THE CHESHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED

England & Wales · Charity number 214927

Details

Other names	CHESHIRE CONSERVATION TRUST LIMITED
Status	Registered
Legal form	Charitable company
Company number	00738693
Registered	1963-02-20
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	Bickley Hall Farm Bickley Wood Malpas SY14 8EF
Phone	01948820728
Email	info@cheshirewt.org.uk
Website	www.cheshirewildlifetrust.co.uk

Activities

Objects: The Charity’s objects (“Objects”) are specifically restricted to the following:1.1. To promote and deliver the conservation, protection, improvement and expansion of the physical and natural environment, for the benefit of wildlife and the public of the United Kingdom; particularly in the Vice County 58 (the traditional County Palatine of Chester) and adjacent areas.1.2. To advance the education and engagement of the public in the principles and practice of:1.2.1. Biodiversity conservation and enhancement; 1.2.2. Sustainable living and development;; 1.2.3. Nature based health and wellbeing initiatives; and1.2.4. Natural capital, the value of nature to society and its protection and restoration.1.3. To promote research in all branches of relevant scientific study and to publish the useful results thereof.

Activities: Cheshire Wildlife Trust is working towards its vision of "A Cheshire Region richer in Wildlife by 2020" and aims is to be Cheshire region's most active and influential wildlife champion.The charity's objectives are to:- stand up for wildlife and the environment;- create and enhance wildlife havens;- inspire people about the natural world;- foster sustainable living.

Downloaded from opencharities.uk/ew/214927

Classification

- **How:** Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space
- **What:** Education/training, Environment/conservation/heritage
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** THE COUNTY PALATINE OF CHESTER AND AREAS CONTIGUOUS THERETO.
- Cheshire East
- Cheshire West & Chester
- Halton
- Stockport
- Tameside
- Trafford
- Warrington
- Wirral

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£4,313,858	£3,676,939	£2,092,646	54
2024-03-31	£3,539,355	£3,455,481	£1,455,727	55
2023-03-31	£3,214,459	£3,134,504	£1,371,853	53
2022-03-31	£2,688,836	£2,677,971	£1,291,898	44
2021-03-31	£2,290,447	£2,239,461	£1,281,033	43

Downloaded from opencharities.uk/ew/214927

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Amy Lemberger		2025-11-13
Charles Neame		2018-10-20
Charlie Knowles		2025-11-13
Claire Swarbrick		2019-10-20
Jamie Richards		2021-11-11
Jennifer Dennington		2024-11-28
John Roscoe		2020-11-20
Megan Argot		2024-11-28
Sajid Javed		2024-11-28
Sandra Donnelly		2025-11-13
Sarah Williams		2018-10-20
Stephanie Sanderson		2024-11-28

Downloaded from opencharities.uk/ew/214927

THE CHESHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED

England & Wales - Charity number 214927

Accounts

Charity Registration No. 214927
Company Registration No. 738693 (England & Wales)

THE CHESHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

THE CHESHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATION

Trustees	M Argo (appointed 28/11/24) R Collins J Dennington (appointed 28/11/24) S Javid (appointed 28/11/24) S Judd (retired 28/11/24) C Neame J Richards J Roscoe S Sanderson (appointed 28/11/24) B Stothart (Chair) C Swarbrick S Williams
Secretary	Charlotte Harris
Chief Executive	Charlotte Harris
Registered office	Bickley Hall Farm Bickley Malpas Cheshire SY14 8EF
Charity number	214927
Company number	738693
Auditors	Mitchell Charlesworth (Audit) Limited Chartered Accountants Statutory Auditor 3rd Floor 44 Peter Street Manchester M2 5GP
Bankers	CAF Bank 25 Kings Hill Avenue Kings Hill West Malling Kent ME19 4JQ
Solicitors	Excello Law One City Place Queens Road Chester CH1 3BQ

THE CHESHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED

CONTENTS PAGE

	Page
Chair's Report	4
Trustees' Report	5 – 18
Independent Auditor's Report	19 – 23
Statement of Financial Activities	24
Balance Sheet	25
Statement of Cash Flow	26
Notes to the Accounts	27 – 43

THE CHESHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED

CHAIR'S REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

2024/25 has been another good year for Cheshire Wildlife Trust. CWT continues to work for people, wildlife and nature in Cheshire, Wirral, Stockport, Trafford, Tameside, Warrington and Halton. There are many examples in this report which show the impact of that work; making more space for nature and wildlife, and engaging and energising more people to act for its recovery. Notably, the Trust managed and influenced over 3,000 hectares of land and reached almost 250,000 people. During the year we also reviewed our strategy (to be published in due course), ensuring that we remain focused on the actions that deliver the greatest impact and continue to be a resilient organisation.

CWT is in good financial health, showing a surplus for the ninth successive year. Cash now stands at just over £2m, of which 45% is restricted or designated for specific purposes, and we have unrestricted financial reserves equivalent to 6 months' essential operating expenditure.

The Trust received a legacy of £600k during 2024/25 from David Aldred for land acquisition. CWT is very grateful for all legacies and donations received which support our work. Accounting rules determine that such receipts are accounted for in the period they are received, which somewhat inflates our income for this year. Much of the legacy from David Aldred has been used to support the purchase of land, completed after 1st April 2025, at Picton near Chester and at Erwin's Lane near Macclesfield, and some remains to support future purchases. The land at Erwin's Lane has been renamed Aldred's Lea in memory of David.

This will be my final report as Chair, having served the maximum period of nine years as a Trustee, of which the last seven were as Chair. I would like to thank the Trust's staff, volunteers, all supporters and my fellow Trustees for their contributions and commitment both this year and throughout my time as Chair.

We need more space for wildlife, and more people on nature's side

Bill Stothart

Bill Stothart

Chair Date: 29 September 2025

TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

The Trustees have pleasure in presenting their report together with the audited accounts for the year ended 31 March 2025. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with Charities SORP (FRS 102) 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).

Overview

Cheshire Wildlife Trust is the only charity dedicated to the conservation of wildlife and wild places in the Cheshire region.

Formed in 1962 by volunteers, Cheshire Wildlife Trust is one of 46 independent charities, which together form the UK-wide Wildlife Trust movement. The Trust benefits from the support of 17,500 members and over 700 volunteers, is governed by a ten-strong Board of Trustees and currently employs 60 dedicated staff. We are passionate about securing a future for local wildlife on land and at sea and work as part of the Wildlife Trust movement to influence decision making for nature at the highest level nationally.

Cheshire Wildlife Trust Limited is required by charity and company law to act within the objects of its Memorandum of Association, which are as follows:

1. To promote and deliver the conservation, protection, improvement and expansion of the physical and natural environment, for the benefit of wildlife and the public of the United Kingdom; particularly in the Vice County 58 (the traditional County Palatine of Chester) and adjacent areas.

2. To advance the education and engagement of the public in the principles and practice of:
    a. Biodiversity conservation and enhancement;
    b. Sustainable living and development;
    c. Nature-based health and wellbeing initiatives; and
    d. Natural capital, and its protection, restoration and value to society.

3. To promote research in all branches of relevant scientific study and to publish the useful results thereof.

Our 2030 Strategy: Wilder Cheshire is available on our website:
https://www.cheshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/2030strategy, with a summary

Public benefit statement

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duties in section 4 of the Charities Act 2006 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit, 'Charities and Public Benefit'. The Trust's public benefit is enshrined in its charitable objects.

Our vision is for a Wilder Cheshire

Our mission is to bring wildlife back – for everyone, everywhere.

Our strategy tackles three crises:

1. **Wildlife crisis – Let's fight for wildlife's recovery.**

Nature today is not normal. Since the 1930s, species-rich wildflower meadows have become virtually extinct; since the 1950s, we have lost over half the abundance of all species across the UK; since the 1970s, there's been a 60% fall in vertebrates globally. Elsewhere, recent reports tell us that insect populations have collapsed by 75% between 1990 and 2014. In the UK, we have lost half of our farmland birds in one generation. Cheshire is not immune to these trends and less than 10% of our region is protected for wildlife.

Outcome: At least 30% of the land and sea in Cheshire needs to be managed for nature so that missing wildlife will return. We want to see more and better connected wild spaces and the pressures on the environment reduced.

---

2. **Climate crisis – Let's make nature part of the solution.**

We are facing a climate crisis and nature is a big part of the solution. Healthy ecosystems and restored habitats will help us play our part in delivering the UN's Paris Agreement to tackle the climate emergency. Our peatlands, woodland and wetlands, if restored, can protect us. These habitats store carbon, cool our towns and help control flooding as well as supporting our economy and wellbeing. Our utility bills are higher because we need to clean our water. Our food bills are rising because farming is not sustainable. The costs of flood damage are devastating where nature's defences fail.

Outcome: Resilient nature will help combat climate change. We need more carbon to be locked up in our plants and soils and to restore broken ecosystems.

---

3. **Nature connection deficit – Let's have more people on nature's side.**

Our disconnect with nature is snowballing with each passing generation. New generations grow up ever more distant from the natural world. They do not miss it when it disappears, and so it continues to slip away unnoticed. When we lose our connection with nature, mental health problems, obesity and isolation rise. We need at least 1 in 4 people to be taking visible and meaningful action for nature in order to achieve a social tipping point. We need caring for and protecting nature to be a normal part of everyday life and the decisions we take. Only then will we start to see nature recover.

Outcome: Our wellbeing and economy rely on a healthy, natural environment. We need everyone to be passionate about wildlife and at least 1 in 4 people to be taking action for nature's recovery.

Strategic report

The information below, including the review of achievements and performance, financial review, risk management statement and summary of future plans, forms the Strategic Report for the purpose of the Companies Act 2006.

Achievements and performance

Our charitable objects are the drivers behind our 2030 strategic framework. Our achievements and performance are reported against each of the three strategic outcomes and we also report on a fourth underpinning objective to ensure that Cheshire Wildlife Trust is effective and resilient.

Wildlife and climate are in crisis

In the year ended 31 March 2025, Cheshire Wildlife Trust transformed 140 spaces for nature across a total of a 3,032 hectares.

Outcome: 30% of land in Cheshire is good for nature

We completed the Severn Trent Water funded Environmental Measures on the Aldford Brook (EMAB) project, creating and restoring a range of wetland habitats including ponds, scrapes, ditches and riparian corridors across 15ha of the Barnston Estate and Green Farm.

Forty-two hectares is our lucky number for woodland creation; for a second year running we have created another 42ha of new woodland with Defra Trees for Climate funding. New woodland sites included a second agroforestry scheme covering 10.5ha, sites where natural regeneration was prioritised and others where the diversity of species planted was chosen to give maximum benefit for wildlife.

We created and restored 35 more ponds for great crested newts, mitigating for losses due to development, bringing the total from the District Level Licensing Scheme to date to 355.

Sixty-five hectares of wildflower meadow were created and restored to provide a welcome boost for pollinators. This is the most we've created in one year since we launched our Pollinating Cheshire project, with the increase thanks to grant funding. The project was supported by additional grant funding from National Highways' Networks for Nature fund and planning compensation funds distributed by the Local Authorities.

During the year we increased capacity within our plant nursery at Bickley Hall Farm, which now supplies plug plants and trees, grown from Cheshire seed, to our habitat creation projects.

We delivered land management advice to a variety of private, corporate and agricultural land managers and owners to boost the biodiversity value of approximately 840ha of land. This included a contract to monitor the condition of protected sites on behalf of Natural England, creation of a Nature

Recovery Plan for the Daresbury Laboratory Science Park, as well as advice to farmers, landowning estates and smallholders.

We completed our Dee Treelines project, which saw the creation and improvement of 40km of hedgerow for wildlife.

We secured funding from the Environment Agency for a natural flood management project at Newhall Farm in the Wirral in partnership with Wirral Council.

Nature reserves were managed in line with our plans to restore and maintain priority habitats. During the year we carried out baseline surveys and created a restoration plan for our new site, Greenbooth Nature Reserve, which was purchased using donations from our 60th anniversary appeal. At our largest reserve, Gowy Meadows, a Species Recovery grant enabled 3km of habitat improvement for water voles and 2.5km of habitat creation to support wading birds. We further improved access at Hatchmere Nature Reserve and held regular work parties across our sites to manage scrub encroachement and to control invasive species. We agreed a management contract with Royal Liverpool Golf Club to secure the future of Red Rocks Marsh and continued the restoration of Saltersford Farm using Biodiversity Net Gain contributions.

Outcome: Declining species are recovering

The completion of the RiverThrive project has seen the creation and restoration of approximately 121ha of wetland habitat along the River Gowy to benefit water voles and European eels, including the creation of 40 ponds, eight scrapes, 2ha of reedbed, 5.3km of new buffer strips and 3.5km of new ditches.

Through the Southwest Peak Curlew Recovery Partnership we continue to engage citizen scientists to monitor wader nests across the Peak District and create farm wader plans with landowners. New scrapes have been created and are already attracting breeding waders, which helps support the long-term recovery of this threatened species.

A reptile recovery strategy has been created across the Sandstone Ridge and Delamere Living Landscape, which will inform future species recovery programmes across the landscape.

Research is underway to understand coastal change in the Dee Estuary and model future habitat change, which potentially impacts on the natterjack toad population.

Our beavers at the Hatchmere enclosure continued to attract interest across Cheshire, with over 500 people attending guided visits.

Outcome: 30% of land is protected for nature

During the year a process arising from the Environment Act 2021 to produce Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRS) was the focus of our work towards this outcome. In collaboration with RECORD, the local biological records centre for the Cheshire region, we successfully tendered for and then led the creation of a new landcover map for Cheshire and Warrington. This included modelling habitat

connectivity and identifying potential areas for restoration and creation so that future action by a wide range of stakeholders can focus their efforts to achieve the greatest impact for nature.

The project involved digital mapping of habitat data from 15 years of Local Wildlife Site surveys, gathering data from a wide range of sources and extensive consultations with stakeholders on the methodologies to map the priority measures. This project also enabled a review of the state of nature in Cheshire and the creation of an up-to-date description of the region's wildlife and how and why it has changed over the last 80 years. We also fed into the Liverpool City Region and Greater Manchester LNRSs. These strategies will be published in 2025.

We made it easier for the public to respond to planning applications affecting nature by reviewing and updating the resources on our website. We supported communities in protecting habitats by producing environmental reports or maps for Weston, Basford and Crewe Green and Churton Neighbourhood Plans in alignment with new planning policies. We co-led 6 training courses through Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) for Local Authority decision makers, ecologists and practitioners and gave talks to parish councils and community groups on planning related matters.

Over the year we provided management advice for 16 Local Wildlife Sites, ranging from tree planting queries and reviewing management plans to full survey/advice visits. We also carried out data audits to ensure that accurate information relating to Local Wildlife Sites was available to local partnerships.

We influenced 14 major planning proposals (covering 96ha of land), including large infrastructure projects such as HyNet, to ensure nature doesn't lose out. We convened a group of eNGOs to align our advocacy and formal responses to the Mersey Barrage proposals and raise awareness of potential risks to wildlife posed by the proposals.

We participated in the planning inquiry for Longridge Local Wildlife Site (an appeal by a developer to build 225 houses on protected habitat). This involved giving evidence over a five-day period and being cross-examined by a King's Counsel barrister.

We continued to work with RSWT and Countryside Link, and met with Defra to highlight our concerns about the new BNG metric, and we fed into the consultation response for the new National Planning Policy Framework.

Our plans for April 2025–March 2026:

- Transform 140 spaces for wildlife.
- Directly improve the management of a further 1,000ha for wildlife.
- Influence the management of 2,000ha through advice, support and other enabling activities.
- Ensure our nature reserves remain well managed and provide refuge to declining species.
- Increase the area of land under our direct control.
- Develop a species recovery plan for the water vole to prevent local extinction.
- Influence local plans and policies to ensure they deliver the best outcomes for nature.
- Take forward landscape-scale restoration projects in the Gowy catchment, Sandstone Ridge and Cheshire Peak District areas.

We are in crisis

In the year ended 31 March 2025, our communications and engagement programmes reached 248,024 people and inspired 22,598 actions for nature.

Outcome: People in Cheshire are more connected to nature

We engaged nearly 2,000 school children through learning sessions on nature reserves and other sites. We delivered 15 teacher training sessions to develop the skills of more than 50 teachers. Topics included confidence in teaching outdoors, adapting your curriculum for the outdoors and leading beach learning confidently.

Through the Our Dee Estuary project, we delivered 81 events which engaged 1,593 new people. These included geology walks and wildlife talks, coastal wellbeing sessions and National Marine Week celebration events.

Our teacher training events and outreach to schools saw the membership of the Wilder Education Network grow to 131 teachers.

A Young Rangers Day was delivered in collaboration with the Rangers at Wirral Country Park. Students from four schools and colleges were given an insight into green skills and green careers. The day involved practical surveying techniques in water quality sampling, shore searches and moth trapping. In partnership with Scottish Power, we worked with Chester University to support the installation of three Sustainable Urban Drainage System (SUDS) Pods on campuses. We delivered an interactive workshop with 25 geography students on the value of SUDS in tackling the sewage crisis.

Outcome: More people are aware of the nature and climate crisis and what they can do to help

Our social media followers grew to over 39,316, and 205,000 people visited our website. Our social media content engaged people well, with high levels of sharing and commenting. Our Facebook and Instagram engagement rates were consistently well above the average for the charity sector.

Our weekly Wild Cheshire e-newsletter was opened and read by an average of 9,000 people every Wednesday.

We engaged more than 5,000 people at events which included Operation Summer in Crewe, RHS Flower Show Tatton Park and Chester Zoo's Wildlife Connections Festival. We also welcomed people to a wide range of our own events and activities, including Nature Break sessions for businesses, shore searches for families and Our Dee Estuary clean water information stands and dog pit stops.

Outcome: Everyone has access to urban wild space

Our Green Shoots project, in its final year of delivery, continued to advance the community organising approach to increasing access to nature in Crewe and surrounding areas, including Nantwich, Shavington and Haslington. In total, 383 volunteers have been involved, and at least 3,473 people have benefited from the project in the surrounding geographic areas; 11,000m^2 of new green spaces across 13 different areas were created, and 33 spaces improved. These included a mix of meadow

creations, orchard planting, hedgerow planting, pond creation and wildflower patches. Three local schools also benefited through creation of new wildlife habitats within their school grounds. The National Education Nature Park project delivered school grounds improvement works at a further three schools.

We worked with community and volunteer groups including Wilmslow Allotments, Jodrell Bank and Knutsford Heath to manage meadows, create ponds and help maintain local wildlife areas.

Outcome: A network of champions & warriors are empowered to take action for nature

A total of 17,619 people acted for nature through their continued membership of Cheshire Wildlife Trust.

The number of active members of our Wild Network (a support group for those taking action for nature) grew to 545. To help develop the capacity of groups and individuals to take action, we ran a series of training and networking events including winter webinars, networking meetings focused on swifts and orchards, and an Action for Nature event at Birkenhead Park. We inspired more action for nature by publishing stories from the Wild Network on our website, through the Facebook group and in our quarterly Wild Network e-newsletter.

We hosted two site visits for members of the Cheshire East Economy and Growth Committee. The first was to Danes Moss and was attended by the Deputy Leader of Cheshire East Council as well as four other committee members. The visit was to encourage the councillors voting on the continuation of the Danes Moss North development to recognise the value of the site. We also ran an additional visit for the Leader of the Opposition and a second councillor to see the work we were doing in Crewe.

We piloted our Campaigner Academy training designed to empower individuals to run their own campaigns. Ten people attended six sessions on the skills needed to plan, run and promote a campaign and reported increased confidence levels at the end of the course. We shared our resources and findings with other Wildlife Trusts so that the approach can be rolled out nationally.

We campaigned to highlight the nature crisis in the run up to the General Election, albeit cut short by the snap timing. We had 320 people engage with us directly through action such as lobbying parliamentary candidates and we supported several nature-focused candidate hustings including a Wirral Wildlife and Wirral Environment Network husting and a nature-themed question time at Chester Zoo. Sixty supporters from Cheshire Wildlife Trust and Lancashire Wildlife Trust took part in the London Restore Nature Now march prior to the General Election. We marched alongside 60,000 people and many fellow NGOs to demand that the next Government prioritise nature restoration.

We met with four standing MPs and a parliamentary candidate (who was narrowly defeated) who expressed a keen interest in supporting our mission, with MPs submitting questions to Defra relating to beaver licensing and to the Department of Local Government and Housing in relation to the campaign against development of and greater protection for Local Wildlife Sites such as the one at Longridge.

We launched Phase 1 of our campaign against a Mersey tidal barrage, in which over 900 people signed up to send letters of concern to their local councillor. The purpose of the action was to raise awareness

amongst the public and local politicians of the importance of the estuary for wildlife and the potential impact of the proposal.

Our plans for April 2025–March 2026:

- Reach at least 250,000 people through our communications, events and outreach visits.
- Mobilise and support at least 23,000 people to take action for nature.
- Develop trusted relationships with MPs and other decision makers.
- Continue to input into the Local Nature Recovery Strategies.
- Further grow and support our Wild Network to inspire more actions for nature.
- Grow our network of educators and schools to increase nature in the curriculum.
- Campaign against development and policies that harm nature in Cheshire.

We are effective and resilient

Below is a summary of our programme to ensure that CWT has the financial resources it needs, is well run and has a high-performing and valued staff and volunteer team.

Outcome: CWT is financially sustainable

Our total income increased by 22% from £3.5m in FY24 to £4.3m in FY25 and we returned an overall surplus of £636,919. The large surplus is attributable to a generous legacy received of £599,970 from David Aldred. This gift is restricted for the purchase of land and will be used in FY26 for this prupose. Our underlying surplus for CWT's regular operations was £36,949 and therefore this is the ninth successive year in which the Trust has managed its expenditure within budgetary limits.

Earned income remained similar to the previous year at £1.2m. During the year we continued to secure new contracts for habitat creation, species reintroduction and land management advice.

Income from grants grew by 12% from £1.6m to £1.8m, secured from a range of sources including Defra (e.g. Trees for Climate), Natural England (e.g. Species Recovery Programme), Environment Agency (Natural Flood Management Programme), National Lottery Heritage Fund and several charitable trusts. Grant funding enabled the continuation of existing engagement activities together with the completion of our RiverThrive project.

Income from subscriptions, legacies and appeals stood at £1.3m (2024: £715k), an increase from the previous year due to the legacy mentioned above. Our supporters gave £50k in donations to our meadows appeal and other ongoing appeals. The total number of members saw a small increase, which, given cost of living pressures, indicated a continued commitment to nature's recovery.

The Trust's cash increased from £1.6m to £2.1m, of which nearly half is designated or restricted for specific purposes. The Trust has increased its unrestricted financial reserves and therefore its overall financial resilience has improved. Cash held for future use is invested in fixed term deposit accounts to maximise risk-free investment potential. These investments generated £46k in interest which was used to support charitable activities.

Outcome: CWT is well governed and an effective member of the Wildlife Trust federation

A successful round of Trustee recruitment saw four new Trustees co-opted and then elected at the AGM.

We continued to improve benefits for staff including externally benchmarking salaries and aligning staff benefits with those across the Wildlife Trust federation.

Policies and procedures relating to health & safety and safeguarding were kept up to date.

A mid-term review of our 2030 strategy was completed in November 2024 which was used to inform a reorganisation of our team structure in early 2025. The strategy, for which a public facing version will be released in due course, reflects on the current state of nature in Cheshire and identifies the most impactful actions that CWT can focus on over the next five years, recognising that difficult choices need to be made to align with available resources.

CWT continued to play its full part in the federation. The CEO and Chair took part in national conferences and working groups on a range of strategic topics.

CWT continued to work closely with North Wales Wildlife Trust to deliver the final year of the Our Dee Estuary project and with Cumbria and Lancashire Wildlife Trusts to campaign for better protection of the Irish Sea.

We provided training and advice to other Wildlife Trusts on biodiversity net gain. We continued to work closely with Lancashire Wildlife Trust to align input into the Liverpool and Manchester Local Nature Recovery Strategies and major infrastructure campaigns.

We supported the RSWT campaign against neonics for the fifth year running. After a change of Government, we finally got the long-needed ban on the emergency authorisation that had become routine under previous administrations.

Our plans for April 2025–March 2026:

- Further grow our resources and ensure that we remain financially sustainable.
- Update our public facing strategy document.
- Create a five-year work plan to scale up our impact and ensure that our team are motivated by and focused on clear goals.
- Focus on maintaining employee engagement, wellbeing and development.
- Aim to further diversify our Board of Trustees by recruiting at least two more Trustees.
- Continue to contribute to the progression of the Wildlife Trust federation through working groups and partnerships.
- Further strengthen the Trust's balance sheet through prudent investment in land.
- Ensure that our governance remains effective and fit for purpose.

Financial review

Review of the year

Cheshire Wildlife Trust's overall financial position improved. The proportion of income from grants and restricted gifts increased relative to voluntary income with unrestricted income for the year of £1.9m (FY24: £2.4m) and restricted income £2.4m (FY24: £1.2m).

Expenditure for the year totalled £3.7m (FY24: £3.4m).

Principal funding sources

Almost half of our income in the year came from grants. The largest source of unrestricted income remains contracts and earned income, although membership subscriptions continue to provide a major part of the Trust's ongoing unrestricted funding. The main sources of funding for the charity were:

Grants	41.7%
Contracts and earned income	26.9%
Donations and legacies	15.9%
Membership subscriptions (including gift aid)	12.6%
Appeals and sponsorships	1.1%
Other income	1.1%
Fundraising	0.6%

Generating funds

Approximately 30% of our financial support came from individuals, with trust membership being crucial as the foundation for other fundraising. As of March 31, we had 17,619 members, who provide essential funding and a collective voice for wildlife advocacy. Legacy income increased significantly to 15.9% (2.5% in FY24) due to a large, restricted gift. We also seek lasting support from institutional bodies, corporate members, grant funders and charitable trusts. Significant income is generated through land management, ecological advice and education services. Volunteers, integral since our founding in 1962, are central to our operations, contributing to conservation, field surveys, and office and education support, making our work possible.

Financial reserves

Total funds	£2,092,646
Less restricted	£831,972
Less designated	£288,418
Unrestricted funds	£972,256
Unrestricted cash and investments	£1,335,423

The Council has examined the Trust's requirements for financial reserves in the light of the main risks to the organisation to:

- provide sufficient cash liquidity for operational effectiveness of the Trust, and
- protect the continuity of the work undertaken by the Trust.

The Trust has targeted a level of unrestricted cash and investments of four months' expenditure by the Trust (excluding that on grant-funded projects). At March 2025 the Trust had cash reserves (excluding cash earmarked for land purchase) which are sufficient to cover six months' unrestricted expenditure. The Trust is looking to increase this cover to safeguard both the operational and financial sustainability of the Trust as the organisation grows.

Investment policy

Any surplus cash, over and above the amount required to support one month's working capital requirement, is held in fixed term deposit accounts at competitive rates.

Risk management

The Chief Executive maintains a strategic risk register which is regularly reviewed by Council. The Trustees and Senior Leadership Team, in conjunction with the Chief Executive, work to both minimise and mitigate strategic risks.

The top three strategic risks in the year ending 31 March 2025 were:

- The effect of wage inflation and taxation on the Trust's finances.
- Continued decline of the UK's natural environment combined with insufficient societal and political support for our cause.
- The impact of changes to policies, regulations and funding for protecting and restoring the natural environment proposed by the current government.

Structure, governance and management

Governing document

The Cheshire Wildlife Trust Limited (CWT) is a charitable company limited by guarantee and as such has no share capital. It was incorporated on 24 October 1962 and registered as a charity on 20 February 1963. The company is governed by its charitable objects and articles of associations (reviewed 2020).

Recruitment and appointment of Trustees

The Trustees, elected by members at the Annual General Meeting (AGM), are known as Council Members and registered as Directors with Companies House and charity trustees with the Charity Commission.

They serve three-year terms, renewable up to three consecutive terms. Co-opted Council Members must retire at the next AGM but may stand for re-election.

The Council aims for a diverse skill set from various sectors, including public, private and voluntary, with expertise in policy, strategy, finance and legal matters.

Council Members are unpaid, except for travel and incidental expenses, which were not claimed during the period. No financial transactions occurred with Trustees or connected persons during the period.

Council Members induction and training

All Council Members are inducted so they become familiar with the Trust's governance arrangements, sites, projects and staff.

Council Members are signposted to relevant reference material, including the Trust's Articles of Association, the Charity Commission booklet CC3 'The Essential Trustee', the Companies House 'Incorporation and Names' booklet (GP1), the Companies House 'Hallmarks of an Effective Charity' booklet (CC10) and the Health and Safety Executive booklet 'Leading Health & Safety at Work', and 'Good Governance: a practical guide for trustees, chairs and CEOs' by Dorothy Dalton.

Organisational structure

The Council sets the strategic direction and policy of the charity and appoints the Chief Executive, who attends but does not vote in Council meetings.

The Council meets six times a year and uses committees and working groups for detailed scrutiny and support. Key committees include Finance, Audit, Risk & Resources, Governance & Nominations, and Health & Safety. Each group is chaired by a Council Member and includes up to five Trustees and senior staff.

The Council agrees on strategy, work plans and budget, delegating daily operations to the Chief Executive and Senior Leadership Team.

Remuneration decisions involve the Chair and Trustees, informed by benchmarking data.

Relationship with the charity and related parties including its subsidiary

The Cheshire Wildlife Trust Limited is the sole shareholder in a dormant (since April 2021) company, Cheshire Ecological Services Limited (CES) (Company No: 2623356).

As part of the Wildlife Trusts federation (Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts, registered charity number 207238), CWT benefits from centrally led advocacy, campaigning, shared services and fundraising. Members use the Wildlife Trusts logo and benefit from the resources, best practice and specialist experience of other member Trusts. Membership gives the charity a national voice and profile, as well as respectability by association for those unfamiliar with its particular work. However, each member of the federation remains entirely independent in terms of governance.

Statement of the Board's responsibilities

The Trustees 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 and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charitable company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable 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 charity 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.

Statement as to disclosure of information to auditors

Each Director has confirmed that they have taken all reasonable steps to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that it has been communicated to the auditor. The members of the Board who were in office on the date of approval of these financial statements have confirmed, as far as they are aware, that there is no relevant audit information of which the auditors are unaware.

Auditors

In accordance with the Trust's policy on auditor rotation, a resolution to appoint Saffery LLP as auditor for the year ended 31 March 2026 will be proposed at the Annual General Meeting.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective 1 January 2019).

TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

The Report of the Members of the Board, which includes the Strategic Report on pages 7–13, was approved by the Board on 29 September and signed on their behalf:

Bill Stothart
Chair of Council

29 September 2025

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members and Trustees of The Cheshire Wildlife Trust Limited

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The Cheshire Wildlife Trust Limited for the year ended 31 March 2025 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flow, and the notes to the financial statements, including a summary of 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 company's affairs as at 31 March 2025 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 and the Charities Act 2022.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the 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 Trust'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.

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members and Trustees of The Cheshire Wildlife Trust Limited

Other information

The Trustees are responsible for the 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. 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.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, 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 audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. 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

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

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of our knowledge and understanding of Cheshire Wildlife Trust and its subsidiary, and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees' report.

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

- adequate and sufficient accounting records have not been kept by the company, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the company's financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of Trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the Trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies' regime.

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members and Trustees of The Cheshire Wildlife Trust Limited

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 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 company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

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.

Extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud

We identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and then design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, including obtaining audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Identifying and assessing potential risks related to irregularities

In identifying and assessing risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we considered the following:

- the nature of the sector, control environment and Trust performance;
- the Trust's own assessment of the risks that irregularities may occur either as a result of fraud or error;
- the results of our enquiries of management and members of the Board of Trustees of their own identification and assessment of the risks of irregularities;
- any matters we identified having obtained and reviewed the Trust's documentation of their policies and procedures relating to:

- identifying, evaluating and complying with laws and regulations and whether they were aware of any instances of non-compliance;
- detecting and responding to the risks of fraud and whether they have knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud;
- the internal controls established to mitigate risks of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations; and
- the matters discussed among the audit engagement team regarding how and where fraud might occur in the financial statements and any potential indicators of fraud.

As a result of these procedures, we considered the opportunities and incentives that may exist within the company for fraud and identified the greatest potential for fraud in the following areas: (i) the recognition of revenue, (ii) the allocation of income and expenditure between restricted and unrestricted funds. In common with all audits under ISAs (UK), we are also required to perform specific procedures to respond to the risk of management override.

We also obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory framework that the Trust operates in, focusing on provisions of those laws and regulations that had a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The key laws and regulations we considered in this context included the Companies Act 2006, Charities Act 2022, and Health and Safety legislation.

In addition, we considered provisions of other laws and regulations that do not have a direct effect on the financial statements but compliance with which may be fundamental to the Trust's ability to operate or to avoid a material penalty. These included Data Protection Regulations.

Audit response to risks identified

As a result of performing the above, we identified the recognition of revenue and the allocation of income and expenditure between restricted and unrestricted funds as the key audit matters related to the potential risk of fraud.

In addition to the above, our procedures to respond to risks identified included the following:

- reviewing the financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with relevant laws and regulations described above as having a direct effect on the financial statements;
- enquiring of management and members of the Board of Trustees concerning actual and potential litigation and claims;
- performing analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships that may indicate risks of material misstatement due to fraud;
- reading minutes of meetings of those charged with governance and reviewing correspondence with relevant authorities where matters identified were significant; and
- in addressing the risk of fraud through management override of controls, testing the appropriateness of journal entries and other adjustments;
- assessing whether the judgements made in making accounting estimates are indicative of a potential bias; and

- evaluating the business rationale of any significant transactions that are unusual or outside the normal course of business.

We also communicated relevant identified laws and regulations and potential fraud risks to all engagement team members and remained alert to any indications of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations throughout the audit.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: https://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's 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 and its Trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's members, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

3rd Floor
44 Peter Street
Manchester
M2 5GP

29 September 2025

Jamielee Johnston (Senior Statutory Auditor)
For and on behalf of Mitchell Charlesworth (Audit) Limited
Statutory Auditor

Mitchell Charlesworth (Audit) Limited is eligible to act as an auditor in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

THE CHESHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED

Statement of Financial Activities

Year ended March 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2025 £	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2024 £
Income							
Donations and legacies	**2**	629,408	651,054	1,280,462	680,267	35,104	715,371
Charitable activities	**3**	1,186,344	1,801,564	2,987,908	1,680,859	1,124,453	2,805,312
Investments	**4**	45,488		45,488	18,672		18,672
TOTAL		1,861,240	2,452,618	4,313,858	2,379,798	1,159,557	3,539,355
Expenditure							
Raising funds	**5**	273,343	104,551	377,894	308,224	80,461	388,685
Charitable activities	**6**	1,608,410	1,690,635	3,299,045	1,923,535	1,143,261	3,066,796
TOTAL		1,881,753	1,795,186	3,676,939	2,231,759	1,223,722	3,455,481
Net income/(expenditure)		(20,513)	657,432	636,919	148,039	(64,165)	83,874
Transfers between funds		200,445	(200,445)	-	305,688	(305,688)	-
Net movement in funds		179,932	456,987	636,919	453,727	(369,853)	83,874
Reconciliation of funds:							
Total funds brought forward		1,080,742	374,985	1,455,727	627,015	744,838	1,371,853
Total funds carried forward		1,260,674	831,972	2,092,646	1,080,742	374,985	1,455,727

THE CHESHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED

Balance Sheet
Year ended 31 March 2025

	Notes	Year ended 31 March 2025 £	£	Year ended 31 March 2024 £	£
Fixed Assets					
Tangible assets	**12**	833,676		592,144	
Heritage assets	**12**	316,046		316,046	
Total tangible assets		**1,149,722**		**908,190**	
Investments	**13**	100		100	
Total fixed assets			**1,149,822**		**908,290**
Current assets					
Stock	**14**	3,142		3,415	
Debtors	**15**	910,959		814,781	
Cash at bank and in hand		2,072,687		1,579,048	
Total current assets		**2,986,788**		**2,397,244**	
Liabilities					
Amounts falling due within one year	**17**	(2,043,964)		(1,849,807)	
Net current asset			**942,824**		**547,437**
Liabilities falling due in more than one year	**18**		-		-
Total net assets			2,092,646		1,455,727
The funds of the charity					
Unrestricted funds	**20**		1,260,674		1,080,742
Restricted income funds	**20**		831,972		374,985
Total funds			2,092,646		1,455,727

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

Signed:
Bill Stothart

Bill Stothart

29 September 2025

Signed:
Jamie Richards

29 September 2025

THE CHESHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED

Statement of Cash Flow
Year ended 31 March 2025

	Notes	2025	2025	2024	2024
		£	£	£	£
Cash flows from operating activities:					
Net cash (used in)/provided by operating activities	**23**	788,949		(7,252)	
Cash flows from investing activities:					
Proceeds from the sale of property, plant and equipment		540		2,800	
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		(295,850)		(43,129)	
Net cash (used in) investing activities		(295,310)		(40,329)	
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period			493,639		(47,581)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period			1,579,048		1,626,629
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period			2,072,687		1,579,048

Notes to the Accounts
Year ended 31 March 2025

1 Accounting policies

1.1 General information

The Cheshire Wildlife Trust Limited is a charity incorporated as a company limited by guarantee in England and Wales. The registered office is Bickley Hall Farm, Bickley, Malpas, Cheshire, SY14 8EF.

