

# HEAL REWILDING

England & Wales · Charity number 1187992

## Details

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**Status** Registered

**Legal form** CIO

**Registered** 2020-02-17

**Register** [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

## Contact

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**Website** [www.healrewilding.org.uk](http://www.healrewilding.org.uk)

## Activities

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**Objects:** (A) TO PROMOTE FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PUBLIC THE CONSERVATION AND IMPROVEMENT OF THE NATURAL AND PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT IN ENGLAND AND WALES, USING THE PROCESS OF REWILDING TO RESTORE BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEMS.(B) TO ADVANCE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT AND PROTECTION FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PUBLIC THROUGH THE CONSERVATION AND PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE PROVISION OF ECOSYSTEMS SERVICES.(C) TO ADVANCE THE EDUCATION AND THE ENGAGEMENT OF THE PUBLIC IN THE RESTORATION, REHABILITATION, CONSERVATION AND ENHANCEMENT OF THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT AND TO PROMOTE STUDY AND RESEARCH IN SUCH SUBJECTS AND DISSEMINATE FINDINGS TO THE PUBLIC AT LARGE.

**Activities:** Heal is raising funds to buy land for rewilding. We want to bring hope and optimism and to act as a focus for individual and organisational involvement in nature recovery, the mitigation of climate change and people's wellbeing. Our goal is a Heal site of 500 acres or more in every English county. We aim to establish our foundation site in the south by 2022 and the second site will be in the north

## Classification

- **How:** Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Sponsors Or Undertakes Research
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Environment/conservation/heritage, Economic/community Development/employment
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

## Geography

- Throughout England

## Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£744,405	£589,375	£688,526	7
2024-03-31	£428,306	£563,385	-	-
2023-03-31	£334,879	£292,358	-	-
2022-03-31	£219,792	£99,119	-	-
2021-03-31	£153,668	£98,765	-	-

## Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
JONATHAN IAIN ROY SIMNETT	Chair	2020-01-15
JEREMY JOHN COULTER		2020-01-15
Jan Stannard		2020-01-15
Robert Quinn		2024-04-19

**HEAL REWILDING**

England & Wales - Charity number 1187992

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# Accounts

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# Report and Financial Statements

2024-2025

Heal Rewilding CIO  
Registered charity no. 1187992 (England & Wales)



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# A message from the Chair of Trustees



Jonathan Simnett

I am pleased to present Heal's second Annual Report, which documents another successful year of work to support nature recovery, climate action and wellbeing.

This report covers the period April 2024 to March 2025, our fifth year as a charity and our second year of managing Heal Somerset, our 'blueprint' rewilding project which will inform the work on future sites.

The most significant step for the charity was the repayment of our lending from Triodos Bank UK, achieved through securing additional investment from Direct Line Group. Sincerest thanks to Triodos for having provided vital initial funding and to Direct Line for their continuing support.

The charity's work at Heal Somerset comprises a significant part of this report.

The charity's income grew significantly from £428,306 to £744,405, thanks to a major donation of £166,430 for a woodland regeneration project at Heal Somerset from Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks, through the Government's Projects for Nature initiative. The underlying growth year-on-year was 27%. The charity maintained its reserves and a good cash position through the year.

For a second year, the land at Heal Somerset was allowed to rest and begin its recovery. The positive impacts on wildlife as a result of this relatively simple initial management approach became increasingly apparent as the team witnessed increasing numbers of species.

The most exciting wildlife happenings were both beaver-related - the appearance of the first beaver dam on the Heal Somerset site in May 2024 and then three months later, trailcam footage of a pair of beavers!



© Heal Rewilding

In order to document the changes in species populations and other site features, a significant amount of further survey work was undertaken during the year, focusing primarily on professional species baseline surveys, made possible through the generosity of Heal donors.

Expert volunteers also carried out a range of surveys and, overall, 29 surveys were either underway or completed.

Some of this survey work was undertaken to align with Rewilding Britain's new monitoring framework. Heal Somerset had been chosen as one of only three sites in England to pilot the framework. Rewilding Britain is working with rewilding practitioners and other experts within the sector to develop a framework for monitoring rewilding, to measure ecological, social and economic change across sites in Britain.

For the ecological strand, we undertook surveys of indicator species: invertebrates, birds and bats. These were carried out throughout the year into the first quarter of 2025.

Following the appointment of the charity's first Community Engagement Manager, the year saw a major increase in work on community engagement. Achievements include a positive

collaboration with a committee of local residents overseeing the recovery of 30 acres adjacent to the local village. We established 13 partnerships with underserved communities, delivering over 500 engagements. Three local education partnerships resulted in work experience and youth volunteering.

There was a small increase in general visitors to Heal Somerset and a growing number of corporate volunteer groups. By the end of the financial year, over 2,000 hours of general and corporate volunteering time had been logged.

Work began on a timber-framed cabin within one of the barns on the site, to provide schools and groups with a comfortable, weatherproof space.

A lively programme of 43 events for the general public ran throughout the year, including workshops, site tours, species surveying training and wildlife walks. This was a 26% increase on 2023-24. The highlight was the inaugural Into The Light gathering in May 2024.



© Emma Lewis

This has been an important year of extensive progress and considerable achievement, and on behalf of the Board of Trustees, I would like to express our deepest thanks and gratitude for all those who helped us, from the Heal team and our wonderful volunteers to the donors and partners without whose support we could not continue. You all made this work possible.

**Jonathan Simnett**  
Chair of Trustees  
November 2025





**Raise money  
Buy land  
Rewild it**

# About Heal

Heal Rewilding is the UK's first charity dedicated to being a rewilding landowner. It launched in March 2020 with the aim of acquiring and rewilding a site of around 500 acres in every English county and secured its foundation site, Heal Somerset, in December 2022. Heal's name is its purpose: heal the land, heal nature, heal ourselves.

The charity was set up in response to the devastating biodiversity and climate crises humanity is facing and our increasing disconnection with nature, with the adverse effects this has on human health and wellbeing. To these three problems, Heal sees one clear solution: rewilding.

Rewilding Britain defines rewilding as 'the reinstatement of natural processes and, where appropriate, missing species, allowing them to shape the landscape and the habitats within, leading to the restoration of fully functioning ecosystems'. It's a wonderfully exciting, still relatively novel, way of restoring ecosystems, which hands the reins over to nature and as a result, brings benefit to nature, planet and people.

Rewilding gives nature the breathing space it needs to recover. It allows plants to regenerate and creates spaces where wildlife can live freely and vulnerable species can thrive. It's also a key asset in the fight against climate change, as through natural regeneration and the restoration of wetlands, carbon is removed from the atmosphere. A report by Rewilding Britain has shown that by rewilding 30% of land in Britain, 53 million tonnes of carbon dioxide could be captured per year,

**Everyone,  
together  
For wild  
things and  
all of us**



which is more than 12% of current UK greenhouse gas emissions<sup>(1)</sup>. Rewilding is also hugely beneficial to people. It creates spaces that encourage nature connection, bring economic benefit, improve soil health, clean the air we breathe and reduce water pollution.

Our first rewilding site, Heal Somerset, is a former dairy farm comprising 460 acres of beautiful undulating countryside, with miles of hedgerows and three tributaries of the River Frome.

In the time we've been at Heal Somerset, our team has been dedicated to making it a place where nature and people can thrive. We have completed a comprehensive range of baseline surveys and have begun to consider which interventions will have the biggest, and most desirable, impact on the land's recovery.

But it's not just wildlife we're helping. People are critical to everything we do at Heal. A core part of our mission is to increase access to nature, which is why our site is open and free to access, why we work hard to collaborate with the local community and why we run engaging and educational commercial events and experiences.

Our current focus is on developing Heal Somerset and making sure it's the optimal blueprint for our future sites.

(1) <https://www.rewildingbritain.org.uk/about-us/what-we-say/research-and-reports/rewilding-and-climate-breakdown>

# A look back at the year

## April 2024

## Otterly wonderful news, a newt arrival and rewilding through AI



© Heal Rewilding

### Otterly wonderful

We videoed not one but TWO otters, cruising along together on 26 March in one of our streams, looking very friendly.

We didn't yet know if they are a pair, but our hopes of otter babies (officially called cubs) were rising!

### They're here!

At last! We had official confirmation of crested newts on the land (well, one at least).

Volunteers from a local reptile and amphibian group came to do some live trapping in one of our ponds and found not only a GCN, as they're called by newt aficionados, but a palmate newt, several smooth newts and a nice fat toad.

With habitat conditions and food supply improving every day, we hoped this was the start of a healthy population of newts and toads.



© Canva



© Canva

### How will AI help rewilding?

Artificial intelligence (AI) is one of several technologies which are already starting to revolutionise the way habitats and species are found, identified and recorded. Like us, we hoped people might be interested in discovering more, which is why we scheduled to feature the use and future of tech in rewilding on Friday 10 May, the first day of Into The Light, our two-day gathering at Heal Somerset.

## Back to school, a global investment blueprint and a heartfelt farewell

© Heal Rewilding



### Whizzing round like seeds!

Julia (our Community Engagement Manager) and two fabulous and highly skilled volunteers, Asia and Richard, went to a local primary school to talk about plants.

The year 1 and year 2 classes were learning about plant life cycles and what better way to bring it to life than the very plants living at Heal. They told stories, did a show and tell, dissected flowers and acted out the life of a plant - their favourite bit was whizzing around like seeds in the playground.

The team had a lot of fun and set up a plan to welcome the children and families for visits to Heal Somerset in the summer.

### Off to pastures new

At the end of March, the Heal team said a very heartfelt farewell to Hannah Needham, our Operations Director. After four years with us, Hannah left to take up an exciting new challenge as Landscape Recovery Project Manager at Wiltshire Wildlife Trust. Hannah joined Heal as our first member of staff in August 2020, after volunteering for the charity from autumn 2019. Her impact and influence on the organisation was broad and deep, including suggesting Heal as our name, so she left behind a lasting hallmark of her outstanding contribution. She was also instrumental in shaping Heal's communications work, our approach to inclusion and diversity, and she devised and set up the Heal Future Advisory Panel and the Big Green Hike as an industry initiative.



### Heal project featured in new global investment blueprint

As part of SUSTAIN (an EU Horizon project), the Coalition for Private Investment in Conservation (CPIC) chose to feature Heal as one of four new conservation investment blueprints.

These blueprints are model financial transaction structures intended to help facilitate replicable investments in priority conservation projects. They enable financial institutions seeking to positively impact biodiversity through conservation projects to better understand existing frameworks for investment and serve as practical resources for stakeholders interested in conservation finance, including investors, financial institutions, project developers, and NGOs, offering insights into innovative approaches for channelling private finance to priority conservation projects.

The blueprints outline the investment and operating model of each project, their impact measurement practices, and opportunities for scalability and replication.

# May 2024

## Beavers return, Big Give funding success, and a wonderful workshop



© Heal Rewilding

### Back after more than 400 years!

We saw the unmistakable signs in the stream which runs right by the path only a few hundred metres from the farmyard at Heal Somerset. Then our trail camera recorded the most amazing footage....a beaver!

When we arrived at Heal Somerset, we knew that wild-living beavers were in the locality and our biggest hope was that they would turn up here to start their amazing feats of eco-engineering. These first signs - willows chewed to stumps, bark stripped - showed that this young beaver was likely to be exploring the territory upstream or downstream from where they were born, with a view to setting up home.

### We did it!

Thank you, thank you, thank you - we achieved our best-ever result for this year's Big Give Green Match campaign, with (drumroll...) £41,663 raised! The funding helped us to secure four more acres of the land at Heal Somerset.



© Canva



© Heal Rewilding

### Building our inner resources

A wonderful workshop took place in April, led by Cindy Gale, one of Heal's Trustees, with Priyal Shah and Mutima Imani. It was a day aimed at building people's inner resources to cope better with the daily onslaught of social injustice, wars, nature destruction and climate crises.

The group focused on rest, embodiment, emotions and community, and spent joyful time out in our rewilding land.

A big thank you to Cindy, Priyal and Mutima for running the workshop and raising valuable funds for our work.

## A red-listed visitor and a new team member

© Johann du Preez



### Red-listed tree pipit seen at Heal Somerset

A red-listed tree pipit was seen at Heal Somerset, much to the delight of the team and the bird enthusiasts who volunteer here. These summer visitors are birds which like woodland edges and build nests on the ground. They rise up, sing and sink back down to land in the top of a tree. Their numbers have plummeted in the last 50 years, so we hoped this was the first of many and that they find food, shelter and places to breed here in the future.

### Welcome Rosa!

We were joined by another new team member in May - Rosa, our new Events Coordinator. Rosa came to us with a background working in event planning, logistics and operations and a passion for working on projects with sustainability in mind. She worked on a diverse range of events for different industries, and loves how events can facilitate connections, discussion and debate.

Growing up the child of a florist, Rosa always felt connected to plants and nature, and she became a keen gardener and grower. She said how thrilled she was to be part of Heal's bold approach and thinks it's crucial in our technological world to champion the idea of reconnecting with nature. To her, the process of rewilding feels like a return to our roots, and a potent tool to promote balance.



© Heal Rewilding

# June 2024

## Beaver dams, Into The Light and regenerating aspen

© Heal Rewilding



### 'Our' beavers built a dam!

At the end of May, our ranger Dan was walking alongside the stream which runs in Heal Somerset's Southern Fields when he heard an unfamiliar sound, like a waterfall. It turned out to be water trickling through our very first beaver dam!

The transformation upstream of the dam was already significant. The water had pooled behind the structure and was deep enough for them to swim in. Before, they could only paddle. There's so much vegetation around the area that photographing the dam itself was tricky, but in the photo above, you'll see how they harvest both food and dam-building material. This tree is a hazel, from which they had neatly cut off multiple branches, coppicing the tree which should produce fresh growth. Dam building usually indicates a pair, so the next course of action was to confirm whether one beaver or a pair was present.

### All lit up at Into The Light

The universe truly smiled on us for Into The Light, our rewilding gathering in May, as we were blessed by the first days of hot sun for months - and no rain!

Over the two days, more than a hundred people heard from 20 inspiring speakers, caught up with friends and made new ones, and generally had a really chilled and happy time.

The feedback we got was so positive that we started planning Into The Light 2025 immediately!

And in cosmic synchronicity, on the Friday night of Into The Light, the aurora borealis shimmered above our gathering like a cosmic blessing. Our wonderful volunteer filmmaker Tom Francome filmed a video from the Heal Somerset campsite which was so good that it made the news!



© Tom Francome



© Heal Rewilding

### Talking 'bout our (re)generation

The term 'natural processes' is often mentioned in rewilding and this is one example we noticed on our site: tree regeneration.

There is an aspen amongst the trees at the top of this picture, which are in our neighbour's land on our southern border. The aspen's roots extend into our field and those roots have sent up hundreds of baby trees, which are still linked to, and fed by, the parent tree. Because they came from one parent tree and not from fertilised seeds (like acorns from oaks), these babies were clones.

Aspen are like chocolate for deer and many were nibbled, as both roe and fallow deer are here, so ongoing monitoring will be conducted to see how the new trees fare over time.

## Heartwarming community visits and a very generous gift



### Sharing our space

We feel the healing power of nature at Heal Somerset every day and we had a very special time throughout May bringing people to Heal Somerset to experience its wellbeing impact first-hand.

People living with dementia strolled through the landscape listening to birdsong, groups with poor mental health inhaled the fresh green scent, teenagers with special needs gasped at our camera trap footage and children with disabilities peered under microscopes as their parents breathed their way through mindful movement.

Rewilding at Heal Somerset is as much about people as it is about nature. You only need to witness the joy of a child who has seen their first snake to understand why. Thank you to our community partners and volunteers for all their hard work in making this happen.

### A generous gift

Our lovely neighbour gifted us this beautiful tipi!

We used it for the first time as a haven during Into The Light for those wanting a moment's peace away from the crowds, and as a fun hideout the following week for a group of children who visited. It was a big hit!



# July 2024

## Accessibility equipment, a massive donation and an exciting new advisory panel

© SSEN



### Heal secures biggest ever one-off donation

In May we secured our biggest ever one-off donation from a business supporter!

Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks (SSEN) donated £166,430 through the Projects For Nature platform, for the regeneration of woodland at the Heal Somerset rewilding site.

SSEN is the Distributor Network Operator for the north of Scotland and central southern England, and is a founding partner of Projects for Nature and the first utility company to support the platform.

The funding will be used to establish deer fencing around the perimeter of the chosen fields, to control the impact of deer on regenerating baby trees and new scrub plants, while also enabling us to keep livestock in the fields in future years. We will be working with Providence Ecological to ensure that other wildlife can transit the fencing, as the area is criss-crossed with long-established animal paths.

### Meet our new Heal Future Advisory Panel

We were delighted to welcome Arjun, Bella, Catherine, Clare, Hazel, James, Jesse, Galatea, Harry, Siana and Thomas as our new Heal Future Advisory Panel!

The Panel is a national collective of individuals aged 18-25 who are actively involved in ensuring that Heal remains an inclusive and relevant organisation. The Future Advisors review Heal's key decisions, create and refine marketing and promotional materials, contribute to awareness campaigns, and suggest new ideas on how Heal can help people of all ages and backgrounds to connect with nature.



© Heal Rewilding



© Heal Rewilding

### We have a Tramper!

The Disabled Ramblers charity got in touch with Heal to offer us the opportunity of buying a pre-loved Tramper from them. The Tramper is a marvellous all-terrain mobility scooter which is manufactured in nearby Salisbury. Disabled Ramblers is a wonderful organisation, which helps make the countryside more accessible to people with limited mobility. We first got to know them when Paula Brunt, their Vice-Chair, spoke at the first Resurgence event we co-organised at Knepp in 2022.

We test-drove the Tramper on its 'tortoise' setting (literally, a switch with a 'tortoise' or 'hare' speed selector) and it felt safe and very easy to drive. It coped well on the mown paths in our Southern Fields. We said yes to buying it!

The Tramper will be free to use but must be pre-arranged.

## Volunteering updates and a welcome to our new trustee

© Rob Quinn



### New finance trustee appointed

Rob Quinn is passionate about the rewilding movement and its potential to help solve the world's nature and climate crises.

His professional career combines life sciences and finance, having completed a PhD in Biochemistry and a Chartered Accountant qualification. Rob is an experienced Chief Financial Officer in the biotech industry and has helped many life sciences companies to raise money and carefully spend it to make scientific discoveries.

### Our new platform for volunteering

As a very small team we realised earlier in the year that we needed a proper volunteer management system so we could better showcase our volunteering opportunities, both on the site and desk-based, track volunteer hours and automate the health and safety aspects of volunteering.

For several months we worked hard to set up a system called Team Kinetics to do this for us. It's a great system which is used by some of the Wildlife Trusts, so is proven and well suited to what we need, making it easier to find out about, and sign up for, volunteering opportunities.



© Heal Rewilding



© Heal Rewilding

### They came, they dug, they counted worms!

A trio of corporate volunteer groups came to the Heal Somerset site in June to carry out some very important surveys for us - worm counting!

Teams from Benefact, TT Environmental Solutions and Ticket Tailor went out into a selection of fields and dug a series of soil pits, lifting out a 20cm cube of soil and then sorting, identifying and counting the worms they found. This work provides us with a vital baseline, as the presence and prevalence of worms are key indicators of soil health. By using a specific, accepted methodology for worm counts, we can repeat them in future years to track any changes.

The results proved quite dramatic. Though many pits had adult worms numbers in double figures, one pit yielded no adult worms whatsoever, which is an indication of very poor soil health.

We were very grateful to the three teams for being the guinea pigs for this volunteering task and, perhaps surprisingly, they all really enjoyed doing it.

# August 2024

## A special birthday, a heart-warming donation and a huge thank you

© Heal Rewilding



### Happy 90<sup>th</sup> birthday Ted!

Heal's esteemed Founder Patron, Ted Green MBE, turned 90 (going on half that) in August. We are honoured to count Ted as one of our supporters and he continues to travel round the country, making appearances, especially since he was featured in 'Wilding', the wonderful new film about Knepp.

Above, Heal co-founder Jan Stannard is pictured with Ted on one of his visits to Heal Somerset.

Happy birthday Ted! You are a legend. Thank you for all the support you give us.

### One for the bookworms

The nascent Heal nature library had a big boost recently with a very generous donation from Brian Clews of 13 books from the WILDGuides series from publishers Princeton.

Brian made the donation in memory of Mark Hemmings, who was treasurer of Wild Maidenhead, an organisation which Jan Stannard, Heal's co-founder, and Brian helped to set up in 2016. The 'Hemmings Collection' of books now in our library range from the classic WILDGuides edition about birds to others on mammals, orchids and even plant galls.

Mark had also expressed a wish for his friends and colleagues to make a donation and choose a book from his own library, and some of those funds raised also came to Heal. Thank you, Brian and Mark.



© Heal Rewilding



© Emma Lewis

### Capture a moment, it lives forever

With our small and always flat-out site team, we never seem to capture enough footage and photos of everything going on here. We owe a big debt of gratitude to three special people who bring professionalism to the visual record of Heal Somerset.

Our photographer-in-residence, Emma Lewis, visits the site regularly to capture stunning imagery. Meanwhile volunteer film maker Tom Francome and volunteer film producer Hayley Smith came to the Heal Somerset site many times since January 2023, often at very unsociable hours, to shoot footage for a short film about the first 18 months at the site.

## An upgraded camping experience and new wildlife newsletter



© Heal Rewilding

### A not-glamping tipi experience

Earlier in the year we were gifted this beautiful tipi by our neighbour Ian.

We set up the tipi as a most-definitely-not-glamping option during August on our very basic but glorious campsite at Heal Somerset. The tipi sleeps four people in futon beds, one double and two singles. It is DIY - guests must bring their own sheets and duvets (or sleeping bags) and pillows, a cooking stove and supplies, and other camping essentials. We provide a mains water tap, a compost loo and stunning views!

### Wildlife Highs

We had some lovely feedback about the first edition of Wildlife Highs, our quarterly sister newsletter to Heal Highs.



© Canva

# September 2024

## Exciting beaver news, our X-odus and badger vaccinations

© Heal Rewilding



### Canoodling beavers

How about this?! An actual PAIR of loved-up beavers caught on camera. We had been waiting and hoping for this. When there is a pair of beavers, they not only build dams but should eventually build a lodge where they can raise a family.

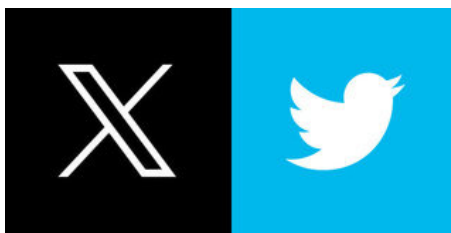
Once the water level rises behind a dam, they can then burrow into the bank with the entrance submerged beneath the water's surface. The tunnel will slope upwards as the beaver digs, creating a dry chamber above the waterline. This chamber will serve as a resting and sleeping area. Then they may build a large, domed 'lodge' made of sticks and mud on the bank, with multiple chambers inside.

### Bye bye birdie

Heal made the decision to leave Twitter/X. The 'good' we found on the platform through our community of rewilders was disappointingly outweighed by the bad.

There had been a concerning increase in online bullying and hate speech on Twitter/X in the last few years. Riots, with mosques and accommodation for asylum seekers attacked, were inextricably linked to online platforms, and fake news channels on X helped to disseminate false information.

We acknowledged that other platforms are not without fault, but none seem to amplify hateful content as much as Twitter/X. The platform does not align with our values.



©X/Twitter



© Heal Rewilding

### Vaccinating 'our' badgers

When we were asked by the local badger group if Heal Somerset would become a badger vaccination pilot site, we didn't hesitate.

We knew that vaccination might be the route out of badger culls. A small study over four years in Cornwall showed incidence of TB went down from 16% to zero when badgers were vaccinated (though the study emphasised that it doesn't demonstrate a causal link between badger vaccination and bTB epidemiology). The study team said the results suggest that vaccination was protecting badgers and might thus reduce transmission to local cattle.

During August, the badger group, all volunteers, managed to vaccinate enough of the estimated badger population on the Heal Somerset site to start to establish herd immunity over time.

## Naming ceremony donations and 1% for the Planet funds



### A 'giving link' for a celebration

We can create a unique 'giving link' for people to use for a special occasion like a naming ceremony, birthday, wedding or anniversary, for family and friends to donate to Heal instead of giving physical gifts. It is quick and easy for us to do and we can also collect gift aid on the donations.

An example from earlier in the year was the naming ceremony for Arden. His parents asked relatives and friends to make a donation to Heal and we created a bespoke link for them which took donors to Enthuse, the third-party giving platform we use.

Thank you so much to Arden's family for the generous donations that came to Heal from this celebration. Arden's parents sent this lovely image of Arden (above) communing with nature. He is "identifying trees" they said! 🌳😊

### BrightCarbon supports Heal

We were delighted to have been supported by 1% for the Planet member BrightCarbon. The company is a presentation design agency, who design clear, compelling and persuasive presentations and use their visual storytelling skills to create effective eLearning and provide advanced PowerPoint, Google Slides and presentation skills training. Thank you to BrightCarbon!

1% for the Planet is an inspiring global movement for environmental giving, involving over 5,000 companies. Each year, certified members give 1% of their annual sales (not profits) directly to vetted environmental partners like Heal.



© BrightCarbon / 1% For The Planet

# October 2024

## Community groups, our farmhouse garden and an unexpected swarm!

© Heal Rewilding



### Supporting underserved groups

Working with community group partners, we designed and delivered 13 wellbeing days on the site involving nearly 250 visits by people from communities whose contact with nature can be minimal or non-existent. By coming to the Heal site, they connect with nature, which promotes mental and physical wellbeing, resilience and social cohesion. These groups include people living with dementia (with Wild Memories), low-income families, young people and adults with additional needs (with The Pod), young carers, and those experiencing poor mental health (with Mind Shepton Mallet). Our aim for 2025 is to create a new community nature barn on site where community groups can rest, socialise and store equipment. The barn will be co-created and co-delivered with our underserved community groups and volunteers, and in doing so it will serve the needs of our community.

