THE RAILWAY LAND WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED

England & Wales · Charity number 800655

Details

Status	Registered
Legal form	Charitable company
Company number	02313579
Registered	1989-01-19
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	Linklater Pavilion Railway Lane Lewes BN7 2FG
Phone	01273477101
Email	info@railwaylandproject.org
Website	www.railwaylandproject.org

Activities

Objects: To record, study, conserve, improve and create for the benefit of the public places of natural scientific interest and in particular of arboricultural, botanical, entomological, geological, ornithological, archaeological and zoological interest and to protect the flora and fauna of such places within the framework of sustainability.To promote, organise, conduct and encourage study and research for the increase of knowledge in the natural sciences and sustainability and to publish the useful results of such study and research.To advance the education of the public in: (a) sustainability in the natural sciences and in particular in arboriculture, botany, entomology, geology, ornithology and zoology; and (b) the employment of the natural sustainable resources of land in craftwork.To provide or assist in the provision of facilities for recreation or other leisure time occupation for the benefit of the public at large.To provide, maintain or improve a public park or other public amenity in the vicinity of a landfill site where it is for the protection of the environment. To maintain, repair or restore a building or other structure which is of historical interest, where such building or other structure is situated in the vicinity of a landfill site.To make provision of financial administration and other similar services for the purposes of promoting the objects. To encourage and facilitate all members of the community, regardless of gender, race, ethnic origin, creed, sexuality, age, employment, financial hardship, ill health (physical or mental), educational attainment, relationship breakdown, or crime to have access to the work of the Trust. This will include the Trust organising activities that are particularly focused on socially disadvantaged groups, where funding and facilities permit.

Activities: Inspiring environmental sustainability by bringing nature to the heart of Lewes.We do this through:Running the Linklater Pavilion building as a community-based hub for the understanding of a sustainable environmentProviding inclusive outdoor learning using innovative approachesSupporting the local authority in managing the Railway Land Local Nature Reserve for the whole community

Classification

- **How:** Provides Human Resources, Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Sponsors Or Undertakes Research
- **What:** Education/training, Environment/conservation/heritage
- **Who:** Children/young People, People With Disabilities, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- East Sussex

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£348,464	£382,405	-	-
2024-03-31	£553,032	£630,462	£876,074	0
2023-03-31	£417,170	£230,035	-	-
2022-03-31	£181,445	£146,063	-	-
2021-03-31	£107,699	£84,226	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Andrew Saunders		2022-01-19
Anne Robertson		2025-05-28
Anthony Robert Pearce		2026-03-26
Antonia Scarr		2020-01-07
Barry McNulty		2017-06-28
Istvan Haasz		2025-01-28
Kensa Cooper		2026-03-26
Ruth Rudwick		2025-06-18
Ryan Myint		2020-09-14
Steve Bright		2025-03-05

Accounts

Company registration number: 02313579
Charity registration number: 800655

THE RAILWAY LAND WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED
TRUSTEES' REPORT AND
UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

The Railway Land Wildlife Trust Limited
Contents

The trustees present their report and the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025.

Objectives and Activities

Aims and Objectives

The Trust
The Trust is a company limited by guarantee (Company registration number 02313579) and a registered charity (Charity registration number 8006550). It is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association dated 25th November 2019. The Trust is governed by a Board of Trustees who are responsible for setting policies and ensuring legality and good practice in accordance with the Articles of Association of the Trust, the Companies Act 2006 and the Charities Act 2011. Trustees are elected every two years at the Annual General Meeting of the Trust.

The trustees confirm that they have complied with the requirements of Section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the Charity Commission’s guidance on public benefit.

The Trust’s mission is to inspire environmental sustainability by bringing nature to the heart of Lewes and surrounding areas. To do so it currently has four key strategic aims:

- Strategic Aim 1: Increase our influence with key stakeholders
- Strategic Aim 2: Get more local people involved with the Trust
- Strategic Aim 3: Provide inspirational and innovative learning activities and events
- Strategic Aim 4: Improve our infrastructure and resources.

Achievements and Performance

Main Achievements

Activities in the period have enabled us to progress these aims:

Strategic Aim 1: Increase our influence with key stakeholders

With the majority of our main projects being delivered in partnerships, the network of organisations that we work with and who we influence has grown and strengthened. Some partnerships are made up of larger environmental organisations and statutory bodies, while others are more grassroots focused. This reflects the position that RLWT occupies within these networks, as very much rooted in the community and with the ability to work with and influence larger organisations.

Our key relationship with Lewes District Council has been further strengthened during this period. As well as running volunteer sessions at the Railway Land and on the Cockshut Stream, we continue to work together to apply for funds to improve access and visitor experience on the Railway Land, for example by securing Community Infrastructure Levy funds for a viewing platform over the recently restored Winterbourne Stream. We are working with LDC Officers on a new 10-year management plan for the Railway Land, embedding a joint approach to nature recovery on the site.

The Changing Chalk project moved into its third year, led by the National Trust and funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund. Made up of 18 projects being delivered by the ten partners that include both statutory and third sector organisations, Changing Chalk aims to create multiple connections across the urban and rural areas of the Downs, and restore and reconnect the fragmented areas of remaining chalk grassland. RLWT’s work in engaging diverse communities and delivering practical conservation sessions at three additional sites has extended our reach and enabled the Trust to develop new, exciting partnerships, for example in working with the University of Brighton to develop ways to explore the relationships between young people, technology and the natural world.

The Ouse Valley Climate Action project also entered its third year, led by South Downs National Park Authority and in partnership with Lewes District Council, Railway Land Wildlife Trust, Transition Town Lewes, Seaford Community Partnership, Community Energy South, OVESCO, 3VA and Sussex Community Development Association. The Rewilding Trail that the Trust delivered as part of this project received international recognition, with at least 35 press reports, both within the UK for example, by the Guardian newspaper, and internationally in Europe, North America and Japan. We estimate that the combined press articles, TV and radio interviews and online blogs and vlogs reached a readership / viewership of over 2 million people.

The Lewes Mosaic Project continued this year. A partnership with Common Cause Co-operative and involves Wildflower Lewes, Lewes Urban Arboretum and Lewes Swift Supporters. Funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, the project focuses on Lewes Town and aims to develop more opportunities for nature-based wellbeing activities and to grow a mosaic of wildlife habitats across the town that everyone can get involved with.

Strategic Aim 2: Get more local people involved with the Trust

Our programme of school visits is now well known and very well regarded, and we have welcomed more than 2000 school children to the Railway Land, both from local schools and those further afield. We have an excellent cohort of freelance educators and volunteers who support school visits, and feedback from visiting schools is overwhelmingly positive.

...CONTINUED

Main Achievements - continued

This has been another incredibly busy year for NatureLinks, our Youth Action Project, and we were very happy to be awarded funding for a further four years of the project from the Reaching Communities fund. The award will enable us to continue our work with young people, providing them with opportunities to participate meaningfully in nature recovery work, learn new skills and make social connections. Each year we have four 'backbone projects' for young people to get involved with, all of which involve practical skills, scientific discovery, creative elements and media focused activities. We provide work and university placements and youth volunteering opportunities.

In addition, we are now running a Junior Rangers scheme for 10–14-year-olds in response to the gap in provision for this age group and to support their transition from primary to secondary school. We have delivered projects to improve habitats on school grounds at 3 secondary schools, which has enabled us to work with Young People who might otherwise struggle to take part.

Our mental health project, Wellbeing in Nature, has continued to provide vital support to people who are struggling with their mental health. It has been delivered this year as part of the Lewes Mosaic Project, which has also enabled us to develop more volunteering roles for people wanting to get involved in the 'green life' of the Town. Wellbeing walks enable participants to deepen their connection to the natural world and to build social connections. Volunteers provide support to the sessions, with many volunteers sharing their own areas of expertise, such as bird watching, floral identification and creative writing. An important element of the Mosaic Project is to work more closely with the Social Prescribers at the GP surgeries, so that they can make more effective referrals to us and our partners.

We have a vibrant volunteering programme, with over 70 active volunteers. Opportunities range from supporting school visits and wellbeing walks to practical conservation, helping with marketing and promotion and maintaining the building.

The Board took the decision to invest in a Digital Communications Lead, who works for the Trust one day a week. This has improved our social media presence immensely and enabled us to run more effective digital campaigns. Our Instagram following, for example, has increased by over 50%, many of our reels are watched thousands of times, with our most popular reel being watched over 14,500 times.

Strategic Aim 3: Provide inspirational and innovative learning activities and events

We take a lifelong approach to learning, and acknowledge that there is formal and informal learning, as well as different learning styles. Our programme of school visits provides curriculum based experiential learning that is imaginatively delivered; our Wellbeing in Nature project is underpinned by the Five Ways to Wellbeing, one of which is 'Learn'; our projects such as Changing Chalk, Ouse Valley Climate Action and NatureLinks all provide opportunities for people to learn more about the natural world and how to support it to thrive; our volunteering programme provides opportunities for people to learn and also to share their knowledge and expertise.

This year also saw our Head of Learning work with local experts to deliver on a series of Adult Courses. These have focused on bringing to life ancient skills and have involved sessions on fire lighting and lamp making; flint knapping; pottery; and ancient cookery skills. The one-day courses provide experiential learning for adults that reconnects them with the landscape through a combination of history, science and culture.

Strategic Aim 4: Improve our infrastructure and resources

We continue to manage the Linklater Pavilion as a hub for environmental learning. We were very fortunate this year to receive a significant donation that enabled us to upgrade the ground floor of the building, the Jolly Room. We have installed infra-red heating panels and replaced metal grills with glazing units, making the room usable all year round. We have had bespoke full length storage units installed, the floor replaced, and LED lights installed. We have also upgraded the toilets, increasing the number of toilets from 3 to 5, and installed hot air hand dryers to reduce the use of paper towels. Overall, we are delighted with the improvements and extremely grateful for the generosity of the donor. Next year will see us get a full colour frieze created to decorate the storage units, celebrating many of the species found on the Railway Land.

As well as holding our own events and activities, we hire out the building to other local groups and organisations which provides essential income for the charity. We also generate income for the charity through our 'Friends of the Railway Land' scheme, and are lucky to benefit from donations and legacies.

The signal box has been revamped by the participants of our NatureLinks Youth Action project. It now provides a beautiful, peaceful spot to watch the nature on the water meadows and the nesting peregrine falcons beyond. The Young People also decorated the exterior of the Signal Box with a mural recreating the view from the signal box of the cliffs. Since this has been completed there has been no more graffiti. As part of this next year's NatureLinks courses, we will run a free Art and Wellbeing course there for 14-25 year olds there.

Financial Review

Financial Position

During the year ended 31 March 2025, the Trust generated total income of £348,464 (2024: £553,032). The reduction in income compared to the prior year primarily reflects the timing and scale of grant awards received.

Of the 2024-25 revenue, £252,152 (72%) related to restricted funds (2024: £421,672, 76%). Restricted income in the year comprised a combination of grant funding and a £90,437 restricted donation, reflecting continued reliance on restricted funding to support defined charitable activities. Charitable activity income was £55,663 (2024: £86,734) and investment income (bank interest was £5,884 (2024: £2,852).

Total expenditure for the year amounted to £382,405 (2024: £630,462). This resulted in a net expenditure of £33,941 for the year (2024: £77,430). Trustees note that this deficit was anticipated and largely reflects the planned utilisation of restricted funds brought forward from prior years to deliver agreed projects and activities.

At 31 March 2025, the Trust held total funds of £842,134 (2024: £876,075). This comprised £723,391 of unrestricted funds and £118,743 of restricted funds (2024: £141,851). Restricted funds reduced during the year as projects were delivered, with restricted expenditure (£275,260) exceeding restricted income (£252,152) by £23,108. Unrestricted funds remain at a level the Trustees consider appropriate to support the ongoing operations of the Trust and to manage financial risk. Cash at bank and in hand at the year-end totalled £256,090 (2024: £260,029). The Trustees are satisfied that the Trust continues to maintain adequate liquidity to meet its short-term obligations.

The Trustees continue to keep the Trust's financial position under regular review, with particular focus on the sustainability of income, effective use of restricted funds, and the maintenance of appropriate unrestricted reserves. The Trust enters the 2025–26 financial year in a stable financial position, with a clear understanding of the funding environment and associated risks.

Structure, Governance and Management

Governing Document

As with many Charities, The Railway Land Wildlife Trust Limited (RLWT) is a company limited by guarantee (Company registration number 02313579) and is registered as a charity (Charity registration number 800655). It is governed by its Memorandum and Articles dated 19th April 1999 and updated 16th October 2019. The financial statements comply with current statutory requirements, the Memorandum and Articles of Association and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice" applicable to charities preparing their financial statements in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1st January 2019).

Trustee Selection Methods

Trustees are elected in accordance with the Articles of Association Trustees. Half of the Trustees are required to retire annually by rotation and may offer themselves for re-election. Any Trustee co-opted by the Trustee Board during the year are required to stand for re-election at the next Annual General Meeting (AGM). When considering co-opting, the Trustee Board has regard to the requirements of any specialist skills needed.

Risk management

The Trustees acknowledge their responsibility to manage risk and have a risk strategy in place which comprises:-

- The maintenance of a risk register;
- An annual review of the risks the charity may face;
- The establishment of systems and procedures to mitigate against those risks identified in each review; and
- The implementation of procedures designed to prevent and potential impact on the charity should those risks materialise.

Reference and Administrative Details

Trustees

Mr Andrew Saunders
Mr Stephen Bright (appointed 05/03/2025)
Mr Istvan Haasz (appointed 17/01/2025)
Mr Barry McNulty
Mr Ryan Myint
Antonia Scarr
Mr James Hillage (resigned 29/10/2025)
Sandra Llewellyn (resigned 09/07/2025)
Ms Anne Robertson (appointed 28/05/2025)

Ms Ruth Rudwick (appointed 18/06/2025)
Ms Sarah Rideout (resigned 25/02/2025)
Ms Julie Lloyd (resigned 22/01/2025)

Charity Number

800655

Company Number

02313579

Principal Address

Linklater Pavilion
Railway Lane
Lewes
East Sussex
BN7 2FG

Registered Office

Linklater Pavilion
Railway Lane
Lewes
East Sussex
BN7 2FG

Independent Examiner

Caroline Clarke ACA
Clarke + Wells
Ground Floor
66 High Street
Lewes
East Sussex
BN7 1XG

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

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

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under company law the trustees must not approve the financial statement unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing the financial statements the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charity SORP;
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at anytime the financial position of the charitable company and to enable them to ensure that the accounts comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees are 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.

Small Company Rules

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions relating to companies subject to the small companies regime within Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees' report was approved by the board of trustees and signed on its behalf by:

Mr Istvan Haasz

Trustee
22nd December 2025

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of The Railway Land Wildlife Trust Limited
For The Year Ended 31 March 2025

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 31 March 2025.

Responsibilities and Basis of Report

As the charity trustees of the Company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law), you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ("the 2006 Act").

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5) (b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent Examiner's Statement

Since the Company's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of The Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, which is one of the listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act 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; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

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.

Caroline Clarke ACA

22nd December 2025
Clarke + Wells
Ground Floor
66 High Street
Lewes
East Sussex
BN7 1XG

The Railway Land Wildlife Trust Limited
Statement of Financial Activities (including Income and Expenditure Account)
For The Year Ended 31 March 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2025 Total funds £	2024 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM:					
Donations and legacies	**3**	33,999	252,152	286,151	460,006
Charitable activities:					
The Railway Land Wildlife Trust Limited		55,663	-	55,663	86,734
Other trading activities	**4**	766	-	766	3,440
Investments	**5**	5,884	-	5,884	2,852
		96,312	252,152	348,464	553,032
EXPENDITURE ON:					
Raising funds	**7**	(2,223)	-	(2,223)	(1,156)
Charitable activities:	**7**				
The Railway Land Wildlife Trust Limited		(104,922)	(275,260)	(380,182)	(629,306)
		(107,145)	(275,260)	(382,405)	(630,462)
NET EXPENDITURE		(10,833)	(23,108)	(33,941)	(77,430)
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		(10,833)	(23,108)	(33,941)	(77,430)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS:					
Total funds brought forward		734,224	141,851	876,075	953,505
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	**16**	723,391	118,743	842,134	876,075

The notes on pages 10 to 16 form part of these financial statements.

The Railway Land Wildlife Trust Limited
Comparative Statement of Financial Activities (including Income and Expenditure Account)
For The Year Ended 31 March 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2024 Total funds
		£	£	£
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM:				
Donations and legacies	**3**	38,334	421,672	460,006
Charitable activities:				
The Railway Land Wildlife Trust Limited		86,734	-	86,734
Other trading activities	**4**	3,440	-	3,440
Investments	**5**	2,852	-	2,852
		131,360	421,672	553,032
EXPENDITURE ON:				
Raising funds	**7**	(1,156)	-	(1,156)
Charitable activities:	**7**			
The Railway Land Wildlife Trust Limited		(105,886)	(523,420)	(629,306)
		(107,042)	(523,420)	(630,462)
NET EXPENDITURE		24,318	(101,748)	(77,430)
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		24,318	(101,748)	(77,430)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS:				
Total funds brought forward		709,906	243,599	953,505
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	**16**	734,224	141,851	876,075

The notes on pages 10 to 16 form part of these financial statements.

