

# Somerset Wildlife Trust

Annual report and accounts 2018-19



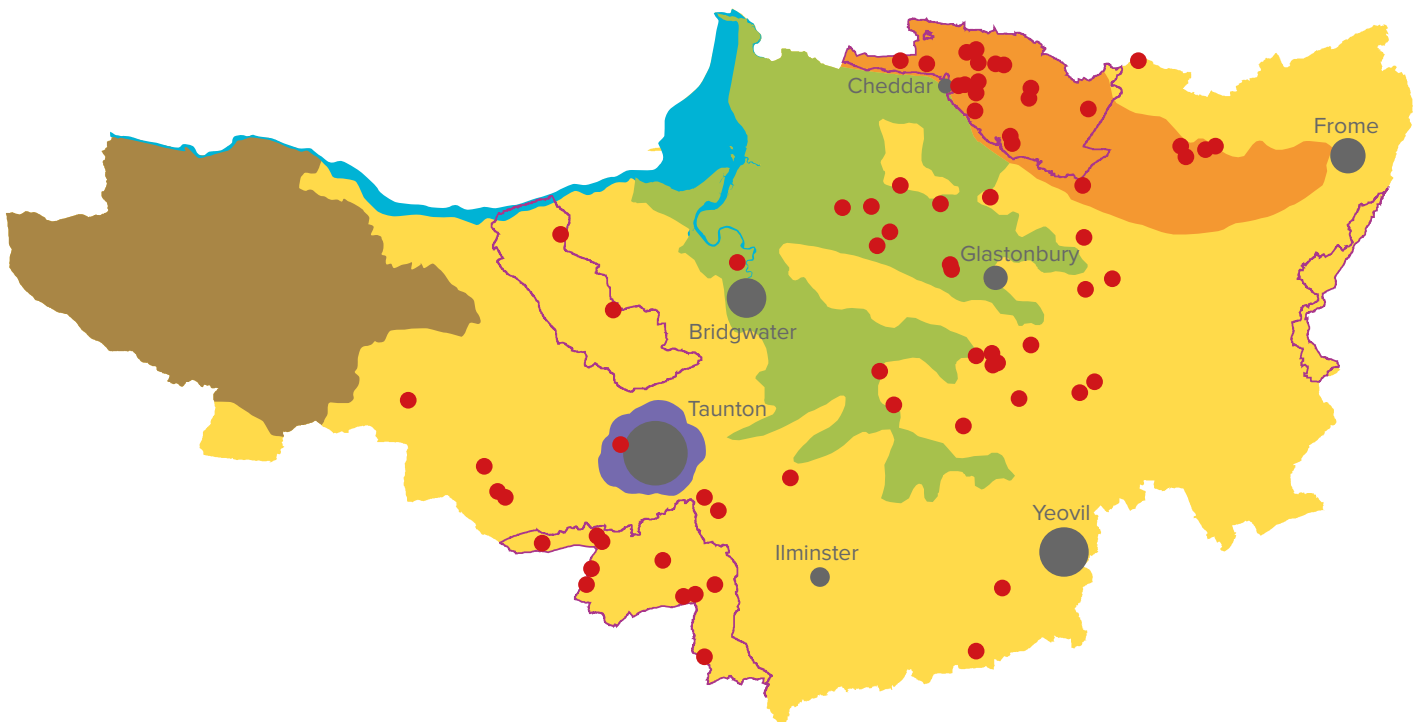


# What we do







**Somerset is one of the most habitat-diverse and wildlife-rich counties in Britain. Somerset Wildlife Trust is an independent conservation charity working to ensure this remains the case.**

We rely on the support of our members, donors and volunteers, as well as income from grant-making bodies and companies, including profits from our ecological consultancy, to look after Somerset's wildlife and wild places. This includes the nature reserves in our care and the creation of thriving 'living landscapes' across the Mendips, the Levels and Moors, Taunton, and Somerset's coast.

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



## Living Landscapes and nature reserves

-  Somerset's Living Coast
-  Levels and Moors Living Landscape
-  Mendip Hills Living Landscape
-  Taunton Living Landscape
-  Trust nature reserves
-  Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty
-  Exmoor National Park

# Message from Graeme Mitchell, Chair of Council

**The urgent need to take action to reverse species' decline and mitigate the impacts of climate change was increasingly recognised in 2018-19 alongside the importance of wildlife for people's wellbeing and the economy, particularly in a rural county like Somerset. Membership numbers grew significantly giving the Trust a growing voice to stand up for wildlife, as well as providing important financial support in a time of economic uncertainty.**

2018-19 saw significant changes for Somerset Wildlife Trust. I was honoured to take over as Chair of Trustees from Patricia Stainton who together with our Treasurer, John Scotford CBE, stepped down at the 2018 Annual General Meeting. Both Patricia and John played a significant role in guiding the Trust over recent years to become the impactful and sustainable charity it now is and leave us with a strong foundation on which to build for the future. Our new Treasurer Richard Atkin and I, together with all Trustees, remain committed to ensuring the Trust remains an impactful, well-resourced and highly-regarded local charity. I would like to thank Patricia and John, together with all the Trustees who left Council during the year, for sharing their expertise and for their dedication to the Trust.

Perhaps our biggest change in 2018-19 came when, after 15 years of loyal service, Simon Nash decided it was time to step down in January from his role as Chief Executive Officer. Under Simon's leadership our membership rose from 12,000 to 19,000, a county-wide habitat network map was developed, and our governance, fundraising, finance and operations all professionalised. He led us to Somerset's often forgotten but brilliant and ecologically-important coast, in Taunton he initiated the Trust's first urban wildlife programme and much more. On behalf of all Trustees and staff, I would like to thank Simon for his great contribution to creating the strong conservation charity Somerset Wildlife Trust is today.

We were delighted to appoint Georgia Stokes as our new Chief Executive Officer who joined the Trust in April 2019 from The Wildlife Trust for Birmingham and the Black Country, where she was CEO for four years. Georgia grew up near Wincanton and has a close association with Somerset's special landscapes and wildlife, as well as a wealth of experience in leading and growing environmental charities, from which we are now benefitting.

Now is a pivotal time for conservation in Britain. We must raise the environment up the priority lists of individuals, businesses and politicians here in Somerset and nationally, working as part of the Wildlife Trust movement and as part of Greener UK, an alliance of conservation organisations. I and all members of the Council look forward to working with Georgia to establish the future direction of the Trust and focus our work to help ensure Somerset continues to be habitat-diverse and wildlife-rich. It is vital that our special county does not suffer irreparable damage to its ecological networks or lose species that will never recover, and the Trust will continue to play an important part in halting current declines.

Over the last year awareness has grown of the need for all of us to take action in the light of climate change, the devastating impact of plastics on marine and coastal wildlife, and the sharp fall in insect numbers. These are critical issues affecting nature's recovery, which will affect the functioning of all ecosystems and our ability to produce food.

Conservation is complex. Inter-relationships are key. There is no one solution and this is reflected in the need for the Trust to be both an expert and increasingly work in partnership with others, within and beyond the environmental sector. Thereby complementary skills can be applied and landscape-scale conservation approaches, which the Trust pioneered in Mendip in 2006, can be adopted beyond our own landholdings.

Such collaborative working resulted in funding being secured for two important projects, one benefitting eels, a species whose numbers arriving on Britain's coast have crashed by 90% since 1980, and the second which will help our low-lying county prepare for the likely impact of climate change. The Co-Adapt project, led by Somerset County Council with the Trust as a key partner, will enable Somerset to plan effectively for increased sea levels, storms, heat and drought, climate changes we have already begun to experience. This important three-year project, working with partners in Belgium, Holland and France, as well as others here in Somerset and neighbouring Devon, will help to protect people and wildlife.

Both projects were made possible through European funding, a source that is likely to disappear. The continued uncertainty surrounding Britain's departure from the European Union, as well as the lack of clarity over what schemes will replace current European agri-environment funding, which was 17% of our 2018-19 income, remain key in planning our future. A detailed analysis of our nature reserves continued to ensure we have the information to make decisions about their shape and operation once the criteria for replacement schemes is clear.

Wildlife remains at the heart of our work and while many successes are the result of decades of investment by the Trust occasionally what we do has immediate impact. Thanks to supporters old and new who gave in late 2017 to our first Big Give fundraising appeal, we were able to create a new scrape at our Catcott nature reserve, which proved instantly popular with both birds and visitors. Within just a few weeks, large numbers of rare Cattle Egret plus many other wintering birds, could be seen by visitors from the nearby hide, and the scrape also provides great habitat throughout the year.

It is a great honour to be Chair of such a wonderful charity but Somerset Wildlife Trust only succeeds through the commitment and generosity of so many people who care deeply about Somerset's wildlife, enjoy being close to nature and want to ensure that our wildlife and wild places exist for the next generation to enjoy. I would like to thank all our volunteers, including my fellow trustees, our members, supporters, partners and staff, for their vital support during the year and who together give the Trust and wildlife a powerful voice in the county.



**Graeme Mitchell**  
Chair

# Strategic report



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

# Strategy and achievements

We champion Somerset's stunning and important natural environment, making the case for nature to the public and politicians, engaging people and communities to value and protect wildlife, and leading recovery of the environment by example, including on our nature reserves.

Our key strategic goals are to:

- Rebuild Somerset's ecological networks
- Inspire people and communities to value and protect Somerset's nature
- Stand up for nature

## Rebuilding Somerset's ecological networks

Creating ecological networks that rebuild Somerset's natural environment, through our nature reserves and Living Landscape and Living Coast programmes, is one key component of our strategy. Only through landscape-scale conservation to increase habitat connectivity across the county can we ensure that Somerset's wildlife can recover, and be more resilient to current and future pressures.

We work with many landowners as well as managing our own nature reserves as 'core' sites for wildlife, using the detailed habitat maps of Somerset we have developed to guide where we should work to rebuild Somerset's ecological networks, as well as to influence planning policy and decisions.

Our project to restore and support species-rich grassland networks across Mendip was extended through the involvement of three more landowners. Funded by DEFRA's Countryside Stewardship, the Trust is now leading a group of 17 landowners, including farms, large and small, quarry companies, National Trust, South West Heritage Trust and the Longleat Estate, to create a living landscape made up of connected sites, particularly to benefit pollinators and rare bats. Workshops were delivered on the importance of herbal leys (mixtures of grasses, legumes and herbs) for pollinators, brush-harvested seed for species-rich grassland restoration and on habitat management for Adders. Adders nationally are in serious decline and are an indicator species, so managing habitats to benefit them will also benefit wildlife which depends on the same habitat.

Somerset's coast is another important landscape, and is one of the most diverse stretches of coastline in Britain, reaching from the long sandy

beaches of Brean to the rocky kelp forests of Glenthorne. As our pioneering intertidal survey begun in 2016, neared completion, it revealed the unique diversity of the mosaic of intertidal habitats that are found across the Somerset foreshore. It is only through such ground-breaking work that scientists and decision-makers will have the knowledge to make informed decisions on which areas are critical for species' survival, such as the rare Honeycomb worm reef at St Audries Bay.

