

Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts

Annual Report & Accounts 2022-23



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Overview of the year

For the year ended 31 March 2023

The Wildlife Trusts are leading the way in the fight to protect wildlife and put nature into recovery. We are experiencing a global climate crisis, which is a leading factor in nature's decline, degrading habitats and reducing biodiversity at pace. It is within this arena that we have positioned ourselves to tackle these crises head on and inspire everyone to take action.

Over the past year, the Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts (RSWT) has further developed its role in helping to support and equip Wildlife Trusts with the resources, skills, knowledge and access to funding to meet their local challenges, collaborate with other Wildlife Trusts on regional issues, and play their part in the wider collective.

We have continued to develop the technology and channels we use to stay informed to further improve our impact and develop the federation's culture and sense of connectedness. More Wildlife Trusts have taken up the range of shared services developed by RSWT to enable greater sharing of resources and information, and make significant budgetary savings. Our Customer Relationship Management (CRM) system, finance software, collective web platform, and shared procurement initiatives are being deployed within the majority of Wildlife Trusts.

RSWT is also leading on the digital transformation programme for the federation, a key aspect of Strategy 2030 that underpins many of our goals, strategic transformations and enabling priorities, and will ultimately enable us to be more resilient, efficient and effective at tackling the threats facing our natural world.

Our Talent and Skills programme, which offers a wide range of free or heavily subsidised training and development opportunities to staff throughout the federation, was delivered online, with sessions proving to be popular and many of them fully booked in advance. The opportunities available ranged from leadership development and line management to graphic design, speaking to the media, and managing conflict.

2022-23 represents the first full year since the launch of Strategy 2030: Bringing Nature Back. Over the past 12 months we have laid the foundations and set in motion plans for turning the strategy into reality. For each of our three strategic goals, five strategic transformations and five enabling priorities, we have created steering groups, co-chaired by senior staff in RSWT and the federation, and consisting of staff from across the Wildlife Trusts, to ensure we stay on track, work together at pace and deliver on our promises. We have also transformed our monthly Leaders' Days into Strategy Implementation Days with wider Wildlife Trust representation, beyond Chief Executive and Chair level, to engage and empower others across the movement to lead on specific elements of the strategic implementation.

Strategy 2030 recognises that nature's recovery and the restoration of biodiversity is inextricably linked to climate stability, food security and the health and wellbeing of people and communities. To achieve our ultimate vision of a thriving natural world, RSWT must be active in each of these areas.

Climate mitigation and adaptation continues to be a clear priority for the central team, with the publication of Changing Nature, our first climate risk assessment, which outlined the radical steps required to help nature adapt to climate change. Projects are already underway to reduce RSWT and the federation's carbon footprint and help us adapt.

Supported by RSWT, the #TeamWilder approach and ethos is growing across the federation, helping to engage, encourage and support diverse communities of people to take action for nature, with some of the UK's most under-represented and deprived areas enhancing their connection with nature where they live. In addition, funding from The National Lottery Heritage Fund enabled us to launch Nextdoor Nature, which embodies the #TeamWilder ethos, in 2022. This lottery programme has funded roles and training across the federation (apart from the Isle of Man and Alderney, which were funded from RSWT's own funds) to ensure that all communities, in every Wildlife Trust, have the opportunity to take action for nature. This has enabled us to reach a broader range of communities and groups and drive forward our aim to improve inclusivity and diversity.

In September 2022, we were pleased to host our first face-to-face, federation-wide conference since the Covid lockdowns were lifted. 'Resilience is in our Nature', a two-day event at the University of Nottingham, attracted hundreds of staff from across the federation to listen to keynote speakers, including from NHS England and RSPB, with a focus on climate change adaptation and green social prescribing.



We successfully campaigned against the growing number of threats to nature. We stood side-by-side with our colleagues in other environmental charities to tackle the Retained EU Law (REUL) Bill, which threatens to remove habitat protections. We challenged HS2 Ltd's data on the impact the project would have on wildlife and habitats, bringing the issue back into the media and into the public spotlight. In October 2022, beavers were added to the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations, ensuring their legal protection in England.

The media profile of The Wildlife Trusts has grown significantly, with regular appearances on national television and radio, and coverage in national newspapers and magazines. In tandem with our combined social media audience of more than 2.4 million, our reach, levels of engagement and influence are expanding. Our annual 30 Days Wild event in June successfully inspired individuals, families, schools, care homes and businesses to do one wild thing everyday for 30 days, with more than half a million people taking part. WildLIVE, our series of public YouTube events featuring a range of internal and external guest speakers, continued to tackle the issues currently affecting nature.

We brought more young people into the movement and provided forums to listen to and capture their ideas and utilise their enthusiasm and creativity. In 2022, we held the first Youth Weekender event, inviting young people from across the UK to come together to plan and design a Youth Festival, due to take place in summer 2023. This initial event was a resounding success and we now look forward to the Festival, giving our future campaigners and advocates a voice and platform to drive the changes they want to see.

We look forward to the year ahead as we continue our vital work to put nature in recovery and ensure that people and communities are a key part of the journey towards 2030.



Craig Bennett
Chief Executive,
The Wildlife Trusts



Duncan Ingram
Chair,
The Wildlife Trusts



Trustees' Report

For the year ended 31 March 2023

OUR VISION, PURPOSE & APPROACH

The Wildlife Trusts federation came together to develop our collective Strategy 2030: Bringing Nature Back, which was launched in April 2022.

Our vision is of a thriving natural world, with our wildlife and natural habitats playing a valued role in addressing the climate and ecological emergencies, and everyone inspired to get involved in nature's recovery.

Our purpose is to bring wildlife back, to empower people to take meaningful action for nature, and to create an inclusive society where nature matters.

Our approach dictates that we are ambitious in our desire not just to slow but to reverse the declines in nature.

We speak with a bold and confident voice, to tell the truth about the state of nature and what needs to be done to put it in recovery.

As a grassroots movement, we are firmly rooted in our local communities where we look after wild places, increasing people's understanding of and connection to the natural world, on land and at sea.

We look to establish common cause and work in partnership with others, at both a local level and a UK-wide level, to develop new, innovative ways to do what's right for nature and deliver impact in support of our vision.

We demonstrate what is possible, and inspire, empower, and enable people from all ages, backgrounds, cultures, identities and abilities to bring about our vision with us, embracing the diversity of our society to change the natural world for the better.

As a network of Wildlife Trusts, we work to ensure that our local actions, and our work through the four nations of the UK, Alderney and Isle of Man, add up to have a collective impact and help address global issues. Our differences are our strength, but we also strive to be more than the sum of our parts.

Our vision is underpinned by three bold goals that, by 2030, ensure:

nature is in recovery, with abundant, diverse wildlife and natural processes creating wilder land and seascapes where people and nature thrive

people are taking meaningful action for nature and the climate, resulting in better decision making for the environment at both the local level and across the four nations of the UK

nature is playing a central and valued role in helping to address local and global problems.

WHO WE ARE

The Wildlife Trusts are a grassroots movement of people from a wide range of backgrounds and all walks of life, who believe that we need nature and nature needs us. We have more than 911,000 members, over 35,000 volunteers, and more than 3,000 staff and 600 trustees, and a combined income of over **£200 million**.

There are 46 individual Wildlife Trusts, each of which is a place-based, independent charity with its own legal identity, formed by groups of people getting together and working with others to make a positive difference to wildlife and future generations, starting where they live and work.

Every Wildlife Trust is part of The Wildlife Trusts' federation and a corporate member of RSWT. Together, this federation of 47 charities is known as The Wildlife Trusts.

The role of Wildlife Trusts is to bring about nature's recovery where they operate, to empower people to take action for nature within their communities, and to work together with others to create a society where nature matters and drive landscape-scale change for wildlife.

The work of The Wildlife Trusts remains vital to the future of our wildlife and habitats. In light of the economic challenges facing the UK, the cost of living crisis, climate change fears and a looming General Election, nature is being forgotten about and attacked as UK and devolved governments' policies change and long held protections are continually put at risk. It is our role to ensure that nature stays on the agenda and is given the chance to recover and thrive once more.



ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

The role of RSWT is to ensure The Wildlife Trusts have a strong, collective voice for wildlife and to lead the development of the federation, helping to make the movement more than the sum of its part.

RSWT delivers by:

- Promoting The Wildlife Trusts' cause
- Building and managing key relationships
- Influencing UK government policy and decision-making

It acts as an umbrella organisation for The Wildlife Trusts and is responsible for:

- Co-ordinating the delivery of these shared aims at England and UK levels
- Upholding The Wildlife Trusts' brand
- Facilitating Wildlife Trusts working together

RSWT operates via a primary governing document, its Royal Charter, which defines RSWT's objects, including its role to support The Wildlife Trusts, and gives it incorporated status.

RSWT operates through seven directorates:

- Business Services
- Campaigning and Communities
- Climate Change and Evidence
- Executive Office
- Landscape Recovery
- Marketing, Development and Communications
- Public Affairs and Policy

Some of the highlights over the last year have included:

INFLUENCING DECISION MAKERS

Over the past year we have built relationships and engaged with key decision-makers on a wide range of topics. Our activities have included proactive work to counter long-term threats to nature and reactive work where immediate dangers were identified and action required to protect wildlife.

We reacted to the devastating impact that Avian Flu had on wild bird populations. With advice slow to emerge, we met with Defra and the Animal and Plant Health Agency for clearer guidance on the disposal of dead wild birds and on plans for addressing the issue.

We have utilised our strong partnerships with other eNGOs. A jointly arranged and well-attended, parliamentary reception on COP15 attracted 50 MPs and peers. We also held a joint Food and Farming summit with the RSPB and National Trust to address the issues facing food production in the UK. In partnership with farmers, landowners, and other eNGOs across the UK, The Wildlife Trusts followed up by publishing a declaration for a vision of the future of food, farming and nature in the UK, aiming to build a cross-sector consensus towards a new model of farming.

On numerous occasions, RSWT staff have met with, and advised MPs throughout a turbulent year in politics, rocked by constant change and upheaval. This has included engagements with Defra Ministers and Civil Servants following the various new appointments under Prime Minister Rishi Sunak. In addition, we met with senior Defra officials on 30 by 30, National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty policy, trees and forestry, Environment Act targets, Environmental Land Management (ELM) schemes in England, farm regulation, pesticide policy and much more.

During this period of change and economic chaos, RSWT has been deeply concerned that nature is not on the political agenda. We have used our power to constantly push for policy decisions to take the impact of nature into account. This has included challenging the UK Government on their failure to publish the legally binding Environment Act targets by 31 October 2022, and submitting a complaint to the Office for Environmental Protection. We also lobbied extensively against the Retained EU Law (REUL) Bill and submitted a detailed response to the Defra Technical Consultation on the Biodiversity Net Gain Metric. For another year running, we responded to UK Government's emergency authorisation of a banned neonicotinoid for use on sugar beet grown in 2023. Working with the Pesticide Collaboration on this issue, we engaged the media, published blogs, wrote social media posts challenging the decision and briefed MPs attending a debate on the issue.

RAISING OUR PROFILE

Our media profile continued to grow with regular appearances on national television and radio, and non-stop coverage in national newspapers. This has been a combination of both rapid responses to UK Government announcements as well as Wildlife Trust-led moments, such as National Marine Week, beaver reintroductions, climate adaptation, peat compost retail ban and landscape recovery programmes.

Across the year there were more than 35,000 pieces of coverage across print, broadcast and online media. This resulted in a cumulative reach of all press coverage of 159 billion 'opportunities to see', equating to an Advertising Value Equivalent of more than £23 million.

Our social media audience has grown to more than 2.4 million followers across all the main Wildlife Trusts accounts, while our popular Wild LIVE panel show has continued to provide The Wildlife Trusts with an accessible platform to address topical issues with a range of important guests including Dame Glenys Stacey, Chair of the recently formed Office for Environmental Protection. Other episodes have included a youth panel, chaired by actor and Wildlife Trusts ambassador Cel Spellman, discussing 'green jobs', a focus on the huge reduction in insect numbers, and pollution in our oceans.

In April, we launched a new partnership with outdoor media giants Clear Channel, whose launch of a new product, 'bee bus stops' (advised on by The Wildlife Trusts), was covered in the press to widespread public delight. The company provided significant 'value in kind' advertising space on these bus stops and in shopping centres for The Wildlife Trusts, estimated to be worth £400,000 during the first two months.

The summer's drought, wildfires, and heatwaves resulted in huge media coverage about the effects of climate change on nature, including an entire episode of BBC's Countryfile featuring Wildlife Trusts bringing the issues to an audience of millions.

Finally, our mass audience engagement campaign 30 Days Wild (now in its eighth year) – which encourages people to 'do something wild' every single day in June – saw 11,740 school groups, 898 care homes and a record 1,384 businesses take part, as well as more than 100,000 households, equating to an estimated 515,600 participants in total.

CAMPAIGNING AND EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES

The Wildlife Trusts made rapid progress on our strategic transformation to inspire "community organising and mobilising, especially amongst young people", thanks to a funding injection of £5 million secured by RSWT from the National Lottery Heritage Fund. This enabled every Wildlife Trust to recruit at least one Community Organising lead (with RSWT-funded support for Alderney and the Isle of Man), while funding from the People's Postcode Lottery enabled us to secure accredited training for more than 130 Wildlife Trust staff members who engage communities as part of their role. Widely reported on in the national media, Nextdoor Nature was launched with an inspirational spoken word poem from George the Poet, and has since gone from strength to strength, transforming the nature of how we engage with communities and building our capacity to sustain this into the future.

Our work with young people across the federation received a huge boost with the appointment of a youth activism specialist who has established the Youth Revolution community of practice for staff across the federation. Following on from a successful planning event with young people, our first ever Wildlife Trusts' youth festival 'Hope is in Our Nature' will take place this summer. In addition, we developed a partnership with Exeter University's ReNEW programme, which will provide a paid researcher to attend the event. This will help provide vital understanding into how we can meet the needs of a young adult audience in shifting power and encouraging them to take a lead in key areas of our work. Finally, we continued to push home the need for a GCSE in Natural History and to fund and increase opportunities for outdoor learning as part of the Department for Education Strategy, for example meeting with the Chair of the Education Select Committee, Robin Walker.

Our campaigning work continues apace, both in supporting individual Wildlife Trusts with their campaigns, and at a national level. Over the summer we planned and delivered a public-facing campaign to address the serious concerns that were building about the UK Government's broken promises for nature – particularly with the introduction of the Retained EU Law (REUL) Bill. Our #DefendNature campaign launched to huge public interest, with over 15,000 downloads of a template for Councillor and MP letters, over 3,000 tweets sent to MPs and wide media attention. Phase two of #DefendNature launched in October and included an online petition that generated a hard copy postcard delivered direct to local MPs. 6,543 campaign postcards were sent to 584 MPs. The long-awaited report: HS2 Double Jeopardy was launched with huge media buy-in. Campaign actions reached over 93,000 signatures. A Should Green Charities Support HS2? WildLIVE was also held, creating healthy debate from both sides of the argument and generating more than 3,500 views.

Ensuring policy-makers prioritise the role of nature in our health and wellbeing has continued to be a focus, and, following our interventions with the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, Minister for Primary Care and Public Health and Chief Secretary to the Treasury we have secured a permanent place on the newly-formed Green Social Prescribing Programme Board. In addition, we played a key part in the launch of Health Equals – a national health campaign led by the Health Foundation. As founder members, we are in a group of organisations and voices across different sectors who want to change the conversation around health to focus on the world around us.



BEAVER © NICK UPTON

SECURING FUNDING

One of the largest-ever private sector donations for nature was announced on Channel 4 in February 2023. Aviva's new £38m fund to help The Wildlife Trusts restore Atlantic temperate rainforests, was fantastic news for nature and for communities. It is part of a wider programme of nature-based projects funded by Aviva to remove carbon from the atmosphere. It will improve biodiversity and climate resilience by restoring wild places, including UK temperate rainforests, which have largely been destroyed over many hundreds of years. North Wales and the Isle of Man are the first two locations to benefit from this unique funding.

The corporate team has continued to grow successful and long-term partnerships, including with global law firm, Hogan Lovells, who have provided considerable pro bono legal advice on wide-ranging issues to Wildlife Trusts and RSWT, and with National Highways significantly increasing funding for nature recovery and restoration projects. AXA UK have committed to investing in Wild Work Days for 300 of their employees, and we continue to work with Siemens, M&S Food, Jordans Cereals, Ovo, Novuna and Clear Channel.

We are proud to have been supported by players of People's Postcode Lottery for many years. This year, thanks to funding raised by players, over half a million people were able to connect with nature by taking part in 30 Days Wild. Players of People's Postcode Lottery also supported Wildlife Trusts to care for wonderful nature reserves and help people learn about nature through wildlife events and education programmes.

Network for Nature - our National Highways-funded nature recovery programme - continues to grow with 41 live projects across 20 Wildlife Trusts and £9.07 million in funding. A further 16 projects have outline approval and assuming all progress to full approval in September, the programme will represent c.£13.2 million of funding to Wildlife Trusts for nature's recovery with 57 projects across 24 Wildlife Trusts.

We were delighted that Esmée Fairbairn Foundation awarded RSWT £330,000 of unrestricted core funding over two years to support The Wildlife Trusts' strategic transformation programme. The Prince of Wales' Charitable Fund awarded £390,000 over three years to support our work on nature-friendly land management, whilst grants of £149,000 from the European Climate Foundation and £100,000 over two years from John Ellerman Foundation will help us step up our work to ensure that farming supports nature's recovery. Zephyr Charitable Trust supported us to get more young people involved in decision-making with a grant of £35,000.