1.2 Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) – 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). The figures in the accounts are rounded to the nearest £ and the presentational currency is sterling.

Cheshire Wildlife Trust meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical costs or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes.

1.3 Fund accounting

1.3.1 Unrestricted funds

Unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

1.3.2 Restricted income funds

These funds are given to the Trust for a particular purpose to be used in accordance with the wishes of the donor.

1.3.3 Designated funds – projects

Designated funds are unrestricted funds set aside by the Trustees for specific projects. These projects may only be partly funded with the unfunded element set aside from general funds.

1.4 Incoming resources

The Trust was formed in 1962 by volunteers and continues to benefit from their support in both financial and non-financial ways. Examples of financial support include membership income, donations and legacies. These contributions are included in the accounts within voluntary income.

Voluntary income is received by way of donations, gifts, subscriptions and fundraising activities. The income is credited to the SOFA on the earlier of receipt or when the receipt is probable, the value can be ascertained, and the Trust gets the legal right to the income. Tax refunds on gift aid income are, however, accrued as earned.

Legacy income is included in the accounts when the amount due can be quantified with reasonable probability and the timing of the receipt is known.

Grants receivable which are not conditional on the delivery of a specific performance by the charity are recognised when the charity becomes unconditionally entitled to the grant. These are recognised as 'Income from donation and legacies'.

Grants receivable that relate to the delivery of a specific performance by the charity are recognised when the charity earns the right to consideration by its performance. A number of these grants are retrospective and where these are outstanding at the year end for work completed, they are accrued. These are recognised as 'Income from charitable activities'.

All grants receivable are charged to the SOFA in the period to which they relate.

1.5 Resources expended

All expenditure, other than that which is capitalised, is included in the SOFA, recognised on an accruals basis as a liability when incurred.

Charitable activities consist of the costs incurred in support of expenditure on the objects of the charity.

Costs of raising funds consists of expenditure associated with attracting voluntary income and the costs of fundraising and maintaining memberships.

Support costs relate to expenditure incurred in support of the charitable objects of the charity. These include the provision of premises, personnel, information technology, insurances and audit fees and have been allocated on the basis of direct staff wage costs.

Many of our volunteers provide non-financial support covering a wide range of activities from acting as Trustees to assisting in conservation activities including surveying, as well as providing administrative support. No amounts are included in the financial statements for services donated by volunteers.

Capital purchases are included in the accounts at cost. Capital purchases of less than £250 are expensed.

1.6 Irrecoverable VAT

The charity is partially exempt. Irrecoverable VAT is allocated to the appropriate cost categories.

1.7 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. As such the Trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.8 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less depreciation. Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset, except for land, over its estimated useful life:

Plant and machinery – 25% per annum reducing balance
Fixtures and fittings – 25% per annum reducing balance
Motor vehicles – 25% per annum reducing balance
Computer equipment – 33% per annum straight line basis

No depreciation is provided on freehold land.
Capitalised expenditure on leasehold improvements is depreciated over the remainder of the lease period.

1.9 Heritage assets

Heritage assets are nature reserves, capitalised at the date of addition. Any assets donated, where the cost is unknown, are capitalised at fair value at the date of addition. Further details are disclosed within Note 12 to the accounts.

1.10 Stock and work in progress

General stock is valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value, where cost comprises purchase price.

1.11 Deferred income

Restricted funds received for projects which are substantially incomplete or not commenced at year end are recognised in the year in which they are received and carried forward in the balance of restricted funds. The restricted funds are reduced each year by an amount equal to any expenditure on such projects which have been incurred in the year.

1.12 Pension costs

The company operates a defined contribution scheme for the benefit of its employees. Contributions payable are included in the SOFA in the year they are payable.

1.13 Finance and operating leases

Rentals payable under operating leases are charged to the SOFA over the period in which the cost is incurred. The Trust has no finance leases.

1.14 Provisions

A provision is recognised when the Trust has a legal or constructive obligation as a result of past events and it is probable that an outflow of economic benefits will be required to settle the obligation.

1.15 Taxation

The Trust is a registered charity and is not liable to United Kingdom income tax or corporation tax on charitable activities.

1.16 Material uncertainties/judgements

There were no material uncertainties or judgements contained within the presented figures.

1.17 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand and deposits held at call with banks.

1.18 Financial instruments

The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the charity's balance sheet when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Derecognition of financial assets

Financial assets are derecognised only when the contractual rights to the cash flows from the asset expire or are settled, or when the company transfers the financial asset and substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership to another entity, or if some significant risks and rewards of ownership are retained but control of the asset has transferred to another party that is able to sell the asset in its entirety to an unrelated third party.

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans, are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

Notes to the Accounts
Year ended 31 March 2025

2 Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2025	Unrestricted	Restricted	2024
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Donations & legacies	86,283	601,520	687,803	87,848	310	88,158
Subscriptions	543,125	-	543,125	532,854	-	532,854
Appeal income	-	49,534	49,534	59,565	34,794	94,359
	629,408	**651,054**	**1,280,462**	**680,267**	**35,104**	**715,371**

3 Charitable activities

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2025	Unrestricted	Restricted	2024
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Fundraising	26,379	-	26,379	35,361	40	35,401
Grants	-	1,799,564	1,799,564	481,209	1,124,413	1,605,622
Earned income	1,159,965	2,000	1,161,965	1,164,289	-	1,164,289
	1,186,344	**1,801,564**	**2,987,908**	**1,680,859**	**1,124,453**	**2,805,312**

Notes to the Accounts
Year ended 31 March 2025

4 Investment income

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2025	Unrestricted	Restricted	2024
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Interest received	45,488	-	45,488	18,672	-	18,672
	45,488	**-**	**45,488**	**18,672**	**-**	**18,672**

5 Expenditure on raising funds

	Donations & legacies	Fundraising	Total 2025	Donations & legacies	Fundraising	Total 2024
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Staff costs	4,890	202,038	206,928	7,642	216,191	223,833
Membership costs	-	51,044	51,044	-	55,094	55,094
Other direct costs	5,067	46,898	51,965	187	39,626	39,813
Support costs (Note 7)	1,606	66,351	67,957	2,388	67,557	69,945
	11,563	**366,331**	**377,894**	**10,217**	**378,468**	**388,685**

Notes to the Accounts
Year ended 31 March 2025

6 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Conservation & reserves management	Community engagement	Total 2025	Conservation & reserves management	Community engagement	Total 2024
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Staff costs	943,741	551,030	1,494,771	835,308	562,976	1,398,284
Reserves costs	942,986	95,738	1,038,724	935,189	54,636	989,825
Motor & travel	34,816	18,471	53,287	27,684	16,534	44,218
Professional fees	3,274	-	3,274	13,248	2,293	15,541
Sundries	141,800	33,208	175,008	126,789	26,975	153,764
Depreciation	34,687	8,396	43,083	26,569	9,651	36,220
Support costs (Note 7)	309,934	180,964	490,898	256,243	172,701	428,944
	2,411,238	**887,807**	**3,299,045**	**2,221,030**	**845,766**	**3,066,796**

Notes to the Accounts
Year ended 31 March 2025

7 Support costs

	Total 2025	Total 2024
	£	£
Training	6,384	11,666
Insurance	37,199	30,716
Light & heat	7,260	9,955
Repairs & maintenance	35,287	16,131
Legal & professional	30,055	25,444
Staff & volunteer expenses	7,911	4,419
Motor expenses	1,916	718
Telecoms	10,240	7,101
Post & stationery	3,292	2,903
Sundry expenses	10,082	7,824
RSWT contribution	24,274	24,160
Bank charges	1,486	1,910
Depreciation	7,647	6,615
Admin salaries	275,446	246,104
Audit fees	8,240	8,100
Computer expenses	26,596	27,359
Premises costs	60,855	63,140
Recruitment	1,350	500
Irrecoverable VAT	3,335	14,124
Doubtful debts		(10,000)
	558,855	**498,889**

Allocation of support costs

	2025	2024
	£	£
Raising funds	67,957	69,945
Charitable activities	490,898	428,944
	558,855	**498,889**

Notes to the Accounts
Year ended 31 March 2025

8 Net movement in funds

The net movement in funds is after charging/(crediting):

	Note	2025	2024
		£	£
Auditor's remuneration		8,240	8,100
Operating lease payments		1,812	1,812
(Profit)/loss on disposal of fixed assets		2,058	(904)
Depreciation	12	51,721	43,592

9 Staff costs

	2025	2024
	£	£
Wages & salaries	1,642,877	1,553,970
Social security costs	143,790	133,040
Pension costs	190,478	181,211
	1,977,145	**1,868,221**

The average number of full-time equivalent employees, analysed by function, was:

	2025	2024
Charitable activities	40	39
Generating funds	8	10
Management & administration	6	6
	54	**55**

One employee received total employment benefits (excluding employer pension costs) of between £60,000 and £70,000 during the year (2024: one employee).

Total remuneration (excluding employer pension costs) paid to key personnel during the year totalled £205,322 (2024: £194,200).

10 Pension costs

The trust operates a defined contributions pension scheme. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the trust in the independently administered fund. The pension costs charge represents contributions payable by the company to the fund and amounted to £190,478 (2024: £181,211).

Notes to the Accounts
Year ended 31 March 2025

11 Related party transactions

No Trustee or any person connected with the trust received any remuneration from the trust during the year (2024: £nil).

During the year Trustees were reimbursed travel expenses of £nil (2024: £nil).

Notes to the Accounts
Year ended 31 March 2025

12 Tangible assets

	Heritage assets £	Land & buildings £	Plant & machinery £	Fixtures & fittings £	Motor vehicles £	Computer equipment £	SFP entitlement £	Total £
Cost or donated value								
01 April 2024	316,046	581,379	144,952	42,553	114,554	99,467	10,258	1,309,209
Additions	-	209,445	55,178	2,636	9,890	18,701	-	295,850
Disposals	-	-	(3,100)	(19,941)	(7,000)	(35,890)	-	(65,931)
At 31 March 2025	**316,046**	**790,824**	**197,030**	**25,248**	**117,444**	**82,278**	**10,258**	**1,539,128**
Depreciation								
01 April 2024	-	113,684	99,656	33,205	62,715	81,501	10,258	401,019
Charge for the year	-	-	19,681	2,158	15,389	14,493	-	51,721
Disposals	-	-	(2,497)	(19,260)	(5,687)	(35,890)	-	(63,334)
At 31 March 2025	**-**	**113,684**	**116,840**	**16,103**	**72,417**	**60,104**	**10,258**	**389,406**
Net book value								
At 31 March 2025	**316,046**	**677,140**	**80,190**	**9,145**	**45,027**	**22,174**	**-**	**1,149,722**
At 31 March 2024	316,046	467,695	45,296	9,348	51,839	17,966	-	908,190

Notes to the Accounts
Year ended 31 March 2025

Heritage assets

The focus of the Trust is the protection and enhancement of wildlife habitats and biodiversity within Cheshire. As such the Trust owns and maintains a number of nature reserves that fall within the definition of heritage assets in accordance with FRS 102.

The Trustees consider that, owing to the intrinsic nature of the Trust's reserves, conventional valuation approaches lack sufficient reliability and that, even if valuations could be obtained, the costs would be onerous compared with the additional benefits derived by the Trust and the users of the accounts. As a result, these assets have been capitalised at cost and, being land, have not been depreciated.

Nature reserves acquired by gift are not capitalised unless a reliable enough reference value of the deemed cost of the asset is available without undue expense to the Trust.

The costs of maintaining heritage assets are expensed through the Statement of Financial Activities when incurred as part of the Trust's charitable activities.

There have been no transactions or movement in the heritage assets in the last five years.

Capital commitments

At 31 March 2025, the Trust had a capital commitment of £nil (2024: £209,445).

13 Investments

Cheshire Wildlife Trust Limited owns the entire share capital (1 ordinary share of £100) in its subsidiary, Cheshire Ecological Services Limited, which is incorporated in England and Wales.

The subsidiary was dormant for the full financial year and as such the financial statements presented for the Trust have not been consolidated as they are immaterial to the understanding of the results of the Trust.

The net assets of Cheshire Ecological Services Ltd are £100.

Notes to the Accounts
Year ended 31 March 2025

14 Stock

	2025	2024
	£	£
Stock	3,142	3,415
	3,142	**3,415**

15 Debtors

	2025	2024
	£	£
Trade debtors	597,570	267,108
Prepayments and accrued income	313,389	338,228
Other debtors		209,445
	910,959	**814,781**

Trade debtors is stated net of a provision of £8,078 (2024: £8,078)

16 Taxation

The company is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

17 Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2025	2024
	£	£
Trade creditors	144,137	284,473
Deferred income	1,457,992	1,224,246
Taxation & social security	75,099	87,273
Accruals	366,736	253,815
	2,043,964	**1,849,807**

Notes to the Accounts
Year ended 31 March 2025

18 Commitments under operating leases

At 31 March 2025, the charity had outstanding commitments for future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases, which fall due as follows:

	2025	2024
	£	£
Land & buildings		
Within one year	67,556	67,556
Two to five years	67,556	-
Greater than five years	-	-
Total	**135,112**	**67,556**
Other		
Within one year	1,812	1,812
Two to five years	585	2,397
Greater than five years		
Total	**2,397**	**4,209**

19 Analysis of restricted funds

Restricted funds represent monies (including donations and grants) which have been received for specific purposes as outlined by the donor. The Trust has a number of such funds and for the purposes of statutory reporting these have been grouped together under the four headings below.

Transfers out of restricted funds are made where a project is completed and no funding is required to be returned to the funder. Transfers into funds are made when a project is completed and the shortfall in funding is made up from the Trust's general funds.

Notes to the Accounts
Year ended 31 March 2025

	As at 1 April 2023	Income	Expenditure	Transfer between funds	As at 31 March 2024	Income	Expenditure	Transfer between funds	As at 31 March 2025
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Restricted income funds									
Capital grants	133,450		(6,787)	(133,578)	(6,915)	599,970			593,055
Community engagement funds	170,352	286,552	(184,482)	(44,886)	227,536	364,605	(161,765)		430,376
Conservation & reserves	441,036	873,005	(1,032,453)	(127,224)	154,364	1,268,617	(1,398,574)	(200,445)	(176,038)
Natural England SRP						219,426	(234,847)		(15,421)
	744,838	1,159,557	(1,223,722)	(305,688)	374,985	2,452,618	(1,795,186)	(200,445)	831,972

Capital grants represent grants received to fund capital purchases including land for habitat creation.
Community engagement funds and conservation & reserves funds represent grants received to carry out the Trust's charitable activities.

Funding has been granted by a variety of organisations including:

- William Dean Trust
- National Lottery Heritage Fund
- Defra
- Severn Trent WaterEnvironment Agency
- Cheshire East Council
- Cheshire West & Chester Council
- Biffa Award
- Garfield Weston Foundation
- Westminster Foundation
- Natural England
- Scottish Power Foundation

Notes to the Accounts
Year ended 31 March 2025

Unrestricted funds	As at 1 April 2023	Income	Expenditure	Transfer between funds	As at 31 March 2024	Income	Expenditure	Transfer between funds	As at 31 March 2025
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
General fund	465,821	2,379,798	(2,231,759)	178,464	792,324	1,861,240	(1,881,753)	245,489	1,017,300
Designated fund	161,194	-	-	127,224	288,418			(45,044)	243,374
	627,015	2,379,798	(2,231,759)	305,688	1,080,742	1,861,240	(1,881,753)	200,445	1,260,674

Notes to the Accounts
Year ended 31 March 2025

20 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2025 Total
	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	570,054	263,622	833,676
Heritage assets	57,362	258,684	316,046
Stock and work in progress	3,142	-	3,142
Investments	100	-	100
Debtors	613,912	297,047	910,959
Cash at bank and in hand	1,335,421	737,266	2,072,687
Liabilities	(1,319,317)	(724,647)	(2,043,964)
Total net assets	1,260,674	831,972	2,092,646

21 Share capital

The charity has no share capital being a company limited by guarantee to contribute an amount not exceeding £2 per member in the event of a winding up situation.

22 Control

The charity is controlled by the Trustees.

23 Reconciliation of net (expenditure)/income to net cash flow from operating activities

	2025	2024
	£	£
Net income for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)	636,919	83,874
Depreciation	51,721	43,592
(Profit)/Loss on the sale of fixed assets	2,057	(904)
Decrease in stock	273	1,264
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	(96,178)	102,339
(Decrease)/increase in creditors	194,157	(237,417)
Net cash (outflow)/inflow from operating activity	788,949	(7,252)

	As at 1 April 2023	Movement in year	As at 31 March 2024	Movement in year	As at 31 March 2025
	£	£	£	£	£
Cash at bank and in hand	1,626,629	(47,581)	1,579,048	493,639	2,072,687

THE CHESHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED

England & Wales - Charity number 214927

Accounts

Charity Registration No. 214927
Company Registration No. 738693 (England & Wales)

THE CHESHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

THE CHESHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATION

Trustees	R Collins S Judd C Neame J Richards J Roscoe P Rushton (retired Nov 2023) B Stothart (Chair) C Swarbrick S Williams
Secretary	Charlotte Harris
Chief Executive	Charlotte Harris
Registered office	Bickley Hall Farm Bickley Malpas Cheshire SY14 8EF
Charity number	214927
Company number	738693
Auditors	Mitchell Charlesworth (Audit) Limited Chartered Accountants Statutory Auditor 3rd Floor 44 Peter Street Manchester M2 5GP
Bankers	CAF Bank 25 Kings Hill Avenue Kings Hill West Malling Kent ME19 4JQ
Solicitors	Gough-Thomas & Scott 8 Willow Street Ellesmere Shropshire SY12 0AQ

THE CHESHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED

CONTENTS PAGE

	Page
Chair's Report	4
Trustees' Report	5 – 16
Independent Auditor's Report	17 – 21
Statement of Financial Activities	22
Balance Sheet	23
Statement of Cash Flow	24
Notes to the Accounts	25 – 41

THE CHESHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED

CHAIR'S REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

I am pleased to be prefacing this report, covering another excellent year for the Trust. The bare financial numbers show our turnover increasing from £3.21m in 2022/23 to £3.54m in 2023/24 and a surplus for the eighth successive year. So, you can see the Trust continues in good financial health. But more importantly, that growth represents an increase in the ***impact*** of the work we do.

Cheshire Wildlife Trust works for people, wildlife and nature in Cheshire, Wirral, Stockport, Trafford, Tameside, Warrington and Halton. I use a strapline on my emails: "*We need more space for wildlife, and more people on nature's side.*" I encourage you to read the many examples in this report which show that **impact**; making more space for nature and wildlife, and engaging/energising more people to act for its recovery.

We had an outstanding opportunity to purchase land for nature following our Anniversary appeal and after an earlier target purchase fell through. The purchase of 30 acres at Greenbooth Nature Reserve is a significant milestone in fulfilling the Anniversary appeal objectives and was a step towards acquiring more, bigger, better and more joined up reserves to provide space for nature's recovery. I look forward to seeing the development of Greenbooth Nature Reserve for natural regeneration and I hope we can report further ambitious plans in the near future.

We continue to face a biodiversity crisis and a climate crisis. Cheshire Wildlife Trust, and Wildlife Trusts nationally, have a critical role in enabling people to play an active part in combatting these challenges and bring about nature's recovery. Thank you for your continued support; it is valued and essential.

Bill Stothart

Chair Date: 01 October 2024

TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

The Trustees have pleasure in presenting their report together with the audited accounts for the year ended 31 March 2024. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with Charities SORP (FRS 102) 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).

Overview

Cheshire Wildlife Trust is the only charity dedicated to the conservation of wildlife and wild places in the Cheshire region.

Formed in 1962 by volunteers, Cheshire Wildlife Trust is one of 46 independent charities, which together form the UK-wide Wildlife Trust movement. The Trust benefits from the support of 17,500 members and over 300 volunteers, is governed by a ten-strong Board of Trustees and currently employs 70 dedicated staff. We are passionate about securing a future for local wildlife on land and at sea and work as part of the Wildlife Trust movement to influence decision making for nature at the highest level nationally.

Cheshire Wildlife Trust Limited is required by charity and company law to act within the objects of its Memorandum of Association, which are as follows:

1. To promote and deliver the conservation, protection, improvement and expansion of the physical and natural environment, for the benefit of wildlife and the public of the United Kingdom; particularly in the Vice County 58 (the traditional County Palatine of Chester) and adjacent areas.

2. To advance the education and engagement of the public in the principles and practice of:
    a. Biodiversity conservation and enhancement;
    b. Sustainable living and development;
    c. Nature-based health and wellbeing initiatives; and
    d. Natural capital, and its protection, restoration and value to society.

3. To promote research in all branches of relevant scientific study and to publish the useful results thereof.

In 2020 we launched our 2030 Strategy: Wilder Cheshire. The full strategy is available on our website https://www.cheshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/2030strategy, with a summary on the following page.

Public benefit statement

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duties in section 4 of the Charities Act 2006 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit, 'Charities and Public Benefit'. The Trust's public benefit is enshrined in its charitable objects.

Our vision is for a Wilder Cheshire

Our mission is to bring wildlife back – for everyone, everywhere.

Our strategy tackles three crises:

1. **Wildlife crisis – Let's fight for wildlife's recovery.**

Nature today is not normal. Since the 1930s, species-rich wildflower meadows have become virtually extinct; since the 1950s, we have lost over half the abundance of all species across the UK; since the 1970s, there's been a 60% fall in vertebrates globally. Elsewhere, recent reports tell us that insect populations have collapsed by 75% between 1990 and 2014. In the UK, we have lost half of our farmland birds in one generation. Cheshire is not immune to these trends and less than 10% of our region is protected for wildlife.

Outcome: At least 30% of the land and sea in Cheshire needs to be managed for nature so that missing wildlife will return. We want to see more and better connected wild spaces and the pressures on the environment reduced.

---

2. **Climate crisis – Let's make nature part of the solution.**

We are facing a climate crisis and nature is a big part of the solution. Healthy ecosystems and restored habitats will help us play our part in delivering the UN's Paris Agreement to tackle the climate emergency. Our peatlands, woodland and wetlands, if restored, can protect us. These habitats store carbon, cool our towns and help control flooding as well as supporting our economy and wellbeing. Our utility bills are higher because we need to clean our water. Our food bills are rising because farming is not sustainable. The costs of flood damage are devastating where nature's defences fail.

Outcome: Resilient nature will help combat climate change. We need more carbon to be locked up in our plants and soils and to restore broken ecosystems.

---

3. **Nature connection deficit – Let's have more people on nature's side.**

Our disconnect with nature is snowballing with each passing generation. New generations grow up ever more distant from the natural world. They do not miss it when it disappears, and so it continues to slip away unnoticed. When we lose our connection with nature, mental health problems, obesity and isolation rise. We need at least 1 in 4 people to be taking visible and meaningful action for nature in order to achieve a social tipping point. We need caring for and protecting nature to be a normal part of everyday life and the decisions we take. Only then will we start to see nature recover.

Outcome: Our wellbeing and economy rely on a healthy, natural environment. We need everyone to be passionate about wildlife and at least 1 in 4 people to be taking action for nature's recovery.

Strategic report

The information below, including the review of achievements and performance, financial review, risk management statement and summary of future plans, forms the Strategic Report for the purpose of the Companies Act 2006.

Achievements and performance

Our charitable objects are the drivers behind our 2030 strategic framework. Our achievements and performance are reported against each of the three strategic outcomes and we also report on a fourth underpinning objective to ensure that Cheshire Wildlife Trust is effective and resilient.

Wildlife and climate are in crisis

In the year ended 31 March 2024, a further 485ha of land was protected for nature as a result of our work, over 100 land managers received advice to enhance the management of 2,300ha for wildlife, we directly managed 743ha and we created 80ha of new habitat.

Outcome: 30% of land in Cheshire is good for nature

We completed the purchase of Greenbooth Nature Reserve, on the edge of the Peak District, backed by donations from supporters and the Bannister Charitable Trust.

Forty-two hectares of new woodland was planted using Defra Trees for Climate funding, including 7ha of new woodland and scrub at Saltersford Nature Reserve and the completion of an 11,000 tree agroforestry scheme – the first of its kind in Cheshire.

We installed 20 more ponds for great crested newts, mitigating for losses due to development.

Thirty-seven hectares of wildflower meadow was created and restored to provide a welcome boost for pollinators, and significant grant funding secured to grow our Pollinating Cheshire project into 2024/25 and beyond.

Our land management advice services continued to expand, with a further 1,500ha of land now being farmed with nature in mind as a result of our input.

Outcome: 30% of land for nature is well managed

Nature reserve management plans were reviewed to ensure our wildlife refuges are maintained in good condition into the future.

Gowy Meadows was further enhanced through a programme of works including wetland habitat creation, a pony grazing trial and ongoing mink control.

A new boardwalk at Danes Moss has been installed, allowing safer access across the reserve.

The Our Dee Estuary team continued working with the Royal Liverpool Golf Club on a plan for the management of Red Rocks Marsh. Work carried out included removal of invasive species and scrub on the sand dunes and reprofiling of natterjack toad breeding ponds.

Crown Farm Quarry has continued to improve through a second year of conservation grazing with ten Aberdeen Angus cattle. We have carried out woodland management works and constructed a new cattle corral on site.

Outcome: Declining species are recovering

The launch of the RiverThrive project has seen the creation and restoration of approximately 30ha of wetland habitat along the River Gowy to benefit water vole and European eel, including the creation of 32 ponds, one scrape, 1.8km of new buffer strips and 1.9km of new ditches.

The South West Peak Curlew Recovery Partnership continues to engage citizen scientists to monitor wader nests across the Peak District, with new farm wader plans created with the landowners. New scrapes have been created and are already attracting breeding waders.

Our beavers at the Hatch Mere enclosure continued to attract interest across Cheshire with over 500 people attending guided visits.

Twenty swift boxes were built with Stockport College. Forty-nine people signed up to have a free swift box installed on their house, adding to the 34 already in the area.

Outcome: 30% of land is protected for nature

We produced influential reports including peatland restoration feasibility analyses for Cheshire East and Cheshire West & Chester Councils, a Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) Needs and Supply assessment for Wirral Council, and responses to Forestry Commission schemes affecting Local Wildlife Sites and deep peat at Capesthorne and Tabley.

Our HS2 No Net Loss report, which showed the true impact of the scheme to nature, resulted in 104,000 petition signatories which we delivered to Downing Street, Defra and the Department for Transport in July. Our report continues to influence the outcomes on HS2 Phase 1 and other infrastructure projects nationally.

We've influenced BNG metric development by representing Wildlife & Countryside Link and The Wildlife Trusts in meetings with Defra. We've input into development of BNG metric software and co-lead BNG training sessions for the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management.

We led on grassland species modelling for Natural England to help inform where best to target restoration and secured the contract to complete the ecological network mapping for the Cheshire region Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS). We are a member of the Liverpool City Region LNRS Technical Advisory Board, and we've produced a technical assessment report for the Greater Manchester LNRS.

Our responses to planning applications have influenced outcomes on 541ha of land, most notably refusal of plans for housing at Longridge Local Wildlife Site (although the need to defend this site will continue through the appeals process). We've attended Wirral Local Plan hearings, giving evidence to help protect nature. We've completed Neighbourhood Planning reports for five communities and delivered two community talks including to the Cheshire Association of Local Councils.

Our plans for April 2024–March 2025:

- Continue to input meaningfully into the Local Nature Recovery Strategies for Cheshire, Liverpool and Manchester.
- Transform 100 spaces for wildlife.
- Directly improve the management of 1,000ha for wildlife.
- Influence the management of 1,500ha through advice, support and other enabling activities.
- Ensure our nature reserves remain well managed and provide refuge to declining species.
- Influence local plans and policies to ensure they deliver the best outcomes for nature.
- Help reverse the declines of our most threatened wildlife including eels, water voles, reptiles, swifts and natterjack toads.

We are in crisis

In the year ended 31 March 2024, our communications and engagement programmes reached 347,440 people and inspired over 30,500 actions for nature.

Outcome: People in Cheshire are more connected to nature

We engaged nearly 5,000 children and families through sessions on school grounds, on nature reserves and in the community. Family Friendly Forest School, Nature Tots and curriculum aligned sessions for schools fostered greater connection with nature by providing immersive interactions with wildlife, such as dissecting owl pellets after Wildlife Friendly Farming walks and mud-dipping at Thurstaston Beach.

We engaged 104 people via our Wild Work Days and volunteer days in the nursery at Bickley Hall Farm. We delivered eight teacher training sessions, improving the skills of 55 practitioners in outdoor learning. We piloted new approaches to increase nature connection, delivering 'Nature Breaks' for businesses and Nature Connection training for Early Years teachers and care workers for adults with SEND. This training enabled them to deliver Nature Tots style wellbeing sessions in their settings.

Outcome: More people are aware of the nature and climate crisis and what they can do to help

Our social media following grew to just over 37,500, and 291,000 users visited our website. Our online engagement rate continued to increase to above the average for the charity sector, meaning we reached more people than ever before to connect with, care about and take action for local wildlife.

Our Wild Cheshire e-newsletter was opened and read by 8,500 people every Wednesday with over 400 every week responding to our calls to action, and 552 people mapped their actions for nature.

We engaged over 7,000 people at events, targeting those that would increase our Wilder Champion network. We inspired 552 on-the-ground actions for nature, such as creation of pollinator patches and Grow Don't Mow commitments, with a further 136 pledges for nature captured. A total of 1,454 children received school assemblies and 94 took further action for nature with CWT, and over 200 teachers received the Wilder Schools newsletter each term.

Outcome: Everyone has access to urban wild space

Our Wilder Communities team have continued to make wild spaces more accessible, delivering on-the-ground support to 58 groups across Crewe, Stockport and the rest of Cheshire, resulting in 13 spaces being transformed for the benefit of nature and the community, including planting 250 trees with volunteers for Disley Parish Council. We carried out community listening workshops across Crewe, Stockport and Partington to identify barriers and opportunities related to people accessing urban wild spaces.

We made 14 school grounds better for nature and learning, planting five orchards, creating four ponds and sowing wildflower meadows. We supported six schools in Warrington to join the National Education Nature Park by mapping hidden nature on their grounds.

Outcome: A network of champions & warriors are empowered to take action for nature

A total of 17,497 individuals took action for nature through their continued membership support of Cheshire Wildlife Trust.

Through digital promotion and events, we grew our network of champions from 200 to over 500 individuals who are in turn leading others to take action for nature. We supported communities and schools to transform more than 65 spaces to be better for wildlife.

To support the development of the champion network, we provided an online forum, webinars and our first in-person networking events. Our growing library of online toolkits and guides was oaccessed by more than 1,500 people.

To broaden our reach to include nurseries, colleges and other education settings, our 'Wilder Schools' network was rebranded to become the Wilder Education network. Membership almost doubled to 77 organisations.

Our Young Leaders group were supported to onboard two new co-chairs. They continued to attend events to promote engagement with the National Park City vision in Chester.

Our campaigns influenced decision makers to make the right choices for nature. Almost 10,900 people signed our campaigns or wrote to their MP. We challenged a plan to build nearly 1,000 houses on Danes Moss North Local Wildlife Site and over 7,000 Cheshire East residents signed our petition. A total of 3,490 people locally called upon the Government to stop and rethink HS2.

Our plans for April 2024–March 2025:

- Reach at least 330,000 people through our communications, events and outreach visits.
- Mobilise and support at least 30,000 people to take action for nature.

- Support and grow our network of individual, community group, farmer, business and school champions.
- Campaign to get nature on the agenda in the general election.
- Campaign and advocate for better decision making for nature locally.
- Train teachers and support schools to embed nature connection and outdoor learning into school life.

We are effective and resilient

Below is a summary of our programme to ensure that CWT has the financial resources it needs, is well run and has a high-performing and valued staff and volunteer team.

Outcome: CWT is financially sustainable

Our total income increased by 10% from £3.2m in FY23 to £3.5m in FY24 and we returned an overall surplus of £83,874, a similar position to the previous year. This is the eighth successive year in which the Trust has managed its expenditure within budgetary limits.

Earned income remained similar to the previous year at £1.2m. During the year we continued to secure new contracts for habitat creation, species reintroduction and land management advice.

Income from grants grew by 42% from £1.1m to £1.6m, secured from a range of sources including Natural England, National Lottery Heritage Fund and a number of charitable trusts. Grant funding enabled the continuation of existing engagement activities together with the launch of our RiverThrive project.

Income from subscriptions, legacies and appeals stood at £715k (2023: £827k), down from the year before which included income from the 3x3 appeal which was not repeated in the current year. The total number of members remained stable, demonstrating a continued commitment from our supporters.

Outcome: CWT is well governed

A successful round of Trustee recruitment generated a substantive response and two new Trustees were co-opted.

We continued to improve benefits for staff including the launch of a Learning & Development Framework.

Policies and procedures relating to health & safety and safeguarding were reviewed.

The Board of Trustees agreed the local adoption of six new frameworks aimed at building consistency and best practice across the Wildlife Trust federation.

A mid-term review of our 2023 strategy began and will be completed by March 2025.

Outcome: CWT is an effective member of the Wildlife Trust federation

CWT continued to play its full part in the federation. The CEO and Chair took part in national conferences and working groups on a range of strategic topics.

CWT continued to work closely with North Wales Wildlife Trust to deliver the Our Dee Estuary project and with Cumbria and Lancashire Wildlife Trusts to campaign for better protection of the Irish Sea.

We provided training and advice to other Wildlife Trusts on biodiversity net gain. We worked closely with Lancashire Wildlife Trust to align input into the Liverpool and Manchester Local Nature Recovery Strategies.

We contributed case studies to a national report on climate adaptation and shared our learnings from projects with colleagues across the federation through communities of practice, site visits and staff networks.

Our plans for April 2024–March 2025:

- Further grow our resources and ensure that we remain financially sustainable.
- Complete and publish a refresh of our strategy.
- Continue to improve staff terms and conditions so that we can attract and retain the best talent.
- Aim to further diversify our Board of Trustees by recruiting at least two more Trustees.
- Continue to contribute to the progression of the Wildlife Trust federation through working groups and partnerships.
- Further strengthen the Trust's balance sheet through prudent investment in land.
- Ensure that our governance remains effective and fit for purpose.

Financial review

Review of the year

Cheshire Wildlife Trust's financial position improved during the year with unrestricted income for the year of £2.4m (2023: £2.1m) and restricted income £1.2m (2023: £1.1m).

Expenditure for the year totalled £3.4m (2023: £3.1m).

Principal funding sources

Almost half of our income in the year came from grants. The largest source of unrestricted income remains contracts and earned income, although membership subscriptions continue to provide a major part of the Trust's ongoing unrestricted funding. The main sources of funding for the charity were:

Grants	45.4%
Contracts and earned income	32.9%
Membership subscriptions (including gift aid)	15.1 %
Appeals and sponsorships	2.7 %
Donations and legacies	2.5 %
Fundraising	1.0 %
Other income	0.4 %

Generating funds

Approximately 21% of our financial support comes from individuals, with trust membership being crucial as the foundation for other fundraising. As of March 31, we had 17,497 members, who provide essential funding and a collective voice for wildlife advocacy. We also seek lasting support from institutional bodies, corporate members, grant funders and charitable trusts. Significant income is generated through land management, ecological advice and education services. Volunteers, integral since our founding in 1962, are central to our operations, contributing to conservation, field surveys, and office and education support, making our work possible.