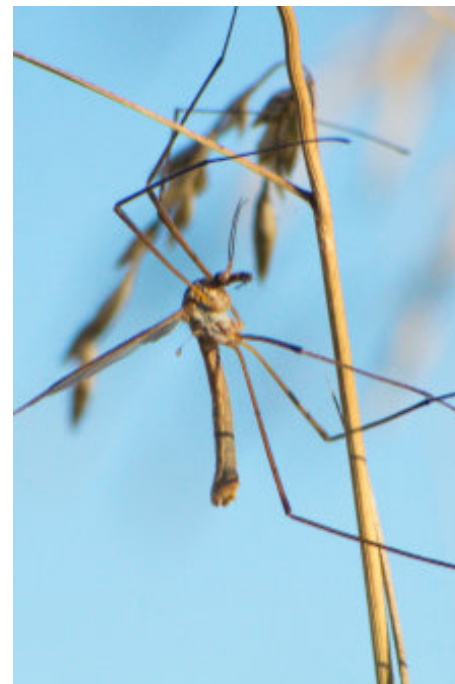
### New provision for wildlife

We spent time working on changing the area in front of the Heal Somerset farmhouse from a plain lawn to something which serves wildlife and people better. And the universe did its thing again...We had the most wonderful volunteer help with this project from a very special nearby neighbour, Lulu Urquhart. Her firm's rewilding garden won gold at the Chelsea Flower Show in 2022.

Lulu proposed mown circles for seating, patches of long grass and two large native wildflower and plant beds for insects and other creatures to feed, shelter and breed.



© Heal Rewilding



© Canva

### Crane flies in their thousands!

For a couple of weeks at the end of September, the site was overrun with biblical swarms of crane flies, vastly more than last year.

We were really pleased to have tens of thousands (perhaps even millions!) of these gangly creatures about, because their larvae - leatherjackets - are such a good food source for all kinds of predators including badgers, foxes, moles and many kinds of birds. Each female lays between 200 and 500 eggs after mating.

## Fantastic corporate sponsors, grants and donations

© Benefact Group



### A game-changing grant

We were delighted to have been chosen as one of Benefact's 2024 Larger Grant winners. They awarded us an amazing £35,050!

This grant is supporting us in two transformative ways: undertaking research and business planning for a potential rewilding consultancy offering and upgrading part of the charity's headquarters.

A nature-led land management service would accelerate Heal's mission of restoring land to nature across England. The consultancy would work directly with landowners, providing expertise around rewilding their land, generating sustainable income for Heal, and enhancing the charity's long-term financial sustainability. This grant also funded vital refurbishments to the farmhouse at Heal Somerset, providing a dedicated space for the project consultant to work while on site and creating more usable spaces for the team.

### New corporate supporter

We were thrilled to welcome onboard:earth as a new corporate supporter. They generously donated a significant £18,000 and made Heal one of their Environmental Partners.

onboard:earth is a rapidly growing community within the live events industry, uniting festivals, events, suppliers, artists and music companies to tackle the climate and biodiversity crises. Their primary focus is on reducing the environmental impact of travel, which is the largest source of emissions from live events. By offering resources, tools and expert advice, onboard:earth helps its members minimise their travel emissions, while also encouraging collective action to drive sustainability throughout the industry.

Furthermore, onboard:earth raises critical funds for initiatives like ours. We are incredibly grateful for their support and look forward to working together to make meaningful strides towards a healthier planet.



© onboard:earth



© Heal Rewilding

### Heal 3x3 upkeep donations come flooding in

We began sending out notifications to Heal 3x3 square sponsors about keeping their name associated with their square(s) now that their first year's sponsorship has ended. We were thrilled because we had already had thousands of pounds in further donations, which go towards the upkeep of the site going forward. Our Heal 3x3 portal now automatically emails notifications to square holders.

# November 2024

## A new partner, Heal Highs Live and an adorable survey



© Canva

### Furry friends galore

This little cutie is a pygmy shrew, the smallest mammal in the UK, found here at Heal Somerset along with lots of common shrews.

We had our first official small mammal survey done - for shrews, voles and mice - and the headline results are phenomenal. The team reported finding the highest number of shrews ever recorded in their surveys.

### London in the bag

Heal Live hit the road! The first stop was at the end of October in London, with a full house enjoying a panel discussion with Heal co-founder Jan Stannard talking to Jasmine Isa Qureshi and Elliot Newton.

Next stop was York on Wednesday 13 November, with guests Amy-Jane Beer, author, Dr Sheree Mack, writer and artist, and Samantha Mennell of the Yorkshire Rewilding Network.

Then it was on to Birmingham on Thursday 14 November, with guests Professor Chris Baines, writer and broadcaster, Dr Delia Garratt, CEO of Birmingham & Black Country Wildlife Trust, and Cherelle Harding, Founder of Steppers UK.



© Heal Rewilding



© Heal Rewilding

### The Curious Network x Heal

We gained a wonderful new business partner, The Curious Network. TCN found us after becoming a member of 1% for the Planet. Members pledge to donate 1% of their sales revenues to accredited charity partners like us.

TCN was established in Brixton in 2006 and the firm creates and manages unique buildings, creative workspaces and communities to help businesses thrive.

A cheery group from TCN came to visit Heal Somerset on a rather beautiful day in July and decided to become one of our partners. As well as making a donation, they sponsored the Heal Live tour. Thank you, TCN!

# Growing goals, our BNG plans and a new rewilding platform



© Canva

## Food garden planning underway

We began planning our trial food garden, to be created over the winter and spring at the Heal Somerset site. We've always intended to grow food for people as well as wildlife on our sites and this first foray into food production will follow a 'soup and salad' theme, to give us a steer on what to grow. Our biggest challenges will be deer, rabbits and slugs - but we came up with the idea of surrounding the growing area with a moat, given the massive slug population that rewilding is producing!

We will grow food for volunteers and the community, and hope to involve people from the underserved groups we now partner with (including those with dementia, additional needs, mental health challenges, disadvantaged families and young carers). It's really exciting to be adding food growing to what we're already doing for wildlife, climate and wellbeing.

## Biodiversity Net Gain progress

We've mentioned before that we have been exploring the potential for becoming a 'biodiversity gain site' for Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) to support the Heal Somerset operation. This means that we will deliver biodiversity gains on our land where a developer cannot do this on their development site.

By November we finalised two key documents: our statutory (official) biodiversity metric, which is the way of measuring biodiversity value for the purposes of BNG, and our Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan. The Heal Somerset site has a huge supply of units - over 600 - and we are now pursuing several pathways to developing a BNG income stream.



© Heal Rewilding



© Heal Rewilding

## New rewilding special interest group

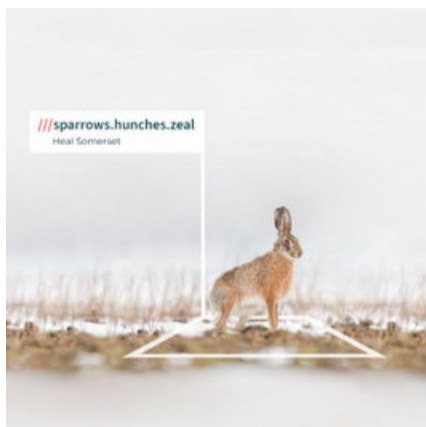
Heal co-founder Jan Stannard (in red in the image above) joined the first meeting of the British Ecological Society's new special interest group in rewilding.

The aim of the group is to provide a platform to advance the science and practice of rewilding. The day was very well organised by Professor Nathalie Pettorelli from the Institute of Zoology at the Zoological Society of London and Professor James Bullock of the UK Centre for Ecology & Hydrology.

# December 2024

## Social media changes, a new Chair, and festive gifts

© Heal Rewilding



### Give the gift of rewilding

'Tis the season for nature-friendly gifting!

This year, we encouraged people to give something truly unique. For £20, people can sponsor a 3m x 3m patch of rewilding land in their loved one's name at Heal Somerset, our beautiful 460-acre site, home to skylarks, hares, glow-worms and wild-living beavers!

Every patch has a unique what3words address, so your recipient will know exactly where it is.

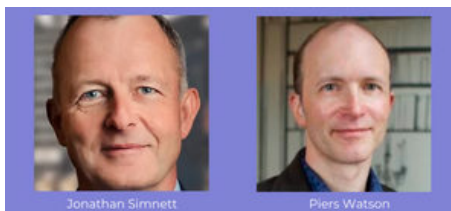
We have a range of lovely gift certificates for you to download for your gift recipient. It's the perfect last-minute option too as you can arrange a gift at any time, even Christmas morning!

### Changing Chair

Heal's co-founder Jan Stannard served in the role of Chair of Trustees since Heal was set up in 2020, as well as running the charity day-to-day. For good charity governance and best practice, it's important that the person acting as Chair changes every few years and Jan felt that it was the right time for a new Chair to take over the role.

Jonathan Simnett was appointed as Heal's new Chair, having been a valued member of our Board since Heal's inception. He brings with him a wealth of experience in business, alongside a deep passion for our mission. Jan will carry on in her role leading the team as acting CEO of Heal Rewilding.

We also said farewell to Piers Watson in October. Piers had also served as a Trustee since Heal was founded and has been a hugely valued member of the Board. It won't be goodbye though - Piers plans to do more volunteering for Heal in the future. Thank you, Piers, for your service and dedication.



© Heal Rewilding



© Bluesky

### Heal takes to the (Blue)sky

As our social followers and regular readers of Heal Highs are aware, we took the decision to stop using Twitter/X a few months ago and have not regretted it. We have been keeping an eye on Bluesky, akin to early Twitter but set up and operated very differently. Its rapid growth in recent weeks has been remarkable, with 24 million users now registered. It is, essentially, a much nicer place.

We set up an account on Bluesky, with our website as our social handle (one of Bluesky's positive differences).

Here are some of the things we like so far about Bluesky. It's a public benefit corporation and operates in a decentralised way. It has better community-based governance which fosters more diversity and inclusivity, and it enables the use of good third-party apps.

We hope it continues to develop in a positive way.

## Donations abound and a garden designer extraordinaire

© Tim Aldred



### Food garden design concept

Regular Heal volunteer Tim Aldred is one of a group of people helping us to develop our trial food garden at Heal Somerset. Tim offered to look at how we might approach laying out the area and when he sent his concept, the team were absolutely blown away.

He came up with the most original and beautiful design, with the utterly inspired idea of basing the layout on dendritic growth. This is a common phenomenon in nature, observed in trees, roots, river systems, leaves, insect wings, fungal networks and within us - our lungs, veins and arteries.

There are growing areas separated by branching networks of woodchip paths. Our moat idea (slug defences!) has been extended by Tim to include a small pond. At its heart, the garden features a wildflower meadow, symbolising nature's central role in the project, with plants to attract pollinators.

### Support from See-Saw Films

We were thrilled to share that See-Saw Films, the renowned British-Australian production company behind award-winning productions such as *The King's Speech*, *Lion*, *Heartstopper*, and *The Power of the Dog*, generously donated £3,500 to support our work this autumn.

Founded in 2008 by Iain Canning and Emile Sherman, See-Saw Films is celebrated for creating compelling stories that inspire and connect audiences worldwide.

Their generous contribution directly supports our work at Heal Somerset. We're deeply grateful to See-Saw Films for their support and commitment to creating new spaces for nature where wildlife can recover, positive contributions to net zero can be achieved and as many people as possible can experience the benefits of nature on their wellbeing.



© See-Saw Films



© Canva

### A bat-tastic donation!

One of our regular volunteers, Sophie Ricardo, (@flybrarian\_photos on socials) donated a bat detector to Heal!

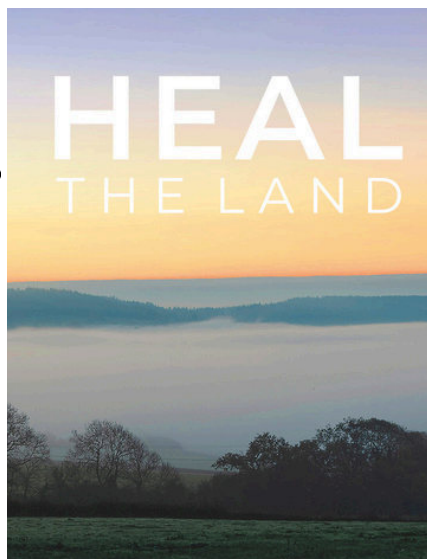
The Echo Meter Touch 2 is a handy device from Wildlife Acoustics that helps us identify bats by listening to their unique calls. It plugs into any Android smartphone or tablet, turning it into a bat detector. Bats use ultrasonic sounds that humans can't hear and this device captures those sounds and converts them into something audible. It even has auto ID so we will be able to identify the bat species we're hearing!

Big thanks to Sophie for this generous gift.

# January 2025

## Hitting the big screen, interventions planning and food garden

© Tom Francome



### Debut screening of Heal the Land!

We started the new year with a very exciting announcement. Tickets became available for the very first screening of our brand new short film Heal the Land!

Heal the Land is a stunningly beautiful 25-minute documentary about the Heal Somerset site. It features some of the highs and lows from the first two years and showcases much of the wonderful wildlife we saw. All the footage was filmed on the site.

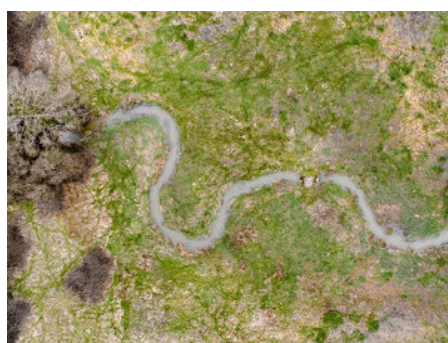
We set the date of the inaugural screening for the evening of Friday 14 March at the Merlin Theatre in Frome, Somerset, with a panel discussion after the film featuring our co-founder Jan Stannard, film director Tom Francome, producer Hayley Smith and expert wildlife guide Nick Patel.

### 2025: the year of interventions

For two years we focused on completing our baseline surveys of the Heal Somerset site. This was a crucial first step in the rewilding process to find out what species are here and where it's possible, how abundant they are. This data will be used to inform future interventions and measure our impact.

All of these baseline surveys were due to be officially completed by March, which means that the next step is to start working on interventions. While rewilding always aims to let nature take the lead, sometimes we do need to give it a helping hand. The actions we take are based on rebuilding missing or depleted ecosystem processes.

There are three key areas of focus for this year: bringing in our first ecosystem engineers, renaturalising water flows and supporting scrub and tree regeneration.



© Alex Sams



© Heal Rewilding

### Let it grow!

Work on our food garden officially began in January, if a little slowed down by the arrival of snow on site! What you can see in the picture above, covered by that lovely blanket of white, is some of the compost we put down for the garden. We owe a big thanks to waste management company Biffa for donating all 24 tonnes of compost we needed!

We had planned to have a moat around the garden to keep slugs at bay, but after starting work, we realised that the ground isn't quite flat enough for it. We'll have to resort to more traditional approaches. The garden is still going to have a lovely pond though, which will support a whole array of species. We'll also be experimenting with straw bale gardening.

## Community engagement, National Lottery funding and willow planting days

© Heal Rewilding



### Sharing the joy of rewilding

2024 was a bumper year for community engagement at Heal Somerset! We had nearly 300 visits by people from underserved communities, including people living with dementia, low-income families, young people and adults with additional needs, young carers and those experiencing poor mental health, as well as 80 visits from schoolchildren.

It's been wonderful sharing this special place with people and seeing them find joy and peace in it. Here are a couple of the wonderful things people have said after visiting:

"It's funny how putting yourself out in nature can feel vulnerable at first, because we are not so used to it, but then so good when you relax into it." – Participant of a local women's support group

"I felt a real affinity to the place, as if I was coming home" – Participant of a mental health support group

### The community nature barn is go!

We said a huge thank you to the National Lottery for awarding us £20,000 for our community nature barn project through their Awards for All programme.

Thanks to this funding, we've been able to kick off work on the community nature barn and are hoping to finish it by spring. The community nature barn will be a space for our community groups to rest, socialise and store equipment. It will be co-created and co-developed with these groups to ensure the space serves their needs. We're so excited to watch this project evolve and will keep sharing progress with you along the way.



© The National Lottery



© Heal Rewilding

### Willow planting days

One of the things we decided to do on site in 2025 was support scrub and tree regeneration and the first way to do this is by planting willow.

The Heal Somerset site is in an area known as the Forest of Selwood and the name Selwood comes from the Anglo-Saxon word for willow wood, meaning willow wood. This piece of history tells us that the area would once have had lots of willow trees. Willow is a wonderful plant and is especially important to beavers who eat it and use it for dam building. Sadly, our site has very few left and they'd struggle to regenerate on their own because the fields are covered in a thick thatch of pasture. Willow seeds can't root successfully without bare earth. Though eventually the work of the pigs should help this process along, we've made the decision to give our willows a helping hand.

A willow planting day with volunteers was run in January, with another in February.

## February 2025

## Our new ecosystem engineers and exciting wildlife sightings

© Heal Rewilding



### The pine marten reappears

A year ago we caught a pine marten on camera in our Southern Fields but there has been no sign of it since...until this week! This February, a pine marten (the same one?) was filmed in exactly the same place, making exactly the same moves. Surely it's him/her again!

And we also captured footage of a grey squirrel on the trunk of the same tree and this could be the reason for the pine marten sticking around. Lunch!

### The ginger boys have arrived!

We were joined by two new team members: Ticket and Tailor, our ecosystem engineers!

These adorable mud-lovers came to Heal Somerset as little piglets just before Christmas but we kept their arrival quiet for a few weeks while they settled in. It's safe to say they've done just that and seem to have no qualms about squealing at anyone who walks by in the hope of food. Ticket and Tailor are brothers and never leave each other's side, spending their days rootling around getting their snouts muddy. For the time being they live in a two-acre electric-fenced area with a bijou pig residence hand-built by one of our trustees, so they have shelter while the weather is cold and we can keep a close eye on them while they're still young. Eventually, they'll live a wild life, roaming hundreds of acres using natural shelter and without any supplementary feeding unless we have to.

We owe a big thanks to our wonderful business partner Ticket Tailor for funding the pig project.



© Heal Rewilding



© Canva

### Astonishing - 17 bullfinches in one morning!

On 25 January, our regular Saturday birders group went into the Eastern Fields (not a huge area) for a couple of hours and recorded an astonishing 17 bullfinches! Soon after, six males were seen together, a pinky-red explosion of colour in the landscape. The thought is that these birds are feeding on the dock seeds and other natural food sources on the site. Once upon a time, bullfinches had a bounty on their heads in Somerset as they target the buds of fruit trees at this time of the year.

The Heal team then went out the following week and all of us also saw small groups of bullfinches. What a treat!

The Eastern Fields are open for all to walk at any time - we can't promise a bullfinch sighting but there's a reasonable chance in February.

## Uplifting bug and bird survey results and birders social impact

© Tom Francome



### Bugs, bugs, glorious bugs

We received our 2024 baseline report on our invertebrates! It ran to 70 pages, with the highlights as follows:

- 404 species (that's not great, but isn't surprising given that it's an ecologically depleted site)
- Nine species of importance (2.2%)
- Large quantities of common species (brilliant!) such as Roesel's bush cricket, common ground beetle species, rove beetle species, and wolf spider species
- Notable percentage of species for long sward grassland habitat with few wetland, short sward and decaying wood species

In essence, the site is particularly abundant in common/widespread species but is lacking in diversity. The abundance is great news, meaning that birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibians should have plenty to eat. Rewetting the site and bringing in livestock in the future will bring lots of improvement in diversity.

### Birds are thriving

Survey results came in thick and fast. While we waited for our 2024 official baseline bird survey (report due later in 2025), we received the results of a survey undertaken by Nick Adams, a bird surveyor who visits a number of landholdings in the Heal Somerset locality, giving us some insight into how the birds at our site compare. This is one we plan to do annually.

Nick recorded 67 bird species at the site including 11 which are red-listed and 16 amber-listed. From the breeding bird survey, he confirmed up to eight greenfinch breeding territories, 11 for linnet, 43 for chiffchaff, 12 for bullfinch, 12 for whitethroat, 18 for skylark, seven for tree pipit and six for yellowhammer. Nick commented on the last two as being highlights for him.



© Canva / Heal Rewilding



© Heal Rewilding

### Social impact through birding

The birders group has been coming to the site for over a year and these keen volunteers (some expert, some learning) have now got to know each other well. It's great to see the camaraderie and banter on their WhatsApp group (description: 'a crack-team dedicated to the cause of surveying Heal Somerset's birdlife!'). They really help us keep a close eye on the birds here and they are often the first to see new species. This isn't just wildlife recording though - 'social impact' might sound lofty, but that's exactly what this is. They are benefiting from being in the company of others, having a laugh and doing something with purpose.

## March 2025

# Otterly fantastic news, newt habitat and hydrological plans

© Heal Rewilding



## What a lotta otters!

We saw one otter on a trailcam every so often, then in January we saw two for the first time. But last month, wow! There was unprecedented activity by otters. They were using one particular mud bank as a regular scent-marking location and in the video footage we captured there was first only one otter, then two, then three and then (OMG) four! Having four otters together is something we never ever expected to see on this site.

We also captured footage of a fox scent-marking on the same spot. Amazing stuff.

## Will our site become new heaven?

Eight of these strange rectangular pits are now dotted around the Heal Somerset site. Can you guess their purpose? They have been dug at locations where we might be able to create ponds for great crested newts!

We're doing this very exciting project in collaboration with the Newt Conservation Partnership, a partnership between Freshwater Habitats Trust and Amphibian and Reptile Conservation. The process of planning and developing such ponds starts with digging test pits like the one pictured above and then monitoring them to see if they hold water right through the summer. The team who came from the Newt Conservation Partnership to do the ground investigations reported finding 'better than expected [clay] substrate, fairly consistent across the farm'. Everything crossed now as we wait to see if the testing phase is successful.



© Heal Rewilding



© Heal Rewilding

## Rewetting our land

Under the topsoil at Heal Somerset, the substrate is almost all clay, which is naturally heavy and slow-draining, often causing waterlogging.

To make this sort of land more suitable for farming, the Victorians pioneered large-scale field drainage using buried clay pipes. We have these all over the Heal Somerset site, taking water off the land into streams or a network of man-made ditches. When it rains at the site, the water comes off the land much faster than it would naturally, impacting our three River Frome tributaries.

One of our important rewilding interventions is therefore the restoration of natural flows of water across the land. We are working with a hydrologist and the Environment Agency to plan and carry out this work. Over the next two or three years, this will involve blocking ditches or reducing flows in them using 'leaky dams', and breaking up field drains.

Eventually, flows of water through the grassland will be more natural, flood resilience will improve and wetlands will start to form.

## BNG units with a difference, dementia group visit and an amazing donation

© Heal Rewilding



### BNG opportunity

At Heal Somerset, we can turn your biodiversity net gain (BNG) obligation into an opportunity to do so much more. Not all BNG units offer the same quality and impact, and working with the right partner on the right project means you can make a real difference.

The Heal Somerset site will soon have its Section 106 legal agreement for BNG in place and will be offering up to 600 units, including fractional units for small developments.

Why buy units from Heal? Because we are running a high-integrity project, we can show positive impacts on people, habitats, species and carbon, and we are flexible. You can invest in us with confidence.

### Generous tools donation

We were really fortunate in acquiring a fantastic array of tools, kindly donated by our rewilding ranger Dan's parents.

They bought the tools from a great charity called Tools for Self Reliance (Llanelli & Carmarthen) and donated them straight to Heal. The purchase of these tools will help that charity to fund vocational skills training in Tanzania provided by Tools For Self Reliance Cymru.

Dan puts the tools to great use out on site during volunteer days, including barbed wire removal, scrub clearance, willow planting and hedgerow management. This wonderful donation is greatly appreciated, especially as it benefits both Heal and the Tanzania project.



© Heal Rewilding



© Heal Rewilding

### Wild Memories visits again

The Wild Memories group, supporting people living with dementia, are becoming regulars at Heal Somerset. During their visit in February, they got involved in kickstarting rewilding by planting willow along the riverbank.

It was a chilly February day but spirits were high and the tea tasted all the sweeter. On the walk back, one participant mentioned that this planting was their small version of leaving a legacy on our land, a really moving tribute.

# Trustees' report

## for the year ended 31 March 2025

The trustees present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2025. The trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

### Objectives and activities

The objectives of the charity, as set out in its constitution, are:

- to promote for the benefit of the public the conservation and improvement of the natural and physical environment in England and Wales, using the process of rewilding to restore biological diversity and ecosystems;

- to advance environmental improvement and protection for the benefit of the public through the conservation and protection of the environment and the provision of ecosystems services; and
- to advance the education and the engagement of the public in the restoration, rehabilitation, conservation and enhancement of the natural environment, and to promote study and research in such subjects and disseminate findings to the public at large.

### Public benefit

The trustees confirm that they have complied with the requirements of section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission for England and Wales.





## Trustees' Report *continued*

### Financial review

During this financial year, the charity completed its fifth year and its second year of operating its first nature recovery site, Heal Somerset. External factors caused delays in the sale of Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) units and the charity continued to support the operating costs of the site. A major restructuring of lending significantly reduced annual interest payments on the impact lending.

Total income for the year was £744,405. The charity benefited from a major donation of £166,430 during the year from electricity distribution network operator Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks for a Woodland Regeneration project, secured through the government's Projects for Nature scheme. The other non-recurring income (£33,439) arose from an inter-entity licence agreement. These two outliers resulted in a significant one-off uplift to the charity's income. If those outliers are set aside for the purposes of year-on-year comparison, the Trustees are pleased to see an underlying 27 per cent increase in income, from £428,306 to £544,536. Overall, unrestricted funding comprised 58 per cent and restricted 42 per cent.

Unrestricted expenditure was 12 per cent lower at £445,940 and restricted expenditure was higher at £143,435. The overall surplus was £155,030. Funds carried forward were £688,526, primarily accounted for by substantial amounts of deferred income reserved for expenditure in FY 2025-26. Fundraising costs were £3,464 (less than 1% of income), charitable activities direct costs were £287,741 and support costs were down by 23 per cent to £298,170 as a result of the refinancing. Within support costs finance charges were down by 48 per cent to £164,237.

The charity continued to benefit from Esmée Fairbairn Foundation's contribution to the charity's operational costs this year, generously donating nearly £100,000 for a second year to fund several salaries for the year. In addition, seven major corporate supporters provided ongoing financial assistance, alongside nine smaller business partners who contributed during the financial year. We also benefited from invaluable pro bono support from BrightCarbon, The Curious Network and Seven Legal as contributions as part of the 1% for the Planet scheme. Furthermore, we were deeply grateful to receive £35,000 in donations from individual major donors, whose generosity continues to be a cornerstone of our success.

*Trustees' Report continued*

Fixed assets rose slightly to £6,071,906 and current assets were £538,504, with creditors of £421,884. Total assets less current liabilities were up at £6,188,526 and net assets/total funds, after creditor amounts falling due after more than one year, were £688,526.

The reserves target is three months of operating costs plus 4% and reserves were maintained throughout the year.

