

# NORTH WEST ECOLOGICAL TRUST

England & Wales · Charity number 327788

## Details

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**Status** Registered

**Legal form** Other

**Registered** 1988-07-11

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

## Contact

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**Address** Lydiate Windmill  
Liverpool Road  
Lydiate  
Merseyside  
L31 2LY

**Phone** 07761 212636

**Email** [BELTANE57@GMAIL.COM](mailto:BELTANE57@GMAIL.COM)

**Website** [nwecotrust.org.uk](http://nwecotrust.org.uk)

## Activities

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**Objects:** TO PROMOTE THE CONSERVATION, PROTECTION AND ENHANCEMENT OF NATURE AND THE AMENITIES OF THE COUNTRY IN THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND FOR THE PURPOSES OF STUDY AND RESEARCH AND OTHERWISE FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PUBLIC AND TO EDUCATE AND STIMULATE THE INTEREST OF THE PUBLIC IN ALL THINGS AND AREAS OF NATURAL AND SCIENTIFIC INTEREST.

**Activities:** To promote the conservation, protection and enhancement of nature and the amenities of the country in the UK for the purpose of study and research and otherwise for the benefit of the public and to educate and stimulate the interest of the public in all things and areas of natural and scientific interest and to acquire suitable areas of land for the purpose of nature conservation.

## Classification

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- **How:** Provides Human Resources, Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services
- **What:** Environment/conservation/heritage
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities, The General Public/mankind

## Geography

- **Area of benefit:** UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND
- Lancashire
- Liverpool City
- Sefton

## Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-06-30	-	-	-	-
2024-06-30	£38,666	£30,769	-	-
2023-06-30	£32,016	£43,727	-	-
2022-06-30	£32,131	£34,984	-	-
2021-06-30	£26,180	£19,850	-	-
2020-06-30	£54,384	£28,926	-	-

## Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
<b>DEREK EDWARD ATKINS</b>	Chair	
JOHN BERRY		
JONATHAN WILLIAM ATKINS		

**NORTH WEST ECOLOGICAL TRUST**

England & Wales - Charity number 327788

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# Accounts

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## **Annual Report 2023 -24**

This report covers activities from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2023 to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2024

### **Introduction**

Over this period most of our work has focussed on the continuing development and maintenance of Gorse Hill Nature Reserve and this report concentrates on our progress and the monitoring of our flora and fauna. The Management Committee met once a month during this reporting period and sub groups met regularly to progress Publicity and Project Development; the principal officers are the Trustees, Treasurer and Secretary.

### **Gorse Hill**

All the work on the Reserve is carried out by volunteers; we have no paid staff. Volunteer work parties meet every Wednesday and Saturday. Since Covid the group of adults with learning difficulties has not reformed. Open Sundays are run on the first Sunday of the month from July - September with a cafe and guided walks. From October 2023 opening was extended to every Sunday from 1-4pm with a café run by volunteers. To boost sales a series of events were publicised that included a Santa's grotto, Snowdrop Sundays, Easter Bunny Trail and Bluebell and Blossom trails to name but a few.

Other work that took place included topping up and cleaning the bird feeding stations twice a week, hedgelaying the southern boundary of Cabin Wood, cutting out alder and willow in the 24 Acre reedbed, cutting a section of the reedbed and dredging Seldom Pond.

We also joined the Ready to Burn log sales scheme via the Small Woods Woodfuel Group that certifies us to sell seasoned mixed wood that is guaranteed less than 20% moisture content.

Snowdrops, native wild daffodils and bluebells in the green were planted in Cabin Wood. The Reserve provides a wide diversity of habitats from ponds and wetlands to meadows, woodland and heathland, encouraging small mammals, birds (both resident and migratory), insects and amphibians.

### **Meadows**

Haymaking in three meadows started in August with the 5Acre but due to earlier than forecast rain, the crop was sold at half the usual price. Two more meadows were harvested successfully in early September. The great advantage this year was the new pole barn we built. For the first time we could unload hay trailers with the tractor bale grab and stack in the barn. This hugely reduced the labour input. The hay was gradually sold over the year to our regular customers. From May to late August the 5Acre provided visitors with access to the wildflowers and wildlife via a mown path circuit through the meadow.