Less than a year into our new major donor programme, RSWT received the largest single, unrestricted gift from an individual to date, a sum of £150,000. Our new major donor lead established a community of practice for major donor fundraisers across the Wildlife Trusts to enhance skills and knowledge in this area. RSWT acknowledges, with thanks, the support of George Cornelius and Mike Servent, together with other funders and supporters who wish to remain anonymous.

JOINT WORKING FOR LANDSCAPE RECOVERY

Partnerships and collaborative projects have become a powerful tool for The Wildlife Trusts to effect change on a larger scale, and at pace.

We have worked with Wildlife Trusts to help them access the innovative philanthropic lending scheme and, thanks to loans, purchases have been completed on key sites such as Old Whittington (Derbyshire) and Creggan (Ulster), with more in the pipeline. Without the scheme in place, these purchases would not have been possible.

Joint working initiatives have been essential to ensuring vital keystone species reintroductions make progress, with a particular focus on beavers and an ultimate aim of moving from enclosures to wild releases. In addition, with RSWT support, Northumberland Wildlife Trust confirmed their intent to partner with Lifescapes, consulting on lynx reintroduction into Kielder Forest, whilst Devon Wildlife Trust has started consultation work for wild cat reintroduction into south-west England.

To better develop cross-border working and utilise the collective strength of Wildlife Trusts, RSWT established the Severn Partnership of Wildlife Trusts. The initiative is a partnership of many different programmes and projects within the River Severn catchment, stretching from the Sherbourne Valley project and Pumlumon project in the headwaters to Wilder Marches and natural flood management in and around Gloucestershire.

To better map and join up our work across the movement, we have developed a common Geographic Information System (GIS) platform. A GIS user group/community of practice has been established to help build momentum for sharing data and facilitate knowledge sharing across the federation. 26 Wildlife Trusts have signed up as affiliates to the common GIS platform, with over 160 users to date. The potential long-term benefits that this partnership will bring to joined up working and data sharing are significant.



TACKLING CLIMATE CHANGE AND BUILDING RESILIENCE

Tackling climate change is a thread which runs throughout The Wildlife Trusts' Strategy 2030 and is key to protecting and restoring nature.

RSWT produced and launched a federation-wide climate change adaptation report, *Changing Nature*, setting out the risks to our land and assets and a five-year plan to address those; this is the first time The Wildlife Trusts have produced a report of this kind. We plan to use it to advocate for more focus on adaptation in the natural environment with UK Government. Linked to this, we also published our statement of intent and action plans on climate change. This included a climate change position statement, signed by 45 Wildlife Trusts and RSWT.

We have assessed our own impact on the environment, and those of all Wildlife Trusts, to ensure that we get our 'own house in order'. This included the launch of three new consultancy projects: to understand better how to reduce emissions from our livestock; to review and improve our scope 3 emissions calculations, and to create a bespoke climate change training course for The Wildlife Trusts. We also circulated to Wildlife Trusts a first estimate of our land-based emissions and removals, after a 12-month process to review the best available evidence and create a GIS capability to measure our combined habitat area.

Ensuring our voice is heard at the highest levels, we have attended key global events on climate change. RSWT's Chief Executive and Director of Climate Action attended the biodiversity COP15 in Canada. Together they held over 20 partnership building meetings, produced regular video updates and attended the negotiations as observers. RSWT also delivered a successful programme of public engagement around the climate change COP27. This included regular progress updates across our social platforms, and a reflections blog on the outcomes for nature at COP27.

Finally, under the Aviva programme, the team at RSWT have completed the Woodland Carbon Code registration and are continuing to do all the carbon calculations for each potential site on behalf of all Wildlife Trusts involved.

MAXIMISING WILDLIFE TRUST RESEARCH & EVIDENCE

The research undertaken and evidence produced by Wildlife Trusts provides rich and powerful data that can be used to affect policy decisions and plan for nature's recovery. Over the past year, RSWT has endeavoured to maximise and bring together research and data within the federation for the benefit of all. Using this information, we are developing a federation-wide evidence framework, which will form part of a first annual evidence publication launched in autumn 2023.

In addition, a new evidence community of practice was launched late in 2022 to harness best practice and bring

research staff together. In support of this, a series of workshops and webinars with a focus on evidence, was delivered to colleagues from across the federation.

To better understand the public's relationship with nature, we launched The Great Big Nature Survey earlier this year. At the time of writing, it has attracted over 9,000 responses. Set to be the biggest nature attitudes survey of its kind in the UK, this wide-ranging study will provide important audience (members and public) insights to drive action, and support communications, campaigning and fundraising.

EQUALITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSIVITY (EDI)

RSWT's experienced and highly trained EDI team have been making a positive impact on the wider federation through training, support and guidance, and through the creation of new spaces for staff who consider themselves minorities. This has included five new training sessions on Disability and Disclosure launched to the federation. To date, hundreds of staff have attended training from across The Wildlife Trusts.

The membership of the EDI Community of Practice has grown to 79 members. Five additional staff networks are up and running with growing memberships, including Out for Nature, Nature in Mind, Next Gen Nature, Nature for All, and Colours of Nature.

EDI was given centre stage at an all staff virtual Town Hall, which was designed to get Wildlife Trusts thinking about how they can increase the ethnic diversity of their workforce. To support this, an EDI framework has been developed and shared, and is scheduled for formal approval in summer 2023.

Promotion of LGBTQ+ inclusion has been a key part of the EDI team's work over the past year. During Pride Month in June, the 'Out for Nature' network produced a guidance document for HR teams, and the network of communications and EDI contracts within Wildlife Trusts has also been heavily involved in attending various Pride events around the country.

Finally, in Wales, we have taken the lead in a multiple eNGO long term project to increase the ethnic diversity of people engaging with nature.

STRATEGY, LEADERSHIP AND TRAINING

RSWT's role in supporting the wider federation and enabling Wildlife Trusts to connect and work as one movement has been critical to embedding the joint Strategy 2030. Following the initiation of steering groups made up of cross-representation across the federation for each section of the strategy, co-chairs from each of the groups met over two days to plan milestones and priorities between now and 2030. Linked to Strategy 2030, external legal advice on the review of the Royal Charter and Byelaws was sought to ensure they are fit to enable delivery of the strategy outcomes.

Duncan Ingram was welcomed to the board of Trustees at the November AGM as Chair, a significant moment, as Peta Foxall stepped down from her role. All resolutions were also passed at the AGM and our annual awards were presented to the following staff for their work, dedication and passion to protect nature.

- The Christopher Cadbury Medal (for services to the advancement of nature conservation in the British Isles) was awarded to Ray Woods, Vice President of Radnorshire Wildlife Trust. Ray has dedicated over 40 years of his life to nature conservation, and his contribution to our knowledge of the natural history of mid-Wales is unsurpassed. He is a popular and gifted writer, walks leader, lecturer and a natural teacher who is endlessly generous with his time.
- The Marsh Charitable Trust Leadership and Innovation in Nature Restoration Award was given to James Hitchcock, CEO of Radnorshire Wildlife Trust. The Award recognises and celebrates an individual who has successfully led an innovative or transformative project to bring back wildlife. James' campaigning work on the River Wye, and his determination to buy a key nature recovery site at Pentwyn Farm, required dedication, leadership and courage.
- The Marsh Charitable Trust Unsung Hero Leadership Award recognised the work of Flavia Ojok, the Early Talent and Inclusion Manager at Derbyshire Wildlife Trust. The Award celebrates an individual who may not have been recognised before but has led a transformational change in the running of their organisation's operations that has ultimately led to greater impact in our work to bring back nature. Flavia has transformed Derbyshire Wildlife Trust's culture in regard to inclusion and its value in their organisation and work.

In the post lockdown world, we have been able to bring people together from across the federation through the continuation of our Talent and Skills training programme and a series of face-to-face conferences and seminars. As well as the Resilience in our Nature federation conference in September 2022, we also held a successful Seeing is Believing event, co-designed with London Wildlife Trust. It enabled people from across the federation to hear directly from, and learn from, youth board members and trainees. Finally, we ran a two-day HR Seminar at London Wildlife Trust's Camley Street venue in February 2023, attended by 40 HR professionals from 20 Wildlife Trusts.

BACK-OFFICE SUPPORT

The back-office support function at RSWT has continued to develop shared services, projects, initiatives and new opportunities with suppliers for Wildlife Trusts to take advantage of and benefit from.

The IT team has provided access to a range of essential software and platforms at a lower cost to Wildlife Trusts than would be possible if individually secured. This includes the collective web platform, with developments that have included new mapping capabilities, tracking and analytics improvements, and various security enhancements. Wildlife Trusts can also use the Charity Access CRM system, Xledger financial software, and the federation-wide intranet 'WildNet', which hosts over 70 communities of practice, an image library of more than 35,000 images and a range of resources for staff to use.

The RSWT procurement function has agreed a several new deals for commonly bought goods and services which deliver savings across categories of spend such as HR, IT, Fleet and Energy. The strategic approach for Procurement is to drive value for money whilst supporting carbon reduction targets and driving innovation. The recent deal with Brandon Tool Hire is a good example of this supporting Trusts in the transition to electric based power tools, or through our partnership with Siemens, RSWT commissioned the engineering and technology giant to produce detailed guidance for Wildlife Trusts on the installation of EV charge points at nature reserves.

MANAGING CENTRAL RESOURCES

We have continued to support RSWT staff working remotely from home and those who prefer hybrid working. The office in Newark remains open three days a week for staff to attend, with facilities for larger meetings and face to face planning sessions.

Strategic leads for three core areas that can bring both significant opportunities and risk to the Wildlife Trusts federation have been established in the executive office team, covering information security, safeguarding and equality, diversity and inclusion. These new roles add to the high-level support already provided to Wildlife Trusts by the Executive Office in Human Resources and Governance.

The RSWT Compliance Group met in December 2022 and March 2023; outputs included the need for an RSWT Environmental Policy, the launch of a federation-wide compliance audit and updates to the RSWT Privacy Notice – all of which are being worked on.

ADMINISTERING PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMMES AND GRANTS

RSWT is responsible for the distribution of a number of grants. Details of the grants offered during the year can be found in Note 29. Grants are made subject to the terms and conditions placed upon RSWT by the relevant funding bodies. Grants from RSWT's own unrestricted funds are made at the discretion of Council.

BIFFA AWARD

A major part of RSWT's turnover relates to the administration and distribution of Landfill Communities Funding through the Biffa Award programme. We seek to distribute funds to achieve the maximum benefit for the environment, and local community facilities. Biffa Award grants are subject to the approval of a Board comprising nominees of Biffa and RSWT (see: www.biffa-award.org).

A total of £4.2 million of Biffa Award grants were awarded this year to 40 projects in England and Northern Ireland. Cumulatively, more than £190 million has now been distributed since 1997 across England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Biffa Award is celebrating its 25th year of funding vital community and biodiversity projects. In preparation for this milestone, in spring 2022 we launched the Biffa Award 25 Grants Scheme, offering a grant of up to £2.5 million for an exciting, innovative and regionally, nationally or internationally significant project that would leave a lasting legacy for the next 25 years. In November 2022, the Board awarded the Biffa Award 25 grant to Wiltshire Wildlife Trust to purchase and restore Great Wood, an ancient woodland in North Wiltshire which covers 71 hectares. The transformation of Great Wood into a nature reserve prevents the woodland from being sold off in small parcels to multiple landowners or commercially managed and will enable the Wildlife Trust to protect one of the county's few remaining large ancient woodlands.

The value of the fund is expected to increase to £32.9m and the minimum percentage that can be claimed by a site operator is increased to 5.3%.

OUR BRIGHT FUTURE (FUNDED BY THE NATIONAL LOTTERY COMMUNITY FUND)

Leading a consortium of eight partner organisations, RSWT oversaw a £33.2m portfolio of 31 projects across the UK. These projects enabled young people to build their skills and confidence, leadership capability, and connection to the environment whilst making a genuine positive difference to the environment. All projects were completed by December 2021 and the programme completed in March 2023.

Our Bright Future has demonstrated that engaging young people in the environment and conservation creates numerous benefits for young people. Participants were consistently found to be more confident, skilled, happier and able to find work through their participation in the programme. The key outcomes for young people were:

- Improved mental health and wellbeing
- Increased self-esteem and self-confidence
- New skills and knowledge
- Increased employability and enhanced or influenced career aspirations.

At the end of the programme, 86% of young people involved felt that their mental health and wellbeing improved and 95% felt that their self-confidence had improved. 92% said they cared about the environment and 81% agreed that they could make a difference to the environment.

In total, 128,495 young people connected with the programme in some way. More than 8,600 young people gained qualifications and 1,627 young people entered internships, work experience, work placements or apprenticeships. 203 enterprises were also started by young people. In addition, almost 3,500 community and wildlife spaces were created or improved. Physical improvements to community spaces led to several positive outcomes for communities, including improved community cohesion, improved perceptions of young people and increased enjoyment of natural spaces.



BADGER © ANDREW MASON



HERMIT CRAB © AMY LEWIS

STATEMENTS AND COMMITMENTS

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

The Wildlife Trusts can only make an authentic contribution to tackling the climate and ecological emergencies by ensuring our own house is in order. As major owners of land, energy users, consumers of water, catering providers, event organisers, venue providers, vehicle fleet operators, educators, retailers, and consultancies (to name just some of our services), as well as employers and members of the business community, we recognise that we need to lead by example in how we manage our own environment and community impacts. This responsibility is a key part of Strategy 2030 (Enabling Priority One: Getting our own house in order).

We updated our Environment Statement and are working with Wildlife Trusts to establish a comprehensive programme to reduce our environmental footprint and set ambitious targets in relation to key areas such as carbon emissions reduction, use of chemicals on land, and renewable energy generation. Nearly all Wildlife Trusts have completed their latest greenhouse gas emissions accounts for the 21/22 financial year, meaning we now have three years' worth of data across the majority of the federation and can start to detect trends in progress.

EQUALITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSIVITY (EDI)

RSWT prides itself in its proactive approach to equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI), which stems from the Social Model of Inclusion, taking the focus away from the individual and giving it to the environment (this could

be a person, policy or place), with the belief that it is environmental barriers that cause a person to become marginalised. RSWT are striving to remove such barriers and promote barrier free design, by assessing all aspects of our work for the impact on equalities, providing training, and making reasonable adjustments where necessary to promote inclusion.

KEY FACTORS RELEVANT TO ACHIEVEMENT OF RSWT'S OBJECTIVES

The continued support of our corporate members, the 46 individual Wildlife Trusts, remains key to the ability of RSWT to continue to achieve its objectives.

PUBLIC BENEFIT STATEMENT

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in section 4 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit, 'Charities and Public Benefit'.

RSWT's public benefit is enshrined in its charitable objects, as set out in the Royal Charter, being: 'to promote the conservation and study of nature, the promotion of research into such conservation and to educate the public in understanding and appreciating nature, in the awareness of its value and in the need for conservation'.

RSWT fulfils its objectives and delivers its public benefit through two main strands of activity: supporting the work of The Wildlife Trusts; and distributing grant funding to a wide range of external organisations through RSWT's Grants Programmes.



Reference and Administrative Details

Registered name	Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts (RSWT)	
Also known as	The Wildlife Trusts	
Previously known as	Society for the Promotion of Nature Reserves (SPNR) Society for the Promotion of Nature Conservation (SPNC) Royal Society for Nature Conservation (RSNC)	
Registered charity number	207238	
Address	The Kiln, Waterside, Mather Road, Newark, Nottinghamshire. NG24 1WT	
Principle bankers	NatWest Bank 225 High Street, Lincoln. LN2 1AZ	
Investment Managers	Sarasin & Partners LLP Juxon House, 100 St Paul's Churchyard, London. EC4M 8BU	CCLA Investment Management Senator House, 85 Queen Victoria Street, London. EC4V 4ET
Pension scheme administrators	Capita Pension Solutions Ltd 65 Gresham Street, London. EC2V 7NQ	
Solicitors	Chattertons St Swithin's Court, 1 Flavian Road, Lincoln. LN2 4GR	DLA Piper UK LLP Princes Exchange, Princes Square, Leeds. LS1 4BY
Auditor	Saffery Champness LLP 71 Queen Victoria Street, London. EC4V 4BE	

Structure, Governance and Management

RSWT is a body corporate, incorporated under the Royal Charter of 2 March 1976, as amended in 1981, 1994, 1998, 2003 and 2007.

Patron HRH The Former Prince of Wales

President Liz Bonnin

Presidents Emeritus Sir David Attenborough OM GCMG CH CVO CBE Kt FRS FSA FRSA
FLS FZS FRSGS FRSB
Simon King OBE
Tony Juniper CBE

Vice Presidents Prof J Chris Baines
Nick Baker
Prof David Macdonald CBE FRSE
Bill Oddie OBE
Julian Pettifer OB
Prof Sir Robert Worcester KBE
Gillian Burke
Iolo Williams
Dr Amir Khan

Council

Chair Peta Foxall
Duncan Ingram to 22 November 2022
from 24 November 2022

Hon Secretary Stewart Goshawk

Hon Treasurer Peter Batchelor from 25 November 2021

Other Trustees Steve Garland
Dr Robert Brown
Rob Pickford OBE
Joanna Pike
Julian Woolford
Nicholas Simon Parsons
Nina Ma
Ria Shah
Lara Burch
Prudence Addison
from 31 January 2023
from 8 March 2023
from 12 May 2023

Chief Executive Craig Bennett

APPOINTMENT AND INDUCTION OF TRUSTEES

Council comprises the Chair, Honorary Secretary, Honorary Treasurer, one Wildlife Trust-nominated Trustee from each of Scotland, Wales and Ulster, the Chair of The Wildlife Trusts England Policy Committee and four other Trustees nominated by the English Wildlife Trusts. Trustees are elected by the corporate members at the Annual General Meeting. Council appoints a Vice Chair.

