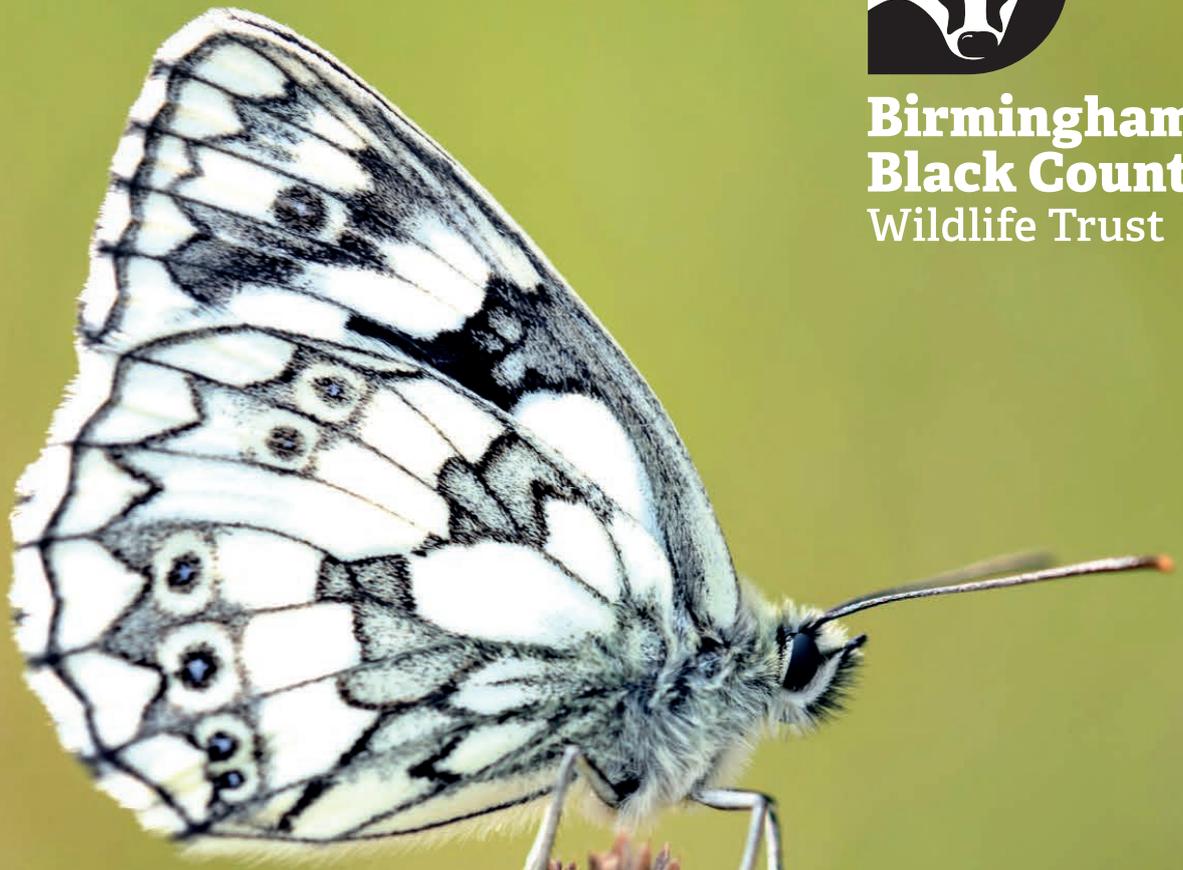




**Birmingham &  
Black Country**  
Wildlife Trust



# Annual Report

For the period 1st April 2021 – 31st March 2022



BOARDWALK REPAIRS AT MOSELEY BOG & JOY'S WOOD LOCAL NATURE RESERVE

# Contents

	Page
Chair and CEO report	<b>3</b>
2021 - 2022 in Numbers	<b>4</b>
Successes and Highlights	<b>6</b>
1. Report of the Trustees (including the Strategic Report)	
1.1 Structure, Governance and Management	<b>8</b>
1.2 Objectives and Activities	<b>11</b>
1.3 Summary of the year	<b>12</b>
1.4 Looking ahead	<b>16</b>
1.5 Financial review	<b>19</b>
2. Independent Auditors Report	<b>21</b>
3. Statement of Financial Activities	<b>23</b>
4. Balance Sheet	<b>24</b>
5. Cash Flow Statement	<b>25</b>
6. Notes to the Cash Flow Statement	<b>26</b>
7. Notes to the Financial Statements	<b>27</b>
8. Thank you	<b>39</b>



LISA PINNEY AND DELIA GARRATT

## Chair and CEO Report

With the support of members, funders, partners and Trustees we have successfully navigated the challenges presented by the pandemic. We have been heartened by the renewed sense of the value of the natural environment and a greater appreciation for the green and wild spaces on people's doorsteps.

The Trust has been keen to support a green recovery from the pandemic, to restore nature and tackle climate change, and the support of our local groups and volunteers has been crucial as we restarted many of our work programmes at our sites and across the region this year.

Our new Green Recovery Challenge Fund project, Love Your River Stour has seen us deliver conservation and engagement work along the catchment of the River Stour, a strategic priority landscape and a vital wildlife corridor in the west. This year vital work has also been delivered in the east along the wildlife corridor that is the River Cole.

This year we have carried out critical work which will support our vision of a wilder Birmingham and Black Country for generations to come. Our Draft Black Country Local Nature Recovery Map and Strategy Approach report demonstrates to planners where the most valuable sites and landscapes for wildlife are, and is being used to inform where new housing and employment land will be allocated. In addition, the Trust published a comprehensive response to the draft Black Country Plan providing detailed

comments on the policies of the plan, as well as on over 150 site allocations.

2022 sees the end of the Trust's current 5-year strategy for a Greener Future, which was launched in 2017. We have achieved a great deal during this time, but we are clear that there is much more we need to do to stop and reverse nature's decline. Our wild spaces are increasingly fragmented and wildlife is getting squeezed out. People have been increasingly disconnected from nature, and we are acutely aware that in parts of our region there is real inequality of access to nature.

Developing our new strategy – A Wilder Birmingham and the Black Country 2022-2030 - has not only given us the opportunity to think about how we build on all that has been achieved to date, but also to consider how we nurture the growing awareness of the enormous environmental challenges we face as a society, as well as consider how we can respond to the climate emergency. The next decade is crucial and the Trust is clear of the vital role it has to play in helping people everywhere to start taking meaningful action on the ecological crisis. We are grateful to our

staff, Trustees and partners for their work in developing the strategy and excited to launch and deliver it.

Work is underway to better understand our current supporters, and to consider how we extend our reach, ensuring that everyone feels welcome and able to contribute to environmental action across Birmingham and the Black Country. Work to build a new Environmental Centre at EcoPark will be key in helping us achieve this, as will our engagement programmes with schools and community groups.

This year we were delighted to welcome our first Young Ambassador, Shaan Dulay whose passion and commitment to the work of the Trust is much appreciated. Shaan is clear that as individuals, we can make small changes that will lead to big changes for our environment and our climate. Together, we know we can do even more.