### **Polytunnel**

Vegetable and salad crop production was boosted by new management by one of our volunteers who is very experienced in permaculture techniques. Raised planting beds were constructed and expanded as areas previously used for storage were cleared. This resulted in 20 varieties of produce being grown in the first season. Hanging strawberry beds were constructed and wire mesh dug into the ground to increase protection from mice and rabbits. A trickle irrigation system was extended across the beds to enable regular but targeted irrigation that reduced our mains water consumption. New crops were sown in November, were harvested in February with a further round of sowing for late spring and summer consumption. Sales have grown with regular supplies.

### **Polytunnel Barn**

This received its first hay bales in late August and September. The mechanical unloading of hay bale trailers made bale collection, storage and later distribution much less labour intensive and made all the construction work worthwhile.

### **Orchards**

Early work consisted of thinning out excess small fruit, weeding and foliar feeding. The grass in Heritage Orchard was cut in August, allowing the carpet of cowslips and other wild flowers to set seed. 12Acre Orchard was cut sooner and most of the old sheep netting tree guards removed because the posts and wires were wounding the branches. Green plastic tree guards were fitted to each tree to provide protection from deer grazing over the winter.

Apple picking started in mid-August, with many normally later cropping varieties cropping early. It was noticeable that the apples were smaller on the barked trees. Apple juice making started in mid-August and ran through to

December. The new bottled juice storage unit proved very useful, streamlining our production. The new hay barn meant that the production areas were much less dusty and could be kept cleaner with less work. The trees that were barked by roe deer last year produced less blossom and smaller apples. We were very relieved that they produced what they did and hope that in time we will see production return to normal. The Apple Weekend raised over £1500 and we were able to make good use of the extra space in the New Barn as it was now free from hay bales.

### **Education and Monitoring**

Again our 150 bird boxes were cleaned out over early winter by students from Edge Hill University and major repairs and replacements undertaken by a small group of workshop volunteers. Recording bird activity during the breeding season was undertaken by two pairs of MSc students.

Despite our best efforts the new swift boxes failed to attract residents despite the continued use of the swift call recordings. Bird life and mammal activity is monitored regularly and the results logged on to BirdTrack which is run by BTO. Additional surveys are also carried out by MSc students and moth results are sent to the County Recorder. The Moth and Newt evening was a success with visitors able to watch by torchlight, newts swimming around in Seldom Pond and were then able to observe moths being attracted to the moth traps and later being identified. Likewise, the Blossom and Bluebell Sunday allowed visitors to marvel at the blossoms in the Heritage Orchard followed by the English bluebells in Bluebell Wood.

Duke of Edinburgh students continue to use us for their volunteering and skills sections of their awards.

### **Publicity**

A new website [www.gorsehillnaturereserve.co.uk](http://www.gorsehillnaturereserve.co.uk) was discussed and is gradually being introduced and updated with Facebook and Twitter being used. Two issues of Nature Trail were published for our subscription supporters during the year. We also continued opening every Sunday, providing a café and access to Cabin Wood and used this to promote our work.

### **Finance and Administration**

Our main income streams have come from grants, hay, apple juice, café and log sales, subscriptions and gift aid. More detailed finances can be found in the annual accounts for this period.

### **Conclusion**

We are very grateful to the many volunteers who give up their free time to help with the work developing Gorse Hill Nature Reserve. We could not have achieved any of this without the dedication of our volunteers and supporters.

