

# Somerset Wildlife Trust

Annual report and accounts 2019-20



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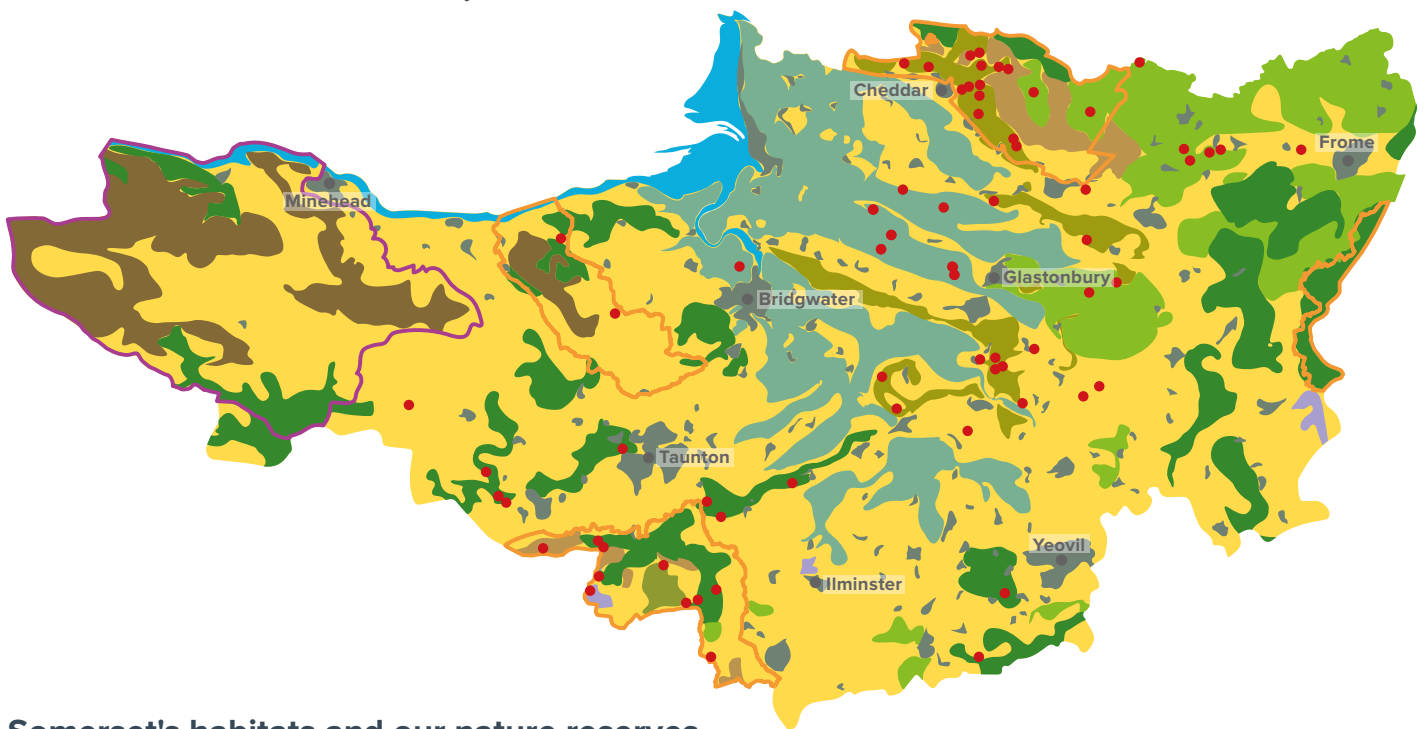
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# What we do

Somerset is one of the most habitat-diverse and wildlife-rich counties in Britain. Somerset Wildlife Trust is an independent conservation charity working throughout the county to ensure this remains the case in the face of the international ecological and climate emergencies. We are part of a national federation of 46 local Wildlife Trusts working together to restore nature across the UK.

We rely on the support of our members, donors and volunteers, as well as income from grant-giving bodies and companies, including profits from our ecological consultancy, First Ecology, to look after Somerset's wildlife and wild places. This includes the nature reserves in our care and enabling wildlife to expand across Somerset by creating a resilient mosaic of habitats to support nature's recovery, working with partners, local communities and landowners.

We work to influence Somerset's policy-making and planning decisions, which affect the county's wildlife and the wider environment, to ensure nature is at the heart of decisions on our county's future. We believe access to nature is important for people of all ages to value wildlife and help protect it, and in doing so enhance the health and wellbeing of everyone who lives and works in our wonderful county.



## Somerset's habitats and our nature reserves

We produced a pioneering map for Somerset in 2019-20 showing existing core habitats, including on our nature reserves, and have also now identified areas to target to expand the network (not shown) to support nature's recovery.

- |                     |  |   |
|---------------------|--|---|
| Woodland            | Purple moor grass and rush pasture       | Somerset Wildlife Trust nature reserves |
| Upland heath        | Coastal and floodplain grazing marsh     | Exmoor National Park                    |
| Lowland heath       | Coastal habitat                          | Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty     |
| Neutral grassland   | Urban                                    |   |
| Limestone grassland | Other land use eg. farming and community |   |

# Message from Graeme Mitchell, Chair of Trust Council

**2019-20 was a year of huge contrasts. Awareness of nature's important role in society and the work we do grew greatly alongside understanding of the urgent need to act quickly to halt the rapid loss of biodiversity and climate breakdown. Then, in March, much of our activity was suddenly on hold, as the country locked down due to the coronavirus pandemic and we, together with all organisations, had to adapt quickly to new ways of working.**

Coronavirus meant changes none of us would have imagined just weeks before – learning to work remotely, pausing volunteering, temporarily closing popular nature reserves and adjusting financially. With some sources of income no longer available and others paused, we furloughed 37% of staff and found new ways to connect people in their homes to wildlife. Change has brought innovation, particularly in our communications, supported by the new Trust website launched in November. Our staff have shown real commitment and flexibility, and our supporters' incredible loyalty during this difficult time, for which we are very grateful.

In addition to the longer-term impact of coronavirus, in 2019-20 we faced a growing awareness of the devastating impact of Ash Dieback disease on our nature reserves. Managing Ash Dieback, through removal of unsafe trees, will be very costly for years to come. This additional drain on our resources, together with the ongoing need to manage important habitats on our nature reserves, will require considerable investment at a time of much financial uncertainty. As a result of a specialist arboriculturalist report received by Trustees, we have recognised a £600k provision in our 2019-20 accounts to deal with the immediate urgent impacts of the disease on our nature reserves, which has resulted in a deficit of £336k for the year. We will be exploring ways to fund this work and will need to balance this need with how we can best focus our resources to protect and increase wildlife in Somerset.

Coronavirus and Ash Dieback are two huge and unwelcome issues that we have had to contend with concurrently. That said, it has given me great heart when I have seen at first-hand the professionalism and clear-headedness with which the Senior Leadership Team has drawn up plans to deal with the associated challenges.

With many people discovering just how important nature and green spaces are to their mental and physical wellbeing, it was particularly timely to get news in March of a grant from the National Lottery Communities Fund for a major countywide project to support people's health and wellbeing. Working with three of Somerset's Areas of Outstanding National Beauty, this project will connect people with nature, building on work we have been doing in Taunton for several years.

Bringing nature back is central to our work. 2019's State of Nature Report revealed 41% of UK species have declined since 1970, with butterflies and moths particularly badly hit, down by 17% and 25% respectively. While much of this report made alarming reading, it also showed there is hope. The inspiring results of what organisations and people can achieve by working together included two of our and Somerset's successes – the now thriving populations of Bittern and the Large Blue Butterfly.

Insect decline and what this means for wildlife generally was the subject of a report, commissioned by Wildlife Trusts in the south west, which launched the national Action for Insects campaign in November. Record numbers of members and their guests at our 2019 Members' Day heard from insect experts and left ready to take action in their own gardens, workplaces and communities to help reverse this looming wildlife crisis.

People have always been central to our success and we were delighted to welcome Georgia Stokes as our new Chief Executive in April 2019. Georgia is leading the development of our future strategy and, as part of a wide consultation, a series of meetings ran alongside an online survey. Our new strategy will now also take into account any legacy from coronavirus and tackling the impacts of Ash Dieback, and hence its publication has been delayed. Creating a resilient Somerset Nature Recovery Network will be at the heart of our new strategy and, by working as part of The Wildlife Trust movement, one that connects nationally.

The Trust's deep knowledge of Somerset's wildlife and its existing, lost and damaged habitats means we are well placed to lead and support others to create a wilder Somerset. It was therefore important for us to bring together representatives from over 100 diverse organisations – businesses, local government, farming, tourism and conservation – to start to develop a shared and bold vision for how wildlife can support local people and the economy. Re-establishing the Somerset Local Nature Partnership in February provides the critical leadership needed to achieve this.

This was just one of several developments to prepare us for the future. Internally, the Senior Leadership Team was expanded to support decision-making and delivery, and we committed to be net carbon neutral by 2030 and published our Environment Policy.

In these challenging times, our supporters are more vital than ever, so we were delighted to record our highest number of members for seven years, now exceeding 20,000. Over 1,100 people donated to our Westhay Moor appeal and over 400 pledged their support for our planned Westhay visitor improvements via an online survey, helping to secure essential grant funding. Westhay is a magical reserve, and securing a further 11 critical acres will transform its management and support its amazing wetland wildlife. Managing and improving our nature reserves, which include internationally important wetlands like Westhay, and species-rich meadows, grasslands and ancient woodlands, some being rare survivors of habitats now largely lost, continues to be a key part of our work.

Experiencing The Somerset Charabanc gently trundle around Westhay and hearing children read their nature poems at Finding the Lost Words in Taunton were truly amazing experiences for young and old alike. These were just two events run to inspire more people to care for and act for local wildlife, which is vital given the urgency of reversing species' decline and tackling the climate crisis.

It is heartening to know we have so many people behind us who care deeply about bringing nature back to Somerset and into people's lives. While ending the year in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic, this has demonstrated just how important wildlife and green spaces are to everyone's health. It is timely to set a new strategy to enable wildlife to return to Somerset and enrich the lives of all who live and work here.

I would like to thank you all – our volunteers, including Trustees, our members, supporters, partners and staff – for your important and generous support throughout the year. You are all vital to nature's recovery, including by reaching out to your friends, neighbours and colleagues, and inspiring even more people, organisations and communities to help us to bring more nature back to our wonderful county.



**Graeme Mitchell**  
Chair

# Strategic report



The report set out on pages 6–25 is a strategic report and Directors' report as required by sections 414A and 415 of the Companies Act 2006 and has been prepared in accordance with Part 15 of this Act and a Trustees' Report as required by the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice.

# Strategy and achievements

**We champion Somerset's stunning and important natural environment, engaging people and communities to value and take action to protect wildlife, making the case for nature to the public and politicians, and leading recovery of the environment by example on our nature reserves. Much of our work includes working with partners to create a strong Somerset Nature Recovery Network.**

## Helping nature recover across Somerset

Working in partnership and on a landscape-scale, to increase habitat connectivity across the county, is vital if Somerset's wildlife is to be more resilient to current and future pressures. Our nature reserves provide refuges for a wide range of wildlife and core habitats in the wider landscape, but our work must extend well beyond these for nature to thrive.

Despite being one of the most rural counties in England, Somerset is under increasing pressure from development and changes of land use and practices. The remaining nature-rich places must be protected, and poorer quality habitats improved, if we are to put nature back into recovery. We need a resilient network of diverse joined-up habitats, to support populations to move freely across the county.

The Trust's work is evidence-based and data has enabled us to lead pioneering work to produce ecological network maps to inform county decision-makers and our own work. We rely on many volunteers and specialist groups to monitor sites for species and will continue to refine maps to identify key sites for nature's recovery. Somerset Environmental Records Centre (SERC), which is hosted by the Trust, holds millions of records and datasets which we will continue to draw on.

An extensive dataset, collected over the last three years, was combined with data from EDF Energy and Natural England to form the first comprehensive habitat map of Somerset's coast and the intertidal species present. As well as providing a scientific database, the findings are now available to all as an interactive map on our website.

A draft Somerset Nature Recovery Network map was prepared, which will be a key document in identifying areas to target for improvement to expand the network, in addition to showing core areas, such as nature reserves. Managing and improving our nature reserves, which include internationally

important wetlands, species-rich meadows, grasslands and ancient woodlands, some being rare survivors of habitats now largely lost in the wider landscape, is a key aspect of our work.

It is only due to expert management and a landscape-scale approach that certain species are present, such as the populations of Bittern, eels and Bearded Reedlings on our Avalon Marshes reserves. The autumn 2019 Wetland Bird Survey at Westhay Moor, for example, recorded 422 Bearded Reedlings making it a real 'Beardie' hotspot. At Catcott Lows, a second scrape was added thanks to supporters to the Big Give 2017, which, like the first, was quickly inhabited. Black-winged Stilts, Curlew, Lapwing, Snipe and Redshank and Cattle, Little and Great White Egrets are all now using the first scrape.

Increasing habitat resilience and reducing management input is part of our approach. Following a hugely successful fundraising appeal, restoration of an additional 11 key acres of former peat-extraction land adjacent to Westhay began in late 2019. Once work is complete, controlling this land will make managing water across the reserve simpler, with the added benefit that keeping peat wet will retain more carbon in the ground.

