

Company number: 01019263 (England and Wales)
Charity number: 501038

Durham Wildlife Trust
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)
Report and Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 March 2024

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Durham Wildlife Trust

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REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Structure Governance and Management

Durham Wildlife Trust is a charitable company limited by guarantee that was first incorporated on the 30th of July 1971 and does not have share capital. The Members of the company are the Trustees who served during the year and are named above. In the event of the charity being wound up, the liability in respect of each member is limited to £1.

Durham Wildlife Trust Limited is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association, which have been reviewed and amended since incorporation to ensure that they remain fit for purpose. Those documents are supported by policies and procedures that are designed to ensure effective governance of the charity's activities and management.

Anyone can become a member of the charity by paying a subscription and eligible members can then seek to become a trustee.

Appointment of Trustees

The charity is managed by a Board of Trustees who are Directors of the charitable company, as well as its Trustees for the purpose of charity law. Throughout this report they are referred to as Trustees. The officers of the Trust comprise a Chair, Secretary and Treasurer.

As set out in the Articles of Association, all members aged 16 and over are eligible to join the Board of Trustees, provided they are not legally disqualified from doing so. The Board consists of not less than 10 and not more than 15 elected members. The Trust's membership is notified of the opportunity to seek election to the Board prior to the Annual General Meeting (AGM). A Trustee recruitment procedure is in place and the Board conducts an annual audit of Trustees to identify knowledge and skills gaps that the recruitment process can help to address.

Following a nomination process, new Trustees are appointed at the AGM by a vote of the Trust members in attendance. Trustees elected in this way must retire at the fourth AGM following their election, although they are eligible for re-election to serve a second 4-year term. After their second 4-year term Trustees must stand down for a minimum of 12 months before they can seek re-election. The exceptions to this rule are the Chair, who can serve for up to six years, and the Treasurer, who is elected annually with no stipulation on the maximum period of office. The Board may also co-opt additional Trustees at any time and Trustees appointed by this method must retire from office at the next Annual General Meeting.

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Trustee Induction and Training

New Trustees undertake an induction process set out in a written induction procedure. This process provides information on their legal obligations under charity and company law and the management and operation of the charity. An induction pack is provided and includes items such as the governing document, Board minutes and audited accounts. New Trustees also meet key employees of the charity and have the opportunity to visit its nature reserves and current project sites.

The charity encourages further ongoing training for Trustees, either in-house or through external providers, to help them to undertake their role.

Organisation

The Trustees administer the charity, sitting as members of the Board. The Board meets at least four times each year and also appoints advisory committees to provide specialist consideration and support.

A Director is appointed by the Trustees to manage the day to day operations of the charity. Advisory committees, which are usually comprised of several members of the Board, the Director and other senior members of staff report directly to the Board.

Staff Remuneration

Remuneration for all staff is based on comparison against similar roles in the charity sector. Inflation awards are applied equally to all eligible members of staff and the level of award is decided by Trustees and is only awarded if considered affordable. Trustees made a 5% inflation award in April 2024.

The total salary bill for the year ended 31st March 2024 for the Trust Director and 4 other members of the management team was £208,367 including employer pension contributions. During the year the highest salary in the Trust was 2.79 times larger than the lowest salary.

Related Parties

The charity delivers many of its objectives through partnership working with other voluntary groups, local authorities and government agencies. There is no formal representation of these partners on the charity's Board. During the year no trustees claimed travelling expenses (2023 - £nil) while engaged on Trust business and volunteering.

The charity is a member of the Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts (RSWT - charity number 207238), which acts as an umbrella body carrying out lobbying, national campaigning and other functions on behalf of all Wildlife Trusts. Member charities have the use of the Wildlife Trusts logo and benefit from the resources, best practice and experience of other member Trusts. Membership gives Durham Wildlife Trust a national voice and profile, as well as respectability by association for those unfamiliar with its work. However, each member of the RSWT remains an entirely separate charity and is independent in terms of governance.

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Risk Management

The Trustees regularly identify and review the major risks the charity may face. This information is used to develop a Risk Register, which records the systems and procedures which the charity will implement to mitigate the risks that have been identified. The Finance, Audit and Risk committee reviews the Risk Register at each of its four meetings a year.

Attention is always paid to risks relating to Health and Safety and Safeguarding given the charity's work on practical land management and the engagement and education of children and adults. Health and Safety and Safeguarding are items on the agenda at every Board meeting.

Governance processes and Trust policies and procedures are reviewed on an annual basis to ensure they are fit for purpose and reflect current best practice.

Objectives and Activities

Durham Wildlife Trust began implementation of a new strategy from 1st April 2023 - 2030 From Tees to Tyne, which will guide delivery by the charity in the coming years. The strategy will inspire and encourage our staff, supporters and partners to take the action needed to bring nature back between the Tees and the Tyne.

The strategy aligns with international, UK and Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts (RSWT) goals to deliver **30% of land and sea protected for nature by 2030 (30 by 30)**. This global ambition will only be realised through effective local action by communities across the world. Durham Wildlife Trust's 2030 Strategy sets out our route map for how working in partnership with the people who live and work between the Tees and the Tyne will deliver 30 by 30.

The strategy is a living document that will be reviewed and updated throughout its life. Individual actions and initiatives will change in the light of better ideas, insights and in response to funding opportunities and operational constraints.

Durham Wildlife Trust's 2030 strategy has been created through the passion, commitment, expertise and energy of our Trustees, employees and volunteers. For it to be effective it needs the support of everyone across our region – the people, communities, businesses and institutions that rely on our region's natural environment for their own health and prosperity.

Executive summary

The key aspects of the strategy are set out below.

They reflect the 3 key goals of the strategy:

1. Nature in Recovery (30 % of land and sea by 2030)

- 40,000ha of additional land improved for nature and the restoration of natural processes.
- 1000ha of this to be additional land managed by Durham Wildlife Trust.
- Robust local metrics and data gathering to monitor progress.
- Exemplary land management of our own estate.

2. Meaningful Action (1 in 4 people involved)

- Adopting the 'Team Wilder' approach and a sub-region operational model based on local communities.
- Embracing supporters of all kinds and diversifying our audiences.
- Providing improved visitor destinations.
- Growing our public profile, operational partnerships and influence to bring about real change.

3. Nature-based Solutions (nature central to solving local and global problems)

- Durham Wildlife Trust is the local leader in Biodiversity Net Gain and other natural capital solutions.
- There will be an evidenced-based well-being focus across our activities.
- We will have a strategic approach to projects with nature-based benefits to highlight natural flood management, carbon sequestration, eco-tourism, water quality benefits (e.g. as realised by the Great North Fen).

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To deliver our Goals the Trust has identified **3 Strategic Transformations** :

- 1 Community Organising.
- 2 Embracing Digital.
- 3 Step Change in Funding.

Linked to these are **3 Enabling Priorities** for the Trust:

- 1 Getting our own house in order.
- 2 Improving data and evidence base.
- 3 Investing in our people.

The strategy leads to several implications for the Trust and its operations:

- Finance – transforming to an organisation that consistently generates annual income of more than £6 million.
- Governance – delivering greater connection with local communities and increased trustee participation.
- Branding – ensuring branding matches local delivery needs.
- Reputation – ensuring new ways of generating income do not compromise our values and culture.
- Staff recruitment and retention – growing staff numbers to facilitate the delivery of the Strategy.
- Supporters and partnerships – new thinking to be embedded across the organisation.
- Skills and knowledge - improving our skill and knowledge base to allow us to deliver our ambitions.

Achievements and Performance

Conservation

The Durham Wildlife Trust 2030 Strategy has set bold new targets for land acquisition. This will see the doubling of the total area of land managed by Durham Wildlife Trust. Taking the Trust from 1000ha in 2023 to 2000ha by 2030.

