

A sustainable future for wildlife and people

Wiltshire Wildlife Trust 2021-22

Annual Review



Photo: Adonis Blue, Maxine Stringwell



Foreword



We are now in our 60th Anniversary year; our delivery of natural outcomes with the funds that are generously put at our disposal goes from strength to strength. It would be wonderful for the founders of the Trust to be able to see what they created some 60 years ago.

We are soon going to launch a consultation on our new strategy for 2023-2030, to help with our mission to create a Wilder Wiltshire and give hope to the younger generations who live in our wonderful county and deserve a greener, wilder place to grow up. There will be a particular emphasis on where we as a Trust can gear up our funding and expertise working with others, something that I expect to see as a golden thread in the strategy.

Turning to our work in 2021/22, in summary we have had an excellent year both financially and with the nature and climate outcomes we have delivered. Highlights have been the completion of the purchase of Bay Meadows, our first reserve near Marlborough, the work we have led planning the Nature Recovery Network for Wiltshire, the inspiring delivery of educational activities at our two Care Farms and in communities, and our ongoing work improving Wiltshire's rivers.

Coronavirus is still affecting what we do and how we work; we are seeing some of these impacts biting, especially with inflationary pressures making budgeting and planning difficult. To mitigate this, you will see in the accounts that we have invested in diversifying our income base and reducing costs, including the new Kingfisher Café at Langford Lakes, the acquisition of Little Barn, a small staff residential unit next to the Willows Care Farm, a new building for our farm enterprise and new hybrid electric vehicles to reduce our carbon footprint.

Lastly, we created a 'Nature Recovery' fund which will be used to good effect as we launch the new strategy. The funding to do all of this has come from you, our supporters, and for that we are extremely grateful, whether you have been with us for a long or short time. Every ounce of cash or in-kind assistance is put to good use in our communities at a time when nature and climate have never been so important. I commend this report to you; behind all this work is a huge team effort involving a lot of sweat, some tears and hopefully very little blood. On behalf of the Trustees, I would like to thank you all for your continuing support.

Mark Street
Chairman

Wiltshire Wildlife Trust Limited

Patrons

Robert Floyd
The right honourable Lord Nigel Jones of Cheltenham

Ambassador

Professor Sir John Lawton

Trustees

Mark Street (Chair)
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Dr Gary Mantle MBE

Professional advisors

BLB Solicitors - legal
Stephens Scown - human resources
Saffery Champness - VAT
Monahans Group LLP - auditors
Chapel Health and Safety
Savills - rural consultants

Review by the Trustees

The Trustees present their review and summary financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2022.

The Trust is a company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association. It is also a charity registered in England. It is subject to both the Companies Act and the Charities Act. The Trust is governed by a board of trustees known as Council who are elected by the Trust's members. The trustees are the directors of the company for Companies Act purposes. The Trust's Memorandum of Association sets out its objects, which may be summarised as the promotion of wildlife and its habitats and places of natural beauty, interest or value, particularly to further biodiversity; to protect the environment, particularly by reference to sustainable development and recycling waste; and to advance the education of the public in such areas.

The Trust is a corporate member of the Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts. This consists of 46 Wildlife Trusts across the British Isles, working towards a common vision of '*a thriving natural world, with our wildlife and natural habitats playing a valued role in addressing the climate and ecological emergencies and everyone inspired to get involved in nature's recovery*'. The Trust is a member of South West Wildlife Trusts Limited, a charity whose objectives are primarily to promote biodiversity and environmental policy in the south west on a regional basis and to strengthen the individual Wildlife Trusts' capacity in their activities by acting as a combined force where appropriate.



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Registered Charity Number 266202
Company Registration Number 730536



A word from our Chief Executive...



Welcome to our review of 2021/22; a year when we saw a steady return to normality after the remaining restrictions of the Covid pandemic eased. Much like the rest of the UK population, many Trust staff and volunteers returned to

group activities and events cautiously, whilst others were desperate to get back to the activities and friends they love.

It was heart-warming to hear how much our nature reserves have been valued and see how our youth and wellbeing programmes have benefitted people's mental health; allowing them to reconnect with nature and feel that they are making a difference, when they may have felt anxious and powerless before.

It was a year marked by the global climate conference, COP26, which took place in Glasgow. With the world's attention turned to climate change, the UK came under the spotlight. Increasingly, it is recognised that the climate and biodiversity crises are inextricably linked and must be tackled together.

The focus for the Trust was to look at the positive actions that individuals, landowners and businesses can take to tackle climate change; sharing with others the actions we were taking to reduce our own carbon footprint. In line with government targets, we are also pushing to see 30% of land in Wiltshire and Swindon managed for wildlife by 2030. We estimate that it is currently 15%.

As we celebrate our 60th Anniversary, it is a time of deep reflection. The minutes of the inaugural meeting in October 1962, show that the intensification of farming, the use of toxic pesticides and the loss of biodiversity were key concerns of the farmers and landowners who met to set up the Trust. The purpose of the Trust was put simply, "to make sure there is some wildlife left in 25 years' time".

60 years on, more people than ever before are motivated to take action for nature and live more sustainably. Our goal is that by 2030, at least 1 in 4 people are taking meaningful action for nature and the climate. Our membership continues to grow and we are grateful for the continued generosity of all our donors, fundraisers and corporate partners.