Monitoring eel populations formed part of a project that identified places where new eel passes could be fitted to assist their movement. Three failing culverts at Catcott were replaced to enhance the ability of eels and other aquatic animals to move around the site and 20,000 eelers were released to boost eel populations.



**20,000**  
eelers released  
to boost eel  
populations



**168**  
Bearded  
Reedling  
recorded in one  
day at Westhay



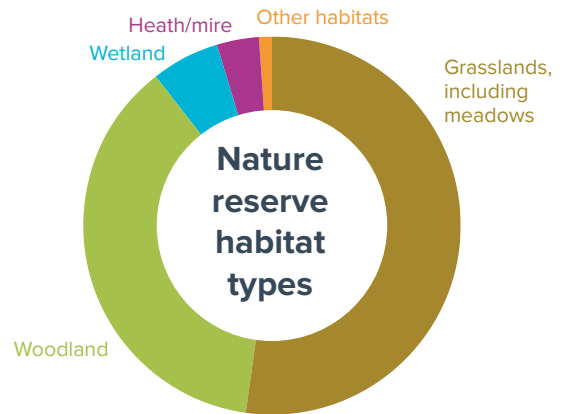
1<sup>ST</sup>

recent recording  
of **Harvest  
Mouse nest** at  
**Fivehead Arable  
Fields**

While much of our reserve management is planned, we also have to deal with unexpected events like the fast progression of Ash Dieback. Some of our Mendip reserves are 90% ash and large numbers of trees have advanced disease and require removal by specialists. Some footpaths are temporarily closed and initial felling began over the winter, including at Harridge Wood and Edford, and at Langford Heathfield in West Somerset. Removing diseased trees will continue for several years and £600k has been re-designated from Trust funds in recognition of this major liability. Woods will regenerate naturally where possible and the impact on wildlife monitored to ensure their important ecosystems are restored.

10-year funding from the Torr Works Environmental Enhancement Fund has helped us to restore ecological networks in Mendip. During this, the seventh year of our Mendip Wildlife Links project, habitat surveys were conducted at seven sites, botanical and dormouse monitoring continued, and advice provided to 17 landowners and two quarry companies to conserve, restore and create habitats on their land. Thanks to ongoing funding by DEFRA's Countryside Stewardship, landowners, including farmers, quarry companies, National Trust, South West Heritage Trust and the Longleat Estate, continued to work together across Mendip to restore and support species-rich grassland networks.

Following completion of the Making Space for Butterflies project, a second grant from the



TWT Aggregate Industries Partnership Fund enabled grassland restoration to continue on Local Wildlife Sites and woodland enhancement work at Cheddar Wood, which will help to link up and buffer key habitats in Mendip.

The variety of partners we work with to restore nature in Somerset is growing. In February, a new collaboration was launched with Somerset West and Taunton Council to develop wildflower meadows, including in town parks, as part of their commitment to protecting and improving biodiversity, to support their climate change strategy. Collecting rare arable wildflower seed at Fivehead Arable Fields as part of the national Back from the Brink project, resulted in the first record of a Harvest Mouse nesting there in many years. We were also pleased to continue to support Kew Gardens' UK National Tree Seed Project through collecting Hazel and Spindle seeds on Mendip reserves.

## Inspiring people and communities to value and protect Somerset's nature

Research shows that a wildlife-rich environment is important for people's health. Experiences in nature can also inspire, change attitudes, motivate action and ultimately help us to restore our wild places and wildlife. We know we cannot reverse the decline in biodiversity in Somerset without the support of the people who live and work here, so inspiring people and communities to take action is central to our work.



300  
children

experienced  
**Wild Beach**

Funded primarily by the Community Impact Mitigation Fund, our Somerset's Brilliant Coast project connects people to the coast and its fascinating wildlife. This project is helping nearby parishes make stronger links to their coastline, training volunteers to map coastal habitats and wildlife, and inspiring the next generation to care for the coast through a pioneering outdoor learning initiative with local schools.

Interest has continued to exceed our expectations and by the end of year one, in

August, we had reached our three year target with almost 900 people already having taken part in our Curious Coast events. Over autumn and winter a further 500 people joined diverse activities from beach cleans, seashore walks, film nights to mass unwraps highlighting the impact of plastic on the marine environment. One highlight was Women's Institute members having 'Tea in the Sea' at Dunster to raise awareness of the impact of climate change on sea level rise, a significant issue here in Somerset, and an event that generated much interest.



Our Wild Beach programme gives local children seashore experiences, which for some are their first visit to a beach, despite living close by. During the year, 300 children from seven primary schools enjoyed repeat visits to the coast to not only foster a love of their local natural area but also help with their social and emotional development and another 250 learnt about their coast in school. It is important that our coastal project impacts long term behaviour, hence the Parish Shores element is facilitating coastal communities to choose their own area of focus. In 2019-20 Kilve created a nature and heritage trail that can be accessed via tablets and mobiles, and we worked with Minehead and Watchet to launch their Plastic Free status.

We have now been working in Taunton for almost 10 years, and the Green Spaces Healthy Places project continued to support individual and community wellbeing through carrying out practical activities on public green areas and the community garden. The second Big Taunton Litter Pick involved over 400 people removing litter from parks, waterways and streets and funding from the National Lottery Awards for All enabled improvements to be made at Lisieux Way Community Garden. We ran training workshops on composting, willow dome making and pond creation and attended Somerfest. Adults with learning disabilities enjoyed connecting to nature through our work with Green Days, and the town's green spaces continued to be cared for by a growing band of volunteers.

Finding the Lost Words, part of the inaugural Taunton Youth Culture and Arts Festival,

organised by Arts Taunton, tapped into children's natural sense of wonder. 180 pupils from four Taunton schools were inspired to create through our outdoor nature sessions and by poetry and art sessions run by partners. Pupils aged seven to 14 shared their poems and artworks in front of an audience of over 400 at the celebration event.

Through a diverse programme of work Mendip Wildlife Links continued to catalyse local support, engage landowners and inspire people and organisations to deliver collectively landscape-scale benefits for wildlife. In total over 159 events, workshops and volunteer days were held helping to connect people to the wonderful habitats and wildlife in East Mendip. Advice was provided for six varied community initiatives all of which will support creating better wildlife habitats locally.

Our work with young people included the start of the third year of our successful project with five schools in Street, Glastonbury and Bridgwater, which is funded by the Ninesquare Charitable Trust. We worked with teenagers in Taunton and Cheddar, and the Somerset Youth Parliament, to understand how we can best support them to take action on the environmental issues they care deeply about. We welcomed two new Wild Path Trainees, who are funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund, while seeing our year one trainees move on to work in the conservation sector.

Our volunteer-led Local Area Groups and Wildlife Watch Groups for children ran popular events across Somerset and we held new events on our nature reserves.



**24**  
**WI members**  
took Tea in  
the Sea



**Over**  
**180**  
**children**  
took part  
in Finding  
the Lost  
Words

## Standing up for nature

Working nationally as part of the Wildlife Trust movement and locally, including with conservation partners, we influence policy-making and planning to ensure the needs of wildlife are considered alongside those of people and the economy. The relaunch of Somerset's Local Nature Partnership (LNP) was an important step to bring together many stakeholders, and create clear leadership and a shared commitment to develop and deliver a strong countywide Nature Recovery Network.

Representing a broad coalition of economic, social, political and environmental interests, the LNP will consider how to protect and improve Somerset's natural environment, and the benefits of nature for wildlife, people and business. It will work across sectors to drive policy and embed nature's value in local decision-making. The draft Somerset Nature Recovery Network map we have produced was shared at the LNP relaunch in February

and will support decision-making, including by understanding habitat carbon storage to support the county's developing carbon net zero strategy.

All of Somerset's local and district councils and the County Council declared climate emergencies, with some also declaring an ecological emergency, and we continued to share our thinking regularly with all. Somerset



**Over**  
**100**  
**organisations**  
represented  
at Somerset's  
Local Nature  
Partnership  
relaunch

West and Taunton Council ran a public consultation on its vision for Taunton Garden Town and we continued to push for robust delivery plans through the Taunton Strategic Advisory Board and initiated a Taunton Environmental Network, which brings together the many environmental groups working in the town.

Management System, which will replace European Union agri-environment schemes, will support nature's recovery. The Wildlife Trusts' Wilder Future campaign continued and focused on ensuring Nature Recovery Networks are part of the future Environment Bill.

Staff, volunteers and members joined with 16,000 people from around Britain for The Time is Now mass lobby at Westminster in June to urge their constituency MPs to back immediate action on climate change and ambitious environmental targets.

In November the Action for Insects report, authored by Professor Dave Goulson, was published to raise awareness of insects' importance and actions all of us can take to help them. It also calls on government to set an ambitious pesticide reduction target.

Planning applications continued to be reviewed for their wildlife impact, with responses made to over 310 in 2019 (over 170 in 2018), the majority of which were for barn conversions and large residential developments.

The Trust remains firmly opposed to the badger cull and welcomed the government's announcement in March that it will begin to phase out the cull in favour of badger vaccination and further cattle and biosecurity measures on farms. With no timetable shared, the Trust will continue not to allow badgers to be culled on its land.

In collaboration with Somerset County Council, the Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group and partners in Europe, a major project began to develop nature-based solutions to help Somerset adapt to climate change. Adapting the Levels is designed to empower those who live and work on the Levels to take action on climate adaptation and we are initially engaging local people, landowners and businesses in Langport and Wedmore. In its first year, discussions and workshops were held with councillors and drop in events attracted around 300 people keen to develop a shared vision for a climate-resilient Levels. Funded by Interreg 2 Seas European Regional Development Fund and Somerset Rivers Authority, this project will run until 2022.

Ahead of the General Election, we organised public hustings on nature and climate change in Taunton and Yeovil, and sent an open letter to all Somerset candidates setting out our position on key issues. The Wildlife Trusts nationally continued to work to ensure the proposed Environment and Agriculture Bills are passed through Parliament with strong protections for wildlife and the future Environmental Land



**Action for Insects** report raising awareness of insect declines

# Engaging our supporters

**Our supporters are central to our success, helping us practically as volunteers, through generously funding our work as members, donors and by leaving us gifts in their wills, and by supporting our campaigns. We truly would not have the impact we do without their ongoing support. Our supporters help to look after our nature reserves so they can be enjoyed by all who visit them, and people also give their time to organise and help at events, and in the office. Thank you all.**

## Enhancing our visitor experience

Our nature reserves are inspiring places to experience the best wildlife Somerset has to offer, to walk in, to observe or to sit and listen.

Guided walks of Westhay Moor and Catcott nature reserves continued to be popular and more were added, all led by our Avalon Marshes Visitor Experience Officer, who is funded jointly with Natural England. While wildlife is unpredictable, with expert guidance Bittern, Bearded Reedling and a Kingfisher were all seen on one walk in October. Visitors were welcomed on arrival to Westhay, helping to orientate and direct them to particular species or points of interest.

New experiences were provided when the amphitheatre at Catcott hosted an intimate acoustic set with local folk singer Kitty MacFarlane before the main indoor concert at Strode Theatre. At Westhay, The Somerset Charabanc transported the audience around the reserve for an immersive, site-specific show, written and performed by Somerset-based Wassail Theatre, and made possible through

Arts Council England support, while also giving the audience unique views of the reserve. By special arrangement several groups visited our permit-only Coronation Meadow, Chancellor's Farm to learn about its management and the consequent biodiversity of the meadows.

Grant funding continued to enable improvements to be made. A new permissive path was added at Aller and Beer Woods, which now re-connects the nearby villages of Aller and High Ham which was welcomed by local residents. New signage and footpath repairs were made at Green Down and the car park repaired at Dommett Wood.

Less positively the visitor infrastructure at Catcott was vandalised twice in summer 2019 requiring unplanned repairs, which were funded through the generosity of local people and supporters.



Exploring Westhay Moor on The Somerset Charabanc

## Volunteers are critical to our work

Volunteers continued to give their time and provide specialist skills to help us care for the county's wildlife and their habitats.

In November, we recognised their wide-ranging achievements through our annual Volunteering Awards. Nominated by staff and volunteers, between them the winners had responded to planning applications to ensure wildlife is protected in future developments, restored a network of ponds in the Mendip Hills to connect isolated Great Crested Newt populations, supported the county's environmental record keeping for 28 years, and

run a mile at Westhay, aged five, to raise funds for our work.

Regular work parties of practical conservation volunteers continued to provide vital assistance to manage our nature reserves, including as volunteer Reserve Wardens. Additionally, groups from local businesses undertook specific tasks as part of our corporate partnership programme.



4

Volunteer awards presented



3.7%

of Somerset's population are members

Volunteers are central to our Somerset Wildlife Gardens scheme, visiting garden owners, who themselves had volunteered to open their gardens, and in assisting with event organisation. Many responded to our call for new gardens to open but sadly our 2020 events will now not take place, however, we plan to have an inspiring programme in 2021.

Volunteers are involved with many of our projects and 25 came forward to take part in the first year of Somerset's Brilliant Coast, including as Coastal Ambassadors to lead

activities, chosen by local people, which celebrate and conserve their parish coastal heritage.

Volunteers, many of whom have given their time over many years, continued to run our local Area Groups putting on events including walks and talks. Our Wildlife Watch Groups are led by volunteers who are passionate about connecting children with nature, and continued to be popular across Somerset. We remain enormously grateful for the support of all our volunteers.