J. Atkins B.Sc. C.Biol. MSB  
Secretary to the Trust


**INCOME EXPENDITURE REPORT JUL 23 - JUN 2024**

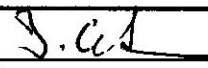
<i>Current Account</i>		
Opening Balance	1st July 2023	£16,234.66
Total Income		£29,745.72
Total Expenditure		£32,787.69
Closing Balance	30th June 2024	£13,192.69

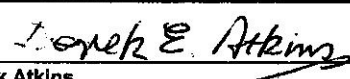

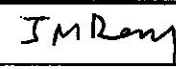
<i>Petty Cash</i>		
Opening Balance	1st July 2023	£281.33
Drawn from Current		£249.00
Closing Balance	30th June 2024	£255.01
Petty Cash Spent		£275.32

<i>Summary of 2023-2024</i>		
<i>Assets at 1st July 2023</i>		
Cash at Bank		£16,234.66
Petty Cash		£281.33
Total Cash		£16,515.99
<i>Assets Changes in 2023-2024</i>		
Total Income (includes opening balance)		£45,980.38
Total Expenditure (less petty cash drawn)		-£32,538.69
Petty Cash Spent		-£275.32
Asset Change in year		£13,166.37
<i>Assets at 30th June 2024</i>		
Cash at Bank		£13,192.69
Petty Cash		£255.01
Total Cash		£13,447.70
Net Change in Assets		£13,166.37

**THE ABOVE IS A FAIR AND TRUE RECORD OF THE STATE OF THE ACCOUNTS OF NORTH WEST**

<i>Hon Treasurer</i>	<i>Dated</i>
	15.10.24
Kate Wildman	

<i>Hon Auditor</i>	<i>Dated</i>
	15 <sup>th</sup> October 2024
Ian Culshaw	

<i>Trustees</i>	<i>Dated</i>
	16/10/24.
Derek Atkins	
	12/11/24
Jonathan Atkins	
	12-11-24
John Berry	





Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

**Report to the trustees/  
members of**

North West Ecological Trust

**On accounts for the year  
ended**

30/06/2024

**Charity no  
(if any)**

327788

**Responsibilities and  
basis of report**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 30/06/2020.

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

**Independent  
examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (other than that disclosed below \*) which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

\* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

**Signed:**

**Date:**

15<sup>th</sup> October 2024

**Name:**

Ian Culshaw

**Relevant professional  
qualification(s) or body  
(if any):**

**Address:**

27 Westover Road, Maghull

Liverpool

L31 7BT



**NORTH WEST ECOLOGICAL TRUST**

England & Wales - Charity number 327788

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# Accounts

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## **Annual Report 2022 -23**

This report covers activities from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2022 to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2023

### **Introduction**

Over this period most of our work has focussed on the continuing development and maintenance of Gorse Hill Nature Reserve and this report concentrates on our progress and the monitoring of our flora and fauna. The Management Committee met once a month during this reporting period and sub groups met regularly to progress Publicity and Project Development; the principal officers are the Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary.

### **Gorse Hill**

All the work on the Reserve is carried out by volunteers; we have no paid staff. Volunteer work parties meet every Wednesday and Saturday. There is also a group of adults with learning difficulties that work on the Reserve on Fridays. Open Sundays are run on the first Sunday of the month from April - September with a cafe and guided walks. The Reserve provides a wide diversity of habitats from ponds and wetlands to meadows, woodland and heathland; encouraging small mammals, birds (both resident and migratory), insects and amphibians.

### **Meadows**

Haymaking in three meadows started in late July, followed by another session in August. The more efficient, new to us, bale accumulator was a delight after so many years of manual handling in the fields. The main labour was now concentrated on unloading and stacking the bales by hand in the new barn. The hay was gradually sold over the year to our regular customers. Little other work took place in the meadows this year.

### **Polytunnel**

Produce continued to be grown in the polytunnel, though one of the tunnels developed a rip along one of the hoops during a particularly windy period. The covering was rescued by taping up the rip from the outside and then the inside. However, the tension in the hoop had been lost and gradually further rips developed over time but we have been able to keep it in one piece. The central span was taken over for work associated with the new polytunnel barn construction.