With your support, we can continue our vital conservation and education work, manage more land for nature, and work with farmers and landowners to create spaces for nature whilst still sustaining yields and communities. Working together, we can not only ensure there is some wildlife left in 25 years' time, but we can reverse the declines and enjoy nature's recovery.

Dr Gary Mantle MBE
Chief Executive

60th Anniversary

2022 marks the 60th Anniversary for Wiltshire Wildlife Trust, so this is an ideal opportunity to reflect on the key achievements since the Trust was formed in 1962.



Photo: Blackmoor Copse, Steve Day

The very first Trust nature reserve was Blackmoor Copse, Salisbury. It is one of the most important woods in Wiltshire, particularly for butterflies. This reserve was followed by the acquisition in 1970 of Upper Waterhay, a haven for wildflowers and home to the rare white snake's head fritillary. By our 20th Anniversary the Trust already had 30 nature reserves.

Added to our reserves in 1987, Ravensroost Wood is an ancient woodland located near Malmesbury, which has recently been chosen amongst 70 ancient woodlands across the country under The Queen's Green Canopy project; it is the only wood in Wiltshire to have been chosen.

We welcomed HRH Prince Charles to open our Clattinger Farm nature reserve in 1997, who then returned to open Lower Moor Farm in 2007, helping us to create our flagship nature reserve in the north of the county.

In 2000, the Water Team was established to enhance the county's rivers, especially its rare chalk streams; this vital work continues today. By improving the habitat of our waterways, otters have

naturally returned to Wiltshire, and whilst water voles still flourish in parts of the county, they are absent from many other counties.

In the new millennium, we took on the largest grassland restoration project in England, with the acquisition of our Blakehill nature reserve, near Cricklade. Our flagship nature reserve in the south of the county was then established in the early noughties with the purchase of Langford Lakes. This wetland oasis is a haven for migratory birds and a birders' paradise!

In recent years, we created larger scale, more connected and buffered spaces for nature, including doubling the size of our Coombe Bissett Down nature reserve and greatly extending our Emmett Hill nature reserve to help restore the population of the rare marsh fritillary butterfly.

Enabling people to benefit from nature has long been at the heart of our work. By the mid-1980s, the Trust was participating in government schemes to get hundreds of people into training and employment. Our award-winning Building Bridges scheme continues to this day, working with



Photo: Roe Deer, Stephen Davis

long-term unemployed people to help them back to the world of work. We have helped many adults with their health and wellbeing, including being the first Trust to offer Green Prescriptions.

In the early 1990s, our first Education Officer joined the team, taking our sustainability and conservation messages to schools and colleges. Our Youth Education and Wellbeing Team is now the largest and longest standing of any Wildlife Trust.

We have opened two Care Farms in the last five years. Their nature and farm-led activities have helped more than 500 children with additional needs, from schools across Wiltshire and Swindon.

For many years, we have been helping people to live more sustainably. Wiltshire Wildlife Community Energy was created in 2012 and now runs two solar energy farms at Chelworth and Braydon Manor. We are also the only Trust to have run a recycling and upcycling business.

The recently extended Brockbank Centre and the Kingfisher and Dragonfly cafés are amazing assets that attract people to enjoy and learn about nature at our flagship reserves.

That we have achieved so much in our 60 years is thanks to the amazing long-term support of our members and major supporters, such as The National Lottery Heritage Fund and The Hills Group. However, as we embark on a new strategy next year, there is still much to do to tackle the climate and nature emergencies. Consequently, the Trust's role and your support is more vital now than ever before.

Supporting nature's recovery



Photo: Kestrel chicks, Alison Rymell

Conservation Team

This year has seen new nature reserves added to the Trust's portfolio, and a range of habitat creation and enhancement works on existing sites. From expanding wildflower meadows and woodland improvements to new wetlands attracting rare and declining wading birds, there are many stunning highlights.

We have taken specific action for species, too, such as installing and monitoring new bird boxes. Five kestrel chicks and two barn owlets have fledged from boxes at Langford Lakes and Coombe Bissett Down.

"It's always exciting checking nest boxes. Will there be any chicks in the kestrel box? Yes, five beautiful youngsters. This is the second year kestrels have used the box at Coombe Bissett."

Alison Rymell



Regular counts of up to **600 lapwing** using newly constructed wetland features at Langford Lakes



Photo: Cherry tree planting

Swindon Forest Meadows Project

Work on a Network Rail biodiversity offset project entitled The Greater West Programme concluded at Moulton Hill Country Park and Rivermead Flood Storage Area. This allowed for the creation of a wet woodland, wildlife ponds, new hedgerows, river enhancements, plug planting and seeding of wild flowers into woods and meadows. We also made structural changes to woodland age classes, erected bird and bat boxes and worked to create wider rides and glades within dense scrub areas.

"It is incredibly heartening to see the wildflowers and wildlife return to these areas following the hard work of so many volunteers."

Sharon Kimber, volunteer for Swindon Forest Meadows Project whilst visiting Moulton Hill.



24.2 hectares of improvements for wildlife completed in Swindon

Marsh Fritillary Project

Following a successful appeal at the end of 2020, Wiltshire Wildlife Trust were delighted to secure Biffa Award funding in 2021 to enable the purchase and restoration of Upper Minety Meadows. The purchase quadrupled our Emmett Hill SSSI nature reserve.