The Chair is elected to serve a single five-year term. Honorary Officers are elected and other Trustees are appointed or elected, for up to two terms of three years. Council may also have two additional members possessing specialist skills, knowledge or expertise, as assessed by a skills audit.

The Chair introduces new Trustees at their first Council meeting. New Trustees are also given access to a dedicated intranet website which includes the charity's key documents, including its Royal Charter, Governance Handbook, Financial Standing Orders, latest Annual Report and Accounts, Five Year Plan, budget, minutes of recent Council meetings, relevant Charity Commission publications, and the Charity Trustee Network's 'Code of Conduct for Trustees'. New Trustees are also invited to attend induction sessions at the RSWT's office in Newark at the earliest convenient opportunity to receive introductory briefings on key work areas. Due to Covid-19 these were moved to Zoom sessions in 2020/21, which were well received and have been continued ever since.

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

The Trustees (who are also the directors of the Board 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).

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year that give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the group and parent charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the group for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP (FRS 102)
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- State whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the group and parent charity, and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations and the provisions of the Royal Charter. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the group and parent charity, 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 financial information included on the charity's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

The Royal Charter gives Council the powers to:

- Administer the affairs of RSWT under the Bye-laws
- Exercise all the powers of RSWT, subject to the Bye-laws
- Determine the policy of RSWT.

Council, as RSWT's governing body, is ultimately responsible, and directly accountable, to the charity's corporate members, the 46 independent Wildlife Trusts. Council operates a number of sub-committees and boards/groups overseeing partnership projects and grants. During 2021 and 2022, alongside and following the development of The Wildlife Trusts Strategy 2030, the governance structure was reviewed and updated with several committees ceasing as new structures were put in place, particularly relating to policy development, representation of all nations and crown dependencies and strategic development.

The main committee of Council is:

- The Wildlife Trusts' Resources and Audit Committee

Committees that formally ceased during 2022 included:

- The Wildlife Trusts' England Policy Committee (ceased in December 2022)
- The Wildlife Trusts' Countries Committee (ceased from December 2022)
- The Wildlife Trusts' Strategic Development and Research Committee (ceased in April 2022)
- The Wildlife Trusts' Marketing and Development Committee (ceased in December 2022)

The main boards overseeing partnership programmes and grants:

- Biffa Award Board

Council is the primary leadership group for The Wildlife Trusts, aiming to deliver its stated purpose and mission as a movement. It also aims to lead The Wildlife Trusts in pursuit of excellent collective governance, ensuring that a collective strategy is in place and that the role of the RSWT as the central charity is clearly identified and effectively delivered.

Resources and Audit Committee has responsibility for the operational effectiveness of The Wildlife Trusts as well as for overseeing the central charity's own resources and collective risk management.

The Biffa Award Board has delegated powers to make grant offers in respect of our major grant fund, in accordance with the terms agreed with the respective funding bodies. The Biffa Award Board comprises six members, with RSWT and Biffa Group Ltd each appointing three members.

Trustee nominations and those for main committees are considered by a standing Nominations Advisory Panel before being presented to Council and onwards to the AGM in the case of Trustees.

Much of the organisation's work is undertaken by a team of staff, reporting to a Chief Executive who is accountable exclusively to Council for achieving The Wildlife Trusts' strategic objectives and for complying with Council's policies.

REMUNERATION OF KEY PERSONNEL

In accordance with the agreed job evaluation framework and available benchmarking information, the Chief Executive has delegated authority to agree salaries. They will normally do so in conjunction with HR executives or, for Director level posts, with the input of key Trustees. The Chief Executive's own salary is set by the Chair and Honorary Officers.

FUNDRAISING

The individual Wildlife Trusts manage relationships with more than 911,000 members between them. Our members make up our movement and when members are asked for financial contributions it is done in a responsible, respectful and ethical manner. The same applies to all our supporters including those giving one-off donations or legacies to RSWT or to their Wildlife Trust. We are always seeking to improve the ways in which we relate to supporters and RSWT helps Wildlife Trusts to develop and share best practice. To demonstrate our commitment to ethical fundraising practices, RSWT is an organisational member of the Fundraising Regulator and the Institute of Fundraising and adheres to their recognised standards.

The Wildlife Trusts do not believe in approaching vulnerable people for financial support and we aim to avoid causing distress to anyone.

We always want to exceed the expectations of our members and supporters in everything we do. However, we know that there may be times when we do not meet our own high standards. When this happens, we want to hear about it, in order to deal with the situation as quickly as possible and put measures in place to stop it happening again. As such, we have a Complaints Policy in place, to enable members and supporters to contact us and express their concerns. Further information on our Complaints Policy can be found on our website: wildlifetrusts.org/complaints-policy

We are also committed to disclosing the number of complaints received. No complaints relating to RSWT's fundraising practices were received between 1 April 2022-31 March 2023.

We are proud of our corporate partnerships and seek to work with businesses with whom we share common cause. Any new collective corporate partnerships are subject to full scrutiny through well-established governance processes. Ongoing partnerships are governed by clear contractual obligations, relationship management and ongoing review and scrutiny by governance committees.

The cost-of-living crisis has had a notable impact on fundraising both for individual Wildlife Trusts and RSWT and we have kept our own finances under close review, as well as working closely with Wildlife Trusts to understand the impact for them and support them where we could, and with government and funders to try to reduce this impact, wherever possible.

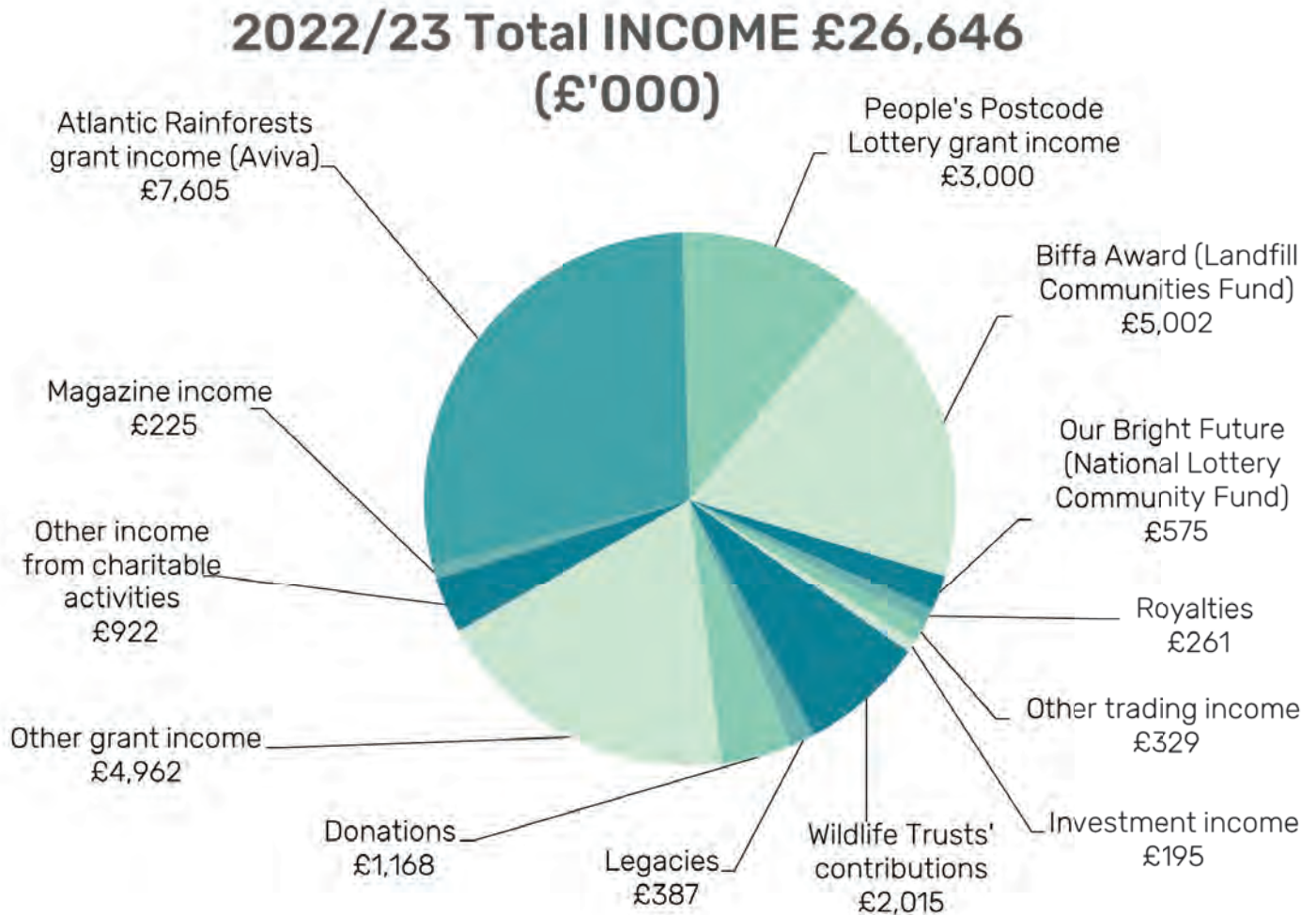


Financial Review of the Year

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

Incoming Resources

Total income during the year amounted to £26.6 million (2021/22: £18.6 million) of which income from charitable activities totalled £22.3 million (84% of the total) (2021/22: £14.8m, 80%).



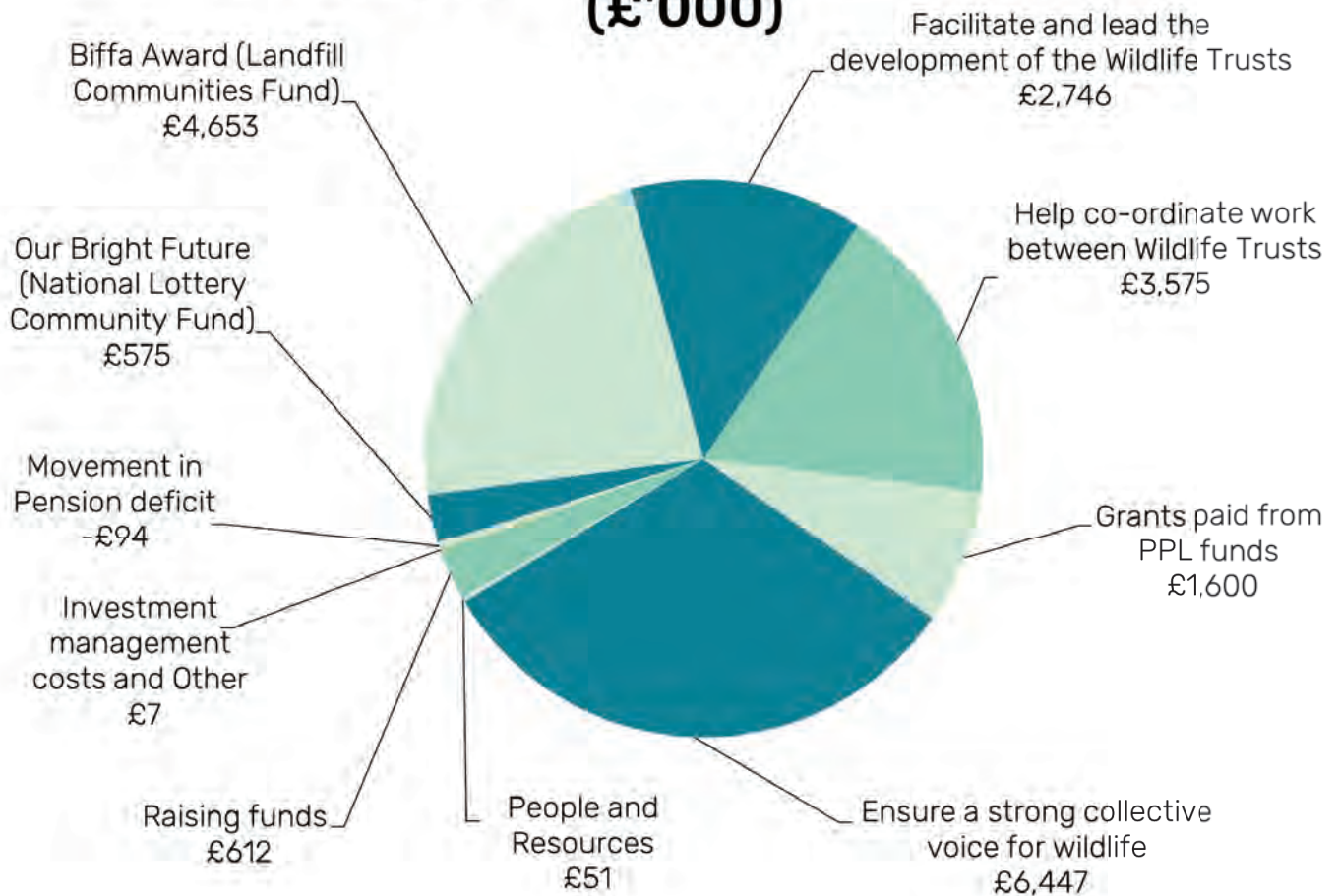
RSWT is very grateful for bequests included in legacy income from the estates of the following individuals :

Muriel May Abbott ● Rita Barras ● Michael Bishop ● Brian Brazier ● Eirene Patricia Broomhead
Juliet Cope ● George Costa ● Sylvia Harley ● Unity Harrington ● Margaret Leach ● David Liddle
Manning ● Margaret Marrs ● Betty Nevard ● John N. Smith ● David Styles ● Mary Winifred Tumber
Pamela Ann Waldron ● Walford ● Eric Anthony Whittaker ● Carol Yates

Resources Expended

Total expenditure during the year amounted to £20.2 million (2021/22: £17.2 million) of which expenditure on charitable activities totalled £19.6 million (97% of the total) (2021/22: £16.7m, 97%).

2022/23 Total Expenditure £20,172 (£'000)



Trading Activities

The charity's active trading subsidiary, The Wildlife Trusts Services Limited, provides services to Wildlife Trusts. Subsidiary turnover was £540,000 (2021/22: £611,000), primarily relating to income from corporate relationships. The subsidiary reported a net profit before and after tax of £42,000 (2021/22: £21,000).

Profits are paid as a gift aided donation to the charity in the following accounting year from which they are generated.

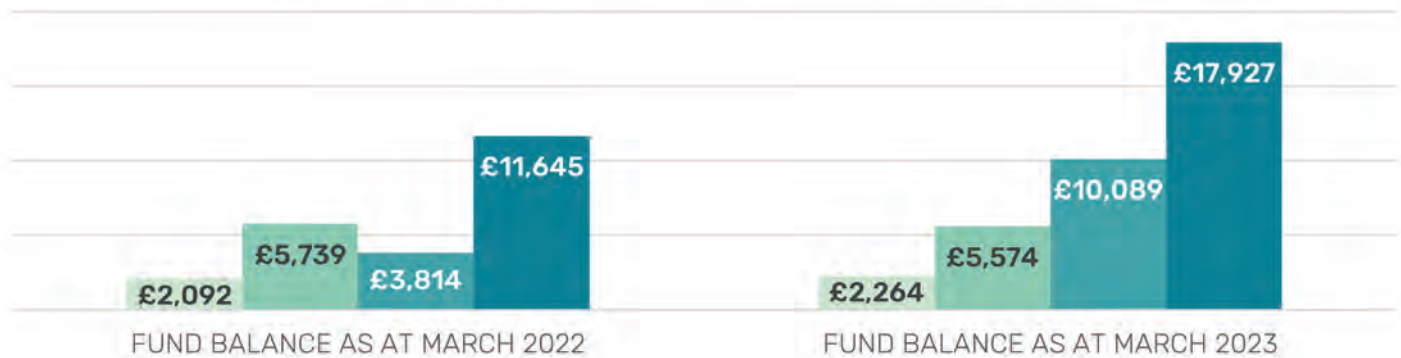
Investment Gain/Loss

Our investments in Sarasin & Partners' Climate Action Endowment Fund and CCLA COIF Charities Ethical Investment Fund reported an unrealised loss of £98,000 (2021/22: £49,000 gain) reflecting the movement in investment markets over the year.

Net Movement In Funds And Fund Balances

Fund Balances 2022/2023 (£'000)

General Fund Designated Fund Restricted Fund Total Funds



The balance of designated funds reduced by £165,000 from April 2022 to March 2023. This was mainly due to legacy income spend on strategic development and innovation. The balance of restricted funds increased by £6.3 million over the year including the new project Atlantic Rainforests funded by Aviva, with a closing balance of £5.5 million.