Interest payments on the charity's impact lending were significantly reduced following re-financing of the debt. Commercial lending from Triodos Bank UK was repaid and Direct Line Group (UK Insurance) provided additional impact investment. Following the re-financing, the charity now has loans totalling £5.5m with Direct Line Group, with the first capital repayment not due until 30 August 2027.

## Going concern

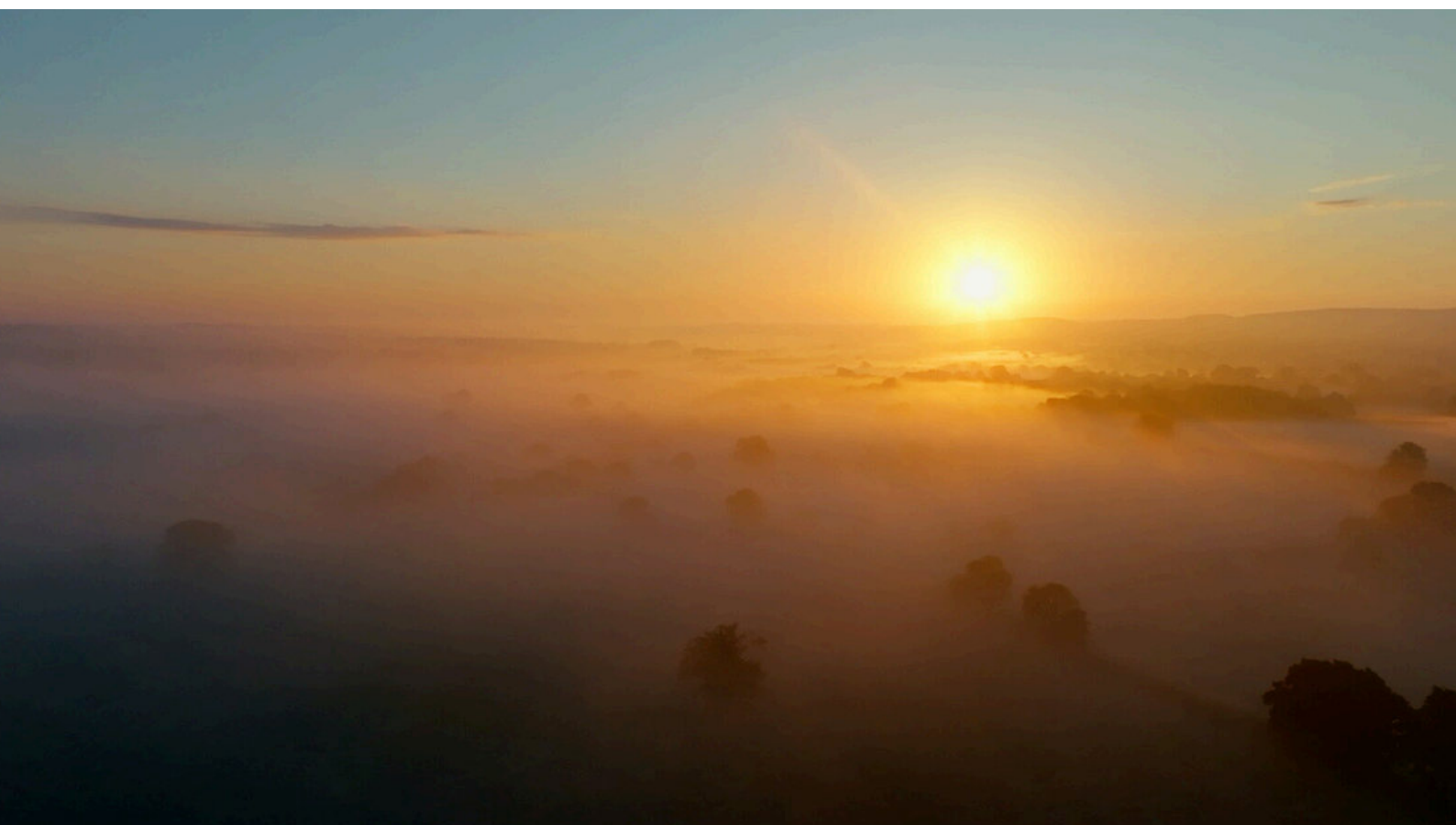
The charity is primarily engaged with the rewilding of land to restore biological diversity and ecosystems and is therefore reliant on the receipt of donations, grant funding and other income streams such as eco-tourism, corporate

and public events, and natural capital income from Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG), to generate sufficient cash to meet expenditure and interest on loans as they fall due.

The Trustees have reviewed the charity's financial position, including its reserves, cash flow and future funding commitments, and have assessed its ability to continue operating as a going concern. This assessment has considered the potential risks and uncertainties facing the charity, including external economic factors, alongside the charity's strategic plans and ongoing activities.

The Trustees are satisfied that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. This confidence is supported by the charity's reserves policy, effective financial management and the anticipated level of income from diverse funding streams.

Based on this review, the Trustees are confident that the charity will be successful in generating sufficient income to meet the payments due under the loan agreement and have prepared the accounts on a going concern basis.



Trustees' Report *continued*

## Future plans

The charity continues to focus on impact – upon nature, climate and people.

The charity expects to receive its first natural capital income transactions for Heal Somerset during the next 12 months, after delays caused by overstretched resources at Somerset Council. The legal agreements are now in process to secure the site's BNG units prior to offering them to BNG buyers.

The Trustees are now beginning to plan the acquisition of the next Heal site, in parallel identifying potential sources of finance and potential properties. The acquisition strategy will base the business plan on natural capital, potentially using an equity-based model through a special purpose vehicle.

Over the next 12 months, the charity expects to see benefit from recent significant activities, including the appointment of Professor Alastair Driver as a Special Advisor, which underpins the charity's position as the leading non-profit in the rewilding sector. The impact of the charity's award-winning film, Heal the Land, and the interest in the transformational changes brought about by the work of beavers at the Heal Somerset site, are expected to support increased visitor flows.

The fundraising environment continues to be challenging and work is underway to replace two key business funders, whose support came to end for reasons unconnected with the charity's operation and performance.

Following generous funding from Benefact Group, the charity has completed the research and planning work to set up a rewilding advisory service, and will be seeking funding for this venture over the next 12 months.



© Jenny Vickers

Three major interventions at Heal Somerset – the woodland regeneration project funded by SSEN, the renaturalisation of waterflows funded by the Environment Agency and the Food and Wildlife Advisory Group, and the release of Tamworth pigs to live wild in a large area of the site – are together expected to have a marked impact on the ecosystem and the abundance and diversity of plant and animal life. Raising funds to undertake further species and habitat monitoring will be a key focus.

## Structure, governance and management

### Governing document

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust and constitutes an incorporated charity.

### Recruitment and appointment of new trustees

The powers of appointing new and additional trustees is vested in the trustees. The joint trustees are responsible for the day to day administration of the charity.



Trustees' Report *continued*

## Reference and administrative details

### Registered charity number

1187992

### Principal address

Lower West Barn Farm  
Witham Friary  
Frome  
Somerset  
BA11 5HH

### Trustees

J Stannard  
J Coulter  
D Stimson  
J Simnett  
C Gale  
P Watson (resigned 25.10.24)  
R Quinn (appointed 19.4.24)



© Jenny Vickers

### Auditors

Knox Cropper LLP  
Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditors  
153 -155 London Road  
Hemel Hempstead  
Hertfordshire  
HP3 9SQ

### Events since the end of the year

Information relating to events since the end of the year is given in the notes to the financial statements.

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# Statement of Trustees' responsibilities

© Ruby Batt

## Trustees' Report *continued*

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Report of the Trustees and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales, the Charities Act 2011, Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charity for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charity SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- 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 to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by the Trustees on 13 November 2025 and signed on their behalf by:



**Jan Stannard**  
Trustee

# Report of the Independent Auditors

## Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Heal Rewilding (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 March 2025 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow Statement and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 March 2025 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, 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 Charities Act 2011.

## Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities

under those standards are further described in the Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

## Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Report of the Independent Auditors *continued*

## Other information

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Annual Report, other than the financial statements and our Report of the Independent Auditors thereon.

Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

## Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the Report of the Trustees is inconsistent in any material respect with the financial statements; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

## Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements which give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

## Our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditors under Section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue a Report of the Independent Auditors that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

- The Charity is required to comply with charity law and, based on our knowledge of its activities, we identified that the legal requirement to accurately account for restricted funds was of key significance.

Report of the Independent Auditors *continued*

- We gained an understanding of how the charity complied with its legal and regulatory framework, including the requirement to properly account for restricted funds, through discussions with management and a review of the documented policies, procedures and controls.
- The audit team, which is experienced in the audit of charities, considered the charity's susceptibility to material misstatement and how fraud may occur. Our considerations included the risk of management override.
- Our approach was to check that all restricted income was properly identified and separately accounted for and to ensure that only valid and appropriate expenditure was charged to restricted funds. This included reviewing journal adjustments and unusual transactions.

There are inherent limitations in the audit procedures described above and, the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely we would become aware of it. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud may involve deliberate concealment by, for example, forgery or intentional misrepresentations, or through collusion.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at [www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities](http://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities). This description forms part of our Report of the Independent Auditors.

## Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Knox Cropper LLP  
Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditors  
153 -155 London Road  
Hemel Hempstead  
Hertfordshire  
HP3 9SQ

Date: 12 December 2025



# Statement of Financial Activities

for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2025 total funds £	2024 total funds £
<b>INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM</b>					
Donations and legacies	2	375,243	314,743	689,986	424,017
Other trading activities	3	53,340	-	53,340	4,138
Investment income	4	1,079	-	1,079	151
<b>Total</b>		<u>429,662</u>	<u>314,743</u>	<u>744,405</u>	<u>428,306</u>
<b>EXPENDITURE ON</b>					
Raising funds	5	3,464	-	3,464	2,003
<b>Charitable activities</b>	6				
Conservation		442,476	143,435	585,911	561,382
<b>Total</b>		<u>445,940</u>	<u>143,435</u>	<u>589,375</u>	<u>563,385</u>
<b>NET INCOME / (EXPENDITURE)</b>		(16,278)	171,308	155,030	(135,079)
<b>Other recognised gains/(losses)</b>					
Gains/ (losses) on revaluation of fixed assets		-	(11,294)	(11,294)	451,898
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		(16,278)	160,014	143,736	316,819
<b>RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS</b>					
Total funds brought forward		507,003	37,787	544,790	227,971
<b>TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</b>		<u>490,725</u>	<u>197,801</u>	<u>688,526</u>	<u>544,790</u>

# Balance sheet

31 March 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2025 total funds £	2024 total funds £
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>					
Intangible assets	11	10,800	-	10,800	14,400
Tangible assets	12	1,597,324	33,781	1,631,105	1,582,220
Heritage assets	13	4,430,000	-	4,430,000	4,430,000
Investments	14	1	-	1	3
		<u>6,038,125</u>	<u>33,781</u>	<u>6,071,906</u>	<u>6,026,623</u>
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>					
Debtors	15	105,901	-	105,901	130,526
Cash at bank and in hand		268,584	164,019	432,603	115,637
		<u>374,485</u>	<u>164,019</u>	<u>538,504</u>	<u>246,163</u>
<b>CREDITORS</b>					
Amounts falling due within one year	16	(421,884)	-	(421,884)	(442,499)
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<u>(47,399)</u>	<u>164,019</u>	<u>116,620</u>	<u>(196,336)</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<u>5,990,726</u>	<u>197,800</u>	<u>6,188,526</u>	<u>5,830,287</u>
<b>CREDITORS</b>					
Amounts falling due after more than one year	17	(5,500,000)	-	(5,500,000)	(5,285,497)
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<u>490,726</u>	<u>197,800</u>	<u>688,526</u>	<u>544,790</u>
<b>FUNDS</b>					
Unrestricted funds	20			490,726	507,003
Restricted funds				197,800	37,787
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>				<u>688,526</u>	<u>544,790</u>

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the board and were signed on its behalf on 13 November 2025 by:



**Jan Stannard**  
Trustee

# Cash Flow Statement

31 March 2025

		2025	2024
	Notes	£	£
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>			
Cash generated from operations	1	454,792	245,882
Finance costs paid		<u>(164,113)</u>	<u>(275,030)</u>
Net cash provided by / (used in) operating activities		<u>290,679</u>	<u>(29,148)</u>
<b>Cash flows from investing assets</b>			
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(63,130)	(37,204)
Sale of fixed asset investments		2	-
Interest received		<u>1,079</u>	<u>151</u>
Net cash used in investing activities		<u>(62,049)</u>	<u>(37,053)</u>
<b>Cash flows from financing activities</b>			
New loans in year		2,528,000	1,289,058
Loan repayments in year		<u>(2,439,664)</u>	<u>(1,270,336)</u>
Net cash provided by financing activities		<u>88,336</u>	<u>18,722</u>
<b>Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period</b>		<b>316,966</b>	<b>(47,479)</b>
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period</b>		<u>115,637</u>	<u>163,116</u>
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period</b>		<u><u>432,603</u></u>	<u><u>115,637</u></u>

# Notes to Cash Flow Statement

31 March 2025

## 1. RECONCILIATION OF NET INCOME / (EXPENDITURE) TO NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

	2025 £	2024 £
<b>Net income / (expenditure) for the reporting period (as per the Statement of Financial Activities)</b>	155,030	(135,079)
<b>Adjustments for:</b>		
Depreciation charges	6,551	5,448
Interest received	(1,079)	(151)
Finance costs	164,113	275,030
Decrease in debtors	24,625	14,999
Increase in creditors	<u>105,552</u>	<u>85,635</u>
<b>Net cash provided by operations</b>	<u><u>454,792</u></u>	<u><u>245,882</u></u>

## 2. ANALYSIS OF CHANGES IN NET DEBT

	At 01.04.24 £	Cash flow £	At 31.03.25 £
<b>Net cash</b>			
Cash at bank and in hand	<u>115,637</u>	<u>316,966</u>	<u>432,603</u>
<b>Debt</b>			
Debts falling due within 1 year	(339,000)	126,167	(212,833)
Debts falling due after 1 year	<u>(5,285,497)</u>	<u>(214,503)</u>	<u>(5,500,000)</u>
	<u>(5,624,497)</u>	<u>(88,336)</u>	<u>(5,712,833)</u>
<b>Total</b>	<u><u>(5,508,860)</u></u>	<u><u>228,630</u></u>	<u><u>(5,280,230)</u></u>

# Notes to the Financial Statements

Year Ended 31 March 2025

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## 1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

### Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statements of the charity, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Charities Act 2011. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, with the exception of investments which are included at market value, as modified by the revaluation of certain assets.

### Going concern

The charity is primarily engaged with the rewilding of land to restore biological diversity and ecosystems. It is therefore reliant on the receipt of donations, grant funding and other income streams such as eco-tourism, corporate and public events, and Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) to generate sufficient cash to meet interest and capital repayments on loans as they fall due.

In June 2024, the charity agreed an amendment to its original loan agreement with UK Insurance for an additional facility, which was used to repay in full the Triodos Loan. Following the re-financing, the charity now has loans totalling £5.5m with UK Insurance with the first capital payment not due until 30 August 2027.

The Trustees are confident that the charity will be successful in generating sufficient income to meet the payments due under this loan agreement and, on the basis of the forecasts prepared, together with the refinancing, have prepared the accounts on a going concern basis.

### Income

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

### Expenditure

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

### Intangible fixed assets

Intangible assets are initially measured at cost. After initial recognition, intangible assets are measured at cost less any accumulated amortisation and any accumulated impairment losses.

Sporting rights are being amortised evenly over their estimated useful life of 5 years.

Notes to the Financial Statements *continued*

### Tangible fixed assets

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

Plant and machinery - 20% on cost

Fixtures and fittings - 10% on cost

Motor vehicles - 20% on cost

Freehold properties have been measured at fair value by third party professional valuers. Depreciation will be charged over the estimated useful life of the properties in subsequent years.

### Heritage assets

The charity holds a heritage asset, which are land and buildings held for scientific importance to advance the preservation and conservation objects of the charity. Heritage assets are recognised using the valuation method.

### Taxation

The charity is exempt from tax on its charitable activities.

### Fund accounting

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

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

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

### Pension costs and other post-retirement benefits

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

### Basis of consolidation

The financial statements present the information about the individual charity. The charity and its subsidiaries are classed a small group. Therefore, the charity has taken advantage of the exemptions provided by the Charities SORP (FRS 102) for small groups and consolidated accounts are not prepared.

## 2. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	2025 £	2024 £
Donations	<b>323,107</b>	266,239
Gift aid	<b>8,340</b>	12,037
Grants	<b>358,539</b>	145,741
	<b><u>689,986</u></b>	<u>424,017</u>

Notes to the Financial Statements *continued***3. OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES**

	2025 £	2024 £
Fundraising events	<b>7,128</b>	4,138
Licence fees	<b>33,439</b>	-
Other income	<b>12,773</b>	-
	<u><b>53,340</b></u>	<u>4,138</u>

**4. INVESTMENT INCOME**

	2025 £	2024 £
Deposit account interest	<b>1,079</b>	151

**5. RAISING FUNDS**

	2025 £	2024 £
<b>Raising donations and legacies</b>		
Fundraising	<b>3,464</b>	2,003

**6. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES COSTS**

	Direct costs £	Support costs (see note 7) £	Totals £
Conservation	<b>287,741</b>	<b>298,170</b>	<b>585,911</b>

**7. SUPPORT COSTS**

	Management £	Finance £	Governance costs £	Totals £
Conservation	<b>118,933</b>	<b>164,237</b>	<b>15,000</b>	<b>298,170</b>

**8. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS**

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 March 2025 nor for the year ended 31 March 2024, other than those disclosed in note 21.

**Trustees' expenses**

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 31 March 2025 nor for the year ended 31 March 2024.

Notes to the Financial Statements *continued***9. STAFF COSTS**

	2025 £	2024 £
Wages and salaries	170,775	134,009
Social security costs	9,990	6,453
Other pension costs	<u>3,844</u>	<u>2,946</u>
	<u>184,609</u>	<u>143,408</u>

The total employee benefits of the key management personnel of the charity were £52,870 (2024 - £31,082).

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

	2025	2024
Conservation	6	5
Administration	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
	<u>7</u>	<u>6</u>

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

**10. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES**

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
<b>INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM</b>			
Donations and legacies	331,313	92,704	424,017
Other trading activities	4,138	-	4,138
Investment income	<u>151</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>151</u>
<b>Total</b>	<u>335,602</u>	<u>92,704</u>	<u>428,306</u>
<b>EXPENDITURE ON</b>			
Raising funds	2,003	-	2,003
<b>Charitable activities</b>			
Conservation	<u>506,465</u>	<u>54,917</u>	<u>561,382</u>
<b>Total</b>	<u>508,468</u>	<u>54,917</u>	<u>563,385</u>

Notes to the Financial Statements *continued*

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
<b>NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)</b>	(172,866)	37,787	(135,079)
<b>Transfers between funds</b>	193,099	(193,099)	-
<b>Other recognised gains / (losses)</b>			
Gains on revaluation of fixed assets	<u>451,898</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>451,898</u>
<b>Net movement in funds</b>	472,131	(155,312)	316,819
<b>RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS</b>			
Total funds brought forward	<u>34,872</u>	<u>193,099</u>	<u>227,971</u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</b>	<u><u>507,003</u></u>	<u><u>37,787</u></u>	<u><u>544,790</u></u>

## 11. INTANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Sporting rights £
<b>COST</b>	
At 1 April 2024 and 31 March 2025	<u>18,000</u>
<b>AMORTISATION</b>	
At 1 April 2024	3,600
Charge for year	<u>3,600</u>
At 31 March 2025	<u>7,200</u>
<b>NET BOOK VALUE</b>	
At 31 March 2025	<u><u>10,800</u></u>
At 31 March 2024	<u><u>14,400</u></u>

Notes to the Financial Statements *continued***12. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS**

	Freehold property £	Plant and machinery £	Fixtures and fittings £	Motor vehicles £	Totals £
<b>COST OR VALUATION</b>					
At 1 April 2024	1,570,000	3,648	2,129	8,291	1,584,068
Additions	11,294	18,055	33,781	-	63,130
Revaluations	(11,294)	-	-	-	(11,294)
	<u>1,570,000</u>	<u>21,703</u>	<u>35,910</u>	<u>8,291</u>	<u>1,635,904</u>
At 31 March 2025	<u>1,570,000</u>	<u>21,703</u>	<u>35,910</u>	<u>8,291</u>	<u>1,635,904</u>
<b>DEPRECIATION</b>					
At 1 April 2024	-	486	160	1,202	1,848
Charge for year	-	1,080	213	1,658	2,951
	<u>-</u>	<u>1,566</u>	<u>373</u>	<u>2,860</u>	<u>4,799</u>
At 31 March 2025	<u>-</u>	<u>1,566</u>	<u>373</u>	<u>2,860</u>	<u>4,799</u>
<b>NET BOOK VALUE</b>					
At 31 March 2025	<u>1,570,000</u>	<u>20,137</u>	<u>35,537</u>	<u>5,431</u>	<u>1,631,105</u>
At 31 March 2024	<u>1,570,000</u>	<u>3,162</u>	<u>1,969</u>	<u>7,089</u>	<u>1,582,220</u>

Cost or valuation at 31 March 2025 is represented by:

	Freehold property £	Plant and machinery £	Fixtures and fittings £	Motor vehicles £	Totals £
Valuation in 2024	171,898	-	-	-	171,898
Valuation in 2025	(11,294)	-	-	-	(11,294)
Cost	<u>1,409,396</u>	<u>21,703</u>	<u>35,910</u>	<u>8,291</u>	<u>1,475,300</u>
	<u>1,570,000</u>	<u>21,703</u>	<u>35,910</u>	<u>8,291</u>	<u>1,635,904</u>

Notes to the Financial Statements *continued***13. HERITAGE ASSETS**

	Total £
<b>MARKET VALUE</b>	
At 1 April 2024 and 31 March 2025	<b><u>4,430,000</u></b>
<b>NET BOOK VALUE</b>	
At 31 March 2025	<b><u><u>4,430,000</u></u></b>
At 31 March 2024	<b><u><u>4,430,000</u></u></b>
Cost or valuation at 31 March 2025 is represented by:	
	<b>Heritage asset £</b>
Valuation in 2024	<b>280,000</b>
Cost	<b><u>4,150,000</u></b>
	<b><u><u>4,430,000</u></u></b>

**14. FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS**

	Shares in group undertakings £
<b>MARKET VALUE</b>	
At 1 April 2024	<b>3</b>
Disposals	<b><u>(2)</u></b>
At 31 March 2025	<b><u>1</u></b>
<b>NET BOOK VALUE</b>	
At 31 March 2025	<b><u><u>1</u></u></b>
At 31 March 2024	<b><u><u>3</u></u></b>

There were no investment assets outside the UK.

At the balance sheet date, the charity had one subsidiary company.

Heal Rewilding (Trading) Limited (company number: 13353709). Heal Rewilding owns 100% of the share capital. During the year Heal Rewilding (Trading) Limited made a loss of £2,849 and had net liabilities of £36,340 at the year end.

Heal Rewilding (Enterprises) Limited (company number: 12385872). Heal Rewilding owns 100% of the share capital. The company was dormant throughout the current and previous financial periods. The company was dissolved on 30 July 2024.

Heal North Limited (company number: 13357428). Heal Rewilding owns 100% of the share capital. The company was dormant throughout the current and previous financial periods. The company was dissolved on 30 July 2024.

Notes to the Financial Statements *continued***15. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR**

	2025 £	2024 £
Trade debtors	2,074	8,969
Other debtors	-	77
Owed by group undertakings	89,632	104,751
VAT	-	49
Prepayments and accrued income	<u>14,195</u>	<u>16,680</u>
	<u><u>105,901</u></u>	<u><u>130,526</u></u>

**16. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR**

	2025 £	2024 £
Bank loans and overdrafts (see note 18)	-	319,000
Trade creditors	10,007	7,934
Taxation and social security	3,106	4,917
Other creditors	<u>408,771</u>	<u>110,648</u>
	<u><u>421,884</u></u>	<u><u>442,499</u></u>

**17. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE AFTER MORE THAN ONE YEAR**

	2025 £	2024 £
Bank loans (see note 18)	5,500,000	5,110,664
Other creditors	<u>-</u>	<u>174,833</u>
	<u><u>5,500,000</u></u>	<u><u>5,285,497</u></u>

Notes to the Financial Statements *continued***18. LOANS**

An analysis of the maturity of loans is given below:

	<b>2025</b>	2024
	<b>£</b>	£
Amounts falling due within one year on demand:		
Bank loans	-	319,000
Other loans	<b>212,833</b>	20,000
	<u><b>212,833</b></u>	<u>339,000</u>
Amounts falling between one and two years:		
Bank loans - 1-2 years	-	319,000
Other loans - 1-2 years	-	174,833
	<u>-</u>	<u>493,833</u>
Amounts falling due between two and five years:		
Bank loans - 2-5 years	<b>5,500,000</b>	4,791,664
	<u><b>5,500,000</b></u>	<u>4,791,664</u>

During the year, in June 2024, the charity signed an amendment agreement with UK Insurance Limited (Direct Line Group), which increased the total amount borrowed from UK Insurance Limited to £5,500,000. Following the drawdown of these additional funds, the Triodos Bank loan was repaid in full in June 2024.

The lending from UK Insurance comprises two facilities. Facility A being £3,000,000 at 0.5% interest per annum and Facility B being £2,500,000 at 3.5% interest per annum.

Interest on Facility A is payable annually in arrears. Interest on Facility B is first payable in August 2025, and thereafter annually in arrears.

Both facilities are secured over the land acquired by the charity by way of a first legal mortgage over the property and land at Witham Friary, a first fixed charge over any insurance claims, rent, contracts relating to the property, and all present and future goodwill and a first floating charge over all present and future chattels.

