



Waterlife Recovery Trust

Financial Statements

for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

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
Alison Neil

Registered Office: Solo House
The Courtyard
London Road
Horsham
West Sussex
RH12 1AT



Waterlife Recovery Trust

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025

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 eradicating American mink, and raising funds to facilitate 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 2025 were (a) to greatly expand the number of geographical spread of WRT-managed smart mink traps (43% increase over the previous year), (b) to raise substantial funds to facilitate this expansion, (c) to raise funding to allow the recruitment of staff to reduce the work burden on Trustees and improve the charity's foundation and resilience and (d) to continue to raise awareness of the Trust's work and success.

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

- Placed 743 further smart mink rafts into waterways giving a total of 2,479 active rafts by 31 March 2025.
- Caught and humanely dispatched 1,751 mink. At a conservative estimate, this number of mink would have killed half a million native creatures had they not been removed by WRT and its partners.
- Proved that water voles have replaced mink in Norfolk and Suffolk; a direct result of mink eradication work by the Waterlife Recovery Trust.
- Produced 4 Newsletters, which are distributed to 1800 interested parties.
- Carried out a post mortem examination 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 the laboratory of Professor Bill Amos at the University of Cambridge on the genetics of mink, deriving much practically useful information concerning mink dispersal and familial relationships.
- Responded to a direct approach from people in Greater Manchester seeking help in removing mink to allow recovery of their much-missed native wildlife. With WRT's help, guidance and support, this group has established smart mink traps in their local neighbourhood and removed a remarkable 36 mink in less than 12 months. At a conservative estimate, this citizen-conservationist-led campaign has already saved the lives of 10,000 native creatures.

- Continued its support of residents on Lismore, Argyll in their attempt to eradicate mink, primarily to prevent predation on poultry, but with profound beneficial impacts on native wildlife. Evidence suggests that few, if any, mink remain on the island after less than one year of trapping effort. When completed, this will be the first successful eradication of American mink on any island within the British Isles.
- Further developed our website, which is now widely used (56,280 unique visitors, double the number of the previous year) and elicited 876 reports of mink from the public from all over Great Britain, a 3-fold increase over the previous 12 months.
- Further developed WRT's relational database - the means by which information on all trapping activity and catches is recorded and analysed to provide the evidence base on which WRT's strategy is founded. This database is also used by all formal partners of WRT.

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 5 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 six Trustees, at the end of this reporting year the charity had 10 staff on fixed-term contracts and hired 6 self-employed contractors as required. We also had a part time Account Assistant and managed some 2,600 volunteer citizen conservationists, spread across 42 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 at the end of this FY is shown in Figure 1, with the situation pertaining one year ago shown for comparison.