The Railway Land Wildlife Trust Limited
Balance Sheet
As At 31 March 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2025 Total funds	2024 Total funds
		£	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible Assets	**12**	598,777	-	598,777	598,896
		598,777	-	598,777	598,896
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	**13**	3,628	-	3,628	33,864
Cash at bank and in hand		137,347	118,743	256,090	260,029
		140,975	118,743	259,718	293,893
Creditors: Amounts Falling Due Within One Year	**14**	(16,361)	-	(16,361)	(16,714)
NET CURRENT ASSETS (LIABILITIES)		124,614	118,743	243,357	277,179
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		723,391	118,743	842,134	876,075
NET ASSETS		723,391	118,743	842,134	876,075
FUNDS OF THE CHARITY					
Restricted Funds				118,743	141,851
Unrestricted Funds				723,391	734,224
TOTAL FUNDS	**16**			842,134	876,075

For the year ending 31 March 2025 the charitable company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

The members have not required the charitable company to obtain an audit in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

On behalf of the board

Mr Istvan Haasz

Trustee
22nd December 2025

The notes on pages 10 to 16 form part of these financial statements.

1. General Information

The Railway Land Wildlife Trust Limited is a company limited by guarantee, incorporated in England & Wales, registered number 02313579 and registered charity number 800655. The registered office is Linklater Pavilion, Railway Lane, Lewes, East Sussex, BN7 2FG.

2. Accounting Policies

2.1. Basis of Preparation of Financial Statements

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

The charitable company is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

2.2. Going Concern Disclosure

The trustees have not identified any material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt about the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern.

2.3. Fund Accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the trustees for a specific purpose.

Restricted funds are to be used for specific purposes as laid down by the donor.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

2.4. Incoming Resources

All income is included in the SOFA when the charity is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. For legacies, entitlement is the earlier of the charity being notified of an impending distribution or the legacy being received.

2.5. Resources Expended

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs relating to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of the resources. Irrecoverable VAT is charged as a cost against the activity for which the expenditure was incurred.

2.6. Tangible Fixed Assets and Depreciation

Tangible fixed assets are measured at cost less accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses. Tangible fixed assets costing more than £500 are capitalised and included at cost including any incidental expenses of acquisition. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost of the fixed assets, less their estimated residual value, over their expected useful lives on the following bases:

Freehold	nil
Leasehold	over the length of the lease
Fixtures & Fittings	5 years straight line

2.7. Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents are basic financial assets and include cash in hand and deposits held at call with banks, other short-term highly liquid investments that mature in no more than three months from the date of acquisition and are readily convertible to a known amount of cash with insignificant risk of change in value, and bank overdrafts.

2.8. Pensions

Employees of the charity are entitled to join a defined contribution ‘money purchase’ scheme. The costs of the defined contribution scheme are included with the associated staff costs and are allocated to charitable activities. The charity participates in the NEST pension scheme in accordance with meeting auto enrolment responsibilities.

3. Income from Donations and Legacies

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2025 Total funds
	£	£	£
Donations and gifts	3,406	90,437	93,843
Member subscriptions and sponsorships	5,886	-	5,886
Grants	24,707	161,715	186,422
	33,999	252,152	286,151

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2024 Total funds
	£	£	£
Donations and gifts	32,605	-	32,605
Member subscriptions and sponsorships	5,729	-	5,729
Grants	-	421,672	421,672
	38,334	421,672	460,006

4. **Income from Other Trading Activities**

	2025 Unrestricted funds	2024 Unrestricted funds
	£	£
Fundraising events	766	1,194
Electricity feed in tariff	-	2,246
	766	3,440

5. **Investment Income**

	2025 Unrestricted funds	2024 Unrestricted funds
	£	£
Bank interest receivable	5,884	2,852

6. **Net Income/(Expenditure)**

The net expenditure is stated after charging/(crediting):

	2025	2024
	£	£
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets - owned	16,437	13,352

7. **Analysis of Expenditure**

			2025
	Activities undertaken directly	**Support costs** (see note 8)	**Total**
	£	**£**	**£**
Raising funds	2,223	-	2,223
The Railway Land Wildlife Trust Limited	219,865	160,317	380,182
	222,088	160,317	382,405

			2024
	Activities undertaken directly	**Support costs** (see note 8)	**Total**
	£	**£**	**£**
Raising funds	1,156	-	1,156
The Railway Land Wildlife Trust Limited	518,362	110,944	629,306
	519,518	110,944	630,462

8. **Support Costs**

	2025
	The Railway Land Wildlife Trust Limited
	£
Employee costs:	
Wages and salaries	42,401
Employers NI	3,660
Employers pensions - defined contributions scheme	2,475
Premises expenses:	
Property Costs	85,777
General administration:	
Insurance	3,556
Advertising and marketing costs	39
Administration costs	3,905
Depreciation:	
Depreciation	16,437
Governance costs:	
Independent examiner's fees	2,067
	160,317

	2024
	The Railway Land Wildlife Trust Limited
	£
Employee costs:	
Wages and salaries	8,624
Employers NI	5,940
Employers pensions - defined contributions scheme	8,586
Premises expenses:	
Property Costs	56,165
Light and heat	5,771
General administration:	
Insurance	3,704
Advertising and marketing costs	1,420
Administration costs	4,514
Depreciation:	
Depreciation	13,352
Governance costs:	
Independent examiner's fees	2,868
	110,944

9. **Independent Examiner's Remuneration**

	2025	**2024**
	£	**£**
Independent examination of the financial statements	2,067	2,868

10. **Staff Costs**

Staff costs were as follows:

	2025	**2024**
	£	**£**
Wages and salaries	143,544	144,862
Social security costs	6,657	5,940
Other pension costs	8,424	8,586
	158,625	159,388

No employees received employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) for the reporting period of more than £60,000.

11. **Average Number of Employees**

Average number of employees during the year was: 7 (2024: 6)

12. **Tangible Assets**

	Land & Property			
	Freehold	**Leasehold**	**Fixtures & Fittings**	**Total**
	£	**£**	**£**	**£**
Cost				
As at 1 April 2024	3,530	763,125	38,166	804,821
Additions	-	-	16,318	16,318
As at 31 March 2025	3,530	763,125	54,484	821,139
Depreciation				
As at 1 April 2024	-	168,760	37,165	205,925
Provided during the period	-	12,752	3,685	16,437
As at 31 March 2025	-	181,512	40,850	222,362
Net Book Value				
As at 31 March 2025	3,530	581,613	13,634	598,777
As at 1 April 2024	3,530	594,365	1,001	598,896

There is a legal charge dated 13 November 2012 in favour of Viridor Credits in respect of the building known as "The Linklater Pavilion". This was a condition of the funding provided by Viridor Credits to ensure compliance with the Land Communities Fund (LCF) Regulations and is designed to ensure the "The Linklater Pavilion" remains in compliance in terms of the management of LCF funded assets only.

13. **Debtors**

	2025	**2024**
	£	**£**
Due within one year		
Trade debtors	1,898	6,071
Other debtors	1,730	27,793
	3,628	33,864

14. **Creditors: Amounts Falling Due Within One Year**

	2025	**2024**
	£	**£**
Trade creditors	14,394	10,402
Other creditors	87	1,337
Taxation and social security	35	2,257
Accruals and deferred income	1,845	2,718
	16,361	16,714

15. **Pension Commitments**

The charitable company operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charitable company in an independently administered fund.

During the year the charge to the statement of financial activities in respect of defined contribution schemes was £8,424 (2024: £8,586).

At the balance sheet date contributions of £NIL were due to the fund and are included in creditors.

16. **Movement in Funds**

	As at 1 April 2024	Income	Expenditure	As at 31 March 2025
	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds				
General:				
General unrestricted fund	734,224	96,312	(107,145)	723,391
Restricted funds				
CIL	1,640	27,089	(28,301)	428
NLHF Changing Chalk	-	30,811	(36,160)	(5,349)
OVCA	26,085	10,521	(17,328)	19,278
Reaching Communities	78,011	32,134	(79,484)	30,661
NLHF Mosaic	-	51,415	(44,762)	6,653
Cockshut Stream	36,115	(935)	(7,787)	27,393
Sussex Community Foundation	-	7,080	(2,122)	4,958
Wellbeing	-	3,600	(3,600)	-
Jolly Room Refurbishment	-	90,437	(55,716)	34,721
Total restricted funds	141,851	252,152	(275,260)	118,743
Total funds	876,075	348,464	(382,405)	842,134

	As at 1 April 2023	Income	Expenditure	As at 31 March 2024
	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds				
General:				
General unrestricted fund	709,906	131,360	(107,042)	734,224
Restricted funds				
Chalk Cliff Trust	42	-	(42)	-
Southover Manor General	1,929	-	(1,929)	-
CIL	3,903	10,000	(12,263)	1,640
Youth Action Fund	57	-	(57)	-
NLHF Changing Chalk	(7,405)	45,732	(38,327)	-
OVCA	(1,055)	45,330	(18,190)	26,085
HAF	631	-	(631)	-
Reaching Communities	72,290	78,356	(72,635)	78,011
LDC Community Grant	-	3,600	(3,600)	-
Grants for Wellbeing	6,962	-	(6,962)	-
Scythes	(659)	659	-	-
NLHF Mosaic	(3,096)	58,622	(55,526)	-
Veolia	140,000	140,000	(280,000)	-

...CONTINUED

Crucible	30,000	-	(30,000)	-
Cockshut Stream	-	39,373	(3,258)	36,115
Total restricted funds	243,599	421,672	(523,420)	141,851
Total funds	953,505	553,032	(630,462)	876,075

17. **Transactions with Trustees**

None of the trustees received any remuneration or any other benefits from an employment with the charity or a related entity during the current or previous year.

No trustee expenses have been incurred.

18. **Related Party Disclosures**

Key management personnel (including directors) received compensation of £70,799 (2024: £68,448)

19. **Company limited by guarantee**

The company is limited by guarantee and has no share capital.

Every member of the company undertakes to contribute to the assets of the company, in the event of a winding up, such an amount as may be required not exceeding £1.

Accounts

COMPANY NUMBER: 02313579
CHARITY NUMBER: 800655

THE RAILWAY LAND WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED (LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

THE RAILWAY LAND
WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED
(LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

INDEX TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

THE RAILWAY LAND
WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED
(LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

The directors of the Charitable Company are its Trustees for the purpose of Charity law and throughout this report are collectively referred to as the Trustees.

Directors and Trustees

James Hillage	
Sandra Llewellyn	
Julie Lloyd	
Barry McNulty	
Ryan Myint	
Jacqueline Ralph	(Resigned 16th January 2024)
Sarah Rideout	
Andrew Saunders	
Mark Sawtell	(Resigned 16th January 2024)
Antonia Scarr	
Angela Smith	(Resigned 6th February 2024)

Chief Executive Officer
Helen Meade

Company number: 02313579

Charity number: 800655

Registered Office	Linklater Pavilion Railway Lane Lewes East Sussex BN7 2FG

Professional Advisors

Independent Examiner
VMR Anderson BA (Hons) FCA DChA
Clark Brownscombe
2 St Andrews Place
Lewes
East Sussex
BN7 1UP

Bankers
NatWest Bank
Churchill Square
Brighton
East Sussex BN1 2ES

CAF Bank
25 Kings Hill Avenue
Kings Hill
West Malling ME19 4JQ

THE RAILWAY LAND
WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED
(LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

The Trustees of the Railway Land Wildlife Trust (RLWT) have pleasure in presenting their annual report and financial statements for the year ending 31st March 2024 which are prepared to meet the requirements for a directors' report and financial statements for Companies Act purposes.

The Trust

The Trust is a company limited by guarantee (Company registration number 02313579) and a registered charity (Charity registration number 8006550). It is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association dated 25th November 2019. The Trust is governed by a Board of Trustees who are responsible for setting policies and ensuring legality and good practice in accordance with the Articles of Association of the Trust, the Companies Act 2006 and the Charities Act 2011. Trustees are elected every two years at the Annual General Meeting of the Trust.

The Trust's mission is to inspire environmental sustainability by bringing nature to the heart of Lewes and surrounding areas. To do so it currently has four key strategic aims:

Strategic Aim 1: Increase our influence with key stakeholders
Strategic Aim 2: Get more local people involved with the Trust
Strategic Aim 3: Provide inspirational and innovative learning activities and events
Strategic Aim 4: Improve our infrastructure and resources.

The Past Year

In the year to the end of March 2024, thanks to the wonderful efforts of our eight staff and our many volunteers, we made significant progress on all of these aims.

Strategic Aim 1: Increase our influence with key stakeholders

With the majority of our main projects being delivered in partnerships, the network of organisations that we work with and who we influence has grown and strengthened. Some partnerships are made up of larger environmental organisations and statutory bodies, while others are more grassroots focused. This reflects the position that RLWT occupies within these networks, as very much rooted in the community and with the ability to work with and influence larger organisations.

Our key relationship with Lewes District Council (LDC) has been further strengthened during this period, and the Trust was very happy to be included as a partner in the Cockshut Stream Restoration project in Kingston. As well as raising significant funds for the project, we now run two volunteer sessions per month on this incredible new wetland where nature's recovery has been astounding. We have also been working closely with LDC Officers on the development of a new operational strategy that will support a new management plan for the Railway Land nature reserve which we help to manage in partnership with the Council.

The Changing Chalk project moved into its second year, led by the National Trust and funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund. Made up of 18 projects being delivered by the ten partners that include both statutory and third sector organisations, Changing Chalk aims to create multiple connections across the urban and rural areas of the Downs, and restore and reconnect the fragmented areas of remaining chalk grassland. RLWT's work in engaging diverse communities and delivering practical conservation sessions at three additional sites has extended our reach and enabled the Trust to develop new, exciting partnerships, for example in working with the University of Brighton to develop ways to explore the relationships between young people, technology and the natural world.

The Ouse Valley Climate Action project also entered its second year, led by South Downs National Park Authority and in partnership with Lewes District Council, Railway Land Wildlife Trust, Transition Town Lewes, Seaford Community Partnership, Community Energy South, OVESCO, 3VA and Sussex Community Development Association. As well as making great strides in developing community rewilding approaches, we received additional funding to train and support local people in Seaford to deliver sessions with Young People based on our successes with the NatureLinks Youth Action project. The Trust is recognised as experts in this field locally, and we will be delivering training in working with young people for other local community groups as a result of this work.

In early 2023 the Lewes Mosaic Project started, which is a partnership with Common Cause Co-operative and involves Wildflower Lewes, Lewes Urban Arboretum and Lewes Swift Supporters. Funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, the project focuses on Lewes Town and aims to develop more opportunities for nature-based wellbeing activities and to grow a mosaic of wildlife habitats across the town that everyone can get involved with.

Strategic Aim 2: Get more local people involved with the Trust
Our programme of school visits is now well known and very well regarded, and we have welcomed more than 2000 school children to the Railway Land, both from local schools and those further afield. We have an excellent cohort of freelance educators and volunteers who support school visits, and feedback from visiting schools is overwhelmingly positive.

This has been an incredibly busy year for NatureLinks, our Youth Action Project, and we have worked with nearly 400 young people, giving them the opportunity to develop skills, explore their environmental interests and concerns, and make new friends. The project evolves around monthly Youth Action Group meetings, which have brought young people together to develop ideas about courses and events that enable them to broaden their knowledge and bring them into contact with inspiring environmental experts and activists. Projects delivered on school grounds have enabled us to work with young people who might otherwise struggle to take part.

"*I've really enjoyed getting to plan it out ourselves instead of just being told what to do."*
"It's improved my mental health a lot and helped me to be more active"

" I've enjoyed the teamwork aspect – all working together doing individual jobs and then the outcome comes to life!"

NatureLinks is funded by the National Lottery's Reaching Communities Fund.

Our mental health project, Wellbeing in Nature, has continued to provide vital support to people who are struggling with their mental health, and it is fantastic that this is now funded for three years as part of the Lewes Mosaic Project. Wellbeing walks enable participants to deepen their connection to the natural world and to build social connections. Volunteers provide support to the sessions, with many volunteers sharing their own areas of expertise, such as bird watching, floral identification and creative writing. An important element of the Mosaic Project is to work more closely with the Social Prescribers at the GP surgeries, so that they can make more effective referrals to us and our partners.

"The WiN community offers gentle support with physical movement. Its uplifting being around people and part of a close-knit group There are many occasions for sharing knowledge, to learn about trees and birds. To look for familiar reassuring patterns of nature, light and growth."

"I felt good to be outdoors in safe environment, with others I am finding peace on the Railway Land – feel less anxious, calmer"

September saw our Wilder Ways festival, which attracted around 2000 people to a wonderful array of activities, trails and talks, all encouraging them to explore their wilder side. Our Soilworld installation was a stand out success, recreating the underground world through sound, scent and vision!

We have a vibrant volunteering programme, with over 70 active volunteers. Opportunities range from supporting school visits and wellbeing walks to practical conservation, helping with marketing and promotion and maintaining the building.

<u>Strategic Aim 3: Provide inspirational and innovative learning activities and events</u>
We take a lifelong approach to learning, and acknowledge that there is formal and informal learning, as well as different learning styles. Our programme of school visits provides curriculum based experiential learning that is imaginatively delivered; our Wellbeing in Nature project is underpinned by the Five Ways to Wellbeing, one of which is 'Learn'; our projects such as Changing Chalk, Ouse Vally Climate Action and NatureLinks all provide opportunities for people to learn more about the natural world and how to support it to thrive; our volunteering programme provides opportunities for people to learn and also to share their knowledge and expertise.

This year also saw our Head of Learning begin to work on a series of Adult Courses. This will start with a Flint Knapping Course in the Spring of 2024, providing experiential learning for adults that reconnects them with the landscape through a combination of history, science and culture.

<u>Strategic Aim 4: Improve our infrastructure and resources</u>
We continue to manage the Linklater Pavilion as a hub for environmental learning. As the building ages, some of its infrastructure has become worn out and this year saw us replacing both the lift and the Ground Source Heat Pump unit. We were very fortunate to receive a generous donation that made the replacement of the lift possible, and the GSHP unit was paid for from RLWT reserves.

As well as holding our own events and activities, we hire out the building to other local groups and organisations which provides essential income for the charity.