**19. SECURED DEBTS**

The following secured debts are included within creditors:

	<b>2025</b>	2024
	<b>£</b>	£
Triodos Bank	-	2,429,664
UK Insurance Limited (Direct Line Group)	<b>5,500,000</b>	3,000,000
	<u><b>5,500,000</b></u>	<u>5,429,664</u>

Notes to the Financial Statements *continued***20. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS**

	At 1.4.24 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31.3.25 £
<b>UNRESTRICTED FUNDS</b>			
General fund	255,294	(108,052)	147,242
Designated - Land Fund	<u>251,709</u>	<u>91,775</u>	<u>343,484</u>
	<u>507,003</u>	<u>(16,277)</u>	<u>490,726</u>
<b>RESTRICTED FUNDS</b>			
Esmee Fairbairn	-	595	595
Surveys	37,787	(37,787)	-
Projects for Nature	-	165,664	165,664
Benefact Consultancy	-	12,056	12,056
Awards for All	-	19,485	19,485
	<u>37,787</u>	<u>160,013</u>	<u>197,800</u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<u>544,790</u>	<u>143,736</u>	<u>688,526</u>

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

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Gains and losses £	Movement in funds £
<b>UNRESTRICTED FUNDS</b>				
General fund	327,690	(435,742)	-	(108,052)
Designated - Land Fund	<u>101,972</u>	<u>(10,197)</u>	-	<u>91,775</u>
	<u>429,662</u>	<u>(445,939)</u>	-	<u>(16,277)</u>
<b>RESTRICTED FUNDS</b>				
Esmee Fairbairn	73,561	(72,966)	-	595
Surveys	-	(37,787)	-	(37,787)
Movement for Good	15,000	(15,000)	-	-
Projects for Nature	166,430	(766)	-	165,664
Benefact Consultancy	35,050	(11,700)	(11,294)	12,056
Awards for All	20,485	(1,000)	-	19,485
Newby Trust	<u>4,217</u>	<u>(4,217)</u>	-	-
	<u>314,743</u>	<u>(143,436)</u>	<u>(11,294)</u>	<u>160,013</u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<u>744,405</u>	<u>(589,375)</u>	<u>(11,294)</u>	<u>143,736</u>

Notes to the Financial Statements *continued***Comparatives for movement in funds**

	At 1.4.23 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 31.3.24 £
<b>UNRESTRICTED FUNDS</b>				
General fund	34,872	220,422	-	255,294
Designated - Land Fund	-	58,610	193,099	251,709
	<u>34,872</u>	<u>279,032</u>	<u>193,099</u>	<u>507,003</u>
<b>RESTRICTED FUNDS</b>				
Land fund	193,099	-	(193,099)	-
Surveys	-	37,787	-	37,787
	<u>193,099</u>	<u>37,787</u>	<u>(193,099)</u>	<u>37,787</u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<u>227,971</u>	<u>316,819</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>544,790</u>

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

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Gains and losses £	Movement in funds £
<b>UNRESTRICTED FUNDS</b>				
General fund	270,480	(501,956)	451,898	220,422
Designated - Land Fund	65,122	(6,512)	-	58,610
	<u>335,602</u>	<u>(508,468)</u>	<u>451,898</u>	<u>279,032</u>
<b>RESTRICTED FUNDS</b>				
Esmee Fairbairn	53,639	(53,639)	-	-
Surveys	39,065	(1,278)	-	37,787
	<u>92,704</u>	<u>(54,917)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>37,787</u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<u>428,306</u>	<u>(563,385)</u>	<u>451,898</u>	<u>316,819</u>

**Designated - Land fund**

Use of the land fund is designated to the repayment of the loans taken out to purchase the land for rewilding purposes.

**Esmee Fairbairn**

The Esmee Fairbairn grant was received to be spent on salaries of three members of staff.

**Surveys**

Donations have been received to be spent on surveys.

Notes to the Financial Statements *continued*

**Movement For Good**

The Movement For Good grant was received to be spent on the salary of one member of staff.

**Projects for Nature**

The Projects for Nature grant was received to be spent on the woodland regeneration project.

**Benefact Consultancy**

The Benefact Consultancy grant was received to be spent on consultancy costs for charity development research.

**Awards for All**

The Awards for All grant was received to be spent on the development of community facilities.

**Newby Trust**

The Newby Trust grant was received to be spent on the salary of one member of staff.

**21. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES**

At the year end the total due to the charity from Heal Rewilding (Trading) Limited was £89,632 (2024: £104,751).

J Coulter provided services to the charity during the year, amounting to £7,087.

J Stannard provided services to the charity during the year, amounting to £10,100.



# Acknowledgements

All of these wonderful achievements were made possible by our incredible community of supporters, donors, volunteers, trustees, employees and advisors.

We'd like to acknowledge and thank the following individuals and organisations for their contributions to our work:

- To our **Trustees** for their wisdom and support: Cindy Gale, Donna Stimson, Jeremy Coulter, Jonathan Simnett, Piers Watson and Rob Quinn
- To our wonderful 2024-25 **Heal team**: Alice Hopkins, Caddy Outhwaite, Daniel Hill, Julia Galbenu, Katie Ross, Rosa Romeo, Ruby Batt and Sarah Winchester
- To **Triodos Bank UK** and **Direct Line Group** (UK Insurance Limited), our lenders, who shared our vision and made the acquisition of Heal Somerset possible
- To our **Land Advisory Group** for their knowledge and guidance: Alex Sams, Pete Cooper and Sara King
- To the dozens of **Heal Helpers** who undertook virtual and on-site volunteering tasks through the year
- To **Heidi Briggs**, who proofread this document as a volunteer
- To **Esmee Fairbairn Foundation**, whose funding has been vital to developing our charity, enabling us to create fundamental new roles
- To other **grant-giving organisations** who supported us with core funding or for key projects: Awards for All, Benefact Group, Big Give, Colbolt Trust, Hartswood Trust, Newby Trust
- To our **business partners** who so generously support us, particularly Caution Your Blast, Glastonbury Festivals, Greenwood Place, onboard:earth, Polar Capital, Sandler Training Cambridge, Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks, See Saw Films, Softcat, The Curious Network, Ticket Tailor, TT Environmental Solutions, Working Planet
- To our **major donors** many of whom choose to remain anonymous, whose support and confidence in us strengthen our ability to create meaningful impact and drive our mission forward
- To all the **Heal 3x3 sponsors** who helped us to continue to build our land fund
- To all **Friends of Heal** and **individuals who donated** throughout the year, you are the heartbeat of our giving
- To all **supporters** who made one-off donations and brightened our day every time one arrived
- To our **compatriot rewilders** from projects around the country, who contributed knowledge and experience which made all the difference
- And to **Rewilding Britain**, whose support has been unwavering since the earliest days and continues to be material in our work, particularly Rebecca Wrigley, Alastair Driver and Sara King

# Images

All images, with the exception of the front cover, were taken at Heal Somerset by staff or volunteers. Their descriptions are below:

Front cover: Bullfinch

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p.2 A message from the Chair of Trustees: View across Heal Somerset at Imbolc, male silver-washed fritillary

p.3 Short-eared owl

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p.34 Statement of Trustees' responsibilities: Wildlife walk at Into The Light

p.35 Report of the Independent Auditors: Thistles under a September super moon

p.37 Report of the Independent Auditors: Robin's pincushion (*bedeguar gall*) on a wild rose

p.53 Notes to the financial statements: Fox cub

p.55 Images: Beefsteak fungus on an oak tree

End page: Ticket and Tailor, Heal's two Tamworth pigs





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**HEAL REWILDING**

England & Wales - Charity number 1187992

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# Accounts

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# Report and Financial Statements

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2023-2024

Heal Rewilding CIO  
1187992



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# A message from our co-founder



Jan Stannard

Welcome to Heal's first Annual Report, an undertaking now possible with the bigger team we are proud to have built over the last 18 months.

This is a review of our fourth year as a charity, covering April 2023 to March 2024, a historic period as it marked our first full year as the owners of our foundation rewilding site, Heal Somerset. The charity also saw another period of income growth, to £428,306 from £334,879, a 28% increase. The impact of the continuing cost-of-living crisis on individual giving was noticeable, however. Though we gained 88 regular monthly or annual donors during the year, we lost an unprecedented 44, resulting in a net increase on our regular donor base of 27%.

This was the year that the charity saw its vision become a reality, with tangible benefits for nature and climate on the 460 acres in Somerset. After they arrived on site, the team soon saw positive impacts on wildlife with all the land deliberately left fallow and undisturbed during the year, except for some mown paths for staff and visitors. The grasses in the pastures grew tall, no longer taken for silage. The hedges grew blowsy, no longer flailed. Baby oaks and regenerating blackthorn appeared everywhere, no longer cut down by machines. Docks, thistles and nettles appeared in swathes, supporting dozens of insect species, and birds foraged across the fields for winter seeds.

During the year, over 70 species of moth (macro species) were identified and 16 species of butterfly. Dozens of bird species were seen, with eight of those on the red list (skylark, house martin, starling, mistle thrush, house sparrow, greenfinch, linnet and yellowhammer). There were huge numbers of spiders, crickets, grasshoppers all over the site. The surfaces of the fields were peppered with the holes of voles,



© Ruby Batt/Heal Rewilding

shrews and mice, and the increased prey base supported breeding tawny owls and kestrels, barn owls, a sparrowhawk, hobbies and, during winter 2024, two short-eared owls, which to our delight stayed on site for several months.

In July 2023, we proudly opened Heal Somerset fully to the public, free to access with an optional donation requested. This was a significant step in our mission to provide spaces for people to connect with nature, improve their wellbeing and demonstrate to visitors the tangible impacts of rewilding. We created an 'information station' at the entrance to our Southern Fields where visitors could find out about the species seen and record their own sightings.

Using the government funding awarded to us under the Natural Environment Investment Readiness Fund (NEIRF), we carried out habitat, carbon and some eDNA surveys to establish baselines across the site and we also worked with Finance Earth throughout the year to finalise our natural capital income strategy, with Biodiversity Net Gain recommended as having the greatest potential in the current market.

Additionally, in collaboration with Rewilding Britain and other rewilding experts, we developed a comprehensive baseline and monitoring plan for

indicator species for our second year at the Somerset site, to enable us to provide evidence of the change in biodiversity over time. This initiative not only provides a blueprint for our future sites but also contributes to broader rewilding efforts across the country.

One of the highlights of the year was our 'Out of the Darkness' events. This memorable experience for audiences challenged the often-mute acceptance of a near-silent British countryside and celebrated the power of rewilding to restore a symphony of night sounds. Hearing long-lost calls of nocturnal wildlife across the landscape in the dark around a fire was incredibly moving and underscored the profound impact of our rewilding efforts.

This year was not without its challenges. As we worked hard to establish our first site, we decided to delay briefing land agents for our second site, Heal North, choosing to concentrate our efforts on ensuring the success of Heal Somerset. We expect to begin our search for Heal North in 2025, drawing on the insights and momentum gained from our work at Heal Somerset.

On the financial front, we have made notable strides. We secured a major grant from the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, which has been



© Alex Sams

instrumental in supporting our ongoing operations. Furthermore, we were selected by Projects for Nature, a strategic initiative created by organisations including Defra and Natural England. This was a significant endorsement of our work that connects us with businesses and donors committed to nature recovery and promises to help accelerate our efforts and expand our impact.

In terms of governance and leadership, we welcomed Rob Quinn to our board, whose expertise in financial support is already making a difference. We also expanded our team by hiring five new staff members, each of whom has contributed significantly to our progress and success.

In terms of learning and sharing knowledge and experience, we spent much of the year planning a major Spring 2024 event, 'Into the Light', our first ever gathering of leading voices and key change makers from the UK's rewilding movement. We also planned and ran 27 events for the general public, including workshops, site tours, species surveying training and wildlife walks.

I would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to all who have helped us this year: staff, volunteers, donors and partners. Your ongoing engagement and collective efforts are crucial to our mission. We simply could not have progressed so quickly and successfully without your unwavering support.

This past year has been one of growth and learning. I remain, as always, hopeful and motivated about the future we urgently need to create together for wild things and all of us.

**Jan Stannard, Founder Trustee and Acting CEO**



© Emma Lewis

# Raise money Buy land Rewild it



# About Heal

Heal Rewilding is the UK's first charity dedicated to being a rewilding landowner. It launched in March 2020 with the aim of acquiring and rewilding a 500-acre site in every English county and secured its foundation site, Heal Somerset, in December 2022. Heal's name is its purpose: heal the land, heal nature, heal ourselves.

The charity was set up in response to the devastating biodiversity and climate crises humanity is facing and our increasing disconnection with nature, with the adverse effects this has on human health and wellbeing. To these three problems, Heal sees one clear solution: rewilding.

Rewilding Britain defines rewilding as 'the reinstatement of natural processes and, where appropriate, missing species, allowing them to shape the landscape and the habitats within, leading to the restoration of fully functioning ecosystems'. It's a wonderfully exciting, still relatively novel, way of restoring ecosystems, which hands the reins over to nature and as a result, brings benefit to nature, planet and people.

Rewilding gives nature the breathing space it needs to recover. It allows plants to regenerate and creates spaces where wildlife can live freely and vulnerable species can thrive. It's also a key asset in the fight against climate change, as through natural regeneration and the restoration of wetlands, carbon is removed from the atmosphere. A report by Rewilding Britain has shown that by rewilding 30% of land in Britain, 53 million tonnes of carbon dioxide could be captured per year,

**Everyone,  
together  
For wild  
things and  
all of us**



which is more than 12% of current UK greenhouse gas emissions<sup>(1)</sup>. Rewilding is also hugely beneficial to people. It creates spaces that encourage nature connection, brings economic benefit, improves soil health, cleans the air we breathe and reduces water pollution.

Our first rewilding site, Heal Somerset, is a former dairy farm comprising 460 acres of beautiful undulating countryside, with miles of hedgerows and three tributaries of the River Frome.

In the time we've been at Heal Somerset, our team have been dedicated to making it a place where nature and people can thrive. We're in the final stage of completing a range of baseline surveys, which is a crucial first step to measure our impact on the land and ensure intervention decisions are well informed.

But it's not just wildlife we're helping. People are critical to everything we do at Heal. A core part of our mission is to increase access to nature, which is why our site is open and free to access, why we work hard to collaborate with the local community and why we run engaging and educational commercial events and experiences.

Our current focus is on developing Heal Somerset and making sure it's the optimal blueprint for our future sites.

(1) <https://www.rewildingbritain.org.uk/about-us/what-we-say/research-and-reports/rewilding-and-climate-breakdown>

# A look back at the year

## April 2023

## A furry visitor, getting visitor ready and meeting our local Wildlife Trust



© Heal Rewilding

### A (special) furry visitor

Local people had told us to look out for hares and we'd spotted a few in the distance, but in April we were treated to a very close encounter.

It had been raining heavily for several days and the ground was completely saturated. Sitting on the grass meant being in a puddle. One morning, we looked out of one of the windows and spotted this little hare hunkered down on an overgrown patio only a few feet away. It was quite well camouflaged and we're guessing the paving offered a dry spot, with the grass tufts making it feel like a tussocky field!

Having hares here is very special. They were once a very common sight in the countryside, but habitat loss, hunting and changes in farming practices have led to a decrease of up to 80% in the number of brown hares in the UK. We're hoping that the recovering land here will provide a new safe haven for hares in this locality.

### Getting ready to welcome visitors

We started to think about getting ready to welcome visitors to Heal Somerset. The quiet setting here necessitates careful management of numbers of visitors, most of whom will arrive by car, as public transport is limited (the nearest station is over seven miles away).

We decided that bookable parking is likely to be the most practical way of managing visitor numbers and that we would set a mid-summer opening date.



© Ruby Batt/Heal Rewilding



© Heal Rewilding

### Getting to know our local Wildlife Trust

Having a good relationship with Somerset Wildlife Trust is really important to us, not least because it is one of the most progressive Trusts in the UK, with a strategic commitment to wilder landscapes at scale.

Georgia Stokes (pictured second left), who became Chief Executive Officer in 2019, visited with four members of her senior team and we had an inspirational day together, combining energetic discussions about current projects with a tour around the site.

We also made plans to visit Honeygar, 81 hectares of formerly intensively grazed farmland in the Avalon Marshes, which is the Trust's first 'wilded' site.

## A new team member, advisors dropping by and the Big Green Hike

© Heal Rewilding



### Ruby ruby ruby ruby (sing it!)

We were joined by a gem of a Rewilding Comms Trainee!

Ruby Batt is an English Literature graduate from the University of Bristol, with experience of running social media accounts and a love of storytelling. She has first-hand experience of wildlife conservation working as a field surveyor, conducting bat surveys and volunteering at Slimbridge Wetland Centre.

Her role at Heal is part of the New to Nature programme, hosted by Groundwork UK and funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

Ruby was incredibly excited to join the Heal team. As a lover of all things nature, she recognises the need to safeguard its future and believes the best way to do this is by rewilding land.

### Supporters and advisors drop by

We were delighted to welcome some of our long-term supporters and advisors to Heal Somerset.

Chris Jones, owner of the Cornwall Beaver Project (pictured below with Jan Stannard, Heal co-founder, and Hannah Needham, former Operations Director), Robert Drewett, the new High Sheriff of Somerset, and Merlin Hanbury-Tenison, founder of Cabilla Cornwall and Trustee at Cornwall Wildlife Trust, each spent a morning at the site being shown around. All have family backgrounds in farming and land, and helped us to improve our insight and understanding of what we have here.



© Heal Rewilding



© Big Green Hike

### Celebrating Big Green Hikers for Heal!

A massive shout-out to the following wonderful people who booted up and strode out for the Big Green Hike in support of Heal, helping us raise over £2,400!!

Katie and Chloe tackled the Shropshire Three Peaks Challenge carrying their babies! Seven colleagues from the Nature Picture Library walked in the Somerset Levels and a big crew from The University of Loughborough's PhD Social and Support Network hiked in Leicestershire.

The Heal team, Hannah (former Ops Director) and Steph (former Heal Future panellist) joined Sara King, Marie Negus and Kate Dawson from Rewilding Britain for a hike, which was the first joint Heal Rewilding/Rewilding Britain fundraiser.

# May 2023

# Wildlife spots, a Heal 3x3 update and a new fundraiser

© Heal Rewilding



## Wildlife latest

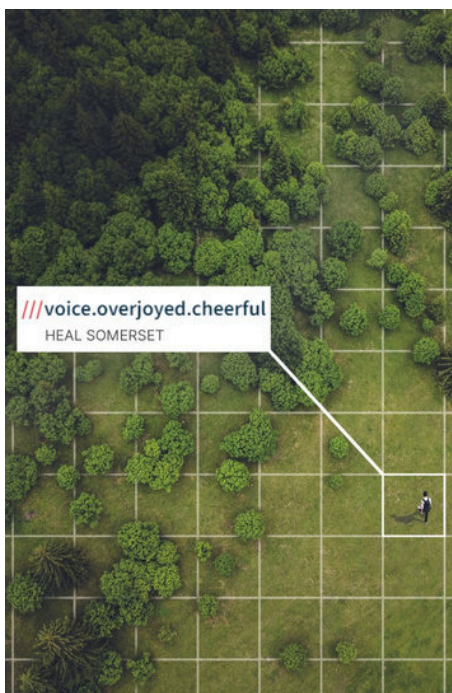
A photo of mud is appropriate for a whole host of reasons for our site, with its clay soils and plentiful rain, but see if you can spot what makes this mud picture so special. It's a house martin footprint and a great example of a natural process, where disturbed ground (bare earth) enables natural puddles to form and persist, giving house martins a place to collect mud to build their nests. The availability of mud might help explain why we were absolutely swarming with them.

Other May wildlife spots: single instances of four newly recorded butterfly species (orange-tip, speckled wood, comma and tortoiseshell), mating great spotted woodpeckers, a jay (at last, only one so far) and chiff chaffs galore. The 'house hare', now named Scout, was also seen around often, much to our delight.

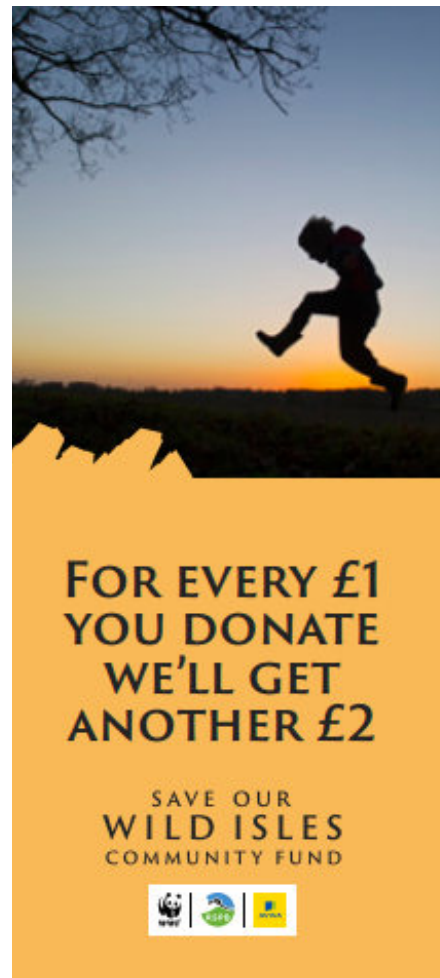
## A Heal 3x3 update

The very first step of the allocation process for Heal 3x3 arrived! Thousands waited patiently for this moment, for which we're very grateful.

Squares were allocated in two very large areas of Heal Somerset, both of which will be open to the public.



© Heal Rewilding



## Double your donation

May brought an exciting new fundraiser our way. We were thrilled to be accepted for the brand new Save Our Wild Isles Community Fund, launched by Aviva in partnership with WWF and the RSPB.

The £1 million fund was designed to support organisations that are protecting and restoring nature. Being part of this fund meant that for every £1 donated to us during our campaign, Aviva donated £2 more. Every single donation had triple the impact.

## Knepp ticket auction, bird ringing and another new team member

© Ruby Batt



### Knepp Nightingale Safari ticket auction

A wonderful Heal supporter donated two tickets they couldn't use for Knepp's hugely popular Nightingale Safari and Supper on Saturday 13 May for us to auction to raise funds for Heal (with Knepp's blessing).

Jonathan Simnett, a Heal Trustee, has been to Knepp for this tour before and said, "Nothing beats the experience of dining with fellow nature enthusiasts and then walking out into the quiet night, guided by experts, and standing in wonder as you listen to nightingale song exploding out of the dark, composed of hundreds of phrases, the like of which you may never have heard before."

Bidding started at £220 for the pair (face value) and eventually reached an amazing £305!

### Getting to know the locals

We had a volunteer bird ringer David here this month, setting up mist netting and logging his 'catches'. Starting this work of properly documenting what's here was wonderfully exciting.

He surveyed birds in three locations at Heal Somerset. Species ringed include blackcap, robin, dunnock, chiff chaff, long-tailed tit, blue tit, great tit, swallow and more!

Bird ringing requires an early start but nevertheless, the team made the effort to get up early and enjoyed seeing David complete this important monitoring work.



© Heal Rewilding

### Another new team member

We were joined by another new team member! Introducing Caddy Outhwaite, our Admin Assistant.

Caddy has dedicated the last 15 years of her career as a Private PA. She has worked with a wide range of clients, particularly those of high net worth, in London and the surrounding areas.

In spite of having lived in the capital for over a decade, Caddy has always been a country girl at heart and feels very fortunate to have grown up in a nature-loving family in rural Hampshire.

Conscious of the climate crisis and the threats to the natural world, Caddy decided to change the course of her career path to work for an environmental organisation.

As a nature enthusiast and plantswoman, she sees working at Heal as an opportunity to widen her knowledge and do her bit to make a difference in a way that she has not been able to do before now.

## June 2023

# Moth trapping, our first tours and hitting our fundraising target



© Wirestock/Canva

### 31 species in first moth trapping activity

A local moth expert, Hugo Brooke, set up two moth traps one night in June. The next morning, we joined him to count 31 species, with 69 individuals caught (and all released unharmed). The haul included one of these beautiful eyed hawkmoths, pictured below, and a poplar hawkmoth.

This is a relatively low number of species and total number of individuals recorded, but as it was our first time surveying here, we'll repeat the trapping to see if these numbers are representative of the moth population on site.

We've planned to trap once a month through the year and put a call out for experienced volunteers with moth identification skills to come and help the team to do the early morning identification work.

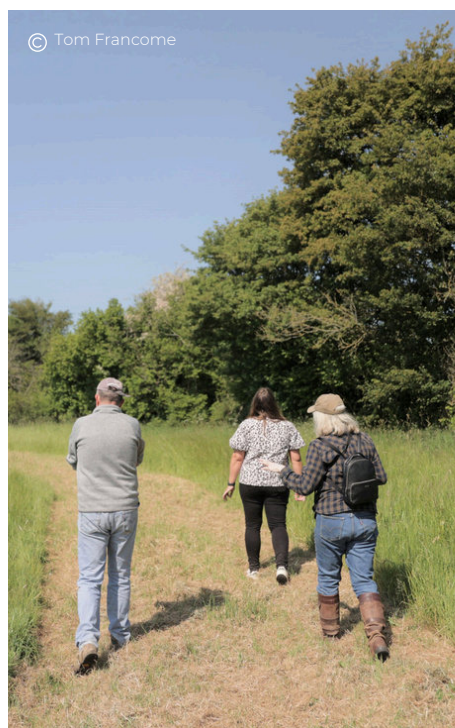
### Our first tours

The first batch of Heal Somerset tour dates were officially released. Tours are a wonderful opportunity for people to see our site 'pre-wilding' and bear witness to the start of its journey of recovery.

Each tour lasts two hours, with up to 12 people, and covers about 4km on mown paths.

We launched two types of tours, our introductory guided tour and our special 'silent' tour, where attendees walk in companionable silence with talking stops along the way

We had lovely feedback from our first few tours. "The best morning I've had in ages", "So privileged to see Heal Somerset at the beginning" and "Excellent tour" are some of comments we got.



© Tom Francome



© Emma Lewis

### We smashed our target!

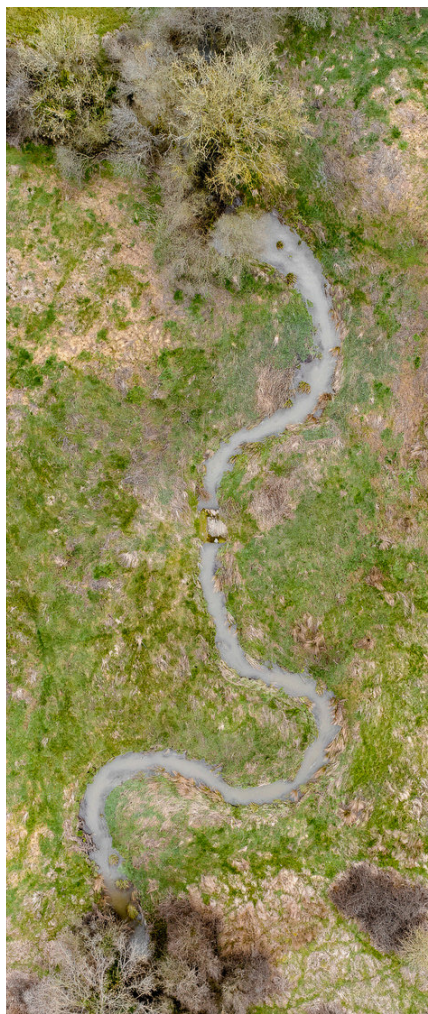
On the 21 June, the Aviva Save Our Wild Isles Community Fund ended. We were so pleased to not only meet, but exceed our target of £7,500, raising a total of £10,821.

