

SHROPSHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST

Annual Reports & Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2024

REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: 00729746 (England and Wales)

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 212744

REVISED

Report of the Trustees and

Consolidated Financial Statements

for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

for

Shropshire Wildlife Trust

Thorne Widgey Accountancy Ltd
Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditors
2 Wyevale Business Park
Kings Acre
Hereford
Herefordshire
HR4 7BS

SHROPSHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST

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REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Trustees

Veronica Cossons	President
Rod Aspinall	Vice President
Roger Owen	Chair
Steve Marsh	Hon Treasurer
Alex Grant	Hon Secretary
Kirsten Mould (resigned 14 October 2023)	
Richard Carpenter (retired 14 October 2023)	
James Drever	
Andrew Hearle	
Malcolm Monie	
Quentin Shaw	
Laurence Kinnersley	
Iain Diack	
Rob Paul (elected 14 October 2023)	
Mandie Haywood (elected 14 October 2023)	
Amanda Craig (elected 14 October 2023)	
Lara Richardson (elected 14 October 2023)	
Rory Lay (co-opted 22 May 2024)	

Company Registration Number

0729746

Charity Registered Number

212744

Registered Office

193 Abbey Foregate ,

Shrewsbury, Shropshire, SY2 6AH

Company Secretary

Sarah Zacharek

Chief Executive Officer (CEO)

Richard Grindle

Senior Leadership Team

Jan McKelvey, Head of Conservation

Pete Lambert, Head of Land & Water

Helen Trotman, Head of People and Wildlife

Helen O'Connor, Head of Development

Lucy Povall, Head of Development (maternity cover)

Sarah Zacharek, Head of Finance and Operations

Honorary Advisors

Andy Whyte

Dr John Box (stood down 14 October 2023)

Katie Foster (stood down 31 March 2024)

Auditors

Thorne Widgey, 2 Wyevale Business Park, Kings Acre, Hereford, Herefordshire, HR4 7BS

Bankers

HSBC, 33 High Street, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, SY1 1SL

Solicitors

McKenzie Law, Global House, Sitka Drive, Shrewsbury Business Park, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, SY2 6L

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REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

INTRODUCTION

The trustees, who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2024. The trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland, Financial Reporting Standard 102 (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Charitable objects

Shropshire Wildlife Trust (SWT) is part of The Wildlife Trusts (TWT) federation. The Trust's charitable objects were updated in 2022 to align more closely with The Wildlife Trusts nationally. They are as follows:

1. To advance, promote and further the conservation and protection of nature reserves which shall be owned, maintained or managed by the Charity.
2. For the benefit of the public, to advance, promote and further the conservation, protection and enhancement of:
 - (a) wildlife and its habitats (including terrestrial, marine and aquatic habitats);
 - (b) areas of natural beauty or heritage;
 - (c) areas of zoological, botanical, mycological or other biological scientific interest;
 - (d) areas with geological, geographical, geomorphological, archaeological, physiographical or amenity value in particular, but not exclusively, in ways that further biodiversity.
3. To advance education and engagement, of both the general public and businesses, without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs in:
 - (a) the principles and practice of biodiversity and geodiversity conservation;
 - (b) the principles and practice of sustainable development;
 - (c) Nature based health and wellbeing initiatives;
 - (d) Natural capital, and its protection, restoration and value to society; and
 - (e) Natural solutions for climate change.
4. To promote, encourage and carry out study and research for the advancement of knowledge in the natural sciences, to make grants or donations for such purposes and to encourage and support the recording and publication of the useful results thereof.

Vision and goals

Our **vision** is of a thriving natural world where Shropshire's wildlife and natural habitats play a valued role in addressing the climate and ecological emergencies, and people are inspired and empowered to take action for nature.

Our **three goals** are that:

1. Shropshire's Nature is in recovery with abundant, diverse wildlife and natural processes creating wilder land and rivers where people and nature thrive.
2. People are taking action for nature and the climate, resulting in better decision making for the environment.
3. Nature is playing a central and valued role in helping to address local and global problems.

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To achieve these goals we have identified **three key outcomes**:

1. 30% of land managed for nature by 2030.
2. 1 in 4 people taking meaningful action for nature.
3. Nature based solutions are being adopted.

Activities

In 2022-23 SWT adopted a new 'theory of change' which identifies the **essential activities** needed to achieve these outcomes and strategic goals in Shropshire. These include:

- **Community mobilisation, urban nature and wellbeing:** activities designed to increase connection with nature, improve health and wellbeing and to build a movement of people taking meaningful action for nature.
- **National and local campaigns:** to influence decisions on conservation, climate and infrastructure, led by SWT (or TWT) but amplified by the broader public.
- **Children & Young People:** innovative programmes to engage children and young people with nature, to support schools to put nature at the heart of their education and grow a cohort of young leaders.
- **Habitat and species projects:** safeguarding or restoring specific types of habitat and/or keystone species.
- **Biodiversity monitoring and analysis:** habitat surveys to inform and monitor the creation of a nature recovery network in partnership with third-party land managers, to help reach '30 by 30'.
- **Management of SWT's nature reserves:** to safeguard key species and habitats, to demonstrate good practice, and to allow people from all parts of society to engage with nature.
- **Land management advice:** to enable and inspire the creation and restoration of habitat at scale on third-party land, as part of the practical delivery of nature recovery networks in Shropshire and Telford.

Inputs

To enable these activities we have identified four key inputs:

- experienced, specialist SWT staff
- networks we can work with or call upon for support
- a strong business model, including finance, Information Technology (IT), Human Resources (HR) & governance, development and the trading company
- support from our members, volunteers, and branches.

Volunteers are integral to the Trust's ability to deliver our programmes: they help with botanical surveys and monitoring, practical conservation, visitor services, outdoor education and in a variety of other roles.

Impact measurement

We collect internal and external data to **measure the impact** of our activities and progress towards these outcomes, which will be published annually. Progress towards these targets and some key successes are covered in the next section.

Public benefit

The Trustees have had due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit in making decisions on the Trust's aims, objectives and future activities. As set out in more detail below, the Trust provides public benefit by ensuring that Shropshire's wild spaces are protected and continue to thrive, that access is available to the general public, and that provide a net gain for wildlife and the public.

SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITIES, ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

This section summarises the aims that the Trust set for itself for 2023-24 and beyond, *the progress made towards these aims during the year*.