Sharing our discoveries is vital if we are to inspire others to care and take action for wildlife. As a result of our work, and a grant from Wessex Water, we added a Somerset Living Coast's Story Map to the Trust website. To date it includes a photographic tour of the coast and a discovery map in which you can find key information about the geology and species there, to which a much more detailed map illustrating the coastal survey data will be added in 2019-20.

Soils and geology directly affect the habitats and wildlife they support. The Somerset Environmental Records Centre (SERC), which is hosted by the Trust, working with the Somerset Geology Group, is currently surveying all 234 Somerset Local Geological Sites to produce a comprehensive evidence base of what is present. 69 areas have been completed to date,



**90%**  
of UK Adder  
populations are  
declining



**17**  
Landowners  
working  
together across  
Mendip



**251,961**  
**Large Blue**  
**Butterfly eggs**  
**on Green Down**

mostly on Exmoor and in the Quantock Hills, with Mendip being the focus for the coming year.

SERC is also co-ordinating a project in Taunton, initially to map key foraging and commuting habitats for Common Pipistrelle bats, work that is being funded by the Trust's Saving Somerset's Bats appeal run in 2017. Trained volunteer bat surveyors are collecting data which will be used to produce a map of 'bat corridors' in the town. This information will enable local authorities and developers to make better decisions to protect and improve habitats for bats through developments, helping to deliver a wildlife-rich Taunton Garden Town.

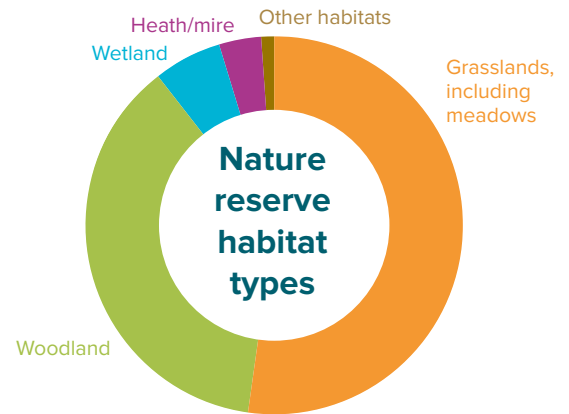
The Trust continued to invest significantly in its nature reserves, including thanks to fundraising appeals. As well as the new scrape at Catcott, which proved an instant magnet for Cattle Egret and other wetland birds, 2018-19 saw the first known Bittern nest on this reserve. New ponds were dug at Catcott Heath to extend populations of Great Crested and other newts. The eel project, which is funded from the European Marine Fisheries Fund, with support from the Sustainable Eel Group, is producing new data on eel habitat requirements, details of blockages to eels' journey from Bridgwater Bay to the Avalon Marshes area and back, and culverts to be replaced at Catcott to ease their movement.



**40+**  
**rare Cattle**  
**Egrets at**  
**Catcott**

The Mendip Bat project, funded by Viridor Credits, was completed in late 2018. The important roost for rare Greater Horseshoe Bats at Harridge Woods was repaired, and through replacing fencing to manage grazing animals, abundant food sources were ensured on Mendip reserves.

Wildflower seed was collected at several reserves, including Babcarry Meadows as part of the crowdfunded Perry Mead Pollinator project, and then sown in a herb-poor field at Perry Mead. Rare arable seed from the Trust's Fivehead Arable Field reserve and a range of native tree seed from woodland reserves in Mendip were added to the Millennium Seed Bank at Kew, as part of two national projects.



Through a grant from Aggregate Industries, we were able to create better conditions for butterflies at several Mendip reserves by undertaking woodland management, and grassland and hedgerow restoration. In the Blackdown Hills, Wessex Water funded work to preserve Brown Hairstreak habitat at Jan Hobbs reserve. In 2018 there were record numbers of two rare butterflies, the Large Blue and Brown Hairstreak on Trust reserves, following careful habitat management to encourage growth of the specific plants and conditions they need. 251,961 Large Blue eggs were recorded, the most since the Large Blue's reintroduction in 1992.

The hot summer of 2018 is predicted to mean butterfly numbers will be lower in 2019 and the weather had wider impacts on Trust reserves. Grasslands were extremely dry when usually flowering herbs would be present for nectar-loving invertebrates and caterpillars to feed. Some ponds dried out completely and water levels were low across our wetland reserves. The short-term and longer-term impacts of hotter summers and changing weather events will not be known for some time to come, but by continuing to work to connect good habitat areas as larger living landscapes, nature stands a better chance of recovering.



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

People are at the heart of our work. If we are to reverse species' decline, we need more people to experience nature, enjoy and care about it. We need everyone to understand the health benefits of being outdoors and connecting with wildlife. In addition to working with schools and young people, we run many events around Somerset to inspire people about wildlife, and work with people with specific health issues.

A major three-year project was launched in August as the next phase of our work to protect Somerset's coast. Funded primarily by a £159k grant from the Community Impact Mitigation Fund, the project is delivering exciting coastal events to inspire people to explore the coast, help nearby parishes make stronger connections with their coastline and, through outdoor learning, inspire the next generation to connect with the coast and nature more generally. Interest in the programme has exceeded our expectations.

Over 300 people joined events, including several beach cleans run jointly with other organisations, as part of our Curious Coast programme. Our Parish Shores programme aims to work closely with at least six coastal communities over the life of the project and, through knowing more about their local coastline, engender a desire to protect it. Minehead and Berrow are the first areas where we are working. Children from two local primary schools and a pre-tots group enjoyed weekly term-time Wild Beach activities from January. 15 new volunteers are assisting with project delivery and the Somerset Living Coast Group has been launched to bring together people who will become coastal ambassadors for the Trust.

Work in Taunton continued through our Green Spaces Healthy Places project. Staff from several local businesses joined forces with many local people for the first Big Taunton Litter Pick. Volunteers continued to work with the Trust to develop Lisieux Way Community Garden and extend green spaces in the town, including by planting trees at the new Taunton Country Park. The Trust began working with Green Days to support adults with learning disabilities. A mindfulness course was run and geocaching proved a popular way to explore the town's green spaces.

Many events were held in East Mendip as part of the Trust's ongoing Mendip Wildlife Links project. Funded through Torr Works Enhancement Fund, this project connects people to the wonderful habitats and wildlife in East Mendip. One highlight was a Wildlife and Wonder Day held at Asham Woods, which attracted over 60 people. Bird and bat boxes were made, tai chi practised

in the woods, and hedgelaying and pond creation courses were also popular.

In the Levels and Moors, the education project begun in 2017-18 continued for a second year, funded again by the Ninesquare Trust. In the academic year 2018-19, 45 sessions were completed by March. The Trust is continuing to work with six schools in Street, Glastonbury and Bridgwater both in the classroom and at the Trust's nearby Westhay Moor and Catcott nature reserves. Feedback has been overwhelmingly positive and, thanks to the continuing support of the Ninesquare Trust, the project will continue for a third year embedding environmental learning into school life and providing evidence to inform the Trust's future education programme.

Westhay was also visited by students from local colleges and the University of the West of England. The Trust welcomed its first Wild Paths trainees, a project running across five Wildlife Trusts, funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund. For three years, two people annually will benefit from learning from our conservation staff and gain invaluable practical experience to equip them for a career in conservation.

Our volunteer-led Local Area Groups and Wildlife Watch Groups for children ran a huge range of events across the county including talks, walks, workshops and plant sales and covered a variety of wildlife topics. A new Yeovil Watch Group was formed which proved instantly popular.

The Trust seeks to inspire and connect people with wildlife in many ways. 955 people in Somerset committed to do a 'random act of wildness' each day in June as part of the Wildlife Trust movement's 30 Days Wild. Somerset's first Festival of Nature and an inaugural Large Blue Festival were organised with conservation partners. The first British Wildlife Open art competition was held with ACE Arts and the exhibition in their Somerton gallery attracted 1,665 visitors. The Trust organised popular fundraising events, on birdsong with our President Stephen Moss and naturalist Brett Westwood, and a special evening with author Dame Margaret Drabble, about her writing and connection with Somerset's coast.



**Somerset's  
Brilliant Coast**  
– new three  
year project



**330**  
people  
picked up litter  
in Taunton  
and its  
waterways



**Patron  
Simon King  
with winner  
of the British  
Wildlife Open**

## Standing up for nature

2018-19 was a significant year with the environment and declines in Britain's wildlife rising up the agenda. The Government set out plans for a new Environment Bill and published a new Agriculture Bill as part of preparations for Britain's planned exit from the EU. Working nationally as part of the Wildlife Trust movement and locally, including working with key conservation partners, we continued to influence policy-making and planning to ensure the needs of wildlife are considered alongside those of people and the economy.



### New vision for Somerset's natural environment published

The year started with Wildlife Trusts across the country joining together to launch at the House of Commons A Wilder Britain, a report highlighting the importance of creating a national nature recovery network to bring back nature to every neighbourhood. The Trust's ground-breaking mapping of habitats which make up the ecological network around Wells was included as an example to others of the importance of such work in making decisions to support nature's recovery.

May also saw activity locally with the bringing together of the recently elected Leader of Somerset County Council, a local MP and representatives of the RSPB, National Trust, the Trust and other conservation organisations for the launch of the first Somerset Festival of Nature. Designed to celebrate Somerset's natural environment, another aim of the Festival is to ensure the value of Somerset's natural capital is at the forefront of county decision-making and a new vision for the county Our Natural Advantage was published. Additionally, regular meetings were held with local MPs during the year.

Draft Environment and Agriculture Bills were published in 2018 and set out the government's proposals for post-Brexit Britain's environmental law and farming policy respectively. The Wildlife Trusts (TWT) are working to ensure Britain's future environment and agriculture laws support nature's recovery. The Trust responded to many consultations affecting the natural environment in Somerset, including a review of the National Planning Policy Framework. Through the work of the Trust and TWT, Local Wildlife Sites, which had been omitted from the draft Framework, were reinstated ensuring these valuable wildlife sites continue to be considered in the planning system.

In March TWT launched a national Wilder Future campaign, with backing from Sir David

Attenborough and others, which the Trust is supporting locally. The campaign is seeking to get more people to contact their own Member of Parliament to call for strong environmental laws once Britain leaves the EU, as well as personally take action to make their own local patch wilder. In particular, TWT believes ambitious and legally binding targets are needed to guarantee clean air, water and healthy soils, and an effective and independent watchdog to hold public bodies to account on environmental legislation that will replace European laws. TWT also is seeking the establishment of a nature recovery network making it a legal requirement to implement a national system for all local authorities to map high value biodiversity sites and broad areas that need to be restored for nature.

