

Registered number: 00717813
Charity number: 221819

Northumberland Wildlife Trust Limited

(A company limited by guarantee)

Annual report

31 March 2023

Northumberland Wildlife Trust Limited

(A company limited by guarantee)

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Reference and administrative details Year ended 31 March 2023

Trustees	Trai Anfield Eveline Brunton Derek Coates, Treasurer and Chair of Finance and Risk Committee John Baker Cresswell (appointed 20 September 2022) Patricia Cresswell Graham Gill, Vice Chair and Chair of Nature Recovery Committee Ailsa Hobson, Secretary Ian Jackson Michael Jeffries Suren Kanagasundaram (appointed 20 December 2022) Nigel Porter, Chair of Trustees Karen Statham, Vice Chair and Chair of Governance and Compliance Committee Rosie Tapsfield (appointed 1 March 2023)
Company registered number	00717813
Charity registered number	221819
Registered office	The Garden House St Nicholas Park Jubilee Road Newcastle upon Tyne Tyne and Wear NE3 3XT
Company secretary	Ailsa Hobson
Chief executive officer	Mike Pratt
Independent auditor	UNW LLP Citygate St James' Boulevard Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 4JE
Bankers	Royal Bank of Scotland 31 Grey Street Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 6ES
Solicitors	Hay & Kilner Merchant House 30 Cloth Market Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 1EE

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Reference and administrative details (continued) Year ended 31 March 2023

Glossary

DEFRA - Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

ECN - EcoNorth Limited

Forest Schools - A scheme of outdoor-based learning in a woodland environment

FTE - Full time equivalent

GDPR - General Data Protection Regulation

Living Landscapes - The Wildlife Trusts' landscape-scale conservation approach

Living Seas - As above but in the marine environment

NWE - Northumberland Wildlife Enterprises Limited

NWT - Northumberland Wildlife Trust

PPL - People's Postcode Lottery

RSWT - Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts

SORP - Statement of Recommended Practice for Charity Accounts

TWT - The Wildlife Trusts

WDC - Wildlife Discovery Centre

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Chair's annual report Year ended 31 March 2023

I am happy to report that Northumberland Wildlife Trust has had yet another extraordinary year. Last year I recorded that we had purchased a large area of land at West Chevington for rewilding, as well as expanded the staff numbers so we could better engage with the wider population and work better with farmers.

Since then, we have inherited a wonderfully restored house, to be used for holiday rents, with 200 acres of beautiful woodland, situated close to Benshaw; planned a fundraising drive to purchase a small area of ancient woodland and grassland near Ovington; expanded our links with the farming community and local people; and begun the process of changing the tenancy arrangements at Whitelee, which will open a major opportunity to further rewild a large upland area of Northumberland. All the while, Mike and his senior team have managed to turn a projected financial deficit at the start of the year, into a surplus at the year-end: a significant achievement at a time of financial constraint.

What started as a year of consolidation, following the extraordinary expansion of activities in the previous year, has not stopped the Wildlife Trust continuing in its mission to lead nature's recovery north of the Tyne, further engage with local people in spreading the word about the importance of the natural environment in people's lives, and promote the relevance of the environmental lobby in providing solutions to the major issues of the day, like climate change and the health and well-being of our population.

The Wildlife Trust has an amazing staff group, full of enthusiasm and knowledge, backed up by a large group of volunteers, all supported by an important membership whose financial support is vital for the trust's financial health, along with a group of major donors who have generously backed new initiatives and purchases. We need to make sure we support and strengthen this team over the next few years so that our ambitions for making an even greater impact for nature, can be realised.

In addition, we are combining our local drive for nature's recovery, with our strong support for the work of the national team, which is leading all of the 46 British wildlife trusts in developing an even more effective movement for nature's recovery. This also means we can continue to build a powerful alliance with other environmental groups, like the RSPB and the National Trust, to make sure political parties recognise the power of the environmental movement as a political force, especially at a time of an approaching general election. It feels like the time is right to make nature's importance and nature's recovery central to the local and national political debate; something all of us in the wildlife movement have a responsibility to support.



Nigel Porter, Chairman
Date: 3 October 2023

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Trustees' report Year ended 31 March 2023

The Trustees present their annual report together with the audited financial statements of the group and the company for the year 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023. The Trustees confirm that the Annual Report and financial statements of the company comply with the current statutory requirements, the requirements of the company's governing document, and the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP), applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

Our purpose and charitable objectives

The charitable objects of the Trust, as defined in our Memorandum of Association, are:

1) For the benefit of the public, to advance, promote and further (primarily but not exclusively within the County of Northumberland, City of Newcastle and Borough of North Tyneside or other such designation as may be given to those areas) the conservation, maintenance and protection of:

- Wildlife and its habitats;
- Places of natural beauty;
- Places and objects of zoological, botanical, ecological, geographical, archaeological, historical or scientific interest;
- Features of landscape with geological, physiographical or amenity value in particular, but not exclusively, in ways that further biodiversity.

2) To advance the education of the public in:

- The principles and practice of sustainable development;
- The principles and practice of biodiversity conservation.

3) To promote research in all branches of nature study and to publish the useful results thereof.

Public Benefit statement

Northumberland Wildlife Trust is a charity dedicated to saving wildlife and wild places and helping people to get closer to nature. We manage over 60 nature reserves and help to create wildlife-rich landscapes and seas by working in partnership with other organisations, landowners and communities.

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in section 4 of the Charities Act 2006 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit, 'Charities and Public Benefit'.

The Trust's public benefit is enshrined in our charitable objects as outlined above. Our activities and facilities are accessible to all and our work to promote nature conservation and protect wildlife helps to maintain biodiversity for the benefit of everyone. Our work to educate, engage and enthuse a wide range of people is aimed at improving understanding of, and engagement in, environmental issues.

Our Strategy and Business Plan

In May 2020 we launched our new Wilder Northumberland strategy and business plan. It set out our 2030 vision and five-year plan to deliver a wilder future for nature, places, people and the Trust. Whilst this is still current a light touch review was undertaken in July 2023 to review progress and agree next step priorities and inform measures to evaluate outcomes.

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Trustees' report (continued)

Year ended 31 March 2023

Key additional areas of focus and emphasis include:

- Strategy to be amended (see below) explicitly to include the intention to take forward a digital pathway in order to transform data use and management to underscore all key decisions;
- In the business plan, from 2023 to 2026, we want to up delivery against our new land acquisitions developing further our approach at Druridge/Chevington, lower Redesdale to Rothbury and coast to coast/Hadrian's Wall corridor;
- Put Wild City on a stronger footing and continue to roll it out in partnership;
- Move further on keynote species reintroductions;
- Strengthen core services to support growth;
- Develop new green finance opportunities;
- Expand and target farmer/landowner influencing for nature recovery.

These are to be incorporated as amendments to the Strategy and Business Plan after being presented at October 2023 Council.

The driver for all of this is to intensify our overall impact to promote nature's recovery and engage with more people with our mission. We plan to refocus and grow resources and capacity and to also trial new approaches, on an increasing basis, to instigate the next step change this second phase of our business plan aims to deliver.

Our Vision

A Wilder Future for our area

We want: Everywhere and everything here Wilder, including people's lives and jobs, with landscapes richer in wildlife and better-connected land, wetlands and seas.

We want: To reach more people, form more partnerships and play a greater part in wilding and greening locally and contribute globally to restoring nature and tackling climate breakdown.

We will create Wilder Places, Wilder People and a Wilder Future, with more, bigger and better joined up areas for wildlife to thrive, more people taking action and connecting to nature and influencing more decisions to secure nature's recovery locally, regionally and nationally.

We will achieve our vision by:

- Defending wildlife and wild places;
- Enabling nature's recovery: protecting the best and improving the rest;
- Inspiring people and communities to care and enabling them to act;
- Influencing organisations to behave in nature's interest.

Growing our resources and partnerships to be more effective and agile. Including adopting a new digital pathway to digital and data transformation and application, to better inform all key decisions going forward and to enable better outcome evaluation.

We will deliver our vision through three key strategic objectives

1. Lead nature's recovery
2. Inspire people and organisations to care and mobilise them to act
3. Ensure an agile green culture and sustainable Trust

We will action our vision from our reserves, visitor centres, areas we manage and through the organisational culture and skills of our staff, volunteers and trustees.

Underpinning all of our work are our core principles and values - that we are passionate, visionary, inspiring, effective and acting with integrity.

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Trustees' report (continued) Year ended 31 March 2023

Strategic report

A message from our Chief Executive Officer

Despite some early frustrations in carrying on the momentum achieved in the previous two years, this year in fact broadened our horizons once again and we were able to expand our influence and impact in terms of both nature recovery and engaging people with our mission. This has given us an even stronger platform to take things to the next level we hope in following years.

We did embed the expansion of the Trust we achieved, adding both staff and new projects and also sites and we initiated more towards nature connectivity, as well as delivering against ongoing commitments. It was gratifying to take on the Haining, a wooded upland farm in Redesdale, adding to our interests there and to work towards a possible acquisition of ancient woodland and pasture at Whittle Dene, in the Tyne Valley. Also, to explore additional land at Druridge, to add to West Chevington and begin to explore other key areas we might develop for nature connectivity, in due course.

Our work to influence farmers and landowners and partners more widely also advanced and our work on leading elements of nature recovery in the region was finally celebrated at a 'Wilding the North' conference in March, the first of its kind in the north.

Much good work brought the final year of the Kielder Wildwood together and we used this with partners to initiate a much bigger concept of Wild Kielder. We worked closely in many large-scale wilding partnerships across the county. Great work was carried out to develop species focussed initiatives, especially in relation to building the next red squirrel and water voles approach.

Alongside this, the work of the Wild City team across several interlinked initiatives continues to link more and different urban communities of diverse backgrounds to nature on the doorstep. These include rolling out a new community organising approach, community tree plantings as part of the community forest programme, green influencers, a community pollinator project, education delivery and young people involvement, including setting up our first Young People's Forum and much more.