We also generate income for the charity through our 'Friends of the Railway Land' scheme. We are lucky to benefit from donations and legacies.

The signal box is in a sound condition. Although there has been less vandalism, it is still subject to graffiti and we are exploring creating some street art on it as part of the NatureLinks project. It is used for small art installations and by the Wellbeing and Youth groups as somewhere to sit and enjoy the peace and the view of the water meadows and the nesting peregrine falcons beyond.

We have a strong Board of Trustees, and this year saw the recruitment of Sandra Llewellyn as Chair, as well as new Trustee Sarah Rideout. Some of our Trustees are approaching their maximum term of service and so we will be recruiting to specific skills gaps within the Board in the coming year.

Structure, Governance and Management Governing Document
As with many Charities, The Railway Land Wildlife Trust Limited (RLWT) is a company limited by guarantee (Company registration number 02313579) and is registered as a charity (Charity registration number 800655). It is governed by its Memorandum and Articles dated 19th April 1999 and updated 16th October 2019. The financial statements comply with current statutory requirements, the Memorandum and Articles of Association and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice" applicable to charities preparing their financial statements in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1st January 2019).

Public Benefit
The Trustees confirm that they have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the Charity's aims and objectives.

Financial Review
The financial year 2023/24 marked a significant period for the RLWT, with income reaching £553,032, an increase from £417,170 in 2022/23. Total resources expended during the year amounted to £630,462 (2023: £230,035), resulting in a technical net deficit of £77,430 (2023: £187,435 surplus). The deficit reflects the drawdown of funds allocated to multi-year projects.

Of the total income, £421,672 (76%) was restricted, project-specific income. This includes key contributions such as £140,000 from Veolia for the Cockshut Stream restoration project and £58,622 for the NLHF Mosaic Project. These projects, among others, underpin our ongoing commitment to nature recovery and community engagement.

Unrestricted income totalled £131,360, encompassing £86,734 from charitable activities such as children's activities, school visits (£32,732), and hiring the Linklater Pavilion (£23,927). We have reviewed our charges for school visits so that they are simpler and remain as affordable as possible for schools, and have adjusted our delivery of the visits so that they are no longer running at such a loss.

Vital financial support through donations and legacies, including Gift Aid, amounted to £38,334 (2023: £28,466). This funding bridges gaps in areas like school activities, the Linklater Pavilion upkeep, and non-funded projects.

Staff costs increased significantly to £159,388 (2023: £134,258), reflecting the growth of our team to deliver our expanding portfolio of projects. We now have six part-time staff supported by freelance specialists, ensuring both operational efficiency and expert delivery.

Our main asset, the Linklater Pavilion, valued at £598,896 (2023: £612,248), continues to be central to our work. Maintenance remains a priority, with £13,352 allocated for depreciation this year, emphasising the need for a sink fund to ensure long-term sustainability.

As of 31 March 2024, RLWT's total fund balances stood at £876,075, a decrease from £953,505 in the previous year, reflecting the planned use of restricted funds for specific projects. Unrestricted funds increased to £734,224 (2023: £709,906), while restricted funds decreased to £141,851 (2023: £243,599).

Despite challenges, our financial position remains strong, supported by prudent resource management and a committed team. We continue to prioritise long-term project sustainability and community impact.

We pride ourselves in being “agile” with a “flat” organisation structure where everyone has delivery responsibilities. Our team is very experienced in ecology, life-long learning and community-based projects. Our CEO leads the organisation and is also the Programme Director. She leads a collaborative, supportive team to look for synergies across projects and with external organisations, focussing the team on tangible deliverables. Collectively the team, with the active support of trustees, refine the project strategies, spends most of its time on the ground with the communities we serve (human and nature).

We have a part time administrator/bookkeeper and we utilise the skills of our board of trustees to keep normal overheads to an absolute minimum.

Recruitment and appointment of trustees

Trustees are elected in accordance with the Articles of Association Trustees. Half of the Trustees are required to retire annually by rotation and may offer themselves for re-election. Any Trustee co-opted by the Trustee Board during the year are required to stand for re-election at the next Annual General Meeting (AGM). When considering co-opting, the Trustee Board has regard to the requirements of any specialist skills needed.

Risk management

The Trustees acknowledge their responsibility to manage risk and have a risk strategy in place which comprises:-

- The maintenance of a risk register;
- An annual review of the risks the charity may face;
- The establishment of systems and procedures to mitigate against those risks identified in each review; and
- The implementation of procedures designed to prevent and potential impact on the charity should those risks materialise.

Trustees’ responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Report of the Trustees and the financial statements in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law the Trustees have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law). 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 Company and the incoming resources and application of resources, including the net income or expenditure of the Company for the period. In preparing those financial statements, the Trustees are required to:-

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;

- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures and explained in the financial statements;

- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and

- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Company will continue in business.

The Trustees must, in determining how amounts are presented within items in the income and expenditure account and balance sheet have regard to the substance of the reported transaction or arrangement in accordance with generally accepted accountancy principles or practice.

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

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

By order of the Board:

J Hillage - Trustee

Date: 17th December 2024

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT
TO THE TRUSTEES OF

THE RAILWAY LAND
WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED
(LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

I report on the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31st March 2024, which are set out on pages 9 to 21.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees of the company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the financial statements of the company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's financial statements as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 (the '2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's report

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

(1) accounting records were not kept in respect of the company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or

(2) the financial statements do not accord with those accounting records; or

(3) the financial statements do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the financial statements give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or

(4) the financial statements have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their financial statements in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

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 financial statements to be reached.

Victoria Anderson BA (Hons) FCA DChA
Chartered Accountant
Clark Brownscombe
2 St Andrews Place
Lewes, East Sussex, BN7 1UP

Date: 17th December 2024

THE RAILWAY LAND
WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED
(LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
(INCORPORATING THE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

	Note	Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Restricted Funds 2024 £	2024 Total £	2023 Total £
INCOME FROM	3				
Donations and legacies		**38,334**	**-**	**38,334**	28,466
Charitable activities		**86,734**	**421,672**	**508,406**	382,733
Other trading activities		**3,440**	**-**	**3,440**	5,317
Investments		**2,852**	**-**	**2,852**	654
TOTAL		**131,360**	**421,672**	**553,032**	417,170
EXPENDITURE ON	4				
Raising funds		**1,156**	**-**	**1,156**	1,225
Charitable activities		**105,886**	**523,420**	**629,306**	228,810
TOTAL		**107,042**	**523,420**	**630,462**	230,035
Net movement in funds		**24,318**	**(101,748)**	**(77,430)**	187,435
Fund balances at 31st March 2023		**709,906**	**243,599**	**953,505**	766,070
Fund balances at 31st March 2024		**734,224**	**141,851**	**876,075**	953,505

The detailed 2023 comparative statement of financial activities is reported in note 2.

THE RAILWAY LAND
WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED
(LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31ST MARCH 2024
COMPANY NUMBER 02313579

	Note	**2024**		2023
		£	**£**	£
FIXED ASSETS				
Tangible fixed assets	7		**598,896**	612,248
CURRENT ASSETS				
Debtors	8	**33,864**		6,634
Cash at bank		**260,029**		340,661
		293,893		347,295
CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year	9	**(16,714)**		(6,038)
NET CURRENT ASSETS			**277,179**	341,257
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES			**876,075**	953,505
FUNDS				
Restricted Funds	11		**141,851**	243,599
Unrestricted Funds	12		**734,224**	709,906
			876,075	953,505

The company is entitled to exemption from audit conferred by Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31st March 2024.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees confirm that they are responsible for:

a) ensuring that the company keeps accounting records which comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006,

b) and preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of the affairs of the company as at the end of the financial year and of its results for the financial year in accordance with the requirements of Sections 394 and 395, and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the company.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Approved on behalf of the Board of Trustees on 17th December 2024

J Hillage – Trustee

The notes form part of these financial statements

THE RAILWAY LAND
WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED
(LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

CASH FLOW STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

	Note	2024 £	2023 £
Cash flow from operating activities			
Cash generated from operations	**13**	**(83,484)**	203,760
Cash flows from investing activities			
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		**-**	(5,578)
Interest receivable		**2,852**	654
Net cash from investing activities		**2,852**	(4,924)
Net (decrease)/increase in cash and cash equivalents		**(80,632)**	198,836
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		**340,661**	141,825
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	**14**	**260,029**	340,661

The notes form part of these financial statements

1. **Accounting policies**

a. Basis of Accounting

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their financial statements in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102, effective 1 January 2019), hereafter referred to as the Charities SORP (FRS 102).

The Railway Land Wildlife Trust Limited meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note.

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the Trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised, if the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods if the revision affects both current and future periods. However, there are no judgements or assumptions that have a significant risk of causing material adjustment.

b. Funds Held

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

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes. The cost of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes.

c. Income

All income is included in the SOFA when the charity is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. For legacies, entitlement is the earlier of the charity being notified of an impending distribution or the legacy being received.

d. Expenditure

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs relating to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of the resources. Irrecoverable VAT is charged as a cost against the activity for which the expenditure was incurred.

e. Fixed Assets

Tangible fixed assets costing more than £500 are capitalised and included at cost including any incidental expenses of acquisition.
Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets at rates calculated to write off cost less residual value over their expected useful economic lives as follows:

Freehold Land	- none
Pavilion building	- over the length of the lease
Fixtures, fittings and equipment	- 5 years straight line

f. Debtors

Trade debtors and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid. Accrued income and tax recoverable are included at the best estimate of the amounts receivable at the balance sheet date.

g. Creditors

Creditors are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably.

h. Financial instruments

The charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

i. Pensions

Employees of the charity are entitled to join a defined contribution ‘money purchase’ scheme. The costs of the defined contribution scheme are included with the associated staff costs and are allocated to charitable activities. The charity participates in the NEST pension scheme in accordance with meeting auto enrolment responsibilities.

j. Going Concern

There are no material uncertainties concerning the charity’s ability to continue as a going concern.

2. **Comparative Statement of Financial Activities**

	Unrestricted Funds 2023 £	Restricted Funds 2023 £	2023 Total £
INCOME FROM			
Donations and legacies	28,466	-	28,466
Charitable activities	67,173	315,860	382,733
Other trading activities	5,317	-	5,317
Investments	654	-	654
TOTAL	101,610	315,860	417,170
EXPENDITURE ON			
Raising funds	1,225	-	1,225
Charitable activities	101,084	127,726	228,810
TOTAL	102,309	127,726	230,035
Net movement in funds	(699)	188,134	187,435
Fund balances at 31st March 2022	710,605	55,465	766,070
Fund balances at 31st March 2023	709,906	243,599	953,505

3. **Income**

	Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Restricted Funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £	2023 £
Donations and legacies				
Donations and Gift aid	32,605	-	32,605	20,892
Membership fees	5,729	-	5,729	7,574
	38,334	-	38,334	28,466
Charitable activities				
Children’s activities and school visits	32,732	-	32,732	38,492
Hire of Linklater Pavilion	23,927	-	23,927	28,681
Grants	30,075	421,672	451,747	315,560
	86,734	421,672	508,406	382,733
Other trading activities				
Fundraising events	1,194	-	1,194	3,251
Electricity feed in tariff	2,246	-	2,246	2,066
	3,440	-	3,440	5,317
Investments				
Bank interest received	2,852	-	2,852	654
Total income	131,360	421,672	553,032	417,170

4. Expenditure

	Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Restricted Funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £	2023 £
Raising funds				
Event costs	**1,156**	**-**	**1,156**	1,225
Charitable activities				
Cost of charitable activities	**32,821**	**-**	**32,821**	12,347
Grant related costs	**-**	**349,303**	**349,303**	36,523
Property costs	**18,286**	**37,879**	**56,165**	20,169
Salaries and wages	**23,150**	**136,238**	**159,388**	134,258
Light, heat and power	**5,771**	**-**	**5,771**	3,555
General insurance	**3,704**	**-**	**3,704**	2,795
Marketing and communication	**1,420**	**-**	**1,420**	2,767
Administration costs	**4,514**	**-**	**4,514**	1,140
Depreciation	**13,352**	**-**	**13,352**	13,696
Bad debts	**-**	**-**	**-**	150
Independent examination fee	**2,868**	**-**	**2,868**	1,410
	105,886	**523,420**	**629,306**	228,810
Total expenditure	**107,042**	**523,420**	**630,462**	230,035

5. Staff Costs

	2024 £	2023 £
Wages and salaries	**144,862**	117,352
Social security	**5,940**	3,266
Pension costs	**8,586**	5,831
	159,388	126,449

The average number of employees during the year was 6 (2023: 7). No employees received remuneration in excess of £60,000 p.a.

The key management personnel of the company comprise the trustees, the Chief Executive Officer and Head of Learning. The total employee benefits of the key management personnel were £68,448 (2023: £61,820).

No remuneration was paid to any of the Trustees during the year. During the year no expenses were reimbursed to any Trustee.

6. Net income

	2024	2023
Net income is stated after charging:	£	£
Depreciation	13,352	13,696
Independent examiners remuneration	2,868	1,504

7. Fixed Assets

	Freehold Land £	Pavilion Building £	Fixtures, Fittings and Equipment £	Total £
Cost				
At 1st April 2023 and 31st March 2024	3,530	763,125	38,166	804,821
Depreciation				
At 1st April 2023	-	156,008	36,565	192,573
Charge for the year	-	12,752	600	13,352
At 31st March 2024	-	168,760	37,165	205,925
Net Book Value				
At 31st March 2024	3,530	594,365	1,001	598,896
At 31st March 2023	3,530	607,117	1,601	612,248

There is a legal charge dated 13 November 2012 in favour of Viridor Credits in respect of the building known as “The Linklater Pavilion”. This was a condition of the funding provided by Viridor Credits to ensure compliance with the Land Communities Fund (LCF) Regulations and is designed to ensure the “The Linklater Pavilion” remains in compliance in terms of the management of LCF funded assets only.

8. Debtors

	2024	2023
	£	£
Trade debtors	6,070	2,444
Other debtors	26,545	1,706
Prepayments	1,249	2,484
	33,864	6,634

9. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2024	2023
	£	£
Trade creditors	**10,402**	1,140
Other taxes and social security costs	**2,257**	1,047
Other creditors	**1,337**	1,001
Accruals and deferred income	**2,718**	2,850
	16,714	6,038

10. Analysis of Net Assets between Funds

	Unrestricted Funds	**Restricted Funds**	**Total Funds 2024**	Total Funds 2023
	£	**£**	**£**	£
Fixed assets	**598,896**	**-**	**598,895**	612,248
Current assets	**152,042**	**141,851**	**293,893**	347,295
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	**(16,714)**	**-**	**(16,714)**	(6,038)
	734,224	**141,851**	**876,075**	709,906

Analysis of Net Assets between Funds (Prior year)

	Unrestricted Funds	**Restricted Funds**	**Total Funds 2023**	Total Funds 2022
	£	**£**	**£**	£
Fixed assets	**612,248**	**-**	**612,248**	620,366
Current assets	**103,696**	**243,599**	**347,295**	153,709
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	**(6,038)**	**-**	**(6,038)**	(8,005)
	709,906	**243,599**	**953,505**	766,070

11. Restricted Funds

	1st April 2023	Income	Expenditure	At 31st March 2024
	£	£	£	£
Chalk Cliff Trust	42	-	(42)	-
Southover Manor General	1,929		(1,929)	
CIL	3,903	10,000	(12,263)	1,640
Youth Action Fund	57	-	(57)	-
NLHF Changing Chalk	(7,405)	45,732	(38,327)	-
OVCA	(1,055)	45,330	(18,190)	26,085
HAF	631	-	(631)	-
Reaching Communities	72,290	78,356	(72,635)	78,011
LDC Community Grant	-	3,600	(3,600)	-
Grants for Wellbeing	6,962	-	(6,962)	-
Scythes	(659)	659	-	-
NLHF Mosaic	(3,096)	58,622	(55,526)	-
Veolia	140,000	140,000	(280,000)	-
Crucible	30,000	-	(30,000)	-
Cockshut Stream	-	39,373	(3,258)	36,115
	243,599	421,672	(523,420)	141,851

Restricted Funds (Prior year)

	1st April 2022	Income	Expenditure	At 31st March 2023
	£	£	£	£
Chalk Cliff Trust	842	-	(800)	42
Sussex Community Foundation	4,665	-	(4,665)	-
Southover Manor General	1,929	-	-	1,929
CIL	5,011	14,692	(15,800)	3,903
Youth Action Fund	527	-	(470)	57
Awards for All	1,962	-	(1,962)	-
NLHF Changing Chalk	-	31,252	(38,657)	(7,405)
Cares Project	770	4,150	(5,975)	(1,055)
HAF	800	-	(169)	631
Reaching Communities	38,959	77,917	(44,586)	72,290
Enjoolta	-	722	(722)	-
Grants for Wellbeing	-	16,828	(9,866)	6,962
Scythes	-	299	(958)	(659)
NLHF Mosaic	-	-	(3,096)	(3,096)
Veolia	-	140,000	-	140,000
Crucible	-	30,000	-	30,000
	55,465	315,860	(127,726)	243,599

CIL – habitat improvements and installation of new handrail on the Heart of Reeds

NLHF Changing Chalk - for RLWT's element of the Changing Chalk partnership, the Creating Connections project, including the recruitment of Chalk Life Rangers

OVCA – For RLWT's element of the Ouse Valley Climate Action project, including supporting youth action in Seaford and creating rewilding trails

Reaching Communities – for the Blue Green Infrastructure project

LDC Community Grant – for our Wellbeing in Nature mental health project and associated wellbeing activities

Grants for Wellbeing - for our Wellbeing in Nature mental health project and associated wellbeing activities

Scythes – for the purchase of scythes

NLHF Mosaic – for the Lewes Wildlife and Wellbeing project

Veolia – towards the Cockshut Stream Restoration Project

Crucible – to support organisational development and work with schools

Cockshut Stream – for volunteering sessions at the Cockshut Stream

Chalk Cliff Trust – Railway Land habitat improvement

Southover Manor – resources for school visits

Youth Action Fund – Habitat improvement work with young people

HAF - for subsidised places on our holiday clubs

12. Unrestricted Funds

	At 1st April 2023	Income	Expenditure	At 31st March 2024
	£	£	£	£
General	709,906	131,360	(107,042)	734,224

Unrestricted Funds (Prior year)

	At 1st April 2022	Income	Expenditure	At 31st March 2023
	£	£	£	£
General	710,605	101,610	(102,309)	709,906

13. Reconciliation Of Net (Deficit)/Surplus To Net Cash Inflow From Operating Activities

	2024	2023
	£	£
Net (deficit)/surplus for the year	(77,430)	187,435
Interest received	(2,852)	(654)
Depreciation	13,352	13,696
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(27,230)	5,250
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	10,676	(1,967)
Net (outflow)/inflow from operating activities	(83,484)	203,760

14. CASH AND CASH EQUVALENTS

	2024	2023
	£	£
Cash and cash equivalents	260,029	340,661

	2023	2022
	£	£
Cash and cash equivalents	340,661	141,825

15. ANALYSIS OF CHANGES IN NET DEBT

	At 1 April 2023	Cashflow	At 31 March 2024
	£	£	£
Net cash			
Cash at bank and in hand	340,661	(80,632)	260,029

16. Statutory Information

The Company is a private company, limited by guarantee. Members have a liability not exceeding £1 each in the event of a winding up. The company is registered in England and Wales and the registered number and registered office address can be found on the Legal and Administrative information page.

