the end of this financial year stood at £340,848 (22/23 £315,594).

With Fixed assets at £2,844 (£1,808 22/23) total funds on 31 March 2024 were £343,692 (£317,402 22/23).

Investment Policy

Trustees held the assets of the charity in accordance with their powers during the year. The trustees have absolute discretion to invest the funds of the charity. Our policy for the selection of investments for the charity has been to place at minimum 75% of surplus funds in fixed fund units with COIF via CCLA, and a COIF investment fund (listed equities).

Our expenditure for 23/24 was on average around £59,000 per month but for 24/25 is expected to increase to c. £88,000 per month, so we would argue we need 5/6 months liquid funds so minimum £440,000, meaning that of our year end £598,858 cash (including investments) some £160,000 is currently surplus of which policy dictates 75% or £120,000 could be invested short to medium term. At the end of the financial year some £203,331 of our banking funds are held in interest bearing accounts and our investments held amounted to £118,211, so in total we have funds invested of £326,080, rather more than our policy requirement.

However, given that current assets (mainly outstanding 23/24 grants) are £175,053 and a substantial amount of the cash held on short/medium terms can be realised quickly, if necessary, we do not consider this a problem.

Reserves Policy

Our policy has been to maintain unrestricted reserves available at a minimum of £175,000. As Wild Oxfordshire's capacity grows, so does its costs albeit modestly, but it would be prudent to keep the reserves policy under review.

In a nutshell, as shown in note 14 Funds, Wild Oxfordshire's 23/24 Financial position was:

Balance at start of year (all unrestricted)	£317,402
Income	£726,418
Expenditure	(£712,433)
Gains from investments (including revaluations)	£12,305
Funds carried forward into 2024/25 (all unrestricted)	£343,692

Our resulting strong financial position means that Wild Oxfordshire remains comfortably above its agreed £175,000 minimum reserves threshold.

This position has allowed us to continue to invest in increasing our structural capacity and our work for the future and has been achieved because of our fundraising achievements against a relatively modest base spend.

My thanks to all staff and to Trustees for a yet another great fundraising effort which remains a priority for us, and the resultant generosity of donors in their financial support for the work of Wild Oxfordshire in 23/24 (recognised elsewhere in this report).



Mike Russell, Treasurer 2023-24

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

Charity law requires trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity at the year end and of its incoming resources and resources expended during the year. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed subject to any departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

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

Independent Examiner

The Trustees have appointed CerTax Accounting to carry out the examination of these accounts, which exceed the threshold that requires independent examination under Charity Commission accounting rules. The trustees recommend that Certax Accounting remain in office until further notice.

This report was approved by the trustees on 25th September 2024 and signed on their behalf by

David Knight
Chair of Wild Oxfordshire 2023-24

Independent Examiner's Report

to the trustees on the unaudited financial statements of Wild Oxfordshire.

We report on the financial statements of Wild Oxfordshire for the year ended 31st March 2024 which comprise the statement of financial activities, balance sheet and related notes.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

As the charity trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts, you consider that the audit requirements of section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the Act) does not apply. It is our responsibility to state, on the basis of procedures specified in the general Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under section 43(7)9b of the Act, whether particular matters have come to our attention.

Basis of Independent examiner's report

Our examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners and in accordance with the provisions in part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime. 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 we do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

In our opinion the financial statements:

Give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31st March 2023 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including income and expenditure, for the year then ended;

Have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and

Have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 and the statement of Recommended Practice for charities.



Simon Oakland, CerTax Accounting
Independent Scrutineer

Financial Statement

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31st March 2024

		Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Restricted Funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
	Notes				
INCOMING RESOURCES					
Voluntary income	2	74,056	650,226	724,282	457,397
Investment income	3	1,000	1,136	2,136	1,451
Total incoming resources		<u>75,056</u>	<u>651,362</u>	<u>726,418</u>	<u>458,848</u>
RESOURCES EXPENDED					
Fundraising	4	1,380	-	1,380	1,979
Charitable activities	5	22,331	687,815	710,146	457,068
Governance costs	6	907	-	907	1,354
Total resources expended		<u>24,618</u>	<u>687,815</u>	<u>712,433</u>	<u>460,400</u>
NET INCOMING/ (OUTGOING)		<u>50,438</u>	<u>(36,453)</u>	<u>18,235</u>	<u>1,552</u>
RESOURCES BEFORE TRANSFERS					
Transfers between Funds		(36,453)	36,453	-	-
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources before other recognised gains and losses		<u>13,985</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>13,985</u>	<u>(1,552)</u>
Gains/losses on investment assets	11	<u>12,305</u>		<u>12,305</u>	<u>1,132</u>
Net movement in funds		<u>26,290</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>26,290</u>	<u>(2,684)</u>
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward from 2022/23		<u>317,402</u>	-	<u>317,402</u>	<u>320,086</u>
Total funds carried forward		<u>343,692</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>343,692</u>	<u>317,402</u>

The notes on pages 16 - 22 form an integral part of these financial statements.

Balance Sheet as at 31st March 2024

	Notes	2024 £	2023 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	10	2,844	1,808
Investments	11	<u>118,211</u>	<u>105,906</u>
		121,054	107,714
Current assets			
Debtors	12	222,191	4,995
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>480,647</u>	<u>568,296</u>
		702,838	573,291
Liabilities			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	13	(480,201)	(363,603)
Net current assets		222,637	209,688
Net Assets		<u>343,692</u>	<u>317,402</u>
Funds	14	343,692	317,402

The notes on pages 16 – 22 form an integral part of these financial statements.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 25th September 2024.
and signed on its behalf by:



Mike Russell

(Hon. Treasurer)

Notes to the Financial Statements

1.1. Accounting convention

The accounts are prepared under the historical cost convention, as modified by the revaluation of investments, and in compliance with applicable accounting standards. In preparing the accounts the company has followed best practice as laid down in the Companies Act 1985, the Charities Act 1993 and the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" (Revised 2005). Where applicable, comparative figures have been restated to comply with SORP 2005, but these restatements have had no effect on the funds brought forward at the start of the year.

The charity has taken advantage of the exemption in FRS1 from the requirement to produce a cashflow statement because it is a small charity.

Incoming resources

Incoming resources are generally recognised on a receivable basis and are reported gross of related expenditure, where the amounts are reasonably certain and when there is adequate certainty of receipt.

The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

- Voluntary income received by way of grants, donations and legacies is included in full in the Statement of Financial Activities when receivable. Gift Aid recoverable is accounted for in the same period as the related donation.
- Unrestricted funds can be spent on any of the organisation's charitable activities. Restricted funds must be spent on activities specified by the funder
- Legacies are recognised as income only when the charity becomes entitled to the income, receipt is certain, and the amount concerned is measurable.
- Grants (including grants for the purchase of fixed assets), where entitlement is not conditional on delivery of a specific performance by the charity, are recognised when the charity becomes unconditionally entitled to the grant.
- Investment income is accounted for when receivable.
- Donated assets are included at the value to the charity where this can be quantified, and a third party is bearing the cost. Gifts donated for resale are included as income when they are sold.
- The value of services provided by volunteers has not been included.

1.3. Resources expended

Resources expended are accounted for on an accruals basis and gross of any related income. They are classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. They are split according to restricted and unrestricted funds to enable us to report back to funders who have requested their donation be spent on specific activities. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings, they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with use of the resources.

Fundraising costs are those incurred in seeking voluntary contributions and do not include the costs of disseminating information in support of the charitable activities.

Costs of charitable activities comprise direct expenditure including direct staff costs attributable to activities. Where costs cannot be directly attributed, they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Governance costs include those costs, such as statutory audit and legal and professional fees, associated with constitutional and statutory requirement.

1.4. Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost or valuation less residual value of each asset over its expected useful life, as follows:

Fixtures, fittings and I.T and Office Equipment – 33.3% reducing balance

1.5. Investments

Where there is a readily ascertainable market value, investments are shown at market value as at the year-end. In the absence of a readily ascertainable market value, investments are valued at cost. Movements in value are shown in the income and expenditure account.

1.6. Pensions

The pension costs charged in the financial statements represent the contribution payable by the charity during the year.

2. Voluntary income

	2024	2024	2024	2023
	Unrestricted	Restricted projects	Total	Total
	£	£	£	£
Donations	35,817	4,833	40,650	22,522
Grants	11,775	645,393	657,167	409,705
Subscriptions	683	0	683	788
Other	20,800	0	20,800	22,251
Total	69,074	650,226	719,300	455,266

2.1 Gifts and services in kind

The trustees recognise that gifts and services in kind were an important contributor to the overall financial well-being of Wild Oxfordshire. The total value of help in kind including invaluable support of volunteers is conservatively estimated at £50,000.

3. Investment income

	2024	2024	2024	2023
	Unrestricted	Restricted projects	Total	Total
Income from Investments	1,000	0	1,000	880
Deposit Interest	4,982	1,136	6,118	2,702
Other Investment Income	0	0	0	0
Total	5,982	1,136	7,118	3,582

4. Fundraising

Expenditure during the Year - £1,380 (2023 £1,949)

We are constantly seeking new sources of funds.

5. Costs of charitable activities

	<u>Unrestricted</u>	<u>Restricted</u>	<u>Total 2024</u>	<u>Total 2023</u>
Staff Costs	19,424	259,001	278,425	201,123
Legal				0
Admin & Comms	36,255		36,255	36,480
Fundraising	1,380		1,380	1,979
Core Overhead allocated to projects	(-33,348)		(-33,348)	(-30,224)
Total Core Overheads	4,287	0	4,287	8,235
Projects (exc staff)				
ECP		325,316	325,316	186,920
Hedgerow		32,625	32,625	6,464
Wild Kidlington		3,230	3,230	3,604
Curlew		17,524	17,524	13,167
RI Clumps Farmer Cluster		8	8	
RI Ridgeway Farmer Cluster		10	10	
Environmental Strategy Work		5,422	5,422	6,989
Community Ecologists Projects		21,434	21,434	15,271
Landscape Ecology		14	14	0
Yellow Wagtail		23,232	23,232	17,274
Total Projects	0	428,815	428,815	249,689
Total Excluding Governance	23,711	687,815	711,526	459,047
Governance	907		907	1,354
Grand Total	24,618	687,815	712,433	460,400

6. Governance costs

	<u>Unrestricted funds</u>	<u>Restricted funds</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
	£	£	£	£
Independent examination costs	720	-	720	720
Meetings expense	187		187	634
Total	907		907	1,354

7. Operating gain

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
	£	£
Operating gain is stated after charging:		
Depreciation and other amounts written off tangible assets	1,420	903

8. Employees

	2024	2023
Number of employees		
The average monthly number of employees during the year was:	9	7

Employment costs

	Unrestricted £	Restricted Funds £	2024 £	2023 £
Wages & Salaries	19,424	259,001	278,425	201,123

No trustee received any remuneration or expenses during the year 2023/24 - £Nil, (2022/23 - £Nil)

9. Pension costs

The company pays pension contributions to employees' personal pension schemes. The pension charge represents contributions due from the company and amounted to £20,387 (2023 - £14,549).