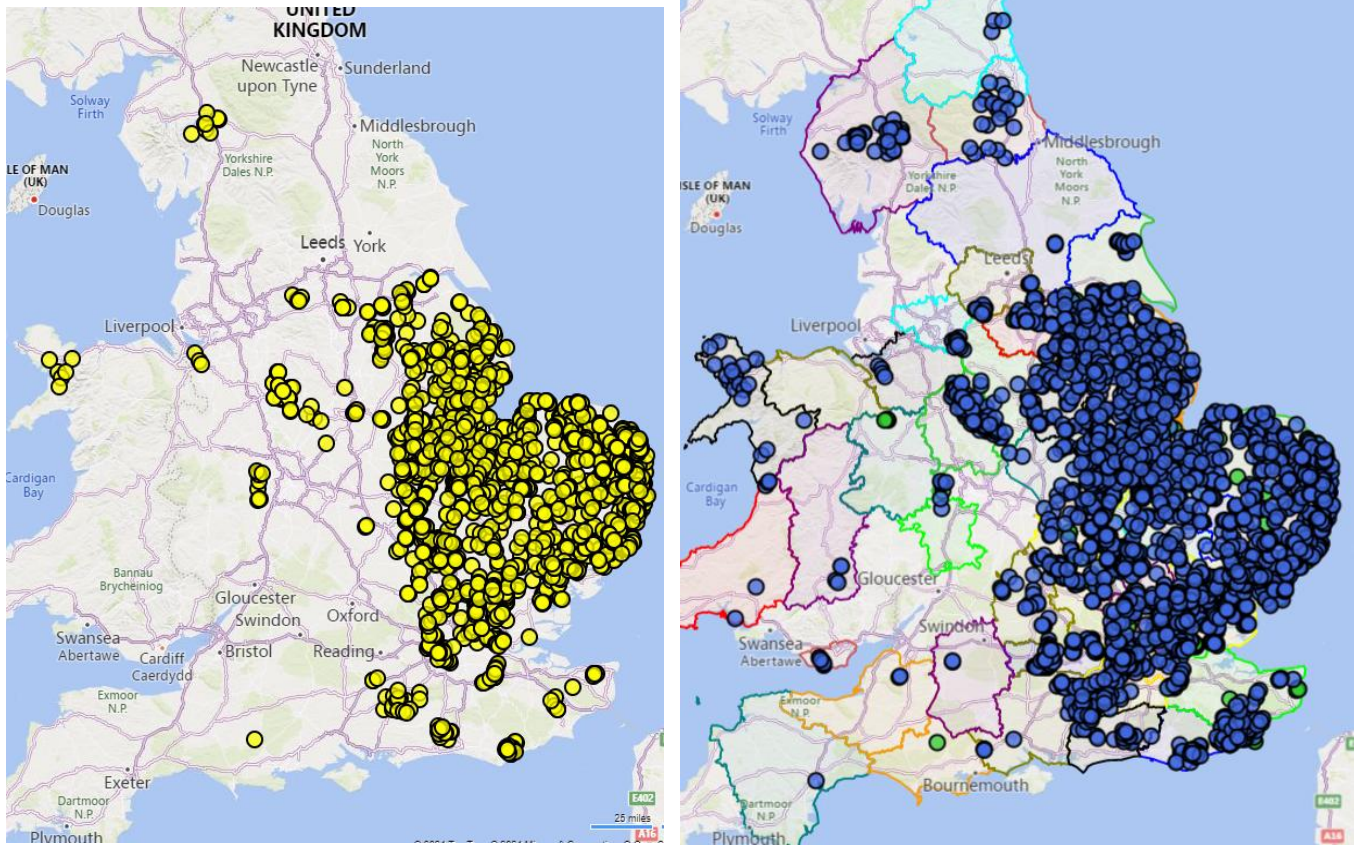


Figure 1. Active smart mink rafts in England and Wales on 31 March 2024 (1,736, Left) and on 31 March 2025 (2,479, Right). The 2025 total represents a 43% increase compared to a year earlier.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The year under review produced a steady flow of income with Grants contributing 90% of the income. Grants increased year on year from £692,910.97 to £740,883.65. The charity ones again seen an increase in donations by just over double from the year before with a total of £70,736.35 donations. Closing reserves as at 31 March 2025 are at £394,714.58.