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Goal 1 – Nature is in Recovery

We will carry out a captive release of Beavers at the Old River Bed SSSI in partnership with Shrewsbury Town Council. This will inform consultations about future wild releases. *The fence and boardwalk have been built and we are working with partners to arrange for the transfer of beavers at a suitable moment.*

Wilder Marches will extend land management advice cross-border, and continue to investigate new 'green finance' funding mechanisms for carbon and biodiversity net gain to enable lasting improvements to habitats in the farmed landscape. *Development work has continued, in collaboration with the broader 'Severn and Wye Nature' partnership. Peatland mapping has been carried out in partnership with Natural England and local farmers, identifying potential areas for future habitat restoration. Funding applications have been submitted for an expansion in 2025-2029.*

We will support Shropshire and Telford and Wrekin councils in the creation of a new local nature partnership, and the development and implementation of the local nature recovery strategy. *Shropshire council appointed a full-time LNRS coordinator in early 2023 and this work is now under way.*

We will aim to bring all our nature reserves to favourable condition. *63% of nature reserves are now in favourable or recovering condition. Three sites were identified as being in unfavourable condition due to excessive or insufficient grazing and cutting; this is now being remedied.*

We will develop our Land Management Advice Service to support more landowners and managers and encourage them to take advantage of new funding mechanisms. *20 landowners advised via Land Management Advise Services (LMAS) and 130 via Severn Trent STEPS advisors in addition to those engaged through project delivery.*

Biodiversity enhancements – Land and Water programme will see delivery of large catchment scale projects on the Strine and Worfe with a further 45 ponds created and restored across Shropshire and a suite of smaller projects addressing river restoration and habitat enhancement. *The Beckbury Wetlands project is completed with restoration of 10.5 hectares of floodplain and meanders on the River Worfe. 45 more ponds were created for great crested newts. A suite of wetland enhancement projects have been delivered in the Strine catchment. Additional supplementary projects have been delivered using EA WEIF funding adding value to the larger schemes.*

Goal 2 - People are taking action for nature and the climate

We will carry out a review of accessibility on our nature reserves in 2023 and in 2023-25 we will carry out a programme of improvements to make key sites more welcoming to as diverse an audience as possible. *We commissioned external consultants, Accessible UK, to conduct an accessibility assessment on seven of our busiest sites. This included an audit of our website and preliminary information as well as on site infrastructure. We intend to carry out some of the actions proposed in the report on two of the sites in 2024-25 with further work to follow subject to funding.*

We will support four communities in Telford to connect with nature and explore how they might take action for it through the Nextdoor Nature Project. *This project is nearing completion; SWT worked with five ethnically and religiously diverse communities, helping them to connect with nature in a way that makes sense to them. A funding proposal has been submitted for a three-year project to expand this work.*

From 2023 until 2027 we will deliver an Environmental Leadership Programme in partnership with UpRising. *100 young people a year from underrepresented and underserved communities will undertake the 12month long programme during which they will co-create and deliver nature connection campaigns in their own communities. We recruited a new team and set about recruiting participants for the programme. 68 young people enrolled and experienced online sessions on leadership, employability and activism plus 8 in-person days focusing on nature connection activities, team working and campaign delivery skills.*

We will launch a youth forum and continue to make progress against our Team Wilder implementation plan. *Development and planning for the launch of our youth forum has been undertaken for a public launch in 2024. Team Wilder resources were developed for staff training and induction; staff from multiple teams undertook listening exercises for the first time; 3 staff completed the Community Organising Award; and a grant application was submitted focusing on practically implementing our Team Wilder approach.*

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We will continue to work with school leaders to increase their capacity to provide nature education, as well as providing hands-on environmental education ourselves. *We connected 2,257 children with nature through wildlings, nursery and school visits, after school clubs, events, birthday parties and uniformed groups. We delivered three days of training in outdoor learning to a cohort of trainee teachers from Chester University. 90 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.*

We will maintain a network of branches and affiliated groups and a large and diverse group of volunteers to support all of our activities. *We have 375 active volunteers, 17 ambassadors, 10 Branches and 5 affiliated groups; in 2023-24 they completed 29,352 hrs towards our mission. 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 team.*

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

We are expecting three additional multi-year natural flood management project developments to be signed off for 2023-24. These are two Severn Valley Water Management Scheme Demonstrator projects – 1. De-Pave [Morda], 2. Perry and Peatlands and 3. a Shropshire Council led 'Shropshire Slow the Flow' NFM project. *All three were secured and new teams are being set up to deliver this work in 2024-26.*

The Trust has invested in 6 electronic 'No Fence' collars for cattle and will be trialling more efficient grazing on smaller nature reserves to help reduce carbon emissions from livestock and to target management on the most biodiverse areas of grassland. We plan to use this technology first at Cramer Gutter and Masons Bank nature reserves. *The Nofence collars have been successfully used at Cramer Gutter to keep grazing animals on site all season while protecting more sensitive plants at specific times. They have also been used at Earls Hill to keep grazing animals away from sensitive archaeology. Our affiliated group the Friends of Pontesford Hill have now acquired 6 more collars to use with goats that now graze the scree on one side of the hill.*

We will be completing the final phase of safeguarding the peat soils beneath the suite of fields adjacent to Morris Bridge at Whixall, with bunding works across a further 5 hectares to help retain water on the fields and keep the peat as wet as possible. With luck it will also increase the area of habitat attractive to wetland bird species and expand the area of birdwatching interest around the Charles Sinker bird hide. *The second phase of the re-wetting of Charles Sinker Fields began on schedule; due to adverse weather this was not completed by 31 March but work has now resumed and will be completed in 2024. This work together with the recent re-wetting of World's End Fields will reduce greenhouse gas emissions by at least 390 tonnes of CO₂ equivalent (tCO₂e). This means that the Trust has now more than offset its operational and grazing emissions of 275 tCO₂e.*

In the Clun uplands we have secured funding from the Farming in Protected Landscapes fund (administered by the Shropshire Hills AONB) which has enabled us to engage a specialist consultant to investigate peat-forming soils on the hill-top sites around Rhos Fiddle, Mason's Bank and Lower Shortditch Turbary nature reserves. The survey work incorporates adjoining private land holdings and will provide information at a landscape level positioned at the headwaters of the River Clun SAC and inform where best to focus natural flood management techniques and attract green finance investment. *This work is progressing well and should inform planning for subsequent cross-border landscape recovery programmes.*

We will develop guidance for groups interested in becoming a green social prescribing intervention, develop and implement a 'green buddy scheme' for groups providing activities in nature and run an awareness campaign to highlight places that can be used for low level activity in nature. *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, and shared with, Social Prescribers. A Green Buddy welcome pack was developed ready for piloting and launch 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. SWT secured funding to continue working on the development of Green Social Prescribing in 2024.*

Organisational capacity and resilience

We will undertake a review of our offices and visitor centre facilities by 2024; and then by 2028 we will expand, upgrade or move our office facilities to integrate teams fully and to enable more effective agile working. *Trustees approved an initial options appraisal in late 2023; a final recommendation will be made before the end of 2024.*

Further improvements to Information Communication Technology (ICT), bringing all users including branches onto MS365 and all remaining systems to the cloud, to improve cybersecurity and reduce ICT support costs. *These are progressing well; but our geographical information system (GIS) cannot be moved to the cloud yet.*

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Full cost recovery (FCR) projections for 2023-24 onwards are much more robust and the new Xledger finance system will enable us to monitor actual receipts closely. Contingency plans exist to reduce core costs if FCR is lower than expected. *Xledger is now providing timely, detailed and accurate reporting for all project managers and improved forecasting for senior leadership team and finance committee.*

We carry out regular employee engagement surveys and will ensure that pay, benefits and CPD are aligned with TWT and competitive in the sector, so that we continue to attract and retain good people. We also complete exit interviews with leavers to identify opportunities for improvement.

Feedback from the 2023 Employee Engagement Survey (EES) showed that a significant proportion of colleagues (98% of respondents) enjoy their work, believe in the aims of the charity and enjoy working with others at SWT. The survey also highlighted concerns about communication between teams, and stress related to workload.

Following the EES, changes are being introduced to improve the employee experience and enhance communication. This includes promotion of a confidential Employee Assistance Programme (EAP) that offers support and guidance with any problems that may affect overall health and wellbeing. New flexible benefits have been introduced, including a Bike to Work and Electric Vehicle schemes.

