



IMPACT

Report 2017-2018



Protecting **Wildlife** for Future Generations

Our mission 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

The Year in Numbers

7,451
Members



We manage
9
Nature Reserves for the benefit of wildlife and people



47
Large planning applications screened for impact on local wildlife



1,885 Volunteers gave
8,161 hours of time



42
hectares of habitats improved



34.6k
Facebook engagements



3,154

people took part in

124 wild events

worked with

88

partners and groups to benefit wildlife

37

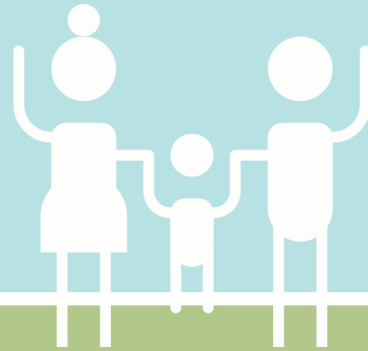
local sites improved for nature



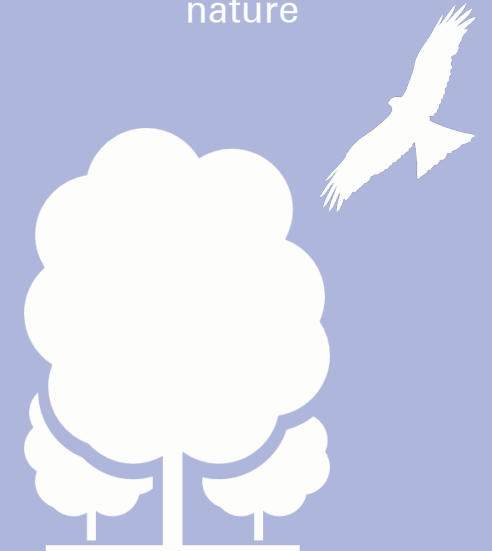
7,556

School children given a curriculum integrated lesson in a wild space

200,000



people visited our nature reserves



1

National Award won for the impact of our work

**And not forgetting...
ONE HQ MOVE
to our Centre of the
Earth nature reserve!**

Birmingham and the Black Country is home to 131 threatened species and 22 threatened habitats

Politically, as the UK prepares to leave the European Union, there remains concern about the potential loss of environmental protection, locally however wildlife and natural spaces are benefitting from greater protection as The Wildlife Trust for Birmingham and the Black Country has grown stronger, more resilient and is achieving greater impacts for nature.

Over the last year the Trust has worked hard locally 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 has been recognised; raising the profile of the environment and the Trust with key decision-makers.

Our new membership team has worked hard 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 natural space around our area.

We have also built stronger 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 2017 to 2018. 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

Georgia Stokes
Chief Executive



We are a local charity uniquely focused on protecting the wildlife and habitats of Birmingham, Dudley, Sandwell, Walsall and Wolverhampton.



Goal 1

Space for nature is protected, restored, created and valued

The Birmingham and Black Country Nature Improvement Area (NIA), designated by DEFRA in 2012, is our main opportunity to achieve a Living Landscape. Working at a landscape-scale means protecting, improving and creating vibrant, wildlife-rich green spaces throughout the conurbation. These connect both wildlife and people to high quality natural areas, providing many benefits and contributing to mitigating the effects of climate change.



In 2013 we stewed Castle Vale Meadows, an unloved and neglected green space in east Birmingham, with green hay harvested from 'donor' sites Eades Meadow SSSI and Draycote Meadows SSSI.

When the new meadow flowered in 2017 we were delighted to see hundreds of green-winged orchids, cowslips and many other species providing foraging habitat for pollinating insects.

We use evidence based strategies to manage our meadows, spreading hay quickly after it has been collected to keep seeds, along with the vital mycorrhizae that helps germinate them, viable.

This year we:

- Recorded 24 new species including honeysuckle sawfly, cinnamon bug & great white egret
- Planted 47 species of wildflower
- Supported 3 Trainees to be the conservationists of the future
- Improved 42 hectares of public open space) for nature including:
 - 27 hectares woodland
 - 12 hectares grassland
 - 3 hectares wetland
- Planted or restored 1,708 metres of hedgerow
- naturalised 612 metres of watercourse



National Award Winners

We were awarded the NGO Impact Award by the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM), beating off competition from the National Biodiversity Network and London Wildlife Trust.