Financial reserves

Total funds	£1,455,727
Less restricted	£374,985
Less designated	£288,418
Unrestricted funds	£792,324
Unrestricted cash and investments	£847,506

The Council has examined the Trust's requirements for financial reserves in the light of the main risks to the organisation in order to:

- provide sufficient cash liquidity for operational effectiveness of the Trust, and
- protect the continuity of the work undertaken by the Trust.

The Trust has targeted a level of unrestricted cash and investments of four months' expenditure by the Trust (excluding that on grant-funded projects). At March 2024 the Trust had cash reserves (excluding cash earmarked for land purchase) which are sufficient to cover five months' unrestricted expenditure. The Trust is looking to increase this cover to safeguard both the operational and financial sustainability of the Trust as the organisation grows.

Investment policy

Any surplus cash, over and above the amount required to support one month's working capital requirement, is held in fixed term deposit accounts at competitive rates.

Risk management

The Chief Executive maintains a strategic risk register which is regularly reviewed by Council. The Trustees and Senior Leadership Team, in conjunction with the Chief Executive, work to both minimise and mitigate strategic risks.

The top three strategic risks in the year ending 31 March 2024 were:

- The effect of rising inflation on costs for the Trust's operations and our staff.
- Continued decline of the UK's natural environment combined with insufficient societal and political support for our cause.
- The impact of changes to policies and regulations protecting the natural environment arising from a potential change in government.

Structure, governance and management

Governing document

The Cheshire Wildlife Trust Limited (CWT) is a charitable company limited by guarantee and as such has no share capital. It was incorporated on 24 October 1962 and registered as a charity on 20 February 1963. The company is governed by its charitable objects and articles of associations (reviewed 2020).

Recruitment and appointment of Trustees

The Trustees, elected by members at the Annual General Meeting (AGM), are known as Council Members and registered as Directors with Companies House and charity trustees with the Charity Commission.

They serve three-year terms, renewable up to three consecutive terms. Co-opted Council Members must retire at the next AGM but may stand for re-election.

The Council aims for a diverse skill set from various sectors, including public, private and voluntary, with expertise in policy, strategy, finance and legal matters.

Council Members are unpaid, except for travel and incidental expenses, which were not claimed during the period. No financial transactions occurred with Trustees or connected persons during the period.

Council Members induction and training

All Council Members are inducted so they become familiar with the Trust's governance arrangements, sites, projects and staff.

Council Members receive a handbook containing the reference material, including the Trust's Articles of Association, the Charity Commission booklet CC3 'The Essential Trustee', the Companies House 'Incorporation and Names' booklet (GP1), the Companies House 'Hallmarks of an Effective Charity' booklet (CC10) and the Health and Safety Executive booklet 'Leading Health & Safety at Work', and 'Good Governance: a practical guide for trustees, chairs and CEOs' by Dorothy Dalton.

Organisational structure

The Council sets the strategic direction and policy of the charity and appoints the Chief Executive, who attends but does not vote in Council meetings.

The Council meets six times a year and uses committees and working groups for detailed scrutiny and support. Key committees include Finance, Audit, Risk & Resources, Governance & Nominations, and Health & Safety. Each group is chaired by a Council Member and includes up to five Trustees and senior staff.

The Council agrees on strategy, work plans and budget, delegating daily operations to the Chief Executive and Senior Leadership Team.

Remuneration decisions involve the Chair and Trustees, informed by benchmarking data.

Relationship with the charity and related parties including its subsidiary

The Cheshire Wildlife Trust Limited is the sole shareholder in a dormant (since April 2021) company, Cheshire Ecological Services Limited (CES) (Company No: 2623356).

As part of the Wildlife Trusts federation (Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts, registered charity number 207238), CWT benefits from centrally led advocacy, campaigning, shared services and fundraising. Members use the Wildlife Trusts logo and benefit from the resources, best practice and specialist experience of other member Trusts. Membership gives the charity a national voice and profile, as well as respectability by association for those unfamiliar with its particular work. However, each member of the federation remains entirely independent in terms of governance.

Statement of the Board's responsibilities

The Trustees 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 and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charitable company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable 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 charity will continue in business.

TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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.

Statement as to disclosure of information to auditors

Each Director has confirmed that they have taken all reasonable steps to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that it has been communicated to the auditor. The members of the Board who were in office on the date of approval of these financial statements have confirmed, as far as they are aware, that there is no relevant audit information of which the auditors are unaware.

Auditors

A resolution to re-appoint Mitchell Charlesworth (Audit) Limited as auditor will be proposed at the Annual General Meeting.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective 1 January 2019).

The Report of the Members of the Board, which includes the Strategic Report on pages 7-14, was approved by the Board on 1 October 2024 and signed on their behalf:

Bill Stothart
Chair of Council

01 October 2024

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members and Trustees of The Cheshire Wildlife Trust Limited

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The Cheshire Wildlife Trust Limited for the year ended 31 March 2024 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flow, and the notes to the financial statements, including a summary of 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 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 and the Charities Act 2022.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the 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 Trust'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.

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members and Trustees of The Cheshire Wildlife Trust Limited

Other information

The Trustees are responsible for the 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. 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.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, 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 audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. 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

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

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of our knowledge and understanding of Cheshire Wildlife Trust and its subsidiary, and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees' report.

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

- adequate and sufficient accounting records have not been kept by the company, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the company's financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of Trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the Trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies' regime.

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members and Trustees of The Cheshire Wildlife Trust Limited

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 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 company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

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.

Extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud

We identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and then design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, including obtaining audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Identifying and assessing potential risks related to irregularities

In identifying and assessing risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we considered the following:

- the nature of the sector, control environment and Trust performance;
- the Trust's own assessment of the risks that irregularities may occur either as a result of fraud or error;
- the results of our enquiries of management and members of the Board of Trustees of their own identification and assessment of the risks of irregularities;
- any matters we identified having obtained and reviewed the Trust's documentation of their policies and procedures relating to:

- identifying, evaluating and complying with laws and regulations and whether they were aware of any instances of non-compliance;
- detecting and responding to the risks of fraud and whether they have knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud;
- the internal controls established to mitigate risks of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations; and
- the matters discussed among the audit engagement team regarding how and where fraud might occur in the financial statements and any potential indicators of fraud.

As a result of these procedures, we considered the opportunities and incentives that may exist within the company for fraud and identified the greatest potential for fraud in the following areas (i) the recognition of revenue, (ii) the allocation of income and expenditure between restricted and unrestricted funds. In common with all audits under ISAs (UK), we are also required to perform specific procedures to respond to the risk of management override.

We also obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory framework that the Trust operates in, focusing on provisions of those laws and regulations that had a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The key laws and regulations we considered in this context included the Companies Act 2006, Charities Act 2022, and Health and Safety legislation.

In addition, we considered provisions of other laws and regulations that do not have a direct effect on the financial statements but compliance with which may be fundamental to the Trust's ability to operate or to avoid a material penalty. These included Data Protection Regulations.

Audit response to risks identified

As a result of performing the above, we identified the recognition of revenue and the allocation of income and expenditure between restricted and unrestricted funds as the key audit matters related to the potential risk of fraud.

In addition to the above, our procedures to respond to risks identified included the following:

- reviewing the financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with relevant laws and regulations described above as having a direct effect on the financial statements;
- enquiring of management and members of the Board of Trustees concerning actual and potential litigation and claims;
- performing analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships that may indicate risks of material misstatement due to fraud;
- reading minutes of meetings of those charged with governance and reviewing correspondence with relevant authorities where matters identified were significant; and
- in addressing the risk of fraud through management override of controls, testing the appropriateness of journal entries and other adjustments;
- assessing whether the judgements made in making accounting estimates are indicative of a potential bias; and

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members and Trustees of The Cheshire Wildlife Trust Limited

- evaluating the business rationale of any significant transactions that are unusual or outside the normal course of business.

We also communicated relevant identified laws and regulations and potential fraud risks to all engagement team members and remained alert to any indications of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations throughout the audit.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: https://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's 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 and its Trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's members, Trustees as a body and the charitable company's Trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

3rd Floor
44 Peter Street
Manchester
M2 5GP

1 October 2024

Jamielee Johnston (Senior Statutory Auditor)
For and on behalf of Mitchell Charlesworth (Audit) Limited
Statutory Auditor

Mitchell Charlesworth (Audit) Limited is eligible to act as an auditor in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

THE CHESHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED

Statement of Financial Activities

Year ended March 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2024 £	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2023 £
Income							
Donations and legacies	**2**	680,267	35,104	715,371	671,117	156,845	827,962
Charitable activities	**3**	1,680,859	1,124,453	2,805,312	1,456,987	928,210	2,385,197
Investments	**4**	18,672		18,672	1,300	-	1,300
TOTAL		2,379,798	1,159,557	3,539,355	2,129,404	1,085,055	3,214,459
Expenditure							
Raising funds	**5**	308,224	80,461	388,685	302,359	47,956	350,315
Charitable activities	**6**	1,923,535	1,143,261	3,066,796	2,070,941	713,248	2,784,189
TOTAL		2,231,759	1,223,722	3,455,481	2,373,300	761,204	3,134,504
Net income/(expenditure)		148,039	(64,165)	83,874	(243,896)	323,851	79,955
Transfers between funds		305,688	(305,688)	-	39,165	(39,165)	-
Net movement in funds		453,727	(369,853)	83,874	(204,731)	284,686	79,955
Reconciliation of funds:							
Total funds brought forward		627,015	744,838	1,371,853	831,746	460,152	1,291,898
Total funds carried forward		1,080,742	374,985	1,455,727	627,015	744,838	1,371,853

THE CHESHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED

Balance Sheet
Year ended 31 March 2024

	Notes	Year ended 31 March 2024 £	£	Year ended 31 March 2023 £	£
Fixed Assets					
Tangible assets	**12**	592,144		594,503	
Heritage assets	**12**	316,046		316,046	
Total tangible assets		**908,190**		**910,549**	
Investments	**13**	100		100	
Total fixed assets			**908,290**		**910,649**
Current assets					
Stock	**14**	3,415		4,679	
Debtors	**15**	814,781		917,120	
Cash at bank and in hand		1,579,048		1,626,629	
Total current assets		**2,397,244**		**2,548,428**	
Liabilities					
Amounts falling due within one year	**17**	(1,849,807)		(1,987,224)	
Net current asset			**547,437**		**561,204**
Liabilities falling due in more than one year	**18**		-		(100,000)
Total net assets			1,455,727		1,371,853
The funds of the charity					
Unrestricted funds	**20**		1,080,742		627,015
Restricted income funds	**20**		374,985		744,838
Total funds			1,455,727		1,371,853

The notes on pages 25 to 41 form part of these financial statements.

Signed:
Bill Stothart

1 October 2024

Signed:
Jamie Richards

1 October 2024

THE CHESHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED

Statement of Cash Flow
Year ended 31 March 2024

	Notes	2024	2024	2023	2023
		£	£	£	£
Cash flows from operating activities:					
Net cash (used in)/provided by operating activities	**24**	(7,252)		626,127	
Cash flows from investing activities:					
Proceeds from the sale of property, plant and equipment		2,800		1,700	
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		(43,129)		(29,029)	
Net cash (used in) investing activities		(40,329)		(27,329)	
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period			(47,581)		598,798
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period			1,626,629		1,114,881
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period			1,579,048		1,626,629

Notes to the Accounts
Year ended 31 March 2024

1 Accounting policies

1.1 General information

The Cheshire Wildlife Trust Limited is a charity incorporated as a company limited by guarantee in England and Wales. The registered office is Bickley Hall Farm, Bickley, Malpas, Cheshire, SY14 8EF.

1.2 Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) – 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). The figures in the accounts are rounded to the nearest £ and the presentational currency is sterling.

Cheshire Wildlife Trust meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical costs or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes.

1.3 Fund accounting

1.3.1 Unrestricted funds

Unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

1.3.2 Restricted income funds

These funds are given to the Trust for a particular purpose to be used in accordance with the wishes of the donor.

1.3.3 Designated funds – projects

Designated funds are unrestricted funds set aside by the Trustees for specific projects. These projects may only be partly funded with the unfunded element set aside from general funds.

1.4 Incoming resources

The Trust was formed in 1962 by volunteers and continues to benefit from their support in both financial and non-financial ways. Examples of financial support include membership income, donations and legacies. These contributions are included in the accounts within voluntary income.

Voluntary income is received by way of donations, gifts, subscriptions and fundraising activities. The income is credited to the SOFA on the earlier of receipt or when the receipt is probable, the value can be ascertained, and the Trust gets the legal right to the income. Tax refunds on gift aid income are, however, accrued as earned.

Legacy income is included in the accounts when the amount due can be quantified with reasonable probability and the timing of the receipt is known.

Grants receivable which are not conditional on the delivery of a specific performance by the charity are recognised when the charity becomes unconditionally entitled to the grant. These are recognised as 'Income from donation and legacies'.

Grants receivable that relate to the delivery of a specific performance by the charity are recognised when the charity earns the right to consideration by its performance. A number of these grants are retrospective and where these are outstanding at the year end for work completed, they are accrued. These are recognised as 'Income from charitable activities'.

All grants receivable are charged to the SOFA in the period to which they relate.

1.5 Resources expended

All expenditure, other than that which is capitalised, is included in the SOFA, recognised on an accruals basis as a liability when incurred.

Charitable activities consist of the costs incurred in support of expenditure on the objects of the charity.

Costs of raising funds consists of expenditure associated with attracting voluntary income and the costs of fundraising and maintaining memberships.

Support costs relate to expenditure incurred in support of the charitable objects of the charity. These include the provision of premises, personnel, information technology, insurances and audit fees and have been allocated on the basis of direct staff wage costs.

Many of our volunteers provide non-financial support covering a wide range of activities from acting as Trustees to assisting in conservation activities including surveying, as well as providing administrative support. No amounts are included in the financial statements for services donated by volunteers.

Capital purchases are included in the accounts at cost. Capital purchases of less than £250 are expensed.

1.6 Irrecoverable VAT

The charity is partially exempt. Irrecoverable VAT is allocated to the appropriate cost categories.

1.7 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. As such the Trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

Notes to the Accounts
Year ended 31 March 2024

1.8 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less depreciation. Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset, except for land, over its estimated useful life:

Plant and machinery – 25% per annum reducing balance
Fixtures and fittings – 25% per annum reducing balance
Motor vehicles – 25% per annum reducing balance
Computer equipment – 33% per annum straight line basis

No depreciation is provided on freehold land.
Capitalised expenditure on leasehold improvements is depreciated over the remainder of the lease period.

1.9 Heritage assets

Heritage assets are nature reserves, capitalised at the date of addition. Any assets donated, where the cost is unknown, are capitalised at fair value the date of addition. Further details are disclosed within Note 12 to the accounts.

1.10 Stock and work in progress

General stock is valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value, where cost comprises purchase price.

1.11 Deferred income

Restricted funds received for projects which are substantially incomplete or not commenced at year end are recognised in the year in which they are received and carried forward in the balance of restricted funds. The restricted funds are reduced each year by an amount equal to any expenditure on such projects which have been incurred in the year.

1.12 Pension costs

The company operates a defined contribution scheme for the benefit of its employees. Contributions payable are included in the SOFA in the year they are payable.

1.13 Finance and operating leases

Rentals payable under operating leases are charged to the SOFA over the period in which the cost is incurred. The Trust has no finance leases.

1.14 Provisions

A provision is recognised when the Trust has a legal or constructive obligation as a result of past events and it is probable that an outflow of economic benefits will be required to settle the obligation.

1.15 Taxation

The Trust is a registered charity and is not liable to United Kingdom income tax or corporation tax on charitable activities.

1.16 Material uncertainties/judgements

There were no material uncertainties or judgements contained within the presented figures.

1.17 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand and deposits held at call with banks.

1.18 Financial instruments

The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the charity's balance sheet when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Derecognition of financial assets

Financial assets are derecognised only when the contractual rights to the cash flows from the asset expire or are settled, or when the company transfers the financial asset and substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership to another entity, or if some significant risks and rewards of ownership are retained but control of the asset has transferred to another party that is able to sell the asset in its entirety to an unrelated third party.

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans, are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

Notes to the Accounts
Year ended 31 March 2024

2 Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2024	Unrestricted	Restricted	2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Donations & legacies	87,848	310	88,158	113,796	-	113,796
Subscriptions	532,854		532,854	509,290	-	509,290
Appeal income	59,565	34,794	94,359	48,031	156,845	204,876
	680,267	**35,104**	**715,371**	**671,117**	**156,845**	**827,962**

3 Charitable activities

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2024	Unrestricted	Restricted	2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Fundraising	35,361	40	35,401	50,010	-	50,010
Grants	481,209	1,124,413	1,605,622	215,064	912,419	1,127,483
Earned income	1,164,289	-	1,164,289	1,181,629	13,597	1,195,226
Other sales				10,284	2,194	12,478
	1,680,859	**1,124,453**	**2,805,312**	**1,456,987**	**928,210**	**2,385,197**

Notes to the Accounts
Year ended 31 March 2024

4 Investment income

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2024	Unrestricted	Restricted	2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Interest received	18,672	-	18,672	1,300	-	1,300
	18,672	**-**	**18,672**	**1,300**	**-**	**1,300**

5 Expenditure on raising funds

	Donations & legacies	Fundraising	Total 2024	Donations & legacies	Fundraising	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Staff costs	7,642	216,191	223,833	8,799	176,520	185,319
Membership costs	-	55,094	55,094	-	49,763	49,763
Other direct costs	187	39,626	39,813	302	50,459	50,761
Support costs (Note 7)	2,388	67,557	69,945	3,061	61,411	64,472
	10,217	**378,486**	**388,685**	**12,162**	**338,153**	**350,315**

Notes to the Accounts
Year ended 31 March 2024

6 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Conservation & reserves management	Community engagement	Total 2024	Conservation & reserves management	Community engagement	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Staff costs	835,308	562,976	1,398,284	851,129	492,542	1,343,671
Reserves costs	935,189	54,636	989,825	668,847	103,087	771,934
Motor & travel	27,684	16,534	44,218	41,473	25,361	66,834
Professional fees	13,248	2,293	15,541	8,144	-	8,144
Sundries	126,789	26,975	153,764	43,719	39,928	83,647
Depreciation	26,569	9,651	36,220	35,506	6,988	42,494
Support costs (Note 7)	256,243	172,701	428,944	296,109	171,356	467,465
	2,221,030	**845,766**	**3,066,796**	**1,944,927**	**839,262**	**2,784,189**

Notes to the Accounts
Year ended 31 March 2024

7 Support costs

	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£
Training	11,666	12,872
Insurance	30,716	33,542
Light & heat	9,955	8,051
Repairs & maintenance	16,131	4,056
Legal & professional	25,444	17,804
Staff & volunteer expenses	4,419	24,615
Motor expenses	718	1,602
Telecoms	7,101	9,025
Post & stationery	2,903	4,673
Sundry expenses	7,824	5,741
RSWT contribution	24,160	25,920
Bank charges	1,910	2,639
Depreciation	6,615	8,565
Admin salaries	246,104	240,092
Audit fees	8,100	7,700
Computer expenses	27,359	31,405
Premises costs	63,140	103,836
Recruitment	500	1,390
Irrecoverable VAT	14,124	9,528
Doubtful debts	(10,000)	(21,119)
	498,889	**531,937**

Allocation of support costs

	2024	2023
	£	£
Raising funds	69,945	64,472
Charitable activities	428,944	467,465
	498,889	**531,937**

Notes to the Accounts
Year ended 31 March 2024

8 Net movement in funds

The net movement in funds is after charging/(crediting):

	Note	2024	2023
		£	£
Auditor's remuneration		8,100	7,700
Operating lease payments		1,812	1,812
Profit on disposal of fixed assets		(904)	(658)
Depreciation	12	43,592	51,966

9 Staff costs

	2024	2023
	£	£
Wages & salaries	1,553,970	1,542,442
Social security costs	133,040	130,754
Pension costs	181,211	79,957
	1,868,221	**1,753,153**

The average number of full time equivalent employees, analysed by function, was:

	2024	2023
Charitable activities	39	38
Generating funds	10	9
Management & administration	6	6
	55	**53**

One employee received total employment benefits (excluding employer pension costs) of between £60,000 and £70,000 during the year (2023: one employee between £60,000 and £70,000)

Total remuneration (excluding employer pension costs) paid to key personnel during the year totalled £194,200 (2023: £196,500).

Notes to the Accounts
Year ended 31 March 2024

10 Pension costs

The trust operates a defined contributions pension scheme. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the trust in the independently administered fund. The pension costs charge represents contributions payable by the company to the fund and amounted to £181,211 (2023: £79,957).

11 Related party transactions

No Trustee or any person connected with the trust received any remuneration from the trust during the year (2023: £nil).

During the year Trustees were reimbursed travel expenses of £nil (2023: £nil).

Notes to the Accounts
Year ended 31 March 2024

12 Tangible assets

	Heritage assets £	Land & buildings £	Plant & machinery £	Fixtures & fittings £	Motor vehicles £	Computer equipment £	SFP entitlement £	Total £
Cost or donated value								
01 April 2023	316,046	581,379	126,142	40,803	115,749	84,398	10,258	1,274,775
Additions	-	-	18,810	1,750	7,500	15,069	-	43,129
Disposals	-	-	-	-	(8,695)	-	-	(8,695)
At 31 March 2024	**316,046**	**581,379**	**144,952**	**42,553**	**114,554**	**99,467**	**10,258**	**1,309,209**
Depreciation								
01 April 2023	-	113,684	89,420	30,672	53,031	67,161	10,258	364,226
Charge for the year	-	-	10,236	2,533	16,483	14,340	-	43,592
Disposals	-	-	-	-	(6,799)	-	-	(6,799)
At 31 March 2024	**-**	**113,684**	**99,656**	**33,205**	**62,715**	**81,501**	**10,258**	**401,019**
Net book value								
At 31 March 2024	**316,046**	**467,695**	**45,296**	**9,348**	**51,839**	**17,966**	**-**	**908,190**
At 31 March 2023	316,046	467,695	36,722	10,131	62,718	17,237	-	910,549

Notes to the Accounts
Year ended 31 March 2024

Heritage assets

The focus of the Trust is the protection and enhancement of wildlife habitats and biodiversity within Cheshire. As such the Trust owns and maintains a number of nature reserves that fall within the definition of heritage assets in accordance with FRS 102.

The Trustees consider that, owing to the intrinsic nature of the Trust's reserves, conventional valuation approaches lack sufficient reliability and that, even if valuations could be obtained, the costs would be onerous compared with the additional benefits derived by the Trust and the users of the accounts. As a result, these assets have been capitalised at cost and, being land, have not been depreciated.

Nature reserves acquired by gift are not capitalised unless a reliable enough reference value of the deemed cost of the asset is available without undue expense to the Trust.

The costs of maintaining heritage assets are expensed through the Statement of Financial Activities when incurred as part of the Trust's charitable activities.

Five-year summary of heritage asset transactions

	2023/24	2022/23	2021/22	2020/21	2019/20
	£	£	£	£	£
Additions	-	-	-	-	66,230
Purchases	-	-	-	-	-
Donations	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**66,230**

Capital commitments

At 31 March 2024, the Trust had a capital commitment of £209,445 for the purchase of land (2023: £nil).

13 Investments

Cheshire Wildlife Trust Limited owns the entire share capital (1 ordinary share of £100) in its subsidiary, Cheshire Ecological Services Limited, which is incorporated in England and Wales.

The subsidiary was dormant for the full financial year and as such the financial statements presented for the Trust have not been consolidated as they are immaterial to the understanding of the results of the Trust.

The net assets of Cheshire Ecological Services Ltd are £100.

Notes to the Accounts
Year ended 31 March 2024

14 Stock

	2024	2023
	£	£
Stock	3,415	4,679
	3,415	**4,679**

15 Debtors

	2024	2023
	£	£
Trade debtors	267,108	545,748
Prepayments and accrued income	338,228	371,372
Other debtors	209,445	-
	814,781	**917,120**

Trade debtors is stated net of a provision of £8,078 (2023: £18,078)

16 Taxation

The company is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

17 Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2024	2023
	£	£
Trade creditors	284,473	161,626
Deferred income	1,224,246	1,171,053
Taxation & social security	87,273	231,253
Accruals	253,815	234,880
Loan	-	185,268
Other creditors	-	3,144
	1,849,807	**1,987,224**

Notes to the Accounts
Year ended 31 March 2024

18 Creditors: Amounts falling due after one year

	2024	2023
	£	£
Loans	-	100,000
	-	**100,000**

19 Commitments under operating leases

At 31 March 2024, the charity had outstanding commitments for future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases, which fall due as follows:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Land & buildings		
Within one year	67,556	67,556
Two to five years	-	67,556
Greater than five years	-	-
Total	**67,556**	**135,112**
Other		
Within one year	1,812	1,812
Two to five years	2,397	4,209
Greater than five years		
Total	**4,209**	**6,021**

20 Analysis of restricted funds

Restricted funds represent monies (including donations and grants) which have been received for specific purposes as outlined by the donor. The Trust has a number of such funds and for the purposes of statutory reporting these have been grouped together under the four headings below.

Transfers out of restricted funds are made where a project is completed and no funding is required to be returned to the funder. Transfers into funds are made when a project is completed and the shortfall in funding is made up from the Trust's general funds.

Notes to the Accounts
Year ended 31 March 2024

	As at 1 April 2022	Income	Expenditure	Transfer between funds	As at 31 March 2023	Income	Expenditure	Transfer between funds	As at 31 March 2024
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Restricted income funds									
Capital grants	145,457	7,775	(3,957)	(15,823)	133,452		(6,787)	(133,578)	(6,913)
Community engagement funds	135,126	400,001	(345,245)	(19,744)	170,352	286,552	(184,482)	(44,886)	227,382
Conservation & reserves	179,569	677,279	(412,002)	(3,598)	441,036	873,005	(1,032,453)	(127,224)	154,517
	460,152	1,085,055	(761,204)	(39,165)	744,838	1,159,557	(1,223,722)	(305,688)	374,986

Capital grants represents grants received to fund capital purchases including land for habitat creation.
Community engagement funds and conservation & reserves funds represent grants received to carry out the Trust's charitable activities.

Funding has been granted by a variety of organisations including:

- William Dean Trust
- National Lottery Heritage Fund
- Defra
- Severn Trent Water
- Ecological Restoration Fund
- Rewilding Britain
- Biffa Award
- Garfield Weston Foundation
- People's Postcode Lottery
- Westminster Foundation

Notes to the Accounts
Year ended 31 March 2024

Unrestricted funds	As at 1 April 2022	Income	Expenditure	Transfer between funds	As at 31 March 2023	Income	Expenditure	Transfer between funds	As at 31 March 2024
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
General fund	670,552	2,129,404	(2,373,300)	39,165	465,821	2,379,798	(2,231,759)	178,464	792,324
Designated fund	161,194	-	-	-	161,194	-	-	127,224	288,418
	831,746	2,129,404	(2,373,300)	39,165	627,015	2,3,79,798	(2,231,759)	305,688	1,080,742

Notes to the Accounts
Year ended 31 March 2024

21 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2024 Total
	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	575,878	16,266	592,144
Heritage assets	316,046	-	316,046
Stock and work in progress	3,415	-	3,415
Investments	100	-	100
Debtors	526,790	287,991	814,781
Cash at bank and in hand	847,506	731,542	1,579,048
Liabilities	(1,188,992)	(660,815)	(1,849,807)
Total net assets	1,080,742	374,986	1,455,727

22 Share capital

The charity has no share capital being a company limited by guarantee to contribute an amount not exceeding £2 per member in the event of a winding up situation.

23 Control

The charity is controlled by the Trustees.

24 Reconciliation of net (expenditure)/income to net cash flow from operating activities

	2024	2023
	£	£
Net income for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)	83,874	79,955
Depreciation	43,592	51,966
(Profit) on the sale of fixed assets	(904)	(658)
Decrease in stock	1,264	174
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	102,339	(118,715)
(Decrease)/increase in creditors	(237,417)	613,405
Net cash (outflow)/inflow from operating activity	(7,252)	626,127

	As at 1 April 2022	Movement in year	As at 31 March 2023	Movement in year	As at 31 March 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
Cash at bank and in hand	1,027,831	598,798	1,626,629	(47,581)	1,579,048

THE CHESHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED

England & Wales - Charity number 214927

Accounts

Charity Registration No. 214927
Company Registration No. 738693 (England & Wales)

THE CHESHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

THE CHESHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATION

Trustees	B Stothart (Chair) P Rushton C Neame S Judd S Williams C Swarbrick S Ridsdale (resigned November 2022) J Roscoe R Collins J Richards
Secretary	Charlotte Harris
Chief Executive	Charlotte Harris
Registered office	Bickley Hall Farm Bickley Malpas Cheshire SY14 8EF
Charity number	214927
Company number	738693
Auditors	Mitchell Charlesworth (Audit) Limited Chartered Accountants Statutory Auditor 3rd Floor 44 Peter Street Manchester M2 5GP
Bankers	CAF Bank 25 Kings Hill Avenue Kings Hill West Malling Kent ME19 4JQ
Solicitors	Gough-Thomas & Scott 8 Willow Street Ellesmere Shropshire SY12 0AQ

THE CHESHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED

CONTENTS PAGE

	Page
Chair's Report	4
Trustees' Report	5 – 18
Independent Auditor's Report	19 – 23
Statement of Financial Activities	24
Balance Sheet	25
Statement of Cash Flow	26
Accounting Policies and Notes to the Accounts	27 – 42

THE CHESHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED

CHAIR'S REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Cheshire Wildlife Trust works for people, wildlife and nature in Cheshire, Wirral, Stockport, Trafford, Tameside, Warrington and Halton. We now have about 20,000 supporters, champions and volunteers and many thousands more followers who believe that we need nature and nature needs us. I am proud of the achievements and performance of the Trust in 2022/23 which are set out in this report.

Last year, 2021/22, was a transition year out of the Covid-19 restrictions and financial turnover was c. £2.7m. In 2022/23 CWT has again grown its impact and grown its turnover by 20% to £3.1m. The Trust returned a surplus for the seventh successive year and continues to be financially sound. A further 1,350ha of land was protected for nature as a result of our work and 329 landowners received advice to enhance the management of 8,217ha for wildlife. Overall, we connected with more than 250,000 people and inspired 24,000 actions for nature including the creation of 96ha of new habitat.

Last year I commented on the purchase of Saltersford Farm in August 2021. I am delighted that in just two years, using a blend of public and private finance from different sources, we have secured enough funding for the purchase and management of the land for the next 30 years, and started to allow nature to recover and thrive there.

CWT continues to seek to acquire more, bigger, better and more joined up reserves to provide space for nature's recovery, and also to influence others to manage their land in the interests of nature, engaging with Government at all levels, as well as farmers and landowners.

I also commented on the CWT beaver reintroduction in 2020, in an enclosure in Delamere Forest. It is a brilliant story to tell people that beaver kits were born for the first time in 400 years in Cheshire in 2022! We are working to obtain a licence for wild release of beavers in the future, and I hope we can achieve that in the next few years.

Our report into the nature impacts of HS2 from London to Manchester is being used to lobby for change at the highest levels and we mobilised 7,000 local residents in Cheshire East to petition the Council against developing a protected peat bog.

Our network of champions grew to more than 200. 44 schools joined the Wilder Schools network and we helped more than 40 community groups take action for nature where they live. We planted more than 5,000 trees in community spaces and 3,650 people in Cheshire completed our 30 Days Wild challenge. Every resident in Knutsford and Congleton now lives within a 10-minute walk of a wild space and residents in Stockport are now doing more to protect swifts and hedgehogs.

We continue to face a biodiversity crisis and a climate crisis. Cheshire Wildlife Trust, and Wildlife Trusts nationally, have a critical role in engaging and energising people to play an active part in combatting these challenges and enabling nature's recovery. Your continued support is both valued and essential.

We need more space for wildlife, and more people on nature's side.

Bill Stothart Bill Stothart
Chair Date: 21 September 2023

TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

The Trustees have pleasure in presenting their report together with the audited accounts for the year ended 31 March 2023. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with Charities SORP (FRS 102) 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).

Overview

Cheshire Wildlife Trust is the only charity dedicated to the conservation of wildlife and wild places in the Cheshire region.

Formed in 1962 by volunteers, Cheshire Wildlife Trust is one of 46 independent charities, which together form the UK-wide Wildlife Trust movement. The Trust benefits from the support of over 17,000 members and over 300 volunteers, is governed by a nine-strong Board of Trustees and currently employs 64 dedicated staff. We are passionate about securing a future for local wildlife on land and at sea and work as part of the Wildlife Trust movement to influence decision making for nature at the highest level nationally.

Cheshire Wildlife Trust Limited is required by charity and company law to act within the objects of its Memorandum of Association, which are as follows:

1. To promote and deliver the conservation, protection, improvement and expansion of the physical and natural environment, for the benefit of wildlife and the public of the United Kingdom; particularly in the Vice County 58 (the traditional County Palatine of Chester) and adjacent areas.

2. To advance the education and engagement of the public in the principles and practice of:
    a. Biodiversity conservation and enhancement;
    b. Sustainable living and development;
    c. Nature-based health and wellbeing initiatives; and
    d. Natural capital, and its protection, restoration and value to society.

3. To promote research in all branches of relevant scientific study and to publish the useful results thereof.

In 2020 we launched our 2030 Strategy: Wilder Cheshire. The full strategy is available on our website https://www.cheshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/2030strategy on the following page.

Public benefit statement

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duties in section 4 of the Charities Act 2006 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit, 'Charities and Public Benefit'. The Trust's public benefit is enshrined in its charitable objects.

Our vision is for a Wilder Cheshire

Our mission is to bring wildlife back – for everyone, everywhere – and we urgently need your help.

By 2030, we must see nature recovering, wildlife returning and ecosystems restored. If we wait until the impacts of environmental breakdown are upon us – that is, until we witness the rising sea levels, personally suffer the effects of pollution or notice the lack of birdsong – it will be too late.

Our strategy is focused on tackling three crises:

1. Wildlife is in crisis – Let's fight for wildlife's recovery.

Outcome: At least 30% of the land and sea in Cheshire needs to be managed for nature so that missing wildlife will return. We want to see more and better connected wild spaces and the pressures on the environment reduced.

Nature today is not normal. Since the 1930s, species-rich wildflower meadows have become virtually extinct; since the 1950s, we have lost over half the abundance of all species across the UK; since the 1970s, there's been a 60% fall in vertebrates globally. Elsewhere, recent reports tell us that insect populations have collapsed by 75% between 1990 and 2014. In the UK, we have lost half of our farmland birds in one generation. Cheshire is not immune to these trends and less than 10% of our region is protected for wildlife.

---

2. Climate is in crisis – Let's make nature part of the solution.

Outcome: Resilient nature will help combat climate change. We need more carbon to be locked up in our plants and soils and to restore broken ecosystems.

We are facing a climate crisis and nature is a big part of the solution. Healthy ecosystems and restored habitats will help us play our part in delivering the UN's Paris Agreement to tackle the climate emergency. Our peatlands, woodland and wetlands, if restored, can protect us. These habitats store carbon, cool our towns and help control flooding as well as supporting our economy and wellbeing. Our utility bills are higher because we need to clean our water. Our food bills are rising because farming is not sustainable. The costs of flood damage are devastating where nature's defences fail.

---

3. We are in crisis – Let's have more people on nature's side.

Outcome: Our wellbeing and economy relies on a healthy, natural environment. We need everyone to be passionate about wildlife and at least 1 in 4 people to be taking action for nature's recovery.

Our disconnect with nature is snowballing with each passing generation. New generations grow up ever more distant from the natural world. They do not miss it when it disappears, and so it continues to slip away unnoticed. When we lose our connection with nature, mental health problems, obesity and isolation rise. We need at least 1 in 4 people to be taking visible and meaningful action for nature in order to achieve a social tipping point. We need caring for and protecting nature to be a normal part of everyday life and the decisions we take. Only then will we start to see nature recover.

Strategic report

The information below, including the review of achievements and performance, financial review, risk management statement and summary of future plans, forms the Strategic Report for the purpose of the Companies Act 2006.

Achievements and performance

Our charitable objects are the drivers behind our 2030 strategic framework. Our achievements and performance are reported against each of the three strategic outcomes and we also report on a fourth underpinning objective to ensure that Cheshire Wildlife Trust is effective and resilient.