10. Tangible fixed assets

	Computer £	F&F £	Total £	2023 £
Cost				
at April 1 2023	9,882	1,355	11237	10,521
additions	1,930	525	2455	716
at 31 March 2024	11,813	1,880	13693	11237
Depreciation				
at April 1 2023	8,555	875	9430	8,527
charge for the year	1,085	335	1420	903
at 31 March 2024	9,640	1,209	10849	9430
Net Book Values				
at 31 March 2024	2,173	671	2844	1,808
at 31 March 2023	1327	480	1808	1,994

11. Investments

	Listed Investments	Total
	£	£
As at 1 April 2023	105,906	105,906
Additions	0	0
Disposals	0	0
Revaluations	12,305	12,305
Net Book Values		
As at 31 March 2024	118,211	118,211
As at 1 April 2023	105,906	105,906

Included in fixed asset investments are the following individual investments, which represent more than 5% of the total investment portfolio:

	2024	2023
	£	£
COIF Charities - Fixed Funds units	9,433	8,932
COIF Charities - Investment Fund Units	108,778	96,974
Total	118,211	105,906
 Investments at Market Value comprise	 2024	 2023
	£	£
UK - Listed Equities	108,778	96,974
UK - unlisted equities	1,680	1,680
UK - Securities	7,753	7,252
Total	118,211	105,906

The historical cost of investments at 31 March 2024 was £43,587 (no change)

12. Debtors

	2024	2023
Trade Debtors	31,875	4995
Accrued Income	190,317	0
Total	222,191	4995

13. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024	2023
Trade Creditors	53,460	14,648
Advanced Income	413,062	340,058
Other Creditors	6,653	5,356
Accruals	6,875	3,541
Total	480,201	363,603

14. Funds

	31-Mar-23	Incoming	Outgoing	Gains / Losses	Transfers	31-Mar-24
Unrestricted Funds	317,402	75,056	24,618	12,305	- 36,453	343,692
Restricted Funds	0	651,362	687,815	-	36,453	-
All Funds	317,402	730,668	712,433	12,305	0	343,692

WILD OXFORDSHIRE

England & Wales - Charity number 1131540

Accounts



Wild Oxfordshire

Trustees' report and financial statements 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023

Company number 06828051

Charity number 1131540

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Legal and Administrative Information

Trustees/Company Directors

Victoria Robinson (re-elected 9th December 2020)

Ian Curtis (re-elected 9th December 2020)

Fiona Danks (elected 9th December 2020)

Chris Cousins (resigned 1 March 2023)

Nick Rowe (elected 11th September 2019)

David Knight (elected 15 January 2021)

Mike Russell (Treasurer) (elected 10th December 2020)

Fiona Racher (elected 7th June 2023)

Katherine Jury (elected 7 June 2023, Resigned 16 July 2023)

Pete Cranston (elected 7 June 2023)

Ebony Holland (elected 7th June 2023)

Wild Oxfordshire

Charity number 1131540 (registered 9th September 2009)

Company number 06828051 (registered 24th February 2009)

Registered Office: Manor House, Little Wittenham, Abingdon OX14 4RA

Independent Examiner: Certax Accounting, Little Sturt, Oxford Rd, Burford, Oxon, OX14 4ET

Bank: CAF Bank Ltd., P.O.Box 289, West Malling, Kent ME19 4TA

Investment Manager: CCLA Investment Management Ltd, 85 Victoria St, London EC4V 4ET

Contact: Clare Mowbray, Manor House, Little Wittenham, Abingdon, Oxon OX14 4RA

Number of employees: 6

Web Site: www.wildoxfordshire.org.uk



Trustees' Annual Report

Structure, Governance and Management

Wild Oxfordshire is incorporated as a company limited by guarantee and governed by Memorandum and Articles.

The Trustees are elected by the members of the charity at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) each year with one third standing down each year but eligible for re-election indefinitely. The Chair of Trustees is appointed by the Board from time to time.

The Board of Trustees

Wild Oxfordshire's Board of Trustees has an upper limit of 12 to enable the broad partnership that is the core of the charity's purpose to be fully represented. Development of the Board is seen as an ongoing process, with review of representation and skills carried out in response to vacancies as they arise, and a more structured skills audit carried out periodically. New Trustees are given an induction into the work and policies of the Charity.

The trustees retain authority and decision-making powers in respect of the key areas of Wild Oxfordshire's activities. The day-to-day overall executive leadership of activities are delegated to the Chief Executive, who started in June 2020.

Chairman's Report 2022/23

As Oxfordshire experienced its hottest ever Summer in 2022 the reality of the climate and extinction crisis was brought home to everyone and the urgency of the work of our charity came into sharp focus as a prolonged drought battered our wild places, plants, and animals.

Continued development, habitat fragmentation, water pollution and severe weather events continue to drive a decline in the abundance and diversity of wildlife across the UK and a huge collaborative effort is needed to halt that decline by 2030, the Government's target.

We know that a wildlife-rich Oxfordshire will also be a more climate resilient Oxfordshire, both better able to adapt to the inevitable change to our weather over the coming decades. Our wild places can also contribute to locking up carbon, reducing flooding and improving people's wellbeing.

Wild Oxfordshire plays its part in tackling the biodiversity crisis in our County by working at different scales and with a wide variety of people and organisations. Our ethos is that by bringing folks together to work on problems the solutions will be better than when people work in isolation.

We look to all those who have direct control over land and water to make the best choices to encourage wildlife. Wild Oxfordshire therefore works at all scales, from the largest estates across the County to the smallest patch of garden or window-box, from a whole river catchment to a bucket sunk as a garden pond.

We work across the private, public and third sector, with community groups and individuals, with land managers and policymakers, professionals, and volunteers, bringing people together, listen to them, provide them with help & guidance, enable them to support each other, so that they can take the best action for nature on their patch, whether a garden, community space, nature reserve, farm, business or private estate. This will result in a more natural, resilient, and biodiverse Oxfordshire of the benefit of all.

David Knight, Chair of Trustees

Our Vision

A more natural, resilient, and biodiverse Oxfordshire for the benefit of all

Our Purpose

To catalyse change by identifying needs, convening partnerships and unlocking opportunities for conservation action

Our Values

Positive

Working collaboratively; seeking to understand other points of view and approaches

Agile

Responding quickly once we have identified a need for conservation action

Open

New ideas, new ways of working and alternative approaches

Our Key Activities



Collaborating

Bringing people within the conservation sector together at the strategic and operational scale, to work for more effective change, avoiding duplication and conflict



Engaging

Providing bespoke advice to inspire and empower individuals and communities to enhance their environment and use nature-based solutions



Inspiring

Piloting innovative exemplar on-the-ground activities and sharing stories to encourage others



Informing

Horizon-scanning and sharing curated, relevant, and trusted information to raise awareness and facilitate action for nature's recovery

Summary of Achievements

Collaborating

We have been working with a variety of partners to develop Oxfordshire's Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS); scoping out a Natural Capital Investment Plan, and engaging with farming and business. All essential to deliver nature's recovery on the ground: wildoxfordshire.org.uk/biodiversity/nature-recovery-strategy.

Wild Oxfordshire's Curlew Recovery Project relies on the enthusiasm of farmers. Targeted actions to make space for nature (and for curlews) in the farmed landscape will be supported by the Government's new Local Nature Recovery scheme.

The Conservation Target Area Leads Group is a forum for conservation land managers in Oxfordshire: a space for exchanging ideas and knowledge. We are hugely grateful to Neil Clennell and Toby Swift of the Wychwood Forest Trust who recently hosted the Forum, showing the Group the 20 ha of land that the Wychwood Forest Trust have recently been bequeathed. This exciting new prospect for local nature provides connectivity between two CTAs.

Natural flood management interventions are being implemented in regularly flooded Moreton-in-Marsh and Bledington. Water levels in the brooks are being monitored to understand the fluvial mechanics and provide early warning.

Engaging

We had a successful Kidlington Gala day co-ordinating Green Lane and setting up our 'Wild Project' in the village. Since then, activities by the Wild Kidlington volunteers include:

- Started Kidlington's 'Hedgehog Street'
- Hosted an allotment day to create a wildlife pond and hibernaculum.
- Provided advice on Kidlington Parish Council's new Coronation bee garden.

The ECP has launched a Wetland Creation Grant Scheme, open to all landowners and tenant farmers in the catchment. Applications are open for funding up to £20,000. We also developed a comprehensive wetland handbook: wildoxfordshire.org.uk/biodiversity/river-catchments/evenlode-catchment.

Sonde monitoring data is now available live on our website along with monthly reports on Citizen Science monitoring data.

Wild Oxfordshire will be sharing ideas and information at the Wychwood Forest Fair, where we have managed to get the Woodland Trust and RSPB to attend.

Inspiring

There have been many ups and downs as the curlew breeding season unfolded. The good news is that some curlew chicks have fledged, and our nest fencing has proved successful, with the vast majority of fenced nests surviving to hatching.

Seven curlew nests were protected by electric fences put up by Natural England's volunteer fieldworkers in meadows along the River Thames. We saw at least six curlews fledged from these. Three chicks were fitted with individual tags, one of which was even spotted further afield on the mudflats of the Severn Estuary on 15 August!

We have installed four new temporary water storage areas for Bledington in Phase 1 of our Natural Flood Management Pilot Project and are planning another two this summer. At Moreton-in-Marsh, we have installed eight leaky woody dams as part of the project to slow the flow in the brooks above the town.

Informing

New Scientist have captured the story of our Evenlode Catchment Partnership. Due to the widescale political interest in the water quality of our rivers and streams, they were looking for a river restoration story ... and they found the ECP! The article and film champions the water quality theme of the project: wildoxfordshire.org.uk/news-2

The Evenlode Catchment Partnership's (ECP) Education, Access, and Recreation team, led by Cotswold National Landscape, have been delivering events to various schools in the Evenlode catchment and beyond. During the first six months of the year, they engaged with 1,200 children through river visits, pond dipping and classroom-based activities. They have also funded four pond creation projects this year at Milton-Under-Wychwood.

Our Community Ecologist has been busy this summer training the Charlbury Hedge Group in plant identification and running a bee identification course. Roselle worked with three parishes on road verge management and survey methods and hosted a road verge safari for another parish.

During autumn, the Community Ecology Programme ran our annual Local Environment Groups Conference. It was a well-received hedgerow-themed day with thanks to Nigel Adams and the funders that made it possible.

The Yellow Wagtail Partnership (YWP) welcomed University of Oxford MSc students on a field trip exploring how Nature's Recovery is delivered at the local scale, using the YWP as a visible example.

90 friends and members joined us for our Annual Lecture 'Can regenerative farming save the planet?'

Wild Oxfordshire's map of community groups shows more than 100 in Oxfordshire.

The Biodiversity Advisory Group met to discuss a potential new Conservation Target Area and also were shown the new fish bypass by the River Thame Conservation Trust.

Camilla Burrow, Chief Executive

Treasurer's Report 2022-23

Financial Review of the year ended 31st March 2023

Because of the level of turnover during the period 2021/22, the company is entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies. The directors nevertheless acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and preparation of accounts. So, these accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to The Small Companies regime.

Comparative position

Incoming resources of £458,848 in 22/23 was an increase of £22,674 on the previous year (£436,174) with £371,622 (£320,064 21/22) related to Restricted projects with a increase in income on Evenlode projects (including Natural Flood Management and River Restoration projects) offset by a small decrease arising from other projects with restricted sources of income, as can be seen from the table below.

The remaining charitable income of £87,227 (21/22 £116,110) decreased mainly due to a reduction in unrestricted grants with increases in most other area of unrestricted funding Overall unrestricted funding remains key in continuing to support Wild Oxfordshire's ongoing activities and other strategic projects.

In addition, an unrealised loss of £1,132 (21/22 £10,0200 gain) was made on our investments.

	22/23	21/22	Increase / (Decrease)
<u>Restricted Income</u>			
Evenlode (ECP, NFM & RR)	287,056	223,642	63,415
Hedgerow	25,000	53,750	(28,750)
Wild Kidlington	19,930	10,518	9,412
Curlew	13,481	24,214	(10,733)
Yellow Wagtail	26,153	7,940	18,213
Total	371,622	320,064	51,558
<u>Unrestricted Income</u>	87,227	116,110	(28,884)
<u>Total incoming Resources</u>	458,848	436,174	22,674
<u>Unrealised Gains/(Losses) on Investments</u>	-1,132	10,029	(11,161)
Total Income	457,716	446,203	11,513



Together for Nature

In 22/23 Wild Oxfordshire's expenditure increased by £80,541 to £460,400 up from £379,859 in 21/22. The larger share of this spend was on restricted projects totalling £375,099 with a deficit of £3,477 on the Curlew project which is offset by a transfer from unrestricted funds.

Just over 75% of restricted expenditure related to the Evenlode Catchment Partnership projects and the remainder on other restricted projects.