### **Polytunnel Barn**

West Lancashire Borough Council finally gave permission for the construction of a pole barn next to the polytunnel, after two years of consultation. The barn with one open side would give easy access for the tractor and bale grab. This in future will remove the laborious work of stacking hay bales by hand.

Construction started in August took a year, with the ground needing to be built up, given the sloping site before the 15 posts could be constructed and positioned. Bracing, roofing and Yorkshire boarding followed. The deadline of June was met and the barn was ready to accept the first hay bales.

### **Orchards**

Early work consisted of thinning out excess small fruit, weeding and foliar feeding. The grass in Heritage Orchard was cut in August, allowing the carpet of cowslips and other wild flowers to set seed. 12Acre Orchard was cut sooner and most of the old sheep netting tree guards removed because the posts and wires were wounding the branches.

Apple picking started in mid-August, with many normally later cropping varieties cropping early. It was noticeable that the apples were smaller on the barked trees. Apple juice making started in mid-August and ran through to December. In October we were inspected by Environmental Health and got

a 5\* rating. A new bottled juice storage area was constructed next to the Juicing Unit. This houses the crates of apple juice in a logical production date sequence.

During a particularly cold few weeks in the winter, Roe deer ate the bark from the trunks of a third of the apple trees in the Heritage Orchard. Guards were quickly replaced around the trees and we waited to see what impact this would have on fruit production later in the year.

The Apple Weekend was at last free from Covid restrictions, so we were able to run all the activities and were blessed with two rain-free days and the café in the Cabin.

Following this, construction started on a new storage unit in the New Barn for our bottles of apple juice. The insulated area keeps the juice at a constant temperature and allows us to keep the production in date order.

### **Education and Monitoring**

This year our 150 bird boxes were cleaned out over early winter by students from Edge Hill University and any major repairs to the bird boxes made. Recording bird activity during the breeding season was again undertaken by two separate student groups. Two undergraduates surveyed Willow Bank and Bluebell Woods whilst an M.Sc. student undertook Cabin Wood, North and Triangle Woods. One of the new great tit boxes was occupied within a week, whilst a tawny owl box was commandeered by a barn owl for the first time.

We also completed a project to construct and install 2 swift boxes on the west facing elevation of the new barn. This was linked to a loudspeaker on a timer that repeated swift calls for 2 hours after sunrise and before sunset. The swift breeding season of mid-May to mid-July came and went without attracting any birds.

The Moth and Newt evening was a success with visitors able to watch by torchlight, newts swimming around in Seldom Pond and were then able to observe moths being attracted to the moth traps and later being identified.

Likewise, the Blossom and Bluebell Sunday allowed visitors to marvel at the blossoms in the Heritage Orchard followed by the bluebells in Bluebell Wood.

There is also a new attraction in Cabin Wood. Lelia painted and Mitch erected a series of birds with their corresponding egg paintings that formed a new trail through the wood.

Duke of Edinburgh students continue to use us for their volunteering and skills sections of their awards.

### **Publicity**

The website, Facebook and Twitter have been kept up to date and two issues of Nature Trail published for our subscription supporters. The Northwest Bird Watching Festival at Martin Mere was attended with our stand and we gave a Power Point talk in their lecture theatre. We also continued opening on the first Sunday of the month, providing a café and access to Cabin Wood.

### **Finance and Administration**

Our main income streams have come from grants, hay and log sales, subscriptions and gift aid. More detailed finances can be found in the annual accounts for this period.

### **Conclusion**

We are very grateful to the many volunteers who give up their free time to help with the work developing Gorse Hill Nature Reserve. We could not have achieved any of this without the dedication of our volunteers and supporters.