Planning applications across the county were reviewed for their wildlife impact, and responses made to over 170. The Trust remains firmly opposed to the badger cull, which is now in its sixth year, and does not allow badgers to be culled on its land. Together with Wildlife Trusts across the country, we continue to call for a science-based solution to bovine TB, long term cattle vaccination and more stringent biosecurity measures instead of culling badgers.

Thanks to the support of the Peter de Haan Charitable Trust over recent years, the Trust has been able to grow its advocacy work focusing on the Levels and Moors, and Somerset's coast. This has enabled the Trust to engage with a wider group of stakeholders and grow its influence. This work will now be continued through the new climate change adaptation project which will begin in 2019-20.

Followers of the Humans of the Levels Facebook page grew by 20% to over 1,200. This digital advocacy project continues to build support for the unique landscape, wildlife, people and communities of the Levels and Moors.

# Engaging our supporters

Our supporters are central to our success, helping us practically as volunteers and through generously funding our work as members, donors and by leaving us gifts in their wills, and by taking action for nature. We truly would not have the impact we do without their ongoing support, which means we have the resources required to ensure Somerset remains so habitat-diverse and wildlife-rich a county. Our supporters help us year-round to look after the nature reserves in our care so they can be enjoyed by all who visit them, and also give their time to organise and help at events, and in the office. Thank you.

## Enhancing our visitor experience

Our nature reserves can be enjoyed by everyone, whether simply wanting an inspiring place to walk or a special place to visit and experience the best wildlife Somerset has to offer.

We continued to develop the experience we offer visitors to our nature reserves including by, for the first time, employing a year-round Visitor Experience Officer for our Avalon Marshes reserves. Funded jointly by the Trust and Natural England to support both organisations' work, almost 4,800 visitors were engaged in the first eight months at the Avalon Marshes Centre information point.

New monthly guided walks were all over-subscribed and introduced visitors to the many wildlife wonders of Westhay Moor and Catcott, including Bittern and Marsh Harrier. Visitors were welcomed on arrival to the reserves, helping to orientate them and direct them to where to find particular species or points of interest. People are now travelling from around the country and outside the UK as a result of

growing awareness of the Avalon Marshes reserves. We plan to continue to engage visitors in the work of the Trust, including the many first-time visitors.

As in previous years, thanks to grant funding, interpretation and waymarked paths were improved on several Trust nature reserves. Aller and Beer Woods benefited from work on steps and paths, and the creation of a new signed walk to replace a deleted public right of way. Access to the Wellington Monument for walkers was improved thanks to the resurfacing of a main footpath across Wellington Castlefields reserve and the replacement of a kissing gate. A new information panel was installed in Mascall's Wood and stiles replaced with new kissing gates along a public footpath on the edge of Bubwith Acres.



**40%**  
Westhay  
Moor visitors  
from beyond  
Somerset

## Volunteers are really vital

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

Almost 100 more people came forward to give their time to support our work and join many others who already give their time so generously. Regular work parties of conservation volunteers continued to provide vital assistance to manage our nature reserves, including individuals who have gained specialist skills and knowledge through working with our reserves' staff. Hedgelaying, drystone walling, coppicing, replacement of fencing, scrub-

clearance and much other practical work were carried out by volunteers. We simply could not manage our nature reserves without them.

Equally vital are the monitoring volunteers who conduct wildlife surveys including of rare Hazel Dormice at Black Rock and Bittern in the Avalon Marshes. The Somerset Reptile and Amphibian Group ran workshops on pond creation to inspire more people to create wildlife-friendly



**Almost  
100  
more  
volunteers**

places in their gardens. Taunton Wildlife Week was again organised by the Trust's Taunton Area Group, one of several Area Groups around Somerset that run many events for members and supporters.

Volunteers are critical to the Trust in so many ways and how they support us is growing. They assist us as Volunteer Reserve Wardens, run Area Groups and Watch Groups, and help with administration, at events and fundraising.

Groups of staff from local businesses are also volunteering and we are enormously grateful for the support of all our volunteers.

Thanks to a master's student's project, we learnt more about our volunteers' motivations for working with us and how it positively benefits them physically and mentally. These results were shared at the 2018 volunteer conference.

## Significant growth in membership



**7%**  
membership  
growth – 19,609  
members

Somerset Wildlife Trust is a membership-based charity and 23% of our income comes from membership, which in 2018-19 was £685k. Membership grew significantly by 1,245 people in the year, giving the Trust a wider reach and voice in the county.

10,641 households are Somerset Wildlife Trust members; that's 19,609 members across the county who represent 3.5% of Somerset's population. Somerset is a rural county and our strong membership support gives us a powerful and growing voice to stand up for the county's wildlife. We are very grateful for the support our members give us as ambassadors for our work and in speaking up for wildlife, as well as their vital financial support. Membership grew for the third successive year and by 7% (2%: 2017-18), resulting in membership being at a level not seen since 2013.

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

Membership income is one of the foundations of our annual funding and recruiting and

## Continuing to diversify our supporter base

In 2018-19 fundraising accounted for 66% of our overall income: memberships, donations, gifts in wills and grants are vital to our work, and the combined generosity of the individuals and organisations that supported us raised £2m (£1.4m: 2017-18). Our supporters are essential to fund our work and we thank them all for their generosity.



**£24k**  
raised to create  
more Homes for  
Hérons

The increase in funds raised was primarily due to significant growth in gifts in wills. 23 legacies were received with a total value of £698k, and more members and non-members informed us that they had included the Trust in their wills; large or small, every gift in every will is very valuable to the charity. Gifts in wills are an important source of funding for the Trust and one that we expect to be of growing future significance, though we expect their value will continue to fluctuate greatly from year to year. In 2018-19 gifts in wills received in previous years helped the Trust to manage its nature reserves and engage more people in it work.

The Trust's fundraising appeals continued to be well supported including The Somerset Nature Reserves Fund, which was launched in 2016. To date the Fund has raised £114k to help fund work across the Trust's 68 nature reserves, of which £25k was generously given by supporters in 2018-19.

Further work was funded through Homes for Herons, the Trust's 2018 Big Give Christmas Challenge project. Back in the 1970s, when the Trust acquired land to create the first nature reserve in the Avalon Marshes, there were two species of heron breeding in the UK. Now there

are seven heron species in Somerset alone. The £24k donated by supporters has been used to undertake structured reed cutting, improving habitat and increasing the chance of breeding success. New equipment has been purchased to maintain and provide access to more remote areas of the reserves, and cameras to monitor the birds.

£31k was raised to fund the completion of the Trust's coastal survey and support the new coastal engagement project through the Somerset's Brilliant Coast appeal.

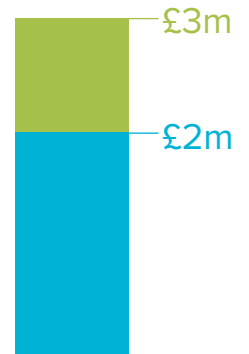
The new Patrons' scheme had a successful first year with Patrons, who together contributed £20k, enjoying a series of special events, including the first annual Chief Executive's lunch.

We are grateful to the wide range of local and national businesses that support our work, through our corporate membership scheme and as corporate partners. Viridor Waste Management continued to be a key funder in Taunton.

Trusts and Foundations income grew significantly to £87k and grants supported many

aspects of the Trust's work. The Ninesquare Trust continued to fund the Trust's innovative education project for a second year, the Action for Mendip's Bats project funded by Viridor Credits was completed and several new funders were welcomed. A grant from the National Grid Foundation enabled a wood chipper to be bought, saving considerable staff and volunteer time, and generating chippings that can be used on the reserves. We thank all our supporters, old and new, for their continuing generosity.

Protecting and effectively engaging with our donors remains critically important to us. The Trust is registered with the Fundraising Regulator and committed to following its Code of Practice, which sets out standards of behaviour that are expected of fundraisers. The Trust is also registered with the Fundraising Preference Service and reviewed the personal data it holds across the Trust and its use ahead of the introduction in May 2018 of the General Data Protection Regulations. A new Privacy Policy was published on the Trust website setting out the Trust's use of personal, including supporter, data.



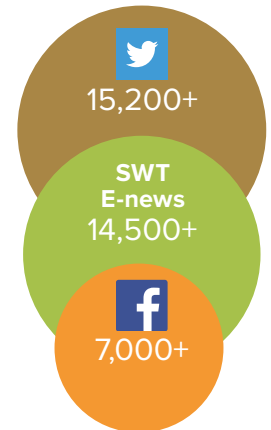
**£2m**  
**raised from fundraising**  
 which is  
**66%**  
 of Trust income

## Promoting our cause

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

Digital communications continued to be the most immediate way to communicate with supporters and the Trust's Twitter and Facebook followers both increased significantly. The Trust continued to send its monthly enews to supporters as well as ad hoc eshots about special events, campaigns and fundraising appeals.

The Trust's photo library was supplemented thanks to the generous contributions of many photographers, who allow the Trust to use their images royalty free. Major features on the Trust's work were published in local print media and coverage on radio and television was high, including on Countryfile, which featured the Trust's important coastal survey.



Subscribers and followers



# Financial review

**An overall surplus of £661k (£67k: 2017-18) was achieved in the year, primarily as a result of the receipt of significant legacy income of £698k (£117k: 2017-18), supported by continuing tight cost control. Overall income grew to £3m (£2.4m: 2017-18) while expenditure remained stable at £2.3m (£2.3m: 2017-18).**

A surplus of £640k (£18k: 2017-18) was recognised on unrestricted and designated funds which will be used in line with the Trustees' reserves policy in future years. A small surplus of £21k (£49k: 2017-18) was recognised on restricted funds, which represent funds received during the year which will be expended in future financial years for a purpose agreed with the funder. A £34k (£6k: 2017-18) gain in the value of the Trust's portfolio of investments contributed to the surplus recognised on unrestricted funds.

The Trust continues to recognise the need to ensure the charity's long-term financial sustainability in a challenging economic environment as well as ongoing uncertainty and potential risk, particularly to funding from agri-environment schemes, which currently provide significant income for the management of our nature reserves.

## Income

In addition to income from members, a significant proportion of income is derived from grants which enable the Trust to carry out specific work and projects. In 2018-19 gifts in wills also made a larger than usual contribution to fundraising income and were the second largest source of income.

Income for the year, excluding the gain on investments, totalled £3m (£2.4m: 2017-18). The £588k growth in income was primarily due to the receipt of significant legacy income of £698k (£117k: 2017-18) in the year, which has been credited to the designated development reserve fund for future projects. Gifts in wills will continue to be an important part of the Trust's income but it is expected that their value will fluctuate significantly each year.

