RARE BREEDS SURVIVAL TRUST

England & Wales · Charity number 269442

Details

Other names	RARE BREEDS SURVIVAL TRUST LTD, R B S T
Status	Registered
Legal form	Charitable company
Company number	01204694
Registered	1982-06-25
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	Rare Breeds Survival Trust National Agricultural Centre Stoneleigh Park Kenilworth CV8 2LG
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Website	www.rbst.org.uk

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Activities

Objects: 2. OBJECTSTHE OBJECTS FOR WHICH THE TRUST IS ESTABLISHED AND WHICH SHALL BE FOR CHARITABLE PURPOSES ONLY ARE TO DO ALL OR ANY OF THE FOLLOWING THINGS FOR THE PURPOSE OF ATTAINING THE OBJECTS IF AND SO FAR AS ALLOWED BY LAW AND OBSERVING AND PERFORMING WHATEVER MAY BE REQUIRED BY LAW IN ORDER LEGALLY TO CARRY OUT THE OBJECTS2.1 FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PUBLIC TO ENSURE THE PRESERVATION OF BREEDS AND BREEDING GROUPS OF DOMESTIC LIVESTOCK OF IMPORTANCE IN THE PROMOTION OF AGRICULTURE BEING BREEDS AT RISK, AND HAVING CHARACTERISTICS WORTHY OF PRESERVATION IN THE INTEREST OF ZOOLOGICAL RESEARCH AND EDUCATION TO ENSURE THE PRESERVATION OF GENES OF SPECIAL OR POTENTIAL VALUE IN HYBRIDISATION AND OTHER WORK.2.2 TO CONDUCT CARRY OUT AND PROMOTE RESEARCH (INCLUDING THE SPONSORING THEREOF) INTO THE FOREGOING MATTERS WHICH CONSTITUTE THE OBJECTS OF THE TRUST AND INTO RELATED MATTERS DIRECTED TO INCREASING THE SUM OF COMMUNICABLE KNOWLEDGE THEREOF AND TO PUBLISH THE RESULTS OF ANY SUCH RESEARCH. 2.3 THROUGHOUT THESE ARTICLES 'CHARITABLE' MEANS CHARITABLE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LAW OF ENGLAND AND WALES PROVIDED THAT IT WILL NOT INCLUDE ANY PURPOSE WHICH IS NOT CHARITABLE IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 7 OF THE CHARITIES AND TRUSTEE INVESTMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT 2005. FOR THE AVOIDANCE OF DOUBT, THE SYSTEM OF LAW GOVERNING THE CONSTITUTION OF THE CHARITY IS THE LAW OF ENGLAND AND WALES.

Activities: RBST works to conserve the UKÔÇÖs rare native breeds of farm animals and acts as a last resort against the extinction of a native breed from disease, inbreeding or changes in fashion. RBSTÔÇÖs mission is to promote pedigree rare breeds; support and encourage responsible breeding programmes; maintain a gene bank of rare bloodlines; and carry out technical breed research.

Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Organisations, Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Sponsors Or Undertakes Research
- **What:** Animals, Environment/conservation/heritage
- **Who:** Other Defined Groups, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Northern Ireland
- Scotland
- Throughout England And Wales

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Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£933,509	£687,737	£3,802,782	7
2023-12-31	£729,834	£699,259	£3,373,229	8
2022-12-31	£575,653	£664,201	£3,309,851	7
2021-12-31	£712,546	£607,149	£3,695,353	7
2020-12-31	£635,686	£701,954	£3,214,850	9

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
John Atkinson	Chair	2019-08-29
Claire Louise Whittle		2024-07-04
Hilary Shenton		2026-03-19
James Henry Dalrymple Fanshawe		2020-10-22
Jan Valentine McCourt		2024-04-26
Joanna Mary Swiers		2026-03-19
John William Reed		2024-11-05
Mark Richard Davies		2025-01-13
Morven Rose Campbell		2025-05-14
Prof James Gordon Dalrymple Prendergast		2023-10-12
Thomas Philip Fairfax		2024-04-26

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RARE BREEDS SURVIVAL TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 269442

Accounts



RBST

Rare Breeds Survival Trust

Annual Report

& FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

2024

REGISTERED CHARITY IN ENGLAND AND WALES NO 269442
AND IN SCOTLAND OSCR NO SC053451
COMPANY REGISTRATION NUMBER: 1204694



#NativeBreedsForModernNeeds

RBST
Rare Breeds Survival Trust

Contents

Our goals 4

A message *from our Chairman* 5

A message *from our Chief Executive Officer* 6

A message *from our Chair of Conservation & Research Committee* 7

A message *from our Director of Finance & Operations* 8

Promoting our native breeds 9

Securing Government support 18

Delivering on priorities 24

Recognition 36

Financial Review 43

Governance 45

Independent Auditors Report 47

Statement of Financial Activities 49

Balance sheet 50

Statement of cash flows 51

Notes to the financial statements 52

RBST Corporate Directory 65

Golden Guernsey Sledmere Grettle bred by Sledmere Farm Park. Photograph by Laura Clark.

Cover photograph: Fell pony. Photography by Jean Sinclair.

Our goals and what we're doing to achieve them

Goal: A reverse in the decline of all livestock breeds on the Watchlist

What: We aim to have all the breeds on the Watchlist stable by 2028

How:

- We are refocusing our messaging showing the economic, social and environmental relevance of native breeds.
- We use the latest technology to save our rarest breeds, as with the British Lop Pig Project. What we learn from this project will be applied to the benefit of other breeds.
- We will continue to equip breeders and potential breeders with the knowledge they need to keep animals through our Grazing Animals Project courses and online resources.
- We are identifying 'Priority Breeds' and creating Conservation Plans for each of them.



Goal: A comprehensive up-to-date Gene Bank

What: The RBST Gene Bank is the charity's single biggest investment and a key national asset. We will work towards making this a National Gene Bank, supported by government

How:

- We are implementing a clear strategy which will support the maintenance and acquisition of animals to ensure the future of our native breeds.
- We need to ensure that the original genetics are preserved and can be drawn on in the future.
- We are actively promoting the importance of the Gene Bank to potential donors and funders and will ensure that its importance is widely understood.

Goal: Livestock genetic diversity recognised by government and wider society as a fundamental element of agricultural and biodiversity policy

What: We lobby for genetic diversity to be recognised in government policies such as the Agriculture Act, Rural Development Policy and Biodiversity Policy

How:

- We are joining formal partnerships and networks to highlight the many benefits of our native breeds.
- Our strategic work will build on our good media profile to ensure that native breeds are recognised in policy as being crucial to bringing greater sustainability to modern farming and land management practices.
- Our volunteer network represents us at shows and highlights the range of rare breeds that exist and their many and varied uses to the public.

A message from our Chairman

Standing Firm, Looking Forward



John Atkinson
Chairman

2024 has been a year of challenge - and of real momentum - for the Rare Breeds Survival Trust. As Chairman, I'm proud to look back on the strides we've made together to protect the UK's native livestock and equines, and to build stronger systems for their future.

Native breeds aren't just relics of the past. They're vital assets for tomorrow. These animals are perfectly suited to Britain's diverse landscapes. They thrive in low-input systems, support nature-friendly farming, and carry the genetic resilience we urgently need in the face of climate change, new diseases, and shifting markets.

Throughout 2024, RBST continued to punch above its weight. Against a backdrop of economic turbulence, political change, and the slow erosion of rural infrastructure, we stayed laser-focused on our mission: to safeguard the future of native breeds.

Our influence in policy circles continues to grow. We've worked constructively with ministers and officials across all four UK nations to ensure native breeds are part of national conversations on farming, food, and the environment. We're starting to see the results: proposals in Wales to directly support native breed keepers, new investment in small and mobile abattoirs in England, and the launch of Scotland's Small Producer Pilot Fund- an initiative RBST helped shape from the ground up.

But this year has also made clear how fragile the systems that support native breeds still are. The 2025 Watchlist shows a mixed picture. While some populations are holding steady or growing, others remain dangerously at risk. The pressures are real: market uncertainty, regulatory change, and above all, the loss of local abattoirs threaten the survival of breed-specific supply chains. That's why our call for a strategic, joined-up approach to rebuilding rural processing isn't just about convenience - it's about survival, especially in remote and marginal areas.

At the heart of everything we do is conservation. Our programmes continue to deliver: storing genetic material, monitoring populations, and supporting breed societies with high-quality data and practical guidance. We've also made big strides in strengthening our digital tools to track genetic diversity - ensuring our decisions are always grounded in solid science.

This year, the Board reviewed our five-year strategy. I want to thank my fellow trustees, whose expertise across farming, science, business, and public policy helps make RBST's work not only credible, but ambitious and forward-looking. Their time and insights are a tremendous asset.

Of course, conservation isn't just about data - it's about people. Our network of RBST-approved farm parks is doing incredible work bringing native breeds to life for the public. These parks inspire schoolchildren, families, and future farmers, and they're helping to grow the next generation of stewards. We were delighted to welcome new parks to the network this year and to see such passion and creativity in their education and outreach work.

As we look ahead, there's real cause for optimism. More people are recognising what RBST has championed for decades: native breeds aren't just a nostalgic nod to the past. They're essential to the future of sustainable farming, biodiversity, and rural life.

To our members, partners, and friends - thank you. Your belief in our mission is what makes this work possible. Together, we are making a lasting difference for the animals, the landscapes, and the communities we care about.

With your support, RBST is ready to meet the challenges ahead- and to seize the opportunities that lie ahead in a changing world.

A message from our Chief Executive Officer



Christopher Price
CEO

Public appreciation for the UK's native livestock and equine breeds continues to grow - a vital and encouraging trend. These animals are more than heritage icons; they are living links to our landscapes, food traditions, and sustainable farming futures. Yet despite their value, native breeds face mounting challenges: economic pressures, disease risk, rapid policy change, and fragile rural infrastructure.

In 2024, RBST intensified its efforts to ensure these breeds are not only preserved but promoted within a rapidly evolving agricultural landscape. With each UK nation now shaping post Brexit agricultural policy independently, we have worked to ensure native breeds are at the heart of these new frameworks. Constructive engagement with both the outgoing Conservative Government and the incoming Labour administration has been central to this work. Encouragingly, the new ministers have shown a clear willingness to listen.

We continue to advocate for tangible support - particularly through Environmental Land Management schemes and by strengthening the local abattoir network.

On that front, we saw meaningful progress. In early 2024, thanks to RBST's sustained and continuing lobbying a £3 million fund was announced to support small abattoirs, followed by a further commitment for new-build and mobile facilities in England. RBST has urged the new Defra team to maintain this momentum and ensure funding is accessible - especially for small-scale operators who struggle with large upfront costs. We've also called for regulatory reform to bring the UK in line with EU countries that offer proportionate, supportive frameworks for small abattoirs.

In Northern Ireland, we raised concerns about DAERA's proposed Beef Carbon Reduction Scheme, which will cap slaughter age at 26 months by 2027. Such a limit could severely affect the productivity and economic viability of many native breeds. We continue to call for a more nuanced approach that recognises the unique characteristics and growth patterns of traditional livestock.

In Scotland, we were proud to help shape the Small Producers Pilot Fund, which awarded £180,000 in grants for training, knowledge exchange, and abattoir development. This fund will help rebuild resilient, local supply chains - especially for crofters and smallholders. Meanwhile, in Wales, we strongly welcomed the Welsh Government's proposals under the Sustainable Farming Scheme, which include targeted support for keeping native breeds. These are among the most progressive and encouraging policy commitments we've seen across the UK.

RBST's presence was felt across all four nations throughout 2024. In August, our Chair met with Defra ministers to spotlight the role of native cattle in conservation grazing in Cumbria, demonstrating their immense potential for both biodiversity and local economies. We also highlighted the success of the Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL) programme in supporting innovation among native breed farmers.

In 2024, RBST made major strides in native breed conservation. The Gene Bank expanded with critical additions, including Vaynol cattle and Cleveland Bay genetics, while embryo technology advanced preservation efforts. A landmark British Friesian calf was born using stored semen, and the British Lop project achieved a significant reduction in mean kinship. A new native cattle initiative launched with £20,500 in funding to identify breeding challenges and opportunities. Progress continued in the equine project and Portland wool collaboration, while disease awareness efforts grew. These proactive measures are shifting RBST's focus from genetic preservation alone to revitalising breed populations and viability.

People are central to this mission. RBST-approved farm parks remain critical in connecting the public with native breeds. In 2024, we welcomed White Post Farm in Nottinghamshire to the network. Their educational outreach, reaching over 150,000 visitors annually - 15,000 of them schoolchildren - proves the power of these animals to inspire the next generation.

Financially, 2024 was a strong year. Our income reached a nine-year high, our balance sheet remains robust, and costs are tightly managed. Still, challenges persist: fewer people are joining organisations or volunteering, and competition in our commercial space is increasing. In response, the Board has agreed to invest a portion of reserves in securing RBST's future, increasing the number of conservation staff and enhancing RBST's marketing and social media as we recognise the challenges of getting our message across to new audiences.

My heartfelt thanks go to everyone who makes our work possible - our President, Vice Presidents, Trustees, members, and especially our dedicated staff team: Claire McNicol, Tom Blunt, Tracy Wathen-Jones, Alice Lennox, Rachel Peckover, Tracey Howe, and Hannah Roberts. Thanks also to our communications advisers, Linda Trotman and Isobel Davidson.

And finally, thank you to our members, supporters, and partners. Your commitment ensures that native breeds remain not only part of our past - but a thriving part of our shared future.

A message from our Chair of Conservation & Research Committee



Claire Saunders
Chair of Conservation & Research Committee

2024 has been a year of momentum and meaningful impact for the RBST Conservation and Research Committee. Our work has continued to evolve from safeguarding rare breeds in principle to securing their place in the future of food, farming, and biodiversity in practice. We've made real progress-not just in preserving genetics, but in restoring populations, raising awareness, and developing strategies that prepare us for the challenges ahead.

The Gene Bank remains a vital part of our conservation infrastructure, and this year we've moved beyond semen collection into embryos, unlocking the potential to reconstitute whole animals. This progress significantly strengthens our long-term security strategy. Among our most notable additions were collections from a Cleveland Bay stallion and a Vaynol bull, both crucial assets in securing breeds that teeter on the brink. The British Pig Association partnership also reached an important milestone with the completion of the interim phase of the Native Pig Breeds Genebanking Project. With 7,500 straws from 114 boars now banked, including representatives of every native breed, we are better prepared than ever to respond swiftly to disease threats or demographic shocks.

Our focus on disease resilience has become more urgent as we face not only headline-grab-bing risks but also the quieter, persistent threats that rarely make the news. Transmissible and inherited conditions- like neosporosis, Johne's, or scrapie- can devastate small populations before they are even detected. We are working closely with Defra and breed societies to develop tailored risk-mitigation strategies, while also using our platforms to build awareness among breeders. Articles in The Ark and other outreach have reinforced essential practices, such as biosecurity and safe breeding decisions, especially in breeds with critically low numbers where a single outbreak could undo decades of progress.

This year also saw the launch of an ambitious native cattle project, made possible by funding from the HDH Wills 1965 Charitable Trust. With six breeds on the Priority list and many more facing stagnation, we are taking a proactive approach to understanding and addressing both practical and economic barriers to breeding. The project combines technical research with on-the-ground consultation to identify targeted interventions - from the use of assisted reproduction technologies to new market opportunities that support herd viability.

We're not just preserving genes in storage - we're putting them to work. A standout moment this year was the birth of a British Friesian bull sired by semen stored in the Gene Bank. Produced through our partnership with the British Friesian Breeders Club, this is a prime example of how stored genetics can reinvigorate current populations and broaden the genetic base. Meanwhile, the British Lop project, funded by the Gerald Fallowes Discretionary Trust, added 15 more boars to the Gene Bank and successfully reduced average kinship across the breed by collecting rare and underrepresented lines.

Our work with Vaynol cattle is a testament to long-term commitment. Once isolated to a single location, the breed is now spread across five sites, thanks to a coordinated RBST breeding programme. Breeders have shown incredible dedication, moving animals and sharing bulls to maximise genetic gain. The national population remains small, but for the first time in decades it is growing- and growing stronger.

We've also made strides in understanding the motivations and challenges faced by native equine breeders. In collaboration with the Horserace Betting Levy Board, our recent survey revealed that despite economic uncertainty, most breeders remain committed and are seeing encouraging demand. Some are already operating with foal waiting lists for 2025, underscoring the cultural and economic relevance of these breeds.

Finally, our wool collaboration with British Wool and the Portland Sheep Breeders Group reflects the kind of creative conservation that links heritage to the marketplace. By turning raw fleece into premium textiles, this pilot has given Portland producers a renewed sense of pride and potential income. It's a replicable model for making conservation commercially sustainable.

This year, we've shifted from passive preservation to proactive action. The challenges are significant, but so is the energy, collaboration, and innovation driving our work. With every project, we are not just protecting the past - we are building the future of Britain's native breeds.

A message from our Director of Finance & Operations



Claire McNicol
Director of Finance & Operations

2024 was a positive year financially. Economic uncertainty and lingering concerns around inflation created a difficult backdrop for RBST to operate in and despite some challenging underlying trends RBST delivered a strong set of results with an increase in income and continued cost control.

The two key figures that are both large and prone to volatility are Investments and Legacies. Both outperformed in 2024, with Legacies in particular almost three times higher than the long term average. It is known, and accepted, these figures are subject to relatively large variations from one year to the next. Key for RBST, is what these movements look like over the long term, and how that the activities of the Trust are managed year on year to ensure it operates within an acceptable range. RBST continues to adopt of a long term approach to planning, factoring in the need to address the risk of significant short term volatility. It has been stressed before that RBST expects an overall deficit in some years, and in others a surplus as a result of these fluctuating items. However, over the long term the Trust's activities are within an appropriate range to ensure the finances remain stable.

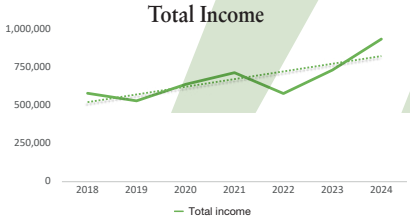
Income was up in 2024 to a nine year high coming in at £933,509. This was predominantly driven by Legacies, which came in at £398,521, this offset decreases year on year in other areas of income. Grants and donations experienced a particular high in 2023 as a result of the generosity of members and supporters surrounding RBST's 50th anniversary. Membership income was also down, and this remains a challenge across the charity sector. Income was down from charitable activities as a result of decreases in consulting, training courses and sponsorship as uncertainty over public funding has led to a slowdown in consultancy opportunities an increase in competition has compounded this.

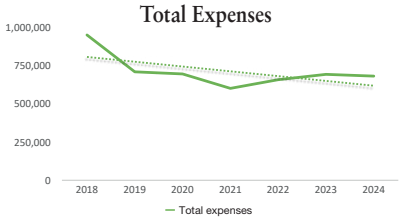
Total expenses were slightly down, coming in at £687,737. This was due to the ongoing tight cost control implemented by RBST and some small additional expenses incurred during the 50th anniversary that were not repeated in 2024.

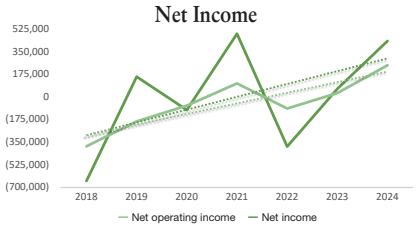
Restricted funds were increased over the course of 2024 as RBST focused on securing income to continue delivering its charitable objectives and funding is in place to continue delivering projects that are underway such as the Horserace Betting Levy Board project, The Native Cattle Project (HDH Wills), the Lop project, the Priority Breed Projects and more.

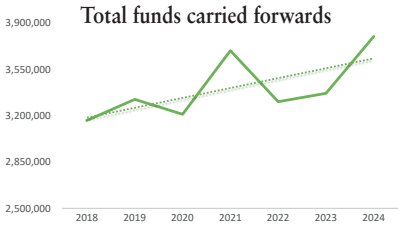
Over the last six years RBST has focused on both cost control and income diversification. This strategy has paid off and RBST has made progress on both fronts and Net Income has seen continued improvements and this in turn has led to a steady increase in total funds. The point has come where the RBST Board has made an active decision to invest these funds going forwards, thus RBST is expecting to increase its operating deficit over the coming years, subject to the known and accepted volatility surrounding Legacies and Investments. RBST is investing in additional staff members firstly to increase the strength of RBST's identity in the devolved nations as well as increase capacity in regard to conservation. On the operations side RBST is planning to modernise its marketing strategy by delivering a new website and improve its social media and digital presence.

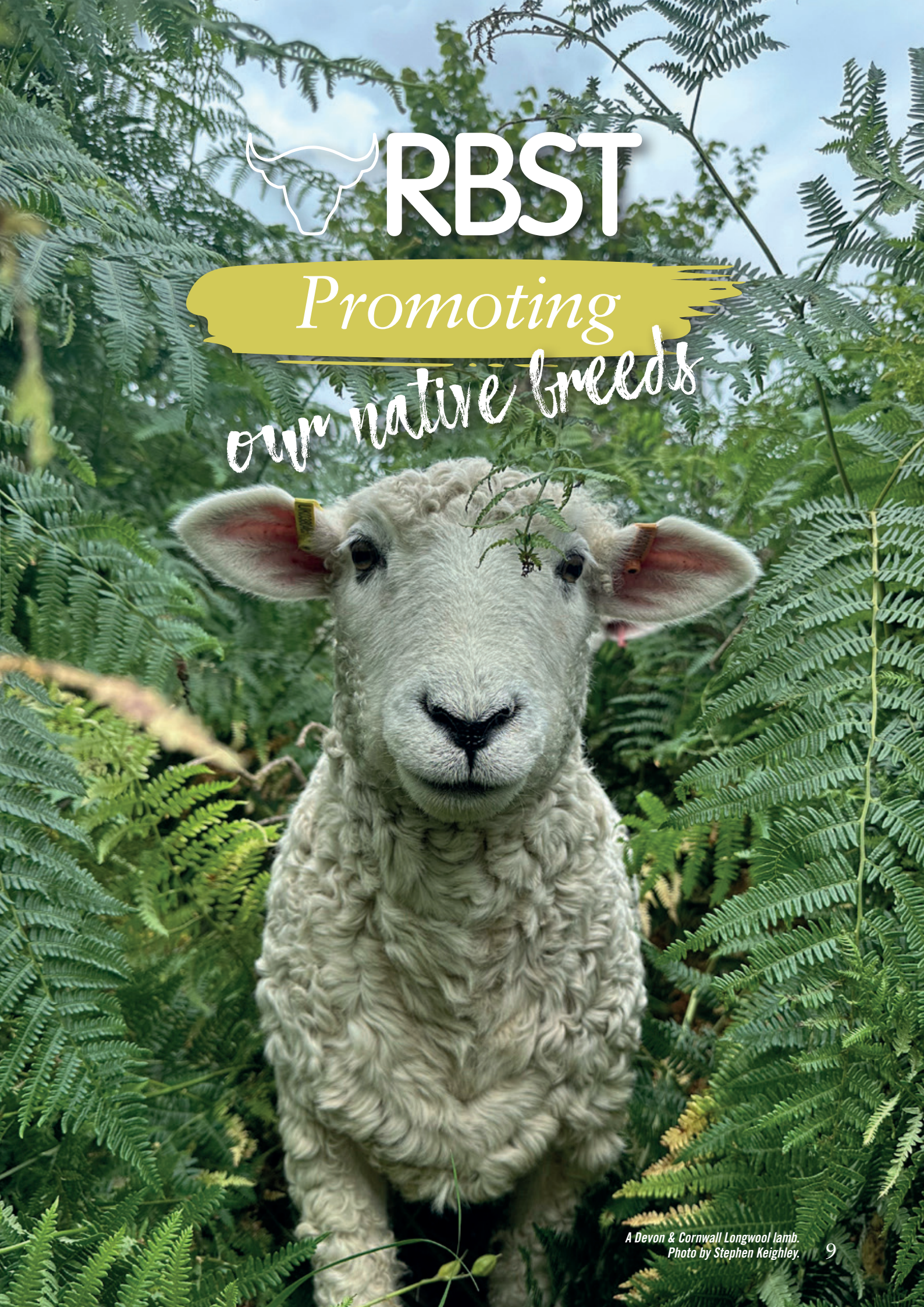
In closing, I want to express something I say every year because it remains just as true: none of this would be possible without our incredible staff team. They continue to grow stronger, consistently going above and beyond to support the Trust's mission. To our outstanding members, who help extend RBST's reach far beyond what we could accomplish alone - thank you. To our valued corporate supporters and sponsors, whose business goals align so closely with our own, we are truly grateful. And finally, to those who so generously chose to remember us in their wills - your thoughtfulness means more than words can express. Thank you all - we truly couldn't do this without you.











A Devon & Cornwall Longwool lamb. Photo by Stephen Keighley.

Promoting our native breeds



> ***The expertise and work of native breed farmers and smallholders alongside breed societies and RBST made a real impact for native breeds in 2024.***

RBST works with its members across the UK to promote our native breeds, and their produce, add to the Gene Bank, support breeding and conservation programmes, and provide specialist advice and training.

During 2024, RBST continued its presence at events aimed at its target audience of sustainable and regenerative farmers. With a growing awareness of the importance of farming working with nature to meet both our food and environmental needs, RBST is finding many more doors opening for our native breeds, underscoring the vital role that they can play.

ORFC

The 2024 Oxford Real Farming Conference (ORFC) saw RBST taking to the stage to deliver some key messages around the role of native livestock breeds in modern farming.

RBST CEO Christopher Price and member Maria Benjamin took part in a session which looked at why we must move beyond the perception of wool as a low-value by-product of the meat industry. The messages delivered included the role of native breed sheep in delivering climate-friendly, sustainable products and the potential of wool to be a carbon sink, with around 40% of a sheep's fleece consisting of carbon.

Another key session was chaired by RBST President Baroness Sue Hayman, addressed the issue of local abattoirs and the importance of Government investment.



Groundswell

In terms of value to RBST, the annual Groundswell Regenerative Agricultural Festival goes from strength to strength and provides one of the most useful ways to meet its target audiences. The Festival provides a forum for farmers, growers and those interested in food production and the environment to learn about the theory and practical application of regenerative farming systems.

The RBST stand saw a high level of visitors, including farmers, smallholders, farming and environmental organisations and journalists, many of whom reported that they had attended Groundswell with a specific desire to talk to RBST.



Groundswell.

Shows around the country

Thanks to the hard work and dedication of Support Group members, RBST is able to have a presence at most of the key agricultural shows around the country, including the Great Yorkshire, the Royal Lancashire, the Royal Cornwall, the Royal Norfolk, the Royal Highland, Royal Welsh, Balmoral in N Ireland and many more regional and local shows.

The members who represent RBST at these shows promote our native breeds, often with an impressive range of animals on display, and their produce, engaging with members of the public and showcasing their own chosen breeds in the showring.



Royal Highland Show.



Royal Welsh Show.

NSA Sheep Event

The biennial NSA Sheep Event is a flagship occasion for the National Sheep Association which provides RBST with a prime opportunity to showcase the UK's native breeds to the sheep sector.

As a business-to-business event, it attracts a range of stakeholders, including breeders, farmers, retailers and auctioneers. RBST took part in some extremely positive conversations with both existing breeders and those investigating the possibility of introducing native breeds into their farming systems.



Tom Blunt at the NSA Sheep Event 2024.

Promoting our native breeds ... in Scotland


RBST Vice President Scotland Martin Beard, Christopher Price and Mairi Gougeon MSP at GO Falkland.

> ***The creation of an umbrella support group covering the whole of Scotland has seen RBST considerably raising its profile north of the border.***

RBST Scotland has successfully represented the work of the Trust at major shows and has ensured a presence at other key events engaging with a wide range of stakeholders.

Excellence in Scottish sustainable food and farming was again celebrated at the 2024 Royal Highland Show when winners of the RBST Scotland Food and Farming Sustainability Awards were announced. The awards recognise businesses and individuals from Scotland's food and farming industries who have placed environmental sustainability and native breeds at the heart of their activities. Two new awards were introduced for 2024 to reflect innovation in sustainable farm diversification and marketing of sustainable produce. RBST Scotland was honoured to again welcome Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform and Islands Mairi Gougeon MSP who presented the awards.

Also at the Royal Highland, the RBST Scotland team organised a series of talks and hosted displays from twelve breed societies in their marquee. As well as attracting large numbers of members of the public, the RBST presence garnered considerable media attention.

Addressing the subject of regenerative farming, RBST Scotland became one of the sponsors of GO Falkland, a key event designed to bring together vital voices and hands-on practitioners in the fields of regenerative farming, forestry and food. Held on the Falkland Estate in Fife, GO Falkland was inspired by Groundswell.


RBST Scotland Food and Farming Sustainability Award winners with MSP Mairi Gougeon.



Members of the new Wales and Borders Support Group.



Aaron Kirkpatrick (Secretary Northern Ireland Support Group), Vaughan Byrne (Chief Steward), Ryan Perry (RBST Vice Chair).

... in Wales

> ***In 2024 a new RBST Wales and Borders Support Group was set up to provide a focus for members throughout Wales and the border counties with the aim of giving the country a stronger voice in RBST and RBST a stronger voice in the country.***

Helping to grow RBST's presence in Wales, the new group took its message to the Welsh Smallholders Show, RBST's first presence there for many years. This provided the opportunity for meeting with longstanding members and for talking through the benefits of native breeds to many smallholders looking to find out what species would work best for them in their systems.

Later in the year the group made another return, this time to the Royal Welsh Show, again for the first time in a number of years. This provided another important opportunity to engage with existing members and to meet with members of the public to inform them of the important work of the Trust.

... in Northern Ireland

> ***RBST Northern Ireland again collaborated with its partner organisations in the dedicated Regenerative Farming Zone.***

This was running for the second time at the 2024 Balmoral Show, one of the biggest outdoor events in Northern Ireland's calendar.

RBST NI joined forces with the Nature Friendly Farming Network, GrowIn, the National Trust, the Woodland Trust, Ulster Wildlife and the RSPB to promote the advantages of farming with both nature and food production in mind.

With a strong farming focus, the shared space welcomed anyone interested in the regenerative agriculture movement, demonstrating how farming can help nature and biodiversity thrive while also producing high-quality food.

Amongst the early visitors to the Regenerative Farming Zone was recently-appointed Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs Minister Andrew Muir, who joined in the conversations about the need to move fast on the new Farming with Nature agri-environment scheme for Northern Ireland.

Promoting our native breeds

Working with farm parks

> ***Almost since its inception, RBST has run an approved farm park scheme which comprises a diverse group of locations where members of the public can enjoy a native breeds experience.***

Farm parks offer an important public showcase for RBST's work with native breeds, attracting many thousands of visitors each year. In addition, many farm parks can be seen out and about at their local agricultural shows, showing off their pedigree livestock to an even wider audience. And, because they are actively involved in breeding programmes, they can be an important source of pedigree stock.



Castlemilks at Spitalfields

First and foremost, RBST approved farm parks are selected for their active breeding programmes of Watchlist breeds. As well as those operating as visitor attractions, the farm parks in the Education category are integral to educational facilities while Associate members keep and breed natives as an adjunct to their core conservation activity.



Mudchute



John Duncan with one of the Blackstone Clydesdales.







Introducing White Post

White Post Farm in Newark, Nottinghamshire, joined the RBST approved farm park network in 2024.

Established over thirty years ago, White Post has an impressive focus on education, offering a wide range of learning opportunities as well as fun days out.

White Post welcomes an average of 150,000 visitors a year, 15,000 of which are school children. As well as hosting the usual school and other organised groups, White Post offers a range of structured learning opportunities, including a weekly Little Farmers Club, a Ranger Academy for both young people and adults, and a home educator programme. An approved provider for the Nottinghamshire County Council's outreach programme, a roadshow team takes animals out to schools and prisons.

In order to achieve RBST accreditation, White Post added new breeds to its livestock collection and introduced breeding programmes for Oxford Sandy & Black pigs, Royal Golden Guernsey goats and Greyface Dartmoor sheep, plus Scots Dumpy and Norfolk Black poultry.







Promoting our native breeds



The RBST Equine Showcase

> ***As part of its major Native Equine Project, funded by the Horserace Betting Levy Board, RBST launched a points based competition which ran throughout the year.***

The aim of the competition was to show the world what native equine breeds can do, and the Versatility Showcase invited owners and riders to record their achievements at any competitive events and submit them to RBST. The competition was open to all equine breeds listed on the Watchlist, with a separate section for part-breds, with the aim of celebrating the wide range of disciplines our native breeds are capable of.

Photograph: Tom Thurston

Young Shepherds show their skills



> *Every year, RBST offers youngsters around the country the opportunity to enter the showring – often for the first time – with its Young Shepherds competition.*

The competition offers budding young shepherds the opportunity to get a feel for showing and pick up some valuable tips. Even those without their own sheep can take part, as RBST can arrange the loan of sheep for the occasion.

The competition takes place at around 25 venues UK-wide and each one sees a champion and reserve champion taking the honours in two age groups. Although the 2024 Grand Final could not take place due to the cancellation of the show where it was scheduled to take place, the competition again highlighted the skills and knowledge of the next generations of shepherds. The 2024 finalists will have the opportunity to compete for the championship in 2025.







RBST

Securing Government support



An Eriskay foal.
Photograph by Alice Lennox.

RBST's Call for action for our native livestock

1 Honour Our Living Heritage: Native Breeds as Biodiversity Champions.

Native livestock and equines are not just farm animals - they are living, breathing biodiversity. Bred for specific landscapes, they are the original ecosystem engineers, deeply woven into the fabric of our environment and culture.

We are calling on all UK governments to recognise native breeds as a vital part of national biodiversity - equal in importance to wild species - and deliver on international obligations to conserve them. Protecting these animals means investing in the public goods they provide: sustainability, resilience, and identity.

2 Power Up the Abattoir Network: Local, Diverse, Essential.

A thriving network of small, local abattoirs is essential. Without it, native breed farming is under threat, animal welfare is compromised, and food security is at risk.

Government must act now: support small abattoirs to handle the diversity and scale of native breeds, cut red tape, and invest in regional infrastructure that keeps food local and traceable. This is about more than slaughter - it's about sovereignty, sustainability, and survival.

3 Make Biosecurity a National Priority.

Disease doesn't wait.

Government must join forces with RBST and native breed farmers to champion biosecurity and contingency planning that works for all. Rare native breeds must be embedded in national animal biosecurity strategies - not as an afterthought, but as frontline defenders of our food future. This partnership will build rural resilience, safeguard genetic diversity, and ensure the UK is ready for tomorrow's threats, today.

4 Rethink Carcass Grading: Taste, Not Just Tonnage.

The current EU-based carcass grading system is outdated and unfair. It rewards bulk, not brilliance - measuring meat by shape and fat cover alone, and ignoring what really matters: taste, quality, and character. Native breeds, with their extraordinary flavour profiles and sustainable rearing, are penalised by a system that sees only volume. Worse still, it's all based on a subjective visual check.

The UK must follow smarter models - like Australia's eating quality-based grading - and legislate for a system that celebrates diversity, values eating experience, and empowers consumers to choose better meat.

Protecting heritage and delivering sustainability

Securing Government support

> ***Public appreciation of our native breeds and their produce continues to grow, but the threats of economic uncertainty and disease outbreaks persist.***

At the same time, the details of how each of the UK's Governments' farming and land management policies, and how they will impact native breeds, remain to be seen.

Since the UK left the EU, each home country has been devising its own agricultural policy to replace the CAP. RBST is working with each country's government to ensure the interests of our native livestock and equines are properly protected and promoted in each country's policy. Discussions which were ongoing with the former Conservative Government have continued with members of the Labour government.

Significant policy developments in 2024 included the then-Government's response in April to the Independent Review of Protected Site Management on Dartmoor. The Review had clearly recognised the benefits of the diversity of livestock species and breeds kept on the moor and their contribution to a whole range of economic, environmental, and social benefits.

RBST will continues to engage with Government on its intentions for taking this issue, and the implementation of Environmental Land Management (ELM) more widely, forwards. We will also continue urging Defra to build on the progress starting to be made to support a robust and resilient local abattoir network.

RBST continues lobbying for small abattoirs

2024 began with the announcement by the Conservative Government of a £4m fund to help the small abattoir sector invest for the future, followed by a promised further £3m in additional support for new and mobile abattoirs in England through its Farming Investment Fund.

With the change of government, RBST called on the new Defra team to maintain progress on the collaborative action already underway between government, small abattoir owners and native breed farmers to reverse the decline of the crucial local abattoir network.

In particular, RBST asked for action to ensure that Small Abattoir Fund it is fully accessible for those abattoir owners it is designed to help, many of whom do not have the cash flow to afford significant up-front costs. It also urged Defra ministers to ensure swift roll-out of the new abattoirs fund and to continue pressing the EU to agree to similar lighter touch regulation for smaller abattoirs in the UK seen in much of mainland Europe.

Speaking up for cattle in Northern Ireland

> ***When the Northern Ireland government pressed ahead with its Beef Carbon Reduction Scheme, RBST repeated its concern that this could have an adverse impact on native breeds.***

The scheme will see the introduction of a maximum slaughter age of 26 months for beef cattle by 2027.

The scheme, introduced by the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) is part of a new programme of Farm Support and Development being introduced to replace existing support schemes. DAERA says that it is designed to improve the efficiency of the beef sector and reduce livestock greenhouse gas emissions, thereby contributing to meeting the Climate Change Act (Northern Ireland) 2022 targets.

RBST first voiced its concerns over plans for a 26 month maximum slaughter age in 2022, when DAERA launched a consultation process. It pointed out that while some breeds can be satisfactorily finished in 26 months, many native breeds take much longer to finish. If sent to slaughter prematurely, they become less productive as they will achieve a lower price than when fully matured. Although the scheme went live in January 2024, RBST continues to urge DAERA to reconsider implementing its wholesale application and take a more pragmatic approach by accepting the benefits of killing certain breeds at a later stage.



Securing Government support

RBST plays its part in Scotland

> ***RBST Scotland was one of a number of organisations invited by the Scottish government to be part of the Small Producer Steering Group tasked to design a funding scheme aimed at small producers.***

Its guidance has resulted in the launch of the Small Producers Pilot Fund which has £180,000 grant funding at its disposal.

The fund, which replaces the Small Farm Grant Scheme, is designed to target small producers and crofters with an aspiration to establish more localised supply chains and cut food miles. The funding will be used to provide training courses for small producers, create a resources web page and support two small-scale abattoir projects.



RBST voice heard in Wales



> ***Having contributed to the Welsh Government's consultation on its Sustainable Farming Scheme, the new farming policy for Wales, RBST was pleased to see proposals which it sees to be among the best for native breeds with a particularly clear recognition of the economic, environmental and cultural benefits they provide.***

Under the proposals, farmers will be entitled to a Universal Baseline Payment in return for carrying out 17 Universal Actions.

Most of these Actions relate to various aspects of land management, although a number concern aspects of business management. In addition, farmers will able to claim additional payments for carrying out one or more Optional Actions. The list of Optional Actions has yet to be finalised, but it includes payment for keeping native breeds.



Native breeds talks with new Defra ministers

In August, RBST Chair John Atkinson, met with Defra ministers Daniel Zeichner and Sue Hayman and Janet Hughes, senior Defra official, to discuss farming with native breeds.

The ministers heard about the vital role played by native cattle in Cumbrian conservation grazing projects and how much more could be done with better incentives. They were also briefed on the role that Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL) funding can play in supporting entrepreneurial farmers.

RBST

Delivering on priorities



24 *Guernsey cattle.*

Watchlist 2025- a static picture


Cleveland Bay.

> ***The publication of the 2025 Watchlist underscores the ongoing need for support for our native breeds to ensure their long-term future.***

In 2024, no breeds saw their conservation status improve sufficiently for them to change category, while two of our sheep breeds have been moved to the Priority category.

Since working with the methodology introduced in 2021, which focuses on population size alongside measures of inbreeding, RBST is able to understand in more detail the true conservation status of each breed. The Effective Population Size (N_e), is a globally recognised concept which indicates the genetic diversity within a breed. This accounts for the total number of animals in a population and the relative numbers of male and female parents (sires and dams). When there is a low N_e there is a greater likelihood of inbreeding and a higher risk of loss of genetic diversity. An effective population size of 50 is seen as the threshold (set by FAO, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations) and any breed below this threshold is of concern.


Welsh.

Equines

2024 saw the addition of the Welsh Section B (Welsh Pony) to the Watchlist, and it is encouraging that the data for 2024 indicate a relatively stable picture, with some small growth.

The New Forest Pony has been previously highlighted as being close to graduating from the Watchlist. However, while still in a relatively strong position, there has been a decline in the number of breeders and a slight decline in the number of dams, resulting in a fall in N_e for the second consecutive year.

Six of our equine breeds fall into the Watchlist Priority category and all six show a low N_e. The rarest numerically is the Eriskay but breed data indicates a significant improvement based on 2023 figures while the Hackney has been in a worrying position for a number of years.

Data for the Cleveland Bay illustrate a successful year in terms of the number of registered animals, with highest number of breeders registering animals since 2019. Encouragingly, the N_e for the Suffolk has increased to 50 and the Dartmoor, Fell, Shire and Welsh Section B all saw an improvement.

A breed to note is the Fell pony, with over 50 more dams recorded as producing registered progeny in 2024, a year-on-year increase of 23%. The Dartmoor achieved a 14% increase in the number of dams.

Pigs

Seven of the pig breeds remain in the Priority category. In recent years the Large White and British Landrace have been singled out as breeds of concern. Based on the British Pig Association (BPA) survey data, both breeds have stabilised in terms of numbers, with the British Landrace having a slight increase in overall sow numbers. There has also been an 81% increase in the number of female registrations for British Landrace and a 39% increase for Large White.

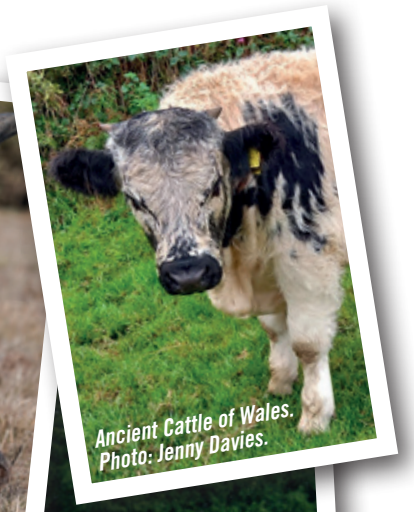
The Middle White has seen the gradual decline in numbers of breeders and registrations continue and the Large Black saw a 32% decrease in the number of females registered.

Despite a total number of British Lop registrations slightly higher than 2023, the overall number of sires and dams was down, reflecting a continuing trend.

Female registrations for the Welsh have improved and are back up to the levels seen in 2022. The Gloucestershire Old Spots, British Saddleback and Oxford Sandy and Black also had productive years in terms of registration numbers.

Delivering on priorities


Bagot.


Ancient Cattle of Wales. Photo: Jenny Davies.


Leicester Longwool.

Goats

There are five goat breeds/populations on the RBST Watchlist; the English and Old English goat remain Priority breeds with the Bagot and Royal Golden Guernsey categorised At Risk. The Cheviot goat is recognised as a feral population.

2024 saw a decline in N_e for all breeds, and a decline in the number of dams producing registered progeny. This general downward trend follows a period of stability for the Bagot and growth for the English and Royal Golden Guernsey goats.

Cattle

For the Original Population Lincoln Red, the number of dams producing registered progeny increased by 86%, keeping it from the Priority category. The 2024 data for Gloucester, one of the Priority breeds, also show an increase in the number of females producing registered progeny and the number of registrations has increased for the second consecutive year.

The Whitebred Shorthorn figures have returned to those achieved in 2022. The Shetland breed has also seen a significant improvement compared to the 2023 performance, with the number of dams up 22%. The British White 2024 data were very similar to that of 2023, with a similar number of registrations achieved, indicating breed stability.

For the Vaynol, data indicate a slight decline in the number of dams, but 22 females were bred pedigree, with 11 castrated males recorded, which accounts for the reduced dam figures. Overall, therefore, the situation is encouraging.

The Irish Moiled has seen a decline in performance, following two very successful years. There is a similar story for the Albion, with the number of females producing pedigree progeny falling to a similar level to 2022. White Park registrations fell by 16% and the number of dams producing registered progeny fell to its lowest level since 2003.

The Albion, Vaynol and the ACW each have an N_e below the FAO threshold of 50 while the Gloucester has increased, moving further above the 50 threshold. The British White, Shetland and Whitebred Shorthorn have also improved. after falling below the threshold of 50 in 2023.

Sheep

The Manx Loaghtan and Leicester Longwool have been moved into the Priority category. The number of Leicester Longwool dams producing pedigree progeny was down 29% and there has also been a gradual decline in N_e. The Manx Loaghtan has seen a decline for the second consecutive year, with the N_e at its lowest since 2000 when this calculation was first recorded. Since 2022 there has been a 34% decrease in the number of dams producing pedigree offspring.

The Whiteface Dartmoor is also a breed to highlight, with figures recorded over the last five years gradually declining. From a peak of 1,911 female registrations in 2020, the 2024 figure represents a 62% decline, although the breed remains in the At Risk category. North Ronaldsay and Portland also saw a decline in female registrations.

The Lincoln Longwool, another of the Priority breeds, has experienced a relatively stable year and if this continues then the breed's conservation status will improve.

Breeds to note for a very productive year are Devon and Cornwall Longwool, Devon Closewool, Dorset Down and Llanwenogs.

For the Devon and Cornwall Longwool, female registrations were up 45%, the highest recorded since 2017, while the Devon Closewool saw female registrations up by 39%. The Dorest Down recorded the highest number of dams since 2017 and Llanwenogs saw a 23% increase in the number of dams producing registered progeny.


Marsh Daisy.

Poultry

In 2024 the decision was made to categorise all poultry as Priority breeds and on the 2025/26 Watchlist, this status remains unchanged. It is clear the industry faces challenges, not least Avian Flu, and RBST will continue to work with Defra and the relevant organisations to gather more data on poultry breeds.

RBST
Rare Breeds Survival Trust

Watchlist 2025-26

The methodology used by RBST to prioritise breeds compares population size with measures of inbreeding and takes into account both females and males and the internationally recognised effective population calculation.
RBST would like to thank Defra and UK Breed Societies for their help producing the Watchlist.

Sheep

PRIORITY
Leicester Longwool
Lincoln Longwool
Manx Loaghtan
North Ronaldsay
Whitefaced Woodland
Welsh Mountain Pedigree

AT RISK
Balwen
Border Leicester
Boreray
Castlemilk Moorit
Cotswold
Derbyshire Gritstone
Devon and Cornwall Longwool
Devon Closewool
Dorset Down
Dorset Horn
Hill Radnor
Llanwenog
Lonk
Norfolk Horn
Oxford Down
Portland
Soay
Teeswater
Torwen Badgerface Welsh
Wensleydale
Whiteface Dartmoor

OTHER NATIVE BREEDS
Beulah
Black Welsh Mountain*
Blackface (Scottish)
Blueface Leicester
Brecknock Hill Cheviot
Clun Forest
Dalesbred
Exmoor Horn
Greyface Dartmoor*
Hampshire Down
Hebridean*
Herdwick
Jacob*
Kerry Hill*
Llandovery Whiteface Hill
Lleyn*
North Country Cheviot
Poll Dorset
Romney
Rough Fell
Ryeland*
Shetland*
Shropshire*
Southdown*
South Country Cheviot
South Wales Mountain*
Suffolk
Swaledale
Torddu Badgerface Welsh
Welsh Hill Speckled
Welsh Mountain
Wiltshire Horn*

IRISH BREEDS IN THE UK
Galway

Cattle

PRIORITY
Albion
Ancient Cattle of Wales
Chillingham Wild Cattle (Feral)
Dairy Shorthorn (Original Population)
Gloucester
Northern Dairy Shorthorn
Vaynol

AT RISK
British White
Irish Moiled
Lincoln Red (Original Population)
Native Aberdeen Angus
Shetland
Traditional Hereford
White Park
Whitebred Shorthorn

OTHER NATIVE BREEDS
Aberdeen Angus
Ayrshire
Beef Shorthorn*
Belted Galloway*
British Friesian
Dairy Shorthorn
Devon
Dexter
Galloway - Including White and Riggit
Guernsey
Hereford
Highland
Jersey
Lincoln Red
Longhorn*
Luing
Red Poll*
South Devon
Sussex
Welsh Black

IRISH BREEDS IN THE UK
Kerry

*These breeds were formerly considered to be Priority or At Risk breeds

Equine

PRIORITY
Cleveland Bay Horse
Dales Pony
Eriskay Pony
Exmoor Pony
Hackney Horse and Pony
Suffolk Horse

AT RISK
Clydesdale Horse
Dartmoor Pony
Fell Pony
Highland Pony
New Forest Pony
Section B Welsh Pony
Shire Horse

OTHER NATIVE BREEDS
Shetland Pony
Welsh Pony and Cob (Types A,C and D)

IRISH BREEDS IN THE UK
Connemara Pony
Irish Draught Horse

FERAL POPULATIONS
Dartmoor Hill Pony
Carneddau Pony

Pigs

PRIORITY
Berkshire
British Landrace
British Lop
Large Black
Large White
Middle White
Tamworth

AT RISK
British Saddleback
Gloucestershire Old Spots
Oxford Sandy and Black
Welsh

Goats

PRIORITY
English Goat
Old English Goat

AT RISK
Bagot
Royal Golden Guernsey

FERAL POPULATIONS
Cheviot

Poultry

PRIORITY

Chickens
Ancona
Andalusian
Australorp
British Araucana
British Faverolles
Brussbar
Buff Orpington
Burmese
Campine
Cochin
Cream Legbar
Croad Langshan
Derbyshire Redcap
Dorking
Hamburgh
Indian Game
Ixworth
Legbar
Leghorn
Malay
Marsh Daisy
Minorca
Modern Game
Modern Langshan
Nankin
Norfolk Grey
North Holland Blue
Old English Game
Old English Pheasant Fowl
Orpington (non Buff)
Rhodebar
Rosecomb
Rumpless Game
Scots Dumpy
Scots Grey
Sebright
Sicilian Buttercup
Spanish
Sultan
Sussex
Welbar

Turkeys
Blue
Bourbon Red
British White
Bronze
Buff
Cröllwitzer (Pied)
Harvey Speckled
Narragansett
Norfolk Black
Slate

Ducks
Abacot Ranger
Aylesbury
Black East Indian
Campbell
Cayuga
Crested
Hookbill
Magpie
Orpington
Pekin
Rouen (Exhibition)
Shetland
Silver Appleyard
Silver Bantam
Stanbridge White
Welsh Harlequin

Geese
Brecon Buff
Buff Back
Embden (as standardised in the UK)
Grey Back
Pilgrim
Roman
Sebastopol
Shetland
Steinbacher
Toulouse (Exhibition)
West of England



Albion cattle at Cotswold Farm Park

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Delivering on priorities



Britain's oldest primitive goat joins the Watchlist

> ***Joining the Watchlist as a feral breed, the College Valley Cheviot goat herd, located in College Valley, Newton Tors and Yeavering Bell In Northumberland, is described as an authentic remnant of Britain's oldest landrace goat.***

Although RBST is not actively looking to add feral populations to the Watchlist, applications are considered where populations meet certain criteria. First and foremost, it must fit the definition of a native breed as defined by Defra's UK Genetics for Livestock and Equines Committee (UKGLE, formerly FAnGR). In fact, the College Valley Cheviot herd was accepted by Defra as a Native Breed at Risk (NBAR) in 2010.

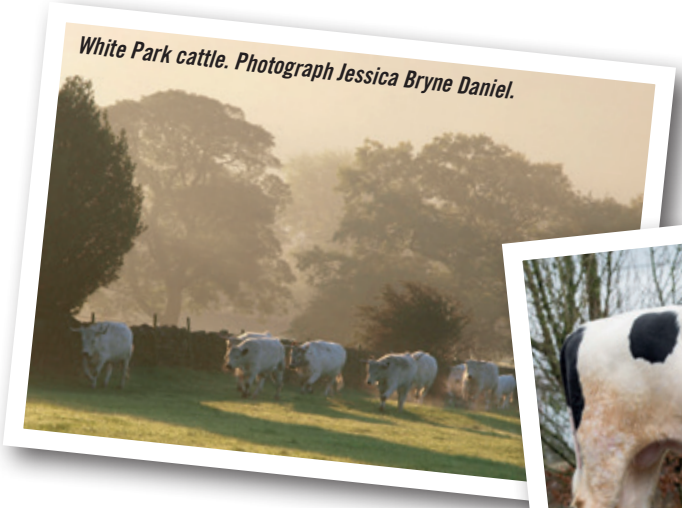
The Cheviot has a documented history going back to at least 1860, pre-dating the drive for dairy goat improvement and development of our modern breeds that began with the founding of the British Goat Society in 1879. The goats were put out in the valley to replace an earlier herd that was removed elsewhere, and has been left as a completely wild herd with no intervention other than to reduce numbers periodically.

While there are other feral goat populations in various pockets around the UK which may or may not have some Cheviot or authentic British Primitive goat genetics, the history and long isolation of the College Valley herd have enabled them to exist as a distinct population without introgression from modern goat breeds.

A detailed annual census has been carried out since 2005. Any necessary actions are discussed by the Goat Management Group, which includes the College Valley, Yeavering and Lilburn estates over which the goats roam, Northumberland National Park, tenant farmers, the British Primitive Goat Research Group and a member of lecturing staff from Newcastle University.

From time to time, goats are moved to conservation grazing or private breeding projects around the country in an effort to maintain genetic diversity and safeguard the gene pool. However, relocated goats remain subject to the annual census to enable them to be included on the NBAR register.

Grey nanny. Photographs: Dave Hunt.


White Park cattle. Photograph Jessica Bryne Daniel.


British Friesian Lismulligan Einstein.


A Temple Newsam Vaynol.

Funding

Funding win for major native breed cattle project

Early in 2024, RBST was invited by the HDH Wills 1965 Charitable Trust to submit a bid for "a substantial project". With six native cattle breeds in the Priority category of the Watchlist and a further eight At Risk, it was decided to bid for funding for a cattle project along similar lines to the ongoing HBLB-funded equine project. The bid was successful and RBST will receive over £20,500 for the project.

Based on the Watchlist, and following more detailed discussions with keepers, breed societies and representatives, RBST had identified a number of areas requiring further investigation. The project will therefore focus on evidence gathering to better understand the drivers behind keeping and breeding native cattle and the challenges presented. This will enable RBST to put together a series of actions that will significantly improve the status of these breeds.

The native cattle project will take a two-pronged approach; the first is concerned with identifying overarching and breed specific issues, including an analysis of differing approaches to breeding and reproductive technologies. In light of this, best practice guidance for establishing breeding strategies will be created and promoted.

The second part will focus on the uses of the breeds and the opportunities for extending those uses, thus raising the breeds' profile and increasing their numbers.

British Friesian Gene Bank project brings back lost genetics

In 2021, the Genetics Group of the British Friesian Breeders Club (BFBC) embarked on a project to use the RBST Gene Bank to bring back historic genetics into the modern herd. In 2024 the Group announced that semen from the first of the Gene Bank sires has produced a new breeding bull.

Although it is not a Watchlist breed, RBST holds a collection of genetic material for the British Friesian and agreed with BFBC that Gene Bank material could be used to help avoid what could become a narrowing gene pool.

The BFBC was formed in 1990 to promote and encourage the best of British Friesians to counter what was described as the 'North Americanisation' of the breed. Today the British Friesian has its own breed code, with 87.5% British Friesian being the minimum required for pedigree registration.

The aim of the project is to restore the pre-1990 British Friesian genetics within the modern breed and counter the over-use of certain genetics. The Genetics Group had established that the RBST Gene Bank was the only resource available with a good selection of historic bulls.

Vaynols – 15 years of progress

In 2009, the entire population of Vaynol cattle, one of our very rarest cattle breeds, existed in a single herd at Home Farm Temple Newsam. Fifteen years on, thanks to a breeding project launched by RBST and since taken up by a dedicated group of breeders, Vaynols can be found in five locations, spread around Britain. Although the breed is still extremely low in numbers, the growth that has been achieved to date is helping to secure its future survival.

Vaynol cattle are thought to represent the remnants of the ancient white cattle that once roamed the British Isles. The Vaynol Estate, near Bangor in North Wales, began breeding its cattle in the late 1870s as a decorative addition to the landscape. The herd was kept at Vaynol Park until 1980 when the estate was sold and the cattle initially moved to a number of locations, including Home Farm Temple Newsam, near Leeds. In 1984 RBST arranged to relocate all of the Vaynols and the entire herd was brought back together at Home Farm Temple Newsam, an RBST approved farm park.

A breeding programme began at Temple Newsam, and in recognition that such a rare breed kept in a single location made it too vulnerable to disease, a new satellite herd was established in Lincolnshire. Further herds have since been established in Scotland, including at Dumfries House, and in the south of England.

As of 2023, there were 55 females and 13 males in the national Vaynol herd, representing an increasingly healthy population. Behind the success of the breeding programme is the commitment of the breeders who have taken it on and are making it work by operating as a group. Bulls are moved around the group, often sent on loan free of charge or for a minimal fee, and the members hold meetings to review and agree progress.

Delivering on priorities


Suffolk mares and foals.

Understanding equines

> ***As part of its ongoing equine project with the Horserace Betting Levy Board (HBLB), RBST undertook a survey to find out what influences breeders.***

A vital part of conserving any breed is the dedication of breeders. In the equine world, there are many elements to this: from breeding a mare, to choosing a stallion and on to rearing a foal. RBST launched the survey to find out what makes breeders tick, what influences their breeding decisions and whether it's conservation, economics, a specific discipline, love for the breed or a combination of all that influences breeding decisions.

The survey asked breeders whether they chose to breed in 2023/2024 and whether they would be open to leasing their mare or stallion to another breeder if it would help breed conservation. It looked at how many mares respondents bred from, whether they considered reproductive technology, and whether owners were willing to stand their stallion at stud.

The survey also asked how economic factors influenced breeding decisions. 65% said that the economic climate did not influence them. Despite this, when asked to explain their answer, the majority of respondents did cite that costs are getting higher and prices within the equine market are falling. However, many breeders responded that they have chosen to breed native equines as a hobby or as a rare breed project and so the economy would not affect their decision to continue breeding.

Interestingly, despite the economic climate, 50% of those surveyed believe the market for natives and their partbreds is expanding. They have experienced good demand for foals and youngstock and in some cases breeders had waiting lists for 2025 foals.

British Lop project sees mean kinship reduction


British Lop Adwinkle Cornishman.

At the beginning of 2024, RBST was able to report that as part of its ongoing British Lop project, funded by the Gerald Fallowes Discretionary Trust, a total of eleven boars had been added to the RBST Gene Bank. The breed has a total of seven boar lines and at least one boar from each line has been added.

Later in the year, three further boars were added from the very successful Liskeard herd, a herd which had been a priority of the British Lop project as it is one of the oldest breeding herds still in existence. This was the first opportunity to collect from the herd and their addition reduced mean kinship from 0.0420 to 0.0408.

In further progress, an additional boar was collected, bringing the total of boars collected as part of the project to 15 and, more critically the addition of Aldwinkle Cornishman further reduced mean kinship to 0.0373.

The addition of these boars, alongside the eleven boars previously collected, ensures that a significant proportion of the Lop breed's genetics are represented in the Gene Bank and safeguarded for the future.



Gloucestershire Old Spots progeny born in 2013 from semen frozen in 2001.



Large Black progeny born in 2013 from semen frozen in 2001.

Building a Gene Bank

> ***In November 2024, the British Pig Association (BPA) reported on the culmination of the Native Pig Breeds Genebanking Project, a joint initiative between the BPA, RBST and Deerpark Pedigree Pigs launched in 2016.***

The period from 2016 to 2024 was described as the 'interim phase' of the project, so the BPA report looked not only at what has been achieved but also at what will be needed to ensure that the Gene Bank of porcine genetics both remains viable and moves forward.

The need for a Gene Bank for native pig breeds was brought into strong focus with the 2001 Foot and Mouth Disease outbreak. Many keepers of traditional breeds relied on boar hire services to serve their sows or the swapping of boars with other breeders to avoid inbreeding, which the imposition of FMD movement restrictions made impossible. The initial priority, therefore, was to put traditional breed boars into an AI centre to provide an AI service for fresh semen matings.

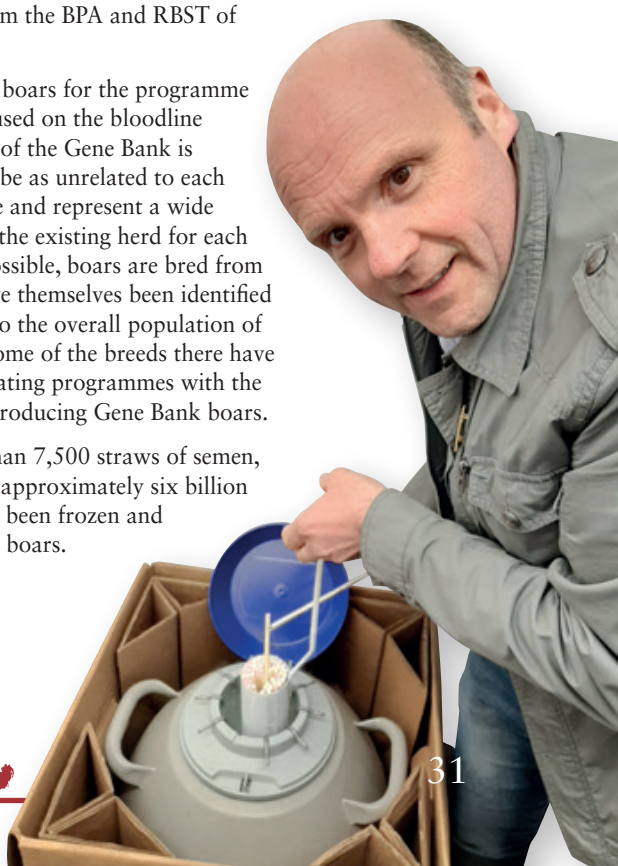
The BPA and RBST decided to work together to develop this project with a commercial partner, Deerpark Pedigree Pigs in N Ireland, which had a government licensed AI centre. The first boars selected for the programme were chosen because they were already in N Ireland where FMD movement restrictions were less onerous and sales of fresh semen began.

The initial target was to collect from 25 unrelated sires from each of ten native breeds but a review of the project in 2016 concluded that it would involve too long a timeframe. A target of 10 unrelated boars for each breed was agreed. However, this was complicated by the need to ensure that all the boar lines of each breed were represented in the Gene Bank. Some breeds had more than 10 male bloodlines and in other cases the same bloodline had been collected more than once.

A target date of November 1, 2024 was set to complete this interim phase of the project. This would require at least six boars to be collected each year and a total financial commitment from the BPA and RBST of £113,000.

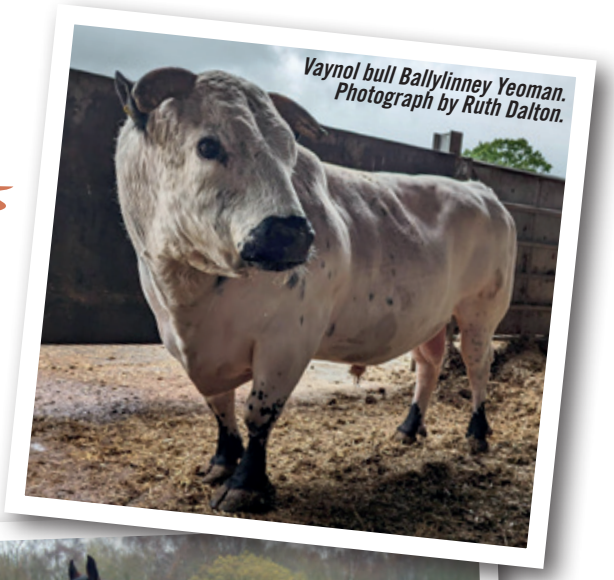
The selection of boars for the programme has not just focused on the bloodline names. The aim of the Gene Bank is for the boars to be as unrelated to each other as possible and represent a wide cross-section of the existing herd for each breed. Where possible, boars are bred from females that have themselves been identified as least related to the overall population of the breed. For some of the breeds there have been planned mating programmes with the specific aim of producing Gene Bank boars.

To date, more than 7,500 straws of semen, each containing approximately six billion sperm cells have been frozen and stored from 114 boars.



Delivering on priorities

Adding to the Gene Bank


Vaynol bull Ballylinney Yeoman. Photograph by Ruth Dalton.


Cleveland Bay Holmeside Applejack.

> ***RBST saves native farm breed genetics in its Gene Bank by collecting semen and embryos from farm livestock and equines.***

Traditionally RBST has collected mainly semen but since 2015 advances in cryogenic technology have enabled the collection of embryos. Embryos have already been successfully collected from cattle, sheep and goats and work is ongoing to achieve frozen embryos from other species.

Collections are ongoing. In 2024, as well as achieving goals set for collection of pig genetics, important collections included a Cleveland Bay stallion and a Vaynol bull.

Silent killers

One of the reasons that RBST collects genetic materials for long-term preservation is as an insurance policy against large numbers of our rare breeds being lost due to a major disease outbreak. However, it is not only the headline-hitting epidemics that can threaten numerically challenged breeds and livestock keepers – and would-be keepers – need to be aware of the 'silent killers' that the public rarely gets to hear about.

The average person tends to know of the impact of livestock disease only from news reports; from the catastrophic consequences of the Foot and Mouth outbreak of 2001 to the more recent debates over TB in cattle and the impact of avian influenza. What most do not realise is that there are ongoing threats of both transmittable and genetically transferred diseases. In large commercial flocks and herds, these may be something that can be mitigated by the scale of operation, but the smaller the breed population, the more impact it can have.

So, as well as working with Defra and other bodies to put in place plans for a worst-case scenario, RBST works with breed societies and breeders to identify these more silent killers and raise awareness within breeding circles so that measures can be taken to avoid or eliminate the threats.

One way in which RBST highlights the threats posed by 'silent killers' is with a regular series of articles in The Ark magazine. These highlight specific disease threats and the measures needed to protect against or deal with them. The articles also highlight the part that members of the general public can play in keeping disease from our livestock – measures such as clearing up after dogs when walking in the countryside to help prevent the spread of neosporosis or making sure that any food waste is disposed of safely and securely.

The better-informed livestock owners are, the less the risk of disease entering their herd or flock. With numbers for some breeds at alarmingly low levels, the loss of animals to disease can have a disproportionate impact on the security of the whole breed, so every keeper or potential keeper has another role to play in conservation by being vigilant to disease threats.

Putting pride back in wool



> ***The wealth of Britain was built on wool and, although over the centuries, its importance declined, as recently as the 1950s, wool was selling at the equivalent of £14 per kilo.***

Today the picture is very different, with wool cheques for small-scale producers often not making it above single figures for the whole clip. This is a situation that British Wool is working to address and, with the collaboration of RBST, has invited breed societies to work with them to deliver better value for native breed wool. The Portland Sheep Breeders Group (PSGB) is one of those societies.

British Wool collectively markets on behalf of wool producers, selling 75 per cent of the British wool clip across 20 online auctions held throughout the year. Wool from all over the country is tested, graded and sold in lots of 9 tonnes, with some small producers receiving just pennies per kilo for their fleece. Speciality types, identified by breed(s) can attract higher prices but for this British Wool needs to accumulate large enough volumes from multiple members to allow for economic processing.

Given these challenges British Wool is keen to work with RBST and breed societies to produce more specific speciality types that can be economically processed. One way that this is being explored is to amalgamate wool from a number of breeders working with a single breed.

The PSBG project began in 2021 and involved collecting fleece from breeders across the UK to achieve a collection of 1,000kg of wool and finding a buyer willing to process the wool and deliver a marketable product. The lead time between shearing in 2022 and the production of the tweed and throws was well over 12 months, so the project was paused in 2023 pending assessment of the outcome. Once it became clear that the quality of the products was very good, there was plenty of interest in continuing with the 2024 clip.

The project has seen the production of high quality, pure Portland products, giving the breeders pride in seeing their wool cared for and respected, bringing the farmer into the whole story from the fleece on a sheep's back to finished product.



Portland shearling rams.

Delivering on priorities

Consultancy advice and training

RBST consultancy service

With half a century's experience of studying native livestock and equines, their behaviour and their impact on the natural environment, RBST's expertise in the use and management of native breeds is second to none.

RBST's Consultancy Service makes this expertise available to land managers and owners wanting to keep native livestock and equines on larger holdings, whether as part of a diversified farm business, an ecological restoration project or a move towards "wilder farming".

Advice is provided to landowners and farmers to help them achieve their ecological and commercial goals for a more regenerative farming future. RBST uses its combination of conservation breeding and research programmes, population monitoring, education, advocacy and grass roots practices to inform practical, implementation-focused advice.

> ***The RBST input was comprehensive and very helpful. They looked at various cattle, pig and wild pony breeds that would suit our purposes and help us achieve our wilding vision.***
>
> **Yan Swiderski**,
> The Hamatethy Estate.

The RBST conservation team offers support in scoping a project, selecting breeds and species to achieve ecological and commercial goals, managing their welfare needs, registrations, unlocking potential support payments, infrastructure requirements and sourcing the animals themselves.

All proceeds from the RBST Consultancy Service go towards continuing RBST's work to secure a future for the UK's native breeds.



Large Black pigs at Hamatethy



Conservation grazing course- Sandwell March 2023

RBST courses

RBST was one of the first organisations to recognise the conservation benefits of managed livestock grazing and, as a result, has an unparalleled degree of expertise and experience.

RBST runs three LANTRA accredited courses, Conservation Grazing in Practice, Advanced Conservation Grazing in Practice and Livestock Checkers. The Conservation Grazing in Practice course, run over two days, provides a basic introduction to extensive/conservation grazing and the use of livestock to achieve environmental objectives. The advanced course, also run over two days, provides experienced graziers with a comprehensive insight into some of the more advanced aspects of conservation grazing, including grazing ecology, physiology and designing complex grazing systems.

The one-day livestock checkers' course provides a basic introduction to stock checking in the conservation/land-based sector. It is ideal for beginners, volunteers or anyone with limited experience of livestock. The course covers animal health and welfare, key legislation, the role and responsibilities of a stock checker and how to safely and effectively check livestock.

All courses are delivered by LANTRA accredited trainers and all delegates receive a LANTRA certificate after successful completion of the course.