To aid interdepartmental communication, employees attend a monthly staff meeting at Abbey Foregate. This provides an opportunity to brief attendees on RSWT and TWT news; share departmental updates and celebrate project success. Once a quarter, away days are organised for staff. Held at one of our nature reserves or key project sites, they give an invaluable opportunity to build relationships and discover progress towards our strategic goals.

All managers have received an appraisal refresher, highlighting how to provide feedback and set future objectives. The HR Manager also holds regular meetings with senior leaders to provide coaching and to ensure timely support is given to employees e.g. with learning & development or wellbeing concerns.

The EES will be repeated in 2025 to monitor progress and identify further opportunities to improve.

We recently carried out an Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) perception survey and we will now use the data and insight to identify actions to improve EDI. *The Trust's EDI group is developing new processes, including for recruitment, to address the concerns identified.*

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Financial Position

During the reporting period income was £3,315k (2022-23: £2,892k) and expenditure was £3,176k. (2022-23: £2,472k). Net income was £144k (2022-23: £415k). Total funds at year end increased from £4,009k to £4,153k, of which £373k were unrestricted and £3,780k restricted (2022-23: £353k unrestricted and £3,656k restricted). The net book value of tangible fixed assets at the year-end stood at £2,937k (2022-23: £2,941k).

Free reserves at the year end, being total reserves less any restricted funds and tangible fixed assets held by the charity, plus the funds held by the subsidiary company amounted to £172k surplus (2023: £141k surplus).

Income was very close to plan. Expenditure was slightly less than plan due to core costs savings and to delays on some projects cause mainly by adverse weather. There was a surplus of £124k on restricted funds, and a surplus of £20k on unrestricted.

Trading income (retail and room hire) remains stable. Car parking charges have brought an additional £36k annually. Additionally membership and individual giving brought in £623k and corporate partnerships £35k. Major grants secured in 2023-24 include £145,000 each from the Banister Trust and the Charles Banister Charitable Trust for land acquisition.

The Trust has a strong track record of securing grants and contracts from the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF), the Landfill Communities Fund, corporations including Severn Trent Water, and statutory agencies (Natural England and the Environment Agency), and from trusts and foundations. These pay for the majority of our charitable activities. We now expect full cost recovery (FCR) on all grants and contracts so that all projects can contribute their fair share of organisational management and support costs. In a few cases this was not achieved in 2023-24 because FCR had not been factored into the original funding agreement, but all new grants and contracts include FCR.

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Unrestricted income comes from individual and corporate members, legacies, individual giving, retail, conference room hire, and car parking. This allows us to continue essential conservation and education work for which grant funding may not be sufficient. Unrestricted funds not required in the short term are held in sustainable investments; the level of risk is reviewed regularly by the Finance Committee.

The Trustees have identified the principal financial risks to the Trust as a significant reduction in grant funding; a failure to ensure full cost recovery on projects; and the underperformance of unrestricted income streams. The funding pipeline is reviewed regularly by the Finance Committee and action is taken where necessary to reduce costs. The Trust will seek to diversify unrestricted income streams further in order to provide greater financial resilience.

Reserves policy

The Trust's reserves policy is to maintain free reserves (being total reserves less any restricted and designated funds and tangible fixed assets held) equivalent to between three and six months' core operating costs, or circa £250-500k. The free reserves include fixed asset investments. As at 1 April 2024 free reserves amounted to £172k (2023: £141k).

Going concern

Having considered emerging external opportunities and having carefully reviewed operational plans and budgets, funding pipeline, and cash-flow projections for the coming three years, the Trustees are satisfied that the organisation is a going concern and have reported on that basis.

PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIODS

Goal 1

We will support Shropshire and Telford and Wrekin councils in the development and implementation of the local nature recovery strategy and nature recovery network, including through habitat survey by SWT volunteers.

In 2024-25 we will carry out a captive release of Beavers at the Old River Bed SSSI in partnership with Shrewsbury Town Council.

In 2024-25 we intend to acquire a new nature reserve which will help demonstrate how biodiversity net gain (BNG) funding can support conservation aims in the wider landscape. In general we aim to bring all our nature reserves to favourable condition.

We will develop our Land Management Advice Service to support more land managers and enable them to take advantage of new funding mechanisms.

We will continue to develop and implement habitat and species restoration projects in Shropshire.

We will continue to develop habitat and river restoration projects at scale in the wider bioregion in partnership with other Wildlife Trusts and environmental NGOs through the Wilder Marches initiative and the Severn & Wye Nature partnership.

Goal 2

We will carry out a programme of improvements to make key sites more welcoming to as diverse an audience as possible.

We will build on the work of the Nextdoor Nature Project to support more communities taking action for nature in their own area, to the extent that funding permits.

In partnership with UpRising we will recruit a new cohort of young people from underrepresented and underserved communities for the Environmental Leadership Programme ("ELP2"), which continues until 2027. They will have the opportunity to co-create and deliver nature connection campaigns in their own communities.

We will launch a youth forum and continue to make progress against our Team Wilder implementation plan.

We will continue to work with school leaders to increase their capacity to provide nature education, as well as providing hands-on environmental education ourselves.

We will maintain a network of branches and affiliated groups and a large and diverse group of volunteers to support all of our activities.

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Goal 3

We will continue to deliver high-quality river and habitat restoration projects including on the Worfe, Strine, Perry and Morda Catchments under the Severn Valley Water Management Scheme, and across Shropshire under 'Shropshire Slow the Flow 2'.

We will continue to reduce our operational carbon emissions by replacing the remaining petrol and diesel vehicles with electric; and reduce the carbon impact of our conservation grazing by expanding the use of No Fence collars.

We will continue to develop Green Social Prescribing capacity in Shropshire; to support local groups to become more resilient and inclusive and support groups to secure capital funds to improve green spaces.

Organisational capacity and resilience

For 2024-25 onwards we have adopted a new senior leadership team (SLT) structure to help ensure that our work is focused effectively on our strategic goals.

- A new Head of Nature Reserves will expand the role of SWT's own land in demonstrating new funding mechanisms for ecosystem services and in welcoming people from all communities.
- The Head of Landscape Recovery will continue to build our influence on third-party land through the provision of specialist advice on ecology and ecosystem services, and through the delivery of species, habitat and river restoration projects.
- The Head of People and Wildlife will continue to lead on community mobilisation, children and young people, wellbeing, and visitor services.
- A new Head of Policy and Evidence will support delivery teams with data, mapping and impact measurement, advocate for nature in key planning and policy fora, liaison with Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin Councils and coordinate the Trust's journey to net-zero.
- Support functions are led as before by the Head of Development, Head of Finance and Operations, and the HR Manager.



We will continue to develop and expand our unrestricted fundraising, with a focus on digital fundraising, membership recruitment, and major donors.

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.

We will continue planned improvements to ICT, in particular moving our GIS capability to the cloud so that we can retire the remaining servers.

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Appraisals are now recorded in the HR Information System (HRIS) BreatheHR, enabling employees to have ready access to their objectives and to readily monitor progress. We will continue to maximise the functionality within BreatheHR, with a view to deploying the functionality for onboarding and probation reviews.

The HR Manager has worked on a RSWT project updating key HR policies and procedures. These will be aligned with current practice in SWT and deployed within the organisation by March 2025. Where relevant, line managers will be trained to ensure legislative compliance.