Grant income, which continues to be the Trust's largest source of income, increased by £54k and totalled £822k (£768k: 2017-18) representing 28% of total income in 2018-19. Several new significant grants were received to support conservation projects, following the ending of major projects funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund in 2017-18. This included grants from the Community Impact Mitigation Fund to support a new engagement project on Somerset's coast, Viridor Credits to support work for bats on Mendip nature reserves and National Grid Foundation which enabled the purchase of a wood chipper and other equipment. A total of £513k (£518k: 2017-18) was received through agri-environment schemes, which supports the management of our nature reserves, many of which are Sites of

Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and important habitats for wildlife, and this funding from DEFRA represented 62% of the Trust's total grant income.

Membership subscriptions continue to be a vital source of unrestricted funding for the Trust and grew by £38k. A total of £685k (£647k: 2017-18) was received during the year from individual and corporate members representing the third largest source of income in the year and 23% of total income. An increase in the number of members was also achieved for the third consecutive year, reversing a previous six-year decline.

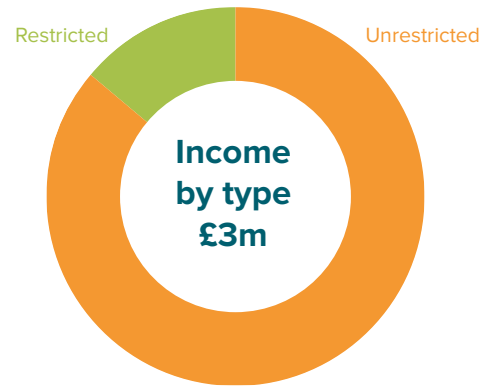
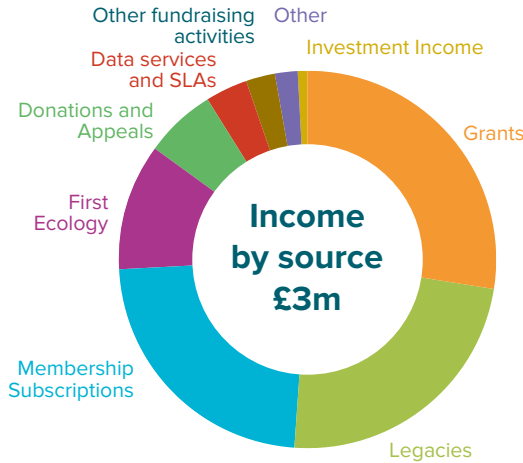
Income from donations and appeals fell significantly by £129k and totalled £187k (£316k: 2017-18). The reduction was primarily due to £75k received in 2017-18 to deliver environmental enhancement work following a pollution incident. Additionally fewer major gifts were received from individual donors in 2018-19.

Somerset Environmental Records Centre (SERC), which is hosted by the Trust and the main centre for holding data on wildlife sightings, types of environments and geological

information for Somerset, received the same total income to support its work, £107k (£107k: 2017-18), primarily through Service Level Agreements and data searches.

Income from other trading activities grew by £13k to £396k (£383k: 2017-18). This includes £320k (£282k: 2017-18) from the Trust's trading

subsidiary, First Ecology, whose net profit of £52k (£85k 2017-18) has been Gift Aided to the Trust. Income from other fundraising events and activities totalled £76k (£100k: 2017-18). In 2017-18 a major fundraising event with leading naturalist Chris Packham was run, which largely accounts for the higher income compared to 2018-19.



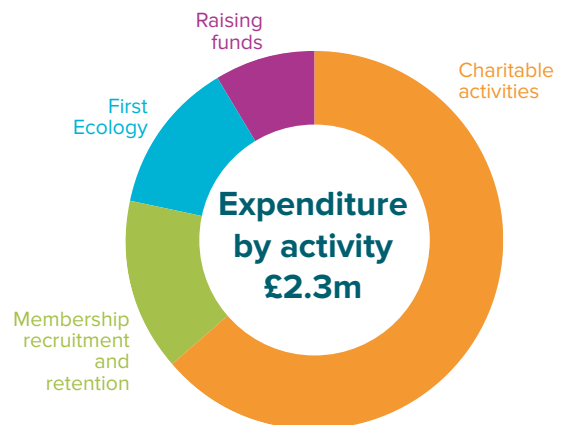
## Expenditure

As a result of continuing tight cost control, total expenditure in the year was £2.3m (£2.3m: 2017-18). This includes £1.5m expenditure on nature conservation in Somerset (£1.5m: 2017-18). Expenditure was in line with the 2018-19 operating budget.

The majority of the Trust's expenditure is represented by staff costs as we rely on the specialist knowledge of our conservation and land management teams, in particular, to fulfil our charitable purposes. In 2018-19 staff costs totalled £1.3m (£1.3m: 2017-18) representing 56% of total expenditure.

The most significant expenditure on charitable activities in the year was to manage the Trust's nature reserves, which totalled £718k (£733k: 2017-18). The Trust's spending on projects to rebuild Somerset's ecological networks, which is linked closely with the Trust's management of its nature reserves, increased by £113k (31%) to £473k (£360k: 2017-18). This was possible due to securing income from several sources including funding for a one-year eel improvement project that began in the year, donations to the 2018 Somerset's Brilliant Coast appeal to fund further coastal survey work, as well as ongoing funding for projects mapping, surveying and working with other landowners in Somerset, and to run SERC.

As a result of two major National Lottery Heritage Fund grant funded projects ending in 2017-18 (Routes to the River Tone and Save Our Magnificent Meadows) expenditure on inspiring people and communities reduced by £90k to £218k (£308k: 2017-18). Expenditure on policy, advocacy and campaigning activities, known as standing up for nature, remained unchanged at £86k (£86k: 2017-18).





The continued planned investment in First Ecology resulted in expenditure rising by 8% to £303k (£281k: 2017-18).

The cost of raising funds and membership recruitment and retention fell by £6k and totalled £538k (£544k: 2017-18), despite the need to invest more heavily in membership due to strong membership recruitment.

Membership expenditure of £344k (£328k: 2017-18), represented 64% of total fundraising expenditure.

Support costs totalled £524k (£515k: 2017-18) representing 22% of overall expenditure. The small increase is due to additional investment in training and a governance review.

## Funds of the Charity

Overall charity funds increased to £5.9m at the end of the year (£5.2m: 2017-18) which included a £110k increase in unrestricted funds.

Designated funds increased by £530k from £2.99m to £3.52m as a result of significant legacy income received in the year. Designated funds include £2m of tangible and heritage fixed assets, of which £1.4m are nature reserves, and £1.5m which has been set aside by the Trust for specific purposes in future years. Designated funds totalling £168k (£161k: 2017-18) were expended in the year to support Trust work. A breakdown of designated funds is included in note 17.

The £21k increase in restricted funds represents income received in the year which will be expended in future financial years.

Restricted funds are funds which the Trust has a legal obligation to use only for the specific purpose for which they were donated. These funds cannot therefore be used to fund the general operations of the Trust outside those specific purposes.

## Financial reserves policy

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

- Enable it to take advantage of unanticipated opportunities to further the aims of the Trust.
- Provide adequate working capital to carry out projects for which funds have been granted by external bodies, but for which those funds are payable only after expenditure has been incurred.
- Provide a reserve to cover short-term payment of essential costs, such as staff salaries, in the event of an unanticipated shortfall in funds.
- Meet any legal obligation on the Trust to meet any future costs.
- Provide sufficient resources to manage its nature reserves pending any changes or delays to replacement and/or payment of agri-environment scheme funding resulting from Britain leaving the European Union. Agri-environment funding in 2018-19 was £513k (£518k: 2017-18).

## Financial reserves holdings

Total reserves at the end of the year amounted to £5.9m (£5.2m: 2017-18), although a significant proportion of this total is represented by tangible and heritage fixed assets, leaving available reserves of £1.7m (£1m: 2017-18).

Total reserves	£5,902,795
Less:	
Restricted funds	(£296,984)
Tangible & heritage fixed assets	(£3,871,092)
<b>Total available reserves</b>	<b>£1,734,719</b>

Available reserves include £1.5m which has been designated by Council for specific purposes in future years.

## Investments

The value of the Trust's investment portfolio at the end of the year was £780k (£752k: 2017-18) and generated income of £21k (£19k: 2017-18). The Trust recognised a £34k gain (£6k: 2017-18) arising from revaluations in the year.

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

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

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

## Risk management

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

The Trustees have examined the principal areas of the Trust's work and considered the major risks arising in each of these areas. In the opinion of the Trustees, the Trust has established processes and systems which, under normal circumstances, should allow the risks identified by them to be mitigated to an acceptable level in its day-to-day operations

The Trustees have identified the current principal risks are:

- Delayed payments in respect of agri-environment income and potential changes to associated schemes resulting from Britain leaving the European Union.
- Increased competition for funding due to the current economic climate.
- Liabilities resulting from Ash dieback disease on our nature reserves.

# Looking ahead

**Now is a critical moment for conservation, with greater awareness of the relationship between people and wildlife, and an urgent need to put nature back into recovery. With 55 years' experience, a large membership and extensive local conservation knowledge, the Trust is well placed to play a leading role in creating a wilder Somerset, where wildlife and people thrive.**

As the Trust enters the final year of its current strategy, the Trust's new Chief Executive Officer, Georgia Stokes, will lead the development of the Trust's future strategy and a consultation with our many stakeholders across Somerset. Globally nature is in trouble: biodiversity is declining rapidly with a recent report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services highlighting one million species at risk of extinction. In the UK 56% of all species are in decline. Despite huge efforts by the Trust and other statutory and NGO partners, biodiversity continues to decline across Somerset in all but a few protected sites, and even wildlife in protected sites is threatened by the loss of species in the wider landscape. The global climate crisis is exacerbating the pressures that wildlife already faces, further threatening the survival of many species.

The strategy consultation will consider how the Trust can best use its resources to have the greatest impact for the natural environment of Somerset, including to achieve an effective nature recovery network across the county. The Trust will continue to work closely with conservation partners, landowners, volunteers and all members and supporters.

The Trust continues to believe that it is only by inspiring more people to experience, value and act to protect wildlife that nature's recovery can be achieved. In 2019-20 our engagement project with communities living and working along Somerset's coast will involve more people, parishes and children, and the Mendip Wildlife Links programme will continue to introduce people to the Trust's nature reserves and local wildlife. We know there is a direct connection between people's health and happiness and their connection to nature, and we plan to submit a major partnership funding bid to enable the Trust's nature and wellbeing work to be expanded.

Environmental concerns are now being more widely discussed but Britain's future environmental policy and laws remain unclear. Working nationally with The Wildlife Trusts,

including to support its Wilder Future campaign, and here in Somerset, the Trust will continue to stand up for nature in local policy and planning decisions.

Our three-year climate change adaptation project began in May 2019. Somerset is on the frontline of climate change with its long coastline and low-lying Levels and Moors. The Co-Adapt project partnership will work with policy makers, councils, landowners, farmers and communities to ensure adaptation needs are considered in all decisions and empower them to take action for climate adaptation.

