

Trustees' Report & Annual Accounts

2023/24



Sussex
Wildlife Trust

Our *Wild* Sussex

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



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

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

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

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

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



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

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

Barnacle Geese
© © Hugh Clark FRPS

Chair's *Report*

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

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

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

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



📷 Nick

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

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

Nick Pasricha

Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Nick Pasricha'.



Round-headed Rampion

📷 © Derek Middleton



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

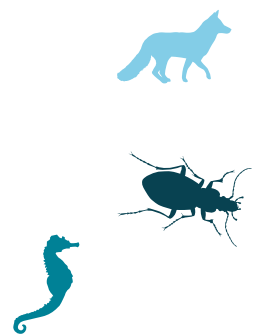
The financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006, the Memorandum and Articles of Association, and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the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

Objectives

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

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

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



Wild Coast Sussex
© Miles Davies

Strategic Report

Achievements and performance
of the Trust's work



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

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

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

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

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



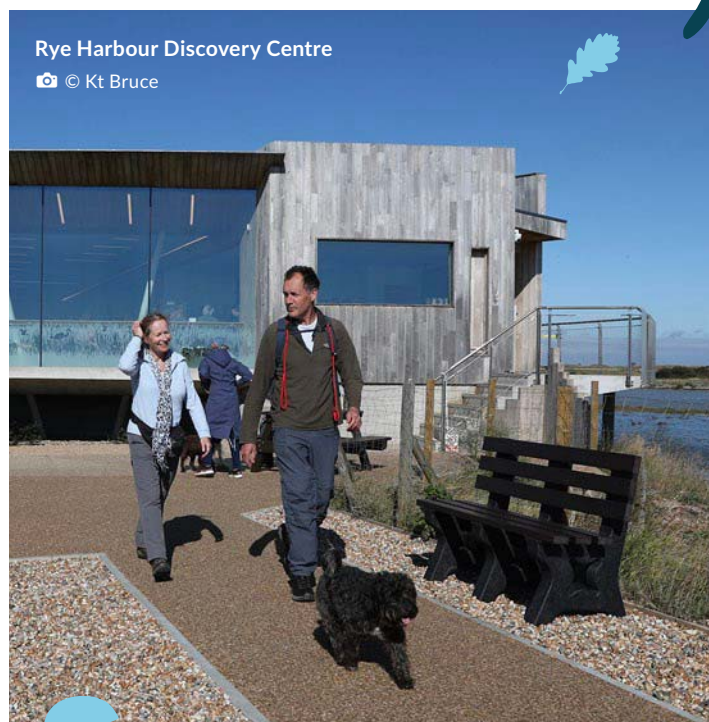
ESOL group
with Gatwick
Greenspace
Partnership