The Trust continued to work with Natural England to acquire land for the purpose of nutrient management in the Tees catchment. This work was part of the Nutrient Neutrality measures put in place by Natural England to prevent further degradation of designated habitats at the Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast SPA. One site was acquired during the year via this relationship. Eldon Moor, acquired for £2.6 million, is 88.36 hectares (218.34 acres) of improved Grade 3 agricultural land, of which a tenth is permanent pasture, ponds and woodland.

In South Tyneside, the Trust entered into a one year lease to manage Boldon Flats. Boldon Flats is a 24 hectare (59.3 acre) wetland and grassland site. It is locally significant for its wetland bird interest and includes an area of lowland calcareous grassland designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest. The Trust hopes to develop a longer-term management agreement for this important site.

In January 2024 the Trust signed a long-term lease for Rainton Meadows Nature Reserve and Visitors Centre from Sunderland City Council. This now provides security of tenure until the end of 2073. The lease has incorporated additional land into the Rainton Meadows Nature Reserve, increasing the size of the site by 13 hectares (32.12 acres). The new land, which is currently improved pasture, will be managed to improve floral diversity to deliver Biodiversity Net Gain and it is one of the first areas to be managed by the Trust for this purpose.

At 31st March 2024, the Trust had a suite of 53 sites under its management, covering 1334 hectares of land. Of these, three sites have been acquired to deliver Nutrient Neutrality - Eldon Moor, Mordon North and Horse Close Lane. As former agricultural land, their current ecological interest is lower than other Trust nature reserves. As a result, these sites will be the focus for delivery of Biodiversity Net Gain, as they provide ideal locations to create and restore habitats to increase biodiversity and offset losses elsewhere. The Nutrient Neutrality sites will be managed to deliver specific outcomes under contractual obligations, with the work carried out by contractors. This means access will be limited in comparison to the charity's nature reserves, with members being able to visit the sites as part of guided tours and public access by formal rights of way only.

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There were various changes to reserves staff during the year. In March 2024 Andrew Wadds was appointed Reserves Manager to oversee the management of Trust land and lead the team of three Reserves Officers.

Volunteer support for nature conservation activities continued to grow supported by the Trust's Volunteer Support Assistant, Caitlin Elwin. This position has been funded through the New to Nature programme. New to Nature aims to provide life-changing experiences for people who might not normally have access to a career in the environmental sector. It is funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund as part of the celebrations to mark the late Queen's Platinum Jubilee and the King's Coronation. New to Nature has also funded an additional post of Conservation Assistant and Frazer Terry was appointed to the role. This post focusses on developing the Trust's mapping and recording capacity as part of the Embracing Digital Strategic Transformation set out in 2030 From Tees to Tyne.

Works required under DEFRA Stewardship agreements across the Trust's land holding continued to be delivered as required, and where applicable agreements were extended for a further 5 years with an option to transfer to a new agreement when appropriate. Stewardship schemes and Forestry Commission grants continue to provide a valuable source of income.

Volunteer support for nature conservation activities, severely impacted by Covid 19 the previous year, returned to pre-covid levels. A new cloud-based volunteer management system was implemented during the year to improve the onboarding of new volunteers and provide better recording and recognition of the volunteer contribution to the Trust. The system provides a self-service platform for volunteers to view and manage their data, view their volunteer hours and register for opportunities, all functions that weren't available with the previous system. The cloud-based system also offers volunteer managers better access to reports, live updates on volunteer activity and easier access to emergency contact information when out in the field. The new system has streamlined volunteer administration for new and current volunteers and allowed the Trust to manage an increase in new volunteer enquiries.

Visitor numbers to Trust sites have remained high, continuing the trend established during the Covid pandemic when more people made use of their local Durham Wildlife Trust nature reserve and enjoyed the benefits that nature can bring. The support of volunteer site wardens remained vital in ensuring that the nature reserves remained safe and welcoming places to visit. The Trust has seen a growth in volunteer site wardening thanks to the work of the Conservation Volunteer Coordinator, a role supported by funding from the Zephyr Trust, which was originally occupied by Ruby Merriman and then Mary-Anne Riley. The Coordinator has increased the range of volunteer warden activities, creating the role of Volunteer Reserve Ranger. A new app-based reporting system has been developed to allow Volunteer Reserve Rangers to quickly make reports on the condition of sites so that staff can action inspections or repairs when needed. This work is a further example of the Embracing Digital Strategic Transformation.

Thanks to the Zephyr Trust and ALA Green Trust funding of the Trust's long running and highly successful Conservation Traineeship programme has continued. Four trainees (two funded by each organisation) completed the traineeship during the year, with all four securing work in the nature conservation sector. A further four trainees have been recruited and will receive training during 2024 -25 and gain work experience with the Trust's Reserves Team.

Following the acquisition of Cuthbert's Moor in 2022, the Trust was successful in securing funding to help gather data on this moorland SSSI and to engage the public in the monitoring and management of the site. This work, known as the Managing Moors Project, ran throughout 2023-24 and the baseline data on habitats and species that was gathered allowed a detailed management plan to be developed. A team of knowledgeable and skilled volunteers was also created who are well placed to support the ongoing management of the site.

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The National Lottery Heritage Fund supported Link Together project development phase was completed during the year, which included a change of name to Links with Nature following consultation with communities in the Sunderland Coalfield area. Thanks to additional support from Sunderland City Council, Anne Gladwin, Link Together Project Manager, continued in post until March 2024 to receive the news that the delivery stage of the project had successfully secured funding from the Heritage Fund. Link Together delivery commences in May 2024 and run for 2 years, focussing on sites across the Sunderland Coalfield area, in particular the catchment of the Lumley Park Burn. This project is a first for Durham Wildlife Trust as it will make use of social prescribing via the Sunderland G.P. Alliance and Links for Life Sunderland to engage volunteers. Sunderland City Council are joint lead on the project, which will focus on habitat and access improvements on Council owned sites.

Seascapes is a National Lottery Heritage Fund supported partnership project led by Durham Heritage Coast, with Durham Wildlife Trust delivering the Intertidal Interactive programme, which encourages people and groups of all ages to enjoy coastal and marine wildlife. Highlights have included volunteer monitoring programmes for shore birds and cetaceans, beach-based school activities and snorkelling experiences for school aged children. In addition, Seascapes funds little tern conservation efforts along the Durham and Hartlepool coasts delivered by the Trust. In 2023, the terns nested and bred at Seaton Carew and over 125 chicks fledged. That was a significant improvement on previous years and a welcome success when considered against the backdrop of avian influenza that impacted bird breeding colonies elsewhere on the North Sea coast.

A second marine project, Stronger Shores commenced in 2023. Led by South Tyneside Council, the project aims to increase the resilience of the North Eastern coastline, and coastal communities, to flooding, erosion and the impacts of climate change. The project explores how to restore marine habitats and species and create more sustainable coastal communities. The project is funded by Defra as part of the Flood and Coastal Resilience Innovation Programme, which is managed by the Environment Agency.

Through Stronger Shores, a network of experts will test new approaches to restoring oyster, kelp and seagrass habitats along the North East coast. These habitats can benefit communities in the North East in a number of ways. Once re-established they can improve water quality, reduce erosion by stabilising shorelines and reducing wave impacts, and improve fisheries.

As part of this programme, the Trust are hosting two officers on behalf of the wider North Sea Wildlife Trusts. Blair Watson is the Stronger Shores Engagement Officer responsible for communicating the importance of these often hidden marine habitats to people and communities along the North East coast. Martina Bristow was recruited as the Seaweed and Seagrass Officer, employed to test and trial seagrass and kelp restoration techniques.

Delivery of the Naturally Native water vole conservation project continued throughout 2023 up until the project's completion in December of that year. Delivered in partnership with Northumberland and Tees Valley Wildlife Trusts, naturally Native addressed the two most significant causes of water vole decline; predation by American mink and habitat loss. The project was an example of how collaboration between Wildlife Trusts and landowners can support nature's recovery at a regional scale. Interim funding has been secured to continue mink control whilst a 'Naturally Native 2' project can be developed. It is hoped that the follow-on project can deliver water vole restoration across a larger North region.