The challenge going forward is to enable a more sustainable future for both our wilding work and people engagement in a more joined up and better resourced way. We need now to connect even more with funders, new funding mechanisms, supporters and champions to achieve the bigger lasting change we are aiming for. Our ambitions and nature's need, people's needs and interest in our work is high and ever more valued.

We are already pursuing further land opportunities of strategic importance, working in large-scale partnerships for nature recovery and aim to work with others to bring more farmers onside. Above all, we need to connect more people than ever to nature.

This requires cementing and developing our Wild City, community organising and other youth and education work to win people's hearts and minds and combat the accelerating and potentially worsening issues around climate, health and biodiversity loss. This is the focus of our whole Wildlife Trust movement and we have a key role within that.

Building on this year we have every reason to be optimistic we can play an even more influential and impactful part in bringing nature back.

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Trustees' report (continued)

Year ended 31 March 2023

Our achievements and performance commentary

Strategic objective 1: To lead nature's recovery

Our core purpose is to lead nature's recovery, yet we realise this is in large degree achieved through working with people. Everyone has a part to play to prevent biodiversity loss and combat climate change and we will aim to empower and support others to act for nature's benefit.

We aim to promote abundant, diverse wildlife and natural processes, and create, with partners, wilder landscapes and seascapes where people and nature thrive together.

We recognise there are new innovative and bold ways coming on stream and we cannot implement these alone, we need to develop closer and more impactful partnerships, especially with land interests, to achieve bigger, more joined up outcomes for nature.

Progress this year

Wilding

The Trust's new Wilding Northumberland team developed new ways to use our reserves, large area projects and wildlife sites as core areas for nature recovery. We worked closely with Northumberland farmers and landowners to encourage regenerative approaches to land use.

We acquired more land to manage for nature. The Haining is an 80 ha site near Elsdon with pasture, mature and newly planted woodland, ponds, hay meadows, the Elsdon Burn and a house.

Wilding at West Chevington, on Druridge Bay, is progressing well. We withdrew the first arable field from production, created 6 new ponds, installed leaky dams to slow the water and re-wet the site, removed plastic tree guards and surveyed pollinators, earthworms and breeding birds.

Peatland restoration

Peat delivers huge benefits for biodiversity, carbon capture, flood risk reduction, erosion control and water quality improvement and is vital for the county's recovery strategy. Our Northumberland Peat Partnership team surveyed over 4,700 ha and prepared 10 plans to restore and re-wet this important upland peatland. These sites will be, or already have been, lined up for funding routes to facilitate practical restoration works on the ground in the next couple of years.

Revitalising Redesdale, a 5-year Landscape Partnership project, completed in 2022. It restored 627 ha peatland, planted 47 ha species-rich grassland, improved water quality at 22 sites and provided better ecological species records.

Woodland

5,000 trees were planted in the Kielder Wildwood, taking the total to nearly 30,000. 45 soil eDNA kits were used, alongside monitoring reptiles, birds, butterflies, small mammals and more.

We delivered 10 community tree planting events for the North East Community Forest. We planted over 9,000 trees across Newcastle and North Tyneside.

Pollinator habitat

The Beelines 'pollinator partnership' with Urban Green Newcastle (UGN) worked across 41 public sites. It planted 3,700 trees, created 12 hectares of new meadow, restored 6 hectares of grassland, created 1,800m² of pollinator friendly formal borders and planted almost 42,000 bulbs.

Other habitat

Work at East Chevington is bearing fruit. The new ponds acquired breeding great crested newts, planted bluebells flowered and 300+ dormice thrived. Funding for the new hides is now in place and work starts in September.

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Trustees' report (continued) Year ended 31 March 2023

Species interventions

Red Squirrel Northern England (RSNE) has collected records of red squirrel sightings and conservation effort for over 12 years and now manages probably the largest repository of this data in England. We add records received from over 35 volunteer groups and organisations to our own ranger records and public sightings. While this is a considerable undertaking, it provides a wealth of information on species distribution at a local, regional and national level. We have provided red squirrel distribution maps to several organisations including the England Red Squirrel Action Plan.

The annual RSNE squirrel monitoring programme across the northern England involved over 180 people across 250 sites and is the only systematic long-term evidence-base. It shows that red squirrel occupancy in the North is stable. A new £4.8m, 5-year partnership project was successfully submitted to the National Lottery and development work starts 2023/24, under the title Red Squirrel Recovery Network, RSRW.

The final two releases of water voles took place in Kielder. Volunteers continued to support them through fortnightly mink monitoring and water vole surveys. We also worked with Durham WT and Tees Valley WT on the Naturally Native project, which is delivering water vole conservation across the North East.

Strategic objective 2: Inspiring people to care and act

Whether in urban Newcastle or rural Northumberland, wildlife and wild places are never far away. We want more people in our diverse landscape to discover and take pride in the wildlife in their communities and understand how they can act to protect and enhance it.

Encourage people to learn about, care and take meaningful action for nature and climate at both local and regional level.

Progress this year

Volunteering

Volunteering almost returned to pre-Covid levels. 387 volunteers contributed 28,853 hours helping nature's recovery, including practical conservation, as reserve wardens, running Osprey Watch, surveying, and supporting visitor centres and offices.

Influencing

The majority of the work undertaken by our squirrel rangers is funded through contracts with landowners, which equates to managing 2,500 ha of woodland. We helped landowners with 14 new countryside stewardship applications, which we hope will add 1,000 ha more of woodland where red squirrel conservation and biodiversity improvements will be made.

We ran a major Wilding Networks for the North Conference in Newcastle to share knowledge and stimulate more partnerships between environmental groups, local authorities, businesses, landowners and land agents.

We remapped hundreds of Local Wildlife Sites in Northumberland.

We made 19 comments on planning applications and fed into neighbourhood plans.

Engagement

At Hauxley, we upgraded the café, added a new hide and more information panels, resurfaced the paths and extended wheelchair accessible tracks.

BBC Springwatch filmed at Hauxley in June 2022 with Meghan McCubbin – this programme regularly attracts large audiences and raised the profile of The Wildlife Trusts' work.

Northumberlandia had its busiest year ever (121k visitors) with monthly markets, 3 fantastic outdoor theatre events, seasonal trails, and the Enchanted Cramlington interactive audio trail, working with a local community group.

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Trustees' report (continued) Year ended 31 March 2023

30 Days Wild, the UK's biggest nature challenge, had 1,538 people signing up in our area including 149 schools, 19 businesses and 17 care homes.

Osprey Watch attracted 4,402 visitors to our new, bespoke cabin at Tower Knowe Visitor Centre. We worked at Newcastle Great Park on behalf of the Council to review progress against the site's Biodiversity Action Plan and engage with residents. Sessions included nature walks, crafts, litter picks and recycling/composting events. 196 people took part.

Community engagement work focused on urban areas including Meadow Well Connected after school club, Kilbourn House (assisted living) in North Kenton and Hazelrigg Community Group.

Education

During 22/23, our education team prioritised working with marginalised communities and connected with a range of new community groups and organisations to deliver activities, training, events and talks. We worked with 5,337 people, including 1,239 4 to 9 year-olds and 1,119 from a marginalised background.

Empowerment

The Green Influencer's scheme empowers young people aged 10-14 to work on environmental social action. A team from Gosforth East Middle School presented at the national Green Mentor Conference about their project to build an outdoor classroom from eco-bricks.

A Young People's Forum was set up with 5 members aged 16-24 to discuss projects, policy, local issues and ideas for their own environmental project.

Nextdoor Nature used the community organising approach to support existing community groups in Newcastle to take action for nature. We worked with groups such as The Bostey in Walker, Greening Wingrove and MINE Youth in Byker.

Strategic objective 3: Ensure an agile green culture and be sustainable

We will use our organisation and its sites to best advantage, so that we lead by example and remain a strong driver for positive change.

Ensure our organisation embodies sustainable practices and plays its part in helping to address local environmental issues.

Progress this year

We have been investigating new green finance models, such as Biodiversity Net Gain and the Peatland Code. These mechanisms incentivise long-term reductions in carbon emissions and biodiversity improvement and are likely to be part of future funding.

Several staff were accredited (Civil Aviation Authority) drone operators, which ramps up our ability to survey and photograph large areas.

Bird flu had a terrible impact on the North East but resulted in improvements to biosecurity, internally and externally.

Our two visitor centres are financially sustainable whilst meeting our core goal of reconnecting people with nature.

Financial sustainability is key in difficult economic times. We invested in a new accounting system (operational from April 2023) and additional fundraising resource to secure future income streams. Financial reserves moved to 7 months' cover at the end of the year.

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Trustees' report (continued) Year ended 31 March 2023

EcoNorth, our award winning ecological consultancy, operated successfully across the UK and Ireland, gifting £70,000 profits back to the Trust. Key projects included supporting mitigation measures for the Newcastle-Ashington Line, work on the England Peat Map, pond habitat creation supporting great crested newts, numerous biodiversity net gain assessments and civil engineering contracts.

We adopted community organising principles, providing skills training and mentoring in addition to sharing knowledge, resources and equipment to increase sustainable local community impact for nature.

We recognised the benefits of being a socially responsible employer and support the National Living Wage. We believe paying a real living wage boosts staff morale, productivity and wellbeing.

We signed up to the Better Health at Work Award, which promotes a healthy workplace and can lead to decreased absenteeism, increased productivity and improved performance.

Membership

This was a difficult year, given the cost of living crisis, but membership income for the year was up by 2% thanks to the upgrade started in the previous year and membership recruitment was also up by 8%. However actual memberships at 5,562 were down on last year by 2% due to higher cancellation rates, where financial reasons were the most cited cause. Membership remains extremely important to the Trust as a source of unrestricted income that funds the top priorities.

Recruitment was helped significantly by the half price January membership sale - 135 memberships this year, a record since we started doing the sale and 78% uplift on last year.

Membership recruiters were back meeting the public with support from other teams, attending over 50 fairs/shows and markets this year. We believe that recruiters perform an essential task in starting people on their journey towards membership. Initial insights from the Great Big Nature Survey indicate that membership could be considered as a 'badge of honour' as members/supporters take significantly more actions for nature.