© © Helen Jerromes

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

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

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



Rye Harbour Discovery Centre

© Kt Bruce

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

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

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

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



Nuthatch on fungi

© Brian Watkins



Restore abundant wildlife across large scale landscapes and the sea

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



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

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

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

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

Above: Beaver

📷 © David Plummer

Left: Green Sea Urchin on kelp

📷 © Paul Naylor

Create climate resilient landscapes and thriving wildlife habitats

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

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

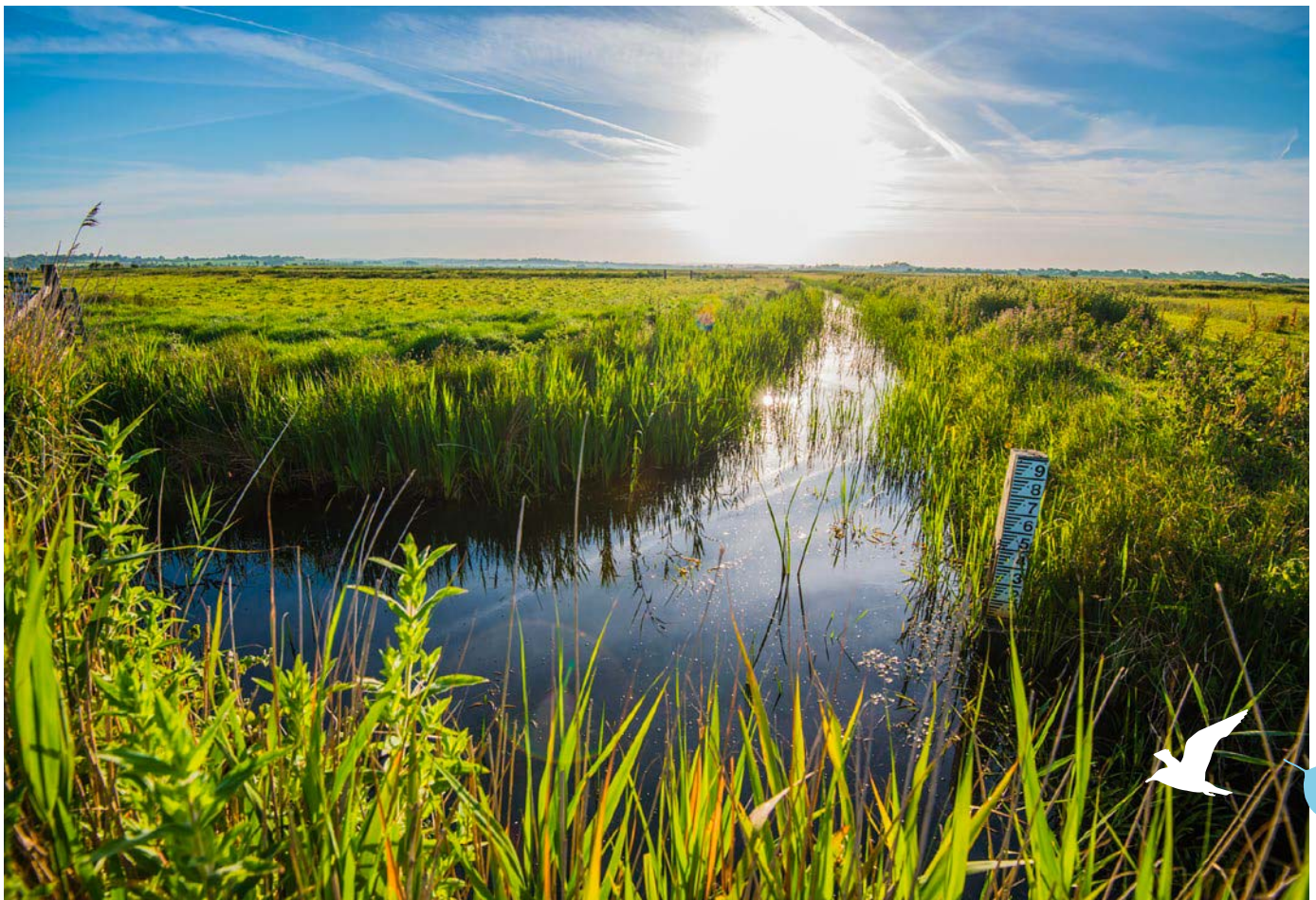
Through the year the team has worked hard to address the effects of the shortfall in management tasks created during the Covid-19 pandemic and lockdowns. The condition of

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

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

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

Pevensey Levels
© David Dennis





Left: Turtle Dove
bathing

© Mike Read

Below: Silver-
studded Blue

© Bob Eade

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

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

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

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

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

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





Plans for the Future

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

'Our Wild Sussex' contains three strategic goals:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Become a net zero and climate resilient organisation by 2030

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

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



EMAS visit to Woods Mill
© Roz Bassford



Undergo a comprehensive digital transformation

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

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

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

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

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

Strengthen and develop our organisation to deliver the scale of ambition

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

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

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

Maximise the wildlife value and resilience of our nature reserves

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



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

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

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

Our values

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



Right: Citizen science training
© Polly Kitson



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

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

Volunteers

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

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

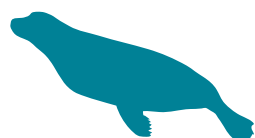
with target groups, how we measure the impact of volunteers (particularly important for our externally funded projects) and how we can monitor activity. The success of providing a portal for new volunteers to self-register has meant that we have approximately 50 new volunteers register their interest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

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

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

Donated services

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



Financial *Review*



Structure, Governance and Management

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Nightingale

© Derek Middleton



Reference and Administrative Details

Charity name: Sussex Wildlife Trust

Charity number: 207005

Company number: 00698851

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

Auditor:

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

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

Bank:

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

CAF Bank
30 Old Broad Street
London
EC2N 1HT

Directors and Trustees:

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

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

Nitin Pasricha *Chair of Council*

Linda Clark *Vice Chair*

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

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

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

Martin Kyndt *Chair of the Nominations Committee*

Dr Sean Ashworth

Sarah Bonnôt

Danielle Harvey

Mark Mallalieu *(from 6th March 2024)*

Helen Marshall

Louise McLoughlin *(from 6th March 2024)*

David Plummer *(from 6th March 2024)*

Dr Alan Stewart

President

Dr Tony Whitbread

Vice Presidents

Mr Robin Crane CBE

Dr Lisbet Rausing

Mr David Streeter OBE

Senior Leadership Team

Chris Corrigan *CEO*

Henri Brocklebank *Director – Conservation*

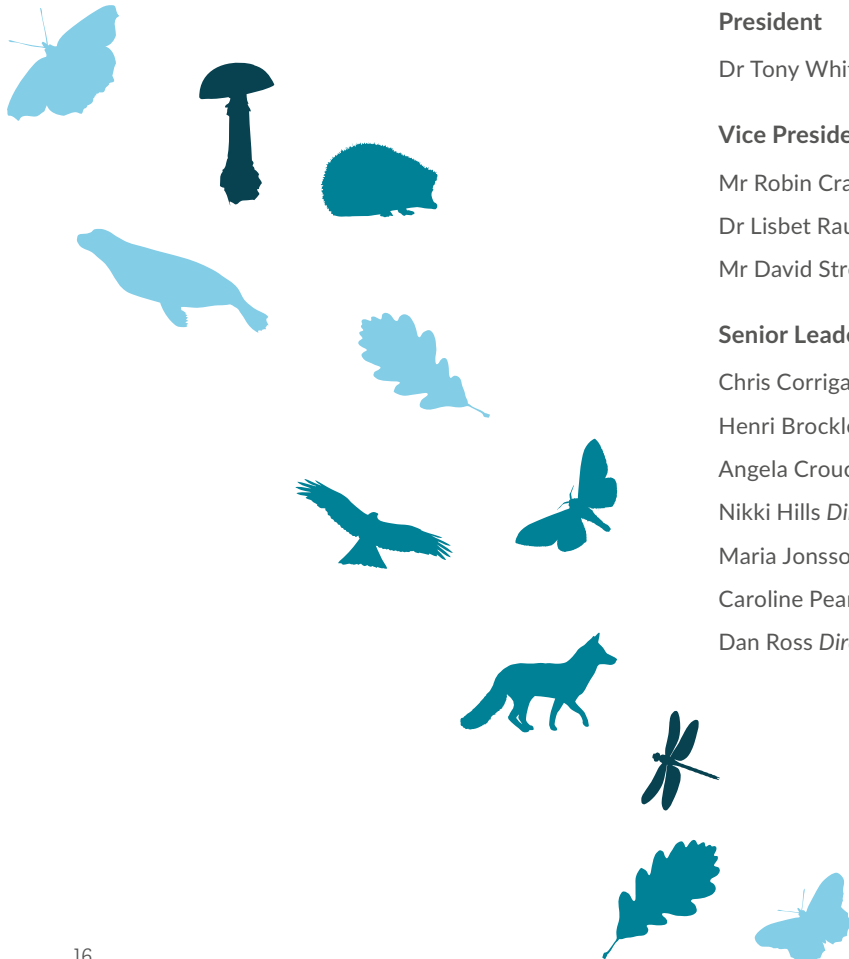
Angela Croucher *Director – Finance and Operations*

Nikki Hills *Director – Communities*

Maria Jonsson *Director – Change Management*

Caroline Pearce *Director – Fundraising and Communications*

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



Governing document

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

Organisation

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

Recruitment and appointment of Trustees

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

Trustee induction and training

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

Trustee review and evaluation

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

Environmental, social and corporate governance

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

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

1 Environmental

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

2 Social

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

3 Governance

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

Remuneration of Senior Leadership Team

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

The Wildlife Trusts partnership

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

Financial performance highlights:

Total Income £6.95m (2022/23 £5.39m)

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

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

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

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

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

Raising Funds £1.1m (2022/23 £1.06m)