The Discover Brightwater Landscape Partnership continued throughout 2023-24. Due to delays resulting from Covid and the complexity of planning wetland restoration projects, a decision was taken during the year to apply for a project extension and the programme will now run to December 2024.

Planning permissions for wetland projects at Bishop's Fen, to the south of Bishop Middleham and Ricknall Carrs, just to the east of Newton Aycliffe, were secured in December 2023, with the work delivered in the summer of 2024.

The original budgets for the projects were set in 2017 and unsurprisingly additional funding was required to deliver the wetland creation schemes as originally envisaged. Additional funding was secured in 23-24 financial year from the Environment Agency, Veolia Environmental Trust, LNER and Swire Charitable Trust to enable the full scheme to be delivered. These funds are additional to the £3.2 million Brightwater had already secured, including £2.6 million from the National Lottery Heritage Fund. Brightwater is by the far the Trust's largest ever project and as would be expected with an initiative of this size and complexity there have been challenges to be overcome. However, an outstanding body of work continued to be delivered by the project partners throughout the year.

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In the summer of 2023, Discover Brightwater and the River Skerne were the subjects of one of Northumbrian Water's Innovation Festival 'sprints'. This 4-day series of workshops attended by key experts in the water and environmental sectors focussed on the legacy elements of Discover Brightwater, including the launch of the Trust's exciting Great North Fen initiative and subsequent plans to continue environmental improvements across the Skerne catchment. As a result, it is hoped that the positive impact of Brightwater will continue for many years to come.

In summary, throughout 2023 – 24 the charity maintained high standards of nature reserve management and conservation project delivery. Durham Wildlife Trust continued to make a significant contribution to nature's recovery from Tees to Tyne and delivery against targets in the 2030 Strategy to increase wildlife diversity and abundance got off to a successful start.

Development and Communications

During 23-24 the Trust appointed Emily Routledge to the post of Head of Development and Communications, after 7 years in membership and supporter development roles within the organisation.

Membership performance in 23/24 was impacted by outside factors, principally the cost of living crisis. Reflecting a longer term trend, the overall number of memberships reduced by 1% on the previous year but the average membership gift increased by 1%. Trust membership recruitment was 10% higher than the previous financial year and membership lapses increased by only 4%. Membership retention remains strong at 92% and reflects the supporter led approach to involvement in Trust activities.

Volunteering remains a key area of development for the Trust. The appointment of a Volunteer Support Assistant has enabled the Trust to improve the volunteer journey, enabled more people from a variety of backgrounds to support Trust activities. In 23/24 volunteers gave more than 27,000 hours to the Trust and the number of active volunteers (each month) grew from 125 to 157.

In 23/24 retail income was £39,589, this is a small decrease on the previous year. The Gift Shop at Rainton Meadows, retail space at Low Barns and the sale of goods at external events and online have all contributed to the successful retail offering and would not have been possible without the contribution of volunteers, for which the Trust is extremely thankful. Donations income increased, with general donations up by 16% to £59,406 and room hire contributed £7,815 of additional funds, 21% more than the previous year. In addition, legacy income provided £134,554 of additional funding to support the Trust's work. Promotion of gifts in wills is a key area of work for the Development team.

Businesses contributed to the Trusts work in 23/24 via business membership contributions and paid for volunteering through the 'Wild Work Day' scheme, generating £3,100 and supporting management of nature reserves. Interest in Wild Work Days is growing and business volunteering is an area targeted for further development.

Project development and grants fundraising remains a core activity for the Trust. In financial year 23/24, over £500,000 of project funds were secured through applications to various funders. In addition, Trust Officers supported a number of community groups, including local church organisations in their own efforts to secure grants to support nature recovery projects.

During the 23/24 financial year, the Trust reached 1,271,122 people online, an increase of almost 25% on the previous year. This was achieved via social media (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn) and the website. This success is a result of careful planning to ensure that online content appeals to different audiences and makes good use of both still images and videos. The Trust's supporters have been instrumental in providing this material and wildlife images have been consistently some of the most popular posts over the course of the year. Top content pages for visits on the website continue to be the online shop and the Rainton Meadows and Low Barns pages. Over the past year the Kittiwake Cam page also proved to be popular, despite operating for the March-September period only. Round-up emails were issued to the full email database every month featuring the latest news, blogs, events, ways to get involved and upcoming events. In addition, throughout the year the Trust's communications team delivered email campaigns to encourage specific action by supporters – for example to encourage non-members to join. The email list has more than 13,000 subscribers. Over the course of the year the Trust received at least 40 pieces of media coverage, across all channels.

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To further boost the Trust's digital profile and supporter development online, a Development Officer – Data & Marketing was recruited during the year and Katie Armstrong was appointed to the role. This new post replaced the role of Supporter Development Manager, which Emily Routledge vacated when appointed as Head of Development and Communications. This small restructure enabled the Trust to more closely focus on areas of growth in digital engagement and increase online membership recruitment by 17% as a result of improved social media marketing and digital membership campaigns distributed to local audiences.

A total of 2,954 people attended Durham Wildlife Trust events, an increase of 37% on the previous year. This figure excludes drop-in attendees at events outside of the Eventbrite system, for example those visiting the community fairs organised as part of Discover Brightwater.

Educational visits (non-project funded) were on par with the previous financial year, with 25 school visits to reserves or Trust activities within school grounds. Feedback suggests that the rising cost of transport is a significant issue for many schools and as a result there has been an increase in Trust sessions held at the school premises, rather than schools coming to reserves. Externally funded education sessions have seen a marked increase on the previous financial year. These include sessions for Seascapes, Living Uplands and North Pennines National Landscape.

Other engagement with young people included monthly Conservation Rangers sessions at Low Barns and Rainton Meadows, Wildlife Watch at Rainton Meadows and Low Barns, and Beach Rangers sessions delivered through Seascapes. Holiday Fun with Food programmes were also run across all school holidays at both Rainton Meadows and Low Barns.

The Nextdoor Nature project continued throughout the year, encouraging people to take action for nature in their local area. Centred on a community organising approach, each of the 46 local Wildlife Trusts have employed a Nextdoor Nature Community Organiser funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund. The project has developed strong community links in all of its prescribed areas (Sunderland, South Tyneside, Easington and Darlington). Highlights to date have included work with residents in Hendon (Hendon Growing Garden), Washington (Washington Mind) and Dawdon (Dawdon Dene).

Towards the end of 2023 - 24, the Trust secured a grant to deliver the National Citizen Service (NCS) Enrichment Pilot Project to 10 Sunderland and South Tyneside secondary schools. The pilot project will see an Enrichment Manager employed by the Trust develop enrichment opportunities for young people attending the schools involved in the pilot. The project aligns with the Trust strategy and sees the Trust move from delivering activities to becoming a local influencer and enabler. Dorinda Kealoha was appointed as the Enrichment Manager for the project, returning to the Trust after working for South Tyneside Council in a project development role.

Governance and Administration

Operations

Durham Wildlife Trust recognises that to deliver nature's recovery both the ecological and climate crises must be addressed. There are ongoing efforts to reduce the Trust's climate impact whilst at the same time increasing our conservation and engagement work.

Work to measure carbon emissions and sequestration follows methodologies used across the Wildlife Trust movement and those methodologies are being revised to improve accuracy, particularly with reference to sequestration. That means figures on emissions and sequestration during 2023-24 are not currently available, but the Trust hopes to be in a position to make data available during 2024-25.

Throughout the year the Trust continued to focus not only on carbon emissions but its wider environmental performance. This work was rewarded with continued Investors in the Environment Silver accreditation. To maintain the level of accreditation requires improved performance, demonstrating the Trust's commitment to lead by example in relation to environmental issues.

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During the year there was continued investment in the maintenance of visitor facilities and it is recognised that as visitors centres age and the number of sites increases there will be a need to increase maintenance and repair budgets. Currently a designated fund is in place to fund maintenance and repairs, with a proportion of any annual surplus generated being designated each year for this purpose.