> ***Whatever your relationship to conservation grazing is, non-existent to experienced, the RBST grazing course provided an extensive, accessible and comprehensive overview of how to efficiently and ethically utilise livestock used for grazing. The plentiful resources and practical activities and the knowledge to be gained by both were excellently taught, and heightened by the course lecturers' own knowledge. Working within conservation grazing, the course allowed us to share ideas, learn new ideas and ultimately improve our efficacy and welfare.***
>
> **Fleur White**,
> Essex Wildlife Trust.

RBST is delighted to be the chosen provider of conservation grazing training to organisations including the National Trust, RSPB and Wildlife Trusts and has been awarded a three-year contract with Natural England.

RBST

Recognition



 A Shetland duckling. Photo by Holly Norton.

Our Patron



RBST was delighted to learn that His Majesty The King retains his patronage of RBST following the review of Royal patronages conducted by the Royal Household after His Majesty's accession to the throne.

Then Prince of Wales, The King became Patron of RBST in 1986, at a time when many of our native livestock and equine breeds were at the bleakest point in their history. His invaluable and far-sighted support has helped enable significant expansion of RBST's work, as well as many crucial conservation projects and farm park programmes. His Majesty's own animals have been key to a number of RBST breeding programmes to help secure vulnerable, irreplaceable genetic bloodlines, and he has given a home to new herds that RBST has formed to save some of our very rarest breeds.

Our President



The Baroness (Sue) Hayman of Ullock stood down as President of RBST on her appointment to the new Labour Government.

In her role as RBST President Sue helped RBST to make the case for securing a sustainable future for native livestock and equines in Parliament and across the wider political network and RBST is very grateful for the active involvement and interest she has shown in its work.

Award winners





Two RBST members had their efforts to work with and promote native breeds recognised by becoming winners of prestigious regional farming awards. Maria Benjamin was honoured with the Women in Agriculture Award at the 2024 Cumbria Farmer Awards and Lyn Arrowsmith received a special award for her work with rare breeds at the Yorkshire Post Rural Awards 2024.

Maria's accolade recognised her significant contributions to the agricultural sector in Cumbria. She co-manages Nibthwaite Grange Farm near Coniston Water with her partner, John Atkinson. Their farm is known for its commitment to conservation grazing and the rearing of traditional native livestock breeds. Beyond traditional farming, Maria has spearheaded several innovative ventures including The Soap Dairy, using milk from their Jersey cow, Lake District Tweed, creating textiles from locally sourced wool, and The Wool Library which aims to preserve and promote the provenance of British wool.

Lyn established Raskelf Rare & Heritage Breeds over 35 years ago and currently has over 20 different breeds on the farm. She competes and judges at events around the country and works with RBST York to help preserve the breeds and educate the public about their importance.

Recognition

Media coverage highlights 2024



The primary objectives of RBST media activity for 2024 were to build on the profile of the preceding 50th anniversary year; to place the concentration of our activity back to our core messaging on RBST lobbying and conservation objectives; to ensure strong promotion of native breeds and produce, particularly poultry and equine breeds; and to maintain our voice on the key issues relevant to the promotion and conservation of native livestock and equine breeds.

Coverage highlights in 2024 included:

Launch of the new RBST Watchlist in April 2024

- **BBC R4 Today programme:** radio interview with CP on 17th April (average 5.7 million listeners)
- **The Times** – news article (495,000 print circulation)
- **The Guardian** – news article (722,000 daily online visitors)
- **The Guardian Australia:** digital print edition on 18th April
- **Daily Mail** – reference in bird flu article (4.1 million readers per day)
- **The Sun** – reference in bird flu article
- **Sunday Times** – reference in food prices article (647,632 readership)
- **Country Life:** News story and Leader on 17th April. (circulation 39,000)
- **Farmers Guardian** – online news story on 17 April, in print on 19th April (168,900 web users per month) & print (circulation 28,149 per issue)
- **Farmers Guardian** – expecting further coverage following interview with Tom B in pigs and poultry focus on 3rd May (168,900 web users per month) & print (circulation 28,149 per issue)
- **Farmers Weekly** – news story online on 18th April (766,000 web users per month)
- **Farming Life (NI)** – online on 17th April (reach unknown)
- **The Scottish Farmer** – news article (print and online audience of more than 100,000 per week)
- **South West Farmer** – news article (11,400 readership)
- **The Northern Farmer** – news article (reach unknown)
- **Agriland** – 17th April– news article (reach unknown)
- **Pig World** – 17th April – news article (4,100 readers per issue)
- **Poultry News** – 23rd April – news article (reach unknown)









- **Horse & Hound:** News story on 17th April, in print on 18th April. (23,211 readers per issue)
- **Your Horse** – news article (reach unknown)
- **The Country Smallholder** – feature article (reach unknown)
- **BoysRideToo magazine** – overview article (reach unknown)
- **BBC Radio Cornwall** – live interview with CP and Sally Lugg, 18th April (reach unknown)
- **BBC Spotlight, John Danks** – filming with Sally Lugg and interview with CP, 19th April (reach unknown)
- **BBC Look North (Yorkshire)** – interview with Rowan Sims, breakfast package 19th April (TV – viewing figures not available)
- **BBC Cymru** – pre-record interview with Andrea aired on 18th April. (verified figures not available)
- **ITV Wales News** – focus on Section B (reach unknown)
- **Western Morning News** – news article (7236)
- **Western Daily Press** – news article (6095)
- **Eastern Daily Press** – news article (15,255 print daily readership)
- **Press & Journal** – news article (26,746 daily print readership)
- **The Courier** – news article (20,683 daily print readership)
- **The Southern Reporter** - article on pig and poultry declines (native and other breeds) (3916)
- **The Derbyshire Times** – article on pig and poultry declines (native and other breeds) (7609)
- **Ffermio TV** – APJ interview focusing on Welsh Mountain Sheep (23,000 viewers)

Estimated 'Opportunities To See' of Watchlist launch: more than 12 million.

Promoting native breeds and their produce

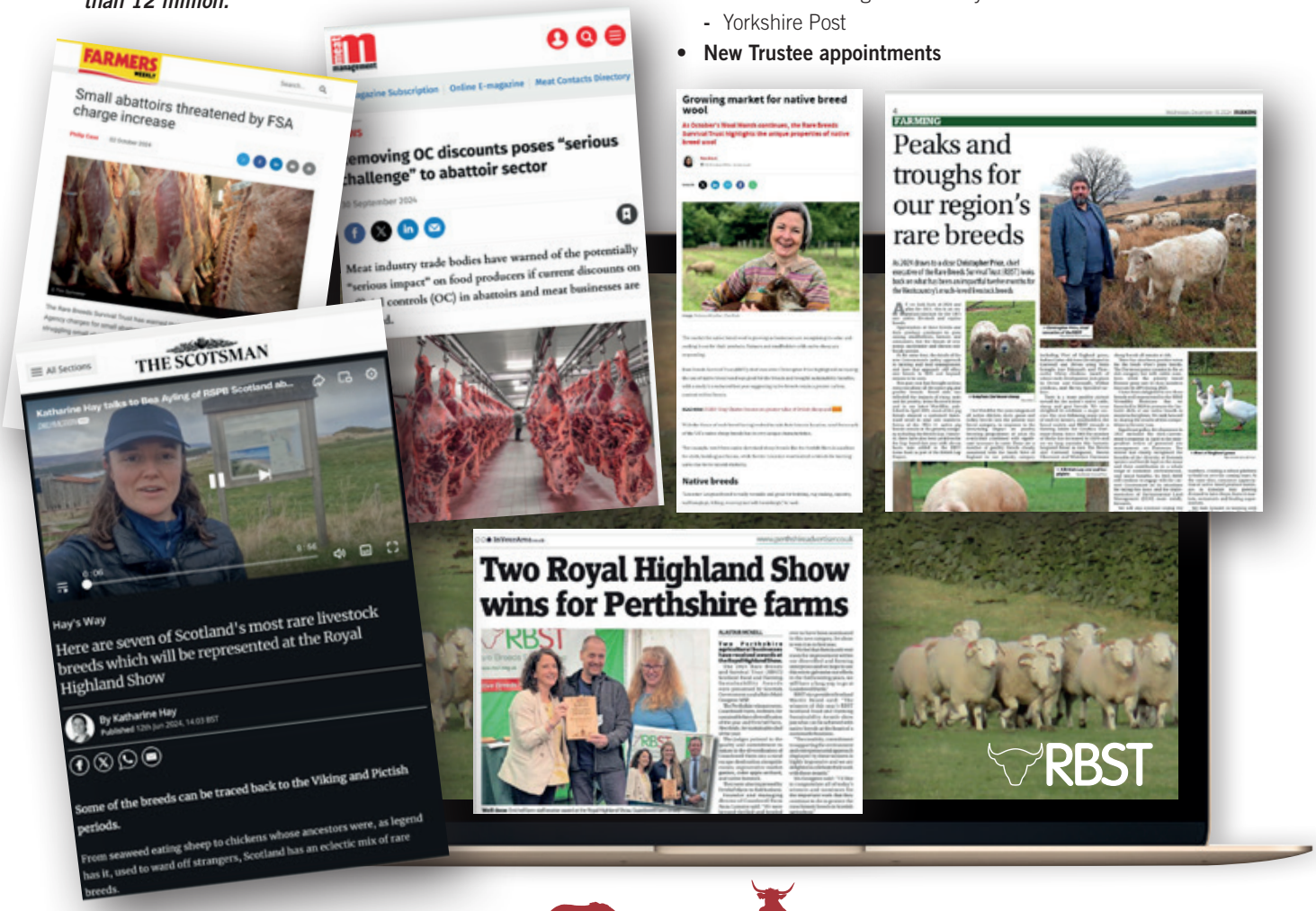
- **Interviews on ITV Love Your Weekend** (including Joshua Farrell and Tom Davis)
- **Native breed wool** – Farmers Guardian and NFU Countryside magazine
- **Farmers Guide** – native cattle breeds
- **Farmers Weekly** – 90th anniversary letter
- **NFU Countryside magazine** – Christmas produce and commercial opportunities
- **Daily Telegraph letter** – Use of native breeds for rewilding
- **Native breeds marketing and promotion article** in Farmers Guardian

Policy Calls to Action

- **Uplands farming payments**
- **Abattoirs, including the FSA call for evidence**
- **Wales Sustainable Farming scheme**

Nation/region specific media activity

- **RBST Scotland Food and Farming Sustainability Awards** – launch and promotion of winners
- **The Scotsman** - pre-Highland Show rare breeds article
- **RBST at the Scottish Smallholders Festival**
- **'Rare breed year in review' article series**
  - Farm Week (NI)
  - Wales Farmer
  - Western Morning News / Daily Press
  - Yorkshire Post
- **New Trustee appointments**



Recognition

A Core Audience: Country Life magazine



Media coverage highlights 2024

A Core Audience: The Country Smallholding magazine





Goats focus

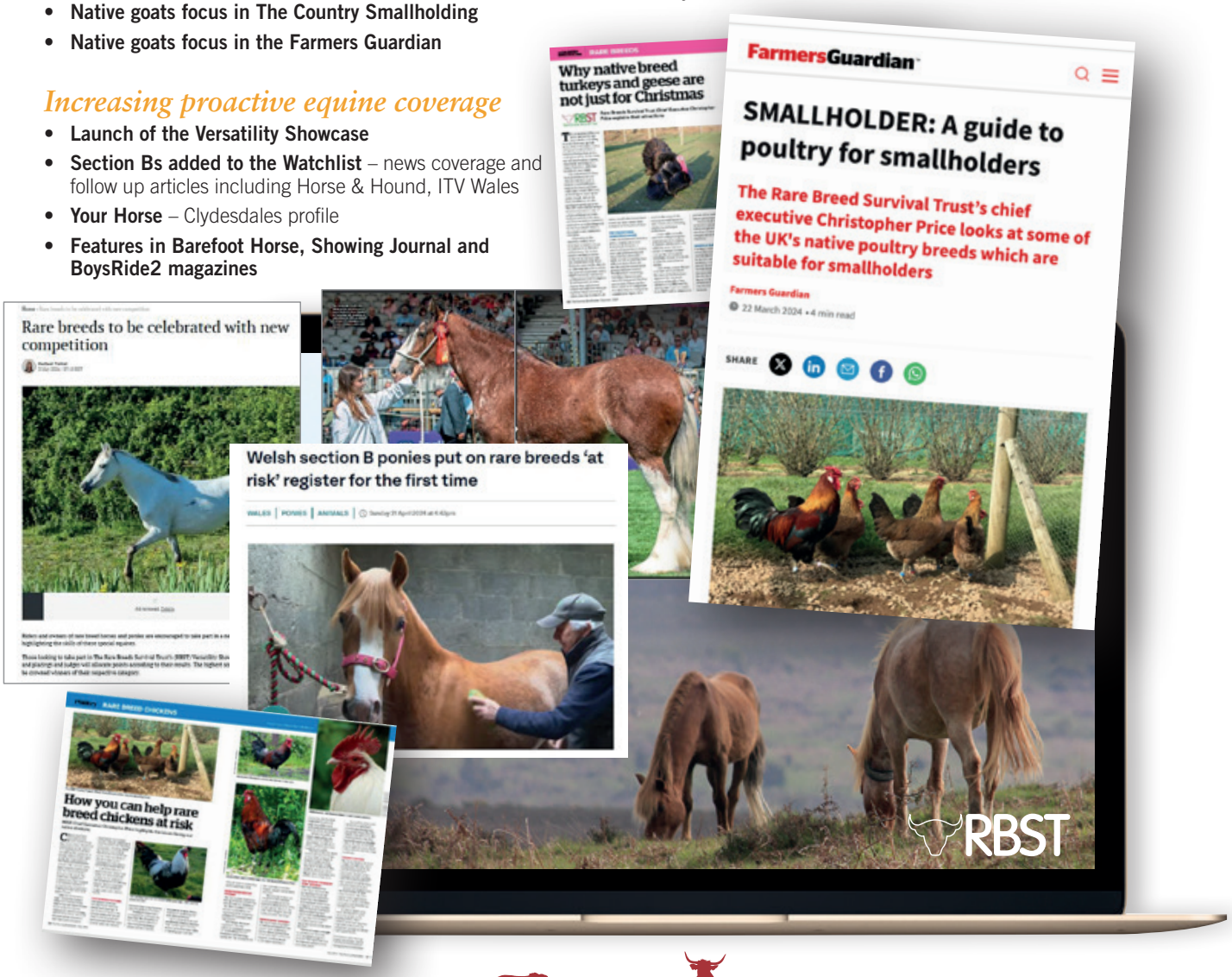
- **Cheviots joining the Watchlist** – including The Telegraph, iNews, BBC, Daily Express and regional media
- **Golden Guernsey royal title** – including The Times, international press & regional media
- **Native goats focus in The Country Smallholding**
- **Native goats focus in the Farmers Guardian**

Poultry focus:

- **Farmers Guardian native poultry article**
- **Watchlist** – focus on poultry message
- **The Country Smallholding focuses on chickens, geese and turkeys**

Increasing proactive equine coverage

- **Launch of the Versatility Showcase**
- **Section Bs added to the Watchlist** – news coverage and follow up articles including Horse & Hound, ITV Wales
- **Your Horse** – Clydesdales profile
- **Features in Barefoot Horse, Showing Journal and BoysRide2 magazines**





#NativeBreedsForModernNeeds

Financial Review

Operating statement

	2024				2023
	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	**Total**	Total
	£	£	£	**£**	£
Income and endowments from:					
Grants and Donations	52,319	-	93,172	**145,491**	151,475
Legacies	376,798	-	21,723	**398,521**	124,199
Membership Subscriptions (inc Gift Aid)	181,700	-	-	**181,700**	196,811
Charitable Activities	81,188	-	-	**81,188**	120,708
Advertising Revenue	14,539	-	-	**14,539**	22,473
Investments	112,070	-	-	**112,070**	114,168
Total income and endowments	**818,614**	**-**	**114,895**	**933,509**	729,834
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	190,259	-	-	**190,259**	185,247
Investment management fees	18,548	-	-	**18,548**	17,185
Charitable activities	399,995	49,298	29,637	**478,930**	496,827
Total expenditure	**608,802**	**49,298**	**29,637**	**687,737**	699,259
Net gains/(losses) on investments	187,644	-	-	**187,644**	33,103
Net income/(expenditure)	**397,456**	**(49,298)**	**85,258**	**433,416**	63,678

Income

Total income in 2024 was up 28% at £933,509, compared with £729,834 in 2023. The increase was predominantly driven by an increase in legacies, other income areas were down.

Grants and donations were down slighly, due to higher than normal donations in 2023, as a result of giving for RBST's 50th Anniversary. This was somewhat offset by an increase in restricted funds in 2024.

Legacies were £398,521 in 2024, up significantly compared with 2023. Legacies are inherently difficult to forecast and have a tendency to be volatile. Thus RBST budgets for Legacies using long term averages, 2024 was above the long term average and would be expected to offset any years which underperformed the long term average.

Membership income was £181,700 in 2024, down compared to 2023 due to a decrease in both membership subscriptions and gift aid. In common with social trends membership income rmeians a challenege and RBST continues to focus on diversifying its income. Corporate subscriptions were up slightly up within this.

Income from charitable activities in 2024 was down, at £81,188 compared with £120,708 in 2023, due to a decrease in consulting, training courses and sponsorship. The decreases were predominantly due uncertainty over public funding and an increase in competition.

In line with accounting requirements, we revalue our investments at each year end. In 2024 our investments remained at a net positive movement in funds of £187,644, a swing of £154,541 from the gain of £33,103 experienced in 2023. It must be remembered that this figure is simply a snap shot of investments at a point in time and is highly dependant on the markets at that moment. It is also important to note any gains (or losses) in a given year are uncrystallised. It is understood and expected that these averages will be made up of some years of large gains and others of large loses.

Expenditure

Expenditure for 2024 totalled £687,737 compared with £699,259 in 2023. The small decrease was primarily driven by additional costs for the 50th anniversary events during 2023 which were not repeated in 2024.

Unrestricted spend on Charitable activities increased, as the Trust continued to ensure spend was being directed to forwarding its objectives. However, spend from designated and restricted funds were down. The decrease in spend from designated funds was due the higher spend in 2023 assosiated with the 50th anniversary not being repeated and there was a focus on generating additional restricted funds in 2024.

Overall costs remain under close control however given RBST's large net income in the year, across both unrestricted and restricted, it is to be expected that in future years expenditure increases will follow as these monies are spent down in line with forwarding the charity's objectives.

Balance sheet

The Balance Sheet remains robust, with net assets increased by 13% to £3,802,782 at the end of 2024.

Financial Review (continued)

Reserves policy

	31 December 2024	31 December 2023	% Increase/ (Decrease)
Unrestricted funds (Free Reserves)	1,347,021	994,930	35.4%
Unrestricted funds (Tangible Fixed Assets)	95,101	100,150	-5.0%
Total Unrestricted funds	1,442,122	1,095,080	31.7%
Designated Funds:			
- Gene Bank	2,000,000	2,000,000	0.0%
- Conservation – Breed stock	18,529	21,709	-14.6%
- Property improvement fund	132,000	132,000	0.0%
- Lop Fund	5,884	8,951	-34.3%
- Website development	40,000	-	-
Restricted Funds:			
- Cattle Conservation	3,188	5,094	-37.4%
- Equine Conservation	23,536	29,145	-19.2%
- Goat Conservation	2,659	2,659	0.0%
- Pig Conservation	55,998	38,162	46.7%
- Sheep Conservation	22,196	21,562	2.9%
- Other projects	5,884	10,577	-44.4%
Ratio of Free Reserves to Annual Operating Expenditure	2.0 years	1.4 years	

The charity maintains a large investment portfolio in order to create an income, currently in the region of £110,000, to help fund its charitable activities.

Free reserves are shown in accordance with Charity Commission guidance CC19.

One of the prime objectives of the charity is to ensure the preservation of breeds. Therefore, a Gene Bank is maintained to ensure the characteristics of old and current breeds are conserved. This Gene Bank is treated as a heritage asset, which is irreplaceable. The Trustees have therefore designated £2million to maintain and develop the Gene Bank for the next generation.

The reserves that the Trustees have set aside provide financial stability and the means for the development of our principal activity. The Trustees' aim is for free reserves to always cover at least the annual operating expenditure.

The Trustees regularly review the amount of reserves that are required to ensure that they are adequate to fulfil our continuing obligations.

Investment policy

A medium-risk approach describes the investment policy. Assets are held in the RBST Portfolio which is managed by Evelyn and which invests in a combination of segregated equities and collective funds. The portfolio targets an income yield of 4%; in 2024 it achieved 3.35%, which was acceptable given market conditions. The investment aim is to achieve this income target without detriment to the growth and without incurring unnecessary risk. The value of the RBST portfolio as at 31 December 2024 was £3,627,054 compared with £3,122,137 as at 31 December 2023.

Governance

Structure

RBST is a charity registered with the Charity Commission for England and Wales (Registration No. 269442). It is also a company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales (Registration No. 01204694). It was founded in 1973. Its objects and powers are set out in its Memorandum and Articles of Association.

Trustees

The Board of RBST is comprised of unpaid trustees, with no fewer than six elected from its membership and up to five co-opted. The trustees are also the directors of RBST for the purposes of company law. The Board is responsible for setting policy, agreeing strategy and approving major commitments based on advice from senior management, and the appointment of the Chief Executive Officer. Day-to-day operations are delegated by the Board to the Chief Executive Officer, who leads the executive and volunteer teams. RBST's Memorandum and Articles of Association provide that elected trustees may be appointed for two periods of up to four years, with years being defined by AGMs, at a time and must then take a minimum break of 24 months. Co-opted trustees may be appointed for two periods of up to three years, with years being defined by AGMs, at a time and must then take a minimum break of 24 months. The Board has two principal committees: the Conservation and Research Committee and the Finance and Governance Committee. Membership of these committees along with a full list of trustees and staff at the time of writing of this report are provided at the end of this report. The Conservation and Research Committee advises the Board of Trustees on strategic issues concerning conservation programmes and related activities. The Finance and Governance Committee is responsible for reviewing RBST's financial performance and matters relating to management, organisation, governance, investments and risk management. Each new trustee is provided with training and an induction, where s/he learns about the organisation and the role and responsibilities of a trustee. The induction includes a pack containing the Charity Commission guidance 'The Essential Trustee'; RBST's governing documents; and the most recent annual report and financial statements. Trustees receive ongoing training, receive charity law updates, and are involved in strategic sessions relating to the operations during the year.

Statement of Trustees' responsibilities

The trustees (who are also directors of RBST for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom generally accepted accounting practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards). Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under company law the trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they 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 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 2019 (FRS 102);
- make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charitable company's transactions, 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, and the provisions of the Charity's constitution. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

In so far as the trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditor is unaware; and
- the trustees have taken all reasonable steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information. The trustees are also responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website.

Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Governance (continued)

Grant making policy

RBST occasionally makes donations or grants, in line with its charitable and strategic objectives, to partners in the RBST network, the outcomes of which are reviewed at regular periods.

Public benefit

In reviewing RBST's charitable objectives and as part of planning its future programme of work, the trustees of RBST have taken account of the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and have considered how the planned programme of work will consistently contribute to the Charity's aims and objectives.

Remuneration policy

RBST's approach to remuneration across the organisation is designed to ensure it can attract and retain the talented and motivated people it needs to deliver its mission.

Fundraising Regulator Statement of Compliance

The charity does not contract with a third party to undertake any fundraising on its behalf. The charity does employ a fundraising officer who initiates campaigns and supports fundraising activities.

The charity only makes fundraising approaches to contacts who have given explicit consent to receive such campaign documentation under GDPR guidelines. We have received no fundraising complaints during the year.

Risk management

The trustees have reviewed the major risks to which the charity is exposed and confirm that systems have been established to mitigate those risks. Particular attention has focused on Support Groups. These and other risks are kept under review. A full review of the risk register will be carried out next year.

Trustees Indemnity

The charity has Trustees' indemnity insurance in place.

Our employees & volunteers

The delivery of RBST's mission relies on talented and motivated people, and RBST is proud of the performance of its staff and volunteers across the UK. The trustees and Chief Executive Officer encourage widespread consultation and exchange of information at all levels of the organisation and continue to work together on a range of actions to improve employee and volunteer engagement, ensuring that RBST remains a great place to work and volunteer.

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

The trustees are committed to addressing equality, diversity and inclusion, recognising that doing so helps a board to make better decisions and means RBST is more likely to stay relevant to those it serves and to deliver its public benefit. Trustees will work to recognise and counter any imbalances in power, perspectives or opportunities in RBST, and in the attitudes and behaviour of trustees, staff and volunteers, so helping to make sure RBST achieves its aims.

The trustees' report (including the directors' report) was approved by the Board of trustees on 5th June 2025 and was signed on their behalf by:



John Atkinson

Chairman of the Board of trustees

Date: 5th June 2025

Independent Auditors Report

Year Ended 31 December 2024

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of the Rare Breeds Survival Trust (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 December 2024 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, Balance Sheet, Statement of Cashflows and 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 charitable company's affairs as at 31 December 2024, and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

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

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

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

Other information

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

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

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

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

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

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 45, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the

Independent Auditors Report (continued)

going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

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 specific procedures for this engagement and the extent to which these are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

- Enquiry of management, those charged with governance around actual and potential litigation and claims;
- Enquiry of entity staff in compliance functions to identify any instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations;
- Reviewing minutes of meetings of those charged with governance;
- Reviewing financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations.
- Performing audit work over the risk of management override of controls, including testing of journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness, evaluating the business rationale of significant transactions outside the normal course of business and reviewing accounting estimates for bias.

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

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (UK), we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the charitable company's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the trustees.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the charitable company to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Use of our report

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



Geoffrey Cox BA FCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
For and on behalf of Dafferns Audit Limited, Statutory Auditor
One Eastwood
Binley Business Park
Coventry, CV3 2UB
Date: 5th June 2025

Statement of Financial Activities

(Including Income and Expenditure Account)
Year Ended 31 December 2024

		2024				2023
		Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	**Total**	Total
	Note	£	£	£	**£**	£
Income and endowments from:						
Donations and legacies	2	610,817	-	114,895	**725,712**	472,485
Charitable activities	3	81,188	-	-	**81,188**	120,708
Other trading activities	4	14,539	-	-	**14,539**	22,473
Investments	5	112,070	-	-	**112,070**	114,168
Total income and endowments		**818,614**	**-**	**114,895**	**933,509**	729,834
Expenditure on:						
Raising funds		190,259	-	-	**190,259**	185,247
Investment management fees		18,548	-	-	**18,548**	17,185
Charitable activities	6	399,995	49,298	29,637	**478,930**	496,827
Total expenditure		**608,802**	**49,298**	**29,637**	**687,737**	699,259
Net gains/(losses) on investments	15	187,644	-	-	**187,644**	33,103
Net income/(expenditure)		**397,456**	**(49,298)**	**85,258**	**433,416**	63,678
Transfers between funds	20	(49,731)	86,231	(36,500)	-	-
Other recognised gains/(losses):						
Gains/(losses) on revaluation of fixed assets	13	-	(3,180)	-	**(3,180)**	(300)
Gains/(losses) on disposal of fixed assets	13	(683)	-	-	**(683)**	-
Net movement in funds		**347,042**	**33,753**	**48,758**	**429,553**	63,378
Reconciliation of funds:						
Total funds brought forward	20	1,095,080	2,162,660	115,489	**3,373,229**	3,309,851
Total funds carried forward	20	**1,442,122**	**2,196,413**	**164,247**	**3,802,782**	3,373,229

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities. Activities relating to the Gene bank are disclosed in note 14.

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised during the year.

Balance sheet

Year Ended 31 December 2024

	Note	2024 £	2023 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	13	**95,101**	100,150
Heritage assets	14	**-**	-
Investments	15	**3,627,054**	3,122,137
		3,722,155	3,222,287
Current assets			
Stocks	16	**24,030**	28,848
Debtors	17	**76,257**	116,925
Cash at bank and in hand		**42,101**	68,914
		142,388	214,687
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	18	**61,761**	63,745
Net current assets		**80,627**	150,942
Net assets		**3,802,782**	3,373,229
Charity Funds			
Unrestricted funds	20	**1,442,122**	1,095,080
Designated funds	20	**2,196,413**	2,162,660
Restricted funds	20	**164,247**	115,489
Total charity funds		**3,802,782**	3,373,229

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Board on 5th June 2025.

Signed on behalf of the Board of trustees



John Atkinson, Chairman of Trustees,



Alison Pope, Treasurer

The notes on pages 53 to 63 form part of these financial statements

Company registration number: 01204694

Statement of cash flows

Year Ended 31 December 2024

	2024	2023
	£	£
Cash flow from operating activities	**186,929**	(143,841)
Cash flow from investing activities		
Payments to acquire tangible fixed assets	**(8,539)**	(10,479)
Payments to acquire investments	**(1,012,552)**	(691,667)
Receipts from sales of investments	**695,279**	751,986
Interest received	**24,846**	18,612
Dividends received	**87,224**	95,556
Net cash flow from investing activities	**(213,742)**	164,008
Net increase / (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	**(26,813)**	20,167
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 January 2024	**68,914**	48,747
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 December 2024	**42,101**	68,914
Cash and cash equivalents consists of:		
Cash at bank and in hand	**42,101**	68,914
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 December 2024	**42,101**	68,914

	2024	2023
	£	£
Reconciliation of net income/(expenditure) to net cash flow from operating activities		
Net income / (expenditure) for year	**429,553**	63,378
Dividends received	**(87,224)**	(95,556)
Interest receivable	**(24,846)**	(18,612)
Depreciation and revaluation of tangible fixed assets	**13,588**	9,064
(Gains) / losses on investments	**(187,644)**	(33,103)
Decrease / (increase) in stock	**4,818**	(13,524)
Decrease / (increase) in debtors	**40,668**	(55,753)
(Decrease) / increase in creditors	**(1,984)**	265
Net cash flow from operating activities	**186,929**	(143,841)

Analysis of changes in net debt

	31/12/23	Cashflows	**31/12/24**
	£	£	**£**
Cash and cash equivalents	68,914	(26,813)	**42,101**

Notes to the financial statements

Year Ended 31 December 2024

1 Summary of significant accounting policies

(a) General information and basis of preparation

Rare Breeds Survival Trust is an incorporated charity registered in England. In the event of the charity being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member of the charity. The address of the registered office is Avenue Q, Stoneleigh Park, Kenilworth, Warwickshire, CV8 2LG. The nature of the charity's operations and principal activities are:

- For the benefit of the public to ensure the preservation of breeds and breeding groups of domestic farm livestock of importance in the promotion of agriculture being breeds at risk, and having characteristics worthy of preservation in the interests of zoological research and education to ensure the preservation of genes of special or potential value in hybridisation or other work; and
- To conduct, carry out and promote research within all areas of the Trust's interest to increase knowledge and to publish the results of such research.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland issued in October 2019, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006 and UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

The financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis under the historical cost convention, modified to include certain items at fair value. The financial statements are presented in sterling which is the functional currency of the charity and rounded to the nearest £1.

The significant accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all years presented unless otherwise stated.

A network of volunteer support groups is constituted within the Trust and accordingly the accounts include their financial activities.

(b) Funds

Unrestricted funds 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. Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the trustees for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements. The cost of raising and administering such funds is charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

(c) Income recognition

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when the charity is legally entitled to the income after any performance conditions have been met, the amount can be measured reliably, and it is probable that the income will be received.

Subscriptions are included in the Income and Expenditure Account in the accounting period in which they are received.

This treatment is also adopted for the limited number of subscriptions received from new life members.

For donations to be recognised the charity will have been notified of the amounts and the settlement date in writing. If there are conditions attached to the donation and this requires a level of performance before entitlement can be obtained then income is deferred until those conditions are fully met or the fulfilment of those conditions is within the control of the charity and it is probable that they will be fulfilled.

Donated facilities and donated professional services are recognised in income at their fair value when their economic benefit is probable, it can be measured reliably and the charity has control over the item. Fair value is determined on the basis of the value of the gift to the charity, for example the amount the charity would be willing to pay in the open market for such facilities and services. A corresponding amount is recognised in expenditure.

No amount is included in the financial statements for volunteer time in line with the SORP (FRS 102). Further detail is given in the Trustees' Annual Report.

For legacies, entitlement is the earlier of the charity being notified of an impending distribution or the legacy being received. At this point income is recognised. On occasion legacies will be notified to the charity for which it is not possible to measure the amount expected to be distributed. On these occasions, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset and disclosed.

Income from trading activities includes income earned from fundraising events and trading activities to raise funds for the charity. Income is received in exchange for supplying goods and services in order to raise funds and is recognised when entitlement has occurred.

Investment income is earned through holding assets for investment purposes such as shares and property. It includes dividends, interest and rent. Where it is not practicable to identify investment management costs incurred within a scheme with reasonable accuracy the investment income is reported net of these costs. It is included when the amount can be measured reliably. Interest income is recognised using the effective interest method and dividend and rent income is recognised as the charity's right to receive payment is established.

(d) Expenditure recognition

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Expenditure is recognised where there is a legal or constructive obligation to make payments to third parties, it is probable that the settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. It is categorised under the following headings:

- Costs of raising funds includes fundraising and non-charitable trading activities;
- Expenditure on charitable activities includes costs of services and of grants, also support costs and depreciation on related assets; and
- Other expenditure represents those items not falling into the categories above.

Irrecoverable VAT is charged as an expense against the activity for which expenditure arose.

(e) Support costs allocation

Support costs are those that assist the work of the charity but do not directly represent charitable activities and include office costs, governance costs, and administrative payroll costs. They are incurred directly in support of expenditure on the objects of the charity and include project management carried out at Headquarters. All support costs have been allocated on the basis of number of employees. Fund-raising costs are those incurred in seeking voluntary contributions and do not include the costs of disseminating information in support of the charitable activities.

The analysis of these costs is included in note 7.

Notes to the financial statements (continued)

Year Ended 31 December 2024

(f) Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost (or deemed cost) or valuation less accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses. Cost includes costs directly attributable to making the asset capable of operating as intended. Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets, at rates calculated to write off the cost, less estimated residual value, of each asset on a systematic basis over its expected useful life as follows:

Leasehold land and buildings	Over the period of the lease
Office and Computer Equipment	10%-33% according to the nature of the asset
Conservation Breeding Stock (agisted)	Annual Revaluation

(g) Heritage assets

The Gene Bank is a collection of semen and embryos obtained from rare breeds of cattle, horses, sheep, goats and pigs. It acts as an archive to preserve bloodlines of breeds. Each year additions are made to the archive to ensure that it includes the current characteristics of a breed. The archive is regarded as an irreplaceable resource which cannot be valued with any degree of accuracy and will never be sold. As such it generates no income and so has no realisable value. Therefore it does not have a carrying value in the balance sheet. The costs incurred in maintaining the archive for conservation purposes are written off each year.

(h) Investments

Investments are recognised initially at fair value which is normally the transaction price excluding transaction costs. Subsequently, they are measured at fair value with changes recognised in 'net gains / (losses) on investments' in the SoFA if the shares are publicly traded or their fair value can otherwise be measured reliably. Other investments are measured at cost less impairment.

(i) Stocks

Stocks comprise genetic resources, which are not part of the Gene Bank, and goods for resale. Genetic resources are valued at the lower of cost of production and market value. Retail stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

(j) Debtors and creditors receivable / payable within one year

Debtors and creditors with no stated interest rate and receivable or payable within one year are recorded at transaction price. Any losses arising from impairment are recognised in expenditure.

(k) Impairment

Assets not measured at fair value are reviewed for any indication that the asset may be impaired at each balance sheet date. If such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset, or the asset's cash generating unit, is estimated and compared to the carrying amount. Where the carrying amount exceeds its recoverable amount, an impairment loss is recognised in profit or loss unless the asset is carried at a revalued amount where the impairment loss is a revaluation decrease.

(l) Leases

Assets acquired under finance leases are capitalised and depreciated over the shorter of the lease term and the expected useful life of the asset. Minimum lease payments are apportioned between the finance charge and the reduction of the outstanding lease liability using the effective interest method. The related obligations, net of future finance charges, are included in creditors.

Rentals payable and receivable under operating leases are charged to the SoFA on a straight-line basis over the period of the lease.

(m) Employee benefits

When employees have rendered service to the charity, short-term employee benefits to which the employees are entitled are recognised at the undiscounted amount expected to be paid in exchange for that service. The charity operates a defined contribution pension plan for the benefit of its employees. Contributions are expensed as they become payable. The Trust agrees to pay a defined contribution into the employee's own personal pension scheme for eligible employees. The pension charge represents contributions payable by the Trust for the period. The Trust's liability is limited to the amount of the contribution. The liability for meeting future pension payments rests solely with the employee's personal pension scheme.

(n) Tax

The charity is an exempt charity within the meaning of schedule 3 of the Charities Act 2011 and is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes.

(o) Financial instruments

The Trust enters into only basic financial instrument transactions that result in the recognition of financial assets and liabilities like trade and other amounts receivable and payable and loans to related parties. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

(p) Going concern

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis as the trustees believe that no material uncertainties exist. The trustees have considered the level of funds held and the expected level of income and expenditure for 12 months from authorising these financial statements. The budgeted income and expenditure is sufficient with the level of reserves for the charity to be able to continue as a going concern.

2 Income from donations and legacies

	2024	2023
	£	£
Grants and donations	**145,491**	151,475
Legacies	**398,521**	124,199
Membership Subscriptions (including gift aid)	**181,700**	196,811
	725,712	472,485

Of the income from donations and legacies of £544,012 (2023 - £275,674), £114,895 (2023 - £68,601) was attributable to restricted, £nil (2023 - £34,000) was attributable to designated funds and £429,117 (2023 - £173,073) was attributable to unrestricted funds.

Income from membership subscriptions was attributable entirely to unrestricted funds.

Notes to the financial statements (continued)

Year Ended 31 December 2024

3 Income from charitable activities

	2024	2023
	£	£
Conservation activities (including Support Groups)	**81,188**	120,708

Income from charitable activities was attributable entirely to unrestricted funds.

4 Income from other trading activities

	2024	2023
	£	£
Advertising revenue	**14,539**	22,473

Of the income from other trading activities, £nil (2023 - £194) was attributable to restricted, and £14,539 (2023 - £22,279) was attributable to unrestricted funds.

5 Income from investments

	2024	2023
	£	£
Dividends - equities	**87,224**	95,556
Interest - Fixed interest securities	**24,846**	18,612
	112,070	114,168

Income from investments was attributable to unrestricted funds in both years.

6 Analysis of expenditure on charitable activities

	2024			
	Activities undertaken directly	Grant funding of activities	Support costs	**Total**
	£	£	£	**£**
Conservation Activities (including Support Group)	277,742	-	145,266	**423,008**
ARK Magazine	55,922	-	-	**55,922**
	333,664	**-**	**145,266**	**478,930**

£29,637 (2023 - £40,527) of the above costs were attributable to restricted funds. £49,298 (2023 - £81,889) of the above costs were attributable to designated funds. £399,995 (2023 - £374,411) of the above costs were attributable to unrestricted funds.

7 Allocation of support costs

	2024			
	Raising funds	Conservation Activities	ARK Magazine	**Total**
	£	£	£	**£**
Governance	-	17,730	-	**17,730**
Management salaries and expenses	33,985	67,970	-	**101,955**
Office operational costs and utilities	15,920	31,839	-	**47,759**
Depreciation	3,242	6,483	-	**9,725**
Professional charges	4,646	9,292	-	**13,938**
Irrecoverable VAT	3,338	6,676	-	**10,014**
Other	2,638	5,276	-	**7,914**
Total	**63,769**	**145,266**	**-**	**209,035**

Supports costs, except governance costs, have been allocated based on staff time.

8 Governance costs

		2024	2023
	Note	**£**	£
Trustees' remuneration	11	**-**	-
Trustees' expenses	11	**2,326**	376
Cost of Trustees' meetings and the AGM		**1,681**	537
Auditors' remuneration	10	**7,600**	6,100
Legal fees		**6,123**	4,021
		17,730	11,034

9 Net income / (expenditure) for the year

	2024	2023
	£	£
Net income / (expenditure) is stated after charging / (crediting):		
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	**9,725**	8,764
Operating lease rentals	**2,513**	2,353
Loss/(gain) on fair value movement of investments	**(187,644)**	(33,103)

10 Auditors' remuneration

The auditors' remuneration amounts to an audit fee of £7,600 (2023 - £6,100) and other services of £13,938 (2023 - £13,042).

Notes to the financial statements (continued)

Year Ended 31 December 2024

11 Trustees' and key management personnel remuneration and expenses

The Trustees neither received nor waived any remuneration during the year (2023 - £nil).

The total amount of employee benefits (these benefits include employer's national insurance and pension costs) received by key management personnel is £173,590 (2023: £176,911). The Trust considers its key management personnel to comprise the Chief Executive Officer and Director of Finance and Operations.

Four trustees (2023: One) were reimbursed expenses as follows:	**2024**	2023
	£	£
Travel	**1,760**	122
Accommodation	**566**	254
	2,326	376

12 Staff costs and employee benefits

The average monthly number of employees and full time equivalent (FTE) during the year was as follows:

	2024	**2024**	2023	2023
	Number	FTE	Number	FTE
Raising funds	**2**	**2**	2	2
Charitable activities	**3**	**3**	4	4
Governance	**2**	**2**	2	2
	7	**7**	8	8

The total staff costs and employees' benefits was as follows:	**2024**	2023
	£	£
Wages and salaries	**309,932**	313,998
Social security	**31,963**	33,893
Defined contribution pension costs	**16,350**	15,700
	358,245	363,591

The number of employees receiving total employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) of over £60,000 per year was as follows:

	2024	2023
	No.	No.
£60,001 - £70,000	**1**	-
£70,001 - £80,000	**-**	1
£80,001 - £90,000	**-**	-
£90,001 - £100,000	**1**	1
£100,001 - £110,000	**-**	-

13 Tangible fixed assets

	Short Leasehold	Office & Equipment	Conservation Breeding Stock (Agisted)	**Total**
	£	£	£	**£**
Cost or valuation:				
At 31 December 2023	221,443	168,112	21,710	**411,265**
Additions	-	8,539	-	**8,539**
Disposals	-	(1,783)	-	**(1,783)**
Revaluation	-	-	(3,180)	**(3,180)**
At 31 December 2024	221,443	174,868	18,530	**414,841**
Depreciation:				
At 31 December 2023	155,145	155,970	-	**311,115**
Charge for the year	4,440	5,285	-	**9,725**
Eliminated on disposal	-	(1,100)	-	**(1,100)**
At 31 December 2024	159,585	160,155)	-	**319,740**
Net book value:				
At 31 December 2024	61,858	14,713	18,530	**95,101**
At 31 December 2023	66,298	12,142	21,710	**100,150**

14 Heritage assets

Heritage assets held are The National Archive Gene Bank and no value has been placed on this asset.

These assets are significant to the charity in order to safeguard the future of rare breeds. Expenditure to acquire preserve and develop The National Archive Gene Bank in the year was £74,669 (2023 - £71,318).

15 Fixed asset investments

	Listed Investments
	£
Cost or valuation	
At 31 December 2023	**3,122,137**
Additions	**1,012,552**
Disposals	**(695,279)**
Revaluation	**187,644**
At 31 December 2024	**3,627,054**

Investments at fair value comprise:	**2024**	2023
	£	£
Equities & unit trusts	**3,580,129**	3,064,843
Cash within investment portfolio	**46,925**	57,294
	3,627,054	3,122,137

The fair value of listed investments is determined by reference to the mid-market value of the unit trusts or quoted share price.

Notes to the financial statements (continued)

Year Ended 31 December 2024

16 Stocks

	2024	2023
	£	£
Semen for sale	**6,360**	9,000
Merchandise stock	**17,670**	19,848
	24,030	28,848

17 Debtors

	2024	2023
	£	£
Trade debtors	**9,595**	15,137
Amounts owed by support groups	**11,526**	14,453
Prepayments and accrued income	**48,698**	82,531
Taxes recoverable	**6,438**	4,804
	76,257	116,925

18 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024	2023
	£	£
Trade creditors	**13,705**	13,870
Other tax and social security	**8,866**	9,325
Other creditors	**3,205**	2,838
Accruals	**35,985**	37,712
	61,761	63,745

19 Leases

Operating leases – lessee

Total future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases are as follows:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Not later than one year	**2,963**	2,353
Later than one and not later than five years	**10,605**	8,364
Later than five years	**18,702**	20,130
	32,270	30,847

20 Fund reconciliation

	Balance at 31 December 2023	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Gains / (losses)	Balance at 31 December 2024
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds						
Unrestricted	**1,095,080**	818,614	(608,802)	(49,731)	186,961	**1,442,122**
Designated Funds						
Gene Bank	**2,000,000**	-	(46,231)	46,231	-	**2,000,000**
Conservation – Breed Stock (Agisted)	**21,709**	-	-	-	(3,180)	**18,529**
Property improvement fund	**132,000**	-	-	-	-	**132,000**
Lop Fund	**8,951**	-	(3,067)	-	-	**5,884**
Website development	**-**	-	-	40,000	-	**40,000**
	2,162,660	-	(49,298)	86,231	(3,180)	**2,196,413**

Unrestricted funds description

Unrestricted funds are those funds 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.

Designated funds description

The archive Gene Bank is held to maintain the Heritage Assets for the benefit of the next generation.

The Conservation Breeding Stock (Agisted), reserve is the value of RBST rare breed stock on loan to livestock keepers to increase rare breed population numbers.

The Property improvement fund relates to the proposed refurbishment of the premises at Stoneleigh Park.

The Lop Fund was created to help support the work in regard to British Lop pigs, along with the donation received from the Gerald Fallowes Discretionary Trust.

The website development fund relates to the intended development of a new RBST website as part of ongoing efforts to increase public engagement, improve access to conservation resources, and support members.

Restricted funds and Trusts

We are extremely grateful to the charitable trusts and foundations that support our work. Some trusts provide general funding, while others prefer to sponsor specific projects as detailed on page 62.

Notes to the financial statements (continued)

Year Ended 31 December 2024

Restricted funds Fund Descriptions	Balance at 31 December 2023 £	Income £	Expend -iture £	Transfers £	Gains / (losses) £	Balance at 31 December 2024 £
Restricted cattle conservation						
N Bailey Albion Fund	**2,015**	-	-	-	-	**2,015**
Vaynol project	**1,000**	-	(875)	(125)	-	**-**
Gloucester project	**2,079**	-	(656)	(250)	-	**1,173**
2019 Cattle Campaign	**40**	24	-	-	-	**64**
General Cattle	**-**	20,670	-	-	-	**20,670**
Native Project HDH Wills	**-**	20,500	-	-	-	**20,500**
Restricted equine conservation						
Houserace Betting Levy Board	**1,275**	-	-	-	-	**1,275**
Cleveland bay - N Bailey	**6,022**	-	(5,666)	(356)	-	**-**
Heavy Horse Appeal 2017	**19,214**	556	-	-	-	**19,770**
Marjorie Coote Animal Charity Trust	**2,634**	-	-	(143)	-	**2,491**
The Saintbury Trust	**1**	-	-	(1)	-	**-**
Equine general	**3,000**	-	-	-	-	**3,000**
HBLB 3 year conservation programme	**-**	40,540	(5,040)	(35,500)	-	**-**
Restricted goat conservation						
Goat Appeal	**1,196**	-	-	-	-	**1,196**
John Spedan Lewis Foundation	**1,463**	-	-	-	-	**1,463**
Gene Bank	**-**	1,052	-	-	-	**1,052**
Restricted pig conservation						
PG Fallowes Lop Project	**10,410**	18,900	(9,421)	-	-	**19,889**
PBA Priority Breeds Appeal	**26,497**	11,016	(1,279)	(125)	-	**36,109**
PF Charitable Trust	**1,255**	-	(1,255)	-	-	**-**
William Dean Trust	**250**	-	(250)	-	-	**-**
Black Pig Pot	**-**	500	-	-	-	**500**
General	**-**	503	(503)	-	-	**-**
Restricted sheep conservation						
Love a Longwool Appeal	**19,686**	634	-	-	-	**20,320**
Rosie Green Wool Sheep Fund	**1,876**	-	-	-	-	**1,876**
Restricted poultry conservation						
Luton & District Poultry Group	**75**	-	-	-	-	**75**
Restricted Other projects						
Somerset Conservation Fund	**2**	-	-	-	-	**2**
Conservation general	**2,569**	-	(2,569)	-	-	**-**
Foundation for Common Land	**2,167**	-	-	-	-	**2,167**
Farm Park - Princes Charities Fund	**5,705**	-	(2,123)	-	-	**3,582**
Epping Forrest - Fenceless Grazing	**58**	-	-	-	-	**58**
Northern Breeds - Raymond Moss Fund	**5,000**	-	-	-	-	**5,000**
	115,489	114,895	(29,637)	(36,500)	-	**164,247**

21 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	**Total**
	£	£	£	**£**
Fixed assets	1,525,742	2,196,413	-	**3,722,155**
Cash at bank and in hand	(115,786)	-	157,887	**42,101**
Other current assets / liabilities	32,166	-	6,360	**38,526**
Total	**1,442,122**	**2,196,413**	**164,247**	**3,802,782**

22 Pensions and other post-retirement benefits

Defined contribution pension plans.

The charity operates a defined contribution pension plan for its employees. The amount recognised as an expense in the period was £16,350 (2023 - £15,700).

Leaving a gift in your Will could be the greatest difference you ever make!

Planning for the future

RBST depends heavily on voluntary donations. Without the incredible generosity of our members and supporters, we simply couldn't continue our vital work in research, conservation and saving rare breeds. We know that with the help of generous donors like you, RBST can continue striving to achieve its crucial goal, to ensure that the genetic diversity represented by our native breeds is safeguarded for many years to come. Our vision is a secure future for each of the UK's native breeds of livestock to ensure long-term food security, the conservation of important habitats and landscapes and the preservation of the UK's culture. Help ensure our native farm animals have a secure future and can be enjoyed by generations to come.

What to do?

If you have already made a Will but you are considering including a gift to RBST, your solicitor will advise you on the correct wording to update your Will. You will need to provide your solicitor with our charity details. For your convenience, we have provided this here:

The Rare Breeds Survival Trust, Stoneleigh Park, Kenilworth, Warwickshire, CV8 2LG. (Registered Charity no. 269442).

Please also state that you wish to make the gift for the 'general purposes' of Rare Breeds Survival Trust.

Our promise

RBST will always respect your privacy. Your information will be handled with the utmost confidentiality and we will never ask the amount of your legacy. We understand and respect that you will want to remember family and friends first when planning for the future, but we hope that once you've taken care of your loved ones, you'll consider leaving a legacy gift in your Will, as a lasting way to support the future of RBST.

No Will yet?

Have you thought about leaving a gift in your Will to RBST? This year we have partnered with Free Wills Month. They bring together a group of well-respected charities to offer members of the public aged 55 and over, giving you the opportunity to support RBST and have a simple Will written or updated for free, by using one of their participating solicitors. The next campaign opens on 1st October 2025, you can register your interest here **www.freewillsmonth.org.uk/** and receive an email reminding you that the campaign has started. An up-to-date Will written by a solicitor ensures your wishes are respected. It also avoids difficult decisions and legal complications for your loved ones.



RBST
Rare Breeds Survival Trust



If you have any questions, visit our website, call 02476 69551 or email fundraising@rbst.org.uk.

Rare Breeds Survival Trust (RBST), Stoneleigh Park, Kenilworth, Warwickshire, CV8 2LG
Registered Charity in England and Wales No 269442 and in Scotland OSCR No SC053451

Corporate Directory

Charity Reference and Administrative Details: As at the date of this report

Charity registration number 269442
Company registration number 01204694

Patron
His Majesty King Charles III

President
Vacant

Vice Presidents
Miss Elizabeth Buchanan, C.V.O, FRAgS
The Earl De La Warr, DL
Jimmy Doherty
Lord Iliffe

Chief Executive Officer
Christopher Price

Trustees
John Atkinson
Mark Davies (appointed Jan 2025)
Tom Davis (resigned Nov 2024)
Tom Fairfax
James Fanshawe
Catherine Le Grice-Mack
Jan McCourt
Steve McMinn
Roderick Newton (resigned March 2024)
Martin Penny (resigned Feb 2025)
Ryan Perry
Alison Pope (appointed Feb 2025)
Dr James Prendergast
John Reed
Claire Saunders (resigned Feb 2025)
Claire Whittle

Conservation and Research Committee
John Atkinson, James Fanshawe, Catherine Le Grice-Mack, Ryan Perry, Steve McMinn, Marcus Bates (British Pig Association – in attendance), Dr James Prendergast, Tom Fairfax, Claire Whittle
In attendance: Christopher Price (CEO), Tom Blunt, Tracy Wathen-Jones, Alice Lennox

Finance and Governance Committee
John Atkinson, Catherine Le Grice-Mack, Alison Pope, Jan McCourt, Steve McMinn
In attendance: Christopher Price (CEO), Claire McNicol (Dir F&O)

Nomination Committee
Alison Pope, Steve McMinn, Jan McCourt, James Fanshawe

Registered office
Avenue Q, Stoneleigh Park, Kenilworth, Warwickshire, CV8 2LG

Auditor
Dafferns Audit Limited
One Eastwood
Harry Weston Road
Binley Business Park, Binley
Coventry, CV3 2UB

Legal advisors
Lodders LLP
10 Elm Court
Arden Street
Stratford upon Avon
Warwickshire, CV37 6PA

Bankers
Barclays Bank, 48/50 The Parade, Leamington Spa CV32 4DD

Investment managers
Evelyn
45 Gresham Street,
London EC2V 7BG

Staff
Claire McNicol – Director of Finance and Operations and Company Secretary
Tom Blunt – Senior Conservation Advisor
Tracy Wathen-Jones – Conservation Adviser
Scottish Co-ordinator – Alice Lennox
Rachel Peckover – Office Administrator and Accounts Assistant
Hannah Roberts – Office Administrator (maternity Leave)
Tracey Howe – Office Administrator

RBST is incredibly grateful for every single penny donated to its cause by members, donors and supporters, both individuals and organisations. RBST simply would not exist without their generosity.

Whilst we would like to be able to thank everyone by name, due to space and data protection limitations this is not possible.

We would however like to take the opportunity to make special reference to the Trusts who donated funds to RBST in 2024 and all those who so kindly remembered RBST in their Wills.

Trust income in 2024

Betty Phillips Charitable Trust
Registered Charity Number 1158964

Dingwall Trust

HDH Wills 1965 Charitable Trust
Registered Charity Number 1117747

HR Bull Charitable Trust
Registered Charity Number 296133

Hutchinson Charitable Trust
Registered Charity Number 1155643

Percy Gerald Fallowes Discretionary Will Trust

Privy Purse Charitable Trust
Registered Charity Number 296079

The Ancaster Trust
Registered Charity Number 270822

The H J Cooper Trust
Registered Charity Number 213668

The Horserace Betting Levy Board

The Jill Saint Charitable Trust
Registered Charity Number 801355

The Ian Askew Charitable Trust
Registered Charity Number 264515

Legacy Income Received 2024

Philip Charles **BUTT**

Margaret Wilson **CHISHOLM**

Nita **FERRAR**

David **GREENWOOD**

Jill **HURL**

Elizabeth **LANGLEY**

Pamela May **MILLER**

Cathleen Eleanor **MOORE**

Elizabeth **OUBRIDGE**

Edward Herbert **PEACHMENT**

Hannah **STANLEY**

Annabelle Vary **SWAIN**

Corinna **WILTSHIRE**

George Edward **WOOLFORD**

RBST's Corporate Supporters

Birch Farm

White Park Financial Solutions

Skyeskyns Ltd

Yorkshire Agricultural Society

South of England Agricultural Society

Marsh Charitable Trust

Peter Hunter Seeds Ltd

Edge & Son Butchers

Devon Duvets

Dumfries House Home Farm Ltd

Dengie Crops Ltd

Little Beau Sheep

Kelly Bronze Turkeys

Royal Ulster Agricultural Society

Old Hall Farm Woodton

Incredible Eggs Franchise Ltd

Wychwood Farm

Statkraft

Cliverton Insurance

Swaledale Butchers

The Real Wild Estates Company

Shearwell Data

& Glebe Meadow Fishery

RBST
Rare Breeds Survival Trust

rbst.org.uk *enquiries@rbst.org.uk* *024 7669 6551*

RBST's Patron is His Majesty The King

Company Limited by Guarantee Registered in England No.01204694. Registered Charity in England and Wales No 269442 and in Scotland OSCR No SC053451

#NativeBreedsForModernNeeds

RARE BREEDS SURVIVAL TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 269442

Accounts

RBST

Rare Breeds Survival Trust

Annual Report

& FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

2023



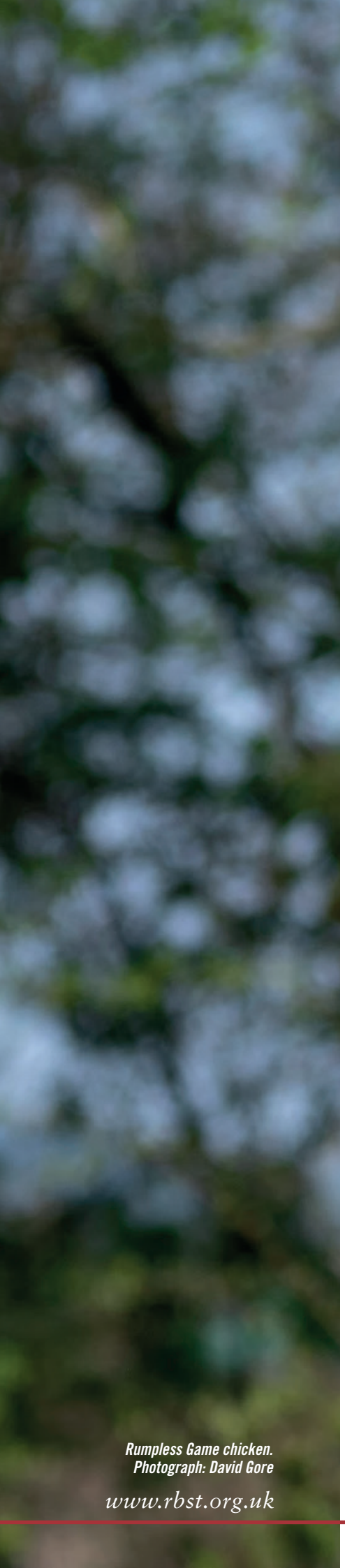
CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER: 269442

COMPANY REGISTRATION NUMBER: 1204694

ANNUAL REPORT & FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2023



#NativeBreedsForModernNeeds



RBST
Rare Breeds Survival Trust

Contents

Our goals 4

A message *from our Chairman* 5

A message *from our Chief Executive Officer* 6

A message *from our Chair of Conservation & Research Committee* 7

A message *from our Treasurer* 8

Promoting our native breeds 9

Securing Government support 18

Delivering on priorities 24

Recognition 36

Financial Review 43

Governance 45

Independent Auditors Report 47

Statement of Financial Activities 49

Balance sheet 50

Statement of cash flows 51

Notes to the financial statements 52

RBST Corporate Directory 65

Rumpless Game chicken. Photograph: David Gore

Cover photograph: Albion cow. Photograph: Florence Mannerings

Our goals and what we're doing to achieve them

Goal: A reverse in the decline of all livestock breeds on the Watchlist

What: We aim to have all the breeds on the Watchlist stable by 2028

How:

- We are refocusing our messaging showing the economic, social and environmental relevance of native breeds.
- We use the latest technology to save our rarest breeds, as with the British Lop Pig Project. What we learn from this project will be applied to the benefit of other breeds.
- We will continue to equip breeders and potential breeders with the knowledge they need to keep animals through our Grazing Animals Project courses and online resources.
- We are identifying 'Priority Breeds' and creating Conservation Plans for each of them.



Goal: A comprehensive up-to-date Gene Bank

What: The RBST Gene Bank is the charity's single biggest investment and a key national asset. We will work towards making this a National Gene Bank, supported by government

How:

- We are implementing a clear strategy which will support the maintenance and acquisition of animals to ensure the future of our native breeds.
- We need to ensure that the original genetics are preserved and can be drawn on in the future.
- We are actively promoting the importance of the Gene Bank to potential donors and funders and will ensure that its importance is widely understood.

Goal: Livestock genetic diversity recognised by government and wider society as a fundamental element of agricultural and biodiversity policy

What: We lobby for genetic diversity to be recognised in government policies such as the Agriculture Act, Rural Development Policy and Biodiversity Policy

How:

- We are joining formal partnerships and networks to highlight the many benefits of our native breeds.
- Our strategic work will build on our good media profile to ensure that native breeds are recognised in policy as being crucial to bringing greater sustainability to modern farming and land management practices.
- Our volunteer network represents us at shows and highlights the range of rare breeds that exist and their many and varied uses to the public.

A message from our Chairman



John Atkinson
Chairman

As our 50th anniversary year, 2023 was an important one for RBST.

It gave us the opportunity to look back, and give recognition to our founders who saw the urgent need to ensure that our native livestock breeds were protected, and to look forward to the role those breeds can play in our changing agricultural landscape.

The farming environment now is very different from that of the 1970s, when RBST was founded. The contrast is well exemplified when you consider that the 'gene bank' that Sir Solly Zuckerman wanted to preserve was housed in Whipsnade Zoo and native breeds' place in mainstream farming was disappearing. Today our diverse native breeds are where they deserve to be – in our diverse landscapes. With the changing economic climate in agriculture and the move to more regenerative systems, natives are showing how perfectly suited they are to low-cost, environmentally-friendly farming systems. The proof is in the number of new breeders now contacting RBST for help in sourcing suitable stock.

Of course, when you are celebrating a milestone anniversary, it can be all too easy to focus on past history. RBST didn't do that. While we recognised the debt we owe to the charity's founders and all of those who have worked so determinedly to save our rare breeds from extinction, 2023 was about looking forward and ensuring that we have a clear vision of where we need to go from here.

We achieved a lot in 2023. Our voice is being heard at government level, which is essential if our native breeds are to have an integral part in the future of UK farming. Together, as an organisation, we have engaged with a huge audience from grass roots to government levels and there can be no doubt that over the past year, RBST's profile has been well and truly raised. In fact, I don't think we have ever had such a significant media presence.

Our celebratory events took us all over the United Kingdom, starting, for me, on home ground in Cumbria and then to Cornwall and East Anglia with a very special reception at the House of Lords along the way. In addition to this, RBST Northern Ireland took the Trust back to Balmoral for the first time in many years and RBST Scotland put on an excellent show at the Royal Highland as well as taking the RBST message to the Scottish Parliament. All around the country, our dedicated and enthusiastic support groups flew the RBST flag at their local and regional shows and personally, I was invited to speak at events from the Highlands of Scotland to the Channel Islands.

As an organisation, RBST is extremely fortunate to have an active and committed membership. In the run-up to our anniversary year, we wrote to our life members and many of our longstanding members inviting them to contribute towards the costs of celebrating our 50th anniversary. I was blown away by the generosity, which raised two and half times what we were expecting and would like to express my gratitude.

That gratitude also extends to our Board of Trustees and our President Baroness (Sue) Hayman and Vice Presidents Martin Beard, Elizabeth Buchanan, Alan Black, Lord De La Warr, Jimmy Doherty and Lord Iliffe.

I want to conclude by expressing my deepest thanks to everyone who works so hard on behalf of our breeds.

A message from our Chief Executive Officer



Christopher Price
CEO

2023 was, of course, RBST's 50th Anniversary which we marked with a series of events at the core of which were two objectives.

The first was to promote native breed produce, both food and fibre, across the different regions of the country, showing the commercial viability of native breeds alongside the quality of their produce.

The second was to demonstrate that RBST is an influential UK-wide organisation with a network of impressive high-profile partners and stakeholders.

We exceeded our expectations on both. Across the country, we promoted local breeds and their produce to a whole range of consumers, retailers, influencers and decision makers operating at all scales.

Moreover, we were able to fund the whole programme through member donations. Our appeal to life, and other longstanding, members yielded almost three times what we were expecting.

2023 also saw the emphasis of our conservation strategy changing in two overlapping aspects. Firstly we focussed much more on supporting breeders and breed societies across the board, rather than looking at individual breeds. In essence RBST wants to create the space within which breed societies can do what they do best: conserve and promote their breeds.

This tied in with the second aspect: working with each of the UK governments to ensure that their new agriculture and environment policies properly recognise the importance of our native livestock and equines. In England the Defra Minister set up a Ministerial Native Breeds Round Table to take a more strategic approach, looking at a variety of government activities, including support for abattoirs and research funding, not just direct support.

The other three countries, dependant as they are on Westminster for setting the framework, have not got quite so far, but RBST is engaged with all of them, making the case for native breeds.

And as RBST Treasurer Martin Penny makes clear, RBST's adoption of a long-term approach to business planning, acknowledging the risk of short-term volatility, meant that RBST was in a much more robust position than may otherwise have been the case.

This, combined with increases in most of our income sources and the effective management of cost control, has resulted in another financially secure year. The priority continues to be ensuring that every pound our members and others give is used in effectively delivering RBST's agenda.

Of course, we cannot do everything ourselves. RBST depends on its members to get things done, some as individuals, some as members of support groups – the groups set up by the Board to help RBST deliver its objectives. The work they do throughout the year all contributes to RBST's effectiveness.

RBST Scotland had another excellent year. The team's new approach to show attendance, having a smaller tent near the showing lines and running events and seminars for those already involved with livestock keeping, proved particularly successful.

The new RBST Northern Ireland showed a similar dynamism at the Balmoral Show, partnering with a range of sustainable farming groups to ensure RBST's messages reached a wider audience.

The way in which so many support groups and others within the wider membership are stepping up and looking at new ways of doing things to ensure that RBST retains its relevance is incredibly encouraging.

So huge thanks to everyone involved: our President, vice presidents, trustees, members and, in particular, our wonderful staff team: Claire McNicol, Tom Blunt, Andrea Parry-Jones, Jo Linford, Rachel Peckover and Hannah Roberts, and our two communications advisers Linda Trotman and Isobel Davidson.

A message from our Chair of Conservation & Research Committee



Claire Saunders
Chair of Conservation & Research Committee

RBST's Conservation & Research Committee had another full year supporting the Trust's work conserving and promoting our native livestock breeds.

Most of the breeds came into being to meet human needs in our landscape and climate, and promoting the uses of the breeds lies at the core of RBST's conservation strategy.

We were particularly excited in 2023 to start working more closely with the Wool Board promoting the wool from our native breeds. Working with breed societies, if we can collect the entire clip from the breed so it can be processed and sold at scale, it reduces costs and makes the wool more attractive to purchasers.

Whilst food and clothing may be the traditional benefits of livestock, the various breeds' grazing impacts are now just as highly valued, and RBST's conservation team has been working hard to promote the specific benefits of native livestock and equines. We have been overwhelmed by the popularity of our LANTRA-approved conservation grazing and livestock management courses. Similarly our consultancy service advising generally larger landowners on reintroducing native breeds went from strength to strength.

The roll out of the new agricultural support mechanisms across the four UK countries provided RBST with a once in a generation opportunity to ensure that the conservation and promotion of native breeds was fully embedded in each country's policy.

In England, the new farming minister, Mark Spencer, set up a Ministerial Native Breeds Round Table to ensure his department's work was properly co-ordinated, with each of the relevant teams engaging.

2023 saw further details of Welsh Government's proposals including the commitment to introduce so much of what RBST has been calling for: direct financial incentives for keeping pedigree registered stock, government support for selling native breed products and using native breeds in delivering environmental benefits and direct promotion of the benefits of rare and native breeds.

In Scotland, RBST fed into the new Agriculture Bill. The Bill gives the Scottish government the powers to do everything we would want it to. The challenge now is to ensure that all those powers are properly used.

In Northern Ireland we continue to challenge the Government's policy of reducing livestock emissions through early slaughter, something that would have an horrendous impact on slower finishing native breeds. RBST maintains that emissions can be better reduced by reducing overall numbers, focusing on breeds that thrive outdoors on grass, improving overall health and welfare and adopting breeding practices that improve efficiency without compromising breed standards.

The state of the local abattoir network continued to be a significant focus of activity across the UK. We need a network capable of processing small numbers of non-standard animals to the highest welfare standards, or we will not just lose our native breeds we will lose sustainable livestock farming entirely.

Finally, there are those breeds that face particular challenges, and whose situation is such that Government support alone will not be enough to secure their future.

Some of our work has been through overarching projects, such our equine project generously funded by the Horserace Betting Levy Board looking at the breeding and uses of native equines. We have been delighted with the level of engagement from both breeders and breed societies alike. Our wool project looked at the role of wool as a carbon sink, with a view to ensuring farm carbon calculators better reflect the full position.

Others are projects directed at individual breeds, where we are working with our friends in the breed societies and breeders' groups to support the likes of North Ronaldsay sheep, Exmoor ponies and the British Lop and Large White pigs.

As with all RBST's work, many, many people contribute to our success, but I would like to pay particular thanks to my fellow trustees on the Conservation & Research Committee, the staff conservation team, and of course all the breed societies and dedicated individuals who work so hard to sustain and develop our breeds.

A message from our Treasurer



Martin Penny
Treasurer

When I took over as RBST Treasurer in October 2023 I was pleased to find that the finances were both healthy and well managed.

In terms of financial performance in 2023, RBST was operating within the UK economy that had grown by only 0.1%. Nevertheless, RBST delivered an overall increase in income and with the continuing efficient management of costs meant that financial stability was maintained.

To a significant extent this was the result of RBST's long term approach to business planning. The risk of periods of short-term volatility are factored into projections so that it is prepared for and able to weather the challenges.

The two items most prone to volatility are investment income and legacy donations. They are both subject to relatively large variations from one year to the next, but because of RBST's long term approach, the potential risks can be better identified and managed.

Overall in 2023 investment income was up 3% against budget to £114,168. RBST chooses to hold monies in investments, rather than cash deposit accounts, in order to maximise investment income. This ensures returns can then be applied to delivering the Trust's charitable objectives.

The level of volatility with legacies remains high and RBST monitors these on a regular basis to ascertain when income will be received. 2023 saw a legacy income of £124,199 compared with £72,067 in 2022 – an increase of 72.3%

In terms of other income 2023 continued the positive trend from 2022, with grants and donations, charitable activities and advertising revenue all seeing increases and membership subscriptions holding steady. The increase in grants and donations to £151,475 compared with £119,090 in 2022 was particularly gratifying. The amount exceeded expectations and is a reflection of the incredible ongoing generosity of RBST's members.