Balance Sheet

Group Balance Sheet 2022/23 (£'000)

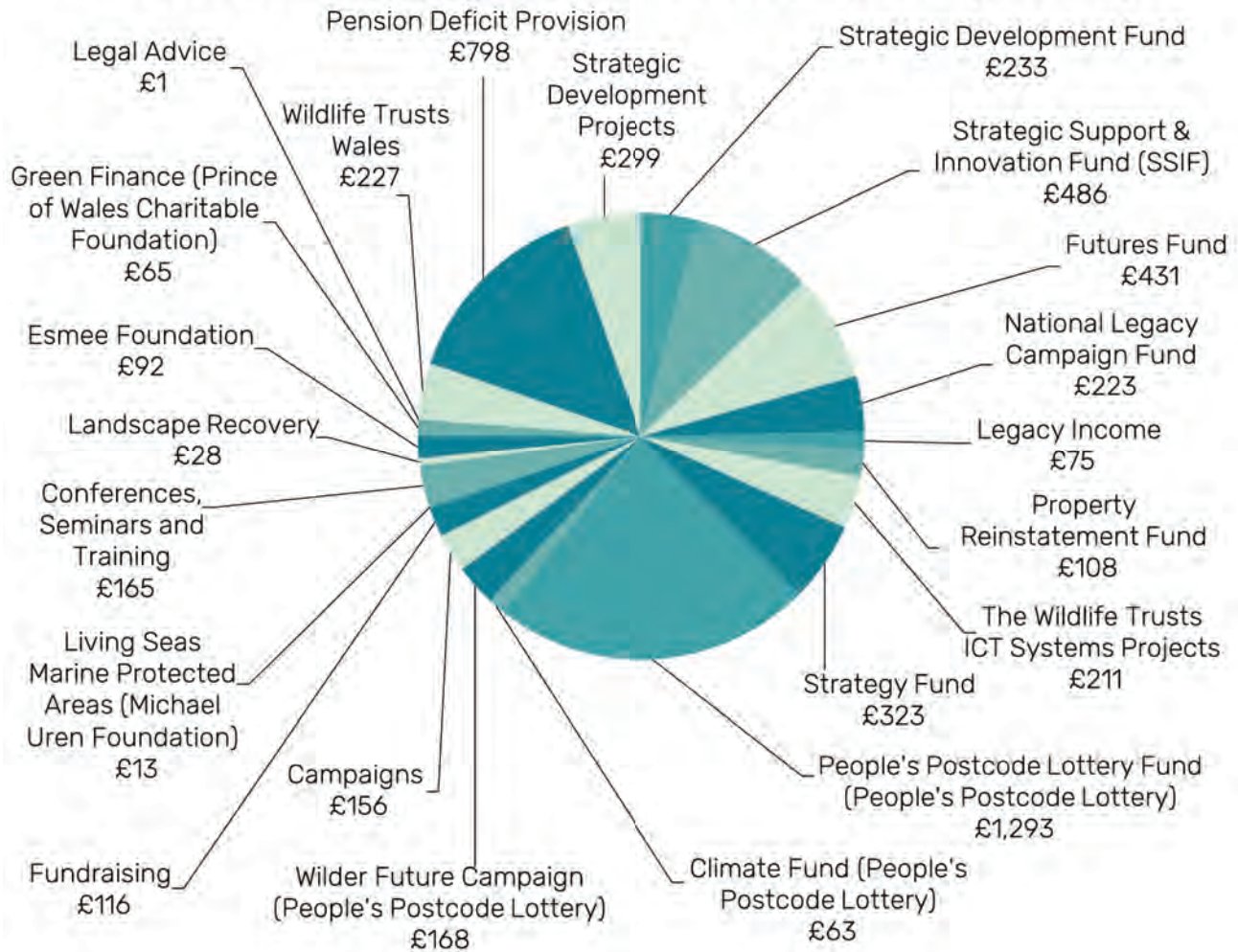


FINANCIAL RESERVES

Designated Funds

Designated funds are those unrestricted reserves that the Trustees have designated for particular purposes.

2022/23 Designated Funds £5,574 (£'000)



Free Reserves

Free reserves provide the working capital requirements of the charity, whilst providing a buffer of liquid funds in case of any short-term decline in income, unexpected increase in costs or risk exposure. They are intended to ensure that contractual obligations to staff, premises and funding partners can be met. RSWT calculates its free reserves by deducting fixed assets from its general unrestricted funds.

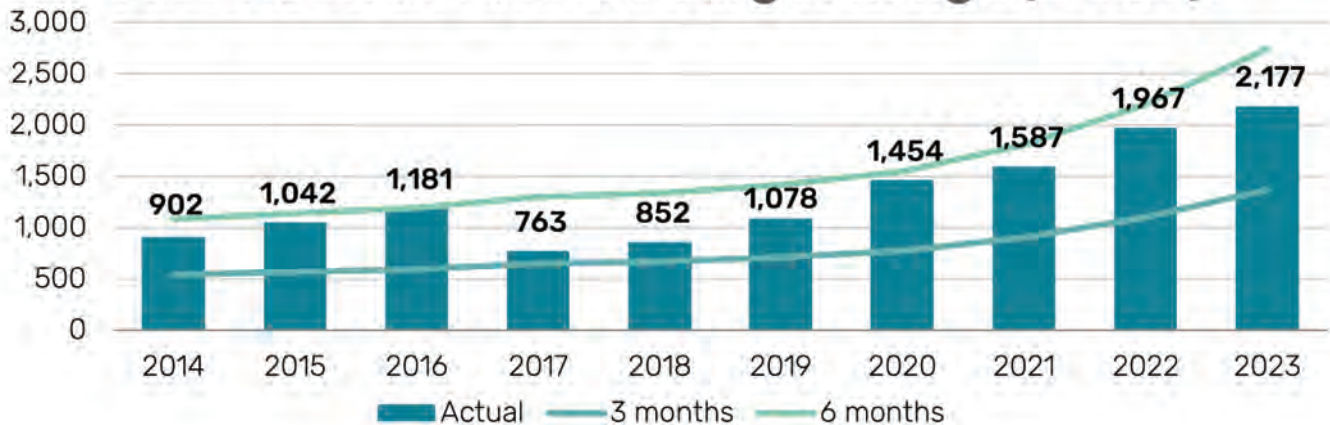
The Trustees seek to maintain a level of free reserves of between three and six months' establishment and non-project staff costs.

Free Reserves Calculation	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
General Unrestricted Funds	2,264	2,092
Less: Tangible Fixed Assets	(87)	(125)
Free Reserves	2,177	1,967

This currently equates to a range of £1.4 million to £2.7million. The current level of free reserves is £2.1 million, falling within the target range and equating to approximately 4.8 months of core costs.

The level of free reserves in recent years, compared with the target range, is shown in the chart below:

Free Reserves versus Target Range (£'000)



Investment Policy

RSWT's Royal Charter empowers the Trustees to invest any funds not immediately required by the charity in any security authorised for the investment of Trust funds. The Trustees' investment objective is to maximise the charity's total return from investments, consistent with a moderate level of risk and a socially responsible investment policy.

The Society's unrestricted investments are managed by two renowned charity investment managers, Sarasin & Partners and CCLA. At 31 March 2023 the Society's investments were valued at £1.64m, with 51.5% held in the Sarasin Climate Active Endowment Fund and 48.5% in CCLA's COIF Charities Ethical Investment Fund. During the year the investments produced an income of £49,000 (2022: £40,000).

The Society's investments finished the year with total unrealised investment loss of £98,000.

Pension Commitments

The last full actuarial valuation of the Wildlife Trusts Pension Scheme, as of 1 April 2019, reported a scheme deficit of £4.7 million.

In accordance with the revised schedule of contributions, RSWT's deficit recovery payments increased by 3% from August 2022, to £203,000. This equates to 23.5% of the total contributions being paid by The Wildlife Trusts. The repayment plan anticipates that the deficit will be eliminated by August 2026. RSWT's total commitment at 31 March 2023 amounted to £0.88 million (2021/22: £0.94 million). The present value of this commitment, when discounted at the current yield on AA rated 15 year+

corporate bonds of 4.68% (2021/22: 2.65%), amounted to £0.80 million (2021/22: £0.89 million)

The amount reflected in the balance sheet is based on defined benefit accounting principles, in accordance with FRS102. The assumptions used in this methodology result in a pensions asset for RSWT of £161,000 (2021/22: £366,000 liability). No asset has been recognised in the Society's accounts as it is not certain that this amount would be recoverable. A designated fund of £798,000 (2021/22: £889,000) sets aside funds representing the value of the payments due under the schedule of contributions.

Related Parties

RSWT, together with several Wildlife Trusts, jointly participate as employers within the Wildlife Trusts Pension Scheme, which is described in Note 28.

The charity has one active wholly-owned trading subsidiary, The Wildlife Trusts Services Limited, which provides services on a commercial basis to The Wildlife Trusts and makes an annual gift aid donation to RSWT.

Patience Thody, Deputy CEO for RSWT, is also a Director of Wildlife Trusts Services Limited.

Peter Batchelor, Honorary Treasurer for RSWT, was also appointed as a Director of Wildlife Trusts Services Limited from 5 April 2022.

RSWT's governing body, Council, includes a number of Trustees and Chief Executives from individual Wildlife Trusts across the federation of The Wildlife Trusts. No individual Wildlife Trust benefits from their representation on Council.

Plans for the Future

The Wildlife Trusts' Strategy 2030: Bringing Nature Back is the result of a collaborative process across the whole federation. It sets us in good stead to work towards our vision of a thriving natural world, with our wildlife and natural habitats playing a valued role in addressing the climate and ecological emergencies, and everyone inspired to get involved in nature's recovery.

The Wildlife Trusts' unique contribution is of local action, and building a collective impact as part of a bigger, global story. RSWT's role, as the central charity, is to ensure a strong collective voice for wildlife, to help coordinate work between individual Wildlife Trusts, and to lead the development of the movement and federation as a whole.

There are five strategic transformations, and five enabling priorities, that are needed to deliver our strategy, and these will be our focus over the next few years:



During the coming year, RSWT will support the work of The Wildlife Trusts by:

ENSURING A STRONG COLLECTIVE VOICE FOR WILDLIFE

- We will support Wildlife Trusts to strengthen their local profile, access funding for key projects and land acquisitions, develop fundraising and membership growth with the public, and retain existing members.
- We will ensure that the work undertaken towards achieving The Wildlife Trusts' Strategy 2030 objectives, and any resulting impact, is communicated internally, shared widely and used to shine a spotlight on our collective national successes as well as individual achievements at a local level.
- We will raise the profile of nature's plight, the urgency for its recovery, and the need for people and communities to be close to nature. We will expose key risks, highlight the benefits that nature brings to health and wellbeing, and tell powerful stories that make decision-makers and the wider public sit up and listen.
- We will deepen our links with key 'common cause' partners, including the key lottery bodies and corporate partners.
- We will strive to influence the UK Government, and work with colleagues in the devolved nations to ensure an ambitious and joined-up approach to both the climate and environmental crises, aiming to achieve 30% of land and sea in recovery by 2030. We also need the same officials and politicians to understand and support nature's positive impact on people's health and wellbeing. We will undertake detailed planning and preparation, in conjunction with Wildlife Trusts, in the build up to the General Election in 2024 to maximise our opportunities to influence decision-makers.
- We will continue to campaign for the need for world-leading environmental laws and governance that recognise nature's recovery is fundamental to our society.
- We will continue to press for at least 30% of our Marine Protected Areas network to be given highly protected status. We will take a whole-site approach across the network for Marine Protected Areas and influence decisions affecting these sites and their carbon stores, not least fisheries and offshore developments.
- We will ensure The Wildlife Trusts are engaged with the most effective and cohesive partnerships and coalitions to ensure we address diversity and social justice issues as a key part of tackling the nature and climate crises.
- We will equip The Wildlife Trusts for the future by bringing young people and a greater diversity of supporters into the movement, ensuring they have a voice and are listened to.

HELPING CO-ORDINATE WORK BETWEEN INDIVIDUAL WILDLIFE TRUSTS

- Building on the successful federation-wide approach for #TeamWilder and Nextdoor Nature, we will continue to establish and embed support networks for community organising as we grow and showcase good practice for other Wildlife Trusts to learn from and be inspired by.
- We will assist Wildlife Trusts in their aspirations for landscape recovery, providing support and guidance for keystone species reintroductions, land management advice service, access to sophisticated spatial data analysis (GIS) and access to investment funding for land acquisition and land restoration.
- We will further increase synergies in policy making, campaigns, communications and digital transformation across the UK.

LEADING THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE MOVEMENT AND FEDERATION AS A WHOLE

- We will support individual Wildlife Trusts and The Wildlife Trusts movement, continually reviewing where we can add the most value, including through communities of practice.
- We will continue to build the federation's collective effectiveness and efficiency, focussing on the five strategic transformations and five enabling priorities that are needed to deliver The Wildlife Trusts' Strategy 2030.
- We will work collaboratively across the federation to reduce our collective carbon footprint and adapt to climate change, developing and driving forward the delivery of nature-based solutions to climate change and promote new funding mechanisms to achieve this.
- We will continue to implement the federation's strategic impact measurement approach, using and sharing what we learn from the data it provides.
- We will complete the development and delivery of collective frameworks for science and research, internal communications, safeguarding, and collective decision-making.
- Using the responses from the federation-wide EDI survey, we will assess where we need to prioritise attention to encourage and plan for a richer, and more diverse, Wildlife Trust workforce.
- We will build on the progress made to engage young people, delivering a festival designed by our young supporters and staff. We will facilitate a federation-wide approach to providing young people with the platform they need to take action for wildlife and lead a change for the better, tackling the nature, climate and health emergencies.

- We will support Trusts to take up, implement and integrate shared ICT systems, including the common GIS platform, the ThankQ Customer Relationship Management system, Xledger finance system and Collective Web platform, as well as our Wildlife Trust intranet, Wildnet.
- We will continue to provide high-quality programmes through the Talent and Skills training programme, providing a range of training and development which matches which supports the goals and transformation in Strategy 2030.



PRINCIPAL RISKS AND UNCERTAINTIES

The Trustees are responsible for the identification, mitigation and management of risks. The Trustees recognise that we continue to operate in very uncertain times and continue to work closely with the Executive team to review the best ways forward, being mindful of the risk. The Executive team are, in turn, working closely with Wildlife Trusts to keep abreast of their needs and with funders, stakeholders and other charities to influence where possible.

All our external work to promote our mission is affected by uncertainties in the political, economic and policy environment across the UK and in England. The watering down of the Retained EU Law (REUL) Bill is a significant win in the year, but there is still much work to do.

A register of all risks identified is maintained and reviewed by RSWT's Business Planning, Governance and Risk manager. Resources and Audit Committee receive regular updates on the risks and review the Risk Register annually. Any significant variances or new risks are reported to RSWT Council.

We have excellent relations with other environmental groups and are working together with key partners to influence policy and legislation and public campaigning. We continue to build relations with Ministers and MPs, and in promoting our views to UK Government and business sectors. We have a leading role in influencing policy affecting marine wildlife; farmland wildlife and ecological health; environmental legislation and in demonstrating the value of nature to health and wellbeing.

RSWT continued to build on the work done in 2021/22, with a full review and identification in January 2023 of the most impactful strategic risks RSWT faces. Pension deficit payments remain high despite our Final Salary scheme closing in 2005. We have funds centrally to meet these needs and have set aside a designated fund to cover the deficit payments that are due under the current Schedule of Contributions, which is due to end in August 2026. During the year ended 31 March 2022, the Trustees of the charity were made aware of a potential issue relating to the defined benefit section of the Scheme and legal advice is being taken to clarify the issue. A detailed investigation is currently underway to establish the extent to which this could result in financial liability to RSWT and other participating employers. This may require legal proceedings against other third parties, and the outcome of this process is not expected to be known for 12-24 months.

Other major risks include the damage to our nature reserves, building assets and staff wellbeing, which would affect landholdings and approach to strategy. After the implementation of Strategy 2030, the Strategy Implementation Groups are overseeing the links to the work of existing communities of practice, to increase understanding across the federation to share best practice and link work with communities of practice. RSWT is aware of the potential impact of lack of funding, and lack of delivery of outcomes against existing funders. The

processes around acceptance of contracts and funding have been reviewed and improved, and there is now increased scrutiny on project delivery against outcomes. Loss of ICT functionality is another ongoing risk. We have a full business continuity plan and our ICT systems are kept up to date, and consistently and comprehensively backed up. We are also aware of the potential risk posed by cybercrime and extortion and have increased our IT security and staff training and awareness in this area.

Our EDI lead continues to work to improve staff understanding and engagement, and she has presented at both Trustees and all staff meetings. The development of the EDI roadmap has continued in the year.

Our safeguarding lead has been busy delivering training to the federation, to improve processes across all the trusts, and continue to refine our safeguarding framework. This has been adopted by the majority of Wildlife Trusts.

This Trustees' Report was approved by Council and signed on its behalf.



Duncan Ingram

Duncan Ingram
Chair,
The Wildlife Trusts

Auditors' Report

For the year ended 31 March 2023

Independent Auditors Report to The Trustees of The Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts

OPINION

We have audited the financial statements of Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts (the 'parent charity') and its subsidiaries (the 'group') for the year ended 31 March 2023 which comprise the consolidated statement of financial activities, consolidated and society balance sheets, the consolidated cash flow statement and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the group and parent charity's affairs as at 31 March 2023 and of the group's and the parent charity's incoming resources and application of resources for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

BASIS FOR OPINION

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

CONCLUSIONS RELATING TO GOING CONCERN

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

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

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

OTHER INFORMATION

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information; we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

MATTERS ON WHICH WE ARE REQUIRED TO REPORT BY EXCEPTION

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the Trustees' Annual Report is inconsistent in any material respect with the financial statements; or
- the parent charity has not kept sufficient accounting records; or
- the parent charity's financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF TRUSTEES

As explained more fully in the Trustees' Responsibilities Statement set out on page 15, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

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

AUDITORS' RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

We have been appointed as auditors under the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with regulations made under that Act.

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

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The specific procedures for this engagement and the extent to which these are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud are detailed below.

IDENTIFYING AND ASSESSING RISKS RELATED TO IRREGULARITIES:

We assessed the susceptibility of the group and parent charity's financial statements to material misstatement and how fraud might occur, including through discussions with the trustees, discussions within our audit team planning meeting, updating our record of internal controls and ensuring these controls operated as intended. We evaluated possible incentives and opportunities for fraudulent manipulation of the financial statements. We identified laws and regulations that are of significance in the context of the group and parent charity by discussions with management and updating our understanding of the sector in which the group and parent charity operate.

Laws and regulations of direct significance in the context of the group and parent charity include the Charities Act 2011, the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and guidance issued by the Charity Commission for England and Wales and the provisions of the Royal Charter of 2 March 1976, as amended.