**Lisa Pinney MBE**  
Chair of Trustees

**Dr Delia Garratt**  
Chief Executive

# 2021 – 2022 in Numbers

££  
over  
**£22,000**  
raised in general fundraising

  
**1,114**  
People attended  
our events

  
**3,534**  
Young people benefited from our  
Education and Engagement services



**1,131**  
hectares

Area of land worked  
on or where we  
provided advice



Over **300** donors  
raised more than  
**£11,000**

for infrastructure improvements  
at Moseley Bog & Joy's Wood  
Nature Reserve

**177** people registered for Wild Walk Week  
**1,211** species recorded for City Nature Challenge April 2021



**71**  
Planning  
applications  
reviewed and  
responded to



**140**  
people joined us at  
Wild Experience Days

**344 PEOPLE TOOK  
THE MAYORAL  
ELECTION E-ACTION**



# 2021 – 2022 Successes & Highlights



RIVER RESTORATION OFFICERS SALLY AND DAVID

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

In June we secured a grant of £249,700 from the government's Green Recovery Challenge Fund for our Love Your River Stour project. The recovery of the River Stour catchment is a long-term strategic priority for the Wildlife Trust, and the project builds on our Salmon in the Stour work which we have been delivering since 2017.

Love Your River Stour has enabled the recruitment of a new team of five staff and trainees, and will see the ecological enhancement of four areas of local green space, as well as a range of engagement and education activities including regular volunteering opportunities, family events, Level 1 training for young people, 'Stour Rangers' sessions with local schools and 'Wild Experience Days' with local businesses.

At Glebe Farm Recreational Ground in east Birmingham we continued our

work to restore another important river corridor, the River Cole. As part of the Love Your River Cole project two new wetland areas were created and planted by volunteers with a diverse mix of native wetland plant species, whilst 3.7 hectares of grassland was enhanced through the seeding of wildflower species including Ragged Robin, Great Burnet, Field Scabious and Yellow Rattle. The enhanced habitats will provide foraging and breeding sites for a range of birds and invertebrates associated with wetland and marshy grassland habitats in river corridors, whilst the construction of a new 230 metre path and installation of a new interpretation board has made it possible for local residents to benefit from their improved local wildlife.

The Friends of Moseley Bog and Joy's Wood Nature Reserve worked with the Wildlife Trust to run a fundraising campaign for the site which raised over £23,000 from public donations and grants. These funds have enabled the construction of new paths, repairs to the boardwalks, the design and installation of new interpretation signs, and resurfacing of the car park. Working with our group of dedicated volunteers much of this activity has begun and will be completed in 2022-23.

## Goal 2: Everyone is connected to nature

Through the Nature Friendly Schools programme funded by Defra, we worked with a further 12 primary schools in disadvantaged areas, supporting teachers to embed outdoor learning across the curriculum, increasing their pupils' access to local wild spaces and improving school grounds to make them better places for wildlife.

Our third cohort of five Natural Prospects trainees completed their Level 2 Diplomas, alongside four from the Love Your River Cole project – funded respectively by the National Lottery Heritage Fund and the Green Recovery Challenge Fund.

With funding from the Green Recovery Challenge Fund, National Express and Cadent Foundations, we delivered 10



COLLEAGUES ATTENDING GLOBAL DAY OF ACTION WALK FOR COP26



ECORECORD'S 30TH BIRTHDAY

Level 1 training courses in Tools Use and Surveying as an Open College Network West Midlands training centre. 94 participants, the majority aged 16-25, successfully completed these courses.

Colleagues and supporters joined us and other environmental charities on 6th November 2021 for a Global Day of Action during COP26, with a peaceful walk through Birmingham City Centre calling for nature to play a role in the climate crisis.

We led Birmingham and the Black Country's second annual entry in the global citizen science challenge, City Nature Challenge. Despite fewer participants than in 2020, over 200 individuals made 12,687 wildlife observations of 1,211 different species over a four day period in Birmingham and the Black Country! Overall, for the number of observations, Birmingham and the Black Country ranked 1st in UK, 4th in Europe and 31st in the world.

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

Our work to influence where and how new homes are built is critical to our vision of a future Birmingham and the Black Country which has more wildlife, more wild spaces and more people with a strong connection to the natural world. We believe that strategic planning must be informed by evidence which identifies where the most valuable sites for wildlife are, and in 2021-22 we provided the four Black Country local authorities further evidence to inform the Black Country Plan. Our Draft Black Country Local Nature Recovery Map and Strategy Approach report demonstrates to planners where the most valuable sites and landscapes for wildlife are, and is being used to inform where new housing and employment land will be allocated.

EcoRecord - the Local Environmental Records Centre for Birmingham and the Black Country - turned 30 during 2021. Established in 1991 with the aim to collate, store and make available information on all aspects of wildlife and habitats in Birmingham and the Black Country, EcoRecord has been and remains critical in helping to protect wildlife, informing our understanding of the landscape and in targeting where work for nature's recovery will have the most impact.

## Goal 4: We are an effective organisation

A total of 177 people took part in Wild Walk Week in October 2021 alongside our colleague-led walks and raised £1,055. Colleagues Jake Williams and Gareth Morgan took on an epic 90km triathlon challenge and thanks to donations from supporters, family and friends raised £1,050.

Businesses generated over £29,000 income from Wild Experience Days, business membership and business partnerships. As social distancing restrictions eased, we saw a return to businesses booking Wild Experience Days with 140 people from five businesses joining us on Poly Roger urban canal safaris and supporting with habitat creation projects at our Nature Reserves and project sites. Bronze business members Wienerberger renewed their membership for a third year, Schofield Lothian renewed their Silver business membership for a second year and SCC re-joined as Bronze business members. We were also joined by Kennedys Law as Bronze business members. Partners included Hogan Lovells who raised over £15,000 in the second year of a three-year partnership, birdseed producer Vine House Farm who donated over £2,600, Fleming Verandas who donated over £500 and Severn Trent whose £2,000 sponsorship supported our Wild Walk Week fundraiser.



COLLEAGUES FROM HOGAN LOVELLS MAKING FESTIVE WREATHS

# 1. Report of The Trustees for the year ended 31 March 2022

Council has pleasure in presenting its report together with the audited accounts for the year ended 31 March 2022. Council has 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 2019) in preparing the annual report and financial statements of the charity. The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 2006.

## 1.1. Structure, Governance and Management

**Registered Company No:** 01650938  
(England and Wales)

**Registered Charity No:** 513615

**Registered Address:** 42 Norman Street,  
Birmingham, B18 7EP

**Company Secretary:** EF Mooney

## Key Management Personnel

**Chief Executive:** Dr Delia Garratt

**Head of Conservation:** Simon Atkinson

**Head of Education and Engagement:**  
Gareth Morgan

**Head of Fundraising and Communication:** Emma Thompson

**Interim Head of Finance:**  
Ian Holmes

## Trustees

N Crombie (resigned 15/01/2022)

M Knight (resigned 15/01/2022)

A Taylor (resigned 15/01/2022)

I C Trueman (resigned 15/01/2022)

P W Beardmore (appointed 01/12/2018)

A Bright (appointed 01/12/2018)

L C Pinney MBE (appointed 21/07/2020)

J D Larner (appointed 16/01/2021)

R J Mallender (appointed 16/01/2021 and  
resigned 08/11/2021)

D H McLellan (appointed 16/01/2021)

E F Mooney (appointed 16/01/2021)

A Wayro (appointed 16/01/2021)

D P Green (appointed 16/01/2021)

L Besenyei (appointed 16/01/2021)

## 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 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.

The Council formally delegates certain functions and responsibilities to two 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.

## 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 of 28 individuals (at 31 March 2022) 22 full time equivalent posts. During the year the Trust had 9 funded trainees who completed their traineeship in March 2022. 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.

## Wider network and related parties

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.

## 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.

## Induction and training of new Trustees

The Trustee is provided with copies of the charity's key documents, including its Memorandum and Articles of Association, 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 three years and may be elected for a further period of three 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 four times a year where they review strategy and operational performance, ratify 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 Council. Financial details of which are disclosed in note 7.9 to the accounts.

## 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.



## Statement of Trustees' responsibilities

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

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

In preparing those financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently; observe the methods and principles in the Charily 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.