The ever-increasing popularity of RBST's livestock management and grazing courses provided more good news, with the income increasing by over 100% from £55,661 in 2022 to £120,708 in 2023.

Total expenditure for 2023 increased by 5.3% to £699,259 compared with £664,201 in 2022. This reflects an annual inflation rate for the UK of 7.3% in 2023 and additional costs related to the increases in charitable and fundraising activities. Costs continued to be kept under close control.

In terms of the capital performance of investments recent years have been particularly volatile. 2023 saw an investment gain of £33,103, compared with an investment loss of £294,184 in 2022 and a gain of £383,886 in 2021. It is important to recognise these are unrealised gains or losses i.e. the gain or loss has not been crystalised. Rather it is a snapshot of the position at the end of the financial year

Restricted funds continued to grow, reaching £115,489 compared with £105,231 in 2022, reflecting the Trust's ongoing success in applying for project funding. We are, of course, immensely grateful to the charitable trusts and foundations that supported our work, including the Horserace Betting Levy Board project and the Foundation for Common Land.

Finally, I want to pay tribute to all of those who have contributed to RBST's finances over the year; our members, our corporate sponsors who recognise their business goals and objectives align with our own, those who so kindly chose to remember us in their will, and last but not least the finance team of RBST. Thank you to you all.



A Clydesdale mare and foal. Photograph courtesy of Malcolm Snelgrove, www.malcolmsnelgrove.com, www.stepoutmoor.com

Promoting our native breeds



> ***In 2023, RBST marked its milestone 50th anniversary by celebrating the story of our charity and the heritage of our native breeds while placing them firmly in the context of modern farming.***

While looking back with pride, we are also able to look forward with confidence that our native breeds are re-establishing their place in the UK's farming environment.

When RBST was founded, 'modern' farming was all about the drive for productivity, with the focus on producing more food, faster. Some traditional breeds had already disappeared, others were heading that way. Against this background, the founders were dedicated to preserving the genetics and traits represented by our diverse native breeds 'because one day we might need them'. Arguably that day is approaching – or perhaps it has already arrived.

RBST now has to look beyond saving the valuable genetics of our native breeds to ensuring a wider understanding of just why they are valuable – highlighting their 'adaptive potential'. To do that, we must find markets for their products where possible, lobby government for support and, for those breeds of priority concern, work with their respective breed societies to turn things around. These aims have been the drivers of the various activities RBST has been involved in during 2023.

The commercial opportunities and environmental benefits of keeping native breeds were showcased at a series of 50th anniversary events hosted at Rheged in Cumbria, The Lost Gardens of Heligan in Cornwall, Jimmy's Farm and Wildlife Park in Suffolk, and Tannaghmore Farm Park in Northern Ireland. RBST even took its message to the Houses of Parliament for a 50th anniversary reception, discussing with key Ministers how our native breeds can fulfil their potential in food, farming and environmental management today and tomorrow.

As well as hosting these special anniversary events, RBST continued its presence at events aimed at its target audience of sustainable and regenerative farmers, where with a growing focus on farming working with nature to meet both our food and environmental needs, native breeds are increasingly finding themselves front and centre stage.











ORFC

In January, RBST used the Oxford Real Farming Conference (ORFC) as the platform to put the case for wool to a 130-strong audience.

The ORFC sits alongside the main international Oxford Farming Conference and represents the unofficial gathering of the agroecological farming movement in the UK, including organic and regenerative farming. It brings together practising farmers and growers with scientists, economists, activists and policy makers.



Groundswell

The summer saw RBST return to Groundswell, the event that provides a forum for farmers and anyone interested in food production or the environment to learn about the theory and practical applications of conservation agriculture or regenerative systems.

Groundswell is a prime opportunity for RBST to showcase native breeds and their suitability for a range of farming systems. We spoke to a number of people already using native breeds and it was encouraging also to meet a number looking to invest in native breeds.

At the 2023 event RBST Chairman John Atkinson and Conservation Advisers Tom Blunt and Andrea Parry-Jones gave a presentation on climate-friendly sheep farming.



Taking the Common to Town

Over the course of 2023, RBST worked with the Foundation for Common Land (FCL) to provide a series of educational events designed to reach audiences who would not normally be likely to access the rich heritage of commoning and the native breeds involved in commoning. The events, made possible thanks to a grant from The National Lottery Heritage Fund, attracted over 2,100 people, helping to raise awareness of RBST and its work.

The locations where the events took place gave RBST and FCL the chance to reach a wide variety of people to help educate them about native breeds, commoning and farming in general.





Made possible with
Heritage Fund

Promoting our native breeds

Back to Balmoral for RBST Northern Ireland

> ***After a break of several years, RBST was once again represented at the Balmoral Show, Northern Ireland's largest agricultural event, in May 2023.***

The new Northern Ireland Support Group has been making significant progress and in order to have a stronger voice, the group has been looking to partner with other organisations involved in regenerative farming.

So, at Balmoral, members of the group joined forces with the Nature Friendly Farming Network, the National Trust, the Woodland Trust and the GrowInnovation Network (GrowIn) to form the Regenerative Farming Zone at the show. This meant that as well as having individual stands, the collaboration was able to organise a programme of speakers in its zone.

Working with partners in a larger themed zone created a lot more impact and gave RBST a greater footfall to its stand. The zone attracted a wide range of visitors, including the Rt Hon Chris Heaton-Harris, MP, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, and the show organisers were very impressed by the result.



Aaron Kilpatrick and Andrew Bingham of RBST NI with the Rt Hon Chris Heaton-Harris, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland

RBST Scotland celebrates sustainability

RBST Scotland
FOOD & FARMING SUSTAINABILITY AWARDS 2023

"Excellence in Scottish sustainable food and farming was again celebrated at the 2023 Royal Highland Show when winners of the RBST Scotland Food and Farming Sustainability Awards were announced."



L-R Mary McGillivray of Eriskay Pony Society, Robin & Alison Tuke of Hardiesmill, John Bennett, Mairi Gougeon, Mags Clark of Kelso Farmers Market



L-R Neil Forbes, Jock Gibson of Macbeths, Lindsay and Andrew Duff of MacDuff 1890, Jane Brand of Richard Brand & Son at East Fortune Farm, Mairi Gougeon

The awards were presented to the winners by Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform and Islands, Mairi Gougeon MSP.

The awards saw an impressive array of businesses being recognised for their efforts which play an important part in raising the profile of native breed produce and sustainable practices, with some achieving honours for the second year.

The winners of each category were chosen by two expert judging panels, one for the food categories chaired by RBST Scotland Chair Steve McMinn, and the second for the farming categories chaired by RBST Chairman John Atkinson. The panellists included creator of The Scottish Food Guide Wendy Barrie, Scotland Food and Drink's Head of Regional Food Fiona Richmond, Head of Food & Enterprise at SAC Consulting Ceri Ritchie, Head of Agricultural Holdings and the Women in Agriculture taskforce at Scottish Government Fiona Leslie, The Scottish Smallholder Festival's Rosemary Champion, and Galbraith Group's Martin Ritchie.

With RBST sponsoring the Champion of the Year award, other sponsors included Ledingham Chalmers, The Scottish Food Guide and The Scottish Smallholder Festival.

Promoting our native breeds

Working with the farm park network

> ***Over its 50 year history, RBST has worked with farm parks, starting with Founder Chairman Joe Henson's Cotswold Farm Park.***

It was the recognition of the fact that our native breeds could attract the interest of the general public when displayed in a farm setting that inspired RBST to introduce its approved farm park scheme.

The defining features of RBST approved farm parks have been their active breeding groups of Watchlist breeds and the fact that they are open to the public. They are a diverse group, varying in size and style. Some are council owned, some charity, others are privately owned and those in the Educational category are integral to educational facilities. RBST's farm park scheme also has a number of Associate members which are establishments which typically do not focus primarily on farm livestock but may keep and breed native breeds as an adjunct to their core conservation activity.

Farm parks offer an important public showcase for RBST's work with native breeds, attracting many thousands of visitors each year. In addition, many farm parks can be seen out and about at their local agricultural shows, showing off their pedigree livestock to an even wider audience. And, because they are actively involved in breeding programmes, they can be an important source of pedigree stock.









Harlings - a first in Devon



In 2023, RBST welcomed its first farm park in Devon with the accreditation of Harlings as an Education Farm Park.

Harlings is run by Abbie and Will Richardson with their son Daniel. Set in beautiful Devon landscape on the Bere Peninsula and close to the Devon/Cornwall border, the story of Harlings began in 2019. Abbie, a business and animal care provider, and Will who came from a background of commercial farming, were looking for a smallholding where they could approach farming in a completely different way.

The path they chose was 'quality, not quantity' and they put their efforts into the conservation of breeds from the RBST Watchlist to demonstrate an ethical and sustainable way of farming, with traditional British native breeds, bred responsibly. Harlings offers educational visits which are funded through the Countryside Stewardship Educational Access payments scheme. The farm is accredited by Social Farms and Gardens scheme, and carries the 'Green Care' quality mark, which shows that the team runs a safe and professional organisation, with health and safety, combined with animal welfare, at the forefront. They are also CEVAS (the Countryside Educational Visits Accreditation Scheme) trained in education and therapy for the provision of valuable skills and welfare sessions.





Promoting our native breeds

The 2023 Marsh Award heroes



> ***The Marsh Awards are the creation of Mr Brian Marsh OBE, Chairman of the Marsh Charitable Trust, who wanted to support areas such as conservation and volunteering.***

MARSH Charitable Trust

The Awards programme identifies and works with partner organisations which are experts in their chosen fields. RBST has three awards: Conservation in Genetic Biodiversity, Lifetime Achievement Award, and Support Group Volunteer of the Year.

The 2023 RBST Marsh Awards went to Jane Cooper for Conservation in Genetic Bio-Diversity, the Lifetime Achievement Award to Alan Black and Support Group Volunteer 2023 was Aaron Kirkpatrick of RBST Northern Ireland.

RBST Vice President Alan Black received his Marsh Award for Lifetime Achievement to mark his many years of service to RBST in the roles of Trustee, Chairman and, since 1999, Vice President. In more recent years, Alan has also acted as Chair of the Nominations Committee, advising the Board on matters of governance and acting as guide and mentor to both trustees and staff.

His first involvement with rare breeds came through Geoffrey Cloke who was very active in both the pig world and RBST. Within a very short time, Geoffrey got him involved in RBST and he was Chairman for three years in the mid '90s. Although only having limited direct involvement with livestock keeping, Alan found empathy with the work of RBST believing that intensive farming was having a detrimental effect on indigenous livestock and believed that by becoming involved in RBST, he could do his bit to help stop that decline

Jane Cooper received her award for Conservation in Genetic Bio-Diversity for her work with Boreray sheep. Jane established her breeding flock of Borerays with sheep gathered from three tiny flocks in the Highlands. In 2017, she discovered that this meant she was custodian of the last remnants of the 'Lost Flock' of Boreray sheep which represented a genetically unique sub-group of the breed.

Through research and analysis, Jane ascertained that these sheep were from a completely separate line to other mainland sheep and in 2017 they were included in the supplementary register of the Combined Flock Book. Having gained recognition for her flock, Jane set about securing a long-term and sustainable future for the Orkney Borerays by bringing together a community of like-minded Orkney farmers and crofters who share an agroecological and sustainable ethos. The community now has Boreray flocks on four islands, increasing biosecurity, and a programme has been established designed to protect, preserve and promote the flocks, focusing on health and diversity in both genotype and phenotype within its small genetic pool.

Volunteer of the Year Aaron Kirkpatrick, from Ballygowan, County Down, was nominated for his work which has been instrumental in re-establishing the Northern Ireland Support Group. In looking to restore an active RBST presence in Northern Ireland, Support Group Secretary Aaron has engaged with old and new members and has worked to establish new networks and partnerships.

By taking a fresh and professional approach, he has worked with the Support Group to establish links with Government, the National Trust, Nature Friendly Farming Network and more whilst engaging with RBST in delivering quality conservation projects to ensure native breeds are successful in Northern Ireland.

The future of showing with RBST

Young Shepherds





A record 31 young shepherds competed in the finals of the RBST Young Shepherd of the Year Award 2023, impressing competition judge Edward Lambert who said that with the level of skill on show in RBST's 50th year, the future of showing is safe for the next 50 years.

The finals were held at the English Winter Fair at the Staffordshire Showground.

The competition is designed for shepherds to develop and display their showing skills and has offered many youngsters their first opportunity to enter the showring, with some returning to the competition year-on-year as their enthusiasm has grown.

With 18 finalists in the Junior class and 13 Seniors, this was the highest entry for a finals since the competition began. After careful deliberation, Edward awarded the Junior championship to Oliver Clark, with Thomas Nash taking the Senior championship and when these champions returned to the ring, it was Thomas who was declared overall winner, becoming the RBST Young Shepherd 2023. Taking reserve places were Elise Rochford in the Juniors and Rosie Burt in the Seniors.

Asking the ringside crowd to give a round of applause for all of the finalists, Edward made the point that, having qualified for the finals, all of the competitors had come to the show as winners. He said: "It's been an honour to judge this competition. These finalists travelled from all over the country to be here and quite honestly, I think they could show the adults a thing or two. I was impressed both by the exceptional handling skills on display and by the competitors' knowledge of their sheep – we can certainly have confidence in our shepherds of the future."

RBST

Securing Government support



A Castlemilk Moorit from the Barby Flock.

> ***RBST continues to seek a policy environment that supports and encourages farming with native breeds and keeping native equine breeds.***

In December 2022 the 15th meeting of the United Nations' Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), otherwise known as COP15, took place in Montreal Canada which saw a historic deal being struck to halt the global loss of biodiversity by 2030.

Following the two-week meeting, a package of measures was agreed which are described as 'deemed critical to addressing the dangerous loss of biodiversity and restoring natural ecosystems'. The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework included four overarching goals and 23 targets for achievement by 2030. The UK was one of the signatories to the Kunming-Montreal Biodiversity Conference agreement, which contains some extremely valuable points on native livestock conservation.

The UK government has the ability to lead the way in delivering on the promises enshrined in the framework agreement, which has been described as a 'once-in-a-decade deal to halt the destruction of Earth's ecosystems'. A shift to nature and climate-friendly farming with native breeds at its heart will play a key part in the conservation of our native livestock, moving them into the serious mainstream of farming with 'big-picture' credibility.

As a signatory to the framework, the UK government is formally obliged to act on these goals and targets, amongst which are some useful points on native livestock conservation. With native breeds' advocacy at government level high on the RBST agenda, we are, with the support of our President Baroness Hayman of Ullock, challenging the government on their position on the framework and on how they plan to implement what they have agreed to.

RBST's Manifesto for Rare Breeds

In its 50th Anniversary and with a general election in sight, RBST launched the "RBST Manifesto for Native Breeds".

Our three proposals, if introduced across the four nations of the UK, would represent a sea change for the future of our native livestock. We have asked the agriculture ministers in each country for their support and we have encouraged our members to support our efforts on an individual level by writing to their MPs.

The three proposals are:

1. Recognise native livestock and equines as a key part of biodiversity and national heritage: governments must meet their international obligation for livestock biodiversity and should do this in a manner that promotes and invests in the public benefits provided by our native livestock and equines.

2. Encourage the creation of a comprehensive network of local abattoirs: governments must ensure appropriate regulation and its delivery for smaller abattoirs, and work with the industry to invest in, and support a comprehensive network of small local abattoirs.

3. Revise carcase grading: governments must alter the current legislation so carcass grading systems reflect the diversity of the UK production system and allow consumer choice

Securing Government support

Face to face with government

> ***With the key message 'Native Breeds for Modern Needs', RBST takes every opportunity to discuss the role of native breeds in a sustainable future of farming and environmental land management with the UK Governments.***

2023 delivered a number of key opportunities for RBST, its members and supporters to come face-to-face with key government representatives to deliver the message that they must make sure the conservation and promotion of native breeds is at the heart of their agriculture and environment policies.

Taking the message to the House of Lords

When RBST took its 50th anniversary celebrations to the House of Lords, an event hosted by RBST President Baroness Hayman of Ullock, it had a valuable opportunity to bring together Ministers, Peers and MPs with native breed experts to discuss the crucial role for these breeds in future farming where sustainable food production goes hand in hand with environmental land management.

Guests included ministers, MPs and peers including Farming Minister Mark Spencer MP, Shadow Farming Minister Daniel Zeichner MP, Defra Minister Lord Benyon, former Defra Secretary George Eustice MP and former EFRA Committee Chair Baroness McIntosh who joined RBST Trustees, farmers, smallholders and conservationists from across the UK to hear about the work which is helping native breeds to thrive, and to discuss why their survival and utilisation matters for food production, the environment and rural communities.

In his address to the guests, Farming Minister Mark Spencer said that the government was fully aligned with RBST's thinking regarding native breeds, describing how world events such as Covid and the war in Ukraine have put a focus on food production and security, meaning that our native breeds represent a gene bank for the future which we may need to draw on. He described RBST's work conserving and promoting the UK's native breeds as essential to protecting genetic diversity.

He also said: "A strong abattoir network is a really important part of farming with native breeds and we want to continue working with RBST to help small abattoirs to flourish. The UK has some of the best products in the world, and our native livestock breeds have an important role in high quality, sustainable food production today and for the future."



Taking the message to the House of Lords
Farming Minister Mark Spencer with RBST CEO Christopher Price

RBST Scotland at the Scottish Parliament

With the Scottish government in the process of producing its own agricultural policy, which is looking very different to what will happen elsewhere in the UK, it is vital that RBST in Scotland is engaged in the debate and has the opportunity to promote the value of native livestock and equines in the context of modern farming, the environment and food production.

In April, the RBST Scotland Support Group attended a reception held at the Scottish Parliament at Holyrood, using the opportunity to communicate RBST's core messages.

The day was organised by RBST Scotland Support Group committee member Rosemary Champion, sponsored by Jim Fairlie MSP, and was intended to give MSPs the opportunity to learn about the work of the RBST and the importance of Scotland's native livestock and equine breeds – economically, environmentally, and socially.

During his welcoming address Jim Fairlie MSP acknowledged the importance of rare and native breeds in Scottish agriculture and the role RBST has to play in promoting them. He also reflected on the growing awareness within the Scottish Government of the role native breeds have to play in future agricultural policy.



RBST at the Scottish Parliament

Securing Government support

Consultations

> ***Much of RBST's activity focuses on promoting government policies that support the keeping and breeding of native livestock, something that is particularly important at the moment as each of the four UK countries continues to roll out their new post Brexit agriculture policies. In practice we have a once in a generation opportunity to get things right.***

As a result, and as in recent years, we responded to a significant number of consultation papers put out by the governments.

Defra consulted on changes to the rules on cattle identification. We supported the proposals for simplifying the regulations and generally making enforcement more proportionate, and for moving to the introduction of a system of bovine electronic identification (BeID). However, we argued strongly that BeID should only be introduced for newborn cattle. We were concerned that any attempt to introduce it for existing herds, replacing the current tags, could result in errors, adverse welfare implications and potentially farmers regarding the exercise as so onerous they give up.

We supported Defra's proposals for reforming the rules on animal transport, agreeing that there was no need to be exporting animals for slaughter and stressing that animals should always be slaughtered as close as possible to the farm on which they are kept. We went on to note though, that this depended on there being appropriate abattoir facilities nearby, and that this was something that needed to be addressed.

We also agreed that the position was different when it came to exporting animals for breeding purposes, explaining that genetically important livestock and equines are regularly transported overseas for conservation breeding purposes, and because of the importance of the animals concerned, welfare standards inevitably accord with best practice.

In Scotland we responded to the consultation on the new Agriculture Bill. We emphasised that food was only one of the products we get from livestock. For many farmers and crofters, the production of wool, skins and hides are as important, providing significant income streams particularly in more marginal areas and this should be reflected in government policy.

As ever we highlighted the importance of the local abattoir network, explaining that without a local abattoir network there would be no sustainable livestock sector. So, investment in abattoirs should be treated as being as important as investing in core farming activities.

Towards the end of the year, the Welsh Government consulted on their new Sustainable Farming Scheme. We remained supportive of the overall direction of travel and the need to incentivise farmers to move away from intensified industrial systems, as we had been since the initial proposals, which we found the most favourable for native breeds across the UK. However, we had significant concerns about the tone of the consultation which struck us as too authoritarian and prescriptive and as such likely to alienate potential supports.

To read all of RBST's consultation responses, see the "About Us" section of the website.

The Dartmoor debate

> ***Following lobbying by rural groups including RBST, and a debate in Parliament led by West Country MPs, Defra agreed to hold an independent enquiry into controversial proposals to reduce grazing levels on Dartmoor.***

The parliamentary debate was sparked by concerns raised by farmers who graze their livestock on common land within the National Park, much of which is designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).

Natural England, the government body responsible for ensuring that SSSIs in England are in a favourable condition, has proposed a new reduced grazing regime for sheep, cattle and ponies, in connection with the renewal of Higher Level Stewardship payments. Farmers, who would have to comply with the proposed new grazing regime to continue to receive enhanced funding under the Rural Payments Agency's Environmental Stewardship scheme, have warned that reduced or no winter grazing would threaten to force them out of business and spell the end of many small family farms.

RBST has proposed two ways forward from the government point of view. Firstly it believes that there should be a pause during which the current HLS agreements are rolled over, which should include an assessment of the need to conserve the genetic diversity of the species, breeds and populations on the moor. It also proposes that financial support should be provided under s2(1) (g) Agriculture Act 2020 to incentivise the use of environmentally appropriate native breeds and populations, so helping to meet the UK's international obligations to conserve livestock genetic diversity.

Progress on smaller abattoirs

In 2020, in recognition of the crucial role that smaller abattoirs play in the native breed supply chain, RBST helped to establish the Abattoir Sector Group, an alliance crated to promote the need for a comprehensive network of local abattoirs.

Both within the group and on its own behalf, RBST has continued to run a robust campaign which, in 2023, resulted in the first positive action from government.

Shortly after confirming his support for small abattoirs at RBST's House of Lords reception, Farming Minister Mark Spencer announced the creation of a £4m fund to help the small abattoir sector invest for the future.

One of a number of measures announced on Back British Farming Day in September, the fund is designed to be used to improve productivity, enhance animal health and welfare and encourage investment in new technologies. It will be open to red meat and poultry businesses with an annual throughput of up to 10,000 livestock units, including beef, pork and lamb, and/or 500,000 birds a year.

The minister also confirmed that the government would identify opportunities to remove unnecessary burdens for small abattoirs "to make it easier for them to operate and support farmers in reaching local and international markets".

Supporting the fund's aims, RBST emphasises that the fund must also help small operators invest in the people and the skills that are needed for the future. As well as acquiring the core skills, abattoir staff also require improved training on how to reduce the overall volume of waste produced to take advantage of the potential to participate in the wider circular economy, finding markets for skins, horns and the 'fifth quarter'.

RBST

Delivering on priorities



 A Red Poll calf at mother-and-calf dairy Pentrefelin

Watchlist 2024 - a mixed picture but significant opportunities


Welsh Section B.

> ***Despite the continuing uncertainty for livestock breeders, it is becoming increasingly clear that the ongoing changes in UK agriculture provide significant opportunities for those breeding and keeping native livestock.***

The way we manage land and produce food in the UK is changing and the benefits of native breeds within this new farming context are increasingly becoming clear. Added to the high quality produce we associate with native breeds is their ability to be effective land managers. By ensuring that their commercial and environmental attributes are recognised and the opportunities they offer are maximised, we will be able to further improve the status of our rare and native breeds.

The RBST Watchlist is based on figures gathered from breed societies. One of the challenges often cited by breeders is the cost associated with registration but it is crucial for conservation. Every registration helps to give a more accurate picture of breed status, enabling the analysis of population trends and geographic distribution, as well as ensuring the accurate monitoring of genetic diversity and inbreeding levels.

Equines

RBST has been monitoring the Welsh Section B and has seen a steady decline in breeders and animals breeding. With the number of dams which produced registered progeny below 400 in 2023, the decision has been made to move the Section B to the At Risk category.

Of the Priority breeds, the Cleveland Bay horse, Eriskay pony and Suffolk horse all have an effective population size (EPS) below 50, the threshold below which breeds are of concern. The Hackney horse and pony are both also very close to this level.

On a positive note, the New Forest pony is performing very well numerically and is close to moving out of the rare categories on the Watchlist.

The Dartmoor pony was moved to At Risk last year with its performance remaining consistent and the Exmoor pony has continued to improve with the number of dams increasing by 28% from 2022 to 2023.

Pigs

In recent years the pig industry has faced a number of challenges, most significantly rising input costs, particularly for feed. Our native pig breeds have been impacted by this, with seven of eleven native pig breeds categorised as Priority.

While the figures used for the Watchlist are based on pedigree registered animals, the British Pig Association (BPA) survey


British Landrace – numbers falling.

Delivering on priorities

results show the actual number of sows is greater than those producing registered progeny, which illustrates the importance of encouraging new and existing pig keepers to select a native breed and register the progeny for the long-term security of these breeds.

Breeds of particular concern are the British Landrace, with the number of breeders registering progeny falling to single figures, and the Welsh fell by 32%. More encouragingly, the number of Saddleback dams was up 16% and number of breeders was up 12%.

Goats

The stability of the goat breed populations is reflected in consistent levels of performance. The Bagots have seen the number of dams exceed 100 for the seventh consecutive year and similarly, the Golden Guernseys have had over 300 dams for the fourth consecutive year. The English goat has also shown an increase in the number of dams, whilst the Old English goat has remained steady.

Both the English and Old English goat remain Priority breeds with the Bagot and Golden Guernsey categorised as At Risk. It is important to increase the numbers of Priority breeds, but the challenge with small populations is ensuring that inbreeding levels are also managed.

Cattle

Amongst the cattle breeds, the Albion has experienced two consecutive years of consistency at the highest levels on record for the breed while the Vaynol has also had two years of consistent results. The Irish Moiled and White Park have also seen an increase of 8% in the number of dams.

The Gloucester is a breed of particular concern. The number of breeders remained largely unchanged, but there was a 20% increase in the number of dams. However, despite this significant improvement, the number of dams is the second lowest figure recorded since 2011.

Both the Shetland and Whitebred Shorthorn have seen a decline in the number of dams by 19% and 20% respectively.

Sheep

The sheep figures present a mixed picture. Following several years of improved performance, the Greyface Dartmoor has moved up the RBST Watchlist and is no longer considered to be a rare breed.

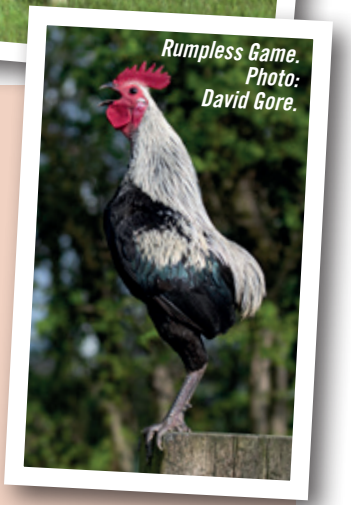
The Border Leicester has also shown significant levels of improvement, with the number of breeders increasing for the eighth consecutive year and the number of dams increasing by 10% improving its EPS.

The Llanwenog had seen several years of significant decline with the number of dams falling by 428, effectively halving in numbers from 2020 to 2022. Encouragingly the numbers have now increased by 13%.


Bagot – seven years of consistency.


OP Lincoln Red – registrations down. Photo: Ruth Dalton.


Greyface Dartmoor – no longer rare. Photo: Penny Paisley.


Rumpless Game. Photo: David Gore.

Poultry

The poultry industry faces significant challenges, including Avian Influenza and rising feed costs. The need to house stock and the lack of shows and sales has resulted in a decline in breeding and, in some cases, in poultry breeders dispersing or significantly reducing their flocks.

Unlike other species that RBST works with, poultry are not individually registered with their breed societies so ascertaining a true idea of breed numbers is challenging. DEFRA has attempted to collect data but this data set is currently insufficient to compile the poultry Watchlist on the same basis as other species.

The decision has, therefore, been made to make all of the UK native poultry breeds a Priority. RBST understands the challenges faced by all UK native poultry keepers and will work with the relevant organisations to help ensure poultry conservation status improves.

RBST
Rare Breeds Survival Trust

Watchlist 2024-25

The methodology used by RBST to prioritise breeds compares population size with measures of inbreeding and takes into account both females and males and the internationally recognised effective population calculation.
RBST would like to thank Defra and UK Breed Societies for their help producing the Watchlist.

Sheep

PRIORITY
Lincoln Longwool
North Ronaldsay
Whitefaced Woodland
Welsh Mountain Pedigree

AT RISK
Balwen
Border Leicester
Boreray
Castlemilk Moorit
Cotswold
Derbyshire Gritstone
Devon and Cornwall Longwool
Devon Closewool
Dorset Down
Dorset Horn
Hill Radnor
Leicester Longwool
Llanwenog
Lonk
Manx Loaghtan
Norfolk Horn
Oxford Down
Portland
Soay
Teeswater
Torwen Badgerface Welsh
Wensleydale
Whiteface Dartmoor

OTHER NATIVE BREEDS
Beulah
Black Welsh Mountain*
Blackface (Scottish)
Blueface Leicester
Brecknock Hill Cheviot
Clun Forest
Dalesbred
Exmoor Horn
Greyface Dartmoor*
Hampshire Down
Hebridean*
Herdwick
Jacob*
Kerry Hill*
Llandovery Whiteface Hill
Lleyn*
North Country Cheviot
Poll Dorset
Romney
Rough Fell
Ryeland*
Shetland*
Shropshire*
Southdown*
South Country Cheviot
South Wales Mountain*
Suffolk
Swaledale
Torddu Badgerface Welsh
Welsh Hill Speckled
Welsh Mountain
Wiltshire Horn*

IRISH BREEDS IN THE UK
Galway

Cattle

PRIORITY
Albion
Chillingham Wild Cattle (Feral)
Dairy Shorthorn (Original Population)
Gloucester
Northern Dairy Shorthorn
Vaynol

AT RISK
British White
Irish Moiled
Lincoln Red (Original Population)
Native Aberdeen Angus
Shetland
Traditional Hereford
White Park
Whitebred Shorthorn

OTHER NATIVE BREEDS
Aberdeen Angus
Ayrshire
Beef Shorthorn*
Belted Galloway*
British Friesian
Dairy Shorthorn
Devon
Dexter
Galloway - Including White and Riggit
Guernsey
Hereford
Highland
Jersey
Lincoln Red
Longhorn*
Luing
Red Poll*
South Devon
Sussex
Welsh Black

IRISH BREEDS IN THE UK
Kerry

*These breeds were formerly considered to be Priority or At Risk breeds

Equine

PRIORITY
Cleveland Bay Horse
Dales Pony
Eriskay Pony
Exmoor Pony
Hackney Horse and Pony
Suffolk Horse

AT RISK
Clydesdale Horse
Dartmoor Pony
Fell Pony
Highland Pony
New Forest Pony
Section B Welsh Pony
Shire Horse

OTHER NATIVE BREEDS
Shetland Pony
Welsh Pony and Cob (Types A,C and D)

IRISH BREEDS IN THE UK
Connemara Pony
Irish Draught Horse

FERAL POPULATIONS
Dartmoor Hill Pony
Carneddau Pony

Pigs

PRIORITY
Berkshire
British Landrace
British Lop
Large Black
Large White
Middle White
Tamworth

AT RISK
British Saddleback
Gloucestershire Old Spots
Oxford Sandy and Black
Welsh

Goats

PRIORITY
English Goat
Old English Goat

AT RISK
Bagot
Golden Guernsey

Poultry

PRIORITY

Chickens
Ancona
Andalusian
Australorp
British Araucana
British Faverolles
Brussbar
Buff Orpington
Burmese
Campine
Cochin
Cream Legbar
Croad Langshan
Derbyshire Redcap
Dorking
Hamburgh
Indian Game
Ixworth
Legbar
Leghorn
Malay
Marsh Daisy
Minorca
Modern Game
Modern Langshan
Nankin
Norfolk Grey
North Holland Blue
Old English Game
Old English Pheasant Fowl
Orpington (non Buff)
Rhodebar
Rosecomb
Rumpless Game
Scots Dumpy
Scots Grey
Sebright
Sicilian Buttercup
Spanish
Sultan
Sussex
Welbar

Turkeys
Blue
Bourbon Red
British White
Bronze
Buff
Cröllwitzer (Pied)
Harvey Speckled
Narragansett
Norfolk Black
Slate

Ducks
Abacot Ranger
Aylesbury
Black East Indian
Campbell
Cayuga
Crested
Hookbill
Magpie
Orpington
Pekin
Rouen (Exhibition)
Shetland
Silver Appleyard
Silver Bantam
Stanbridge White
Welsh Harlequin

Geese
Brecon Buff
Buff Back
Embden (as standardised in the UK)
Grey Back
Pilgrim
Roman
Sebastopol
Shetland
Steinbacher
Toulouse (Exhibition)
West of England



Tamworth pig. Photograph: Sam Rose

#NativeBreedsForModernNeeds

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Delivering on priorities


Bezurrell General

Lop project progress

> ***By the end of 2023, eleven boars had been added to the RBST Gene Bank as part of the British Lop Project.***

The breed has a total of seven boar lines and at least one boar from each line has been added.

The most recent additions were Bezurrell General 37 from Giles Eustice's Bezurrell herd and Eaves Duke 3 from Mick Paddock and Sarah Marsden's herd. Both boars were selected out of the 2023 show season stock and make a valuable contribution to the overall mean kinship and thus diversity of all the breeding genetics taken to date.

Eaves Duke is only the second Duke boar to be collected as part of the project and this is a line that was almost lost entirely some years ago before the last of the gene pool was saved from a breeder in Scotland and work was focussed on bringing it back up in both numbers and diversity.

Three other boars collected were from the very successful Liskeard Herd and represented three boar lines: Cornishman, Supreme and Prince. Importantly these three boars represent the Mary and Sunshine sow lines, neither of which have been directly represented in previous boars.

As well as being frozen for the RBST Gene Bank, Eaves Duke 2 and Bezurrell General 37 are remaining on centre at Deerpark Pedigree Pigs. They will be available for use in breeding programmes, enabling breeders to access genetics that may not currently be represented in their herd. The collections that have occurred represent a significant conservation project for the breed, combing both in-situ and ex-situ conservation.


Stonewall Ben

Stepping in to save a unique line

Early in 2023, the Earl of Plymouth Estate in Shropshire announced that it would be dispersing the Felton herd of Gloucestershire Old Spots, a move that could have threatened a unique gene pool.

This herd is quite unusual in that it has operated as a closed herd for many years, with only very occasional introductions of new breeding stock from other breeders. As a result the herd is very unrelated to the rest of the GOS population and represents a unique gene pool which, if lost, would have a negative effect on the overall diversity of the breed. Working in partnership with the Gloucestershire Old Spots Pig Breeders Club and RBST, the BPA identified the sows and boars within the herd that capture the widest possible range of diversity and attempted to find new homes for as many of them as possible.

A total of 12 sows and two boars were moved from the herd representing 10 different sires and 11 different sows. The sows are all in the top 10 per cent of least-related females when compared with the whole GOS population and this unique gene pool has been saved and will be bred back into the national herd.

RBST's study into the carbon content of wool

> *To challenge the argument that sheep are irredeemably bad for the environment RBST ran a project looking at the carbon content of wool and the extent to which sheep have the potential to be a carbon sink.*

Historically, UK sheep breeds have had a significant economic, environmental and cultural impact – in fact, this country was built on the wealth generated by the wool trade. Over recent times, however, wool has become less popular and increasingly the practice of farming the sheep that produce it has been viewed in a negative light in terms of its contribution to climate change. Although the data are complicated and incomplete, RBST recognises that there is a significant issue with the perception of the effect of greenhouse gases (GHG) from sheep farming, so this study was designed to help fill that data gap.

The overall aim of this project was to investigate the quality of wool samples according to composition of carbon, nitrogen and hydrogen isotopes. The study was focused on elemental analysis of wool samples from the following breeds: Whiteface Dartmoor, Devon and Cornwall Longwool, Greyface Dartmoor, Cotswold, Lincoln Longwool, Wensleydale, Border Leicester, North Ronaldsay, Leicester Longwool, Portland, Balwen, Suffolk, Herdwick, Teeswater, Gritstone, Torwen and Torddu Badger Face, Icelandic, and others.

Overall, the study indicated that if farmed extensively, in systems that reflect the environments they have evolved for, our native breed sheep can play their part in carbon sequestration through their fleeces. Sheep and their wool are part of the natural cycle and one of wool's greatest properties as a sustainable material is that it is biodegradable and so capable of ultimately returning the carbon it stores to the soil.



Delivering on priorities

Large White project moves forward

> ***Pigs selected for the project designed to save the Large White have started moving to their new homes during 2023 to be used to establish new herds.***

The project, which is being carried out in conjunction with the British Pig Association (BPA), aims to increase numbers and improve geographical distribution of the breed, following concerns highlighted by the 2022 Watchlist.

Pigs are being selected on the basis of their genetic importance and being transferred to new locations where they will be part of properly managed and supervised conservation breeding programmes. The programmes will be based on improving significant Large White lines and will set out objectives for the line as a whole and for the specific keeper with supervision through designated members of BPA's Junior Pig Club. As the pigs produce their litters, the offspring will be further dispersed to appropriate keepers to reinvest back into the breed.

Gilts from the Queen and Lassie lines and a boar from the Prince line have been moved to new homes and it is hoped that the Prince boar will produce a boar to go to Deerpark in Ireland for the Gene Bank.

Additional pigs and locations have also been identified to enable pigs to be bred from the Primrose, Dainty Girl, Fanny and Greenback lines.

Increasing the gene pool for a longwool breed

Using the RBST Gene Bank and the Ovine Semen Archive, the Devon and Cornwall Longwool Association has taken steps to increase the breed's gene pool, working with semen dating back as far as the 1990s.

With a gene pool that was getting smaller, breeders were faced with a limited choice of unrelated rams while at the same time some of the breed's semen store was being reduced as part of the rationalisation of the Ovine Semen Archive. This was seen as a great opportunity to make use of the Archive and bring back old blood and through the RBST Gene Bank, the breeders were able to select rams and access genetics not freely available or present in the current breeding population.

The project was undertaken on a trial basis open to Association Council members, five of whom took sheep to a central meeting point where 20 ewes were artificially inseminated using four different rams dating back to 1999. About 80% of the ewes took and the lambs produced were a 50/50 split between ewes and rams. The AI lambs were registered with a different code so that the Association can follow individual rams and their offspring.



Working Shire



Dales ponies

RBST study shows the versatility of native equines

> ***In 2022 RBST gained funding from the Horserace Betting Levy Board (HBLB) for a three-year equine conservation project designed to improve significantly RBST's ability to support both breed societies and individual breeders in the conservation status of our native equine breeds.***

The first year of the project focused on evidence gathering to better understand the challenges and included a versatility study which was completed in 2023.

British native equines are some of the most versatile in the world. Hardy, adaptable and intelligent, they come in all shapes and sizes. Developed and adapted for a variety of uses across the centuries, historically equines have played an important role in society, providing transport, traction and haulage – equines were, literally, 'workhorses'.

As part of RBST's equine conservation project, we wanted to showcase the versatility of native equines and provide a snapshot of their place in society today.

Fewer than 7% of respondents work their horses in their traditional capacity or within a new role. Excluding riding schools or trekking facilities, the breeds which are still working in traditional roles are Shire and Suffolk horses and Dales and Highland ponies. These animals are used for ploughing, farm work, snigging and logging and the removal of large game from inaccessible areas.

However, the unique characteristics and intelligence of our native equines easily has led them to forge new roles and results of the survey evidenced just how versatile our native breeds and their part-breds are, with horses and ponies competing successfully in endurance, eventing, dressage, show jumping, le trec, driving, showing, and agility.

Delivering on priorities

Reinvigorating the Redcap



> *The Derbyshire Redcap clan breeding programme is part of the Native Poultry Project which aims to increase the genetic diversity and numbers of identified priority breeds.*

The true number of any poultry breed is difficult to establish. However, recognised and recorded numbers of the Derbyshire Redcap are low - the 2022 census of Derbyshire Redcaps recorded fewer than 200 birds - and it is now a breed designated by RBST as a priority for action.

The Native Poultry Project was launched by RBST in the spring of 2021 with the aim of reinvigorating breeds identified as being at risk of genetic decline. The project operates a 'clan' system of breeding which ensures that male birds are rotated amongst breeding groups, in contrast to the 'line breeding' which some poultry breeders operate.

The project started with 12 clans, stretching from Essex in the South to Hull in the North East and in 2022 the project retained forty-two more pullets and three breed standard cockerels. Not every clan returned growth in the first year and, anecdotally, problems arose with the hot summer affecting fertility and some breeders restricting breeding in anticipation of another winter lockdown. Some birds sadly fell prey to predators and those clans had to be started afresh in 2023. However, this was an encouraging start with new genetic patterns and profiles being developed.

Spreading SPARKS

With a growing number of equine breed societies turning to SPARKS to inform their members' breeding programmes, RBST, in conjunction with the system's developer Dr Andy Dell, has produced guidance notes on the core principles which should be followed when providing the mare-based sheets.

SPARKS is an advisory scheme designed to promote the genetic health of a breed, intended to be used by breeders to help in making breeding decisions. The key to the success of SPARKS is ensuring breeders have access to the respective data sheets. It is essential, therefore, that the sheets are made available to any breeder with a legitimate use for them, at no cost, whether or not they are member of the breed society. It is also important that the sheets are accompanied by a current copy of the guidance notes.

SPARKS was first adopted by the Cleveland Bay Horse Society in 2004 and is now being used by the Eriskay Pony, Suffolk Horse, Shire Horse, Dales Pony and Exmoor Pony Breed Societies.

Silent killers

One of the reasons that RBST collects genetic materials for long-term preservation is as an insurance policy against large numbers of our rare breeds being lost due to a major disease outbreak. However, it is not only the headline-hitting epidemics that can threaten numerically challenged breeds, and livestock keepers – and would-be keepers – need to be aware of the 'silent killers' that the public rarely gets to hear about.

The average person tends to know of the impact of livestock disease only from news reports; from the catastrophic consequences of the Foot and Mouth outbreak of 2001 to the more recent debates over TB in cattle and the impact of avian influenza. What most do not realise is that there are ongoing threats of both transmittable and genetically transferred diseases. In large commercial flocks and herds, these may be something that can be mitigated by the scale of operation, but the smaller the breed population, the more impact it can have.

So, as well as working with DEFRA and other bodies to put in place plans for a worst-case scenario, RBST works with breed societies and breeders to identify these more silent killers and raise awareness within breeding circles so that measures can be taken to avoid or eliminate the threats.

One way in which RBST highlights the threats posed by 'silent killers' is with a regular series of articles in The Ark magazine. These highlight specific disease threats and the measures needed to protect against or deal with them. The articles also highlight the part that members of the general public can play in keeping disease from our livestock – measures such as clearing up after dogs when walking in the countryside to help prevent the spread of neosporosis or making sure that any food waste is disposed of safely and securely.

The better-informed livestock owners are, the less the risk of disease entering their herd or flock. With numbers for some breeds at alarmingly low levels, the loss of animals to disease can have a disproportionate impact on the security of the whole breed, so every keeper or potential keeper has another role to play in conservation by being vigilant to disease threats.

Review of bovine Gene Bank

The collection and storage of native breed genetics, in the form of frozen semen and, increasingly, embryos, in the RBST Gene Bank plays an essential role in conserving genetic diversity and as insurance against disease.

It provides a vital archive of the heritage genetics that represent the building blocks of today's breeds which means that as breeds develop to meet commercial needs, we can ensure that the original 'pure' genetics are preserved and can be drawn on in the future. It is also an important resource for breeders looking to ensure that the genetic diversity of their pedigree herds is maintained or improved.

However, with over 100,000 straws in storage, the resources involved in running the Gene Bank are significant and the collection, storage and management of the genetic material requires considerable financial and time commitments. So when, in 2022, RBST was informed of increasing bovine semen storage charges, the decision was made to undertake a full review to ensure that what was in the bank remains consistent with its conservation objectives.

Each breed society was invited to be involved in the process and each breed was reviewed, identifying the bulls in store, looking at any conditions placed on donated semen and identifying breeds and individuals no longer appropriate for Gene Bank storage.

It was agreed that it was appropriate to remove completely the collections from certain bulls, whilst with others the number of doses stored per individual was reduced. The rationalisation of the semen stored represents a significant reduction in monthly storage costs whilst ensuring that we are running a Gene Bank that is fit-for-purpose for our ongoing conservation aims. The exercise has also revealed opportunities by highlighting breeds in greater need of increased representation in the Gene Bank.

Delivering on priorities

Consultancy advice and training

RBST consultancy service

With half a century's experience of studying native livestock and equines, their behaviour and their impact on the natural environment, RBST's expertise in the use and management of native breeds is second to none.

RBST's Consultancy Service makes this expertise available to land managers and owners wanting to keep native livestock and equines on larger holdings, whether as part of a diversified farm business, an ecological restoration project or a move towards "wilder farming".

Advice is provided to landowners and farmers to help them achieve their ecological and commercial goals for a more regenerative farming future. RBST uses its combination of conservation breeding and research programmes, population monitoring, education, advocacy and grass roots practices to inform practical, implementation-focused advice.

> ***The RBST input was comprehensive and very helpful. They looked at various cattle, pig and wild pony breeds that would suit our purposes and help us achieve our wilding vision.***
>
> **Yan Swiderski**,
> The Hamatethy Estate.

The RBST conservation team offers support in scoping a project, selecting breeds and species to achieve ecological and commercial goals, managing their welfare needs, registrations, unlocking potential support payments, infrastructure requirements and sourcing the animals themselves.

All proceeds from the RBST Consultancy Service go towards continuing RBST's work to secure a future for the UK's native breeds.



Large Black pigs at Hamatethy



Conservation grazing course- Sandwell March 2023

RBST courses

RBST was one of the first organisations to recognise the conservation benefits of managed livestock grazing and, as a result, has an unparalleled degree of expertise and experience.

RBST runs three LANTRA-accredited courses: Conservation Grazing in Practice, Advanced Conservation Grazing in Practice and Livestock Checkers. The Conservation Grazing in Practice course, run over two days, provides a basic introduction to extensive/conservation grazing and the use of livestock to achieve environmental objectives. The advanced course, also run over two days, provides experienced graziers with a comprehensive insight into some of the more advanced aspects of conservation grazing, including grazing ecology, physiology and designing complex grazing systems.

The one-day livestock checkers course provides a basic introduction to stock checking in the conservation/land-based sector. It is ideal for beginners, volunteers or anyone with limited experience of livestock. The course covers animal health and welfare, key legislation, the role and responsibilities of a stock checker and how to safely and effectively check livestock.

Both courses are delivered by LANTRA accredited trainers and all delegates receive a LANTRA certificate after successful completion of the course.

> ***Whatever your relationship to conservation grazing is, non-existent to experienced, the RBST grazing course provided an extensive, accessible and comprehensive overview of how to efficiently and ethically utilise livestock used for grazing. The plentiful resources and practical activities and the knowledge to be gained by both were excellently taught, and heightened by the course lecturers' own knowledge. Working within conservation grazing, the course allowed us to share ideas, learn new ideas and ultimately improve our efficacy and welfare.***
>
> **Fleur White**,
> Essex Wildlife Trust.

RBST is delighted to be the chosen provider of conservation grazing training to organisations including the National Trust, RSPB and Wildlife Trusts and has been awarded a three-year contract with Natural England.

RBST

Recognition



 Millie, an Oxford Sandy & Black gilt at Heeley City Farm. Photograph by Rachel Gilbert

Our Patron

The Rare Breeds Survival Trust is delighted that His Majesty The King retains his patronage of RBST following the review of Royal patronages conducted by the Royal Household after His Majesty's accession to the throne.

Then Prince of Wales, The King became Patron of RBST in 1986, at a time when many of our native livestock and equine breeds were at the bleakest point in their history. His invaluable and far-sighted support has helped enable significant expansion of RBST's work, as well as many crucial conservation projects and farm park programmes. His Majesty's own animals have been key to a number of RBST breeding programmes to help secure vulnerable, irreplaceable genetic bloodlines, and he has given a home to new herds that RBST has formed to save some of our very rarest breeds.



Our President

Baroness (Sue) Hayman of Ullock continues in her role as RBST President and chaired the 2023 AGM.

A Labour Life Peer, Baroness Hayman of Ullock has sat under the title in the House of Lords since September 2020 and she is Shadow Spokesperson for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. Sue Hayman previously served as Member of Parliament for Workington between 2015 and 2019, becoming Shadow Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs in 2017.

In her role as President, she is helping RBST to make the case for securing a sustainable future for native livestock and equines in Parliament and across the wider political world.



Recognition

Media coverage highlights 2023


Britain's classic pig breeds in danger as pork industry shrinks

High production costs for farmers lead to 'worrying and worsening' decline in new births

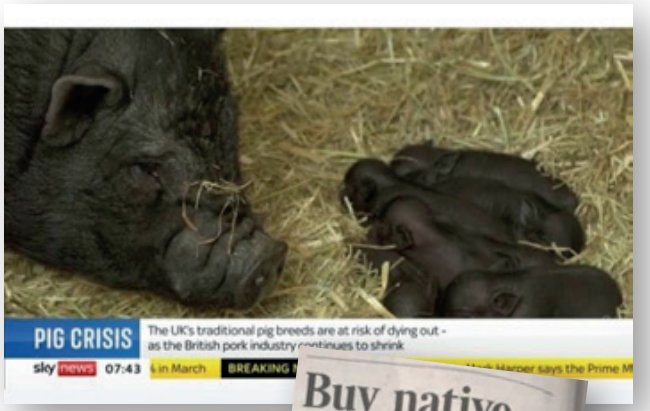
The primary objectives of RBST media activity for 2023 were to maximise the impact of RBST's 50th anniversary activity and associated messages; to use the 50th anniversary milestone to increase the exposure and traction of our commercial and environmental messages; and to maintain our voice on the key issues relevant to the promotion and conservation of native livestock and equine breeds. Promotion of the joint RBST/FCL Take The Common To Town events series also became an objective during the year.

Coverage highlights include:

Launch of the new RBST Watchlist in April 2023

- **The Daily Telegraph** – news story in print and online, plus referenced in editor's comment
- **The Guardian** – news story online
- **The Times** – news story online and in print, quoting Christopher Price and Tom Blunt
- **Sky News interview** (TV) – Susan Tanner interviewed on the Sky News breakfast show
- **BBC Radio 4 Farming Today** – focus on Gloucesters in 'Beef Week', interviews with Clifford and Christopher
- **BBC Radio Cymru** – Andrea interviewed in Welsh on breakfast show
- **BBC Look North** (TV)
  - News and photos on breakfast show
  - Helen Wray at Gam Farm on lunchtime and evening news
- **Farmers Weekly** – news story online & in print
- **Farmers Guardian** – full page article in print
- **Country Life** – news story in print
- **Horse & Hound** – news story in print
- **Showing World / Native Pony** – news story online
- **Pig World** – news story online
- **Farming UK** – news story online
- **South West Farmer** – news story online
- **Farm Life (NI)** – news story online
- **The Scottish Farmer** – news online & in print
- **Devon Live** – news story online
- **Cornwall Live** – news story online
- **Western Morning News** – news story in print
- **Eastern Daily Press** – news story
- **Yorkshire Post (Country Week)** – native pigs news story in print (farming pages) and native equines news story in print (equestrian pages)
- **The Courier** – news story in print
- **The Press & Journal** – news story in print
- **Anglia Farmer** – news story in print
- **Tractor & Farming heritage magazine**
- **The Country Smallholding magazine** – double page spread

Total Watchlist reach estimate (through launch media alone) – 9,995,701 readers




Eat native breed pigs to save their bacon, says trust as numbers fall

Three British piggies Rare varieties under threat

Buy native pork to save pigs' bacon

Matilda Davies

50th anniversary commentary and events

- **BBC Radio 4 Farming Today** – Rheged event report and interviews
- **Farmers Guardian** – 50th anniversary opinion article from Christopher Price (January)
- **Farmers Guardian** – 50th anniversary Backbone section article (October)
- **The Country Smallholding** – 50th anniversary opinion article
- **Farm Week (NI)** – 50th anniversary commentary article
- **Western Morning News** – Heligan event report
- **East Anglian Daily Times** – Jimmy's Farm event report
- **BBC Radio Ulster** – Tannaghmore report and interviews
- **Country Life** – House of Lords reception, and Heligan event report
- **Country Life** - Native breed profiles in each weekly issue of Country Life magazine
- **The People's Friend magazine** – in-depth article on 50th anniversary and interview with Tom Blunt
- **Scottish titles including The Scottish Farmer, The Courier, The Press & Journal** – RBST Scotland's Farm to Fork conference
- **Countryfile** - special compilation programme fronted by Adam Henson

Rare Breeds Week on BBC Radio 4's Farming Today (December 2023)

- **Overview and modern uses** (interview with Christopher)
- **Welsh Pigs** (with interview from Andrea)
- **Abattoirs announcement**, including RBST response
- **Interviews with RBST members** (North Ronaldsays, Canon Hall Farm, Suffolk Horse)





Recognition

Media coverage highlights 2023



Maintaining our messages on modern uses and commercial potential with native breeds

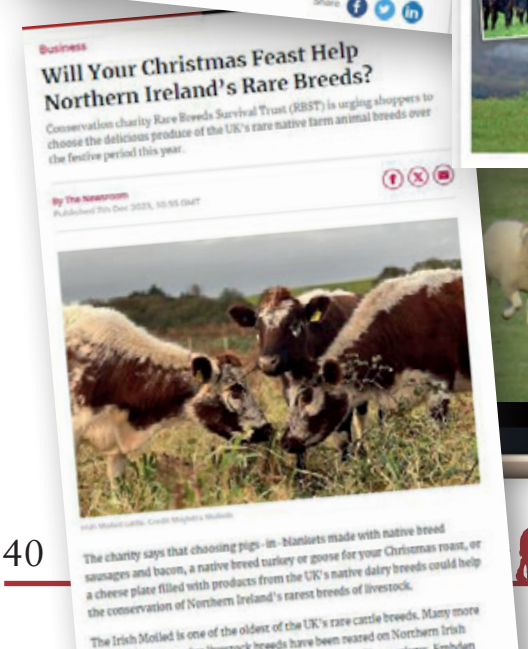
- **The i Paper** – 'Tastier Meat and Greener Farming On the Way', article on native breeds based on interviews with Christopher Price and Geordie Soutar
- **The Economist** – 'Saving Your Bacon' overview of native breeds and their benefits
- **Farmers Guardian** – diversification article (farm shops, cafes & restaurants with native breeds)
- **RBST Commercial Trends Survey** – Western Morning News, Western Daily Press, Farmers Guardian
- **Abattoirs** – campaign, fund announcement, fund launch coverage including articles in the Yorkshire Post, Western Morning News, Farmers Weekly, Farmers Guardian, BBC R4 Farming Today and Country Life
- **NFU Countryside** – best breeds for smallholders
- **Horse & Hound** - modern uses for native equines in equine seminar report
- **Key commercial messages** featured in all coverage related to 50th anniversary
- **Coverage of the Small Producers Pilot Fund announcement** and the RBST Scotland conference (Farming press including Farmers Guardian)

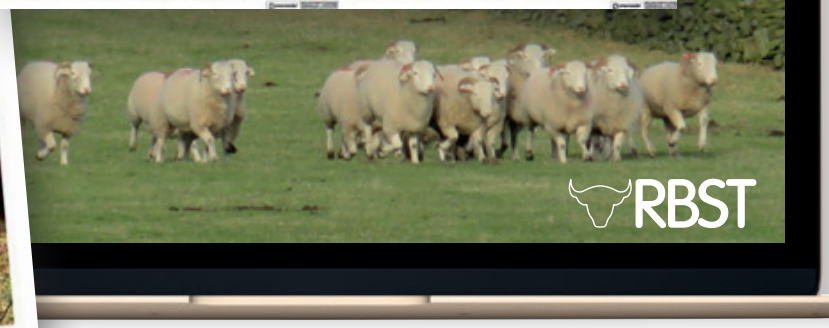














Supporting rare breed farmers by promoting produce

- **Waitrose's native breed beef pledge** (including in depth retailer feature in Western Morning News)
- **Readers Digest** – 'Slow Food' recipes
- **Local produce at Christmas** – including articles in:
  - Western Morning News
  - Western Daily Press
  - Yorkshire Post
  - The Craven Herald
  - Eastern Daily Press
  - East Anglian Daily Times
  - Great Yarmouth Mercury
  - North West Evening Mail
  - The Courier
  - The Press & Journal
  - Farm Life (NI)
  - Brecon & Radnor Express

Poultry focus

- **The Country Smallholder** – Chickens
- **The Country Smallholder** – Ducks
- **The Country Smallholder** – Geese
- **NFU Countryside magazine** – poultry breeds feature

Take The Common To Town event series

- **April** - Telford: Radio interview on BBC Radio Shropshire (Andrea Parry-Jones)
- **June** - Barrow-in-Furness: The Westmorland Gazette
- **June** - Barrow-in-Furness: The NWE Mail
- **August** - Torre Abbey: Western Morning News article in print
- **August** - Torre Abbey: Interview on BBC Radio Devon (Roy Endacott)
- **August** - Temple Newsam: The Yorkshire Post in print and online
- **August** - Temple Newsam: Leeds Star
- **October** - Smithills Hall: The Bolton News (promoting the event beforehand)
- **October** - Smithills Hall: The Bolton News (reporting on the event the day afterwards)
- **November** - Barrow Natural Christmas Market: NWE Mail
- **December 2023** - Barrow Natural Christmas Market: NWE Mail

Coverage of other areas of focus

- **Country Life** - Coronation Issue essay
- **Coronation Fund campaign commentary** (Mail on Sunday, Daily Telegraph, Farmers Guardian)
- **Dartmoor management review response** (Farmers Weekly, Western Morning News)
- **Cleveland Bay profile** in NFU Countryside magazine
- **Reviews of the year** – Western Morning News, Western Daily Press and The Country Smallholder
- **Trustee appointments** – Worcestershire and Scotland press
- **Country Living magazine** - breed profiles
- **Groundswell seminar** – Farmers Guardian
- **Response to Limousin Cattle Society carbon claims** – Farmers Guardian
- **BBC Radio Ulster interview** – grazing with sheep / cattle to regenerate the Mournes
- **Response to JRM Australian beef comments** in Farmers Weekly

Key Points for Consideration Into 2024

- ***We will seek opportunities to increase proactive equine coverage.***
- ***A reduced need for events promotion activity in 2024 will enable greater focus on our other objectives.***
- ***We are making the Watchlist launch more of an 'event' each year – crucial that we keep up momentum in 2024.***
- ***Diversification – we will seek new angles, data and case studies to continue communicating this message.***
- ***We need to prepare for, and get ahead of, debate on native breeds and carbon impact, particularly cattle.***
- ***Wales remains a more challenging region for securing coverage. In 2024 we will seek new case studies and offer interviews with Andrea Parry-Jones / identify local spokespeople.***





Golden Guernsey kids

#NativeBreedsForModernNeeds

Financial Review

Operating statement

	2023				2022
	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	**Total**	Total
	£	£	£	**£**	£
Income and endowments from:					
Grants and Donations	48,874	34,000	68,601	**151,475**	119,090
Legacies	124,199	-	-	**124,199**	72,067
Membership Subscriptions (inc Gift Aid)	196,811	-	-	**196,811**	198,387
Charitable Activities	120,708	-	-	**120,708**	55,661
Advertising Revenue	22,279	-	194	**22,473**	15,687
Investments	114,168	-	-	**114,168**	114,761
Total income and endowments	**627,039**	**34,000**	**68,795**	**729,834**	575,653
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	185,247	-	-	**185,247**	171,489
Investment management fees	17,185	-	-	**17,185**	18,176
Charitable activities	374,411	81,889	40,527	**496,827**	474,536
Total expenditure	**576,843**	**81,889**	**40,527**	**699,259**	664,201
Net gains/(losses) on investments	33,103	-	-	**33,103**	(294,184)
Net income/(expenditure)	**83,299**	**(47,889)**	**28,268**	**63,678**	(382,732)

Income

Total income from 2023 was £729,834 compared with £575,653 in 2022. The increase was predominantly driven by an increase in grants and donations, legacies and conservation grazing training.

Legacies are inherently difficult to forecast and have a tendency to be volatile. Thus, RBST budgets for Legacies using long term averages.

Grants and donations were up predominantly due to donations received for the 50th Anniversary, which were well in excess of expectations.

Income from charitable activities in 2023 was £120,708 compared with £55,661 in 2022. The increase was predominantly due to the growing popularity of RBST's conservation grazing courses, particularly amongst the landowning conservation organisations including Natural England.

In line with accounting requirements, investments are revalued at each year end. In 2023 investments returned to a net positive movement in funds of £33,103, a swing of £327,287 from the loss of £294,184 experienced in 2022. As has been flagged in previous years, this figure is simply a snap shot of our investments at a point in time and is highly dependent on the markets at that moment.

Expenditure

Expenditure for 2023 totalled £699,259 compared with £664,201 in 2022. The increase was planned and was driven by an increase in both charitable and fundraising activities. Costs continue to be kept under close control.

Unrestricted spend on Charitable activities increase as the Trust continued to ensure spend was being directed to forwarding the Trust's objectives.

Balance sheet

The Balance Sheet remains robust, with net assets increased by 2% to £3,373,229 at the end of 2023.

Financial Review (continued)

Reserves policy

	31 December 2023	31 December 2022	% Increase/ (Decrease)
Unrestricted funds (Free Reserves)	994,930	903,529	10.1%
Unrestricted funds (Tangible Fixed Assets)	100,150	98,735	1.4%
Total Unrestricted funds	1,095,080	1,002,264	9.3%
Designated Funds:			
- Gene Bank	2,000,000	2,000,000	0.0%
- 50th Anniversary	-	39,396	-
- Conservation – Breed stock	21,709	22,009	-1.4%
- Property improvement fund	132,000	132,000	0.0%
- Lop Fund	8,951	8,951	0.0%
Restricted Funds:			
- Cattle Conservation	5,094	5,487	-7.2%
- Equine Conservation	29,145	23,987	21.5%
- Goat Conservation	2,659	2,659	0.0%
- Pig Conservation	38,162	40,882	-6.7%
- Sheep Conservation	21,562	21,779	-1.0%
- Other projects	10,577	10,437	1.3%
Ratio of Free Reserves to Annual Operating Expenditure	1.4 years	1.4 years	

The charity maintains a large investment portfolio in order to create an income, currently in the region of £114,000, to help fund its charitable activities.

Free reserves are shown in accordance with Charity Commission guidance CC19.

One of the prime objectives of the charity is to ensure the preservation of breeds. Therefore, a Gene Bank is maintained to ensure the characteristics of old and current breeds are conserved. This Gene Bank is treated as a heritage asset, which is irreplaceable. The Trustees have therefore designated £2million to maintain and develop the Gene Bank for the next generation.

The reserves that the Trustees have set aside provide financial stability and the means for the development of our principal activity. The Trustees' aim is for free reserves to always cover at least the annual operating expenditure.

The Trustees regularly review the amount of reserves that are required to ensure that they are adequate to fulfil our continuing obligations.

Investment policy

A medium-risk approach describes the investment policy. Assets are held in the RBST Portfolio which is managed by Evelyn and which invests in a combination of segregated equities and collective funds. The portfolio achieved an income yield of +4.42%, against an average benchmark of +10.11%, which was a below par performance given the market conditions. This will be addressed in 2024. The investment aim is to achieve this income target without detriment to the growth and without incurring unnecessary risk. The value of the RBST portfolio as at 31 December 2023 was £3,122,137 compared with £3,149,353 as at 31 December 2022.

Governance

Structure

RBST is a charity registered with the Charity Commission for England and Wales (Registration No. 269442). It is also a company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales (Registration No. 01204694). It was founded in 1973. Its objects and powers are set out in its Memorandum and Articles of Association.

Trustees

The Board of RBST is comprised of unpaid trustees, with no fewer than six elected from its membership and up to five co-opted. The trustees are also the directors of RBST for the purposes of company law. The Board is responsible for setting policy, agreeing strategy and approving major commitments based on advice from senior management, and the appointment of the Chief Executive Officer. Day-to-day operations are delegated by the Board to the Chief Executive Officer, who leads the executive and volunteer teams. RBST's Memorandum and Articles of Association provide that elected trustees may be appointed for two periods of up to four years, with years being defined by AGMs, at a time and must then take a minimum break of 24 months. Co-opted trustees may be appointed for two periods of up to three years, with years being defined by AGMs, at a time and must then take a minimum break of 24 months. The Board has two principal committees: the Conservation and Research Committee and the Finance and Governance Committee. Membership of these committees along with a full list of trustees and staff at the time of writing of this report are provided at the end of this report. The Conservation and Research Committee advises the Board of Trustees on strategic issues concerning conservation programmes and related activities. The Finance and Governance Committee is responsible for reviewing RBST's financial performance and matters relating to management, organisation, governance, investments and risk management. Each new trustee is provided with training and an induction, where s/he learns about the organisation and the role and responsibilities of a trustee. The induction includes a pack containing the Charity Commission guidance 'The Essential Trustee'; RBST's governing documents; and the most recent annual report and financial statements. Trustees receive ongoing training, receive charity law updates, and are involved in strategic sessions relating to the operations during the year.

Statement of Trustees' responsibilities

The trustees (who are also directors of RBST for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom generally accepted accounting practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards). Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under company law the trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they 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 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 2019 (FRS 102);
- make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charitable company's transactions, 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, and the provisions of the Charity's constitution. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

In so far as the trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditor is unaware; and
- the trustees have taken all reasonable steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information. The trustees are also responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website.

Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Governance (continued)

Grant making policy

RBST occasionally makes donations or grants, in line with its charitable and strategic objectives, to partners in the RBST network, the outcomes of which are reviewed at regular periods.

Public benefit

In reviewing RBST's charitable objectives and as part of planning its future programme of work, the trustees of RBST have taken account of the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and have considered how the planned programme of work will consistently contribute to the Charity's aims and objectives.

Remuneration policy

RBST's approach to remuneration across the organisation is designed to ensure it can attract and retain the talented and motivated people it needs to deliver its mission.

Fundraising Regulator Statement of Compliance

The charity does not contract with a third party to undertake any fundraising on its behalf. The charity does employ a fundraising officer who initiates campaigns and supports fundraising activities.

The charity only makes fundraising approaches to contacts who have given explicit consent to receive such campaign documentation under GDPR guidelines. We have received no fundraising complaints during the year.

Risk management

The trustees have reviewed the major risks to which the charity is exposed and confirm that systems have been established to mitigate those risks. Particular attention has focused on Support Groups. These and other risks are kept under review. A full review of the risk register will be carried out next year.

Trustees Indemnity

The charity has Trustees' indemnity insurance in place.

Our employees & volunteers

The delivery of RBST's mission relies on talented and motivated people, and RBST is proud of the performance of its staff and volunteers across the UK. The trustees and Chief Executive Officer encourage widespread consultation and exchange of information at all levels of the organisation and continue to work together on a range of actions to improve employee and volunteer engagement, ensuring that RBST remains a great place to work and volunteer.

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

The trustees are committed to addressing equality, diversity and inclusion, recognising that doing so helps a board to make better decisions and means RBST is more likely to stay relevant to those it serves and to deliver its public benefit. Trustees will work to recognise and counter any imbalances in power, perspectives or opportunities in RBST, and in the attitudes and behaviour of trustees, staff and volunteers, so helping to make sure RBST achieves its aims.

The trustees' report (including the directors' report) was approved by the Board of trustees on 13 June 2024 and was signed on their behalf by:



John Atkinson

Chairman of the Board of trustees

Date: 13 June 2024

Independent Auditors Report

Year Ended 31 December 2023

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of the Rare Breeds Survival Trust (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 December 2023 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, Balance Sheet, Statement of Cashflows and 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 charitable company's affairs as at 31 December 2023, and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

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

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

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

Other information

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

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

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

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

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

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 45, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the

Independent Auditors Report (continued)

going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

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 specific procedures for this engagement and the extent to which these are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

- Enquiry of management, those charged with governance around actual and potential litigation and claims;
- Enquiry of entity staff in compliance functions to identify any instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations;
- Reviewing minutes of meetings of those charged with governance;
- Reviewing financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations.
- Performing audit work over the risk of management override of controls, including testing of journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness, evaluating the business rationale of significant transactions outside the normal course of business and reviewing accounting estimates for bias.

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

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (UK), we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the charitable company's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the trustees.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the charitable company to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Use of our report

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



Geoffrey Cox BA FCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
For and on behalf of Dafferns LLP, Statutory Auditor
One Eastwood
Binley Business Park
Coventry, CV3 2UB
Date: 13 June 2024

Statement of Financial Activities

(Including Income and Expenditure Account)
Year Ended 31 December 2023

		2023				2022
		Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	**Total**	Total
	Note	£	£	£	**£**	£
Income and endowments from:						
Donations and legacies	2	369,884	34,000	68,601	**472,485**	389,544
Charitable activities	3	120,708	-	-	**120,708**	55,661
Other trading activities	4	22,279	-	194	**22,473**	15,687
Investments	5	14,168	-	-	**114,168**	114,761
Total income and endowments		**627,039**	**34,000**	**68,795**	**729,834**	575,653
Expenditure on:						
Raising funds		185,247	-	-	**185,247**	171,489
Investment management fees		17,185	-	-	**17,185**	18,176
Charitable activities	6	374,411	81,889	40,527	**496,827**	474,536
Total expenditure		**576,843**	**81,889**	**40,527**	**699,259**	664,201
Net gains/(losses) on investments	15	33,103	-	-	**33,103**	(294,184)
Net income/(expenditure)		**83,299**	**(47,889)**	**28,268**	**63,678**	(382,732)
Transfers between funds	20	9,517	8,493	(18,010)	-	-
Other recognised gains/(losses):						
Gains/(losses) on revaluation of fixed assets	13	-	(300)	-	**(300)**	(2,770)
Net movement in funds		**92,816**	**(39,696)**	**10,258**	**63,378**	(385,502)
Reconciliation of funds:						
Total funds brought forward	20	1,002,264	2,202,356	105,231	**3,309,851**	3,695,353
Total funds carried forward	20	**1,095,080**	**2,162,660**	**115,489**	**3,373,229**	3,309,851

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities. Activities relating to the Gene bank are disclosed in note 14.