AUDIT RESPONSE TO RISKS IDENTIFIED:

We considered the extent of compliance with these laws and regulations as part of our audit procedures on the related financial statement items including a review of financial statement disclosures. We reviewed the parent charity's records of breaches of laws and regulations, minutes of meetings and correspondence with relevant authorities to identify potential material misstatements arising. We discussed the parent charity's policies and procedures for compliance with laws and regulations with members of management responsible for compliance.

During the planning meeting with the audit team, the engagement partner drew attention to the key areas which might involve non-compliance with laws and regulations or fraud. We enquired of management whether they were aware of any instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations or knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud. We addressed the risk of fraud through management override of controls by testing the appropriateness of journal entries and identifying any significant transactions that were unusual or outside the normal course of business. We assessed whether judgements made in making accounting estimates gave rise to a possible indication of management bias. At the completion stage of the audit, the engagement partner's review included ensuring that the team had approached their work with appropriate professional scepticism and thus the capacity to identify non-compliance with laws and regulations and fraud.

There are inherent limitations in the audit procedures described above and the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely we would become aware of it. Also, the risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud may involve deliberate concealment by, for example, forgery or intentional misrepresentations, or through collusion.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

USE OF OUR REPORT

This report is made solely to the parent charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the parent charity trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the parent charity and the parent charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Saffery Champness LLP

For and behalf of

Saffery Champness LLP
Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditors
71 Queen Victoria Street
London
EC1V 4BE

Date: 18 August 2023

Saffery Champness LLP is eligible to act as an auditor in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

Accounting Policies

For the year ended 31 March 2023

ACCOUNTING CONVENTION

The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s) to these accounts with the exception of fixed asset investments which are included at their fair value at the balance sheet date. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) Second Edition and the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011. The financial statements have been prepared to give a true and fair view and have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a true and fair view. This departure has involved following the SORP (FRS102) rather than SORP 2005 which has been withdrawn.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

The Trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern. As a legacy of the Covid 19 pandemic, moving to new ways of working (such as digital fundraising and online project delivery) has helped to mitigate the risks faced by the charity, in the case of similar threats. RSWT has sufficient free reserves to meet its obligations as they fall due, and the Trustees have prepared forecasts of income and expenditure for the period to 31 March 2024, that show a modest deficit in funds. Donations and legacies are not budgeted, so the trustees are confident of a breakeven position based on historic levels of gifts. Due to the level of free reserves and cash held, they are confident that they have plans in place to deal with the deficit budgets and any further financial issues as they arise.

BASIS OF CONSOLIDATION

RSWT's active wholly owned trading subsidiary, The Wildlife Trusts Services Limited, has been consolidated on a line-by-line basis in the SOFA and balance sheet.

INCOMING RESOURCES

Income is generally recognised on a receivable basis and is reported gross of related expenditure, where there is entitlement and the amount is reasonably certain and when there is adequate probability of receipt. The specific bases used are:

- Donations include grants that provide core funding or are of a general nature.
- Legacies are recognised when there is sufficient evidence to provide the necessary probability that the legacy will be received and the value of the legacy can be measured with sufficient reliability. Income is not recognised for legacies which remain subject to a life interest.

- Fundraising income, comprising corporate sponsorship and royalties, is recorded when receivable.
- Subsidiary trading income is the total amount received for goods and services provided, excluding VAT and trade discounts.
- Contractual income is recorded when receivable.
- Investment income is recorded when receivable.
- Grants and donations are recognised once entitlement and value have been confirmed in writing.
- Grants and donations that are subject to donor-imposed conditions that specify the time period in which the expenditure of resources can take place are accounted for as deferred income and recognised as a liability until the relevant accounting period in which RSWT is allowed by the condition to expend the resource. Grants and donations without such pre-conditions are not deferred, even if the resources are received in advance of the expenditure on the activity funded by the grant or donation.
- Direct beneficiary lottery income from People's Postcode Lottery (PPL) has been recorded net. RSWT had no ability to alter the price of tickets, determine the prizes or reduce the management fee. As such, PPL was treated as acting as the principal and not RSWT. Therefore, only net proceeds due to RSWT were recognised under PPL income in the statement of financial activities.

RESOURCES EXPENDED

Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been allocated to the appropriate heading in the accounts.

- Fundraising costs relate to expenditure incurred in raising voluntary income for RSWT, fundraising trading costs and investment management costs.
- Charitable activities' expenditure relates to expenditure on meeting RSWT's charitable objects. This includes the costs of fundraising on behalf of individual Wildlife Trusts and the costs of publications, the primary purpose of which is environmental education, awareness and advocacy. It also includes all grant-making programmes.
- Support costs, including finance, human resources, telecommunications, information systems, office accommodation, governance and general management, are fully apportioned to other cost categories, based on direct staffing levels.
- Governance costs are costs associated with the governance arrangements of the charity. These costs include internal and external audit, legal advice for Trustees and costs associated with meeting constitutional and statutory requirements, such as the cost of Trustees' meetings and the preparation of statutory accounts. This category also includes costs associated with the strategic, as opposed to day-to-day, management of the charity's activities.

Grants paid and payable are included as a liability when a constructive obligation is entered into by RSWT, being the date a grant offer is communicated to the grant recipient and any conditions relating to the grant are outside the control of RSWT.

Irrecoverable VAT is charged against the category of expenditure for which it was incurred.

VOLUNTEER HELP

Honorary Officers and Trustees provide support to RSWT and The Wildlife Trusts. It is not practical or feasible to place a value on the time volunteered in this respect by these persons or other temporary or occasional volunteers. RSWT is grateful for the support, and greatly values the considerable time given by all Trustees and committee members in pursuit of the mission and objectives of RSWT.

PENSION COSTS

RSWT, together with a number of other employers, operates the Wildlife Trusts Pension Scheme (WTPS). This is a multi-employer hybrid scheme, the defined benefit section of which was closed in October 2005.

The defined benefit scheme amount charged in resources expended is the net of the interest cost and interest income relating to the Society's share of the assets in the scheme. Re-measurements are recognised immediately in Other recognised gains and losses.

The WTPS is funded, with the assets of the scheme held separately from those of the Society, in pension trustee administered funds. Pension scheme assets are measured at fair value and liabilities are measured on an actuarial basis using the projected unit method and discounted at a rate equivalent to the current rate of return on a high-quality corporate bond of equivalent currency and term to the scheme's liabilities. The Society's share of the resulting defined benefit asset or liability is presented separately after other net assets on the face of the balance sheet. Full actuarial valuations for the scheme are obtained triennially.

Pension contributions are allocated across unrestricted and restricted funds in line with salary costs. RSWT also contributes to a group personal pension plan on behalf of eligible employees. The contributions to this scheme are accounted for on an accruals basis. Full details of RSWT's pension arrangements are given in Note 28.

FUND ACCOUNTING

General funds can be used in accordance with the RSWT's charitable objects at the discretion of the Trustees.

Designated funds are funds set aside by the Trustees out of unrestricted funds for specific purposes or projects.

Unrestricted funds are the total of general and designated funds.

Restricted funds are funds set aside for undertaking an activity specified by the donor.

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

TANGIBLE ASSETS

Tangible fixed assets are capitalised and included at cost. The minimum capitalisation value for an individual fixed asset is £250.

Fixed assets, with the exception of freehold land, are depreciated so as to write off the cost, less estimated residual value, in equal annual instalments over their useful economic lives, as follows:

Property fixtures and fittings	5-15 years
Computer hardware	3 years
Computer software	3-5 years
Furniture and other office equipment	5 years
Vehicle	6 years

INVESTMENTS

RSWT's investment in its trading subsidiary is stated at the lower of cost and net asset value and is treated as a fixed asset investment.

Marketable investments are stated at mid-market price at the balance sheet date. The movement shown in the consolidated statement of financial activities comprises both realised and unrealised gains and losses.

The gain or loss on investments is calculated after charging transaction costs but before deducting investment management fees, which are shown separately on the Statement of Financial Activities.

CONCESSIONARY LOANS

The carrying amount of loans to Trusts is calculated from the original loan value adjusted for any repayments. As programme-related investments, no effective rate of interest is applied.

CURRENT INVESTMENTS

Current investments represent funds held in interest bearing deposit accounts with notice periods of more than one day and less than 12 months.

DEFERRED INCOME

Income which has been received, or is receivable, but which is subject to conditions which prevent its recognition in the current financial year is recognised as a liability in the balance sheet until the relevant accounting period in which RSWT is allowed by the condition to expend the resource.

STOCK

Stock is valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

DEBTORS

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

CASH AT BANK AND IN HAND

Cash at bank and cash in hand includes cash and short-term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

CREDITORS AND PROVISIONS

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

OPERATING LEASES

Rentals under operating leases are charged to the statement of financial activities on a straight line basis over the lease term.

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 with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities

		2023			2022		
		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2023	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2022
	Notes	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Incoming from:							
Donations and legacies	1	3,159	411	3,570	3,051	93	3,144
Charitable activities	2	4,336	17,955	22,291	4,326	10,457	14,783
Other trading activities	3	586	4	590	602	-	602
Investments	4	111	84	195	41	1	42
Other income	5	-	-	-	5	-	5
Total income		8,192	18,454	26,646	8,025	10,551	18,576
Expenditure on:							
Raising funds	6	619	-	619	481	-	481
Charitable activities	7	7,993	11,560	19,553	7,589	9,113	16,702
Total expenditure	8	8,612	11,560	20,172	8,070	9,113	17,183
Net (losses)/gains on investments	15	(98)	-	(98)	49	-	49
Net (expenditure)/income		(518)	6,894	6,376	4	1,438	1,442
Transfers between funds	22	619	(619)	-	468	(468)	-
Other recognised (losses)/gains:							
Actuarial (losses)/gains on defined benefit pension scheme	28	(94)	-	(94)	170	-	170
Net movement in funds		7	6,275	6,282	642	970	1,612
Reconciliation of funds							
Total funds brought forward		7,831	3,814	11,645	7,189	2,844	10,033
Total funds carried forward		7,838	10,089	17,927	7,831	3,814	11,645

The statement of financial activities contains all gains and losses for the year and all activities relate to continuing operations.

Consolidated and Society Balance Sheets

	Notes	2023		2022	
		Group £'000	Charity £'000	Group £'000	Charity £'000
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	14	97	97	137	137
Investments	15	1,641	1,691	1,746	1,796
Social investments	16	75	75	75	75
Total fixed assets		1,813	1,863	1,958	2,008
Current assets					
Stock		49	49	37	37
Debtors	17	2,291	2,197	3,407	3,327
Investments	18	5,527	5,527	4,293	4,293
Cash at bank and in hand		12,677	12,191	7,701	7,151
Total current assets		20,544	19,964	15,438	14,808
Liabilities					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	19	4,331	3,850	5,505	4,997
Net current assets		16,213	16,114	9,933	9,811
Total assets less current liabilities		18,026	17,977	11,891	11,819
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	19	99	92	246	195
Net assets before pension provision		17,927	17,885	11,645	11,624
Pension provision	28	-	-	-	-
Total net assets	23	17,927	17,885	11,645	11,624
The funds of the charity:					
General funds		2,264	2,222	2,092	2,071
Designated funds	21	5,574	5,574	5,739	5,739
Total unrestricted funds		7,838	7,796	7,831	7,810
Restricted income funds	22	10,089	10,089	3,814	3,814
Total funds		17,927	17,885	11,645	11,624

The accompanying accounting policies and notes form an integral part of these financial statements.

The financial statements were approved by Council on 19 July 2023 and signed on its behalf by:



Peter Batchelor
Honorary Treasurer

Consolidated Cash Flow Statement

Group	Notes	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Cash flows from operating activities:			
Net cash provided by / (used in) operating activities	24	6,038	259
Cash flows from investing activities:			
Dividends received		49	40
Interest received		67	1
Money market fund income received		79	1
Proceeds from sale of property, plant and equipment		-	7
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		(23)	(110)
Additional investment funds		-	(400)
Net cash provided by investing activities		172	(461)
Cash flows from financing activities			
Repayment of borrowing		-	-
Net cash inflows from new borrowing		-	-
Net cash used in financing activities		-	-
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting periods		6,210	(202)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		11,994	12,196
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	24	18,204	11,994

Notes to the Financial Statements

1. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	2023			2022		
	Unrestricted Funds £'000	Restricted Funds £'000	Total 2023 £'000	Unrestricted Funds £'000	Restricted Funds £'000	Total 2022 £'000
Legacies	387	-	387	576	-	576
Wildlife Trusts' contributions	2,015	-	2,015	1,967	-	1,967
Donations	663	411	1,074	434	10	444
Donated services	94	-	94	24	-	24
Wildlife Trusts Wales	-	-	-	50	83	133
Total income from donations and legacies	3,159	411	3,570	3,051	93	3,144

The estimated value of legacies notified, but not included within the accounts, amounted to £538,000 (2022: £569,000), of which £62,000 (2022: £48,000) relates to life interests. The balance of £476,000 (2022: £521,000) relates to residual legacies, where the value of the legacy cannot yet be accurately ascertained.

2. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	2023			2022		
	Unrestricted Funds £'000	Restricted Funds £'000	Total 2023 £'000	Unrestricted Funds £'000	Restricted Funds £'000	Total 2022 £'000
Income from charitable activities:						
Biffa Award (Landfill Communities Fund)	-	5,002	5,002	-	5,259	5,259
Our Bright Future (National Lottery Community Fund)	-	575	575	-	1,922	1,922
Nature Friendly Schools (Defra/DfE)	-	-	-	-	1,039	1,039
Grants Team	-	5,577	5,577	-	8,220	8,220
Atlantic Rainforests grant income (Aviva)	-	7,605	7,605	-	-	-
People's Postcode Lottery grant income	3,000	-	3,000	3,265	-	3,265
Other grant income	253	4,709	4,962	55	2,224	2,279
Magazine income	225	-	225	219	-	219
Other income	858	64	922	787	13	800
RSWT (England & UK functions)	4,336	12,378	16,714	4,326	2,237	6,563
Total income from charitable activities	4,336	17,955	22,291	4,326	10,457	14,783

The funding objectives of the Grants Team's funding bodies are set out in the Trustees' Report. RSWT (England & UK functions) income represents funds arising from the charitable activities of RSWT, acting in its capacity as the co-ordinating body of the England and UK functions of The Wildlife Trusts. Contributions made by individual Wildlife Trusts to RSWT are included within voluntary income, as detailed in Note 1.

3. OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES

	2023			2022		
	Unrestricted Funds £'000	Restricted Funds £'000	Total 2023 £'000	Unrestricted Funds £'000	Restricted Funds £'000	Total 2022 £'000
Income from other trading activities:						
Royalties	257	4	261	308	-	308
Subsidiary trading income	329	-	329	294	-	294
Total income from other trading activities	586	4	590	602	-	602

4. INVESTMENTS

	2023			2022		
	Unrestricted Funds £'000	Restricted Funds £'000	Total 2023 £'000	Unrestricted Funds £'000	Restricted Funds £'000	Total 2022 £'000
Income from investments:						
Dividends – UK	49	-	49	40	-	40
Bank interest – UK	62	5	67	1	-	1
Money market fund income – overseas	-	79	79	-	1	1
Total income from investments	111	84	195	41	1	42

Money market fund income relates to income from the Deutsche Global Liquidity Series' Deutsche Sterling Managed Fund. The company is listed in Ireland.

5. OTHER INCOME

	2023			2022		
	Unrestricted Funds £'000	Restricted Funds £'000	Total 2023 £'000	Unrestricted Funds £'000	Restricted Funds £'000	Total 2022 £'000
Other income						
Profit on sale of fixed assets	-	-	-	5	-	5
Total other income	-	-	-	5	-	5

6. EXPENDITURE ON RAISING FUNDS

	2023			2022		
	Unrestricted Funds £'000	Restricted Funds £'000	Total 2023 £'000	Unrestricted Funds £'000	Restricted Funds £'000	Total 2022 £'000
Costs of obtaining donations, legacies and grants*	291	-	291	187	-	187
Fundraising trading: costs of goods sold and other costs	321	-	321	288	-	288
Investment management costs	7	-	7	6	-	6
Total expenditure on raising funds	619	-	619	481	-	481

*Expenditure relates primarily to supporting individual Wildlife Trusts with their fundraising but corresponding income is not shown here as it is reported in individual Wildlife Trust accounts.

7. EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	2023			2022		
	Unrestricted Funds £'000	Restricted Funds £'000	Total 2023 £'000	Unrestricted Funds £'000	Restricted Funds £'000	Total 2022 £'000
Expenditure on charitable activities by fund						
Administering major grant programmes	323	4,905	5,228	330	7,418	7,748
Ensure a strong collective voice for wildlife	2,743	3,704	6,447	2,416	247	2,663
Facilitate and lead the development of the Wildlife Trusts	2,531	215	2,746	1,643	47	1,690
Help co-ordinate work between Wildlife Trusts	2,439	2,736	5,175	3,279	1,401	4,680
People and Resources	51	-	51	75	-	75
Movement of pension deficit provision	(94)	-	(94)	(154)	-	(154)
Total expenditure on charitable activities	7,993	11,560	19,553	7,589	9,113	16,702

8. TOTAL EXPENDITURE

	2023					
	Direct staff costs £'000	Other direct costs £'000	Grants expended £'000	Support costs £'000	Governance costs £'000	Total 2023 £'000
Expenditure on raising funds	212	360	-	36	4	612
Investment management costs	-	7	-	-	-	7
Raising Funds	212	367	-	36	4	619
Expenditure on charitable activities:						
Biffa Award (Landfill Communities Fund)	170	196	4,154	127	6	4,653
Our Bright Future (National Lottery Community Fund)	147	396	(15)	42	5	575
Nature Friendly Schools (Defra/DfE)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grants Team	317	592	4,139	169	11	5,228
Ensure a strong collective voice for wildlife	1,944	774	3,128	536	65	6,447
Facilitate and lead the development of the Wildlife Trusts	1,032	1,308	130	247	29	2,746
Help co-ordinate work between Wildlife Trusts	670	586	3,741	161	17	5,175
People and Resources	24	7	-	20	-	51
Movement of pension deficit provision	(94)	-	-	-	-	(94)
RSWT (England & UK functions)	3,576	2,675	6,999	964	111	14,325
Total expenditure	4,105	3,634	11,138	1,169	126	20,172

Comparative information:

	2022					
	Direct staff costs £'000	Other direct costs £'000	Grants expended £'000	Support costs £'000	Governance costs £'000	Total 2022 £'000
Expenditure on raising funds	120	312	-	37	6	475
Investment management costs	-	6	-	-	-	6
Raising Funds	120	318	-	37	6	481
Expenditure on charitable activities:						
Biffa Award (Landfill Communities Fund)	149	196	3,897	123	11	4,376
Our Bright Future (National Lottery Community Fund)	236	275	1,363	86	16	1,976
Nature Friendly Schools (Defra/DfE)	127	47	1,169	45	8	1,396
Grants Team	512	518	6,429	254	35	7,748
Ensure a strong collective voice for wildlife	1,457	659	62	404	81	2,663
Facilitate and lead the development of the Wildlife Trusts	629	643	190	190	38	1,690
Help co-ordinate work between Wildlife Trusts	544	495	3,455	154	32	4,680
People and Resources	-	75	-	-	-	75
Movement of pension deficit provision	(154)	-	-	-	-	(154)
RSWT (England & UK functions)	2,476	1,872	3,707	748	151	8,954
Total expenditure	3,108	2,708	10,136	1,039	192	17,183

The RSWT Grants Team distributes funds provided through major funding programmes. The detailed objectives for each of these programmes are included within the Trustees' report. Details of the grants offered within each programme are shown in Note 10. Full details are included within Note 29.

The Society's activities on behalf of The Wildlife Trusts aim to ensure that the interests of the movement are represented at a UK and England level when a strong collective voice is required, and to provide leadership for its development.

An element of staff costs is contained within support and governance costs.

8. TOTAL EXPENDITURE (Cont.)

Total Expenditure includes:	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Operating lease rentals:		
Land & buildings	38	38
Cars & office equipment	16	15
Auditor's remuneration:		
Fees payable to the Charity's auditor for the audit of the Charity's annual accounts	14	16
The audit of the Charity's subsidiary, pursuant to legislation	4	4
Accountancy services	1	1
All other services	8	5
Depreciation:		
On owned assets	63	51
Payments to Trustees:		
Trustees expenses	2	1

Four Trustees were reimbursed for reasonable and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties (2022: two).

No Trustees were remunerated for their services during the year (2022: none).

9. ANALYSIS OF SUPPORT COSTS

	2023						
	General Management	Finance	HR	IT	Premises and administrative support	Governance	Total 2023
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Expenditure on raising funds	9	7	7	8	5	4	40
Expenditure on charitable activities:							
Biffa Award (Landfill Communities Fund)	12	9	9	12	85	6	133
Our Bright Future (National Lottery Community Fund)	11	8	7	10	6	5	47
Nature Friendly Schools (Defra/DfE)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grants Team	23	17	16	22	91	11	180
Ensure a strong collective voice for wildlife	129	102	99	126	80	65	601
Facilitate and lead the development of the Wildlife Trusts	63	46	46	57	35	29	276
Help co-ordinate work between Wildlife Trusts	33	34	32	42	20	17	178
People and Resources	-	-	-	20	-	-	20
RSWT (England & UK functions)	225	182	177	245	135	111	1,075
Total support costs 2023	257	206	200	275	231	126	1,295

Support costs are allocated to activities on the basis of the weighted average number of staff directly engaged in those activities.

9. ANALYSIS OF SUPPORT COSTS (Cont.)

Comparative information:

	2022						Total 2022
	General Management	Finance	HR	IT	Premises and administrative support	Governance	
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Expenditure on raising funds	7	7	5	10	8	6	43
Expenditure on charitable activities:							
Biffa Award (Landfill Communities Fund)	12	10	9	16	76	11	134
Our Bright Future (National Lottery Community Fund)	18	15	13	22	18	16	102
Nature Friendly Schools (Defra/DfE)	9	8	7	11	10	8	53
Grants Team	39	33	29	49	104	35	289
Ensure a strong collective voice for wildlife	89	76	68	114	57	81	485
Facilitate and lead the development of the Wildlife Trusts	40	33	31	50	36	38	228
Help co-ordinate work between Wildlife Trusts	35	29	26	45	19	32	186
RSWT (England & UK functions)	164	138	125	209	112	151	899
Total support costs 2022	210	178	159	268	224	192	1,231

10. ANALYSIS OF GRANTS EXPENDED

Programme	2023					Total 2023
	Activities undertaken directly	Grants to Wildlife Trusts	Grants to other institutions	Administration support costs		
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Biffa Award (Landfill Communities Fund)	-	2,441	1,713	499		4,653
Our Bright Future (National Lottery Community Fund)	-	(2)	(13)	575		560
Nature Friendly Schools (Defra/DfE)	-	-	-	-		-
Strategic Support & Innovation Fund (SSIF)	-	130	-	-		130
People's Postcode Lottery Fund (People's Postcode Lottery)	56	1,600	-	15		1,671
Precious Peatlands	-	438	-	131		569
Network for Nature (National Highways)	337	1,167	-	31		1,535
Atlantic Rainforests (Aviva)	30	2,084	-	6		2,120
Nextdoor Nature (National Lottery Heritage Fund)	256	905	-	30		1,191
Campaigns (Big Wild Walk)	-	19	-	13		32
Distribution of royalties (Vine House Farm)	10	181	-	4		195
Marine Protected Areas Fighting Fund (Tubney)	-	-	114	-		114
Rivers Trust	-	-	6	-		6
RSA	-	355	-	-		355
Total grants expended	689	9,318	1,820	1,304		13,131

RSWT does not issue grants to individuals. A full list of grants expended during the year is included in Note 29.

10. ANALYSIS OF GRANTS EXPENDED (Cont.)

Comparative information:

Programme	2022				
	Activities undertaken directly	Grants to wildlife Trusts	Grants to other institutions	Administration support costs	Total 2023
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Biffa Award (Landfill Communities Fund)	-	939	2,958	479	4,376
Our Bright Future (National Lottery Community Fund)	-	421	942	599	1,962
Nature Friendly Schools (Defra/DfE)	-	633	536	227	1,396
Strategic Development Fund	-	190	-	103	293
People's Postcode Lottery Fund (People's Postcode Lottery)	203	2,100	-	76	2,379
Precious Peatlands	-	532	-	20	552
Network for Nature (National Highways)	-	599	-	111	710
30 by 30 Campaign	54	7	-	13	74
Campaigns (Big Wild Walk)	-	23	-	12	35
Landscape recovery	-	27	-	10	37
Distribution of royalties (Vine House Farm)	10	204	-	5	219
Marine Protected Areas Fighting Fund (Tubney)	-	(3)	(3)	-	(6)
Water Voles Database	-	5	-	-	5
Legacy distribution to Wildlife Trusts	-	20	-	-	20
Wildlife Trusts Wales grants	-	6	-	-	6
Total grants expended	267	5,703	4,433	1,655	12,058

11. STAFF COSTS

The movement in the year is after charging:	Note	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Wages and salaries		3,745	2,945
Holiday pay accrual		(4)	(6)
Social security costs		402	294
Pension costs	28	685	561
RSWT Staff		4,828	3,794
Seconded staff costs		15	63
Total		4,843	3,857

The average number of employees, calculated on a head count basis, analysed by function was:

	2023 Number	2022 Number
The Wildlife Trusts (England & UK functions)	67	50
Grants Team	8	13
Fundraising and trading	6	6
Support and governance	24	21
Total staff (Headcount)	105	90
Total staff (FTE basis)	101	86

The number of employees whose emoluments (including taxable benefits in kind but excluding employer pension costs) exceeded £60,000, was as follows:

	2023 Number	2022 Number
£130,000 - £139,999	1	-
£120,000 - £129,999	-	1
£90,000 - £99,999	1	-
£80,000 - £89,999	-	1
£70,000 - £79,999	2	-
£60,000 - £69,999	3	4
Total over £60,000	7	6

Of the charity's employees, seven members of staff classify as key management personnel (2022: seven). The total amount of employee benefits received by key management personnel during the year for their services to the charity was £674,000 (2022: £567,000).

12. SUBSIDIARY COMPANY

RSWT's wholly owned trading subsidiary, **The Wildlife Trusts Services Limited** (company number: 02540956), provides a range of services to Wildlife Trusts and RSWT. Its trading performance and balance sheet are summarised as follows:

Profit and loss account

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Turnover	540	611
Cost of sales	(415)	(490)
Gross profit	125	121
Administrative expenses	(85)	(100)
Operating profit	40	21
Interest received	2	-
Profit for the year before and after tax	42	21

Assets, liabilities and funds

Assets	621	651
Liabilities	(528)	(580)
Total net assets and shareholder's funds	93	71

WTS Ltd made a profit of £42,000 in the year (2022: £21,000 profit). WTS Ltd gift aids its profits to RSWT.

RSWT charged WTS Ltd £76,000 (2022: £92,000) in the year for staff and administration charges. WTS Ltd also purchased a group life assurance deal for RSWT and eight other Trusts and finance software services for RSWT and 21 other Trusts. RSWT paid WTS Ltd for its share of these costs.

The inter-company balance WTS Ltd owed to RSWT at the accounting date was £34,000 (2022: £15,000).

RSWT has two other wholly owned trading subsidiaries, Natural Solutions Services Limited and Wilder Futures Services Limited. These are both currently dormant.

13. RSWT CHARITY RESULTS (EXCLUDING SUBSIDIARY)

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
The summarised results of the parent charity are as follows:		
Total incoming resources	26,203	18,100
Total resources expended	(19,750)	(16,687)
Net incoming resources	6,453	1,413
Holding gains/(losses)	(98)	49
Actuarial gains/(losses) on Defined pension schemes	(94)	170
Net movement in funds	6,261	1,632
Funds brought forward	11,624	9,992
Funds carried forward	17,885	11,624

14. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

Group	2023				2022			
	Fixtures, fittings & equipment (finance lease) £'000	Freehold Land & buildings (owned) £'000	Fixtures, fittings & equipment (owned) £'000	Total 2023 £'000	Fixtures, fittings & equipment (finance lease) £'000	Freehold Land & buildings (owned) £'000	Fixtures, fittings & equipment (owned) £'000	Total 2022 £'000
Cost								
1 April	-	5	531	536	22	5	547	574
Additions	-	-	23	23	-	-	110	110
Disposals	-	-	-	-	(22)	-	(126)	(148)
31 March	-	5	554	559	-	5	531	536
Depreciation								
1 April	-	-	399	399	22	-	472	494
Disposals	-	-	-	-	(22)	-	(124)	(146)
Charge for the year	-	-	63	63	-	-	51	51
31 March	-	-	462	462	-	-	399	399
Net book value								
Preceding 31 March	-	5	132	137	-	5	75	80
31 March	-	5	92	97	-	5	132	137

Charity	2023				2022			
	Fixtures, fittings & equipment (finance lease) £'000	Freehold Land & buildings (owned) £'000	Fixtures, fittings & equipment (owned) £'000	Total 2023 £'000	Fixtures, fittings & equipment (finance lease) £'000	Freehold Land & buildings (owned) £'000	Fixtures, fittings & equipment (owned) £'000	Total 2022 £'000
Cost								
1 April	-	5	447	452	22	5	463	490
Additions	-	-	23	23	-	-	110	110
Disposals	-	-	-	-	(22)	-	(126)	(148)
31 March	-	5	470	475	-	5	447	452
Depreciation								
1 April	-	-	315	315	22	-	388	410
Disposals	-	-	-	-	(22)	-	(124)	(146)
Charge for the year	-	-	63	63	-	-	51	51
31 March	-	-	378	378	-	-	315	315
Net book value								
Preceding 31 March	-	5	132	137	-	5	75	80
31 March	-	5	92	97	-	5	132	137

15. INVESTMENTS

	2023		2022	
	Group £'000	Charity £'000	Group £'000	Charity £'000
Investments in subsidiaries				
The Wildlife Trusts Services Limited and other subsidiaries - £1 ordinary shares	-	-	-	-
The Wildlife Trusts Services Limited - 5% preference shares	-	50	-	50
Total subsidiary investment	-	50	-	50
Other investments reflects holdings at market value	1,641	1,641	1,746	1,746
Total investments	1,641	1,691	1,746	1,796

Analysis of movements in other investments

	2023		2022	
	Unrestricted Funds £'000	Total 2023 £'000	Unrestricted Funds £'000	Total 2022 £'000
Group and charity				
Market value at 1 April	1,746	1,746	1,303	1,303
Add: Additions at cost	-	-	400	400
Less: Investment management fees	(7)	(7)	(6)	(6)
Less: Net loss on revaluation	(98)	(98)	49	49
Market value at 31 March	1,641	1,641	1,746	1,746

Other investments reflects holding in both CCLA COIF Charities Ethical Investment Fund and Sarasin & Partners' Climate Action Endowment Fund.

16. SOCIAL INVESTMENTS

	2023		2022	
	Group £'000	Charity £'000	Group £'000	Charity £'000
Amounts falling due within one year				
Loans to Trusts due within one year	42	42	42	42
Loans to Trusts due after more than one year	33	33	33	33
Total	75	75	75	75

The loans to Trusts balance relates to three Trust loans from the Strategic Development Fund. Repayment schedules vary between loans. In 2022/23 all loans were interest free. If loans are repaid late interest is charged at Bank of England base rate plus 7%.

17. DEBTORS

	2023		2022	
	Group £'000	Charity £'000	Group £'000	Charity £'000
Amounts falling due within one year				
Trade debtors	565	467	388	318
Amounts due from group undertakings	-	34	-	15
Other debtors	1	1	-	-
Prepayments and income receivable	1,724	1,694	3,016	2,991
Total	2,290	2,196	3,404	3,324
	2023		2022	
	Group £'000	Charity £'000	Group £'000	Charity £'000
Amounts falling due after more than one year				
Prepayments and income receivable	1	1	3	3
Total	1	1	3	3

18. SHORT-TERM INVESTMENTS

	2023		2022	
	Group £'000	Charity £'000	Group £'000	Charity £'000
Market value at 1 April	4,293	4,293	3,355	3,355
Net additions	1,234	1,234	938	938
Market value at 31 March	5,527	5,527	4,293	4,293

Short-term investments represent monies held on Deutsche Bank's Dublin based money market funds and interest-bearing deposit accounts at UK banks, with notice periods of up to 12 months.

19. CREDITORS

	2023		2022	
	Group £'000	Charity £'000	Group £'000	Charity £'000
Amounts falling due within one year				
Trade creditors	429	349	434	297
Other taxes and social securities	124	119	95	102
Other creditors	112	111	36	36
Accruals	306	270	377	297
Grants payable	2,894	2,894	4,229	4,229
Deferred income	466	107	334	36
Total	4,331	3,850	5,505	4,997

	2023		2022	
	Group £'000	Charity £'000	Group £'000	Charity £'000
Amounts falling due after more than one year				
Deferred income	17	10	66	15
Grants payable	82	82	180	180
Total	99	92	246	195

20. ANNUAL OPERATING LEASE COMMITMENTS

	2023		2022	
	Land & buildings £'000	Other £'000	Land & buildings £'000	Other £'000
Total operating lease commitments of the group and charity:				
Within one year	39	15	38	15
Between one and five years	-	15	38	20
Total	39	30	76	35

21. DESIGNATED FUNDS

Group and charity	2023				Balance 31 March 2023
	Balance 1 April 2022	Movement in Funds			
		Incoming resources	Expended in year	Transfers in year	
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Strategic Development Fund	734	2	(127)	(376)	233
Strategic Support & Innovation Fund (SSIF)	-	-	(130)	616	486
Futures Fund	505	-	-	(74)	431
National Legacy Campaign Fund	591	-	(188)	(180)	223
Legacy Income	-	387	-	(312)	75
Property Reinstatement Fund	120	-	(2)	(10)	108
The Wildlife Trusts ICT Systems Projects	236	59	(109)	25	211
Strategy Fund	373	7	(531)	474	323
People's Postcode Lottery Fund (People's Postcode Lottery)	1,219	3,086	(2,283)	(729)	1,293
Climate Fund (People's Postcode Lottery)	137	-	(74)	-	63
Wilder Future Campaign (People's Postcode Lottery)	156	22	(128)	118	168
Campaigns	173	42	(44)	(15)	156
Fundraising	6	-	(108)	218	116
Living Seas Marine Protected Areas (Michael Uren Foundation)	14	-	(1)	-	13
Conferences, Seminars and Training	98	-	(7)	74	165
Landscape Recovery	33	-	(1)	(4)	28
Esmee Foundation	-	180	(88)	-	92
Green Finance(Prince of Wales Charitable Foundation)	-	65	-	-	65
Legal Advice	99	-	(584)	486	1
Wildlife Trusts Wales	187	93	(103)	50	227
Pension Deficit Provision	889	-	-	(91)	798
Strategic Development and Innovation Projects	169	6	(110)	234	299
Total Designated Funds	5,739	3,949	(4,618)	504	5,574

The **Strategic Development Fund** and **Strategic Support & Innovation Fund (SSIF)** support strategically important initiatives for The Wildlife Trusts movement. The funding comes from **Legacy Income**. £130,000 of grants were made to Wildlife Trusts during the year. The fund also provides loans to Wildlife Trusts. Where projects are managed by RSWT the funds are shown in **Strategic Development Projects**. £234,000 was allocated to these projects during the year.