We will create an EDI action plan to guide improvements which will include a review of the Trust's approach to recruitment and selection.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document and charity constitution

Shropshire Wildlife Trust is a charitable company limited by guarantee. In 2022 new Articles of Association were adopted to bring SWT into closer harmony with The Wildlife Trusts. The SWT group comprises SWT and its trading subsidiary Shropshire Wildlife Trading Company Ltd (SWTC). The group was set up by a Trust deed on 10 November 2009.

Related parties and wider network

Shropshire Wildlife Trust has over 9,000 members, in addition to volunteers, branches and affiliated groups helping to drive forward its work, and nature reserves covering 1,000 hectares in 41 locations throughout the county.

Shropshire Wildlife Trust is a member of The Wildlife Trusts (TWT) (registered as the Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts (RSWT), charity no: 207238). This is a federation of 46 autonomous charities covering every part of the UK. TWT acts as an umbrella body carrying out lobbying and public relations on behalf of all Wildlife Trusts. Trusts cooperate on joint projects but each Trust remains entirely independent in terms of governance.

Organisational structure, appointment and training of new trustees and key management remuneration

The Trust is governed by the Council of Trustees, which has between 10 and 20 members. All members of the Trust are eligible to seek election to the Council at the Annual General Meeting (AGM), limited to two terms of four years. The Chair, Hon Secretary and Hon Treasurer are elected at the first meeting of Council following the AGM and serve one-year terms. The Trustees are guided by the Trust's articles of association and governance handbook.

Council sets and reviews strategic direction, monitors delivery of agreed targets, and ensures that Trust's finances and assets are managed appropriately and holds the management to account for day-to-day operational matters. Operational decisions are delegated to the Senior Leadership Team.

Council is supported by committees responsible for finance; personnel; land management; and communications, campaigns and marketing. The Finance Committee includes the Chair, Treasurer, Hon Secretary, CEO, Head of Finance & Operations and Head of Development; it meets quarterly to review risks, performance against budgets, and financial projections, and reports its findings and recommendations to council.

Newly appointed Trustees receive a full induction to the Trust including the TWT Strategy and SWT Business Plan, articles of association, governance handbook and Charity Commission guidance for trustees, as well as visits to Trust projects and sites.

The Council of Trustees appoints the Chief Executive Officer and supports the appointment process for members of the Senior Leadership Team. The pay of the Senior Leadership Team is reviewed annually by the Personnel Committee in line with other staff.

Risk management

The Trustees have assessed the major risks to which the Charity and the group is exposed, in particular those related to the operations and finances of the Charity and the group and are satisfied that systems and procedures are in place to mitigate our exposure to the major risks.

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FUND-RAISING STANDARDS

The Trustees have taken account of the provisions of the Charities (Protection and Social Investment) Act 2016. The Trust is registered with the Institute of Fundraising and the Fundraising Regulator; we follow the Fundraising Regulator's Code of Fundraising Practice and the Charity Commission guidance on charity fundraising; and we subscribe to the Fundraising Preference Service.

In 2023-24 we did not use a commercial participator or professional fund-raiser. The Trust employs membership recruiters who attend public events and carry out door to door recruitment. They are closely supervised by SWT management. The Trust complies with the General Data Protection Regulations and the Fundraising Regulator's Code of Fundraising Practice. All staff have been made aware of its requirements, and those involved in fundraising are given specific training and are closely supervised. We take care to ensure that vulnerable people and other members of the public are not subject to unreasonable intrusion on their privacy, unreasonably persistent approaches, or undue pressure on a person to give money or other property.

In 2023-24 we received no complaints about activities by the charity, or by a person on behalf of the charity, for the purpose of fundraising.

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

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

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to

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

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

In so far as the trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditors are unaware; and
- the trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditors are aware of that information.

AUDITORS

The auditors, Thorne Widgery Accountancy Ltd, will be proposed for re-appointment at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting.

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 08/08/24 and signed on its behalf by:



.....
RW Owen - Chair

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REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS TO THE TRUSTEES OF SHROPSHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Shropshire Wildlife Trust (the 'parent charitable company and group') for the year ended 31 March 2024 which comprise the Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities, the Consolidated Balance Sheet, the Charity Balance Sheet, the Consolidated Cash Flow Statement and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (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 charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2024 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

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

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

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

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

Other information

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Annual Report, other than the financial statements and our Report of the Independent Auditors thereon.

Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether 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 where the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the Report of the Trustees is inconsistent in any material respect with the financial statements;
- or
- the group and parent charitable company has not kept adequate accounting records; or
- the 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.

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Responsibilities of trustees

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

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the group and parent charitable company'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 charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditors under Section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue a Report of the Independent Auditors 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 extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

Fraud and breaches of laws and regulations - ability to detect

Identifying and responding to risks of material misstatement due to fraud

To identify risks of material misstatement due to fraud ("fraud risks") we assessed events or conditions that could indicate an incentive or pressure to commit fraud or provide an opportunity to commit fraud. Our risk assessment procedures included:

- Enquiring of trustees, the finance committee and inspection of policy documentation as to the Charity's high-level policies and procedures to prevent and detect fraud as well as whether they have knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud.
- Reading Trustees' meetings and finance committee minutes.
- Considering performance targets for management.

We communicated identified fraud risks throughout the audit team and remained alert to any indications of fraud throughout the audit.

As required by auditing standards, and taking into account our overall knowledge of the control environment, we perform procedures to address the risk of management override of controls, in particular the risk that management may be in a position to make inappropriate accounting entries. On this audit we do not believe there is a fraud risk related to revenue recognition because the revenue is non-judgemental and straightforward, with limited opportunity for manipulation.

We did not identify any additional fraud risks. We performed procedures including identifying journal entries to test based on risk criteria and comparing the identified entries to supporting documentation. These included those posted by finance management/ those posted and approved by the same user/ those posted to unusual accounts.

Identifying and responding to risks of material misstatement due to non-compliance with laws and regulations

We identified areas of laws and regulations that could reasonably be expected to have a material effect on the financial statements from our general commercial and sector experience, and through discussion with management (as required by auditing standards) and discussed with management the policies and procedures regarding compliance with laws and regulations.

We communicated identified laws and regulations throughout our team and remained alert to any indications of non-compliance throughout the audit.

The potential effect of these laws and regulations on the financial statements varies considerably.

SHROPSHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST

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Firstly, the Charity and group is subject to laws and regulations that directly affect the financial statements including financial reporting legislation, taxation legislation and the Charities Act legislation and we assessed the extent of compliance with these laws and regulations as part of our procedures on the related financial statement items.

Secondly, the Charity and group is subject to many other laws and regulations where the consequences of non-compliance could have a material effect on amounts or disclosures in the financial statements, for instance through the imposition of fines or litigation or the loss of the Charity and group's license to operate. We identified the following areas as those most likely to have such an effect: health and safety, anti-bribery, employment law, data protection, anti-money laundering and specific areas of other legislation recognising the nature of the Charity and group's activities.

Auditing standards limit the required audit procedures to identify non-compliance with these laws and regulations to enquiry of management, inspection of regulatory and legal correspondence, if any. Therefore, if a breach of operational regulations is not disclosed to us or evident from relevant correspondence, an audit will not detect that breach.

