

SUSSEX WILDLIFE TRUST

England & Wales · Charity number 207005

Details

Other names THE SUSSEX TRUST FOR NATURE CONSERVATION LIMITED

Status Registered

Legal form Charitable company

Company number 00698851

Registered 1962-06-26

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

Contact

Address The Keep
Woollards Way
Brighton
BN1 9BP

Phone 01273492630

Email enquiries@sussexwt.org.uk

Website www.sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk

Activities

Objects: FOR THE BENEFIT OF BOTH WILDLIFE AND THE PUBLIC:TO CONSERVE, RESTORE AND ENHANCE THE WILDLIFE OF SUSSEX INCLUDING THAT IN ITS COASTAL WATERS. IN PARTICULAR, TO CONSERVE SPECIES AND THE HABITATS AND LANDSCAPES IN WHICH THEY OCCUR, INCLUDING THE RESTORATION, CREATION AND INTERCONNECTION OF SUCH HABITATS;TO PROMOTE THE PROTECTION AND ENHANCEMENT OF THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT; ANDTO PROMOTE AND ADVANCE PUBLIC EDUCATION ABOUT, UNDERSTANDING OF, CONNECTION TO, AND ACTION IN SUPPORT OF, THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT AND ITS BENEFITS.

Activities: Leading the conservation agenda for SussexWildlife biodiversity monitoring and recordingPromoting achievement of biodiversity targets by othersDelivering progress towards biodiversity targets ourselvesEnhancing the desire in people for a healthy, wildlife rich environment Building support, membership and funding to enable the Trust to excel

Classification

- **How:** Provides Human Resources, Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** Education/training, Environment/conservation/heritage
- **Who:** Children/young People, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** NOT DEFINED - IN PRACTICE SUSSEX
- East Sussex
- West Sussex

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£7,233,949	£6,675,994	£15,358,446	111
2024-03-31	£6,950,819	£5,718,808	£14,800,491	110
2023-03-31	£5,392,762	£5,710,923	£13,568,480	109
2022-03-31	£5,336,145	£5,510,271	£13,886,641	102
2021-03-31	£7,062,138	£4,365,672	£14,060,767	88

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Andrew Clinton		2023-03-08
Danielle Harvey		2023-06-07
David Alexander Plummer		2024-03-06
Emily Rudling		2025-09-17
Helen Marshall		2020-09-16
Kathy Hughes		2025-12-03
Louise Faye McLoughlin		2024-03-06
Mark Mallalieu		2024-03-06
Mark William Braithwaite		2022-06-30
Martin Kyndt		2020-09-16
Morwenna Trevena		2025-09-17
Nitin Pasricha		2019-05-07
Stephanie Bright		2025-09-17

SUSSEX WILDLIFE TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 207005

Accounts



Sussex
Wildlife Trust

Trustees' Report & Annual Accounts

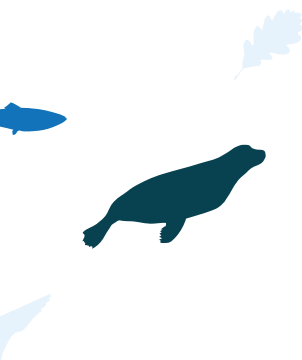
2024-2025



Sussex Wildlife Trust

**STOP DUMPING
ON OUR
REEF**





Chair's Report

It is my great pleasure to present this year's Annual Report as Chair of Sussex Wildlife Trust. Over the past year, we have taken bold strides towards delivering *Our Wild Sussex*, our Strategy for 2024-2030. But we do so in the knowledge that the challenge before us is vast - and the clock is ticking.

Our mission to ensure 30% of land and sea across Sussex is protected and well-managed for nature is more than an aspiration - it is an urgent necessity. The threats to wildlife are unprecedented: habitat loss, species decline and accelerating climate impacts continue to undermine ecosystems that have sustained us for generations. We have no choice but to act at scale, act quickly, and act together.

Despite major successes, nature remains in overall decline. But we are not powerless. We know what must be done - and with enough support, we can turn things round.

In the past year, our teams and partners have made significant progress. From restoring vital wetlands at Filsham Reedbed and Pevensy Levels to supporting the recovery of kelp and marine ecosystems, we are demonstrating what is possible with bold and ambitious action. We have strengthened our efforts to engage communities - particularly young people - through initiatives like The Deneway youth-led nature reserve and the inspiring work of the Gatwick Greenspace Partnership.



This scale of transformation depends on your support. Over 38,000 members and generous donors have powered our progress - illustrated by the incredible success of our Species Recovery Appeal, which raised over £100,000. Equally invaluable are our 1,100 volunteers, including my fellow Trustees, whose dedication underpins everything we do.

Finally, I want to thank our staff and our leadership team - their dedication and passion for our mission is critical to what we have achieved and what we aspire to achieve in the years ahead.

While we celebrate our achievements, we are acutely aware that our work is far from finished. The challenges ahead are formidable, but so too is our determination. With your generous support we are confident that Sussex can be a place where nature thrives - not just today, but for generations to come.

Nick Pasricha
Chair



Left: Stop dumping on our reef campaign

© Kai Hilton

Right: Adonis Blue

© Bob Eade

The Trustees are pleased to present their annual Trustees' report, together with the consolidated financial statements of the charity, for the year ending 31st March 2025. These are also prepared with the purpose of meeting the legal requirements for a Trustees' report and accounts in accordance with the Companies Act 2006.

The financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006, the Articles of Association, 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 and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1st January 2019).

Objectives

Sussex Wildlife Trust's (SWT) objects, as detailed in our Articles of Association 2023, are for the benefit of both wildlife and the public:

- To conserve, restore and enhance the wildlife of Sussex, including that in its coastal waters. In particular, to conserve species and the habitats and landscapes in which they occur, including the restoration, creation, and interconnection of such habitats
- To promote the protection and enhancement of the natural environment
- To promote and advance public education about, understanding of, connection to, and action in support of, the natural environment and its benefits

With regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit, the Trustees believe that the provision of such benefit is an integral part of each of our charitable objectives.



Right: Duke of Burgundy

© Bob Eade

Left: Wildlife Rangers

© Roz Bassford

Strategic Report

Achievements and performance
of the Trust's work



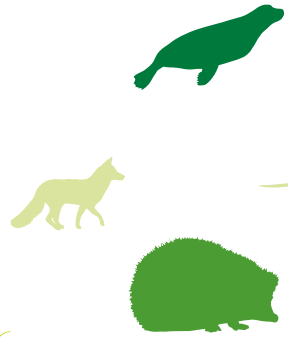
Diverse groups and individuals take action for wildlife and wild places across Sussex

Throughout the year, we continued to deliver meaningful work across Sussex, encouraging people from all backgrounds to connect with, and take action for, nature. While we've made important progress, we recognise there is still more to do to engage a broader and more diverse range of communities in our work.

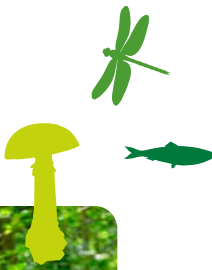
Our work has helped individuals and communities create wildlife-friendly spaces and inspired thousands of children to explore the natural world through hands-on outdoor learning. Our Forest School and Wild Beach training programmes remained a vital part of our offer, equipping adults with the skills to lead nature-based education. We remain committed to making our work more inclusive and accessible, so that everyone in Sussex can feel empowered to take action for wildlife.

The **Nextdoor Nature** project supported communities with limited access to nature in the Hastings area, helping them connect with local green spaces and take action for wildlife. Successes included: weekly outdoor sessions for children, family Forest School activities near urban housing estates, and a community visit to Rye Harbour Nature Reserve. The project also fostered collaboration between housing associations, local businesses and community groups, to support woodland management and secure future funding for nature-based family programmes.

The **Discover Rye Harbour Project** was extended through to the end of this financial year, with a focus on making the Rye Harbour Discovery Centre and Nature Reserve more inclusive. A new Heritage traineeship was introduced, and accessibility was significantly improved through initiatives such as acoustic sound panels, mobility scooters and accessible boardwalks on the reserve.



Bug hotel at The Deneway
© Sophie Atkinson



EMAS wellbeing day © Roz Bassford

The **Gatwick Greenspace Partnership** celebrated 30 years of community-focused conservation this year, continuing to support local people in managing and enjoying urban green spaces. The project engaged a wide range of groups – including schools, the LGBTQ+ community, and refugees – through habitat advice, events, and inclusive volunteering opportunities. A dedicated network of volunteers, including conservation teams, corporate groups, and education supporters, contributed over 3,900 hours of their time, playing a vital role in the project’s success and ongoing impact.

Our **Wilder Learning** team certified 111 individuals in Forest School delivery and 29 in Wild Beach leadership, equipping them to bring nature connection into their own communities and classrooms. In addition, we ran 32 **adult wildlife courses**, covering a wide range of topics – from fungi and Nightingales to nature photography and seasonal ecology – supporting lifelong learning and deeper engagement with the natural world.

This year marked a significant step forward in our commitment to **youth engagement**, with the introduction of a dedicated Youth Action Officer role, helping to coordinate and expand opportunities for young people to get involved in nature conservation. Our Youth Rangers programmes at The Deneway nature reserve in Brighton and at Rye Harbour, have empowered young people to take an active role in managing and caring for these special sites. We were especially proud to see Ruby Stothard, one of our inspiring young volunteers, receive the David Streeter Wildlife Champion Award in recognition of her outstanding contribution to wildlife and conservation in Sussex.

Our **Wilder Communities** team supported grassroots wildlife projects with advice, events, courses and volunteer coordination. Working with a Community Ecologist, the team have trained community groups and provided advice to improve local greenspaces for wildlife. The Brighton Hit Squad continued to assist with local conservation tasks, and the Coastal Community Officer worked with our Nature Recovery team to deliver eight Shoresearch events, engaging volunteers and collecting valuable species data on our intertidal habitats.

We mobilised public support through a series of powerful calls to action, encouraging people across Sussex to stand up for wildlife and the natural environment. Highlights included our campaign opposing the renewal of Brighton Marina’s dredging licence, and we also joined thousands in the March for Clean Water in London. This was demanding urgent action to tackle pollution in our rivers and seas, and took part in the Restore Nature Now March, amplifying the call for immediate and meaningful action on the nature and climate crises. These campaigns demonstrated the strength of public support for nature and the vital role of collective action in driving change.

This year, we were proud to work with over 1,100 **volunteers** who contributed more than 24,000 hours to support nature across Sussex. From livestock lookering and beach cleans, to habitat management and visitor engagement, their dedication underpins everything we do. We are incredibly grateful for their commitment – our work simply wouldn’t be possible without them.



Forest Schools © Roz Bassford

Restore abundant wildlife across large scale landscapes and the sea

Pevensy Levels: A Landmark Year for Habitat Creation

During the 2024/25 reporting period, Sussex Wildlife Trust placed significant emphasis on the restoration and enhancement of wetland habitats, with a particular focus on the Pevensy Levels. Following a period of uncertainty in spring and summer 2024, we successfully secured planning permission for an ambitious habitat creation programme. This initiative, developed in collaboration with multiple landowners, aimed to deliver large-scale ecological improvements across both private and Trust-owned land.

Despite the complexity and scale of the project, and thanks to the expertise of our contractors, we achieved 95% of our planned works within a narrow operational window. The remaining 5% was postponed due to adverse winter weather conditions. This project represents a major step forward in landscape-scale ambition for SWT and demonstrates our capacity to deliver impactful change under challenging circumstances.

At Filsham Reedbed, we undertook essential clearance work to combat natural succession and preserve vital open water and reedbed habitats. This ongoing management is critical to maintaining biodiversity and ecological function.

Meanwhile, at Rye Harbour Nature Reserve, we initiated the development of a new Management Plan. This forward-looking strategy sets out ambitious goals for the site's future, ensuring its continued role as a flagship reserve for wildlife and people into the future.



The Wilder Horsham District project continued to grow in impact and reach. In 2024/25, the project team engaged with 51 landowners, providing ecological advice across 860 hectares. Notably, over 40% of these engagements were repeat visits, indicating a strong and growing commitment among landowners to implement nature-positive practices.

Through the Wilder Horsham Nature Recovery Award, we supported over 20 community-led projects and facilitated more than 30 volunteer work parties. The team also played a pivotal role in the Adur River Restoration Landscape Recovery Scheme, contributing expertise and coordination to this vital initiative – which aims to see landscape recovery of the Adur valley on an epic scale.

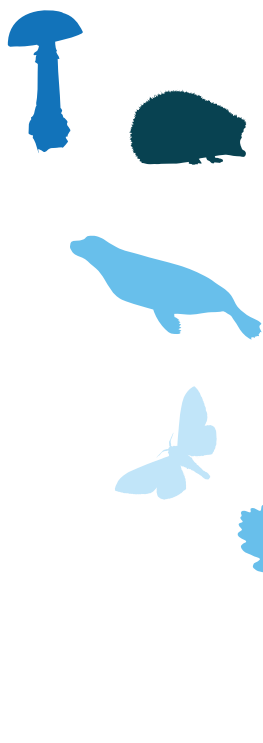
In the Ouse Catchment, our Wilder Ouse Project Officer collaborated with 40 landowners and led the delivery of 73 leaky dams, alongside other habitat enhancements. These interventions are instrumental in improving water retention, reducing flood risk and enhancing biodiversity.

**Above:
Pevensy Levels**

© Kai Hilton

**Left: Filsham
Reedbed**

© Alex Worsley

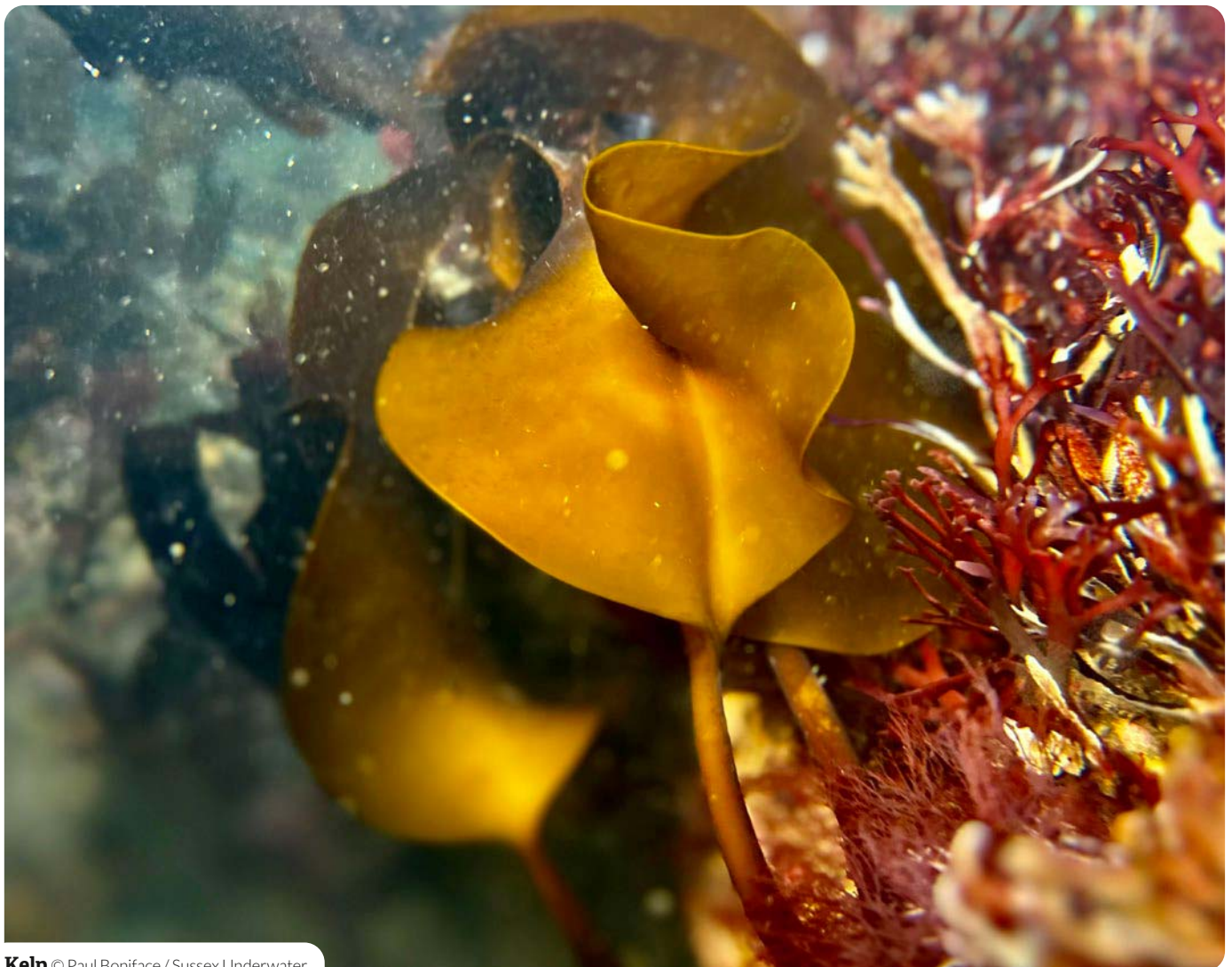


The Sussex Kelp Recovery Project (SKRP) remained a cornerstone of our marine conservation work. As Chair and Coordinator of the SKRP, Sussex Wildlife Trust has continued to play a major role in this collaborative initiative. Tangible signs of seabed recovery are now emerging, including the spread of Blue Mussels, offering hope for the return of healthy ecosystems on our seabed.

In partnership with NGOs, Sussex Underwater and academic institutions, we supported a comprehensive marine monitoring and engagement programme, reinforcing our commitment to evidence-based marine restoration.

A major advocacy focus this year was on the proposed disposal of dredge spoil from Brighton Marina into a neighbouring Marine Conservation Zone. Sussex Wildlife Trust joined forces with Surfers Against Sewage to raise public awareness, through a high-profile beach demonstration and media campaign, underscoring our role as a vocal advocate for marine protection.

We continue to play a leading role in the Sussex Local Nature Partnership, contributing to the development of our Sussex Local Nature Recovery Strategies. In 2024/25, 36 organisations collaborated to define regional conservation priorities. The Sussex Biodiversity Record Centre and County Recorders have been instrumental in analysing ecological data and identifying priority species and actions for these important Sussex strategies for nature. This collaborative, data-led approach ensures that our conservation efforts are targeted, effective, and aligned with broader regional goals.



Kelp © Paul Boniface / Sussex Underwater



Create climate resilient landscapes and thriving wildlife habitats

Throughout the year, Sussex Wildlife Trust delivered a wide range of habitat improvement projects across key sites in our Sussex portfolio. These works were designed to enhance biodiversity, support species recovery, and maintain the ecological integrity of our priority landscapes.

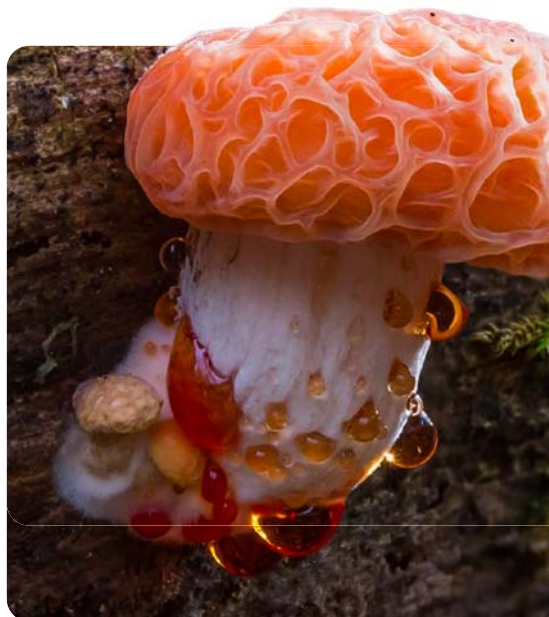
Woodland Restoration and Management

Willand Wood (West Sussex): Restoration began on a plantation within an ancient woodland site at Willand Wood, with the aim of returning it to native woodland. This work is expected to benefit woodland butterflies and specialist scrub and coppice species, while also improving foraging opportunities for woodland bats.

West Dean Woods: Our annual programme of coppicing and ride management continued, supporting populations of woodland butterflies and Dormice through the maintenance of structural diversity and light availability in the woodland.

Heathland Enhancement

Heathland Sites (various): Invasive species, including Rhododendron, Pine, and Birch, were removed from several heathland sites. These actions are critical to maintaining open heathland habitats and will benefit key species such as Dartford Warbler, Woodlark, and Nightjar.



Above:
Dartford Warbler

© Mike Read

Left:
Wrinkled Peach

© James and Dawn Langiewicz

Chalk Grassland Management

Levin Down: Significant scrub clearance was undertaken on the south-facing slopes to restore flower-rich grassland. This work was part of a long-term strategy to prepare the site for a potential reintroduction of the Duke of Burgundy Butterfly, a species that has shown encouraging signs of recovery in West Sussex. Volunteers were proud to install a memorial bench that affords views over the reserve and the wider landscape in memory of much-loved long-term Volunteer Reserve Manager, Ann Griffiths.

Malling, Southerham, Ditchling, and Seaford Head: Ongoing scrub management was carried out across these chalk grassland sites. These efforts are essential to preserving species-rich grassland habitats. Positive ecological responses have been observed, with species such as the Adonis Blue Butterfly showing notable benefits.

Freshwater

Woods Mill: The newt ponds in Little Meadow were reprofiled to improve habitat quality for amphibians and aquatic invertebrates, contributing to the site's overall ecological resilience.

Pevensy Levels: As mentioned in the previous section, the ambitious programme of scrape, pool, island and ditch reprofiling on our Pevensy Levels site

was successfully delivered. As well as the immediate biodiversity benefits, an ambition of the project was to help this important designated site hold water for longer and restore its wetland characteristics.

Sandstone outcrops of the High Weald

Eridge Rocks: Holly was cleared from rock faces to improve conditions for rare lichens and bryophytes. We were particularly excited to record the discovery of a new lichen species at the site.

Throughout the year we have continued our focus on species recovery, working with partners to assess the feasibility of Pine Marten re-introduction to Sussex and also leading the Sussex Beaver Group as a large group of ambitious landowners and NGOs prepared for the Government Announcement regarding the future of free-living Beavers in the UK.

At sea, we contributed to the Beachy Head East Marine Conservation zone management consultation. Once signed off by the Secretary of State (still pending), this would see another 200km² of the Sussex seabed protected from bottom-towed gear. We also inputted into the Rampion II consultation process and the Gatwick expansion processes, ensuring that we represent the voice of Nature Recovery in these significant proposals for Sussex.



Smooth Newt © Dave Kilbey

Plans for the Future

A Wilder Future for Sussex: The Time to Act Is Now

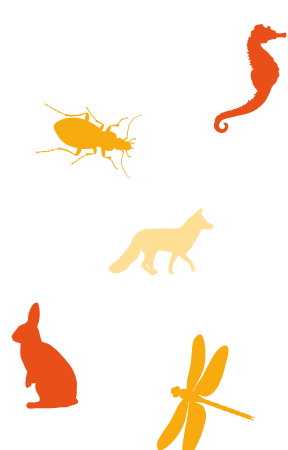
Last year, we unveiled *Our Wild Sussex* – a bold roadmap for reversing the alarming decline of wildlife and restoring nature’s rightful place in every corner of our county. It is a vision that stretches to 2030 and demands transformative action at scale.

Across Sussex, nature is under threat. Habitats are becoming more fragmented and many species continue to decline. At the same time individuals and communities are becoming increasingly disconnected from the wonders of our natural world. But there is still time to turn things around, providing we are bold and act quickly.

Our strategy is driven by three urgent goals:

- **Restore abundant wildlife** at scale across land and sea.
- **Diverse groups and individuals** take action for wildlife and wild places across Sussex.
- **Create climate resilient** landscapes and ecosystems.

Our strategic direction will continue to be driven by our values which underpin everything we do – **Innovation, Passion, Collaboration, and Inclusion**. If we stay true to these values, we can develop bigger and more ambitious plans, both alone and working with others, and inspire and involve more people in the urgent need to take action.



Above:
Beautiful Demoiselle
© Jaroslav Zlamal

Left:
Fledgling Rangers
© Kai Hilton

Right:
Binoculars at Rye Harbour Discovery Centre café
© Rebecca Brooker





Transforming How We Work

To meet the scale of the challenge, we will be pursuing four strategic transformations to deliver the scale of impact needed:

1. 30 by 30: Protecting Nature at Scale

At the heart of our mission is the need to protect, restore and manage land for nature. Building on the experience of the £500k Pevensy Levels wetland restoration, we are developing similar large scale and ambitious plans for Rye Harbour, alongside further work at the Pevensy Levels.

New “green finance” funding opportunities have emerged, including Biodiversity Net Gain, which we are exploring. If successful, this could create major opportunities for habitat restoration as well as increasing long term funding for our work.

Managing nature reserves is expensive but it is also the most secure way to restore and manage wildlife. To increase our nature reserve portfolio, in the coming year we hope to launch our biggest ever programme to support the expansion and management of our nature reserves over the next four years.

However, we cannot save nature simply by buying nature reserves. The scale of the threats from development on land and sea is immense. Making sure we are defending important sites will remain central to our work, and we will be prepared to stand firm to ensure the best sites are protected. However, such is the scale of the challenge, we cannot do it alone. We will need to support and upskill individuals and communities to take action in their local area as well as support our wider advocacy and campaigning work.





The other focus area for the coming year will be continuing to work with the myriad of landowners and other organisations to deliver nature at scale. An example is a potential Beaver re-introduction. If there is Government approval for our application, this will be an exciting and significant new project in which we plan to play a major role.

Our work on land is important, but our work in the marine environment is equally critical. Protected sites do not receive the same degree of protection as their terrestrial equivalents, as we saw with the granting of permission to dump dredgings from Brighton Marina into the Beachy Head West Marine Conservation Zone. In the coming year we will be exploring options to challenge this decision, which highlights the plight and second class treatment of marine sites, which suffer from being “out of sight and out of mind”.



The centrepiece of our work in the marine environment will be our continued central role in the Sussex Kelp Recovery Project (SKRP) which remains the largest marine rewilding programme in the UK. There have been early signs of ecosystem recovery and we hope to see further progress in the coming year.

2. Mobilising Action

The future of wildlife depends on rebuilding the connection between people and the natural world – yet many communities remain disconnected from the nature on their doorstep. Strengthening this relationship is essential, as people who feel part of nature are far more likely to take action to protect it.

In the year ahead, we have exciting plans to launch a Wilder Champions programme, supporting individuals who want to lead local action for wildlife in their communities. There are already individuals who make a big difference for wildlife where they live, and we want to provide the support and encouragement to substantially expand and develop this network.

We will also be rolling out a new Wilder Schools programme which will help embed nature connection and environmental action into school life, encouraging young people to become lifelong advocates for wildlife.

In addition, we will be launching Deneway's Wild Future – a community-led project in Brighton that gives young people the opportunity to shape, manage, and care for their own urban nature reserve. These initiatives will build on our existing work and bring us closer to our goal of inspiring 1 in 4 people in Sussex to take action for nature.

Above:
Welcome desk
at Rye Harbour
Discovery Centre

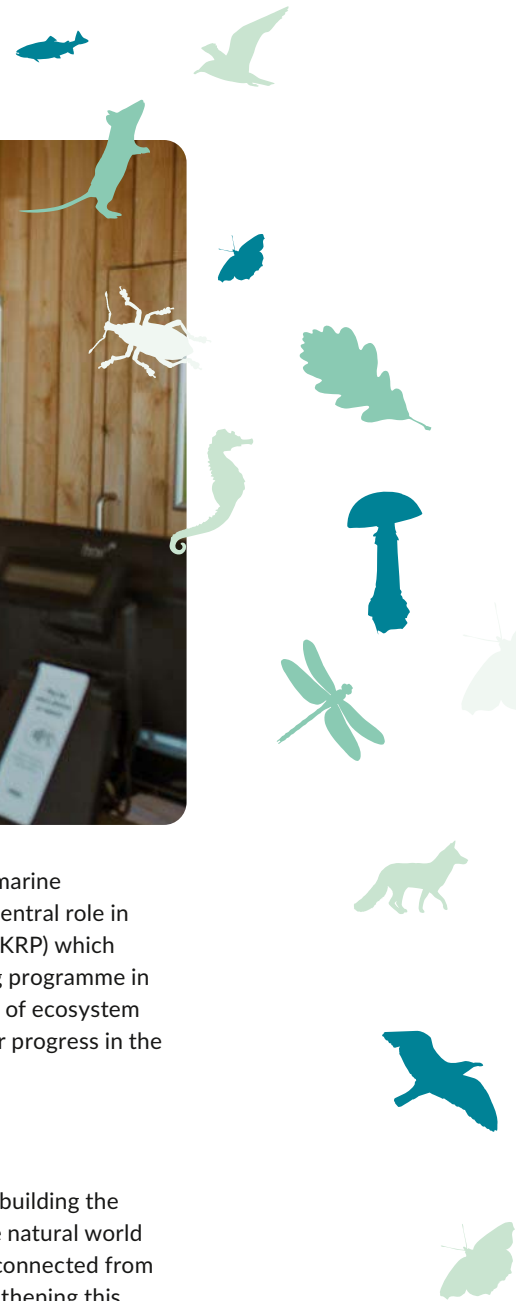
© Rebecca Brooker

Left:
Dormouse

© Derek Middleton

Right:
Beach Clean
with ESCC

© Roz Bassford



3. Inclusion at our core

We will build an organisation that truly reflects the diversity of Sussex – one where everyone feels they belong and can contribute meaningfully to our mission. Supported by our Wild About Inclusion team, we will continue to embed inclusive practices across all areas of our organisation, investing in training and inclusive initiatives.

Looking ahead, we know there is still much more to do. In the coming year we will be looking to increase our work with young people, including the delivery of our youth-led project at The Deneway Nature Reserve in Brighton. We want to take this further and give young people a bigger role in the running of the organisation and aim to recruit two young Trustees. Our work with young people will be a focus, but we also need to build our links with other underrepresented communities and redesign our programmes and spaces to be welcoming for all.

The scale of the challenge facing nature is immense and we will only bring about change if we can inspire more people from a wider range of ages and backgrounds to connect with nature. When more people understand and care about nature, more people will take action to save it.

4. Net Zero and Climate Resilience

We are working at pace to become a Net Zero organisation by 2030, cutting emissions, electrifying our fleet and equipment, using alternative fuel with lower emissions, changing our business travel and commuting habits and moving to more energy-efficient and climate resilient premises.

This is a significant challenge and will require some radical changes to the way we work.

Of course the impacts of climate change are already evident with milder, wetter winters and hotter, drier summers occurring on a more regular basis. We will continue to add features which retain water on nature reserves, as we have done at both our Woods Mill and Pevensey Levels. Beavers can also play an important role in the wider landscape, retaining water and slowing the flow of water in catchments, which can help reduce flooding.



Laying the Foundation for Success

To realise this future, we are strengthening the organisation by:

- Investing in the ecological resilience of our nature reserves
- Undertaking a complete digital transformation to boost efficiency and impact
- Investing in data and evidence to guide every decision
- Supporting staff and volunteers with training, leadership, and development
- Diversifying income generation to unlock larger scale funding

Volunteers: The Heartbeat of Nature's Recovery – And We Need You More Than Ever

We now have over **1,100 registered volunteers** – a 10% rise on last year, and a powerful reminder that *people are stepping up for nature*. But to meet the challenges ahead, we must go even further. We urgently need more hands and more voices to support us.

Our volunteering programme is expanding rapidly, with **over 50 diverse roles** tailored to suit a wide spectrum of interests, abilities, and schedules. Whether you're a seasoned conservationist or completely new to nature work, there's a place for you here.



Volunteer Induction Day © Victoria Barrell

Behind the scenes, we've strengthened our volunteer infrastructure – building a smarter, more responsive system that helps us:

- Target and engage volunteers more effectively
- Monitor and measure impact for funding success
- Celebrate meaningful contributions at every level

Growing the number of opportunities where people can volunteer and get involved will be a priority for the coming year.

Nature cannot wait. Wildlife needs protection, habitats need restoration, and communities need to be more engaged and inspired. **Volunteers are crucial to helping drive this change.**

We must remember the Sussex Wildlife Trust is a volunteer organisation. We were founded by volunteers, we are run by our Trustee volunteers and we have around 10 times as many volunteers as paid employees.

Together, We Are Nature's Turning Point

As we look ahead, one truth stands clear: the scale of the crisis demands bold, united action – and Sussex Wildlife Trust is rising to meet that call. Our strategy is not just a roadmap; it's a rallying cry for everyone who believes in a wilder, more resilient Sussex. From restoring wetlands and reintroducing Beavers, to empowering young people and embedding inclusion at our core, we are laying the foundations for lasting change. But we cannot do it alone. This is a movement, and every voice, every action, every volunteer matters. With your continued support, we can turn the tide for nature – restoring abundance, building resilience, and inspiring generations to come. The future for wildlife in Sussex is still unwritten. We must work together, be brave, think big and take risks. If we can do this there is a chance to ensure nature is thriving across Sussex once again

Donated services

We were very pleased during the year to receive the following pro-bono support:

- Website support from Million Monkeys to the value of £6,048 (2023 £6,048).
- From March 2025, use of a nine-seater electric minibus from Toyota, for community activities, to the value of £317.
- Press training and ongoing communications support for the Sussex Kelp Recovery Project from Midnight to the value of £1,500.

Structure, Governance and Management

Governing document

The Sussex Wildlife Trust is a company limited by guarantee under the Companies Act and is governed by its Articles of Association adopted on 4th November 2023.

Organisation

The Sussex Wildlife Trust is governed by its Council, which is responsible for setting policies, ensuring legality and good practice in accordance with the Articles of Association of SWT and the Companies Act 2006. The CEO, under delegated powers, undertakes the routine management of SWT.

Recruitment and appointment of Trustees

In accordance with the Articles of Association, Trustees are elected by the Membership at the Annual General Meeting (AGM). At each AGM, one third of the Directors must retire by rotation, with those who have been longest in office since their last appointment, retiring first. Directors can offer themselves for re-election, but no Director shall serve for a period of more than nine consecutive years. On the expiration of such a period and the retirement of the relevant Director, a further year must lapse before that person shall be eligible for re-election to the Council. Nominations for new Trustees are considered each year prior to the AGM and are put forward for election at the AGM. When considering co-opting Trustees, the SWT Council has regard to the requirement for any specialist skills needed.

Trustee induction and training

New Trustees undergo an induction programme. During the induction, they meet the CEO and Senior Leadership Team (SLT), and other employees, and gain an understanding of their legal obligations with regards to charity and company law, the Articles of Association and the structure of the committee system. They are advised of appropriate Trustee training courses and are encouraged to attend.

Trustee review and evaluation

During the year, we undertook an internal evaluation of our governance which used the National Council for Voluntary Organisation's (NCVO) governance wheel tool which uses the seven Charity Governance Code principles as performance measures. Whilst the findings affirmed good practice across most of the principles, it did highlight a need to strengthen our work on diversity, which is now a strategic aim and has been included as a target area of focus for future recruitment by the Governance & Nominations Committee.

Environmental, social and corporate governance

We ensure our conservation work has the maximum benefit for wildlife in Sussex. We protect and restore natural habitats for both people and wildlife. However, to ensure we have the greatest positive impact, we aim to reduce our environmental

footprint through our systems, policies and ways of working, and undertake best practice as an employer to support our staff and volunteers in delivering their roles. This includes:

1 Environmental

- Working with Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts (RSWT) to report annually using the Green House Gas Protocol to calculate our organisations emissions
- Working to a SWT carbon emission reduction action plan
- Carrying out risk assessments (national framework) for all buildings and nature reserves

2 Social

- Working to industry best practice Health and Safety protocols and aiming for a culture of continuous improvement
- Employee benefits including above statutory sick pay, annual leave allowances and pension provision
- Staff consultation forms a key part of decision making
- Working to improve diversity within our staff and volunteer teams

3 Governance

- Working with the Charity Governance Code to develop high standards of integrity and accountability
- Developing our Trustee recruitment and induction processes to promote wider diversity and inclusion
- Regular Trustee skills audits with recruitment, linked to identified skills gaps to ensure succession planning

Remuneration of Senior Leadership Team

Trustees delegate the management of SWT to the CEO. The CEO heads a Senior Leadership Team which includes operational Directors. These are considered to be the key management personnel of the Trust. Remuneration for the SLT is reviewed annually and includes a benchmark review of all 46 Wildlife Trusts and where available, other similar sized charities operating in the southeast, managing similar levels of operational complexity.

The Wildlife Trusts partnership

SWT is a member of The Wildlife Trusts Partnership (registered as the Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts, registered charity number 207238) which acts as an umbrella body carrying out lobbying and public relations on behalf of all Wildlife Trusts. The charity has the use of The Wildlife Trusts logo and benefits from the resources, best practice and speciality experience of other member Trusts. Membership gives us a national voice and profile, as well as being known by association for those unfamiliar with our particular work. However, each member of the partnership remains entirely independent in terms of governance and operations.

Reference and Administrative Details

Charity name: Sussex Wildlife Trust

Charity number: 207005

Company number: 00698851

Registered and Principal Office Address:
Woods Mill, Henfield, West Sussex, BN5 9SD

Auditor:

Price Bailey LLP
Causeway House
1 Dane Street
Bishop's Stortford
Herts
CM23 3BT

A resolution to appoint auditors to the charitable company will be proposed at the Annual General Meeting.

Bank:

Barclays PLC
The Old Bank
High Street
Lewes
East Sussex
BN7 2JP

CAF Bank
30 Old Broad Street
London
EC2N 1HT

Directors and Trustees:

The Directors of the charitable company (the Charity) are its Trustees for the purposes of charity law and throughout this report are collectively referred to as the Trustees.

The elected Trustees serving during the year and since the year-end were as follows:

Nitin Pasricha	<i>Chair of Council</i>
Linda Clark	<i>Vice Chair (until 17th February 2025)</i>
Andrew Clinton	<i>Secretary and Vice Chair (from 18th February 2025)</i>
Mark Braithwaite	<i>Treasurer and Chair of the Finance, Audit & Risk Committee</i>
Martin Kyndt	<i>Chair of the Governance & Nominations Committee</i>
Helen Marshall	<i>Chair of the Strategy Implementation Committee (from 1st May 2025)</i>
Dr Sean Ashworth	
Sarah Bonnôt	<i>until 7th March 2025</i>
Danielle Harvey	
Mark Mallalieu	
Louise McLoughlin	
David Plummer	
Dr Alan Stewart	<i>until 31st January 2025</i>

President

Dr Tony Whitbread

Vice Presidents

Mr Robin Crane CBE Dr Lisbet Rausing

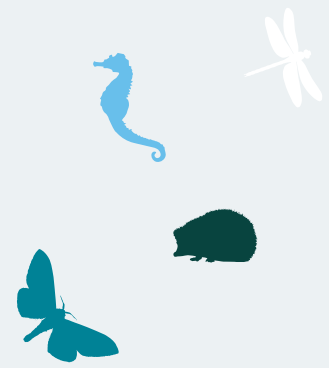
Mr David Streeter OBE

Senior Leadership Team

Chris Corrigan	<i>CEO</i>
Henri Brocklebank	<i>Director - Conservation</i>
Angela Croucher	<i>Director - Finance & Operations</i>
Nikki Hills	<i>Director - Communities</i>
Maria Jonsson	<i>Director - Change Management (until 31st March 2025)</i>
Caroline Pearce	<i>Director - Fundraising and Communications</i>



Financial Review



Despite the on-going challenges of our external political and funding environment, and due to the generosity of our supporters and proactive cost control, SWT's financial performance has been strong this year, with a surplus of £558k.

Total income for the year increased against last year to an impressive £7.2m (a 4% increase against last year's £6.95m). We had another good year of legacy income (£1.6m), but also generated appeal income (for our species recovery work), secured additional grant income for our nature reserves, particularly for the Pevensy wetlands, generated additional donation income and achieved greater retail income at our Rye Harbour Discovery Centre (increased by 18%). Unrestricted income stayed at the same level of £5.5m (compared to £5.5m in 2023/24) and restricted income rose to £1.7m (£1.4m for last financial year).

We continued our focus on delivering the strategy and generating interest in our work, recruitment of members and supporters and other fundraising activities, and achieved larger visitor numbers at our Rye Harbour Discovery Centre, all of which helped support our unrestricted income for the year. We are indebted to those who have remembered us in their wills and are grateful for their huge generosity, which helps support our continued work with nature and communities in Sussex. We have increased the spending on raising funds to £1.2m (2023/24 £1.1m) and running the Rye Harbour Discovery Centre to £824k (2023/24 £591k). The increases in these areas of work are primarily linked to the costs of recruiting more new members and an increase in the number of staff and resources needed in the Discovery Centre to help provide an excellent visitor experience to a growing number of visitors.

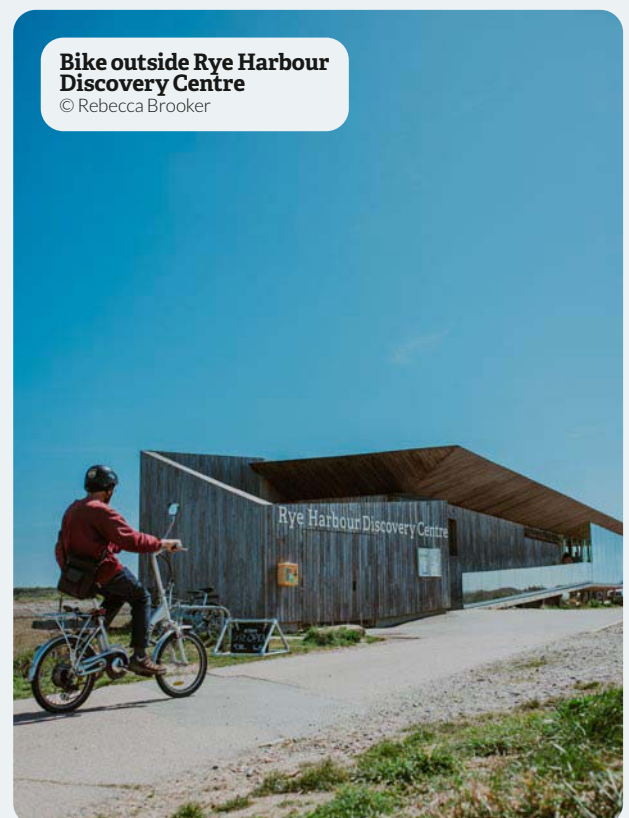
Our expenditure increased in 2024/25 to £6.7m (2023/24 £5.7m), mainly due to the extensive conservation work at our Pevensy Levels nature reserve and the investment in staff capacity required to deliver our new strategy. In addition, we also made essential investment in our digital transformation and skills and capabilities enabling priorities. Our unrestricted expenditure rose by 18% to £5.2m (£4.4m for 2023/24) and our restricted expenditure of £1.5m increased against last year (£1.3m for 2023/24) and covered expenditure related to our grant funded activities and nature reserves.

We still hope to make another significant land purchase during the year ahead to add to our recent purchase of the extension to our Ebernoe Common nature reserve. Other capital expenditure included an investment in electric

and hybrid vehicles and increased charging infrastructure capability at two of our sites to ensure our future resilience and support to our net zero strategic goal.

As always, credit is due to the entire staff and leadership team for the determination and drive they have shown during the year, especially at a time of considerable change with the launch of the new strategic plan, implementation of new IT systems and considerable staff recruitment. Now that the organisation is aligned to delivering our strategy and three-year business plan, we can have confidence that we are delivering against our strategic goals with continued financial sustainability.

Having assessed these accounts and reviewed the income and expenditure forecast and three-year business plan, the Trustees consider the charity to be a going concern, on the basis that SWT has sufficient financial reserves to continue trading for the foreseeable future, including twelve months from the date of approval of these accounts.



Bike outside Rye Harbour Discovery Centre
© Rebecca Brooker

Financial performance highlights:

Total Income £7.23m (2023/24 £6.95m)

Unrestricted and Designated Income £5.5m (2023/24 £5.55m)

- Donations and public appeals totalled £288k (2023/24 £136k)
- Legacy income of £1.63m received during the year (2023/24 £1.98m)
- Charitable activities £815k (2023/24 £705k)

Restricted Income £1.73m (2023/24 £1.40m)

- Charitable activities £1.28m (2023/24 £1.32m)
- Donations and public appeal £38k (2023/24 £135k)

Total expenditure £6.68m (2023/24 £5.72m)

Raising Funds £1.2m (2023/24 £1.1m)

Rye Harbour Discovery Centre £824k (2023/24 £591k)

Charitable Activities £4.61m (2023/24 £4.03m)

Membership

We saw an overall increase in membership numbers in 2024-25 of 316 memberships. This was due to an improvement in retention and good performance in both digital and face-to-face membership recruitment. We also ended the year with an additional 349 individual members, which represents an increase of 0.91% compared to a 0.46% reduction in the previous year. Income from membership was £1,987,441, a similar level to the previous year. On 31st March 2025, the number of members was 38,313 (2023/24 37,964).

Designated Funds Allocated

Expenditure during the year was mainly for the Sussex Biodiversity Record Centre and Local Wildlife Site staffing and other expenditure. For the year ahead we have identified crucial areas of investment for us to achieve our strategic aims and have also created a land purchase fund of £600k which will kick start our future acquisition ambitions.

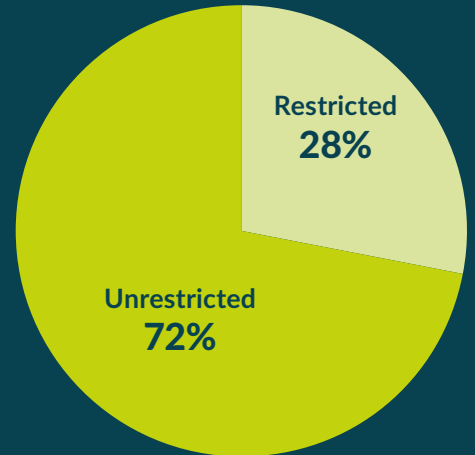
Capital Projects

SWT invested in three new electric and hybrid vehicles which have replaced older, higher carbon emission vehicles which had come to the end of their useful life. Other items of expenditure involved necessary computer and plant and machinery upgrades.

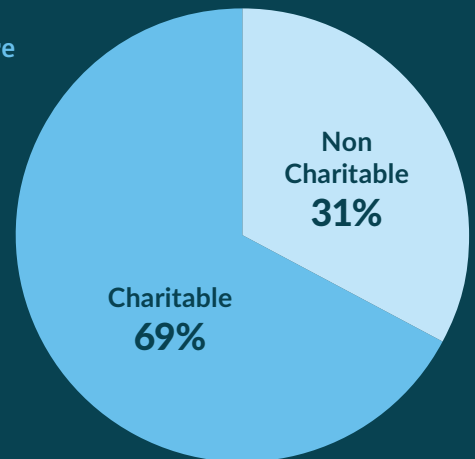
Retained Funds £15.4m (2023/24 £14.8m)

Our total funds at year-end were £15.4m, of which £4.6m are restricted funds and £10.8m unrestricted funds. Unrestricted funds include funds tied up in tangible and heritage assets, funds set aside for specific designated projects and readily usable funds of £2.6m, including cash of £1.7m.

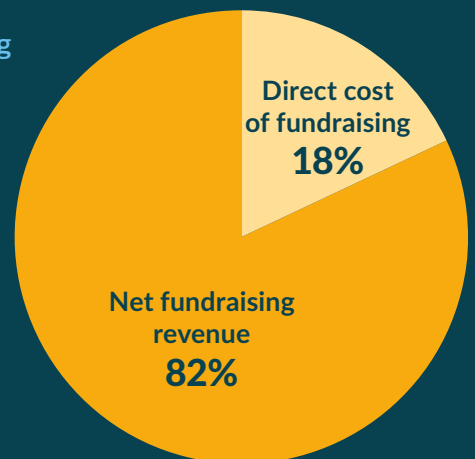
Income



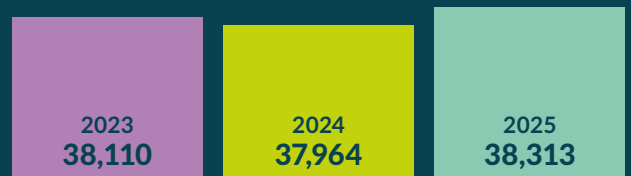
Expenditure



Fundraising Revenue



Member numbers



Details of all our income can be found on page 26 of the Annual Accounts.

Principal Risks and Uncertainties

Trustees have prioritised the management of risk in view of the ongoing economic challenges of increasing costs and economic uncertainty. There has been a further review of the risk register to ensure the principal risks are clear and can be managed.

Examples of mitigation undertaken include:

Financial

- Continuing to improve cost control throughout the year, improving delegated spending authorities, developing budget training and providing more accurate forecasting aligned to our delivery.
- Improving the quality, regularity, and accessibility of our financial information to improve cashflow management and decision making. A three-year business plan has been developed, alongside the strategic plan, to ensure financial sustainability.

Compliance

- A continued review and strengthening of project management processes, controls, and ways of working. This allowed SWT to continue to proceed with confidence on projects and programmes such as kelp restoration and habitat restoration on Pevensey Levels.
- Ensuring a culture of compliance adherence and Health and Safety Action Plans are in place, developing a process of internal audit monitored through the Health & Safety Management Committee with regular reports to the Senior Leadership Team and Council.
- Updated Safeguarding Policies and Procedures and a nominated and trained staff/trustee team in place.

Other risks

- Ensuring relevant changes to management practice are adopted regarding wildfire control and management.
- Ensuring the implications of climate change are factored into the preparation of all new reserve management plans.

Financial reserves policy

During the year, the Trustees reviewed the financial reserves policy in line with current Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) requirements and relevant guidance. The revised policy, in place at the end of the financial year, is:

'The reserves policy requires unrestricted reserves to be maintained at a level which would allow the core work and activity of SWT to continue during a period of unforeseen difficulty and also provide us with opportunities to invest in line with our strategic priorities which includes potential land purchases. The reserves are held in a readily useable form; that is readily available or convertible to cash should the need arise.

The calculation of the reserves level is an integral part of the regular financial management, monitoring, and budgeting process. It considers items on the risk register, the financial cost of mitigating risks, variability, and the potential for fluctuation of budgeted income and expenditure levels, SWT's future commitments and potential strategic initiatives including land purchase. The main risks to income and expenditure are highlighted and a calculation made of the financial consequences of adverse movements. Our current calculation indicates a minimum reserve level of £2.1m.'

At year-end our readily useable reserves were £2.6m. At this level, the Trustees feel that we would be able to continue our current activities in the event of a significant drop in funding.

Investment powers and policy

Under the Articles of Association, the charity has the power to deposit or invest funds. The investment policy is:

- To invest those surplus funds not required for immediate use
- To obtain a reasonable income, liquidity and capital preservation from those funds, given prevailing market returns
- To invest only as permitted by the investment powers of SWT as set out in the Articles of Association

During the year, SWT has continued to retain the majority of its funds on deposit and the Trustees are of the opinion that this policy has been a prudent one. The Trustees review the investment policy from time to time, but given our ongoing obligations, it has not been felt appropriate to change this approach in the past year.

Professional Fundraising Practices

Sussex Wildlife Trust uses third party agencies to fundraise on its behalf for specific campaigns. In this financial year, this included a third party for recruiting new members to the organisation through private site face-to-face fundraising and a third party for recruiting new members through telephone fundraising. The charity has agreements in place with its partners to ensure that the legal requirements regulating fundraising practices are adhered to.

Council regularly reviews fundraising regulation compliance. Sussex Wildlife Trust is an organisational member of the Institute of Fundraising and is registered with the Fundraising Regulator. Sussex Wildlife Trust and its third-party agencies comply with the Fundraising Regulator's Code of Fundraising Practice and are signed up to its Fundraising Promise. Sussex Wildlife Trust and its third-party agencies follow the sector's guidance on protecting vulnerable people. Our Complaints Procedure complies with the requirements of the Fundraising Regulator, and during the financial year, we received 12 (2023/24 12) complaints about fundraising activity.

Trustees' responsibilities in relation to the financial statements

The Trustees (who are also Directors of Sussex Wildlife Trust Limited for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

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

- Select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently
- Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- State whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis, unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business

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

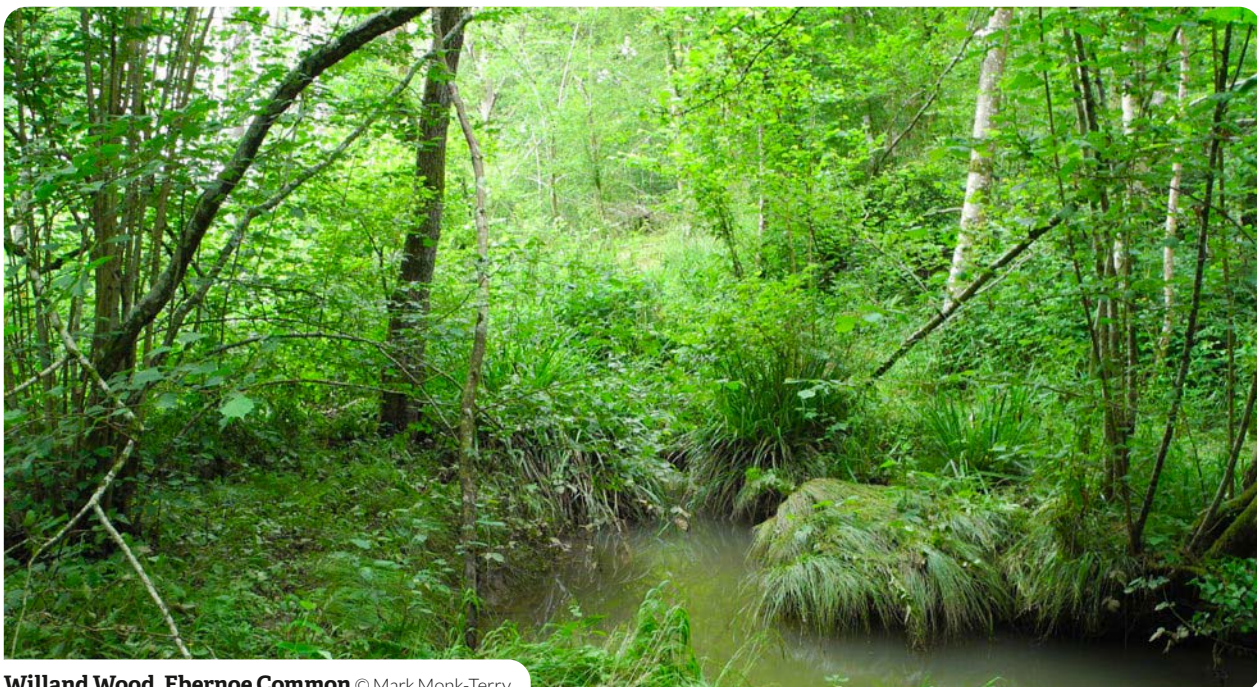
In so far as the Trustees are aware:

- There is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditor is unaware
- The Trustees have taken all reasonable steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information

The Trustees' Annual Report is approved by order of the Council of Trustees and the Strategic Report included therein is approved by the Council of Trustees in their capacity as Directors at a meeting on 17th September 2025 and signed on their behalf by:

On behalf of the Trustees

Mr N Pasricha *Chair*
Woods Mill, Henfield, BN5 9SD



Willand Wood, Ebernoe Common © Mark Monk-Terry

Independent Auditors' Report to the Members of Sussex Wildlife Trust

for the Year ended 31 March 2025

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Sussex Wildlife Trust (the charitable company) for the year ended 31 March 2025 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Cashflow Statement and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is 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).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2025, and of the 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 Companies Act 2006.

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 charitable company 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 charitable company'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.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the trustees' annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. 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. 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 course of 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.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the Trustees' Report, which includes the Strategic Report and the Director's Report prepared for the purposes of company law, for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Strategic Report and the Director's Report included within the Report of the Trustees has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Strategic Report or the Director's Report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate and proper accounting records have not been kept by the charitable company, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the charitable company's financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of directors' 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 trustees' responsibilities statement, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) 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 charitable company'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 charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under the Companies Act 2006 and report in accordance with regulations made under those Acts.

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.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above,

to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

We gained an understanding of the legal and regulatory framework applicable to the charitable company and the sector in which it operates and considered the risk of the charitable company not complying with the applicable laws and regulations including fraud in particular those that could have a material impact on the financial statements. This included those regulations directly related to the financial statements, including financial reporting and tax legislation. In relation to the operations of the charitable company, this included compliance with the Companies Act 2006, Charities Act 2011, and SORP 2019.

The risks were discussed with the audit team, and we remained alert to any indications of non-compliance through the audit. We carried out specific procedures to address the risks identified. These included the following:

Reviewing minutes of Board meetings, reviewing any correspondence with the Charity Commission, agreeing the financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documentation, and enquiries of management and officers of the charitable company. We have also reviewed the procedures in place for the reporting of any incidents to the Trustee Board including serious incident reporting of these matters as necessary with the Charity Commission.