Wildlife and climate are in crisis

In the year ended 31 March 2023, a further 1,350ha of land was protected for nature as a result of our work; 329 landowners received advice to enhance the management of 8,217ha for wildlife, we directly managed 728ha and we created 96ha of new habitat.

Outcome: 30% of land in Cheshire is good for nature

We continued the restoration of our newest nature reserve at Saltersford Farm, creating 6ha of wildflower meadows and planting 6.5ha of mixed deciduous woodland the help of 80 dedicated volunteers.

As a result of increased capacity, we doubled the number of landowners and farmers we advised and assisted. This resulted in 39ha of woodland creation through our Trees for Climate scheme and 24ha of new wildflower meadow through our Pollinating Cheshire project.

We started a Defra-funded Tests & Trials project looking at payment mechanisms for farmers to integrate regenerative agriculture and ecological recovery on their land.

Outcome: 30% of land for nature is well managed

We reviewed our nature reserve management plans and dedicated resources to grant funding for habitat management including new wildflower margins, ponds and shallow wading bird scrapes at Gowy Meadows, new hedgerows and ponds at Bickley Hall Farm, new boardwalks at Danes Moss and Owley Wood and enhancements to our wildflower meadows at our Swettenham Valley and Saltersford Farm nature reserves.

Biodiversity Net Gain and carbon payments were used to create and enhance the habitats on three of our nature reserves: grassland restoration and woodland creation at Saltersford Farm, biodiversity enhancements at Kerridge Hill, and woodland ground flora enhancement at Owley Wood.

Support from Forestry England and volunteers enabled us to continue the management of Delamere's mosses.

Our partnership with Tarmac to manage Crown Farm Quarry entered its fifth year. The wildflower meadows provided donor seed for sites across Cheshire and we introduced cattle grazing to aid seed dispersal and increase habitat diversity for invertebrates.

We further enhanced Red Rocks Marsh in partnership with Royal Liverpool Golf Club by managing the natterjack toad pools and planting sea holly to encourage grayling butterflies.

We increased the area of land managed for wildlife at Ince Marshes on behalf of Protos to just over 50ha and continue to see the site provide a refuge for water voles, important breeding habitat for barn owls and a feeding site for marsh harriers.

Outcome: Declining species are recovering

We established the South West Peak Curlew Recovery Partnership and launched a citizen science approach to reversing their decline through monitoring, wader-friendly farming and community champions.

We confirmed that the population of white-faced darter, introduced by CWT to Delamere Forest in 2016, has now spread to several other nearby restored mosses.

Summer 2022 saw the first two beaver kits born in the county in over 400 years. Our partnership with the University of Liverpool to monitor their impacts has revealed that both water quality and biodiversity have improved since their reintroduction to Hatch Mere in 2020. We began work on a licence for wild release of beavers.

The Gowy Water Vole Recovery Project surveyed their current range, threats and the availability of habitat in the catchment, with the University of Liverpool helping to answer questions about population genetics.

At Red Rocks Marsh we adapted the management to help natterjack toads cope with spring tides and hot weather during the breeding season and volunteers helped plant sea holly grown at Chester Zoo to boost grayling butterfly numbers.

We trained 75 people in citizen science to help monitor species such as swifts and hedgehogs and helped schools to use trail cameras.

Outcome: 30% of land is protected for nature

We surveyed 150ha of Local Wildlife Sites and provided management advice to their owners.

We mapped important areas for wildlife across 4,525 ha for four Neighbourhood Plans, protecting 450ha of wildlife corridors in planning policy.

We influenced planning outcomes for 202ha and protected 115ha of the Mersey Estuary Local Wildlife Site by succeeding in getting it removed from the Local Plan.

We provided training and advice to approximately 270 local authority planners, ecologists, developers and Wildlife Trust staff to influence the roll-out of Biodiversity Net Gain, ensuring good practice is embedded from the very start.

We published a comprehensive review of HS2's No Net Loss of Biodiversity calculations between London and Crewe. We raised our concerns with the Transport Select Committee, and HS2's Principal Advisor from Natural England met with us on multiple occasions to discuss our findings. We also voiced our concerns on local and national media, securing a mention on Radio 4's Today programme. We believe our findings have led directly to HS2 changing their assessment methodology for Phase 2b (Crewe to Manchester).

Our plans for April 2023–March 2024:

- Acquire more nature-poor land for restoration.
- Create 100ha of new space for wildlife.
- Improve management of 2,000ha through farm advice.
- Ensure our nature reserves remain well managed and provide refuge to declining species.
- Influence local plans and policies to ensure they deliver the best outcomes for nature.
- Help reverse the declines of our most threatened wildlife including curlews, water voles, swifts and natterjack toads.

We are in crisis

In FY23, our communications and engagement programmes reached 259,161 people and inspired over 24,000 actions for nature.

Outcome: People in Cheshire are more connected to nature

We engaged almost 10,000 children and families through our sessions and events at school grounds, on nature reserves and in the community. Activities included Family Woodland days, Nature Tots, Wilderness Town Tots and Wildlife Friendly Farming Walks, which all help build a connection with nature and for some provide their first ever encounter with wildlife.

We engaged 174 people and planted 5,125 trees in community spaces across Cheshire East. Alongside this, we planted 140 fruit trees across four new community orchards. Three of those orchards were of 40 trees, marking 40 years of foster care within Cheshire East Council.

Our Wild Work Day offer engaged 20 people from three businesses and has given us a base from which we can build a more inclusive, broader corporate offer for the year ahead.

Outcome: More people are aware of the nature and climate crisis and what they can do to help

Our social media following grew to 34,183, meaning we are able to reach even more people with our nature messaging and with things they can do to help. We launched Wild Life Hacks in January, encouraging people to save time and money, as well as the environment.

A total of 3,650 people took part in 30 Days Wild, doing small things every day throughout June to notice nature where they live, work, play and learn.

Every Wednesday, 7,320 people received Wild Cheshire into their inbox, with over 500 each week clicking through to read, watch and learn about the topic in more detail.

We delivered in-person assemblies on the nature and climate crisis to over 3,600 children as well as digital assemblies watched by 29 primary schools, resulting in 7,829 pledges and 1,957 direct actions on school grounds. Two schools in Stockport were inspired to raise money for Cheshire Wildlife Trust, whilst others made bird boxes and held awareness days.

We engaged over 9,000 people at events, enabled almost 4,000 actions for nature and recorded more than 500 pledges. We met people from across the spectrum of nature connection, from those at the RHS Tatton flower show who are already doing amazing things in their gardens for wildlife, to families in the heart of Crewe who have no outside space at home. Our place-based events for our projects in Stockport and Crewe focused on inspiring people about their local wildlife and building community connections.

Outcome: Everyone has access to urban wild space

We are making wild spaces more accessible. In Congleton and Knutsford every resident now lives within a 10-minute walk of either a restored wildflower meadow, a community orchard, or a newly planted woodland, and 200,000 now have a native wildflower meadow within their town.

Nextdoor Nature in Crewe engaged 4,500 people through events and community listening, helping us align nature-based solutions to local problems. We worked with five communities to transform spaces around the town and make them better for nature.

Rewilding Stockport supported 2,800 people through a growing network of community groups, businesses, schools and individuals in Stockport who are taking action for nature. We are a key stakeholder in Stockport's Green Network and we mapped 27 wasted spaces and supported seven groups on their transformation journey, including GRIT Studios.

We made 25 school grounds more nature friendly by sowing 11 wildflower meadows, planting seven fruit orchards, building willow domes, sensory gardens and raised beds, as well as creating four ponds. This has improved the biodiversity of the grounds, enhanced children's access to nature and provided meaningful learning opportunities to more than 5,000 young people.

Outcome: A network of champions & warriors are empowered to take action for nature

A total of 17,077 individuals took action for nature through their continued membership support of Cheshire Wildlife Trust.

We enabled over 40 groups to inspire their communities with everything from simple habitat management advice through to helping residents protect a swift colony in Warrington through Local Wildlife Site designation. Our 'community organising' approach is helping to bring people together around a common cause by reaching out, listening and connecting to people to build a collective power.

We launched our 'Wilder Champion' network, supporting and connecting over 200 individuals through a dedicated Facebook group, newsletter and website.

We created 19 new guides and advice packs to support our champions, in response to their needs. The guides range from information on how to find funding for a project, to how to set up a community group, to transforming a space on a budget, as well as how to embed 'nature connection' approaches into their activities.

We worked with 23 farmers across the Southern Meres and Mosses area of Cheshire on a Defra-funded project exploring how a blended finance model for future farm payments could be structured across the farmed landscape.

Our 'Wilder Schools' network grew to 44 schools, acting as a hub of expertise, ideas and learning resources for those committed to taking action for nature.

Our 10 Young Leaders succeeded in embedding their National Park City vision into the Chester One City Plan and worked with the local record centre to bring the international City Nature Challenge to Chester, encouraging people to record their wildlife sightings. They also transformed two spaces in Chester.

Our campaigns influenced decision makers to make the right choices for nature. We challenged a plan to build nearly 1,000 house units on Danes Moss North Local Wildlife Site and over 7,000 Cheshire East residents signed our petition. We worked with community forums to shape and support local campaigns and became members of the Chester Sustainability Forum and Warrington Climate Emergency Commission.

Our plans for April 2023–March 2024:

- Inspire more individuals to take action though social media, events, toolkits and training days and support at least 420 champions.
- Mobilise 10,000 people to take action through campaigning. We'll broaden our campaigning work to support more local groups, with Saves Danes Moss showing the success of this approach.
- Continue our place-based projects, Nextdoor Nature and Rewilding Stockport, as they gain momentum in creating rich spaces in the heart of urban towns, benefitting both people and wildlife.
- Grow our Wilder Schools Network to at least 100 and provide inspirational family events.

We are effective and resilient

Below is a summary of our programme to ensure that CWT has the financial resources it needs, is well run and has a high-performing and valued staff and volunteer team.

Outcome: CWT is financially sustainable

Our total income increased by 20% from £2.7m in FY22 to £3.1m in FY23 and we returned an overall surplus of £79,955, which was higher than last year due to a generous legacy donation. This is the seventh successive year in which the Trust has managed its expenditure within budgetary limits.

Earned income grew by a further 3% from £1,165,280 to £1,195,226. During the year we continued to secure new contracts for habitat creation and land management advice, including working with Natural England to provide baseline surveys for their Lost Wetlands initiative, the National Trust to provide advice, guidance and delivery of wildflower meadows across a number of their properties in Cheshire, United Utilities to provide advice and practical solutions to prevent water quality issues from farming in our Pennine Fringe Living Landscape area, and Canal & River Trust to assist them in enhancing the wildlife value of the National Waterways museum in Ellesmere Port.

Income from grants grew significantly from £708,579 to £1,127,482, secured from a range of sources including National Lottery Heritage Fund, People's Postcode Lottery and a number of charitable trusts. Grant funding enabled the continuation of existing engagement activities.

Income from supporters remained steady at £509,290 (2022: £509,134), demonstrating that even during a cost-of-living crisis, supporting environmental causes remained high on the public agenda. The total number of members increased from 16,923 to 17,077. Income from donations and legacies fell slightly to £113,796 and we raised £204,876 through appeals thanks to the generous support given to our '3x3' nature reserve acquisition campaign.

Outcome: CWT is well governed

During the year we have further refined our governance to ensure that our Board of Trustees operates effectively and receives quality and timely information on which to base decisions.

Attracting and retaining a talented workforce is key to our success and this year we have made improvements to staff benefits including pensions, pay and provision for flexible working.

Outcome: CWT is an effective member of the Wildlife Trust federation

CWT continued to play its full part in the federation. The CEO and Chair took part in national conferences and working groups on a range of strategic topics.

CWT worked closely with North Wales Wildlife Trust to deliver the Our Dee Estuary project and with Cumbria and Lancashire Wildlife Trusts to campaign for better protection of the Irish Sea.

We provided training and advice to other Wildlife Trusts on biodiversity net gain and collaborated with Warwickshire and Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire Wildlife Trusts on a Government-backed Natural Environment Investment Readiness project. We also worked closely with our neighbours at Lancashire Wildlife Trust to progress nature recovery plans for Greater Manchester.

CWT's Evidence and Planning team influenced at the highest level by leading the collation and analysis of evidence for a Wildlife Trust report into the impact of HS2 on nature. We presented our findings at a House of Commons Select Committee and attracted national media attention.

Our plans for April 2023–March 2024:

- Further grow our resources and ensure that we remain financially sustainable.
- Create a new evaluation framework to help us measure progress towards our strategic goals.
- Continue to improve staff terms and conditions so that we can attract and retain the best talent.
- Aim to further diversify our Board of Trustees by trialling a more inclusive recruitment process.
- Continue to contribute to the progression of the Wildlife Trust federation through working groups and partnerships.
- Further strengthen the Trust's balance sheet through prudent investment in land.
- Ensure that our governance remains effective and fit for purpose.

Financial review

Review of the year

Cheshire Wildlife Trust's financial position remained stable during the year with unrestricted income for the year of £2,129,404 (2022: £1,973,586) and restricted income £1,085,055 (2022: £715,250).

Expenditure for the year totalled £3,134,504 (2022: £2,677,971).

Principal funding sources

The largest source of unrestricted income is now from contracts and commercial income, although membership subscriptions continue to provide a major part of the Trust's ongoing unrestricted funding. The main sources of funding for the charity were:

Contracts and earned income	37.2 %
Grants	35.1%
Membership subscriptions (including gift aid)	15.8 %
Appeals and sponsorships	6.4 %
Donations and legacies	3.5 %
Fundraising	1.6 %
Other income	0.4 %

Generating funds

We receive approximately 27.3% of our financial support from individuals through a range of activities. Trust membership is the foundation of everything we do and we endeavour to grow this each year. The overall number of members at 31 March was 17,077. This is attributable to an increased public interest in environmental concerns combined with an increased CWT profile and the use of alternative recruitment methods such as digital conversion and direct mail. Members not only provide vital funding which enables the positive work for wildlife but they also represent the collective voice of people who care about wildlife. This is critically important in helping the Trust to stand up for wildlife and get our message across to key decision makers.

We also aim to build lasting support from institutional bodies, including our corporate members, statutory grant funders and charitable trusts. Some of our charitable activities also generate income, especially from land management, ecological advice and education services.

In our activities, we receive extensive assistance from our volunteers, who are at the heart of what the Trust does and achieves; without their help our work would be greatly diminished. Volunteers founded the Trust in 1962 and they are still fundamental to our work. They carry out a variety of roles, from practical conservation and field surveys, to support for office and education activities. All the volunteers are doing vital jobs that allow us to maintain our core business.

Financial reserves

Total funds	£1,371,853
Less restricted	£744,838
Less designated	£161,194
Unrestricted funds	£465,821
Unrestricted cash and investments	£533,568

The Council has examined the Trust's requirements for financial reserves in the light of the main risks to the organisation in order to:

- provide sufficient cash liquidity for operational effectiveness of the Trust, and
- protect the continuity of the work undertaken by the Trust.

The Trust has targeted a level of unrestricted cash and investments of four months' expenditure by the Trust (excluding that on grant-funded projects). At March 2023 the Trust had cash reserves which are sufficient to cover 3.9 months' unrestricted expenditure. The Trust is looking to increase this cover to safeguard both the operational and financial sustainability of the Trust as the organisation grows.

Investment policy

Any surplus cash, over and above the amount required to support one month's working capital requirement, is held in fixed term deposit accounts at competitive rates.

Risk management

The Chief Executive maintains a strategic risk register which is regularly reviewed by Council. The Council, in conjunction with the Chief Executive, works to both minimise and mitigate strategic risks.

The current main strategic risks are:

- The continued availability of grants should the UK enter recession.
- The effect of rising inflation on costs for the Trust and our staff.
- Financial reserves which fall below the four-month target and associated cash flow sensitivities.
- Continued decline of the UK's natural environment combined with insufficient societal and political support for our cause.

- Uncertainties around the UK's decision to leave the EU and the impact this could have on income streams, wildlife protection and land management in the medium and longer term.

Structure, governance and management

Governing document

The Cheshire Wildlife Trust Limited (CWT) is a charitable company limited by guarantee and as such has no share capital. It was incorporated on 24 October 1962 and registered as a charity on 20 February 1963. The company was established under a Memorandum of Association which established the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed under its Articles of Association (as amended in 2020).

Recruitment and appointment of Trustees

The Trustees are members of CWT who, having been nominated and seconded by other members, have been duly elected by members at the Annual General Meeting (AGM). Under the CWT Articles, such elected members are known as Council Members.

Council Members are registered as Directors of the company under company law and are also registered as charity trustees with the Charity Commission.

In compliance with the Articles of Association adopted on 14 November 2020, Directors are appointed to the Board for terms of three years. On expiry of the three-year term the Director shall resign unless re-elected by an ordinary resolution of the charity. A Director may not serve on the Board for more than three consecutive terms of three years.

Additional Council Members may be co-opted during the period. They must retire at the next AGM, though they may stand for re-election.

The Council aims to have a representative mix of skills from various sectors of the community. The current mix of men and women, living across the area served by the Trust, includes expertise from backgrounds in the public, private and voluntary sectors. In addition to their knowledge and interest in wildlife, Council Members bring to the Trust managerial and organisational skills in policy, strategy, financial and legal matters.

The Articles of Association specifically preclude any payment to Council Members, other than reimbursement of properly incurred travel and incidental expenses. During the period Council Members claimed £nil in expenses (2022: £nil).

There are no other financial transactions with any Trustees (or any persons connected with them).

Council Members induction and training

All Council Members have undergone an induction programme which included an induction pack, an explanation of our governance arrangements and the opportunity to visit Trust reserves and offices and to have discussions with Trust management, employees and volunteers.

As part of this induction, all Council Members have a Council Members' Handbook containing the reference material to guide the governance of the Trust, including copies of the Trust's Articles of Association, the Charity Commission booklet CC3 'The Essential Trustee', the Companies House 'Incorporation and Names' booklet (GP1), the Companies House 'Hallmarks of an Effective Charity' booklet (CC10) and the Health and Safety Executive booklet 'Leading Health & Safety at Work', and 'Good Governance: a practical guide for trustees, chairs and CEOs' by Dorothy Dalton.

Organisational structure

The Council is responsible for the strategic direction and policy of the charity, and for appointing the Chief Executive, Charlotte Harris (from 1 April 2013), who attends Council meetings but does not have a voting entitlement. The Council holds at least four regular meetings a year, with occasional additional workshops to focus on special topics.

The Council utilises a number of committees and working groups to scrutinise and support specific areas of the Trust's operations in more detail. From January 2020, the following committees support the work of Council: Finance, Audit, Risk & Resources, Governance & Nominations and Health & Safety Committees.

Each committee and working group is chaired by a Council Member. Membership of the group includes up to five Trustees and senior staff responsible for each work area. Meetings take place as required and report to Council.

The strategic direction, annual work plans and budget are agreed by Council with operational day-to-day decision making delegated to the Chief Executive and Senior Management Team.

Pay and remuneration of the Chief Executive is dealt with by the Chair of Council in consultation with the Board of Trustees. The Finance, Audit, Risk & Resources Committee considers recommendations from the Chief Executive regarding salaries for the Senior Management Team, who in turn set pay levels for more junior staff in line with the approved budget and CWT salary scales. Benchmarking data from the Wildlife Trust movement and the wider charity sector are used to inform decision making.

Relationship with the charity and related parties including its subsidiary

The Cheshire Wildlife Trust Limited is the sole shareholder in a dormant company, Cheshire Ecological Services Limited (CES) (Company No: 2623356), which is a private limited company incorporated on 24 June 1991 which has been dormant since April 2021.

CWT 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. Partners have the use of the Wildlife Trusts logo and benefit from the resources, best practice and specialist experience of other member Trusts. Membership gives

the charity a national voice and profile, as well as respectability by association for those unfamiliar with its particular work. However, each member of the partnership remains entirely independent in terms of governance.

Statement of the Board's responsibilities

The Trustees (who are also Directors of Cheshire Wildlife Trust 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 then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable 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 charity 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.

Statement as to disclosure of information to auditors

The members of the Board who were in office on the date of approval of these financial statements have confirmed, as far as they are aware, that there is no relevant audit information of which the auditors are unaware. Each of the members of the Board have confirmed that they have taken all steps that they ought to have taken as members of the Board in order to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that it has been communicated to the auditor.

Auditors

A resolution to re-appoint Mitchell Charlesworth (Audit) Limited as auditor will be proposed at the Annual General Meeting.

THE CHESHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED

TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

This report has been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective 1 January 2019).

The Report of the Members of the Board, which includes the Strategic Report on pages 7 to 13, was approved by the Board on 21 September 2023 and signed on their behalf:

Bill Stothart
Chair of Council

21 September 2023

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members and Trustees of The Cheshire Wildlife Trust Limited

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The Cheshire Wildlife Trust Limited for the year ended 31 March 2023 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Company Balance Sheet and the notes to the financial statements, including a summary of 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 company's affairs as at 31 March 2023 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;

- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and

- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 and the Charities Act 2022.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the 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 Trust'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.

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members and Trustees of The Cheshire Wildlife Trust Limited

Other information

The Trustees are responsible for the 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. 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.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, 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 audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. 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

- the information given in the Trustees' report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Trustees' Report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of our knowledge and understanding of Cheshire Wildlife Trust and its subsidiary, and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees' report.

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

- adequate and sufficient accounting records have not been kept by the company, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the company's financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of Trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the Trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies' regime.

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members and Trustees of The Cheshire Wildlife Trust Limited

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 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 company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

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.

Extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud

We identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and then design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, including obtaining audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Identifying and assessing potential risks related to irregularities

In identifying and assessing risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we considered the following:

- the nature of the sector, control environment and Trust performance;
- the Trust's own assessment of the risks that irregularities may occur either as a result of fraud or error;
- the results of our enquiries of management and members of the Board of Trustees of their own identification and assessment of the risks of irregularities;
- any matters we identified having obtained and reviewed the Trust's documentation of their policies and procedures relating to:
  - identifying, evaluating and complying with laws and regulations and whether they were aware of any instances of non-compliance;

- detecting and responding to the risks of fraud and whether they have knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud;
- the internal controls established to mitigate risks of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations; and
- the matters discussed among the audit engagement team regarding how and where fraud might occur in the financial statements and any potential indicators of fraud.

As a result of these procedures, we considered the opportunities and incentives that may exist within the company for fraud and identified the greatest potential for fraud in the following areas (i) The recognition of revenue, (ii) the allocation of income and expenditure between restricted and unrestricted funds. In common with all audits under ISAs (UK), we are also required to perform specific procedures to respond to the risk of management override.

We also obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory framework that the Trust operates in, focusing on provisions of those laws and regulations that had a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The key laws and regulations we considered in this context included the Companies Act 2006, Charities Act 2022, and Health and Safety legislation.

In addition, we considered provisions of other laws and regulations that do not have a direct effect on the financial statements but compliance with which may be fundamental to the Trust's ability to operate or to avoid a material penalty. These included Data Protection Regulations.

Audit response to risks identified

As a result of performing the above, we identified the recognition of revenue, and the allocation of income and expenditure between restricted and unrestricted funds as the key audit matters related to the potential risk of fraud.

In addition to the above, our procedures to respond to risks identified included the following:

- reviewing the financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with relevant laws and regulations described above as having a direct effect on the financial statements;
- enquiring of management and members of the Board of Trustees concerning actual and potential litigation and claims;
- performing analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships that may indicate risks of material misstatement due to fraud;
- reading minutes of meetings of those charged with governance and reviewing correspondence with relevant authorities where matters identified were significant; and
- in addressing the risk of fraud through management override of controls, testing the appropriateness of journal entries and other adjustments; assessing whether the judgements made in making accounting estimates are indicative of a potential bias; and evaluating the business rationale of any significant transactions that are unusual or outside the normal course of business.

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members and Trustees of The Cheshire Wildlife Trust Limited

We also communicated relevant identified laws and regulations and potential fraud risks to all engagement team members and remained alert to any indications of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations throughout the audit.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: https://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's 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 and its Trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's members, Trustees as a body and the charitable company's Trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

3rd Floor
44 Peter Street
Manchester
M2 5GP
21 September 2023

Jamielee Johnston (Senior Statutory Auditor)
For and on behalf of Mitchell Charlesworth (Audit) Limited
Statutory Auditor

Mitchell Charlesworth (Audit) Limited is eligible to act as an auditor in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

THE CHESHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED

Statement of Financial Activity

Year ended 31 March 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2023 £	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2022 £
Income							
Donations and legacies	**2**	671,117	156,845	827,962	625,072	156,715	781,787
Charitable activities	**3**	1,456,987	928,210	2,385,197	1,344,673	558,535	1,903,208
Investments	**4**	1,300		1,300	3,841		3,841
TOTAL		2,129,404	1,085,055	3,214,459	1,973,586	715,250	2,688,836
Expenditure							
Raising funds	**5**	302,359	47,956	350,315	342,245	38,530	380,775
Charitable activities	**6**	2,070,941	713,248	2,784,189	1,753,871	543,325	2,297,196
TOTAL		2,373,300	761,204	3,134,504	2,096,116	581,855	2,677,971
Net income/(expenditure)		(243,896)	323,851	79,955	(122,530)	133,395	10,865
Transfers between funds		39,165	(39,165)	-	208,942	(208,942)	-
Net movement in funds		(204,731)	284,686	79,955	86,412	(75,547)	10,865
Reconciliation of funds:							
Total Funds brought forward		831,746	460,152	1,291,898	745,334	535,699	1,281,033
Total Funds carried forward		627,015	744,838	1,371,853	831,746	460,152	1,291,898

THE CHESHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED

Balance Sheet
Year ended 31 March 2023

	Notes	Year ended 31 March 2023 £	£	Year ended 31 March 2022 £	£
Fixed Assets					
Tangible assets	**12**		594,503		618,496
Heritage assets	**12**		316,046		316,046
Investments	**13**		100		100
Total fixed assets			910,649		934,642
Current assets					
Stock	**14**	4,679		4,853	
Debtors	**15**	917,120		798,505	
Cash at bank and in hand		1,626,629		1,027,831	
Total current assets		2,548,428		1,831,189	
Liabilities					
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	**17**	1,987,224		1,193,833	
Net current asset			561,204		637,356
Liabilities falling due in more than one year	**18**		(100,000)		(280,000)
Total net assets			1,371,853		1,291,898
The funds of the charity					
Unrestricted funds	**20**		627,015		831,746
Restricted income funds	**20**		744,838		460,152
Total funds			1,371,853		1,291,898

The notes on pages 27 to 42 form part of these financial statements.

Signed: Bill Stothart
Bill Stothart

21 September 2023

Signed:
Peter Rushton

21 September 2023

THE CHESHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED

Statement of Cash Flow
Year ended 31 March 2023

	Notes	2023	2023	2022	2022
		£	£	£	£
Cash flows from operating activities:					
Net cash provided by operating activities	**24**	626,127		169,290	
Cash flows from investing activities:					
Proceeds from the sale of property, plant and equipment		1,700		8,460	
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		(29,029)		(544,800)	
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities		(27,329)		(536,340)	
Cash flows from financing activities:					
Repayments of borrowing		-		(220,000)	
Net cash inflows from new borrowing		-		500,000	
Net cash from financing activities		-		280,000	
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period			598,798		(87,050)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period			1,027,831		1,114,881
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period			1,626,629		1,027,831

Accounting Policies
Year ended 31 March 2023

1 Accounting policies

1.1 General information
The Cheshire Wildlife Trust Limited is a charity incorporated as a company limited by guarantee in England and Wales. The registered office is Bickley Hall Farm, Bickley, Malpas, Cheshire, SY14 8EF.

1.2 Basis of preparation
The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) – 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). The figures in the accounts are rounded to the nearest £ and the presentational currency is sterling.

Cheshire Wildlife Trust meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical costs or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes.

1.3 Fund accounting

1.3.1 Unrestricted funds
Unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

1.3.2 Restricted income funds
These funds are given to the Trust for a particular purpose to be used in accordance with the wishes of the donor.

1.3.3 Designated funds – projects
Designated funds are unrestricted funds set aside by the Trustees for specific projects. These projects may only be partly funded with the unfunded element set aside from general funds.

1.4 Incoming resources
The Trust was formed in 1962 by volunteers and continues to benefit from their support in both financial and non-financial ways. Examples of financial support include membership income, donations and legacies. These contributions are included in the accounts within voluntary income.

Voluntary income is received by way of donations, gifts, subscriptions and fundraising activities. The income is credited to the SOFA on the earlier of receipt or when the receipt is probable, the value can be ascertained, and the Trust gets the legal right to the income. Tax refunds on gift aid income are, however, accrued as earned.

Legacy income is included in the accounts when the amount due can be quantified with reasonable probability and the timing of the receipt is known.

Grants receivable which are not conditional on the delivery of a specific performance by the charity are recognised when the charity becomes unconditionally entitled to the grant. These are recognised as 'Income from donation and legacies'.

Grants receivable that relate to the delivery of a specific performance by the charity are recognised when the charity earns the right to consideration by its performance. A number of these grants are retrospective and where these are outstanding at the year-end for work completed, they are accrued. These are recognised as 'Income form charitable activities'.

All grants receivable are charged to the SOFA in the period to which they relate.

1.5 Resources expended

All expenditure, other than that which is capitalised, is included in the SOFA, recognised on an accruals basis as a liability when incurred.

Charitable activities consist of the costs incurred in support of expenditure on the objects of the charity.

Costs of raising funds consists of expenditure associated with attracting voluntary income and the costs of fundraising and maintaining memberships.

Support costs relate to expenditure incurred in support of the charitable objects of the charity. These include the provision of premises, personnel, information technology, insurances and audit fees and have been allocated on the basis of direct staff wage costs.

Many of our volunteers provide non-financial support covering a wide range of activities from acting as Trustees to assisting in conservation activities including surveying, as well as providing administrative support. No amounts are included in the financial statements for services donated by volunteers.

Capital purchases are included in the accounts at cost. Capital purchases of less than £250 are expensed.

1.6 Irrecoverable VAT

The charity is partially exempt. Irrecoverable VAT is allocated to the appropriate cost categories.

1.7 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. As such the Trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.8 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less depreciation. Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset, except for land, over its estimated useful life:

Plant and machinery – 25% per annum reducing balance

Fixtures and fittings – 25% per annum reducing balance

Motor vehicles – 25% per annum reducing balance
Computer equipment – 25% per annum straight line basis

No depreciation is provided on freehold land.
Capitalised expenditure on buildings is depreciated over the remainder of the lease period.

1.9 Heritage assets

Heritage assets are nature reserves, capitalised at the date of addition. Any assets donated, where the cost is unknown, are capitalised at the date of addition. Further details are disclosed within Note 12 to the accounts.

1.10 Stock and work in progress

General stock is valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value, where cost comprises purchase price.

Work in progress is valued at cost.

1.11 Deferred income

Restricted funds received for projects which are substantially incomplete or not commenced at year end are recognised in the year in which they are received and carried forward in the balance of restricted funds. The restricted funds are reduced each year by an amount equal to any expenditure on such projects which have been incurred in the year.

1.12 Pension costs

The company operates a defined contribution scheme for the benefit of its employees. Contributions payable are included in the SOFA in the year they are payable.

1.13 Finance and operating leases

Rentals payable under operating leases are charged to the SOFA over the period in which the cost is incurred. The Trust has no finance leases.

1.14 Provisions

A provision is recognised when the Trust has a legal or constructive obligation as a result of past events and it is probable that an outflow of economic benefits will be required to settle the obligation.

1.15 Taxation

The Trust is a registered charity and is not liable to United Kingdom income tax or corporation tax on charitable activities.

1.16 Material uncertainties/judgements

There were no material uncertainties or judgements contained within the presented figures.

1.17 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

1.18 Government grants

During the year the charity received no government grants (2022: £1,561).

1.19 Financial instruments

The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the charity's balance sheet when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans, are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities.

Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the Charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

Notes to the Accounts
Year ended 31 March 2023

2 Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2023	Unrestricted	Restricted	2022
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Donations & legacies	113,796		113,796	115,938		115,938
Subscriptions	509,290		509,290	509,134		509,134
Appeal income	48,031	156,845	204,876		156,715	156,715
	671,117	156,845	827,962	625,072	156,715	781,787

3 Charitable activities

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2023	Unrestricted	Restricted	2022
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Fundraising	50,010		50,010	25,550		25,550
Grants	215,064	912,419	1,127,483	150,044	558,535	708,579
Earned income	1,181,629	13,597	1,195,226	1,165,280		1,165,280
Other sales	10,284	2,194	12,478	3,799		3,799
	1,456,987	928,210	2,385,197	1,344,673	558,535	1,903,208

Notes to the Accounts
Year ended 31 March 2023

4 Investment income

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2023	Unrestricted	Restricted	2022
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Interest received	1,300	-	1,300	3,841	-	3,841
	1,300	-	1,300	3,841	-	3,841

Notes to the Accounts
Year ended 31 March 2023

5 Expenditure on raising funds

	Donations & legacies	Fundraising	Total 2023	Donations & legacies	Fundraising	Total 2022
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Staff costs	8,799	176,520	185,319	8,214	155,134	163,349
Membership costs		49,763	49,763		54,792	54.792
Other direct costs	302	50,459	50,761	750	103,712	104,462
Support costs (Note 7)	3,061	61,411	64,472	1,617	56,556	58,172
	12,162	338,153	350,315	10,581	370,194	380,775

6 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Conservation & reserves management	Community engagement	Total 2023	Conservation & reserves management	Community engagement	Total 2022
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Staff costs	851,129	492,542	1,343,671	680,901	397,014	1,077,915
Reserves costs	668,847	103,087	771,934	567,146	83,388	650,554
Motor & travel	41,473	25,361	66,834	30,242	11,572	41,814
Professional fees	8,144	0	8,144	6,543	2,371	8,914
Sundries	43,719	39,928	83,647	70,488	26,983	97,470
Depreciation	35,506	6,988	42,494	31,191	5,486	36,677
Support costs (Note 7)	296,109	171,356	467,465	278,176	105,696	383,872
	1,944,927	839,262	2,784,189	1,664,686	632,510	2,297,196

Notes to the Accounts
Year ended 31 March 2023

7 Support costs

	Total 2023	Total 2022
	£	£
Training	12,872	702
Insurance	33,542	28,609
Light & heat	8,051	4,767
Repairs & maintenance	4,056	7,508
Legal & professional	17,804	14,081
Staff & volunteer expenses	24,615	5,459
Motor expenses	1,602	1,860
Telecoms	9,025	9,456
Post & stationery	4,673	3,541
Sundry expenses	5,741	5,346
RSWT contribution	25,920	27,230
Bank charges	2,639	3,227
Depreciation	8,565	5,139
Admin salaries	240,092	164,329
Office costs		6,369
Accountancy		28,703
Audit fees	7,700	11,615
Computer expenses	31,405	27,402
Premises costs	103,836	58,171
Recruitment	1,390	1,299
Irrecoverable VAT	9,528	7,049
Doubtful debts	(21,119)	20,181
	531,937	442,044

Allocation of support costs

	2023	2022
	£	£
Raising funds	64,472	58,172
Charitable activities	467,465	383,872
	531,937	442,044

Notes to the Accounts
Year ended 31 March 2023

8 Net movement in funds

The net movement in funds is after charging/(crediting):

	Note	2023	2022
		£	£
Auditor's remuneration		7,700	11,615
Operating lease payments		1,812	1,812
Profit on disposal of fixed assets		(658)	(7,010)
Depreciation	12	51,966	42,376

9 Staff costs

	2023	2022
	£	£
Wages & salaries	1,542,442	1,234,939
Social security costs	130,754	103,055
Pension costs	79,957	67,600
	1,753,153	1,405,594

The average number of full time equivalent employees, analysed by function, was:

	2023	2022
Charitable activities	38	30
Generating funds	9	9
Management & administration	6	5
	53	44

10 Pension costs

The trust operates a defined contributions pension scheme. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the trust in the independently administered fund. The pension costs charge represents contributions payable by the company to the fund and amounted to £79,957 (2022: £67,600).

11 Related party transactions

No trustee or any person connected with the trust received any remuneration from the trust during the year (2022: £nil).

During the year Trustees were reimbursed travel expenses of £nil (2022: £nil).

