

REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: 01650938 (England and Wales)
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 513615

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 MARCH 2019
FOR**

**THE WILDLIFE TRUST FOR BIRMINGHAM
& THE BLACK COUNTRY LTD**

Luckmans Duckett Parker Limited
Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditors
1110 Elliott Court
Herald Avenue
Coventry Business Park
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**THE WILDLIFE TRUST FOR BIRMINGHAM
& THE BLACK COUNTRY LTD**

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for the year ended 31 March 2019**

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**THE WILDLIFE TRUST FOR BIRMINGHAM
& THE BLACK COUNTRY LTD**

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT
for the year ended 31 March 2019**

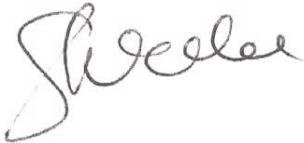
The last year has seen a change for the Trust, some of you will be aware that our CEO - Georgia Stokes left us for pastures new - although staying with the wider Wildlife Trust movement - to take up post as CEO of The Somerset Wildlife Trust, we all wish her the very best in her new role. In the mean time I and my fellow trustees have been busy with the recruitment process, we have appointed a new CEO who should be in post early November.

Over the last year the Trust has continued to foster partnerships with other environmental groups, aligning our messages and speaking with a single voice for nature to cut across competing political agendas. Our work on this is recognised and raises the profile of the environment and the Trust with key decision-makers.

Our team has continued to strengthen our relationship with you, our members, who are more committed than ever to protecting local wildlife. We have loved hearing your stories, seeing your photos and meeting you at events, please keep sharing experiences and pictures of your explorations of the natural green space around our area.

We have sustained the strong relationships with our key funders, the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, Heritage Lottery Fund, People's Postcode Lottery and charitable trusts such as Saintbury, Roughley and Martann. These funders not only support our work by recognising the importance of urban nature conservation in helping reverse the decline in biodiversity; but also understand the vital role access to quality natural spaces plays in the health and happiness of the population.

We are delighted to present to you our Annual Report for the financial year 2018 to 2019. We hope you enjoy reading about the highlights and look forward to working with you as we continue to stand up for our local wildlife together.



Simon Needle
Chair of Trustees

**THE WILDLIFE TRUST FOR BIRMINGHAM
& THE BLACK COUNTRY LTD**

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
for the year ended 31 March 2019**

The Board have pleasure in presenting their report together with the audited accounts for the year ended 31st March 2019. The Board have adopted the provisions of the Charities SORP (FRS102) - 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 (effective 1 January 2015) in preparing the annual report and financial statements of the charity. The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 2006.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and aims

The Wildlife Trust for Birmingham and the Black Country Limited is required by charity and company law to act within the objects of its Memorandum of Association, which are as follows:

2.1 Objectives

The Wildlife Trust for Birmingham and the Black Country's objectives are:

1. For the benefit of the public, to advance, promote and further the conservation maintenance study and protection of: (Strategic Goal 1: Space for nature is protected, restored, created and valued.)

- i. wildlife and its habitats;
- ii. places of natural beauty;
- iii. places of zoological, botanical, geographical, archaeological or scientific interest;
- iv. features of landscape with geological, physiographical, or amenity value; in particular, but not exclusively, in ways that further biodiversity.

2. To advance the education of the public in: (Strategic Goal 2: Everyone is connected to nature):

- v. the principles and practice of sustainable development;
- vi. the principles and practice of biodiversity conservation; in particular, but not exclusively, in urban areas.

We launched our five year strategy for 2017 - 2022, A Greener Future, in November 2016.

Our Vision is for Birmingham and the Black Country to have more wildlife, more wild places and more people with a strong connection to the natural world every year.

Our Strategic Goals are:

1. Space for nature is protected, restored, created and valued.
2. Everyone is connected to nature.
3. The natural environment is at the heart of planning, policy and decision-making.
4. We are an effective organisation.

**THE WILDLIFE TRUST FOR BIRMINGHAM
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**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
for the year ended 31 March 2019**

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Significant activities

The Wildlife Trust for Birmingham and the Black Country's activities, to meet these objectives are:

Conservation Activities:

1. To manage our portfolio of land holdings for the benefit of wildlife (Goal 1)

The Trust manages 7 nature reserves for the benefit of people and wildlife:

1. Moseley Bog and Joy's Wood, long-term lease with Birmingham City Council
2. Turner's Wood, owned by the Trust
3. Deer's Leap Wood, owned by the Trust
4. Park Hall, long-term lease with the Environment Agency, currently in possession of HS2 Ltd.
5. EcoPark, long-term lease with Birmingham City Council
6. Centre of the Earth, land on long-term lease with Birmingham City Council, building owned by the Trust
7. Portway Hill (part of the Rowley Hills), owned by the Trust.

We run regular volunteer days at each of these sites connecting people to their local environment, managing and improving the habitat for wildlife and identifying ways to improve the biodiversity of these sites.

The Trust has a management agreement with Wolverhampton Council to work with the local community to manage this site for nature. The Trust also works with the Friends of Hill Hook to manage their site to improve biodiversity.

2. To deliver a Living Landscape that is connected and resilient where nature thrives (Goal 1)

The Trust is the lead partner of the Birmingham and Black Country Nature Improvement Area, and for the past seven years has lead development of the ecological strategy and delivery of nature improvement works across the area to achieve the strategy. Since 2012 we have improved and enhanced over 250 sites for wildlife.

The Trust works with and advises landowners, private and public, to identify changes to management that will improve biodiversity and provide habitat for wildlife that fits into existing management regimes and budgets.

The Ecological Strategy underpins all practical nature conservation work, identifying the sites that contribute most to the ecological network and the actions that will achieve the greatest benefits for biodiversity.

3. To advocate on behalf of the natural environment protecting green and blue spaces and the resilience of the ecological network through planning, policy and across all developments (Goal 3)

Working with and through well-established networks including (but not limited to) the Local Nature Partnership, Nature Improvement Area partnership, Biodiversity and Geodiversity Action Partnerships, Catchment Partnerships and Local Sites Partnership, the Trust works to influence planning and policy to benefit the natural world.

EcoRecord, The Local Ecological Records Centre for Birmingham and the Black Country, collates, analyses and communicates data and information about species and habitats across the Birmingham and Black Country area. EcoRecord provides the scientific evidence behind the ecological strategy and informs how the Trust's resources are used to achieve the greatest impact. EcoRecord has service level agreements with Birmingham City Council, Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council, Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council, Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council, Wolverhampton City Council, HS2 and the Environment Agency, and is supported by a large network of volunteer recording groups and individual recorders.

People & Wildlife Activities

4. To engage with the population of Birmingham and the Black Country, enabling them to connect with, value and choose to protect their local natural environment (Goal 2)

**THE WILDLIFE TRUST FOR BIRMINGHAM
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**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
for the year ended 31 March 2019**

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Significant activities

The Trust's education, community events and training programmes connect people to their local wildlife sites, inspire people to take action to protect nature and empower communities with the skills and knowledge to manage space for nature. The Trust believes our well-being depends on nature and that it is important for all of our health and wellbeing to spend regular time in natural spaces.

Our education programme provides an opportunity for pupils of all ages to visit green spaces, learn about wildlife, explore and take risks in a safe environment. Pupils develop skills and knowledge about nature, soft skills such as communication, and team-working, build confidence and self-esteem while getting physical exercise.

Our community events programme provides a range of activities for all ages and abilities including bug hunts, phenology walks, Nature Tots, Wildlife Watch for children, bat walks, Fungi Forays and many more.