### Continued membership growth

Somerset Wildlife Trust is a membership-based charity and 27% of income comes from membership, which in 2019-20 was £733k. Membership exceeded 20,000 for the first time in seven years, demonstrating growing support for conservation in Somerset. Our members also provide us with a voice for wildlife; when we speak with decision-makers and politicians we do so with conviction and ensure our collective voices are heard.

11,053 households are Somerset Wildlife Trust members; that's 20,333 members who represent 3.7% of Somerset's population. Somerset is a rural county and our strong membership support gives us a powerful and growing voice to stand up for the county's wildlife. We are very grateful for the support our members give us as ambassadors for our work and in speaking up for wildlife, as well as their vital financial support. Membership grew for the fourth successive year and by 1% (7%: 2018-19), though growth was halted in March by the cessation of face to face recruitment and an immediate increase in cancellations as a result of lockdown and concerns about household income.

Membership income is one of the foundations of our annual funding and recruiting and retaining members remains a priority. The staff of South West Wildlife Fundraising Limited (SWWFL), mutually owned by eight Wildlife Trusts including Somerset, recruits new members at events and venues across the county, in addition to the Trust recruiting members via its website and by telephone. SWWFL is a member of the Institute of Fundraising, which monitors their performance through mystery shopping. Additionally, we seek feedback on SWWFL's recruiters in telephone calls to new members to thank them for their support, which are conducted on its behalf by Quality Telephone Services.



£1.5m raised from fundraising which is 56% of Trust income

### A growing number of donors and funders

In 2019-20 fundraising accounted for 56% of our overall income: memberships, donations, gifts in wills and grants are vital to our work, and the combined generosity of the individuals and organisations that supported us raised £1.5m (£2m: 2018-19). Our supporters are essential to fund our work and we thank them all for their generosity.

Following an exceptional year for gifts in wills, 2019-20 saw a decrease in gifts in wills leading to lower overall fundraising income. 13 legacies were received with a total value of £214k (£698k: 2018-19). More members and non-members informed us that they had included our charity in their wills, which will result in important future funding, though we expect the

value of legacies will continue to vary greatly annually. Large or small, every gift in every will is very valuable to us as they help us to manage nature reserves, engage more people in our work and stand up for nature.

Fundraising appeals continued to be well supported, in particular, the Westhay Moor

appeal to buy and restore 11 key acres, which raised £107k, greatly exceeding its £60k target. The additional funds raised will enable us to support further work at Westhay and other nature reserves. 1,137 donations were received of which 47% were from new donors. We intend to complete this purchase in 2020-21 once the initial levelling and restoration is complete. The success of this appeal enabled other fundraising to progress, which will improve Westhay for visitors, including those with limited mobility, through a £43k grant from Viridor Credits Environmental Company and other fundraising.

In total, appeals raised £152k with £27k raised by February's Dormouse appeal by year end and £16k for The Somerset Nature Reserves Fund, which supports the Trust's nature reserves. The Patrons' scheme attracts some of our closest supporters, 31 to date, who enjoyed special events including a visit to Common Cranes reintroduced to the Levels and a fungal foray in the Blackdowns. We are grateful to the wide range of local and national businesses that support our work, through our corporate membership scheme and as corporate partners, and welcomed five new corporate members.

We built foundations in communities to establish a new sustainable income stream, which is attracting those who wish to fundraise with the help of their friends, families,

colleagues and communities. A programme of challenge events with partners, under the banner 'Team Wild', was created but much of this fundraising activity was postponed or cancelled due to coronavirus.

Grants including from trusts and foundations continue to be vital to fund many aspects of the Trust's work. We thank all our supporters, old and new, for their continuing generosity.

Protecting and effectively engaging with our donors remains critically important to us and all fundraising, other than face to face membership recruitment, is carried out in-house. Learnings are shared amongst the team and the Trust is registered with the Fundraising Regulator and committed to following its Code of Practice, which sets out standards of behaviour that are expected of fundraisers.

We are also registered with the Fundraising Preference Service and received no requests from this service to opt out in the year. We continually update our database including to prevent communications being sent to any vulnerable people who have been identified. Our website outlines our complaints policy for the public and clearly explains how an individual can complain. No complaints regarding our fundraising were received in the year.



Westhay Appeal  
**47%**  
 first-time donors

## Promoting our cause

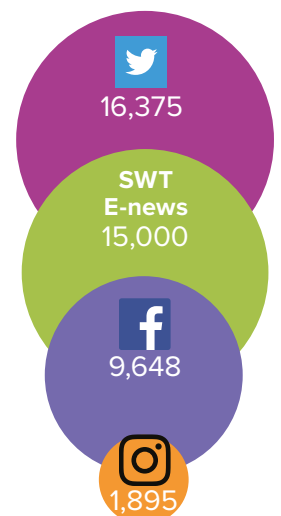
Somerset's wildlife is central to what makes our county such a special place to live, work and visit. We continued to extend our reach both within and beyond the county boundaries, using traditional and digital channels to engage more people in our cause.

In November we launched our new mobile-responsive website, which can be easily viewed on a range of devices, including mobile phones and tablets, which many of our supporters now use. The site is designed to be much easier to navigate, is more visual and all content has been updated. Bookings for many events can now be made online.

Engaging with existing and new supporters is increasingly through digital communications. Facebook followers grew substantially by 36%, Twitter by 7% and e-news subscribers by 3% in the year, and we also added an Instagram

channel. Integrated communications continue to support fundraising, including appeals, as well as campaigns, events and our wider work.

In response to the coronavirus lockdown, we quickly launched our social media campaign #WildlifeWindow encouraging people to share the wildlife they were seeing around their homes and the positive actions they were taking for nature while social distancing. Content has continued to be added to the website to support people at home and also to encourage them to connect with nature.



Subscribers  
 and followers



# Financial review

Excluding two exceptional items recognised in the year, the Trust achieved a small surplus of £74k. Following a specialist technical report commissioned to assess the impact of Ash Dieback disease on the Trust's nature reserves, the Trust has recognised a significant £600k provision for the removal of unsafe trees, which will be expended over a number of years. This is partially offset by a £190k credit recognised as a result of a reduction in the defined benefit pension scheme liability following formal notification of the Section 75 debt. As a result of these two exceptional items, which due to their material value have been disclosed separately on the face of the statement of financial activities, an overall deficit of £336k (£661k surplus: 2018-19) was recognised in the year.

Overall income fell slightly to £2.8m (£3m: 2018-19), primarily due to lower legacy income, while expenditure increased to £3m (£2.3m: 2018-19).

A surplus of £239k (£110k: 2018-19) was recognised on general unrestricted funds after transfers, primarily as a result of a reduction in the defined benefit pension scheme liability following formal notification from the Wildlife Trusts Pension Scheme in March 2020 of the Section 75 debt. The £685k deficit (£530k surplus: 2018-19) on designated funds was due to the recognition of a provision for future remedial works associated with Ash Dieback disease and planned expenditure of funds received in previous financial years.

A surplus of £110k (£21k: 2018-19) was recognised on restricted funds, as a result of funds received during the year for specific purposes as agreed with the funder, which will be expended in future financial years.

Due to the fall in the stock market, as a result of the coronavirus pandemic, the value of the Trust's portfolio of investments fell significantly and a £42k loss (£34k surplus: 2018-19) on investments was recognised within unrestricted funds.

The Trust continues to recognise the need to ensure long-term financial resilience in an increasingly challenging economic climate. This is in addition to ongoing uncertainty and potential risk in relation to funding from agri-environment schemes, which currently provide significant income for the management of our nature reserves, combined with further potential liabilities as a result of Ash Dieback disease.

## Income

Income for the year totalled £2.8m (£3m: 2018-19). The reduction in income compared to 2018-19 was mainly due to exceptional legacy income in 2018-19 partially offset by a significant growth in income achieved by the Trust's wholly owned subsidiary, trading as First Ecology, in the year.

In addition to income from members, which forms the largest source of unrestricted income, a significant proportion of income is derived from grants which enables the Trust

to carry out specific work and projects, and are predominantly restricted funds, which may be used only for the purpose agreed with the donor.

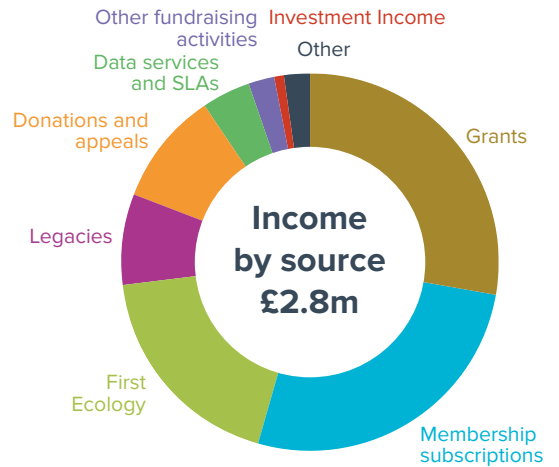
Grant income fell during the year to £767k (£822k: 2018-19), due to the completion of projects, but continues to be the largest source of total income representing 28% of income. A total of £513k (£513k: 2018-19), of grants were received through agri-environment schemes, which support the management of our nature reserves and were 67% of total grant income.

Membership income grew by £48k. A total of £733k (£685k: 2018-19) was received during the year from individual and corporate members representing the second largest source of income in the year and 27% of total income. An increase in the number of members was also achieved for the fourth consecutive year.

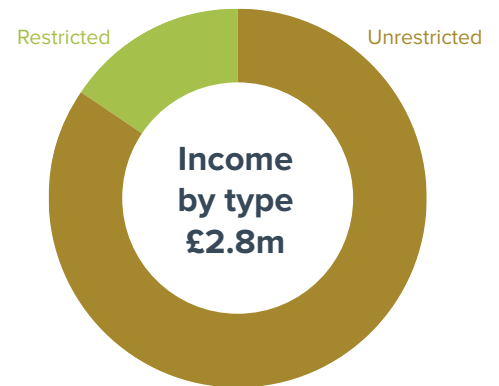
Income from other trading activities grew by £182k to £578k (£396k: 2018-19). The Trust's wholly owned subsidiary, trading as First Ecology, had an exceptional year and achieved a 61% growth in income which totalled £515k (£320k: 2018-19). First Ecology's net profit of £93k (£52k: 2018-19) has been Gift Aided to the Trust.

Income from donations and appeals totalled £265k (£187k: 2018-19). This includes four successful appeals which raised £152k (£74k: 2018-19). In addition, donations received through community fundraising initiatives totalled £20k (£10k: 2018-19) and the Trust's Patrons' scheme raised £22k (£20k: 2018-19).

A total of £214k (£698k: 2018-19) legacy income was recognised in the year, which has been credited to the designated development fund for future projects. Gifts in wills continue to be a very important part of the Trust's income but the value does fluctuate significantly each year.



Somerset Environmental Records Centre (SERC), which is hosted by the Trust and the main centre for holding data on wildlife sightings, types of environments and geological information for Somerset, achieved a 7% growth in income which totalled £115k (£107k: 2018-19). Income for SERC is primarily from Service Level Agreements and data searches.



## Expenditure

Total expenditure in the year increased to £3m (£2.3m: 2018-19). This includes £1.5m expenditure on nature conservation in Somerset (£1.5m: 2018-19).

The majority of the Trust's expenditure continues to be represented by staff costs as we rely on the specialist knowledge of our conservation and land management teams, in particular, to fulfil our charitable purposes. As a result of planned growth, including the recruitment of new staff to support new grant-funded projects and First Ecology, and an expansion of the Senior Leadership Team from three to eight to support decision-making, staff costs in 2019-20 totalled £1.6m (£1.3m: 2018-19) representing 51% of total expenditure.

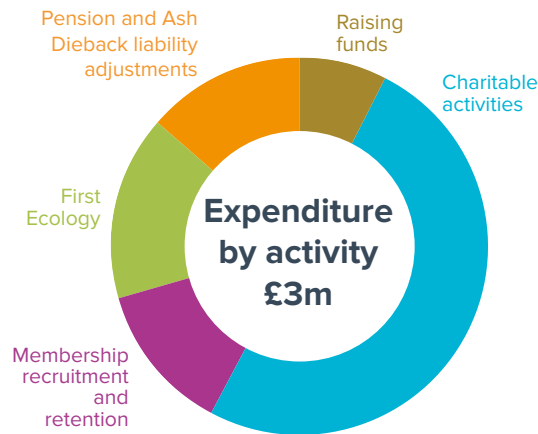
The most significant expenditure on charitable activities in the year was to manage the Trust's nature reserves, which totalled £691k (£718k: 2018-19). The reduction compared to 2018-19 was due to the completion of grant funded projects. Expenditure on policy, advocacy and campaigning activities, known as standing up for nature, increased by £33k to £118k (£86k: 2018-19) as a result of the new Adapting the Levels project funded by Interreg 2 Seas European Regional Development Fund and Somerset Rivers Authority.



The continued planned investment in First Ecology resulted in expenditure rising by 47% to £446k (£303k: 2018-19).

The cost of raising funds and membership recruitment and retention grew to £614k (£538k: 2018-19) due to the need to continue to invest in membership recruitment and diversify unrestricted income streams to build financial resilience in the challenging economic environment.

Support costs totalled £533k (£524k: 2018-19) representing 18% of overall expenditure.



## Funds of the Charity

Charity funds fell by £336k to £5.6m at the end of the year (£5.9m: 2018-19) as a result of an overall £446k decrease in unrestricted and designated funds partially offset by a £110k increase in restricted funds.