12 Tangible assets

	Heritage assets	Land & buildings	Plant & machinery	Fixtures & fittings	Motor vehicles	Computer equipment	SFP entitlement	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Cost or donated value								
01 April 2022	316,046	581,379	124,679	36,653	106,344	76,682	10,258	1,252,041
Additions	-	-	1,463	4,150	15,700	7,716	-	29,029
Disposals	-	-			(6,295)			(6,295)
At 31 March 2023	316,046	581,379	126,142	40,803	115,749	84,398	10,258	1,274,775
Depreciation								
01 April 2022	-	113,684	77,180	27,295	39,109	49,973	10,258	317,499
Charge for the year	-		12,240	3,377	19,161	17,188	-	51,966
Disposals	-	-	-		(5,239)		-	(5,239)
At 31 March 2023	-	113,684	89,420	30,672	53,031	67,161	10,258	364,226
Net book value								
At 31 March 2023	316,046	467,695	36,722	10,131	62,718	17,237	-	910,549
At 31 March 2022	316,046	467,695	47,499	9,358	67,235	26,709	-	934,542

Heritage assets

The focus of the Trust is the protection and enhancement of wildlife habitats and biodiversity within Cheshire. As such the Trust owns and maintains a number of nature reserves that fall within the definition of heritage assets in accordance with FRS 102.

The Trustees consider that, owing to the intrinsic nature of the Trust's reserves, conventional valuation approaches lack sufficient reliability and that, even if valuations could be obtained, the costs would be onerous compared with the additional benefits derived by the Trust and the users of the accounts. As a result, these assets have been capitalised at cost and, being land, have not been depreciated.

Nature reserves acquired by gift are not capitalised unless a reliable enough reference value of the deemed cost of the asset is available without undue expense to the Trust.

The costs of maintaining heritage assets are expensed through the Statement of Financial Activities when incurred as part of the Trust's charitable activities.

Five-year summary of heritage asset transactions

	2022/23	2021/22	2020/21	2019/20	2018/19
	£	£	£	£	£
Additions	-	-	-	66,230	-
Purchases	-	-	-	-	-
Donations	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	66,230	-

Capital commitments

At 31 March 2023, the Trust had a capital commitment of £nil for the purchase of land (2022: £nil).

13 Investments

Cheshire Wildlife Trust Limited owns the entire share capital (1 ordinary share of £100) in its subsidiary, Cheshire Ecological Services Limited, which is incorporated in England.

The subsidiary was dormant for the full financial year and as such the financial statements presented for the Trust have not been consolidated as they are immaterial to the understanding of the results of the Trust.

The net assets of Cheshire Ecological Services Ltd are £100.

Notes to the Accounts
Year ended 31 March 2023

14 Stock

	2023	2022
	£	£
Stock	4,679	4,853
	4,679	4,853

15 Debtors

	2023	2022
	£	£
Trade debtors	545,748	451,785
Prepayments and accrued income	371,372	342,478
Other debtors	-	4,142
	917,120	798,405

Trade debtors is stated net of a provision of £18,078 (2022: £39,197)

16 Taxation

The company is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

17 Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2023	2022
	£	£
Trade creditors	161,626	137,719
Deferred income	1,171,053	863,946
Taxation & social security	231,253	132,297
Accruals	234,880	57,953
Loan	185,268	
Other creditors	3,144	1,918
	1,987,224	1,193,822

18 Creditors: Amounts falling due after one year

	2023	2022
	£	£
Loans	100,000	280,000
	100,000	280,000

19 Commitments under operating leases

At 31 March 2023, the charity had outstanding commitments for future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases, which fall due as follows:

	2023	2022
	£	£
Land & buildings		
Within one year	67,556	67,556
Two to five years	67,556	135,112
Greater than five years	-	-
Total	135,112	202,668
Other		
Within one year	1,812	1,812
Two to five years	4,209	6,021
Greater than five years		
Total	6,021	7,833

20 Analysis of restricted funds

Restricted funds represent monies (including donations and grants) which have been received for specific purposes as outlined by the donor. The Trust has a number of such funds and for the purposes of statutory reporting these have been grouped together under the four headings below.

Transfers out of restricted funds are made where a project is completed and no funding is required to be returned to the funder. Transfers into funds are made when a project is completed and the shortfall in funding is made up from the Trust's general funds.

Notes to the Accounts
Year ended 31 March 2023

	As at 1 April 2021	Income	Expenditure	Transfer between funds	As at 31 March 2022	Income	Expenditure	Transfer between funds	As at 31 March 2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Restricted income funds									
Reserves acquisition funds	161,193	-	-	(161,193)	-	-	-	-	-
Capital grants	16,481	140,094	10,669	(449)	145,457	7,775	3,957	(15,823)	133,452
Community engagement funds	137,527	246,649	212,543	(36,507)	135,126	400,001	345,245	(19,744)	170,352
Conservation & reserves	220,498	328,507	358,643	(10,793)	179,569	677,279	412,002	(3,598)	441,036
	535,699	715,250	581,855	(208,942)	460,152	1,085,055	761,204	(39,165)	744,838

The reserves acquisition funds have been transferred to a designated unrestricted fund by the Trustees to fund future land purchases for habitat creation projects.

Capital grants represents grants received to fund capital purchases including land for habitat creation.

Community engagement funds and conservation & reserves funds represent grants received to carry out the Trust's charitable activities.

Funding has been granted by a variety of organisations including:

- William Dean Trust
- Sport England
- People’s Postcode Lottery
- National Lottery Heritage Fund
- DEFRA
- Severn Trent Water
- Ecological Restoration Fund
- Rewilding Britian

Notes to the Accounts
Year ended 31 March 2023

Unrestricted funds	As at 1 April 2021	Income	Expenditure	Transfer between funds	As at 31 March 2022	Income	Expenditure	Transfer between funds	As at 31 March 2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
General fund	732,887	1,973,586	2,096,116	60,195	670,552	2,129,404	2,373,300	39,165	465,821
Designated fund	12,447			148,747	161,194				161,194
	745,334	1,973,586	2,096,116	208,942	831,746	2,129,404	2,373,301	39,165	627,015

21 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2023 Total
	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	567,728	26,775	594,503
Heritage assets	316,046		316,046
Stock and work in progress	4,679		4,679
Investments	100		100
Debtors	500,110	417,010	917,120
Cash at bank and in hand	530,607	1,096,022	1,626,629
Liabilities	(1,292,255)	(794,969)	(2,087,224)
Total net assets	627,015	744,838	1,371,853

22 Share capital

The Charity has no share capital being a company limited by guarantee to contribute an amount not exceeding £2 per member in the event of a winding up situation.

23 Control

The Charity is controlled by the Trustees.

24 Reconciliation of net income/(expenditure) to net cash flow from operating activities

	2023	2022
	£	£
Net income/(expenditure) for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)	79,955	10,865
Depreciation	51,966	42,376
(Gains)/losses on investments		
Dividends, interest and rents from investments		
Loss/(profit) on the sale of fixed assets	(658)	(7,010)
(Increase)/decrease in stock	174	3,114
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(118,715)	(333,353)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	613,405	453,299
Net cash inflow from operating activity	626,127	169,290

	As at 1 April 2021	Movement in year	As at 31 March 2022	Movement in year	As at 31 March 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Cash at bank and in hand	1,114,881	(87,050)	1,027,831	598,798	1,626,629

THE CHESHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED

England & Wales - Charity number 214927

Accounts

Charity Registration No. 214927
Company Registration No. 738693 (England & Wales)

THE CHESHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED AND ITS SUBSIDIARY COMPANY

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

□

□

THE CHESHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATION

Trustees	H Carey (resigned November 2021) R Collins (appointed November 2021) S Henshall S Judd R H Marrs (resigned November 2021) C Neame J Richards (appointed November 2021) S Ridsdale J Roscoe P Rushton W Stothart (Chair) C Swarbrick
Secretary	C Harris
Chief Executive	C Harris
Registered office	Bickley Hall Farm Bickley Malpas Cheshire SY14 8EF
Charity number	214927
Company number	738693
Auditors	Mitchell Charlesworth (Audit) Limited Chartered Accountants Statutory Auditor 3rd Floor 44 Peter Street Manchester M2 5GP
Bankers	CAF Bank 25 Kings Hill Avenue Kings Hill West Malling Kent ME19 4JQ
Solicitors	Gough-Thomas & Scott 8 Willow Street Ellesmere Shropshire SY12 0AQ

□

THE CHESHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED

CONTENTS PAGE

	Page
Chair's Report	1
Trustees' Report	2–22
Independent Auditor's Report	23–26
Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities	27
Consolidated Balance Sheet	28
Company Balance Sheet	29
Statement of Cash Flow	30
Accounting Policies and Notes to the Accounts	31–50

THE CHESHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED

CHAIR'S REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

CWT continues to work for wildlife and nature in Cheshire, Wirral, Stockport, Trafford, Tameside, Warrington and Halton, and has grown its impact in response to the environmental crises. I am proud of and delighted with the achievements and performance of the Trust this year.

In the previous year, 2020/21, the Covid-19 pandemic dominated everything, and the Trust performed extremely well to sustain the organisation through the restrictions and financial challenges, and to maintain its activities and to pursue its objectives where possible. Activity and turnover were marginally below the year before.

The year being reported on here is 2021/22 (April 2021 to March 2022), and this was effectively a transition year out of the Covid-19 restrictions, which were largely removed in July 2021. Once again, the Trust was able to pursue its objectives more vigorously and fully, with the result that turnover increased from c. £2.3m in 2020/21 to c. 2.7m in 2021/22. Financial turnover is a crude proxy for the environmental benefit that is the Trust's true objective, but the 17% growth is a valid measure of activity. The Trust's environmental impact is as impressive as the financial growth, as shown by the achievements against targets included in this set of financial statements.

My personal highlights were:

- The purchase of Saltersford Farm in August 2021, using an innovative funding model supported by a public appeal. This was 50 acres of intensively farmed land which we will now manage in a way that allows nature to recover there. The funding model is groundbreaking and put CWT in the forefront of Wildlife Trusts in the UK. We hope now to be able to repeat this with regular further purchases, and you will have seen an appeal for CWT's 60th anniversary in 2022 which would support the creation of a new reserve using the same model.
- Watching the progress of the beavers reintroduced to Hatchmere at the end of 2020. During 2021/22 they successfully settled in and started to engineer their own environment. Most notably, in three weeks in November the pair of beavers created a dam of almost 50m, which has transformed the site. The site is now much wetter (water levels higher by 75cm), improving water quality, and is capable of storing more carbon and providing other environmental benefits. We still need more public awareness of the environmental benefits beavers bring. I am delighted Wildlife Trusts across the country are promoting that awareness and hope to see beavers roaming freely in the future.

Further detail on the achievements and performance of the Trust is shown in the Strategic Report from page 6 and the financial review from page 17.

The Trust returned a surplus for the sixth successive year and is financially sound.

We continue to face a biodiversity crisis and a climate crisis. Cheshire Wildlife Trust, and Wildlife Trusts across the country, have a critical role in engaging and energising people to play an active part in combatting these challenges and enabling nature's recovery. Your continued support is both valued and essential.

We need more space for wildlife, and more people on nature's side.

Bill Stothart

Bill Stothart
Chair

Date: 19 October 2022

THE CHESHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED

TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

The Trustees have pleasure in presenting their report together with the audited accounts for the year ended 31 March 2022. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) – Accounting and Reporting by provisions of the Charities SORP (FRS 102) applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK (effective 1 January 2019).

Strategic overview

Cheshire Wildlife Trust is the only charity dedicated to the conservation of wildlife and wild places in the Cheshire region.

Formed in 1962 by volunteers, Cheshire Wildlife Trust is one of 46 independent charities, which together form the UK-wide Wildlife Trust movement. The Trust benefits from the support of over 18,000 members and over 300 volunteers, is governed by a 10-strong Board of Trustees and currently employs 62 dedicated staff. We are passionate about securing a future for local wildlife on land and at sea and work as part of the Wildlife Trust movement to influence decision making for nature at the highest level nationally.

Cheshire Wildlife Trust Limited is required by charity and company law to act within the objects of its Memorandum of Association, which are as follows:

1. To promote and deliver the conservation, protection, improvement and expansion of the physical and natural environment, for the benefit of wildlife and the public of the United Kingdom; particularly in the Vice County 58 (the traditional County Palatine of Chester) and adjacent areas.

2. To advance the education and engagement of the public in the principles and practice of:
    a. Biodiversity conservation and enhancement;
    b. Sustainable living and development;
    c. Nature-based health and wellbeing initiatives; and
    d. Natural capital, and its protection, restoration and value to society.

3. To promote research in all branches of relevant scientific study and to publish the useful results thereof.

In 2020 we launched our 2030 Strategy: Wilder Cheshire. The full strategy is available on our website https://www.cheshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/2030 with a summary below:

Our vision is for a Wilder Cheshire

Our mission is to bring wildlife back – for everyone, everywhere – and we urgently need your help.

We have reached a tipping point. By 2030, we must see nature recovering, wildlife returning and ecosystems restored. We can't defer; we can't wait for more data or better reasons to act. The evidence is already there and we know what to do. If we delay, the damage will be irreversible. If we wait until the impacts of environmental breakdown are upon us – that is until we witness the rising sea levels, personally suffer the effects of pollution or notice the lack of birdsong – it will be too late.

Putting nature into recovery must be what we turn all our efforts to now; it has to be the priority.

It won't be easy. This is a complex challenge; the next 10 years will be just the start, but we can do it.

Our strategy is focused on tackling three crises:

Wildlife is in crisis – Let's fight for wildlife's recovery.

Outcome: At least 30% of the land and sea in the UK needs to be managed for nature so that missing wildlife will return. We want to see more and better connected wild spaces and the pressures on the environment reduced.

Why? Nature today is not normal. Since the 1930s, species-rich wildflower meadows have become virtually extinct; since the 1950s, we have lost over half the abundance of all species across the UK; since the 1970s, there's been a 60% fall in vertebrates globally. Elsewhere, recent reports tell us that insect populations have collapsed by 75% between 1990 and 2014. In the UK, we have lost half of our farmland birds in one generation.

Cheshire is not immune to these trends. Less than 10% of our region is protected for wildlife. The few places where a rich diversity of life can still be found are nature reserves and special wildlife sites. Without these havens, the picture would be even worse, but they are too small and are under siege from a host of external pressures. There are simply not enough of these precious places left to save biodiversity.

Climate is in crisis – Let's make nature part of the solution.

Outcome: Resilient nature will help combat climate change. We need more carbon to be locked up in our plants and soils and to restore broken ecosystems.

Why? We are facing a climate crisis and nature is a big part of the solution. Healthy ecosystems and restored habitats will help us play our part in delivering the UN's Paris Agreement to tackle the climate emergency.

Our vast peatlands should protect us. They offer the largest land-based carbon store in the world, but we have drained and burned and cut them – releasing their carbon into the atmosphere. They

have become a carbon enemy – contributing 4% of the UK's annual greenhouse gas emissions.

Our woodlands should protect us. Trees are an effective weapon against the climate crisis, but we are not planting enough of them. Average woodland cover in the EU is over 40%. In the UK, it is 13% and in Cheshire it is less than 7%. Our insistence on prioritising other land use denies us the benefits of woodland which extend beyond carbon sequestration to biodiversity and emotional wellbeing.

Our soils should protect us. UK soils store 10 billion tonnes of carbon – equivalent to 80 years of our annual greenhouse gas emissions – but unless we change how we farm, we will lose this benefit. In the pursuit of ever-cheaper food, we have already stripped our soils of over half of their carbon.

Our wetlands should protect us. They are nature's flood defences and they hold twice as much carbon as our woodland; however, we have drained them and replaced them with farms, houses and roads. We have turned our rivers against us. We have filled them with chemicals, enclosed them underground and straightened, deepened and constrained them. As the climate crisis pours more water onto our land, it has nowhere to go. It rushes into our towns and cities, and overflows onto our streets.

We are in crisis – Let's have more people on nature's side.

Outcome: Our wellbeing and economy relies on a healthy, natural environment. We need everyone to be passionate about wildlife and at least 1 in 4 people to be taking action for nature's recovery.

Why? Our disconnect with nature is snowballing with each passing generation. The less parents know, the less they can teach their own children about their natural world. New generations grow up more and more distant from the natural world around them. They are starved of the opportunity to enjoy the wonder of wildlife and to understand their place amongst nature. They do not miss it when it disappears, and so it continues to slip away unnoticed. When we lose our connection with nature, mental health problems, obesity and isolation rise.

Meanwhile, businesses suffer when we don't take care of our natural environment and we pay the price. Our utility bills are higher because we need to clean our water. Our food bills are rising because farming is not sustainable. The costs of flood damage are devastating where nature's defences fail. The social and economic impact of our apathy towards dealing with these issues is huge and growing. Those living furthest from nature, often the poorest, suffer most. We are facing a nature deficiency pandemic.

We will deliver our strategy through a 10-point plan:

1. Protect places where wildlife lives
2. Bring wildlife back to our land and sea
3. Create a society that cares about nature
4. Work with farmers so wildlife can thrive
5. Embrace wildlife as our neighbour in our towns and cities
6. Grow our stores of natural carbon
7. Build a network of people campaigning for nature
8. Make our rivers cleaner and healthier
9. Make planning and policies give more to nature than they take away
10. Collaborate with people who share our passion for wildlife

This 10-point plan is underpinned by a further strategic goal to ensure that Cheshire Wildlife Trust (CWT) is effective and resilient, delivered through the following three programmes:

1. Financing the future
2. High-performing Team CWT
3. Well-run organisation

Public benefit statement

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in section 4 of the Charities Act 2006 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit, 'Charities and Public Benefit'.

The Trust's public benefit is enshrined in its charitable objects as outlined above.

Strategic report

The information below, including the review of achievements and performance, financial review, risk management statement and summary of future plans, forms the Strategic Report for the purpose of the Companies Act 2006.

Achievements and performance

Our charitable objects are the drivers behind our 2030 strategic framework. Our achievements and performance are reported against each of the four strategic outcomes.

1. Wildlife is in crisis: Below is a summary of our nature recovery programme to bring about 30% of land in Cheshire protected and well managed for wildlife by 2030 and to see the abundance and diversity of wildlife increase.

What we planned for FY22	Some of the things we did in FY22	What we have planned for FY23
Landscape Scale Delivery:		
Continue to develop and scale up the Nature Recovery Team to deliver greater impact.	We further grew our capacity and expertise within the Nature Recovery Team. This allowed us to progress delivery of our 30 by 30 vision through direct land management as well as advising and supporting others.	Raise funds to repay the loan through the sale of Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) credits and habitat creation grants. Purchase and plan the restoration of another new nature reserve to celebrate our 60th birthday.
	We purchased 50 acres of intensively managed farmland at Saltersford Farm to create a new nature reserve. The purchase was funded through generous donations from our members combined with a loan from Esmée Fairbairn Foundation.	Continue the citizen science programme for natterjack toads, grayling butterflies and little terns, support schools in achieving the John Muir Award, run events celebrating the Dee Estuary, and work with dog owners to reduce disturbance to wading birds.
Submit the second round application to the National Lottery Heritage Fund for a 3.5-year project and, if successful, begin delivery in winter 2021.	Our application to NLHF was successful and the Our Dee Estuary project started in early 2022. We recruited our project team and began our programme of volunteering, citizen science and conservation work around the estuary.	We will start the delivery of the Environmental Measures on the Aldford Brook project – a three-year project to create and restore 20ha of wetland and 14km of riverbank, and to plant over 7,000 trees.

We plan to raise £50,000 through member and major donor contributions to continue our work in the Cheshire Peaks area.	We raised £52,225 from a major donor and other supporters in this year. Combined with donations from the previous year, this gave a total of £61,225 available for work in the Cheshire Peaks area. The funds have been allocated to our curlew recovery project (see *Species Recovery* section) and used to create/restore 3ha of wildflower meadows in the landscape.	(See *Species Recovery* section)
We will create 25 management plans for farms in the Bollin catchment and improve water quality and restore habitats in the headwaters of the River Dane.	We created 25 water management plans for farms in the Bollin catchment and delivered a series of capital projects to improve water quality in both the Bollin and Dane catchments.	We will create a further 15 water management plans for landowners in the Dane catchment in partnership with United Utilities to help identify opportunities for improving water quality and increasing the value of the land for wildlife.
Nature Reserve Management:		
We will finalise the transfer of the Hatchmere extension into our ownership.	This matter remains in progress.	Acquire additional land to further our 30 by 30 vision.
We will continue to manage Crown Farm Quarry in line with the restoration plan.	Crown Farm Quarry continues to be managed in line with the agreed management plan. Newly restored parts of the quarry are developing well and we have completed a project to make the site suitable for the introduction of grazing animals.	Devise the next two-year management plan, workplan and costings and manage and monitor the site in line with the agreed management plan.
We will create a further 2.6ha of flower-rich grassland at Gowy Meadows using seed collected from our donor meadows across Cheshire.	Over 2.6ha of species-rich wildflower grassland has been created at Gowy Meadows through Severn Trent's Boost for Biodiversity project. The wildflower seed has established well and is providing a fantastic home for pollinators.	We will improve the condition of 30ha of floodplain grazing marsh at Gowy Meadows through the creation of scrapes and footdrains and upgrade of water control sluices.
Species Recovery:		
Create and restore a further 100 ponds for great crested newts, on our own land and in partnership with farmers and other landowners.	We created and restored 70 ponds (in line with Natural England's (NE) work package order).	We will create a further 50 ponds under the district licensing scheme and continue our monitoring of ponds created to date.

Restore a further 10ha of grassland to species-rich meadow using green hay and seed harvested from donor sites.	We created and restored 11.2 ha of species-rich hay meadows working with a variety of landowners.	Create and restore a further 18ha of species-rich hay meadow.
Monitor the impact of the beavers on the wet woodland habitat and explore licensing options for a second reintroduction scheme in another part of Cheshire.	Beavers have had a fantastic impact on the wet woodland habitat at Hatchmere, and the site looks completely different to 12 months ago. They have created dams and gullies to hold water throughout the site, attenuating floods, improving water quality and creating new wetland habitat.	We will continue to monitor the impact beavers are having in the enclosure, and we will work in partnership with other landowners and statutory bodies to create a Cheshire Beaver Partnership to assess the impact of new legislation governing beaver releases and create a coordinated Cheshire-wide release strategy.
Continue to look for sources of funding and work towards an expanding population of white-faced darter dragonflies throughout Delamere Forest and the surrounding area.	Our work continued throughout 2021/22 to continue to monitor the growing white-faced darter populations. We delivered a full monitoring programme and administered the White-faced Darter Steering Group meeting.	Continued surveying of the white-faced darter population in Delamere Forest aimed at identifying emergence and presence within an increasing number of basins.
Using money raised from our Cheshire Peak District appeal, devise a curlew recovery plan ready for the 2022 breeding season. We will also join the English Curlew Partnership.	We joined the English Curlew Partnership and have also led a South West Peak Curlew Partnership with Staffordshire Wildlife Trust, RSPB, Natural England and other landowners and interested parties. Scoping work has been undertaken to inform a Curlew Action Plan, with a citizen-science approach to monitoring through iRecord, a webinar for residents of South West Peak and discussions with landowners.	We will progress the SWP Curlew Partnership and engage with local farmers and landowners. We will carry out feasibility studies to plan a programme of capital works to create wetland habitat to benefit curlew, along with commissioning a baseline population assessment and trialling innovative monitoring techniques such as drone surveying.
Deliver the Wild Stockport project and create space for pollinators in Stockport, install swift boxes and create hedgehog streets.	The Wild Stockport project achieved (and exceeded in some cases) all of its objectives and over the year the team developed strong relationships with local organisations and Stockport residents using social media, workshops and school visits. We also created videos to help local communities take action for nature.	Inspire people across Stockport – individuals, businesses, community groups and schools – to take action for nature through the Rewilding Stockport project, building a community nature reserve.

Continue to monitor natterjack toad populations and work with Amphibian and Reptile Conservation to explore expanding populations in the Dee Estuary.	New pools for natterjacks created at Red Rocks. Sites were monitored in spring 2022. Unfortunately, exceptional tides led to the loss of many spawn strings at Red Rocks. Other sites around the estuary fared better.	We will continue to monitor natterjack pools and undertake habitat improvements to ensure the long-term future of the population.
Continue to monitor grayling butterflies to understand more about their distribution and habitat needs.	We successfully translocated sea holly plants at Red Rocks to increase habitat for grayling.	We will continue to carry out surveys to monitor the population and its distribution, threats and opportunities for expansion.
Evidence & Planning:		
Provide advice on 4,000ha of land through our responses to planning applications and protect core sites and wildlife corridors through Neighbourhood Plan policy adoption.	We have provided advice and/or consultation responses for approximately 610ha of land. Much of the advice has been focused on securing Biodiversity Net Gain on large housing and commercial developments in the region. We were instrumental in securing commuted sum payments for biodiversity compensation totalling over £800k and we have provided significant input on policy and allocation sites for new Local Plans in Warrington, Halton, Wirral and Greater Manchester Combined Authorities.	Provide advice and/or consultation responses for 3,000ha of land through our Neighbourhood Plan work. Provide input on at least three major local policy consultations. Work with at least 10 separate developers to improve the quality of BNG metrics submitted to support planning applications.
	We've identified and/or surveyed 165ha of potential Local Wildlife Sites ready for designation in FY23. We've worked on two Neighbourhood Planning reports and identified wildlife corridors for protection under NP policies.	Progress the designation of at least 165ha of Local Wildlife Site quality land. Continue to support the protection of wildlife corridors through Neighbourhood Plans.
We will review the HS2 biodiversity metrics on behalf of The Wildlife Trusts; continue to campaign for the government to Stop and Rethink HS2; respond to consultations and hold HS2 to account with regards to Biodiversity Net Gain.	We have completed a detailed analysis of publicly available HS2 environmental data to develop an understanding of whether the scheme is meeting its commitments to biodiversity.	Use the analysis of HS2 environmental data to hold HS2 Ltd to account and campaign for better outcomes for nature. Respond to the Phase 2b environmental statement and petition to select committee if necessary.

We will deliver bespoke training packages to local authorities. We will continue to respond to planning policy consultations and support Natural England and the local authorities on the development of Nature Recovery Strategies.	We've delivered Biodiversity Net Gain training to the majority of Lancashire planning authorities as well as Cheshire West and Chester Council and Cheshire East Council. We've responded to Local Plan consultations for Greater Manchester and Warrington and by engaging at an early stage we've been influential, especially with regards to BNG policies. We've engaged with Stockport's climate summit.	Work closely with local authorities and other bodies to support the creation of a Cheshire region Local Nature Recovery Strategy.
We will develop a suite of training courses to deliver across the Wildlife Trust movement and through CIEEM to consultant ecologists nationally. We will work with developers and local authorities to ensure high-quality schemes are delivered.	We've developed a suite of training courses and webinars and delivered training to 60+ staff from various Wildlife Trusts across the country. We represented The Wildlife Trusts on Biodiversity Net Gain sounding boards and secured positive changes that make the roll-out of the scheme more robust.	We will continue to deliver training courses on BNG to a variety of audiences to generate income and to raise standards in the industry. This will result in better outcomes for biodiversity at a national level and help secure demand for biodiversity units to help fund nature recovery strategies across the UK.
We will continue to secure positive outcomes for wildlife. We will focus on Biodiversity Net Gain as the main mechanism to achieve this.	We've worked with over 10 developers on their BNG schemes and input into three national consultations. We've secured the first BNG scheme at Saltersford Hall Farm and ensured that it meets all of the requirements to deliver the agreed number of BNG units. We've produced a full BNG Report and Management Plan for Chat Moss for the Greater Manchester Environment Fund project.	We will input in a national consultation on the new BNG metric and continue to sit on the BNG metric working group chaired by NE. We will acquire a further site for BNG unit sales and look to develop BNG marketing and support to maximise sales. We will continue to use our experience to influence the roll out of BNG regionally and nationally through advocacy and training and through the development of a new BNG partnership project across Greater Manchester.

2. Climate is in crisis: Below is a summary of our climate adaptation and resilience programme which aims to see nature play its full part in addressing the climate crisis and CWT achieve at least net zero by 2030.

What we planned for FY22	Some of the things we did in FY22	What we have planned for FY23
Net Zero CWT: Create a carbon reduction plan to achieve at least net zero by 2030.	We completed our carbon reduction plan and formed a working group to oversee its implementation.	Introduce an Electric Vehicle scheme and agile working policy for staff to reduce the carbon footprint arising from staff travel. Carry out a review of land management with emissions reduction and avoidance in mind.
Wetland & Watercourse Restoration: Complete an analysis of the peatland within Cheshire East. Develop a project to restore agricultural peat soils.	Report published jointly with Cheshire East Council containing an analysis of emissions and restoration potential across 3,603ha of peat soils: Peatlands of Cheshire East.	Progress the actions in the Peatlands of Cheshire East report to bring about the restoration of peatland soils. Complete an analysis of peatland in Cheshire West.
Complete a further 50 farm water management plans and implement £150,000 of improvement projects to improve the quality of Cheshire's watercourses.	Due to a number of unforeseen reasons we fell short of the original 50 farm water management plans and completed 28 in total.	Complete a further 15 farm water surveys in the headwaters of the Dane on behalf of United Utilities with a view to identifying interventions to improve water quality.
Woodland Creation & Restoration: Begin delivery of a Trees for Cheshire project to create 200ha of woodland over four years.	We began our Trees for Cheshire project in November 2021 and created 10.91ha of new woodland and identified further sites and negotiated landowner agreements ready for planting in the 2022/23 winter season.	We will continue working with The Mersey Forest and City of Trees to create 100ha of woodland.

3. We are in crisis: Below is a summary of our communications, engagement and mobilisation programme aimed at creating a society that cares about wildlife and where 1 in 4 people are taking action for nature by 2030.

What we planned for FY22	Some of the things we did in FY22	What we have planned for FY23
Education & Public Engagement:		
Gradually resume events and community engagement activities as restrictions ease.	We attended RHS Tatton, Chester Zoo Wildlife Connections Festival, Designed by Nature Storyhouse events and the Royal Cheshire Show as well as hosting a variety of walks and talks engaging with 1,921 people physically. In addition, we developed and executed our very own 'Wilder Weekend' event in Macclesfield, partnering with local community groups and champions, through which we not only engaged 1,760 people but also created two wildflower meadows/strips, worked with nine local schools and ran activities such as nature crafts and wellbeing walks to connect people to nature. We hosted five online webinars reaching a further 463 people. 10,000 trees were planted with communities across Cheshire East.	Attend large-scale Cheshire events as well as reach new audiences through attendance at arts/culture events and our own Wilder Weekends.
	As schools began to ease restrictions we began hosting school trips to nature reserves, delivering forest school sessions on site as part of the PPL funded 'Wild Warrington' project, and launched the 'Wilder Schools network'.	Continue to build the Wilder Schools network, extending our reach and inspiring action in school grounds.
Launch a new approach to engagement focused much more on mobilising large numbers of people to take action for nature.	We began our new community organising approach to engagement, inspiring and supporting more people to take action through targeted campaigns and through building the capacity of champions.	Using a community organising approach, inspire communities within Crewe to take action for nature – driving a people-powered nature recovery network.

Celebrate our 60th anniversary.	Plans were developed for the celebration of our 60th anniversary in 2022 including a special event for supporters and members and additional fundraising activities. In March, we produced a special '60th birthday edition' of 'Your WildLife' membership magazine.	Deliver a 60th birthday public appeal, themed communications and a 60th birthday event for longstanding members and special supporters.
Support at least 12,000 people to take action for wildlife, including developing a network of champions.	We began identifying 'champions' through our work with community groups and supported 50 champions with advice, signposting and toolkit/guide creation, who in turn engaged on average 20 people each (reaching 1,000). Two spaces were transformed by the champions and their community groups and in that process engaged 200 local residents who will go on to benefit from the spaces as well as wildlife. During the year, 13,723 people took action for wildlife, whether that was writing to their local councillor, making a bird box or hedgehog house, or planting trees.	Continue to build our champion network to 100, expanding to include new groups such as schools and businesses, and supporting them with additional tools, training and an online platform. Launch a Young Leaders project and plan to grow our work with young people.
Complete our Sport England-funded Wellbeing with Nature project and create a sustainable scaling model to increase our reach.	Our Go Wild Get Fit programme was completed in December 2021 with 203 participants benefitting over the three-year project. The scaling plan was revised to ensure that future wellbeing work integrates with the new approach to engagement.	Complete the Sport England-funded scaling project to develop a sustainable approach to increase people's nature connection and improve wellbeing through nature.
Volunteering: We will seek to renew our Investing in Volunteers quality badge and resume volunteering activity as and when restrictions ease.	Volunteering activities resumed and we gradually moved back to offering a full programme of events. We are increasing our volunteer opportunities as projects grow across the Trust.	We will increase our volunteering opportunities and increase our volunteer audience.
Partnership Working: We will continue to develop our partnership approach and ensure that	During the year we continued to work with local partners such as local authorities, businesses, other charities and community	We're aiming to expand our landowner engagement through the delivery of a Defra Test & Trials

stakeholders are fully engaged with project development and delivery. We plan to work with 50 landowners and farmers across Cheshire to help them manage their land better for wildlife.	organisations as well as cross-border partners in Wales and with Wildlife Trusts across the country. We worked with approx. 110 landowners and farmers across various projects and schemes to enable them to manage their land better for wildlife. The landowners engaged ranged from smallholders with 1ha up to those with hundreds of hectares of land such as the Grosvenor Estate where we delivered wildflower meadow restoration and hedgerow tree planting.	contract. Through this we will be working with tenant farmers on the Cholmondeley Estate to help influence the forthcoming Environment Land Management Schemes whilst also developing our Land Management Advisory Services in conjunction with the Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts.
Communications & Campaigns:		
Engage at least 150,000 people during the year, including 35,000 through social media.	We reached over 29,000 followers through our social media channels, generating over 183,000 engagements with our content.	With an updated social media strategy, paid-for promotion and the addition of a new Digital Marketing Officer focusing on 'people-powered' stories, we will continue to grow our following through existing channels to 36,000, as well as adding new channels, such as TikTok. We will also optimise the content and channels for fundraising and engagement targets.
Recruit at least 2,000 new memberships and achieve a 90% retention rate. Stay connected with over 5,000 people every week through the Wild Cheshire e-newsletter.	1,844 memberships were recruited, achieving 85% retention rate. By the end of the year, an average of 5,488 people were opening our content each week.	We aim to increase our membership twofold, firstly by launching a digital hub to boost digital membership recruitment and secondly by expanding our face-to-face recruitment team, building upon their success following the lifting of Covid-19 restrictions.
Engage 5,000 people in our Grow Don't Mow, Wasted Space, Great Big Green Week and Peat-free campaigns. We will continue to engage with MPs.	5,757 people took part in our various campaigns and we launched our Wasted Space programme in April 2022, with actions and targets now forming part of our FY23 plan.	Continue to inspire and drive 5,000 people to act through our Wasted Space, Grow Don't Mow, Nature Recovery and HS2 campaigns. We will continue to engage with MPs and influence councils to declare an eco-emergency.

4. We are effective and resilient: Below is a summary of our programme to ensure that CWT has the financial resources it needs, is well run and has a high-performing and valued staff and volunteer team.

What we planned for FY22	Some of the things we did in FY22	What we have planned for FY23
Financial Sustainability:		
We will continue to carefully manage the ongoing effects of the pandemic.	Our total income increased from £2.3m in FY21 to just under £2.7m in FY22 and we returned an overall surplus of £10,865. This is the sixth successive year in which the Trust has managed its expenditure within budgetary limits. We have continued to grow through the pandemic and have now recovered from the impacts felt in 2020.	Sustainably grow income to over £3m.
We will further grow our income from services and contracts.	Income from earned income grew by a further 43% from £813,212 to £1,165,280. This large increase was in part due to the integration of our subsidiary trading into the primary trading of the charity. During the year new contracts for habitat creation and land management advice were secured.	Continue to grow earned income from primary trading activities.
We will continue to make best use of grant funding to pump prime new projects.	Income from grants grew slightly from £699,846 to £708,579 secured from a range of sources including National Lottery Heritage Fund, People's Postcode Lottery and a number of charitable trusts. Grant funding enabled the continuation of existing engagement activities.	Secure grant funding to expand community organising and campaigning.
We will grow our membership.	Income from membership increased by 11% from £457,936 in FY21 to £509,134 in FY22, demonstrating that supporting environmental causes remained high on the public agenda. The total number of members increased from 15,890 to 16,923. Income from donations and legacies rose slightly to £115,938 and we raised £156,715 through appeals thanks to the generous support given to our Saltersford Farm acquisition campaign.	Sustainably increase membership numbers and subscription income. Additionally, we expect income from donations and legacies to exceed £53,000. During our 60th year, we hope to raise £200,000 from a public appeal to help buy a new 100-acre plot of land to transform into a wildlife haven.