The Wildlife Trust team has led the partnership that has so far seen 250 sites across the region improved for nature, with 220 hectares of woodland, meadow and heathland enhanced for wildlife and helped by over 5,000 volunteers.



CIEEM Awards 2017

WINNER

NGO Impact Award



Goal 2

Everyone is connected to nature

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 wildlife. The Trust believes our wellbeing depends on nature and that it is important for all of our health and wellbeing to regularly spend time in natural spaces.



The Trust was successful in our bid to the Heritage Lottery Skills for the Future Fund to create a paid traineeship programme with partners including Birmingham City Council, Wolverhampton City Council and Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council. Natural Prospects will create 24 paid traineeships over the next 4 years; training the next generation of urban conservation workers and increasing the diversity of our workforce.

This year:

- Delivered 124 wild events for 3,154 people
- Gave 7,556 school children a WILD learning experience
- Hosted 232 school visits to our sites
- Took our Wild Roadshow to each of the Birmingham and Black Country boroughs
- Went Wild for 30 Days with 1,580 people
- Worked with 71 community groups
- Delivered our first Wild Wellbeing course



More people from Birmingham and the Black Country than ever before took part in 30 Days Wild, a national campaign that asks people to commit to a Random Act of Wildness every day in June.

To celebrate International Mud Day on 28th June we held our first MudFest! More than 30 children came to connect with nature and play games in the mud at Moseley Bog. Children that weren't sure about getting their hands dirty at the start were rolling in mud by the time they left!



Goal 3

The natural environment is at the heart of planning, policy & decision making

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.



This year the Trust has given advice to Local Authorities on 19 Local Wildlife Sites to secure their status and protection. We are also working to secure additional protection for wildlife sites through the Black Country Core Strategy Review.

This year we:

- Screened over 200 planning applications;
- and responded to 47, including 14 large scale planning applications
- Gave landowners advice on 25 wildlife sites



Working with Birmingham and Black Country, and Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull Local Nature Partnerships (LNPs) the Trust organised a hustings for West Midlands Combined Authority Mayoral Candidates ahead of the May 2017 elections. All candidates committed to working with us to ensure the environment was integral to decision making, and we have worked together to ensure this commitment is upheld by the successful candidate, Andy Street.

Through this work the Trust's CEO has been asked to join the newly established West Midlands Combined Authority Environment Delivery and Advisory Group.



Goal 4

We are an effective organisation

We seek value for money in everything we do, and work hard to diversify our income streams to achieve a sustainable financial base which allows us to meet our charitable goals. 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.



Increasing our membership means there are more people taking action for nature, more unrestricted funds for new projects, and a louder voice to influence local and national policy. We are successful in finding new channels to recruit. In 2016-2017 we recruited 35 members online rising to 73 in 2017-2018 - a growth of over 108%!

This year we have:

- 1,885 volunteers
- 8,161 volunteer hours
- 7,451 members
- 19 Staff
- 30% increase in E-news sign ups
- Engaged 34.6k times on social media
- 8 Trustees
- 3 Trainees



In November 2017 we moved our HQ to our Centre of the Earth site. We have invested in Centre of the Earth to create a new Head Office in an urban nature reserve next to the Soho Loop canal.

Already we have spotted a wide variety of species including sparrowhawk, green woodpecker and we discovered otter spraint along the canal side. The move to Centre of the Earth has allowed the Trust to invest in one of our assets and reduced our overhead costs.



Thank You

Without support from all our members, corporate partners, grant funders and everyone who donates to the Trust we couldn't achieve our goals. We want to say a big thank you to everyone who invested in the wildlife of Birmingham and the Black Country during 2017 – 2018.