## 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 auditors, Luckmans Duckett Parker Limited, will be proposed for reappointment at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting.



LOCAL COMMUNITY LITTER PICKING AT SMESTOW VALLEY LOCAL NATURE RESERVE

## 1.2 Objectives and Activities

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. To advance the education of the public in:

- 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

### Public benefit

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 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. At most sites information and interpretation is provided to visitors.

Secondly, our education programmes are aimed at schools, colleges, adult groups and the wider public.

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 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.

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).

## 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:

- 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.

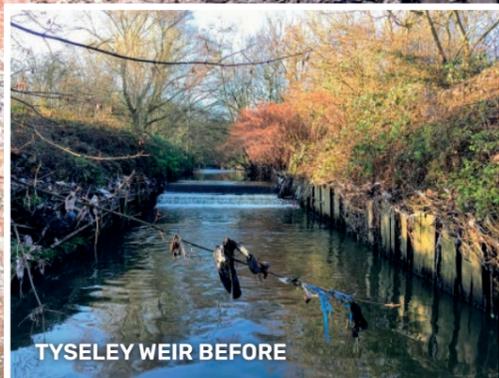


ECOPARK CLASSROOM IN DEVELOPMENT





TYSELEY WEIR AFTER



TYSELEY WEIR BEFORE

### 1.3 Summary of the Year

Each year the Trust produces a detailed Business Plan which determines the activities to be carried out during the year. Results are monitored throughout the year with regular reports being produced for Trust Council. The main headlines for 2021-22 are as follows:

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

The last year has seen an increase in the Trust's nature conservation work as we emerged from the lockdowns of 2020-21, secured significant new funding and expanded our team of dedicated colleagues.

### Landscape-scale nature conservation

In June we secured a grant of £249,700 from the government's Green Recovery Challenge Fund for our Love Your River Stour project. The recovery of the River Stour catchment is a long-term strategic priority for the Wildlife Trust, and the project builds on our Salmon in the Stour work which we have been delivering since 2017.

At Glebe Farm Recreational Ground in east Birmingham we continued our work to restore another important river corridor, the River Cole. As part of the Love Your River Cole project two new wetland areas were created and planted by volunteers with a diverse mix of native wetland plant species, whilst 3.7 hectares of grassland was enhanced through the seeding of wildflower species including Ragged Robin, Great Burnet, Field Scabious and Yellow Rattle

Further upstream on the River Cole in Tyseley our partnership project with the Environment Agency saw us remove a large concrete weir which had been

preventing the movement of fish and natural river processes for many decades. We also worked with partners including Sanctus and Dynamic Rivers to finalise designs for the removal of a much larger weir in the nearby Ackers site, and for a river naturalisation project at Heybarnes Recreational Ground. These works are planned to go ahead in 2022 through a project led by the University of Birmingham.

The delivery of our partnership work with Birmingham City Council and the Environment Agency on the Natural Rivers and Green Corridors project picked-up again following a partial hiatus in 2020-21. The Wildlife Trust's role in the project is to deliver a large number of small interventions across open spaces along the Bourne Brook and Merritt's Brook in south-west Birmingham. These include the planting of the larval foodplants of butterflies found only in low numbers in the area - such as fritillaries, green hairstreak and brimstone, the planting of woodland wildflowers grown through our Growing Local Flora project, and the installation of barn and tawny owl boxes.

Another of the Wildlife Trust's strategic priority landscapes is the historic heathlands of the Walsall green belt. This area which forms a critical link between Cannock Chase and Sutton Park, and holds the potential to be restored to support vibrant populations of species such as reptiles, nightjar and rare solitary bees. During 2021-22 we entered into a new partnership with Staffordshire Wildlife Trust, Walsall Council, Lichfield District Council, Natural England and the Environment Agency under the name Purple Horizons. The partnership is in the early stages but already during the year a number of heathland restoration projects have taken place at sites like Barr Beacon and Shire Oak Park; whilst a vision, objectives and priority actions have been agreed.

### Nature Reserves

During 2021-22 we created and recruited to the new role of Senior Reserves Officer. This new role will ensure that our valuable sites and the Friends groups and volunteers on which they depend will be given the support they need.

The Friends of Moseley Bog and Joy's Wood Nature Reserve worked with the Wildlife Trust to run a fundraising campaign for the site which raised over £23,000 from public donations and grants. These funds have enabled the construction of new paths, repairs to the boardwalks, the design and installation of new interpretation signs, and resurfacing of the car park. Working with our group of dedicated volunteers much of this activity has begun and will be completed in 2022-23.

Work has also been completed at our Turner's Wood nature reserve in Pelsall. Funding provided by Natural England through the Purple Horizons project has seen woodland management take place, a new hedgerow planted, owl and bat boxes installed, and the design and installation of a new interpretation sign.

The Friends of Hill Hook Local Nature Reserve secured funding for a range of important ecological surveys which the Wildlife Trust have undertaken to inform the new site management plan. Regular volunteer days have also been ongoing with work undertaken on important habitats such as wet woodland and hedgerows, and bird boxes being installed.

At Deer's Leap Wood in west Birmingham the volunteer group, Friends and local residents' association have continued providing regular support in managing the site; with the brook, ponds, hedgerows and woodlands being enhanced during the year, as well as regular maintenance of fences, paths and litter picks.



WILDFLOWER MEADOW AT DEER'S LEAP WOOD NATURE RESERVE

### Esmée Fairbairn Funding

The continued funding from the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation has enabled us to deliver 32 biodiversity improvement projects across Birmingham and the Black Country, as well as supporting our planning work, our Volunteer Coordinator post and digital engagement. Additional funding from the foundation through their Funding Plus programme also enabled us to complete our Ecological Services Strategy.



## Goal 2: Everyone is connected to nature

### Volunteers

We would like to thank the volunteers who have supported the Trust's work throughout the pandemic, their support has been particularly vital as we returned to our normal activities. Despite all in-person activity being postponed we received 335 new volunteer registrations and volunteers committed 5,304 hours to support our work.

### Education and Engagement

The new Environmental Centre at EcoPark is on track for completion in early 2022. The new building will enhance the experience of schools, youth groups and other community organisations visiting the site. New programmes including Health and Well-being in Nature, Nature Tots and a range of family activities have been established at EcoPark to complement a similar programme at the Centre of the Earth site in Winson Green.

Through the Nature Friendly Schools programme funded by Defra, we worked with a further 12 primary schools in disadvantaged areas, supporting teachers to embed outdoor learning across the curriculum, increasing their pupils' access to local wild spaces and improving school grounds to make them better places for wildlife.

With funding from the Green Recovery Challenge Fund, National Express and Cadent Foundations, we delivered 10 Level 1 training courses in Tools Use and Surveying as an Open College Network West Midlands training centre. 94 participants, the majority aged 16-25, successfully completed these courses.

Our third cohort of five Natural Prospects trainees completed their Level 2 Diplomas, alongside four from the Love Your River Cole project – funded respectively by the National Lottery Heritage Fund and the Green Recovery Challenge Fund.

### Communications

Our 2020 Audience Research survey

provided very useful insights into the thoughts and interests of our audience, including our members. The results of the survey were shared in our autumn 2021 member magazine. We learned that under 25s were our least represented audience segment, so to improve this we launched an account on Instagram, more popular with younger audiences, and increased our programmes for 16-25 year olds. The surveys also reassuringly revealed just how much value our audience place on our work for habitat creation and protecting wildlife.

We continued to grow our reach during 2021-2022, with our e-newsletter subscriptions increasing from 7,798 to 8,509 and increasing Facebook audience by 9%, Twitter audience by 7% and LinkedIn audience by 48%. The number of people taking part in 30 Days Wild locally also grew from 2,700 in 2020 to 2,889 in 2021.