J. Atkins B.Sc. C.Biol. MSB  
Secretary to the Trust


INCOME EXPENDITURE REPORT JUL 22 - JUN 2023


<b>Current Account</b>		
Opening Balance	1st July 2022	£27,946.59
Total Income		£32,015.18
Total Expenditure		£43,727.11
Closing Balance	30th June 2023	£16,234.66



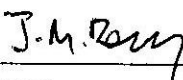
<b>Petty Cash</b>		
Opening Balance	1st July 2022	£157.86
Drawn from Current		£1,458.61
Closing Balance	30th June 2023	£281.33
Petty Cash Spent		£1,335.14

<b>Summary of 2022-2023</b>		
<b>Assets at 1st July 2022</b>		
Cash at Bank		£27,946.59
Petty Cash		£157.86
<b>Total cash</b>		<b>£28,104.45</b>
<b>Assets Changes in 2022-2023</b>		
Total Income		£59,961.77
Total Expenditure (less petty cash drawn)		-£42,268.50
Petty Cash Spent		-£1,335.14
<b>Asset Change in year</b>		
<b>Assets at 30th June 2023</b>		
Cash at Bank		£16,234.66
Petty Cash		£281.33
<b>Total cash</b>		<b>£16,515.99</b>
<b>Net Change in Assets</b>		

THE ABOVE IS A FAIR AND TRUE RECORD OF THE STATE OF THE ACCOUNTS OF NORTH WEST ECOLOGICAL TRUST FOR THE FINANCIAL PERIOD ENDING 30TH JUNE 2023

Hon Treasurer	Dated
	12.10.23
Kate Wildman	

Hon Auditor	Dated
	19 <sup>th</sup> October 2023
Ian Culshaw	

Trustees	Dated
	26/10/23
Derek Atkins	
	26.10.23
Jonathan Atkins	
	29-10-2023
John Berry	



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/  
members of

North West Ecological Trust

On accounts for the year  
ended

30/06/2023

Charity no  
(if any)

327788

Responsibilities and  
basis of report

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Independent  
examiner's statement

~~[The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of [insert name of applicable listed body]]. Delete [ ] if not applicable.~~

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (~~other than that disclosed below~~\*) which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
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\* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed:

Date:

19<sup>th</sup> October 2023

Name:

Ian Culshaw

Relevant professional  
qualification(s) or body  
(if any):

Address:

27 Westover Road, Maghull

Liverpool

L31 7BT

**NORTH WEST ECOLOGICAL TRUST**

England & Wales - Charity number 327788

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# Accounts

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### **Introduction**

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### **Covid 19**

With our volunteer force back to full strength there were still some restrictions in place, particularly catering, where all volunteers had to bring their own flasks and events restricted.

### **Woodland**

Winter storms felled several trees and together with supplies from a local tree surgeon, empty log drying bays soon replaced the brisk sale of logs over the winter. We started measuring the moisture content of logs inline with advice from Woodsure and the Ready to Burn Government accreditation scheme being adapted for smaller producers. The log cutting process was speeded up with the construction of some frames that held more logs in place.

Woodland paths needed clearing more often and more hazels were coppiced, following the three-year rotation programme.

and following Snowdrop Sunday in February some of the larger clumps were split and re-planted.

The Blossom and Bluebell Day on 1<sup>st</sup> May attracted visitors for a guided walk to marvel at the blossom in the Heritage Orchard and the bluebells in Bluebell Wood.

### **Meadows**

The 5Acre was cut immediately after our National Garden Scheme Meadows Day. This reduced the interest for visitors over mid and late summer but was felt necessary to reduce the vigour of the grasses and let the wildflowers be more dominant in the future. There were two hay-making periods and more time spent pulling ragwort in the Cut Lane meadow. Annual watch on thistle and ragwort has reduced the time needed each year in their control. Margaret's Meadow had yellow rattle seed sown in mid-winter with the aim of suppressing the grass growth and benefitting the wildflowers.

A new hedge was planted along the fence at the back of Holly Houses gardens. This low hedge of holly, cotoneaster, berberis and honeysuckle is designed to attract bees and other pollinating insects.

### **Polytunnel**

The new log stores were completed and a good harvest of produce made. As temperatures cooled off in the polytunnel after the summer, wet days were used to clear beds and prepare for the following season. We found that ladders suspended from the polytunnel hoops kept the germinating seed and seedlings safe from mice and increased growth success considerably.