In line with the Trust's stated strategy, a review of working arrangements was conducted during the year to see if a seven day working model could be adopted. The intention is to be able to engage a greater range and number of people in the Trust's work by providing weekend events and volunteering. The review concluded that seven day working was not viable given the relatively small number of staff employed, but a Saturday working model was viable. As a result Saturday events and volunteering will be implemented from April 2024, with a review after 6 months to monitor effectiveness.

Staff recruitment remained challenging during the year, although there were signs of greater availability of potential employees, particularly for less specialist roles. The Trust will continue to review its employment offer to attract and retain high quality staff and hybrid working arrangements are anticipated to remain in place across the Trust during 2024-25.

Public Benefit

From 1 April 2008, section 4 of the Charities Act 2006 requires all charities to meet the legal requirement that its aims are for the public benefit. The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty to have due regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit.

The Charity Commission states that there are two principles to be met in order to show that an organisation's aims are for the public benefit: firstly, there must be an identifiable benefit or benefits and secondly that the benefit must be to the public, or a section of the public.

The Trustees are satisfied that the aims and objectives of the charity, and the activities reported on above, meet these principles.

Financial Review

In the year to 31st March 2024 Group income was £5,266,186 (2023: £6,819,979). Half of this income (£2,638k) came from Natural England supporting the Group purchase Eldon Moor under the Nutrient Neutrality provisions. The land agreement with Natural England places a 125-year obligation on the Group to manage Eldon Moor in such a way as to mitigate nutrient production and discharge. During this time the Group is also restricted from disposing of or charging the land. Expenditure during the year was £2,271,897 (2023: £2,594,060). As a result, there was a surplus of £2,994,289.

The unrestricted surplus was £68,998 however £187,079 of funds have been transferred out (mainly relating to the designation of land as noted below) leading to a reduction of unrestricted funds of £118,091. The restricted surplus was £2,965,168 however as noted above £2,638k of this results from the Natural England grant received to buy Eldon Moor. The surplus has in effect been defrayed on an asset which the Trust is obliged to hold for the long term. £279,348 has been transferred out of restricted and this mainly relates to further land purchases that have been designated. There was a deficit on designated funds of £39,867 however £466,427 was transferred in in respect of land holdings.

A key element of the Group's strategy is the acquisition of land to allow nature to be restored on an increasing proportion of the area in which the Group operates. During the year and in previous years we have been successful in achieving this via income from Natural England (in relation to Nutrient Neutrality undertakings) and via donations.

Due to the long-term restrictions placed on land acquired with the support of Natural England the fund balances associated with this land have been included in restricted funds.

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Where land has been acquired with the help of donations the associated fund balance has been transferred to designated funds. Trustees continue to take the view that placing newly acquired land in a designated fund provides a more meaningful presentation of the charity's unrestricted fund position. Other designated funds are to support volunteering activity, management of Rainton Meadows and the repair, maintenance (including replacement) of land, buildings, equipment and other assets.

Owning land is a fundamental part of the Group's strategy of delivering nature conservation and restoration. The Group expects to hold this land in perpetuity and the fund balances associated with land should therefore be excluded when considering the finances of the Group.

A summary of the funds is provided below:

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted
Total Fund balance at 31 March 2024	701,061	2,997,139	6,457,115
Fund balances in relation to land & property held for conservation	2,652	2,802,370	5,844,033
Fund balances net of land & property holdings	698,409	194,769	613,082

The balance on group unrestricted funds (excluding designated funds), fell in the year to 31st March 2024 to £701,601 largely due to the transfer of land holdings to designated funds. The policy of the Trust remains to earn surpluses on unrestricted funds activities to further strengthen the financial position to enable us to continue to invest in delivering the charity's aims.

Durham Wildlife Services Ltd

Durham Wildlife Services is a private company limited by shares and is a wholly owned trading subsidiary of Durham Wildlife Trust. It was incorporated on 9th April 1991 as an Environmental Consultancy and aims to make a profit each year, which, subject to commercial financing needs, is Gift Aided to Durham Wildlife Trust.

Durham Wildlife Services Ltd primarily delivers ecological consultancy services, including species and habitat surveys and the production of land management and habitat creation plans. All surpluses from this activity are gift aided to the Trust.

The year to the 31st March 2024 saw a turnover of £236,696 compared to the previous year of £179,312. The net surplus was £26,095 and a donation of £17,125 was paid over to the Trust. Durham Wildlife Services proposes to pay £26,095 to Durham Wildlife Trust during 2024-25 from its profits.

Investment Powers and Policy

The Trustees, having regard to the liquidity requirements of the charity's project programme, some of which receive payment in arrears from grant funders, and to the financial reserves policy, will, where relevant, operate a policy of keeping available funds in an interest-bearing deposit account or a low risk shared deposit fund managed by an Investment Manager, with competitive levels of interest, and with an ethical investment policy.

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Reserves Policy

The Trustees have updated the reserves policy such that the target for unrestricted net current asset funds equates to six months unrestricted expenditure. The policy uses net current asset funds due to the relatively high value of fixed assets the Group maintains which are not available to fund the Group's operations. The relatively prudent six months cover of expenditure has been adopted to mitigate the risk from the high level of restricted projects the Group undertakes many of which are funded in arrears.

Current net asset funds at 31st March 2024 are £606,187 (see Note 23) and unrestricted expenditure for the year was £959,013 giving cover of 7.6 months. At the year end funds therefore exceed the target, and this has provided headroom to invest in the Trust's operations and IT.

Designated Fund Policy

Trustees have set a designated fund policy to make provision for the repair, maintenance (including replacement) of land, buildings, equipment and other assets. It has been determined that 10% of unrestricted surplus will be designated for this purpose annually, with Trustees having discretion to vary the amount to reflect the charity's need and circumstances pertaining at the time.

Valuation of Freehold Property

During the 2021-22 financial year Trustees commissioned a valuation of the charity's freehold property. The purpose of the valuation was to ascertain current market value as land values on the asset register reflect purchase cost, not current valuation. As well as providing trustees with a greater understanding of asset values this information allowed the potential impairment of the value of land assets to be reviewed. There was no impairment.

Trustees have determined to periodically carry out a freehold land valuation (approximately every 5 years) and to present information on the value of land assets in the annual report based on the additional freehold land acquired that year. Information is presented in the table below.

	Number of sites	Area (ha)	(£)	Note
Freehold land at 31 st March 2022	25	477.6	3,767,819	NBV in Financial statements in £1,516,849
Freehold land acquired 2022-23	3	290.9	4,094,662	
Freehold land acquired 2023-24	3	102.5	2,954,508	
Total	31	871.0	10,816,989	

Plans for Future Periods

The charity continues to instigate fund raising campaigns in order to increase its income generation, particularly in respect of unrestricted funds. It continues to bear down on costs where possible.

The current financial policy is to maintain the financial strength of the Trust, while at the same time using available funds to strengthen the Trust's efforts in the fields of conservation and education in a measured way within the limits of the resources available.

Durham Wildlife Trust

(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES *(Continued)* FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Charity number: 501038
Company number: 01019263
Registered office: Rainton Meadows, Chilton Moor, Houghton-le-Spring, Co Durham, DH4 6PU

Advisors

Auditors CLA Evelyn Partners Ltd 17 Queens Lane, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 1RN
Bankers Barclays Bank Plc Market Place, Durham, DH1 3ND

Directors and Trustees

The Directors of Durham Wildlife Trust are the Trustees for the purpose of charity law. The Trustees and officers serving during the year and since the year end were as follows:

Trustees: S Lister (Chair)
P Bell
F Butler
M Coates
C Gorman
V Kent
A Pensom
P Davidson
N Bell
K Crozier
H Neve
S Wilson-Laing (Resigned 20 May 2024)

Company Secretary: F Butler

Management Team:

Chief Executive	J Cokill
Head of Finance	M. Porton
Head of Development and Communications	E Routledge
Head of Conservation	M Dinning
BrightWater Project Manager	P Black

Durham Wildlife Trust

(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES *(Continued)* **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

Statement of Trustees Responsibilities

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

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

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

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

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.