We are so grateful to everyone who donated. Every penny is going towards making Heal Somerset a better place for wildlife

The money raised through this fund has gone straight into rewilding Heal Somerset. It's being used to carry out 'pre-wilding' wildlife surveys, to conduct habitat restoration where necessary and to buy volunteer equipment.

## Measuring carbon, pop-up camping and our first on site volunteers

© Alex Sams



### Measuring carbon with Treeconomy

Treeconomy joined us at Heal Somerset and flew a drone across the whole site. The images and maps captured will be used in combination with satellite data, to estimate the amount of carbon stored above-ground in woody biomass (trees, hedges and plants).

This will be repeated every few years to measure the amount of carbon that is captured and stored as a result of the rewilding process.

### Pop-up camping at Heal Somerset

We opened our pop-up camping site at Heal Somerset, in a field in the heart of the site with glorious views.

It's a basic set up, with a mains water tap and portaloos, and very close to a wild camping experience. The camping is for adults and accompanied children aged 14+.



© Tom Francome



© Heal Rewilding

### Volunteers brush up their skills

Eleven hard-working Heal Helpers came to decorate the main farmhouse at the Heal Somerset site, with four of them pictured above. We can't thank them enough for their cheerful and skilled help.

We're also very grateful to Edward Bulmer Natural Paint who donated a generous amount of their wonderful plant-based paint for us to use in the project.

Our volunteers were mentored by a professional decorator and their contribution got our main meeting room ready to host meetings, talks and other gatherings.

# July 2023

## Opening Heal Somerset to visitors and spotting the small things



### Heal Somerset opened on Monday 17 July!

The first public access area of Heal Somerset officially opened on Monday 17 July to visitors. Allowing people to come and see how nature is bouncing back in our Southern Fields, one of the areas within the site covering nearly 200 acres. We mowed paths for visitors to follow all over this area, which incorporates a long stretch of public footpath.

We are committed to providing access to nature for all, so we decided there would be no entry fee but we do ask visitors to make a voluntary donation towards the costs of running the site. This is made at a donation point at the entrance to the Southern Fields, where visitors can find more information about the project and what they might see and hear.

### Spotting the small things

We celebrate the small things here, because when insects thrive, so do many other species. We saw meadow brown butterflies in glorious abundance on warm days, mainly feeding on thistles and bramble flowers. Marbled white butterflies were also here in good numbers and we also saw our first ringlet. There were crickets everywhere, taking huge jumps away from us as we walked along our mown paths, and we saw a nursery web spider standing guard over a silken nest.

Other notable July sightings include a pair of hobbies, two grass snakes, a reed bunting, a mistle thrush and a barn owl who visited regularly to catch prey.



© Ruby Batt/Heal Rewilding

## An exciting event, close encounters and Heal 3x3 locations go live

© Heal Rewilding



### Full house for bumblebees

Our first bumblebee survey training day with the Bumblebee Conservation Trust was a big success and completely sold out.

The day started with a presentation session indoors, followed by a walk around the Heal Somerset site with a member of the Bumblebee Conservation Trust team, who led a keen group around wildflower areas to live-catch and identify bumblebee species.

The session was aimed at beginners and bumblebee enthusiasts of any skill level, with a view to equipping volunteers with the skills and experience they need to become regular bumblebee surveyors at Heal Somerset.

The best find of the day was a field cuckoo bumblebee, a type which takes over the nests of carder bumblebees.

### Close encounters at our campsite

One of our campers had a close encounter with a couple of curious hares!

She was sitting in the porch of her tent and filmed them as they crept up to investigate before bounding away.

Hares are usually very shy creatures so it was a very special encounter, showing just how immersed our campsite is in nature.



© Isabella Spring



© Heal Rewilding

### Heal 3x3 locations go live!

People had fun finding out which three words they have for their Heal 3x3 squares via our Heal 3x3 portal, when the first batch of Heal sponsorship notifications went out.

An Excel specialist with a sudden workload had 'suitable.column.panic' and one of our most loyal supporters had 'hunk' in his, which went down rather well!

## August 2023

# Fully opening Heal Somerset, a special find and our new Ranger

© Tom Francome



### Heal Somerset is fully open

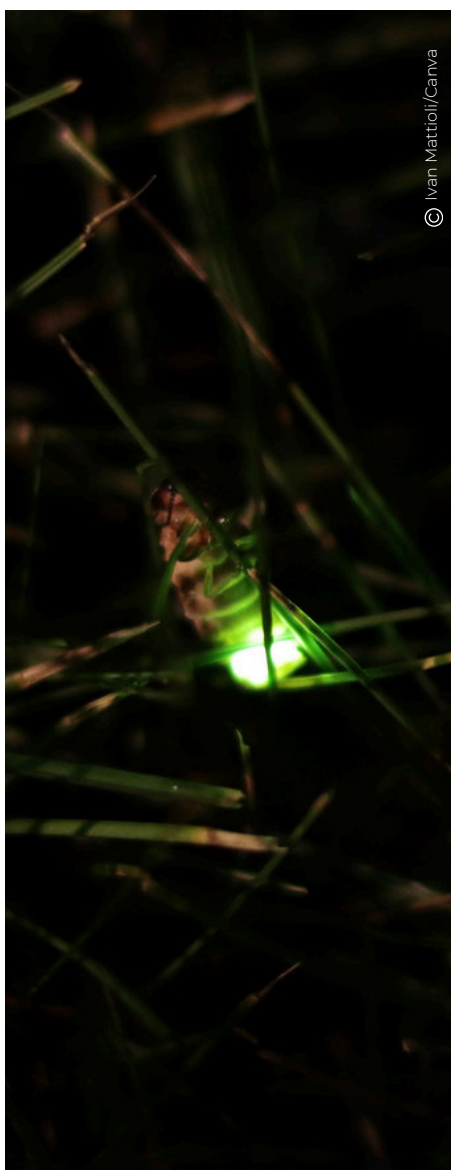
On Saturday 19 August, we officially opened the second large public access area at Heal Somerset, our *Eastern Fields*.

Both our *Southern* and *Eastern Fields* have mown paths to make it easy to walk around. Visitors can come to the site to walk in these areas at any time, with no entry fee but with a suggested voluntary donation towards the costs of running the site. This can be made at the entrance to each area, where there is also more information about the project and what creatures people see and hear during their visit.

### A very special find

We were out one night surveying for bats and look what we found: glow worms!

Two were spotted, but we were really excited as a glow worm expert who visited the site several times said that we have acres of suitable habitat, so the chances are high that we'll discover more of them over the following years.



© Ivan Mattioli/Canva



© Heal Rewilding

### Dan joins the team

We welcomed Daniel Hill, who joined us on Thursday 17 August as our Trainee Rewilding Ranger. Dan is our second trainee funded by the New to Nature scheme, a National Lottery initiative, and he was on a one-year training contract, working at the Heal Somerset site (now extended).

Dan completed a degree in mathematical sciences and then spent a year volunteering full time at an RSPB reserve before taking up the role with Heal. He grew up on an organic smallholding with environmentally conscious parents and was immersed in the natural world.

His experience of land work and visitor engagement is already proving invaluable and we're really pleased to have him on the team.

## A day of balsam bashing and a major grant



### Heal secures major grant

Heal secured a second grant from the prestigious Esmée Fairbairn Foundation of nearly £200,000.

The grant is being used for core funding, to bring individuals and organisations from diverse backgrounds together to support UK nature recovery, climate change action and wellbeing through practical action at new rewilding sites in England.

Jan Stannard, Heal Co-Founder and Trustee, said: "Heal's trustees and staff are honoured to receive this vital and generous funding from Esmée Fairbairn Foundation. The community of people who support us – donors, volunteers, site visitors, business partners, advisors and those in the rewilding community – will share our delight at this news. As before, we commend Esmée Fairbairn Foundation for being willing to fund the day-to-day work of charities and thank them for being a supportive and encouraging partner in our work."

### Volunteers bash balsam

A small team of determined volunteers went out with our Trainee Ranger Dan to tackle himalayan balsam found along the banks of the River Frome tributary in our Southern Fields.

This is an invasive plant which was introduced by the Victorians but has now escaped from gardens into the wider landscape and is considered a threat because it smothers and out-competes native plants. Keeping the balsam under control will be an ongoing and challenging task, as it has seed pods which explode and send seeds up to 7m from the parent plant, often into streams which then carry the seeds downstream to expand the plant's territory.



# September 2023

## The Saving, a bat talk and a new supporter

© David Renton



### The Saving

When freelance motion director David Renton got in touch offering to create an animated film for Heal as a gift to support our work, we said yes in a heartbeat, though we didn't know what would be involved and how it would turn out.

Well, what a triumph! David conceived and produced a glorious short film, [The Saving](#), about saving nature through rewilding, one square at a time. It brings Heal 3x3 alive with a whole cast of characters.

We are inordinately grateful to David (aka [Holy Peaches](#)), to his many friends who also contributed their time, and to [TVPaint](#) who supported the project.

### Bat talk

We were delighted to host our first evening talk at Heal Somerset on 'our' bats, with our neighbour Jacquie Billington, who has been fascinated by and working with the conservation of bats for over 30 years.

The bat population at Heal Somerset is really exciting with evidence of lots of species being here, including lesser horseshoe, long-eared, common and soprano pipistrelle, serotine and noctule. So, it was wonderful to have Jacquie come and tell us more about them.

Jacquie talked for about half an hour about the lives and habits of these remarkable flying mammals and then took questions.

After a short break, attendees headed outside as dusk fell and waited for the bats to emerge, then listened to the bats foraging nearby - with the help of electronic bat detectors.



© Remus66/Canva



© Olivia Parker/Ticket Tailor

### Ticket Tailor supports Heal

We were delighted that UK event ticket platform [Ticket Tailor](#) became a Heal business partner. As well as supporting us financially, they became our new ticketing platform.

Ticket Tailor is curated specifically for small to medium-sized businesses, event planners and charities, and is a B Corp, the first independent ticketing platform to become certified. B Corps are businesses that meet the highest standards of verified social and environmental performance, public transparency and legal accountability to balance profit and purpose. A big thank you to Ticket Tailor for their support.

## Resurgence take two, wildlife spots and another new supporter



© James Ratchford

### Resurgence take two

For a second year, Heal was delighted to join Youngwilders and Knepp Wildland Foundation in organising and hosting 100 young people aged 18-30 to connect, teach and inspire them to share ideas, have fun and be energised and ready for a life of helping shape a wilder and more nature-filled future.

The event took place at the renowned Knepp rewilding project, with three of the Heal team there all weekend helping out.

The theme of this year's Resurgence was connectivity - within ecosystems, across landscapes, between people and nature and between the people themselves - with a mix of walks, talks, workshops and downtime.

### A reptilian find and a charm offensive

We had a pleasing discovery during a visit by the Reptile and Amphibian Group for Somerset. They found three common lizards basking on the top of anthills on a sunny south-facing slope.

We also witnessed a spectacular sight last week. A 'charm' of around a hundred goldfinches descended on the thistles which have appeared in clumps in some places at Heal Somerset. Thistle seeds are a favourite food of these colourful birds. The thistle flowers also attracted a host of insects, particularly bumblebees and butterflies. These under-appreciated wildflowers really deliver for nature.



© j.lasWilson/Canva



### Bottom-up support from Naked Sprout

We love Naked Sprout, a British B Corp producing unbleached toilet paper made from sustainable bamboo, with 50% fewer carbon emissions than eco alternatives, no harsh chemicals and no plastics.

That's why we decided to start using Naked Sprout toilet rolls at Heal Somerset! The company kindly donated a big supply of their toilet rolls to us.

## October 2023

## Barn owl excitement and a search for new team members

© Alan Walker/Canva



### Barn owl excitement

In October, we saw a barn owl visiting Heal Somerset regularly. Our Rewilding Ranger Dan even came across the owl having a rest in a hole in a large oak tree in our Eastern Fields.

What's so pleasing is that the time they're spend hunting over our land is often very brief before they are seen flying off with prey, suggesting that the supply of food is a contributing factor to them being here.

### On the look out for new team members

We started the search for not one but two new team members to fill our brand new Learning and Sharing Manager and Community Engagement Manager roles. Both roles were generously funded by the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation.

The primary focus for the Learning and Sharing Manager role is to explain the impact of nature-led recovery on wildlife and climate, disseminate findings from Heal Somerset to benefit future nature recovery projects and create opportunities for people passionate about climate action to gather and learn.

The primary focus of the Community Engagement Manager role is to oversee the development and implementation of Heal's community outreach plan and calendar.



© Heal Rewilding

## A rethink, a slimy discovery and collaboration



### A land access rethink

We'd been intending to close the site to visitors from 31 October to next spring, but we had a rethink.

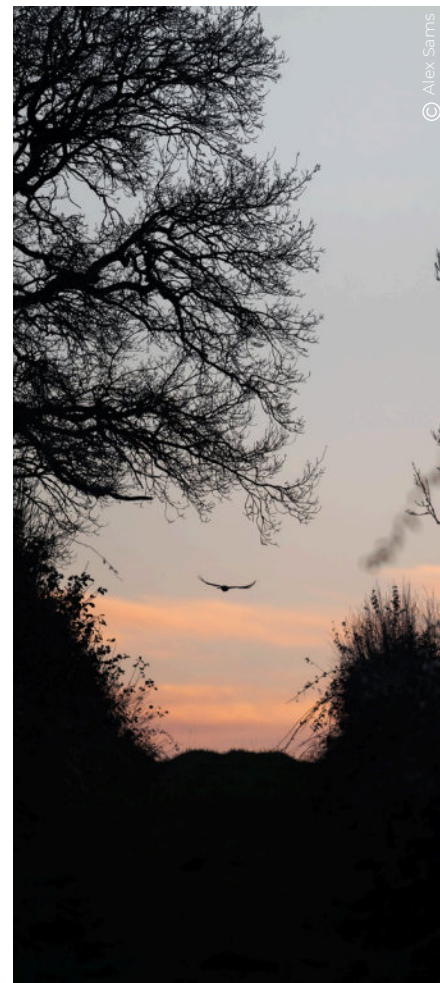
The provision of free-to-enter places for people to spend restorative time in nature is in our mission. More specifically, we started to look at supporting nature-based social prescribing in a more structured way, where people's GPs prescribe time spent with others in nature. If Heal Somerset were to close for six months, we'd be depriving people of that vital provision. We were also comfortable that visitor numbers this year are unlikely to impact the condition of the land.

We decided that Heal Somerset, pictured above in all its beauty, will be open all year round, except for the period over Christmas and New Year.

### A slimy discovery

These white clumps were spotted in several places near one of our river tributaries during a tour. At first we thought someone had been chucking damp wads of tissue paper but no - this is a type of slime mould, once thought to be a type of fungi but now classified separately.

These single-celled organisms are called protists and can clump together like this. They contribute to the decomposition of vegetation and feed on bacteria and fungi.



### Collaborating to help nature thrive

We began to explore collaborations with a number of landowners near Heal Somerset, ranging from immediate neighbours to those further afield.

The interest in nature recovery in the locality is particularly strong, which is hugely exciting for us. An estimate suggested that landholdings totalling more than 5,000ha, including ours, are either already actively being managed for nature in whole or in part, or there are plans to do so.

## November 2023



### Two new team members

November was an exciting month for Heal as we welcomed not one but two new team members. The roles, generously funded by the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, are a Learning and Sharing Manager and a Community Engagement Manager.

After receiving some great applications for both openings, we found the perfect people and welcomed Julia Galbenu (left) as our Community Engagement Manager and Katie Ross (right) as our Learning and Sharing Manager.

Both Katie and Julia have enjoyed their time at Heal so far and have already done great things for the charity. Katie said: "I have really enjoyed my first few weeks at Heal. It's a real privilege to be working so close to nature and with a great team that is passionate about biodiversity and rewilding." Julia said: "My first month at Heal has been an absolute joy and I already feel at home here. Getting to know the team, community groups and local people has been nothing short of inspirational."

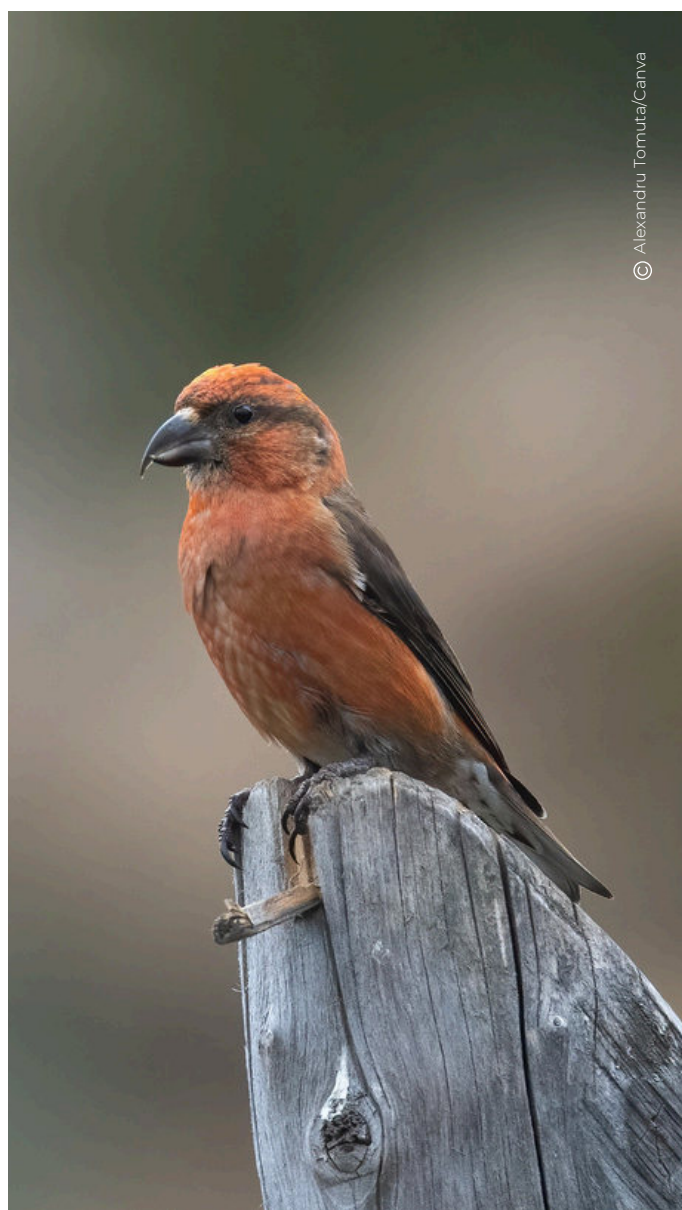
## Two new team members and surprise visitors

### Surprise visitors

We got wonderful news from a bird survey - five common crossbill were seen flying low along the woodland edge in our Northern Fields.

A redpoll was also seen for the first time and about 25 siskin, not recorded at the site before and possibly on migration looking for food.

Other migrants were seen too, including around 200 fieldfare and 100 redwing flying along the hedgerows.



## Volunteers in the garden and an exciting campaign

© Heal Rewilding



### Volunteers on a gardening mission

Heal Helpers gathered on site at Heal Somerset on multiple dates in November to tackle a variety of different gardening tasks.

The volunteers helped with things like digging up, dividing and potting up large plants and shrubs, scraping off grass that is growing on paths and moving/removing plants which are in the wrong place (also known as w\*\*\*s!).

### Force of nature

Groundwork's Force of Nature campaign called upon on the environmental sector to create more accessible pathways for young people and to seek to inspire those from all backgrounds to view jobs in nature as a viable career path.

We signed the pledge to be a Force of Nature, committing to do our part to to work towards a more inclusive environmental sector.

Groundwork do great things for the environmental sector. Thanks to their New To Nature programme, we've been able to take on two trainees this year, Dan (Rewilding Ranger) and Ruby (Rewilding Communications).



© Heal Rewilding

## Projects For Nature, festive gifts and a tall visitor

### December 2023



### Heal Somerset is on the list!

Heal Somerset was chosen for the pilot of the new national Projects for Nature initiative.

Projects for Nature is accelerating a movement to support nature by connecting businesses and other donors with screened nature recovery projects like ours. Six organisations are behind the initiative: The Council for Sustainable Business, Defra, the Environment Agency, Natural England, Accenture and Crowdfunder.

It was a real feather in our cap to be included and the whole team worked hard to get this over the line.

### Festive gifts with meaning

For Christmas, Hanukkah or Diwali, we encouraged people to support rewilding and give their loved ones a gift with meaning.

We have a range of Heal 3x3 square festive gift options. With beautiful gift certificates to choose from, there's something for every nature lover.

It's a great way for people to give a thoughtful gift while also helping nature and wildlife.



© Heal Rewilding



© Thomaszebok/Canva

### An exciting new spot

We were excited to see a rather tall Heal Somerset visitor (almost a metre tall to be specific!) - a great white egret.

Once a rare sighting in the UK, these big birds have become more widespread in the last few years. In fact, great white egrets in Somerset are reaching record numbers, with 37 breeding pairs recorded in 2022. Hopefully, that means this sighting will be the first of many!

## Amazing support from Caution Your Blast and brand new tours



### Leading digital practice gives Heal a double boost

We were thrilled to have reached agreement with the digital practice Caution Your Blast Ltd to become not only the sponsor of an acre of the Heal Somerset site but also an Employee Square Scheme supporter! Thank you so much to them for their generous support.

Caution Your Blast uses innovative technologies and new ways of working to make people's lives easier. The company has a remarkable client list and definitely the most novel brand names we've come across in the tech sector!

Ben Stewart, Caution Your Blast's Founder and Managing Director, says: "We are delighted to sponsor and work with Heal Somerset. To use our work in digital as a force for good means addressing planetary issues and we know that rewilding plays a critical and proven role in halting biodiversity loss and global warming. We want to thank the Heal team for firstly getting their important initiative up and running, and secondly for providing a beacon for the future. For us it's an important step towards long-term sustainability and providing immediate, urgent help for the planet."

### New wildlife tours!

We announced the launch of brand new wildlife tours of Heal Somerset to be led by the brilliant Nick Patel who is a tour guide, conservationist, naturalist and birder. Nick is passionate about helping to protect, create and maintain British wildlife, and has lots of wildlife knowledge to share. He has devoted his life to telling anyone who'll listen about how amazing our native biodiversity is and why we should care for it.

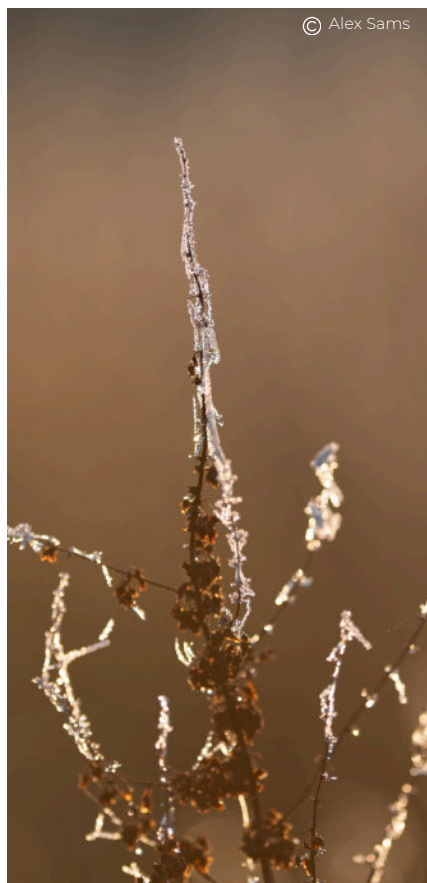
These tours are planned on a monthly basis with the first tour, Winter birds for beginners (and others!).

Nick said "I am excited to be working with Heal and look forward to showcasing some of the amazing work they are doing at Heal Somerset".



## January 2024

## A year on site, a new event and finding out what's here



© Alex Sams

### A year at Heal Somerset

We celebrated a year at Heal Somerset, this beautiful place the charity now calls it home.

Every day brings new hope for nature and we've seen signs of change all the time as the land and the wildlife respond to being left in peace.

In January we saw lots and lots of small mammal holes in the grass in front of the farmhouse! The whole site was peppered with them.

The birds of prey that we also saw every day told us anecdotally that they are finding enough to eat here.

### Out Of The Darkness

We began some very special performances at Heal Somerset taking place in March and April.

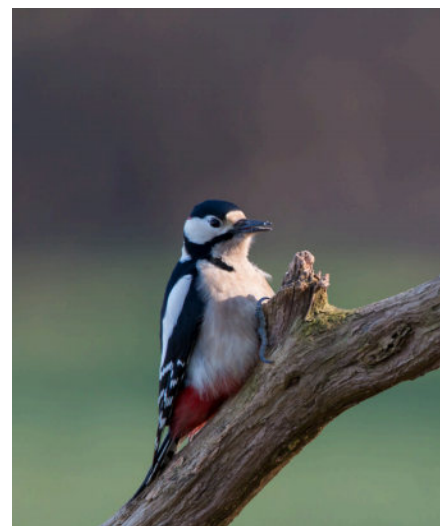
Out Of The Darkness is a night soundscape performance, taking place after dark, deep in nature in the Somerset countryside.

Attendees walk by torchlight into a special place in the Heal Somerset site, take their seats and the performance begins. First, they listen out for the real sounds of night-time wildlife. Then, they journey into a thrilling soundscape of night creatures, blending the ancestral with the present day in a glorious and unforgettable composition. Nothing quite like this has ever been done before.

Out Of The Darkness is a provocation, challenging our mute acceptance of a near-silent British countryside and celebrating the power of rewilding to create a new symphony of night sounds.



© Heal Rewilding



© Lues01/Canva

### Finding out what's here

Our land team spent the second half of last year putting together our survey framework, identifying potential companies to undertake the work and booking them in for surveys.

We developed a hierarchy of survey priorities in consultation with Rewilding Britain and other rewilding specialists. Using indicator species is a key aspect of the approach, animals or plants that tell us that something has changed or is changing in their environment. They can be easily observed and studying them is a cost-effective way to predict changes in an ecosystem.

We decided that our top priority species are bats, birds and bugs, followed by soil and aquatic species. We also aim to survey mammals and reptiles, amphibians and more, but this depends on increasing our funding for surveys.