Spending on our core charitable activities in the year totalled £85,301 an increase of £20,745 on 21/22 resulting from the increased staff and overhead costs due to increased activity.

Overall, after the unrealised loss on investments of £1,132 we made a deficit on the year of £2,684 (21/22 £66,344 surplus), so a decrease of £69,028.

Cash/Bank/Investments

Total held in our bank accounts and investments at the year-end was £674,202, (21/22 £627,265) of this £340,058 (21/22 £293,387) is advance income held for expenditure on projects in future years.

Therefore, balance of available funds is £334,144 (21/22 £331,884) and with net current liabilities of £18,550 unrestricted funds at the end of this financial year stood at £317,402 (21/22 £320,086).

Investment Policy

Trustees held the assets of the charity in accordance with their powers during the year. The trustees have absolute discretion to invest the funds of the charity. Our policy for the selection of investments for the charity has been to place at minimum 75% of surplus funds in fixed fund units with COIF via CCLA, and a COIF investment fund (listed equities).

Our expenditure for 22/23 was on average around £38,000 per month but for 22/23 is expected to increase to c. £50,000 per month, so we would argue we need 5/6 months liquid funds so minimum £250,000, meaning that of our year end £674,202 cash (including investments) some £424,000 is currently surplus of which policy dictates 75% or £318,000 could be invested short to medium term.

At the end of the financial year some £203,331 of our banking funds are held in interest bearing accounts and our investments held amounted to £105,906, so in total we have funds invested of £309,237, slightly less than our policy requirement.

Reserves Policy

Our policy has been to maintain unrestricted reserves available at a minimum of £150,000. As Wild Oxfordshire's capacity grows, so does its costs albeit modestly, but it would be prudent to keep the reserves policy under review.

In a nutshell, Wild Oxfordshire's 22/23 Financial position is:

Balance at start of year (all unrestricted)	£320,086
Income	£458,848
Expenditure	£460,400
Gains from investments (including revaluations)	£1,132
Funds carried forward into 2022/23 (all unrestricted)	£317,402

Our resulting strong financial position means that Wild Oxfordshire remains comfortably above its agreed £150,000 minimum reserves threshold.

This position has allowed us to continue to invest in increasing our structural capacity and our work for the future and has been achieved because of our fundraising achievements against a relatively modest base spend.

My thanks to all staff and to Trustees for a yet another great fundraising effort which remains a priority for us, and the resultant generosity of donors in their financial support for the work of Wild Oxfordshire in 22/23 (recognised elsewhere in this report).



Mike Russell, Treasurer 2022-23

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

Charity law requires trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity at the year end and of its incoming resources and resources expended during the year. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed subject to any departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

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

Independent Examiner

The Trustees have appointed CerTax Accounting to carry out the examination of these accounts, which exceed the threshold that requires independent examination under Charity Commission accounting rules. The trustees recommend that Certax Accounting remain in office until further notice.

This report was approved by the trustees on 20th September 2023 and signed on their behalf by



David Knight
Chair of Wild Oxfordshire 2022-23

Independent Examiner's Report

to the trustees on the unaudited financial statements of Wild Oxfordshire.

We report on the financial statements of Wild Oxfordshire for the year ended 31st March 2023 which comprise the statement of financial activities, balance sheet and related notes.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

As the charity trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts, you consider that the audit requirements of section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the Act) does not apply. It is our responsibility to state, on the basis of procedures specified in the general Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under section 43(7)9b of the Act, whether particular matters have come to our attention.

Basis of Independent examiner's report

Our examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners and in accordance with the provisions in part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime. 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 we do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

In our opinion the financial statements:

Give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31st March 2023 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including income and expenditure, for the year then ended;

Have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and

Have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 and the statement of Recommended Practice for charities.



Simon Oakland, CerTax Accounting
Independent Scrutineer

Financial Statement

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31st March 2023

		Unrestricted Funds 2023 £	Restricted Funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
	Notes				
INCOMING RESOURCES					
Voluntary income	2	86,347	371,051	457,397	434,785
Investment income	3	880	571	1,451	1,390
Total incoming resources		<u>87,227</u>	<u>371,622</u>	<u>458,848</u>	<u>436,174</u>
RESOURCES EXPENDED					
Fundraising	4	1,979	-	1,979	1,046
Charitable activities	5	81,969	375,099	457,068	378,093
Governance costs	6	1,354	-	1,354	720
Total resources expended		<u>85,301</u>	<u>375,099</u>	<u>460,400</u>	<u>379,859</u>
NET INCOMING/ (OUTGOING)		<u>1,925</u>	<u>(3,477)</u>	<u>1,552</u>	<u>56,315</u>
RESOURCES BEFORE TRANSFERS					
Transfers between Funds		(3,477)	3,477	-	-
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources before other recognised gains and losses		<u>(1,552)</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>(1,552)</u>	<u>56,315</u>
Gains/losses on investment assets	11	<u>1,132</u>		<u>1,132</u>	<u>10,029</u>
Net movement in funds		<u>(2,684)</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>(2,684)</u>	<u>66,344</u>
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward from 2019/20		<u>320,086</u>	-	<u>320,086</u>	<u>253,742</u>
Total funds carried forward		<u>317,402</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>317,402</u>	<u>320,086</u>

The notes on pages 16 - 23 form an integral part of these financial statements

Balance Sheet as at 31st March 2023

	Notes	2023 £	2022 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	10	1,808	1,994
Investments	11	<u>105,906</u>	<u>107,038</u>
		107,714	109,032
Current assets			
Debtors	12	4,995	27,119
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>568,296</u>	<u>518,233</u>
		573,291	545,352
Liabilities			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	13	(363,603)	(334,298)
Net current assets		209,688	211,054
Net Assets		<u>317,402</u>	<u>320,086</u>
Funds	14	317,402	320,086

The notes on pages 16 – 23 received form an integral part of these financial statements

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 20th September 2023.
and signed on its behalf by:



Mike Russell

(Hon. Treasurer)

Notes to the Financial Statements

1.1. Accounting convention

The accounts are prepared under the historical cost convention, as modified by the revaluation of investments, and in compliance with applicable accounting standards. In preparing the accounts the company has followed best practice as laid down in the Companies Act 1985, the Charities Act 1993 and the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" (Revised 2005). Where applicable, comparative figures have been restated to comply with SORP 2005, but these restatements have had no effect on the funds brought forward at the start of the year.

The charity has taken advantage of the exemption in FRS1 from the requirement to produce a cashflow statement because it is a small charity.

Incoming resources

Incoming resources are generally recognised on a receivable basis and are reported gross of related expenditure, where the amounts are reasonably certain and when there is adequate certainty of receipt.

The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

- Voluntary income received by way of grants, donations and legacies is included in full in the Statement of Financial Activities when receivable. Gift Aid recoverable is accounted for in the same period as the related donation.
- Unrestricted funds can be spent on any of the organisation's charitable activities. Restricted funds must be spent on activities specified by the funder
- Legacies are recognised as income only when the charity becomes entitled to the income, receipt is certain, and the amount concerned is measurable.
- Grants (including grants for the purchase of fixed assets), where entitlement is not conditional on delivery of a specific performance by the charity, are recognised when the charity becomes unconditionally entitled to the grant.
- Investment income is accounted for when receivable.
- Donated assets are included at the value to the charity where this can be quantified, and a third party is bearing the cost. Gifts donated for resale are included as income when they are sold.
- The value of services provided by volunteers has not been included.

1.3. Resources expended

Resources expended are accounted for on an accruals basis and gross of any related income. They are classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. They are split according to restricted and unrestricted funds to enable us to report back to funders who have requested their donation be spent on specific activities. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings, they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with use of the resources.

Fundraising costs are those incurred in seeking voluntary contributions and do not include the costs of disseminating information in support of the charitable activities.

Costs of charitable activities comprise direct expenditure including direct staff costs attributable to activities. Where costs cannot be directly attributed, they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Governance costs include those costs, such as statutory audit and legal and professional fees, associated with constitutional and statutory requirement.

1.4. Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost or valuation less residual value of each asset over its expected useful life, as follows:

Fixtures, fittings – 20.0% reducing balance

I.T and Office Equipment – 33.3% reducing balance

1.5. Investments

Where there is a readily ascertainable market value, investments are shown at market value as at the year-end. In the absence of a readily ascertainable market value, investments are valued at cost. Movements in value are shown in the income and expenditure account.

1.6. Pensions

The pension costs charged in the financial statements represent the contribution payable by the charity during the year.

2. Voluntary income

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted Projects	2023	2022
	£	£	£	£
Donations	22,522	-	22,522	76,435
Grants	38,655	371,051	409,705	354,250
Subscriptions	1,788	-	1,788	1,088
Other	22,251	-	22,251	3,011
Total	<u>84,215</u>	<u>371,051</u>	<u>455,266</u>	<u>434,785</u>

2.1 Gifts and services in kind

The trustees recognise that gifts and services in kind were an important contributor to the overall financial well-being of Wild Oxfordshire. The total value of help in kind including invaluable support of volunteers is conservatively estimated at £50,000.

3. Investment income

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2023	2022
	£	£	£	£
Income from investments	880	-	880	800
Deposit interest	2,131	571	590	590
Total	<u>3,011</u>	<u>571</u>	<u>3,582</u>	<u>1,390</u>

4. Fundraising

Expenditure during the Year - £1,979 (2022 £1,046)

We are constantly seeking new sources of funds.

5. Costs of charitable activities

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
	Funds	Funds	2023	2022
	£	£	£	£
Staff costs	53,453	147,670	201,123	144,227
Legal	-	-	-	-
Administration and Communications	36,480	-	36,480	29,905
Fundraising	1,979	-	1,979	1,046
Core overheads allocated to Projects	(30,224)	-	(30,224)	(33,912)
Project Costs (exc. Staff)				
Environmental Strategy work	6,989	-	6,989	12,686
Community Ecologist Projects	15,271	-	15,271	9,388
Curlew project	-	13,167	13,167	10,518
Hedgerow project	-	6,464	6,464	24,911
Evenlode Catchment Work	-	186,920	186,920	163,169
Yellow Wagtail	-	17,274	17,274	12,435
Natures Ambassadors	-	0	0	4,766
Total	<u>85,301</u>	<u>375,099</u>	<u>460,400</u>	<u>379,139</u>

6. Governance costs

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2023	2022
	funds	funds	£	£
	£	£		
Independent examination costs	720	-	720	720
Meetings expense	634	-	634	0
Total	1,354	-	1,354	720

7. Operating gain

	2023	2022
	£	£
Operating gain is stated after charging:		
Depreciation and other amounts written off tangible assets	903	982

8. Employees

	2023	2022
Number of employees		
The average monthly number of employees during the year was:	7	6

Employment costs

	Unrestricted	Restricted Funds	2023 £	2022 £
Wages & Salaries	53,453	147,670	201,123	144,227

No trustee received any remuneration or expenses during the year 2022/23 - £Nil, (2021/22 - £Nil)

9. Pension costs

The company pays pension contributions to employees' personal pension schemes. The pension charge represents contributions due from the company and amounted to £14,549 (2022 - £9,598).

