



**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 Bonnot *(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.

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 Pevensy 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 Pevensey 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

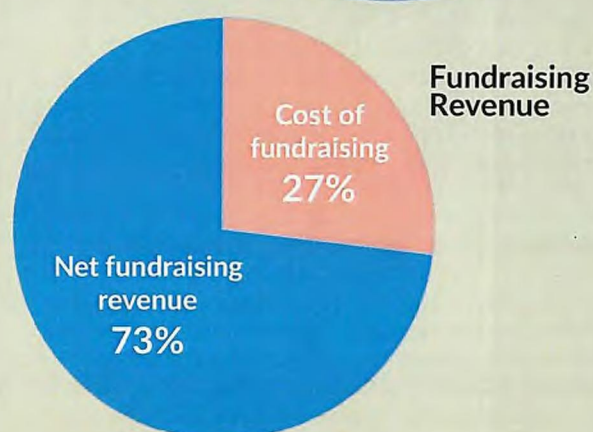
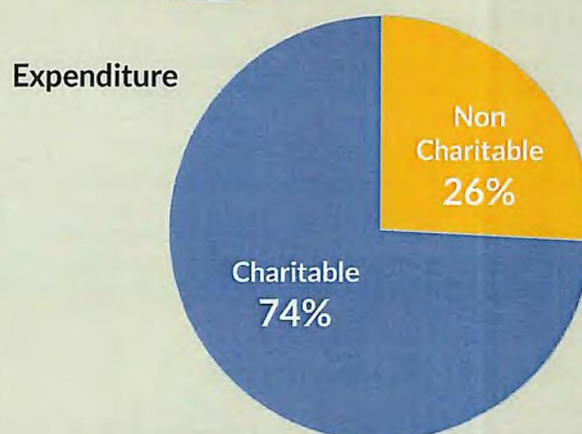
Expenditure during the year was mainly for membership recruitment, costs associated with our Ash Dieback activities and IT upgrades. This leaves a balance of £253k to be spent in future years.

## 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 £
<b>Income from:</b>						
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
<b>Total income</b>		<b>4,082,837</b>	<b>1,309,925</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>5,392,762</b>	<b>5,336,145</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>						
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
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<b>4,403,125</b>	<b>1,119,673</b>	<b>188,125</b>	<b>5,710,923</b>	<b>5,510,271</b>
<b>Net income/(expenditure)</b>		<b>(320,288)</b>	<b>190,252</b>	<b>(188,125)</b>	<b>(318,161)</b>	<b>(174,126)</b>
<b>Transfers between funds</b>	17	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<b>(320,288)</b>	<b>190,252</b>	<b>(188,125)</b>	<b>(318,161)</b>	<b>(174,126)</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>						
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

at 31 March 2023

Company Number: 00698851

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
<b>Fixed assets</b>			
Tangible assets	12	5,536,881	5,539,692
Heritage assets	12	3,818,795	3,818,927
Investments	13	100	100
<b>Total fixed assets</b>		<b>9,355,776</b>	<b>9,358,719</b>
<b>Current assets</b>			
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
<b>Total current assets</b>		<b>4,572,599</b>	<b>4,995,883</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	16	359,895	467,961
Net current assets		4,212,704	4,527,922
<b>Total net assets</b>		<b>13,568,480</b>	<b>13,886,641</b>
<b>Funds</b>			
Unrestricted		8,583,002	8,903,290
Restricted		4,732,910	4,542,658
Designated		252,568	440,693
<b>Total funds</b>	19	<b>13,568,480</b>	<b>13,886,641</b>

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 £
<b>Net cash used in operating activities</b>			
Operating activities	a)	(268,534)	(4,458)
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>			
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)
<b>Net cash used in investing activities</b>		(196,239)	(876,335)
Raising funds			
<b>Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period</b>	b)	(464,773)	(880,793)

## Notes to the cashflow statement

<b>a) Reconciliation of net incoming resources to net cash flow from operating activities</b>	<b>2023 £</b>	<b>2022 £</b>
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)
<b>Net cash provided by operating activities</b>	<b>(268,534)</b>	<b>(4,458)</b>
<b>b) Analysis of changes in cash and cash equivalents</b>	<b>2023 £</b>	<b>2022 £</b>
Balance at 1st April	3,441,054	4,321,847
Net cash (outflow)/inflow in year	(464,773)	(880,793)
<b>Balance at 31st March</b>	<b>2,976,281</b>	<b>3,441,054</b>