Owing to the inherent limitations of an audit, there is an unavoidable risk that we may not have detected some material misstatements in the financial statements, even though we have properly planned and performed our audit in accordance with auditing standards. For example, the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely the inherently limited procedures required by auditing standards would identify it.

In addition, as with any audit, there remained a higher risk of non-detection of fraud, as these may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal controls. Our audit procedures are designed to detect material misstatement. We are not responsible for preventing non-compliance or fraud and cannot be expected to detect non-compliance with all laws and regulations.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our Report of the Independent Auditors.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the group and parent charitable company'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 group and parent charitable company's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors' 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 group and parent charitable company and the parent charitable company's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Thorne Widgery Accountancy Ltd

Thorne Widgery Accountancy Ltd

Chartered Accountants

Statutory Auditors

Eligible to act as an auditor in terms of Section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006

2 Wyevale Business Park

Kings Acre

Hereford

Herefordshire

HR4 7BS

Date: 15/8/24

Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities

(Incorporating an Income and Expenditure Account)

	Notes	2024			2023		
		Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
		Funds	Funds	2024	Funds	Funds	2023
		£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Incoming from:							
Donations and legacies	1	658	94	752	483	199	682
Charitable activities	2						
Other Charitable activities		42	-	42	6	-	6
BogLIFE		-	18	18	-	133	133
Development		-	-	-	53	-	53
People & Wildlife Operations		-	9	9	-	36	36
Children & Young People		2	129	131	8	20	28
Communities & Wellbeing		-	88	88	-	79	79
Conservation Operations		2	-	2	10	-	10
SWT Nature Reserves		-	202	202	101	34	135
Habitat & Species		-	527	527	-	256	256
Land & Water		29	1,366	1,395	305	1,045	1,350
Other trading activities	3	105	23	128	113	9	122
Interest receivable and similar income	4	20	-	20	2	-	2
Other income	5	-	1	1	-	-	-
Total income		858	2,457	3,315	1,081	1,811	2,892
Expenditure on:							
Raising funds	6	264	-	264	231	-	231
Charitable activities	7						
Other Charitable activities		229	-	229	252	-	252
BogLIFE		-	-	-	-	128	128
Development		190	-	190	212	-	212
People & Wildlife Operations		16	12	28	28	35	63
Children & Young People		26	152	178	81	35	116
Communities & Wellbeing		27	88	115	29	58	87
Conservation Operations		35	-	35	17	50	67
SWT Nature Reserves		14	259	273	162	37	199
Habitat & Species		3	510	513	-	42	42
Land & Water		29	1,322	1,351	307	768	1,075
Total expenditure	8	833	2,343	3,176	1,319	1,153	2,472
Net gains/(losses) on investments	15	5	-	5	(5)	-	(5)
Net (expenditure)/income		30	114	144	(243)	658	415
Transfers between funds	20	(10)	10	-	(21)	21	-
Net movement in funds		20	124	144	(264)	679	415
Reconciliation of funds							
Total funds brought forward		353	3,656	4,009	617	2,977	3,594
Total funds carried forward		373	3,780	4,153	353	3,656	4,009

Continuing Operations

All income and expenditure has arisen from continuing activities.

Consolidated Balance Sheet

	Notes	2024		2023	
		Group £'000	Charity £'000	Group £'000	Charity £'000
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	14	2,937	2,937	2,941	2,941
Investments	15	103	103	98	98
Total fixed assets		3,040	3,040	3,039	3,039
Current assets					
Stock	16	12	-	10	-
Debtors	17	907	929	670	722
Cash held in CCLA Charities Deposit Fund		150	150	-	-
Cash at bank and in hand		626	619	1,147	1,105
Total current assets		1,695	1,698	1,827	1,827
Liabilities					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	18	582	583	857	855
Net current assets		1,113	1,115	970	972
Total assets less current liabilities		4,153	4,155	4,009	4,011
Total net assets	21	4,153	4,155	4,009	4,011
Funds					
Unrestricted funds	20	373	375	353	355
Restricted income funds	20	3,780	3,780	3,656	3,656
Total funds		4,153	4,155	4,009	4,011

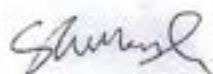
The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for

(a) ensuring that the charitable company and group keeps accounting records that comply with section 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006 and

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

These financial statements have been audited under the requirements of Section 145 of the Charities Act 2011.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 8/8/24 and were signed on its behalf by:



S G Marsh - Honorary Treasurer

Consolidated Cash Flow Statement

Group	Notes	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
Cash flows from operating activities:			
Net cash provided by / (used in) operating activities	22	(386)	500
Cash flows from investing activities:			
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(6)	(10)
Purchase of fixed asset investments		-	(55)
Sale of tangible fixed assets		1	-
Interest Received		20	2
Net cash provided by investing activities		15	(63)
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting periods		(371)	437
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		1,147	710
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	22	776	1,147

Accounting Policies

Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statements of the group and parent charitable company, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, with the exception of investments which are included at market value, as modified by the revaluation of certain assets.

The Consolidated statements of financial activities (SOFA) and Consolidated balance sheet consolidate the financial statements of the trust and its subsidiary undertaking. The results of the subsidiary are consolidated on a line by line basis.

The Group has taken advantage of the exemption allowed under section 408 of the Companies Act 2006 and has not presented its own Statement of financial activities in these financial statements.

Going concern

Having considered emerging external opportunities and having carefully reviewed operational plans and budgets, funding pipeline, and cash-flow projections for the coming three years, the Trustees are satisfied that the organisation is a going concern and have reported on that basis.

Income

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

The recognition of income from legacies is dependent on establishing entitlement, the probability of receipt and the ability to estimate with sufficient accuracy the amount receivable. Evidence of entitlement to a legacy exists when the Charity has sufficient evidence that a gift has been left to them (through knowledge of the existence of a valid will and the death of the benefactor) and the executor is satisfied that the property in question will not be required to satisfy claims in the estate. Receipt of a legacy must be recognised when it is probable that it will be received and the fair value of the amount receivable, which will generally be the expected cash amount to be distributed to the Charity, can be reliably measured.

Grants are included in the Consolidated statement of financial activities on a receivable basis. The balance of income received for specific purposes but not expended during the period is shown in the relevant funds on the Balance sheet. Where income is received in advance of entitlement of receipt, its recognition is deferred and included in creditors as deferred income. Where entitlement occurs before income is received, the income is accrued.

On receipt, donated professional services and facilities are recognised on the basis of the value of the gift to the Charity which is the amount it would have been willing to pay to obtain services or facilities of equivalent economic benefit on the open market; a corresponding amount is then recognised in expenditure in the period of receipt.

Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Income tax recoverable in relation to investment income is recognised at the time the investment income is receivable.

Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

All expenditure is inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

Raising funds

Expenditure on raising funds includes all expenditure incurred by the Group to raise funds for its charitable purposes and includes costs of all fundraising activities events and non-charitable trading.

Charitable activities

Expenditure on charitable activities is incurred on directly undertaking the activities which further the Group's objectives, as well as any

Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets costing £1,000 or more are capitalised and recognised when future economic benefits are probable and the cost or value of the asset can be measured reliably.

Tangible fixed assets are initially recognised at cost. After recognition, under the cost model, tangible fixed assets are measured at cost less accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses. All costs incurred to bring a tangible fixed asset into its intended working condition should be included in the measurement of cost.