To address the risk of management override of controls, we carried out testing of journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness. We reviewed systems and procedures to identify potential areas of management override risk. We also assessed management bias in relation to the accounting policies adopted and in determining significant accounting estimates.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the FRC's website at: <https://www.frc.org.uk/auditors/audit-assurance/auditor-s-responsibilities-for-the-audit-of-the-fi/description-of-the-auditor%E2%80%99s-responsibilities-for>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006, and to the charitable company's trustees. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members and trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's 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 charitable company, the charitable company's members as a body and the charitable company's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Suzanne Goldsmith FCA
(Senior Statutory Auditor)

For and on behalf of:
Price Bailey LLP
Statutory Auditor
Causeway House
1 Dane Street
Bishop's Stortford
Hertfordshire, CM23 3BT

Date: 29 October 2025



Corkwing Wrasse
© Paul Parsons

Statement of Financial Activities

Company Number: 00698851

for the Year ended 31 March 2025 (including Income and Expenditure Account)

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Total Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2024 £
Income from:						
Donations and legacies	2	3,499,899	445,922	-	3,945,821	4,191,013
Other trading activities	3	740,434	11,540	-	751,974	665,862
Investments – including cash	4	157,919	-	-	157,919	68,552
Charitable activities	5	815,781	1,275,821	286,633	2,378,235	2,025,392
Total income		5,214,033	1,733,283	286,633	7,233,949	6,950,819
Expenditure on:						
Raising funds	6	1,244,910	-	-	1,244,910	1,102,257
Rye Harbour Discovery Centre	6	824,078	-	-	824,078	590,871
Charitable activities	7	2,846,799	1,482,698	277,509	4,607,006	4,025,679
Total expenditure		4,915,787	1,482,698	277,509	6,675,994	5,718,808
Net income		298,247	250,585	9,124	557,955	1,232,011
Transfers between funds	17	(931,695)	(355,694)	1,287,389	-	-
Net movement in funds		(633,448)	(105,109)	1,296,513	557,955	1,232,011
Reconciliation of funds						
Balances brought forward at 1 April 2024		10,073,736	4,699,701	27,055	14,800,491	13,568,480
Balances carried forward at 31 March 2025		9,440,288	4,594,592	1,323,568	15,358,446	14,800,491

The notes on pages 29 to 45 form part of these financial statements

Balance Sheet

at 31 March 2025

Company Number: 00698851

	Notes	2025 £	2024 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	12	5,244,988	5,413,257
Heritage assets	12	3,938,960	3,927,199
Investments	13	100	100
Total fixed assets		9,184,048	9,340,556
Current assets			
Stock		26,305	31,828
Biological assets	14	288,950	306,470
Debtors	15	1,141,321	2,145,500
Cash at bank and in hand		5,104,971	3,378,983
Total current assets		6,561,547	5,862,782
Liabilities			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	16	387,149	402,847
Net current assets		6,174,398	5,459,936
Total net assets		15,358,446	14,800,491
Funds			
Unrestricted		9,440,287	10,073,736
Restricted		4,594,592	4,699,700
Designated		1,323,568	27,055
Total funds	19	15,358,446	14,800,491

The financial statements were approved by the Council of Trustees and authorised for issue on 17th September 2025 and signed on their behalf by:



Mr N. Pasricha
Chair



Mr M Braithwaite
Treasurer

The notes on pages 29 to 45 form part of these financial statements

Cashflow Statement

Year ended 31 March 2025

	Notes	2025	2024
		£	£
Net cash from operating activities			
Operating activities	a)	1,934,792	545,008
<hr/>			
Cash flows from investing activities			
Dividends, interest and rents from investments		157,919	68,552
Proceeds from sale of tangible fixed assets		250	-
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		(51,133)	(210,860)
<hr/>			
Net cash from investing activities		(208,802)	(142,308)
<hr/>			
Raising funds			
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period	b)	1,725,990	402,700

Notes to the cash flow statement

a) Reconciliation of net incoming resources to net cash flow from operating activities	2025	2024
	£	£
Net (expenditure) for the reporting period	557,955	1,232,011
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation	208,294	226,081
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	(157,919)	(68,552)
Profit on sale of fixed assets	(250)	-
Impairment of fixed assets	(651)	-
(Increase)/Decrease in stock	5,523	(7,889)
(Increase)/Decrease in biological assets	17,520	(26,647)
(Increase)/Decrease in trade and other debtors	1,004,179	(852,947)
Increase/(Decrease) in trade and other creditors	(15,697)	42,951
<hr/>		
Net cash provided by operating activities	1,934,792	545,008

b) Analysis of changes in cash and cash equivalents	2025	2024
	£	£
Balance at 1st April	3,378,981	2,976,281
Net cash inflow in the year	1,725,990	402,700
<hr/>		
Balance at 31st March	5,104,971	3,378,981

The notes on pages 29 to 45 form part of these financial statements

Notes to the Accounts

31 March 2025

1. Accounting Policies

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty in the preparation of the financial statements are as follows:

a) Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities:

Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019) – (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Sussex Wildlife Trust (“SWT”) is a company limited by guarantee and has no share capital. In the event of the charity being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member of the charity. Sussex Wildlife Trust meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes.

As at 31 March 2025 the Sussex Wildlife Trust has £15.3m in Total Net Assets including £5.1m Cash at Bank of which £2.4m is restricted funding for future years’ project activity. The Trustees have considered the appropriateness of the going concern assumption for the preparation of the financial statements, based on forecasts covering the period of twelve months from the date of approval of the financial statements to September 2025.

b) Income

Income is recognised in the period in which the charity is entitled to receive it, and that the receipt of said income is measurable, and probable. Income is deferred only when the charity has to fulfil conditions before becoming entitled to it or is subject to unmet conditions wholly outside its control.

Grants from local authorities and other agencies have been included as income from activities in furtherance of the charity’s objects where these amount to a contract for services, but as donations where the money is given in response to an appeal or with greater freedom of use.

Receipt of a legacy, in whole or in part, is only recognized when its receipt is considered probable, when the amount can be measured reliably and the charity is entitled to the amount. Where legacies have been notified to the charity

or the charity is aware of the granting of probate, and the criteria for income recognition have not been met, the legacy is disclosed as a contingent asset.

Subscriptions are dealt with on a cash receipts basis.

Subscriptions of life members are included as a liability on the Balance Sheet in accordance with the SORP. One twentieth of this is transferred to income each year. Corporate Support includes annual subscriptions, sponsorship and donations received, while advertising revenue is generated through SWT’s Wildlife magazine produced twice each year.

Investment income is recognised on a receivable basis, where the amount can be measured reliably.

c) Expenditure

Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis when a liability is incurred and there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment. While payments are in respect of a future period they are categorised as such.

- Raising funds includes expenditure on the recruitment of new members, the employee costs of the membership departments, the costs of the annual appeal and the administration costs of the membership department together with publicity costs and legacy development.
- Rye Harbour Discovery Centre costs include the total costs of running the shop, cafe and Visitor Centre and the depreciation costs associated with the building.
- Charitable activities include expenditure associated with the main objects of the charity – these are wildlife conservation, public awareness, the management of nature reserves and the collation of wildlife information.
- Support Costs represent the cost of staff and overheads incurred in providing centralised services for the charity at its offices at Woods Mill premises and include the finance, human resources, office services departments and buildings maintenance. Support costs are allocated to departments on the basis of staff numbers.

d) Donated services and volunteers

Where services are provided to the charity as a donation that would normally be purchased from suppliers this contribution is recognised as income when the charity has control over the item, any conditions associated with the donated item have been met, the receipt of economic benefit from the use by the charity of the item is probable and that economic benefit can be measured reliably.

Volunteers play a critical role in SWT and contribute substantial time to its work. However, in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102), volunteer time is not recognised in these financial statements.

e) Tangible fixed assets

SWT's interests in tangible fixed assets other than land designated as nature reserves are stated at cost with an allowance for depreciation as stated below. Individual IT fixed assets costing £500 or more are capitalised at cost, for other asset classes this rises to £1,000. Assets under construction are not depreciated until the asset is in use.

f) Heritage assets

SWT's interests in land designated as nature reserves are stated at cost; these have been classified as heritage assets and are held by SWT in pursuit of its conservation objectives. Valuations are made by professional valuers – the Valuation Office Agency – and any gifts of land will be treated as heritage assets and will be included at valuation. No depreciation is charged on nature reserves.

g) Investments

SWT had no Equity investments during the year other than its investment in its subsidiary company Sussex Wildlife Enterprises Ltd. which was dormant throughout the current year and the previous year.

h) Depreciation

Tangible fixed assets are depreciated on a straight line basis over their estimated useful lives as follows:

Land	Nil
Buildings, car park & services	2-10%
Temporary structures, fencing, etc.	20%
Motor vehicles	20%
Furniture, fixtures and equipment	20%
Bird Hides	10%

i) Stock

Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

j) Livestock (biological assets)

Livestock is stated at fair value less estimated costs to sell in accordance with the fair value model in FRS 102. Movements in fair value are taken to the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) in the year in which they arise. Fair value is based upon the estimation of sales from the land management team and is considered by the Trustees to be fair reflection of the estimated value at the year end.

k) Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available to spend on activities that further any of the purposes of the charity.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds of the charity which the Trustees have decided at their discretion to set aside to use for a specific purpose. Restricted funds are donations which the donor has specified are to be solely

used for particular areas of the Charity's work. The funds held in each of these categories are disclosed in Note 17.

l) Pension schemes

The employees of SWT are eligible to join the Royal London Wildlife Trust Group Pension Scheme. This is a defined contribution scheme. Employees contributions will be enhanced by a contribution from SWT which is at least twice the employee contribution. Contributions are charged to the SOFA as they become payable in accordance with the scheme rules.

The Wildlife Trust category 5 Scheme is a multi-employer defined benefit scheme administered for the benefit of Wildlife Trusts and is managed in accordance with the Pensions Act 2004 Regulations.

The Trustees are unable to confirm the charity's share of the underlying assets and liabilities of the Wildlife Trust Pension Scheme and therefore the Scheme is accounted for as a defined contribution scheme. As a result, the amount charged to the Statement of Financial Activities represents the contributions payable to the scheme in respect of the accounting period.

A liability is recognised by SWT, where material, for the charity's share of the deficit of the scheme as per the agreed schedule of contributions. The Trustee commissioned an out-of-cycle triennial valuation of the scheme on 1 April 2024 in response to the recent legal advice confirming that the scheme closed to future Defined Benefit accrual on 30 June 2011 (and not 30 September 2005 as originally understood and administered). Based upon this report the deficit contribution is £35,000 which is not material and therefore has not been accrued in these financial statements. Payments of £nil per month are due between 1 April 2025 and 31 March 2028 in relation to this historic liability and payments of £27.62 per month are due between 1 April 2028 and 31 March 2031.

m) Operating leases

In categorising leases as finance leases or operating leases, management makes judgements as to whether significant risks and rewards of ownership have transferred to the Company as lessee, or the lessee, where the company is a lessor.

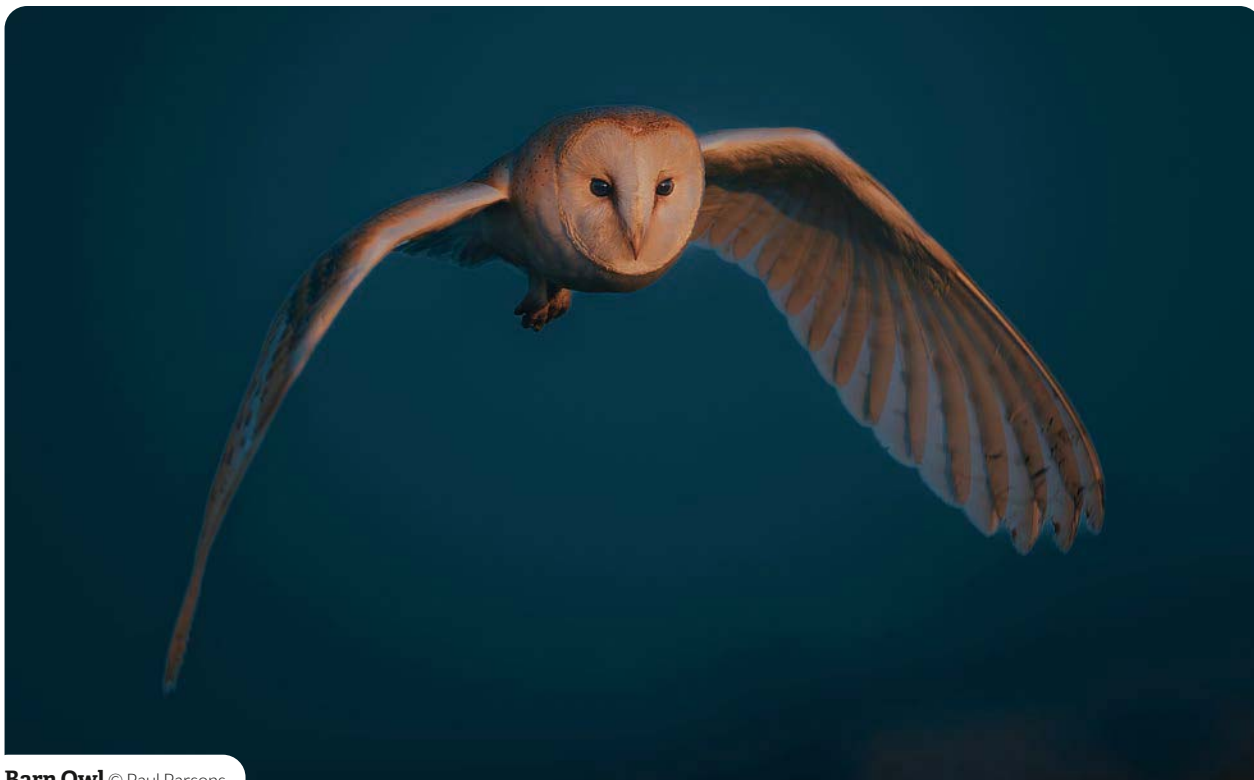
Rentals paid under operating leases are charged on a straight line basis over the life of the lease.

n) Nonrecoverable VAT

Where possible non-recoverable VAT is charged against the category of resource expended for which it was incurred. Otherwise it is charged to support costs.

o) Consolidation

The financial statements present information about the company as an individual undertaking and not about its group. The subsidiary undertaking is dormant.



Barn Owl © Paul Parsons

p) Cash at hand

Cash at bank includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with short maturity of twelve months or less.

q) Financial instruments

SWT would only have financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of fixed assets which are measured at cost less depreciation.

r) Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

A provision for impairment of trade debtors is established when there is evidence that the amounts due will not be collected according to the original terms of the contract. Impairment losses are recognised in the SOFA.

s) Creditors/liabilities

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

t) Taxation

The Charity is exempt from tax on income and gains falling within section 471 to 489 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 and is exempt from corporation tax to the extent that they are applied to its charitable objects.

u) Redundancy and termination payments

Expenditure required to settle an obligation for redundancy and termination benefits is recognised as an expense when the charity is committed to terminate the employment of an employee, or provide redundancy and termination benefits.

v) Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

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 Charity makes estimates and assumptions concerning the future. The resulting accounting estimates and assumptions will, by definition, seldom equal the related actual results. The estimates and assumptions that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year are discussed below:

The only estimate and assumptions that have significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities are those relating to legacy income. Estimates are based upon probability and measurability following guidelines outlined in the Charities SORP.

Income and endowments from:

2 Donations and legacies	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Designated funds	2025 TOTAL	2024 TOTAL
	£	£	£	£	£
a. Income from members	1,987,441	-	-	1,987,441	1,986,575
b. Donations	185,206	37,690	-	222,896	145,186
c. Legacies	1,224,786	408,232	-	1,633,018	1,933,915
d. Public appeals	102,466	-	-	102,466	125,337
	3,499,899	445,922	-	3,945,821	4,191,013

3 Other trading activities

a. Corporate support	17,777	11,540	-	29,317	11,855
b. Other fundraising income	1,169	-	-	1,169	44,089
c. Rye Harbour Discovery Centre	721,488	-	-	721,488	609,917
	740,434	11,540	-	751,974	665,862

4 Investments

a. Deposit interest	157,919	-	-	157,919	68,552
	157,919	-	-	157,919	68,552

5 Charitable activities
Restore and protect at least 30% of Sussex

a. Project grants	155,289	384,059	-	539,347	230,144
b. Rents, grazing income, sales of meat and timber	41,574	-	-	41,574	67,311
c. Grants and stewardship income	485,364	608,638	-	1,094,002	672,497
d. Other income	2,023	-	-	2,023	6,231
	684,249	992,697	-	1,676,946	976,182

Connect people with nature

e. Grants and income	-	254,369	-	254,369	551,081
f. Schools, events and courses	131,532	5,734	-	137,266	155,106
	131,532	260,103	-	391,635	706,187

Retain and develop a strong evidence base

g. Project grants and income	-	23,022	286,633	309,654	343,022
	-	23,022	286,633	309,654	343,022

Total income from charitable activities	815,781	1,275,821	286,633	2,378,235	2,025,392
TOTAL INCOME	5,214,033	1,733,283	286,633	7,233,949	6,950,819

Last year's total income of £6,950,819 was made up of £5,546,648 unrestricted, £1,404,171 restricted split between the following:

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £
Donations and legacies	4,107,235	83,778
Other trading	665,862	-
Investments	68,552	-
Charitable activities	704,999	1,320,393
Other	-	-

The Sussex Wildlife Trust has benefited from a small number of government grants and financial contributions during the year that support our conservation activity. The funding received, incorporates levels of conditional service and supports the management of our nature reserves.

During the year this amounted to:	2025 £	2024 £
Single Farm Payment	63,398	85,060
Higher Level Stewardship grant income	485,912	324,174

Expenditure on:

6 Raising funds

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Designated funds £	2025 TOTAL £	2024 TOTAL £
a. Staff costs	327,675	-	-	327,675	341,004
b. Membership promotion	333,021	-	-	333,021	325,648
c. Interpretation and website development	1,131	-	-	1,131	13,108
d. Other fundraising costs	43,590	-	-	43,590	51,116
e. Allocated support costs	539,494	-	-	539,494	371,381
	1,244,910	-	-	1,244,910	1,102,257
Rye Harbour Discovery Centre	824,078	-	-	824,078	590,872



Forest School circle © Roz Bassford

7 Charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Designated funds £	2025 TOTAL £	2024 TOTAL £
Restore and protect at least 30% of Sussex					
a. Staff costs	648,262	277,370	-	925,632	910,201
b. Conservation work	450,226	747,690	-	1,197,916	695,287
c. Depreciation and other costs	65,018	33,810	-	98,828	122,442
d. Allocated support costs	586,700	-	-	586,700	471,181
	1,750,206	1,058,870	-	2,809,076	2,199,111
Connect people with nature					
e. Staff costs	439,928	265,679	-	705,607	667,874
f. Interpretation, education and other costs	40,385	135,128	-	175,512	314,223
g. Depreciation	56,556	-	-	56,556	56,169
h. Allocated support costs	387,761	-	-	387,761	353,386
	924,630	400,807	-	1,325,436	1,391,651
Retain and develop a strong evidence base					
i. Staff costs	-	22,714	223,238	245,953	271,796
j. Depreciation	-	-	2,437	2,437	1,194
k. Data recording	-	-	35,099	35,099	38,472
l. Other costs	-	307	16,735	17,043	5,659
m. Allocated support costs	171,964	-	-	171,964	117,795
	171,964	23,022	277,509	472,494	434,916
Total expenditure on charitable activities	2,846,799	1,482,698	277,509	4,607,006	4,025,679
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	4,915,787	1,482,698	277,509	6,675,994	5,718,809

Last year's total expenditure of £5,718,809 was made up of £4,362,717 unrestricted, £1,333,145 restricted and £22,946 designated, split between the following:

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Designated £
Raising funds	1,080,634	16,716	4,907
Rye Harbour Discovery Centre	590,872	-	-
Charitable activities	2,691,211	1,316,429	18,039
	4,362,717	1,333,145	22,946

Trustees' Liability Insurance

SWT pays an annual insurance premium to:

- protect the charity from loss arising from the defaults of its Trustees, employees or agents
- indemnify the Trustees or other officers against the consequences of any act or default on their part

8 Allocation of support cost

SWT allocates its support costs as shown in the table below and then further apports those costs between the three charitable activities undertaken. The costs of our Nature Reserves operations have been incorporated into our strategic transformation 'Restore & protect at least 30% of Sussex' and last year's allocations have also therefore been re-stated.

Support costs are allocated on the basis of staff numbers per department and where appropriate a percentage of time worked.

	Charitable activities			Charitable activities Total £	Raising funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
	Restore & protect at least 30% of Sussex £	Connect people with nature £	Retain & develop a strong evidence base £				
Management and central overheads	202,914	134,110	59,475	396,499	186,588	583,087	560,320
Finance department	67,554	44,648	19,800	132,003	62,119	194,122	100,354
Information technology	70,139	46,356	20,558	137,053	64,495	201,548	182,166
Human resources	65,035	42,983	19,062	127,080	59,802	186,882	105,822
General administration	84,540	55,874	24,779	165,193	77,738	242,931	108,685
Health and Safety/Buildings maintenance	69,123	45,685	20,260	135,068	63,561	198,629	191,800
Governance	27,394	18,105	8,029	53,529	25,190	78,719	59,690
	586,699	387,761	171,964	1,146,424	539,494	1,685,918	1,308,837

Restated for 2024

	Charitable activities			Charitable activities Total £	Raising funds £	Total 2024 £
	Restore & protect at least 30% of Sussex £	Connect people with nature £	Retain & develop a strong evidence base £			
Management and central overheads	201,715	151,286	50,429	403,430	156,890	560,320
Finance department	36,128	27,096	9,031	72,255	28,099	100,354
Information technology	65,580	49,185	16,395	131,160	51,006	182,166
Human resources	38,096	28,572	9,524	76,192	29,630	105,822
General administration	39,127	29,345	9,782	78,254	30,432	108,686
Health and Safety/Buildings maintenance	69,048	51,786	17,262	138,096	53,704	191,800
Governance	21,489	16,116	5,372	42,977	16,712	59,689
	471,183	353,386	117,795	942,364	366,473	1,308,837

9 Staff costs

	2025 £	2024 £
Analysis of staff costs		
Salaries and wages	2,949,846	2,666,588
Social security costs	275,178	236,649
Pension costs	177,349	155,086
Redundancy and termination costs	43,095	18,380
	3,445,469	3,076,703

Salary band	2025	2024
£80-90k	2	-
More than £60k	2	2

These employees were all in Key management personnel.

The Key management personnel received in total £434,671.85 (2024: £425,681) in employee benefits, including pension contributions.

Employer's National Insurance paid £48,147(2024: £46,574)

Staff numbers

The average number of employees was 111 (2024: 110) with an average FTE of 83 (2024: 83)

	2025	2024
Management FTE	6	6
Other FTE	77	77

Other costs

In the current and prior year no travel, subsistence or training expenses were reimbursed to Trustees.

One Trustee was remunerated in the current year as a tutor in Adult Education to the value of £1,020.

10 Pension costs

Pension contributions

The pension charge shown in the accounts is the amount payable by the Trust during the financial year. It is analysed as follows:

	2025	2024
	£	£
Category 5 – Defined Benefit scheme	3,888	3,766
Total contributions to The Wildlife Trusts' Pension Scheme	3,888	3,766
Category 1 – Life assurance only (Standard Life)	-	-
Standard Life Stakeholder Pension scheme	23,720	27,940
Royal London Group Pension scheme	153,786	127,216
Life Assurance Costs	6,402	5,152
	187,797	164,074

Pension contribution liabilities

The following pension contributions were payable at the year-end and are included within creditors:

	2025	2024
	£	£
Royal London Group Pension scheme	15,242	15,242
Standard Life Stakeholder Pension scheme	4,811	4,811
	20,053	20,053

11 Net income/(expenditure) for the year

This is stated after charging:

	2025	2024
	£	£
Operating lease rentals	17,837	49,861
Depreciation	208,294	226,081
Auditors remuneration in respect of:		
Price Bailey LLP: Audit services	28,500	24,917
Price Bailey LLP: Non audit services	-	3,500
Profit on sale of assets	250	-



Violet Ground Beetle © Derek Middleton

12 Tangible and heritage fixed assets

Cost	Land and buildings £	Furniture, fixtures and equipment £	Plant & Machinery £	Motor vehicles £	Assets under construction £	Total tangible assets £	Heritage Assets £	TOTAL £
At 1 April 2024	6,297,077	380,812	124,393	308,367	-	7,110,650	3,927,199	11,037,849
Historical adjustments	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Additions	-	21,958	-	29,175	-	51,133	-	51,133
Disposals	-	(23,623)	-	(14,638)	-	(38,261)	-	(38,261)
Impairment	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Movement from L&B to HA	(11,761)	-	-	-	-	(11,761)	11,761	-
At 31 March 2025	6,285,316	379,147	124,393	322,905	-	7,111,761	3,938,960	11,050,722
Depreciation								
At 1 April 2024	1,125,169	306,399	69,830	195,996	-	1,697,394	-	1,697,394
Historical adjustments	(817)	-	-	-	-	(817)	-	(817)
Charge for year	121,978	23,271	19,171	43,874	-	208,294	-	208,294
Disposals	-	(23,461)	-	(14,638)	-	(38,099)	-	(38,099)
At 31 March 2025	1,246,330	306,210	89,002	225,233	-	1,866,773	-	1,866,773
Net book value								
31 March 2025	5,038,986	72,937	35,391	97,672	-	5,244,988	3,938,960	9,183,949
Net book value								
31 March 2024	5,171,908	74,412	54,563	112,371	-	5,413,257	3,927,199	9,340,456

Gift of land

SWT has received no gifts of land during the year. (2024: £NIL).

Heritage assets

Heritage assets consist of land designated as nature reserves by SWT and acquired either by purchase, gift or lease. SWT currently owns, leases or manages 34 nature reserves, all classified as heritage assets, which have been acquired since the early 1960s and cover a total 1,763 hectares of Sussex downland, woodland, wetland, heath, meadow, and farmland. Many are Sites of Special Scientific Interest (21).

Included are five sites designated as nature reserves that were given to SWT between 1964 and 1981 for which no cost or conventional valuation is currently available.

A nature reserve will be considered for acquisition if:

- its ownership will enhance the viability or conservation value of an existing SWT reserve or simplify its management
- the land is required: 1) to demonstrate best conservation practice, 2) for education, 3) for the local community or, 4) to achieve a joint conservation project with other agencies
- ownership of the land will help to achieve one or more targets as set out in the Trust's Nature Reserves Acquisition Strategy

SWT maintains a register of title deeds for all nature reserves in its ownership and land management is carried out to pre-agreed management plans.

Disposal of any nature reserve will only be considered if the original objectives for ownership have been met or the site meets the Trust's Nature Reserves Acquisitions and Disposals Policy. The Trust has a policy of allowing open access to all its nature reserves unless this is impossible to achieve due to physical location or will compromise the Trust's conservation objectives.

Five year financial summary of heritage asset transactions

Purchases at cost or valuation	2025 £	2024 £	2023 £	2022 £	2021 £
Streels Lane	-	-	-	78,406	-
Willand Woods	-	-	-	413,026	-
Ebernoe Forest Copse	-	108,404	-	-	-
Total additions	-	108,404	-	491,432	-

There have been no disposals of heritage assets in any of the last five years and a small impairment of £132 which was made in 2022.

13 Fixed asset investments

Subsidiary company – Sussex Wildlife Enterprises Ltd.	2025	2024
	£	£
Cost		
At 31 March 2024 and at 31 March 2025	100	100
Net book value at 31 March 2024 and at 31 March 2025	100	100

SWT owns 100% of the ordinary share capital of Sussex Wildlife Enterprises Ltd, a company incorporated in the UK. The company has not traded since its incorporation.

14 Biological assets

	2025	2024
	£	£
Fair value at 1 April 2024	306,470	279,823
Purchases	6,900	3,850
Sales	(17,475)	(46,269)
Gain/(Loss)	(6,945)	69,066
Fair value at 31 March 2025	288,950	306,470

Livestock were valued during the year to 31 March 2025 at £1200 (Breeding Heifers) £700 Cull Cows and at £800 (Heifers) and £700 Yearlings per head of cattle. Sheep: at £120 (ewes), cull £60, and £200 (rams) per head. Goats: at £150 (Nanny and Billy) and £100 (Whether).

15 Debtors

	2025	2024
	£	£
Trade debtors	94,956	158,203
Other debtors	983,512	1,860,329
Prepayments	62,853	126,968
	1,141,321	2,145,500

16 Liabilities: amounts falling due within one year

	2024	2024
	£	£
Trade creditors	155,844	213,974
Other taxes and social security costs	74,792	57,819
Other creditors and accruals	68,426	82,485
Deferred income	68,455	27,903
Life membership subscriptions	19,633	20,666
	387,149	402,847

Deferred income:

Balance as at 1 April	27,903	27,903
Income recognised in the year	(27,903)	(16,203)
Income deferred in the year	68,455	16,203
Balance as at 31 March	68,455	27,903

Deferred income comprises memberships and charitable income received for use in future financial years.

17 Funds

	Balance 1 April 2024	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Balance 31 March 2025
	£	£	£	£	£
Restricted					
Nature reserves	2,324,238	-	-	-	2,324,238
Projects	2,375,462	1,733,284	1,482,697	(355,694)	2,270,354
	4,699,700	1,733,284	1,482,697	(355,694)	4,594,592
Designated	27,055	286,633	277,509	1,287,389	1,323,568
Unrestricted	10,073,736	5,214,033	4,915,788	(931,695)	9,440,287
Total all funds	14,800,491	7,233,950	6,675,994	-	15,358,446

	Balance 1 April 2024	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Balance 31 March 2025
	£	£	£	£	£
Analysis of restricted projects funds movements					
Behaviour Change	4,726	65	219	-	4,572
Brickfield Southern Water	6,400	-	-	-	6,400
Chalk Downland Fund	1,098,044	33,530	-	-	1,131,574
Community Ecologist Project	12,000	-	5,206	-	6,794
Creating Space & RSWT 30 by 30	9,120	-	-	(570)	9,690
Culvert Project at Rye Harbour	10,234	-	-	-	10,234
CIL (SDNPA) Iping Common	2,741	-	-	-	2,741
CIL (SDNPA) Levin Down	854	4,636	5,490	-	-
Woods Mill Nature Reserve	273	-	-	-	273
Deneway Nature Reserve	2,272	-	1,922	-	350
Ebernoe Woods Appeal	1,250	-	-	1,250	-
Friends of Gillham Wood	1,034	-	-	-	1,034
Friends of Rye Harbour	-	73,990	70,391	-	3,599
Gallus Trust	3,855	-	-	-	3,855
Gatwick Greenspace Partnership	41,813	100,261	104,520	-	37,553
LEI Butcherlands	-	25,100	25,100	-	-
Legacies	13,963	367,111	50,000	-	331,074
Lost Woods	-	17,129	17,129	-	-
Lottery 833 Club	-	5,630	-	-	5,630
National Highways Peveney Restoration	30	511,568	511,598	-	-
National Trust Changing Chalk	-	23,022	23,022	-	-
Natural Capital Sussex Nature Partnership	41,873	26,650	22,280	-	46,243
Owls In Mem Donation	-	6,700	-	-	6,700
People and Wildlife	10,261	-	-	-	10,261
Rapid Response Fund	20,791	-	-	-	20,791
RSWT Appeal 30 by 30	570	-	-	570	-
Rye Harbour Nature Reserve	10,588	-	10,588	-	-
Rye Harbour Discovery Centre	152,367	-	19,236	-	133,131
Rye Harbour Discovery Centre Operational Grant	1,937	83,598	85,535	-	-
Sea Changes Net recycling	-	3,540	1,080	-	2,460
Sussex Ornithological Society Heathland Improvements	-	(1,322)	(1,322)	-	-
Southerham Barn	20,670	-	19,042	-	1,628
Southern Water	14,413	-	-	-	14,413
Summer Appeal 20.21	5,954	-	5,954	-	-
Sussex Biodiversity Record Centre	255,628	-	-	255,628	-
Sussex Kelp Recovery Project	107,758	127,396	113,962	-	121,192
Sussex Local Wildlife Site Initiative	98,816	-	-	98,816	-
Sussex Wetlands Wilder Ouse	63,252	66,547	68,012	-	61,787

17 Funds continued

Analysis of restricted projects funds movements	Balance	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Balance
	1 April 2024				31 March 2025
	£	£	£	£	£
Species Recovery	32,089	57,034	41,344	-	47,779
The Leysdown Conservation Trust	47,108	40,000	59,326	-	27,781
TWT Next Door Nature	-	5,895	5,895	-	-
National Lottery Heritage Fund - Wild Coast Sussex	9,963	17,478	27,441	-	-
Wilder Horsham District	19,513	137,726	129,298	-	27,941
Winter Woodland Appeal	51,308	-	51,308	-	-
Winter Reserves Appeal	65,030	-	-	-	65,030
Wetlands Appeal 22	42,975	-	9,121	-	33,854
Woodland Legacy	93,987	-	-	-	93,987
	2,375,462	1,733,284	1,482,697	355,694	2,270,354

Restricted projects:

Behaviour Change Project Funded by Natural England: Looking at behaviour change in Nature Tots and Wildlife Watch.

Brickfield Southern Water: Compensation Payment from Southern Water for sewage leaks at Brickfield Meadow.

Chalk Downland Fund: To maintain, restore or purchase Sussex chalk downland.

CIL (SDNPA) Iping Common: Access improvements to Iping Common nature reserve.

CIL (SDNPA) Levin Down: Access Improvements to Levin Down nature reserve.

Community Ecologist Project: Funds for Providing Wildlife Advice to local communities.

Creating Space: Supporting Work in Ancient Woodlands.

Culvert Project at Rye Harbour: Funding from Environment Agency for Culvert Work at Rye Harbour Reserve.

Ebernoe Appeal: For Land Purchase at Ebernoe and land management.

Woodsmill Nature Reserve: Conservation work funded by a private individual.

Deneway Community Nature Reserve: Fund from the Co-op Local Community fund to create a pond and provide equipment.

Friends of Gillham Wood: For works at Gillham Woods given by Local Community group who disbanded.

Friends of Rye Harbour: For Salary support and Gooders Hide repair and Education on Rye Harbour Nature Reserve.

Gatwick Greenspace Partnership: Enhancing green spaces in the Gatwick, Crawley and Horsham areas and to increase community involvement.

Gallus Trust: For meadow and fen habitat conservation in West Sussex.

Legacies: Various bequests for specific projects.

Lottery 833 Club: Donation for Rye Harbour Education.

National Lottery Heritage Fund: Lost Woods of the Low Weald and Downs contract: Delivery of the Forest School and John Muir Awards project.

Natural Capital: The work of public engagement and reconnection to nature of the Sussex Nature Partnership.

Owls: an in memorial donation.

People and Wildlife: Conservation education for schools in Sussex.

Rapid Response Fund: Land acquisition/response to immediate need.

Rye Harbour Nature Reserve: A depreciation fund.

Rye Harbour Discovery Centre: The development of a Discovery Centre at Rye Harbour.

Rye Harbour Discovery Centre Operational Grant: For development of the operations of the Discovery Centre at Rye Harbour.

RSWT Appeal 30 by 30: Development of the strategic aim to ensure 30% of land of the UK is managed for the good of wildlife by 2030.

Sea Change Net Recycling: Sea-changers grant to support the Sussex Net Regeneration Scheme, to reuse and recycle end of life fishing gear.

Southerham Barn: The development of Southerham Barn.

Southern Water: Funds from fines received by Southern Water granted for specific aspects of SWT work.

Species Recovery: Funds from Kent Wildlife Trust covering Sussex species recovery work.

Summer appeal: Conservation campaigning, educating children and managing our nature reserves.

Sussex Biodiversity Record Centre: The provision of biodiversity information for Sussex transferred to Designated.

Sussex Kelp Recovery Project: The Pebble Trust to further the regeneration of Sussex kelp forests, plus other funding towards the Sussex Kelp Recovery Project.

Sussex Local Wildlife Site Initiative: Establishing a coherent and resilient ecological network across Sussex transferred to Designated.

Sussex Ornithological Society (SOS): Heathland Improvements.

Sussex Wetlands Wilder Ouse: Enhancing the awareness of wetland habitats in Sussex.

The Leysdown Conservation Trust: Training and development of trainees.

TWT National Lottery Heritage Fund 'Nextdoor Nature' project: part of a national Wildlife Trusts' initiative for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee to provide people with advice and support to help nature on their doorstep.

National Lottery Heritage Fund - Wild Coast Sussex: A partnership to inspire and connect people to help protect the Sussex coast and sea.

Wetlands Appeal 22: To support the work of the Sussex Flow Initiative (now Wilder Ouse) and the Trust's conservation work on wetland habitats.

Wilder Horsham District: Fund for delivering a Nature Recovery Network for Horsham District, with funding from Horsham District Council.

Winter Woodland Appeal: For land purchase (Willand Wood) at Ebernoe in 2020 and land management works.

Winter Reserves Appeal: For land management work.

Woodland Legacy: Bequest for Woodland Purchase.

17 Funds continued

Analysis of designated funds movements

Unrestricted funds comprise those funds which the Trustees are free to use in accordance with the Trust's charitable objectives.

The Trustees have designated funds from unrestricted funds for various planned future projects, as well as contingency funds for future eventualities.

	Balance 1 April 2024 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Balance 31 March 2025 £
Strategy development	15,093	-	-	(15,093)	-
Ash Dieback crisis	11,962	-	-	(11,962)	-
Sussex Biodiversity Records Centre	-	272,332	247,650	255,628	280,311
Sussex Local Wildlife Sites	-	14,300	29,859	98,816	83,257
Build a stronger, more inclusive and diverse organisation	-	-	-	60,000	60,000
Restore and protect at least 30% of Sussex land and sea for nature by 2030	-	-	-	61,000	61,000
Become a net zero and climate resilient organisation	-	-	-	105,000	105,000
Connect people with nature and inspire 1 in 4 to take meaningful action for wildlife	-	-	-	31,000	31,000
Undergo a comprehensive digital transformation	-	-	-	80,000	80,000
Strengthen and develop our organisation to deliver the scale of ambition	-	-	-	12,000	12,000
Fund a better future: grow and diversify our supporter base and income streams	-	-	-	11,000	11,000
Land Purchase Fund	-	-	-	600,000	600,000
	27,055	286,633	277,509	1,287,389	1,323,568

Designated funds:

Strategy development: *Investment in the development and implementation of next five year strategy.*

Ash Dieback crisis: *Provision of ongoing work managing the disease.*

Sussex Biodiversity Record Centre: *transferred from a restricted to designated fund type due to the nature of their funding streams which are contractual arrangements.*

Local Wildlife Initiative: *Funds transferred from restricted to designated fund type due to the nature of their funding streams which are contractual arrangements.*

Investment in building a stronger, more inclusive and diverse organisation: *including alternative recruitment initiatives and capacity building.*

Restoring and protecting at least 30% of Sussex land and sea for nature by 2030: *including building our capacity in our Nature Reserves and Nature Recovery teams.*

Become a net zero and climate resilient organisation: *by using technology and other initiatives to reduce our carbon emissions.*

Connect people with nature and inspire 1 in 4 to take meaningful action for wildlife: *by investing in our engagement capability.*

Undergo a comprehensive digital transformation: *by investing in cyber security, our internal infrastructure and a new website.*

Strengthen and develop our organisation to deliver the scale of ambition: *including reviewing our pay and reward benefits for staff.*

Fund a better future: *grow and diversify our supporter base and income streams.*

Land Purchase Fund: *to purchase appropriate land to complement our existing nature reserves portfolio.*

18 Funds – Previous Year

	Balance 1 April 2023 £	Movement in Resources			Balance 31 March 2024 £
		Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	
Restricted					
Nature reserves	2,324,238	-	-	-	2,375,462
Projects	2,408,671	1,404,171	1,333,145	(104,235)	2,583,932
	4,732,909	1,404,171	1,333,145	(104,235)	4,699,700
Designated	252,568	-	22,946	(202,567)	27,055
Unrestricted	8,583,002	5,546,649	4,362,717	306,802	10,073,736
Total all funds	13,568,479	6,950,820	5,718,808	-	14,800,491

18 Funds – Previous Year *continued*

Analysis of restricted projects funds movements – previous year	Balance 1 April 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Balance 31 March 2024 £
Badger Appeal	15	50	65	-	-
Behaviour Change	4,726	-	-	-	4,726
Brickfield Southern Water	10,000	-	3,600	-	6,400
Chalk Downland Fund	1,098,044	-	-	-	1,098,044
Community Ecologist Project	12,000	-	-	-	12,000
Creating Space	6,070	3,050	-	-	9,120
Culvert Project at Rye Harbour	10,234	-	-	-	10,234
Woodsmill Nature Reserve	-	8,513	8,240	-	273
CIL Iping Common (SDNPA)	23,203	-	20,462	-	2,741
CIL Levin Down (SDNPA)	1,254	-	400	-	854
Deneway Nature Reserve	3,760	-	1,488	-	2,272
Ebernoe Woods Appeal	-	118,931	9,277	108,404	1,250
Friends of Rye Harbour	-	31,294	31,294	-	-
Friends of Gillham Wood	1,034	-	-	-	1,034
Gallus Trust	-	5,000	1,145	-	3,855
Gatwick Greenspace Partnership	31,041	99,882	93,280	(4,169)	41,812
HPAI Seabird Colony Rye	-	26,798	26,798	-	-
National Lottery Heritage Fund - Heritage Emergency Fund	301	-	301	-	-
Legacies	21,963	-	8,000	-	13,963
National Grid's Landscape Enhancement Initiative	-	7,873	7,843	-	30
National Highways Peveney Restoration	-	54,521	54,521	-	-
Natural Capital	46,038	26,278	30,443	-	41,873
National Lottery Heritage Fund Next Door Nature People and Wildlife	10,261	-	-	-	10,261
Portsmouth Water Fund	-	260	260	-	-
Rapid Response Fund	20,791	-	-	-	20,791
RSWT Appeal 30 by 30	570	-	-	-	570
Rye Harbour Nature Reserve	10,588	-	-	-	10,588
Rye Harbour Discovery Centre	203,400	51,033	-	-	152,367
Rye Harbour Discovery Centre Appeal	-	-	-	-	-
Rye Harbour Discovery Centre Operational Grant	-	119,463	117,526	-	1,937
3 C's (Championing Coastal Coordination)	5,790	800	6,590	-	-
Scottish Power Foundation	14,087	-	14,087	-	-
Southerham Barn	39,712	-	19,042	-	20,670
Southern Water	25,000	-	10,587	-	14,413
Summer Appeal 20.21	5,954	-	-	-	5,954
Sussex Ornithological Society No Fence	-	9,025	9,025	-	-
Sussex Ornithological Society Heathland Improvements	-	12,396	12,396	-	-
Sussex Biodiversity Record Centre	236,906	297,091	278,369	-	255,628
Sussex by the Sea Appeal	1,714	-	1,714	-	-
Sussex Kelp Recovery Project	120,047	82,814	95,103	-	107,758
Sussex Local Wildlife Site Initiative	91,638	45,931	38,753	-	98,816
Sussex Wetlands	26,555	76,978	40,281	-	63,252
Species Recovery	-	49,588	17,499	-	32,089
The Leysdown Conservation Trust	40,919	30,000	23,811	-	47,108
National Lottery Heritage Fund - Wild Coast Sussex	5,507	173,120	168,665	-	9,963
Wilder Horsham District	9,148	129,611	119,246	-	19,513
Winter Woodland Appeal	66,436	-	15,128	-	51,308
Winter Reserves Appeal	70,289	20	5,278	-	65,030
Wetlands Appeal 22	39,689	3,286	-	-	42,975
Woodland Legacy	93,987	-	-	-	93,987
	2,408,671	1,404,171	1,333,145	104,235	2,375,462

18 Funds – Previous Year continued

Restricted projects:

Badger Appeal: A grazing and vaccination programme against bovine TB.

Behaviour Change Project: Funded by Natural England looking at behaviour change in Nature Tots and Wildlife Watch.

Chalk Downland Fund: To maintain, restore or purchase Sussex chalk downland.

National Lottery Heritage Fund – Changing Chalk: Funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) and led by the National Trust.

Climate Change Project: Funding from People's Postcode Lottery via RSWT for development and delivery of Carbon Reduction Strategies.

Deneway Community Nature Reserve: Fund from the Co-op Local Community Fund to create a pond and provide equipment.

Gateway to Nature: To develop further Youth Ranger work and community involvement.

Gatwick Greenspace Partnership: Enhancing green spaces in the Gatwick, Crawley and Horsham areas and to increase community involvement.

Heathlands Reunited Fund: Partnership agreement towards management and restoration of Sussex Heathlands.

National Lottery Heritage Fund – Heritage Emergency Fund: Grant to support nature reserves during Covid-19.

National Lottery Heritage Fund – Sussex by the Sea: To develop a round 2 submission.

Legacies: Various bequests for specific projects.

Lost Words Appeal: Issuing a nature book about declining use of nature words to all primary schools in Sussex.

Natural Capital: The work of public engagement and reconnection to nature of the Sussex Nature Partnership.

People and Wildlife: Conservation education for schools in Sussex.

Portsmouth Water Fund: Biodiversity Grant Scheme: Restoring rare habitat at Leythorne Meadow.

Rapid Response Fund: land acquisition/response to immediate need.

Rye Harbour: Rye Harbour Nature Reserve funds.

Rye Harbour Discovery Centre: The development of a Discovery Centre at Rye Harbour.

Rye Harbour Discovery Centre Appeal: for the Rye Harbour Discovery Centre project.

Rye Harbour Discovery Centre Operational Grant: The development of the Operations of the Discovery Centre at Rye Harbour.

ScottishPower Foundation: Wild Side of the Track project at Deneway nature reserve for community events, schools visits and habitat improvements.

Southerham Barn: The development of Southerham Barn.

Southern Water: Funds from fines received by Southern Water granted for specific aspects of SWT work.

Summer/Winter/Downland Appeal: Conservation campaigning, educating children and managing our nature reserves.

Sussex Biodiversity Record Centre: The provision of biodiversity information for Sussex.

Sussex by the Sea Appeal: For the Wild Coast Sussex project.

Sussex Downland appeal: For downland management and maintenance.

Sussex Kelp Recovery Project: People's Postcode Lottery funding via RSWT to further the regeneration of Sussex kelp forests, plus other funding towards the Help Our Kelp Partnership.

Sussex Local Wildlife Site initiative: Establishing a coherent and resilient ecological network across Sussex.

Sussex Ornithological Society (SOS): Amberley Wildbrooks Wader Project.

Sussex Wetlands: Enhancing the awareness of wetland habitats in Sussex.

The Leysdown Conservation Trust: Training and development of trainees.

Trailer Fund (formerly The Chalk Cliff Trust): Depreciation of trailer.

West Weald Landscape: enhancing the wooded landscape of an area of West Sussex.

National Lottery Heritage Fund – Wild Coast Sussex: A partnership to inspire and connect people to help protect the Sussex coast and sea.

Wilder Horsham District Project: Fund for delivering a Nature Recovery Network for Horsham District, with funding from Horsham District Council.

Woodland Legacy: Bequest for Woodland Purchase.

Analysis of designated funds movements – previous year

Unrestricted funds comprise those funds which the Trustees are free to use in accordance with SWT's charitable objectives.

The Trustees have designated funds from unrestricted funds for various planned future projects, as well as contingency funds for future eventualities.

	Balance 1 April 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Balance 31 March 2024 £
Business Plan strategic development capacity	11,583	-	-	(11,583)	-
Membership recruitment	142,908	-	-	(142,908)	-
Integrated software project	9,866	-	-	(9,866)	-
Strategy development	2,043	-	4,907	17,958	15,093
Land management equipment (sinking fund)	25,000	-	-	(25,000)	-
Interpretation	21,460	-	-	(21,460)	-
HR system upgrade	2,534	-	-	(2,534)	-
Ash Dieback crisis	500	-	18,039	29,500	11,961
Woods Mill Repairs	21,674	-	-	(21,674)	-
Tree Safety Implementation Fund	15,000	-	-	(15,000)	-
	252,568	-	22,946	(202,567)	27,055

Designated funds:

Strategy development: Investment in the development and implementation of next five year strategy.

Ash Dieback crisis: Provision of ongoing work managing the disease.

19 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Tangible & Heritage Fixed Assets £	Investments £	Net Current Assets £	Total £
Restricted				
Nature reserves	2,324,238	-	-	2,324,238
Projects	-	-	2,270,354	2,270,354
Unrestricted	6,859,711	100	2,580,476	9,440,287
Designated	-	-	1,323,568	1,323,568
	9,183,949	100	6,174,398	15,358,446

Analysis of net assets between funds 2024

	Tangible & Heritage Fixed Assets £	Investments £	Net Current Assets £	Total £
Restricted				
Nature reserves	2,324,238	-	-	2,324,238
Projects	-	-	2,375,462	2,375,462
Unrestricted	7,016,216	100	3,057,420	10,073,736
Designated	-	-	27,054	27,055
	9,340,454	100	5,459,936	14,800,491

20 Contingent liabilities

There are no contingent liabilities for the repayment of grants and gifts. (2024: £NIL).

SWT owns Castle Water, part of the Rye Harbour Nature Reserve. As previously reported SWT carried out an investigation to establish the nature and extent of the contamination based on existing data. This confirmed a source of contamination under part of the nature reserve. Since then discussions have been held with the relevant officers from the Environment Agency at a local level and the work done so far comprises a series of studies on the extent of contamination in other areas of Rye Harbour. Monitoring has continued throughout the 2024/25 financial year.

The costs of remediation at Castle Water remain unquantifiable. It is unclear to what extent, if at all, SWT will be liable.

21 (a) Operating lease commitments

SWT has commitments in the year to 31 March 2025 to pay minimum rentals on buildings and equipment under non-cancellable operating leases.

	2025 Buildings £	2024 Buildings £	2025 Equipment £	2024 Equipment £
Operating leases which expire:				
Within one year:	-	-	4,358	16,652
Within two to five years:	-	-	11,424	18,804
Total operating lease commitments	-	-	15,782	35,456

(b) Capital commitments

No capital commitments (24:£11.5k)

22 Related party transactions

During the year to 31 March 2025 related party transactions were £1,020 (2024: £NIL).

23 Prior Year Adjustment

During the preparation of the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025, it was identified that certain expenses needed to be recategorised.

1. Categorisation of Nature Reserves income should now be included in Restore and protect 30% of Sussex
 - Unrestricted income £554,128 and restricted income £185,680 for 2024.
2. Categorisation of Nature Reserves expenditure should now be included in Restore and protect 30% of Sussex
 - Unrestricted expenditure £1,219,903, restricted expenditure £250,756 and designated expenditure £18,039 for 2024.

24 Non-adjusting events after the end of the reporting period

SWT sold the office building on their Woods Mill site in August 2025 and will be relocating their head office to The Keep in Brighton in October 2025. We will be retaining ownership of our meeting and classroom facilities on the site.



Kelp Summit © Kai Hilton



Sussex
Wildlife Trust

Sussex Wildlife Trust,
Woods Mill, Henfield,
West Sussex BN5 9SD

Tel: 01273 492630
Email: enquiries@sussexwt.org.uk
Website: sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk

SUSSEX WILDLIFE TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 207005

Accounts

Trustees' Report & Annual Accounts

2023/24

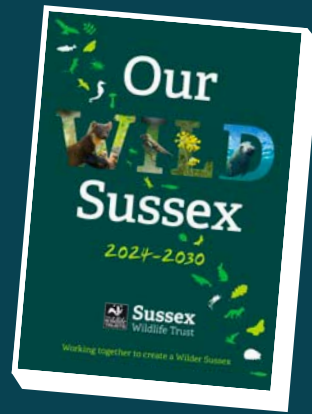


Sussex
Wildlife Trust



Our *Wild* Sussex

Creating a Sussex rich in wildlife, valued and protected by everyone.



We want to create a Wilder Sussex – for the incredible variety of important species and habitats to be protected and restored so that wildlife can not only survive, but thrive. The precious landscapes that we all love must be protected for the future and our county made more resilient to climate change so that we can provide a safe home for wildlife and people long into the future.

This is why, this year, we have launched an ambitious strategy, Our Wild Sussex, that sets out the goals we want to achieve by 2030. Critically we are aiming for 30% of land in Sussex to be well managed for nature, so that there will be flourishing chalk grasslands, ancient woodlands, lowland heaths, rivers and seas.

To achieve this will require the active involvement of people. This will involve 1 in 4 people in Sussex taking meaningful action for nature. We will help people connect with nature, to find joy and appreciation in the natural world, and inspire taking positive action towards making Our Wild Sussex a reality.

Everyone in Sussex has a part to play in achieving our mission. Nature needs the whole community to speak up and take action to help it thrive, so we will ensure that we reach new and more diverse audiences in our work and take positive steps towards making Sussex Wildlife Trust (SWT) an inclusive organisation where everyone feels welcome and involved.

To be able to achieve our ambitions, we need to continue to be led by our values. We will continue to speak up with passion and take a stand for nature; collaborate with others to reach our goals; innovate so that we can find new and creative ways to deliver



our work, and we are committed to inclusion in all that we do, so that everyone can feel that SWT is an organisation for them.

Since our foundation in 1961, we have worked tirelessly to protect and restore nature in Sussex and connect people with wildlife, and now it is time for a step change so that we together can tackle the immense climate, biodiversity and nature connection crises. We are excited to work alongside partners and communities across the county to make Our Wild Sussex a reality.

Barnacle Geese
© Hugh Clark FRPS

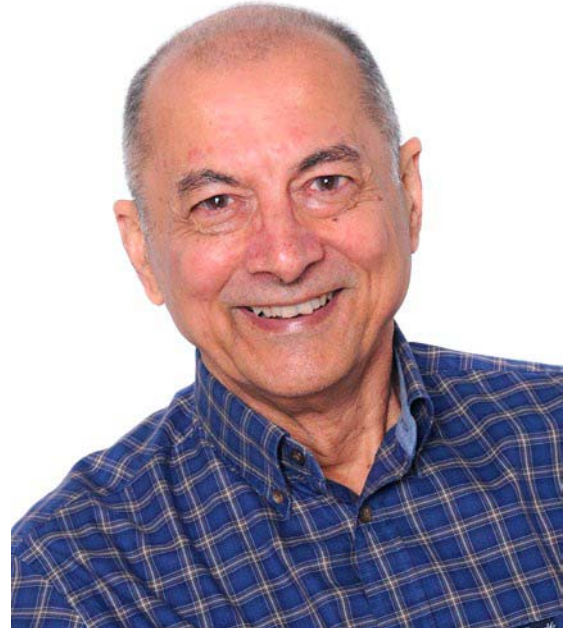
Chair's Report

I am proud and delighted to share with you my fourth report as Chair of the Sussex Wildlife Trust. In 2023-24 the team worked extremely hard to protect and restore nature in Sussex and connect people with our wonderful natural world.

There are three equally significant crises currently facing our society – the rapid decline in biodiversity, the increased and urgent effects of climate change and the disconnection between people and nature. We are doing all we can to turn things around in Sussex, but we cannot do this by ourselves.

Sussex Wildlife Trust is lucky to have almost 38,000 members and many thousands of other supporters without whom we could not deliver our work so effectively. Thank you to everyone who has supported us through their membership, giving to our appeals, leaving a gift in their Will or donating in other ways, especially in these tough economic times. Every penny you give helps us deliver more for people and nature. This year saw our most successful appeal ever when we raised over £110,000 to purchase an extension to Ebernoe Common nature reserve – a true testament to a tangible result for nature received through the generosity of our supporters.

We now have the support of over 1,000 volunteers, and I want to say a heartfelt thank you to all those incredible individuals who give their time to help nature. Of course, my fellow Trustees and I are part of this cohort of volunteers, and I would also like to thank my Trustee colleagues for their work.



📷 Nick

In April 2024, we launched our new strategic plan, 'Our Wild Sussex', which sets out our ambitions for nature and the goals we want to reach by 2030. I have no doubt that it will be difficult at times and that we will have to put all our efforts into reaching our goals, but I believe that our passionate team of staff and volunteers, working in partnership with local communities and other organisations, will achieve amazing results for people and nature in Sussex. We have restructured our team to align to our new strategy, to ensure that we are able to deliver our work as effectively as possible and safeguard our financial sustainability. As a result, we are ready to tackle the challenges that lie ahead.

I look forward to sharing the successes and results of the first year's delivery with you in the Trustees' report next year. In the meantime, alongside our key activities and results from the past year, you can read about our plans for the future in this report. I hope that you will find them as inspiring and ambitious as I and my fellow Trustees do.

Nick Pasricha
Chair

A handwritten signature in dark blue ink that reads "Nick Pasricha".



Round-headed Rampion

📷 © Derek Middleton

The Trustees are pleased to present their annual Trustees' report together with financial statements of the charity for the year ending 31 March 2024. These are also prepared with the purpose of meeting the legal requirements for a Directors' report and accounts in accordance with the Companies Act 2006.

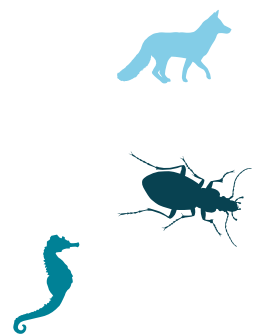
The financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006, the Memorandum and Articles of Association, and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

Objectives

Sussex Wildlife Trust's (SWT) objects, as detailed in our Articles of Association 2021, are for the benefit of both wildlife and the public:

- to conserve, restore and enhance the wildlife of Sussex including that in its coastal waters. In particular, to conserve species and the habitats and landscapes in which they occur, including the restoration, creation, and interconnection of such habitats
- to promote the protection and enhancement of the natural environment
- to promote and advance public education about, understanding of, connection to, and action in support of, the natural environment and its benefits

With regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit, the Trustees believe that the provision of such benefit is an integral part of each of our charitable objectives.



Wild Coast Sussex
© Miles Davies

Strategic Report

Achievements and performance
of the Trust's work



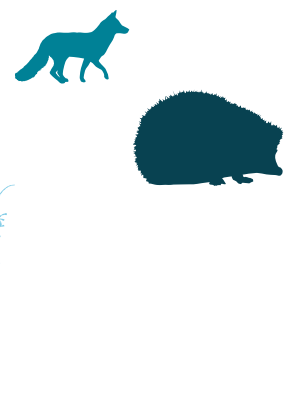
Diverse groups and individuals take action for wildlife and wild places across Sussex

We deliver across the county to engage as many people as possible with our work, inspiring them to protect and take action for nature. We give advice on how to create wildlife havens in gardens and the wider community and inspire children to explore and be enchanted by the natural world. Through our Forest School and Wild Beach training we deliver adult education programmes and offer a huge range of volunteering opportunities. We will build on this to ensure our work is accessible to everyone and truly inclusive, to enable our amazing county and its wildlife to be protected and valued by everyone.