As part of the funding we have been delighted to involve over 100 people in workshops and conservation activities to support the rare marsh fritillary butterfly. We are delighted that larval webs of the marsh fritillary have been identified on site. These sightings are a positive indicator that we are achieving our goal of securing a future for this rare species.

"I found last night very interesting and your speaker was excellent. I would love to continue with the Marsh Fritillary Project."

Jacqui Cockram, after an online training session on surveying.



Over **100 people** engaged with the project



Photo: Marsh Fritillary, Maxine Stringwell

Bay Meadows

Bay Meadows nature reserve is an example of our supporters pulling together, with the help of funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund and The Hills Group, to secure and protect this wonderful stretch of river and meadow. The first project was the introduction of snakehead fritillary bulbs; since then, staff have been drawing designs and planning works for the coming year. These include planting hundreds of new hedgerow plants and trees, improving the river, creating new habitat features, plus building the infrastructure to enable public access to part of the site, including an accessible circular walk and wild play areas.

857ha of land working specifically for invertebrates



Photo: Installing bug stumps at Langford Lakes

Action For Insects

Taking Action For Insects, a project funded by the government's Green Recovery Challenge Fund (GRCF), has made an enormous impact across our nature reserves. An amazing team of staff, contractors and consultants have been working to deliver projects across woodland, grassland and freshwater sites, aimed at increasing the abundance and diversity of invertebrates.

We have worked hard to deliver tried and tested techniques, such as increasing food sources and refuges, but also trialled new ideas, such as building timber structures designed to mimic large decaying tree stumps. The GRCF has also enabled us to improve the ways in which we maintain our land using livestock grazing, constructing new boundary fencing, new livestock handling structures and the trial of virtual fencing for our cattle.

A key part of the GRCF project is surveying and monitoring work. Historic species records have been analysed and local and national experts contacted to help us ensure we are taking the right action in the right locations.

Surveys have been set up with 100 volunteers signed up by March 2022. Results so far include the discovery of important new colonies of devil's-bit jewel beetle and rugged oil beetle, and we can now start to guide future management plans for these rare species.

"After years of going out recording on my own, it's so nice to be part of a team".

Volunteer



Over 50 rare species of invertebrates being monitored



Photo: Scarce Chaser, Maxine Stringwell



Photo: Water Guardian, David Milne

Water Team

Our Water Team has been busy working to protect and restore rivers across Wiltshire, with the help of a huge number of volunteers dedicating over 1,000 hours. Projects have included cleaning rivers, tackling invasive species, planting water crowfoot and creating in-channel woody habitat to restore diversity to the river.

The Coombe Mill project restored over 1km of SSSI chalk stream on the Hampshire Avon. It bypassed a set of hatches, opening the river up to fish passage and restoring natural functioning. This was done by widening a historic channel and narrowing the mill leat, reducing the amount of water flowing over the hatches to make the channel the primary course of the river.

We have recruited more than 60 volunteers to become Wessex Water Guardians. They are our eyes and ears on the ground, monitoring rivers for signs of pollution. Volunteers walk a set stretch of river, and if any signs of pollution are spotted, report these to Wessex Water for immediate action. Each volunteer receives training and has regular contact and support from Wiltshire Wildlife Trust. They also litter pick and record wildlife along the way, as well as getting involved with other volunteer activities across the Trust.

14km of river improved





Photo: Scrub management at Coombe Bissett Down

Estates Team

Our Estates Team has excelled this year, working to catch up on tasks left uncompleted during COVID-19 lockdowns, in addition to delivering a busy work programme of practical habitat conservation, infrastructure management and maintenance works. Thankfully throughout the year we have been able to re-engage with our dedicated team of nature reserve wardens and volunteers who are essential to the successful delivery of our management plans and ensure that our reserves look as good as they do. Staff have also been exploring how the use of technology in the field, such as tablets and GIS mapping, can help them work more effectively and efficiently.

"By the end of the year, volunteer numbers were often at pre-pandemic levels, and the reserves and the volunteers have both benefited from the renewal of activity."

Richard Death, Reserve Warden at The Devenish

65

new interpretation and codes of conduct boards were installed across our nature reserves.

Farming

The farm continues to go from strength to strength, with improvements made to buildings and upgrades to vital machinery, which enable better grassland and estate management.

Some equipment, such as livestock cameras for the cattle sheds and new livestock weighing and monitoring technology, has been funded through government grants. We commenced a trial of virtual fence technology with the purchase of 52 NoFence collars. These cattle collars have allowed us to monitor the grazing habits of our cattle. They also give us greater control over where the cattle are allowed to graze without the use of physical electric or permanent fence lines, all managed via a GPS based collar on the animal.

Delivering Nature's Recovery through Innovative Green Finance

It is currently estimated that just 15% of land in the county is designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) or recognised as a County Wildlife Site (CWS). As part of the Trust's ambition to see 30% of land in

Wiltshire and Swindon managed for wildlife by 2030, we created a new role, Nature Recovery Champion, in November 2021. Since then, we have been laying foundations as part of the development of a new Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS), improving our outreach and influence with key organisations and farmer groups.