Supporter Engagement

This was a bumper year for engagement, really feeling the bounce-back after Covid/lockdown. We held 332 Trust events with 17,500 attendees across key sites, including Northumberlandia, Hauxley and St Nicholas Park, as well as partner locations.

On top of this, we delivered 117 outreach events at third party locations such as schools/colleges, care homes, community groups with over 3,700 participants. And we've hosted 57 groups on our sites with nearly 1,300 attendees.

30 Days Wild, the UK's biggest nature challenge, to do one wild thing a day throughout June was again popular with 1,571 sign ups, exceeding last year. We ran daily social media posts across all channels to inspire people to try something new and the Big Wild Weekend at Northumberlandia celebrated 'nurture in nature' with mindfulness, yoga, music in nature, herb walks, den building and face painting.

We had an amazing year across TV, press, online media and radio. At a time when reality TV continues to rule the headlines, media coverage for the Trust continues to exceed expectations as more news outlets continue to take an interest in the importance of the natural world. Yet again there has been record high digital and print coverage, and some brilliant national radio and TV coverage.

Stories have covered species reintroductions, harvest mice, reserves, climate change, heatwaves, rewilding, the ospreys' return, peat bans, outdoor theatre events, events for families and the decline in insect numbers. A phenomenal highlight was Springwatch which broadcasted from the Hauxley reserve for a whole week in June 2022 and Chief Executive, Mike Pratt, appeared on Songs of Praise from our East Chevington reserve.

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Trustees' report (continued) Year ended 31 March 2023

Roebuck, our membership magazine and an important member retention asset, continued to inspire, as well our as monthly supporter e-newsletters to over 9,500 people, which were very well received with higher than industry average open rates. We also produced regular digital e-newsletters for volunteers (quarterly) and schools (termly).

Social media went well, supporting RSWT campaigns and tracking monthly nature themes, key events, campaigns and activities.

Our website reach, at over 386k unique visitors (versus 345k last year) has never been higher and social media continued to be important, with a significant rise in followers on Instagram, an important channel for reaching younger audiences.

Supporters have continued to be extremely generous from philanthropists and those who kindly left a legacy, to individuals who contributed to appeals and even our Great North runners. Support from players of People's Postcode Lottery provided vital funds that contributed to our fundraising, communications and volunteering programmes as well as to the estates team that look after the nature reserves.

Trading at visitor centres

Our cafés at the visitor centres at Northumberlandia and Hauxley Wildlife Discovery Centre provide us with the opportunity to engage with the public and to generate a substantial unrestricted financial contribution towards our primary charitable objectives.

Hauxley

This visitor comment sums up the appeal of Hauxley: 'Hauxley Nature Reserve on the North East coast is a prime example of an exceptional reserve. With diverse habitats and a commitment to sustainability, Hauxley offers an immersive experience. It serves as both a sanctuary and a learning centre, engaging visitors through educational resources and activities. The dedicated team ensures habitat restoration and species protection. Hauxley provides a tranquil escape with stunning vistas, trails, and hides, leaving us with lasting memories and a deeper appreciation for nature.'

Additions this year included a new hide funded by the Community Foundation, improvements to accessibility such as resurfaced tracks and an extended wheelchair path, and continuous improvements to the delightful café and menus. Our monthly evening talks programme was back up and running and school holiday activities proved reasonably successful. Overall, we had approximately 80,000 visitors.

Northumberlandia

This country park, a joint operation with The Land Trust, has matured nicely attracting nearly 101,000 visitors to see the Lady of the North landform sculpture. Most popular events included monthly markets which attracted 7,200 people over the year. Also, we offered 3 fantastic outdoor theatre events with over 600 people attending, seasonal trails including Easter and Halloween, and the popular Enchanted Cramlington interactive audio trail, working with a local community group (approximately 1,500 attendees).

The café was revamped in March 2022 and during the year we introduced new menu items, including freshly baked scones, homemade soup and even doggie ice cream to widen appeal. More outdoor tables and planters improved outdoor attractiveness, all resulting in a 20% increase in sales. However, the café and site are highly seasonal and staffing/opening hours had to be very carefully controlled during winter months.

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Trustees' report (continued)

Year ended 31 March 2023

Volunteering

Volunteering continues to recover from Covid years with an end of year equivalent of 18 full time staff for the year. More active roles have been added to our portfolio such as the Finance Assistant and Education Assistant with more and more opportunities starting to flow from staff again. We are also seeing a trend towards more short-term volunteering from individuals which has also been reported nationally by volunteering professionals and in other sectors. Covid opened people's eyes to the possibility of volunteering and as society resumed normality people have enjoyed the ability to volunteer around flexible working options. We do provide a flexible way to volunteer allowing people to drop in as and when they have time as well as those regular activities, which require more time commitment and training. This year also saw the return of the staff and volunteer Christmas party social event which was very successful and well attended. We also retain a good spread of volunteers across our entire region enabling more localised volunteering, helping towards reducing our carbon footprint too.

Financial review

Sustainable Finances

Key to our long-term success is our financial sustainability. We operate a robust financial planning system, with rolling cash flow forecasts and working capital reviews. Quarterly management accounts operate with an open view to managing financial risks with a solid fundraising strategy, income pipeline and horizon scanning for new opportunities.

Financial reserves are the portion of our unrestricted funds that are freely available to spend on any of the Trust's purposes in accordance with our charitable objectives. We review our reserves policy annually to monitor and maintain our financial resilience.

Our key driver in setting the unrestricted funds target is maintaining sufficient cash flow to allow us to continue to operate in periods of uncertainty and to ensure that we can fund the large number of projects for which grant funding is received in arrears. We then aim to retain sufficient unrestricted cash reserves to cover non-project running costs for a specified number of months. The current target is to achieve and maintain a minimum of six months' cover.

Subsidiary companies

The Trust has two wholly owned subsidiary companies, Northumberland Wildlife Enterprises Limited, which is currently dormant, and EcoNorth Limited. The purpose of EcoNorth Limited is to raise funds for the charity through its work as an environmental consultancy, providing commercial ecology surveys, assessments, information, advice and guidance. The surplus profits of EcoNorth Limited are donated to the charity each year under the Gift Aid scheme.

For more detailed information about either of the subsidiary companies, the individual company accounts are filed annually with Companies House.

In this report, the accounts include the income, expenditure, assets and liabilities of the charity and both subsidiaries whenever the statements are referred to as 'consolidated' or 'group'.

Our financial position and financial reserves policy

At the end of the year, we had liquid unrestricted funds £742,000, an increase of £141,000 from last year.

Our financial reserves policy is to maintain sufficient cash flow to allow us to continue to operate and ensure we can fund the large number of projects for which grant funding is received in arrears. The policy sets out the aim to retain sufficient unrestricted cash reserves to cover non-project unrestricted running costs of the charity for a minimum of six months.

Currently, this fund holds £742,000, representing around 7 months' worth of anticipated non-project related running costs. As the charity has grown in recent years, our budgeted expenditure is increasing, so the size of the fund has increased to cover both expected growth and continued uncertainty in income generation, and the impacts of the cost of living crisis.

We are committed to putting our remaining income and financial reserves to work as soon as possible, to achieve our overall charitable objectives.

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Trustees' report (continued)

Year ended 31 March 2023

Our restricted funds, provided by funders for very specific purposes, amounted to £2,088,000 at year end and these funds are held to deliver the specific purposes set at the start of projects. Included in this balance is £1,900,000, provided by the Reece Foundation for the acquisition of West Chevington rewilding nature reserve last year.

Principal funding

During the year we generated income of £5,268,000, down by £144,000 compared to £5,412,000 last year. This year's income includes recognition at fair value of the donated Haining property and nature reserve with the corresponding gain included as unrestricted income from donations of £1,245,000. The inclusion of the Haining as income from donations is in line with FRS102 SORP accounting and does not represent an actual cash receipt by the Trust. Last year we included the one-off restricted donation receipt from the Reece Foundation of £1,900,000.

Our income comes from a wide variety of sources, including membership subscriptions, voluntary donations and contracts for delivery of services. The principal funding sources during the year were:

Income source	2022/23	2021/22
Grants	1,564,000	1,456,000
EcoNorth	782,000	773,000
Charitable activities	415,000	348,000
Memberships	389,000	372,000
Visitor trading	343,000	205,000
Donations	1,481,000	2,096,000
Legacy	200,000	63,000
Sponsorships	43,000	81,000
Other	24,000	18,000
Total Income	5,268,000	5,412,000

Principal risks and uncertainties

The Management Team and the Trustees review the risks the charity may face and where appropriate establish processes and procedures to mitigate those risks and agree action plans on a quarterly basis.

This year we updated our risk management process. The Trustees, through the sub-committee structure, oversee a formal risk management process, regularly reviewing the risks the charity faces, prioritising them and, where possible, identifying means of mitigating them. We also consider external factors such as the impact of the pandemic, the economy, and the impact of new regulations. At each quarterly Council meeting a formal strategic risk management paper, that highlights those risks that the sub-committees reviewed as high after mitigation, is presented.

The Finance and Risks Committee (FRC), a sub-committee of Council, has delegated authority for ensuring that suitable financial systems and controls are in place and are working effectively, and that risks are properly identified, managed, mitigated and reported. The FRC meets quarterly and is chaired by the Treasurer.

This year the Trust has moved to its new formal trustee-led committee structure with the addition of two new committees – Nature Recovery Committee (NRC) and Governance and Compliance Committee (GCC).

The Nature Recovery Committee has delegated authority for ensuring that the efforts and resources of the Trust are directed in the most effective and efficient way to secure nature's recovery within Northumberland, Newcastle and North Tyneside.

Northumberland Wildlife Trust Limited

(A company limited by guarantee)

Trustees' report (continued) Year ended 31 March 2023

The Governance and Compliance Committee has delegated authority for ensuring that the Trust areas of governance, corporate responsibility and compliance are robust and maintained. The Committee oversees key policy areas including equality and diversity, health and safety, employment, safeguarding, data protection, whistle blowing and complaints.