Auditors

In accordance with the Companies Act 2006 a resolution proposing the appointment of Robson Laidler Accountants Limited as auditor for the year ending 31 March 2025 will be put to the members.

Sarah Lister
Chair

Durham Wildlife Trust

(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF DURHAM WILDLIFE TRUST FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Durham Wildlife Trust (the 'charitable company') and its subsidiary (the 'group') for the year ended 31 March 2024 which comprise the Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities, Consolidated Balance Sheet, Charitable Company Balance Sheet, the Consolidated Cash Flow Statement and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the group's and charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2024, and of the group's incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

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

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

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

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

Other information

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the trustees' 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.

Durham Wildlife Trust

(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF DURHAM WILDLIFE TRUST (Continued) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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 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 our knowledge and understanding of the group and parent charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in 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; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of directors' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- The trustees were not entitled to take advantage of the small companies exemption from the requirement to prepare a Strategic Report or in preparing the Report of the Trustees.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 13, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the group's and 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 charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

Durham Wildlife Trust

(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF DURHAM WILDLIFE TRUST (Continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is detailed below.

We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory framework applicable to both the company itself and the industry in which it operates. We identified areas of laws and regulations that could reasonably be expected to have a material effect on the financial statements from our sector experience and through discussion with the directors and other management. The most significant were identified as the Companies Act 2006, UK GAAP (FRS102) and relevant tax legislation. We considered the extent of compliance with those laws and regulations as part of our procedures on the related financial statements. Our audit procedures included:

- confirming with the directors and management whether they have any knowledge or suspicion of fraud;
- obtaining an understanding of the internal controls established to mitigate risks related to fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations; and,
- assessing the risk of management override including identifying and testing a sample of journal entries.

Our audit did not identify any key audit matters relating to the detection of irregularities including fraud. However, despite the audit being planned and conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) there remains an unavoidable risk that material misstatements in the financial statements may not be detected owing to inherent limitations of the audit, and that by their very nature, any such instances of fraud or irregularity likely involve collusion, forgery, intentional misrepresentations, or the override of internal controls.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: <https://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities>. This description forms part of our audit report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an 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 charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

**Craig Henderson (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of CLA Evelyn Partners Ltd**

.....

Statutory Auditor

17 Queens Lane
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE1 1RN

Durham Wildlife Trust
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (including consolidated income and expenditure account)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

		Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Designated funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
	Notes	£	£	£	£	£
Income from:						
Donations and legacies	4	490,540	2,093	-	492,633	1,247,405
Charitable activities	5					
- Conservation activities		195,297	1,426,551	5,490	1,627,338	871,989
- Conservation projects		-	8,000	-	8,000	1,140,943
- Education projects		7,020	144,122	-	151,142	85,975
- Visitor centre		80,641	-	-	80,641	72,184
- Natural England Funded Land		-	2,638,339	-	2,638,339	3,205,694
Other trading activities	6	237,518	13,590	-	251,108	194,804
Investment income	7	16,985	-	-	16,985	985
Total income		1,028,001	4,232,695	5,490	5,266,186	6,819,979
Expenditure on:						
Costs of raising funds						
- Donations and legacies		97,763	-	-	97,763	91,256
- Other trading activities		253,631	-	-	253,631	186,667
Charitable activities	9					
- Conservation projects		442,309	925,062	45,357	1,412,728	2,027,927
- Reserve projects		36,551	178,260	-	214,811	106,702
- Education projects		16,721	164,205	-	180,926	93,279
- Publications & affiliations		35,337	-	-	35,337	31,142
- Visitor centre		76,701	-	-	76,701	57,087
Total expenditure		959,013	1,267,527	45,357	2,271,897	2,594,060
Net movement before transfers		68,988	2,965,168	(39,867)	2,994,289	4,225,919
Transfers between funds	22	(187,079)	(279,348)	466,427	-	-
Net movement in funds		(118,091)	2,685,820	426,560	2,994,289	4,225,919
Reconciliation of funds						
Total funds brought forward		819,152	3,771,295	2,570,579	7,161,026	2,935,107
Total funds carried forward		701,061	6,457,115	2,997,139	10,155,315	7,161,026

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 MARCH 2024

		2024		2023	
	Notes	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	16		8,741,276		5,823,464
Current assets					
Stock	18	8,797		10,031	
Debtors	19	360,790		483,505	
Cash at bank and in hand		1,258,261		1,707,159	
		<u>1,627,848</u>		<u>2,200,695</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	20		<u>(213,809)</u>		<u>(863,133)</u>
Net current assets			1,414,039		1,337,562
Net assets			<u>10,155,315</u>		<u>7,161,026</u>
Funds					
	22				
Unrestricted funds			701,061		819,152
Designated funds			2,997,139		2,570,579
Restricted funds					
- Other			613,082		565,601
- Natural England Funded Land			5,844,033		3,205,694
			<u>10,155,315</u>		<u>7,161,026</u>

Natural England Funded Land is subject to 125-year restrictions preventing it being sold or charged and requiring no nutrient inputs on the land. For further details see page 37.

The notes on pages 21 to 39 form part of these financial statements.

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

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 2024 and signed on their behalf by:

.....
S Lister
Trustee

Company Number: 01019263

CHARITABLE COMPANY BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 MARCH 2024

		2024		2023	
	Notes	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	16		8,741,276		5,823,464
Investments	17		12		12
			<u>8,741,288</u>		<u>5,823,476</u>
Current assets					
Stocks	18	8,797		10,031	
Debtors	19	314,481		467,792	
Cash at bank and in hand		1,230,660		1,657,213	
		<u>1,553,938</u>		<u>2,135,036</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	20	(199,900)		(848,505)	
Net current assets			<u>1,354,038</u>		<u>1,286,531</u>
Net assets			<u>10,095,326</u>		<u>7,110,007</u>
Funds					
	22				
Unrestricted funds			641,072		768,133
Designated funds			2,997,139		2,570,579
Restricted funds					
- Other			613,082		565,601
- Natural England Funded Land			5,844,033		3,205,694
			<u>10,095,326</u>		<u>7,110,007</u>

Natural England Funded Land is subject to 125-year restrictions preventing it being sold or charged and requiring no nutrient inputs on the land. For further details see page 37.

The notes on pages 21 to 39 form part of these financial statements.

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

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 2024 and signed on their behalf by:

.....
S Lister
Trustee

Durham Wildlife Trust
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

CONSOLIDATED CASH FLOW STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

	Note	2024 £	2023 £
Net cash flow from operating activities:			
<i>Net cash provided by operating activities</i>	26	2,484,342	4,800,007
Cash flows from investing activities			
Interest received		16,985	985
Disposal of tangible assets		14,020	-
Purchase of tangible assets		(2,964,245)	(4,195,666)
<i>Net cash flow from investing activities</i>		<u>(2,933,240)</u>	<u>(4,194,681)</u>
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents		(448,898)	605,326
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		1,707,159	1,101,833
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year		<u>1,258,261</u>	<u>1,707,159</u>
Cash and cash equivalents consist of:			
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>1,258,261</u>	<u>1,707,159</u>

Durham Wildlife Trust

(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

1. Accounting policies

Durham Wildlife Trust is a company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales, (number 01019263) and not having a share capital. In the event of the company being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member of the charity.

1.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements

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 January 2019), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006 and UK Generally Accepted Practice.

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

The financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s). The financial statements are prepared in Sterling which is the functional currency of the charity and rounded to the nearest £.

The significant accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all years presented unless otherwise stated.

1.2 Basis of consolidation

The financial statements consolidate the results of Durham Wildlife Trust and its wholly owned subsidiary Durham Wildlife Services 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 Durham Wildlife Services has taken advantage of the exemption afforded by section 408 of the Companies Act 2006.