Overall unrestricted funds decreased by £446k. This includes a £239k increase in general unrestricted funds primarily as a result of the reduction in the defined benefit pension scheme liability. Designated funds fell by £685k from £3.5m to £2.8m as a result of the £600k Ash Dieback provision and £85k planned expenditure during the year. Designated funds include £2m of tangible and heritage fixed assets, of which £1.4m are nature reserves and £648k is the Trust's headquarters in Taunton, and £798k which has been set aside by the Trust for specific purposes in future years. A

breakdown of designated funds is included in note 19.

The £110k increase in restricted funds represents income received in the year including from grants, which will be expended in future financial years. Restricted funds are funds which the Trust has a legal obligation to use only for the specific purpose for which they were donated. These funds cannot therefore be used to fund the general operations of the Trust outside those specific purposes.

## Financial reserves policy

The Trust has a policy of holding reserves of funds to:

- Enable it to take advantage of unanticipated opportunities to further the aims of the Trust when no other source of income is available.
- Provide adequate working capital to carry out projects for which funds have been granted by external bodies, but for which those funds are payable only after expenditure has been incurred.
- Provide a reserve to cover contractual obligations and short-term payment of essential costs, such as staff salaries, in the event of an unanticipated shortfall in funds and/or fluctuations in income.
- Meet any legal obligation on the Trust to meet any future costs.

## Financial reserves holdings

Total reserves at the end of the year amounted to £5.6m (£5.9m: 2018-19), although a significant proportion of this total is represented by tangible and heritage fixed assets, leaving available financial reserves of £1.27m (£1.7m: 2018-19). This includes £798k which has been designated by Trustees for specific purposes leaving £476k in the income fund.

Total reserves	£5,566,487
Less:	
Restricted funds	(£407,095)
Tangible and heritage fixed assets	(£3,885,411)
<b>Total available reserves</b>	<b>£1,273,981</b>

In accordance with the financial reserves policy, which has recently been reviewed following a comprehensive review of financial risk and working capital requirements, the Trust is striving to increase financial reserves to build resilience through stringent financial planning and cost control, and aims to hold four months

planned expenditure in the income fund which equates to a target of £800k. The Trust's existing reserves held in the income fund equate to approximately two months planned expenditure and are currently £324k below the target.

Total available reserves	£1,273,981
Less:	
Designated funds	(£798,023)
<b>Income fund</b>	<b>£475,958</b>

**Income fund target** **£800,000**

The careful management of cash flow is crucial to ensuring that there is sufficient cash to deliver the Trust's planned programme of work as grant income is often payable in arrears. The Trust aims to hold two months planned expenditure which equates to approximately £400k in unrestricted cash.

of nature reserves, future land purchase, innovation opportunities and strategic investment to support the delivery of charitable activities as outlined in note 19. The Trust designates all legacy receipts to the designated development reserve on receipt to support future strategic investment in the Trust's charitable objectives.

The Trustees have designated £798k for specific purposes to support the management

## Investments

The value of the Trust's investment portfolio at the end of the year was £732k (£780k: 2018-19) and generated income of £17k (£19k: 2018-19). The Trust recognised a £42k loss (£34k gain: 2018-19) arising from revaluations in the year.

The investment portfolio is managed to provide the Trust with a range of sound marketable investments providing a balance of regular income and opportunity for capital growth. This requires a balanced portfolio consisting of investment grade fixed interest stocks or funds of fixed interest stocks and equities.

consists of stocks consistent with the Trust's obligation to further its charitable activities, whilst ensuring that its investments do not conflict with its aims and objectives. The Trust's ethical investment policy seeks to encourage investment in companies with strong sustainability policies and practices that respect and protect wildlife, communities and the wider environment.

An ethical investment policy has been adopted to ensure that the investment portfolio

## Risk management

All key risks are identified and managed through a Register of Risks which is reviewed annually by Council members. A risk-based approach is being embedded in all of the organisation's planning and decision-making so that any major risks are anticipated and planned for in a structured way.

The Trustees have examined the principal areas of the Trust's work and considered the major risks arising in each of these areas, including as a result of the coronavirus pandemic. In the opinion of the Trustees, the Trust has established processes and systems which, under normal circumstances, should allow the risks identified by them to be mitigated to an acceptable level in its day-to-day operations and to support working practices during and emerging from the coronavirus pandemic.

The Trust also compiles and shares The Wildlife Trusts' benchmarks on governance, finances and other issues to support risk management.

The Trustees have identified the current principal risks as:

- Liabilities resulting from Ash Dieback disease on our nature reserves.
- Increased competition for funding as a result of the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on the economy.
- Delayed payments in respect of agri-environment income and potential changes to associated schemes resulting from Britain leaving the European Union.

# Looking ahead

**Putting nature back into recovery to reverse the decline in biodiversity and bioabundance, tackle and adapt to the climate crisis, and reconnect people with nature has never been more important. While we start 2020-21 with much uncertainty, now, more than ever, our work is central to Somerset's future. Our deep knowledge of the county, its habitats and wildlife, makes us well equipped to lead nature's recovery in Somerset so its towns and countryside are rich in wildlife and nature is part of all our lives.**

Coronavirus means we are continuing to review our plans and budgets as further government announcements are made. We expect things will be different as we emerge from lockdown and are assessing the longer-term impacts ahead of publishing our new strategy.

We need at least 30% of Somerset's land and sea to be healthy ecosystems where natural processes are functioning well by 2030, such as through natural flood management and carbon storage. Abundant and diverse wildlife will require a co-ordinated, evidence-based approach, working with the Local Nature and Enterprise Partnerships, landowners and farmers. Our nature reserves are core habitats in the wider Nature Recovery Network and from our reserves many species are able to spread out into the wider landscape if managed for nature. In 2020-21, we will be extending the resilience of Westhay's wetlands thanks to over 1,100 supporters' generosity.

We will expand our work and support for communities, providing resources, training and connecting people together enabling them to take action to deliver nature's recovery. We will support and develop, and help others to develop, projects that result in nature-based solutions.

In 2020-21 we are currently forecasting a loss of income in the region of £500k, compared to the budget for the year, with very limited face to face member recruitment and grant funded project activity, events cancelled and business development opportunities for First Ecology potentially reduced due to economic recession. Leaving the EU will also impact the economy and it is unclear how transition to the new Environmental Land Management Scheme will impact the management of our nature reserves. Many grant funders have changed their priorities and some applications have been unsuccessful, directly as a result of the pandemic.

This forecast loss of income has been partly mitigated through short-term cost savings and funding from the government's Job Retention Scheme but the future remains unclear. Our financial reserves are reduced due to a £600k provision for initial urgent Ash Dieback-related work. Given the many financial uncertainties, including future fundraising income, we believe it is important to strive to have a minimum of four months planned expenditure as free reserves.

Regular forecasts are being prepared as this unprecedented situation evolves and government guidance is updated. Emerging sources of funding are being explored. The full impact of coronavirus will only be known in future financial years. Fundraising will continue to be critical and we will need to be nimble and focussed, and to grow our supporter base. We will continue to innovate digitally to support new ways of working, deeper engagement and income generation.

Once current restrictions allow, we look forward to resuming volunteer work parties, projects that have been paused and other aspects of our work. This includes a new and very timely countywide project, working with three of Somerset's AONBs, to support people's health and wellbeing, building on our work to date in Taunton.

Working nationally with The Wildlife Trusts and its new Chief Executive, Craig Bennett, we will continue to stand up for strong national policies and laws, and funding to support nature's recovery, and within Somerset to influence local policy and planning decisions.

Our new strategy will reflect any legacy from coronavirus and how we believe we can best act to support nature's recovery in Somerset, so it remains one of the most habitat-diverse and wildlife-rich counties in Britain, where nature and people thrive.

# Objectives and activities

## Charitable purpose

Somerset Wildlife Trust is set up to achieve three charitable objects:

1. For the benefit of the public, to advance, promote and further the conservation, maintenance, protection and enjoyment of wildlife and its habitats, including places of botanical, geographical, zoological, archaeological or scientific interest and places of natural beauty;
2. To advance the education of the public in the principles of biodiversity conservation and of sustainable development;
3. To promote research in all branches of ecology and geology.

The Trust delivers its charitable purposes through its strategic objectives as described in this report.

The Trust measures its success by:

- The Senior Leadership Team and Trust Council monitoring progress towards charitable goals and their achievement through quarterly reviews of the implementation of the annual business plan

- Monitoring agreed Key Performance Indicators for key work areas, including membership, fundraising and wider income generation
- Setting objectives for all staff which link to the annual business plan and reviewing progress regularly at one to one and annual review meetings
- Qualitative feedback from Trustees, members, supporters, volunteers and partners
- Continuing to develop successful relationships with partner organisations and funders
- Hosting Somerset Environmental Records Centre, which collects and provides data on species and habitats across Somerset, including on Trust nature reserves, to external parties, the public and specialist groups
- Annual endorsement of the report and accounts and future plans at the Annual General Meeting of members
- Monitoring and reporting on complaints received

## Public benefit

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission. The Trust's public benefit is enshrined in its charitable objectives and activities – providing multiple benefits for the public which are wide-ranging and long-lasting.

### Nature reserves

The Trust's nature reserves, located throughout Somerset are used extensively by the public for quiet recreation; many have access on clearly marked paths along with information and interpretation for visitors.

### Restoring nature at landscape-scale

The Trust's habitat management and restoration work help to create biodiverse habitats which provide essential ecosystem services for the public, such as flood risk management, carbon storage, pollination, pollution control, improved health and wellbeing, and aesthetic beauty. Government and businesses are now recognising the essential role that nature plays in supporting

the economy, not least through the provision of these public goods and services.

### Education and engagement

The Trust delivers a broad education and engagement programme, inspiring people of all ages every year – from schools, adult groups and the wider public – to enjoy and benefit from contact with the natural world, enhancing their health and wellbeing.

### Land management advice for nature

Through providing advice and assistance to farmers and landowners to manage their land for the benefit of wildlife the Trust helps to support the rural economy, the countryside and landscapes that are enjoyed and valued by the wider public.

### Research

Evidence and advice provided by the Trust to local authorities, landowners and communities helps to ensure that decisions on policies such as land management, development, health and wellbeing take full account of the public benefit of wildlife and a healthy environment.

# Structure, governance and management

## Structure

**Somerset Wildlife Trust** is a company limited by guarantee and a registered charity governed by its articles of association.

Somerset Wildlife Trust is a member of the Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts (registered charity number 207238) along with 46 other local Wildlife Trust members throughout the UK which are collectively known as The Wildlife Trusts.

Somerset Wildlife Trust is also a partner in the South West Wildlife Trusts, an independent charity formed by seven of the eight Wildlife Trusts located in the South West of England and the Isles of Scilly to increase the effectiveness of the Wildlife Trusts in the South West.

Somerset Wildlife Trust has one wholly owned subsidiary, **SWT (Sales) Limited**. The charity owns 100% of the company's ordinary share capital. The principal activities of SWT (Sales) Limited are that of overseeing the environmental consultancy, First Ecology.

**First Ecology** is the Trust's consultancy. It provides ecological consultancy, protected species services, planning support and arboricultural services to a wide range of clients. It is based at the Trust's Callow Rock

Offices. First Ecology trades under SWT (Sales) Ltd and is a company limited by shares and registered in England No. 1317396.

**Somerset Environmental Records Centre (SERC)** was established in 1986 and is hosted by the Somerset Wildlife Trust at the Trust's office in Taunton. The core work of SERC is to gather, manage and supply biological and geological data and hold the county list of sites recognised for their natural value. Data gathered by SERC is used to build up a comprehensive picture of the biodiversity and geodiversity of Somerset, and help to monitor the state of the natural environment. SERC is a member of the Association of Local Environmental Records Centres and has close links to the National Biodiversity Network, and the National Federation of Biological Recorders.

**South West Wildlife Fundraising Limited (SWWFL)** is an Associate trading subsidiary (set up for mutual trading) and jointly owned by eight Wildlife Trusts, including Somerset Wildlife Trust, to help secure regular financial support through memberships recruited face to face. SWWFL provides membership recruitment services for Somerset, Avon, Devon, Dorset, Hampshire & Isle of Wight, Gloucestershire, Wiltshire and Worcestershire Wildlife Trusts.

## Governance

### Council

Members elected to serve on Council have a dual role as a Trustee of the Charity and a Director of the company. There can be no fewer than 10 and no more than 15 Trustees. All members of Council are volunteers, give freely of their time and have no beneficial interest in the group or charity. Trustees are elected by the members at the Annual General Meeting and serve for a term of five years. Each Trustee can serve for two consecutive terms of office and then must stand down for a year until they become eligible to stand again.

The Chair, Vice-Chair and Treasurer are elected by Council following the AGM and serve one-year terms. No Trustee can hold the position of Chair, Vice-Chair or Treasurer for more than five consecutive years.

To ensure that Council is equipped to carry out its responsibilities it carries out skills analysis

of existing members before new ones are appointed. In addition, each new Council member receives a full induction into the work and administration of the charity. Council members receive regular updates on the work of the Trust and any training deemed necessary to enable members to carry out their responsibilities.

At the Trust AGM in November 2019, one new Trustee was elected and one re-elected.