10. Tangible fixed assets

	Computer £	Office Equipment £	Total £
Cost			
At April 1 2022	9,882	639	10,521
Addition	0	716	716
At 31 March 2023	9,882	1,355	11,237
Depreciation			
At April 1 2022	7,892	635	8,527
Charge for the year	663	240	903
At 31 March 2023	8,555	875	9,430
Net Book Values			
AT 31 March 2023	1,327	480	1,808
At 31 March 2022	1,990	4	1,994

11. Investments

	Listed investment £	Total £
Market value		
At 1 April 2022	107,038	107,038
Additions	-	-
Disposals	-	-
Revaluations		
At 31 March 2023	(1,132)	(1,132)
Net book values		
At 31 March 2023	105,906	105,906
At 31 March 2022	107,038	107,038

Included in fixed asset investments are the following individual investments, which represent more than 5% of the total investment portfolio:

	2023 £	2022 £
COIF Charities - Fixed Fund units	8,932	9,193
COIF Charities - Investment Fund units	96,974	97,845
Total	105,906	107,038

Investments at market value comprise:

	2023 £	2022 £
UK – Listed equities	96,974	97,845
UK – Unlisted equities	1,680	1,680
UK – Securities	7,252	7,513
Total	105,906	107,038

The historical cost of investments at 31 March 2023 was £43,587 (no change)

12. Debtors

	2023 £	2022 £
Trade debtors	4,995	27,119

13. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2023 £	2022 £
Trade creditors	14,648	35,187
Advanced income (NFM & ECP)	340,058	293,387
Other creditors	5,356	437
Accruals and deferred income	3,541	5,287
Total	363,603	334,298

14. Funds

	31 March 2022	Incoming	Outgoing	Gains/losses	TRFS	31 March
	£	£	£	£	£	2023
Unrestricted	320,086	87,227	85,301	(1,132)	(3,477)	317,402
Restricted	0	371,622	375,099	0	3,477	0
Projects						
All Funds	320,086	458,848	460,400	(1,132)	-	317,402

WILD OXFORDSHIRE

England & Wales - Charity number 1131540

Accounts



Wild Oxfordshire

Trustees' report and financial statements 1st April 2021 to 31st March 2022

Company number 06828051

Charity number 1131540

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Legal and Administrative Information

Trustees/Company Directors

Sian Liwicki (resigned 1st December 2021)

Victoria Robinson (re-elected 9th December 2020)

Ian Curtis (re-elected 9th December 2020)

Fiona Danks (elected 9th December 2020)

Chris Cousins (re-elected 1st December 2021)

Nick Mottram (resigned 1st December 2021)

Nick Rowe (elected 11th September 2019)

David Knight (elected 10th March 2021)

Mike Russell (Treasurer) (elected 10th March 2021)

Dave Woodwark (resigned 10th March 2021)

Wild Oxfordshire

Charity number 1131540 (registered 9th September 2009)

Company number 06828051 (registered 24th February 2009)

Registered Office: Manor House, Little Wittenham, Abingdon OX14 4RA

Independent Examiner: Certax Accounting, Creek End, Burcot, Abingdon OX14 3DJ

Bank: CAF Bank Ltd., P.O.Box 289, West Malling, Kent ME19 4TA

Investment Manager: CCLA Investment Management Ltd, 85 Victoria St, London EC4V 4ET

Contact: Clare Mowbray, Manor House, Little Wittenham, Abingdon, Oxon OX14 4RA

Number of employees: 6

Web Site: www.wildoxfordshire.org.uk

Trustees' Annual Report

Structure, Governance and Management

Wild Oxfordshire is incorporated as a company limited by guarantee and governed by Memorandum and Articles.

The Trustees are elected by the members of the charity at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) each year with one third standing down each year but eligible for re-election indefinitely. The Chair of Trustees is appointed by the Board from time to time.

The Board of Trustees

Wild Oxfordshire's Board of Trustees has an upper limit of 12 to enable the broad partnership that is the core of the charity's purpose to be fully represented. Development of the Board is seen as an ongoing process, with review of representation and skills carried out in response to vacancies as they arise, and a more structured skills audit carried out periodically. New Trustees are given an induction into the work and policies of the Charity.

The trustees retain authority and decision-making powers in respect of the key areas of Wild Oxfordshire's activities. The day-to-day overall executive leadership of activities are delegated to the Chief Executive, who started in June 2020.

Chairman's Report 2021/22

It was with great pleasure that I joined the Board of Wild Oxfordshire in early 2021 to take on the role of Chair. I would like to offer my deepest thanks and appreciation to my predecessors Nick Mottram and Sian Liwicki who did such a wonderful job in leading the governance of Wild Oxfordshire in the preceding months and years. Both have stood down from the Board but I am so pleased that Sian has accepted an ongoing role as patron of the charity alongside our founder, Robin Buxton.

I have joined the Charity with a background in environmental and higher education and a previous role with Northumberland Wildlife Trust. I was drawn to a governance role with Wild Oxfordshire because of the very practical and hands-on role it plays with local communities across the County and because it is above all else a charity committed to meaningful relationships across all sectors of society to work in partnership to further our vision of a more natural, resilient and biodiverse County for the benefit of all.

Despite the Government setting ambitious goals for 30% of land in the UK to be protected by 2030 we know that the outlook for wildlife in the County is still not good, with many protected areas such as sites of special scientific interest in poor condition and numbers of key species in decline. Major development, especially in housing, continues and the fragmentation and loss of connectivity between our key habitats remains a major concern.

However, there are signs of hope and the potential for Wild Oxfordshire and our partners to use a range of new policy tools now coming into place that will help reverse the decline in wildlife. The Environment Act 2021 introduced the concept of net biodiversity gain required for all new developments. Reforms to agricultural payments following our exit from the European Union offers the prospect of farmers being paid to manage public goods such as ecosystem services which will benefit wildlife. We are also on the cusp of there being a statutory responsibility for a Nature Recovery Strategy to be in place for the County. Wild Oxfordshire has done so much good work to prepare the wider environmental movement in the county to take advantage of that strategy when it is finally in place.

Perhaps most important is the growing public awareness of a global climate emergency and extinction crisis and that the fate of the planet's climate is intimately linked to the wild places, plants and animals that make up natural ecosystems.

The staff and volunteers of Wild Oxfordshire are able to work at a range of scales to maximise the opportunities these changes are bringing. Whether it is working with families in their homes and gardens, local community groups and Parish Councils on cherished local green spaces, local authorities including the three Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty in our County, and farmers,



Together for Nature

landowners and managers responsible for the agricultural landscape of Oxfordshire, Wild Oxfordshire excels in bring people together to work collectively towards a common purpose.

I am excited in the work we are doing in supporting local communities and this is an area of work that we hope to expand in the coming year. Similarly, the landscape scale activities that happen through our leadership of the Evenlode River Catchment Partnership brings together a wide range of organisations and individuals with a common interest in improving the quality of the Evenlode River.

Such projects can sometimes secure grants and sponsorship, but at the heart of our organisation are our friends who support us financially. The Board of Wild Oxfordshire offer our sincere thanks to our financial supporters for the commitment made to our charity. This income gives us the flexibility to invest in areas where grants are not so forthcoming such as our work on strategic ecology.

An example of this is the investment in time made by our Chief executive, Camilla Burrow, in working with other environmental organisations, especially our friends at the Berks, Bucks and Oxon Wildlife Trust, to help set up the Oxfordshire Local Nature Partnership. This body brings together public, private and NGO sector organisations to coordinate strategy on nature recovery across Oxfordshire and is a major step forward in guiding the work of a wide range of organisations towards a common purpose.

The Charity continues to grow, at a steady and sustainable rate, and I'm pleased that two new members of staff have joined the team, Rhiannon Evetts, who is supporting community ecology activities and the Evenlode Catchment Project on engaging people and Eoghan Concannon who has joined the Evenlode Catchment Partnership as a Project officer, drawing on his experience in working on river management in his native Ireland.

I am blessed to be working alongside an enthusiastic and committed group of trustees, staff, volunteers, and supporters of Wild Oxfordshire. We have many challenges to overcome before our vision of a county rich in wildlife is realised but we'll continue the journey in partnership, our collective hands-on action continuing to benefit the treasured wildlife of Oxfordshire.

Our Vision

A more natural, resilient, and biodiverse Oxfordshire for the benefit of all

Our Purpose

To catalyse change by identifying needs, convening partnerships and unlocking opportunities for conservation action

Our Values

Positive

Working collaboratively; seeking to understand other points of view and approaches

Agile

Responding quickly once we have identified a need for conservation action

Open

New ideas, new ways of working and alternative approaches

Our Key Activities



Collaborating

Bringing people within the conservation sector together at the strategic and operational scale, to work for more effective change, avoiding duplication and conflict



Engaging

Providing bespoke advice to inspire and empower individuals and communities to enhance their environment and use nature-based solutions



Inspiring

Piloting innovative exemplar on-the-ground activities and sharing stories to encourage others



Informing

Horizon-scanning and sharing curated, relevant, and trusted information to raise awareness and facilitate action for nature's recovery

Collaborating

Working together for Nature's Recovery is essential so that we can support each other and collaborate to achieve greater impact for our environment and communities. We are lucky in Oxfordshire to have a wonderful group of hard-working, passionate, and knowledgeable individuals employed by a variety of organisations (charities, local government, DEFRA bodies, AONBS, businesses), in addition to a large number of volunteer community groups and individuals.

In 2021/22 Wild Oxfordshire continued to host or lead several partnerships and working groups. These included setting up the Local Nature Partnership, contributing to Biodiversity Gain and Environmental Investment Plan, holding the Vice-chair of the Oxfordshire Environment Board, and hosting the Biodiversity Advisory Group, Conservation Target Area Leads, Evenlode Catchment Partnership, Yellow Wagtail Partnership and Curlew Recovery Project. We also partnered with CPRE Oxfordshire and local communities in the hugely successful Hedgerow Heroes project to plant and restore over 2km of hedgerow and increase understanding of hedgerow management.

'The strength of the Oxfordshire project was in its grassroots engagement with communities, building up a whole network of people who are now inspired to care for their local hedgerows. It's been a great partnership between Wild Oxfordshire and CPRE Oxfordshire and we hope this can be repeated in the future.' Helen Marshall | Director

Wild Oxfordshire have established relationships with two sectors that the environmental community in Oxfordshire has limited engagement with. These are the farming/land owning and commercial business sectors and both will have an important part to play in Nature Recovery within the county. We held several workshops and conversations to reach out to individuals and companies and recruit Nature Recovery Ambassadors who could be influential in promoting wider engagement across their sector.

The Evenlode Catchment Partnership (ECP), hosted by Wild Oxfordshire, uses nature-based solutions to restore the health of the river catchment for wildlife and people. This year, over 30 partner organisations came together to create, and begin to implement, the Smarter Water Catchment Plan. The ECP is working with multiple farming clusters to encourage regenerative farming and mitigate diffuse pollution across the catchment.

Wild Oxfordshire is co-ordinating a new partnership initiative which aims to improve the fortunes of our breeding Curlews. The Curlew is arguably the most pressing bird conservation priority in the UK, where nearly half the breeding population has been lost over the last 25 years. The project is focused on action by volunteer fieldworkers working closely with farmers to increase the breeding success of our remaining Curlews, across a network of sites across the Upper Thames. Volunteers locate curlew nests and erect temporary electric fencing until about a month later the chicks hatch and leave the protected area under close parental supervision! This year 15 nests were located, of

which 11 were fenced. Most of the nests protected were at Otmoor, where 9 chicks fledged from 13 nests, an excellent result. Our ambition is to build on this success and fence more nests across the Upper Thames next year.

Engaging

As part of our Community Ecology project, 22 groups and parish councils distributed across Oxfordshire received our help and 7 presentations were made on 'What You Can do for Nature' and 'Why Wild Bees Matter'. We also worked with 5 owners of small land holdings seeking to contribute positively to nature's recovery.

Additionally, in 2021/2022 our particular focus was given to creating more healthier, and better-connected hedgerows across the three project areas, reinforcing the character of the landscape, boosting resilience to climate change and in line with Oxfordshire Biodiversity Action Plan targets. Ultimately, this saw 1701m of new hedge planted, 320m of coppiced and gapped up hedge and 160m of laid hedge. 18 new hedgerow trees were incorporated where appropriate. In this process 7 local contractors were employed and 5 suppliers used. Our work subsequently attracted a further £6000 from Natural England Eynsham's Nature Recovery Network for additional pollarding & hedge laying work.

To increase awareness of the Evenlode river environment the ECP has engaged over a dozen schools and attended several community outreach days to increase support for the ECP vision.

Community walks have been set up, through farm visits to provide people with better access. There was a farm visit to Bruern in March 2022.