We also started a pioneering collaboration with Avon Wildlife Trust and Wessex Water to find new ways to ensure nature and the environment is valued. The Bristol Avon Catchment Market commenced in 2021, piloting a market which allows landowners and farmers to be paid for projects contributing to nature's recovery. This pilot is supported by a £1.6 million grant from the government's Green Recovery Challenge Fund, which was developed by Defra and delivered by The National Lottery Heritage Fund. The future aim is for environmental credits to be paid to organisations and businesses who need or want to meet their requirements for biodiversity gain, carbon sequestration and nutrients neutrality.

"Farmland covers around 80% of Wiltshire. Our wildlife cannot survive in the remaining 20% alone."

Lucy Bates - WWT Nature Recovery Champion



Photo: Sheep at Coombe Bissett Down, Louise Hartgill

Wild Paths

Since 2014, 88 Traineeships have been completed with the south west group of Wildlife Trusts. Created to address a skills gap and to ensure that the conservation sector is open to people from all backgrounds, these opportunities proved hugely successful with 94% of participants gaining employment.

Trainees develop a range of skills, including practical conservation, surveying and community engagement. Gaining industry-recognised certification for chainsaws and brushcutters whilst learning from experts has helped participants to step straight into employment. Trainees bring with them an injection of enthusiasm, and staff and volunteers have also found it a rewarding process. Some current Trust staff and one of our Trustees started as trainees!



88
Traineeships
have been completed



Photo: Wild Paths trainees, Colleen Smith Moore

WSBRC

The Wiltshire and Swindon Biological Records Centre (WSBRC) completed Phase 1 of the Ancient Woodland Inventory (AWI) update project this year. This was a significant national piece of work to ensure that small areas of ancient woodland are identified and receive recognition. It will also help local planning authorities to protect this irreplaceable habitat in the future.

Working with The Wildlife Trusts nationally, the WSBRC has been planning how to improve the provision of online mapping technology to all Wildlife Trusts, which will improve efficiency in all aspects of our work.

The collation, processing and dissemination of species and habitat records continues to be our major focus of work. In May 2022, we reached a milestone of over 3 million Biological Records.

Our Curlew Call Project restarted fieldwork in 2022; one of the highlights was the ringing of a breeding bird from Blakehill Farm which was later recorded in Cornwall.

Arising from the project, the recently formed Braydon Forest Farm Cluster brings over 30 landowners and 3,000ha of land together, benefiting not just curlew but nature at a landscape scale. Alongside Curlew Call, a new Waderscapes Project is expanding the conservation effort to other habitats and birds such as lapwing.

“WSBRC would like to thank all our partners for their support and the many volunteers and County Recorders who make a huge contribution to our work.”

Jon Isherwood, WSBRC Manager



Phase 1 of the AWI project identified 3637 potential ancient woodland sites



Photo: Curlew, David Kjaer



Photo: Ravensroost Wood, Melanie Vincent

Inspiring and supporting people to live more sustainably

YEW Team

Alongside regular Forest School and youth work, the Youth Education and Wellbeing (YEW) Team have been in schools across Wiltshire raising awareness of the climate emergency.

Thanks to the support of players of the People's Postcode Lottery, the Trust received a grant to help young people understand what climate change is all about and inspire them to take action, such as writing to their local MPs and pledging to make small changes in their own lives. The YEW team worked with ten primary schools, a toddler group and one Rainbows group, reaching over 1,000 children.

During the Trust's Waste-Free February campaign, the YEW team delivered assemblies and workshops to over 800 children in eight primary schools.

In addition to this, the ongoing work of the Youth Education and Wellbeing Team engaged with over 3,500 students through forest school, nature reserve visits, one-to-one sessions and work with small groups. The team delivered more than 8,000 hours of activities, events and education for children and young people in Wiltshire.

"It was great to see so much debate, along with practical ideas about making changes to our lifestyles. The children were inspired and have been going home and talking to their parents about what we can all do to make a difference."

Teacher at Freshford School



Over 70 schools engaged across the county



Photo: Building Bridges participants

Building Bridges

Thanks to funding from the European Social Fund and The National Lottery Community Fund, the Building Bridges programme has worked with 35 participants over the last year, moving 17 into work or education, and eight on a path to employment by accessing volunteering opportunities.

We have completed work on private land, Wiltshire Wildlife Trust nature reserves and local council sites, including The Lord's Walk Amesbury, the community garden at the Trust's headquarters in Devizes and The Devenish nature reserve.

We continued our Wellbeing walks, a popular session after Covid, and ran craft activities based on 'market stall ideas' to encourage participants who may not benefit from traditional employment.

We also won our second award in 2 years, placed 3rd in the Wiltshire Life Awards.

"My mental health has improved and getting out with the group is the highlight of my week."

Building Bridges programme participant

Care Farms

This year both Lakeside and The Willows Care Farms have been at capacity, with staff working with 164 children, young people and adults. Of the 46 students who moved on from the care farms during this time, 86% returned to mainstream or special school either full or part time. AQA Unit Awards offer a focus for some of our students; we awarded 191 of these meaningful accreditations to our students in the last year; a great testament to their hard work.

The development of The Willows since its opening in November 2020 has been marked with the creation of pathways, a polytunnel, raised beds, ground-level allotment beds, two field shelters, a mud kitchen, a water sensory play area and housing for three not-so-little piggies, as well as two Forest School areas in the Whispering Woods. At Lakeside Care Farm, a new tool store and animal shed have been constructed, leading to greater opportunities for our students to engage.