At the time of writing this report, as part of ongoing good governance, a review of the Trust's Articles of Association is being undertaken to bring them up to date and to incorporate new guidelines from the Charity Commission.

Council is assisted by four Committees: **Finance and Resources Committee:** scrutiny of accounts, oversight of investments and financial controls, policy development, advice

on business risk, resource management and income generation;

**Health and Safety Committee:** oversight on all health and safety matters in the Trust.

**Risk Management Committee:** advising on the Trust's risk appetite and risk tolerance, reviewing and monitoring current and potential business risks; and

**Conservation Committee:** advice on conservation policy, research and monitoring, land acquisitions and disposals. At the March 2020 Council meeting it was agreed to disband the Conservation Committee to ensure that all Trustees are fully briefed and able to participate in discussions on conservation matters, as conservation is the charity's charitable purpose.

In addition, the chairs of all committees meet with the Chair of Council and the Chief Executive twice a year to review governance performance.

#### **Transactions involving Council members and related parties**

During 2019-20 a total of £675 (2019: £1,662) was received from Trustees in respect of donations and membership subscriptions.

#### **Strategy and policy setting**

Council is responsible for furthering the objectives of the Trust as set out in the Articles of Association. The focus of Council's work is on setting and reviewing the strategic direction for the Trust, on monitoring its delivery of agreed targets and to ensure that the income and expenditure of the Trust and its property and assets are managed appropriately. Council determines the strategy of the Trust and following the appointment of Georgia Stokes as the Trust's new Chief Executive Officer in April 2019, began in autumn 2019 to consult with members, the public and all key stakeholders on the Trust's future strategy. As a result of the coronavirus pandemic and need to consider its longer-term impact on the Trust and its resources, the Trust's future strategy is still under consideration and will be announced later in 2020-21.

#### **Staffing**

Council appoints the Chief Executive Officer and supports the appointment process for

members of the Senior Leadership Team. In practice, this translates into giving the Chief Executive Officer and Senior Leadership Team clear strategic objectives for the Trust which have demonstrable outcomes for wildlife in the county, and ensuring that the Trust's financial affairs are managed appropriately.

The Chief Executive Officer reports to the Chair of Trustees. The Chief Executive Officer is responsible for the day to day running of the Trust and has delegated powers of authority approved by the Council. The Chief Executive Officer delegates decision making powers through the Senior Leadership Team into the organisation. During 2019-20 the Senior Leadership Team was re-structured and expanded to improve decision-making, establish a flatter hierarchy with each part of the Trust represented at this senior level, and ensure delivery of the Trust's charitable objectives.

During the year the Trust employed 49 full-time equivalent staff (2019: 43), three of which worked for SERC and nine for First Ecology. The majority of the Trust's staff are based at its headquarters in Taunton with others based at Ford Farm, the Avalon Marshes Centre and Callow Rock. The staff are organised into functional teams, such as reserves, and also work in cross-functional teams, such as for delivering major projects. As a result of coronavirus and social distancing measures introduced in March, all Trust offices were temporarily closed and staff worked remotely from home. Additionally 23 staff (37%) were put on the government Job Retention Scheme. The decision to place staff on this scheme was taken based on whether they were able to continue delivering their role in lockdown conditions and/or as a direct result of loss of income resulting from the coronavirus pandemic.

#### **Complaints**

The Trust treats all complaints seriously. In the year 2019-20 the Trust received a total of 4 complaints (2019: 6). All of the complaints were responded to within 7 days. Complaints are individually reviewed by the Chief Executive Officer and relevant senior staff and monitored by Trustees as part of a system for continuous improvement.





# Statement of Trustees' responsibilities

The Trustees (who are also directors of Somerset Wildlife Trust for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Strategic Report, Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards including Financial Reporting Standard 102; the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

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 the group and of the income and expenditure of the charitable group for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- 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 adequate accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and 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 the group 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.

The Trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

The Trustees' Report, including the Strategic Report, was approved by the Trustees on 21 July 2020 and signed on their behalf by:



**Graeme Mitchell**

Chair

# Independent Auditor's Report to the members of Somerset Wildlife Trust

## Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Somerset Wildlife Trust (the "parent charitable company") and its subsidiary (the 'group') for the year ended 31 March 2020 which comprise the consolidated Statement of Financial Activities, the consolidated and parent company Balance Sheets, Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows 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, including Financial Reporting Standard 102: The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

This report is made solely to the charity's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the group's and the parent charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2020 and of the group's 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 Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the 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

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the ISAs (UK) require us to report to you where:

- the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the trustees have not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the group's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

## Other information

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

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 there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. 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.

## Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the trustees' report (incorporating the strategic report and the directors' report) for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the trustees' report (incorporating the strategic report and the directors' report) have been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

## Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the group and the parent charitable company and their environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the trustees' report (incorporating the strategic report and the directors' report).

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept by the parent charitable company or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us;
- the parent charitable company financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns;
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not obtained all the information and explanations necessary for the purposes of our audit.

## Responsibilities of the trustees

As explained more fully in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities, the trustees (who are also the directors of the 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 they 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's and the 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 group or the parent charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

## Our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

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](http://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities)]. This description forms part of our auditor's report.



### Alexandra Shore FCA CTA

Senior Statutory Auditor

For and on behalf of A C Mole & Sons

Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditor

Stafford House

Blackbrook Park Avenue

Taunton

Somerset TA1 2PX

21 July 2020

# Financial statements



# Consolidated statement of financial activities

(Including consolidated income and expenditure account)

For the year ended 31 March 2020

	Notes	Unrestricted funds General £	Designated £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	Total funds 2020 £	Total funds 2019 £
<b>Income from:</b>							
Donations and legacies	2	829,473	214,259	168,911	-	1,212,643	1,569,567
Charitable activities:							
Inspiring people and communities	3	180	-	58,072	-	58,252	69,629
Rebuilding ecological networks	3	139,729	-	124,451	-	264,180	287,429
Standing up for nature	3	-	-	57,436	-	57,436	27,626
Nature reserves	3	542,012	-	16,857	-	558,869	596,267
Other trading activities	4	578,282	-	-	-	578,282	396,230
Investments	5	21,820	-	-	-	21,820	21,458
<b>Total</b>		<b>2,111,496</b>	<b>214,259</b>	<b>425,727</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,751,482</b>	<b>2,968,206</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>							
Raising funds	6	1,100,928	5,315	-	-	1,106,243	847,720
Charitable activities:							
Inspiring people and communities	6	189,533	8,135	57,165	-	254,833	217,830
Rebuilding ecological networks	6	347,739	-	118,061	-	465,800	472,644
Standing up for nature	6	59,431	-	58,858	-	118,289	85,509
Nature reserves	6	607,044	1,925	81,532	-	690,501	717,752
Current service pension cost/(credit)	7	(189,824)	-	-	-	(189,824)	-
Provision for Ash Dieback liability	17	-	600,000	-	-	600,000	-
<b>Total</b>		<b>2,114,851</b>	<b>615,375</b>	<b>315,616</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3,045,842</b>	<b>2,341,455</b>
Net (losses)/gains on investments		(41,948)	-	-	-	(41,948)	33,987
<b>Net income/(expenditure)</b>		<b>(45,303)</b>	<b>(401,116)</b>	<b>110,111</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(336,308)</b>	<b>660,738</b>
Transfers between funds	19	284,279	(284,279)	-	-	-	-
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<b>238,976</b>	<b>(685,395)</b>	<b>110,111</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(336,308)</b>	<b>660,738</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>							
Fund balances brought forward at 1 April 2019		453,239	3,518,723	296,984	1,633,849	5,902,795	5,242,057
<b>Fund balances carried forward at 31 March 2020</b>		<b>692,215</b>	<b>2,833,328</b>	<b>407,095</b>	<b>1,633,849</b>	<b>5,566,487</b>	<b>5,902,795</b>

All of the above results are derived from continuing activities. All gains and losses recognised in the year are included above.

The notes on pages 33 to 49 form part of these financial statements.

# Consolidated and Trust balance sheets

## As at 31 March 2020

	Notes	Group		Trust	
		2020 £	2019 £	2020 £	2019 £
<b>Fixed assets</b>					
Tangible assets	12	864,433	850,614	852,910	837,258
Heritage assets	12	3,020,978	3,020,478	3,020,978	3,020,478
Investments	13	732,079	780,107	732,082	780,110
		<b>4,617,490</b>	<b>4,651,199</b>	<b>4,605,970</b>	<b>4,637,846</b>
<b>Current assets</b>					
Stock	14	1,659	2,013	1,659	2,013
Debtors	15	760,921	842,927	762,576	1,008,522
Deposit accounts		596,951	522,843	596,951	522,843
Cash at bank and in hand		586,805	485,216	581,801	325,026
		<b>1,946,336</b>	<b>1,852,999</b>	<b>1,942,987</b>	<b>1,858,404</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	16	176,472	140,703	161,758	132,910
<b>Net current assets</b>		<b>1,769,864</b>	<b>1,712,296</b>	<b>1,781,229</b>	<b>1,725,494</b>
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>		<b>6,387,354</b>	<b>6,363,495</b>	<b>6,387,199</b>	<b>6,363,340</b>
Provisions for liabilities	17	600,000	-	600,000	-
<b>Total assets excluding pension liability</b>		<b>5,787,354</b>	<b>5,797,284</b>	<b>5,787,199</b>	<b>5,708,978</b>
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	11	220,867	460,700	220,867	460,700
<b>Total net assets</b>		<b>5,566,487</b>	<b>5,902,795</b>	<b>5,566,332</b>	<b>5,902,640</b>
<b>The funds of the charity</b>					
Endowment funds		1,633,849	1,633,849	1,633,849	1,633,849
Restricted funds		407,095	296,984	407,095	296,984
Designated funds		2,833,328	3,518,723	2,833,328	3,518,723
Unrestricted funds		692,215	453,239	692,060	453,084
<b>Total charity funds</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>5,566,487</b>	<b>5,902,795</b>	<b>5,566,332</b>	<b>5,902,640</b>

The notes on pages 33 to 49 form part of these financial statements.

The financial statements on pages 29 to 49 were approved by the Trustees on 21 July 2020 and signed on their behalf by:



**Graeme Mitchell**  
Chair



**Richard Atkin**  
Treasurer

Somerset Wildlife Trust  
Registered company number 818162

# Consolidated statement of cash flows

## For the year ended 31 March 2020

		2020	2019
	Note	£	£
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>			
Net cash provided by operating activities	23	225,234	319,270
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>			
Dividends, interest and rental income		21,820	21,458
Proceeds from the sale of property, plant and equipment		6,322	125
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		(83,759)	(61,639)
Proceeds from sale of investments		113,403	75,161
Purchase of investments		(79,563)	(72,247)
<b>Net cash used in investing activities</b>		<b>(21,777)</b>	<b>(37,142)</b>
<b>Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period</b>		<b>203,457</b>	<b>282,128</b>
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		1,022,052	739,924
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>1,225,509</b>	<b>1,022,052</b>

The notes on pages 33 to 49 form part of these financial statements.





# Notes forming part of the financial statements

## For the year ended 31 March 2020

### 1. Accounting policies

#### (a) Charitable company status

The charity is a company limited by guarantee and does not have any share capital. The liability of the guarantors, who are the members, is limited to £1 per guarantor. At 31 March 2020 the charity had 20,333 members. The company is registered in England & Wales. The registered office address is 34 Wellington Road, Taunton, Somerset, TA1 5AW. On behalf of the members, the Council controls the company.

#### (b) Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015) – Charities SORP (FRS 102) 2019 the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historic cost convention with the exception of listed investments which are included at their fair value.

The Trust meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

#### (c) Preparation of the accounts on a going concern basis

The Trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the Trust's ability to continue as a going concern.

#### (d) Group financial statements

The financial statements consolidate the results of the charity and its wholly owned subsidiary SWT (Sales) Limited on a line-by-line basis. A separate Statement of Financial Activities and Income and Expenditure Account for the charity has not been presented because the Trust has taken advantage of the exemption afforded by section 408 of the Companies Act 2006. The deficit in the year for the charity was £336,308 (2019: £660,738 surplus). Note 22 gives full details of the results of the subsidiary undertaking for the year to 31 March 2020.

#### (e) Fund accounting

##### Unrestricted funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity. Certain unrestricted funds have been designated by the Trustees for specific purposes.

##### Designated funds

Designated funds are unrestricted funds that have been set aside by Council for a future purpose.

##### Restricted funds

Restricted funds are funds that are used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes.

##### Endowment funds

The nature reserves endowment fund represents amounts received specifically for, and expended on, the purchase of nature reserves.

#### (f) Income

All income is included in the SOFA when the charity is entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy.

Income for works that has been completed but has not yet been received is included as accrued income.

For legacies, entitlement is taken as the earlier of the date on which either: the charity is aware that probate has been granted and notification has been made by the executor(s) to the Trust that a distribution will be made, or when a distribution is received from the estate. Unless restricted, legacies are credited to the designated development reserve on receipt.

Grants are included in the SOFA in the year they are receivable and when any performance conditions attached to the grant have been met. Grants received in respect of the purchase of specific nature reserves are credited to the nature reserves endowment fund.

Income from investments and from rental income is included in the SOFA in the year it is receivable.

The total income receivable in respect of membership subscriptions is included as income from subscriptions within note 2. Income from life membership is included in the SOFA in the year in which it is receivable.

Gifts in kind are included in the SOFA at their estimated current value in the year in which they are receivable.