Our training programme provides adults with opportunities to develop practical nature conservation and identification skills. We provide volunteering and work experience opportunities, run courses ranging from green wood working to coppicing for individuals and community groups, and have developed an accredited training programme.

Fundraising & Development Activities

5. To achieve greater impacts by increasing our unrestricted income to spend on charitable purposes through membership, legacies and fundraising (Goal 4)

Our members are the life-blood of the Trust. They are the voice for nature in their communities, they are the Trust's volunteers, campaigners and ambassadors. The membership income provides the Trust with vital unrestricted income that enables us to deliver practical work to achieve our strategic goals. Membership fees are used to protect nature through the planning system, to continually manage our sites for the benefit of wildlife, to work with volunteers, to ensure our staff are safe and supported, and to ensure we can work in diverse communities connecting people to their natural environment.

Our corporate, legacies and fundraising programmes are emerging to increase our unrestricted income and achieve greater impacts

Resources Activities

6. To ensure we are financially sustainable, focused and effective, making the best use of all our assets (Goal 4)

We seek value for money in everything we do, and work hard to diversify our income streams to achieve a sustainable financial base for the Trust. We meet our Reserves Policy, set by Trustees, and have a plan for all of our sites to generate income wherever appropriate.

7. To support all our people to achieve great outcomes for wildlife (staff, volunteers, partners, members)

We invest time and resources into our staff, volunteers and the communities we work with to increase their skills, ensure they feel valued, and are able to achieve their full potential to have a positive impact for wildlife.

**THE WILDLIFE TRUST FOR BIRMINGHAM
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**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
for the year ended 31 March 2019**

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Public benefit

The advancement of environmental protection and improvement is recognised as a charitable purpose and is regarded universally as producing a public good. The Wildlife Trust for Birmingham and the Black Country exists to promote the care and protection of the environment and therefore provides a clear public benefit. The Wildlife Trust's philosophy is based on the belief that the natural world deserves conserving for its own sake and, since this is widely perceived to be a worthy aim of public policy, it may fairly be regarded as a benefit to the public at large. However, the public benefits provided by The Wildlife Trust for Birmingham and the Black Country go much further.

Firstly, our nature reserves are used by the public, and many have access on way-marked routes. At most sites information and interpretation is provided to visitors. There are a few cases where there may be a conflict between management requirements and unfettered access, but where this occurs we strive to keep any restrictions to a minimum.

Secondly, our education programmes are aimed at schools, colleges, adult groups and the wider public. Education is also, of course, recognised as a charitable activity in its own right.

Thirdly, our information gathering and provision of expert advice and opinion to local authorities and others helps to ensure that planning decisions are made on a rational basis taking full account of the public benefit of wildlife.

Fourthly, we can exert influence through our membership at local level, and nationally through our membership of the Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts. It is also our belief that the involvement of many volunteers in our work provides an outlet for altruistic endeavour, which is of special benefit to those involved as well as delivering benefits to the wider public.

Promoting the enjoyment of the natural world is an important part of what we do: contact with the natural world and the appreciation of wildlife and wild places provides great pleasure to many people and contributes towards wellbeing and health. Our nature reserves and activities are available to all and we try to make special provision for the disabled and disadvantaged wherever possible.

In shaping our objectives for the year and planning our activities, the trustees have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit, including the guidance 'public benefit: running a charity (PB2)

Volunteers

To achieve our goals we depend on the hard work and dedication of a large team of volunteers who work with us at our nature reserves, respond to planning applications, attend events, manage our website and so much more. Over the past 12 months the Trust has worked with 1,311 volunteers who between them have contributed an amazing 9,667 hours. We couldn't do our work without these amazing people, thank you.

**THE WILDLIFE TRUST FOR BIRMINGHAM
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**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
for the year ended 31 March 2019**

STRATEGIC REPORT

Achievement and performance

Charitable activities

Goal 1: Space for nature is protected, restored, created and valued.

Landscape-scale nature conservation

The Wildlife Trust works at a landscape-scale to maximise our impact by protecting, improving and creating vibrant, wildlife-rich green spaces throughout the conurbation. We use data to provide us with a strong evidence-base which enables us to target our work so as to maximise our ecological impact and work towards creating a landscape rich in wildlife and wild spaces.

Since 2012, the Birmingham and Black Country Nature Improvement Area has been our main opportunity to connect both wildlife and people to high quality natural areas; providing many benefits and contributing to mitigating the effects of climate change. In 2018, The Wildlife Trusts movement launched proposals for a Nature Recovery Network to put space for nature at the heart of our farming and planning systems, and to bring nature into the places where most people live their daily lives. The Wildlife Trust for Birmingham and the Black Country are building on the success of the Nature Improvement Area and working towards the creation of a local Nature Recovery Map which will enable us and our partners to increase the extent and quality of natural habitats, turning nature's recovery from an aspiration to a reality.

- Esmée Fairbairn Foundation-funded work to deliver new and enhanced wildlife-rich habitats in areas of accessible greenspace

In 2018, we completed the three year Esmée Fairbairn Foundation-funded phase of the Nature Improvement Area. With the Foundation's support we have been able to work with hundreds of volunteers on the enhancement of key wildlife corridors by delivering practical projects focused in areas of public open space. We were delighted that later in 2018, the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation confirmed a further five years of funding which is supporting a wide range of our work including a volunteer coordinator post, our work leading partnerships, communications and increased capacity to respond to planning applications and consultations - as well as even more biodiversity improvement projects.

In 2018-19 we delivered 63 biodiversity improvement projects across Birmingham and the Black Country, with a focus around the seven priority landscape corridors identified in our ecological strategy. Projects included the restoration of a rare fen habitat, the creation of new meadows in Smestow Valley Local Nature Reserve, the removal of a weir in the River Stour which was preventing fish movements, and the enhancement of a number of young woodlands. A total of 431 individual volunteers donated 5,053 hours over 218 workdays to make these projects happen.

- Salmon in the Stour

A key priority for ecological enhancement identified through the Wildlife Trust's ecological network mapping is the catchment of the River Stour. In 2018-19 we continued our Salmon in the Stour project with partners the Environment Agency, Worcestershire Wildlife Trust and Severn Rivers Trust. The project is working to improve the River Stour and its tributaries for wildlife and people by removing barriers to fish, naturalising modified channels, addressing pollution and enhancing bankside habitats. Not only do we want to see salmon breeding in the catchment headwaters again, we want these vital wildlife corridors to be full of wildlife like otters, kingfishers and water voles.

Wildlife Trust Nature Reserves

The Wildlife Trust's own nature reserves continue to be one of the main focuses of our work and allow us not only to create important sites for wildlife and people, but also enable us to demonstrate best practice in urban nature conservation. We manage 7 nature reserves in total, however, in April 2017 our Park Hall site in east Birmingham was taken into the possession of High Speed Two (HS2) Limited under the powers given to it under the HS2 Act 2017. In addition to our nature reserves we also manage the grounds of our Centre of the Earth headquarters and EcoPark education centre to high standards for the benefit of wildlife.

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**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
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STRATEGIC REPORT

Achievement and performance

Charitable activities

We continue to run regular volunteer days at six of our nature reserves (Moseley Bog & Joy's Wood, Peascroft Wood, Hill Hook, Deer's Leap Wood, Portway Hill and Turner's Wood), with our volunteers being crucial to the continued good management of these sites. We also continue to bring new investment into our nature reserves through securing grants for habitat enhancements, access improvements, and the support and training of our volunteers.