## A rethink, short-eared owls and appointing our photographer-in-residence

© Ruby Batt/Heal Rewilding



### Rethinking access to our land

In the year since we acquired Heal Somerset, our thinking around visitor access to the site evolved and we decided to make the Southern Fields and the Eastern Fields accessible to all ages. This gives visitors greater choice and increases opportunities for schools and youth groups to enjoy more of our site.

There are eight kilometres of mown paths across these two areas in addition to the existing public footpath which crosses them both. Visitors can come any time, day or night, and access is free with an optional requested donation to support our work.

### We found shorties!

We spotted short-eared owls, affectionately known as 'shorties', at Heal Somerset.

We first glimpsed what we thought were two short-eared owls in the Southern Fields (with a barn owl) in mid-December but weren't certain, but on 1 January we knew for sure. We had a short-eared owl feeding on a chunky mouse and then roosting on the ground all day, really close to the entrance of the Southern Fields. One was seen again in later on in the month too.

How absolutely wonderful that they gave this place the thumbs up! We didn't see them last year so it's a really positive change. They seem to like our tussocky grassland fields where lots of voles, mice and shrews are scuttling around.



© Harry Collins/Canva



© Emma Lewis

### Announcing our first photographer-in-residence

We were delighted to announce the appointment of [Emma Lewis](#) as our first photographer-in-residence at Heal Somerset.

Emma is based in Wincanton. She is passionate about nature and we first met her when she came looking for trees to photograph here. She is set to come once a month to shoot images at the site through 2024 and said she is very happy to be helping Heal as a volunteer. Her approach is to honour the wheel of the year and to celebrate our connection with nature and the importance of seeing the seasons change.

Emma has been published in all the major interior and weekend magazines, and also works with quality brands, designers and makers. She said 'just keep her fed and she will deliver'.

# February 2024

## 27 skylarks, *Groundbreakers* and glorious imbolc

© MikelLane45/Canva



### 27 skylarks in one morning

A bevy of bird enthusiasts started to come to Heal Somerset to do volunteer bird surveys, which is absolutely brilliant as they see things that we don't.

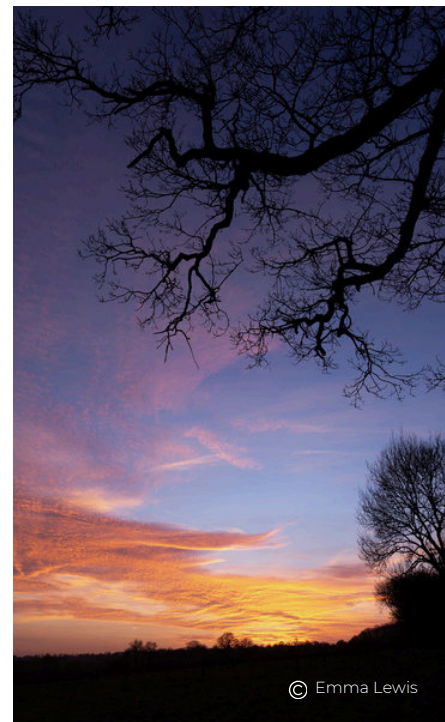
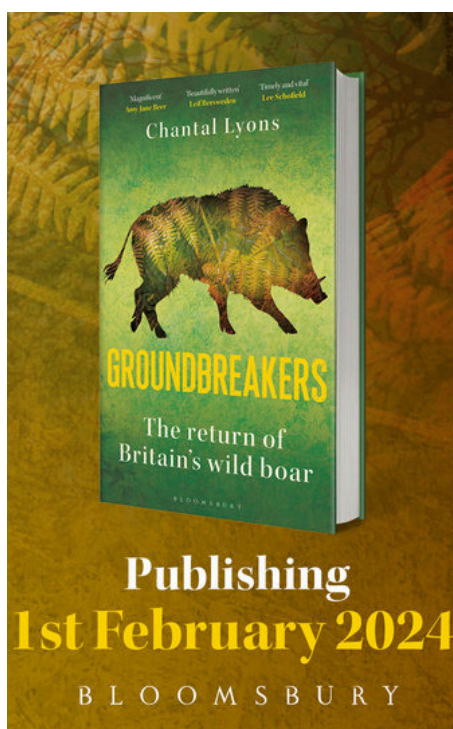
One wonderful sighting, witnessed by several birdwatchers while surveying, was a count of 27 skylarks!

We don't know if these were 'our' skylarks or individuals who were just dropping in having seen our tussocky fields holding the promise of winter food. In these cold months, skylarks feed on seeds, including grass and weed seeds, of which there are plenty here, and they also eat insects if they can find them.

### Groundbreakers

Big, messy and mysterious – crossing paths with a wild boar can conjure fear and joy in equal measure. Driven to extinction seven hundred years ago, a combination of the species' own tenacity and illegal releases from the 1980s has seen several populations of this beast of myth begin to roam English and Scottish woods once more.

Chantal Lyons, author of *Groundbreakers: The Return of Britain's Wild Boar*, published by Bloomsbury on 1 February 2024, joined us at Heal Somerset to talk about her time researching and writing the book, immersing herself in the world of our restored wild boar and learning how different people in different places are coming to coexist with the boar.



© Emma Lewis

### Glorious Imbolc

On the day of Imbolc, Heal Somerset's new photographer-in-residence Emma Lewis captured this stunning image of an oak against a pink and blue dusk.

Imbolc is an ancient festival rooted in Celtic paganism which celebrates renewal and new beginnings, marking the halfway point between the winter solstice and the spring equinox. The festival is linked to the Earth Goddess, Brigid, a deity found in Celtic mythology and later incorporated into Christian traditions as St. Brigid. In Celtic mythology, Brigid is the healer, the poet and the smith. Through her links with fire and the sun, she also represents creativity, inspiration and the returning warmth of spring.

## A new camping season, a generous grant and a successful winter bird tour

© Ruby Batt/Heal Rewilding



### Morning campers!

We launched camping bookings for the 2024 season! The campsite is composed of 20 pitches and is open from mid-May to the late August bank holiday, with availability most weeks from Wednesday night to Saturday night (with no set departure time on the Sunday).

Camping costs £16 per person per night with up to four people on each pitch.

This is camping in a stunning, natural setting at the heart of the Heal Somerset site. The facilities are a step up from wild camping, with a mains water tap and compost loos.

### Powder your noses (etc)

We were delighted to receive a Rural England Prosperity Fund grant of £17,856 from Somerset Council which we used to improve the facilities at the farmhouse at Heal Somerset.

The project, to create two new toilets and provide a shower and a disabled access toilet, was completed at the end of February 2024.

Having this provision for people with disabilities is very close to our hearts - Alice, our colleague, often needs to use a wheelchair and is now able to visit and 'use the facilities'.



© Ruby Batt/Heal Rewilding



### A winter bird tour

Nick Patel joined us for a guided winter bird walk at Heal Somerset. Aimed at all levels, Nick guided attendees through the rewilding landscape as it edge out of winter and towards spring. Bird enthusiasts were able to connect with one another and learn more about identifying the local bird population.

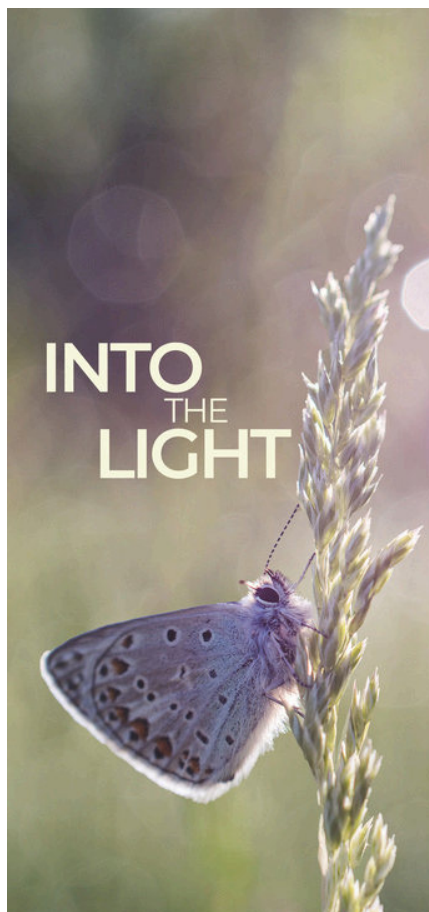
After the tour, the group gathered for hot drinks and light refreshments in our cosy events space to reflect on what they saw.

One participant said: "The bird tour at Heal Somerset was truly magical. We saw some beautiful birds, including a little egret, long tailed tits and kestrels. All of which was made possible thanks to Nick, our amazing guide."

## March 2024

## A rewilding gathering, spring signs and the Green Match Fund

© Heal Rewilding



### In May we gather

We announced [Into The Light](#), our first ever rewilding gathering at Heal Somerset, a host of happenings: wonderful talks, special tours and a chance to explore the site to your heart's content.

The main talks were in a big marquee and we had a tipi for hanging out, donated by one of our lovely neighbours. Attendees came for one or both days and some camped on site or found a place to stay nearby.

### Spring signs

After a very wet winter, with much of the land waterlogged and the three streams on the site often in full spate, March brought the very welcome first signs of spring. Bright and buttery yellows of celandines and primroses, larks rising, the 'cronk' of ravens overhead, green woodpeckers yaffling, a hare hightailing it, a deer dashing away, and a scurrying shrew.



© Sven Ziegler/Canva



© Heal Rewilding

### Big Give Green Match Fund

We were thrilled to share the news that we were chosen by The Big Give to be a part of the Green Match Fund – an initiative aiming to raise £10 million for charities championing crucial environmental causes.

Between April 18 and 25, every donation made to Heal Rewilding through The Big Give website were magically matched pound-for-pound. £10 becomes a powerful £20, doubling the impact and investing in preserving wild spaces, protecting wild creatures and, ultimately, nurturing our shared future.

## A village event and starling performances

© Heal Rewilding



### Working with our local village

Part of the Heal Somerset site is a 30-acre area adjacent to Witham Friary, our local village. We designated this area as the 'Village Fields' soon after arriving, with a plan to work with local people on what nature-related activities could happen there. In March, we held an event in the village hall to find out villagers' views on how the space might be used.

It was a success! Homemade cakes were devoured, hedgehog houses beautifully made and over 60 people voted on ideas put forward by the village, including a nature trail, bug houses and children's play logs, and added more. Our Community Engagement colleague Julia met with the Village Fields Committee after the event and made a plan for what ideas we can move forward. Mike from the committee said: "It was a truly uplifting day with lots of ideas coming from local residents including plenty from the children. The village fields will be a beautiful resource for everyone to enjoy and it will help restore nature at the same time".

### Starling central

Mini starling murmurations arrived! What a treat it was to have hundreds, sometimes thousands, of starlings wheeling and swirling over our land and then landing to rest and feed.

Starlings appear black but close up, their feathers have a purple-green sheen flecked with white. These visitors could be residents or, more likely, migrants. Starlings are now red-listed and in the UK, their numbers have fallen by nearly 70%. Knowing that makes their showy performances over our fields particularly special.



© Leopardinatre/Canva

# Trustees' report

## for the year ended 31 March 2024

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

### Objectives and activities

The objectives of the charity, as set out in its constitution, are:

- to promote for the benefit of the public the conservation and improvement of the natural and physical environment in England and Wales, using the process of rewilding to restore biological diversity and ecosystems;

- to advance environmental improvement and protection for the benefit of the public through conservation and protection of the environment and the provision of ecosystems services; and
- to advance the education and the engagement of the public in the restoration, rehabilitation, conservation and enhancement of the natural environment and to promote study and research in such subjects and disseminate findings to the public at large.

### Public benefit

The trustees confirm that they have complied with the requirements of section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission for England and Wales.





Trustees' Report *continued*

## Financial review

The year was financially challenging as it covered the period of supporting the establishment of the new Heal Somerset site and servicing interest payments on the impact lending used to acquire the site prior to refinancing.

The Trustees are pleased to see a 28 per cent increase in total income to £428,306, comprising £335,602 in unrestricted funds and £92,704 in restricted funds.

Unrestricted expenditure was £508,468, incurred in establishing the Heal Somerset site, and restricted expenditure was £54,917. As a result, there was an overall deficit of £135,079. A revaluation of the Heal Somerset site resulted in a gain of assets of £451,898. Funds carried forward were £544,790. Fundraising costs were £2,003, charitable activities direct costs were £170,771 and support costs were £390,611 and within support costs finance charges were £277,476.

Esmée Fairbairn Foundation made a substantial contribution to the charity's operational costs this year, generously donating nearly £100,000 to fund several salaries for the year.

In addition, three major corporate supporters provided ongoing financial assistance, alongside six smaller business partners who contributed during the financial year. We also benefited from invaluable pro bono support from two law firms, whose expertise greatly bolstered our work. Furthermore, we were deeply grateful to receive £60,000 in donations from individual major donors, whose generosity continues to be a cornerstone of our success.

Fixed assets rose to £6,026,623 as a result of a positive revaluation of the Heal Somerset land and current assets were £246,163, with net current liabilities at £196,336. Total assets less current liabilities were £5,830,287 and net assets/total funds, after creditor amounts falling due after more than one year, were £544,790.

The reserves target is three months of operating costs plus 4%. There was a temporary use of reserves this year, providing a vital buffer and enabling the charity to invest in essential infrastructure and resources, positioning the charity for sustained growth and greater future impact. Reserves have since been rebuilt and the Trustees remain committed to maintaining and increasing reserves to ensure long-term sustainability.

*Trustees' Report continued*

Interest payments on the charity's impact lending, used to acquire the site, were a significant cost during this financial year, at £275,030, and following the year end, the Trustees re-financed the debt, securing further impact investment from Direct Line Group (UK Insurance) and repaid lending from Triodos Bank UK, substantially reducing the ongoing level of interest. Following the re-financing, the charity now has loans totalling £5.5m with Direct Line Group, with the first capital repayment not due until 30 August 2027.

## Going concern

The charity is primarily engaged with the rewilding of land to restore biological diversity and ecosystems and is therefore reliant on the receipt of donations, grant funding and other income streams such as eco-tourism, corporate and public events, and Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) to generate sufficient cash to meet expenditure and interest on loans as they fall due.

The Trustees have reviewed the charity's financial position, including its reserves, cash flow and future funding commitments, and have assessed its ability to continue operating as a going concern. This assessment has considered the potential risks and uncertainties facing the charity, including external economic factors, alongside the charity's strategic plans and ongoing activities.

The Trustees are satisfied that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. This confidence is supported by the charity's reserves policy, effective financial management and the anticipated level of income from diverse funding streams.

Based on this review, the re-financing and the conservative forecasts prepared, the Trustees are confident that the charity will be successful in generating sufficient income to meet the payments due under the loan agreement and have prepared the accounts on a going concern basis.



Trustees' Report *continued*

## Future plans

Over the next 12 months, the charity will continue to scale up its mission to help nature, climate and wellbeing through several key initiatives. A key focus will be bringing in further private sector finance to support Heal Somerset's operation, particularly through regulatory mechanisms like Biodiversity Net Gain. Depending on the development of the BNG market, government funding schemes like Countryside Stewardship Higher Tier may also be accessed. The charity will build on its successful track record of attracting voluntary contributions from nature-positive corporates and high-net-worth individuals, and bringing in grant support from trusts and foundations. Alongside this, the charity will drive up land fund donations from individuals and businesses to enable the continued repayment of its impact lending.

We will also work to build trading operations, eco-tourism, corporate volunteering, community engagement and brand awareness. A programme of interventions on the Heal Somerset site will commence, including the introduction of rare-breed pigs as ecosystem engineers, support for scrub and woodland regeneration with targeted planting (e.g. willow) and the planning and initial implementation of re-naturalised water flows. These efforts will be underpinned by the finalisation and delivery of a nature-led land management plan for Heal Somerset.



Finally, we will refine the core elements of Heal's site financing and operational blueprint in preparation for acquiring a second site in 2025/2026 and subsequent sites thereafter.

## Structure, governance and management

### Governing document

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust and constitutes an incorporated charity.

### Recruitment and appointment of new trustees

The powers of appointing new and additional trustees is vested in the trustees. The joint trustees are responsible for the day to day administration of the charity.



Trustees' Report *continued*

## Reference and administrative details

### Registered charity number

1187992

### Principal address

Lower West Barn Farm  
Witham Friary  
Frome  
Somerset  
BA11 5HH

### Trustees

J Stannard  
J Coulter  
D Stimson  
J Simnett  
C Gale  
P Watson (resigned 25.10.24)  
R Quinn (appointed 19.4.24)



### Auditors

Knox Cropper LLP  
Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditors  
153 -155 London Road  
Hemel Hempstead  
Hertfordshire  
HP3 9SQ

### Events since the end of the year

Information relating to events since the end of the year is given in the notes to the financial statements.





# Statement of Trustees' responsibilities

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## Trustees' Report *continued*

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Report of the Trustees and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales, the Charities Act 2011, Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charity for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charity SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- 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 to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by the Trustees on 24 January 2025 and signed on their behalf by:



**Jan Stannard**  
Trustee

# Report of the Independent Auditors

## Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Heal Rewilding (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 March 2024 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 March 2024 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, 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 Charities Act 2011.

## Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities

under those standards are further described in the Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

## Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Report of the Independent Auditors *continued*

## Other information

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Annual Report, other than the financial statements and our Report of the Independent Auditors thereon.

Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

## Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the Report of the Trustees is inconsistent in any material respect with the financial statements; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

## Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements which give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

## Our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditors under Section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue a Report of the Independent Auditors that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

- The Charity is required to comply with charity law and, based on our knowledge of its activities, we identified that the legal requirement to accurately account for restricted funds was of key significance.

Report of the Independent Auditors *continued*

- We gained an understanding of how the charity complied with its legal and regulatory framework, including the requirement to properly account for restricted funds, through discussions with management and a review of the documented policies, procedures and controls.
- The audit team, which is experienced in the audit of charities, considered the charity's susceptibility to material misstatement and how fraud may occur. Our considerations included the risk of management override.
- Our approach was to check that all restricted income was properly identified and separately accounted for and to ensure that only valid and appropriate expenditure was charged to restricted funds. This included reviewing journal adjustments and unusual transactions.

There are inherent limitations in the audit procedures described above and, the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely we would become aware of it. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud may involve deliberate concealment by, for example, forgery or intentional misrepresentations, or through collusion.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at [www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities](http://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities). This description forms part of our Report of the Independent Auditors.

## Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Knox Cropper LLP  
Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditors  
153 -155 London Road  
Hemel Hempstead  
Hertfordshire  
HP3 9SQ

Date: 29/01/2025



# Statement of Financial Activities

for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2024 total funds £	2023 total funds £
<b>INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM</b>					
Donations and legacies		<b>331,313</b>	<b>92,704</b>	<b>424,017</b>	313,361
Other trading activities	2	<b>4,138</b>	-	<b>4,138</b>	18,832
Investment income	3	<b>151</b>	-	<b>151</b>	2,686
<b>Total</b>		<b><u>335,602</u></b>	<b><u>92,704</u></b>	<b><u>428,306</u></b>	<b><u>334,879</u></b>
<b>EXPENDITURE ON</b>					
Raising funds		<b>2,003</b>	-	<b>2,003</b>	5,452
<b>Charitable activities</b>	4				
Conservation		<b><u>506,465</u></b>	<b><u>54,917</u></b>	<b><u>561,382</u></b>	<b><u>286,906</u></b>
<b>Total</b>		<b><u>508,468</u></b>	<b><u>54,917</u></b>	<b><u>563,385</u></b>	<b><u>292,358</u></b>
<b>NET INCOME /(EXPENDITURE)</b>					
		<b>(172,866)</b>	<b>37,787</b>	<b>(135,079)</b>	42,521
Transfers between funds	18	<b>193,099</b>	<b>(193,099)</b>	-	-
<b>Other recognised gains/(losses)</b>					
Gains on revaluation of fixed assets		<b><u>451,898</u></b>	-	<b><u>451,898</u></b>	-
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<b>472,131</b>	<b>(155,312)</b>	<b>316,819</b>	42,521
<b>RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS</b>					
Total funds brought forward		<b><u>34,872</u></b>	<b><u>193,099</u></b>	<b><u>227,971</u></b>	185,450
<b>TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</b>		<b><u><u>507,003</u></u></b>	<b><u><u>37,787</u></u></b>	<b><u><u>544,790</u></u></b>	<b><u><u>227,971</u></u></b>

# Balance sheet

31 March 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2024 total funds £	2023 total funds £
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>					
Intangible assets	9	14,400	-	14,400	18,000
Tangible assets	10	1,582,220	-	1,582,220	1,374,966
Heritage assets	11	4,430,000	-	4,430,000	4,150,000
Investments	12	3	-	3	3
		<u>6,026,623</u>	-	<u>6,026,623</u>	<u>5,542,969</u>
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>					
Debtors	13	130,526	-	130,526	145,525
Cash at bank		77,850	37,787	115,637	163,116
		<u>208,376</u>	<u>37,787</u>	<u>246,163</u>	<u>308,641</u>
<b>CREDITORS</b>					
Amounts falling due within one year	14	(442,499)	-	(442,499)	(436,864)
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<u>(234,123)</u>	<u>37,787</u>	<u>(196,336)</u>	<u>(128,223)</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<u>5,792,500</u>	<u>37,787</u>	<u>5,830,287</u>	<u>5,414,746</u>
<b>CREDITORS</b>					
Amounts falling due after more than one year	15	(5,285,497)	-	(5,285,497)	(5,186,775)
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<u>507,003</u>	<u>37,787</u>	<u>544,790</u>	<u>227,971</u>
<b>FUNDS</b>					
Unrestricted funds	18			507,003	34,872
Restricted funds				37,787	193,099
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>				<u>544,790</u>	<u>227,971</u>

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the board and were signed on its behalf on 24 January 2025 by:



**Jan Stannard**  
Trustee

# Notes to the Financial Statements

Year Ended 31 March 2024

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## 1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

### Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statements of the charity, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Charities Act 2011. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, with the exception of investments which are included at market value, as modified by the revaluation of certain assets.

### Going concern

The charity is primarily engaged with the rewilding of land to restore biological diversity and ecosystems. It is therefore reliant on the receipt of donations, grant funding and other income streams such as eco-tourism, corporate and public events, and Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) to generate sufficient cash to meet interest and capital repayments on loans as they fall due.

Following the year end, in June 2024, the charity agreed an amendment to its original loan agreement with UK Insurance for an additional facility, which was used to repay in full the Triodos Loan. Following the re-financing, the charity now has loans totalling £5.5m with UK Insurance with the first capital payment not due until 30 August 2027.

The Trustees are confident that the charity will be successful in generating sufficient income to meet the payments due under this loan agreement and, on the basis of the forecasts prepared, together with the refinancing, have prepared the accounts on a going concern basis.

### Income

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

### Expenditure

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

### Intangible fixed assets

Intangible assets are initially measured at cost. After initial recognition, intangible assets are measured at cost less any accumulated amortisation and any accumulated impairment losses.

Sporting rights are being amortised evenly over their estimated useful life of 5 years.

Notes to the Financial Statements *continued*

### Tangible fixed assets

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

Plant and machinery - 20% on cost

Fixtures and fittings - 10% on cost

Motor vehicles - 20% on cost

Freehold properties have been measured at fair value by third party professional valuers. Depreciation will be charged over the estimated useful life of the properties in subsequent years.

### Heritage assets

The charity holds a heritage asset, which are land and buildings held for scientific importance to advance the preservation and conservation objects of the charity. Heritage assets are recognised using the valuation method.

### Taxation

The charity is exempt from tax on its charitable activities.

### Fund accounting

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

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

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

### Pension costs and other post-retirement benefits

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

### Basis of consolidation

The financial statements present the information about the individual charity. The charity and its subsidiaries are classed a small group. Therefore, the charity has taken advantage of the exemptions provided by the Charities SORP (FRS 102) for small groups and consolidated accounts are not prepared.

## 2. OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES

	2024 £	2023 £
Fundraising events	<u>4,138</u>	<u>18,832</u>

## 3. INVESTMENT INCOME

	2024 £	2023 £
Deposit account interest	<u>151</u>	<u>2,686</u>

Notes to the Financial Statements *continued***4. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES COSTS**

	Direct costs £	Support costs (see note 5) £	Totals £
Conservation	<u>170,771</u>	<u>390,611</u>	<u>561,382</u>

**5. SUPPORT COSTS**

	Management £	Finance £	Governance costs £	Totals £
Conservation	<u>98,135</u>	<u>277,476</u>	<u>15,000</u>	<u>390,611</u>

Activity	Basis of allocation
Management	Support costs
Finance	Support costs
Governance costs	Support costs

**6. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS**

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

**Trustees' expenses**

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

**7. STAFF COSTS**

	2024 £	2023 £
Wages and salaries	134,009	43,045
Social security costs	6,453	598
Other pension costs	<u>2,946</u>	<u>897</u>
	<u>143,408</u>	<u>44,540</u>

The total employee benefits of the key management personnel of the charity were £31,082 (2023 - £33,591).

