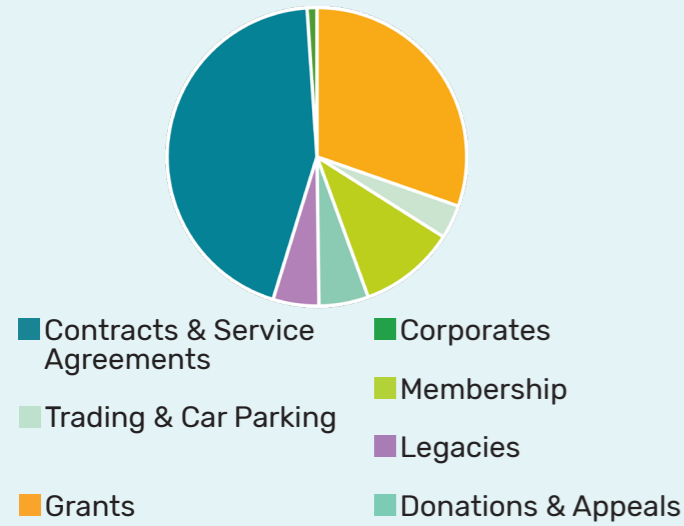
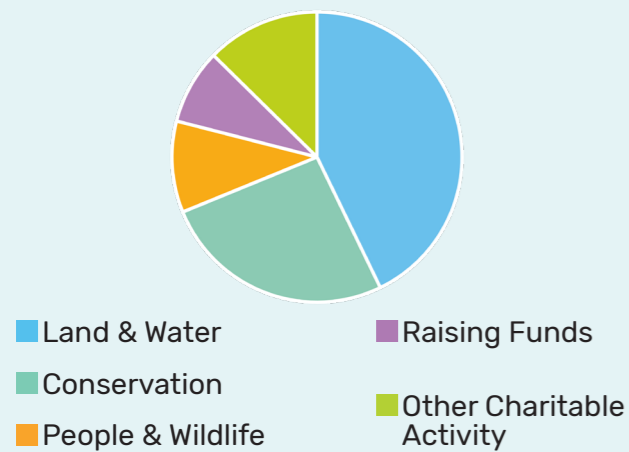


## Income 23/24



## Expenditure 23/24



## Thank You

Shropshire Wildlife Trust depends on vital funds from a range of generous funders. We would therefore like to thank all our members, supporters and fundraisers for their continued support, including those who kindly supported Feed the Birds, and the 167 people who sponsored a species.

Thank you to our Corporate Partners, with special thanks to Platinum Corporate Partners GrowRoom Agency Ltd and Müller Yogurt & Desserts. Thanks also go to Atchams, Caradoc, Kanu Poke, Ludlow Cycling Club, and Vine House Farm.

Thanks also to Tudor Griffiths Group for the time and expertise offered as in-kind support.

We are also very grateful to the friends and family of those who chose to make in memoriam gifts, gave us funeral donations and those who left us legacies, including Ian Lennox, Majorie Yury, Ronald Chambers, Thomas Edwards, and Dr Niall Kirk.

Finally, the below is not an exhaustive list, but we would also like to thank:

Beaver Bridges,  
 Campaign to Protect Rural England  
 DEFRA,  
 Environment Agency,  
 The Friends of Pontesford Hill,  
 Harbinson Charitable Trust,  
 National Highways,  
 The Ludlow Trust,  
 The Banister Charitable Trust,  
 The National Lottery Community Fund,  
 The National Lottery Heritage Fund,  
 John Swire 1989 Charitable Trust,  
 Masonic Charitable Foundation,  
 Natural England,  
 Dr. P. Yuille,  
 Potter Group Environmental Fund,  
 Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts,  
 Severn Rivers Trust,  
 Severn Trent Water,  
 Shrewsbury Town Council,  
 Shropshire Council,  
 Shropshire Hills National Landscape,  
 Telford and Wrekin Council,  
 The Millichope Foundation,  
 Tudor Griffiths Group,  
 UK Shared Prosperity Fund,  
 William Cadbury Charitable Trust.



# Summary Annual Review 2023 - 2024



## Shropshire Wildlife Trust (SWT) remains committed to giving wildlife and wild places the chance to thrive across Shropshire.

Though no longer new, we continue to strive towards our three goals, which remain at the heart of all that we do. Thanks to our generous supporters and valued partnerships, this year has seen vital progress made against these targets.

### Goal 1 – Shropshire’s Nature is in Recovery

**85%** of SWT nature reserves in favourable or recovering condition



### SWT land management

Our nature reserves continue to be examples of managing land for nature. We have restored ponds at Molverley Meadows and have further increased the limestone grassland at Llyncllys Common, resulting in a flush of early purple orchids. Bog asphodel and cotton grass at Wem Moss are flourishing due to our work re-wetting the peat at the site. We continued scrub cutting at Catherton Common and Cramer Gutter, resulting in an increase of marsh gentian and small-pearl bordered fritillaries. By re-wetting 3 new areas of peat, alongside the creation of a new pond, the final phase of bunding at Charles Sinker Fields is complete.



**1.8km** of new hedgerows planted as a result of SWT work

### Land management advice

Land management farm advisors provided advice to 200 farmers this year. Over the last twelve months, our Landscape Recovery Team has advised on improving 8,127 hectares of land and 104km of waterways.