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised during the year.

Balance sheet

Year Ended 31 December 2023

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	13	**100,150**	98,735
Heritage assets	14	**-**	-
Investments	15	**3,122,137**	3,149,353
		3,222,287	3,248,088
Current assets			
Stocks	16	**28,848**	15,324
Debtors	17	**116,925**	61,172
Cash at bank and in hand		**68,914**	48,747
		214,687	125,243
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	18	**63,745**	63,480
Net current assets		**150,942**	61,763
Net assets		**3,373,229**	3,309,851
Charity Funds			
Unrestricted funds	20	**1,095,080**	1,002,264
Designated funds	20	**2,162,660**	2,202,356
Restricted funds	20	**115,489**	105,231
Total charity funds		**3,373,229**	3,309,851

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Board on 13 June 2024.

Signed on behalf of the Board of trustees





John Atkinson, Chairman of Trustees,

Martin Penny, Treasurer

The notes on pages 52 to 63 form part of these financial statements

Company registration number: 01204694

Statement of cash flows

Year Ended 31 December 2023

	2023	2022
	£	£
Cash flow from operating activities	**(143,841)**	(212,738)
Cash flow from investing activities		
Payments to acquire tangible fixed assets	**(10,479)**	(3,141)
Payments to acquire investments	**(691,667)**	(74,632)
Receipts from sales of investments	**751,986**	171,167
Interest received	**18,612**	10,889
Dividends received	**95,556**	103,872
Net cash flow from investing activities	**164,008**	208,155
Net increase / (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	**20,167**	(4,583)
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 January 2023	**48,747**	53,330
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 December 2023	**68,914**	48,747
Cash and cash equivalents consists of:		
Cash at bank and in hand	**68,914**	48,747
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 December 2023	**68,914**	48,747

	2023	2022
	£	£
Reconciliation of net income/(expenditure) to net cash flow from operating activities		
Net income / (expenditure) for year	**63,378**	(385,502)
Dividends received	**(95,556)**	(103,872)
Interest receivable	**(18,612)**	(10,889)
Depreciation and impairment of tangible fixed assets	**9,064**	9,133
(Gains) / losses on investments	**(33,103)**	294,184
(Increase) in stock	**(13,524)**	(7,964)
(Increase) in debtors	**(55,753)**	(25,682)
Increase in creditors	**265**	17,855
Net cash flow from operating activities	**(143,841)**	(212,738)

Analysis of changes in net debt

	31/12/22	Cashflows	**31/12/23**
	£	£	**£**
Cash and cash equivalents	48,747	20,167	**68,914**

Notes to the financial statements

Year Ended 31 December 2023

1 Summary of significant accounting policies

(a) General information and basis of preparation

Rare Breeds Survival Trust is an incorporated charity registered in England. In the event of the charity being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member of the charity. The address of the registered office is Avenue Q, Stoneleigh Park, Kenilworth, Warwickshire, CV8 2LG. The nature of the charity's operations and principal activities are:

- For the benefit of the public to ensure the preservation of breeds and breeding groups of domestic farm livestock of importance in the promotion of agriculture being breeds at risk, and having characteristics worthy of preservation in the interests of zoological research and education to ensure the preservation of genes of special or potential value in hybridisation or other work; and
- To conduct, carry out and promote research within all areas of the Trust's interest to increase knowledge and to publish the results of such research.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland issued in October 2019, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006 and UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

The financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis under the historical cost convention, modified to include certain items at fair value. The financial statements are presented in sterling which is the functional currency of the charity and rounded to the nearest £1.

The significant accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all years presented unless otherwise stated.

A network of volunteer support groups is constituted within the Trust and accordingly the accounts include their financial activities.

(b) Funds

Unrestricted funds 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. Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the trustees for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements. The cost of raising and administering such funds is charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

(c) Income recognition

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when the charity is legally entitled to the income after any performance conditions have been met, the amount can be measured reliably, and it is probable that the income will be received.

Subscriptions are included in the Income and Expenditure Account in the accounting period in which they are received.

This treatment is also adopted for the limited number of subscriptions received from new life members.

For donations to be recognised the charity will have been notified of the amounts and the settlement date in writing. If there are conditions attached to the donation and this requires a level of performance before entitlement can be obtained then income is deferred until those conditions are fully met or the fulfilment of those conditions is within the control of the charity and it is probable that they will be fulfilled.

Donated facilities and donated professional services are recognised in income at their fair value when their economic benefit is probable, it can be measured reliably and the charity has control over the item. Fair value is determined on the basis of the value of the gift to the charity, for example the amount the charity would be willing to pay in the open market for such facilities and services. A corresponding amount is recognised in expenditure.

No amount is included in the financial statements for volunteer time in line with the SORP (FRS 102). Further detail is given in the Trustees' Annual Report.

For legacies, entitlement is the earlier of the charity being notified of an impending distribution or the legacy being received. At this point income is recognised. On occasion legacies will be notified to the charity for which it is not possible to measure the amount expected to be distributed. On these occasions, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset and disclosed.

Income from trading activities includes income earned from fundraising events and trading activities to raise funds for the charity. Income is received in exchange for supplying goods and services in order to raise funds and is recognised when entitlement has occurred.

Investment income is earned through holding assets for investment purposes such as shares and property. It includes dividends, interest and rent. Where it is not practicable to identify investment management costs incurred within a scheme with reasonable accuracy the investment income is reported net of these costs. It is included when the amount can be measured reliably. Interest income is recognised using the effective interest method and dividend and rent income is recognised as the charity's right to receive payment is established.

(d) Expenditure recognition

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Expenditure is recognised where there is a legal or constructive obligation to make payments to third parties, it is probable that the settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. It is categorised under the following headings:

- Costs of raising funds includes fundraising and non-charitable trading activities;
- Expenditure on charitable activities includes costs of services and of grants, also support costs and depreciation on related assets; and
- Other expenditure represents those items not falling into the categories above.

Irrecoverable VAT is charged as an expense against the activity for which expenditure arose.

(e) Support costs allocation

Support costs are those that assist the work of the charity but do not directly represent charitable activities and include office costs, governance costs, and administrative payroll costs. They are incurred directly in support of expenditure on the objects of the charity and include project management carried out at Headquarters. All support costs have been allocated on the basis of number of employees. Fund-raising costs are those incurred in seeking voluntary contributions and do not include the costs of disseminating information in support of the charitable activities.

The analysis of these costs is included in note 7.

Notes to the financial statements (continued)

Year Ended 31 December 2023

(f) Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost (or deemed cost) or valuation less accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses. Cost includes costs directly attributable to making the asset capable of operating as intended. Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets, at rates calculated to write off the cost, less estimated residual value, of each asset on a systematic basis over its expected useful life as follows:

Leasehold land and buildings	Over the period of the lease
Office and Computer Equipment	10%-33% according to the nature of the asset
Conservation Breeding Stock (agisted)	Annual Revaluation

(g) Heritage assets

The Gene Bank is a collection of semen and embryos obtained from rare breeds of cattle, horses, sheep, goats and pigs. It acts as an archive to preserve bloodlines of breeds. Each year additions are made to the archive to ensure that it includes the current characteristics of a breed. The archive is regarded as an irreplaceable resource which cannot be valued with any degree of accuracy and will never be sold. As such it generates no income and so has no realisable value. Therefore it does not have a carrying value in the balance sheet. The costs incurred in maintaining the archive for conservation purposes are written off each year.

(h) Investments

Investments are recognised initially at fair value which is normally the transaction price excluding transaction costs. Subsequently, they are measured at fair value with changes recognised in 'net gains / (losses) on investments' in the SoFA if the shares are publicly traded or their fair value can otherwise be measured reliably. Other investments are measured at cost less impairment.

(i) Stocks

Stocks comprise genetic resources, which are not part of the Gene Bank, and goods for resale. Genetic resources are valued at the lower of cost of production and market value. Retail stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

(j) Debtors and creditors receivable / payable within one year

Debtors and creditors with no stated interest rate and receivable or payable within one year are recorded at transaction price. Any losses arising from impairment are recognised in expenditure.

(k) Impairment

Assets not measured at fair value are reviewed for any indication that the asset may be impaired at each balance sheet date. If such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset, or the asset's cash generating unit, is estimated and compared to the carrying amount. Where the carrying amount exceeds its recoverable amount, an impairment loss is recognised in profit or loss unless the asset is carried at a revalued amount where the impairment loss is a revaluation decrease.

(l) Leases

Assets acquired under finance leases are capitalised and depreciated over the shorter of the lease term and the expected useful life of the asset. Minimum lease payments are apportioned between the finance charge and the reduction of the outstanding lease liability using the effective interest method. The related obligations, net of future finance charges, are included in creditors.

Rentals payable and receivable under operating leases are charged to the SoFA on a straight-line basis over the period of the lease.

(m) Employee benefits

When employees have rendered service to the charity, short-term employee benefits to which the employees are entitled are recognised at the undiscounted amount expected to be paid in exchange for that service. The charity operates a defined contribution pension plan for the benefit of its employees. Contributions are expensed as they become payable. The Trust agrees to pay a defined contribution into the employee's own personal pension scheme for eligible employees. The pension charge represents contributions payable by the Trust for the period. The Trust's liability is limited to the amount of the contribution. The liability for meeting future pension payments rests solely with the employee's personal pension scheme.

(n) Tax

The charity is an exempt charity within the meaning of schedule 3 of the Charities Act 2011 and is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes.

(o) Financial instruments

The Trust enters into only basic financial instrument transactions that result in the recognition of financial assets and liabilities like trade and other amounts receivable and payable and loans to related parties. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

(p) Going concern

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis as the trustees believe that no material uncertainties exist. The trustees have considered the level of funds held and the expected level of income and expenditure for 12 months from authorising these financial statements. The budgeted income and expenditure is sufficient with the level of reserves for the charity to be able to continue as a going concern.

2 Income from donations and legacies

	2023	2022
	£	£
Grants and donations	**151,475**	119,090
Legacies	**124,199**	72,067
Membership Subscriptions (including gift aid)	**196,811**	198,387
	472,485	389,544

Of the income from donations and legacies of £275,674 (2022 - £191,157), £68,601 (2022 - £56,246) was attributable to restricted, £34,000 (2022 - £nil) was attributable to designated funds and £173,073 (2022 - £134,911) was attributable to unrestricted funds.

Income from membership subscriptions was attributable entirely to unrestricted funds.

Notes to the financial statements (continued)

Year Ended 31 December 2023

3 Income from charitable activities

	2023	2022
	£	£
Conservation activities (including Support Groups)	**120,708**	55,661

Income from charitable activities was attributable to unrestricted funds in both years.

4 Income from other trading activities

	2023	2022
	£	£
Advertising revenue	**22,473**	15,687

Of the income from other trading activities, £194 (2022 - £nil) was attributable to restricted, and £22,279 (2022 - £15,687) was attributable to unrestricted funds.

5 Income from investments

	2023	2022
	£	£
Dividends - equities	**95,556**	103,872
Interest - Fixed interest securities	**18,612**	10,889
	114,168	114,761

Income from investments was attributable to unrestricted funds in both years.

6 Analysis of expenditure on charitable activities

	2023			
	Activities undertaken directly	Grant funding of activities	Support costs	**Total**
	£	£	£	**£**
Conservation Activities (including Support Group)	311,083	-	130,339	**441,422**
ARK Magazine	55,405	-	-	**55,405**
	366,488	**-**	**130,339**	**496,827**

£40,527 (2022 - £34,567) of the above costs were attributable to restricted funds. £81,889 (2022 - £72,941) of the above costs were attributable to designated funds. £374,411 (2022 - £367,028) of the above costs were attributable to unrestricted funds.

7 Allocation of support costs

	2023			
	Raising funds	Conservation Activities	ARK Magazine	**Total**
	£	£	£	**£**
Governance	-	11,034	-	**11,034**
Management salaries and expenses	30,736	61,473	-	**92,209**
Office operational costs and utilities	15,486	30,973	-	**46,459**
Depreciation	2,921	5,843	-	**8,764**
Professional charges	4,347	8,695	-	**13,042**
Irrecoverable VAT	2,892	5,784	-	**8,676**
Other	3,267	6,537	-	**9,804**
Total	**59,649**	**130,339**	**-**	**189,988**

Supports costs, except governance costs, have been allocated based on staff time.

8 Governance costs

		2023	2022
	Note	**£**	£
Trustees' remuneration	11	**-**	-
Trustees' expenses	11	**376**	1,359
Cost of Trustees' meetings and the AGM		**537**	1,715
Auditors' remuneration	10	**6,100**	6,100
Legal fees		**4,021**	21,185
		11,034	30,359

9 Net income / (expenditure) for the year

	2023	2022
	£	£
Net income / (expenditure) is stated after charging / (crediting):		
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	**8,764**	6,363
Operating lease rentals	**2,353**	2,353
Loss/(gain) on fair value movement of investments	**(33,103)**	294,184

10 Auditors' remuneration

The auditors' remuneration amounts to an audit fee of £6,100 (2022 - £6,100) and other services of £13,042 (2022 - £10,643).

Notes to the financial statements (continued)

Year Ended 31 December 2023

11 Trustees' and key management personnel remuneration and expenses

The Trustees neither received nor waived any remuneration during the year (2022 - £nil).

The total amount of employee benefits (these benefits include employer's national insurance and pension costs) received by key management personnel is £176,911 (2022: £171,635). The Trust considers its key management personnel to comprise the Chief Executive Officer and Director of Finance and Operations.

One trustee (2022: Two) was reimbursed expenses as follows:	**2023**	2022
	£	£
Travel	**122**	608
Subsistence	**-**	83
Accommodation	**254**	568
Other	**-**	100
	376	1,359

12 Staff costs and employee benefits

The average monthly number of employees and full time equivalent (FTE) during the year was as follows:

	2023	**2023**	2022	2022
	Number	FTE	Number	FTE
Raising funds	**2**	**2**	2	2
Charitable activities	**4**	**4**	4	3
Governance	**2**	**2**	2	2
	8	**8**	8	7

The total staff costs and employees' benefits was as follows:	**2023**	2022
	£	£
Wages and salaries	**313,998**	293,625
Social security	**33,893**	31,923
Defined contribution pension costs	**15,700**	13,986
	363,591	339,534

The number of employees receiving total employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) of over £60,000 per year was as follows:

	2023	2022
	No.	No.
£60,001 - £70,000	**-**	-
£70,001 - £80,000	**1**	1
£80,001 - £90,000	**-**	-
£90,001 - £100,000	**1**	1

13 Tangible fixed assets

	Short Leasehold	Office & Equipment	Conservation Breeding Stock (Agisted)	**Total**
	£	£	£	**£**
Cost or valuation:				
At 31 December 2022	221,443	157,633	22,010	**401,086**
Additions	-	10,479	-	**10,479**
Revaluation	-	-	(300)	**(300)**
At 31 December 2023	221,443	168,112	21,710	**411,265**
Depreciation:				
At 31 December 2022	150,705	151,646	-	**302,351**
Charge for the year	4,440	4,324	-	**8,764**
At 31 December 2023	155,145	155,970	-	**311,115**
Net book value:				
At 31 December 2023	66,298	12,142	21,710	**100,150**
At 31 December 2022	70,738	5,987	22,010	**98,735**

14 Heritage assets

Heritage assets held are The National Archive Gene Bank and no value has been placed on this asset.

These assets are significant to the charity in order to safeguard the future of rare breeds. Expenditure to acquire preserve and develop The National Archive Gene Bank in the year was £71,318 (2022 - £73,708).

15 Fixed asset investments

	Listed Investments
	£
Cost or valuation	
At 31 December 2022	**3,149,353**
Additions	**691,667**
Disposals	**(751,986)**
Revaluation	**33,103**
At 31 December 2023	**3,122,137**

Investments at fair value comprise:

	2023	2022
	£	£
Equities & unit trusts	**3,064,843**	3,047,670
Cash within investment portfolio	**57,294**	101,683
	3,122,137	3,149,353

The fair value of listed investments is determined by reference to the mid-market value of the unit trusts or quoted share price.

Notes to the financial statements (continued)

Year Ended 31 December 2023

16 Stocks

	2023	2022
	£	£
Semen for sale	**9,000**	6,390
Merchandise stock	**19,848**	8,934
	28,848	15,324

17 Debtors

	2023	2022
	£	£
Trade debtors	**15,137**	11,430
Amounts owed by support groups	**14,453**	18,032
Prepayments and accrued income	**82,531**	26,436
Taxes recoverable	**4,804**	5,274
	116,925	61,172

18 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2023	2022
	£	£
Trade creditors	**13,870**	18,201
Other tax and social security	**9,325**	8,866
Other creditors	**2,838**	2,594
Accruals	**37,712**	33,819
	63,745	63,480

19 Leases

Operating leases – lessee

Total future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases are as follows:

	2023	2022
	£	£
Not later than one year	**2,353**	2,353
Later than one and not later than five years	**8,364**	8,732
Later than five years	**20,130**	22,143
	30,847	33,228

20 Fund reconciliation

	Balance at 31 December 2022	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Gains / (losses)	Balance at 31 December 2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds						
Unrestricted	**1,002,264**	627,039	(576,843)	9,517	33,103	**1,095,080**
Designated Funds						
Gene Bank	**2,000,000**	-	(48,506)	48,506	-	**2,000,000**
50th Anniversary	**39,396**	34,000	(33,383)	(40,013)	-	**-**
Conservation – Breed Stock (Agisted)	**22,009**	-	-	-	(300)	**21,709**
Property improvement fund	**132,000**	-	-	-	-	**132,000**
Lop Fund	**8,951**	-	-	-	-	**8,951**
	2,202,356	34,000	(81,889)	8,493	(300)	**2,162,660**

Unrestricted funds description

Unrestricted funds are those funds 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.

Designated funds description

The archive Gene Bank is held to maintain the Heritage Assets for the benefit of the next generation.

The 50th Anniversary fund was set up to cover costs of various events to commemorate the 50th anniversary in 2023.

The Conservation Breeding Stock (Agisted), reserve is the value of RBST rare breed stock on loan to livestock keepers to increase rare breed population numbers.

The Property improvement fund relates to the proposed refurbishment of the premises at Stoneleigh Park.

The Lop Fund was created to help support the work in regard to British Lop pigs, along with the donation received from the Gerald Fallowes Discretionary Trust.

Restricted funds and Trusts

We are extremely grateful to the charitable trusts and foundations that support our work. Some trusts provide general funding, while others prefer to sponsor specific projects as detailed on page 62.

Notes to the financial statements (continued)

Year Ended 31 December 2023

Restricted funds Fund Descriptions	Balance at 31 December 2022 £	Income £	Expend -iture £	Transfers £	Gains / (losses) £	Balance at 31 December 2023 £
Restricted cattle conservation						
N Bailey Albion Fund	**1,487**	528	-	-	-	**2,015**
Vaynol project	**1,000**	-	-	-	-	**1,000**
Gloucester project	**3,000**	-	(921)	-	-	**2,079**
2019 Cattle Campaign	**-**	40	-	-	-	**40**
Restricted equine conservation						
Houserace Betting Levy Board	**1,274**	-	-	-	-	**1,274**
HBLB 3 year conservation programme	-	15,875	-	(15,875)	-	**-**
Cleveland bay - N Bailey	**1,500**	5,528	(756)	(250)	-	**6,022**
Heavy Horse Appeal 2017	**18,578**	636	-	-	-	**19,214**
Marjorie Coote Animal Charity Trust	**2,634**	-	-	-	-	**2,634**
The Saintbury Trust	**1**	-	-	-	-	**1**
Equine general	**-**	3,000	-	-	-	**3,000**
Restricted goat conservation						
Goat Appeal	**1,196**	-	-	-	-	**1,196**
John Spedan Lewis Foundation	**1,463**	-	-	-	-	**1,463**
Restricted pig conservation						
Conservation General	**6,965**	-	(6,965)	-	-	**-**
PG Fallowes Lop Project	**23,500**	-	(13,090)	-	-	**10,410**
PBA Priority Breeds Appeal	**7,777**	18,819	-	(99)	-	**26,497**
PF Charitable Trust	**2,640**	-	(1,385)	-	-	**1,255**
William Dean Trust	**-**	250	-	-	-	**250**
Restricted sheep conservation						
Love a Longwool Appeal	**19,903**	1,736	(167)	(1,786)	-	**19,686**
Rosie Green Wool Sheep Fund	**1,876**	-	-	-	-	**1,876**
Restricted poultry conservation						
Poultry general	**20**	100	(120)	-	-	**-**
Luton & District Poultry Group	**75**	-	-	-	-	**75**
Restricted Other projects						
Somerset Conservation Fund	**2**	-	-	-	-	**2**
Conservation general	**3,094**	-	(526)	-	-	**2,568**
Foundation for Common Land	**-**	17,283	(15,115)	-	-	**2,168**
Farm Park - Princes Charities Fund	**7,187**	-	(1,482)	-	-	**5,705**
Epping Forrest - Fenceless Grazing	**59**	-	-	-	-	**59**
Northern Breeds - Raymond Moss Fund	**-**	5,000	-	-	-	**5,000**
	105,231	68,795	(40,527)	(18,010)	-	**115,489**

21 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	**Total**
	£	£	£	**£**
Fixed assets	1,059,627	2,162,660	-	**3,222,287**
Cash at bank and in hand	(37,578)	-	106,492	**68,914**
Other current assets / liabilities	73,031	-	8,997	**82,028**
Total	**1,095,080**	**2,162,660**	**115,489**	**3,373,229**

22 Pensions and other post-retirement benefits

Defined contribution pension plans.

The charity operates a defined contribution pension plan for its employees. The amount recognised as an expense in the period was £15,700 (2022 - £13,986).

Leaving a gift in your Will could be the greatest difference you ever make!

Planning for the future

RBST depends heavily on voluntary donations. Without the incredible generosity of our members and supporters, we simply couldnít continue our vital work in research, conservation and saving rare breeds. We know that with the help of generous donors like you, RBST can continue striving to achieve its crucial goal, to ensure that the genetic diversity represented by our native breeds is safeguarded for many years to come. Our vision is a secure future for each of the UKís native breeds of livestock to ensure long-term food security, the conservation of important habitats and landscapes and the preservation of the UKís culture. Help ensure our native farm animals have a secure future and can be enjoyed by generations to come.

What to do?

If you have already made a Will but you are considering including a gift to RBST, your solicitor will advise you on the correct wording to update your Will. You will need to provide your solicitor with our charity details. For your convenience, we have provided this here:

The Rare Breeds Survival Trust, Stoneleigh Park, Kenilworth, Warwickshire, CV8 2LG. (Registered Charity no. 269442).

Please also state that you wish to make the gift for the ëgeneral purposesí of Rare Breeds Survival Trust.

Our promise

RBST will always respect your privacy. Your information will be handled with the utmost confidentiality and we will never ask the amount of your legacy. We understand and respect that you will want to remember family and friends first when planning for the future, but we hope that once youíve taken care of your loved ones, youíll consider leaving a legacy gift in your Will, as a lasting way to support the future of RBST.

No Will yet?

Have you thought about leaving a gift in your Will to RBST? This year we have partnered with Free Wills Month. They bring together a group of well-respected charities to offer members of the public aged 55 and over, giving you the opportunity to support RBST and have a simple Will written or updated for free, by using one of their participating solicitors. The next campaign opens on 1st October 2021, you can register your interest here **www.freewillsmonth.org.uk/** and receive an email reminding you that the campaign has started. An up-to-date Will written by a solicitor ensures your wishes are respected. It also avoids difficult decisions and legal complications for your loved ones.



RBST
Rare Breeds Survival Trust



If you have any questions, visit our website, call 02476 69551 or email fundraising@rbst.org.uk.

Rare Breeds Survival Trust (RBST), Stoneleigh Park, Kenilworth, Warwickshire, CV8 2LG
Registered Charity Number 269442 (England and Wales)

Corporate Directory

Charity Reference and Administrative Details: As at the date of this report

Charity registration number 269442
Company registration number 01204694

Patron
His Majesty King Charles III

President
Baroness Hayman of Ullock

Vice Presidents
Martin Beard
Miss Elizabeth Buchanan, C.V.O, FRAgS
J Alan C Black
The Earl De La Warr, DL
Jimmy Doherty
Lord Iliffe

Chief Executive Officer
Christopher Price

Trustees
John Atkinson
Tom Davis
James Fanshawe
Kate Green (term expired October 2023)
Catherine Le Grice-Mack
Steve McMinn
Prof Tim Morris (term expired October 2023)
Sir Roderick Newton (resigned February 2024)
Dr Martin Penny (appointed October 2023)
Ryan Perry
Alison Pope (term expired October 2023)
Dr James Prendergast (appointed October 2023)
Claire Saunders
Jan McCourt (appointed March 2024)
Tom Fairfax (appointed March 2024)
Claire Whittle (appointed March 2024)

Conservation and Research Committee
John Atkinson, Tom Davis, James Fanshawe, Catherine Le Grice-Mack, Ryan Perry, Claire Saunders, Steve McMinn, Marcus Bates (British Pig Association – in attendance), Dr James Prendergast
In attendance: Christopher Price (CEO), Tom Blunt, Andrea Parry-Jones, Jan McCourt, Tom Fairfax, Claire Whittle

Finance and Governance Committee
John Atkinson, Catherine Le Grice-Mack, Alison Pope,
In attendance: Christopher Price (CEO), Claire McNicol (Dir F&O), Steve McMinn, Jan McCourt, Tom Fairfax, Claire Whittle, Dr Martin Penny

Nomination Committee
Alan Black, Alison Pope, Martin Beard, Claire Saunders

Registered office
Avenue Q, Stoneleigh Park, Kenilworth,
Warwickshire, CV8 2LG

Auditor
Dafferns LLP
One Eastwood
Harry Weston Road
Binley Business Park, Binley
Coventry, CV3 2UB

Legal advisors
Lodders LLP
10 Elm Court
Arden Street
Stratford upon Avon
Warwickshire, CV37 6PA

Bankers
Barclays Bank, 48/50 The Parade,
Leamington Spa CV32 4DD

Investment managers
Evelyn
45 Gresham Street,
London EC2V 7BG

Staff
Claire McNicol – Director of Finance and Operations and Company Secretary
Tom Blunt – Senior Conservation Advisor
Jo Linforth – Head of Members and Partnerships
Andrea Parry-Jones – Conservation Adviser
Rachel Peckover – Office Administrator and Accounts Assistant
Hannah Roberts - Office Administrator
Amy Foulkes - Event Coordinator

RBST is incredibly grateful for every single penny donated to its cause by members, donors and supporters, both individuals and organisations. RBST simply would not exist without their generosity.

Whilst we would like to be able to thank everyone by name, due to space and data protection limitations this is not possible.

We would however like to take the opportunity to make special reference to the Trusts who donated funds to RBST in 2023 and all those who so kindly remembered RBST in their Wills.

Trust Income Received 2023

Dingwall Trust

The Ancaster Trust
Registered Charity Number 270822

The Duncan Norman Trust Fund
Registered Charity Number 250434

Bernard Sunley Foundation
Registered Charity Number 1109099

The Stuart & Margaret Miller Charitable Trust
Registered Charity Number SC030120

The Hutchinson Charitable Trust
Registered Charity Number 1155643

The Carron Charitable Settlement
Registered Charity Number 289164

HR Bull Charitable Trust
Registered Charity Number 296133

Mrs D M France-Hayhurst Foundation
Registered Charity Number 1160394

The William Dean Countryside Fund
Registered Charity Number 1044567

Privy Purse Charitable Trust
Registered Charity Number 296079

The Horserace Betting Levy Board

Legacy Income Received 2023

Cynthia Mary **MORRIS**

Elaine May **SHOWAN**

Nicola Sally **BOULD**

Susan Elizabeth **FOSTER**

June Iris **TYRIE**

RBST's Corporate Supporters

Birch Farm

White Park Financial Solutions

Skyeskyns Ltd

Yorkshire Agricultural Society

South of England Agricultural Society

Marsh Charitable Trust

Peter Hunter Seeds Ltd

Edge & Son Butchers

Devon Duvets

Dumfries House Home Farm Ltd

Dengie Crops Ltd

Little Beau Sheep

Kelly Bronze Turkeys

Royal Ulster Agricultural Society

Old Hall Farm Woodton

Incredible Eggs Franchise Ltd

Wychwood Farm

Statkraft

Swaledale Butchers

The Real Wild Estates Company

& Glebe Meadow Fishery

RBST
Rare Breeds Survival Trust

rbst.org.uk *enquiries@rbst.org.uk* *024 7669 6551*

The former Prince of Wales was Patron

Company Limited by Guarantee Registered in England No.01204694. Registered Charity No.269442

#NativeBreedsForModernNeeds

RARE BREEDS SURVIVAL TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 269442

Accounts

RBST

Rare Breeds Survival Trust

Annual Report

& FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

2022



CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER: 269442

COMPANY REGISTRATION NUMBER: 1204694



A Boreray from the Burnside flock.

#NativeBreedsForModernNeeds



RBST
Rare Breeds Survival Trust

Contents

Our goals 4

A message *from our Chairman* 5

A message *from our Chief Executive Officer* 6

A message *from our Chair of Conservation & Research Committee* 7

A message *from our Director of Finance* 8

Promoting our native breeds 9

Securing Government support 20

Delivering on priorities 24

Recognition 38

Financial Review 43

Governance 45

Independent Auditors Report 47

Statement of Financial Activities 49

Balance sheet 50

Statement of cash flows 51

Notes to the financial statements 52

RBST Corporate Directory 65

Cover photograph: Hackneys. Photograph: Jonny Olliff-Lee.

Our goals and what we're doing to achieve them

Goal: A reverse in the decline of all livestock breeds on the Watchlist

What: We aim to have all the breeds on the Watchlist stable by 2028

How:

- We are refocusing our messaging showing the economic, social and environmental relevance of native breeds.
- We use the latest technology to save our rarest breeds, as with the British Lop Pig Project. What we learn from this project will be applied to the benefit of other breeds.
- We will continue to equip breeders and potential breeders with the knowledge they need to keep animals through our Grazing Animals Project courses and online resources.
- We are identifying 'Priority Breeds' and creating Conservation Plans for each of them.



Goal: A comprehensive up-to-date Gene Bank

What: The RBST Gene Bank is the charity's single biggest investment and a key national asset. We will work towards making this a National Gene Bank, supported by government

How:

- We are implementing a clear strategy which will support the maintenance and acquisition of animals to ensure the future of our native breeds.
- We need to ensure that the original genetics are preserved and can be drawn on in the future.
- We are actively promoting the importance of the Gene Bank to potential donors and funders and will ensure that its importance is widely understood.

Goal: Livestock genetic diversity recognised by government and wider society as a fundamental element of agricultural and biodiversity policy

What: We lobby for genetic diversity to be recognised in government policies such as the Agriculture Act, Rural Development Policy and Biodiversity Policy

How:

- We are joining formal partnerships and networks to highlight the many benefits of our native breeds.
- Our strategic work will build on our good media profile to ensure that native breeds are recognised in policy as being crucial to bringing greater sustainability to modern farming and land management practices.
- Our volunteer network represents us at shows and highlights the range of rare breeds that exist and their many and varied uses to the public.

A message from our Chairman



John Atkinson
Chairman

"Native Breeds for Modern Needs"

The end of my first full year as Chair of RBST is a good time to be taking stock of what we have achieved in recent months and ensuring that we are making the greatest possible impact when it comes to securing the future of our native breeds of livestock and equines.

As Chair, I am determined RBST should become ever more focussed on showcasing why our native breeds of livestock and equines matter, and how we can work for their survival long into the future.

As a Cumbrian livestock farmer, with a business based on native breeds, I know they can form the basis of a profitable enterprise. With growing consumer interest in where food comes from, and its environmental footprint, the way we need to farm is changing.

Moreover, as a result of Brexit, each of the four UK countries is having to devise its own agricultural policy, with most of them focussing on how farmers should be rewarded for delivering a range of public benefits, particularly improving the natural environment and reducing carbon emissions.

All this provides a wonderful opportunity for native breeds which have been bred for centuries to live and thrive in our environment with little input. We can use these attributes to provide a much more sustainable future for British agriculture - and RBST is at the forefront making the case. As I'm sure you will agree, RBST's public profile in recent months has been excellent.

Over the course of the year, I was delighted to see the enthusiasm of so many RBST members willing to come forward and help us extend our influence at a local, regional and national level. RBST Scotland has been going from strength to strength in its stated aim of engaging with influencers and decision makers. And I have been particularly excited by the re-founding of RBST Northern Ireland and fully anticipate it will soon be having a similar impact.

As you will see from the financial section of this report, RBST's long term approach to business planning paid off in 2022 and meant that we were prepared when faced with significant short-term financial volatility. Of course, it also helped that our income from most sources increased over the year, and our efficient cost control meant we avoided any unnecessary expenditure. One of the things I have been most proud of is the extent to which RBST has maintained its financial position over a fairly traumatic few years.

Finally, though, everything comes down to people, and I have been delighted to have such an extremely engaged and articulate Board of Trustees to work alongside, an incredibly able and hardworking staff team and so many loyal and enthusiastic Support Groups and members.

I am particularly grateful for the support of our president Baroness (Sue) Hayman and Vice Presidents Martin Beard, Elizabeth Buchanan, Alan Black, Lord De La Warr, Jimmy Doherty and Lord Iliffe. I am sure I was not the only one who felt touched watching Baroness Hayman's tribute to the Queen, highlighting her love of native breeds.

I want to conclude by expressing my deepest thanks to everyone who works so hard on behalf of our breeds.

A message from our Chief Executive Officer



Christopher Price
CEO

As this report makes clear, free of the constraints of Covid, 2022 was a year of achievement for RBST. We made significant headway delivering on both our conservation work and our advocacy. However, we would not be able to achieve nearly so much unless RBST itself was being run in a professional and business-like way.

2022 saw the second full year of RBST rolling out its first fully costed 5 Year Business Plan. This, together with proper budgeting and financial controls, means that the organisation is now being run as efficiently and effectively as it should be. We work out what we need to do, and then how we can pay for it.

In our conservation workstreams, as Claire Saunders, Chair of RBST's Conservation & Research Committee, makes clear, 2022 saw us continue to roll out our strategy for improving the conservation status of our breeds. We promoted the benefits of keeping native breeds, whether as providers of meat, wool or conservation grazing, we engaged with all four UK governments to make keeping native breeds more attractive and remove some of the obstacles, and for those breeds facing specific difficulties, we devised and delivered bespoke projects.

And as Director of Finance and Operations Claire McNicol sets out, RBST's adoption of a long-term approach to business planning, addressing amongst other factors the potential impacts of short-term volatility, meant that RBST was in a much more robust position than may otherwise have been the case. Moreover, increases in most of our income sources and effective cost control, meant that RBST's financial position remained secure. As a result, RBST continues to manage its finances efficiently and effectively, ensuring every pound we raise is used in driving our agenda.

With a view to improving our governance RBST devoted much of 2022 to completing a much-needed updating of its Articles of Association, ensuring they accord with recent legal developments and best practice. In particular we were keen to adopt modern arrangements for conducting meetings and to enhance the role of the Nominations Committee so as to make sure we have the best candidates we can coming forward to join the Board. I am grateful to those trustees who joined the working groups and to the members who voted in such overwhelming numbers to agree the changes.

In much of its advocacy, RBST aims to address the impact of livestock farming on the climate. 2022 saw us extend the concern to our own operations, reducing the number of meetings held in person, ensuring that travel around the country was done as efficiently as possible, introducing a recyclable wrapper for The Ark and phasing out single use plastic merchandise. I very much hope we can build on this trend in future years.

Of course, we cannot do everything ourselves. RBST depends on its members to get things done, some as individuals, some as members of support groups – the groups set up by the Board to help RBST deliver its objectives. The work they do throughout the year all contributes to RBST's effectiveness.

RBST Scotland continues to display the dynamism it has shown since its foundation, running both physical and online events to raise the profile of native breeds north of the border. RBST members in Northern Ireland have followed a similar model, merging the two support groups into a new RBST Northern Ireland. I was both delighted and impressed by the members in the province who worked so hard to bring this about. In the coming months we hope to see the start of similar steps in Wales.

I recognise that changing the way we do things can be challenging, but I've been delighted by the extent to which so many have stepped up and looked at new ways of delivering for both RBST and the breeds.

So huge thanks to everyone involved: trustees, members and, in particular, our wonderful staff team: Claire McNicol, Tom Blunt, Andrea Parry Jones, Jo Linford, Racheal Peckover, Hannah Roberts and Amy Foulkes, and our two communications advisers Linda Trotman and Isobel Davidson.

A message from our Chair of Conservation & Research Committee



Claire Saunders
Chair of Conservation & Research Committee

As Chair of RBST's Conservation & Research Committee, I have the great pleasure of overseeing the delivery of RBST's strategy for conserving and promoting our native livestock and equines.

In the first instance, we encourage farmers, smallholders and consumers to use the breeds for reasons for which the animals were initially bred, whether to provide food, fibre or, increasingly, conservation grazing. Secondly, we lobby for government to invest in the public benefits provided by the breeds; and thirdly where there is a clear need, RBST will carry out its own bespoke conservation projects.

Through our media and wider advocacy at conferences and events, in 2022 we continued to make the strong case for native breed meat and wool. I was particularly pleased by the extent to which RBST has demonstrated the clear economic benefits of keeping native breeds which has been picked up in the farming and rural press in recent months.

We have also had significant success in promoting the important role of native breeds in conservation grazing. Through our consultancy projects and training courses, whether the objectives are simply a more environmentally sustainable farm or a major rewilding project, we are seeing ever more land managers introducing native breed grazers successfully into their own systems.

We may not have got native breeds fully back into the heart of UK agriculture yet but I would argue that, as a result of a lot of the work RBST has undertaken, they are undoubtedly a lot more mainstream than has been the case for much of the last half century.

We need to be making it easier to keep native breeds. In particular we need an abattoir network capable of processing small numbers of non-standard animals to the highest welfare standards. So throughout 2022 we were working hard, through the Abattoir Sector Group, to alert Government to the plight of the small sector and call on it to take steps to address the challenges through a combination of investment and a proportionate approach to regulation.

Post the UK's departure from the EU and the Common Agricultural Policy, we are working with Defra, and the three devolved governments in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, to ensure that our native breeds are properly supported under new agricultural policies. In England we are working with other farming and environmental organisations to ensure that ELM fully incentivises the transition to the sort of sustainable farming systems in which native breeds thrive.

I have been delighted by the Welsh Government's commitment to introduce so much of what RBST has been calling for: direct financial incentives for keeping pedigree registered stock, government support for selling native breed products and using native breeds in delivering environmental benefits and direct promotion of the benefits of rare and native breeds.

In Scotland RBST is working with the Government to ensure that its agriculture, food and climate policies fully recognise the potential contribution of native breeds. However, we have yet to see the details.

In Northern Ireland we are directly challenging the Government's policy to reduce livestock emissions through keeping animals indoors and by early slaughter, maintaining that emissions can be better reduced by reducing overall numbers, focusing on breeds that thrive outdoors on grass, improving overall health and welfare and adopting breeding practices that improve efficiency without compromising breed standards.

Finally, there are those breeds that face particular challenges, and whose situation is such that Government support alone will not be enough to secure their future. The new methodology we adopted for compiling the Watchlist in 2021 has been particularly important here. We are now much better placed to identify the specific changes individual breeds face.

Some of our work has been through overarching projects, such our equine project generously funded by the Horserace Betting Levy Board, and our work promoting clan breeding systems for poultry. Others are directed at individual breeds, where we are working with our friends in the breed societies on projects to support the likes of Gloucester cattle, North Ronaldsay sheep, Exmoor ponies and the British Lop and Large White pigs. The details are set out in this report.

As with all RBST's work, many, many people contribute to our success, but I would like to pay particular thanks to my fellow trustees on the Conservation & Research Committee, the staff conservation team, and of course all the breed societies and dedicated individuals who work so hard to sustain and develop our breeds.

A message from our Director of Finance and Operations



Claire McNicol
Director of Finance & Operations

2022 was a challenging year financially. Double digit inflation and the cost of living crisis, following hot on the heels of Covid, meant the global economy, and in turn the environment RBST operates in, hardly had a chance to recover from the unprecedented challenges of 2020 and 2021 before new challenges emerged. Nevertheless, there were more than sufficient positive underlying trends, including increased income from most sources and the efficient management of costs, to keep RBST's finances stable.

RBST's adoption of a long term approach to business planning, factoring in the need to address the risk of significant short term volatility, meant that RBST was well prepared to deal with the challenges of 2022.

The two key figures that are large and prone to volatility are Investments and Legacies. Both figures underperformed in 2022. It is known, and accepted, that these figures are subject to relatively large variations from one year to the next. Key for RBST is what these movements look like over the long term, and how the activities of the Trust are managed year on year to ensure it operates within an acceptable range.

For example, the investment loss in 2022 was £294,184, whereas the investment gain in 2021 was £383,886. This is a swing of almost £680,000 but averages out at a gain of around £90,000 (and it is important to recognise these are unrealised gains or losses i.e. the gain or loss has not been crystalised, rather it's a snap shot as of December 31st for accounting purposes). In addition to the capital performance of investments (i.e. the gain or loss on investments) RBST receives investment income, typically in the region of £90,000-£125,000. The key point here being, the Trust considers it better to hold monies in investments, rather than cash, to ensure reasonable returns, which in turn contribute to the funding of the Trust's charitable activities and delivering the overall strategy.

The position is somewhat similar with legacies, in terms of their potential for large year on year fluctuations. Once again, the key message is that the Trust is managing its activities to account for these, often large, fluctuations. Whilst in some years this might result in an overall deficit, in others it will result in a surplus. But over the long term the Trust's activities are within an appropriate range to ensure the finances remain stable. And RBST has remained financially well positioned to weather the challenges of both the global pandemic and now the cost of living crisis.

Onto the positive trends mentioned earlier, income was up in all areas, including membership income, charitable activities, advertising revenue and investments income, with the only exception being grants and donations, and this was somewhat skewed due to the second half of a large grant (c.£130,000) being received in 2021 but not in 2022. Unrestricted donations and grants were over double that which they had been in 2021, as a result of the generosity of life members' contributions to supporting RBST in its 50th anniversary and beyond. Income from membership subscriptions was also up, and within that corporate subscriptions were up over 50%.

RBST also had another successful year after launching its consulting offering in 2021. This is a fantastic new income stream for the Trust, as it allows RBST to forward its charitable objectives at scale, as well as build relationships and networks with large landowners, government bodies and other NGOs, all while bringing in additional income to fund other activities within the Trust.

Costs remained under close control despite the cost of living crisis, and whilst they increased versus 2021, this had been planned and approved, in part due to the fact the work related to the farm park project was to be continued. There was also an increase in spend on raising funds as a full programme of events was returned to. However, costs remained lower than they had been in 2018, 2019 and 2020 and efficiency and diligence continue. Spend on charitable activities was up in 2022, this is a focus for the Trust to ensure that spend, and indeed resources as a whole, are directed to where they will have the most impact in forwarding the charity's objectives, and charitable spend in the pound remains over 70p.

RBST continued with the trend of increasing restricted funds (up 14% in 2022), as the Trust continues to target, and be successful in applying for, grants for specific projects. This means there is even more funding for projects that are underway such as the Horserace Betting Levy Board project, the Foundation for Common Land project, the Lop project, the Priority Breed projects and more.

The final thing left for me to say, and I do say it every year because it remains as true as it ever was, all this simply wouldn't be possible with our fantastic staff team, who are going from strength to strength and really go above and beyond to help forward the objectives of the Trust. Our simply fantastic members who are out there extending the reach of RBST beyond what we could ever achieve without them. Our wonderful corporate supporters and sponsors who recognise their business goals and objectives align with our own. And finally, sincerely, to those who so touchingly chose to remember us in their will. Thank you to you all, we simply could not do it without you!

RBST

Promoting our native breeds



Golden Guernsey goats.

Promoting our native breeds



RBST CEO Christopher Price with Agriculture Minister Lord Benyon.


RBST member Mo Johnson shows some of her stock to Agriculture Minister Victoria Prentis.

> ***Over the years, RBST has devoted considerable time and resources to attending traditional agricultural and county shows.***

However, the nature of these events is changing. A number of the bigger traditional shows, most obviously the Royal Show, have gone, others, such as the Game Fair, have become smaller, more focussed and specialised.

Of those that remain, many are increasingly lifestyle events aimed at families rather than at farmers and animal keepers. Any native breed presence is limited to providing an attraction for these new audiences rather than promoting the breeds to likely keepers.

There are, however, an increasing number of events aimed more at our target audience of sustainable and regenerative farmers. These include the Oxford Real Farming Conference and Groundswell. Attendance at these shows is growing.

In addition, there are the events run by other organisations, which are increasingly keen to invite RBST to participate. 2022 saw us speak at events as diverse as the Game Fair, the Landworker Alliance conference and the Council for the Preservation of Rural Wales conference.

In 2020 RBST reviewed its show strategy to ensure its resources were being used as efficiently and effectively as possible, targeting our attendance at those events where we are likely to have the biggest impact. As a result of Covid, 2022 was the first year in which this new approach could be fully rolled out.

Groundswell

Groundswell is a major outdoor festival of regenerative farming held annually in Hertfordshire. We find it provides an excellent forum for farmers, growers and anyone else interested in food production and the environment to meet and discuss theory and practical applications of regenerative farming systems.

In 2022 CEO Christopher Price and Conservation Adviser Andrea Parry-Jones ran two sessions. The first was on the economics of small scale wool production, demonstrating that it is possible to run a profitable business by a combination of monitoring costs and active marketing. In the second demonstrated the environmental and financial benefits of using native livestock and equines in conservation grazing.

As ever we were delighted by the number of RBST members and supporters who came over to the stand.

ORFC

In its 14th year, the Oxford Real Farming Conference brings together almost two thousand farmers, growers, activists, policymakers, and researchers every January to discuss new approaches to food and farming. It is an excellent forum for promoting the role of native breeds.

As a result of Covid, the 2022 ORFC was held online. RBST participated in two sessions. RBST's own session "Farming Profitably and Sustainably with Native Livestock Breeds", involved a panel made up of RBST Chair John Atkinson, Dodgson Wood's Maria Benjamin, RSBT CEO Christopher Price and Conservation Adviser Andrea Parry Jones.

Meanwhile, Senior Conservation Adviser Tom Blunt participated in a debate on the plight of smaller abattoirs, a key concern for so many members.

Farm Business Innovation

With so many changes in agriculture, many farmers and landowners are looking for ways to diversify and innovate their businesses and operations, looking for new income sources, cost savings and ways to increase efficiency in their business. The Farm Business Innovation Show brings together almost 12,000 delegates wanting to discuss different ways of running their businesses and RBST finds it an excellent forum for promoting the role that native breeds can play.

We ran an extremely popular seminar on economics of breeding and keeping native breed cattle, with invaluable help from former RBST CEO Rob Havard.

Strengthening the RBST presence in Scotland

The creation of the RBST Scottish Forum in 2020 has been hugely instrumental in increasing the voice of rare breeds interests across Scotland. In particular, it has made a real difference to the way RBST is viewed within government circles and by key influencers.

To further strengthen its position in Scotland, this time at grassroots level, RBST announced in 2022 that a new Scotland-wide Support Group would be established. Importantly, while merging the three existing support groups, a single RBST Scotland Support Group has greater reach through regional representatives. It allows local groups to be able to attend shows in their area, organise visits and social events, all arranged through the regional representative but without the need to form a full committee. It also allows for areas that have similar farming systems to continue to come together to promote native breeds and their uses and allow them to work with RBST members from outside the support group area.

A Scotland wide-Support Group also gives RBST a much stronger voice in discussions with the Scottish Government and others regarding key issues such as abattoirs and the agricultural transition process.

RBST raises its voice in Northern Ireland

To reinforce RBST's voice in Ireland, a new Northern Ireland-wide Support Group was established in 2022, its aim being to show why native breeds should be central to a sustainable future for farming. The formation of the new Group creates an active and representative network for supporters of rare breeds from across the whole of Northern Ireland to create a stronger, cohesive voice for rare breeds.

RBST Northern Ireland will take action to support a strong future for native breeds across the country, which includes countering the major challenges that have been posed in the Northern Ireland Executive's proposals for future agriculture policy and by the impacts of post-Brexit trade restrictions on vital breeding programmes. The new group represents the many interests within rare breeds survival from the unique characteristics of each breed and their conservation, to regenerative agriculture and improving biodiversity through conservation grazing, and from high quality food and wool production, to education and youth work.



RBST Northern Ireland officers (l to r) Aaron Kirkpatrick, Andrew Bingham and Gavin Goodman.

Promoting our native breeds

Growing the farm park network

Since its inception, RBST has been associated with farm parks. Founder Chairman Joe Henson had started opening his farm gates to the public in 1971 so that the growing collection of rare breeds that his family had amassed at Bemborough could help pay their way. When RBST was launched in 1973, the Cotswold Farm Park was already proving that rare breeds could attract the interest of the general public when displayed in a farm setting and the first RBST Council agreed to encourage the establishment of farm parks around the country, ultimately introducing its approved farm park scheme.

The defining features of RBST approved farm parks have been their active breeding groups of Watchlist breeds and the fact that they are open to the public. They are a diverse group, varying in size and style. Some are council owned, some charity, others are privately owned and those in the Educational category are integral to educational facilities.

Together they provide a shop window for RBST, giving the general public the chance to meet and learn about our native breeds. With RBST accreditation regarded as an important endorsement of farm parks' role in preserving and showcasing rare breeds, there is a growing number of parks seeking to join the network. With the addition of six new RBST approved farm parks, including its first in Wales, 2022 was a record year for farm-park network expansion.

New Farm Parks in 2022

White Rocks Farm College

White Rocks Farm College in Kent offers vocational BTEC courses for students who have additional educational needs and boasts as an educational resource an impressive range of rare and native breed livestock. White Rocks Farm is also active in breeding and the sale of breeding stock.

White Rocks Farm, situated just outside Sevenoaks, sits on 206 acres of land on the Greensand Ridge overlooking the Weald of Kent. It comprises a 12-acre organic farm, 40 acres of woodland and 154 acres of pasture. It is a specialist 16-plus vocational college with a 19-plus unit for students not yet ready for work. White Rocks also has a BHS-approved equestrian yard and equine-based activities on the farm also include horse-logging in the woodland.

White Rocks' classroom is outside and all of the tasks on the farm are undertaken by the students, closely supported by excellent tutors.

The farm has a wide range of poultry, Oxford Sandy & Black pigs, Dexter cattle, Shropshire, Dorset Down and Southdown sheep and Golden Guernsey goats. A range of produce is sold from the farm and with the introduction of a BTEC cookery course, students are expected to be hands-on with the livestock so that they have a true 'farm-to-fork' experience.





Barleylands

Education is at the forefront of activities at Barleylands, part of a family farming business that has diversified whilst maintaining a strong farming focus. The farm park's aim is to educate the general public not just about food and farming, but also the important role that rare breeds have played in our farming heritage – and their relevance to the farming world today.

The Philpot family acquired Barleylands Farm in Billericay, Essex, in 1967, converting it from dairy to arable. The farm park started life in 1984 as a vintage machinery museum which gradually grew into the farm park that it is today. It specialises in offering hand-on experiences for children from the age of two, giving them the chance to learn outside of the classroom and experience many facets of everyday farming.

Until relatively recently, the main focus at Barleylands has been on how food is grown and harvested but now farm animals – and more specifically rare breeds – are playing an increasingly important role in the Barleylands experience. The farm park management team has introduced rare and native breed livestock which demonstrate how many breeds we have in this country and how diverse they are. Breeds include Bagot and Golden Guernsey goats, Oxford Sandy & Black and Berkshire pigs, Hampshire Down and Wiltshire Horn sheep, Modern Game and Cream Legbar chickens and Narrangansett and Bourbon Red turkeys. The plan is to introduce more of the Watchlist Priority breeds.





Noah's Ark

A new emphasis on native farm animals, alongside their counterparts from the wild, led to Noah's Ark Zoo Farm becoming RBST's second Approved Associate Park. And with the Watchlist written into the park's policy of collection planning, Noah's Ark is stepping up to make a positive contribution to the conservation of Priority breeds.

Noah's Ark Zoo Farm is a family-owned zoo set on a working farm in 100 acres of North Somerset countryside, just six miles to the south of Bristol. The original emphasis was on exotic animals, which grew over the years to a large collection of over one hundred species while a small farm animal section was maintained, used for educational talks about food production.

When the founders' son took over leadership of the farm the decision was made to introduce native breeds to demonstrate their role in the environment and their importance in eco-systems.

Care has been taken to include Priority breeds in the native livestock introduced to Noah's Ark. The farm now has two Suffolk Punches, British White cattle, Whitefaced Woodland sheep, a breeding herd of Tamworth pigs, Bagot goats and Brecon Buff geese plus a number of other native breeds.

As with its zoo animals, Noah's Ark has a collection planning policy and the Watchlist is written into that; the rarer the breed is, the higher priority it is given. The team plans to breed for conservation as much as it can, with males going for meat if not needed as breeders.

Hogshaw Farm and Wildlife Park

RBST accreditation came at a time when Hogshaw was celebrating a new beginning, complete with re-branding and the aim to demonstrate 'the best of British farming and the countryside'.

Originally the Green Dragon Rare Breeds Farm and Eco Centre, the farm was taken on by James and Katherine Preston in 2021. Both are from a farming background, running a mixed farm which neighbours the farm park. At Hogshaw they aim to provide an educational hub and exposure to British and European wildlife, running horticultural wilding programmes, conserving rare breeds with breeding programmes and demonstrating sustainable farming practices.

Rare breeds are crucial to the couple's ambition to engage with the local community and encourage a connection with farming and nature. They have re-stocked with rare breeds from scratch, starting with Teeswater, Boreray, Dorset and Portland sheep, some Golden Guernsey and English goats and a few Dexter cattle, plus Berkshire and Oxford Sandy & Black pigs with chickens, turkeys, geese and ducks – particularly the local Aylesbury variety.

Growing the farm park network

New Farm Parks in 2022





Folly Farm

Situated in a popular holiday area in Pembrokeshire and attracting around half a million visitors a year, Folly Farm became RBST's first accredited Farm Park in Wales at the end of 2022.

Employing 140 permanent members of staff, Folly Farm is billed as the biggest independent visitor attraction in Wales, offering a zoo with 750 animals representing 100 species, a range of visitor attractions, animal barns and a large farm area.

Folly Farm, which kept its original name, was founded as a visitor attraction in 1988 by Glyn and Anne Williams on the working dairy farm run for three generations by Glyn's family. Looking to diversify and realising the potential of their location in a popular tourist area, they saw the opportunity for an educational attraction which enabled visitors to see cows being milked and learn about farming.

While farming has always been at the heart of Folly Farm, the focus on rare and native breeds is a relatively recent development. Having replaced commercial livestock with rare and native breeds, Folly Farm is now home to Tamworth, Middle White, Saddleback and Oxford Sandy & Black pigs, Greyface Dartmoor, Torddu and Torwen Badger Face, Jacob, Coloured Ryeland, Balwen and Herdwick sheep, Bagot and Golden Guernsey goats, Shire horses and Exmoor and Shetland ponies. The poultry list includes Welsh Harlequin ducks, Bourbon Red and Cröllwitzer turkeys and Silvery and Gold Sebright, Scots Grey, Dumpy and Buff Orpington chickens.

Blackstone Clydesdales

Blackstone Clydesdales all started when farmer John Duncan bought a Clydesdale mare for his wife Magi. One quickly became two, soon growing to six and the couple found themselves looking for a way to sustain their herd financially. Clydesdale 'experiences' offered the solution and now Blackstone Clydesdales is making a significant contribution to the future of the breed in Scotland.

An Associate member of the RBST Approved Farm Park network, Blackstone Clydesdales is currently home to 32 horses, including a core of four breeding mares. The home of the Clydesdales is Blackstone Farm at Cumnock in Ayrshire, a beef farm running commercial Highland cattle.

Experiences are tailored to individuals and can range from carriage driving to farm, beach and estate rides or simply the chance to be hands on with a horse with optional riding. Blackstone also offers three or four day hands-on experiences of what life with a Clydesdale is like looking after, preparing, showing, working, riding/trekking, driving and working with young Clydesdales.

2023 will see the arrival of four new foals at Blackstone, all from the younger generation of home-bred mares, which will join the 13 foals they have previously bred. John and Magi look to breed every other year and all of their horses have a home for life at Blackstone.

Celebrating Gloucester cattle



> ***Gloucester cattle were celebrated at an event held at the Gloucestershire farm of RBST Trustee Clifford Freeman.***

The well-attended event was organised for famers and food producers and was designed to demonstrate the multiple qualities of this dual-purpose breed that is classed as Priority on the RBST Watchlist. It demonstrated that with the right knowledge and expertise, Gloucester cattle can form the basis of a profitable business

The Gloucester is an ancient breed, numerous in the Severn Vale as early as the 13th century and easily identifiable by its distinctive markings – a black-brown body with black head and legs and a white stripe down the back, over the tail and covering the belly.

Despite the breed's early popularity, as farming became more industrialised, Gloucester herds were progressively replaced by continental breeds and by 1972 only one herd remained. Thanks to the efforts of the Gloucester Cattle Society alongside RBST, the breed was saved and numbers improved. However, more recently herd numbers have declined significantly from 54 herds in 2006 to 27 herds in 2020, and the new methodology for the RBST Watchlist in 2021 confirmed that the breed was at serious risk.

Event host Clifford Freeman is one of the largest keepers of Gloucester Cattle in the country, having taken over the famous Noent herd of Gloucester cattle from his father Eric, a founder member of RBST. The herd runs over 700 acres of grassland with no fertiliser or pesticides and limited spot-sprayed herbicide use. Clifford led a discussion about commercial opportunities of the breed for meat. He explained that he rears the cattle from birth to approximately 36 months, a later than 'industry standard' finishing time which allows Gloucesters to develop fat inside the meat, producing wonderful marbling and releasing fat at the beginning of cooking, resulting in open grained meat which eats well.

Charles Martell drew on his great experience with the breed to advise on opportunities in dairy. Founder of cheesemaker and distiller Charles Martell & Son Ltd, he has been making cheese including the famous Double Gloucester, Single Gloucester and Stinking Bishop cheeses for 50 years from one of the oldest herds of Gloucester cattle in the world. Single Gloucester cheese has a Protected Designated Origin and can only be made in Gloucestershire using the milk from a dairy herd containing Gloucester cattle. Charles explained why Gloucester cattle are excellent for dairy production, with the breed's flat lactation curve giving an even production of milk for up to 300 days.

RBST CEO Christopher Price discussed how promotion of Gloucester cattle as a breed with great commercial potential which also supports the environment is important in ensuring it has a strong future.



Promoting our native breeds

RBST Scotland
FOOD & FARMING SUSTAINABILITY AWARDS 2022

Inaugural winners set the bar high in Scotland Sustainability Awards

Excellence in Scotland's food and farming was celebrated when the winners of the inaugural RBST Scotland Food & Farming Sustainability Awards were announced at the 2022 Royal Highland Show.

The awards, run by RBST's Scottish Forum, are designed to celebrate the people and businesses throughout Scotland's farming and food industry who have placed environmental sustainability and native breeds at the heart of what they do. Their aim is to reinforce the link between native breeds of farm livestock and the Scottish agricultural landscape, the sustainable farming revolution and the Scottish food scene.

The quality of entries was outstanding and the winners of these inaugural awards set the bar high. All of them more than met the key criteria the judges were looking for and many of the entrants were celebrating breeds not just native to the UK or Scotland but to the very areas where they evolved. The competition achieved high levels of press interest, over 50 entries, and recognition from the Scottish government, with Mairi McAllan, Minister for the Environment and Land Reform, congratulating the winners at an awards ceremony.

Award sponsors included Galbraith, The Scottish Smallholder Festival, Scotland Food & Drink, Scottish Food Guide, SAC Consulting, Sarah's Rosettes and Ledingham Chalmers with RBST making the award for RBST Champion of the Year.



Sustainable Farm of the Year



Sustainable Small Farm of the Year

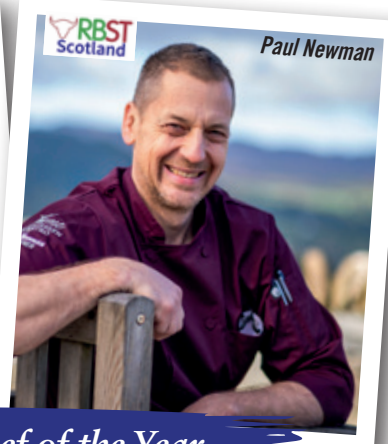


Sustainable Food Producer of the Year



Sustainable Produce Retail Outlet of the Year





Sustainable Chef of the Year



Native Breed Society of the Year



Sustainable Farming Communicator of the Year



Sustainable Butcher or Wholesaler of The Year



Rare Breed Champion of the Year



Farmers' Market Stall Holder of the Year

Promoting our native breeds

The 2022 Marsh Award heroes



The 2022 Marsh Award winners received their awards at the AGM held at Dumfries House from RBST President Baroness (Sue) Hayman of Ullock – (l to r): Dr Thomas Cole, Sue Hayman, Nigel Overend and Kelsey Anne Williamson.

> ***The 2022 RBST Marsh Awards for unsung heroes went to three people who have made significant contributions to the work of RBST.***

MARSH Charitable Trust

The award for Conservation in Genetic Bio-Diversity went to Nigel Overend, the Lifetime Achievement Award to Dr Thomas Cole and Support Group Volunteer 2022 was Kelsey Ann Williamson of Young RBST.

Nigel Overend heads up Deerpark Pedigree Pigs in Northern Ireland, the family farm where his father Robert established Ireland's first AI centre in the 1980s. This was where the joint venture between RBST, the BPA and Deerpark began as a response to the Foot & Mouth outbreak in 2001 when a pig semen collection project was launched.

Nigel has not only continued his father's pioneering work, but he has also gone out of his way to improve the way that boars are selected for the Gene Bank and combine this with on-farm conservation projects. Over the past several years, he has succeeded in bringing back a number of male lines of the British Landrace that had disappeared from the Herd Book, by using archive semen from boars born in the 1980s and 1990s.

Dr Thomas Cole's Lifetime Achievement Award recognises 35 years dedicated to the RBST presence in Northern Ireland while also working hard for the NHS as an eye surgeon. He has been a figurehead of the RBSTNI Support Group, serving on the committee in many different roles, including Treasurer and he was instrumental in the establishment of the Sperrins and Lakelands Group in the west of the province.

He became interested in native breeds at the RBST Show at Stoneleigh in the mid-1980s and by the mid-1990s he was bringing back a number of breeds to Northern Ireland. These included Leicester Longwools and Oxford Downs and his Oxford Downs have led to the establishment of several flocks as well as helping the oldest flock in the ODSBA flockbook, in Co Cork. Poultry included Light Sussex hens and, after hatching imported eggs, Bourbon Red turkeys which were bred and shown.

Over the years Thomas has been on the council of both Leicester Longwool Sheepbreeders Association and the Oxford Down Sheepbreeders Association and is the current the President of Leicester Longwools.

Kelsey Anne Williamson was one of the prime movers in setting up Young RBST and was the first member to approach HQ in 2021 to say that younger members needed a stronger, more independent voice within RBST if it was to maintain its relevance to the next generation.

Kelsey describes herself as a first-generation farmer and became interested in native breeds through attending agricultural shows and Young Farmer meetings. She also joined the RBST York Support Group then moving to a new area, she switched to the Dales Group, where she eventually became Treasurer.

Bringing on the next generation with RBST Young Shepherds

> ***RBST introduced its Young Shepherd of the Year competition in 2011 and at shows up and down the country, large numbers of young people come forward each year to demonstrate their showing style.***

In the Young Shepherd competition, which is open to youngsters aged from 8 to 16, attention is focussed on the skills of the handler rather than the show quality of the sheep. The competition has proved to be great fun for the young people entering as well as a real crowd puller at the shows where qualifying rounds take place. There is, however, a serious purpose to it as it is designed to encourage the next generation in the traditional arts of showing and ring-craft. As a charity working to conserve the UK's native breeds of farm livestock, RBST is keen to develop in the next generation both an interest in native breeds and the livestock skills necessary to show them as showing is an important way of highlighting the range and qualities of Britain's native breeds.

In 2022 Cumbrian cousins Logan Tyson and Zara Clough made it a family affair at the RBST Young Shepherd of the Year final by taking the junior and senior championships respectively, with Logan inching ahead in the final judging to become 2022 Young Shepherd Champion.

A total of 28 entrants went forward to the final, travelling from all over the country to take part in the competition which was held as part of the English Winter Fair at the Staffordshire County Showground.



Young Shepherds Judge Tim Ward, Zara Clough, Logan Tyson and Edward Lambert.

RBST

Securing Government support



Oxford Sandy and Blacks rooting for acorns in the New Forest.

> ***2022 saw RBST continue to work with the governments in each of the four home nations to ensure that policies to address the needs of our native livestock and equines are properly recognised and addressed in each country's new agricultural policy.***

Removing obstacles

RBST has long recognised that the lack of a comprehensive network of abattoirs able to process small numbers of non-standard animals to the highest welfare standards and returning the fifth quarter is one of the biggest obstacles to keeping native livestock.

Government needs to make a one-off investment to ensure the remaining small abattoirs are "match fit" for the unsubsidised, more market-facing world. Where the abattoirs have disappeared, the investment needs to be in mobile or temporary units. In addition, Government and the Food Standards Agency must commit to regulation that is proportionate whilst compatible with the maintenance of standards.

Together with our friends in the Sustainable Food Trust and The Craft Butchers Association, we continue to work through the Abattoir Sector Group; an alliance intended to make the case for small local abattoirs as widely as possible.

All four governments now accept that there is a crisis in the local abattoir sector. This marks significant progress but the issue now is how they will address that crisis.

Ensuring public support

Native breeds do not just provide benefits for their owners, they benefit everyone.

To ensure all these benefits are recognised, RBST is lobbying on two fronts, first for a shift to the sort of extensive low input farming systems that encourage the keeping of native breeds. Thankfully Defra in England is supportive of this approach, and we are making headway. The devolved administrations are at an earlier stage of policy development, and progress is slow, but we are engaged and pressing the agenda.

Secondly, we are calling for specific policies to directly support the most threatened native breeds. This requires recognition of the importance of the breeds themselves, as part of biodiversity, and of the various benefits they provide.

Native breeds play an important role in the development and maintenance of natural habitats and increasing biodiversity. Bred for our landscape, native-breed cattle helped create the pastures and meadows we now cherish; native pigs can be used in woodland management to increase biodiversity and play a key role in arable rotations. We need incentives to encourage farmers and other land managers to use them in preference to larger commercial breeds.

Then there is the cultural side; native breeds are part of our national identity and heritage. Many say White Park cattle, featured in the RBST logo, were brought to Britain when it was still joined to the European mainland – well before Stonehenge was built. The Large White pig is the cornerstone of pig breeding across the world. We expect Government to help promote and conserve our built heritage, why not our livestock heritage too?

Then there is the vitally important task of maintaining genetic diversity. If UK farming is to have a secure future over the long term in the face of climate change and increased disease risks, we need to maintain the full range of genetic resources to help us respond.

RBST is working with politicians and officials across the UK to address all of these issues, ensuring that the vital role carried out by the keepers and breeders of native livestock is fully recognised.



Securing Government support

> ***RBST engages with all four UK governments to make sure the conservation and promotion of native breeds is at the heart of their agriculture and environment.***

England

We are working with other farming and environmental organisations to ensure that ELM fully incentivises the transition to the sort of sustainable farming systems in which native breeds thrive.

Having secured a specific commitment from government to invest in the future of our native livestock, we are working directly with Defra and Natural England to make certain that the initiative is both ambitious and sufficiently well-funded.

Through the Abattoir Sector Group, we are pressing for government to guarantee a future for the local abattoir network.

Wales

We have been delighted by Welsh Government's commitment to introduce so much of what RBST has been calling for.

The Welsh Government has announced.

- A specific native breeds option within its new Sustainable Farming Scheme for keeping pedigree registered stock
- Government support for selling native breed products and using native breeds in delivering environmental benefits
- Direct government promotion of the benefits of rare and native breeds



Beulah sheep.



Castlemilk Moorit sheep. Photo: Paddy Kennedy.

Scotland

RBST is working with Scottish Government to ensure that its agriculture, food and climate policies fully recognise the potential contribution of native breeds.

The role of native breeds in providing the low input, high value produce that should be at the core of diversified sustainable business needs to be better acknowledged in agriculture and climate policies.

The importance of short supply chains and honest labelling in ensuring the profitability of sustainable livestock farming needs to be at the heart of food policy.

Northern Ireland

RBST is directly challenging the NI government's policy to reduce livestock emissions through keeping animals indoors and early slaughter.

We continue to maintain that emissions can be better reduced by reducing overall numbers, focusing on breeds that thrive outdoors on grass, improving overall health and welfare and adopting breeding practices that improve efficiency without compromising breed standards.

We have been pleased by government's willingness to engage with our concerns and address them in part. However, there remains much more to do.



RBST

Delivering on priorities



Pilgrim flock. Photograph: D Kieboom.

Watchlist 2023 - challenges for native breeds


Hackney Horses. Photograph by Jonny Olliff-Lee.

> ***The resilience of our native breeds, and the breeders who keep them, has been tested in recent times.***

When RBST reported on the Watchlist compiled from 2021 data, it was able to say that despite Covid-19 and lockdowns, native breeds had not been significantly impacted and, in fact, there were noteworthy signs of improvement. Other challenges were posed in 2022 with rising input costs, a difficult financial climate and, for poultry keepers, the impact of avian flu restrictions. Again there are signs of improvement for some breeds while the data reveal concern for others.

The Watchlist compiled from 2022 data is the third to be produced using the revised methodology introduced in 2021 and the benefits of this can be clearly seen when the breed data are analysed. It has enabled RBST to gain a more detailed understanding of the conservation status for each breed, not just in terms of numbers, but more importantly in terms of the genetic health of each breed with the calculation of the effective population size, the globally recognised measure of genetic health of a population which takes into account both the males and females that contribute to it. Within those breeds with a low effective population size, there is a greater likelihood of inbreeding and thus a higher risk of loss of genetic diversity, which ultimately represents a major threat to a breed's very survival.

Looking at the individual species that the Watchlist covers, the picture for equines, sheep, goats and cattle remained fairly stable but pigs continued to give the greatest cause for concern.