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

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

Membership

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

Designated Funds Allocated

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

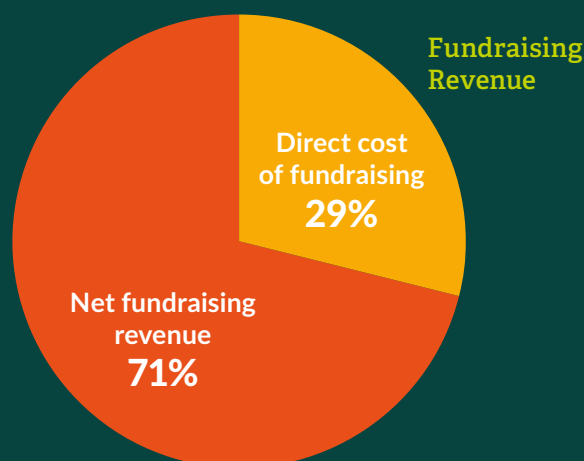
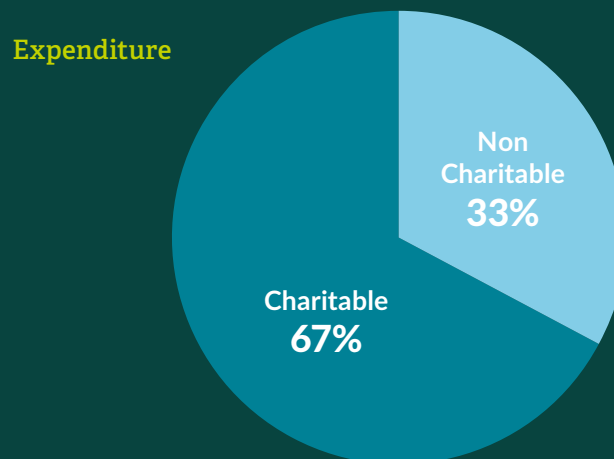
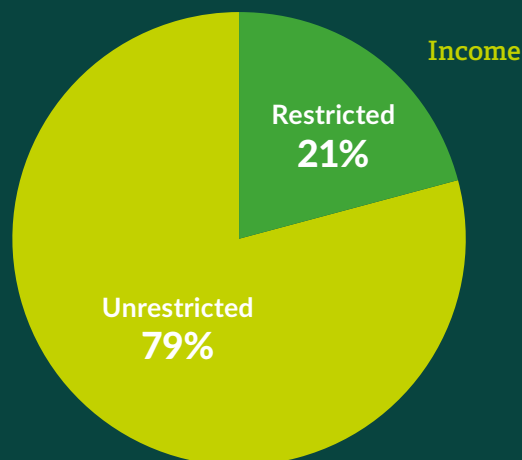
Capital Projects

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

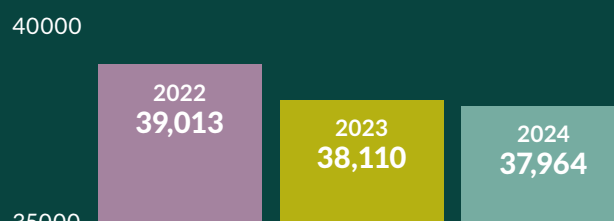
Retained Funds £14.8m (2022/23 £13.57m)


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

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



Member numbers





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

Examples of mitigation undertaken include:

Financial

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

Compliance

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

Other risks

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

Financial reserves policy

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

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

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

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

At year-end our readily useable reserves were £3.06m.

At this level, the Trustees feel that we would be able to continue our current activities in the event of a significant drop in funding.

Investment powers and policy

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

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

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

Professional Fundraising Practices

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

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

Trustees' responsibilities in relation to the financial statements

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

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

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

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

In so far as the Trustees are aware:

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

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

On behalf of the Trustees

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




City of Meadows Peter
Gladwin Primary School
© Miles Davies

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

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Sussex Wildlife Trust (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 March 2024 which comprises the Statement of Financial Activities, the balance sheet, the cashflow statement and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2024, and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

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

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to

continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

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

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the trustees annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

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

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

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

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

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of directors' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies' regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemption from the requirement to prepare a strategic report.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