### Habitat, species and natural flood management (NFM) projects

In total, we conducted 43 environmental protection and biodiversity projects. We created or restored 45 ponds for great crested newts and continued river restoration work along the river Worfe. Further NFM projects include the Shropshire Slow the Flow 2 programme and the Severn Valley Water Management Scheme Demonstrator programme.

We have delivered extensive floodplain and/or meander reconnections, wet woodland management, coordinated INNS treatments alongside leaky dams, fenced off water courses and planted reedbeds.

We are currently in the development phase of our Wilder Marches programme, seeking input to help us shape what a 'Wilder Marches' would look like and how we implement this.

**80km** of Shropshire surveyed by SWT Nature Recovery Network volunteers



### Biodiversity monitoring and analysis

Alongside 8 other organisations, we are a part of the steering group tasked with delivering the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) for Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin. This will provide a framework and vision for nature recovery which aims to support biodiversity, climate change adaptation, and the well-being of people and communities.



## Goal 2 – People are taking action for nature and the climate

### Vote for Nature

With the announcement of a July General Election, inspiring and empowering 1 in 4 people to take meaningful action for nature took a different form. In the lead up to July 4<sup>th</sup>, our 'Priorities for Nature' campaign stated loud and clear what needed to be prioritised for wildlife and the environment and what we wanted to see in the manifestos of all campaigning parties.

We compared green policies, chaired environmental hustings, created resources, and attended the Restore Nature Now march, all so we could provide supporters with the necessary information needed to vote for nature.

### Children and young people

Through wildlings, nursery and school visits, after school clubs, holiday events, birthday parties and uniformed groups, we have been connecting children with nature.

We delivered three days of training in outdoor learning to a cohort of trainee teachers from Chester University.

90 school staff were influenced to embed outdoor learning through our two school partnerships with an impact on 627 children. We secured funding to increase the number of partnerships to 7.

68 young people enrolled for our Environmental Leadership Programme. They experienced online sessions on leadership, employability and activism plus 8 in-person days focusing on nature connection activities, team working and campaign delivery skills.



**2,257** children connected with nature

## Support from members, volunteers and branches

Our volunteers share their skills, passion, and time, enhancing our programmes and expanding our reach. We are deeply grateful for their dedication and once again our volunteers made a significant contribution towards our mission - 29,352 hours which is the equivalent of 19 full time staff members!

The bulk of this being contributed by our branches and groups with other significant contributions from our weekly work parties, Feed the Birds and Visitor Centre teams.

Our branches and ambassadors engaged more than 4,000 people through walks, talks and events. Thank you all!

Recently, we supported a volunteer who practices mindfulness and forest bathing to complete his Level 2 training. He now trains our staff and volunteers with The Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts.

## Community mobilisation and urban nature

SWT worked with five ethnically and religiously diverse communities, helping them to connect with nature in a way that makes sense to them.

We supported the Shropshire European Organisation to organise safe community fires and wildlife walks for the Eastern European community. We facilitated seed-planting activities and a bird feeder making workshop for Telford Gurdwara. Members of the African Caribbean Community Initiative were supported in securing funding for a programme of cycle rides.

We also worked with One Voice, an organisation bringing all nationalities of the Caribbean together and supported volunteers to create planters for older, socially isolated members of their community.

**3,870** people attended SWT events



## Goal 3 - Nature is playing a central and valued role in helping to address local and global problems

We continued to see nature based solutions considered or adopted in 23/24.

### Health and wellbeing projects

We supported Feed the Birds as it set up as a charity in its own right so it can continue to support vulnerable and isolated people into the future.

Much of our work focused on developing Green Social Prescribing capacity in the county; guidance was produced for providers of activity in nature on how to become a social prescribing intervention; an infographic highlighting the benefits of nature was created for Social Prescribers; a Green Buddy welcome pack was developed ready for piloting in 2024.

Our 'Lets get Outside' campaign showcased 9 local green spaces where people can walk or spend time outdoors for the benefit of their physical and mental health.

### Beaver Project

Work began at the Old River Bed SSSI, where we are building an enclosure for a captive release of Beavers, in partnership with Shrewsbury Town Council. Beavers are ecosystem engineers and a keystone species of wetland habitats. Once work is completed by Ainsty Timber Marketing (ATM Ltd) we can begin the search for Shropshire's first urban-release beavers.



(c) Nick Upton

**390 tCO2e**

of net emissions benefit from our peat-rewetting at Whixall Moss

### Our carbon impact

Our commitment to reducing SWT's emissions to net-zero by 2030 remains a key objective for the Trust. We continue to reduce our energy usage (which we obtain from renewable suppliers), utilise zero-emission vehicles, and have adopted hybrid working. Where appropriate, we have been implementing alternative management techniques on our sites in order to reduce conservation grazing. Where we cannot eliminate, reduce, or substitute, we seek to offset the residual emissions, where possible, through increased sequestration on our own land.

### A strong business model

Income was very close to plan. Expenditure was slightly less than plan due to core costs savings and delays on some projects, caused mainly by adverse weather. This created a substantial saving on restricted expenditure.

We continue to develop and expand our unrestricted income from individual and corporate members, legacies, individual giving, retail, conference room hire, and car parking; with a focus on digital fundraising, membership recruitment and major donors. This allows us to continue essential conservation and education work for which grant funding may not be sufficient.

By 2028 we will expand, upgrade, or move our office facilities to provide the best possible facilities for effective collaborative working for all SWT staff. Alongside this, we will continue planned improvements to ICT, in particular moving our GIS capability to the cloud so that we can retire the remaining servers.