### **Orchards**

Summer work concentrated on hand clearing grass from round the trees in the 12Acre Orchard. To reduce the workload some ground-cover matting was removed from some trees in the Heritage Orchard, whilst the rest of the matting was scraped by hand to remove weed growth – an arduous task.

We have noticed that most of the trees have been cropping earlier each year. This was no exception, some of the later varieties had cropped by late September. With good cropping we were able to produce over 2000 bottles of apple juice.

### **Apple Weekend 1-2 October**

The Apple Weekend success was dampened by a wet first day that did effect sales, with the stalls being outside under breezy gazebos. The café was able to function but used the old barn (with large doors open) for ventilation and distancing purposes as Covid 19 was still a big issue. Numbers of the public doubled from last year. However, parking became an issue because the field became un-usable after the first day so cars had to park along Holly Lane.

### **The Narnia Experience 18-19 December**

A new collaboration with Christ Church, our neighbours, designed to raise funds and develop closer ties with the local community. A trail was designed through Cabin Wood with a number of stations acting out significant scenes from the book The Lion the With and the Wardrobe by C. S. Lewis and incorporating Father Christmas. This was a very successful event that involved considerable planning and much of our focus during the months preceding it. With Covid restrictions still in place, the café was held in our cold barn which limited sales.

### **Workshop**

A new equipment and tool store gradually took shape over 2022. This secure extension to the workshop is designed for limited access to our more valuable items. One of our existing small and less secure tool stores was converted into a store for cleaning materials.

### **Education and Monitoring**

The schools programme has not got back to normal but links with Edge Hill University continue to develop with four second year students from the new medical school choosing to volunteer with us as part of their course. The annual bird box cleaning, maintenance and surveying programme was aided by students from Edge Hill University and Myerscough Agriculture College.

### **Publicity**

The website, Facebook and Twitter have been kept up to date and two issues of Nature Trail published for our subscription supporters. The Northwest Bird

Watching Festival at Martin Mere was attended with our stand and we gave a Power Point talk in their lecture theatre. We also continued opening on the first Sunday of the month, providing a café and access to Cabin Wood during the later part of 2022.

### **Finance and Administration**

Our main income streams have come from grants, hay and log sales, subscriptions and gift aid. More detailed finances can be found in the annual accounts for this period.

### **Conclusion**

We are very grateful to the many volunteers who give up their free time to help with the work developing Gorse Hill Nature Reserve. We could not have achieved any of this without the dedication of our volunteers and supporters.

J. Atkins B.Sc. C.Biol. MSB  
Secretary to the Trust

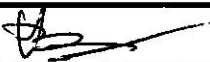
**INCOME EXPENDITURE REPORT JUL 21 - JUN 2022**


<b>Current Account</b>		
Opening Balance	1st July 2021	£30,798.70
Total Income		£32,131.90
Total Expenditure		£34,984.01
Closing Balance	30th June 2022	£27,946.59


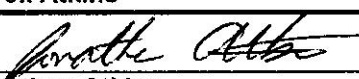
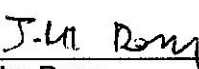
<b>Petty Cash</b>		
Opening Balance	1st July 2021	£197.88
Drawn from Current		£430.00
Closing Balance	30th June 2022	£157.86
Petty Cash Spent		£470.02

<b>Summary of 2021-22</b>		
<b>Assets at 1st July 2021</b>		
Cash at Bank		£30,798.70
Petty Cash		£197.88
Total cash		£30,996.58
<b>Assets Changes in 2021-2022</b>		
Total Income		£62,930.60
Total Expenditure (less petty cash drawn)		-£34,554.01
Petty Cash Spent		-£470.02
Asset Change in year		£27,906.57
<b>Assets at 30th June 2022</b>		
Cash at Bank		£27,946.59
Petty Cash		£157.86
Total cash		£28,104.45
Net Change in Assets		£27,906.57