This year has seen the delivery of three inspiring and innovative engagement projects funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund:

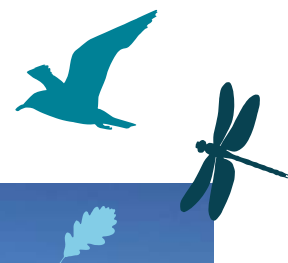
The Wild Coast Sussex project ended in March 2024. This project delivered inspiring community engagement along the Sussex coast focussing on school children, 16–25 year olds and commercial fishers. We held over 30 inclusive events for over 500 young people and trained 55 teachers to become Wild Beach Leaders and delivered Wild Beach sessions to over 800 children, connecting them to their local beaches. We collaborated with seven local ports to recycle 22 tonnes of fishing gear and retrieved two tonnes of ghost gear from the sea.

The Nextdoor Nature project worked with those communities in the Hastings area without easy access to green spaces. Now in its final year, this project has enabled communities to take direct action for nature where they live and work and to choose the support and approaches they need.



ESOL group
with Gatwick
Greenspace
Partnership

© Helen Jerromes



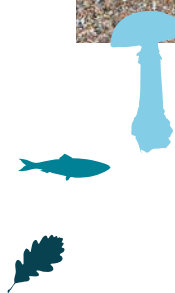
Our Discover Rye Harbour project is also in its final year of delivery. We have secured an extension to the end of the current financial year to deliver an additional Heritage traineeship to make Rye Harbour Discovery Centre and the nature reserve more inclusive, for example by creating an accessible pathway on the nature reserve. The project worked with a range of community groups, engaged over 3,000 pupils from local primary and secondary schools and created new interpretation for the Discovery Centre and nature reserve including 10 new activity trails.

We are very proud that the Gatwick Greenspace Partnership received the Biodiversity Benchmark Award for enhancing greenspaces around Dorking, Horley, Crawley, Charlwood, Horsham, and Gatwick Airport. The project delivers habitat management, volunteering, environmental education, and community engagement, and this year has connected with more communities, schools and individuals than in previous years. Volunteers played a crucial role, dedicating over 3800 hours to assist with events, education and conservation across the project area. This year (2024) celebrates 30 years of the Partnership.

Our 'train the trainer' programmes delivered certified training to 93 teachers, teaching assistants, nursery staff and others in delivering Forest School sessions in their own settings and 48 in our innovative Wild Beach programme, which aims to connect people with their local beach.



Rye Harbour Discovery Centre
© Kt Bruce



Over 1200 pupils visited Woods Mill nature reserve during the year, exploring the site with our staff and volunteers, learning about its habitats and species. While in Brighton, at our only urban nature reserve, we established our first youth-led project in November 2023 – Deneway's Wild Future. The young people involved manage, maintain, and make decisions about this valuable greenspace.

The Community Action team helped community wildlife projects across the county with advice, events, and volunteer support. Our Brighton Hit Squad volunteer group assisted local communities with conservation tasks, and we ran an extensive programme of adult education courses on topics from nature connection to nature photograph – from fungi to Nightingales.

The Wilder Horsham District Project reached out to all the Parish Councils in its area which resulted in two successful workshops. We were delighted that 70% of parishes attended, to share their nature recovery ambitions with local communities and stimulate involvement in the project.

This year we were very pleased to reach a landmark of 1,000 registered volunteers. These volunteers generously give their time to help nature in Sussex in so many ways, from livestock looking, beach cleans and conservation tasks on nature reserves to welcoming visitors to the Rye Harbour Discovery Centre, helping in its cafe, processing data and sending out new membership packs.

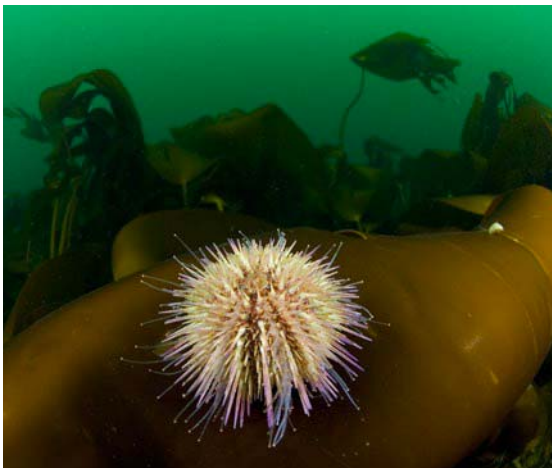


Nuthatch on fungi
© Brian Watkins



Restore abundant wildlife across large scale landscapes and the sea

To restore wildlife at scale is an ambitious goal covering many key areas of our work. We defend and restore nature, not just through our own direct impact, but also by working in partnership with other organisations. The work of our two 'Wilder' projects has been developing well. Wilder Horsham District recruited a new Land Advisor extending the reach of our work. The project has now allocated nearly 30 Nature Recovery Awards for habitat interventions by others across the District. Meanwhile, during the year, the neighbouring Wilder Ouse Project has worked with landowners on 2,500 hectares. The 'Wilder' Project model is a great success and each works with numerous partners to ensure we collectively make the most of opportunities for nature to thrive. Both these projects are partners of the Weald to Waves initiative, which aims to create a 100-mile corridor for nature in Sussex.




This year we were joined by our first dedicated Species Recovery Officer, who has already met with 56 landowners interested in reintroducing ecosystem engineer species, such as Beavers, on their land.

At sea, the Trust has continued to play a key role in the Sussex Kelp Recovery Project. This work has been generated following the ending of bottom-towed fishing in a 300km² area of Sussex seas. During the year we also promoted the consultation regarding management at Beachy Head East Marine Conservation Zone, which we hope will remove trawling from a further 200km². We were delighted that Dolphin Head, a site proposed by Sussex Wildlife Trust, was made one of only three Highly Protected Marine Areas in the UK – this site will protect a further 466km² of seabed from all damaging fishing practices. This could lead to nearly 1,000 km² of Sussex seabed being protected from bottom-towed fishing practices.

But, in addition to working to restore nature we must always also work just as hard to defend it from threats, and throughout the year we have responded to two major Development Consent Orders in Sussex; the Rampion II windfarm and the proposed runway expansion at Gatwick. We have also continued to input into local plans and worked more closely than ever with our partners, making sure that we can extend our reach and be as effective as we can in our planning and advocacy work.

To maximise the impact of our work, we support the work of the Sussex Nature Partnership and the development of the Sussex Local Nature Strategies, which will be driving nature recovery in Sussex over the coming years. This includes the delivery of Biodiversity Net Gain, a topic that we have explored this year with more activity planned.

Above: Beaver
 © David Plummer

Left: Green Sea Urchin on kelp
 © Paul Naylor

Create climate resilient landscapes and thriving wildlife habitats

On our own nature reserves, we manage some of the most biodiverse nature reserves in Sussex. Some of the species highlights in the year include:

- The endangered Norfolk Hawker Dragonfly colonising Sussex and now found on two of our nature reserves: Pevensey Levels and Castle Water, Rye Harbour Nature Reserve
- There are now an amazing 20 Nightingale territories at Butcherlands nature reserve, one of the highest densities in the UK
- Castle Water has one of the best populations of the aquatic plant Lesser Water Plantain with well over 2000 plants present
- *Euophrys petrensis*, a heathland specialist spider, was found at Old Lodge – a first record for East Sussex since the 1960s
- The rare Light Crimson Underwing moth was found at our Burton Pond nature reserve

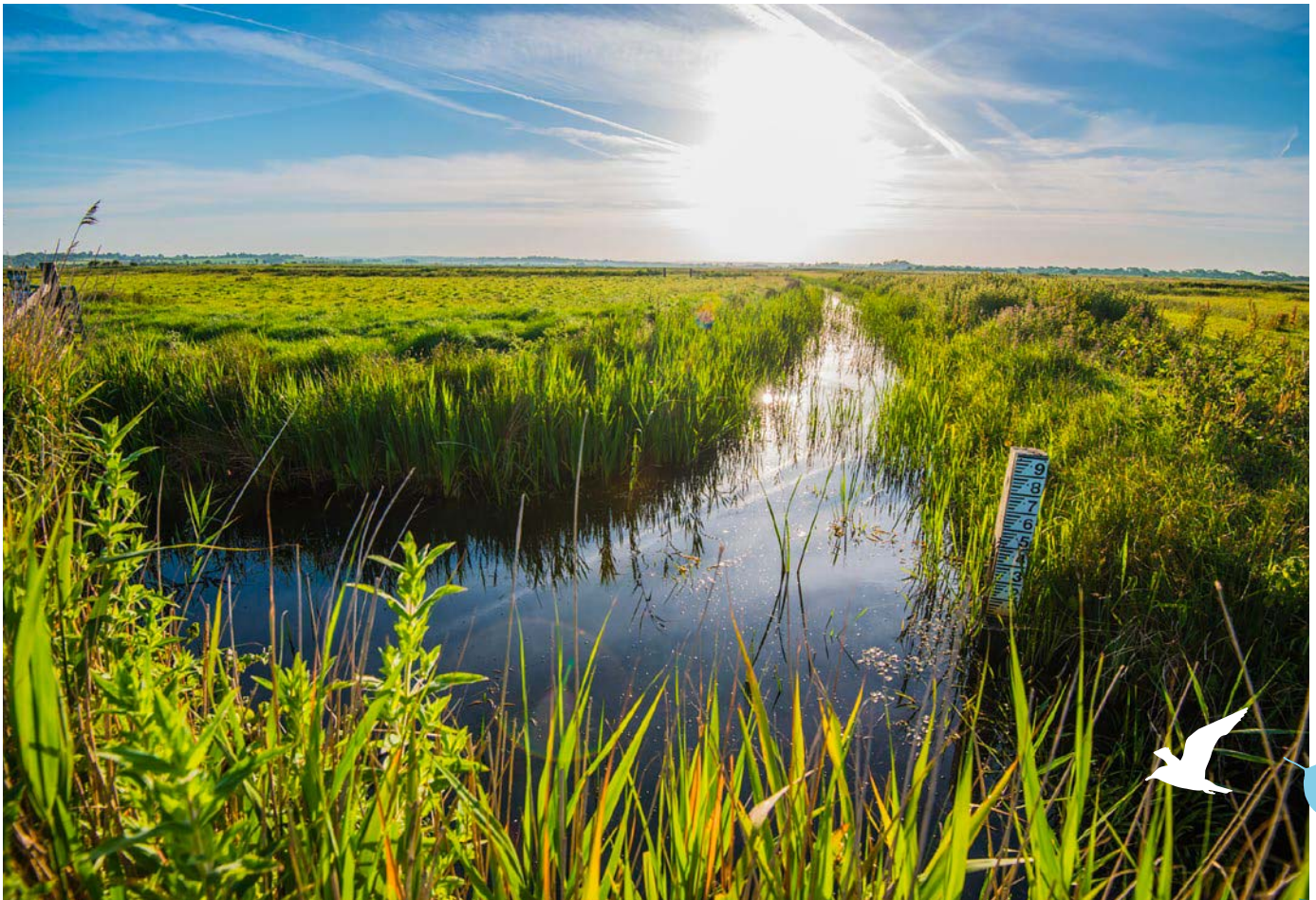
Through the year the team has worked hard to address the effects of the shortfall in management tasks created during the Covid-19 pandemic and lockdowns. The condition of

our nature reserves is improving, and the team have worked with partner organisations such as Natural England and local community groups to ensure that our ambition for our nature reserves is well known and supported.

A series of habitat improvement works also took place. Highlights include:

- Reinstating new scrapes at Iping Common to create habitat for Heath Tiger Beetle and other bare ground specialist invertebrates and undertaking scrub clearance at Stedham Common to boost Marsh Clubmoss population
- Significant scrub clearing efforts took place at Ditchling Common, Levin Down and Malling Down to reinstate rare and important chalk grassland habitat
- Scrub clearance at New Piece and The Warren at Burton Pond to reinstate heathland and mire conditions
- Clearing Willow to reinstate Watercress beds at Leythorne Meadow
- Constructing several new scrapes at Woods Mill to create more wetland habitat and provision of water for Turtle Doves.

Pevensey Levels
© David Dennis





Left: Turtle Dove bathing

© Mike Read

Below: Silver-studded Blue

© Bob Eade

- Opening up Orchid Marsh at Filsham Reedbed
- Areas of previous cleared bracken have developed into interesting acid grassland and pioneering vegetation with developing young heather. At Old Lodge areas of Pine management now found to be very rich in invertebrates
- Managing heather at Iping Common to create a new season of young heather as habitat for Silver-studded Blue butterflies. Cutting back Gorse along rides to open new heather rich areas
- Cut and collect and scrub clearance at Iping and Welches Commons to maintain suitable habitat of Wavy Hair-grass acid grassland for Field Crickets

We also progressed feasibility studies for an exciting project to restore 150 hectares of wetland on the Pevensey Levels from 2024. This will greatly improve the climate resilience of the site, so it retains water for longer in times of drought, creating habitat for Lapwing and other struggling species of wet grassland.

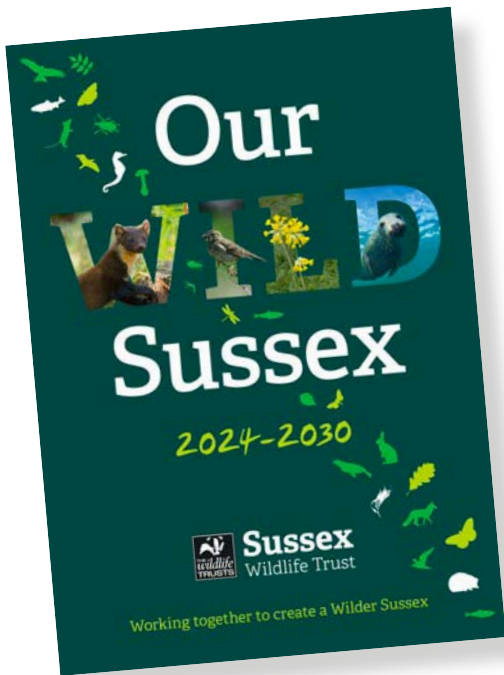
Our Senior Ecologist has worked closely with Site Managers and our Grazing Team to continually improve the grazing regime that we use on our nature reserves, to ensure that the conditions for key species are maintained or improved. Thanks to our partnership with the Wiston Estate, our programme has developed well this year, with more flexibility to respond to the grazing needs of each site.

Occasionally, exciting opportunities to extend our portfolio present themselves and this happened at Ebernoe this year, where we were able to extend our

ownership north of Furnace Meadow. The purchase of the area known as Forest Copse was made possible by the inspirational support of our members and supporters who, through their incredible generosity, helped us achieve our most successful appeal ever, with over £110,000 raised in just a few months.

During the year, we have overhauled our internal approach to data and evidence, as the Sussex Biodiversity Record Centre took on the challenge of modernising and consolidating our internal mapping systems. Not only has the improved data management and analysis streamlined some of our work processes, but it is also opening new opportunities to make the most of the data that it already holds. Our GIS mapping is now combined with data from two drones, one that can be used on our nature reserves and one for underwater surveys.





Plans for the Future

'Our Wild Sussex' sets out the work we are planning to undertake and how we are going to focus our efforts until 2030. It is ambitious and we will need to work tirelessly alongside our partners, supporters and communities to make a real difference to halt the decline in wildlife and habitats across the county.

'Our Wild Sussex' contains three strategic goals:

- Diverse groups and individuals take action for wildlife and wild places across Sussex
- Restore abundant wildlife across large scale landscapes and the sea
- Create climate resilient landscapes and thriving wildlife habitats

To deliver these goals, we need to make a step-change in how we work, and we will do this focusing on the following four strategic transformations:

Including everyone: Building a stronger, more inclusive and diverse organisation

We are committed to being an inclusive and diverse organisation that reflects our local communities. We appreciate the immense value that a full range of backgrounds, experiences and perspectives bring.

Strength lies in unity and, together with our staff, volunteers, members and supporters, we will create an organisation that reflects the diversity of the county we aim to protect and leave a lasting legacy for people and wildlife.

30 by 30: Restore and protect at least 30% of Sussex land and sea for nature by 2030

To deliver change at the pace and scale required to bring about nature's recovery, we must ensure at least 30% of our land and sea is well-managed for nature and protected by 2030 – an ambition that reflects the targets set by governments worldwide.

We recognise our role in supporting this challenging target and we are committed to securing the future of Sussex wildlife.

Taking Action: Connect people with nature and inspire 1 in 4 to take meaningful action for wildlife

People are the key to nature's recovery, and we all have a part to play. Restoring wildlife depends upon the strength of connection between communities and nature, yet people are increasingly disconnected from the natural world around them.

We will inspire communities to develop a deeper relationship with nature across our diverse landscapes. This is an important foundation, as studies have shown that when people feel part of nature, they are more likely to make pro-environmental decisions and take action to protect it.

Become a net zero and climate resilient organisation by 2030

Through the year, we worked with RSWT to improve our methods of monitoring our emissions. We already have a carbon reduction strategy that explains how we will reach net zero and cut our emissions across our operations. We have reduced the number of fleet vehicles and are replacing vehicles with lower emission or electric alternatives. The planned move from Woods Mill to a more energy efficient and accessible office will substantially reduce emissions, but there is more to do to reach our net zero goal.

We have not reduced the emissions resulting from our livestock because we have been developing our grazing operations to improve the wildlife value of our reserves. In the year ahead we will be looking at ways to adapt our livestock operation to increase biodiversity, whilst reducing emissions.





Short-eared Owl over Pevensey Levels

© David Phillips

Undergo a comprehensive digital transformation

By maximising opportunities to increase our digital capability, we will extend our reach across Sussex, improve our engagement with communities and enable the Trust to work more effectively for nature.

Retain and develop a strong evidence base to inform our work and influence others

Our work is driven by evidence and there are two areas that we will focus on.

Firstly, the evidence that underpins and empowers nature conservation in Sussex. This is embedded into the work of the Sussex Biodiversity Record Centre, which provides the authoritative source of wildlife information for our county.

Secondly, we will be using evidence to monitor the impact of our work. This will require excellent systems for collecting, storing, and sharing data, while ensuring the highest standards of data protection

Strengthen and develop our organisation to deliver the scale of ambition

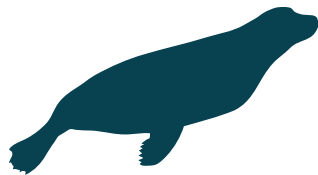
To deliver this strategy, our staff and volunteers need to be excited, prepared and supported for the challenges ahead. We will invest in our people and equip them with the skills, knowledge and capabilities to deliver against the scale of our ambition and respond to the ever-changing external environment.

Each transformation will require resources, time, leadership, determination and coordination to be realised. Taken together, they will not only help us achieve our goals for 2030, they will also result in a much stronger and more effective organisation for the longer term.

We have also identified five enabling priorities that represent the most important foundations we need in place to enable us to realise our strategic goals and achieve the transformations set out in our strategy. These actions form a continuous process that underpins our collective ability to achieve our vision of a thriving natural world.

Maximise the wildlife value and resilience of our nature reserves

Our 33 nature reserves are at the heart of a county-wide ecological network, enjoyed by countless visitors each year. They also play a vital role in the wider landscape by providing outstanding examples of key habitats and species diversity.



Fly Agaric

© Simon Booth

- Comprehensive Learning and Development plan including Leadership Development
- Staff objectives linked to strategy
- A restructure of the team to align with strategy, already completed

Fund a better future: grow and diversify our supporter base and income streams

Against this shifting and competitive funding environment, we must be agile and adaptable to utilise emerging opportunities while maintaining our focus on existing supporters and partnerships. This will allow us to continue to secure diverse funding for our work and most importantly deliver significant improvements for wildlife and wild places across Sussex.

Our values

We will be led by our values in all that we do. We will champion and enable **Innovation**, so that we can develop bold and courageous ways to restore wildlife and inspire people at scale. We will let our **Passion** for nature shine through our work so that we can be the strongest advocate for nature in Sussex, informed by evidence and learning. We will boost our **Collaboration** and work in partnership to achieve our goals, to reach new audiences and work at scale. We will improve and bolster our **Inclusion** efforts and promote an inclusive culture where everyone feels respected and able to contribute to their full potential.



Right: Citizen science training
 © Polly Kitson



Left: Photography workshop for volunteers at Ashdown Forest
 📷 © Sarah Atherton

Below: Richard Black with an insect net during Volunteers Week walk
 📷 © Roz Bassford

Volunteers

We now have over 1,000 registered volunteers, representing an increase of around 15% on the previous year.

We continued to diversify our volunteering offer and now have 50 different volunteering roles, with something to suit most interests, abilities and availability. Our new volunteering database has enabled us to be more efficient in our management of volunteers and this has made a big difference to what we are able to offer, how we communicate



with target groups, how we measure the impact of volunteers (particularly important for our externally funded projects) and how we can monitor activity. The success of providing a portal for new volunteers to self-register has meant that we have approximately 50 new volunteers register their interest every month.

A focus this year has been to reconnect with our existing volunteers. Feedback from the 2022 Volunteer Review showed that, although volunteers felt valued by the member of staff they worked with, they often felt disconnected to the wider organisation. The volunteering team have been considering ways in which to remind current volunteers that they are valued and important to us. Bi-monthly talks online provided by members of staff providing information on wider issues and training have proved popular. We are also celebrating some long-standing and retiring volunteers via social media blogs and posts.

We also offered corporate volunteering days where local businesses can bring their staff for a day's practical conservation outdoors as part of their Environmental, Social and Governance programmes.

Donated services

We were pleased to receive pro-bono website support from Million Monkeys to the value of £504 this year (2023 £504).



Financial *Review*



Structure, Governance and Management

Despite the on-going challenges of the cost-of-living crisis and high inflation, and due to the generosity of our supporters and proactive cost control, SWT's financial performance has been strong this year, with a surplus of £1.2m.

Total income for the year increased against last year to a laudable £7m (a 29% increase against last year's £5.4m). We received an additional £1.1m of legacy income against the previous year, but also generated additional appeal income (for our land purchase), secured additional grant income for our nature reserves, generated additional membership income and achieved greater retail income at our Rye Harbour Discovery Centre. Unrestricted income rose to £5.5m (compared to £4.1m in 2022/23) and restricted income to £1.4m (£1.3m for last financial year).

We continued our focus on generating interest in our work, recruitment of members and supporters and other fundraising activities and achieved larger visitor numbers at

our Rye Harbour Discovery Centre, all of which helped drive up our unrestricted income for the year. We are indebted to those who have remembered us in their Wills and are grateful for their huge generosity which helps us so much in our continued work with nature and communities in Sussex. We have spent £1.1m on raising funds; which remains at a similar level to last year's expenditure of £1m while also increasing membership recruitment.

Despite continued high inflation, we held our expenditure at a similar level to last year at £5.7m. Due to rigorous cost control during the year, we made over £200k of savings on our unrestricted expenditure of £4.4m (£4.6m for 2022/23) including salary savings of £26k. Our restricted expenditure of £1.3m increased against last year (£1.1m for 2022/23) and covered expenditure related to our grant-funded activities and nature reserves.

As already mentioned, we also made a significant land purchase during the year of the extension to our Ebernoe Common nature reserve and hope to make further land purchases over the coming years. Other capital expenditure included an investment in our IT infrastructure with the purchase of two new on-site servers which will ensure our future resilience.

As always credit is due to the entire staff and leadership team for the drive and commitment they have shown during the year especially at a time of considerable change with the launch of the new strategic plan and organisation-wide restructure. Now that the organisation is aligned to delivering our strategy and 3-year business plan, we can have confidence that we will deliver against our future strategic goals with continued financial sustainability.

Having assessed these accounts and reviewed the income and expenditure forecast and 3-year business plan, the Trustees consider the charity to be a going concern, on the basis that SWT has sufficient financial reserves to continue trading for the foreseeable future including twelve months from the date of approval of these accounts.



Nightingale

© Derek Middleton

Reference and Administrative Details

Charity name: Sussex Wildlife Trust

Charity number: 207005

Company number: 00698851

Registered and Principal Office Address:
Woods Mill, Henfield, West Sussex, BN5 9SD

Auditor:

Price Bailey LLP
Causeway House
1 Dane Street
Bishop's Stortford
Herts
CM23 3BT

A resolution to appoint auditors to the charitable company will be proposed at the Annual General Meeting.

Bank:

Barclays PLC
The Old Bank
High Street
Lewes
East Sussex
BN7 2JP

CAF Bank
30 Old Broad Street
London
EC2N 1HT

Directors and Trustees:

The Directors of the charitable company (the Charity) are its Trustees for the purposes of charity law and throughout this report are collectively referred to as the Trustees.

The elected Trustees serving during the year and since the year-end were as follows:

Nitin Pasricha *Chair of Council*

Linda Clark *Vice Chair*

Simon Linington *Secretary (until 4th November 2023)*

Andrew Clinton *Secretary (from 5th November 2023)*

Mark Braithwaite *Treasurer and Chair of the Finance, Audit & Risk Committee*

Martin Kyndt *Chair of the Nominations Committee*

Dr Sean Ashworth

Sarah Bonnôt

Danielle Harvey

Mark Mallalieu *(from 6th March 2024)*

Helen Marshall

Louise McLoughlin *(from 6th March 2024)*

David Plummer *(from 6th March 2024)*

Dr Alan Stewart

President

Dr Tony Whitbread

Vice Presidents

Mr Robin Crane CBE

Dr Lisbet Rausing

Mr David Streeter OBE

Senior Leadership Team

Chris Corrigan *CEO*

Henri Brocklebank *Director – Conservation*

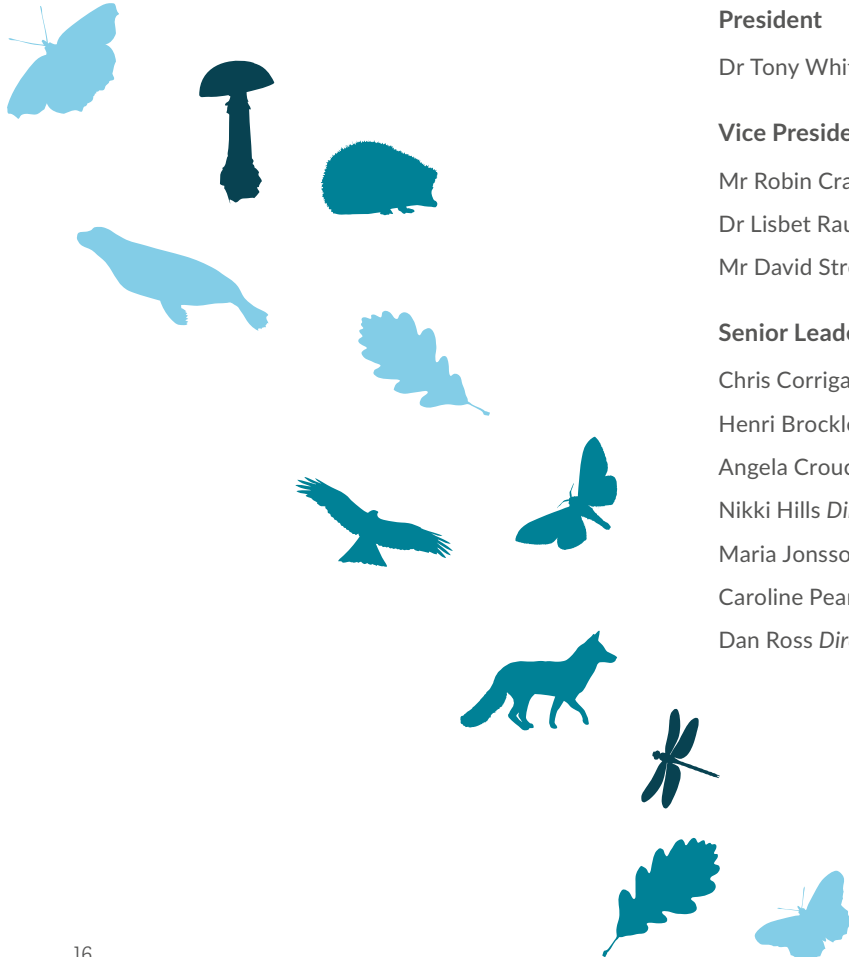
Angela Croucher *Director – Finance and Operations*

Nikki Hills *Director – Communities*

Maria Jonsson *Director – Change Management*

Caroline Pearce *Director – Fundraising and Communications*

Dan Ross *Director – Land Management (until 4th August 2023)*



Governing document

The Sussex Wildlife Trust is a company limited by guarantee under the Companies Act and is governed by its Articles of Association adopted on 13th November 2021.

Organisation

The Sussex Wildlife Trust is governed by its Council, which is responsible for setting policies, ensuring legality and good practice in accordance with the Articles of Association of SWT and the Companies Act 2006. The CEO, under delegated powers, undertakes the routine management of SWT.

Recruitment and appointment of Trustees

In accordance with the Articles of Association, Trustees are elected by the Membership at the Annual General Meeting (AGM). At each AGM, one third of the Directors must retire by rotation, with those who have been longest in office since their last appointment, retiring first. Directors can offer themselves for re-election, but no Director shall serve for a period of more than nine consecutive years. On the expiration of such a period and the retirement of the relevant Director, a further year must lapse before that person shall be eligible for re-election to the Council. Nominations for new Trustees are considered each year prior to the AGM and are put forward for election at the AGM. When considering co-opting Trustees, the SWT Council has regard to the requirement for any specialist skills needed.

Trustee induction and training

New Trustees undergo an induction programme. During the induction they meet the CEO and Senior Leadership Team (SLT) and other employees and gain an understanding of their legal obligations with regards to charity and company law, the Articles of Association and the structure of the committee system. They are advised of appropriate Trustee training courses and are encouraged to attend.

Trustee review and evaluation

During the year, we undertook an internal evaluation of our governance which looked at five key areas of performance. Whilst the findings affirmed good practice across most of the key areas, it did highlight a need to strengthen our work on diversity, which is now a strategic aim and has also now been included as a target area of focus for the Nominations Committee.

Environmental, social and corporate governance

We ensure our conservation work has the maximum benefit for wildlife in Sussex. We protect and restore natural habitats for both people and wildlife. However, to ensure we have the greatest positive impact, we aim to reduce our environmental footprint through our systems, policies and ways of working, and undertake best practice as an

employer to support our staff and volunteers in delivering their roles. This includes:

1 Environmental

- Working with Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts (RSWT) to report annually using the *Green House Gas Protocol* to calculate our organisations emissions
- Working to a SWT carbon emission reduction action plan
- Carrying out risk assessments (national framework) for all buildings and nature reserves (in train)

2 Social

- Working to industry best practice Health and Safety protocols and aiming for a culture of continuous improvement
- Employee benefits including above statutory sick pay, annual leave allowances and pension provision
- Staff consultation forms a key part of decision making
- Working to improve diversity within our staff and volunteer teams

3 Governance

- Working with the Charity Governance Code to develop high standards of integrity and accountability
- Developing our Trustee recruitment and induction processes to promote wider diversity and inclusion
- Regular Trustee skills audits with recruitment, linked to identified skills gaps to ensure succession planning

Remuneration of Senior Leadership Team

Trustees delegate the management of SWT to the CEO. The CEO heads a Senior Leadership Team (SLT) which includes operational Directors. These are the key management personnel of the Trust. Remuneration for the SLT is reviewed annually and includes a benchmark review of all 46 Wildlife Trusts and where available, other similar sized charities operating in the South East managing similar levels of operational complexity.

The Wildlife Trusts partnership

SWT is a member of The Wildlife Trusts Partnership (registered as the Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts, registered charity number 207238) which acts as an umbrella body carrying out lobbying and public relations on behalf of all Wildlife Trusts. The charity has the use of The Wildlife Trusts logo and benefits from the resources, best practice and speciality experience of other member Trusts. Membership gives us a national voice and profile, as well as being known by association for those unfamiliar with our particular work. However, each member of the partnership remains entirely independent in terms of governance and operations.



Financial performance highlights:

Total Income £6.95m (2022/23 £5.39m)

Unrestricted Income £5.55m (2022/23 £4.08m)

- Donations and public appeals totalled £136k (2022/23 £174k)
- Legacy income of £1.98m received during the year (2022/23 £745k)
- Charitable activities £705k (2022/23 £666k)

Restricted Income £1.40m (2022/23 £1.31m)

- Charitable activities £1.32m (2022/23 £1.17m)
- Public appeals £125k (2022/23 £54k)

Total expenditure £5.72m (2022/23 £5.71m)

Raising Funds £1.1m (2022/23 £1.06m)

Rye Harbour Discovery Centre £590k (2022/23 £484k)

Charitable Activities £4.03m (2022/23 £4.17m)

Membership

We saw an overall increase in membership numbers in 2023-24 of 112 memberships. This was due to improvement in retention towards the end of the financial year, and good performance of digital membership recruitment. However, we ended the year with a drop in individual members of 146 due to us retaining and recruiting fewer family memberships. This represents a reduction of 0.46% compared to a 0.26% reduction in the previous year. Income from membership was £1,986,575 which was 4% higher than the previous year. The number of members at 31st March 2024 is 37,964 (2022/23 38,110).

Designated Funds Allocated

Expenditure during the year was mainly for our Ash Dieback activities and costs associated with the staffing restructure. After this year we will re-allocate designated funds to our operational activities.

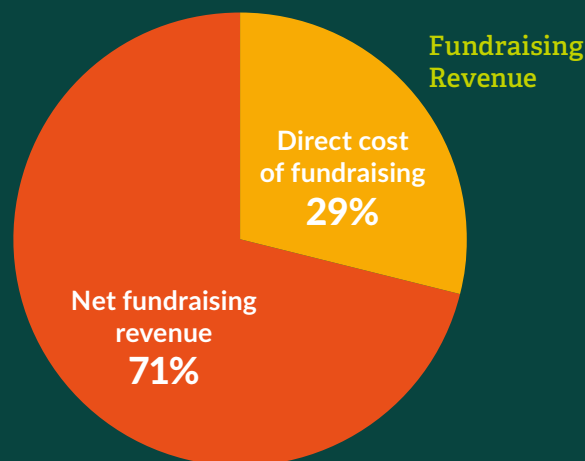
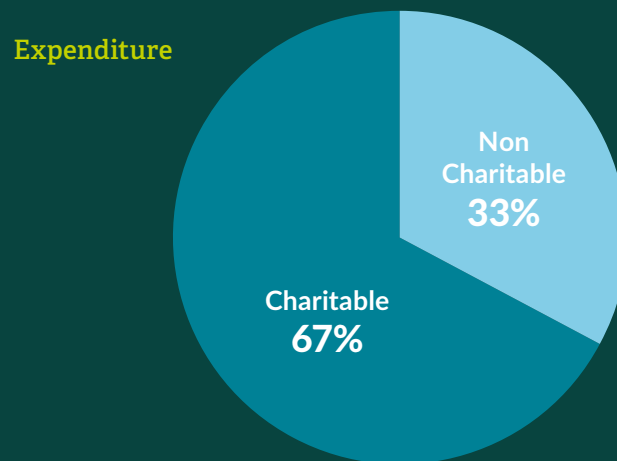
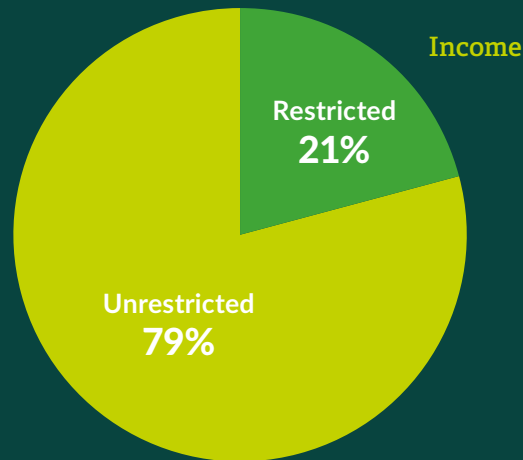
Capital Projects

SWT invested in two new faster, more resilient on-site network servers during the year to ensure our future IT infrastructure. Other items of expenditure involved necessary computer and plant and machinery upgrades including the investment in no-collar technology for some of our cattle.

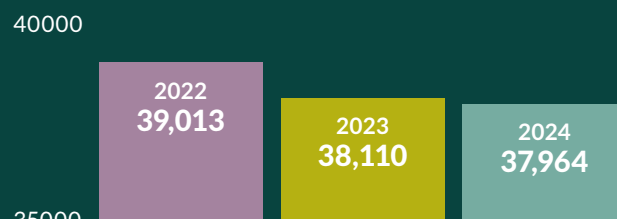
Retained Funds £14.8m (2022/23 £13.57m)

Our total funds at year-end were £14.8m of which £4.7m are restricted funds and £10.1m unrestricted funds. Unrestricted funds include funds tied up in tangible and heritage assets, funds set aside for specific designated projects and readily usable funds of £3.06m, including cash of £1.6m.

Details of all our income can be found on page 24 of the Annual Accounts.



Member numbers



Trustees have prioritised the management of risk in view of the ongoing economic challenges of increasing costs and high inflation. There has been a further review of the risk register to ensure the principal risks are clear and can be managed.

Examples of mitigation undertaken include:

Financial

- Improving cost control throughout the year, improving delegated spending authorities and providing more accurate forecasting aligned to our delivery
- Improving the quality, regularity, and accessibility of our financial information to improve cashflow management and decision making. A 3-year business plan has been developed alongside the strategic plan to ensure financial sustainability

Compliance

- A continued review and strengthening of project management processes, controls, and ways of working. This allowed the Trust to continue to proceed with confidence on projects and programmes such as kelp restoration and habitat restoration on Pevensy Levels
- Ensuring a culture of compliance adherence and Health and Safety Action Plans are in place, monitored through the Health & Safety Management Committee with regular reports to the Senior Leadership Team and Council
- Updated Safeguarding Policies and Procedures and a nominated and trained staff/trustee team in place

Other risks

- Ensuring relevant changes to management practice are adopted regarding wildfire control and management. Ensuring the implications of climate change are factored into the preparation of all new reserve management plans

Financial reserves policy

During the year, the Trustees reviewed the financial reserves policy in line with current Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) requirements and relevant guidance. The revised policy, in place at the end of the financial year, is:

'The reserves policy requires unrestricted reserves to be maintained at a level which would allow the core work and activity of SWT to continue during a period of unforeseen difficulty and also provide us with opportunities to invest in line with our strategic priorities. The reserves are held in a readily useable form; that is readily available or convertible to cash should the need arise.

The calculation of the reserves level is an integral part of the regular financial management, monitoring, and budgeting process. It considers items on the risk register, the financial

cost of mitigating risks, variability, and the potential for fluctuation of budgeted income and expenditure levels, SWT's future commitments and potential strategic initiatives including land purchase. The main risks to income and expenditure are highlighted and a calculation made of the financial consequences of adverse movements. Our current calculation indicates a target reserve level of £2m.'

At year-end our readily useable reserves were £3.06m. At this level, the Trustees feel that we would be able to continue our current activities in the event of a significant drop in funding.

Investment powers and policy

Under the Articles of Association, the charity has the power to deposit or invest funds. The investment policy is:

- To invest those surplus funds not required for immediate use
- To obtain a reasonable income from those funds, given prevailing market returns
- To invest only as permitted by the investment powers of SWT as set out in the Articles of Association

During the year, SWT has continued to retain the majority of its funds on deposit and the Trustees are of the opinion that this policy has been a prudent one. The Trustees review the investment policy from time to time but given our ongoing obligations it has not been felt appropriate to change this approach in the past year.

Professional Fundraising Practices

Sussex Wildlife Trust uses third party agencies to fundraise on its behalf for specific campaigns. In this financial year this included a third party for recruiting new members to the organisation through private site face-to-face fundraising and a third party for recruiting new members through telephone fundraising. The charity has agreements in place with its partners to ensure that the legal requirements regulating fundraising practices are adhered to.

Council regularly reviews fundraising regulation compliance. Sussex Wildlife Trust is an organisational member of the Institute of Fundraising and is registered with the Fundraising Regulator. Sussex Wildlife Trust and its third-party agencies comply with the Fundraising Regulator's Code of Fundraising Practice and are signed up to its Fundraising Promise. Sussex Wildlife Trust and its third-party agencies follow the sector's guidance on protecting vulnerable people. Our Complaints Procedure complies with the requirements of the Fundraising Regulator, and during the financial year, we received twelve complaints (seven complaints in 2022/23) about fundraising activity.

Trustees' responsibilities in relation to the financial statements

The Trustees (who are also Directors of Sussex Wildlife Trust Limited for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

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

- Select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently
- Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- State whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business

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

In so far as the Trustees are aware:

- There is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditor is unaware
- The Trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information

The Trustees' Annual Report is approved by order of the Council of Trustees and the Strategic Report included therein is approved by the Council of Trustees in their capacity as Directors at a meeting on 23rd September 2024 and signed on their behalf by:

On behalf of the Trustees

Nick Pasricha *Chair*
Woods Mill, Henfield, BN5 9SD




City of Meadows Peter
Gladwin Primary School
© Miles Davies

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Sussex Wildlife Trust

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Sussex Wildlife Trust (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 March 2024 which comprises the Statement of Financial Activities, the balance sheet, the cashflow statement and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is 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).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2024, 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 Companies Act 2006.

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 charitable company 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 charitable company'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.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the trustees annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. 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. 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 course of 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.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the trustees' report (incorporating the directors' report) for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the directors' report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the directors' report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 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 directors' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies' regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemption from the requirement to prepare a strategic report.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) 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 charitable company'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 charitable company 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.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above,

to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

- we enquired of management regarding laws and regulations applicable to the charity, actual and potential litigation and claims, and any known instances of non-compliance;
- we reviewed minutes of Trustee meetings;
- we performed audit work over the risk of management override and controls, such as reviewing journal entries;
- we evaluated the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the trustees; and reviewed our work throughout the audit file for evidence of non-compliance with laws and regulations.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the FRC's website at: <https://www.frc.org.uk/auditors/audit-assurance/auditor-s-responsibilities-for-the-audit-of-the-fi/description-of-the-auditor%E2%80%99s-responsibilities-for>
This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's 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 charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Suzanne Goldsmith FCA (*Senior Statutory Auditor*)
For and on behalf of Price Bailey LLP,
Statutory Auditor, Causeway House, 1 Dane Street,
Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire, CM23 3BT

Date: **18 October 2024**



Statement of Financial Activities

Company Number: 00698851

for the Year ended 31 March 2024 (including Income and Expenditure Account)

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Designated Funds	2024 Total Funds	2023 Total Funds (as restated)
		£	£	£	£	£
Income from:						
Donations and legacies	2	4,107,235	83,778	-	4,191,013	2,960,675
Other trading activities	3	665,862	-	-	665,862	585,013
Investments – including cash	4	68,552	-	-	68,552	8,177
Charitable activities	5	704,999	1,320,393	-	2,025,392	1,838,896
Total income		5,546,648	1,404,171	-	6,950,819	5,392,762
Expenditure on:						
Raising funds	6	1,080,634	16,716	4,907	1,102,257	1,056,969
Rye Harbour Discovery Centre	6	590,872	-	-	590,872	484,083
Charitable activities	7	2,691,211	1,316,429	18,039	4,025,679	4,169,871
Total expenditure		4,362,717	1,333,145	22,946	5,718,808	5,710,923
Net income/(expenditure)		1,183,932	71,026	(22,946)	1,232,011	(318,161)
Transfers between funds	17	306,802	(104,235)	(202,567)	-	-
Net movement in funds		1,490,734	(33,209)	(225,513)	1,232,011	(318,161)
Reconciliation of funds						
Balances brought forward at 1 April 2023		8,583,002	4,732,910	252,568	13,568,480	13,886,641
Balances carried forward at 31 March 2024		10,073,736	4,699,701	27,055	14,800,491	13,568,480

The notes on pages 27 to 43 form part of these financial statements



Balance Sheet

at 31 March 2024

Company Number: 00698851

	Notes	2024 £	2023 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	12	5,413,257	5,536,881
Heritage assets	12	3,927,199	3,818,795
Investments	13	100	100
Total fixed assets		9,340,556	9,355,776
Current assets			
Stock		31,828	23,940
Biological assets	14	306,470	279,823
Debtors	15	2,145,500	1,292,555
Cash at bank and in hand		3,378,983	2,976,281
Total current assets		5,862,782	4,572,599
Liabilities			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	16	402,847	359,896
Net current assets		5,459,936	4,212,704
Total net assets		14,800,491	13,568,480
Funds			
Unrestricted		10,073,736	8,583,002
Restricted		4,699,700	4,732,910
Designated		27,055	252,568
Total funds	19	14,800,491	13,568,480

The financial statements were approved by the Council of Trustees and authorised for issue on 23rd September 2024 and signed on their behalf by:



Mr N. Pasricha
Chair



Mr M Braithwaite
Treasurer

The notes on pages 27 to 43 form part of these financial statements

Cashflow Statement

Year ended 31 March 2024

	Notes	2024	2023
		£	£
Net cash used in operating activities			
Operating activities	a)	545,008	(268,534)
<hr/>			
Cash flows from investing activities			
Dividends, interest and rents from investments		68,552	8,177
Proceeds from sale of tangible fixed assets		-	500
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		(210,860)	(204,916)
<hr/>			
Net cash used in investing activities		(142,308)	(196,239)
<hr/>			
Raising funds			
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period	b)	402,700	(464,773)

Notes to the cash flow statement

a) Reconciliation of net incoming resources to net cash flow from operating activities	2024	2023
	£	£
Net (expenditure) for the reporting period	1,232,011	(318,161)
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation	226,081	207,728
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	(68,552)	(8,177)
Profit on sale of fixed assets	-	(500)
Impairment of fixed assets	-	132
(Increase)/Decrease in stock	(7,889)	(155)
(Increase) in biological assets	(26,647)	(63,498)
(Increase) in trade and other debtors	(852,947)	22,163
Increase/(Decrease) in trade and other creditors	42,951	(108,066)
<hr/>		
Net cash provided by operating activities	545,008	(268,534)

b) Analysis of changes in cash and cash equivalents	2024	2023
	£	£
Balance at 1st April	2,976,281	3,441,054
Net cash inflow/(outflow) in the year	402,700	(464,773)
<hr/>		
Balance at 31st March	3,378,981	2,976,281

The notes on pages 27 to 43 form part of these financial statements

Notes to the Accounts

31 March 2024



1. Accounting Policies

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty in the preparation of the financial statements are as follows:

a) Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities:

Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019) – (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Sussex Wildlife Trust (“SWT”) is a company limited by guarantee and has no share capital. In the event of the charity being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member of the charity. Sussex Wildlife Trust meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes.

As at 31 March 2024 the Sussex Wildlife Trust has £14.8m in Total Net Assets including £3.38m Cash at Bank of which £1.8m is restricted funding for future years’ project activity. The Trustees have considered the appropriateness of the going concern assumption for the preparation of the financial statements, based on forecasts covering the period of twelve months from the date of approval of the financial statements to September 2025.

b) Income

Income is recognised in the period in which the charity is entitled to receive it, and that the receipt of said income is measurable, and probable. Income is deferred only when the charity has to fulfil conditions before becoming entitled to it or is subject to unmet conditions wholly outside its control.

Grants from local authorities and other agencies have been included as income from activities in furtherance of the charity’s objects where these amount to a contract for services, but as donations where the money is given in response to an appeal or with greater freedom of use.

Receipt of a legacy, in whole or in part, is only recognized when its receipt is considered probable, when the amount can be measured reliably and the charity is entitled to the amount. Where legacies have been notified to the charity

or the charity is aware of the granting of probate, and the criteria for income recognition have not been met, the legacy is disclosed as a contingent asset.

Subscriptions are dealt with on a cash receipts basis. Subscriptions of life members are included as a liability on the Balance Sheet in accordance with the SORP. One twentieth of this is transferred to income each year. Corporate Support includes annual subscriptions, sponsorship and donations received, while advertising revenue is generated through SWT’s Wildlife magazine produced twice each year.

Investment income is recognised on a receivable basis, where the amount can be measured reliably.

c) Expenditure

Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis when a liability is incurred and there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment. While payments are in respect of a future period they are categorised as such.

- Raising funds includes expenditure on the recruitment of new members, the employee costs of the membership departments, the costs of the annual appeal and the administration costs of the membership department together with publicity costs and legacy development.
- Rye Harbour Discovery Centre costs include the total costs of running the shop, cafe and Visitor Centre and the depreciation costs associated with the building.
- Charitable activities include expenditure associated with the main objects of the charity – these are wildlife conservation, public awareness, the management of nature reserves and the collation of wildlife information.
- Support Costs represent the cost of staff and overheads incurred in providing centralised services for the charity at its offices at Woods Mill premises and include the finance, human resources, office services departments and buildings maintenance. Support costs are allocated to departments on the basis of staff numbers.

d) Donated services and volunteers

Where services are provided to the charity as a donation that would normally be purchased from suppliers this contribution is recognised as income when the charity has control over the item, any conditions associated with the donated item have been met, the receipt of economic benefit from the use by the charity of the item is probable and that economic benefit can be measured reliably.

Volunteers play a critical role in SWT and contribute substantial time to its work. However, in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102), volunteer time is not recognised in these financial statements.

e) Tangible fixed assets

SWT's interests in tangible fixed assets other than land designated as nature reserves are stated at cost with an allowance for depreciation as stated below. Individual IT fixed assets costing £500 or more are capitalised at cost, for other asset classes this rises to £1,000. Assets under construction are not depreciated until the asset is in use.

f) Heritage assets

SWT's interests in land designated as nature reserves are stated at cost; these have been classified as heritage assets and are held by SWT in pursuit of its conservation objectives. Valuations are made by professional valuers – the Valuation Office Agency – and any gifts of land will be treated as heritage assets and will be included at valuation. No depreciation is charged on nature reserves.

g) Investments

SWT had no Equity investments during the year other than its investment in its subsidiary company Sussex Wildlife Enterprises Ltd. which was dormant throughout the current year and the previous year.

h) Depreciation

Tangible fixed assets are depreciated on a straight line basis over their estimated useful lives as follows:

Land	Nil
Buildings, car park & services	2-10%
Temporary structures, fencing, etc.	20%
Motor vehicles	20%
Furniture, fixtures and equipment	20%
Bird Hides	10%

i) Stock

Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

j) Livestock (biological assets)

Livestock is stated at fair value less estimated costs to sell in accordance with the fair value model in FRS 102. Movements in fair value are taken to the SOFA in the year in which they arise. Fair value is based upon the estimation of sales from the land management team and is considered by the Trustees to be fair reflection of the estimated value at the year end.

k) Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available to spend on activities that further any of the purposes of the charity.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds of the charity which the Trustees have decided at their discretion to set aside to use for a specific purpose. Restricted funds are donations which the donor has specified are to be solely

used for particular areas of the Charity's work. The funds held in each of these categories are disclosed in Note 17.

l) Pension schemes

The employees of SWT are eligible to join the Royal London Wildlife Trust Group Pension Scheme. This is a defined contribution scheme. Employees contributions will be enhanced by a contribution from SWT which is at least twice the employee contribution. Contributions are charged to the SOFA as they become payable in accordance with the scheme rules.

The Wildlife Trust category 5 Scheme is a multi-employer defined benefit scheme administered for the benefit of Wildlife Trusts and is managed in accordance with the Pensions Act 2004 Regulations.

The Trustees are unable to confirm the charity's share of the underlying assets and liabilities of the Wildlife Trust Pension Scheme and therefore the Scheme is accounted for as a defined contribution scheme. As a result, the amount charged to the Statement of Financial Activities represents the contributions payable to the scheme in respect of the accounting period.

A liability is recognised by SWT, where material, for the charity's share of the deficit of the scheme as per the agreed schedule of contributions.

m) Operating leases

In categorising leases as finance leases or operating leases, management makes judgements as to whether significant risks and rewards of ownership have transferred to the Company as lessee, or the lessee, where the company is a lessor.

Rentals paid under operating leases are charged on a straight line basis over the life of the lease.

n) Nonrecoverable VAT

Where possible non-recoverable VAT is charged against the category of resource expended for which it was incurred. Otherwise it is charged to support costs.

o) Consolidation

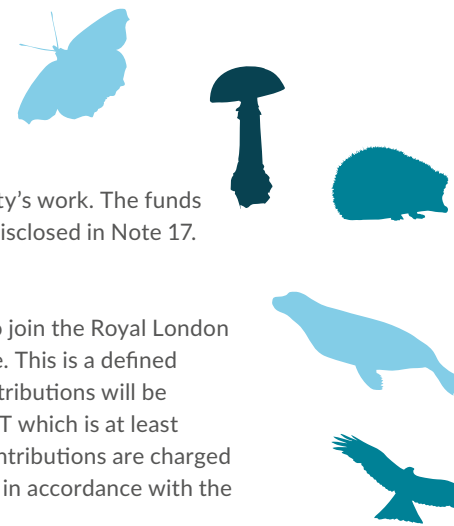
The financial statements present information about the company as an individual undertaking and not about its group. The subsidiary undertaking is dormant.

p) Cash at hand

Cash at bank includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with short maturity of twelve months or less.

q) Financial instruments

SWT would only have financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments procedure are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their





settlement value with the exception of fixed assets which are measured at cost less depreciation.

r) Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

A provision for impairment of trade debtors is established when there is evidence that the amounts due will not be collected according to the original terms of the contract. Impairment losses are recognised in the SOFA.

s) Creditors/liabilities

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

t) Taxation

The Charity is exempt from tax on income and gains falling within section 471 to 489 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act

1992 and is exempt from corporation tax to the extent that they are applied to its charitable objects.

u) Redundancy and termination payments

Expenditure required to settle an obligation for redundancy and termination benefits is recognised as an expense when the charity is committed to terminate the employment of an employee, or provide redundancy and termination benefits.

v) Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

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 Charity makes estimates and assumptions concerning the future. The resulting accounting estimates and assumptions will, by definition, seldom equal the related actual results. The estimates and assumptions that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year are discussed below:

The only estimate and assumptions that have significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities are those relating to legacy income. Estimates are based upon probability and measurability following guidelines outlined in the Charities SORP.

Income and endowments from:

2 Donations and legacies	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Designated funds £	2024 TOTAL £	2023 TOTAL £
a. Income from members	1,986,575	-	-	1,986,575	1,904,314
b. Donations	135,712	9,474	-	145,186	173,613
c. Legacies	1,984,948	(51,033)	-	1,933,915	817,297
d. Public appeals	-	125,337	-	125,337	65,452
	4,107,235	83,778	-	4,191,013	2,960,675

3 Other trading activities

a. Corporate support	11,856	-	-	11,856	22,440
b. Other fundraising income	44,089	-	-	44,089	46,710
c. Rye Harbour Discovery Centre	609,917	-	-	609,917	515,863
	665,862	-	-	665,862	585,013

4 Investments

a. Deposit interest	68,552	-	-	68,552	8,177
	68,552	-	-	68,552	8,177

5 Charitable activities
Restore and protect at least 30% of Sussex

a. Project grants and income	-	230,144	-	230,144	304,257
b. Other income	5,710	521	-	6,231	4,302
	5,710	230,665	-	236,375	308,559

Connect people with nature

c. Grants and income	-	551,081	-	551,081	425,860
d. Schools, events and courses	145,162	9,944	-	155,106	139,299
	145,162	561,025	-	706,187	565,159

Nature Reserves

f. Rents, grazing income, sales of meat and timber	67,311	-	-	67,311	32,872
g. Land management grants and stewardship income	486,817	185,680	-	672,497	608,008
h. Other income	-	-	-	-	32,417
	554,128	185,680	-	739,808	673,297

Retain and develop a strong evidence base

i. Contract funding	-	343,022	-	343,022	291,881
	-	343,022	-	343,022	291,881

Total income from charitable activities	704,999	1,320,393	-	2,025,392	1,838,896
TOTAL INCOME	5,546,648	1,404,171	-	6,950,819	5,392,762



Last year's total income of £5,392,762 was made up of £4,082,837 unrestricted, £1,309,925 restricted split between the following:

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £
Donations and legacies	2,823,263	137,412
Other trading	585,013	-
Investments	8,177	-
Charitable activities	666,384	1,172,513
Other	-	-

The Sussex Wildlife Trust has benefited from a small number of government grants and financial contributions during the year that support our conservation activity. The funding received, incorporates levels of conditional service and supports the management of our nature reserves.