We assess that the Trust's principal risks and uncertainties include the following;

- Securing funding for charitable activities and good cost recovery to ensure sustainability
- Insufficient cash to meet obligations
- Failure of health and safety compliance
- Sudden loss of key personnel or our head office communication and IT systems
- Lack of capacity to deliver an increasingly complex work programme
- Government structure and policy changes

Plans for the future

Whilst our strategic objectives and key areas of work stay broadly the same, as set out in our strategy and business plan, we are now in the second phase of that plan and working towards further step change to enable us to be more impactful for nature and people. We are therefore in the process of reviewing our emphases and focus we need to adopt in the next 2 to 3 years. Key areas of this refocus are outlined in the Strategy and Business plan section above.

We were able to make more progress in key areas in the first phase of our business plan than we had expected. This was particularly so given the unique challenges inherent in managing the Trust through the Covid pandemic.

Large scale strategic land acquisition to enable nature recovery and demonstrate wilding, investment in influencing farmers towards this and setting up a new Wild City project network, alongside several other areas of development, were advanced at pace. A brief period of consolidation and embedding of this ensued in 2022. However, there are expected, once again, to be significant opportunities to take these and other works even further, which we are pursuing.

Important works and projects have been developed in 2023 which we anticipate will open up even bigger prospects and take us into new areas. This includes the possibility of trailing new funding mechanisms using green finance; acquiring and managing larger areas of land in partnership; developing further Wild City and linked engagement/community organising; new large-scale species focussed projects.

Alongside continuing to manage all of what we have already achieved and invested in and are in the process of delivering, this is both exciting and challenging.

Alongside the further development of our delivery, influencing and projects, a key focus must be on investing still further in our financial security, environmental sustainability, internal systems and communications and culture. This might well include a structural review to ensure we have the capacity and can gear up to meet the opportunities and potential challenges we face going forward.

In summary the main things we see happening in the next year include;

- More strategic land acquisitions for wilding/nature recovery at Whittle Dene, Rothbury/Redesdale area and Druridge, wilding Whitelee under our direct management
- Launch of consultation on keynote species reintroduction
- New 'coast to coast' wide nature recovery partnership
- Development and delivery of new red squirrel initiative
- First utilisation of green finance
- Increased capacity and focus on digital enablement and transformation
- Increasing farm advice capacity
- Review of resource capacity and structure to enable wider complex programme
- Investment in internal processes and culture towards more integrated team working

Northumberland Wildlife Trust Limited

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Trustees' report (continued)

Year ended 31 March 2023

Structure, governance and management

The Trust is registered as a charitable company limited by guarantee (registered number 00717813) and is governed by a Memorandum and Articles of Association. The Trust is governed by the Board of Trustees (Council), who are also the directors of the company under company law.

In December 2020 the Charity Governance Code was updated with a focus on the principle of integrity and equality, diversion and inclusion. The Trustees reviewed the Trust's practice against the principles set out in the updated Charity Governance Code and have developed an ongoing working document to highlight areas of improvement required to meet best practice and are taking recommendations forward in the coming year.

Method of appointment or election of trustees

A list of trustees who have served during the financial year is shown on page 1. Trustees may be elected by the membership at the AGM or co-opted; the maximum tenure for elected trustees is 9 years, with re-election required every 3 years, and for co-opted trustees the maximum service period is 3 years. All trustees have the same responsibilities, irrespective of tenure. There must be no less than 8 elected trustees and no more than 12; the maximum allowable number of co-opted trustees is 4. Trustees may claim travel or other expenses but no trustees are remunerated for their services to the charity.

Recruitment and selection is led by the Trust's Governance Group which reports directly to Council. All prospective trustees complete a skills analysis which is set against the Trust's agreed skills gaps, and there is also an interview with the Chair and Chief Executive. The Trust advertises all trustee vacancies, seeking specific skills when required, and it also takes the diversity of the Board into account when considering new appointments.

Policies adopted for the induction and training of trustees

New trustees are provided with a range of documentation in advance of their first meeting, including the Trust's governing documents, the constitution, recent Council minutes and the latest annual report and accounts. They are invited to attend an induction session with the Chair and senior staff shortly after they start, and they are encouraged to meet informally with a more experienced trustee within their first 3 months. The Chair also has an informal discussion with each new trustee after their first 6 months.

Council have 1 'away day' per year with senior staff; this is to facilitate both more in-depth discussion of specific issues than is often possible at Council meetings, and also to provide an opportunity for trustees to visit sites or projects.

Organisational structure and decision making

Council meets 4 times a year, working to an annual forward agenda. A detailed agenda is agreed with the Chair well in advance of each meeting and written papers are provided by staff on all agenda items. Standard agenda items are strategic business issues, financial reports including the latest management accounts, policy changes and activity reports. A register of conflicts of interest is held and updated annually, and every Council agenda includes declaration of any potential conflicts which might arise at that meeting.

Delegation of authority is set out in the Trust's governance documentation. Council delegates all of its powers to the Chief Executive to enable him or her to manage the Trust's operations and to lead and direct its strategic development. However, the Chief Executive is obliged to consult with trustees as appropriate and to report fully and appropriately on decisions taken and material developments. Specific issues which require reporting include:

- New strategic projects and partnerships
- Significant variations against budget or significant financial issues
- Issues affecting the Trust's reputation

Northumberland Wildlife Trust Limited

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Trustees' report (continued) Year ended 31 March 2023

Pay & remuneration

Pay for all staff, including the Chief Executive, is according to a job evaluation system which places the role on one of 7 pay scales. Staff are normally appointed at the bottom of a scale and move up the scale in 4 annual stages.

Trustees approve inflation awards annually, based on a benchmarking system. The total salary bill in the year for the Chief Executive and the three senior managers was £195,000. One individual was paid just over £60,000 and the highest salary in the Trust was 3.5 times larger than the lowest salary.

The Trust has no significant pension liabilities; it does make a contribution to staff pensions but this is on a defined contribution basis only.

Related party relationships

The Trust has two subsidiary companies; EcoNorth Limited (ECN) and Northumberland Wildlife Enterprises Limited (NWE). NWE is currently dormant.

ECN is governed by a Board of Directors on which at least one Trustee represents the Trust's interests. The Managing Director is line-managed by the Trust's Chief Executive.

Wider network

Northumberland Wildlife Trust is part of a national federation of The Wildlife Trusts, represented nationally by The Royal Society for Wildlife Trusts (RSWT) which undertakes a central fundraising, influencing and PR role. All Trusts pay a levy (linked to their unrestricted performance) towards the costs of running this central unit, and there is a comprehensive regional and national governance mechanism to facilitate collective decision making. Collectively RSWT and the 46 individual Wildlife Trust charities are known as The Wildlife Trusts (TWT). RSWT also adds value nationally by providing the opportunity to lever substantial additional funding to individual Trusts through a number of mechanisms and provides critical support as necessary.

TWT formulate strategy and policy and have in place joint working arrangements to which we are signed up and to which all Wildlife Trusts are expected to adhere, though they retain their individual autonomy as part of a federated structure.

In practice, TWTs function as a national network of similar bodies who share the same visions and mission. Data is shared across the movement, to demonstrate joined-up activity, effectiveness and reach, and we act in unison in key policy areas and in national campaigns.

Overall TWTs have over 850,000 members, manage 2,300 nature reserves covering over 98,500 hectares of land, manage 40,000 volunteers and engage with over 500,000 people through walks, talks and events. The Trust is an important contributor to this impact through its work concentrated in Northumberland, Newcastle and North Tyneside but also in partnership throughout the North East and the North of England, and so the effect of our working within the TWT network is that we can make a difference to conservation at local, sub regional, regional and national scales.

Information on fundraising practices

We are committed to dealing respectfully and ethically with its supporters. Without them, the charity would not be able to champion wildlife and natural places, to inspire people and to promote sustainable living. We are registered with the Fundraising Regulator and have agreed to ensure our fundraising is legal, open, honest and respectful. The standards for fundraising are set out in the Code of Fundraising Practice. There have been no complaints from members of the public about our fundraising methods and the Trust takes a considerate approach to asking for support.

Northumberland Wildlife Trust Limited

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Trustees' report (continued)

Year ended 31 March 2023

The Trust employs Face to Face recruiters to attend our own reserves, fairs and shows but does not undertake street fundraising. It engages agencies to help with Door to Door and telemarketing (welcome and satisfaction calls) and requires them to adhere to the standards demanded by the Code. We comply with the Institute of Fundraising's guidance on treating donors fairly when we come into contact with people who may be in a vulnerable circumstance, or need additional support to make an informed decision. Periodic checks are carried out in person and by listening in on telephone calls to check that standards are being adhered to.

The Trust also takes data protection very seriously and has taken external advice and reviewed its procedures to ensure compliance with the requirements of GDPR.

Disclosure of information to auditors


Each of the persons who are trustees at the time when this Trustees' Report is approved has confirmed that:

- So far as that trustee is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable group's auditor is unaware, and
- That trustee has taken all the steps that ought to have been taken as a trustee in order to be aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charitable group's auditor is aware of that information.

This report, encompassing the strategic report, was approved by order of the members of the board of trustees on 3 October 2023 and signed on their behalf by:



Nigel Porter
(Chair of Trustees)



Derek Coates
(Treasurer)

Northumberland Wildlife Trust Limited

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Trustees' responsibilities statement Year ended 31 March 2023

The trustees (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the trustees' report including the strategic report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial . Under company law the trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Group and the company and of their incoming resources and application of resources, including their income and expenditure, 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 of the Charities SORP (FRS 102);
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards (FRS 102) 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 Group will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the Group and the company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Group and the 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 Group and the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.



Independent auditor's report to the members of Northumberland Wildlife Trust Limited

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Northumberland Wildlife Trust Limited (the 'parent charitable company') and its subsidiaries (the 'group') for the year ended 31 March 2023 which comprise the consolidated statement of financial activities, the consolidated balance sheet, the company balance sheet, the consolidated statement of cash flows and the related notes, 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 of the parent charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2023 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 'Auditors' 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 United Kingdom, including the Financial Reporting Council'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 group's or the parent 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.