We enhanced the content in our quarterly member's magazine by including articles from guest writers and interviewing a range of people for the 'My Wild Life' articles from Trustees and trainees to award winning photographers. We also added a members' page to share member's questions and photographs.

Whilst in-person activities and events began to return, we continued to deliver

digital events; over the course of the year over 130 people booked places at our 4 digital events.

We featured in a total of 27 media articles / interviews including 2 radio and 4 television appearances including BBC Midlands Today covering the City Nature Challenge and BBC Radio WM covering our Wild Walk Week fundraiser.

Colleagues and supporters joined with other environmental charities on 6th November 2021 for a Global Day of Action during COP26, with a peaceful walk through Birmingham City Centre calling for nature to play a role in the climate crisis.

Alongside a national re-brand we took on the refreshed badger logo and branding and began to roll this out across our digital and print communications and media. We were also delighted to welcome our first ever young ambassador Shaan Dulay.

We led Birmingham and the Black Country's second annual entry in the global citizen science challenge, City Nature Challenge. Despite fewer participants than in 2020, over 200 individuals made 12,687 wildlife observations of 1,211 different species over a four day period in Birmingham and the Black Country! Overall, for the number of observations, Birmingham and the Black Country ranked 1st in UK, 4th in Europe and 31st in the world.



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

Our work to influence where and how new homes are built is critical to our vision of a future Birmingham and the Black Country which has more wildlife, more wild spaces and more people with a strong connection to the natural world. We believe that strategic planning must be informed by evidence which identifies where the most valuable sites for wildlife are, and in 2021-22 we provided the four Black Country local authorities further evidence to inform the Black Country Plan. Our Draft Black Country Local Nature Recovery Map and Strategy Approach report demonstrates to planners where the most valuable sites and landscapes for wildlife are, and is being used to inform where new housing and employment land will be allocated.

In addition to providing evidence, the Trust submitted and published for our supporters a 66 page comprehensive response to the draft Black Country Plan in October 2021. In this we provided detailed comments on the policies of the plan, as well as comments on over 150 site allocations.

We provided advice to over 80 landowners and managers on how to protect existing wildlife and enhance habitats for the benefit of a wide range of species. We also responded to 71 planning applications.

EcoRecord - the Local Environmental Records Centre for Birmingham and the Black Country - turned 30 during 2021. Established in 1991 with the aim to collate, store and make available information on all aspects of wildlife and habitats in Birmingham and the Black Country, EcoRecord has been and remains critical in helping to protect wildlife, informing our understanding of the landscape and in targeting where work for nature's recovery will have the most impact.



## Goal 4: We are an effective organisation

We drew on learning from the previous year and continued to develop cost-effective methods of fundraising including membership recruitment through digital methods, including via The Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts' website. As a result, online membership grew by 16.5% from the previous year. Membership income remained stable and we continue to be grateful for the support of our members. Overall we recruited 455 new members and membership grew by 2% compared to the previous year.

During this year we also delivered a range of fundraising initiatives, inspiring supporters and colleagues to take part in challenges or donate to appeals via static donation boxes, online donations and through platforms such as JustGiving and text donations, raising over £22,000 in general donations. Over 300 donors supported the public fundraising appeal to support infrastructure improvements at Moseley Bog & Joy's Wood Nature Reserve with the total raised exceeding £11,000.

A total of 177 people took part in Wild Walk Week in October 2021 alongside our colleague-led walks and raised £1,055. Colleagues Jake Williams and Gareth Morgan took on an epic 90km triathlon challenge and thanks to sponsors from supporters, family and friends raised £1,050.

Income from businesses also grew, with over £29,000 income generated from Wild Experience Days, business membership and business partnerships. As social distancing restrictions eased, we saw a return of businesses booking Wild Experience Days with 140 people from five businesses joining us on Poly Roger urban canal safaris and supporting with habitat creation projects at our Nature Reserves and project sites. Bronze business members Wienerberger renewed their membership for a third year, Schofield Lothian renewed their silver business membership for a second year and SCC re-joined as bronze business members. We were also joined by Kennedys Law as bronze business members. Partners included Hogan Lovells who raised over £15,000 in the second year of a three-year partnership, birdseed producer Vine House Farm who donated over £2,600, Fleming Verandas who donated over £500 and Severn Trent whose £2,000 sponsorship supported our Wild Walk Week fundraiser.

We continued to promote legacy giving with a campaign centred around Remember a Charity Week in September 2021 which included radio and newspaper adverts and a direct marketing campaign encouraging supporters to pledge a gift in their Will. During the course of the year, we received 65 visits to our Guardian Angel online will-writing service platform, with 10 wills started, 3 completed and 1 supporter pledging £14,000 in their will. We raised almost £6,000 in legacy giving and in-memory giving income.

In addition to income for project-focused grants, we also secured £15,000 in unrestricted grant income, supporting our legacy giving campaign and investments in fundraising.



WILD WALK WEEK 2021

## Goal 2: People are taking action for nature and the climate across Birmingham and the Black Country

We will continue to nurture the growing school and community use of EcoPark and Centre of the Earth, forging links within the local communities of Small Heath and Winson Green respectively to help people connect with nature. We will further develop EcoPark with facilities such as a new Green Woodworking Zone and workshop, forest garden and pergola and enhance Centre of the Earth with further capital improvements.

We will pilot our Natural Curriculum approach to helping schools embed their outdoor learning provision, working in at least four local primary schools. We will secure and deliver further contracts for the improvement of school grounds or other community spaces for the benefit of people and wildlife. We will continue our Level 1 training courses in Tools Use, Surveying, Woodwork and Coppicing, delivering at least eight programmes in new parts of Birmingham, Wolverhampton and Dudley. We will seek funding to sustain the successful Natural Prospects traineeship programme into the future.

New partnership projects will include the Birmingham City of Nature initiative that will initially focus on Bordesley and Highgate, and support for Birmingham Settlement on their site next to Edgbaston Reservoir.

We will build on our successful track record of youth engagement and training activity to offer a youth

focused programme drawing on the community organising approach of the Wildlife Trusts' Team Wilder initiative. Through this, we will support young people to develop and implement their ideas for local environmental projects and campaigning. We will continue to increase the number of people we connect with through social media and campaigns, increase and improve our digital content, particularly targeted at younger audiences, and recruit another ambassador. All of these actions will be with the purpose of inspiring people to take action for nature, whether through practical actions or fundraising.

We will train volunteers to support us at in-person events to build engagement and help to develop fundraising and membership recruitment growth. We will deliver a photography competition to inspire our audience to connect with nature and celebrate the rich biodiversity of our local wild spaces.

### 1.4 Looking ahead

We will be revising the Trust's organisational strategy, setting out our ambitions up to 2030. We will launch this in early 2022. Building on the work of recent years, the new strategy - A Wilder Birmingham and the Black Country 2022-2030 - will set out 3 goals with ambitious supporting targets to ensure nature is in recovery across Birmingham and the Black Country by 2030. To begin to deliver against our revised strategy next year will see us focus on the following activities:

## Goal 1: Nature is in recovery, with abundant, diverse wildlife across Birmingham and the Black Country

Love Your River Stour will deliver nature recovery projects at sites including Stambermill and Riverside House in Dudley, and Smestow Valley in Wolverhampton. This will see new flower-rich meadows created, woodlands diversified, hedgerows planted, ponds excavated and watercourses restored. There will be ongoing engagement with our supporters and local communities through events, activities and education sessions.