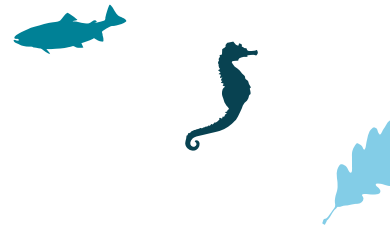
	2024 £	2023 £
During the year this amounted to:		
Single Farm Payment	85,060	114,514
Higher Level Stewardship grant income	324,174	280,621

Expenditure on:

6 Raising funds	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Designated funds £	2024 TOTAL £	2023 TOTAL (as restated) £
a. Staff costs	341,004	-	-	341,004	351,449
b. Membership promotion	220,724	-	-	220,724	269,388
c. Appeals and legacies	3,835	16,716	-	20,551	11,017
d. Membership administration and publicity	104,924	-	-	104,924	77,488
e. Interpretation and website development	13,108	-	-	13,108	34,863
f. Other fundraising costs	30,565	-	-	30,565	37,390
g. Allocated support costs	366,474	-	4,907	371,381	275,374
	1,080,634	16,716	4,907	1,102,257	1,056,969
Rye Harbour Discovery Centre	590,872	-	-	590,872	484,083



Heath Tiger Beetle
© Graeme Lyons



7 Charitable activities

Restore and protect at least 30% of Sussex

a. Staff costs	322,747	91,431	-	414,178	439,680
b. Conservation work	10,477	95,625	-	106,102	141,807
c. Other	4,036	2,860	-	6,896	20,858
d. Allocated support costs	183,237	-	-	183,237	171,092
	520,497	189,916	-	710,413	773,437

Connect people with nature

f. Staff costs	246,540	421,334	-	667,874	672,284
g. Interpretation, education and other costs	176,921	137,301	-	314,222	209,241
h. Depreciation	56,169	-	-	56,169	105,484
i. Allocated support costs	353,386	-	-	353,386	368,235
	833,016	558,635	-	1,391,651	1,355,244

Nature reserves

k. Staff costs	465,023	31,000	-	496,023	603,787
l. Equipment, vehicles and other costs	102,474	23,811	-	126,285	123,982
m. Land management	271,954	172,907	18,039	462,900	458,963
n. Legal and professional fees	13,852	3,996	-	17,848	34,008
o. Depreciation	78,656	19,042	-	97,698	82,411
q. Allocated support costs	287,944	-	-	287,944	263,231
	1,219,903	250,756	18,039	1,488,698	1,566,382

Retain and develop a strong evidence base

r. Staff costs	-	271,796	-	271,796	284,826
s. Depreciation	-	1,194	-	1,194	676
t. Data recording	-	38,472	-	38,472	11,652
u. Other costs	-	5,659	-	5,659	5,395
v. Allocated support costs	117,795	-	-	117,795	172,258
	117,795	317,121	-	434,916	474,807

Total expenditure on charitable activities **2,691,211** **1,316,429** **18,039** **4,025,679** **4,169,871**

TOTAL EXPENDITURE **4,362,717** **1,333,145** **22,946** **5,718,809** **5,710,923**

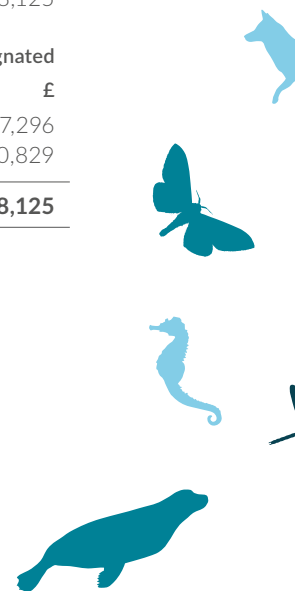
Last year's total expenditure of £5,710,923 was made up of £4,591,250 unrestricted, £1,119,673 restricted and £188,125 designated, split between the following:

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Designated £
Raising funds	1,446,397	7,361	87,296
Charitable activities	2,956,728	1,112,312	100,829
	4,403,125	1,119,673	188,125

Trustees' Liability Insurance

SWT pays an annual insurance premium to:

- protect the charity from loss arising from the defaults of its Trustees, employees or agents
- indemnify the Trustees or other officers against the consequences of any act or default on their part



8 Allocation of support cost

SWT allocates its support costs as shown in the table below and then further apports those costs between the four charitable activities undertaken.

Support costs are allocated on the basis of staff numbers per department and where appropriate a percentage of time worked.

	Charitable activities							Total 2023
	Restore & protect at least 30% of Sussex	Connect people with nature	Nature reserves	Retain & develop a strong evidence base	Charitable activities	Raising funds	Total 2024 (as restated)	
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Management and central overheads	78,445	151,286	123,270	50,429	403,430	156,890	560,320	526,680
Finance department	14,050	27,096	22,078	9,032	72,256	28,099	100,354	219,816
Information technology	25,503	49,185	40,077	16,395	131,160	51,006	182,166	142,074
Human resources	14,815	28,572	23,281	9,524	76,192	29,630	105,822	122,574
General administration	15,216	29,345	23,911	9,782	78,254	30,432	108,686	8,132
Health and Safety/Buildings maintenance	26,852	51,786	42,196	17,262	138,096	53,704	191,800	151,723
Governance	8,357	16,116	13,132	5,372	42,977	16,713	59,690	75,270
	183,237	353,386	287,944	117,795	942,363	366,474	1,308,837	1,246,268

Restated for 2023

	Charitable activities							Total 2023
	Restore & protect at least 30% of Sussex	Connect people with nature	Nature reserves	Retain & develop a strong evidence base	Charitable activities	Raising funds	Total 2023	
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Management and central overheads	72,304	153,960	111,243	72,797	410,304	116,376	526,680	526,680
Finance department	30,177	64,257	46,428	30,383	171,245	48,571	219,816	219,816
Information technology	19,504	41,532	30,008	19,637	110,681	31,393	142,074	142,074
Human resources	16,827	35,831	25,890	16,942	95,490	27,084	122,574	122,574
General administration	1,116	2,377	1,718	1,124	6,335	1,797	8,132	8,132
Health and Safety/Buildings maintenance	20,829	44,352	32,046	20,971	118,198	33,525	151,723	151,723
Governance	10,333	22,003	15,898	10,404	58,638	16,632	75,270	75,270
	171,090	364,312	263,231	172,258	970,891	275,376	1,246,268	1,246,268

9 Staff costs

	2024	2023
	£	£
Analysis of staff costs		
Salaries and wages	2,666,588	2,625,335
Social security costs	236,649	252,770
Pension costs	155,086	156,168
Redundancy and termination costs	18,380	68,503
	3,076,703	3,102,775

Nil employees (2023:1) in the £80 - £90k band, Two earned more than £60,000 p.a. Key management personnel are considered to be: the Chief Executive Officer, and Directors who make up the Senior Leadership Team.

In total they received £425,681 (2023: £438,253) in employee benefits, including pension contributions.

Employer's National Insurance paid £46,574 (2023: £47,624)

Staff numbers

The average number of employees was 110 (2023: 109) with an average FTE of 83 (2023: 81)

	2024	2023
Management FTE	6	7
Other FTE	77	74

Other costs

In the current and prior year no travel, subsistence or training expenses were reimbursed to Trustees. The Trustees were not remunerated in the current or prior year.



10 Pension costs

SWT operates two pensions schemes for its current staff, only one of which is open to new entrants. SWT has liabilities associated with a former, closed, defined benefit scheme.

The pensions schemes are listed below:

- 1) Royal London - Group pension scheme, open to new members.
- 2) Standard Life - Stakeholder pension scheme, closed to new members 31.03.14, but with active employees.
- 3) Wildlife Trust - Defined Benefit pension scheme, closed to new entrants 31.03.05, no active employees

Life assurance is now provided under separate cover.

None of the current employees of the Sussex Wildlife Trust are members of the Defined Benefit scheme. This scheme is a multi-employer scheme and the Trust is unable to identify its share of the assets and liabilities of the scheme. Contributions to the scheme are therefore treated as if it were a Defined Contribution scheme.

The statutory valuation of the Defined Benefit scheme at 1 April 2022 was a deficit of £937,000. The total shortfall attributable to the Trust has not been reflected in these financial statements.

The liability for the Defined Benefit scheme is calculated at the net total of the present value at the reporting date of our obligation to the scheme (as per the actuarial valuation) and the fair value, at the reporting date, of any plan assets out of which the obligation is to be settled directly.

Due to the inability to identify SWT's exact share of assets and liabilities of the Defined Benefit scheme, and its immateriality (calculated at approx. £16k at 31 March 2022), that liability has not been included in this set of financial accounts.

SWT has been advised by the pension scheme Trustees that its share of this shortfall would amount to £3,766 per year exclusive of expenses from 1 August 2022, increasing by 3% per annum until 2026.

Pension contributions

The pension charge shown in the accounts is the amount payable by the Trust during the financial year. It is analysed as follows:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Category 1 - Life assurance only	-	-
Category 3 - Defined Contribution scheme	-	-
Category 5 - Defined Benefit scheme	3,766	3,647
Total contributions to The Wildlife Trusts' Pension Scheme	3,766	3,647
Category 1 - Life assurance only (Standard Life)	-	-
Standard Life Stakeholder Pension scheme	27,940	85,614
Royal London Group Pension scheme	127,216	190,810
Life Assurance Costs	5,152	5,617
	164,074	285,688

Pension contribution liabilities

The following pension contributions were payable at the year-end and are included within creditors:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Royal London Group Pension scheme	15,242	13,966
Standard Life Stakeholder Pension scheme	4,811	5,745
	20,053	19,711

11 Net income/(expenditure) for the year

This is stated after charging:	2024	2023
	£	£
Operating lease rentals	49,861	23,239
Depreciation	226,081	207,728
Auditors remuneration in respect of:		
RSM UK Audit LLP: Audit services	-	24,000
RSM UK Audit LLP: Non audit services	-	3,250
Price Bailey LLP: Audit services	24,917	24,000
Price Bailey LLP: Non audit services	3,500	3,250
Profit on sale of assets	-	500

12 Tangible and heritage fixed assets

	Land and buildings £	Furniture, fixtures and equipment £	Plant & Machinery £	Motor vehicles £	Total tangible assets £	Tangible Heritage Assets £	TOTAL £
Cost							
At 1 April 2023	6,272,221	358,440	108,095	312,162	7,050,918	3,818,795	10,869,713
Additions	24,856	61,302	16,298	-	102,456	108,404	210,860
Disposals	-	(38,929)	-	(3,795)	(42,724)	-	(42,724)
Impairment	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
At 31 March 2024	6,297,077	380,812	124,393	308,367	7,110,650	3,927,199	11,037,849
Depreciation							
At 1 April 2023	980,994	329,307	45,805	157,932	1,514,038	-	1,514,038
Charge for year	144,175	16,021	24,025	41,859	226,080	-	226,080
Disposals	-	(38,929)	-	(3,795)	(42,724)	-	(42,724)
At 31 March 2024	1,125,169	306,399	69,830	195,996	1,697,394	-	1,697,394
Net book value 31 March 2024	5,171,908	74,412	54,563	112,371	5,413,257	3,927,199	9,340,456
Net book value 31 March 2023	5,291,227	29,133	62,290	154,230	5,536,881	3,818,795	9,355,676

Gift of land

SWT has received no gifts of land during the year. (2023: £NIL).

Heritage assets

Heritage assets consist of land designated as nature reserves by SWT and acquired either by purchase, gift or lease.

SWT currently owns, leases or manages 34 nature reserves, all classified as heritage assets, which have been acquired since the early 1960s and cover a total 1,763 hectares of Sussex downland, woodland, wetland, heath, meadow, and farmland. Many are Sites of Special Scientific Interest (21).

Included are five sites designated as nature reserves that were given to SWT between 1964 and 1981 for which no cost or conventional valuation is currently available.

A nature reserve will be considered for acquisition if:

- its ownership will enhance the viability or conservation value of an existing SWT reserve or simplify its management
- the land is required: 1) to demonstrate best conservation practice, 2) for education, 3) for the local community or, 4) to achieve a joint conservation project with other agencies
- ownership of the land will help to achieve one or more targets as set out in the Trust's Nature Reserves Acquisition Strategy

SWT strives to maintain a register of title deeds of nature reserves where possible. Land management is carried out on these sites to pre-agreed management plans.

Disposal of any nature reserve will only be considered if the original objectives for ownership have been met or the site no longer meets the Trust's Nature Reserves Acquisitions and Disposals Policy. The Trust has a policy of allowing open access to all its nature reserves unless this is impossible to achieve due to physical location or will compromise the Trust's conservation objectives.

Five year financial summary of heritage asset transactions

Purchases at cost or valuation	2024 £	2023 £	2022 £	2021 £	2020 £
Streels Lane	-	-	78,406	-	-
Willand Woods	-	-	413,026	-	-
Ebernoe	108,404	-	-	-	-
Total additions	108,404	-	491,432	-	-

There have been no disposals of heritage assets in any of the last five years and a small impairment of £132 which was made in 2022.

13 Fixed asset investments

Subsidiary company - Sussex Wildlife Enterprises Ltd.	2024	2023
	£	£
Cost		
At 31 March 2023 and at 31 March 2024	100	100
Net book value at 31 March 2023 and at 31 March 2024	100	100

SWT owns 100% of the ordinary share capital of Sussex Wildlife Enterprises Ltd, a company incorporated in the UK. The company has not traded since its incorporation.

14 Biological assets

	2024
	£
Fair value at 1 April 2023	279,823
Purchases	3,850
Sales	(46,269)
Gain/Loss	69,066
Fair value at 31 March 2024	306,470

Livestock were valued during the year to 31 March 2024 at £1,500 (cows in calf) and at £1,200 (breeding heifers) and at £1,000 (store cows) per head of cattle (2023: £1,000) and at £150 (ewes) (2023: £105) and £500 (rams) (2023: £194) and £110 per head of lamb (2023: £121)

15 Debtors

	2024	2023
	£	£
Trade debtors	158,203	103,380
Other debtors	1,860,329	1,073,165
Prepayments	126,968	116,010
	2,145,500	1,292,555

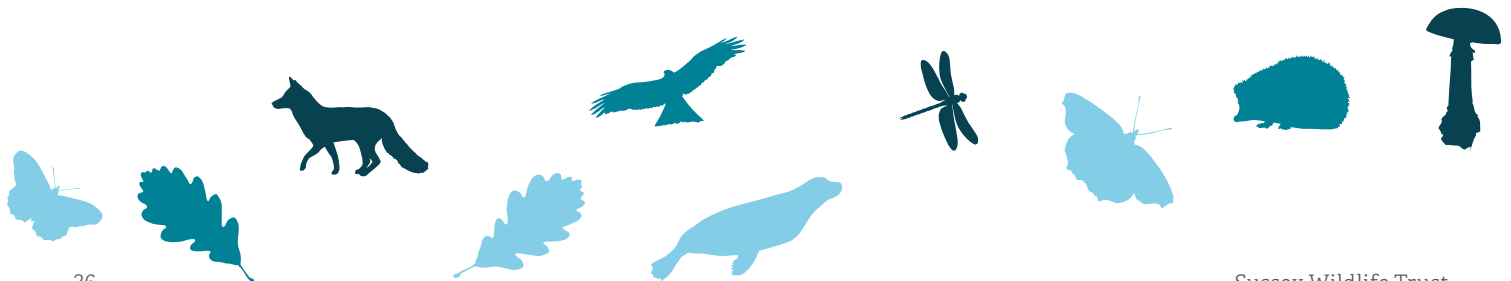
16 Liabilities: amounts falling due within one year

	2024	2023
	£	£
Trade creditors	213,974	209,950
Other taxes and social security costs	57,819	50,637
Other creditors and accruals	82,485	61,352
Deferred income	27,903	16,203
Life membership subscriptions	20,666	21,753
	402,847	359,896

Deferred income:

Balance as at 1 April	27,903	49,512
Income recognised in the year	(16,203)	(49,512)
Income deferred in the year	16,203	16,203
Balance as at 31 March	27,903	16,203

Deferred income comprises memberships and charitable income received for use in future financial years.



17 Funds

	Balance				Balance 31 March 2024 £
	1 April 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	
Restricted					
Nature reserves	2,324,238	-	-	-	2,324,238
Projects	2,408,671	1,404,171	1,333,145	(104,235)	2,375,462
	4,732,909	1,404,171	1,333,145	(104,235)	4,699,700
Designated	252,568	-	22,946	(202,567)	27,055
Unrestricted	8,583,002	5,546,649	4,362,717	306,802	10,073,736
Total all funds	13,568,479	6,950,820	5,718,808	-	14,800,491

Analysis of restricted projects funds movements	Balance				Balance 31 March 2024 £
	1 April 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	
Badger Appeal	15	50	65	-	-
Behaviour Change	4,726	-	-	-	4,726
Brickfield Southern Water	10,000	-	3,600	-	6,400
Chalk Downland Fund	1,098,044	-	-	-	1,098,044
Creating Space	6,070	3,050	-	-	9,120
Culvert Project at Rye Harbour	10,234	-	-	-	10,234
CIL (SDNPA) Iping Common	23,203	-	20,462	-	2,741
CIL (SDNPA) Levin Down	1,254	-	400	-	854
Woods Mill Nature Reserve	-	8,513	8,240	-	273
Deneway Nature Reserve	3,760	-	1,488	-	2,272
Ebernoe Woods Appeal	-	118,931	9,277	108,404	1,250
Friends of Gillham Wood	1,034	-	-	-	1,034
Friends of Rye Harbour	-	31,294	31,294	-	-
Gallus Trust	-	5,000	1,145	-	3,855
Gatwick Greenspace Partnership	31,041	99,882	93,280	(4,169)	41,813
HPAI Seabird Colony Rye	-	26,798	26,798	-	-
National Lottery Heritage Fund - Heritage Emergency Fund	301	-	301	-	-
Kelp	120,047	82,814	95,103	-	107,758
Legacies	21,963	-	8,000	-	13,963
National Grid's Landscape Enhancement Initiative	-	7,873	7,843	-	30
National Highways Peveney Restoration	-	54,521	54,521	-	-
Natural Capital	46,038	26,278	30,443	-	41,873
National Lottery Heritage Fund Next Door Nature People and Wildlife	10,261	-	-	-	10,261
Portsmouth Water Fund	-	260	260	-	-
Rapid Response Fund	20,791	-	-	-	20,791
RSWT Appeal 30 by 30	570	-	-	-	570
Rye Harbour Nature Reserve	10,588	-	-	-	10,588
Rye Harbour Discovery Centre	203,400	(51,033)	-	-	152,367
Rye Harbour Discovery Centre Operational Grant	-	119,463	117,526	-	1,937
3 C's (Championing Coastal Coordination)	5,790	800	6,590	-	-
ScottishPower Foundation	14,087	-	14,087	-	-
Sussex Ornithological Society No Fence	-	9,025	9,025	-	-
Sussex Ornithological Society Heathland Improvements	-	12,396	12,396	-	-
Southerham Barn	39,712	-	19,042	-	20,670
Southern Water	25,000	-	10,587	-	14,413
Summer Appeal 20.21	5,954	-	-	-	5,954
Sussex Biodiversity Record Centre	236,906	297,091	278,369	-	255,628



17 Funds continued

	Balance 1 April 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Balance 31 March 2024 £
Sussex by the Sea Appeal	1,714	-	1,714	-	-
Sussex Local Wildlife Site Initiative	91,638	45,931	38,753	-	98,816
Sussex Wetlands	26,555	76,978	40,281	-	63,252
Species Recovery	-	49,588	17,499	-	32,089
The Leysdown Conservation Trust	40,919	30,000	23,811	-	47,108
Ticehurst Community Project	12,000	-	-	-	12,000
National Lottery Heritage Fund - Wild Coast Sussex	5,507	173,120	168,665	-	9,963
Wilder Horsham District	9,148	129,611	119,246	-	19,513
Winter Woodland Appeal	66,436	-	15,128	-	51,308
Winter Reserves Appeal	70,289	20	5,278	-	65,030
Wetlands Appeal 22	39,689	3,286	-	-	42,975
Woodland Legacy	93,987	-	-	-	93,987
	2,408,671	1,404,171	1,333,145	104,235	2,375,462

Restricted projects:

Badger Appeal: A grazing and vaccination programme against bovine TB
Behaviour Change Project Funded by Natural England: Looking at behaviour change in Nature Tots and Wildlife Watch

Brickfield Southern Water: Compensation Payment from Southern Water for sewage leaks at Brickfield Meadow

Chalk Downland Fund: To maintain, restore or purchase Sussex chalk downland

CIL (SDNPA) Iping Common: Access improvements to Iping Common nature reserve

CIL (SDNPA) Levin Down: Access Improvements to Levin Down nature reserve

Climate Change Project: Funding from People's Postcode Lottery via RSWT for development and delivery of Carbon Reduction Strategies

Creating Space: Supporting Work in Ancient Woodlands

Culvert Project at Rye Harbour: Funding from Environment Agency for Culvert Work at Rye Harbour Reserve

Ebernoe Appeal: Fund to purchase forest copse at Ebernoe

Woodsmill Nature Reserve: conservation work funded by a private individual

Deneway Nature Reserve: Fund from the Co-op Local Community fund

Friends of Gillham Woods for works at Gilham given by Local Community group who disbanded

Friends of Rye Harbour for Salary support see Caroline

Gatwick Greenspace Partnership: Enhancing green spaces in the Gatwick, Crawley and Horsham areas and to increase community involvement

Gallus Trust: for meadow and fen habitat conservation in West Sussex

HPAI Seabird Colony Rye – New Tern rafts for Rye Harbour funded by RSPB

National Grid's Landscape Enhancement Initiative: Improvements to habitats and access at Ebernoe Common and Butcherlands

National Lottery Heritage Fund – Heritage Emergency Fund: Grant to support nature reserves during Covid-19

Kelp: People's Postcode Lottery Funding via RSWT and The Pebble Trust to further the regeneration of Sussex kelp forests, plus other funding towards the Help Our Kelp Partnership

Legacies: Various bequests for specific projects

National Lottery Heritage Fund – Lost Woods of the Low Wealds and Downs Project: Partnership with The Woodland Trust to encourage greater access to woodlands

Natural Capital: The work of public engagement and reconnection to nature

National Lottery Heritage Fund: Working with communities in Hastings using the community organising approach to empower them to take action for wildlife

People and Wildlife: Conservation education for schools in Sussex

Portsmouth Water Fund: Biodiversity Grant Scheme for restoring rare habitat at Leythorne Meadow

Rapid Response Fund: Land acquisition/response to immediate need

Rye Harbour Nature Reserve: A depreciation fund

Rye Harbour Discovery Centre: The development of a Discovery Centre at Rye Harbour

Rye Harbour Discovery Centre Operational Grant: For development of the operations of the Discovery Centre at Rye Harbour

RSWT Appeal 30 by 30: Development of the strategic aim to ensure 30% of land of the UK is managed for the good of wildlife by 2030

3 C's (Championing Coastal Coordination): Sussex Marine and coastal nature recovery network developing the strategy

ScottishPower Foundation: Wild Side of the Track project at Deneway nature reserve providing community events, schools visits and habitat improvements.

Southerham Barn: The development of Southerham Barn

Southern Water: Funds from fines received by Southern Water granted for specific aspects of SWT work

Summer/Winter/Downland appeal: Conservation campaigning, educating children and managing our nature reserves

Sussex Biodiversity Record Centre: The provision of biodiversity information for Sussex

Sussex Downland appeal: For downland management and maintenance

Sussex Local Wildlife Site Initiative: Establishing a coherent and resilient ecological network across Sussex

Sussex Ornithological Society (SOS): Heathland Improvements

Sussex Ornithological Society (SOS) – No Fence project

Sussex Wetlands: Enhancing the awareness of wetland habitats in Sussex

The Leysdown Conservation Trust: Training and development of trainees

Ticehurst Community Project: Funds for Providing Wildlife Advice to local communities

National Lottery Heritage Fund – Wild Coast Sussex: a partnership to inspire and connect people to help protect the Sussex coast and sea

Wetlands Appeal 22: To support the work of the Sussex Flow Initiative (now Wilder Ouse) and the Trust's conservation work on wetland habitats

Wilder Horsham District: Fund for delivering a Nature Recovery Network for Horsham District, with funding from Horsham District Council

Winter Woodland Appeal: For land purchase (Willand Wood) at Ebernoe in 2020 and land management works

Winter Reserves Appeal: For land management work

Woodland Legacy: Bequest for Woodland Purchase

17 Funds continued

Analysis of designated funds movements

Unrestricted funds comprise those funds which the Trustees are free to use in accordance with the Trust's charitable objectives.

The Trustees have designated funds from unrestricted funds for various planned future projects, as well as contingency funds for future eventualities.

	Balance 1 April 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Balance 31 March 2024 £
Business Plan strategic development capacity	11,583	-	-	(11,583)	-
Membership recruitment	142,908	-	-	(142,908)	-
Integrated software project	9,866	-	-	(9,866)	-
Strategy development	2,043	-	4,907	17,958	15,093
Land management equipment (sinking fund)	25,000	-	-	(25,000)	-
Match funding fund	-	-	-	-	-
Interpretation	21,460	-	-	(21,460)	-
HR system upgrade	2,534	-	-	(2,534)	-
Ash Dieback crisis	500	-	18,039	29,500	11,962
Woods Mill Repairs	21,674	-	-	(21,674)	-
Tree Safety Implementation Fund	15,000	-	-	(15,000)	-
	252,568	-	22,946	(202,567)	27,055

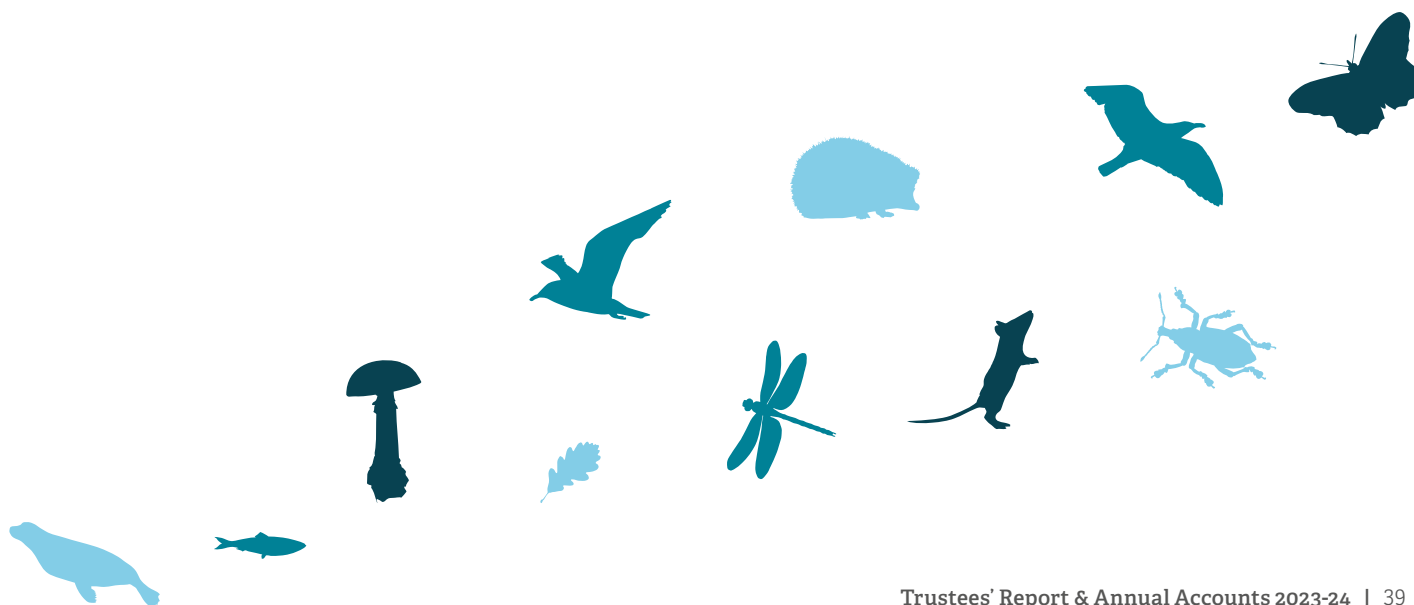
Designated funds:

Strategy development: *Investment in the development and implementation of next five year strategy*

Ash Dieback crisis: *Provision of ongoing work managing the disease*

18 Funds - Previous Year

	Balance 1 April 2022 £	Movement in Resources			Balance 31 March 2023 £
		Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	
Restricted					
Nature reserves	2,324,238	-	-	-	2,324,238
Projects	2,218,420	1,309,925	1,119,674	-	2,408,671
	4,542,658	1,309,925	1,119,674	-	4,732,909
Designated	440,693	-	188,125	-	252,568
Unrestricted	8,903,290	4,082,837	4,403,125	-	8,583,002
Total all funds	13,886,641	5,392,762	5,710,924	-	13,568,480



18 Funds - Previous Year continued

Analysis of restricted projects funds movements - previous year	Balance 1 April 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Balance 31 March 2023 £
Badger Appeal	-	15	-	-	15
Behaviour Change	5,060	-	334	-	4,726
Brickfield Southern Water	10,000	-	-	-	10,000
Chalk Downland Fund	1,098,044	-	-	-	1,098,044
Creating Space	6,070	-	-	-	6,070
Culvert Project at Rye Harbour	15,907	-	5,673	-	10,234
CIL Iping	-	23,203	-	-	23,203
CIL Levin	-	11,764	10,510	-	1,254
Deneway Nature Reserve	3,760	-	-	-	3,760
Friends of Gillham Wood	-	1,034	-	-	1,034
Gatwick Greenspace Partnership	41,118	96,619	106,696	-	31,041
Holiday Activities and Food Programme 2021	227	-	-	-	227
HPAI Seabird Colony Rye	-	13,202	13,202	-	-
National Lottery Heritage Fund - Heritage Emergency Fund	301	-	-	-	301
Kelp	87,026	120,164	87,143	-	120,047
Legacies	31,963	-	10,000	-	21,963
National Highways Peveney Restoration	-	50,293	50,293	-	-
National Lottery Heritage Fund - Lost Woods of the Low Wealds and Downs Project	(289)	2,919	2,630	-	-
Natural Capital	23,728	34,800	12,490	-	46,038
People's Postcode Lottery - Team Wilder	10,000	37,701	47,701	-	-
People and Wildlife	10,034	-	-	-	10,034
Portsmouth Water Fund	3,592	568	4,160	-	-
Rapid Response Fund	20,791	-	-	-	20,791
RSWT Appeal 30 by 30	-	570	-	-	570
Rye Harbour Nature Reserve	10,588	-	-	-	10,588
Rye Harbour Discovery Centre	132,321	72,442	1,363	-	203,400
Rye Harbour Discovery Centre Appeal	-	-	-	-	-
Rye Harbour Discovery Centre Operational Grant	(30,157)	143,211	113,054	-	-
3 C's (Championing Coastal Coordination)	6,455	3,902	4,567	-	5,790
ScottishPower Foundation	14,087	-	-	-	14,087
Southerham Barn	51,062	-	11,350	-	39,712
Southern Water	25,000	-	-	-	25,000
Summer Appeal 20.21	5,954	-	-	-	5,954
Sussex Biodiversity Record Centre	255,214	254,069	272,377	-	236,906
Sussex by the Sea Appeal	1,714	-	-	-	1,714
Sussex Local Wildlife Site Initiative	83,997	37,812	30,171	-	91,638
Sussex Wetlands	15,624	77,825	66,894	-	26,555
The Leysdown Conservation Trust	48,713	30,000	37,794	-	40,919
Ticehurst Community Project	-	12,000	-	-	12,000
Trailer Fund (formerly Chalk Cliff)	316	-	316	-	-
National Lottery Heritage Fund - Wild Coast Sussex	-	145,109	139,602	-	5,507
Wilder Horsham District	6,168	76,632	73,652	-	9,148
Winter Woodland Appeal	66,386	50	-	-	66,436
Winter Reserves Appeal	63,659	6,630	-	-	70,289
Wetlands Appeal 22	-	47,050	7,361	-	39,689
Woodland Legacy	93,987	-	-	-	93,987
Wonderful Woods	-	10,341	10,341	-	-
	2,218,420	1,309,925	1,119,674	-	2,408,671



18 Funds - Previous Year continued

Restricted projects:

Badger Appeal: A grazing and vaccination programme against bovine TB
Behaviour Change Project Funded by Natural England: Looking at behaviour change in Nature Tots and Wildlife Watch

Chalk Downland Fund: To maintain, restore or purchase Sussex chalk downland

National Lottery Heritage Fund – Changing Chalk: Funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) and led by the National Trust

Climate Change Project: Funding from People's Postcode Lottery via RSWT for development and delivery of Carbon Reduction Strategies

Deneway Nature Reserve: Fund from the Co-op Local Community Fund

Gatwick Greenspace Partnership: Enhancing green spaces in the Gatwick, Crawley and Horsham areas and to increase community involvement

National Lottery Heritage Fund – Heritage Emergency Fund: Grant to support nature reserves during Covid-19

National Lottery Heritage Fund – Sussex by the Sea: To develop a round 2 submission

Kelp: People's Postcode Lottery funding via RSWT to further the regeneration of Sussex kelp forests, plus other funding towards the Help Our Kelp Partnership

Legacies: Various bequests for specific projects

Lost Words Appeal: Issuing a nature book about declining use of nature words to all primary schools in Sussex

Natural Capital: The work of public engagement and reconnection to nature

People and Wildlife: Conservation education for schools in Sussex

Portsmouth Water Fund: Biodiversity Grant Scheme: Restoring rare habitat at Leythorne Meadow

Rapid Response Fund: land acquisition/response to immediate need

Rye Harbour: Rye Harbour Nature Reserve

Rye Harbour Discovery Centre: The development of a Discovery Centre at Rye Harbour

Rye Harbour Discovery Centre Appeal: for the Rye Harbour Discovery Centre project

Rye Harbour Discovery Centre Operational Grant: The development of the Operations of the Discovery Centre at Rye Harbour

ScottishPower Foundation: Wild Side of the Track project at Deneway nature reserve for community events, schools visits and habitat improvements.

Southerham Barn: The development of Southerham Barn

Southern Water: Funds from fines received by Southern Water granted for specific aspects of SWT work

Summer/Winter/Downland Appeal: Conservation campaigning, educating children and managing our nature reserves

Sussex Biodiversity Record Centre: The provision of biodiversity information for Sussex

Sussex by the Sea Appeal: For the Wild Coast Sussex project

Sussex Downland appeal: For downland management and maintenance

Sussex Local Wildlife Site initiative: Establishing a coherent and resilient ecological network across Sussex

Sussex Ornithological Society (SOS): Amberley Wildbrooks Wader Project

Sussex Wetlands: Enhancing the awareness of wetland habitats in Sussex

The Leysdown Conservation Trust: Training and development of trainees

West Weald Landscape: enhancing the wooded landscape of an area of West Sussex

National Lottery Heritage Fund – Wild Coast Sussex: A partnership to inspire and connect people to help protect the Sussex coast and sea

Wilder Horsham District Project: Fund for delivering a Nature Recovery Network for Horsham District, with funding from Horsham District Council

Woodland Legacy: Bequest for Woodland Purchase

Analysis of designated funds movements – previous year

Unrestricted funds comprise those funds which the Trustees are free to use in accordance with SWT's charitable objectives.

The Trustees have designated funds from unrestricted funds for various planned future projects, as well as contingency funds for future eventualities.

	Balance 1 April 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Balance 31 March 2023 £
Southerham Reserve Fund	28,075	-	28,075	-	-
Business Plan strategic development capacity	15,506	-	3,923	-	11,583
Membership recruitment	224,973	-	82,065	-	142,908
Integrated software project	11,829	-	1,963	-	9,866
Strategy development	2,744	-	701	-	2,043
Land management equipment (sinking fund)	25,000	-	-	-	25,000
Match funding fund	21,667	-	21,667	-	-
Interpretation	26,691	-	5,231	-	21,460
HR system upgrade	2,534	-	-	-	2,534
Ash Dieback crisis	45,000	-	44,500	-	500
Woods Mill Repairs	21,674	-	-	-	21,674
Tree Safety Implementation Fund	15,000	-	-	-	15,000
	440,693	-	188,125	-	252,568

18 Funds - Previous Year *continued*

Designated funds:

Southerham Reserve Fund: *Development of our nature reserve at Southerham*

Business Plan strategic development capacity: *To allow extra capacity to meet the changing organisational demands*

Membership recruitment: *Future investment in increasing and developing our membership*

Integrated software project: *Development of an integrated IT solution*

Strategy development: *Investment in the development and implementation of next five year strategy*

Land management equipment (sinking fund): *Equipment purchases*

Match funding fund: *Project bid match funding*

Interpretation: *Upgrading interpretation on reserves*

HR system upgrade: *Upgrade of HR system*

Remote access: *Developing remote working*

Ash Dieback crisis

Payband Re-evaluation Fund

Woods Mill Repairs

19 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Tangible & Heritage Fixed		Net Current		Total
	Assets	Investments	Assets		
	£	£	£		£
Restricted					
Nature reserves	2,324,238	-	-		2,324,238
Projects	-	-	2,375,462		2,375,462
Unrestricted	7,016,216	100	3,057,420		10,073,736
Designated	-	-	27,054		27,055
	9,340,454	100	5,459,936		14,800,491

Analysis of net assets between funds 2023

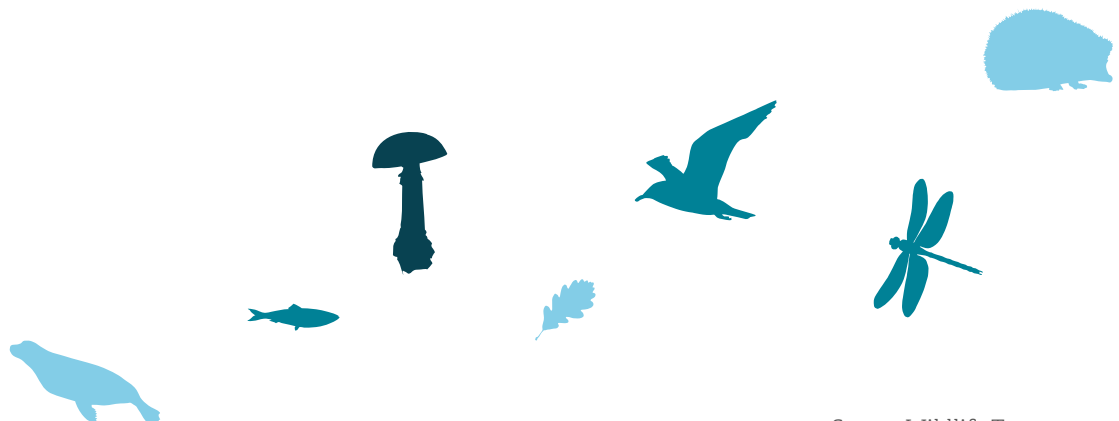
	Tangible & Heritage Fixed		Net Current		Total
	Assets	Investments	Assets		
	£	£	£		£
Restricted					
Nature reserves	2,324,238	-	-		2,324,238
Projects	-	-	2,408,672		2,408,672
Raising funds					
Unrestricted	7,031,438	100	1,551,464		8,583,002
Designated	-	-	252,568		252,568
	9,355,676	100	4,212,704		13,568,480

20 Contingent liabilities

There are no contingent liabilities for the repayment of grants and gifts. (2023: £NIL).

SWT owns Castle Water, part of the Rye Harbour Nature Reserve. As previously reported SWT carried out an investigation to establish the nature and extent of the contamination based on existing data. This confirmed a source of contamination under part of the nature reserve. Since then discussions have been held with the relevant officers from the Environment Agency at a local level and the work done so far comprises a series of studies on the extent of contamination in other areas of Rye Harbour. Monitoring has continued throughout the 2023/24 financial year.

The costs of remediation at Castle Water remain unquantifiable. It is unclear to what extent, if at all, SWT will be liable.



21 (a) Operating lease commitments

SWT has commitments in the year to 31 March 2024 to pay minimum rentals on buildings and equipment under non-cancellable operating leases.

	2023	2024	2023
	Buildings	Equipment	Equipment
	£	£	£
Operating leases which expire:			
Within one year:	-	16,652	15,724
Within two to five years:	-	18,804	19,383
Total operating lease commitments	-	35,456	35,107

(b) Capital commitments

Capital expenditure contracted for but not paid:

Hyundai vehicle to be purchased 11.5K (2023: none)

22 Related party transactions

During the year to 31 March 2024 related party transactions were NIL (2023: £NIL).

23 Prior Year Adjustment

During the preparation of the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024, it was identified that certain expenses were incorrectly categorised in the financial statements of the prior year. Specifically:

1. Categorisation of Communications expenditure - £207,890 of Communications costs were allocated to Raising Funds. These have now been included in Support Costs.
2. Categorisation of Raising Funds expenditure - £310,897 of Raising Funds costs were allocated to Charitable activities.

These errors have been corrected in this year's statements and do not have any impact on the financial position as at 31 March 2023.





Sussex
Wildlife Trust

Sussex Wildlife Trust
Woods Mill, Henfield
West Sussex BN5 9SD

Tel: 01273 492630
Email: enquiries@sussexwt.org.uk
Website: sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk

Registered Charity No: 207005

SUSSEX WILDLIFE TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 207005

Accounts



Sussex
Wildlife Trust

Trustees' Report & Annual Accounts

2022-23



Reference and Administrative Details

Charity name: Sussex Wildlife Trust

Charity number: 207005

Company number: 00698851

Registered and Principal Office Address:

Woods Mill, Henfield, West Sussex, BN5 9SD

Auditor:

RSM UK Audit LLP
Portland
25 High Street
Crawley
West Sussex
RH10 1BG

A resolution to appoint auditors to the charitable company will be proposed at the Annual General Meeting.

Bank:

Barclays PLC
The Old Bank
High Street
Lewes
East Sussex
BN7 2JP

Directors and Trustees:

The Directors of the charitable company (the Charity) are its Trustees for the purposes of charity law and throughout this report are collectively referred to as the Trustees.

The elected Trustees serving during the year and since the year-end were as follows:

Nitin Pasricha *Chair of Council*

Linda Clark *Treasurer and Chair of the Finance, Audit & Risk Committee (until 29th June 2022), Vice Chair (from 30th June 2022)*

Simon Linington *Secretary*

Mark Braithwaite *Treasurer and Chair of the Finance, Audit & Risk Committee (from 30th June 2022)*

Martin Kyndt *Chair of Nominations Committee*

Dr Sean Ashworth

Sarah Bonnôt *(from 8th March 2023)*

Andrew Clinton *(from 8th March 2023)*

Jon Cooper *(until 26th June 2022)*

Danielle Harvey *(from 7th June 2023)*

Helen Marshall

Emma Montlake *(until 12th January 2023)*

Dr Alan Stewart

President:

Dr Tony Whitbread

Vice Presidents:

Mr Robin Crane CBE

Dr Lisbet Rausing

Mr David Streeter OBE

Senior Leadership Team:

Tor Lawrence *CEO (until 31st July 2022)*

Chris Corrigan *Interim CEO (from 15th August 2022)*

Steve Aldridge *Director – Finance (until 5th August 2022)*

Simon Bailey *Interim Director – Finance (from 5th September 2022 – 28th February 2023)*

Angela Croucher *Director – Finance (from 27th March 2023 - until 4th August 2023) Director Finance and Operations (from 7th August 2023)*

Henri Brocklebank *Director – Conservation Policy and Evidence (until 4th August 2023). Director - Conservation (from 7th August 2023)*

Caroline Pearce *Director – Fundraising and Communications*

Dan Ross *Director – Land Management (until 4th August 2023)*

Maria Jonsson *Director – Business Operations (until 4th August 2023). Director – Change Management (from 7th August 2023)*

Amy Clark *Director – Communities & Wildlife (from 19th September 2022 – 11th April 2023)*

Nikki Hills *Acting Director – Communities & Wildlife (from 22nd May 2023)*

Chair's Report



Nitin Pasricha

It is my great pleasure to present my third report as Chair of Council of the Sussex Wildlife Trust. The challenges faced by wildlife in Sussex and indeed, the rest of the country, have only increased over the past year, but now at least, there is a high level of public awareness of the dangers posed to our way of life by the decline of wildlife and of our natural environment.

Despite these challenges, I am proud to say that we have made significant progress during the year with our staff and volunteers working tirelessly to ensure that our local wildlife is protected and that our natural environment is preserved for future generations. I am delighted to highlight some of their achievements in this report.

Our Land Management team continues to maintain and improve our reserves so that wildlife can thrive on them. We are proud to have built a strong working relationship with the Wiston Estate where some of our livestock is now based and have developed a breeding programme to incorporate our native Sussex brown cattle and Herdwick sheep. We have also developed conservation grazing for them which is perfect for protecting the native plant species and wildlife they attract.

Our nature reserve at Rye Harbour continues to flourish and visitors have been able to witness the sights and sounds of many pairs of breeding birds and their chicks, among many other delights.

We are equally proud that the Sussex Kelp Recovery Project has been so successful and has highlighted the need to protect our land, shores and marine life. The first Highly Protected Marine Areas have been announced and we are delighted that Dolphin Head, off the Sussex coast is one of them.

The new Weald to Waves Initiative project, as part of the Landscape Recovery Scheme in the Horsham District, has been very well received and we are re-launching our scheme involving the River Ouse, as the 'Wilder Ouse' project.

Despite our limited resources, we are delighted to support and work with others across Sussex. This has included the re-introduction of Beavers and we were delighted to present the Arun Valley as a national case study with a view to developing this scheme for future national designations. It is only by working together that we can effectively make a difference. An excellent example of this is the Sussex Biodiversity Record Centre which we host on behalf of a number of local authorities and conservation organisations to provide authoritative data, vital to conserving our wildlife.

The current news can be very gloomy and depressing, and we must not underestimate the challenges we face. However, hearing the Nightingale, visiting our nature sites and reserves, reading about the re-introduction of various species, and seeing nature flourish first-hand, gives us a glimmer of hope for the future. As ever, we are extremely grateful to all our members, volunteers, staff and local communities who continue to support us and help make our vision and strategy become reality.

On behalf of my fellow Trustees, I extend my sincere thanks to each and every one of you and look forward to reporting back on more success stories happening in our wonderful county of Sussex in the future.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nitin Pasricha'.

Nitin Pasricha
Chair



Lapwing with chick © Lisa Geoghegan

The Trustees are pleased to present their annual Trustees' report together with the consolidated financial statements of the charity for the year ending 31 March 2023. These are also prepared with the purpose of meeting the legal requirements for a Trustees' report and accounts in accordance with the Companies Act 2006.

The financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006, the Memorandum and Articles of Association, 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 and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

Objectives and Activities

During 2021 the Trustees underwent a process of revising and modernising the Trust's Memorandum and Articles, approved by members at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) November 2021.

Sussex Wildlife Trust's (SWT) objects, as detailed in our Articles of Association 2021, are for the benefit of both wildlife and the public:

- to conserve, restore and enhance the wildlife of Sussex including that in its coastal waters. In particular, to conserve species and the habitats and landscapes in which they occur, including the restoration, creation, and interconnection of such habitats;
- to promote the protection and enhancement of the natural environment; and
- to promote and advance public education about, understanding of, connection to, and action in support of, the natural environment and its benefits.

With regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit, the Trustees believe that the provision of such benefit is an integral part of each of the charitable objectives.

Structure, Governance and Management

Governing document

The Sussex Wildlife Trust is a company limited by guarantee under the Companies Act and is governed by its Articles of Association adopted on 13th November 2021.

Organisation

The Sussex Wildlife Trust is governed by its Council, which is responsible for setting policies, ensuring legality and good practice in accordance with the Articles of Association of SWT and the Companies Act 2006. The CEO, under delegated powers, undertakes the routine management of SWT.

Recruitment and appointment of Trustees

In accordance with the Articles of Association, Trustees are elected by the Membership at the Annual General Meeting (AGM). At each AGM, one third of the Directors must retire by rotation, with those who have been longest in office since their last appointment, retiring first. Directors can offer themselves for re-election but no Director shall serve for a period of more than nine consecutive years. On the expiration of such a period and the retirement of the relevant Director, a further year must lapse before that person shall be eligible for re-election to the Council. Nominations for new Trustees are considered each year prior to the AGM and are put forward for election at the AGM. When considering co-opting Trustees, the SWT Council has regard to the requirement for any specialist skills needed.

Trustee induction and training

New Trustees undergo an induction programme. During the induction they meet the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) and other employees and gain an understanding of their legal obligations with regards to charity and company law, the Articles of Association and the structure of the committee system. They are advised of appropriate Trustee training courses and are encouraged to attend.

Trustee review and evaluation

Following the findings of an internal evaluation of the Trust's governance last year we have continued to strengthen many aspects of our practice which includes annual feedback on the Chair's performance together with an annual opportunity for trustees to reflect on their own performance. The establishment of a Nominations Committee has also enabled us to strengthen and streamline our procedures in the recruitment and induction of new trustees, with a specific focus on increasing the diversity of trustee appointments.

Environmental, social and corporate governance

We ensure our conservation work has the maximum benefit for wildlife in Sussex. We protect and restore natural habitats for both people and wildlife. However,

to ensure we have the greatest positive impact, we aim to reduce our environmental footprint through our systems, policies and ways of working, and undertake best practice as an employer to support our staff and volunteers in delivering their roles. This includes:

1. Environmental

- Working with Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts (RSWT) to report annually using the Green House Gas Protocol to calculate our organisations emissions
- Working to a SWT carbon emission reduction action plan
- Carrying out risk assessments (national framework) for all buildings and nature reserves

2. Social

- Working to industry best practice Health and Safety protocols and aiming for a culture of continuous improvement
- Employee benefits including above statutory sick pay, annual leave allowances and pension
- Staff consultation forms a key part of decision making
- Working to improve diversity within our staff and volunteer teams

3. Governance

- Working with the Charity Governance Code to develop high standards of integrity and accountability
- Developing our Trustee recruitment and induction processes to promote wider diversity and inclusion
- Regular Trustee skills audits with recruitment, linked to identified skills gaps to ensure succession planning

Remuneration of Senior Leadership Team

Trustees delegate the management of the Trust to the CEO. The CEO heads a Senior Leadership Team which includes operational Directors. These are considered to be the key management personnel of the Trust. Remuneration for the SLT is reviewed annually and includes a benchmark review of all 46 Wildlife Trusts and where available, other similar sized charities operating in the South East managing similar levels of operational complexity.

The Wildlife Trusts partnership

SWT is a member of The Wildlife Trusts Partnership (registered as the Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts, registered charity number 207238) which acts as an umbrella body carrying out lobbying and public relations on behalf of all Wildlife Trusts. The charity has the use of The Wildlife Trusts logo and benefits from the resources, best practice and speciality experience of other member Trusts. Membership gives us a national voice and profile, as well as being known by association for those unfamiliar with our particular work. However, each member of the partnership remains entirely independent in terms of governance and operations.

Strategic Report

Achievements and performance of the Trust's work

A coherent ecological network

The long, hot, dry spring and early summer of 2022 had a significant impact on our operations, creating hot, dry, tinder box conditions on our heathland (e.g. Iping and Steadham Commons) and reedbed sites (e.g. Filsham Reedbed) raising the fire risk significantly. Luckily, we had no major incidents, but the dry weather also created a strain on grazing conditions for our livestock. As we look ahead to develop climate resilience in the management of our Nature Reserves, we are mindful of the trend for more unpredictability and extremes in our seasonal weather conditions, as was very clearly demonstrated throughout 2022.

Across our Nature Reserves, we have been extremely busy undertaking regular maintenance as well as progressing some exciting project developments. For example, at our Pevensey Levels Nature Reserve in East Sussex, our team have been working with several neighbouring landowners to create an exciting wetland restoration project, seeking to enhance the important wetland features for the rare and protected species that thrive there, such as the Shining Ramshorn snail that lives in the ditches. Other key species like the Fen Raft Spider, as well as waders such as Lapwings, will be beneficiaries of this project. During 2022-23 a detailed design phase was undertaken, and it is hoped that the delivery phase will see work start on site during Autumn 2023, subject to our funding bid being successful.

At Ebernoe Common, we were successful with our funding bid to the Landscape Enhancement Initiative (National Grid), which has resulted in funding for a six-year project to undertake improvements to the management of woodland pasture, creating opportunities to improve connections between the woodland glades and rides as well as undertaking improvements to the wetland features of this ancient woodland pasture.

We were also able to secure two new Countryside Stewardship agreements at Filsham Reedbed (East Sussex), and Butcherlands (West Sussex) nature reserves to keep developing our extensive agri-environmental funding agreements, which enable us to undertake a wide programme of habitat management and restoration. At Butcherlands, for example, this funding will help us continue to develop the fantastic habitat that continues to support iconic species such as Nightingales, which continue to do well on the reserve.

Our Grazing Team, we have built a strong relationship with the Wiston Estate, where we have taken a lease for livestock barns along with a large grazing licence, this enabled the establishment of a grazing hub in close proximity to many of our West Sussex nature reserves. During 2022 and 2023

our cattle and sheep breeding operations took place at the Wiston Estate, where we have developed a breeding programme for our native Sussex brown cattle and Herdwick sheep, in addition to a flock of Romney sheep, enabling us to deliver extensive conservation grazing across our nature reserves. This is pivotal on our grassland and heathland and other nature reserves habitats, where conservation grazing helps maintain mixed sward heights, for example at Malling Down, creating opportunities for plants like Horseshoe Vetch that support the wonderful Adonis Blue butterfly to flourish.

During the winter of 2022, we undertook a broad maintenance and habitat management programme, including building new bridges at our Flatropers Wood Nature Reserve (East Sussex), and at Eridge Rocks (East Sussex), where we coppiced Chestnut to open up the woodland canopy and improve woodland structure. At Amberley Wildbrooks (West Sussex), working alongside the RSPB, we re-profiled several wetland ditches, work we will continue into winter 2023.

In March 2023, we marked a key milestone with the retirement of Barry Yates, Reserve Manager of Rye Harbour Nature Reserve. Barry leaves a fantastic legacy, where he has overseen the development of Rye Harbour as a dynamic nature reserve, supporting over 100 breeding birds and over 700 species that have conservation status. During 2022, breeding bird highlights at Rye Harbour included 100 pairs of breeding Common Tern, raising around 80 chicks, alongside 50 pairs of breeding Avocet, raising around 30 chicks.

Beyond our estate we have worked hard, both on terrestrial and marine initiatives throughout the year. The recovery of kelp in Sussex has remained centre stage, as SWT chairs the Sussex Kelp Recovery Project which launched its two-year impact report in March 2023, showcasing the extraordinary contribution from so many to make this exciting recovery a success. Further offshore we were delighted to hear that after many years of national campaigning, the first Highly Protected Marine Areas were announced. With only three going through to the first round of designations, we are thrilled that Dolphin Head off the coast of Sussex, was one of them. This was followed by a global announcement a few days later, pledging that 30% of our global seas would be protected by 2030.

On land, our work in Horsham District has gathered more momentum, with the project contributing to one of the first of the new Landscape Recovery Schemes through the Weald to Waves Initiative. Through the year we have had an enthusiastic response from landowners and community and parish groups, and are delighted to now have an additional landowner advisor. We reached the last year of the Sussex Flow Initiative's five-year plan for interventions on the River Ouse and were thrilled to relaunch it on the 1st of April 2023 as 'Wilder Ouse' basing this work on a Nature Recovery Network Model. Beyond these two



Tilgate Wildlife Rangers © Sam Roberts

projects our resources have been limited, but we continue to work with others across Sussex to support the re-introduction of Beavers as ecosystem engineers and pursue plans to look at the feasibility of other ecosystem engineers in time. We were pleased to present the Arun Valley as a national case study for looking at future national designations, as it is a site challenged by all the issues raised by a changing climate and a high upstream population.

Following the enactment of the Environment Bill we have been awaiting new national guidance on Local Nature Recovery Strategies and through our work with the Sussex Nature Partnership, have been developing a Sussex wide strategic approach to the coming new processes available for nature's recovery. With global and national targets for 30% of land and sea to be managed for nature, there is a huge task ahead of us all. We have laid the foundations of this with The Local Wildlife Site Initiative and the Sussex Biodiversity Record Centre, both of which have thrived throughout the year, and will continue to be critical to the success of nature's recovery.

As an evidence-based organisation, the collection of authoritative data remains a priority and through the year this has been delivered through ongoing data collation by the Sussex Biodiversity Record Centre and through the surveys of Local Wildlife Sites. On our coast and at sea, Shoresearch and Seasearch have continued despite the

challenges of cancelled Seasearch plans due to poor weather or visibility. For all this work we are grateful to the vast community of naturalists on land and at sea, who are contributing to this work. Bringing these communities together through the Sussex Biological Recorders' Seminar and the now regular Ocean Symposium, remains a highlight of the year.

People inspired by, connected to and valuing nature

The year saw continued delivery of a number of key projects as well as vital work with communities and schools across the county, building nature connection and inspiring people to take action.

Our Discover Rye Harbour project, funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund, is in its final year, aiming to engage visitors with Rye Harbour Nature Reserve's heritage. The project targets individuals with health issues or disabilities, low-income families, isolated individuals aged 60 and above, young people, and primary schools. Notable achievements include developing activity trails, implementing initiatives like the Lost Words project and Guide in the Hide, in addition to offering volunteering opportunities. The project aims to establish a lasting legacy and transition away from external funding, aligning with Sussex Wildlife Trust's strategy.

Gatwick Greenspace Partnership (GGP), operating for 18 years, received the Biodiversity Benchmark Award for enhancing greenspaces around Dorking, Horley, Crawley, Charlwood, Horsham, and Gatwick Airport. It manages various urban and rural green spaces with the help of volunteers and educational institutions. The GGP organised education events, engaged with the community, expanded school engagement, and supported the Wildlife Trust's initiatives. Volunteers played a crucial role, dedicating thousands of hours to conservation efforts.

The Brighton and Hove Environmental Education (BHee) project, funded by Brighton and Hove Council, focused on environmental education and awareness in the area. It educated individuals, schools, and communities about sustainability, conservation, and environmental stewardship through programmes and workshops.

The Wild Coast Sussex project has completed its 3rd year and is now entering the final six months of delivery. In the past year the project has continued to work with schools, community groups, youth groups, and fishers/ports to increase engagement with coastal wildlife and take action for nature. Wild Beach sessions have been delivered with 15 schools, with specific focus on deprived areas of Sussex. The project has continued to trial events for 16-25-year-olds, with the Water Sports Taster and Ocean Hackathon being very popular amongst this age group. The project collected a further nine tonnes of end-of-life fishing gear to be recycled and began coordinating a legacy plan for the recycling scheme to ensure it continues after the project ends in October.

In the first year of delivery, the Nextdoor Nature project has worked with several communities in Hastings who don't have easy access to green places. This project, funded through a National Lottery Heritage Fund grant, is working to enable communities to take action for nature where they live and work, through a community organising approach. A page on the Trust's website and social media have been set up to promote the project, and to keep in touch with local communities and organisations. Community listening exercises have been held with groups of residents to find out what they need, and useful working partnerships have been established, for example with Groundwork South.

The community action team helped community wildlife projects across the county with advice, events and volunteer support. One example of this has been the Brighton Hit Squad volunteers, assisting the Friends of Lancing Ring in planting Horseshoe Vetch to encourage Adonis Blue butterflies. Groups such as Wild about Warnham have been added to our interactive map of community projects and have contributed blogs for the SWT website. Bat walks have been run in urban areas for instance, at Queen's Park in Brighton and rural locations such as Newtimber Church. The team also organise the Adult Education course programme offering a wide variety of courses covering 30 different topics, ranging from Willow weaving and bush craft to raptors and bumblebees. The Brighton Hit Squad volunteers took part in 14

practical conservation sessions in the city and beyond, with an average of ten volunteers attending a session.