1.3 Going concern

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis as the Trustees believe that no material uncertainties exist. The Trustees have considered the level of funds and forecast income and expenditure for a period of 12 months after the date of approval of these financial statements. The budgeted income and expenditure is sufficient considering the level of reserves for the charity to be able to continue as a going concern.

1.4 Funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the Trustees for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors which have been raised by the charity for a particular purposes. The cost of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Durham Wildlife Trust

(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS *(Continued)* FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

1.5 Income

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions have been met, the amount can be measured reliably and it is probable that the income will be received.

- Voluntary income is received by way of grants, donations and gifts are included in full in the Statement of Financial Activities when the trust becomes entitled. Grants, where entitlement is not conditional on the delivery of a specific performance by the charity, are recognised when the charity becomes unconditionally entitled to the grant.
- Membership subscriptions from both individual and corporate bodies are recognised when the funds are received.
- Donated services and facilities are included at the value to the charity where this can be quantified. The value of services provided by volunteers has not been included in these accounts. Assets donated are recognised in full as donations and fixed assets.
- Investment income is included when receivable.
- Incoming resources from charitable trading activities are accounted for when earned.
- Grants and fees received for current year expenditure and grants for purchase of fixed assets are recognised in full in the Statement of Financial Activities in the period in which they are received, provided that the conditions for receipt have been complied with.
- Income is deferred only where the criteria for recognition as incoming resources in the Statement of Financial Activities does not exist at the balance sheet date.
- All legacies are credited to income in the year in which the Trust becomes entitled to the funds.
- Income from commercial trading activities is recognised as earned (as the related services are provided)

No amount is included within the financial statements for volunteer time in line with the SORP (FRS 102). Further detail is given in the Trustees Report.

1.6 Expenditure and irrecoverable VAT

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and is recognised where there is a legal or constructive obligation to make payments to third parties, it is probable that the settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. It is categorised under the following headings:

- Costs of generating funds comprise the costs associated with attracting voluntary income and the costs of trading for fundraising purposes including the charity's visitor centres and from the commercial trading activities of the company's subsidiary.
- Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.
- Governance costs include those costs associated with meeting the constitutional and statutory requirements of the charity and include the audit fees and costs linked to the strategic management of the charity.
- All costs are allocated between the expenditure categories of the SOFA on a basis designed to reflect the use of the resource. Costs relating to a particular activity are allocated directly; others are apportioned on the basis of time spent.

Irrecoverable VAT is charged as a cost against the expenditure when incurred.

Durham Wildlife Trust

(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

1.7 Tangible fixed assets

Individual fixed assets costing over £500 are capitalised at cost and are depreciated over their expected useful economic lives as follows:-

- Depreciation on motor vehicles, computer equipment, fixtures and other equipment is calculated at 25% on a straight-line basis so as to write off their cost over their estimated lives of 4 years
- As part of its core activities the Charity undertakes projects, which often have a length of less than one year. Whilst these projects produce significant benefits in terms of conservation the economic benefit to the charity is limited. It is therefore the policy of the charity to charge a rate of 100% depreciation in the year of purchase on any fixed assets that are purchased in respect of such projects.
- Depreciation on freehold property has been charged at 0%, apart from certain improvements to the properties, which are subject to a charge of 10% on a straight line basis. The cost of property includes the cost of freehold land, which is not a depreciating asset, and the Executive Committee is of the view that expenditure on maintenance of the buildings is such as to maintain the values of the Trust's property at least equal to cost.
- Improvements to leasehold property are written off in the year in which the expenditure is incurred.
- No depreciation is charged on nature reserves, which are included in both freehold and leasehold land and buildings.

1.8 Investments

Investments in subsidiary undertakings are held at cost less impairment.

1.9 Stock

Stock is valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value, after making due allowance for obsolete and slow moving items.

1.10 Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

1.11 Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and cash in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

1.12 Creditors and provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are recognised at their settlement after allowing for any trade discounts due.

1.13 Pensions

The charity operates a money purchase pension scheme. Amounts payable are included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the related salary is paid. Unremitted amounts are included in creditors.

Durham Wildlife Trust

(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

1.14 Financial instruments

The charity 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 bank loans which are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

1.15 Taxation

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

2. Judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

In the application of the charitable company's accounting policies, the Trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

There are no significant accounting estimates which are considered to materially impact the financial statements.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

3. Statement of financial activities from the prior year as restated

		Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Total 2023	As restated Total 2022
	Notes	£	£	£	£	£
Income from:						
Donations and legacies	4	397,405	-	850,000	1,247,405	347,979
Charitable activities	5					
- Conservation activities		7,236	-	4,070,447	4,077,683	2,247,997
- Conservation projects		91,732	-	1,049,211	1,140,943	50,130
- Education projects		12,106	-	73,869	85,975	71,945
- Visitor centre		72,184	-	-	72,184	49,234
Other trading activities	6	194,804	-	-	194,804	324,641
Investment income	7	985	-	-	985	-
Total income		<u>776,452</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>6,043,527</u>	<u>6,819,979</u>	<u>3,091,926</u>
Expenditure on:						
Costs of raising funds	8					
- Donations and legacies		91,256	-	-	91,256	92,535
- Other trading activities		186,667	-	-	186,667	313,319
Charitable activities	9					
- Conservation projects		368,579	10,891	1,639,307	2,027,927	1,670,044
- Reserve projects		50,168	-	56,534	106,702	60,530
- Education projects		15,131	-	87,298	93,279	57,436
- Publications & affiliations		31,142	-	-	31,142	40,127
- Visitor centre		57,087	-	-	57,087	53,792
Total expenditure		<u>800,030</u>	<u>10,891</u>	<u>1,783,139</u>	<u>2,594,060</u>	<u>2,287,783</u>
Net movement before transfers		(23,578)	(10,891)	4,260,388	4,225,919	804,143
Transfers between funds	22	73,679	891,940	(965,619)	-	-
Net movement in funds		<u>50,101</u>	<u>881,049</u>	<u>3,294,769</u>	<u>4,225,919</u>	<u>804,143</u>
Reconciliation of funds						
Total funds brought forward		769,051	1,689,530	476,526	2,935,107	2,130,964
Total funds carried forward		<u>819,152</u>	<u>2,570,579</u>	<u>3,771,295</u>	<u>7,161,026</u>	<u>2,935,107</u>

Durham Wildlife Trust

(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024****4. Donations and legacies**

	2024	2023
	£	£
Subscriptions	290,931	229,129
Donations	67,148	1,018,276
Legacies	134,554	-
	<u>492,633</u>	<u>1,247,405</u>

5. Income from charitable activities

	2024	2023
	£	£
Grants		
- Natural England Land Purchase	2,638,339	3,205,694
- Other grants	1,557,172	2,043,713
Events income	7,816	6,551
Conservation income	194,723	9,902
Reservation income	3,000	19,377
Educational visits	7,020	16,049
Other income	97,390	75,499
	<u>4,505,460</u>	<u>5,376,785</u>

Summary of grants

Natural England	2,650,000	3,408,144
Durham County Council	77,274	135,053
The National Lottery Heritage Fund	479,353	873,015
The Environment Agency	48,609	100,000
Northumbrian Water	128,642	89,945
Gateshead Council	10,500	181,472
Groundwork North East	7,607	-
County Durham Community Foundation	-	11,200
Sunderland City Council	95,688	68,668
RSWT	32,948	24,707
ALA Green Charitable Trust	19,200	24,000
Believe Housing	-	4,600
Daniel Trust	-	4,000
Hoare Trustees	-	25,000
Zephyr Charitable Foundation	68,085	65,200
Scottish Power	-	90,831
The Linder Foundation	-	10,000
Darlington Building Society	-	7,500
Other	18,619	16,219
Banister Charitable Trust	293,500	-
DEFRA	58,094	-
South Tyneside Council	59,219	-
The Swire Charitable Trust	75,000	-
Hartlepool Borough Council	12,880	-
Sir James Knott Trust	10,777	-
The National Citizen Service Trust	42,517	-
The Curtin PARP fund	7,000	-

Durham Wildlife Trust

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

The Garfield Weston Foundation	-	25,000
The Scotto Trust	-	12,500
	4,195,511	5,177,054
	4,195,511	5,177,054

The Natural England Land grant was received specifically to facilitate purchase Eldon Moor Farm. The agreement with Natural England places a 125-year no nutrient inputs obligation on the Group so that the land is managed in such a way as to mitigate nutrient inputs elsewhere in the Tees catchment. During this time the Group is also restricted from disposing of or charging the land.