17. Taxation

The charity 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. Accordingly, the charity is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3 Part 11 Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

Accounts

COMPANY NUMBER: 02313579
CHARITY NUMBER: 800655

THE RAILWAY LAND WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED (LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023

THE RAILWAY LAND
WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED
(LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

INDEX TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023

THE RAILWAY LAND WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED (LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

The directors of the Charitable Company are its Trustees for the purpose of Charity law and throughout this report are collectively referred to as the Trustees.

Directors and Trustees

James Hillage	
Sandra Llewellyn	(appointed 26th April 2023)
Julie Lloyd	
Barry McNulty	
Ryan Myint	
Deborah Prince	(resigned 25th November 2022)
Jacqueline Ralph	
Sarah Rideout	(appointed 26th April 2023)
Andrew Saunders	
Mark Sawtell	
Antonia Scarr	
Angela Smith	

Chief Executive Officer

Helen Meade

Company number: 02313579

Charity number: 800655

Registered Office

Linklater Pavilion
Railway Lane
Lewes
East Sussex
BN7 2FG

Professional Advisors

Independent Examiner
VMR Anderson BA (Hons) FCA DChA
Clark Brownscombe
2 St Andrews Place
Lewes
East Sussex
BN7 1UP

Bankers
NatWest Bank
11 High Street
Lewes
East Sussex
BN7 2ZX

The Trustees of The Railway Land Wildlife Trust (RLWT) have pleasure in presenting their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31st March 2023 which are also prepared to meet the requirements for a directors' report and financial statements for Companies Act purposes.

Letter from the Trustees

What a year for Lewes's natural world, its precious human community and the RLWT! At least two storks and four hundred geese were spotted on the new wetland created by the Cockshut Restoration project. It reminds us how much can be achieved when we collaborate on larger projects. With help from us humans, nature can and will thrive. In our Wilder Ways Festival, the Railway Land took centre stage and lit up autumn. Have we ever had more fun learning and giving a voice to our natural environment? Events included the Beaver Trail and wonderful "Soil World" which transported us to our "microscopic neighbours beneath our feet".

These are just a couple of highlights of the tangible and uplifting results for all of us to celebrate. Yet much of our work is less tangible. Wellbeing in Nature is something that weaves through all our projects like mycelium in the soil! It is perhaps worth reflecting on recent history, the COVID pandemic and the continuing challenges of climate change on our natural world. The mental health challenges these profound uncertainties bring have sometimes exacerbated a sense of powerlessness to change. Nature teaches us we are not powerless.

Through the pandemic the Railway Land, Landport Bottom and many other local nature spaces were there to lift our spirits and remind us of who we are. As the challenges of climate change and ecological collapse grow more pressing, these natural spaces, and the human and animal communities that depend on them, need us to advocate for them.

It is also worth taking a moment to remember the countless (often nameless) people who championed for the creation of the Railway Land and who formed and guided this amazing charity. Without their passion and determination, and even now their continued generous financial support, we would not be here delivering for our communities. They have passed us the baton for the challenges of today so that we in turn can pass it on to the generations to come.

Advocating does not always need to be a fight. Collaboration and a shared vision for the future can provide positive ways forward. Lewes District Council is not only the owner of the Local Nature Reserve, but is now one of the RLWT's greatest supporters. Working together with the amazing tapestry of passionate volunteers and organisations proves we can really move mountains or at least remove "parrot's feather" from the Cockshut! Our growing team at the RLWT and our evolving programme of nature projects are showing how people and nature can help each other thrive.

Well-designed interventions to co-create with nature can have a dramatic positive impact on our local and transitory species (human and nature!). We can all do our bit on our nature reserves, both by prevention of unthinking harms (litter, dog poo, straying off paths, spreading invasive species) and by joining in an organised active habitat creation project (chalk banks, planting trees, shrubs, hedgerows, wildflowers). Both can have a major positive impact on our communities of flora and fauna as well as on our human community.

Our projects are increasing varieties of flora which in turn feed greater numbers and variety of insects and butterflies; teasels feed our flocks of Goldfinch and our heart of reeds comes alive with the sounds of the Reed Warbler. Our projects are also increasing the range of people involved and the ways they can get involved. So, whether it is the large scale Cockshut Restoration project; or the practical conservation projects throughout the district; walking for wellbeing; counting birds, or with spades and physical work, together we are working to make a difference to our local natural world.

Our CEO, Helen Meade, leads our growing team of passionate, talented people that work through life-long learning, practical conservation and ecology to bring this aspiration to life. They inspire our children and young people, coordinate large numbers of us to roll our sleeves up, they welcome and invite in those who are struggling; they help all of us to connect with nature. And there is so much more to do.

As we look to the future we're excited about how we can evolve land management in the Lewes District, perhaps to be more hands on and less reliant on machinery, and to better monitor the local green spaces so we know more about the direction nature is taking locally.

Our team are on the front line of advocating for nature and putting the two communities we serve, both People and Nature, at the heart of what we do.

We know, if we do our part for Nature, the rewards for us are joyfully limitless.

Report from the CEO
Strategic Aims
Just under 5 years ago we set out 4 strategic aims:

- Strategic Aim 1: Increase our influence with key stakeholders
- Strategic Aim 2: Get more local people involved with the Trust
- Strategic Aim 3: Provide inspirational and innovative learning activities and events
- Strategic Aim 4: Improve our infrastructure and resources

Objects
All Charities have a set of "Objects" which are embedded into the legal governing document. They guide the Charity and ensure we stay true to our guiding principles. A precis of the RLWT's objects are:

- To conserve, improve and create (for the benefit of the public) places of natural scientific interest and to protect the flora and fauna of such places within the framework of sustainability;
- To promote, organise, conduct and encourage study and research in the natural sciences and sustainability;
- To advance the education of the public in:-
  - Sustainability in the natural sciences
  - the employment of the natural sustainable resources of land in craftwork;
- To provide, maintain or improve a public park and provide or assist in the provision of facilities for recreation or other leisure time occupation for the benefit of the public.
- To maintain, repair or restore a building or other structure.
- To make provision of financial administration
- To encourage and facilitate all members of the community to have access to the work of the Trust.

Main Report
Here are just some of the achievements during the last financial year and as we look forward to the next 18 months and beyond.

Strategic Aim 1: Increase our influence with key stakeholders
Our work developing partnerships with a broad range of local and national organisations began to bear fruit in this year, with several multi-partner projects moving to the delivery phase.
In April the Changing Chalk project began, led by the National Trust and funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund. Over four years, the 18 projects being delivered by the ten partners will create multiple connections across the urban and rural areas of the Downs, and will restore and reconnect the fragmented areas of remaining chalk grassland. RLWT's role is to deliver the 'Creating Connections' part of Changing Chalk, and we have recruited two part time project staff to do so.

In October 2022 the Ouse Valley Climate Action project began. Led by South Downs National Park Authority and including Lewes District Council, Railway Land Wildlife Trust, Transition Town Lewes, Seaford Community Partnership, Community Energy South, OVESCO, 3VA and Sussex Community Development Association as partners, the project aims to bring the community together to inspire positive action to mitigate the effects of climate change in the lower Ouse valley and Havens. Our CEO sits on the project board. Our role in delivery includes holding conferences, training opportunities, and working with Wilderlife to progress understanding of and engagement with rewilding.

Our key relationship with Lewes District Council has been further strengthened during this period, working together on a number of initiatives to improve the Railway Land. We are responding to the changes that have come about with the move from Specialist Advisors to the Green Consultancy. Notably, we now run the practical conservation volunteer groups on the Railway Land – the Meadow Minders – and the Changing Chalk project gives us the capacity to expand the provision of practical conservation opportunities.

Strategic Aim 2: Get more local people involved with the Trust
Our programme of school visits has been very successful, and we have welcomed more than 2000 school children to the Railway Land, both from local schools and those further afield. The feedback from visiting schools has been excellent.

Our mental health project, Wellbeing in Nature (WiN), has continued to provide vital support to people who are struggling with their mental health. Wellbeing walks enable participants to deepen their connection to the natural world and to build social connections. The project is founded on the principle of co-design, and so participants are encouraged to help with planning the sessions and getting involved with different aspects of the Trust's work. Volunteers provide support to the sessions, with many volunteers sharing their own areas of expertise, such as bird watching, floral identification and creative writing.

The projects we are involved with have greatly increased our ability to reach wider audiences. As well as Changing Chalk and Ouse Valley Climate Action, this year saw the start of our youth action Blue Green Infrastructure project, 'NatureLinks'. This is a three year project funded by the National Lottery's Reaching Communities fund, and has made great strides in engaging with young people, working with them to identify environmental issues that matter to them and empowering them to learn more about the issues and take action to support solutions.

We have a vibrant volunteering programme, with over 70 active volunteers. Opportunities range from supporting school visits and wellbeing walks to practical conservation, helping with marketing and promotion and maintaining the building.

<u>Strategic Aim 3: Provide inspirational and innovative learning activities and events</u>
We take a lifelong approach to learning, and acknowledge that there is formal and informal learning, as well as different learning styles. Our programme of school visits provides curriculum based experiential learning that is imaginatively delivered; our Wellbeing in Nature project is underpinned by the Five Ways to Wellbeing, one of which is 'Learn'; our projects such as Changing Chalk, Ouse Vally Climate Action and NatureLinks all provide opportunities for people to learn more about the natural world and how to support it to thrive; our volunteering programme provides opportunities for people to learn and also to share their knowledge and expertise.

This year has seen all sorts of community events, from our River Festival delivered in partnership with Love Our Ouse CIC, to Tree Days celebrations and wildlife discovery events.

<u>Strategic Aim 4: Improve our infrastructure and resources</u>
Our staff team has grown and this has broadened the knowledge and skills within the team. We now have a team of eight part time staff.

We are developing many reusable learning resources, for schools and youth groups as well as for lifelong learning. Many of the first-year project initiatives have created techniques, knowledge, contacts and many other resources that allow us to mobilise "quicker and better". For example, the networks, expertise and resources around the creation of chalk banks were developed as a result of the NatureLinks youth action work and have gone on to be used by wellbeing groups, practical conservation volunteers, adults with learning disabilities and at wildlife discovery days for the general public.

We continue to manage the Linklater Pavilion as a hub for environmental learning. As well as holding our own events and activities, we hire out the building to other local groups and organisations. This provides essential income for the charity. Some of the infrastructure within the building, namely the lift and ground source heat pump, are now ageing and needed replacing in 2023/24.

We also generate income for the charity through our 'Friends of the Railway Land' scheme. We are lucky to benefit from donations and legacies.

The signal box is in much better condition than in recent years although it is still subject to some vandalism and graffiti. It sees some use and this is something we would like to grow.

Organisation
The Railway Land Wildlife Trust (RLWT) is governed by a Trustee Board which, as a minimum, is responsible for setting policies and ensuring legality and good practice in accordance with the Articles of Association of the RLWT, Companies Act 2006 and Charities Act 2011.

We have a strong Board of Trustees with a breadth of senior experience and we are looking to leverage those skills more over the coming year. There have been some changes in leadership, as Deborah Prince resigned as both Chair and Trustee in November 2022. Jim Hillage held the reins until our new Chair, Sandra Llewellyn, was elected in July 2023. We thank Deborah for her service to the trust.

Some of our Trustees are approaching their maximum term of service and looking to retire and we are actively considering the skills we need to recruit for in the coming year or two. As our project portfolio expands there are even more opportunities for our board of Trustees to provide strategic leadership, operational guidance and mentoring to our team.

Structure, Governance and Management Governing Document
As with many Charities, The Railway Land Wildlife Trust Limited (RLWT) is a company limited by guarantee (Company registration number 02313579) and is registered as a charity (Charity registration number 800655). It is governed by its Memorandum and Articles dated 19th April 2013 and updated [XX MMM 2019]. The financial statements comply with current statutory requirements, the Memorandum and Articles of Association and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice" applicable to charities preparing their financial statements in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1st January 2019).

Public Benefit
The Trustees confirm that they have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the Charity's aims and objectives.

Financial Review
The financial year 2022/23 was a year when the considerable effort and planning to expand the work of the RLWT came to fruition resulting in a significant increase in income to £417k (from £181k in 2022). Total resources expended amounted to £230,035 (2022: £146,063) with a technical net surplus for the year of £187,435 (2022: £35,382).

Of the £417k total income, more than 75% (£316k) is project specific and restricted. This increase in income represents "upfront payments" for multi-year projects, with the associated project costs planned for the next 2-3 years. The resulting technical "surplus" for this year is in reality committed funding for staff costs that materialise over the lifetime of the projects.

The £316k restricted, predominantly project, income includes a large one-off lump sum for the Cockshut Project (£140k). The associated costs, scheduled for the year 23/24, are unusual as they relate to heavy landscaping associated with the restoration of the Cockshut stream rather than our normal employee and freelance costs.

Our other non-grant based income (£67k) include work with Schools and Holiday Clubs (£38k) and income from the use of the Linklater pavilion (£29k). Our schools work has been both popular (28 different schools) and successful. Sadly, however, schools work runs at a significant loss as schools have historically not funded the true cost of provision. Given the restricted nature of our project work there is little opportunity to cross subsidise this loss and no other funding sources are available. We remain committed to our local schools, and will look for funding to bridge the gap. We continue to provide non-school based activities to provide exciting, inspiring, less curriculum restricted projects for our children and young people.

We are grateful for the vital financial support through donations and legacies, and the Gift Aid they attract, (£21k). This funding continues to be fundamental to the financial health of the charity and helps bridge those deficits on Schools, the upkeep of the Linklater Pavilion and non-funded work.

Our main asset (2023: £612k) is the Linklater pavilion an eco-building which provides both a centre for our work and a home to our charity. As with any building it requires maintenance and in future years a sink fund will be established to account for maintenance and replacement of technology and equipment. This maintenance and repair work has previously been paid for out of normal reserves and extraordinary donations. Depreciation (2023: £13k) is nearly exclusively for the Linklater and while it is a technical accounting adjustment to the balance sheet, in this instance it is also a helpful reminder of the minimum needed to be set aside annually for the long-term maintenance/replacement of the Linklater.

The increase in income has supported a significant increase in our staff team with costs of £134k (from £72k in 2022) representing a parttime headcount increase to 8 (from 4). These costs are likely to increase in the next year as the projects become fully staffed. We use freelance staff to add to our skills and capacity where needed, but are working toward a core team of experts to build long term projects so that knowledge can be retained in the charity.

We pride ourselves in being “agile” with a “flat” organisation structure where everyone has delivery responsibilities. Our team is very experienced in ecology, life-long learning and community-based projects. Our CEO leads the organisation and is also the Programme Director. She leads a collaborative, supportive team to look for synergies across projects and with external organisations, focussing the team on tangible deliverables. Collectively the team, with the active support of trustees, refine the project strategies, spends most of its time on the ground with the communities we serve (human and nature).

We have a part time administrator/bookkeeper and we utilise the skills of our board of trustees to keep normal overheads to an absolute minimum.

Recruitment and appointment of trustees
Trustees are elected in accordance with the Articles of Association Trustees. Half of the Trustees are required to retire annually by rotation and may offer themselves for re-election. Any Trustee co-opted by the Trustee Board during the year are required to stand for re-election at the next Annual General Meeting (AGM). When considering co-opting, the Trustee Board has regard to the requirements of any specialist skills needed.

Risk management
The Trustees acknowledge their responsibility to manage risk and have a risk strategy in place which comprises:-

- The maintenance of a risk register;
- An annual review of the risks the charity may face;
- The establishment of systems and procedures to mitigate against those risks identified in each review; and
- The implementation of procedures designed to prevent and potential impact on the charity should those risks materialise.

Trustees' responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Report of the Trustees and the financial statements in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law the Trustees have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law). 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 Company and the incoming resources and application of resources, including the net income or expenditure of the Company for the period. In preparing those financial statements, the Trustees are required to:-

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures and explained in the financial statements;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Company will continue in business.

The Trustees must, in determining how amounts are presented within items in the income and expenditure account and balance sheet have regard to the substance of the reported transaction or arrangement in accordance with generally accepted accountancy principles or practice.