Working with the Leysdown Conservation Trust, the Trust provided traineeships in the conservation and environmental field. The trainees completed Forest School and Wild Beach Leader training, gaining valuable experience and skills. They engaged in various activities, including Forest School sessions, leaky dam construction, and supporting local initiatives.

Education activities continued at Woods Mill education centre, focusing on nature connection, flora, and fauna. Online lessons were delivered to schools, Forest School sessions were conducted, and Nature Tots and Wildlife Watch programmes continued. The Trust supported the University of Sussex's research on adventurous play through 'Adventurous Play' sessions.

The Trust offered Forest School and Wild Beach training to teachers and educators, with over 100 participants engaging in accredited training. They also provided INSET and CPD sessions to schools. Collaboration with the University of Brighton included Forest School Level 2 training for trainee primary school teachers, enhancing their expertise in outdoor education.

In addition to events orchestrated specifically for community groups, the Communities and Wildlife team run a large number of public events on SWT nature reserves. These aim to engage and educate visitors on a huge variety of Sussex wildlife, but also cover specific conservation on reserves and across the wider county. The team cover a wide geographical area from Rye Harbour in the East to many of our reserves in the West, delivering walks, talks and presentations for many hundreds of people. The team also delivered a number of short courses, typically either at Rye Harbour or Woods Mill, on topics such as migrant birds, dragonflies and damselflies, and butterflies and moths. They also assisted the membership department in leading a number of member specific events across reserves throughout the year.

A leading wildlife organisation in Sussex

With over 38,000 members, we are one of the largest nature conservation organisations in Sussex. Despite rapidly rising living costs, we have been extremely appreciative of the continued generosity and loyalty of our membership.

Our achievements included encouraging early anecdotal signs of change on the Sussex seabed where we have played a major role in the Sussex Kelp Recovery Partnership. On land, in Horsham District we have now worked with over 70 landowners helping them identify the best ways for nature recovery on their land. As ever, our nature reserves remain important oases for threatened wildlife. We were delighted to see Nightingales increase to 15 singing males at Butcherlands, bucking the national trend of a serious overall national decline.

Partnership working is a key to addressing the local challenges facing wildlife and wild places. Our work with a wide range of landowners, businesses, schools, local authorities, and other conservation organisations enables us to take action at the scale needed to inspire people and restore nature.

Plans for the Future

Our wonderfully talented and dedicated team of staff and volunteers can be proud of the many achievements described throughout this report. However, despite all the good work, the biodiversity of Sussex remains under threat and in decline.

To address this, we began a refresh of our strategy "Our Wild Sussex", to guide our work until 2030. This will focus on new and innovative ways to scale up our impact but also reflect the new challenges and opportunities we face, both environmentally and economically. The latter presented by both the post Covid-19 changes and rising costs driven by high inflation and the economic crisis. However, this period will be an exciting time for the Trust reinforcing our determination to expand and improve habitats, incorporate the techniques of rewilding and create the conditions for threatened species to thrive. In parallel, we need to inspire more people to love and take action for wildlife across Sussex.

If we can achieve our ambition at scale, there is a real hope for a future where wildlife will once again flourish across the whole country, and not just in small pockets of nature reserves and protected sites.

To achieve this, we will:

- Focus on maximising the wildlife value of our reserves and look for opportunities to make our sites bigger and more resilient to climate change
- Inspire more people about the wonders of the natural world, working with others we will start building a bigger movement of people willing to take action for wildlife
- Set out an ambitious and deliverable plan to become a net zero organisation by 2030
- Build on our position as the leading NGO protecting the marine environment in Sussex. We will continue to play a lead role in the Sussex Kelp Recovery Project and develop a programme of marine work which will provide both protection for the marine environment and an opportunity to connect coastal communities with the marine life on their doorstep
- Continue to be an evidence-based organisation. We are proud to host the Sussex Biodiversity Records Centre which now holds over 10 million biological records
- Take steps to expand and diversify our supporters base, with a particular focus on young people and creating a stronger, more diverse organisation
- Continue to amplify the impact of our work by developing partnerships with landowners, businesses, and local authorities
- Contribute to landscape scale recovery of nature such as the delivery of our Wilder Horsham Project in

partnership with Horsham District Council. We will also pursue prioritised landscape recovery in places such as the Arun Valley and contribute to wider rewilding and landscape recovery projects, most notably the exciting landowner led "Weald to Waves" project

- Develop our Forest School, Wild Beach and education programmes to provide children and young people with experiences which will create a lasting appreciation for nature

Volunteers

Volunteers continue to provide vital support to staff at Sussex Wildlife Trust. Most volunteers continue to enjoy the practical tasks such as conservation work on reserves and within the projects. However, this year we have recruited volunteers to support us in a wider variety of ways. The small team of administration volunteers has expanded to include data inputting from membership surveys and supporting adult education courses. Providing a wider range of opportunities continues to be a focus as we enable volunteers to be involved in our conservation efforts in as many ways as possible. January 2023 saw a significant influx of enquiries for volunteering resulting in the number of active volunteers increasing from 694 to 873 (Better Impact data).

This year there has been a focus on addressing some of the outcomes of the Volunteer Review (February – June 2021). This review included interviews with staff and volunteers and provided a comprehensive action plan to develop the management of volunteers making it more efficient and effective. In January 2023, Better Impact, a Volunteer Management System (VMS) was purchased to support the recruitment and administration of volunteers and scheduled tasks and events. The VMS provides volunteers with a personal profile and an ability to book themselves onto tasks they wish to attend. Another significant benefit is the ability to create reports on volunteering, access feedback and track the number of hours volunteers are giving across the Trust. Many of our projects require detailed information on volunteers and Better Impact is going to enable staff to access this efficiently and swiftly.

Moving forwards, volunteering plays a significant role in the Trust's strategic transformation plan; connecting people with nature and to inspire 1 in 4 to take meaningful action for wildlife. This has led to the development of a short, medium and long-term implementation plan that looks across all departments with regards to volunteering and how teams can engage volunteers effectively.

Donated services

We were pleased to receive pro-bono training and mentoring support during the year from GWiz Learning Partnership to the value of £295 and one day per month's website support from Million Monkeys to the value of £504. A value of £799 has been reflected within the accounts and this Trustees' Report. SWT did not receive any other donated services during the year (2021-22: £10,550).

Financial Review

This year saw a return to almost normal operations with the final lifting of any Covid-19 restrictions and the return of many face-to-face activities in addition to our Rye Harbour Discovery Centre being fully operational. There have however been considerable challenges for the charity this year both with the cost-of-living crisis affecting income and high inflation greatly affecting costs.

Total income for the year commendably increased against the previous year to £5.4m (a 1% increase against last year's £5.34m). We have been successful in securing additional funding for our conservation work, have received additional income at our Rye Harbour Discovery Centre (RHDC) and although our membership income has fallen slightly our general fundraising income has increased. Unrestricted income remained at £4.1m and restricted income for charitable activities increased this year to £1.3m (a 5% increase against last year's £1.25m).

We continued our member recruitment and fundraising activities together with our activities at the RHDC café and shop and despite an increase in costs due to high inflation, we reduced expenditure on Raising Funds to £1.47m. The additional posts required at RHDC and the new posts required for our new conservation projects has meant that our salary costs have increased during the year.

Like many other organisations the impact of high inflation on the charity has been considerable. The full year deficit of £318k after the depreciation charge of £208k means on a cash basis we have made a deficit of £110k.

Significant items of cash utilisation in the year were upgrades to our vehicle fleet and some additional plant and machinery on our reserves.

The 2022-23 financial year was another challenging one with credit due to the entire staff and leadership team for the enthusiasm and dedication with which they have steered the Trust towards more normal times and embraced new and exciting opportunities as they emerge.

Once again, none of this would be possible without the generosity and dedication of our members, volunteers and Wildlife Guardians whose commitment is paramount. We are particularly grateful for the gifts in memory and legacies left to SWT.

Having assessed these accounts and reviewed the forecast income and expenditure, the Trustees consider the charity to be a going concern, on the basis that SWT has sufficient financial reserves to continue trading for the foreseeable future including the twelve months from the date of approval of these accounts.

Principal risks and uncertainties

Trustees have prioritised the management of risk in view of the ongoing economic challenges of increasing costs and high inflation. There has been a further review of the risk register to ensure the principal risks are clear and can be managed.

Examples of mitigation undertaken are:

- Cost control throughout the year, notably by delaying recruitment, not replacing vacant roles and including cost reduction as a criterion in implementing a restructure of the Land Management team
- A review and strengthening of project management processes, controls and ways of working. This allowed the Trust to proceed with confidence on projects and programmes such as kelp restoration and habitat restoration on Pevensy Levels
- Continued investment in an external HR advisor to provide accurate and up-to-date advice to minimise risk and provide effective support for managers and staff
- Ensuring a Health and Safety Action Plan is in place, monitored through the Health & Safety Management Committee with regular reports to the Senior Leadership Team and Council
- Updated Safeguarding Policies and Procedures and a nominated and trained staff/trustee team in place
- Maintenance plans and infrastructure improvements at Woods Mill, RHDC and Southerham Farm to ensure facilities are safe and fit for purpose
- Improving the quality and regularity of our financial information to improve cashflow management and decision making

Financial reserves policy

During the year, the Trustees reviewed the financial reserves policy in line with current Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) requirements and relevant guidance. The revised policy, in place at the end of the financial year, is:

"The reserves policy which requires unrestricted reserves to be maintained at a level which would allow the core work and activity of SWT to continue during a period of unforeseen difficulty and that the reserves are held in a readily useable form; that is readily available or convertible to cash should the need arise.

The calculation of the reserves level is an integral part of the regular financial management, monitoring and budgeting process. It takes into account items on the risk register, the financial cost of mitigating risks, variability,

Financial Performance Highlights

Total income £5.39m (2021-22 £5.34m)

Unrestricted income £4.08m (2021-22 £4.1m)

- Donations totalled £163k (2021-22 £127k)
- Legacy income of £745k received during the year (2021-22 £773k)
- Charitable activities £666k (2021-22 £732k)

Restricted income £1.31m (2021-22 £1.25m)

- Charitable activities £1.17m (2021-22 £1.1m)
- Legacy income £72k (2021-22 £36k)
- Restricted donations £11k (2021-22 £5k)

Total expenditure £5.71m (2021-22 £5.51m)

Raising funds £1.39m (2021-22 £1.6m)

- £168k saving on membership promotion and staffing compared to last year

Charitable activities £4.24m (2021-22 £3.87m)

Membership

We saw an overall drop in membership numbers in 2022-23 of 57 memberships due to the cost-of-living crisis which has impacted both the recruitment and retention of members. We ended the year with 38,110 individual members in 21,683 households. This represents a reduction of 0.26% compared to a 7.7% increase the previous year. Income from membership was £1,904,313 which was 1% lower than the previous year. The number of members as at 31st March 2023 is 38,110 (2021-22 39,013).

Designated funds allocation

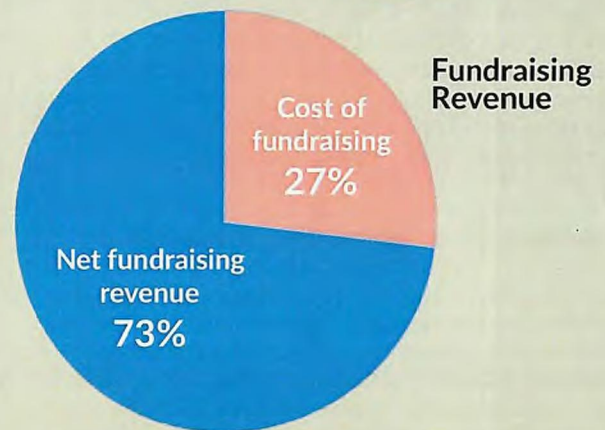
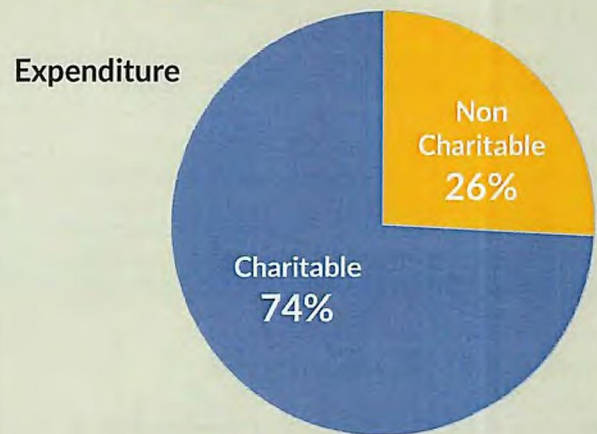
Expenditure during the year was mainly for membership recruitment, costs associated with our Ash Dieback activities and IT upgrades. This leaves a balance of £253k to be spent in future years.

Capital projects

SWT did not undertake any substantive capital projects during the year. Our main items of expenditure involved an upgrade of our existing vehicles and plant and machinery associated with our grazing operations.

Retained funds £13.57m (2021-22 £13.89m)

Our total funds at year-end were £13.6m of which £4.7m are restricted funds and £8.8m unrestricted funds. Unrestricted funds include funds tied up in tangible and heritage assets, funds set aside for specific designated projects and readily usable funds of £1.8m, including cash of £1.6m.



Member numbers



and the potential for fluctuation of budgeted income and expenditure levels and SWT's future commitments. The main risks to income and expenditure are highlighted and a calculation made of the financial consequences of adverse movements."

At year-end our readily useable reserves were £1.8m. At this level, the Trustees feel that we would be able to continue our current activities in the event of a significant drop in funding.

Investment powers and policy

Under the Articles of Association, the charity has the power to deposit or invest funds. The investment policy is:

- To invest those surplus funds not required for immediate use;
- To obtain a reasonable income from those funds, given prevailing market returns; and
- To invest only as permitted by the investment powers of SWT as set out in the Articles of Association.

During the year, SWT has continued to retain the majority of its funds on deposit and the Trustees are of the opinion that this policy has been a prudent one. The Trustees review the investment policy from time to time but given our ongoing obligations it has not been felt appropriate to change this approach in the past year.

Professional fundraising practices

Sussex Wildlife Trust uses third party agencies to fundraise on its behalf for specific campaigns. In this financial year this included a third party for recruiting new members to the organisation through private site face-to-face fundraising and a third party for recruiting new members through telephone fundraising. The charity has agreements in place with its partners to ensure that the legal requirements regulating fundraising practices are adhered to.

Council regularly reviews fundraising regulation compliance. Sussex Wildlife Trust is an organisational member of the Institute of Fundraising and is registered with the Fundraising Regulator. Sussex Wildlife Trust and its third-party agencies comply with the Fundraising Regulator's Code of Fundraising Practice and are signed up to its Fundraising Promise. Sussex Wildlife Trust and its third-party agencies follow the sector's guidance on protecting vulnerable people. Our Complaints Procedure complies with the requirements of the Fundraising Regulator, and during the financial year, we received seven complaints about fundraising activity.

Trustees' responsibilities in relation to the Financial Statements

The Trustees (who are also Directors of Sussex Wildlife Trust Limited for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

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

- Select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

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

In so far as the Trustees are aware:

- There is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditor is unaware; and
- The Trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information.

The Trustees' Annual Report is approved by order of the Council of Trustees and the Strategic Report included therein is approved by the Council of Trustees in their capacity as Directors at a meeting on 9th August 2023 and signed on their behalf by:

On behalf of the Trustees

Nitin Pasricha Chair
Woods Mill, Henfield, BN5 9SD



Independent Auditor's Report

to the Members of Sussex Wildlife Trust

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Sussex Wildlife Trust (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 March 2023 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities (including the Summary Income and Expenditure Account), the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow Statement and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company'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 Companies Act 2006.

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's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company 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 charitable company'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.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the Trustees' Report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the Trustees' Report. 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.

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 course of 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.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the Trustees' Report, which includes the Directors' Report for the purposes of company law, for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Directors' Report and the Strategic Report included within the Trustees' Report have been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material

misstatements in the Directors' Report, or the Strategic Report included within the Trustees' Report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Companies Act 2006 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 set out on page 12, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) 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 charitable company'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 charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's 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 the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud

Irregularities are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. The objectives of our audit are to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding compliance with laws and regulations that have a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements, to perform audit

procedures to help identify instances of non-compliance with other laws and regulations that may have a material effect on the financial statements, and to respond appropriately to identified or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations identified during the audit.

In relation to fraud, the objectives of our audit are to identify and assess the risk of material misstatement of the financial statements due to fraud, to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the assessed risks of material misstatement due to fraud through designing and implementing appropriate responses and to respond appropriately to fraud or suspected fraud identified during the audit.

However, it is the primary responsibility of management, with the oversight of those charged with governance, to ensure that the entity's operations are conducted in accordance with the provisions of laws and regulations and for the prevention and detection of fraud.

In identifying and assessing risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud, the audit engagement team:

- obtained an understanding of the nature of the sector, including the legal and regulatory frameworks that the charitable company operates in and how the charitable company is complying with the legal and regulatory frameworks;
- inquired of management, and those charged with governance, about their own identification and assessment of the risks of irregularities, including any known actual, suspected or alleged instances of fraud;
- discussed matters about non-compliance with laws and regulations and how fraud might occur including assessment of how and where the financial statements may be susceptible to fraud.

As a result of these procedures we consider the most significant laws and regulations that have a direct impact on the financial statements are FRS 102, Charities SORP (FRS 102), Companies Act 2006, Charities Act 2011 and the charitable company's governing document. We performed audit procedures to detect non-compliances which may have a material impact on the financial statements which included reviewing the financial statements including the Trustees' Report and remaining alert to new or unusual transactions which may not be in accordance with the governing documents.

The most significant laws and regulations that have an indirect impact on the financial statements are those in relation to Fundraising Regulations. We performed audit procedures to inquire of management whether the charitable company is in compliance with these law and regulations.

The audit engagement team identified the risk of management override of controls as the area where the financial statements were most susceptible to material misstatement due to fraud. Audit procedures performed included but were not limited to testing manual journal

entries and other adjustments, evaluating the business rationale in relation to significant, unusual transactions and transactions entered into outside the normal course of business, challenging judgments and estimates.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at <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 charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to

state to them in an auditor's 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 charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

RSM UK Audit LLP.

Zoe Longstaff-Tyrrell (Senior Statutory Auditor)

For and on behalf of RSM UK AUDIT LLP,
Statutory Auditor
Chartered Accountants
Portland, 25 High Street
Crawley
West Sussex, RH10 1BG

Date **7 September 2023**

Statement of Financial Activities

Company Number: 00698851

for the Year ended 31 March 2023 (including Income and Expenditure Account)

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	2023 Total Funds £	2022 Total Funds £
Income from:						
Donations and legacies	2	2,823,263	137,412	-	2,960,675	2,955,779
Other trading activities	3	585,013	-	-	585,013	501,780
Investments	4	8,177	-	-	8,177	408
Charitable activities	5	666,384	1,172,513	-	1,838,896	1,858,954
Other	4	-	-	-	-	19,224
Total income		4,082,837	1,309,925	-	5,392,762	5,336,145
Expenditure on:						
Raising funds	6	1,373,735	7,361	5,231	1,386,327	1,636,741
Charitable activities	7	3,029,390	1,112,312	182,894	4,324,596	3,873,530
Total expenditure		4,403,125	1,119,673	188,125	5,710,923	5,510,271
Net income/(expenditure)		(320,288)	190,252	(188,125)	(318,161)	(174,126)
Transfers between funds	17	-	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		(320,288)	190,252	(188,125)	(318,161)	(174,126)
Reconciliation of funds						
Balances brought forward at 1 April 2022		8,903,290	4,542,658	440,693	13,886,641	14,060,767
Balances carried forward at 31 March 2023		8,583,002	4,732,910	252,568	13,568,480	13,886,641

The notes on pages 19 to 35 form part of these financial statements

Balance Sheet

Company Number: 00698851

at 31 March 2023

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	12	5,536,881	5,539,692
Heritage assets	12	3,818,795	3,818,927
Investments	13	100	100
Total fixed assets		9,355,776	9,358,719
Current assets			
Stock		23,940	23,785
Biological assets	14	279,823	216,325
Debtors	15	1,292,555	1,314,719
Cash at bank and in hand		2,976,281	3,441,054
Total current assets		4,572,599	4,995,883
Liabilities			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	16	359,895	467,961
Net current assets		4,212,704	4,527,922
Total net assets		13,568,480	13,886,641
Funds			
Unrestricted		8,583,002	8,903,290
Restricted		4,732,910	4,542,658
Designated		252,568	440,693
Total funds	19	13,568,480	13,886,641

The financial statements were approved by the Council of Trustees and authorised for issue on 9th August 2023 and signed on their behalf by:



Mr N. Pasricha
Chair



Mr M Braithwaite
Treasurer

The notes on pages 19 to 35 form part of these financial statements

Cashflow Statement

Year ended 31 March 2023

	Notes	2023 £	2022 £
Net cash used in operating activities			
Operating activities	a)	(268,534)	(4,458)
Cash flows from investing activities			
Dividends, interest and rents from investments		8,177	408
Proceeds from sale of tangible fixed assets		500	-
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		(204,916)	(876,743)
Net cash used in investing activities		(196,239)	(876,335)
Raising funds			
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period	b)	(464,773)	(880,793)

Notes to the cashflow statement

a) Reconciliation of net incoming resources to net cash flow from operating activities	2023 £	2022 £
Net (expenditure) for the reporting period	(318,161)	(174,126)
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation	207,728	173,666
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	(8,177)	(408)
Profit on sale of fixed assets	(500)	-
Impairment of fixed assets	132	-
(Increase)/Decrease in stock	(155)	(23,029)
(Increase)/Decrease in biological assets	(63,498)	(120,965)
Decrease/(Increase) in trade and other debtors	22,163	160,735
Increase/(Decrease) in trade and other creditors	(108,066)	(20,331)
Net cash provided by operating activities	(268,534)	(4,458)

b) Analysis of changes in cash and cash equivalents	2023 £	2022 £
Balance at 1st April	3,441,054	4,321,847
Net cash (outflow)/inflow in year	(464,773)	(880,793)
Balance at 31st March	2,976,281	3,441,054

The notes on pages 19 to 35 form part of these financial statements

Notes to the Accounts

31 March 2023

1. Accounting Policies

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty in the preparation of the financial statements are as follows:

a) Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities:

Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019) – (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Sussex Wildlife Trust ("SWT") is a company limited by guarantee and has no share capital. In the event of the charity being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member of the charity. Sussex Wildlife Trust meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes.

As at 31 March 2023 the Sussex Wildlife Trust has £13.57m in Total Net Assets including £2.97m Cash at Bank of which £1.6m is restricted funding for future years' project activity. The Trustees have considered the appropriateness of the going concern assumption for the preparation of the financial statements, based on forecasts covering the period of twelve months from the date of approval of the financial statements to August 2024.

b) Income

Income is recognised in the period in which the charity is entitled to receive it, and that the receipt of said income is measurable, and probable. Income is deferred only when the charity has to fulfil conditions before becoming entitled to it or is subject to unmet conditions wholly outside its control.

Grants from local authorities and other agencies have been included as income from activities in furtherance of the charity's objects where these amount to a contract for services, but as donations where the money is given in response to an appeal or with greater freedom of use.

Receipt of a legacy, in whole or in part, is only recognized when its receipt is considered probable, when the amount can be measured reliably and the charity is entitled to the amount. Where legacies have been notified to the charity or the charity is aware of the granting of probate, and the criteria for income recognition have not been met, the legacy is disclosed as a contingent asset.

Subscriptions are dealt with on a cash receipts basis. Subscriptions of life members are included as a liability on the Balance Sheet in accordance with the SORP. One twentieth of this is transferred to income each year. Corporate Support includes annual subscriptions, sponsorship and donations received, while advertising revenue is generated through SWT's Wildlife magazine produced twice each year.

Investment income is recognised on a receivable basis, where the amount can be measured reliably.

c) Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised in the period when the charity is obliged to pay it, and the payment of said expenditure is measurable, and probable. Where payments are in respect of a future period they are categorised as such.

- Raising funds includes expenditure on the recruitment of new members, the employee costs of the marketing and membership departments, the publication and delivery of SWT's magazine twice per year, the costs of the annual appeal and the administration costs of the membership department together with publicity costs and legacy development
- Charitable activities include expenditure associated with the main objects of the charity – these are wildlife conservation, public awareness, the management of nature reserves and the collation of wildlife information
- Support Costs represent the cost of staff and overheads incurred in providing centralised services for the charity at its offices at Woods Mill and include the finance, human resources, office services departments and buildings maintenance. Support costs are allocated to departments on the basis of staff numbers

d) Donated services and volunteers

Where services are provided to the charity as a donation that would normally be purchased from suppliers this contribution is recognised as income when the charity has control over the item, any conditions associated with the donated item have been met, the receipt of economic benefit from the use by the charity of the item is probable and that economic benefit can be measured reliably.

Volunteers play a critical role in SWT and contribute substantial time to its work. However, in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102), volunteer time is not recognised in these financial statements.

e) Tangible fixed assets

SWT's interests in tangible fixed assets other than land designated as nature reserves are stated at cost with an allowance for depreciation as stated below. Individual IT fixed assets costing £500 or more are capitalised at cost,

for other asset classes this rises to £1,000. Assets under construction are not depreciated until the asset is in use.

f) Heritage assets

SWT's interests in land designated as nature reserves are stated at cost; these have been classified as heritage assets and are held by SWT in pursuit of its conservation objectives. Valuations are made by professional valuers – the Valuation Office Agency – and any gifts of land will be treated as heritage assets and will be included at valuation. No depreciation is charged on nature reserves.

g) Investments

SWT had no equity investments during the year other than its investment in its subsidiary company Sussex Wildlife Enterprises Ltd.

h) Depreciation

Tangible fixed assets are depreciated on a straight line basis over their estimated useful lives as follows:

Land	Nil
Buildings, car park & services	2-10%
Temporary structures, fencing, etc.	20%
Motor vehicles	20%
Furniture, fixtures and equipment	20%
Bird Hides	10%

i) Stock

Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

j) Livestock (biological assets)

Livestock is stated at fair value less estimated costs to sell in accordance with the fair value model in FRS 102. Movements in fair value are taken to the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) in the year in which they arise. Fair value is based upon the estimation of values from the land management team and is considered by the Trustees to be fair reflection of the estimated value at the year end.

k) Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available to spend on activities that further any of the purposes of the charity.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds of the charity which the Trustees have decided at their discretion to set aside to use for a specific purpose. Restricted funds are donations which the donor has specified are to be solely used for particular areas of the Charity's work. The funds held in each of these categories are disclosed in Note 17.

l) Pension schemes

The employees of SWT are eligible to join the Royal London Wildlife Trust Group Pension Scheme. This is a defined contribution scheme. Employees contributions will be enhanced by a contribution from SWT which is at least twice the employee contribution. Contributions are charged to the SOFA as they become payable in accordance with the scheme rules.

The Wildlife Trust category 5 Scheme is a multi-employer defined benefit scheme administered for the benefit of Wildlife Trusts and is managed in accordance with the Pensions Act 2004 Regulations.

The Trustees are unable to confirm the charity's share of the underlying assets and liabilities of the Wildlife Trust Pension Scheme and therefore the Scheme is accounted for as a defined contribution scheme. As a result, the amount charged to the Statement of Financial Activities represents the contributions payable to the scheme in respect of the accounting period.

A liability is recognised by SWT, where material, for the charity's share of the deficit of the scheme as per the agreed schedule of contributions.

m) Operating leases

In categorising leases as finance leases or operating leases, management makes judgements as to whether significant risks and rewards of ownership have transferred to the Company as lessee, or the lessee, where the company is a lessor.

Rentals paid under operating leases are charged on a straight line basis over the life of the lease.

n) Nonrecoverable VAT

Where possible non-recoverable VAT is charged against the category of resource expended for which it was incurred. Otherwise it is charged to support costs.

o) Consolidation

The financial statements present information about the company as an individual undertaking and not about its group. The subsidiary undertaking is dormant.

p) Cash at hand

Cash at bank includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with short maturity of three months or less.

q) Financial instruments

SWT only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

r) Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

A provision for impairment of trade debtors is established when there is evidence that the amounts due will not be collected according to the original terms of the contract. Impairment losses are recognised in the SOFA.

s) Creditors/liabilities

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third



Adonis Blue © Derek Middleton

party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

t) Taxation

The Charity is exempt from tax on income and gains falling within section 471 to 489 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 and is exempt from corporation tax to the extent that they are applied to its charitable objects.

u) Redundancy and termination payments

Expenditure required to settle an obligation for redundancy and termination benefits is recognised as an expense when the charity is committed to terminate the employment of an employee, or provide redundancy and termination benefits.

v) Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

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 Charity makes estimates and assumptions concerning the future. The resulting accounting estimates and assumptions will, by definition, seldom equal the related actual results. The estimates and assumptions that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year are discussed below:

There are no estimates and assumptions that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year.

Income and endowments from:

2 Donations and legacies	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	2023 TOTAL £	2022 TOTAL £
a. Income from members	1,904,314	-	-	1,904,314	1,928,959
b. Donations	162,957	10,656	-	173,613	132,151
c. Legacies	744,928	72,369	-	817,297	809,778
d. Public appeals	11,065	54,387	-	65,452	84,891
	2,823,264	137,412	-	2,960,675	2,955,779
3 Other trading activities					
a. Corporate support	22,440	-	-	22,440	30,860
b. Other fundraising income	46,710	-	-	46,710	53,898
c. Rye Harbour Discovery Centre	515,863	-	-	515,863	417,022
	585,013	-	-	585,013	501,780
4 Investments					
a. Deposit interest	8,177	-	-	8,177	408
	8,177	-	-	8,177	408
Other					
b. Other income	-	-	-	-	19,224
	-	-	-	-	19,224
5 Charitable activities					
Wildlife conservation					
a. Project grants and income	-	304,257	-	304,257	401,481
b. Other income	400	3,902	-	4,302	28,758
	400	308,159	-	308,559	430,239
Working with people					
c. Grants and income	-	425,860	-	425,860	309,090
d. Schools, events and courses	133,091	6208	-	139,299	162,321
e. Other income	-	-	-	-	-
	133,091	432,068	-	565,159	471,411
Nature reserves management					
f. Rents, grazing income, sales of meat and timber	32,872	-	-	32,872	53,278
g. Land management grants and stewardship income	467,603	140,405	-	608,008	569,347
h. Other income	32,417	-	-	32,417	50,718
	532,892	140,405	-	673,297	673,343
Collating information on wildlife					
i. Contract funding	-	291,881	-	291,881	283,961
	-	291,881	-	291,881	283,961
Total income from charitable activities	666,383	1,172,513	-	1,838,896	1,858,954
TOTAL INCOME	4,082,837	1,309,925	-	5,392,762	5,336,145

5 Charitable activities *continued*

Last year's total income of £5,336,145 was made up of £4,083,079 unrestricted, £1,253,066 restricted split between the following:

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £
Donations and legacies	2,829,837	125,942
Other trading	501,780	-
Investments	408	-
Charitable activities	731,830	1,127,124
Other	19,224	-

The Sussex Wildlife Trust has benefited from a small number of government grants and financial contributions during the year that support our conservation activity. The funding received, incorporates levels of conditional service and supports the management of our nature reserves.

	2023 £	2022 £
During the year this amounted to:		
Single Farm Payment	114,514	145,878
Higher Level Stewardship grant income	280,621	212,057
Coronavirus job retention scheme	-	21,520

Expenditure on:

6 Raising funds	Unrestricted	Restricted	Designated	2023	2022
	Funds	Funds	Funds	TOTAL	TOTAL
	£	£	£	£	£
a. Staff costs	629,666	-	-	629,666	606,699
b. Membership promotion	24,026	-	-	24,026	368,608
c. Magazine publication and delivery	92,393	-	-	92,393	79,490
d. Appeals and legacies	3,656	7,361	-	11,017	13,546
e. Membership administration and publicity	22,211	-	-	22,211	36,686
f. Interpretation and website development	29,632	-	5,231	34,863	48,193
g. Other fundraising costs	350,545	-	-	350,545	249,264
h. Depreciation	-	-	-	-	22,005
i. Allocated support costs	221,606	-	-	221,606	212,249
	1,373,735	7,361	5,231	1,386,327	1,636,740
7 Charitable activities					
Wildlife conservation					
a. Staff costs	340,488	134,648	-	475,136	458,428
b. Conservation work	223,853	136,528	82,065	442,446	212,507
c. Other	12,533	16,534	-	29,067	11,291
d. Depreciation	-	-	-	-	-
e. Allocated support costs	137,684	-	-	137,684	145,349
	714,558	287,710	82,065	1,084,333	827,575
Working with people					
f. Staff costs	321,011	351,273	-	672,284	794,283
g. Interpretation, education and other costs	171,796	15,778	21,667	209,241	70,115
h. Depreciation	102,819	-	2,665	105,484	76,979
i. Allocated support costs	293,177	-	3,922	297,099	280,763
	888,803	367,051	28,254	1,284,108	1,222,140
Nature reserves management					
j. Staff costs	594,854	8,933	-	603,787	588,547
k. Equipment, vehicles and other costs	93,758	30,224	-	123,982	188,731
l. Land management	282,209	104,179	72,575	458,963	402,553
m. Legal and professional fees	34,008	-	-	34,008	28,936
n. Depreciation	70,745	11,666	-	82,411	73,872
o. Allocated support costs	211,832	-	-	211,832	181,536
	1,287,406	155,002	72,575	1,514,983	1,464,175
Collating information on wildlife					
p. Staff costs	-	284,826	-	284,826	234,338
q. Depreciation	-	676	-	676	811
r. Data recording	-	11,652	-	11,652	15,164
s. Other costs	-	5,395	-	5,395	5,582
t. Allocated support costs	138,623	-	-	138,623	103,745
	138,623	302,549	-	441,172	359,640
Total expenditure on charitable activities	3,029,390	1,112,311	182,894	4,324,596	3,873,530
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	4,403,125	1,119,673	188,125	5,710,923	5,510,271

7 Charitable activities continued

Last year's total expenditure of £5,510,271 was made up of £4,040,548 unrestricted, £1,169,224 restricted and £300,499 designated, split between the following:

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Designated £
Raising funds	1,473,623	2,427	160,691
Charitable activities	2,566,925	1,166,797	139,808

Trustees' Liability Insurance

SWT pays an annual insurance premium to:

- protect the charity from loss arising from the defaults of its Trustees, employees or agents
- indemnify the Trustees or other officers against the consequences of any act or default on their part

8 Allocation of support cost

SWT allocates its support costs as shown in the table below and then further apportions those costs between the four charitable activities undertaken.

Support costs are allocated on the basis of staff numbers per department and where appropriate a percentage of time worked.

	Charitable Activities							
	Wildlife Conservation £	Working with People £	Nature Reserves Manage- ment £	Collating Wildlife Inform- ation £	Charitable Activities Total £	Raising Funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Management and central overheads	38,897	82,824	59,844	39,162	220,727	62,605	283,332	234,616
Finance department	30,177	64,257	46,428	30,383	171,245	48,571	219,816	159,312
Information technology	19,504	41,532	30,008	19,637	110,681	31,393	142,074	136,284
Human resources	16,827	35,831	25,890	16,942	95,490	27,084	122,574	109,108
General administration	1,116	2,377	1,718	1,124	6,335	1,797	8,132	36,741
Health and Safety/Buildings maintenance	20,829	44,352	32,046	20,971	118,198	33,525	151,723	172,175
Governance	10,333	22,003	15,898	10,404	58,638	16,632	75,270	52,759
	137,683	293,176	211,832	138,623	781,314	221,607	1,002,921	900,995

9 Staff costs

	2023 £	2022 £
Analysis of staff costs:		
Salaries and wages	2,625,335	2,547,129
Social security costs	252,770	225,133
Pension costs	156,168	149,888
Redundancy and termination costs	68,503	23,801
	3,102,775	2,945,951

2023: One employee, in the £90 - £100k band, earned more than £60,000 p.a. Key management personnel are considered to be: the Trustees, the Chief Executive Officer, and the further members of staff that make up the Senior Leadership Team. In total they received £438,253 (2022: £366,811) in employee benefits, including pension contributions. (2022: One employee was in the £80-90k band)

Employer's National Insurance paid £47,624 (2022: £38,834)

Staff numbers

The average number of employees was 109 (2022: 102) with an average FTE of 81 (2022: 81)

	2023	2022
Management	7	7
Other	74	74

Other costs

In the current and prior year, no travel, subsistence or training expenses were reimbursed to Trustees. The Trustees were not remunerated in the current or prior year.

10 Pension costs

SWT operates two pensions schemes for its current staff, only one of which is open to new entrants. SWT has liabilities associated with a former, closed, defined benefit scheme.

The pensions schemes are listed below:

- 1) Royal London - Group pension scheme, open to new members.
- 2) Standard Life - Stakeholder pension scheme, closed to new members 31.03.14, but with active employees.
- 3) Wildlife Trust - Defined Benefit pension scheme, closed to new entrants 31.03.05, no active employees

Life assurance is now provided under separate cover.

None of the current employees of the Sussex Wildlife Trust are members of the Defined Benefit scheme. This scheme is a multi-employer scheme and the Trust is unable to identify its share of the assets and liabilities of the scheme. Contributions to the scheme are therefore treated as if it were a Defined Contribution scheme.

The statutory valuation of the Defined Benefit scheme at 1 April 2022 was a deficit of £937,000. The total shortfall attributable to the Trust has not been reflected in these financial statements.

SWT has been advised by the pension scheme Trustees that its share of this shortfall would amount to £3,692 per year exclusive of expenses from 1 August 2022, increasing by 3% per annum until 2026.

The liability for the Defined Benefit scheme is calculated at the net total of the present value at the reporting date of our obligation to the scheme (as per the actuarial valuation) and the fair value, at the reporting date, of any plan assets out of which the obligation is to be settled directly.

Due to the inability to identify SWT's exact share of assets and liabilities of the Defined Benefit scheme, and its immateriality (calculated at approx. £16k at 31 March 2022), that liability has not been included in this set of financial accounts.

Pension contributions

The pension charge shown in the accounts is the amount payable by the Trust during the financial year. It is analysed as follows:

	2023 £	2022 £
Category 1 - Life assurance only	-	-
Category 3 - Defined Contribution scheme	-	-
Category 5 - Defined Benefit scheme	3,647	3,575
Total contributions to The Wildlife Trusts' Pension Scheme	3,647	3,575
Category 1 - Life assurance only (Standard Life)	-	-
Standard Life Stakeholder Pension scheme	85,614	37,589
Royal London Group Pension scheme	190,810	113,297
Life Assurance Costs	5,617	5,069
	285,688	159,530

Pension contribution liabilities

The following pension contributions were payable at the year-end and are included within creditors:

	2023 £	2022 £
Royal London Group Pension scheme	13,966	14,388
Standard Life Stakeholder Pension scheme	5,745	7,006
	19,711	21,394

11 Net income/(expenditure) for the year

This is stated after charging:	2023 £	2022 £
Operating lease rentals	23,239	(471)
Depreciation	207,728	173,666
Auditors remuneration in respect of:		
Audit services	24,000	21,000
Non audit services	3,250	5,900
Profit on sale of assets	500	-

12 Tangible and heritage fixed assets

	Land & Buildings £	Furniture, Fixtures & Equipment £	Plant & Machinery £	Motor Vehicles £	Assets Under Construction £	Total Tangible Assets £	Heritage Assets £	TOTAL £
Cost								
At 1 April 2022	6,205,361	367,032	73,580	229,783	-	6,875,757	3,818,927	10,694,683
Additions	66,860	5,246	34,515	98,295	-	204,916	-	204,916
Disposals	-	(13,838)	-	(15,916)	-	(29,754)	-	(29,754)
Impairment	-	-	-	-	-	-	(132)	(132)
At 31 March 2023	6,272,221	358,440	108,095	312,162	-	7,050,919	3,818,795	10,869,713
Depreciation								
At 1 April 2022	837,391	328,906	27,271	142,496	-	1,336,064	-	1,336,064
Charge for year	143,603	14,239	18,534	31,352	-	207,728	-	207,728
Disposals	-	(13,838)	-	(15,916)	-	(29,754)	-	(29,754)
At 31 March 2023	980,994	329,307	45,805	157,932	-	1,514,038	-	1,514,038
Net book value								
31 March 2023	5,291,227	29,133	62,290	154,230	-	5,536,881	3,818,795	9,355,675
Net book value								
31 March 2022	5,367,971	38,126	46,309	87,287	-	5,539,693	3,818,927	9,358,620

Gift of land

SWT has received no gifts of land during the year. (2022: £NIL).

Heritage assets

Heritage assets consist of land designated as nature reserves by SWT and acquired either by purchase, gift or lease.

SWT currently owns, leases or manages 32 nature reserves, all classified as heritage assets, which have been acquired since the early 1960s and cover a total 1,960 hectares of Sussex downland, woodland, wetland, heath, meadow, and farmland. Many are Sites of Special Scientific Interest.

Included are five sites designated as nature reserves that were given to SWT between 1964 and 1981 for which no cost or conventional valuation is currently available.

A nature reserve will be considered for acquisition if:

- its ownership will enhance the viability or conservation value of an existing SWT reserve or simplify its management
- the land is required: 1) to demonstrate best conservation practice, 2) for education, 3) for the local community or, 4) to achieve a joint conservation project with other agencies
- ownership of the land will help to achieve one or more targets as set out in the Trust's Nature Reserves Acquisition Strategy

SWT maintains a register of title deeds for all nature reserves in its ownership and land management is carried out to pre-agreed management plans.

Disposal of any nature reserve will only be considered if the original objectives for ownership have been met or the site no longer meets the Trust's Nature Reserves Acquisitions and Disposals Policy. The Trust has a policy of allowing open access to all its nature reserves unless this is impossible to achieve due to physical location or will compromise the Trust's conservation objectives.

Five year financial summary of heritage asset transactions

	2023 £	2022 £	2021 £	2020 £	2019 £
Purchases at cost or valuation					
Streels Lane	-	78,406	-	-	-
Willand Woods	-	413,026	-	-	-
Donations					
Rye Harbour	-	-	-	-	75,000
Total additions	-	491,432	-	-	75,000

There have been no disposals of heritage assets in any of the last five years and a small impairment of £132. The addition in 2019 was the donated amount. A small impairment of £132 was made in the current year (2022: £nil). This has been reflected in the table above.

13 Fixed asset investments

	2023	2022
	£	£
Subsidiary Company - Sussex Wildlife Enterprises Ltd.		
Cost		
At 31 March 2022 and at 31 March 2023	100	100
Net book value at 31 March 2022 and at 31 March 2023	100	100

SWT owns 100% of the ordinary share capital of Sussex Wildlife Enterprises Ltd, a company incorporated in the UK. The company has not traded since its incorporation.

14 Biological assets

	2023
	£
Fair value at 1 April 2022	216,325
Purchases	2,200
Sales	(14,096)
Gain/Loss	75,394
Fair value at 31 March 2023	279,823

Livestock were valued during the year to 31 March 2023 at £1,500 (cows in calf) and at £1,200 (breeding heifers) and at £1,000 (store cows) per head of cattle (2022: £1,000) and at £105 (ewes) (2022: £105) and £194 (rams) (2022: £194) and £121 per head of lamb (2022: £121)

15 Debtors

	2023	2022
	£	£
Trade debtors	103,380	128,687
Other debtors	1,073,165	1,086,403
Prepayments	116,010	99,629
	1,292,554	1,314,719

16 Liabilities: amounts falling due within one year

	2023	2022
	£	£
Trade creditors	209,950	222,943
Other taxes and social security costs	50,637	64,349
Other creditors and accruals	61,352	109,758
Deferred income	16,203	49,512
Life membership subscriptions	21,753	21,399
	359,896	467,961
Raising funds		
Deferred income:		
Balance as at 1 April	49,512	13,162
Income recognised in the year	(49,512)	(13,162)
Income deferred in the year	16,203	49,512
Balance as at 31 March	16,203	49,512

Deferred income comprises memberships and charitable income received for use in future financial years.

17 Funds

	Balance 1 Apr 2022	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Balance 31 Mar 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Restricted					
Nature reserves	2,324,238	-	-	-	2,324,238
Projects	2,218,420	1,309,925	1,119,674	-	2,408,671
	4,542,658	1,309,925	1,119,674	-	4,732,909
Designated	440,693	-	188,125	-	252,568
Unrestricted	8,903,290	4,082,837	4,403,125	-	8,583,002
Total all funds	13,886,641	5,392,762	5,710,924	-	13,568,479

	Balance 1 Apr 2022	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Balance 31 Mar 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Analysis of restricted projects funds movements					
Badger Appeal	-	15	-	-	15
Behaviour Change	5,060	-	334	-	4,726
Brickfield Southern Water	10,000	-	-	-	10,000
Chalk Downland Fund	1,098,044	-	-	-	1,098,044
Creating Space	6,070	-	-	-	6,070
Culvert Project at Rye Harbour	15,907	-	5,673	-	10,234
CIL (SDNPA) Iping Common	-	23,203	-	-	23,203
CIL (SDNPA) Levin Down	-	11,764	10,510	-	1,254
Deneway Nature Reserve	3,760	-	-	-	3,760
Friends of Gillham Wood	-	1,034	-	-	1,034
Gatwick Greenspace Partnership	41,118	96,619	106,696	-	31,041
HPAI Seabird Colony Rye	-	13,202	13,202	-	-
Holiday Activities and Food Programme 2021 from East Sussex County Council	227	-	-	-	227
Heathlands Reunited Fund	-	-	-	-	-
National Lottery Heritage Fund - Heritage Emergency Fund	301	-	-	-	301
Kelp	87,026	120,164	87,143	-	120,047
Legacies	31,963	-	10,000	-	21,963
National Highways Pevensey Restoration	-	50,293	50,293	-	-
National Lottery Heritage Fund - Lost Woods of the Low Weald and Downs Project	(289)	2,919	2,630	-	-
Natural Capital	23,728	34,800	12,490	-	46,038
People's Postcode Lottery - Team Wilder	10,000	37,701	47,701	-	-
People and Wildlife	10,034	-	-	-	10,034
Portsmouth Water Biodiversity Grant Award	3,592	568	4,160	-	-
Rapid Response Fund	20,791	-	-	-	20,791
RSWT Appeal 30 by 30	-	570	-	-	570
Rye Harbour Nature Reserve	10,588	-	-	-	10,588
Rye Harbour Discovery Centre	132,321	72,442	1,363	-	203,400
Rye Harbour Discovery Centre Appeal	-	-	-	-	-
National Lottery Heritage Fund - Discover Rye Harbour	(30,157)	143,211	113,054	-	-
3 C's (Championing Coastal Coordination)	6,455	3,902	4,567	-	5,790
ScottishPower Foundation	14,087	-	-	-	14,087
Southerham Barn	51,062	-	11,350	-	39,712
Southern Water	25,000	-	-	-	25,000
Summer Appeal 2021	5,954	-	-	-	5,954
Sussex Biodiversity Record Centre	255,214	254,069	272,377	-	236,906
Sussex by the Sea Appeal	1,714	-	-	-	1,714
Sussex Downland Appeal	-	-	-	-	-
Sussex Local Wildlife Site Initiative	83,997	37,812	30,171	-	91,638
Sussex Ornithological Society (SOS) - Amberley Wildbrooks Wader Project 2020	-	-	-	-	-
Sussex Wetlands	15,624	77,825	66,894	-	26,555
The Leysdown Conservation Trust	48,713	30,000	37,794	-	40,919
Ticehurst Community Project	-	12,000	-	-	12,000

(continued overleaf)

17 Funds continued

	Balance 1 Apr 2022	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Balance 31 Mar 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Analysis of restricted projects funds movements					
Trailer Fund (formerly Chalk Cliff)	316	-	316	-	-
National Lottery Heritage Fund -					
Wild Coast Sussex	-	145,109	139,602	-	5,507
Wilder Horsham District	6,168	76,632	73,652	-	9,148
Winter Woodland Appeal	66,386	50	-	-	66,436
Winter Reserves Appeal	63,659	6,630	-	-	70,289
Wetlands Appeal 22	-	47,050	7,361	-	39,689
Woodland Legacy	93,987	-	-	-	93,987
Wonderful Woodlands (Flatropers)	-	10,341	10,341	-	-
	2,218,420	1,309,925	1,119,674	-	2,408,671

Restricted projects:

Badger Appeal: A grazing and vaccination programme against bovine TB

Behaviour Change Project Funded by Natural England: Looking at behaviour change in Nature Tots and Wildlife Watch

Brickfield Southern Water: Compensation Payment from Southern Water for sewage leaks at Brickfield Meadow

Chalk Downland Fund: To maintain, restore or purchase Sussex chalk downland

CIL (SDNPA) Iping Common: Access improvements to Iping Common nature reserve

CIL (SDNPA) Levin Down: Access improvements to Levin Down nature reserve

Climate Change Project: Funding from People's Postcode Lottery via RSWT for development and delivery of Carbon Reduction Strategies

Creating Space: Supporting Work in Ancient Woodlands

Culvert Project at Rye Harbour: Funding from Environment Agency for Culvert Work at Rye Harbour Reserve

Deneway Nature Reserve: Fund from the Co-op Local Community fund

Friends of Gillham Woods: For works at Gillham given by Local Community group who disbanded

Gatwick Greenspace Partnership: Enhancing green spaces in the Gatwick, Crawley and Horsham areas and to increase community involvement

Holiday Activities and Food Programme 2021 from East Sussex County Council: School holiday activities at Rye Harbour for children

HPAI Seabird Colony Rye: New Tern rafts for Rye Harbour funded by RSPB

National Lottery Heritage Fund - Heritage Emergency Fund: Grant to support nature reserves during Covid-19

Kelp: People's Postcode Lottery Funding via RSWT and The Pebble Trust to further the regeneration of Sussex kelp forests, plus other funding towards the Help Our Kelp Partnership

Legacies: Various bequests for specific projects

National Lottery Heritage Fund - Lost Woods of the Low

Wealds and Downs Project: Partnership with The Woodland Trust to encourage greater access to woodlands

Natural Capital: The work of public engagement and reconnection to nature

People's Postcode Lottery - Team Wilder: Funding from People's Postcode Lottery via RSWT - a project supporting communities to take action for nature in Hastings

People and Wildlife: Conservation education for schools in Sussex

Portsmouth Water Biodiversity Grant Award Biodiversity Grant Scheme for restoring rare habitat at Leythorne Meadow

Rapid Response Fund: Land acquisition/response to immediate need

Rye Harbour Nature Reserve: A depreciation fund

Rye Harbour Discovery Centre: The development of a Discovery Centre at Rye Harbour

Rye Harbour Discovery Centre Appeal: For the Rye Harbour Discovery Centre project

National Lottery Heritage Fund - Discover Rye Harbour: For development of operations at the Discovery Centre at Rye Harbour

RSWT Appeal 30 by 30: Development of strategic aim to ensure 30% of land of UK is managed for the good of wildlife by 2030

3 C's (Championing Coastal Coordination): Sussex Marine and coastal nature recovery network developing the strategy

ScottishPower Foundation: Wild Side of the Track project at Deneway nature reserve providing community events, schools visits and habitat improvements.

Southerham Barn: The development of Southerham Barn

Southern Water: Funds from fines received by Southern Water granted for specific aspects of SWT work

Summer/Winter/Downland appeal: Conservation campaigning, educating children and managing our nature reserves

Sussex Biodiversity Record Centre: The provision of biodiversity information for Sussex

Sussex by the Sea Appeal: For the Wild Coast Sussex project

Sussex Downland appeal: For downland management and maintenance

Sussex Local Wildlife Site Initiative: Establishing a coherent and resilient ecological network across Sussex

Sussex Ornithological Society (SOS) - Amberley Wildbrooks

Wader Project 2020: To enable habitat enhancements at Amberley Wildbrooks which will support populations of breeding waders

Sussex Wetlands: Enhancing the awareness of wetland habitats in Sussex

The Leysdown Conservation Trust: Training and development of trainees

Ticehurst Community Project: Funds for Providing Wildlife Advice to local communities

Trailer Fund (formerly The Chalk Cliff): Depreciation of trailer

National Lottery Heritage Fund - Wild Coast Sussex: A partnership to inspire and connect people to help protect the Sussex coast and sea

Wetlands Appeal 22: To support the work of the Sussex Flow Initiative (now Wilder Ouse) and the Trust's conservation work on wetland habitats

Wilder Horsham District: Fund for delivering a Nature Recovery Network for Horsham District, with funding from Horsham District Council

Winter Woodland Appeal: For land purchase (Willand Wood) at Ebernoe in 2020 and land management works

Winter Reserves Appeal: For funds for land management in 2021

Woodland Legacy: Bequest for Woodland Purchase

Wonderful Woodlands Project: National Grid VIP Landscape Enhancement Initiative and the High Weald

17 Funds continued

Unrestricted funds comprise those funds which the Trustees are free to use in accordance with the Trust's charitable objectives.

	Balance 1 Apr 2022	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Balance 31 Mar 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Analysis of designated funds movements					
Southerham Reserve Fund	28,075	-	28,075	-	-
Business Plan strategic development capacity	15,506	-	3,923	-	11,583
Membership recruitment	224,973	-	82,065	-	142,908
Integrated software project	11,829	-	1,963	-	9,866
Strategy development	2,744	-	701	-	2,043
Land management equipment (sinking fund)	25,000	-	-	-	25,000
Match funding fund	21,667	-	21,667	-	-
Interpretation	26,691	-	5,231	-	21,460
HR system upgrade	2,534	-	-	-	2,534
Ash Dieback crisis	45,000	-	44,500	-	500
Woods Mill Repairs	21,674	-	-	-	21,674
Tree Safety Implementation Fund	15,000	-	-	-	15,000
	440,693	-	188,125	-	252,567

The Trustees have designated funds from unrestricted funds for various planned future projects, as well as contingency funds for future eventualities.

Designated funds:

Southerham Reserve Fund: *Development of our nature reserve at Southerham*

Business Plan strategic development capacity: *To allow extra capacity to meet the changing organisational demands*

Membership recruitment: *Future investment in increasing and developing our membership*

Integrated software project: *Development of an integrated IT solution*

Strategy development: *Investment in the development and implementation of next five year strategy*

Land management equipment (sinking fund): *Equipment purchases*

Match funding fund: *Project bid match funding*

Interpretation: *Upgrading interpretation on reserves*

HR system upgrade: *Upgrade of HR system*

Remote access: *Developing remote working*

Ash Dieback crisis: *Provision of ongoing work managing disease*

Payband Re-evaluation Fund: *Provision of additional cost resulting from re-evaluation*

Woods Mill Repairs: *Planned longer term repairs to Woods Mill*

Tree Safety Implementation Fund: *Provision for additional costs to maintain tree safety on reserves*

18 Funds - previous year

	Balance 1 Apr 2021	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Balance 31 Mar 2022
	£	£	£	£	£
Restricted					
Nature reserves	2,324,238	-	-	-	2,324,238
Projects	2,882,380	1,253,066	1,169,224	(747,802)	2,218,420
	5,206,618	1,253,066	1,169,224	(747,802)	4,542,658
Designated	537,596	-	300,499	203,596	440,693
Unrestricted	8,316,553	4,083,079	4,040,548	544,206	8,903,290
Total all funds	14,060,767	5,336,145	5,510,271	-	13,886,641

18 Funds - previous year continued

	Balance				Balance
Analysis of restricted projects funds movements	1 Apr 2021	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	31 Mar 2022
- previous year	£	£	£	£	£
Badger Appeal	843	25	868	-	-
Behaviour Change	8,000	-	2,940	-	5,060
Brickfield Southern Water	-	10,000	-	-	10,000
Chalk Downland Fund	1,098,044	-	-	-	1,098,044
Climate Change	-	10,700	10,700	-	-
Creating Space	-	6,070	-	-	6,070
Culvert Project at Rye Harbour	-	15,907	-	-	15,907
Deneway Nature Reserve	3,760	-	-	-	3,760
Gatwick Greenspace Partnership	54,276	84,190	97,348	-	41,118
Holiday Activities and Food Programme 2021	-	422	195	-	227
from East Sussex County Council	-	-	-	-	-
Heathlands Reunited Fund	-	7,156	7,156	-	-
National Lottery Heritage Fund - Heritage	-	-	-	-	-
Emergency Fund	4,321	-	4,020	-	301
Kelp	14,237	214,186	141,397	-	87,026
Legacies	110,369	-	-	(78,406)	31,963
National Lottery Heritage Fund - Lost Woods of	-	-	-	-	-
the Low Weald and Downs Project	-	5,041	5,330	-	(289)
Natural Capital	20,791	26,590	23,653	-	23,728
People's Postcode Lottery - Team Wilder	-	10,000	-	-	10,000
People and Wildlife	10,784	-	750	-	10,034
Portsmouth Water	4,692	-	1,100	-	3,592
Rapid Response Fund	21,718	1,000	1,927	-	20,791
Rye Harbour Nature Reserve	13,088	-	2,500	-	10,588
Rye Harbour Discovery Centre	359,287	91,745	62,341	(256,370)	132,321
Rye Harbour Discovery Centre Appeal	1,269	1,190	2,459	-	-
National Lottery Heritage Fund - Discover Rye Harbour	(22,067)	98,538	106,628	-	(30,157)
3 C's (Championing Coastal Coordination)	-	20,807	14,352	-	6,455
ScottishPower Foundation	16,857	-	2,770	-	14,087
Southerham Barn	62,412	-	11,350	-	51,062
Southern Water	25,000	-	-	-	25,000
Summer Appeal 2021	5,349	605	-	-	5,954
Sussex Biodiversity Record Centre	217,425	272,319	234,530	-	255,214
Sussex by the Sea Appeal	19,215	-	17,501	-	1,714
Sussex Downland Appeal	10,125	-	10,125	-	-
Sussex Local Wildlife Site Initiative	80,742	24,618	21,363	-	83,997
Sussex Ornithological Society (SOS) - Amberley	-	-	-	-	-
Wildbrooks Wader Project 2020	-	11,300	11,300	-	-
Sussex Wetlands	42,574	61,700	88,650	-	15,624
The Leysdown Conservation Trust	46,155	30,000	27,442	-	48,713
Trailer Fund (formerly Chalk Cliff)	1,502	-	1,186	-	316
West Weald Landscape	48,101	-	48,101	-	-
National Lottery Heritage Fund - Wild Coast Sussex	-	116,613	116,613	-	-
Wilder Horsham District	10,968	57,829	62,629	-	6,168
Winter Woodland Appeal	85,530	10,856	30,000	-	66,386
Winter Reserves Appeal	-	63,659	-	-	63,659
Woodland Legacy	507,013	-	-	(413,026)	93,987
	2,882,380	1,253,068	1,169,224	747,802	2,218,421

18 Funds - previous year continued

Restricted projects:

Badger Appeal: A grazing and vaccination programme against bovine TB

Behaviour Change Project Funded by Natural England: Looking at behaviour change in Nature Tots and Wildlife Watch

Chalk Downland Fund: To maintain, restore or purchase Sussex chalk downland

National Lottery Heritage Fund – Changing Chalk: Funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) and led by the National Trust

Climate Change Project: Funding from People's Postcode Lottery via RSWT for development and delivery of Carbon Reduction Strategies

Deneway Nature Reserve: Fund from the Co-op Local Community Fund

Gateway to Nature: To develop further Youth Ranger work and community involvement

Gatwick Greenspace Partnership: Enhancing green spaces in the Gatwick, Crawley and Horsham areas and to increase community involvement

Heathlands Reunited Fund: Partnership agreement towards management and restoration of Sussex Heathlands

National Lottery Heritage Fund – Heritage Emergency Fund: Grant to support nature reserves during Covid-19

National Lottery Heritage Fund – Sussex by the Sea: To develop a round 2 submission

Kelp: People's Postcode Lottery funding via RSWT to further the regeneration of Sussex kelp forests, plus other funding towards the Help Our Kelp Partnership

Legacies: Various bequests for specific projects

Lost Words Appeal: Issuing a nature book about declining use of nature words to all primary schools in Sussex

Natural Capital: The work of public engagement and reconnection to nature

People and Wildlife: Conservation education for schools in Sussex

Portsmouth Water Biodiversity Grant Award: Restoring rare habitat at Leythorne Meadow

Rapid Response Fund: Land acquisition/response to immediate need

Rye Harbour: Rye Harbour Nature Reserve

Rye Harbour Discovery Centre: The development of a Discovery Centre at Rye Harbour

Rye Harbour Discovery Centre Appeal: For the Rye Harbour Discovery Centre project

National Lottery Heritage Fund - Discover Rye Harbour: The development of the Operations of the Discovery Centre at Rye Harbour

ScottishPower Foundation: Wild Side of the Track project at Deneway nature reserve for community events, schools visits and habitat improvements.