Although six of our native equine breeds – Eriskay, Cleveland Bay, Dales, Exmoor, Suffolk and Hackney - remain in the 'Priority' category, in general 2022 was an encouraging year for our horse and pony breeds. The number of breeders increased for the Hackney, Cleveland Bay and Exmoor and the Dartmoor pony moved from the 'Priority' to the 'At Risk' category after an improved level of performance over a sustained period.

The pig industry as a whole continued to experience uncertain times, facing rising feed costs alongside an uncertain market. The Berkshire, British Landrace, British Lop, Large Black, Large White, Middle White and Tamworth remain categorised as 'Priority' breeds. While the Large White's performance was much improved, the breed still remains in a critical state and the 2022 data indicated that the number of British Landrace dams producing registered progeny fell to its lowest level on record.

In total five breeds saw a reduction in the number of breeders registering progeny, which highlights the importance of encouraging new and existing breeders to breed and register. One positive, however, is that the Welsh has seen an increase in the number of breeders, with total registrations up to 144 from 126 in 2021.

Consistency is the theme for the goat breeds, with all showing good signs of stability. This supports what has been seen


Bagot Goats.


Landrace.

Delivering on priorities


Portland.


Northern Dairy Shorthorn.


Andalusian chicks.

in terms of the marketplace for goats, which in general has been positive in recent years. Conversely, some of the sheep breeds have been impacted by a decline in the numbers of breeders registering progeny. This highlights the importance of breed registration and the need to continue to promote the commercial attributes and benefits of native breeds.

While the same six cattle breeds remain in the 'Priority' category, most are showing signs of consistency. Albions and Northern Dairy Shorthorns showed signs of growth but the Gloucester remains in a worrying position. On the positive side, the Irish Moiled and White Park, two breeds highlighted in 2022 for a slight fall in numbers, both experienced a year of growth and are showing signs of stability.

While the poultry Watchlist has remained unchanged, data are in the process of being gathered to help provide a more accurate understanding of the individual breed status. The poultry industry has been drastically affected by the impact of avian influenza and this, combined with increased feed costs and extended periods of mandatory housing, has put increasing pressure on breeders.

Feral populations

For the first time on the Watchlist, RBST has recognised two distinct feral equine populations, the Dartmoor Hill Pony and the Carneddau pony which appear on the Watchlist in a separate category.

While RBST is not actively looking to add feral populations to the Watchlist and although neither population is considered to be a breed, both are distinct populations. A breed is defined as an "interbreeding population of husbanded or formerly husbanded domesticated animals of consistent genotype and phenotype with a recognised history and administrative framework". Both the Dartmoor Hill Pony and the Carneddau pony satisfy RBST's guidelines on the basis that the evidence shows there are a viable longstanding breeding populations with distinctive individuality, local significance, ecological roles, and a lack of introgression. In addition, there are sufficient population data for monitoring purposes.


Dartmoor Hill Pony.


Carneddau Pony.

RBST
Rare Breeds Survival Trust

Scan to join

Watchlist 2023-24

The methodology used by RBST to prioritise breeds compares population size with measures of inbreeding and takes into account both females and males and the internationally recognised effective population calculation. RBST would like to thank Defra and UK Breed Societies for their help producing the Watchlist.

Sheep

PRIORITY
Lincoln Longwool
North Ronaldsay
Whitefaced Woodland
Welsh Mountain Pedigree

AT RISK
Balwen
Border Leicester
Boreray
Castlemilk Moorit
Cotswold
Derbyshire Gritstone
Devon and Cornwall Longwool
Devon Closewool
Dorset Down
Dorset Horn
Greyface Dartmoor
Hill Radnor
Leicester Longwool
Llanwenog
Lonk
Manx Loaghtan
Norfolk Horn
Oxford Down
Portland
Soay
Teeswater
Torwen Badgerface Welsh
Wensleydale
Whiteface Dartmoor

UK NATIVE BREEDS
Beulah
Black Welsh Mountain*
Blackface (Scottish)
Blueface Leicester
Brecknock Hill Cheviot
Clun Forest
Dalesbred
Exmoor Horn
Hampshire Down
Hebridean*
Herdwick
Jacob*
Kerry Hill*
Llandovery Whiteface Hill
Lleyn*
North Country Cheviot
Poll Dorset
Romney
Rough Fell
Ryeland*
Shetland*
Shropshire*
Southdown*
South Country Cheviot
South Wales Mountain*
Suffolk
Swaledale
Torddu Badgerface Welsh
Welsh Hill Speckled
Welsh Mountain
Wiltshire Horn*

IRISH BREEDS IN THE UK
Galway

Cattle

PRIORITY
Albion
Chillingham Wild Cattle (feral)
Dairy Shorthorn (Original Population)
Gloucester
Northern Dairy Shorthorn
Vaynol

AT RISK
British White
Irish Moiled
Lincoln Red (Original Population)
Native Aberdeen Angus
Shetland
Traditional Hereford
White Park
Whitebred Shorthorn

UK NATIVE BREEDS
Aberdeen Angus
Ayrshire
Beef Shorthorn*
Belted Galloway*
British Friesian
Dairy Shorthorn
Devon
Dexter
Galloway - Including White and Riggit
Guernsey
Hereford
Highland
Jersey
Lincoln Red
Longhorn*
Luing
Red Poll*
South Devon
Sussex
Welsh Black

IRISH BREEDS IN THE UK
Kerry

*These breeds were formerly considered to be Priority or At Risk breeds

Equine

PRIORITY
Cleveland Bay Horse
Dales Pony
Eriskay Pony
Exmoor Pony
Hackney Horse and Pony
Suffolk Horse

AT RISK
Clydesdale Horse
Dartmoor Pony
Fell Pony
Highland Pony
New Forest Pony
Shire Horse

UK NATIVE BREEDS
Shetland Pony
Welsh Pony and Cob (all sections)

IRISH BREEDS IN THE UK
Connemara pony
Irish Draught horse

FERAL POPULATIONS
Dartmoor Hill Pony
Carneddau pony

Pigs

PRIORITY
Berkshire
British Landrace
British Lop
Large Black
Large White
Middle White
Tamworth

AT RISK
British Saddleback
Gloucestershire Old Spots
Oxford Sandy and Black
Welsh

Goats

PRIORITY
English Goat
Old English Goat

AT RISK
Bagot
Golden Guernsey

Poultry

Chickens

PRIORITY
Andalusian
Brussbar
Burmese
Campine
Derbyshire Redcap
Dorking
Hamburgh
Malay
Marsh Daisy
Modern Game
Modern Langshan
North Holland Blue
Old English Pheasant Fowl
Rhodebar
Rumpless Game
Scots Dumpy
Scots Grey
Sicilian Buttercup
Spanish
Sultan
Sussex
Welbar

UK BREEDS
Ancona
Australorp
British Araucana
British Faverolles
Buff Orpington
Cochin
Cream Legbar
Croad Langshan
Indian Game
Ixworth
Legbar
Leghorn
Minorca
Nankin
Norfolk Grey
Old English Game
Orpington (non Buff)
Rosecomb
Sebright

Turkeys

PRIORITY
Blue
Bourbon Red
British White
Bronze
Buff
Cröllwitzer (Pied)
Harvey Speckled
Narragansett
Norfolk Black
Slate

Ducks

PRIORITY
Orpington
Pekin
Shetland
Silver Bantam
Stanbridge White
Welsh Harlequin

UK BREEDS
Abacot Ranger
Aylesbury
Black East Indian
Campbell
Cayuga
Crested
Hookbill
Magpie
Rouen (Exhibition)
Silver Appleyard

Geese

PRIORITY
Brecon Buff
Buff Back
Embden (as standardised in the UK)
Grey Back
Pilgrim
Roman
Sebastopol
Shetland
Steinbacher
Toulouse (Exhibition)
West of England



Greyface Dartmoor. Photograph by Sadie Champion.

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#NativeBreedsForModernNeeds

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Delivering on priorities

Delivering on our objectives: breed specific projects

> ***The revised RBST Watchlist gives a strong indication of where our conservation priorities should lie.***

On the basis of what the Watchlist reveals about the factors affecting the various breeds we are able to assess their conservation status, the specific factors affecting an individual breed's status and the actions required to improve its fortunes. This list forms the basis of our "Priority Breeds" fundraising campaign

Wherever possible, we aim to work in partnership with breed societies to produce conservation plans for each of the breeds in the priority category.

Cattle

- **Gloucester** – Objective: to increase genetic and geographic diversity. Working with the breed society, a conservation plan focussing on the identification of appropriate bulls to add to the Gene Banks is being produced.
- **Albion** – Objective: to increase numbers. Demand for the breed has increased significantly since its inclusion on the Watchlist and the consequential publicity. The breed society is continuing to identify new bulls suitable for semen collection. We can be optimistic about its future. A new bull will be added to the Gene Bank in spring 2023, as there is a need to broaden the genetic diversity of the AI bulls available.
- **Dairy Shorthorn (OP) / Northern Dairy Shorthorn** – Objective: to properly define the breed. Aarhus university has completed the Genomic Characterisation of Danish Dairy Shorthorn including analyses of OP and Northern Dairy Shorthorns. These findings will be published and discussion will take place with the breed society on how the OPDS are to be defined by the society. Once clarified, a series of breed analyses will be required to understand the current situation with the breed.
- **Vaynol** – Objective: to improve numbers and genetic diversity through a co-ordinated breeding programme. Discussions with the breed society are ongoing.
- **Chillingham** – Due to the special nature of the breed, our work is limited to general promotion and awareness raising.

Sheep

- **North Ronaldsay** – Objective: to complete a genetic analysis of the breed and on the basis of the results produce a breeding programme. This work was completed in 2022.
- **Lincoln Longwool** – Objective: to produce a conservation plan. Initial meeting with the Society went well but subsequent challenges may hinder momentum.
- **Whiteface Woodland** – Objective: to reconcile the two breed groups, the CFB and the WWSS, thereby removing any obstacle to efforts to revive the breed. Discussions with the two groups are ongoing, but very much work in progress. A proposed genetics project for the breed, looking at introducing 'Northern' genetics to breeders in the south, is in the early stages of discussion.
- **Welsh Mountain Pedigree**- Objective: to improve the geographic distribution of the breed. Discussions with the breed society are ongoing and 2022 has seen increased engagement, with RBST providing the society



Greyface Dartmoor.

with a report on the current conservation status of the breed. RBST has been responsible for promoting the breed; the Pedigree Welsh Mountain Sheep Society was invited to the RBST stand and provided sheep for the NSA Sheep event 2022.

Pigs

- **British Lop** – Objective: A three-part conservation plan is in progress, involving developing a genomic profile, semen collection and research into embryo storage.

  The Genomic characteristic element has been completed and semen collection is ongoing according to schedule.

  After continued investigation, it is clear that the embryo work would not be a viable option as technology is not yet at the stage where it is practical to collect and freeze embryos. RBST is in discussion with the breed society to look at alternative areas to explore as part of the project.

- **Large White** – Objective: To increase the numbers and geographic distribution of the breed, through the farm park network.

Other breeds are the responsibility of the BPA, with whom RBST works closely.

Equines

The RBST Equine Conservation Project funded by Horserace Betting Levy Board (HBLB) has begun. This work covers all of the native equine breeds including the priority breeds.

Goats

- **English Goats** – Objective: To increase numbers and the genetic diversity of the breed. Initial analysis has been done and RBST is in positive discussion with the breed society who are keen to continue the work.
- **Old English Goats** – Objective: to increase numbers. Following the breed's recognition by both RBST and UKGLE (formerly FAnGR), demand has increased significantly, to the extent that breeders are having difficulty meeting demand. We have reason to be optimistic.

Poultry

Objective: to increase numbers of all Watchlist breeds through the use of clan-based breeding programmes, including the use of contemporary data management techniques The project is funded and coordinated by RBST with each breed group involved producing its own specific objectives

Delivering on priorities


Exmoor Pony.

Genomics projects: RBST's approach

> ***RBST's involvement in genomic projects has increased substantially and the opportunities this work offers are wide ranging.***

Genomics is the all-encompassing term that takes into account all of the DNA in an organism's genome – both the genes that code for proteins and the non-coding regions. It looks at how the genes are expressed and the interplay between different genes.

The opportunities for using genomics are extensive and range from full breed genome projects to more targeted projects to identify deleterious traits. The benefits are well recognised and there is an increasing demand for RBST to help carry out such work – however, the costs are significant and these are often quite complex projects with a number of considerations to be taken into account.

First and foremost, there is a need to develop a genomic project plan to determine what the objectives are and how they can be achieved. The key points that we have to consider are:

- What the objectives are and the stakeholders involved.



- The logistics of sample collection and the method to be used.
- Confirmation of the level of the genotyping required and identification of the appropriate specialist for analysis of the results.
- Detailed costings for each stage – including any trial work.
- How the results will ultimately be presented and used.

A quantum leap for the Exmoor

In 2022, RBST's genomic work saw the completion of the first whole genome sequence of a UK native pony breed, the Exmoor pony. The availability of the breed's full gene sequence comes as a result of the whole genome sequencing by Dr Sarah Blott at the University of Nottingham and is described as "a quantum leap in understanding the Exmoor pony's genetic make-up".

Until recently genetic analysis to further the conservation of native livestock and especially equine breeds has been restricted to examining a much smaller set of genes. However, thanks to this comprehensive genomic analysis, undertaken over several years and representing the 2.7 billion DNA base pairs in the genome, we can now see the Exmoor pony breed's whole genetic picture for the first time. This can be used to improve the breed's prospects for survival long into the future. It opens up new possibilities in managing genetic diversity, in identifying conditions which could put the breed's future at risk, and in ascertaining whether changes in herds are down to genetics or environmental factors.

The Exmoor Pony whole genome analysis was commissioned by RBST, Exmoor National Park Authority and the Exmoor Pony Society, with generous support and assistance from the University of Nottingham and local individuals.

A healthy genetic picture for North Ronaldsay

Preserving and maintaining the genetics of the North Ronaldsay sheep was one of the projects identified in RBST's conservation plan and its completion revealed a healthy effective population.

The project began with taking nasal pharyngeal swabs from a representative number of the island's sheep population. These swabs were used for the genome-wide association study that would assess the genomic structure of the North Ronaldsay sheep on the island and estimate the levels of genetic diversity and inbreeding in the studied population.

This was the first time such a study had been undertaken and there was a real concern that, with an isolated and closed population with relatively low numbers, levels of inbreeding could be high. However, what was revealed was that, in terms of genetic diversity, the island has a viable population of North Ronaldsay sheep.

For the purposes of the study, swabs were collected from 176 individual animals of both genders across seven flocks from around the island. After a series of quality control processes, genotypes from 164 sheep went on to be analysed. While the analysis of the genomic diversity showed considerable historic inbreeding, it also showed that only very limited recent inbreeding has been added on.

In fact, the study showed that the effective population size of the studied population was broadly of a similar size to the actual size of the studied population. And since the current population on the island is around 1,500, the number of sheep in the study constitutes a 10% sample which can be considered



Delivering on priorities

representative of the entire population.

The genomic analysis of the North Ronaldsay sheep was led by Prof Georgios Banos at Scotland's Rural College (SRUC). Funding was provided by RBST, North Ronaldsay resident and Pride of Britain award winner Billy Muir, and the Scottish government RESAS programme.

New DNA project for the Eriskay

The Eriskay Pony Society (EPS) has a long history of close collaboration with RBST to investigate ways of increasing numbers of this Priority breed. A high emphasis has been placed on using science as a tool in promoting genetically-appropriate breeding and a new project launched by EPS in consultation with RBST takes this work to a new level.

For this project, EPS is engaging with genetics experts at Nottingham Trent University (NTU) to carry out the biggest survey ever undertaken of Eriskay pony DNA. The project has come about thanks to funding from the Horserace Betting Levy Board (HBLB), coupled with a contribution from the Society's own funds. The work is being carried out by NTU's Medical Technologies Innovation Facility (MTIF) and School of Animal, Rural and Environmental Sciences, led by Professor Philippe Wilson along with Dr Samuel White and Dr Andy Dell.

With the help of RBST, EPS has already adopted the SPARKS system of selection but the Society recognises that science and technology can deliver a much more accurate understanding of the genetics, flagging up any current or potential future issues and help make sure that every animal bred is as healthy and fit for purpose as possible. The results will provide a baseline of information for using in the Society's involvement in RBST's equine conservation project and will give complex and detailed information about Eriskay ponies'genetic profiles.



Eriskay Pony.



North Ronaldsay Sheep on the North Atlantic.



Cleveland Bay.

RBST secures funding for major equine project

In 2022 RBST gained funding from Horserace Betting Levy Board (HBLB) for a three-year equine conservation project designed to improve significantly RBST's ability to support both breed societies and individual breeders in the conservation status of our native equine breeds through a two-part programme.

To put the current situation into perspective, there are fourteen native horse and pony breeds of which twelve are considered rare and seven considered to be Priority breeds. RBST applied for the funding under the HBLB Non-Fixture Related Grant scheme, relying on the HBLB's duty under s.24 of the Betting, Gaming and Lotteries Act 1963 to "apply funds for purposes conducive to ... the improvement of breeds of horses".

The first part of the proposed project is concerned with identifying both overarching and breed specific issues and conducting an analysis of differing approaches to breeding and reproductive technologies to create and promote best practice guidance for establishing breeding strategies. The second part focuses on the uses of the breeds and the opportunities for extending those uses, so raising the profile of the breeds and increasing their numbers.

The first year of the project focuses on evidence gathering to better understand the challenges. This will include a reproduction survey, a semen analysis and a versatility study. Year Two will focus on what influences breeding decisions and the information used. Using that information, and building on the Year One activities, breeder guides and a Best Practice Tool Kit for breed societies and others will be produced. Year Three of the project is concerned with the wider role of native equines in society and encouraging their use.

Delivering on priorities

Marsh Daisy on the road to rescue


Marsh Daisy.

In December 2020, the Marsh Daisy Breeders Group formulated a three-year plan to rescue its breed from extinction and the National Clan Breeding Programme made great strides in 2022.

The three-year plan to rescue the Marsh Daisy included the aim to standardise the breed's five colours and increase its public profile to restore its popularity as an easy utility breed. The ultimate objective is to pioneer a system to award pedigree certificates to those birds meeting breed standard using Cloud Lines to record breeding groups and evaluate genetic diversity in the breeding flock.

With the support of RBST and the Rare Poultry Society, a co-ordinated breeding programme - the National Clan Breeding Programme - was identified to maximise the genetic diversity of the breed. The programme involved unprecedented co-operation between breeders, identifying parent birds and progeny using PCGB leg rings or wing tags and recording the data onto the Cloud Lines database.

Despite a challenging year with Avian Flu restrictions delaying breeding programmes, a report in The Ark magazine brought ten new breeders to the programme with more waiting for birds to become available.

Ultimately the project will deliver a greater understanding of the genetics involved in the breed and the availability of the Cloud Lines package to record the breeding efforts will enhance the results achievable.

Pilgrim's progress

In 2019, with the support of RBST and its Poultry Working Group, a project was launched to investigate and address faults that have become increasingly apparent in the gene pool of the UK population of the auto-sexing Pilgrim goose.

The Pilgrim was identified as a breed by Oscar Grow in the USA in the 1930s. It became popular as a smallholder goose precisely because of its auto-sexing characteristics which mean that the sex of the bird should be identifiable at hatching by the colour difference in the fluff. However, the appearance of a 'rogue' gene in the breed has been increasingly compromising the auto-sexing qualities.

In white breeds of European geese, the white is produced by the interaction of a 'spot' gene and a 'dilution' gene; birds of both sexes carrying both of these genes look white. In the Pilgrim, it is the dilution gene alone which is the key to its auto-sexing qualities, which is sufficient to turn ganders almost white and geese a soft shade of grey. So, in the case of the Pilgrim the spot is the unwanted gene and this is what the Pilgrim project is seeking to minimise, if not eliminate.

The aim of the project is to identify methods that could be used to assess goslings least likely to take the fault forward and leg ring them so that the birds can be used/monitored in future breeding. A small group of breeders committed to the project and agreed to document their adult stock and record the offspring produced. A Facebook group was set up to collate and record results and serve as a platform to share information between project breeders and other interested parties. This has proved to be a great resource for networking across the globe and in doing so has brought considerable pool of knowledge and experience from breeders of other auto-sexing goose breeds.

In 2022 the total project population reached around 60-plus birds and although these birds cannot be said to be 100% fault free, they provide the best opportunity to establish a programme to take the Pilgrim back to its true autosexing make up. One conclusion that has been reached to date is that the true colouring of the auto-sexing in males and females needs to be reflected in Poultry Standards, thus eliminating the risk of poor examples being used for breeding.

Project to secure the future of the Yorkshire Pig


Large White.

The 2021 RBST Watchlist data revealed that the Large White, traditionally known as the Yorkshire Pig, had one of the most negative shifts in that year, making it a Priority breed. In a move to help prevent further decline of the breed, RBST and the British Pig Association (BPA) launched a joint conservation project.

The Large White pig has had a significant influence on the commercial pig industry and the development of the hybrid pig. The breed was recommended to form the basis of the UK pig farming industry in the 1955 Hewitt report and it became known as 'the world's favourite breed'. It enjoyed enormous popularity in the 1950s but breed numbers declined dramatically in the aftermath of the Foot and Mouth crisis of 2001. As the pig industry has followed the poultry industry with increasing consolidation and vertical integration, the number of pedigree Large Whites in the hands of independent breeders fell to an all-time low.

Fittingly announced at the Great Yorkshire Show, the new project sees RBST and BPA jointly purchasing 10 pedigree Large White pigs, selected from the most vulnerable bloodlines and least related to the rest of the population, to join tailored breeding programmes. The project aims to ensure the presence of at least five breeding females for each of 10 key lines in at least five different herds. The aim is not only to secure vulnerable pedigree bloodlines to strengthen the breed's genetic diversity, but also to improve its geographic dispersal which is crucial to safeguarding against the potential for a decimation of the breed through disease.

The project is based on a model created by BPA's Junior Pig Club which created similar conservation breeding programmes for the British Landrace and Middle White breeds. Pigs purchased for the project will be sent to a number of RBST Approved City Farms and school and college farms, who will carry out breeding programmes to produce new breeding stock which will be moved on to new locations, effectively helping the breed fan out across the country.

Addressing the pig feed crisis


Welsh.

The UK pig industry has been facing the 'perfect storm' due to a combination of factors, not least the effect of the war in Ukraine on worldwide grain prices. The larger scale commercial industry has lost a substantial percentage of its herd due to escalating costs of production – and small-scale producers and pedigree breeders are not immune to the pressures.

Conscious of the fact that the continued and significant rise in feed prices was piling pressure on many keepers of native-breed pigs, RBST and the British Pig Association (BPA) worked to provide advice and support. As a first step, the two organisations put together advice for pig farmers on alternatives to compound feed.

The RBST/BPA advice came with a very important warning: under no circumstances should kitchen waste be fed to pigs because of the possibility of contamination. For example, the risk of African Swine Fever is coming closer to the UK having jumped from Eastern Europe to Northern Italy and down to Rome, thought to have been transmitted via contaminated meats.

The RBST/BPA guidance sheet gives details of the proportions at which of different types of alternatives can be used as a substitute for concentrates and highlights alternative supplies – and legal ways of acquiring them.

Delivering on priorities

Silent killers

One of the reasons that RBST collects genetic materials for long-term preservation is as an insurance policy against large numbers of our native breeds being lost due to a major disease outbreak. However, it is not only the headline-hitting epidemics that can threaten numerically challenged breeds and livestock keepers – and would-be keepers – need to be aware of the 'silent killers' that the public rarely gets to hear about.

The average person tends to know of the impact of livestock disease only from news reports; from the catastrophic consequences of the Foot and Mouth outbreak of 2001 to the more recent debates over TB in cattle and the impact of avian influenza. What most do not realise is that there are ongoing threats of both transmittable and genetically transferred diseases. In large commercial flocks and herds, these may be something that can be mitigated by the scale of operation, but the smaller the breed population, the more impact it can have.

So, as well as working with DEFRA and other bodies to put in place plans for a worst-case scenario, RBST works with breed societies and breeders to identify these more silent killers and raise awareness within breeding circles so that measures can be taken to avoid or eliminate the threats.

One way in which RBST highlights the threats posed by 'silent killers' is with a regular series of articles in The Ark magazine. These highlight specific disease threats and the measures needed to protect against or deal with them. The articles also highlight the part that members of the general public can play in keeping disease from our livestock – measures such as clearing up after dogs when walking in the countryside to help prevent the spread of neosporosis or making sure that any food waste is disposed of safely and securely.

The better-informed livestock owners are, the less the risk of disease entering their herd or flock. With numbers for some breeds at alarmingly low levels, the loss of animals to disease can have a disproportionate impact on the security of the whole breed, so every keeper or potential keeper has another role to play in conservation by being vigilant to disease threats.

Consultancy advice and training

RBST consultancy service

With half a century's experience of studying native livestock and equines, their behaviour and their impact on the natural environment, RBST's expertise in the use and management of native breeds is second to none.

RBST's Consultancy Service makes this expertise available to land managers and owners wanting to keep native livestock and equines on larger holdings, whether as part of a diversified farm business, an ecological restoration project or a move towards "wilder farming".

Advice is provided to landowners and farmers to help them achieve their ecological and commercial goals for a more regenerative farming future. RBST uses its combination of conservation breeding and research programmes, population monitoring, education, advocacy and grass roots practices to inform practical, implementation-focused advice.

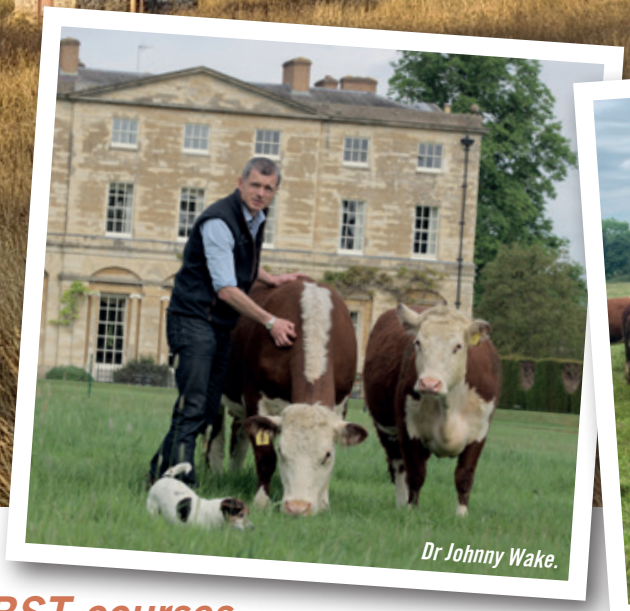
> ***We decided to commission and work with RBST because of its obvious pre-eminence in the area of rare breeds across the board. They produced a comprehensive and bespoke report for us and did a fantastic job.***
>
> **Dr Johnny Wake**,
> Managing Partner, Courteenhall Estate.

The RBST conservation team offers support in scoping a project, selecting breeds and species to achieve ecological and commercial goals, managing their welfare needs, registrations, unlocking potential support payments, infrastructure requirements and sourcing the animals themselves.

All proceeds from the RBST Consultancy Service go towards continuing RBST's work to secure a future for the UK's native breeds.



Traditional Herefords.



Dr Johnny Wake.



Advice and training.

RBST courses

RBST was one of the first organisations to recognise the conservation benefits of managed livestock grazing and, as a result, has an unparalleled degree of expertise and experience.

RBST runs two LANTRA accredited courses, Conservation Grazing in Practice and Livestock Checkers. The Conservation Grazing in Practice course, run over two days, provides a basic introduction to extensive/conservation grazing and the use of livestock to achieve environmental objectives. The course covers grazing and grazing systems, animal health, welfare and behaviour, key legislation, the role and responsibilities of a keeper, health and safety, risk assessments and how to safely and effectively carry out livestock handling techniques.

The one-day livestock checkers' course provides a basic introduction to stock checking in the conservation/land-based sector. It is ideal for beginners, volunteers or anyone with limited experience of livestock. The course covers animal health and welfare, key legislation, the role and responsibilities of a stock checker and how to safely and effectively check livestock.

Both courses are delivered by LANTRA accredited trainers and all delegates receive a LANTRA certificate after successful completion of the course.

> ***A wonderful course for people who want to bring conservation grazing and native breeds back to the forefront to protect our environment for future generations.***
>
> **Bethany Wood**,
> July CG – Yorkshire Wildlife Trust.

RBST Recognition



Our Patron

The former Prince of Wales was Patron of RBST from 1986 until the death of Her Majesty the Queen and his ascension to the throne.

In this capacity, he has always been passionately supportive of the work carried out by the Trust, taking a personal interest and facilitating funding for various initiatives through the Prince's Countryside Fund. He has also provided practical support for native breeds by establishing a number of herds and flocks at Dumfries House in Scotland.

He has frequently spoken knowledgeably and eloquently about his own interest in rare breeds and was an early advocate of the importance of preserving their genetics as a safeguard for the future. At an event to mark the Trust's 40th anniversary in 2013, he stated that it was important that the wider public understands why RBST's work is so vital, as the ability to farm sustainably will depend on the genetics of our native breeds, as we are now seeing in our changing farming environment.



Our President

Baroness (Sue) Hayman of Ullock continues in her role as RBST President and chaired the 2022 AGM at Dumfries House in November.

A Labour Life Peer, Baroness Hayman of Ullock has sat under the title in the House of Lords since September 2020 and she is Shadow Spokesperson for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. Sue Hayman previously served as Member of Parliament for Workington between 2015 and 2019, becoming Shadow Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs in 2017.

In her role as President, she is helping RBST to make the case for securing a sustainable future for native livestock and equines in Parliament and across the wider political world. When paying tribute to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II in the House of Lords, Baroness Hayman spoke about Her Majesty's important, wide-ranging and much-valued commitment to our native livestock and equine breeds.



Recognition

Media coverage highlights 2022



The media strategy for 2022 was to build on the successes of our media activity programmes in 2020 and 2021 to promote modern uses for native breeds, influence policies to the benefit of native breeds, support specific objectives in RBST's conservation programmes, promote the farm parks network, and show the importance, value and success of the RBST's work.

Media activity in 2022 has cemented RBST's position as the leading, UK-wide go-to voice for native breeds across national, specialist and regional media, growing our presence in Northern Ireland titles in particular.

Coverage highlights include:

Launch of the new RBST Watchlist in April 2022

- **The Guardian** in print and online (3.5 million readers per day)
- **The Daily Mail** online and in print (4.1 million readers per day)
- **The Daily Star** (800,000 readers per day)
- **The Week Junior** (91,295 readers per issue)
- **BBC Look North** (TV – viewing figures not available)
- **Farmers Weekly online** (766,000 web users per month) & print (circulation 38,347 per issue)
- **Farmers Guardian online** (168,900 web users per month) & print (circulation 28,149 per issue)
- **The Scottish Farmer** (print and online audience of more than 100,000 per week)
- **Country Life** (40,317 readers per issue)
- **Horse & Hound** (23,211 readers per issue**)**
- **Your Horse** (reach unknown)
- **The Smallholder** (reach unknown)
- **Country Smallholding** (reach unknown)
- **Pig World** (4,100 readers per issue)
- **Farming Life** (reach unknown)
- **FarmingUK.com** (the site has around 12,000 visits a day)
- **Agriland** (the site has 60,000 daily visitors)
- Regional print and online including **Western Daily Press / Cornwalllive.com, Eastern Daily Press, Yorkshire Post, the Press & Journal, The Courier, Daily Post (North Wales), Western Mail, Carmarthen Journal**

Total reach estimate of more than 8.5 million through Watchlist media coverage alone.

Other coverage highlights in 2022:

A strong voice on relevant farming and environmental issues in the national media

- **The Observer** on the importance of keeping Acton Scott farm park open
- **Daily Telegraph** on the use of non-native equines on National Trust land
- **Daily Telegraph** picture from the RBST Young Shepherd's competition
- **Sunday Telegraph** on the Exmoor pony genome project findings
- **BBC Radio 4:** Farming Today's Rare Breeds Week in February 2022 – 5 days of focus on different issues, insights and information about the UK's rare native breeds and the work to support their survival

Highlighting native breed opportunities and challenges regionally

- **BBC Radio Scotland** – Out of Doors programme interview with RBST Vice President Scotland
- **BBC Radio Ulster** – Farm Gate programme interview with RBST Chief Executive
- **BBC Radio Ulster** – Farming Matters programme interview with RBST Chief Executive
- **BBC Radio Gloucestershire** – Gloucester cattle event
- **Rare Breeds for Christmas campaign:** articles in Farmers Guardian, The Courier, Press & Journal, Brecon & Radnor Express, County Times (Wales) Cornwall Live, Farm Life (NI), Eastern Daily Press
- **Yorkshire Post's Country Week:** focus on abattoirs, and launch of Large White Pig programme at Yorkshire Show
- **Western Morning News:** column on action for rare breeds, Exmoor pony genome project
- **NI Farming Press:** formation of new RBST NI Support Group
- **The Scotsman:** Steve McMinn's appointment as RBST Trustee



RBST Scotland Food & Farming Awards 2022

- BBC Radio Scotland
- The Herald
- The Scottish Farmer
- The Scottish Field
- The Press & Journal
- The Courier

Putting native breeds high in the agenda in the farming and rural press

- **Regular coverage in Farmers Guardian magazine, with articles on topics including:**
  - RBST's work with Breed Societies
  - Large White pigs
  - Choosing the Right Breed for the Right Place opinion piece
  - British Lop pig genetic project
  - RBST Watchlist
  - Diversifications with Rare Breeds supplement alongside RBST's Farm Business Innovation show presence
  - Diversity of Livestock podcast interview
  - Rare Breeds for Christmas Lunch feature
  - Regular commentary on industry news and policy developments
- **Regular coverage in Farmers Weekly magazine, with articles on topics including:**
  - Gloucester cattle profitable farming event
  - British Lop pig genetic project
  - Breed marketing
  - RBST Watchlist
  - Cattle slaughter age proposals in NI
  - Abattoirs
  - ELM Scheme development
  - Regular commentary on industry news and policy developments
- **Regular coverage in the Scottish farming titles**
  - RBST Scotland Food and Farming Awards
  - Calls for better provision for rare breeds in Scottish future farming policy proposals
  - Steve McMinn's appointment as RBST Trustee
- **Regular coverage in Country Life magazine**
  - Return of the Country Shows
  - RBST Watchlist
  - Traditional Herefords at Courteenhall
  - Features on Fell ponies and Gloucester cattle
  - Native breed pigs for smallholdings
  - Commentary on King Charles
  - Meat boxes
  - Fell ponies
- **Regular coverage in targeted smallholding and equine titles**

RBST Member profiles in:

- The Press and Journal
- CLA Land & Business
- Farmers Guardian
- Country Life
- The Field

Promotion of RBST Consultancy service to large landowner audience:

- CLA Land & Business magazine,
- Country Life,
- Farmers Guardian





Large Black piglet.
Photograph: Rachel Gilbert.

#GoNative

Financial Review

Operating statement

	2022				2021
	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	**Total**	Total
	£	£	£	**£**	£
Income and endowments from:					
Grants and Donations	62,844	-	56,246	**119,090**	162,884
Legacies	72,067	-	-	**72,067**	211,135
Membership Subscriptions (inc Gift Aid)	198,387	-	-	**198,387**	178,326
Charitable Activities	55,661	-	-	**55,661**	49,456
Advertising Revenue	15,687	-	-	**15,687**	13,487
Investments	114,761	-	-	**114,761**	97,258
Total income and endowments	**519,407**	**-**	**56,246**	**575,653**	712,546
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	165,885	5,604	-	**171,489**	141,745
Investment management fees	18,176	-	-	**18,176**	18,017
Charitable activities	367,028	72,941	34,567	**474,536**	447,387
Other	-	-	-	**-**	-
Total expenditure	**551,089**	**78,545**	**34,567**	**664,201**	607,149
Net gains/(losses) on investments	(294,184)	-	-	**(294,184)**	383,886
Net income/(expenditure)	**(325,866)**	**(78,545)**	**21,679**	**(382,732)**	489,283

Income

Total income in 2022 was £575,653 compared with £712,546 in 2021. The decrease was predominantly driven by a drop in legacies, as well as a drop in Grants and Donations, all other areas were up.

Legacies are inherently difficult to forecast and have a tendency to be volatile. Thus RBST budgets for Legacies using long term averages, 2022 was below the long term average, but this is to be expected when considering numbers with high volatility.

Grants and Donations were down predominantly due to a drop in restricted funds, which were £56,246 in 2022 compared with £134,342 in 2021. This was expected as the large payment for the farm park project recorded in 2021 was not fully offset from other sources in 2022. However, this was significantly offset by the success RBST's unrestricted fundraising which was £62,844 in 2022 compared with £28,542 in 2021.

Income from Membership Subscriptions was £198,387, up versus £178,326 in 2021. This was made up of Individual Membership Subscriptions and Gift Aid, both of which were up however it was also contributed to by Corporate Subscriptions which were almost 50% higher than in 2021.

Income from charitable activities in 2022 was £55,661 compared with £49,456 in 2021. The increase was predominantly linked to a continuing recovery of activities, as the restrictions due to the pandemic were almost entirely over. It was also due to an increased demand for RBST's educational courses.

In line with accounting requirements, the investments are revalued at each year end. In 2022 RBST's investments returned a net negative movement in funds of £294,184, this was versus a gain of £383,886 in 2021. As was flagged in 2021, this figure is simply a snap shot of investments at a point in time and is highly dependant on the markets at that moment. Furthermore, this 'loss' is uncrystallised (or unrealised).

Similar to Legacies, as mentioned above, RBST budgets based the long term performance of its investments. It is understood and expected that these averages will be made up of some years of large gains and others of large loses, indeed this is the reason for using them.

RBST takes a long term approach to investments and on average £110,000 of investment income and £135,000 of capital gains have been generated each year over the last five years, representing a compound gross rate of return of 5.5% per annum.

Expenditure

Expenditure for 2022 totalled £664,201 compared with £607,149 in 2021 and £701,954 in 2020. The increase was planned, and was driven by an increase in spend on both charitable activities, as well as fund raising activities, however costs remain under close control and cost in 2022 remained lower than in 2020, 2019, 2018 and 2017.

Unrestricted spend on Charitable activities increased by more than 10% as the Trust continued to, not only closely monitor costs but, ensure spend was being directed to forwarding the Trust's objectives. This was somewhat offset by a reduction in restricted spending as the spend on the farm park project came to an end.

Spend on raising funds was up in 2022 as show spend increased significantly, as there was a full return to normal activities following Covid, new high quality merchandise was invested in and more staff time was dedicated to raising funds.

Financial Review (continued)

Despite costs remaining closely controlled, 2022 cannot be considered without mentioning the cost of living crisis. Inflation impacted almost every aspect of the Trust's activities, this has been fully and rigorously budgeted for in 2023, but will remain a challenge and will impact spend for years to come. There is also the knock on impact, that inflation peaking in double digits will inevitably have on the public's ability to give, and this of course extends to RBST's cherished members.

RBST was incredibly grateful to receive the incredible support it did in 2022, in preparation for the 50th anniversary in 2023, to ensure RBST can continue promoting and protecting priceless native livestock and equines for another 50 years. That aside, fundraising in general will inevitably be harder than prior to the cost of living crisis.

Balance Sheet

The Balance Sheet remains robust, although net assets have decreased by 10% to £3,309,851 as at the end of 2022, predominately due to the revaluation of RBST's investments. This follows an increase of 15% to £3,695,353 at the end of 2021.

Reserves policy

	31 December 2022	31 December 2021	% Increase/ (Decrease)
Unrestricted funds (Free Reserves)	903,529	1,300,420	-30.5%
Unrestricted funds (Tangible Fixed Assets)	98,735	104,727	-5.7%
Total Unrestricted funds	1,002,264	1,405,147	-28.7%
Designated Funds:			
- Gene Bank	2,000,000	2,000,000	0.0%
- Gene Bank	39,396	-	-
- Conservation – Breed stock	22,009	24,779	-11.2%
- Linga Holm	-	12,812	-100.0%
- Sandringham Charitable Trust	-	19,237	-100.0%
- Property improvement fund	132,000	132,000	0.0%
- Lop Fund	8,951	8,951	0.0%
Restricted Funds:			
- Cattle Conservation	5,487	2,487	120.6%
- Equine Conservation	23,987	23,001	4.3%
- Goat Conservation	2,659	2,659	0.0%
- Pig Conservation	40,882	14,439	183.1%
- Sheep Conservation	21,779	27,026	-19.4%
- Other projects	10,437	22,815	-54.3%
Ratio of Free Reserves to Annual Operating Expenditure	1.4 years	2.1 years	

The charity maintains a large investment portfolio in order to create an income, currently in the region of £115,000, to help fund its charitable activities.

Free reserves are shown in accordance with Charity Commission guidance CC19.

One of the prime objectives of the charity is to ensure the preservation of breeds. Therefore, a Gene Bank is maintained to ensure the characteristics of old and current breeds are conserved. This Gene Bank is treated as a heritage asset, which is irreplaceable. The Trustees have therefore designated £2million to maintain and develop the Gene Bank for the next generation.

The reserves that the Trustees have set aside provide financial stability and the means for the development of our principal activity. The Trustees' aim is for free reserves to always cover at least the annual operating expenditure.

The Trustees regularly review the amount of reserves that are required to ensure that they are adequate to fulfil our continuing obligations

Investment policy

A medium-risk approach describes the investment policy. Assets are held in the RBST Portfolio which is managed by Evelyn and which invests in a combination of segregated equities and collective funds. The portfolio targets an initial income yield of 4%; in 2022 it achieved 3.6%, which was acceptable given market conditions. The investment aim is to achieve this income target without detriment to the growth and without incurring unnecessary risk. The value of the RBST portfolio as at 31 December 2022 was £3,149,353 compared with £3,540,072 as at 31 December 2021.

Governance

Structure

RBST is a charity registered with the Charity Commission for England and Wales (Registration No. 269442). It is also a company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales (Registration No. 01204694). It was founded in 1973. Its objects and powers are set out in its Memorandum and Articles of Association.

Trustees

The Board of RBST is comprised of unpaid trustees, with no fewer than six elected from its membership and up to five co-opted. The trustees are also the directors of RBST for the purposes of company law. The Board is responsible for setting policy, agreeing strategy and approving major commitments based on advice from senior management, and the appointment of the Chief Executive Officer. Day-to-day operations are delegated by the Board to the Chief Executive Officer, who leads the executive and volunteer teams. RBST's Memorandum and Articles of Association provide that elected trustees may be appointed for two periods of up to four years, with years being defined by AGMs, at a time and must then take a minimum break of 24 months. Co-opted trustees may be appointed for two periods of up to three years, with years being defined by AGMs, at a time and must then take a minimum break of 24 months. The Board has two principal committees: the Conservation and Research Committee and the Finance and Governance Committee. Membership of these committees along with a full list of trustees and staff at the time of writing of this report are provided at the end of this report. The Conservation and Research Committee advises the Board of Trustees on strategic issues concerning conservation programmes and related activities. The Finance and Governance Committee is responsible for reviewing RBST's financial performance and matters relating to management, organisation, governance, investments and risk management. Each new trustee is provided with training and an induction, where s/he learns about the organisation and the role and responsibilities of a trustee. The induction includes a pack containing the Charity Commission guidance 'The Essential Trustee'; RBST's governing documents; and the most recent annual report and financial statements. Trustees receive ongoing training, receive charity law updates, and are involved in strategic sessions relating to the operations during the year.

Statement of Trustees' responsibilities

The trustees (who are also directors of RBST for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom generally accepted accounting practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards). Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under company law the trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they 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 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 2019 (FRS 102);
- make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charitable company's transactions, 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, and the provisions of the Charity's constitution. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

In so far as the trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditor is unaware; and
- the trustees have taken all reasonable steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information. The trustees are also responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website.

Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Governance (continued)

Grant making policy

RBST occasionally makes donations or grants, in line with its charitable and strategic objectives, to partners in the RBST network, the outcomes of which are reviewed at regular periods.

Public benefit

In reviewing our charitable objectives and as part of planning our future programme of work, the trustees of RBST have taken account of the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and have considered how the planned programme of work will consistently contribute to the Charity's aims and objectives.

Remuneration policy

Our approach to remuneration across the organisation is designed to ensure we can attract and retain the talented and motivated people we need to deliver our mission.

Fundraising Regulator Statement of Compliance

The charity does not contract with a third party to undertake any fundraising on its behalf. The charity does employ a fundraising officer who initiates campaigns and supports fundraising activities.

The charity only makes fundraising approaches to contacts who have given explicit consent to receive such campaign documentation under GDPR guidelines. We have received no fundraising complaints during the year.

Risk management

The trustees have reviewed the major risks to which the charity is exposed and confirm that systems have been established to mitigate those risks. Particular attention has focused on Support Groups. These and other risks are kept under review. A full review of the risk register will be carried out next year.

Trustees Indemnity

The charity has Trustees' indemnity insurance in place.

Our employees & volunteers

The delivery of our mission relies on our talented and motivated people, and we are proud of the performance of our staff and volunteers across the UK. The trustees and Chief Executive Officer encourage widespread consultation and exchange of information at all levels of the organisation and we continue to work together on a range of actions to improve employee and volunteer engagement, ensuring that RBST remains a great place to work and volunteer.

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

The trustees are committed to addressing equality, diversity and inclusion, recognising that doing so helps a board to make better decisions and means RBST is more likely to stay relevant to those it serves and to deliver its public benefit. Trustees will work to recognise and counter any imbalances in power, perspectives or opportunities in RBST, and in the attitudes and behaviour of trustees, staff and volunteers, so helping to make sure RBST achieves its aims.

The trustees' report (including the directors' report) was approved by the Board of trustees on xxxxxxxxx and was signed on their behalf by:



John Atkinson

Chairman of the Board of trustees

Date: 8th June 2023

Independent Auditors Report

Year Ended 31 December 2022

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of the Rare Breeds Survival Trust (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 December 2022 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, Balance Sheet, Statement of Cashflows and 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 charitable company's affairs as at 31 December 2022, and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

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

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

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

Other information

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

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

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

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

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

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 45, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the

Independent Auditors Report (continued)

going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

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 specific procedures for this engagement and the extent to which these are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

- Enquiry of management, those charged with governance around actual and potential litigation and claims;
- Enquiry of entity staff in compliance functions to identify any instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations;
- Reviewing minutes of meetings of those charged with governance;
- Reviewing financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations.
- Performing audit work over the risk of management override of controls, including testing of journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness, evaluating the business rationale of significant transactions outside the normal course of business and reviewing accounting estimates for bias.

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

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (UK), we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the charitable company's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the trustees.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the charitable company to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Use of our report

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



Geoffrey Cox BA FCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
For and on behalf of Dafferns LLP, Statutory Auditor
One Eastwood
Binley Business Park
Coventry, CV3 2UB
Date: 8th June 2023

Statement of Financial Activities

(Including Income and Expenditure Account)
Year Ended 31 December 2022

		2022				2021
		Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	**Total**	Total
	Note	£	£	£	**£**	£
Income and endowments from:						
Donations and legacies	2	333,298	-	56,246	**389,544**	552,345
Charitable activities	3	55,661	-	-	**55,661**	49,456
Other trading activities	4	15,687	-	-	**15,687**	13,487
Investments	5	114,761	-	-	**114,761**	97,258
Total income and endowments		**519,407**	**-**	**56,246**	**575,653**	712,546
Expenditure on:						
Raising funds		165,885	5,604	-	**171,489**	141,745
Investment management fees		18,176	-	-	**18,176**	18,017
Charitable activities	6	367,028	72,941	34,567	**474,536**	447,387
Total expenditure		**551,089**	**78,545**	**34,567**	**664,201**	607,149
Net gains/(losses) on investments	15	(294,184)	-	-	**(294,184)**	383,886
Net income/(expenditure)		**(325,866)**	**(78,545)**	**21,679**	**(382,732)**	489,283
Transfers between funds	20	(77,017)	85,892	(8,875)	**-**	-
Other recognised gains/(losses):						
Gains/(losses) on revaluation of fixed assets	13	-	(2,770)	-	**(2,770)**	(8,780)
Net movement in funds		**(402,883)**	**4,577**	**12,804**	**(385,502)**	480,503
Reconciliation of funds:						
Total funds brought forward	20	1,405,147	2,197,779	92,427	**3,695,353**	3,214,850
Total funds carried forward	20	**1,002,264**	**2,202,356**	**105,231**	**3,309,851**	3,695,353

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities. Activities relating to the Gene bank are disclosed in note 14.

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised during the year.

Balance sheet

Year Ended 31 December 2022

	Note	2022 £	2021 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	13	**98,735**	104,727
Heritage assets	14	**-**	-
Investments	15	**3,149,353**	3,540,072
		3,248,088	3,644,799
Current assets			
Stocks	16	**15,324**	7,360
Debtors	17	**61,172**	35,490
Cash at bank and in hand		**48,747**	53,330
		125,243	96,180
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	18	**63,480**	45,626
Net current assets		**61,763**	50,554
Net assets		**3,309,851**	3,695,353
Charity Funds			
Unrestricted funds	20	**1,002,264**	1,405,147
Designated funds	20	**2,202,356**	2,197,779
Restricted funds	20	**105,231**	92,427
Total charity funds		**3,309,851**	3,695,353

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Board on ???? 2023.

Signed on behalf of the Board of trustees



John Atkinson, Chairman of Trustees,



Alison Pope, Treasurer

The notes on pages 52 to 63 form part of these financial statements

Company registration number: 01204694

Statement of cash flows

Year Ended 31 December 2022

	2022	2021
	£	£
Cash flow from operating activities	**(212,738)**	27,296
Cash flow from investing activities		
Payments to acquire tangible fixed assets	**(3,141)**	(1,500)
Payments to acquire investments	**(74,632)**	(354,467)
Receipts from sales of investments	**171,167**	249,933
Interest received	**10,889**	7,399
Dividends received	**103,872**	89,859
Net cash flow from investing activities	**208,155**	(8,776)
Net increase / (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	**(4,583)**	18,520
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 January 2022	**53,330**	34,810
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 December 2022	**48,747**	53,330
Cash and cash equivalents consists of:		
Cash at bank and in hand	**48,747**	53,330
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 December 2022	**48,747**	53,330

	2022	2021
	£	£
Reconciliation of net income/(expenditure) to net cash flow from operating activities		
Net income / (expenditure) for year	**(385,502)**	480,503
Dividends received	**(103,872)**	(89,859)
Interest receivable	**(10,889)**	(7,399)
Depreciation and impairment of tangible fixed assets	**9,133**	16,709
(Gains) / losses on investments	**294,184**	(383,886)
(Increase) / decrease in stock	**(7,964)**	500
Decrease / (increase)in debtors	**(25,682)**	11,478
Increase in creditors	**17,855**	(750)
Net cash flow from operating activities	**(212,738)**	27,296

Analysis of changes in net debt

	31/12/21	Cashflows	**31/12/22**
	£	£	**£**
Cash and cash equivalents	53,330	(4,583)	**48,747**

Notes to the financial statements

Year Ended 31 December 2022

1 Summary of significant accounting policies

(a) General information and basis of preparation

Rare Breeds Survival Trust is an incorporated charity registered in England. In the event of the charity being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member of the charity. The address of the registered office is Avenue Q, Stoneleigh Park, Kenilworth, Warwickshire, CV8 2LG. The nature of the charity's operations and principal activities are:

- For the benefit of the public to ensure the preservation of breeds and breeding groups of domestic farm livestock of importance in the promotion of agriculture being breeds at risk, and having characteristics worthy of preservation in the interests of zoological research and education to ensure the preservation of genes of special or potential value in hybridisation or other work; and
- To conduct, carry out and promote research within all areas of the Trust's interest to increase knowledge and to publish the results of such research.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland issued in October 2019, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006 and UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

The financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis under the historical cost convention, modified to include certain items at fair value. The financial statements are presented in sterling which is the functional currency of the charity and rounded to the nearest £1.

The significant accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all years presented unless otherwise stated.

A network of volunteer support groups is constituted within the Trust and accordingly the accounts include their financial activities.

(b) Funds

Unrestricted funds 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. Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the trustees for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements. The cost of raising and administering such funds is charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

(c) Income recognition

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when the charity is legally entitled to the income after any performance conditions have been met, the amount can be measured reliably, and it is probable that the income will be received.

Subscriptions are included in the Income and Expenditure Account in the accounting period in which they are received.

This treatment is also adopted for the limited number of subscriptions received from new life members.

For donations to be recognised the charity will have been notified of the amounts and the settlement date in writing. If there are conditions attached to the donation and this requires a level of performance before entitlement can be obtained then income is deferred until those conditions are fully met or the fulfilment of those conditions is within the control of the charity and it is probable that they will be fulfilled.

Donated facilities and donated professional services are recognised in income at their fair value when their economic benefit is probable, it can be measured reliably and the charity has control over the item. Fair value is determined on the basis of the value of the gift to the charity, for example the amount the charity would be willing to pay in the open market for such facilities and services. A corresponding amount is recognised in expenditure.

No amount is included in the financial statements for volunteer time in line with the SORP (FRS 102). Further detail is given in the Trustees' Annual Report.

For legacies, entitlement is the earlier of the charity being notified of an impending distribution or the legacy being received. At this point income is recognised. On occasion legacies will be notified to the charity for which it is not possible to measure the amount expected to be distributed. On these occasions, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset and disclosed.

Income from trading activities includes income earned from fundraising events and trading activities to raise funds for the charity. Income is received in exchange for supplying goods and services in order to raise funds and is recognised when entitlement has occurred.

Investment income is earned through holding assets for investment purposes such as shares and property. It includes dividends, interest and rent. Where it is not practicable to identify investment management costs incurred within a scheme with reasonable accuracy the investment income is reported net of these costs. It is included when the amount can be measured reliably. Interest income is recognised using the effective interest method and dividend and rent income is recognised as the charity's right to receive payment is established.

(d) Expenditure recognition

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Expenditure is recognised where there is a legal or constructive obligation to make payments to third parties, it is probable that the settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. It is categorised under the following headings:

- Costs of raising funds includes fundraising and non-charitable trading activities;
- Expenditure on charitable activities includes costs of services and of grants, also support costs and depreciation on related assets; and
- Other expenditure represents those items not falling into the categories above.

Irrecoverable VAT is charged as an expense against the activity for which expenditure arose.

(e) Support costs allocation

Support costs are those that assist the work of the charity but do not directly represent charitable activities and include office costs, governance costs, and administrative payroll costs. They are incurred directly in support of expenditure on the objects of the charity and include project management carried out at Headquarters. All support costs have been allocated on the basis of number of employees. Fund-raising costs are those incurred in seeking voluntary contributions and do not include the costs of disseminating information in support of the charitable activities.

The analysis of these costs is included in note 7.

Notes to the financial statements (continued)

Year Ended 31 December 2021

(f) Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost (or deemed cost) or valuation less accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses. Cost includes costs directly attributable to making the asset capable of operating as intended. Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets, at rates calculated to write off the cost, less estimated residual value, of each asset on a systematic basis over its expected useful life as follows:

Leasehold land and buildings	Over the period of the lease
Office and Computer Equipment	10%-33% according to the nature of the asset
Conservation Breeding Stock (agisted)	Annual Revaluation

(g) Heritage assets

The Gene Bank is a collection of semen and embryos obtained from rare breeds of cattle, horses, sheep, goats and pigs. It acts as an archive to preserve bloodlines of breeds. Each year additions are made to the archive to ensure that it includes the current characteristics of a breed. The archive is regarded as an irreplaceable resource which cannot be valued with any degree of accuracy and will never be sold. As such it generates no income and so has no realisable value. Therefore it does not have a carrying value in the balance sheet. The costs incurred in maintaining the archive for conservation purposes are written off each year.

(h) Investments

Investments are recognised initially at fair value which is normally the transaction price excluding transaction costs. Subsequently, they are measured at fair value with changes recognised in 'net gains / (losses) on investments' in the SoFA if the shares are publicly traded or their fair value can otherwise be measured reliably. Other investments are measured at cost less impairment.

(i) Stocks

Stocks comprise genetic resources, which are not part of the Gene Bank, and goods for resale. Genetic resources are valued at the lower of cost of production and market value. Retail stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

(j) Debtors and creditors receivable / payable within one year

Debtors and creditors with no stated interest rate and receivable or payable within one year are recorded at transaction price. Any losses arising from impairment are recognised in expenditure.

(k) Impairment

Assets not measured at fair value are reviewed for any indication that the asset may be impaired at each balance sheet date. If such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset, or the asset's cash generating unit, is estimated and compared to the carrying amount. Where the carrying amount exceeds its recoverable amount, an impairment loss is recognised in profit or loss unless the asset is carried at a revalued amount where the impairment loss is a revaluation decrease.

(l) Leases

Assets acquired under finance leases are capitalised and depreciated over the shorter of the lease term and the expected useful life of the asset. Minimum lease payments are apportioned between the finance charge and the reduction of the outstanding lease liability using the effective interest method. The related obligations, net of future finance charges, are included in creditors.

Rentals payable and receivable under operating leases are charged to the SoFA on a straight-line basis over the period of the lease.

(m) Employee benefits

When employees have rendered service to the charity, short-term employee benefits to which the employees are entitled are recognised at the undiscounted amount expected to be paid in exchange for that service. The charity operates a defined contribution pension plan for the benefit of its employees. Contributions are expensed as they become payable. The Trust agrees to pay a defined contribution into the employee's own personal pension scheme for eligible employees. The pension charge represents contributions payable by the Trust for the period. The Trust's liability is limited to the amount of the contribution. The liability for meeting future pension payments rests solely with the employee's personal pension scheme.

(n) Tax

The charity is an exempt charity within the meaning of schedule 3 of the Charities Act 2011 and is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes.

(o) Financial instruments

The Trust enters into only basic financial instrument transactions that result in the recognition of financial assets and liabilities like trade and other amounts receivable and payable and loans to related parties. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

(p) Going concern

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis as the trustees believe that no material uncertainties exist. The trustees have considered the level of funds held and the expected level of income and expenditure for 12 months from authorising these financial statements. The budgeted income and expenditure is sufficient with the level of reserves for the charity to be able to continue as a going concern.

2 Income from donations and legacies

	2022	2021
	£	£
Grants and donations	**119,090**	162,884
Legacies	**72,067**	211,135
Membership Subscriptions (including gift aid)	**198,387**	178,326
	389,544	552,345

Of the income from donations and legacies of £191,157 (2021 - £374,019), £56,246 (2021 - £134,342) was attributable to restricted, and £134,911 (2021 - £239,677) was attributable to unrestricted funds.

Income from membership subscriptions was attributable entirely to unrestricted funds.

Notes to the financial statements (continued)

Year Ended 31 December 2022

3 Income from charitable activities

	2022	2021
	£	£
Conservation activities (including Support Groups)	**55,661**	49,456

Income from charitable activities was attributable to unrestricted funds in both years.

4 Income from other trading activities

	2022	2021
	£	£
Advertising revenue	**15,687**	13,487

Income from other trading activities was attributable to unrestricted funds in both years.

5 Income from investments

	2022	2021
	£	£
Dividends - equities	**103,872**	89,859
Interest - Fixed interest securities	**10,889**	7,399
	114,761	97,258

Income from investments was attributable to unrestricted funds in both years.

6 Analysis of expenditure on charitable activities

	2022			
	Activities undertaken directly	Grant funding of activities	Support costs	**Total**
	£	£	£	**£**
Conservation Activities (including Support Group)	248,918	-	170,584	**419,502**
ARK Magazine	55,034	-	-	**55,034**
	303,952	**-**	**170,584**	**474,536**

£34,567 (2021 - £74,792) of the above costs were attributable to restricted funds. £72,941 (2021 - £57,939) of the above costs were attributable to designated funds. £367,028 (2021 - £314,476) of the above costs were attributable to unrestricted funds.

7 Allocation of support costs

	2022			
	Raising funds	Conservation Activities	ARK Magazine	**Total**
	£	£	£	**£**
Governance	-	30,359	-	**30,359**
Management salaries and expenses	26,090	78,271	-	**104,361**
Office operational costs and utilities	11,878	35,634	-	**47,512**
Depreciation	1,591	4,772	-	**6,363**
Professional charges	2,661	7,982	-	**10,643**
Irrecoverable VAT	2,575	7,724	-	**10,299**
Other	1,946	5,842	-	**7,788**
Total	**46,741**	**170,584**	**-**	**217,325**

Supports costs, except governance costs, have been allocated based on staff time.

8 Governance costs

	Note	**2022**	2021
		£	£
Trustees' remuneration	11	**-**	-
Trustees' expenses	11	**1,359**	293
Cost of Trustees' meetings and the AGM		**1,715**	3,092
Auditors' remuneration	10	**6,100**	5,620
Legal fees		**21,185**	14,890
		30,359	23,895

9 Net income / (expenditure) for the year

	2022	2021
	£	£
Net income / (expenditure) is stated after charging / (crediting):		
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	**6,363**	7,929
Operating lease rentals	**2,353**	2,244
Loss/(gain) on fair value movement of investments	**294,184**	(383,886)

10 Auditors' remuneration

The auditors' remuneration amounts to an audit fee of £6,100 (2021 - £5,620) and other services of £10,643 (2021 - £12,881).

Notes to the financial statements (continued)

Year Ended 31 December 2022

11 Trustees' and key management personnel remuneration and expenses

The Trustees neither received nor waived any remuneration during the year (2021 - £nil).

The total amount of employee benefits (these benefits include employer's national insurance and pension costs) received by key management personnel is £171,635 (2021:£160,029). The Trust considers its key management personnel to comprise the Chief Executive Officer and Director of Finance and Operations.

Two trustees (2021: One) were reimbursed expenses as follows:	**2022**	2021
	£	£
Travel	**608**	293
Subsistence	**83**	-
Accommodation	**568**	-
Other	**100**	-
	1,359	293

12 Staff costs and employee benefits

The average monthly number of employees and full time equivalent (FTE) during the year was as follows:

	2022	**2022**	2021	2021
	Number	FTE	Number	FTE
Raising funds	**2**	**2**	2	2
Charitable activities	**4**	**3**	5	3
Governance	**2**	**2**	2	2
	8	**7**	9	7

The total staff costs and employees' benefits was as follows:	**2022**	2021
	£	£
Wages and salaries	**293,625**	267,549
Social security	**31,923**	23,697
Defined contribution pension costs	**13,986**	12,638
	339,534	303,884

The number of employees receiving total employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) of over £60,000 per year was as follows:

	2022	2021
	No.	No.
£60,001 - £70,000	**-**	1
£70,001 - £80,000	**1**	-
£80,001 - £90,000	**-**	1
£90,001 - £100,000	**1**	-

13 Tangible fixed assets

	Short Leasehold	Office & Equipment	Conservation Breeding Stock (Agisted)	**Total**
	£	£	£	**£**
Cost or valuation:				
At 31 December 2021	221,443	154,492	24,780	**400,715**
Additions	-	3,141	-	**3,141**
Revaluation	-	-	(2,770)	**(2,770)**
At 31 December 2022	221,443	157,633	22,010	**401,086**
Depreciation:				
At 31 December 2021	146,265	149,723	-	**295,988**
Charge for the year	4,440	1,923	-	**6,363**
At 31 December 2022	150,705	151,646	-	**302,351**
Net book value:				
At 31 December 2022	70,738	5,987	22,010	**98,735**
At 31 December 2021	75,178	4,769	24,780	**104,727**

14 Heritage assets

Heritage assets held are The National Archive Gene Bank and no value has been placed on this asset.

These assets are significant to the charity in order to safeguard the future of rare breeds. Expenditure to acquire preserve and develop The National Archive Gene Bank in the year was £73,708 (2021 - £100,894).

15 Fixed asset investments

	Listed Investments
	£
Cost or valuation	
At 31 December 2021	**3,540,072**
Additions	**74,632**
Disposals	**(171,167)**
Revaluation	**(294,184)**
At 31 December 2022	**3,149,353**

Investments at fair value comprise:

	2022	2021
	£	£
Equities & unit trusts	**3,047,670**	3,423,948
Cash within investment portfolio	**101,683**	116,124
	3,149,353	3,540,072

The fair value of listed investments is determined by reference to the mid-market value of the unit trusts or quoted share price.

Notes to the financial statements (continued)

Year Ended 31 December 2022

16 Stocks

	2022	2021
	£	£
Semen for sale	**6,390**	7,360
Merchandise stock	**8,934**	-
	15,324	7,360

17 Debtors

	2022	2021
	£	£
Trade debtors	**11,430**	3,753
Amounts owed by support groups	**18,032**	13,377
Prepayments and accrued income	**26,436**	14,405
Taxes recoverable	**5,274**	3,955
	61,172	35,490

18 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2022	2021
	£	£
Trade creditors	**18,201**	10,496
Other tax and social security	**8,866**	7,498
Other creditors	**2,594**	57
Accruals	**33,819**	27,575
	63,480	45,626

19 Leases

Operating leases – lessee

Total future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases are as follows:

	2022	2021
	£	£
Not later than one year	**2,353**	2,353
Later than one and not later than five years	**8,732**	9,072
Later than five years	**22,143**	24,156
	33,228	35,581

20 Fund reconciliation

	Balance at 31 December 2021	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Gains / (losses)	Balance at 31 December 2022
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds						
Unrestricted	**1,405,147**	519,407	(551,089)	(77,017)	(294,184)	**1,002,264**
Designated Funds						
Gene Bank	**2,000,000**	-	(60,129)	60,129	-	**2,000,000**
50th Anniversary	**-**		(5,604)	45,000		**39,396**
Conservation – Breed Stock (Agisted)	**24,779**	-	-	-	(2,770)	**22,009**
Linga Holm	**12,812**	-	(12,812)	-	-	**-**
Sandringham Charitable Trust	**19,237**	-	-	(19,237)	-	**-**
Property improvement fund	**132,000**	-	-		-	**132,000**
Lop Fund	**8,951**	-	-	-	-	**8,951**
	2,197,779	-	(78,545)	85,892	(2,770)	**2,202,356**

Unrestricted funds description

Unrestricted funds are those funds 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.

Designated funds description

The archive Gene Bank is held to maintain the Heritage Assets for the benefit of the next generation.

The 50th Anniversary fund was set up to support the costs of various events and activities planned to promote RBST, and the use of native breeds, in its 50th anniversary in 2023.

The Conservation Breeding Stock (Agisted), reserve is the value of RBST rare breed stock on loan to livestock keepers to increase rare breed population numbers.

The Linga Holm Fund derives from the sale of certain assets in 2000. It is available for the conservation of North Ronaldsay sheep in the first instance.

Sandringham Charitable Trust was created from legacies received for the pursuance of conservation projects.

The Property improvement fund relates to the proposed refurbishment of the premises at Stoneleigh Park.

The Lop Fund was created to help support the work in regard to British Lop pigs, along with the donation received from the Gerald Fallowes Discretionary Trust

Restricted funds and Trusts

We are extremely grateful to the charitable trusts and foundations that support our work. Some trusts provide general funding, while others prefer to sponsor specific projects as detailed on page 62.

Notes to the financial statements (continued)

Year Ended 31 December 2022

Restricted funds Fund Descriptions	Balance at 31 December 2021 £	Income £	Expend-iture £	Transfers £	Gains / (losses) £	Balance at 31 December 2022 £
Restricted cattle conservation						
N Bailey Albion Fund	**1,487**	-	-	-	-	**1,487**
Vaynol project	**1,000**	-	-	-	-	**1,000**
Gloucester project	**-**	3,000	-	-	-	**3,000**
Restricted equine conservation						
Houserace Betting Levy Board	**1,274**	-	-	-	-	**1,274**
HBLB 3 year conservation programme	**-**	13,033	(4,158)	(8,875)	-	**-**
Cleveland bay - N Bailey	**1,500**	-	-	-	-	**1,500**
Heavy Horse Appeal 2017	**17,592**	986	-	-	-	**18,578**
Marjorie Coote Animal Charity Trust	**2,634**	-	-	-	-	**2,634**
The Saintbury Trust	**1**	-	-	-	-	**1**
Restricted goat conservation						
Goat Appeal	**1,196**	-	-	-	-	**1,196**
John Spedan Lewis Foundation	**1,463**	-	-	-	-	**1,463**
Restricted pig conservation						
Gerald Fallowes Discretionary Will Trust (received in 2017)	**57**	-	(57)	-	-	**-**
Gerald Fallowes Pigs BPA	**2,582**	-	(2,582)	-	-	**-**
Conservation General	**-**	8,000	(1,035)	-	-	**6,965**
PG Fallowes Lop Project	**4,600**	18,900	-	-	-	**23,500**
The Saintbury Trust	**1,200**	-	(1,200)	-	-	**-**
PBA Priority Breeds Appeal	**-**	7,837	(60)	-	-	**7,777**
PF Charitable Trust	**6,000**	-	(3,360)	-	-	**2,640**
William Dean Trust	**-**	250	(250)	-	-	**-**
Restricted sheep conservation						
Love a Longwool Appeal	**24,480**	1,607	(6,184)	-	-	**19,903**
Rosie Green Wool Sheep Fund	**2,546**	320	(990)	-	-	**1,876**
Restricted poultry conservation						
Poultry general	**291**	240	(511)	-	-	**20**
Luton & District Poultry Group	**75**	-	-	-	-	**75**
Restricted Other projects						
Somerset Conservation Fund	**2**	-	-	-	-	**2**
Conservation general	**3,364**	-	(270)	-	-	**3,094**
Foundation for Common Land	**-**	2,073	(2,073)	-	-	**-**
North Ronaldsay Dyke Appeal	**4,450**	-	(4,450)	-	-	**-**
Farm Park - Princes Charities Fund	**11,577**	-	(4,390)	-	-	**7,187**
Epping Forrest - Fenceless Grazing	**3,056**	-	(2,997)	-	-	**59**
	92,427	56,246	(34,567)	(8,875)	-	**105,231**

21 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	**Total**
	£	£	£	**£**
Fixed assets	1,045,732	2,202,356	-	**3,248,088**
Cash at bank and in hand	(50,096)	-	98,843	**48,747**
Other current assets / liabilities	6,628	-	6,388	**13,016**
Total	**1,002,264**	**2,202,356**	**105,231**	**3,309,851**

22 Pensions and other post-retirement benefits

Defined contribution pension plans

The charity operates a defined contribution pension plan for its employees. The amount recognised as an expense in the period was £13,986 (2021 - £12,638).

Leaving a gift in your Will could be the greatest difference you ever make!