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|----------------------------------|--|---|--|
| Ark Chamberlin Primary Academy | Martann Trust | Lady Tangye Charitable Trust | The Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts and all the Wildlife Trusts |
| Bordesley Village Primary School | Esmée Fairbairn Foundation | Catchment Partnerships | Brumbats |
| Clifton Primary School | Roughley Trust | Black Country Consortium | The vast community of recorders who work with us throughout the year |
| Marlborough Junior School | Saintbury Trust | Birmingham Open Spaces Forum | University of Wolverhampton |
| Marlborough Infants School | Players of the People's Postcode Lottery | Canal and Rivers Trust | St. Barnabas Church, Erdington |
| Kings Norton Primary School | J. Feeney Trust | Castle Vale Community Environmental Trust | MAC Birmingham |
| Niskam Primary School | Joyce Farley Educational Trust | Buglife | Friends of Brandwood End Cemetary |
| Redhill Primary School | Big Lottery Fund | NIA Partnership Forum | Castle Vale Allotments |
| Somerville School | Heritage Lottery Fund | Professor Ian Trueman | Birmingham Botanical Society |
| Stratford Road Playgroup | Birmingham City Council | Friends of Hill Hook | Ellen Pisolkar |
| Blakesley Hall Primary | Birmingham Natural History Society | Friends of Moseley Bog & Joy's Wood Nature Reserve | Mike Poulton |
| Woodhouse Primary | Dudley MBC | Friends of Deer's Leap Wood | Vine House Farm |
| Oldknow Academy | Environment Agency | Deer's Leap Residents Association | South Staffordshire Water |
| Guardian Angels Primary | Natural England | Friends of Rowley Hills | Birmingham Well-being Service |
| Bordesley Green Primary | Severn Trent Water | Friends of Moorcroft Wood | Siemens PLC |
| Starbank Primary | National Grid | Martineau Gardens | Tesco Bags of Help |
| Hobmoor Academy | Walsall MBC | Northfield Ecocentre | Children in Need |
| St Bernadettes RC Primary | Sandwell MBC | Birmingham City University | |
| St Benedicts Infants School | Wolverhampton City Council | University of Birmingham | |
| City Road Primary School | Woodseton Charitable Trust | Birmingham & Black Country Local Nature Partnership | |
| Villiers Primary School | W E Dunn Trust | | |
| Palmers Cross Primary School | Gowling WLG | | |
| St Gregory's Primary School | Cole Charitable Trust | | |

Supported by players of

Supported by

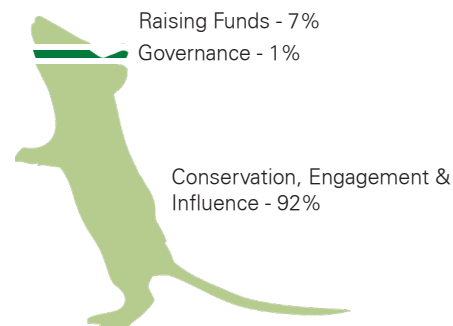
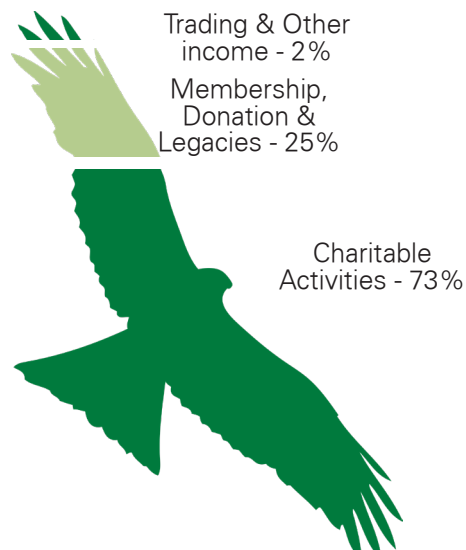
TESCO Bags of Help



Financial Summary

Income

Expenditure



WTBBC Year ended 31 March	2018	2017
Income		
Membership, Donation & Legacies	246,726	207,101
Other income	17,369	15,743
Charitable Activities	713,625	610,968
Total Incoming Resources	977,720	833,812
Expenditure		
Conservation, Engagement & Influence	708,907	646,499
Raising Funds	53,374	40,360
Governance	7,795	6,750
Total Resources Expended	796,075	693,610
NET INCOME	181,645	140,202
Total Funds brought forward	382,031	241,829

Balance Sheet as at 31 March	2018	2017
Fixed assets	154,705	105,643
Current assets		
Debtors	146,921	116,833
Cash at bank & in hand	481,411	321,822
	783,037	438,655
Creditors amounts falling due in less than one year	187,443	106,349
Net current assets	440,889	332,306
Total assets less current liabilities	595,595	437,949
Creditors amounts falling due in more than 1 year	31,918	55,918
TOTAL ASSETS	563,677	382,031
Funds represented by		
Restricted Funds	149,132	111,211
Unrestricted Funds - Revaluation Funds	59,239	59,239
Unrestricted Funds - Designated	154,050	105,000
Unrestricted Funds	201,255	106,581
TOTAL FUNDS	563,677	382,031

Independent Auditor's statement to the Trustees of The Wildlife Trust for Birmingham and the Black Country

We have examined the summarised financial statements of The Wildlife Trust for Birmingham and the Black Country for the year ended 31 March 2018 as set out below.