6. Other trading activities

	2024	2023
	£	£
Other trading income	14,480	15,492
Income from trading subsidiary	236,628	179,312
	251,108	194,804
	251,108	194,804

7. Investment income

	2024	2023
	£	£
Bank interest	16,985	985
	16,985	985
	16,985	985

8. Raising funds

	2024	2023
	£	£
Raising donations and legacies		
Staff costs	81,279	74,064
Fundraising expenses	16,466	17,192
	97,763	91,256
Other trading activities		
Purchases	24,713	18,525
Promotional expenses	18,316	5,955
Trading expenditure from subsidiary	210,601	162,187
	351,394	277,923
	351,394	277,923

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

9. Charitable activities expenditure

	Activities undertaken directly	Support costs	Total 2024	Total 2023
Notes	£	£	£	£
Conservation Projects	1,358,276	54,452	1,412,728	2,027,927
Reserve Projects	214,811	-	214,811	106,702
Education projects	180,926	-	180,926	93,279
Publications and Affiliations	12,742	22,595	35,337	31,142
Visitor Centre	64,193	12,508	76,701	57,087
Total Expenditure	<u>1,830,948</u>	<u>89,555</u>	<u>1,920,503</u>	<u>2,316,137</u>

10. Support costs

	Management	Governance costs	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£
Conservation projects	26,334	28,118	54,452	54,962
Publications and affiliations	15,042	7,553	22,595	30,925
Visitors centres	8,327	4,181	12,508	44,511
	<u>49,703</u>	<u>39,852</u>	<u>89,555</u>	<u>130,398</u>

11. Governance costs

	2024	2023
	£	£
Auditors fees	10,000	9,000
RWST Membership	12,742	12,371
DWT Magazine & Marketing	17,110	18,554
	<u>39,852</u>	<u>39,925</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

12. Net income for the year

Net income is stated after charging;

	2024	2023
	£	£
Depreciation	45,321	29,353
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

13. Auditors remuneration

Audit of these financial statements	7,000	6,000
Audit of the subsidiary financial statements	3,000	3,000
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	10,000	9,000
Non-Audit fees	1,200	7,900
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	11,200	16,900
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

14. Financial performance of the charitable company

The Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities includes the results of the wholly owned subsidiary.

The summary financial performance of the charity alone is;

	2024	2023
	£	£
Income	5,046,615	6,662,778
Expenditure	(2,061,295)	(2,431,873)
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Net income	2,985,320	4,230,905
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

Durham Wildlife Trust

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**15. Analysis of staff costs, Trustee remuneration and expenses, and the cost of key management personnel**

The total staff costs and employees benefits were as follows:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Wages and salaries	890,163	749,384
Social security costs	76,091	63,388
Other pension costs	37,563	29,977
	<u>1,003,817</u>	<u>842,749</u>

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

	2024	2023
	Number	Number
Costs of generating funds	3	3
Charitable activities	33	35
Management and administration	3	3
	<u>39</u>	<u>41</u>

The number of employees whose annual remuneration was £60,000 or more were:

	2024	2023
	No.	No.
£60,000 to £70,000	1	-

The Trustees were not paid or received any other benefits from employment in the year (2023 – £nil). No Trustee received payment for professional or other services supplied to the charity (2023 - £nil).

There were no expenses paid to trustees during the year (2023 – nil).

The key management personnel of the charity comprise the Trustees and Management Team identified on page 10. The total employee benefits of the Management Team of the charity were £208,367 (2023 - £280,022).

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

16. Tangible fixed assets
Group and charity

	Freehold property £	Long leasehold £	Equipment, fixtures & fittings £	Motor vehicles £	Total £
Cost					
At 1 April 2023	6,145,120	127,567	1,071,461	113,834	7,457,982
Additions	2,954,508	-	9,737	-	2,964,245
Disposals	-	-	(19,547)	-	(19,547)
At 31 March 2024	9,099,628	127,567	1,061,651	113,834	10,402,680
Depreciation					
At 1 April 2023	532,777	44,532	962,885	94,324	1,634,518
Charge for the year	833	-	36,971	7,517	45,321
Disposals	-	-	(18,435)	-	(18,435)
At 31 March 2024	533,610	44,532	981,421	101,841	1,661,404
Net book value					
At 31 March 2024	8,566,018	83,035	80,230	11,993	8,741,276
At 31 March 2023	5,612,343	83,035	108,576	19,510	5,823,464

Included within freehold property and long leasehold are nature reserves with a total cost of £8,509,971 and £83,035, respectively. No depreciation has been charged on these amounts.

Durham Wildlife Trust

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024****17. Investments**

	2024	Group 2023	Charity 2024	2023
	£	£	£	£
Shares in subsidiary undertaking	-	-	12	12

Company	Country	Percentage Shareholding	Description
Durham Wildlife Services Limited	England and Wales	100%	Ordinary

Durham Wildlife Services Limited whose principle activity is the provision of ecological consultancy services. The results and summary of assets and liabilities of the company are as follows:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Turnover	236,696	179,312
Cost of sales	(195,446)	(159,030)
Administrative expenses	(15,155)	(3,157)
Profit for the year	26,095	17,125
Distribution to Durham Wildlife Trust	17,125	22,111
Total assets	75,890	67,099
Total liabilities	(15,886)	(16,065)
Shareholders' funds	60,004	51,034

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

18. Stocks

	2024	Group	Charity	
	2023		2024	2023
	£	£	£	£
Stocks	8,797	10,031	8,797	10,031
	<u>8,797</u>	<u>10,031</u>	<u>8,797</u>	<u>10,031</u>

19. Debtors

	2024	Group	Charity	
	2023		2024	2023
	£	£	£	£
Trade debtors	193,400	204,053	147,091	188,340
Prepayments	-	7,265	-	7,265
Accrued income	167,390	272,187	167,390	272,187
	<u>360,790</u>	<u>483,505</u>	<u>314,481</u>	<u>467,792</u>

20. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024	Group	Charity	
	2023		2024	2023
	£	£	£	£
Trade creditors	135,399	131,019	137,376	131,765
Social Security and other taxes	19,325	24,876	19,325	14,410
Accruals	27,488	63,331	27,488	63,331
Other creditors	15,470	11,540	5,707	6,632
VAT	16,127	632,367	10,004	632,367
	<u>213,809</u>	<u>863,133</u>	<u>199,900</u>	<u>848,505</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

22. Analysis of funds

Year ended 31 March 2024

	Brought Forward	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Carried Forward
	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted Funds					
General fund	819,152	1,028,002	(959,013)	(187,080)	701,061
Designated funds					
Land	2,335,942	-	-	466,428	2,802,370
Volunteers	43,979	-	(9,246)	-	34,732
Repairs and Maintenance	33,022	-	(4,051)	-	28,971
Rainton Meadows	132,636	5,490	(7,060)	-	131,066
Catchment management	25,000	-	(25,000)	-	-
Total unrestricted funds	<u>3,389,731</u>	<u>1,033,492</u>	<u>(1,004,370)</u>	<u>279,348</u>	<u>3,698,200</u>
Restricted Fund					
Natural England Funded Land	3,205,694	2,638,339	-	-	5,844,033
Discover Bright Water	(28,511)	320,856	(190,123)	-	102,223
Heart of Durham	18,368	51,394	(53,926)	-	15,836
Land of Oak and Iron	10,959	-	-	-	10,959
Naturally Native	2,310	200,469	(199,738)	(3,041)	-
Low Barns	11,404	-	-	-	11,404
Conservation Projects	339,958	472,642	(427,484)	5,610	390,726
Education Projects	23,088	144,122	(164,205)	8,486	11,491
Living Landscapes Projects	190,603	17,890	(178,260)	18,484	48,718
Healing Nature	6,870	-	-	(6,870)	-
Great North Fen	(4,354)	295,588	10,783	(302,018)	-
Seascapes	(5,094)	71,394	(64,575)	-	1,725
Links with nature	-	20,000	-	-	20,000
Total restricted funds	<u>3,771,295</u>	<u>4,232,694</u>	<u>(1,267,526)</u>	<u>(279,348)</u>	<u>6,457,115</u>
Total funds	<u><u>7,161,026</u></u>	<u><u>5,266,186</u></u>	<u><u>(2,271,897)</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>10,155,315</u></u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