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: 11 June 2025



Waterlife
Recovery
Trust

Waterlife Recovery Trust

Statement of Income and Expenditure for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 31/03/2025 £	Total 31/03/2024 £
Donations		56,796.35	13,940.00	70,736.35	32,691.52
Grants		206,820.00	534,063.65	740,883.65	692,910.97
Gift Aid		6,631.46		6,631.46	1,005.25
Interest Received	1	5,639.66		5,639.66	769.82
Total Income		275,887.47	548,003.65	823,891.12	727,377.56
Staff Costs	2	21,825.67	315,172.66	336,998.33	125,013.84
Project Officers Fees				0.00	46,831.91
Rafts and Traps		64,192.88	131,449.57	195,642.45	266,402.66
Ecological Services				0.00	64,500.00
Consumables		4,763.45	21,197.48	25,960.93	26,886.23
Travel and Subsistence		432.70	31,815.98	32,248.68	30,173.86
Professional Fees		1,632.00	1,400.00	3,032.00	29,425.75
Insurance		1,858.83		1,858.83	545.59
Postage		351.97	1,679.78	2,031.75	509.38
Recruitment Fees				0.00	596.00
Advertising		0.00	833.60	833.60	-
IT Support		4,279.76	9,021.37	13,301.13	-
Office Equipment		1,792.98	6,693.06	8,486.04	4,541.33
Printing and Stationery			599.55	599.55	3,453.67
Bank Charges		60.00		60.00	60.00
Other			-5,000.00	-5,000.00	28.91
Total Expenditure		101,190.24	514,863.05	616,053.29	598,969.13
Net Income / Loss				207,837.83	128,408.43
Funds Brought Forward				186,876.75	58,468.32
Funds Balance at 31 March 2024				394,714.58	186,876.75

Waterlife Recovery Trust

Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 31/03/2025 £	Total 31/03/2024 £
Current Assets					
Bank		208,290.06	203,349.68	411,639.74	104,188.50
Debtors	3		32,983.95	32,983.95	145,688.25
Long Term Loans	4	-48,000.00		-48,000.00	-63,000.00
Pension Fund			-1,909.11	-1,909.11	
Net Current Assets		160,290.06	234,424.52	394,714.58	186,876.75
Funds of the Charity	5				
Restricted Funds			151,230.76	151,230.76	142,952.06
Unrestricted Funds		243,483.82		243,483.82	43,924.69
Total Funds		243,483.82	151,230.76	394,714.58	186,876.75

Waterlife Recovery Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year end 31 March 2025

1 Interest Received		
	31/03/2025	31/03/2024
	£	£
Bank Account Interest	5,639.66	769.82
2 Staff Costs		
	31/03/2025	31/03/2024
	£	£
Salaries	302,845.96	94,868.10
PAYE and NI	23,757.25	23,049.46
Pension Costs	10,395.12	7,096.28
	336,998.33	125,013.84
The average monthly number of employees during the year was as follows:		
	31/03/2025	31/03/2024
Direct charitable	10	8
3 Debtors		
	31/03/2025	31/03/2024
	£	£
Amount Recoverable on Contract	32,983.95	145,688.25
4 Long Term Loans		
	31/03/2025	31/03/2024
	£	£
Tony Martin (Trustee)	33,000.00	33,000.00
Bill Amos (Trustee)	15,000.00	30,000.00
	48,000.00	63,000.00

5	Funds of the Charity		
		31/03/2025	31/03/2024
			£
	Unrestricted Funds	243,483.82	43,924.69
	Restricted Funds:		
	EA KENT	1,171.19	15,191.02
	BEDS IDB	5,488.35	21,966.00
	LINCS WILDLIFE	4,450.00	4,450.00
	SRPCGS	-28,142.55	-
	EA LINC	1,640.03	27,036.62
	NE NORFOLK/SUFFOLK	42,471.49	53,086.88
	LISMORE	0.00	256.68
	NORFOLK IDBS	25,000.00	12,500.00
	DARRENT	0.00	6,464.86
	TRENT VALLEY	1,000.00	1,000.00
	SOLVE	1,400.00	1,000.00
	ESSEX	79583.49	-
	MINK DNA	13,949.33	-
	AFFINITY	0.00	-
	LONDON SOUTH	-97.36	-
	SCOTLAND	0.00	-
	EA Trent	11,961.79	-
	HIGH WEALDS	-2,150.86	-
	RFWRVOLELTC	-6,494.14	-
		394,714.58	186,876.75
6	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.		