We will aim to at least maintain and ideally grow our financial reserves.	The £100k working capital invested in our subsidiary company was returned as part of the company close down and overall total financial reserves now stand at £1,291,898, with the majority assigned to restricted and designated purposes.	Grow unrestricted cash reserves.
Good Governance:		
We will begin delivering against our new strategy. We will align staffing and resources to our three strategic pillars and map out our approach for achieving the targets over the next decade.	During the year we set out our plans for achieving 30% of land protected and restored by 2030, identifying the need to double woodland cover, triple the extent of wetland and create 10,000ha more grassland. We also set out our approach to achieving 1 in 4 people taking action for nature and began scaling up our engagement and communications. A new post of Wilder Engagement Manager was created to lead this work.	Continue to deliver against our strategic goals.
Recruit at least two further Trustees.	Two new Trustees were elected during the year, replacing two standing down at the end of their tenure.	Maintain a diverse and effective Board.
We will continue to ensure that the charity is governed in line with Charity Commission best practice guidance.	We have continued to govern the charity effectively. The Board has reviewed key policies in line with its schedule and undertaken a root and branch review of roles, job descriptions and salaries across all teams. The Board has met quarterly and continues to be supported by a small number of committees and working groups.	Implement improved benefits and remuneration packages to staff. Continually review Board effectiveness.
Working in the Federation:		
We will continue to work closely with our partners in the federation of Wildlife Trusts in order to collaborate at scale and share best practice.	The CEO and Chair continued to attend Royal Society of Wildlife Trust events and serve on national committees. Staff from across CWT worked with other Trusts to deliver projects including development of habitat banking with Warwickshire and Berks, Bucks and Oxon Wildlife Trusts; Wilder Stockport with the Wildlife Trust for Lancashire, Manchester and North Merseyside; fundraising and communications with Derbyshire Wildlife Trust; and the Our Dee Estuary project with North Wales Wildlife Trust.	We will continue to play our full part in the development of the federation to support the implementation of the 'Bringing Nature Back' collective 2030 strategy.

Financial review

Review of the year

Cheshire Wildlife Trust's financial position improved during the year with overall income standing at £2,688,836 (2021: £2,290,447). The consolidated unrestricted income for the year was £1,973,586 (2021: £1,657,616) and restricted income £715,250 (2021: £632,831).

Expenditure for the period totalled £2,677,971 (2021: £2,239,461).

Principal funding sources

Following last year's transfer of trade and assets from the subsidiary to the parent company, the profile of the funding sources has changed. The largest source of unrestricted income is now from contracts and commercial income although membership subscriptions continue to provide a major part of the Trust's ongoing unrestricted funding. The main sources of funding for the charity were:

Earned income	43.3%
Grants	26.4%
Membership subscriptions (including gift aid)	18.9%
Appeals and sponsorships	5.8%
Donations and legacies	4.3%
Fundraising	1.0%
Other income	0.3%

Generating funds

We receive approximately 30% of our financial support through voluntary income from individuals across a range of fundraising activities. Trust membership is the foundation of everything we do and we endeavour to grow this each year. The overall number of members at 31 March 2022 was 16,923. This is attributable to an increased public interest in environmental concerns combined with an increased CWT profile and use of alternative recruitment methods such as digital conversion and direct mail. Members not only provide vital funding that enables positive work for wildlife but also represent the collective voice of people who care about wildlife. This is critically important in helping the Trust to stand up for wildlife and get our message across to key decision makers.

We also aim to build lasting support from institutional bodies, including our corporate members, statutory grant funders and charitable trusts. Some of our charitable activities also generate income, especially from land management, ecological advice and education services.

In our activities, we receive extensive assistance from our volunteers, who are at the heart of what the Trust does and achieves; without their help our work would be greatly diminished. Volunteers founded the Trust in 1962 and they are still fundamental to our work. They carry out a variety of roles, from practical conservation and field surveys, to support for office and education activities. All the volunteers are doing vital jobs that allow us to maintain our core business.

Financial reserves	**Group**
Total Funds	£1,291,898
Less restricted	£ 460,152
Less designated	£ 161,194
Unrestricted Funds	£ 670,552
Unrestricted cash and investments	£347,841

The Council has examined the Trust's requirements for financial reserves in the light of the main risks to the organisation in order to:

- provide sufficient cash liquidity for operational effectiveness of the Trust, and
- protect the continuity of the work undertaken by the Trust.

The Trust has targeted a level of unrestricted cash and investments of four months' expenditure by the Trust (excluding that on grant funded projects). At March 2022 the Trust had cash reserves which are sufficient to cover 3 months' unrestricted expenditure. The Trust is looking to increase this cover to safeguard both the operational and financial sustainability of the Trust as the organisation grows.

Investment policy

The trade and assets of Cheshire Ecological Services Ltd, which is wholly owned by CWT were transferred to the charity in October 2020, which resulted in the subsidiary becoming dormant. The outstanding loan of £50,000 was repaid in April 2021.

Any surplus cash, over and above the amount required to support one month's working capital requirement, is held in secure instant access accounts at competitive rates.

Risk management

The Chief Executive maintains a strategic risk register which is regularly reviewed by Council with actions to mitigate risks taken as needed.

The current main strategic risks are:

- the health & wellbeing of the Trust's staff, volunteers and supporters as a result of Covid-19;
- financial reserves which fall below the four-month target and associated cash flow sensitivities;
- continued decline of the UK's natural environment combined with insufficient societal and political support for our cause;
- rising inflation and the impact of the cost of living crisis on operational costs, wages and public spending;

- HS2 phase 2b, which if delivered would see the loss of 92ha of woodland, 495ha of species-rich grassland, 333 ponds, 43 Local Wildlife Sites and 1 CWT nature reserve.

Structure, governance and management

Governing document

The Cheshire Wildlife Trust Limited (CWT) is a charitable company limited by guarantee and as such has no share capital. It was incorporated on 24 October 1962 and registered as a charity on 20 February 1963. The company was established under a Memorandum of Association which established the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed under its Articles of Association. The Articles of Association were reviewed during 2019/20 with the support of Brabners LLP. The new governing document was approved by the Charity Commission in April 2020 and adopted at the AGM in November 2020.

Recruitment and appointment of Trustees

The Trustees are members of CWT who, having been nominated and seconded by other members, have been duly elected by members at the Annual General Meeting (AGM). Under the CWT Articles, such elected members are known as Council Members.

Council Members are registered as Directors of the company under company law and are also registered as Charity Trustees with the Charity Commission.

In compliance with the Articles of Association adopted on 14 November 2020, Directors are appointed to the Board for terms of three years. On expiry of such three-year term the Director shall resign unless re-elected by an ordinary resolution of the charity. A Director may not serve on the Board for more than three consecutive terms of three years.

Additional Council Members may be co-opted during the period. They must retire at the next AGM, though may stand for re-election.

The Council aims to have a representative mix of skills from various sectors of the community. The current mix of men and women, living across the area served by the Trust, includes expertise from backgrounds in the public, private and voluntary sectors. In addition to their knowledge and interest in wildlife, Council Members bring to the Trust managerial and organisational skills in policy, strategy, financial and legal matters.

The Articles of Association specifically preclude any payment to Council Members, other than reimbursement of properly incurred travel and incidental expenses. During the period Council Members claimed £nil in expenses (2019/20: £1,442.70).

There are no other financial transactions with any Trustees (or any persons connected with them).

Council Members induction and training

All Council Members have undergone an induction programme which included an induction pack, an explanation of our governance arrangements and the opportunity to visit Trust reserves and offices and to have discussions with Trust management, employees and volunteers.

As part of this induction, all Council Members have a Council Members' Handbook containing the reference material to guide the governance of the Trust, including copies of the Trust's Articles of Association, the Charity Commission booklet CC3 'The Essential Trustee', the Companies House 'Incorporation and Names' booklet (GP1), the Companies House 'Hallmarks of an Effective Charity' booklet (CC10) and the Health and Safety Executive booklet 'Leading Health & Safety at Work'. A copy of 'Good Governance: a practical guide for trustees, chairs and CEOs' by Dorothy Dalton on behalf of the National Council for Voluntary Organisations is held by the Chair of Council.

Organisational structure

The Council is responsible for the strategic direction and policy of the charity, and for appointing the Chief Executive, Charlotte Harris (from 1 April 2013), who attends Council meetings but does not have a voting entitlement. The Council holds at least four regular meetings a year, with occasional additional workshops to focus on special topics.

The Council utilises a number of committee and working groups to scrutinise and support specific areas of the Trust's operations in more detail. From January 2020, the following committees support the work of Council: Finance, Audit, Risk & Resources; Governance & Nominations; CES Board; Health & Safety Committee and a Management Support Group. This last group is advisory only and exists to support the Senior Management Team in between formal meetings.

Each committee and working group is chaired by a Council member. Membership of the group includes up to five Trustees and senior staff responsible for each work area. Meetings take place as required and report to Council.

The strategic direction, annual work plans and budget are agreed by Council with operational day-to-day decision making delegated to the Chief Executive and Senior Leadership Team.

Pay and remuneration of the Chief Executive is dealt with by the Chair of Council in consultation with the Board of Trustees. The Finance, Audit, Risk & Resources Committee considers recommendations from the Chief Executive regarding salaries for the Senior Leadership Team, who in turn set pay levels for more junior staff in line with the approved budget and CWT salary scales. Benchmarking data from the Wildlife Trust movement and wider charity sector are used to inform decision making.

Relationship with the charity and related parties including its subsidiaries

The Cheshire Wildlife Trust Limited is the sole shareholder in a trading company, Cheshire Ecological Services Limited (CES) (Company No: 2623356), which is a private limited company incorporated on 24 June 1991. On 1 October 2020 the staff, trade and activities of CES were transferred to CWT and the company became dormant in April 2021.

CWT 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. Partners have the use of the Wildlife Trusts logo and benefit from the resources, best practice and specialist experience of other member Trusts. Membership gives the charity a national voice and profile, as well as respectability by association for those unfamiliar with its particular work. However, each member of the partnership remains entirely independent in terms of governance.

Statement of the Board's responsibilities

The Trustees (who are also Directors of Cheshire Wildlife Trust 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 the group and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable group for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable 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 charity 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 the group and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Statement as to disclosure of information to auditors

The members of the Board who were in office on the date of approval of these financial statements have confirmed, as far as they are aware, that there is no relevant audit information of which the auditors are unaware. Each of the members of the Board has confirmed that they have taken all steps that they ought to have taken as members of the Board in order to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that it has been communicated to the auditor.

The Trustees have reviewed the future financial forecasts of the charity and are satisfied that the charity remains a going concern. Accordingly, the financial statements have been prepared on the going concern basis.

Auditors

A resolution to re-appoint Mitchell Charlesworth (Audit) Limited as auditor will be proposed at the Annual General Meeting.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective 1 January 2019).

The Report of the Members of the Board, which includes the Strategic Report on pages 6 to 16, was approved by the Board on 19 October 2022 and signed on their behalf:

Bill Stothart
Chair of Council

Date: 19 October 2022

THE CHESHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS AND TRUSTEES OF THE CHESHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The Cheshire Wildlife Trust Limited and its subsidiary for the year ended 31 March 2022 which comprise the Group Statement of Financial Activities, the Group Summary Income and Expenditure Account, the Group and the Parent Charitable Company Balance Sheet and the notes to the financial statements, including a summary of 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 group's and parent charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2022, and of the group's incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the group and parent 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 Trust'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 Trustees are responsible for the 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. 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.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, 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 audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. 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 for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- The Trustees' Report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception
In the light of our knowledge and understanding of the Trust, and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees' report.
We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

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

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 group's and parent 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 group or the parent charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements
Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in

the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

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.

Extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud
We identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and then design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, including obtaining audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Identifying and assessing potential risks related to irregularities
In identifying and assessing risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we considered the following:

- the nature of the sector, control environment and Trust performance;
- the Trust's own assessment of the risks that irregularities may occur either as a result of fraud or error;
- the results of our enquiries of management and members of the Board of Trustees of their own identification and assessment of the risks of irregularities;
- any matters we identified having obtained and reviewed the Trust's documentation of their policies and procedures relating to:
- identifying, evaluating and complying with laws and regulations and whether they were aware of any instances of non-compliance;
- detecting and responding to the risks of fraud and whether they have knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud;
- the internal controls established to mitigate risks of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations; and
- the matters discussed among the audit engagement team regarding how and where fraud might occur in the financial statements and any potential indicators of fraud.

As a result of these procedures, we considered the opportunities and incentives that may exist within the company for fraud and identified the greatest potential for fraud in the following areas (i) The recognition of revenue, (ii) the allocation of income and expenditure between restricted and unrestricted funds. In common with all audits under ISAs (UK), we are also required to perform specific procedures to respond to the risk of management override.

We also obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory framework that the Trust operates in, focusing on provisions of those laws and regulations that had a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The key laws and regulations we considered in this context included the Companies Act 2006, Charities Act 2011, and Health and Safety legislation.

In addition, we considered provisions of other laws and regulations that do not have a direct effect on the financial statements but compliance with which may be fundamental to the Trust's ability to operate or to avoid a material penalty. These included Data Protection Regulations.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS AND TRUSTEES OF THE CHESHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED

Audit response to risks identified

As a result of performing the above, we identified the recognition of revenue, and the allocation of income and expenditure between restricted and unrestricted funds as the key audit matters related to the potential risk of fraud.

In addition to the above, our procedures to respond to risks identified included the following:

- reviewing the financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with relevant laws and regulations described above as having a direct effect on the financial statements;
- enquiring of management and members of the Board of Trustees concerning actual and potential litigation and claims;
- performing analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships that may indicate risks of material misstatement due to fraud;
- reading minutes of meetings of those charged with governance and reviewing correspondence with relevant authorities where matters identified were significant; and
- in addressing the risk of fraud through management override of controls, testing the appropriateness of journal entries and other adjustments; assessing whether the judgements made in making accounting estimates are indicative of a potential bias; and evaluating the business rationale of any significant transactions that are unusual or outside the normal course of business.

We also communicated relevant identified laws and regulations and potential fraud risks to all engagement team members and remained alert to any indications of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations throughout the audit.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: https://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's 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 and its Trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's members, Trustees as a body and the charitable company's Trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Mitchell Charlesworth

19/10/2022

Jamielee Johnston (Senior Statutory Auditor)
For and on behalf of Mitchell Charlesworth (Audit) Limited

Statutory Auditor

3rd Floor
44 Peter Street
Manchester
M2 5GP

Mitchell Charlesworth (Audit) Limited is eligible to act as an auditor in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006

THE CHESHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED

Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities
Year ended 31 March 2022

	Notes	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2022 £	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2021 £
Income							
Donations and legacies	**2**	625,072	156,715	781,787	559,351	61,067	620,418
Charitable activities	**3**	1,344,673	558,535	1,903,208	1,094,197	571,764	1,665,961
Investments	**4**	3,841		3,841	4,068	-	4,068
TOTAL		1,973,586	715,250	2,688,836	1,657,616	632,831	2,290,447
Expenditure							
Raising funds	**5**	342,245	38,530	380,775	365,156	-	365,156
Charitable activities	**6**	1,753,871	543,325	2,297,196	1,357,677	516,628	1,874,305
TOTAL		2,096,116	581,855	2,677,971	1,722,833	516,628	2,239,461
Net income/(expenditure)		(122,530)	133,395	10,865	(65,217)	116,203	50,986
Transfers between funds		208,942	(208,942)	-	(35,249)	35,249	-
Net movement in funds		86,412	(75,547)	10,865	(100,466)	151,452	50,986
Reconciliation of funds:							
Total Funds brought forward		745,334	535,699	1,281,033	845,800	384,247	1,230,047
Total Funds carried forward		831,746	460,152	1,291,898	745,334	535,699	1,281,033

THE CHESHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED

Consolidated Balance Sheet
Year ended 31 March 2022

	Notes	Year ended 31 March 2022 £	£	Year ended 31 March 2021 £	£
Fixed Assets					
Tangible assets	**12**		618,496		117,522
Heritage assets	**12**		316,046		316,046
Total fixed assets			934,542		433,568
Current assets					
Stocks	**15**	4,853		7,956	
Debtors	**16**	798,405		328,592	
Cash at bank and in hand		1,027,831		1,114,881	
Total current assets		1,831,089		1,451,429	
Liabilities					
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	**18**	1,193,733		603,964	
Net current asset			637,356		847,465
Creditors: amounts falling due in more than one year	**19**		(280,000)		
Total net assets			1,291,898		1,281,033
The funds of the charity					
Unrestricted funds	**21**		831,746		745,334
Restricted income funds	**21**		460,152		535,699
Total funds			1,291,898		1,281,033

The notes on pages 31 to 50 form part of these financial statements.

Bill Stothart

Signed:
Bill Stothart
Date: 19/10/2022

Peter Rushton

Signed:
Peter Rushton
Date: 19/10/2022

THE CHESHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED

Company Balance Sheet
Year ended 31 March 2022

	Notes	Year ended 31 March 2022 £	£	Year ended 31 March 2021 £	£
Fixed Assets					
Tangible assets	**13**		618,496		117,522
Heritage assets	**13**		316,046		316,046
Investments	**14**		100		100
Total fixed assets			934,642		433,668
Current assets					
Stocks	**15**	4,853		7,956	
Debtors	**16**	798,405		454,694	
Cash at bank and in hand		1,027,831		983,072	
Total current assets		1,831,089		1,445,722	
Liabilities					
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	**18**	1,193,833		603,963	
Net current assets			637,256		841,759
Creditors : amounts falling due in more than one year	**19**		(280,000)		
Total net assets or liabilities			1,291,898		1,275,427
The funds of the charity					
Unrestricted funds			831,746		739,728
Restricted income funds	**21**		460,152		535,699
Total funds			1,291,898		1,275,427

The notes on pages 31 to 50 form part of these financial statements.

Bill Stothart

Signed:
Bill Stothart
Date: 19/10/2022

Peter Rushton

Signed:
Peter Rushton
Date: 19/10/2022

THE CHESHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED

Statement of Cash Flow
Year ended 31 March 2022

	Notes	2022 £	2022 £	2021 £	2021 £
Cash flows from operating activities:					
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	**26**	169,290		269,879	
Cash flows from investing activities:					
Dividends, interest and rents from investments		-		-	
Proceeds from the sale of property, plant and equipment		8,460		4,917	
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		(544,800)		(30,894)	
Proceeds from the sale of investments		-		-	
Purchase of investments		-		-	
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities		(536,340)		(25,977)	
Cash flows from financing activities:					
Repayments of borrowing		(220,000)		-	
Net cash inflows from new borrowing		500,000		-	
Receipt of endowment		-		-	
Net cash used in financing activities		280,000		-	
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period			(87,050)		243,902
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period			1,114,881		870,979
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period			1,027,831		1,114,881

Accounting Policies
Year ended 31 March 2022

1 Accounting policies

1.1 General information
The Cheshire Wildlife Trust Limited is a charity incorporated as a company limited by guarantee in England and Wales. The registered office is Bickley Hall Farm, Bickley, Malpas, Cheshire, SY14 8EF.

1.2 Basis of preparation
The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (FRS 102) – 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 (effective 1 January 2019). The figures in the accounts are rounded to the nearest £ and the presentational currency is sterling.

Cheshire Wildlife Trust meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical costs or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes.

1.3 Group Accounts
The Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) and Balance Sheet consolidate the financial statements of the Charity and its subsidiary undertaking. The results of the subsidiary are consolidated on a line-by-line basis.

No separate SOFA has been presented for the Charity alone as permitted by Section 408 of the Companies Act 2006.

The Charity has availed itself of Paragraph 4(1) of Schedule 1 of the Large and Medium-sized Companies and Group (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and adapted the Companies Act formats to reflect the special nature of the Charity's activities.

The subsidiary ceased trading in October 2020 and became dormant in April 2021 and as such there is no significant difference between the Group and Company figures.

1.4 Fund Accounting

1.4.1 Unrestricted Funds
Unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

1.4.2 Restricted Income Funds
These funds are given to the Trust for a particular purpose to be used in accordance with the wishes of the donor.

1.4.3 Designated Funds – Projects

Designated funds are unrestricted funds set aside by the Trustees for specific projects. These projects may only be partly funded with the unfunded element set aside from general funds.

1.5 Incoming resources

The Trust was formed in 1962 by volunteers and continues to benefit from their support in both financial and non-financial ways. Examples of financial support include membership income, donations and legacies. These contributions are included in the accounts within voluntary income.

Voluntary income is received by way of donations, gifts, subscriptions and fundraising activities. The income is credited to the SOFA on the earlier of receipt or when the receipt is probable, the value can be ascertained, and the Trust gets the legal right to the income. Tax refunds on gift aid income are, however, accrued as earned.

Legacy income is included in the accounts when the amount due can be quantified with reasonable probability and the timing of the receipt is known.

Grants receivable which are not conditional on the delivery of a specific performance by the charity are recognised when the charity becomes unconditionally entitled to the grant. These are recognised as 'Income from donation and legacies'.

Grants receivable that relate to the delivery of a specific performance by the charity are recognised when the charity earns the right to consideration by its performance. A number of these grants are retrospective and where these are outstanding at the year end for work completed, they are accrued. These are recognised as 'Income from charitable activities'.

All grants receivable are charged to the SOFA in the period to which they relate.

1.6 Resources expended

All expenditure, other than that which is capitalised, is included in the SOFA, recognised on an accruals basis as a liability when incurred.

Charitable activities consist of the costs incurred in support of expenditure on the objects of the charity.

Costs of raising funds consists of expenditure associated with attracting voluntary income and the costs of fundraising and maintaining memberships.

Support costs relate to expenditure incurred in support of the charitable objects of the charity. These include the provision of premises, personnel, information technology, insurances and audit fees and have been allocated on the basis of direct staff wage costs.

Many of our volunteers provide non-financial support covering a wide range of activities, from acting as Trustees to assisting in conservation activities including surveying, and providing administrative support. No amounts are included in the financial statements for services donated by volunteers.

Capital purchases are included in the accounts at cost. Capital purchases of less than £250 are expensed.

1.7 Irrecoverable VAT

The charity is partially exempt. Irrecoverable VAT is allocated to the appropriate cost categories.

1.8 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. As such the Trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.9 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less depreciation. Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset, except for land, over its estimated useful life:

Plant and machinery – 25% per annum reducing balance
Fixtures and fittings – 25% per annum reducing balance
Motor vehicles – 25% per annum reducing balance
Computer equipment – 25–33.33% per annum straight line basis

No depreciation is provided on freehold land.
Capitalised expenditure on buildings is depreciated over the remainder of the lease period.

1.10 Heritage Assets

Heritage Assets are nature reserves, capitalised at the date of addition. Any assets donated, where the cost is unknown, are capitalised at the date of addition. Further details are disclosed within note 12 to the accounts.

1.11 Stocks and work in progress

General stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value, where cost comprises purchase price.

Work in progress is valued at cost.

1.12 Deferred income

Restricted funds received for projects which are substantially incomplete or not commenced at year end are recognised in the year in which they are received and carried forward in the balance of restricted funds. The restricted funds are reduced each year by an amount equal to any expenditure on such projects which have been incurred in the year.

1.13 Pension costs

The charitable group operates a defined contribution scheme for the benefit of its employees. Contributions payable are included in the SOFA in the year they are payable.

1.14 Finance and operating leases

Rentals payable under operating leases are charged to the SOFA over the period in which the cost is incurred. The Trust has no finance leases.

1.15 Provisions

A provision is recognised when the Trust has a legal or constructive obligation as a result of past events and it is probable that an outflow of economic benefits will be required to settle the obligation.

1.16 Taxation

The Trust is a registered charity and is not liable to United Kingdom income tax or corporation tax on charitable activities.

1.17 Material uncertainties/judgements

There were no material uncertainties or judgements contained within the presented figures.

1.18 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

1.19 Government grants

During the year the charity benefited from £1,561 of government grants in the form of the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme. In accordance with our accounting policy this credit is included in other income within the Income Statement over the same period as the staff costs for which it compensates.

1.20 Financial instruments

The Charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the Charity's balance sheet when the Charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Basic financial liabilities
Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans, are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities.

Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities
Financial liabilities are derecognised when the Charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

Notes to the Accounts
Year ended 31 March 2022

2 Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2022	Unrestricted	Restricted	2021
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Donations & legacies	115,938		115,938	100,415	10,402	110,817
Grants				1,000	12,000	13,000
Subscriptions	509,134		509,134	457,936	-	457,936
Appeal income		156,715	156,715	-	38,665	38,665
	625,072	156,715	781,787	559,351	61,067	620,418

3 Charitable activities

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2022	Unrestricted	Restricted	2021
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Fundraising	25,550		25,550	6,883	442	7,325
Grants	150,044	558,535	708,579	180,025	519,821	699,846
Earned income	1,165,280		1,165,280	813,212	50,125	863,337
Other sales	3,799		3,799	41,665	363	42,028
Rental income				52,412	1,013	53,425
	1,344,673	558,535	1,903,208	1,094,197	571,764	1,665,961

4 Investment income

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2022	Unrestricted	Restricted	2021
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Interest received	3,841	-	3,841	4,068	-	4,068
	3,841	-	3,841	4,068	-	4,068

Notes to the Accounts
Year ended 31 March 2022

5 Expenditure on raising funds

	Donations & legacies	Fundraising	Total 2022	Donations & legacies	Fundraising	Total 2021
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Staff costs	8,214	155,134	163,349	-	208,783	208,783
Membership costs		54,792	54,792	99	47,753	47,852
Other direct costs	750	103,712	104,462	429	20,893	21,322
Support costs (Note 7)	1,617	56,556	58,172	-	87,199	87,199
	10,581	370,194	380,775	528	364,628	365,156

6 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Conservation & reserves management	Community engagement	Total 2022	Conservation & reserves management	Community engagement	Total 2021
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Staff costs	680,901	397,014	1,077,915	609,541	108,187	717,728
Reserves costs	567,146	83,388	650,554	602,145	32,100	634,244
Motor & travel	30,242	11,572	41,814	25,158	6,228	31,386
Professional fees	6,543	2,371	8,914	14,757	-	14,757
Sundries	70,487	26,983	97,450	133,041	3,731	136,773
Depreciation	31,191	5,486	36,677	36,632	3,023	39,655
Support costs (Note 7)	278,176	105,696	383,872	254,577	45,185	299,762
	1,664,686	632,510	2,297,196	1,675,851	198,454	1,874,305

Notes to the Accounts
Year ended 31 March 2022

7 Support costs

	Total 2022	Total 2021
	£	£
Training	702	270
Insurance	28,609	24,990
Light & heat	4,767	1,566
Repairs & maintenance	7,508	7,339
Legal & professional	14,081	9,985
Staff & volunteer expenses	5,459	8,718
Motor expenses	1,860	153
Telecoms	9,456	5,759
Post & stationery	3,541	2,635
Sundry expenses	5,348	6,110
RSWT contribution	27,230	29,447
Bank charges	3,227	1,960
Depreciation	5,139	4,470
Admin salaries	164,329	185,886
Office costs	6,369	4,325
Comms & PR		36
Accountancy	28,703	
Audit fees	11,615	7,720
Computer expenses	27,402	27,735
Premises costs	58,171	46,023
Recruitment	1,299	299
Irrecoverable VAT	7,049	1,161
Doubtful debts	20,181	10,374
	442,045	386,961

Allocation of support costs

	2022	2021
	£	£
Raising funds	58,173	132,672
Charitable activities	383,872	254,289
	442,045	386,961

Notes to the Accounts
Year ended 31 March 2022

8 Net movement in funds

The net movement in funds is after charging/(crediting):

	Note	2022		2021	
		Group	Company	Group	Company
		£	£	£	£
Auditor's remuneration	9	11,615	11,615	11,520	7,720
Operating lease payments		1,812	1,812	5,992	5,992
Profit on disposal of fixed assets		(7,010)	(7,010)		
Depreciation	12	42,376	42,376	48,807	46,429

9 Staff costs

	2022		2021	
	Group	Company	Group	Company
	£	£	£	£
Wages & salaries	1,234,939	1,234,939	1,030,875	967,282
Social security costs	103,055	103,055	87,536	81,791
Pension costs	67,600	67,600	67,953	63,326
	1,405,594	1,405,594	1,186,364	1,112,399

The average number of full time equivalent employees, analysed by function was:

	2022		2021	
	Group	Company	Group	Company
Charitable activities	30	30	21	21
Generating Funds	9	9	17	14
Management & Administration	5	5	5	5
	44	44	43	40

No employees had earnings over £60,000 during the year.

10 Pension costs

The Trust operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the Trust in an independently administered fund. The pension costs charge represents contributions payable by the group to the fund and amounted to £67,600 (2021: £67,953).

11 Related party transactions

Cheshire Ecological Services Ltd (CES) repaid an outstanding loan due to the Trust (CWT) of £50,000 in April 2021.

At the balance sheet date no amounts were outstanding.

No Trustee or any person connected with them received any remuneration from the group during the year (2021: £nil)

During the year Trustees were reimbursed travel expenses of £nil (2021: £1,433).

Notes to the Accounts
Year ended 31 March 2022

12 Tangible assets

Group

	Heritage assets	Land & buildings	Plant & machinery	Fixtures & fittings	Motor vehicles	Computer equipment	SFP entitlement	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Cost or donated value								
01 April 2021	316,046	113,385	130,391	32,017	76,649	58,645	10,258	737,391
Additions	-	467,994	2,176	7,377	47,250	20,003	-	544,800
Disposals	-	-			(9,286)			(9,286)
At 31 March 2022	316,046	581,379	132,567	39,394	114,613	78,648	10,258	1,272,905
Depreciation								
01 April 2021	-	113,025	66,834	25,984	46,044	41,678	10,258	303,823
Charge for the year	-	659	16,948	3,122	12,736	8,911	-	42,376
Disposals	-	-	-		(7.836)		-	(7,836)
At 31 March 2022	-	113,684	83,782	29,106	50,944	50,589	10,258	338,363
Net book value								
At 31 March 2022	316,046	467,695	48,785	10,288	63,669	28,059	-	934,542
At 31 March 2021	316,046	360	63,557	6,033	30,605	16,967	-	433,568

13 Tangible assets

Company

	Heritage assets	Land & buildings	Plant & machinery	Fixtures & fittings	Motor vehicles	Computer equipment	SFP entitlement	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Cost or donated value								
01 April 2021	316,046	113,385	122,503	29,276	68,380	56,679	10,258	716,527
Additions	-	467,994	2,176	7,377	47,250	20,003		544,800
Disposals					(9,286)			(9,286)
At 31 March 2022	316,046	581,379	124,679	36,653	106,344	76,682	10,258	1,252,041
Depreciation								
01 April 2021	-	113,025	60,232	24,173	34,209	41,062	10,258	282,959
Charge for the year	-	659	16,948	3,122	12,736	8,911		42,376
Disposals					(7,836)			(7,836)
At 31 March 2022	-	113,684	77,180	27,295	39,109	49,973	10,258	317,499
Net book value								
At 31 March 2022	316,046	467,695	47,499	9,358	67,235	26,709	-	934,542
At 31 March 2021	316,046	360	62,271	5,103	34,171	15,617	-	433,568

Heritage assets

The focus of the Trust is the protection and enhancement of wildlife habitats and biodiversity within Cheshire. As such the Trust owns and maintains a number of nature reserves that fall within the definition of heritage assets in accordance with FRS 102.

The Trustees consider that, owing to the intrinsic nature of the Trust's reserves, conventional valuation approaches lack sufficient reliability and that, even if valuations could be obtained, the costs would be onerous compared with the additional benefits derived by the Trust and the users of the accounts. As a result, these assets have been capitalised at cost, and, being land, have not been depreciated.

Nature reserves acquired by gift are not capitalised unless a reliable enough reference value of the deemed cost of the asset is available without undue expense to the Trust.

The costs of maintaining heritage assets are expensed through the Statement of Financial Activities when incurred as part of the Trust's charitable activities.

Five-year summary of heritage asset transactions

	2021/22	2020/21	2019/20	2018/19	2017/18
	£	£	£	£	£
Additions	-	-	66,230	-	-
Purchases	-	-	-	-	-
Donations	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	66,230	-	-

Capital commitments

At 31 March 2022, the Trust had a capital commitment of £nil for the purchase of land (2021: £nil).

14 Investments

Cheshire Wildlife Trust Limited owns the entire share capital (1 ordinary share of £100) in its subsidiary, Cheshire Ecological Services Limited, which is incorporated in England.

Further details concerning the activities and assets of this company are given in note 22.

Notes to the Accounts
Year ended 31 March 2022

15 Stocks

	2022		2021	
	Group	Company	Group	Company
	£	£	£	£
Stock	4,853	4,853	7,956	7,956
	4,853	4,853	7,956	7,956

16 Debtors

	2022		2021	
	Group	Company	Group	Company
	£	£	£	£
Trade debtors	451,785	451,785	236,574	226,116
Prepayments and accrued income	342,478	342,478	7,218	7,218
Amounts due from subsidiary companies			-	136,561
Other debtors	4,142	4,142	84,800	84,799
	798,405	798,405	328,592	454,694

Trade debtors is stated net of a provision of £39,197 (2021: £33,926).

17 Taxation

The group is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

18 Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2022		2021	
	Group	Company	Group	Company
	£	£	£	£
Trade creditors	137,719	137,719	110,873	110,873
Deferred income	863,946	863,946	332,837	332,837
Taxation & social security	132,297	132,297	50,600	50,600
Accruals	57,953	57,953	34,656	34,656
Other creditors	1,818	1,918	74,998	74,997
	1,193,733	1,193,833	603,964	603,963

19 Creditors: Amounts falling due in more than one year

	2022	
	Group	Company
	£	£
Loans	280,000	280,000
	280,000	280,000

20 Commitments under operating leases

At 31 March 2022, the charity had outstanding commitments for future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases, which fall due as follows:

	2022		2021	
	Group	Company	Group	Company
	£	£	£	£
Land & buildings				
Within one year	67,556	67,556	46,556	46,556
Two to five years	135,112	135,112	-	-
Greater than five years	-	-	-	-
Total	202,668	202,668	46,556	46,556
Other				
Within one year	1,812	1,812	2,987	2,987
Two to five years	6,021	6,021	4,371	4,371
Greater than five years			585	585
Total	7,833	7,833	7,943	7,943

21 Specified projects

Restricted funds represent monies (including donations and grants) which have been received for specific purposes as outlined by the donor. The Trust has a number of such funds and for the purposes of statutory reporting these have been grouped together under the four headings below.

Transfers out of restricted funds are made where a project is completed and no funding is required to be returned to the funder. Transfers into funds are made when a project is completed and the shortfall in funding is made up from the Trust's general funds.

Notes to the Accounts
Year ended 31 March 2022

Restricted income funds	As at 1 April 2020	Income	Expenditure	Transfer between funds	As at 31 March 2021	Income	Expenditure	Transfer between funds	As at 31 March 2022
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Reserves acquisition funds	161,193				161,193	-	-	(161,193)	
Capital grants	16,681		200		16,481	140,094	10,669	(449)	145,457
Community engagement funds	60,082	119,651	77,455	35,249	137,527	246,649	212,543	(36,507)	138,126
Conservation & reserves	146,291	492,329	418,122		220,498	328,507	358,643	(10,793)	179,569
	384,247	611,980	495,777	35,249	535,699	715,250	581,855	(208,942)	460,152

The reserves acquisition funds have been transferred to a designated unrestricted fund by the Trustees to fund future land purchases for habitat creation projects.

Capital grants represents grants received to fund capital purchases including land for habitat creation.

Community engagement funds and conservation and reserves funds represent grants received to carry out the Trust's charitable activities.