Southerham Barn: The development of Southerham Barn

Southern Water: Funds from fines received by Southern Water granted for specific aspects of SWT work

Summer/Winter/Downland Appeal: Conservation campaigning, educating children and managing our nature reserves

Sussex Biodiversity Record Centre: The provision of biodiversity information for Sussex

Sussex by the Sea Appeal: For the Wild Coast Sussex project

Sussex Downland appeal: For downland management and maintenance

Sussex Local Wildlife Site initiative: Establishing a coherent and resilient ecological network across Sussex

Sussex Ornithological Society (SOS): Amberley Wildbrooks Wader Project

Sussex Wetlands: Enhancing the awareness of wetland habitats in Sussex

The Leysdown Conservation Trust: Training and development of trainees

Trailer Fund (formerly The Chalk Cliff Trust): Depreciation of trailer

West Weald Landscape: Enhancing the wooded landscape of an area of West Sussex

National Lottery Heritage Fund - Wild Coast Sussex: A partnership to inspire and connect people to help protect the Sussex coast and sea

Wilder Horsham District Project: Fund for delivering a Nature Recovery Network for Horsham District, with funding from Horsham District Council

Woodland Legacy: Bequest for Woodland Purchase

Unrestricted funds comprise those funds which the Trustees are free to use in accordance with SWT's charitable objectives.

Analysis of designated funds movements - previous year	Balance	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Balance
	1 Apr 2021				31 Mar 2022
	£	£	£	£	£
Southerham Reserve Fund	76,000	-	77,925	30,000	28,075
Business Plan strategic development capacity	25,339	-	9,833	-	15,506
Membership recruitment	228,256	-	135,379	132,096	224,973
Integrated software project	23,761	-	11,932	-	11,829
Strategy development	3,445	-	701	-	2,744
Land management equipment (sinking fund)	25,000	-	-	-	25,000
Match funding fund	40,000	-	18,333	-	21,667
Interpretation	26,691	-	-	-	26,691
HR system upgrade	2,534	-	-	-	2,534
Remote access	5,511	-	5,511	-	-
Ash Dieback crisis	16,059	-	16,059	45,000	45,000
Payband Re-evaluation Fund	40,000	-	-	(40,000)	-
Woods Mill Repairs	25,000	-	24,826	21,500	21,674
Tree Safety Implementation Fund	-	-	-	15,000	15,000
	537,596	-	300,499	203,596	440,693

18 Funds - previous year continued

The Trustees have designated funds from unrestricted funds for various planned future projects, as well as contingency funds for future eventualities.

Designated funds:

Southerham Reserve Fund: *Development of our nature reserve at Southerham*

Business Plan strategic development capacity: *To allow extra capacity to meet the changing organisational demands*

Membership recruitment: *Future investment in increasing and developing our membership*

Integrated software project: *Development of an integrated IT solution*

Strategy development: *Investment in the development and implementation of next five year strategy*

Land management equipment (sinking fund): *Equipment purchases*

Match funding fund: *Project bid match funding*

Interpretation: *Upgrading interpretation on reserves*

HR system upgrade: *Upgrade of HR system*

Remote access: *Developing remote working*

Ash Dieback crisis: *Provision of ongoing work managing disease*

Payband Re-evaluation Fund: *Provision of additional cost resulting from re-evaluation*

Woods Mill Repairs: *Planned longer term repairs to Woods Mill*

Tree Safety Implementation Fund: *Provision for additional costs to maintain tree safety on reserves*

19 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Tangible and Heritage		Net Current	Total
	Fixed Assets	Investments	Assets	
	£	£	£	£
Restricted				
Nature reserves	2,324,238	-	-	2,324,238
Projects	-	-	2,408,671	2,408,671
Unrestricted	7,031,437	100	1,551,465	8,583,002
Designated	-	-	252,568	252,568
	9,355,675	100	4,212,704	13,568,479

Analysis of net assets between funds 2022

	Tangible and Heritage		Net Current	Total
	Fixed Assets	Investments	Assets	
	£	£	£	£
Restricted				
Nature reserves	2,324,238	-	-	2,324,238
Projects	-	-	2,218,420	2,218,420
Raising funds				
Unrestricted	7,034,381	100	1,868,809	8,903,290
Designated	-	-	440,693	440,693
	9,358,619	100	4,527,922	13,886,641

20 Contingent liabilities

There are no contingent liabilities for the repayment of grants and gifts. (2022: £NIL).

SWT owns Castle Water, part of the Rye Harbour Nature Reserve. As previously reported SWT carried out an investigation to establish the nature and extent of the contamination based on existing data. This confirmed a source of contamination under part of the nature reserve. Since then discussions have been held with the relevant officers from the Environment Agency at a local level and the work done so far comprises a series of studies on the extent of contamination in other areas of Rye Harbour. Monitoring has continued throughout the 2022-23 financial year.

The costs of remediation at Castle Water remain unquantifiable. It is unclear to what extent, if at all, SWT will be liable.

21 (a) Operating lease commitments:

SWT has commitments in the year to 31 March 2023 to pay minimum rentals on buildings and equipment under non-cancellable operating leases.

	2023	2022	2023	2022
	Buildings	Buildings	Equipment	Equipment
	£	£	£	£
Operating leases which expire:				
Within one year:	-	-	15,724	5,260
Within two to five years:	-	-	19,383	5,731
Total operating lease commitments	-	-	35,107	10,991

b) Capital commitments

Capital expenditure contracted for but not paid:

£100k – Land purchase at Ebernoe

£NIL – Vehicle Purchase (2022: £45k)

£NIL – Rye Harbour Discovery Centre construction (2022: £87k)

22 Related party transactions

During the year to 31 March 2023 related party transactions were £NIL (2022: £NIL).

Provision for related party transactions payments are made in the governing document of SWT.



Sussex
Wildlife Trust

Sussex Wildlife Trust
Woods Mill, Henfield
West Sussex BN5 9SD

Tel: 01273 492630

Email: enquiries@sussexwt.org.uk
Website: sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk

Reg Charity No. 207005

SUSSEX WILDLIFE TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 207005

Accounts



Sussex
Wildlife Trust

Trustees' Report & Annual Accounts

2021-22



Sussex
Wildlife Trust

Sussex Wildlife Trust
Woods Mill, Henfield
West Sussex BN5 9SD

Tel: 01273 492630

Email: enquiries@sussexwt.org.uk
Website: sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk

Reg Charity No. 207005

Nightingale © Lisa Geoghegan

Reference and Administrative Details

Charity name: Sussex Wildlife Trust

Charity number: 207005

Company number: 698851

Registered and Principal Office Address:

Woods Mill, Henfield, West Sussex, BN5 9SD

Auditor:

RSM UK Audit LLP
Portland
25 High Street
Crawley
West Sussex
RH10 1BG

A resolution to appoint auditors to the charitable company will be proposed at the Annual General Meeting.

Bank:

Barclays PLC
The Old Bank
High Street
Lewes
East Sussex
BN7 2JP

Directors and Trustees:

The Directors of the charitable company (the Charity) are its Trustees for the purposes of charity law and throughout this report are collectively referred to as the Trustees.

The elected Trustees serving during the year and since the year-end were as follows:

Nitin Pasricha *Chair*

Linda Clark *Treasurer and Chair of the Finance, Audit & Risk Committee*

Simon Linington *Secretary*

Dr Sean Ashworth

Mark Braithwaite *(from 30th June 2022)*

Jon Cooper *(until 26th June 2022)*

Martin Kyndt

Helen Marshall

Emma Montlake

Dr Alan Stewart

President:

Dr Tony Whitbread

Vice Presidents:

Mr Robin Crane CBE

Dr Lisbet Rausing

Mr David Streeter OBE

Senior Management Team:

Tor Lawrence *CEO (until 31st July 2022)*

Steve Aldridge *Director – Finance (until 31st July 2022)*

Henri Brocklebank *Director – Conservation Policy and Evidence*

Caroline Pearce *Director – Fundraising and Communications*

Dan Ross *Director – Land Management*

Emma Forward *Director – Operations (until 21st May 2021)*

Maria Jonsson *Director – Business Operations (Acting 1st June to 1st December 2021; confirmed in post 1 December 2021)*

Amy Clark *Director – Communities & Wildlife (from 28th October 2021 until 10th March 2022)*

Chair's Report



Nitin Pasricha © Miles Davies

It is with great pleasure I present my second report as Chair of Council of the Sussex Wildlife Trust. Wildlife continues to face challenges, which are now depressingly familiar; climate change, fragmented habitats, intensive agriculture practices, poor development decisions, disease and invasive species are all impacting our ecosystems, causing species decline and natural processes to be disrupted. Despite these stark realities, Sussex Wildlife Trust, its volunteers and members have continued to take positive action to protect nature and wildlife sites, and to ensure a greener future by connecting people with the wildlife around them. We also welcome the new Environment Act, the most groundbreaking piece of environmental legislation in many years that includes the target to reverse the decline in species abundance by the end of 2030.

Highlights of the year include the easing of Covid-19 restrictions, enabling the Communities and Wildlife department to restart face-to-face activities across Sussex. We opened our flagship Discovery Centre at Rye Harbour Nature Reserve, which has helped us inspire and connect thousands of visitors to this unique and special place.

Sussex Wildlife Trust joined with others to create the Sussex Kelp Restoration Project; a pioneering marine rewilding project set-up to restore almost 200 square kilometres of lost kelp forest along the coast of Sussex. We also saw the implementation of the Sussex Nearshore Trawling Byelaw ensuring Sussex seas are now better protected for generations to come. We stood up for nature through responding to critical Local Plan documents, attending examinations in public and, for the first time in our history, initiating a judicial review process. We led on a number of exciting partnerships delivering projects throughout Sussex, we developed Nature Recovery Networks, and we agreed priority landscapes to focus our attention whilst our Land Management teams continued to manage our downland, woodland, heathland and coastal reserves so that wildlife continues to thrive on them.

Despite a significant period of financial uncertainty our members, donors and supporters have continued to show incredible generosity. Even with the cost of living increase and stretched budgets seen by many in 2021 - 2022 our membership numbers increased over the year for which we are very grateful. Every gift, no matter how large or small, makes a crucial difference and thanks to you all, SWT remains financially stable. Generous legacies and donations received last year have allowed us to extend our nature reserve at Ebernoe Common through the acquisition of Willand Wood and The Warren. This reserve forms part of one of the largest ancient woodland complexes in Britain and plays an important role for wildlife and the storage of carbon.

The Trust has been championing wildlife and wild places in Sussex for over 60 years, deepening people's understanding of the beauty and importance of our natural world and 2021 - 2022 has once again shown what a great organisation it is. I have seen this first-hand in the way staff, volunteers and members have pulled together and united with a shared ambition for wildlife in Sussex. I am incredibly proud of the staff and volunteers who have dedicated their time to keep the Trust going and demonstrated their continued commitment to the wildlife and wild places in Sussex. I remain positive in our belief that our 39,013 members, 694 active volunteers and 119 staff who show appreciation of the wildlife around us, can and do make a difference.

On behalf of my fellow Trustees, we are proud to have played our part in protecting the wildlife of Sussex for all to enjoy and thank you for your continued support. With all this in mind, I am pleased to present the Annual Report for the year ending 31 March 2022.

Nitin Pasricha
Chair



Willand Wood © Mark Monk-Terry

Objectives and Activities

During 2021 the Trustees underwent a process of revising and modernising the Trust's memorandum and Articles, approved by members at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) November 2021.

Sussex Wildlife Trust's objects, as detailed in our Articles of Association 2021, are for the benefit of both wildlife and the public:

- To conserve, restore and enhance the wildlife of Sussex including that in its coastal waters. In particular, to conserve species and the habitats and landscapes in which they occur, including the restoration, creation and interconnection of such habitats;

- to promote the protection and enhancement of the natural environment; and
- to promote and advance public education about, understanding of, connection to, and action in support of, the natural environment and its benefits.

With regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit, the Trustees believe that the provision of such benefit is an integral part of each of the charitable objectives.

The Trustees are pleased to present their annual Trustees' report together with the consolidated financial statements of the charity for the year ending 31 March 2022. These are also prepared with the purpose of meeting the legal requirements for a Trustees' report and accounts in accordance with the Companies Act 2006.

The financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006, the Memorandum and Articles of Association, 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 and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

Structure, Governance and Management

Governing document

The Sussex Wildlife Trust is a company limited by guarantee under the Companies Act and is governed by its Articles of Association adopted on 13th November 2021.

Organisation

The Sussex Wildlife Trust (SWT) is governed by its Council, which is responsible for setting policies, ensuring legality and good practice in accordance with the Articles of Association of SWT and the Companies Act 2006. The CEO under delegated powers undertakes the routine management of SWT.

Recruitment and appointment of Trustees

In accordance with the Articles of Association, Trustees are elected by the Membership at the AGM. At each AGM, one third of the Directors must retire by rotation, with those who have been longest in office since their last appointment retiring first. Directors can offer themselves for re-election but no Director shall serve for a period of more than nine consecutive years. On the expiration of such a period and the retirement of the relevant director, a further year must lapse before that person shall be eligible for re-election to the Council. Nominations for new Trustees are considered each year prior to the AGM and are put forward for election at the AGM. When considering co-opting Trustees, the SWT Council has regard to the requirement for any specialist skills needed.

Trustee induction and training

New Trustees undergo an induction programme. During the induction they meet the Senior Management Team and other employees and gain an understanding of their legal obligations with regards to charity and company law, the Articles of Association and the structure of the

committee system. They are advised of appropriate Trustee training courses and are encouraged to attend.

Trustee review and evaluation

During the year, we undertook an internal review of our governance policies and procedures, following Charity Commission best practice.

Remuneration of Senior Management Team

During the year we undertook a complete job evaluation and salary benchmarking review, led in conjunction with our HR advisors, Aspiring HR. Trustees delegate the management of the Trust to the CEO. The CEO heads a Senior Management Team that includes operational directors. These are considered to be the key management personnel of the Trust. Remuneration for the SMT is reviewed annually and includes a benchmark review of all 46 Wildlife Trusts and where available other similar sized charities operating in the South East managing similar levels of operational complexity.

The Wildlife Trusts partnership

SWT is a member of The Wildlife Trusts Partnership (registered as the Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts, registered charity number 207238) which acts as an umbrella body carrying out lobbying and public relations on behalf of all Wildlife Trusts. The charity has the use of The Wildlife Trusts logo and benefits from the resources, best practice and speciality experience of other member Trusts. Membership gives us a national voice and profile, as well as being known by association for those unfamiliar with our particular work. However, each member of the partnership remains entirely independent in terms of governance and operations.

Strategic Report

Achievements and performance

A coherent ecological network

Our focus for a coherent ecological network has been both on land and at sea.

On land our Nature Reserves are providing core areas for a broader ecological network with some important wildlife gains. We extended our land ownership at Ebernoe Common, with the purchase of Willand Wood and The Warren, made possible through legacies and donations.

During the past year, there were many ecological highlights from across our Nature Reserve network. Field Crickets had an exceptional year in 2021 at both Iping Common and Burton Pond, expanding from their release site. There are approximately 20 Nightingale territories at Ebernoe and Butcherland, as well as the recently purchased Willand Wood. Saproxyltic beetle surveys at Ebernoe Common found two nationally rare species on one tree within The Warren. The heathland bird assemblage at Stedham and Iping Common had a good year in 2021, with Nightjar occupying nine territories, and Woodlark, Tree Pipit and Dartford Warbler all doing well. The very rare Red Hemp Nettle was again found at Malling Down. At Rye Harbour the Sussex Emerald Moth was confirmed breeding with caterpillars found on Wild Carrot in June, Black-winged Stilts nested and produced chicks, 12 Large Coneheads were heard on Rye Harbour Farm in August and the Millennium Seed Bank collected 859 seeds of Slender Hares-ear and 1640 seeds of Frogbit.

As grazing is a critical tool for biodiversity enhancement on our nature reserves, we were able to secure important additional "layback land" in West Sussex needed to manage our sheep and cattle year round. During 2021 – 2022, we calved 64 cows and over 500 lambs, increasing capacity of our grazing operations across the reserves.

We undertook a wide range of habitat management projects for example diversifying densely planted sweet chestnut plantation and making space for natural woodland regeneration at Eridge Rocks. We completed a capital investment programme of ditch maintenance and new gates at Pevensey Levels. We fenced a shingle island at Rye Harbour providing more space safe from predators for ground nesting birds. We tackled the spread of invasive Cotoneaster at Seaford Head helping to increase the population of Moon Carrot at Hope Gap. We continued a programme of Hazel coppicing at West Dean Woods, continuing many years of phased coppicing, creating wonderful Bluebell displays in the spring.

We continued to seek new funding opportunities to help us to improve our sites for wildlife, through agri-environmental schemes, for example applying for new Countryside Stewardship schemes at Filsham Reedbed and Butcherland.

Our approach to tree safety management continues to be significantly impacted by the extent of Ash Dieback across Sussex, with high levels of intervention needed over the past year. Sites such as Ditchling Beacon, Malling Down and The Mens are particularly affected, where we have undertaken extensive tree safety work in response to our annual Ash Dieback and tree safety surveys.

We have agreed priority landscapes to focus our attention – Arun Valley, Rye to Hastings, Pevensey Levels and Ebernoe to The Mens, and we have been working with key stakeholders to set out our approach to these.

In Horsham District the momentum of the Wilder Horsham District project grew, with communities and landowners/land managers/farmers taking an active role to be part of our ambitions for a District-wide network for nature. The project has delivered beyond its targets for the year and now has focus areas prioritised for action in the District.

In the Ouse catchment, the work of the Sussex Flow Initiative continued to deliver benefits for wildlife through Natural Flood Management and continues to see a great response from communities and landowners/managers and farmers.

Beyond these geographies we are continually approached by people wanting advice on rewilding and how to work with natural processes to deliver nature-based solutions and we support these enquiries where we can. We reviewed our longstanding landowner advice provision through three focus groups and a survey with farmers and land managers and are now reviewing the outcomes of the feedback, ensuring we are adequately equipped to continue to provide high quality advice as Government policy and payments change. Everyone has a role to play in a network for nature.

At the end of March 2021, it was announced that the Sussex Nearshore Trawling Byelaw had been implemented and Sussex Wildlife Trust joined with others to create the Sussex Kelp Restoration Project. The focus of this group is to enable the recovery of marine ecosystems over 300km² of Sussex seabed – eventually we hope to see much of this as kelp habitat (large seaweeds that support a multitude of species). Benchmarking and monitoring the process was the priority for the year and we worked with NGOs, public bodies, local sea-users and academics. The enthusiasm for the kelp recovery has brought together existing and new organisations for Sussex marine and coastal restoration work, and we were selected to receive funding from the Environment Agency to establish the best ways for us all to work together. Weather conditions meant that we could not deliver as many Seasearch dives as we would have liked, but those that happened collected eDNA samples to inform the kelp monitoring work.



Volunteers planting for wildlife at Broadwater Cemetery, Worthing © Miles Davies

Work on broader networks for nature were focussed on both standing up for our existing important areas for wildlife (Marine Conservation Zones, Local Wildlife Sites and our nationally designated terrestrial sites) and working with others to deliver more for nature. We stood up for nature through responding to critical Local Plan documents, and attending examinations in public and our first judicial review process.

The year saw the enactment of the Environment Act, a milestone for policy to support nature. In order to secure the best coherent ecological network into the future we worked through the Sussex Nature Partnership to develop principles and pilots around Nature Recovery Networks and Biodiversity Net Gain. In future, we will have a new raft of county level responsibilities called Local Nature Recovery Strategies and much of this year has been spent ensuring that in Sussex we are working collectively to be prepared for this new way of working.

Behind all our work for coherent ecological networks sits the requirement for high quality evidence. The Sussex

Biodiversity Record Centre continues to be a fundamental resource not just for the Wildlife Trust, but for numerous organisations across Sussex as it develops its services to deliver outputs that match requirements coming from the Environment Act. Additionally the Sussex Biodiversity Record Centre host the Sussex Local Wildlife Site Initiative which we support financially and which has continued its vital work reviewing the status of these important locally designated sites across Sussex.

People inspired by, connected to and valuing nature

2021-2022 saw the easing of Covid-19 restrictions, enabling the Communities and Wildlife department to restart face-to-face activities across Sussex. At the same time the Wild Coast Sussex project, funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund, entered its second year of delivery. The project worked with five primary schools to deliver programmes of Wild Beach sessions and funded 15 teacher places on the Wild Beach training course to enable schools to deliver regular coastal visits. New events were

trials for 16-25 year olds to attract new audiences, including an LGBTQ+ Beach Clean and Clothes Swap event. The project worked with commercial fishermen to send three tonnes of end-of-life fishing gear for recycling as well as six recovery trips to remove Ghost Gear (lost, abandoned or discarded fishing gear) from the seabed off Sussex.

The Trust's new flagship visitor centre at Rye Harbour opened in May 2021 and has helped us inspire and connect thousands of visitors to this unique and special place. The Rye Harbour Discovery Centre houses a first class education facility where we are able to welcome schools and other groups to learn about local nature, landscape and wildlife. Visitors are also able to discover and learn through excellent interpretation and engagement activities and the Centre houses a café and wildlife themed shop.

Discover Rye Harbour, funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF), delivered its first year of activities. Based at the newly-opened Discovery Centre, the project delivered a wide and varied programme of activities, designed to engage a range of audiences, including Guide in the Hide, family trails and activities, Voices of Rye Harbour, Wild Beach training and school sessions, Nature Babies and Wellbeing Wanders. The project also provides over 100 volunteering opportunities at the site in roles across conservation, education and operations. The Trust has recruited staff to NLHF-funded roles to support the delivery of activities, including its first Heritage Trainee.

The Gatwick Greenspace Partnership (GGP) entered its 17th year of delivery and retained The Wildlife Trust's Biodiversity Benchmark Award for the 7th year in a row. Considerable progress has been made against Gatwick's Biodiversity Action Plan, with habitat actions and ecological surveys returning close to pre-pandemic levels. Corporate volunteering returned, as did community engagement work through a combination of online events for larger groups and schools, and in-person events with restricted numbers of people, including Wildlife and Youth Rangers groups and the Wild Wanderers Bushcamp – an immersive week in the woods for eight, 12-16 year olds.

Brighton and Hove Environmental Education (BHee), funded by Brighton and Hove Council focused on Youth & Schools Engagement on Climate Change. BHee has worked with 69 schools in Brighton and Hove, promoting a "Whole School, Whole City approach to sustainability, environmental education and climate change". The project co-led the strategy across the authority, and offers support to teachers through training, advice and school ground development, and worked directly with students through outdoor workshops, environmental action planning and one-off events, including at the COP26 summit in Glasgow.

In October, the Trust recruited two trainees, funded by The Vera Dalley Lederman Scholarship and Environmental Training Programme. Opportunities include Open College Network West Midlands (OCNWM)

accredited Forest School and Wild Beach Leader training and supporting a wide range of Trust activities.

Schools delivery restarted at Woods Mill with new Flora and Fauna courses developed for students and teachers. Education activity at Seven Sisters paused whilst refurbishment works continued to take place, led by South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA). Staff worked in partnership with PATINA to deliver online lessons to 16 schools (460 children) to support the annual Moving On parade in Lewes. Schools outreach also included the delivery of over 50 Forest School sessions and piloting 'Schools on Reserves' – targeted multiple engagement with schools in close proximity to SWT reserves and in receipt of Environmental Stewardship funding. Nature Tots restarted at Woods Mill and Tilgate Park and coordinated ongoing research into the impact of SWT's activities on Pro-Environmental and Pro-Nature Conservation behaviours in partnership with the University of Sussex.

SWT continued to upskill teachers and educators through formal and informal training, with over 100 participants undertaking accredited training in both Forest School and Wild Beach. INSET and CPD training was also delivered to five schools.

Along with other Wildlife Trusts across the country, we were successful in applying for funding for the Nextdoor Nature project, which is bringing communities together to help nature flourish where they live and work. Made possible by the National Lottery Heritage Fund and thanks to National Lottery players, this project will enable us to work with communities in Hastings, champion a Community Organising approach, provide people with the advice and support they need to help nature on their doorstep, and leave a lasting natural legacy in honour of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

A leading wildlife organisation in Sussex

We continue to develop our relationship with businesses in Sussex, through our partnership schemes and corporate volunteering days, helping organisations to demonstrate their support for the natural environment. In another uncertain year for corporate organisations, our business membership developed well, achieving a 21.9% increase in members and a 20.9% increase in income during the year.

The Sussex Wildlife Trust is proud to host the Sussex Biodiversity Record Centre, which now has over nine million records, continuing to provide an excellent evidence base for local planning authorities, land managers, consultants, local recording groups and individuals interested in the wildlife in their local area.

We led on a number of exciting partnerships delivering projects throughout Sussex, including the Sussex Kelp Restoration Partnership, Gatwick Greenspace Partnership, the Sussex Flow Initiative, Discover Rye Harbour and Wild Coast Sussex and we co-lead Wilder Horsham District. We are also members of the Local

Nature Partnership, the Heritage Coast Partnership and the Cuckmere Estuary Partnership.

Plans for the future

During the year, we continued to contribute to the development of the national Wildlife Trusts' strategy, whilst refining our own priorities, continuing to emphasise:

- enabling diverse communities to take action for wildlife across Sussex
- restoring large scale landscapes at sea and on land
- creating climate resilient landscapes and thriving wildlife habitats with a range of land managers
- delivery of a broad and dynamic programme of habitat and infrastructure management work throughout our nature reserves, helping to ensure that they remain some of the best places for wildlife and for people to engage with nature in Sussex. We will continue to deliver the ecological monitoring strategy throughout SWT's reserves
- development of our approach to enabling individuals, community groups, volunteers and partnerships to take action for wildlife
- our aim to inspire people to take action for wildlife through a range of high-quality learning experiences and communications
- that we will ensure we continue to grow and diversify our member and supporter base
- that we will focus core resources on key landscapes – Arun Valley, Pevensey Levels, Rye to Hastings and Ebernoe to The Mens – embedding our reserves into wider landscape improvements and influencing partnerships and land managers at a landscape scale
- that we will continue to deliver on key externally funded projects such as Wilder Horsham District, Sussex Flow Initiative and Wild Coast Sussex
- the Rye Harbour Discovery Centre opened in May 2021 and we will deliver a range of educational activities through the Discover Rye Harbour project, funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund. We will be working to ensure the Centre is financially self-sustaining, primarily through the café and shop. We will continue to work closely with the Friends of Rye Harbour Nature Reserve, who have been integral to the success of this project
- that we will advise landowners, farmers and practitioners in the creation of resilient landscapes and natural climate solutions
- that we will take action to reduce our carbon footprint and embed sustainability practices
- that we will ensure an effective and inclusive organisation

Volunteers

Volunteers have been a vital element in every part of the Sussex Wildlife Trust this year. We have expanded the range and type of roles delivered by volunteers to support our work. Sussex Wildlife Trust currently has 694 volunteers, above the number of registered volunteers in the previous pre-Covid-19 years of 2019-20 and 2020-21.

Our traditional volunteering in practical conservation and education has continued with new recruits in Volunteer Reserve Manager roles as well as working with older college students and students joining forest school as part of learning English as a foreign language. The establishment of new projects has created training roles for volunteers: Wilder Horsham District project has ecological survey and conservation volunteers, Wild Coast Sussex has volunteer champions and Wild Beach helpers, BHee project has ecological surveyors and climate change helpers. We also have micro volunteering in the form of our photo posts at nature reserves, recording changes and our two-minute beach cleans, alongside flexible volunteering for one off events at the Sussex Art Fair, summer holiday events and evaluation volunteering.

The opportunity to re-register volunteers due to Covid-19 has also allowed for more anonymised data collection to understand our volunteer demographic and how we can diversify recruitment. Our active volunteers are aged 16 to 84, 57% of whom identify as female. Our education volunteers range from 21 to 75. Our Discovery Centre Café volunteers have the smallest age range between 63 and 72 but this is also an area that has work experience students volunteering for one off weeks.

This year we have also been able to focus on training and refresher training for our volunteers with face-to-face and online courses. This has included First Aid, Walk Leader, Looker, Volunteer Reserve Manager, Personal Safety, Forest School Level 2 and general safety inductions.

Donated services

We were pleased to receive pro-bono training and mentoring support during the year from GWiz Learning Partnership. A value of £10,550 has been reflected within the accounts and this Trustees' Report. SWT did not receive any other donated services during the year (2020/21: £10,620).

Financial Review

This year saw lifting of a significant number of the Covid-19 restrictions and many of the operations of SWT returning to near normal, with the return of many face to face activities and the opening of the Rye Harbour Discovery Centre including the trading operations located there.

Total income for the year was a commendable £5.3m, however was a drop from the previous years record mainly due to a £2m reduction in legacy income. This is largely as a result of the completion of the Rye Harbour Discovery Centre (RHDC) and the cessation of the fund raising activity for this project. The ending of the government furlough scheme also had a negative impact on total income. However unrestricted income increased this year to £4.1m and restricted income for charitable activities increased this year to £1.13m.

The resumption of member recruitment activity together with the opening of the RHDC café and shop drove an increase in expenditure on Raising Funds to £1.47m. During the year SWT undertook an organisation wide salary benchmarking exercise to bring salary bands into market alignment. This together with the additional staff roles needed to run the RHDC resulted in additional staff costs during the year.

The full year deficit of £174k after the depreciation charge of £173k means on a cash basis a near breakeven result for the year.

Significant items of cash utilisation in the year were the addition of Willand Wood and The Warren to increase Heritage assets by £0.5m, together with the final expenditure on RHDC of £256k, an increase in biological assets (grazing animals for nature reserve management) and trading stock for RHDC.

The 2021 - 2022 financial year was another challenging one with credit due to the entire staff and leadership team for the enthusiasm and dedication with which they have steered the Trust towards more normal times and embraced new and exciting opportunities as they emerge.

Once again, none of this would be possible without the generosity and dedication of our members, volunteers and Wildlife Guardians whose commitment is paramount. We are particularly grateful for the gifts in memory and legacies left to SWT.

The Trustees have considered the appropriateness of the going concern assumption in the preparation of the financial statements based on forecasts covering the twelve months from the date of approval to August 2023, and believe SWT has sufficient financial reserves.

Principal risks and uncertainties

The Trustees have taken a pro-active approach to risk during the year. We reviewed and improved our organisational risk register and continued regular risk reporting by the CEO to Trustees. We have also ensured a detailed focus on any area that is regarded as high risk.

Examples of mitigation undertaken are:

- Ensuring a Health and Safety Action Plan is in place, monitored through the Health & Safety Management Committee with regular reports to the Senior Management Team and Council
- Updated Safeguarding Policies and Procedures and a nominated and trained staff/trustee team in place
- Appointment of Southern Water and contractors to enable a connection to the mains water supply for the Trust and residents at Southerham Farm
- Maintenance plans and infrastructure improvements at Woods Mill, RHDC and Southerham Farm to ensure facilities are safe and fit for purpose
- Following of all government guidelines in relation to operating a business during Covid-19 including risk assessments, safety guidelines and a roadmap out of lockdown
- Relying on our expert HR advisors to ensure we have up to date, objective and relevant HR support and advice for staff and the organisation
- Reviewing our approach to project management, to ensure projects are effectively delivered for the future

Financial reserves policy

During the year, the Trustees reviewed the financial reserves policy in line with current Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) requirements and relevant guidance. The revised policy, in place at the end of the financial year, is:

"The reserves policy which requires unrestricted reserves to be maintained at a level which would allow the core work and activity of SWT to continue during a period of unforeseen difficulty and that the reserves are held in a readily useable form; that is readily available or convertible to cash should the need arise.

The calculation of the reserves level is an integral part of the regular financial management, monitoring and budgeting process. It takes into account items on the risk register, the financial cost of mitigating risks, variability and the potential for fluctuation of budgeted income and expenditure levels and SWT's future commitments. The main risks to income and expenditure are highlighted and a calculation made of the financial consequences of adverse movements."

Financial Performance Highlights

Total income £5.33m (2020/21 £7.06m)

Unrestricted income £4.1m (2020/21 £3.8m)

- Donations and legacies totalled £900k (2020/21 £2.7m)
- Legacy income of £773k received during the year
- Charitable activities £732k (2020/21 £705k)

Restricted income £1.25m (2020/21 £3.26m)

- Charitable activities £1.1m (2020/21 £1.1m)
- Included in above in 2021 - 2022, was £36k of restricted legacy income

Total expenditure £5.51m (2020/21 £4.36m)

Raising funds £1.6m (2020/21 £1.0m)

- £197k increase in membership promotion due to resumption of activities post Covid-19
 - £434k increase in staff and other fundraising costs due to launch of Rye Harbour Discovery Centre
- Charitable activities £3.87m** (2020/21 £3.36m)

Membership

We were pleased to achieve growth in membership in 2021 - 2022, despite a slight reduction in the performance of our recruitment and retention activities, due to both the Covid-19 pandemic and, more recently, the economic situation. We ended the year with 39,013 individuals in 21,740 households. Although the number of members recruited and final retention levels were slightly lower than budgeted, we ended the year with £1,928,959 income from membership. A significant increase from £1.69m received in 2021 - 2022. Membership numbers have increased by 7.7% this year, compared to a 1.5% increase in the previous year. The number of members as at 31st March 2022 is 39,013 (2020/21 35,685).

Designated funds allocation

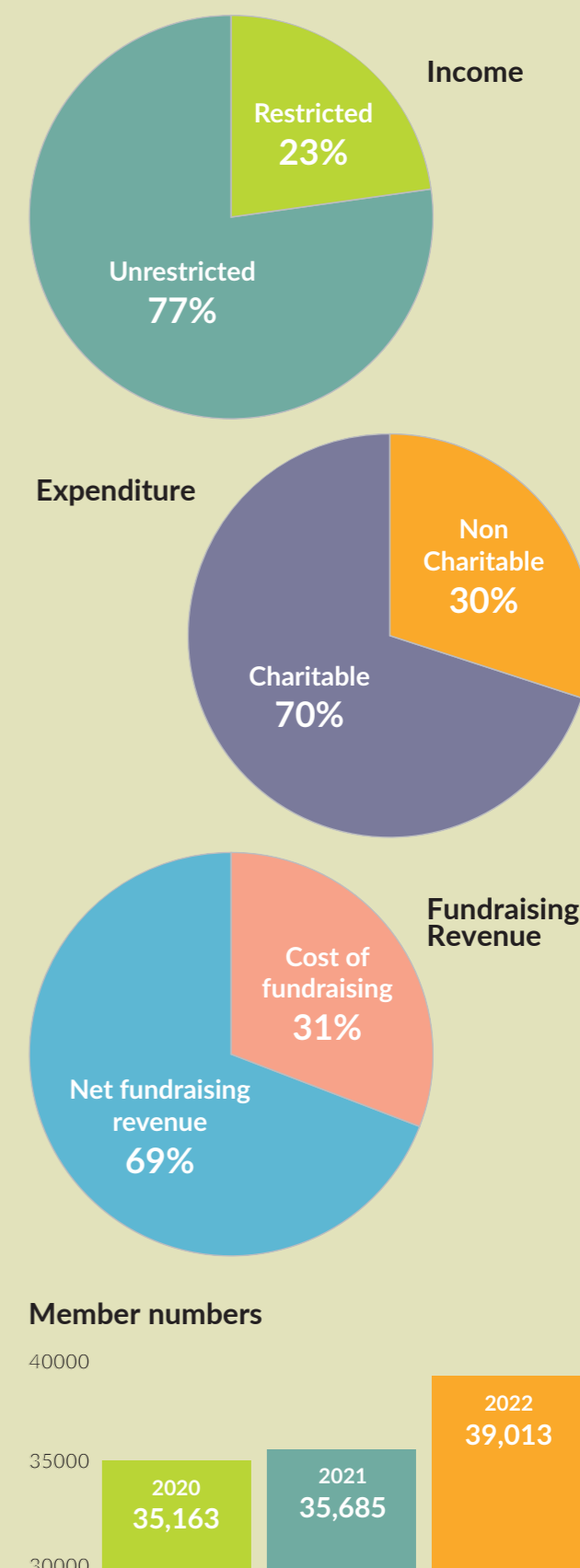
There has been a decrease in funds, leaving a Designated Funds balance of £440k. Expenditure during the year was mainly for membership recruitment. There has been a decrease in funds, leaving a Designated Funds balance of £440k. Expenditure during the year was mainly for membership recruitment, and for a project to connect Southerham Farm, on our Southerham Nature Reserve to the mains water network, Woods Mill maintenance and IT upgrades.

Capital projects

The primary capital project has been the connection of Southerham Farm to water mains network. This project has been many years in development, and will bring water security to not only the farm itself and its livestock, but also the staff and residents on the site. The project is due for completion mid-summer 2022.

Retained funds £13.88m (2020/21 £14.06m)

The Trustees have considered the appropriateness of the going concern assumption for the preparation of the financial statements, based on forecasts covering the period of twelve months from the date of approval of the financial statements to August 2023.



Details of all our income can be found on page 16 of the Annual Accounts.

At year-end the reserves policy recommends holding financial reserves of between £700k and £900k. At this level, the Trustees feel that we would be able to continue our current activities of in the event of a significant drop in funding. Our total funds at year-end were £13.88m of which £4.5m are restricted funds and £9.3m unrestricted funds. Unrestricted funds include funds tied up in tangible and heritage assets, funds set aside for specific designated projects and readily usable funds of £1.87m..

Investment powers and policy

Under the Articles of Association, the charity has the power to deposit or invest funds. The investment policy is:

- To invest those surplus funds not required for immediate use
- To obtain a reasonable income from those funds, given prevailing market returns
- To invest only as permitted by the investment powers of SWT as set out in the Articles of Association

During the year, SWT has continued to retain the majority of its funds on deposit and the Trustees are of the opinion that this policy has been a prudent one. The Trustees review the investment policy from time to time but given our ongoing obligations it has not been felt appropriate to change this approach in the past year.

Professional fundraising practices

Sussex Wildlife Trust uses third party agencies to fundraise on its behalf for specific campaigns. In this financial year this included a third party for recruiting new members to the organisation through private site face-to-face fundraising and a third party for recruiting new members through telephone fundraising. The charity has agreements in place with its partners to ensure that the legal requirements regulating fundraising practices are adhered to.

Council regularly reviews fundraising regulation compliance. Sussex Wildlife Trust is an organisational member of the Institute of Fundraising and is registered with the Fundraising Regulator. Sussex Wildlife Trust and its third party agencies comply with the Fundraising Regulator's Code of Fundraising Practice and are signed up to its Fundraising Promise. Sussex Wildlife Trust and its third party agencies follow the sector's guidance on protecting vulnerable people. Our Complaints Procedure complies with the requirements of the Fundraising Regulator, and during the financial year, we received seven complaints about fundraising activity.

Trustees' Responsibilities in Relation to the Financial Statements

The Trustees (who are also Directors of Sussex Wildlife Trust Limited for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the

financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

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

- Select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

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

In so far as the Trustees are aware:

- There is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditor is unaware; and
- The Trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information.

The Trustees' Annual Report is approved by order of the Council of Trustees and the Strategic Report included therein is approved by the Council of Trustees in their capacity as Directors at a meeting on 27th July 2022 and signed on their behalf by:

On behalf of the Trustees

Nitin Pasricha
Chair
Woods Mill,
Henfield, BN5 9SD

Independent Auditor's Report

to the Members of Sussex Wildlife Trust

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Sussex Wildlife Trust (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 March 2022 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities (including the Summary Income and Expenditure Account), the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow Statement and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2022 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- 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 Companies Act 2006.

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's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company 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 charitable company'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.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the Trustees' Report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the Trustees' Report. 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.

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 course of 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.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the Trustees' Report, which includes the Directors' Report for the purposes of company law, for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Directors' Report and the Strategic Report included within the Trustees' Report have been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material

misstatements in the Directors' Report, or the Strategic Report included within the Trustees' Report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Companies Act 2006 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 set out on page 12, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) 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 charitable company'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 charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's 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 the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud

Irregularities are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. The objectives of our audit are to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding compliance with laws and regulations that have a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements, to perform audit

procedures to help identify instances of non-compliance with other laws and regulations that may have a material effect on the financial statements, and to respond appropriately to identified or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations identified during the audit.

In relation to fraud, the objectives of our audit are to identify and assess the risk of material misstatement of the financial statements due to fraud, to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the assessed risks of material misstatement due to fraud through designing and implementing appropriate responses and to respond appropriately to fraud or suspected fraud identified during the audit.

However, it is the primary responsibility of management, with the oversight of those charged with governance, to ensure that the entity's operations are conducted in accordance with the provisions of laws and regulations and for the prevention and detection of fraud.

In identifying and assessing risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud, the audit engagement team:

- obtained an understanding of the nature of the sector, including the legal and regulatory frameworks that the charitable company operates in and how the charitable company is complying with the legal and regulatory frameworks;
- inquired of management, and those charged with governance, about their own identification and assessment of the risks of irregularities, including any known actual, suspected or alleged instances of fraud;
- discussed matters about non-compliance with laws and regulations and how fraud might occur including assessment of how and where the financial statements may be susceptible to fraud.

As a result of these procedures we consider the most significant laws and regulations that have a direct impact on the financial statements are FRS 102, Charities SORP (FRS 102), Companies Act 2006, Charities Act 2011 and the charitable company's governing document. We performed audit procedures to detect non-compliances which may have a material impact on the financial statements which included reviewing the financial statements including the Trustees' Report and remaining alert to new or unusual transactions which may not be in accordance with the governing documents.

The most significant laws and regulations that have an indirect impact on the financial statements are those in relation to Fundraising Regulations. We performed audit procedures to inquire of management whether the charitable company is in compliance with these law and regulations.

The audit engagement team identified the risk of management override of controls as the area where the financial statements were most susceptible to material misstatement due to fraud. Audit procedures performed included but were not limited to testing manual journal

entries and other adjustments, evaluating the business rationale in relation to significant, unusual transactions and transactions entered into outside the normal course of business, challenging judgments and estimates.

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. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to

state to them in an auditor's 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 charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Zoe Longstaff-Tyrrell (*Senior Statutory Auditor*)

For and on behalf of RSM UK AUDIT LLP,
Statutory Auditor
Chartered Accountants
Portland, 25 High Street
Crawley
West Sussex, RH10 1BG

Date



Conehead © Neil Fletcher

Statement of Financial Activities

Company Number: 698851

for the Year ended 31 March 2022 (including Income and Expenditure Account)

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	2022 Total Funds £	2021 Total Funds £
Income from:						
Donations and legacies	2	2,829,837	125,942	-	2,955,779	4,872,020
Other trading activities	3	501,780	-	-	501,780	68,522
Investments	4	408	-	-	408	3,211
Charitable activities	5	731,830	1,127,124	-	1,858,954	1,804,475
Other	4	19,224	-	-	19,224	313,910
Total income		4,083,079	1,253,066	-	5,336,145	7,062,138
Expenditure on:						
Raising funds	6	1,473,623	2,427	160,691	1,636,741	1,000,739
Charitable activities	7	2,566,925	1,166,797	139,808	3,873,530	3,364,933
Total expenditure		4,040,548	1,169,224	300,499	5,510,271	4,365,672
Net income/(expenditure)		42,531	83,842	(300,499)	(174,126)	2,696,466
Transfers between funds	17	544,206	(747,802)	203,596	-	-
Net movement in funds		586,737	(663,960)	(96,903)	(174,126)	2,696,466
Reconciliation of funds						
Balances brought forward at 1 April 2021		8,316,553	5,206,618	537,596	14,060,767	11,364,301
Balances carried forward at 31 March 2022		8,903,290	4,542,658	440,693	13,886,641	14,060,767

The notes on pages 19 to 35 form part of these financial statements

Balance Sheet

Company Number: 698851

at 31 March 2022

	Note	2022 £	2021 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	12	5,539,692	5,328,047
Heritage assets	12	3,818,927	3,327,495
Investments	13	100	100
Total fixed assets		9,358,719	8,655,642
Current assets			
Stock		23,785	756
Biological assets	14	216,325	95,360
Debtors	15	1,314,719	1,475,454
Cash at bank and in hand		3,441,054	4,321,847
Total current assets		4,995,883	5,893,417
Liabilities			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	16	467,961	488,292
Net current assets		4,527,922	5,405,125
Total net assets		13,886,641	14,060,767
Funds			
Unrestricted		8,903,290	8,316,553
Restricted		4,542,658	5,206,618
Designated		440,693	537,596
Total funds	17, 19	13,886,641	14,060,767

 The financial statements were approved by the Council of Trustees and authorised for issue on 27th July 2022 and signed on their behalf by:

Mr N. Pasricha
Chair

Ms L. Clark
Honorary Treasurer

The notes on pages 19 to 35 form part of these financial statements

Cashflow Statement

Year ended 31 March 2022

	Notes	2022 £	2021 £
Net cash inflow from operating activities			
Operating activities	a)	(4,458)	2,611,916
Cash flows from investing activities			
Dividends, interest and rents from investments		408	3,211
Proceeds from sale of tangible fixed assets		-	114,994
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		(876,743)	(1,558,239)
Net cash used in investing activities		(876,335)	(1,440,034)
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period	b)	(880,793)	1,171,882

Notes to the cashflow statement

a) Reconciliation of net incoming resources to net cash flow from operating activities	2022 £	2021 £
Net income for the reporting period	(174,126)	2,696,466
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	(408)	(3,211)
Proceeds on sale of fixed assets	-	(101,394)
Depreciation	173,666	90,120
(Increase)/Decrease in stock	(23,029)	747
(Increase)/Decrease in biological assets	(120,965)	(1,977)
Decrease/(Increase) debtors	160,735	(152,477)
Increase/(Decrease) creditors	(20,331)	83,642
Net cash provided by operating activities	(4,458)	2,611,916
b) Analysis of changes in cash and cash equivalents	2022 £	2021 £
Balance at 1st April 2021	4,321,847	3,149,965
Net cash (outflow)/inflow in year	(880,793)	1,171,882
Balance at 31st March 2022	3,441,054	4,321,847

The notes on pages 19 to 35 form part of these financial statements

Notes to the Accounts

31 March 2022

1. Accounting Policies

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty in the preparation of the financial statements are as follows:

a) Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019) – (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Sussex Wildlife Trust ("SWT") is a company limited by guarantee and has no share capital. In the event of the charity being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member of the charity.

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

As at 31 March 2022 the Sussex Wildlife Trust has £13.88m in Total Net Assets including £3.4m Cash at Bank of which £1.7m is restricted funding for future years' project activity. The Trustees have considered the appropriateness of the going concern assumption for the preparation of the financial statements, based on forecasts covering the period of twelve months from the date of approval of the financial statements to August 2023.

b) Income

Income is recognised in the period in which the charity is entitled to receive it, and that the receipt of said income is measurable, and probable. Income is deferred only when the charity has to fulfil conditions before becoming entitled to it or is subject to unmet conditions wholly outside its control.

Grants from local authorities and other agencies have been included as income from activities in furtherance of the charity's objects where these amount to a contract for services, but as donations where the money is given in response to an appeal or with greater freedom of use.

Receipt of a legacy, in whole or in part, is only recognised when its receipt is considered probable, when the amount can be measured reliably and the charity is entitled to the amount. Where legacies have been notified to the charity or the charity is aware of the granting of probate, and the

criteria for income recognition have not been met, the legacy is disclosed as a contingent asset.

Subscriptions are dealt with on a cash receipts basis. Subscriptions of life members are included as a liability on the Balance Sheet in accordance with the SORP. One twentieth of this is transferred to income each year.

Corporate Support includes annual subscriptions, sponsorship and donations received, while advertising revenue is generated through SWT's Wildlife magazine produced twice each year.

Investment income is recognised on a receivable basis, where the amount can be measured reliably.

c) Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised in the period when the charity is obliged to pay it, and the payment of said expenditure is measurable, and probable. Where payments are in respect of a future period they are categorised as such.

- Raising funds includes expenditure on the recruitment of new members, the employee costs of the marketing and membership departments, the publication and delivery of SWT's magazine three times per year, the costs of the annual appeal and the administration costs of the membership department together with publicity costs and legacy development
- Charitable activities include expenditure associated with the main objects of the charity – these are wildlife conservation, public awareness, the management of nature reserves and the collation of wildlife information
- Support Costs represent the cost of staff and overheads incurred in providing centralised services for the charity at its offices at Woods Mill and include the finance, human resources, office services departments and buildings maintenance. Support costs are allocated to departments on the basis of staff numbers

d) Donated services and volunteers

Where services are provided to the charity as a donation that would normally be purchased from suppliers this contribution is recognised as income when the charity has control over the item, any conditions associated with the donated item have been met, the receipt of economic benefit from the use by the charity of the item is probable and that economic benefit can be measured reliably.

Volunteers play a critical role in SWT and contribute substantial time to its work. However, in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102), volunteer time is not recognised in these financial statements.

e) Tangible fixed assets

SWT's interests in tangible fixed assets other than land designated as nature reserves are stated at cost with an allowance for depreciation as stated below. Individual IT fixed assets costing £500 or more are capitalised at cost, for other asset classes this rises to £1,000.

Assets under construction are not depreciated until the asset is in use.

f) Heritage assets

SWT's interests in land designated as nature reserves are stated at cost; these have been classified as heritage assets and are held by SWT in pursuit of its conservation objectives. Valuations are made by professional valuers – the Valuation Office Agency – and any gifts of land will be treated as heritage assets and will be included at valuation. No depreciation is charged on nature reserves.

g) Investments

SWT had no Equity investments during the year other than its investment in its subsidiary company Sussex Wildlife Enterprises Ltd.

h) Depreciation

Tangible fixed assets are depreciated on a straight line basis over their estimated useful lives as follows:

Land	Nil
Buildings, car park & services	2-10%
Temporary structures, fencing, etc	20%
Motor vehicles	20%
Furniture, fixtures and equipment	20%
Bird Hides	10%

i) Stock

Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

j) Livestock (biological assets)

Livestock is stated at fair value less estimated costs to sell in accordance with the fair value model in FRS 102. Movements in fair value are taken to the SOFA in the year in which they arise. Fair value is based upon the estimation of values from the land management team and is considered by the Trustees to be fair reflection of the estimated value at the year end.

k) Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available to spend on activities that further any of the purposes of the charity. Designated funds are unrestricted funds of the charity which the Trustees have decided at their discretion to set aside to use for a specific purpose. Restricted funds are donations which the donor has specified are to be solely used for particular areas of the Charity's work. The funds held in each of these categories are disclosed in Note 17.

l) Pension schemes

The employees of SWT are eligible to join either the Royal London Wildlife Trust Group Pension Scheme. This is a

defined contribution scheme. Employees contributions will be enhanced by a contribution from SWT which is at least twice the employee contribution. Contributions are charged to the SOFA as they become payable in accordance with the scheme rules.

The Wildlife Trust category 5 Scheme is a multi-employer defined benefit scheme administered for the benefit of Wildlife Trusts and is managed in accordance with the Pensions Act 2004 Regulations.

The Trustees are unable to confirm the charity's share of the underlying assets and liabilities of the Wildlife Trust Pension Scheme and therefore the Scheme is accounted for as a defined contribution scheme. As a result, the amount charged to the Statement of Financial Activities represents the contributions payable to the scheme in respect of the accounting period.

A liability is recognised by SWT, where material, for the charity's share of the deficit of the scheme as per the agreed schedule of contributions.

m) Operating leases

In categorising leases as finance leases or operating leases, management makes judgements as to whether significant risks and rewards of ownership have transferred to the Company as lessee, or the lessee, where the company is a lessor.

Rentals paid under operating leases are charged on a straight line basis over the life of the lease.

n) Non-recoverable VAT

Where possible non-recoverable VAT is charged against the category of resource expended for which it was incurred. Otherwise it is charged to support costs.

o) Consolidation

The financial statements present information about the company as an individual undertaking and not about its group. The subsidiary undertaking is dormant.

p) Cash at hand

Cash at bank includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with short maturity of three months or less.

q) Financial instruments

SWT only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

r) Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

A provision for impairment of trade debtors is established when there is evidence that the amounts due will not be collected according to the original terms of the contract. Impairment losses are recognised in the SOFA.



Nature Tots © Kt Bruce

s) Creditors/liabilities

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

t) Taxation

The Charity is exempt from tax on income and gains falling within section 471 to 489 of the Corporation Tax

Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 and is exempt from corporation tax to the extent that they are applied to its charitable objects.

u) Redundancy and termination payments

Expenditure required to settle an obligation for redundancy and termination benefits is recognised as an expense when the charity is committed to terminate the

employment of an employee, or provide redundancy and termination benefits.

v) Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

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 Charity makes estimates and assumptions concerning the future. The resulting accounting estimates and assumptions will, by definition, seldom equal the related actual results. The estimates and assumptions that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year are discussed below:

There are no estimates and assumptions that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year.

Income and endowments from:

2 Donations and legacies	Unrestricted	Restricted	Designated	2022	2021
	Funds	Funds	Funds	TOTAL	TOTAL
	£	£	£	£	£
a Income from members	1,928,959	-	-	1,928,959	1,694,723
b Donations	127,454	4,697	-	132,151	119,540
c Legacies	773,384	36,394	-	809,778	2,840,305
d Public appeals	40	84,851	-	84,891	217,452
	2,829,837	125,942	-	2,955,779	4,872,020

3 Other trading activities

a Corporate support	30,860	-	-	30,860	17,531
b Other fundraising income	470,920	-	-	470,920	50,991
	501,780	-	-	501,780	68,522

4 Investments

a. Deposit interest	408	-	-	408	3,211
	408	-	-	408	3,211
Other					
b. Other income	19,224	-	-	19,224	313,910
	19,224	-	-	19,224	313,910

5 Charitable activities

Wildlife conservation					
a. Project grants and income	500	400,981	-	401,481	109,444
b. Other income	28,637	121	-	28,758	74,346
	29,137	401,102	-	430,239	183,790
Working with people					
c. Grants and income	-	309,090	-	309,090	260,148
d. Schools, events and courses	157,964	4,357	-	162,321	24,182
e. Other income	-	-	-	-	-
	157,964	313,447	-	471,411	284,330
Nature reserves management					
f. Rents, grazing income, sales of meat and timber	53,278	-	-	53,278	69,440
g. Land management grants and stewardship income	440,733	128,614	-	569,347	962,017
h. Other income	50,718	-	-	50,718	53,297
	544,729	128,614	-	673,343	1,084,754
Collating information on wildlife					
i. Contract funding	-	283,961	-	283,961	251,601
	-	283,961	-	283,961	251,601
Total income from charitable activities	731,830	1,127,124	-	1,858,954	1,804,475
TOTAL INCOME	4,083,079	1,253,066	-	5,336,145	7,062,138

5 Charitable activities continued

Last year's total income of £7,062,138 was made up of £3,797,180 unrestricted, £3,264,958 restricted split between the following:

	Unrestricted	Restricted
	£	£
Donations and legacies	2,706,876	2,165,144
Other trading	68,522	-
Investments	3,211	-
Charitable activities	704,661	1,099,814
Other	313,910	-

The Sussex Wildlife Trust has benefited from a small number of government grants and financial contributions during the year that support our conservation activity. The funding received, incorporates levels of conditional service and supports the management of our nature reserves.