**THE ABOVE IS A FAIR AND TRUE RECORD OF THE STATE OF THE ACCOUNTS OF  
NORTH WEST ECOLOGICAL TRUST FOR THE FINANCIAL PERIOD ENDING 30TH JUNE  
2022**

<b>Hon Treasurer</b>	<b>Dated</b>
	6.12.22
Kate Wildman	

<b>Hon Auditor</b>	<b>Dated</b>
	20.12.22
Ian Culshaw	

<b>Trustees</b>	<b>Dated</b>
	4/1/23
Derek Atkins	
	4/1/23
Jonathan Atkins	
	4-1-2023
John Berry	



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/  
members of

North West Ecological Trust

On accounts for the year  
ended

30/06/2022

Charity no  
(if any)

327788

Responsibilities and  
basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 30/06/2020.

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent  
examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:

Date:

20/12/2022

Name:

Ian Culshaw

Relevant professional  
qualification(s) or body  
(if any):

Address:

27 Westover Road, Maghull

Liverpool

L31 7BT

**NORTH WEST ECOLOGICAL TRUST**

England & Wales - Charity number 327788

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# Accounts

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## **Annual Report 2020 -21**

This report covers activities from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2020 to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2021

### **Introduction**

Over this period most of our work has focussed on the continuing development and maintenance of Gorse Hill Nature Reserve and this report concentrates on our progress and the monitoring of our flora and fauna. The Management Committee met once a month during this reporting period and sub groups met regularly to progress Publicity and Project Development; the principal officers are the Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary.

### **Gorse Hill**

All the work on the Reserve is carried out by volunteers; we have no paid staff. Volunteer work parties meet every Wednesday and Saturday. There is also a group of adults with learning difficulties that work on the Reserve on Fridays. Open Sundays are run on the first Sunday of the month from April - September with a cafe and guided walks. The Reserve provides a wide diversity of habitats from ponds and wetlands to meadows, woodland and heathland; encouraging small mammals, birds (both resident and migratory), insects and amphibians.

### **Covid 19**

Our volunteer programme resumed on a restricted number basis from June 2020, following official guidelines and with a strict cleaning regime. There were numerous revisions of our risk assessments and further restrictions in October put us into tier 3 lockdown. The lockdown period brought a huge influx of visitors over the winter and spring but sadly brought much extra litter picking duties, particularly on the Outcrop area.

### **Woodland**

Some thinning took place in Willow Bank and Bluebell Woods and our log storage bays filled with the addition of wind-blown trees. Six new log storage/drying bays were constructed. Hedges were flailed according to our three-year rotational programme before the February cut-off point for breeding birds. New woodlands were planted up in two corners of Triangle Wood Meadow and remaining trees lined out for future transplanting.

The annual bird box maintenance took place, with 134 boxes completed by early January 2021.

A one-way route was maintained through Cabin Wood (apart from when the sheep were resident in November), snowdrops clumps were divided and bramble kept in check

### **Meadows**

Haymaking took place in August and September, the timing dictated by the weather and technical issues. One of our tractors broke mid harvest with a broken hydraulic pump, leaving us to carry on with only one tractor - a much slower process. We relied upon a small army of 20 volunteers to load trailers in the fields and unload the bales and stack in the barn because the broken tractor had the loader and bale grab attached.

Over the winter one of the copses in the 5Acre was enlarged and sheep fencing extended round it. Covid restrictions meant we could not hold our normal National Garden Scheme event but visitors could follow a one-way route through

Cabin Wood and the 5Acre and were at least able to enjoy the spectacle of wildflowers at their best.

### **Polytunnel**

We again enjoyed a selection of cucumbers, chillies, courgettes, tomatoes, leeks and potatoes and over the winter the beds were prepared for the 2021 crop to include kale, chard, beans and sprig onions. A small pond was created in a corner to encourage frogs that will act as biological controllers of pests. Three new storage bays were created using recycled concrete garage wall sections and for the bases we mixed our own concrete. The bays are now used for storage of woodchip, rubble and sand.

