



Waterlife Recovery Trust

Financial Statements

for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

Charity Number: 1198223



Waterlife
Recovery
Trust

Waterlife Recovery Trust

Charity Information

Trustees:

Professor Tony Martin

Simon Baker Msc

Barend van der Berg (Treasurer)

David Wege Msc

Professor Bill Amos

Registered Office: Solo House

The Courtyard

London Road

Horsham

West Sussex

RH12 1AT



Waterlife Recovery Trust

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

OBJECTIVES, ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

To protect and conserve the water vole and other native species for the advancement of environmental protection and improvement, for the benefit of the public by, in particular but not exclusively, advancing the control of invasive alien species, notably the American mink, in Great Britain. The activities of the charity are solely focussed on controlling American mink, and raising funds to enable this work. They include recruiting and training volunteers to manage traps, purchasing mink trapping equipment and distributing it to volunteers, carrying out scientific analysis of captured mink, and promoting the work via public talks, meetings and media interviews.

The main achievements of the charity in the year to 31 March 2024 were (a) to successfully complete the landscape-scale mink eradication trial in East Anglia, whereby 9% of England is now mink free, and publicise its conclusion and outcome, (b) to raise substantial funds to allow the work to continue and expand, including the winning of £500k in a competitive bid to Natural England's Species Recovery Programme, and (c) for the first time, to recruit, train and support full-time staff in pursuit of the charity's objectives.

During the year the Trust, working with partners and volunteers, achieved the following:

- Placed 627 further smart mink rafts into waterways giving a total of 1534 active rafts by 31 March 2024.
- Caught and humanely dispatched 930 mink, 292 from Lincolnshire alone.
- Trapped and released 201 water voles of which 154 were from Norfolk and Suffolk, which had been cleared of mink, but only 9 from Lincolnshire, where there was a dense mink population.
- Produced 4 Newsletters, which are distributed to 1500 interested parties.
- Carried out a post mortem on all mink caught, these also provided a tissue sample for genetic analysis and anal gland extract to act as lure in our traps.
- Worked closely with Professor Bill Amos at the University of Cambridge on the genetics of mink, deriving much practically useful information concerning mink dispersal and familial relationships.
- Started trapping on a small Scottish island to learn more about the challenges that will be faced in this type of environment.
- Further developed our website, which is now widely used (27,209 unique visitors) and elicited 280 reports of mink from the public from all over Great Britain.

RISK ASSESSMENT

The major risks faced by Waterlife Recovery Trust are identified on a risk register which is reviewed by the Board of Trustees as part of the 6 board meetings that were held during this financial year. We believe that maintaining reserves at current levels, combined with an annual review of the controls over key financial systems, will provide sufficient funds in the event of adverse conditions. The Trustees have also examined other operational risks faced by the charity, and we confirm that we have established systems to mitigate, where possible, any significant risks.

STRUCTURE AND MANAGEMENT

In addition to the board of five Trustees, at the end of this reporting year the charity had 7 staff on fixed-term contracts and hired 5 self-employed contractors as required. We also had a part time Account Assistant and managed some 1500 volunteer citizen conservationists, spread across 25 counties in England, Wales and Scotland.

PLANS FOR FUTURE

The charity is now well established, and has in place robust and transparent financial and H.R. management systems. Much of the admin and development work is still dependent on Trustees, however, so the raising of funds to recruit core staff remains a priority.

Having demonstrated that landscape-scale eradication of invasive American mink is not only feasible, but more rapid and less expensive than anticipated, the objective now is to expand WRT's work across Britain as rapidly as possible. Achievement of this ambition will be dependent not only on WRT itself, but on the growing partnership of organisations that seek WRT's guidance and assistance in freeing their own local areas of American mink. The distribution of active smart rafts run by WRT and partners is shown in Figure 1.