Planning for the future

RBST depends heavily on voluntary donations. Without the incredible generosity of our members and supporters, we simply couldnít continue our vital work in research, conservation and saving rare breeds. We know that with the help of generous donors like you, RBST can continue striving to achieve its crucial goal, to ensure that the genetic diversity represented by our native breeds is safeguarded for many years to come. Our vision is a secure future for each of the UKís native breeds of livestock to ensure long-term food security, the conservation of important habitats and landscapes and the preservation of the UKís culture. Help ensure our native farm animals have a secure future and can be enjoyed by generations to come.

What to do?

If you have already made a Will but you are considering including a gift to RBST, your solicitor will advise you on the correct wording to update your Will. You will need to provide your solicitor with our charity details. For your convenience, we have provided this here:

The Rare Breeds Survival Trust, Stoneleigh Park, Kenilworth, Warwickshire, CV8 2LG. (Registered Charity no. 269442).

Please also state that you wish to make the gift for the ëgeneral purposesí of Rare Breeds Survival Trust.

Our promise

RBST will always respect your privacy. Your information will be handled with the utmost confidentiality and we will never ask the amount of your legacy. We understand and respect that you will want to remember family and friends first when planning for the future, but we hope that once youíve taken care of your loved ones, youíll consider leaving a legacy gift in your Will, as a lasting way to support the future of RBST.

No Will yet?

Have you thought about leaving a gift in your Will to RBST? This year we have partnered with Free Wills Month. They bring together a group of well-respected charities to offer members of the public aged 55 and over, giving you the opportunity to support RBST and have a simple Will written or updated for free, by using one of their participating solicitors. The next campaign opens on 1st October 2021, you can register your interest here **www.freewillsmonth.org.uk/** and receive an email reminding you that the campaign has started. An up-to-date Will written by a solicitor ensures your wishes are respected. It also avoids difficult decisions and legal complications for your loved ones.



RBST
Rare Breeds Survival Trust



If you have any questions, visit our website, call 02476 69551 or email fundraising@rbst.org.uk.

Rare Breeds Survival Trust (RBST), Stoneleigh Park, Kenilworth, Warwickshire, CV8 2LG
Registered Charity Number 269442 (England and Wales)

Corporate Directory

Charity Reference and Administrative Details: As at the date of this report

Charity registration number 269442
Company registration number 01204694

The former Prince of Wales was Patron

President
Baroness Hayman of Ullock

Vice Presidents
Martin Beard
Miss Elizabeth Buchanan, C.V.O, FRAgS
J Alan C Black
The Earl De La Warr, DL
Jimmy Doherty
Lord Iliffe

Chief Executive Officer
Christopher Price

Trustees
John Atkinson
Tom Davis
James Fanshawe
Clifford Freeman
Kate Green
Catherine Le Grice-Mack
Steve McMinn (elected AGM November 2022)
Prof Tim Morris
Sir Roderick Newton (elected AGM November 2022)
Ryan Perry
Alison Pope
Claire Saunders

Conservation and Research Committee
John Atkinson, Tom Davis, James Fanshawe, Catherine Le Grice-Mack, Tim Morris, Sir Roderick Newton, Ryan Perry, Claire Saunders, Marcus Bates (British Pig Association - in attendance)
In attendance: Christopher Price (CEO), Tom Blunt, Andrea Parry-Jones, Steve McMinn

Finance and Governance Committee
John Atkinson, Clifford Freeman, Catherine Le Grice-Mack, Alison Pope,
In attendance: Christopher Price (CEO), Claire McNicol (Dir F&O), Steve McMinn

Registered office
Avenue Q, Stoneleigh Park, Kenilworth,
Warwickshire, CV8 2LG

Auditor
Dafferns LLP
One Eastwood
Harry Weston Road
Binley Business Park, Binley
Coventry, CV3 2UB

Legal advisors
Lodders LLP
10 Elm Court
Arden Street
Stratford upon Avon
Warwickshire, CV37 6PA

Bankers
Barclays Bank, 48/50 The Parade,
Leamington Spa CV32 4DD

Investment managers
Evelyn
45 Gresham Street,
London EC2V 7BG

Staff
Claire McNicol – Director of Finance and Operations and Company Secretary
Tom Blunt – Senior Conservation Advisor
Jo Linforth – Head of Members and Partnerships
Andrea Parry – Conservation Adviser
Rachel Peckover – Office Administrator and Accounts Assistant
Hannah Roberts - Office Administrator
Amy Foulkes - Event Coordinator

RBST is incredibly grateful for every single penny donated to its cause by members, donors and supporters, both individuals and organisations. RBST simply would not exist without their generosity.

Whilst we would like to be able to thank everyone by name, due to space and data protection limitations this is not possible.

We would however like to take the opportunity to make special reference to the Trusts who donated funds to RBST in 2022 and all those who so kindly remembered RBST in their Wills.

Trust Income Received 2022

The Sackler Trust
Registered Charity Number 1132097

Rothermere Foundation
Registered Charity Number 314125

The Ian Askew Charitable Trust
Registered Charity Number 264515

Marjorie Coote Animal Charity Trust
Registered Charity Number 208493

The Hutchinson Charitable Trust
Registered Charity Number 1155643

The Ancaster Trust
Registered Charity Number 270822

Privy Purse Charitable Trust
Registered Charity Number 296079

The William Dean Countryside Fund
Registered Charity Number 1044567

Percy Gerald Fallowes Discretionary Will Trust

The Horserace Betting Levy Board

Dingwall Trust

Legacy Income Received 2022

Mr James Westley **BLANDEN**

Eirene Patricia **BROOMHEAD**

Nita **FERRAR**

Malcolm Rodney **HURL**

Joan Neville **MARTIN**

Susan **PITTS**

Claire Elizabeth **ROBINSON**

Miss **SWINLEY**

Jennifer **SYRED**

RBST's Corporate Supporters

Birch Farm

White Park Financial Solutions

Skyeskyns Ltd

Yorkshire Agricultural Society

South of England Agricultural Society

Marsh Charitable Trust

Peter Hunter Seeds Ltd

Edge & Son Butchers

Farm Business Innovation Show

Dumfries House Home Farm Ltd

Dengie Crops Ltd

Little Beau Sheep

Kelly Bronze Turkeys

Royal Ulster Agricultural Society

Old Hall Farm Woodton

Incredible Eggs Franchise Ltd

Wychwood Farm

Statkraft

Swaledale Butchers

The Real Wild Estates Company

& Glebe Meadow Fishery

RBST
Rare Breeds Survival Trust

rbst.org.uk *enquiries@rbst.org.uk* *024 7669 6551*

The former Prince of Wales was Patron

Company Limited by Guarantee Registered in England No.01204694. Registered Charity No.269442

#NativeBreedsForModernNeeds

RARE BREEDS SURVIVAL TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 269442

Accounts



RBST

Rare Breeds Survival Trust

Annual Report

& FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

2021

CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER: 269442

COMPANY REGISTRATION NUMBER: 1204694

ANNUAL REPORT & FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2021



#GoNative



Cheesemaker Jonathan Crump's Gloucester cattle.
Photograph: Nick Turner.

www.rbst.org.uk

RBST
Rare Breeds Survival Trust

Contents

Our goals 4

A message from our Chairman 5

A message from our Chief Executive Officer 6

A message from our Director of Finance 7

Promoting our native breeds 8

Securing Government support 17

Delivering on priorities 20

Recognition 28

Financial Review 31

Governance 33

Independent Auditors Report 35

Statement of Financial Activities 37

Balance sheet 38

Statement of cash flows 39

Notes to the financial statements 40

RBST Corporate Directory 53

Cover photograph:
Oxford Sandy & Black piglets at Tom's Farm.

Our goals and what we're doing to achieve them

Goal: A reverse in the decline of all livestock breeds on the Watchlist

What: We aim to have all the breeds on the Watchlist stable by 2028

How:

- We are refocusing our messaging showing the economic, social and environmental relevance of native breeds.
- We use the latest technology to save our rarest breeds, as with the British Lop Pig Project. What we learn from this project will be applied to the benefit of other breeds.
- We will continue to equip breeders and potential breeders with the knowledge they need to keep animals through our Grazing Animals Project courses and online resources.
- We are identifying 'Priority Breeds' and creating Conservation Plans for each of them.



Goal: A comprehensive up-to-date Gene Bank

What: The RBST Gene Bank is the charity's single biggest investment and a key national asset. We will work towards making this a National Gene Bank, supported by government

How:

- We are implementing a clear strategy which will support the maintenance and acquisition of animals to ensure the future of our native breeds.
- We need to ensure that the original genetics are preserved and can be drawn on in the future.
- We are actively promoting the importance of the Gene Bank to potential donors and funders and will ensure that its importance is widely understood.

Goal: Livestock genetic diversity recognised by government and wider society as a fundamental element of agricultural and biodiversity policy

What: We lobby for genetic diversity to be recognised in government policies such as the Agriculture Act, Rural Development Policy and Biodiversity Policy

How:

- We are joining formal partnerships and networks to highlight the many benefits of our native breeds.
- Our strategic work will build on our good media profile to ensure that native breeds are recognised in policy as being crucial to bringing greater sustainability to modern farming and land management practices.
- Our volunteer network represents us at shows and highlights the range of rare breeds that exist and their many and varied uses to the public.

A message from our Chairman



John Atkinson
Chairman

I was honoured to be elected RBST Chair after the 2021 AGM, taking over from Gail Sprake, and am now working with my fellow Trustees, staff and our dedicated volunteers throughout the UK to ensure the Trust's activity is making the greatest positive impact for the future of our wonderful rare and native breeds of livestock and equines.

As a Cumbrian livestock farmer, with a business based on native breeds, ensuring they thrive is essential for me. With growing consumer interest in provenance of food and an increasing focus on the environmental impacts of farming and land management, the agricultural landscape is changing. Alongside the move from CAP to payment based on public goods and the massive increase in input costs, RBST has a golden opportunity to show why native breeds can and should play a major role in a sustainable future for food, farming and the environment. For a long time agriculture has focused squarely on volume production, but the current shift towards greater consideration of the cost of inputs and wages is shining a light on the commercial attraction of native livestock breeds.

As Chairman I am determined the RBST should become ever more focussed on showcasing why our native breeds of livestock and equines matter, and how we can work for their survival long into the future. For example, when I took part in some bench-marking analysis locally, our business came out well when we looked at the gross margins, but it jumped into the top five when we added in unpaid labour and fixed costs. Native breeds have been bred for centuries to live and thrive in our environment with little input; we can use these attributes to provide a much more sustainable future for British agriculture.

Covid may have limited our ability to meet people face-to-face in 2021, but we have more than made up for it through our use of the media. I have been delighted by the number of mentions of RBST making the case for native breeds I see in the farming, national and regional press, I am sure this is partly why we are seeing more enquires for native breeds from farmers and estate managers looking for a more sustainable business model. We have also been devoting time to making the case in Westminster for native breeds and the devolved administrations. With each of the UK countries drafting new agriculture policies RBST has a once-in-a-generation opportunity to secure government support for the breeds. Spending hours on Zoom and Teams meetings can be a bit tedious, but it's vital that we have input into the new agricultural vision being developed within government.

The more strategic approach RBST adopted for its breed conservation work in 2021 is paying off too. With the new Watchlist methodology, which takes account of the level of inbreeding and other relevant factors, alongside the numbers of animals, we are much better placed to identify the specific challenges facing the breeds and what needs to be done to put things right.

I have been impressed by the extent to which RBST members have stepped up to help extend our influence at a local and regional level. RBST's Scottish Forum has done wonders in achieving its stated aim for "improving RBST's influence in Scotland, and Scotland's influence in RBST". The new Young RBST, set up to provide a forum for younger members to engage with one another should help secure the next generation of RBST and give a voice for our younger members.

If you are a long standing member you will be pleased to see that 2021 saw significant improvements in RBST's financial internal administration. Income was up 13% on the previous year and, as a direct result of our significantly improved budgeting and cost control, notwithstanding the improved operational delivery, total spend has declined to its lowest level since before 2018,

Finally though, everything comes down to people, and I have been delighted to have such an extremely supportive Patron, an engaged and articulate board of trustees, an incredibly able and hardworking staff team and so many loyal and enthusiastic support groups and members. I was particularly delighted that 2021 saw Baroness (Sue) Hayman of Ullock agree to become our new President. I want to conclude by giving them all my deepest thanks.

A message from our Chief Executive Officer



Christopher Price
CEO

In 2020 RBST produced its first comprehensive conservation strategy. 2021 saw us roll it out.

The strategy has three parts, and the details are set out on page 9. Firstly, we promote the reasons for which the animals were initially bred, whether to provide food, fibre or transport; secondly, we lobby for government to invest in the public benefits provided by the breeds; and thirdly, where there is a clear need, RBST will carry out its own bespoke conservation projects.

2021 saw us make significant headway in promoting the benefits of native breeds and their produce to both farmers and consumers, as shown by the wonderful coverage we secured in the agricultural, national and local media.

We need to be making it easier to keep native breeds. In particular we need a network capable of processing small numbers of non-standard animals to the highest welfare standards. So we've been working hard through the newly formed Abattoir Sector Group to alert Government to the plight of the small sector calling on it to take steps to address the challenges.

As the UK leaves the EU and the CAP, we are working with Defra and, increasingly, the devolved governments in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland to ensure that our native breeds are properly supported under the new agricultural policies. It's going slowly, and it will be a few more years before the final decisions are made, but we are in there making the case.

Finally, there are those breeds that will struggle to be viable commercially and whose situation is such that they will not benefit from Government support. 2021 was the first year in which we used the new methodology for compiling the Watchlist, taking account of the level of inbreeding as well as population numbers. This meant that we could have a much better understanding of the breeds under threat, and what steps were needed to turn things around.

We would not be able to achieve nearly so much unless RBST itself was being run in a professional and business-like way. 2021 saw RBST implement its first fully costed 5 Year Business Strategy. This, together with proper budgeting and financial controls, means that the organisation is now being run as efficiently and effectively as it should be. We work out what we need to do, and how we can pay for it.

And as Director of Finance Claire McNicol makes clear, all this means we are making the best use of the money we raise.

Of course, we cannot do everything ourselves. RBST depends on its members to get things done, some as individuals, some as members of Support Groups – the groups set up by the board to help RBST deliver its objectives.

I recognise that changing the way we do things has been a challenge for some Groups, but I've been delighted by the extent to which so many have stepped up and looked at new ways of delivering for both RBST and the breeds.

RBST Scotland has shown itself to be particularly dynamic, running both physical and online events to raise the profile of native breeds north of the border. In the coming months I hope we will see similar levels of activity in Wales and Northern Ireland.

In response to demands from younger members we set up Young RBST, a group for members aged up to 35 wanting a network of like-minded breeders keen to find new ways of doing things. You can read more about them on page 24.

When it comes to working with individual breeds, we depend to a significant extent on the support and engagement of the relevant breed society. Without them many of the specific projects mentioned in this report would be difficult if not impossible.

So huge thanks to everyone involved: trustees, members and, in particular, our wonderful staff team: Claire McNicol, Tom Blunt, Andrea Parry Jones, Jo Linford, Rachel Peckover, Jean Henderson and Hilary Young, and our two communications advisers Linda Trotman and Isobel Davidson.

A message from our Director of Finance and Operations



Claire McNicol
Director of Finance & Operations

2021 was yet another year of considerable success for RBST. The time and effort spent addressing financial and procedural controls has paid dividends and RBST now has a strong, stable foundation from which to focus its time and resources on delivering leading conservation.

That said, we find ourselves continuing to be in a period of economic turmoil. The impacts of Covid still weighed on 2021 and as we have entered 2022, inflation and global supply pressures have made the financial management of any organisation all the more critical to its survival.

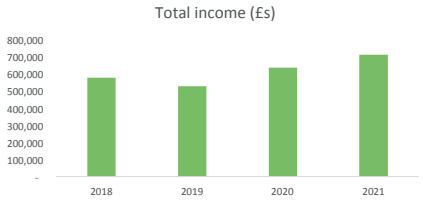
From an income perspective 2021 was a strong year for RBST with total income up 12.1% and at its highest level since before 2018. Whilst RBST's membership income remained broadly in line with 2020 and 2019, the efforts to diversify income sources has begun to pay off. One of the most important and defining features of RBST as a charity is that we are a membership organisation. The breadth and depth of that network, with years of experience and rich knowledge that our members bring, will always be one of our most cherished assets. However, we do need to recognise that the environment within the charitable sector, particularly in regard to membership, is a challenging one. Management continues to target an increase in membership numbers, whilst recognising the need to insure against a difficult backdrop and ensure RBST is not overly dependent on membership income. Further work to continue this diversification is ongoing.

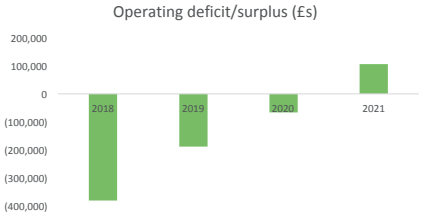
Following the introduction of the strategic conservation plan RBST has be able to focus its time and money on the areas of greatest concern, ensuring that the breeds most in need are prioritised and both staff time, funding applications and other resources target the areas most in need, thus generating the most impact. As well as breed specific projects, RBST has also embarked upon overarching conservation projects to ensure we are at the forefront of leading scientific research to guarantee RBST's messages, regarding our breeds and their place in government policy considerations, climate change debates, ecological and biodiversity improvements and sustainable food, are heard by the public and relevant audiences with decision making power. All this was done whilst continuing to focus on managing expenditure. Notwithstanding our improved operational delivery, total spend has declined to its lowest level since before 2018, from both a total perspective and an unrestricted perspective.

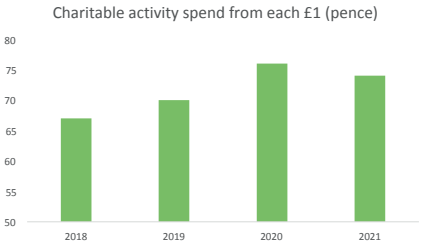
In addition, RBST has replenished its restricted funds through considered and targeted grant applications and we are poised to increase our conservation spending over the coming years, while continuing to ensure projects are properly budgeted for and deliver the most amount of impact for each pound we raise and each pound we spend.

The overall impact of RBST's increased income and decreased expenditure can be seen clearly through the improvements in the operating surplus, which is once more a surplus and no longer a deficit. RBST's detailed budgeting and planning process takes into account the long-term, average performance of items such as legacies, as well as investment gains, to ensure whilst there may be fluctuations in operating performance from year to year, on a long term basis the Trust is working to a sustainable level of activity.

The final thing left for me to say is that none of this would have been possible without a fantastic staff team, who work tirelessly to deliver the objectives of the charity and all those we partner with, from our wonderful members, to fantastic corporate supporters, to those who so generously chose to remember RBST in their will. Our sincerest thanks to you all, we simply could not do it without you.







RBST

Promoting our native breeds



Conservation Strategy

the overview

> ***2021 saw RBST rolling out its first comprehensive conservation strategy. The aim is to ensure all its resources, both time and money, are being used efficiently and effectively to secure the best results for our native livestock and equines.***

The strategy has three parts. Firstly, we promote the reasons for which the animals were initially bred, whether to provide food, fibre or transport; secondly, we lobby for government to invest in the public benefits provided by the breeds; and thirdly where there is a clear need, RBST will carry out its own bespoke conservation projects.

Commercial opportunities

Our native breeds were bred for particular commercial purposes, to meet human needs, whether that be the production of meat, wool, milk, or eggs or to provide practical services such as grazing or transportation.

As the UK leaves the EU, and farmers face an unsubsidised, more market-facing world in which people are increasingly concerned about the provenance of their food and its environmental impact, niche, low input products with a good story to tell, like native breed meat, will become more attractive to consumers.

With a view to bringing home the commercial benefits of keeping native breeds to farmers and smallholders, we carried out our first ever commercial survey of people already keeping native breeds to demonstrate they can form the basis of a viable business.

We built on this through a series of media initiatives, promoting native breed products and the wider benefits they provide.

The role of Government

Removing obstacles

We have continued to work hard alerting Government to the plight of the small abattoir sector, and we are now working through the newly formed Abattoir Sector Group. The decline in the number of small local abattoirs capable of dealing with native breeds is a major concern. Government needs to make one off investment to ensure the remaining small abattoirs are "match fit" for the unsubsidised more market-facing world. Where the abattoirs have disappeared, the investment needs to be in mobile or temporary units.

Public support

We are working with Defra in England and the Devolved Administrations in Scotland Wales and Northern Ireland on the new post Brexit agricultural support schemes that replace the CAP. We have two specific objectives. Firstly, a shift to the sort of extensive low input farming systems that encourage the keeping of native breeds and secondly specific policies to support the most threatened native breeds. Progress is slow, the scale of change envisaged, particularly in England, is significant, but we continue to make the case.

RBST's own projects

Finally, there are those breeds that will struggle to be viable commercially, and whose situation is such that they will not benefit from Government support.

The revised Watchlist methodology announced in 2020 which takes account of the level of inbreeding as well as population size, has made it easier to identify both those breeds facing the greatest challenges and what needs to be done to improve their fortunes. For example, the 2021 Watchlist highlighted the plight of Gloucester cattle and we are now working with the breed society on a strategy to address the challenges.

Promoting our native breeds

The commercial picture for native breeds

> *An online survey carried out by RBST in 2021 revealed that farmers and smallholders who sell rare and native breed products and services can obtain a premium price while spending less on input costs in relation to continental breeds.*

However, the survey also found that the lack of suitable abattoirs is seen as a key barrier to future business growth.

RBST undertook the survey to examine commercial trends with rare and native breed livestock and equines. It revealed that:

- 49% of respondents sell their rare or native breed products for a higher price than continental alternatives, while 43% said they sell it for the same price and 8% said they sell it for a lower price.
- Of those who keep both native and continental breeds, or who have switched from continental breeds to native breeds, 71% thought that overall costs with native breeds were lower than with continental breeds. The main cost differences related to feed and supplements, the type of land required, housing/shelter, and veterinary costs.
- 38% of respondents said that the commercial potential of offering a superior product was one of the reasons why they chose a native breed, and 36% said lower input costs was a reason for their native breed choice.
- 42% of respondents warned that 'lack of suitable abattoir' is one of their top three greatest barriers to growing their rare breed business.



Welsh Black cattle

These results show that there is a breadth of opportunity for those keeping native breeds of livestock and equines, with commercial activity deriving from meat, wool, breeding stock and dairy with the addition of conservation grazing, hides and horns, and more.

However, the results also show very clearly the need for urgent action on the other key barrier for rare breed businesses looking to grow – access to suitable abattoirs. RBST is campaigning for Government to commit to the support and collaboration which will help reverse the decline of the local abattoir network.

Survey results:

LONGEVITY: 51% of respondents have been operating their rare or native breed business for more than 10 years, and 27% for more than 20 years.

INCREASED TURNOVER: 59% of respondents saw the turnover of their rare or native breed business increase in the previous five years, with another 27% saying it had stayed the same. 13% said turnover has increased by more than 50% over the last 5 years.

INVESTMENT: 86% of respondents had made investments in their rare or a native breed business in the previous five years. 22% had made investments of more than £10,000, and 73% were planning to make investments in their business over the next 5 years.

FUTURE GROWTH OPPORTUNITIES: Respondents saw the following as the greatest opportunities for growing their rare breed businesses: increased consumer concern for the environment and animal welfare (66%); consumers re-connecting with local businesses and valuing local provenance of products (61%); growing consumer preference for quality of meat (56%); ELM and public payment for native breed conservation work (29%)

BARRIERS TO GROWTH: Respondents saw two factors being the greatest barriers to growing their rare breed business: consumers unwilling to spend more for high quality or high standards (48%); lack of suitable abattoir (42%).

GO NATIVE: The top five reasons for choosing rare/native breeds were:

- To support the breed's survival (85%)
- To support the natural environment (56%)
- To maintain local heritage (43%)
- Commercial potential of superior product (38%)
- Lower input costs (36%)

23% of respondents keep both continental and native breeds, while 11% have switched from native to continental. 66% chose only native breeds from the start.

LOWER INPUT COSTS: Of all respondents, 64% thought that overall costs with native breeds were lower than with continental breeds. This compares with 6% who thought native breed costs were higher and 16% who thought costs were the same.

Of those who keep both native and continental breeds, or who have switched from continental breeds to native breeds, 71% thought that overall costs with native breeds were lower than with continental breeds.

SELLING FOR A PREMIUM: 49% of respondents sell their native/rare breed meat for a higher price than continental alternatives, 43% for the same price, 8% for a lower price. The top 5 selling points for native or rare breed meat were: taste (76%); local produce (66%); supporting a rare breed's survival (61%); environmental sustainability (56%); animal welfare (53%).

The results are taken from the responses to the RBST Commercial Trends survey conducted in July 2021 with 259 farmers and smallholders who sell rare or native breed products or services taking part.




Cattle in Epping Forest (copyright City of London Corporation Yvette Woodhouse).

Promoting our native breeds

GPS-tracked native breed cattle move in to bring conservation boost to ancient Epping Forest

In a project run by the City of London Corporation and RBST, Native English Longhorn cattle fitted with state-of-the-art GPS collars have been moved into parts of Epping Forest and its accompanying Buffer Lands, some 8,000 acres in total, where livestock has been absent for more than a century. The native breed's reintroduction to these parts of the Forest is designed to bring ecological revival to ancient woodland through Conservation Grazing. Epping Forest is one the largest tracts of land in the UK to seek conservation benefits through Fenceless Grazing and has been a pioneer of fenceless grazing in the UK for the past 10 years.

The significant extension of Conservation Grazing is being enabled following successful trials of the GPS collars at Epping Forest in 2020. The collars allow flexible and scalable landscape management through cattle tracking and containment using Geofences and Nofence Grazing technology without the need for physical fencing. When an animal crosses the Geofence zone, it gets an audio warning prompting it to return back towards the herd to turn off the sound. If it keeps going out of the zone, it receives a low-level pulse. This is a high animal welfare approach using a lower level pulse than an electric fence. The cattle adapt to the system quickly and their welfare is monitored carefully.

As a native breed with a thrifty, hardy nature and which evolved in our native landscapes, English Longhorn cattle are ideal for Conservation Grazing to improve habitats and promote biodiversity. The breed became rare and was listed on the RBST's first Watchlist in 1976, but thanks to renewed appreciation for the quality of its beef and placid temperament, English Longhorn numbers have seen an impressive recovery in more recent times. This recovery is now being supported by growing recognition of native breeds' importance for Conservation Grazing.

RBST Chief Executive Christopher Price said: "Over centuries our native breeds of cattle adapted to the habitats around them, and in turn their natural activity helped forge the landscapes and environments of the UK. English Longhorns are an ideal choice for No Fence Grazing at Epping Forest and I look forward to seeing the results of their work over the coming months and long into the future. This approach is well suited to supporting the environmental revival of large habitats, and I anticipate we will soon see other land management authorities and landed estates adopting this exciting technology."

Epping Forest is an immensely important wood-pasture site, one of the largest in the UK and of recognised international importance. It is hoped Conservation Grazing with English Longhorns will bring back lost structure and complexity of the wood-pasture and allow a large number of species to be supported including a range of scarce species in the Forest and local region such as Lousewort, Heather and Cross Leafed Heath.

Epping Forest was grazed by free roaming cattle, ponies and other animals for over 1,000 years but this declined dramatically in the 20th Century. Grazing was reintroduced by the Epping Forest charity to small areas of the Forest in 2002, and the impacts of the animals has allowed habitat and diversity of vegetation to flourish at those sites. The GPS collars are designed to enable precise and flexible grazing that allows sites to be grazed without or in conjunction with physical fencing. It also allows a more scientific approach to data collection and assessment, enhancing understanding of how grazing shapes habitats and influences species distribution.

RBST Borders Group at COP26

> ***RBST is playing its part in promoting the role of native livestock in addressing the challenges of climate change.***

RBST Borders Support Group helped promote the role of rare breeds in sustainable farming at the UN Climate Change Conference - COP26 – held in Glasgow in November 2021.

The Group was invited to provide sheep as an exhibit in an event for pastoral farmers. The invitation came via a contact of RBST Chairman John Atkinson and Borders Group Secretary Zoe Burn took on co-ordination of the organisational challenge at short notice. This involved arranging everything from risk assessments, to location, to Animal Health permits and the go-ahead to have the sheep there was only received the day before the event after the application went all the way to the top for Scottish Government approval.

As farmers from all around the world were attending, the Group saw this as a good opportunity to promote RBST and the work it does in the UK. After a call to Fernando Garcia-Dory, Regional Coordinator of the World Alliance of Mobile Indigenous Peoples – WAMIP, Zoe put out an email to members to ask if anyone would be interested in attending the event with sheep, or sheep produce, to promote the use of non-intensive farming for a sustainable future, and try to change the narrative of livestock being a major cause of environmental degradation.

Gordon Johnson from Biggar volunteered to take four horned Hebridean to the sheep and his wife Juliet prepared a hogget stew and home-baked wholemeal loaves for the event. The exhibit received many visitors and Gordon answered a lot of questions from attendees and participated in press interviews.



Benjamin Mutambukah, Fernando Garcia-Dory and Hijaba Ykhanbai of WAMIP.

Growth for farm parks network

Since its inception, RBST has been associated with farm parks. Founder Chairman Joe Henson had started opening his farm gates to the public in 1971 so that the growing collection of rare breeds that his family had amassed at Bemborough could help pay their way. When RBST was launched in 1973, the Cotswold Farm Park was already proving that rare breeds could attract the interest of the general public when displayed in a farm setting and the first RBST Council agreed to encourage the establishment of farm parks around the country, ultimately introducing its approved farm park scheme.

The defining features of RBST approved farm parks have been their active breeding groups of Watchlist breeds and the fact that they are open to the public. They are a diverse group, varying in size and style. Some are council owned, some charity and others are privately owned. Together they provide a shop window for RBST, giving the general public the chance to meet and learn about our native breeds.

Following the introduction of a new farm park structure in 2020, the network saw substantial growth in 2021, which included the addition of the first two establishments in the Educational category. With RBST accreditation regarded as an important endorsement of farm parks' role in preserving and showcasing rare breeds, there is a growing number of parks seeking to join the network.

New Farm Parks in 2021

Jimmy's Farm & Wildlife Park,

situated just outside Ipswich, became the first Associate member of the RBST farm park network. The park, which already held official zoo status, is a centre for the conservation of both native livestock breeds and rare and exotic wildlife, with over 80 species and breeds on site.

Jimmy Doherty originally founded the Essex Pig Company out of a vision of using traditional, free-range meat production practices rearing British rare breeds – and, in fact, the business still trades under that name. While they now share the stage with a wide range of wild animals, the native livestock breeds remain an essential part of Jimmy's Farm and its team manages a number of breeding programmes.

Pigs formed the foundation of Jimmy's Farm and remain an important element of the working farm, which is home to Large Blacks, British Saddlebacks, Middle Whites, Tamworths, Gloucestershire Old Spots, and Oxford Sandy and Blacks.

Other species include British White, Riggit Galloway and Highland cattle, Bagot and Golden Guernsey goats, Embden geese, Buff Orpington chickens and two Suffolk mares.





Chatsworth Farmyard

continued a long-established relationship between Chatsworth in Derbyshire and RBST. The farmyard at Chatsworth in Derbyshire has provided agricultural education and entertainment for almost half a century. It is a collection of small yards and buildings designed to tell the story of estate farming and sits alongside the broader Chatsworth estate.

Deborah, the late Dowager Duchess of Devonshire, was a longstanding supporter of RBST who brought a unique brand of enthusiasm to her service as both a Vice President and later President of the Trust. She was a great advocate for RBST's cause and an effective ambassador for livestock conservation. She linked this with a burning desire to educate people about "good food and good farming". She was particularly fond of her poultry and thrilled to receive a trio of rare Derbyshire Redcaps as a gift from RBST Patron HRH The Prince Charles.

Since joining the RBST network, Chatsworth has increased its inventory of registered pedigree rare breeds with Bagot goats, agisted Landrace gilts and the RBST-owned Eriskay mare Linton Linnet and her foal Survival Lizzie. The Farmyard's Suffolk mare foaled in 2021 and there are also registered Gloucestershire Old Spots in residence.





Tom's Farm is located in the London Borough of Wandsworth and is part of Nightingale Community Academy, a school for boys aged 5-19 with social, emotional and mental health needs, and also works with a variety of schools in the wider community. The farm utilises its work to support the conservation of rare and native breeds of livestock both as a tool for land-based and animal care qualifications as well as a therapy resource for young people. It offers a field-to-fork educational experience for students, parents, staff and the wider community aimed at reconnecting people with farming and the origins of their food.

Tom's Farm is home to a number of 'Priority' and 'At Risk' rare breeds including Border Leicester sheep, Derbyshire Gritstone sheep, Oxford Sandy & Black pigs, Golden Guernsey goats, Bagot goats, and Norfolk Black turkeys. Other native breeds cared for at the farm include Shetland ponies, Welsh ponies, and Shetland and Southdown sheep. Tom's Farm works with other school farms and rare breed farm parks including Jimmy's Farm and Hadleigh Farm, and it is currently running a UK-wide breeding and education programme supporting rare breed Oxford Sandy and Black pigs.

Capel Manor College is London's only specialist environmental college, offering a wide variety of land-based education with a range of teaching resources for London students covering agriculture, animal care, horticulture and countryside management. Students gain hands-on experience at the College's certified organic Forty Hall Farm in Enfield and at Mudchute, the RBST approved farm park on the Isle of Dogs.

The cattle breed of choice at Capel Manor College is the Red Poll, the herd having been established around 10 years ago. Sheep breeds include Lincoln Longwool, Norfolk Horn, Boreray, Manx Loaghtan and Jacobs. Pig breeds include Berkshire, Tamworth and Oxford Sandy and Black.

Forty Hill Farm has very varied grazing, which lends itself to native breeds and as well as grazing its own land, the college is involved in a number of conservation grazing projects, including one for the Hertfordshire and Middlesex Wildlife Trust, where grazing pigs have helped create the ideal environment for wading birds. The College's Red Polls have also been used on a nature reserve in Essex where their natural grazing techniques have helped improve land that was overgrown with long grass and shrubs.



Melsop Farm Park is a family-run farm park in Norfolk, opened by Keith and Sue Stone in 2002 with day-to-day management now in the hands of son Jordan.

An important element of Melsop's stocking policy is the inclusion of breeds local to Norfolk, including Norfolk Horn sheep, Norfolk Black turkeys and what is thought to be the UK's largest breeding group of Norfolk Grey chickens. The farm park is also playing an important role in increasing the effort to improve the geographic distribution of some of RBST's highest priority breeds, such as the Gloucester and Albion cattle.

Melsop is also home to Belted Galloway cattle, Middle White, Tamworth and Berkshire pigs and Golden Guernsey and Bagot goats. Sheep breeds include the local Norfolk Horns plus Ryeland, Leicester Longwool, Grey Face Dartmoor, Balwen, Castlemilk Moorit, North Ronaldsay, Boreray and Jacob and there is also an impressive range of poultry and waterfowl.

Promoting our native breeds

The 2021 Marsh Award heroes


Gail Sprake


Helen Wray

> ***The 2021 RBST Marsh Awards for unsung heroes went to three people who have made significant contributions to the work of RBST.***

MARSH Christian Trust

The award for Conservation in Genetic Bio-Diversity went to Professor Stephen Hall, the Lifetime Achievement Award to Gail Sprake and Support Group Volunteer 2021 was Helen Wray of RBST Dales.

Gail Sprake stepped down from the role of RBST Chairman at the 2021 AGM, after eight years in the position. Gail first became an RBST Trustee in 2011 and, with her husband Michael, has been a member of RBST since the mid-1980s. She is a long-standing member of the East Anglia Support Group, for which she acts as secretary, and is heavily involved in all of their activities. She has been unswerving in her championing of the RBST cause for many years, and has been instrumental in the Trust taking advantage of the changes in the political landscape following Brexit. As Chairman, she travelled the length and breadth of the country to promote RBST and has been unstinting in her support of the management team and fellow Trustees.

Helen Wray has been a member of the Dales Support Group for a number of years and was elected as its Chairman at the beginning of 2021. Helen's Support Group Volunteer award reflects the work she has done to revive the Group with a wide range of activities in support of RBST.

Helen farms at Gam Farm at Grassington, near Skipton in North Yorkshire and is a dedicated champion for rare breeds, farming a wide range of livestock including 180 Whitefaced Woodland sheep and 50 Northern Dairy Shorthorn cattle, as well as Wensleydale sheep, Bagot goats and Tamworth and Middle White pigs. She is also involved in the Poultry Project, with breeding groups of Marsh Daisy chickens.

Professor Stephen Hall is a long-standing and active supporter of RBST. He is an Emeritus Professor of Animal Science at the University of and has served on the UK Government's Farm Animal Genetic Resources Committee. He has a particular interest in native breeds of livestock and has been involved in research into rare breeds since his student project on the seaweed-eating sheep of North Ronaldsay in 1973. He is currently a Trustee of the Chillingham Wild Cattle Association. Stephen joined RBST in 1977 and in 2002 was co-opted onto the Trust's Council. He is a member of RBST's Expert Advisory Panel and during the 2021 review of the RBST Watchlist methodology, his experience and expertise was particularly invaluable.

RBST

Securing Government support



Securing Government support



> ***As the UK leaves the EU agriculture will be changing, and in each of the four home nations, RBST is working with the government to ensure that policies to address the needs of our native livestock and equines are properly recognised and addressed in the new policies.***

Removing obstacles

RBST has long recognised that the lack of a comprehensive network of abattoirs able to process small numbers of non-standard animals to the highest welfare standards and returning the fifth quarter is one of the biggest obstacles to keeping native livestock.

Government needs to make one off investment to ensure the remaining small abattoirs are "match fit" for the unsubsidised more market-facing world. Where the abattoirs have disappeared, the investment needs to be in mobile or temporary units. In addition, Government and the FSA must commit to regulation that is proportionate whilst compatible with the maintenance of standards.

In 2020 together with allies in the Sustainable Food Trust and The Craft Butchers Association, we established the Abattoir Sector Group; an alliance intended to make the case for small local abattoirs as widely as possible.

The Group has proved a game changer; all four governments at last accept that the abattoir situation is one that needs to be addressed. As a result of the research the Group has carried out and the information it has been able to provide, in 2021 the agenda shifted to looking at how the situation should be improved, not whether it needs to be.

Ensuring public support

Native breeds do not just provide benefits for their owners, they benefit everyone.

To ensure all these benefits are recognised, RBST is lobbying on two fronts, first for a shift to the sort of extensive low input farming systems that encourage the keeping of native breeds. Thankfully Defra in England is supportive of this approach, and we are making headway. The devolved administrations are at an earlier stage of policy development, and progress is slow, but we are engaged and pressing the agenda.

Secondly, we are calling for specific policies to directly support the most threatened native breeds. This requires recognition of the importance of the breeds themselves, as part of biodiversity, and of the various benefits they provide.

Native breeds play an important role in the development and maintenance of natural habitats and increasing biodiversity. Bred for our landscape, native-breed cattle helped create the pastures and meadows we now cherish; native pigs can be used in woodland management to increase biodiversity and play a key role in arable rotations. We need incentives to encourage farmers and other land managers to use them in preference to larger commercial breeds.

Then there is the cultural side; native breeds are part of our national identity and heritage. Many say White Park cattle, featured in the Rare Breeds Survival Trust logo, were brought to Britain when it was still joined to the European mainland – well before Stonehenge was built. The Large White pig is the cornerstone of pig breeding across the world. We expect Government to help promote and conserve our built heritage, why not our livestock heritage too?

Then there is the vitally important task of maintaining genetic diversity. If UK farming is to have a secure future over the long term in the face of climate change and increased disease risks, we need to maintain the full range of genetic resources to help us respond.

RBST is working with politicians and officials across the UK to address all of these issues, ensuring that the vital role carried out by the keepers and breeders of native livestock is fully recognised.

RBST has been working to promote native breeds across the UK

Wales

In Wales RBST set out how celebrating native breeds could help support the delivery of Sustainable Land Management, a package of measures intended to address the need for Welsh agriculture to have a sustainable future:

> *The sheep of Wales are famous across the world for their hardiness and ability to thrive and rear lambs in almost any environment. The Welsh Mountain in all its forms provides a significant contribution to the UK lamb trade. Its regional variants such as the Torwen and Torddu have connections believed to date back to the time of St Idloes.*

We also highlighted the need for Welsh Government to invest in the abattoir network:

> *As part of its new agriculture policy, Welsh Government should invest in ensuring that the existing network is able to meet the changing demands on it. In particular, more abattoirs need to be able to take small numbers of non-standard animals and return the fifth quarter.*

Scotland

In Scotland RBST showed the role that native breeds have to play in the local a food agenda. Scottish Government's concern was with Local Food, and again RBST engaged constructively with the agenda highlighting the role that native breeds could play.:

> *These have the potential to be an important part of the solution to the challenges facing Scottish agriculture. Lower inputs, less environmental impact, cultural significance, localised, high welfare production are all traits that are well established and recognised. These traits could have a positive impact on meeting our biodiversity goals, lowering our agri-environmental footprint, enhancing our agritourism offering and building Scotland's reputation as a 'good food nation'*

Again, we highlighted the importance of abattoir provision:

> *The lack of a comprehensive local abattoir network is one of the biggest challenges faced by native breed farmers seeking to provide local products to local people. … According to Scottish Government, there are many areas of even mainland Scotland, including parts of Caithness, Sutherland, Ross & Cromarty, Argyll and Bute, where abattoir locations involve moving animals more than 100 miles from the farm.*

Finally, we emphasised the importance of greater honesty in food labelling and for consumers to sure of what they are getting:.

> *Consumers need to be sure that what they are buying is what it claims to be. …Meat should only be permitted to be described as "native" or "traditional" if it is from a pedigree herd or flock … The use of breed names should only be permitted in respect of meat from herds registered in the herd book for that breed. If the meat is from a crossbred animal, the cross breeding should be expressly referred to.*

Northern Ireland

In Northern Ireland RBST fought back against proposals for shortening the life of all beef cattle to a maximum of 24 months, saying the policy would be counter-productive to Irish Government's aim of reducing greenhouse gas emissions from beef production:

We explained a 24 month limit would discourage farming with the slow-growing native cattle breeds which produce high quality beef to high environmental standards. This would in turn, thwart the consumer trend towards supporting the environment by eating less but better meat:

> *Breeds such as the Irish Moiled were bred for these landscapes and they bring together commercial viability with environmental value, including their fantastic support for biodiversity through conservation grazing. They are slow-growing breeds and an obligatory slaughter limit of 24 months does not suit this type of farming. If we lose our native breeds, we lose all their genetic and natural capital value too.*
>
> *In a future where people are eating less but better meat, slow-grown native breeds are the obvious choice for consumers wanting high quality local produce coming from animals which have been kept to high welfare standards on minimal inputs.*

RBST

Delivering on priorities



A Watchlist addition in 2021



> ***Joining the RBST Watchlist marks a call to action for a native breed in decline.***

Whilst signalling serious concerns over the future of a breed, it also puts the spotlight on the breed and ensures that breed societies and breeders will have the support of RBST in their conservation efforts.

In 2021, the rare Badger Face Torwen, a Welsh Mountain sheep breed whose numbers have declined nearly 30% since 2013, was added to the Watchlist, which means the breed now benefits from focused RBST support to help its revival. RBST will work in partnership with the Badger Face Welsh Mountain Sheep Society to increase Torwen breeding numbers, prevent inbreeding, and safeguard the breed's future.

Torwen sheep have a black face with white facial markings, and a black fleece with a white belly (Torwen means 'white belly'). Their legs are tan with a black stripe, the underside of their tail is white and the rams have dark spiralled horns. Their markings are the reverse of the Badger Face Torddu breed.

The Badger Face Sheep's historic name Defaid Idloes suggests links to a 7th Century figure, Saint Idloes of Mid Wales. The majority of today's Torwen flocks are still found in Wales, but flocks have also been established in England and a small number in Scotland.

The distinctive markings of Torddu and Torwen Badger Face Sheep have been a feature of the Welsh Mountains for centuries but with numbers dwindling, action is needed to prevent Torwens from disappearing. Not only are these sheep an irreplaceable part of Britain's national heritage but, as hardy native breeds that produce delicious meat, both the Badger Face Sheep breeds should play an important role in Government's post-Brexit vision of a sustainable future for farming that works in harmony with the natural environment.

Torwens are very useful on farms and smallholdings alike thanks to their hardy nature, medium size and excellent mothering. They are good for crossing, popular in meat boxes and ideal for conservation grazing work, but they are not as well-known as their Torddu cousins. Just 491 Badger Face Torwen breeding females were registered in 2019, down from 681 in 2013.

Torwen and Torddu have previously been categorised as one breed but the Badger Face Mountain Sheep Society has traced evidence that shows the two breeds have long been bred separately, with a genetic history and inherited characteristics that clearly distinguish the two breeds. With breeding numbers having increased significantly, the Torddu is no longer categorised as rare but the Torwen is lower in number. Crosses between the Torwen and the Torddu are called a Wendu and they are not considered to represent either breed.





Delivering on priorities

The Native Poultry Project - a step towards pedigree registration

> ***The Native Poultry Project aims to restore the numbers of the most threatened avian breeds.***

The project has grown out of an initiative launched by the Marsh Daisy Society (MDS) which, in turn, built on the previous Andalusian project headed by Andrew Bowden. Seven breeds of chicken are currently involved in the project and there are plans to extend it to turkey and waterfowl breeds.

The MDS initiative, co-ordinated by breed registrar Serena Eustice, began with a Facebook census in 2020 which was returned by 39 members and established that between them, they had 460 Marsh Daisies, although it was recognised that the number of potential breeding females would present a very different picture. Recognising that the breed needed serious help, the Breed Society put together a plan with specific aims and objectives which will lead to an increase in the number of Marsh Daisies meeting the breed standard in the UK, produced by a co-ordinated breeding programme to maximise the breed's genetic diversity. This will also pioneer a system to award pedigree certificates to those birds meeting breed standard.

As RBST had piloted the project with the similarly endangered Andalusians, the MDS suggested working with RBST and others to extend the model to more poultry breeds and other avian species. RBST has subsequently identified six more poultry breeds with breeder groups keen to engage with the project: Spanish, North Holland Blue, Norfolk Grey, Old English Pheasant Fowl and Campine.

Breeders are being selected to form a 'Breed Project Group' for each breed. These will be required to set up pens with separate cockerels and hens to introduce a clan breeding approach, which involves keeping distinct groups with no exchange between separate flocks.

Success is dependant on two key factors: identification of individual birds and record keeping. Identification is significant because administration of the project depends on being able to identify the birds involved and the breeding 'clan' to which they belong. It also reflects the need to identify the birds as being members of a 'breed at risk' in the event of an outbreak of avian flu to which the government responds by culling; there is a rebuttable presumption that breeds at risk will not be culled in such circumstances.

Record keeping will be managed via the Cloud-Lines specialist avian breed society registration system, which RBST has agreed to fund, and the project will provide a secure platform from which to ensure the survival of the breeds involved.



RBST
Rare Breeds Survival Trust

Watchlist 2022-23

The methodology used by RBST to prioritise breeds compares population size with measures of inbreeding and takes into account both females and males and the internationally recognised effective population calculation. RBST would like to thank Defra and UK Breed Societies for their help producing the Watchlist.

Sheep

PRIORITY
Lincoln Longwool
North Ronaldsay
Whitefaced Woodland
Welsh Mountain Pedigree

AT RISK
Balwen
Border Leicester
Boreray
Castlemilk Moorit
Cotswold
Derbyshire Gritstone
Devon and Cornwall Longwool
Devon Closewool
Dorset Down
Dorset Horn
Greyface Dartmoor
Hill Radnor
Leicester Longwool
Llanwenog
Lonk
Manx Loaghtan
Norfolk Horn
Oxford Down
Portland
Soay
Teeswater
Torwen Badgerface Welsh
Wensleydale
Whiteface Dartmoor

UK NATIVE BREEDS
Beulah
Black Welsh Mountain*
Blackface (Scottish)
Blueface Leicester
Brecknock Hill Cheviot
Clun Forest
Dalesbred
Exmoor Horn
Hampshire Down
Hebridean*
Herdwick
Jacob*
Kerry Hill*
Llandovery Whiteface Hill
Lleyn*
North Country Cheviot
Poll Dorset
Romney
Rough Fell
Ryeland*
Shetland*
Shropshire*
Southdown*
South Country Cheviot
South Wales Mountain*
Suffolk
Swaledale
Torddu Badgerface Welsh
Welsh Hill Speckled
Welsh Mountain
Wiltshire Horn*

IRISH BREEDS IN THE UK
Galway

Cattle

PRIORITY
Albion
Chillingham Wild Cattle (feral)
Dairy Shorthorn (Original Population)
Gloucester
Northern Dairy Shorthorn
Vaynol

AT RISK
British White
Irish Moiled
Lincoln Red (Original Population)
Native Aberdeen Angus
Shetland
Traditional Hereford
White Park
Whitebred Shorthorn

UK NATIVE BREEDS
Aberdeen Angus
Ayrshire
Beef Shorthorn*
Belted Galloway*
British Friesian
Dairy Shorthorn
Devon
Dexter
Galloway - Including White and Riggit
Guernsey
Hereford
Highland
Jersey
Lincoln Red
Longhorn*
Luing
Red Poll*
South Devon
Sussex
Welsh Black

IRISH BREEDS IN THE UK
Kerry

*These breeds were formerly considered to be Priority or At Risk breeds

Equine

PRIORITY
Cleveland Bay Horse
Dales Pony
Dartmoor Pony
Eriskay Pony
Exmoor Pony
Hackney Horse and Pony
Suffolk Horse

AT RISK
Clydesdale Horse
Fell Pony
Highland Pony
New Forest Pony
Shire Horse

UK NATIVE BREEDS
Shetland Pony
Welsh Pony and Cob (all sections)

IRISH BREEDS IN THE UK
Connemara pony
Irish Draught horse

Pigs

PRIORITY
Berkshire
British Landrace
British Lop
Large Black
Large White
Middle White
Tamworth

AT RISK
British Saddleback
Gloucestershire Old Spots
Oxford Sandy and Black
Welsh

Goats

PRIORITY
English Goat
Old English Goat

AT RISK
Bagot
Golden Guernsey

Poultry

Chickens

PRIORITY
Andalusian
Brussbar
Burmese
Campine
Derbyshire Redcap
Dorking
Hamburgh
Malay
Marsh Daisy
Modern Game
Modern Langshan
North Holland Blue
Old English Pheasant Fowl
Rhodebar
Rumpless Game
Scots Dumpy
Scots Grey
Sicilian Buttercup
Spanish
Sultan
Sussex
Welbar

UK BREEDS
Ancona
Australorp
British Araucana
British Faverolles
Buff Orpington
Cochin
Cream Legbar
Croad Langshan
Indian Game
Ixworth
Legbar
Leghorn
Minorca
Nankin
Norfolk Grey
Old English Game
Orpington (non Buff)
Rosecomb
Sebright

Turkeys

PRIORITY
Blue
Bourbon Red
British White
Bronze
Buff
Cröllwitzer (Pied)
Harvey Speckled
Narragansett
Norfolk Black
Slate

Ducks

PRIORITY
Orpington
Pekin
Shetland
Silver Bantam
Stanbridge White
Welsh Harlequin

UK BREEDS
Abacot Ranger
Aylesbury
Black East Indian
Campbell
Cayuga
Crested
Hookbill
Magpie
Rouen (Exhibition)
Silver Appleyard

Geese

PRIORITY
Brecon Buff
Buff Back
Embden (as standardised in the UK)
Grey Back
Pilgrim
Roman
Sebastopol
Shetland
Steinbacher
Toulouse (Exhibition)
West of England



Gloucester cattle. Photograph courtesy of Cotswold Farm Park.

Help save rare and native breeds: join or donate at www.rbst.org.uk

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Delivering on priorities



British Lop project - genomic work complete

In 2019, RBST secured major funding from the Gerald Fallowes Discretionary Trust for a project designed to take pig genetics' conservation to a new level. In 2021, a ground-breaking element of the project came to its conclusion with the completion of a genomic characterisation study that revealed that the British Lop can be clearly defined as distinct from other pig breeds.

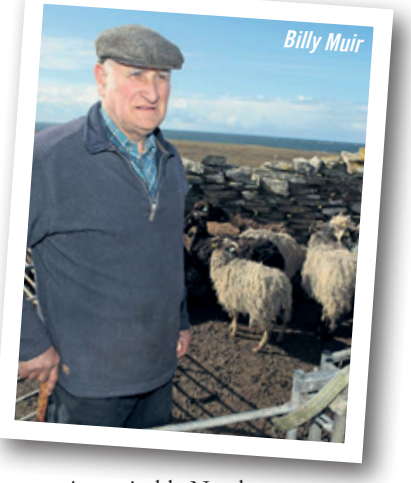
The project was led by Professor Georgios Banos of Scotland's Rural College (SRUC) and Dr Enrique Sanchez-Molano of the University of Edinburgh, with the support of Giles Eustice and Celia Upchurch of the British Lop Pig Society who co-ordinated the collection of hair samples for genotyping and the provision of pedigree data. The project set out to achieve three key objectives:

- An assessment of the British Lop genomic population structure, including levels of genetic diversity and inbreeding.
- The calculation of the genomic relatedness of British Lops with other pig breeds.
- The identification of specific genomic (molecular) markers that uniquely characterise and distinguish the British Lop from other pig breeds.

The results of the study revealed that there is genetic diversity within the current breeding Lop population, but that levels of inbreeding and the estimated effective population size indicate that prompt measures are needed to safeguard and enhance this diversity. The study also identified genetic markers unique to the Lop which can be used to distinguish members of this breed from others.

This work demonstrates the genetic uniqueness of the British Lop pig and used modern technologies and data to derive information that may be used as a practical breed purity test and also inform breeding strategies aiming to safeguard the integrity of the breed.

Work starts on North Ronaldsay



One of the projects identified in RBST's conservation plan focuses on preserving and maintaining the genetics of the North Ronaldsay sheep breed. The first step was to take nasal pharyngeal swabs from the island's sheep population which was carried out by RBST Chairman Gail Sprake on a visit to North Ronaldsay.

Key to the success of this project is collaboration between RBST and the North Ronaldsay islanders. Although the sheep are in individual flock ownerships, decisions concerning them are made collectively by the Sheep Court, which was first created in 1839. The Court is fully engaged in the project, which has the support of the Laird, Caroline Traill Tindall, and island vet Dr Leona Robertson, who is also a member of the Sheep Court.

Funding for the project is also collaborative. In 2016 islander Billy Muir hit the national headlines when he was heralded as 'Britain's hardest working man', winning a Pride of Britain Award. Billy 'banked' his £5,000 prize with RBST to await a suitable North Ronaldsay sheep project and it is that money, together with money from RBST's Linga Holm fund that has enabled this project to go ahead.

With the results of the study, RBST will work with the keepers to devise breeding plans to secure the island flock's long term future. The research will provide useful information on the state of the island flock and together RBST and the islanders will consider what, if anything, needs to be done to ensure that the island flock continues to thrive.



Consultancy advice and training

New consultancy service from RBST

2021 saw RBST launch a new consultancy service to support farmers and land managers wanting to keep native livestock and equines on larger holdings.

As the only organisation dedicated to the conservation, preservation, and support of our native breeds, RBST is using a combination of conservation breeding and research programmes, population monitoring, education, advocacy and grass roots practice to provide leading advice to landowners to help them achieve their ecological and commercial goals for a more regenerative farming future.

With its expertise in the selection, use and management of native livestock RBST can assist with scoping a project, based on a landowner's vision for their land and its existing features, advising on appropriate breeds and species, managing their welfare needs, registrations, any infrastructure requirements and sourcing the animals.

This expertise developed over the years since its foundation in 1973 has ensured that no native livestock breed has been lost in the intervening years. RBST is offering its consultancy service at competitive rates and all the proceeds will go towards RBST's charitable work to secure a future for the UK's native breeds.

To date projects are underway in Yorkshire, the East Midlands, the South West, Wales and Ireland.

Grazing Animals Project (GAP) courses

RBST runs two LANTRA accredited courses, Livestock Checkers and Conservation Grazing in Practice.

The Conservation Grazing in Practice course, run over two days, provides an introduction to conservation grazing and the use of livestock to achieve environmental objectives, The course covers grazing and grazing systems, different species and how they graze, animal health, welfare and behaviour, the key legislation, the different roles and responsibilities associated with livestock, health & safety and risk assessments and how to safely and effectively carry out livestock handling techniques.

The one-day livestock checkers' course provides a basic introduction to stock checking in a conservation context for beginners, volunteers or anyone with limited experience of livestock. It covers animal health and welfare, the key legislation, the role and responsibilities of a stock checker and how to safely and effectively check livestock.

Delivering on priorities


Zoe Burn.


Tegan Dowler.


Vic Hargreaves.


Holly Norton.

Young RBST - a new voice for young members

> ***A round of online meetings with Support Groups in early 2021 revealed a number of younger members keen to have their own forum within RBST.***

As RBST has long recognised that it needs to engage more with the next generation, the Board gave its support to the establishment of Young RBST, a formally constituted group for RBST members aged between 18 and 35.

The need to reach out to young people was highlighted by the fact that a membership survey carried out by RBST revealed that just 2 per cent of members are aged below 34. However, in Support Group discussions, an impressive degree of commitment was shown by the younger members taking part. It was felt, therefore, that establishing what is effectively a Support Group structure for young members would give them what they are looking for in an extremely positive move for RBST.

To help prepare the ground, a group of 10 young members was formed, all engaged with Support Groups. Three of the prime movers at the Support Group meetings were Zoe Burn, Kelsey Ann Williamson and Tegan Dowler, who provisionally led the group. Terms of reference were established and guidelines set up for governance arrangements and Young RBST held its first AGM in the autumn, when officers were appointed.

Zoe, Tegan and Kelsey were confirmed as Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary and Vitoria Hargreaves became Treasurer with Holly Norton taking on social media. Young RBST ended the year with just over 50 members in its Facebook group and a programme of events will be held throughout each year. Virtual meetings and social media will make national membership viable and the group will also have the opportunity to meet up at major shows and RBST farm parks.


Kelsey Anne Williamson.

Back to the future in Scotland

> ***RBST's Scottish Forum held its first major event in March which took the form of an online conference to promote the key attributes of rare and native breeds.***

The audience included decision makers and influencers, keepers old and new and RBST members, all interested in the critical issues facing livestock and farming in Scotland.

A total of 168 people signed up for the event to see a range of talks held during the morning culminating in a live Q&A session with all the speakers. The event was sponsored by Ledingham Chalmers solicitors and supported by the Eriskay Pony Society.

Following a welcome by RBST VP Martin Beard, Linda Tinson, Partner at Ledingham Chalmers took the audience through the opportunities rare breeds give for diversification, and talked about some of the pitfalls people may encounter. This was followed by a talk highlighting the benefits of conservation grazing and its impact on the landscape from members James and Nikki Yoxall of Grampian Graziers. George Peart, from Promar International was up next with an excellent discussion on the genetic advantage of native breeds drawing on his degree dissertation.

There then followed a discussion on native breeds and their history as part of the land, with a particular focus on native equine breeds from RBST Farm Parks Officer Andrea Parry-Jones. Leading chef and renowned Scottish foodie Wendy Barrie from the Scottish Food Guide then told everyone why we should be eating native breed produce.

The focus then moved onto the vital question of local abattoirs and short supply chains with Flora Corbett, Mull Slaughterhouse. This was described as perhaps the most pressing issue for rare breed keepers in Scotland and was highlighted as one of the key messages in the RBST Scotland Manifesto, which was delivered by RBST CEO, Christopher Price in time for the Scottish elections.



RBST

Recognition



Our Patron



RBST continues to enjoy the Patronage of HRH The Prince of Wales whose decades of advocacy for British farming was recognised when he was awarded the Farmers Weekly 2020 Lifetime Achievement Award.

The award citation stated that: "In tandem with supporting great organisations including the Rare Breeds Survival Trust, he's someone who's prepared to speak up on important topics such as local food networks, village services and rural regeneration." In his response, HRH included reference to the work of RBST, saying: "The proof is in the numbers. I am told that there are now 30, 000 herds and flocks of native breeds in the UK, contributing £700 million to local economies."

Our President

Baroness (Sue) Hayman of Ullock became the latest President of RBST, taking up the reins of the role by chairing the Trust's AGM in November. She took over from farmer and TV personality Jimmy Doherty, who agreed to continue with RBST as Vice President.

A Labour Life Peer, Baroness Hayman of Ullock has sat under the title in the House of Lords since September 2020 and she is Shadow Spokesperson for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. Sue Hayman previously served as Member of Parliament for Workington between 2015 and 2019, becoming Shadow Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs in 2017.

In her role as RBST President, Baroness Hayman will help make the case for securing a sustainable future for native livestock and equines in Parliament and across the wider political world.



Recognition



Recognition and positioning

A planned and sustained campaign

Through a planned and sustained communications campaign, RBST has extended its reach across a wide range of media platforms. Total reach through media coverage for the Watchlist launch alone was estimated at more than 8 million.

RBST Watchlist Launch (April 2021)

- **BBC Breakfast** – TV interview (average daily reach of 5.7 million)
- **BBC England News** – online article (specific reach data not available but there are more than 20 million visits to bbc.co.uk / bbc.com each day)
- **BBC Points West News** – online article (reach data not available)
- **BBC Radio Suffolk** – radio interview (reach data not available)
- **BBC Radio Wiltshire** – radio interview (reach data not available)
- **BBC Radio Gloucestershire** – radio interview (reach data not available)
- **The Daily Telegraph** print (1,346,000 readers per day) & online (401,938 digital subscribers)
- **Farmers Weekly** online (766,000 web users per month) & print (circulation 38,347 per issue)
- **Farmers Guardian** online (168,900 web users per month) & print (circulation 28,149 per issue)
- **The Scottish Farmer** (print and online audience of more than 100,000 per week)
- **Country Life** (40,317 readers per issue)
- **Horse & Hound** (23,211 readers per issue)
- **Your Horse** magazine (reach unknown)
- **Pig World** (4,100 readership per issue)
- **The Smallholder** (reach unknown)
- **Country Smallholding** (reach unknown)
- Regional print and online including **Western Morning News**, **the Press & Journal**, **Gloucestershire Echo**, **Salisbury Journal**

RBST Classes at the Norfolk Equestrian Show (July)

- **Horse & Hound** – launch article & results article (23,211 readers per issue, online unknown)
- **Eastern Daily Press** – launch article & results article (daily print circulation of 22734, daily print readership of 60,679)
- **Your Horse** – launch article and results article (reach unknown)

RBST Commercial Trends Survey - inaugural results (August)

- **BBC Farming Today** interview (listeners estimated as approximately 1 million)
- **Farmers Weekly** online (766,000 web users per month) & print (circulation 38,347 per issue)
- **Farmers Guardian** online (168,900 web users per month) & in print (circulation 28,149 per issue)
- **Scottish Farmer** (print and online audience of more than 100,000 per week)
- **Farming Life (NI)** (reach unknown)
- **Country Smallholding** (reach unknown)
- **The Smallholder** (reach unknown)
- **Pig World** (4,100 readership per issue)
- **Farming UK** (173,172 unique visitors per month)
- Regional media including **Eastern Daily Press**, **Western Daily Press**, **Western Morning News**



Financial Review

Operating statement

	2021				2020
	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	**Total**	Total
	£	£	£	**£**	£
Income and endowments from:					
Grants and Donations	28,542	-	134,342	**162,884**	87,713
Legacies	211,135	-	-	**211,135**	243,443
Membership Subscriptions (inc Gift Aid)	178,326	-	-	**178,326**	179,765
Charitable Activities	49,456	-	-	**49,456**	20,190
Advertising Revenue	13,487	-	-	**13,487**	14,795
Investments	97,258	-	-	**97,258**	89,780
Total income and endowments	**578,204**	**-**	**134,342**	**712,546**	635,686
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	141,745	-	-	**141,745**	151,490
Investment management fees	18,017	-	-	**18,017**	15,863
Charitable activities	314,476	57,939	74,972	**447,387**	534,601
Other	-	-	-	**-**	-
Total expenditure	**474,238**	**57,939**	**74,972**	**607,149**	701,954
Net gains/(losses) on investments	383,886	-	-	**383,886**	(33,789)
Net income/(expenditure)	**487,852**	**(57,939)**	**59,370**	**489,283**	(100,057)

Income

Total income from 2021 was £712,546 compared with £635,686 in 2020. The increase was predominantly driven by an increase in grants and donations.

Legacies are inherently difficult to forecast and have a tendency to be volatile. 2021 saw a slight decrease in legacies, however levels remain above the long term average and continues the prior reversal of the poor performance experienced in 2019.

Income from charitable activities in 2021 was £49,456 compared with £20,190 in 2020. The increase was predominantly linked to the success of RBST's newly launched consulting service, combined with a significant increase in RBST's conservation grazing GAP courses.

In line with accounting requirements, we revalue our investments at each year end. In 2021 our investments returned a net positive movement in funds of £383,886, a swing of £417,675 from the loss of £33,789 experienced in 2020. It must be remembered that this figure is simply a snap shot of our investments at a point in time and is highly dependant on the markets at that moment. RBST's ongoing budgeting and financial management uses long term averages of large volatile items such as investments and legacies to ensure the charity manages its funds appropriately.

Expenditure

Expenditure for 2021 totalled £607,149 compared with £701,954 in 2020. The decrease was driven by a reduction in charitable activities due to a reduction in spend from designated and restricted funds.

The spend on charitable activities from unrestricted funds was broadly in line with the prior year. The spend on charitable activities from designated funds decreased. Whilst there was an increase in spend on the gene bank, no other charitable spend was made from designated funds. This was a positive development as RBST ensured that projects were delivered to budget and only commenced projects once funds were in place. This negated the need for designated spend to fill unbudgeted gaps, as had been the case in the past. Spend from restricted funds was also down, which was the result of more efficient and targeted spending. RBST ensured funds were spent in accordance with the newly introduced strategic conservation plan, which targeted the most important projects for breeds most in need. This also ensured that RBST generated the greatest impact for its charitable spend, meaning more can be done to conserve those most in need. In 2021 overall restricted funds increased and RBST is continuing to work to ensure the most meaningful impact is produced for they way RBST directs both its funds and staff time.

Overall spend reduced 14%, and importantly unrestricted spend reduced 4% as management continued to closely monitor RBST's cost base. It is expected expenses will increase in 2022 as a full staff team will be in place, and the Farm Park officer post will no longer be funded by a grant from The Princes Countryside Fund. This is expected to compounded by the general rise in costs being experienced globally as a result of the rise in inflation and global supply pressures. However, it is also anticipated that spend on charitable activities will increase as RBST has replenished its restricted funds and is focused on executing high quality conservation projects in 2022.

Financial Review (continued)

Balance Sheet

The Balance Sheet remains robust and net assets have increased by 15% to £3,695,353 at the end of 2021.

The strong performance of legacies and investment gains has further increased the Trust's unrestricted funds and the Trust is well placed to withstand any future turbulence.

Whilst Covid-19 has clearly impacted the accounts over the last two years we would further reiterate the Trust's ability to withstand a period of economic turbulence. Furthermore, we would highlight the continued improvements in managing the day to day finances of the Trust, an unrestricted net income of £487,852, in what has been exceptionally challenging times demonstrates the robust position of RBST. The Staff Team and Board are working hard to secure future grants and increase fundraising, alongside seeking out alternative sources of income in 2022. There is no doubt that there will be continued challenges in 2022, particularly as inflation rises and the general economic outlook are expected to weigh on charitable giving. However, we are continuing to work hard to execute high quality meaningful conservation projects, directly aimed at securing the future of the animals we seek to conserve, whilst continuing to offer support to our members and the wider public. We remain confident we have the financial strength to survive the ongoing period of turmoil and believe we have clearly demonstrated RBST has a strong foundation from which to deliver further exciting and innovative conservation work.

Reserves policy

	31 December 2021	31 December 2020	% Increase/ (Decrease)
Unrestricted funds (Free Reserves)	1,300,420	840,436	54.7%
Unrestricted funds (Tangible Fixed Assets)	104,727	119,936	-12.7%
Total Unrestricted funds	1,405,147	960,372	46.3%
Designated Funds:			
- Gene Bank	2,000,000	2,000,000	0.0%
- Conservation – Breed stock	24,779	33,559	-26.2%
- Linga Holm	12,812	12,812	0.0%
- Sandringham Charitable Trust	19,237	19,237	0.0%
- Property improvement fund	132,000	132,000	0.0%
- Lop Fund	8,951	3,751	138.6%
Restricted Funds:			
- Cattle Conservation	2,487	1,747	42.4%
- Equine Conservation	23,001	11,285	103.8%
- Goat Conservation	2,659	2,659	0.0%
- Pig Conservation	14,439	11,039	30.8%
- Sheep Conservation	27,026	15,125	78.7%
- Other projects	22,815	11,264	102.5%
Ratio of Free Reserves to Annual Operating Expenditure	2.1 years	1.2 years	

The charity maintains a large investment portfolio in order to create an income, currently in the region of £100,000, to help fund its charitable activities.

Free reserves are shown in accordance with Charity Commission guidance CC19.

One of the prime objectives of the charity is to ensure the preservation of breeds. Therefore, a Gene Bank is maintained to ensure the characteristics of old and current breeds are conserved. This Gene Bank is treated as a heritage asset, which is irreplaceable. The Trustees have therefore designated £2million to maintain and develop the Gene Bank for the next generation.

The reserves that the Trustees have set aside provide financial stability and the means for the development of our principal activity. The Trustees' aim is for free reserves to always cover at least the annual operating expenditure.

The Trustees regularly review the amount of reserves that are required to ensure that they are adequate to fulfil our continuing obligations

Investment policy

A medium-risk approach describes the investment policy. Assets are held in the RBST Portfolio which is managed by Smith and Williamson, and which invests in a combination of segregated equities and collective funds. The portfolio targets are initial income yield of 4%; in 2021 it achieved 3.0%, which was acceptable given market conditions. The investment aim is to achieve this income target without detriment to the growth and without incurring unnecessary risk. The value of the RBST portfolio as at 31 December 2021 was £3,540,072 compared with £3,051,652 as at 31 December 2020.

Governance

Structure

RBST is a charity registered with the Charity Commission for England and Wales (Registration No. 269442). It is also a company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales (Registration No. 01204694). It was founded in 1973. Its objects and powers are set out in its Memorandum and Articles of Association.