Independent auditor's report to the members of Northumberland Wildlife Trust Limited (continued)

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. 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. 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 course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinion 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 including the strategic report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements.
- the trustees' report and the strategic 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 charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the trustees' report including the strategic report.

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

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



Independent auditor's report to the members of Northumberland Wildlife Trust Limited (continued)

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement, 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 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.

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 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.

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 identified areas of law and regulations that could reasonably be expected to have a material effect on the financial statements from our general and sector experience and through discussions with the trustees and other management (as required by Auditing Standards) and from inspection of the charitable company's legal correspondence, and we discussed with the trustees and other management the policies and procedures regarding compliance with laws and regulations. We communicated identified laws and regulations throughout our team and remained alert to any indications of non-compliance throughout the audit.

Firstly, the charitable company is subject to laws and regulations that directly affect the financial statements including financial reporting legislation (including related companies and charities legislation) and taxation legislation and we assessed the extent of compliance with these laws and regulations as part of our procedures on the related financial statement items.

Secondly the charitable company is subject to many other laws and regulations where the consequences of non-compliance could have a material effect on amounts or disclosures in the financial statements, for instance through the imposition of fines or litigation. We identified the following areas as those most likely to have such an effect; data protection, health and safety, safeguarding and certain aspects of company legislation, recognising the nature of the charitable company's activities. Auditing Standards limit the required audit procedures to identify non-compliance with these laws and regulations to enquiry of the trustees and other management and inspection of regulatory and legal correspondence, if any. Through these procedures, we did not become aware of any actual or suspected non-compliance material to the financial statements.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of any instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.



Independent auditor's report to the members of Northumberland Wildlife Trust Limited (continued)

In addition, as with any audit, there remained a higher risk of non-detection of irregularities, as these may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations or the override of internal controls. We are not responsible for preventing non-compliance and cannot be expected to detect non-compliance with all laws and regulations.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's 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 its members, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Anne Hallowell

Anne Hallowell BSc FCA DChA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of UNW LLP, Statutory Auditor
Chartered Accountants
Newcastle upon Tyne

3 October 2023

Northumberland Wildlife Trust Limited

(A company limited by guarantee)

Consolidated statement of financial activities (incorporating income and expenditure account)

Year ended 31 March 2023

	Note	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £	As restated Total funds 2022 £
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	2	2,167,028	277,195	2,444,223	2,929,688
Charitable activities	3	150,524	1,523,317	1,673,841	1,487,008
Other trading activities	4	1,125,284	15	1,125,299	978,183
Investments		778	-	778	154
Other income		24,043	-	24,043	17,073
Total income		3,467,657	1,800,527	5,268,184	5,412,106
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	5	1,287,322	7,183	1,294,505	1,170,969
Charitable activities	7	477,453	2,126,386	2,603,839	2,207,868
Other expenditure	17	-	-	-	9,601
Total expenditure		1,764,775	2,133,569	3,898,344	3,388,438
Net income/(expenditure)		1,702,882	(333,042)	1,369,840	2,023,668
Transfers between funds	18	(351,630)	351,630	-	-
Net movement in funds		1,351,252	18,588	1,369,840	2,023,668
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		5,754,794	2,069,190	7,823,984	5,800,316
Net movement in funds		1,351,252	18,588	1,369,840	2,023,668
Total funds carried forward		7,106,046	2,087,778	9,193,824	7,823,984

The consolidated statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

The notes on pages 29 to 55 form part of these financial statements.

Northumberland Wildlife Trust Limited

(A company limited by guarantee)

Consolidated balance sheet At 31 March 2023

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
Fixed assets			
Intangible assets	10	-	1,436
Tangible assets	11	8,263,900	7,052,689
		<u>8,263,900</u>	<u>7,054,125</u>
Current assets			
Stocks	13	12,871	10,626
Debtors	14	641,938	788,133
Cash at bank and in hand		941,331	849,955
		<u>1,596,140</u>	<u>1,648,714</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	15	(604,646)	(830,264)
Net current assets		<u>991,494</u>	<u>818,450</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>9,255,394</u>	<u>7,872,575</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	16	(20,526)	(4,112)
Provisions for liabilities	17	(41,044)	(44,479)
Total net assets		<u><u>9,193,824</u></u>	<u><u>7,823,984</u></u>
Charity funds			
Restricted funds	18	2,087,778	2,069,190
Unrestricted funds			
General funds	18	4,274,604	2,923,352
Revaluation reserve	18	2,831,442	2,831,442
Total unrestricted funds	18	<u>7,106,046</u>	<u>5,754,794</u>
Total funds		<u><u>9,193,824</u></u>	<u><u>7,823,984</u></u>

Northumberland Wildlife Trust Limited

(A company limited by guarantee)

Consolidated balance sheet (continued)

At 31 March 2023

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and preparation of financial statements.

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the trustees on 03 October 2023 and signed on their behalf by:



Nigel Porter
(Chair of Trustees)



Derek Coates
(Treasurer)

The notes on pages 29 to 55 form part of these financial statements.

Northumberland Wildlife Trust Limited

(A company limited by guarantee)

Balance sheet At 31 March 2023

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	11	8,083,560	6,862,977
Investments	12	5,002	5,002
		<u>8,088,562</u>	<u>6,867,979</u>
Current assets			
Stocks	13	12,871	10,626
Debtors	14	421,923	626,055
Cash at bank and in hand		617,144	601,704
		<u>1,051,938</u>	<u>1,238,385</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	15	(424,513)	(703,126)
		<u>627,425</u>	<u>535,259</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>8,715,987</u>	<u>7,403,238</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	16	(20,526)	(4,112)
		<u>8,695,461</u>	<u>7,399,126</u>
Total net assets		<u>8,695,461</u>	<u>7,399,126</u>
Charity funds			
Restricted funds	18	2,087,778	2,069,190
Unrestricted funds			
General funds		4,835,554	3,557,807
Revaluation reserve		1,772,129	1,772,129
		<u>6,607,683</u>	<u>5,329,936</u>
Total funds		<u>8,695,461</u>	<u>7,399,126</u>

Northumberland Wildlife Trust Limited

(A company limited by guarantee)

Balance sheet (continued)

At 31 March 2023

The company's net movement in funds for the year was £1,296,335 (2022 - £1,978,665).

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and preparation of financial statements.

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the trustees on 03 October 2023 and signed on their behalf by:



Nigel Porter
(Chair of Trustees)



Derek Coates
(Treasurer)

The notes on pages 29 to 55 form part of these financial statements.

Northumberland Wildlife Trust Limited

(A company limited by guarantee)

Consolidated statement of cash flows Year ended 31 March 2023

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net cash used in operating activities	20	111,330	272,595
Cash flows from investing activities			
Proceeds from the sale of tangible fixed assets		1,000	-
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(44,287)	(135,695)
Net cash used in investing activities		(43,287)	(135,695)
Cash flows from financing activities			
Repayments of borrowing		-	(105,000)
New finance leases		35,573	6,040
Repayment of finance leases		(12,240)	(4,949)
Net cash provided by/(used in) financing activities		23,333	(103,909)
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year		91,376	32,991
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		849,955	816,964
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	21	941,331	849,955

The notes on pages 29 to 55 form part of these financial statements

Northumberland Wildlife Trust Limited

(A company limited by guarantee)

Notes to the financial statements

Year ended 31 March 2023

1. Accounting policies

1.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) - Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Northumberland Wildlife Trust Limited meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy.

The consolidated statement of financial activities (SOFA) and consolidated balance sheet consolidate the financial statements of the company and its subsidiary undertakings. The results of the subsidiaries are consolidated on a line by line basis.

The company has taken advantage of the exemption allowed under section 408 of the Companies Act 2006 and has not presented its own statement of financial activities in these financial statements.

1.2 Company status

Northumberland Wildlife Trust Limited ('the company') is a charity dedicated to saving wildlife and wild places and helping people to get closer to nature.

The company is a company limited by guarantee, incorporated in the United Kingdom and domiciled in England. The address of the registered office is given in the reference and administrative details page of this annual report. The members of the company are the trustees named on page 1. In the event of the company being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member of the company.

1.3 Basis of consolidation

The financial statements consolidate the accounts of Northumberland Wildlife Trust Limited and its subsidiary undertakings.

The company has taken advantage of the exemption contained within section 408 of the Companies Act 2006 not to present its own income and expenditure account. The income and expenditure account for the year dealt with in the accounts of the company was £51,335 (2022: £1,978,665).

1.4 Fund accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the group and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the group for particular purposes. The costs 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.

Investment income, gains and losses are allocated to the appropriate fund.

Northumberland Wildlife Trust Limited

(A company limited by guarantee)

Notes to the financial statements Year ended 31 March 2023

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.5 Income

All income is recognised once the company has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

The recognition of income from legacies is dependent on establishing entitlement, the probability of receipt and the ability to estimate with sufficient accuracy the amount receivable. Evidence of entitlement to a legacy exists when the company has sufficient evidence that a gift has been left to them (through knowledge of the existence of a valid will and the death of the benefactor) and the executor is satisfied that the property in question will not be required to satisfy claims in the estate. Receipt of a legacy must be recognised when it is probable that it will be received and the fair value of the amount receivable, which will generally be the expected cash amount to be distributed to the company, can be reliably measured.

Donated services or facilities are recognised when the company has control over the item, any conditions associated with the donated item have been met, the receipt of economic benefit from the use of the company of the item is probable and that economic benefit can be measured reliably. In accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102), the general volunteer time of the Friends is not recognised; refer to the trustees' report for more information about their contribution.

On receipt, donated professional services and facilities are recognised on the basis of the value of the gift to the company which is the amount it would have been willing to pay to obtain services or facilities of equivalent economic benefit on the open market; a corresponding amount is then recognised in expenditure in the period of receipt.

Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Income tax recoverable in relation to investment income is recognised at the time the investment income is receivable.