With funding from the Environment Agency we will design and create a new channel on the River Stour near Wollaston to bypass an historic weir, opening up of over 40 km of the Stour and its tributary the Smestow Brook to long-distance fish migration for the first time in several hundred years.

Our funding priorities will closely align with our new 2022-2030 strategy and we will apply for funding to continue Love Your River Stour beyond 2022-23, to begin to achieve significant impact in the Walsall heathlands area, and to deliver further nature recovery projects across Birmingham and the Black Country.

Our nature reserves remain a priority for the Wildlife Trust and we will continue to raise funds for habitat enhancements and infrastructure for our visitors such as paths and signage. Our new strategy identifies the acquisition of new nature reserves as a priority, and we will be undertaking early work to identify both potential sites and long-term funding for these.



GROWING LOCAL FLORA AT CENTRE OF THE EARTH

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

The Environment Act came into force in November 2021 and with that the mandatory requirement for the production of Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRS) and Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG).

It is the Wildlife Trust's aim that we will play a leading role in producing the Local Nature Recovery Strategy and in the partnerships that will implement it. Building on the work we have undertaken in 2021-22 on the Draft Black Country Local Nature Recovery Map and Strategy Approach, we will work closely with the West Midlands Combined Authority (the LNRS responsible authority) to ensure the most appropriate data and analysis of this is undertaken in the creation of the LNRS, and that a strategy that can be delivered by the widest range of partners is created.

The work we have undertaken in 2021-22 on our ecological services strategy identified Biodiversity Net Gain as a key area where there are opportunities for the Wildlife Trust to increase the delivery of our work for nature's recovery. During 2022-23 we will further develop our understanding of how BNG will be put into practice and of how the Trust can most effectively invest our efforts in securing income and delivery of biodiversity gain.

In our 2022-30 strategy the Wildlife Trust have identified the delivery of nature-based solutions as key to addressing the climate and ecological crises. During the coming year we will continue to develop and seek funding to undertake projects that deliver benefits not only for biodiversity, but that also help to reduce, mitigate and reverse other issues including pollution, flooding, the impacts of climate change and poor mental health.

One of the first nature-based solutions projects that we will be delivering is M5 Clean Rivers, part of the new Network for Nature programme being undertaken by National Highways and The Wildlife Trusts. In 2021 the Trust entered secured funding to investigate the extent and type of pollution that enters the headwaters of the River Stour and Bourne Brook as run-off from the M5 motorway. During 2022-23 we will produce detailed designs for nature-based solutions (wetlands) to mitigate this pollution, with the wetlands being constructed the following year.

In order to help us deliver our conservation and education work, we will continue to grow our unrestricted income by investing in resources in the Fundraising and Communications department. Through an innovative digital membership recruitment pilot, alongside five other Wildlife Trusts and with funding from The Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts, we will create high quality, engaging content on social media

to recruit more members, doubling the number of new members we recruited in the previous year. We will increase the number of individuals involved in fundraising activities, encouraging donors with the propensity to do so, to increase their donations and we will provide new and improved fundraising initiatives. We will continue to celebrate our members through initiatives such as member-only events to encourage long-term support.

Through pro-active engagement activities, including networking and webinars, we will increase our outreach to prospective business supporters, and increase engagement with existing business supporters to maximize fundraising opportunities via the business directly and through employee support.

Unrestricted income will also grow threefold through applications for unrestricted grants to support our core activities.



COMMUNITY APPLE PESSING AT ECOPARK



LEVEL 1 GREEN WOODWORKING COURSE AT ECOPARK

## 1.5 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, Nature Friendly Schools Funding, and several Environmental Projects.

Total income has increased to £1,738,533 (2021: £1,332,182). 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 14% (2021: 18%) of the Trust's income and the Business Plan sets out how this will grow in coming years. Unrestricted income (including membership) is 36% (2021: 59%) of total income.

### Reserves policy

Trustees keep the reserves of the Trust under regular review. In previous years, these have been limited by the Charity's funds available. Having regard to the increasing scale of the Trust's operations and Covid uncertainties, in 2020 the Trustees set a reserves policy to aim at reserves equivalent to nine month's core operating costs, equating to approximately £500,000. 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 the designated fund of £207,157 (2021: £504,452) and revaluation reserve of £59,239 (2021: £59,239), the Trustees have met this aim with current unrestricted reserves standing at £1,161,912 at 31 March 2022 (2021: £511,605).

The Trustees continue to be mindful of the requirement to operate within tight financial constraints.

General reserves represent free unrestricted funds that are available to spend at the discretion of the Trustees. Some have already been designated as noted above. Within the general reserve are funds tied up in fixed assets which are not readily disposable, hence not liquid funds that can be spent straightaway. This amount would be equivalent to the net book value of the land and buildings as these assets have been secured for use within the charity for the long term.

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 2022 is £436,435 (2021: £344,902).

## Principal risks and uncertainties

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 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.

## Principal Funding Sources

### Income

The Trust's income increased to £1,738,533 (2021: £1,332,182), major headings are explained below:

- Membership, donations, legacies - Contains income from our members, donations given at events and through our presence in the community and legacies
- 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 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 to £1,293,988 (2021: £1,049,085), major headings are explained below:

- 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.
- We are now responsible for our own membership recruitment. Other costs include recruitment through the Join Anywhere scheme via other Wildlife Trusts, online membership recruitment as well as production of membership magazines throughout the year.
- Overheads - These are the running costs to maintain our sites and headquarters 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.

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.

Report of the Trustees, incorporating a strategic report, approved by order of the board of Trustees, as the company directors, on 9 August 2022 and signed on the board's behalf by:



J D Larner - Trustee

# 2. Independent Auditors Report

## Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The Wildlife Trust for Birmingham and The Black Country (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 March 2022 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 2022 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

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

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

## Other information

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

Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

## 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.

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.

The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

Enquiring of management and employees, including obtaining and reviewing supporting documentation, concerning the charity's policies and procedures relating to:-

- Identifying, evaluating, and complying with laws and regulations and whether they were aware of any instances of non-compliance.
- Detecting and responding to the risks of fraud and whether they were aware of any actual, suspected, or alleged fraud and.
- The internal controls established to mitigate risk relating to fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations.

We identified areas of law and regulation that could reasonably be expected to have a material effect on the financial statements from our general commercial and sector experience, discussions

with management (as required by auditing standards) and discussed with management the policies and procedures regarding compliance with laws and regulations. All identified laws and regulations were communicated throughout the audit team, and they remained alert to any indications of non-compliance throughout the audit.

The most significant considerations for the charitable company were as follows:-

- The Charity is subject to laws and regulations that affect the financial statements which include financial reporting legislation (namely The Companies Act 2006), taxation legislation and the Charities Act. We assessed the extent of compliance with these laws and regulations as part of our audit procedures concerning items recorded in the financial statements.
- The charity is also subject to other operational laws and regulations where the consequences of non-compliance could have material effect on the amounts or disclosures in the financial statements through imposing fines or withdrawal of funding contracts. Areas where this would have an effect include health and safety, Bribery Act 2010, employment law, data protections and child protection legislation (DBS checks for staff and volunteers).

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

To identify risk of material misstatement due to fraud, we carried out discussions amongst the audit team to assess areas where and how fraud might occur in the financial statements and any potential indicators. The following areas were identified :-

- Management override of controls through the posting of inappropriate accounting entries or journals
- We do not believe there is a fraud risk relating the revenue recognition as the revenue is straightforward, with limited opportunity for manipulation.

We did not identify any additional fraud risks.

We tested the appropriateness of accounting journals and other adjustments made in the accounts preparation based on a risk criteria.