Inspiring

Through the hedgerow project we sought to inspire a better understanding within the local community of the importance of connectivity of habitats by hedgerows, with opportunities for practical involvement and engagement. By the end of the project, 175 volunteers were equipped for action, and 5 events were held to build and sustain local capacity.

In Summer 2021 the Yellow Wagtail Partnership continued to collect baseline invertebrate data. We hosted the project's very successful launch party with over 100 guests and 27 speakers. We have continued our engagement with farmers, landowners and the communities through events including The Oxford Real Farming Conference and talks for groups including Sustainable Harwell. In October 2021, Project Officer, Sophie, started her PhD on Yellow Wagtail ecology at the University of Reading. Working with project's partners, we have developed a project strategy with deliverable aims and objectives.

As a result of our Evenlode Catchment Partnership, Thames Water have said they will upgrade at least 4 Sewage Treatment Works (STWs) around the catchment in the next 5- 7 years so that raw and partially treated sewage is not emptied into the rivers and streams of the catchment.

Natural Flood Management (NFM) measures on the Bruern estate were completed in 2021, which has inspired the estates of Bledington and Batsford to implement NFM measures to prepare and protect locals from flood risk.

River Restoration projects were completed on the river Dorn and Brookend farm. Two barriers to fish migration were removed, created wetlands to provide habitat for water birds and delay sediment loading to the main Evenlode. A wet grassland survey was commissioned to identify remaining species-rich water meadows in the catchment. This work will better protect and improve biodiversity and habitat.

Informing

Communicating with our member organisations, as well as with influencers amongst the public, continues to underpin all our work. Communications and consensus building represent a Wild Oxfordshire USP and continue to be crucial in a sector that is remarkable in its breadth, ambition and degree of under-funding.

In 2021/22 we built on what we had learnt during covid lockdowns by holding a combination of virtual and in person events, in addition to some “hybrid” events. We now have even more high-quality videos and presentations on our You-Tube channel, in addition to the networking benefits our in-person events achieved.

To extend the impact of the ‘Hedgerow Heroes’ project beyond the three project areas, we commissioned 2 short films: ‘How to Plant a Hedge’ and ‘The Watlington West Meadow Hedgerow Project’. We ran our hedgerow themed Local Environment Groups Conference via 4 Webinars on Zoom: ‘Surveying Hedgerows, Why & How’ by Megan Gimber (97 people attended); ‘Hedgerows and Wildlife’ by Rob Wolton (101 people attended); ‘Hedgerows - Laws, Rules & Regulations’ by Emma Marrington (73 people attended); ‘The Lifecycle Management of a Hedge’ by Nigel Adams (121 people attended). We publicised these events to environment groups and parish councils; 592 people signed up. They are available to watch again from our website.

We were delighted to welcome Professor Sir Dieter Helm to give our annual lecture of ‘COP26 what next?’ and over 90 people joined a very thought-provoking presentation and discussion.

Sondes equipment was set up in the Evenlode at the end of 2021 to get direct and automatic water quality measurements to identify the sources of pollution.

Our Autumn 2021 newsletter focussed on a biodiversity-first approach, showcasing how Oxfordshire businesses can contribute to Nature's Recovery.

"We are delighted to support Wild Oxfordshire and greatly value the cohesion and vision they bring to delivering Nature's Recovery in Oxfordshire." Smiths (Bletchington)

Our social media reaches over 2,000 people (Facebook 1,000 members; Twitter 2,300 followers; Instagram 390 followers, Linked-In) and our monthly email Bulletin goes out directly to 1,700 readers each month with news of our own and from partners.

We continued to update the [Wild Oxfordshire website](#) which informs everyone working and volunteering in nature conservation about the natural environment of Oxfordshire, partnerships and groups they can join, and resources explaining how to take the best action for nature on their patch.

Funding & Supporters

In these turbulent times, long-term funding is needed to ensure that our work can continue, especially in the context of unprecedented pressure on our beautiful and still largely rural county. Thank you to all our partners and member organisations for engaging with us through the year, our donors and sponsors. 2021 saw us collaborating with two Big Give campaigns, which was a steep learning curve for us but very successful as we met our targets. For the Green Match Fund in April 2021, we raised £2,500 to match the Big Give's £2,500 and the Christmas Campaign saw us grow in ambition! Wild Oxfordshire Patron Sian Liwicki and the John Spedan Lewis Foundation provided match funds of £10,000 and amazing our supporters matched this to achieve our target of £20,000.

Thank you to our key donors this year which include Blenheim, Grit Howe Charitable Trust, Living Oxfordshire, Lucy Group, Natural England, Neighbourly, Pye Charitable Trust, Smiths (Bletchington), District Council, Oxfordshire County Council, West Oxfordshire District Council, Environment Agency and Thames Water.

Thank you to also to the Friends and individuals too numerous to mention but to whom we are very grateful for their support.

Thank you to the trustees for all their time and effort, which goes far beyond attending trustees meetings and is estimated conservatively to be a total of 700 hours of time. Particular thanks to Sian Liwicki who stepped down as a Trustee but is still supporting Wild Oxfordshire in her new role as one of our patrons, and to Nick Mottram who also stepped down. Thank you to our founding patron Robin Buxton.



Together for Nature

Thank you to all the staff and volunteers who have worked so hard during another difficult year full of challenges. Particular thanks to two of our volunteers Marilyn McCreight and Bruce Winney, who helped us with fundraising and preparing the Nature Recovery Strategy respectively.

David Knight
Chair of Wild Oxfordshire 2021-22

Treasurer's Report 2021-22

Financial Review of the year ended 31st March 2021

Because of the level of turnover during the period 2021/22, the company is entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies. The directors nevertheless acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and preparation of accounts. So, these accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to The Small Companies regime.

Comparative position

Incoming resources of £436,174 in 21/22 was an increase of £28,662 on the previous year (£407,512) with £320,064 (£256,205 20/21) related to Restricted projects with a reduction in income on Evenlode projects (including Natural Flood Management and River Restoration projects) offset by an increase arising from new projects with restricted sources of income, as can be seen from the table below.

The remaining charitable income of £116,110 (20/21 £151,307) decreased mainly due to a reduction in unrestricted grants with increases in most other area of unrestricted funding Overall unrestricted funding remains key in continuing to support Wild Oxfordshire's ongoing activities and other strategic projects.

In addition, an unrealised gain of £10,029 (20/21 £17,083) was made on our investments.

	21/22	20/21	Increase / (Decrease)
<u>Restricted Income</u>			
ECP (inc. NFM & RR)	223,642	256,205	(32,564)
Hedgerow	53,750	0	53,750
Curlew	10,518	0	10,518
Yellow Wagtail	24,214	0	24,214
Natures Ambassadors	7,940	0	7,940
Total Restricted	320,064	256,205	63,859
<u>Unrestricted Income</u>	116,110	151,307	(35,197)
<u>Total incoming Resources</u>	436,174	407,512	28,662
<u>Gains/(Losses) on Investments</u>	10,029	17,083	(7,054)
Total Income	446,203	424,594	21,609

In 21/22 Wild Oxfordshire's expenditure increased by £18,714 from £361,145 in 20/21 to £379,859. The larger share of this spend was on restricted projects to balance the income received (see table above, income by Restricted project) of £320,064 with 70% of this related to the Evenlode Catchment Partnership projects and the remainder on new Restricted projects in 21/22

Spending on our core charitable activities in the year totalled £59,796 a reduction of £45,144 on 20/21 resulting from the increased staff activity and allocations on projects.

Overall, a surplus on the year of £66,344 (20/21 £63,449), so an increase of £9,948.

Cash/Bank/Investments

Total held in our bank accounts and investments at the year-end was £627,265, of this £293,387 is advance restricted income held for expenditure on projects in future years.

Therefore, balance of available funds is £333,878 and with current liabilities of £13,792 unrestricted funds at the end of this financial year stood at £320,086 (20/20 £253,742).

Investment Policy

Trustees held the assets of the charity in accordance with their powers during the year. The trustees have absolute discretion to invest the funds of the charity. Our policy for the selection of investments for the charity has been to place at minimum 75% of surplus funds in fixed fund units with COIF via CCLA, and a COIF investment fund (listed equities).

Our expenditure for 21/22 was on average around £30,000 per month but for 22/23 is budgeted to increase to c. £43,000 month, so we would argue we need 5/6 months liquid funds so minimum £215,000, meaning that of our year end £625,271 cash (including investments) some £410,000 is currently surplus of which policy dictates 75% or £308,000 could be invested short to medium term.

At the end of the financial year some £201,705 of our banking funds are held in interest bearing accounts and our investments held amounted to £109,032, so in total we have funds invested of £310,737, slightly more than our minimum policy requirement.

Reserves Policy

Our policy has been to maintain unrestricted reserves available at a minimum of £150,000. As Wild Oxfordshire's capacity grows, so does its costs albeit modestly, but it would be prudent to keep the reserves policy under review.

In a nutshell, Wild Oxfordshire's 21/22 Financial position is:

Balance at start of year (all unrestricted)	£253,742
Income	£436,174



Together for Nature

Expenditure	£379,859
Gains from investments (including revaluations)	£10,029
Funds carried forward into 2022/23 (all unrestricted)	£320,086

Our resulting strong financial position means that Wild Oxfordshire remains comfortably above its agreed £150,000 minimum reserves threshold.

This position has allowed us to continue to invest in increasing our structural capacity and our work for the future and has been achieved because of our fundraising achievements against a relatively modest base spend.

My thanks to all staff and to Trustees for a yet another great fundraising effort which remains a priority for us, and the resultant generosity of donors in their financial support for the work of Wild Oxfordshire in 21/22 (recognised elsewhere in this Report).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Russell".

Mike Russell, Treasurer 2021-22

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

Charity law requires trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity at the year end and of its incoming resources and resources expended during the year. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed subject to any departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

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

Independent Examiner

The Trustees have appointed CerTax Accounting to carry out the examination of these accounts, which exceed the threshold that requires independent examination under Charity Commission accounting rules. The trustees recommend that Certax Accounting remain in office until further notice.

This report was approved by the trustees on 14th September 2022 and signed on their behalf by

David Knight
Chair of Wild Oxfordshire 2021-22

Independent Examiner's Report

to the trustees on the unaudited financial statements of Wild Oxfordshire.

We report on the financial statements of Wild Oxfordshire for the year ended 31st March 2022 which comprise the statement of financial activities, balance sheet and related notes.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

As the charity trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts, you consider that the audit requirements of section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the Act) does not apply. It is our responsibility to state, on the basis of procedures specified in the general Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under section 43(7)9b of the Act, whether particular matters have come to our attention.

Basis of Independent examiner's report

Our examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners and in accordance with the provisions in part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime. 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 we do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

In our opinion the financial statements:

Give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31st March 2022 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including income and expenditure, for the year then ended;

Have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and

Have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 and the statement of Recommended Practice for charities.