Waterlife Recovery Trust

Financial Statements

for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

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
Alison Neil

Registered Office: Solo House
The Courtyard
London Road
Horsham
West Sussex
RH12 1AT



Waterlife Recovery Trust

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025

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 eradicating American mink, and raising funds to facilitate 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 2025 were (a) to greatly expand the number of geographical spread of WRT-managed smart mink traps (43% increase over the previous year), (b) to raise substantial funds to facilitate this expansion, (c) to raise funding to allow the recruitment of staff to reduce the work burden on Trustees and improve the charity's foundation and resilience and (d) to continue to raise awareness of the Trust's work and success.

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

- Placed 743 further smart mink rafts into waterways giving a total of 2,479 active rafts by 31 March 2025.
- Caught and humanely dispatched 1,751 mink. At a conservative estimate, this number of mink would have killed half a million native creatures had they not been removed by WRT and its partners.
- Proved that water voles have replaced mink in Norfolk and Suffolk; a direct result of mink eradication work by the Waterlife Recovery Trust.
- Produced 4 Newsletters, which are distributed to 1800 interested parties.
- Carried out a post mortem examination 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 the laboratory of Professor Bill Amos at the University of Cambridge on the genetics of mink, deriving much practically useful information concerning mink dispersal and familial relationships.
- Responded to a direct approach from people in Greater Manchester seeking help in removing mink to allow recovery of their much-missed native wildlife. With WRT's help, guidance and support, this group has established smart mink traps in their local neighbourhood and removed a remarkable 36 mink in less than 12 months. At a conservative estimate, this citizen-conservationist-led campaign has already saved the lives of 10,000 native creatures.

- Continued its support of residents on Lismore, Argyll in their attempt to eradicate mink, primarily to prevent predation on poultry, but with profound beneficial impacts on native wildlife. Evidence suggests that few, if any, mink remain on the island after less than one year of trapping effort. When completed, this will be the first successful eradication of American mink on any island within the British Isles.
- Further developed our website, which is now widely used (56,280 unique visitors, double the number of the previous year) and elicited 876 reports of mink from the public from all over Great Britain, a 3-fold increase over the previous 12 months.
- Further developed WRT's relational database - the means by which information on all trapping activity and catches is recorded and analysed to provide the evidence base on which WRT's strategy is founded. This database is also used by all formal partners of WRT.

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 5 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 six Trustees, at the end of this reporting year the charity had 10 staff on fixed-term contracts and hired 6 self-employed contractors as required. We also had a part time Account Assistant and managed some 2,600 volunteer citizen conservationists, spread across 42 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 at the end of this FY is shown in Figure 1, with the situation pertaining one year ago shown for comparison.