Owing to the inherent limitation of the audit, there is an unavoidable risk that we may not have detected some material misstatements, even though we have properly planned and performed our audit in accordance with auditing standards. For example, the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulation is from the events and transaction reflected in the financial statement, the less likely in the inherently limited procedure required by auditing standards would identify it. In addition, as with any audit, there remained a higher risk of non-detection of fraud, as these may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal controls. Our audit procedures are designed to detect material misstatement. We are not responsible for preventing non-compliance or fraud and cannot be expected to detect non-compliance with all laws and regulations.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at [www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities](http://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.

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

Date: 26/08/2022

## 3. Statement of Financial Activities

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2022 Total funds £	2021 Total funds £
<b>INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM</b>					
Donations and legacies	2	312,022	-	312,022	281,571
<b>Charitable activities</b>					
Conservation, Engagement and Influence	3	305,878	1,117,718	1,423,596	973,916
Other income		2,915	-	2,915	76,695
<b>Total</b>		620,815	1,117,718	1,738,533	1,332,182
<b>EXPENDITURE ON</b>					
Raising funds	4	-	29,605	29,605	24,324
<b>Charitable activities</b>					
Conservation, Engagement and Influence	5	487,066	777,317	1,264,383	1,024,761
<b>Total</b>		487,066	806,922	1,293,988	1,049,085
<b>NET INCOME</b>					
		133,749	310,796	444,545	283,097
<b>Transfers between funds</b>					
	17	£219,264	(219,264)	-	-
<b>Net movement in funds</b>					
		353,013	91,532	444,545	283,097
<b>RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS</b>					
<b>Total funds brought forward</b>		1,075,296	344,902	1,420,198	1,137,101
<b>TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</b>		1,428,309	436,434	1,864,743	1,420,198

## 4. Balance Sheet March 2022

	Notes	2022 £	2021 £
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>			
Tangible assets	11	517,224	42,402
Heritage assets	12	79,762	79,762
		<u>596,986</u>	<u>122,164</u>
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Debtors	13	986,078	492,979
Cash at bank and in hand		584,732	1,009,134
		<u>1,570,810</u>	<u>1,502,113</u>
<b>CREDITORS</b>			
Amounts falling due within one year	14	(303,053)	(204,079)
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
		<u>1,267,757</u>	<u>1,298,034</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
		<u>1,864,743</u>	<u>1,420,198</u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>			
		<u>1,864,743</u>	<u>1,420,198</u>
<b>FUNDS</b>			
Unrestricted funds	17	1,428,308	1,075,296
Restricted funds		436,435	344,902
		<u>1,864,743</u>	<u>1,420,198</u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>			
		<u>1,864,743</u>	<u>1,420,198</u>

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to charitable companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 9th August 2022 and were signed on its behalf by:



J D Larner - Trustee

THE WILDLIFE TRUST FOR BIRMINGHAM AND THE BLACK COUNTRY LTD  
Registered Company No. 01650938

## 5. Cash flow statement for the year ended 31 March 2022

	Notes	2022 £	2021 £
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>			
Cash generated from operations	1	73,845	349,490
Net cash provided by operating activities		<u>73,845</u>	<u>349,490</u>
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>			
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(498,247)	(4,089)
Net cash used in investing activities		<u>(498,247)</u>	<u>(4,089)</u>
<b>Cash flows from financing activities</b>			
Loan repayments in year		-	(7,918)
Net cash provided by/(used in) financing activities		<u>-</u>	<u>(7,918)</u>
<b>Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period</b>			
		<u>(424,402)</u>	<u>337,483</u>
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period</b>			
		<u>1,009,134</u>	<u>671,651</u>
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period</b>			
		<u>584,732</u>	<u>1,009,134</u>

## 6. Notes to the cash flow statement for the year ended 31 March 2021

### 1. Reconciliation of net income to net cash flow from operating activities

	2022 £	2021 £
<b>Net income for the reporting period (as per the Statement of Financial Activities)</b>	444,545	283,097
<b>Adjustments for:</b>		
Depreciation charges	23,425	21,357
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	(493,099)	19,568
Increase in creditors	98,974	25,468
<b>Net cash provided by operations</b>	<u>73,845</u>	<u>349,490</u>

### 2. Analysis of changes in net funds

	At 1.4.21 £	Cash flow £	At 31.3.22 £
<b>Net cash</b>			
Cash at bank and in hand	<u>1,009,134</u>	<u>(424,402)</u>	<u>584,732</u>
	<u>1,009,134</u>	<u>(424,402)</u>	<u>584,732</u>
<b>Total</b>	<u>1,009,134</u>	<u>(424,402)</u>	<u>584,732</u>

## 7. Notes to the Financial Statements

### 7.1 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 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, as modified by the revaluation of certain assets.

#### 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, being when the charity is entitled to receive the money and is reported gross of related expenditure, where the amount is reasonably certain and when there is adequate certainty of receipt of monies. 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 recognised on an accruals basis, meaning that the cost is identified as a liability awaiting payment, based on the date of the event, rather than the point that cash is paid. The expenditure is allocated to the appropriate cost 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 charitable company 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 recognised in the accounts after this period has ended and this policy is viewed as being prudent.

### 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 for VAT. VAT that is irrecoverable due to the partial exemption are allocated to the appropriate cost categories and funds.

### 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 or as suggested in a letter of wishes.

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.

### 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.

## 7.2 DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	<b>2022</b> £	<b>2021</b> £
Donations	310,228	280,571
Legacies	1,794	1,000
	<u>312,022</u>	<u>281,571</u>

## 7.3 INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	<b>2022</b> <b>Conservation, Engagement and Influence</b> £	<b>2021</b> <b>Total activities</b> £
Conservation & Wildlife	1,423,596	973,916

## 7.4 RAISING FUNDS

	<b>2022</b> £	<b>2021</b> £
<b>Raising donations and legacies</b>		
Raising voluntary income costs	29,605	24,324

## 7.5 CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES COSTS

	<b>Direct Costs</b> £	<b>Support costs (see note 6)</b> £	<b>Totals</b> £
Conservation, Engagement and Influence	1,151,576	112,807	1,264,383

## 7.6 SUPPORT COSTS

	<b>Management</b> £	<b>Governance costs</b> £	<b>Totals</b> £
Conservation, Engagement and Influence	86,285	26,522	112,807

## 7.7 NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)

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

	2022 £	2021 £
Auditing of accounts	5,901	7,850
Depreciation - owned assets	23,425	21,357
Hire of plant and machinery	1,260	1,468
Other operating leases	4,153	2,254
	<u>74,749</u>	<u>32,929</u>

## 7.8 Trustees' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no Trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 March 2022 nor for the year ended 31 March 2021.

### Trustees' expenses

There were no Trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 31 March 2022 nor for the year ended 31 March 2021.

## 7.9 STAFF COSTS

	2022 £	2021 £
Wages and salaries	621,568	515,010
Social security costs	49,960	43,141
Other pension costs	35,188	32,151
	<u>706,716</u>	<u>590,302</u>

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

	2022	2021
Direct charitable work	28	20
Administrative	2	2
	<u>30</u>	<u>22</u>

The number of employees whose employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) exceeded £60,000 was:

	2022	2021
£60,001 - £70,000	1	-

The key management personnel, the senior management team, received total employee benefits in the year of £204,834 (2021 - £222,983). The key management personnel comprise the Chief Executive Officer, Head of Finance & Resources, Head of Education & Engagement, Head of Conservation and Head of Fundraising & Communications.