1.6 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

Expenditure on raising funds includes all expenditure incurred by the group to raise funds for its charitable purposes and includes costs of all fundraising activities events and non-charitable trading.

Expenditure on charitable activities is incurred on directly undertaking the activities which further the group's objectives, as well as any associated support costs.

All expenditure is inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

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Notes to the financial statements Year ended 31 March 2023

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.7 Going concern

In determining the appropriate basis of preparation of the financial statements, the trustees' are required to consider whether the group can continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. The group's business activities, together with factors that are likely to affect its future development, financial performance and financial position are set out in the strategic report. In addition, the material financial and operational risks and uncertainties that impact the group's performance are outlined in the strategic report.

The trustees have considered the position of the group at the year, its recent financial performance and forecasts over a period of at least 12 months from the date of the signing these financial statements. As a result of this process, at the time of approving the financial statements, the trustees are of the opinion that it is appropriate to adopt the going concern basis of preparation of the financial statements.

1.8 Intangible assets and amortisation

Intangible assets costing £1,000 or more are capitalised and recognised when future economic benefits are probable and the cost or value of the asset can be measured reliably.

Intangible assets are initially recognised at cost. After recognition, under the cost model, intangible assets are measured at cost less any accumulated amortisation and any accumulated impairment losses.

Amortisation is provided on the following basis:

Website	- 20 % straight line
---------	----------------------

Asset residual values and useful lives are reviewed at the end of each reporting period, and adjusted if appropriate. The effect of any change is accounted for prospectively.

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Notes to the financial statements Year ended 31 March 2023

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.9 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets costing £1,000 or more are capitalised and recognised when future economic benefits are probable and the cost or value of the asset can be measured reliably.

Tangible fixed assets are initially recognised at cost. After recognition, under the revaluation model, tangible fixed assets whose fair value can be measured reliably shall be carried at a revalued amount, being their fair value at the date of revaluation less any subsequent accumulated depreciation and subsequent accumulated impairment losses.

Revaluations are made with sufficient regularity to ensure that the carrying amount does not differ materially from that which would be determined using fair value at the end of the reporting date.

Fair values are determined from market-based evidence by appraisal that is normally undertaken by professionally qualified valuers. If there is no market-based evidence of fair value because of the specialised nature of the tangible fixed asset and it is rarely sold, except as part of a contributing business, a company may need to estimate fair value using an income or depreciated replacement cost approach.

Gains and losses on revaluation are recognised in the consolidated statement of financial activities, with a separate revaluation reserve being shown in the Statement of funds note.

All costs incurred to bring a tangible fixed asset into its intended working condition should be included in the measurement of cost.

Depreciation is provided on the following bases:

Freehold land	- not depreciated
Freehold property	- 2% straight line
Long-term leasehold property	- 2% straight line
Furniture, fittings and equipment	- 25% straight line
Motor vehicles	- 25% reducing balance
External fixtures and fittings	- 25% straight line
Computer equipment	- 50% straight line

1.10 Investments

Investments in subsidiaries are valued at cost less provision for impairment.

1.11 Stocks

Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value after making due allowance for obsolete and slow-moving stocks. Cost includes all direct costs and an appropriate proportion of fixed and variable overheads. Cost is determined using the first-in first-out (FIFO) method.

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Notes to the financial statements

Year ended 31 March 2023

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.12 Financial instruments

The group only enters into basic financial instruments transactions that result in the recognition of financial assets and liabilities like trade and other accounts receivable and payable, and cash and bank balances.

Debt instruments due within one year are measured, initially and subsequently at the transaction price. Debt instruments due after one year are measured initially at the transaction price and subsequently at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

At the end of each reporting period debt financial assets are assessed for impairment, and their carrying value reduced if necessary. Any impairment charge is recognised in the profit and loss account.

1.13 Interest receivable

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the group; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the institution with whom the funds are deposited.

1.14 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents includes cash in hand.

1.15 Finance leases and hire purchase

Assets obtained under hire purchase contracts and finance leases are capitalised as tangible fixed assets. Assets acquired by finance lease are depreciated over the shorter of the lease term and their useful lives. Assets acquired by hire purchase are depreciated over their useful lives. Finance leases are those where substantially all of the benefits and risks of ownership are assumed by the group. Obligations under such agreements are included in creditors, net of the finance charge allocated to future periods. The finance element of the rental payment is charged to the consolidated statement of financial activities so as to produce a constant periodic rate of charge on the net obligation outstanding in each period.

1.16 Employee benefits

Short-term benefits

Short-term benefits, including holiday pay and other similar non-monetary benefits are recognised as an expense in the period in which the employee's entitlement to the benefit accrues.

Defined contribution pension plan

The company operates a defined contribution pension plan for its employees. Contributions are recognised as an expense when they fall due. Amounts due but not yet paid are included within creditors on the balance sheet.

The assets of the plan are held separately from the company in independently administered funds.

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Notes to the financial statements Year ended 31 March 2023

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.17 Taxation

The taxation expense for the year comprises current and deferred tax and is recognised in the profit and loss account except to the extent that it relates to items recognised in other comprehensive income, or directly in equity, in which case the tax expense is also recognised in other comprehensive income or directly in equity.

Current tax is the amount of income tax payable in respect of the taxable profit for the current or past reporting periods. It is calculated on the basis of tax rates and laws that have been enacted or substantively enacted by the balance sheet date.

Deferred tax represents the future tax consequences of transactions and events recognised in the financial statements of current and previous periods. It is recognised in respect of all timing differences, with certain exceptions. Timing differences arise from the inclusion of transactions and events in the financial statements in periods different from those in which they are assessed for tax.

Unrelieved tax losses and other deferred tax assets are recognised only to the extent that it is probable that they will be recovered against the reversal of deferred tax liabilities or other future taxable profits.

Deferred tax is measured using the tax rates and laws that have been enacted or substantively enacted by the balance sheet date that are expected to apply to the reversal of timing differences.

1.18 Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgment

The preparation of financial statements requires management to make judgments, assumptions and estimates that affect the application of accounting policies and amounts reported in the profit and loss account and balance sheet. Such decisions are made at the time the financial statements are prepared and adopted based on the best information available at the time. Actual outcomes may be different from initial estimates and are reflected in the financial statements as soon as they become apparent.

Significant judgments in applying accounting policies

In preparing these financial statements, no significant judgments were required in the process of applying the company's accounting policies.

Key sources of estimation uncertainty

Estimates included within these financial statements include land at valuation, depreciation and asset impairments (for example provisions against debtors). None of the estimates made in the preparation of these financial statements are considered to carry significant estimation uncertainty, nor to bear significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year.

1.19 Prior year adjustment

Following a review, project related grant income has been reclassified from donations and legacies to charitable activities, and the prior year comparatives have been restated for consistency. See note 2.

Northumberland Wildlife Trust Limited

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Notes to the financial statements Year ended 31 March 2023

2. Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £
Donations	1,294,461	213,613	1,508,074
Legacies	199,542	-	199,542
Grants	304,423	-	304,423
Sponsorship and membership subscriptions	368,602	63,582	432,184
Total 2023	2,167,028	277,195	2,444,223

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	As restated Restricted funds 2022 £	As restated Total funds 2022 £
Donations	66,009	2,030,415	2,096,424
Legacies	29,367	33,235	62,602
Grants	317,173	-	317,173
Sponsorship and membership subscriptions	354,768	98,721	453,489
Total 2022 as restated	767,317	2,162,371	2,929,688

Project related grant income previously included within donations and legacies has been reclassified to be included within income from charitable activities, to ensure that income and expenditure from charitable activities are comparable. The prior year balance has been restated for comparability. There is no impact on the reported result or the opening position in either year.

3. Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £
Charitable activities	150,524	1,523,317	1,673,841

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Notes to the financial statements Year ended 31 March 2023

3. Income from charitable activities (continued)

	Unrestricted funds 2022	As restated Restricted funds 2022	As restated Total funds 2022
	£	£	£
Charitable activities	104,840	1,382,168	1,487,008

4. Income from other trading activities

Income from non charitable trading activities

	Unrestricted funds 2023	Restricted funds 2023	Total funds 2023
	£	£	£
Sales	782,453	-	782,453
Visitor trading and similar income	342,831	15	342,846
	<u>1,125,284</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>1,125,299</u>

	Unrestricted funds 2022	Restricted funds 2022	Total funds 2022
	£	£	£
Sales	773,434	-	773,434
Visitor trading and similar income	203,203	1,546	204,749
	<u>976,637</u>	<u>1,546</u>	<u>978,183</u>

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Notes to the financial statements Year ended 31 March 2023

5. Expenditure on raising funds - summary

	2023 £	2022 £
Cost of raising funds (note 6a)	381,235	281,162
Fundraising trading expenses (note 6b)	175,570	133,945
Subsidiary trading costs (note 6c)	737,700	755,862
	<u>1,294,505</u>	<u>1,170,969</u>

6. Expenditure on raising funds

a) Costs of raising funds

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £
Travel, training & recruitment	4,050	-	4,050
Leaflets and publishing	27,250	-	27,250
Legal and professional	12,889	-	12,889
Office & project costs	28,493	6,570	35,063
Wages and salaries	301,983	-	301,983
	<u>374,665</u>	<u>6,570</u>	<u>381,235</u>

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Notes to the financial statements Year ended 31 March 2023

6. Expenditure on raising funds (continued)

a) Costs of raising funds (continued)

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £
Travel, training & recruitment	875	-	875
Leaflets and publishing	21,155	-	21,155
Legal and professional	6,519	1,762	8,281
Office & project costs	22,360	-	22,360
Wages and salaries	228,491	-	228,491
	<u>279,400</u>	<u>1,762</u>	<u>281,162</u>

b) Fundraising trading expenses

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £
Visitor cost of sales and other fundraising costs	101,138	613	101,751
Support costs allocated to trading activities	73,819	-	73,819
	<u>174,957</u>	<u>613</u>	<u>175,570</u>

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Notes to the financial statements

Year ended 31 March 2023

6. Expenditure on raising funds (continued)

b) Fundraising trading expenses (continued)