Funding has been granted by a variety of organisations including:

- William Dean Trust
- Scottish Power
- Sport England
- People’s Postcode Lottery
- National Lottery Heritage Fund
- DEFRA

Notes to the Accounts
Year ended 31 March 2022

Major projects	As at 1 April 2020	Income	Expenditure	Transfer between funds	As at 31 March 2021	Income	Expenditure	Transfer between funds	As at 31 March 2022
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
William Dean Trust	-	12,564	12,564	-	-	15,000		-	15,000
Other nature reserves	23,863	99,230	104,043	-	19,050	28,520	15,205	-	32,365
Water Environment	9,990	151,347	106,979	-	54,358	69,664	67,498		56,524
Business Transition	12,788	30,000	-	-	42,788	7,500	7,500	-	42,788
Living Seas/ Dee Coastliners	23,071	51,378	50,712		23,737	122,904	94,050	-	52,591
Slowing the Flow	28	53,165	51,770		1,423	42,969	42,969	-	1,423
NFM	3,971	51,382	28,840	-	26,513		15,043		11,470
Pollution Fund	73,776			-	73,776	0	0		73,776
Trees for Climate						101,129	78,366		22,763

Unrestricted funds	As at 1 April 2020	Income	Expenditure	Transfer between funds	As at 31 March 2021	Income	Expenditure	Transfer between funds	As at 31 March 2022
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
General fund	833,353	1,657,616	1,722,833	(35,249)	732,887	1,973,586	2,096,116	60,195	670,552
Designated fund	12,447	-		-	12,447			148,717	161,194
	845,800	1,657,616	1,722,833	(35,249)	745,334	1,973,586	2,096,116	208,942	831,746

Notes to the Accounts
Year ended 31 March 2022

22 Trading company
Cheshire Ecological Services Limited

Profit and Loss Account
Year ended 31 March 2022

	2022	2021
	£	£
Turnover	(2,376)	233,305
Cost of sales		(77,575)
Gross profit	(2,376)	155,730
Administrative expenses	(3,380)	(68,764)
Other income	149	192
Trading profit	(5,607)	87,158
Charitable donation		(89,036)
Operating (loss)/profit on ordinary activities before taxation	(5,607)	(1,878)
Tax on profit on ordinary activities		
Profit on ordinary activities after taxation	(5,607)	(1,878)
Reserves brought forward	5,707	7,585
	100	5,707

	2021	2021
	£	£
Fixed assets	-	-
Current assets	100	142,267
Creditors		(136,560)
Net current assets/(liabilities)	100	5,707

The Charity owns 100% of the shares in Cheshire Ecological Services limited which is incorporated in the United Kingdom and registered in England (Company Registration No: 2623356). The subsidiary's activities, namely the provision of ecological and biological surveys, was transferred to the charity in October 2020 and became dormant in April 2021.

23 Analysis of net assets between funds (Company)

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2022 Total
	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	591,138	27,358	618,496
Heritage assets	316,046		316,046
Stocks and work in progress	4,853		4,853
Investments	100		100
Debtors	443,420	354,985	798,405
Cash at bank and in hand	347,841	679,990	1,027,831
Liabilities	(871,652)	(602,181)	(1,473,833)
Total net assets	831,746	460,152	1,291,898

24 Share capital

The Charity has no share capital being a company limited by guarantee to contribute an amount not exceeding £2 per member in the event of a winding up situation.

25 Control

The Charity is controlled by the Trustees.

26 Reconciliation of net income/(expenditure) to net cash flow from operating activities

	2022	2021
	£	£
Net income/(expenditure) for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)	10,865	50,986
Depreciation	42,376	48,807
(Gains)/losses on investments		
Dividends, interest and rents from investments		
Loss/(profit) on the sale of fixed assets	(7,010)	(1,681)
(Increase)/decrease in stock	3,103	(1,773)
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(469,813)	(1,097)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	589,769	174,637
Net cash inflow from operating activity	169,290	269,879

	As at 1 April 2020	Movement in year	As at 31 March 2021	Movement in year	As at 31 March 2022
	£	£	£	£	£
Cash at bank and in hand	870,979	243,902	1,114,881	(87,050)	1,027,831

THE CHESHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED

England & Wales - Charity number 214927

Accounts

Charity Registration No. 214927
Company Registration No. 738693 (England & Wales)

THE CHESHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED AND ITS SUBSIDIARY COMPANY

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

CHARITY COMMISSIO
30 DEC 2021
ACCOUNTS
RECEIVED

THE CHESHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATION

Trustees	B Stothart (Chair) R H Marrs G Coates (resigned November 2020) P R Cheek (resigned November 2020) H Carey P Rushton S Steer (resigned 31 March 2021) C Neame S Judd S Williams C Swarbrick S Ridsdale (appointed November 2020) J Roscoe (appointed November 2020)
Secretary	Andrea Castling (resigned February 2021)
Chief Executive	Charlotte Harris (acting Secretary from February 2021)
Registered office	Bickley Hall Farm Bickley Malpas Cheshire SY14 8EF
Charity number	214927
Company number	738693
Auditors	Mitchell Charlesworth LLP Chartered Accountants Statutory Auditor 3rd Floor 44 Peter Street Manchester M2 5GP
Bankers	CAF Bank 25 Kings Hill Avenue Kings Hill West Malling Kent ME19 4JQ
Solicitors	Hibbert Durrad Moxon 25 Barker Street Nantwich Cheshire CW5 5EN

THE CHESHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED

CONTENTS PAGE

	Page
Chair's Report	4
Trustees' Report	5 – 23
Independent Auditors' Report	24 – 28
Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities	29
Consolidated Balance Sheet	30
Company Balance Sheet	31
Statement of Cashflow	32
Accounting Policies and Notes to the Accounts	33 – 53

TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

The year in question, April 2020 to March 2021, was dominated by the Coronavirus pandemic. In England we were effectively in lockdown for seven months of the year, and under restrictions for the entire year.

In the first half of the year, surviving and sustaining the organisation through the pandemic became the short-term objectives instead of our real objectives. CWT took action to minimise the impact of the restrictions and any financial challenges, and to maintain our activities to pursue our objectives where possible. For some of the time, however, our events programme, education work and all volunteering were suspended. In April 2020, two-thirds of staff were furloughed. However, many were able to return by the summer due to an easing of restrictions for land-based industries and our work to bring about nature's recovery was then largely unaffected for the remainder of the year. However, disruption caused by the pandemic and changes to some funding sources meant that building on the Trust's prior achievements to grow our impact was affected.

In the light of these circumstances, the achievements and performance shown in the Trustees' Report from page 9 and the financial review from page 18 are notable, if not outstanding, results. We protected, restored and created over 8,000 Ha of space for nature – including creating 94 new ponds, working with over 100 farmers and reintroducing the beaver to Cheshire. We engaged almost 53,000 people, grew our membership to its highest ever level and launched several successful policy campaigns. The Trust returned a surplus for the fifth successive year and remains in a stable financial position.

For the last two years, I have written that 'it is a critical time for nature and wildlife, and they are in danger'. We continue to face a biodiversity crisis and a climate crisis. Cheshire Wildlife Trust, and Wildlife Trusts across the country, have a critical role engaging and energising people to play an active part in combatting these challenges and enabling nature's recovery. Your continued support is both valued and essential.

I would like to thank all staff, members, volunteers, supporters and Trustees; it is their efforts, perseverance and resilience that have sustained the Trust through a difficult year. The hard work of staff and the support of others are ever more important and appreciated.

We need more space for wildlife, and more people on nature's side.

Bill Stothart
Chair

Date: 21 October 2021

THE CHESHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED

TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

The Trustees have pleasure in presenting their report together with the audited accounts for the year ended 31 March 2021. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) – Accounting and Reporting by provisions of the Charities SORP (FRS 102) applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK (effective 1 January 2019).

Strategic overview

Cheshire Wildlife Trust is the only charity dedicated to the conservation of wildlife and wild places in the Cheshire region.

Formed in 1962 by volunteers, Cheshire Wildlife Trust is one of 46 independent charities, which together form the UK-wide Wildlife Trust movement. The Trust benefits from the support of over 15,000 members and over 300 volunteers, is governed by a 10-strong Board of Trustees and currently employs 49 dedicated staff. We are passionate about securing a future for local wildlife on land and at sea and work as part of the Wildlife Trust movement to influence decision making for nature at the highest level nationally.

Cheshire Wildlife Trust Limited is required by charity and company law to act within the objects of its Memorandum of Association, which are as follows:

1. To promote and deliver the conservation, protection, improvement and expansion of the physical and natural environment, for the benefit of wildlife and the public of the United Kingdom; particularly in the Vice County 58 (the traditional County Palatine of Chester) and adjacent areas.

2. To advance the education and engagement of the public in the principles and practice of:
    a. Biodiversity conservation and enhancement;
    b. Sustainable living and development;
    c. Nature-based health and wellbeing initiatives; and
    d. Natural capital, and its protection, restoration and value to society.

3. To promote research in all branches of relevant scientific study and to publish the useful results thereof.

In 2020 we launched our 2030 Strategy: Wilder Cheshire. The full strategy is available on our website *https://www.cheshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/2030strategy* with a summary below:

Our vision is for a Wilder Cheshire

Our mission is to bring wildlife back – for everyone, everywhere – and we urgently need your help.

We have reached a tipping point. By 2030, we must see nature recovering, wildlife returning and ecosystems restored. We can't defer; we can't wait for more data or better reasons to act. The evidence is already there and we know what to do. If we delay, the damage will be irreversible. If we wait until the impacts of environmental breakdown are upon us – that is until we witness the rising sea levels, personally suffer the effects of pollution or notice the lack of birdsong – it will be too late.

Putting nature into recovery must be what we turn all our efforts to now; it has to be the priority.

It won't be easy. This is a complex challenge and the next 10 years will be just the start, but we can do it.

Our strategy is focused on tackling three crises:

Wildlife is in crisis – Let's fight for wildlife's recovery.

Outcome: At least 30% of the land and sea in the UK needs to be managed for nature so that missing wildlife will return. We want to see more and better connected wild spaces and the pressures on the environment reduced.

Why? Nature today is not normal. Since the 1930s, species-rich wildflower meadows have become virtually extinct; since the 1950s, we have lost over half the abundance of all species across the UK; since the 1970s, there's been a 60% fall in vertebrates globally. Elsewhere, recent reports tell us that insect populations have collapsed by 75% between 1990 and 2014. In the UK, we have lost half of our farmland birds in one generation.

Cheshire is not immune to these trends. Less than 10% of our region is protected for wildlife. The few places where a rich diversity of life can still be found are nature reserves and special wildlife sites. Without these havens, the picture would be even worse, but they are too small and are under siege from a host of external pressures. There are simply not enough of these precious places left to save biodiversity.

Climate is in crisis – Let's make nature part of the solution.

Outcome: Resilient nature will help combat climate change. We need more carbon to be locked up in our plants and soils and to restore broken ecosystems.

Why? We are facing a climate crisis and nature is a big part of the solution. Healthy ecosystems and restored habitats will help us play our part in delivering the UN's Paris Agreement to tackle the climate emergency.

Our vast peatlands should protect us. They offer the largest land-based carbon store in the world, but we have drained and burned and cut them – releasing their carbon into the atmosphere. They

have become a carbon enemy – contributing 4% of the UK's annual greenhouse gas emissions.

Our woodlands should protect us. Trees are an effective weapon against the climate crisis, but we are not planting enough of them. Average woodland cover in the EU is over 40%. In the UK, it is 13% and in Cheshire it is less than 7%. Our insistence on prioritising other land use denies us the benefits of woodland which extend beyond carbon sequestration to biodiversity and spiritual gain.

Our soils should protect us. UK soils store 10 billion tonnes of carbon – equivalent to 80 years of our annual greenhouse gas emissions – but unless we change how we farm, we will lose this benefit. In the pursuit of ever-cheaper food, we have already stripped our soils of over half of their carbon.

Our wetlands should protect us. They are nature's flood defences and they hold twice as much carbon as our woodland; however, we have drained them and replaced them with farms, houses and roads. We have turned our rivers against us. We have filled them with chemicals, enclosed them underground and straightened, deepened and constrained them. As the climate crisis pours more water onto our land, it has nowhere to go. It rushes into our towns and cities, and overflows onto our streets.

We are in crisis – Let's have more people on nature's side.

Outcome: Our wellbeing and economy relies on a healthy, natural environment. We need everyone to be passionate about wildlife and at least 1 in 4 people to be taking action for nature's recovery.

Why? Our disconnect with nature is snowballing with each passing generation. The less parents know, the less they can teach their own children about their natural world. New generations grow up more and more distant from the natural world around them. They are starved of the opportunity to enjoy the wonder of wildlife and to understand their place amongst nature. They do not miss it when it disappears, and so it continues to slip away unnoticed. When we lose our connection with nature, mental health problems, obesity and isolation rise.

Meanwhile, businesses suffer when we don't take care of our natural environment and we pay the price. Our utility bills are higher because we need to clean our water. Our food bills are rising because farming is not sustainable. The costs of flood damage are devastating where nature's defences fail. The social and economic impact of our apathy towards dealing with these issues is huge and growing. Those living furthest from nature, often the poorest, suffer most. We are facing a nature deficiency pandemic.

We will deliver our strategy through a 10-point plan:

1. Protect places where wildlife lives
2. Bring wildlife back to our land and sea

3. Create a society that cares about nature
4. Work with farmers so wildlife can thrive
5. Embrace wildlife as our neighbour in our towns and cities
6. Grow our stores of natural carbon
7. Build a network of people campaigning for nature
8. Make our rivers cleaner and healthier
9. Make planning and policies give more to nature than they take away
10. Collaborate with people who share our passion for wildlife

This 10-point plan is underpinned by a further strategic goal to ensure that Cheshire Wildlife Trust (CWT) is effective and resilient delivered through the following three programmes:

1. Financing the future
2. High-performing Team CWT
3. Well-run organisation

Public benefit statement

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in section 4 of the Charities Act 2006 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit, 'Charities and Public Benefit'.

The Trust's public benefit is enshrined in its charitable objects as outlined above.

Strategic Report

The information below, including the review of achievements and performance, financial review, risk management statement and summary of future plans, forms the Strategic Report for the purpose of the Companies Act 2006.

Achievements and performance

Our charitable objects are the drivers behind our 2030 strategic framework. Our achievements and performance are reported against each of the four strategic outcomes.

1. Wildlife is in crisis: Below is a summary of our nature recovery programme to bring about 30% of land in Cheshire protected and well managed for wildlife by 2030 and to see the abundance and diversity of wildlife increase.

Overall, we protected, restored and created 8,284 Ha of land for wildlife against a target of 8,105 Ha.

What we planned for FY21	Some of the things we did in FY21	What we have planned for FY22
Landscape Scale Delivery: Review our area-based working.	Covid19, a change in personnel and new opportunities informed a review of our delivery structure. The Cheshire Ecological Services Team were TUPE transferred into the Operations Team and area-based working focused on East, West and Wirral. Towards the end of the year, community engagement activities moved from the Operations Team into the Fundraising and Engagement Directorate in order to align more closely with our 2030 strategy.	Continue to develop and scale up the now renamed Nature Recovery Team to deliver greater impact.
Secure funding for the Dee Coastliners Project.	We continued to work with partners to develop and improve the project, including changing the name to 'Our Dee Estuary'. We worked on the preparation of over 50 supporting documents alongside videos of support for the second round application to the National Lottery Heritage Fund.	Submit the second round application to the National Lottery Heritage Fund for a 3.5-year project and, if successful, begin delivery in Winter 2021.
Improve the management of over 7,000 Ha of non-designated land for wildlife in the Pennine Fringe by giving advice to at least 150 landowners.	We supported farmers with habitat management advice across 2,400 Ha in partnership with Natural England through the Facilitation Fund and carried out surveys, leading to the better management of species-rich grassland at 15 sites (169	We plan to raise £50,000 through member and major donor contributions to continue our work in the area. This will include producing 25 management

	Ha). We've created 6.5 Ha of new woodland on farms and restored 600m of hedgerow. We restored 26km of river by reinstating natural features such as large woody debris to provide habitat for aquatic invertebrates and attenuate flood waters.	plans for farms in the Bollin catchment and improve water quality and restore habitats in the headwaters of the River Dane.
Nature Reserve Management:		
Secure an extension to Hatchmere Nature Reserve.	We made some progress with this acquisition but delays at Land Registry caused by Covid19 have slowed the process.	We will finalise the transfer of this land into our ownership.
Increase the area of land under our management at Crown Farm Quarry.	We now manage an additional 2.7 Ha of land at Crown Farm and are exploring the best way to make this land better for wildlife.	We will continue to manage the nature reserve in line with the restoration plan.
Improve the condition of 120 Ha of floodplain at Gowy Meadows.	We put the finishing touches to the Highways England wetland creation project during FY21 and were able to see the fruits of our labour as the ditches and scrapes filled up with water, creating ideal conditions for the population of an extremely rare pond mud snail.	We will create a further 2.6 Ha of flower-rich grassland at Gowy Meadows using seed collected from our donor meadows across Cheshire.
Species Recovery:		
Continue to create and restore ponds in Cheshire East as required by Natural England as part of the great crested newt District Licensing Scheme.	We created 94 new ponds for great crested newts in Cheshire East, on our own nature reserves and by working with farmers and other landowners.	Create and restore a further 100 ponds for great crested newts, on our own land and in partnership with farmers and other landowners.
Create 10 Ha of wildflower meadow through Pollinating Cheshire.	We collected enough seed to re-seed 13 Ha of species-rich grassland across Cheshire.	Restore a further 10 Ha of grassland to species-rich meadow using green hay and seed harvested from donor sites.
Launch our live cameras at Trentabank Nature Reserve.	We installed cameras at the Trentabank Heronry and were able to capture footage of barn owls, tawny owls, blue tits, pied flycatchers, badgers, red deer and robins which have been shared widely on social media.	Adjust several of the cameras and boxes to provide better footage going forward. Pursue funding to enable us to livestream the footage as well as have a greater presence in the rest of Macclesfield Forest through interpretation panels and marked wildlife trails.

Reintroduce beavers under licence to Hatchmere.	We reintroduced a pair of beavers to Hatchmere in November 2020. The pair have settled in well and have begun building their lodge.	Monitor the impact of the beavers on the wet woodland habitat and explore licensing options for a second reintroduction scheme in another part of Cheshire.
Continue to monitor the reintroduced population of white-faced darter.	Monitoring throughout the 2020 survey season showed that white-faced darters have continued to breed successfully within Doolittle Moss. Positive sightings of species at the CWT nature reserve, Black Lake, confirms that they have spread across Delamere Forest, which is great news.	Continue to look for sources of funding and work towards an expanding population of white-faced darter dragonflies throughout Delamere Forest and the surrounding area.
Start a county-wide monitoring plan with volunteers to map the current distribution of reptiles.	This was not possible due to Covid restrictions. Only a small number of sites were surveyed.	Reptiles work is on hold temporarily due to additional unexpected workstreams. We will recruit additional capacity and review projects for FY22.
Deliver species recovery plans for water vole, reptiles and curlew.	No progress was made on the species plan due to lack of funding. Applications were submitted for water voles and curlews, but these were unsuccessful.	Money raised from our Cheshire Peak District appeal means we can begin planning delivery of our curlew recovery plan ready for the 2022 breeding season. We will also join the English Curlew Partnership.
Raise awareness of swifts, hedgehogs and pollinators in Stockport.	Funding was secured to run an urban wildlife project focusing on swifts, hedgehogs and pollinators.	Deliver the Wild Stockport Project and create space for pollinators in Stockport, install swift boxes and create hedgehog streets.
	Other species recovery work included: Natterjack toad populations were monitored at Red Rocks.	Continue to monitor natterjack toad populations and work with Amphibian and Reptile Conservation to explore expanding populations in the Dee Estuary.
	Sea holly was planted at Red Rocks to increase habitat for grayling butterflies.	Continue to monitor grayling butterflies to understand more about their distribution and habitat needs.

Planning & Advocacy: Work with communities through Neighbourhood Planning to map and embed nature recovery networks into local planning policies.	7,360 Ha of land is better protected through local planning policy because of our advice.	Provide advice on 4,000 Ha of land through our responses to planning applications and protect core sites and wildlife corridors through Neighbourhood Plan policy adoption.
Continue to hold HS2 to account by representing The Wildlife Trusts, as well as CWT, on HS2 Ltd's national Ecology Review Group.	CWT appeared on Sunday Politics Show live to talk about the environmental impacts of HS2. We produced a consultation overview of Phase 2b and sent our HS2 Phase 2a consultation response to all MPs whose constituencies are impacted by that part of the line. We have had follow-up conversations and meetings with four MPs.	We will review the HS2 biodiversity metrics on behalf of The Wildlife Trusts; continue to campaign for the government to Stop and Rethink HS2; respond to consultations and hold HS2 to account with regards to biodiversity net gain.
Work with local authorities to strengthen biodiversity strategies and support them in integrating biodiversity net gain into working practice.	We have been working with Cheshire East and Cheshire West & Chester Councils to support the creation of biodiversity net gain strategies, including helping Cheshire East Council produce a Supplementary Planning Policy. We have also responded to consultations on the Mersey Tidal Power Project, the Greater Manchester Local Nature Recovery Strategy, and Wirral Council's Local Plan and Green Blue Infrastructure Strategy.	We will deliver bespoke training packages to LAs. We will continue to respond to planning policy consultations and support Natural England and the local authorities on the development of Nature Recovery Strategies.
We will work with the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) to train consultant ecologists in biodiversity net gain. We will help design and deliver a training programme for The Wildlife Trusts and their consultancies.	We delivered training to 523 people in biodiversity net gain and other topics.	We will develop a suite of training courses to deliver across the Wildlife Trust movement and through CIEEM to consultant ecologists nationally. We will work with developers and local authorities to ensure high-quality schemes are delivered. We will also provide exemplar offsetting and complete the purchase of degraded agricultural land to deliver biodiversity net gain.

Continue to respond to planning applications, which significantly threaten nature and protected sites.	Our advice reduced the impacts from planning on 412 Ha of land (165% of our target). Our input secured or helped secure around £500,000 for biodiversity offsetting in the region. Applications responded to included Bredbury Gateway, Rossfield Park, Jack's Wood, A57, Lache Lane, Verdin Winsford, Cheshire College and Middlewich bypass.	We will continue to secure positive outcomes for wildlife. We will focus on biodiversity net gain as the main mechanism to achieve this.

2. Climate is in crisis: Below is a summary of our climate adaptation and resilience programme which aims to see nature play its full part in addressing the climate crisis and CWT achieve at least net zero by 2030.

What we planned for FY21	Some of the things we did in FY21	What we have planned for FY22
Net Zero CWT: Calculate CWT's carbon footprint.	CWT completed its analysis of its carbon footprint using scope 1 and 2 methodology during the year. We also began calculating the amount of carbon stored within our nature reserves and the additional carbon that is sequestered each year by our activities.	Create a carbon reduction plan to achieve at least net zero by 2030.
Wetland & Watercourse Restoration: Deliver advice to farmers to improve water quality and land management for biodiversity across 400 Ha of designated priority habitat.	We restored 10km of river (106% of our target). We worked with landowners across Cheshire to improve water quality on a number of waterbodies and completed 25 farm water management plans to help farmers address water quality issues on their farm.	Complete an analysis of the peatland within Cheshire East. Develop a project to restore agricultural peat soils. Complete a further 50 farm water management plans and implement £150,000 of improvement projects to improve the quality of Cheshire's watercourses.
Woodland Creation & Restoration: Create 30 Ha of new woodland in the Pennine Fringe.	Created a total of 36 Ha of new woodland across Cheshire and planted 6,000 trees on public greenspaces in partnership with Cheshire East Council.	Begin delivery of a Trees for Cheshire project to create 200 Ha of woodland over four years.

3. We are in crisis: Below is a summary of our communications, engagement and mobilisation programme aimed at creating a society that cares about wildlife and where 1 in 4 people are taking action for nature by 2030.

Overall, we engaged 52,972 people against a target of 54,719.

What we planned for FY21	Some of the things we did in FY21	What we have planned for FY22
Education & Public Engagement: Our planned face-to-face engagement and events programme could not go ahead due to Covid19. We moved some elements of our programme online.	The Wellbeing with Nature Team developed a virtual version of their existing programme to enable continued delivery throughout the lockdown period. Ninety-four participants took part and, following positive feedback from participants and their referrers, this online programme has now been included as a permanent activity in the Wellbeing Team's Portfolio. We also ran a programme of webinars on topics such as grass identification with Josh Styles and wildlife-friendly gardening, watched by 1,119 people.	Gradually resume events and community engagement activities as restrictions ease. Launch a new approach to engagement focused much more on mobilising large numbers of people to take action for nature. Celebrate our 60th anniversary. Support at least 12,000 people to take action for wildlife, including developing a network of champions.
We will work in partnership with the Jobcentre and Sport England to deliver and scale up our Go Wild, Get Fit programme.	Eighteen months of funding was secured from Sport England to pilot new approaches and scale up the impact of the Wellbeing with Nature programme (an adaptation of the Go Wild, Get Fit Programme) across the whole of Cheshire. The project strategy, implementation plan and timeline were agreed, and the health and employment sectors were identified as key partners and potential commissioners of the programme. Funding opportunities under the banner of Green Social Prescribing were identified and bid for, and community and sector networks were developed.	Complete our Sport England-funded Wellbeing with Nature project and create a sustainable scaling model to increase our reach.
Improve visitor facilities at our nature reserves.	We upgraded access infrastructure at a number of our nature reserves, including Danes Moss, Swettenham Valley, Owley Wood and Gowy Meadows.	
Volunteering:		

Volunteering was extremely limited during the year due to Covid19.	All volunteering was suspended during the first two quarters due to government restrictions. During the second half of the year, limited volunteering, outdoors in socially distanced bubbles, resumed. CWT continued to hold a	We will seek to renew our Investors in Volunteers quality badge and resume volunteering activity as and when restrictions ease.
Partnership Working: We will continue to work with a wide range of stakeholders to deliver land management projects.	position on the Cheshire region Local Nature Partnership Board. During the year, we worked closely with Natural England, the Environment Agency, Forestry England and United Utilities across a range of projects. We continued to host Local Wildlife Site Partnerships to ensure the protection of priority habitat and species populations. We continued to serve on the South West Peak Landscape Partnership Steering Group, to host the Tidal Dee Catchment Partnership and work closely with other catchment partnerships.	We will continue to develop our partnership approach and ensure that stakeholders are fully engaged with project development and delivery.
We will further grow our land management advice activities and community engagement programme.	We worked with 101 landowners and farmers including several large estates. Our community engagement work was very limited this year due to the pandemic restrictions.	We plan to work with 50 landowners and farmers across Cheshire to help them manage their land better for wildlife.
Communications & Campaigns: We will continue to grow our social media presence and provide regular communications to our supporters.	Through the year, we reached an audience of 25,896 through our social media. Our team delivered 12 radio interviews and our work featured on BBC North West Tonight, ITV Granada and Blue Peter. We had 115 mentions in the local press and magazines, and more than 60,000 people visited our website. We produced two magazines and kept supporters up to date through a weekly e-newsletter.	Engage at least 150,000 people during the year, including 35,000 through social media.
We will invest in digital marketing to modernise our fundraising and enable voluntary income generation to continue despite Covid19.	We recruited 3,381 new members during the year, achieving a total of 15,890 financial supporters.	Recruit at least 2,000 new memberships and achieve a 90% retention rate. Stay connected with over 5,000 people every week through the Wild Cheshire e-newsletter.
We will work closely with other Wildlife Trusts to deliver national campaigns	7,509 people took part in our campaigns (167% against target) with 3,736 signatures to our 'ban neonics' petition – our highest ever campaign sign-up total – and a further 620 supporters	Engage 5,000 people in our campaigns: Grow Don't Mow, Wasted Space, Great

such as Wilder Futures, Action for Insects and 30 Days Wild locally.	backed our campaign for Highly Protected Marine Areas (the third highest of any Wildlife Trust). 4,423 Cheshire residents took part in 30 Days Wild during June 2020 and 789 people adopted a species. Our appeal to help reintroduce beavers raised £73,140.	Big Green Week and Peat-free. We will continue to engage with MPs.

4. We are effective and resilient: Below is a summary of our programme to ensure that CWT has the financial resources it needs, is well run and has a high-performing and valued staff and volunteer team.

What we planned for FY21	Some of the things we did in FY21	What we have planned for FY22
Financial Sustainability: We will carefully manage the financial impacts of Covid19 to ensure that CWT remains a going concern. We will do this by utilising government support schemes, limiting non-essential expenditure and reviewing our operations and staff structures. We will manage the Trust to achieve as close to breakeven as possible, only using financial reserves when necessary. We will launch our new Nature Based Solutions Service to help deliver greater environmental impact and generate income through commercial contracts.	Our total income fell slightly from just over £2.3 m in FY20 to £2,290,447 and we returned an overall surplus of £50,986. This is the fifth successive year in which the Trust has managed its expenditure within budgetary limits and demonstrated that although the impacts of Covid19 limited growth, the Trust's finances remained stable. Income from trading activity grew by 5% to £544,751 and our subsidiary company Cheshire Ecological Services exceed its net profit target, returning £89,036 to CWT. Income from membership remained stable despite concerns that the economic impacts of the pandemic might result in a loss of some members. The total number of members increased to 15,890; however, we did see a reduction in the level of donations and legacies from almost £200,000 in 2020 to £110,817. We were very grateful for gifts in Wills totalling £66,902 which included gifts from the estates of Audrey Rose Locksley, Phyllis Mary Wilson, Eileen Patricia Dale, Barbara Dorothy Collinge, Sheila Fern Bronstorm and Andrew Henry Lennie Hamilton.	We will continue to carefully manage the ongoing effects of the pandemic. We will further grow our income from services and contracts. We will continue to make best use of grant funding to pump prime new projects. We will grow our membership. We will aim to at least maintain and ideally grow our financial reserves.
Good Governance: We will launch our 2030 strategy at the 2020 AGM.	We launched our Wilder Cheshire strategy in November 2020, setting out our 2030 goals for 30% of land good for nature, 1 in 4 people taking	We will begin delivering against our new strategy. We will align staffing and resources to our three

	action for wildlife and for nature to be playing its full role in tackling the climate crisis.	strategic pillars and map out our approach for achieving the targets over the next decade.
We will continue to recruit new Trustees to replace those at the end of their tenure.	Two new Trustees were elected during the year, replacing two standing down at the end of their tenure.	Recruit at least two further Trustees.
We will seek to adopt our new Articles of Association.	New Articles of Association were adopted at the AGM in November 2020. These are shorter and more modern than the previous version and include updated charitable objects that more accurately reflect the current and future work of the charity. The new articles have been accepted by the Charity Commission.	We will continue to ensure that the charity is governed in line with Charity Commission best practice guidance.
Working in the Federation: We will work closely with The Wildlife Trusts (TWT) to develop a new national strategy and contribute to working groups and committees.	The CEO and Chair continued to attend TWT events and serve on national committees. Staff from across CWT worked with other Trusts to deliver projects including the Carbon Landscape with the Wildlife Trust for Lancashire, Manchester and North Merseyside; the South West Peak Landscape Partnership with Staffordshire Wildlife Trust; and the Dee Coastliners Project with North Wales Wildlife Trust.	We will continue to work closely with our partners in the federation of Wildlife Trusts in order to collaborate at scale and share best practice.
We will continue to work collaboratively with neighbouring Wildlife Trusts to deliver projects and feed into national lobbying for stronger environmental legislation.	We worked closely with other Trusts to lobby for a strong Environment Act, Agriculture Act and Fisheries Act and contributed to national working groups.	
We will continue to build a relationship with our new Patron.	Our Patron engaged with the work of CWT throughout the year – taking part in the AGM, filming for campaigns and media releases and meeting with senior officers.	

Financial review

Review of the year

Cheshire Wildlife Trust's financial position remained stable during the year and the consolidated unrestricted income was £1,657,616 (2020: £1,647,582) at the year end. Consolidated restricted income decreased slightly from £721,655 to £632,831.

Expenditure for the period totalled £2,239,461 (2020: £2,304,742).

Principal funding sources

Membership subscriptions continued to provide the major part of the Trust's ongoing unrestricted funding. There was a gift-aided donation from Cheshire Ecological Services Limited of £89,036 during the year (year ended 31 March 2020: £92,098). The main sources of funding for the Company were:

Grants	34.6 %
Contracts and other revenues	28.4 %
Membership subscriptions (including gift aid)	22.3 %
CES	5.4 %
Donations and legacies	4.3 %
Rental and investment income	2.6 %
Appeals and sponsorships	1.9 %
Fundraising	0.4 %
Training activities	0.1 %

Generating funds

We receive approximately 28.8% of our financial support from individuals through a range of activities. Trust membership is the foundation of everything we do and we endeavour to grow this each year. The overall number of members continued to grow in 2020 despite the Covid19 pandemic. This is attributable to an increased public interest in environmental concerns combined with an increased CWT profile and use of alternative recruitment methods such as digital conversion and direct mail. Members not only provide vital funding which enables the positive work for wildlife but also represent the collective voice of people who care about wildlife. This is critically important in helping the Trust to stand up for wildlife and get our message across to key decision-makers.

We also aim to build lasting support from institutional bodies, including our corporate members, statutory grant funders and charitable trusts. Some of our charitable activities also generate income, especially from land management, ecological advice and education services.

In our activities, we receive extensive assistance from our volunteers, who are at the heart of what the Trust does and achieves; without their help, our work would be greatly diminished. Volunteers founded the Trust in 1962 and they are still fundamental to our work. They carry out a variety of roles, from practical conservation and field surveys, to support for office and education activities. All the volunteers are doing vital jobs that allow us to maintain our core business.

Financial reserves	Company	Group
Total Funds	£1,275,427	£1,281,034
Less restricted	£ 500,451	£ 535,699
Less designated	£ 12,447	£ 12,447
Unrestricted Funds	£ 762,529	£ 732,888
Unrestricted cash and investments	£ 228,879	£ 360,688

The Council has examined the Trust's requirements (excluding CES) for financial reserves in the light of the main risks to the organisation in order to:

- provide sufficient cash liquidity for operational effectiveness of the Trust, and
- protect the continuity of the work undertaken by the Trust.

The Trust has targeted a level of unrestricted cash and investments of four months' expenditure by the Trust (excluding that on grant-funded projects). At March 2021, the Trust had cash reserves which are sufficient to cover 2.0 months on a company basis (and 3.1 months on a group basis) of unrestricted expenditure and restricted funds committed in 2021–22. The Trust will now look to maintain at least this level of reserve to safeguard both the operational and financial sustainability of the Trust as the organisation grows.

Investment policy

The Board of Trustees approved a proposal to wind down its subsidiary company during 2020-21 with a view to making the company dormant by the end of March 2022. All staff, assets and contracts were transferred to CWT. The £50,000 of the £100,000 working capital loan invested in the company was returned to CWT at year end with a further £50,000 transferred in April 2021. The repaid loan has been added to CWT's cash reserves.

Any other surplus cash, over and above the amount required to support one month's working capital requirement, is held in secure instant access accounts at competitive rates.

Risk management

The Chief Executive maintains an operational risk register for each strategic outcome and a strategic risk register, the latter of which is regularly reviewed by Council. The Council, in conjunction with the Chief Executive, works to both minimise and mitigate strategic and operational risks.

The current main strategic risks are:

- the medium-term direct and indirect impacts of Covid19 on security of income streams and availability of grants. We have been unable to carry out face-to-face community engagement and fundraising since April 2020;
- the health & wellbeing of the Trust's staff, volunteers and supporters as a result of Covid19;

- financial reserves which fall below the four-month target and associated cash flow sensitivities;
- continued decline of the UK's natural environment combined with insufficient societal and political support for our cause;
- uncertainties around the UK's decision to leave the EU and the impact this could have on wildlife protection and land management in the medium and longer term.

Structure, governance and management

Governing document

The Cheshire Wildlife Trust Limited (CWT) is a charitable company limited by guarantee and as such has no share capital. It was incorporated on 24 October 1962 and registered as a charity on 20 February 1963. The company was established under a Memorandum of Association which established the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed under its Articles of Association. The Articles of Association were reviewed during 2019-20 with the support of Brabners LLP. The new governing document was approved by the Charity Commission in April 2020 and adopted at the AGM in November 2020.

Recruitment and appointment of Trustees

The Trustees are members of CWT who, having been nominated and seconded by other members, have been duly elected by members at the Annual General Meeting (AGM). Under the CWT Articles, such elected members are known as Council Members.

Council Members are registered as Directors of the company under company law and are also registered as Charity Trustees with the Charity Commission.

In compliance with the Articles of Association adopted on 14 November 2020, Directors are appointed to the Board for terms of three years. On expiry of such three-year term the Director shall resign unless re-elected by an ordinary resolution of the charity. A Director may not serve on the Board for more than three consecutive terms of three years.