The Trust's nature reserves are core sites for many species and are also enjoyed by local people and visitors. Work continues to ensure the Trust is best placed to manage its nature reserves in the future, given the ongoing uncertainty over future agri-environment funding for all landowners. The long-term plan for Westhay Moor National Nature Reserve includes acquiring adjoining land to increase the reserve's ecological value and resilience. The Trust will be launching a fundraising appeal to enable it to buy 11 acres of land, a former peat extraction site, which once restored for wildlife will significantly improve management of water levels on the reserve.

Given the many uncertainties, including of future funding for its work, the Trustees believe it is important for the charity to maintain sufficient financial reserves to mitigate this risk, while also continuing to invest in key projects. Fundraising will continue to be critical to deliver the conservation strategy as will extending the Trust's reach across Somerset and beyond. A new mobile responsive website will be launched in 2019-20 to support communications and digital marketing, and greater resources invested in volunteering.

The new Trust strategy, to be announced in 2020-21, will set out how the Trust can have the greatest impact in support of nature's recovery so that Somerset remains one of the most habitat-diverse and wildlife-rich counties in Britain, where nature and people thrive.



# Objectives and activities

## Charitable purpose

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

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

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

The Trust measures its success by:

- Council reviewing progress towards charitable goals
- Quantitative assessment of the financial success of the Trust on behalf of its members
- Qualitative feedback from Trustees, members, volunteers and partners
- Continuing successful relationships with funders
- Diversifying sources of income
- Monitoring species including on its nature reserves and through the work of the Somerset Environmental Records Centre
- Annual endorsement of its role and strategy at the Annual General Meeting of members
- Monitoring and reporting on complaints received

## Public benefit

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

provide essential 'ecosystem services' for the public, such as flood risk management, carbon storage, pollination, pollution control and aesthetic beauty. Government and businesses are now recognising the essential role that nature plays in supporting the economy, not least through the provision of these public goods and services.

## Nature reserves

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

## Land advice

Through providing advice and assistance to farmers and landowners the Trust helps to support the rural economy, the countryside and landscapes that are enjoyed and valued by the wider public.

## Education and engagement

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

## Research

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

## Conservation

The Trust's habitat management and restoration work help to create habitats which

# Structure, governance and management

## Structure

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

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

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

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

**First Ecology** is the Trust's consultancy. It provides ecological consultancy, protected species surveys, planning support and land management services to a wide range of

clients. It is based at the Trust's Callow Rock Offices. First Ecology trades under SWT (Sales) Ltd and is a company limited by shares and registered in England No. 1317396.

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

**South West Wildlife Fundraising Limited (SWWFL)** is a limited company mutually owned by eight Wildlife Trusts to help them to secure regular financial support through memberships. SWWFL provides membership recruitment services for Somerset, Avon, Devon, Dorset, Gloucestershire, Wiltshire, Worcestershire and Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trusts.

## Governance

### Council

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

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

To ensure that Council is equipped to carry out its responsibilities it carries out skills analysis of existing members before new ones are

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

At the Trust AGM in November 2018, two co-opted Trustees were elected.

Council is assisted by four Committees:

**Finance and Resources Committee:** scrutiny of accounts, oversight of investments and financial controls, policy development, advice on business risk, resource management and income generation;

**Conservation Committee:** advice on conservation policy, research and monitoring, land acquisitions and disposals;

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

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

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

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

During 2018-19 a total of £1,662 (2018: £16,542) was received from Trustees in respect of donations and membership subscriptions.

### **Strategy and policy setting**

Council is responsible to further the objectives of the Trust as set out in the articles of association. The focus of Council's work is on setting and reviewing the strategic direction for the Trust, on monitoring its delivery of agreed targets and to ensure that the income and expenditure of the Trust and its property and assets are managed appropriately. Council determines the strategy of the Trust through a five-year strategic plan which was updated in 2014-15 for 2015-16 onwards. The strategy is available in full to download from the Trust's website and is produced as a summary for members as required. The Trust will be consulting widely in 2019-20 to develop its future strategy to be announced in 2020-21.

### **Staffing**

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

The Chief Executive Officer reports to the Chair of Trustees. The Chief Executive Officer is responsible for the day to day running of the Trust and has delegated powers of authority approved by the Council. The Chief Executive Officer delegates decision making powers through the Senior Leadership Team into the organisation.

During the year the Trust employed 43 full-time equivalent staff (2018: 46), three of which worked for SERC and six for First Ecology. The majority of the Trust's staff are based at its headquarters in Taunton with others based at Ford Farm, the Avalon Marshes Centre and Callow Rock. The staff are organised into functional teams, such as reserves, and also work in cross-functional teams, such as for delivering major projects.

### **Complaints**

The Trust treats all complaints seriously. In the year 2018-19 the Trust received a total of six complaints. All of the complaints were responded to within seven days. Complaints are individually reviewed by the Chief Executive Officer and relevant senior staff and monitored by Trustees as part of a system for continuous improvement.





# Statement of Trustees' responsibilities

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

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and the group and of the income and expenditure of the charitable group for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

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

In so far as the Trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditors are unaware; and
- the Trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditors are aware of that information.

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

The Trustees' Report, including the Strategic Report, was approved by the Trustees on 23 July 2019 and signed on their behalf by:



**Graeme Mitchell**

Chair

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

## Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Somerset Wildlife Trust (the "parent charitable company") and its subsidiary (the 'group') for the year ended 31 March 2019 which comprise the consolidated Statement of Financial Activities, the consolidated and parent company Balance Sheets, Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102: The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), Update Bulletin 1 and Update Bulletin 2.

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

In our opinion, the financial statements:

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

## Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the group in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

## Conclusions relating to going concern

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

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

## Other information

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

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

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

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

- the information given in the trustees' report (incorporating the strategic report and the directors' report) for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and

- the trustees' report (incorporating the strategic report and the directors' report) have been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

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

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

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

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

### **Responsibilities of the trustees**

As explained more fully in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as they determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

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

### **Our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements**

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

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



**Alexandra Shore FCA CTA**

Senior Statutory Auditor  
For and on behalf of A C Mole & Sons  
Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditor  
Stafford House  
Blackbrook Park Avenue  
Taunton  
Somerset TA1 2PX

23 July 2019

# Financial statements



# Consolidated statement of financial activities

## (Including consolidated income and expenditure account)

### For the year ended 31 March 2019

	Notes	Unrestricted funds General £	Unrestricted funds Designated £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	Total funds 2019 £	Total funds 2018 £
<b>Income from:</b>							
Donations and legacies	2	776,905	697,675	94,987	-	1,569,567	1,080,553
Charitable activities:							
Inspiring people and communities	3	550	-	69,079	-	69,629	152,933
Rebuilding ecological networks	3	134,444	-	152,985	-	287,429	171,513
Standing up for nature	3	-	-	27,626	-	27,626	-
Nature reserves	3	534,042	-	62,225	-	596,267	572,820
Other trading activities	4	393,122	-	3,108	-	396,230	382,693
Investments	5	21,458	-	-	-	21,458	19,843
<b>Total</b>		<b>1,860,521</b>	<b>697,675</b>	<b>410,010</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,968,206</b>	<b>2,380,355</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>							
Raising funds		847,720	-	-	-	847,720	833,221
Charitable activities:							
Inspiring people and communities		124,346	15,338	78,146	-	217,830	307,723
Rebuilding ecological networks		304,260	-	168,384	-	472,644	359,615
Standing up for nature		49,286	11,187	25,036	-	85,509	85,679
Nature reserves		598,387	1,813	117,552	-	717,752	733,175
<b>Total</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1,923,999</b>	<b>28,338</b>	<b>389,118</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,341,455</b>	<b>2,319,413</b>
Net gains on investments		33,987	-	-	-	33,987	6,482
<b>Net income/(expenditure)</b>		<b>(29,491)</b>	<b>669,337</b>	<b>20,892</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>660,738</b>	<b>67,424</b>
Transfers between funds	18	139,413	(139,413)	-	-	-	-
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<b>109,922</b>	<b>529,924</b>	<b>20,892</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>660,738</b>	<b>67,424</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>							
Fund balances brought forward at 1 April 2018		343,317	2,988,799	276,092	1,633,849	5,242,057	5,174,633
<b>Fund balances carried forward at 31 March 2019</b>		<b>453,239</b>	<b>3,518,723</b>	<b>296,984</b>	<b>1,633,849</b>	<b>5,902,795</b>	<b>5,242,057</b>

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

The notes on pages 33 to 48 form part of these financial statements.

# Consolidated and Trust balance sheets

As at 31 March 2019

	Notes	Group		Trust	
		2019 £	2018 £	2019 £	2018 £
<b>Fixed assets</b>					
Tangible assets	11	850,614	850,872	837,258	841,881
Heritage assets	11	3,020,478	3,020,478	3,020,478	3,020,478
Investments	12	780,107	751,910	780,110	751,913
		<b>4,651,199</b>	<b>4,623,260</b>	<b>4,637,846</b>	<b>4,614,272</b>
<b>Current assets</b>					
Stock	13	2,013	9,026	2,013	2,286
Debtors	14	842,927	526,220	1,008,522	577,761
Deposit accounts		522,843	570,261	522,843	570,261
Cash at bank and in hand		485,216	152,794	325,026	111,458
		<b>1,852,999</b>	<b>1,258,301</b>	<b>1,858,404</b>	<b>1,261,766</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	15	140,703	139,704	132,910	134,336
<b>Net current assets</b>		<b>1,712,296</b>	<b>1,118,597</b>	<b>1,725,494</b>	<b>1,127,430</b>
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>		<b>6,363,495</b>	<b>5,741,857</b>	<b>6,363,340</b>	<b>5,741,702</b>
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	10	460,700	499,800	460,700	499,800
<b>Total net assets</b>		<b>5,902,795</b>	<b>5,242,057</b>	<b>5,902,640</b>	<b>5,241,902</b>
<b>The funds of the charity</b>					
Endowment funds		1,633,849	1,633,849	1,633,849	1,633,849
Restricted funds		296,984	276,092	296,984	276,092
Designated funds		3,518,723	2,988,799	3,518,723	2,988,799
Unrestricted funds		453,239	343,317	453,084	343,162
<b>Total charity funds</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>5,902,795</b>	<b>5,242,057</b>	<b>5,902,640</b>	<b>5,241,902</b>

The notes on pages 33 to 48 form part of these financial statements.