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

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

By order of the Board:

S Llewellyn - Trustee

Date: 14th December 2023

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT
TO THE TRUSTEES OF

THE RAILWAY LAND
WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED
(LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

I report on the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31st March 2023, which are set out on pages 10 to 20.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees of the company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the financial statements of the company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's financial statements as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 (the '2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's report

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

(1) accounting records were not kept in respect of the company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or

(2) the financial statements do not accord with those accounting records; or

(3) the financial statements do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the financial statements give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or

(4) the financial statements have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their financial statements in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

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 financial statements to be reached.

Victoria Anderson BA (Hons) FCA DChA
Chartered Accountant
Clark Brownscombe
2 St Andrews Place
Lewes, East Sussex, BN7 1UP

Date: 14th December 2023

THE RAILWAY LAND
WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED
(LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
(INCORPORATING THE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023

	Note	Unrestricted Funds 2023 £	Restricted Funds 2023 £	2023 Total £	2022 Total £
INCOME FROM	3				
Donations and legacies		**28,466**	**-**	**28,466**	35,552
Charitable activities		**67,173**	**315,860**	**382,733**	139,360
Other trading activities		**5,317**	**-**	**5,317**	6,525
Investments		**654**	**-**	**654**	8
TOTAL		**101,610**	**315,860**	**417,170**	181,445
EXPENDITURE ON	4				
Raising funds		**1,225**	**-**	**1,225**	3,901
Charitable activities		**101,084**	**127,726**	**228,810**	142,162
TOTAL		**102,309**	**127,726**	**230,035**	146,063
Net movement in funds		**(699)**	**188,134**	**187,435**	35,382
Fund balances at 31st March 2022		**710,605**	**55,465**	**766,070**	730,688
Fund balances at 31st March 2023		**709,906**	**243,599**	**953,505**	766,070

The detailed 2022 comparative statement of financial activities is reported in note 2.

The notes form part of these financial statements

THE RAILWAY LAND
WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED
(LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31ST MARCH 2023
COMPANY NUMBER 02313579

	Note	**2023**		2022
		£	**£**	£
FIXED ASSETS				
Tangible fixed assets	7		**612,248**	620,366
CURRENT ASSETS				
Debtors	8	**6,634**		11,884
Cash at bank		**340,661**		141,825
		347,295		153,709
CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year	9	**(6,038)**		(8,005)
NET CURRENT ASSETS			**341,257**	145,704
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES			**953,505**	766,070
FUNDS				
Restricted Funds	11		**243,599**	55,465
Unrestricted Funds	12		**709,906**	710,605
			953,505	766,070

The company is entitled to exemption from audit conferred by Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31st March 2023.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees confirm that they are responsible for:

a) ensuring that the company keeps accounting records which comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006,

b) and preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of the affairs of the company as at the end of the financial year and of its results for the financial year in accordance with the requirements of Sections 394 and 395, and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the company.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Approved on behalf of the Board of Trustees on 14th December 2023

S Llewellyn - Trustee

The notes form part of these financial statements

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1. **Accounting policies**

a. Basis of Accounting

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their financial statements in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102, effective 1 January 2019), hereafter referred to as the Charities SORP (FRS 102).

The Railway Land Wildlife Trust Limited meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note.

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the Trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised, if the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods if the revision affects both current and future periods. However, there are no judgements or assumptions that have a significant risk of causing material adjustment.

b. Funds Held

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

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes. The cost of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes.

c. Income

All income is included in the SOFA when the charity is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. For legacies, entitlement is the earlier of the charity being notified of an impending distribution or the legacy being received.

d. Expenditure

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs relating to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of the resources. Irrecoverable VAT is charged as a cost against the activity for which the expenditure was incurred.

e. Fixed Assets

Tangible fixed assets costing more than £500 are capitalised and included at cost including any incidental expenses of acquisition.
Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets at rates calculated to write off cost less residual value over their expected useful economic lives as follows:

Freehold Land	- none
Pavilion building	- over the length of the lease
Fixtures, fittings and equipment	- 5 years straight line

f. Debtors

Trade debtors and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid. Accrued income and tax recoverable are included at the best estimate of the amounts receivable at the balance sheet date.

g. Creditors

Creditors are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably.

h. Financial instruments

The charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

i. Pensions

Employees of the charity are entitled to join a defined contribution ‘money purchase’ scheme. The costs of the defined contribution scheme are included with the associated staff costs and are allocated to charitable activities. The charity participates in the NEST pension scheme in accordance with meeting auto enrolment responsibilities.

j. Going Concern

There are no material uncertainties concerning the charity’s ability to continue as a going concern.

2. Comparative Statement of Financial Activities

	Unrestricted Funds 2022 £	Restricted Funds 2022 £	2022 Total £
INCOME FROM			
Donations and legacies	35,552	-	35,552
Charitable activities	66,932	72,428	139,360
Other trading activities	6,525	-	6,525
Investments	8	-	8
TOTAL	109,017	72,428	181,445
EXPENDITURE ON			
Raising funds	3,901	-	3,901
Charitable activities	104,303	37,859	142,162
TOTAL	108,204	37,859	146,063
Net movement in funds	813	34,569	35,382
Fund balances at 31st March 2021	709,792	20,896	730,688
Fund balances at 31st March 2022	710,605	55,465	766,070

3. Income

	Unrestricted Funds 2023 £	Restricted Funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £	2022 £
Donations and legacies				
Donations and Gift aid	20,892	-	20,892	4,163
Legacy	-	-	-	25,000
Membership fees	7,574	-	7,574	6,389
	28,466	-	28,466	35,552
Charitable activities				
Children's activities and school visits	38,492	-	38,492	29,683
Hire of Linklater Pavilion	28,681	-	28,681	21,097
Grants	-	315,860	315,860	72,428
Pandemic aid	-	-	-	16,152
	67,173	315,860	382,733	139,360
Other trading activities				
Fundraising events	3,251	-	3,251	2,684
Electricity feed in tariff	2,066	-	2,066	3,098
Sundry income	-	-	-	743
	5,317	-	5,317	6,525
Investments				
Bank interest received	654	-	654	8
Total income	101,610	315,860	417,170	181,445

4. **Expenditure**

	Unrestricted Funds 2023 £	Restricted Funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £	2022 £
Raising funds				
Event costs	**1,225**	**-**	**1,225**	3,901
Charitable activities				
Cost of charitable activities	**12,347**	**-**	**12,347**	13,529
Grant related costs		**36,523**	**36,523**	17,847
Property costs	**7,069**	**13,100**	**20,169**	13,511
Salaries and wages	**56,155**	**78,103**	**134,258**	71,840
Light, heat and power	**3,555**		**3,555**	1,548
General insurance	**2,795**		**2,795**	2,365
Marketing and communication	**2,767**		**2,767**	3,028
Administration costs	**1,140**		**1,140**	1,759
Depreciation	**13,696**	**-**	**13,696**	13,548
Donation to Madagascar project	**-**	**-**	**-**	1,023
Building control fees	**-**	**-**	**-**	660
Bad debts	**150**	**-**	**150**	-
Independent examination fee	**1,410**	**-**	**1,410**	1,504
	101,084	**127,726**	**228,810**	142,162
Total expenditure	**102,309**	**127,726**	**230,035**	146,063

5. **Staff Costs**

	2023 £	2022 £
Wages and salaries	**117,352**	68,562
Social security	**3,266**	470
Pension costs	**5,831**	2,808
	126,449	71,840

The average number of employees during the year was 7 (2022: 4). No employees received remuneration in excess of £60,000 p.a.

The key management personnel of the company comprise the trustees and the Programme Coordinator. The total employee benefits of the key management personnel were £61,820 (2022: £34,959).

No remuneration was paid to any of the Trustees during the year. During the year no expenses were reimbursed to any Trustee.

6. Net income

	2023	2022
Net income is stated after charging:	£	£
Depreciation	**13,696**	13,548
Independent examiners remuneration	**1,504**	1,504

7. Fixed Assets

	Freehold Land	Pavilion Building	Fixtures, Fittings and Equipment	Total
	£	£	£	£
Cost				
At 1st April 2022	**3,530**	**757,547**	**38,166**	**799,243**
Additions	**-**	**5,578**	**-**	**5,578**
At 31st March 2023	**3,530**	**763,125**	**38,166**	**804,821**
Depreciation				
At 1st April 2022	**-**	**143,322**	**35,555**	**165,329**
Charge for the year	**-**	**12,686**	**1,010**	**13,696**
At 31st March 2023	**-**	**156,008**	**36,565**	**192,573**
Net Book Value				
At 31st March 2023	**3,530**	**607,117**	**1,601**	**612,248**
At 31st March 2022	3,530	614,325	2,611	620,366

There is a legal charge dated 13 November 2012 in favour of Viridor Credits in respect of the building known as "The Linklater Pavilion". This was a condition of the funding provided by Viridor Credits to ensure compliance with the Land Communities Fund (LCF) Regulations and is designed to ensure the "The Linklater Pavilion" remains in compliance in terms of the management of LCF funded assets only.

8. Debtors

	2023	2022
	£	£
Trade debtors	**2,444**	3,160
Other debtors	**1,706**	7,055
Prepayments	**2,484**	1,669
	6,634	11,884

9. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2023	2022
	£	£
Trade creditors	**1,140**	4,960
Other taxes and social security costs	**1,047**	-
Other creditors	**1,001**	1,605
Accruals and deferred income	**2,850**	1,440
	6,038	8,005

10. Analysis of Net Assets between Funds

	Unrestricted Funds	**Restricted Funds**	**Total Funds 2023**	Total Funds 2022
	£	**£**	**£**	£
Fixed assets	**612,248**	**-**	**612,248**	620,366
Current assets	**103,696**	**243,599**	**347,295**	153,709
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	**(6,038)**	**-**	**(6,038)**	(8,005)
	709,906	**243,599**	**953,505**	766,070

Analysis of Net Assets between Funds (Prior year)

	Unrestricted Funds	**Restricted Funds**	**Total Funds 2022**	Total Funds 2021
	£	**£**	**£**	£
Fixed assets	**620,366**	**-**	**620,366**	631,804
Current assets	**98,244**	**55,465**	**153,709**	103,815
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	**(8,005)**	**-**	**(8,005)**	(4,931)
	710,605	**55,465**	**766,070**	730,688

11. Restricted Funds

	1st April 2022	Income	Expenditure	At 31st March 2023
	£	£	£	£
Chalk Cliff Trust	842	-	(800)	42
Sussex Community Foundation	4,665	-	(4,665)	-
Southover Manor General	1,929	-	-	1,929
CIL	5,011	14,692	(15,800)	3,903
Youth Action Fund	527	-	(470)	57
Awards for All	1,962	-	(1,962)	-
NLHF Changing Chalk	-	31,252	(38,657)	(7,405)
Cares Project	770	4,150	(5,975)	(1,055)
HAF	800	-	(169)	631
Reaching Communities	38,959	77,917	(44,586)	72,290
Enjoolta	-	722	(722)	-
Grants for Wellbeing	-	16,828	(9,866)	6,962
Scythes	-	299	(958)	(659)
NLHF Mosaic	-	-	(3,096)	(3,096)
Veolia	-	140,000	-	140,000
Crucible	-	30,000	-	30,000
	55,465	315,860	(127,726)	243,599

Restricted Funds (Prior year)

	1st April 2021	Income	Expenditure	At 31st March 2022
	£	£	£	£
Chalk Cliff Trust	1,400	5,200	(5,758)	842
Sussex Community Foundation	1,910	4,665	(1,910)	4,665
Ernest Kleinwort Charitable Trust	2,500	-	(2,500)	-
Active Access	1,676	-	(1,676)	-
Southover Manor General	2,544	-	(615)	1,929
Ninevah Trust	2,000	-	(2,000)	-
Postcode Lottery	8,866	-	(8,866)	-
Youth Action Fund	-	1,075	(548)	527
Awards for All	-	9,960	(7,998)	1,962
NLHF Changing Chalk	-	159	(159)	-
Cares Project	-	4,000	(3,230)	770
HAF	-	800	-	800
Reaching Communities	-	38,959	-	38,959
CIL	-	7,610	(2,599)	5,011
	20,896	72,428	(37,859)	55,465

Awards for All - for our Wellbeing in Nature mental health project

NLHF Changing Chalk – for RLWT's element of the Changing Chalk partnership, the Creating Connections project, including the recruitment of Chalk Life Rangers

Reaching Communities Fund – for the Blue Green Infrastructure project

Chalk Cliff Trust – for the Railway Land Recovery project, coordinating volunteers to undertake practical tasks reinstating areas of the nature reserve impacted by increased footfall during the lockdowns.

Sussex Community Foundation – for our Wellbeing in Nature mental health project

Southover Manor General Educational Trust - for resources for the Lewes Outdoor Learning project

Awards for All - for our Wellbeing in Nature mental health project

NLHF Changing Chalk – for RLWT's element of the Changing Chalk partnership, the Creating Connections project, including the recruitment of Chalk Life Rangers

National Lottery Climate Action Fund – for RLWT role in the Ouse Valley Climate Action project

HAF – for subsidised places on our holiday clubs

Reaching Communities – for the Blue / Green Infrastructure project, working with young people and local organisations to raise awareness of Blue – Green Infrastructure and the benefits it brings communities

CIL – improvements to the water meadows, contribution towards the dipping platform, improvements to paths

Lewes District Council Community Grant – for Wellbeing in Nature Open Days

CIL – improvements to the water meadows, contribution towards the dipping platform, improvements to paths

Enjoolata – for our Wellbeing in Nature project

12. Unrestricted funds

	At 1st April 2022	Income	Expenditure	At 31st March 2023
	£	£	£	£
General	710,605	101,610	(102,309)	709,906

Unrestricted funds (Prior year)

	At 1st April 2021	Income	Expenditure	At 31st March 2022
	£	£	£	£
General	709,792	109,017	(108,204)	710,605

13. Statutory Information

The Company is a private company, limited by guarantee. Members have a liability not exceeding £1 each in the event of a winding up. The company is registered in England and Wales and the registered number and registered office address can be found on the Legal and Administrative information page.

14. Taxation

The charity 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. Accordingly, the charity is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3 Part 11 Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

THE RAILWAY LAND WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED

England & Wales - Charity number 800655

Accounts

COMPANY NUMBER: 02313579
CHARITY NUMBER: 800655

THE RAILWAY LAND WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED (LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2022

THE RAILWAY LAND WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED (LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

INDEX TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2022

**THE RAILWAY LAND
WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED
(LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

The directors of the Charitable Company are its Trustees for the purpose of Charity law and throughout this report are collectively referred to as the Trustees.

Directors and Trustees

Simon Cooper	(Resigned 20th October 2021)
James Hillage	
Julie Lloyd	
Barry McNulty	
Ryan Myint	
Deborah Prince	(Appointed 28th April 2021)
Jacqueline Ralph	
Andrew Saunders	(Appointed 19th January 2022)
Mark Sawtell	
Antonia Scarr	
Angela Smith	
Sam Smith	(Resigned 20th October 2021)
Natalie White	(Resigned 20th October 2021)

Programme Coordinator

Helen Meade

Company number: 02313579
Charity number: 800655
Registered Office

Linklater Pavilion
Railway Lane
Lewes
East Sussex
BN7 2FG

Professional Advisors

Independent Examiner
VMR Anderson BA (Hons) FCA DChA
Clark Brownscombe
2 St Andrews Place
Lewes
East Sussex
BN7 1UP

Bankers
NatWest Bank
11 High Street
Lewes
East Sussex
BN7 2ZX

THE RAILWAY LAND
WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED
(LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2022

The Trustees have pleasure in presenting their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31st March 2022 which are also prepared to meet the requirements for a directors' report and financial statements for Companies Act purposes.

Structure, Governance and Management Governing Document
The Railway Land Wildlife Trust Limited is a company limited by guarantee (Company registration number 02313579) and is registered as a charity (Charity registration number 800655). It is governed by its Memorandum and Articles dated 19th April 2013. The financial statements comply with current statutory requirements, the Memorandum and Articles of Association and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice" applicable to charities preparing their financial statements in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1st January 2019).

Organisation
The Railway Land Wildlife Trust is governed by a Trustee Board which is responsible for setting policies and ensuring legality and good practice in accordance with the Articles of Association of the Trust, Companies Act 2006 and Charities Act 2011.

Objectives, activities and performance
The objects of the Trust are:-

- To record, study, conserve, improve and create for the benefit of the public places of natural scientific interest and in particular of arboricultural, botanical, entomological, geological, ornithological, archaeological and zoological interest and to protect the flora and fauna of such places within the framework of sustainability;
- To promote, organise, conduct and encourage research for the increase of knowledge in the natural sciences and sustainability and to publish the useful results of such study and research;
- To advance the education of the public in sustainability in the natural sciences and in particular in arboriculture, botany, entomology, geology, ornithology and zoology, the employment of the natural sustainable resources of land in craftwork;
- To provide or assist in the provision of facilities for recreation or other leisure time occupation for the benefit of the public at large.

Our Strategic Plan for 2018 – 2023 lays out four key strategic aims:

- Strategic Aim 1: Increase our influence with key stakeholders
- Strategic Aim 2: Get more local people involved with the Trust
- Strategic Aim 3: Provide inspirational and innovative learning activities and events
- Strategic Aim 4: Improve our infrastructure and resources

Staffing
Our core staffing by and large has remained unchanged, with Helen Meade as CEO, Milly Hawkins as Head of Learning, and with Ellie Moulton coordinating our Wellbeing in Nature project.

In July 2021 we recruited Judy Mackerras as our new Administrator. Judy quickly became an indispensable member of the team, administering our membership scheme, venue bookings and holiday clubs, as well as taking on much of the book keeping.