Trustees

The Board of RBST is comprised of unpaid trustees, with no fewer than six elected from its membership and up to five co-opted. The trustees are also the directors of RBST for the purposes of company law. The Board is responsible for setting policy, agreeing strategy and approving major commitments based on advice from senior management, and the appointment of the Chief Executive Officer. Day-to-day operations are delegated by the Board to the Chief Executive Officer, who leads the executive and volunteer teams. RBST's Memorandum and Articles of Association provide that elected trustees may be appointed for two periods of up to four years, with years being defined by AGMs, at a time and must then take a minimum break of 24 months. Co-opted trustees may be appointed for two periods of up to three years, with years being defined by AGMs, at a time and must then take a minimum break of 24 months. The Board has two principal committees: the Conservation and Research Committee and the Finance and Governance Committee. Membership of these committees along with a full list of trustees and staff at the time of writing of this report are provided at the end of this report. The Conservation and Research Committee advises the Board of trustees on strategic issues concerning conservation programmes and related activities. The Finance and Governance Committee is responsible for reviewing RBST's financial performance and matters relating to management, organisation, governance, investments and risk management. Each new trustee is provided with training and an induction, where s/he learns about the organisation and the role and responsibilities of a trustee. The induction includes a pack containing the Charity Commission guidance 'The Essential Trustee'; RBST's governing documents; and the most recent annual report and financial statements. Trustees receive ongoing training, receive charity law updates, and are involved in strategic sessions relating to the operations during the year.

Statement of Trustees' responsibilities

The trustees (who are also directors of RBST for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom generally accepted accounting practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards). Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under company law the trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they 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 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 2019 (FRS 102);
- make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charitable company's transactions, 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, and the provisions of the Charity's constitution. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

In so far as the trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditor is unaware; and
- the trustees have taken all reasonable steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information. The trustees are also responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website.

Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Governance (continued)

Grant making policy

RBST occasionally makes donations or grants, in line with its charitable and strategic objectives, to partners in the RBST network, the outcomes of which are reviewed at regular periods.

Public benefit

In reviewing our charitable objectives and as part of planning our future programme of work, the trustees of RBST have taken account of the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and have considered how the planned programme of work will consistently contribute to the Charity's aims and objectives.

Remuneration policy

Our approach to remuneration across the organisation is designed to ensure we can attract and retain the talented and motivated people we need to deliver our mission.

Fundraising Regulator Statement of Compliance

The charity does not contract with a third party to undertake any fundraising on its behalf. The charity does employ a fundraising officer who initiates campaigns and supports fundraising activities.

The charity only makes fundraising approaches to contacts who have given explicit consent to receive such campaign documentation under GDPR guidelines. We have received no fundraising complaints during the year.

Risk management

The trustees have reviewed the major risks to which the charity is exposed and confirm that systems have been established to mitigate those risks. Particular attention has focused on Support Groups and the review of the risk register was rolled over due to covid and competing commitments, though most of the key issues that would be expected in a risk register have been addressed.

Trustees Indemnity

The charity has Trustees' indemnity insurance in place.

Our employees & volunteers

The delivery of our mission relies on our talented and motivated people, and we are proud of the performance of our staff and volunteers across the UK. The trustees and Chief Executive Officer encourage widespread consultation and exchange of information at all levels of the organisation and we continue to work together on a range of actions to improve employee and volunteer engagement, ensuring that RBST remains a great place to work and volunteer.

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

The trustees are committed to addressing equality, diversity and inclusion, recognising that doing so helps a board to make better decisions and means RBST is more likely to stay relevant to those it serves and to deliver its public benefit. Trustees will work to recognise and counter any imbalances in power, perspectives or opportunities in RBST, and in the attitudes and behaviour of trustees, staff and volunteers, so helping to make sure RBST achieves its aims.

The trustees' report (including the directors' report) was approved by the Board of trustees on xxxxxxxxx and was signed on their behalf by:



John Atkinson

Chairman of the Board of trustees

Date: 16th June 2022

Independent Auditors Report

Year Ended 31 December 2021

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of the Rare Breeds Survival Trust (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 December 2021 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, Balance Sheet, Statement of Cashflows and 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 charitable company's affairs as at 31 December 2021, and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

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

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

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

Other information

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

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

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

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

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

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 33, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern,

Independent Auditors Report (continued)

disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

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 specific procedures for this engagement and the extent to which these are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

- Enquiry of management, those charged with governance around actual and potential litigation and claims;
- Enquiry of entity staff in compliance functions to identify any instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations;
- Reviewing minutes of meetings of those charged with governance;
- Reviewing financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations.
- Performing audit work over the risk of management override of controls, including testing of journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness, evaluating the business rationale of significant transactions outside the normal course of business and reviewing accounting estimates for bias.

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

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (UK), we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the charitable company's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the trustees.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the charitable company to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Use of our report

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



Geoffrey Cox BA FCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
For and on behalf of Dafferns LLP, Statutory Auditor
One Eastwood
Binley Business Park
Coventry, CV3 2UB
Date: 16th June 2022

Statement of Financial Activities

(Including Income and Expenditure Account)
Year Ended 31 December 2021

		2021				2020
		Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	**Total**	Total
	Note	£	£	£	**£**	£
Income and endowments from:						
Donations and legacies	2	418,003	-	134,342	**552,345**	510,921
Charitable activities	3	49,456	-	-	**49,456**	20,190
Other trading activities	4	13,487	-	-	**13,487**	14,795
Investments	5	97,258	-	-	**97,258**	89,780
Total income and endowments		**578,204**	**-**	**134,342**	**712,546**	635,686
Expenditure on:						
Raising funds		141,745	-	-	**141,745**	151,490
Investment management fees		18,017	-	-	**18,017**	15,863
Charitable activities	6	314,476	57,939	74,972	**447,387**	534,601
Total expenditure		**474,238**	**57,939**	**74,972**	**607,149**	701,954
Net gains/(losses) on investments	15	383,886	-	-	**383,886**	(33,789)
Net income/(expenditure)		**487,852**	**(57,939)**	**59,370**	**489,283**	(100,057)
Transfers between funds	20	(43,077)	63,139	(20,062)	**-**	-
Other recognised gains/(losses):						
Gains/(losses) on revaluation of fixed assets	13	-	(8,780)	-	**(8,780)**	(12,640)
Net movement in funds		**445,775**	**(3,580)**	**39,308**	**480,503**	(112,697)
Reconciliation of funds:						
Total funds brought forward	20	960,372	2,201,359	53,119	**3,214,850**	3,327,547
Total funds carried forward	20	**1,405,147**	**2,197,779**	**92,427**	**3,695,353**	3,214,850

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities. Activities relating to the Gene bank are disclosed in note 14.

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised during the year.

Balance sheet

Year Ended 31 December 2021

	Note	2021 £	2020 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	13	**104,727**	119,936
Heritage assets	14	**-**	-
Investments	15	**3,540,072**	3,051,652
		3,644,799	3,171,588
Current assets			
Stocks	16	**7,360**	7,860
Debtors	17	**35,490**	46,969
Cash at bank and in hand		**53,330**	34,810
		96,180	89,639
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	18	**45,626**	46,377
Net current assets		**50,554**	43,262
Net assets		**3,695,353**	3,214,850
Charity Funds			
Unrestricted funds	20	**1,405,147**	960,372
Designated funds	20	**2,197,779**	2,201,359
Restricted funds	20	**92,427**	53,119
Total charity funds		**3,695,353**	3,214,850

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Board on 16th June 2022.

Signed on behalf of the Board of trustees



John Atkinson, Chairman of Trustees,



Alison Pope, Treasurer

The notes on pages 40 to 51 form part of these financial statements

Company registration number: 01204694

Statement of cash flows

Year Ended 31 December 2021

	2021	2020
	£	£
Cash flow from operating activities	**27,296**	(116,862)
Cash flow from investing activities		
Payments to acquire tangible fixed assets	**(1,500)**	(6,743)
Payments to acquire investments	**(354,467)**	(349,068)
Receipts from sales of investments	**249,933**	362,847
Interest received	**7,399**	2,723
Dividends received	**89,859**	87,057
Net cash flow from investing activities	**(8,776)**	96,816
Net decrease in cash and cash equivalents	**18,520**	(20,046)
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 January 2021	**34,810**	54,856
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 December 2021	**53,330**	34,810
Cash and cash equivalents consists of:		
Cash at bank and in hand	**53,330**	34,810
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 December 2021	**53,330**	34,810

	2021	2020
	£	£
Reconciliation of net income/(expenditure) to net cash flow from operating activities		
Net income / (expenditure) for year	**480,503**	(112,697)
Dividends received	**(89,859)**	(87,057)
Interest receivable	**(7,399)**	(2,723)
Depreciation and impairment of tangible fixed assets	**16,709**	22,532
(Gains) / losses on investments	**(383,886)**	33,789
(Increase) / decrease in stock	**500**	(990)
(Increase) / decrease in debtors	**(11,478)**	34,810
Increase / (decrease) in creditors	**(750)**	(4,526)
Net cash flow from operating activities	**27,296**	(116,862)

Analysis of changes in net debt

	31/12/20	Cashflows	**31/12/21**
	£	£	**£**
Cash and cash equivalents	34,810	18,520	**53,330**

Notes to the financial statements

Year Ended 31 December 2021

1 Summary of significant accounting policies

(a) General information and basis of preparation

Rare Breeds Survival Trust is an incorporated charity registered in England. In the event of the charity being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member of the charity. The address of the registered office is Avenue Q, Stoneleigh Park, Kenilworth, Warwickshire, CV8 2LG. The nature of the charity's operations and principal activities are:

- For the benefit of the public to ensure the preservation of breeds and breeding groups of domestic farm livestock of importance in the promotion of agriculture being breeds at risk, and having characteristics worthy of preservation in the interests of zoological research and education to ensure the preservation of genes of special or potential value in hybridisation or other work; and
- To conduct, carry out and promote research within all areas of the Trust's interest to increase knowledge and to publish the results of such research.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland issued in October 2019, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006 and UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

The financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis under the historical cost convention, modified to include certain items at fair value. The financial statements are presented in sterling which is the functional currency of the charity and rounded to the nearest £1.

The significant accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all years presented unless otherwise stated.

A network of volunteer support groups is constituted within the Trust and accordingly the accounts include their financial activities.

(b) Funds

Unrestricted funds 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. Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the trustees for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements. The cost of raising and administering such funds is charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

(c) Income recognition

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when the charity is legally entitled to the income after any performance conditions have been met, the amount can be measured reliably, and it is probable that the income will be received.

Subscriptions are included in the Income and Expenditure Account in the accounting period in which they are received.

This treatment is also adopted for the limited number of subscriptions received from new life members.

For donations to be recognised the charity will have been notified of the amounts and the settlement date in writing. If there are conditions attached to the donation and this requires a level of performance before entitlement can be obtained then income is deferred until those conditions are fully met or the fulfilment of those conditions is within the control of the charity and it is probable that they will be fulfilled.

Donated facilities and donated professional services are recognised in income at their fair value when their economic benefit is probable, it can be measured reliably and the charity has control over the item. Fair value is determined on the basis of the value of the gift to the charity, for example the amount the charity would be willing to pay in the open market for such facilities and services. A corresponding amount is recognised in expenditure.

No amount is included in the financial statements for volunteer time in line with the SORP (FRS 102). Further detail is given in the Trustees' Annual Report.

For legacies, entitlement is the earlier of the charity being notified of an impending distribution or the legacy being received. At this point income is recognised. On occasion legacies will be notified to the charity for which it is not possible to measure the amount expected to be distributed. On these occasions, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset and disclosed.

Income from trading activities includes income earned from fundraising events and trading activities to raise funds for the charity. Income is received in exchange for supplying goods and services in order to raise funds and is recognised when entitlement has occurred.

Investment income is earned through holding assets for investment purposes such as shares and property. It includes dividends, interest and rent. Where it is not practicable to identify investment management costs incurred within a scheme with reasonable accuracy the investment income is reported net of these costs. It is included when the amount can be measured reliably. Interest income is recognised using the effective interest method and dividend and rent income is recognised as the charity's right to receive payment is established.

(d) Expenditure recognition

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Expenditure is recognised where there is a legal or constructive obligation to make payments to third parties, it is probable that the settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. It is categorised under the following headings:

- Costs of raising funds includes fundraising and non-charitable trading activities;
- Expenditure on charitable activities includes costs of services and of grants, also support costs and depreciation on related assets; and
- Other expenditure represents those items not falling into the categories above.

Irrecoverable VAT is charged as an expense against the activity for which expenditure arose.

(e) Support costs allocation

Support costs are those that assist the work of the charity but do not directly represent charitable activities and include office costs, governance costs, and administrative payroll costs. They are incurred directly in support of expenditure on the objects of the charity and include project management carried out at Headquarters. All support costs have been allocated on the basis of number of employees. Fund-raising costs are those incurred in seeking voluntary contributions and do not include the costs of disseminating information in support of the charitable activities.

The analysis of these costs is included in note 7.

Notes to the financial statements (continued)

Year Ended 31 December 2021

(f) Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost (or deemed cost) or valuation less accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses. Cost includes costs directly attributable to making the asset capable of operating as intended. Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets, at rates calculated to write off the cost, less estimated residual value, of each asset on a systematic basis over its expected useful life as follows:

Leasehold land and buildings	Over the period of the lease
Office and Computer Equipment	10%-33% according to the nature of the asset
Conservation Breeding Stock (agisted)	Annual Revaluation

(g) Heritage assets

The Gene Bank is a collection of semen and embryos obtained from rare breeds of cattle, horses, sheep, goats and pigs. It acts as an archive to preserve bloodlines of breeds. Each year additions are made to the archive to ensure that it includes the current characteristics of a breed. The archive is regarded as an irreplaceable resource which cannot be valued with any degree of accuracy and will never be sold. As such it generates no income and so has no realisable value. Therefore it does not have a carrying value in the balance sheet. The costs incurred in maintaining the archive for conservation purposes are written off each year.

(h) Investments

Investments are recognised initially at fair value which is normally the transaction price excluding transaction costs. Subsequently, they are measured at fair value with changes recognised in 'net gains / (losses) on investments' in the SoFA if the shares are publicly traded or their fair value can otherwise be measured reliably. Other investments are measured at cost less impairment.

(i) Stocks

Stocks comprise genetic resources, which are not part of the Gene Bank, and goods for resale. Genetic resources are valued at the lower of cost of production and market value. Retail stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

(j) Debtors and creditors receivable / payable within one year

Debtors and creditors with no stated interest rate and receivable or payable within one year are recorded at transaction price. Any losses arising from impairment are recognised in expenditure.

(k) Impairment

Assets not measured at fair value are reviewed for any indication that the asset may be impaired at each balance sheet date. If such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset, or the asset's cash generating unit, is estimated and compared to the carrying amount. Where the carrying amount exceeds its recoverable amount, an impairment loss is recognised in profit or loss unless the asset is carried at a revalued amount where the impairment loss is a revaluation decrease.

(l) Leases

Assets acquired under finance leases are capitalised and depreciated over the shorter of the lease term and the expected useful life of the asset. Minimum lease payments are apportioned between the finance charge and the reduction of the outstanding lease liability using the effective interest method. The related obligations, net of future finance charges, are included in creditors.

Rentals payable and receivable under operating leases are charged to the SoFA on a straight-line basis over the period of the lease.

(m) Employee benefits

When employees have rendered service to the charity, short-term employee benefits to which the employees are entitled are recognised at the undiscounted amount expected to be paid in exchange for that service. The charity operates a defined contribution pension plan for the benefit of its employees. Contributions are expensed as they become payable. The Trust agrees to pay a defined contribution into the employee's own personal pension scheme for eligible employees. The pension charge represents contributions payable by the Trust for the period. The Trust's liability is limited to the amount of the contribution. The liability for meeting future pension payments rests solely with the employee's personal pension scheme.

(n) Tax

The charity is an exempt charity within the meaning of schedule 3 of the Charities Act 2011 and is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes.

(o) Financial instruments

The Trust enters into only basic financial instrument transactions that result in the recognition of financial assets and liabilities like trade and other amounts receivable and payable and loans to related parties. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

(p) Going concern

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis as the trustees believe that no material uncertainties exist. The trustees have considered the level of funds held and the expected level of income and expenditure for 12 months from authorising these financial statements. The budgeted income and expenditure is sufficient with the level of reserves for the charity to be able to continue as a going concern.

2 Income from donations and legacies

	2021	2020
	£	£
Grants and donations	**162,884**	87,713
Legacies	**211,135**	243,443
Membership Subscriptions (including gift aid)	**178,326**	179,765
	552,345	510,921

Of the income from donations and legacies of £374,019 (2020 - £331,156), £134,342 (2020 - £42,193) was attributable to restricted, and £239,677 (2020 - £288,963) was attributable to unrestricted funds.

Income from membership subscriptions was attributable entirely to unrestricted funds.

Notes to the financial statements (continued)

Year Ended 31 December 2021

3 Income from charitable activities

	2021	2020
	£	£
Conservation activities (including Support Groups)	**49,456**	20,190

Income from charitable activities includes £nil (2020 - £nil) in respect of restricted funds and £49,456 (2020 - £20,190) of unrestricted funds.

4 Income from other trading activities

	2021	2020
	£	£
Advertising revenue	**13,487**	14,795

Income from other trading activities was attributable to unrestricted funds in both years.

5 Income from investments

	2021	2020
	£	£
Dividends - equities	**89,859**	87,057
Interest - fixed interest securities	**7,399**	2,723
	97,258	89,780

Income from investments was attributable to unrestricted funds in both years.

6 Analysis of expenditure on charitable activities

	2021			
	Activities undertaken directly	Grant funding of activities	Support costs	**Total**
	£	£	£	**£**
Conservation Activities (including Support Group)	238,898	-	154,266	**393,164**
ARK Magazine	54,223	-	-	**54,223**
	293,121	**-**	**154,266**	**447,387**

£74,972 (2020 - £108,153) of the above costs were attributable to restricted funds. £57,939 (2020 - £103,344) of the above costs were attributable to designated funds. £314,476 (2020 - £323,104) of the above costs were attributable to unrestricted funds.

7 Allocation of support costs

	2021			
	Raising funds	Conservation Activities	ARK Magazine	**Total**
	£	£	£	**£**
Governance	-	23,895	-	**23,895**
Management salaries and expenses	20,864	73,026	-	**93,890**
Office operational costs and utilities	8,163	28,572	-	**36,735**
Depreciation	1,763	6,167	-	**7,930**
Professional charges	2,863	10,019	-	**12,882**
Irrecoverable VAT	1,987	6,953	-	**8,940**
Other	1,609	5,634	-	**7,243**
Total	**37,249**	**154,266**	**-**	**191,515**

Supports costs, except governance costs, have been allocated based on staff time.

8 Governance costs

		2021	2020
	Note	**£**	£
Trustees' remuneration	11	**-**	-
Trustees' expenses	11	**293**	962
Cost of Trustees' meetings and the AGM		**3,092**	1,110
Auditors' remuneration	10	**5,620**	5,750
Legal fees		**14,890**	8,412
		23,895	16,234

9 Net income / (expenditure) for the year

	2021	2020
	£	£
Net income / (expenditure) is stated after charging / (crediting):		
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	**7,929**	9,892
Operating lease rentals	**2,244**	2,014
Loss/(gain) on fair value movement of investments	**(383,886)**	33,789

10 Auditors' remuneration

The auditors' remuneration amounts to an audit fee of £5,620 (2020 - £5,750) and other services of £12,881 (2020 - £10,682).

Notes to the financial statements (continued)

Year Ended 31 December 2021

11 Trustees' and key management personnel remuneration and expenses

The Trustees neither received nor waived any remuneration during the year (2020 - £nil).

The total amount of employee benefits (these benefits include employer's national insurance and pension costs) received by key management personnel is £160,029 (2020:£155,282). The Trust considers its key management personnel to comprise the Chief Executive Officer and Director of Finance and Operations.

One trustee (2020: six) was reimbursed expenses as follows:	**2021**	2020
	£	£
Travel	**293**	962
Subsistence	**-**	-
Accommodation	**-**	-
Other	**-**	-
	293	962

12 Staff costs and employee benefits

The average monthly number of employees and full time equivalent (FTE) during the year was as follows:

	2021	**2021**	2020	2020
	Number	FTE	Number	FTE
Raising funds	**2**	**2**	2	2
Charitable activities	**5**	**3**	5	3
Governance	**2**	**2**	2	2
	9	**7**	9	7

The total staff costs and employees' benefits was as follows:	**2021**	2020
	£	£
Wages and salaries	**267,549**	258,629
Social security	**23,697**	22,680
Defined contribution pension costs	**12,638**	11,775
	303,884	293,084

The number of employees receiving total employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) of over £60,000 per year was as follows:

	2021	2020
	No.	No.
£60,001 - £70,000	**1**	1
£70,001 - £80,000	**-**	-
£80,001 - £90,000	**1**	1

13 Tangible fixed assets

	Short Leasehold	Office & Equipment	Conservation Breeding Stock (Agisted)	**Total**
	£	£	£	**£**
Cost or valuation:				
At 31 December 2020	221,443	152,992	33,560	**407,995**
Additions	-	1,500	-	**1,500**
Revaluation	-	-	(8,780)	**(8,780)**
At 31 December 2021	221,443	154,492	24,780	**400,715**
Depreciation:				
At 31 December 2020	141,825	146,234	-	**288,059**
Charge for the year	4,440	3,489	-	**7,929**
At 31 December 2021	146,265	149,723	-	**295,988**
Net book value:				
At 31 December 2021	75,178	4,769	24,780	**104,727**
At 31 December 2020	79,618	6,758	33,560	**119,936**

14 Heritage assets

Heritage assets held are The National Archive Gene Bank and no value has been placed on this asset.

These assets are significant to the charity in order to safeguard the future of rare breeds. Expenditure to acquire, preserve and develop The National Archive Gene Bank in the year was £100,894 (2020 - £125,140).

15 Fixed asset investments

	Listed Investments
	£
Cost or valuation	
At 31 December 2020	**3,051,652**
Additions	**354,467**
Disposals	**(249,933)**
Revaluation	**383,886**
At 31 December 2021	**3,540,072**

Investments at fair value comprise:

	2021	2020
	£	£
Equities & unit trusts	**3,423,948**	2,867,103
Cash within investment portfolio	**116,124**	184,549
Fixed interest securities	**-**	-
	3,540,072	3,051,652

The fair value of listed investments is determined by reference to the mid-market value of the unit trusts or quoted share price.

Notes to the financial statements (continued)

Year Ended 31 December 2021

16 Stocks

	2021	2020
	£	£
Semen for sale	**7,360**	7,860

17 Debtors

	2021	2020
	£	£
Trade debtors	**3,753**	4,250
Amounts owed by support groups	**13,377**	19,316
Prepayments and accrued income	**14,405**	16,114
Taxes recoverable	**3,955**	7,289
	35,490	46,969

18 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2021	2020
	£	£
Trade creditors	**10,496**	11,373
Other tax and social security	**7,498**	7,644
Other creditors	**57**	1,702
Accruals	**27,575**	25,658
	45,626	46,377

19 Leases

Operating leases – lessee

Total future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases are as follows:

	2021	2020
	£	£
Not later than one year	**2,353**	2,353
Later than one and not later than five years	**9,072**	9,412
Later than five years	**24,156**	26,169
	35,581	37,934

20 Fund reconciliation

	Balance at 31 December 2020	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Gains / (losses)	Balance at 31 December 2021
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds						
Unrestricted	**960,372**	578,204	(474,238)	(43,077)	383,886	**1,405,147**
Designated Funds						
Gene Bank	**2,000,000**	-	(63,139)	63,139	-	**2,000,000**
Conservation – Breed Stock (Agisted)	**33,559**	-	-	-	(8,780)	**24,779**
Linga Holm	**12,812**	-	-	-	-	**12,812**
Sandringham Charitable Trust	**19,237**	-	-	-	-	**19,237**
Property improvement fund	**132,000**	-	-	-	-	**132,000**
Lop Fund	**3,751**	-	5,200	-	-	**8,951**
	2,201,359	-	(57,939)	63,139	(8,780)	**2,197,779**

Unrestricted funds description

Unrestricted funds are those funds 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.

Designated funds description

The archive Gene Bank is held to maintain the Heritage Assets for the benefit of the next generation.

The Conservation Breeding Stock (Agisted), reserve is the value of RBST rare breed stock on loan to livestock keepers to increase rare breed population numbers.

The Linga Holm Fund derives from the sale of certain assets in 2000. It is available for the conservation of North Ronaldsay sheep in the first instance.

Sandringham Charitable Trust was created from legacies received for the pursuance of conservation projects.

The Property improvement fund relates to the proposed refurbishment of the premises at Stoneleigh Park.

The Lop Fund was created to help support the work in regard to British Lop pigs, along with the donation received from the Gerald Fallowes Discretionary Trust.

Restricted funds and Trusts

We are extremely grateful to the charitable trusts and foundations that support our work. Some trusts provide general funding, while others prefer to sponsor specific projects as detailed on page 50.

Notes to the financial statements (continued)

Year Ended 31 December 2021

Restricted funds Fund Descriptions	Balance at 31 December 2020 £	Income £	Expend-iture £	Transfers £	Gains / (losses) £	Balance at 31 December 2021 £
Restricted cattle conservation						
2019 - Cattle Campaign	**20**	-	(20)	-	-	**-**
N Bailey Albion Fund	**727**	760	-	-	-	**1,487**
Vaynol project	**1,000**	-	-	-	-	**1,000**
Restricted equine conservation						
Houserace Betting Levy Board	**-**	4,887	(3,051)	(562)	-	**1,274**
Cleveland bay - N Bailey	**1,500**	-	-	-	-	**1,500**
Heavy Horse Appeal 2017	**7,150**	10,442	-	-	-	**17,592**
Marjorie Coote Animal Charity Trust	**2,634**	-	-	-	-	**2,634**
The Saintbury Trust	**1**	-	-	-	-	**1**
Restricted goat conservation						
Goat Appeal	**1,196**	-	-	-	-	**1,196**
John Spedan Lewis Foundation	**1,463**	-	-	-	-	**1,463**
Restricted pig conservation						
Gerald Fallowes Discretionary Will Trust (received in 2017)	**57**	-	-	-	-	**57**
Gerald Fallowes Pigs BPA	**2,582**	-	-	-	-	**2,582**
Henry Robert Bull Charitable Trust	**2,100**	-	(2,100)	-	-	**-**
PG Fallowes Lop Project	**-**	18,900	(14,300)		-	**4,600**
The Saintbury Trust	**3,000**	-	(1,800)	-	-	**1,200**
PF Charitable Trust	**3,300**	-	(3,300)	-	-	**-**
PF Charitable Trust	**-**	6,000	-	-	-	**6,000**
Restricted sheep conservation						
Love a Longwool Appeal	**12,579**	11,985	(84)	-	-	**24,480**
Rosie Green Wool Sheep Fund	**2,546**	-	-	-	-	**2,546**
Restricted poultry conservation						
Poultry general	**531**	240	(480)	-	-	**291**
Luton & District Poultry Group	**75**	-	-	-	-	**75**
Restricted Other projects						
Somerset Conservation Fund	**2**	-	-	-	-	**2**
Conservation general	**1,801**	2,000	(437)	-	-	**3,364**
North Ronaldsay Dyke Appeal	**5,050**	-	(600)	-	-	**4,450**
Farm Park - Princes Charities Fund	**3,805**	64,200	(38,428)	(18,000)	-	**11,577**
Epping Forrest - Fenceless Grazing	**-**	14,928	(10,372)	(1,500)	-	**3,056**
	53,119	134,342	(74,972)	(20,062)	-	**92,427**

21 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	**Total**
	£	£	£	**£**
Fixed assets	1,447,020	2,197,779	-	**3,644,799**
Cash and current investments	(31,738)	-	85,068	**53,330**
Other current assets / liabilities	(10,135)	-	7,359	**(2,776)**
Total	**1,405,147**	**2,197,779**	**92,427**	**3,695,353**

22 Pensions and other post-retirement benefits

Defined contribution pension plans

The charity operates a defined contribution pension plan for its employees. The amount recognised as an expense in the period was £12,638 (2020 - £11,775).

The defined contribution liability is allocated to unrestricted funds being raising funds £38 and conservation activities £62.

Leaving a gift in your Will could be the greatest difference you ever make!

Planning for the future

RBST depends heavily on voluntary donations. Without the incredible generosity of our members and supporters, we simply couldn't continue our vital work in research, conservation and saving rare breeds. We know that with the help of generous donors like you, RBST can continue striving to achieve its crucial goal, to ensure that the genetic diversity represented by our native breeds is safeguarded for many years to come. Our vision is a secure future for each of the UK's native breeds of livestock to ensure long-term food security, the conservation of important habitats and landscapes and the preservation of the UK's culture. Help ensure our native farm animals have a secure future and can be enjoyed by generations to come.

What to do?

If you have already made a Will but you are considering including a gift to RBST, your solicitor will advise you on the correct wording to update your Will. You will need to provide your solicitor with our charity details. For your convenience, we have provided this here:

The Rare Breeds Survival Trust, Stoneleigh Park, Kenilworth, Warwickshire, CV8 2LG.
(Registered Charity no. 269442).

Please also state that you wish to make the gift for the 'general purposes' of Rare Breeds Survival Trust.

Our promise

RBST will always respect your privacy. Your information will be handled with the utmost confidentiality and we will never ask the amount of your legacy. We understand and respect that you will want to remember family and friends first when planning for the future, but we hope that once you've taken care of your loved ones, you'll consider leaving a legacy gift in your Will, as a lasting way to support the future of RBST.

No Will yet?

Have you thought about leaving a gift in your Will to RBST? This year we have partnered with Free Wills Month. They bring together a group of well-respected charities to offer members of the public aged 55 and over, giving you the opportunity to support RBST and have a simple Will written or updated for free, by using one of their participating solicitors. The next campaign opens on 1st October 2021, you can register your interest here **www.freewillsmonth.org.uk/** and receive an email reminding you that the campaign has started. An up-to-date Will written by a solicitor ensures your wishes are respected. It also avoids difficult decisions and legal complications for your loved ones.



RBST
Rare Breeds Survival Trust



If you have any questions, visit our website, call 02476 69551 or email fundraising@rbst.org.uk.

Rare Breeds Survival Trust (RBST), Stoneleigh Park, Kenilworth, Warwickshire, CV8 2LG
Registered Charity Number 269442 (England and Wales)

Corporate Directory

Charity Reference and Administrative Details: As at the date of this report

Charity registration number 269442
Company registration number 01204694

Patron
His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales, KG, KT, GCB, OM, AK, CD, QSO, PC.

President
Baroness Hayman of Ullock

Vice Presidents
Martin Beard
Miss Elizabeth Buchanan, C.V.O, FRAgS
J Alan C Black
The Earl De La Warr, DL
Jimmy Doherty
Lord Iliffe

Chief Executive Officer
Christopher Price

Trustees
John Atkinson
Tom Davis
James Fanshawe
Clifford Freeman (elected AGM 4 November 2021)
Kate Green (co-opted 25 February 2021)
Catherine Lascelles (stood down 18 January 2022)
Catherine Le Grice-Mack (co-opted February 2021)
Prof Tim Morris
Sir Roderick Newton (co-opted March 2022)
Ryan Perry
Alison Pope
Claire Saunders
Gail Sprake (stood down AGM 4 November2021)

Conservation and Research Committee
John Atkinson, Tom Davis, James Fanshawe, Kate Green, Catherine Le Grice-Mack, Tim Morris, Ryan Perry, Claire Saunders, Marcus Bates (British Pig Association - in attendance)
In attendance: Christopher Price (CEO), Tom Blunt, Andrea Parry-Jones, Clifford Freeman, Sir Roderick Newton

Finance and Governance Committee
John Atkinson, Catherine Le Grice-Mack, Alison Pope,
In attendance: Christopher Price (CEO), Claire McNicol (Dir F&O), Clifford Freeman, Sir Roderick Newton

Registered office
Avenue Q, Stoneleigh Park, Kenilworth, Warwickshire, CV8 2LG

Honorary Ambassadors
Peter Hayford, Poultry
Nigel Oakley, Heavy Horses
Cyrus Todiwala OBE, DL, Chef
John Wilkes, North America

Auditor
Dafferns LLP
One Eastwood
Harry Weston Road
Binley Business Park, Binley
Coventry, CV3 2UB

Legal advisors
Lodders LLP
10 Elm Court
Arden Street
Stratford upon Avon
Warwickshire, CV37 6PA

Bankers
Barclays Bank, 48/50 The Parade,
Leamington Spa CV32 4DD

Investment managers
Smith and Williamson
25 Moorgate
London, EC2R 6AY

Staff
Claire McNicol – Director of Finance and Operations and Company Secretary
Tom Blunt – Senior Conservation Advisor
Rachel Peckover – Office Administrator and Accounts Assistant
Andrea Parry – Conservation Adviser
Jean Henderson – Conservation Assistant
Jo Linforth – Head of Members and Partnerships
Hilary Young – Customer Services Assistant

RBST is incredibly grateful for every single penny donated to its cause by members, donors and supporters, both individuals and organisations. RBST simply would not exist without their generosity.

Whilst we would like to be able to thank everyone by name, due to space and data protection limitations this is not possible.

We would however like to take the opportunity to make special reference to the Trusts who donated funds to RBST in 2021 and all those who so kindly remembered RBST in their Wills.

Trust Income Received 2021

The Hutchinson Charitable Trust
Registered Charity Number 1155643

H R Bull Charitable Trust
Registered Charity Number 296133

PF Charitable Trust
Registered Charity Number 220124

Percy Gerald Fallowes Discretionary Will Trust

Duncan Norman Trust Fund
Registered Charity Number 250434

The Horserace Betting Levy Board

The Prince of Wales's Charitable Foundation
Registered Charity Number 269442

University Hospitals Birmingham Charity
Donation in memory of Colin McAllister
Registered Charity Number 1165716

City of London Central Grants Programme – Epping Forest
Registered Charity Number 232990

Mrs D M France-Hayhurst Foundation
Registered Charity Number 1160394

Legacy Income Received 2021

Mr James Westley **BLANDEN**

Caroline Patricia **SCOTT**

Evelyn **DAVIS**

Miss Sheila Leslie **ALDERSON**

Mrs Rosemary Janet St Ledger **STEWART**

Miss Joan Neville **MARTIN**

Daphne Joan **WAYNE**

Mrs Norma A **ALLAN**

RBST's Corporate Supporters

Birch Farm

White Park Financial Solutions

Skyeskyns Ltd

Yorkshire Agricultural Society

South of England Agricultural Society

Marsh Charitable Trust

Peter Hunter Seeds Ltd

Edge & Son Butchers

Farm Business Innovation Show

Dumfries House Home Farm Ltd

Dengie Crops Ltd

Little Beau Sheep

Kelly Bronze Turkeys

Royal Ulster Agricultural Society

Old Hall Farm Woodton

Incredible Eggs Franchise Ltd

Wychwood Farm

Statkraft

& Glebe Meadow Fishery

RBST
Rare Breeds Survival Trust

rbst.org.uk *enquiries@rbst.org.uk* *024 7669 6551*

Patron: His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales KG KT GCB
Company Limited by Guarantee Registered in England No.01204694
Registered Charity No.269442

#GoNative

RARE BREEDS SURVIVAL TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 269442

Accounts

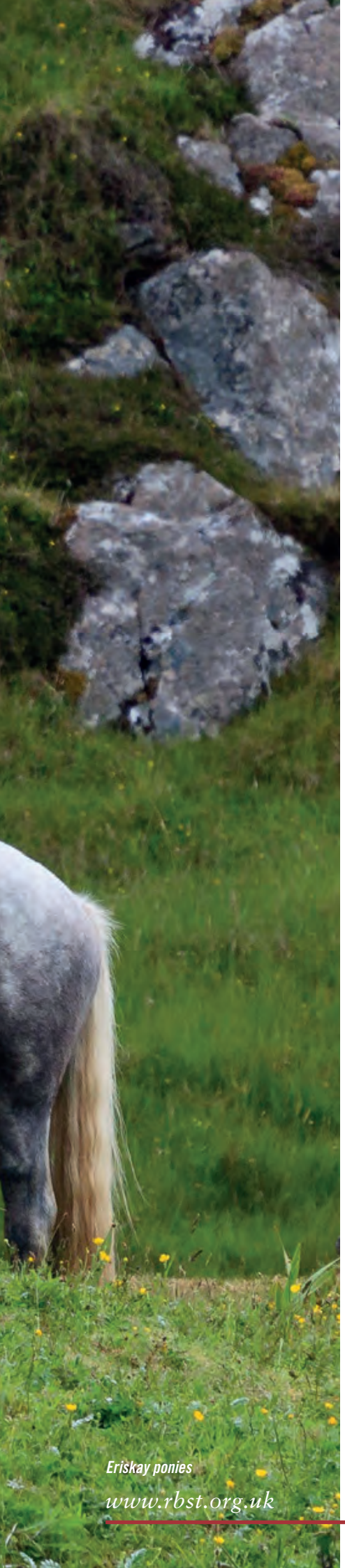


CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER: 269442
COMPANY REGISTRATION NUMBER: 1204694

ANNUAL REPORT & FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2020



#GoNative



Eriskay ponies

www.rbst.org.uk

RBST
Rare Breeds Survival Trust

Contents

Our goals 4

A message *from our Chairman* 5

A message *from our Chief Executive Officer* 6

A message *from our Director of Finance* 7

Promoting our native breeds 8

Securing Government support 18

Delivering on priorities 22

Recognition 30

Financial Review 33

Governance 35

Independent Auditors Report 37

Statement of Financial Activities 39

Balance sheet 40

Statement of cash flows 41

Notes to the financial statements 42

RBST Corporate Directory 55

Cover photograph: White Park calf

Our goals and what we're doing to achieve them

Goal: A reverse in the decline of all livestock breeds on the Watchlist

What: We aim to have all the breeds on the Watchlist stable by 2028

How:

- We are refocusing our messaging showing the economic, social and environmental relevance of native breeds.
- We use the latest technology to save our rarest breeds, as with the British Lop Pig Project. What we learn from this project will be applied to the benefit of other breeds.
- We will continue to equip breeders and potential breeders with the knowledge they need to keep animals through our Grazing Animals Project courses and online resources.
- We are identifying 'Priority Breeds' and creating Conservation Plans for each of them.



Welsh sow

Goal: A comprehensive up-to-date Gene Bank

What: The RBST Gene Bank is the charity's single biggest investment and a key national asset. We will work towards making this a National Gene Bank, supported by government

How:

- We are implementing a clear strategy which will support the maintenance and acquisition of animals to ensure the future of our native breeds.
- We need to ensure that the original genetics are preserved and can be drawn on in the future.
- We are actively promoting the importance of the Gene Bank to potential donors and funders and will ensure that its importance is widely understood.

Goal: Livestock genetic diversity recognised by government and wider society as a fundamental element of agricultural and biodiversity policy

What: We lobby for genetic diversity to be recognised in government policies such as the Agriculture Act, Rural Development Policy and Biodiversity Policy

How:

- We are joining formal partnerships and networks to highlight the many benefits of our native breeds.
- Our strategic work will build on our good media profile to ensure that native breeds are recognised in policy as being crucial to bringing greater sustainability to modern farming and land management practices.
- Our volunteer network represents us at shows and highlights the range of rare breeds that exist and their many and varied uses to the public.

A message from our Chairman



Gail Sprake
Chairman

2020 saw considerable progress on restoring our native breeds back to where they should be, at the heart of UK agriculture, and restoring RBST's position as an efficient, effective and well-run conservation organisation.

RBST works to secure the future for all our rare native livestock and equines, but we need to make sure we are using all our resources as efficiently and effectively as possible, so I was delighted that in 2020 we were able to produce our first overarching conservation strategy in many years.

Firstly, we will promote native breeds for the purposes they were bred; providing us with food, clothing and transport, secondly, we will lobby government to invest in the public benefits the breeds provide, and thirdly for those breeds that, according to the Watchlist, face particular challenges, we will aim to work with the relevant breed society and individual breeders on dedicated projects to turn their fortunes around. You can read more on all this in the conservation section of this report.

2020 also saw RBST raising its profile among its key stakeholders. I have been delighted by the increasing positive engagement we are having with breed societies, the farming and environmental organisations and the media; we are actively engaging with government on agriculture policy and RBST's views are now regularly reported in the rural and farming media and we are increasingly being asked to give our opinion on key issues.

But perhaps most gratifyingly of all, after many years of decline, 2020 saw a turnaround in RBST's membership income: in 2020 it was up 3% up on 2019.

However, the increase in membership income was not the only good financial news. As a result of effective financial management, 2020 saw RBST reducing both its operating deficit and its unrestricted spending. There is, of course, more information on this in the accounts.

Much of the thanks for RBST's success is due to the dynamism shown by so many of our engaged members and support groups. I've been impressed by the extent to which members so readily made use of new video conferencing technology during the lockdown, conducting meetings and events via Teams or Zoom. I am sure these innovative approaches will continue.

Seeing the desire of the Scottish Groups to work together to better promote the breeds in a Scottish context, and the Board's willingness to back the initiative was particularly exciting.

I should not conclude without saying something about Covid-19. The impact for many has been quite devastating, but it has shown that RBST can adapt and indeed still thrive in the worst of times. We may not have been able to attend shows, but we found other ways to reach members and indeed recruit new ones.

The same is true of our wider stakeholders, by adopting new ways of doing things we've extended our reach to new audiences who, going forward, we will continue to engage with. We have also reduced our expenditure without any reduction in our impact.

Looking forward, 2021 continues to present challenges and we can expect the impact of Covid-19 will be with us for a while longer, but I am confident that RBST has the structures and resources in place to ever better conserve our native breeds.

This is the eighth and final Chairman's report that it is my privilege to present since my term of office concludes at the 2021 AGM. The 2020 Report and Accounts confirm beyond doubt that RBST is now an increasingly formidable presence, true to our charitable objects and a professionally governed and managed conservation organisation.

A message from our Chief Executive Officer



Christopher Price
CEO

Our native breeds exist to meet human needs, we need to get them back to where they should be, at the heart of British agriculture; and that means making it easier and more attractive for people to keep them, and in some cases, that requires Government help.

So we were delighted when all our lobbying paid off, and the Government announced, in the Agriculture Bill, that it would be giving financial assistance for the conservation of native livestock and equines. This was a massive win for RBST. We are now working with officials on what the scheme should look like.

But it's not just about paying people to keep native breeds, it's also about removing the obstacles, so that's why we spent so much of the year on issues like securing the future for the local abattoir network and scrapping the OTM rule – we aren't there yet, but we are on the way.

Sadly, there are some breeds which may never thrive without direct help from RBST. But we need to be sure we are working on the right issues in the right way. And that's why, in 2020 we embarked upon our first comprehensive conservation strategy, devising projects that will make a real difference, based on prioritised need – some concerning individual breeds, some concerning individual species and some overarching. We are committed to using the Trust's money efficiently and effectively to deliver targeted conservation projects with tangible results.

Finally, we need to promote the breeds, both to the farmers and smallholders who should be keeping them, and to the public who should be concerned about them.

Sadly, due to the restrictions of Covid-19, we were not able to go to shows, but we did make use of the media. And as I hope you saw, this was absolutely fantastic; it could hardly have gone better. We had excellent coverage in the nationals, the farming and smallholder press, the countryside press and the regional press.

RBST can be pretty pleased with what it achieved in 2020, and equally pleased with the extent to which those achievements were recognised.

Aside from the media, we had increasing numbers of breed societies reaching out to us; we had a Defra Director wanting to know more about what we do and we introduced her to members in the Yorkshire Dales. We had both a National Park and an AONB wanting our advice on implementing the Agriculture Bill to support native breeds.

But we could not have achieved anything, and would not have been able to achieve anything, without ensuring RBST was being properly run, and much of 2020 was spent putting the business side of the organisation onto a proper footing.

Making sure we have the necessary structures and processes in place was a major job. 2020 saw RBST write its first fully costed 5 Year Business Strategy, which came into effect at the start of this year.

We also had to put our finances in order, that meant having a proper budget and proper financial controls. And as the Director of Finance Claire McNicol says, it paid off.

In 2020 we generated an unrestricted net surplus. Even better, in 2020 we turned around the long-term decline in membership income.

Of course, we cannot do it all ourselves. RBST depends on its members to get things done, some as individuals, some as members of support groups – the groups set up by the Board to help RBST deliver its objectives.

One of the themes of 2021 is to find ways to further energise and empower our engaged members.

This year, the Scottish Support Groups have been particularly keen to create their own identity north of the border and we responded by setting up the Scottish Forum, a Scotland-wide members' group aimed at giving RBST a stronger voice in Scotland, and giving Scotland a stronger voice in RBST.

So, there you have it. We have done a lot, and it's paying off. But there is still more to do.

RBST is getting back to where we should be – seen as a serious conservation player and with its own house back in order. Covid-19 has been a challenge, but it did not knock us off course. So huge thanks to everyone involved - trustees, members and, in particular, our wonderful staff team: Claire McNicol, Tom Blunt, Andrea Parry Jones, Rachel Foley, Jean Henderson, Hilary Young and Jo Linforth, and our two communications advisers Linda Trotman and Isobel Davidson.

It would, of course, be an exaggeration to say that we've got everything right, but I hope not much of one.

A message from our Director of Finance and Operations



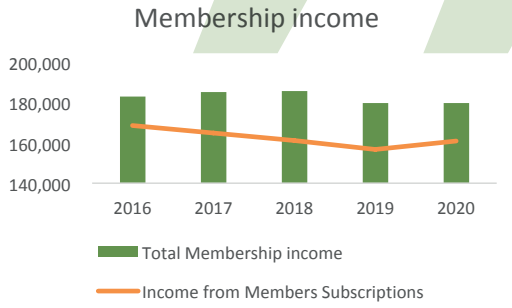
Claire McNicol
Director of Finance & Operations

2020 was a year of considerable success for RBST, both from a conservation perspective and a financial perspective, despite the impact of Covid-19 bringing the world to a virtual standstill. Economies and societies struggled through unprecedented times, which brought with them challenges for individuals and organisations alike. RBST stayed true to its charitable objectives, and whilst work and events that involved face to face contact were almost entirely cancelled, there were silver linings. RBST grasped opportunities for learning and growth whilst keeping staff and members in the forefront of the mission. 2020 was a year of accomplishment in many aspects with plenty of lessons learnt to take forward and RBST's increasing diligence and strategic approach are clearly demonstrated throughout the 2020 finances.

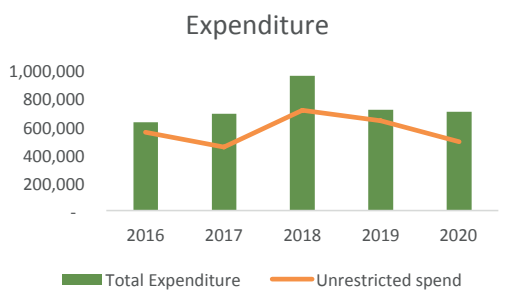
Membership income has turned a corner and in 2020 RBST addressed a long-standing downward trend in member subscriptions. Over the last four years RBST's income from individual members had been declining at around 3% year on year. However in 2020 this was not only stabilised, but reversed, and grew by 3%. This was a huge achievement against a challenging backdrop of both Covid-19 and also a general trend across the charity sector of declining memberships. That said, in 2020 the amount of Gift Aid RBST was able to claim decreased, as did the amount of income generated from corporate partners. Both are being focused on in 2021.

RBST has continued to make great progress financially, reducing the operating deficit to a three-year low. This was achieved by rigorously controlling the Unrestricted spending, ensuring the maximum amount of impact was generated with each pound spent, and this diligence paid off as Unrestricted spending was down 23% compared to 2019. However, spending from Designated and Restricted funds was consciously maintained to ensure RBST continued to promote its charitable objectives uninterrupted. Unrestricted activities in 2020 generated a surplus of £69,007, but RBST incurred net expenditure from Designated and Restricted funds of £169,064 as the Trust chose not to disrupt important flagship projects such as the Farm Parks Project, the Lop Project, RBST's continued work enhancing the Gene Bank and work with Heavy Horses. Grant application was challenging in 2020 with much funding being focused on frontline Covid-19 work despite RBST making increased levels of fundraising and grant applications. This work will continue in 2021.

RBST continues to be pleased with the improvements in financial control, and an unrestricted surplus of £69,007 shows the control is paying off. Income lagged in 2019, and this is expected to remain a challenge into 2021. However, with continued diligence applied to cost, additional income streams being actively (and successfully) sought, including consulting, corporate partners and management fees, as well as a targeted and strategic approach applied to the direction of RBST's resources in terms of both finances and staff time, RBST entered 2021 with much to be proud of and much to continue to build on.








RBST
Promoting
our native breeds

Conservation Strategy *the overview*

> ***2020 saw RBST adopt its first comprehensive conservation strategy, ensuring all its resources, both time and money, are being used efficiently and effectively to secure the best results for our native livestock and equines.***

The strategy has three parts. Firstly, we promote the reasons for which the animals were initially bred, whether to provide food, fibre or transport; secondly, we lobby for government to invest in the public benefits provided by the breeds; and thirdly, where there is a clear need, RBST will carry out its own bespoke conservation projects.

Commercial opportunities

Our native breeds were bred for particular commercial purposes, to meet human needs, whether that be the production of meat, wool, milk, or eggs, or to provide practical services such as grazing or transportation.

As the UK leaves the EU, and farmers face an unsubsidised, more market-facing world in which people are increasingly concerned about the provenance of their food and its environmental impact, niche, low-input products with a good story to tell, like native breed meat, will become more attractive to consumers.

Promoting native breeds

RBST has done much to promote native breed produce to both farmers and consumers. The work began in 2019: promoting native breed turkey at the Museum of English Rural Life in Reading, British Lop pork with the Forever Food Initiative in London and lamb at the Primitive Produce Project launch in Cumbria. The aim of each of these initiatives was not just to promote the produce, but also to confirm that it also makes commercial sense for the farmer.

In 2020, we built on this primarily through a series of media initiatives, promoting native breed products and the wider benefits they provide. Going forward, as the UK moves out of lockdown, we will expand on this through a programme of promotional events.

Removing obstacles

Whilst there is much we can do ourselves to improve the commercial benefits of keeping native breeds, we would be in an even stronger position with support from Government. Accordingly, much of 2020 was spent working with Government to introduce measures to better support native breed keepers.

We were delighted that in October Government agreed to introduce the EU Geographical Indicators designations: protected designation of origin (PDO), protected geographical indication (PGI) and traditional specialities guaranteed (TSG) into UK law. We will build on these to promote native breed produce.

We also worked hard to alert Government to the plight of the small abattoir sector. The decline in the number of small local abattoirs capable of dealing with native breeds is a major concern. Government needs to make a one-off investment to ensure the remaining small abattoirs are "match fit" for the unsubsidised, more market-facing world. Where the abattoirs have disappeared, the investment needs to be in mobile or temporary units.

In addition, Government and the FSA must commit to regulation that is proportionate whilst compatible with the maintenance of standards.

Public support

November 2020 saw the Agriculture Act become law, and the culmination of many years' lobbying by RBST for Government to properly invest in all the public benefits provided by our native livestock and equines.

After all, native breeds do not just provide benefits for their owners, they benefit everyone, such as through the way they enhance the landscape and improve biodiversity through conservation grazing.

Then there is the vitally important task of maintaining genetic diversity. If UK farming is to have a secure future over the long term in the face of climate change and increased disease risks, we need to maintain the full range of genetic resources to help us respond.

Promoting our native breeds

Going into 2021, we are working with Defra in England on how the support schemes should be rolled out in practice, and with the devolved Governments on the need for them to introduce similar policies.

RBST's own projects

Finally, there are those breeds that will struggle to be viable commercially, and whose situation is such that they cannot be supported through Government support.

Accordingly, in 2020 we began to roll out a series of bespoke projects.

Firstly, overarching projects that apply across the species. In the main they will be major, long-term initiatives. The Farm Park Project aims to enhance and expand our network of farm parks. Accreditation is based largely on the parks' conservation breeding and public outreach.

The Gene Bank Project, run with our partners in the British Pig Association and the National Sheep Association, is redesigning the Gene Bank from first principles based on UN and EU best practice guidance.

Next there are the species-specific and breed specific projects, projects intended to improve the fortunes of individual breeds. In general, they will involve a combination of in situ and ex situ elements. These can be devised by the relevant breed society or RBST.

An example of this approach would be the British Lop Project where RBST is working with the British Lop Society with the very generous support of the Gerald Fallowes Trust, and we have similar projects to assist both longwool sheep and dairy cattle breeds in development.

In planning conservation projects it is often possible to analyse the records from herd and flock books, but their accuracy is ultimately dependent on the accuracy of information independently submitted over many years. Genomic assessment can clearly differentiate breeds, clearly identify introgressions from other breeds, and be used to manage breeding programmes. With genomic analysis now being routine, its use is an increasing component of the RBST's conservation projects.

RBST has much to be proud of, nothing has gone extinct on our watch. We now have the opportunity to take things to the next level, not just saving the breeds but actively promoting and restoring them to where they ought to be.



A variety of primitive breed sheep

Meat

> ***The most effective way of conserving our native livestock is to promote them for the reasons they were initially bred, providing us with meat and other products.***

So RBST spent much of 2020 working to create and promote markets for the products that make it financially worthwhile for farmers and smallholders to keep the breeds.

We ran three major initiatives:

Finding End Markets: The buy native campaign

Focussing primarily on the South West and North of the country, and working through the regional and farming press, we set out to highlight that meats from native breeds are generally produced on a smaller scale, using traditional farming methods which are kind to the natural environment, and which are based around high standards of animal welfare.

We emphasised that being slower-grown, native breed meat is high quality and delicious, with different breeds having distinct tastes and textures.

Of course, it's not just about meat. As we aimed to make clear, the sale of wool and sheepskin products is equally important for conservation.

Finally, we reminded potential consumers of where they could purchase native breed produce.

As a columnist in the Western Morning News wrote in response to our campaign:

> *It might sound counter-intuitive, but heritage breeds which are fast disappearing don't need worthy vegans to ensure the survival of their kind – they need hungry carnivores keen to taste pork from the British Lop pig, a rib of beef from Red Devon cattle or a shoulder of lamb from a Greyface Dartmoor sheep.*
>
> *It's proof of the adage, well understood in much of the countryside, that to have a sporting chance of survival in a crowded and demanding world, everything needs to earn its keep.*

Geographic Indicators

October 2020 saw the success of our campaign for Government to introduce a new UK protected food name scheme to replace the old EU geographic indicators scheme.

Geographic Indicators are an EU scheme to use labels on products to show their provenance or demonstrate that they are made according to traditional methods. The aim is to give consumers greater certainty over what they are buying.

The indicators currently protect several native breed products, including meat from Herdwick and Manx Loaghtan sheep and Gloucestershire Old Spots pigs, and Single Gloucester cheese, so it was important the UK retained them despite leaving the EU.

Accordingly, there are three new UK Geographic Indicator logos, protected designation of origin (PDO), protected geographical indication (PGI) and traditional speciality guaranteed (TSG), which came into effect on January 1, 2021.

Farmers Guardian quoted RBST CEO Christopher Price as saying that the new scheme would give "commercial advantages for high-quality sought-after product from native breed livestock".

Turkey Project

The most effective way of conserving our native breeds, is to show it makes commercial sense to keep them. That was the thinking behind our Native Turkey Project conducted in collaboration with the Poultry Research Unit at Nottingham Trent University.

Eight native breed turkeys (Norfolk Black and Slate breeds) were compared to a test set of 20 commercial birds, with measurements taken at 12 and 18 weeks for the commercial strains in order to benchmark meat quality in the native breeds. Tenderness was measured as the force exerted on the sample in order to elicit a representative change in tension. Bone strength was assessed by measuring tibia and femur strength per kilogram of bird weight.

The research findings highlighted two important commercial advantages for farmers who choose native breed turkeys. Firstly, that stronger leg bones can reduce the losses from lameness, which is an ongoing concern for many commercial turkey businesses.

Secondly, the improved tenderness of the native breed turkey meat appeals to consumers, particularly as the trend grows for eating less meat but choosing high quality products that are sourced locally and which are reared in high welfare systems.

There are currently 11 native breeds of turkey on the Watchlist for rare poultry, including the Slate, Norfolk Black and British White breeds. Going forward, RBST will aim to improve their conservation by encouraging poultry farmers to consider the commercial advantages shown by the findings of the new research.

Promoting our native breeds

Wool - the "Love a Longwool" campaign



Lincoln Longwool

> ***In 2020 RBST put its fundraising efforts behind a campaign to ensure the future of our native Longwool breeds:***
>
> ***the Border Leicester, Cotswold, Devon & Cornwall Longwool, Greyface Dartmoor, Leicester Longwool, Lincoln Longwool, Teeswater, Wensleydale and Whiteface Dartmoor.***



Border Leicester. Photo by Ina Semple

The aims for the "Love a Longwool" campaign were to:

- *Increase the security and genetic diversity of these breeds by adding embryos and semen to existing semen stocks in the RBST Gene Bank.*
- *Improve the prospects of survival of these breeds by creating a market for them through publicity surrounding the project.*
- *Promote their uses for fibre, meat and conservation grazing.*
- *Encourage the establishment of new flocks in new locations to improve geographical spread of each breed.*

RBST is now working with the breed societies, keepers and volunteers to carry out breed analysis on the longwool breeds which will help create and inform breeding programmes.

We made effective use of the media to promote the diverse uses of the breeds, as providers of meat, wool and conservation grazing, securing extensive coverage in Farmers Guardian, Country Life, NFU Countryside, The Yorkshire Post, the Western Morning News, the Eastern Daily Press and BBC radio.

Once the Covid-19 lockdown is over, the plan is to hold a series of event promoting the breeds.

Over the longer term, the funds will also help increase the collection of embryos to add to the RBST Gene Bank, which will help to ensure that should disaster strike any of the breeds we will have sufficient embryos in store, representing a diversity of bloodlines, to give a flying start to a project to recreate a breed and ensure its future genetic integrity.

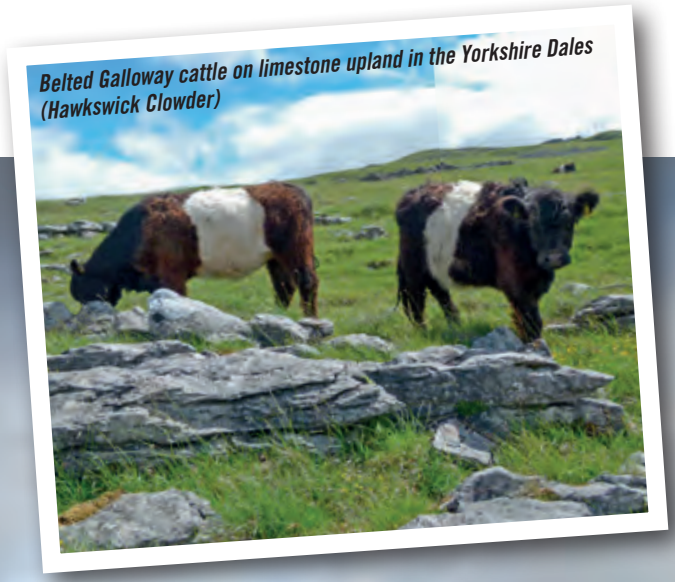
Conservation grazing

> ***Although our native livestock may have been initially bred to provide us with food and clothing, nowadays their role in improving the environment is just as important. For many years, RBST has led the Grazing Animals Project, which aims to promote the use of native livestock in conservation grazing and train land managers in how to select and care for their animals.***

The Covid-19 lockdown meant the planned events could not go ahead, so we set out to make the case for grazing livestock through the media.

We published pieces in The Ark on the use of equine breeds for conservation grazing and on the benefits of wood pasture, habitats in which larger herbivores graze amongst trees and shrubs. Cattle, horses, pigs, sheep and goats can all be used in such systems.

We were also active on social media. In a series of blogs entitled "rare breed briefings" we made the case for using native livestock in conservation grazing generally, and then specifically on the use of equines and pigs. These were widely circulated on our main social media platforms.



Belted Galloway cattle on limestone upland in the Yorkshire Dales (Hawkswick Clowder)

Dartmoor ponies. Photograph by Malcolm Snelgrove

Promoting our native breeds

A new structure for the Farm Parks network

> ***Since its inception, RBST has been associated with farm parks.***



Founder Chairman Joe Henson had started opening his farm gates to the public in 1971 so that the growing collection of rare breeds that his family had amassed at Bemborough could help pay their way. When RBST was launched in 1973, the Cotswold Farm Park was already proving that rare breeds could attract the interest of the general public when displayed in a farm setting and the first RBST Council agreed to encourage the establishment of farm parks around the country, ultimately introducing its approved farm park scheme.

The defining features of RBST approved farm parks have been their active breeding groups of Watchlist breeds and the fact that they are open to the public. They are a diverse group, varying in size and style. Some are council owned, some are a charity and others are privately owned. Together they provide a shop window for RBST giving the general public the chance to meet and learn about our native breeds.

When RBST undertook a strategic review of its work, the development of the farm park network was a key element and the Trust was fortunate to secure a major grant from the Prince of Wales' Charitable Fund to invest in the network.

Under the new RBST farm park structure, the status of accredited farm park remains, and this will encompass city farms. Farm parks looking to join the network, but not currently able to meet the membership criteria, will be able to apply for provisional membership.

Two new categories have been added to extend the scope of the scheme beyond farm parks whose primary function is as a visitor attraction: Associate and Educational membership. Associate membership is aimed at breeding establishments which typically have a mission that does not focus primarily on farm livestock, but which may keep and breed rare breeds as an adjunct to their core conservation activity, a typical example being a living history museum. Educational membership is open to institutions which promote, preserve, breed and register rare and native breeds that do not have the capacity to open to the public but play a vital role in the education and engagement of all generations.

New Farm Parks in 2020



Isabel Bywater and Christopher Sykes perform the official opening at Sledmere House

Sledmere House sits in 75 acres of parkland in the Yorkshire Wolds and is a thriving estate with extensive commercial farming interests plus visitor attractions which include the historic house itself, walled gardens, café and farm shops and, of course, its rare breed farm park.

The farm park is based around Sledmere's historic stable block, which until 2015 had housed racing stables. Officially a Shire Horse Centre, one of only a handful of Approved Shire Horse Society Centres, while Sledmere has Shires as its central focus, it also demonstrates a real commitment to rare breeds, with breeding programmes in place for other species, including Leicester Longwool sheep and Oxford Sandy and Black pigs as well as a range of rare breed poultry.



Stepping back in time at Acton Scott

Acton Scott in Shropshire is an historic working farm showing how rural life was lived before the introduction of the internal combustion engine, an era when our native breeds were providing food, helping work the land and providing transportation.

Stars of the livestock at Acton Scott are the three working Shires, Joe, William and Alfie. The farm also keeps a small suckler herd of Original Population Dairy Shorthorn, a flock of Shropshire sheep, which may well be descendants of the sheep traditionally kept at Acton Scott, Gloucestershire Old Spots pigs and a range of rare breed poultry, with the principal breeds being Derbyshire Redcaps and Silver Dorkings.



Farm Manager Craig Holmes with farm team members Hannah Hepburn (left) and Morgan Gilmour

Almond Valley in West Lothian quickly achieved the status of RBST Approved Farm Park with a commitment to producing breeding stock to contribute to breed conservation. After previously relying on stock being brought in on a seasonal basis, Almond Valley's own breeding programme started in 2019.

The aim was to bring a conservation emphasis to the farm, with a focus on rare breeds, producing breeding stock not just for its own purposes, but to sell on to breeders to help increase rare breed flock and herd numbers. Existing commercial livestock, which included sheep, cattle, goats, pigs and poultry was quickly moved on, to be replaced by herds of Golden Guernsey and Bagot goats, a flock of North Ronaldsay sheep and Tamworth pigs, closely followed by rare breed poultry and waterfowl. In 2020 a Bagot billy and a Golden Guernsey billy bred at Almond Valley were welcomed by RBST President Jimmy Doherty to be used in the breeding programme at Jimmy's Farm.



The Merrist Wood farm team: Luke Gates, Laura Thomas and Charlie Dodd

Merrist Wood, Surrey's only land-based college, became the first educational establishment to achieve accreditation under RBST's expanded farm park scheme. It met the criteria for approval with its active programme of rare breeds conservation breeding and its use of its livestock for teaching and learning.

The current native rare breed inventory at Merrist Wood includes Black Wensleydale, Portland, Balwen and Castlemilk Moorit sheep, Gloucester cattle, Oxford Sandy and Black pigs, Golden Guernsey goats and a selection of rare breeds of poultry. Rare breeds are now integral to Merrist Wood. As well as having them available for teaching the practical hands-on aspects of animal husbandry, they form an important resource for the study of genetics and breeding programmes.

Promoting our native breeds

The 2020 Marsh Award heroes


Peter Hayford

> ***The 2020 RBST Marsh Awards for unsung heroes went to three people who have each dedicated many years to the cause of rare breeds.***


Marcus Bates

MARSH Christian Trust

The award for Conservation in Genetic Bio-Diversity went to Marcus Bates for his work on pig genetics, the Lifetime Achievement Award to poultry expert Peter Hayford and Support Group Volunteer 2020 was Francine Burn of RBST Three Counties.

Marcus Bates is Chief Executive and Pedigree Secretary of the British Pig Association (BPA), RBST's partner organisation in its pig gene-banking work. Marcus has worked tirelessly above and beyond the scope of his official BPA role, to ensure that the pig Gene Bank goes from strength to strength.

RBST Poultry Ambassador Peter Hayford has been a member of RBST for many decades. A founder member of the RBST Poultry Working Group, he spends his time supporting chickens, ducks, turkeys and geese. He was a founder member of the Rare Poultry Society and its President for several years, is Chairman of The Turkey Club and a Lifetime Member of The Poultry Club and is a nationally respected exhibitor and poultry judge.

A long-standing member of RBST, Francine Burn was a founder member of the Three Counties Support Group and continues to be one of its mainstays. She arranges the attendance of the Group at many shows, with a small but enthusiastic team. Francine has been an RBST member for 20 years, 11 of those she describes as "very active" attending six or seven events a year usually with some of her sheep and sometimes her Eriskay pony.


Francine Burn with husband Stephen

Reaching out to the next generation: COUNTRYSIDE CLASSROOM

> ***In 2020, RBST established a new partnership to help it reach out to one of its key target audiences – the younger generation.***



Countryside Classroom helps teachers, home educating parents and other groups to find resources, places to visit and educational support relating to the themes of food, farming and the natural environment. Its website contains a huge range of educational content designed to inspire and enable teaching around these themes so that young people can develop a better connection with all matters pertaining to the countryside.

Partners work together to ensure the success of Countryside Classroom and benefit from the opportunities to exchange knowledge, share expertise and networks and collaborate in new ways to address shared challenges. In the first phase of RBST's involvement, it uploaded the farm park network under places to visit and as teaching and information resources contributed breed identification posters, conservation grazing and GAP information, case studies and, for younger children, a range of activity sheets.

As well as making RBST information resources available to a wider audience, involvement in Countryside Classroom also gives RBST a very effective channel for making material available to its own farm park network. While some farm parks have their own educational resources or dedicated education officers, others do not always have the time or budgets to generate their own materials. Via RBST on Countryside Classroom, they have easy access to teaching materials which will help enhance the experiences of their young visitors.


RBST
Securing
Government support

RBST lobbying on Agriculture Act heralds a new era for native breeds

> ***For the last 40 years the conservation of our native farm livestock and equines has been entirely due to the hard work of a few dedicated and tenacious individuals.***

There are few conservation organisations that can claim that nothing has gone extinct since they were founded, still less that it is entirely because of the activities of its own members.

But in England at least, thanks to RBST'S effective lobbying on the Agriculture Act 2020, that's all set to change. In future our native breeds will have some help from the Government.

The Scottish, Welsh and Northern Irish governments will be making their own decision, though RBST will be encouraging them to adopt a similar approach to England.

The overall aim of the Agriculture Act is to shift agricultural policy towards paying farmers for the various public benefits they provide, rather than paying them for simply owning land, as has been the case with the Basic Payment Scheme (BPS), the existing scheme for supporting farmers.

Most of the public benefits mentioned in the Agriculture Bill are environmental, such as improving water and soil quality, or to mitigate and adapt to climate change. However, the list also allows the Government to pay for: 'conserving native livestock, native equines or genetic resources relating to any such animal'.

The Government's explanatory notes give an indication of the sort of things the money could be spent on:

> *'These measures could, for example, be used to incentivise farmers to invest in rearing rare and native breeds or species, because these genetic resources may offer a way to sustainably increase food production and/or improve our capacity to adapt to climate change or the emergence of new animal or plant diseases by providing a breadth of genetic traits. These powers could also be used to incentivise existing gene banks to safeguard UK native and rare breed genetics or to provide on farm measures to manage disease risks amongst populations of rare breed livestock.'*

So, the scope of power is very wide, perhaps surprisingly so. It allows for the support of all native livestock and equines. There is no requirement that they are rare, or that they are a member of a recognised breed or even registered.

The power to directly support native livestock and equines is not the only one of interest in the Act. There are also powers to give financial assistance for new entrants, improving productivity and support for marketing. RBST will be pressing government to use these powers to both help revive the local abattoir network and promote the full range of native livestock produce.

The changes won't happen overnight. BPS will be phased out over seven years starting in 2021 and the new schemes will be phased in over the same period. As yet, it is not known how much money will be involved.

The RBST team is now working with Government officials on what forms the new support should look like in practice.

Securing Government support

Abattoirs – a crucial role in the native breed supply chain

> ***2020 saw RBST significantly increase its work promoting the need for a comprehensive network of local abattoirs.***

We worked with allies in Parliament to press Government to agree on the need to better support the network, and in November, along with the Sustainable Food Trust and The Craft Butchers Association, we helped establish the Abattoir Sector Group, an alliance intended to make the case as widely as possible.

One of the biggest challenges for native breed farmers is finding an appropriate abattoir for their animals. Most keepers of rare and native breeds find they have to market their products outside the conventional supply chain if they are to have financially viable businesses. They need to add value and find their own markets, generally direct selling to the end consumer.

A local abattoir network is therefore essential if these producers are going to transport their livestock to slaughter at a reasonable cost and maintain the high welfare standards expected by their customer base.