- Peascroft Wood

Following on from the completion of the Heritage Lottery Fund project at Peascroft Wood we secured support from the Big Lottery's Awards for All fund to continue our work with the Peascroft Wood volunteers. The project enabled us to continue to run volunteer activity and training days, including practical conservation work such as woodland management and meadow management, habitat surveying and monitoring, organising and leading volunteer groups, health and safety, and first aid. We also worked with the volunteer group to help them develop and support volunteer days themselves, attract new volunteers and promote the reserve to new audiences.

- Portway Hill

Through the support of Tesco Bags of Help we were able to learn more about the wildlife of Portway Hill through undertaking survey events open to the public. These included a bat night, moth surveys and mammal surveys. We continue to manage the area of the hill we own to retain the flower-rich grassland on which so many species of butterfly including marbled white and green-letter hairstreak depend.

- Moseley Bog & Joy's Wood

In 2017-18 Moseley Bog benefited from the restoration of the site's rare fen habitat and we have continued to manage this through the annual cutting of the reeds and managing water levels. The meadows created in previous years through the strewing of seed-rich green hay collected from species-rich ancient meadows continue to improve, with species such as green-winged orchid, common spotted-orchid and yellow-rattle becoming increasingly abundant during the summer of 2018.

- Turner's Wood

In 2018 the outdoor education area in Turner's Wood was completed and the adjoining St. Michaels Primary School now regularly use the reserve to introduce a new generation of children to nature and wild spaces.

- Deer's Leap Wood

The Deer's Leap Wood volunteers have continued to grow in number and our weekly Friday volunteers continue to work with the Friends of Deer's Leap Wood and the Deer's Leap Residents Association. Together they carry out important work such as maintaining paths, weeding the newly planted hedgerows, cutting the meadows and clearing rubbish from the Shireland Brook.

Goal 2: Everyone is connected to nature.

The Trust's education work has continued to grow with several new primary schools visiting our Environmental Education Centres at EcoPark and Centre of the Earth for curriculum linked sessions, Forest School activities and after-school clubs. Our Wild Schools Roadshow was launched successfully taking outdoor learning directly into school playgrounds and our improved website has helped the Trust promote our range of Wild School services. 3 Home School groups have also begun visiting our sites on a monthly basis.

The Centre of the Earth has received significant investment and enhancement over the year due to the relocation to this site of our head office; a programme to similarly improve our facilities at EcoPark rests on the completion of a Community Asset Transfer and fundraising effort to build a new Eco-classroom there.

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**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
for the year ended 31 March 2019**

STRATEGIC REPORT

Achievement and performance

Charitable activities

The Natural Prospects project funded through the Heritage Lottery's Skills for the Future programme saw our first cohort of 6 trainees beginning their placements with the Trust and our partners at Birmingham City Council, Walsall Metropolitan City Council and Wolverhampton City Council. With a new dedicated coordinator in post for 4 years, this project is helping to train the next generation of urban conservationists, increase the diversity of our sector's workforce and enhance the Trust's own capacity to deliver accredited training.

With support from funders including Children in Need, players of People's Postcode Lottery, Tesco Bags of Help and the National Express Foundation, the Trust's community engagement programmes have continued to grow and reach people across the conurbation. These have included family activities based from EcoPark and Centre of the Earth, as well as the delivery of programmes with community partners - including running John Muir Awards for groups of young people and supported volunteering for people with physical disabilities and learning difficulties. The My Wild Future programme for 16-25 year olds also got underway with a range of opportunities for volunteering, training and project co-design.

The Trust has extended the provision of our Nature Tots programmes enabling pre-school age children and their parents to explore the wilder sides of sites including Cannon Hill Park and Woodgate Valley.

The Trust's Health and Well-being programmes have continued to grow with funding secured from Making Connections Walsall to run courses supporting older isolated people including those with dementia from a number of venues across the borough. These courses, based on the 5 Ways to Well-being, help participants to explore and enjoy the wild spaces on their doorstep, enabling them to connect with their natural environment and each other. Evaluated using the Warwick Edinburgh Mental Well-being Scale, these courses help us to build an evidence based to ensure the health impacts of connecting with nature are fully appreciated by policy makers.

Goal 3: The natural environment is at the heart of planning, policy and decision making.

Natural Capital Investment Plan

As Chair of the Natural Capital Roundtable, the Wildlife Trust have been working with our partners on building the case for the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) to produce a Natural Capital Investment Plan. The Natural Capital Investment Plan development proposal seeks to create a tool kit approach to ensure investment across the WMCA has the environment integrated within all decision-making; leading to better housing, better transport, better health and wellbeing, better workforce performance and better quality of life - attracting better investment.

Local Wildlife and Geological Sites

The Wildlife Trust works with local authorities and Government agencies to support the continued protection of Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs) and Sites of Local Importance for Nature Conservation (SLINCs). We are a key member of the Local Sites Partnership and during 2018-19 revised the guidance document for their selection to ensure this was up-to-date and that their designation was defensible. The Trust was commissioned by Dudley, Walsall and Wolverhampton councils to undertake Local Sites ecological surveys and assessments of 31 existing and potential SINCs and SLINCs.

Planning applications

We continue to build our capacity to monitor and comment on planning applications which may impact upon wildlife. In 2018-19 we responded to 85 planning applications, with 13 of these refused or improved for wildlife in line with our advice and comments, meaning that over 70 hectares of land has been protected or enhanced for wildlife.

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**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
for the year ended 31 March 2019**

STRATEGIC REPORT

Achievement and performance

Charitable activities

Ecological Valuation of the Black Country Green Belt

Through the ongoing review of the Black Country Plan the four local authorities have commissioned the Wildlife Trust to undertake an ecological review of the Black Country green belt. The review will assign ecological value to individual land units and identify the component parts of the ecological network through analysis and interpretation of available datasets. The review will aim to better define the ecological network at a higher resolution (building on our Nature Improvement Area ecological network map), provide evidence for land use change at both the site and landscape-scale, inform more effective nature conservation project delivery, and enable direct engagement with planners, developers, businesses and communities.

Leading Partnerships

The Wildlife Trust chairs the HS2 Environmental and Landscape Board, the Birmingham and Black Country Local Nature Partnership, the Birmingham and Black Country Nature Improvement Area and the Natural Capital Roundtable. We are also the sub-host of the Tame, Anker and Mease Catchment Based Approach Partnership, representing Birmingham and the Black Country.

Goal 4: We are an effective organisation

This year has seen the development of our Business Plan setting out how we will achieve our strategic goals. The Business Plan demonstrates the Trust is capable of sustainable growth each year through gradually increasing the services we offer, that support our charitable aims, and generate unrestricted income.

The Trust has now settled well at its new headquarters at the Centre of the Earth site. Previously an environmental education centre that had not been in use for 5 years. The Trust has been able to promote its activities in a better way by having its headquarters on one of its nature sites.

The Trust works tirelessly to keep costs down but to ensure a high quality service on direct project costs and also its running costs where savings are made every year.

Membership

In 2018-2019 there has been an improved membership engagement process and a much easier online membership form to ensure we secure new memberships. Further improvements to enable more new memberships via the website are also planned for 2019-2020 which includes marketing through various platforms.

**THE WILDLIFE TRUST FOR BIRMINGHAM
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**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
for the year ended 31 March 2019**

STRATEGIC REPORT

Financial review

Financial position

Trust income is split between unrestricted and restricted funds. Unrestricted income represents money raised or given to support the Trust's achievement of core charitable aims. Membership, donations, general fundraising and some charitable trust donations were given as unrestricted income.