In May 2021 we began our 'Railway Land Recovery' project, restoring many of the areas of the nature reserve that were impacted by increased footfall during the lockdowns. Jenny Lindop took on this piece of work, which naturally developed into a reinvigoration of the Meadow Minders group. This has carried on, with RLWT taking over the coordination of the practical volunteering sessions on the Railway Land from LDC.

In the last year Milly has also increased the pool of freelance workers we can call on to help with school visits and holiday clubs. We now have a team of 8 fantastic individuals, all bringing their own expertise and enthusiasm to their work with the Trust.

Strategic Aim 4: Improve our infrastructure and resources

School Visits Programme
Happily, this year saw our programme of school visits bouncing back with great vitality, ably steered by Milly Hawkins!

As well as delivering 17 of our 'Lewes Outdoor Learning' visits with Lewes schools, we also welcomed over 20 other schools for visits here, with topics varying from rocks and soils to habitats, rivers, shipwrecks and forest school activities. One of the strengths of being a smaller organisation delivering these visits is that we can adapt to what schools really want in an outdoor learning experience.

During this year our partnership with IntoUniversity has also developed. Their aim is to support young people from disadvantaged neighbourhoods to attain their chosen aspiration, including further and higher education. It has been a pleasure to welcome them onto the Railway Land to build their appreciation of what studying geography or the natural sciences might entail, and to bring these subjects to life through experiential, outdoor learning.

Strategic Aim 2: Get more local people involved with the Trust

Strategic Aim 3: Provide inspirational and innovative learning activities and events

Wellbeing in Nature Project
The Wellbeing in Nature project has continued to provide gentle, consistent support to people struggling with their mental health by deepening their connection with the natural world, and with the Railway Land in particular. The expertise within the group is now quite impressive, as they have observed the changes in the Railway Land so closely for a number of years now!

This year saw the wellbeing walks getting back to their usual rhythm as participants emerged from lockdowns and the trials of the pandemic. It has been wonderful to see the participants come together as a group again. As one participant said, 'I felt supported during a bit of a downspell (a sort of self-hatred) enjoying the connection of others. WiN always comes to the rescue.' One interesting piece of work this year was a collaboration between WiN and Fireraisers Theatre, working together to explore the role of ritual in marking the changes of the seasons. After a moving and uplifting Winter Solstice walk, the two groups came together again for a Spring Equinox celebration.

The Trust works hard to generate income so that core costs and many areas of our work are not dependent on grant funding. The Wellbeing in Nature project, however, will always need financial support and we are continually fundraising to keep it going. If you would like to make a donation to help us keep this vital project going, please go to the donate page of our website

https://www.railwaylandproject.org/support-the-trust

Strategic Aim 2: Get more local people involved with the Trust

Strategic Aim 3: Provide inspirational and innovative learning activities and events

Projects and Events
We ran two small but very effective projects this year, both of which demonstrate what an impact a small, nimble organisation such as ours can make with modest funds! The first was our Youth Action Programme, funded by the South Downs Trust with a grant of £1075. This enabled us to run sessions for young people between 16 and 25 who were keen to develop their skills and knowledge around the environmental sector and to build the experience that they could put on their CV and talk about at interviews for 'Green' jobs. As well as practical conservation, participants also took part in surveying and leading guided walks. Feedback showed that they found the experience really useful - Will J, for example, could show he had the skills and enthusiasm needed to be accepted onto a traineeship with Buglife.

The second project was Railway Land Recovery. Like many green spaces, the Railway Land had taken a battering during the lockdowns with a significant increase in footfall. While it was brilliant that the nature reserve could provide solace during such a difficult period, many areas that had previously been wild were opened up with networks of new paths, and many areas of habitat were at risk of being lost. Having secured funding from the Chalk Life Trust, Jenny Lindop took on the role of liaising with LDC and coordinating volunteers to restore areas of habitat, including re-seeding, planting saplings and building natural barriers.

Both the restrictions of the pandemic and the restructure that had taken place at LDC meant that the Meadow Minders volunteers group, who undertake practical conservation and habitat creation, had fallen into a hiatus. The success of both the Youth Action Programme and Railway Land Recovery meant that we were able to fill this gap, and RLWT is now leading on the coordination and delivery of the Meadow Minders group.
In November 2021 we received the news that we had secured funding from the National Lottery's Reaching Communities fund for our Blue – Green Infrastructure Project. This project has been in development for several years and it was fantastic to find out we would be able to crack on with it. It will work with young people and local organisations to raise awareness of blue - green infrastructure and the benefits it brings communities in the adaptation and mitigation of climate change and the ecological crisis…. more news of this project as it rolls out!

As well as our regular apple pressing and Tree Day, the main event in this year was the Planet Party. This was organised in partnership with Lewes Climate Hub and it was a pleasure to work with such a committed and thoughtful group of people. The day celebrated and explored the practical, positive actions we can all take to help safeguard our planet for future generations. Despite a slightly drizzly start it was a great success and we look forward to working more with Lewes Climate Hub in the future.

Strategic Aim 2: Get more local people involved with the Trust

Strategic Aim 3: Provide inspirational and innovative learning activities and events

Partnerships

We continue to have a thriving partnership with LDC and this has been apparent in our ability to respond to the changing circumstances caused by lockdowns, staff changes and the need to work together on projects that go beyond the Railway Land itself. In September 2021 we learnt that the Changing Chalk partnership, led by the National Trust, had been successful in securing over £2 million for a four-year project working across the eastern South Downs. This partnership consists of 10 partners, including RLWT, and our role in it has come about as a direct result of our close partnership with LDC, who are part funding our work along with Eastbourne Borough Council. The recruitment of our Chalk Life Rangers, who will deliver our part of the Changing Chalk project, took place in March and heralded an exciting new phase of work for the Trust!

Our partnerships with other local voluntary, environmental groups also continued to flourish. For example, the Trust worked with Wildflower Lewes and Lewes Urban Arboretum on the development of a wildflower and tree nursery to grow flowers and trees for use in planting projects in the area.

This year also saw the development phase of the Ouse Valley Climate Action project. Led by South Downs National Park Authority and including Lewes District Council, Railway Land Wildlife Trust, Transition Town Lewes, Seaford Community Partnership, Community Energy South, OVESCO, 3VA and Sussex Community Development Association as partners, the project aims to bring the community together to inspire positive action to mitigate the effects of climate change in the lower Ouse valley and Havens. RLWT’s role will include an annual Tree Summit, further development of the tree and wildflower nursery, and more of our rewilding experiments both on the Railway Land and across the Ouse Valley.

Strategic Aim 1: Increase our influence with key stakeholders

Strategic Aim 2: Get more local people involved with the Trust

Strategic Aim 3: Provide inspirational and innovative learning activities and events

Strategic Aim 4: Improve our infrastructure and resources

Linklater Pavilion, the Signal Box and Chilly Brook

As we came out of the pandemic lockdowns, hire of the Linklater began to pick up again, which is essential income for the Trust. At the same time, our staff team grew as did our own need to run meetings and events here – and the need to find somewhere for everyone to work! And so we took the decision to reconfigure the back rooms at the Linklater, taking out some of the walls to form a larger space that we can use as an office and permanent base, and creating a dedicated storage room. This was possible thanks to the generous legacy left to us by Lesley Gorski, a former Trustee and keen supporter of the Trust.

We also had a rethink about pond dipping on the Railway Land. The population of rudd in the dipping pond has exploded in recent years, and they have done a very effective job of eating many of the aquatic invertebrates that live there – making dipping a slightly underwhelming experience! We have looked into various ways of trying to control the rudd population and have, for the time being, decided to wait and see if the population naturally peaks and then declines again. Dipping on the water meadows is always a great experience for people of all ages and the ditches teem with life. However, the banks can be treacherous, and we are always mindful of the impact that dipping can have on wildlife and the ditch structure. So using money from the Community Infrastructure Levy and a grant from the Ernest Kleinwort Trust, we have had a dipping platform constructed on Chilly Brook that uses the foundations from the old bridge there. This has given Milly a dedicated space to take school groups for pond dipping, away from curious cows and in the knowledge that the ditches are not being over dipped.

We have continued to maintain and improve the Signal Box, with new shutters installed and rotten wood replaced. The Wellbeing in Nature group love visiting the Signal Box, and Friends of the Railway Land also have access to the key so that they can use this lovely resource.

Strategic Aim 4: Improve our infrastructure and resources

Trustees
In April 2021 we were fortunate to recruit Dr Deborah Prince as our new Chair, taking over from Jim Hillage who has stayed on as a Trustee. Deborah is a Lewes resident and regular user of the Railway Land. She has spent many decades working in the charity sector as a senior leader, having previously studied life sciences and carried out research at Imperial College. In her first year as Chair, Deborah has taken the bull by the horns and provided clear direction on areas such as governance, fundraising and renewing our five year strategy.

We also said goodbye to Trustees Sam Smith, Simon Cooper and Natalie White. Sam had been a Trustee for nine years – the maximum time period allowed by our constitution – and had provided invaluable support in strategic thinking as well as some continuity as the Trust went through a big period of change. Simon's expertise in marketing had supported us to completely rethink our communications and he continues to provide support with our website. Natalie also continues to provide regular support on a pro bono basis in ensuring our governance is sound and our policies and procedures relevant and workable. Huge thanks to them all!

Our Trustees at the end of this period were Deborah Prince (Chair), Mark Sawtell, (Treasurer), Jim Hillage, Angie Smith, Barry McNulty, Toni Scarr, Jackie Ralph, Julie Lloyd and Ryan Myint.

Strategic Aim 4: Improve our infrastructure and resources

Public Benefit
The Trustees confirm that they have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the Charity's aims and objectives.

Plans for Future Periods
The Trust aims to: Increase and consolidate income from hire of the Linklater Pavilion, recruiting people and organisations to the 'Friends of the Railway Land' membership scheme, running paid for activities such as holiday clubs, and holding fundraising events.

Extend our programme of educational activities, specifically the provision of outdoor learning visits for primary and secondary schools; the further development of the 468 project with Lewes schools; and the provision of life long community learning opportunities.

- Further develop the volunteer programme through training and support, and to recruit new volunteers to more diverse roles.
- Provide opportunities for marginalised groups to benefit from engaging with the natural world and making use of the resources on offer at the Linklater Pavilion; specifically, to deliver and develop our work with people struggling with their mental health.
- Work closely with Lewes District Council on the management of the Railway Land Local Nature Reserve.

Financial review
Total incoming resources for the year amounted to £181,445 (2021: £107,699). Total resources expended amounted to £146,063 (2021: £84,226). Net surplus for the year amounted to £35,382 (2021: £23,473).

Recruitment and appointment of trustees
In accordance with the Articles of Association Trustees are elected by the membership. Half of the Trustees are required to retire annually by rotation and may offer themselves for re-election. Any Trustee co-opted by the Trustee Board during the year are required to stand for re-election at the next Annual General Meeting (AGM). When considering co-opting, the Trustee Board has regard to the requirements of any specialist skills needed.

Risk management
The Trustees acknowledge their responsibility to manage risk and have a risk strategy in place which comprises:-

- The maintenance of a risk register;
- An annual review of the risks the charity may face;
- The establishment of systems and procedures to mitigate against those risks identified in each review; and
- The implementation of procedures designed to prevent and potential impact on the charity should those risks materialise.

Trustees' responsibilities
The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Report of the Trustees and the financial statements in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law the Trustees have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law). 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 Company and the incoming resources and application of resources, including the net income or expenditure of the Company for the period. In preparing those financial statements, the Trustees are required to:-

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;

- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures and explained in the financial statements;

- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and

- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Company will continue in business.

The Trustees must, in determining how amounts are presented within items in the income and expenditure account and balance sheet have regard to the substance of the reported transaction or arrangement in accordance with generally accepted accountancy principles or practice.

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

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

By order of the Board:

M Sawtell - Trustee

Date: 20th October 2022

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT
TO THE TRUSTEES OF

THE RAILWAY LAND
WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED
(LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

I report on the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31st March 2022, which are set out on pages 10 to 20.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees of the company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the financial statements of the company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's financial statements as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 (the '2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's report

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

(1) accounting records were not kept in respect of the company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or

(2) the financial statements do not accord with those accounting records; or

(3) the financial statements do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the financial statements give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or

(4) the financial statements have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their financial statements in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

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 financial statements to be reached.

Victoria Anderson BA (Hons) FCA DChA
Chartered Accountant
Clark Brownscombe
2 St Andrews Place
Lewes, East Sussex, BN7 1UP

Date: 28th October 2022

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
(INCORPORATING THE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2022

	Note	Unrestricted Funds 2022 £	Restricted Funds 2022 £	2022 Total £	2021 Total £
INCOME FROM	3				
Donations and legacies		**35,552**	**-**	**35,552**	16,393
Charitable activities		**66,932**	**72,428**	**139,360**	88,513
Other trading activities		**6,525**	**-**	**6,525**	2,778
Investments		**8**	**-**	**8**	15
TOTAL		**109,017**	**72,428**	**181,445**	107,699
EXPENDITURE ON	4				
Raising funds		**3,901**	**-**	**3,901**	456
Charitable activities		**104,303**	**37,859**	**142,162**	83,770
TOTAL		**108,204**	**37,859**	**146,063**	84,226
Net movement in funds		**813**	**34,569**	**35,382**	23,473
Fund balances at 31st March 2021		**709,792**	**20,896**	**730,688**	707,215
Fund balances at 31st March 2022		**710,605**	**55,465**	**766,070**	730,688

The detailed 2021 comparative statement of financial activities is reported in note 2.

THE RAILWAY LAND
WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED
(LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31ST MARCH 2022
COMPANY NUMBER 02313579

	Note	**2022**		2021
		£	**£**	£
FIXED ASSETS				
Tangible fixed assets	7		**620,366**	631,804
CURRENT ASSETS				
Debtors	8	**11,884**		2,373
Cash at bank		**141,825**		101,442
		153,709		103,815
CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year	9	**(8,005)**		(4,931)
NET CURRENT ASSETS			**145,704**	98,884
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES			**766,070**	730,688
FUNDS				
Restricted Funds	11		**55,465**	20,896
Unrestricted Funds	12		**710,605**	709,792
			766,070	730,688

The company is entitled to exemption from audit conferred by Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31st March 2022.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees confirm that they are responsible for:

a) ensuring that the company keeps accounting records which comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006,

b) and preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of the affairs of the company as at the end of the financial year and of its results for the financial year in accordance with the requirements of Sections 394 and 395, and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the company.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Approved on behalf of the Board of Trustees on 20th October 2022.

M Sawtell - Trustee

The notes form part of these financial statements

1. **Accounting policies**

a. Basis of Accounting

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their financial statements in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102, effective 1 January 2019), hereafter referred to as the Charities SORP (FRS 102).

The Railway Land Wildlife Trust Limited meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note.

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the Trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised, if the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods if the revision affects both current and future periods. However, there are no judgements or assumptions that have a significant risk of causing material adjustment.

b. Funds Held

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

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes. The cost of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes.

c. Income

All income is included in the SOFA when the charity is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. For legacies, entitlement is the earlier of the charity being notified of an impending distribution or the legacy being received.

d. Expenditure

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs relating to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of the resources. Irrecoverable VAT is charged as a cost against the activity for which the expenditure was incurred.

e. Fixed Assets

Tangible fixed assets costing more than £500 are capitalised and included at cost including any incidental expenses of acquisition.
Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets at rates calculated to write off cost less residual value over their expected useful economic lives as follows:

Freehold Land	- none
Pavilion building	- over the length of the lease
Fixtures, fittings and equipment	- 5 years straight line

f. Debtors

Trade debtors and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid. Accrued income and tax recoverable are included at the best estimate of the amounts receivable at the balance sheet date.

g. Creditors

Creditors are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably.

h. Financial instruments

The charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

i. Pensions

Employees of the charity are entitled to join a defined contribution ‘money purchase’ scheme. The costs of the defined contribution scheme are included with the associated staff costs and are allocated to charitable activities. The charity participates in the NEST pension scheme in accordance with meeting auto enrolment responsibilities.

j. Going Concern

There are no material uncertainties concerning the charity’s ability to continue as a going concern.