Trading income is included in the SOFA in the year in which it is receivable.

#### (g) Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis. All expenses including support costs and governance costs are allocated or apportioned to the applicable expenditure headings. Where an employee works in more than one department, their costs are allocated on the basis of time worked in each department. Certain overhead costs, such as relevant insurance premiums, are allocated on the basis of staff numbers, while others are allocated on an actual usage basis.

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

#### (h) Tangible and heritage fixed assets and depreciation

Heritage assets are assets of historical or scientific importance that are held to advance the preservation, conservation and educational objectives of the charity and through public access contribute to the nation's culture and education at either a national or local level. Freehold nature reserves are included in heritage fixed assets at their acquisition costs and they are not revalued or depreciated. The charity aims to preserve and enhance its nature reserves, which are not held for their resale potential. The market value of the reserves is of no practical relevance to the charity's activities. No depreciation is provided because the reserves have an indefinite life.

The costs of leasehold nature reserves are amortised over the period of the lease.

All other tangible fixed assets are held at cost less accumulated depreciation. Depreciation is provided on all other tangible fixed assets as follows:

**Freehold property:** 2% on a straight line basis

**Computers:** on a straight line basis over 3 years

**Plant and equipment:** 15% on written down value

**Motor vehicles:** 25% on written down value

**Office equipment, furniture and fittings:** 15% on written down value

#### **(i) Investments**

Listed Investments are stated at fair value which equates to market value at the balance sheet date. The SOFA includes all net gains and losses arising on revaluations and disposals throughout the year. The investment in the subsidiary is stated at cost.

#### **(j) Stock**

Stock consists of publications for distribution to members and purchased goods for resale. Stock is valued at the lower of cost or net realisable value, after making due allowance for obsolete and slow moving items.

#### **(k) Cash and cash equivalents**

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits and other short-term highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash with insignificant risk of change in value.

#### **(l) Financial instruments**

The Trust 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 listed investments as noted above.

#### **(m) Pension costs**

The Trust participates in the Wildlife Trusts Pension Scheme, a hybrid, multi-employer pension scheme which provides benefits to members on a defined benefit or a defined contribution basis.

Some employees are also members of a stakeholder pension scheme.

#### **Defined contribution scheme**

Pension contributions in relation to defined contribution schemes are recognised as an expense in the statement of financial activities as incurred. The Trust contributes 7% of gross annual salary for participating employees.

#### **Defined benefit scheme**

The scheme is now closed to new members. As set out in note 11, at the year end the Trust has provided for the remaining Section 75 debt advised by the Wildlife Trusts Pension Scheme.

Prior to receiving this notification the Trust was unable to identify its share of the assets and liabilities of the scheme and accordingly accounted for the scheme as a defined contribution scheme, with contributions recognised as an expense when incurred.

#### **(n) Operating leases**

Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to the SOFA as incurred.

#### **(o) Volunteer support**

The Trust receives support from a wide variety of volunteers. It is not practical to place a value on the time volunteered by all these persons, due to the variety of duties performed, the differences in time spent, and the sheer number of volunteers who kindly donated their time.

#### **(p) Critical accounting estimates and judgements**

The preparation of the financial statements requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the application of policies and reported amounts of assets and liabilities, income and expenses. Estimates and judgements are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances. The resulting accounting estimates will, by definition, seldom equal the related actual results.

The Trustees are of the opinion that apart from the pension liability, the Ash Dieback provision and accrued legacy income there are no other estimates or assumptions that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year.

#### **(q) Provisions**

The Trust recognises a provision where it has a liability which is of uncertain timing or amount. Movements in provisions are recognised in the SOFA in the period in which they occur. Provisions are discounted where the time impact of money is material.

## 2. Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2020 £	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2019 £
Membership <sup>1</sup>	733,114	-	733,114	685,051	-	685,051
Donations and appeals	96,359	168,911	265,270	91,854	94,987	186,841
Legacies	214,259	-	214,259	697,675	-	697,675
	<b>1,043,732</b>	<b>168,911</b>	<b>1,212,643</b>	<b>1,474,580</b>	<b>94,987</b>	<b>1,569,567</b>

<sup>1</sup> Membership subscriptions includes corporate membership £21,336 (2019: £11,192).

## 3. Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2020 £	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2019 £
<b>Inspiring people and communities</b>						
Natural England	-	-	-	-	5,011	5,011
Education provision	180	-	180	550	-	550
Other grants	-	58,072	58,072	-	64,068	64,068
	<b>180</b>	<b>58,072</b>	<b>58,252</b>	<b>550</b>	<b>69,079</b>	<b>69,629</b>
<b>Rebuilding ecological networks</b>						
Natural England	-	5,938	5,938	-	16,784	16,784
Statutory body grants	-	52,699	52,699	-	56,991	56,991
Other grants	-	65,814	65,814	-	79,210	79,210
Consultancy fees	25,145	-	25,145	30,517	-	30,517
Service level agreements	76,602	-	76,602	73,883	-	73,883
Data services	37,982	-	37,982	29,744	-	29,744
Sales income	-	-	-	300	-	300
	<b>139,729</b>	<b>124,451</b>	<b>264,180</b>	<b>134,444</b>	<b>152,985</b>	<b>287,429</b>
<b>Standing up for nature</b>						
Statutory body grants	-	14,615	14,615	-	-	-
Other grants	-	42,821	42,821	-	27,626	27,626
	-	<b>57,436</b>	<b>57,436</b>	-	<b>27,626</b>	<b>27,626</b>
<b>Nature reserves</b>						
Landfill tax credit scheme	-	-	-	-	19,630	19,630
Natural England	-	-	-	-	406	406
DEFRA	510,112	2,500	512,612	509,746	2,900	512,646
Statutory body grants	-	7,724	7,724	-	5,200	5,200
Forestry Commission	-	-	-	504	-	504
Other grants	-	6,633	6,633	-	34,089	34,089
Grazing licences and property lettings	20,076	-	20,076	19,856	-	19,856
Wood and firewood sales	11,824	-	11,824	3,936	-	3,936
	<b>542,012</b>	<b>16,857</b>	<b>558,869</b>	<b>534,042</b>	<b>62,225</b>	<b>596,267</b>
	<b>681,921</b>	<b>256,816</b>	<b>938,737</b>	<b>669,036</b>	<b>311,915</b>	<b>980,951</b>

#### 4. Income from other trading activities

	Trust £	SWT (Sales) Ltd (see note 22) £	Total 2020 £	Trust £	SWT (Sales) Ltd (see note 22) £	Total 2019 £
Shop sales	2,905	-	2,905	2,923	-	2,923
Fundraising events	25,234	-	25,234	25,365	-	25,365
Other fundraising activities	35,067	-	35,067	47,803	-	47,803
First Ecology	-	515,076	515,076	-	320,139	320,139
	<b>63,206</b>	<b>515,076</b>	<b>578,282</b>	<b>76,091</b>	<b>320,139</b>	<b>396,230</b>

Fundraising events include £Nil restricted funds (2019: £3,108).

#### 5. Investment income

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2020 £	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2019 £
Dividends receivable from equity shares	16,640	-	16,640	18,644	-	18,644
Interest receivable from investment funds	836	-	836	-	-	-
Interest receivable from loan	-	-	-	385	-	385
Interest receivable from bank and deposit accounts	4,344	-	4,344	2,429	-	2,429
	<b>21,820</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>21,820</b>	<b>21,458</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>21,458</b>

## 6. Breakdown of expenditure

	Activities undertaken directly £	Support costs £	Total 2020 £	Activities undertaken directly £	Support costs £	Total 2019 £
<b>Expenditure on raising funds</b>						
Cost of raising funds	175,456	52,909	228,365	147,153	46,595	193,748
Membership recruitment and retention	332,157	51,530	383,687	286,960	57,500	344,460
Merchandising costs	2,362	-	2,362	-	-	-
Investment management fees	5,236	-	5,236	6,499	-	6,499
First Ecology	388,032	98,561	486,593	223,729	79,284	303,013
	<b>903,243</b>	<b>203,000</b>	<b>1,106,243</b>	<b>664,341</b>	<b>183,379</b>	<b>847,720</b>
<b>Charitable activities</b>						
Inspiring people and communities	166,784	88,049	254,833	135,922	81,908	217,830
Rebuilding ecological networks	354,234	111,566	465,800	350,345	122,299	472,644
Standing up for nature	93,623	24,666	118,289	66,713	18,796	85,509
Nature reserves	584,602	105,899	690,501	600,439	117,313	717,752
	<b>1,199,243</b>	<b>330,180</b>	<b>1,529,423</b>	<b>1,153,419</b>	<b>340,316</b>	<b>1,493,735</b>
	<b>2,102,486</b>	<b>533,180</b>	<b>2,635,666</b>	<b>1,817,760</b>	<b>523,695</b>	<b>2,341,455</b>

### Support cost breakdown by activity

	Costs of raising funds £	Membership recruitment and retention £	First Ecology £	Inspiring people and communities £	Rebuilding ecological networks £	Standing up for nature £	Nature reserves £	Total 2020 £	Total 2019 £
Finance	9,580	7,659	22,844	9,895	26,060	5,716	24,405	106,159	93,953
HR/staff support	3,676	2,939	8,763	3,796	9,996	2,195	9,362	40,727	79,770
Office costs	6,272	5,013	14,957	6,480	17,057	3,742	15,977	69,498	54,921
Property and motor vehicles	4,824	3,857	11,507	4,985	13,127	2,879	12,293	53,472	50,799
Recoverable VAT	(6,908)	-	-	(864)	(864)	-	(8,636)	(17,272)	(27,263)
Marketing	19,012	18,906	1,251	46,761	1,427	313	10,580	98,250	91,468
Information technology	4,939	3,950	11,779	5,102	13,436	2,948	12,583	54,737	57,470
National and regional support	4,777	3,819	11,392	4,935	12,996	2,851	12,170	52,940	52,280
Insurance	311	249	742	321	846	186	792	3,447	3,121
Governance	6,426	5,138	15,326	6,638	17,485	3,836	16,373	71,222	67,176
	<b>52,909</b>	<b>51,530</b>	<b>98,561</b>	<b>88,049</b>	<b>111,566</b>	<b>24,666</b>	<b>105,899</b>	<b>533,180</b>	<b>523,695</b>

### Basis of allocation

Finance	Headcount
HR/staff support	Headcount
Office costs	Headcount
Property and motor vehicles	Headcount
Recoverable VAT	Actual resources expended
Marketing	Actual resources expended
Information technology	Headcount
National and regional support	Headcount
Insurance	Headcount
Governance	Headcount

## 7. Exceptional items

As explained in note 11, the Trust has received confirmation of the liability arising from triggering the Section 75 debt in respect of the defined benefit pension scheme. As a result the pension liability has been over-provided for. To correct the liability a credit of £189,824 has been recognised. The Trustees consider this credit is material by virtue of its nature and amount and it has therefore been disclosed separately on the face of the statement of financial activities.

The Trust has also recognised a £600k provision in respect of Ash Dieback as explained in note 17.

## 8. Other cost disclosures

	Total 2020 £	Total 2019 £
Depreciation	62,164	61,184
Auditors' remuneration		
Audit fees	11,850	11,055
Taxation compliance	2,082	300
Loss on disposal of fixed assets	954	588

## 9. Staff costs

	Total 2020 £	Total 2019 £
Wages and salaries	1,367,654	1,168,035
Social security costs	115,173	97,073
Pension costs	69,211	37,103
	<b>1,552,038</b>	<b>1,302,211</b>

The number of employees whose remuneration exceeded £60,000 was as follows:

	Total 2020	Total 2019
£60,000 – £69,999	1	-
	<b>1</b>	<b>-</b>

Total remuneration of key management personnel in the period was £301,677 (2019: £187,712). The Senior Leadership Team was restructured to a flatter structure allowing for more experience and expertise in the team, with membership expanded from three to eight in the year.

The key management personnel of the group and the parent charity comprise the Trustees, Chief Executive Officer, Director of Fundraising and Marketing/Deputy CEO, Head of Nature Reserves and Land Management, Head of Conservation Policy and Biodiversity, Head of Engagement and Community Programmes, Head of Communications and Corporate Relations, Head of Business Development and Operations, and Head of Finance.

During the year the Trust made settlement payments of £24,485 (2019: £nil).

The average number of employees during the year, analysed by function, was:

	2020 Number	2019 Number
Charitable activities	53	47
Raising funds	8	7
Governance	1	1
	<b>62</b>	<b>55</b>

The average number of full-time equivalent employees during the year totalled 49 (2019: 43).

## 10. Trustee emoluments

	Total 2020 £	Total 2019 £
Reimbursement of Trustees' travel and subsistence costs	326	1,288
Donations received from Trustees	675	1,662

Trustees did not receive any remuneration or benefits in kind during either year.

Two trustees were reimbursed for travel expenses during the year (2019: three).

## 11. Pension costs

The Trust participates in the Wildlife Trusts Pension Scheme, a hybrid, multi-employer pension scheme which provides benefits to members on a defined benefit or a defined contribution basis. The Trust participates in the defined benefit and defined contribution sections.

### Defined benefit scheme

The scheme is closed to new members.

During 2014-15 the Trust received notification that that Section 75 clause in the Wildlife Trusts Pension Scheme had been breached due to there no longer being any active members in the defined contribution section of the scheme. In March 2020 the Trust received formal notification of the value of the Section 75 debt. Accordingly, at the year end, the liability recognised is the value of the Section 75 debt, which is the Trust's only remaining liability under the scheme.