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

	2024	2023
Conservation	5	1
Administration	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
	<u>6</u>	<u>2</u>

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

Notes to the Financial Statements *continued***8. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES**

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
<b>INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM</b>			
Donations and legacies	135,148	178,213	313,361
Other trading activities	18,832	-	18,832
Investment income	2,686	-	2,686
	<u>156,666</u>	<u>178,213</u>	<u>334,879</u>
<b>Total</b>			
<b>EXPENDITURE ON</b>			
Raising funds	5,452	-	5,452
<b>Charitable activities</b>			
Conservation	203,268	83,638	286,906
	<u>208,720</u>	<u>83,638</u>	<u>292,358</u>
<b>Total</b>			
<b>NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)</b>	(52,054)	94,575	42,521
<b>Transfers between funds</b>	(5,581)	5,581	-
	<u>(57,635)</u>	<u>100,156</u>	<u>42,521</u>
<b>Net movement in funds</b>			
<b>RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS</b>			
Total funds brought forward	92,507	92,943	185,450
	<u>34,872</u>	<u>193,099</u>	<u>227,971</u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</b>			

**9. INTANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS**

	Sporting rights £
<b>COST</b>	
At 1 April 2023 and 31 March 2024	<u>18,000</u>
<b>AMORTISATION</b>	
Charge for year	<u>3,600</u>
<b>NET BOOK VALUE</b>	
At 31 March 2024	<u>14,400</u>
At 31 March 2023	<u>18,000</u>

Notes to the Financial Statements *continued***10. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS**

	Freehold property £	Plant and machinery £	Fixtures and fittings £	Motor vehicles £	Totals £
<b>COST OR VALUATION</b>					
At 1 April 2023	1,374,966	-	-	-	1,374,966
Additions	23,136	3,648	2,129	8,291	37,204
Revaluations	171,898	-	-	-	171,898
	<u>1,570,000</u>	<u>3,648</u>	<u>2,129</u>	<u>8,291</u>	<u>1,584,068</u>
At 31 March 2024	1,570,000	3,648	2,129	8,291	1,584,068
<b>DEPRECIATION</b>					
Charge for year	-	486	160	1,202	1,848
	<u>-</u>	<u>486</u>	<u>160</u>	<u>1,202</u>	<u>1,848</u>
<b>NET BOOK VALUE</b>					
At 31 March 2024	<u>1,570,000</u>	<u>3,162</u>	<u>1,969</u>	<u>7,089</u>	<u>1,582,220</u>
At 31 March 2023	<u>1,374,966</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,374,966</u>

Cost or valuation at 31 March 2024 is represented by:

	Freehold property £	Plant and machinery £	Fixtures and fittings £	Motor vehicles £	Totals £
Valuation in 2024	171,898	-	-	-	171,898
Cost	1,398,102	3,648	2,129	8,291	1,412,170
	<u>1,570,000</u>	<u>3,648</u>	<u>2,129</u>	<u>8,291</u>	<u>1,584,068</u>

**11. HERITAGE ASSETS**

	Total £
<b>MARKET VALUE</b>	
At 1 April 2023	4,150,000
Revaluations	280,000
	<u>4,430,000</u>
At 31 March 2024	4,430,000
<b>NET BOOK VALUE</b>	
At 31 March 2024	<u>4,430,000</u>
At 31 March 2023	<u>4,150,000</u>

Notes to the Financial Statements *continued*

Cost or valuation at 31 March 2024 is represented by:

	<b>Heritage asset £</b>
Valuation in 2024	<b>280,000</b>
Cost	<b><u>4,150,000</u></b>
	<b><u><u>4,430,000</u></u></b>

## 12. FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS

	Shares in group undertakings £
<b>MARKET VALUE</b>	
At 1 April 2023 and 31 March 2024	<b>3</b>
<b>NET BOOK VALUE</b>	
At 31 March 2024	<b><u>3</u></b>
At 31 March 2023	<b><u><u>3</u></u></b>

There were no investment assets outside the UK.

At the balance sheet date, the charity had three subsidiary companies.

Heal Rewilding (Trading) Limited, previously Heal Somerset Limited, (company number: 13353709). Heal Rewilding owns 100% of the share capital. During the year Heal Rewilding (Trading) Limited made a loss of £17,095 and had net liabilities of £33,491 at the year end.

Heal Rewilding (Enterprises) Limited (company number: 12385872). Heal Rewilding owns 100% of the share capital. The company was dormant throughout the current and previous financial periods. The company was dissolved on 30 July 2024.

Heal North Limited (company number: 13357428). Heal Rewilding owns 100% of the share capital. The company was dormant throughout the current and previous financial periods. The company was dissolved on 30 July 2024.

## 13. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	<b>2024 £</b>	2023 £
Trade debtors	<b>8,969</b>	3,952
Other debtors	<b>77</b>	-
Owed by group undertakings	<b>104,751</b>	121,405
VAT	<b>49</b>	428
Prepayments and accrued income	<b><u>16,680</u></b>	<u>19,740</u>
	<b><u><u>130,526</u></u></b>	<u><u>145,525</u></u>

Notes to the Financial Statements *continued***14. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR**

	2024 £	2023 £
Bank loans and overdrafts (see note 16)	319,000	319,000
Trade creditors	7,934	-
Taxation and social security	4,917	344
Other creditors	110,648	117,520
	<u>442,499</u>	<u>436,864</u>

**15. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE AFTER MORE THAN ONE YEAR**

	2024 £	2023 £
Bank loans (see note 16)	5,110,664	5,186,775
Other creditors	174,833	-
	<u>5,285,497</u>	<u>5,186,775</u>

**16. LOANS**

An analysis of the maturity of loans is given below:

Amounts falling due within one year on demand:	2024 £	2023 £
Bank loans	319,000	319,000
Other loans	20,000	100,000
	<u>339,000</u>	<u>419,000</u>

Amounts falling between one and two years

Bank loans - 1-2 years	319,000	5,186,775
Other loans - 1-2 years	174,833	-
	<u>493,833</u>	<u>5,186,775</u>

Amounts falling due between two and five years:

Bank loans - 2-5 years	4,791,664	-
------------------------	-----------	---

The loan from Triodos Bank of £2,429,664 is secured by a legal charge over the freehold property at Lower West Barn Farm, Witham Friary, Frome, Somerset, BA11 5HH comprising of 460.86 acres of agricultural land, buildings and dwellings. In addition, a debenture in the form provided by the Bank comprising a floating charge over all assets and undertakings (both present and future) of the Charity.

The loan is over a 5 year period with the initial agreement dated 29.12.2022. The interest rate on the loan is 7.25%.

Notes to the Financial Statements *continued*

The loan from UK Insurance Limited of £3,000,000 is also secured by a legal charge over the above property.

As set out in note 20, following the year end the charity restructured its debts.

**17. SECURED DEBTS**

The following secured debts are included within creditors:

	2024 £	2023 £
Triodos Bank	2,429,664	3,620,000
UK Insurance Limited	3,000,000	1,885,775
	<u>5,429,664</u>	<u>5,505,775</u>

**18. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS**

	At 1.4.23 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 31.3.24 £
<b>UNRESTRICTED FUNDS</b>				
General fund	34,872	220,422	-	255,294
Designated - Land Fund	<u>-</u>	<u>58,610</u>	<u>193,099</u>	<u>251,709</u>
	<u>34,872</u>	<u>279,032</u>	<u>193,099</u>	<u>507,003</u>
<b>RESTRICTED FUNDS</b>				
Land fund	193,099	-	(193,099)	-
Surveys	<u>-</u>	<u>37,787</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>37,787</u>
	<u>193,099</u>	<u>37,787</u>	<u>(193,099)</u>	<u>37,787</u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<u>227,971</u>	<u>316,819</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>544,790</u>

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

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Gains and losses £	Movement in funds £
<b>UNRESTRICTED FUNDS</b>				
General fund	270,480	(501,956)	451,898	220,422
Designated - Land Fund	<u>65,122</u>	<u>(6,512)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>58,610</u>
	<u>335,602</u>	<u>(508,468)</u>	<u>451,898</u>	<u>279,032</u>

Notes to the Financial Statements *continued***RESTRICTED FUNDS**

Esmee Fairbairn	53,639	(53,639)	-	-
Surveys	39,065	(1,278)	-	37,787
	<u>92,704</u>	<u>(54,917)</u>	-	<u>37,787</u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<u>428,306</u>	<u>(563,385)</u>	<u>451,898</u>	<u>316,819</u>

**Comparatives for movement in funds**

	At 1.4.22 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 31.3.23 £
<b>UNRESTRICTED FUNDS</b>				
General fund	92,507	(52,054)	(5,581)	34,872
<b>RESTRICTED FUNDS</b>				
Land fund	92,943	94,575	5,581	193,099
	<u>185,450</u>	<u>42,521</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>227,971</u>

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

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
<b>UNRESTRICTED FUNDS</b>			
General fund	156,666	(208,720)	(52,054)
<b>RESTRICTED FUNDS</b>			
Land fund	94,575	-	94,575
Natural environment investment readiness fund	83,638	(83,638)	-
	<u>178,213</u>	<u>(83,638)</u>	<u>94,575</u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<u>334,879</u>	<u>(292,358)</u>	<u>42,521</u>

Notes to the Financial Statements *continued*

### **Designated - Land fund**

Use of the land fund is designated to the repayment of the loans taken out to purchase the land for rewilding purposes.

### **Esmee Fairbairn**

The Esmee Fairbairn grant was received to be spent on salaries of three members of staff.

### **Surveys**

Donations have been received to be spent on surveys.

## **19. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES**

At the year end the total due to the charity from Heal Rewilding (Trading) Limited was £104,751 (2023: £121,405).

There were no other related party transactions for the year ended 31 March 2024 (2023: Nil).

## **20. POST BALANCE SHEET EVENTS**

After the year end, in June 2024, the charity signed an amendment agreement with UK Insurance Limited, which increased the total amount borrowed from UK Insurance Limited to £5,500,000. Following the drawdown of these additional funds, the Triodos Bank loan was repaid in full in June 2024.

The lending from UK Insurance comprises two facilities. Facility A being £3,000,000 at 0.5% interest per annum and Facility B being £2,500,000 at 3.5% interest per annum.

Interest on Facility A is payable annually in arrears. Interest on Facility B is first payable in August 2025, and thereafter annually in arrears.

Both facilities are secured over the land acquired by the charity by way of a first legal mortgage over the property and land at Witham Friary, a first fixed charge over any insurance claims, rent, contracts relating to the property, and all present and future goodwill and a first floating charge over all present and future chattels.



# Acknowledgements

All of these wonderful achievements were made possible by our incredible community of supporters, donors, volunteers, trustees, employees and advisors.

We'd like to acknowledge and thank the following individuals and organisations for their contributions to our work:

- To our **Trustees** for their wisdom and support: Cindy Gale, Donna Stimson, Jeremy Coulter, Jonathan Simnett, Piers Watson and Rob Quinn
- To our wonderful 2023-24 **Heal team**: Alice Hopkins, Caddy Outhwaite, Daniel Hill, Hannah Needham, Julia Galbenu, Katie Ross, Ruby Batt, Sarah Winchester
- To **Triodos Bank** and **Direct Line Group** (UK Insurance Limited), our lenders, who shared our vision and made the acquisition of Heal Somerset possible
- To our **Land Advisory Group** for their knowledge and guidance: Alex Sams, Pete Cooper and Sara King
- To the dozens of **Heal Helpers** who undertook virtual and on-site volunteering tasks through the year
- To **Heidi Briggs**, who proofread this document as a volunteer
- To **Esmee Fairbairn Foundation**, whose funding has been vital to developing our charity, enabling us to create fundamental new roles
- To Somerset Council's **Rural England Prosperity Fund**, whose funding has enabled us to expand our office space and make it accessible to all
- To other **grant-giving organisations** who supported us with core funding or for key projects: Cobalt Trust, Benefact, Consano Earth, Big Give, Newby Trust and Aviva Community Fund
- To our **business partners** who so generously support us, particularly Polar Capital, TT Environmental Solutions, Ticket Tailor, Caution Your Blast, Sandler Training Cambridge, Working Planet
- To our **major donors** many of whom choose to remain anonymous, whose support and confidence in us strengthen our ability to create meaningful impact and drive our mission forward
- To all the **Heal 3x3 sponsors** who helped us to continue to build our land fund
- To all **Friends of Heal** and **individuals who donated** throughout the year, you are the heartbeat of our giving
- To all **supporters** who made one-off donations and brightened our day every time one arrived
- To our **compatriot rewilders** from projects around the country, who contributed knowledge and experience which made all the difference
- And to **Rewilding Britain**, whose support has been unwavering since the earliest days and continues to be material in our work, particularly Rebecca Wrigley, Alastair Driver and Sara King

**HEAL REWILDING**

England & Wales - Charity number 1187992

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# Accounts

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Charity registration number: 1187992

# Heal Rewilding CIO

Annual Report and Financial Statements  
for the Year Ended 31 March 2023



**Heal Rewilding CIO  
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**Heal Rewilding CIO  
Reference and Administrative Details**

<b>Chair</b>	Jan Stannard
<b>Trustees</b>	Piers Watson Jeremy Coulter Cindy Barnes Donna Stimson Jonathan Simnett Jan Stannard Robert Quinn (appointed 19 April 2024)
<b>Charity Registration Number</b>	1187992
<b>Principal Office</b>	Lower West Barn Farm Witham Friary Frome Somerset BA11 5HH
<b>Auditor</b>	A C Mole LLP Stafford House Blackbrook Park Avenue Taunton Somerset TA1 2PX

## **Heal Rewilding CIO Trustees' Report**

The trustees present the annual report together with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2023.

Heal Rewilding is a charitable incorporated organisation. It was incorporated on the 17 February 2020 in accordance with the articles of association and is registered with the charity commission, number 1187992.

### **Objectives and activities**

#### **Objects and aims**

The objectives of the charity, as set out in its constitution, are:

- to promote for the benefit of the public the conservation and improvement of the natural and physical environment in England and Wales, using the process of rewilding to restore biological diversity and ecosystems;
- to advance environmental improvement and protection for the benefit of the public through the conservation and protection of the environment and the provision of ecosystems services; and
- to advance the education and the engagement of the public in the restoration, rehabilitation, conservation and enhancement of the natural environment and to promote study and research in such subjects and disseminate findings to the public at large.

#### **Public benefit**

The trustees confirm that they have complied with the requirements of section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission for England and Wales.

#### **Achievements and performance**

This financial year saw the most significant achievement since Heal was founded with the acquisition of our foundation rewilding site in Somerset, moving the charity from concept to delivery. This 460-acre former dairy farm is now a new nature reserve where wildlife finds sanctuary and visitors, volunteers and the community can experience being in a wilder landscape. Throughout this financial year, day-to-day operations were undertaken with only two full-time members of staff, supported by part-time administrator, and the charity is proud of what was achieved given that level of resource. The announcement, of the acquisition reached over 4.4m people with over 220 articles and three broadcast pieces. Subscribers to the Heal Highs newsletter reached over 3,000. The charity secured a £100,000 grant from the Natural Environment Investment Readiness Fund, a Government programme supporting private sector investment into nature recovery and climate action, and began work with Finance Earth and three technical partners on this high-profile project. An application to the New to Nature programme resulted in a Rewilding Comms Trainee post being created for the next financial year. A new team of volunteers was established in early 2023 for practical work at Heal Somerset, drawn from the existing volunteer base of over 300 and new people living near the site. The charity undertook a period of community engagement work with neighbours and the local village following the site acquisition. Work to refurbish the main building at the Heal Somerset site began, as well as preparations for opening publicly accessible areas to visitors.

## **Heal Rewilding CIO Trustees' Report (continued)**

### **Financial review**

The Trustees are pleased to see a 52 per cent increase in total income to £334,879. Unrestricted expenditure was higher than expected, at £208,720, as a result of the acquisition of the Heal Somerset site. As a result, unrestricted funding saw a deficit of £52,054 but including restricted income and expenditure, an overall surplus of £42,521 was achieved. Individual and business supporters continued to help us build our land fund, with donations rising to £94,575 donated, compared with £55,916 in the previous financial year. Three major corporate supporters provided significant continuing financial help to the charity along with a number of other smaller business partners who became involved during the financial year. As planned, the Charity secured impact lending to underpin the acquisition of the Foundation site, from Direct Line Group and Triodos Bank UK, supplementing the land fund which had been accumulating since summer 2020. The land fund is manifest in three initiatives: Heal 3x3 land sponsorship, our corporate acre sponsorship and our Employees Square Scheme. Levels of reserves were maintained throughout the period.

### **Going concern**

The charity is primarily engaged with the rewilding of land to restore biological diversity and ecosystems and is therefore reliant on the receipt of donations, grant funding and other income streams such as eco-tourism, corporate and public events, and Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) to generate sufficient cash to meet interest and capital repayments on loans as they fall due.

Following the year end, in June 2024 the charity agreed an amendment to its original loan agreement with UK Insurance for an additional facility, which was used to repay in full the Triodos Loan. Following the re-financing, the charity now has loans totalling £5.5m with UK Insurance with the first capital payment not due until 30 August 2027.

The Trustees are confident that the charity will be successful in generating sufficient income to meet the payments due under this loan agreement and, on the basis of the forecasts prepared, together with the refinancing, have prepared the accounts on a going concern basis

### **Plans for future periods**

Over the next 12 months, there are five areas of focus for the charity as it moves from start-up to scale-up in its mission to help nature, climate and wellbeing: (1) to bring in further private sector finance to support the Heal Somerset operation, both regulatory (primarily Biodiversity Net Gain, [BNG]) and voluntary (nature-positive corporate investments and donations); (2) to drive up land fund donations by individuals and businesses to enable the continued repayment of our impact lending; (3) to build trading operations, eco-tourism, community work, fundraising and brand awareness; (4) to finalise and begin delivery of a nature-led land management plan for Heal Somerset; and (5) to refine core elements of the Heal site financing and operations blueprint in preparation for the acquisition of a second site in 2025/2026 and for subsequent sites.

### **Post balance sheet events**

As set out in note 21 to the financial statements, following the year end the charity secured additional lending from UK Insurance which was used to repay the Triodos bank loan.

**Heal Rewilding CIO  
Trustees' Report (continued)**

**Trustees and officers**

The trustees and officers serving during the year and since the year end were as follows:

Trustees:

- Piers Watson
- Jeremy Coulter
- Cindy Barnes
- Donna Stimson
- Jonathan Simnett
- Jan Stannard
- Robert Quinn (appointed 19 April 2024)

Chair: Jan Stannard

**Recruitment and appointment of trustees**

The powers of appointing new and additional trustees is vested in the trustees. The joint trustees are responsible for the day to day administration of the charity.

**Heal Rewilding CIO  
Trustees' Report (continued)**

**Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities**

The trustees are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards including Financial Reporting Standard 102: The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England & Wales requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the income and expenditure of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

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

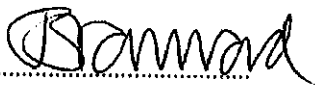
The trustees are responsible for maintaining proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the constitution. The trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

In so far as the Trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charity's auditors are unaware; and
- the Trustees have taken all steps that they have ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditors are aware of that information.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

The annual report was approved by the trustees of the charity on 22.8.24 and signed on its behalf by:



.....  
Jan Stannard  
Chair

**Heal Rewilding CIO**  
**Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Heal Rewilding CIO**

**Opinion**

We have audited the financial statements of Heal Rewilding CIO (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 March 2023, which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, Balance Sheet, and Notes to the Financial Statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is United Kingdom Accounting Standards, comprising Charities SORP - FRS 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and applicable law (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 March 2023 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its 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 Charities Act 2011.

**Basis for opinion**

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the auditor responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

**Conclusions relating to going concern**

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustee's use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least 12 months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

**Other matters**

The comparative figures are unaudited.

**Other information**

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

**Heal Rewilding CIO**  
**Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Heal Rewilding CIO (continued)**

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

**Matters on which we are required to report by exception**

In the light of our knowledge and understanding of the charity and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees' Report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Charities (Accounts and Report) Regulations 2008 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

**Responsibilities of trustees**

As explained more fully in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

**Auditor Responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements**

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

**Heal Rewilding CIO**  
**Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Heal Rewilding CIO (continued)**

**Identifying and assessing potential risks of material misstatement due to Irregularities**

We considered the following when identifying and assessing risks of material misstatement due to irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations:

- the legal and regulatory framework in which the charity operates
- the nature of the sector in which the charity operates
- the control environment and controls established to mitigate such risks
- the results of our enquiries of management about their identification and assessment of risks of irregularities
- discussions with the audit engagement team about where fraud might occur
- the incentives for fraud.

Laws and regulations which are considered to be significant to the charity include those relating to the requirements of financial reporting framework FRS102, the Charities Act 2011, UK tax legislation, and employment law. In addition, we consider other laws and regulation which may not directly impact the financial statements but may impact on the operation of the charity.

As a result of these procedures we concluded, in accordance with International Auditing Standards, that a risk in relation to the potential for management override of controls existed.

**Audit responses to risks identified**

We undertook audit procedures to respond to the risks identified, and designed our audit testing to respond to these risks. The additional procedures we undertook included the following:

- gaining an understanding of the charity's procedures for ensuring compliance with laws and regulations
- testing the appropriateness of journal entries and other adjustments
- considering whether accounting estimates were indicative of potential bias
- considering whether any transactions arose outside the normal course of business
- making enquiries of management
- corroborating our enquiries through review of Board Minutes and correspondence.

We also communicated relevant laws and regulations and potential fraud risks to all engagement team members and remained alert to any indicators of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations throughout the audit.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: [www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities](http://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities). This description forms part of our auditor's report.

**Use of our report**

This report is made solely to the charity trustees, as a body, in accordance with section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and regulations made under section 154 of that Act. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the trustees those matters we are required to state to trustees in an auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and its trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

**Heal Rewilding CIO  
Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Heal Rewilding CIO (continued)**

*AC Mole LLP*

.....  
A C Mole LLP (Statutory Auditor)  
Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditors  
Stafford House  
Blackbrook Park Avenue  
Taunton  
Somerset  
TA1 2PX

Date: *22nd August 2024*

A C Mole LLP is eligible for appointment as auditor of the charity by virtue of its eligibility for appointment as auditor of a company under section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

**Heal Rewilding CIO**  
**Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 March 2023**

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £
<b>Income</b>				
Donations and legacies	2	153,980	178,213	332,193
Investment income	3	<u>2,686</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,686</u>
Total income		<u>156,666</u>	<u>178,213</u>	<u>334,879</u>
<b>Expenditure</b>				
Raising funds	4	(5,452)	-	(5,452)
Charitable activities	5	<u>(203,268)</u>	<u>(83,638)</u>	<u>(286,906)</u>
Total expenditure		<u>(208,720)</u>	<u>(83,638)</u>	<u>(292,358)</u>
Net (expenditure)/income		(52,054)	94,575	42,521
Gross transfers between funds	17	<u>(5,581)</u>	<u>5,581</u>	<u>-</u>
Net movement in funds		(57,635)	100,156	42,521
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>				
Total funds brought forward		<u>92,507</u>	<u>92,943</u>	<u>185,450</u>
Total funds carried forward	17	<u><u>34,872</u></u>	<u><u>193,099</u></u>	<u><u>227,971</u></u>
	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2022 £ (As restated)
<b>Income</b>				
Donations and legacies	2	<u>163,876</u>	<u>55,916</u>	<u>219,792</u>
Total income		<u>163,876</u>	<u>55,916</u>	<u>219,792</u>
<b>Expenditure</b>				
Raising funds	4	(12,115)	-	(12,115)
Charitable activities	5	<u>(87,002)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(87,002)</u>
Total expenditure		<u>(99,117)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(99,117)</u>
Net income		<u>64,759</u>	<u>55,916</u>	<u>120,675</u>
Net movement in funds		64,759	55,916	120,675
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>				
Total funds brought forward		<u>27,748</u>	<u>37,027</u>	<u>64,775</u>
Total funds carried forward	17	<u><u>92,507</u></u>	<u><u>92,943</u></u>	<u><u>185,450</u></u>

**Heal Rewilding CIO**  
**(Registration number: 1187992)**  
**Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2023**

	Note	2023 £	2022 £ (As restated)
<b>Fixed assets</b>			
Intangible assets	10	18,000	-
Heritage assets	11	5,524,966	-
Investments	12	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>
		<u>5,542,969</u>	<u>3</u>
<b>Current assets</b>			
Debtors	13	145,525	41,732
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>163,116</u>	<u>155,410</u>
		308,641	197,142
<b>Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year</b>	14	<u>(436,864)</u>	<u>(11,695)</u>
<b>Net current (liabilities)/assets</b>		<u>(128,223)</u>	<u>185,447</u>
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>		5,414,746	185,450
<b>Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year</b>	15	<u>(5,186,775)</u>	-
<b>Net assets</b>		<u>227,971</u>	<u>185,450</u>
<b>Funds of the charity:</b>			
Unrestricted funds		34,872	92,507
Restricted funds		<u>193,099</u>	<u>92,943</u>
<b>Total funds</b>	17	<u>227,971</u>	<u>185,450</u>

The financial statements on pages 10 to 22 were approved by the trustees, and authorised for issue on ~~22.8.2023~~ and signed on their behalf by:



Jan Stannard  
Chair

**Heal Rewilding CIO**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2023**

**1 Accounting policies**

**Statement of compliance and basis of preparation**

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless stated otherwise within these notes. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (issued October 2019) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS102), and the Charities Act 2011.

Heal Rewilding CIO meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

**Going concern**

The charity is primarily engaged with the rewilding of land to restore biological diversity and ecosystems and is therefore reliant on the receipt of donations, grant funding and other income streams such as eco-tourism, corporate and public events, and Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) to generate sufficient cash to meet interest and capital repayments on loans as they fall due.

Following the year end, in June 2024 the charity agreed an amendment to its original loan agreement with UK Insurance for an additional facility, which was used to repay in full the Triodos Loan. Following the re-financing, the charity now has loans totalling £5.5m with UK Insurance with the first capital payment not due until 30 August 2027.

The Trustees are confident that the charity will be successful in generating sufficient income to meet the payments due under this loan agreement and, on the basis of the forecasts prepared, together with the refinancing, have prepared the accounts on a going concern basis.

**Prior period errors**

Where an error or admission is identified in respect of comparative figures this is adjusted in the preceding period.

**Income and endowments**

All income is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured with sufficient reliability.

**Donations and legacies**

Donations and legacies are recognised on a receivable basis when receipt is probable and the amount can be reliably measured.

**Investment income**

Investment income is recognised when receivable.

**Heal Rewilding CIO**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2023 (continued)**

**Expenditure**

All expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to that expenditure, it is probable settlement is required and the amount can be measured reliably. All costs are allocated to the applicable expenditure heading that aggregate similar costs to that category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated on a basis consistent with the use of resources, with central staff costs allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use. Other support costs are allocated based on the spread of staff costs.

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

**Raising funds**

These are costs incurred in attracting voluntary income and those incurred in trading activities that raise funds.

**Charitable activities**

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

**Taxation**

The charity is a registered charity and is, therefore, exempt from liability to taxation on its income and capital gains, to the extent that they are applied for charitable purposes.

**Intangible assets**

Intangible assets are stated in the Balance Sheet at cost less accumulated amortisation and impairment. They are amortised on a straight line basis over their estimated useful lives.

**Heritage assets**

The charity holds heritage assets, which are tangible fixed assets of scientific importance that are held to advance the preservation and conservation objects of the charity. Newly purchased heritage assets are capitalised and included at cost including any incidental costs of acquisition.

**Investments**

Investments in subsidiary undertakings are included in the balance sheet at cost less impairment.

**Cash and cash equivalents**

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

**Fund structure**

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

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

**Heal Rewilding CIO**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2023 (continued)**

**Pension**

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions payable to the company's pension scheme are charged to the statement of financial activities in the period to which they relate.

**Financial instruments**

**Classification**

The charity only enters into basic financial instruments that result in the recognition of financial assets and liabilities such as trade and other debtors and creditors together with loans to related parties. Debt instruments, such as trade debtors and creditors, are initially measured at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost.