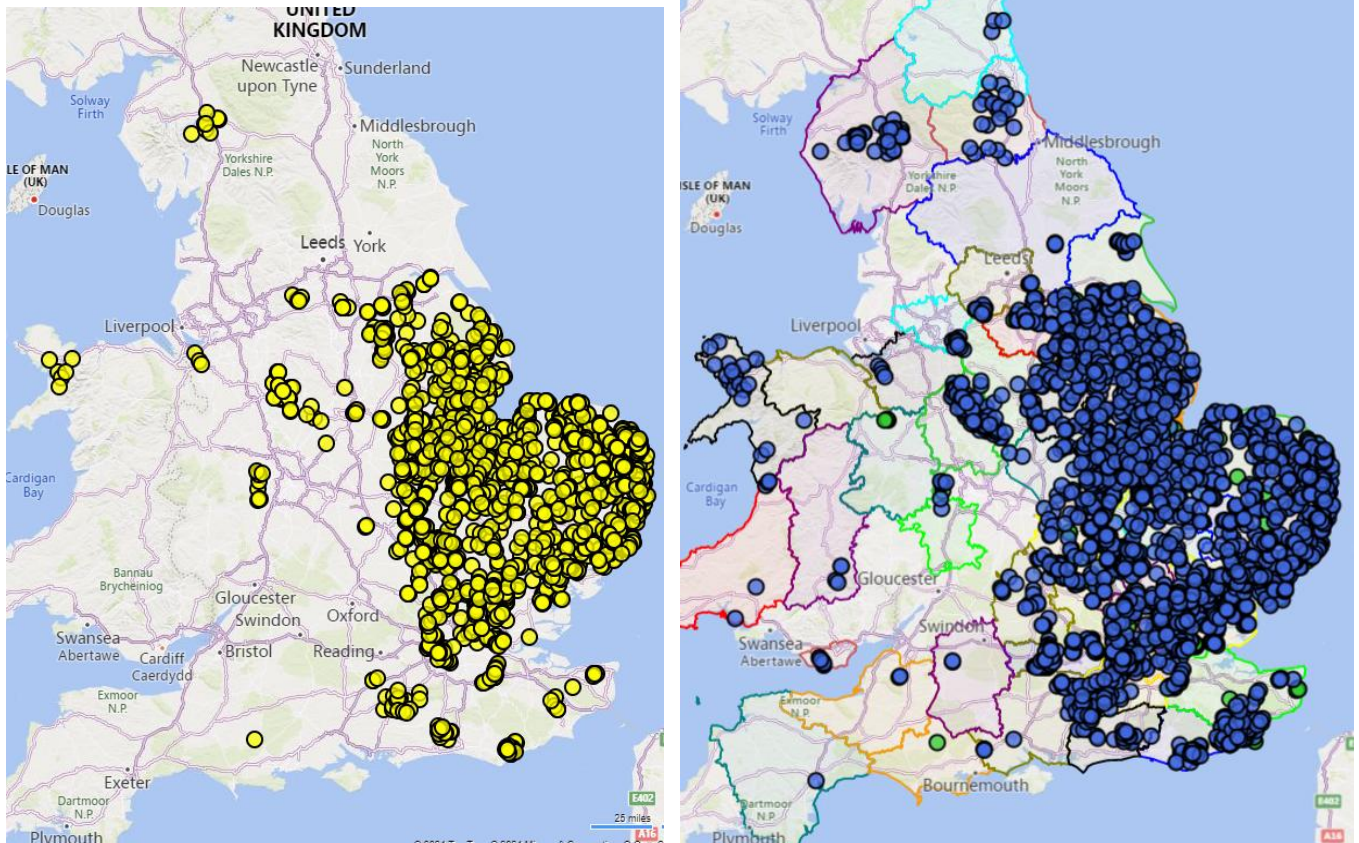


Figure 1. Active smart mink rafts in England and Wales on 31 March 2024 (1,736, Left) and on 31 March 2025 (2,479, Right). The 2025 total represents a 43% increase compared to a year earlier.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The year under review produced a steady flow of income with Grants contributing 90% of the income. Grants increased year on year from £692,910.97 to £740,883.65. The charity ones again seen an increase in donations by just over double from the year before with a total of £70,736.35 donations. Closing reserves as at 31 March 2025 are at £394,714.58.

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: 11 June 2025



Waterlife
Recovery
Trust

Waterlife Recovery Trust

Statement of Income and Expenditure for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 31/03/2025 £	Total 31/03/2024 £
Donations		56,796.35	13,940.00	70,736.35	32,691.52
Grants		206,820.00	534,063.65	740,883.65	692,910.97
Gift Aid		6,631.46		6,631.46	1,005.25
Interest Received	1	5,639.66		5,639.66	769.82
Total Income		275,887.47	548,003.65	823,891.12	727,377.56
Staff Costs	2	21,825.67	315,172.66	336,998.33	125,013.84
Project Officers Fees				0.00	46,831.91
Rafts and Traps		64,192.88	131,449.57	195,642.45	266,402.66
Ecological Services				0.00	64,500.00
Consumables		4,763.45	21,197.48	25,960.93	26,886.23
Travel and Subsistence		432.70	31,815.98	32,248.68	30,173.86
Professional Fees		1,632.00	1,400.00	3,032.00	29,425.75
Insurance		1,858.83		1,858.83	545.59
Postage		351.97	1,679.78	2,031.75	509.38
Recruitment Fees				0.00	596.00
Advertising		0.00	833.60	833.60	-
IT Support		4,279.76	9,021.37	13,301.13	-
Office Equipment		1,792.98	6,693.06	8,486.04	4,541.33
Printing and Stationery			599.55	599.55	3,453.67
Bank Charges		60.00		60.00	60.00
Other			-5,000.00	-5,000.00	28.91
Total Expenditure		101,190.24	514,863.05	616,053.29	598,969.13
Net Income / Loss				207,837.83	128,408.43
Funds Brought Forward				186,876.75	58,468.32
Funds Balance at 31 March 2024				394,714.58	186,876.75