Prior to receiving this notification the Trust was unable to identify its share of the underlying assets and liabilities of the defined benefit section of the scheme. Accordingly, as permitted under FRS 102, the Trust previously accounted for the defined benefit scheme as if it were a defined contribution scheme and recognised a liability for the present value of the contributions payable by the Trust under the agreed Recovery Plan for the scheme.

	Total 2020 £	Total 2019 £
At 1 April 2019	460,700	499,800
Cash contributions in the year	(62,338)	(56,366)
Finance cost:		
Unwinding of interest	13,831	21,636
Movement in discount rate	(1,502)	(4,370)
Section 75 debt adjustment	(189,824)	-
<b>At March 2020</b>	<b>220,867</b>	<b>460,700</b>
Discount rate (IBorxx 15 year Sterling Corporates AA rated bond yield)	2.25%	2.35%

Information regarding the Wildlife Trusts Pension Scheme (as a whole) is disclosed below:

The latest valuation was carried out as at 1 April 2016 on a Statutory Funding Objective Basis. The assumptions that have the most significant effect on the results of the valuation are those relating to the discount rates, the rate of increase in pensions and the life expectancy of pensioners.

	Total 2020	Total 2019
Discount rate pre-retirement	4.45%	4.45%
Discount rate post-retirement	2.2%	2.2%
Price inflation (RPI)	3%	3%
Price inflation (CPI)	2.2%	2.2%

Post retirement mortality assumptions are based on S2PA tables projected by each member's year of birth. As at the valuation date the total value of Scheme's deficit was £5.9m.

### Defined contribution scheme

The Trust contributes 7% of annual salary to employees' current pension schemes, all of which are now defined contribution in nature. The Trust's contribution was increased from 4% to 7% in October 2019. The pension charge for the year in respect of these contributions amounted to £69,487 (2019: £37,103).



## 12. Tangible and heritage fixed assets

### Group

	Nature reserves		Freehold and leasehold property	Plant and equipment	Vehicles	Office equipment	Total
	Freehold	Leasehold					
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Cost</b>							
At 1 April 2019	3,020,478	103,946	739,830	389,417	151,938	149,720	4,555,329
Additions	500	-	-	34,105	39,500	9,654	83,759
Disposals	-	-	-	(31,822)	(27,414)	(2,120)	(61,356)
<b>At 31 March 2020</b>	<b>3,020,978</b>	<b>103,946</b>	<b>739,830</b>	<b>391,700</b>	<b>164,024</b>	<b>157,254</b>	<b>4,577,732</b>
<b>Depreciation</b>							
At 1 April 2019	-	103,756	76,152	273,961	109,550	120,818	684,237
Charge for the year	-	2	14,885	19,841	16,365	11,071	62,164
Disposals	-	-	-	(24,844)	(27,116)	(2,120)	(54,080)
<b>At 31 March 2020</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>103,758</b>	<b>91,037</b>	<b>268,958</b>	<b>98,799</b>	<b>129,769</b>	<b>692,321</b>
<b>Net book value</b>							
<b>At 31 March 2020</b>	<b>3,020,978</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>648,793</b>	<b>122,742</b>	<b>65,225</b>	<b>27,485</b>	<b>3,885,411</b>
<b>At 31 March 2019</b>	<b>3,020,478</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>663,678</b>	<b>115,456</b>	<b>42,388</b>	<b>28,902</b>	<b>3,871,092</b>

### Charity

	Nature reserves		Freehold and leasehold property	Plant and equipment	Vehicles	Office equipment	Total
	Freehold	Leasehold					
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Cost</b>							
At 1 April 2019	3,020,478	103,946	739,830	365,889	151,938	111,124	4,493,205
Additions	500	-	-	33,179	39,500	5,733	78,912
Disposals	-	-	-	(29,582)	(27,414)	(1,620)	(58,616)
<b>At 31 March 2020</b>	<b>3,020,978</b>	<b>103,946</b>	<b>739,830</b>	<b>369,486</b>	<b>164,024</b>	<b>115,237</b>	<b>4,513,501</b>
<b>Depreciation</b>							
At 1 April 2019	-	103,756	76,152	258,516	109,550	87,495	635,469
Charge for the year	-	2	14,885	18,490	16,365	6,870	56,612
Disposals	-	-	-	(23,732)	(27,116)	(1,620)	(52,468)
<b>At 31 March 2020</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>103,758</b>	<b>91,037</b>	<b>253,274</b>	<b>98,799</b>	<b>92,745</b>	<b>639,613</b>
<b>Net book value</b>							
<b>At 31 March 2020</b>	<b>3,020,978</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>648,793</b>	<b>116,212</b>	<b>65,225</b>	<b>22,492</b>	<b>3,873,888</b>
<b>At 31 March 2019</b>	<b>3,020,478</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>663,678</b>	<b>107,373</b>	<b>42,388</b>	<b>23,629</b>	<b>3,857,736</b>

### Heritage fixed assets

Heritage assets are represented as freehold nature reserves above.

A summary of transactions relating to heritage assets over the last five years is as follows:

	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
	£	£	£	£	£
Cost of acquisitions	500	-	-	14,709	63,670
Value of donated assets	-	-	-	-	-
Carrying amount of disposals	-	-	-	54,938	-
Proceeds of disposals	-	-	-	120,709	-
Value of impairment	-	-	-	-	-

## 13. Investments

### Group

	Listed securities £	Cash holdings £	Total 2020 £	Total 2019 £
<b>Cost</b>				
At 1 April 2019	653,470	13,993	667,463	658,569
Additions	79,563	124,408	203,971	162,409
Disposals	(94,640)	(96,648)	(191,288)	(153,515)
<b>At 31 March 2020</b>	<b>638,393</b>	<b>41,753</b>	<b>680,146</b>	<b>667,463</b>
<b>Revaluations</b>				
Unrealised gains at 1 April 2019	112,644	-	112,644	93,341
Net (losses)/gains arising on revaluations in the year	(41,948)	-	(41,948)	33,987
Disposals/reverse revaluations	(18,763)	-	(18,763)	(14,684)
<b>Unrealised gains at 31 March 2020</b>	<b>51,933</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>51,933</b>	<b>112,644</b>
<b>Fair value at 31 March 2020</b>	<b>690,326</b>	<b>41,753</b>	<b>732,079</b>	<b>780,107</b>

### Charity

	Subsidiary company £	Listed securities £	Cash holdings £	Total 2020 £	Total 2019 £
<b>Cost</b>					
At 1 April 2019	3	653,470	13,993	667,466	658,572
Additions	-	79,563	124,408	203,971	162,409
Disposals	-	(94,640)	(96,648)	(191,288)	(153,515)
<b>At 31 March 2020</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>638,393</b>	<b>41,753</b>	<b>680,149</b>	<b>667,466</b>
<b>Revaluations</b>					
Unrealised gains at 1 April 2019	-	112,644	-	112,644	93,341
Net (losses)/gains arising on revaluations in the year	-	(41,948)	-	(41,948)	33,987
Disposals/reverse revaluations	-	(18,763)	-	(18,763)	(14,684)
<b>Unrealised gains at 31 March 2020</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>51,933</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>51,933</b>	<b>112,644</b>
<b>Fair value at 31 March 2020</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>690,326</b>	<b>41,753</b>	<b>732,082</b>	<b>780,110</b>

At 31 March 2020 the charity had one wholly owned subsidiary, SWT (Sales) Limited. The charity owns 100% of the company's ordinary share capital. The principal activity of SWT (Sales) Limited is that of environmental consultancy work (see note 22).

## 14. Stocks

	Group		Trust	
	2020 £	2019 £	2020 £	2019 £
Stocks	1,659	2,013	1,659	2,013
	<b>1,659</b>	<b>2,013</b>	<b>1,659</b>	<b>2,013</b>

## 15. Debtors

	Group		Trust	
	2020 £	2019 £	2020 £	2019 £
Trade debtors	133,178	91,567	27,204	36,611
Other debtors	13,685	16,287	10,969	16,287
Prepayments and accrued income	335,462	479,504	278,350	461,573
Legacies receivable	278,596	255,569	278,596	255,569
Amounts owed by subsidiary company	-	-	167,457	238,482
	<b>760,921</b>	<b>842,927</b>	<b>762,576</b>	<b>1,008,522</b>

Other debtors includes £nil (2019: £nil) due after more than one year.

## 16. Creditors

	Group		Trust	
	2020 £	2019 £	2020 £	2019 £
<b>Amounts falling due within one year</b>				
Trade creditors	86,981	66,981	82,195	62,465
Other creditors and accruals	89,491	73,722	79,563	70,445
	<b>176,472</b>	<b>140,703</b>	<b>161,758</b>	<b>132,910</b>

## 17. Provisions for liabilities

During 2019-20 the progression of Ash Dieback disease on the Trust's nature reserves became apparent. A specialist report was commissioned during the year and, as a result, a provision of £600k has been recognised in the year for the estimated future cost of removing dangerous trees.

The Trustees have estimated the amount of provision required to deal with Ash Dieback costs in future years on a report received from a third party arborist which provides an indicative range of costs to deal with the issue. This range includes a number of assumptions including the rate of progression of the disease and the costs of dealing with it. As a result actual costs could be different from those estimated. In addition, the report focusses on high use and high value areas. Further areas of Trust woodland which require management may be identified in due course.

	Group		Trust	
	2020 £	2019 £	2020 £	2019 £
<b>Provisions</b>				
At 1 April 2019	-	-	-	-
Provisions recognised in the year	600,000	-	600,000	-
Provisions released in the year	-	-	-	-
<b>At 31 March 2020</b>	<b>600,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>600,000</b>	<b>-</b>

## 18. Operating lease commitments

Minimum lease payments on non-cancellable operating leases fall due as follows:

	Group		Trust	
	2020 £	2019 £	2020 £	2019 £
Within one year	18,488	12,246	18,488	12,246
Due one to five years	15,057	18,643	15,057	18,643
	<b>33,545</b>	<b>30,889</b>	<b>33,545</b>	<b>30,889</b>

## 19. Statement of funds

	At 1 April 2019 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Investment (losses) £	At 31 March 2020 £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>						
Income fund	453,239	2,111,496	(2,114,851)	284,279	(41,948)	692,215
<b>Total unrestricted funds</b>	<b>453,239</b>	<b>2,111,496</b>	<b>(2,114,851)</b>	<b>284,279</b>	<b>(41,948)</b>	<b>692,215</b>
<b>Designated funds</b>						
Nature reserves	1,386,819	-	(2)	500	-	1,387,317
Operating freehold	662,713	-	-	(14,725)	-	647,988
Nature reserves development	16,354	-	-	-	-	16,354
Development reserve	1,404,648	214,259	(10,058)	(1,069,782)	-	539,067
Innovation fund	48,189	-	(5,315)	(272)	-	42,602
Ash Dieback fund	-	-	(600,000)	600,000	-	-
Nature reserves fund	-	-	-	200,000	-	200,000
<b>Total designated funds</b>	<b>3,518,723</b>	<b>214,259</b>	<b>(615,375)</b>	<b>(284,279)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,833,328</b>
<b>Restricted funds</b>						
Inspiring people and communities	47,109	61,170	(57,165)	-	-	51,114
Rebuilding ecological networks	66,133	130,460	(118,061)	(7,560)	-	70,972
Standing up for nature	7,064	57,436	(58,858)	-	-	5,642
Nature reserves	176,678	176,661	(81,532)	7,560	-	279,367
<b>Total restricted funds</b>	<b>296,984</b>	<b>425,727</b>	<b>(315,616)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>407,095</b>
<b>Endowment funds</b>						
Nature reserves	1,633,849	-	-	-	-	1,633,849
<b>Total endowment funds</b>	<b>1,633,849</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,633,849</b>
<b>Total funds</b>	<b>5,902,795</b>	<b>2,751,482</b>	<b>(3,045,842)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(41,948)</b>	<b>5,566,487</b>

### Unrestricted funds

The unrestricted funds represent the free funds of the charity, which are not designated for a particular purpose and are maintained in accordance with the policy explained in the Trustees' report.

### Designated funds

The nature reserve fund represents funds other than endowment funds that the Trust has used to purchase nature reserves.

The operating freehold fund represents the value of the Trust's freehold property and main headquarters in Taunton.

The designated nature reserve development fund represents proceeds from the sale of land during 2016-17 which the Trust has set aside specifically for re-investment in nature reserves.

The designated development reserve fund represents funds that the charity has set aside for investment in income generation, capital investment and future projects.

The innovation fund represents funds that have been set aside to support strategically important initiatives that will enhance the delivery of the Trust's programme of work.

The Ash Dieback fund represents funds re-allocated from the designated development reserve for the initial removal of more advanced diseased trees.

The nature reserves fund represents funds re-allocated from the designated development reserve to mitigate the potential loss of agri-environment income.

### Restricted funds

The restricted income funds of the charity include restricted funds comprising the unexpended balances of donations, grants and other

income, which are to be applied for specific purposes within the Trust's objectives:

- Inspiring people and communities – reconnect people with the natural world and promote the benefits it provides.
- Rebuilding ecological networks – create ecological networks that rebuild Somerset's natural environment.
- Standing up for nature – influence planning and policy-making in the county and ensure the needs of wildlife are considered alongside those of the people and the economy.
- Nature reserves – manage our nature reserves for conservation purposes.