Opinion

In our opinion the summarised financial statements are consistent with the full annual financial statements and the Trustees' Annual Report of The Wildlife Trust for Birmingham and the Black Country for the year ended 31 March 2018.

AUDITOR

Luckmans LDP
 1110 Elliott Court,
 Coventry Business Park,
 Herald Avenue,
 Coventry CV5 6UB

Trustees' Statement

The auditor has issued unqualified reports on the full annual financial statements and on the consistency of the Trustees' Annual Report with those financial statements. Their report on the full annual financial statements contained no statement under sections 498(2)(a), 498(2)(b) or 498(3) of the Companies Act 2006. The full audited annual accounts were approved by trustees on 18th September 2018 and will be submitted to the Charity Commission after the Trust's AGM on 1st December 2018.

The summary financial statement may not contain sufficient information to allow a full understanding of the financial affairs of The Wildlife Trust for Birmingham and the Black Country. For further information the full audited annual accounts should be consulted – copies are available from The Wildlife Trust for Birmingham and the Black Country, 42 Norman Street, Birmingham, B18 7EP or from their website www.bbcwildlife.org.uk

Martin Smith, Treasurer

The Future Over the next 3 years we will:

Develop EcoPark to become a flagship environmental education site for Birmingham with the improvement of facilities to include an indoor classroom and space for volunteers

Double the number of students attending education activities

Double our programme of community events

Secure funding for major projects including Salmon in the Stour and River Cole

Secure funding for the future of the NIA Living Landscape work

Support 24 trainees from diverse backgrounds to be the conservationists of the future



The Best of the Rest 2017/18



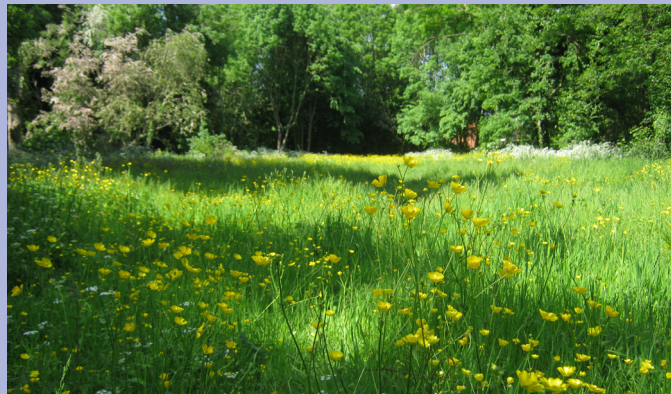
Wild Wellbeing

Working in partnership with Birmingham Wellbeing Service, we provided over 500 opportunities for people to take part in active outdoor events and volunteer days. We also began delivering 8 week courses introducing the health and wellbeing benefits of being active in nature, which resulted in significant positive impacts for participants.



The Great Bog Adventure

With the Friends of Moseley Bog and Joy's Wood, we successfully completed a Veolia and Tesco Bags of Help -funded project which saw the restoration of an area of species-rich lowland fen, ponds, wet woodland and the Coldbath Brook. We repaired existing and installed new boardwalks to improve access as well as completing a sculpture trail with downloadable map for people to discover, explore and learn about the reserve.



EcoRecord

We worked with BrumBats to publish the Provisional Batlas of Birmingham and the Black Country, the first of its kind in our area which explores records of all 12 bat species recorded in Birmingham and the Black Country between 1983 and 2014. These records can be visualised through a series of engaging maps describing the distribution and abundance of bats across the conurbation and are accompanied by a useful account for each species/groups of species.



Peascroft Wood

We have completed a 3.5 year Heritage Lottery Fund site improvement project increasing the biodiversity of the site and its use by local people – all with the help of the amazing volunteers. The volunteers gained an Awards for All grant to continue our work at the site for another year and to deliver training for the group to help them run their own volunteer days in the future.