The financial statements on pages 29 to 48 were approved by the Trustees on 23 July 2019 and signed on their behalf by:



**Graeme Mitchell**  
Chair



**Richard Atkin**  
Treasurer

Somerset Wildlife Trust  
Registered company number 818162

# Consolidated statement of cash flows

## For the year ended 31 March 2019

	Note	2019 £	2018 £
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>			
Net cash provided by operating activities	22	319,270	156,877
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>			
Dividends, interest and rental income		21,458	19,843
Proceeds from the sale of property, plant and equipment		125	-
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		(61,639)	(18,126)
Proceeds from sale of investments		75,161	92,523
Purchase of investments		(72,247)	(84,735)
<b>Net cash used in investing activities</b>		<b>(37,142)</b>	<b>9,505</b>
<b>Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period</b>		<b>282,128</b>	<b>166,382</b>
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		739,924	573,542
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period</b>		<b>23 1,022,052</b>	<b>739,924</b>

The notes on pages 33 to 48 form part of these financial statements.





# Notes forming part of the financial statements

## For the year ended 31 March 2019

### 1. Accounting policies

#### (a) Charitable company status

The charity is a company limited by guarantee and does not have any share capital. The liability of the guarantors, who are the members, is limited to £1 per guarantor. At 31 March 2019 the charity had 19,609 members. The company is registered in England & Wales. The registered office address is 34 Wellington Road, Taunton, Somerset, TA1 5AW. On behalf of the members, the Council controls the company.

#### (b) Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015) – (Charities SORP (FRS102) Update Bulletin 1 and Update Bulletin 2), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

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

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

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

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

#### (d) Group financial statements

The financial statements consolidate the results of the charity and its wholly owned subsidiary SWT (Sales) Limited on a line-by-line basis. A separate Statement of Financial Activities and Income and Expenditure Account for the charity has not been presented because the Trust has taken advantage of the exemption afforded by section 408 of the Companies Act 2006. The surplus in the year for the charity was £660,738 (2017-18: £67,424). Note 20 gives full details of the results of the subsidiary undertaking for the year to 31 March 2019.

#### (e) Fund accounting

##### Unrestricted funds

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

##### Designated funds

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

##### Restricted funds

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

##### Endowment funds

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

#### (f) Income

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### (g) Expenditure

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Freehold property:** 2% on a straight line basis  
**Computers:** on a straight line basis over 3 years  
**Plant and equipment:** 15% on written down value  
**Motor vehicles:** 25% on written down value  
**Office equipment, furniture and fittings:** 15% on written down value

### **(i) Investments**

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

### **(j) Stock**

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

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

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

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

The Trust only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value, with the exception of listed investments as noted above.

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

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

Some employees are also members of a stakeholder pension scheme.

### **Defined contribution scheme**

Pension contributions in relation to defined contribution schemes are recognised as an expense in the statement of financial activities as incurred. Contributions by the Trust are between 3% and 7% of employees annual salaries.

### **Defined benefit scheme**

This scheme is now closed to new members. As set out in note 10, the Trust is unable to identify its share of the assets and liabilities of the scheme. Accordingly this scheme is accounted for as a defined contribution scheme and contributions are recognised as an expense as incurred.

There is an agreed Deficit Recovery Plan in place for this scheme. In accordance with FRS 102 the Trust has recognised a liability for the net present value of contributions payable by the Trust under this plan.

The unwinding of this discount is recognised as a finance cost.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## 2. Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2019 £	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2018 £
Membership <sup>1</sup>	685,051	-	685,051	647,205	-	647,205
Donations and appeals	91,854	94,987	186,841	140,991	175,495	316,486
Legacies	697,675	-	697,675	116,862	-	116,862
	<b>1,474,580</b>	<b>94,987</b>	<b>1,569,567</b>	<b>905,058</b>	<b>175,495</b>	<b>1,080,553</b>

<sup>1</sup> Membership subscriptions includes corporate membership £11,192 (2018: £8,067).

## 3. Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2019 £	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2018 £
<b>Inspiring people and communities</b>						
Natural England	-	5,011	5,011	-	19,900	19,900
Statutory body grants	-	-	-	-	5,000	5,000
Heritage Lottery Fund grants	-	-	-	-	103,520	103,520
Education provision	550	-	550	684	-	684
Other grants	-	64,068	64,068	-	23,829	23,829
	<b>550</b>	<b>69,079</b>	<b>69,629</b>	<b>684</b>	<b>152,249</b>	<b>152,933</b>
<b>Rebuilding ecological networks</b>						
Landfill tax credit scheme	-	-	-	-	1,856	1,856
Natural England	-	16,784	16,784	-	18,697	18,697
Statutory body grants	-	56,991	56,991	-	3,000	3,000
Other grants	-	79,210	79,210	-	41,302	41,302
Consultancy fees	30,517	-	30,517	1,300	-	1,300
Service level agreements	73,883	-	73,883	75,382	-	75,382
Data services	29,744	-	29,744	23,790	-	23,790
Sales income	300	-	300	6,186	-	6,186
	<b>134,444</b>	<b>152,985</b>	<b>287,429</b>	<b>106,658</b>	<b>64,855</b>	<b>171,513</b>
<b>Standing up for nature</b>						
Other grants	-	27,626	27,626	-	-	-
	-	<b>27,626</b>	<b>27,626</b>	-	-	-
<b>Nature reserves</b>						
Landfill tax credit scheme	-	19,630	19,630	-	-	-
Natural England	-	406	406	-	-	-
DEFRA	509,746	2,900	512,646	513,099	4,886	517,985
Statutory body grants	-	5,200	5,200	-	-	-
Forestry Commission	504	-	504	1,087	-	1,087
Other grants	-	34,089	34,089	-	31,526	31,526
Grazing licences and property lettings	19,856	-	19,856	20,230	-	20,230
Wood and firewood sales	3,936	-	3,936	1,992	-	1,992
	<b>534,042</b>	<b>62,225</b>	<b>596,267</b>	<b>536,408</b>	<b>36,412</b>	<b>572,820</b>
	<b>669,036</b>	<b>311,915</b>	<b>980,951</b>	<b>643,750</b>	<b>253,516</b>	<b>897,266</b>

## 4. Income from other trading activities

	Trust £	SWT (Sales) Ltd (see note 20) £	Total 2019 £	Trust £	SWT (Sales) Ltd (see note 20) £	Total 2018 £
Shop sales	2,923	-	2,923	2,178	-	2,178
Fundraising events	25,365	-	25,365	39,010	-	39,010
Other fundraising activities	47,803	-	47,803	59,261	-	59,261
First Ecology	-	320,139	320,139	-	282,244	282,244
	<b>76,091</b>	<b>320,139</b>	<b>396,230</b>	<b>100,449</b>	<b>282,244</b>	<b>382,693</b>

Other fundraising activities include £nil restricted funds (2018: £15,000).

Fundraising events include £3,108 restricted funds (2018: £nil).

## 5. Investment income

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2019 £	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2018 £
Dividends receivable from equity shares	18,644	-	18,644	18,511	-	18,511
Interest receivable from loan	385	-	385	385	-	385
Interest receivable from bank and deposit accounts	2,429	-	2,429	947	-	947
	<b>21,458</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>21,458</b>	<b>19,843</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>19,843</b>

## 6. Breakdown of expenditure

	Activities undertaken directly £	Support costs £	Total 2019 £	Activities undertaken directly £	Support costs £	Total 2018 £
<b>Expenditure on raising funds</b>						
Cost of raising funds	147,153	46,595	193,748	171,819	44,354	216,173
Membership recruitment and retention	286,960	57,500	344,460	277,023	50,953	327,976
Merchandising costs	-	-	-	1,978	-	1,978
Investment management fees	6,499	-	6,499	6,516	-	6,516
First Ecology	223,729	79,284	303,013	208,154	72,424	280,578
	<b>664,341</b>	<b>183,379</b>	<b>847,720</b>	<b>665,490</b>	<b>167,731</b>	<b>833,221</b>
<b>Charitable activities</b>						
Inspiring people and communities	135,922	81,908	217,830	206,789	100,934	307,723
Rebuilding ecological networks	350,345	122,299	472,644	256,655	102,960	359,615
Standing up for nature	66,713	18,796	85,509	68,192	17,487	85,679
Nature reserves	600,439	117,313	717,752	606,855	126,320	733,175
	<b>1,153,419</b>	<b>340,316</b>	<b>1,493,735</b>	<b>1,138,491</b>	<b>347,701</b>	<b>1,486,192</b>
	<b>1,817,760</b>	<b>523,695</b>	<b>2,341,455</b>	<b>1,803,981</b>	<b>515,432</b>	<b>2,319,413</b>

### Support cost breakdown by activity

	Costs of raising funds £	Membership recruitment and retention £	First Ecology £	Inspiring people and communities £	Rebuilding ecological networks £	Standing up for nature £	Nature reserves £	Total 2019 £	Total 2018 £
Finance	8,146	8,146	16,291	8,146	24,982	4,074	24,168	93,953	88,056
HR/staff support	6,915	6,915	13,833	6,917	21,212	3,458	20,520	79,770	56,425
Office costs	4,762	4,762	9,525	4,762	14,602	2,380	14,128	54,921	70,459
Property and motor vehicles	4,405	4,404	8,810	4,403	13,508	2,203	13,066	50,799	61,701
Recoverable VAT	(10,906)	-	(1,363)	(1,363)	(1,363)	(1,363)	(10,905)	(27,263)	(16,497)
Marketing	17,663	17,663	966	43,433	1,480	241	10,022	91,468	75,083
Information technology	4,983	4,983	9,966	4,983	15,280	2,491	14,784	57,470	58,627
National and regional support	4,533	4,533	9,066	4,533	13,901	2,266	13,448	52,280	53,057
Insurance	271	271	541	271	829	135	803	3,121	3,668
Governance	5,823	5,823	11,649	5,823	17,868	2,911	17,279	67,176	64,853
	<b>46,595</b>	<b>57,500</b>	<b>79,284</b>	<b>81,908</b>	<b>122,299</b>	<b>18,796</b>	<b>117,313</b>	<b>523,695</b>	<b>515,432</b>

### Basis of allocation

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

## 7. Other cost disclosures

	Total 2019 £	Total 2018 £
Depreciation	61,184	63,364
Auditors' remuneration		
Audit fees	11,355	11,978
Loss on disposal of fixed assets	588	282

## 8. Staff costs

	Total 2019 £	Total 2018 £
Wages and salaries	1,168,035	1,160,081
Social security costs	97,073	95,647
Pension costs	37,103	36,075
	<b>1,302,211</b>	<b>1,291,803</b>

No employee received remuneration of more than £60,000 in the year (2018: none).

Total remuneration of key management personnel in the period was £187,712 (2018: £182,185).

The key management personnel of the group and the parent charity, comprise the Trustees, Chief Executive Officer, Director of Conservation and Director of Fundraising and Marketing.

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

	2019 Number	2018 Number
Charitable activities	47	47
Raising funds	7	7
Governance	1	1

The average number of full-time equivalent employees during the year totalled 43 (2018: 46).

## 9. Trustee emoluments

	Total 2019 £	Total 2018 £
Reimbursement of Trustees' travel and subsistence costs	1,288	358
Donations received from Trustees	1,662	16,542

Trustees did not receive any remuneration or benefits in kind during either year (2018: none).