Additional Council Members may be co-opted during the period. They must retire at the next AGM, though may stand for re-election.

The Council aims to have a representative mix of skills from various sectors of the community. The current mix of men and women, living across the area served by the Trust, includes expertise from backgrounds in the public, private and voluntary sectors. In addition to their knowledge and interest in wildlife, Council Members bring to the Trust managerial and organisational skills in policy, strategy, financial and legal matters.

The Articles of Association specifically preclude any payment to Council Members, other than reimbursement of properly incurred travel and incidental expenses. During the period Council Members claimed £1,442.70 in expenses (2019–20: £1,630.60).

There are no other financial transactions with any Trustees (or any persons connected with them).

Council Members induction and training

All Council Members have undergone an induction programme which included an induction pack, an explanation of our governance arrangements and the opportunity to visit Trust reserves and offices and to have discussions with Trust management, employees and volunteers.

As part of this induction, all Council Members have a Council Members' Handbook containing the reference material to guide the governance of the Trust, including copies of the Trust's Articles of Association, the Charity Commission booklet CC3 'The Essential Trustee', the Companies House 'Incorporation and Names' booklet (GP1), the Companies House 'Hallmarks of an Effective Charity' booklet (CC10) and the Health and Safety Executive booklet 'Leading Health & Safety at Work'. A copy of 'Good Governance: a practical guide for trustees, chairs and CEOs' by Dorothy Dalton on behalf of the National Council for Voluntary Organisations is held by the Chair of Council.

Organisational structure

The Council is responsible for the strategic direction and policy of the charity, and for appointing the Chief Executive, Charlotte Harris (from 1 April 2013), who attends Council meetings but does not have a voting entitlement. The Council holds at least four regular meetings a year, with occasional additional workshops to focus on special topics.

The Council utilises a number of committee and working groups to scrutinise and support specific areas of the Trust's operations in more detail. From January 2020, the following committees support the work of Council: Finance, Audit, Risk & Resources, Governance & Nominations; CES Board; Health & Safety Committee; Premises & Acquisitions and a Management Support Group. The latter is advisory only and exists to support the Senior Management Team in between formal meetings.

Each committee and working group is chaired by a Council member. Membership of the group includes up to five Trustees and senior staff responsible for each work area. Meetings take place as required and report to Council.

The strategic direction, annual work plans and budget are agreed by Council with operational day-to-day decision making delegated to the Chief Executive and Senior Management Team.

Pay and remuneration of the Chief Executive is dealt with by the Chair of Council in consultation with the Board of Trustees. The Finance, Audit, Risk & Resources Committee considers recommendations from the Chief Executive regarding salaries for the Senior Management Team, who in turn set pay levels for more junior staff in line with the approved budget and CWT salary scales. Benchmarking data from the Wildlife Trust movement and wider charity sector are used to inform decision making.

Relationship with the charity and related parties including its subsidiaries

The Cheshire Wildlife Trust Limited is the sole shareholder in a trading company, Cheshire Ecological Services Limited (CES) (Company No: 2623356), which is a private limited company incorporated on 24 June 1991. CES has gift aided its entire taxable annual profit to CWT. On 1 October 2020, staff from CES were TUPE'd across to CWT and the work of the company was integrated with that of the

Operations Team. Trading ceased within CES during 2020-21 and the company will be made dormant during 2021-22.

CWT 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. Partners have the use of the Wildlife Trusts logo and benefit from the resources, best practice and specialist experience of other member Trusts. Membership gives the charity a national voice and profile, as well as respectability by association for those unfamiliar with its particular work. However, each member of the partnership remains entirely independent in terms of governance.

Statement of the Board's responsibilities

The Trustees (who are also Directors of Cheshire Wildlife Trust 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 the group and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable group for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable 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 charity 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 the group and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Statement as to disclosure of information to auditors

The members of the Board who were in office on the date of approval of these financial statements have confirmed, as far as they are aware, that there is no relevant audit information of which the auditors are unaware. Each of the members of the Board have confirmed that they have taken all steps that they ought to have taken as members of the Board in order to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that it has been communicated to the auditor.

The Trustees have reviewed the future financial forecasts of the charity. During March 2020, a global pandemic was declared arising from the outbreak of Covid19. The Trustees delivered plans agreed in April 2020 to mitigate the impact to the charity. These included making appropriate use of the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme, controlling non-essential expenditure and carrying out a

restructure which resulted in 11 redundancies with total payments of £25,095. The Trustees are satisfied that these mitigations have ensured the charity remains a going concern. Accordingly, the financial statements have been prepared on the going concern basis.

Auditors

Mitchell Charlesworth LLP was re-appointed as auditor at the 2020 Annual General Meeting.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective 1 January 2015).

The Report of the Members of the Board, which includes the Strategic Report on pages 9 to 17, was approved by the Board on 21 October 2021 and signed on their behalf:

Bill Stothart
Chair of Council

Date: 21 October 2021

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members and Trustees of The Cheshire Wildlife Trust Limited

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The Cheshire Wildlife Trust Limited and its subsidiary for the year ended 31 March 2021 which comprise the Group Statement of Financial Activities, the Group Summary Income and Expenditure Account, the Group and the Parent Charitable Company Balance Sheet and the notes to the financial statements, including a summary of 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 group's and parent charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2021, and of the group's incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;

- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and

  have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the group and parent 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

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the ISAs (UK) require us to report to you where:

- the Trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or

- the Trustees have not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the group's or parent charitable company's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members and Trustees of The Cheshire Wildlife Trust Limited

Other information

The Trustees are responsible for the 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. 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.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, 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 audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. 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 for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of our knowledge and understanding of Cheshire Wildlife Trust and its subsidiary, and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees' report.

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

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

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members and Trustees of The Cheshire Wildlife Trust Limited

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 group's and parent 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 group or the parent charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

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.

Extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud

We identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and then design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, including obtaining audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Identifying and assessing potential risks related to irregularities

In identifying and assessing risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we considered the following:

- the nature of the sector, control environment and Trust performance;
- the Trust's own assessment of the risks that irregularities may occur either as a result of fraud or error;
- the results of our enquiries of management and members of the Board of Trustees of their own identification and assessment of the risks of irregularities;

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members and Trustees of The Cheshire Wildlife Trust Limited

- any matters we identified having obtained and reviewed the Trust's documentation of their policies and procedures relating to:
- identifying, evaluating and complying with laws and regulations and whether they were aware of any instances of non-compliance;
- detecting and responding to the risks of fraud and whether they have knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud;
- the internal controls established to mitigate risks of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations; and
- the matters discussed among the audit engagement team regarding how and where fraud might occur in the financial statements and any potential indicators of fraud.

As a result of these procedures, we considered the opportunities and incentives that may exist within the company for fraud and identified the greatest potential for fraud in the following areas:

(i) The recognition of revenue, (ii) the allocation of income and expenditure between restricted and unrestricted funds. In common with all audits under ISAs (UK), we are also required to perform specific procedures to respond to the risk of management override.

We also obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory framework that the Trust operates in, focusing on provisions of those laws and regulations that had a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The key laws and regulations we considered in this context included the Companies Act 2006, Charities Act 2011, and Health and Safety legislation.

In addition, we considered provisions of other laws and regulations that do not have a direct effect on the financial statements but compliance with which may be fundamental to the Trust's ability to operate or to avoid a material penalty. These included Data Protection Regulations.

Audit response to risks identified

As a result of performing the above, we identified the recognition of revenue, and the allocation of income and expenditure between restricted and unrestricted funds as the key audit matters related to the potential risk of fraud.

In addition to the above, our procedures to respond to risks identified included the following:

- reviewing the financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with relevant laws and regulations described above as having a direct effect on the financial statements;
- enquiring of management and members of the Board of Trustees concerning actual and potential litigation and claims;
- performing analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships that may indicate risks of material misstatement due to fraud;
- reading minutes of meetings of those charged with governance and reviewing correspondence with relevant authorities where matters identified were significant; and

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members and Trustees of The Cheshire Wildlife Trust Limited

- in addressing the risk of fraud through management override of controls, testing the appropriateness of journal entries and other adjustments; assessing whether the judgements made in making accounting estimates are indicative of a potential bias; and evaluating the business rationale of any significant transactions that are unusual or outside the normal course of business.

We also communicated relevant identified laws and regulations and potential fraud risks to all engagement team members and remained alert to any indications of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations throughout the audit.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: https://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's 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 and its Trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's members, Trustees as a body and the charitable company's Trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Mitchell Charlesworth

21/10/2021

Jamielee Johnston (Senior Statutory Auditor)
For and on behalf of Mitchell Charlesworth LLP

Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditor

3rd Floor
44 Peter Street
Manchester
M2 5GP

Mitchell Charlesworth LLP is eligible to act as an auditor in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006

THE CHESHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED

Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities
Year ended 31 March 2021

	Notes	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2021 £	Unrestricted £	Restricted	Total 2020
Income							
Donations and legacies	2	559,351	61,067	620,418	563,602	123,410	687,012
Charitable activities	3	599,571	521,639	1,121,210	584,038	578,426	1,162,464
Other trading activities	4	494,626	50,125	544,751	497,113	19,819	516,932
Investments Income	5	4,068	-	4,068	2,829	-	2,829
TOTAL		1,657,616	632,831	2,290,447	1,647,582	721,655	2,369,237
Expenditure							
Raising funds	6	365,156	-	365,156	386,928	-	386,928
Charitable activities	7	976,820	490,180	1,467,000	675,561	750,227	1,425,788
Other – Generating funds	8	380,857	26,448	407,305	467,731	24,295	492,026
TOTAL		1,722,833	516,628	2,239,461	1,530,220	774,522	2,304,742
Net income/(expenditure)		(65,217)	116,203	50,986	117,362	(52,867)	64,495
Transfers between funds		(35,249)	35,249	-	(3,832)	3,832	-
Net movement in funds		(100,466)	151,452	50,986	113,530	(49,035)	64,495
Reconciliation of funds							
Total Funds brought forward		845,800	384,247	1,230,047	732,270	433,282	1,165,552
Total Funds carried forward		745,334	535,699	1,281,033	845,800	384,247	1,230,047

THE CHESHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED

Consolidated Balance Sheet
Year ended 31 March 2021

	Notes	Year ended 31 March 2021 £	£	Year ended 31 March 2020 £	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	14		117,522		138,671
Heritage assets	14		316,046		316,046
Total fixed assets			433,568		454,717
Current assets					
Stock and work in progress	17	7,956		6,183	
Debtors	18	328,592		327,495	
Cash at bank and in hand		1,114,881		870,979	
Total current assets		1,451,429		1,204,657	
Liabilities					
Creditors:					
Amounts falling due within one year	20	603,964		429,327	
Net current asset or liabilities			847,465		775,330
Total net assets or liabilities			1,281,033		1,230,047
The funds of the charity					
Unrestricted funds	22		745,334		845,800
Restricted income funds	22		535,699		384,247
Total funds			1,281,033		1,230,047

The notes on pages 33 to 53 form part of these financial statements.

Signed:
Bill Stothart
Date: 21 October 2021

Signed:
Peter Rushton
Date: 21 October 2021

THE CHESHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED

Company Balance Sheet
Year ended 31 March 2021

	Notes	Year ended 31 March 2021 £	£	Year ended 31 March 2020 £	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	15		117,522		128,739
Heritage assets	15		316,046		316,046
Investments	16		100		100
Total fixed assets			433,668		444,885
Current assets					
Stocks	17	7,956		2,226	
Debtors	18	454,694		374,085	
Cash at bank and in hand		983,072		794,703	
Total current assets		1,445,722		1,171,014	
Liabilities					
Creditors:					
Amounts falling due within one year	20	603,963		393,338	
Net current assets or liabilities			841,759		777,676
Total net assets or liabilities			1,275,427		1,222,561
The funds of the charity					
Unrestricted funds			739,728		838,314
Restricted income funds	22		535,669		384,247
Total funds			1,275,427		1,222,561

The notes on pages 33 to 53 form part of these financial statements.

Signed:
Bill Stothart
Date: 21 October 2021

Signed:
Peter Rushton
Date: 21 October 2021

THE CHESHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED

Statement of Cash flow
Year ended 31 March 2021

	Notes	2021 £	2021 £	2020 £	2020 £
Cash flows from operating activities:					
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	27	269,879		166,443	
Cash flows from investing activities:					
Dividends, interest and rents from investments		-		-	
Proceeds from the sale of property, plant and equipment		4,917		17,250	
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		(30,894)		(135,301)	
Proceeds from the sale of investments		-		-	
Purchase of investments		-		-	
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities		(25,977)		(118,051)	
Cash flows from financing activities					
Repayments of borrowing		-		-	
Net cash inflows from new borrowing		-		-	
Receipt of endowment		-		-	
Net cash used in financing activities		-		-	
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period			243,902		48,392
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period			870,979		822,587
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period			1,114,881		870,979

Accounting Policies
Year ended 31 March 2021

1 Accounting Policies

Basis of Preparation

1.1 The Cheshire Wildlife Trust Limited is a charity incorporated as a company limited by guarantee in England and Wales. The registered office is Bickley Hall Farm, Bickley, Malpas, Cheshire, SY14 8EF.

The financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2021 have been prepared in accordance with FRS 102, The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) - Accounting and reporting by provisions of the Charities SORP (FRS 102) applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK (effective 1 January 2019). The figures in the accounts are rounded to the nearest £ and the presentational currency is sterling.

Cheshire Wildlife Trust meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical costs or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes.

None of the group's activities were acquired or discontinued during the financial year.

1.2 Group Accounts

The Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) and Balance Sheet consolidate the financial statements of the Charity and its subsidiary undertakings. The results of the subsidiary are consolidated on a line by line basis.

The charity has availed itself of Paragraph 4(1) of Schedule 1 of the Large and Medium-sized Companies and Group (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and adapted the Companies Act formats to reflect the special nature of the Charity's activities. No separate SOFA has been presented for the charity alone as permitted by Section 408 of the Companies Act 2006 and paragraph 397 of the SORP.

As most of the income from the subsidiary company is transferred to the Trust the view taken is that there is no significant difference between the Group and Company figures. The subsidiary is accounted for separately for management control purposes.

1.3 Fund Accounting

1.3.1 Unrestricted Funds

Unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

1.3.2 Restricted Income Funds

These funds are given to the Trust for a particular purpose to be used in accordance with the wishes of the donor.

1.3.3 Designated Funds - Projects

Designated funds are funds set aside by the Trustees for specific projects. These projects may only be partly funded with the unfunded element set aside from general funds.

1.4 Incoming Resources

Voluntary income is received by way of donations, gifts, subscriptions and fundraising activities. The income is credited to the SOFA on the earlier of receipt or when the receipt is probable, the value can be ascertained and the Trust gets the legal right to the income. Tax refunds on gift aid income are however accrued as earned.

Legacy income is included in the accounts when the amount due can be quantified with reasonable probability and the timing of the receipt is known.

Grants receivable which are not conditional on the delivery of a specific performance by the charity are recognised when the charity becomes unconditionally entitled to the grant. These are recognised as 'Income from donations'.

Grants receivable that relate to the delivery of a specific performance by the charity are recognised when the charity earns the right to consideration by its performance. A number of these grants are retrospective and where these are outstanding at the year end for work completed, they are accrued. These are recognised as 'Income from Charitable Activities'.

Capital grants received for plant and equipment are taken to the Capital Grants restricted funds and are released to the SOFA in instalments relating to the relevant asset lives to match the associated depreciation charge.

All grants receivable are charged to the SOFA in the period to which they relate.

The Trust was formed in 1962 by volunteers and continues to benefit from their support in both financial and non-financial ways. Examples of financial support include membership income, donations and legacies. These contributions are included in the accounts within voluntary income.

1.5 Resources Expended

All expenditure, other than that which is capitalised, is included in the SOFA, recognised on an accruals basis as a liability when incurred.

Charitable activities consist of the costs incurred in support of expenditure on the objects of the charity.

Costs of Raising Funds consists of expenditure associated with attracting voluntary income and the costs of fundraising and maintaining memberships.

Administration and Support of charitable activities consists of those costs incurred in support of expenditure on the objects of the charity. These include the provision of premises, personnel, Information Technology, insurances and audit fees and have been allocated on the basis of direct staff wage costs.

Many of our volunteers provide non-financial support covering a wide range of activities from acting as Trustees; assisting in conservation activities including surveying; and providing administrative support. No amounts are included in the financial statements for services donated by volunteers.

Capital purchases are included in the accounts at cost. Capital purchases of less than £250 are expensed.

1.6 Irrecoverable VAT

The charity is partially exempt. Irrecoverable VAT is allocated to the appropriate cost categories.

1.7 Going Concern

At the time of approving the financial statements and having due regard to the impact of Covid19 as referred to in note 1.18, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Therefore, the Trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.8 Tangible Fixed Assets

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less depreciation. Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset, except for land, over its estimated useful life:

Plant and machinery - 25% per annum reducing balance
Fixtures and fittings - 25% per annum reducing balance
Motor vehicles - 25% per annum reducing balance
Computer equipment - 25-33.33% per annum straight line basis

No depreciation is provided on freehold land.
Capitalised expenditure on buildings is depreciated over the remainder of the lease period.

1.9 Heritage Assets

Heritage assets are nature reserves, capitalised at the date of addition. Any assets donated, where the cost is unknown, are capitalised at the date of addition. Further details are disclosed within Note 15 to the accounts.

1.10 Investments

Investments are stated at market value at the balance sheet date. The SOFA includes the net gains and losses arising on revaluations and disposals throughout the period.

1.11 Stocks and Work in Progress

General stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value, where cost comprises purchase price.
Work in progress is valued at cost.

Accounting Policies
Year ended 31 March 2021

1.12 Deferred Income

Restricted funds received for projects which are substantially incomplete or not commenced at year end are recognised in the year in which they are received and carried forward in the balance of restricted funds. The restricted funds are reduced each year by an amount equal to any expenditure on such projects which have been incurred in the year.

1.13 Pension Costs

The charitable group operates a defined contribution scheme for the benefit of its employees. Contributions payable are included in the SOFA in the year they are payable.

1.14 Finance and Operating Leases

Rentals payable under operating leases are charged to the SOFA over the period in which the cost is incurred. The Trust has no finance leases.

1.15 Provisions

A provision is recognised when the Trust has a legal or constructive obligation as a result of past events and it is probable that an outflow of economic benefits will be required to settle the obligation.

1.16 Taxation

The Trust is a registered charity and is not liable to United Kingdom income tax or corporation tax on charitable activities.

1.17 Material Uncertainties/Judgements

There were no material uncertainties or judgements contained within the presented figures.

1.18 Going Concern

The results and financial position reflect the impact of the Covid19 pandemic on the business for the reporting period. The Trustees have taken appropriate steps to mitigate this impact, including the furloughing of staff from April to September 2020; and a redundancy programme reflecting reduced staffing requirements in relation to specific income streams adversely impacted by the pandemic.

1.19 Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

1.20 Financial Instruments

The Charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the Charity's balance sheet when the Charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Basic Financial Assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price, including transaction costs, and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Basic Financial Liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans, are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derecognition of Financial Liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

Notes to the Accounts
Year ended 31 March 2021

2 Donations & legacies

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2021	Unrestricted	Restricted	2020
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Donations & legacies	100,415	10,402	110,817	88,797	108,160	196,957
Grants	1,000	12,000	13,000	4,615	15,250	19,865
Subscriptions	457,936	-	457,936	461,408		461,408
Appeal income	-	38,665	38,665	8,782		8,782
	559,351	61,067	620,418	563,602	123,410	687,012

3 Charitable activities

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2021	Unrestricted	Restricted	2020
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Fundraising	6,883	442	7,325	13,298	767	14,065
Grants	180,025	519,821	699,846	44,601	576,069	620,670
Commercial trading operations (CES)	321,286	-	321,286	354,115	-	354,115
Other sales	38,965	363	39,328	130,282	90	130,372
Rental income	52,412	1,013	53,425	41,742	1,500	43,242
	599,571	521,639	1,121,210	584,038	578,426	1,162,464

Notes to the Accounts
Year ended 31 March 2021

4 Other trading activities

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2021	Unrestricted	Restricted	2020
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Training days	2,700	-	2,700	20,006	50	20,056
Contract income	491,926	50,125	542,051	477,107	19,769	496,876
	494,626	50,125	544,751	497,113	19,819	516,932

5 Investment income

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2021	Unrestricted	Restricted	2020
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Interest received	4,068	-	4,068	2,829	-	2,829
	4,068	-	4,068	2,829	-	2,829

Notes to the Accounts
Year ended 31 March 2021

6 Expenditure on raising funds

	Donations & legacies	Subscriptions	Total 2021	Donations & legacies	Subscriptions	Total 2020
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Staff costs	-	208 783	208 783	-	215,080	215,080
Membership costs	99	47,753	47,852	-	63,039	63,039
Other direct costs	429	20,893	21,322	4,134	13,949	18,083
Support costs (Note 9)	-	87,199	87,199	-	90,726	90,726
	528	364,628	365,156	4,134	382,794	386,928

7 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Conservation & Reserves management	Community Engagement	Total 2021	Conservation & Reserves management	Community Engagement	Total 2020
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Staff costs	500,663	108,187	608,850	567,587	65,497	633,084
Reserves costs	436,218	32,100	468,318	341,387	36,951	378,338
Motor & travel	23,934	6,228	30,162	32,251	4,209	36,460
Professional fees	14,757	-	14,757	15,390	-	15,390
Sundries	47,238	3,731	50,969	55,472	1,413	56,885
Depreciation	36,632	3,023	39,655	42,769	120	42,889
Support costs (Note 9)	209,104	45,185	254,289	218,335	44,407	262,742
	1,268,546	198,454	1,467,000	1,273,191	152,597	1,425,788

8 Expenditure on generating funds

	Fundraising	Other sales	Total 2021	Fundraising	Other sales	Total 2020
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Staff costs	42,404	66,475	108,879	15,860	81,466	97,326
Purchases for sale	4,580	15,007	19,587	1,129	5,399	6,528
Motor & travel	-	1,224	1,224	345	73,973	74,318
Sundries	44,864	40,939	85,803	1,685	13,793	15,478
Support costs (Note 9)	17,710	27,763	45,473	5,898	36,445	42,343
	109,558	151,408	260,966	24,917	211,076	235,993
Commercial trading operations (CES Note 23)			146,339			256,033
			407,305			492,026

Notes to the Accounts
Year ended 31 March 2021

9 Support costs

	Total 2021	Total 2020
	£	£
Training	270	11,624
Insurance	24,990	19,856
Light & heat	1,566	2,046
Repairs & maintenance	7,339	1,816
Legal & professional	9,985	5,004
Staff & volunteer expenses	8,718	2,415
Motor expenses	153	-
Telecoms	5,759	10,067
Post & stationery	2,635	2,563
Sundry expenses	6,110	7,237
RSWT contribution	29,447	31,398
Bank charges	1,960	1,181
Depreciation	4,470	4,893
Admin salaries	185,886	166,220
Office costs	4,325	4,063
Comms & PR	36	10,139
Audit fees	7,720	7,150
Computer expenses	27,735	22,115
Premises costs	46,023	56,365
Recruitment	299	-
Irrecoverable VAT	1,161	8,191
Doubtful debts	10,374	21,469
	386,961	395,812

Support costs include an amount for irrecoverable VAT in respect of charitable and non-business activities.

Allocation of support costs

	2021	2020
	£	£
Direct support costs	-	44,200
General support costs	386,961	351,612
	386,961	395,812

	2021	2020
	£	£
Voluntary income activities	87,199	90,726
Generating funds activities	45,473	42,343
Charitable activities	254,289	262,742
	386,961	395,812

Notes to the Accounts
Year ended 31 March 2021

10 Movement in total funds for the period

	Note	2021		2020	
		Group	Company	Group	Company
		£	£	£	£
Auditors remuneration	9	11,520	7,720	10,950	7,150
Operating lease payments - Plant & equipment		5,992	5,992	6,364	6,364
Depreciation	14	48,807	46,429	52,377	49,834

11 Staff costs

	2021		2020	
	Group	Company	Group	Company
	£	£	£	£
Wages & salaries	1,030,875	967,282	1,128,609	971,896
Social security costs	87,536	81,791	94,619	80,035
Pension costs	67,953	63,326	71,373	58,830
	1,186,364	1,112,399	1,294,601	1,110,761

The average number of employees, analysed by function was:

	2021		2020	
	Group	Company	Group	Company
Charitable activities	21	21	21	21
Generating funds	17	14	16	11
Management & Administration	5	5	5	5
	43	40	42	37

No employees had earnings over £60,000 during the year.

12 Pension costs

The company operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the company in an independently administered fund. The pension costs charge represents contributions payable by the group to the fund and amounted to £63,326 (2020 - £58,830).

13 Related party transactions

Cheshire Ecological Services Limited (CES) is a subsidiary company to whom the Trust (CWT) has made a loan of £100,000. £50,000 was repaid on 31 March 2021 and the £50,000 balance repaid in April 2021.

Notes to the Accounts
Year ended 31 March 2021

	CES/CWT	CWT/CES
Amounts owed by/to	136,560	

No Trustee or any person connected with them received any remuneration from CWT or CES during the year (2020 - £NIL).

During the year, Trustees were reimbursed travel expenses of £1,443 (2020 - £1,630).

Notes to the Accounts
Year ended 31 March 2021

14 Tangible assets

Group

	Heritage Assets	Land & Buildings	Plant & Machinery	Fixtures & Fittings	Motor vehicles	Computer equipment	SFP entitlement	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Cost or donated value								
01 April 2020	316,046	113,385	123,355	29,373	84,167	47,803	10,258	724,387
Additions	-	-	7,036	2,644	10,372	10,842	-	30,894
Disposals	-	-			(17,890)			(17,890)
At 31 March 2021	316,046	113,385	130,391	32,017	76,649	58,645	10,258	737,391
Depreciation								
01 April 2020	-	99,861	48,253	24,866	50,881	35,551	10,258	269,670
Charge for the year	-	13,164	18,581	1,118	9,817	6,127	-	48,807
Disposals	-	-	-		(14,654)		-	(14,654)
At 31 March 2021	-	113,025	66,834	25,984	46,044	41,678	10,258	303,823
Net book value								
At 31 March 2021	316,046	360	63,557	6,033	30,605	16,967	-	433,568
At 31 March 2020	316,046	13,524	75,102	4,507	33,286	12,252	-	454,717

The conversion costs are being written down over the remaining term of the lease, which is due to expire in 2021.

Notes to the Accounts
Year ended 31 March 2021

15 Tangible assets

Company

	Heritage Assets	Land & Buildings	Plant & Machinery	Fixtures & Fittings	Motor vehicles	Computer equipment	SFP entitlement	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Cost or donated value								
01 April 2020	316,046	113,385	115,467	26,353	70,875	43,585	10,258	695,969
Additions	-	-	7,036	2,923	15,395	13,094		38,448
Disposals					(17,890)			(17,890)
At 31 March 2021	316,046	113,385	122,503	29,276	68,380	56,679	10,258	716,527
Depreciation								
01 April 2020	-	99,861	41,651	23,148	40,715	35,551	10,258	251,184
Charge for the year	-	13,164	18,581	1,025	8,148	5,511		46,429
Disposals					(14,654)			(14,654)
At 31 March 2021	-	113,025	60,232	24,173	34,209	41,062	10,258	282,959
Net book value								
At 31 March 2021	316,046	360	62,271	5,103	34,171	15,617	-	433,568
At 31 March 2020	316,046	13,524	73,816	3,205	30,160	8,034	-	444,785

Heritage Assets

The focus of the Trust is the protection and enhancement of wildlife habitats and biodiversity within Cheshire. As such, the Trust owns and maintains a number of nature reserves that fall within the definition of heritage assets in accordance with FRS 102.

The Trustees consider that, owing to the intrinsic nature of the Trust's reserves, conventional valuation approaches lack sufficient reliability and that, even if valuations could be obtained, the costs would be onerous compared with the additional benefits derived by the Trust and the users of the accounts. As a result, these assets have been capitalised at cost, and being land, have not been depreciated.

Nature reserves acquired by gift are not capitalised unless a reliable enough reference value of the deemed cost of the asset is available without undue expense to the Trust.

The costs of maintaining heritage assets are expensed through the Statement of Financial Activities when incurred as part of the Trust's charitable activities.

Five Year Summary of Heritage Asset Transactions

	2020/21	2019/20	2018/19	2017/18	2016/17
	£	£	£	£	£
Additions	-	66,230	-	-	-
Purchases	-	-	-	-	-
Donations	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	-	-

Capital commitments
At 31 March 2021, the Trust had a capital commitment of £NIL for the purchase of land (2020 - £NIL).

16 Investments

Cheshire Wildlife Trust Limited owns the entire share capital (1 ordinary share of £100) in its subsidiary, Cheshire Ecological Services Limited, which is incorporated in England.

Further details concerning the activities and assets of this company are given in Note 23.

Notes to the Accounts
Year ended 31 March 2021

17 Stock & work in progress

	2021		2020	
	Group	Company	Group	Company
	£	£	£	£
Stock	7,956	7,956	3,323	2,226
Work in progress	-	-	2,860	-
	7,956	7,956	6,183	2,226

There were no stock write offs in the year (2019/20- £NIL).

18 Debtors

	2021		2020	
	Group	Company	Group	Company
	£	£	£	£
Trade debtors	236,574	226,116	224,695	160,398
Prepayments and accrued income	7,218	7,218	8,397	7,901
Amounts due from subsidiary companies	-	136,561	-	111,383
Other debtors	84,800	84,799	94,403	94,403
	328,592	454,694	327,495	374,085

Trade debtors is stated net of a provision of £33,926 (£21,469 – 2019/20).

19 Taxation

The group is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

20 Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2021		2020	
	Group	Company	Group	Company
	£	£	£	£
Trade creditors	110,873	110,873	89,927	87,201
Deferred income	332,837	332,837	190,875	190,875
Taxation & social security	50,600	50,600	82,710	55,215
Accruals	34,656	34,656	22,259	17,356
Other creditors	74,998	74,997	43,556	42,691
	603,964	603,963	429,327	393,338

21 Commitments under operating leases

At 31 March 2021, the charity had outstanding commitments for future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases, which fall due as follows:

	2021		2020	
	Group	Company	Group	Company
	£	£	£	£
Land & Buildings				
Within one year	46,556	46,556	68,140	68,140
Two to five years	-	-	51,105	51,105
Greater than five years	-	-	-	-
Total	46,556	46,556	119,245	119,245
Other				
Within one year	2,987	2,987	7,014	7,014
Two to five years	4,371	4,371	6,194	6,194
Greater than five years	585	585	-	-
Total	7,943	7,943	13,208	13,208

22 Specified projects

Restricted funds represent monies (including donations and grants) which have been received for specific purposes as outlined by the donor. The Trust has a number of such funds and, for the purposes of statutory reporting, these have been grouped together under the four headings below.

Transfers out of restricted funds are made where a project is completed and no funding is required to be returned to the funder. Transfers into funds are made when a project is completed and the shortfall in funding is made up from the Trust's general funds.

Notes to the Accounts
Year ended 31 March 2021

	As at 1 April 2019	Income	Expenditure	Transfer Between Funds	As at 31 March 2020	Income	Expenditure	Transfer between funds	As at 31 March 2021
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Restricted income funds									
Reserves acquisition funds	157,947	30,000	26,754		161,193	-	-	-	161,193
Capital Grants	9,180	15,503	7,512	(490)	16,681	-	200	-	16,481
Community Engagement funds	163,854	177,628	281,400		60,082	119,651	77,455	35,249	137,527
Conservation & Reserves	102,301	498,524	458,856	4,322	146,291	492,329	418,122	-	220,498
	433,282	721,655	774,522	3,832	384,247	611,980	495,777	35,249	535,699

Reserves acquisition funds represent amounts held to fund future purchases of nature reserves.

Capital grants represents grants received to fund capital purchases. The annual depreciation charge is allocated against these grants until they are fully utilised.

Community engagement and conservation and reserves funds represent grants received to carry out the Trust's charitable activities.
Funding has been granted by a variety of organisations.

These include: William Dean Trust, United Utilities, the Environment Agency, WREN, Defra, and Heritage Lottery Fund.

Notes to the Accounts
Year ended 31 March 2021

Major Projects	As at 1 April 2019	Income	Expenditure	Transfer between funds	As at 31 March 2020	Income	Expenditure	Transfer between funds	As at 31 March 2021
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
William Dean Trust - Watch	-	15,250	15,250	-	-	12,564	12,564	-	-
Other education projects	48,353	66,000	69,468	-	44,885	75,378	26,215	-	94,049
Other nature reserves	46,549	156,670	179,356	-	23,863	99,230	104,043	-	19,050
Water Environment	-	99,683	89,693	-	9,990	151,347	106,979		54,358
Business Transition	36,750	-	23,962	-	12,788	30,000	-	-	42,788
Living Seas/Dee Coastliners	20,427	76,094	73,450		23,071	51,378	50,712	-	23,737
Slowing the Flow	3,866	52,383	60,543	4,322	28	53,165	51,770	-	1,423
NFM	-	38,625	34,654	-	3,971	51,382	28,840		26,513
Pollution Fund	-	75,000	1,224	-	73,776				73,776
Natural Futures	55,694	79,683	135,377	-	-	-	-	-	-
Delamere works	393	-	393	-	-	-	-	-	-

Unrestricted Funds	As at 1 April 2019	Income	Expenditure	Transfer between funds	As at 31 March 2020	Income	Expenditure	Transfer between funds	As at 31 March 2021
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
General Fund	703,239	1,647,582	1,513,636	(3,832)	833,353	1,657,616	1,722,833	(35,249)	732,887
Designated Fund	29,031	-	16,584	-	12,447		-	-	12,447
	732,270	1,647,582	1,530,220	(3,832)	845,800	1,657,616	1,722,833	(35,249)	745,334

Notes to the Accounts
Year ended 31 March 2021

23 Trading company
Cheshire Ecological Services Limited

Profit and Loss Account
Year ended 31 March 2021

	2021 £	2020 £
Turnover	233,305	396,981
Cost of sales	(77,575)	(186,432)
Gross profit	155,730	210,549
Administrative expenses	(68,764)	(115,968)
Other income	192	158
Trading profit	87,158	94,739
Charitable donation	(89,036)	(92,098)
Operating (loss)/profit on ordinary activities before taxation	(1,878)	2,641
Tax on profit on ordinary activities		-
Profit on ordinary activities after taxation		-
Reserves brought forward	7,585	4,944
	5,707	7,585

	2021 £	2020 £
Fixed assets	-	9,932
Current assets	142,267	145,026
Creditors	(136,560)	(147,373)
Net current assets/(liabilities)	5,707	7,585

The charity owns 100% of the shares in Cheshire Ecological Services Limited, which is incorporated in the United Kingdom and registered in England (Company Registration No: 2623356). The subsidiary is used for non-primary trading activities, namely the provision of ecological and biological surveys. The employees and business was transferred to the charity during the year and Cheshire Ecological Services Limited will become dormant.

24 Analysis of net assets between funds (Company)

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2021 Total
	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	101,727	15,795	117,522
Heritage assets	316,046	-	316,046
Stock and work in progress	7,956	-	7,956
Investments	100	-	100
Debtors	329,454	125,240	454,694
Cash at bank and in hand including short-term	228,879	754,193	983,072
Transfer between funds	(35,249)	35,249	-
Current liabilities	(209,185)	(394,778)	(603,963)
Total net assets	739,728	535,699	1,275,427

25 Share capital

The charity has no share capital being a company limited by guarantee to contribute an amount not exceeding £2 per member in the event of a winding up situation.

26 Control

The charity is controlled by the Trustees.

27 Reconciliation of net income/(expenditure) to net cash flow from operating activities

	2021	2020
	£	£
Net income/(expenditure) for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)	50,986	64,495
Depreciation	48,807	52,377
(Gains)/losses on investments		
Dividends, interest and rents from investments		
Loss/(profit) on the sale of fixed assets	(1,681)	(15,632)
(Increase)/decrease in stock	(1,773)	2,588
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(1,097)	(13,158)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	174,637	75,773
Net cash inflow from operating activity	269,879	166,443

	As at 31 March 2019	Movement in year	As at 31 March 2020	Movement in year	As at 31 March 2021
	£	£	£	£	£
Cash at bank and in hand	822,587	48,392	870,979	243,902	1,114,881