Financial assets are assessed at the end of each reporting period for objective evidence of impairment. If objective evidence of impairment is found, an impairment loss is recognised in the income statement.

**Critical Accounting Estimates and Judgements**

The preparation of the financial statements in conformity with FRS 102 requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the application of policies and reported amounts of assets and liabilities, income, and expenses.

Estimates and judgements are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

The company makes estimates and assumptions concerning the future. The resulting accounting estimates will, by definition, seldom equal the related actual results. The Trustees consider that there are no critical accounting estimates and judgements have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year.

**Basis of Consolidation**

The financial statements present information about the charity as an individual undertaking and not about its group. The charity and its subsidiary undertakings, comprise a small-sized group. The charity has therefore taken advantage of the exemptions provided by the Charities SORP (FRS102) and the Companies Act for small groups and consolidated accounts are not prepared.

**Heal Rewilding CIO**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2023 (continued)**

**2 Income from donations and legacies**

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
Donations - Land fund	-	84,575	84,575
Donations	80,148	-	80,148
Sponsorships	50,000	-	50,000
Grants - Land fund	-	10,000	10,000
Grants - NEIRF	-	83,638	83,638
Grants	5,000	-	5,000
Fundraising	18,832	-	18,832
<b>Total for 2023</b>	<b>153,980</b>	<b>178,213</b>	<b>332,193</b>
Donations - Land fund	-	55,916	55,916
Donations	58,361	-	58,361
Sponsorships	50,000	-	50,000
Grants	30,000	-	30,000
Fundraising	25,515	-	25,515
<b>Total for 2022</b>	<b>163,876</b>	<b>55,916</b>	<b>219,792</b>

**3 Investment income**

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
Other investment income	2,686	-	2,686
<b>Total for 2023</b>	<b>2,686</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,686</b>
<b>Total for 2022</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

**4 Expenditure on raising funds**

**a) Raising funds**

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
Fundraising	5,452	-	5,452
<b>Total for 2023</b>	<b>5,452</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>5,452</b>
Fundraising	12,115	-	12,115
<b>Total for 2022</b>	<b>12,115</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>12,115</b>

**Heal Rewilding CIO**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2023 (continued)**

**5 Expenditure on charitable activities**

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
Other expenses	5,621	-	5,621
Interest	69,706	-	69,706
Wages & salaries	44,540	-	44,540
Repairs and maintenance	6,861	-	6,861
Travel	8,118	-	8,118
Rent	360	-	360
Insurance	7,943	-	7,943
Consultancy & professional fees - NEIRF	-	83,638	83,638
Consultancy & professional fees	46,208	-	46,208
IT, phones and software	9,891	-	9,891
Marketing	4,020	-	4,020
<b>Total for 2023</b>	<b>203,268</b>	<b>83,638</b>	<b>286,906</b>
Other expenses	1,310	-	1,310
Wages & salaries	51,554	-	51,554
Travel	1,958	-	1,958
Rent	720	-	720
Insurance	880	-	880
Consultancy & professional fees	9,955	-	9,955
IT, phones and software	7,427	-	7,427
Marketing	13,198	-	13,198
<b>Total for 2022</b>	<b>87,002</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>87,002</b>

**Heal Rewilding CIO**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2023 (continued)**

**6 Trustees remuneration and expenses**

No trustees, nor any persons connected with them, have received any remuneration from the charity during the year. (2022 - Nil)

One trustee (2022: None) was reimbursed for expense incurred during the year of £4,313 (2022: £Nil)

Creditors includes £Nil (2022: £4,519) of trustee expenses that were reimbursed in the 2022-23 financial year.

**7 Staff costs**

The aggregate payroll costs were as follows:

	2023 £	2022 £
Salaries	43,044	49,904
Social security	598	523
Pension costs	897	1,127
	<u>44,539</u>	<u>51,554</u>

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

The total employee benefits of the key management personnel of the charity were £33,591 (2022 - £30,862).

The average headcount during the year was 2 (2022: 3)

**8 Auditors/Independent examiner's remuneration**

	2023 £	2022 £
Audit	7,200	-
Accounts	3,300	-
Independent examination - Predecessor firm	-	1,440
	<u>10,500</u>	<u>1,440</u>

**Heal Rewilding CIO**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2023 (continued)**

**9 Taxation**

The charity is a registered charity and is therefore exempt from taxation to the extent they are applied for charitable purposes.

**10 Intangible fixed assets**

	Sporting rights £	Total £
<b>Cost</b>		
Additions	18,000	18,000
At 31 March 2023	18,000	18,000
<b>Amortisation</b>		
At 31 March 2023	-	-
<b>Net book value</b>		
At 31 March 2023	18,000	18,000

**11 Heritage assets**

	Land and buildings £	Total £
<b>Cost</b>		
Additions	5,524,966	5,524,966
At 31 March 2023	5,524,966	5,524,966
<b>Depreciation</b>		
At 31 March 2023	-	-
<b>Net book value</b>		
At 31 March 2023	5,524,966	5,524,966

**Summary of transactions**

**12 Fixed asset investments**

At the balance sheet date, the charity has three subsidiary companies.

Heal Rewilding (Enterprises) Limited (company number: 12385872). Heal Rewilding CIO owns 100% of the share capital. The company was dormant throughout the current and previous financial periods.

Heal Somerset Limited previously Heal South Limited (company number: 13353709). Heal Rewilding CIO owns 100% of the share capital.

Heal North Limited (company number: 13357428). Heal Rewilding CIO owns 100% of the share capital. The company was dormant throughout the current and previous financial periods.

**Heal Rewilding CIO**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2023 (continued)**

**13 Debtors**

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Trade debtors	3,953	-
Due from group undertakings	121,405	-
Prepayments and accrued income	19,739	40,850
VAT	428	-
Other debtors	-	882
	<u>145,525</u>	<u>41,732</u>

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

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Trade creditors	-	84
Other creditors	593	215
Accruals and deferred income	17,271	11,396
Deferred consideration	100,000	-
Loans	319,000	-
	<u>436,864</u>	<u>11,695</u>

**15 Creditors: amounts falling due after one year**

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Loans	<u>5,186,775</u>	<u>-</u>

**16 Secured debts**

Creditors include the following liabilities, on which security has been given by the charity:

	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£</b>
Triodos Bank	3,620,000
UK Insurance Limited	<u>1,885,775</u>
	<u>5,505,775</u>

The loan from Triodos Bank of £3,620,000 is secured by a legal charge over the freehold property at Lower West Barn Farm, Witham Friary, Frome, Somerset, BA11 5HH comprising of 460.86 acres of agricultural land, buildings and dwellings. In addition, a debenture in the form provided by the Bank comprising a floating charge over all assets and undertakings (both present and future) of the Charity.

The loan is over a 5 year period with the initial agreement dated 29.12.2022. The interest rate on the loan is 7.25%.

The loan from UK Insurance Limited of £1,885,775 is also secured by a legal charge over the above property.

As set out in note 21, following the year end the charity restructured its debts.

**Heal Rewilding CIO**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2023 (continued)**

**17 Funds**

	Restated Balance at 1 April 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Other recognised gains/(losses) £	Balance at 31 March 2023 £
Unrestricted funds	92,507	156,666	(208,720)	(5,581)	-	34,872
<b>Restricted funds</b>						
Land fund	92,943	94,575	-	5,581	-	193,099
Natural environment investment readiness fund	-	83,638	(83,638)	-	-	-
	92,943	178,213	(83,638)	5,581	-	193,099
<b>Total funds</b>	<b>185,450</b>	<b>334,879</b>	<b>(292,358)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>227,971</b>
	Balance at 1 April 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Other recognised gains/(losses) £	Balance at 31 March 2022 £
Unrestricted funds	27,748	163,876	(99,117)	-	-	92,507
<b>Restricted funds</b>						
Land fund	37,027	55,916	-	-	-	92,943
<b>Total funds</b>	<b>64,775</b>	<b>219,792</b>	<b>(99,117)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>185,450</b>

**Heal Rewilding CIO**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2023 (continued)**

Use of the land fund is restricted to the purchase of land for rewilding purposes.

The Natural Environment Investment Readiness Fund was received from the Environment Agency and is for the purpose of creating a blueprint for private investment in new lowland rewilding sites.

**18 Analysis of net assets between funds**

	<b>Unrestricted funds £</b>	<b>Restricted funds £</b>	<b>Total funds at 31 March 2023 £</b>
Intangible fixed assets	18,000	-	18,000
Heritage assets	5,400,966	124,000	5,524,966
Fixed asset investments	3	-	3
Current assets	239,542	69,099	308,641
Current liabilities	(436,864)	-	(436,864)
Creditors over 1 year	(5,186,775)	-	(5,186,775)
<b>Total net assets</b>	<b><u>34,872</u></b>	<b><u>193,099</u></b>	<b><u>227,971</u></b>
	<b>Unrestricted funds £</b>	<b>Restricted funds £</b>	<b>Total funds at 31 March 2022 £</b>
Fixed asset investments	3	-	3
Current assets	104,199	92,943	197,142
Current liabilities	(11,695)	-	(11,695)
<b>Total restated net assets</b>	<b><u>92,507</u></b>	<b><u>92,943</u></b>	<b><u>185,450</u></b>

**19 Related party transactions**

There were no related party transactions in the year (2022 - Nil).

**Heal Rewilding CIO**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2023 (continued)**

**20 Legal information**

Heal Rewilding CIO is registered with the Charities Commission in England. The registered charity number is 1187992. The registered office is Lower West Barn Farm, Witham Friary, Frome, Somerset, BA11 5HH.

**21 Post balance sheet events**

After the year end, in June 2024, the charity signed an amendment agreement with UK Insurance Limited, which increased the total amount borrowed from UK Insurance Limited to £5,500,000. Following the drawdown of these additional funds, the Triodos Bank loan was repaid in full in June 2024.

The lending from UK Insurance comprises two facilities. Facility A being £3,000,000 at 0.5% interest per annum and Facility B being £2,500,000 at 3.5% interest per annum.

Interest on Facility A is payable annually in arrears. Interest on Facility B is first payable in August 2025, and thereafter annually in arrears.

Both facilities are secured over the land acquired by the charity by way of a first legal mortgage over the property and land at Witham Friary, a first fixed charge over any insurance claims, rent, contracts relating to the property, and all present and future goodwill and a first floating charge over all present and future chattels.

**22 Prior period adjustment**

During the year it was identified that the investment in two of the dormant trading subsidiaries had been omitted from the balance sheet in the prior period.

A prior period adjustment has been made to bring in these investments at cost. The result is a £2 increase to Investments and a £2 increase to total charity funds.

**HEAL REWILDING**

England & Wales - Charity number 1187992

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# Accounts

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**Heal Rewilding CIO**

**Registered charity number: 1187992**

**Unaudited trustees' report and financial statements  
for the year ended 31 March 2022**

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## **Charity information**

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### **Registered address**

c/o Freeths LLP  
80 Mount Street  
Nottingham  
NG1 6HH

### **Trustees**

Jan Stannard (Chair)  
Cindy Barnes  
Jeremy Coulter  
Jonathan Simnett  
Donna Stimson  
Piers Watson

## Trustees' report

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The trustees' present the annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2022.

The financial statements have been prepared on an accruals basis. The prior year comparatives were previously reported on a receipts and payments basis and have been restated on an accruals basis accordingly.

The trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit.

The trustees have considered risks with regard to financial matters and are satisfied that they are being managed to an acceptable level.

### Structure, governance and management

Heal Rewilding is a charitable incorporated organisation. It was incorporated on the 17 February 2020 in accordance with the articles of association and is registered with the charity commission, number 1187992.

The trustees who served during the year were:

Cindy Barnes  
Jeremy Coulter  
Jonathan Simnett  
Jan Stannard  
Donna Stimson  
Piers Watson

The powers of appointing new and additional trustees is vested in the trustees. The joint trustees are responsible for the day to day administration of the charity.

### Charitable objectives

The objectives of the charity, as set out in its constitution, are:

- to promote for the benefit of the public the conservation and improvement of the natural and physical environment in England and Wales, using the process of rewilding to restore biological diversity and ecosystems;
- to advance environmental improvement and protection for the benefit of the public through the conservation and protection of the environment and the provision of ecosystems services; and
- to advance the education and the engagement of the public in the restoration, rehabilitation, conservation and enhancement of the natural environment and to promote study and research in such subjects and disseminate findings to the public at large.

## Trustees' report (continued)

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### Financial review

The charity's primary source of funding is contributions from its supporters and during the period the charity received donations of £114,277 (2021: £101,487), sponsorships of £50,000 (2021: £50,000), grants of £30,000 (2021: £7,443) and income from fundraising events of £25,515 (2021: £8,941). Operating costs during the period were £99,119 (2021: £103,096). This resulted in net movement in funds of £120,673 of which £55,916 are restricted to the purchase of land for rewilding ('the land fund').

The trustees have considered the issue of reserves. These fall into two categories – restricted reserves for the Heal land fund, and operational reserves including a contingency. All amounts in the former category will be held in reserve until they are used for land purchase. There are currently no other categories of restricted funds. Regarding operational reserves and contingency, the trustees agreed that operational reserves are needed and have established a reserves policy, requiring three months of operating reserves to be held with a 4% contingency. The justification for this level of operational reserves is that unrestricted donations have been steadily rising. The current level of reserves exceeds this target.

Statement of target reserves:

Item	Amount £
Land fund	92,943
Operational expenses (3 months)	24,742
4% contingency on operational expenses	990
<b>Reserves total held:</b>	<b>118,675</b>

Signed on behalf of the trustees

Jan Stannard

Jan Stannard  
Chair

Date: 3 August 2022

## Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Heal Rewilding

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I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Heal Rewilding for the year ended 31 March 2022 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the statement of cash flows and the notes to the accounts, including a summary of significant accounts policies.

### Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner and basis of report

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

### Independent examiner's statement

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of the accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

Julie Mutton

### Julie Mutton

Fellow of The Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales  
Evelyn Partners LLP  
Accountants  
Old Library Chambers  
21 Chipper Lane  
Salisbury  
Wiltshire  
SP1 1BG

Dated: 24 August 2022

**Statement of financial activities  
for the year ended 31 March 2022**

Note	Note	2022			2021 restated		
		Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
		£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Income from</b>							
		58,361	55,916	114,277	64,460	37,027	101,487
		50,000	-	50,000	-	50,000	50,000
		30,000	-	30,000	7,443	-	7,443
		25,515	-	25,515	8,941	-	8,941
		<b>163,876</b>	<b>55,916</b>	<b>219,792</b>	<b>80,844</b>	<b>87,027</b>	<b>167,871</b>
<b>Expenditure on</b>							
	4	(51,554)	-	(51,554)	(16,525)	-	(16,525)
		-	-	-	(8,135)	-	(8,135)
		(13,198)	-	(13,198)	(6,592)	-	(6,592)
		(12,115)	-	(12,115)	(1,498)	(50,000)	(51,498)
		(9,955)	-	(9,955)	(16,266)	-	(16,266)
		(7,427)	-	(7,427)	(3,033)	-	(3,033)
		(720)	-	(720)	-	-	-
		(880)	-	(880)	(457)	-	(457)
		(1,958)	-	(1,958)	-	-	-
		(1,312)	-	(1,312)	(590)	-	(590)
		<b>(99,119)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(99,119)</b>	<b>(53,096)</b>	<b>(50,000)</b>	<b>(103,096)</b>
		<b>64,757</b>	<b>55,916</b>	<b>120,673</b>	<b>27,748</b>	<b>37,027</b>	<b>64,775</b>
<b>Net movement in funds</b>							
		27,748	37,027	64,775	-	-	-
		92,505	92,943	185,448	27,748	37,027	64,775

**Balance sheet**  
**as at 31 March 2022**

	Note	2022			2021 restated		
		Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds
		£	£	£	£	£	£
Investments in subsidiaries	5	1	-	1	1	-	1
Fixed assets		1	-	1	1	-	1
Debtors	6	41,438	294	41,732	11,996	4,537	16,533
Cash at bank and in hand		62,761	92,649	155,410	22,413	32,490	54,903
Current assets		104,199	92,943	197,142	34,409	37,027	71,436
Creditors: amounts due within one year	7	(11,695)	-	(11,695)	(6,662)	-	(6,662)
<b>Net assets</b>		<b>92,505</b>	<b>92,943</b>	<b>185,448</b>	<b>27,748</b>	<b>37,027</b>	<b>64,775</b>
Unrestricted funds		92,505	-	92,505	27,748	-	27,748
Restricted funds	8	-	92,943	92,943	-	37,027	37,027
<b>Total charity funds</b>		<b>92,505</b>	<b>92,943</b>	<b>185,448</b>	<b>27,748</b>	<b>37,027</b>	<b>64,775</b>

Signed on behalf of the trustees

Jan Stannard

Jan Stannard  
Chair

Date: 3 August 2022

**Statement of cash flows**  
for the year ended 31 March 2022

	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>		
Net income for the year	120,673	64,775
Increase in debtors	(25,199)	(16,533)
Increase in creditors	5,033	6,662
Net cash flows from operating activities	<u>100,507</u>	<u>54,904</u>
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>		
Investment in Heal Rewilding (Enterprises) Ltd	-	(1)
Net cash flows from investing activities	<u>-</u>	<u>(1)</u>
<b>Net movement in cash and cash equivalents</b>	<b><u>100,507</u></b>	<b><u>54,903</u></b>
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 April 2021	54,903	-
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at 31 March 2022</b>	<b><u>155,410</u></b>	<b><u>54,903</u></b>

**Analysis of net funds**

	<b>At 6 April 2021</b>	<b>Cash flows</b>	<b>At 5 April 2022</b>
Cash at bank and in hand	<u>54,903</u>	<u>100,507</u>	<u>155,410</u>

## Notes to the financial statements

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### 1. Principal accounting policies

#### Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice for Charities (SORP 2019) and applicable accounting standards (FRS102). The prior year comparatives were previously reported on a receipts and payments basis and have been restated on an accruals basis accordingly.

The charity is a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

#### Going concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. There are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern and as such, the going concern basis has been adopted for the preparation of these financial statements.

#### Income and expenditure from charitable activities

Income from charitable activities comprises grants, sponsorship and other fundraising income. Income is recognised when the charity becomes entitled to the income, receipt is probable and can be measured. Expenditure on charitable activities comprises fundraising costs and administrative support costs incurred in furthering the charitable objectives.

#### Fund accounting

Restricted funds are those the use of which is restricted by the conditions imposed by the donors. Unrestricted funds are those which are available for the general advancement of the charity's objectives.

#### Taxation

Heal Rewilding is a registered charity and therefore exempt from income tax to the extent that income generated is applied to its charitable purpose. Heal Rewilding is not currently VAT registered. Costs include irrecoverable VAT where applicable.

#### Investments

Investment in subsidiaries are recognised at cost.

#### Pension schemes

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme for all qualifying employees. The assets of the schemes are held in separate funds administered by independent providers.

#### Financial instruments

The charity has short term basic financial instruments only which are measured at transaction price. Amounts owing to the charity at the balance sheet date are shown as debtors less any provisions for amounts that may prove uncollectable. Creditors are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will result in the transfer of funds to a third party.

## Notes to the financial statements continued

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### 1. Principal accounting policies continued

#### Key estimates and judgements

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates. The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. The trustees do not consider that there are any critical estimates or areas of judgement that need to be brought to the attention of the readers of the financial statements.

### 2. Trustees' remuneration and expenses

The trustees did not receive any remuneration in the year or prior year. Creditors includes £4,519 (2021: £4,839) of trustee expenses that were reimbursed in the 2022-23 financial year.

### 3. Independent examiner remuneration

The independent examiner's remuneration was £1,440 net of VAT (2021: £1,370).

### 4. Employee costs

	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Salaries	49,904	15,000
Social security	523	1,362
Pension costs	1,127	163
	<b>51,554</b>	<b>16,525</b>

The average headcount during the year was 3 (2021: 1).

### 5. Investment in subsidiaries

At the balance sheet date, the charity had one subsidiary company, Heal Rewilding (Enterprises) Limited, which is 100% owned and was incorporated on 3 January 2020.

### 6. Debtors

	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Prepayments and accrued income	40,850	15,915
Other debtors	882	618
	<b>41,732</b>	<b>16,533</b>

## Notes to the financial statements continued

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### 7. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Trade payables	84	84
Accruals and deferred income	11,396	6,483
Other creditors	215	95
	<u><b>11,695</b></u>	<u><b>6,662</b></u>

### 8. Restricted funds

	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Land fund	<u>92,943</u>	<u>37,027</u>

Use of the land fund is restricted to the purchase of land for rewilding purposes.

### 9. Related party transactions

There were no related party transactions in the year or prior year.

### 10. Legal information

Heal Rewilding CIO is registered with the Charities Commission in England. The registered charity number is 1187992. The registered office is c/o Freeths LLP, 80 Mount Street, Nottingham, NG1 6HH.

**HEAL REWILDING**

England & Wales - Charity number 1187992

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# Accounts

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**Heal Rewilding CIO**  
**Registered charity number: 1187992**

**Unaudited**  
**Receipts and payments accounts**  
**for the period 17 February 2020 to 31 March 2021**

## Contents

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**Charity information**

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**Registered address**

c/o Freeths LLP  
80 Mount Street  
Nottingham  
NG1 6HH

**Trustees**

Jan Stannard (Chair)  
Cindy Barnes  
Jeremy Coulter  
Johnathan Simnett  
Donna Stimson  
Piers Watson

## Trustees' report

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The trustees' present the annual report and accounts for the period from incorporation on 17 February 2020 to 31 March 2021.

In accordance with Charity Commission guidance, the accounts have been prepared on a receipts and payments basis. The trustees are satisfied that the charity meets the legal requirements to prepare the accounts on a receipts and payments basis.

The trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit.

The trustees have considered risks with regard to financial matters and are satisfied that they are being managed to an acceptable level.

### Structure, governance and management

Heal Rewilding is a charitable incorporated organisation was incorporate on the 17 February 2020 in accordance with the Articles of Association and is registered with the charity commission, number 1187992.

The trustees who served during the year were:

Cindy Nicola Barnes

Jeremy John Coulter

Jonathan Iain Roy Simnett

Jan Stannard

Donna Sue Stimson

Piers Roland Gifford Watson

The powers of appointing new and additional trustees is vested in the trustees.

The joint trustees are responsible for the day to day administration of the charity.

### Charitable objectives

The objectives of the charity, as set out in its constitution, are:

- to promote for the benefit of the public the conservation and improvement of the natural and physical environment in England and Wales, using the process of rewilding to restore biological diversity and ecosystems;
- to advance environmental improvement and protection for the benefit of the public through the conservation and protection of the environment and the provision of ecosystems services; and
- to advance the education and the engagement of the public in the restoration, rehabilitation, conservation and enhancement of the natural environment and to promote study and research in such subjects and disseminate findings to the public at large.

## Financial review

The period ended 31 March 2021 was the charity's first period of operation and therefore no comparative information is presented in the accounts.

The charity's primary source of funding is contributions from its supporters and during the period the charity received donations of £88,596, sponsorships of £50,000, grants of £7,443 and income from fundraising events of £7,629. Operating costs, including start-up costs, during the period were £98,765. This resulted in net receipts of £54,903 of which £32,189 are restricted to the purchase of land for rewilding ('the land fund').

The trustees have considered the issue of reserves. These fall into two categories – restricted reserves for the Heal land fund; and operational reserves including a contingency. All amounts in the former category will be held in reserve until they are used for land purchase. There are currently no other categories of restricted funds. Regarding operational reserves and contingency, the trustees agreed that operational reserves are needed and have established a reserves policy, requiring three months of operating reserves to be held with a 4% contingency. The justification for this level of operational reserves is that unrestricted donations have been steadily rising. The current level of reserves held broadly corresponds to the target.

Statement of target reserves:

Item	Amount
Land fund	£32,189
Operational expenses (3 months)	£13,141
4% contingency on operational expenses	£526
<b>Reserves total held:</b>	<b>£45,856</b>

During the period, the charity supported 'Deserves to Bloom', a campaign that aims to raise £1 million to help pay for its foundation rewilding site in the south of England.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Jan Stannard

Jan Stannard  
Chair

Date: 20/04/2021

## Independent examiner's report to the Trustees of Heal Rewilding

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I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Heal Rewilding for the period ended 31 March 2021 which comprise the receipts and payments account and the statement of assets and liabilities.

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

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

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

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act;  
or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

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

Julie Mutton

### **Julie Mutton**

Fellow of The Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales  
Smith & Williamson LLP  
Accountants  
Old Library Chambers  
21 Chipper Lane  
Salisbury  
Wiltshire  
SP1 1BG

Date: 21/04/2021

**Receipts and payments  
for the period ended 31 March 2021**


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	<b>Unrestricted funds £</b>	<b>2021 Restricted funds £</b>	<b>Total funds £</b>
<b>Receipts</b>			
Donations	56,407	32,189	88,596
Deserve to Bloom sponsorship	-	50,000	50,000
Grants	7,443	-	7,443
Fundraising events	7,629	-	7,629
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>71,479</b>	<b>82,189</b>	<b>153,668</b>
<b>Payments</b>			
Employee costs	(17,049)	-	(17,157)
Consultant fees	(8,135)	-	(8,135)
Marketing	(6,389)	-	(6,389)
Fundraising events	(1,258)	-	(1,258)
Deserve to Bloom campaign	-	(50,000)	(50,000)
Professional fees	(10,192)	-	(10,192)
Legal fees	(1,685)	-	(1,685)
IT, phones and software	(1,883)	-	(1,883)
Insurance	(1,284)	-	(1,284)
Other expenses	(889)	-	(889)
Investment in Heal Rewilding (Enterprises) Limited	(1)	-	(1)
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>(48,765)</b>	<b>(50,000)</b>	<b>(98,765)</b>
<b>Net receipts</b>	<b>22,714</b>	<b>32,189</b>	<b>54,903</b>

**Statement of assets and liabilities**  
as at 31 March 2021

	<b>Unrestricted funds £</b>	<b>2021 Restricted funds £</b>	<b>Total funds £</b>
<b>Cash funds</b>	22,714	32,189	54,903
<b>Other monetary assets</b>			
Social security and other taxation	1,091	-	1,091
<b>Investment assets</b>			
Investment in Heal Rewilding (Enterprises) Limited	1	-	1
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>23,806</b>	<b>32,189</b>	<b>55,995</b>
Accruals	(4,839)	-	(4,839)
Pensions payable	(54)	-	(54)
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>(4,893)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(4,893)</b>

Signed on behalf of the trustees

Jan Stannard

Jan Stannard  
Chair

Date: 20/04/2021