## 20. Transfers between funds

	Total 2020 £	Total 2019 £
<b>Designated funds</b>		
Nature reserves	500	-
Operating freehold reserve	(14,725)	(14,725)
Nature reserves development	-	(18,000)
Development reserve	(1,069,782)	(156,688)
Innovation fund	(272)	50,000
Ash Dieback fund	600,000	-
Nature reserves fund	200,000	-
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>	284,279	139,413
	-	-

The designated nature reserves transfer represents legal fees associated with the future land purchase.

The designated operating freehold reserve transfer represents the depreciation charged in the year on the Trust's freehold property and main headquarters in Taunton.

The nature reserves development fund transfer in 2019 represents the purchase of a new vehicle for nature reserves.

The designated development reserve transfer represents designated funds expended during the year to support investment in approved projects agreed by Council.

The designated innovation fund transfer represents funds that have been set aside by the charity to support strategically important initiatives that will enhance the Trust's programme of work.

The designated Ash Dieback fund transfer represents funds re-allocated from the designated development reserve specifically for the removal of dangerous trees as a result of Ash Dieback disease

The designated nature reserves fund transfer represents funds that have been re-allocated from the designated development reserve to mitigate the loss of agri-environment scheme income as existing schemes come to an end.

## 21. Analysis of group net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	Total funds £
Tangible and heritage fixed assets	216,257	2,035,305	-	1,633,849	3,885,411
Investments	732,079	-	-	-	732,079
Current assets	141,218	1,398,023	407,095	-	1,946,336
Current liabilities	(176,472)	-	-	-	(176,472)
Provisions for liabilities	-	(600,000)	-	-	(600,000)
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	(220,867)	-	-	-	(220,867)
	<b>692,215</b>	<b>2,833,328</b>	<b>407,095</b>	<b>1,633,849</b>	<b>5,566,487</b>

## 22. Subsidiary company

### SWT (Sales) Limited income and expenditure statement for the year ended March 2020

	2020 £	2019 £
Turnover	527,825	323,975
Cost of sales	336,783	196,029
<b>Gross profit</b>	<b>191,042</b>	<b>127,946</b>
Administrative expenses	96,188	70,903
Interest payable	1,665	4,830
	<b>93,189</b>	<b>52,213</b>
<b>Net profit</b>	<b>93,189</b>	<b>52,213</b>
Taxation	-	-
<b>Net profit after taxation</b>	<b>93,189</b>	<b>52,213</b>
Paid under gift aid to Trust	93,189	52,213
	-	-
Profit brought forward	152	152
<b>Retained profit carried forward</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>152</b>

Turnover includes a charge of £12,748 (2019: £3,835) for services to the Trust.

The aggregate of the assets, liabilities and funds of SWT (Sales) Limited was:

Assets	182,327	246,430
Liabilities	(182,172)	(246,275)
<b>Funds</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>155</b>

## 23. Reconciliation of net income/(expenditure) to net cash inflow from operating activities

	2020	2019
	£	£
Net income/(expenditure) for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)	(336,308)	660,738
<b>Adjustments for:</b>		
Depreciation charges	62,164	61,184
Losses/(gains) on investments	41,948	(33,987)
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	(21,820)	(21,458)
Loss on disposal of fixed assets	954	588
Increase in provision for liabilities	600,000	-
Decrease in defined benefit pension liability	(239,833)	(39,100)
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	82,006	(316,707)
Decrease in stocks	354	7,013
Increase in creditors	35,769	999
<b>Net cash provided by operating activities</b>	<b>225,234</b>	<b>319,270</b>

## 24. Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	2020	2019
	£	£
Cash at bank and in hand	586,805	485,216
Deposit accounts (less than 3 months)	638,704	536,836
	<b>1,225,509</b>	<b>1,022,052</b>

## 25. Statement of financial activities for the year ended 31 March 2019

	Unrestricted funds		Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds 2019
	General	Designated	funds	funds	2019
	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Income from:</b>					
Donations and legacies	776,905	697,675	94,987	-	1,569,567
Charitable activities:					
Inspiring people and communities	550	-	69,079	-	69,629
Rebuilding ecological networks	134,444	-	152,985	-	287,429
Standing up for nature	-	-	27,626	-	27,626
Nature reserves	534,042	-	62,225	-	596,267
Other trading activities	393,122	-	3,108	-	396,230
Investments	21,458	-	-	-	21,458
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,860,521</b>	<b>697,675</b>	<b>410,010</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,968,206</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>					
Raising funds	847,720	-	-	-	847,720
Charitable activities:					
Inspiring people and communities	124,346	15,338	78,146	-	217,830
Rebuilding ecological networks	304,260	-	168,384	-	472,644
Standing up for nature	49,286	11,187	25,036	-	85,509
Nature reserves	598,387	1,813	117,552	-	717,752
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,923,999</b>	<b>28,338</b>	<b>389,118</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,341,455</b>
Net gains on investments	33,987	-	-	-	33,987
<b>Net income/(expenditure)</b>	<b>(29,491)</b>	<b>669,337</b>	<b>20,892</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>660,738</b>
<b>Transfers between funds</b>					
<b>Net movement in funds</b>	<b>139,413</b>	<b>(139,413)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>					
Fund balances brought forward at 1 April 2018	343,317	2,988,799	276,092	1,633,849	5,242,057
<b>Fund balances carried forward at 31 March 2019</b>	<b>453,239</b>	<b>3,518,723</b>	<b>296,984</b>	<b>1,633,849</b>	<b>5,902,795</b>



## 26. Statement of funds 2019

	At 1 April 2018 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Investment gains £	At 31 March 2019 £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>						
Income fund	343,317	1,860,521	(1,923,999)	139,413	33,987	453,239
<b>Total unrestricted funds</b>	<b>343,317</b>	<b>1,869,521</b>	<b>(1,923,999)</b>	<b>139,413</b>	<b>33,987</b>	<b>453,239</b>
<b>Designated funds</b>						
Nature reserves	1,386,821	-	(2)	-	-	1,386,819
Operating freehold	677,438	-	-	(14,725)	-	662,713
Nature reserves development	34,354	-	-	(18,000)	-	16,354
Development reserve	890,186	697,675	(26,525)	(156,688)	-	1,404,648
Innovation fund	-	-	(1,811)	50,000	-	48,189
<b>Total designated funds</b>	<b>2,988,799</b>	<b>697,675</b>	<b>(28,338)</b>	<b>(139,413)</b>	-	<b>3,518,723</b>
<b>Restricted funds</b>						
Inspiring people and communities	72,437	54,818	(78,146)	(2,000)	-	47,109
Rebuilding ecological networks	17,457	206,730	(168,384)	10,330	-	66,133
Standing up for nature	4,474	27,626	(25,036)	-	-	7,064
Nature reserves	181,724	120,836	(117,552)	(8,330)	-	176,678
<b>Total restricted funds</b>	<b>276,092</b>	<b>410,010</b>	<b>(389,118)</b>	-	-	<b>296,984</b>
<b>Endowment funds</b>						
Nature reserves	1,633,849	-	-	-	-	1,633,849
<b>Total endowment funds</b>	<b>1,633,849</b>	-	-	-	-	<b>1,633,849</b>
<b>Total funds</b>	<b>5,242,057</b>	<b>2,968,206</b>	<b>(2,341,455)</b>	-	<b>33,987</b>	<b>5,902,795</b>

## 27. Analysis of group net assets between funds 2019

	Unrestricted funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	Total funds £
Tangible and heritage fixed assets	187,711	2,049,532	-	1,633,849	3,871,092
Investments	715,564	64,543	-	-	780,107
Current assets	151,367	1,404,648	296,984	-	1,852,999
Current liabilities	(140,703)	-	-	-	(140,703)
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	(460,700)	-	-	-	(460,700)
	<b>453,239</b>	<b>3,518,723</b>	<b>276,092</b>	<b>1,633,849</b>	<b>5,902,795</b>

# Gifts and donations

We would like to thank all our members and donors for their generous support which helps us to protect the county's wildlife and wild places, including the nature reserves in our care.

## Legacies

We are grateful for gifts in wills received from the estates of the following individuals.

Roy Denys Brearley  
David William Burgess  
Colin Frances Clements  
Jonathan James Frankpitt  
Elizabeth Jane Herbert

David Richard Hutcherson  
Joseph Hastings Jackson  
Janet Gwynne Maitland  
Marion Matthews  
Stanley Thomas Pickles

Beryl Reynolds  
Norman Unwin  
Anne Cecilia Young

## Patrons

We would like to thank all our patrons including those who wish to remain anonymous for their invaluable support of Somerset Wildlife Trust.

David and Loredana Buchan  
Dudley Cheesman  
Richard Denton-Cox  
Brigadier John Deverell CBE  
Margaret Drabble  
James Hughes-Hallet

Julia Manning  
Jean Mantle  
Rohan and Lily Masson-Taylor  
Caroline Rathbone  
Tim and Dede Sanderson  
Patricia Stainton and Robin Levien

Patrick Thomson  
Robert Unwin  
Neil and Sarah Williams  
Giles Woodward

## Corporate members and partners

We thank the following companies which have supported us as members and partners this year.

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Berry's Coaches  
Branston Ltd  
Brimsmore Gardens (The Gardens Group)  
EDF Energy  
Foresight Funeral Plans

Golledge Electronics Ltd  
Habitat Aid Ltd  
Holiday Inn Express Bridgwater  
John Fowler Holidays  
John Wainwright & Co Ltd  
Meddcare  
Melhuish and Saunders Ltd

Somerset Birdwatching Holidays  
Vine House Farm  
Viridor Waste Management  
Wessex Water  
Wildlife Travel Ltd

## Trusts and grants

We would like to thank all grant-givers that supported our work in 2019-20, including those that wish to remain anonymous.

AJH Ashby Will Trust  
Annett Trust  
Battens Charitable Trust  
Blackdown Hills AONB  
Blair Foundation  
Community Impact Mitigation Fund  
DEFRA  
Fairfield Charitable Trust  
Forestry Commission  
Foxglove Trust  
Hanson Quarry  
Interreg 2 Seas European Development Fund

Mendip Hills AONB  
National Lottery Awards for All  
National Lottery Heritage Fund  
National Trust  
Natural England  
Ninesquare Charitable Trust  
Norman Family Charitable Trust  
People's Postcode Lottery  
Quantock Hills AONB  
Reeve Charitable Trust  
Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts  
St James's Place Charitable Trust  
Somerset Community Foundation

Somerset Rivers Authority  
Southern Co-op  
Sustainable Eel Group  
Tesco Bags of Help  
TJX UK (TK Maxx and Homesense)  
Torr Works Environmental Enhancement Fund  
TWT Aggregate Industries Partnership Fund

# Key people and advisers

## Patron

Simon King OBE

## President

Stephen Moss

## Vice-Presidents

Dudley Cheesman  
Ralph Clark  
Roger Martin  
Chris Sperring MBE

## Directors and Trustees

The directors of the charitable company ("the Trust") are its Trustees for the purpose of charity law. The Trustees on the date of approval of this report, all of whom were members for the whole of the financial year in question unless stated otherwise, were as follows:

### Chair

Graeme Mitchell

### Vice-Chair

Sarah Nason

### Treasurer

Richard Atkin

### Elected Trustees

Richard Atkin  
Matthew Bell  
Professor Valerie Brown  
Simon Hicks  
Philip Holms  
Helen Lawy  
Graeme Mitchell  
Sarah Nason  
Stephen Newman (resigned 9 November 2019)  
Dr Mark Steer (appointed 10 June 2019)  
Melville Trimble

## Senior Leadership Team

Katie Arber, Director of Fundraising and Marketing/Deputy Chief Executive Officer  
Michele Bowe, Director of Conservation Policy and Strategy (to 23 July 2019)  
Jolyon Chesworth, Head of Engagement and Community Programmes (from 1 November 2019)  
Simon Clarke, Head of Conservation Policy and Biodiversity Programmes (from 1 November 2019)  
Kirby Everett, Head of Communications and Corporate Relations (from 1 November 2019)  
Kate Matravers-Cox, Head of Finance (from 1 November 2019)  
Malcolm Ramsay, Head of Business Development and Operations (from 1 November 2019)  
Georgia Stokes, Chief Executive Officer (from 8 April 2019)

## Advisers

### Senior Statutory Auditor

Alexandra Shore FCA CTA, A C Mole & Sons, Stafford House, Blackbrook Park Avenue, Taunton, Somerset TA1 2PX

### Bankers

Lloyds Bank, 31 Fore Street, Taunton, Somerset TA1 1HN

### Solicitors

Clarke Willmott, Blackbrook Gate, Blackbrook Park Avenue, Taunton, Somerset TA1 2PG

### Investment managers

Rathbone Greenbank Investments, 10 Queen Square, Bristol BS1 4NT

### Land agents

Greenslade Taylor Hunt, 1 High Street, Chard, Somerset TA20 1QF

**Somerset Wildlife Trust is a registered charity**  
**Charity number 238372**  
**Company number 818162**

**Registered office**  
**34 Wellington Road, Taunton, Somerset TA1 5AW**



## **Somerset Wildlife Trust**

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Taunton  
Somerset TA1 5AW

01823 652400

[www.somersetwildlife.org](http://www.somersetwildlife.org)

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