### **Orchards**

The orchard team were well organised and maintained the trees with summer pruning, controlling grass growth under the trees and preventing lower branches rubbing on the sheep fencing round each tree in the 12Acre Field. Despite this work, the harvest was disappointing with some varieties not producing any apples for the first time and others being less prolific. Despite this we were able to make 600 bottles of apple juice and arrange a restricted apple day that proved to be the U.K.'s wettest day on record. The kindling shed in the corner of the car park was moved into the Heritage Orchard, where it now serves as storage for our apple collecting trays.

### **Other Matters**

Covid and the attendant restrictions led to reduces activity across all our work, particularly where close personal contact was required. Workshop activities were seriously curtailed, signage renovation, bird and insect box making and small machinery repairs all suffered whilst education and other group visits stopped.

### **Finance and Administration**

Our main income streams have come from grants, hay and log sales, subscriptions and gift aid. More detailed finances can be found in the annual accounts for this period.

### **Conclusion**

We are very grateful to the many volunteers who give up their free time to help with the work developing Gorse Hill Nature Reserve. We could not have achieved any of this without the dedication of our volunteers and supporters.

J. Atkins B.Sc. C.Biol. MSB  
Secretary to the Trust


**INCOME EXPENDITURE REPORT JUL 20 - JUN 2021**

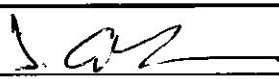
<b>Current Account</b>		
Opening Balance	1st July 2020	£24,467.80
Total Income		£26,180.95
Total Expenditure		£19,850.05
Closing Balance	30th June 2021	£30,798.70

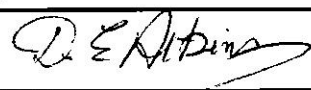
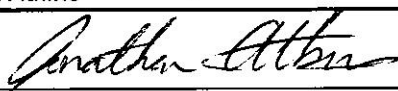
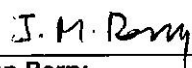
<b>Petty Cash</b>		
Opening Balance	1st July 2020	£199.48
Drawn from Current		£100.00
Petty Cash Spent		£101.60
Closing Balance	30th June 2021	£197.88

<b>Summary of 2020-2021</b>		
<b>Assets at 1st July 2020</b>		
Cash at Bank		£30,798.70
Petty Cash		£197.88
<b>Total cash</b>		<b>£30,996.58</b>
<b>Assets Changes in 2020-2021</b>		
Total Income		£50,648.75
Total Expenditure (less petty cash drawn)		-£19,750.05
Petty Cash Spent		-£101.60
<b>Asset Change in year</b>		<b>£30,797.10</b>
<b>Assets at 30th June 2021</b>		
Cash at Bank		£30,798.70
Petty Cash		£197.88
<b>Total cash</b>		<b>£30,996.58</b>
<b>Net Change in Assets</b>		<b>£30,797.10</b>

**THE ABOVE IS A FAIR AND TRUE RECORD OF THE STATE OF THE ACCOUNTS OF NORTH WEST ECOLOGICAL TRUST FOR THE FINANCIAL PERIOD ENDING 30TH JUNE 2021**

<b>Hon Treasurer</b>	<b>Dated</b>
	27.1.22
Kate Wildman	

<b>Hon Auditor</b>	<b>Dated</b>
	3rd January 2022
Ian Culshaw	

<b>Trustees</b>	<b>Dated</b>
	10/2/23
Derek Atkins	
	10/2/23
Jonathan Atkins	
	10-7-2023
John Berry	



**Section A**

**Independent Examiner's Report**

**Report to the trustees/  
members of**

North West Ecological Trust

**On accounts for the year  
ended**

30/06/2021

**Charity no  
(if any)**

327788

**Responsibilities and  
basis of report**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 30/06/2020.

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**Independent  
examiner's statement**

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- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

**Signed:**

**Date:**

3<sup>rd</sup> January 2022

**Name:**

Ian Culshaw

**Relevant professional  
qualification(s) or body  
(if any):**

**Address:**

27 Westover Road, Maghull

Liverpool

L31 7BT