2. Comparative Statement of Financial Activities

	Note	Unrestricted Funds 2021 £	Restricted Funds 2021 £	2021 Total £
INCOME FROM				
Donations and legacies		**16,393**	**-**	**16,393**
Charitable activities		**57,371**	**31,142**	**88,513**
Other trading activities		**2,778**	**-**	**2,778**
Investments		**15**	**-**	**15**
TOTAL		**76,557**	**31,142**	**107,699**
EXPENDITURE ON	4			
Raising funds		**456**	**-**	**456**
Charitable activities		**59,123**	**24,647**	**83,770**
TOTAL		**59,579**	**24,647**	**84,226**
Net movement in funds		**16,978**	**6,495**	**23,473**
Fund balances at 31st March 2020		**692,814**	**14,401**	**707,215**
Fund balances at 31st March 2021		**709,792**	**20,896**	**730,688**

3. Income

	Unrestricted Funds 2022 £	Restricted Funds 2022 £	Total 2022 £	2021 £
Donations and legacies				
Donations and Gift aid	**4,163**	**-**	**4,163**	11,460
Legacy	**25,000**	**-**	**25,000**	-
Membership fees	**6,389**	**-**	**6,389**	4,933
	35,552	**-**	**35,552**	16,393
Charitable activities				
Children’s activities and school visits	**29,683**	**-**	**29,683**	3,335
Hire of Linklater Pavilion	**21,097**	**-**	**21,097**	4,634
Grants	**-**	**72,428**	**72,428**	31,142
Pandemic aid	**16,152**	**-**	**16,152**	49,402
	66,932	**72,428**	**139,360**	88,513
Other trading activities				
Fundraising events	**2,684**	**-**	**2,684**	515
Electricity feed in tariff	**3,098**	**-**	**3,098**	2,133
Sundry income	**743**	**-**	**743**	130
	6,525	**-**	**6,525**	2,778
Investments				
Bank interest received	**8**	**-**	**8**	15
Total income	**109,017**	**72,428**	**181,445**	107,699

4. Expenditure

	Unrestricted Funds 2022 £	Restricted Funds 2022 £	Total 2022 £	2021 £
Raising funds				
Event costs	**3,901**	**-**	**3,901**	456
Charitable activities				
Cost of charitable activities	**13,329**	**200**	**13,529**	526
Grant related costs	**-**	**17,847**	**17,847**	22,696
Property costs	**10,275**	**3,236**	**13,511**	6,903
Overhead salaries and wages	**55,264**	**16,576**	**71,840**	34,636
Light, heat and power	**1,548**	**-**	**1,548**	481
General insurance	**2,365**	**-**	**2,365**	1,565
Marketing and communication	**3,028**	**-**	**3,028**	1,476
Administration costs	**1,759**	**-**	**1,759**	898
Depreciation	**13,548**	**-**	**13,548**	13,285
Donation to Madagascar project	**1,023**	**-**	**1,023**	-
Building control fees	**660**	**-**	**660**	-
Independent examination fee	**1,504**	**-**	**1,504**	1,304
	104,303	**37,859**	**142,162**	83,770
Total expenditure	**108,204**	**37,859**	**146,063**	84,226

5. Staff Costs

	2022 £	2021 £
Wages and salaries	**68,562**	44,095
Social security	**470**	-
Pension costs	**2,808**	897
	71,840	44,992

The average number of employees during the year was 4 (2021: 4). No employees received remuneration in excess of £60,000 p.a.

The key management personnel of the company comprise the trustees and the Programme Coordinator. The total employee benefits of the key management personnel were £34,959 (2021: £20,447).

No remuneration was paid to any of the Trustees during the year. During the year no expenses were reimbursed to any Trustee.

6. Net income

	2022	2021
Net income is stated after charging:	£	£
Depreciation	**13,548**	13,285
Independent examiners remuneration	**1,504**	1,304

7. Fixed Assets

	Freehold Land	Pavilion Building	Fixtures, Fittings and Equipment	Total
	£	£	£	£
Cost				
At 1st April 2021	**3,530**	**757,547**	**36,056**	**797,133**
Additions	**-**	**-**	**2,110**	**2,110**
At 31st March 2022	**3,530**	**757,547**	**38,166**	**799,243**
Depreciation				
At 1st April 2021	**-**	**130,684**	**34,645**	**165,329**
Charge for the year	**-**	**12,638**	**910**	**13,548**
At 31st March 2022	**-**	**143,322**	**35,555**	**178,877**
Net Book Value				
At 31st March 2022	**3,530**	**614,325**	**2,611**	**620,366**
At 31st March 2021	3,530	626,863	1,411	631,804

There is a legal charge dated 13 November 2012 in favour of Viridor Credits in respect of the building known as "The Linklater Pavilion". This was a condition of the funding provided by Viridor Credits to ensure compliance with the Land Communities Fund (LCF) Regulations and is designed to ensure the "The Linklater Pavilion" remains in compliance in terms of the management of LCF funded assets only.

8. Debtors

	2022	2021
	£	£
Trade debtors	**3,160**	795
Other debtors	**7,055**	650
Prepayments	**1,669**	928
	11,884	2,373

9. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2022	2021
	£	£
Trade creditors	4,960	1,329
Other taxes and social security costs	-	1,240
Other creditors	1,605	1,112
Accruals and deferred income	1,440	1,250
	8,005	4,931

10. Analysis of Net Assets between Funds

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2022	Total Funds 2021
	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets	620,366	-	620,366	631,804
Current assets	98,244	55,465	153,709	103,815
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(8,005)	-	(8,005)	(4,931)
	710,605	55,465	766,070	730,688

Analysis of Net Assets between Funds (Prior year)

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2021	Total Funds 2020
	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets	631,804	-	631,804	645,089
Current assets	82,919	20,896	103,815	67,276
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(4,931)	-	(4,931)	(5,150)
	709,792	20,896	730,688	707,215

11. Restricted Funds

	1st April 2021	Income	Expenditure	At 31st March 2022
	£	£	£	£
Chalk Cliff Trust	1,400	5,200	(5,758)	842
Sussex Community Foundation	1,910	4,665	(1,910)	4,665
Ernest Kleinwort Charitable Trust	2,500	-	(2,500)	-
Active Access	1,676	-	(1,676)	-
Southover Manor General	2,544	-	(615)	1,929
Ninevah Trust	2,000	-	(2,000)	-
Postcode Lottery	8,866	-	(8,866)	-
Youth Action Fund	-	1,075	(548)	527
Awards for All	-	9,960	(7,998)	1,962
NLHF Changing Chalk	-	159	(159)	-
Cares Project	-	4,000	(3,230)	770
HAF	-	800	-	800
Reaching Communities	-	38,959	-	38,959
CIL	-	7,610	(2,599)	5,011
	20,896	72,428	(37,859)	55,465

Restricted Funds (Prior year)

	1st April 2020	Income	Expenditure	At 31st March 2021
	£	£	£	£
Chalk Cliff Trust	1,400	-	-	1,400
Sussex Community Foundation	2,943	2,400	(3,433)	1,910
Ernest Kleinwort Charitable Trust	5,000	-	(2,500)	2,500
Sussex Downs National Park	-	2,780	(2,780)	-
Lloyds Enable	3,382	-	(3,382)	-
Ninevah Trust	-	2,400	(400)	2,000
Active Access	1,676	-	-	1,676
Postcode Lottery	-	16,364	(7,498)	8,866
Southover Manor General	-	3,000	(456)	2,544
CIL	-	4,198	(4,198)	-
	14,401	31,142	(24,647)	20,896

Chalk Cliff Trust – for the Railway Land Recovery project, coordinating volunteers to undertake practical tasks reinstating areas of the nature reserve impacted by increased footfall during the lockdowns.

Sussex Community Foundation – for our Wellbeing in Nature mental health project

Ernest Kleinwort Charitable Trust – for improvements to Chilly Brook and a pond dipping platform

Active Access – for visits from schools in the Newhaven area, using public transport or active travel.

Southover Manor General Educational Trust - for resources for the Lewes Outdoor Learning project

Ninevah Trust – to subsidise visits for the Lewes Outdoor Learning project

Postcode Lottery – for our Wellbeing in Nature mental health project

Youth Action Fund – for 16-25 year olds to gain experience in both practical conservation and the workings of an environmental charity

Awards for All - for our Wellbeing in Nature mental health project

NLHF Changing Chalk – for RLWT's element of the Changing Chalk partnership, the Creating Connections project, including the recruitment of Chalk Life Rangers

Cares Project – (should be Ouse Valley CARES) – trial activites for the development phase of a Climate Action project led by SDNPA

HAF – for subsidised places on our holiday clubs
Reaching Communities – for the Blue / Green Infrastructure project, working with young people and local organisations to raise awareness of Blue – Green Infrastructure and the benefits it brings communities

CIL – improvements to the water meadows, contribution towards the dipping platform, improvements to paths

12. Unrestricted funds

	At 1st April 2021	Income	Expenditure	At 31st March 2022
	£	£	£	£
General	709,792	109,017	(108,204)	710,605

Unrestricted funds (Prior year)

	At 1st April 2020	Income	Expenditure	At 31st March 2021
	£	£	£	£
General	692,814	76,557	(59,579)	709,792

13. Statutory Information

The Company is a private company, limited by guarantee. Members have a liability not exceeding £1 each in the event of a winding up. The company is registered in England and Wales and the registered number and registered office address can be found on the Legal and Administrative information page.

14. Taxation

The charity 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. Accordingly, the charity is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3 Part 11 Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

THE RAILWAY LAND WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED

England & Wales - Charity number 800655

Accounts

COMPANY NUMBER: 02313579
CHARITY NUMBER: 800655

THE RAILWAY LAND WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED (LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2021

THE RAILWAY LAND
WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED
(LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

INDEX TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2021

THE RAILWAY LAND
WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED
(LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

The directors of the Charitable Company are its Trustees for the purpose of Charity law and throughout this report are collectively referred to as the Trustees.

Directors and Trustees

Simon Cooper
James Hillage
Julie Lloyd
Barry McNulty
Ryan Myint
Jacqueline Ralph
Mark Sawtell
Antonia Scarr
Angela Smith
Sam Smith
Natalie White

Programme Coordinator

Helen Meade

Company number: 02313579
Charity number: 800655
Registered Office

Linklater Pavilion
Railway Lane
Lewes
East Sussex
BN7 2FG

Professional Advisors

Independent Examiner
VMR Anderson BA (Hons) FCA DChA
Clark Brownscombe
2 St Andrews Place
Lewes
East Sussex
BN7 1UP

Bankers
NatWest Bank
11 High Street
Lewes
East Sussex
BN7 2ZX

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2021**

The Trustees have pleasure in presenting their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31st March 2021 which are also prepared to meet the requirements for a directors' report and financial statements for Companies Act purposes.

Structure, Governance and Management Governing Document

The Railway Land Wildlife Trust Limited is a company limited by guarantee (Company registration number 02313579) and is registered as a charity (Charity registration number 800655). It is governed by its Memorandum and Articles dated 19th April 2013. The financial statements comply with current statutory requirements, the Memorandum and Articles of Association and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice" applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1st January 2015).

Organisation

The Railway Land Wildlife Trust is governed by a Trustee Board which is responsible for setting policies and ensuring legality and good practice in accordance with the Articles of Association of the Trust, Companies Act 2006 and Charities Act 2011.

Objectives, activities and performance

The objects of the Trust are:-

- To record, study, conserve, improve and create for the benefit of the public places of natural scientific interest and in particular of arboricultural, botanical, entomological, geological, ornithological, archaeological and zoological interest and to protect the flora and fauna of such places within the framework of sustainability;
- To promote, organise, conduct and encourage research for the increase of knowledge in the natural sciences and sustainability and to publish the useful results of such study and research;
- To advance the education of the public in sustainability in the natural sciences and in particular in arboriculture, botany, entomology, geology, ornithology and zoology, the employment of the natural sustainable resources of land in craftwork;
- To provide or assist in the provision of facilities for recreation or other leisure time occupation for the benefit of the public at large.

Our Strategic Plan for 2018 – 2023 lays out four key strategic aims:

- Strategic Aim 1: Increase our influence with key stakeholders
- Strategic Aim 2: Get more local people involved with the Trust
- Strategic Aim 3: Provide inspirational and innovative learning activities and events
- Strategic Aim 4: Improve our infrastructure and resources

Activities during the period

Some wise person once said that 'out of adversity comes opportunity' and goodness knows that the year to March 2021, the period covered by this Annual Report, saw much adversity for many of us. However, we are pleased to say that it has also been a time of opportunity. The Trust has not just survived the lockdowns but, as this report shows, we have been able to:

- Support our local community through our Wellbeing in Nature project;

- Overhaul our offer to schools;
- Revive the water meadows by dredging the ditches;
- Develop new partnerships and exciting funding opportunities; and
- Maintain our financial position and improve our infrastructure.

We have only been able to do this because of our excellent team of Milly, Ellie and Ruth, so ably and enthusiastically led by Helen and supported by our wonderful volunteers. The Trustees are extremely indebted to their loyalty and hard work.

The challenges that face us, not just from the pandemic but even more fundamentally from climate change and diminishing biodiversity are immense. The trustees pleased to say that, as you can see, we are in a good position to play a significant part in supporting the Lewes community to tackle them.

Staffing
Our staff team has remained unchanged. After careful consideration it was decided that the Trust would take advantage of the furlough scheme for three of our four members of staff – Helen Meade (CEO), Milly Hawkins (Education Officer) and Ruth Collens (Admin Assistant) who were variously on furlough or part time furlough. Our Wellbeing Project Coordinator, Ellie Moulton, carried on working throughout the lockdowns, and her work provided invaluable support to many people.

Strategic outcome 4: Improve our Infrastructure and Resources

Wellbeing in Nature Project

Our Wellbeing in Nature project proved invaluable to many throughout the lockdowns. Below are Ellie's reflections on the year, as well as some comments made by those taking part that show quite how significant the project was for them in challenging times.

The beginning of March 2020 saw one of our first Monday sessions of Wellbeing in Nature (WiN) and we were treated to a seal swimming in the Winterbourne Stream! The seal was successfully released into the sea in Newhaven after a dramatic rescue by East Sussex Wildlife Rescue & Ambulance Service (WRAS). More drama was to follow as we went into Lockdown, and we are proud to have been able to continue to run this project in slightly different ways than before. In the first week of lockdown the Wellbeing in Nature newsletter and a WhatsApp group were created to keep participants and volunteers connected to nature and to each other.

The first newsletters aimed to reach people who were shielding, isolated and anxious - as well as for community groups and GP surgeries to update on their services. They included ways for people to maintain their connection to the natural world by themselves. We had conversations about poor mental health while sharing green and wellbeing activities to try out at home. Soon the WiN community grew to include ecologists and zoologists explaining about the life cycles of amphibians and invertebrates, helping people identify their nature finds. People sent in amazing photographs and observations of the changing seasons from their windows and daily walks. Gardeners and wildflower experts shared tips for rewilding gardens and increasing biodiversity. We continued to encourage people to stay in good physical shape and use their minds creatively by including contributions from yoga and art teachers exploring ideas for things to do at home that would also support people's mental health. Throughout this time the WhatsApp group, one to one emails and phone calls supported people who were experiencing poor mental health and signposted them to different organisations that could help.

During lockdown people were making the most of their time outside, the importance of accessing green spaces on our doorsteps was highlighted across the country and introduced a new audience to the therapeutic impact that nature can have. The newsletter enhanced people's knowledge about different habitats and the amazing biodiversity of the Railway Land. It encouraged people to access this beautiful local space, offering a positive next step of the journey to good mental health.

From June 2020 and when restrictions allowed us to, we provided one to one and group walks to members of the community who were experiencing isolation and experiencing poor mental health - people came from all over East Sussex. The group is open to all adults – we accept self-referrals and referrals from social prescribers, local voluntary organisations, therapists, green therapeutic groups, support workers, carers and family and friends. We adapted to our existing participant base as well as new people and saw an increase in referrals made by Social Prescribing workers reflected in engaging new participants coming along for the first time. New project activities were designed to meet this demand in covid-secure ways. We committed to outreach and networking throughout the year when possible as we recognised this is the best way to engage those hardest to reach and facing the greatest barriers. We explored ways to set up a dementia walking group and easy access walking group and increased the number of one-to- one walks to introduce nature connection to people who felt unsafe walking in a group and needed a gentle reintroduction to being out and about.

We have a strong volunteer and participant group and welcome people with lived experience of poor mental health, many of whom move through the project from participant to volunteer and back again. People who had similar mental health diagnoses gave others advice online, through the Whatsapp group, by the phone and on the walks: people who had lost loved ones gave each other support. People felt that they were part of a supportive community group - friendships have been made and continue within the project and outside of it. The message that it was okay to not be okay and that there was someone to talk to and/or share signposting ideas was a lovely, unexpected outcome.

Some quotes from participants:

A - I'm so excited for the coming year, when I feel, for me anyway, the journey starts anew. I can't thank you and the nature at Railway Land enough for keeping me afloat throughout this strange and difficult year we've had (and there have definitely been a lot of 'sinking' moments). But next year I'll be so much stronger and better

B - Lovely to walk around the Railway Land today. Beautifully fresh, clean air, playful Robins and children enjoying the huge puddles. Thank you for the connection, I needed it

C - I really love receiving the newsletter. It helps me to feel connected to you all and I am fascinated by all the beautiful photographs of how the land is changing - especially the water levels and the growth of fungi. The links you send give me so much insight into what else is going on in the outside world.

D - The walks in nature have really helped me in a dark time.

E - The Railway Land's wellbeing project has been a godsend, having arrived in Lewes during lockdown with a partner in poor mental health. Well organised, non-intrusive and positive support.

Strategic Aim 2: Get more local people involved with the Trust
Strategic Aim 3: Provide inspirational and innovative learning activities and events

Schools' Education Programme

4 6 8 project

With schools closed for much of the year, our usually busy programme of school visits drew to an abrupt halt. Although we managed to squeeze in some visits in the autumn of 2020 – mainly as part of the 4 6 8 project - many schools decided not to hold off-site visits and so it was a quiet period in that respect.

However, the lull in school visits presented us with the opportunity to diversify the support we give to schools and to review our schools programme overall.

One excellent piece of work that came out of this, was the Green Careers for All set of videos and the learning resources that accompany them. These videos involved interviews with all sorts of people working in the green sector - our 'Green Champs' ranging from organic farmers, ecologists and wildlife project officers; to renewable energy companies and engineers on the Rampion windfarm. The aim of the project was to give secondary and tertiary pupils a greater insight into what working in the environmental sector might entail and to give it a human face. Y8 pupils from Seaford Head School responded with further questions they would like to ask our Green Champs, and this resulted in a second set of videos drilling down further into some people's roles and the motivations that had led them to the work they do.

The videos are on our website and are well worth a watch at www.railwaylandproject.org/green-careers
Trustees and staff also took advantage in the lull in visits to review the 4 6 8 project, the circular curriculum project designed by Dr John Parry in 2016. While many aspects of the project have been a great success, feedback from schools suggested that they really wanted the experiential, outdoor learning to be maximised and for curriculum links to be clearer.

This led to a revamp of the programme – now called Lewes Outdoor Learning (LOL) – which was launched in March 2021.

The change in working practices that the pandemic brought for many schools has also brought new partnerships and initiatives to the Trust, such as running 'forest school' sessions at Western Road Primary School. So while it has been a difficult and disturbing year, there have been positive outcomes for the education programme and we are in a good position to provide ongoing, high quality environmental education to local schools as well as those further afield.