Three trustees were reimbursed for travel expenses during the year (2018: three).

## 10. Pension costs

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

### Defined Benefit Scheme

The Trust is unable to identify its share of the underlying assets and liabilities of the defined benefit section.

The scheme actuary has confirmed that it is not currently possible to establish a fair and reasonable approach that identifies each employer's share of the underlying assets and liabilities of the scheme to meet the requirements of FRS 102.

Accordingly, as permitted by FRS 102, the Trust accounts for the defined benefit scheme as if it were a defined contribution scheme and has recognised a liability for the present value of the contributions payable by the Trust under the agreed Deficit Recovery Plan for the scheme.

This liability was as follows:

### Present value of contributions payable under Deficit Recovery Plan

	Total 2019 £	Total 2018 £
At 1 April 2018	499,800	534,500
Cash contributions in the year	(56,366)	(46,441)
Finance cost:		
Unwinding of interest	21,636	10,109
Movement in discount rate	(4,370)	1,632
<b>As at March 2019</b>	<b>460,700</b>	<b>499,800</b>
Discount rate (iBoxx 15 year Sterling Corporates AA rated bond yield)	2.35%	2.58%

A discount rate of 2.35% (2018: 2.58%) has been used to calculate the net present value of future contributions. This is based on the iBoXX 15 year sterling corporate AA rated bond yield.

Contributions to the defined benefit section of the scheme are determined on the basis of triennial actuarial valuations carried out by an independent, qualified actuary. In the valuation as at 1 April 2004 the Scheme did not satisfy the minimum funding requirement and was closed with effect from 30 September 2005. The Trust will continue to contribute to the scheme to ensure that the accrued benefits of employees will be met.

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

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

	Total 2019	Total 2018
Discount rate pre-retirement	4.45%	4.45%
Discount rate post-retirement	2.2%	2.2%
Price inflation (RPI)	3%	3%
Price inflation (CPI)	2.2%	2.2%

Post mortality assumptions are based on S2PA tables projected by each member's year of birth.

As at the valuation date the total value of the Scheme's deficit was £5.9m. A revised Recovery Plan has been received from the pension scheme trustees. In accordance with the new Recovery Plan the deficit is payable by monthly instalments which will increase by 3% per annum to 2026.

As disclosed in note 21 the Trust also has a contingent liability in respect of the Scheme.

### Defined contribution schemes

The Trust contributes between 3% and 7% of annual salary to employees' current pension schemes, all of which are defined contributions in nature. The pension charge for the year in respect of these contributions amounted to £37,103 (2018: £36,075).

## 11. Tangible and heritage fixed assets

### Group

	Nature reserves		Freehold and leasehold property	Plant and equipment	Vehicles	Office equipment	Total
	Freehold	Leasehold					
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Cost</b>							
At 1 April 2018	3,020,478	103,946	739,830	362,345	154,926	150,915	4,532,440
Additions	-	-	-	27,072	18,000	16,567	61,639
Disposals	-	-	-	-	(20,988)	(17,762)	(38,750)
<b>At 31 March 2019</b>	<b>3,020,478</b>	<b>103,946</b>	<b>739,830</b>	<b>389,417</b>	<b>151,938</b>	<b>149,720</b>	<b>4,555,329</b>
<b>Depreciation</b>							
At 1 April 2018	-	103,754	61,290	256,873	114,604	124,569	661,090
Charge for the year	-	2	14,862	17,088	15,221	14,011	61,184
Disposals	-	-	-	-	(20,275)	(17,762)	(38,037)
<b>At 31 March 2019</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>103,756</b>	<b>76,152</b>	<b>273,961</b>	<b>109,550</b>	<b>120,818</b>	<b>684,237</b>
<b>Net book value</b>							
<b>At 31 March 2019</b>	<b>3,020,478</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>663,678</b>	<b>115,456</b>	<b>42,388</b>	<b>28,902</b>	<b>3,871,092</b>
<b>At 31 March 2018</b>	<b>3,020,478</b>	<b>192</b>	<b>678,540</b>	<b>105,472</b>	<b>40,322</b>	<b>26,346</b>	<b>3,871,350</b>

### Charity

	Nature reserves		Freehold and leasehold property	Plant and equipment	Vehicles	Office equipment	Total
	Freehold	Leasehold					
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Cost</b>							
At 1 April 2018	3,020,478	103,946	739,830	342,500	154,926	117,845	4,479,525
Additions	-	-	-	23,389	18,000	11,041	52,430
Disposals	-	-	-	-	(20,988)	(17,762)	(38,750)
<b>At 31 March 2019</b>	<b>3,020,478</b>	<b>103,946</b>	<b>739,830</b>	<b>365,889</b>	<b>151,938</b>	<b>111,124</b>	<b>4,493,205</b>
<b>Depreciation</b>							
At 1 April 2018	-	103,754	61,290	242,521	114,604	94,997	617,166
Charge for the year	-	2	14,862	15,995	15,221	10,260	56,340
Disposals	-	-	-	-	(20,275)	(17,762)	(38,037)
<b>At 31 March 2019</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>103,756</b>	<b>76,152</b>	<b>258,516</b>	<b>109,550</b>	<b>87,495</b>	<b>635,469</b>
<b>Net book value</b>							
<b>At 31 March 2019</b>	<b>3,020,478</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>663,678</b>	<b>107,373</b>	<b>42,388</b>	<b>23,629</b>	<b>3,857,736</b>
<b>At 31 March 2018</b>	<b>3,020,478</b>	<b>192</b>	<b>678,540</b>	<b>99,979</b>	<b>40,322</b>	<b>22,848</b>	<b>3,862,359</b>

### Heritage fixed assets

Heritage assets are represented as freehold nature reserves above.

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

	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
	£	£	£	£	£
Cost of acquisitions	-	-	14,709	63,670	-
Value of donated assets	-	-	-	-	-
Carrying amount of disposals	-	-	54,938	-	-
Proceeds of disposals	-	-	120,709	-	-
Value of impairment	-	-	-	-	-



## 12. Investments

### Group

	Listed securities £	Cash holdings £	Total 2019 £	Total 2018 £
<b>Cost</b>				
At 1 April 2018	641,700	16,869	658,569	647,714
Additions	72,247	90,162	162,409	177,259
Disposals	(60,477)	(93,038)	(153,515)	(166,404)
<b>At 31 March 2019</b>	<b>653,470</b>	<b>13,993</b>	<b>667,463</b>	<b>658,569</b>
<b>Revaluations</b>				
Unrealised gains at 1 April 2018	93,341	-	93,341	103,679
Net gains arising on revaluations in the year	33,987	-	33,987	6,482
Disposals/reverse revaluations	(14,684)	-	(14,684)	(16,820)
<b>Unrealised gains at 31 March 2019</b>	<b>112,644</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>112,644</b>	<b>93,341</b>
<b>Fair value at 31 March 2019</b>	<b>766,114</b>	<b>13,993</b>	<b>780,107</b>	<b>751,910</b>

### Charity

	Subsidiary company £	Listed securities £	Cash holdings £	Total 2019 £	Total 2018 £
<b>Cost</b>					
At 1 April 2018	3	641,700	16,869	658,572	647,717
Additions	-	72,247	90,162	162,409	177,259
Disposals	-	(60,477)	(93,038)	(153,515)	(166,404)
<b>At 31 March 2019</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>653,470</b>	<b>13,993</b>	<b>667,466</b>	<b>658,572</b>
<b>Revaluations</b>					
Unrealised gains at 1 April 2018	-	93,341	-	93,341	103,679
Net gains arising on revaluations in the year	-	33,987	-	33,987	6,482
Disposals/reverse revaluations	-	(14,684)	-	(14,684)	(16,820)
<b>Unrealised gains at 31 March 2019</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>112,644</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>112,644</b>	<b>93,341</b>
<b>Fair value at 31 March 2019</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>766,114</b>	<b>13,993</b>	<b>780,110</b>	<b>751,913</b>

At 31 March 2019 the charity had one wholly owned subsidiary, SWT (Sales) Limited. The charity owns 100% of the company's ordinary share capital. The principal activity of SWT (Sales) Limited is that of environmental consultancy work (see note 20).

## 13. Stocks

	Group		Trust	
	2019	2018	2019	2018
	£	£	£	£
Stocks	2,013	2,286	2,013	2,286
Work in progress	-	6,740	-	-
	<b>2,013</b>	<b>9,026</b>	<b>2,013</b>	<b>2,286</b>

## 14. Debtors

	Group		Trust	
	2019	2018	2019	2018
	£	£	£	£
Trade debtors	91,567	87,846	36,611	32,656
Other debtors	16,287	33,713	16,287	33,713
Prepayments and accrued income	735,073	404,661	717,142	403,799
Amounts owed by subsidiary company	-	-	238,482	107,593
	<b>842,927</b>	<b>526,220</b>	<b>1,008,522</b>	<b>577,761</b>

Other debtors includes £nil (2018: £nil) due after more than one year.

## 15. Creditors

	Group		Trust	
	2019	2018	2019	2018
	£	£	£	£
<b>Amounts falling due within one year</b>				
Trade creditors	66,981	66,189	62,465	62,410
Other creditors and accruals	73,722	73,515	70,445	71,926
	<b>140,703</b>	<b>139,704</b>	<b>132,910</b>	<b>134,336</b>

## 16. Operating lease commitments

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

	Group		Trust	
	2019	2018	2019	2018
	£	£	£	£
Within one year	12,246	12,000	12,246	12,000
Due one to five years	18,643	25,903	18,643	25,903
	<b>30,889</b>	<b>37,903</b>	<b>30,889</b>	<b>37,903</b>

## 17. Statement of funds

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

### Unrestricted funds

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

### Designated funds

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

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

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

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

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

### Restricted funds

The restricted income funds of the charity include restricted funds comprising the unexpended balances of donations, grants and other income, which are to be applied for specific purposes within the Trust's objectives:

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

## 18. Transfers between funds

	Total 2019 £	Total 2018 £
<b>Designated funds</b>		
Opportunity reserve	-	(150,000)
Operating freehold reserve	(14,725)	(14,725)
Nature reserves development	(18,000)	-
Development reserve	(156,688)	49,891
Innovation fund	50,000	-
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>	139,413	114,834
	-	-

The designated opportunity reserve transfer in 2018 represents the combining of the opportunity fund with the designated development reserve, both of which have the same purpose.

The designated operating freehold reserve transfer represents the net movement in the book value of the Trust's freehold property and main headquarters in Taunton.

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

The designated development reserve transfer represents designated funds expended during the year on Council approved projects and includes investment in volunteering, development of a new website, office infrastructure and general running costs.