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

Auditor responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

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

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

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

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

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

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



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

Date: **18 October 2024**



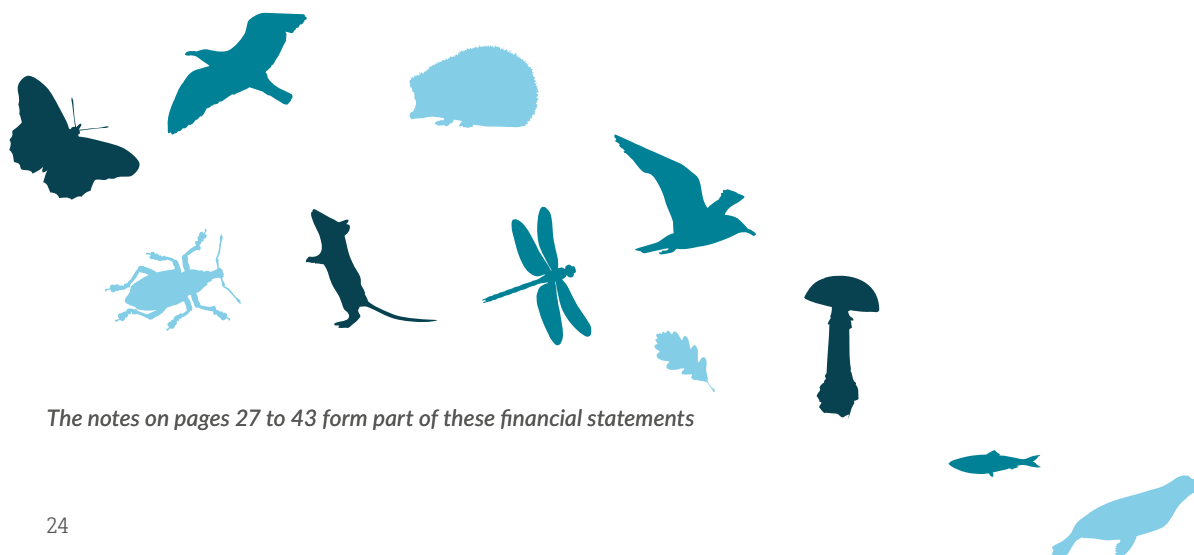
Statement of Financial Activities

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

Company Number: 00698851

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

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



Balance Sheet

at 31 March 2024

Company Number: 00698851

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

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



Mr N. Pasricha
Chair



Mr M Braithwaite
Treasurer

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

Cashflow Statement

Year ended 31 March 2024

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

Notes to the cash flow statement

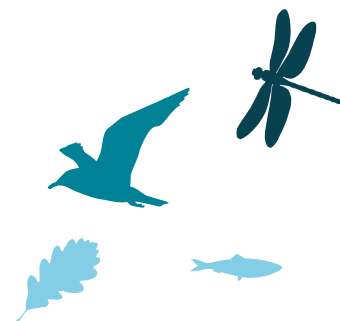
a) Reconciliation of net incoming resources to net cash flow from operating activities	2024	2023
	£	£
Net (expenditure) for the reporting period	1,232,011	(318,161)
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation	226,081	207,728
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	(68,552)	(8,177)
Profit on sale of fixed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

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

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

Notes to the Accounts

31 March 2024



1. Accounting Policies

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

a) Accounting convention

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

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

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

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

b) Income

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

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

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

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

Subscriptions are dealt with on a cash receipts basis.

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

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

c) Expenditure

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

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

d) Donated services and volunteers

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

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

e) Tangible fixed assets

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

f) Heritage assets

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

g) Investments

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

h) Depreciation

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

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

i) Stock

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

j) Livestock (biological assets)

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

k) Fund accounting

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

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

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

l) Pension schemes

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

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

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

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

m) Operating leases

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

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

n) Nonrecoverable VAT

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

o) Consolidation

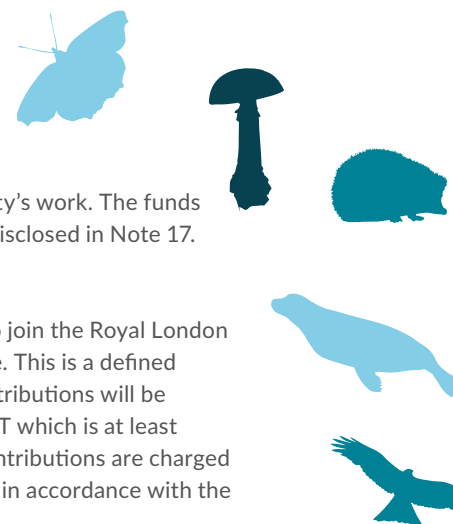
The financial statements present information about the company as an individual undertaking and not about its group. The subsidiary undertaking is dormant.

p) Cash at hand

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

q) Financial instruments

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





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

r) Debtors

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

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

s) Creditors/liabilities

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

t) Taxation

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

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

u) Redundancy and termination payments

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

v) Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

Estimates and judgements are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances. The Charity makes estimates and assumptions concerning the future. The resulting accounting estimates and assumptions will, by definition, seldom equal the related actual results. The estimates and assumptions that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year are discussed below:

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

Income and endowments from:

2 Donations and legacies

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

3 Other trading activities

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

4 Investments

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

5 Charitable activities

Restore and protect at least 30% of Sussex

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

Connect people with nature

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

Nature Reserves

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

Retain and develop a strong evidence base

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

Total income from charitable activities

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



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

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

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

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

Expenditure on:

6 Raising funds

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



Heath Tiger Beetle

© Graeme Lyons



7 Charitable activities

Restore and protect at least 30% of Sussex

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

Connect people with nature

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

Nature reserves

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

Retain and develop a strong evidence base

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

Total expenditure on charitable activities	2,691,211	1,316,429	18,039	4,025,679	4,169,871
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TOTAL EXPENDITURE	4,362,717	1,333,145	22,946	5,718,809	5,710,923
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Last year's total expenditure of £5,710,923 was made up of £4,591,250 unrestricted, £1,119,673 restricted and £188,125 designated, split between the following:

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

Trustees' Liability Insurance

SWT pays an annual insurance premium to:

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



8 Allocation of support cost

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

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

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

Restated for 2023

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

9 Staff costs

Analysis of staff costs

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

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

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

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

Staff numbers

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

	2024	2023
Management FTE	6	7
Other FTE	77	74

Other costs

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

10 Pension costs

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

The pensions schemes are listed below:

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

Life assurance is now provided under separate cover.

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

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

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

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

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

Pension contributions

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

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

Pension contribution liabilities

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

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

11 Net income/(expenditure) for the year

This is stated after charging:

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

12 Tangible and heritage fixed assets

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

Gift of land

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

Heritage assets

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

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

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

A nature reserve will be considered for acquisition if:

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

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

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

Five year financial summary of heritage asset transactions

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

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

13 Fixed asset investments

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

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

14 Biological assets

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

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

15 Debtors

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

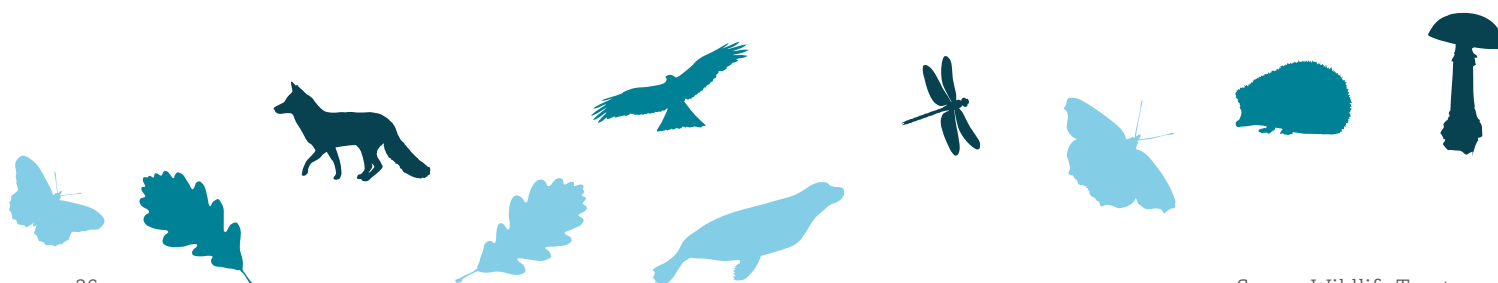
16 Liabilities: amounts falling due within one year

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

Deferred income:

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

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



17 Funds

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

	Balance 1 April 2023	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Balance 31 March 2024
Analysis of restricted projects funds movements	£	£	£	£	£
Badger Appeal	15	50	65	-	-
Behaviour Change	4,726	-	-	-	4,726
Brickfield Southern Water	10,000	-	3,600	-	6,400
Chalk Downland Fund	1,098,044	-	-	-	1,098,044
Creating Space	6,070	3,050	-	-	9,120
Culvert Project at Rye Harbour	10,234	-	-	-	10,234
CIL (SDNPA) Iping Common	23,203	-	20,462	-	2,741
CIL (SDNPA) Levin Down	1,254	-	400	-	854
Woods Mill Nature Reserve	-	8,513	8,240	-	273
Deneway Nature Reserve	3,760	-	1,488	-	2,272
Ebernoe Woods Appeal	-	118,931	9,277	108,404	1,250
Friends of Gillham Wood	1,034	-	-	-	1,034
Friends of Rye Harbour	-	31,294	31,294	-	-
Gallus Trust	-	5,000	1,145	-	3,855
Gatwick Greenspace Partnership	31,041	99,882	93,280	(4,169)	41,813
HPAI Seabird Colony Rye	-	26,798	26,798	-	-
National Lottery Heritage Fund - Heritage Emergency Fund	301	-	301	-	-
Kelp	120,047	82,814	95,103	-	107,758
Legacies	21,963	-	8,000	-	13,963
National Grid's Landscape Enhancement Initiative	-	7,873	7,843	-	30
National Highways Peveney Restoration	-	54,521	54,521	-	-
Natural Capital	46,038	26,278	30,443	-	41,873
National Lottery Heritage Fund Next Door Nature People and Wildlife	-	42,629	42,629	-	-
	10,261	-	-	-	10,261
Portsmouth Water Fund	-	260	260	-	-
Rapid Response Fund	20,791	-	-	-	20,791
RSWT Appeal 30 by 30	570	-	-	-	570
Rye Harbour Nature Reserve	10,588	-	-	-	10,588
Rye Harbour Discovery Centre	203,400	(51,033)	-	-	152,367
Rye Harbour Discovery Centre Operational Grant	-	119,463	117,526	-	1,937
3 C's (Championing Coastal Coordination)	5,790	800	6,590	-	-
ScottishPower Foundation	14,087	-	14,087	-	-
Sussex Ornithological Society No Fence	-	9,025	9,025	-	-
Sussex Ornithological Society Heathland Improvements	-	12,396	12,396	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Southerham Barn	39,712	-	19,042	-	20,670
Southern Water	25,000	-	10,587	-	14,413
Summer Appeal 20.21	5,954	-	-	-	5,954
Sussex Biodiversity Record Centre	236,906	297,091	278,369	-	255,628