Simon Oakland, CerTax Accounting
Independent Scrutineer

Financial Statement

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31st March 2022

		Unrestricted Funds 2022	Restricted Funds 2022	Total 2022	Total 2021
	Notes	£	£	£	£
INCOMING RESOURCES					
Voluntary income	2	115,271	319,514	434,785	405,811
Investment income	3	839	551	1,390	1,701
Total incoming resources		<u>116,110</u>	<u>320,064</u>	<u>436,174</u>	<u>407,512</u>
RESOURCES EXPENDED					
Fundraising	4	1,046	-	1,046	167
Charitable activities					
Communication and partnerships	5	58,029	320,064	378,093	360,258
Governance costs	6	720	-	720	720
Total resources expended		<u>59,795</u>	<u>320,064</u>	<u>379,859</u>	<u>361,145</u>
NET INCOMING/ (OUTGOING)		<u>56,315</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>56,315</u>	<u>46,367</u>
RESOURCES BEFORE TRANSFERS					
Transfers between Funds		-	-	-	-
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources before other recognised gains and losses		<u>56,315</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>56,315</u>	<u>46,367</u>
Gains/losses on investment assets	11	<u>10,029</u>		<u>10,029</u>	<u>17,083</u>
Net movement in funds		<u>66,344</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>66,344</u>	<u>63,449</u>
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward from 2019/20		<u>253,742</u>	-	<u>253,742</u>	<u>190,292</u>
Total funds carried forward		<u>320,086</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>320,086</u>	<u>253,742</u>

The notes on pages 19 - 25 form an integral part of these financial statements

Balance Sheet as at 31st March 2022

	Notes	2022 £	2021 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	10	1,994	295
Investments	11	<u>107,038</u>	<u>97,009</u>
		109,032	97,305
Current assets			
Debtors	12	27,119	480
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>518,233</u>	<u>416,345</u>
		545,352	416,825
Liabilities			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	13	(334,298)	(260,387)
Net current assets		211,054	156,438
Net Assets		<u>320,086</u>	<u>253,742</u>
Funds	14	320,086	253,742

The notes on pages 19 – 25 received form an integral part of these financial statements

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 14th September 2022 and signed on its behalf by:



Mike Russell

(Hon. Treasurer)

Notes to the Financial Statements

1.1. Accounting convention

The accounts are prepared under the historical cost convention, as modified by the revaluation of investments, and in compliance with applicable accounting standards. In preparing the accounts the company has followed best practice as laid down in the Companies Act 1985, the Charities Act 1993 and the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" (Revised 2005). Where applicable, comparative figures have been restated to comply with SORP 2005, but these restatements have had no effect on the funds brought forward at the start of the year.

The charity has taken advantage of the exemption in FRS1 from the requirement to produce a cashflow statement because it is a small charity.

Incoming resources

Incoming resources are generally recognised on a receivable basis and are reported gross of related expenditure, where the amounts are reasonably certain and when there is adequate certainty of receipt.

The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

- Voluntary income received by way of grants, donations and legacies is included in full in the Statement of Financial Activities when receivable. Gift Aid recoverable is accounted for in the same period as the related donation.
- Unrestricted funds can be spent on any of the organisation's charitable activities. Restricted funds must be spent on activities specified by the funder
- Legacies are recognised as income only when the charity becomes entitled to the income, receipt is certain, and the amount concerned is measurable.
- Grants (including grants for the purchase of fixed assets), where entitlement is not conditional on delivery of a specific performance by the charity, are recognised when the charity becomes unconditionally entitled to the grant.
- Investment income is accounted for when receivable.
- Donated assets are included at the value to the charity where this can be quantified, and a third party is bearing the cost. Gifts donated for resale are included as income when they are sold.
- The value of services provided by volunteers has not been included.

1.3. Resources expended

Resources expended are accounted for on an accruals basis and gross of any related income. They are classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. They are split according to restricted and unrestricted funds to enable us to report back to funders who have requested their donation be spent on specific activities. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings, they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with use of the resources.

Fundraising costs are those incurred in seeking voluntary contributions and do not include the costs of disseminating information in support of the charitable activities.

Costs of charitable activities comprise direct expenditure including direct staff costs attributable to activities. Where costs cannot be directly attributed, they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Governance costs include those costs, such as statutory audit and legal and professional fees, associated with constitutional and statutory requirement.

1.4. Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost or valuation less residual value of each asset over its expected useful life, as follows:

Fixtures, fittings and equipment - 20% reducing balance

I.T Equipment - 33% reducing balance

1.5. Investments

Where there is a readily ascertainable market value, investments are shown at market value as at the year-end. In the absence of a readily ascertainable market value, investments are valued at cost. Movements in value are shown in the income and expenditure account.

1.6. Pensions

The pension costs charged in the financial statements represent the contribution payable by the charity during the year.

2. Voluntary income

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted Projects	2022	2021
	£	£	£	£
Donations	76,435	-	76,435	37,261
Grants	34,737	319,514	354,250	364,663
Subscriptions	1,088	-	1,088	1,068
Other	3,011	-	3,011	2,820
Total	<u>115,271</u>	<u>319,514</u>	<u>434,785</u>	<u>405,811</u>

2.1 Gifts and services in kind

The trustees recognise that gifts and services in kind were an important contributor to the overall financial well-being of Wild Oxfordshire. The total value of help in kind including invaluable support of volunteers is conservatively estimated at £50,000.

3. Investment income

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2022	2021
	£	£	£	£
Income from investments	800	-	800	600
Deposit interest	39	551	590	1,101
Total	<u>839</u>	<u>551</u>	<u>1,390</u>	<u>1,701</u>

4. Fundraising

Expenditure during the Year - £1,046 (2021 £167)

We are constantly seeking new sources of funds.

5. Costs of charitable activities

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
	Funds	Funds	2022	2021
	£	£	£	£
Staff costs	39,962	104,265	144,227	132,407
Legal		-	-	-
Administration and Communications	29,905	-	29,905	9,403
Fundraising	1,046	-	1,046	167
Core overheads allocated to Projects	(33,912)	-	(33,912)	-
Projects				
Environmental Strategy work	12,686	-	12,686	7,860
Community Ecologist Projects	9,388	-	9,388	906
Curlew project	-	10,518	10,518	3,272
Hedgerow project	-	24,911	24,911	-
Evenlode Catchment Work	-	163,169	163,169	106,411
Yellow Wagtail	-	12,435	12,435	-
Natures Ambassadors	-	4,766	4,766	-
Total	<u>59,075</u>	<u>320,064</u>	<u>379,139</u>	<u>360,425</u>

6. Governance costs

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2022	2021
	funds	funds	£	£
	£	£		
Independent examination costs	720	-	720	720

7. Operating gain

	2022	2021
	£	£
Operating gain is stated after charging:		
Depreciation and other amounts written off tangible assets	982	144

8. Employees

	2022	2021
Number of employees		
The average monthly number of employees during the year was:	6	4

Employment costs

	Unrestricted	Restricted Funds	2022 £	2021 £
Wages & Salaries	39,964	104,265	144,227	132,407

No trustee received any remuneration or expenses during the year 2021/22 - £Nil, (2020-21 - £Nil)

9. Pension costs

The company pays pension contributions to employees' personal pension schemes. The pension charge represents contributions due from the company and amounted to £9,598 (2020 - £5,294).

10. Tangible fixed assets

	Computer £	Fixtures and fittings and equipment £	Total £
Cost			
At April 1 2021	7,201	639	7,840
Addition	2,6881	-	2,681
At 31 March 2022	9,882	639	10,521
Depreciation			
At April 1 2021	6,911	633	7,544
Charge for the year	981	2	983
At 31 March 2022	7,892	635	8,527
Net Book Values			
AT 31 March 2022	1,990	4	1,994
At 31 March 2021	290	6	296

11. Investments

	Listed investment £	Total £
Market value		
At 1 April 2021	97,009	97,009
Additions	-	-
Disposals	-	-
Revaluations		
At 31 March 2022	10,029	10,029
Net book values		
At 31 March 2022	107,038	107,038
At 31 March 2021	97,009	97,009

Included in fixed asset investments are the following individual investments, which represent more than 5% of the total investment portfolio:

	2022 £	2021 £
COIF Charities - Fixed Fund units	9,193	9,528
COIF Charities - Investment Fund units	97,845	87,481
<i>Total</i>	107,038	97,009

Investments at market value comprise:

	2022 £	2021 £
UK – Listed equities	97,845	87,481
UK – Unlisted equities	1,680	1,680
UK – Securities	7,513	7,848
Total	107,038	97,009

The historical cost of investments at 31 March 2022 was £43,587 (no change)

12. Debtors

	2022 £	2021 £
Trade debtors	27,119	480

13. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2022	2021
	£	£
Trade creditors	35,187	11,165
Advanced income (NFM & ECP)	293,387	248,502
Other creditors	437	-
Accruals and deferred income	5,287	720
<u>Total</u>	334,298	260,387

14. Funds

	31 March 2021 £	Incoming £	Outgoing £	Gains/losses £	TRFS	31 March 2022 £
Unrestricted	253,742	116,110	59,795	10,029	0	320,086
Restricted Projects	0	320,064	320,064	0	0	0
All Funds	253,742	436,174	379,859	10,029	-	320,086

WILD OXFORDSHIRE

England & Wales - Charity number 1131540

Accounts

Wild Oxfordshire
Trustees' report and financial statements
1st April 2020 to 31st March 2021

Company number 06828051

Charity number 1131540

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Working Together for Nature

Legal and Administrative Information

Trustees/Company Directors

Sian Liwicki (re-elected 9th December 2020)

Victoria Robinson (re-elected 9th December 2020)

Ian Curtis (re-elected 9th December 2020)

Fiona Danks (elected 9th December 2020)

Chris Cousins (re-elected 3rd December 2015)

Nick Mottram (re-elected 4th December 2019)

Nick Rowe (elected 11th September 2019)

David Knight (elected 10th March 2021)

Mike Russell (Treasurer) (elected 10th March 2021)

Dave Woodwark (resigned 10th March 2021)

Rob Dance (Treasurer) (resigned 16th September 2020)

Wild Oxfordshire

Charity number 1131540 (registered 9th September 2009)

Company number 06828051 (registered 24th February 2009)

Registered Office: Manor House, Little Wittenham, Abingdon OX14 4RA

Independent Examiner: Certax Accounting, Creek End, Burcot, Abingdon OX14 3DJ

Bank: CAF Bank Ltd., P.O.Box 289, West Malling, Kent ME19 4TA

Investment Manager: CCLA Investment Management Ltd, 85 Victoria St, London EC4V 4ET

Contact: Clare Mowbray, Manor House, Little Wittenham, Abingdon, Oxon OX14 4RA

Number of employees: 4

Web Site: www.wildoxfordshire.org.uk

Trustees' Annual Report

Structure, Governance and Management

Wild Oxfordshire is incorporated as a company limited by guarantee and governed by Memorandum and Articles.

The Trustees are elected by the members of the charity at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) each year with one third standing down each year but eligible for re-election indefinitely. The Chair of Trustees is appointed by the Board from time to time.

The Board of Trustees

Wild Oxfordshire's Board of Trustees has an upper limit of 12 to enable the broad partnership that is the core of the charity's purpose to be fully represented. Development of the Board is seen as an ongoing process, with review of representation and skills carried out in response to vacancies as they arise, and a more structured skills audit carried out periodically. New Trustees are given an induction into the work and policies of the Charity.

The trustees retain authority and decision-making powers in respect of the key areas of Wild Oxfordshire's activities. The day-to-day administration of activities were during the year under review delegated to the team as a whole, although since June 2020 a Director has been appointed who, subject to matters which continue to be retained by the trustees, now takes overall executive leadership of activities.

Chairman's Report 2020/21

The year of 2020 will stay with us all for our lifetimes. With global tragedy and shocking personal loss and grief, our assumptions about the future have changed utterly. But silver linings – indeed, rainbows – were part of the year too. Symbols of humanity's passion, resilience and sheer stubbornness never to give up hope.

In our own conservation sector, the lockdowns have refreshed and re-imagined our engagement with nature. A shot in the arm, essential to our wellbeing. Politicians, business leaders, health experts and society agree that building back biodiversity must now be part of "build back better".

A critical lesson from the pandemic is that the future is about partnerships. Unprecedented – and incredible – partnerships. A further insight from Covid was the amazing response by the public when asked to help. Enthusiasm, sharing, ingenuity and passion were in abundance.

Partnerships and working with volunteers have always been at the heart of Wild Oxfordshire, embedded in the name of our precursor, the Oxfordshire Nature Conservation Forum. But early in 2020, we took the decision to boost our efforts strategically in these two critical and mutually reinforcing elements by appointing a Director to join our small team.

We were delighted to recruit Camilla Burrow from Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre. Camilla had been TVERC's Director for almost ten years, and before that Ecologist Planner for Oxfordshire County Council. With her extensive contacts across the county and beyond Camilla has – with her new Wild Oxfordshire colleagues - already spent much of 2020 and the start of 2021 looking to new partnerships and engagements with local government, business, community groups, the media, and researchers as well as existing friends in Oxfordshire's conservation network. Camilla has also worked with staff and trustees to clarify our Strategic Plan and ensured we have a robust operational framework in place.