22. Analysis of funds (Continued)

Year ended 31 March 2023

	Brought Forward	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Carried Forward
	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted Funds					
General fund	769,051	776,452	(800,030)	73,679	819,152
Designated funds					
Volunteers	49,920	-	(5,941)	-	43,979
Repairs and Maintenance	60,000	-	(4,950)	(22,028)	33,022
Rainton Meadows	132,636	-	-	-	132,636
Catchment management	-	-	-	25,000	25,000
Land	1,446,974	-	-	888,968	2,335,942
Total unrestricted funds	<u>2,458,581</u>	<u>776,452</u>	<u>(810,921)</u>	<u>965,619</u>	<u>3,389,731</u>
Restricted Funds					
Natural England Funded Land	-	-	-	3,205,694	3,205,694
Discover Bright Water	(3,870)	735,500	(816,218)	56,077	(28,511)
Heart of Durham	16,424	45,486	(43,542)	-	18,368
Land of Oak and Iron	10,959	-	-	-	10,959
Naturally Native	50,544	104,224	(144,762)	(7,696)	2,310
Low Barns	11,665	-	(261)	-	11,404
Conservation Projects	140,740	3,885,386	(470,116)	(3,216,052)	339,958
Education Projects	57,067	73,869	(87,298)	(20,550)	23,088
Living Landscapes Projects	100,095	1,049,211	(56,273)	(902,430)	190,603
Healing Nature	39,334	58,578	(91,042)	-	6,870
Great North Fen	54,380	21,928	-	(80,662)	(4,354)
Seascapes	(812)	69,345	(73,627)	-	(5,094)
Total restricted funds	<u>476,526</u>	<u>6,043,527</u>	<u>(1,783,139)</u>	<u>(965,619)</u>	<u>3,771,295</u>
Total funds	<u>2,935,107</u>	<u>6,819,979</u>	<u>(2,594,060)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>7,161,026</u>

Transfers are made between funds when a fund has closed from restricted into unrestricted funds.

Durham Wildlife Trust

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

22. Analysis of funds (Continued)

DESIGNATED FUNDS:

Volunteers

Funds designated to support all aspects of volunteering and trainee positions at Durham Wildlife Trust.

Repairs and Maintenance

Funds designated to make provision for the repair, maintenance (including replacement) of land, buildings, equipment and other assets.

Rainton Meadows

Funds designated to manage the Trust's Rainton Meadow Nature Reserve.

Catchment Management

Support for the Trust's work provided by the Garfield Weston Foundation that the Trust has designated to support partnership work with the Rivers Trusts and Northumbrian Water across the catchments of the rivers Skerne and Browney.

Land

Specific fund created for the unrestricted land held by the charity.

RESTRICTED FUNDS:

Discover Bright Water

A National Lottery Heritage Fund Landscape Partnership scheme led by DWT that aims to deliver significant conservation work across the catchment of the River Skerne.

Heart of Durham

A landscape scale project delivering habitat and species conservation across northern and central County Durham that is supported by Northumbrian Water.

Land of Oak and Iron

A National Lottery Heritage Fund Landscape Partnership scheme in the Derwent Valley to deliver education and conservation projects.

Naturally Native

A project funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund that focuses on conservation of the water vole. This project is delivered in partnership with Tees Valley and Northumberland Wildlife Trusts.

Low Barns Improvements

Funding received from Durham County Council Weardale AAP and North Pennines and Dales Leader to refurbish and improve the Visitors Centre at Low Barns Nature Reserve.

Durham Wildlife Trust

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

22. Analysis of funds (Continued)

Conservation Projects

A fund created during 2020-21 to consolidate smaller conservation projects into a single Department in order to simplify financial management and reporting. Individual projects are identifiable by Project Codes.

Education Projects

A fund created during 2021-22 to consolidate smaller education projects into a single Department in order to simplify financial management and reporting. Individual projects are identifiable by Project Codes.

Living Landscapes North Projects

A fund created during 2021-22 to consolidate projects delivered across the Trust's living landscapes nature reserves into a single Department in order to simplify financial management and reporting. Individual projects are identifiable by Project Codes.

Natural England Funded Land

Over recent years the Charity has entered into agreements with Natural England to facilitate the purchase of several areas of land. These agreements place a 125-year no nutrient inputs obligation on the Charity so that the land is managed in such a way as to mitigate nutrient inputs elsewhere in the Tees catchment. During this time the Charity is also restricted from disposing of or charging the land. It is therefore classified as a restricted fund.

Great North Fen

A long-term project to deliver large scale habitat restoration across the Durham Carrs and wider catchment of the River Skerne.

Healing Nature

A project funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund that focuses on habitat restoration across the Sunderland Coalfield area and associated health and well-being benefits

Seascapes

A National Lottery Heritage Fund Landscape Partnership led by Durham County Council that delivers a variety of projects along the coast and coastal waters from the Tyne to the Tees. Durham Wildlife Trust delivers a number of the projects.

Links with Nature

A National Lottery Heritage funded project delivered in partnership with Sunderland City Council covering thirteen sites in the Sunderland Coalfield area (concentrated on the catchment of the Lumley Park Burn.) The project focuses on habitat and access improvements to Council owned sites and will make use of social prescribing via the Sunderland G.P. Alliance and Links for Life Sunderland to engage volunteers.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

23. Analysis of net assets between funds

Year ended 31 March 2024

	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Total
	£	£	£	£
Tangible assets	94,873	2,802,370	5,844,033	8,741,276
Current assets	819,997	194,769	613,082	1,627,848
Creditors amounts due within one year	(213,809)	-	-	(213,809)
	<u>701,061</u>	<u>2,997,139</u>	<u>6,457,115</u>	<u>10,155,315</u>

Year ended 31 March 2023

	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Total
	£	£	£	£
Tangible assets	281,828	2,335,942	3,205,694	5,823,464
Current assets	1,400,457	234,637	565,601	2,200,695
Creditors amounts due within one year	(863,133)	-	-	(863,133)
	<u>819,152</u>	<u>2,570,579</u>	<u>3,771,295</u>	<u>7,161,026</u>

24. Related Party Transactions

There have been no related party transactions during the year (2023 – none).

25. Pension Commitments

The charity operates a money purchase pension scheme. The pension scheme cost charge of £37,563 (2023 - £29,977) represent amounts payable by the charity. Unremitted amounts of £5,707 (2023 - £5,744) representing one month's deductions is included in creditors.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

26. Reconciliation of net income to net cash flow from operating activities

	2024	2023
	£	£
Net income for the year	2,994,290	4,225,919
Adjustments for:		
Interest received	(16,985)	(985)
Depreciation on tangible assets	45,321	29,353
Profit/loss from disposal of assets	(12,908)	-
Decrease in stock in CY	1,234	3,107
Decrease in debtors	122,714	100,827
(Decrease)/Increase in creditors	(649,324)	441,786
Net cash flow from operating activities	<u>2,498,342</u>	<u>4,800,007</u>

27. Analysis of net debt

There charitable company had no debt during the year.