As we continued to grow, we recruited assistant managers to support staff managing both the site and the students at each farm. Across both Care Farms we have 34 staff. These range from full-time staff to out-of-hours animal and horticulture care roles, the latter of which is a former Lakeside student at The Willows Care Farm; possibly our greatest success story to date.

"This is the only place I can be myself."

Student at The Willows Care Farm



Photo: Sensory garden at The Willows Care Farm

UASC

The UASC (Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children) programme is a new initiative for the Trust which started in August 2019 and works with children (under the age of 18) who have fled their country of origin, without the care or protection of their parents and are seeking asylum.

In the last year, the UASC programme has worked to embed a sense of belonging in the young people and help them overcome their trauma by providing them with safe spaces. This is achieved through ongoing support and fun events to get everyone together. In the last year, activities for UASC have included joint volunteering with the National Trust at Stourhead and enjoying the annual BBQ.

Every month, we engage 20-35 UASC depending on the activities taking place, offering additional support to that provided by Wiltshire Council and helping the young people feel settled in the UK.

"...thanks for everything that you did in last year to make us happy, making friends and spending time together it was amazing and wonderful"

Nzar Gamir, Sudanese, Age 17
(Arrived in the UK at 15)



Photo: Adult Wellbeing Programme participants

Adult Wellbeing

The Adult Wellbeing Programme provides nature-based activities to support mental health recovery.

It has been a busy year and highlights include:

- Securing funding from the National Lottery Reaching Communities Fund to continue our work in Swindon for another four years. With a slight underspend in the budget from the first four years of the programme, we were able to purchase a new minibus for use by the Wellbeing Groups.
- Receiving funding from Swindon Borough Council to run a bespoke nature-inspired programme to aid mental health recovery in Swindon, including

offering mental health training to 15 other organisations and helping 23 participants move onto other opportunities.

- Delivering three 12-week Wellbeing Groups in Devizes and Salisbury with funding from Wiltshire Council.

Going forward, the team would like to broaden the ethnic diversity of its participants as well as continue to encourage participants to incorporate what they learn on the programme into their daily lives so that they can continue to benefit from nature.

"This has been an absolute life saver for me. It is so important to have people who can just listen to you, to ask you how you are, and listen to the answer."

Swindon Wellbeing Programme participant

"The Swindon Wellbeing Programme is a vital service. I'd recommend the programme to anybody."

Swindon Wellbeing Programme participant



Close to 100 participants in Wellbeing Groups over the year



Photo: UASC programme participants at a BBQ in 2021

Every month, we help
20-35
Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children



Photo: Milestones participants, Lawn Manor

Milestones

During this period, the Milestones project was completed and the final report submitted, giving us an opportunity to reflect on the impact of the whole 5-year project.

Milestones worked with 2,157 vulnerable and marginalised young people who engaged with 481 environmental programmes. These programmes included the creation/improvement and maintenance of 56 community gardens. The rest of the programmes involved conservation work, tailored education programmes and training and holiday activities. The theme of improving mental health and aspiration ran across the entire project.

The legacy from Milestones spreads wide and includes continuing work with partners from the project, such as Splash and Barnados. The wellbeing programme designed within Milestones is now being used by the YEW team, and programmes for work with secondary schools and individuals are also being developed from this. Lakeside Care Farm continues the legacy of Milestones.

This quote from a participant sums up the resilience and determination of the young people that we had the privilege of working with and for many of them their experience in nature meant that they could relax, enjoy themselves and learn for the first time in a long time.

"It's difficult but I am going to keep trying."

Milestones participant

The Kingfisher Café & Gallery

This year has been a time of real development at The Kingfisher Café and Gallery. Thanks to funding from the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and by Defra, the Brockbank Centre was able to undertake extensive building works to create a separate café which projects out onto the lake, an accessible entrance, and a new kitchen to cater for large functions and weddings.

These developments have increased the quality of the visitor experience. Everyone now has the chance to enjoy delicious food and drink out on the veranda with stunning lakeside views and the chance to spot wildlife such as kingfisher and great-crested grebes.

We are delighted that visitor numbers have continued to grow at Langford Lakes nature reserve and the café has become increasingly popular with excellent reviews.

"I can do nothing but gush about our wedding reception We are all agreed that it was an exceptional evening and that you guys make a wonderful team"

Anne and Steve, Bride and Groom

The Dragonfly Café

The Dragonfly Café at Lower Moor nature reserve opened on Thursday 8 July 2021, delayed by months due to the impact of Covid.

It started with three members of staff, a small selection of homemade cakes, a great attitude and excellent coffee.

Over the last year, there has been a gradual build-up of customers through word-of-mouth, local promotion and events. There is now a strong base of regulars, holiday makers, nature lovers, cyclists, dog walkers and groups like the WI. People come from miles around to sample our homemade cheese scones. Most importantly, The Dragonfly Café attracts more visitors and members to Lower Moor nature reserve, with an estimated increase in visitor numbers across the year of 15-18%

In the past year, we have gone from strength to strength, and we look forward to taking the café further next year.

"Thank you all so much. It is always a pleasure to visit Dragonfly café!"