## 7.10 COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
<b>INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM</b>			
Donations and legacies	281,571	-	281,571
<b>Charitable activities</b>			
Conservation, Engagement and Influence	431,254	542,662	973,916
Other income	76,695	-	76,695
<b>Total</b>	<u>789,520</u>	<u>542,662</u>	<u>1,332,182</u>
<b>EXPENDITURE ON</b>			
Raising funds	24,324	-	24,324
<b>Charitable activities</b>			
Conservation, Engagement and Influence	571,150	453,611	1,024,761
<b>Total</b>	<u>595,474</u>	<u>453,611</u>	<u>1,049,085</u>
<b>NET INCOME</b>	194,046	89,051	283,097
<b>RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS</b>			
<b>Total funds brought forward</b>	881,250	255,851	1,137,101
<b>TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</b>	<u>1,075,296</u>	<u>344,902</u>	<u>1,420,198</u>

## 7.11 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Short leasehold property £	Fixtures and fittings £	Totals £
<b>COST</b>			
At 1 April 2021	195,038	82,069	277,107
Additions	485,280	12,967	498,247
At 31 March 2022	680,318	95,036	775,354
<b>DEPRECIATION</b>			
At 1 April 2021	164,045	70,660	234,705
Charge for year	15,497	7,928	23,425
At 31 March 2022	179,542	78,588	258,130
<b>NET BOOK VALUE</b>			
At 31 March 2022	500,776	16,448	517,224
At 31 March 2021	30,993	11,409	42,402

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.

## 7.12 HERITAGE ASSETS

	Total £
<b>MARKET VALUE</b>	
At 1 April 2021 and 31 March 2022	79,762
<b>NET BOOK VALUE</b>	
At 31 March 2022	79,762
At 31 March 2021	79,762

If the Land had not been revalued it would have been included in the accounts at the following historical cost totally £20,523. This is broken down to £10,523 being the amount paid for land and £10,000 being the value of land donated. There has been no change to these values in the last five years.

Heritage assets consist of land at Portway Hill, Pelsall Common Spinney (Turner's Wood) and Deer's Leap Wood.

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.

The Trustees have obtained a desktop valuation by an independent valuer in an attempt to understand the open market value of the heritage assets. Based on the work done, the Trustees do not believe the valuation of the Heritage assets at £79,762 is materially different from the open market value of these assets. The Trustees feel no adjustment to the revaluation is required.

## 7.13 DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2022 £	2021 £
Trade debtors	569,705	468,562
Prepayments	1,109	24,417
Accrued income	415,264	-
	986,078	492,979

## 7.14 CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2022 £	2021 £
Trade creditors	486	127,521
Social security and other taxes	53,483	29,998
Other creditors	17,436	16,751
Deferred income	6,000	12,546
Accrued expenses	225,648	17,263
	303,053	204,079

	2022 £	2021 £
<b>Deferred income</b>		
Deferred income at 1st April 2021	12,546	19,500
Released from previous years	(12,546)	(19,500)
Income deferred in the year	6,000	12,546
Deferred income at 31st March 2022	6,000	12,546

Deferred income relates to grant income deferred to future periods as the income received relates specifically to the 2022/23 accounting period.

## 7.15. LEASING AGREEMENTS

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

	2022 £	2021 £
Within one year	3,950	7,976
Between one and five years	8,600	10,761
In more than five years	10,750	12,900
	23,300	31,637

## 7.16 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2022 Total funds	2021 Total funds
	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets	596,986	-	596,986	122,164
Current assets	1,133,883	436,927	1,570,810	1,502,113
Current liabilities	(302,561)	(492)	(303,053)	(204,079)
	<u>1,428,308</u>	<u>436,435</u>	<u>1,864,743</u>	<u>1,420,198</u>

## 7.17 MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1.4.21	Net movement in funds	Transfers between funds	At 31.3.22
	£	£	£	£
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>				
General fund	511,605	133,748	516,559	1,161,912
Designated Fund	504,452	-	(297,295)	207,157
Revaluation Reserve	59,239	-	-	59,239
	<u>1,075,296</u>	<u>133,748</u>	<u>219,264</u>	<u>1,428,308</u>
<b>Restricted funds</b>				
Catchment (Western Park)	18,400	(18,400)	-	-
Natural Rivers & Green Corridors	-	(492)	-	(492)
Natural Prospects HLF	1,423	(1,423)	-	-
Other awards	16,079	(6,429)	(9,650)	-
Veolia Grant	59,785	15,000	(74,785)	-
Birmingham LNP	4,442	(4,442)	-	-
Sedley Beacon Enforcement Undertaking	-	-	30,000	30,000
South Staffordshire Water	13,594	-	-	13,594
National Express	15,000	(15,000)	-	-
Reaching Communities	60,743	65,928	(95,000)	31,671
Salmon in the Stour (19-20 - Dunelm Weir)	2,825	(7,243)	17,318	12,900
River Cole Collaboration	34,941	(34,941)	-	-
Severn Trent Resilience Funding	25,000	(6,681)	-	18,319
Carbon Reduction Strategy	20,000	(7,853)	(12,147)	-
Nature Friendly Schools	40,000	(33,700)	-	6,300
Cadent Foundation - Natural Connections	32,670	(32,670)	-	-
Green Recovery Challenge Fund	-	42,652	-	42,652
Innovation Fund	-	2,968	-	2,968
Smestow Catchment (Environment Agency)	-	14,789	-	14,789
Stourton Castle Bypass	-	248,080	-	248,080
EcoPark Development (HS2)	-	75,000	(75,000)	-
Stourton Castle Desgin (Environment Agency)	-	15,654	-	15,654
	<u>344,902</u>	<u>310,797</u>	<u>(219,264)</u>	<u>436,435</u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<u>1,420,198</u>	<u>444,545</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,864,743</u>

## 7.17 MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

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

	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Movement in funds
	£	£	£
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>			
General fund	620,815	(487,067)	133,748
<b>Restricted funds</b>			
Catchment (Western Park)	-	(18,400)	(18,400)
Natural Rivers & Green Corridors	18,531	(19,023)	(492)
Natural Prospects HLF	73,672	(75,095)	(1,423)
Other awards	9,554	(15,983)	(6,429)
Veolia Grant	15,000	-	15,000
Birmingham LNP	-	(4,442)	(4,442)
National Express	1	(15,001)	(15,000)
Reaching Communities	128,702	(62,774)	65,928
Salmon in the Stour (19-20 Dunelm Weir)	-	(7,243)	(7,243)
River Cole Collaboration	(9,333)	(25,608)	(34,941)
Severn Trent Resilience Funding	-	(6,681)	(6,681)
Carbon Reduction Strategy	-	(7,853)	(7,853)
Nature Friendly Schools	68,157	(101,857)	(33,700)
Cadent Foundation Natural Connections	-	(32,670)	(32,670)
Green Recovery Challenge Fund	124,850	(82,198)	42,652
Lyric Programme	206,032	(206,032)	-
Innovation Fund	12,279	(9,311)	2,968
Network for Nature M5 Clean Rivers	14,191	(14,191)	-
Smestow Catchment (Environment Agency)	20,000	(5,211)	14,789
Stourton Castle Bypass	250,000	(1,920)	248,080
Purple Horizons	80,082	(80,082)	-
EcoPark Development (HS2)	75,000	-	75,000
Stourton Castle Design (Environment Agency)	31,000	(15,346)	15,654
	<u>1,117,718</u>	<u>(806,921)</u>	<u>310,797</u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<u>1,738,533</u>	<u>(1,293,988)</u>	<u>444,545</u>