Depreciation is charged so as to allocate the cost of tangible fixed assets less their residual value over their estimated useful lives.

Depreciation is provided on the following bases

- Freehold property - not provided
- Improvements to property - 10% on cost
- Fixtures and fittings - 25% on cost
- Motor vehicles - 25% on cost
- Computer equipment - 25% on cost

Taxation

The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

Fund accounting

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

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the Trustees for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

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

Pension costs and other post-retirement benefits

The charitable company operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions payable to the charitable company's pension scheme are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate.

Investments

Fixed asset investments are a form of financial instrument and are initially recognised at their transaction cost and subsequently measured at fair value at the balance sheet date, unless the value cannot be measured reliably in which case it is measured as cost less impairment. Investment gains and losses, whether realised or unrealised, are combined and presented as "gains/(losses) on investments" in the Consolidated statement of financial activities.

Stock

Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value after making due allowance for obsolete and slow-moving stocks. Cost includes all direct costs and an appropriate proportion of fixed and variable overheads.

Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount 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 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.

Liabilities and provisions

Liabilities are recognised when there is an obligation at the Balance sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required in settlement, and the amount of the settlement can be estimated reliably.

Liabilities are recognised at the amount that the Charity anticipates it will pay to settle the debt or the amount it has received as advanced payments for the goods or services it must provide.

Provisions are measured at the best estimate of the amounts required to settle the obligation. Where the effect of the time value of money is material, the provision is based on the present value of those amounts, discounted at the pre-tax discount rate that reflects the risks specific to the liability. The unwinding of the discount is recognised in the Consolidated statement of financial activities as a finance cost.

Financial instruments

The Group 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.

Operating Leases

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

Notes to the Financial Statements

1. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	2024			2023		
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
	Funds	Funds	2024	Funds	Funds	2023
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Donations	82	94	176	63	199	262
Legacies	188	-	188	25	-	25
Membership Subscriptions	378	-	378	383	-	383
Income from Branches	10	-	10	12	-	12
Total income from donations and legacies	658	94	752	483	199	682

Shropshire Wildlife Trust depends on vital funds from a range of generous funders. The list below is not exhaustive, but we would like to thank the following:

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

We would 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 all of our Corporate Partners, with special thanks to Platinum Corporate Partners GrowRoom Agency Ltd and Müller Yogurts & Desserts. Thanks also go to Acharma, Caradoc, Kanu Poke, Ludlow Cycling Club and Vine House Farm.

We would like to thank the following 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 and funeral donations to Shropshire Wildlife Trust and those who left us legacies, including Ian Lennox, Majorie Yury, Ronald Chambers, Thomas Edwards and Dr Niall Kirk.

2. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	2024			2023		
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
	Funds	Funds	2024	Funds	Funds	2023
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Income from charitable activities:						
Other Charitable Activity	42	-	42	6	-	6
BogLIFE	-	18	18	-	133	133
Development	-	-	-	53	-	53
People & Wildlife Operations	-	9	9	-	36	36
Children & Young People	2	129	131	8	20	28
Communities & Wellbeing	-	88	88	-	79	79
Conservation Operations	2	-	2	10	-	10
SWT Nature Reserves	-	202	202	101	34	135
Habitat & Species Projects	-	527	527	-	256	256
Land & Water	29	1,366	1,395	305	1,045	1,350
Total income from charitable activities	75	2,339	2,414	483	1,603	2,086

3. OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES

	2024			2023		
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
	Funds	Funds	2024	Funds	Funds	2023
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Income from other trading activities:						
Trading Income	21	23	44	40	9	49
Shropshire Wildlife Trading Company Ltd	84	-	84	73	-	73
Total income from other trading activities	105	23	128	113	9	122

4. INTEREST RECEIVABLE AND SIMILAR INCOME

	2024			2023		
	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2024	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2023
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Deposit Account Interest	20	-	20	2	-	2
Total income from investments	20	-	20	2	-	2

5. OTHER INCOME

	2024			2023		
	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2024	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2023
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Other income	-	-	-	-	-	-
Profit on sale of fixed assets	-	1	1	-	-	-
Total other income	-	1	1	-	-	-

6. EXPENDITURE ON RAISING FUNDS

	2024			2023		
	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2024	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2023
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Raising donations and legacies						
Staff Costs	128	-	128	153	-	153
Membership & recruitment	16	-	16	10	-	10
Marketing and event costs	18	-	18	4	-	4
Office costs	-	-	-	19	-	19
Motor & Travel	4	-	4	3	-	3
Bank Charges	3	-	3	4	-	4
Others	2	-	2	-	-	-
Branch Expenditure	8	-	8	1	-	1
Shropshire Wildlife Trading Company Ltd	85	-	85	37	-	37
Total expenditure on raising funds	264	-	264	231	-	231

7. EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	2024			2023		
	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2024	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2023
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Expenditure on charitable activities by fund						
Other Charitable Activity	229	-	229	252	-	252
BogLIFE	-	-	-	-	128	128
Development	190	-	190	212	-	212
People & Wildlife Operations	16	12	28	28	35	63
Children & Young People	26	152	178	81	35	116
Communities & Wellbeing	27	88	115	29	58	87
Conservation Operations	35	-	35	17	50	67
SWT Nature Reserves	14	259	273	162	37	199
Habitat and Species Projects	3	510	513	-	42	42
Land & Water	29	1,322	1,351	307	768	1,075
Total expenditure on charitable activities	669	2,343	2,912	1,088	1,153	2,241

8. TOTAL EXPENDITURE

	2024				
	Staff costs	Depn	Auditors Remuneration	Other costs	Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Raising Funds	128	-	-	51	179
SWT Trading Company	63	-	-	22	85
Charitable activities	1,243	10	16	1,662	2,931
Total expenditure	1,434	10	16	1,735	3,195

Comparative information:

	2023				
	Staff costs	Depn	Auditors Remuneration	Other costs	Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Raising Funds	153	-	-	41	194
SWT Trading Company	58	-	-	(21)	37
Charitable activities	1,087	11	10	1,133	2,241
Total expenditure	1,298	11	10	1,153	2,472

9. NET INCOME / EXPENDITURE

Total Expenditure includes:	2024	2023
	£'000	£'000
Operating lease rentals:		
Operating Leases		
Land & buildings	-	-
Cars & office equipment	7	4
Auditor's remuneration:		
Auditor's remuneration	12	10
Depreciation:		
On owned assets	10	11
Payments to Trustees:		
Trustees expenses	-	-

10. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 March 2024 nor for the year ended 31 March 2023.

Trustees' expenses

There was a total of £173 trustee expenses paid to 1 Trustee for the year ended 31 March 2024 compared with no expenses paid for the year ended 31 March 2023.

11. STAFF COSTS

The movement in the year is after charging:	Note	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
Charity			
Wages and salaries		1,156	1,010
Social security costs		112	98
Pension costs	28	103	132
		1,371	1,240
Group			
Wages and salaries		1,219	1,068
Social security costs		112	98
Pension costs		103	132
Total		1,434	1,298

The average number of employees, calculated on a head count basis, analysed by function was:	2024 Number	2023 Number
Management	6	6
Other Staff	48	45
Total staff (Headcount)	54	51

The number of employees whose emoluments (including taxable benefits in kind but excluding employer pension costs) exceeded £60,000, was as follows:	2024 Number	2023 Number
£60,001 - £70,000	1	1

During the year, the key management personnel as listed on page 1 received total benefits (including employer pension contributions) of £329,674 (2023: £300,146).