17 Funds continued

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

Restricted projects:

Badger Appeal: A grazing and vaccination programme against bovine TB

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

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

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

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

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

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

Creating Space: Supporting Work in Ancient Woodlands

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

Ebernoe Appeal: Fund to purchase forest copse at Ebernoe

Woodsmill Nature Reserve: conservation work funded by a private individual

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

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

Friends of Rye Harbour for Salary support see Caroline

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

Gallus Trust: for meadow and fen habitat conservation in West Sussex
HPAI Seabird Colony Rye – New Tern rafts for Rye Harbour funded by RSPB

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

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

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

Legacies: Various bequests for specific projects

National Lottery Heritage Fund – Lost Woods of the Low Wealds

and Downs Project: Partnership with The Woodland Trust to encourage greater access to woodlands

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

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

People and Wildlife: Conservation education for schools in Sussex

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

Rapid Response Fund: Land acquisition/response to immediate need

Rye Harbour Nature Reserve: A depreciation fund

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

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

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

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

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

Southerham Barn: The development of Southerham Barn

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

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

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

Sussex Downland appeal: For downland management and maintenance

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

Sussex Ornithological Society (SOS): Heathland Improvements

Sussex Ornithological Society (SOS) – No Fence project

Sussex Wetlands: Enhancing the awareness of wetland habitats in Sussex

The Leysdown Conservation Trust: Training and development of trainees

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

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

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

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

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

Winter Reserves Appeal: For land management work

Woodland Legacy: Bequest for Woodland Purchase

17 Funds continued

Analysis of designated funds movements

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

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

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

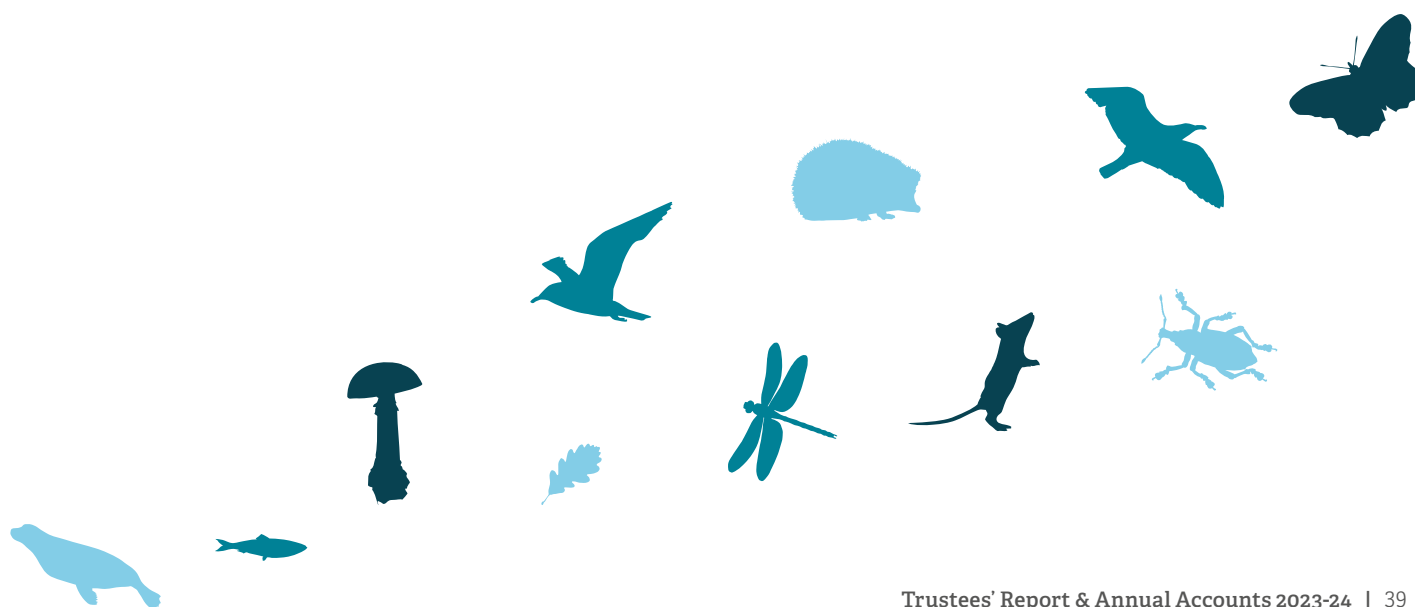
Designated funds:

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

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

18 Funds - Previous Year

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



18 Funds - Previous Year *continued*

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



18 Funds - Previous Year continued

Restricted projects:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Legacies: Various bequests for specific projects

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

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

People and Wildlife: Conservation education for schools in Sussex

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

Rapid Response Fund: land acquisition/response to immediate need

Rye Harbour: Rye Harbour Nature Reserve

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

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

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

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

Southerham Barn: The development of Southerham Barn

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

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

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

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

Sussex Downland appeal: For downland management and maintenance

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

Sussex Ornithological Society (SOS): Amberley Wildbrooks Wader Project

Sussex Wetlands: Enhancing the awareness of wetland habitats in Sussex

The Leysdown Conservation Trust: Training and development of trainees

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

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

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

Woodland Legacy: Bequest for Woodland Purchase

Analysis of designated funds movements – previous year

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

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

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

18 Funds - Previous Year *continued*

Designated funds:

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

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

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

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

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

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

Match funding fund: *Project bid match funding*

Interpretation: *Upgrading interpretation on reserves*

HR system upgrade: *Upgrade of HR system*

Remote access: *Developing remote working*

Ash Dieback crisis

Payband Re-evaluation Fund

Woods Mill Repairs

19 Analysis of net assets between funds

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

Analysis of net assets between funds 2023

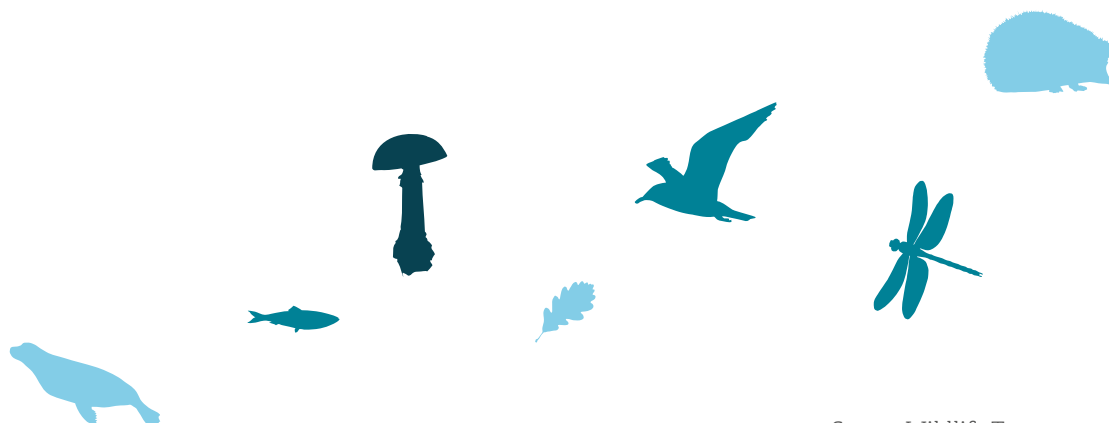
	Tangible & Heritage Fixed Assets £	Investments £	Net Current Assets £	Total £
Restricted				
Nature reserves	2,324,238	-	-	2,324,238
Projects	-	-	2,408,672	2,408,672
Raising funds				
Unrestricted	7,031,438	100	1,551,464	8,583,002
Designated	-	-	252,568	252,568
	9,355,676	100	4,212,704	13,568,480

20 Contingent liabilities

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

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

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



21 (a) Operating lease commitments

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

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

(b) Capital commitments

Capital expenditure contracted for but not paid:

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

22 Related party transactions

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

23 Prior Year Adjustment

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

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

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





Sussex
Wildlife Trust

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