## 7.17 MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

### Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1.4.20 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31.3.21 £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>			
General fund	498,461	13,144	511,605
Designated Fund	323,550	180,902	504,452
Revaluation Reserve	59,239	-	59,239
	881,250	194,046	1,075,296
<b>Restricted funds</b>			
Catchment (Western Park)	23,400	(5,000)	18,400
Salmon in the Stour (18-19)	6,528	(6,528)	-
River Cole	69,000	(69,000)	-
Natural Prospects HLF	-	1,423	1,423
Other awards	15,250	829	16,079
Veolia Grant	57,785	2,000	59,785
Birmingham LNP	-	4,442	4,442
South Staffordshire Water	13,594	-	13,594
National Express	15,000	-	15,000
Reaching Communities	33,794	26,949	60,743
Salmon in the Stour (19-20 - Dunelm Weir)	21,500	(18,675)	2,825
River Cole Collaboration	-	34,941	34,941
Severn Trent Resilience Funding	-	25,000	25,000
Carbon Reduction Strategy	-	20,000	20,000
Nature Friendly Schools	-	40,000	40,000
Cadent Foundation - Natural Connections	-	32,670	32,670
	255,851	89,051	344,902
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<u>1,137,101</u>	<u>283,097</u>	<u>1,420,198</u>

## 7.17. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

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

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>			
General fund	608,618	(595,474)	13,144
Designated Fund	180,902	-	180,902
	789,520	(595,474)	194,046
<b>Restricted funds</b>			
Catchment (Western Park)	-	(5,000)	(5,000)
Salmon in the Stour (18-19)	-	(6,528)	(6,528)
Natural Rivers & Green Corridors	10,779	(10,779)	-
River Cole	-	(69,000)	(69,000)
Natural Prospects HLF	69,038	(67,615)	1,423
Other awards	31,000	(30,171)	829
Veolia Grant	2,000	-	2,000
Birmingham LNP	21,000	(16,558)	4,442
Reaching Communities	34,440	(7,491)	26,949
Salmon in the Stour (19-20 - Dunelm Weir)	-	(18,675)	(18,675)
River Cole Collaboration	56,000	(21,059)	34,941
Biodiversity SLAs	25,000	(25,000)	-
Severn Trent Resilience Funding	25,000	-	25,000
EcoRecord	42,001	(42,001)	-
Carbon Reduction Strategy	20,000	-	20,000
Nature Friendly Schools	173,734	(133,734)	40,000
Cadent Foundation - Natural Connections	32,670	-	32,670
	542,662	(453,611)	89,051
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<u>1,332,182</u>	<u>(1,049,085)</u>	<u>283,097</u>

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

The designated fund of £207,157 (2021: £504,452) relates to the balance of funds received in the accounts for the year to 31 March 2022 remaining unspent designated by the Trustees for use on our commitments post year end. This sum relates to the Project Completion Fund.

General reserves represent free unrestricted funds that are available to spend at the discretion of the Trustees. Within the general reserve are funds relating to fixed assets held which are not readily disposable and are intended to be held for the long term, hence not liquid funds that can be spent straightaway. This amount is equivalent to the net book value of the land and buildings as these assets have been secured for use within the charity for the long term.

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
- Ecological surveys (Environment Agency and other smaller awards)
- Development of water catchment improvement works along the River Stour (Salmon in the Stour and Severn Trent Resilience Project)
- 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 (River Cole and River Cole Collaboration Funds)

## People and Wildlife

- HLF skills for the Future - delivery of the Natural Prospects trainee programme
- Nature Friendly Schools - Nature England Funding delivered by RSWT to help teachers run outdoor learning classes.
- Funding from "Reaching Communities" Community Lottery Fund to help build a community hub at at EcoPark.

## EcoPark

- Cadent Foundation - Natural Connections - to deliver nature wellbeing courses to people at risk of isolation.

## Resources

- Carbon Reductions Strategy Funding - to complete a Carbon reduction and activity plan.

## 7.18 RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

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 £10,890 (2021: £9,740).

The Trust also purchased publications and other sundries from RSWT amounting to £7,322 (2021 - £7,322), with £nil (2021 - £nil) owed to RSWT at the year end. Sales made to RSWT were £2,616 (2021: £4,595) and amounts owed by RSWT were £1,380 at the year end (2021: £nil).

# 8. Thank you We couldn't have done it without you

Our work for nature's recovery is possible thanks to our wonderful members, donors, volunteers, funders and businesses partners - Thank you for all your support - you are all **wildlife heroes!**

## Community Groups

Deers Leap Residents Association  
Friends of Deer's Leap Wood  
Friends of Dawberry Fields  
Friends of Hill Hook  
Friends of Moseley Bog & Joy's Wood  
Friends of Rowley Hills

## Schools

Barcroft Primary School  
Chivenor Primary School  
Conway Primary School  
Corpus Christi Primary School  
North Walsall Academy  
Oasis Academy Barford  
Oasis Academy Foundry  
Oasis Academy Woodview  
Rookery Primary School  
Somerville Primary School  
St Giles Primary School  
Timberley Primary School  
Selly Oak Trust School  
Chandos Primary School  
St Patricks Primary School  
Fairway Primary School  
Chandos Primary School  
Hawbush Primary School  
Bantock Primary School  
St Edmunds Primary School  
Our Lady & St Rose of Lima Primary School  
Fallings Park Primary School  
Hillstone Primary School  
Chilwell Croft Primary School  
St Mary's Primary School  
Nelson Mandela Primary School

## Active Donation Box Venues

Paul's Florist, West Bromwich  
EcoManiax, Stourbridge  
Bantock Park Tea Room, Wolverhampton

## Project Partners

The Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts  
Birmingham City Council  
Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council  
City of Wolverhampton Council  
Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council  
Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council  
Natural England  
Riverside House  
Environment Agency  
National Highways  
Wetland Engineering  
JBA Consulting  
Dynamic Rivers  
Sanctus  
Staffordshire Wildlife Trust  
Warwickshire Wildlife Trust  
University of Birmingham  
Sandyfields Ltd.  
Esmee Fairbairn Foundation  
Staffordshire Ecological Record  
Parkview Clinic  
Heart of Birmingham Vocational College  
Princes Trust  
SAMPAD  
Birmingham Settlement  
Birmingham City of Nature Alliance  
Footsteps  
The Active Well-being Society  
Tandem Consulting  
McCarthys  
Lucas Architects

## Business Members

SCC International (Bronze)  
Wienerberger (Bronze)  
Schofield Lothian (Silver)  
Kennedys Law (Bronze)

## Business Supporters

Nick Groves  
Vine House Farm  
Hogan Lovells  
Fleming Verandas  
Severn Trent Water  
WSP  
Arup  
University of Birmingham  
Vegan Society  
Cadent Gas  
Leaflovers  
IM Properties

## Funders

Esmée Fairbairn Foundation  
National Lottery Heritage Fund  
Cadent Foundation  
People's Postcode Lottery  
Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts  
Saintbary Charitable Trust  
Roughley Charitable Trust  
National Express Foundation  
Cooperative Foundation  
Greener Recovery Challenge Fund  
National Lottery Community Fund  
National Lottery Reaching Communities Fund  
Veolia Environmental Fund  
High Speed Two Community and Environmental Fund  
Joyce Farley Education Trust  
29th May 1961 Trust  
Patrick Trust  
CB & HH Taylor 1984 Trust  
Cole Charitable Trust  
Secombe Trust  
Charles Brotherton Trust  
Arts Council  
Edward and Dorothy Cadbury Trust  
GJW Turner  
Limoges Charitable Trust  
Neighbourly - Seeds of Change



TRAINING COURSE AT CENTRE OF THE EARTH

Significant thanks to  
our major funders





**Birmingham &  
Black Country  
Wildlife Trust**



**CANADA GEESE, COTTERILLS  
LANE RECREATION GROUND**

Registered Charity No: 513615

Registered Company No: 01650938 (England and Wales)

Registered Address: 42 Norman Street, Birmingham, B18 7EP