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £
Visitor cost of sales and other fundraising costs	54,632	352	54,984
Support costs allocated to trading activities	78,961	-	78,961
	<u>133,593</u>	<u>352</u>	<u>133,945</u>

c) Subsidiary trading costs

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £
Cost of sales	136,425	136,425
Administration expenses	74,645	74,645
Cost of sales staff costs	221,703	221,703
Administration staff costs	291,274	291,274
Depreciation	13,653	13,653
	<u>737,700</u>	<u>737,700</u>

Northumberland Wildlife Trust Limited

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Notes to the financial statements Year ended 31 March 2023

6. Expenditure on raising funds (continued)

c) Subsidiary trading costs (continued)

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £
Cost of sales	194,552	194,552
Administration expenses	79,369	79,369
Cost of sales staff costs	232,584	232,584
Administration staff costs	232,822	232,822
Depreciation	16,535	16,535
	<u>755,862</u>	<u>755,862</u>

7. Analysis of expenditure by activities

	Activities undertaken directly 2023 £	Support costs 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £
Charitable activities	<u>1,921,874</u>	<u>681,965</u>	<u>2,603,839</u>

	Activities undertaken directly 2022 £	Support costs 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £
Charitable activities	<u>1,695,303</u>	<u>512,565</u>	<u>2,207,868</u>

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Notes to the financial statements

Year ended 31 March 2023

7. Analysis of expenditure by activities (continued)

Analysis of direct costs

	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
Staff costs	1,215,467	897,216
Depreciation	63,922	69,609
Direct project costs	268,806	525,519
Travel	106,371	62,639
Training & recruitment	24,717	13,530
Legal & professional	216,690	79,905
Overheads, publishing and office costs	25,901	46,885
	<u>1,921,874</u>	<u>1,695,303</u>

Analysis of support costs

	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
Staff costs	413,000	300,914
Travel	3,299	128
Training and recruitment	4,223	1,240
Legal and professional	13,719	17,591
Overheads, publishing and office costs	134,805	123,164
Premises and utilities	98,771	58,674
Governance costs	14,148	10,854
	<u>681,965</u>	<u>512,565</u>

8. Auditor's remuneration

The auditor's remuneration amounts to an auditor fee of £15,125 (2022 - £11,500), and fees in respect of other services of £1,650 (2022 - £1,650).

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Notes to the financial statements Year ended 31 March 2023

9. Staff costs

	Group 2023 £	Group 2022 £	Company 2023 £	Company 2022 £
Wages and salaries	2,060,240	1,609,852	1,635,020	1,205,810
Social security costs	181,224	123,088	129,123	91,131
Contribution to defined contribution pension schemes	201,963	159,087	166,307	129,680
	<u>2,443,427</u>	<u>1,892,027</u>	<u>1,930,450</u>	<u>1,426,621</u>

The average number of persons employed by the company during the year was as follows:

	Group 2023 No.	Group 2022 No.	Company 2023 No.	Company 2022 No.
All staff	80	64	66	52

The average headcount expressed as full-time equivalents was:

	Group 2023 No.	Group 2020 No.	Company 2023 No.	Company 2020 No.
Business and management	16	7	16	7
Charitable activities	42	38	42	38
Fundraising and publicity	8	7	8	7
Subsidiary	14	12	-	-
	<u>80</u>	<u>64</u>	<u>66</u>	<u>52</u>

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

	Group 2023 No.	Group 2022 No.
In the band £60,001 - £70,000	1	1

Key management personnel have been determined to be the trustees and four members of the senior management team. Trustees received no remuneration or benefits. The total remuneration of the senior management team was £194,501 (2022: £189,444).

During the year, no trustees (2022: none) were reimbursed for expenses.

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Notes to the financial statements

Year ended 31 March 2023

10. Intangible assets

Group

	Computer software £
Cost	
At 1 April 2022	10,773
At 31 March 2023	<u>10,773</u>
Amortisation	
At 1 April 2022	9,337
Charge for the year	1,436
At 31 March 2023	<u>10,773</u>
Net book value	
At 31 March 2023	<u>-</u>
At 31 March 2022	<u>1,436</u>

Northumberland Wildlife Trust Limited

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Notes to the financial statements Year ended 31 March 2023

11. Tangible fixed assets

Group

	Land and buildings £	External fixtures and fittings £	Furniture, fittings and equipment £	Motor vehicles £	Total £
Cost or valuation					
At 1 April 2022	7,299,742	639,690	523,697	256,125	8,719,254
Additions	1,245,000	-	4,281	40,006	1,289,287
Disposals	-	-	-	(16,995)	(16,995)
At 31 March 2023	<u>8,544,742</u>	<u>639,690</u>	<u>527,978</u>	<u>279,136</u>	<u>9,991,546</u>
Depreciation					
At 1 April 2022	361,360	612,427	483,960	208,818	1,666,565
Charge for the year	26,131	16,864	17,664	16,916	77,575
On disposals	-	-	-	(16,494)	(16,494)
At 31 March 2023	<u>387,491</u>	<u>629,291</u>	<u>501,624</u>	<u>209,240</u>	<u>1,727,646</u>
Net book value					
At 31 March 2023	<u>8,157,251</u>	<u>10,399</u>	<u>26,354</u>	<u>69,896</u>	<u>8,263,900</u>
At 31 March 2022	<u>6,938,382</u>	<u>27,263</u>	<u>39,737</u>	<u>47,307</u>	<u>7,052,689</u>

Northumberland Wildlife Trust Limited

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Notes to the financial statements Year ended 31 March 2023

11. Tangible fixed assets (continued)

Company

	Land and buildings £	External fixtures and fittings £	Furniture, fittings and equipment £	Motor vehicles £	Total £
Cost or valuation					
At 1 April 2022	7,138,262	639,142	449,469	241,144	8,468,017
Additions	1,245,000	-	-	40,006	1,285,006
Disposals	-	-	-	(16,995)	(16,995)
At 31 March 2023	<u>8,383,262</u>	<u>639,142</u>	<u>449,469</u>	<u>264,155</u>	<u>9,736,028</u>
Depreciation					
At 1 April 2022	361,360	607,163	442,472	194,045	1,605,040
Charge for the year	26,131	16,864	4,011	16,916	63,922
On disposals	-	-	-	(16,494)	(16,494)
At 31 March 2023	<u>387,491</u>	<u>624,027</u>	<u>446,483</u>	<u>194,467</u>	<u>1,652,468</u>
Net book value					
At 31 March 2023	<u>7,995,771</u>	<u>15,115</u>	<u>2,986</u>	<u>69,688</u>	<u>8,083,560</u>
At 31 March 2022	<u>6,776,902</u>	<u>31,979</u>	<u>6,997</u>	<u>47,099</u>	<u>6,862,977</u>

The freehold land held by the group was last revalued internally on 1 April 2015.

The group has adopted a policy of revaluation for tangible fixed assets. Had these assets been measured at historic cost, the carrying values would have been as follows:

	Group 2023 £	Group 2022 £
Freehold land	3,736,440	3,041,440
Freehold property	1,558,034	1,008,034
	<u>5,294,474</u>	<u>4,049,474</u>

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Notes to the financial statements Year ended 31 March 2023

11. Tangible fixed assets (continued)

Included in group land and buildings is freehold land at valuation of £6,642,154 (2022 restated: £5,947,154) which is not depreciated. Land and buildings include leasehold land and buildings with a net book value of £13,216 (2022: £14,105).

The net book value of motor vehicles above includes an amount of £49,728 (2022: £14,940) in respect of assets held under hire purchase contracts.

12. Fixed asset investments

Company	Investments in subsidiary companies £
Cost	
At 1 April 2022	5,002
At 31 March 2023	<u>5,002</u>
Net book value	
At 31 March 2023	5,002
At 31 March 2022	<u>5,002</u>

13. Stocks

	Group 2023 £	Group 2022 £	Company 2023 £	Company 2022 £
Goods for resale	<u>12,871</u>	<u>10,626</u>	<u>12,871</u>	<u>10,626</u>

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Notes to the financial statements Year ended 31 March 2023

14. Debtors

	Group 2023 £	Group 2022 £	Company 2023 £	Company 2022 £
Due within one year				
Trade debtors	536,294	634,319	337,313	522,515
Other debtors	-	7,075	-	7,075
Prepayments and accrued income	100,680	118,072	84,610	96,465
Tax recoverable	4,964	28,667	-	-
	<u>641,938</u>	<u>788,133</u>	<u>421,923</u>	<u>626,055</u>

15. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	Group 2023 £	Group 2022 £	Company 2023 £	Company 2022 £
Trade creditors	106,475	310,699	87,568	300,619
Amounts owed to group undertakings	-	-	42,779	47,803
Corporation tax	-	4,317	-	-
Other taxation and social security	119,582	108,397	65,808	60,289
Obligations under finance lease and hire purchase contracts	11,827	4,908	11,827	4,908
Other creditors	7,928	13,773	2,906	3,424
Accruals and deferred income	358,834	388,170	213,625	286,083
	<u>604,646</u>	<u>830,264</u>	<u>424,513</u>	<u>703,126</u>
	Group 2023 £	Group 2022 £	Company 2023 £	Company 2022 £
Deferred income at 1 April 2022	224,003	415,000	224,003	415,000
Resources deferred during the year	139,000	224,003	139,000	224,003
Amounts released from previous periods	(224,003)	(415,000)	(224,003)	(415,000)
	<u>139,000</u>	<u>224,003</u>	<u>139,000</u>	<u>224,003</u>

Deferred income relates to grant and contract income received in advance which relate to activities in future periods.