12. SUBSIDIARY COMPANY

The charity has a wholly owned trading subsidiary, Shropshire Wildlife Trading Company Limited (02452421), which is incorporated in the United Kingdom. The company gifts its profit to the Shropshire Wildlife Trust. A summary of trading results is shown below.

Profit and loss account

	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
Turnover	91	102
Cost of sales	(19)	23
Gross profit	72	125
Administrative expenses	(72)	(123)
Operating profit / (loss)	-	2
Interest received	-	-
Profit / (loss) for the year	-	2
Assets, liabilities and funds		
Assets	34	62
Liabilities	(36)	(64)
Total net assets and shareholder's funds	(2)	(2)

13. SWT CHARITY RESULTS (EXCLUDING SUBSIDIARY)

	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
<i>The summarised results of the parent charity are as follows:</i>		
Total incoming resources	3,207	2,881
Total resources expended	(3,178)	(2,463)
Net incoming resources	29	418
Net gains/(losses) on investments	5	(5)
Net movement in funds	34	413
Funds brought forward	4,011	3,598
Funds carried forward	4,045	4,011

14. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	2024			Totals
	Freehold property and nature reserves	Improvements to property	Fixtures, fittings and equipment	
Charity	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Cost				
1 April	2,907	91	195	3,193
Additions	-	-	6	6
Disposals	-	-	(7)	(7)
31 March	2,907	91	194	3,192
Depreciation				
1 April	-	74	178	252
Disposals	-	-	(7)	(7)
Charge for the year	-	4	6	10
31 March	-	78	177	255
Net book value				
Preceding 31 March	2,907	17	17	2,941
31 March	2,907	13	17	2,937

	2024			Totals
	Freehold property and nature reserves	Improvements to property	Fixtures, fittings and equipment	
Group	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Cost				
1 April	2,907	91	197	3,193
Additions	-	-	6	6
Disposals	-	-	(7)	(7)
31 March	2,907	91	196	3,192
Depreciation				
1 April	-	74	180	252
Disposals	-	-	(7)	(7)
Charge for the year	-	4	6	10
31 March	-	78	179	255
Net book value				
Preceding 31 March	2,907	17	17	2,941
31 March	2,907	13	17	2,937

Included in cost or valuation of land and buildings of both the charity and group is freehold land of £2,906,901 which is not depreciated.

Included within freehold property and nature reserves of both the charity and group is land with a closing NBV of £570,895 which has been leased on a 99 year lease to Natural England. It has not been deemed appropriate to classify this value as investment property due to the common objectives of the charities and that Shropshire Wildlife Trust does not earn rental income or any other form of capital appreciation.

15. FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS - CHARITY AND GROUP

	2024		2023	
	Group	Charity £'000	Group £'000	Charity £'000
<i>Investments in subsidiaries</i>				
Other investments reflects holdings at market value	103	103	98	98
Total investments	103	103	98	98

Analysis of movements in other investments

	2024		2023	
	Unrestricted Funds	Total 2024 £'000	Unrestricted Funds £'000	Total 2023 £'000
<i>Group and charity</i>				
Market value at 1 April	98	98	48	48
Add: Additions at cost	-	-	55	55
Revaluations	5	5	(5)	(5)
Market value at 31 March	103	103	98	98

Cost or valuation at 31 March 2024 is represented by:

	Listed Investments
Valuation in 2020	(5)
Valuation in 2021	10
Valuation in 2022	3
Valuation in 2023	(5)
Valuation in 2024	5
Cost	95
	103

70.27% (2023: 41.33%) of the investment value is held within the UK the remainder is held in overseas investments.

16. STOCK

	2024		2023	
	Group	Charity £'000	Group £'000	Charity £'000
Stock	12	-	10	-
Total stock	12	-	10	-

17. DEBTORS

	2024		2023	
	Group	Charity £'000	Group £'000	Charity £'000
<i>Amounts falling due within one year</i>				
Trade debtors	836	854	338	331
Amounts due from group undertakings	-	6	-	62
Other debtors	38	36	319	316
Prepayments and income receivable	33	33	13	13
Total	907	929	670	722

18. CREDITORS

	2024		2023	
	Group £'000	Charity £'000	Group £'000	Charity £'000
<i>Amounts falling due within one year</i>				
Trade creditors	269	270	302	300
VAT	69	69	14	14
Other creditors	241	241	253	253
Accruals	3	3	10	10
Deferred income	-	-	278	278
Total	582	583	857	855

19. ANNUAL OPERATING LEASE COMMITMENTS

	2024		2023	
	Land & buildings £'000	Other £'000	Land & buildings £'000	Other £'000
<i>Total operating lease commitments of the group and charity:</i>				
Within one year	-	10	-	-
Between one and five years	-	12	-	-
Total	-	22	-	-

20. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	2024				Balance 31 March 2024 £'000
	Balance	Movement in Funds			
	1 April 2023 £'000	Incoming resources £'000	Expended in year £'000	Transfers in year £'000	
Restricted Funds					
Fixed Assets					
Capital Reserve Account	2,731	-	-	5	2,736
Total restricted fixed asset funds	2,731	-	-	5	2,736
Net Current Assets					
Accessibility	-	-	(24)	24	-
Beavers	198	20	(157)	-	61
Biodiversity General	-	3	(3)	-	-
BogLIFE	(18)	18	-	-	-
CaBA SMS	2	8	(4)	-	6
Carbon for Curlews	-	58	(58)	-	-
Clee Hill Test & Trials Extension	7	37	(44)	-	-
Earl's & Pontesford Hills	13	-	(7)	-	6
Embedded Learning	-	4	(22)	18	-
Enrichment Wildplay Workshops	-	8	(1)	-	7
Environmental Leadership Programme	-	128	(93)	-	35
Feed the Birds	15	37	(33)	-	19
GCN DLL (NE) Newts	27	226	(224)	-	29
Green Influencers Scheme	4	-	(13)	9	-
Green Social Prescribing	1	-	(1)	-	-
Green Spaces Project	-	1	(1)	-	-
Hazledene	-	113	(7)	-	106
Hedgerow Heroes 3	-	18	(18)	-	-
Nature Reserves Fund	200	-	-	(100)	100
Land Acquisition Fund	50	-	-	-	50
Lightmoor	11	24	(16)	-	19
Llynclys Quarry	-	8	(8)	-	-
Nextdoor Nature	6	52	(49)	-	9
Pam's Pools	1	9	(11)	-	(1)
Project Finch	-	63	-	-	63
Reserves General	-	109	(147)	38	-
Roden	-	38	(38)	-	-
School Fees	-	13	(24)	11	-
Shrewsbury Beaver Engagement	-	11	-	-	11
Shropshire Road Networks Nature Retreats	-	46	(46)	-	-
Sinkers Fields	-	278	(190)	-	88
SINNSI	3	14	(11)	-	6
Slow the Flow 2	-	-	(3)	-	(3)
Stoke Brook	100	-	(100)	-	-
Strine	-	300	(149)	-	151
Wilder Marches	62	109	(106)	-	65
ST WT CP	-	284	(284)	-	-
Telford Communities	-	-	(5)	5	-
Telford Schools and Young People	-	66	-	-	66
Unmuddying the Waters 2	-	25	(25)	-	-
Wood Lane Habitat Enhancements	-	9	(9)	-	-
Woodlane Restoration Project	-	20	-	-	20
Worfe on the Wildside EA	-	50	(50)	-	-
Worfe on the Wildside ST	243	250	(362)	-	131
Total restricted revenue funds	925	2,457	(2,343)	5	1,044
Total Restricted Funds	3,656	2,457	(2,343)	10	3,780