We expanded our staff team when we were joined by Sophie Cunningham as Project Officer on the Yellow Wagtail Project, Mike Pollard leading on Oxfordshire's Nature Recovery Strategy and our amazing volunteers Bruce Winney who helped with stakeholder analysis and Marilyn Bowler helping with fundraising.

Our Vision

A more natural, resilient, and biodiverse Oxfordshire for the benefit of all

Our Purpose

To catalyse change by identifying needs, convening partnerships and unlocking opportunities for conservation action

Our Values

Positive

Working collaboratively; seeking to understand other points of view and approaches

Agile

Responding quickly once we have identified a need for conservation action

Open

New ideas, new ways of working and alternative approaches

Our Key Activities



Collaborating

Bringing people within the conservation sector together at the strategic and operational scale, to work for more effective change, avoiding duplication and conflict



Engaging

Providing bespoke advice to inspire and empower individuals and communities to enhance their environment and use nature-based solutions



Inspiring

Piloting innovative exemplar on-the-ground activities and sharing stories to encourage others



Informing

Horizon-scanning and sharing curated, relevant, and trusted information to raise awareness and facilitate action for nature's recovery

Collaborating

With limited resources and investment in the environmental sector, and the growing biodiversity crisis, working together is essential to ensure we can achieve the biggest impact. In 2020/21 Wild Oxfordshire continued to host or lead several partnerships and working groups. These included working groups on setting up the Local Nature Partnership, Biodiversity Net Gain and Environmental Investment Plan, holding the Vice-chair of the Oxfordshire Environment Board, and hosting the Biodiversity Advisory Group, Conservation Target Area Leads and Evenlode Catchment Partnership.

Wild Oxfordshire have led the development of the Nature Recovery Strategy for Oxfordshire. Our focus in 2020/21 was on mapping and analysis of stakeholders, with plans for engagement to fill identified gaps in 2021/22. Wild Oxfordshire formally signed-up to the national NRN Delivery Partnership and attended the Buckinghamshire webinar and stakeholder workshop to learn from their pilot.

Engaging

As part of our Community Ecology project, 31 groups and parish councils distributed across Oxfordshire received our help. Particular attention was given to Watlington Environment Group, Benson Nature Group, Tadmarton Parish Council and Kidlington Parish Council.

The year has seen important developments in the Evenlode Catchment Partnership. As part of the Evenlode Catchment project, initial discussions with a variety of landowners wanting to improve the river habitat on their land has led to the formation of the NE Cotswold Farmer Cluster with Tim Field, ex Daylesford as the facilitator. In addition, £20k of funding from the EA was used to carry out 15 landowner initial site farm visits and produce written reports. Alongside the delivery of projects a great deal of work was undertaken with catchment partners and Thames Water to develop the outline of a new Evenlode Smarter Water Catchment Partnership, to be launched in the following year.

Our Catchment Champions continue to sample water quality every month. We held a virtual meeting to discuss the 12 month report results, which showed high phosphate spikes after sewage water treatment works. We are in discussions with the Environment Agency and Earthwatch as to how they can use our data to help them. We held a joint workshop with Catchment volunteers, Earthwatch and our water quality subgroup to discuss the project and plan for the future.

We launched our Curlew Recovery project at the first meeting of the Upper Thames Wader Group in January, which was attended by over 90 people and recorded on YouTube channel (142 views). 56 people responded to a questionnaire request and we have engaged with farmers in the Cherwell Conservation Target Area. We delivered training to volunteers who have helped to put up electric fences around curlew nests.

Inspiring

Acknowledging lockdown and that the participating health centres were unlikely to be in the position to contribute any time to monitoring their planted bee-borders, Roselle undertook the bee surveys and submitted the data to the national Pollinator Monitoring Scheme (PoMS) for the Bee Healthy Project. The Bee Healthy Project Guide was created to share our experiences and provides practical information for community organisations that wish to create their own Bee Healthy borders.

Initial site survey and soil sampling was commissioned for the Bruern Weir Bypass, survey work completed, soil samples completed. The design stage will be progressed now with the river cutting its own channel both as a bypass to the weir and on the other side of the road as part of the river restoration project work. The project will be constructed in Summer 2022. The Elemental Glyme Project wetland work at Magpie Farm has also been completed.

PhD students have completed data collection and are concentrating on writing up their theses with both students submitting short papers to EGU General Assembly 2021.

We completed the Natural Flood Management project, which consisted of constructing bunds in September/October complete with wildflower seeding this spring. We also designed nutrient traps and ponds in collaboration with Matt Childs, Bruern Farms. These have been designed to intercept surface water flows from the arable fields in high rainfall and pond the water temporarily, where the sediment can fall out of suspension and later be returned to the fields rather than wash down the ditches into the rivers. Bruern Farms constructed these in the autumn and completed them this spring. We also completed riparian tree planting to the nutrient trap interventions, agro-forestry tree planting and deer fencing.

Students have produced some very good interim results of hydrology and water quality monitoring and the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology secured a monitoring contract to upload and store data from a trimmed-down monitoring network. Bird surveyors completed winter and breeding bird surveys this year despite lockdowns. Monitoring of interventions will be continued by the Environment Agency. Figures for carbon storage show that taking out the areas for Natural Flood Management plus woodland planting on previously arable land, captures sufficient carbon to offset any carbon emissions from traditional farming methods for the arable areas remaining.

Over the past year, our Yellow Wagtail Project has gone from just an idea on paper to a working landscape-scale conservation project. We have developed a good background understanding of the project and identified areas of interest and potential management practices for the site. We have worked to engage local landowners, farmers, and similar conservation projects along the Thames. The project's presence on social media, articles in the monthly Bulletin and talks at

conferences such as TVERC's Spring Recorders' Conference 2021 have been essential in promoting awareness for the project and has resulted in 5 volunteers offering their time.

Fieldwork was carried out in Summer 2020 where we collected and sorted 305 samples, containing a total of 11427 invertebrates. This work was instrumental for developing ideas for the project, testing fieldwork equipment and getting to know the project site and the species that it supports. It has allowed us to design a more scientifically robust protocol for future years which we will use to monitor the success of new management plans.

A PhD project at the University of Reading has also developed which will answer key questions for the Yellow Wagtail Project.

Informing

Communicating with our member organisations, as well as with influencers amongst the public, continues to underpin all our work. Communications and consensus building represent a Wild Oxfordshire USP and continue to be crucial in a sector that is remarkable in its breadth, ambition and degree of under-funding.

The new COVID world meant we had to quickly learn to run virtual events and whilst we missed the buzz and the networking that real events generate, the virtual events meant we reached many more people and could utilise speakers from any corner of the country.

We ran the first Oxfordshire Catchment Catch-up Conference in May that welcomed 43 people and included speakers from the Beaver Trust discussing the challenges of reintroducing Beavers in the south of the UK. In June we had 50 attendees to two butterfly ID training sessions. The Annual Community Groups Conference that usually welcomes 80 individuals, reached 250 across four weekly webinars, which have since been viewed 688 times on [YouTube](#).

The conference outlined the evidence for the need for and the principles that underpin nature's recovery, followed by case studies featuring Oxfordshire communities who are successfully harnessing their collective energy and knowledge and taking effective action for nature on their patch. This received some excellent feedback, below is just a sample:

"This is such a fantastic and inspiring group of people - I am really looking forward to the remaining talks"

"Just wanted to thank you and Wild Oxfordshire for the fabulous webinar this evening. I found it really interesting to hear the full story of Benson's NP from the beginning and to learn more about TOE and the links between the various organisations. The content and style was spot on".

"Thank you for your excellent webinars - I know many others have also commented the same but they are really inspirational and helpful in facing the question - 'what can we do?'

In January, Richard Benwell from Wildlife and Conservation Link gave a fascinating visionary Annual Lecture to over 100 people representing over 40 member organisations.

As part of the Natural Flood Management project, interpretation boards were designed by Wild Oxfordshire and are ready to be installed to explain to the public how natural solutions can be used for flood mitigation. In addition HR Wallingford submitted an article to The Environment (June pub.) and are making a video of the process. The Project was a finalist in the EA Flood and Coast Excellence Awards 2021, for which we produced a 2 minute video.

We have proactively promoted the Nature Recovery Strategy by sending the Network maps to all Oxfordshire MPs, meeting with Richard Benwell, and giving a presentation to River Thames Conservation Trust and at our Community Groups Conference. We also dedicated a printed newsletter to Nature's Recovery. The Network maps are being used to inform development of the county strategic plan – Oxfordshire Plan 2050.

Bee friendly gardening tips were sent to all local press and Parish Magazines and we had feedback from 20+ parish magazines and websites.

Summer 2020 and Spring 2021 Newsletters were sent out with the themes of the amazing work done by a large number of volunteers to deliver Nature Recovery across Oxfordshire. Community groups and volunteers manage sites for wildlife, monitor water quality, count wildlife and extent and support wildlife across their communities' roadside verges, church yards and gardens.

Our social media reaches over 2,000 people (Facebook 1,000 members; Twitter 2,300 followers; Instagram 390 followers) and our monthly email Bulletin goes out directly to 1,700 readers each month with news of our own and from partners.

We continue to update the [Wild Oxfordshire website](#) which informs our contacts of projects and news in Oxfordshire and provides an important repository for key county-level conservation information such as the Conservation Target Areas and draft Nature Recovery Network. The new website for the [Evenlode Catchment](#) went live at the end of March with a raft of information. We will be adding more information about projects to act as case studies in 2021/22.

Funding & Supporters

In these turbulent times, long-term funding is needed to ensure that our work can continue, especially in the context of unprecedented pressure on our beautiful and still largely rural county. Thank you to all our partners and member organisations for engaging with us through the year, our donors and sponsors. Key donors include Annabel Pope, Cherwell District Council, Environment Agency, Grit Howe Charitable Trust, Natural England, Oxfordshire County Council, Oxford Wildlife Photography and Filmmaking Society, Pye Charitable Settlement, Smiths Bletchington, Thames Water, Trust for Oxfordshire's Environment, West Oxfordshire District Council. Thank you to also to the Friends and individuals too numerous to mention but to whom we are very grateful for their support.

Thank you to the trustees for all their time and effort, which goes far beyond attending trustees meetings and is estimated conservatively to be a total of 700 hours of time. Particular thanks to Rob Dance who stepped down as Treasurer / Trustee and Dave Woodwark who stepped down as a Trustee. In December 2020 we welcomed Fiona Danks as a new trustee.

Thank you to all the staff and volunteers who have worked so hard during such a difficult year full of challenges.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "N.A. Mottram". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined.

Nick Mottram
Chair of Wild Oxfordshire 2020-21

Treasurer's Report 2020-21

Financial Review of the year ended 31st March 2021

Because of the level of turnover during the period 2020/21, the company is entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies. The directors nevertheless acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and preparation of accounts. So, these accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to The Small Companies regime.

Comparative position

Overall, this year Wild Oxfordshire's expenditure increased by some £160,435 from £200,710 (2019/20) to £361,145. The larger share of this spend was in connection with the Evenlode Catchment partnership and most particularly (£211,490) on the Natural Flood Management element. Spending on our core charitable activities has however increased compared with the previous year reflecting an increase in Wild Oxfordshire's activity.

Incoming resources of £407,512 overall in 2020/21 was almost twice that in the previous year (£212,169) with £256,205 (2019/20 £108,857) related to the Evenlode projects, again most significantly (£211,490) on the Natural Flood Management element. The remaining charitable income of £151,307 (2019/20 £103,312) including other grants of £78,369 supported Wild Oxfordshire's ongoing activities and other projects.

An unrealised gain of £17,083 (2019/20 £428) was made on our investments following the stock market recovery in the year.

Overall a surplus on the year of £63,449 was achieved (2019/20 £11,887).

Unrestricted funds at the end of this financial year stood at £253,937 (2019/20 £190,487).