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Notes to the financial statements Year ended 31 March 2023

16. Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year

	Group 2023 £	Group 2022 £	Company 2023 £	Company 2022 £
Net obligations under finance lease and hire purchase contracts	20,526	4,112	20,526	4,112

17. Deferred taxation

	2023 £
Group	
At the beginning of the year	44,479
Credit for the year	(3,435)
	41,044

The deferred tax balance is made up as follows:

	Group 2023 £	Group 2022 £
Land held at valuation	(41,044)	(44,479)
	(41,044)	(44,479)

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Notes to the financial statements Year ended 31 March 2023

18. Statement of funds

Statement of funds - current year

	Balance at 1 April 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Balance at 31 March 2023 £
Unrestricted funds					
General funds	1,764,316	2,684,160	(1,027,075)	(351,630)	3,069,771
Hauxley Visitor Centre fixed asset reserve	899,324	-	-	-	899,324
Subsidiary trading funds	259,712	783,497	(737,700)	-	305,509
Revaluation reserve	2,831,442	-	-	-	2,831,442
	<u>5,754,794</u>	<u>3,467,657</u>	<u>(1,764,775)</u>	<u>(351,630)</u>	<u>7,106,046</u>
Restricted funds					
City to Coast Living Landscape	40,230	306,129	(438,109)	91,955	205
Druridge Bay Living Landscape	1,913,431	367,887	(397,551)	30,835	1,914,602
Kielder Living Landscape	65,230	1,051,341	(1,164,349)	185,903	138,125
Fundraising and Development	50,299	75,170	(133,560)	42,937	34,846
	<u>2,069,190</u>	<u>1,800,527</u>	<u>(2,133,569)</u>	<u>351,630</u>	<u>2,087,778</u>
Total of funds	<u>7,823,984</u>	<u>5,268,184</u>	<u>(3,898,344)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>9,193,824</u>

Northumberland Wildlife Trust Limited

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Notes to the financial statements Year ended 31 March 2023

18. Statement of funds (continued)

Transfers between funds relate to the transfer from unrestricted funds to meet shortfalls in restricted project funding.

Details of the specific grants and donations making up the restricted funds as follows:

City to Coast Living Landscape

Wilding Northumberland is a Reece Foundation funded project to consult local communities and facilitate nature friendly management of land to restore natural processes and prepare for species reintroduction.
Heath Restoration Fund for the management of lowland heathland at Newcastle Racecourse.
Northumberlandia Site donations to manage and maintain the unique public park and art installation.
Big Waters funds to contribute to the management of the mixed habitats and large pond.

Druridge Bay Living Landscape

Wilding West Chevington, donation from The Reece Foundation, has enabled the acquisition of the new site near Druridge Bay and will showcase how nature can recover.
Giving Tree Fund to manage the donations provided as part of the giving tree based at Hauxley Wildlife Discovery Centre.
Hedgehog Appeal Fund to raise awareness and provide advice on the conservation of hedgehogs in Northumberland.
Woodland Wonders Fund to manage appeal donations to help us with our woodland improvement work across the Trust.
Catch My Drift Funds to manage the funds held for the development phase of a larger project of habitat and access improvement at East Chevington.
East Chevington Wildflower Meadow fund to introduce a variety of wildflowers to a section of its East Chevington Nature Reserve.

Kielder Living Landscape

Benshaw Moor Appeal Funds for the management of Benshaw Moor nature reserve.
Conservation Delivery fund set up to support the employment of a Conservation Assistant.
Esmee Fairbairn grant to deliver the Great North Bog initiative on peatlands in Northumberland.
Nature for Climate Peatland Grant Scheme Natural England funds to restore peatlands in the uplands of Northumberland.

Fundraising and development

Nature in the City is a Reece Foundation funded project working with local communities in urban areas with the aims to stand up for wildlife and enhance green spaces.
Outdoor Learning Fund to develop and trial sustainable outdoor learning models.
Reserves Volunteering Fund to support volunteering activities at the Trust.
Action for insects to help protect the smallest creatures, which are essential for Northumberland's wildlife and agriculture.
Green Influencers fund to support the employment of a 'Green Mentor' to inspire young people to lead the way in their communities.
Education Outreach Fund to support the employment of an Education Assistant.
Carbon Emissions fund to support the Trust to become a greener organisation and reduce our carbon footprint.

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Notes to the financial statements Year ended 31 March 2023

18. Statement of funds (continued)

Statement of funds - prior year

	Balance at 1 April 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Balance at 31 March 2022 £
Unrestricted funds					
General funds	1,603,439	1,092,187	(746,496)	(184,814)	1,764,316
Hauxley Visitor Centre fixed asset reserve	899,324	-	-	-	899,324
Subsidiary trading funds	251,341	773,834	(765,463)	-	259,712
Revaluation reserve	2,831,442	-	-	-	2,831,442
	<u>5,585,546</u>	<u>1,866,021</u>	<u>(1,511,959)</u>	<u>(184,814)</u>	<u>5,754,794</u>
Restricted funds					
City to Coast Living Landscape	20,668	446,178	(443,908)	17,292	40,230
Druridge Bay Living Landscape	13,220	2,314,272	(436,339)	22,278	1,913,431
Kielder Living Landscape	102,090	694,475	(878,604)	147,269	65,230
Fundraising and Development	78,792	91,160	(117,628)	(2,025)	50,299
	<u>214,770</u>	<u>3,546,085</u>	<u>(1,876,479)</u>	<u>184,814</u>	<u>2,069,190</u>
Total of funds	<u><u>5,800,316</u></u>	<u><u>5,412,106</u></u>	<u><u>(3,388,438)</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>7,823,984</u></u>

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Notes to the financial statements Year ended 31 March 2023

19. Analysis of net assets between funds

Analysis of net assets between funds - current year

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £
Tangible fixed assets	6,363,900	1,900,000	8,263,900
Current assets	1,323,362	272,778	1,596,140
Creditors due within one year	(519,646)	(85,000)	(604,646)
Creditors due in more than one year	(20,526)	-	(20,526)
Provisions for liabilities and charges	(41,044)	-	(41,044)
Total	7,106,046	2,087,778	9,193,824

Analysis of net assets between funds - prior year

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £
Tangible fixed assets	5,152,689	1,900,000	7,052,689
Intangible fixed assets	1,436	-	1,436
Current assets	1,479,524	169,190	1,648,714
Creditors due within one year	(830,264)	-	(830,264)
Creditors due in more than one year	(4,112)	-	(4,112)
Provisions for liabilities and charges	(44,479)	-	(44,479)
Total	5,754,794	2,069,190	7,823,984

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Notes to the financial statements Year ended 31 March 2023

20. Reconciliation of net movement in funds to net cash flow from operating activities

	Group 2023 £	Group 2022 £
Net income for the year (as per Statement of Financial Activities)	1,369,840	2,023,668
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges	77,575	86,702
Amortisation charges	1,436	2,155
Loss/(profit) on the sale of fixed assets	(499)	-
Increase in stocks	(2,245)	(7,938)
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	146,195	(205,610)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	(232,537)	264,017
Deferred tax provision	(3,435)	9,601
Land donation	(1,245,000)	(1,900,000)
Net cash provided by operating activities	111,330	272,595

21. Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	Group 2023 £	Group 2022 £
Cash in hand	941,331	849,955
Total cash and cash equivalents	941,331	849,955

22. Analysis of changes in net debt

	At 1 April 2022 £	Cash flows £	New finance leases £	At 31 March 2023 £
Cash at bank and in hand	849,955	91,376	-	941,331
Finance leases	(9,020)	12,240	(35,573)	(32,353)
	840,935	103,616	(35,573)	908,978

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23. Pension commitments

The group operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the group in an independently administered fund. The pension cost charge represents contributions payable by the group to the fund and amounted to £201,963 (2022: £159,087). The pension cost disclosed includes the Trust's contribution of 5% plus employee contributions paid under a salary sacrifice arrangement. Contributions totalling £3,051 (2022: £2,635) were payable to the fund at the balance sheet date and are included in creditors.

24. Operating lease commitments

At 31 March 2023 the group and company had commitments to make future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

	Group 2023 £	Group 2022 £	Company 2023 £	Company 2022 £
Not later than 1 year	8,170	6,491	8,170	4,183
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	7,805	7,668	7,805	7,668
	15,975	14,159	15,975	11,851

25. Finance lease commitments

Minimum lease payments under finance lease fall due as follows:

	Group 2023 £	Group 2022 £	Company 2023 £	Company 2022 £
Within one year	13,741	5,260	13,741	5,260
After one year and before five years	22,525	4,212	22,525	4,212
Less finance costs allocated to future periods	(3,915)	(452)	(3,915)	(452)
	32,351	9,020	32,351	9,020

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Notes to the financial statements

Year ended 31 March 2023

26. Related party transactions

Remuneration of key management personnel is disclosed in note 9.

During the year the charitable company purchased consultancy services of £110,298 (2022: £87,648) from EcoNorth Limited, a wholly owned subsidiary, and charged EcoNorth £82,589.84 (2022: £51,131) for services supplied. At the year end the charitable company owed EcoNorth £45,175 (2022:£47,803).

During the year the charitable company purchased goods and services totalling £4,546 (2022: £4,457) and sold services totalling £13,254 (2022: £23,767) from/to Kielder Water and Forest Park Development Trust, which is related through a common director. At the year end the Development Trust owed the charitable company £nil (2022: £5,909).

During the year the charitable company supplied services totalling £59,126 (2022: £41,465) and purchased goods totalling £1,000 (2022: £1,000) from Urban Green Newcastle. At the year end, Urban Green Newcastle, of which a trustee of Northumberland Wildlife Trust is a director, owed the charitable company £nil (2022: £22,703).

During the year the charitable company supplied services totalling £nil (2022: £4,920) and purchased services totalling £4,416 (2022: £nil) to/from Northumberland National Park Foundation, which is related by virtue of a common director. There were no balances outstanding at the year end.

27. Principal subsidiaries

The following were subsidiary undertakings of the company:

Names	Company number	Principal activity	Class of shares	Holding	Included in consolidation
EcoNorth Limited	02274277	Ecological consultancy	Ordinary	100%	Yes
Northumberland Wildlife Enterprises Limited	02044288	Dormant	Ordinary	100%	Yes

The financial results of the subsidiaries for the year were:

Names	Income £	Expenditure £	Profit for the period £	Net assets £
EcoNorth Limited	902,114	(758,609)	143,505	505,648
Northumberland Wildlife Enterprises Limited	-	-	-	2