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
<b>Other</b>					
b. Other income	-	-	-	-	19,224
	-	-	-	-	19,224
5 Charitable activities					
<b>Wildlife conservation</b>					
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
<b>Working with people</b>					
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
<b>Nature reserves management</b>					
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
<b>Collating information on wildlife</b>					
i. Contract funding	-	291,881	-	291,881	283,961
	-	291,881	-	291,881	283,961
<b>Total income from charitable activities</b>	666,383	1,172,513	-	1,838,896	1,858,954
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	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 £
<b>During the year this amounted to:</b>		
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 Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	2023 TOTAL £	2022 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
<b>7 Charitable activities</b>					
<b>Wildlife conservation</b>					
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
<b>Working with people</b>					
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
<b>Nature reserves management</b>					
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
<b>Collating information on wildlife</b>					
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
<b>Total expenditure on charitable activities</b>	<b>3,029,390</b>	<b>1,112,311</b>	<b>182,894</b>	<b>4,324,596</b>	<b>3,873,530</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>4,403,125</b>	<b>1,119,673</b>	<b>188,125</b>	<b>5,710,923</b>	<b>5,510,271</b>



## 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					Raising Funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
	Wildlife Conservation £	Working with People £	Nature Reserves Manage- ment £	Collating Wildlife Inform- ation £	Charitable Activities Total £			
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 £
<b>Analysis of staff costs:</b>		
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
<b>Total contributions to The Wildlife Trusts' Pension Scheme</b>	<b>3,647</b>	<b>3,575</b>
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
	<b>285,688</b>	<b>159,530</b>

### 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
	<b>19,711</b>	<b>21,394</b>

## 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 £
<b>Cost</b>								
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
<b>Depreciation</b>								
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 £
<b>Purchases at cost or valuation</b>					
Streels Lane	-	78,406	-	-	-
Willand Woods	-	413,026	-	-	-
<b>Donations</b>					
Rye Harbour	-	-	-	-	75,000
<b>Total additions</b>	-	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
	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Restricted</b>					
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
<b>Designated</b>	440,693	-	188,125	-	252,568
<b>Unrestricted</b>	8,903,290	4,082,837	4,403,125	-	8,583,002
<b>Total all funds</b>	<b>13,886,641</b>	<b>5,392,762</b>	<b>5,710,924</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>13,568,479</b>

	Balance 1 Apr 2022	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Balance 31 Mar 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Analysis of restricted projects funds movements</b>					
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
	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Analysis of restricted projects funds movements</b>					
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	-	-
	<b>2,218,420</b>	<b>1,309,925</b>	<b>1,119,674</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,408,671</b>

### 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
	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Analysis of designated funds movements</b>					
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
	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Restricted</b>					
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
<b>Designated</b>	537,596	-	300,499	203,596	440,693
<b>Unrestricted</b>	8,316,553	4,083,079	4,040,548	544,206	8,903,290
<b>Total all funds</b>	14,060,767	5,336,145	5,510,271	-	13,886,641



# 18 Funds - previous year continued

	Balance 1 Apr 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Balance 31 Mar 2022 £
<b>Analysis of restricted projects funds movements - previous year</b>					
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	214,186	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.

	Balance				Balance
Analysis of designated funds movements	1 Apr 2021	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	31 Mar 2022
- previous year	£	£	£	£	£
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 Fixed Assets £	Investments £	Net Current Assets £	Total £
<b>Restricted</b>				
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 Fixed Assets £	Investments £	Net Current Assets £	Total £
<b>Restricted</b>				
Nature reserves	2,324,238	-	-	2,324,238
Projects	-	-	2,218,420	2,218,420
<b>Raising funds</b>				
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 Buildings £	2022 Buildings £	2023 Equipment £	2022 Equipment £
Operating leases which expire:				
Within one year:	-	-	15,724	5,260
Within two to five years:	-	-	19,383	5,731
<b>Total operating lease commitments</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>35,107</b>	<b>10,991</b>

**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](mailto:enquiries@sussexwt.org.uk)  
Website: [sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk](http://sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk)

Reg Charity No. 207005