This is not just a matter of the number of abattoirs. The first problem is their uneven distribution across the country. Although Devon has six small abattoirs, there are almost none in the north of England – a strong livestock area. There are none either on the Isle of Wight, the Isles of Scilly, the Isle of Skye, nor on most other Scottish islands, with the exception of mainland Shetland - meaning farmers must face the additional costs, and animals the additional stress, of loading and transport by boat. Even in mainland Scotland, small-scale businesses are faced with long road journeys to abattoirs that will accept their stock for private kills.

But even if there is an abattoir, many of the larger scale ones are single-species, whereas producers with rare and native breeds often rely on a mixed farming system with several farmed species to make their farming business viable.

Moreover, larger abattoirs often do not accept small numbers or carry out "private kills" where the customer gets their own product back. Many will not kill cattle over thirty months (OTM), making it more difficult for farmers rearing slow-growing animals in a low-input system to maintain a viable business model.

Rare breed farmers overwhelmingly want to use abattoirs that operate to the highest welfare standards. And those standards need to be enforced if they are to have any credibility; no one should object to that. But it is vital to keep the cost of compliance to the absolute minimum consistent with maintaining standards if the abattoir network is to survive. That means ensuring enforcement is proportionate and efficient which means making the best use of the available technology.

An improvement in the network of smaller abattoirs is not just a matter for farmers though; it would also benefit the wider rural economy. Large scale abattoirs require workers to carry out highly specific, often highly mechanised, procedures as part of the slaughtering process and they employ relatively large numbers of narrower skilled, lower paid people in one location. More local and smaller abattoirs, where each worker is required to be more highly and multi-skilled, with the flexibility for part-time work, would benefit rural areas where local employment is less accessible.

Smaller locally based abattoirs would facilitate the creation of new premium markets for distinctive meat products from local breeds and the expansion of related businesses such as butchers and farm shops.

A unified voice for rare breeds in Scotland

> ***One of the key announcements at RBST's 2020 AGM was the formation of a new Scottish Forum and the creation of the role of Vice President Scotland.***

The new Forum will supplement the work of the three Scotland Support Groups by co-ordinating and unifying the voice of rare breeds interests across Scotland. It will also strengthen representation of Scottish interests within RBST.

Taking on the role of VP Scotland is former Trustee Martin Beard. His task is to ensure clear focus and strategic direction for the charity's activity in Scotland. Martin has established, directed and grown businesses around the world through board-level leadership roles in industries ranging from telecoms to natural resources. He rears rare breeds including Large Black and Oxford Sandy and Black pigs and Portland sheep in Angus.

Speaking about his new role, Martin says: "This is an exciting time for the conservation of native breeds in Scotland. There is a fantastic and growing network of dedicated and knowledgeable rare breed farmers across the country, showing how supporting the natural environment can go hand in hand with commercial success.

"As town and countryside alike look to the Scottish Parliament elections, we will be looking for commitments to supporting native breeds in future agricultural policy. We will also be seeking action to reverse the decline of local abattoirs, which is having such adverse effects on rural communities and rare breeds across Scotland."

Martin brings a wealth of commercial experience to this new role, alongside his passion for rare breed conservation and has played a valued role on RBST Committees for some time. The Scottish Forum will help RBST take an important step forward in Scotland, strengthening and co-ordinating its activities across the country.

A number of native breeds which have become very rare are irreplaceable in terms of Scottish heritage. These breeds have a crucial role to play in both environmental land management and the vitality of rural communities, and RBST is working hard to secure their future.



Martin Beard

RBST

Delivering on priorities



RBST Expert Advisory Panel



> ***As a conservation organisation, RBST needs to be sure it is operating in accordance with the latest scientific knowledge and best practice.***

Accordingly, in 2020 we set up the RBST Expert Advisory Panel (EAP), made up of subject experts from industry and academia and tasked with considering the future direction of RBST conservation strategies and objectives.

The inaugural meeting took place at Clarence House in February. The Panel considered a range of leading questions covering contemporary issues in livestock farming and conservation, including social science and human geography, and securing the place of native breeds through combined, multidisciplinary approaches.

The EAP will continue to serve as subject specialists in RBST's development of robust conservation programmes and scientific strategy, collaborating with the Conservation Team in delivering the Trust's objectives and challenging its approach and policy.

The panel

Chaired by Professor **Tim Morris**, Vice-Chairman of the RBST Board of Trustees, the Panel brings together a mix of expertise intended to span the range of disciplines represented in the RBST scope and objectives:

- **Professor Joanna Price** is Vice-Chancellor of the Royal Agricultural University, previously holding the position of Head of Department at the Bristol Veterinary School. She is a qualified veterinary surgeon and brings a wealth of expertise from both clinical and policy-based educational fields.
- **Dr Kate Millar** is the Director of the Centre for Applied Bioethics at the University of Nottingham, with a wide research portfolio covering animal, agricultural and food ethics, as well as scientific policy and politics.
- **Dr Charles Castle** is a veterinary surgeon running his own practice in the Midlands; he is a well-known breeder of Northern Dairy Shorthorns and an active RBST member with specific expertise in animal breeding and genetics.
- **Geraint Thomas** is General Manager at AB Europe and a specialist in cryopreservation and artificial insemination.
- **Libby Henson**, former Director of the US Livestock Conservancy, is Director of Grassroots and an international expert in pedigree livestock recording and conservation, having worked with notable bodies such as UK Government and the Farm Animal Organisation of the United Nations.
- **Wyn Owen** is a commercial sheep farmer from Wales and a Trustee of the Nuffield Farming Scholarships Trust. His areas of activity include policy, social science, rural economy and agronomy and livestock conservation.
- **Dr Andy Dell**, an expert in equines, has notably worked on the genetic evaluation of the Cleveland Bay Horse.
- **Nigel Overend** manages Deerpark Pedigree Pigs, the first privately owned artificial insemination centre established in Ireland.
- **Julian Hosking** is a former RBST Trustee and former member of the Farm Animal Genetic Resources Committee (FAnGR) at DEFRA.
- **Andrew Lazenby** has worked as CEO of RASE, as well as carrying out numerous other associated roles; he brings his mixture of rural economy, social science and policy expertise to the Panel.
- **Professor Mike Coffey** is Head of the Animal Breeding division at SRUC and an expert in livestock informatics, also sitting on FAnGR.
- **Professor Katherine Willis**, CBE, from the University of Oxford is an internationally-renowned expert in biodiversity, long-term ecology and ecosystems, currently Principal of St Edmund Hall and Professor of Biodiversity and Head of the Oxford Long-term Ecology Group.
- **Professor Stephen Hall** is Emeritus Professor of Animal Science at the University of Lincoln, and a specialist in livestock biodiversity and the cultural aspects of biological conservation.
- **Tullis Matson** is Managing Director of Stallion AI Services, which employs the latest technologies for successful equine breeding, whilst also applying these contemporary techniques to the conservation of exotic species.
- **Professor Richard Yarwood** from the University of Plymouth is an internationally recognised expert in rural society and livestock policy, bringing subject specialism in human geography to the Panel.
- **Professor Kevin Sinclair** is Head of the Division of Animal Sciences at the University of Nottingham. His research spans the breadth of translational animal breeding and genetics, with particular specialisation in improving in vitro systems for culturing cattle and sheep.

Delivering on priorities

Watchlist - a time for change


Lonk

> ***In 2020, the RBST Board appointed a "task and finish group", supported by the RBST Expert Advisory Panel, to review the methodology used for compiling the annual Watchlist.***

Given that the importance of native breeds has been recognised in the Agriculture Act, it was felt that a better, more realistic picture of the genetic health of individual breeds was needed, and that meant adopting a more contemporary approach that accorded with the latest best practice in livestock conservation.

The review was completed in early 2021 and its recommendations are reflected in the new Watchlist.

The key conclusion of the task and finish group was that the time had come for a significant change in methodology if the Watchlist is to remain a meaningful conservation tool. Prof Tim Morris, who headed the group, explained: "As with any conservation work, it is important to assess the situation of the entire breed."

Historically, RBST has based the Watchlist on registered females, having obtained these figures from breed societies. The concern was that, continuing to base RBST's conservation programme purely on the estimated number of females, without a consideration of the contribution of males, could result in inaccurate conclusions on the breed's status.

The new methodology therefore has two key aspects. Firstly, that prioritisation should be based on the internationally recognised concept of effective population size, which takes into account both the males and females that contribute to a population, and secondly, that the degree of inbreeding should be acknowledged. Accordingly, going forward, a breed of most concern will be one which is rare, with increased inbreeding, whereas those of least concern will not be rare and any inbreeding will be well managed.

2020 saw two new breeds join the Watchlist.

Old English Goat

The Old English goat became the fourth native goat breed to be recognised for Watchlist status.

With an estimated population of just 74 living adult females in 2019/2020, this 'desperately rare' native goat went straight into the RBST's Critical category for the very rarest goats.

The Old English goat is often called the "original smallholder's goat" because it was very popular with smallholders in the 19th century: small and shaggy, these hardy goats provided ample and regular milk for the household for very little cost as they are happy to eat what they find naturally and to live outdoors all year round.

With such low numbers of Old English goats still being kept, breeders use feral goats with Old English characteristics to maintain crucial genetic diversity. These feral goats live in the wild and a careful inspection regime and separate registration system is used to maintain the breed's bloodlines and pedigree.

The addition of the Old English goat to the RBST Watchlist means that the breed will now benefit from a further level of support from RBST, such as assistance in developing bespoke breed conservation plans alongside the Old English Goat Breeders Society, support in the use of the latest breeders' software designed to prevent in-breeding, and RBST will help work towards encouraging more people to become Old English goat breeders.

Lonk

A sheep breed that was added to the Watchlist in 2020 is the Lonk and its supporters hope that its inclusion will help bring more notice to this breed which, although it has a long history, is perhaps not so well known outside of the Lancashire and Yorkshire Pennines.

A powerful hill sheep, horned with a black and white marked face and a dense yet fine fleece to protect against the weather, Lonks are supremely hardy. Lonk lamb has superb eating qualities, being fine-grained and naturally lean with a great flavour. It also produces a large carcass, with lambs easily finished to 50kg, producing a 24kg carcass from grass.

A significant threat to the breed is its geographic concentration: three large flocks account for most of the annual Lonk registrations and a significant disease outbreak could spell disaster for the breed.

RBST
Rare Breeds Survival Trust

Watchlist 2021-22

The 2021-22 Watchlist reflects RBST's new approach to breed prioritisation with a methodology that compares population size with measures of inbreeding and takes into account both females and males and the internationally recognised effective population calculation. RBST would like to thank Defra and UK Breed Societies for their help producing the Watchlist.

Sheep

PRIORITY
Lincoln Longwool
North Ronaldsay
Whitefaced Woodland
Welsh Mountain Pedigree

AT RISK
Balwen
Border Leicester
Boreray
Castlemilk Moorit
Cotswold
Derbyshire Gritstone
Devon and Cornwall Longwool
Devon Closewool
Dorset Down
Dorset Horn
Greyface Dartmoor
Hill Radnor
Leicester Longwool
Llanwenog
Lonk
Manx Loaghtan
Norfolk Horn
Oxford Down
Portland
Soay
Teeswater
Torwen Badgerface Welsh
Wensleydale
Whiteface Dartmoor

UK NATIVE BREEDS
Beulah
Black Welsh Mountain*
Blackface (Scottish)
Blueface Leicester
Brecknock Hill Cheviot
Clun Forest
Dalesbred
Exmoor Horn
Hampshire Down
Hebridean*
Herdwick
Jacob*
Kerry Hill*
Llandovery Whiteface Hill
Lleyn*
North Country Cheviot
Poll Dorset
Romney
Rough Fell
Ryeland*
Shetland*
Shropshire*
Southdown*
South Country Cheviot
South Wales Mountain*
Suffolk
Swaledale
Torddu Badgerface Welsh
Welsh Hill Speckled
Welsh Mountain
Wiltshire Horn*

IRISH BREEDS IN THE UK
Galway

Cattle

PRIORITY
Albion
Chillingham Wild Cattle (feral)
Dairy Shorthorn (Original Population)
Gloucester
Northern Dairy Shorthorn
Vaynol

AT RISK
British White
Irish Moiled
Lincoln Red (Original Population)
Native Aberdeen Angus
Shetland
Traditional Hereford
White Park
Whitebred Shorthorn

UK NATIVE BREEDS
Aberdeen Angus
Ayrshire
Beef Shorthorn*
Belted Galloway*
British Friesian
Dairy Shorthorn
Devon
Dexter
Galloway - Including White and Riggit
Guernsey
Hereford
Highland
Jersey
Lincoln Red
Longhorn*
Luing
Red Poll*
South Devon
Sussex
Welsh Black

IRISH BREEDS IN THE UK
Kerry

*These breeds were formerly considered to be Priority or At Risk breeds

Equine

PRIORITY
Cleveland Bay Horse
Dales Pony
Dartmoor Pony
Eriskay Pony
Exmoor Pony
Hackney Horse and Pony
Suffolk Horse

AT RISK
Clydesdale Horse
Fell Pony
Highland Pony
New Forest Pony
Shire Horse

UK NATIVE BREEDS
Shetland Pony
Welsh Pony and Cob (all sections)

IRISH BREEDS IN THE UK
Connemara pony
Irish Draught horse

Pigs

PRIORITY
Berkshire
British Landrace
British Lop
Large Black
Middle White
Tamworth

AT RISK
British Saddleback
Gloucestershire Old Spots
Large White
Oxford Sandy and Black
Welsh

Goats

PRIORITY
English Goat
Old English Goat

AT RISK
Bagot
Golden Guernsey

Poultry

Chickens

PRIORITY
Andalusian
Brussbar
Burmese
Campine
Derbyshire Redcap
Dorking
Hamburgh
Malay
Marsh Daisy
Modern Game
Modern Langshan
North Holland Blue
Old English Pheasant Fowl
Rhodebar
Rumpless Game
Scots Dumpy
Scots Grey
Sicilian Buttercup
Spanish
Sultan
Sussex
Welbar

UK BREEDS
Ancona
Australorp
British Araucana
British Faverolles
Buff Orpington
Cochin
Cream Legbar
Croad Langshan
Indian Game
Ixworth
Legbar
Leghorn
Minorca
Nankin
Norfolk Grey
Old English Game
Orpington (non Buff)
Rosecomb
Sebright

Turkeys

PRIORITY
Blue
Bourbon Red
British White
Bronze
Buff
Cröllwitzer (Pied)
Harvey Speckled
Narragansett
Nebraskan
Norfolk Black
Slate

Ducks

PRIORITY
Orpington
Pekin
Shetland
Silver Bantam
Stanbridge White
Welsh Harlequin

UK BREEDS
Abacot Ranger
Aylesbury
Black East Indian
Campbell
Cayuga
Crested
Hookbill
Magpie
Rouen (Exhibition)
Silver Appleyard

Geese

PRIORITY
Brecon Buff
Buff Back
Embden (as standardised in the UK)
Grey Back
Pilgrim
Roman
Sebastopol
Shetland
Steinbacher
Toulouse (Exhibition)
West of England



North Ronaldsay sheep

Help save rare and native breeds: join or donate at www.rbst.org.uk

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Delivering on priorities

Gene Bank

> ***The collection of genetic material forms an integral part of RBST's conservation activities. It is a vital supplement to our conservation of living herds and flocks.***

As a result, over the years, we have collected a large quantity of genetic material from the UK's rare and native breeds of cattle, sheep, equines, goats and pigs.

Traditionally the Gene Bank has consisted of semen, but more recently we have been able to collect embryos from cattle, sheep and goats.

As technology develops the possibilities for Gene Banking increase, for example, our British Lop Project, discussed elsewhere in this report, is researching the potential for freezing pig embryos.

In 2020 we made 53 additions to the Gene Bank. Most of these were in the form of donations, but nine new boar collections were made, six of which were carried out in conjunction with the BPA and the remainder as part of the British Lop project. The most recent Gene Bank development, in 2019 and 2020, has been the collection of tissue samples from two different Cleveland Bay horses.

The Gene Bank Review

The resources involved in running the Gene Bank are significant. The collection, storage and management of the genetic material requires considerable financial and time commitments.

Accordingly, in 2020, we began the work of reviewing our management of it, ensuring that it is being run as efficiently and effectively as possible, in accordance with best practice set by the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO).

As a first stage, in November, the RBST Board agreed to adopt the FAO rationale for gene banking:

1. Recreating breeds or breeding lines if they become lost. Storage for this purpose is long term and does not involve regular use or updating of the collection.
2. Supporting in vivo conservation. The genetic materials can be used to minimize inbreeding and genetic drift in small populations. The combined use of live animals and preserved germplasm can be a very effective conservation tool.
3. Material stored in a gene bank can provide a very effective backup if genetic problems occur. A decrease in effective population size and the resulting high level of inbreeding can increase the frequency of specific deleterious variant genes. This can be the case in even large populations if the gene pool is very small.
4. The development of new lines or breeds, or the modifying or reorienting of a population.
5. A resource for scientists carrying out DNA research. Gene banking allows quick and easy access to genetic materials.

Going forward, we will have clear goals for the collection of the genetic material we need based on specific breed conservation plans.

In addition, we will continue to manage the costs involved, selling material that is not required and consolidating its storage. In 2020 we went down from 18 storage providers to 11.

The Future

The RBST Gene Bank is one of the only privately run resource of its type in the world, and running it is a major commitment for a small charity. In 2020 we spent £125,140 acquiring and preserving genetic materials in it.

In every other country we are aware of, the resource is managed or funded by government, and the FAO guidance is clearly based on the presumption that gene banking will be a government led activity. Even in the UK the plant and seed equivalents to the Gene Bank are government run.

RBST believes the Government should accept responsibly for the UK Gene Bank. As we continue to make the Gene Bank more fit for purpose, we will continue to press Government for greater engagement.

Registration campaign

> ***Over the summer, RBST launched a campaign to encourage breeders to keep on registering their pedigree stock, concerned that this is something that could be overlooked as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic causing the cancellation of so many shows.***

Registrations are crucial for rare breed conservation. Every registration helps to give a more accurate picture of the status of each breed, enabling the analysis of population trends and geographic distribution. These analyses then inform the compilation of the Watchlist and help determine RBST's conservation objectives, decisions on the capture of genetic material, programmes to prevent inbreeding, and support for keepers' commercial avenues.

As progeny of unregistered animals cannot be registered, any registrations missed could interrupt a bloodline that has survived for generations.

The campaign secured widespread coverage including in Farmers Weekly, Scottish Farmer, the Yorkshire Post, the Western Daily Press and the Western Morning News.





Delivering on priorities

RBST breed conservation projects

> ***We can do a lot to secure the future of our native livestock and equines by, whenever possible, promoting the commercial benefits of keeping them, and by working with government to secure financial support and an easing of some of the regulations. But some breeds are always going to struggle, and in those cases RBST will, by working with breed societies, breeders, farm parks and others, produce conservation plans to do what is necessary to improve their fortunes.***

Vaynol project

The Vaynol is one of our rarest breeds. Although numbers are increasing, they are still very low.

Accordingly, as the breed society RBST has been working on a project with AB Europe using AI to increase the genetic diversity of the breed. 2020 saw a course of IV flushing and embryo implantation.

It is hoped that this course of action will significantly increase the size of the Vaynol population and help secure it for future generations. Three embryos were collected to be implanted in the Spring with the hope of seeing new calves on the ground in 2021.

Lop project

The long-term British Lop Project continued in 2020.

The project, generously funded by the Gerald Fallowes Trust and carried out in partnership with the British Lop Pig Society, has three aspects. Firstly, we are developing a genomic profile for the breed which will make it possible to test the purity of an individual animal or its products. Secondly we will complete the breed's inclusion in the Gene Bank.

Finally, we will carry out research into the possibility of storing and subsequently using pig embryos over the long term. This would be ground-breaking research and have enormous implications for the conservation of all the pig breeds.

The sexed Suffolk semen project

The viability of using sexed semen to ensure the birth of female equines was established with the birth of a filly foal to Suffolk mare Ruby in July 2020. This was the first time in the world that the technique has been used to support the survival of a rare breed.

The project, carried out in partnership with leading bovine semen sexing companies Cogent and Sexing Technologies, used specialist equipment to sex sort the semen prior to insemination based on the difference in DNA content between X and Y bearing spermatozoa.

Ruby, the Suffolk Punch mare, was owned by Nottingham Trent University and the semen for the project was taken from


Equine genetics project


Vaynol


A foal Eriskay mare Linton Linnet

Suffolk stallion Holbeache Iggy. The mare and stallion were chosen as a good breeding match using the SPARKS database.

Dr Gareth Starbuck, Head of Animal and Equine Sciences at Nottingham Trent University, said: "The birth of this foal marks a major step towards securing the future of the Suffolk horse and all other rare animal breeds. It has been a pleasure to work with the Rare Breeds Survival Trust to further develop the process of mare and stallion matching amongst rare breeds."

Eriskay project

RBST's Eriskay mare Linton Linnet, gifted to the Trust for conservation breeding, gave birth in the summer to a filly foal, sired by Greenland Stud's Thurlos Mhor.

The Eriskay pony is one of our most critically endangered equines, with only a handful of foals registered in recent years so it was particularly good news that Linnet's foal is a filly which can potentially go on to be used for conservation breeding in the future.

Dairy Shorthorn project

Cattle owned by RBST added hooves to the ground in the Spring by producing healthy calves.

Original Population Dairy Shorthorn St Arvans Clarisse 30 was purchased in 2019 as part of the RBST cattle campaign. After rearing the calf she was bought with, she was successfully flushed for the Gene Bank and produced eight embryos. She was subsequently AI'd using sexed semen from historic Gene Bank straws from Stockwood Lord Barrington 3rd which has resulted in a heifer calf.

Two more heifers were produced by two Dexter cows bred by the late Andrew Sheppy and the Cobthorn Trust. Both calves were sired by Canwell Buster, born in 1966, and represent extremely old genetics for the breed.

Equine genetics project

When Cleveland Bay stallion Cholderton Boreas died at the age of 22, RBST was approached by his owner Henry Edmunds of the Cholderton Estate with an offer to have some of his genetics preserved in the Gene Bank.

The work was made possible by the quick actions of Mr Edmunds, who had Boreas's testes removed for epididymal sperm extraction. At the same time, a tissue sample was also collected for freezing to be stored by Gemini Genetics, one of the UK's first animal tissue banks. This preserved DNA acts as a safety net to ensure a species or breed is never lost. With the plight of animals such as the Suffolk Punch horse now in a desperate state, it is crucial that the current population is genetically preserved to ensure a genetic bank is available should alternative conservation efforts fail.

The Hereford Genomic project

In 2016 RBST and Hereford Herd Book International Ltd (HHBI) commissioned a study to establish whether there was an original population of Hereford Cattle distinct from the main breed. The HHBI provides a herd book for Hereford cattle which have satisfied the Hereford Test for Original Population Parentage (HTOPP). The research was carried out with a view to protecting the breed both commercially through meat provenance testing and genetically via prevention of admixture with external bloodlines.

In essence it states that Hereford OP cattle are distinct from Herefords.

Bagot project

RBST's network of accredited farm parks are an important conservation resource, well suited to carrying out co-ordinated breeding programmes, as we saw with the Bagot project.

Following a successful breeding programme at Sandwell Farm Park, a group of four nanny goats and a billy, Bemborough Orville, were sent to Mudchute Farm and Park in London, so creating London's first breeding population.

New North Ronaldsay project to be launched

Looking more to the future, one of the projects devised in 2020 to be launched in 2021 focuses on preserving and maintaining the genetics of the North Ronaldsay breed.

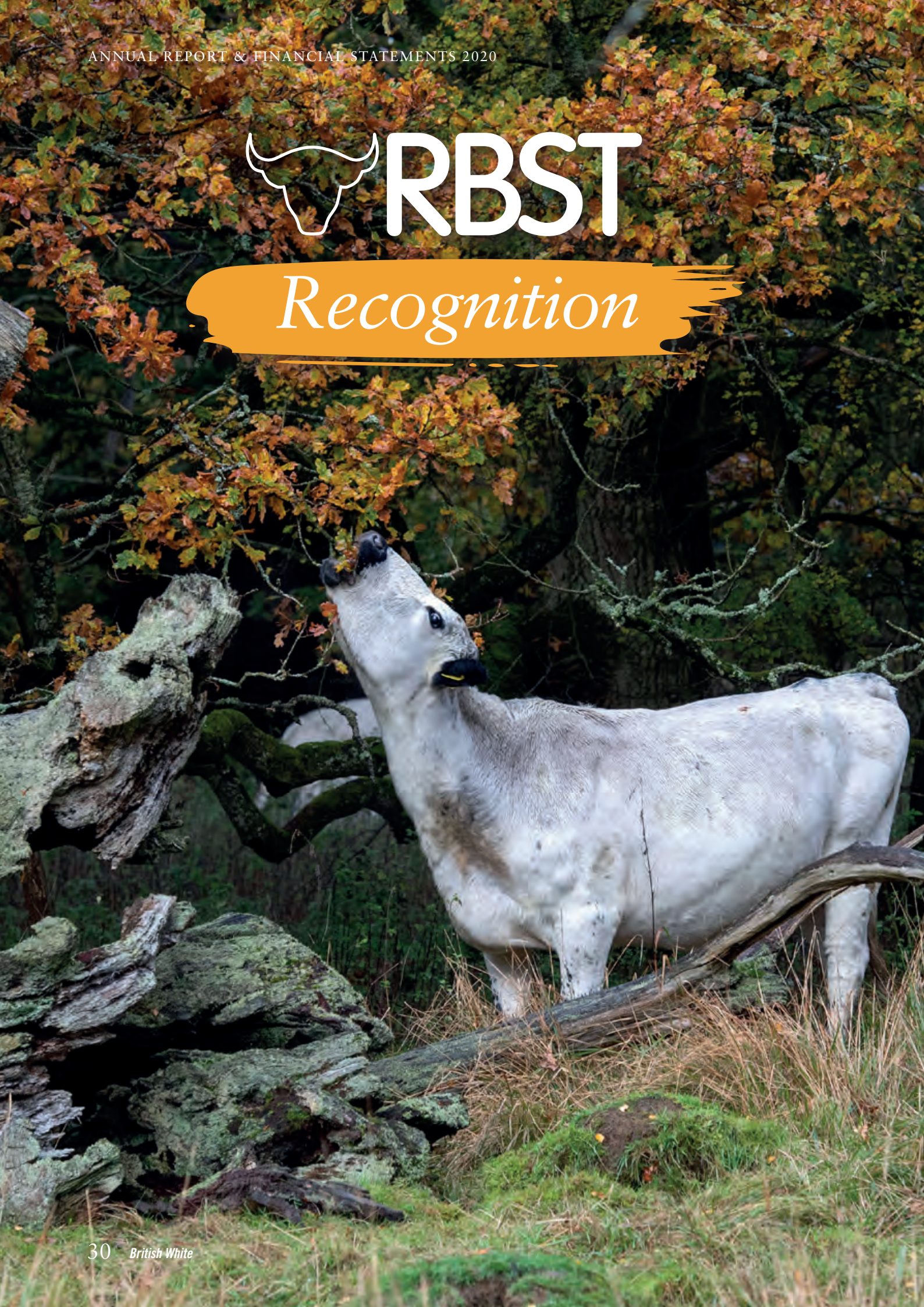
The North Ronaldsay is one of the Northern short-tailed primitive group of breeds that also includes the Manx Loaghtan, Soay, Shetland and Icelandic. It is still mainly found on its native island, the northernmost of the Orkneys.

Beginning in the summer of 2021 RBST will carry out a project to update the genetic profile of the original island flock.

On the basis of what that genotyping study shows, RBST will work with the keepers to devise breeding plans to secure the island flock's long term future and the wider distribution of founder bloodlines across the UK as part of our geographical distribution policy. A report on the project will be presented at the prestigious Orkney International Science Festival in 2022.

RBST

Recognition



Our Patron

His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales has been Patron of RBST since 1986 and is passionately supportive of the work carried out by the Trust.

In July 2020, to highlight the important work of RBST-accredited farm parks in the survival of British rare breeds, and to encourage visitors to return HRH The Prince of Wales visited the Cotswold Farm Park. The visit gained widespread attention from press across the UK and as far away as Russia.

RBST launched its Farm Park Project and appointed a dedicated Farm Park Officer at the start of 2020 after receiving a grant from the Prince's Countryside Fund with the objective to raise the awareness of these vital public attractions which participate in crucial conservation programmes as well as promoting the benefits of native breeds.



Our President

Our President, Jimmy Doherty, continued to do excellent work throughout 2020 promoting RBST and its activities. In February he generously hosted a fundraising event at his Suffolk farm which was much appreciated.



Recognition

Recognition and positioning

> ***In 2020, RBST developed and delivered a strategic, planned and co-ordinated approach to generating media coverage.***

We took a proactive approach to securing both news and in-depth coverage on selected key issues to achieve frequent, regular and focused coverage throughout the year.

The campaign was based on getting the right messages into the right media titles to reach our targeted audiences. The result was that RBST has been positioned as a serious and successful organisation with a team of conservation experts and as an organisation that does important, scientifically innovative and successful work. The campaign has also highlighted the fact that rare breeds can be a passion, a profitable business – or both at the same time.

The campaign is succeeding not only in achieving substantial coverage for RBST's key news stories, it has also positioned the Trust as the 'go-to' authority on the role of native breeds in today's world.



Financial Review

Operating statement

	2020				2019
	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	**Total**	Total
	£	£	£	**£**	£
Income and endowments from:					
Grants and Donations	47,520	-	40,193	**87,713**	143,512
Legacies	241,443	-	2,000	**243,443**	21,594
Membership Subscriptions (inc Gift Aid)	179,765	-	-	**179,765**	179,850
Charitable Activities	19,950	240	-	**20,190**	45,597
Advertising Revenue	14,795	-	-	**14,795**	11,695
Investments	89,780	-	-	**89,780**	125,229
Total income and endowments	**593,253**	**240**	**42,193**	**635,686**	527,477
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	151,490	-	-	**151,490**	195,566
Investment management fees	15,863	-	-	**15,863**	17,701
Charitable activities	323,104	103,344	108,153	**534,601**	502,623
Other	-	-	-	**-**	-
Total expenditure	**490,457**	**103,344**	**108,153**	**701,954**	715,890
Net gains/(losses) on investments	(33,789)	-	-	**(33,789)**	345,568
Net income/(expenditure)	**69,007**	**(103,104)**	**(65,960)**	**(100,057)**	157,155

Income

Total income in 2020 was £635,686 compared with £527,477 in 2019. The increase was predominantly driven by a £220,000 increase in legacies which offset reductions in grants and donations, charitable activities, and investments.

Legacies are inherently difficult to forecast and have a tendency to be volatile. 2020 saw an increase in legacies which was a reversal of the significant falls in legacy income experienced in 2019.

Membership income in 2020 was broadly in line with 2019 however, this masks the underlying trend of a 3% increase in membership subscriptions in 2020 which was offset by a reduction in gift aid.

Income from charitable activities in 2020 was £20,190 compared with £45,597 in 2019. The decrease was predominantly linked to a reduction in activities due to restrictions imposed during the global pandemic, GAP and conservation grazing training income, along with support group income were down in particular versus 2019.

In line with accounting requirements, we revalue our investments at each year end. In 2020 our investments returned to a net negative movement in funds of £33,789, a swing of £379,357 from the gain of £345,568 experienced in 2019. It must be remembered that this figure is an unrealised loss, and is simply a snap shot of our investments at a point in time which is highly dependant on the markets at that particular moment. Indeed movements such as the vast gain experienced in 2019 should not be expected as standard and our investment performance is considered over a longer period of time.

Expenditure

Expenditure in 2020 totalled £701,954 compared with £715,890 in 2019. The decrease was driven by a combination of a reduction in raising funds and investment management fees.

Overall spend on charitable activities was up 6% in 2020. This was due to the fact RBST continued with projects using restricted and designated funds that were already in place. The reduction in spend on unrestricted charitable activities was driven by a decrease in conservation staff costs due to only having a full team in place for part of the year, further savings were made due to a reduction in travel as the impact of Covid-19 meant staff worked from home.

Support costs were broadly in line with 2019 after having recognised savings in 2019 as a result of lowering the amount spent on consultancy fees, strategic costs and professional fees. Spend on raising funds was reduced as a result of reduction in media spend in 2020 compared with 2019, as a more targeted and effective media strategy was adopted in 2020, as well as a reduction in show spend as RBST was not able to attend any shows due to Covid-19 restrictions.

Whilst overall spend in 2020 reduced by 2%, this followed a reduction in spend of 25% in 2019. It should be noted that 2019 was a year of great change, particularly from a staffing perspective, and for much of 2019 a full staff team was not in place, this was followed by 2020 then being an exceptional year in terms of reduced activity, travel and again a full staff team was not in place for the full year. As was noted in the last annual report, much work has been done to reduce costs over recent years and the Board believed RBST was previously at a level from which further savings would be minimal without damaging the Trust's ability to maintain a viable operation. This is still the case, hence costs are expected to increase in 2021 and 2022 as a full staff team come into place and 'normal' activities begin to resume in regard to travel and shows. However, 2020 has provided opportunities for learning and RBST will maintain diligence in ensuring maximum efficiency in its spending and will take the opportunity to review travel and show spend to maintain savings where appropriate whilst unlocking maximum impact for every pound spent to forward RBST's objectives.

Financial Review (continued)

Balance Sheet

The Balance Sheet remains robust although our net assets have decreased by 3% to £3,214,850 at the end of 2020. Unrestricted and designated funds remain broadly stable but RBST's restricted funds have reduced due to the decision made to continue with important conservation projects in 2020 using funds already in place. 2020 was a challenging year for fundraising as much was directed to frontline Covid-19 activity. RBST remains committed to seeking funds in all forms and this is an area of focus in 2021.

Overall, the increase in legacies donations has offset the fall in grants and diminished performance in our investments, and the Trust is well positioned to withstand any future turbulence.

Whilst Covid-19 has clearly impacted the 2020 accounts we would like to further reiterate the Trust's ability to withstand a period of economic turbulence. Furthermore we would like to highlight the vast improvements made to managing the day to day finances of the Trust. An unrestricted surplus of £69,008, in what was an exceptionally challenging year, demonstrates the robust financial controls now in place. The Staff Team and Board are working hard to secure future grants as well as seek out alternative sources of income in 2021. There is no doubt there will be a continued impact of Covid-19 in 2021 and possibly beyond. However, RBST is continuing to work hard to support its members and the animals it seeks to conserve during this time. We remain confident we have the financial strength to survive this period of turmoil and believe we have a clearly demonstrated foundation for further exciting and robust conservation plans has been laid.

Reserves policy

	31 December 2020	31 December 2019	% Increase/ (Decrease)
Unrestricted funds (Free Reserves)	840,436	788,238	6.6%
Unrestricted funds (Tangible Fixed Assets)	119,936	135,725	-11.6%
Total Unrestricted funds	960,372	923,963	3.9%
Designated Funds:			
- Gene Bank	2,000,000	2,000,000	0.0%
- Conservation – Breed stock	33,559	45,959	-27.0%
- Linga Holm	12,812	12,812	0.0%
- Sandringham Charitable Trust	19,237	19,237	0.0%
- Property improvement fund	132,000	132,000	-
- Lop Fund	3,751	55,000	-
Restricted Funds:			
- Cattle Conservation	1,747	3,461	-49.5%
- Equine Conservation	11,285	17,384	-35.1%
- Goat Conservation	2,659	2,659	0.0%
- Pig Conservation	11,039	41,387	-73.3%
- Sheep Conservation	15,125	831	1720.1%
- Other projects	11,264	72,854	-84.5%
Ratio of Free Reserves to Annual Operating Expenditure	1.2 years	1.1 years	

The charity maintains a large investment portfolio in order to create an income, currently in the region of £90,000, to help fund its charitable activities.

Free reserves are shown in accordance with Charity Commission guidance CC19.

One of the prime objectives of the charity is to ensure the preservation of breeds. Therefore, a Gene Bank is maintained to ensure the characteristics of old and current breeds are conserved. This Gene Bank is treated as a heritage asset, which is irreplaceable. The Trustees have therefore designated £2million to maintain and develop the Gene Bank for the next generation.

The reserves that the Trustees have set aside provide financial stability and the means for the development of our principal activity. The Trustees' aim is for free reserves to always cover at least the annual operating expenditure.

The Trustees regularly review the amount of reserves that are required to ensure that they are adequate to fulfil our continuing obligations

Investment policy

A medium-risk approach describes the investment policy. Assets are held in the RBST Portfolio which is managed by Smith and Williamson, and which invests in a combination of segregated equities and collective funds. The portfolio targets are initial income yield of 4%; in 2020 it achieved 2.9%, which was acceptable given market conditions. The investment aim is to achieve this income target without detriment to the growth and without incurring unnecessary risk. The value of the RBST portfolio as at 31 December 2020 was £3,051,652 compared with £3,099,220 as at 31 December 2019.

Governance

Structure

RBST is a charity registered with the Charity Commission for England and Wales (Registration No. 269442). It is also a company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales (Registration No. 01204694). It was founded in 1973. Its objects and powers are set out in its Memorandum and Articles of Association.

Trustees

The Board of RBST is comprised of unpaid trustees, with no fewer than six elected from its membership and up to five co-opted. The trustees are also the directors of RBST for the purposes of company law. The Board is responsible for setting policy, agreeing strategy and approving major commitments based on advice from senior management, and the appointment of the Chief Executive Officer. Day-to-day operations are delegated by the Board to the Chief Executive Officer, who leads the executive and volunteer teams. RBST's Memorandum and Articles of Association provide that elected trustees may be appointed for two periods of up to four years at a time and must then take a minimum break of 24 months. The Board has two principal committees: the Conservation and Research Committee and the Finance and Governance Committee. Membership of these committees along with a full list of trustees and staff at the time of writing of this report are provided at the end of this report. The Conservation and Research Committee advises the Board of trustees on strategic issues concerning conservation programmes and related activities. The Finance and Governance Committee is responsible for reviewing RBST's financial performance and matters relating to management, organisation, governance, investments and risk management. Each new trustee is provided with training and an induction, where s/he learns about the organisation and the role and responsibilities of a trustee. The induction includes a pack containing the Charity Commission guidance 'The Essential Trustee'; RBST's governing documents; and the most recent annual report and financial statements. Trustees receive ongoing training, receive charity law updates, and are involved in strategic sessions relating to the operations during the year.

Statement of Trustees' responsibilities

The trustees (who are also directors of RBST for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom generally accepted accounting practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards). Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under company law the trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they 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 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 2019 (FRS 102);
- make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charitable company's transactions, 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, and the provisions of the Charity's constitution. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

In so far as the trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditor is unaware; and
- the trustees have taken all reasonable steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information. The trustees are also responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website.

Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Governance (continued)

Grant making policy

RBST occasionally makes donations or grants, in line with its charitable and strategic objectives, to partners in the RBST network, the outcomes of which are reviewed at regular periods.

Public benefit

In reviewing our charitable objectives and as part of planning our future programme of work, the trustees of RBST have taken account of the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and have considered how the planned programme of work will consistently contribute to the Charity's aims and objectives.

Remuneration policy

Our approach to remuneration across the organisation is designed to ensure we can attract and retain the talented and motivated people we need to deliver our mission.

Fundraising Regulator Statement of Compliance

The charity does not contract with a third party to undertake any fundraising on its behalf. The charity does employ a fundraising officer who initiates campaigns and supports fundraising activities.

The charity only makes fundraising approaches to contacts who have given explicit consent to receive such campaign documentation under GDPR guidelines. We have received no fundraising complaints during the year.

Risk management

The trustees have reviewed the major risks to which the charity is exposed and confirm that systems have been established to mitigate those risks. Particular attention has focused on Support Groups, the review of the risk register intended for last year was postponed due to the uncertainties of Covid-19 and is being updated alongside other policies and procedures this year.

Trustees Indemnity

The charity has Trustees' indemnity insurance in place.

Our employees & volunteers

The delivery of our mission relies on our talented and motivated people, and we are proud of the performance of our staff and volunteers across the UK. The trustees and Chief Executive Officer encourage widespread consultation and exchange of information at all levels of the organisation and we continue to work together on a range of actions to improve employee and volunteer engagement, ensuring that RBST remains a great place to work and volunteer.

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

The trustees are committed to addressing equality, diversity and inclusion, recognising that doing so helps a board to make better decisions and means RBST is more likely to stay relevant to those it serves and to deliver its public benefit. Trustees will work to recognise and counter any imbalances in power, perspectives or opportunities in RBST, and in the attitudes and behaviour of trustees, staff and volunteers, so helping to make sure RBST achieves its aims.

The trustees' report was approved by the Board of trustees on xxxxxxxx and was signed on their behalf by:

Gail Sprake

Gail Sprake

Chairman of the Board of trustees

Date: 27th May 2021

Independent Auditors Report

Year Ended 31 December 2020

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of the Rare Breeds Survival Trust (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 December 2020 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, Balance Sheet, Statement of Cashflows and 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 charitable company's affairs as at 31 December 2020, and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

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

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

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

Other information

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

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

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

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

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

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 35, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern,

Independent Auditors Report (continued)

disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

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 specific procedures for this engagement and the extent to which these are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

- Enquiry of management, those charged with governance around actual and potential litigation and claims;
- Enquiry of entity staff in compliance functions to identify any instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations;
- Reviewing minutes of meetings of those charged with governance;
- Reviewing financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations.
- Performing audit work over the risk of management override of controls, including testing of journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness, evaluating the business rationale of significant transactions outside the normal course of business and reviewing accounting estimates for bias.

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

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (UK), we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the charitable company's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the trustees.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the charitable company to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Use of our report

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



Geoffrey Cox BA FCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
For and on behalf of Dafferns LLP, Statutory Auditor
One Eastwood
Binley Business Park
Coventry, CV3 2UB
Date: 27th May 2021

Statement of Financial Activities

(Including Income and Expenditure Account)
Year Ended 31 December 2020

		2020				2019
		Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	**Total**	Total
	Note	£	£	£	**£**	£
Income and endowments from:						
Donations and legacies	2	468,728	-	42,193	**510,921**	344,956
Charitable activities	3	19,950	240	-	**20,190**	45,597
Other trading activities	4	14,795	-	-	**14,795**	11,695
Investments	5	89,780	-	-	**89,780**	125,229
Total income and endowments		**593,253**	**240**	**42,193**	**635,686**	527,477
Expenditure on:						
Raising funds		151,490	-	-	**151,490**	195,566
Investment management fees		15,863	-	-	**15,863**	17,701
Charitable activities	6	323,104	103,344	108,153	**534,601**	502,623
Total expenditure		**490,457**	**103,344**	**108,153**	**701,954**	715,890
Net gains/(losses) on investments	15	(33,789)	-	-	**(33,789)**	345,568
Net income/(expenditure)		**69,007**	**(103,104)**	**(65,960)**	**(100,057)**	157,155
Transfers between funds	20	(32,598)	52,095	(19,497)	**-**	-
Other recognised gains/(losses):						
Gains/(losses) on revaluation of fixed assets	13	-	(12,640)	-	**(12,640)**	1,800
Net movement in funds		**36,409**	**(63,649)**	**(85,457)**	**(112,697)**	158,955
Reconciliation of funds:						
Total funds brought forward	20	923,963	2,265,008	138,576	**3,327,547**	3,168,592
Total funds carried forward	20	**960,372**	**2,201,359**	**53,119**	**3,214,850**	3,327,547

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities. Activities relating to the Gene Bank are disclosed in note 14.

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised during the year.

Balance sheet

Year Ended 31 December 2020

	Note	2020 £	2019 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	13	**119,936**	135,725
Heritage assets	14	**-**	-
Investments	15	**3,051,652**	3,099,220
		3,171,588	3,234,945
Current assets			
Stocks	16	**7,860**	6,870
Debtors	17	**46,969**	81,779
Cash at bank and in hand		**34,810**	54,856
		89,639	143,505
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	18	**46,377**	50,903
Net current assets		**43,262**	92,602
Net assets		**3,214,850**	3,327,547
Charity Funds			
Unrestricted funds	20	**960,372**	923,963
Designated funds	20	**2,201,359**	2,265,008
Restricted funds	20	**53,119**	138,576
Total charity funds		**3,214,850**	3,327,547

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Board on 27th May 2021

Signed on behalf of the Board of trustees

Gail Sprake

Gail Sprake, Chairman of Trustees,

A. P. Pope

Alison Pope, Treasurer

The notes on pages 42 to 53 form part of these financial statements

Company registration number: 01204694

Statement of cash flows

Year Ended 31 December 2020

	2020	2019
	£	£
Cash flow from operating activities	**(116,862)**	(295,529)
Cash flow from investing activities		
Payments to acquire tangible fixed assets	**(6,743)**	-
Payments to acquire investments	**(349,068)**	(6,193)
Receipts from sales of investments	**362,847**	220,436
Interest received	**2,723**	14,480
Dividends received	**87,057**	110,749
Net cash flow from investing activities	**96,816**	339,472
Net decrease in cash and cash equivalents	**(20,046)**	43,943
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 January 2020	**54,856**	10,913
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 December 2020	**34,810**	54,856
Cash and cash equivalents consists of:		
Cash at bank and in hand	**34,810**	54,856
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 December 2020	**34,810**	54,856

	2020	2019
	£	£
Reconciliation of net income/(expenditure) to net cash flow from operating activities		
Net income / (expenditure) for year	**(112,697)**	158,955
Dividends received	**(87,057)**	(110,749)
Interest receivable	**(2,723)**	(14,480)
Depreciation and impairment of tangible fixed assets	**22,532**	8,081
(Gains) / losses on investments	**33,789**	(345,568)
(Increase) / decrease in stock	**(990)**	(830)
(Increase) / decrease in debtors	**34,809**	8,517
Increase / (decrease) in creditors	**(4,525)**	545
Net cash flow from operating activities	**(116,862)**	(295,529)

Analysis of changes in net debt

	31/12/19	Cashflows	**31/12/20**
	£	£	**£**
Cash and cash equivalents	54,856	(20,046)	**34,810**

Notes to the financial statements

Year Ended 31 December 2020

1 Summary of significant accounting policies

(a) General information and basis of preparation

Rare Breeds Survival Trust is an incorporated charity registered in England. In the event of the charity being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member of the charity. The address of the registered office is Avenue Q, Stoneleigh Park, Kenilworth, Warwickshire, CV8 2LG. The nature of the charity's operations and principal activities are:

- For the benefit of the public to ensure the preservation of breeds and breeding groups of domestic farm livestock of importance in the promotion of agriculture being breeds at risk, and having characteristics worthy of preservation in the interests of zoological research and education to ensure the preservation of genes of special or potential value in hybridisation or other work; and
- To conduct, carry out and promote research within all areas of the Trust's interest to increase knowledge and to publish the results of such research.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland issued in October 2019, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006 and UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

The financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis under the historical cost convention, modified to include certain items at fair value. The financial statements are presented in sterling which is the functional currency of the charity and rounded to the nearest £1.

The significant accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all years presented unless otherwise stated.

A network of volunteer support groups is constituted within the Trust and accordingly the accounts include their financial activities.

(b) Funds

Unrestricted funds 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. Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the trustees for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements. The cost of raising and administering such funds is charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

(c) Income recognition

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when the charity is legally entitled to the income after any performance conditions have been met, the amount can be measured reliably, and it is probable that the income will be received.

Subscriptions are included in the Income and Expenditure Account in the accounting period in which they are received.

This treatment is also adopted for the limited number of subscriptions received from new life members.

For donations to be recognised the charity will have been notified of the amounts and the settlement date in writing. If there are conditions attached to the donation and this requires a level of performance before entitlement can be obtained then income is deferred until those conditions are fully met or the fulfilment of those conditions is within the control of the charity and it is probable that they will be fulfilled.

Donated facilities and donated professional services are recognised in income at their fair value when their economic benefit is probable, it can be measured reliably and the charity has control over the item. Fair value is determined on the basis of the value of the gift to the charity, for example the amount the charity would be willing to pay in the open market for such facilities and services. A corresponding amount is recognised in expenditure.

No amount is included in the financial statements for volunteer time in line with the SORP (FRS 102). Further detail is given in the Trustees' Annual Report.

For legacies, entitlement is the earlier of the charity being notified of an impending distribution or the legacy being received. At this point income is recognised. On occasion legacies will be notified to the charity for which it is not possible to measure the amount expected to be distributed. On these occasions, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset and disclosed.

Income from trading activities includes income earned from fundraising events and trading activities to raise funds for the charity. Income is received in exchange for supplying goods and services in order to raise funds and is recognised when entitlement has occurred.

Investment income is earned through holding assets for investment purposes such as shares and property. It includes dividends, interest and rent. Where it is not practicable to identify investment management costs incurred within a scheme with reasonable accuracy the investment income is reported net of these costs. It is included when the amount can be measured reliably. Interest income is recognised using the effective interest method and dividend and rent income is recognised as the charity's right to receive payment is established.

(d) Expenditure recognition

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Expenditure is recognised where there is a legal or constructive obligation to make payments to third parties, it is probable that the settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. It is categorised under the following headings:

- Costs of raising funds includes fundraising and non-charitable trading activities;
- Expenditure on charitable activities includes costs of services and of grants, also support costs and depreciation on related assets; and
- Other expenditure represents those items not falling into the categories above.

Irrecoverable VAT is charged as an expense against the activity for which expenditure arose.

(e) Support costs allocation

Support costs are those that assist the work of the charity but do not directly represent charitable activities and include office costs, governance costs, and administrative payroll costs. They are incurred directly in support of expenditure on the objects of the charity and include project management carried out at Headquarters. All support costs have been allocated on the basis of number of employees. Fund-raising costs are those incurred in seeking voluntary contributions and do not include the costs of disseminating information in support of the charitable activities.

The analysis of these costs is included in note 7.

Notes to the financial statements (continued)

Year Ended 31 December 2020

(f) Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost (or deemed cost) or valuation less accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses. Cost includes costs directly attributable to making the asset capable of operating as intended. Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets, at rates calculated to write off the cost, less estimated residual value, of each asset on a systematic basis over its expected useful life as follows:

Leasehold land and buildings	Over the period of the lease
Office and Computer Equipment	10%-33% according to the nature of the asset
Conservation Breeding Stock (agisted)	Annual Revaluation

(g) Heritage assets

The Gene Bank is a collection of semen and embryos obtained from rare breeds of cattle, horses, sheep, goats and pigs. It acts as an archive to preserve bloodlines of breeds. Each year additions are made to the archive to ensure that it includes the current characteristics of a breed. The archive is regarded as an irreplaceable resource which cannot be valued with any degree of accuracy and will never be sold. As such it generates no income and so has no realisable value. Therefore it does not have a carrying value in the balance sheet. The costs incurred in maintaining the archive for conservation purposes are written off each year.

(h) Investments

Investments are recognised initially at fair value which is normally the transaction price excluding transaction costs. Subsequently, they are measured at fair value with changes recognised in 'net gains / (losses) on investments' in the SoFA if the shares are publicly traded or their fair value can otherwise be measured reliably. Other investments are measured at cost less impairment.

(i) Stocks

Stocks comprise genetic resources, which are not part of the Gene Bank, and goods for resale. Genetic resources are valued at the lower of cost of production and market value. Retail stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

(j) Debtors and creditors receivable / payable within one year

Debtors and creditors with no stated interest rate and receivable or payable within one year are recorded at transaction price. Any losses arising from impairment are recognised in expenditure.

(k) Impairment

Assets not measured at fair value are reviewed for any indication that the asset may be impaired at each balance sheet date. If such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset, or the asset's cash generating unit, is estimated and compared to the carrying amount. Where the carrying amount exceeds its recoverable amount, an impairment loss is recognised in profit or loss unless the asset is carried at a revalued amount where the impairment loss is a revaluation decrease.

(l) Leases

Assets acquired under finance leases are capitalised and depreciated over the shorter of the lease term and the expected useful life of the asset. Minimum lease payments are apportioned between the finance charge and the reduction of the outstanding lease liability using the effective interest method. The related obligations, net of future finance charges, are included in creditors.

Rentals payable and receivable under operating leases are charged to the SoFA on a straight-line basis over the period of the lease.

(m) Employee benefits

When employees have rendered service to the charity, short-term employee benefits to which the employees are entitled are recognised at the undiscounted amount expected to be paid in exchange for that service. The charity operates a defined contribution pension plan for the benefit of its employees. Contributions are expensed as they become payable. The Trust agrees to pay a defined contribution into the employee's own personal pension scheme for eligible employees. The pension charge represents contributions payable by the Trust for the period. The Trust's liability is limited to the amount of the contribution. The liability for meeting future pension payments rests solely with the employee's personal pension scheme.

(n) Tax

The charity is an exempt charity within the meaning of schedule 3 of the Charities Act 2011 and is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes.

(o) Financial instruments

The Trust enters into only basic financial instrument transactions that result in the recognition of financial assets and liabilities like trade and other amounts receivable and payable and loans to related parties. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

(p) Going concern

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis as the trustees believe that no material uncertainties exist. The trustees have considered the level of funds held and the expected level of income and expenditure for 12 months from authorising these financial statements. The budgeted income and expenditure is sufficient with the level of reserves for the charity to be able to continue as a going concern.

2 Income from donations and legacies

	2020	2019
	£	£
Grants and donations	**87,713**	143,512
Legacies	**243,443**	21,594
Membership Subscriptions (including gift aid)	**179,765**	179,850
	510,921	344,956

Of the income from donations and legacies of £331,156 (2019 - £165,106), £42,193 (2019 - £117,420) was attributable to restricted, and £288,963 (2019 - £47,686) was attributable to unrestricted funds.

Income from membership subscriptions was attributable entirely to unrestricted funds.

Notes to the financial statements (continued)

Year Ended 31 December 2020

3 Income from charitable activities

	2020	2019
	£	£
Sale of goods and services (including Support Groups)	**20,190**	45,597

Income from charitable activities includes £nil (2019 - £821) in respect of restricted funds and £20,190 (2019 - £44,776) of unrestricted funds.

4 Income from other trading activities

	2020	2019
	£	£
Advertising revenue	**14,795**	11,695

Income from other trading activities was attributable to unrestricted funds in both years.

5 Income from investments

	2020	2019
	£	£
Dividends - equities	**87,057**	110,749
Interest - fixed interest securities	**2,723**	14,480
	89,780	125,229

Income from investments was attributable to unrestricted funds in both years.

6 Analysis of expenditure on charitable activities

	2020			
	Activities undertaken directly	Grant funding of activities	Support costs	**Total**
	£	£	£	**£**
Conservation Activities (including Support Group)	329,736	-	153,929	**483,665**
ARK Magazine	50,936	-	-	**50,936**
	380,672	**-**	**153,929**	**534,601**

£108,153 (2019 - £75,673) of the above costs were attributable to restricted funds. £103,344 (2019 - £2,987) of the above costs were attributable to designated funds. £323,104 (2019 - £423,963) of the above costs were attributable to unrestricted funds.

7 Allocation of support costs

	2020			
	Raising funds	Conservation Activities	ARK Magazine	**Total**
	£	£	£	**£**
Governance	-	16,234	-	**16,234**
Management salaries and expenses	21,455	75,091	-	**96,546**
Office operational costs and utilities	9,750	34,125	-	**43,875**
Depreciation	2,199	7,693	-	**9,892**
Professional charges	2,374	8,308	-	**10,682**
Irrecoverable VAT	1,783	6,239	-	**8,022**
Other	1,782	6,239	-	**8,021**
Total	**39,343**	**153,929**	**-**	**193,272**

Supports costs, except governance costs, have been allocated based on staff time.

8 Governance costs

		2020	2019
	Note	**£**	£
Trustees' remuneration	11	**-**	-
Trustees' expenses	11	**962**	4,433
Cost of Trustees' meetings and the AGM		**1,110**	2,338
Auditors' remuneration	10	**5,750**	5,250
Legal fees		**8,412**	11,886
		16,234	23,907

9 Net income / (expenditure) for the year

	2020	2019
	£	£
Net income / (expenditure) is stated after charging / (crediting):		
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	**9,892**	9,881
Operating lease rentals	**2,014**	2,013
Loss/(gain) on fair value movement of investments	**33,789**	(345,568)

10 Auditors' remuneration

The auditors' remuneration amounts to an audit fee of £5,750 (2019 - £5,250) and other services of £10,682 (2019 - £10,935).

Notes to the financial statements (continued)

Year Ended 31 December 2020

11 Trustees' and key management personnel remuneration and expenses

The trustees neither received nor waived any remuneration during the year (2019: £nil).

The total amount of employee benefits (these benefits include **employer's** national insurance and pension costs) received by key management personnel is £155,282 (2019:£80,864). The Trust considers its key management personnel to comprise the Chief Executive Officer and Director of Finance and Operations.

Six trustees (2019: five) were reimbursed expenses as follows:	**2020**	2019
	£	£
Travel	**962**	3,729
Subsistence	**-**	91
Accommodation	**-**	613
	962	4,433

12 Staff costs and employee benefits

The average monthly number of employees and full time equivalent (FTE) during the year was as follows:

	2020	**2020**	2019	2019
	Number	FTE	Number	FTE
Raising funds	**2**	**2**	2	1
Charitable activities	**5**	**3**	4	4
Governance	**2**	**2**	3	3
	9	**7**	9	8

The total staff costs and employees' benefits was as follows:	**2020**	2019
	£	£
Wages and salaries	**258,629**	252,093
Social security	**22,680**	25,159
Defined contribution pension costs	**11,775**	11,711
	293,084	288,963

The number of employees receiving total employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) of over £60,000 per year was as follows:

	2020	2019
	No.	No.
£60,001 - £70,000	**1**	-
£70,001 - £80,000	**-**	1
£80,001 - £90,000	**1**	-

13 Tangible fixed assets

	Short Leasehold	Office & Equipment	Conservation Breeding Stock (Agisted)	**Total**
	£	£	£	**£**
Cost or valuation:				
At 31 December 2019	221,443	146,249	46,200	**413,892**
Additions	-	6,743	-	**6,743**
Revaluation	-	-	(12,640)	**(12,640)**
At 31 December 2020	221,443	152,992	33,560	**407,995**
Depreciation:				
At 31 December 2019	137,385	140,782	-	**278,167**
Charge for the year	4,440	5,452	-	**9,892**
At 31 December 2020	141,825	146,234	-	**288,059**
Net book value:				
At 31 December 2020	79,618	6,758	33,560	**119,936**
At 31 December 2019	84,058	5,467	46,200	**135,725**

14 Heritage assets

Heritage assets held are The National Archive Gene Bank and no value has been placed on this asset.

These assets are significant to the charity in order to safeguard the future of rare breeds. Expenditure to acquire preserve and develop The National Archive Gene Bank in the year was £125,140 (2019 - £133,659), £52,095 of these costs were attributable to designated funds and £73,045 attributable to restricted funds.

15 Fixed asset investments

	Listed Investments
	£
Cost or valuation	
At 31 December 2019	**3,099,220**
Additions	**349,068**
Disposals	**(362,847)**
Revaluation	**(33,789)**
At 31 December 2020	**3,051,652**

Investments at fair value comprise:	**2020**	2019
	£	£
Equities & unit trusts	**2,867,103**	2,635,138
Cash within investment portfolio	**184,549**	86,179
Fixed interest securities	**-**	377,903
	3,051,652	3,099,220

The fair value of listed investments is determined by reference to the mid-market value of the unit trusts or quoted share price.

Notes to the financial statements (continued)

Year Ended 31 December 2020

16 Stocks

	2020	2019
	£	£
Semen for sale	**7,860**	6,870

17 Debtors

	2020	2019
	£	£
Trade debtors	**4,250**	6,702
Amounts owed by support groups	**19,316**	43,326
Prepayments and accrued income	**16,114**	27,575
Taxes recoverable	**7,289**	4,176
	46,969	81,779

18 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2020	2019
	£	£
Trade creditors	**11,373**	19,376
Other tax and social security	**7,644**	8,685
Other creditors	**1,702**	2,823
Accruals	**25,658**	20,019
	46,377	50,903

19 Leases

Operating leases – lessee

Total future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases are as follows:

	2020	2019
	£	£
Not later than one year	**2,353**	2,013
Later than one and not later than five years	**9,412**	8,052
Later than five years	**26,169**	28,182
	37,934	38,247

20 Fund reconciliation

	Balance at 31 December 2019	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Gains / (losses)	Balance at 31 December 2020
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds						
Unrestricted	**923,963**	593,253	(490,457)	(32,598)	(33,789)	**960,372**
Designated Funds						
Gene Bank	**2,000,000**	-	(52,095)	52,095	-	**2,000,000**
Conservation – Breed Stock (Agisted)	**45,959**	240	-	-	(12,640)	**33,559**
Linga Holm	**12,812**	-	-	-	-	**12,812**
Sandringham Charitable Trust	**19,237**	-	-	-	-	**19,237**
Property improvement fund	**132,000**	-	-	-	-	**132,000**
Lop Fund	**55,000**	-	(51,249)	-	-	**3,751**
	2,265,008	240	(103,344)	52,095	(12,640)	**2,201,359**

Unrestricted funds description

Unrestricted funds are those funds 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.

Designated funds description

The archive Gene Bank is held to maintain the Heritage Assets for the benefit of the next generation.

The Conservation Breeding Stock (Agisted), reserve is the value of RBST rare breed stock on loan to livestock keepers to increase rare breed population numbers.

The Linga Holm Fund derives from the sale of certain assets in 2000. It is available for the conservation of North Ronaldsay sheep in the first instance.

Sandringham Charitable Trust was created from legacies received for the pursuance of conservation projects.

The Property improvement fund relates to the proposed refurbishment of the premises at Stoneleigh Park.

The Lop Fund was created to help support the work in regard to British Lop pigs, along with the donation received from the Gerald Fallowes Discretionary Trust

Restricted funds and Trusts

We are extremely grateful to the charitable trusts and foundations that support our work. Some trusts provide general funding, while others prefer to sponsor specific projects as detailed on page 52.

Notes to the financial statements (continued)

Year Ended 31 December 2020

Restricted funds Fund Descriptions	Balance at 31 December 2019 £	Income £	Expend-iture £	Transfers £	Gains / (losses) £	Balance at 31 December 2020 £
Restricted cattle conservation						
2019 - Cattle Campaign	**2,461**	715	(3,156)	-	-	**20**
N Bailey Albion Fund	**1,000**	-	(242)	(31)	-	**727**
Vaynol project	**-**	1,300	(300)	-	-	**1,000**
Restricted equine conservation						
Cleveland bay - N Bailey	**-**	1,500	-	-	-	**1,500**
Heavy Horse Appeal 2017	**13,081**	2,944	(7,417)	(1,458)	-	**7,150**
Marjorie Coote Animal Charity Trust	**4,302**	-	(1,668)	-	-	**2,634**
The Saintbury Trust	**1**	-	-	-	-	**1**
Restricted goat conservation						
Goat Appeal	**1,196**	-	-	-	-	**1,196**
John Spedan Lewis Foundation	**1,463**	-	-	-	-	**1,463**
Restricted pig conservation						
Gerald Fallowes Discretionary Will Trust (received in 2017)	**57**	-	-	-	-	**57**
Gerald Fallowes Pigs BPA	**18,182**	-	(15,600)	-	-	**2,582**
Henry Robert Bull Charitable Trust	**2,100**	-	-	-	-	**2,100**
PG Fallowes Lop Project	**14,748**	18,900	(33,648)	-	-	**-**
The Saintbury Trust	**3,000**	-	-	-	-	**3,000**
PF Charitable Trust	**3,300**	-	-	-	-	**3,300**
Restricted sheep conservation						
Love a Longwool Appeal	**-**	12,579	-	-	-	**12,579**
Rosie Green Wool Sheep Fund	**831**	1,715	-	-	-	**2,546**
Restricted poultry conservation						
Poultry general	**291**	240	-	-	-	**531**
Luton & District Poultry Group	**212**	-	(137)	-	-	**75**
Turkey Appeal 2016	**2,994**	-	(2,994)	-	-	**-**
Restricted Other projects						
Somerset Conservation Fund	**2**	-	-	-	-	**2**
Conservation general	**395**	2,250	(836)	(8)	-	**1,801**
North Ronaldsay Dyke Appeal	**5,000**	50	-	-	-	**5,050**
Farm Park - Princes Charities Fund	**63,960**	-	(42,155)	(18,000)	-	**3,805**
	138,576	42,193	(108,153)	(19,497)	-	**53,119**

21 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	**Total**
	£	£	£	**£**
Fixed assets	970,229	2,201,359	-	**3,171,588**
Cash and current investments	(10,450)	-	45,260	**34,810**
Other current assets / liabilities	593	-	7,859	**8,452**
Total	**960,372**	**2,201,359**	**53,119**	**3,214,850**

22 Pensions and other post-retirement benefits

Defined contribution pension plans

The charity operates a defined contribution pension plan for its employees. The amount recognised as an expense in the period was £11,775 (2019 - £11,711).

The defined contribution liability is allocated to unrestricted funds being raising funds £734 and conservation activities £1,011.

23 Contingent asset

At 31 December 2020 there was a contingent asset of £120,400 relating to a legacy.

24 Related party transactions

There are no related party transactions during the period (2019-None).

Leaving a gift in your Will could be the greatest difference you ever make!

Planning for the future

RBST depends heavily on voluntary donations. Without the incredible generosity of our members and supporters, we simply couldn't continue our vital work in research, conservation and saving rare breeds. We know that with the help of generous donors like you, RBST can continue striving to achieve its crucial goal, to ensure that the genetic diversity represented by our native breeds is safeguarded for many years to come. Our vision is a secure future for each of the UK's native breeds of livestock to ensure long-term food security, the conservation of important habitats and landscapes and the preservation of the UK's culture. Help ensure our native farm animals have a secure future and can be enjoyed by generations to come.

What to do?

If you have already made a Will but you are considering including a gift to RBST, your solicitor will advise you on the correct wording to update your Will. You will need to provide your solicitor with our charity details. For your convenience, we have provided this here:

The Rare Breeds Survival Trust, Stoneleigh Park, Kenilworth, Warwickshire, CV8 2LG.
(Registered Charity no. 269442).

Please also state that you wish to make the gift for the 'general purposes' of Rare Breeds Survival Trust.

Our promise

RBST will always respect your privacy. Your information will be handled with the utmost confidentiality and we will never ask the amount of your legacy. We understand and respect that you will want to remember family and friends first when planning for the future, but we hope that once you've taken care of your loved ones, you'll consider leaving a legacy gift in your Will, as a lasting way to support the future of RBST.

No Will yet?

Have you thought about leaving a gift in your Will to RBST? This year we have partnered with Free Wills Month. They bring together a group of well-respected charities to offer members of the public aged 55 and over, giving you the opportunity to support RBST and have a simple Will written or updated for free, by using one of their participating solicitors. The next campaign opens on 1st October 2021, you can register your interest here **www.freewillsmonth.org.uk/** and receive an email reminding you that the campaign has started. An up-to-date Will written by a solicitor ensures your wishes are respected. It also avoids difficult decisions and legal complications for your loved ones.



RBST
Rare Breeds Survival Trust



If you have any questions, visit our website, call 02476 69551 or email fundraising@rbst.org.uk.

Rare Breeds Survival Trust (RBST), Stoneleigh Park, Kenilworth, Warwickshire, CV8 2LG
Registered Charity Number 269442 (England and Wales)

Corporate Directory

Charity Reference and Administrative Details: As at the date of this report

Charity registration number 269442
Company registration number 01204694

Patron
His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales, KG, KT, GCB, OM, AK, CD, QSO, PC.

President
Jimmy Doherty

Vice Presidents
Martin Beard (appointed 22 October 2020)
Miss Elizabeth Buchanan, C.V.O, FRAgS
J Alan C Black
The Earl De La Warr, DL (appointed 22 October 2020)
Lord Iliffe

Chief Executive Officer
Christopher Price

Trustees
John Atkinson
Tom Davis (re-elected 22 October 2020)
James Fanshawe (elected 22 October 2020)
Kate Green (co-opted 25 February 2021)
Catherine Lascelles (elected 22 October 2020)
Dameon Layt (Stood down AGM 22 October 2020)
Catherine Le Grice-Mack (co-opted 25 February 2021)
Sandra Mansell (stood down AGM 22 October 2020)
Prof Tim Morris
Ryan Perry
Alison Pope
Claire Saunders
Gail Sprake

Conservation and Research Committee
Tom Davis, James Fanshawe, Tim Morris, Ryan Perry, Claire Saunders, John Atkinson, Marcus Bates (British Pig Association - in attendance)
In attendance: Christopher Price

Finance and Governance Committee
John Atkinson, Catherine Lascelles, Alison Pope, Gail Sprake
In attendance: Christopher Price, Claire McNicol

Registered office
Avenue Q, Stoneleigh Park, Kenilworth, Warwickshire, CV8 2LG

Honorary Ambassadors
Peter Hayford, Poultry
Nigel Oakley, Heavy Horses
Cyrus Todiwala OBE, DL, Chef
John Wilkes, North America

Auditor
Dafferns LLP
One Eastwood
Harry Weston Road
Binley Business Park, Binley
Coventry, CV3 2UB

Legal advisors
Lodders LLP
10 Elm Court
Arden Street
Stratford upon Avon
Warwickshire, CV37 6PA

Bankers
Barclays Bank, 48/50 The Parade,
Leamington Spa CV32 4DD

Investment managers
Smith and Williamson
25 Moorgate
London, EC2R 6AY

Staff
Claire McNicol: Director of Finance & Operations and Company Secretary
Jo Linforth: Head of Members and Partnerships
Tom Blunt: Field Officer
Rachel Foley: Customer Services
Andrea Parry-Jones: Farm Parks Project Officer
Jean Henderson: Conservation Assistant (Part Time)
Hilary Young: Customer Services Assistant (Part Time)

RBST
Rare Breeds Survival Trust

rbst.org.uk
enquiries@rbst.org.uk
024 7669 6551

Patron: His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales KG KT GCB
Company Limited by Guarantee Registered in England No.01204694
Registered Charity No.269442

#GoNative

RBST's Corporate Supporters

Dengie Crops Ltd

NFU Mutual Insurance Group

Statkraft

Horny Cow

Farm Innovation Show

Peter Hunter Seeds Ltd

Dumfries House Home Farm Ltd

Foundation for Water Research

Wulydermy

Old Hall Farm Woodton

Royal Ulster Agricultural Society

Sledmere Estate

Grimblethorpe Hall

Yorkshire Agricultural Society

Wychwood Farm

Marsh Christian Trust

Dunwood Farm

Edge & Son Butchers

Kelly Turkey Farms Ltd

South of England Agricultural Society

Incredible Eggs Franchise Ltd

& Glebe Meadow Fishery