	2024				Balance 31 March 2024 £'000
	Balance	Movement in Funds			
	1 April 2023 £'000	Incoming resources £'000	Expended in year £'000	Transfers in year £'000	
Unrestricted Funds					
Revenue Surplus (GENERAL FUND)	355	727	(702)	(5)	375
Land Management Advice Service	-	29	(29)	-	-
Wild Play	-	18	(18)	-	-
Unrestricted charity only	355	774	(749)	(5)	375
Charity Funds Total	4,011	3,231	(3,092)	5	4,155
Trading company funds	(2)	84	(84)	-	(2)
Total consolidated funds	4,009	3,315	(3,176)	5	4,153

Description of funds

Pontesford Hill is funds left over from the purchase of the hill in 2015, which we are spending on managing the site.

Transfers between funds

During the year transfers between funds have been carried out to accurately reflect the closing balances.

Comparative information:	2023				Balance 31 March 2023 £'000
	Balance 1 April 2022 £'000	Movement in Funds			
		Incoming resources £'000	Expended in year £'000	Transfers in year £'000	
Restricted Funds					
Fixed Assets					
Capital Reserve Account	2,726	-	-	5	2,731
Total restricted fixed asset funds	2,726	-	-	5	2,731
Net Current Assets					
Badger Vaccination Appeal	-	-	-	-	-
Beavers Project	6	199	(7)	-	198
Biodiversity General	-	2	(2)	-	-
BogLIFE	(44)	133	(127)	20	(18)
CaBA SMS	2	8	(8)	-	2
Carbon for Curlews	-	5	(5)	-	-
Chalk Stream - Abstraction Worfe	-	8	(8)	-	-
Clee Hills Test & Trials Extension	-	28	(21)	-	7
Clun Monitoring Partnership	-	4	(4)	-	-
Corve Restoration	-	26	(26)	-	-
Feed the Birds 23-24	1	45	(31)	-	15
FIPL Corfield	-	16	(16)	-	-
Freshwater First	(32)	164	(135)	3	-
Furbers Appeal	10	-	-	(10)	-
GCN DLL (NE) Newts	-	225	(215)	17	27
Green Influencers Scheme	19	20	(35)	-	4
Green Social Prescribing	-	2	(1)	-	1
Nature Reserves Fund	250	-	(50)	-	200
Indirect LMAS	-	16	(16)	-	-
Land Acquisition Fund	-	50	-	-	50
Lightmoor	-	25	(14)	-	11
Mossy Earth	-	4	(4)	-	-
Nextdoor Nature	-	33	(27)	-	6
North Shropshire CP	-	28	(29)	1	-
Pam's Pools	(2)	9	(6)	-	1
Pam's Pools Stewardship	-	1	(1)	-	-
Earl's and Pontesford Hills	20	-	(7)	-	13
Restored Earth Clarity	11	-	-	(11)	-
SCT	-	-	(2)	2	-
Severn B-lines	4	-	(4)	-	-
Shropshire Road Networks Nature Retreats	-	10	(10)	-	-
SINNSI ST	-	14	(11)	-	3
SPEN NSIP	-	20	(20)	-	-
Stoke Brook	-	100	-	-	100
Strine	-	75	(75)	-	-
Tankerville	6	-	-	(6)	-
Wesley Brook EA	-	27	(27)	-	-
Wilder Marches	-	91	(29)	-	62
Wood Lane Again	-	28	(28)	-	-
Wood Lane Habitat Enhancements	-	7	(7)	-	-
Worfe on the Wildside EA	-	38	(38)	-	-
Worfe on the Wildside ST	-	350	(107)	-	243
Total restricted revenue funds	251	1,811	(1,153)	16	925
Total Restricted Funds	2,977	1,811	(1,153)	21	3,656

	2023				Balance 31 March 2023 £'000
	Balance 1 April 2022 £'000	Incoming resources £'000	Expended in year £'000	Transfers in year £'000	
Unrestricted Funds					
Revenue Surplus (GENERAL FUND)	604	979	(1,219)	(9)	355
GCNDLL (NE) Newts	17	-	-	(17)	-
Unrestricted charity only	621	979	(1,219)	(26)	355
Charity Funds Total	3,598	2,790	(2,372)	(5)	4,011
Trading company funds	(4)	102	(100)	-	(2)
Total consolidated funds	3,594	2,892	(2,472)	(5)	4,009

21. ANALYSIS OF GROUP NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

Fund balances at 31 March 2024 are represented by:

Group	Note	2024			Total Funds £'000
		Unrestricted		Restricted £'000	
		General £'000	Designated £'000		
Tangible fixed assets	14	201	-	2,736	2,937
Investments	15	103	-	-	103
Fixed assets		304	-	2,736	3,040
Stock		12	-	-	12
Debtors: amounts falling due within one year	17	597	-	310	907
Debtors: amounts falling due after more than one year	17	-	-	-	-
Short-term investments	18	-	-	-	-
Cash and bank		(143)	-	919	776
Current assets		466	-	1,229	1,695
Other creditors: amounts falling due within one year		397	-	185	582
Current liabilities	19	397	-	185	582
Total net assets		373	-	3,780	4,153

Comparative information:

Group		2023			Total Funds £'000
		Unrestricted		Restricted £'000	
		General £'000	Designated £'000		
Tangible fixed assets		210	-	2,731	2,941
Investments		98	-	-	98
Fixed assets		308	-	2,731	3,039
Stock		10	-	-	10
Debtors: amounts falling due within one year		670	-	-	670
Debtors: amounts falling due after more than one year		-	-	-	-
Cash and bank		222	-	925	1,147
Current assets		902	-	925	1,827
Other creditors: amounts falling due within one year		857	-	-	857
Current liabilities		857	-	-	857
Total net assets		353	-	3,656	4,009

22. NOTES TO THE CASH FLOW STATEMENT

Group	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
<i>Reconciliation of net income to net cash provided by operating activities</i>		
Net income for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)	144	415
Depreciation Charges	10	11
(Gains)/Losses on investments	(5)	5
Interest received	(20)	(2)
(Gains)/Losses on sale of fixed assets	(1)	-
(Increase)/Decrease in stock	(2)	-
(Increase)/Decrease in debtors	(237)	24
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	(275)	46
Net cash provided by operating activities	(386)	500
	2024	2023
<i>Analysis of cash and cash equivalents</i>	£'000	£'000
Cash held in CCLA Charities Deposit Fund	150	-
Cash at bank and in hand	626	1,147
Net cash and cash equivalents	776	1,147

23. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

Kate Mayne, a Trustee of the Shropshire Wildlife Trust until February 2023, has been appointed as a contractor on the DEFRA tests and trials project. Standard procurement and tendering processes were adhered to in the appointment of the contractor. During the year, Shropshire Wildlife paid Kate Mayne ENil (2023: £13,849) in contractor fees. At the year end there was ENil (2023: £5,974) outstanding.