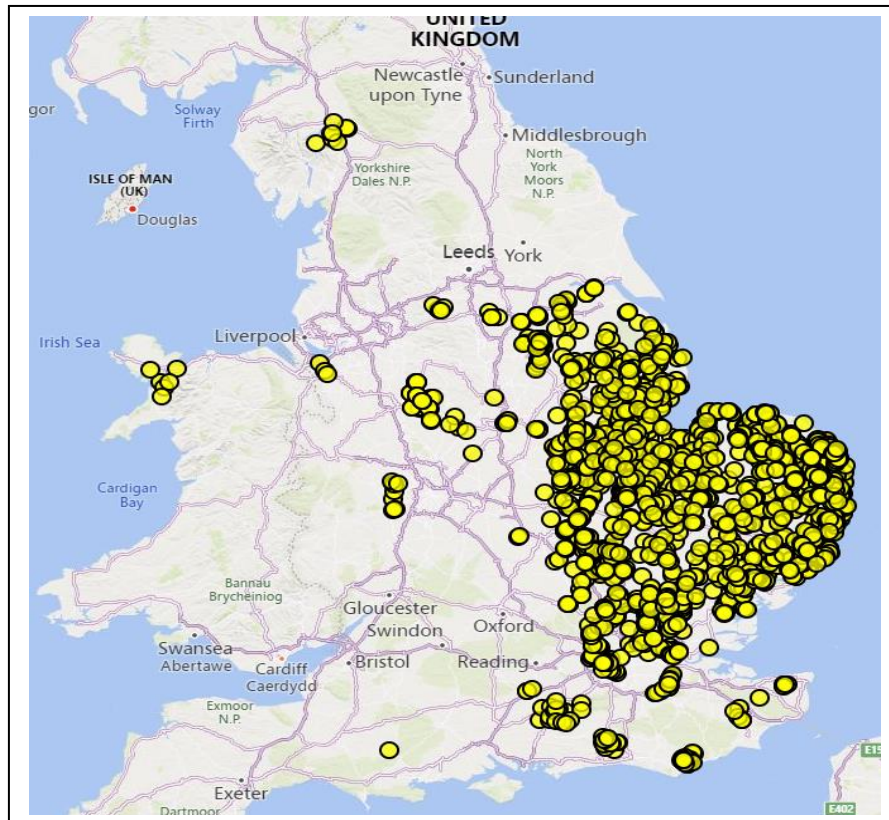


Figure 1. Active smart mink rafts in England and Wales on 31 March 2024

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The year under review produced a significant increase in income with most of the increase from Grants. Grants increased year on year from £119,411.90 to £692,910.97. The charity also seen an increase in donations by just over double from the year before with a total of £32,691.52 donations. Closing reserves as at 31 March 2024 are at £186,876.75.

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

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's trust deed, the Charities Act 2011 and 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.

By Order of the Board



Barend van der Berg

Trustee and Treasurer

Walnut Cottage,

Pymoor Lane,

Pymoor,

CB6 2EF

Date: 30 August 2024



Waterlife
Recovery
Trust

Waterlife Recovery Trust

Statement of Income and Expenditure for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 31/03/2024	Total 31/03/2023
		£	£	£	£
Donations		29,483.80	3,207.72	32,691.52	14,074.55
Grants		16,955.00	675,955.97	692,910.97	119,411.90
Gift Aid		1,005.25		1,005.25	3,000.00
Interest Received	1	769.82		769.82	
Total Income		48,213.87	679,163.69	727,377.56	136,486.45
Staff Costs	2		125,013.84	125,013.84	-
Project Officers Fees		1,527.63	45,304.28	46,831.91	20,963.66
Rafts and Traps		7,279.20	259,123.46	266,402.66	17,773.26
Ecological Services			64,500.00	64,500.00	34,000.00
Consumables		1,061.50	25,824.73	26,886.23	538.89
Travel and Subsistence		297.17	29,876.69	30,173.86	2,582.32
Professional Fees		7,590.00	21,835.75	29,425.75	650.00
Insurance			545.59	545.59	-
Postage		2.40	506.98	509.38	-
Recruitment Fees		596.00		596.00	-
Advertising				0.00	118.80
IT Support				0.00	450.00
Office Equipment		777.43	3,763.90	4,541.33	-
Printing and Stationery		400.80	3,052.87	3,453.67	894.00
Bank Charges		60.00	0.00	60.00	47.20
Other		28.91		28.91	
Total Expenditure		19,621.04	579,348.09	598,969.13	78,018.13
Net Income / Loss				128,408.43	58,468.32
Funds Brought Forward				58,468.32	0
Funds Balance at 31 March 2024				186,876.75	

Waterlife Recovery Trust

Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 31/03/2024 £	Total 31/03/2023 £
Current Assets					
Bank		48,592.83	55,595.67	104,188.50	73,468.32
Debtors	3		145,688.25	145,688.25	0.00
Long Term Loans	4	-63,000.00		-63,000.00	-15,000.00
Net Current Assets		-14,407.17	201,283.92	186,876.75	58,468.32
Funds of the Charity	5				
Restricted Funds			99,815.60	142,952.06	43,136.46
Unrestricted Funds		28,592.83		43,924.69	15,331.86
Total Funds		28,592.83	99,815.60	186,876.75	58,468.32