Customer quote on Instagram



Photo: The Dragonfly Café veranda

Communications and campaigns

Photo: Hedgehog house, Gabriëlle Davies



Hedgehog Heroes

2021 was our third and final year of our Hedgehog Hero citizen science project. 390 people took part logging 1,069 sightings of hedgehogs in Wiltshire. Many participants also entered a fun hedgehog house competition, encouraged by taking action for wildlife in their garden. House names ranged from the 'Tiggy Tavern' to the 'Hog-o-tel'.

"My partner Sue and I have opened up our urban garden to be receptive to hedgehogs visiting us. We have created 4 tunnels/ entrances from neighbouring gardens, and feed them with approved food, as well as leave fresh water out for them and keeping areas of our garden wild. We get so much pleasure from watching their antics."

Peter Knight, a Hedgehog Hero, who has been recording hedgehogs in his garden for 6 years.



sightings of hedgehogs recorded across Wiltshire and Swindon over three years

Young Ambassadors

Eight amazing young people aged 16-23 joined our new Young Ambassador programme in September 2021. This has given the Trust a youth perspective and has enabled us to reach out to younger audiences who are interested in Wiltshire's wildlife, providing them with a platform to share their interests and inspiring ideas.

"I have become a Young Ambassador to inspire a love of nature and wildlife in other young people and to show them that nature is cool."

Izzy Fry, Young Ambassador



Photo: Young Ambassadors at the House of Commons

Waste Free Feb

In response to our campaign, more than 400 people chose to limit their household waste for the whole of February! Together they saved 6 tonnes of waste from going to landfill.

Children also got engaged in schools by holding Trashion Shows.

652 members of the Waste Free February Facebook group have continued the conversation all year round.

"We did it! As a family of 4 who never seem to leave the kitchen, I can't quite believe that we managed to fit all of February's waste into a single refuse sack. It took a lot of organising, labelling bins, sensible shopping & a truck load of recycling - but I'm very proud of what we've achieved and hope other participants feel the same."

Kody Bowler, Young Ambassador



Photo: Kody Bowler

COP26

The COP26 Climate Change conference took place in November 2021. We focused on positive actions that individuals and businesses can take to tackle climate change, encouraging them to become Wiltshire Climate Champions.

Weekly emails were sent to our newsletter list, including information on how to calculate carbon footprint and what people can do to reduce their household emissions.



We also created the Planet Wiltshire section on our website, which provides a wealth of information on how to live sustainably.

Carbon Footprint

The table below shows that the Trust continues to capture and store more carbon than it emits.

	2019 – 2020 Tonnes CO2e (Carbon Dioxide equivalent)	2020 – 2021 Tonnes CO2e (Carbon Dioxide equivalent)
Emissions from Livestock ¹	-801	-823
Emissions from other operations ²	-234	-214
Total emissions	-1035	-1037
Minimum carbon captured by nature reserves³	1419	1565
Overall carbon captured and stored	384	528
Emissions avoided by purchase of 100% renewable energy ⁴	26	20
Emissions avoided by generation of renewable energy by WWCE ⁴	1516	1371
Emissions per FTE employee (excluding livestock)	3.9	3.5

As part of its Carbon Reduction Strategy, the Trust recruited a new Carbon Reduction Champion in March 2022, in a role shared with Wiltshire Wildlife Community Energy (WWCE). As part of efforts to reduce carbon emissions during 2021, the Trust started replacing fossil fuel-powered hand tools with rechargeable battery tools, extended the lake-sourced heat pump at Langford Lakes to provide space heating for the new café extension, and supports hybrid working by staff to reduce the need for commuting.

^{1,3} During 2020-21, we changed arable land on our reserves to grassland, whilst a successful calving and lambing season resulted in an increased number of livestock.

² The 2020-21 figure was calculated using an updated TWT carbon footprint tool, including new elements such as waste, recycling and material use not included in the 2019-20 calculation. 2020-21 also saw reduced operations emissions due to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.

⁴ The Govt conversion factor for reporting CO2e emissions/kWhr of electricity varies from year to year and decreased by 9% in 2020. WWCE generated more energy in 20/21 than in 19/20.

With thanks to our funders and corporate members

Donors, fundraisers and corporate members

Animal & Plant Health Agency
 Animal Friends
 Arval UK Ltd
 Biffa Award
 British Museum
 CH Dixon Charitable Trust
 Community Foundation for Wiltshire & Swindon
 Cotswold National Landscape
 Crapper & Sons Landfill Ltd
 Crest Nicholson
 Curlew Recovery Partnership
 Defence Infrastructure Organisation
 Devon Biodiversity Records Centre
 Energy Savings Experts Ltd
 European Social Fund
 Forestry England
 Friends of Biss Meadows
 G D Herbert Charitable Trust
 Green Recovery Challenge Fund
 Greensquare Group Ltd
 Groundwork UK
 Henry Hoare
 Historic England
 Inchcape Foundation
 JMH Farming & Renewables Ltd
 Malaby Biogas
 National Lottery Community Fund
 National Lottery Heritage Fund
 National Trust
 Natural England
 New Forest National Park Authority
 Paul Goodenough
 People's Postcode Lottery
 Persimmon PLC
 PKA Architects Limited
 Quick Move Now
 Rural Development Programme for England
 Rural Payments Agency
 Scott Eredine Trust
 Swindon Borough Council