Waterlife Recovery Trust

Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 31/03/2025 £	Total 31/03/2024 £
Current Assets					
Bank		208,290.06	203,349.68	411,639.74	104,188.50
Debtors	3		32,983.95	32,983.95	145,688.25
Long Term Loans	4	-48,000.00		-48,000.00	-63,000.00
Pension Fund			-1,909.11	-1,909.11	
Net Current Assets		160,290.06	234,424.52	394,714.58	186,876.75
Funds of the Charity	5				
Restricted Funds			151,230.76	151,230.76	142,952.06
Unrestricted Funds		243,483.82		243,483.82	43,924.69
Total Funds		243,483.82	151,230.76	394,714.58	186,876.75

Waterlife Recovery Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year end 31 March 2025

1 Interest Received		
	31/03/2025	31/03/2024
	£	£
Bank Account Interest	5,639.66	769.82
2 Staff Costs		
	31/03/2025	31/03/2024
	£	£
Salaries	302,845.96	94,868.10
PAYE and NI	23,757.25	23,049.46
Pension Costs	10,395.12	7,096.28
	336,998.33	125,013.84
The average monthly number of employees during the year was as follows:		
	31/03/2025	31/03/2024
Direct charitable	10	8
3 Debtors		
	31/03/2025	31/03/2024
	£	£
Amount Recoverable on Contract	32,983.95	145,688.25
4 Long Term Loans		
	31/03/2025	31/03/2024
	£	£
Tony Martin (Trustee)	33,000.00	33,000.00
Bill Amos (Trustee)	15,000.00	30,000.00
	48,000.00	63,000.00

5	Funds of the Charity		
		31/03/2025	31/03/2024
			£
	Unrestricted Funds	243,483.82	43,924.69
	Restricted Funds:		
	EA KENT	1,171.19	15,191.02
	BEDS IDB	5,488.35	21,966.00
	LINCS WILDLIFE	4,450.00	4,450.00
	SRPCGS	-28,142.55	-
	EA LINC	1,640.03	27,036.62
	NE NORFOLK/SUFFOLK	42,471.49	53,086.88
	LISMORE	0.00	256.68
	NORFOLK IDBS	25,000.00	12,500.00
	DARRENT	0.00	6,464.86
	TRENT VALLEY	1,000.00	1,000.00
	SOLVE	1,400.00	1,000.00
	ESSEX	79583.49	-
	MINK DNA	13,949.33	-
	AFFINITY	0.00	-
	LONDON SOUTH	-97.36	-
	SCOTLAND	0.00	-
	EA Trent	11,961.79	-
	HIGH WEALDS	-2,150.86	-
	RFWRVOLELTC	-6,494.14	-
		394,714.58	186,876.75
6	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.		



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Report to the trustees

Waterlife Recovery Trust

On accounts for the year
ended

31 March 2025

Charity no
(if any)

1198223

Set out on pages

(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 / 2025.

Responsibilities 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 Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 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

[The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of [insert name of applicable listed body]]. *Delete [] if not applicable.*

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (other than that disclosed below *) which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of 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.

** Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.*

Signed:

Date:

10/06/2025

Name:

Sandeep Passi

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

FCCA

Address: 71 Squireswood
Fulwood
Preston, PR2 9QA

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material 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.**