Restricted income is given for a specific purpose with clear outputs to be achieved. Restricted income for this period includes National Prospects funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund and EcoRecord Service Level Agreements with local authorities. Restricted income is down against 2017/18 financial year due to Esmée Fairbairn Foundation funding for the Nature Improvement Area being treated as Unrestricted Funding. This funding has been secured for another five years.

Total income has increased from £977,720 in 2017/18 to £978,061 in 2018/19. The Trust has invested in membership as an essential income stream that enables us to deliver core charitable aims that are not always possible to fund through restricted income such as our work to protect nature through the planning system.

Membership accounts for 24% of the Trust's income and the Business Plan sets out how this will grow over three years. Unrestricted income (including membership) is 62% of total income. The Trust aims for this to be 70% to represent a sustainable financial position.

**THE WILDLIFE TRUST FOR BIRMINGHAM
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**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
for the year ended 31 March 2019**

STRATEGIC REPORT

Financial review

Principal funding sources

Income comprises of the following :-

Membership, donations, legacies - Contains income from our members, donations given at events and through our presence in the community and legacies (we have had one legacy in 2017/18)

Charitable activities - Projects and services delivered in Birmingham & Black Country in line with the Trusts aims and objectives

Trading & Other income - Includes Royalties received, interest income, hire income and rental income

One of the biggest challenges for the Trust over the next few years will be to diversify our unrestricted income sources to provide resilience to the organisation. The other main focus will be to increase the donations and legacies received by the Trust. Compared to other Wildlife Trusts nationally we achieve similar levels of funding through grants but are not performing as well in encouraging corporate partners and legacy donations. We will learn from our sister Trusts to improve our performance in these areas. We know we need to do more to secure our membership which is explained below.

Expenditure

The Trust's expenditure increased from £796,075 to £878,519 in 2018/19, which can be broken down below.

Every penny we receive is spent on achieving our charitable aims. Overheads include rents for our sites, running our office and insurance to ensure we are a responsible and sustainable organisation

Charitable Activity - This covers our staffing costs and direct project costs to deliver projects and services so as to meet our charitable aims and objectives

Fundraising costs - Fees are paid to Wildlife Fundraising Central (WFC) for the recruitment of new members as part of our Face to Face membership recruitment agreement. WFC are owned by the Wildlife Trusts and work with six Trusts across the UK. WFC receive a commission on the annual membership fee for all new memberships they recruit to the Trust. Other costs include recruitment through the Join Anywhere process via other Wildlife Trusts, online membership recruitment as well as production of membership magazines throughout the year. In 18-19 the Trust recruited a part-time Door to Door membership recruiter to help diversify membership recruitment methods

Overheads - These are the running costs to maintain our sites and head-quarters covering areas such as rent, rates, gas, electric, telephones and insurance.

Pensions: Royal London manage all pension funds on behalf of the staff members. The Trust contributes 7% in addition to staff contributions.

Summary

The Trust's Unrestricted General Reserves stands at £278,256 as at the 31 March 2019. This has provided the Trust several opportunities to develop work which will enhance the activities they currently do.

Trustees have decided to reinvest the following in 2019-2020 financial year:

- Re-invest £10,000 in one of our sites to continue to manage this vital site for people and wildlife
- Re-invest £10,000 in Education & Engagement to build on engaging communities and organisations through activities

**THE WILDLIFE TRUST FOR BIRMINGHAM
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**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
for the year ended 31 March 2019**

STRATEGIC REPORT

Financial review

Reserves policy

Trustees keep the reserves of the Trust under regular review. The Trustees have set a reserves policy to acquire sufficient free reserves equivalent to three month's core operating costs equating to approximately £180,000. Such reserves would be held in case of any sudden decline in income or unexpected cost or risk exposure, and to ensure that the commitments to meet contractual obligations to staff, premises and funding partners can be met.

After designated funds of £159,759 and the revaluation reserve of £59,239, the Trustees have met this aim with current unrestricted reserves standing at £278,256 at 31 March 2019, and instead, manage each element of expenditure on a risk assessment process, not committing to expenditure unless income is assured. The Trustees continue to be mindful of the requirement to operate within tight financial constraints.

Whilst there can be uncertainty in relation to the timing and amount of charitable grants and receipts, the Trustee Directors believe that the Trust's record of obtaining further funding will continue, albeit, with uncertainties as to when cash actually becomes available. The amount of restricted reserves at 31 March 2019 is £165,964.

Principal risks and uncertainties

The Trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the group and charity is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error.

Internal risks are minimised by the implementation of a Risk Register and Risk Management Policy, reviewed annually by Trustees. Procedures are also in place to ensure compliance with health and safety legislation, policies and procedures including frequent audit of health and safety protocol. We take every effort to minimise our environmental impacts and intend to work towards full environmental impact assessments and audits.

External risks are analysed and attempts made to mitigate or plan for them where possible. Currently identified external risks include (in no particular order) the impact of public sector funding cuts, recent negative fundraising media stories, climate change and globalisation, and the increasing pressures and competing demands for land use for housing, transportation and economic regeneration purposes.

The Trustees have examined the principal areas of the charity's operations and considered the major risks which may arise in each of these areas. In the opinion of the trustees the charity has established resources and review systems which under normal conditions, should allow the risks identified by them to be mitigated to an acceptable level in its day to day operations.

Future plans

Future plans are set out in the Trust's strategy for the next four years and the delivery is detailed in the Business Plan.

As per the Trust's business plan there are plans to diversify and grow unrestricted income through services, membership and fundraising initiatives. The Trust also plans to construct a new education centre at EcoPark for which funding has been secured.

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**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
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STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The Wildlife Trust for Birmingham and the Black Country is one of 46 independent charities, which form a national partnership - The Wildlife Trusts through the Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts. Collectively we manage 2,300 nature reserves covering 102,500 hectares of land for wildlife and for people, inspiring 13 million visits to wildlife sites. Together we have 849,584 members. The Trust's family membership is also part of the national environment club, Wildlife Watch, which provides projects for members and affiliated schools, involving them directly with environmental issues.

The Trust is a registered charity (No. 513615) and a company limited by guarantee (No. 1650938).

The Trust was established in 1980 to protect our local natural heritage and encourage people to engage, enjoy and get involved with the natural environment. We are a membership organisation, governed by a Memorandum and Articles of Association.

Work is carried out by a staff team total of 25 individuals (at 31 March 2019) 22.4 full time equivalent posts. During the year the Trust had six trainees funded through Heritage Lottery Fund's Natural Prospects programme who will complete their traineeship in August 2019. The Trust could not achieve the impacts we do without the commitment and hard work of a large number of volunteers.

In the event of the company being wound up members are required to contribute an amount not exceeding 50p.

Recruitment and appointment of new trustees

A Council of voluntary Trustees is responsible for the overall governance of the Trust. The Trust's Council is elected from the membership in accordance with its governing documents at the Annual General Meeting: Trustees are either co-opted during the year or elected at the Annual General Meeting. Co-opted Trustees must stand for election at the Annual General Meeting immediately following their appointment. Council may co-opt additional members from time to time as it sees fit. Trustees are also Directors of the Company limited by guarantee.