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

## 19. Analysis of group net assets between funds

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

## 20. Subsidiary company

### SWT (Sales) Limited income and expenditure statement for the year ended March 2019

	2019	2018
	£	£
Turnover	323,975	326,961
Cost of sales	196,029	183,292
<b>Gross profit</b>	<b>127,946</b>	<b>143,669</b>
Administrative expenses	70,903	60,426
Interest payable	4,830	-
	<b>52,213</b>	<b>83,243</b>
Other operating income	-	2,200
<b>Net profit</b>	<b>52,213</b>	<b>85,443</b>
Taxation	-	-
<b>Net profit after taxation</b>	<b>52,213</b>	<b>85,443</b>
Paid under gift aid to Trust	52,213	85,443
	-	-
Profit brought forward	152	152
<b>Retained profit carried forward</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>152</b>

Turnover includes a charge of £3,835 (2018: £46,917) for services to the Trust.

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

Assets	246,430	113,327
Liabilities	(246,275)	(113,172)
<b>Funds</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>155</b>

## 21. Contingent liabilities

The Trust participates in the Wildlife Trusts Pension Scheme, a hybrid multi-employer pension scheme.

During 2014-15 the Trust was notified that the Section 75 clause in the Scheme had been breached, as the Trust no longer had any active members in the Scheme.

During 2016 it was confirmed that four other Trusts had also breached the Section 75 clause. The value of the Trust's liability in relation to the breach has not yet been estimated. The Trust continues to work with its advisors to clarify its position.

Further information regarding the Scheme is set out in note 10.

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

	2019	2018
	£	£
Net income/(expenditure) for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)	660,738	67,424
<b>Adjustments for:</b>		
Depreciation charges	61,184	63,364
(Gains) on investments	(33,987)	(6,482)
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	(21,458)	(19,843)
Loss on disposal of fixed assets	588	282
Defined benefit pension scheme liability less payments	(39,100)	(34,700)
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(316,707)	140,731
Decrease/(increase) in stock	7,013	(1,805)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	999	(52,094)
<b>Net cash provided by operating activities</b>	<b>319,270</b>	<b>156,877</b>

## 23. Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	2019	2018
	£	£
Cash at bank and in hand	485,216	152,794
Deposit accounts (less than 3 months)	536,836	587,130
	<b>1,022,052</b>	<b>739,924</b>

## 24. Statement of financial activities for the year ended 31 March 2018

	Unrestricted funds		Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds 2018
	General	Designated			
	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Income from:</b>					
Donations and legacies	788,196	116,862	175,495	-	1,080,553
Charitable activities:					
Inspiring people and communities	684	-	152,249	-	152,933
Rebuilding ecological networks	106,658	-	64,855	-	171,513
Nature reserves	536,408	-	36,412	-	572,820
Other trading activities	367,693	-	15,000	-	382,693
Investments	19,843	-	-	-	19,843
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,819,482</b>	<b>116,862</b>	<b>444,011</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,380,355</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>					
Raising funds	833,221	-	-	-	833,221
Charitable activities:					
Inspiring people and communities	110,957	7,000	189,766	-	307,723
Rebuilding ecological networks	261,439	-	98,176	-	359,615
Standing up for nature	39,614	17,628	28,437	-	85,679
Nature reserves	632,803	21,753	78,619	-	733,175
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,878,034</b>	<b>46,381</b>	<b>394,998</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,319,413</b>
Net gains on investments	6,482	-	-	-	6,482
<b>Net income/(expenditure)</b>	<b>(52,070)</b>	<b>70,481</b>	<b>49,013</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>67,424</b>
<b>Transfers between funds</b>					
<b>Net movement in funds</b>	<b>62,764</b>	<b>(114,834)</b>	<b>49,013</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>67,424</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>					
Fund balances brought forward at 1 April 2017	280,553	3,033,152	227,079	1,633,849	5,174,633
<b>Fund balances carried forward at 31 March 2018</b>	<b>343,317</b>	<b>2,988,799</b>	<b>276,092</b>	<b>1,633,849</b>	<b>5,242,057</b>

## 25. Statement of funds 2018

	At 1 April 2017 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Investment gains £	At 31 March 2018 £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>						
Income fund	280,553	1,819,482	(1,878,034)	114,834	6,482	343,317
<b>Total unrestricted funds</b>	<b>280,553</b>	<b>1,819,482</b>	<b>(1,878,034)</b>	<b>114,834</b>	<b>6,482</b>	<b>343,317</b>
<b>Designated funds</b>						
Opportunity reserve	150,000	-	-	(150,000)	-	-
Nature reserves	1,386,823	-	(2)	-	-	1,386,821
Operating freehold	692,163	-	-	(14,725)	-	677,438
Nature reserve development	38,830	-	(4,476)	-	-	34,354
Development reserve	765,336	116,862	(41,903)	49,891	-	890,186
<b>Total designated funds</b>	<b>3,033,152</b>	<b>116,862</b>	<b>(46,381)</b>	<b>(114,834)</b>	-	<b>2,988,799</b>
<b>Restricted funds</b>						
Inspiring people and communities	49,788	212,415	(189,766)	-	-	72,437
Rebuilding ecological networks	46,874	68,759	(98,176)	-	-	17,457
Standing up for nature	32,911	-	(28,437)	-	-	4,474
Nature reserves	97,506	162,837	(78,619)	-	-	181,724
<b>Total restricted funds</b>	<b>227,079</b>	<b>444,011</b>	<b>(394,998)</b>	-	-	<b>276,092</b>
<b>Endowment funds</b>						
Nature reserves	1,633,849	-	-	-	-	1,633,849
<b>Total endowment funds</b>	<b>1,633,849</b>	-	-	-	-	<b>1,633,849</b>
<b>Total funds</b>	<b>5,174,633</b>	<b>2,380,355</b>	<b>(2,319,413)</b>	-	<b>6,482</b>	<b>5,242,057</b>

## 26. Analysis of group net assets between funds 2018

	Unrestricted funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	Total funds £
Tangible and heritage fixed assets	173,242	2,064,259	-	1,633,849	3,871,350
Investments	717,556	34,354	-	-	751,910
Current assets	92,023	890,186	276,092	-	1,258,301
Current liabilities	(139,704)	-	-	-	(139,704)
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	(499,800)	-	-	-	(499,800)
	<b>343,317</b>	<b>2,988,799</b>	<b>276,092</b>	<b>1,633,849</b>	<b>5,242,057</b>



# Gifts and donations

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

## Legacies

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

Lawrence John Aucott  
Ian David Baker  
Kenneth Henry Bolton  
Yvonne Burroughs  
Mary Elizabeth Ann Chorley  
Stephen James Croad  
Jonathan James Frankpitt  
Denise Deborah Gibbs

Horace Laurence Gibson  
Lt Col James Brian Goss  
Colin Gray  
Anthony John Frederick Lewis Holley  
David Richard Hutcherson  
Jill Yvonne Jackson  
Janet Gwynne Maitland  
Elizabeth Mary Manners

Joy Anne Philp  
Rosemary Anne Rees-Davies  
Primrose Ashley Gray Seth-Smith  
Bernard Storer  
Kathleen Winifred Louisa Warner  
Pamela Wynn  
Stuart Frank Young

## Patrons

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

Dudley Cheesman  
Richard Denton-Cox  
Brigadier John Deverell CBE  
Henry Hoare

James Hughes-Hallet  
Jean Mantle  
Rohan and Lily Masson-Taylor  
Caroline Rathbone

Tim and Dede Sanderson  
Patricia Stainton and Robin Levien  
Robert Unwin  
Angela Yeoman OBE

## Corporate members and partners

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

A C Mole & Sons  
Berry's Coaches  
Branston Ltd  
Bridgwater and Taunton College  
Brimsmore Gardens (The Gardens Group)  
Devon Doctors Ltd

EDF Energy  
Everys Solicitors  
Golledge Electronics Ltd  
Hi-Line Contractors SW Ltd  
John Wainwright & Co Ltd  
Melhuish and Saunders Ltd  
National Grid

Proper Job Superstores  
Somerset Birdwatching Holidays  
Southern Co-op  
Vine House Farm  
Viridor Waste Management  
Wessex Water  
Wildlife Travel Ltd

## Trusts and grants

We would like to thank the following for their generous support of our work in 2018-19.

Aggregate Industries  
Banister Charitable Trust  
Battens Charitable Trust  
Brendonridge Trust  
Community Impact Mitigation Fund  
Curry Fund  
DEFRA  
Devon County Council  
Dorothy Whitney Elmhirst Trust  
Exmoor National Park Authority  
Forestry Commission  
Foxglove Trust  
FWAG South West Limited

Joseph Strong Frazer Trust  
Mabel Cooper Charitable Trust  
Mendip Hills AONB  
National Grid Foundation  
National Lottery Heritage Fund  
National Trust  
Natural England  
Ninesquare Charitable Trust  
Oliver Moorland Charitable Trust  
Cameron Mackintosh Foundation  
People's Postcode Lottery  
Peter De Haan Charitable Trust  
Reeve Charitable Trust

Royal Botanic Gardens  
Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts  
St James's Place Charitable Trust  
Stephen Clark Charitable Trust  
Sustainable Eel Group  
Tesco Bags of Help  
The Blair Foundation  
Torr Works Enhancement Fund  
Viridor Credits Ltd  
Wellington Without Parish Council  
Wessex Water  
Westcountry Rivers Trust

# Key people and advisers

## Patron

Simon King OBE

## President

Stephen Moss

## Vice-Presidents

Dudley Cheesman  
Ralph Clark  
Roger Martin  
Chris Sperring MBE

## Directors and Trustees

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

### Chair

Patricia Stainton (to 3 November 2018)  
Graeme Mitchell (from 3 November 2018)

### Vice-Chair

Sarah Nason

### Treasurer

John Scotford CBE (to 3 November 2018)  
Richard Atkin (from 3 November 2018)

### Elected Trustees

Richard Atkin  
Matthew Bell  
Professor Valerie Brown  
Simon Hicks  
Philip Holms  
Helen Lawy  
Graeme Mitchell (appointed 9 April 2018)  
Sarah Nason  
Stephen Newman  
Terence Rowell (resigned 30 October 2018)  
John Scotford CBE (resigned 3 November 2018)  
Patricia Stainton (resigned 3 November 2018)  
Martin Stanley (resigned 24 May 2018)  
Melville Trimble  
Matthew Trimmer (resigned 17 August 2018)

### Co-opted Trustees

Dr Mark Steer (appointed 10 June 2019)

## Senior Leadership Team

Katie Arber, Director of Fundraising and Marketing  
Michele Bowe, Director of Conservation  
Simon Nash, Chief Executive Officer (to 31 January 2019)  
Georgia Stokes, Chief Executive Officer (from 8 April 2019)

## Advisers

### Senior Statutory Auditor

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

### Bankers

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

### Solicitors

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

### Investment managers

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

### Land agents

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



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

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



## **Somerset Wildlife Trust**

34 Wellington Road  
Taunton  
Somerset TA1 5AW

01823 652400

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

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Company number 818162