	2022	2021
	£	£
During the year this amounted to:		
Single Farm Payment	145,878	164,002
Higher Level Stewardship grant income	212,057	322,238
Coronavirus job retention scheme	21,520	227,461

Expenditure on:

6 Raising funds	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	2022 TOTAL £	2021 TOTAL £
a. Staff costs	606,699	-	-	606,699	421,519
b. Membership promotion	233,228	-	135,380	368,608	171,313
c. Magazine publication and delivery	79,490	-	-	79,490	82,681
d. Appeals and legacies	13,546	-	-	13,546	8,549
e. Membership administration and publicity	36,686	-	-	36,686	21,116
f. Interpretation and website development	46,266	1,927	-	48,193	105,070
g. Other fundraising costs	248,764	500	-	249,264	-
h. Depreciation	19,341	-	2,664	22,005	2,912
i. Allocated support costs	189,602	-	22,647	212,249	187,579
	1,473,623	2,427	160,691	1,636,741	1,000,739

7 Charitable activities
Wildlife conservation

a. Staff costs	279,821	178,607	-	458,428	254,247
b. Conservation work	56,531	155,976	-	212,507	160,417
c. Other	5,356	5,935	-	11,291	10,330
d. Depreciation	-	-	-	-	-
e. Allocated support costs	145,349	-	-	145,349	112,288
	487,057	340,518	-	827,575	537,282

Working with people

f. Staff costs	364,074	310,921	-	674,995	689,406
g. Interpretation, education and other costs	62,058	8,057	-	70,115	37,577
h. Project overhead costs	21,589	79,366	18,333	119,288	32,644
i. Depreciation	76,979	-	-	76,979	-
j. Allocated support costs	280,763	-	-	280,763	279,683
	805,463	398,344	18,333	1,222,140	1,039,310

Nature reserves management

k. Staff costs	569,289	19,258	-	588,547	508,940
l. Equipment, vehicles and other costs	111,617	77,114	-	188,731	180,834
m. Land management	220,530	60,548	121,475	402,553	459,567
n. Legal and professional fees	28,936	-	-	28,936	47,473
o. Depreciation	58,752	15,120	-	73,872	72,373
p. Allocated support costs	181,536	-	-	181,536	198,130
	1,170,660	172,040	121,475	1,464,175	1,467,317

Collating information on wildlife

q. Staff costs	-	234,338	-	234,338	204,092
r. Depreciation	-	811	-	811	609
s. Data recording	-	15,164	-	15,164	13,356
t. Other costs	-	5,582	-	5,582	2,678
u. Allocated support costs	103,745	-	-	103,745	100,289
	103,745	255,895	-	359,640	321,024

Total expenditure on charitable activities	2,566,925	1,166,797	139,808	3,873,530	3,364,933
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TOTAL EXPENDITURE	4,040,548	1,169,224	300,499	5,510,271	4,365,672
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Last year's total expenditure of £4,365,672 was made up of £3,141,635 unrestricted, £1,060,339 restricted and £163,698 designated, split between the following:

7 Charitable activities continued

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Designated £
Raising funds	920,131	19,783	60,825
Charitable activities	2,221,504	1,040,556	102,873

Trustees' Liability Insurance

SWT pays an annual insurance premium to:

a) protect the charity from loss arising from the defaults of its Trustees, employees or agents

b) indemnify the Trustees or other officers against the consequences of any act or default on their part

8 Allocation of support cost

SWT allocates its support costs as shown in the table below and then further apportions those costs between the four charitable activities undertaken.

Support costs are allocated on the basis of staff numbers per department and where appropriate a percentage of time worked.

	Charitable Activities							
	Wildlife Conservation £	Working with People £	Nature Reserves Management £	Collating Wildlife Information £	Charitable Activities Total £	Raising Funds £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Management and central overheads	37,848	73,110	47,271	27,015	185,244	49,372	234,616	333,987
Finance department	25,700	49,644	32,099	18,344	125,787	33,525	159,312	125,020
Information technology	21,986	42,468	27,459	15,692	107,605	28,679	136,284	122,210
Human resources	17,601	34,000	21,984	12,563	86,148	22,960	109,108	84,820
General administration	5,926	11,449	7,403	4,231	29,009	7,732	36,741	3,544
Health and Safety/Buildings maintenance	27,776	53,652	34,690	19,825	135,943	36,232	172,175	159,560
Governance	8,512	16,440	10,630	6,075	41,657	11,102	52,759	48,827
	145,349	280,763	181,536	103,745	711,393	189,602	900,995	877,968

9 Staff costs
Analysis of staff costs:

	2022 £	2021 £
Salaries and wages	2,547,129	2,147,708
Social security costs	225,133	192,073
Pension costs	149,888	129,058
Redundancy and termination costs	23,801	-
	2,945,951	2,468,839

2022: One employee, in the £80 - £90k band, earned more than £80,000 p.a. Key management personnel are considered to be: the Trustees, the Chief Executive Officer, and the further members of staff that make up the Senior Management Team (2021: One employee in the £60 - £70k band). In total they received £366,811 (2021: £341,060) in employee benefits, including pension contributions. Employer's National Insurance paid £38,834 (2021: £35,910). Redundancy and termination costs include settlement costs in respect of the termination of employment. There were no outstanding liabilities at the balance sheet date.

Staff numbers

The average number of employees was 102 (2021: 88) with an average FTE of 81 (2021: 78).

	2022	2021
Management	7	6
Other	74	72

Other costs

During the year travel expenses and training costs of NIL (2021: £NIL) were reimbursed to 0 Trustees (2021: 0 Trustees).

Subsistence expenses of £NIL were reimbursed (2021: £NIL).

The Trustees have not received any remuneration in the year (2021: £NIL).

10 Pension costs

SWT operates two pensions schemes for its current staff, only one of which is open to new entrants. SWT has liabilities associated with a former, closed, defined benefit scheme.

The pensions schemes are listed below:

- 1) Royal London - Group pension scheme, open to new members
- 2) Standard Life - Stakeholder pension scheme, closed to new members 31.03.14, but with active employees
- 3) Wildlife Trust - Defined Benefit pension scheme, closed to new entrants 31.03.05, no active employees

Life assurance is now provided under separate cover.

None of the current employees of the Sussex Wildlife Trust are members of the Defined Benefit scheme. This scheme is a multi-employer scheme and the Trust is unable to identify its share of the assets and liabilities of the scheme. Contributions to the scheme are therefore treated as if it were a Defined Contribution scheme.

As a result of a triennial valuation of the assets of the Defined Benefits scheme in April 2013 the scheme actuary agreed a past service shortfall of £7,752,000. In April 2019 the actuarial assessment has been valued at a deficit of £4,658,000. The previous actuarial valuation April 2016 was at £5,900,000. The total shortfall attributable to the Trust has not been reflected in these financial statements.

SWT has been advised by the pension scheme Trustees that its share of this shortfall would amount to £3,692 per year exclusive of expenses from 1 August 2022, increasing by 3% per annum until 2026.

The liability for the Defined Benefit scheme is calculated at the net total of the present value at the reporting date of our obligation to the scheme (as per the actuarial valuation) and the fair value, at the reporting date, of any plan assets out of which the obligation is to be settled directly.

Due to the inability to identify SWT's exact share of assets and liabilities of the Defined Benefit scheme, and its immateriality (calculated at approx. £16k at 31 March 2022), that liability has not been included in this set of financial accounts.

Pension contributions

The pension charge shown in the accounts is the amount payable by the Trust during the financial year. It is analysed as follows:

	2022	2021
	£	£
Category 1 - Life assurance only	-	-
Category 3 - Defined Contribution scheme	-	0
Category 5 - Defined Benefit scheme	3,575	3,637
Total contributions to The Wildlife Trusts' Pension Scheme	3,575	3,637
Category 1 - Life assurance only (Standard Life)	-	-
Standard Life Stakeholder Pension scheme	37,589	34,471
Royal London Group Pension scheme	113,297	94,546
Life Assurance Costs	5,069	7,534
	159,530	140,188

Pension contribution liabilities

The following pension contributions were payable at the year-end and are included within creditors:

	2022	2021
	£	£
Royal London Group Pension scheme	14,388	12,386
Standard Life Stakeholder Pension scheme	7,006	6,448
	21,394	18,834

11 Net income/(expenditure) for the year

This is stated after charging:	2022	2021
	£	£
Operating lease rentals	(471)	33,379
Depreciation	173,666	90,120
Auditors remuneration	21,000	17,650
Profit on sale of assets	-	101,394

12 Tangible and heritage fixed assets

	Land & Buildings	Furniture, Fixtures & Equipment	Plant & Machinery	Motor Vehicles	Assets Under Construction	Total Tangible Assets	Heritage Assets	TOTAL
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Cost								
At 1 April 2021	1,073,411	394,272	44,216	143,632	4,875,581	6,531,112	3,327,495	9,858,607
Additions	256,369	13,427	29,364	86,151	-	385,311	491,432	876,743
Disposals	-	(40,667)	-	-	-	(40,667)	-	(40,667)
Transfers	4,875,581	-	-	-	(4,875,581)	-	-	-
At 31 March 2022	6,205,361	367,032	73,580	229,783	-	6,875,757	3,818,927	10,694,683
Depreciation								
At 1 April 2021	715,359	350,909	14,023	122,774	-	1,203,065	-	1,203,065
Charge for year	122,032	18,664	13,248	19,722	-	173,666	-	173,666
Disposals	-	(40,667)	-	-	-	(40,667)	-	(40,667)
At 31 March 2022	837,391	328,906	27,271	142,496	-	1,336,064	-	1,336,064
Raising funds								
Net book value								
31 March 2022	5,367,971	38,126	46,309	87,287	-	5,539,692	3,818,927	9,358,619
Net book value								
31 March 2021	358,052	43,363	30,193	20,858	4,875,581	5,328,047	3,327,495	8,655,542

Gift of land

SWT has received no gifts of land during the year (2021: £NIL).

Heritage assets

Heritage assets consist of land designated as nature reserves by SWT and acquired either by purchase, gift or lease.

SWT currently owns, leases or manages 32 nature reserves, all classified as heritage assets, which have been acquired since the early 1960s and cover a total 1,960 hectares of Sussex downland, woodland, wetland, heath, meadow, and farmland. Many are Sites of Special Scientific Interest.

Included are five sites designated as nature reserves that were given to SWT between 1964 and 1981 for which no cost or conventional valuation is currently available.

A nature reserve will be considered for acquisition if:

- a) its ownership will enhance the viability or conservation value of an existing SWT reserve or simplify its management
- b) the land is required: 1) to demonstrate best conservation practice, 2) for education, 3) for the local community or, 4) to achieve a joint conservation project with other agencies
- c) ownership of the land will help to achieve one or more targets as set out in the Trust's Nature Reserves Acquisition Strategy

SWT maintains a register of title deeds for all nature reserves in its ownership and land management is carried out to pre-agreed management plans.

Disposal of any nature reserve will only be considered if the original objectives for ownership have been met or the site no longer meets the Trust's Nature Reserves Acquisitions and Disposals Policy. The Trust has a policy of allowing open access to all its nature reserves unless this is impossible to achieve due to physical location or will compromise the Trust's conservation objectives.

Five year financial summary of heritage asset transactions

	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
	£	£	£	£	£
Purchases at cost or valuation					
Streels Lane	78,406	-	-	-	-
Willand Woods	413,026	-	-	-	-
Donations					
Rye Harbour	-	-	-	75,000	-
Total additions	491,432	-	-	75,000	-

There have been no disposals of heritage assets in any of the last five years and no impairment is considered necessary. The addition in 2019 was the donated amount.

13 Fixed asset investments

	2022	2021
	£	£
Subsidiary Company - Sussex Wildlife Enterprises Ltd.		
Cost		
At 31 March 2021 and at 31 March 2022	100	100
Net book value at 31 March 2021 and at 31 March 2022	100	100

SWT owns 100% of the ordinary share capital of Sussex Wildlife Enterprises Ltd, a company incorporated in the UK. The company has not traded since its incorporation.

14 Biological assets

	2022
	£
Fair value at 1 April 2021	95,360
Purchases	101,065
Sales	(26,090)
Gain/Loss	45,990
Fair value at 31 March 2022	216,325

Livestock were valued during the year to 31 March 2022 at £1,500 (cows in calf) and at £1,200 (breeding heifers) and at £1,000 (store cows) per head of cattle (2021: £1,000) and at £105 (ewes) (2021: £180) and £194 (rams) (2021: £5,000) and £121 per head of lamb (2021: £60).

15 Debtors

	2022	2021
	£	£
Trade debtors	128,687	82,442
Other debtors	1,086,403	1,337,031
Prepayments	99,629	55,981
	1,314,719	1,475,454

16 Liabilities: amounts falling due within one year

	2022	2021
	£	£
Trade creditors	222,943	283,510
Other taxes and social security costs	64,349	69,967
Other creditors and accruals	109,758	99,128
Deferred income	49,512	13,162
Life membership subscriptions	21,399	22,525
	467,961	488,292
Deferred income:		
Balance as at 1 April 2021	13,162	38,177
Amount released to income	(13,162)	(38,177)
Amount deferred in year	49,512	13,162
Balance as at 31 March 2022	49,512	13,162

Deferred income comprises memberships and charitable income received for use in future financial years.

17 Funds

	Balance				Balance
	1 Apr 2021	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	31 Mar 2022
	£	£	£	£	£
Restricted					
Nature reserves	2,324,238	-	-	-	2,324,238
Projects	2,882,380	1,253,066	1,169,224	(747,802)	2,218,420
	5,206,618	1,253,066	1,169,224	(747,802)	4,542,658
Designated	537,596	-	300,499	203,596	440,693
Unrestricted	8,316,553	4,083,079	4,040,548	544,206	8,903,290
Total all funds	14,060,767	5,336,145	5,510,271	-	13,886,641

The transfer of (£747k) in respect of restricted projects is comprised of (£491k) of land purchase for Heritage Assets in the year, and (£256k) of capital construction in the year for the Rye Harbour Discovery Centre. This reflects the value of tangible fixed assets financed by restricted fund donations but held for general, not restricted purposes.

The transfers to designated funds are comprised of £243,596 of new designations for specific projects during the year, £40K of transfers back to general funds where projects are now completed.

	Balance				Balance
	1 Apr 2021	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	31 Mar 2022
	£	£	£	£	£
Analysis of restricted projects funds movements					
Badger Appeal	843	25	868	-	-
Behaviour Change	8,000	-	2,940	-	5,060
Brickfield Southern Water	-	10,000	-	-	10,000
Chalk Downland Fund	1,098,044	-	-	-	1,098,044
Climate Change	-	10,700	10,700	-	-
Creating Space	-	6,070	-	-	6,070
Culvert Project at Rye Harbour	-	15,907	-	-	15,907
Deneway Nature Reserve	3,760	-	-	-	3,760
Gatwick Greenspace Partnership	54,276	84,190	97,348	-	41,118
Holiday Activities and Food Programme 2021	-	-	-	-	-
from East Sussex County Council	-	422	195	-	227
Heathlands Reunited Fund	-	7,156	7,156	-	-
National Lottery Heritage Fund -					
Heritage Emergency Fund	4,321	-	4,020	-	301
Kelp	14,237	214,187	141,397	-	87,027
Legacies	110,369	-	-	78,406	31,963
National Lottery Heritage Fund - Lost Woods					
of the Low Wealds and Downs Project	-	5,041	5,330	-	(290)
Natural Capital	20,791	26,590	23,653	-	23,728
People's Postcode Lottery - Team Wilder	-	10,000	-	-	10,000
People and Wildlife	10,784	-	750	-	10,034
Portsmouth Water Fund	4,692	-	1,100	-	3,592
Rapid Response Fund	21,718	1,000	1,927	-	20,791
Rye Harbour Nature Reserve	13,088	-	2,500	-	10,588
Rye Harbour Discovery Centre	359,287	91,745	62,341	256,370	132,321
Rye Harbour Discovery Centre Appeal	1,269	1,190	2,459	-	-
Rye Harbour Discovery Centre Operational Grant	(22,067)	98,538	106,628	-	(30,157)
3 C's (Championing Coastal Coordination)	-	20,807	14,352	-	6,455
ScottishPower Foundation	16,857	-	2,770	-	14,087
Southerham Barn	62,412	-	11,350	-	51,062
Southern Water	25,000	-	-	-	25,000
Summer Appeal 20.21	5,349	605	-	-	5,954
Sussex Biodiversity Record Centre	217,425	272,320	234,530	-	255,215
Sussex by the Sea Appeal	19,215	-	17,501	-	1,714
Sussex Downland Appeal	10,125	-	10,125	-	-
Sussex Local Wildlife Site Initiative	80,742	24,618	21,363	-	83,997
Sussex Ornithological Society (SOS) -					
Amberley Wildbrooks Wader Project 2020	-	11,300	11,300	-	-
Sussex Wetlands	42,574	61,700	88,650	-	15,624
The Leysdown Conservation Trust	46,155	30,000	27,442	-	48,713

(continued overleaf)

17 Funds continued

	Balance 1 Apr 2021	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Balance 31 Mar 2022
	£	£	£	£	£
Analysis of restricted projects funds movements					
Trailer Fund (formerly Chalk Cliff)	1,502	-	1,186	-	316
West Weald Landscape	48,101	-	48,101	-	-
National Lottery Heritage Fund - Wild Coast Sussex	-	116,613	116,613	-	-
Wilder Horsham District	10,968	57,829	62,629	-	6,168
Winter Woodland Appeal	85,530	10,856	30,000	-	66,386
Winter Reserves Appeal	-	63,659	-	-	63,659
Woodland Legacy	507,013	-	-	413,026	93,987
	2,882,380	1,253,066	1,169,224	747,802	2,218,420

Restricted projects:

Badger Appeal: A grazing and vaccination programme against bovine TB

Behaviour Change Project Funded by Natural England:

Looking at behaviour change in Nature Tots and Wildlife Watch

Brickfield Southern Water: Compensation Payment from Southern Water for sewage leaks at Brickfield Meadow

Chalk Downland Fund: To maintain, restore or purchase Sussex chalk downland

Climate Change Project: Funding from People's Postcode Lottery via RSWT for development and delivery of Carbon Reduction Strategies

Creating Space: Supporting Work in Ancient Woodlands

Culvert Project at Rye Harbour: Funding from Environment Agency for Culvert Work at Rye Harbour Reserve

Deneway Nature Reserve: Fund from the Co-op Local Community fund

Gatwick Greenspace Partnership: Enhancing green spaces in the Gatwick, Crawley and Horsham areas and to increase community involvement

Holiday Activities and Food Programme 2021 from East Sussex County Council: School holiday activities at Rye Harbour for children

Heathlands Reunited Fund: Partnership agreement towards management and restoration of Sussex Heathlands

National Lottery Heritage Fund - Heritage Emergency Fund: Grant to support nature reserves during Covid-19

Kelp: People's Postcode Lottery Funding via RSWT and The Pebble Trust to further the regeneration of Sussex kelp forests, plus other funding towards the Help Our Kelp Partnership

Legacies: Various bequests for specific projects

National Lottery Heritage Fund - Lost Woods of the Low Wealds and Downs Project: Partnership with The Woodland Trust to encourage greater access to woodlands

Natural Capital: The work of public engagement and reconnection to nature

People's Postcode Lottery - Team Wilder: Funding from People's Postcode Lottery via RSWT - a project supporting communities to take action for nature in Hastings

People and Wildlife: Conservation education for schools in Sussex

Portsmouth Water Fund: Biodiversity Grant Scheme for restoring rare habitat at Leythorne Meadow

Rapid Response Fund: Land acquisition/response to immediate need

Rye Harbour Nature Reserve: A depreciation fund

Rye Harbour Discovery Centre: The development of a Discovery Centre at Rye Harbour

Rye Harbour Discovery Centre Appeal: for the Rye Harbour Discovery Centre project

Rye Harbour Discovery Centre Operational Grant: The development of the Operations of the Discovery Centre at Rye Harbour

3 C's (Championing Coastal Coordination): Sussex Marine and coastal nature recovery network developing the strategy

ScottishPower Foundation: Wild Side of the Track project at Deneway nature reserve providing community events, schools visits and habitat improvements.

Southerham Barn: The development of Southerham Barn

Southern Water: Funds from fines received by Southern Water granted for specific aspects of SWT work

Summer/Winter/Downland appeal: Conservation campaigning, educating children and managing our nature reserves

Sussex Biodiversity Record Centre: The provision of biodiversity information for Sussex

Sussex by the Sea Appeal: For the Wild Coast Sussex project

Sussex Downland Appeal: For downland management and maintenance

Sussex Local Wildlife Site Initiative: Establishing a coherent and resilient ecological network across Sussex

Sussex Ornithological Society (SOS) - Amberley Wildbrooks Wader Project 2020: To enable habitat enhancements at Amberley Wildbrooks which will support populations of breeding waders

Sussex Wetlands: Enhancing the awareness of wetland habitats in Sussex

The Leysdown Conservation Trust: Training and development of the Vera Dalley Ledereman trainees

Trailer Fund (formerly The Chalk Cliff Trust): Depreciation of trailer

West Weald Landscape: Enhancing the wooded landscape of an area of West Sussex

National Lottery Heritage Fund - Wild Coast Sussex: a partnership to inspire and connect people to help protect the Sussex coast and sea

Wilder Horsham District: Fund for delivering a Nature Recovery Network for Horsham District, with funding from Horsham District Council

Winter Woodland Appeal

Winter Reserves Appeal

Woodland Legacy: Bequest for Woodland Purchase

17 Funds continued

The deficit on the National Lottery Heritage Fund Lost Woods of the Low Wealds and Downs Project funding claim is due to a pending funding claim. The deficit on the Rye Harbour Operational Fund is due to a pending claim.

Unrestricted funds comprise those funds which the Trustees are free to use in accordance with the Trust's charitable objectives.

	Balance 1 Apr 2021	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Balance 31 Mar 2022
	£	£	£	£	£
Analysis of designated funds movements					
Southerham Reserve Fund	76,000	-	77,925	30,000	28,075
Business Plan strategic development capacity	25,339	-	9,833	-	15,506
Membership recruitment	228,256	-	135,379	132,096	224,973
Integrated software project	23,761	-	11,932	-	11,829
Strategy development	3,445	-	701	-	2,744
Land management equipment (sinking fund)	25,000	-	-	-	25,000
Match funding fund	40,000	-	18,333	-	21,667
Interpretation	26,691	-	-	-	26,691
HR system upgrade	2,534	-	-	-	2,534
Remote access	5,511	-	5,511	-	-
Ash Dieback crisis	16,059	-	16,059	45,000	45,000
Payband Re-evaluation Fund	40,000	-	-	(40,000)	-
Woods Mill Repairs	25,000	-	24,826	21,500	21,674
Tree Safety Implementation Fund	-	-	-	15,000	15,000
	537,596	-	300,499	203,596	440,693

The Trustees have designated funds from unrestricted funds for various planned future projects, as well as contingency funds for future eventualities.

Designated funds:

Southerham Reserve Fund: Development of our nature reserve at Southerham

Business Plan strategic development capacity: To allow extra capacity to meet the changing organisational demands

Membership recruitment: Future investment in increasing and developing our membership

Integrated software project: Development of an integrated IT solution

Strategy development: Investment in the development and implementation of next five year strategy

Land management equipment (sinking fund): Equipment purchases

Match funding fund: Project bid match funding

Interpretation: Upgrading interpretation on reserves

HR system upgrade: Upgrade of HR system

Remote access: Developing remote working

Ash Dieback crisis: Provision for ongoing work managing disease

Payband Re-evaluation Fund: Provision for additional costs resulting from re-evaluation

Woods Mill Repairs: Planned longer term repairs to Woods Mill

Tree Safety Implementation Fund: Provision for additional costs to main tree safety on reserves

18 Funds - previous year

	Balance 1 Apr 2020	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Balance 31 Mar 2021
	£	£	£	£	£
Restricted					
Nature reserves	2,324,238	-	-	-	2,324,238
Projects	1,907,353	3,264,958	1,060,339	(1,229,592)	2,882,380
	4,231,591	3,264,958	1,060,339	(1,229,592)	5,206,618
Designated	757,369	-	163,698	(56,075)	537,596
Unrestricted	6,375,341	3,797,180	3,141,635	1,285,667	8,316,553
Total all funds	11,364,301	7,062,138	4,365,672	-	14,060,767

18 Funds - previous year continued

	Balance 1 Apr 2020	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Balance 31 Mar 2021
	£	£	£	£	£
Analysis of restricted projects funds movements - previous year					
Badger Appeal	5,708	100	4,965	-	843
Behaviour Change	-	8,000	-	-	8,000
Chalk Downland Fund	975,000	123,044	-	-	1,098,044
National Lottery Heritage Fund - Changing Chalk	-	9,165	9,165	-	-
Climate Change	-	10,000	10,000	-	-
Deneway Nature Reserve	3,760	-	-	-	3,760
Gateway to Nature	4,763	-	4,763	-	-
Gatwick Greenspace Partnership	28,294	108,638	82,656	-	54,276
Heathlands Reunited Fund	-	30,257	30,257	-	-
National Lottery Heritage Fund					
- Heritage Emergency Fund	-	47,300	42,979	-	4,321
National Lottery Heritage Fund					
- Sussex by the Sea	6,023	-	6,023	-	-
Kelp	17,175	7,388	10,326	-	14,237
Legacies	158,248	10,000	57,879	-	110,369
Lost Words Appeal	1,296	-	1,296	-	-
Natural Capital	12,511	27,375	19,095	-	20,791
People and Wildlife	16,834	-	6,050	-	10,784
Portsmouth Water Fund	-	4,692	-	4,692	-
Rapid Response Fund	21,718	-	-	-	21,718
Rye Harbour	18,986	15,090	20,988	-	13,088
Rye Harbour Discovery Centre	-	1,702,065	113,186	(1,229,592)	359,287
Rye Harbour Discovery Centre Appeal	-	1,269	-	-	1,269
Rye Harbour Discovery Centre Operational Grant	-	59,135	81,202	-	(22,067)
ScottishPower Foundation Deneway	16,882	-	25	-	16,857
Southerham Barn	73,762	-	11,350	-	62,412
Southern Water	25,000	-	-	-	25,000
Summer Appeal	12,907	2,989	10,547	-	5,349
Sussex Biodiversity Record Centre	178,802	244,446	205,823	-	217,425
Sussex by the Sea Appeal	29,910	97	10,792	-	19,215
Sussex Downland Appeal	21,625	-	11,500	-	10,125
Sussex Local Wildlife Site Initiative	77,955	17,699	14,912	-	80,742
Sussex Ornithological Society (SOS)	-	10,650	10,650	-	-
Sussex Wetlands	115,859	74,521	147,806	-	42,574
The Leysdown Conservation Trust	33,546	30,000	17,391	-	46,155
Trailer Fund (formerly Chalk Cliff)	2,688	-	1,186	-	1,502
West Weald Landscape	48,101	-	-	-	48,101
National Lottery Heritage Fund - Wild Coast Sussex	-	83,990	83,990	-	-
Wilder Horsham District	-	39,284	28,316	-	10,968
Winter Appeal	-	90,751	5,221	-	85,530
Woodland Legacy	-	507,013	-	-	507,013
	1,907,353	3,264,958	1,060,339	(1,229,592)	2,882,380

Restricted projects:

Badger Appeal: A grazing and vaccination programme against bovine TB

Behaviour Change Project: Funded by Natural England looking at behaviour change in Nature Tots and Wildlife Watch

Chalk Downland Fund: To maintain, restore or purchase Sussex chalk downland

National Lottery Heritage Fund - Changing Chalk: Funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) and led by the National Trust

Climate Change Project: Funding from People's Postcode Lottery via RSWT for development and delivery of Carbon Reduction Strategies

Deneway Nature Reserve: Fund from the Co-op Local Community Fund

Gateway to Nature: To develop further Youth Ranger work and community involvement

Gatwick Greenspace Partnership: Enhancing green spaces in the Gatwick, Crawley and Horsham areas and to increase community involvement

Heathlands Reunited Fund: Partnership agreement towards management and restoration of Sussex Heathlands

National Lottery Heritage Fund - Heritage Emergency Fund: Grant to support nature reserves during Covid-19

18 Funds - previous year continued

National Lottery Heritage Fund - Sussex by the Sea: To develop a round 2 submission

Kelp: People's Postcode Lottery funding via RSWT to further the regeneration of Sussex kelp forests, plus other funding towards the Help Our Kelp Partnership

Legacies: Various bequests for specific projects

Lost Words Appeal: Issuing a nature book about declining use of nature words to all primary schools in Sussex

Natural Capital: The work of public engagement and reconnection to nature

People and Wildlife: Conservation education for schools in Sussex

Portsmouth Water Fund: Biodiversity Grant Scheme: Restoring rare habitat at Leythorne Meadow

Rapid Response Fund: land acquisition/response to immediate need

Rye Harbour: Rye Harbour Nature Reserve

Rye Harbour Discovery Centre: The development of a Discovery Centre at Rye Harbour

Rye Harbour Discovery Centre Appeal: for the Rye Harbour Discovery Centre project

Rye Harbour Discovery Centre Operational Grant: The development of the Operations of the Discovery Centre at Rye Harbour

ScottishPower Foundation: Wild Side of the Track project at Deneway nature reserve for community events, schools visits and habitat improvements

Southerham Barn: The development of Southerham Barn

Southern Water: Funds from fines received by Southern Water granted for specific aspects of SWT work

Summer/Winter/Downland Appeal: Conservation campaigning, educating children and managing our nature reserves

Sussex Biodiversity Record Centre: The provision of biodiversity information for Sussex

Sussex by the Sea Appeal: For the Wild Coast Sussex project

Sussex Downland Appeal: For downland management and maintenance

Sussex Local Wildlife Site Initiative: Establishing a coherent and resilient ecological network across Sussex

Sussex Ornithological Society (SOS): Amberley Wildbrooks Wader Project

Sussex Wetlands: Enhancing the awareness of wetland habitats in Sussex

The Leysdown Conservation Trust: Training and development of trainees

Trailer Fund (formerly The Chalk Cliff Trust): Depreciation of trailer

West Weald Landscape: enhancing the wooded landscape of an area of West Sussex

National Lottery Heritage Fund - Wild Coast Sussex: A partnership to inspire and connect people to help protect the Sussex coast and sea

Wilder Horsham District Project: Fund for delivering a Nature Recovery Network for Horsham District, with funding from Horsham District Council

Woodland Legacy: Bequest for Woodland Purchase

The deficit on the Rye Harbour Operational Fund is due to a pending claim.

Unrestricted funds comprise those funds which the Trustees are free to use in accordance with SWT's charitable objectives.

	Balance 1 Apr 2020	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Balance 31 Mar 2021
	£	£	£	£	£
Analysis of designated funds movements - previous year					
Southerham Reserve Fund	94,208	-	18,208	-	76,000
Business Plan strategic development capacity	31,088	-	5,749	-	25,339
Membership recruitment	77,547	-	40,441	191,150	228,256
Integrated software project	26,591	-	2,830	-	23,761
Ecological mapping	3,793	-	-	(3,793)	-
IIP staff development	5,000	-	5,000	-	-
Strategy development	4,146	-	701	-	3,445
Pensions liability (sinking fund)	15,000	-	-	(15,000)	-
Vehicles (sinking fund)	10,000	-	-	(10,000)	-
Building maintenance (sinking fund)	9,474	-	9,474	-	-
Land management equipment (sinking fund)	25,000	-	-	-	25,000
Rye Harbour Discovery Centre	295,617	-	-	(295,617)	-
Conservation - departure from the EU	19,800	-	-	(19,800)	-
Match funding fund	40,000	-	-	-	40,000
Interpretation	26,691	-	-	-	26,691
HR system upgrade	7,925	-	5,391	-	2,534
Remote access	7,474	-	1,963	-	5,511
Bid writing	11,160	-	-	(11,160)	-
Business systems development	4,390	-	-	(4,390)	-
Filming	2,465	-	-	(2,465)	-
Ash Dieback crisis	40,000	-	73,941	50,000	16,059
Payband Re-evaluation Fund	-	-	-	40,000	40,000
Woods Mill Repairs	-	-	-	25,000	25,000
	757,369	-	163,698	(56,075)	537,596

18 Funds - previous year continued

The Trustees have designated funds from unrestricted funds for various planned future projects, as well as contingency funds for future eventualities.

Designated funds:

Southerham Reserve Fund: *Development of our nature reserve at Southerham*

Business Plan strategic development capacity: *To allow extra capacity to meet the changing organisational demands*

Membership recruitment: *Future investment in increasing and developing our membership*

Integrated software project: *Development of an integrated IT solution*

Ecological mapping: *Development of ecological mapping in Sussex*

IIP staff development: *Project to develop staff performance through the IIP accreditation framework*

Strategy development: *Investment in the development and implementation of next five year strategy*

Pensions liability (sinking fund): *Potential future costs*

Vehicles (sinking fund): *Vehicle purchases*

Building maintenance (sinking fund): *Maintenance of Woods Mill*

Land management equipment (sinking fund): *Equipment purchases*

Rye Harbour Discovery Centre: *The development of the new Discovery Centre at Rye Harbour Nature Reserve*

Conservation - departure from the EU: *Research and development on financial impact of leaving the EU*

Match funding fund: *Project bid match funding*

Interpretation: *Upgrading interpretation on reserves*

HR system upgrade: *Upgrade of HR system*

Remote access: *Developing remote working*

Bid writing: *Extra capacity for bid opportunities*

Business systems development: *Improving organisational efficiencies*

Filming: *Equipment to bring film-making in-house*

Ash Dieback crisis: *Provision for ongoing work managing disease*

Payband Re-evaluation Fund: *Provision for additional costs resulting from re-evaluation*

Woods Mill Repairs: *Planned longer term repairs to Woods Mill*

Tree Safety Implementation Fund: *Provision for additional costs to main tree safety on reserves*

19 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Tangible and Heritage		Net Current	Total
	Fixed Assets	Investments	Assets	
	£	£	£	£
Restricted				
Nature reserves	2,324,238	-	-	2,324,238
Projects	-	-	2,218,420	2,218,420
Unrestricted	7,034,381	100	1,868,809	8,903,290
Designated	-	-	440,693	440,693
	9,358,619	100	4,527,922	13,886,641

Analysis of net assets between funds 2021

	Tangible and Heritage		Net Current	Total
	Fixed Assets	Investments	Assets	
	£	£	£	£
Restricted				
Nature reserves	2,324,238	-	-	2,324,238
Projects	-	-	2,882,380	2,882,380
Unrestricted	6,331,304	100	1,985,149	8,316,553
Designated	-	-	537,596	537,596
	8,655,542	100	5,405,125	14,060,767

20 Contingent liabilities

There are no contingent liabilities for the repayment of grants and gifts (2021: £NIL).

SWT owns Castle Water, part of the Rye Harbour Nature Reserve. As previously reported SWT carried out an investigation to establish the nature and extent of the contamination based on existing data. This confirmed a source of contamination under part of the nature reserve. Since then discussions have been held with the relevant officers from the Environment Agency at a local level and the work done so far comprises a series of studies on the extent of contamination in other areas of Rye Harbour. Monitoring has continued throughout the 2021 - 2022 financial year.

The costs of remediation at Castle Water remain unquantifiable. It is unclear to what extent, if at all, SWT will be liable.

21 (a) Operating lease commitments:

SWT has commitments in the year to 31 March 2022 to pay minimum rentals on buildings and equipment under non-cancellable operating leases.

	2022 Buildings £	2021 Buildings £	2022 Equipment £	2021 Equipment £
Operating leases which expire:				
Within one year:	-	-	5,260	12,067
Within two to five years:	-	-	5,731	21,312

b) Capital commitments

Capital expenditure contracted for but not paid:

£45k - Vehicle Purchase (2021: £NIL)

£87k - Rye Harbour Discovery Centre construction (2021: £523k)

22 Related party transactions

During the year to 31 March 2022 related party transactions were NIL (2021: £NIL).

Provision for related party transactions payments are made in the governing document of SWT.

SUSSEX WILDLIFE TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 207005

Accounts



Sussex
Wildlife Trust

Trustees' Report & Annual Accounts

2020-21



Reference and Administrative Details

Charity name: Sussex Wildlife Trust

Charity number: 207005

Company number: 698851

Registered and Principal Office Address:

Woods Mill, Henfield, West Sussex, BN5 9SD

Auditor:

RSM UK Audit LLP
Portland
25 High Street
Crawley
West Sussex
RH10 1BG

A resolution to appoint auditors to the charitable company will be proposed at the Annual General Meeting.

Bank:

Barclays PLC
The Old Bank
High Street
Lewes
East Sussex
BN7 2JP

Directors and Trustees:

The Directors of the charitable company (the Charity) are its Trustees for the purposes of charity law and throughout this report are collectively referred to as the Trustees.

The elected Trustees serving during the year and since the year end were as follows:

Dr Sean Ashworth *Chair of Council*
(up to 17th November 2020)

Nitin (Nick) Pasricha *Chair of Council*
(from 18th November 2020)

Linda Clark *Honorary Treasurer and Chair of the Finance, Audit & Risk Committee*

Simon Lington *Honorary Secretary*

Sarah Bonnot-Tijhaar *(Up to 18th November 2020)*

Jon Cooper *(from 14th November 2020)*

Mike King *(up to 15th December 2020)*

Martin Kyndt *(from 18th September 2020)*

Helen Marshall *(from 16th September 2020)*

Emma Montlake

Dr Alan Stewart

President:

Dr Tony Whitbread

Vice Presidents:

Mr Robin Crane CBE

Dr Lisbet Rausing

Mr David Streeter OBE

Senior Management Team:

Tor Lawrence *Chief Executive*

Steve Aldridge *Director – Finance*

David Bolton *Director – Communities & Wildlife*
(from 14th September 2020 until 30th April 2021)

Henri Brocklebank *Director – Conservation Policy and Evidence*

Emma Forward *Director – Operations (until 21st May 2021)*

Caroline Pearce *Director – Fundraising and Communications*

Dan Ross *Director – Land Management*

Maria Jonsson *Acting Director – Business Support*
(from 1st June 2021)

Chair's Report

It is with great honour I present my first report as Chair of Council of the Sussex Wildlife Trust. The past year has been a challenging one for all of us and SWT's response to these challenges has shown once again what a great organisation it is. I have seen this first-hand in the way staff, volunteers and members have pulled together and united with a shared ambition for wildlife in Sussex.



Nitin Pasricha © Miles Davies

The Trust has been championing wildlife and wild places in Sussex for 60 years, deepening people's understanding of the beauty and importance of our natural world. To my joy this did not stop when we were faced with a global pandemic; instead there was a growing appreciation of the wildlife around us.

Thanks to the generosity of our members, donors and supporters, SWT remains financially stable. Generous legacies and donations received in the year have allowed us to extend our nature reserve at Ebernoe Common, with the purchase of Willand Wood and the Warren completing just after the year-end. Whilst 2020-2021 was an uncertain time for many, our membership numbers increased and our engagement activities thrived in their new online format.

Our Land Management teams continued to manage our downland, woodland, heathland and coastal reserves so that wildlife continues to thrive on them. We carried out ecological surveys and meticulously recorded wildlife observations so that our management is the best it can be. This year was also a milestone year for our marine work with a focus on the restoration of the Sussex kelp forests through the partnership Help Our Kelp campaign. During 2020-2021 we also completed the construction of the new flagship Discovery Centre at Rye Harbour Nature Reserve and following the internal fit-out, our long awaited and successful opening took place in May 2021.

I am incredibly proud of the staff who have worked tirelessly to keep the Trust going during the past year and how they have shown resilience to the changes thrust upon them during the Covid-19 pandemic; they have demonstrated a continued commitment to the wildlife and wild places in Sussex. Likewise, I thank our furloughed staff for their patience and commitment to returning to work safely. I would also like to extend thanks to our volunteers who, despite being unable to take part in volunteering activities for much of 2020-2021, have shown a keenness to stay connected to nature and support our cause.

We are all aware that wildlife and the environment that supports it, and us, is under great pressure. Yet in the face of this pressure Sussex Wildlife Trust, its volunteers and members have proudly taken positive action to protect wildlife sites and to connect people with the wildlife around them. I remain positive in our belief that our 35,685 members, 250 active volunteers and 100 staff can and do make a difference.

On behalf of my fellow Trustees, we are proud to have played our part in protecting the wildlife of Sussex for all to enjoy and thank you all for your continued support. With all this in mind, I am pleased to present the Annual Report for the year ending 31 March 2021.

Nitin Pasricha
Chair



Field Cricket © Derek Middleton

Objectives and Activities

SWT's objects, as detailed in our Articles of Association (2019), are

- i) To conserve the Sussex land, seascape, wildlife and habitats for the public benefit
- ii) To survey, monitor, record and study, for the benefit of the public, sites, areas and habitats of botanical, zoological and geological or other scientific interest or of natural beauty or of landscape value, to protect them from ill treatment, degradation or destruction and to improve their quality
- iii) To establish, promote, maintain and manage wildlife sanctuaries or nature reserves or marine conservation areas for the conservation of flora, fauna and features of geological interest and so far as it is compatible with this Object, permit public access to them
- iv) To encourage the breeding of flora and fauna which are interesting or threatened

- v) To promote study and research for the advancement of knowledge in the natural sciences and biodiversity and to publish the results of that research
- vi) To educate and encourage the public in an understanding of the natural history and wildlife of Sussex
- vii) To promote good practise in furtherance of sustainable development and biodiversity

With regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit, the Trustees believe that the provision of such benefit is an integral part of each of the charitable objectives.

These objectives have been incorporated into the SWT mission statement: **to conserve and enhance the Sussex landscape, its wildlife and habitats and to use our knowledge and expertise to encourage people to enjoy, understand and take action to safeguard our natural heritage for future generations.**

The Trustees are pleased to present their annual Trustees' report together with the consolidated financial statements of the charity for the year ending 31 March 2021. These are also prepared with the purpose of meeting the legal requirements for a Trustees' report and accounts in accordance with the Companies Act 2006.

The financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006, the Memorandum and Articles of Association, 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 and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

Structure, Governance and Management

Governing document

The Sussex Wildlife Trust is a company limited by guarantee under the Companies Act and is governed by its Articles of Association adopted on 9th November 2019.

Organisation

The Sussex Wildlife Trust is governed by its Council which is responsible for setting policies, ensuring legality and good practice in accordance with the Articles of Association of SWT and the Companies Act 2006. The routine management of SWT is undertaken by the Chief Executive under delegated powers.

Recruitment and appointment of Trustees

In accordance with the Articles of Association, Trustees are elected by the Membership at the Annual General Meeting (AGM). At each AGM one third of the Directors must retire by rotation, with those who have been longest in office since their last appointment retiring first. Directors can offer themselves for re-election but no Director shall serve for a period of more than nine consecutive years. On the expiration of such a period and the retirement of the relevant Director, a further year must lapse before that person shall be eligible for re-election to the Council. Nominations for new Trustees are considered each year prior to the AGM and are put forward for election at the AGM. When considering co-opting Trustees, the SWT Council has regard to the requirement for any specialist skills needed.

Trustee induction and training

New Trustees undergo an induction programme. During this they meet the Senior Management Team and other employees and gain an understanding of their legal obligations with regards to charity and company law, the Articles of Association and the structure of the

committee system. They are advised of appropriate Trustee training courses and are encouraged to attend.

Trustee review and evaluation

During the year the national restrictions imposed in response to the Covid-19 pandemic impacted how SWT continued to operate. All governance activities moved seamlessly to operate via web-enabled technology platforms with no impact on the governance operations. In parallel, all staff moved swiftly to home based working in an efficient manner, which Trustees are incredibly grateful for.

Remuneration of Senior Management Team

Trustees delegate the management of the Trust to the Chief Executive. The Chief Executive heads a Senior Management Team that includes six operational directors. These are considered to be the key management personnel of the Trust. Remuneration for the SMT is reviewed annually and includes a benchmark review of all 46 Wildlife Trusts and where available other similar sized charities operating in the South East managing similar levels of operational complexity.

The Wildlife Trusts partnership

SWT is a member of The Wildlife Trusts Partnership (registered as the Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts, registered charity number 207238) which acts as an umbrella body carrying out lobbying and public relations on behalf of all Wildlife Trusts. The charity has the use of The Wildlife Trusts logo and benefits from the resources, best practice and speciality experience of other member Trusts. Membership gives us a national voice and profile, as well as being known by association for those unfamiliar with our particular work. However, each member of the partnership remains entirely independent in terms of governance and operations.

Strategic Report

Achievements and performance

A coherent ecological network

As the country went into lockdown in March 2020, the Trust team were tasked with the complexities of navigating organisational critical operations under the new restrictions. Despite the challenges, we worked very hard to maintain our grazing programme, and critical ecological monitoring and site maintenance on reserves, but sadly had to pause our group volunteer activities. Tree safety work continued, with significant focus on Ash Dieback work in high risk areas.

During the spring of 2020 lockdown many more people enjoyed our nature reserves, the vast majority doing so in a responsible way and respecting wildlife, but we also unfortunately noted an increase in anti-social behaviour after the first lockdown ended including fly tipping, littering, unauthorised camping and barbeques leading to several fires. Our Land Management Team worked closely with local rural crime teams to control and help raise awareness of issues.

Whilst biological recorders in Sussex had to focus their efforts nearer to home this year the Sussex Biodiversity Record Centre's work continued at an unprecedented pace. The service saw a 20% increase in use over the year, and continues to regularly update its partners with high quality data.

Work has continued with the Sussex Local Nature Partnership supporting Sussex organisations to prepare for the much anticipated Environment Bill. This includes developing Sussex Nature Recovery Networks, the application of Biodiversity Net Gain and looking at what investment in nature could look like in the future.

Development remains a major concern in Sussex. Most notably our team lobbied against the revised national planning algorithm, wrote a full response to the Horsham Local Plan and commented on numerous specific planning applications that posed specific threats to wildlife. As always there are more threats than we can respond to, therefore the team takes a strategic approach as far as possible, working closely with national colleagues.

After a brief pause, the work of the Local Wildlife Site Initiative was able to continue and was pleased to update a number of surveyed Local Wildlife Sites with accurate data and site boundaries.

With landowner visits largely cancelled, we have been delighted that both the Sussex Flow Initiative and the new Wilder Horsham District Project have both managed to meet their project targets. Despite the circumstances

we were pleased to share the project's Nature Recovery Network maps with decision makers at Horsham District Council.

This has been a milestone year for our marine work at Sussex Wildlife Trust. Despite the postponement of our Shoresearch and Seasearch activities, focus has been largely on the restoration of the Sussex kelp forest. We were rewarded in late March with the implementation of the Sussex near-shore trawling byelaw, which has been a huge celebration of the potential for marine habitat restoration, and a celebration of partnership working.

Across our Reserve Portfolio there were numerous ecological highlights, including:

- At Rye Harbour Nature Reserve a female Swallowtail butterfly *Papilio machaon* arrived and laid eggs that we then nurtured to chrysalis stage. BBC Countryfile visited the reserve and we were able to tell the story of Marshmallow Moths whose Red Data Book population is doing well at Rye
- Heath Tiger Beetle *Cicindela sylvatica* was found at Iping Common again, after it was believed to be extinct on the reserve
- Field Cricket *Gryllus campestris* territories continue to do well at Iping Common and Burton Mill Pond
- Field Fleawort *Tephrosia integrifolia* ssp. *integrifolia*, categorised as Endangered by the IUCN, was found at Ditchling Beacon for the first time since 1985
- Dartford Warbler *Curruca undata* was heard singing for the first time at Butcherlands this February. After a territory was set up in 2019, and was returned to in 2020, singing could indicate the presence of another male
- Large Conehead *Ruspolia nitidula* was recorded at Old Lodge. This is only an occasional migrant and often only recorded along the south coast. Its presence at Old Lodge, typically a colder microclimate than the rest of Sussex, could indicate that this incredibly loud bush-cricket may be much more widespread than previously thought
- One of the Isle of Wight White-tailed Eagles *Haliaeetus albicilla* was recorded over Southerham Farm reserve very briefly whilst being harangued by the local Ravens
- After quite a hard graze at Malling Down late last winter, a significant patch of Basil Thyme *Clinopodium acinos*, classed as Vulnerable by the IUCN, was found in July 2020



Dartford Warbler © Paul Roberts

Some highlights from our work on our nature reserves include:

- Completing the second phase of work towards heathland restoration at Burton and Chingford Ponds LNR
- Applying for five Countryside Stewardship Schemes at Amberley Wildbrooks, Waltham Brooks, Ebenoe Common, and Rye Harbour
- Obtaining a grant of £10,650 from Sussex Ornithological Society for work on Amberley Wildbrooks to carry out habitat improvements for breeding waders, especially lapwing
- Working with Natural England and partners to get condition assessments information for Amberley and Waltham, including new water quality monitoring, also pulling together bird and vegetative surveys
- Progressing the purchase of Willand Wood and the Warren (Streels Lane) woodlands, to boost the size of Ebenoe Common
- Consulting the public about how we manage Ditchling Beacon into the future as part of the Changing Chalk project
- On Stedham and Iping Commons a successful Community Infrastructure Levy bid will fund improvements to the access points from the car park, which gets very muddy in winter

People inspired by, connected to and valuing nature

In March 2020 the Covid-19 pandemic forced the cancellation of our programme of adult engagement and education events. Sussex Wildlife Trust immediately adapted to producing online content and for the first six months of the pandemic our daily diaries and blogs, tutorials and identification courses proved extremely popular. The eight-session 'Beginners Guide to Butterflies' online course was viewed by thousands of people and was later repurposed into a successful recruitment offer. We were even able to hold weekly lockdown bird races which were (virtually) attended each week by hundreds of people, providing an interactive event during the restrictions.



Field Fleawort © Glenn Norris

From autumn 2020 our focus changed to a programme of online webinars aimed at engaging, entertaining and inspiring people. These included wildlife identification talks and webinars promoting SWT campaigns. Our regular 'Nature Table Live' webinars allowed us to interact with SWT members. From November-March these webinars were attended by well over 20,000 people. The incredible feedback we have received has indicated how valued and well received these webinars have been. This new platform allowed us to reach our largest and most diverse audience ever. These online events also generated £15,000 in donations to the Trust and played a major role in membership increase and, no doubt, membership retention.

Face-to-face activities for our National Lottery Heritage Fund projects, Wild Coast Sussex and Discover Rye Harbour, were largely put on hold, leading to grant extensions for both. Our work with schools also suffered with the closure of our education centres at Seven Sisters and Woods Mill and the postponement of Nature Tots, Forest School and Wild Beach training and delivery,

resulting in a number of Communities and Wildlife staff being furloughed.

During this period, the Communities and Wildlife department started to undergo a restructuring process in order to create a high impact, engaging and innovative strategy that mobilises individuals and communities across Sussex to take positive action for wildlife and wild places.

A leading wildlife organisation in Sussex

We continue to develop our relationship with businesses in Sussex through our partnership schemes and corporate volunteering days, helping organisations to demonstrate their support for the natural environment. In an uncertain year for corporate organisations, our business membership saw a 3.2% increase in members and a 3.3% increase in income during the year.

The Sussex Biodiversity Record Centre now has over eight million records, providing an excellent evidence base for local planning authorities, land managers, consultants,

local recording groups and individuals interested in the wildlife in their local area.

We lead on a number of exciting partnerships delivering projects throughout Sussex, including the Help Our Kelp, Gatwick Greenspace Partnership, the Sussex Flow Initiative, and Wild Coast Sussex and we co-lead Wilder Horsham District. We are also members of the Local Nature Partnership, the Heritage Coast Partnership and the Cuckmere Estuary Partnership.

Rye Harbour Discovery Centre Summary

The construction of the new flagship Discovery Centre at Rye Harbour Nature Reserve was completed during the year and the internal fit out and interpretation was undertaken. The service trench was dug to connect to the mains in the village. Opening was delayed due to Covid-19, but detailed planning was undertaken and staff were appointed to the National Lottery funded Discover Rye Harbour project which will enable a range of learning and engagement activities.

Plans for the future

The year 2020/21 has fundamentally changed and upskilled our approach to online communications and we will be building on this to enable a range of learning and action-based activities.

During the year we started to refresh our Strategy, alongside contributing to the development of the national Wildlife Trusts strategy, with an emphasis in Sussex on;

- Enabling diverse communities to take action for wildlife across Sussex
- Restoring large scale landscapes at sea and on land
- Creating climate resilient landscapes and thriving wildlife habitats
- Reviewing our entire delivery offer to the public due to the learnings from Covid-19 and the dual ecological and climate imperatives
- Continuing to deliver a broad and dynamic programme of habitat and infrastructure management work throughout our nature reserves, helping to ensure that they remain some of the best places for wildlife and for people to engage with nature in Sussex
- Extending our ownership at Ebernoe Common, with the purchase of Willand Wood and the Warren, made possible through legacies and donations
- Continuing to deliver the ecological monitoring strategy throughout SWT's reserves, including vegetation surveys at Butcherlands wood pasture project, breeding bird surveys at Butcherlands, Woods Mill and Filsham Reedbed, and invertebrate surveys at Amberley Wildbrooks and Ebernoe Common
- We are thrilled with the passing of the bylaw to prevent trawling along the West Sussex Coast and will continue to champion the restoration of the Sussex kelp forest with key partners

- The Rye Harbour Discovery Centre opened in May 2021, under Covid-19 restrictions, and we will deliver a range of educational activities through the Discover Rye Harbour project, funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund. We will be working to ensure the Centre is financially self-sustaining, primarily through the café and shop. We will continue to work closely with the Friends of Rye Harbour Nature Reserve, who have been integral to the success of this project
- We will continue to advise landowners, farmers and practitioners in the creation of resilient landscapes and natural climate solutions
- We are carrying out a review of volunteering, which has included a survey of views, which will inform a range of improvements going forward

Volunteers

Volunteers have continued to support all of the Trust's work and where it was safe to do so, some volunteering took place across the county. We were able to complete small group, socially distanced conservation tasks, outdoor school visits, pilot Youth Rangers tasks (16-25 year olds), and individual volunteering roles in ecological surveys, data evaluation, membership support and lookering. In particular, a group of four Volunteer Reserve Managers at Gatwick area land, as part of the Gatwick Greenspace Partnership, were able to complete practical conservation, tasks, piloting new ways of working that helped create volunteer protocols that were safe, efficient and clear for staff and volunteers to follow.

In 2020 we had 250 of our 627 volunteers return to volunteering roles safely. We provided a range of online opportunities for volunteers to stay connected to the Trust, such as online training courses and social events. We also had online training for our Volunteer Reserve Managers and Walk Leaders in order to be ready to volunteer safely when it was safe to do so. Once restrictions eased at various points in the year we were able to have face-to-face training for ecological survey volunteers and lookerers. In addition, the pandemic created opportunities for remote volunteering to support uploading rock pool surveys and WildCall data.

We moved our volunteer e-news from quarterly to monthly and added online social events to ensure volunteers were kept informed of local wildlife, Covid-19 updates and the work of the Trust. During 2020 the Volunteer Handbook was revised and is now published on the SWT website. As we returned to volunteering we also updated all volunteer records.

Donated services

We were pleased to receive pro-bono training and mentoring support during the year from GWiz Learning Partnership. A value of £10,620 has been reflected within the accounts and this Trustees' Report. SWT did not receive any other donated services during the year (2019/20: £0).

Financial Review

Despite the severe restrictions and constraints experienced nationwide throughout the year to manage the Covid-19 pandemic, 2020/21 was financially a record year for SWT with net income a substantial £2.7m. Legacy income of £2.8m was the single greatest contributor to this year's record result, £1.7m of which was specifically donated for the Rye Harbour Discovery Centre in its final year of construction.

In a year of very limited ability to connect with members face to face, the creativity and ingenuity of the staff team to engage with members using technology was well received. Additionally the ability of the membership team to pivot and innovate by developing effective new membership recruitment methods was well rewarded with a small increase in both member numbers and membership income, in what was an extremely challenging year. This support suggests the importance nature played in the lives of people during the pandemic, and specifically how members valued SWT, for which we are extremely grateful.

The dedication and commitment of all staff throughout a particularly difficult year of unplanned homeworking, together with the financial benefit of the Government furlough scheme, which provided income of £227k, resulted in continued effective delivery of activities for the benefit and value of SWT members and our increasingly important wildlife.

Credit is also due to the leadership team and all staff in the application of careful cost management, which resulted in expenditure of £4.3m, being a reduction of £261k on the previous year.

Despite expenditure on the Rye Harbour Discovery Centre of £1.5m, SWT ended the year with £1.1m more cash, providing SWT with a good level of financial resource as we navigate the way forward through continued uncertainty as the world navigates its way out of the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic.

During the past year we have benefited from the generosity of our members and Wildlife Guardians who continue to demonstrate their love of nature and support for us with their donations. Special thanks go to all the Charitable Trusts that have supported our work. We are particularly grateful for the legacies left to SWT this year.

Having reviewed the forecast income and expenditure, the Trustees consider the charity to be a going concern, on the basis that SWT has sufficient financial reserves to continue trading for the foreseeable future including the twelve months from the date of approval of these accounts.

Principal risks and uncertainties

The Trustees have taken a pro-active approach to risk during the year. We reviewed and improved our organisational risk register and introduced regular risk reporting by the Chief Executive to Trustees. We have also ensured a detailed focus on any area which is regarded as high risk.