Waterlife Recovery Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year end 31 March 2024

1 Interest Received

	31/03/2024	31/03/2023
	£	£
Bank Account Interest	769.82	-

2 Staff Costs

	31/03/2024	31/03/2023
	£	£
Salaries	94,868.10	-
PAYE and NI	23,049.46	-
Pension Costs	7,096.28	-
	<u>125,013.84</u>	<u>-</u>

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

	31/03/2024	31/03/2023
Direct charitable	8	0

3 Debtors

	31/03/2024	31/03/2023
	£	£
Amount Recoverable on Contract	145,688.25	-

4 Long Term Loans

	31/03/2024	31/03/2023
	£	£
Tony Martin (Trustee)	33,000.00	15,000.00
Bill Amos (Trustee)	30,000.00	-
	<u>63,000.00</u>	<u>15,000.00</u>

5 Funds of the Charity

	31/03/2024
	£
Unrestricted Funds	43,924.69
Restricted Funds:	
EA KENT	15,191.02
BEDS IDB	21,966.00
LINCS WILDLIFE	4,450.00
EA LINC	27,036.62
NE NORFOLK/SUFFOLK	53,086.88
LISMORE	256.68
NORFOLK IDBS	12,500.00
DARRENT	6,464.86
TRENT VALLEY	1,000.00
SOLVE	1,000.00
	<u>186,876.75</u>

6 TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31March2024 nor for the year ended 31 March 2023.



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for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

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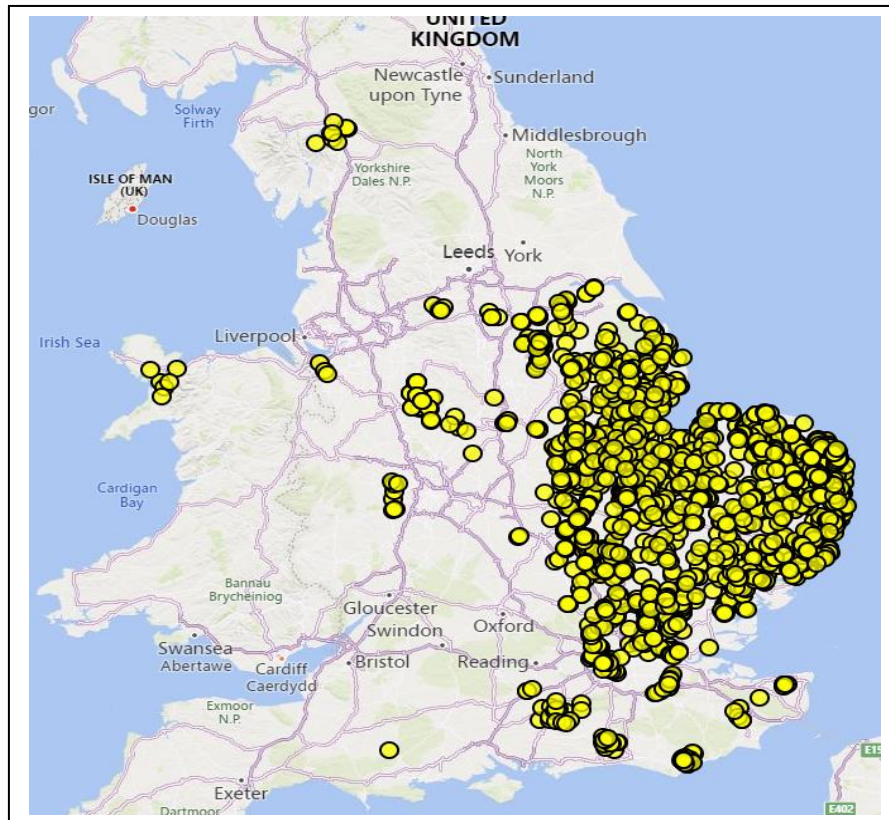


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CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

Charity Name
Waterlife Recovery Trust

On accounts for the year
ended

31 March 202~~3~~₄

Charity no
(if any)

1198223

Set out on pages

7 to 9

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended **31 / 03 / 202~~3~~₄**

Responsibilities and
basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust, 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 Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed 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 which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

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

Signed:

Date:

30-08-2024

Name:

SANDEEP PASSI

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):

ACCA - Fellowship Membership

Address:

71 SQUIRESWOOD

FULWOOD

PRESTON, PR2 9QA

Section B

Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.