This strong position has been achieved because of our fundraising achievements against a relatively modest base spend. My thanks to all staff and to Trustees for a yet another great fundraising effort which remains a priority for us, and the resultant generosity of donors in their financial support for the work of Wild Oxfordshire in 2020/21 (recognised elsewhere in this Report).

Our resulting strong financial position means that Wild Oxfordshire remains comfortably above its agreed £150,000 minimum reserves threshold. This continued relatively secure position has allowed us to continue to invest in structural capacity and our work for the future.

Trustees held the assets of the charity in accordance with their powers during the year. The trustees have absolute discretion to invest the funds of the charity. Our policy for the selection of investments for the charity has been to place at minimum 75% of surplus funds in fixed fund units with COIF via CCLA, and a COIF investment fund (listed equities). At the end of the financial year investments held amounted to £97,009 (2019/20 £79,927) and an unrealised gain of £17,083 was made in the year. Overall this holding represents 38% of our total unrestricted funds compared to 42% at the end of our last financial year.

Reserves Policy

Our policy has been to maintain unrestricted reserves available at a minimum of £150,000. As Wild Oxfordshire's capacity grows, so does its costs albeit modestly, but it would be prudent to keep the reserves policy under review.

In a nutshell, Wild Oxfordshire's 2020/21 Financial position is:

• Balance at start of year (all unrestricted)	£190,487
• Expenditure	£361,145
• Income	£405,811
• Gains from investments (including revaluations)	£18,784
• Funds carried forward into 2020/21 (all unrestricted)	£253,937

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Russell".

Mike Russell, Treasurer 2020-21

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

Charity law requires trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity at the year end and of its incoming resources and resources expended during the year. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to:

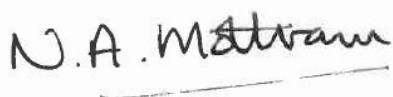
- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed subject to any departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

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

Independent Examiner

The Trustees have appointed CerTax Accounting to carry out the examination of these accounts, which exceed the threshold that requires independent examination under Charity Commission accounting rules. The trustees recommend that Certax Accounting remain in office until further notice.

This report was approved by the trustees on 9th June 2021 and signed on their behalf by

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "N.A. Mottram".

Nick Mottram
Chair of Wild Oxfordshire 2020-21

Independent Examiner's Report

to the trustees on the unaudited financial statements of Wild Oxfordshire.

We report on the financial statements of Wild Oxfordshire for the year ended 31st March 2021 which comprise the statement of financial activities, balance sheet and related notes.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

As the charity trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts, you consider that the audit requirements of section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the Act) does not apply. It is our responsibility to state, on the basis of procedures specified in the general Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under section 43(7)9b of the Act, whether particular matters have come to our attention.

Basis of Independent examiner's report

Our examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners and in accordance with the provisions in part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime. 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 we do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

In our opinion the financial statements:

Give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31st March 2021 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including income and expenditure, for the year then ended;

Have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and

Have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 and the statement of Recommended Practice for charities.

Simon Oakland, CerTax Accounting
Independent Scrutineer

Financial Statement

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31st March 2021

		Unrestricted funds	Evenlode Project (ECP & NFM)	Total	Total
		2021	2021	2021	2020
	Notes	£	£	£	£
INCOMING RESOURCES					
Incoming Resources from generated funds					
Voluntary income	2	150,593	255,218	405,811	210,879
Investment income	3	713	988	1,701	1,290
Other incoming resources		-	-	-	-
Total incoming resources		<u>151,307</u>	<u>256,205</u>	<u>407,512</u>	<u>212,169</u>
RESOURCES EXPENDED					
Cost of generating funds					
Fundraising	4	167	-	167	-
Charitable activities					
Communication and partnerships	5	104,053	256,205	360,258	199,990
Governance costs	6	720	-	720	720
Total resources expended		<u>104,940</u>	<u>256,205</u>	<u>361,145</u>	<u>200,710</u>
NET INCOMING/ (OUTGOING)		46,367	0	46,367	11,459

RESOURCES BEFORE
TRANSFERS

Transfers	-	-	-	-
Gross Transfers between funds				
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources before other recognised gains and losses	-	-	-	-
Gains/losses on investment assets	11	<u>17,083</u>	<u>17,083</u>	<u>428</u>
Net movement in funds		63,449	0	63,449
			11,887	

RECONCILIATION OF
FUNDS

Total funds brought forward from 2019/20		<u>190,487</u>	-	<u>190,487</u>	<u>178,600</u>
Total funds carried forward		<u>253,937</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>253,937</u>	<u>190,487</u>

The notes on pages 18 - 23 form an integral part of these financial statements

Balance Sheet as at 31st March 2021

	Notes	2021 £	2020 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	10	295	439
Investments	11	<u>97,009</u>	<u>79,927</u>
		97,305	80,366
Current assets			
Debtors	12	480	0
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>416,540</u>	<u>387,149</u>
		417,020	387,149
Liabilities			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	13	(260,387)	(277,028)
Net current assets		253,937	190,487
Net Assets		<u>253,937</u>	<u>190,487</u>
Funds	14	253,937	190,487

The notes on pages 18 – 23 received form an integral part of these financial statements

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 9th June 2021 and signed on its behalf by:



Mike Russell

(Hon. Treasurer)

Notes to the Financial Statements

1.1. Accounting convention

The accounts are prepared under the historical cost convention, as modified by the revaluation of investments, and in compliance with applicable accounting standards. In preparing the accounts the company has followed best practice as laid down in the Companies Act 1985, the Charities Act 1993 and the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" (Revised 2005). Where applicable, comparative figures have been restated to comply with SORP 2005, but these restatements have had no effect on the funds brought forward at the start of the year.

The charity has taken advantage of the exemption in FRS1 from the requirement to produce a cashflow statement because it is a small charity.

Incoming resources

Incoming resources are generally recognised on a receivable basis and are reported gross of related expenditure, where the amounts are reasonably certain and when there is adequate certainty of receipt.

The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

- Voluntary income received by way of grants, donations and legacies is included in full in the Statement of Financial Activities when receivable. Gift Aid recoverable is accounted for in the same period as the related donation.
- Unrestricted funds can be spent on any of the organisation's charitable activities. Restricted funds must be spent on activities specified by the funder
- Legacies are recognised as income only when the charity becomes entitled to the income, receipt is certain, and the amount concerned is measurable.
- Grants (including grants for the purchase of fixed assets), where entitlement is not conditional on delivery of a specific performance by the charity, are recognised when the charity becomes unconditionally entitled to the grant.
- Investment income is accounted for when receivable.

- Donated assets are included at the value to the charity where this can be quantified, and a third party is bearing the cost. Gifts donated for resale are included as income when they are sold.
- The value of services provided by volunteers has not been included.

1.3. Resources expended

Resources expended are accounted for on an accruals basis and gross of any related income. They are classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. They are split according to restricted and unrestricted funds to enable us to report back to funders who have requested their donation be spent on specific activities. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings, they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with use of the resources.

Fundraising costs are those incurred in seeking voluntary contributions and do not include the costs of disseminating information in support of the charitable activities.

Costs of charitable activities comprise direct expenditure including direct staff costs attributable to activities. Where costs cannot be directly attributed, they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Governance costs include those costs, such as statutory audit and legal and professional fees, associated with constitutional and statutory requirement.

1.4. Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost or valuation less residual value of each asset over its expected useful life, as follows:

Fixtures, fittings and equipment - 20% reducing balance

I.T Equipment - 33% reducing balance

Investments

Where there is a readily ascertainable market value, investments are shown at market value as at the year-end. In the absence of a readily ascertainable market value, investments are valued at cost. Movements in value are shown in the income and expenditure account.

1.6. Pensions

The pension costs charged in the financial statements represent the contribution payable by the charity during the year.

2. Voluntary income

	Unrestricted funds £	Evenlode Projects £	2021 £	2020 £
Donations	37,261	-	37,261	28,946
Grants	78,369	255,218	333,587	120,457
Subscriptions	1,068	-	1,068	768
Other	2,820	-	2,820	-
Cont O/Hs	31,076	-	31,076	33,875
Funds received from previous activities	-	-	-	26,833
Total	<u>150,593</u>	<u>255,218</u>	<u>405,811</u>	<u>210,879</u>

Gifts and services in kind

The trustees recognise that gifts and services in kind were an important contributor to the overall financial well-being of Wild Oxfordshire. The total value of help in kind including invaluable support of volunteers is conservatively estimated at £50,000.

3. Investment income

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2021 £	2020 £
Income from investments	600	-	600	600
Deposit interest	113	988	1101	690
Other investment income	-	-	-	0
	<u>713</u>	<u>988</u>	<u>1,701</u>	<u>1290</u>

4. Fundraising

Expenditure during the Year - £167

We are constantly seeking new sources of funds.

5. Costs of charitable activities

	Unrestricted	Evenlode Projects	Total 2021	Total 2020
	£	£	£	£
Staff costs	82,612	49,795	132,407	80,070
Legal		-	-	-
Administration and Communications	9,403	-	9,403	12,458
Fundraising	167	-	167	-
Projects				
Environmental Strategy work	7,860	-	7,860	14,792
Community Ecologist Projects	906	-	906	15,935
Curlew project	3,272		3,272	-
Evenlode Catchment Work	-	25,033	25,033	22,153
Natural Flood Management	-	181,377	181,377	54,582
Total	<u>104,220</u>	<u>256,205</u>	<u>360,425</u>	<u>199,990</u>

6. Governance costs

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2021 £	2020 £
Independent examination costs	720	-	720	720
		-	720	720

7. Operating gain

	2021 £	2020 £
Operating gain is stated after charging:		
Depreciation and other amounts written off tangible assets	144	215

8. Employees

	2021	2020
Number of employees		
The average monthly number of employees during the year was:	4	2

Employment costs

	Unrestricted	Evenlode	2021 £	2020 £
Wages & Salaries	82,612	49,795	132,407	80,070

No trustee received any remuneration or expenses during the year 2020-21 - £Nil, (2019-20 - £Nil)

9. Pension costs

The company pays pension contributions to employees' personal pension schemes. The pension charge represents contributions due from the company and amounted to £5,294 (2020 - £37,87).

10. Tangible fixed assets

	Computer £	Fixtures and fittings and equipment £	Total £
Cost			
At April 1 2020	7,201	639	7,840
Addition	-	-	-
At 31 March 2021	7,201	639	7,840
Depreciation			
At April 1 2020	6,769	631	7,400
Charge for the year	142	2	144
At 31 March 2021	6,911	633	7,544
Net Book Values			
At 31 March 2021	289	6	295
At 31 March 2020	432	8	439

11. Investments

	Listed investment £	Total £
Market value		
At 1 April 2020	79,927	79,927
Additions	-	-
Disposals	-	-
Revaluations		
At 31 March 2021	17082	17,082
Net book values		
At 31 March 2021	97,009	97,009
At 31 March 2020	79,927	79,927

Included in fixed asset investments are the following individual investments, which represent more than 5% of the total investment portfolio:

	2021 £	2020 £
COIF Charities - Fixed Fund units	9,528	9,423
COIF Charities - Investment Fund units	87,481	70,504
Total	97,009	79,927

Investments at market value comprise:

	2021	2020
	£	£
UK – Listed equities	87,481	70,504
UK – Unlisted equities	1,680	1,680
UK – Securities	7,848	7,743
Total	97,009	79,927
The historical cost of investments at 31 March 2021 was £43,587 (no change)		

12. Debtors

	2021	2020
	£	£
Trade debtors	480	-

13. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2021	2020
	£	£
Trade creditors	11,165	4,344
Advanced income (NFM & ECP)	248,502	271,964
Other creditors	-	-
Accruals and deferred income	720	720
<u>Total</u>	260,387	277,028

14. Funds

	31 March 2020	Incoming £	Outgoing £	Gains/losses £	TRFS	31 March 2021
	£					£
Unrestricted	190,487	151,307	104,940	17,083	0	253,937
Evenlode Project	0	256,205	256,205	0	0	0
All Funds	190,487	407,512	361,145	17,083	-	253,937