Examples of mitigation undertaken are:

- Engagement of management consultants to oversee the construction of the Rye Harbour Discovery Centre with a particular focus on ensuring best value
- Recruitment of a dedicated Operations Manager with a remit for Health & Safety to boost staff resource and enable legal and regulatory compliance
- A Safety Action Plan is in place and monitored via the Health & Safety Management Committee with regular reports to Council. Progress has been further enabled by investment in a new Health & Safety Management software system
- Complete review of all Safeguarding Policies and Procedures, overseen by an independent consultant and including the appointment of a Trustee Safeguarding Lead, in addition to staff training
- Development of a structured tree safety policy and action plan across all woodland sites
- Complete review of all chainsaw and power tools use across the Trust including the introduction of a new policy and systems
- Engagement of professional contractors to advise and manage the borehole water supply at Southerham Farm and further work towards enabling a connection to the mains water supply
- Complete review of all aspects of the vehicle fleet to improve safety and organisational efficiencies and reduce carbon emissions
- Maintenance plans and infrastructure improvements at Woods Mill and Southerham Farm to ensure facilities are safe and fit for purpose
- Following of all government guidelines in relation to operating a business during Covid-19, including risk assessments, safety guidelines and a roadmap out of lockdown

Financial reserves policy

During the year, the Trustees reviewed and revised the financial reserves policy in line with current Charities SORP requirements and relevant guidance. The revised policy, in place at the end of the financial year, is:

“The reserves policy which requires unrestricted reserves to be maintained at a level which would allow the core work and activity of SWT to continue during a period of unforeseen difficulty and that the reserves are held in a readily useable form; that is readily available or convertible to cash should the need arise.”

Financial Performance Highlights

Total income £7.06m (2019/20 £5.53m)

Unrestricted income £3.8m (2019/20 £2.74m)

- Donations and legacies £2.7m (2019/20 £1.76m)
- Legacy income of £930k received during the year
- Charitable activities £705k (2019/20 £876k)

Restricted income £3.26m (2019/20 £2.49m)

- Charitable activities - £1.1m (2019/20 £1.45m)
- Included in above in 2020/21, was £1.91m of restricted legacy income

Total expenditure £4.36m (2019/20 £4.63m)

Raising funds £1.0m (2019/20 £1.35m)

- £353k decrease in membership promotion and other fundraising costs due to Covid-19 restrictions limiting face to face recruitment activity
- Charitable activities £3.36m (2019/20 £3.27m)

Membership

We were pleased to see a small growth in membership in 2020/21, despite the severe curtailment in our usual recruitment and retention activity due to the Covid-19 pandemic. We ended the year with 35,685 individuals in 20,183 households.

Although the number of members recruited was lower than budgeted, we enjoyed higher than anticipated retention rates, ending the year with a slightly increased income compared to the previous year.

- Income from membership £1.69m (2019/20 £1.67m)
- Number of members as at 31st March 2021 35,685 (2019/20 35,163)
- Membership numbers have increased by 1.5% this year, compared to an 8.2% increase in the previous year

Designated funds allocation

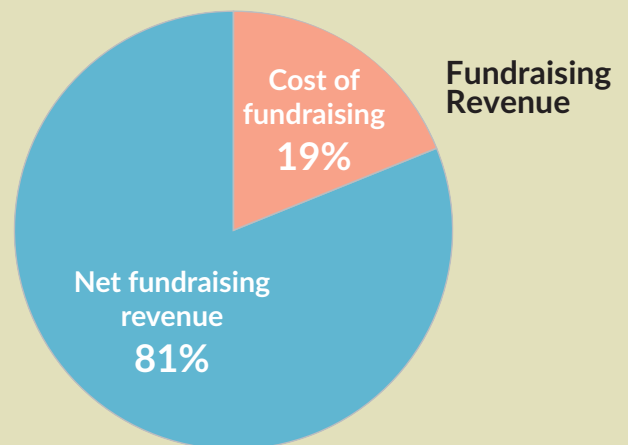
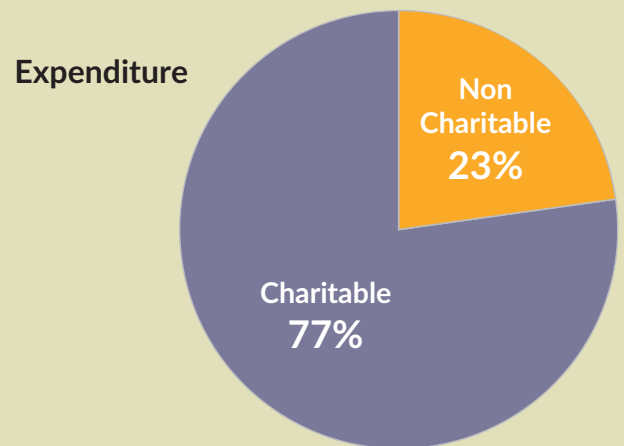
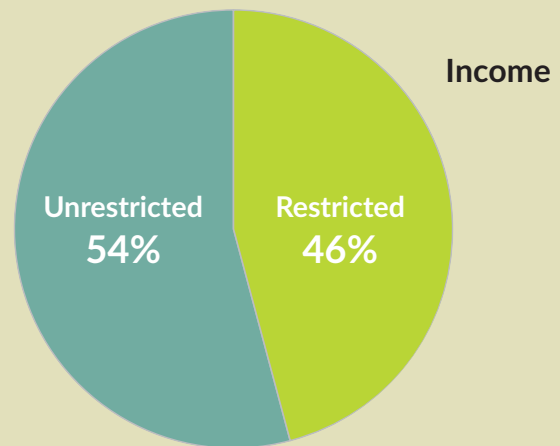
There has been a decrease of £220k, leaving a balance of £537k. Expenditure during the year was for the most part on Ash Dieback remedial work. Some planned investment (membership recruitment) did not happen due to Covid-19 restrictions efficiency.

Capital projects

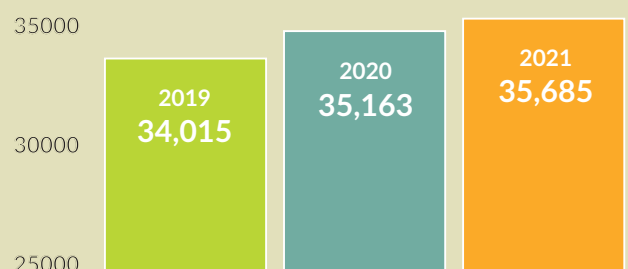
The Rye Harbour Discovery Centre construction has been completed. The building opened to the public (under Covid restrictions) in May 2021, offering a café and shop, large modern interpretation space, an event space, and an education centre.

Retained funds £14.06m (2019/20 £11.36m)

Details of all our income can be found on page 16 of the Annual Accounts.



Member numbers



“The calculation of the reserves level is an integral part of the regular financial management, monitoring and budgeting process. It takes into account items on the risk register, the financial cost of mitigating risks, variability and the potential for fluctuation of budgeted income and expenditure levels and SWT’s future commitments. The main risks to income and expenditure are highlighted and a calculation made of the financial consequences of adverse movements.”

At year-end the reserves policy recommends holding financial reserves that are in a readily useable form of between £1m and £1.25m. Our total funds at year-end were £14m of which £5.2m are restricted funds and £8.8m unrestricted funds. Unrestricted funds include funds tied up in tangible and heritage assets, funds set aside for specific designated projects and readily useable funds of £2m. The Trustees consider that this level of funding will enable SWT to absorb any financial shocks arising out of the ongoing pandemic whilst continuing to invest in the protection and recovery of wildlife in Sussex.

Investment powers and policy

Under the Articles of Association, the charity has the power to deposit or invest funds. The investment policy is:

- To invest those surplus funds not required for immediate use
- To obtain a reasonable income from those funds, given prevailing market returns
- To invest only as permitted by the investment powers of SWT as set out in the Articles of Association

During the year, SWT has continued to retain the majority of its funds on deposit and the Trustees are of the opinion that this policy has been a prudent one. The Trustees review the investment policy from time to time but given our ongoing obligations it has not been felt appropriate to change this approach in the past year.

Professional fundraising practices

Sussex Wildlife Trust uses third party agencies to fundraise on its behalf for specific campaigns. In this financial year this included a third party for recruiting new members to the organisation through private site face to face fundraising and a third party for recruiting new members through telephone fundraising. The charity has agreements in place with its partners to ensure that the legal requirements regulating fundraising practices are adhered to.

Fundraising regulation compliance is regularly reviewed by Council. Sussex Wildlife Trust is an organisational member of the Institute of Fundraising and is registered with the Fundraising Regulator. Sussex Wildlife Trust and its third party agencies comply with the Fundraising Regulator’s Code of Fundraising Practice and are signed up to its Fundraising Promise. Sussex Wildlife Trust and its third party agencies follow the sector’s guidance on protecting vulnerable people. Our Complaints Procedure complies with the requirements of the Fundraising Regulator, and during the financial year we received ten complaints about fundraising activity.

Trustees’ Responsibilities in Relation to the Financial Statements

The Trustees (who are also Directors of Sussex Wildlife Trust Limited for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees’ Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

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

- Select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently
- Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- State whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business

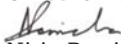
The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose, with reasonable accuracy, at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding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

In so far as the Trustees are aware:

- There is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company’s auditor is unaware
- The Trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information

The Trustees’ Annual Report is approved by order of the Council of Trustees and the Strategic Report included therein is approved by the Council of Trustees in their capacity as Directors at a meeting on 28 July 2021 and signed on their behalf by:

On behalf of the Trustees


Nitin Pasricha
Chair

Woods Mill, Henfield, BN5 9SD

Independent Auditor's Report

to the Members of Sussex Wildlife Trust

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Sussex Wildlife Trust (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 March 2021, which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities (including the Summary Income and Expenditure Account), the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow Statement and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2021 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 Companies Act 2006.

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's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company 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 charitable company'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.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the Trustees' Report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The Trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the Trustees' Report. 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.

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 course of 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.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the Trustees' Report, which includes the Directors' Report and the Strategic Report prepared for the purposes of company law, for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Directors' Report and the Strategic Report included within the Trustees' Report have been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material

misstatements in the Directors' Report, or the Strategic Report included within the Trustees' Report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Companies Act 2006 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 set out on page 12, the Trustees (who are also the Directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) 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 charitable company'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 charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's 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 the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud

Irregularities are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. The objectives of our audit are to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding compliance with laws and regulations that have a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements, to perform audit

procedures to help identify instances of non-compliance with other laws and regulations that may have a material effect on the financial statements, and to respond appropriately to identified or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations identified during the audit.

In relation to fraud, the objectives of our audit are to identify and assess the risk of material misstatement of the financial statements due to fraud, to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the assessed risks of material misstatement due to fraud through designing and implementing appropriate responses and to respond appropriately to fraud or suspected fraud identified during the audit.

However, it is the primary responsibility of management, with the oversight of those charged with governance, to ensure that the entity's operations are conducted in accordance with the provisions of laws and regulations and for the prevention and detection of fraud.

In identifying and assessing risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud, the audit engagement team:

- obtained an understanding of the nature of the sector, including the legal and regulatory frameworks that the charitable company operates in and how the charitable company is complying with the legal and regulatory frameworks;
- inquired of management, and those charged with governance, about their own identification and assessment of the risks of irregularities, including any known actual, suspected or alleged instances of fraud;
- discussed matters about non-compliance with laws and regulations and how fraud might occur including assessment of how and where the financial statements may be susceptible to fraud.

As a result of these procedures we consider the most significant laws and regulations that have a direct impact on the financial statements are FRS 102, Charities SORP (FRS 102), Companies Act 2006, Charities Act 2011 and the charitable company's governing document. We performed audit procedures to detect non-compliances which may have a material impact on the financial statements which included reviewing the financial statements including the Trustees' Report, remaining alert to new or unusual transactions which may not be in accordance with the governing documents.

The most significant laws and regulations that have an indirect impact on the financial statements are Fundraising Regulations. We performed audit procedures to inquire of management and those charged with governance whether the charitable company is in compliance with these law and regulations.

The audit engagement team identified the risk of management override of controls as the area where the financial statements were most susceptible to material misstatement due to fraud. Audit procedures performed included but were not limited to testing manual journal

entries and other adjustments, evaluating the business rationale in relation to significant, unusual transactions and transactions entered into outside the normal course of business, challenging judgements and estimates.

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. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to

state to them in an auditor's 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 charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

RSM UK Audit LLP

Zoe Longstaff-Tyrrell (*Senior Statutory Auditor*)

For and on behalf of RSM UK AUDIT LLP,
Statutory Auditor
Chartered Accountants
Portland, 25 High Street
Crawley
West Sussex, RH10 1BG

10 August 2021



Lapwing © David Plummer

Statement of Financial Activities

Company Number: 698851

for the Year ended 31 March 2021 (including Income and Expenditure Account)

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	2021 Total Funds £	2020 Total Funds £
Income from:						
Donations and legacies	2	2,706,876	2,165,144	-	4,872,020	3,103,024
Other trading activities	3	68,522	-	-	68,522	89,422
Investments	4	3,211	-	-	3,211	13,294
Charitable activities	5	704,661	1,099,814	-	1,804,475	2,324,718
Other	2	313,910	-	-	313,910	3,000
Total income		3,797,180	3,264,958	-	7,062,138	5,533,458
Expenditure on:						
Raising funds	6	920,131	19,783	60,825	1,000,739	1,353,217
Charitable activities	7	2,221,504	1,040,556	102,873	3,364,933	3,273,985
Total expenditure		3,141,635	1,060,339	163,698	4,365,672	4,627,202
Net income/(expenditure)		655,545	2,204,619	(163,698)	2,696,466	906,256
Transfers between funds	17	1,285,667	(1,229,592)	(56,075)	-	-
Net movement in funds		1,941,212	975,027	(219,773)	2,696,466	906,256
Reconciliation of funds						
Balances brought forward at 1 April 2020		6,375,341	4,231,591	757,369	11,364,301	10,458,045
Balances carried forward at 31 March 2021		8,316,553	5,206,618	537,596	14,060,767	11,364,301

The notes on pages 19 to 35 form part of these financial statements

Balance Sheet

Company Number: 698851

at 31 March 2021

	Note	2021 £	2020 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	12	5,328,047	3,873,528
Heritage assets	12	3,327,495	3,327,495
Investments	13	100	100
Total fixed assets		8,655,642	7,201,123
Current assets			
Stock		756	1,503
Biological assets	14	95,360	93,383
Debtors	15	1,475,454	1,322,977
Cash at bank and in hand		4,321,847	3,149,965
Total current assets		5,893,417	4,567,828
Liabilities			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	16	488,292	404,650
Net current assets		5,405,125	4,163,178
Total net assets		14,060,767	11,364,301
Funds			
Unrestricted		8,316,553	6,375,341
Restricted		5,206,618	4,231,591
Designated		537,596	757,369
Total funds	19	14,060,767	11,364,301

The financial statements were approved by the Council of Trustees and authorised for issue on 28 July 2021 and signed on their behalf by:



Mr N. Pasricha
Chair



Ms L. Clark
Honorary Treasurer

The notes on pages 19 to 35 form part of these financial statements

Cashflow Statement

Year ended 31 March 2021

	Notes	2021 £	2020 £
Net cash inflow from operating activities			
Operating activities	a)	2,611,916	2,124,773
Cash flows from investing activities			
Dividends, interest and rents from investments		3,211	13,294
Proceeds from sale of tangible fixed assets		114,994	-
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		(1,558,239)	(2,520,176)
Net cash used in investing activities		(1,440,034)	(2,506,882)
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period	b)	1,171,882	(382,109)

Notes to the cashflow statement

a) Reconciliation of net income to net cash flow from operating activities	2021 £	2020 £
Net income for the reporting period	2,696,466	906,256
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	(3,211)	(13,294)
Profit on sale of fixed assets	(101,394)	-
Depreciation	90,120	94,336
Decrease/(Increase) in stock	747	(66)
(Increase) in biological assets	(1,977)	(17,666)
(Increase)/Decrease in trade and other debtors	(152,477)	1,151,845
Increase in trade and other creditors	83,642	3,362
Net cash provided by operating activities	2,611,916	2,124,773
b) Analysis of changes in cash and cash equivalents	2021 £	2020 £
Balance at 1st April 2020	3,149,965	3,532,074
Net cash inflow/(outflow) in year	1,171,882	(382,109)
Balance at 31st March 2021	4,321,847	3,149,965

The notes on pages 19 to 35 form part of these financial statements

Notes to the Accounts

31 March 2021

1. Accounting Policies

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty in the preparation of the financial statements are as follows:

a) Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019) – (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Sussex Wildlife Trust ("SWT") is a company limited by guarantee and has no share capital. In the event of the charity being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member of the charity.

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

As at 31 March 2021 the Sussex Wildlife Trust has £14.06m in Total Net Assets including £4.3m Cash at Bank of which £2.8m is restricted funding for future years' project activity. The Trustees consider the charity to be a going concern, on the basis that SWT has sufficient financial reserves to continue trading for the foreseeable future including the twelve months from the date of approval of these accounts.

b) Income

Income is recognised in the period in which the charity is entitled to receive it, and that the receipt of said income is measurable, and probable. Income is deferred only when the charity has to fulfil conditions before becoming entitled to it or is subject to unmet conditions wholly outside its control.

Grants from local authorities and other agencies have been included as income from activities in furtherance of the charity's objects where these amount to a contract for services, but as donations where the money is given in response to an appeal or with greater freedom of use.

Receipt of a legacy, in whole or in part, is only recognised when its receipt is considered probable, when the amount can be measured reliably and the charity is entitled to the amount. Where legacies have been notified to the charity or the charity is aware of the granting of probate, and the

criteria for income recognition have not been met, the legacy is disclosed as a contingent asset.

Subscriptions are dealt with on a cash receipts basis. Subscriptions of life members are included as a liability on the Balance Sheet in accordance with the SORP. One twentieth of this is transferred to income each year.

Corporate Support includes annual subscriptions, sponsorship and donations received, while advertising revenue is generated through SWT's Wildlife magazine produced twice each year.

Investment income is recognised on a receivable basis, where the amount can be measured reliably.

c) Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised in the period when the charity is obliged to pay it, and the payment of said expenditure is measurable, and probable. Where payments are in respect of a future period they are categorised as such.

- Raising funds includes expenditure on the recruitment of new members, the employee costs of the marketing and membership departments, the publication and delivery of SWT's magazine three times per year, the costs of the annual appeal and the administration costs of the membership department together with publicity costs and legacy development
- Charitable activities include expenditure associated with the main objects of the charity – these are wildlife conservation, public awareness, the management of nature reserves and the collation of wildlife information
- Support Costs represent the cost of staff and overheads incurred in providing centralised services for the charity at its offices at Woods Mill and include the finance, human resources, office services departments and buildings maintenance. Support costs are allocated to departments on the basis of staff numbers

d) Donated services and volunteers

Where services are provided to the charity as a donation that would normally be purchased from suppliers this contribution is recognised as income when the charity has control over the item, any conditions associated with the donated item have been met, the receipt of economic benefit from the use by the charity of the item is probable and that economic benefit can be measured reliably.

Volunteers play a critical role in SWT and contribute substantial time to its work. However, in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102), volunteer time is not recognised in these financial statements.

e) Tangible fixed assets

SWT's interests in tangible fixed assets other than land designated as nature reserves are stated at cost with an allowance for depreciation as stated below. Individual IT fixed assets costing £500 or more are capitalised at cost, for other asset classes this rises to £1000.

Assets under construction are not depreciated until the asset is in use.

f) Heritage assets

SWT's interests in land designated as nature reserves are stated at cost; these have been classified as heritage assets and are held by SWT in pursuit of its conservation objectives. Valuations are made by professional valuers – the Valuation Office Agency – and any gifts of land will be treated as heritage assets and will be included at valuation. No depreciation is charged on nature reserves.

g) Investments

SWT had no Equity investments during the year other than its investment in its subsidiary company Sussex Wildlife Enterprises Ltd.

h) Depreciation

Tangible fixed assets are depreciated on a straight line basis over their estimated useful lives as follows:

Land	Nil
Buildings, car park & services	2-10%
Temporary structures, fencing, etc	20%
Motor vehicles	20%
Furniture, fixtures and equipment	20%
Bird Hides	10%

i) Stock

Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

j) Livestock (biological assets)

Livestock is stated at fair value less estimated costs to sell in accordance with the fair value model in FRS 102. Movements in fair value are taken to the SOFA in the year in which they arise. Fair value is based upon the estimation of values from the land management team and is considered by the Trustees to be fair reflection of the estimated value at the year end.

k) Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available to spend on activities that further any of the purposes of the charity. Designated funds are unrestricted funds of the charity which the Trustees have decided at their discretion to set aside to use for a specific purpose. Restricted funds are donations which the donor has specified are to be solely used for particular areas of the Charity's work. The funds held in each of these categories are disclosed in Note 17.

l) Pension schemes

The employees of SWT are eligible to join either the Royal London Wildlife Trust Group Pension Scheme. This is a

defined contribution scheme. Employees contributions will be enhanced by a contribution from SWT which is at least twice the employee contribution. Contributions are charged to the SOFA as they become payable in accordance with the scheme rules.

The Wildlife Trust category 5 Scheme is a multi-employer defined benefit scheme administered for the benefit of Wildlife Trusts and is managed in accordance with the Pensions Act 2004 Regulations.

The Trustees are unable to confirm the charity's share of the underlying assets and liabilities of the Wildlife Trust Pension Scheme and therefore the Scheme is accounted for as a defined contribution scheme. As a result, the amount charged to the Statement of Financial Activities represents the contributions payable to the scheme in respect of the accounting period.

A liability is recognised by SWT, where material, for the charity's share of the deficit of the scheme as per the agreed schedule of contributions.

m) Operating leases

In categorising leases as finance leases or operating leases, management makes judgements as to whether significant risks and rewards of ownership have transferred to the Company as lessee, or the lessee, where the company is a lessor.

Rentals paid under operating leases are charged on a straight line basis over the life of the lease.

n) Non-recoverable VAT

Where possible non-recoverable VAT is charged against the category of resource expended for which it was incurred. Otherwise it is charged to support costs.

o) Consolidation

The financial statements present information about the company as an individual undertaking and not about its group. The subsidiary undertaking is dormant.

p) Cash at hand

Cash at bank includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with short maturity of three months or less.

q) Financial instruments

SWT only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

r) Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

A provision for impairment of trade debtors is established when there is evidence that the amounts due will not be collected according to the original terms of the contract. Impairment losses are recognised in the SOFA.



Heath Tiger Beetle © Graeme Lyons

s) Creditors/liabilities

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

t) Taxation

The Charity is exempt from tax on income and gains falling within section 471 to 489 of the Corporation Tax

Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 and is exempt from corporation tax to the extent that they are applied to its charitable objects.

u) Redundancy and termination payments

Expenditure required to settle an obligation for redundancy and termination benefits is recognised as an expense when the charity is committed to terminate the

employment of an employee, or provide redundancy and termination benefits.

v) Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

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 Charity makes estimates and assumptions concerning the future. The resulting accounting estimates and assumptions will, by definition, seldom equal the related actual results. The estimates and assumptions that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year are discussed below:

There are no estimates and assumptions that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year.

Income and endowments from:

2 Donations and legacies	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	2021 TOTAL £	2020 TOTAL £
Income from members	1,694,723	-	-	1,694,723	1,676,437
Donations	82,216	37,324	-	119,540	420,564
Legacies	929,937	1,910,368	-	2,840,305	513,617
Public appeals	-	217,452	-	217,452	492,406
	2,706,876	2,165,144	-	4,872,020	3,103,024

3 Other trading activities

Corporate support	17,531	-	-	17,531	26,870
Other fundraising income	50,991	-	-	50,991	62,552
	68,522	-	-	68,522	89,422

4 Investments and other income

Deposit interest	3,211	-	-	3,211	13,294
	3,211	-	-	3,211	13,294
Other income	313,910	-	-	313,910	3,000
	313,910	-	-	313,910	3,000

5 Charitable activities
Wildlife conservation

Project grants and income	22,366	87,078	-	109,444	66,642
Other income	-	74,346	-	74,346	87,673
	22,366	161,424	-	183,790	154,315

Working with people

Grants and income	-	260,148	-	260,148	239,983
Schools, events and courses	24,567	(385)	-	24,182	239,249
Other income	-	-	-	-	3,424
	24,567	259,763	-	284,330	482,656

Nature reserves management

Rents, grazing income, sales of meat and timber	69,440	-	-	69,440	23,824
Land management grants and stewardship income	550,081	411,936	-	962,017	1,400,430
Other income	38,207	15,090	-	53,297	37,518
	657,728	427,026	-	1,084,754	1,461,772

Collating information on wildlife

Contract funding	-	251,601	-	251,601	225,975
	-	251,601	-	251,601	225,975

Total income from charitable activities	704,661	1,099,814	-	1,804,475	2,324,718
TOTAL INCOME	3,797,180	3,264,958	-	7,062,138	5,533,458

5 Charitable activities *continued*

Last year's total income of £5,533,458 was made up of £2,743,691 unrestricted, £2,494,150 restricted and £295,617 designated split between the following:

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Designated £
Donations and legacies	1,762,039	1,045,368	295,617
Other trading	89,422	-	-
Investments	13,294	-	-
Charitable activities	875,936	1,448,782	-
Other	3,000	-	-

The Sussex Wildlife Trust has benefited from a small number of government grants and financial contributions during the year that support our conservation activity. The funding received, incorporates levels of conditional service and supports the management of our nature reserves.

During the year this amounted to:	2021 £	2020 £
Single Farm Payment	164,002	155,267
Higher Level Stewardship grant income	322,238	323,265
Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme	227,461	-

Expenditure on:

6 Raising funds	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	2021 TOTAL £	2020 TOTAL £
Staff costs	409,874	11,645	-	421,519	408,889
Membership promotion	130,872	-	40,441	171,313	440,865
Magazine publication and delivery	82,681	-	-	82,681	85,781
Appeals and legacies	3,328	5,221	-	8,549	6,147
Membership administration and publicity	21,116	-	-	21,116	41,511
Interpretation and website development	84,433	2,917	17,720	105,070	126,610
Other fundraising costs	-	-	-	-	46,151
Depreciation	248	-	2,664	2,912	2,599
Allocated support costs	187,579	-	-	187,579	194,664
	920,131	19,783	60,825	1,000,739	1,353,217
7 Charitable activities					
Wildlife conservation					
Staff costs	168,411	85,836	-	254,247	193,735
Conservation work	29,100	131,317	-	160,417	115,880
Other	5,929	4,401	-	10,330	19,254
Depreciation	-	-	-	-	83
Allocated support costs	112,288	-	-	112,288	97,208
	315,728	221,554	-	537,282	426,160
Working with people					
Staff costs	413,152	276,254	-	689,406	652,561
Interpretation, education and other costs	23,667	13,910	-	37,577	79,983
Project overhead costs	157	32,488	-	32,645	115,636
Depreciation	-	-	-	-	-
Allocated support costs	279,682	-	-	279,682	305,898
	716,658	322,652	-	1,039,310	1,154,078
Nature reserves management					
Staff costs	471,070	37,870	-	508,940	492,507
Equipment, vehicles and other costs	83,059	96,525	1,250	180,834	218,840
Land management	237,875	120,069	101,623	459,567	287,670
Legal and professional fees	43,298	4,175	-	47,473	36,287
Depreciation	55,397	16,976	-	72,373	86,916
Allocated support costs	198,130	-	-	98,130	220,926
	1,088,829	275,615	102,873	1,467,317	1,343,146
Collating information on wildlife					
Staff costs	-	204,092	-	204,092	202,553
Depreciation	-	609	-	609	508
Data recording	-	13,356	-	13,356	25,188
Other costs	-	2,678	-	2,678	11,684
Allocated support costs	100,289	-	-	100,289	110,668
	100,289	220,735	-	321,024	350,601
Total expenditure on charitable activities	2,221,504	1,040,556	102,873	3,364,933	3,273,985
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	3,141,635	1,060,339	163,698	4,365,672	4,627,202

7 Charitable activities continued

Last year's total expenditure of £4,627,202 was made up of £3,337,827 unrestricted, £921,880 restricted and £367,495 designated split between the following:

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Designated £
Raising funds	997,525	58,320	297,372
Charitable activities	2,340,302	863,560	70,123

Trustees' Liability Insurance

SWT pays an annual insurance premium to:

- a) protect the charity from loss arising from the defaults of its Trustees, employees or agents
- b) indemnify the Trustees or other officers against the consequences of any act or default on their part

8 Allocation of support cost

SWT allocates its support costs as shown in the table below and then further apportions those costs between the four charitable activities undertaken.

Support costs are allocated on the basis of staff numbers per department and where appropriate a percentage of time worked.

	Charitable Activities							
	Wildlife Conservation	Working with People	Nature Reserves Manage- ment	Collating Wildlife Inform- ation	Charitable Activities Total	Raising Funds	Total 2021	Total 2020
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Management and central overheads	42,716	106,393	75,370	38,151	262,630	71,357	333,987	466,393
Finance department	15,989	39,826	28,213	14,281	98,309	26,711	125,020	120,486
Information technology	15,630	38,931	27,579	13,960	96,100	26,110	122,210	101,576
Human resources	10,848	27,020	19,141	9,689	66,698	18,122	84,820	89,174
General administration	453	1,129	800	405	2,787	757	3,544	15,630
Health and Safety/Buildings maintenance	20,407	50,829	36,008	18,226	125,470	34,090	159,560	103,515
Governance	6,245	15,554	11,019	5,577	38,395	10,432	48,827	32,590
	112,288	279,682	198,130	100,289	690,389	187,579	877,968	929,364

9 Staff costs

Analysis of staff costs:	2021 £	2020 £
Salaries and wages	2,147,708	2,022,803
Social security costs	192,073	182,114
Pension costs	129,058	118,669
	2,468,839	2,323,586

One employee, in the £60 - £70k band, earned more than £60,000 p.a. (2020 1 employee). Key management personnel are considered to be: the Trustees, the Chief Executive, and the further members of staff that make up the Senior Management Team. In total they received £341,060 (2020: £343,623) in employee benefits, including pension contributions. Employer's National Insurance paid £35,910.05 (2020 - £35,197).

Staff numbers

The average number of employees was 88 (2020: 84) with an average FTE of 78 (2020: 71).

	2021	2020
Management	6	5
Other	72	66

Other costs

During the year travel expenses and training costs of £NIL (2020: £1,299) were reimbursed to 0 Trustees (2020: 2 Trustees). The Trustees have not received any remuneration in the year (2020: £NIL).

10 Pension costs

SWT operates two pensions schemes for its current staff, only one of which is open to new entrants. SWT has liabilities associated with a former, closed, defined benefit scheme.

The pensions schemes are listed below:

- 1) Royal London - Group pension scheme, open to new members.
- 2) Standard Life - Stakeholder pension scheme, closed to new members 31.03.14, but with active employees.
- 3) Wildlife Trust - Defined Benefit pension scheme, closed to new entrants 31.03.05, no active employees.

Life assurance is now provided under separate cover.

None of the current employees of the Sussex Wildlife Trust are members of the Defined Benefit scheme. This scheme is a multi-employer scheme and the Trust is unable to identify its share of the assets and liabilities of the scheme. Contributions to the scheme are therefore treated as if it were a Defined Contribution scheme.

As a result of a triennial valuation of the assets of the Defined Benefits scheme in April 2013 the scheme actuary agreed a past service shortfall of £7,752,000. In April 2019 the actuarial assessment has been valued at a deficit of £4,658,000. The previous actuarial valuation April 2016 was at £5,900,000. The total shortfall attributable to the Trust has not been reflected in these financial statements. SWT has been advised by the pension scheme Trustees that its share of this shortfall would amount to £3,584 per year exclusive of expenses from 1 August 2021, increasing by 3% per annum until 2026.

The liability for the Defined Benefit scheme is calculated at the net total of the present value at the reporting date of our obligation to the scheme (as per the actuarial valuation) and the fair value, at the reporting date, of any plan assets out of which the obligation is to be settled directly.

Due to the inability to identify SWT's exact share of assets and liabilities of the Defined Benefit scheme, and its immateriality (calculated at approx £19k at 31 March 2021), that liability has not been included in this set of financial accounts.

Pension contributions

The pension charge shown in the accounts is the amount payable by the Trust during the financial year. It is analysed as follows:

	2021	2020
	£	£
Category 1 - Life assurance only	-	-
Category 3 - Defined Contribution scheme	-	-
Category 5 - Defined Benefit scheme	3,637	3,498
Total contributions to The Wildlife Trusts' Pension Scheme	3,637	3,498
Category 1 - Life assurance only (Standard Life)	-	-
Standard Life Stakeholder Pension scheme	34,471	41,342
Royal London Group Pension scheme	94,546	77,310
Life Assurance Costs	7,534	4,242
	140,188	126,392

Pension contribution liabilities

The following pension contributions were payable at the year-end and are included within creditors:

	2021	2020
	£	£
Royal London Group Pension scheme	12,386	10,366
Standard Life Stakeholder Pension scheme	6,448	5,354
	18,834	15,720

11 Net income/(expenditure) for the year

This is stated after charging/(crediting):	2021	2020
	£	£
Operating lease rentals	33,379	3,455
Depreciation	90,120	94,336
Auditor's remuneration	17,650	16,250
(Profit on sale of assets)	101,394	-

12 Tangible and heritage fixed assets

	Land & Buildings £	Furniture, Fixtures & Equipment £	Plant & Machinery £	Motor Vehicles £	Assets Under Construction £	Total Tangible Assets £	Heritage Assets £	TOTAL
Cost								
At 1 April 2020	1,095,531	414,213	36,953	214,250	3,350,372	5,111,319	3,327,495	8,438,814
Additions	-	25,767	7,263	-	1,525,209	1,558,239	-	1,558,239
Disposals	(22,120)	(45,708)	-	(70,618)	-	(138,446)	-	(138,446)
At 31 March 2021	1,073,411	394,272	44,216	143,632	4,875,581	6,531,112	3,327,495	9,858,607
Depreciation								
At 1 April 2020	675,552	380,445	5,543	176,251	-	1,237,791	-	1,237,791
Charge for year	48,641	16,172	8,480	16,827	-	90,120	-	90,120
Disposals	(8,834)	(45,708)	-	(70,304)	-	(124,846)	-	(124,846)
At 31 March 2021	715,359	350,909	14,023	122,774	-	1,203,065	-	1,203,065
Net book value 31 March 2021	358,052	43,363	30,193	20,858	4,875,581	5,328,047	3,327,495	8,655,542
Net book value 31 March 2020	419,979	33,768	31,410	37,999	3,350,372	3,873,528	3,327,495	7,201,023

Gift of land

SWT has received no gifts of land during the year. (2020: £NIL).

Heritage assets

Heritage assets consist of land designated as nature reserves by SWT and acquired either by purchase, gift or lease.

SWT currently owns, leases or manages 32 nature reserves, all classified as heritage assets, which have been acquired since the early 1960s and cover a total 1,932 hectares of Sussex downland, woodland, wetland, heath, meadow, and farmland. Many are Sites of Special Scientific Interest.

Included are five sites designated as nature reserves that were given to SWT between 1964 and 1981 for which no cost or conventional valuation is currently available.

A nature reserve will be considered for acquisition if:

- its ownership will enhance the viability or conservation value of an existing SWT reserve or simplify its management
- the land is required: 1) to demonstrate best conservation practice, 2) for education, 3) for the local community or, 4) to achieve a joint conservation project with other agencies
- ownership of the land will help to achieve one or more targets as set out in the Trust's Nature Reserves Acquisition Strategy

SWT maintains a register of title deeds for all nature reserves in its ownership and land management is carried out to pre-agreed management plans.

Disposal of any nature reserve will only be considered if the original objectives for ownership have been met or the site no longer meets the Trust's Nature Reserves Acquisitions and Disposals Policy. The Trust has a policy of allowing open access to all its nature reserves unless this is impossible to achieve due to physical location or will compromise the Trust's conservation objectives.

Five year financial summary of heritage asset transactions

	2021 £	2020 £	2019 £	2018 £	2017 £
Purchases at cost or valuation					
Donations					
The Mens	-	-	-	-	10,750
Rye Harbour	-	-	75,000	-	-
Total additions	-	-	75,000	-	10,750

There have been no disposals of heritage assets in any of the last five years and no impairment is considered necessary.

The additions in 2017 and 2019 were donated amounts.

13 Fixed asset investments

	2021	2020
	£	£
Subsidiary Company - Sussex Wildlife Enterprises Ltd.		
Cost		
At 31 March 2020 and at 31 March 2021	100	100
Net book value at 31 March 2020 and at 31 March 2021	100	100

SWT owns 100% of the ordinary share capital of Sussex Wildlife Enterprises Ltd, a company incorporated in the UK. The company has not traded since its incorporation.

14 Biological assets

	2021	2020
	£	£
Fair value at 1 April 2020	95,360	93,383

Livestock were valued during the year to 31 March 2021 at £1000 per head of cattle (2020: £800) and at £180 (Ewes) and £500 (Rams) per head of sheep (2020: £120) and £60 per head of lamb (2020: £60).

15 Debtors

	2021	2020
	£	£
Trade debtors	82,442	66,816
Other debtors	1,337,031	1,177,495
Prepayments	55,981	78,666
	1,475,454	1,322,977

16 Liabilities: amounts falling due within one year

	2021	2020
	£	£
Trade creditors	283,510	253,780
Other taxes and social security costs	69,967	64,548
Other creditors and accruals	99,128	24,435
Deferred income	13,162	38,177
Life membership subscriptions	22,525	23,710
	488,292	404,650
Deferred income:		
Balance as at 1 April 2020	38,177	49,546
Amount released to income	(38,177)	(49,546)
Amount deferred in year	13,162	38,177
Balance as at 31 March 2021	13,162	38,177

Deferred income comprises memberships and charitable income received for use in future financial years.

17 Funds

	Balance 1 Apr 2020	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Balance 31 Mar 2021
Restricted	£	£	£	£	£
Nature reserves	2,324,238	-	-	-	2,324,238
Projects	1,907,353	3,264,958	1,060,339	(1,229,592)	2,882,380
	4,231,591	3,264,958	1,060,339	(1,229,592)	5,206,618
Designated	757,369	-	163,698	(56,075)	537,596
Unrestricted	6,375,341	3,797,180	3,141,635	1,285,667	8,316,553
Total all funds	11,364,301	7,062,138	4,365,672	-	14,060,767

The transfer of £1.2m in respect of restricted projects is comprised of amounts totalling £296k from designated funds towards the Rye Harbour Discovery Centre, and £1,525m reflecting the completed project in the year. The £1,525m has been transferred from restricted funds to general funds on the completion of the centre, reflecting the value of tangible fixed assets financed by restricted fund donations but held for a general, not a restricted purpose in line with the SORP.

The transfers to designated fund are comprised of £306k of new designations for specific projects during the year, £66k of transfers back to general funds where projects are now completed. The remaining £296k is a transfer from the designated Rye Harbour fund to the restricted project fund.

	Balance 1 Apr 2020	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Balance 31 Mar 2021
Analysis of restricted projects funds movements	£	£	£	£	£
Badger appeal	5,708	100	4,965	-	843
Behaviour Change project	-	8,000	-	-	8,000
Chalk Downland fund	975,000	123,044	-	-	1,098,044
Changing Chalk project partnership	-	9,165	9,165	-	-
Climate Change project	-	10,000	10,000	-	-
Deneway Nature Reserve	3,760	-	-	-	3,760
Gateway to Nature	4,763	-	4,763	-	-
Gatwick Greenspace Partnership	28,294	108,638	82,656	-	54,276
Heathlands Reunited fund	-	30,257	30,257	-	-
HEFCOVID	-	47,300	42,979	-	4,321
National Lottery Heritage Fund (Sussex by the Sea)	6,023	-	6,023	-	-
Kelp	17,175	7,388	10,326	-	14,237
Legacies	158,248	10,000	57,879	-	110,369
Lost Words appeal	1,296	-	1,296	-	-
Natural Capital project	12,511	27,375	19,095	-	20,791
People and Wildlife	16,834	-	6,050	-	10,784
Portsmouth Water	-	4,692	-	4,692	-
Rapid Response fund	21,718	-	-	-	21,718
Rye Harbour	18,986	15,090	20,988	-	13,088
Rye Harbour Discovery Centre	-	1,702,065	113,186	(1,229,592)	359,287
Rye Harbour Discovery Centre appeal	-	1,269	-	-	1,269
Rye Harbour Discovery Centre operational grant	-	59,135	81,202	-	(22,067)
ScottishPower Foundation Deneway	16,882	-	25	-	16,857
Southerham Barn	73,762	-	11,350	-	62,412
Southern Water	25,000	-	-	-	25,000
Summer appeal	12,907	2,989	10,547	-	5,349
Sussex Biodiversity Record Centre	178,802	244,446	205,823	-	217,425
Sussex by the Sea appeal	29,910	97	10,792	-	19,215
Sussex Downland appeal	21,625	-	11,500	-	10,125
Sussex Local Wildlife Sites initiative	77,955	17,699	14,912	-	80,742
Sussex Ornthology Society (SOS)	-	10,650	10,650	-	-
Sussex Wetlands	115,859	74,521	147,806	-	42,574
The Leysdown Conservation Trust	33,546	30,000	17,391	-	46,155
Trailer fund (formerly Chalk Cliff)	2,688	-	1,186	-	1,502
West Weald landscape	48,101	-	-	-	48,101
National Lottery Heritage Fund (Wild Coast Sussex)	-	83,990	83,990	-	-
Wilder Horsham District project	-	39,284	28,316	-	10,968
Winter appeal	-	90,751	5,221	-	85,530
Woodland Legacy	-	507,013	-	-	507,013
	1,907,353	3,264,958	1,060,339	(1,229,592)	2,882,380

17 Funds continued

Restricted projects:

Badger appeal: *a grazing and vaccination programme against bovineTB*

Behaviour Change project: *funded by Natural England looking at behaviour change in Nature Tots and Wildlife Watch*

Chalk Downland fund: *to maintain, restore or purchase Sussex chalk downland.*

Changing Chalk project partnership: *funded by National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) and led by The National Trust*

Climate Change project: *funding from the People's Postcode Lottery via RSWT for development and delivery of carbon reduction strategies*

Deneway Nature Reserve: *fund from the Co-operative Society*
Gateway to Nature: *to develop further Youth Ranger work and community involvement*

Gatwick Greenspace Partnership: *enhancing green spaces in the Gatwick, Crawley and Horsham areas and to increase community involvement*

Heathlands Reunited fund: *partnership agreement towards management and restoration of Sussex Heathlands*

HEFCOVID: *Heritage Emergency Fund grant to support nature reserves during Covid-19*

National Lottery Heritage Fund (Sussex by the Sea): *to develop a round 2 submission*

Kelp: *People's Postcode Lottery funding via RSWT to further the regeneration of Sussex kelp forests, plus other funding towards the Help Our Kelp Partnership*

Legacies: *various bequests for specific projects*

Lost Words appeal: *Issuing a nature book about declining use of nature words to all primary schools in Sussex*

Natural Capital project: *the work of public engagement and reconnection to nature*

People and Wildlife: *conservation education for schools in Sussex*

Portsmouth Water: *Biodiversity Grant Scheme: Restoring rare habitat at Leythorne Meadow*

Rapid Response fund: *land acquisition/response to immediate need*

Rye Harbour: *Rye Harbour Nature Reserve*

Rye Harbour Discovery Centre: *the development of a Discovery Centre at Rye Harbour*

Rye Harbour Discovery Centre appeal: *for the Rye Harbour Discovery Centre project*

Rye Harbour Discovery Centre operational grant: *the development of the Operations of the Discovery Centre at Rye Harbour*

ScottishPower Foundation: *Wild Side of the Track project at Deneway nature reserve – community events, schools visits and habitat improvements*

Southerham Barn: *the development of Southerham Barn*

Southern Water: *funds from fines received by Southern Water granted for specific aspects of SWT work*

Summer appeal: *conservation campaigning, educating children and managing our nature reserves*

Sussex Biodiversity Record Centre: *the provision of biodiversity information for Sussex*

Sussex By the Sea appeal: *for the Wild Coast Sussex project*

Sussex Downland appeal: *for downland management and maintenance*

Sussex Local Wildlife Sites initiative: *establishing a coherent and resilient ecological network across Sussex*

Sussex Ornithological Society (SOS): *Amberley Wildbrooks Wader Project*

Sussex Wetlands: *enhancing the awareness of wetland habitats in Sussex*

The Leysdown Conservation Trust: *training and development of trainees*

Trailer fund (formerly Chalk Cliff): *depreciation of trailer*

West Weald landscape: *enhancing the wooded landscape of an area of West Sussex*

National Lottery Heritage Fund (Wild Coast Sussex): *a partnership to inspire and connect people to help protect the Sussex coast and sea*

Wilder Horsham District project: *fund for delivering a Nature Recovery Network for Horsham District, with funding from Horsham District Council*

Winter Appeal: *ancient woodland appeal for purchase and maintenance*

Woodland Legacy: *bequest for woodland purchase*

Other projects: *various small charitable trust funds*

The deficit on the Rye Harbour Operational funding claim is due to a pending funding claim.

Unrestricted funds comprise those funds which the Trustees are free to use in accordance with the Trust's charitable objectives.

17 Funds *continued*

	Balance 1 Apr 2020	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Balance 31 Mar 2021
	£	£	£	£	£
Analysis of designated funds movements					
Southerham Reserve fund	94,208	-	18,208	-	76,000
Business Plan strategic development capacity	31,088	-	5,749	-	25,339
Membership recruitment	77,547	-	40,441	191,150	228,256
Integrated software project	26,591	-	2,830	-	23,761
Ecological mapping	3,793	-	-	(3,793)	-
IIP staff development	5,000	-	5,000	-	-
Strategy development	4,146	-	701	-	3,445
Pensions liability (sinking fund)	15,000	-	-	(15,000)	-
Vehicles (sinking fund)	10,000	-	-	(10,000)	-
Building maintenance (sinking fund)	9,474	-	9,474	-	-
Land Management equipment (sinking fund)	25,000	-	-	-	25,000
Rye Harbour Discovery Centre	295,617	-	-	(295,617)	-
Conservation - departure from the EU	19,800	-	-	(19,800)	-
Match funding fund	40,000	-	-	-	40,000
Interpretation	26,691	-	-	-	26,691
HR system upgrade	7,925	-	5,391	-	2,534
Remote access	7,474	-	1,963	-	5,511
Bid writing	11,160	-	-	(11,160)	-
Business systems development	4,390	-	-	(4,390)	-
Filming	2,465	-	-	(2,465)	-
Ash Dieback crisis	40,000	-	73,941	50,000	16,059
Payband re-evaluation fund	-	-	-	40,000	40,000
Woods Mill repairs	-	-	-	25,000	25,000
	757,369	-	163,698	(56,075)	537,596

The Trustees have designated funds from unrestricted funds for various planned future projects, as well as contingency funds for future eventualities.

Designated funds:

Southerham Reserve fund: *development of our nature reserve at Southerham*

Business Plan strategic development capacity: *to allow extra capacity to meet the changing organisational demands*

Membership recruitment: *future investment in increasing and developing our membership*

Integrated software project: *development of an integrated IT solution*

Ecological mapping: *development of ecological mapping in Sussex*

IIP staff development: *project to develop staff performance through the IIP accreditation framework*

Strategy development: *investment in the development and implementation of next five year strategy*

Pensions liability (sinking fund): *potential future costs*

Vehicles (sinking fund): *vehicle purchases*

Building maintenance (sinking fund): *maintenance of Woods Mill*

Land Management equipment (sinking fund): *equipment purchases*

Rye Harbour Discovery Centre: *the development of the new Discovery Centre at Rye Harbour Nature Reserve*

Conservation - departure from the EU: *research and development on financial impact of leaving the EU*

Match funding fund: *project bid match funding*

Interpretation: *upgrading interpretation on reserves*

HR system upgrade: *upgrade of HR system*

Remote access: *developing remote working*

Bid writing: *extra capacity for bid opportunities*

Business systems development: *improving organisational efficiencies*

Filming: *equipment to bring film-making in-house*

Ash Dieback crisis: *provision for ongoing work managing disease*

Payband re-evaluation fund: *provision for additional costs resulting from re-evaluation*

Woods Mill repairs: *planned longer term repairs to HQ*

18 Funds - previous year

	Balance 1 Apr 2019	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Balance 31 Mar 2020
	£	£	£	£	£
Restricted					
Nature reserves	2,324,238	-	-	-	2,324,238
Projects	3,675,218	2,494,150	921,880	(3,340,135)	1,907,353
	5,999,456	2,494,150	921,880	(3,340,135)	4,231,591
Designated	689,247	295,617	367,495	140,000	757,369
Unrestricted	3,769,342	2,743,691	3,337,827	3,200,135	6,375,341
Total all funds	10,458,045	5,533,458	4,627,202	-	11,364,301

	Balance 1 Apr 2019	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Balance 31 Mar 2020
	£	£	£	£	£
Analysis of restricted projects funds movements - previous year					
Badger appeal	12,328	80	6,700	-	5,708
Rapid Response fund	21,218	500	-	-	21,718
Sussex Downland appeal	27,370	-	5,745	-	21,625
Summer appeal	32,877	30	20,000	-	12,907
Winter appeal	14,745	5	14,750	-	-
Lost Words appeal	4,000	42	2,746	-	1,296
Sussex by the Sea appeal	-	29,910	-	-	29,910
People and Wildlife	21,185	6,990	11,341	-	16,834
Sussex Biodiversity Record Centre	175,352	225,975	222,525	-	178,802
Sussex Local Wildlife Site initiative	86,752	8,610	17,407	-	77,955
Sussex Wetlands	109,355	76,683	70,179	-	115,859
ScottishPower Foundation Deneway	-	43,300	26,418	-	16,882
West Weald landscape	48,101	-	-	-	48,101
Gatwick Greenspace Partnership	40,237	98,462	110,405	-	28,294
Rye Harbour	24,050	-	5,064	-	18,986
Rye Harbour Discovery Centre appeal	18,830	476,101	18,955	(475,976)	-
Rye Harbour Discovery Centre	1,909,523	1,130,530	175,894	(2,864,159)	-
Rye Harbour Discovery Centre Operational	-	17,117	17,117	-	-
Ebernoe fencing	700	-	700	-	-
Natural Capital	10,640	13,900	12,030	-	12,510
Gateway to Nature	4,763	-	-	-	4,763
Heritage Lottery Fund (Seaford Community Wildlife Project)	-	40,971	40,971	-	-
Heritage Lottery Fund (Sussex by the Sea)	26,811	34,500	55,288	-	6,023
Nature Reserves projects	996	-	996	-	-
Southerham Barn	85,112	-	11,350	-	73,762
The Leysdown Conservation Trust	14,442	30,000	10,896	-	33,546
Trailer fund (formerly Chalk Cliff)	3,874	-	1,186	-	2,688
Chalk Downland fund	975,000	-	-	-	975,000
Kelp	-	17,175	-	-	17,175
Southern Water	-	25,000	-	-	25,000
Legacies	-	218,000	59,752	-	158,248
Deneway	6,956	269	3,465	-	3,760
	3,675,218	2,494,150	921,880	(3,340,135)	1,907,353

18 Funds - previous year continued

Restricted projects:

Badger appeal: a grazing and vaccination programme against bovine TB

Rapid Response fund: land acquisition/response to immediate need

Sussex Downland appeal: for downland management and maintenance

Summer/Winter/Sussex Downland appeal: conservation campaigning, educating children and managing our nature reserves

Lost Words appeal: issuing a nature book about declining use of nature words to all primary schools in Sussex

Sussex By the Sea appeal: for the Wild Coast Sussex project

People and Wildlife: conservation education for schools in Sussex

Sussex Biodiversity Record Centre: the provision of biodiversity information for Sussex

Sussex Local Wildlife Site initiative: establishing a coherent and resilient ecological network across Sussex

Sussex Wetlands: enhancing the awareness of wetland habitats in Sussex

ScottishPower Foundation: Wild Side of the Track project at Deneway nature reserve. Community events, schools visits and habitat improvements.

West Weald landscape: enhancing the wooded landscape of an area of West Sussex

Gatwick Greenspace Partnership: enhancing green spaces in the Gatwick, Crawley and Horsham areas and to increase community involvement

Rye Harbour: Rye Harbour Nature Reserve

Rye Harbour Discovery Centre appeal: for the Rye Harbour Discovery Centre project

Rye Harbour Discovery Centre: the development of a Discovery Centre at Rye Harbour

Ebernoe fencing: depreciation of fencing; previously part of nature reserves

Stedham and Iping fencing: depreciation of fencing on a nature reserve

Natural Capital: the work of public engagement and reconnection to nature

Gateway to Nature: to develop further Youth Ranger work and community involvement

Heritage Lottery Fund (Seaford Community Wildlife Project): a community project in Seaford

Heritage Lottery Fund (Sussex by the Sea): to develop a round 2 submission

Nature Reserves projects: the management of specific nature reserves or to support particular aspects of nature reserve management

Southerham Barn: the development of Southerham Barn

Graffham fencing: fund for depreciation costs

The Leysdown Conservation Trust: training and development of trainees

Trailer fund (formerly Chalk Cliff): depreciation of trailer

Chalk Downland fund: to maintain, restore or purchase Sussex chalk downland

Kelp: funds donated specifically to further the regeneration of Sussex Kelp Forests, as part of the Help Our Kelp Partnership

Southern Water: funds from fines received by Southern Water for specific aspects of SWT work

Legacies: various bequests for specific projects

Other projects: various small charitable trust funds

Unrestricted funds comprise those funds which the Trustees are free to use in accordance with SWT's charitable objectives.

Analysis of designated funds movements - previous year	Balance	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Balance
	1 Apr 2019				31 Mar 2020
	£	£	£	£	£
Southerham Reserve fund	100,000	-	5,792	-	94,208
Business Plan strategic development capacity	82,059	-	50,971	-	31,088
Membership recruitment	237,101	-	224,554	65,000	77,547
Integrated software project	51,223	-	24,632	-	26,591
Ecological mapping	7,893	-	4,100	-	3,793
IIP staff development	5,000	-	-	-	5,000
Strategy development	9,377	-	5,231	-	4,146
Pensions liability (sinking fund)	15,000	-	-	-	15,000
Vehicles (sinking fund)	10,000	-	-	-	10,000
Building maintenance (sinking fund)	9,474	-	-	-	9,474
Land Management equipment (sinking fund)	25,000	-	-	-	25,000
Rye Harbour Discovery Centre	-	295,617	-	-	295,617
Conservation - departure from the EU	19,800	-	-	-	19,800
Match funding fund	40,000	-	-	-	40,000
Interpretation	34,671	-	7,980	-	26,691
HR system upgrade	7,925	-	-	-	7,925
Remote access	14,334	-	6,860	-	7,474
Bid writing	12,000	-	840	-	11,160
Business systems development	4,390	-	-	-	4,390
Filming	4,000	-	1,535	-	2,465
Ash Dieback crisis	-	-	35,000	75,000	40,000
	689,247	295,617	367,495	140,000	757,369

The Trustees have designated funds from unrestricted funds for various planned future projects, as well as contingency funds for future eventualities.

18 Funds - Previous Year continued

Designated funds:

Southerham Reserve fund: *development of our nature reserve at Southerham*

Business Plan strategic development capacity: *to allow extra capacity to meet the changing organisational demands*

Membership recruitment: *future investment in increasing and developing our membership*

Integrated software project: *development of an integrated IT solution*

Ecological mapping: *development of ecological mapping in Sussex*

IIP staff development: *project to develop staff performance through the IIP accreditation framework*

Strategy development: *investment in the development and implementation of next five year strategy*

Pensions liability (sinking fund): *potential future costs*

Vehicles (sinking fund): *vehicle purchases*

Building maintenance (sinking fund): *maintenance of Woods Mill*

Land Management equipment (sinking fund): *equipment purchases*

Rye Harbour Discovery Centre: *the development of the new Discovery Centre at Rye Harbour Nature Reserve*

Conservation - departure from the EU: *research and development on financial impact of leaving the EU*

Match funding fund: *project bid match funding*

Interpretation: *upgrading interpretation on reserves*

HR system upgrade: *upgrade of HR system*

Remote access: *developing remote working*

Bid writing: *extra capacity for bid opportunities*

Business systems development: *improving organisational efficiencies*

Filming: *equipment to bring film-making in-house*

Ash Dieback crisis: *provision for ongoing work managing disease*

19 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Tangible and Heritage		Net Current		Total £
	Fixed Assets £	Investments £	Assets £		
Restricted					
Nature reserves	2,324,238	-	-		2,324,238
Projects	-	-	2,882,380		2,882,380
Unrestricted	6,331,304	100	1,985,149		8,316,553
Designated	-	-	537,596		537,596
	8,655,542	100	5,405,125		14,060,767

Analysis of net assets between funds 2020	Tangible and Heritage		Net Current		Total £
	Fixed Assets £	Investments £	Assets £		
Restricted					
Nature reserves	2,324,238	-	-		2,324,238
Projects	-	-	1,907,353		1,907,353
Unrestricted	4,876,785	100	1,498,456		6,375,341
Designated	-	-	757,369		757,369
	7,201,023	100	4,163,178		11,364,301

20 Contingent liabilities

SWT owns Castle Water, part of the Rye Harbour Nature Reserve. As previously reported SWT carried out an investigation to establish the nature and extent of the contamination based on existing data. This confirmed a source of contamination under part of the nature reserve. Since then discussions have been held with the relevant officers from the Environment Agency at a local level and the work done so far comprises a series of studies on the extent of contamination in other areas of Rye Harbour. Monitoring has continued throughout the 2020/21 financial year.

The costs of remediation at Castle Water remain unquantifiable. It is unclear to what extent, if at all, SWT will be liable.

21 (a) Operating lease commitments:

SWT has commitments in the year to 31 March 2021 to pay minimum rentals on buildings and equipment under non-cancellable operating leases.

	2021 Buildings £	2020 Buildings £	2021 Equipment £	2020 Equipment £
Operating leases which expire:				
Within one year:	-	3,000	12,067	6,049
Within two to five years:	-	-	21,312	12,504

b) Capital commitments

Capital expenditure contracted for but not paid:

£NIL- Vehicle Purchase (2020: £28k)

£523k - Rye Harbour Discovery Centre construction (2020: £1.2m)

22 Related party transactions

During the year to 31 March 2021 related party transactions were £NIL (2020: £NIL).

Provision for related party transactions payments are made in the governing document of SWT.

23 Post balance sheet events

In June 2021 SWT purchased land at Streels Lane and Willand Wood in Ebernoe, for a total consideration of £491,217, increasing the size of our Ebernoe Nature Reserve.



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