Organisational structure

The overall responsibility for the charity lies with the Trustee Directors who have delegated the day to day management of the charity to the Chief Executive. The Trustee Directors meet regularly to agree strategy, review progress, review financial information, and discuss policy issues. To facilitate effective operation, the Chief Executive has delegated authority within terms of reference approved by the Trustees for some operational matters, including finance.

The Wildlife Trust is governed by an elected Council and is therefore directly accountable to the members of the charity. The Memorandum and Articles of Association gives Council the powers to:

- (i) Administer the affairs of the Charity
- (ii) Exercise all the powers of the Charity
- (iii) Determine the policy of the Charity

Council formally delegates certain functions and responsibilities to several committees which deal with specific policy and organisational issues. The day to day management of the Charity's affairs is the responsibility of the Chief Executive who is accountable exclusively to the Council for achieving, via the Business Plan, the Wildlife Trust's aims and for complying with Council policies. A team of professionally trained staff report to the Chief Executive.

**THE WILDLIFE TRUST FOR BIRMINGHAM
& THE BLACK COUNTRY LTD**

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
for the year ended 31 March 2019**

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Induction and training of new trustees

The Trustee is provided with copies of the charity's key documents, including its Memorandum and Articles, Governance Handbook, latest Annual Report and Accounts, minutes of recent Council meetings, policy documents and further information on the role and responsibilities of charity trustees. New Trustees are required to confirm that they have studied these documents and raised any queries or obtained further information which they may need.

Following election or co-option of a Trustee the Chair will introduce a new Trustee at their first meeting of Council. They will also participate in a formal induction process to familiarise them with the extent and nature of the Trust's operations. After election at the Annual General Meeting Trustees serve for a period of 3 years and may be elected for a further period of 3 years.

Developments in Charity Law and Practice are monitored and important developments are brought to the notice of Trustees by the Executive.

The relationship between staff and trustees is crucial to the Trust's continuing success. Trustees bring a range of skills and experience to the responsibilities of the role which requires them to have an understanding of all aspects of the Trust's work. Trustees meet eight times a year where they review strategy and operational performance, set policies and agree budgets.

Key management remuneration

None of the Trustees receive remuneration or benefit for their work with the group and charity. Any connection between Trustees and any company the Trust works with is disclosed to the board. Financial details of which are disclosed in note 3 to the accounts.

Wider network

The Trust is affiliated to The Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts (RSWT), a registered charity that acts as an umbrella group for county wildlife trusts, and provides assistance and co-ordination of activities and campaigning at a UK level.

Related parties

Wildlife Fundraising Central Limited is a company which was set up with 8 Wildlife Trusts. Part of the setting up arrangement a loan of £10,000 was provided to the company (secured by a fixed & floating charge).

The Trust is affiliated to The Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts (RSWT), a registered charity that acts as an umbrella group for county Wildlife trusts and provides assistance and co-ordination of activities and campaigning at a UK Level.

Risk management

The trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the charity is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error.

Internal risks are minimised by the implementation of a Risk Register and Risk Management Policy, reviewed annually by Trustees. Procedures are also in place to ensure compliance with health and safety legislation, policies and procedures including frequent audit of health and safety protocol. We take every effort to minimise our environmental impacts and intend to work towards full environmental impact assessments and audits.

External risks are analysed and attempts made to mitigate or plan for them where possible. Currently identified external risks include (in no particular order) the impact of public sector funding cuts, recent negative fundraising media stories, climate change and globalisation, and the increasing pressures and competing demands for land use for housing, transportation and economic regeneration purposes.

The Trustees have examined the principal areas of the charity's operations and considered the major risks which may arise in each of these areas. In the opinion of the trustees the charity has established resources and review systems which under normal conditions, should allow the risks identified by them to be mitigated to an acceptable level in its day to day operations.

**THE WILDLIFE TRUST FOR BIRMINGHAM
& THE BLACK COUNTRY LTD**

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
for the year ended 31 March 2019**

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Company number
01650938 (England and Wales)

Registered Charity number
513615

Registered office
Centre Of The Earth
42 Norman Street
Winson Green
Birmingham
West Midlands
B18 7EP

Trustees

J Anandou		- resigned 26.6.18
N Crombie	Vice Chair	
Ms M Knight		
S J Needle	Chair	
Dr J Orchard-Webb		- resigned 26.6.18
M C G Smith	Treasurer	
A Taylor		
I C Trueman		
A J Wood		
P W Beardmore		- appointed 1.12.18
Ms A Bright		- appointed 1.12.18
Mrs C M Spencer		- appointed 1.12.18

Company Secretary

Auditors

Luckmans Duckett Parker Limited
Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditors
1110 Elliott Court
Herald Avenue
Coventry Business Park
Coventry
West Midlands
CV5 6UB

BANKERS

Nat West Plc
Chamber of Commerce House
36 Highfield Road, Edgbaston
Birmingham B15 3BJ

Key management personnel

Chief Executive

Georgia Stokes

Simon Atkinson
Gareth Morgan
Emma Thompson
Atul Thaker

AND FINALLY....

**THE WILDLIFE TRUST FOR BIRMINGHAM
& THE BLACK COUNTRY LTD**

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
for the year ended 31 March 2019**

The Wildlife Trust for Birmingham and the Black Country is your organisation. Together we protect and improve local wildlife and natural spaces. The Trust is the natural home for people with a passion for the environment, nature conservation, wild places, Birmingham and the Black Country. Our work is more important than ever as the space for nature decreases with mounting pressures for housing, transportation, food and economic regeneration.

At the Trust we work hard for local wildlife and for local people. We know that the health of our natural environment and our own health, well-being and even prosperity are closely linked. We couldn't do this work without the support and commitment of you, our members or the dedication of our staff and inspirational volunteers.

We would like to thank you all for supporting us during 2018 and 2019 and look forward to working with you in the years to come. We know there are many challenges ahead but also opportunities. Together we can achieve a truly sustainable future for Birmingham and the Black Country where nature flourishes along with people.

Thank you

You are The Wildlife Trust for Birmingham and the Black Country. Our members make everything possible. Thank you for all your support over the past twelve months. We look forward to working with you to ensure that Birmingham and the Black Country is recognised for the quality and quantity of wildlife that can be found here.

In approving the Trustees' Annual Report, we also approve the Strategic Report included therein, in our capacity as company directors.

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES RESPONSIBILITIES

The trustees (who are also the directors of The Wildlife Trust For Birmingham & The Black Country Ltd for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

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

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

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

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website.

STATEMENT AS TO DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION TO AUDITORS

So far as the trustees are aware, there is no relevant information (as defined by Section 418 of the Companies Act 2006) of which the charitable company's auditors are unaware, and each trustee has taken all the steps that they ought to have taken as a trustee in order to make them aware of any audit information and to establish that the charitable company's auditors are aware of that information.

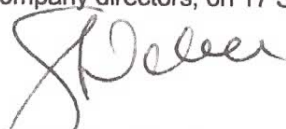
**THE WILDLIFE TRUST FOR BIRMINGHAM
& THE BLACK COUNTRY LTD**

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
for the year ended 31 March 2019**

AUDITORS

The auditors, Luckmans Duckett Parker Limited, will be proposed for re-appointment at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting.

Report of the trustees, incorporating a strategic report, approved by order of the board of trustees, as the company directors, on 17 September 2019 and signed on the board's behalf by:



S.J. Needle - Trustee

**REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS TO THE MEMBERS OF
THE WILDLIFE TRUST FOR BIRMINGHAM
& THE BLACK COUNTRY LTD**

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The Wildlife Trust For Birmingham & The Black Country Ltd (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 March 2019 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow Statement and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2019 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditors responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company 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 charitable company'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 Report of the Independent Auditors thereon.