The Environment Agency
 The Hills Group Ltd
 The Tree Council
 The Wildlife Trusts
 Trowbridge Town Council
 Underwood Trust
 Verdon-Smith Charitable Trust
 Waitrose
 Wessex Rivers Trust
 Wessex Water Plc
 Wild Trout Trust
 Wilton Estate
 Wiltshire Council
 Wiltshire Wildlife Community Energy Ltd
 Woodland Trust

Wildlife Guardians

Mr James Robertson
 Mr John Pilkington
 Mr Michael Percival
 Ms Nelly Thelwall
 Mr Peter Luck
 Mrs & Mrs Parker

We are grateful to those who have chosen to support Wiltshire Wildlife Trust with a special gift in their wills or in memoriam during 2021-22:

Legacies and In Memory gifts received on or on behalf of:

Alan Webb
 Andrew & Dorothy Brass
 Andrew Couch
 Andrew Jarvis
 Ann Gimson
 Anthony Hayday
 Antony Hayward Bollen
 Barbara Vine
 Betty Burge
 Brenda Phillips
 Brian Croucher

Canon Peter William Ball
 Charles Vere Nicholas
 Christine Rolt
 Davida Martha Marlow
 Elizabeth Notley
 Gilbert Wilson Green
 Gillian King
 Gordon Harvey Matchett
 Jean Mayhill
 Jeffrey James Slocombe
 Jill Engelbrecht
 Jim Allen
 Joan Bullough
 Joan Evans
 John Freeman
 John Leslie Presland
 Joyce Rumming
 Kenneth Hardiman
 Kenneth Watts
 Margaret Kerr
 Marjorie Jean Perkins
 Mary Trickett
 Mike Kamel
 P Miller
 Pamela Gough
 Peter Goddard
 Phylis Eileen Smith
 Richard Allen
 Rosalie Ashcroft
 Rosina Ashman
 Stella Margaret Smith
 Valerie Edwards

If you have remembered the Trust in your will, please let us know so that we can thank you properly. If you would like to talk to us about leaving a gift, please contact us on 01380 725670 or fundraising@wiltshirewildlife.org.

Independent auditors' statement to the members of Wiltshire Wildlife Trust Limited

We have examined the summarised financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2022.

Respective responsibilities of the trustees and the auditor

The trustees are responsible for preparing full annual financial statements in accordance with the recommendations of the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) 2019 (FRS 102) and for extracting information from the full annual financial statements into the summarised financial statements.

Our responsibility is to report to you our opinion on the consistency of the summarised financial statements with the full annual financial statements and the Trustees' Annual Report. We also read the other information contained in the Annual Review and consider the implications for our report if we become aware of any apparent misstatements or material inconsistencies with the summarised financial statements.

Basis of opinion

We conducted our work in accordance with guidance issued by the Auditing Practices Board.

Opinion

In our opinion the summarised financial statements are consistent with the full annual financial statements and the Trustees' Annual Report of Wiltshire Wildlife Trust Limited for the year ended 31 March 2022.

Monahans
Statutory Auditor
Fortescue House
Court Street, Trowbridge
Wiltshire BA14 8FA



Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2022

	Group		Charity	
	2022 £	2021 £	2022 £	2021 £
Fixed Assets				
Tangible assets	2,551,053	2,151,323	2,551,053	2,151,323
Heritage assets	7,373,253	7,224,473	7,373,253	7,224,473
Investments	383,866	356,946	393,866	366,946
Mixed motive investments - property	2,698,991	2,211,604	2,698,991	2,211,604
	13,007,163	11,944,346	13,017,163	11,954,346
Current Assets				
Stocks and work in progress	194,725	180,520	194,725	180,520
Debtors	1,204,558	1,138,004	1,204,169	1,137,784
Cash at bank and in hand	1,688,169	1,565,628	1,667,133	1,543,489
	3,087,452	2,884,152	3,066,027	2,861,793
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	(249,169)	(428,519)	(248,569)	(427,919)
Net current assets	2,838,283	2,455,633	2,817,458	2,433,874
Total assets less current liabilities	15,845,446	14,399,979	15,834,621	14,388,220
Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year	(50,086)	(61,630)	(50,086)	(61,630)
Total net assets	15,795,360	14,338,349	15,784,535	14,326,590
Charity Funds				
Capital Fund				
Restricted nature reserves	8,832,671	8,484,766	8,832,671	8,484,766
Other Funds				
Restricted funds	2,980,695	2,483,947	2,980,695	2,483,947
Unrestricted funds				
Unrestricted funds	2,251,054	2,175,847	2,240,229	2,164,088
Designated funds	1,730,940	1,193,789	1,730,940	1,193,789
	15,795,360	14,338,349	15,784,535	14,326,590

Financial summary 2022

For the year ended 31 March 2022, the Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) shows total income of £5,571,816, revenue expenditure of £4,391,612 and gains on investments of £276,807.

During the year, the balance sheet increased with total net assets in excess of £15 million, with the acquisition of Little Barn and the land acquisition of Bay Meadows.

At the year end, the Trust maintains a strong cash position with significant funds held for Restricted projects. In an uncertain world and highly competitive funding environment our Unrestricted funds remain healthy; our strategy to 2030 will push us to do more in Wiltshire to support nature's recovery, enabling people to take informed meaningful action and embedding nature in problem solving.