The **Futures Fund** sets aside funds to meet future needs.

The **National Legacy Campaign Fund** supports the costs of our legacy campaign.

The **Property Reinstatement Fund** sets aside funds to meet the costs of refurbishing or relocating at the end of the charity's Newark office lease.

The **Wildlife Trusts ICT Systems Projects** sets aside funds for future development of The Wildlife Trusts ICT systems.

The **Strategy Fund** provides funds to assist with the implementation of the latest strategy across the Wildlife Trusts.

The **People's Postcode Lottery Fund** supports the Forest Schools initiative delivered by Trusts, campaigns and strategy. During the year £50,000 was transferred to General funds, £118,000 to Wilder Future Campaigns, £50,000 to other Campaigns, £422,000 to Strategy Fund, £20,000 towards National Legacy Campaign Fund, £50,000 to The Wildlife Trusts Development and Training Fund and £50,000 to Wildlife Trusts Wales. £1,600,000 was given out in grants to Trusts. The current balance of the fund will be used over the coming year.

The **Climate Fund** was set up through funding from People's Postcode Lottery draws.

The **Wildlife Future Campaign** (People's Postcode Lottery) fund received transfers from People's Postcode Lottery.

Campaigns includes funds raised to be used towards the target of seeing that at least 30% of land and seas be connected and protected for nature's recovery by 2030.

The **Fundraising Fund** is being used to support Trust fundraising.

21. DESIGNATED FUNDS (Cont.)

The Michael Uren Foundation donated £30,000 to RSWT in 2019/20 which has been designated towards **Living Seas Marine Protected Areas.**

Conferences, Seminars and Training income has been designated to support face to face events and training in the future.

£70,000 of corporate donations were designated in 2020/21 for use on **Landscape Recovery.**

Esmee Foundation awarded unrestricted grant income of £330,000 payable over two years to support The Wildlife Trusts' strategic transformation programme.

Prince of Wales Charitable Fund has awarded a grant of £390,000 for **Green Finance** project, paying £130,000 per year which will be used to fund a role in this area.

The **Legal Advice** fund has been created to cover legal costs relating to potential issues with the defined benefit pension scheme.

The **Wildlife Trusts Wales** designated project was set up to ensure that funds received by Wildlife Trusts Wales are ring-fenced.

The **Pension Deficit Provision** has been created to set aside funds to cover the value of the payments due under the schedule of contributions (see Note 28 for further details).

Comparative information:

	Balance 1 April 2022	2022 Movement in Funds			Balance 31 March 2022
		Incoming resources	Expended in year	Transfers in year	
Group and charity	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Strategic Development Fund	1,207	15	(308)	(180)	734
Futures Fund	400	-	-	105	505
Tubney Closure Fund	105	-	-	(105)	-
National Legacy Campaign Fund	200	576	(205)	20	591
Property Reinstatement Fund	150	-	(40)	10	120
The Wildlife Trusts ICT Systems Projects	339	59	(199)	37	236
Strategy Fund	621	-	(248)	-	373
People's Postcode Lottery Fund (People's Postcode Lottery)	769	3,265	(2,555)	(260)	1,219
Climate Fund (People's Postcode Lottery)	319	4	(186)	-	137
Wilder Future Campaign (People's Postcode Lottery)	242	11	(129)	32	156
Campaigns	158	54	(104)	65	173
Fundraising	33	-	(34)	7	6
Living Seas Marine Protected Areas (Michael Uren Foundation)	15	-	-	(1)	14
Conferences, Seminars and Training	23	-	-	75	98
Landscape Recovery	70	-	(37)	-	33
Legal Advice	-	-	(1)	100	99
Operations Support	-	-	-	-	-
Wildlife Trusts Wales	-	183	(115)	119	187
Pension Deficit Provision	756	-	-	133	889
Strategic Development Projects	115	-	(64)	118	169
Total Designated Funds	5,522	4,167	(4,225)	275	5,739

22. RESTRICTED FUNDS

Group and charity	2023				
	Balance 1 April 2022	Movement in Funds			Balance 31 March 2023
		Incoming resources	Expended in year	Transfers in year	
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Biffa Award (Landfill Communities Fund)	2,072	5,086	(4,330)	(296)	2,532
Our Bright Future (National Lottery Community Fund)	2	575	(575)	-	2
Grants Team funds	2,074	5,661	(4,905)	(296)	2,534
Building Momentum for <i>A Living Landscape</i> (Tubney)	769	-	-	(303)	466
Marine Protected Areas Fighting Fund (Tubney)	149	-	(114)	-	35
John Ellerman Fisheries (John Ellerman Foundation)	30	-	(1)	-	29
Marine Projects (Tubney Marine Protected Area Fighting Fund)	10	-	(1)	-	9
Wildflowers on the Verge (Rees Jeffreys Road Fund)	4	-	-	-	4
Henocq Law Trust (Restricted Donation)	23	-	-	-	23
Local Partnerships Development Fund (Aggregate Industries)	4	-	(4)	-	-
CaBA Programme (Rivers Trusts)	9	-	(7)	-	2
Healthy Minds (Cadent Foundation)	10	-	(9)	-	1
Nature Based Solutions	89	101	(104)	-	86
Atlantic Rainforests (Aviva)	-	7,605	(2,114)	-	5,491
Transformation and Innovation Fund	83	128	(122)	-	89
Offshore Wind (Esmée Fairbairn Foundation)	52	73	(56)	-	69
Wild School Award (UPS)	7	-	-	-	7
Badger Campaign	6	-	-	-	6
Precious Peatlands	434	634	(540)	(3)	525
Nextdoor Nature (National Lottery Heritage Fund)	-	1,161	(1,161)	-	-
Network for Nature (National Highways)	15	1,504	(1,519)	-	-
Agricultural Policy (John Ellerman Foundation)	-	50	-	-	50
Digital for inclusivity and accessibility (HIF)	-	12	-	-	12
European Climate Foundation	-	134	(92)	-	42
Ethnicity into the Environment	-	19	-	-	19
Large Herbivore Working Group	-	10	(5)	-	5
Live events (Restricted Donation)	-	20	-	(11)	9
Marine Planning (Esmée Fairbairn Foundation)	-	89	(39)	-	50
Nature North - Spatial Analyst Funding	-	13	(16)	3	-
HS2 Rethink environmental report	-	10	(10)	-	-
RSA	-	400	(355)	(5)	40
Sewage and Water Pollution	-	37	-	-	37
Youth Forum	-	35	(13)	-	22
Nature Recovery Networks (Natural England)	12	-	(1)	-	11
IUCN Peatland Programme	-	682	(310)	(4)	369
Wildlife Trusts Wales	34	76	(62)	-	48
RSWT (England & UK functions)	1,740	12,793	(6,655)	(323)	7,556
Total Restricted Funds	3,814	18,454	(11,560)	(619)	10,089

Biffa Award funds are contributed by Biffa Group Ltd under the Landfill Communities Fund. In 2022/23 £286,000 was transferred from the fund to General funds to cover the administration costs of the programme. A further £10,000 of the fund contributed to the Designated Property Reinstatement Fund.

Our Bright Future is a grants programme was funded by the National Lottery Community Fund which has a portfolio of 31 projects across the UK. The Project ended in December 2022.

22. RESTRICTED FUNDS (Cont.)

Tubney Charitable Trust made a substantial contribution to our work on A Living Landscape and Living Seas, prior to its closure in March 2012. During 2022/23 £303,000 of transfers were made from these funds to support legal advice, fundraising and building corporate relations. The balance in the **Marine Protected Areas Fighting Fund** is available for RSWT marine projects which help protect seas around the UK.

RSWT is receiving three years of funding to support our work in publishing and evidencing how **Nature Based Solutions** can tackle the global climate crisis and benefit communities and the economy.

Aviva are funding the **Atlantic Rainforests** project, with £39 million of funding over nine years January 2022 to September 2030. Through the purchase and regeneration of land, the project aims to re-establish temperate rainforests. In 2022/23 £2 million was granted to Trusts for land purchase.

RSWT secured two years of **Transformation and Innovation** funding to support collective digital development.

Three years of funding has been secured from the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation to support work on **Offshore Wind**, working to minimise the harm to the marine environment resulting from expansion of offshore wind farms. The Foundation is also funding a role on **Marine Planning**.

RSWT secured funding for a **Precious Peatlands** project which is providing financial support to eight Wildlife Trusts in restoring and acquiring peatland in their area.

The £5m National Lottery Heritage Fund project, **Nextdoor Nature**, launched in April 2022. Nextdoor Nature. To date £905,000 has gone out to Trusts as grants to support bring together of communities and Nature.

Network for Nature is a four year programme funded by National Highways to focus on improving, creating and restoring habitat that has been impacted by historic road building activity.

The first instalment of a £100,000 grant from John Ellerman Foundation for **Agricultural Policy** work was received in January 2023.

RSA have provided £400,000 for a flood alleviation project, with £355,000 due to be paid out as grants to Trusts.

In June 2022 RSWT started hosting the **IUCN UK Peatlands Programme**. The programme is governed by the IUCN National Committee UK.

Wildlife Trusts Wales' restricted projects include Stand for Nature Wales youth climate change project and Peatland Restoration Project.

22. RESTRICTED FUNDS (Cont.)

Comparative information:

Group and charity	2022				
	Balance 1 April 2022	Movement in Funds			Balance 31 March 2022
		Incoming resources	Expended in year	Transfers in year	
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Biffa Award (Landfill Communities Fund)	1,204	5,260	(4,058)	(334)	2,072
Our Bright Future (National Lottery Community Fund)	56	1,922	(1,976)	-	2
Nature Friendly Schools (Defra/DfE)	345	1,039	(1,384)	-	-
Grants Team funds	1,605	8,221	(7,418)	(334)	2,074
Building Momentum for A Living Landscape (Tubney)	835	-	-	(66)	769
Marine Protected Areas Fighting Fund (Tubney)	155	-	7	(13)	149
John Ellerman Fisheries (John Ellerman Foundation)	31	-	(1)	-	30
Marine Projects (Tubney Marine Protected Area Fighting Fund)	10	-	(13)	13	10
Wildflowers on the Verge (Rees Jeffreys Road Fund)	4	-	-	-	4
Henocq Law Trust Restricted Donation	23	-	-	-	23
Local Partnerships Development Fund (Aggregate Industries)	7	-	(3)	-	4
CaBA Programme (Rivers Trusts)	7	2	-	-	9
Healthy Minds (Cadent Foundation)	23	-	(13)	-	10
Nature Based Solutions	70	100	(81)	-	89
Transformation and Innovation Fund	-	125	(42)	-	83
Offshore Wind (Esmée Fairbairn Foundation)	35	67	(50)	-	52
Wild School Award (UPS)	17	-	-	(10)	7
Funding Nature (The Prism Charitable Trust)	5	-	(5)	-	-
Badger Campaign	6	-	-	-	6
Precious Peatlands	-	980	(546)	-	434
Nextdoor Nature (National Lottery Heritage Fund)	-	1	(1)	-	-
Network for Nature (National Highways)	11	842	(838)	-	15
Landscape Recovery (Restricted Donation)	-	10	(10)	-	-
Nature Recovery Networks (Natural England)	-	42	(30)	-	12
Wildlife Trusts Wales	-	161	(69)	(58)	34
RSWT (England & UK functions)	1,239	2,330	(1,695)	(134)	1,740
Total Restricted Funds	2,844	10,551	(9,113)	(468)	3,814

23. ANALYSIS OF GROUP NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

Fund balances at 31 March 2023 are represented by:

		2023			Total Funds £'000
Group	Note	Unrestricted		Restricted £'000	
		General £'000	Designated £'000		
Tangible fixed assets	14	87	10	-	97
Investments	15	1,641	-	-	1,641
Social investments	16	-	75	-	75
Fixed assets		1,728	85	-	1,813
Stock		49	-	-	49
Debtors: amounts falling due within one year	17	724	178	1,388	2,290
Debtors: amounts falling due after more than one year	17	1	-	-	1
Short-term investments	18	-	3,000	2,527	5,527
Cash and bank		919	2,754	9,004	12,677
Current assets		1,693	5,932	12,919	20,544
Grants payable: amounts falling due within one year		181	207	2,506	2,894
Other creditors: amounts falling due within one year		959	220	258	1,437
Current liabilities	19	1,140	427	2,764	4,331
Long term liabilities	19	17	16	66	99
Pension deficit	28	-	-	-	-
Total net assets		2,264	5,574	10,089	17,927

Comparative information:

Comparative information:		2022		
Group	Unrestricted		Restricted £'000	Total Funds £'000
	General £'000	Designated £'000		
Tangible fixed assets	125	12	-	137
Heritage assets	-	-	-	-
Investments	1,746	-	-	1,746
Social investments	-	75	-	75
Fixed assets	1,871	87	-	1,958
Stock	37	-	-	37
Debtors: amounts falling due within one year	727	382	2,295	3,404
Debtors: amounts falling due after more than one year	3	-	-	3
Short-term investments	-	2,000	2,293	4,293
Cash and bank	598	4,148	2,955	7,701
Current assets	1,365	6,530	7,543	15,438
Grants payable: amounts falling due within one year	204	564	3,460	4,228
Other creditors: amounts falling due within one year	874	134	269	1,277
Current liabilities	1,078	698	3,729	5,505
Long term liabilities	66	180	-	246
Pension deficit	-	-	-	-
Total net assets	2,092	5,739	3,814	11,645

24. NOTES TO THE CASH FLOW STATEMENT

Group	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Reconciliation of net income to net cash provided by operating activities		
Net income for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)	6,376	1,442
Depreciation	63	51
Gain/(loss) on investments	98	(49)
Investment management fees	7	6
Investment income	(195)	(42)
Loan repayments received	-	179
Gain on sale of fixed assets	-	(5)
Increase in stock	(12)	(30)
Decrease / (increase) in debtors	1,116	(243)
Decrease in creditors	(1,321)	(1,050)
Non-cash movement in Pension	(94)	170
Net cash provided by operating activities	6,038	259

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Analysis of cash and cash equivalents		
Cash at bank and in hand	12,677	7,701
Cash deposits	5,527	4,293
Net cash and cash equivalents	18,204	11,994

	2023		
	At 1st April £'000	Cashflow £'000	At 31 March £'000
Movements in cash and cash equivalents			
Cash at bank and in hand	7,701	4,976	12,677
Cash deposits	4,293	1,234	5,527
Net cash and cash equivalents	11,994	6,210	18,204

	2022		
	At 1st April £'000	Cashflow £'000	At 31 March £'000
Movements in cash and cash equivalents			
Cash at bank and in hand	8,841	(1,140)	7,701
Cash deposits	3,355	938	4,293
Net cash and cash equivalents	12,196	(202)	11,994

25. CONTINGENT ASSETS

Future legacy income notified but not yet included within these financial statements is detailed in Note 1.

26. CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

The charity participates in and is the principal employer of the Wildlife Trusts Pension Scheme, a multi-employer pension scheme, as described in Note 28. During the year ended 31 March 2022, the Trustees of the charity were made aware of a potential issue relating to the defined benefit section of the Scheme and legal advice is being taken to clarify the issue. RSWT is currently investigating whether additional payments to the defined benefit section of the scheme by RSWT are required to meet historic pension liabilities. RSWT's investigations may require legal proceedings against other third parties. As it is not possible to reliably estimate the value of any potential liability at this time, no provision has been made for this in the financial statements. The outcome of this process is not expected to be known for 12 to 24 months.

27. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

The charity, RSWT has one active wholly owned subsidiary, The Wildlife Trusts Services Limited. An overview of transactions between the two organisations can be found in Note 12.

RSWT's governing body, Council, includes a number of Trustees and Chief Executives from individual Wildlife Trusts across the federation of The Wildlife Trusts. No individual Trust benefits from their representation on the Council.

28. PENSION COSTS

The Society operates two pension arrangements: a Royal London group personal pension, and The Wildlife Trusts Pension Scheme. Auto-enrolment into the group personal pension scheme commenced in July 2014.

The Wildlife Trusts Pension Scheme (WTPS)

The WTPS is a multi-employer scheme with RSWT acting as the lead employer on behalf of 12 other Wildlife Trusts. The defined contribution section of the Scheme, which included further Trusts, was closed with effect from 31 March 2019.

The defined benefit or 'final salary' category closed to future accrual of benefits in September 2005. This section of the Scheme provides retirement benefits based on members' salaries when they left employment. The assets of the Scheme are held in a separately administered fund and the Scheme is administered by the Trustee (independent of the Employers) who is responsible for ensuring that the Scheme is sufficiently funded to meet current and future obligations. However, the assets and liabilities are not segregated between the Employers.

The liabilities set out in this note have been calculated based on the preliminary results of the full Scheme Funding Assessment as at 31 March 2019, updated to 31 March 2023. The present value of the defined benefit obligation was measured using the projected unit credit method.

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Pension liability at 1 April	-	324
Contributions paid	(203)	(197)
Costs included in Net income/(expenditure)	109	43
Movement of pension deficit provision (Note 7)	(94)	(154)
Previous year's surplus not recognised in the accounts	(366)	-
Current year remeasurement	460	(170)
Remeasurements included in Other recognised gains/(losses)	94	(170)
Pension provision at 31 March on Defined Benefit basis	-	-

The Employers have agreed a funding plan with the Trustee. The FRS102 valuation at 31 March 2023 showed a surplus of £161,000 (2022: £366,000 surplus) but with uncertainty over the recoverability of this sum, nil asset has been recognised in the accounts. A Designated Fund of £798,000 (2022: £889,000) exists to cover the net present value of the deficit recovery payments at the same date, up to the end of the current Schedule of Contributions which is August 2026.