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

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether 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 Report of the Trustees for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Report of the Trustees has 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 charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Report of the Trustees.

**REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS TO THE MEMBERS OF
THE WILDLIFE TRUST FOR BIRMINGHAM
& THE BLACK COUNTRY LTD**

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

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

- adequate accounting records have not been kept or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the trustees were not entitled to take advantage of the small companies exemption from the requirement to prepare a Strategic Report or in preparing the Report of the Trustees.

Responsibilities of 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 the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

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

Our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

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

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company'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 charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS TO THE MEMBERS OF
THE WILDLIFE TRUST FOR BIRMINGHAM
& THE BLACK COUNTRY LTD



Mark Spafford FCCA ACA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of Luckmans Duckett Parker Limited
Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditors
1110 Elliott Court
Herald Avenue
Coventry Business Park
Coventry
West Midlands
CV5 6UB

19 September 2019

Note:

The maintenance and integrity of the The Wildlife Trust For Birmingham & The Black Country Ltd website is the responsibility of the trustees; the work carried out by the auditors does not involve consideration of these matters and, accordingly, the auditors accept no responsibility for any changes that may have occurred to the financial statements since they were initially presented on the website.

**THE WILDLIFE TRUST FOR BIRMINGHAM
& THE BLACK COUNTRY LTD**

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
(INCORPORATING AN INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)
for the year ended 31 March 2019**

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2019 Total funds £	2018 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Donations and legacies	2	252,640	-	252,640	246,726
Charitable activities	3				
Conservation, Engagement and Influence		342,430	373,951	716,381	713,625
Other income		9,040	-	9,040	17,369
Total		<u>604,110</u>	<u>373,951</u>	<u>978,061</u>	<u>977,720</u>
 EXPENDITURE ON					
Raising funds	4	40,142	-	40,142	53,374
Charitable activities	5				
Conservation, Engagement and Influence		481,258	357,119	838,377	742,701
Total		<u>521,400</u>	<u>357,119</u>	<u>878,519</u>	<u>796,075</u>
NET INCOME		82,710	16,832	99,542	181,645
 RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		414,544	149,132	563,676	382,031
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		<u><u>497,254</u></u>	<u><u>165,964</u></u>	<u><u>663,218</u></u>	<u><u>563,676</u></u>

The notes form part of these financial statements

**THE WILDLIFE TRUST FOR BIRMINGHAM
& THE BLACK COUNTRY LTD**

**BALANCE SHEET
At 31 March 2019**

	Notes	2019 £	2018 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible assets	11	79,547	74,943
Heritage assets	12	79,762	79,762
		<u>159,309</u>	<u>154,705</u>
 CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	13	150,863	146,921
Cash at bank		539,840	481,411
		<u>690,703</u>	<u>628,332</u>
 CREDITORS			
Amounts falling due within one year	14	(178,876)	(187,443)
		<u>511,827</u>	<u>440,889</u>
 NET CURRENT ASSETS			
		<u>671,136</u>	<u>595,594</u>
 TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES			
		<u>671,136</u>	<u>595,594</u>
 CREDITORS			
Amounts falling due after more than one year	15	(7,918)	(31,918)
		<u>663,218</u>	<u>563,676</u>
 NET ASSETS			
		<u>663,218</u>	<u>563,676</u>
 FUNDS	19		
Unrestricted funds		497,254	414,544
Restricted funds		165,964	149,132
		<u>663,218</u>	<u>563,676</u>
 TOTAL FUNDS			
		<u>663,218</u>	<u>563,676</u>

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to charitable small companies.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 17 September 2019 and were signed on its behalf by:



S J Needle -Trustee

**THE WILDLIFE TRUST FOR BIRMINGHAM
& THE BLACK COUNTRY LTD**

**CASH FLOW STATEMENT
for the year ended 31 March 2019**

	Notes	2019 £	2018 £
Cash flows from operating activities:			
Cash generated from operations	1	100,469	227,747
		<u>100,469</u>	<u>227,747</u>
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities		<u>100,469</u>	<u>227,747</u>
Cash flows from investing activities:			
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(18,040)	(56,158)
		<u>(18,040)</u>	<u>(56,158)</u>
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities		<u>(18,040)</u>	<u>(56,158)</u>
Cash flows from financing activities:			
Loan repayments in year		(24,000)	(12,000)
		<u>(24,000)</u>	<u>(12,000)</u>
Net cash provided by (used in) financing activities		<u>(24,000)</u>	<u>(12,000)</u>
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period		58,429	159,589
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		481,411	321,822
		<u>481,411</u>	<u>321,822</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period		<u>539,840</u>	<u>481,411</u>

The notes form part of these financial statements

THE WILDLIFE TRUST FOR BIRMINGHAM
& THE BLACK COUNTRY LTD

NOTES TO THE CASH FLOW STATEMENT
for the year ended 31 March 2019

1. RECONCILIATION OF NET INCOME TO NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

	2019	2018
	£	£
Net income for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)	99,542	181,645
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges	13,436	7,097
Increase in debtors	(3,942)	(30,088)
(Decrease)/increase in creditors	(8,567)	69,093
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	<u>100,469</u>	<u>227,747</u>

**THE WILDLIFE TRUST FOR BIRMINGHAM
& THE BLACK COUNTRY LTD**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the year ended 31 March 2019**

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statements of the charitable company, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

Income

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

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

- Voluntary income includes members subscriptions, donations (including related gift aid tax) legacies and grants of a general nature.
- Income from trading activities includes income earned from fundraising events and trading activities to raise funds for the charity
- Contractual income is recorded when receivable.
- Grants received during the year which relate to the following financial year are carried forward in creditors.

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 a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

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

- Costs of generating funds relate to expenditure incurred in raising voluntary income and fundraising trading costs.
- Charitable activities' expenditure relates to expenditure on meeting the charitable objects. This includes materials and bought in services, staff costs, information systems, communications, rented accommodation and general management directly chargeable to projects, thereby covering both internal costs and external charges for such costs. Such costs incurred internally are apportioned to projects based on direct staffing levels.
- Governance costs are associated with the governance arrangements of the group and relate to the professional costs of running the charity.
- Support costs including staff costs, information systems, communications, office accommodation and general management, are fully apportioned to other cost categories, and are primarily based on direct staffing levels.
- Membership recruitment costs, where an agency charges the trust a fee based on the first years membership income for recruitment of new members, are charged to the accounts over a period of 10 months. Surplus new income is therefore only accounted for after this period has ended and this policy is viewed as being prudent.

**THE WILDLIFE TRUST FOR BIRMINGHAM
& THE BLACK COUNTRY LTD**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - CONTINUED
for the year ended 31 March 2019**

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

Tangible fixed assets

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

Freehold property	- 4% on cost
Fixtures and fittings	- 25% straight line

Expenditure on fixtures, fittings and general office equipment purchased by the charity for projects is currently written off in the year in which the expenditure is incurred, expenditure incurred for administration purposes is capitalised and depreciated as stated above.

Heritage assets

Land, classified as heritage assets, had previously been included in the accounts at cost. The trustees value the assets every 5 years (a change from the previous annual approach) as this provides more relevant information on the activities and assets held by the charity.

Where information on the cost or valuation of heritage assets is not available or the cost of providing such information significantly outweighs any benefit to the users of the accounts then heritage assets are not recognised on the balance sheet.