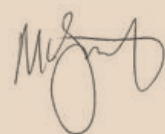


Peter Luck
Treasurer, Wiltshire Wildlife Trust Limited

Trustees' Statement

The Summary Financial Statement is only a summary of the information in the Trust's full annual financial statements (on which the auditors gave an unqualified report) and may not contain sufficient information to allow for a full understanding of the financial affairs of the charity. The Trustees' Annual Report does not form part of the annual financial statements and no information from the Trustees' Annual Report is included in this summary.

The full statutory financial statements, including the Trustees' Annual Report and the unqualified auditors' report, can be obtained from Wiltshire Wildlife Trust, Elm Tree Court, Long Street, Devizes, Wiltshire, SN10 1NJ. A member wishing to receive full financial statements and reports in place of summary financial statements can request these in writing to the company secretary at the above address. The full financial statements were approved on 10 August 2022 and will be submitted to the Charity Commission in the near future.



Mark Street
Chairman, Wiltshire Wildlife Trust Limited

Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities (including income and expenditure account) for the year ended 31 March 2022

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Year ended 31.3.22 £	Year ended 31.3.21 £
Income from:				
Donations and legacies (including membership income and GiftAid)	1,491,460	117,998	1,609,458	2,462,771
Charitable activities	2,140,815	1,568,898	3,709,713	3,302,209
Other trading activities	127,175	60	127,235	36,243
Investments	95,843	-	95,843	78,589
Other	29,558	9	29,567	44,721
Total income	3,884,851	1,686,965	5,571,816	5,924,533
Expenditure on:				
Raising funds				
Recruiting new members	182,481	-	182,481	90,509
Fundraising, donations and legacies	83,619	-	83,619	138,828
Charitable activities				
Creating living landscapes across Wiltshire	855,794	954,531	1,810,325	1,490,076
Lead and support the transition of society towards more sustainable living	1,723,918	177,179	1,901,097	1,819,816
Ensure our work is based on sound knowledge and evidence	61,509	105,234	166,743	114,326
Support of members	247,347	-	247,347	214,197
Total expenditure	3,154,668	1,236,944	4,391,612	3,867,752
Net (loss)/gains on investments	276,807	-	276,807	237,445
Net income/(expenditure)	1,006,990	450,021	1,457,011	2,294,226
Transfers between funds	(394,632)	394,632	-	-
Net movement in funds	612,358	844,653	1,457,011	2,294,226
Reconciliation of funds:				
Total funds brought forward	3,369,636	10,968,713	14,338,349	12,044,123
Total funds carried forward	3,981,944	11,813,366	15,795,360	14,338,349

The statement of financial activities contains all gains and losses recognised during the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

Where our money comes from 2022 **£5,571,816**

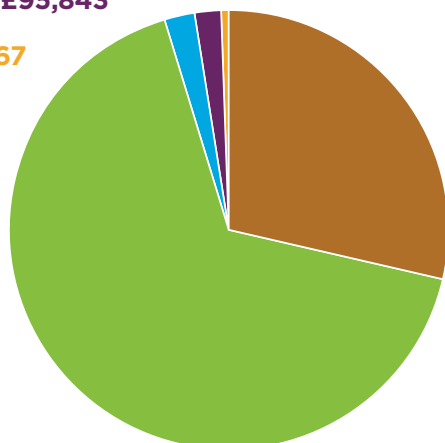
Donations and Legacies **£1,609,458**

Charitable Activities **£3,709,713**

Other Trading Activities **£127,235**

Investments **£95,843**

Other **£29,567**



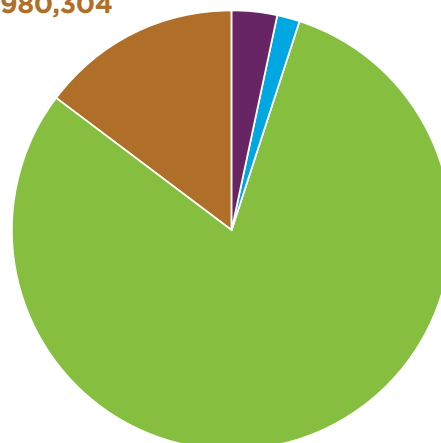
Where we spend our money 2022 **£5,371,916**

Raising Funds: Recruiting New Members **£182,481**

Raising funds: Fundraising, Donations & Legacies **£83,619**

Charitable Activities **£4,125,512**

Capital Acquisitions **£980,304**



Leave a lasting gift for wildlife



Leaving a gift in your Will, however big or small, is an amazing way to help ensure a future for Wiltshire's precious wildlife.

Gifts in Wills enable us to continue our vital conservation and education work, manage more land for nature, and keep our natural habitats in the best condition for wildlife and people to enjoy for years to come.

We have been deeply humbled by the generosity of those who have already chosen to leave a gift in their Will to Wiltshire Wildlife Trust. By remembering us, you are making a remarkable difference, helping us to protect the wildlife and wild spaces you love, long into the future. We are truly grateful.

If you would like to talk to someone about leaving a gift in your Will, please visit www.wiltshirewildlife.org/a-gift-in-your-will to find out more, or contact us on 01380 725670 or fundraising@wiltshirewildlife.org.

www.wiltshirewildlife.org

Registered Charity Number 266202 **Company Registration Number** 730536
Registered Office Elm Tree Court, Long Street, Devizes, Wiltshire SN10 1NJ
Telephone 01380 725670