The following disclosures are based on calculations carried out as at 31 March 2023 by an independent qualified actuary.

Changes in the present value of the defined benefit obligation

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Defined benefit obligation at start of year	3,865	4,337
Benefits paid	(241)	(161)
Administration expenses	120	38
Interest expense	99	83
Remeasurements - actuarial gains and (losses)	(842)	(432)
Defined benefit obligation at end of year	3,001	3,865

28. PENSION COSTS (Cont.)

Changes in the fair value of assets

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Fair value of assets at start of year	4,231	4,013
Interest income	110	78
Remeasurements – return on Scheme assets excluding interest income	(1,141)	104
Employer contributions	203	197
Benefits paid	(241)	(161)
Fair value of assets at end of year	3,162	4,231

Costs relating to defined benefit scheme included in the SOFA

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Interest expense	(99)	(83)
Interest income	110	78
Administration expenses	(120)	(38)
Costs included in Net income/(expenditure)	(109)	(43)
Return on Scheme assets excluding interest income	(1,141)	104
Actuarial gains and (losses)	842	432
Net surplus on scheme not recognised in the accounts	205	(366)
Remeasurements included in Other recognised gains/(losses)	(94)	170

Net defined benefit liability recognised in the balance sheet

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Fair value of Scheme assets	3,162	4,231
Defined benefit obligation	(3,001)	(3,865)
Defined benefit asset not recognised in the accounts	(161)	(366)
Asset / (liability) recognised in the balance sheet	-	-

Principal assumptions

	2023 per annum	2022 per annum
Discount rate	4.68%	2.65%
Retail Prices Index (RPI) Inflation	3.42%	3.65%
Consumer Prices Index (CPI) Inflation	2.70%	2.85%
Future increases to deferred pensions	2.70%	2.85%
Rate of increase to pensions in payment:		
Fixed 5% per annum	5.00%	5.00%
RPI max 5% per annum	3.20%	3.35%
	2023 years	2022 years
Life expectancy of a male aged 65 at the Balance Sheet date	22.5	22.4
Life expectancy of a male aged 65 in 20 years from the Balance Sheet date	23.8	23.7
Life expectancy of a female aged 65 at the Balance Sheet date	25.0	24.9
Life expectancy of a female aged 65 in 20 years from the Balance Sheet date	26.4	26.3

Mortality (before and after retirement) assumptions for both years: Males: 96% of S3PA, Females: 95% of S3PA with future improvements in line with CMI_2021 with a long term rate of improvements of 1.25% per annum and initial addition to mortality improvements of 0.5% and w2020/21 of 15%.

28. PENSION COSTS (Cont.)

Cash commutation assumptions for both years: Members are assumed to take 25% of their pension as tax-free cash, subject to HMRC restrictions, using cash commutation factors currently in force.

For the avoidance of doubt, the financial assumptions above are in absolute terms. They are single equivalent rates, however in practice full yield curves are used.

Asset breakdown

The major categories of Scheme assets as a percentage of total Scheme assets are:

	2023	2022
UK Equities	-	4.7%
Overseas Equities	24.6%	31.5%
Diversified Growth Funds	-	23.0%
UK Government Fixed Interest Bonds	7.5%	12.5%
UK Government Index Linked Bonds	15.7%	15.3%
UK Corporate Bonds	30.1%	8.6%
Property	2.8%	2.5%
Cash	1.2%	1.9%
LDI	18.1%	-
Total	100.0%	100.0%

The pension scheme has not invested in any of the Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts' own financial instruments, nor in properties or other assets used by the Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts. The assets are all quoted in active markets.

Pension contributions in the year

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Wildlife Trusts Pension Scheme - RSWT	203	197
Group personal pension scheme	482	364
Total employer pension contributions	685	561

Employer contributions include contributions in respect of salary sacrifice arrangements.

The charity makes contributions to the scheme deficit in accordance with an agreed recovery plan. The charity paid contributions of £203,000 in the year ended 31 March 2023 (2022: £197,000). The amount paid by the charity exceeds the expense for the year as calculated on an actuarial basis by £94,000 (2022: £154,000). This difference is separately presented as a reduction in expenditure in Note 7. Estimated contributions payable in 2023/24 are £209,000.

Pension contribution liabilities

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

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Wildlife Trusts Pension Scheme	17	17
Group personal pension schemes	43	36
Total pension contribution liabilities	61	53

29. GRANT EXPENDITURE

RSWT Grants

RSWT Grants	2023						
	Aviva	National Highways	Nextdoor Nature	Peoples Postcode Lottery	Precious Peatland s	Other	Grand Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Alderney Wildlife Trust	-	-		-	-	50	50
Avon Wildlife Trust	-	-	21	46	-	3	70
Berkshire, Buckinghamshire & Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust	-	92	6	-	-	14	112
Cheshire Wildlife Trust	-	-	25	46	-	5	76
Cornwall Wildlife Trust	-	-	28	-	-	3	31
Cumbria Wildlife Trust	-	125	20	-	37	3	185
Derbyshire Wildlife Trust	-	-	19	-	-	4	23
Devon Wildlife Trust	372	1	23	46	-	8	450
Dorset Wildlife Trust	-	-	20	-	-	4	24
Durham Wildlife Trust	-	-	20	-	-	2	22
Essex Wildlife Trust	-	-	25	-	-	-	25
Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust	-	-	11	-	-	360	371
Gwent Wildlife Trust	-	-	22	58	-	1	81
Hampshire And Isle Of Wight Wildlife Trust	-	7	21	-	-	9	37
Herefordshire Wildlife Trust	-	169	24	-	-	3	196
Hertfordshire & Middlesex Wildlife Trust	-	19	21	-	-	6	46
Isles of Scilly Wildlife Trust	-	-	31	-	-	-	31
Kent Wildlife Trust	-	-	17	-	71	7	95
Leicestershire And Rutland Wildlife Trust	-	-	10	46	-	4	60
Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust	-	-	25	-	3	15	43
London Wildlife Trust	-	-	24	46	-	9	79
Manx Wildlife Trust	321	-		-	-	80	401
Montgomeryshire Wildlife Trust	-	-	21	12	-	1	34
Norfolk Wildlife Trust	-	31	14	-	-	7	52
North Wales Wildlife Trust	1,391	-	10	30	4	2	1,437
Northumberland Wildlife Trust	-	2	24	205	-	3	234
Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust	-	-	21	46	-	-	67
Radnorshire Wildlife Trust	-	-	28	8	-	1	37
Sheffield Wildlife Trust	-	63	19	46	-	1	129
Shropshire Wildlife Trust	-	-	13	-	-	2	15
Somerset Wildlife Trust	-	21	29	-	69	3	122
Staffordshire Wildlife Trust	-	-	19	-	-	4	23
Suffolk Wildlife Trust	-	148	11	-	-	6	165
Surrey Wildlife Trust	-	-	17	-	-	7	24
Sussex Wildlife Trust	-	4	26	-	-	10	40
Tees Valley Wildlife Trust	-	-	21	-	-	-	21
The Scottish Wildlife Trust	-	-	51	505	-	13	569
The Wildlife Trust For Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire And Northamptonshire	-	95	22	-	77	11	205
The Wildlife Trust For Birmingham And The Black Country Ltd	-	-	8	46	-	2	56
The Wildlife Trust for Lancashire, Manchester & North Merseyside	-	154	12	76	177	5	424
The Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales	-	-	25	67	-	5	97
Ulster Wildlife	-	-	29		-	-	29
Warwickshire Wildlife Trust	-	98	16	46	-	4	164
Wiltshire Wildlife Trust	-	138	13	-	-	4	155
Worcestershire Wildlife Trust	-	-	16	-	-	3	19
Yorkshire Wildlife Trust	-	-	27	225	-	1	253
Grants to Non-Trusts Under £25,000	-	-	-	-	-	6	6
Total RSWT grants	2,084	1,167	905	1,600	438	691	6,885

Figures in brackets indicate grants previously offered which have been underspent or withdrawn by the Fund

29. GRANT EXPENDITURE

Comparative information:

RSWT Grants

	2022				
	National Highways	Peoples Postcode Lottery	Precious Peatlands	Other	Grand Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Alderney Wildlife Trust	-	10	-	-	10
Avon Wildlife Trust	-	66	-	4	70
Berkshire, Buckinghamshire & Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust	12	10	-	16	38
Cheshire Wildlife Trust	-	66	-	6	72
Cornwall Wildlife Trust	-	10	-	3	13
Cumbria Wildlife Trust	-	10	4	3	17
Derbyshire Wildlife Trust	-	10	-	167	177
Devon Wildlife Trust	-	66	-	35	101
Dorset Wildlife Trust	-	10	-	3	13
Durham Wildlife Trust	-	10	-	3	13
Essex Wildlife Trust	-	10	-	1	11
Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust	-	10	-	25	35
Gwent Wildlife Trust	-	60	-	2	62
Hampshire And Isle Of Wight Wildlife Trust	21	10	-	1	32
Herefordshire Wildlife Trust	49	10	-	3	62
Hertfordshire & Middlesex Wildlife Trust	9	10	-	7	26
Isles of Scilly Wildlife Trust	-	10	-	-	10
Kent Wildlife Trust	-	10	28	8	46
Leicestershire And Rutland Wildlife Trust	-	66	-	4	70
Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust	-	10	89	15	114
London Wildlife Trust	-	66	-	22	88
Manx Wildlife Trust	-	10	-	-	10
Montgomeryshire Wildlife Trust	-	11	-	1	12
Norfolk Wildlife Trust	35	10	-	7	52
North Wales Wildlife Trust	-	28	252	6	286
Northumberland Wildlife Trust	-	205	-	4	209
Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust	-	66	-	1	67
Radnorshire Wildlife Trust	-	7	-	29	36
Sheffield Wildlife Trust	21	66	-	-	87
Shropshire Wildlife Trust	-	10	-	3	13
Somerset Wildlife Trust	49	10	60	5	124
Staffordshire Wildlife Trust	-	10	-	5	15
Suffolk Wildlife Trust	62	10	-	6	78
Surrey Wildlife Trust	-	10	-	17	27
Sussex Wildlife Trust	-	10	-	11	21
Tees Valley Wildlife Trust	-	10	-	-	10
The Scottish Wildlife Trust	-	505	-	13	518
The Wildlife Trust For Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire And Northamptonshire	53	10	21	11	94
The Wildlife Trust For Birmingham And The Black Country Ltd	14	66	-	2	82
The Wildlife Trust for Lancashire, Manchester & North Merseyside	194	116	78	5	393
The Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales	-	69	-	6	75
Ulster Wildlife	-	10	-	-	10
Warwickshire Wildlife Trust	23	66	-	4	93
Wiltshire Wildlife Trust	57	10	-	5	72
Worcestershire Wildlife Trust	-	10	-	4	14
Yorkshire Wildlife Trust	-	225	-	10	235
Total RSWT grants	599	2,100	532	482	3,713

Figures in brackets indicate grants previously offered which have been underspent or withdrawn by the Fund

29. GRANTS EXPENDITURE (Cont.)

Biffa Award Grants

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000		2023 £'000	2022 £'000
306th Manchester Scouts	-	17	Nutley Memorial Trust CIO	-	15
30th Abingdon (Baptist) Scout Group	75	-	Otterbourne Village Hall		34
Alfriston War Memorial Hall	18	-	Polesworth Community Association	17	-
Association of Independent Museums	(238)	-	Redcar Baptist Church	28	-
Avon Wildlife Trust	-	-	Ringlestone Community Centre Developement Group	75	-
Barford and Wramplingham Village Hall Committee	18	-	ROPETH	-	-
Beacon Community Church	75	-	RSPB	(263)	301
Bebington Sea Cadets	-	74	RUC Athletics Association	-	54
Berkshire, Buckinghamshire & Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust	-	-	Samlesbury Hall Trust	69	-
Birch Community Association	10	75	Sheffield Wildlife Trust	36	19
Blakeney & District Recreation Centre	57	-	Shuttington And Alvecote Parish Hall	51	-
Bourne End Junior Sports & Recreational Club	15	-	Shuttington Playground Committee	68	-
Bucklesham and Foxhall Village Hall	5	33	Snitterfield Village Hall Committee	75	-
Carleton Rode Village Hall	10	13	Somerset Wildlife Trust	6	-
Cavendish Hall	-	20	South London Harriers	-	29
Caxton House Settlement	75	-	St Andrews Church Woking	28	-
Cheshire Wildlife Trust	214	-	St Chad's Church Hall	-	17
Colliers End Village Hall	-	(2)	St Edburgha's Church Yardley	-	40
Community Life Church	-	15	St John the Baptist Parish	-	11
Community of Christ Leicester	16	-	St John the Divine Thorpe Edge	-	14
Cradley Town Football Club	45	-	St Mary's Church Loughton	61	-
Crewe United Football and Social Club	-	72	St Stephens Church	24	-
Crondall Village Hall	-	(9)	St Wilfrids Parish Church Parochial Council	75	-
Devon Wildlife Trust	-	(3)	St. Mary's Methodist Church Hall	16	-
Dunston Family Church	26	-	St. Peters Pavilion Ltd	-	30
Eppleton Cricket Club	-	44	Stretford Church Hall and Institute Limited	8	15
Flixton Cricket and Sports Club	-	20	Teesside Athletic FC Limited	-	20
Franche Community Church	30	-	The Cathedral of St John the Baptist Trust	8	41
Glascote Methodist Church	-	16	The Customs House Trust Ltd	-	391
Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust	(4)	-	The Deep	38	381
Goodwin Development Trust	30	-	The Froglife Trust	-	51
Great Dalby Playground Project	-	25	The Land Restoration Trust	403	-
Greetham Jubilee Community Centre	10	20	The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Budeaux Plymouth	53	-
Henbury Village Hall	-	-	The Pelham CIO	-	75
Horam Village Hall and Recreation	48	-	The Sheppey Hall Trust	-	-
Houghton Boxing Club	75	-	The Wildlife Trust for Lancashire, Manchester & North Merseyside	59	10
Kent Wildlife Trust	9	48	The Woodland Trust	-	799
Lichfield & Hatherton Canals Restoration Trust Ltd	250	-	Tyersal Residents Association Community Cer	18	-
Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust	-	750	Walsall Rugby Football Club Ltd	-	65
Linskill and North Tyneside Community Development Trust	46		West Bromwich Baptist Church	10	50
Little Paxton Village Hall	24	-	Whitburn Cricket Club	17	-
Mirfield Community Trust	63	-	Whitley Bay Big Local	50	-
Monkchester Community Association CIO	-	38	Wiltshire Wildlife Trust	2,116	-
Nedging with Naughton Village Hall and Community Council	-	5	Windmill Community Church	-	49
Norfolk Wildlife Trust	6	44	Yorkshire Wildlife Trust	-	71
Total Biffa Award grants				4,154	3,897

29. GRANTS EXPENDITURE (Cont.)

Our Bright Future Grants

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000		2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Avon Wildlife Trust	-	151	Probe Limited	-	7
Belfast Hills Partnership Trust	-	123	Sense	(1)	153
Centre for Sustainable Energy	-	66	Shropshire Wildlife Trust	-	78
Cornwall Wildlife Trust	-	-	St Mungo Community Housing Association	-	-
Down to Earth Project	-	54	Students Organising for Sustainability UK	-	60
Falkland Stewardship Trust	-	83	The National Trust	(14)	-
Foundation for Social Entrepreneurs t/a UnLtd	-	-	The Wildlife Trust for Lancashire, Manchester & North Merseyside	-	34
Friends of the Earth Trust	-	-	Ulster Wildlife	-	62
Global Feedback Limited	-	140	UpRising Leadership	-	-
Groundwork London	-	71	Wiltshire Wildlife Trust	-	92
Hill Holt Wood	-	39	Women's Technology Training Limited	-	-
Impact Arts (Projects) Ltd	-	-	Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust	-	63
Middlesbrough Environment City Trust	2	85	Yorkshire Wildlife Trust	(2)	21
North Wales Wildlife Trust	-	(19)	Total Our Bright Future grants	(15)	1,363

Nature Friendly Schools

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000		2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Devon Wildlife Trust	-	20	Shropshire Wildlife Trust	-	56
Essex Wildlife Trust	-	68	The Wildlife Trust for Birmingham and the Black Country	-	117
Federation of Groundwork Trusts	-	92	The Wildlife Trust for Lancashire, Manchester & North Merseyside	-	186
Field Studies Council	-	218	Yorkshire Wildlife Trust	-	186
Sensory Trust	-	145	Young Minds Trust	-	81
			Total Nature Friendly Schools grants	-	1,169

Marine Protected Areas Fighting Fund

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000		2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Marine Conservation Society	37	-	WWF-UK	36	-
RSPB	36	-	The Wildlife Trusts Wales	-	(1)
Scottish Environment Link	5	(3)	Yorkshire Wildlife Trust	-	(3)
			Total Marine Protected Areas Fighting Fund grants	115	(7)

Figures in brackets indicate grants previously offered which have been underspent or withdrawn by the Fund

We are facing climate and ecological emergencies, and the two are inextricably linked — we cannot solve one crisis without tackling the other. The Wildlife Trusts is on a mission to restore a **third of the UK's land and seas** for nature by 2030 — not only in celebration of the value of nature, but also because people are part of, and entirely dependent on, nature.



We believe **everyone, everywhere, should have access to nature** and the joy and health benefits it brings. No matter where you are in the UK, there is a Wildlife Trust **empowering people to take action for nature** and standing up for wildlife and wild places. Each Wildlife Trust is an independent, grassroots, community-powered charity formed by people getting together to make a positive difference for wildlife, climate and future generations. Together we care for 2,300 diverse and beautiful nature reserves and work with others to manage their land for nature, too.

The Wildlife Trusts

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