Acquisitions only arise when donated to the charity or if it is believed that they will further the charity's objectives.

Full details of original cost can be found in note 8 to the accounts.

Taxation

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

The charity is partially exempt. Irrecoverable Vat is allocated to the appropriate cost categories.

Fund accounting

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

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

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the trustees for particular purposes.

The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

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

Hire purchase and leasing commitments

Payments under an arrangement which is in substance of a rental nature (operating leases) are charged in the financial statements as incurred.

Pension costs and other post-retirement benefits

The trust makes payments of employers contributions into independently administered money purchase pension policies for qualifying employees. Pension costs are charged in the financial statements on an accruals basis.

**THE WILDLIFE TRUST FOR BIRMINGHAM
& THE BLACK COUNTRY LTD**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - CONTINUED
for the year ended 31 March 2019**

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

Basic financial instruments

Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

2. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	2019 £	2018 £
Donations	236,878	239,669
Legacies	15,762	7,057
	<u>252,640</u>	<u>246,726</u>

3. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	2019 Conservation, Engagement and Influence £	2018 Total activities £
Conservation & Wildlife	716,381	713,625

4. RAISING FUNDS

Raising donations and legacies

	2019 £	2018 £
Raising voluntary income costs	40,142	53,374

5. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES COSTS

	Direct costs £	Support costs (See note 6) £	Totals £
Conservation, Engagement and Influence	<u>706,134</u>	<u>132,243</u>	<u>838,377</u>

6. SUPPORT COSTS

	Management £	Governance costs £	Totals £
Conservation, Engagement and Influence	<u>122,349</u>	<u>9,894</u>	<u>132,243</u>

**THE WILDLIFE TRUST FOR BIRMINGHAM
& THE BLACK COUNTRY LTD**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - CONTINUED
for the year ended 31 March 2019**

7. NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)

Net income/(expenditure) is stated after charging/(crediting):

	2019	2018
	£	£
Auditing of accounts	5,413	5,000
Depreciation - owned assets	13,436	7,096
Hire of plant and machinery	1,485	6,482
Other operating leases	8,208	14,133
	14,542	32,711

8. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 March 2019 nor for the year ended 31 March 2018.

Trustees' expenses

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 31 March 2019 nor for the year ended 31 March 2018.

9. STAFF COSTS

	2019	2018
	£	£
Wages and salaries	518,601	379,848
Social security costs	32,086	32,749
Other pension costs	38,783	24,345
	589,470	436,942

The average monthly number of employees during the year was as follows:

	2019	2018
Direct charitable work	24	17
Administrative	1	1
	25	18

No employees received emoluments in excess of £60,000.

The key management personnel, the senior management team, received total employee benefits in the year of £194,718 (2018 - £164,325).

The key management personnel comprise the Chief Executive Officer, Finance Manager, Conservation manager, People & Wildlife manager and Fundraising & Development Manager.

10. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM			
Donations and legacies	246,726	-	246,726
Charitable activities			
Conservation, Engagement and Influence	288,437	425,188	713,625
Other income	17,369	-	17,369

**THE WILDLIFE TRUST FOR BIRMINGHAM
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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - CONTINUED
for the year ended 31 March 2019**

10. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES - continued	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
Total	552,532	425,188	977,720
EXPENDITURE ON			
Raising funds	53,374	-	53,374
Charitable activities			
Conservation, Engagement and Influence	355,434	387,267	742,701
Total	408,808	387,267	796,075
NET INCOME	143,724	37,921	181,645
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS			
Total funds brought forward	270,820	111,211	382,031
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	<u>414,544</u>	<u>149,132</u>	<u>563,676</u>

11. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS	Freehold property £	Fixtures and fittings £	Totals £
COST			
At 1 April 2018	195,038	58,666	253,704
Additions	-	18,040	18,040
At 31 March 2019	<u>195,038</u>	<u>76,706</u>	<u>271,744</u>
DEPRECIATION			
At 1 April 2018	132,107	46,654	178,761
Charge for year	6,010	7,426	13,436
At 31 March 2019	<u>138,117</u>	<u>54,080</u>	<u>192,197</u>
NET BOOK VALUE			
At 31 March 2019	<u>56,921</u>	<u>22,626</u>	<u>79,547</u>
At 31 March 2018	<u>62,931</u>	<u>12,012</u>	<u>74,943</u>

The Centre Of The Earth is built on land which is leased from Birmingham City Council on a twenty five year lease from 24 March 1998. The net book value as at 31 December 1997 is being written off over the term of the lease by equal annual instalments.

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - CONTINUED
for the year ended 31 March 2019**

12. HERITAGE ASSETS

	Total £
MARKET VALUE	
At 1 April 2018 and 31 March 2019	79,762
NET BOOK VALUE	
At 31 March 2019	79,762
At 31 March 2018	79,762

If the Land had not been revalued it would have been included in the accounts at the following historical cost

	2019 £	2018 £
Cost - amount paid for land	10,523	10,523
Cost - donated value of land	10,000	10,000
	20,523	20,523

Heritage assets consist of land at Portway Hill, Pelsall Common Spinney (Turner's Wood) and Deer's Leap Wood. The land has been valued by the trustees at the year end using standard prices based on the current value in the area for woodlands (14 acres or less) of £6,000 per acre.

Such land that has been acquired or donated to the charity is managed and preserved in accordance with the charity's objectives for wildlife and their habitat. Access to such land is available to the general public.

Other heritage assets may be purchased by, or donated to the charity, as and when circumstances permit.

The number of acquisitions in the last 5 years is nil.

13. DEBTORS

	2019 £	2018 £
Amounts falling due within one year:		
Trade debtors	104,646	101,376
Prepayments	36,217	35,545
	140,863	136,921
Amounts falling due after more than one year:		
Loan to associate	10,000	10,000
Aggregate amounts	150,863	146,921

**THE WILDLIFE TRUST FOR BIRMINGHAM
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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - CONTINUED
for the year ended 31 March 2019**

14. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2019	2018
	£	£
Other loans (see note 16)	24,000	24,000
Trade creditors	46,463	60,473
Social security and other taxes	76,871	55,314
Deferred income	25,624	32,000
Accrued expenses	5,918	15,656
	178,876	187,443

The loan from The Wildlife Trusts is repayable in equal instalments of £2,000 per month. The remaining balance due after more than one year is subject to an ongoing review of the repayment terms but no earlier than 31 March 2019.

The bank overdraft is secured by a legal mortgage over the Centre Of The Earth and a debenture charge over all other assets of the charity.

Deferred income

	2019	2018
	£	£
Deferred income at 1st April 2018	32,000	
Released from previous years	(32,000)	
Income deferred in the year	25,624	32,000
	25,624	32,000
Deferred income at 31st March 2019	25,624	32,000

Deferred income relates to service level agreements where the service is to be delivered in future accounting periods.

15. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE AFTER MORE THAN ONE YEAR

	2019	2018
	£	£
Other loans (see note 16)	7,918	31,918

16. LOANS

An analysis of the maturity of loans is given below:

	2019	2018
	£	£
Amounts falling due within one year on demand:		
Other loans	24,000	24,000
Amounts falling between one and two years:		
Other loans - 1-2 years	7,918	31,918

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - CONTINUED
for the year ended 31 March 2019**

17. LEASING AGREEMENTS

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

	2019 £	2018 £
Within one year	5,395	6,020
Between one and five years	17,250	20,495
In more than five years	17,200	19,350
	<u>39,845</u>	<u>45,865</u>

18. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2019 Total funds £	2018 Total funds £
Fixed assets	159,309	-	159,309	154,705
Current assets	524,739	165,964	690,703	628,332
Current liabilities	(178,876)	-	(178,876)	(187,443)
Long term liabilities	(7,918)	-	(7,918)	(31,918)
	<u>497,254</u>	<u>165,964</u>	<u>663,218</u>	<u>563,676</u>

19. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1.4.18 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31.3.19 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	201,255	77,001	278,256
Designated Fund	154,050	5,709	159,759
Revaluation Reserve	59,239	-	59,239
	<u>414,544</u>	<u>82,710</u>	<u>497,254</u>
Restricted funds			
Esmee Fairbairn	27,010	(27,010)	-
Catchment (Western Park)	23,400	-	23,400
Salmon in the Stour (17-18)	37,090	(22,426)	14,664
Environment Agency	12,500	(12,500)	-
Salmon in the Stour (18-19)	-	40,000	40,000
River Cole	-	75,000	75,000
Natural Prospects HLF	-	3,000	3,000
Other awards	20,765	(11,515)	9,250
HLF Transistional Fund	28,367	(27,717)	650
	<u>149,132</u>	<u>16,832</u>	<u>165,964</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>563,676</u>	<u>99,542</u>	<u>663,218</u>

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - CONTINUED
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19. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	436,860	(359,859)	77,001
Designated Fund	167,250	(161,541)	5,709
	<u>604,110</u>	<u>(521,400)</u>	<u>82,710</u>
Restricted funds			
Esmee Fairbairn	-	(27,010)	(27,010)
Salmon in the Stour (17-18)	-	(22,426)	(22,426)
Environment Agency	-	(12,500)	(12,500)
Salmon in the Stour (18-19)	40,000	-	40,000
Natural Rivers	24,359	(24,359)	-
River Cole	75,000	-	75,000
Natural Prospects HLF	98,663	(95,663)	3,000
Birmingham City Council - EcoRecord	20,109	(20,109)	-
Other awards	115,820	(127,335)	(11,515)
HLF Transistional Fund	-	(27,717)	(27,717)
	<u>373,951</u>	<u>(357,119)</u>	<u>16,832</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u><u>978,061</u></u>	<u><u>(878,519)</u></u>	<u><u>99,542</u></u>

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1.4.17 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31.3.18 £
Unrestricted Funds			
General fund	106,581	94,674	201,255
Designated Fund	105,000	49,050	154,050
Revaluation Reserve	59,239	-	59,239
	<u>270,820</u>	<u>143,724</u>	<u>414,544</u>
Restricted Funds			
Esmee Fairbairn	26,523	487	27,010
Catchment (Western Park)	23,400	-	23,400
Salmon in the Stour (17-18)	-	37,090	37,090
Environment Agency	-	12,500	12,500
Other awards	34,793	(14,028)	20,765
HLF Transistional Fund	19,495	8,872	28,367
Birmingham LNP	7,000	(7,000)	-
	<u>111,211</u>	<u>37,921</u>	<u>149,132</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u><u>382,031</u></u>	<u><u>181,645</u></u>	<u><u>563,676</u></u>

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - CONTINUED
for the year ended 31 March 2019**

19. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	503,482	(408,808)	94,674
Designated Fund	49,050	-	49,050
	<u>552,532</u>	<u>(408,808)</u>	<u>143,724</u>
Restricted funds			
Esmee Fairbairn	105,400	(104,913)	487
Salmon in the Stour (17-18)	63,180	(26,090)	37,090
Environment Agency	12,500	-	12,500
Birmingham City Council - EcoRecord	19,716	(19,716)	-
Other awards	109,892	(123,920)	(14,028)
HLF Transistional Fund	43,800	(34,928)	8,872
Veolia Grant	38,400	(38,400)	-
Birmingham LNP	14,000	(21,000)	(7,000)
HLF Skills for the Future	18,300	(18,300)	-
	<u>425,188</u>	<u>(387,267)</u>	<u>37,921</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u><u>977,720</u></u>	<u><u>(796,075)</u></u>	<u><u>181,645</u></u>

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - CONTINUED
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19. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Transfers are made between Restricted and Unrestricted Funds at the time the specific restrictions have been fulfilled.

The designated fund of £159,759 (2018: £154,050) relates to the balance of funds received in the accounts for the year to 31 March 2019 remaining unspent designated by the Trustees for use on our commitments post year end.

The restricted fund represents monies receivable for projects which can only be spent on their respective activities as imposed by the donor or grant making body.

The Trustees confirm that all restricted fund balances at the year end have subsequently been spent or will be spent in the forthcoming financial year.

More detailed disclosure on description nature and purpose of the funds, reasons for restrictions etc are listed below:-

Conservation

Restricted Funds for the Trust's conservation work delivery against Goal 1 and includes

- managing our Nature Reserves (many smaller awards)
- Improving spaces for nature through the Nature Improvement Area (Esmee Fairbairn)
- Ecological surveys (Environment agency and other smaller awards)
- Development of water catchment improvement works along the River Stour (Salmon in the Stour)
- Natural Rivers project will improve woodlands, grasslands, wetlands and watercourses along the River Rea and its tributaries in south-west Birmingham and the River Tame in west Birmingham. (Natural Rivers)
- River Cole Partnership with the Environment Agency for the restoration and naturalisation 940 m of urban river catchments

Planning and Advocacy

- Biodiversity - service level agreements with local authorities supporting biodiversity improvement activities including surveying sites and advising planners

EcoRecord

- Service Level agreements or provide ecological records and services from the biological record centre for Birmingham and the Black Country

People and Wildlife

- HLF skills for the Future - delivery of the Natural Prospects trainee programme

Resources

- HLF Transitional Fund - improvements to internal systems to make the Trust more effective including improved CRM system and development of income generating activities.

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20. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

Wildlife Fundraising (Central) Limited is a company set up in 2013 by eight Wildlife Trusts following the demise of a previously used fundraising company. As part of the setting up arrangement each trust was to provide a loan to the company. The Wildlife Trust for Birmingham and the Black Country Limited provided £10,000 (secured by a fixed and floating charge) as shown in the balance sheet in debtors over 1 year and as such the new company is an associated undertaking. Loan interest received in respect of the loan was £367 (2018: £335).

There is no share capital as the company is limited by guarantee. The Trusts liability is limited to £1 in the event of liquidation.

The Wildlife Trust for Birmingham and the Black Country Limited paid commission amounting to £23,600 (net of VAT) (2018 - £36,816) to Wildlife Fundraising (Central) Limited during the year, and the Trust owes the company a balance of £2,223 (gross) (2018 - £5,616) at the year end for commission invoiced but not yet paid.

The Trust is affiliated to The Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts (RSWT), a registered charity that acts as an umbrella group for county wildlife trusts, and provides assistance and co-ordination of activities and campaigning at a UK level. An annual contribution is payable to RSWT amounting to £9,820 (2018: £10,190). The trust also purchased publications and other sundries from RSWT amounting to £11,444 (2018 - £8,528), with £3,435 (2018 - £1,403) owed to RSWT at the year end. Sales made to RSWT were £2,193 (2018: £2,949) and amounts owed by RSWT were £120 at the year end (2018: £280).

Details of a loan from RSWT to the Trust can be found in note 14 to the accounts.

Donations of £30,000 (2018: £40,000) were received without conditions from charitable trusts in which trustees of this charity are also trustees of the donor charitable trusts.