Strategic Aim 2: Get more local people involved with the Trust
Strategic Aim 3: Provide inspirational and innovative learning activities and events

Events

Events did not feature a great deal in this year but we did manage to run a few apple pressing sessions – all outdoors and luckily with clement weather. Supported as usual by a fantastic crew of volunteers, we pulped and juiced for two days flat and produced over 400 litres of juice. Also in September was Darren Bedser's Artwave installation in the signal box, which was transformed into a magical space with his intriguing wooded sculptures.

Strategic Aim 2: Get more local people involved with the Trust

Linklater Pavilion, the Signal Box and Chilly Brook

Both the Linklater Pavilion and the Signal Box were spruced up during lockdown. The upstairs rooms in the Linklater have been given a lick of paint, leaving it looking bright and fresh.

Renovations to the signal box were completed, with the last of the rotten timbers replaced, the shutters improved to make them easier to open, and a key safe installed so the Friends of the Railway Land can enjoy using the signal box whenever they like.

The ditches on the water meadows are ideally dredged on a 7 year cycle to prevent them from silting up and to maintain the water habitats there. Having secured funding through the Community Infrastructure Levy, we were able to get some of the ditches between Chilly Brook and the water meadows belonging to LDC dredged, the scrapes on Chilly Brook renewed and enlarged, and new scrapes established on LDC's meadow.

Strategic Aim 4: Improve our infrastructure and resources

Partnerships

Our key partnership remains with Lewes District Council, who we work closely with on the management and use of the nature reserve. During this period LDC were going through a restructure, as well as providing emergency assistance to the Specialist Advisors, Chris Bibb from LDC has been providing support for the management of the Railway Land, and this has been hugely appreciated by all.

Although we were unable to meet partners face to face during this period, it was nonetheless a productive time in building and strengthening partnerships with other organisations. One partnership that really flourished is between ourselves, Common Cause Co-operative, Wildflower Lewes, Lewes Urban Arboretum, Lewes Swift Supporters and LDC. Collectively we worked up a project proposal for the Lewes Wildlife Mosaic. We are seeking funding for this project now, which aims to engage people and organisations across the town and enable them to build stepping stones of wildlife habitat, and to coordinate voluntary opportunities and wellbeing support over three years.

Other broader partnerships that the Trust has been involved with, include the development phase of the Changing Chalk project, led by the National Trust and funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund, and the Ouse Valley CARES project which also started its development phase, funded by the Climate Action Fund.

Strategic Aim 1: Increase our influence with key stakeholders

Trustees

We were fortunate to recruit a new Trustee in this period, Ryan Myint. Ryan is a practicing solicitor, so his direct expertise is legal. He has also served as a charity trustee before, so brings experience of strategic oversight and governance.

He joins our other Trustees, namely Jim Hillage (then Chair), Mark Sawtell, (Treasurer), Sam Smith, Angie Smith, Barry McNulty, Simon Cooper, Toni Scarr, Natalie White, Jackie Ralph and Julie Lloyd.

Strategic Aim 4: Improve our infrastructure and resources

Volunteers
We missed all our volunteers greatly during this year, and it was always good to hear from them and how they were faring during the lockdowns. We are looking forward now to re-invigorating our volunteer programme and hoping to welcome people back to events 'in real life' both at the Linklater Pavilion and on the Railway Land!

Public Benefit
The Trustees confirm that they have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the Charity's aims and objectives.

Plans for Future Periods
The Trust aims to: Increase and consolidate income from hire of the Linklater Pavilion, recruiting people and organisations to the 'Friends of the Railway Land' membership scheme, running paid for activities such as holiday clubs, and holding fundraising events.

- Extend our programme of educational activities, specifically the provision of outdoor learning visits for primary and secondary schools; the further development of the 468 project with Lewes schools; and the provision of life long community learning opportunities.
- Further develop the volunteer programme through training and support, and to recruit new volunteers to more diverse roles.
- Provide opportunities for marginalised groups to benefit from engaging with the natural world and making use of the resources on offer at the Linklater Pavilion; specifically, to deliver and develop our work with people struggling with their mental health.
- Work closely with Lewes District Council on the management of the Railway Land Local Nature Reserve.

Financial review
Total incoming resources for the year amounted to £107,699 (2020: £94,087). Total resources expended amounted to £84,226 (2020: £97,652). Net surplus for the year amounted to £23,473 (2020: Deficit £3,565).

Recruitment and appointment of trustees
In accordance with the Articles of Association Trustees are elected by the membership. Half of the Trustees are required to retire annually by rotation and may offer themselves for re-election. Any Trustee co-opted by the Trustee Board during the year are required to stand for re-election at the next Annual General Meeting (AGM). When considering co-opting, the Trustee Board has regard to the requirements of any specialist skills needed.

Risk management
The Trustees acknowledge their responsibility to manage risk and have a risk strategy in place which comprises:-

- The maintenance of a risk register;
- An annual review of the risks the charity may face;
- The establishment of systems and procedures to mitigate against those risks identified in each review; and
- The implementation of procedures designed to prevent and potential impact on the charity should those risks materialise.

Trustees' responsibilities
The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Report of the Trustees and the financial statements in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law the Trustees have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law). 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 Company and the incoming resources and application of resources, including the net income or expenditure of the Company for the period. In preparing those financial statements, the Trustees are required to:-

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures and explained in the financial statements;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Company will continue in business.

The Trustees must, in determining how amounts are presented within items in the income and expenditure account and balance sheet have regard to the substance of the reported transaction or arrangement in accordance with generally accepted accountancy principles or practice.

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

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

By order of the Board:

……………………….
M Sawtell - Trustee

Date:

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT
TO THE TRUSTEES OF

THE RAILWAY LAND
WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED
(LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

I report on the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31st March 2021, which are set out on pages 10 to 19.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees of the company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 (the '2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's report

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

(1) accounting records were not kept in respect of the company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or

(2) the accounts do not accord with those accounting records; or

(3) the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act 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; or

(4) the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

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.

Victoria Anderson BA (Hons) FCA DChA
Chartered Accountant
Clark Brownscombe
2 St Andrews Place
Lewes, East Sussex, BN7 1UP

Date:

THE RAILWAY LAND
WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED
(LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
(INCORPORATING THE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2021

	Note	Unrestricted Funds 2021 £	Restricted Funds 2021 £	2021 Total £	2020 Total £
INCOME FROM	3				
Donations and legacies		**16,393**	**-**	**16,393**	8,204
Charitable activities		**57,371**	**31,142**	**88,513**	79,332
Other trading activities		**2,778**	**-**	**2,778**	6,458
Investments		**15**	**-**	**15**	93
TOTAL		**76,557**	**31,142**	**107,699**	94,087
EXPENDITURE ON	4				
Raising funds		**456**	**-**	**456**	2,262
Charitable activities		**59,123**	**24,647**	**83,770**	95,390
TOTAL		**59,579**	**24,647**	**84,226**	97,652
Net movement in funds		**16,978**	**6,495**	**23,473**	(3,565)
Fund balances at 31st March 2020		**692,814**	**14,401**	**707,215**	710,780
Fund balances at 31st March 2021		**709,792**	**20,896**	**730,688**	707,215

The detailed 2020 comparative statement of financial activities is reported in note 2.

The notes form part of these financial statements

THE RAILWAY LAND
WILDLIFE TRUST LIMITED
(LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31ST MARCH 2021
COMPANY NUMBER 02313579

	Note	2021		2020
		£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS				
Tangible fixed assets	7		**631,804**	645,089
CURRENT ASSETS				
Debtors	8	**2,373**		6,321
Cash at bank		**101,442**		60,955
		103,815		67,276
CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year	9	**(4,931)**		(5,150)
NET CURRENT ASSETS			**98,884**	62,126
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES			**730,688**	707,215
FUNDS				
Restricted Funds	11		**20,896**	14,401
Unrestricted Funds	12		**709,792**	692,814
			730,688	707,215

The company is entitled to exemption from audit conferred by Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31st March 2021.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees confirm that they are responsible for:

a) ensuring that the company keeps accounting records which comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006,

b) and preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of the affairs of the company as at the end of the financial year and of its results for the financial year in accordance with the requirements of Sections 394 and 395, and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the company.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Approved on behalf of the Board of Trustees on

……………………..
M Sawtell - Trustee

The notes form part of these financial statements

1. **Accounting policies**

a. Basis of Accounting

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102, effective 1 January 2019), hereafter referred to as the Charities SORP (FRS 102).

The Railway Land Wildlife Trust Limited meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note.

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the Trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised, if the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods if the revision affects both current and future periods. However, there are no judgements or assumptions that have a significant risk of causing material adjustment.

b. Funds Held

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

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes. The cost of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes.

c. Income

All income is included in the SOFA when the charity is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. For legacies, entitlement is the earlier of the charity being notified of an impending distribution or the legacy being received.

d. Expenditure

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs relating to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of the resources. Irrecoverable VAT is charged as a cost against the activity for which the expenditure was incurred.

e. Fixed Assets

Tangible fixed assets costing more than £500 are capitalised and included at cost including any incidental expenses of acquisition.
Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets at rates calculated to write off cost less residual value over their expected useful economic lives as follows:

Freehold Land	- none
Pavilion building	- over the length of the lease
Fixtures, fittings and equipment	- 5 years straight line

f. Debtors

Trade debtors and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid. Accrued income and tax recoverable are included at the best estimate of the amounts receivable at the balance sheet date.

g. Creditors

Creditors are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably.

h. Financial instruments

The charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

i. Pensions

Employees of the charity are entitled to join a defined contribution ‘money purchase’ scheme. The costs of the defined contribution scheme are included with the associated staff costs and are allocated to charitable activities. The charity participates in the NEST pension scheme in accordance with meeting auto enrolment responsibilities.

j. Going Concern

There are no material uncertainties concerning the charity’s ability to continue as a going concern.

2. Comparative Statement of Financial Activities

	Unrestricted Funds 2020 £	Restricted Funds 2020 £	2020 Total £
INCOME FROM			
Donations and legacies	8,204	-	8,204
Charitable activities	34,088	45,244	79,332
Other trading activities	6,458	-	6,458
Investments	93	-	93
TOTAL	48,843	45,244	94,087
EXPENDITURE ON			
Raising funds	2,262	-	2,262
Charitable activities	60,503	34,887	95,390
TOTAL	62,765	34,887	97,652
Net movement in funds	(13,922)	10,357	(3,565)
Fund balances at 1st April 2019	706,736	4,044	710,780
Fund balances at 31st March 2020	692,814	14,401	707,215

3. Income

	Unrestricted Funds 2021 £	Restricted Funds 2021 £	Total 2021 £	2020 £
Donations and legacies				
Donations and Gift aid	11,460	-	11,460	3,830
Membership fees	4,933	-	4,933	4,374
	16,393	-	16,393	8,204
Charitable activities				
Children’s activities and school visits	3,335	-	3,335	17,274
Hire of Linklater Pavilion	4,634	-	4,634	28,498
Grants	-	31,142	31,142	33,560
Pandemic aid	49,402	-	49,402	-
	57,371	31,142	88,513	79,332
Other trading activities				
Fundraising events	515	-	515	3,863
Electricity feed in tariff	2,133	-	2,133	2,595
Sundry income	130	-	130	-
	2,778	-	2,778	6,458
Investments				
Bank interest received	15	-	15	93
Total income	76,557	31,142	107,699	94,087

4. Expenditure

	Unrestricted Funds 2021 £	Restricted Funds 2021 £	Total 2021 £	2020 £
Raising funds				
Event costs	**456**	**-**	**456**	2,262
Charitable activities				
Cost of charitable activities	**526**	**-**	**526**	4,028
Grant related costs	**-**	**22,696**	**22,696**	17,138
Property costs	**6,903**	**-**	**6,903**	14,166
Overhead salaries and wages	**32,685**	**1,951**	**34,636**	36,022
Light, heat and power	**481**	**-**	**481**	2,537
General insurance	**1,565**	**-**	**1,565**	1,509
Marketing and communication	**1,476**	**-**	**1,476**	2,380
Administration costs	**898**	**-**	**898**	1,331
Depreciation	**13,285**	**-**	**13,285**	14,030
Donation to Madagascar project	**-**	**-**	**-**	1,031
Independent examination fee	**1,304**	**-**	**1,304**	1,218
	59,123	**24,647**	**83,770**	95,390
Total expenditure	**59,579**	**24,647**	**84,226**	97,652

5. Staff Costs

	2021 £	2020 £
Wages and salaries	**44,095**	47,122
Pension costs	**897**	897
	44,992	48,019

The average number of employees during the year was 4 (2020: 3). No employees received remuneration in excess of £60,000 p.a.

The key management personnel of the company comprise the trustees and the Programme Coordinator. The total employee benefits of the key management personnel were £20,447 (2020: £21,630).

No remuneration was paid to any of the Trustees during the year. During the year no expenses were reimbursed to any Trustee.

6. Net income

	2021	2020
Net income is stated after charging:	£	£
Depreciation	**13,285**	14,030
Independent examiners remuneration	**1,304**	1,218

7. Fixed Assets

	Freehold Land	Pavilion Building	Fixtures, Fittings and Equipment	Total
	£	£	£	£
Cost				
At 1st April 2020 and 31st March 2021	**3,530**	**757,547**	**36,056**	**797,133**
Depreciation				
At 1st April 2020	**-**	**118,046**	**33,998**	**152,044**
Charge for the period	**-**	**12,638**	**647**	**13,285**
At 31st March 2021	**-**	**130,684**	**34,645**	**165,329**
Net Book Value				
At 31st March 2021	**3,530**	**626,863**	**1,411**	**631,804**
At 31st March 2020	3,530	639,501	2,058	645,089

There is a legal charge dated 13 November 2012 in favour of Viridor Credits in respect of the building known as "The Linklater Pavilion". This was a condition of the funding provided by Viridor Credits to ensure compliance with the Land Communities Fund (LCF) Regulations and is designed to ensure the "The Linklater Pavilion" remains in compliance in terms of the management of LCF funded assets only.

8. Debtors

	2021	2020
	£	£
Trade debtors	**795**	2,085
Other debtors	**650**	1,004
Prepayments	**928**	3,232
	2,373	6,321

9. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2021	2020
	£	£
Trade creditors	1,329	-
Other taxes and social security costs	1,240	1,561
Other creditors	1,112	697
Accruals and deferred income	1,250	2,892
	4,931	5,150

10. Analysis of Net Assets between Funds

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2021	Total Funds 2020
	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets	645,089	-	645,089	645,089
Current assets	52,875	14,401	67,276	67,276
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(5,150)	-	(5,150)	(5,150)
	692,814	14,401	707,215	707,215

Analysis of Net Assets between Funds (Prior year)

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2020	Total Funds 2019
	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets	645,089	-	645,089	659,119
Current assets	52,875	14,401	67,276	57,298
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(5,150)	-	(5,150)	(5,637)
	692,814	14,401	707,215	710,780

11. Restricted Funds

	1st April 2020	Income	Expenditure	At 31st March 2021
	£	£	£	£
Chalk Cliff Trust	1,400	-	-	1,400
Sussex Community Foundation	2,943	2,400	(3,433)	1,910
Ernest Kleinwort Charitable Trust	5,000	-	(2,500)	2,500
Sussex Downs National Park	-	2,780	(2,780)	-
Lloyds Enable	3,382	-	(3,382)	-
Ninevah Trust	-	2,400	(400)	2,000
Active Access	1,676	-	-	1,676
Postcode Lottery	-	16,364	(7,498)	8,866
Southover Manor General	-	3,000	(456)	2,544
CIL	-	4,198	(4,198)	-
	14,401	31,142	(24,647)	20,896

Restricted Funds (Prior year)

	1st April 2019	Income	Expenditure	At 31st March 2020
	£	£	£	£
Ernest Cook Trust	1,710	-	(1,710)	-
Chalk Cliff Trust	2,334	2,600	(3,534)	1,400
Sussex Community Foundation	-	4,460	(1,517)	2,943
Ernest Kleinwort Charitable Trust	-	5,000	-	5,000
Sussex Downs National Park	-	1,500	(1,500)	-
Lloyds Enable	-	13,430	(10,048)	3,382
University of Sussex	-	2,900	(2,900)	-
Active Access	-	2,870	(1,194)	1,676
Lewes Town Council	-	800	(800)	-
	4,044	33,560	(23,203)	14,401

Chalk Cliff Trust and The Sussex Community Foundation - for additional support for people experiencing poor mental health to access the outdoors.

Ernest Kleinwort Charitable Trust – for the dredging of the ditches on the wet meadows and the installation of a new pond dipping platform.

Sussex Downs National Park – for the Green Careers for All resources.

Lloyds Enable and Postcode Lottery – to fund the Wellbeing in Nature project.

Nenevah Trust – to subsidise school visits as part of the 4, 6, 8/ Lewes outdoor learning project.

Southover Manor General Educational Trust - for learning resources for the 4 6 8 / Lewes Outdoor learning project.

CIL – for improvements to the wet meadows and signal box.

12. Unrestricted funds

	At 1st April 2020	Income	Expenditure	At 31st March 2021
	£	£	£	£
General	692,814	76,557	(59,579)	709,792

Unrestricted funds (Prior year)

	At 1st April 2019	Income	Expenditure	At 31st March 2020
	£	£	£	£
General	706,736	48,843	(62,765)	692,814

13. Statutory Information

The Company is a private company, limited by guarantee. Members have a liability not exceeding £1 each in the event of a winding up. The company is registered in England and Wales and the registered number and registered office address can be found on the Legal and Administrative information page.

14. Taxation

The charity 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. Accordingly, the charity is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3 Part 11 Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.